

Substrate Integrated Waveguide Antenna at Millimeter Wave for 5G Application

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Abstract – This paper presents a dual-band slot antenna using substrate integrated waveguide (SIW) technology at 26 and 28 GHz. High loss is one of the main challenges faced by 5G base station network due to the severe path loss at high frequency. Hence, high gain antennas are required for 5G base station applications to overcome path loss issue. Hence, this work designs a high gain SIW antenna based on slot technology to excite dual-bands with high gain capability. The antenna is designed with two slots shaped to resonate at two different frequencies: 26 and 28 GHz. The antenna is analyzed using CST software and fabricated on Roger RT5880 substrate with permittivity of 2.2 and lost tangent of 0.0009 with thickness of 0.508 mm. The design operates at 26 and 28 GHz with measured reflection coefficients less than -10 dB. Measured high gains of 8 and 8.02 dB are obtained at 26 and 28 GHz, respectively. Overall, the antenna showed good performance that would benefit the fifth-generation applications.

Index Terms – Millimeter-wave antenna, SIW technology, (5G) applications.

I. INTRODUCTION

With the development of wireless communication technology, the dual-band and multiband antennas have the tendency for future communications due to the advantages of compactness, high integration, and low cost. Recently, several promising millimeter-wave bands have been released for 5G wireless communication systems. Therefore, broadband dual-band antennas are in demand for future millimeter-wave wireless applications. For

the design of dual-band antennas, there are two basic technical challenges which limit the use of this technology. This includes simultaneous operation with a compact configuration and broadband operation in each of the bands.

Several types of dual-band antenna have been investigated in literature. Normally, two types of dual-band solutions, namely hybrid antennas and multimode antennas are used. The hybrid dual-band antenna is the combination of antennas resonating at different frequencies, respectively, but simultaneously fed by only one port. Furthermore, these antennas operate at different types of mode or appear to be arranged in a separated aperture. Different types of antennas have been combined and different types of resonant mode of antennas have been employed for the dual-band operation, such as the slot monopole [1], dielectric resonator antenna (DRA) slot [2], and slot patch [3]. In addition to that, the same types of antennas with different shapes or sizes have also been proposed for dual-band operation by using different modes of transmission line and separated placement, such as the substrate integrated waveguide (SIW) fed slots [4]. An antenna of a modified cavity with two layers was proposed to realize resonance and directional radiation patterns over a frequency band at millimeter wave in [5–7]; however, these papers come with complex design and bulky size.

This paper introduces SIW antenna with slot. This antenna was implemented using SIW technology with roger RT 5880 as substrate with thickness of 0.508 mm. The design is on a fully ground plane, the reflection coefficient of it is less than -10 dB as the result of reflection

coefficient were obtained from dual-band. The operating frequency dual-band resonates at 26 and 28 GHz. The paper is organized as follows. Section II gives a brief overview of the methodology for the antenna designed consideration. The simulated and measured results are summarized in Section III. Finally, Section IV draws conclusions.

II. ANTENNA DESIGN

Figure 1 shows the general structure of SIW which consists of a rectangular waveguide, two rows of periodic holes, and a substrate in between metal planes [8]. The proposed SIW antennas are designed using Rogers RT5880 substrate with dielectric constant of 2.2 and loss tangent of 0.0009, and thickness of 0.508 mm. The via diameter, D , and spacing, S , are calculated using equations in [9]. Figure 2 shows the dimensions of the proposed antennas at millimeter wave with dual-band performance. This design comes with two different shapes of slot according to different position at the top of metal. Since SIW design generally works in TE_{1,0} mode, $m = 1$, $n = 0$. Therefore, the equation for cutoff frequency is reduced to

$$f_c = \frac{c}{2a}, \quad (1)$$

where a is the total broad side dimension of the rectangular waveguide. Next, a_d is the width of dielectric field waveguide (DFW)

$$a_d = \frac{a}{\sqrt{\epsilon_r}}. \quad (2)$$

The design equations for SIW, which are found by W_{siw} , are the separation between via rows (center to center)

$$W_{\text{siw}} = a_d + \frac{D^2}{0.95S}. \quad (3)$$

Then, the equations for the separation distance “ S ” and diameter “ D ” control the radiation loss and return loss are as follows:

$$\lambda_g = \frac{c}{f\sqrt{\epsilon_r}}, \quad (4)$$

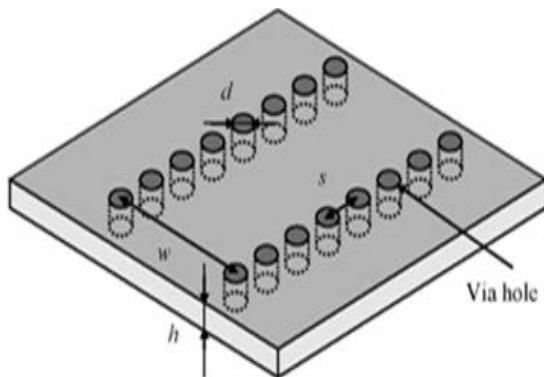


Fig. 1. General structure of a substrate integrated waveguide [10].

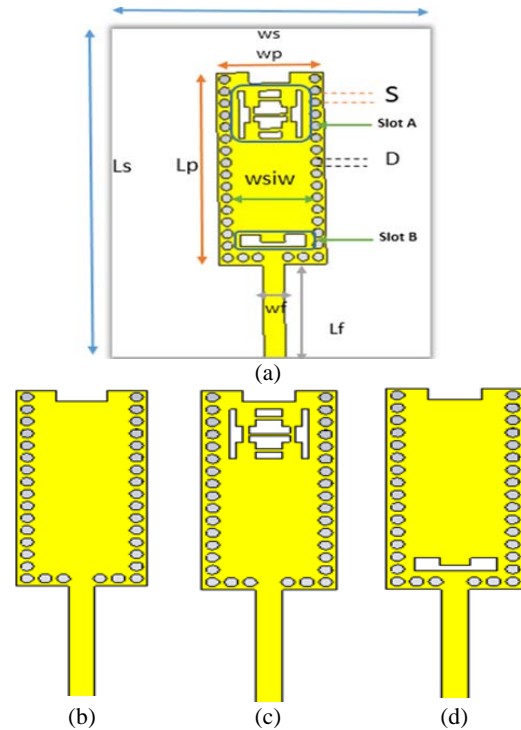


Fig. 2. Simulation structure of the SIW antenna. (a) Main structure with slots A and B. (b) Design without slot. (c) Design with slot A. (d) Design with slot B.

$$D \leq \frac{\lambda_g}{5}, \quad (5)$$

$$S \leq 2D, \quad (6)$$

Figure 2 (a) refers to main shape structure which consists of two columns as vias at both edges of the structure to prevent signal from passing through the edges of the patch, especially when millimeter-wave frequency loss becomes higher than lower frequency. The final dimensions of the structure designed at 26 GHz are shown in Table 1.

III. DISCUSSION BASED ON PARAMETRIC STUDY

The distance between vias(s) enables the dual-band antenna to control losses. Whenever the gap(s) is smaller, the antenna will achieve less loss because at the top of vias edges, electric will reflect around vias where some of them is radiated at the top of patch and the rest will have pushed downwards to create unwanted feedback, which is represented in slot A and slot B, respectively, as can be seen in Figure 2. Slot A creates radiation at 26 GHz because it depends on the distance between slots and feed line, slot A has multi-different slots arranged equally on the middle of antenna to keep angle of the beam at (0°) and ensures that it focuses on the target substrate.

Table 1: Dimensions of main structure

Variable	Name	Size (mm)
W_s	Width of substrate	2.08λ
L_s	Length of substrate	2.8253λ
W_p	Width of patch	0.675λ
L_p	Length of patch	1.54λ
W_{siw}	Width of SIW	0.57λ
D	Diameter	0.069λ
S	Space between vias	0.095λ
W_f	Width of feed line	0.268λ
L_f	Length of feed line	0.136λ
Thickness of the substrate		0.044λ

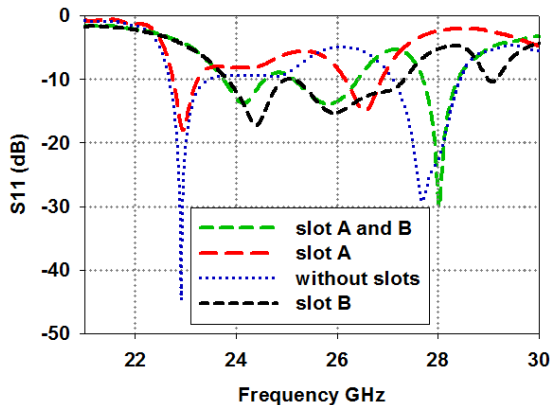


Fig. 3. Different reflection coefficient of the SIW structure with vias diameter (0.6 mm) depends on the different cases slots.

Slot B produces radiation at 28 GHz because of its size and position. Slot B has greater effect on radiation because of its position closer to the feed line. This shows that it is located closer to the main surface current (red zone). In addition, slot B proved high bandwidth.

The main parameter of this design study is the diameter of vias. When vias is 0.6 mm as can be seen in Figure 3 design has slot A, slot B and without slots the reflection coefficient becomes narrow band and it does not resonate at 26 and 28 GHz. As can be seen in Figure 4, when the diameter of vias is 1 mm and it has two slots (slot A and slot B), the reflection coefficient will not achieve dual-band frequency. When the diameter of vias is 0.8 mm, the design achieves dual-band resonance at (23-28) which can be seen in two cases. Based on Figure 5, this happens when design has slot A and without any slots.

The structure (prototype) of the proposed antenna design has been fabricated through standard single-layer PCB process, as shown in Figure 6, whereas their corresponding simulated and measured $|S_{11}|$ are plotted.

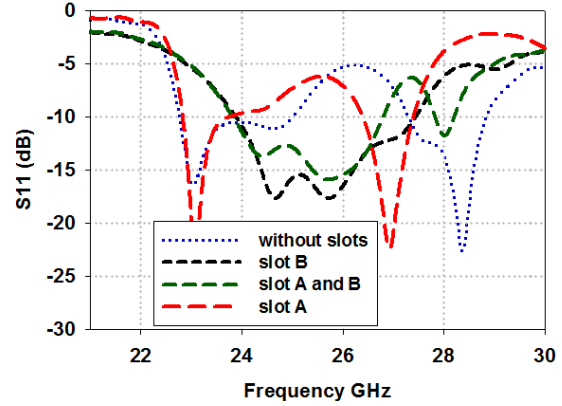


Fig. 4. Different reflection coefficient of the SIW structure with vias diameter (1 mm) depends on the different case slots.

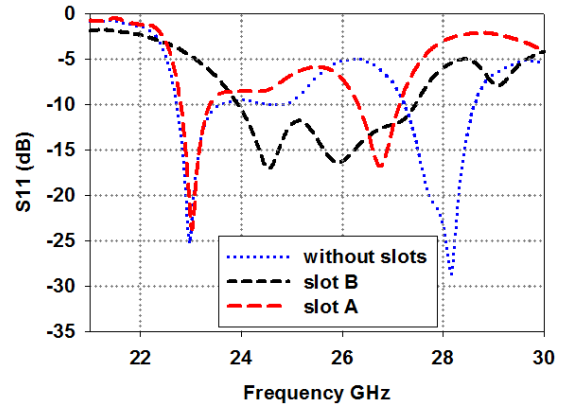


Fig. 5. Different reflection coefficient of the SIW structure with vias diameter (0.8 mm) depends on the different cases slots.

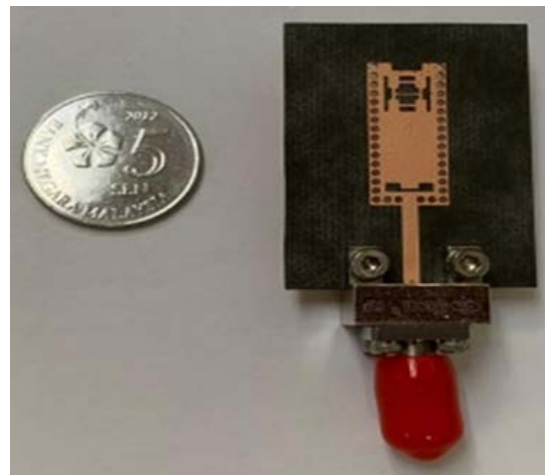


Fig. 6. The fabricated SIW antenna.

The antenna has only one port working as a feeder, and both the simulated and measured results indicate that a good impedance match is achieved when the dual-band 26 to 28 GHz is under the criteria of -10 dB, for both selected prototypes.

IV. SIMULATION AND FABRICATION RESULTS

Figure 7 shows the comparison between the simulated and measured reflection coefficients of the antenna structure in different forms. Through the different design of antenna structure, the authors anticipate getting S_{11} of less than -10 dB over high frequency and suitable bandwidth. Both results demonstrate that the reflection coefficient stayed below -10 dB at 26 GHz.

Next, Figure 8 shows the measured efficiency and gain performance of the front-end module. The measured gains of the front-end module have frequency dependency from -180° to 180° , when the line is a curve fitting result. The fitting curve has the center frequency

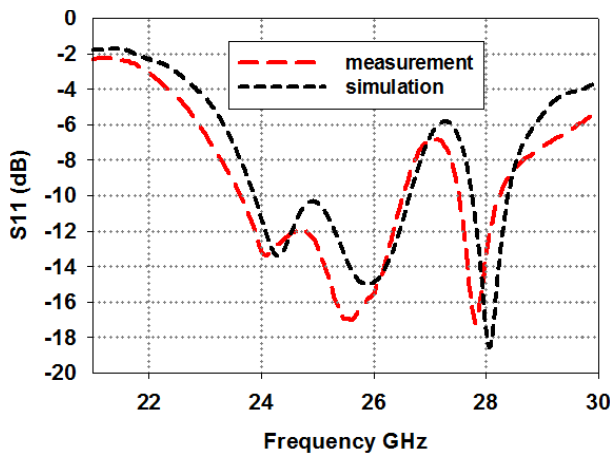


Fig. 7. Simulated and measured S_{11} of the main structure which has slot A and B with diameter of vias 0.8 mm.

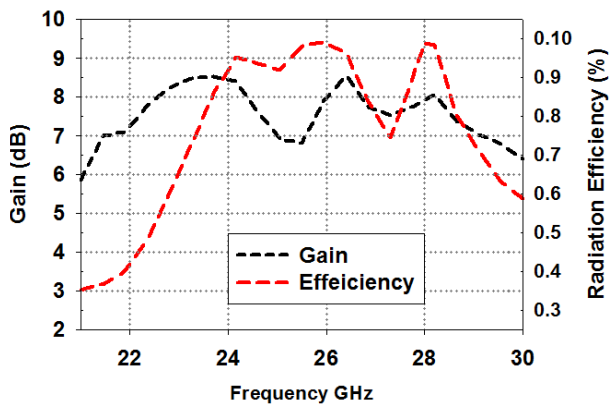


Fig. 8. Gain and efficiency performance.

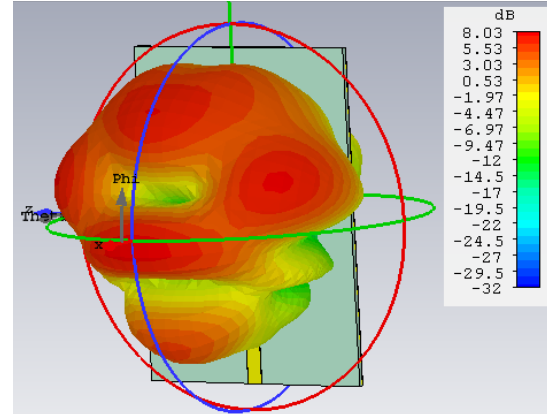


Fig. 9. Simulated 3D radiation pattern of the main structure.

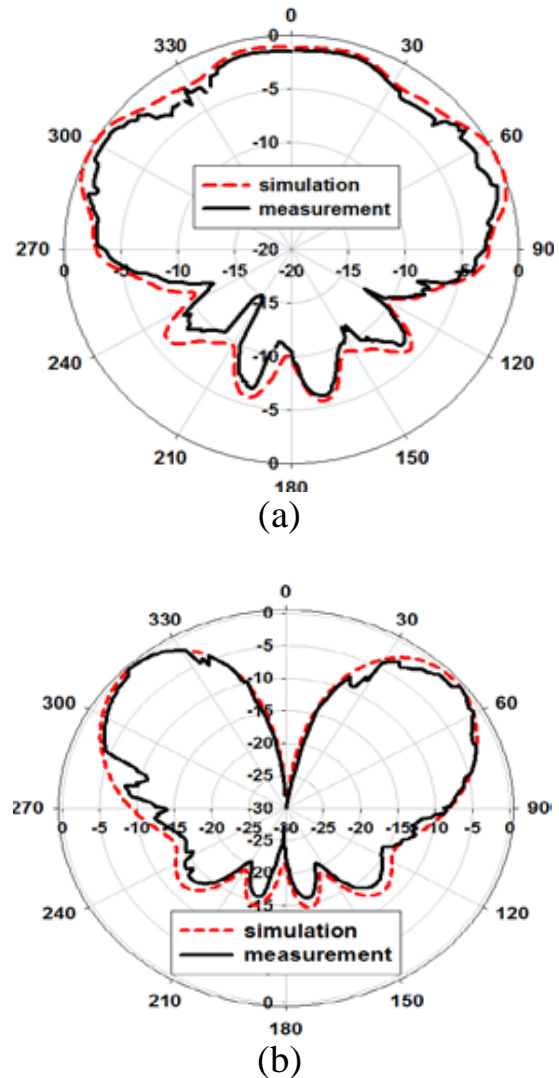


Fig. 10. Simulated and measured 2D radiation pattern (polar) for (a) E -plane and (b) H -plane at 26 GHz.

of about 26 GHz, and the SIW antenna achieved gains of 8 dB at 26 GHz and 8.03 dB at 28 GHz.

Normally, the radiation pattern of the antenna will take shape from the edges of the patch, but for SIW, the majority comes from the slots of the main structure as shown in the simulated 3D radiation pattern in Figure 9. The lengths of all slots were around 4.5 mm. The results proved that the width of the slots is suitable to achieve dual-band at millimeter wave and suitable for 5G applications.

The simulated *E*-plane and *H*-plane patterns computed at 26 and 28 GHz are presented in Figures 10 and 11. Figure 10 shows the comparison between the simulated and measured radiation pattern in *E*- and *H*-planes which comes from (slot A) radiating at 26 GHz. Meanwhile, Figure 11 indicates the comparison between

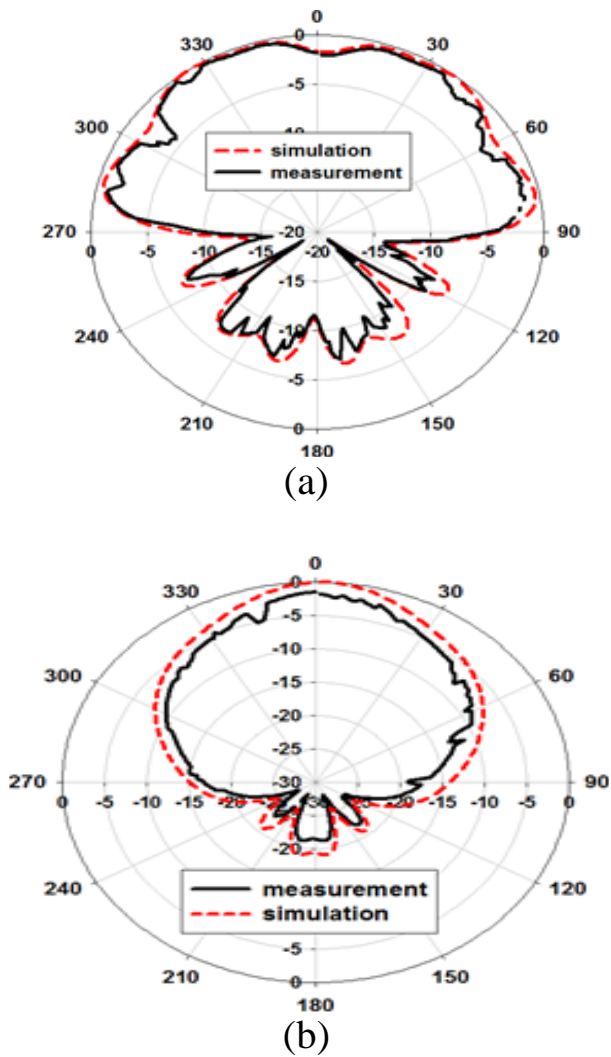


Fig. 11. Simulated and measured 2D radiation patterns (polar) for (a) *E*-plane and (b) *H*-plane at 28 GHz.

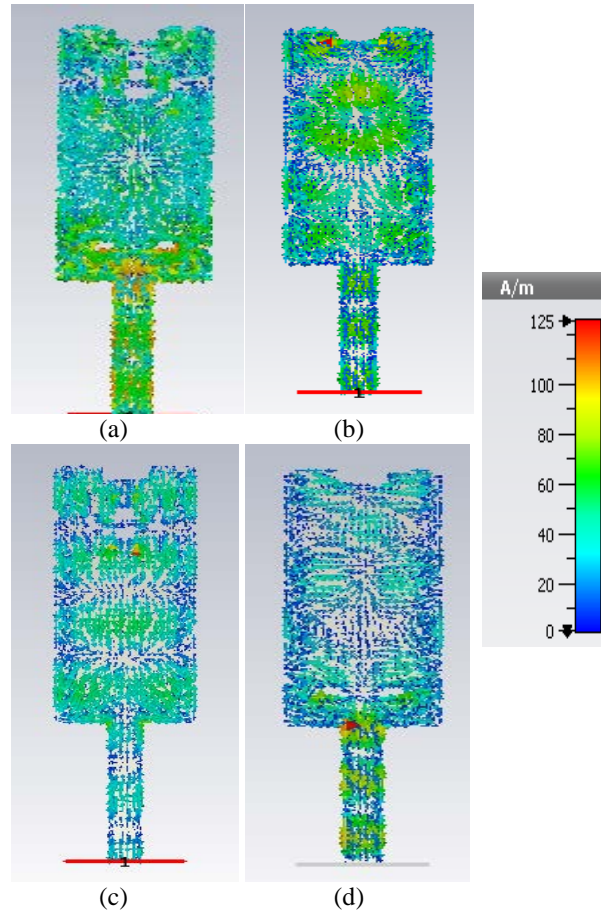


Fig. 12. Simulated current distributions on the SIW surface of the surface current when (a) design with slots A and B, (b) design without slots, (c) design with slot A, and (d) design with slot B.

the simulated and measured radiation pattern coming from (slot B) which radiates at 28 GHz. From 2D radiation (polar), the shape of the main beam can be visualized. This is one of the requirements for 5G application.

Due to the difference in the slot lengths, two different resonant modes with perturbed fields are excited within the SIW. Slot A, having longer slot length, radiated at 26 GHz and slot B at 28 GHz. These phenomena can be better understood with the help of surface current distribution on the top surface of the antenna at two resonant frequencies. Figure 12 shows that the surface current density becomes dominant on the lower half of the antenna and is mostly concentrated around the boundary of slot B. However, the surface current is almost negligible in the vicinity of slot A. It can be explained in a similar fashion, where surface current is mostly concentrated along the boundary of slot B.

Table 2: Comparison between this work and some previous dual-frequency/-band millimeter-wave

Ref.	Center freq. (GHz)	BW (GHz)	Gain (dB)	No. element
11	28/38	20.4/2.64	13.2/14.6	2 × 2
12	37.5/47	1.1/1.4	5.0/5.7	1
13	2.45/5.19	0.2/0.5	5.02/4.09	1
14	21/26	0.7/0.8	16/17.4	3 × 1
This work	26/28	2.8/0.6	8/8.03	1

A comparison between the proposed design and previous works on dual frequency band millimeter-wave antennas is carried out in Table 2.

V. CONCLUSION

SIW antenna with slots is presented in this work. The antenna is meant to prove the concept of SIW antennas performance to be followed for millimeter-wave applications. Roger RT 5880 substrate is suitable for higher frequency because of the loss. Suitable width of slots and patch were identified to achieve better results of the 5G application with high gain and directivity with dual-band frequency. Gain that was achieved at 26-28 GHz are 8-8.03 dB, the directivity of dual-band is 8.18-8.22 dB, and also design provides sufficient impedance bandwidths at 2.8-0.6 GHz.

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