Multi-Beams Waveguide Slot Antennas at X-Band for Wireless Communications Systems

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Abstract — This paper focuses on the design of a multi-beams antenna using waveguide slots technology at X-band. The multi-beams radiation is proposed to expand the coverage of the single antenna, thus more capacity is enabled. Waveguide slots antenna is a well-known antenna for high power and gain transmission capabilities. Therefore, it is preferred. In this work, four variations of waveguide slots antennas are studied. The slot distribution covers one to four broad and narrow walls of the waveguide. This technique enables multi-beams patterns. The performance of the proposed antennas is simulated using CST microwave software. The simulated responses of the antennas show that a good matched with return loss greater than 10 dB at the desired frequency. The four proposed antennas achieved a good gain between 6.3 and 7.4 dB with directional beamwidth of 15 degree. The proposed antennas are suitable for implementing in radar applications.

Index Term — CST, multi-beams, slots antenna, waveguide.

I. INTRODUCTION

The backbone of the proposed cellular technology is changed to form wireless connection by using higher frequency spectrum [1]. Hence, higher spectrum has been assigned for outdoor links due to high path loss at higher frequencies, cost effective components, and other related factors. However, this technology on other hand suffers from severe challenges, including large propagation loss, signal absorbing, low gain of the proposed antenna, and low transmitted power. Waveguide slots antenna technology has been preferred in the past few years as a new inventive solution to allow higher gain, higher data rates, and power efficiency especially in the Cellular [2-5]. Rectangular waveguides have been used for many decades in microwave applications, with standard bands ranging from 1 GHz up to 300 GHz [3]. Slotted antenna arrays on waveguides are popular in navigation, radar and other high-frequency systems. The antenna is of interest due to its’ low-loss property especially at high frequencies and thus possessed high efficiency [4].

Recently, a dual-beams waveguide slotted antenna is presented in [6]. The slots are distributed on the broad walls of the waveguides with directivity and gain of 14 dB at 28 GHz. Other types of waveguide slots antenna with implementing in the narrow-wall of the waveguide structure are introduced in [7-9]. The designs suffer from high grating lobes and lower gain than 10 dB. Additionally, dual-band dual-polarization waveguide slots antenna at 30 and 35 GHz is proposed in [10]. The narrow wall is implemented with 9×10 inclined slots array at 35 GHz to form horizontal polarization, and 8×10 longitude slots array is distributed on the broad wall at 30 GHz to form vertical polarization. However, the slots distributed on the narrow wall of the waveguide suffered from side lobes and grating lobes due to the small offset between the slots.

Therefore, this paper focuses on designing the waveguide slotted antenna operating at X-Band, providing a high gain, low side lobes, and multi-beams. Four waveguide slotted antennas are investigated in this paper. The antennas are implemented with 4 slots on narrow and broad walls of the waveguide structure. The performance of the proposed antennas is simulated using Computer Simulation Technology (CST) software. The paper is divided as follows: section 2 presents the design process, Section 3 discusses the results in term of simulation responses, and Section 4 concludes the paper.

II. WAVEGUIDE SLOT ANTENNA DESIGN

Commonly, the slots are represented as shunt elements in transmission line. The circuit for the slot is illustrated in Fig. 1. The \( G \) represents the conductance of the slot, and \( B \) represents the susceptance of the slot. The slot used in this research is cut in the longitude direction
of the waveguide structure. Each slot has length of \( L \) and width of \( W \), the distance between two centered slots is \( d \), and the offset from the center line is \( x \) as seen in Fig. 2. The distance \( d \) between the slots is designed to be half the guided wavelength. Thus, it would be 180-degree phase shift between the radiating slots \([12-15]\). The offset \( x \) is calculated using the normalized Conductance \( G_n \) equations \([13-15]\):

\[
G_n = \sum_{n=1}^{N} g_n = 1, \tag{1}
\]

\[
g_n = \left[ 2.09 \frac{\lambda_g}{\lambda_0} \cdot \frac{a}{b} \cdot \cos^2 \frac{\pi \lambda_0}{2\lambda_g} \right] \sin^2 \frac{\pi x}{a}, \tag{2}
\]

where \( a \) and \( b \) are the inner dimensions of the waveguide (as shown in Fig. 3), which is used WR-90 standard waveguide, and \( \lambda_0 \) is the free space wavelength and \( \lambda_g \) is the guided wavelength, while \( N \) is the slots number. The antenna physical dimensions with the gain and the beamwidth of the slotted waveguide antenna are calculated using equations below \([15]\):

\[
\lambda_g = \frac{\lambda_0}{\sqrt{1 - \left( \frac{\lambda_0}{2a} \right)^2}}, \tag{3}
\]

\[
Gain = 10 \times \log \left( \frac{N \cdot d}{\lambda_0} \right) \text{ dB}, \tag{4}
\]

\[
Beamwidth = 50.7 \times \frac{\lambda_0}{2 \cdot d} \text{ degree}, \tag{5}
\]

\[
d = \lambda_g/2, \tag{6}
\]

\[
L = 0.98 \lambda_g/2, \tag{7}
\]

\[
W = \lambda_g/20, \tag{8}
\]

Where \( L \) is the slot length, \( W \) is the slot width, and \( d \) is the spacing between slots. From equation (3) it can be clearly noticed that the slot parameters are obtained from the center operating frequency and its guided wavelength. In addition, the gain and beamwidth are affected with two important parameters; the wavelength and the number of the slots. Beside the distance between slots \( d \) is also affected to these parameters. For instance, if the number of the slots \( N \) increases, the gain is increased \([15]\). However, the guided wavelength \( (\lambda_g) \) is increased which leads to increase the distance between slots and size of the waveguide accordingly \([15]\). Therefore, for this work a four slots are chosen to be implemented on the waveguide walls to maintain a reasonable size and optimal gain.

Generally, the waveguide structure is propagated at TE_{10} mode with both E-field and H-field are positioned within narrow and broad walls of the waveguide as shown in Fig. 2. To allow the slot radiation, a cutting will be made through the H-field lines at maximum flux \([15]\). This will generate one beam at one of which wall is used. To enable multiple beams (two or more than), the slots are cut on each wall side of the waveguide. For example, if the slot cutting is on broad and narrow walls of the waveguide, it will be generated a dual beam in the direction of the cutting slots. Figure 3 shows the standard distribution of the slots with dimensions on the waveguide structure.

![Fig. 1. Slot circuit representations \([11]\).](image1)

![Fig. 2. The E-field and H-field distributed lines in the rectangular hollow waveguide \([15]\).](image2)

![Fig. 3. Waveguide slot antenna. Standard waveguide slots antenna structure \([12]\).](image3)
slots as in Antenna 1.

The slots are distributed in two broad walls and one narrow wall of the waveguide. This will enable triple beams. The first two beams from the broad walls is radiated oppositely to each other and the third beam is generated from the narrow wall. The third antenna (Antenna 3) is similar to Antenna 2, whereas the slots distribution are in one broad wall and two narrow walls of the waveguide. The last antenna (Antenna 4) is designed with slots implementation on all the waveguide walls, which allows a four beams generations. Figure 4 and Table 1 shows the proposed antennas with their slots distribution and final dimensions of all the antenna designs respectively.

Table 1: The final dimensions of the proposed antennas at X-band (All dimensions are in mm)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter/ Antennas</th>
<th>Ant.1</th>
<th>Ant.2</th>
<th>Ant.3</th>
<th>Ant.4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Broad Wall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$a$</td>
<td>22.86</td>
<td>22.86</td>
<td>22.86</td>
<td>22.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$d$</td>
<td>18.69</td>
<td>18.69</td>
<td>18.69</td>
<td>18.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$x$</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slot length (L)</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>13.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slot width (W)</td>
<td>1.72</td>
<td>1.72</td>
<td>1.72</td>
<td>1.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narrow Wall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$b$</td>
<td>10.16</td>
<td>10.16</td>
<td>10.16</td>
<td>10.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$d$</td>
<td>18.69</td>
<td>18.69</td>
<td>18.69</td>
<td>18.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$x$</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slot length (L)</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>13.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slot width (W)</td>
<td>1.72</td>
<td>1.72</td>
<td>1.72</td>
<td>1.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sided walls</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One broad and one narrow</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two broads and one narrow</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One broad and two narrows</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The proposed designs are simulated by CST software and the performance in terms of return loss, directivity, gain, efficiency, and radiation patterns are analyzed. Figure 5 shows the simulated return loss of all the proposed designs. From the analysis, Antenna 1 and Antenna 2 have a maximum return loss of 22.7 dB and 22 dB at specific frequency of 9.22 GHz and 9.2 GHz respectively. Antenna 3 has a maximum return loss of 13 dB at 9.012 GHz. The shifting in frequency below the desired frequency happened due to the implementation of the slots on both side of the narrow walls. This is could be caused by the offset $x$ from the centerline in the narrow wall of the waveguide, which effects the E-field lines that shifted the frequency. Antenna 4 showed a good return loss of 21 dB at 8.95 GHz. The shifting frequency in Antenna 4 is similar to Antenna 3, since the slots are also distributed within the sides of the narrow walls.

The simulated gain, directivity, and efficiency of the proposed antennas are shown in Fig. 6. Antenna 1 and Antenna 2 has maximum gain of 6.3 dB and 6.58 dB at the desired frequencies correspondingly. These gains are reordered from the radiating slots in the broad walls of the waveguide structure. In the same time, Antenna 3 and Antenna 4 showed a good gain performance of 6.9 dB and 7.4 dB at 9 and 8.95 GHz. Additionally, all antennas are noticed with good efficiency ranging from 75% to 92%.
The radiation patterns of the proposed antennas are illustrated in Fig. 7. The radiation pattern analysis has performed on each antenna with broad and narrow wall of the waveguide. Firstly, Antenna 1 in Fig. 7 (a) has dual beams from broad and narrow wall. When $\Phi = 90$ degree (broad wall), the beam is in one direction with slidelobes of -5 dB and grating lob of 0 dB. At narrow wall ($\Phi = 0$), one beam is noticed with slidelobes of -10 dB and grating lobes of -5 dB. Hence, dual beams are enabled from Antenna 1. Secondly, Antenna 2 (as in Fig. 7 (b)) has dual beams from the broad walls and one beam from the narrow walls. However, a high grating lobes are seen from the broad wall of 5 dB. Despite these grating lobes, a triple beams are clearly observed. Thirdly, Antenna 3 (as in Fig. 7 (c)) showed a good triple beams with low slidelobes of -10 dB at broad wall and -5 dB at narrow walls. The beams are from two sided narrow walls and one broad wall. Nevertheless, Antenna 4 (Fig. 7 (d) showed a high level of grating and slidelobes of 5 dB and 0 dB respectively. This could be due to the slots radiation from all the walls which makes it difficult to differentiate the four beams from others. Hence, more analysis and investigation should be taken to enhance and reduce these grating and slidelobes.

Table 2 shows the comparison between the four antennas performance, and Table 3 compares this work in respect with other researches. As summary, it can be concluded that multi beams property can be achieved by using one single waveguide structure. Taking the
advantage of signals are confined within the broad and narrow walls of the waveguide

Fig. 7. The radiation patterns of the proposed antennas. (a) Antenna 1, (b) Antenna 2, (c) Antenna 3, and (d) Antenna 4.

Table 2: The performance of the proposed antennas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Ant.1</th>
<th>Ant.2</th>
<th>Ant.3</th>
<th>Ant.4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frequency (GHz)</td>
<td>9.22</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>9.012</td>
<td>8.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Return loss (dB)</td>
<td>22.7</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bandwidth (MHz)</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain (dB)</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>6.58</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>7.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Efficiency (%)</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beams</td>
<td>Dual</td>
<td>Triple</td>
<td>Triple</td>
<td>Four</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3: Comparison with other works

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Waveguide slots Antennas at X-band</th>
<th>Ref. [16]</th>
<th>Ref. [17]</th>
<th>This work</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Return loss (dB)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency (GHz)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>9.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain (dB)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6.3-7.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Efficiency (%)</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>75-92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of beams</td>
<td>One beam</td>
<td>One beam</td>
<td>Dual, triple and four</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IV. CONCLUSION

In this work, four types of waveguide slots antennas are presented at X-band. The antennas are implemented on both broad and narrow walls of the waveguide structure to enable dual, triple, and four beams. Four slots are distributed symmetrically on the broad and narrow walls of the waveguide, whereas a total of eight slots implemented at Antenna 1, twelve slots implemented at Antenna 2 and Antenna 3, and sixteen slots implemented
at Antenna 4. The performance of the proposed antennas showed a good return loss of greater than 10 dB and a gain range of 6.3 to 7.4 dB. The dual beams with gain of 6.3 dB are obtained in both H-plane and E-plane. Antenna 2 and antenna 3 has a triple beams with gain of 6.58 dB and 6.9 dB in both broad and narrow walls directions. Antenna 4 has four beams with gain of 7.4 dB. These proposed antennas could be useful for radar and wireless applications at X-band.

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