

Compact Design of H-Shaped Fractal Microstrip Patch Antenna Using Different DGS for Wireless Applications

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ABSTRACT: Microstrip antennas find applications in aircraft, satellite and missile applications where important characteristics are size, weight and complexity. Design and simulation has been carried out using IE3D simulation software. Minkowski fractal geometry has been applied on patch of antenna to form self similar H-shaped patch antenna. By applying DGS in horizontal direction and vertical direction, characteristics of antenna are observed. When DGS has been changed in horizontal direction and Fr-4 has been used as substrate then antenna resonated at 2.7 GHz, 4.8 GHz and 6.2 GHz with return loss of -17.66 dB, -13.6 dB and -23.66 dB. This antenna has gain of 6.05 dBi, 5.6 dBi and 3.66 dBi. Results are also obtained for H-shaped fractal patch antenna by applying plus shaped DGS and slot shaped DGS, hence antenna can be used for WLAN applications. When microstrip feed line has been used, proposed antenna can be useful for GPS application.

KEYWORDS: Fractal, H shape, Patch, Patch antenna, IE3D

I. INTRODUCTION

Today's in antenna field the scenario is such as the low profile, the ease of fabrication and the low cost can made this element very popular and attracted and this is the main advantage of microstrip patch antenna and also implemented in our work. The above-mentioned merits would be expected to project the patch is better for many applications, its large physical size renders it improper where the antenna space availability is a limitation. It has been considered several methods to reduce the antenna size such as the use of shorting pins [3], material loading and geometry optimization [4]. Although it is interesting to conclude that attempts to increase the conductive patch of the antenna have been endeavored by introducing slots, defected ground structures [12] and notches [4,5]. There are number of techniques for improving characteristics of microstrip patch antenna which include making use of fractal geometry, defected ground structure and cutting slots on patch. Fractal means broken or irregular fragments. There are number of fractal shapes like Minkowski, Hilbert curve, Koch curve, Sierpinski and fractal arrays.[13] By applying fractal geometry on patch, area of patch decreases, resonant length increases and number of frequency bands of antenna increases. Since it is also important to have wideband characteristics, hence defected ground structure plays an important role in improving bandwidth of antenna. If one applies both fractal geometry as well as DGS characteristics of antenna gets improved.

II. RELATED WORK

H-shaped fractal microstrip patch antenna with DGS has been designed for wireless applications. Microstrip antennas [4] are useful because of their advantages like low cost, small size and they are easy to fabricate. But they are having some of disadvantages like small bandwidth, less gain and lack of multiband characteristics. Hence literature survey had been carried out so as to know about techniques used in improving characteristics. Different types of slots can be made on the patch of antenna. Rectangular microstrip slot monopole antenna with hook shaped arm was made on a thin substrate [7] to achieve large bandwidth. Proposed antenna covered WLAN and Wi-MAX frequency band applications. Miniaturized inverted F antenna had been used for wireless sensor network applications [12]. . Tree shape fractal geometry [1] had been used for RFID readers and tag. The reader antenna had a -10 dB bandwidth of 248 MHz, 398 MHz and 405 MHz at 3.6 GHz, 5.8 GHz and 8.2 GHz respectively. Minkowski fractal geometry [6] had been used to

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design fractal antenna up to third iteration. This antenna was having different frequency bands with less return loss, high efficiency and broad bandwidth at final iteration with a gain of 5.4 dBi. Fractal monopole antenna was obtained with Giuseppe and Peano fractal geometries [8]. This antenna design was combination of two fractal geometries. Two iterations of fractal geometry were applied to obtain good characteristics but this shape was complex from fabrication point of view. Stacked fractal patch antenna had been used to reduce radio interference for GPS application. This configuration suffer from disadvantage that it had large size and also used two patch elements. Microstrip patch antenna was designed in stacked configuration. Fractal shaped defects in form of Koch curves had been removed from patch surfaces [2]. This antenna was having impedance bandwidth of 120 MHz and 160 MHz at two frequency bands 2.4 GHz and 5.8 GHz. Sierpinski fractal antennas [9] had been designed. Proposed antenna had a bandwidth of 868 MHz and return loss of -16 dB. Antenna was designed using cantor shape fractal antenna [11] for different wireless applications. Although this antenna had good bandwidth and gain but size of this antenna is 28 X 38 mm². Dual frequency antenna [5] was obtained by replacing a segment of square ring antenna by fractal Minkowski curve. This antenna had compact size but had one drawback. This antenna was having very small bandwidth. From above discussion, it is found that factors which are necessary for optimized antenna design are good bandwidth, small size, simple design, good gain and less return loss.

There are different steps that have been followed in order to achieve the objective of dissertation:

- Fractal antenna dimensions calculated before design using IE3D software.
- Design, simulation and analysis are carried out using IE3D software.

Finally simulation and testing results are compared. Earlier work done on microstrip antenna has been discussed. There are different aspects of microstrip antenna like fractal geometry and DGS are discussed. Different challenges were analyzed on the basis of shortcomings of these aspects. Problem had been formulated on the basis of different challenges analyzed from challenges. Depending on problem formulation, objectives and methodology for problem are decided.

Objectives

- To find the gaps of literature survey.
- Design and simulation of H-shaped fractal microstrip patch antenna with coaxial feeding technique using IE3D.
- Optimization of antenna parameters for bandwidth, gain and return loss by the use of fractal configurations and its testing through IE3D.

III. DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

Multiband fractal patch antenna has been designed using Minkowski fractal geometry. Minkowski fractal antenna has been designed by applying three iterations of fractal geometry to form self-similar structures. H shaped fractal patch antenna is obtained by three iterations of fractal geometry to form self-similar geometry. Further it is found that by changing substrate, good bandwidth of 1.1 GHz in C band is obtained. Parametric analysis can be obtained by varying substrate thickness, feed point and other parameters. Design and simulation has been carried out using IE3D. Antenna shown in figure 1 is modified by applying Minkowski fractal geometry on both parallel sides of square patch to form H shaped antenna. This antenna is obtained by making slots to form h shaped antenna. This h shaped antenna is further made by applying two iterations of fractal geometries. Minkowski algorithm as shown in figure 1 is shown. Here entire length is divided into three equal parts. Minkowski algorithm is applied to length of L mm.

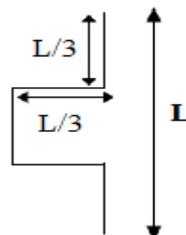


Figure 1: Fractal Geometry Algorithm used [5]

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Vol. 3, Issue 10, October 2014

In this design square patch is having a length of 27 mm. FR-4 has been used as substrate and coaxial feed is used and feed point selected in such a way that impedance matching takes place. This fractal antenna is obtained by applying two iterations of fractal geometry. Table 1 shows dimensions of antenna. Minkowski fractal geometry algorithm has been applied to square patch and different fractal geometry iterations are shown by figure 2(a), (b), 2(c) and 2(d). In these geometries base shape repeats itself. Here square patch having a length of 27 mm is taken as shown in figure 2(a) and coaxial feed has been given at (10, 9, 0).

Table 1: Dimensions of H-Shaped FMPA

Variable	Value
Length of patch	27 mm
Width of patch	27 mm
Length of ground	41 mm
Width of ground	41 mm
Thickness of substrate	2.4 mm
Feeding technique used	Coaxial feeding technique
Substrate used	FR4 epoxy
Feed Point	(11, 9, 0)
Length of 1 st iteration fractal cut	9 mm

Feed point has been chosen in such a way that impedance matching take place. I-shaped patch as shown in figure 2(b) is made by using concept of fractal geometry. Vertical length of 27 mm is divided into 3 parts, each of length 9 mm. these two cuts are made in vertical direction to form h shape patch. H shaped patch Vs having five squares. This h shaped patch is example of microstrip patch antenna with slot cut inside it.

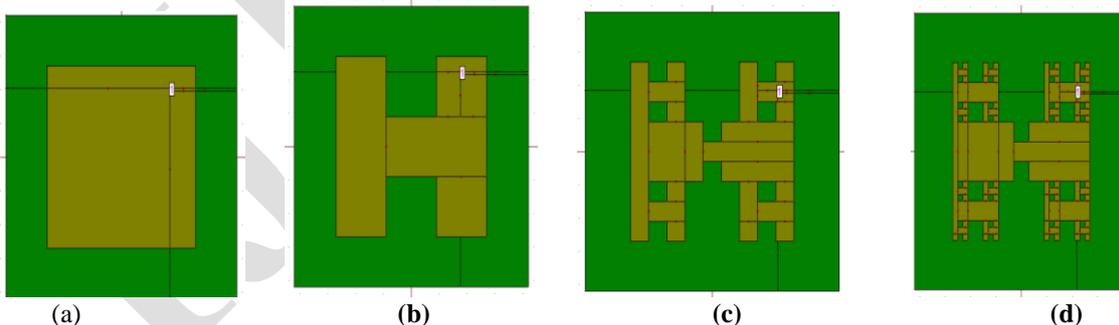


Figure 2: H-Shaped FMPA (a) 0th Iteration, (b) 1st Iteration , (c) 2nd Iteration and (d) 3rd Iteration

Now to make h shaped fractal square cuts of length 3 mm are made in each square if dimension 9mm. As design is made using IE3d simulation software, hence for making cuts, one has to consider center of square. Hence squares of dimension 3 mm are made to cut from that of 9 mm. Now figure is obtained as shown in figure 2(c). Further to make antenna third iteration of fractal geometry is applied in which squares of dimension 1 mm are made to cut from 3 mm length square. Hence h shaped fractal patch antenna is obtained in which small h Shaped antenna are repeated with dimension 1 mm as shown in figure 2(d). Feed to antenna is given coaxial feed at feed point (11, 9, 0). From these geometries, it is found that self-similar characteristics are obtained. These geometries show self-repeating structures.

From figure 2, it is clear that size of h shape is goes on decreasing but resonant length goes on increasing and area goes on decreasing.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

In this section result of different iterations of cantor fractal geometry applied on square patch antennas are discussed. Figure 3 represents different fractal geometry iterations of reference antenna. Return loss vs. frequency curve for different fractal geometry iterations are shown in figure 3. From figure 3 it is found that fractal geometry helps in improving antenna characteristics. Antenna at zeroth iteration resonates at 2.8 GHz with return loss of -12.55 dB, gain of 2.15 dBi, directivity of 9.09 dBi and bandwidth of 240 MHz. By applying first iteration of fractal geometry, antenna resonates at 6 GHz with return loss of -13.59 dB, gain of 2.38 dBi, directivity of 6.55 dBi and bandwidth of 410 MHz. By applying second iteration of fractal geometry, antenna resonates at 4.65 GHz and 6.17 GHz with return loss of -18.76 dB, -12.04 dB, gain of 1.71 dBi and 3.11 dBi, bandwidth of 150 MHz and 320 MHz at corresponding frequencies. When next iteration of fractal geometry is applied, characteristics slightly improves as antenna resonated at two bands namely 4.63 GHz and 6.2 GHz with return loss of -18.76 dB, -12.04 dB and -18.76 dB, gain of 1.52 dBi and 2.78 dBi and directivity of 2.44 dBi and 8.25 dBi. Table 2 shows comparison of results of different iterations of cantor fractal geometry applied on square patch as shown in figure 3. These results shows as number of iterations increased, a characteristic of antenna begins to improve. Results of return loss versus bandwidth showed that antenna characteristics will be good as number of iterations increases in terms of return loss, bandwidth and frequency.

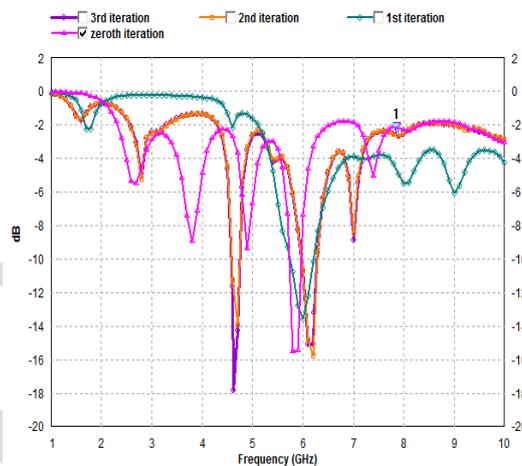


Figure 3: Return Loss vs. Frequency for Different Fractal Iterations of H-Shaped FMPA

Results are analyzed in terms of return loss, gain, directivity and bandwidth. From this table it is found that as number of iterations increases, resonant length increase, area decreases but number of bands increases. Here antenna is having bandwidth of 300 MHz in C band which could be improved.

Table 2: Comparison Results of Different Iterations of H-shaped FMPA

Iteratio n Number	Resonan ce (GHz)	Retur n Loss (dB)	Gain (dBi)	Direc tivity (dBi)	Band width (MHz)
0 th	5.8 GHz	-15.55	2.15	9.09	240
1 st	6 GHz	-13.59	2.38	6.55	410
2 nd	4.65 GHz	-17.76	1.71	5.48	150
	6.17 GHz	-14.04	3.11	8.60	300

3 rd	4.65 GHz	-18.76	1.52	5.44	150
	6.17 GHz	-15.04	2.78	8.25	320

From these, it is found that, as number of iterations, An increase, results improves but complexity increases. Radiation pattern corresponding to that of antenna shown in figure 2(d) is shown in figure 4. These radiation patterns correspond to that of frequency 4.63 and 6.2 dB as shown in figure 3(a) and 3 (b).



Figure 4: Radiation Pattern of Reference Antenna at (a) 4.63 GHz and (b) 6.2 GHz

V. EFFECT OF APPLYING DGS

By applying dumbbell shape DGS in vertical direction to ground plane of fractal antenna as shown in figure 6 is obtained. Further results are analyzed. This dumbbell cut on ground consists of two square heads which are joined by a rectangle of particular slot length and slot width. The geometry of horizontal dumbbell shape DGS has been shown in figure 5. This dumbbell cut on ground helps in reducing area of ground plane and improving bandwidth at different frequencies. Dumbbell made on ground depends on size of square heads joined by rectangular slit.

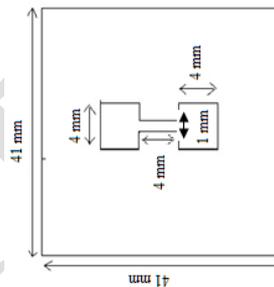


Figure 5: Dumbbell Shape DGS in Horizontal Direction

This DGS is made on ground plane of antenna. It consist of two square heads of 4 mm length joined by rectangle with slot length of 4 mm, slot width of 1mm and is made in vertical direction. Top and bottom view of proposed antenna with DGS are shown in figure 6 (a) and 6 (b).



Figure 6: Antenna with Horizontal Dumbbell DGS (a) Top View and (b) Bottom View

There are many techniques for improving bandwidth of antenna. In this dissertation dumbbell shape DGS has been used. Initially square patch with a length of 27 mm is taken and two different iterations of fractal geometry are applied one by one to it. Feed to antenna is given at (11, 9, and 0) and FR-4 has been used as substrate. Dumbbell shape DGS as shown in figure 7 has been applied to ground plane but in a horizontal direction.

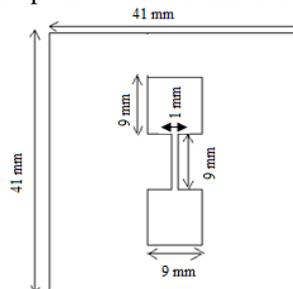


Figure 7: Vertical Dumbbell Shaped DGS

This DGS consists of two square dumbbell heads joined by rectangle having particular slot length and width. When DGS is applied to ground plane, area of ground plane decreases which causes bandwidth of antenna to improve. Top and bottom view of proposed antenna with DGS are shown in figure 8(a) and 8(b).



Figure 8: Antenna with Vertical DGS (a) Top View and (b) Bottom View

By applying this DGS to ground plane of antenna, characteristics of antenna are analyzed. Each dumbbell head of dumbbell head is a square having a length of 9 mm. Two square dumbbell heads are joined by a rectangle having a slot length of 9 mm and slot width of 1mm. Here DGS has been cut in horizontal direction. By applying DGS along horizontal direction, antenna characteristics improved in terms of return loss, bandwidth and gain. Earlier antenna geometry was modified by changing DGS and analyzing its results. In By using Rogers RT-Duroid/5880 as substrate, bandwidth of 1.1 GHz in C band is obtained. Rogers RT-Duroid/5880 is having dielectric constant of 2.2 which is half to that of FR4 and it has also loss tangent of 0.0009. Here ground plane is square with a length of 41 mm. Coaxial feed is used at feed point of (1, 0, 0). All specifications of antenna are same as in table 2 but substrate has been changed. Further dumbbell shape DGS as shown in figure 9 has been applied to ground plane. Each dumbbell head is a square having a length of 9 mm. Two square dumbbell heads are joined by a rectangle having a slot length of 9 mm and slot width of 1mm. above fractal antenna using Rogers RT-Duroid/5880 as substrate. By using this substrate, antenna resonates at three bands with good gain and bandwidth.

5.1 Antenna with slot cut DGS

There are different DGS configurations. One of important configurations is obtained by cutting seven slots of dimension 10 X 2 mm². These types of DGS decreases ground area and changes inductance and capacitance which changes resonant frequency. This antenna had resonant band but DGS is obtained such that seven continuous slots are made at regular distances. Feed to antenna is coaxial feed with fed point at (11, 9, and 0). This antenna had geometry top and bottom view of it has been shown in figure 9 (a) and 9 (b).



Figure 9: Antenna with slot DGS (a) Top View and (b) Bottom View

5.2 Antenna with plus shaped DGS

Plus shaped DGS is obtained by cutting plus shaped DGS. This type of DGS is made by cutting two strips one in horizontal and second in vertical direction. These two strips are made in two directions $20 \times 2 \text{ mm}^2$. By joining these strips plus shape is obtained. Geometry corresponding to it is shown in figure 10(a) and 10(b). These DGS shows effect of DGS on antenna performance.



Figure 10: Antenna with DGS using Different Substrate (a) Top View and (b) Bottom View

VI. SIMULATION RESULTS OF H-SHAPED FRACTAL PATCH ANTENNA USING DGS

Since by applying fractal geometry, characteristics of antenna improved but bandwidth needs to be improved. In this section effects of applying different DGS on ground plane of fractal antenna are analyzed in terms of antenna characteristics.

4.1. Fractal Antenna with Dumbbell shaped DGS

Simulated results of applying fractal geometry on patch have been shown in figure 9 in which fractal antenna resonates at two frequencies. There are different DGS configurations namely vertical and horizontal dumbbell DGS. Return loss versus frequency curve is shown in figure 11.

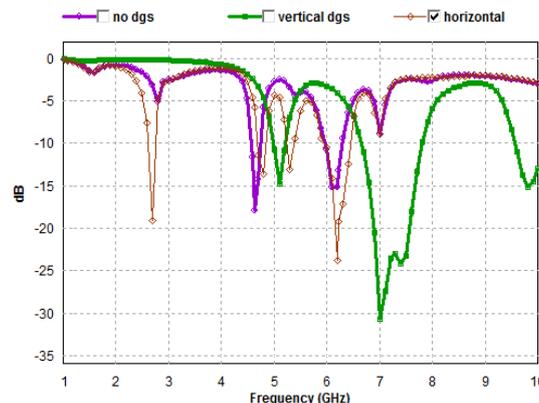


Figure 11: Return Loss Vs Frequency for Antenna with different DGS

By applying second iteration of fractal geometry, antenna resonates at 4.65 GHz and 6.17 GHz with return loss of -18.76 dB, -15.04 dB, gain of 1.71 dBi and 3.11 dBi, bandwidth of 150 MHz and 320 MHz at corresponding frequencies. By applying DGS in horizontal direction, a characteristic of antenna improves. This antenna is made by changing substrate. This antenna resonates at 5.1 GHz, 7 GHz and 9.8 GHz with resonant frequency of -15 dB, -31.1 dB and -15.3 dB, with bandwidth of 200 MHz, 1100 MHz and 550 MHz When DGS has been changed in horizontal directional and Fr-4 has been used as substrate then antenna resonated at 2.7 GHz, 4.8 GHz and 6.2 GHz with return loss of -17.66 dB, -13.6 dB and -23.66 dB. This antenna has gain of 6.05 dBi, 5.6 dBi and 3.66 dBi. Radiation Pattern of antenna at different frequencies has been shown in figure 12 (a), 12 (b) and 12(c) corresponding to 2.7 GHz, 4.8 GHz and 6.2 GHz.

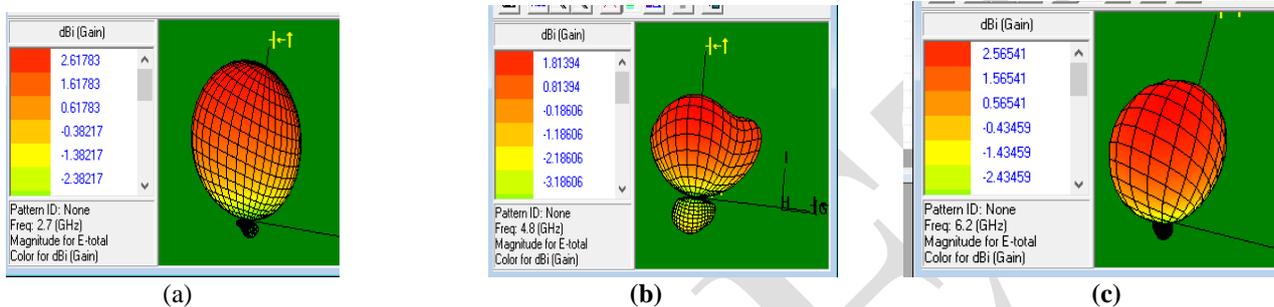


Figure 12: Radiation Pattern of antenna with Vertical Dumbbell DGS at (a) 2.7 GHz, (b) 4.8 GHz and (c) 6.2 GHz. By applying vertical dumbbell DGS, results in terms of return loss, bandwidth, gain and directivity are analyzed in table 3.

Table 3: Antenna Characteristics by Dumbbell DGS

DGS type	Resonance Frequency (GHz)	Return Loss (dB)	Gain (dBi)	Directivity (dBi)	Bandwidth (MHz)
No	4.65 GHz	-17.76	1.71	5.48	150
	6.17 GHz	-14.04	3.11	8.60	300
Vertical dgs	2.7	-17.66	2.61	6.42	100
	4.8	-13.6	1.81	5.29	150
	6.2	-23.4	2.56	7.64	450
substrate dgs	5.1	-15	6.05	6.77	200
	7	-31.1	5.6	7.1	1100
	9.8	-15.3	3.66	6	550

Further from analysis shown in table 3 it is found that by applying vertical dumbbell DGS, antenna resonates at three bands with good bandwidth. Hence this configuration of antenna can be used for different wireless applications.

4.2. Plus and Slot DGS

Results were analyzed by applying vertical and horizontal dumbbell DGS. Return loss versus frequency characteristics were obtained by using cross shaped DGS and slot cut DGS as shown in figure 13. By applying slot shaped DGS, antenna shows improvement in characteristics. The antenna with such configuration can have application for different purposes. By applying plus shaped DGS, antenna resonated at 2.4 GHz, 5.1 GHz and 6.4 GHz with return loss of -

International Journal of Innovative Research in Science, Engineering and Technology

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Vol. 3, Issue 10, October 2014

24.75 dB, -22.5 dB and -21.5 dB, gain of 2.48 dBi, 1.95 dBi and 2.90 dBi. By applying slot cut DGS, antenna resonated at 2.7 GHz, 4.5 GHz and 6 GHz. This antenna had return loss of -12.3 dB, -17.5 dB and -22.5 dB at corresponding frequency. Further this antenna had good gain of 2.09 dBi, 3.19 dBi and 5.51 dBi at corresponding frequencies. Hence one has to chose that antenna which gives best result. Return loss versus frequency characteristics have been shown in figure 13

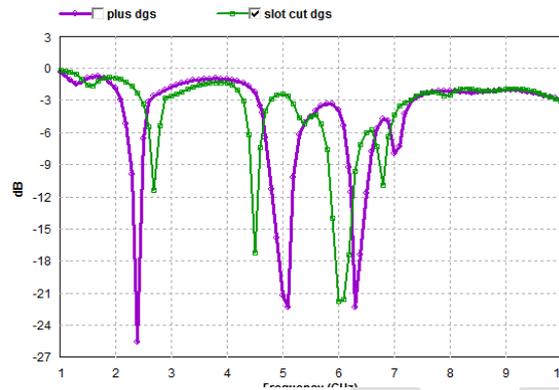


Figure 13: Return Loss Vs Frequency for Proposed Antenna

Results have been compared for plus shaped DGS and slot shaped DGS as mentioned in table 4.

Table 4: Antenna Characteristics by slot and cross DGS

DGS Type	Resonance Frequency (GHz)	Return Loss (dB)	Gain (dBi)	Directivity (dBi)	Bandwidth (MHz)
plus	2.4	-24.75	2.48	5.60	100
	5.1	-22.5	1.95	5.34	450
	6.4	-21.5	2.90	7.14	400
slot	2.7	-12.3	2.09	6.41	100
	4.5	-17.5	3.19	6.51	150
	6	-22.5	5.51	9.61	400

VII. CONCLUSION

Multiband H-shaped fractal antenna is obtained by applying fractal geometry .Initially a rectangular patch is taken and fractal geometry is applied. When DGS has been changed in horizontal direction a and Fr-4 has been used as substrate then antenna resonated at 2.7 GHz, 4.8 GHz and 6.2 GHz with return loss of -17.66 dB, -13.6 dB and -23.66 dB. This antenna has gain of 6.05 dBi, 5.6 dBi and 3.66 dBi. Results are also obtained for H-shaped fractal patch antenna by applying plus shaped DGS and slot shaped DGS, hence antenna can be used for WLAN applications.

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