

Preface

Waveguides are used to transfer electromagnetic energy from one point to another with negligible losses. However, such structures are rigid and not always desirable and require high-precision manufacturing devices. Hence, the concept of substrate integrated waveguide (SIW) has been introduced, which has emerged as one of the most versatile and promising candidates in providing multiband/wideband antenna structures along with high gain. They possess advantages for both cavity-backed (high gain/directivity levels and unidirectional radiation patterns) and planar antennas (easy fabrication and low profile). In this work, planar antennas are designed using substrate integrated waveguide (SIW) technology to have low losses, high quality factors, and low fabrication costs. In our work, the concept of SIW technology have been utilised in the design of (i. wideband antennas, ii. self-multiplexed antennas, and iii. multiple-input-multiple-output (MIMO) antennas), which are discussed as below.

An interesting problem with the SIW cavity-backed slot antenna is improving the bandwidth performance of the antenna. Due to the high-quality factor cavity backing, the operation of the SIW cavity-backed slot antenna is affected by its inherent narrow bandwidth. To overcome this problem, a study of a wideband (SIW) cavity-based slot antenna is presented in this thesis. The proposed antenna consists of a U-shaped slot etched in the ground plane, which helps in achieving the wideband behaviour ranging from 26.20–30.30 GHz. A detailed analysis of the SIW cavity and the prediction of various modes propagating inside it using accurate design equations are also discussed.

Parametric studies on various parameters to improve the performance in terms of wide impedance bandwidth, gain, and efficiency levels are also discussed in detail. A good matching characteristic along with a good level of gain, radiation efficiency levels, and stable radiation patterns makes the proposed antenna a suitable candidate for 5G applications, such as (27.50–28.28 GHz in Japan, 26.50–29.50 GHz in Korea, and 27.50–28.35 GHz in the USA).

Various wireless applications, such as mobile handheld devices and RF frontend systems, require multiple transceivers to operate in different frequency bands. However, the antenna needs to be followed by a higher-order filter or diplexer network to differentiate between transmit and receive channels, which increases the complexity of the system. A useful solution to this problem is to design self-diplexing antenna systems due to their simple and compact size, with no requirement for a decoupling network, better isolation between the excitation ports, and ease of integration with the RF front-end components. Here, to fulfil the above requirement, a SIW-based circularly polarized (CP) self-diplexing antenna is designed. The proposed antenna makes use of an elliptical slot in the metallic ground plane, which is excited with the help of two separate microstrip feedlines, placed face-to-face with each other. This arrangement produces two different frequencies, centred around 21.70 GHz and 27.10 GHz, when separately excited by port-1 and port-2, respectively. The CP operation in both frequency bands can be achieved by rotating the elliptical slot, which gives 3 dB axial-ratio bandwidth (ARBW) of 3.01% and 6.62% in the lower and upper-frequency bands, respectively. The attractive features such as low profile and low weight make the proposed SIW antenna suitable for satellite and millimeter-wave 5G applications. An extension of the self-diplexed antenna is also implemented by realising a self-triplexing antenna (STA). A SIW based self-triplexing antenna with a non-linear replicated hybrid slot (NLR-HS) is proposed. To the author's best knowledge, the concept of NLR is the first of its kind in the literature used for obtaining self-triplexed operation. Initially, the SIW cavity is

loaded by a hexagonal slot merged with two rectangular transverse slots that together produce two distinct resonances around 5.23 and 7.50 GHz. The variation in resonant frequencies of both the lower and upper frequency bands can be modelled by applying NLR to the hexagonal slot. To achieve the self-triplexing operation, a coaxial probe-fed parasitic hexagonal patch is placed concentrically inside the hexagonal slot. The third resonance is centred around 10.82 GHz, which can be modelled with the help of the gap between the hexagonal slot and the parasitic patch. Easy independent tuning of all the three frequency bands is allowed using scaling of the hexagonal slot in x- and y-directions and spacing (or gap) between the hexagonal parasitic patch and the hexagonal slot. Hence, the flexible operation of the proposed STA can be easily utilized for different frequency bands in C-, and X- band. To validate the proposed idea, the design is fabricated and experimentally tested. The antenna is good for LTE/LTE Advanced, WLAN, Wi-Fi, and a weather monitoring satellite.

Wireless applications such as 5G cellular communications need large bandwidth and high data rates for streaming video content. For this, dual polarised antennas are being utilised in wireless systems to decrease the influence of fading caused by multipath propagation. For this, a simple cavity-backed SIW based 2×1 MIMO antenna with an asymmetric cross-slot (AXS) to obtain dual-band dual-circularly polarized (DB-DCP) operation is presented. Initially, the SIW cavity consisting of metallic vias on all four sides is implemented. This cavity is divided into two smaller SIW cavities using a row of metallic vias and excited using the coaxial feed for MIMO configuration. The partitioning using metallic vias offers a compact size for diversity performance and provides good isolation between the excitation ports without using any decoupling structure. To achieve CP in both operating frequency bands, the arms of the AXS were tuned sufficiently to realize 3 dB ARBW from 22.62-26.33 GHz and 29.20-30.12 GHz within the IBW, ranging from 22.60-26.36 GHz (Band-I) and 29.04-30.42 GHz (Band-II), respectively. The diversity performance of the proposed antenna is also studied

and calculated using S-parameters and far-field analysis. The proposed antenna can feasibly support satellite and 5G cellular communications.

The research work investigated in this thesis provides a detailed study of several design methodologies to enhance the performance of high frequency microwave antenna systems in terms of compactness, bandwidth, and gain. To get a better insight into the proposed designs, the behaviour of the cavity modes propagating inside the SIW cavity is presented. All the antenna designs have been fabricated, and the measured results are experimentally verified with the simulated ones. An equivalent circuit modelling of all the proposed designs, along with surface current distributions at various resonating frequencies, is also performed. A detailed comparative study of the proposed designs with the current state-of-the-art in the literature in terms of physical and electrical size, isolation, gain, efficiency, FTBR, and complexity is summarised in the thesis.

Finally, the major contributions of the entire investigation are summarized. In addition, it also provides recommendations for future work.