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Microstrip Antenna for Wideband Application using Inset Feeding

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Abstract: ***This paper presents the design and implementation of a microstrip antenna array optimized for wireless communication. The proposed design focuses on enhancing gain, bandwidth, and compactness, and efficient feeding techniques. Simulation using IE3D software validated the design, achieving a gain of 3.17 db with a return loss of - 46.93db for the 4-elemental array. Practical testing with a Vector Network Analyzer confirmed its applicability for technologies like 5G and Wi-Fi. The results demonstrate a high-performance, cost-effective solution for modern wireless system***

Keywords: Microstrip Antenna, Wireless Communication, IE3D, Vector Network Analyzer, 5G, Bandwidth.

I. INTRODUCTION

The rapid growth of wireless communication has driven the demand for efficient and compact antenna designs. Microstrip antennas, with their lightweight and low-profile features, are increasingly popular for applications like 5G, Wi-Fi, and IoT. However, challenges such as limited bandwidth and mutual coupling remain significant.

This paper addresses these issues by designing a microstrip antenna array and advanced feeding technique. Key contributions include optimizing gain and bandwidth while ensuring compactness and compatibility with modern wireless systems.

II. METHODOLOGY

A. Design Overview

The antenna consists of a rectangular microstrip patch on an FR4 substrate (, thickness = 1.6 mm). The array configurations include 1, 2, and 4 elements arranged linearly for enhanced directivity and gain.

Elemental Width:

The following dimensions have to be determined:

1) Width of the Patch (W).
2) Length (L).
3) Width (Wo) of 5002 microstrip transmission line (feed-line).
4) Inset distance (yo) for the feed-line for 50SQ impedance matching

B. Design Procedure

1) For an efficient radiator, a practical width that leads to good radiation efficiencies is given as,

$$W = \frac{c}{2f_r}\sqrt{\frac{2}{\varepsilon_r+1}} \quad \text{----------(1)}$$

Where, c =3 X 10^8 m/s is the free-space velocity of light.

W=38.036 mm

2) The effective dielectric constant (&) of the microstrip antenna can be calculated using equation given below,

$$\varepsilon_e = \frac{\varepsilon_r+1}{2} \pm \frac{\varepsilon_r-1}{2}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{1+12h/W}}\right) \text{-----(2)}$$

εe=4.0858

3) Once W is found using step 1 the extension of the length AL can be determined using AL equation [3.2] given below,

$$\frac{\Delta L}{h} = 0.412\left[\frac{(\varepsilon_e+0.3)}{(\varepsilon_e-0.258)}\right]\left[\frac{\frac{W}{h}+0.264}{\frac{W}{h}+0.8}\right] \text{—(3)}$$

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4) The actual length of the patch can be found by solving for L using equation,

$$L = \frac{c}{2fr\sqrt{\epsilon reff}}$$

L=29.44mm. ---------(4)

5) The resonant input conductance (G) of the one slot of the patch can found using equation given bellow:

G= w/120λ0[1-1/24(k0 h)^2]

G -2.534X 10^{-3} seimens

Where ko is the free-space wave number given by,

K0=211/A0

K0= 50.26

The resonant input resistance of the patch can be can be determined approximately using equation given as,

Rin (y=0) 1/2G1

=197.316Ω------(5)

6) Given the resonant input resistance, the inset distance (yo) for matching the input resistance to 502 can be calculated using equation as follows,

Rin (y-y0) = Rin(y=0cos^2(II/Ly0)

y0 = 9.77mm ---------(6)

7) The actual resonant frequency of the patch approaches the value for ideal case (infinite ground plane) when increase in size (d) is o20 on all sides of the patch metallization.

d=λ0/20

d =6.25 ---------(7)

To be on the safer side we decided to keep d=30mm since as the ground plane size increases the size of the back lobe reduces.

8) The microstrip transmission line for the patch can be designed for 500 characteristic impedances using,

Where,

Wo= width of the transmission line

h= thickness of the substrate

Step 1: Calculation of Effective dielectric constant (Eref):

The effective dielectric constant is:

$$\epsilon reff = \frac{\epsilon r+1}{2} \pm \frac{\epsilon r-1}{2}\left[1 + 12\frac{h}{W}\right]^{1/2}$$

Substituting, ε r =2.45, W=47.5 mm and h=1.58 mm

we get:

εreff = 2.3368---------(8)

Step 2: Calculation of the Effective length (Leff):

The effective length is:

$$Leff = \frac{c}{2fr\sqrt{\epsilon reff}}$$

Substituting Ereff =2.3368, c =3.00e+008 m/s and f=2.4 GHz

we get: L=0.0406 m =36.625 ---------(9)

Step 3: Calculation of the length extension (ΔL):

The length extension is:

$$\Delta L = 0.412h \frac{(\epsilon reff+0.3)(\frac{W}{h}+0.264)}{(\epsilon reff+0.258)(\frac{W}{h}+0.8)}$$

Substituting E=2.3668, W= 47.5 mm and h= 1.58 mm

we get: AL=0.81 mm ---------(10)

Step 4: Calculation of actual length of patch (L):

The actual length is obtained by:

L= Leff -2ΔL

Substituting Leff = 40.625 mm and ΔL 0.81 mm

we get: L=39 m=39 nm

and $A=Z0/60(\epsilon r+1/2)^{1/2}+((\epsilon r+1/\epsilon r-1)\ (0.23+0.11/\epsilon r)$

A=1.3459 ---------(11)

Then,

$W0/h =(8e^{15294}/e^{2*1.5294}-2)$

W0=2.4088mm (for h=1.6mm)

Calculations for 2 Elements

Width of Feedline- 40.35-31.55

=8.8

Length of Feedline- 24.0044-1.2044

Length 24.0044-1.2044

= 22.8

Spacing-86.62-14.72

= 71.9

Calculations for 4 Elements

Width of Feedline- 25.27-22.45

=2.82

Length of Feedline- 57.13-40.33

= 16.8

X Co-ordinate Spacing- 66.73-19.01

=47.72

Y Co-ordinate Spacing- 57.18+14.72

=71.9

Table 1 Measurements of Length and Width of Ground Planes

No. of Element	Ground plane Length Lg(mm)	Ground plane Width Wg(mm)
Single Element	50mm	40mm
2 Element	70mm	140mm
4 Element	85mm	295mm

C. Design Implementation

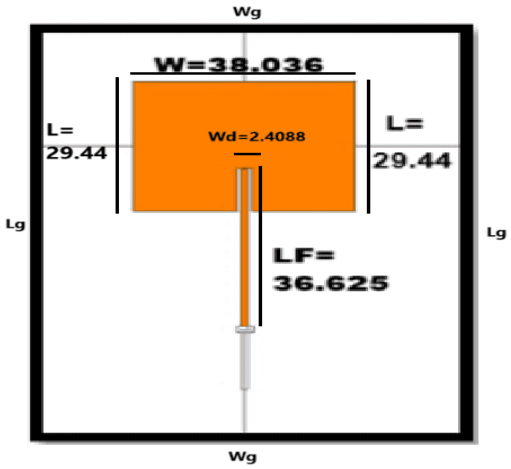

Figure 1 Simulated 1 Elemental array Antenna

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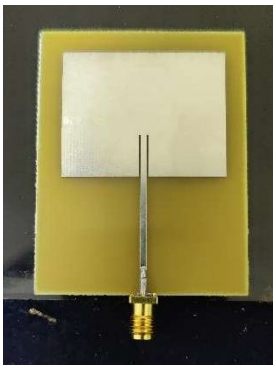

Figure 2 Fabricated 1Elemental array Antenna

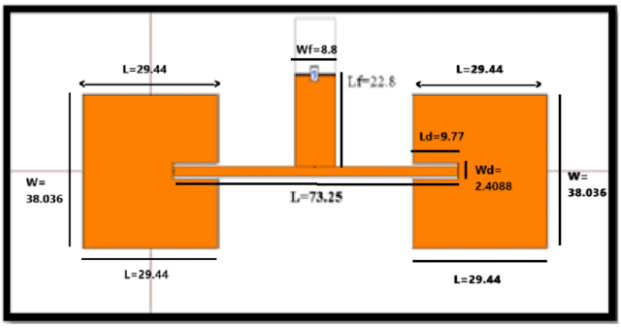

Figure 3 Simulated 2 Element Antenna

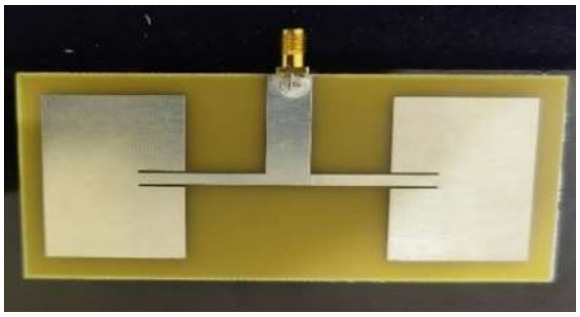

Figure 4 Fabricated 2 Element Antenna

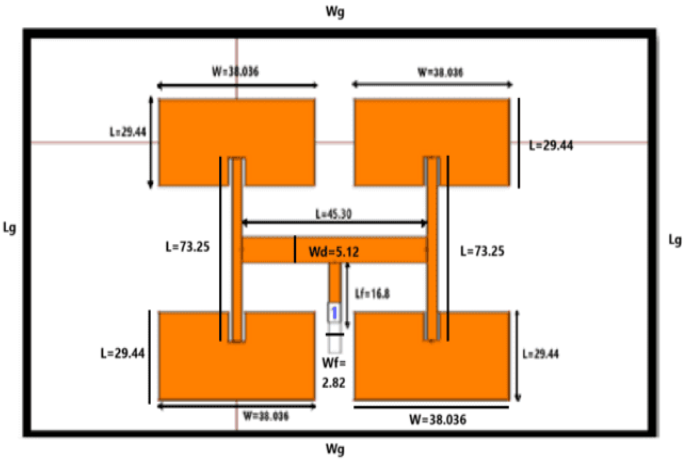

Figure 5 Simulated 4Element Antenna

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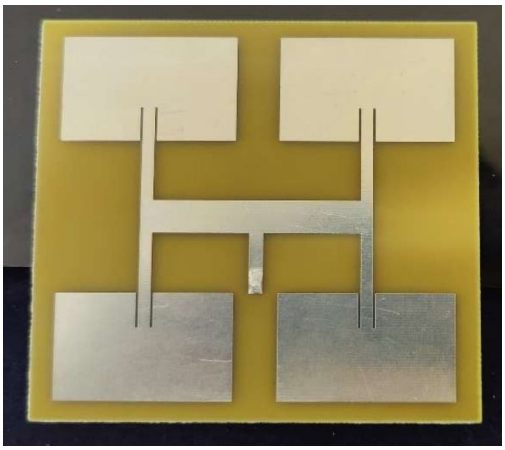
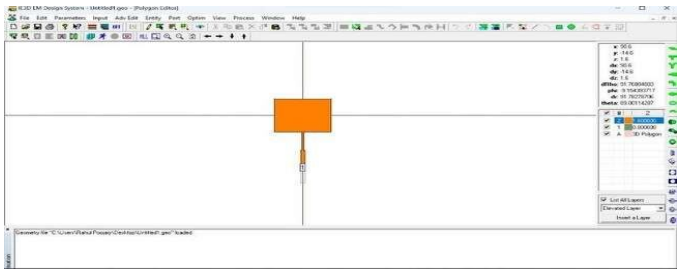


Figure 6 Fabricated 4Element Antenna



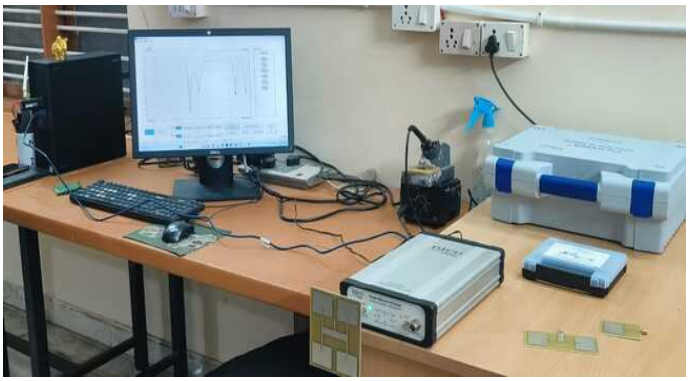
D. Software Requirements

IE3D: 1E3D is a powerful electromagnetic simulation software widely used in the field of antenna design, microwave circuits, and electromagnetic compatibility analysis. Developed by Ze land Software Inc., IE3D offers advanced computational capabilities, enabling engineers and researchers to accurately model, simulate, and optimize complex electromagnetic structures. This comprehensive analysis aims to delve into the key features, capabilities, and applications of IE3D, highlighting its strengths and limitations within the realm of electromagnetic simulations.

E. Hardware Requirement

Vector Network Analyser: Vector Network Analysers (VNA) are essential electronic test instruments used in the field of radio frequency (RF) and microwave engineering. They play a crucial role in characterizing and analysing the performance of various RF and microwave devices, such as filters, amplifiers, antennas, and transmission lines. VNAs provide precise measurements of complex impedance, scattering parameters (S-parameters), and other electrical properties, enabling engineers and researchers to optimize the design, development, and troubleshooting of high-frequency circuits. The VNA works by transmitting a known signal into the DUT and then measuring the amplitude and phase of the resulting signal at the input and output ports of the device. By analysing these measurements, the VNA can determine the characteristics of the DUT.

Figure 7 Vector Network Analyse



Taking readings of antenna with help of VNA

III. FABRICATION PROCESS:

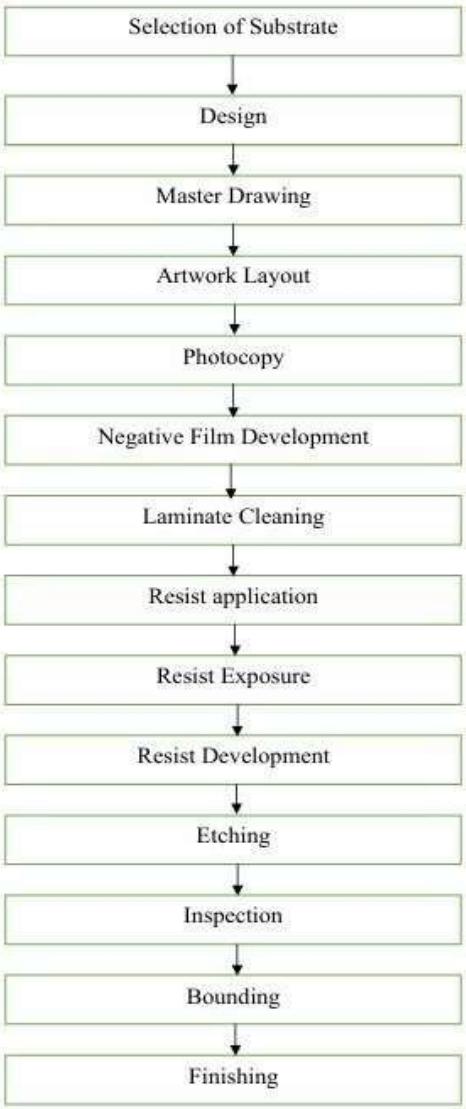


Figure 8 Flow chart of Fabrication process

Microstrip antenna fabrication requires meticulous attention to detail to maintain high dimensional tolerances and avoid bandwidth reduction. The process involves generating artwork from a drawing, ensuring accuracy up to four decimal points. The artwork is prepared on stabline, Rubylith film, or buffer paper, and the dimensions are verified using precision cutting and optical scanning. A high-resolution negative is produced for exposing the photoresist, which is applied to the laminate. After proper adhesion, the laminate is exposed to light, polymerizing the exposed photoresist. The developed antenna is then etched, followed by removal of the photoresist. Visual and optical inspection ensures dimensional accuracy and performance. Smooth edges are achieved, and if desired, a thermal cover bonding may be applied. The final assembly is cooled, inspected, and prepared for further use The above procedure comprises the general steps necessary in producing a microstrip antenna. The substances used for the various processes e. g., cleaning, etching or the tools used for machining etc depends on the substrate chosen.

IV. RESULTS & DISCUSSION

A. Simulated Results

1) Single Element

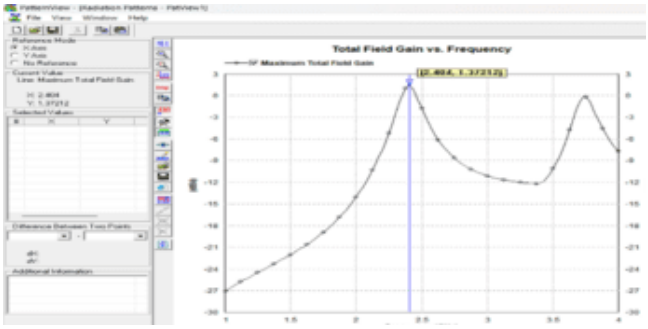


Figure 9 Gain of Single element

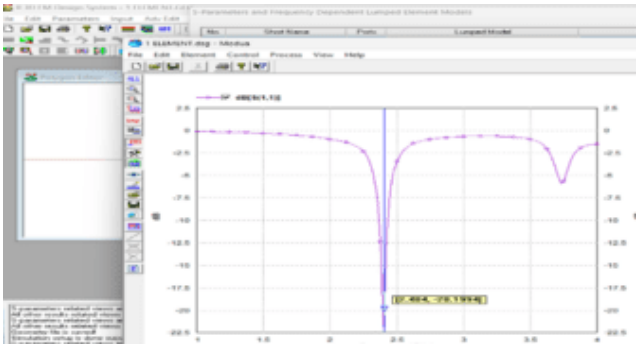


Figure 10 Return loss vs Frequency graph of single element

2) Element

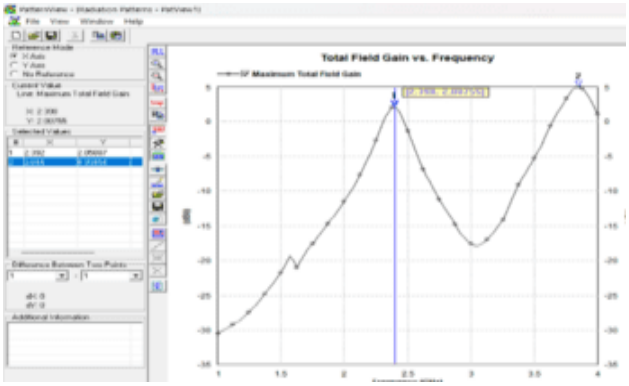


Figure 11 Gain of 2 element

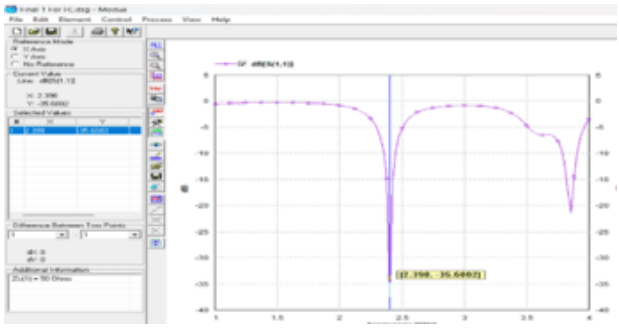


Figure 12 Return loss vs Frequency graph of 2 element

3) Element

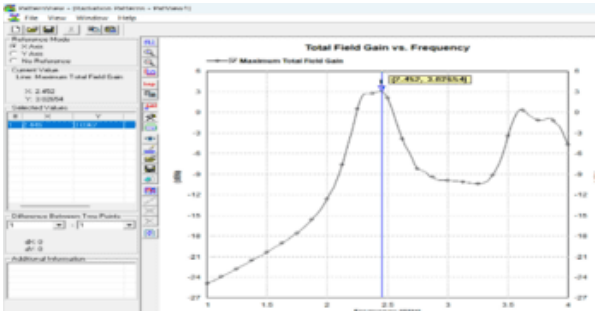


Figure 13 Gain of 4 elements

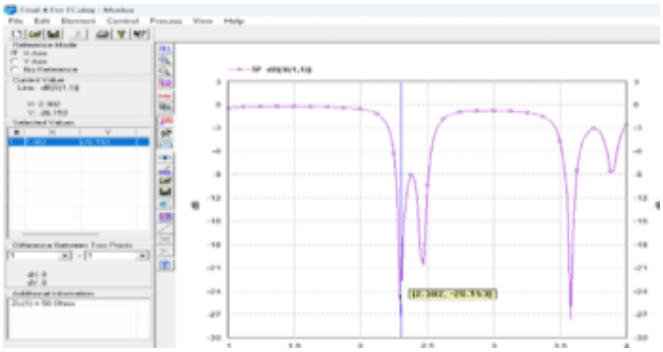


Figure 14 Return loss vs Frequency graph of 4 elements

B. Practical Result

1) Single Element

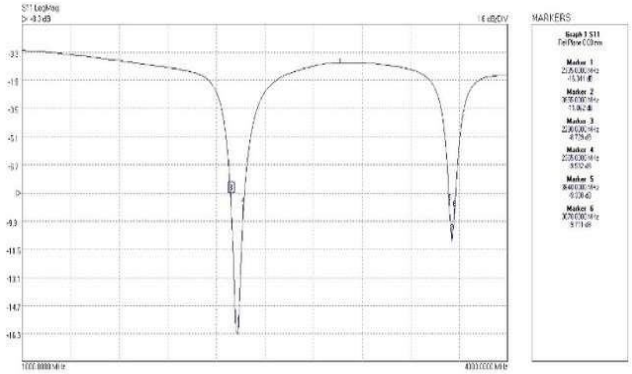


Figure 15 Practical Return loss vs Frequency of Single element

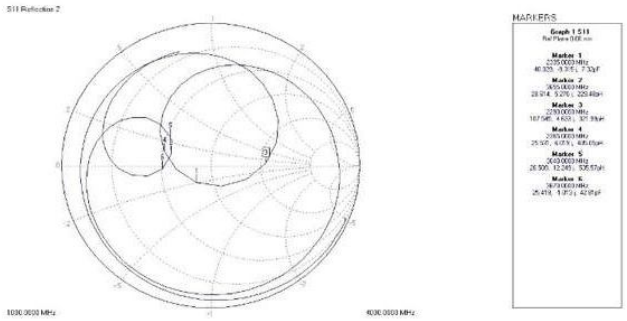


Figure 16 Smith chart of Single element

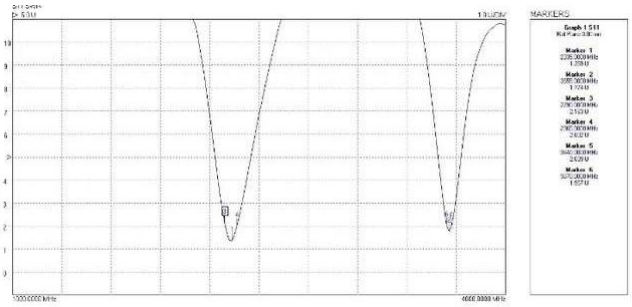


Figure 17 VSWR

2) Element

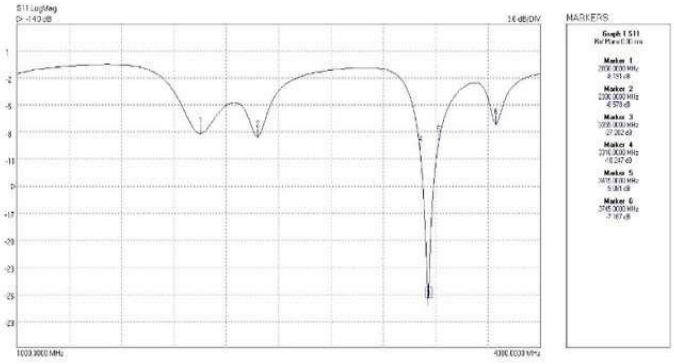


Figure 18 Practical Return loss vs Frequency of 2 Element

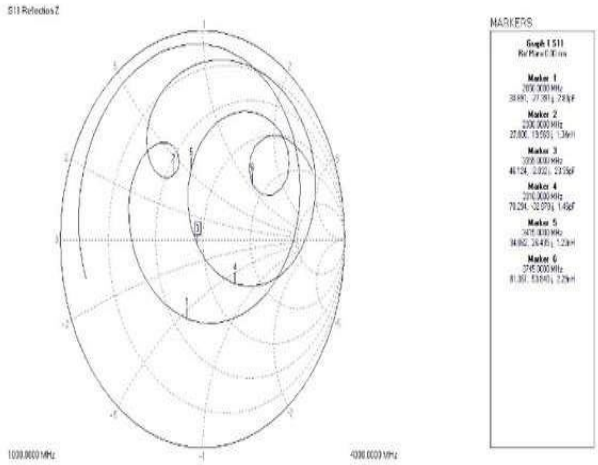


Figure 19 Smith chart of 2 element

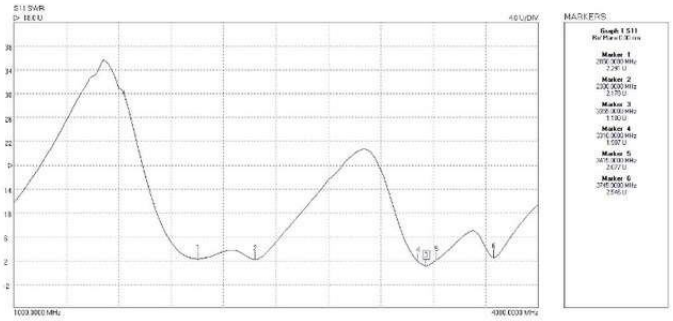


Figure 20 VSWR

3) Element

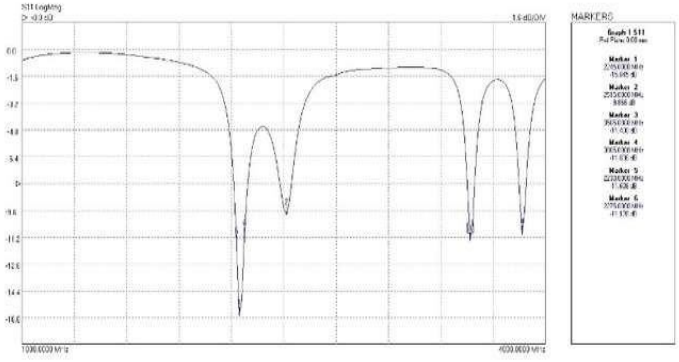


Figure 21 Practical Return Loss vs Frequency of 4 Element

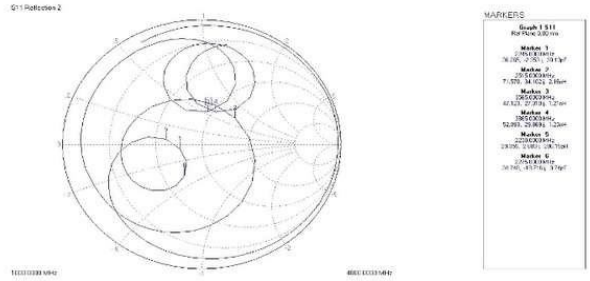


Figure 22 Smith chart of 4 Element

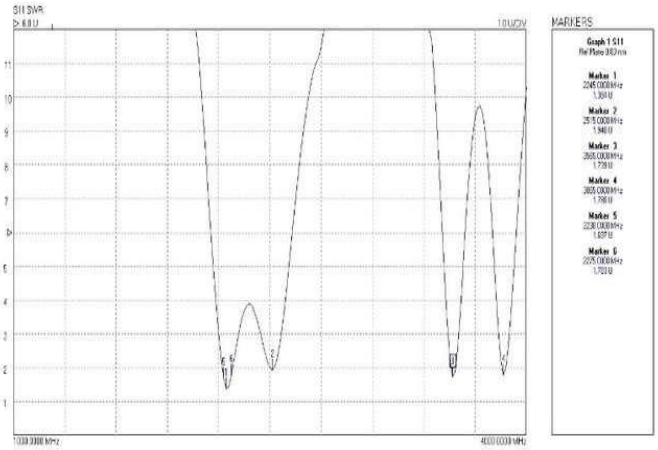


Figure 23 VSWR

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Comparison table

ELEMENTS	RESONANT FREQUENCY(GHz)		GAIN	RETURN LOSS (dB)	
	Sim	Practical		Sim	Practical
1 ELEMENT	2.404	2.440	1.37	-14.06	-16.341
2 ELEMENT	2.398	2.357	2.08	-10.17	- 8.191
4 ELEMENT	2.302	2.322	3.02	-13.98	-15.845

Table 1 Comparison Table of without Fractal geometry

V. CONCLUSION

Research article Summarizes the effectiveness of a microstrip antenna for wireless communication. The proposed design achieved superior gain bandwidth by using inset feed technique.

The prototype design antenna which is designed at 2.4GHz for WIFI application for single element equivalent gain is achieved 1.37. For 2 elemental array antenna incremental change in gain is of 2.08.Similarly for 4 elemental array antenna we have achieved the highest results comparatively with incremental gain of 3.02.

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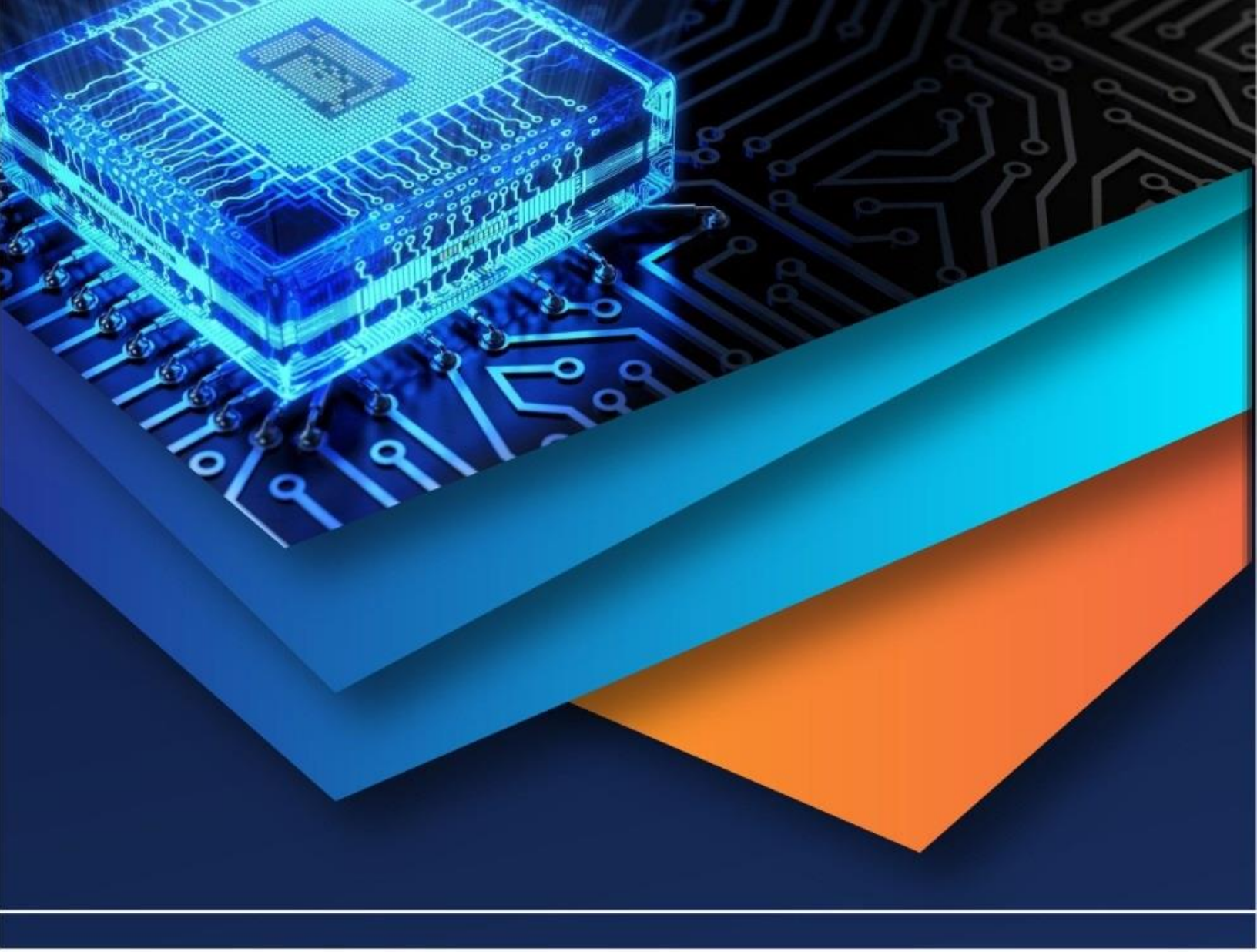

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