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Study and Analysis of Bandwidth Enhancement using Z-U-T-S Shape Structures in an Integrated CPW Fed Printed Monopole Antenna

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Abstract: sA dual band co-planar waveguide fed Z-U-T-S shaped monopole antenna is proposed. The antenna is fabricated on an $h = 1.6\text{mm}$ FR4 epoxy substrate with dielectric constant $\epsilon_r = 4.3$ and loss tangent $\tan \delta = 0.008$. The size of the radiating element is $15.9 \times 11.4 \text{ mm}^2$

I. INTRODUCTION

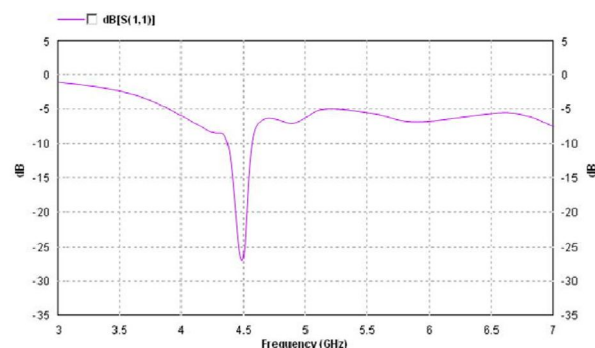
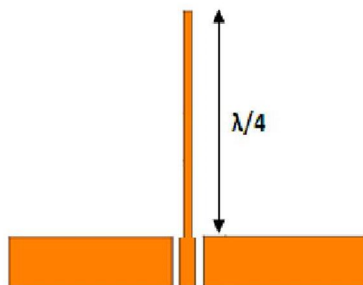
In recent years, many dual-band antennas have been developed to meet the increasing demand for a modern wireless communication device which is capable of integrating more than one communication standard into a single system. Various types of antenna designs for this have been reported. Horng-Dean Chen and Hong-Twu Chen (2004) proposed a dual-frequency design of coplanar waveguide (CPW)-fed monopole antenna achieved a fractional bandwidth of 4.3% and 5.6% in band I and band II with a gain of 4dBi. The antenna size is $20.2 \times 26.3 \text{ mm}^2$. Shaoqiu Xiao (2005) designed an ultralow-profile microstrip antenna with 10 loaded slots and inset feed structure is proposed and achieved a fractional bandwidth of 5.4% and 7.8% in band I and band II with a gain of 3dBi. The antenna size is $19.6 \times 22.5 \text{ mm}^2$. Deshmukh and Kumar (2006) proposed a broadband slotted S-shaped microstrip antenna with a fractional bandwidth of 8.2% and 9.6% The gain is around 3.5 dBi and the antenna size is $18.5 \times 22.5 \text{ mm}^2$. Alkanhal et al (2007) designed a novel compact dual-band reconfigurable square-ring microstrip antenna and achieved a bandwidth of 10.26% and 8.6%. The gain of the antenna is 4dBi and the antenna size is $18.5 \times 22.5 \text{ mm}^2$.

In this paper, a novel antenna design with Z-U-T-S shaped structures is presented which not only has good dual band operation performance, but also a simple structure and compact size. By adjusting the length of the different shaped structures the resonant frequency can be tuned and a good impedance match can be obtained. The asymmetric ground plane is used to enhance the bandwidth. The detailed design and experimental results for the proposed antenna are demonstrated.

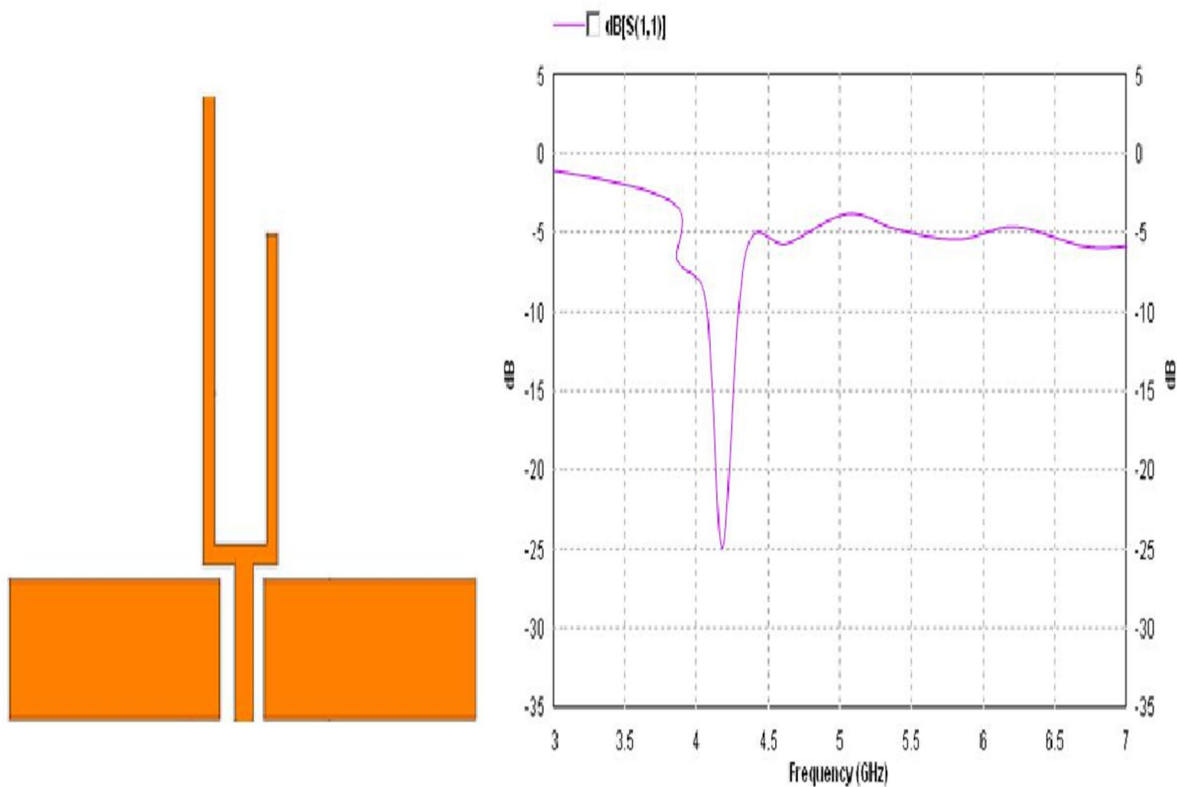
The main features of Z-U-T-S shaped antenna design are

- Resonant length of each structure
- Tuning stub and an asymmetric ground plane

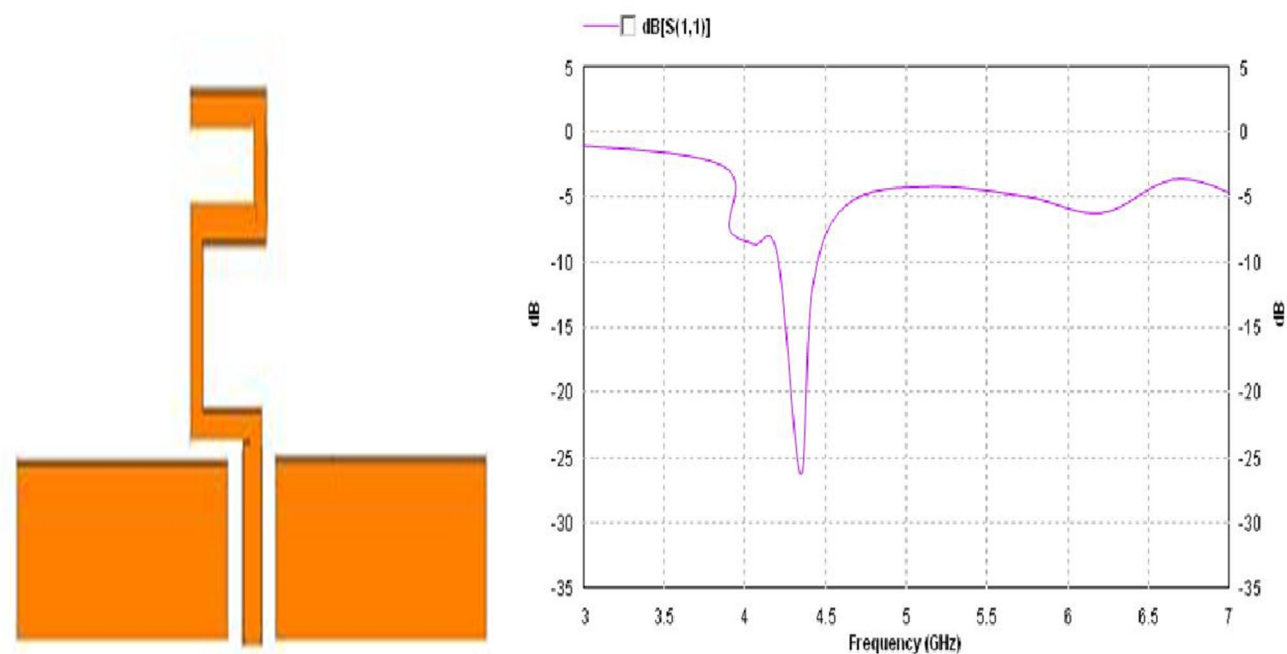
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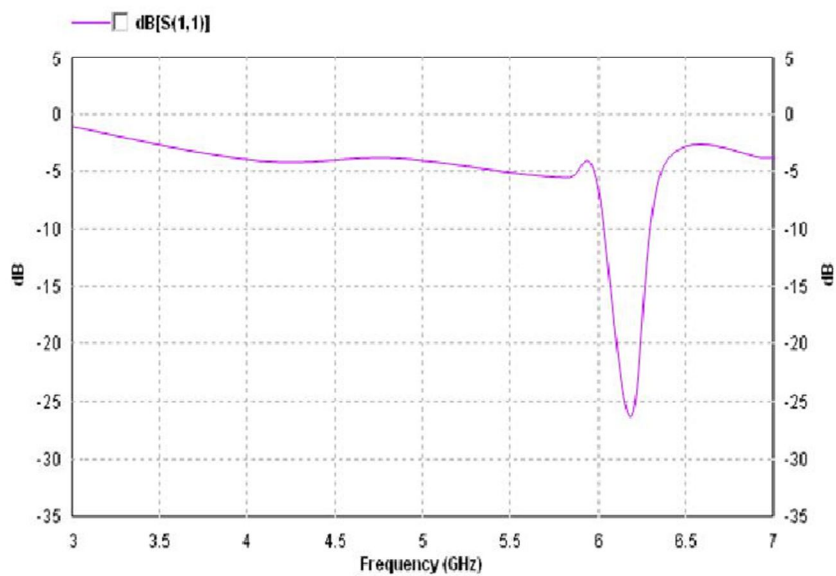
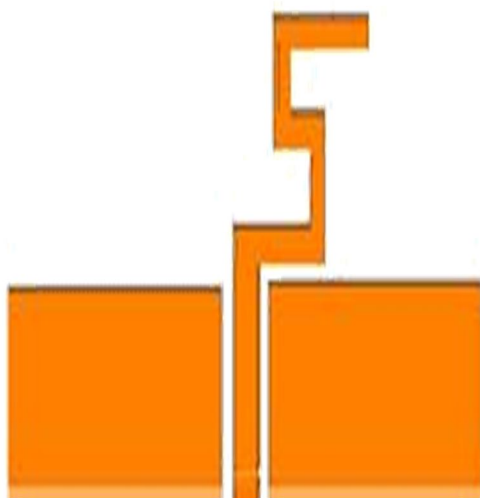
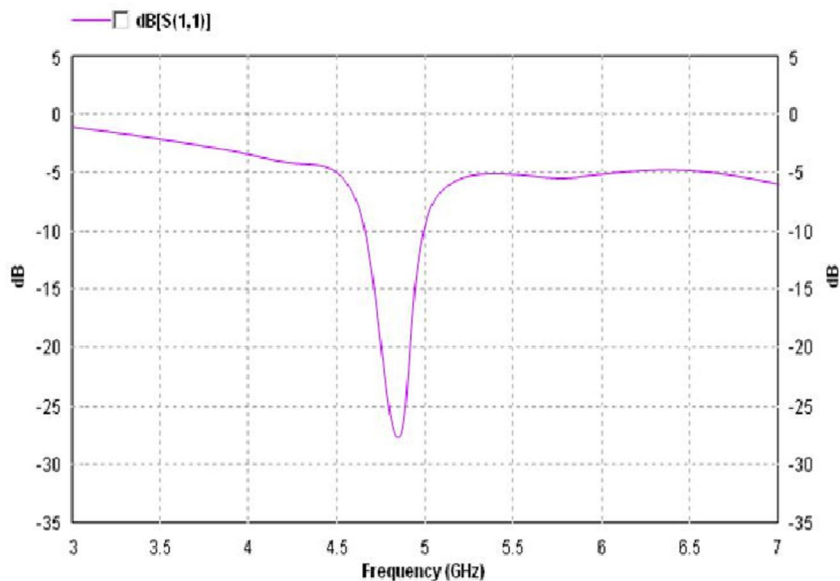
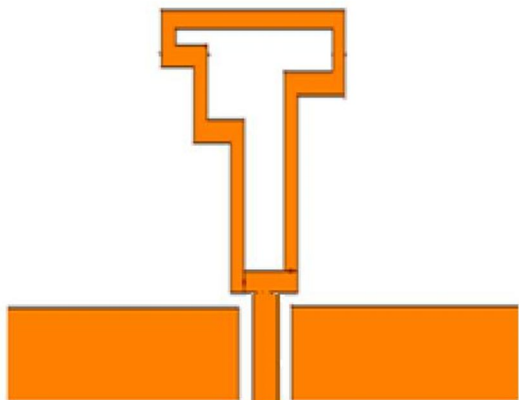
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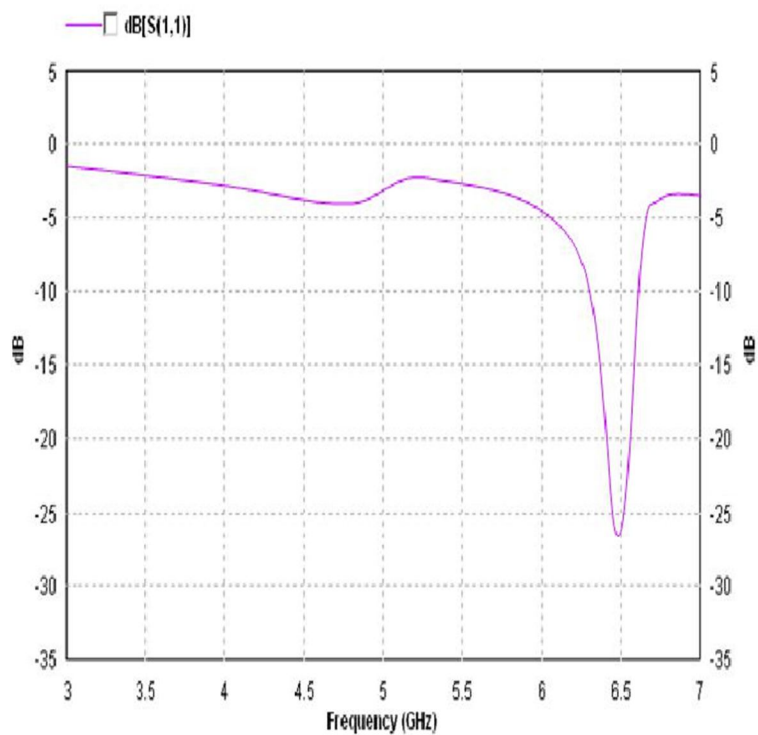
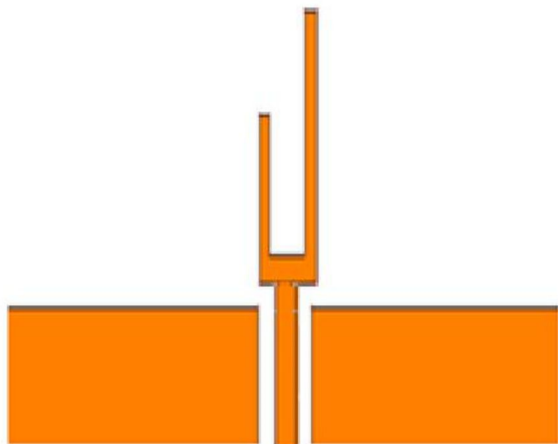
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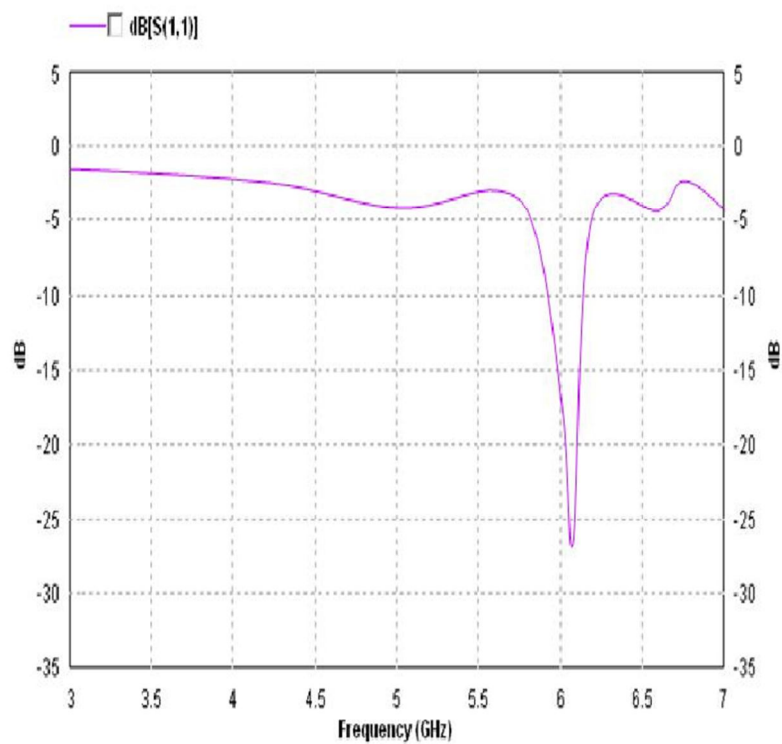
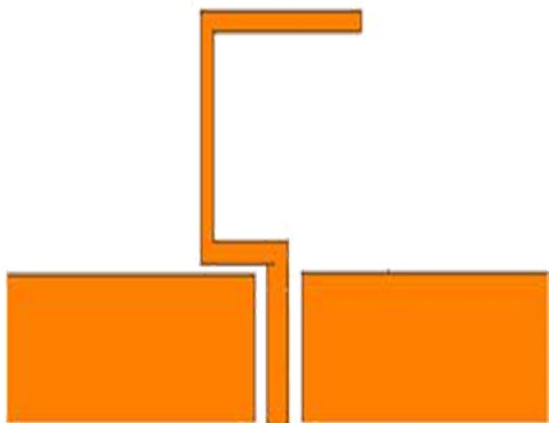
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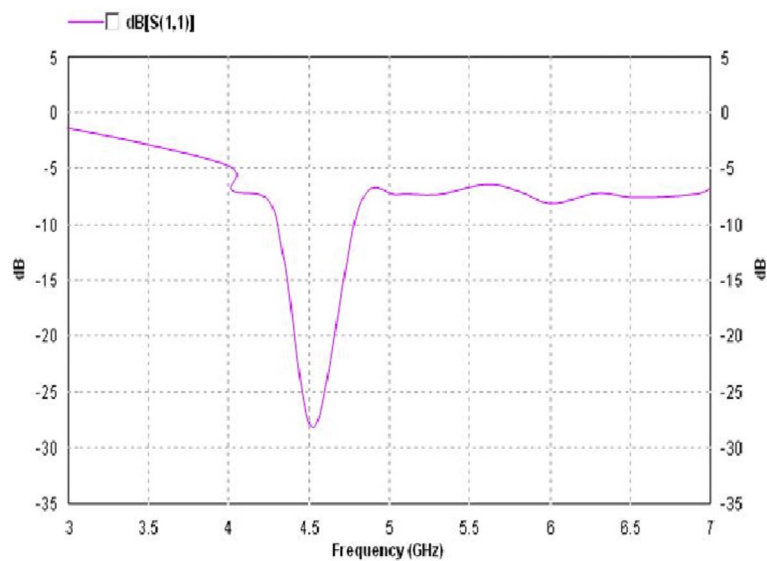
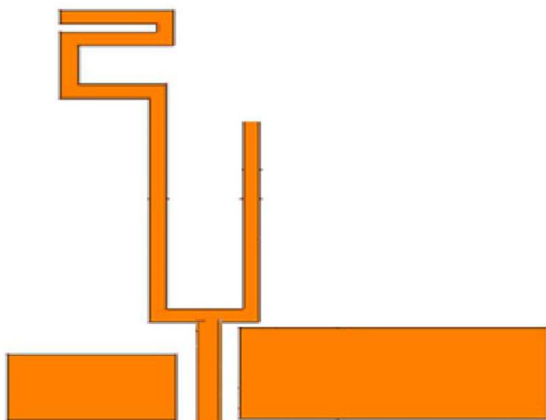
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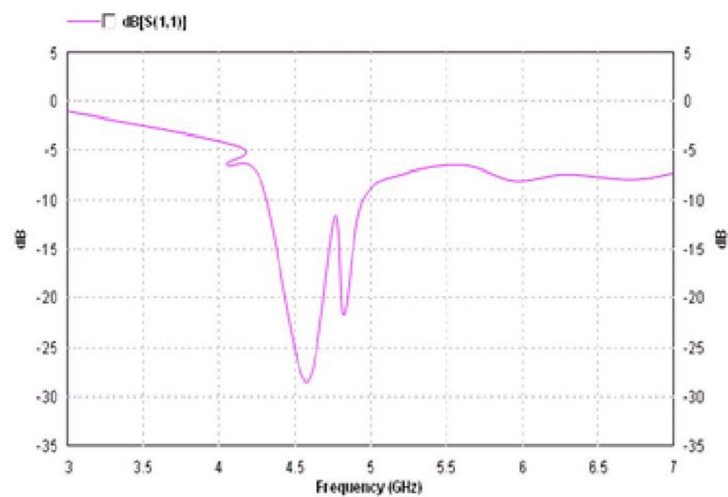
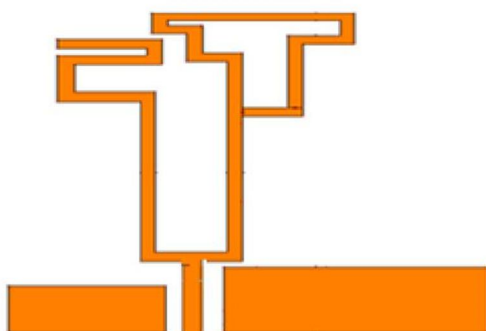
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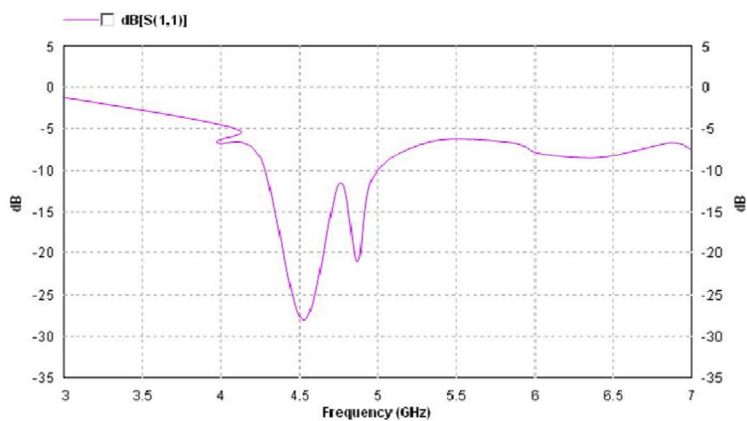
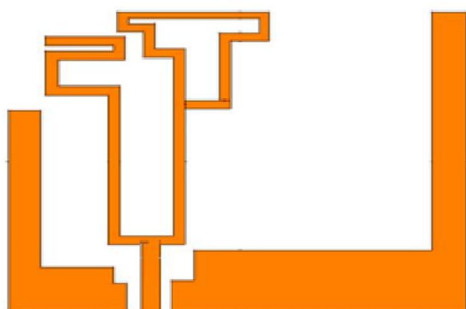
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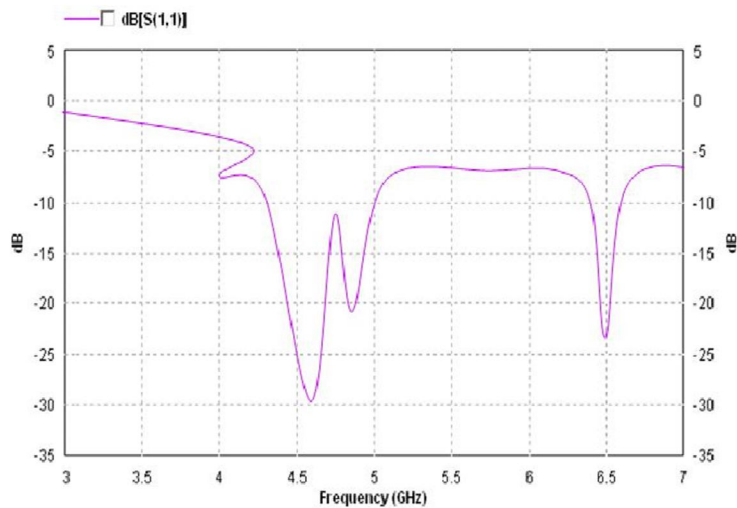
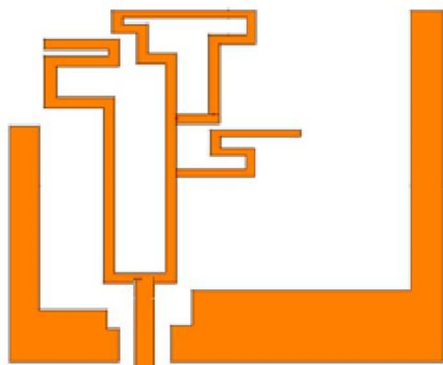
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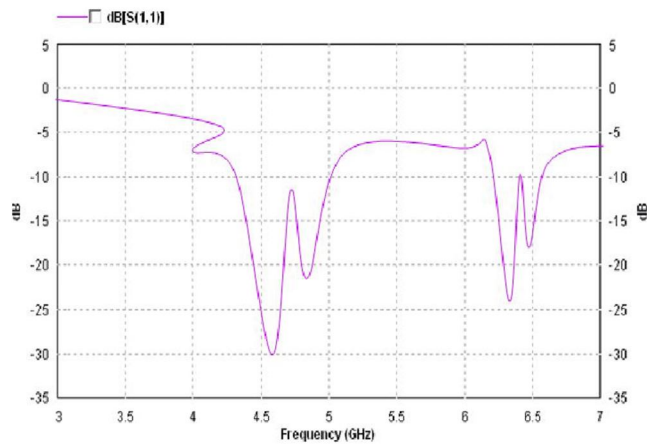
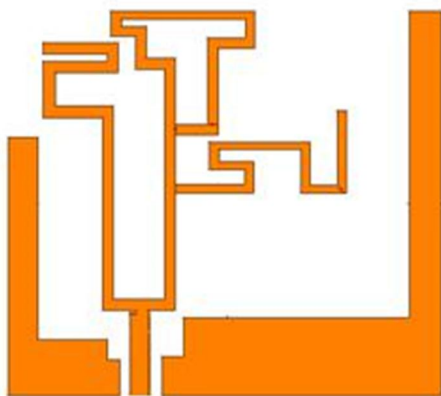
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Step 11



Step 12



Step 13

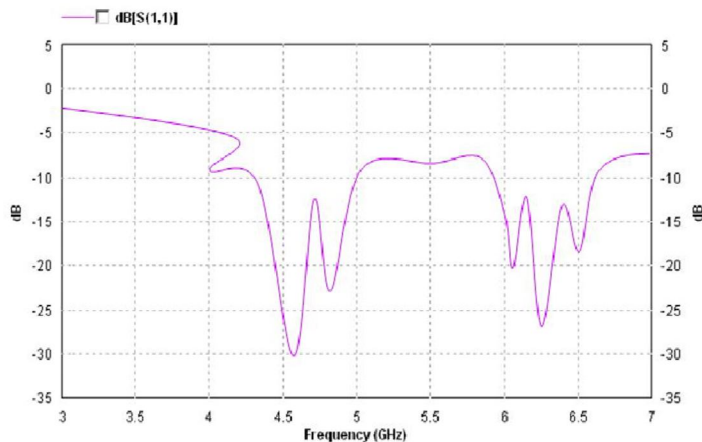
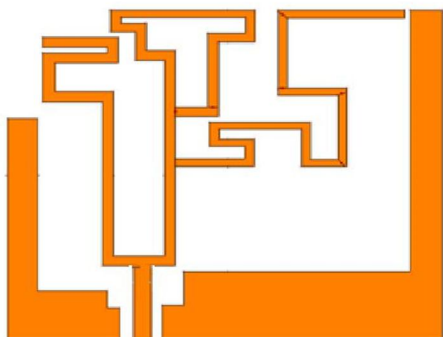


Figure 1 Progress of the Geometry of the proposed antenna and its response

In this chapter, six separate monopole antennas are integrated with good response. The simulation is done for individual antennas and the respective return loss is obtained. Later these antennas are integrated one by one and the simulation is done for each stage and the respective return loss is obtained.

Step 1 shows the monopole antenna .It is designed for 4.5GHz .It has the length of 16.64mm and the width of 0.5 mm. One resonant mode is created at 4.5GHz with the return loss value of -18dB.The bandwidth obtained is 4.2 to 4.7GHz.

In step 2, the straight monopole is folded in the form of 'U' shaped of

16.64mm which is $\lambda/4$ length at 4.5GHz. One resonant mode is created

at 4.5GHz now the input impedance of the antenna is changed. When we two arms of the 'U' shaped antenna is equal, the current distribution is uniform in both the arms. Later the right arm of the U shaped antenna is reduced 20% of the left arm to give good return loss value and to improve bandwidth.

The 'Z' shaped monopole is shown in step 3 has a narrow bandwidth .The resonant frequency is approximately equal to $\lambda/4$ length at 4.6GHz. The resonant mode is created at 4.6GHz.

A stepped 'T' shaped structure is formed in step 4 is designed at a frequency 4.8 GHz having length 15.2mm which is close to $\lambda/4$ length. Initially the T shaped structure is designed without any steps. Then we discontinuity is created in the form of steps with different length and width to improve the bandwidth

The 'S' shaped structure is designed for a frequency of 6.3GHz having length 8mm in step5.

In step 6, the vertical 'U' shaped monopole antenna is designed for a frequency of 6.5GHz and one resonant mode is created at the same frequency.

The length is 7 mm close to $\lambda/4$ at 6.5 GHz.

In step 7 the horizontal 'U' monopole having a length 13mm is designed for a frequency 6.1GHz.One resonant mode is created at 6.1 GHz.

In step 8 both 'Z' and asymmetric 'U' shaped monopole antennas are integrated and one resonant frequency is obtained at 4.5 GHz. The resonant frequency is increased due to the variation of impedance. Hence the height and width of the ground plane is adjusted to bring the resonant frequency to operate at 4.5 GHz.

In step 9 another stepped 'T' shaped monopole is added along with this combined antenna. One additional resonance is created at 4.8GHz. The resonance frequency is now shifted to compensate this one two stubs are placed at each ground plane. The 1st band is obtained with a frequency range 4.2GHz to 4.9GHz.

In step 10 the 'S' shaped monopole is added in the right arm of the asymmetric 'U' shaped antenna and one resonant mode is created in the second band at a frequency 6.3 GHz. Now the resonant frequency is shifted for the first band. There is a step like arrangement is done in the ground plane to improve the bandwidth.

In step 11 the vertical 'U' shaped structure is added hence the resonant frequency is affected. One resonant mode is created at 6.5GHz with good return loss value of -25dB.

In step 12 the horizontal 'U' shaped structure is added serially with the existing antenna and one resonant mode is created at 6.1GHz.For these three monopoles the total length is $3\lambda/4$.

The measured -10 dB return loss bandwidth is from 4.5 to 5.2GHz (14.43%) with respect to the centre frequency at 4.8 GHz and 6 to 6.7 GHz

(11.02%) with respect to the centre frequency at 6.5 GHz for the second Band to satisfy the wireless communication applications.

II. ANTENNA DESIGN

The geometry of the proposed antenna is illustrated in Figure 2. The antenna is fabricated on an $h = 1.6\text{mm}$ FR4 epoxy substrate with dielectric constant $\epsilon_r = 4.3$ and loss tangent $\tan \delta = 0.009$. The size of the radiating element is $15.9 \times 11.4 \text{ mm}^2$. The proposed antenna with Co-planar Waveguide (CPW) feed is shown in Figure 3.3. The 'U' shaped branch of length 16.5mm and 'Z' shaped branch of length 6.8mm combined together to

form a monopole antenna of length 23.3mm which is close to $\lambda_0/4$ at a frequency 4.6 GHz. The stepped 'T' shaped branch having a length 20.7 mm, close to $\lambda_0/4$ length at a frequency 4.8 GHz is combined with monopole antenna. The antenna has two resonant

paths, one resonant path is in the monopole antenna and another one is in the stepped Γ -shaped branch, thereby supports two resonances at 4.8 and 4.6 GHz which are close to each other and hence these two frequencies can be combined results in wide bandwidth.

To further enhance the bandwidth in the upper frequency region, three more $\lambda_0/4$ branches namely, extended 'c' shaped, horizontal asymmetrical 'u' shaped and vertical asymmetrical 'u' shaped branches, shown by L_4 , L_5 and L_6 in Figure 3.4, supports three resonances close to 6.1, 6.3 and 6.5 GHz. The total length ($L_4+L_5+L_6$) of the resonant path for these branches is around 30.8mm which is close to $3\lambda_0/4$ at a frequency 6.2 GHz.

To increase the resonant path, stepped Γ -shaped branch, extended 'c' shaped branch, horizontal asymmetrical 'u' shaped branch and vertical asymmetrical 'u' shaped branches are used. Due to increase in the current path length, the resonance frequency is decreased and hence the bandwidth is increased. Asymmetrical structures provide wide bandwidth. The widths for the strips are chosen to be 0.5 mm. Also note that, very different from a conventional one, the CPW structure of the proposed design has two asymmetrical finite ground planes, one L-shaped ground with vertical dimensions of $0.8 \times 12 \text{ mm}^2$ and a horizontal section with dimensions of $7.2 \times 12.2 \text{ mm}$ and another L-shaped ground including a vertical section with dimensions of $0.8 \text{ mm} \times 9.4 \text{ mm}$ and a horizontal section with dimensions of $4.2 \text{ mm} \times 3.9 \text{ mm}$. This ground plane provides best impedance matching and enhance the bandwidth. In this geometry, IE3D software is used to design the antenna.

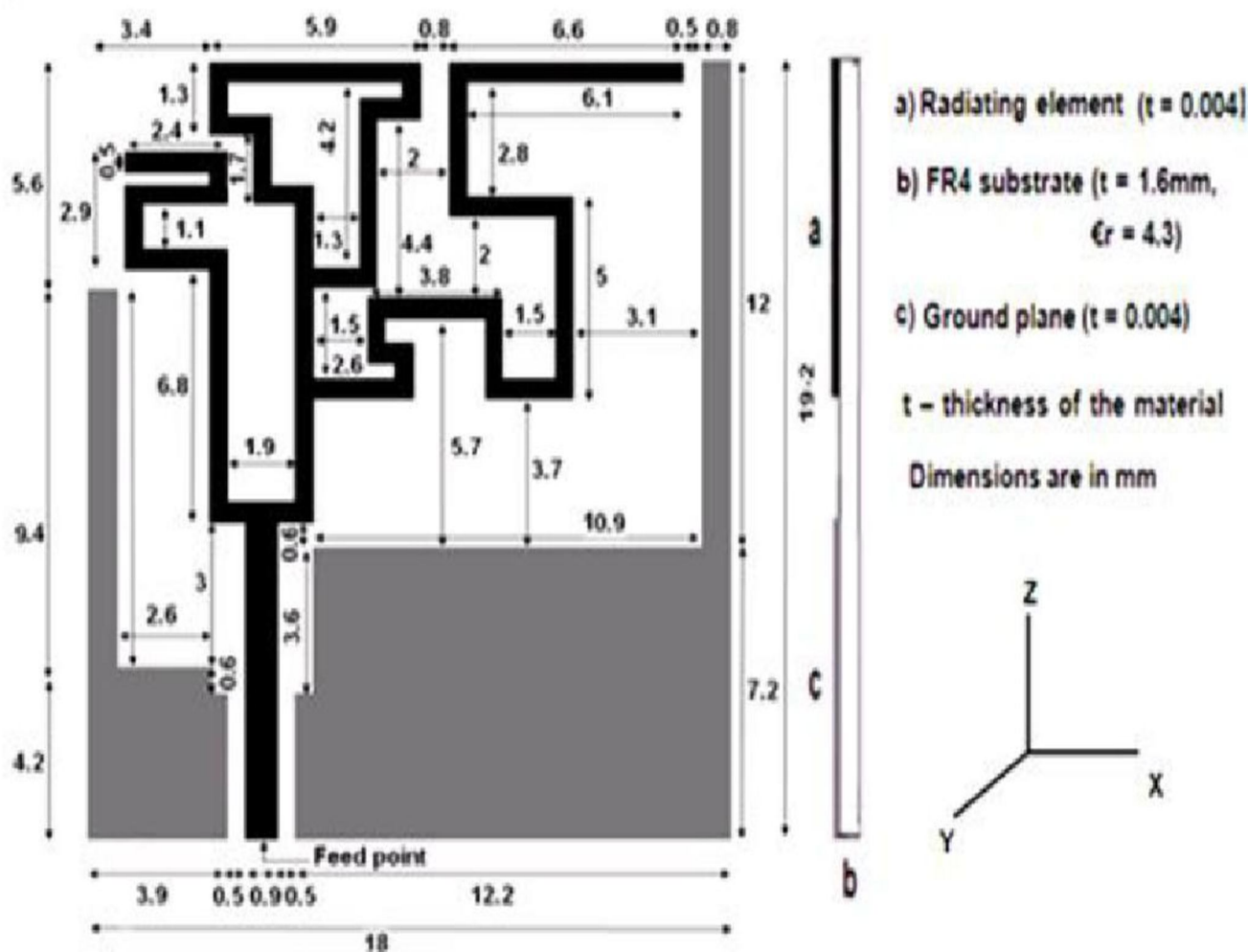


Figure 2 Geometry of the Z-U-T-S shaped antenna front and side view

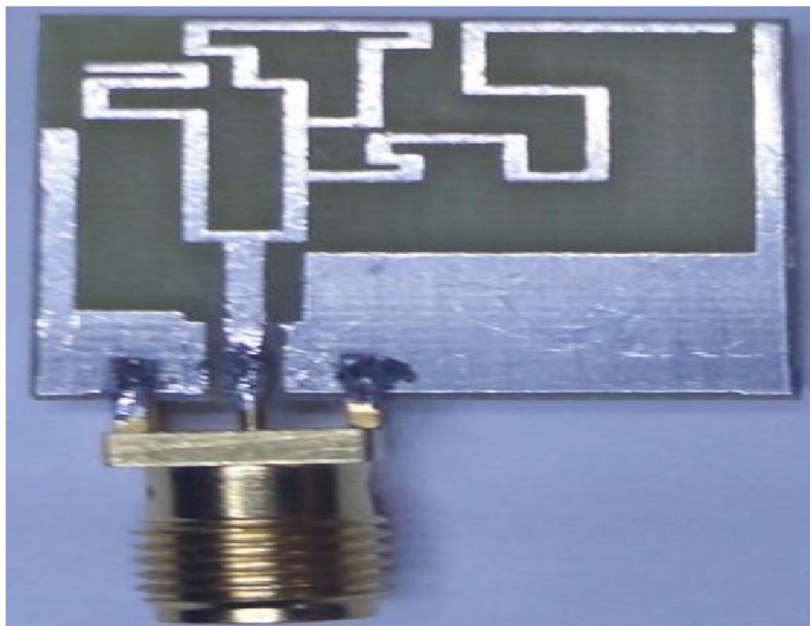


Figure 3 Fabricated Z-U-T-S shaped antenna

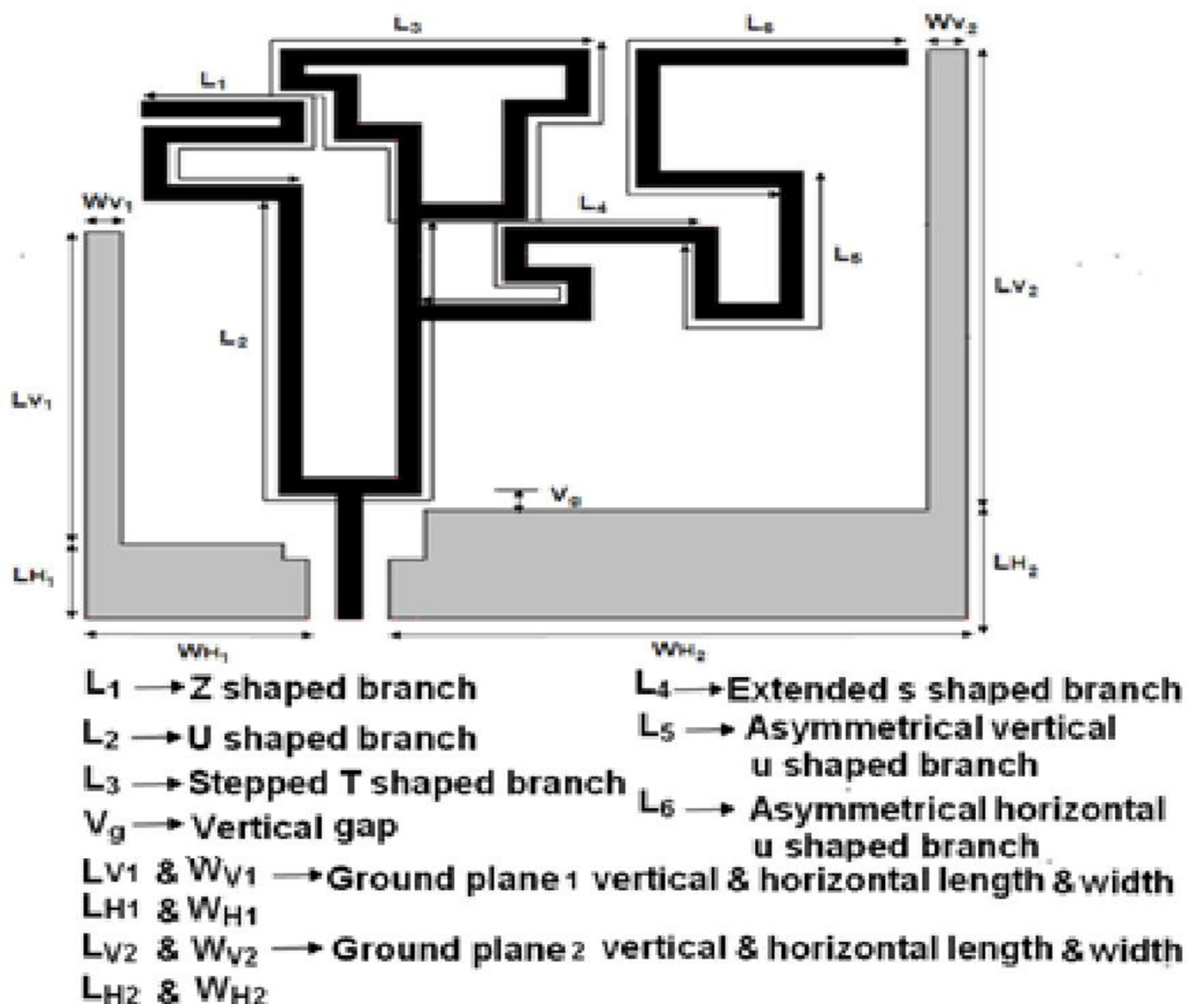


Figure 4 Parameters of Z-U-T-S shaped antenna

III. BANDWIDTH ENHANCEMENT

Figure 3 shows the parameters of the Z-U-T-S shaped structure. Here all the shape of the structures are designed close to $\lambda_0/4$ length with their corresponding operating frequencies. Various important parameters are studied to design and enhance the impedance bandwidth. All the design parameters are selected after several simulations only. The most sensitive parameters are L_1 , L_6 and V_g . These parameters affect the impedance bandwidth. In order to determine the impedance bandwidth accurately, one parameter is varied at a time and other parameters are kept constant.

A. *Effect of Varying the Length L_1* : When the length L_1 for the folded 'z' shape branch is varied from 4.5 to 7 mm, the resonant frequency is shifted from 4.4 to 4.8GHz and correspondingly the bandwidth is increased as shown in Figure 3.5. Varying the length of 'z' shaped branch, will affect the resonant part of both 'U' and stepped 'T' shaped branches. In the I band, the first and second resonance modes are changed whereas in the second band, the resonant modes are not changed. When the length L_1 increases, the impedance bandwidth at the lower operating frequency increases whereas the upper operating frequency remains almost unchanged. After 6.6 mm, the bandwidth starts decreasing. Hence, the optimized value 6.6mm is selected.

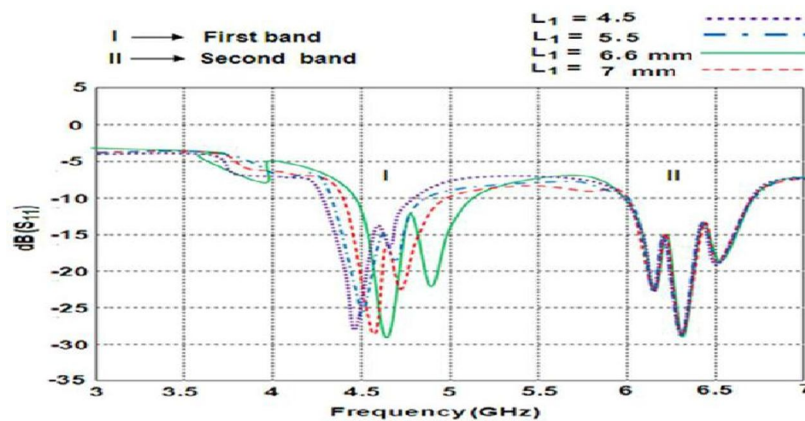


Figure 5 (a) Simulated graph for various Length L_1

B. *Effect of Varying the Length L_6* : Figure 5 (b) shows the effects of the return loss for various length L_6 branch. The total length of L_4 and L_5 is also affected, because all these branches are connected in series. It can be seen that the variations of the length of the 'u' shaped branch affect the return loss characteristic because it is connected in series with the asymmetrical horizontal 'u' shape.

In the second band, the resonance frequency is shifted with increase in bandwidth. The resonance modes in the lower resonant frequency band are not affected. By increasing the value of L_6 from 2.2 to 6.6mm, the bandwidth is increased in the second band and after 6.6 mm, the bandwidth is reduced. Hence, an optimized value of 6.6 mm is chosen for this antenna design.

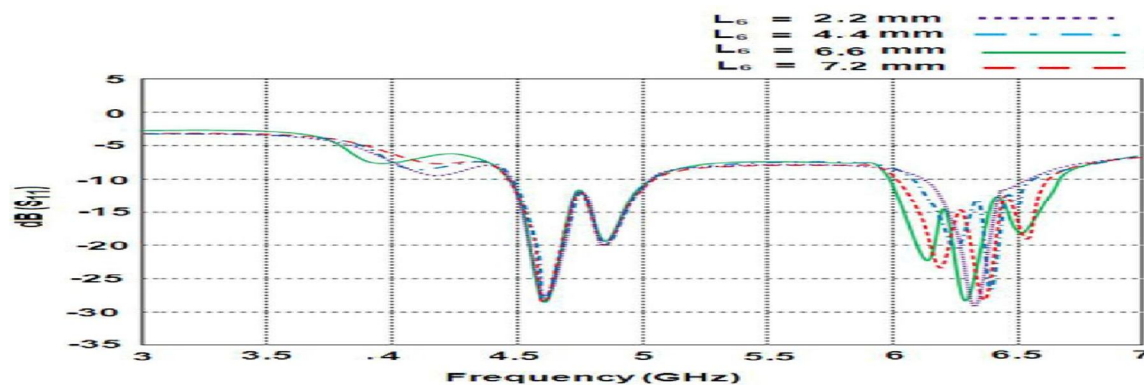


Figure 5 (b) Simulated graph for various Length L_6

C. *Effect of Varying the Vertical Gap V_g* : The vertical gap V_g is varied between the top edge of the ground plane and the bottom edge of the radiating element. Figure 3.5 (c) shows the variations of V_g for different values. It can be seen that, in both first and second bands, the resonant frequencies are shifted. In the first band, the resonant frequencies are not affected severely whereas in the second band, for higher value of capacitance, the resonant frequency is vanished. Therefore, the parameter V_g is selected to be 0.6mm to have a wide bandwidth and relatively good matching.

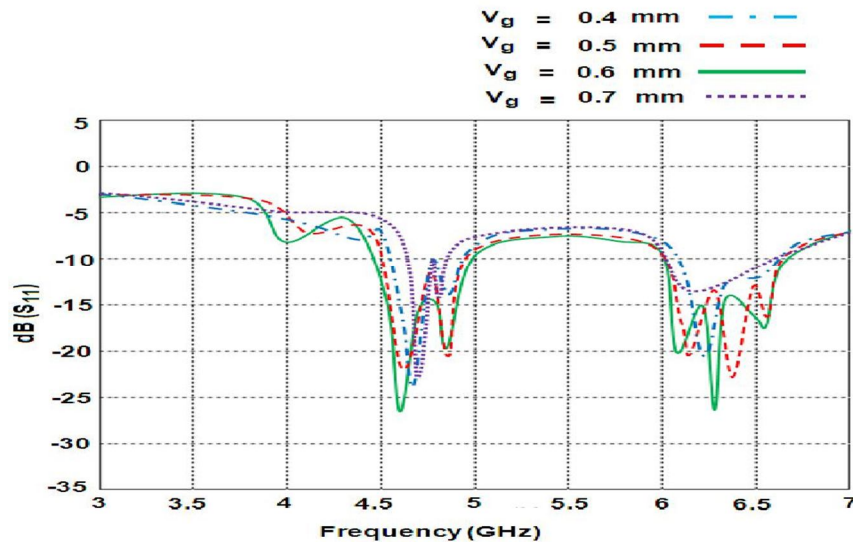


Figure 5 (c) Simulated graph for various V_g

Return Loss

The simulated and measured results for -10 dB return loss are plotted in Figure 3.6. The measured -10 dB return loss bandwidth is from 4.5 to 5.2GHz (14.43%) with respect to the centre frequency at 4.8 GHz and 6 to 6.7 GHz (11.02%) with respect to the centre frequency at 6.5 GHz. The measurement of return loss and VSWR are carried out with HP 8757D Scalar Network Analyzer. A relative good agreement in between measurement and simulation can be observed. Figure 7 shows the photograph of the Return loss measurement set up. The related Return loss and VSWR measurement graphs are shown in Figures from 8 (a) to 8 (d).

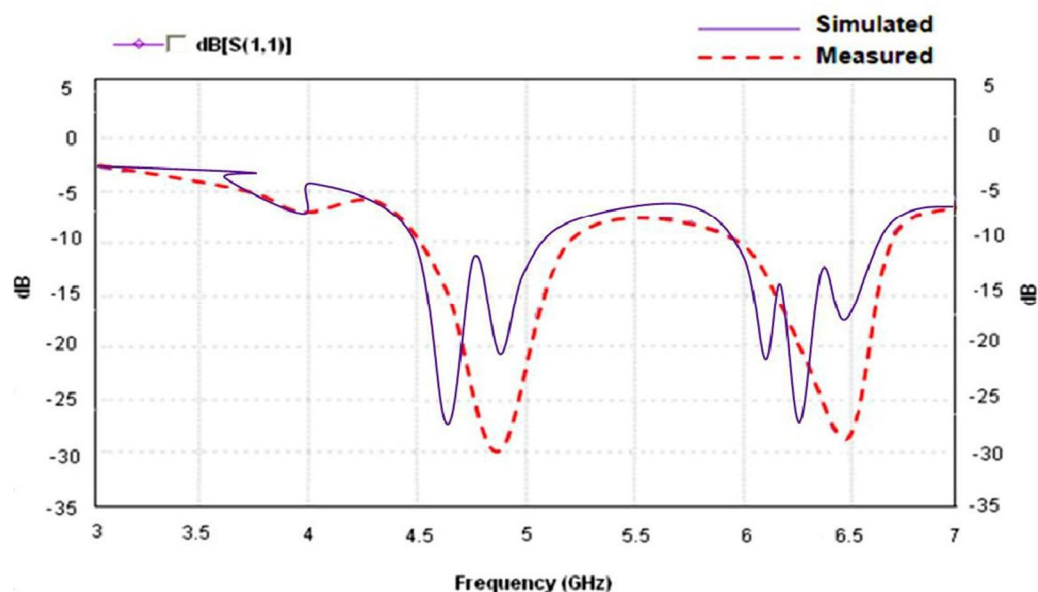


Figure 6 Return loss Characteristics of a Z-U-T-S shaped antenna

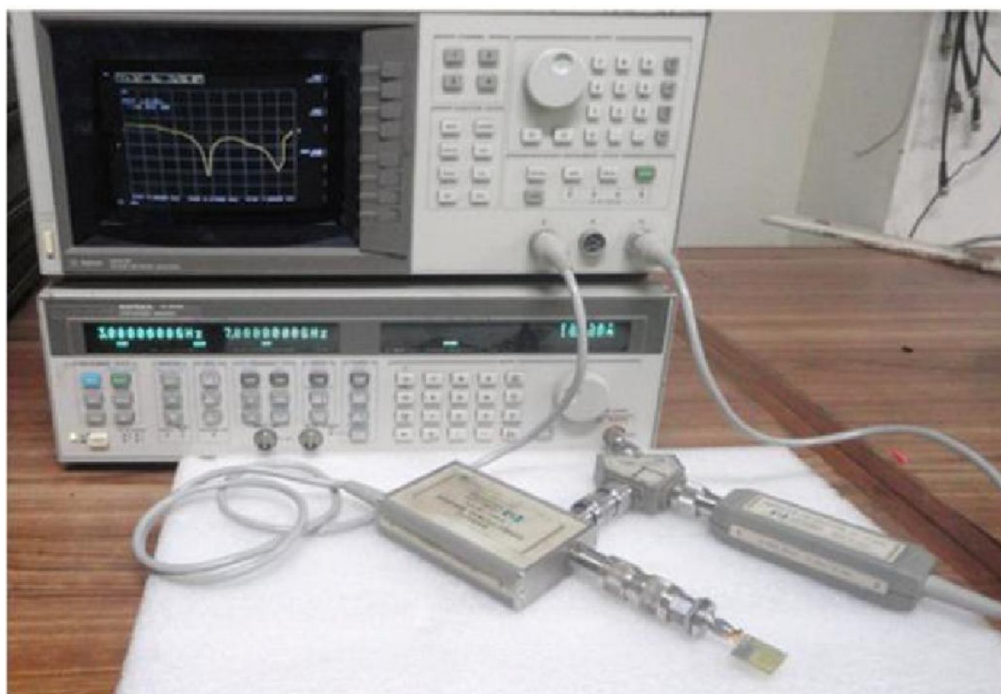


Figure 7 Return loss measurement using HP 8757D Scalar Network Analyzer for a Z-U-T-S shaped antenna.

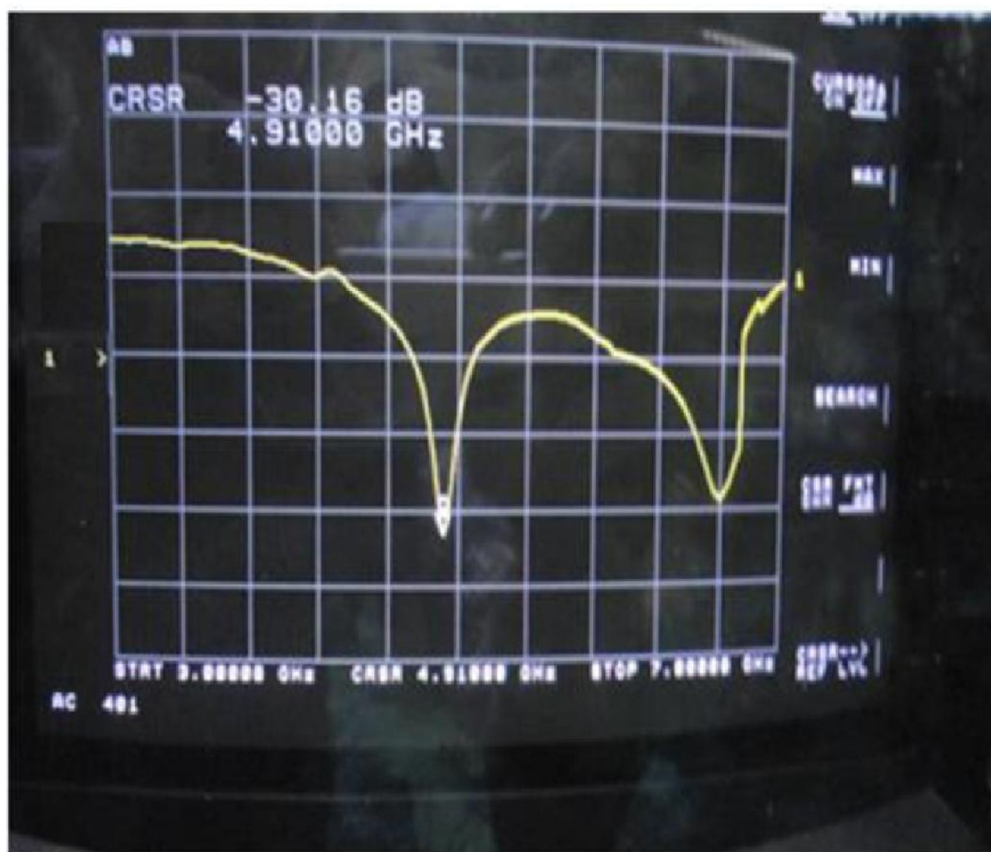


Figure .8 (a) Return loss measurement at 4.9 GHz

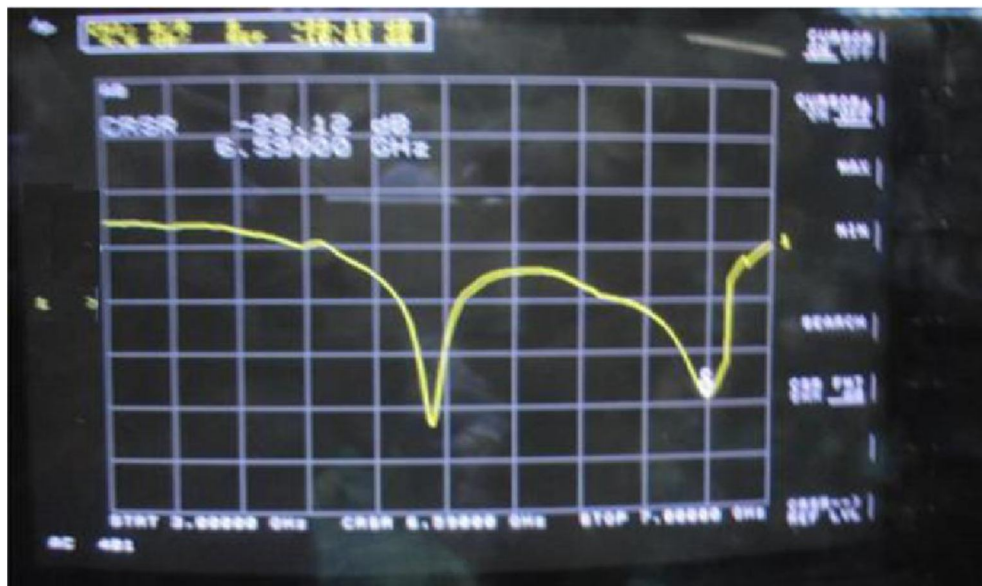


Figure 8 (b) Return loss measurement at 6.5 GHz

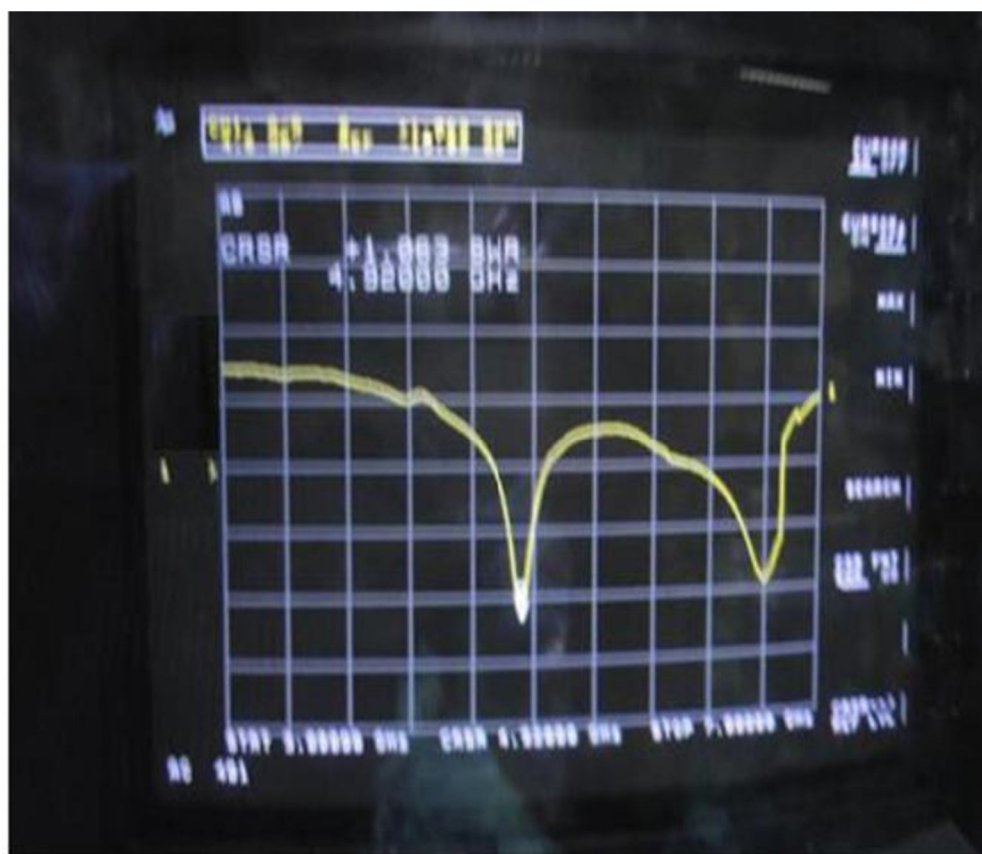


Figure 8 (c) SWR measurement at 4.9 GHz

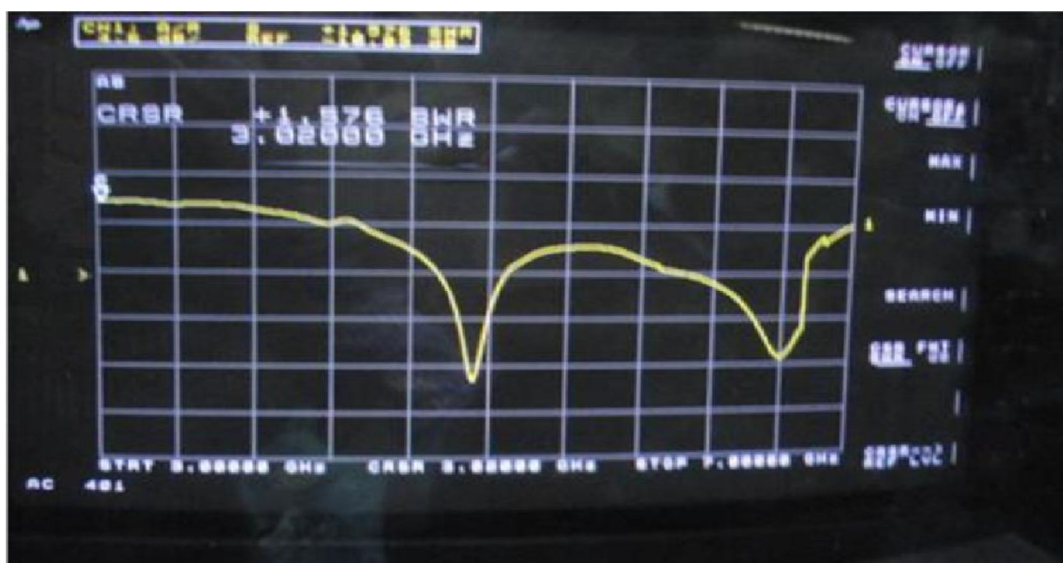


Figure 8 (d) SWR measurement at 3 GHz

IV. CURRENT DISTRIBUTION

The simulated surface current distribution at two different frequencies 4.6 GHz and 6.3 GHz are shown in Figure .9(a) & 39 (b). At 4.6GHz, the current in the 'Z' and 'U' shaped branch, the current is maximum

at the end of 'U' shaped branch and minimum at the starting point of 'Z' shaped branch. This shows monopole action. Similarly, the current is maximum in the starting point of stepped T shaped branch is maximum and the current is maximum at the end which shows dipole like behavior having electrical length close to a half wavelength.

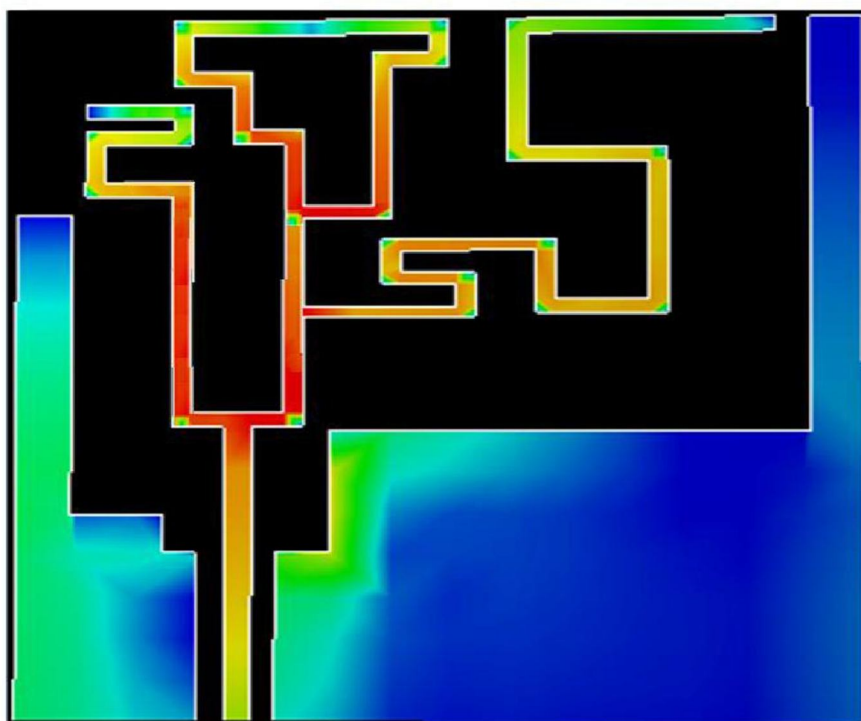


Figure 9 (a) Surface Current Distributions at 4.6GHz

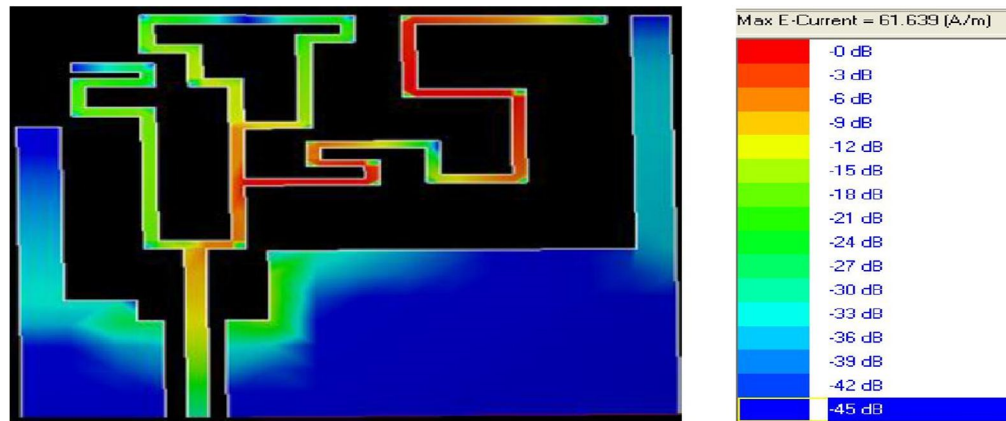


Figure 9 (b) Surface Current Distributions at 6.3GHz

At 6.3 GHz, the maximum current flow occurs in three different resonators as shown in Figure .9 (b). It is noticed that, in all the three resonators the current is maximum at the starting point shown in red colour and minimum at the ending point shown in blue colour. The overall current length for these three resonators monopole is approximately $3\lambda_0/4$. In most of the places in the Ground plane weak current distributions are seen.

V. RADIATION PATTERN

The simulated radiation patterns are shown in Figure 10 (a) and 10 (b). It is observed that at 4.6 GHz, the antenna has a dipole like radiation pattern and it is not symmetrical in the E plane. Not symmetrical pattern due to variation of current in the Z-U shaped and stepped T shaped branches. At 6.3 GHz, the antenna has monopole like radiation pattern and it is not symmetrical one. In the H-plane, the antenna has nearly omnidirectional pattern at 4.6 GHz and 6.3 GHz as shown in Figure 10 (b). Measurements of radiation patterns for a Z-U-T-S shaped antenna are taken in an anechoic chamber as shown in Figure 11.

The measured radiation pattern are shown for E-plane and H-plane at 4.6 GHz as shown in Figures 12 (a) and 12 (b). It is note that, there are some discrepancies between measurements and simulations in radiation patterns for both the planes. In the actual measurement, as the ground plane size is small, a few leakage currents may distribute along the external conductor of the SMA connector and may affect the radiation patterns.

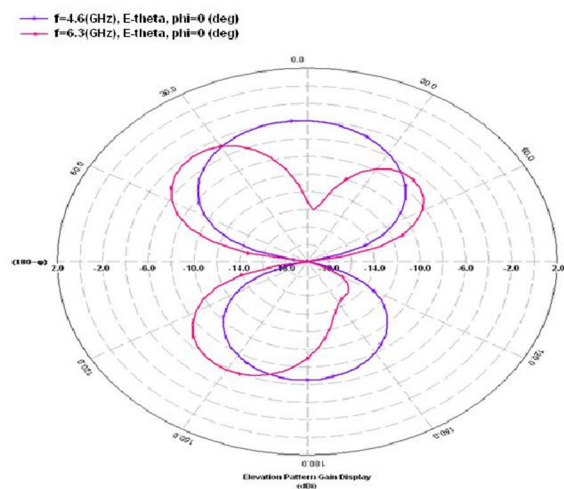


Figure 10 (a) Simulated Elevation pattern (E theta at 4.6 GHz & 6.3 GHz)

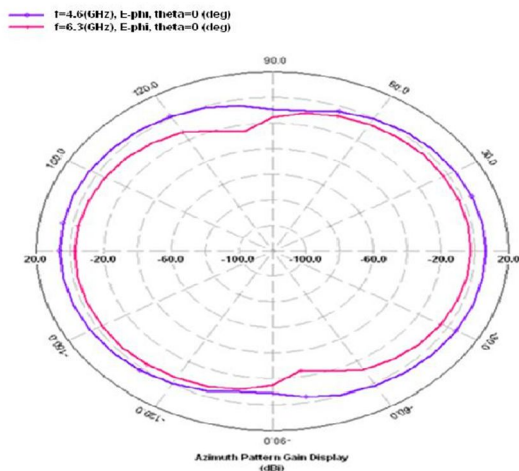


Figure 10 (b) Simulated Azimuth Pattern (E phi at 4.6 GHz & 6.3 GHz)



Figure 11 Measurement of radiation pattern for a Z-U-T-S shaped antenna in an anechoic chamber

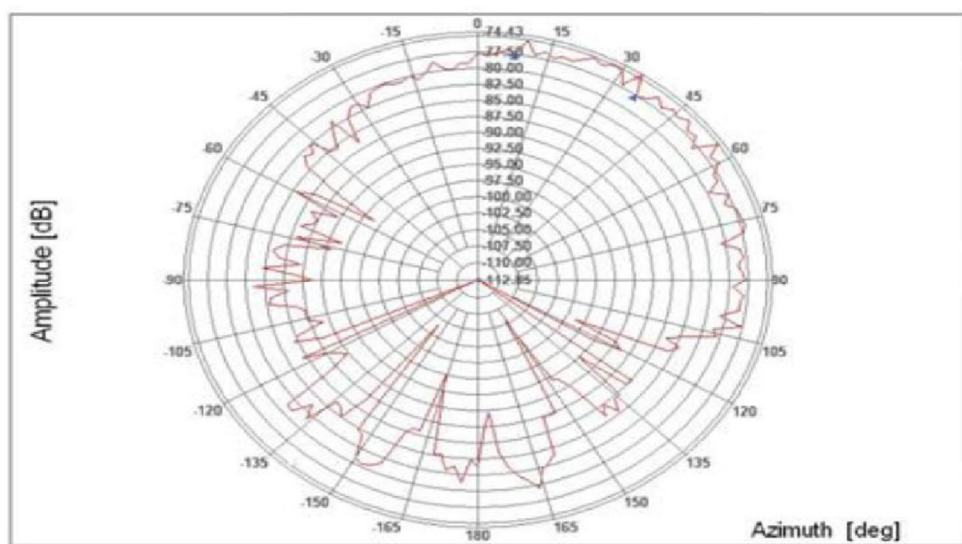


Figure 12 (a) Measured E-plane (XZ) pattern at 4.6 GHz

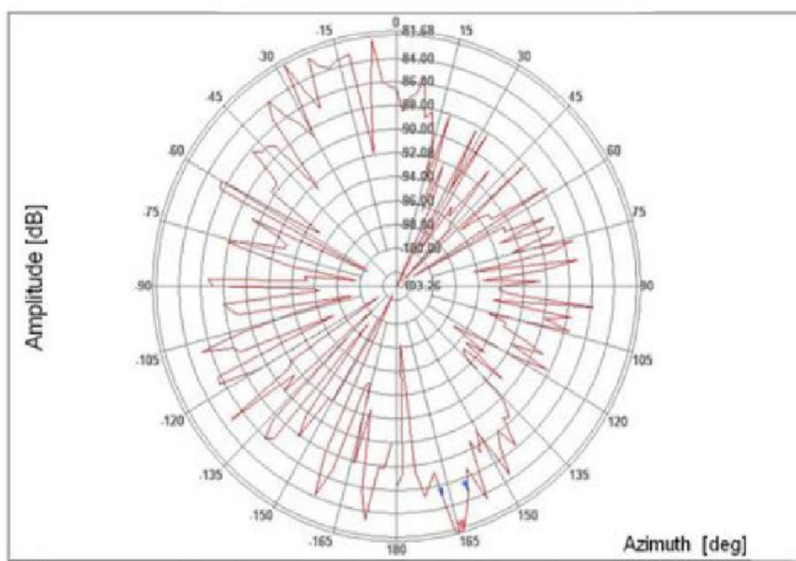


Figure 12 (b) Measured H-plane (XY) pattern at 4.6 GHz

VI. GAIN

Figure 13 shows the characteristics of the gain for the Z-U-T-S shaped antenna. The peak gain is around 6 dBi at 4.6 GHz. The simulated peak gain at the lower operating frequencies varies from 0 to 6 dBi, and at the higher operating frequencies it varies from 2 to 4 dBi

Total Field Gain vs. Frequency

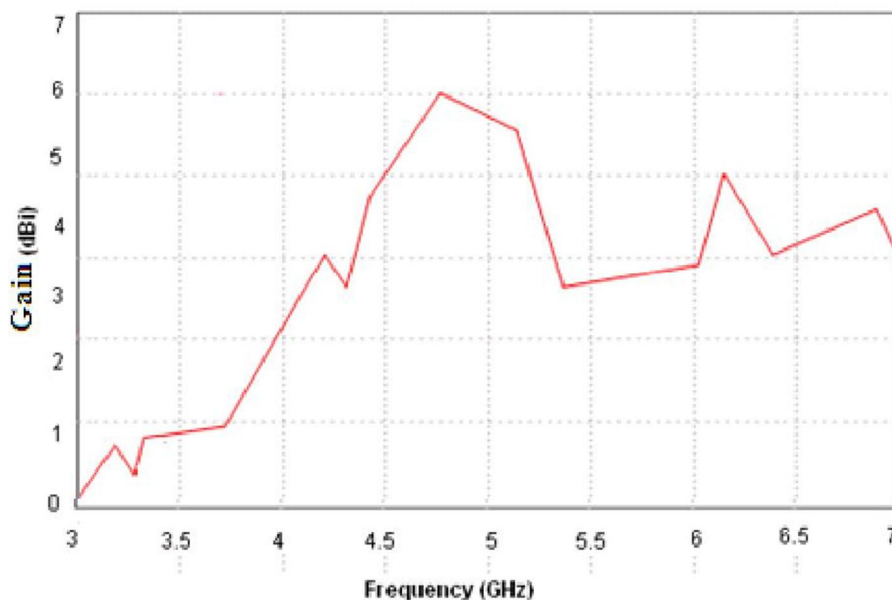


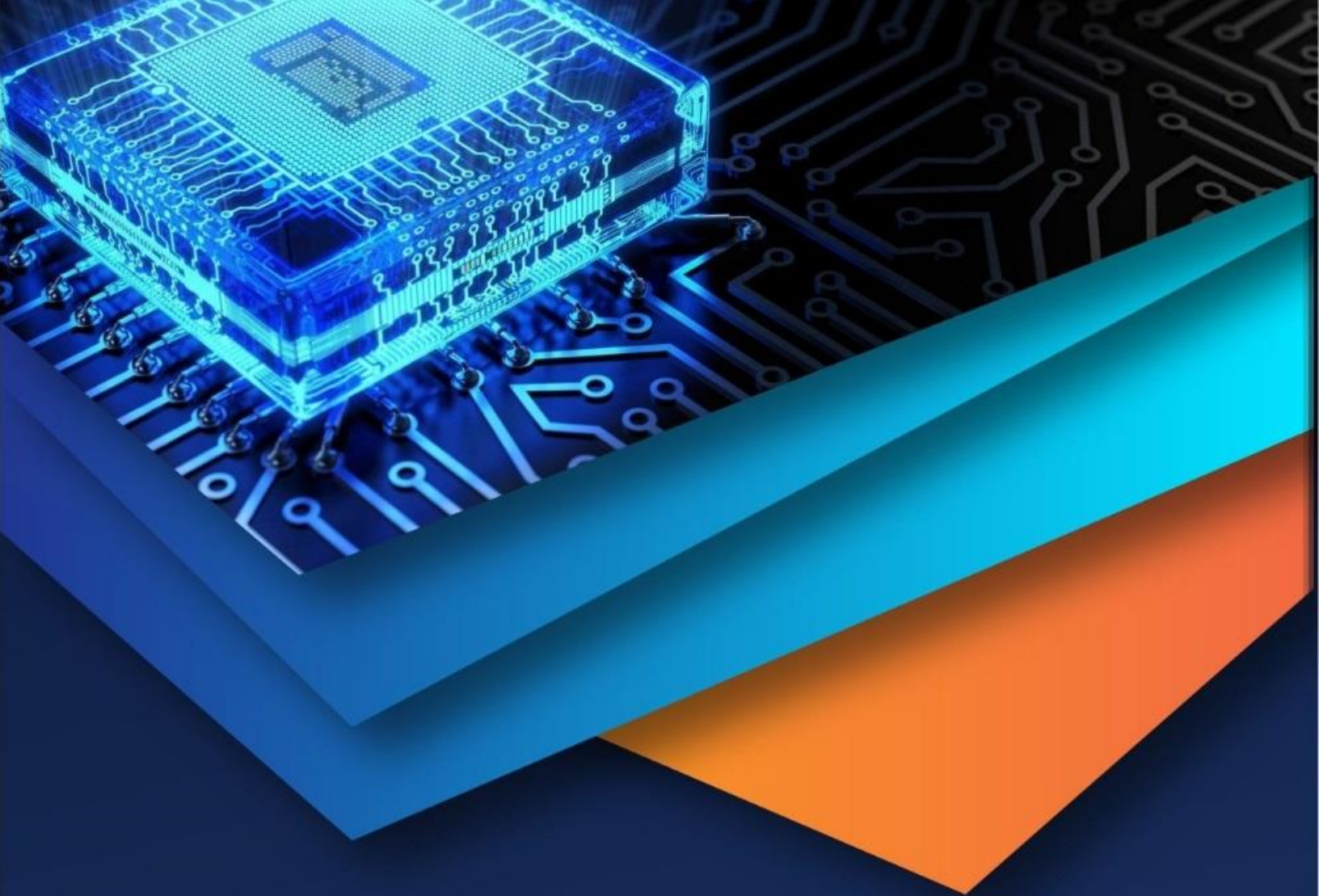
Figure 13 Gain Characteristic of a Z-U-T-S shaped antenna

VII. CONCLUSION

The proposed antenna can achieve an enhanced operating bandwidth of 4.5 - 5.2 GHz (14.43%) and 6.0 - 6.7 GHz (11.02%) for -10 dB return loss. The peak gain is around 6 dBi at 4.6 GHz. The size of the radiating element is 15.9 X 11.4 mm². This antenna is suitable for wireless applications.

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