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A Review on Different Feeding Methods of Wideband Circularly Polarized Antenna

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Abstract—This paper gives the overall idea of wideband circularly polarized antenna. The main objective of this review paper is to find how the circular polarization is achieved. There are different feeding methods for designing circularly polarized antennas such as single feed method, dual feed method, and sequential feeding method. These methods are useful to get good omnidirectional radiation pattern. Single feed method has some drawbacks. It has low axial ratio bandwidth than dual feed method. Further, in order to enhance the antenna performance axial ratio bandwidth improvement is necessary. Because of some limitations of linearly polarized antenna such as cross coupled radiation problem the circularly polarized antennas get certain attention as it overcomes many major drawbacks of linearly polarized antennas.

Keywords— *Circular Polarization (CP), Feed Lines, Axial Ratio Bandwidth (ARBW), Gain, Radiation Pattern, Dielectric Resonator Antenna (DRA)*

I. INTRODUCTION

The antenna polarization is one of the most important key in modern antenna designing [26]. Antennas can be linearly polarized or circularly polarized type. An antenna typically converts input frequency electric current into radio waves and these emitted waves by the antenna travels into the space. Polarization of antenna is important because it indicates the electric field vector of radio wave propagation. The transmitted waves are either linearly polarized or circularly polarized wave. Circularly polarized antennas having major advantages over linearly polarized antennas [22]. The transmitted signal by the linearly polarized antenna leads to fading as it strikes on object or obstacles between them. This causes slight tilting of wave from its direction. The signal fading occurs due the change in phase of the transmitted signal. As the antenna having reciprocity property if the vertically polarized antenna act as the transmitter then the electric field vector is parallel to the earth's surface and if the receiver antenna is horizontally polarized then the electric field vector is perpendicular to the earth's surface that causes cross coupling issues. The circularly polarized antennas can reduce the effect of cross coupled radiation easily. The omnidirectional radiation pattern covers both the horizontally polarized & vertically polarized electric field vectors. The linearly polarized antennas require more attention on the orientation of electric field vector than the circularly polarized antennas. Because of these advantages of circular polarized antennas over linearly polarized antennas it is mainly used in satellite applications, mobile applications, wireless sensor applications, WI-Max applications, WLAN applications

etc.[21]. This paper is mainly focused on different feeding methods for circular polarization. In single feed method of antenna designing there is a requirement of altering the shape of patch such as conical patch, slotted patch etc. Single feed network is easy to implement but it has some major drawbacks of having lower gain & low 3-dB ARBW [21]. The drawback of single feed method has overcome by the dual feed arrangement of feed lines. Both the feed ports are orthogonal having approximately 90° phase difference between them but having equal amplitude. The axial ratio bandwidth is improved by using dual feed type of antennas. DRA has many features such as high efficiency, low dielectric loss etc. [52,59]. The dielectric resonator antennas gives better performance in terms of as return loss, good isolation between ports, efficiency, impedance bandwidth, gain & axial ratio bandwidth of antenna.

II. SINGLE POINT FEED CIRCULARLY POLARIZED ANTENNA

A compact broadband wide-slot circular polarization (CP) antenna was reported. It shows that the antenna having feed line which acts as a simple monopole & back etched ground structure is responsible for wider bandwidth. An high impedance inverted L shaped strip is placed near the conducting feed line so that it creates an equal amplitude & orthogonal phase difference to generate CP waves. Further, bandwidth enhancement is done by simply changing the CPW length which is asymmetrical. This asymmetrical CPW structure also improves axial ratio of the antenna. With this technique the antenna gives wider BW of 89% & AR of 81% is achieved [1].

In this geometry, the asymmetric feed line is orthogonally placed with T shaped ground stub & two different L shaped stubs are placed at the right corner of the patch. Because of the two L shaped stubs there is a drastic change in the ARBW. The results show good AR BW typically 58.08%[2].

An inverted U shaped patch [3] is employed with an angle of 45° in order to generate CP modes. A slot is added at the center of the patch which acts as a lumped capacitor. As a result another CP mode is generated. These two CP modes are close enough which ultimately improves the ARBW of the antenna. The measured ARBW is 33.3%.

By employing the current carrying stub at the ground plane the orthogonal mode is improved. This strip-line length has a significant effect on the circular polarization. This strip line in addition gives the certain level of good ARBW approximately 19%. A wider portion is placed between the

inverted L ground strip & straight conducting strip for further improving ARBW. When port 1 is excited it exhibits RHCP type of polarization similarly if port 2 is excited it gives LHCP waves. Because of the antenna symmetry return loss and CP wave radiation is similar for both ports [4].

The $\lambda/2$ dipole antenna forms driven element. The split ring resonator [5] is placed in the middle of dipole & reflectors. SRR is introduced to obtain new resonant frequency. At lower frequency the SRR act as a director & at higher frequency the current get coupled over SRR's making SRR to act as driven element. The antenna gain is enhanced by simply adding split rings resonators which further improves the dual band performance of antenna. The peak gain of antenna is 6.14dBi & 6.8dBi respectively.

The dielectric resonator antenna (DR) has two layers. The substrate is located at the middle portion. The antenna is excited by using cross line slots placed at ground plane. The shorter lengths of crossed line slots are varied to obtain better CP bandwidth [9]. The result shows dual band response as the two quasi modes are generated. The LHCP gain of the antenna is 5.5 dBi & 6.0 dBi respectively for two different bands. The ARBW of the antenna is 9.7% & 20.0% respectively.

No. of Antenna Elements	Patch Shape	Frequency (GHz)	Feed Type	Axial Ratio Bandwidth (%) & GAIN(dBi)	Ref.
1	Circular	9.4	SIW Feed	2.7 & 6.6	[11]
1	U Shaped	5.4	Micro strip	20.80 & 5.19	[12]
1	Rectangular	2.4 & 3.3	CPW Feed	27.45, 7.1 & 2.5	[13]
1	Triangular	2.4	Probe	1.3 & 4.0	[14]
1	Rectangular	2.4	Probe	2.8 & 6.38	[15]
1	Rectangular	2.4	Cross-Slot	4.6 & 8.0	[23]
1	Rectangular	850 MHz	Probe Feed	13.4 & 7.0	[24]
1	Fractal Curve	2.5	Probe Feed	1.6 & 6.0	[25]
1	Rectangular DRA	7.5	Probe Feed	10.6, 13.5 & --	[27]
1	Circular	2.4 & 5.8	Micro strip	13.3, 16.9 & 2.3, 3.1	[28]
6X6	Rectangular	2.16	Probe	12.26 & 4.7	[33]

	stacked Patch		Feed		
1	E-Shaped Patch	403.5-MHz & 2.45	CPW Feed	-- & -18.5, -19.5	[36]
1	C-Shaped	2.3	CPW Feed	-- & -16.5	[37]
1	Square Slot patch	3.8	CPW Feed	56 & 3.2	[38]
8	Square Patch	1.01	SIW Feed	2.17, 1.78 & 11.6, 11.2	[39]
1	Luneburg lens	3.06	Probe Feed	1.96 & 13.4	[40]
1	Circular	2.5	Probe	2.3 & 4.4	[41]
1	L-Shape	3 & 5.5	Micro strip	37.4, 16.3 & 4.3, 3.3	[42]
3 X3	Rectangular	5.7	Probe	2.8 & 6.9	[43]
1	Rectangular	5.5	Probe	2.54 & 4.17	[44]
1	C-shaped slot	4.5	Off-Center	115.2 & 4.51	[46]
1 X4	Square patch	1.02	SIW Feed	10.9 & 10.5	[51]

Table 1: Comparison Table for Single Feed type of CP Antennas

III. MULTI POINT FEED CIRCULARLY POLARIZED ANTENNA

The two circular chamfers [6] are placed at the ground surface area which is used to reduce the difference between two resonant frequency modes for improving amplitude ratio & CP radiation pattern of antenna. The position of two feed lines is changed in X- direction (upward) in order to get dual band response. The width of the feed line is adjusted such that wider impedance bandwidth is obtained. The results shows that there is large improvement in 3-dB ARBW (110.5%) as well as gain (4.5dBi) of the antenna is also enhanced.

The asymmetric feed lines are decoupled by inserting a strip line in between them [7]. This is necessary to reduce the effect of induced current from both the ports while the two ports are orthogonal to each other. By protruding the inverted L-shaped strips (ILSS) & L-shaped strips (LSS) on the top

left corner of the hexagonal patch further broaden the AR of antenna. As a result ARBW is 80.7% & peak gain is 3.8dBic.

In this [8], the T shaped feed lines are employed such that it creates circularly polarized waves with orthogonal phase difference between them but having equal amplitude ratio. If we excite one port other port acts as matched or terminated to 50 ohm impedances. In addition an inverted L shaped ground strip is inserted at the left corner of the patch to improve the ARBW of antenna. By inserting extra straight conducting strips ARBW is improved as it produces multiple resonant modes. By introducing a wider portion between the inverted L strip & straight lines fine tuning of ARBW is done. The result gives ARBW of 59.65% & highest peak gain of 4 dBic is achieved.

In [10], two cylindrical patches are placed over each other with the sufficient height between them. These two circular patches are fixed by a metallic line. The air gap acts as a dielectric material. The two orthogonally placed feeding lines are connected to circular radiators to achieve the CP radiation of antenna. With the increase in the height (h1) between patch & ground plane the AR & BW is modified. The gain of antenna is 15.5 dBic & ARBW is 11%.

No. of Antenna Elements	Patch Shape	Frequency (GHz)	Feed Type	ARBW (%) & GAIN (dBic)	Ref.
1	Horn shape	12.5	Micro strip	11.2 & 4.7	[16]
1	Rectangular	2.15	Micro strip	31.3 & 7.01	[17]
4	Rectangular	5.3	Mic strip	11.5 & 11.3	[18]
4	Circular	5.3 & 8.2	Micro strip	13.2, 12.8 & 14.5, 17.5	[19]
1	Semicircular	2.4	CPW Feed	102.6 & 5.01	[20]
8X8 Array	Square	60	SIW Feed	23 & 25.8	[30]
1	L-Shaped	2.4 & 5.5	Horse shoe Shape slot	72.5, 56.0 & 4.0, 3.05	[31]
1	Square	2.5	Probe	25.1 & 7	[45]

Table 2: Comparison Table for Dual Feed Type of CP Antennas

IV. CIRCULAR POLARIZATION USING SEQUENTIAL FEED NETWORK

In [29], the antenna consist of three layers in which the upper layer contains impedance matched coupled lines which acts a dipole and the lower layer is composed of coupled line divider & phase line shift network. The middle layer forms matched coupled network. The inter-digital type of network is formed in the upper layer is used to get very strong mutual coupling between the tightly loaded dipoles. The coupled line & phase shifting network is responsible for a wide CP resonance. The ARBW is 77% & peak gain of 10.4 dBic.

In [32], the feed line structure is formed by adding phase shifter & branch line coupler. The rat ring coupler gives 180° shifting of phase. The current gets distributed among two branch line coupler to provide two paths for the current having equal amplitude & 90° phase difference between them. This array slots are present exactly on the ground portion below radiating patch elements. The antenna's AR Bandwidth is 3.04%. & gain is 10.84 dBic.

In [34], it shows that the four crossed dipole act as a PIN diodes. One end of diode is connected to feeding network and other end is coupled to ground plane via holes. The cross dipoles are used to achieve polarization selectivity. The port 2 is the longest among all these ports to make 90° phase difference with other ports. The gain of the antenna is 5.0dBic.

No. of Antenna Elements	Patch Shape	Frequency (GHz)	Feed Type	ARBW (%) & GAIN (dBic)	Ref.
2	Umbrella Shape	1.5	Probe	55.6 & 3.0	[35]
2X2	Disc Shape	5.8	Coaxial Feed	-- & 10.5	[47]
2	Tapered Slot	1.85	CPW Feed	107 & 8	[48]
1	Inverted -F	900 MHz	Coaxial Feed	14.7 & 2.1	[49]
2X2	Square	2.4	Microstrip Line	5 & 5.8	[50]

Table 3: Comparison Table for Sequential Feed Type of CP Antennas

V. CONCLUSION

This paper gives a brief idea about the different feeding methods of circularly polarized antennas. The dual feed method gives good polarization diversity. It is also found that dual feed method gives better axial ratio bandwidth than that

of single feeding method. The enhancement in axial ratio bandwidth and gain is necessary as the researchers gives more attention to both the parameters for developing circularly polarized antennas. Higher the axial ratio bandwidth means better the circular radiation pattern of antenna. Polarization purity of antenna depends upon the 3dB-axial ratio bandwidth. The selected papers are studied & it is found that the circularly polarized antenna overcomes many limitations of linearly polarized antennas such as cross coupled radiation is reduced because the circularly polarized antenna having omnidirectional radiation pattern. The feed width & its position has a significant effect on impedance bandwidth of antenna.

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