

DESIGN AND PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS OF  
FLEXIBLE MICROSTRIP PATCH ANTENNA WITH  
RUBBER SUBSTRATE AT 2.45 GHZ

BY

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## ABSTRACT

In this work, a flexible antenna using rubber substrate is proposed to operate at 2.45 GHz within the ISM band for Medical and Wi-Fi/WLAN application. Several rubber materials with different carbon filler composition have been selected as the substrate in designing the antenna which include (1) natural rubber, (2) rubber with 20% carbon filler, (3) rubber with 25% carbon filler and (4) rubber with 50% carbon filler. The performances of these antennas are simulated and analyzed based on the return loss, bandwidth and gain. In addition to that, the performance of the antenna is not just simulated on a flat condition. A bending condition with different bending radius and direction are simulated as well. Based on the simulation results of the initial design, antenna with 25% carbon filler exhibit the best overall performance. The conclusive factor is the fact that the antenna exhibits a wide bandwidth (81 MHz) with acceptable gain (1.91 dB) compared to the other antennas. The return loss for this antenna is -35 dB which is considered good. Despite the good results obtained on a flat condition, the performance of the antenna at 2.45 GHz degraded when the antenna is bended which leads to the antenna modification by increasing the thickness of the substrate to improve the performance. With the first modified design, antenna with 25% carbon filler also exhibit the best performance overall among the others with a wide bandwidth (876.46 MHz) and considerably high gain (5.31 dB). The return loss for this antenna is -25.85 dB. On bending condition, it is observed that the return loss value at the intended frequency which is 2.45 GHz remain below -10 dB with acceptable bandwidth and gain, despite the direction and cylindrical radius of the bending. This proved that the antenna is usable at 2.45 GHz even under the bending condition. Second modification has been done by replacing the rectangular patch with circular patch to further prove that the method used by increasing the height of the substrate will also produce a wider bandwidth regardless of the design. With the second modified design, antenna with natural rubber also exhibit the best performance overall among the others with a wide bandwidth (1147.1 MHz) and high gain (7.36 dB). On bending condition, it is also observed that the return loss value at the intended remain below -10 dB with acceptable gain and bandwidth. Comparing the best modified rectangular patch antenna (rubber composited with 25% carbon filler) with the best modified circular patch antenna (natural rubber), it can be concluded that the modified circular patch antenna using natural rubber exhibits the best antenna performances. The design modification of the antenna to cope with the bending effect by increasing the height of the substrate can be considered as a success.

## خلاصة البحث

في هذا البحث، تم تقديم هوائي مرن بركيزة مطاطية للاستخدام في التطبيقات الطبية وتطبيقات Wi-Fi / WLAN بسرعة 2.45 جيجا هرتز في نطاق ISM. تم اختيار ركيزة الهوائي من مجموعة متنوعة من المواد المطاطية بتركيبات مختلفة لحشو الكربون، بما في ذلك (1) مطاط طبيعي، (2) مطاط بنسبة 20٪ كربون حشو، (3) مطاط مع حشو كربون بنسبة 25٪، و (4) مطاط مع حشو كربون بنسبة 50٪. على أساس خسارة العودة وعرض النطاق والكسب، تتم محاكاة وتحليل أداء الهوائيات. علاوة على ذلك، فإن أداء الهوائي ليس مجرد نموذج في بيئة مسطحة. يتم أيضاً محاكاة حالة الانحناء، مع اختلاف نصف قطر الانحناء والاتجاه. استناداً إلى نتائج المحاكاة الأساسية للتصميم، يتمتع الهوائي المملوء بنسبة 25٪ بالكربون بأفضل أداء إجمالي. العامل الحاسم هو حقيقة أن للهوائي عرض نطاق عريض (81 ميغاهرتز) وكسب معقول (1.91 ديسيبل) مقارنة بالهوائيات الأخرى. هذا الهوائي لديه خسارة عودة تصل إلى -35 ديسيبل، والتي تعتبر جيدة. على الرغم من النتائج الجيدة التي تم الحصول عليها على سطح مستو، ساء أداء الهوائي عند 2.45 جيجا هرتز عندما تم ثنيه، مما استلزم تعديل الهوائي عن طريق زيادة سماكة الركيزة لزيادة الأداء. مع التصميم الأول المعدل، يتمتع الهوائي المزود بحشو كربون بنسبة 25٪ أيضاً بأفضل أداء إجمالي من بين الآخرين، مع عرض نطاق عريض (876.46 ميغاهرتز) وكسب مرتفع بشكل ملحوظ (5.31 ديسيبل). تبلغ خسارة عودة هذا الهوائي -25.85 ديسيبل. على الرغم من اتجاه الانحناء ونصف قطره الأسطواني، تظل قيمة خسارة العودة عند التردد المستهدف البالغ 2.45 جيجا هرتز أقل من -10 ديسيبل مع عرض نطاق مناسب وكسب في حالة الانحناء. أظهر هذا أنه يمكن استخدام الهوائي عند 2.45 جيجا هرتز حتى عند الانحناء. كان التغيير الثاني هو استبدال الرقعة المستطيلة برقعة دائرية، مما يدل على أنه بغض النظر عن التصميم، فإن رفع ارتفاع الركيزة ينتج نطاقاً ترددياً أوسع. مع التصميم الثاني المعدل، يُظهر الهوائي بالمطاط الطبيعي أيضاً أفضل أداء بشكل عام من بين الآخرين بنطاق ترددي عريض (1147.1 ميغاهرتز) وكسب مرتفع (7.36 ديسيبل). تظل قيمة خسارة العودة عند المطلوب أقل من -10 ديسيبل مع كسب وعرض نطاق كافيين في ظل ظروف الانحناء. عند مقارنة أفضل هوائي رقعة مستطيل معدّل (مكون من المطاط بنسبة 25٪ حشو كربون) بأفضل هوائي رقعة دائري معدّل (المطاط الطبيعي)، من الواضح أن هوائي التصحيح الدائري بالمطاط الطبيعي لديه أفضل أداء للهوائي. يمكن اعتبار تعديل تصميم الهوائي للتعامل مع تأثير الانحناء عن طريق زيادة ارتفاع الركيزة ناجحاً.

## APPROVAL PAGE


I certify that I have supervised and read this study and that in my opinion, it conforms to acceptable standards of scholarly presentation and is fully adequate, in scope and quality, as a thesis for the degree of Master of Science (Communication Engineering)



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## DECLARATION

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*Dedication -This thesis is dedicated to my parents for laying the foundation of what I  
turned out to be in life.*

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract .....	ii
Abstract in Arabic .....	iii
Approval Page.....	iv
Declaration .....	v
Dedication .....	viii
Acknowledgement .....	ix
Table of Contents .....	x
List of Tables .....	xiii
List of Figures .....	xvi
List of Abbreviations .....	xxiv
List of Symbols .....	xxv
<b>CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Overview .....	1
1.2 Problem Statement and Significance of Study .....	3
1.3 Objective.....	4
1.4 Methodology.....	5
1.5 Scope .....	5
1.6 Report Organization .....	6
<b>CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW .....</b>	<b>8</b>
2.1 Overview .....	8
2.2 Industrial, Scientific and Medical (ISM) Band .....	8
2.2.1 Overview of the ISM Band .....	8
2.3 Antenna Design .....	9
2.3.1 Type of Antenna .....	9
2.3.1.1 Microstrip Patch Antenna .....	10
2.3.1.2 Printed Monopole Antenna .....	12
2.3.2 Feeding Method .....	13
2.3.2.1 Coaxial Feed .....	13
2.3.2.2 Microstrip Line Feed .....	14
2.3.2.3 Inset Feed .....	15
2.4 Antenna Parameters .....	16
2.4.1 Frequency .....	16
2.4.2 Bandwidth .....	17
2.4.3 Radiation Pattern.....	18
2.4.4 Directivity .....	19
2.4.5 Gain.....	20
2.5 Flexible Substrate .....	20
2.5.1 Substrate Parameter .....	20
2.5.1.1 Dielectric Constant .....	20
2.5.1.2 Loss Tangent.....	23
2.5.1.3 Dielectric Height.....	24
2.5.2 Flexible Antenna Applications .....	24
2.5.2.1 Medical Application .....	25

2.5.2.2	Wi-Fi/WLAN Application .....	31
2.6	Conclusion .....	39
<b>CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY .....</b>		<b>41</b>
3.1	Overview .....	41
3.2	Design of The Flexible Microstrip Patch Antenna .....	42
3.2.1	Material Selection and Definition .....	43
3.2.2	Antenna Design .....	44
3.2.2.1	Patch Width ( $W$ ) .....	46
3.2.2.2	Patch Length ( $L$ ) .....	46
3.2.2.3	Feed Line Width ( $W_f$ ) .....	47
3.2.2.4	Inset Feed Length ( $y_0$ ) .....	47
3.2.2.5	Notch Gap ( $x_0$ ) .....	48
3.2.2.6	Feed Length ( $L_f$ ) .....	48
3.2.2.7	Ground Length ( $L_g$ ) and Ground Width ( $W_g$ ) .....	48
3.2.3	Antenna Simulation .....	48
3.2.3.1	Antenna Cylindrical Bending .....	50
3.2.4	Antenna Optimization .....	54
3.2.5	Antenna Performance Analysis .....	54
<b>CHAPTER FOUR: RESULT AND FINDINGS .....</b>		<b>55</b>
4.1	Overview .....	55
4.2	Microstrip Patch Antenna .....	55
4.2.1	Design of the Microstrip Patch Antenna .....	55
4.2.2	Simulation Result of the Microstrip Patch Antenna (Initial Design) .....	60
4.2.3	Bending of the Microstrip Patch Antenna (Initial Design) .....	65
4.2.3.1	Side-Inward Bending of the Microstrip Patch Antenna (Initial Design) .....	66
4.2.3.2	Side-Outward Bending of the Microstrip Patch Antenna (Initial Design) .....	76
4.2.3.3	Top-Inward Bending of the Microstrip Patch Antenna (Initial Design) .....	85
4.2.3.4	Top-Outward Bending of the Microstrip Patch Antenna (Initial Design) .....	93
4.2.4	Summary of the Microstrip Patch Antenna Performance (Initial Design) .....	101
4.3	Modified Microstrip Patch Antenna with Thicker Rubber Substrate .....	103
4.3.1	Design of the Modified Microstrip Patch Antenna .....	103
4.3.2	Simulation Result of the Modified Microstrip Patch Antenna .....	107
4.3.3	Bending of the Modified Microstrip Patch Antenna .....	113
4.3.3.1	Side-Inward Bending of the Modified Microstrip Patch Antenna .....	114
4.3.3.2	Side-Outward Bending of the Modified Microstrip Patch Antenna .....	123
4.3.3.3	Top-Inward Bending of the Modified Microstrip Patch Antenna .....	132

4.3.3.4	Top-Outward Bending of the Modified Microstrip Patch Antenna .....	141
4.3.4	Summary of the Modified Microstrip Patch Antenna Performance .....	150
4.4	Modified Microstrip Circular Patch Antenna with Thicker Rubber Substrate .....	152
4.4.1	Design of the Modified Circular Microstrip Patch Antenna....	152
4.4.2	Simulation Result of the Modified Microstrip Circular Patch Antenna .....	156
4.4.3	Bending of the Modified Microstrip Circular Patch Antenna .	160
4.4.3.1	Side-Inward Bending of the Modified Microstrip Circular Patch Antenna.....	161
4.4.3.2	Side-Outward Bending of the Modified Microstrip Circular Patch Antenna.....	166
4.4.3.3	Top-Inward Bending of the Modified Microstrip Circular Patch Antenna.....	171
4.4.3.4	Top-Outward Bending of the Modified Microstrip Circular Patch Antenna.....	176
4.4.4	Summary of the Modified Microstrip Circular Patch Antenna Performance .....	181
4.5	Summary.....	183
<b>CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....</b>		<b>186</b>
5.1	Overview .....	186
5.2	Conclusion.....	186
5.3	Future Work.....	193
<b>REFERENCES.....</b>		<b>195</b>
<b>APPENDIX I .....</b>		<b>200</b>
<b>APPENDIX II.....</b>		<b>201</b>
<b>APPENDIX III .....</b>		<b>201</b>

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1 Frequency bands assigned by MCMC in 2017 (Source: MCMC, 2017)	17
Table 2.2 Dielectric properties of rubber samples	22
Table 2.3 Summary of some of the related works on various antennas design and method in designing flexible antenna for Medical applications	28
Table 2.4 Summary of some of the related works on various antennas design and method in designing flexible antenna for Wi-Fi/WLAN applications	35
Table 4.1 Parameter of the designed antenna with natural rubber	56
Table 4.2 Parameter of the designed antenna using rubber with 20% carbon filler	57
Table 4.3 Parameter of the designed antenna using rubber with 25% carbon filler	58
Table 4.4 Parameter of the designed antenna using rubber with 50% carbon filler	59
Table 4.5 Performance of the microstrip patch antenna at 2.45 GHz	60
Table 4.6 Comparison of the S11 Parameter for the designed microstrip patch antenna with side-inward bent at 2.45 GHz	69
Table 4.7 Comparison of the bandwidth for the designed microstrip patch antenna with side-inward bent	71
Table 4.8 Comparison of the gain for the designed microstrip patch antenna with side-inward bent at 2.45 GHz	73
Table 4.9 Comparison of the S11 Parameter for the designed microstrip patch antenna with side-outward bent at 2.45 GHz	79
Table 4.10 Comparison of the bandwidth for the designed microstrip patch antenna with side-outward bent	81
Table 4.11 Comparison of the gain for the designed microstrip patch antenna with side-outward bent at 2.45 GHz	82
Table 4.12 Comparison of the S11 Parameter for the designed microstrip patch antenna with top-inward bent at 2.45 GHz	88
Table 4.13 Comparison of the bandwidth for the designed microstrip patch antenna with top-inward bent	90
Table 4.14 Comparison of the gain for the designed microstrip patch antenna with top-inward bent at 2.45 GHz	91

Table 4.15 Comparison of the S11 Parameter for the designed microstrip patch antenna with top-outward bent at 2.45 GHz	96
Table 4.16 Comparison of the bandwidth for the designed microstrip patch antenna with top-outward bent	98
Table 4.17 Comparison of the gain for the designed microstrip patch antenna with top-outward bent at 2.45 GHz	99
Table 4.18 Parameter of the modified antenna with natural rubber	104
Table 4.19 Parameter of the modified antenna using rubber with 20% carbon filler	105
Table 4.20 Parameter of the modified antenna using rubber with 25% carbon filler	106
Table 4.21 Parameter of the modified antenna using rubber with 50% carbon filler	106
Table 4.22 Performance of the designed microstrip patch antenna at 2.45 GHz	108
Table 4.23 Comparison of the S11 Parameter for the modified microstrip patch antenna with side-inward bent at 2.45 GHz	117
Table 4.24 Comparison of the bandwidth for the modified microstrip patch antenna with side-inward bent	119
Table 4.25 Comparison of the gain for the modified microstrip patch antenna with side-inward bent at 2.45 GHz	121
Table 4.26 Comparison of the S11 Parameter for the modified microstrip patch antenna with side-outward bent at 2.45 GHz	126
Table 4.27 Comparison of the bandwidth for the modified microstrip patch antenna with side-outward bent	128
Table 4.28 Comparison of the gain for the modified microstrip patch antenna with side-outward bent at 2.45 GHz	130
Table 4.29 Comparison of the S11 Parameter for the modified microstrip patch antenna with top-inward bent at 2.45 GHz	135
Table 4.30 Comparison of the bandwidth for the modified microstrip patch antenna with top-inward bent	137
Table 4.31 Comparison of the gain for the modified microstrip patch antenna with top-inward bent at 2.45 GHz	139
Table 4.32 Comparison of the S11 Parameter for the modified microstrip patch antenna with top-outward bent at 2.45 GHz	144
Table 4.33 Comparison of the bandwidth for the modified microstrip patch antenna with top-outward bent	146

Table 4.34 Comparison of the gain for the modified microstrip patch antenna with top-outward bent at 2.45 GHz	148
Table 5.1 ISM band antenna performances comparison	190
Table 5.2 Gantt chart for the research	193

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2.1 Rectangular Patch	11
Figure 2.2 Circular Patch	11
Figure 2.3 Printed Monopole Antenna	13
Figure 2.4 Coaxial feed	14
Figure 2.5 Microstrip line feed	15
Figure 2.6 Inset feed	16
Figure 2.7 Omnidirectional Pattern	19
Figure 2.8 Directional Pattern	19
Figure 3.1 General process of designing the flexible microstrip patch antenna	41
Figure 3.2 Detail flowchart of the project	42
Figure 3.3 Feature to update the material properties	44
Figure 3.4 (a) Radiating Plane. (b) Ground Plane	45
Figure 3.5 Time domain solver parameters	49
Figure 3.6 Default hexahedral mesh properties	50
Figure 3.7 “Align WCS” button from modeling tab and selecting the bending surface (front surface)	51
Figure 3.8 “Transform WCS” button from modeling tab and rotating the WCS axis	51
Figure 3.9 Cylindrical Bend feature from modeling tab	52
Figure 3.10 Selecting the components from Navigation Tree	52
Figure 3.11 Defining the radius of the cylindrical bend with preview of the bending radius	53
Figure 3.12 Antenna bended using the Cylindrical Bend feature	53
Figure 4.1 The microstrip patch antenna design with rubber substrate	56
Figure 4.2 Comparison of the S11 Parameter for the designed microstrip patch antenna	61

Figure 4.3 Gain of the designed microstrip patch antenna using natural rubber	62
Figure 4.4 Gain of the designed microstrip patch antenna using rubber with 20% carbon filler	63
Figure 4.5 Gain of the designed microstrip patch antenna using rubber with 25% carbon filler	63
Figure 4.6 Gain of the designed microstrip patch antenna using rubber with 50% carbon filler	64
Figure 4.7 3D radiation pattern of the designed microstrip patch antenna using natural rubber	64
Figure 4.8 Antenna bent with 100 mm radius (more bending)	66
Figure 4.9 Antenna bent with 500 mm radius (less bending)	66
Figure 4.10 Designed antenna with side-inward bending	67
Figure 4.11 S11 Parameter for the side-inward bent of designed microstrip patch antenna using natural rubber	67
Figure 4.12 S11 Parameter for the side-inward bent of designed microstrip patch antenna using rubber with 20% carbon filler	68
Figure 4.13 S11 Parameter for the side-inward bent of designed microstrip patch antenna using rubber with 25% carbon filler	68
Figure 4.14 S11 Parameter for the side-inward bent of designed microstrip patch antenna using rubber with 50% carbon filler	69
Figure 4.15 Return loss comparison with side-inward bent at 2.45 GHz	69
Figure 4.16 Bandwidth comparison with side-inward bent at 2.45 GHz	71
Figure 4.17 Gain comparison with side-inward bent at 2.45 GHz	73
Figure 4.18 Surface current comparison with side-inward bent at 2.45 GHz	74
Figure 4.19 Designed antenna with side-outward bending	76
Figure 4.20 S11 Parameter for the side-outward of bent designed microstrip patch antenna using natural rubber	77
Figure 4.21 S11 Parameter for the side-outward bent of designed microstrip patch antenna using rubber with 20% carbon filler	77
Figure 4.22 S11 Parameter for the side-outward bent of designed microstrip patch antenna using rubber with 25% carbon filler	78



Figure 4.23 S11 Parameter for the side-outward bent of designed microstrip patch antenna using rubber with 50% carbon filler	78
Figure 4.24 Return loss comparison with side-outward bent at 2.45 GHz	79
Figure 4.25 Bandwidth comparison with side-outward bent at 2.45 GHz	81
Figure 4.26 Gain comparison with side-outward bent at 2.45 GHz	82
Figure 4.27 Surface current comparison with side-outward bent at 2.45 GHz	84
Figure 4.28 Designed antenna with top-inward bending	85
Figure 4.29 S11 Parameter for the top-inward of bent designed microstrip patch antenna using natural rubber	86
Figure 4.30 S11 Parameter for the top-inward bent of designed microstrip patch antenna using rubber with 20% carbon filler	86
Figure 4.31 S11 Parameter for the top-inward bent of designed microstrip patch antenna using rubber with 25% carbon filler	87
Figure 4.32 S11 Parameter for the top-inward bent of designed microstrip patch antenna using rubber with 50% carbon filler	87
Figure 4.33 Return loss comparison with top-inward bent at 2.45 GHz	88
Figure 4.34 Bandwidth comparison with top-inward bent at 2.45 GHz	90
Figure 4.35 Gain comparison with top-inward bent at 2.45 GHz	91
Figure 4.36 Surface current comparison with top-inward bent at 2.45 GHz	93
Figure 4.37 Designed antenna with top-outward bending	94
Figure 4.38 S11 Parameter for the top-outward of bent designed microstrip patch antenna using natural rubber	94
Figure 4.39 S11 Parameter for the top-outward bent of designed microstrip patch antenna using rubber with 20% carbon filler	95
Figure 4.40 S11 Parameter for the top-outward bent of designed microstrip patch antenna using rubber with 25% carbon filler	95
Figure 4.41 S11 Parameter for the top-outward bent of designed microstrip patch antenna using rubber with 50% carbon filler	96
Figure 4.42 Return loss comparison with top-outward bent at 2.45 GHz	96
Figure 4.43 Bandwidth comparison with top-outward bent at 2.45 GHz	98
Figure 4.44 Gain comparison with top-outward bent at 2.45 GHz	99

Figure 4.45 Surface current comparison with top-outward bent at 2.45 GHz	101
Figure 4.46 Modified microstrip patch antenna	104
Figure 4.47 Comparison of the S11 Parameter for the modified microstrip patch antenna with different percentage of carbon filler	109
Figure 4.48 Gain of the modified microstrip patch antenna using natural rubber	110
Figure 4.49 Gain of the modified microstrip patch antenna using rubber with 20% carbon filler	111
Figure 4.50 Gain of the modified microstrip patch antenna using rubber with 25% carbon filler	111
Figure 4.51 Gain of the modified microstrip patch antenna using rubber with 50% carbon filler	112
Figure 4.52 3D radiation pattern of the modified microstrip patch antenna using natural rubber	112
Figure 4.53 Modified antenna bent with 100 mm radius (more bending)	114
Figure 4.54 Modified antenna bent with 500 mm radius (less bending)	114
Figure 4.55 Designed antenna with side-inward bending	115
Figure 4.56 S11 Parameter for the side-inward bent of modified microstrip patch antenna using natural rubber	115
Figure 4.57 S11 Parameter for the side-inward bent of modified microstrip patch antenna using rubber with 20% carbon filler	116
Figure 4.58 S11 Parameter for the side-inward bent of modified microstrip patch antenna using rubber with 25% carbon filler	116
Figure 4.59 S11 Parameter for the side-inward bent of modified microstrip patch antenna using rubber with 50% carbon filler	117
Figure 4.60 Return loss comparison for the modified microstrip patch antenna with side-inward bent at 2.45 GHz	117
Figure 4.61 Bandwidth comparison for the modified microstrip patch antenna with side-inward bent at 2.45 GHz	119
Figure 4.62 Gain comparison for the modified microstrip patch antenna with side-inward bent at 2.45 GHz	121
Figure 4.63 Surface current comparison for the modified microstrip patch antenna with side-inward bent at 2.45 GHz	122
Figure 4.64 Modified antenna with side-outward bending	124

Figure 4.65 S11 Parameter for the side-outward bent of modified microstrip patch antenna using natural rubber	124
Figure 4.66 S11 Parameter for the side-outward bent of modified microstrip patch antenna using rubber with 20% carbon filler	125
Figure 4.67 S11 Parameter for the side-outward bent of modified microstrip patch antenna using rubber with 25% carbon filler	125
Figure 4.68 S11 Parameter for the side-outward bent of modified microstrip patch antenna using rubber with 50% carbon filler	126
Figure 4.69 Return loss comparison for the modified microstrip patch antenna with side-outward bent at 2.45 GHz	126
Figure 4.70 Bandwidth comparison for the modified microstrip patch antenna with side-outward bent at 2.45 GHz	128
Figure 4.71 Gain comparison for the modified microstrip patch antenna with side-outward bent at 2.45 GHz	130
Figure 4.72 Surface current comparison for the modified microstrip patch antenna with side-outward bent at 2.45 GHz	131
Figure 4.73 Modified antenna with top-inward bending	133
Figure 4.74 S11 Parameter for the top-inward bent of modified microstrip patch antenna using natural rubber	133
Figure 4.75 S11 Parameter for the top-inward bent of modified microstrip patch antenna using rubber with 20% carbon filler	134
Figure 4.76 S11 Parameter for the top-inward bent of modified microstrip patch antenna using rubber with 25% carbon filler	134
Figure 4.77 S11 Parameter for the top-inward bent of modified microstrip patch antenna using rubber with 50% carbon filler	135
Figure 4.78 Return loss comparison for the modified microstrip patch antenna with top-inward bent at 2.45 GHz	135
Figure 4.79 Bandwidth comparison for the modified microstrip patch antenna with top-inward bent at 2.45 GHz	137
Figure 4.80 Gain comparison for the modified microstrip patch antenna with top-inward bent at 2.45 GHz	139
Figure 4.81 Surface current comparison for the modified microstrip patch antenna with top-inward bent at 2.45 GHz	140
Figure 4.82 Modified antenna with top-outward bending	141

Figure 4.83 S11 Parameter for the top-outward bent of modified microstrip patch antenna using natural rubber	142
Figure 4.84 S11 Parameter for the top-outward bent of modified microstrip patch antenna using rubber with 20% carbon filler	142
Figure 4.85 S11 Parameter for the top-outward bent of modified microstrip patch antenna using rubber with 25% carbon filler	143
Figure 4.86 S11 Parameter for the top-outward bent of modified microstrip patch antenna using rubber with 50% carbon filler	143
Figure 4.87 Return loss comparison for the modified microstrip patch antenna with top-outward bent at 2.45 GHz	144
Figure 4.88 Bandwidth comparison for the modified microstrip patch antenna with top-outward bent at 2.45 GHz	146
Figure 4.89 Gain comparison for the modified microstrip patch antenna with top-outward bent at 2.45 GHz	148
Figure 4.90 Surface current comparison for the modified microstrip patch antenna with top-outward bent at 2.45 GHz	149
Figure 4.91 Modified microstrip circular patch antenna	152
Figure 4.92 Comparison of the S11 Parameter for the modified microstrip circular patch antenna with different percentage of carbon filler	157
Figure 4.93 Gain comparison of the modified microstrip circular patch antenna	158
Figure 4.97 3D radiation pattern of the modified microstrip circular patch antenna using natural rubber	159
Figure 4.95 Modified circular antenna bent with 100 mm radius (more bending)	160
Figure 4.96 Modified circular antenna bent with 500 mm radius (less bending)	161
Figure 4.97 Designed circular patch antenna with side-inward bending	161
Figure 4.98 S11 Parameter for the side-inward bent of modified microstrip circular patch antenna using natural rubber	162
Figure 4.99 S11 Parameter for the side-inward bent of modified microstrip circular patch antenna using rubber with 20% carbon filler	162
Figure 4.100 S11 Parameter for the side-inward bent of modified microstrip circular patch antenna using rubber with 25% carbon filler	163
Figure 4.101 S11 Parameter for the side-inward bent of modified microstrip circular patch antenna using rubber with 50% carbon filler	163

Figure 4.102 Return loss comparison for the modified microstrip circular patch antenna with side-inward bent at 2.45 GHz	164
Figure 4.103 Bandwidth comparison for the modified microstrip circular patch antenna with side-inward bent at 2.45 GHz	164
Figure 4.104 Gain comparison for the modified microstrip circular patch antenna with side-inward bent at 2.45 GHz	165
Figure 4.63 Surface current comparison for the modified microstrip circular patch antenna with side-inward bent at 2.45 GHz	165
Figure 4.106 Modified antenna with side-outward bending	167
Figure 4.107 S11 Parameter for the side-outward bent of modified microstrip circular patch antenna using natural rubber	167
Figure 4.108 S11 Parameter for the side-outward bent of modified microstrip circular patch antenna using rubber with 20% carbon filler	168
Figure 4.109 S11 Parameter for the side-outward bent of modified microstrip circular patch antenna using rubber with 25% carbon filler	168
Figure 4.110 S11 Parameter for the side-outward bent of modified microstrip circular patch antenna using rubber with 50% carbon filler	169
Figure 4.111 Return loss comparison for the modified microstrip circular patch antenna with side-outward bent at 2.45 GHz	169
Figure 4.112 Bandwidth comparison for the modified microstrip circular patch antenna with side-outward bent at 2.45 GHz	170
Figure 4.113 Gain comparison for the modified microstrip circular patch antenna with side-outward bent at 2.45 GHz	170
Figure 4.114 Surface current comparison for the modified microstrip circular patch antenna with side-outward bent at 2.45 GHz	171
Figure 4.115 Modified circular patch antenna with top-inward bending	172
Figure 4.116 S11 Parameter for the top-inward bent of modified microstrip circular patch antenna using natural rubber	172
Figure 4.117 S11 Parameter for the top-inward bent of modified microstrip circular patch antenna using rubber with 20% carbon filler	173
Figure 4.118 S11 Parameter for the top-inward bent of modified microstrip circular patch antenna using rubber with 25% carbon filler	173
Figure 4.119 S11 Parameter for the top-inward bent of modified microstrip circular patch antenna using rubber with 50% carbon filler	174

Figure 4.120 Return loss comparison for the modified microstrip circular patch antenna with top-inward bent at 2.45 GHz	174
Figure 4.121 Bandwidth comparison for the modified microstrip circular patch antenna with top-inward bent at 2.45 GHz	175
Figure 4.122 Gain comparison for the modified microstrip circular patch antenna with top-inward bent at 2.45 GHz	175
Figure 4.123 Surface current comparison for the modified microstrip circular patch antenna with top-inward bent at 2.45 GHz	176
Figure 4.124 Modified circular patch antenna with top-outward bending	177
Figure 4.125 S11 Parameter for the top-outward bent of modified microstrip circular patch antenna using natural rubber	177
Figure 4.126 S11 Parameter for the top-outward bent of modified microstrip circular patch antenna using rubber with 20% carbon filler	178
Figure 4.127 S11 Parameter for the top-outward bent of modified microstrip circular patch antenna using rubber with 25% carbon filler	178
Figure 4.128 S11 Parameter for the top-outward bent of modified microstrip circular patch antenna using rubber with 50% carbon filler	179
Figure 4.129 Return loss comparison for the modified microstrip circular patch antenna with top-outward bent at 2.45 GHz	179
Figure 4.130 Bandwidth comparison for the modified microstrip circular patch antenna with top-outward bent at 2.45 GHz	180
Figure 4.131 Gain comparison for the modified microstrip circular patch antenna with top-outward bent at 2.45 GHz	180
Figure 4.132 Surface current comparison for the modified microstrip circular patch antenna with top-outward bent at 2.45 GHz	181

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ISM	Industrial, Scientific and Medical
CST MWS	Computer Simulation Technology Microwave Studio
EBG	Electromagnetic Band Gap

## LIST OF SYMBOLS

$c$	Speed of light
dB	Decibels
$\Delta L$	Length extension
$e_r$	Dielectric constant
$\epsilon_{eff}$	Effective dielectric constant
$f_o$	Resonant frequency
Ghz	Gigahertz
$h$	Height of the substrate
$L$	Length of the patch
$L_{eff}$	Effective length
$L_f$	Length of the feed
$L_g$	Length of the ground plane
$L_s$	Length of the substrate
$n_o$	Notch gap
mm	Millimeter
$S_{11}$	Return loss
%	Percentage
$W$	Width of the patch
$W_f$	Width of the feed
$W_g$	Width of the ground plane
$W_s$	Width of the substrate