



STEERABLE ARRAY ANTENNA

N. A. Salleh, N. Abdullah and E. Mohd

Department of Communication Engineering, Faculty of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Universiti Tun Hussein

Onn Malaysia, Johor, Malaysia

E-Mail: nsaliza@uthm.edu.my

ABSTRACT

This paper presents the design of an electronically steerable array antenna. An adaptive antenna using a slotted patch antenna for WLANs operated at 2.4 GHz is proposed. The designed antenna has five elements array, one for active elements and the remaining four are passive elements which connected to the variable reactance circuit. The variable reactance value will vary the beam pattern of the antenna. For the simulation, OFDM signal is used for the incoming signal and interference. Correlation between HGI and TGI is calculated as an objective function of the algorithm. A downhill simplex algorithm is used to maximize the cost function. From numerical simulation, null is performed for the incoming interference.

Keywords: steerable, slotted antenna, downhill simplex method algorithm, interference.

INTRODUCTION

In land mobile communication, there is no clear line of sight (LOS) between transmitter and receiver especially for moving systems. The receiver might receive the reflected signals instead of the original signal. The LOS is often blocked by obstacles which will lead the signal to be reflected as shown in Figure-1. The received signal is a combination of refracted signal, attenuation signal, reflected signal and diffraction signal. This effect is known as multipath fading effects. The carrier to noise ratio (CNR) is degraded because of multipath effects.

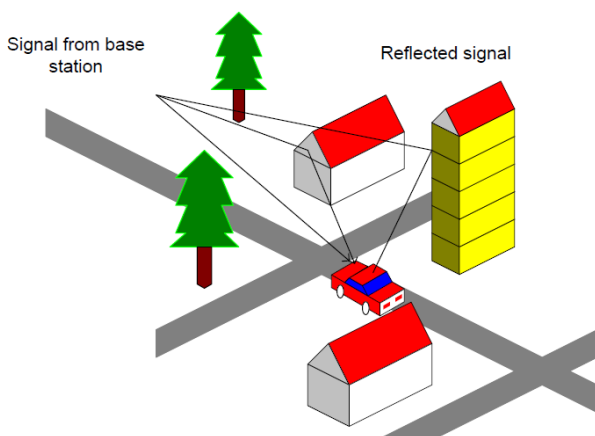


Figure-1. Multipath effects.

Besides that, signal to noise ratio (SNR) also degraded because of frequency selective fading in multipath fading effects. Due to those effects, the transmission quality is definitely degraded. Therefore, Sklar has introduced several techniques to mitigate the effects of multipath fading (Sklar, 1997). In order to eliminate the distortion caused by frequency selective

fading, he has proposed to use an adaptive equalization, spread spectrum, and pilot signal. He also suggested several types of diversity to overcome the loss effects caused by flat fading and slow fading.

Nowadays, many researches on smart antenna has been conducted. Smart antennas are an array antenna that can steer the beam toward the desired signal and eliminate the undesired signal (interference). There are two types of adaptive array antennas; switched beam array and adaptive beamforming antenna. Switched beam array antennas are antennas that only controlled the direction of maximum radiation. This antenna offers fixed beam direction. Meanwhile, the adaptive beamforming antennas controlled the radiation in all directions.

Adaptive array antenna is the best candidate to overcome this phenomenon (Godara, 1997). Harrington has design a reactively steerable adaptive array (RSAA) using dipole antenna. This antenna is an adaptive array with single receiver. For reactively controlled antenna array, the beam pattern is controlled by varying the reactive loads. By optimizing the gain, we are able to steer the beam toward the maximum gain direction which is the desired signal (Harrington, 1978). Many studies has been conducted for adaptive beamforming antenna. These array antennas are consisting of several radiating elements such as a dipole or patch. These antennas have serious problems such as a bulky structures and a large amount of calculation because of blind algorithm (Cheng (2001), Schlub (2003), Vlasits (2008) and Abdullah (2010)).

In this study, a 5-elements of slotted patch antenna has been designed. An adaptive beam is formed by maximizing the correlation coefficient between the sampled signal and sampled time interval between Head Guard Interval (HGI) and Tail Guard Interval (TGI).



ANTENNA DESIGN

Antenna configuration

The simulation for the slotted antenna is carried out by using CST. The designed antenna consists of 5 elements. The size for each element is 41.2 mm x 41.2 mm with 13.7 mm x 13.7 mm slotted at the middle of the patch as shown in Figure-2.

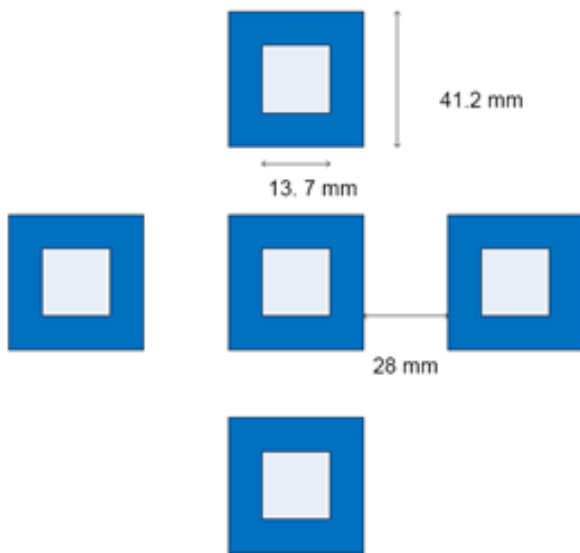


Figure-2. Antenna dimensions.

Description of simplex method

This section will describe about the downhill simplex method. It is an iterative search technique to minimize a function that is nonlinear in parameters. This method also known as Nelder-Mead method. The advantage of using Simplex method is it can be used to solve N-dimensional geometry. Simplex is a geometrical figure consisting N dimensions of N+1 points and all interconnecting line segments and polygonal faces. For example, in two dimensional, simplex is viewed as triangle.

Simplex method starts with defining, P_0 which is consists of N+1 points. After that all points in P_0 will be classified to highest point (x_h), second highest point (x_{sh}) and lowest point (x_l). Simplex method has several possible steps such as reflection, expansion, contraction and multiple contractions as shown in Figure-3. All this steps are required in order to discard the highest point.

The process starts by reflecting the highest point, x_h to a new point denoted as, x_r . Point x_r is defined as

$$x_r = (1 + \alpha)\bar{x} - \alpha x_h \quad (1)$$

Where, α is a reflection coefficient, and \bar{x} is a centroid point defined as

$$\bar{x} = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{i=1}^M x_i \quad i \neq h \quad (2)$$

If $P_l < P_r < P_{sh}$, then replaced x_h with x_r and start the new process again. If $P_r < P_l$, then there is possibility to find new minimum point. Therefore, the x_r point is expanded along the same direction using the following equation, x_e

$$x_e = \bar{x} + \beta(x_r - \bar{x}) \quad (3)$$

Where, β is an expansion coefficient and greater than one ($\beta > 1$). If $P_e < P_h$, then replaced x_h with x_e and repeat the process again. However, if P_e is greater or equal to P_h , then new simplex is formed by replacing x_h by x_r and continue the process.

If the reflection process leads the P_r to be greater than P_h , then contraction is performed using the following equation,

$$x_c = \bar{x} + \gamma(x_h - \bar{x}) \quad (4)$$

Where, γ is a contraction coefficient lies between 0 and 1. If $P_c > P_h$, the highest point cannot be discard, therefore contracted again around the lowest point. Otherwise, replaced x_h with x_c and restart the process again until the minimum value of P. Nelder has defined the best value for reflection, expansion and contraction coefficient is -1, 2 and 0.5, respectively (Nelder, 1965).

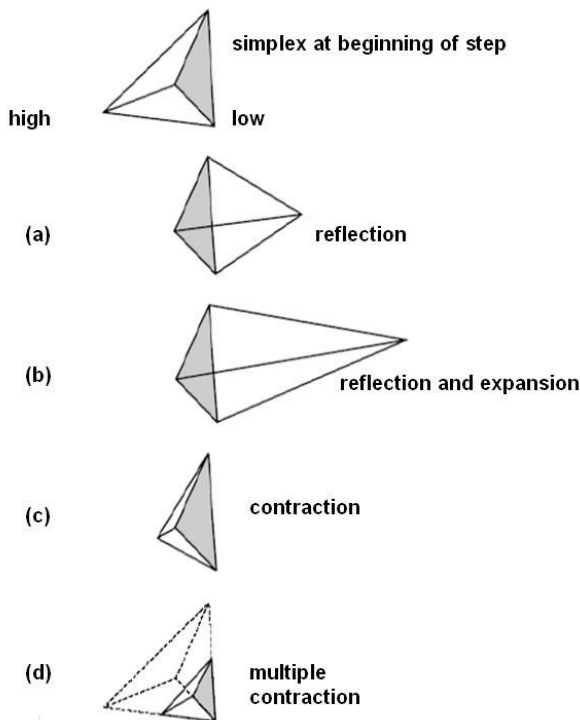


Figure-3. Downhill simplex method (Press).

Implementation of simplex method

In this study, Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing (OFDM) signal is used as an incident and delayed signal. HGI is placed at the head of the symbol. The correlation between HGI and TGI should be one because HGI is a copy of TGI.

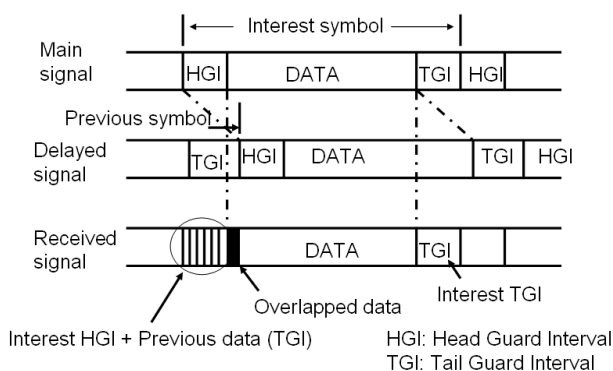


Figure-4. OFDM signal.

Figure-4 shows the main signal, delayed signal, and received signal. The correlation between HGI and TGI is calculated using equation (5).

$$\rho = \frac{|\sum_n y(n)y(n+m)^*|}{\sqrt{|\sum_n y(n)y(n)^*|} \sqrt{|\sum_n y(n+m)y(n+m)^*|}} \quad (5)$$

where $y(n)$ denotes the sampled signal of $y(t)$, and m denotes the sampled time interval between HGI and TGI.

If the correlation between HGI and TGI of the received signal becomes large, the delayed signal has to be cancelled. The correlation between HGI and TGI is used as an objective function.

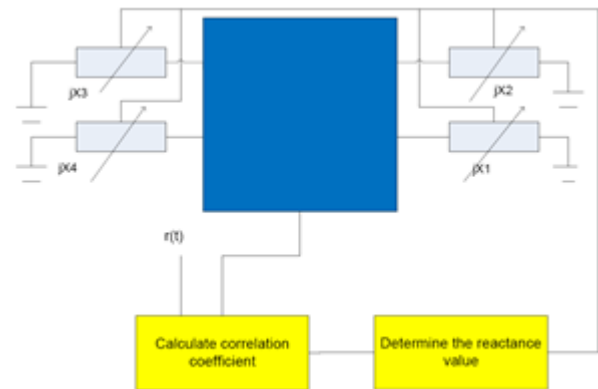


Figure-5. Concept of proposed antenna.

RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

Spatial cross correlation

Spatial cross correlation (SCC) is calculated by using equation 6 using MATLAB. The SCC must be less than 0.5 in order to ensure the capability of the antenna to operate as diversity antenna. From simulation, the SCC for each pair of ports are less than 0.5 as tabulated in Table-1.

$$SCC = \sqrt{\frac{|\int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^\pi A_1^*(\theta, \varphi) A_2(\theta, \varphi) d\theta d\varphi|^2}{\int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^\pi A_1^*(\theta, \varphi) A_1(\theta, \varphi) d\theta d\varphi \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^\pi A_2^*(\theta, \varphi) A_2(\theta, \varphi) d\theta d\varphi}} \quad (6)$$

Table-1. Simulated spatial cross correlation.

Port	1	2	3	4	5
1		0.1058	0.0982	0.1128	0.2062
2	0.1058		0.0495	0.0397	0.1112
3	0.0982	0.0495		0.0079	0.0857
4	0.1128	0.0397	0.0079		0.0570
5	0.2062	0.1112	0.0857	0.0570	

Adaptive beamforming

Adaptive beamforming simulation is done using MATLAB. As mentioned in previous part, the designed antenna has five-elements. One element is set to be active element (the middle patch as depicted in Figure-2). The other four elements that surround the active elements are set as passive elements (denoted by $jx_1 - jx_4$). There are connected to the variable reactance. The overall concept of



the designed antenna is depicted in Figure-5. The simulation starts by calculating the correlation coefficient between HGI and TGI. Then, it searches for the minimum value of the cost function and sends the new reactance value to each port of the passive elements. The reactance value will change the beam pattern of the antenna. The parameter listed in Table-2, are used in the simulation. For the modulation schemes, OFDM signal is used. In this simulation, two signals (the desired signal and the interference) are used, both signals are assumed to have same amplitude and incident from random directions.

Table-2. Simulation parameters.

Modulation	OFDM
No. of signals	1 desired signal 1 interference
Amplitude	1
Direction of arrival (DOA)	0°, 90° 0°, 210°

Figure-6 shows the beam pattern from two scenarios where the desired and interference are randomly selected. The red arrow represents the incoming interference and the desired signal is represented by the blue arrow. The simulation demonstrates that the proposed antenna can eliminate the incoming interference. As can be observed, null is performed for the interference coming from 90° and 210°.

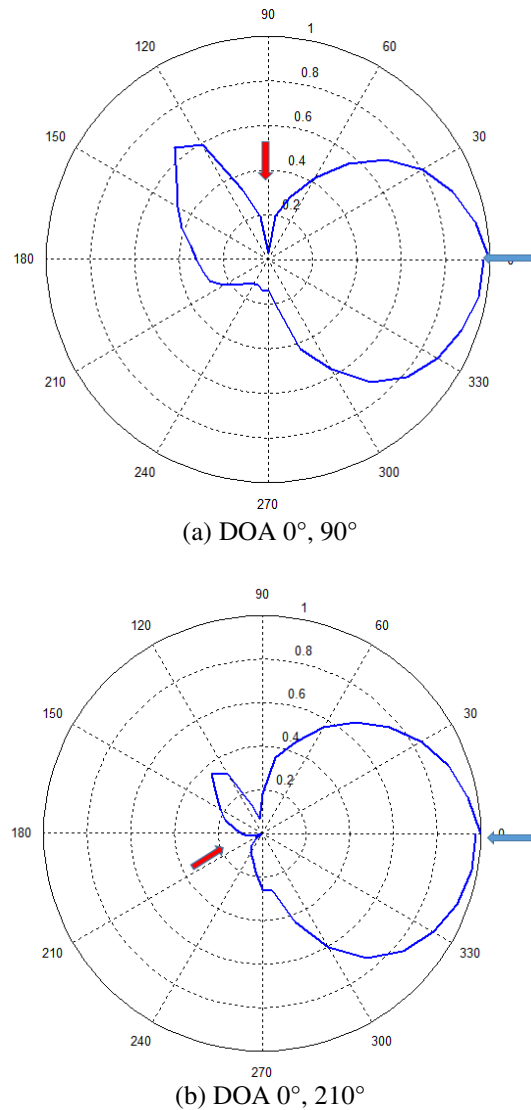


Figure-6. Beam pattern from MATLAB simulation.

By varying the reactance values, the interference can be eliminated. The reactance values are different for each interference. The reactance value for two DOAs can be referred to Table-3. For the interference coming from 90°, it took 0.0623 s to convergence the signal with 51 iterations, with SINR 15.1 dB. For the interference coming from 210° the time required to converge the signal is 0.0494 s with 38 iterations with SINR 33.76 dB.

Table-3. Simulation results.

DOA	Convergence time (s)	Iteration number	Reactance values (Ω)			
0°, 90°	0.0623	51	-21.49	15.88	25.84	-20.65
0°, 210°	0.0494	38	-13.65	4.61	29.17	59.4



CONCLUSIONS

A steerable antenna has been designed, modelled in this paper. The simulated results have been presented and discussed. The antenna is modelled using a slotted patch antenna. This designed antenna has SCC less than 0.5 for a better diversity performance. From MATLAB simulation, the designed antenna is capable to eliminate incoming interference and steer towards the desired signal. The beam of the antenna is controlled by reactance value which was calculated using downhill simplex method algorithm.

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