

Design and Bandwidth Optimization on Triangle Patch Microstrip Antenna for WLAN 2.4 GHz

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Design and Bandwidth Optimization on Triangle Patch Microstrip Antenna for WLAN 2.4 GHz

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Abstract. In this paper, single and dual element triangle patch microstrip antenna for WLAN 2.4 GHz is designed, analyzed and fabricated. Both proposed design utilized proximity feeding techniques. Afterwards the design is simulated HFFS and optimized, which finally the dimension of both design for frequency 2.4 GHz is obtained. The best simulation result for both single and dual element triangle patch microstrip antenna is used as reference for fabrication on FR4 substrate with dielectric constant (ϵ_r) = 4.4 and thickness = 1.6 mm. The measurement result showed that the single element can achieve return loss (S11) -51.913 dB and VSWR 1.0059 at 2.417 GHz, and then for dual element the result for return loss (S1) is -48.2138 for VSWR 1.0078 at 2.463 GHz. Compared to coaxial feeding technique, the proximity feeding has better parameter performance.

Key words: Coaxial feeding, HFFS, microstrip antenna, proximity feeding, return loss

1 Introduction

Microstrip antenna becomes more popular recently because of its advantages compared to the conventional antennas, such as Yagi-Uda, horn, helical, and parabolic. Even though they have higher gain and wider bandwidth, but the typical dimensional structure and large size are not applicable for compact wireless devices [1]. In the other hand, the microstrip antenna has several major superiorities such as light weight, low profile, small in size, ease to integrate with Microwave Integrated Circuit (MIC) and Monolithic Microwave Integrated Circuit (MMIC) [2]. Instead of its superiority, the poor bandwidth, low efficiency and gain become the weaknesses of microstrip antenna [3]. There are numerous methods that can be utilized to overcome this problem. One method that can be used to improve the microstrip antenna parameters is the feeding technique. Previous research has been conducted to analyze the effect of using different feeding technique on microstrip antenna, in which the result showed that the cut feed has better parameter performance compared to coaxial and microstrip line feeding technique [4]. From the previous research for cut feed or microstrip line feed with notch, the bandwidth only up to 60 MHz [5]. Furthermore, since bandwidth is one of the essential parameters for WLAN 2.4 GHz which should cover in the range of 100 MHz [6], better feeding technique should be utilized. In

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order to accommodate wider bandwidth, the proximity coupled feeding is one of feeding techniques which has better characteristics in suppressing the spurious feed radiation and enhance bandwidth [7]. Therefore, the use of proximity coupled feeding in present research design on microstrip antenna is considerable.

The aim of this research is to design and analyze a single and dual element triangle patch microstrip antenna utilized proximity coupled feeding. The decision on using triangle patch microstrip antenna is based on the reason that the area of triangle patch has fewer dimensions for the specified operation frequency [8]. Afterwards, the fabricated design is measured and compared to the bandwidth result of triangle patch microstrip antenna which utilized the coaxial feeding technique.

2 Antenna design

The triangle patch microstrip antenna is design to operate for 2.4 GHz. The design is fabricated on the dielectric substrate FR4, which has the dielectric permittivity constant of the substrate (ϵ_r) = 4.4 and thickness of the substrate (h) = 1.6 mm.

2.1 Resonant frequency

Resonant frequency determines the dimension of the microstrip antenna. Therefore the corresponding resonance frequency is determine by reference [9]

$$f_r = \frac{ck_{mn}}{2\pi \epsilon_r} = \frac{2c}{3a \epsilon_r} (m^2 + mn + n^2) \quad (1)$$

Where c is velocity of light in free space and K_{mn} is wave number. The wave number can be determined by reference [9]

$$K_{mn} = \frac{4\pi}{3a} \sqrt{m^2 + mn + n^2}$$

Therefore, from the above equation for lowest order resonance frequency, is given [9]

$$f_r = \frac{2c}{3a \epsilon_r} \quad (2)$$

Where:

f_r = resonance frequency

a = length of the side triangular patch

ϵ_r = relative dielectric constant of substrate

2.2 Triangular patch dimension

The triangular patch has three sides with a length, as shown in Figure 1 [10].

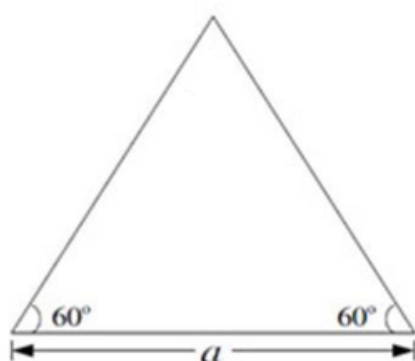


Fig. 1. Triangular patch microstrip antenna.

After substituting the above equation with the given value for $f_r = 2.44$ GHz as the centre frequency for WLAN, velocity of light $c = 3 \times 10^8$ m s⁻¹, and $\epsilon_r = 4.4$, the length of a can be calculated. In order to determine length of triangle patch a , the Eq. 2 is utilized which give the result [11].

$$a = \frac{2c}{3f_r \epsilon_r} \tag{3}$$

Finally, the value for length of triangle is obtained $a = 39.076$ 3 mm. Thus the height (L_p) is determined by mathematical equation as follow,

$$H = L_p = \sqrt{a^2 - \left(\frac{1}{2} \times a\right)^2} \tag{4}$$

From above Eq.4 for $a = 39.076$ 3 mm, it can be calculated that the height of triangle patch $L_p = 33.774$ 9 mm.

2.3 Ground plane dimension

The ground plane is an area which located in the bottom side. The position of ground plane is shown in Figure 2.

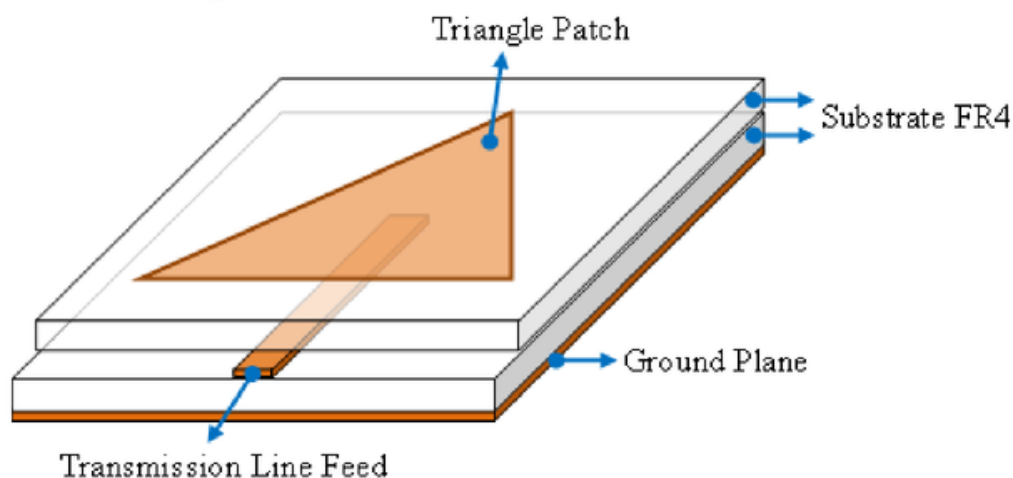


Fig. 2. Ground plane triangular patch microstrip antenna.

1 According to Punit S. Nakar the size of ground plane is larger than the patch dimensions by approximately six times the height or thickness of the substrate all around the periphery. Hence for the dimension design of the ground plane is determined by reference [12],

$$L_g = 6h + L_p \tag{5}$$

$$L_g = 6 \times 1.6 + 33.7749 = 43.3749 \text{ mm}$$

$$W_g = 6h + W_p \tag{6}$$

$$W_g = 6 \times 1.6 + 39.0763 = 48.6763 \text{ mm}$$

2.4 Proximity coupled feeding

In proximity coupled feeding eventually is arranged in stack of substrate layers, which mainly the feeding technique is similar to that microstrip line feeding. The dimension of the microstrip line feeding has important value in order to have matching condition between impedance of the triangle patch microstrip antenna and the transmission line. Therefore the width and length of $Z_0 = 50 \Omega$ microstrip feed line for single element can be determined from the following Equation [3],

$$W_f = \frac{2h}{\pi} \left(B - 1 - \ln(2B - 1) + \frac{\epsilon_r - 1}{2\epsilon_r} \left[\ln(B - 1) + 0.39 - \frac{0.61}{\epsilon_r} \right] \right) \tag{7}$$

Where $h = 1.6$, $B = 5.64$ and $\epsilon_r = 4.4$ then the result for feed line width can be obtained $W_f = 3 \text{ mm}$. The following step is calculating of the 50Ω microstrip feed line which can be obtained from the following Equation [3],

$$L_{f1} = \frac{\lambda_g}{4} = \frac{56.23}{4} = 14.0575 \text{ mm} \tag{8}$$

From Equation 8, where the value for $\lambda_g = 56.23 \text{ mm}$, then the result for $L_{f1} = 14.0575 \text{ mm}$.

For dual element triangle patch, the T-Junction 70.7Ω is needed to divide the power for both patches [13]. Figure 3 shows for the power divider to connect the both triangle patch microstrip antenna.

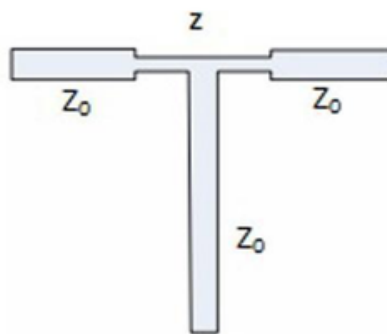


Fig. 3. T-Junction as power divider

In order to maintain the input impedance 50Ω , $\frac{1}{4} \lambda$ transformer is needed. The $\frac{1}{4} \lambda$ transformer is an impedance matching technique by providing transmission line impedance Z_t between two non-match transmission channels. To acquire the width of the $Z_0 = 70.7 \Omega$ can be determined using Equation 7.

For $B = 3.96$, $\epsilon_r = 4.4$, and the thickness for substrate $h = 1.6$ mm, the width of the feed line is obtained $W_f = 1.58$ mm. Thus, the length can be obtained by using Equation 8, for $\lambda_g = 43.29$ mm.

$$L_{f2} = \frac{\lambda_g}{4} = \frac{43.29}{4} = 10.8225 \text{ mm}$$

2.5 Distance between two elements

For dual element the distance between both patches should be calculated, this is due to the electromagnetically coupled effect. Therefore, the distance between two elements can be calculated using Equation 9.

$$d = \frac{c}{2f} \tag{9}$$

$$d = \frac{3 \times 10^8}{2 \times 2.44 \times 10^9} = 61.4754 \text{ mm}$$

Finally the distance between two triangle patch microstrip antenna is defined $d = 61.4754$ mm.

3 Proposed antenna

3.1 Single element triangle patch

The single element triangle patch microstrip antenna with proximity feeding technique are shown in Figure 4.

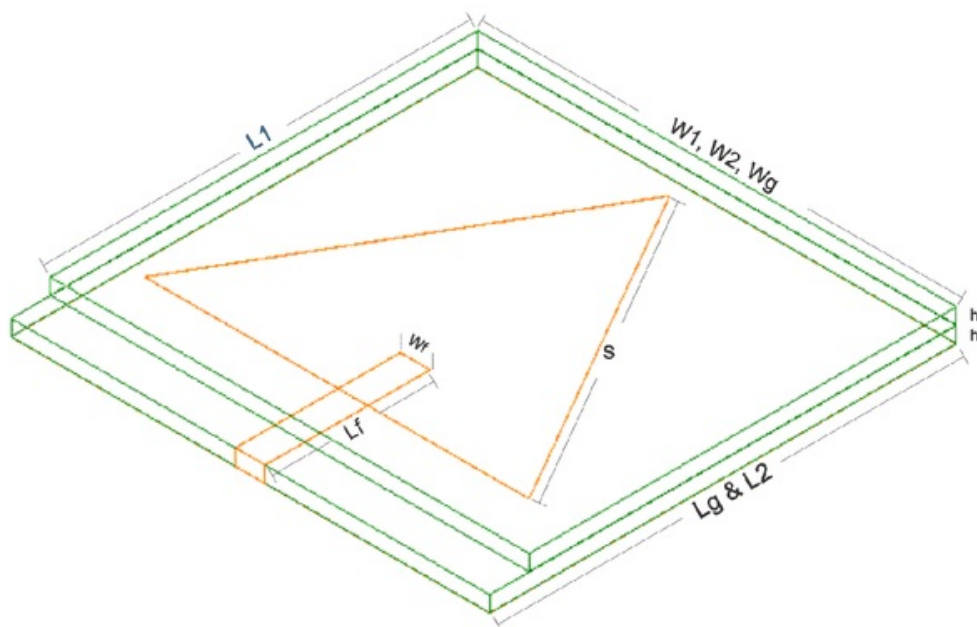


Fig. 4. Single element triangular patch microstrip antenna

From the Figure 4 above, the dimension of proposed antenna for single element is given in the Table 1.

Table 1. Proposed single element triangle patch.

No.	Antenna Dimension	Value (mm)
1	a (length of triangle patch)	39.076 3
2	L_1 (length of upper substrate)	43.374 9
3	L_2 (length of lower substrate)	47.441 0
4	L_g (length of ground plane)	47.441 0
5	W_1 (width of upper substrate)	48.676 3
6	W_2 (width of lower substrate)	48.676 3
7	W_g (width of ground plane)	48.676 3
8	h (thickness of substrate)	1.6
9	L_f (length of microstrip feedline)	16.760 8
10	W_f (width of microstrip feedline)	3.021 6

3.2 Dual element triangle patch

The following Figure 4 is shown for dual element triangle patch microstrip antenna.

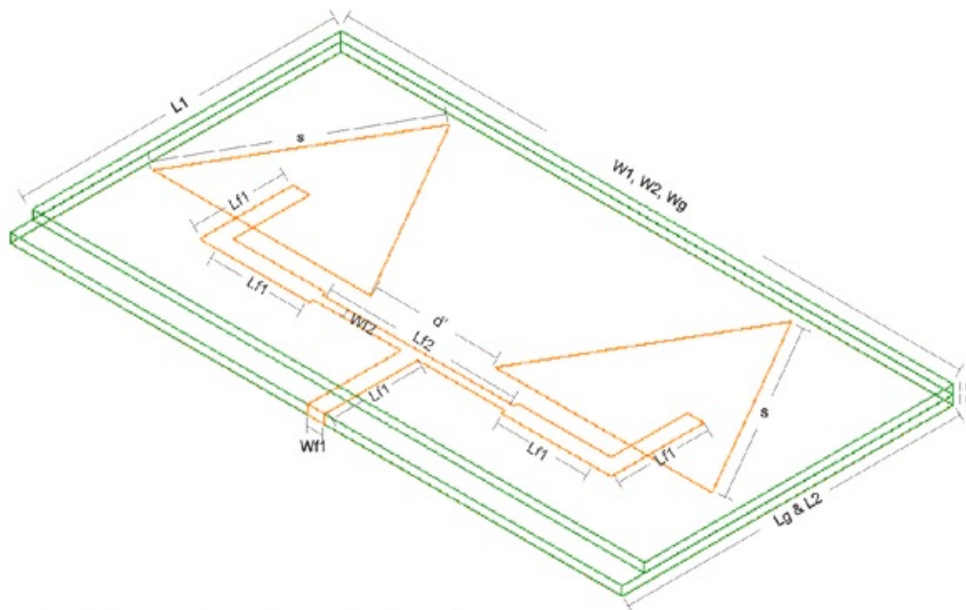


Fig. 5. Dual element triangular patch microstrip antenna.

The dimension of Figure 5 above and include the impedance matching is given in the following Table 2.

Table 2. Proposed dual element triangle patch.

No.	Antenna Dimension	Value (mm)
1	a (length of triangle patch)	39.076 3
2	L_1 (length of upper substrate)	55.601 4
3	L_2 (length of lower substrate)	59.601 4
4	L_g (length of ground plane)	59.601 4
5	W_1 (width of upper substrate)	110.151 7
6	W_2 (width of lower substrate)	110.151 7

Continue on next page

Table 2. Proposed dual element triangle patch (Continue).

No.	Antenna Dimension	Value (mm)
7	W_g (width of ground plane)	110.151 7
8	h (thickness of substrate)	1.6
9	L_{f1} (length of microstrip feedline 50 Ω)	16.760 8
10	W_{f1} (width of microstrip feedline 50 Ω)	3.021 6
11	L_{f2} (length of microstrip feedline 70,7 Ω)	34.507
12	W_{f2} (width of microstrip feedline 70,7 Ω)	1.5734 2
13	d (distance of both patches)	22.399 1

4 Simulation result

4.1 Return loss

For good result, the return loss (S11) should be less than -10 dB. In which the -10 dB is equivalent to VSWR > 2. From Figure 6 it is clear that the simulation result after optimization for single element for S11 is -31.955 6 dB at resonance frequency 2.42 GHz.

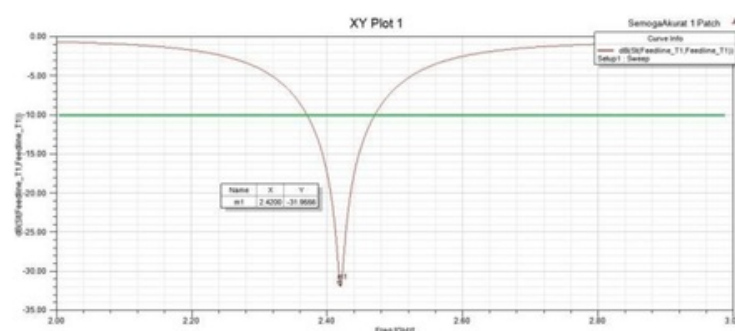


Fig. 6. Return loss (S11) for single element

The following Figure 7 it is depicted the return loss for dual element. After optimization the value of S11 is -24.367 2 dB at resonance frequency 2.43 4 GHz.

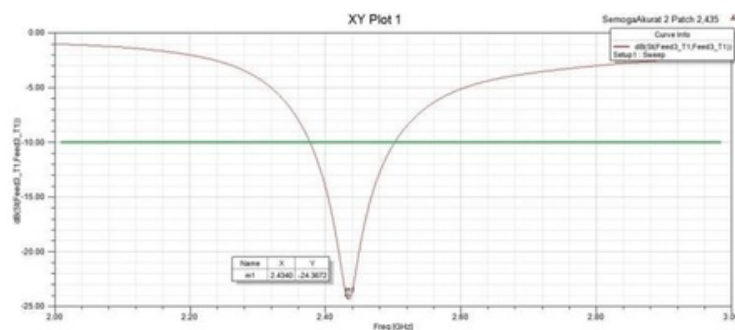


Fig. 7. Return loss (S11) for dual element.

1 4.2 VSWR

Voltage Standing Wave Ratio (VSWR) is the reflection coefficient. The VSWR for single element is presented in Figure 8, which shows the optimized simulated result for VSWR = 1.0518, which is less than 2.

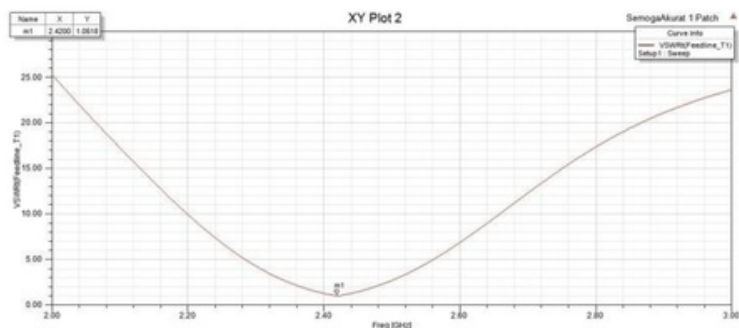


Fig. 8. Simulated VSWR for single element.

In Figure 9, shows the optimized simulation result for dual element VSWR = 1.1288.

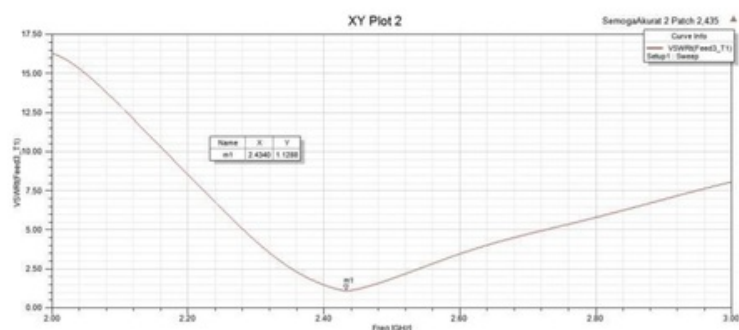


Fig. 9. Simulated VSWR for dual element.

5 Measurement result

5.1 Return loss

The measurement result for return loss (S11) is shown in Figure 10 for single element and Figure 11 for dual element. Both measurements were performed using vector network analyzer (VNA).

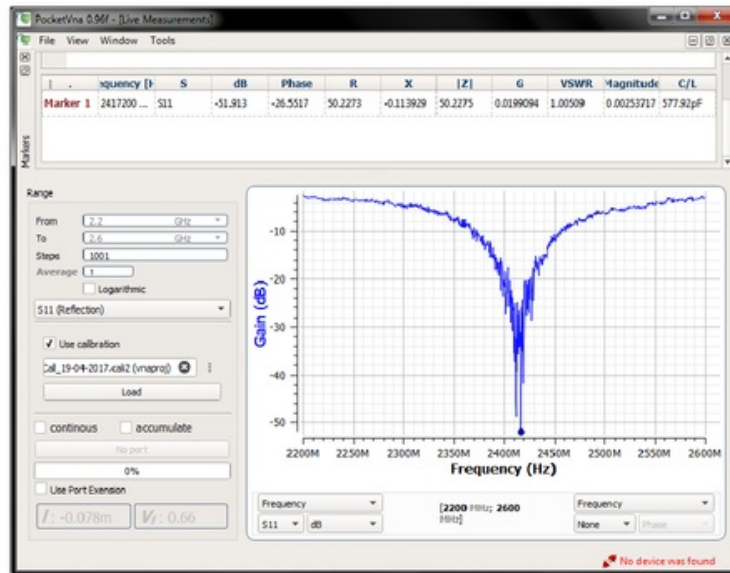


Fig. 10. Return loss for single patch element.

The obtained return loss for measurement in single patch is -51.913 dB at resonant frequency of 2.417 GHz.

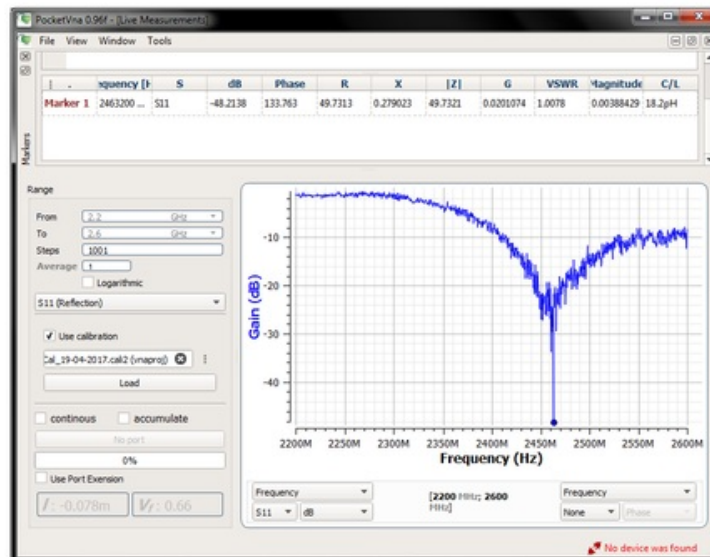


Fig. 11. Return loss for dual patch element.

The measurement result for dual element is -48.2138 dB at the resonant frequency of 2.463 GHz.

5.2 VSWR

For VSWR measurement result is shown in Figure 12 for single element and in Figure 13 for the dual element. The obtained measurement result for single and dual element is 1.0059 and 1.0078 respectively.

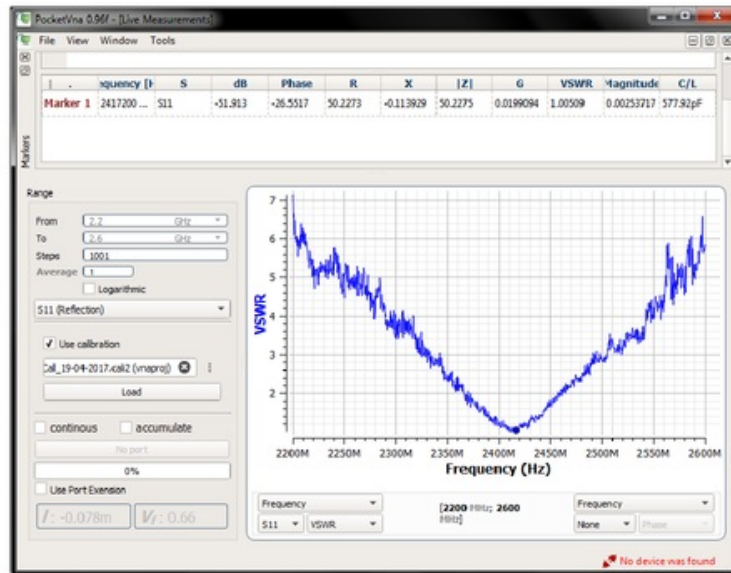


Fig. 12. VSWR for single patch element.

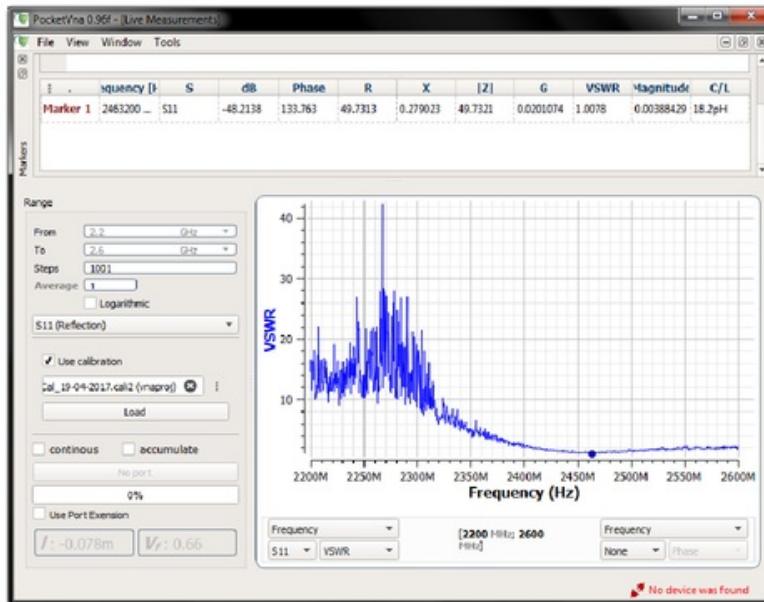


Fig. 13. VSWR for dual patch element.

5.3 Bandwidth

Bandwidth of antenna is capability of an antenna to cope range of frequency within the antenna operation frequency, which is less than -10 dB return loss value. The following Figure 14 and Figure 15 show the bandwidth result for single and dual triangle patch antenna.

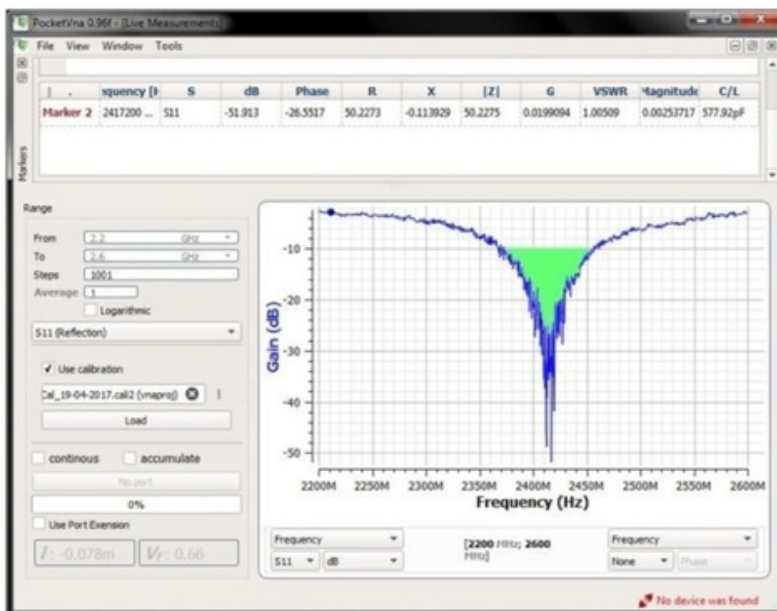


Fig. 14. Bandwidth for single patch element.

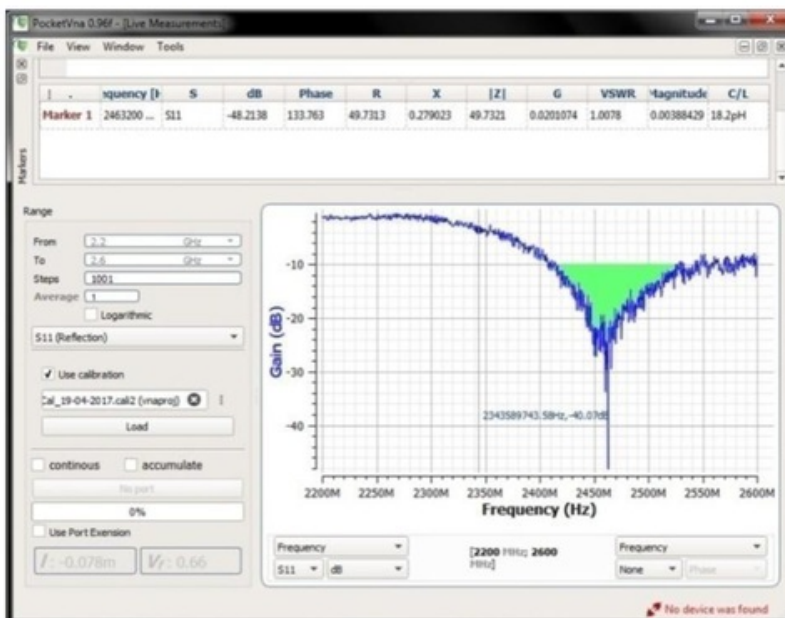


Fig. 15. Bandwidth for dual patch element.

From both figure above, it can be explained that the bandwidth for single element span from 2.372 GHz to 2.456 GHz. In which the bandwidth reaches 84 MHz. In other hand for dual element has range from 2.414 GHz until 2.525 GHz, so that the result is 111 MHz.

5.4 Comparison

The design of single and dual triangle patch microstrip antenna utilizing proximity coupled feeding technique is compared to the single and dual triangle antenna which is used the coaxial probe feeding technique. The result of the comparison is shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Comparison between proximity and coaxial probe feeding.

Parameters	Single Element		Dual Element	
	Coaxial Probe	Proximity	Coaxial Probe	Proximity
Return Loss (dB)	-15.93	-51.913	-19.31	-48.2138
VSWR	1.294	1.005 9	1.24	1.007 8
Bandwidth (MHz)	42	84	28	111
Resonance Frequency (GHz)	2.537	2.417	2.537	2.463

5.5 Fabrication design

The single and dual triangle patch microstrip antenna using proximity coupled feeding technique has been fabricated on a substrate material FR-4, which is shown in Figure 16 and Figure 17 respectively.



Fig. 16. Single triangle patch.

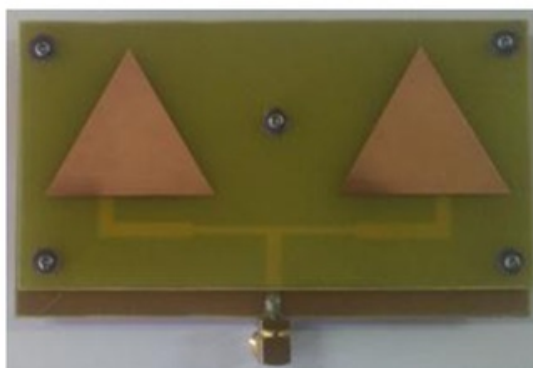


Fig. 17. Dual triangle patch.

6 Conclusion

Finally single and dual element triangle patch microstrip antenna is fabricated and presented. The both proposed antenna is suitable for WLAN 2.4 GHz application. The both fabricated antenna has good performance and almost perfectly impedance matching. It can be concluded that the parameter result of proximity coupled feeding techniques has better performance compare to the coaxial feeding techniques.

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