

WIDEBAND AND MULTIBAND ANTENNAS FOR MULTI-CONFIGURATION
MODE APPLICATIONS

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DEDICATION

Dedicated to my parents, Idris bin Ismail, Sulaihah Ab. Rashid,
my only sister with brother-in-law, Sakinah Idris, Mohd Zaidi Zuraini,
my in-law families, my nieces,
my beloved husband, Muhammad Ubaidullah Ramlan and
my daughter, Hana Humaira' Muhammad Ubaidullah,
with love for their prays, support and encouragement.

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Praise be to the Lord of all worlds. Prayers and peace be upon our Prophet, Muhammad, his family and all of his companions.

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ABSTRACT

A combination of a simultaneous band of operations is needed to fulfill customers' requirements such as having a cost-effective and better service in the wireless communication system applications. Integration of many antennas in one single device requires a lot of space. Therefore, a reconfigurable antenna is proposed to combine multiple antennas' operations into one antenna, allowing simultaneous bands to operate at one time. This thesis presents three proposed antenna designs equipped with the switching ability between narrowband, multiband and wideband reconfigurations using Positive-Intrinsic-Negative (PIN) diodes as switching techniques. The first proposed antenna (Antenna A) is a combination of elliptical monopole and slot-dipole Coplanar Waveguide (CPW)-fed antenna that can operate in three modes known as narrowband (2.4 GHz / 3.5 GHz / 5.2 GHz), multiband (2.4 GHz, 3.5 GHz and 5.2 GHz), and wideband (2.0 GHz to 6.0 GHz). The second proposed antenna (Antenna B) operates at different operating frequency ranges such as dual-band at 1.57 GHz and 2.4 GHz and wideband from 3.5 GHz to 9.0 GHz. Additionally, it can achieve a single narrowband mode if additional switches are added. The second antenna concept is extended to the third and final proposed antenna (Antenna C) but with additional functionality. Unlike the second antenna, the third antenna resonates in multiband and wideband modes simultaneously. It is achieved by incorporating the slot-dipole arm into a bowtie shape with a CPW-fed antenna. The antenna provides a simultaneous multi-wideband mode operation (1.57 GHz, 2.4 GHz and 3.3 GHz to 9.0 GHz) and is switched to a multiband mode (1.57 GHz, 2.6 GHz, 3.5 GHz, 7.0 GHz) and a wideband mode (3.5 GHz to 9.0 GHz). The proposed antennas were designed using Computer Simulation Technology (CST) software, fabricated on Flame Retardant 4 (FR4) substrate and tested in terms of S_{11} , radiation pattern and gain performances. The proposed antennas are applicable in the telecommunication industry, such as multimode wireless communication systems that offer multiple standards and applications, for instance, Global Positioning System (GPS), Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN), Fourth Generation Long-Term Evolution (4G LTE), Bluetooth, and others through a wide range of frequencies. Multiple wireless communication services in a single antenna will optimize the antenna functionality and increase the flexibility of the antenna towards the system applications. In addition, less space is required as compared to the system which employed a conventional antenna. The proposed antennas provide more applications in a single antenna as compared to other previously reported works on frequency reconfigurable antenna.

ABSTRAK

Gabungan jalur beroperasi secara serentak diperlukan untuk memenuhi kehendak pelanggan seperti mempunyai perkhidmatan yang menjimatkan kos dan lebih baik di dalam aplikasi sistem komunikasi tanpa wayar. Penyatuan pelbagai antenna di dalam satu peranti memerlukan banyak ruang. Oleh itu, antenna yang dapat dikonfigurasi semula dicadangkan untuk menggabungkan jalur beroperasi secara serentak pada satu masa. Tesis ini memperkenalkan tiga rekabentuk antenna dilengkapi dengan kebolehan untuk menukar konfigurasi di antara jalur sempit, berbilang dan lebar dengan menggunakan suis Positif-Intrinsik-Negatif (PIN) diod. Antena pertama yang dicadangkan (Antena A) ialah kombinasi antara antenna elips ekakutub dan lubang alur-dwikutub suapan-Pandu Gelombang Sesatah (CPW), yang mampu untuk beroperasi di dalam tiga mod yang dikenali sebagai, jalur sempit (2.4 GHz / 3.5 GHz / 5.2 GHz), jalur berbilang (2.4 GHz, 3.5 GHz dan 5.2 GHz), dan jalur lebar (2.0 GHz sehingga 6.0 GHz). Antena kedua yang dicadangkan (Antena B) beroperasi pada julat operasi frekuensi yang berbeza seperti jalur dual pada 1.57 GHz dan 2.4 GHz dan jalur lebar antara 3.5 GHz sehingga 9.0 GHz. Selain itu, antenna ini mampu mencapai mod jalur sempit yang tunggal jika suis tambahan ditambah. Konsep antenna kedua dilanjutkan kepada cadangan antenna ketiga (Antena C) dengan kefungsiian tambahan. Tidak seperti antenna kedua, antenna ketiga mempunyai kebolehan untuk menyalun di mod jalur berbilang dan jalur lebar secara serentak. Ini dapat dicapai dengan menggabungkan lengan lubang alur-dwikutub kepada bentuk tali leher dengan antenna suapan-CPW. Antena ini menyediakan mod serentak jalur berbilang-lebar (1.57 GHz, 2.4 GHz dan 3.3 GHz sehingga 9.0 GHz), dan bertukar ke mod jalur berbilang (1.57 GHz, 2.6 GHz, 3.5 GHz, 7.0 GHz) dan mod jalur lebar (3.5 GHz sehingga 9.0 GHz). Antena yang dicadangkan direka menggunakan perisian Computer Simulation Technology (CST), difabrikasi pada Flame Retardant 4 (FR4) substrat dan prestasinya diuji dari segi S_{11} , pola radiasi dan gandaan. Antena yang dicadangkan boleh digunakan di industri telekomunikasi seperti sistem komunikasi berbilang mod tanpa wayar yang menawarkan pelbagai piawai dan aplikasi seperti Sistem Penentu Sejagat (GPS), Rangkaian Wayarles Kawasan Setempat (WLAN), Generasi Evolusi Jangka Panjang Ke-empat (4G LTE), Bluetooth dan sebagainya melalui jarak frekuensi yang lebar. Perkhidmatan berbilang komunikasi tanpa wayar dalam satu antenna akan mengoptimumkan fungsi sesebuah antenna dan meningkatkan kebolehlenturan antenna terhadap aplikasi sistem. Di samping itu, ruang yang sedikit diperlukan berbanding dengan sistem yang menggunakan antenna konvensional. Antena yang dicadangkan menyediakan lebih banyak aplikasi dalam satu antenna tunggal berbanding dengan kerja-kerja sebelumnya pada antenna boleh konfigurasi semula frekuensi.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	TITLE	PAGE
	DECLARATION	iii
	DEDICATION	iv
	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	v
	ABSTRACT	vi
	ABSTRAK	vii
	TABLE OF CONTENTS	vii
	LIST OF TABLES	xi
	LIST OF FIGURES	xiv
	LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xxi
	LIST OF SYMBOLS	xxii
	LIST OF APPENDICES	xxiii
CHAPTER 1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Research Background	1
1.2	Problem Statements	2
1.3	Research Objectives	3
1.4	Scope of Research	4
1.5	Thesis Outline	5
CHAPTER 2	LITERATURE REVIEW	7
2.1	Introduction	7
2.2	Frequency Reconfigurable Antenna	9
2.2.1	Narrowband-to-Multiband Configuration	10
2.2.2	Narrowband-to-Wideband Configuration	14
2.2.3	Multiband-to-Wideband Configuration	19
2.2.4	Narrowband-to-Multiband-to-Wideband Configuration	23
2.2.5	Narrowband-and-Wideband Simultaneous Configuration	26

2.3	Harmonic Suppression Stub Filter	32
2.4	Chapter Summary	38
CHAPTER 3	RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	41
3.1	Overview	41
3.2	Research Methodology	41
3.3	Simulation Process	47
3.4	Fabrication and Measurement Process	51
3.5	Design Specification and Limitations	57
3.6	Chapter Summary	58
CHAPTER 4	ELLIPTICAL MONOPOLE AND SLOT DIPOLE RECONFIGURABLE ANTENNA	59
4.1	Overview	59
4.2	Multiband Slot Dipole CPW-Fed Antenna Design	59
4.3	Wideband Elliptical Monopole Antenna Design	67
4.4	Multiband-to-Wideband Reconfigurable Antenna (Antenna A)	73
4.4.1	Antenna Design	74
4.4.2	Measurement Results	79
4.4.3	The Effects of PIN Diode Switches	85
4.5	Single, Dual, Triple and Wideband Configuration	92
4.6	Chapter Summary	95
CHAPTER 5	RECONFIGURABLE ANTENNA WITH HARMONIC SUPPRESSION CHARACTERISTIC	99
5.1	Overview	99
5.2	Antenna Design	99
5.3	Band-Pass Filter	114
5.4	Multiband-to-Wideband Reconfigurable Antenna with Harmonic Suppression Characteristic (Antenna B)	125
5.4.1	Antenna Design	125
5.4.2	Parametric Study	126
5.4.3	Experimental Results	129
5.4.4	Biasing Circuit and PIN Diode Effects	139

5.4.5	Radiator Effects Towards Wideband Mode	142
5.5	Chapter Summary	146
CHAPTER 6	SIMULTANEOUS MULTIBAND-WIDEBAND SLOTTED BOWTIE ANTENNA	149
6.1	Introduction	149
6.2	Antenna Design	149
6.2.1	Final Antenna Design	157
6.2.2	Antenna Configurations	159
6.3	Results and Discussions	160
6.3.1	State One – Dual-band and Wideband Mode	160
6.3.2	State Two – Single, Low-band and Wideband Mode	163
6.3.3	State Three – Single, High-band and Wideband Mode	168
6.3.4	State Four – Wideband Mode	171
6.3.5	State Five – Multiband Mode	174
6.3.6	Current Distributions	177
6.4	Biasing Circuit and PIN Diode Effects	179
6.5	Chapter Summary	183
CHAPTER 7	CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE WORK	187
7.1	Conclusions	187
7.1.1	Switched Multiband-Wideband Reconfigurable Antenna (Antenna A)	187
7.1.2	Switched Multiband-Wideband Reconfigurable Antenna with Harmonics Suppression Characteristic (Antenna B)	188
7.1.3	Switched Multiband-Wideband Simultaneous Reconfigurable Antenna (Antenna C)	188
7.2	Future Works	189
	REFERENCES	191
	LIST OF PUBLICATIONS	224

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE NO.	TITLE	PAGE
Table 2.1	Narrowband-to-multiband configuration	12
Table 2.2	Narrowband-to-wideband configuration	17
Table 2.3	Summary of multiband-to-wideband configuration	22
Table 2.4	Summary of narrowband-to-multiband-to-wideband configuration	25
Table 2.5	Summary of narrowband-to-multiband-to-wideband configuration	30
Table 2.6	Summary of all configurations	31
Table 3.1	The process of radiation pattern and gain measurement	54
Table 4.1	Design specification for Antenna A	60
Table 4.2	Dimension of slot dipole CPW-fed antenna	61
Table 4.3	Summary of varying W_M for slot dipole CPW-fed antenna	62
Table 4.4	Summary of gain results for slot dipole CPW-fed antenna	66
Table 4.5	Elliptical monopole antenna parameters	67
Table 4.6	Summary of gain results for an elliptical monopole antenna	73
Table 4.7	Antenna A optimized parameters	74
Table 4.8	Antenna A using PIN diode switch parameters	78
Table 4.9	Switch configuration for Antenna A using PIN diode	79
Table 4.10	Summary of a multiband mode of Antenna A	81
Table 4.11	Simulated current distribution for Antenna A	81
Table 4.12	Simulated and measured radiation pattern results of Antenna A for H-plane (straight black line – simulated, dash red line – measured)	83
Table 4.13	Simulated and measured radiation pattern results of Antenna A for E-plane (straight black line – simulated, dash red line – measured)	83
Table 4.14	Summary of gain results of Antenna A	85

Table 4.15	Summary of gain results in wideband mode	88
Table 4.16	Summary of gain results in multiband mode	90
Table 4.17	Gain summary in a multiband mode based on Figure 4.29	92
Table 4.18	Gain summary in a wideband mode based on Figure 4.29	92
Table 4.19	Summary of switches configuration to obtain additional modes	93
Table 4.20	Performance comparison of the proposed antenna and published works in Subsection 2.2.4	96
Table 5.1	Design specification for Antenna B	100
Table 5.2	Antenna parameters, a combination of two antennas	101
Table 5.3	Simulated current distribution using PIN diode switches	110
Table 5.4	Summary of gain results in Figure 5.14	114
Table 5.5	Configuration A parameters	115
Table 5.6	Bandwidth summary for varying both L_{S1} and W_{S1}	116
Table 5.7	Summary results for Figure 5.18	118
Table 5.8	Parameters of the final design for the band-pass filter	123
Table 5.9	Simulated current distribution for Antenna B	133
Table 5.10	Simulated and measured radiation pattern results in multiband mode using PIN diode switch (straight black line – simulated, red dash line – measured)	135
Table 5.11	Simulated and measured radiation pattern results in wideband mode using PIN diode switch (straight black line – simulated, red dash line – measured)	136
Table 5.12	Summary of gain results of Antenna B	138
Table 5.13	Performance comparison of the proposed antenna and published works in Subsection 2.2.3	147
Table 6.1	Design specification for Antenna C	150
Table 6.2	Summary of S_{11} result when varying substrate width, W	153
Table 6.3	Antenna C parameters	158
Table 6.4	Switch configuration for Antenna C	159
Table 6.5	Details of simulated and measured gain results for state one	161

Table 6.6	Simulated and measured radiation pattern results in state one (straight black line – simulated, red dash line – measured)	162
Table 6.7	Details of simulated and measured gain results for state two	165
Table 6.8	Simulated and measured radiation pattern results in state two (straight black line – simulated, red dash line – measured)	167
Table 6.9	Details of simulated and measured gain results for state three	169
Table 6.10	Simulated and measured radiation pattern results in state three (straight black line – simulated, red dash line – measured)	170
Table 6.11	Details of simulated and measured gain results for state four	172
Table 6.12	Simulated and measured radiation pattern results in state four (straight black line – simulated, red dash line – measured)	173
Table 6.13	Details of simulated and measured gain results for state five	174
Table 6.14	Simulated and measured radiation pattern results in state five (straight black line – simulated, red dash line – measured)	176
Table 6.15	Performance comparison of the proposed antenna and published works in Subsection 2.2.5	184

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE NO.	TITLE	PAGE
Figure 2.1	Antenna design (a) geometry (b) simulated S_{11} result (Saleem and Quddus, 2017)	11
Figure 2.2	Antenna design (a) geometry (b) triple-band S_{11} result (c) single-band S_{11} result (Kumar <i>et al.</i> , 2016)	11
Figure 2.3	Antenna design (a) geometry (b) case 1 – UWB mode (c) case 2 – WiMAX band (d) case 3 – WLAN band (e) case 4 – X-band band (Srivastava <i>et al.</i> , 2017)	15
Figure 2.4	Antenna design (a) geometry (b) case 1 – UWB mode (c) case 2 – 2.4 GHz WLAN band (d) case 3 – 5.8 GHz WLAN band (Deng <i>et al.</i> , 2018)	16
Figure 2.5	Antenna design (a) geometry (b) wideband mode (c) multiband mode (Abutarboush and Shamim, 2018)	19
Figure 2.6	Antenna design (a) geometry (b) simulated S_{11} result (Cherian and Das, 2015)	20
Figure 2.7	Antenna design (a) geometry (b) wideband mode (c) multiband mode (Cleetus and Bala, 2019)	21
Figure 2.8	Antenna design (a) geometry (b) wideband mode (c) multiband mode (Awan <i>et al.</i> , 2020)	22
Figure 2.9	Antenna design (a) geometry (b) switch position (c) UWB mode (d) narrowband mode (e) multiband mode (Bitchikh <i>et al.</i> , 2018)	23
Figure 2.10	Antenna design (a) geometry (b) wideband mode (c) single-band mode (d) dual-band mode (Sharma and Tripathi, 2017)	24
Figure 2.11	Antenna design (a) geometry (b) wideband mode (c) single-band mode (d) dual-band mode (Saraswat and Kumar, 2019)	25
Figure 2.12	Antenna design (a) geometry (b) S_{11} result when switch OFF (c) S_{11} result when switch ON (Heydari <i>et al.</i> , 2017)	27
Figure 2.13	Antenna design (a) geometry (b) S_{11} result (c) prototype (Thanh Tu <i>et al.</i> , 2019)	29
Figure 2.14	Antenna design (a) geometry (b) prototype (c) simulated S_{11} result (d) measured S_{11} result for case one (Nafde and Pande, 2016)	30

Figure 2.15	Design layout for the antenna (a) front view (b) back view (Rahim <i>et al.</i> , 2012)	33
Figure 2.16	Simulated S_{11} result for the antenna (a) without filter (b) with filter (Rahim <i>et al.</i> , 2012)	34
Figure 2.17	Antenna design (a) layout (b) S_{11} result with and without stubs (Hamzah <i>et al.</i> , 2013)	35
Figure 2.18	Geometry of the antenna (a) conventional design (b) modified design with slot stubs (c) S_{11} results with and without the stubs (Lu and Hsu, 2014)	36
Figure 2.19	Antenna presented (a) final design (b) S_{11} results with and without the stubs (Fadzil <i>et al.</i> , 2016)	36
Figure 2.20	Antenna design (a) geometry (b) S_{11} results with and without the stub (Albishti <i>et al.</i> , 2018)	37
Figure 2.21	Antenna design (a) layout (b) S_{11} results with and without the stubs (Zang <i>et al.</i> , 2019)	38
Figure 3.1	Flow chart, a summary of the project	42
Figure 3.2	Flow chart of the antenna design in chapter 4 and 6	44
Figure 3.3	Flow chart of the antenna design in chapter 5 (a) earlier process (b) ideal switch case (c) real switch case	46
Figure 3.4	Overview of simulation process using full electromagnetic (a) model view (b) 3D far-field result view	48
Figure 3.5	Overview of simulation process using electromagnetic circuit co-simulation (a) in the main layout to choose the discrete port and lumped element (b) in the schematic layout to run a simulation on the real switch	49
Figure 3.6	Visualization of Mesh in the main layout (a) toggling mesh mode to view mesh inspection mode (b) orientation and global properties mode (c) standard mesh cells value of 1.33 million (d) adjusted mesh cells value of 5.27 million	51
Figure 3.7	Time-domain solver parameter (a) click 'red and T' icon to open the dialogue box (b) change the accuracy value in the dialogue box.	52
Figure 3.8	Measurement process during (a) S_{11} measurement (b) radiation and gain measurement	53
Figure 4.1	Slot dipole CPW-fed antenna geometry	60
Figure 4.2	Parametric studies of slot dipole CPW-fed antenna, substrate width	62
Figure 4.3	Fabricated slot dipole CPW-fed antenna	63

Figure 4.4	Simulated and measured S_{11} results of slot dipole CPW-fed antenna	63
Figure 4.5	Simulated current distribution of slot dipole CPW-fed antenna at a frequency (a) 2.4 GHz (b) 3.5 GHz (c) 5.2 GHz	64
Figure 4.6	Simulated and measured results of radiation patterns for H-plane (black line) and E-plane (red line) at (a) 2.4 GHz (b) 3.5 GHz (c) 5.2 GHz	65
Figure 4.7	Simulated and measured gain results of slot dipole CPW-fed antenna	66
Figure 4.8	Elliptical monopole antenna geometry	67
Figure 4.9	Simulated S_{11} result of elliptical monopole antenna from 1.0 GHz to 13.0 GHz	69
Figure 4.10	Parametric studies of wideband mode by varying the size of elliptical radiator	69
Figure 4.11	Prototype of elliptical monopole	70
Figure 4.12	Simulated and measured S_{11} results of elliptical monopole antenna	70
Figure 4.13	Simulated current distribution of elliptical monopole antenna at a frequency (a) 2.4 GHz (b) 3.5 GHz (c) 5.2 GHz	71
Figure 4.14	Simulated and measured results of radiation patterns of elliptical monopole antenna for H-plane (black line) and E-plane (red line) at (a) 2.4 GHz (b) 3.5 GHz (c) 5.2 GHz	72
Figure 4.15	Simulated and measured gain results of elliptical monopole antenna	73
Figure 4.16	Geometry of Antenna A using the ideal switch and switch positions	74
Figure 4.17	Comparison simulated S_{11} results of Antenna A without biasing circuit, slot dipole CPW-fed antenna and elliptical monopole antenna	75
Figure 4.18	Multiband mode S_{11} results by varying the W_C dimension	76
Figure 4.19	Wideband mode S_{11} results by varying the W_C dimension	76
Figure 4.20	Ideal switch configurations (a) multiband (b) wideband	77
Figure 4.21	Schematic of Antenna A using PIN diode switches and biasing circuit	78

Figure 4.22	Fabricated Antenna A using PIN diode switches and biasing circuit	79
Figure 4.23	Equivalent circuit of PIN diode (a) ON state (b) OFF state	79
Figure 4.24	Simulated and measured S_{11} results of Antenna A (a) multiband mode (b) wideband mode	80
Figure 4.25	Simulated and measured gain results of Antenna A (a) multiband mode (b) wideband mode	85
Figure 4.26	Photograph of a fabricated Antenna A using (a) ideal switches, wideband mode (b) real switch, PIN diode switch	86
Figure 4.27	Comparison of S_{11} and gain result in wideband mode (a) simulated (b) measured	87
Figure 4.28	Comparison of S_{11} and gain result in multiband mode (a) simulated (b) measured	89
Figure 4.29	Simulated gain results, comparison between the ideal and real switches in H-plane direction at (a) multiband mode (b) wideband mode; and 3D-plane direction at (c) multiband mode (d) wideband mode	91
Figure 4.30	Antenna geometry for additional mode cases	93
Figure 4.31	Simulated S_{11} results, comparison between ideal and real for additional modes (a) state one (b) state two (c) state three (d) state four (e) state five (f) state six	94
Figure 5.1	Antenna geometry, a combination of two antennas	101
Figure 5.2	Parametric study of L_{A4} when L_{M2} is 83 mm	102
Figure 5.3	Parametric study of L_{A4} when L_{M2} is 100 mm	103
Figure 5.4	Parametric study of L_{A4} and L_B when L_{M2} is 100 mm	104
Figure 5.5	Parametric study of L_{A4} when L_{M2} is 125 mm	105
Figure 5.6	Parametric study of W_{BF} when L_{M2} is 125 mm	105
Figure 5.7	Parametric study for expanding the length of L_{W2} in wideband mode	106
Figure 5.8	Parametric study for the size of the elliptical radiator in wideband mode	107
Figure 5.9	Parametric study in wideband mode when W_{W2} is varied	108
Figure 5.10	Fabricated antenna using PIN diode switches	109
Figure 5.11	Comparison S_{11} simulated results between the ideal and PIN diode switch (a) multiband mode (b) wideband mode	109

Figure 5.12	S_{11} simulated and measured results using the PIN diode switch (a) multiband mode (b) wideband mode	110
Figure 5.13	Radiation pattern simulated and measured results at multiband mode (a) 1.6 GHz (b) 2.4 GHz, and wideband mode (c) 3.5 GHz (d) 5.2 GHz (e) 7.0 GHz (straight black line: simulated H-plane, dash black line: measured H-plane, straight dotted red line: simulated E-plane, dash-dotted red line: measured E-plane)	112
Figure 5.14	Gain simulated and measured results (a) dual-band slot dipole antenna (b) elliptical monopole antenna	113
Figure 5.15	Single-line rectangular slot band-pass filter, Configuration A	114
Figure 5.16	S_{21} results of Configuration A (a) vary L_{S1} , $W_{S1}=0.5$ mm (b) varies W_{S1} , $L_{S1}=10$ mm	116
Figure 5.17	Configuration B (a) geometry (b) S_{21} result (c) comparison with Configuration A	117
Figure 5.18	Parametric study by varying W_{SA} in Configuration B	118
Figure 5.19	Configuration C (a) geometry (b) comparison with Configuration B	119
Figure 5.20	Configuration D (a) geometry (b) comparison with Configuration C	119
Figure 5.21	Configuration E (a) geometry (b) study on varying W_{BB} (c) comparison with Configuration B - same length (d) comparison with Configuration B - different length	121
Figure 5.22	Configuration F (a) geometry (b) comparison with Configuration D - same length (c) comparison with Configuration D - different length	122
Figure 5.23	Final design of a band-pass filter	123
Figure 5.24	S_{11} and S_{21} results of the final filter design	124
Figure 5.25	Geometry of Antenna B using the PIN diode switch and the switches positions	126
Figure 5.26	Fabricated of Antenna B	126
Figure 5.27	Comparison simulated S_{11} results in three different cases	127
Figure 5.28	Simulated S_{11} results (a) first case, fixed L_{W2} (b) second case, fixed L_{A4} and L_{A5}	129
Figure 5.29	Comparison results of multiband mode (a) ideal switch - S_{11} (b) PIN diode switch - S_{11} (c) simulated S_{11} and S_{21} filter result using ideal and real switch	131

Figure 5.30	Wideband mode S_{11} results of simulated and measured using (a) ideal switch (b) PIN diode switch	132
Figure 5.31	S_{11} and gain results for multiband mode (a) simulated (b) measured	137
Figure 5.32	S_{11} and gain results for wideband mode (a) simulated (b) measured	138
Figure 5.33	Antenna geometry to study biasing circuit effect (a) without biasing circuit (b) with biasing circuit	139
Figure 5.34	Comparison of simulated S_{11} and gain result	139
Figure 5.35	Antenna geometry to study PIN diode effect in multiband mode (a) ideal case (b) real case	140
Figure 5.36	Comparison of simulated S_{11} and gain results between the ideal and real switch in multiband mode	140
Figure 5.37	Antenna geometry to study PIN diode effect in wideband mode (a) ideal case (b) real case	141
Figure 5.38	Comparison of simulated S_{11} and gain result between the ideal and real switch in wideband mode	142
Figure 5.39	Geometry antenna to study radiator effect, first case (a) Chapter 4 (b) Chapter 5	143
Figure 5.40	Simulated comparison result (a) S_{11} (b) gain in maximum direction (c) gain in H-plane direction	143
Figure 5.41	Geometry antenna to study radiator effect, second case (a) Antenna 'B1' (b) Antenna 'B2' (c) Antenna 'B3'	144
Figure 5.42	Simulated comparison result between Antenna 'B1', Antenna 'B2' and Antenna 'B3' (a) S_{11} (b) gain	145
Figure 6.1	Basic slotted bowtie antenna (a) geometry (b) S_{11} result	151
Figure 6.2	Parametric study when varying L_{BT} (a) antenna geometry (b) S_{11} result	151
Figure 6.3	Parametric study when varying W_{BT} (a) antenna geometry (b) S_{11} result (c) zooming view on the first band only	152
Figure 6.4	Parametric study when varying W_{F2} (a) antenna geometry (b) S_{11} result	153
Figure 6.5	Parametric study when varying W (a) antenna geometry (b) S_{11} result	153
Figure 6.6	Parametric study when varying L_R (a) antenna geometry (b) S_{11} result	154

Figure 6.7	Parametric study when varying W_{BTG} (a) antenna geometry (b) S_{11} result	155
Figure 6.8	Parametric study when varying L_{A6} (a) antenna geometry (b) S_{11} result	155
Figure 6.9	Parametric study when varying L (a) antenna geometry (b) S_{11} result	156
Figure 6.10	Parametric study when varying L_{A6} when $L = 150.0$ mm (a) antenna geometry (b) S_{11} result	157
Figure 6.11	Antenna C using PIN diode switches (a) geometry (b) fabricated antenna	158
Figure 6.12	Simulated and measured results for state one (a) S_{11} (b) gain	161
Figure 6.13	Simulated and measured results for state two (a) S_{11} (b) gain	164
Figure 6.14	Study of measured S_{11} results (a) state one vs state two in a real case (b) ideal vs real switch for state two	166
Figure 6.15	Simulated and measured results for state three (a) S_{11} (b) gain	169
Figure 6.16	Simulated and measured results for state four (a) S_{11} (b) comparison of S_{11} ideal and real switch (c) gain	172
Figure 6.17	Simulated and measured results for state five (a) S_{11} (b) gain	175
Figure 6.18	Current distribution at state one (a) 1.57 GHz (b) 2.4 GHz (c) 3.5 GHz (d) 5.2 GHz (e) 7.0 GHz	178
Figure 6.19	Study of biasing line effect (a) Antenna 'C1' without biasing – without PIN diode (b) Antenna 'C2' with biasing – without PIN diode (c) Antenna 'C3' with biasing – with PIN diode	179
Figure 6.20	Measured S_{11} result for biasing line and PIN diode effect (a) Antenna 'C1' vs Antenna 'C2' (b) Antenna 'C2' vs Antenna 'C3'	180
Figure 6.21	Measured gain result for biasing line and PIN diode effect (a) Antenna 'C1' vs Antenna 'C2' (b) Antenna 'C2' vs Antenna 'C3'	181
Figure 6.22	Study of PIN diode effect at state one (a) ideal case design (b) real case design	182
Figure 6.23	Measured S_{11} and gain results for PIN diode effect between the ideal and real case at state one	182

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CST	-	Computer Simulation Technology
GSM	-	Global System for Mobile Communications
UMTS	-	Universal Mobile Telecommunications System
4G-LTE	-	4 th Generation Long-Term Evolution
UWB	-	Ultrawideband
GPS	-	Global Positioning System
WLAN	-	Wireless Local Area Network
MB-OFDM	-	Multiband Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing
ME	-	Magneto-Electric
RF-MEMS	-	Radio Frequency-Micro Electro-Mechanical System
BST	-	Barium Strontium Titanate
FB	-	Fabry-Perot
SSRR	-	Single Split-Ring Resonators
PIFA	-	Planar Inverted-F antenna
RSR	-	Rectangular Slot Resonator
WiMAX	-	Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access
SPDT	-	Single Pole Double Throw
CPW	-	Coplanar Waveguide
CdS-PCSS	-	Cadmium Sulphide Photoconductive Semiconductor Switch
PBG	-	Photonic Bandgap
GHz	-	Giga Hertz
MHz	-	MegaHertz
SNR	-	Signal-to-Noise Ratio
FCC	-	Federal Communications Commission
MCMC	-	Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission
ITU	-	International Telecommunication Union
5G	-	5 th Generation

LIST OF SYMBOLS

ϵ_r	-	Relative permittivity
$\tan\delta$	-	Loss tangent
GHz	-	Giga Hertz
MHz	-	MegaHertz
dB	-	Decibels
η	-	The efficiency of the antenna
G	-	The gain of the antenna
D	-	Directivity of the antenna

LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX	TITLE	PAGE
Appendix A	Spectrum Allocation Chart in Malaysia	204
Appendix B	Non-Reconfigurable Antenna with Narrowband-or-Multiband and Wideband Mode	205
Appendix C	Understanding Meshing Properties in CST Software	209
Appendix D	Return Loss to VSWR Conversion Table	212
Appendix E	PIN Diode Data Sheet	213
Appendix F	Gain References for a Monopole Antenna	215
Appendix G	Return Loss to VSWR Conversion Table	216
Appendix H	Efficiency Result for Chapter 4	221
Appendix I	Efficiency Result for Chapter 5	222
Appendix J	Efficiency Result for Chapter 6	223

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Research Background

Nowadays, different types of applications in wireless communication systems have multiplied the usage of frequency bands (Anguera *et al.*, 2013). For example, in mobile communication, many frequency bands have been used and utilized by many systems such as Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM), Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS), and Long-Term Evolution (LTE) bands.

Multiband antennas are used in mobile communications to operate at multiple-bands at one time. Potentially, the antenna can provide more functionality if the antenna's parameters can be reconfigured. Therefore, a reconfigurable antenna is an excellent candidate to replace conventional antennas (Mohanta *et al.*, 2019) with its ability to switch the antenna's properties to maximise the antenna performance according to the surrounding demands.

There are five types of reconfigurable antennas, depending on their property's reconfiguration. They were divided into frequency (Cao *et al.*, 2014), radiation pattern (Aboufoul *et al.*, 2013), bandwidth (Obadiah *et al.*, 2016), beam (Chaimool *et al.*, 2019) and polarisation (Pouyanfar and Rezaeieh, 2013) reconfigurable antennas. In this research, the work is solely focused on frequency reconfigurable antenna. The frequency reconfigurable antenna only changes its operating band, and generally, it will not affect the other antenna's electrical properties. There are many types of frequency reconfiguration such as 1) switching between narrowband, 2) switching between multiband, 3) switching between wideband, 4) switching between narrowband and wideband, 5) switching between narrowband and multiband, 6) switching between multiband and wideband, and 7) switching between narrowband,

multiband and wideband. The combination of the reconfiguration types stated above provide extra flexibility and results in maximising the antenna functionality.

1.2 Problem Statements

Each of the non-reconfigurable antennas, such as narrowband antennas, multiband antennas, and wideband antennas, has its advantages and disadvantages. For example, the narrowband antenna offers reliable long-range communication and good out-of-band rejection (Deslise, 2014). Multiband antenna, on the other hand, provides the ability to operate multiple operations for communication systems (Secmen, 2011), while the wideband antenna supports broadband applications. However, the narrowband antenna can only support one operating frequency at one time compared to multi and wideband antennas. Meanwhile, both the multiband and wideband antennas suffer from poor out-of-band rejection.

Therefore, a frequency reconfigurable antenna that combines these bands into a single antenna and selects the bands when necessary is one option to mitigate the problems. Combining the wideband and multiband properties in a single antenna can support multiple services at a time and reduce the spacing requirement in the system (Yang *et al.*, 2009). However, this is not always true if multiple radiators are required in the configuration (Cleetus and Bala, 2019). Hence a lot of switches are required to enable the reconfiguration. The radiators' number also dictates the biasing line's complexity, such as in (Cherian and Das, 2015; Cleetus and Bala, 2019; Awan *et al.*, 2020). The operating frequency also limited and depended on the number of the radiators such as in (Cherian and Das, 2015; Abutarboush and Shamim, 2018; Awan *et al.*, 2020) where a small range of operating frequencies was demonstrated. In addition, when the operating band is switched to a low frequency, unneeded harmonics will be appeared within the upper interested band. Thus, it is necessary to filter them out. As far as the author's concerns, only limited works have been done on narrowband-to-multiband-to-wideband configuration because of their design complexity and none of them has harmonic suppressions capability. Thus, for a simplicity and less complex biasing line, combining just a few radiating elements is

necessary but yet still can provides a good number of operating bands. Besides, it is also required to provides the harmonic pre-filtering capability.

Besides switching between narrowband, multiband and wideband modes, simultaneous operation between two modes is preferable because it can serve more applications at one time. When two modes are served simultaneously, more applications are being served in one time than in the previous configuration, where only one mode is operated at a time. A review on reconfigurable antennas (Nafde and Pande, 2016; Heydari *et al.*, 2017; Thanh Tu *et al.*, 2019) reported that the simultaneous operation between two modes could be implemented. Unfortunately, the reported antennas can only cover the simultaneous operation of narrowband-and-wideband mode with a limited number of operating bands. Due to the complexity of the designs, the reviewed prototype was developed without using the real switch. It is believed the antennas will have a complicated biasing line if a real switch configuration was implemented. To serve more applications such as Global Positioning System (GPS), Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN), Long-Term Evolution (LTE), C-band and X-band, the antenna, which offers the simultaneous operation of multiband-and-wideband mode, is preferable and shall be demonstrated using real switches with a doable biasing line. In addition, the proposed work shall provide more operating bands compared to the existing antennas. By adding the switches, the antenna should switch to the simultaneous narrowband-and-wideband mode and another available mode. By increasing the antenna flexibility towards the system application, more benefits can be obtained as mentioned earlier.

1.3 Research Objectives

The research objectives are as follow:

- (i) To design frequency reconfigurable antenna, switched from wideband to multiband or vice versa, by employing PIN diode switches.

- (ii) To design frequency reconfigurable antenna with harmonics suppression characteristics.
- (iii) To develop a frequency reconfigurable antenna with the flexibility of switching between single-mode and simultaneous two modes of operations.

1.4 Scope of Research

The research focuses on three types of antennas, which can switch their operating frequency from multiband to wideband modes, either simultaneously or one mode at a time. Increasing the number of the frequency bands will increase the flexibility of the antenna towards the system application. All the antennas will be based on slotted antenna design since it is easy to do the biasing later on. PIN diode switches will be employed on the antenna structure to achieve the frequency reconfigurability. The first antenna will be designed to have a wideband with operating bandwidth (2.0 GHz to 6.0 GHz) and switched to a triple-band operating frequency (i.e., 2.4 GHz, 3.5 GHz, and 5.2 GHz). The second antenna will have a single wideband operating frequency from 3.3 GHz to 9.0 GHz and can be switched to a dual-band operating mode (1.57 GHz and 2.4 GHz). Note that the multiband mode is not within the wideband operating frequency range as in the first antenna design. The third antenna will be designed to have multiband and wideband modes to operate either simultaneously or individually. All of the antennas are designed and simulated using the Computer Simulation Technology (CST) Studio Suite software.

All the antennas will be fabricated into two sets of switches which are ideal and real switches set. Ideal switch using copper strips is used as a first approximation to prove that the antenna can be reconfigured. Meanwhile, real switch using PIN diode is used as the real implementation of antenna in the future. After the fabrication process, the antennas will be tested and measured using appropriate equipment. Both simulated and measured results in terms of S_{11} , radiation pattern and gain performances will be analysed. It is to ensure that the antenna can be used in the multimode communication

system applications i.e., small base station that required the applications such as in GPS, WLAN, Bluetooth, LTE, WiMAX, as well as S-band and C-band applications.

1.5 Thesis Outline

The thesis is composed of seven chapters. As an overview, the first chapter describes the introduction to the research project. A brief introduction of a reconfigurable antenna, the project's problem statement, and the research project's objectives and scope are presented.

A literature review of non-reconfigurable and reconfigurable antennas is discussed thoroughly in the second chapter. Previous works on both types of antennas are presented and reviewed. The discussions are mainly focusing on how the antennas work to achieve narrowband, multiband or wideband modes. Also, the reviews of band-pass filters are included to realise harmonic rejection functionality to the designed antenna

The methodology of the research project is discussed in the third chapter. In this chapter, the flow chart shows the method or process to conduct the research project with a detailed explanation of the simulation, fabrication and measurement process.

The fourth chapter presents the first frequency reconfigurable antenna design known as Antenna A. The proposed antenna is capable of operating either in multiband or wideband mode through switches. The switchable multiband mode is set within the wideband mode frequency range. The designed antenna can cleverly combine two radiating elements without increasing the original size. Potentially, the antenna can also have six additional reconfiguration modes by placing the switches at specific parts of the antenna structure.

Chapter five presents the second design of a switchable multi-to-wideband antenna known as Antenna B. As opposed to the first design, the multiband mode is now designed at 1.57 GHz and 2.4 GHz, which is outside the wideband mode operating

frequency ranging from 3.5 GHz to 9.0 GHz. Besides, a band-pass filter is also incorporated to suppress the harmonic frequency of the multiband mode operation.

Chapter six presents the third design of the frequency reconfigurable antenna, called as Antenna C, where the multi-and-wideband modes can operate either simultaneously or just one mode at a time. A new single bowtie structure is designed to achieve the new modes of operation. The method employed in this design is opposite to the combination method used and employed in Chapters 4 and 5, respectively.

The final chapter discusses the conclusions of the research project. Limitations of this research are addressed. Potential future work to improve all the shortcomings encountered in this research project is mentioned.

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