

PLANAR MONOPOLE ANTENNAS WITH REFLECTION PLANE FOR  
HUMAN BODY CENTRIC COMMUNICATION

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To my beloved mother and father

To my wife

And my friends

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## ABSTRACT

Wireless Body Area Network (WBAN) is an emerging technology that requires an antenna to be placed on human body for a wide range of applications such as healthcare, entertainment, surveillance, emergency and military. The reflection coefficient magnitude of the antenna in closeness to the human body is degraded and shifted. Essentially, efficiency and gain reduction are the main disadvantages of the antenna performances due to the body effect. In this research, methods of improving efficiency, gain, Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) and stabilizing reflection coefficient magnitude have been proposed. In this work, the design, simulation and fabrication of two monopole antennas with P-shaped and circular-shaped are presented. The proposed P-shaped monopole antenna is designed to operate from 3.1 to 5.1 GHz while the proposed circular-shaped monopole antenna operates at 3.1-5.1 GHz and 6.5-8 GHz. The simulation of the proposed antennas in free space and close proximity of body surface has been carried out using Computer Simulation Technology (CST) Microwave Studio. It has been found that when the P-shaped and circular elements are introduced to the ground plane of the antennas, the reflection coefficient magnitudes with the presence of body for both antennas remain the same as in free space. Moreover, the efficiency and gain of the antennas have been improved by attaching the glass substrate to the ground plane. P-shaped antenna with the glass substrate has demonstrated about 34.6%, 35% and 39.2% improvement of the antenna efficiency at 3.3, 4.45 and 5 GHz, respectively, when placed directly on the human head. For the human chest placement, the antenna demonstrates 30.7%, 33.4% and 36%, and the gain of 3.4, 2.8 and 4 dBi of antenna efficiency and gain improvement at 3.3, 4.45 and 5 GHz, respectively. Similarly, for circular-shaped monopole antenna the improvement of the antenna efficiency obtained for human head are 39.8% and 37.23% at 3.3 and 7.5 GHz, respectively, and for the chest are 36.5% and 32.8% at 3.3 and 7.5 GHz, accordingly. The antenna demonstrates 2.9 and 2.54 dBi improvement of the gain at 3.3 and 7.5 GHz, respectively. These improvements are compared with the antenna without the glass substrate. This study concludes that the glass substrate has improved the gain, efficiency and SAR when placed near human body compared to other antennas and the  $S_{11}$  remains stable when some additional elements are introduced to the ground plane. It was observed that there is good agreement between the simulation and measurement results, thereby showing that the antennas have potential to be deployed for WBAN application.

## ABSTRAK

Rangkaian Kawasan Badan Tanpa Wayar (WBAN) adalah sebuah teknologi baru yang memerlukan antena diletakkan pada badan manusia untuk pelbagai aplikasi seperti penjagaan kesihatan, hiburan, pengawasan, kecemasan dan ketenteraan. Magnitud bagi pekali pantulan antena yang berdekatan dengan tubuh badan manusia adalah berkurangan dan berubah. Pada asasnya, kecekapan dan pengurangan gandaan adalah kelemahan utama ke atas keupayaan antena disebabkan oleh kesan badan. Dalam kerja penyelidikan ini, kaedah-kaedah bagi meningkatkan kecekapan, gandaan, Kadar Penyerapan Tertentu (SAR) dan penstabilan magnitud pekali pantulan telah dicadangkan. Dalam kajian ini, reka bentuk, simulasi dan fabrikasi antena ekakutub berbentuk P dan bulat telah dibentangkan. Antena ekakutub berbentuk P yang dicadangkan adalah direka bentuk untuk beroperasi daripada 3.1 ke 5.1 GHz manakala antena ekakutub berbentuk bulat dicadangkan bagi operasi dua jalur iaitu 3.1-5.1 GHz dan 6.5-8 GHz. Simulasi antena di ruang bebas dan ketika diletakkan pada permukaan badan telah dijalankan menggunakan Teknologi Simulasi Komputer (CST) Studio Gelombang Mikro. Ianya telah didapati bahawa, apabila elemen bentuk P dan bulat diperkenalkan ke atas satah bumi, pekali pantulan dengan kehadiran badan manusia bagi kedua-dua antena adalah kekal sama seperti yang terhasil pada ruang bebas. Selain itu, keberkesanan gandaan pada antena diperbaiki dengan menggandingkan substrat kaca ke atas satah bumi. Antena berbentuk P dengan substrat kaca telah menunjukkan peningkatan terhadap kecekapan sebanyak 34.6%, 35% dan 39.2% pada 3.3, 4.45 dan 5 GHz apabila diletakkan berhampiran dengan kepala manusia. Manakala, apabila antena diletakkan pada dada manusia, peningkatan kecekapan yang diperolehi adalah 30.7%, 33.4% dan 36% dan gandaan pula memberikan peningkatan sebanyak 3.4, 2.8 dan 4 dBi pada 3.3, 4.45 dan 5 GHz. Kecekapan yang berjaya diperolehi apabila antena diletakkan pada bahagian kepala ialah 39.8% dan 37.23% pada 3.3 GHz dan 7.5 GHz. Bagi bahagian dada manusia pula 36.5% dan 32.8% pada 3.3 dan 7.5 GHz. Antena ini juga menunjukkan peningkatan gandaan sebanyak 2.9 dan 2.54 dBi pada frekuensi 3.3 dan 7.5 GHz. Peningkatan ini telah dibandingkan dengan antena tanpa substrat kaca. Kajian ini menyimpulkan bahawa substrat kaca telah meningkatkan gandaan, kecekapan dan memperbaiki nilai SAR apabila diletakkan berhampiran badan manusia berbanding antena lain, dan  $S_{11}$  kekal stabil apabila sebahagian elemen tambahan diperkenalkan pada satah bumi. Dapat diperhatikan bahawa terdapat perhubungan yang baik antara simulasi dan keputusan pengukuran, sekaligus menunjukkan bahawa antena mempunyai potensi untuk digunakan untuk aplikasi WBAN.

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**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

WBAN	-	Wireless Body Area Network
FCC	-	Federal Communications Commission
FDTD	-	Finite Difference Time Domain
CST	-	Computer Simulation Technology
FR4	-	Flame Resistance 4
IEEE	-	Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineers
ISM	-	Industrial, Scientific and Medical
SAR	-	Specific Absorption Rate
UWB	-	Ultra Wide-Band
VNA	-	Vector Network Analyser
WPAN	-	Wireless Personal Area Network
WLAN	-	Wireless Local Area Network
EM	-	Electromagnetic
PEC	-	Perfect Electric Conduct
EBG	-	Electromagnetic Band Gap
VSWR	-	Voltage Standing Wave Ratio
BW	-	Bandwidth
GPS	-	Global Position System
WCC	-	Wireless Communication Centre
UTM	-	Universiti Teknologi Malaysia

**LIST OF SYMBOLS**

$f_h$	-	High frequency
$f_l$	-	Low frequency
mm	-	Millimeter
Hz	-	Hertz
K	-	Kilo
G	-	Giga
d	-	Distance
h	-	Height
L	-	Length
W	-	Width
$\Gamma$	-	Reflection coefficient
Z <sub>0</sub>	-	characteristic impedance
$\lambda$	-	Wavelength
c	-	Speed of light $3 \times 10^8$ m/s
dB	-	Decibel
$\Omega$	-	Ohm
$\epsilon_r$	-	Permittivity



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## **CHAPTER 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

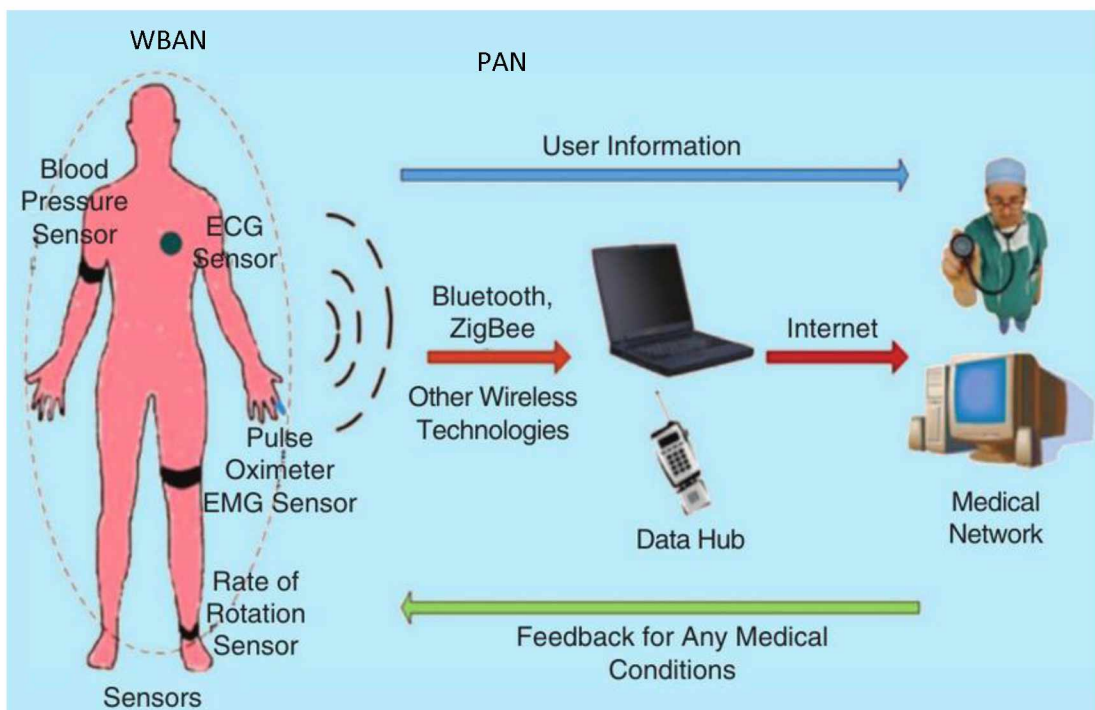
#### **1.1 Introduction**

The scientific community developed certain level of interest in the communication between electromagnetic fields (EMF) and the human body. This has gained a lot of attention particularly since the introduction of mobile telephony networks [1-4]. The main focus was the interaction between terminal antennas and a human body [5, 6].

Perfect understanding of a particular absorption capacity is an essential component in studying the communications of electromagnetic (EM) fields with biological tissue and living organism. In the review paper [7], it was introduced that SAR strength and the dispersion within the exposed objects are influenced by the shape, size, dielectric characteristics, frequency and kind of exposure.

After the current introduction of wearable computing and wireless body centric networks i.e. WBAN communication on the body are among the components of a Wearable Textile System, i.e. sensors, processor etc. Personal Area Network (PAN) communication flanked by the body and other applications in a short-range field (about 10 m). It adopts protocols such as 802.11b, Bluetooth, Wireless USB, Zigbee, that function in the 2.45 GHz ISM band. Information dissemination to the point of care via communication networks (GSM, GPRS, the Internet, etc.) as indicated in Figure 1.1 scenarios must be viewed for an added dimension for compliance testing [8].

WBAN is of extraordinary significance in new sensing and monitoring applications for the medical profession. Interactions from in-body implants and on-body sensors would enable proper diagnosis and therapy improvement. The Ultra-Wideband (UWB) mechanism with its special benefits over the narrow-band structure is a probable innovation for body area network [8]. For a better modification of effective body area network, this must occur with easy mobility, augment reality, sensitivity and compact size and light weight [9].



**Figure 1.1** Envisioned WBAN in Healthcare Applications [10]

## 1.2 Problem Statement

Body-centric wireless networks should provide cost effective solutions and guarantee the mobility and freedom desired by the users. Therefore the various components of the radio system should provide light weight and low power consumption to prevent short battery life and unwanted obtrusiveness to the user. One of the major issues is designing antennas in such a wireless system in order to understand the effect of the human body on the antenna.

However there are some tradeoffs when deploying antennas on the human body. These drawbacks can be classified into three main problems: first, the reflection coefficient magnitude ( $S_{11}$ ) will not be stable and it is detuned to other frequencies when the antenna is brought closer to the human body. Second, the decrease in the efficiency and the gain of the antennas are more severe when placed close to the human body. And third, some of the antennas produce higher SAR values, which is unsuitable for WBAN applications.

### **1.3 Research Objectives**

The main objectives of this study include:

- 1) To design and analyze the monopole antenna for wireless body area network applications at 3.1 to 5.1 GHz band and dual-band antenna at 3.1 to 5.1 GHz and 6.5 to 8 GHz, with stable reflection coefficient magnitude in free space and close to human body.
- 2) To design and analyze a new reflector plane (glass substrate) to improve the antenna efficiency and gain.
- 3) To investigate the Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) effect in many locations of the body using numerical phantom.

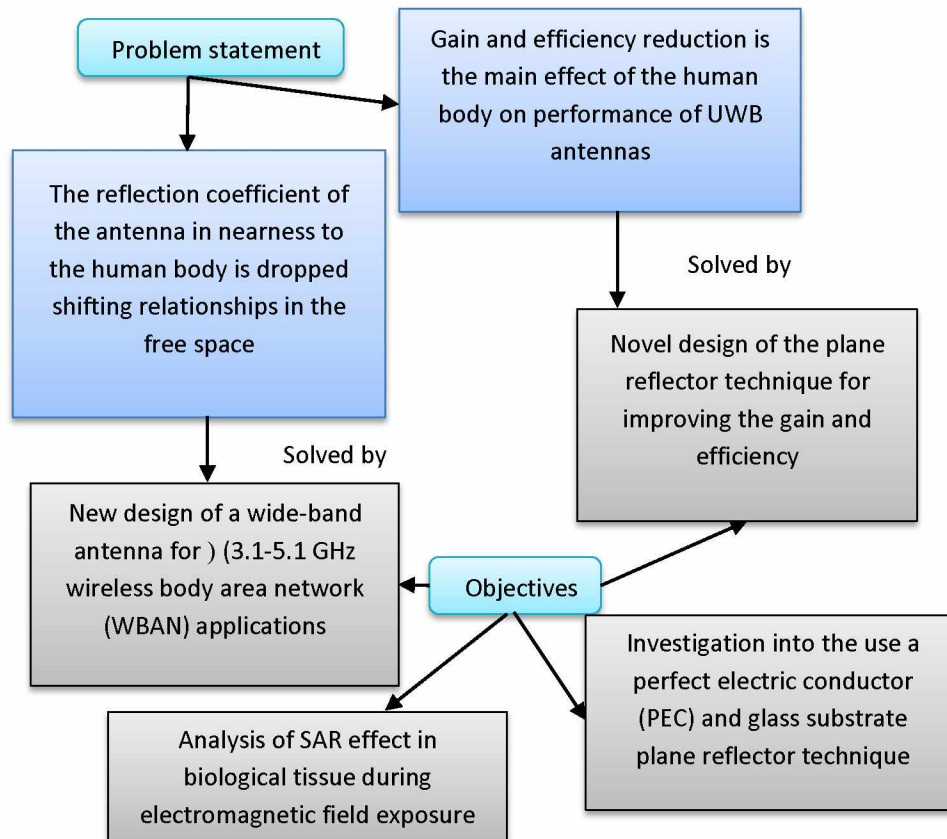
### **1.4 Scope of the Research**

The scope of this research is to design a small size antenna at 3.1 to 5.1 GHz and dual band antenna at 3.1 to 5.1 GHz and 6.5 to 8 GHz. The antenna

performances for both P-shaped and circular shaped monopole antennas are investigated in free space. Hence, improving the gain and efficiency of the proposed antennas with presence of human body and a glass substrate as a reflector. The overview of the works are stated in Figure 1.2.

The main scope of this research:

- Having stable reflection coefficient magnitudes for both antennas in contact with the human body by introducing modified elements in the antenna's ground plane.
- Using L-shaped and modified shaped glass substrates attached to the proposed antennas for efficiency improvement.
- Analyzing SAR carried out in CST in the human head and chest. Both CST and HFSS analyzed SAR in three layers of human tissue.
- Analyzing efficiency and SAR achieved in CST of the different human body locations.



**Figure 1.2** The scope of this research

## 1.5 Contribution of the Research

Following are the contributions of the thesis:

- 1) New design P-shaped monopole antenna with P-shaped element on the ground plane. In addition, design of an L-shaped glass substrate attached with the proposed P-shaped monopole antenna.
- 2) New design of a circular-shaped monopole antenna with modification on the ground plane. In addition, design of glass substrate attached to the proposed circular-shaped monopole antenna.

## 1.6 Organization of the thesis

This thesis contains seven chapters. Chapter 1 presents the introduction, problem statement, research objective, scope of the research and contribution of the thesis. The rest of the thesis is organized as follows:

Chapter 2 presents the literature review as studied by several previous authors. This includes the fundamental theories and concepts of Antennas, particularly the UWB antennas, the impact of the EMF on human body, the SAR factors and how it affects the human body.

Chapter 3 describes the methodology used to achieve this research with illustration of the flow chart for research schedule. This chapter presents the CST Microwave Studio simulation software to design and emphasizes the equations and algorithms adopted in combining approaches on body communication process. In addition, explanation of the dielectric constant measurement of glass substrate. The chapter illustrates the electromagnetic properties of body tissues and antenna design with reflection plane technique for WBAN applications.

In Chapter 4, the P-shaped antenna is described and results and discussion for the proposed antenna are provided. The antenna is designed with the P-shaped radiator element with element connected to the ground plane on the proposed antenna.

In Chapter 5, the plane reflector approach is built to have shapes, PEC and glass substrate by integrating the proposed antenna. In addition, the results reported from this study are discussed.

Chapter 6 presents a description of the circular-shaped antenna and provides results and discussion for the proposed antenna. The plane reflector approach is built to have glass substrate.

Finally, Chapter 7 discusses the conclusions of the research and recommendations for future researchers.



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