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Article

Design and Development of MIMO Antennas for WiGig Terminals

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Abstract: This article presents a design for high-gain MIMO antennas with compact geometry. The proposed design is composed of four antennas in MIMO configuration, wherein, each antenna is made up of small units of microstrip patches. The overall geometry is printed on the top layer of the substrate, i.e., Rogers RT-5880 with permittivity of 2.2, permeability of 1.0, dielectric loss of 0.0009, and depth of 0.508 mm. The proposed design covers an area of $29.5 \times 61.4 \text{ mm}^2$, wherein each antenna covers an area of $11.82 \times 25.28 \text{ mm}^2$. The dimensions of the microstrip lines in each MIMO element were optimized to achieve a good impedance matching. The design is resonating at 61 GHz, with a wide practical bandwidth of more than 7 GHz, thereby covering IEEE 802.11ad WiGig (58–65 GHz). The average value of gain ranges from 9.45 to 13.6 dBi over the entire frequency bandwidth whereas, the average value of efficiency ranges from 55.5% to 84.3%. The proposed design attains a compact volume, wide bandwidth, and good gain and efficiency performances, which makes it suitable for WiGig terminals.

Keywords: MIMO; array; high gain; WiGig; millimeter wave

1. Introduction

Nowadays, there is an increasing demand for high data rates, high voice quality, and video applications around the world. Data rates of 3G and 4G technology do not satisfy the future data-rate requirements. Wireless Gigabit Alliance (WiGig) is an emerging technology that will play a vital role in providing higher data rates for industrial and communication sectors. It has its own standardized protocol that is IEEE 802.11ad (58–65 GHz). The high operating frequency of WiGig will meet the future requirements of higher data rates to transfer data, voice, and video streaming at multigigabits per seconds. It is therefore a mandatory requirement to design and build advanced antennas to support an ultra-high data rate. Antenna designing at millimeter (mm)-wave frequencies is currently a highly demanded area of research around the world. In addition, the fabrication of these antennas is very challenging, since the antenna dimensions are very small.

Several designs of antennas for mm-wave frequencies have been presented in [1–28]. In [1], a low-temperature co-fired ceramic (LTCC) material is used for low-cost, wide bandwidth and

high performance of the magnetoelectric dipole antenna. The design presented incorporates plated through-hole technology and waveguide feed for achieving high gain and excitation of higher-order modes. Another design is shown in [2] in which authors presented that for antenna designing at 60 GHz, Sukhoi Su-8 substrate (ε = 3.1, tangent loss = 0.021) with coplanar feed is a better option. One such reconfigurable patch antenna with co-planar feed, using Su-8 substrate, is presented in [3]. The design being narrow band partially covers IEEE 802.11ad WiGig with a gain of 7 dB at 62 GHz. In order to expand the bandwidth, a higher order EM mode patch antenna is presented in [4]. The author presented the techniques of using slots and multiple antennas to increase the gain. Another design with enhanced bandwidth is presented in [5]. In this design, a magnetoelectric dipole antenna array is proposed which provides multibeam end fire radiation at 60 GHz. It is an horizontally polarized antenna fed by substrate integrated waveguide and multilayer zigzag topology for beam forming. The proposed design is compact and possesses a good percentage of bandwidth, however, the peak efficiency achieved is not better than 65%, which primarily occurred due to poor return loss performance of the antenna. In order to improve the return loss, a stacked planar antenna, using Rogers RT-5880 substrate, is presented in [6]. The design resonates at 60.1 GHz with a bandwidth ranging from 59.5 to 60.5 GHz. The peak gain achieved for the design is 7.5 dBi, which makes it unsuitable for WiGig high-data-rate terminals. In order to achieve a high gain and efficiency, while covering a wide bandwidth, array antennas can be used. One such design is presented in [7]. An array of dipole antenna is proposed that is stuffed with substrate integrated H-plain cut of a horn antenna. It is designed for broadband and multiband wireless applications. The bandwidth achieved for the proposed design is greater than 13 GHz, with a gain ranging from 9 to 12 dBi. A design presented in [8] shows a bowtie antenna that uses 4×4 arrays for achieving a multibeam radiation pattern in the E-plane. The design comprises magnetic resonators, implemented using double-sided split-ring unit cells (DSRRs). Its bandwidth ranges from 56 to 66 GHz, and the peak value of the gain is 11.4 dBi at 62 GHz.

With an increasing trend toward miniaturization, the sizes of the components in the antenna industry are reducing day by day. In [9], the author presented an antenna with reduced size. The design incorporates the approach of system-in-packaging in which a high-temperature co-fired ceramics (HTCC) substrate is used to achieve gain value of 7.8 dBi at 60 GHz. Similarly, in [10], a small printed antenna that is the size of a shirt button is presented for 60 GHz frequency. The design is unique and can be attached to garments, etc. The bandwidth achieved by the design is 56-65 GHz bandwidth with peak realized gain of 4 dBi, which is quite low for high-data-rate applications. In [11], a magnetoelectric dipole antenna was designed at the WiGig frequency that gives maximum radiation at theta 0° direction. It is horizontally polarized and fed by the open-ended substrate integrated waveguide (SIW). Every couple of electric dipoles consists of four patches, which provide high impedance bandwidth and 11.7 dBi peak gain. By increasing the number of pairs of SIW and using multilayers zigzag topology, the size of end-fire dipole can be reduced further. Another compact design is presented in [12], which shows a single-patch dual-band antenna at 60 GHz frequency. It is designed on two higher modes, to operate it as a dual-band antenna at 59 and 63.5 GHz, and the gain values achieved at these frequencies are 9.3 and 10.1 dBi, respectively. Another design of dual-band antenna is presented in [13]. The design proposed operates on both Wi-Fi and WiGig channels. In the Wi-Fi mode, the antenna operates as a printed monopole, whereas, at 60 GHz, it operates as a patch antenna that is shorted to operate at a higher mode. It is designed on single-layer printed circuit board, and through-plated holes are used to achieve its multiband characteristics. Also, it includes a low pass filter to feed the monopole antenna and to isolate it from the patch. Though the proposed design is dual-band, the fabrication of the design is complex, along with small gain performance of 5–6 dBi at mm-wave frequency. In [14], a distinctive methodology was adopted to design a two-beam radiator at 57-64 GHz bandwidth. The design presented is a gap waveguide-based antenna with slots. The peak gain achieved by this approach is 10 dBi with an efficiency of 91.4% at WiGig frequency.

The true benefits of WiGig technology can be exploited by incorporating modern techniques of antenna designing predominantly multiple input multiple output (MIMO). MIMO technology

promises an increased range, an enhanced data throughput, and a better capacity performance, without consuming additional power and frequency bandwidth. One such antenna is shown in [15], wherein a switched beam 2 × 2 MIMO antenna is presented, along with a detailed analysis of the MIMO performance. The results presented by the author show that the design provides a high data rate, a better capacity performance, and a high gain compared to the single-element antennas. Another design of MIMO antenna is presented in [16], wherein a printed MIMO antenna with a defected ground plane is designed at 60 GHz. It is a folded L-shaped patch antenna made on Si-wafer. The design presented by the author possesses poor efficiency and gain performances, thus making it unsuitable for WiGig terminals. Similarly, a design with poor gain performance is presented in [17]. The design comprises a dual polarized mobile antenna at 60 GHz, with vertical polarized directivity of 3.8 dBi and horizontal polarized directivity of 4.5 dBi. In addition, the design possesses poor isolation in MIMO configuration. In MIMO, mutual coupling between multiple antenna elements is a key problem and is a potential area under research. Different techniques have been proposed in the literature by authors across the globe. One such technique is presented in [18] in which a meta-material polarization rotator (MPR) wall is used to improve the decoupling between the two dielectric resonator antennas (DRAs). The isolation achieved at 60 GHz is 22 dB. The proposed design, however, is composed of metamaterials and dielectric resonators, which are quite costly, making it not suitable for future portable terminals. Another methodology for improving the decoupling performance of MIMO antennas is presented in [19]; it uses a meta-surface shield for the improvement of decoupling. The shield presented is made up of multiple split-ring resonator (SRR) cells that are combined in the form of an array. The isolation achieved is approximately 43 dB, with a gain of 7.9 dBi and efficiency of 91%. Most of the designs presented from the literature are of single antennas, whereas few designs of MIMO antennas are presented. The antennas that are discussed above have major issues, such as narrow bandwidth, poor gain and efficiency, high cost, and complex fabrication. It is therefore a necessary requirement to design advanced MIMO and array antennas for achieving a high gain over a wide bandwidth with acceptable isolation performance.

In this paper, a novel design for high-gain MIMO antennas with compact geometry is presented for WiGig frequency. The proposed design is composed of four antennas in MIMO configuration, wherein each antenna comprises small microstrip patches. The novelty of the proposed design lies in its capability of being MIMO, high-gain, and wideband at the same time, a combined feature missing in the designs discussed earlier. The proposed design is thus suitable for the applications which require large throughput and increased channel capacity, simultaneously. The antenna design, along with the parametric analysis and the simulation and the measurement results, is presented in the next sections.

2. Antenna Modelling

2.1. Antenna Design

The simulated and fabricated prototype of the MIMO antennas for WiGig terminals is shown in Figure 1. The antennas were designed and simulated in CST Microwave Studio[®] [29]. Each antenna of the MIMO configuration is composed of 16 microstrip patches, which are fed simultaneously by using microstrip lines. The length of each patch element is 3.40 mm, and that is approximately 0.68 λ at 60 GHz. The substrate material used for the design is Rogers RT-5880 with permittivity of 2.2, permeability of 1.0, dielectric loss of 0.0009, and depth of 0.508 mm. The proposed design is compact and covers an area of 29.5 \times 61.4 mm², wherein each antenna covers 11.82 \times 25.28 mm². The design is prototyped in the antenna laboratory at Xidian University, China, and the connectors used for the input ports are 1.85 mm end launch connectors, with the main pins soldered to the design, whereas the connectors are adjusted with the housing by means of the screws.

Electronics 2019, 8, 1548 4 of 16

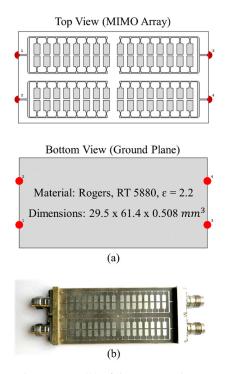


Figure 1. Model (a) and fabricated prototype (b) of the proposed MIMO antennas for WiGig terminals.

The detailed dimensions of the antenna design are shown in Figure 2. It can be seen that the design comprises numerous electrically small elements whose dimensions were optimized through extensive simulation work. Each parameter is tuned through repeated optimization in CST Microwave Studio for achieving a good impedance matching and an excellent radiation performance. Also, the position and spacing between the MIMO elements were carefully tuned, to achieve optimum decoupling, while retaining a wide bandwidth. A parametric analysis of some of the key dimensions is presented in the next section.

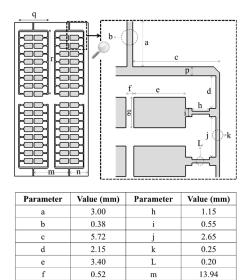


Figure 2. Dimensions of the proposed MIMO antennas for WiGig terminals.

n

7.41

25.28

2.00

0.60

11.82

2.2. Parametric Analysis

A comprehensive analysis on various parameters of the antenna design was carried out to visualize the effect on the performance of the MIMO antennas. This section presents the effect of each parameter.

2.2.1. Stepwise Design

The design presented in this work can be dissected into three distinct configurations. Configuration 1 is composed of a simple patch antenna printed on the substrate with optimized dimensions of the antenna and the feed line. Configuration 2 is composed of a single antenna of the MIMO Configuration, whereas, Configuration 3 is the proposed MIMO design. The S-parameters (S_{11}) of each configuration are shown in Figure 3. It can be seen that the MIMO configuration gives a wider frequency $-6 \, \mathrm{dB}/-10 \, \mathrm{dB}$ bandwidth as compared to the other two configurations. Also, extensive simulation work has shown that the positioning and alignment of 16 patch elements in each antenna gives better current distribution, gain, and efficiency as compared to if the elements were aligned in any other configuration.

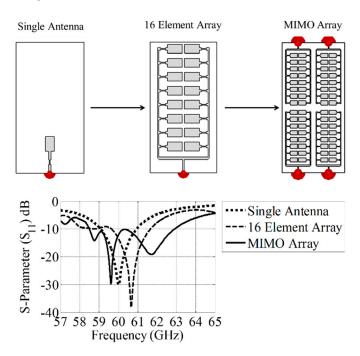


Figure 3. Stepwise approach toward the final design of the proposed MIMO antennas.

2.2.2. Parameter 'b'

Parameter 'b', as shown in Figure 2, presents the width of the main feed line of each MIMO element. The value of parameter 'b' is varied from 0.28 to 0.43 mm, and the S-parameters (S_{11}) at different values are shown in Figure 4. It can be seen that the parameter value of 0.38 mm gives a wider frequency bandwidth as compared to the other values.

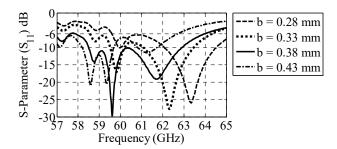


Figure 4. Effect of the variation of parameter 'b' on the performance of the proposed MIMO antennas.

2.2.3. Parameter 'p'

Parameter 'p', as shown in Figure 2, presents another width of the feed line in each MIMO element. The value of parameter 'p' is varied from 0.2 to 0.8 mm, and the S-parameters (S_{11}) at different values are shown in Figure 5.

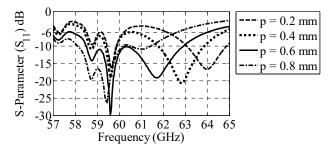


Figure 5. Effect of the variation of parameter 'p' on the performance of the proposed MIMO antennas.

It can be seen that the parameter value of 0.6 mm gives a wider frequency bandwidth as compared to the other values. Moreover, as the value of parameter 'p' increases from 0.2 mm to 0.8 mm, the resonant frequency shifts from 64 to 59 GHz.

2.2.4. Parameter 'k'

Parameter 'k', as shown in Figure 2, presents the width of the feed line feeding 16 microstrip patches in each MIMO element. The value of parameter 'k' is varied from 0.15 to 0.3 mm, and the S-parameters (S_{11}) at different values are shown in Figure 6. It can be seen that the parameter value of 0.25 mm gives a better return-loss performance as compared to the other values.

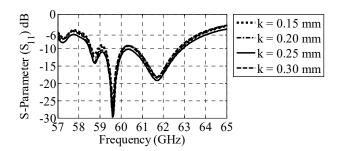


Figure 6. Effect of the variation of parameter 'k' on the performance of the proposed MIMO antennas.

2.2.5. Parameter 'e'

Parameter 'e', as shown in Figure 2, presents the length of the microstrip patch that, in combination with 15 other identical elements, makes up the individual antenna of the MIMO configuration. The value of parameter 'e' is varied from 2.40 to 3.90 mm, and the S-parameters (S_{11}) at different values are shown in Figure 7. It can be seen that the parameter value of 3.40 mm gives a better return-loss

performance and frequency bandwidth as compared to the other values. Moreover, as the value of parameter 'e' increases, the resonant frequency decreases, and vice versa.

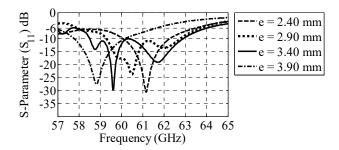


Figure 7. Effect of the variation of parameter 'e' on the performance of the proposed MIMO antennas.

3. Results and Discussions

This section presents the simulation and measurement results of the proposed MIMO antennas for WiGig terminals.

3.1. Reflection Coefficient (VSWR)

The VSWR curves for the MIMO antennas are shown in Figure 8.

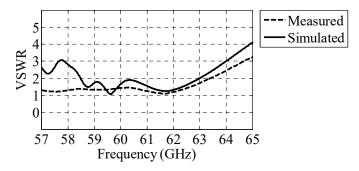


Figure 8. Simulated and measured VSWR of the MIMO antennas for WiGig terminals.

The proposed antennas attain a simulated bandwidth of 6.14 GHz, which is approximately 10.3% and ranges from 57.9 to 64 GHz when referenced to a VSWR ratio of 3:1, whereas the practical bandwidth achieved is greater than 7 GHz, which ranges from <57 to 64.7 GHz, when referenced to a VSWR ratio of 3:1. The design possesses a wide bandwidth and almost completely covers the IEEE 802.11ad WiGig frequency band, which ranges from 58 to 65 GHz [30].

3.2. Isolation (S_{XY})

The S_{XY} curves of the MIMO antennas are shown in Figure 9. It can be seen that the antennas in MIMO configuration possess excellent isolation performance. The average measure isolation at 60 GHz is approximately –36 dB. The simulated and measured isolation between port 1 and port 2 is less than the isolation between other port pairs, such as port 1 and port 3 or port 1 and port 4. This is because the coupling of the surface current between port 1 and port 2 is comparatively large due to a close separation distance compared to that of the other port pairs.

Electronics 2019, 8, 1548 8 of 16

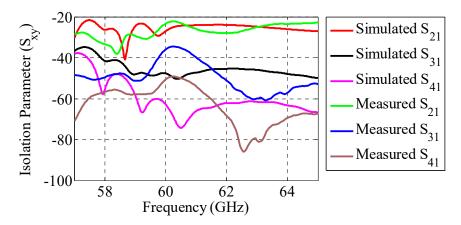


Figure 9. Simulated and measured S_{XY} of the proposed MIMO antennas for WiGig terminals.

3.3. Current Distribution

Each element of the MIMO configuration is composed of 16 patch elements and the microstrip lines feeding the patch elements. The feeding lines were carefully modelled to maximize the distribution of the current, as presented in Figure 10.

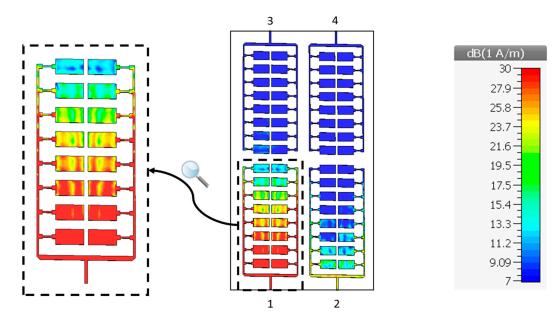


Figure 10. Simulated current distribution of the MIMO antennas for WiGig terminals.

The distribution of the surface current is presented at 60 GHz. It can be seen that the feeding lines distribute the current such that individual patch elements get a good share of the current, which means that the 16 patch elements contribute toward the radiation of the antenna. However, the current is more concentrated in the first four rows than the final four rows, which means that the first four rows contribute toward the radiation of antenna more than the final four rows, thus making the radiation directional. However, it can be anticipated that the radiation would be more directional with narrower beamwidth if all rows had received an equal concentration of surface current. It can also be seen that a high isolation is achieved between MIMO elements, as the amount of coupling current is minor in comparison to the maximum current.

3.4. Radiation Pattern

The simulated 3D radiation patterns (realized gain) of the proposed design are shown in Figure 11. The simulation and measurement results were postprocessed in MATLAB®, for the ease of comparison

Electronics 2019, 8, 1548 9 of 16

and analysis, and are shown in Figure 12. The theta-plane is plotted when the theta angle is varied while the phi angle is fixed at 90° , whereas, the phi-plane is plotted by varying the phi-angle while keeping theta fixed at 0° . The measurements were carried out in the Antenna Laboratory at Xidian University, Xian, China, with the setup shown in Figure 13. It can be seen that the antennas possess directional radiation patterns, with the main beams lying in the y-z plane. Also, the polarization of each MIMO antenna is elliptical in the entire frequency range. The simulations on CST Microwave Studio have shown that the axial ratio is greater than 7 over the complete bandwidth covered by the design. The simulation results agreed with the measurement results, except slight differences which may have occurred due to fabrication imperfection, measurement setup, and connectors.

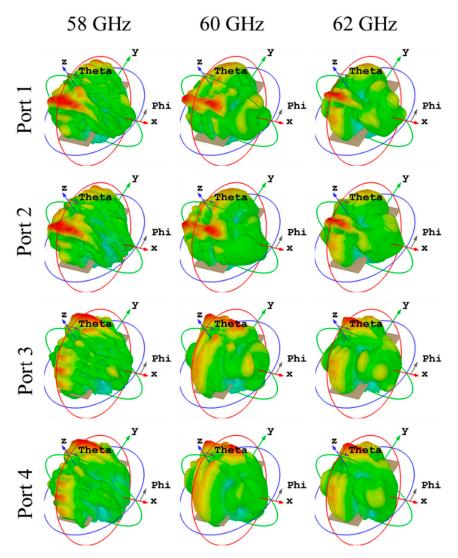


Figure 11. Simulated 3D radiation patterns of the MIMO antennas for WiGig terminals.

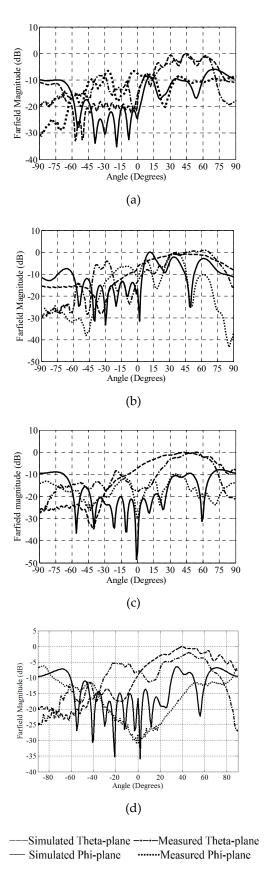


Figure 12. Two-dimensional far-field radiation patterns of the MIMO antennas for WiGig terminals. (a) At 58 GHz. (b) At 60 GHz. (c) At 62 GHz. (d) At 65 GHz.

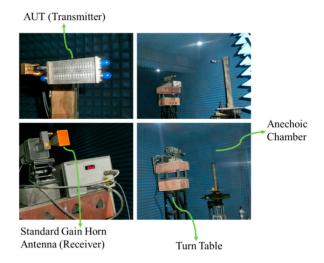


Figure 13. Setup in the antenna laboratory for the measurement of radiation patterns.

The simulated and measured 3 dB beamwidths at different frequencies are shown in Table 1. It can be seen that the design possesses narrow a beamwidth, which makes the design fairly directional. Also, the simulated and measured results match closely.

т	Half Power (3 dB) Beamwidth					
Freq. (GHz)	Simu	lated	Measured			
	Theta Plane	Phi Plane	Theta Plane	Phi Plane		
58	25	11	29	8		
60	64	10	45	14		
62	53	23	36	16		
65	56	19	36	16		

Table 1. Half-power (3 dB) beamwidth of the MIMO array antennas.

3.5. Gains and Efficiencies

The computed values of gain of the MIMO antennas are shown in Table 2, and the efficiency results are shown in Table 3. The gains and efficiencies for each port are measured. It can be seen that, in simulation, the efficiency of all ports is the same, whereas, in measurements, the efficiencies slightly differ. The gains are calculated by using the gain comparison method, [31], and the Wheeler cap method is used for the measurement of efficiency [32]. The simulated gain is less than the measured gain at some frequency points. This is due to a better VSWR in measurements which also results in a measured efficiency better than simulation efficiency. Also, the proposed antennas possess good gain and efficiency performances, which makes them suitable for wireless terminals in both indoor and outdoor environments. The simulation and measurement results agreed very well with small differences which may have incurred due to imperfections in measurements.

Euro v				Gain (+ dBi)			
Freq (GHz)	Simulated					Meas	sured	
	P1	P2	Р3	P4	P1	P2	Р3	P4
58	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.66	9.35	9.35	9.45
60	10.9	10.9	10.9	10.9	11.4	11.6	11.7	11.8
62	13.2	13.2	13.2	13.2	12.9	12.8	12.4	12.7
65	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	13.3	13.6	13.7	13.8

Table 2. Gains of the proposed MIMO antennas.

E				Efficie	ncy (%)			
Freq. (GHz) P1	Simulated					Meas	sured	
	P1	P2	Р3	P4	P1	P2	Р3	P4
58	66	66	66	66	56	54	55	57
60	84	84	84	84	73	74	75	75
62	94	94	94	94	85	84	84	84
65	52	52	52	52	66	65	65	67

Table 3. Efficiencies of the proposed MIMO antennas.

4. MIMO Performance Analysis

The parameters, which have been studied to analyze the performance of MIMO antennas include:

4.1. Envelope Correlation Coefficient ' ρ ' (ECC)

The envelope correlation coefficient (ρ) is used to quantify the amount of coupling between multiple antenna elements in MIMO configuration. The lesser the value of envelope correlation coefficient, the better the decoupling performance. For the computation of the accurate values of ECC, 3D simulated and measured radiation patterns are required. However, a good approximation can be made by using the S-parameters method. The ECC values between different MIMO pair combinations are computed by using the S-parameters method and are shown in Table 4. The average value of ECC represents an average of all the ECC values plotted between 58 and 65 GHz, whereas the peak value represents the maximum value of ECC in the entire bandwidth. It can be seen that the antennas possess extremely low values of ECC, which are well below the practical threshold. [33]. The correlation between antennas 1 and 2 is more than the correlation between other MIMO pairs. This is because the S₂₁ between antennas 1 and 2 is higher than it is between the other MIMO pairs.

MIMO Pair		Average and Pea	ak Values of ECC		
	Simu	lated	Measured		
	Average	Peak	Average	Peak	
1–2	0.00056	0.00515	0.00035	0.00254	
1–3	0.00013	0.00161	0.00019	0.00119	
1–4	0.00001	0.00013	0.00003	0.00021	

Table 4. ECC (ρ) of the proposed MIMO antennas.

4.2. Mean Effective Gain (MEG)

Mean effective gain (MEG) is another parameter that is used to quantify the combined performance of MIMO elements. The equation used for the calculation of MEG is as follows [34]:

$$MEG = 10 * \log \left(\frac{Efficiency}{2} \right) \tag{1}$$

The MEG is simulated and measured for each port and is shown in Table 5.

F				MEG	(– dB)			
Freq (GHz)	Simulated				Simulated Measured			
- · · · -	P1	P2	Р3	P4	P1	P2	Р3	P4
58	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	5.5	5.7	5.6	5.5
60	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.3
62	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.8
65	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	4.8	4.9	4.9	4.7

Table 5. MEG of the proposed MIMO antennas.

It can be seen that the antennas possess a good MEG which validates a good MIMO performance. This is mainly due to an excellent de-correlation between the elements of MIMO design which assures a good decoupling and efficiency performance.

4.3. Effective Diversity Gain (EDG)

The effective diversity gains of the MIMO antennas are included in Table 6 and are calculated by using the following equation [35]:

$$EDG = G_{max} * Efficiency * \sqrt{1 - \rho_e}$$
 (2)

where, G_{max} is the maximum diversity gain for 4×4 MIMO, i.e., 15 dB [36], and ρ_e presents the average value of ECC at each frequency.

Frequency	EDG (+ dB)				
(GHz)	$ ho_{ m e}$	Average Efficiency %	EDG		
58	0.0012864	66	9.894		
60	0.0005950	84	12.60		
62	0.0014505	94	14.09		
65	0.0061122	52	7.776		

Table 6. EDG of the proposed MIMO antennas.

It can be seen from the EDG results that the diversity gain depends mainly on the efficiency of the antennas. As the efficiency increases, the effective diversity gain increases, and vice versa. The proposed MIMO antennas possess good diversity gain performance, except at the edge frequencies, where efficiency value is poor. The diversity gain can be improved by employing efficiency-improvement techniques.

5. Conclusions

In this paper, a new design of four antennas that are arranged symmetrically in MIMO configuration was proposed for 60 GHz WiGig communication. Each element of the MIMO configuration is composed of small units of microstrip patches with optimized dimensions for enhanced gain and frequency bandwidth. The feeding lines were tuned to give minimum reflection loss and a good efficiency performance. It was shown in the measurements that the antennas cover a wide bandwidth exceeding 6.4 GHz, with an average gain of 11.6 dBi and average efficiency of 69%, while maintaining a high isolation between MIMO elements. The design possesses good return loss and radiation characteristics, with a compact size, thus making it suitable for high-data-rate multipath communication. A comparison between the performance of the proposed design and similar antennas from the literature is shown in Table 7. It can be seen that the performance of the proposed antenna, in majority of the compared parameters, is better than the other designs of WiGig antennas. Measurement of throughput, capacity, and axial ratio will be a part of future works.

Reference	Gain (dBi)	Efficiency	Bandwidth	Electrical Size
[6]	7.2	-	1 GHz	1.63 λ
[13]	6	-	7 GHz	0.83λ
[37]	5	75%	9 GHz	0.32λ
[38]	10.6	55%	20 GHz	$2.4~\lambda$
[39]	7.8	-	34 GHz	2.96λ
[40]	7	78%	7.1 GHz	0.65λ
[41]	5	50	8 GHz	0.96λ
Proposed Antenna	11.6	84%	6.4 GHz	0.68λ

Table 7. A comparison of performance with other antennas at 60 GHz.

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