

Equivalent Circuit Modelling of an L-shaped Patch Antennaby Optimizing the Lumped Elements Using Differential Evolution Algorithm

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Abstract: L-shaped patch antenna (LPA) is formed by combining two monopole patch radiators. Proper modelling of a LPA using lumped elements is crucial in antenna design and analysis. In this study, a novel equivalent circuit (EC) modeling of an LPA using differential evolution (DE) optimization algorithm is presented. Two parallel branches each represents the monopole patch radiator compose the EC topology. In each branch, a serial resistance and inductance pair stands for patch conductor, a parallel resistance and capacitance pair symbolizes the dielectric substrate. The expressions of these eight lumped elements enclosing the antenna's physical and electrical parameters accompanying with optimization variables are constituted considering the element definitions of micro strip transmission line (MTL). Return loss equation is derived through input impedance equation of the EC model. The variables are then optimally found by fitting the calculated return loss to the simulated results by DE algorithm. The proposed EC model is then verified through results of simulated and measured LPA. Moreover, real and imaginary parts of the EC input impedance are comparatively calculated. These results show that the proposed EC model gives almost the same results in terms of important antenna parameters.

Keywords: Antennas, patch antennas, L-shaped patch antennas, equivalent circuit model, optimization, differential evolution algorithm

1. Introduction

Patch antenna has been the most popular antenna type especially for wireless personal communication and small wireless applications due to their attractive feature of low profile, low cost, light weight, easy fabrication, and conformability to a mounting host. Previously, patch antennas were generally formed in rectangular, triangular, circular shapes. These antennas with regular shapes could be analyzed by classical techniques such as cavity model [1] and transmission line model (TLM) [2] based on waveguide and transmission line theory, respectively. As the usage of the patch antennas have being increased, wide range of irregular shapes such as C, E, H, L, rectangular ring and annular ring have being utilized [3-7]. However, they cannot be analyzed by the classical techniques owing to having irregular shapes. Fortunately, computer-based software incorporated with computational electromagnetic (CEM) [8] employing well-known numerical methods such as finite difference time domain (FDTD) method [9], method of moment (MoM) [10] and finite element method [11] can facilitate this problem. They are able to numerically solve the rigorous full-wave Maxwell equations in integral or differential forms by meshing the simulated model. However ownership cost of the CEM-based simulation tools is very expensive and learning procedure is heavy to simulate an antenna model. Therefore, researching alternative approaches for simply analyzing such antenna types is very important.

Equivalent circuit (EC) modelling is an alternative and useful method for antenna analyzing. EC models include resistance (R), inductance (L) and capacitance (C) lumped elements. In this wise, a comprehensive analysis in terms of important antenna parameters

like input impedance, return loss, resonant frequency and quality factor can be achieved. Note that EC model does not precisely represent an antenna structure; it is an approach that approximating an antenna through a formed circuit topology comprising lumped elements. Therefore, constituting a proper EC model is a key point in deriving such antenna parameters. Constructing an approximate circuit topology is hence an important step in order to achieve an accurate EC model of an antenna. Element values of R, L and C should then be determined especially according to antenna physical dimensions. To this end, generally two ways have been employed: First, the element values have been obtained from element definition of micro strip transmission lines (MTL) [12] or similar antenna shapes [13] using the analogy between them [14]. Second way, fitting the curve of return loss or input impedance equation to a reference measured or simulated curve [15]. At this point, artificial intelligent can promise optimal finding the element values related to antenna's physical and electrical parameters. This can be categorized into neural networks [16-18, 24] and natural inspired optimization algorithms. Optimization algorithm such as differential evolution (DE), genetic algorithm (GA), particle swarms optimization (PSO), ant colony optimization (ACO), simulated annealing (SA) and artificial bee colony (ABC) have been evolved to deal with high non-linear engineering problem. DE algorithm outperforms among the algorithms because it is simple and fast. It is a successful and reliable algorithm especially on nonlinear engineering problems with big variables, as well [19, 20]. Therefore, DE is chosen for optimization handled in this study. EC models of antenna geometry having rectangular, E, F and planar inverted F shapes come to the fore in the open literature [14, 15, 21, 22]. L-shaped patch antenna (LPA) has interesting geometry due to combining two monopole patch radiators, and it thus shows the characteristics of dipole antenna in compact form. Furthermore, there has been not yet reported an EC model for the

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LPA in the open literature.

In this study, an accurate EC model of the LPA is designed and its element values are optimally identified with the aid of DE algorithm. The lumped element expressions are constituted as covering both antenna dimensions and electrical properties along with optimization variables. The element definitions of MTLs are exploited while the expressions of EC model are being constituted [23]. The optimization variables represent the amount of change from lumped elements of MTL to the EC model of the LPA. DE minimizes the objective function of root mean square error (RMSE) between calculated and simulated return loss of the LPA which is simulated via a powerful MoM-based CEM software. The variables are then stochastically searched by DE algorithm to fit calculated return loss to simulated one. The EC model is self-verified with the simulated results and validated with a measured LPA reported elsewhere [24]. As a result, the EC model shows very near return loss performance to the both simulated and measured results.

2. Design of L-shaped Patch Antenna

A LPA consists of a patch having $W_o \times L_o$ outer conductor with dxs slot size as shown in Fig. 1. The patch is placed on a ϵ_r substrate with h height on a ground conductor. The designed LPA has $L_o=30$, $W_o=25$, $s=10$, $d=8$, $h=1.57$ (mm) and $\epsilon_r=2.33$. The antenna is feed at the point of $x=2.03$ mm and $y=2.44$ mm. The LPA is modelled and simulated by means of MoM-based Hyper Lynx® 3D EM which is an efficient CEM packed software. The simulated LPA operates at frequency of 3.125 GHz.

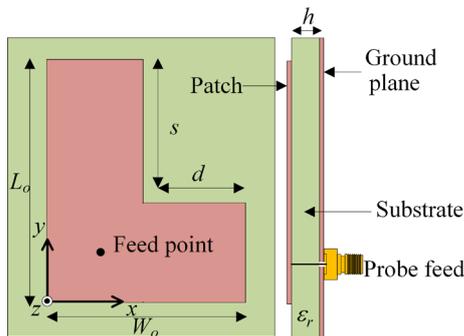


Fig. 1. The geometry of designed LPA

3. Equivalent Circuit Model

The proposed approach for EC model is illustrated on the LPA geometry in Fig. 2 and according formed topology is given Fig. 3. Each branch is modeled with four lumped elements.

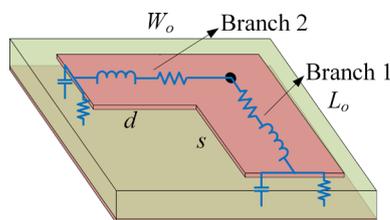


Fig. 2. EC model representation on the LPA geometry

The patch conductor is represented with a serial resistance (R_{11}) and inductance (L_1) pair for taking into accounts its copper loss and magnetic radiation. Similarly, substrate is represented with a parallel resistance (R_{12}) and capacitance (C_1) pair for considering the dielectric loss and electric field. Since the two monopole

patches are combined in parallel, the elements related to these branches are connected in parallel. The consequent EC model is depicted in Fig. 3.

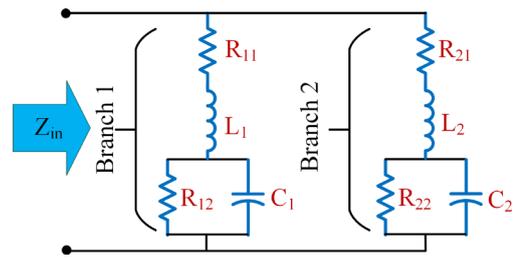


Fig. 3. The proposed topology of EC model for the LPA

Equivalent input impedance equation can be easily derived from the EC model. The input impedance Z_{in} is thereciprocal of equivalent input admittance Y_{in} ,

$$Z_{in} = \frac{1}{Y_{in}} \quad (1)$$

The equivalent input admittance is the sum of admittance of Branches 1 and 2,

$$Y_{in} = Y_1 + Y_2 \quad (2)$$

where,

$$Y_1 = \frac{1}{Z_1} \quad (3a)$$

$$Y_2 = \frac{1}{Z_2} \quad (3b)$$

The impedance of each branch is summed as two serial impedances, for Branch 1 and 2,

$$Z_1 = Z_{11} + Z_{12} \quad (4a)$$

$$Z_2 = Z_{21} + Z_{22} \quad (4b)$$

here,

$$Z_{11} = R_{11} + j\omega L_1 \quad (5a)$$

$$Z_{21} = R_{21} + j\omega L_2 \quad (5a)$$

and Z_{12} and Z_{22} are the impedances of parallel sub-branches including capacitances,

$$Z_{12} = \frac{1}{Y_{12}} \quad (6a)$$

$$Z_{22} = \frac{1}{Y_{22}} \quad (6b)$$

where, Y_{12} and Y_{22} are the admittances of the parallel sub-branches,

$$Y_{12} = \frac{1}{R_{12}} + j\omega C_1 \quad (7a)$$

$$Y_{22} = \frac{1}{R_{22}} + j\omega C_2 \quad (7b)$$

Finally, the equivalent input impedance Z_{in} can be calculated by substituting (2)-(7) into (1). The input impedance can be also written in complex form as,

$$Z_{in} = R_{in} + jX_{in} \quad (8)$$

The following equation determined from (8) expresses the reflection coefficient Γ ,

$$\Gamma = \frac{Z_{in} - Z_0}{Z_{in} + Z_0} \quad (9)$$

and thus the complex reflection coefficient can be calculated by taking the reference input impedance of $Z_0 = 50 \Omega$, and therefore the complex reflection coefficient will be,

$$\Gamma = \frac{Z_{in} - 50}{Z_{in} + 50} \quad (10)$$

Consequently, return loss ($-|S_{11}|$) of LPA can be calculated from (10) as follows

$$\text{Return Loss (RL)} = -20 \log |\Gamma| \quad (11)$$

4. Procedures for Constructing the Equivalent Circuit Elements

4.1. Definition

It is assumed that the LPA behaves like two monopole patch radiators. Therefore, the LPA can be represented by two monopole branches as shown in Fig. 4. Branch 1 and 2 respectively stand for long and short monopoles. Their dimensions can be redefined as,

$$L_{o1} = L_o \quad (12a)$$

$$W_{o1} = W_o - d \quad (12b)$$

$$L_{o2} = W_o \quad (12c)$$

$$W_{o2} = L_o - s \quad (12d)$$

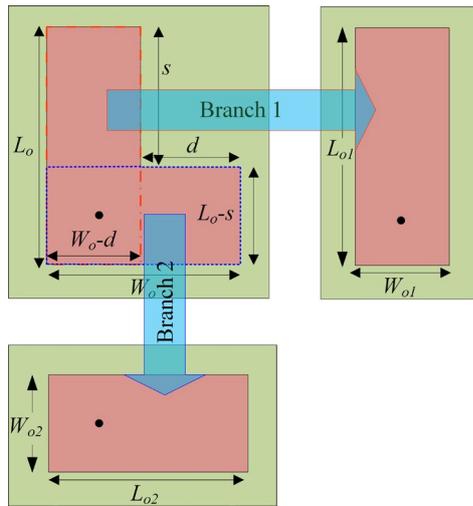


Fig. 4. Branch representation of the LPA geometry

It is evident that the field radiating at the edges of the monopoles propagates in the substrate and the air. An effective dielectric constant should be regarded and it will be inherently between the dielectric constants of the substrate and the air. Effective dielectric constant ϵ_{reff} in (13) is considered to approximate the dielectric constant of the substrate to the air [25].

$$\epsilon_{reff} = \frac{\epsilon_r + 1}{2} + \frac{\epsilon_r - 1}{2} \left[1 + 10 \frac{h}{W_o} \right]^{-1/2} \quad (13)$$

Likewise, monopole patch lengths look electrically longer than the real length, and therefore an edge extension should be regarded for patch length. The effective lengths expressions taking into account the edge extensions are given as follow,

$$L_{o1eff} = L_{o1} + \Delta L_{o1} \quad (14a)$$

$$L_{o2eff} = L_{o2} + \Delta L_{o2} \quad (14b)$$

where, the length extensions of ΔL_{o1} and ΔL_{o2} are treated as optimization variables, and they will be found by optimization.

In constructing the EC elements, it is inspired from the lumped element definition of MTL[23]. Similarly, the following expressions (15) including effective lengths and substrate properties are formed in order to construct the effective EC elements containing the antenna's physical and electrical properties.

$$C_1 = \Delta C_1 L_{o1eff} \left(\frac{W_{o1}}{h} \right) \epsilon_{reff} \epsilon_o \quad (15a)$$

$$C_2 = \Delta C_2 L_{o2eff} \left(\frac{W_{o2}}{h} \right) \epsilon_{reff} \epsilon_o \quad (15b)$$

$$L_1 = \Delta L_1 L_{o1eff} \left(\frac{h}{W_{o1}} \right) \mu_o \quad (15c)$$

$$L_2 = \Delta L_2 L_{o2eff} \left(\frac{h}{W_{o2}} \right) \mu_o \quad (15d)$$

$$R_{11} = \Delta R_{11} L_{o1eff} \left(\frac{L_{o1}}{W_{o1}} \right) \quad (15e)$$

$$R_{12} = \Delta R_{12} L_{o1eff} \left(\frac{h}{W_{o1}} \right) \quad (15f)$$

$$R_{21} = \Delta R_{21} L_{o2eff} \left(\frac{L_{o2}}{W_{o2}} \right) \quad (15g)$$

$$R_{22} = \Delta R_{22} L_{o2eff} \left(\frac{h}{W_{o2}} \right) \quad (15h)$$

where, ϵ_o and μ_o permittivity and permeability of free space, respectively. $\Delta C_1, \Delta C_2, \Delta L_1, \Delta L_2, \Delta R_{11}, \Delta R_{12}, \Delta R_{21}$ and ΔR_{22} which will be determined by optimization are inserted to the EC element expressions to represent the changes in the elements due to the operating as radiators rather than MTLs.

4.2. Optimization

The EC element's expressions in (15) are optimized using DE since it is a reliable and versatile optimizer based on population, and it has gained popularity in electromagnetic applications in which the number of variables tends to be higher.

The expressions are optimized to minimize the objective function of RMSE,

$$RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (RL_{cal}^i - RL_{sim}^i)^2}{f_n}} \quad (16)$$

where, RL^i is the return loss value at frequency index of i varies between 2 and 4 GHz on 161 discrete frequency points off_n . Subscriptions $_{cal}$ and $_{sim}$ respectively denote the calculation by the EC model in (11) and the simulation by HyperLynx® 3D EM. The set parameters of DE optimization are population size: 30, mutation rate: 0.85, crossover rate: 0.7, maximum iteration number: 5000. The upper and lower limits of the optimization variables are given in Table 1. As outlined in Fig. 5, DE performs the optimization by four operators: Initialization, mutation, crossover and selection. For briefly explaining the working mechanism of the DE, the first iteration is hereby addressed: In initial phase, the DE randomly creates a new generation ($G=0$) for searching population including chromosomes composed of genes within upper and lower limits. Each gene corresponds to optimization variable. The objective values for each initial gene are evaluated by substituting the initial generation into the objective function. In mutation phase, the DE then mutates all chromosomes

for producing a new generation (G+1) from the old genes (initial genes for first generation) as amount allowed by mutation rate. In crossover phase, new genes survive if a random value (0-1) is less than the crossover rate. Finally, chromosomes which have lower objective value either new or old generations are chosen in selection phase. Thus the same iterations will be continued until the maximum iteration number(MIN).

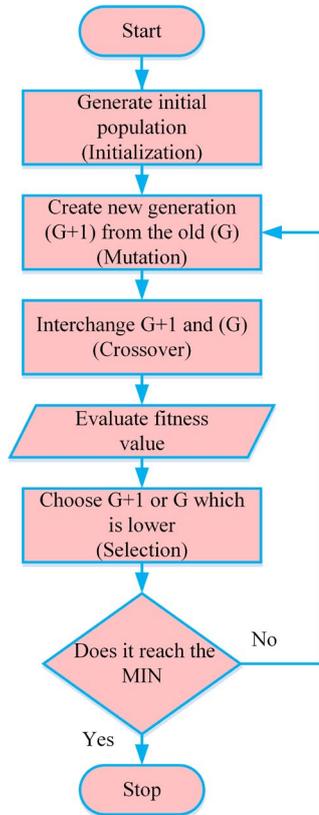


Fig. 5. Flowchart of DE

Table 1. Upper and lower limits of optimization variables

#	Optimization Variables	Lower limit	Upper limit
1	ΔL_{o1}	0	2
2	ΔL_{o2}	0	2
3	ΔC_1	0	100
4	ΔC_2	0	100
5	ΔL_1	0	100
6	ΔL_2	0	100
7	ΔR_{11}	0	100
8	ΔR_{12}	0	10^8
9	ΔR_{21}	0	100
10	ΔR_{22}	0	10^8

5. Results and Comparison

After the optimization is accomplished, the final values of optimization variables are achieved as given in Table 2. The DE finds the variables with RMSE of 0.025. It should be noted that different EC models with more branches and elements, and also with different topology are essayed for the LPA, as well. Satisfactory results are obtained with only the proposed EC model in Fig. 3. The expressions in (17) belonging to the EC elements are achieved by substituting the values in Table 2 into (15).

Table 2. Optimization variables of EC model found by the DE

#	Optimization Variable	Value
1	ΔL_{o1}	1.2945
2	ΔL_{o2}	0.1639
3	ΔC_1	9.1531
4	ΔC_2	0.0031
5	ΔL_1	0.6665
6	ΔL_2	0.4991
7	ΔR_{11}	17.2182
8	ΔR_{12}	1.0×10^8
9	ΔR_{21}	39.6090
10	ΔR_{22}	3754375.42

$$C_1 = 9.1531 \cdot 1.3245 \left(\frac{0.017}{0.00157} \right) 2.1862 \cdot 8.854 \cdot 10^{-12} \quad (17a)$$

$$C_2 = 0.0031 \cdot 0.1889 \left(\frac{0.02}{0.00157} \right) 2.1862 \cdot 8.854 \cdot 10^{-12} \quad (17b)$$

$$L_1 = 0.6665 \cdot 1.3245 \left(\frac{0.00157}{0.017} \right) 1.256 \cdot 10^{-6} \quad (17c)$$

$$L_2 = 0.4991 \cdot 0.1889 \left(\frac{0.00157}{0.02} \right) 1.256 \cdot 10^{-6} \quad (17d)$$

$$R_{11} = 17.2182 \cdot 1.3245 \left(\frac{0.03}{0.017} \right) \quad (17e)$$

$$R_{12} = 1.0 \times 10^8 \cdot 1.3245 \left(\frac{0.00157}{0.017} \right) \quad (17f)$$

$$R_{21} = 39.6090 \cdot 0.1889 \left(\frac{0.025}{0.02} \right) \quad (17g)$$

$$R_{22} = 3754375.42 \cdot 0.1889 \left(\frac{0.00157}{0.02} \right) \quad (17h)$$

Optimal EC element values calculated by (17) are achieved in Table 3

Table 3. Optimal EC element values by the DE

#	EC Element	Value
1	C_1	0.02537 pF
2	C_2	0.1459 pF
3	L_1	102.45 nH
4	L_2	9.301 nH
5	R_{11}	40.246 Ω
6	R_{12}	12.232 M Ω
7	R_{21}	9.3537 Ω
8	R_{22}	55.678 K Ω

The calculated and simulated return loss plots of the EC model are comparatively presented in Fig. 6. In order to validate the EC model, the return loss is further compared with the measurement result of the LPA in [24]. From the figure, the calculated plot is agree well with both simulated and measured ones. Especially, the calculated return loss almost the same as the simulated results. Calculated resonant frequency of 3.125 GHz respectively confirms the simulated and measured resonant frequencies of 3.125 GHz and 3.13 GHz. The simulated and calculated bandwidths are very close to each other and it is about 100 MHz. The quality factor is

$$Q = \frac{f_r}{BW} \quad (18)$$

where, f_r is the resonant frequency and BW is the bandwidth of the LPA. The calculated and simulated quality factor is 31.25.

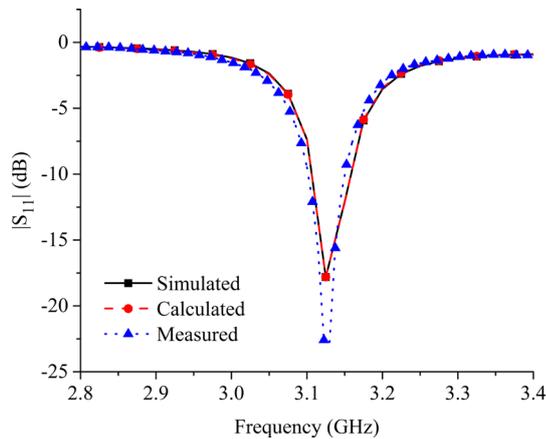


Fig. 6. Return loss plots of simulated, calculated and measured [21] LPA

The equivalent input impedance is defined in (8) is plotted as real and imaginary parts, R_{in} and X_{in} , respectively in Fig. 7. Maximum R_{in} occurs 397.85 Ω at 3.25 GHz, while maximum and minimum X_{in} respectively takes place -5.28 Ω at 3.125 GHz and -302.14 Ω at 3.275 GHz.

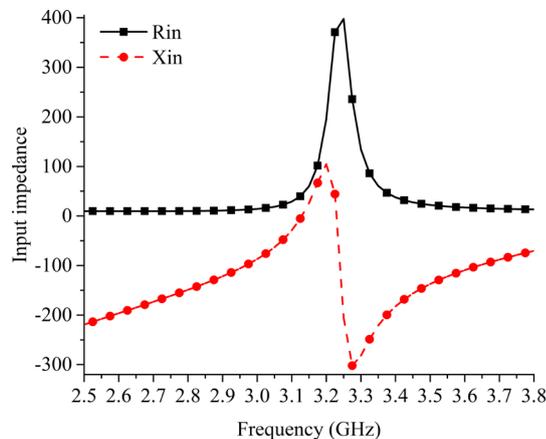


Fig. 7. Calculated input impedance of the LPA

6. Conclusion

In this study, a novel EC model with eight lumped elements is proposed for the LPA. The EC model consists of two parallel branches each has two serial impedance of a serial inductance and resistance pair and a parallel capacitance resistance pair. The eight lumped element expression are formed by inspiring from element definition of MTL, hence the element expressions cover the antenna's physical and electrical parameters accompanying with optimization variables. The optimization variables represent the changing in antenna dimension and lumped element values due to operating as radiator rather than MTL. Return loss equation is derived from the EC model. The DE matches the calculated return loss to the simulated to minimize the objective function of RMSE between those return loss results. The lumped elements of EC model are optimally found with RMSE of 0.025. Therefore, the designed EC model is corroborated through the simulated and measured LPA. The return loss of EC model well fits to the simulated and measured results. Finally, the complex input impedance of EC model is successfully calculated.

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