

Design and development of multiband multi-mode frequency reconfigurable CPW-fed antenna for 5G wireless communication

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ABSTRACT

This research develops, simulates, fabricates and measured a coplanar waveguide (CPW)-fed multiband multi-mode frequency reconfigurable antenna for 5G wireless communication. The antenna is design on Rogers RT5880 substrate with a dielectric constant of 2.2, a thickness of 0.508 mm, and a loss tangent ($\tan\delta$) of 0.0009 and the dimension is $30 \times 28 \times 0.508$ mm³. The presented antenna has shown good impedance matching with reflection coefficients ranging from -14.82 to -50.36 dB at different frequencies between 6 GHz to 24 GHz. The presented frequency reconfigurable antenna design includes four PIN diodes, resistors, and inductors, enabling 16 different configurations. The simulated outcomes showed varied S-parameter values and gains, demonstrating the antenna's flexibility. Measurements were taken using vector network analyzer (VNA) and anechoic chamber to assess reflection coefficient ($|S_{11}|$) and gain, confirming the antenna's performance. The antenna's ability to reconfigure dynamically without losing signal integrity makes it suitable for 5G wireless applications. It meets and exceeds the requirements for multiband operation, validated by comprehensive simulations and measurements, showing its potential for wide use.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The rapid progress in wireless communication technology has greatly increased the need for flexible and adaptable antenna systems [1], [2]. Reconfigurable antennas have become a promising solution to meet the changing demands of modern wireless communication systems, offering flexibility and better performance in various applications [3], [4]. Reconfigurable antennas are designed to change their operating characteristics, such as frequency, radiation pattern, polarization, and impedance. This can be done through mechanical adjustments, electrical tuning, and material changes [5]. The ability to change these parameters in real-time allows a single antenna to work efficiently under different conditions and requirements, optimizing performance and resource use [6]. One major benefit of reconfigurable antennas is their ability to support multiple functions within a compact and lightweight design. This is particularly useful in applications where space and weight are limited, such as in mobile devices, satellite communications, and military systems. By replacing multiple fixed-function antennas with one reconfigurable unit, overall system complexity and cost can be significantly reduced [7], [8]. These antennas typically achieve reconfigurability through the use of

tunable elements like varactor diodes, micro-electro-mechanical systems (MEMS) switches, PIN diodes, and advanced materials such as liquid crystals and smart polymers. These elements allow precise control over the antenna's parameters, enabling it to adapt to changing environments and communication protocols [9], [10].

In modern wireless communication systems, reconfigurable antennas offer several important benefits [11], [12]:

- Frequency reconfigurability: the ability to switch between different frequency bands makes the antenna more versatile, suitable for various communication standards, and reduces interference.
- Radiation pattern reconfigurability: adjusting the radiation pattern improves signal coverage, directional communication, and reduces interference, which is crucial for applications like beamforming in 5G networks.
- Polarization reconfigurability: changing the antenna's polarization helps combat multipath fading and improves signal clarity in complex environments.
- Impedance reconfigurability: modifying impedance matching optimizes power transfer between the antenna and the transmitter/receiver, enhancing overall efficiency.

Reconfigurable antennas are expected to play a vital role in the future of wireless communications. Their ability to adapt to different requirements and operating conditions makes them key components in developing advanced communication systems, including the internet of things (IoT), 5G and beyond networks, and next-generation satellite communications [13]-[17]. As research and technology continue to advance, reconfigurable antennas will likely become even more important in the design and implementation of versatile, high-performance communication infrastructures [18]. For the antenna reconfigurability different techniques are discussed by the different researchers some of them are mostly used that are electronic switching circuit [19], varactor-loaded reconfigurable [20], and PIN diode [21], [22].

This work introduces a multiband, multi-mode coplanar waveguide (CPW)-fed antenna designed for 5G wireless communication. Built on a Rogers RT5880 substrate with dimensions of $30 \times 28 \times 0.508$ mm³, the antenna operates across a wide frequency range of 6 GHz to 28 GHz, with reflection coefficients between -14.82 dB and -50.36 dB. It uses four PIN diodes, resistors, and inductors to achieve 16 different frequency configurations. Simulations with computer simulation technology (CST) Microwave Studio show flexibility in performance, including variations in S-parameters, gains, and radiation patterns. Measurements using a vector network analyzer (VNA) and anechoic chamber confirm its reflection coefficient ($|S_{11}|$) and gain, making it a reliable option for 5G applications.

2. ANTENNA DESIGN AND SIMULATION ANALYSIS

The design stages for the basic multiband antenna are shown in Figure 1, which illustrates three different structures of the multiband antenna with CPW feed. These antennas are designed using the Rogers RT5880 substrate, featuring a dielectric constant of 2.2, a thickness of 20 mil, and a loss tangent ($\tan\delta$) of 0.0009. Following the design process in CST Studio, the antennas were simulated to obtain their reflection coefficients (S_{11}). The simulated values of the reflection coefficient (S_{11}) for these three antennas are presented in Figure 2.

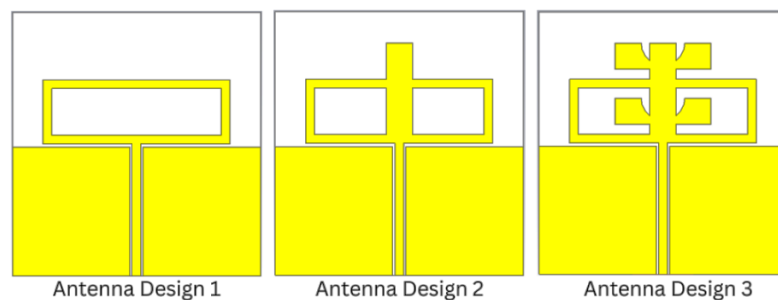


Figure 1. Three different structures of the multiband antenna with CPW feed

Figure 2 presents the simulated values of the reflection coefficient (S_{11}) for the three antenna designs.

- For antenna design 1, the reflection coefficients are -15.49 dB at 11.502 GHz, -11.34 dB at 13.75 GHz, -17.93 dB at 16.8 GHz, -24.68 dB at 21.65 GHz, and -14.67 dB at 25.9 GHz.

- For antenna design 2, the reflection coefficients are -13.49 dB at 10.675 GHz, -26.49 dB at 12.45 GHz, -19.27 dB at 16.025 GHz, -21.1 dB at 22.3 GHz, and -15.65 dB at 27.175 GHz.
- For antenna design 3, the reflection coefficients are -20.2 dB at 8.95 GHz, -25.07 dB at 12.2 GHz, -17.87 dB at 16.275 GHz, -26.43 dB at 21.825 GHz, and -19.07 dB at 27.25 GHz.

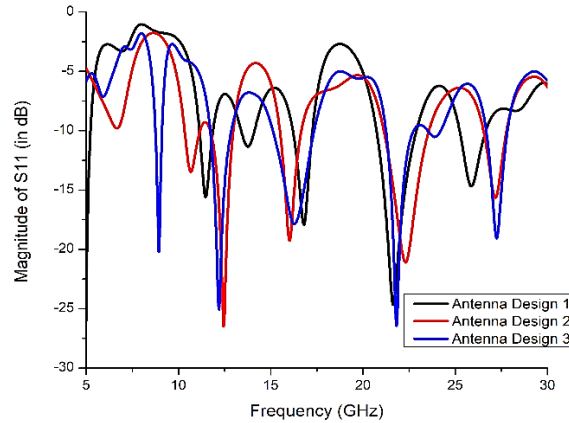


Figure 2. Simulated values of the reflection coefficient ($|S_{11}|$) for antenna design 1, 2 and 3

The obtained simulated reflection coefficient results from Figure 2 indicate that antenna design 3 provides the best response for multiband applications. Therefore, antenna design 3 will be used for further analysis. The parameters of antenna design 3 are illustrated in Figure 3.

The values of the parameters used to design the final multiband antenna design (antenna design 3) that is shown in the Figure 3 are as: L_{p1} is 7.3 mm, L_{p2} is 5.3 mm, and L_{p3} is 3 mm. The width parameters are W_{p1} at 10.2 mm, W_{p2} at 4 mm, and W_{p3} at 3 mm. The width of the resonator, W_r , is 2.5 mm. The substrate dimensions are L_s at 30 mm and W_s at 28 mm. The ground plane dimensions are L_g at 14.642 mm and W_g at 13.45 mm. The feed line dimensions are L_f at 15 mm and W_f at 1 mm. Additionally, the gap sizes are g_1 at 0.25 mm and g_2 at 0.358 mm.

To achieve reconfigurability, four PIN diodes, two resistors, and five inductors were added to antenna design 3, transforming it into a reconfigurable multiband antenna, as shown in Figure 4. Capacitors C1 and C2 are used for DC blocking, which ensures that the PIN diodes (D1, D2, D3, and D4) can operate independently by preventing DC currents from interfering with radio frequency (RF) signals. The inductors (L1, L2, L3, L4, and L5) function as RF choke inductors, allowing necessary DC control currents to pass through while blocking unwanted high-frequency signals. This crucial role of RF choke inductors enables dynamic adjustments without compromising the integrity of the RF signals, ensuring that the reconfiguration process is effective and does not interfere with the antenna's performance.

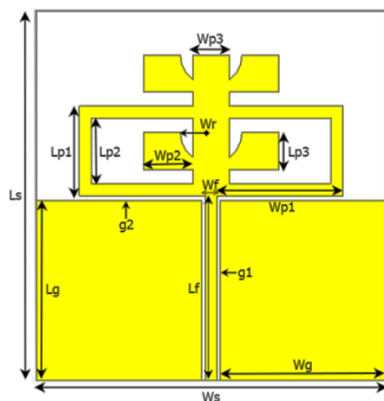


Figure 3. Final multiband antenna design (antenna design 3)

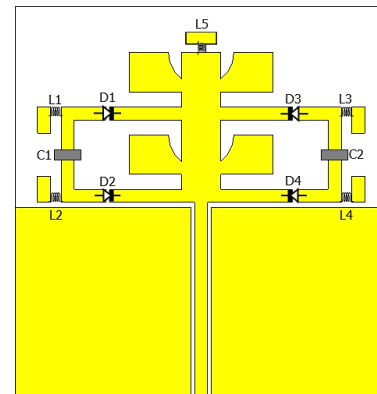


Figure 4. Proposed reconfigurable multiband antenna design

In this proposed multiband reconfigurable antenna design, 16 combinations (ranging from 0000 to 1111) are possible by using the four diodes (D1, D2, D3, and D4). In these combinations, a value of 0 means the respective diode is off, and a value of 1 means the respective diode is on. Through simulation analysis using CST studio suite, it was found that some combinations produce similar results. Therefore, the results of similar combinations can be grouped together.

Figure 5 shows four different combinations of the proposed antenna: 0101, 0111, 1101, and 1111. Table 1 obtained simulated values of 0101, 0111, 1101, and 1111. The obtained S-parameter values for these combinations are similar, as shown in Figure 6. Figure 7 illustrates the radiation patterns of the proposed antenna for the input combinations 0101, 0111, 1101, and 1111 at different frequencies: Figures 7(a) at 12.36 GHz, Figure 7(b) at 16.59 GHz, Figure 7(c) at 21.75 GHz, and Figure 7(d) at 27.27 GHz.

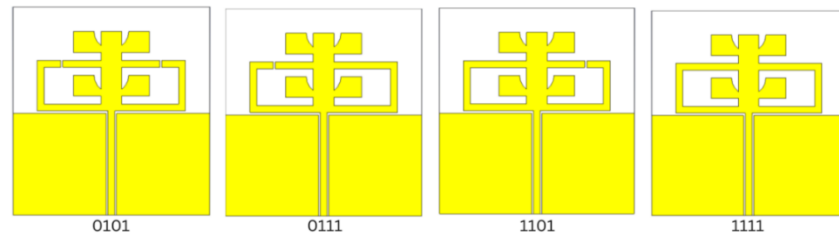


Figure 5. Four different combinations of the proposed antenna: 0101, 0111, 1101, and 1111

Table 1. Obtained simulated values of 0101, 0111, 1101, and 1111 combinations of the proposed reconfigurable multiband antenna

	Mode	Operating frequency (GHz)	Reflection coefficient S ₁₁ (in dB)	Gain (in dBi)
Common operating frequency	0101	12.36	-37.13	3.15
	0111	16.59	-23.64	5.46
	1101	21.75	-41	7.42
	1111	27.27	-19.19	5.57
	0101	6.81	-20.05	4.27
	0111			
	1101			
Individual operating frequency	1111	8.94	-38.11	3.69

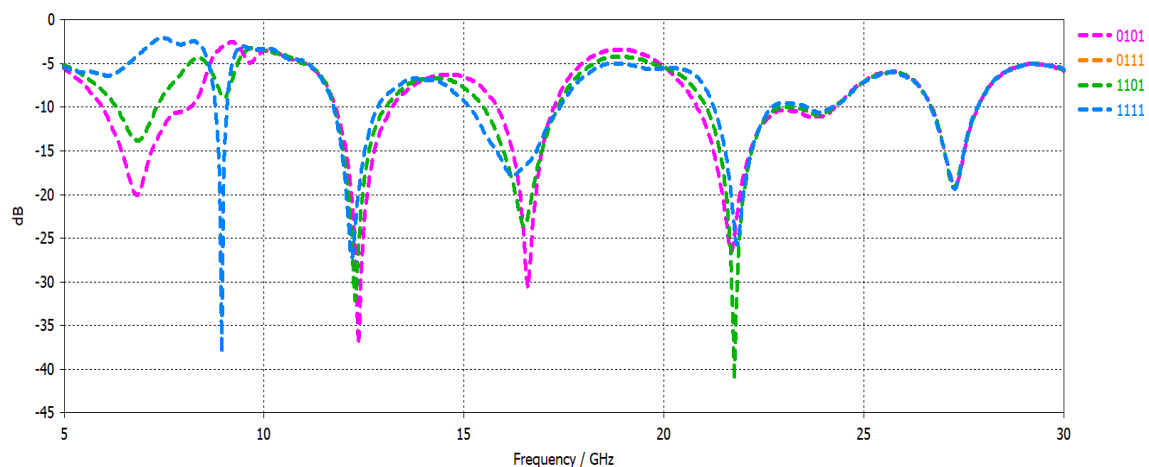


Figure 6. Reflection coefficient of 0101, 0111, 1101, and 1111 four different combinations of the proposed reconfigurable multiband antenna

Figure 8 illustrates eight distinct configurations of the proposed reconfigurable antenna, determined by the diode operations: 0001, 0011, 0100, 0110, 1001, 1011, 1100, and 1110. The simulated S-parameter values obtained for these configurations are comparable, as depicted in Figure 9. The values of the simulated S₁₁ and gain for these eight combinations are shown in Table 2.

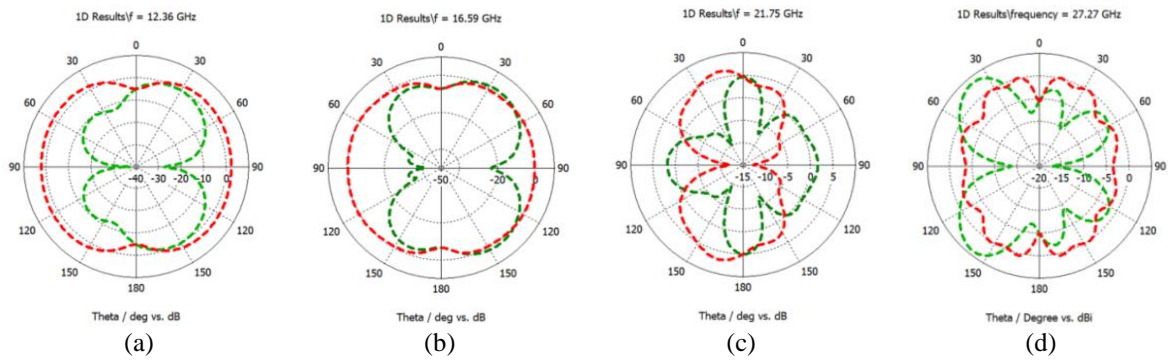


Figure 7. Different radiation pattern of 0101, 0111, 1101, and 1111 combinations of the proposed antenna at (a) 12.36 GHz, (b) 16.59 GHz, (c) 21.75 GHz, and (d) 27.27 GHz

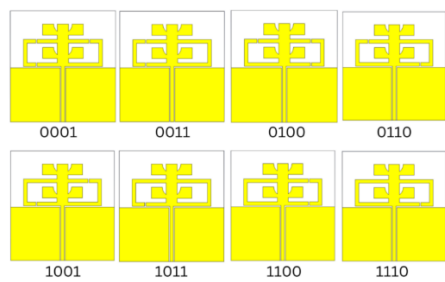


Figure 8. Eight different combinations of the proposed antenna: 0001, 0011, 0100, 0110, 1001, 1011, 1100, and 1110

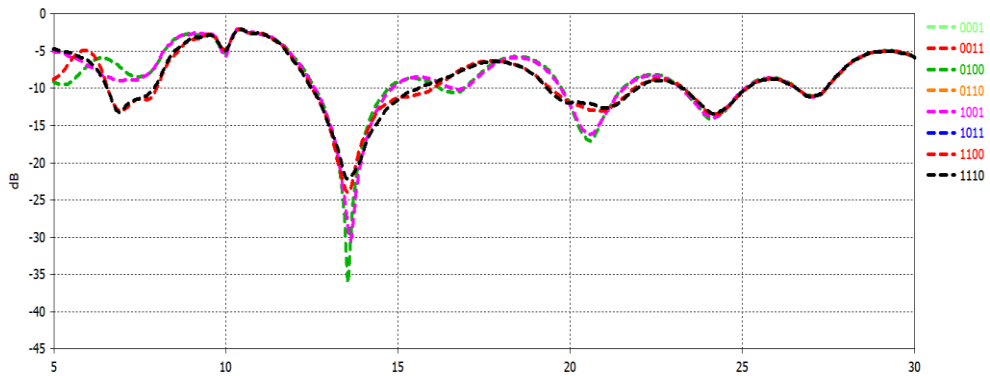


Figure 9. Reflection coefficient of 0001, 0011, 0100, 0110, 1001, 1011, 1100, and 1110 eight different combinations of the proposed reconfigurable multiband antenna

Table 2. Obtained simulated values of 0001, 0011, 0100, 0110, 1001, 1011, 1100, and 1110 combinations of the proposed reconfigurable multiband antenna

	Mode	Operating frequency (GHz)	Reflection coefficient S11 (in dB)	Gain (in dBi)
Common operating frequency	0001	13.53	-36.12	4.18
	0011	20.55	-17.03	6.02
	0100	24.09	-14.10	5.95
	0110			
	1001			
	1011			
	1100			
	1110			
Common operating frequency	0011	6.96	-13.19	4.37
	1011			
	1100			
	1110			

Figure 10 shows the different radiation patterns of the proposed reconfigurable antenna for the diode operation combinations 0001, 0011, 0100, 0110, 1001, 1011, 1100, and 1110 at three frequencies; 13.53 GHz (Figure 10(a)), 20.55 GHz (Figure 10(b)), and 24.09 GHz (Figure 10(c)). These patterns vary based on the specific configuration of the antenna's diodes. Each combination produces a distinct radiation pattern at these frequencies, and these patterns are depicted in detail for comparison and analysis.

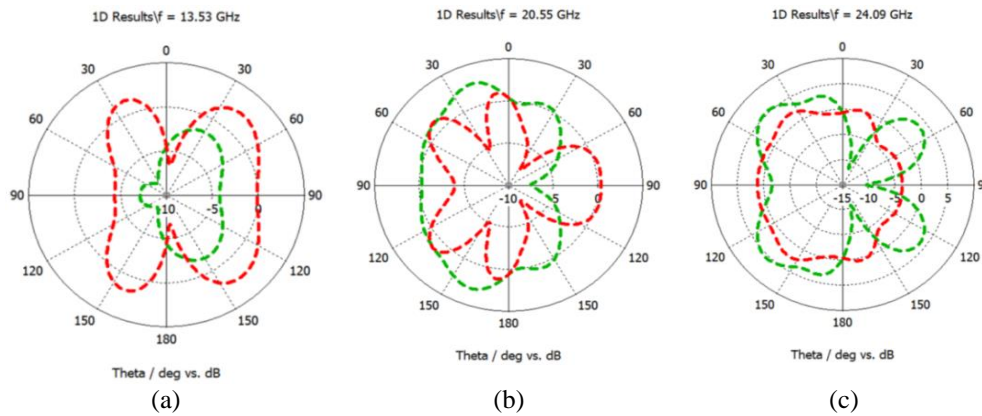


Figure 10. Different radiation pattern of 0001, 0011, 0100, 0110, 1001, 1011, 1100, and 1110 combinations of the proposed reconfigurable antenna at (a) 13.53 GHz, (b) 20.55 GHz, and (c) 24.09 GHz

Figure 11 illustrates the remaining four configurations of the reconfigurable antenna, represented by the diode operation combinations 0000, 0010, 1000, and 1010. These configurations are based on the operations of PIN diodes. Figure 12 presents the simulated S-parameter responses for these specific configurations at three different frequencies: 14.07 GHz, 19.74 GHz, and 24.57 GHz. The results of these simulations, detailing the performance of the proposed reconfigurable antenna for each of these combinations, are summarized in Table 3.

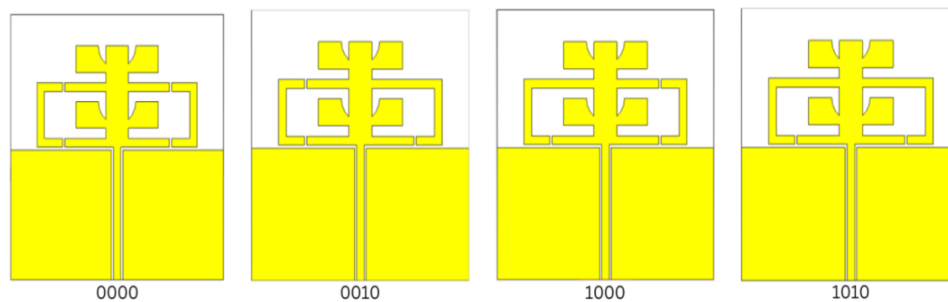


Figure 11. Four different combinations of the proposed reconfigurable antenna: 0000, 0010, 1000, and 1010

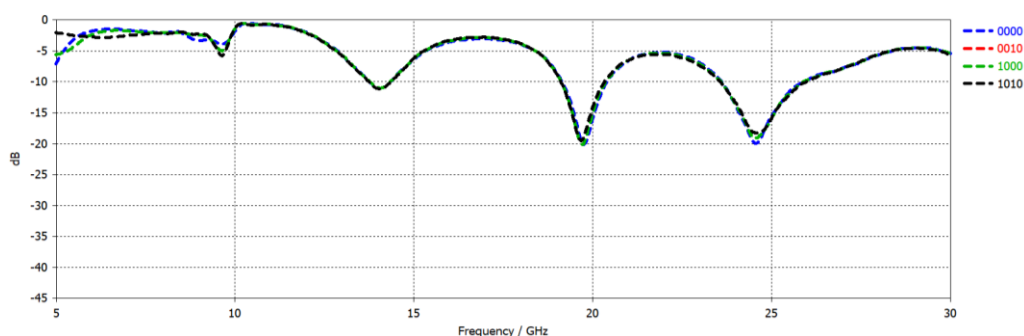


Figure 12. Reflection coefficient of 0000, 0010, 1000, and 1010 four different combinations of the proposed reconfigurable multiband antenna

Table 3. Obtained simulated values of 0000, 0010, 1000, and 1010 combinations of the proposed reconfigurable multiband antenna

	Mode	Operating frequency (GHz)	Reflection coefficient S11 (in dB)	Gain (in dBi)
Common operating frequency	0000	14.07	-11.13	3.78
	0010	19.74	-20.16	3.83
	1000	24.57	-19.96	4.2
	1010			

Figure 13 illustrates the different radiation patterns of the proposed reconfigurable antenna for the diode operation combinations 0000, 0010, 1000, and 1010 at two frequencies: 19.74 GHz (Figure 13(a)) and 24.57 GHz (Figure 13(b)). These radiation patterns change based on the specific configuration of the antenna's diodes, demonstrating the antenna's adaptability to different frequency operations and configurations.

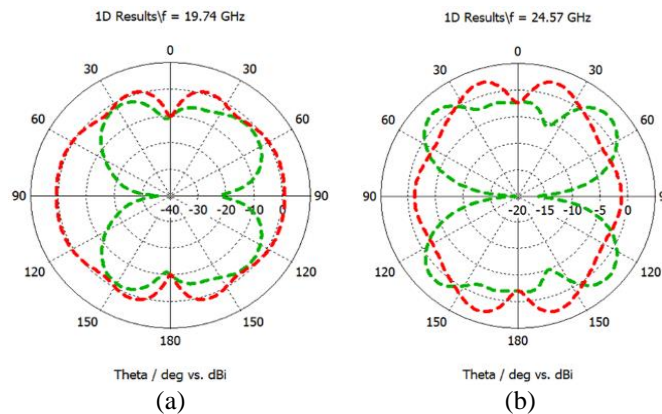


Figure 13. Different radiation pattern of 0000, 0010, 1000 and 1010 combinations of the proposed reconfigurable antenna at (a) 19.74 GHz and (b) 24.57 GHz

3. MEASUREMENTS RESULTS OF THE PROPOSED FREQUENCY RECONFIGURABLE ANTENNA

In order to verify the simulated results of the proposed CPW feed reconfigurable multiband antenna design, the antenna is fabricated on a Rogers RT5880 substrate, featuring a dielectric constant of 2.2, a thickness of 20 mil, and a loss tangent ($\tan\delta$) of 0.0009. The overall dimension of the proposed CPW feed reconfigurable multiband antenna design 28.4 mm×30 mm×0.508 mm.

In Figure 14, several key aspects of the antenna design and its performance are presented. Figure 14(a) shows the fabricated antenna design, while Figure 14(b) displays the antenna with a DC supply to operate the diode modes. Figure 14(c) illustrates the measurement setup of the reflection coefficient |S₁₁| parameter using a calibrated Agilent N5234A PNA-L network analyzer. Figure 14(d) presents the measured |S₁₁| of the proposed CPW feed reconfigurable multiband antenna design in 0101 mode and 1111 mode. According to Table 1, these two modes cover all the frequency bands in the 0101, 0111, 1101, and 1111 combinations. The measured |S₁₁| values in these modes are -25.98 dB at 6.84 GHz, -13.23 dB at 8.93 GHz, -50.36 dB at 12.36 GHz, -38.89 dB at 16.59 GHz, -29.55 dB at 21.75 GHz, and -23.18 dB at 27.27 GHz. Figure 14(e) shows the measured |S₁₁| values of the proposed antenna for the 0011 combination. From Table 2, it is shown that the 0001, 0011, 0100, 0110, 1001, 1011, 1100, and 1110 combinations have similar |S₁₁| values. The measured |S₁₁| values for the 0011, 1011, and 1100 combinations are -14.32 dB at 6.96 GHz, -26.35 dB at 13.5 GHz, -14.19 dB at 20.55 GHz, and -14.82 dB at 24.09 GHz. Figure 14(f) presents the measured |S₁₁| values of the proposed antenna for the 0000 combination. Table 3 indicates that the 0000, 0010, 1000, and 1010 combinations have similar |S₁₁| values. The measured |S₁₁| values for the 0000 combination are -16.9 dB at 14.07 GHz, -31.03 dB at 19.74 GHz, and -16.83 dB at 23.54 GHz. These measurements from the fabricated antenna demonstrate its performance across various frequency bands and mode combinations.

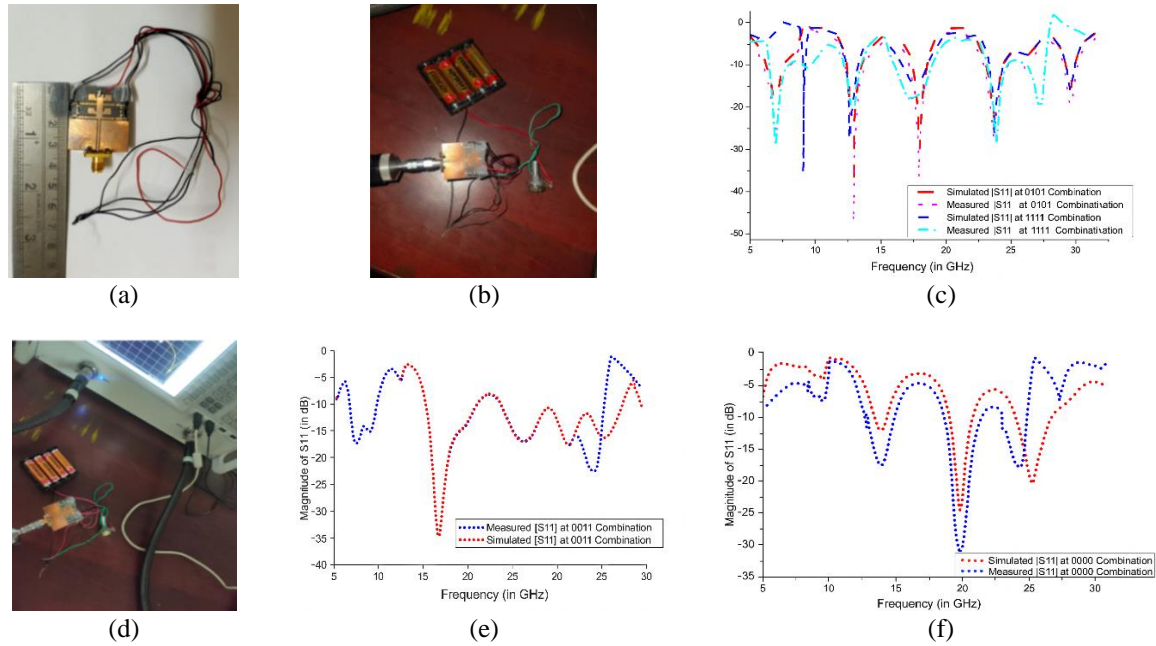


Figure 14. Fabricated CPW-fed reconfigurable multiband antenna and its measured $|S_{11}|$ for (a) prototype, (b) antenna with DC-bias network, (c) Agilent N5234A PNA-L measurement setup, (d) 0101 and 1111 modes, (e) 0011 mode, and (f) 0000 mode

Figure 15 shows the fabricated proposed frequency reconfigurable CPW feed multiband multi-mode antenna measurement setup in an anechoic chamber for testing and evaluation. In this anechoic chamber, measurements of the E and H planes, radiation pattern, and gain were conducted for the reconfigurable antenna in different modes. According to Table 1, the 0101 mode and 1111 mode cover all the frequency bands in the 0101, 0111, 1101, and 1111 combinations. The measured gains at various frequencies are as follows: 4.3 dBi at 6.84 GHz, 3.72 dBi at 8.93 GHz, 3.8 dBi at 12.36 GHz, 5.3 dBi at 16.59 GHz, 8.2 dBi at 21 GHz, and 5.3 dBi at 27.27 GHz. From Table 2, it is shown that the 0001, 0011, 0100, 0110, 1001, 1011, 1100, and 1110 combinations have approximately the same operating frequencies. Therefore, the measurements were taken in the 0011 mode, and the results are approximately the same for all these combinations. The measured gains at various frequencies are as follows: 3.8 dBi at 6.96 GHz, 4.7 dBi at 13.5 GHz, 6.2 dBi at 20.55 GHz, and 5.7 dBi at 24.09 GHz. Table 3 indicates that the 0000, 0010, 1000, and 1010 combinations have similar operating frequencies. Therefore, the measurements were taken in the 0000 mode for all four combinations. The measured gains in the 0000 mode are 3.4 dBi at 14.07 GHz, 3.1 dBi at 19.74 GHz, and 3.9 dBi at 23.54 GHz.



Figure 15. Fabricated proposed CPW feed multiband reconfigurable antenna measurement setup in an anechoic chamber for testing and evaluation

Table 4 presents the measurement results of the fabricated antenna obtained using a VNA and an anechoic chamber. A total of 13 distinct frequencies were achieved under different antenna configurations. The multiband frequencies range from 6 GHz to 28 GHz, with the measured gain of the reconfigurable multiband multimode antenna varying between 3.1 dBi and 8.2 dBi. Comparative analysis of presented multiband reconfigurable antenna work with existing research work as Table 5.

Table 4. Measured results of the presented frequency reconfigurable multiband multimode antenna

Operating frequencies (in GHz)	Reflection coefficient S11 (in dB)	Gain (in dBi)
6.84	-25.98	4.3
8.93	-13.23	3.72
12.36	-50.36	3.8
16.59	-38.89	5.3
21.75	-29.55	8.2
27.27	-23.18	5.3
6.96	-14.32	3.8
13.5	-26.35	4.7
20.55	-14.19	6.2
24.09	-14.82	5.7
14.07	-16.9	3.4
19.74	-31.03	3.1
23.54	-16.83	3.9

Table 5. Comparative analysis of presented multiband reconfigurable antenna work with existing research work

Ref	Size (mm ³)	No. of operating frequency	Operating frequencies (GHz)	Reflection coefficient S11 (dB)	Gain (dBi)	Type of reconfigurable switch
[14]	15×21×1.6	6	7.29, 2.47, 5.29, 7.2, 3.2, 5.42	-25, -26.5, -18, -33, -15.2, -23.5	3.21, 2.07, 2.41, 3.38, 2.3, 2.4	PIN diode (2)
[23]	37×47×1.6	9	1.36, 1.8, 3.0, 6.2, 6.4, 7.4, 7.9, 8.2, 8.6	-15.77, -14.03, -13.37, -31.98, -12.0, -12.68, -13.23, -16.50, -22.06	2.29, 3.65, 10, 6.1, 6.63, 1.83, 4.66, 7.9, 4.73	PIN diode (3)
[24]	30×15×1.6	5	2.4, 5.8, 3.3, 3.5, 5	-17.5, -15, -11.5, -15.7, -18	—	PIN diode (3)
[25]	120×60×1.575	6	0.94, 3.95, 4.75, 1.85, 2.55, 4.75	-38, -29.5, -20, -13.5, -11, -18	1.06, 1.23, 2.37, 2.97, 1.5, 1.87	PIN diode (2)
[5]	33×24×1.6	8	2, 2.3, 2.5, 2.7, 2.9, 4.2, 4.4, 5.5	-12, -24, -17.5, -16, -19, -16, -12.5, -18	5, 4, 4.8, 3.9, 5.2, 4.1, 6, 6.8	PIN diode (3)
[26]	26.5×30×1.6	2	2.4, 28	-22.39, -22.15	4.34, 8.57	PIN diode (2)
[27]	18×11.5×0.787	2	28, 38	-38.8, -37.2	6.72, 5.71	PIN diode (14)
Presented multiband reconfigurable antenna work	30×28×0.508	4	3.5, 4.3, 5, 5.1	-10.2, -21, -20, -18.5	—	PIN diode (4)
		13	6.84, 8.93, 12.36, 16.59, 21.75, 27.27, 6.96, 13.5, 20.55, 24.09, 14.07, 19.74, 23.54	-25.98, -13.23, -50.36, -38.89, -29.55, -23.18, -14.32, -26.35, -14.19, -14.82, -16.9, -31.03, -16.83	4.3, 3.72, 3.8, 5.3, 8.2, 5.3, 3.8, 4.7, 6.2, 5.7, 3.4, 3.1, 3.9	PIN diode (4)

4. CONCLUSION

This research successfully developed, simulated, and tested a CPW-fed multiband multi-mode frequency reconfigurable antenna for 5G wireless communication using the Rogers RT5880 substrate, known for its excellent dielectric properties, three initial designs were explored. Antenna design 3 performed the best between them, with reflection coefficients ranging from -20.2 dB to -26.43 dB at different frequencies. By adding four PIN diodes, resistors, and inductors, 16 configurations were enabled, demonstrating the antenna's flexibility across different frequency bands. The antenna was fabricated and its reflection coefficient (|S11|) and gain were measured using a VNA and an anechoic chamber. The fabricated antenna showed reflection coefficient |S11| values from -13.23 to -50.36 dB, confirming its performance in various modes and frequencies. The antenna could reconfigure dynamically without losing signal quality, achieving gains from 3.1 dB to 8.2 dB in different configurations.




This research highlights the versatility and robustness of the proposed CPW-fed multiband multi-mode frequency reconfigurable antenna. By integrating PIN diodes and ensuring effective DC blocking and RF choking, the antenna can dynamically reconfigure without losing signal quality. This makes it ideal for various wireless communication applications, where flexibility and efficiency are crucial. The antenna not only meets but exceeds the requirements for multiband operation, validated through thorough simulations and experimental measurements, showing its potential for widespread use.

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