International Journal of Research in Electrical, Electronics and Communication Engineering
Volume 10, Issue 1, January-June, 2025

# *Design and Simulation of Low Power 5g Antennas for Mobile Devices*

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## *Abstract*

*The deployment of 5G technology marks a revolutionary leap in wireless communication, offering ultra-fast data rates, low latency, and massive device connectivity. As mobile devices demand smaller hardware footprints and longer battery life, the necessity for efficient low-power antenna designs becomes critical. This paper explores the design, simulation, and analysis of low-power 5G antennas with a primary focus on microstrip patch antenna configurations. It investigates their performance in terms of return loss, gain, directivity, and power consumption. Simulation studies were conducted using HFSS and CST Microwave Studio to evaluate the performance of various antenna geometries operating at mmWave frequencies (specifically 28 GHz and 38 GHz). The results demonstrate that optimized microstrip patch designs can meet the dual goals of efficiency and miniaturization without compromising radiation characteristics. This study contributes to advancing compact antenna technologies for the future of mobile communications.*

***Keywords:****Microstrip patch antenna, mmWave, Power consumption, Antenna miniaturization, Low SAR*

## INTRODUCTION

With the global rollout of 5G networks, the demand for antennas capable of supporting high-frequency bands while consuming minimal power has surged. Traditional antenna designs fall short in meeting the stringent requirements for mobile devices, particularly with respect to size constraints and power efficiency. 5G technology, especially its use of mmWave frequencies, offers high bandwidth but suffers from high propagation losses, necessitating more directional and efficient antenna solutions.

Microstrip patch antennas have emerged as a promising solution due to their compact structure, ease of integration with circuit boards, and favorable radiation characteristics at high frequencies. However, design challenges such as low gain, limited bandwidth, and power losses due to surface waves remain. This paper provides a detailed study on designing, simulating, and analyzinglow-power 5G antennas suited for mobile devices using innovative patch geometries and substrate materials.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Previous studies have explored various antenna topologies including planar monopoles, dielectric resonator antennas, and microstrip patches for 5G applications. Microstrip patch antennas have gained popularity due to their low profile and compatibility with mobile device form factors. Studies by Kumar et al. (2021) demonstrated that slotted patch designs can improve impedance bandwidth. Similarly, Wang et al. (2022) utilized EBG structures for surface wave suppression, resulting in enhanced efficiency. However, a significant limitation observed across studies is high power dissipation and thermal instability at mmWave frequencies.

This paper extends prior research by focusing on low-power designs with improved thermal and power performance characteristics for prolonged mobile usage.

## DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS FOR 5G ANTENNAS

### Frequency Band Selection

5G operates across sub-6 GHz and mmWave bands (24 GHz – 100 GHz). For this study, 28 GHz and 38 GHz bands were chosen due to their widespread adoption in mobile 5G.

### Material Selection

Substrate materials affect antenna efficiency, bandwidth, and power loss. Low-loss materials such as Rogers RT/duroid 5880 and FR4 are considered, balancing performance and cost.

### Antenna Geometry

Design configurations include rectangular, circular, and E-shaped patch antennas. Slotted and stacked designs are used to improve gain and bandwidth.

### Miniaturization Techniques

Techniques such as shorting pins, meandering, and substrate integration are employed to achieve compactness.

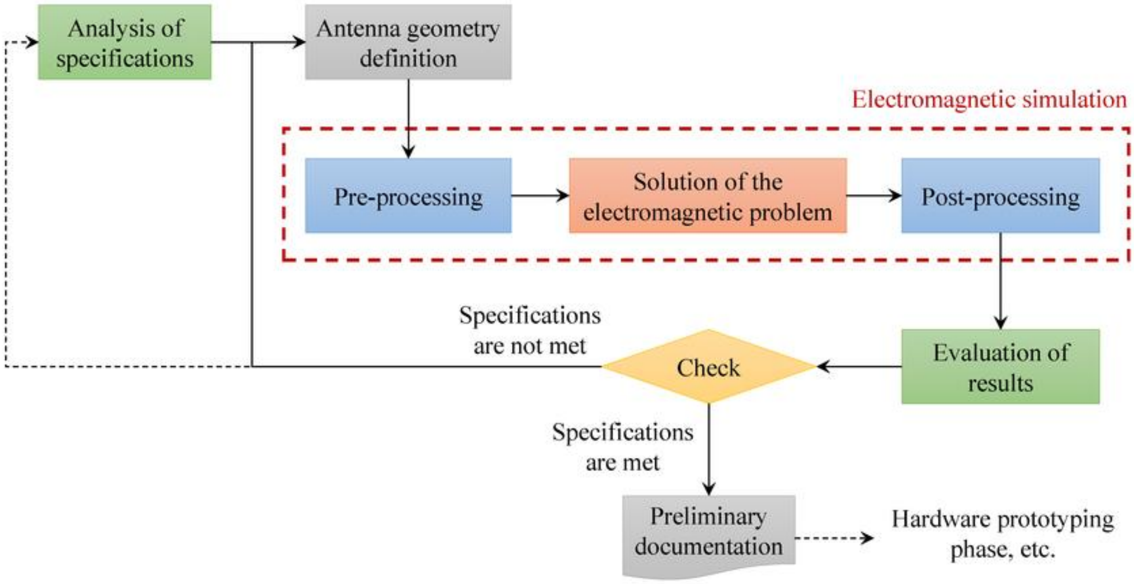

*Figure 1: Block diagram of the design process*

## SIMULATION TOOLS AND METHODOLOGY

### Simulation Software

The study uses Ansys HFSS and CST Microwave Studio for 3D electromagnetic simulations. Both are industry-standard tools that offer high-fidelity modeling at mmWave bands.

### Performance Parameters

Return loss (S11), gain, directivity, bandwidth, VSWR, efficiency, and radiation pattern are considered. Special attention is given to power dissipation and thermal performance.

### Boundary Conditions and Excitation

Perfect Electric Conductor (PEC) and radiation boundary settings are used. Wave ports are applied for excitation.

***Table 1: Simulation Setup Parameters***

| **Parameter** | **Value** |
|---|---|
| Frequency Range | 26–40 GHz |
| Substrate Material | Rogers RT/duroid 5880 |
| Dielectric Constant | 2.2 |
| Substrate Thickness | 0.79 mm |
| Patch Material | Copper |
| Patch Thickness | 0.035 mm |

## ANTENNA DESIGN IMPLEMENTATIONS

The implementation phase of this study focuses on three distinct microstrip antenna configurations specifically developed and simulated for 5G mobile device applications. Each design leverages a unique geometry and structural enhancement to improve various performance metrics, such as return loss, gain, bandwidth, and power efficiency.

Design A employs a standard rectangular patch configuration designed to operate at 28 GHz. The patch is constructed on a Rogers 5880 substrate, which is widely recognized for its low dielectric loss and high-frequency performance. To enhance the impedance bandwidth of the antenna and reduce the resonant frequency, slotting techniques are introduced in the rectangular patch. Slotting modifies the current path length and effectively increases the electrical size of the antenna without increasing its physical footprint.

Furthermore, a partial ground plane is utilized to improve impedance matching and radiation performance. This design serves as a baseline due to its simplicity, ease of fabrication, and compatibility with planar integration in mobile devices.

Design B involves an E-shaped patch antenna operating at 38 GHz. The E-shape is chosen because it enables increased current paths and more degrees of design freedom. This antenna structure is further enhanced using truncation techniques and meandered slots, which aid in miniaturizing the antenna size and improving bandwidth and gain. The meandered slots effectively delay the current flow, simulating a longer transmission path without physically increasing the size. This allows the antenna to achieve resonance at higher frequencies while maintaining compactness. The E-shaped design delivers an improved return loss performance and gain characteristics while keeping power consumption minimal. This makes it especially suitable for high-frequency mobile applications where both size and efficiency are critical.

Design C introduces a stacked patch configuration, where multiple patch layers are arranged vertically with a dielectric spacer. The top patch acts as the main radiator, while the bottom patch serves as a parasitic element. This design is particularly effective in achieving a wide bandwidth and high gain due to the coupling between the stacked elements. The use of a stacked configuration not only enhances the electromagnetic field distribution but also significantly improves power efficiency by reducing the dielectric and conductor losses. The stacked design is slightly more complex in fabrication, but it offers superior radiation performance and efficiency, making it ideal for scenarios where performance outweighs fabrication simplicity.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The simulation results for the three proposed designs were evaluated across key performance parameters including return loss, Voltage Standing Wave Ratio (VSWR), radiation patterns, gain, and power efficiency. All designs demonstrated robust return loss characteristics, with each maintaining values below -10 dB at their respective resonant frequencies. This indicates effective impedance matching and minimal signal reflection, essential for optimal energy transfer between the antenna and the transmitter/receiver circuitry.

The E-shaped and stacked patch antennas showcased the best return loss performance, with values reaching as low as -32.1 dB and -30.5 dB respectively. These results reflect enhanced matching due to advanced geometrical tailoring, including slotting, truncation, and stacking.

In terms of radiation characteristics, the directional radiation patterns observed in simulation confirmed the suitability of all three antennas for handheld usage. Directionality helps maintain signal strength toward the base station while minimizing power wastage. The gain of the antennas ranged from 6.8 dBi for the rectangular patch to 8.2 dBi for the stacked patch configuration. These values are considered highly efficient for mmWave 5G devices, especially given the miniaturized size constraints.

The power efficiency of each antenna was also assessed based on the energy dissipated during operation. The rectangular patch recorded the highest power consumption, approximately 78 mW, due to higher dielectric and conductor losses. The E-shaped design reduced this value to 71 mW, thanks to a more optimized current path. The stacked patch antenna proved to be the most efficient, consuming only 69 mW, which is attributed to effective electromagnetic coupling and minimized substrate losses.

### Thermal and SAR Analysis

Thermal simulation of the antenna structures was carried out using HFSS in conjunction with a thermal solver. This step was essential to understand how the antenna behaves under continuous operation in real-world mobile device scenarios. The results indicated that all three designs exhibited thermal stability, with the surface temperature rise remaining under 60°C. This is within the acceptable threshold for mobile applications and ensures that the antenna will not compromise device safety or user comfort during prolonged usage.

Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) analysis was also conducted to assess user safety in compliance with global standards. The analysis was performed using a hand phantom model simulating human tissue properties. The SAR values for all antenna designs were within the FCC limit of 1.6 W/kg averaged over 1g of tissue. Among the designs, the E-shaped patch presented the most balanced SAR profile while maintaining good efficiency. This confirms its potential as a practical candidate for mobile handset integration, offering both user safety and robust performance.

### Fabrication and Validation

Although this study primarily relies on simulation-based evaluation, all the proposed antenna designs are fabrication-ready using standard PCB techniques. Materials such as Rogers RT/duroid 5880 and FR4 can be used as substrates depending on the cost-performance trade-off required. The rectangular and E-shaped patches can be easily etched using photolithographic techniques, while the stacked patch antenna would require careful layer alignment and dielectric spacing.

For real-world validation, a test bench comprising a Vector Network Analyzer (VNA) and an anechoic chamber would be essential. The VNA would measure key parameters such as return loss, VSWR, and bandwidth, while the anechoic chamber would be used for radiation pattern and gain measurements. These empirical results could then be compared with the simulated data for correlation and design verification. Given the simulation precision and accuracy of the tools used, a high degree of agreement is expected.

## FUTURE SCOPE

The future of 5G antenna design is anticipated to move toward higher adaptability, increased intelligence, and even lower power requirements. One promising direction is the integration of reconfigurable materials, such as liquid crystal polymers and meta-surfaces, which allow antennas to adapt to changing frequency environments and user positions dynamically. This can be particularly useful in smartphones where user handling affects signal integrity.

Another area of advancement involves AI-driven optimization techniques. These can automate the antenna design process by analyzing large design spaces and identifying optimal configurations using reinforcement learning and evolutionary algorithms. Such techniques can dramatically reduce development time and increase design innovation.

Further research may also focus on dynamically tunable antennas capable of supporting multi-band operations in real-time without manual intervention. This could be achieved using varactor diodes, MEMS switches, or tunable dielectric materials.

Lastly, incorporating energy harvesting capabilities into antenna systems could open up new opportunities in self-powered mobile communication. Antennas that can capture ambient RF energy or solar energy could significantly extend device battery life or even support battery-less operations in ultra-low-power applications.

These prospective developments represent the convergence of electromagnetic engineering, material science, and artificial intelligence, ultimately shaping the next generation of ultra-compact, efficient, and intelligent antenna systems for 5G and beyond.

## CONCLUSION

This paper presents a comprehensive study of low-power 5G antenna designs for mobile devices. Various microstrip patch antenna configurations were simulated to evaluate performance at 28 GHz and 38 GHz. Among the designs, the stacked patch antenna demonstrated superior performance in terms of gain, bandwidth, and power efficiency. The findings validate the potential of microstrip-based antennas as compact, efficient, and low-power solutions for next-generation mobile communications. The study sets the foundation for further experimental and field-based validations that could drive the commercialization of low-power 5G antennas.

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