

Synthesis of a dual band WLAN 2.44-5GHz Sierpinski Gasket fractal antenna with CPW feeding through PSO optimization

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Abstract

Nowadays, a large number of electronic devices exploits multiple wireless standards. Moreover, the dimensions of such products (e.g., mobile handsets) are becoming smaller and smaller following the users needs and thanks to the progress of the modern integrating circuit technology. In this framework, it is usually necessary to integrate the RF-part (i.e., the whole set of wireless interfaces) in only one antenna.

Such a requirement becomes even more challenging when also a high degree of miniaturization is required. It has been demonstrated that fractal shapes are suitable solutions for both miniaturization and multi-band issues. These results are enabled by two important properties of fractal geometries: the space-filling capability and the self-similarity. The former refers to the ability of fractal curves to be very long occupying a compact physical space. The other indicates that small regions of the geometry are copies of the whole structure, but on a reduced scale, with an expected similar electromagnetic behavior at different frequencies. Moreover, it has been found that by perturbing a reference fractal shape (i.e., introducing some additional degrees of freedom), it is possible to tune the locations of non-harmonic resonance frequencies. The use of a Particle Swarm Optimizer (PSO) algorithm has been validated as an efficient (and clever) way to tune the antenna resonances by modifying its geometrical descriptors.

The project aim is to synthesize a planar dual-band antenna, based on a Sierpinski Gasket geometry, able to properly radiate at two WLAN frequencies (2.44 GHz and 5GHz). The synthesis will be performed by using a Particle Swarm Optimizer and an e.m. simulator (Feko). In particular, the geometry of the final antenna will be characterized by a Coplanar Waveguide (CPW) feeding technique, in opposition to other feeding techniques, which are more common in scientific literature.

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*This report is submitted in partial fulfillment of the degree of the course "DCM".
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