A wideband circularly polarized S-shaped slot antenna

Wei He1 | Yejun He1 | Sai-Wai Wong1 | Chao-Hsiang Liao2

1College of Electronics and Information Engineering, Shenzhen University, Shenzhen, China
2Department of Electrical Engineering, Lunghwa University of Science and Technology, Taoyuan, Taiwan

Correspondence
Yejun He, College of Electronics and Information Engineering, Shenzhen University, Shenzhen 518060, China.
Email: heyejun@126.com, peter549537@gmail.com

Funding information
Mobility Program for Taiwan Young Scientists, Grant/Award Number: RW2019TW001; National Natural Science Foundation of China, Grant/Award Numbers: 62071306, 61801299, 61871433; Shenzhen Science and Technology Program, Grant/Award Numbers: JCYJ20200109113601723,
GIHZ20180418190529516,
JSGG20180507183215520

Abstract
This article introduces a simple wideband circularly polarized (CP) S-shaped slot antenna for ISM band wireless communication applications. By using a wide curve S-shaped slot patch on the top side and a T-shaped feeding line on the bottom side of the substrate, the wideband CP wave is generated. The overall size of the proposed antenna is 0.85\(\lambda\) \(\times\) 0.85\(\lambda\) \(\times\) 0.011\(\lambda\) (\(\lambda\) is the wavelength of the lowest operating frequency) and it has a broad impedance bandwidth of 68.1% between 1.66 and 3.44 GHz for \(S_{11} < -10\) dB and a 3 dB axial-ratio bandwidth of 57.1% between 1.68 and 3.06 GHz. Within the axial-ratio bandwidth, the measured gain of the proposed antenna ranged from 2.1 to 5.4 dBiC. The measured results are in good agreement with simulated results. The new type of slot antenna with wide bandwidth and simple structure is a good candidate for various RFID applications.

KEYWORDS
circularly polarized antenna, slot antenna, wideband antenna

1 | INTRODUCTION

Since the circularly polarized (CP) antennas can reduce the multi-path fading and eliminate the polarization mismatching between transmitting antennas and receiving antennas in wireless communications, which are widely employed in current communication systems.1 More and more wideband antennas with a compact configuration are simultaneously provided in multiple wireless communication systems. Many different wideband CP antennas including wideband cross-dipole CP antenna,2 dielectric resonator CP antennas,3 spiral antennas,4 monopole antenna,5 and metasurface antenna6 have been studied and reported. Since the printed slot antenna has obvious advantages such as low profile, wideband, and easy manufacturing, broadband CP slot antenna have been widely studied.7 Some proposed broadband CP slot antennas include various antennas fed by coplanar waveguide (CPW)8-9 and antennas coupled fed by micro-strip.10-12 In Reference 8, two spiral slots and a vertical tuning stub were utilized to generate a broadband CP slot antenna. Using a wide-slot antenna with asymmetric CPW feeding technique to generate wideband CP radiation is illustrated in.9 An ultra-wideband (UWB) CP slot antenna with L-shaped radiator and defective ground plane was described in Reference 10. In addition, combining slot array and feeding network to generate broadband CP radiation were demonstrated in References 11,12. Although these antennas have achieved wideband CP radiation, most of them have complex structures or need to be adjusted with more parameters.

In this article, a novel S-shape slot wideband antenna with CP is proposed. This new antenna consists of a ground plane and a T-shaped feeding line. To achieve a circularly polarization (CP), a wide curving S-shaped slot was peeled from the ground plane. By adjusting the width of the S-shaped slot, a wide axial ratio (AR) bandwidth can be realized. In addition, a T-shaped feeding line is used to extend the operating bandwidth.
FIGURE 1  Structure of the proposed antenna (A) top view, (B) bottom view, (C) side view. $L_g = 150$ mm, $L_f = 69$ mm, $L_t = 20$ mm, $w_f = 3$ mm, $w_t = 8$ mm, $w_s = 25$ mm, $d_x = 20$ mm, $\alpha = 118$ deg, $h = 2$ mm

FIGURE 2  Antenna design evolution
The antenna is fabricated on a single substrate in a cost-effective and easier manner using a simple process. The experiment obtained a wide 3 dB AR bandwidth of 57.1\% (1.70-3.06 GHz), which is fully contained in the measured −10 dB reflection coefficient bandwidth of 68.1\% (1.66-3.44 GHz). The proposed CP slot antenna has the characteristics of simple structure, wide 3 dB AR bandwidth and wide impedance bandwidth.

2 | ANTENNA DESIGN AND ANALYSIS

Figure 1 shows the geometry of the proposed wideband S-shaped slot CP antenna which is printed on a $L_g \times L_g$ mm$^2$ FR4 substrate. The antenna is fed by a T-shaped feeding line which placed on the back side of the substrate, and the T-shaped feeding line consists of a vertical stub of length $L_t$ and width $w_t$ and a horizontal stub of length $L_f$ and width $w_f$. The upper surface of the substrate is the antenna ground plane, and a wide curve S-shaped slot is peeled from the ground plane. As shown in Figure 1, the S-shaped slot is obtained by a partial ring with a width of $w_s$ rotating 180° around the z-axis, the partial ring is formed by sweeping a line of width $w_s$ around the vertical axis centered on the “O” point, where the sweeping angle is $\alpha$. The final values of the antenna parameters are shown in Figure 1.

Figure 2 is the process of antenna design, which clearly shows that the wide curve S-shaped slot can generate wideband CP radiation. As shown in Figure 2, Ant. 1 is an Inverted-Z-shaped slot fed by a 50 $\Omega$ microstrip line. Ant. 2 uses a wide curve S-shaped slot to replace the Inverted-Z-shaped slot in Ant. 1, and still uses the 50 $\Omega$ microstrip line feed. The slot in Ant. 3 is the same as the slot in Ant. 2, but the feeding line is replaced by a T-shaped feeding line. The simulation results of three antennas are shown in Figure 3. Although Ant. 1 is circular polarization in the frequency bands around 1.7 and 2.8 GHz, the impedance matching in these frequency bands is very poor, and the antenna cannot work. For Ant. 2, although $S_{11} < -10 \text{ dB}$ and AR < 3 $\text{dB}$ are realized in a wide frequency band, it is a pity that the two bands do not overlap. From Figure 3, when the feeding line in Ant. 2 is replaced by a T-shaped feeding line, that is, Ant. 3, a new resonance is generated at low frequency band. Although the AR bandwidth is not changed, the impedance bandwidth is expanded to a lower frequency, so that the AR bandwidth is completely included in the impedance bandwidth.

The simulated surface current distributions at 2, 2.4, and 2.8 GHz of the proposed antenna is shown in Figure 4, which is used to explain the generation of CP radiation. As shown in Figure 4A, at 2 GHz, when $\omega t = 0^\circ$, the current flows the -x direction, and when $\omega t = 90^\circ$, the current flows the +y direction. The direction of the current rotates in the clockwise direction, which indicates that a left-hand circular polarization (LHCP) wave is generated along the +z direction. Similarly, at 2.4 and 2.8 GHz, The direction of the current also rotates in the clockwise direction, which means a LHCP wave is excited. Therefore, the proposed antenna can generate CP radiation in a wide bandwidth.

In order to better illustrate the performances of the proposed antenna, it is necessary to optimize some key parameters of the antenna. The very significant parameters of $w_s$ (the width of slot), $\alpha$ (the angle of curve S-shaped) and $L_f$ (the length of feeding line) for the antenna are studied. Figure 5A,B on reveals the influence of varying the width of slot $w_s$ $S_{11}$ and AR. As shown, when the width $w_s$ is increased, the reflection coefficient of the high frequency band gradually deteriorates while the low frequency band becomes better, and the overall impedance bandwidth becomes wider. In addition, the AR bandwidth is gradually extended as $w_s$ increased.
From the above analysis, the best value of the width \( w_s \) is 25 mm. Figure 6 explains the influence of the sweep angle \( \alpha \) on the reflection coefficient and AR bandwidth. From Figure 6 when the value of the sweep angle \( \alpha \) increase, both the bandwidths of impedance and AR are extended toward both lower and higher frequency. However, when increasing of \( \alpha \) larger than 118°, the value of AR in the middle frequency band will be greater than

**FIGURE 4** The simulation surface current distribution of proposed antenna at (A) 2 GHz, (B) 2.4 GHz, (C) 2.8 GHz
**FIGURE 5** $S_{11}$ and AR with different values of $w_s$. (A) $S_{11}$, (B) AR

**FIGURE 6** $S_{11}$ and AR with variable values of $\alpha$. (A) $S_{11}$, (B) AR

**FIGURE 7** $S_{11}$ and AR with variable values of $L_f$. (A) $S_{11}$, (B) AR
3 dB. In other words, the variation of the sweep angle \( \alpha \) has a more significant effect on the AR. When \( \alpha = 118^\circ \), the best performance of AR can be obtained. Figure 7 illustrates the influence of \( L_f \) (the length of feeding line) on the impedance bandwidth and AR bandwidth. As shown, when the length of feeding line \( L_f \) is increased, the impedance bandwidth tends to higher frequency. In contrast, the AR bandwidth has almost unchanged. According to this analysis, the best value of \( L_f \) is finally set to 69 mm to achieve the widest overlapping bandwidth.

### 3 | SIMULATION AND MEASUREMENT RESULT

In order to prove the above design principles, the proposed wideband S-shaped slot CP antenna is manufactured and measured. Figure 8 shows the manufacture prototype of the proposed antenna. The measured and simulated \( S_{11} \) of the proposed antenna are indicated in Figure 9. The measured impedance bandwidth is 68.1% for \( S_{11} < -10 \text{ dB} \) (1.66-3.44 GHz), which is good agreement of the simulated results (1.66-3.44 GHz) except a slight deviation for the resonance frequency points. The simulated and measured results for AR and gain are presented in Figure 10. The measured AR bandwidth is about 57.1% from 1.68 to 3.06 GHz, and has a little discrepancy with simulation, which may be caused by the measurement and manufacturing errors. In addition, from Figure 10, the measured peak gain is 5.4 dBi at 2.24 GHz. Figure 11 indicates the RHCP-LHCP radiation patterns at 1.8 and 2.6 GHz (at \( xoz \) and \( yoz \) planes). These patterns show fully agreement between simulated and measured results.

From the Figure 10A,B, it is can be seen that the antenna radiates LHCP waves in the +z direction, and radiates RHCP waves in the -z direction, which is consistent with the previous results of current analysis. The comparison with other reported low-profile slot antennas
**FIGURE 11** Simulated and measured radiation patterns for fabricated antenna. (A) 1.8 GHz, (B) 2.6 GHz

**TABLE 1** Comparison with other CP slot antennas. ($\lambda_0$ is the wavelength of the lowest operating frequency)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>References</th>
<th>Size ($\lambda_0^3$)</th>
<th>Axial ratio bandwidth (%)</th>
<th>Impedance bandwidth (%)</th>
<th>Peak gain (dBi)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.45 × 0.45 × 0.24</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>50.2</td>
<td>6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.38 × 1.38 × 0.6</td>
<td>54.3</td>
<td>54.9</td>
<td>14.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.78 × 0.74 × 0.021</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td>60.5</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>1.546 × 1.546 × 0.057</td>
<td>15.9</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>0.86 × 0.67 × 0.13</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>0.32 × 0.33 × 0.01</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>0.83 × 0.83 × 0.013</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>1.35 × 1.35 × 0.27</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>15.9</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This work</td>
<td>0.85 × 0.85 × 0.11</td>
<td>57.8</td>
<td>68.1</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
are given in Table 1. It can be seen that the proposed antenna not only has low profile but also has a wider impedance bandwidth and 3-dB AR bandwidth.

4 | CONCLUSION

This article proposed a novel simple wideband S-shaped slot antenna with CP. The proposed antenna is consists of a wide curve S-shaped slot and a T-shaped feeding line. The S-shaped slot can generate CP radiation for a wideband, while the impedance bandwidth can be improved by using the T-shaped feeding line. Measured results illustrate that the impedance bandwidth is 68.1% and AR bandwidth is 57.1%. And the maximum broadside direction gain of the proposed antenna is 5.4 dBiC. Due to the low profile, simple structure, and broadband CP characteristics, the proposed antenna can be suitable applied to many wideband wireless applications.

DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT
The data used to support the findings of this study are included within the article.

ORCID
Wei He https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0519-0590
Yejun He https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8564-5355
Sai-Wai Wong https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5363-1576

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AUTHOR BIOGRAPHIES

Wei He received the B.S. degree in Electronic and Information Engineering from the Hunan University of Science and Technology, Xiangtan, Hunan, China, in 2010, and the M.S. degree in Communication and Information System from Shenzhen University, Shenzhen, China, in 2014, where he is currently pursuing the Ph.D. degree with the College of Electronics and Information Engineering. His current research interests include RFID tag antennas, circularly polarized antennas, and metasurface.

Yejun He received the Ph.D. degree in Information and Communication Engineering from Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST), Wuhan, China, in 2005. Since 2011, He has been a Full Professor with the College of Electronics and Information Engineering, Shenzhen University, Shenzhen, China, where he is the Director of Guangdong Engineering Research Center of Base Station Antennas and Propagation, and the Director of Shenzhen Key Laboratory of Antennas and Propagation, Shenzhen, China. He was awarded as Pengcheng Scholar Distinguished Professor, Shenzhen, China in 2020. He was nominated as a Fellow of IET in 2016 and the Chair of IEEE Antennas and Propagation Society-Shenzhen Chapter in 2018. His research interests include wireless communications, antennas, and radio frequency.

Sai-Wai Wong received the Ph.D. degree in communication engineering from Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, in 2009. Since 2017, he has been a Full Professor with the College of Electronics and Information Engineering, Shenzhen
Chao-Hsiang Liao received Ph.D. degree in Communication Engineering from National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan, in 2010. From October 2011 to July 2012, He was postdoctoral research fellow with the Communication Research Center, Oriental Institute of Technology, Taipei, Taiwan. In August 2019, He joined the faculty of the Department of Electrical Engineering, Lunghwa University of Science and Technology, where he was an Assistant Professor. His current research interests include antenna design and OTA measurement.