

CPW-Fed KOCH SNOWFLAKE Fractal Antenna for UWB Wireless Applications

Abdelati Reha^{1*}, Abdelkebir El Amri^{1**}, Othmane Benhammouch³, Ahmed Oulad Said⁴

¹RITM Laboratory, EST CASABLANCA, Hassan II University, Casablanca, Morocco

²Mundiapolis University, Nouaceur, Casablanca, Morocco

³Royal Air Academy, Marrakech, Morocco

* reha.abdelati@gmail.com, ** elamri_abdelkebir@yahoo.fr,

³othmane.benhammouch@gmail.com, ⁴a_ouladsaid@hotmail.com

ABSTRACT

Four iterations of a Coplanar Waveguide (CPW)-Fed KOCH SNOWFLAKE fractal antenna are studied. Increasing the number of iterations allow us obtaining a simple and miniaturized antenna with good performances, operating for Ultra Wide Band (UWB) applications.

The proposed antennas are a good solution for the 3.7-4.2GHz C-Band, the 5.15-5.82 Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN), and for the 5GHz Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access system (WIMAX) applications. The simulation was performed in FEKO 6.3.

Keywords: Fractal antennas, KOCH SNOWFLAKE, Multi-Band, Ultra Wide-Band, UWB, Antenna design.

1 Introduction

With the proliferation and miniaturization of telecommunications systems and their integration in restricted environments, such as Smart-phones, tablets, cars, airplanes, and other embedded systems. The design of compact multi-bands and Ultra Wide Band (UWB) antennas becomes a necessity.

For designing this kind of antennas, two techniques are used:

1. Designing multi-band antennas operating in several frequencies bands. Several studies have been made to design this kind of antennas by using fractal geometries or adding slots to the radiating elements [1-4].
2. Designing UWB antennas operating in the frequencies bands exceeding 500MHZ or having a fractional bandwidth of at least 0.20, UWB wireless communication occupies a bandwidth from 3.1 to 10.6 GHz (based on the FCC "Federal Communication

Commission") [5-12][15]. One of the interesting techniques used is the fractal geometry, because it's a simple technique based on the auto-similarity, the most known techniques used are: Minkowski Island, Koch loop, Pascal's triangle and Sierpinski gaskets... [13-16].

In this paper, we propose a CPW-fed KOCH SNOWFLAKE Fractal slot antenna. The simulation is done by FEKO 6.3 based on the Method of the Moment (MoM) [17].

2 Antenna Design

As shown in figure 1, the proposed antenna is printed on a FR4 dielectric substrate of relative permittivity $\epsilon_r = 4.4$, thickness $H=1.6\text{mm}$ and fed by a CPW transmission line. Several studies have used this mode of feeding because it's one of the ways to increase the Bandwidth of the antenna [4][7][14][19].

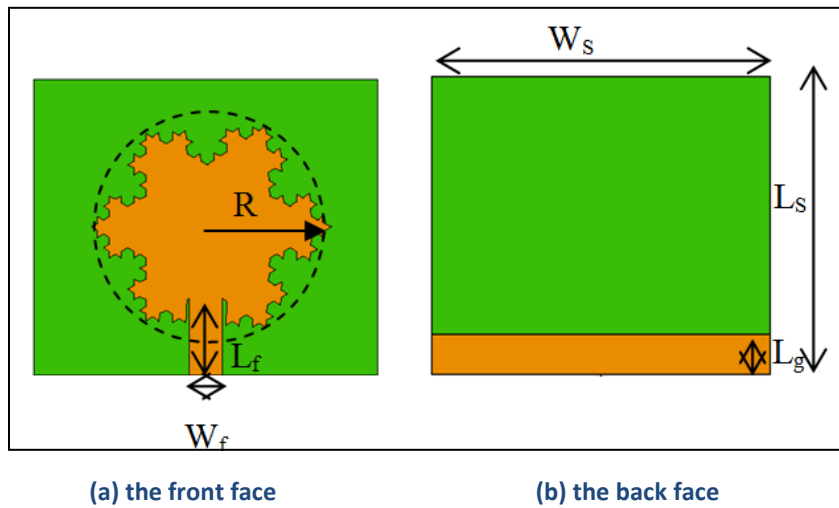


Figure1: The geometry of the CPW-Fed KOCH SNOWFLAKE Fractal Antenna

The characteristic impedance of a microstrip line (Z_m) is given by the formula (1) [15][18]

$$Z_m = \frac{120.\pi}{\sqrt{\epsilon_e}} \left[\frac{w_f}{H} + 1.393 + 0.667 \ln \left(\frac{W_f}{H} + 1.444 \right) \right]^{-1} \quad (1)$$

$$\text{And } \epsilon_e = \frac{1}{2}(\epsilon_r + 1) + \frac{1}{2}(\epsilon_r - 1) \left(1 + 12 \frac{H}{W_f} \right)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \quad (2)$$

With

ϵ_e : The effective permittivity

ϵ_r : The relative permittivity of the substrate

H: The thickness of the substrate

W_f : the width of the microstrip line

To adjust $Z_m=50\Omega$, the value of W_f should be 3.35mm.

The other parameters are as follow: $mW_s= 35\text{mm}$, $L_s=30\text{mm}$, $L_f=8\text{mm}$, and $L_g=4\text{mm}$

The generation of the KOCH SNOWFLAKE iterations is based on the triangle initiator and on the generator shown in the figure 2.

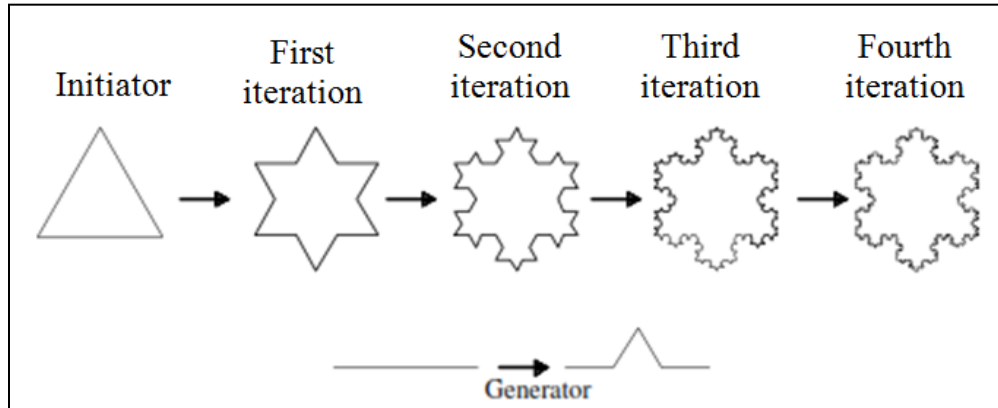


Figure2: The Four iterations of the KOCH SNOWFLAKE Fractal Antenna [20]

We observe that the radius of the fractal antenna (R) is the same for all the iterations as shown in the figure3.

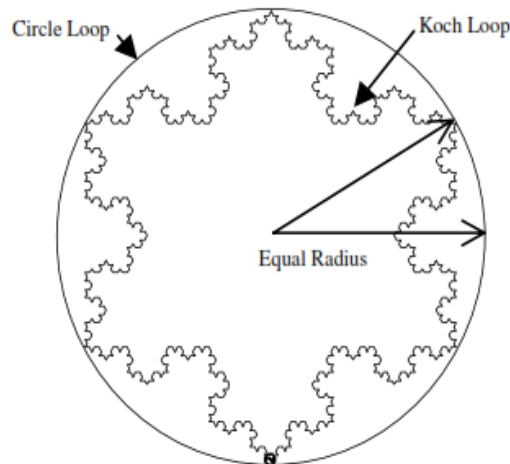


Figure 3: Circular and Koch loops of equal radii [21]

A parametric study is based on the variation of the parameters R .

3 Results and Discussions

3.1 The initiator (iteration 0)

For the initiator (figure 4), the variation of the simulated S_{11} parameter versus the frequency for some values of R is shown in the figure 5.

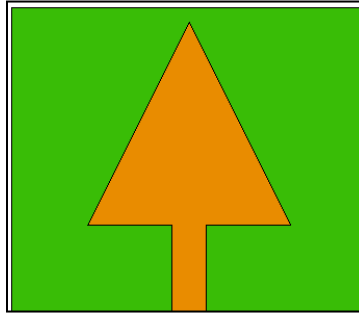


Figure 4: the front face of the antenna (the initiator)

We observe that, for $R=13\text{mm}$, the antenna has 2 resonant frequencies $f_{r1} = 4.1\text{GHz}$ with $S_{11}=-16.6\text{dB}$ and $f_{r2}= 5\text{GHz}$ with $S_{11}=-15.45\text{dB}$. The bandwidth (-10dB) of the antenna is 1.76GHz ($3.5 - 5.26\text{ GHz}$).

For the $R=14\text{mm}$, the antenna has 1 resonant frequency $f_{r1}=4.4\text{GHz}$ with $S_{11}= -29.8\text{dB}$. The bandwidth (-10dB) of the antenna is 1.5GHz ($3.5 - 5\text{ GHz}$).

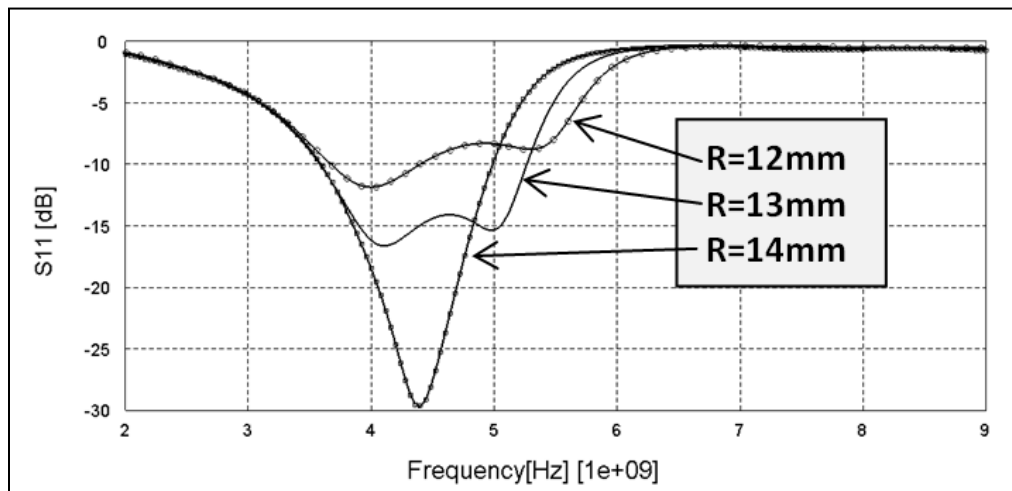


Figure5: Simulated S_{11} versus frequency graph of the antenna (iteration0)

The figure 6 shows the evolution of the total maximum gain of the antenna versus the frequency for some values of the radius R . we observe that the gain increases when the frequency increases. The figure 7 shows an example for the 3D total gain pattern of the antenna for $R=14\text{mm}$ and for the two frequencies 3.5GHz and 5GHz . We observe that the shape of this pattern is nearly similar for the two frequencies.

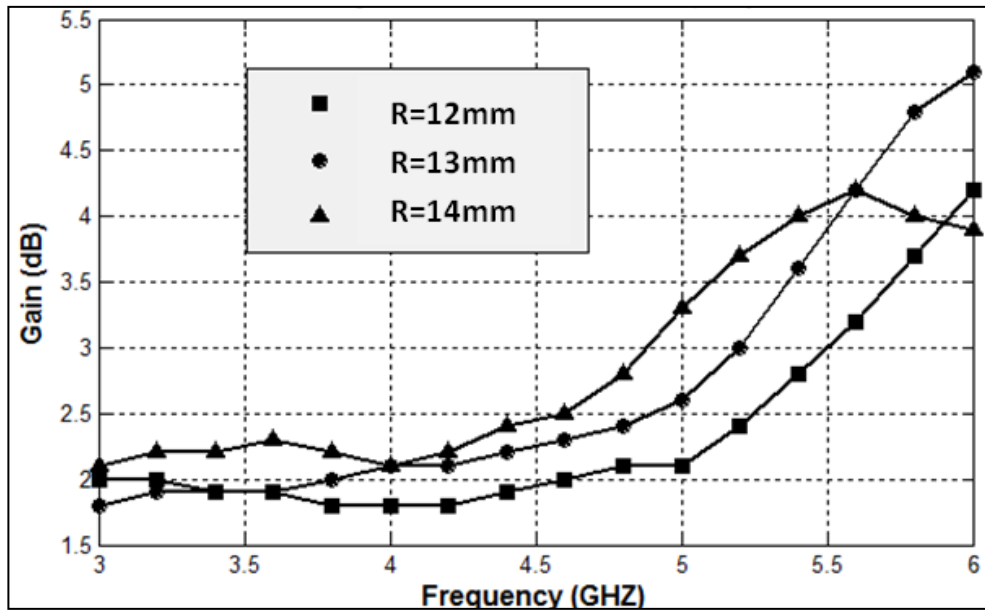
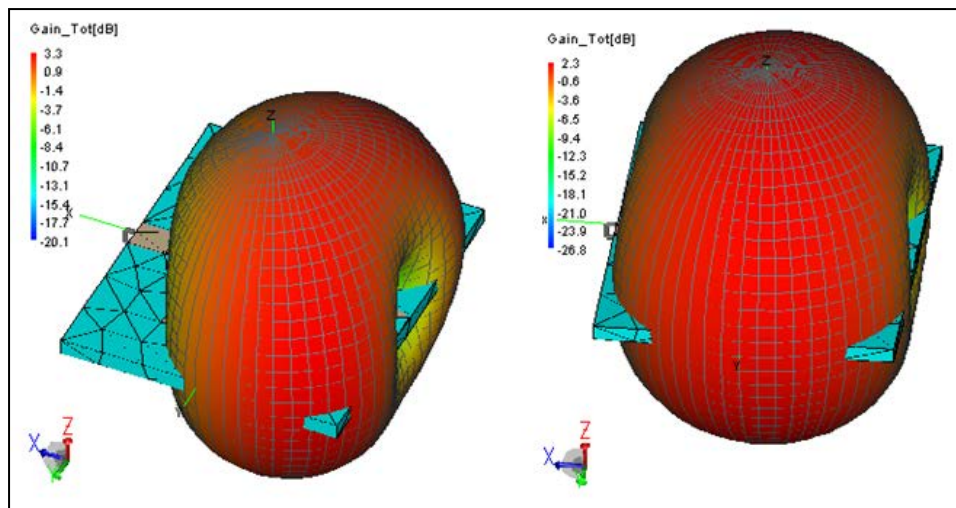


Figure6: Simulated Maximum Gain versus frequency graph of the antenna (iteration 0)



a)F=5GHZ

(b)F=3.5GHZ

Figure7: the 3D total gain of the antenna for R=14mm

The table 1 summarizes the resonant frequencies, the bandwidths and the gains of the antenna in the Bandwidth.

Table 1: the bandwidths and the gains for the antenna (iteration 0)

R (mm)	Resonant frequencies (GHz)	Bandwidth(-10dB)	S_{11}^* (dB)	Gain (dB)**
12	4	750MHz (3.65 – 4.4)	-11.9	1.8 to 1.9
13	4.1 and 5	1.76GHz (3.5 – 5.26)	-16.6 and 15.45	1.9 to 3.3
14	4.4	1.5GHz (3.5 – 5)	-29.8	2.3 to 3.3

(*) the S_{11} are given in the resonant frequencies

(**) the Gains are given in the bandwidth (-10dB)

3.2 The First iteration

For the first iteration (figure 8), the variation of the simulated S_{11} parameter versus the frequency for some values of R is shown in the figure 9.

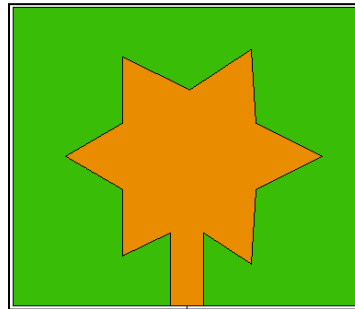


Figure 8: the front face of the antenna (First iteration)

We observe that, for $R=13\text{mm}$, the antenna has 3 resonant frequencies $f_{r1} = 4.11\text{GHz}$ with $S_{11} = -42\text{dB}$, $f_{r2} = 5.4\text{GHz}$ with $S_{11} = -16.4\text{dB}$ and $f_{r3} = 6.7\text{GHz}$ with $S_{11} = -16.16\text{dB}$. The largest bandwidth of the antenna is 2.21GHz ($3.56 - 5.77\text{GHz}$).

For the $R=14\text{mm}$, the antenna has 3 resonant frequencies $f_{r1} = 4.04\text{GHz}$ with $S_{11} = -15.7\text{dB}$, $f_{r2} = 5.4\text{GHz}$ with $S_{11} = -39.25\text{dB}$ and $f_{r3} = 6.4\text{GHz}$ with $S_{11} = -17.58\text{dB}$. The largest bandwidth of the antenna is 2.2GHz ($3.6 - 5.8\text{GHz}$).

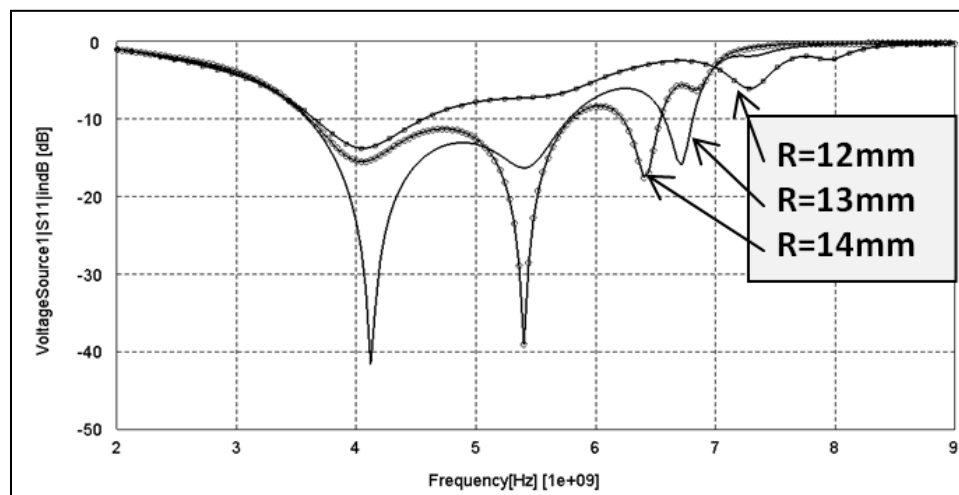


Figure9: Simulated S_{11} versus frequency graph of the antenna (First iteration)

The figure 10 shows the evolution of the maximum total gain of the antenna versus the frequency for some values of the radius R. We observe that the gain increases when the frequency increases. We observe also that the gain increases when the R increase. The figure 10 shows an example for the 3D total gain pattern of the antenna for $R=14\text{mm}$ and for the two frequencies 4GHz and 5.4GHz . We observe that the shape of this pattern is nearly similar for the two frequencies.

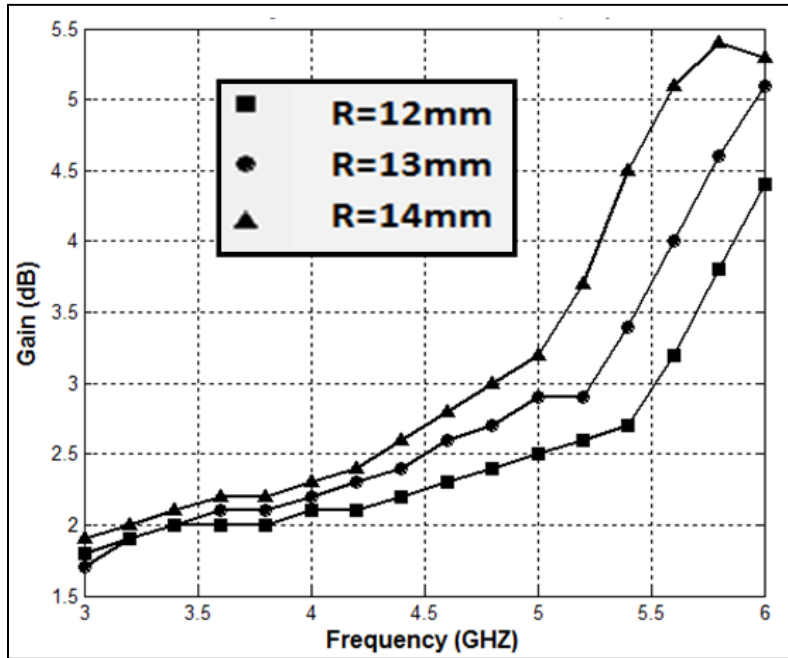
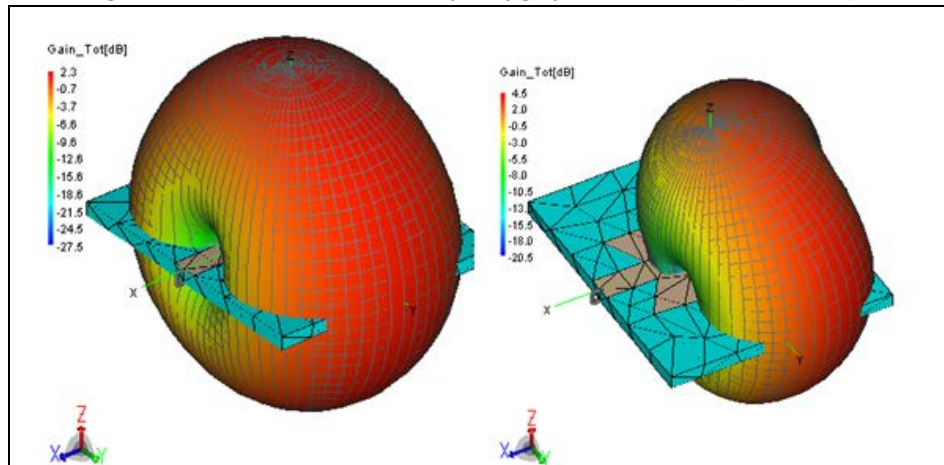


Figure10: Simulated Gain versus frequency graph of the antenna (iteration 1)



(a)F=4GHz

(b)F=5.4GHz

Figure11: the 3D total gain of the antenna for R=14mm

The table 2 summarizes the resonant frequencies, the bandwidths and the gains of the antenna in the Bandwidth.

R(mm)	Resonant frequencies (GHz)	Bandwidth (-10dB)	S ₁₁ * (dB)	Gain (dB)**
12	4.05	930MHz (3.64 – 4.57)	-13.84	2 to 2.3
13	4.11 and 5.4 and 6.7	2.21GHz (3.56 - 5.77) And 210MHz (6.59 – 6.8)	-42 and -16.4 and -16.16	2.1 to 4.5 And 5.5 to 5.7
14	4.04 and 5.4 and 6.4	2.2GHz (3.6 – 5.8) And 310MHz (6.21 – 6.52)	-15.7 and -39.25 and -17.58	2.2 to 5.4 And 5.4 to 5.6

Table 2: the bandwidths and the gains for the antenna (First iteration)

(*) the S₁₁ are given in the resonant frequencies

(**) the Gains are given in the bandwidth

3.3 The Second iteration

For the second iteration (figure 12), the variation of the simulated S₁₁ parameter versus the frequency for some values of R is shown in the figure 13.

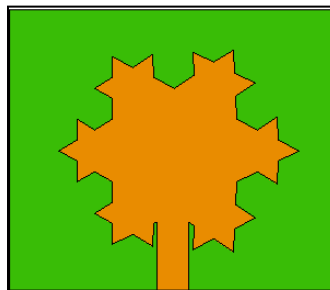


Figure 12: the front face of the antenna (Second iteration)

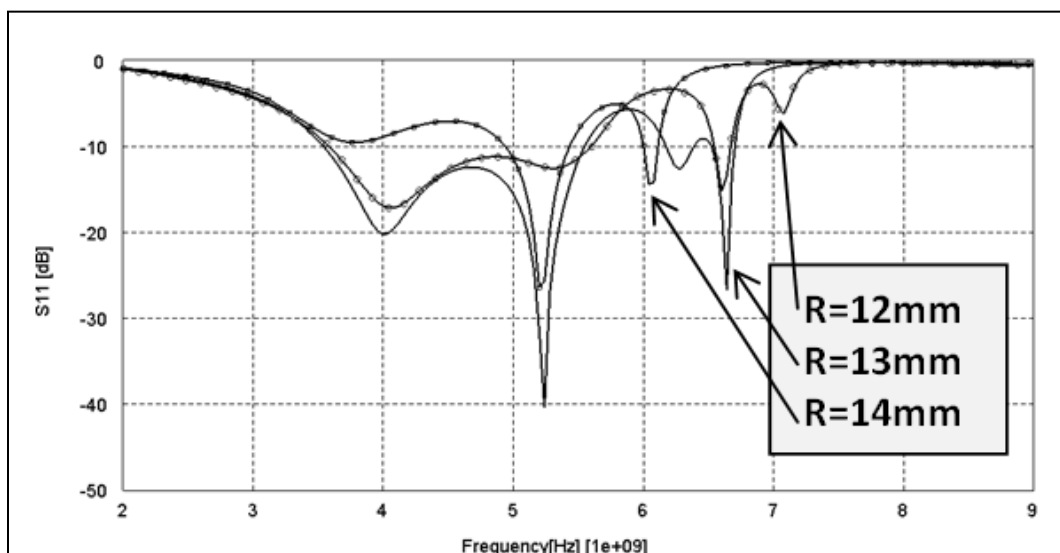


Figure13: Simulated S_{11} versus frequency graph of the antenna (Second iteration)

We observe that, for $R=13\text{mm}$, the antenna has 4 resonant frequencies $f_{r1} = 4\text{GHz}$ with $S_{11} = -20.4\text{dB}$, $f_{r2} = 5.23\text{GHz}$ with $S_{11} = -40.3\text{dB}$, $f_{r3} = 6.27\text{GHz}$ with $S_{11} = -12.55\text{dB}$, and $f_{r4} = 6.64\text{GHz}$ with $S_{11} = -27\text{dB}$. The largest bandwidth of the antenna is 2.02GHz ($3.53 - 5.55\text{GHz}$).

For the $R=12\text{mm}$, the antenna has 3 resonant frequencies $f_{r1} = 4.07\text{GHz}$ with $S_{11} = -17.24\text{dB}$, $f_{r2} = 5.32\text{GHz}$ with $S_{11} = -12.64$, and $f_{r3} = 6.6\text{GHz}$ with $S_{11} = -15.3\text{dB}$. The largest bandwidth of the antenna is 2.02GHz ($3.57 - 5.59\text{GHz}$).

For the $R=14\text{mm}$, the antenna has 2 resonant frequencies $f_{r1} = 5.2\text{GHz}$ with $S_{11} = -26.55\text{dB}$, and $f_{r2} = 6.07\text{GHz}$ with $S_{11} = -14.3\text{dB}$, and $f_{r3} = 6.6\text{GHz}$ with $S_{11} = -15.3\text{dB}$. The largest bandwidth of the antenna is 460MHz ($4.95 - 5.41\text{GHz}$).

The figure 14 shows the evolution of the gain of the antenna versus the frequency for some values of the radius R . we observe that the gain increases when the frequency increases. We observe also that in general, the gain increases when the R increases. The figure 15 shows an example for the 3D total gain pattern of the antenna for $R=13\text{mm}$ and for the two frequencies 4GHz and 5.2GHz . We observe that the shape of this pattern is nearly similar for the two frequencies.

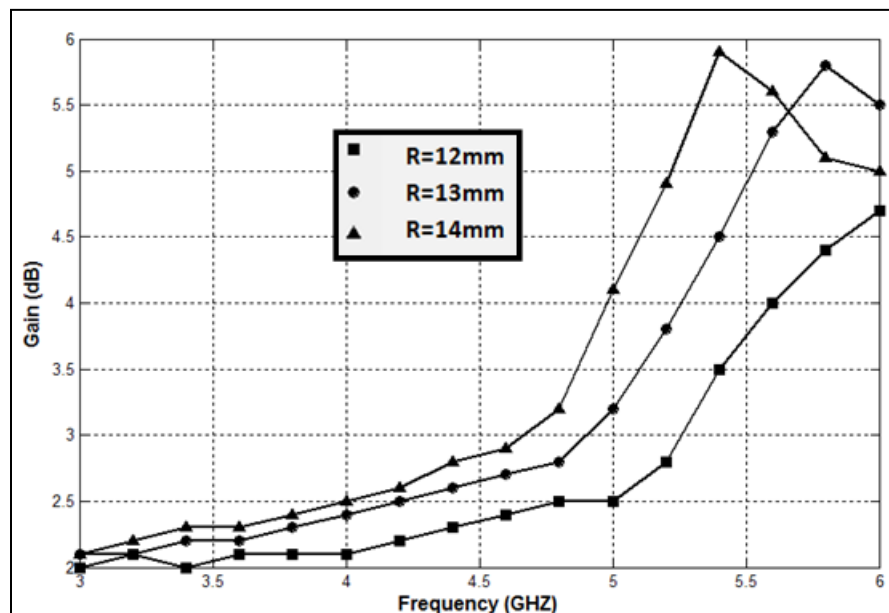


Figure14: Simulated Gain versus frequency graph of the antenna (iteration 2)

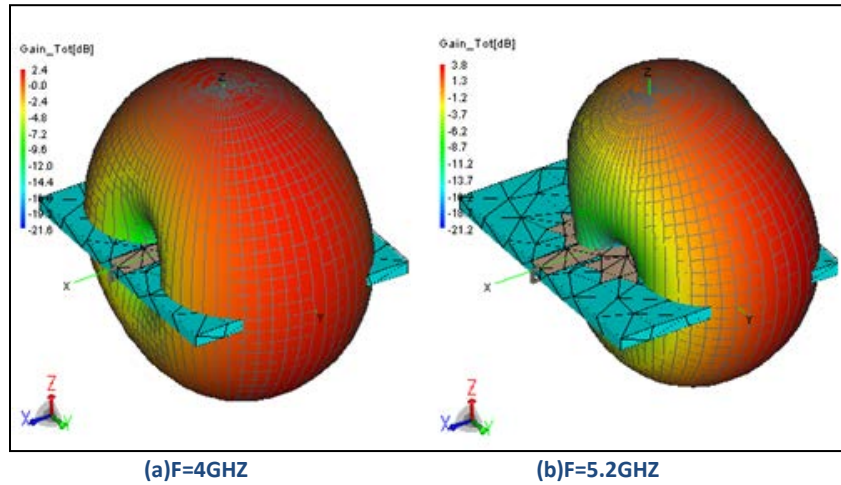


Figure15: the 3D total gain of the antenna for R=13mm

The table 3 summarizes the resonant frequencies, the bandwidths and the gains of the antenna in the Bandwidth.

Table 3: the bandwidths and the gains for the antenna (First iteration)

R(mm)	Resonant frequencies (GHZ)	Bandwidth (-10dB)	S_{11}^* (dB)	Gain (dB)**
12	4.07 and 5.32 and 6.6	2.02GHZ (3.57 – 5.59)	-17.24 and -12.64and -15.3	2.1 to 4 And 5.3 to 4.9
13	4 and 5.23 and 6.27 and 6.64	2.02GHZ (3.53 - 5.55) And 240MHZ (6.16 – 6.4) And 180MHZ (6.52-6.7)	-20.4 and -40.3 and -12.55 and -27	2.2 to 5.1 And 4.9 to 4.1 And 4.7 to 5.1
14	5.2 and 6.07	460MHZ (4.95 – 5.41) And 120MHZ (5.99 – 6.11)	-26.55 and -14.3	3.9 to 5.6 And 4.2 to 5

(*) the S_{11} are given in the resonant frequencies

(**) the Gains are given in the bandwidth

3.4 The Third iteration

For the third iteration (figure 16), the variation of the simulated S_{11} parameter versus the frequency for some values of R is shown in the figure 17.

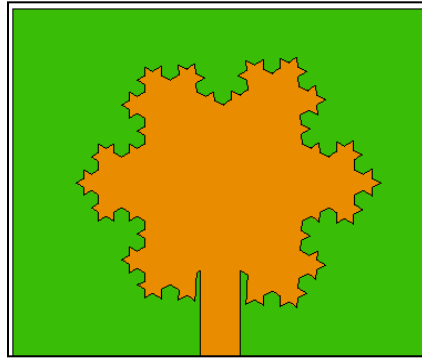


Figure 16: the front face of the antenna (Third iteration)

We observe that, for $R=13\text{mm}$, the antenna has 3 resonant frequencies $f_{r1} = 3.9\text{GHz}$ with $S_{11} = -17.67\text{dB}$, $f_{r2} = 5.08\text{GHz}$ with $S_{11} = -21.45\text{dB}$, and $f_{r3} = 5.92\text{GHz}$ with $S_{11} = -13.31$. The largest bandwidth of the antenna is 1.89GHz ($3.46 - 5.35\text{GHz}$).

For the $R=12\text{mm}$, the antenna has 3 resonant frequencies $f_{r1}=4\text{GHz}$ with $S_{11}= -19\text{dB}$, $f_{r2}= 5.2\text{GHz}$ with $S_{11}= -16.4$, and $f_{r3}= 7\text{GHz}$ with $S_{11}= -18.5$. The largest bandwidth of the antenna is 2GHz ($3.49 - 5.49\text{GHz}$).

For the $R=14\text{mm}$, the antenna has 2 resonant frequencies $f_{r1}=5.03\text{GHz}$ with $S_{11}= -35.8\text{dB}$, and $f_{r2}= 5.73\text{GHz}$ with $S_{11}= -23.7\text{dB}$. The largest bandwidth of the antenna is 460MHz ($4.74-5.2\text{GHz}$).

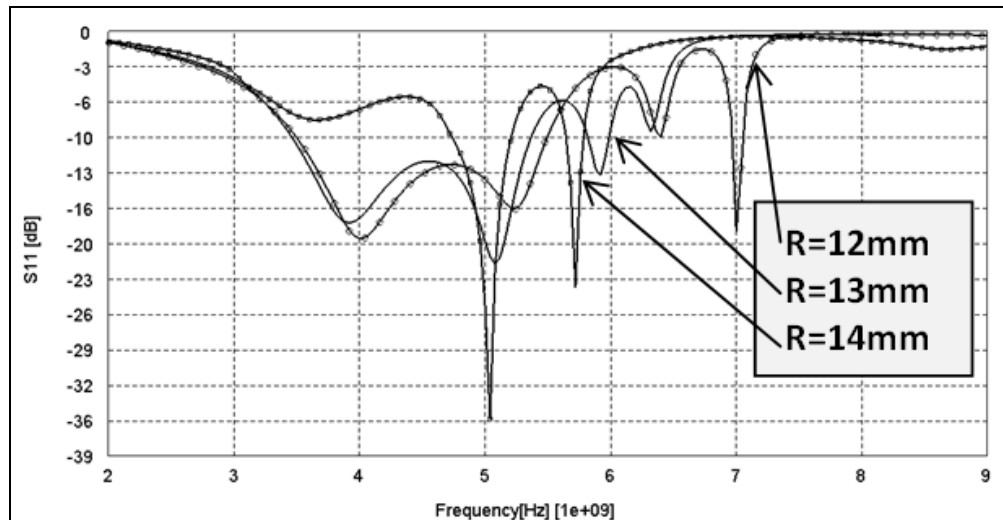


Figure17: Simulated S_{11} versus frequency graph of the antenna (Third iteration)

The figure 18 shows the evolution of the gain of the antenna versus the frequency for some values of the radius R . we observe in general, that the gain increases when the frequency increases. We observe also that in general, the gain increases when the R increases. The figure 19 shows an example for the 3D total gain pattern of the antenna for $R=13\text{mm}$ and for the two frequencies 4GHz and 5GHz .

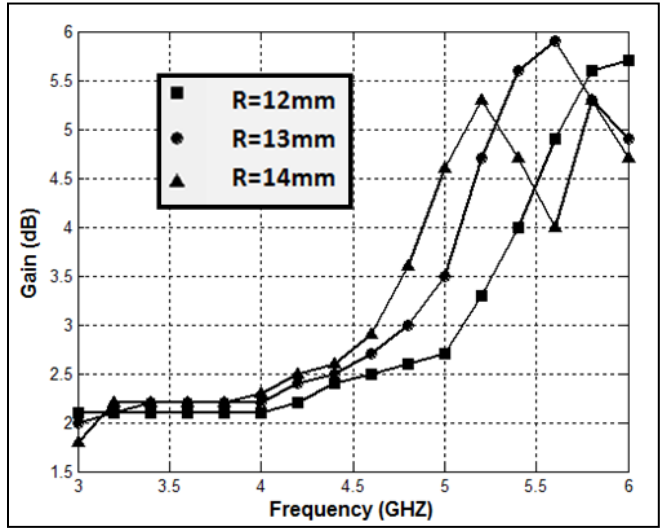
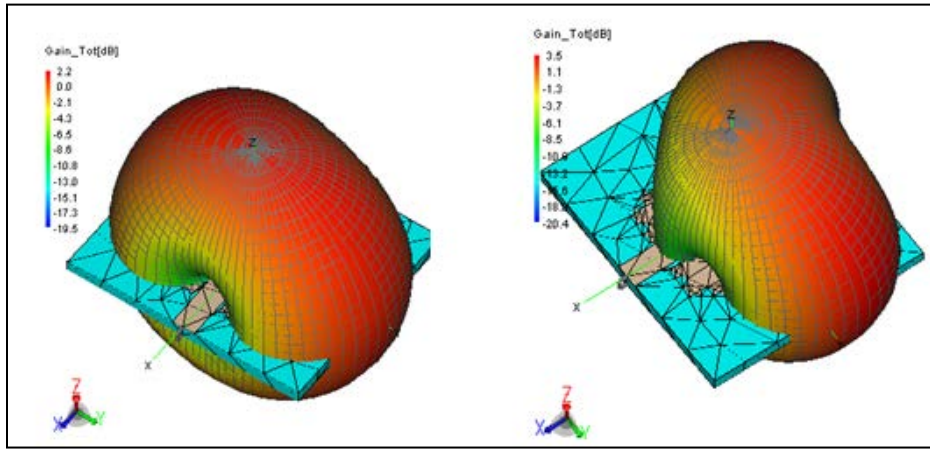


Figure 18 : Simulated Gain versus frequency graph of the antenna (iteration 3)



(a)F=4GHZ

(b)F=5GHZ

Figure19: the 3D total gain of the antenna for R=13mm

The table 4 summarizes the resonant frequencies, the bandwidths and the gains of the antenna in the Bandwidth.

Table 4: the bandwidths and the gains for the antenna (First iteration)

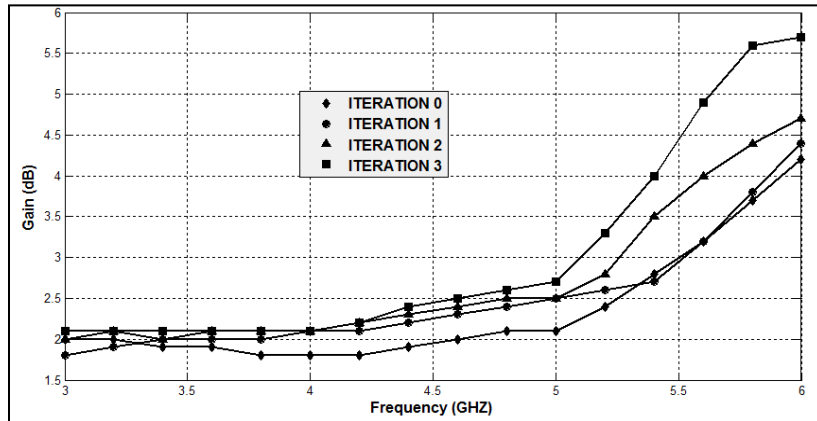
R(mm)	Resonant frequencies (GHz)	Bandwidth (-10dB)	S ₁₁ [*] (dB)	Gain (dB) ^{**}
12	4 and 5.2 and 7	2GHz (3.49 – 5.49) And 90MHz (6.96-7.05)	-19 and -16.4 and -18.5	2.1 to 4.4 And 6.4 to 6.2
13	3.9 and 5.08 and 5.92	1.89GHz (3.46 - 5.35) And 190MHz (5.8 – 5.99)	-17.67 and -21.45 and -13.31	2.2 to 5.5 And 5.3 to 4.9
14	5.03 and 5.73	460MHz (4.74 – 5.2) And 200MHz (5.6 – 5.8)	-35.8 and -23.4	3.2 to 5.3 And 4 to 5.3

(*) the S₁₁ are given in the resonant frequencies

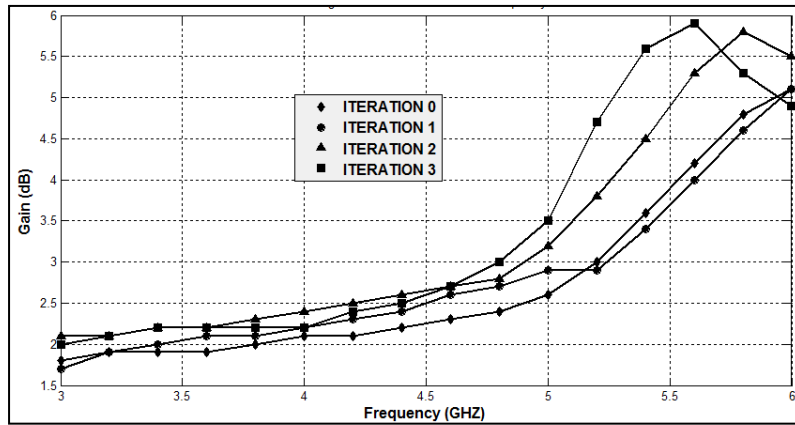
(**) the Gains are given in the bandwidth

3.5 The effect of the iterations

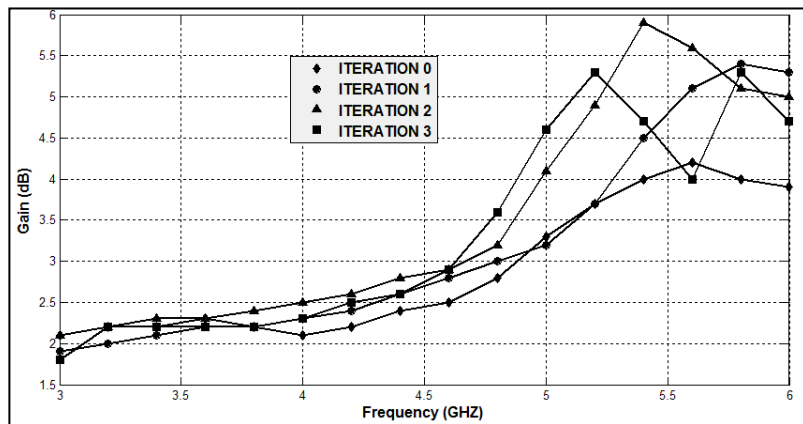
For all the values of the radius R , we observe that in general, the maximum total gain of the antenna increase by increasing the number of iterations (Figure 20). We observe also that in general, the number of the resonant frequencies and the bandwidth increase when the number of iterations increase (figure 21)



(a) $R=12\text{mm}$

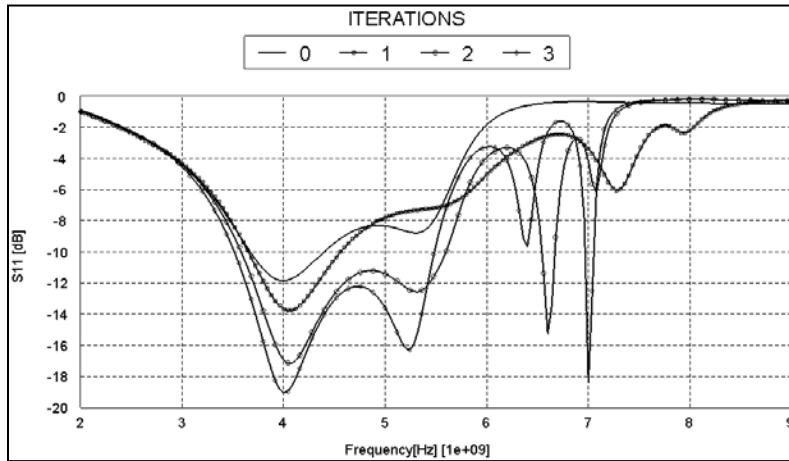


(b) $R=13\text{mm}$

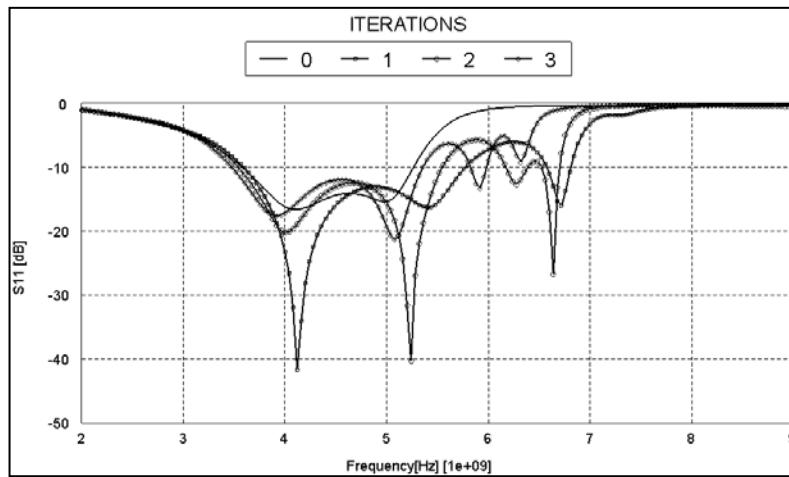


(c) $R=14\text{mm}$

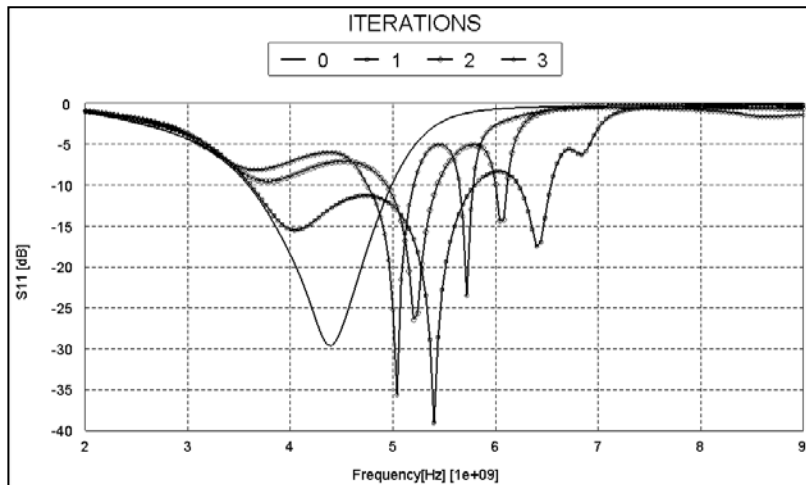
Figure20: Simulated Gain versus frequency graph of the antenna and versus the number of iterations



(a) $R=12\text{mm}$



(b) $R=13\text{mm}$



(c) $R=13\text{mm}$

Figure21: Simulated S_{11} versus frequency graph of the antenna for the 4 iterations

4 Conclusion

The fractal concept is a one of the better solutions to design a simple, low profile and miniaturized antennas, the use of the CPW-Fed technique increases the bandwidth of the antennas and it is very easy to manufacture.

The CPW-Fed KOCH SNOWFLAKE Fractal antenna is a good solution for the UWB applications. Increasing the number of iteration allows obtaining a low profile antenna with good performances, operating for many UWB-applications.

For some configurations of the proposed structures, the antennas are a good solution for the 3.7-4.2GHz C-Band, 5.15-5.82GHz WLAN, and 5GHz WIMAX applications.

Also, further dimensions and iterations can be done to obtain antennas with another sizes, more Ultra Wide Bands and better antenna performances.

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