

FEEDOME, PRIMARY RADIATOR, AND ANTENNA FOR MICROWAVE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates to an antenna for microwave which is used for a receiving of a telecommunication by satellite and a broadcast satellite communication and more particularly, to an improvement of a feedome (abbreviation of "feed horn dome") thereof.

10 A Cassegrainian antenna and an offset antenna are enumerated as a parabolic antenna which is a kind of antenna for microwave. The offset antenna comprises a reflector for reflecting radio wave, a primary radiator disposed in the vicinity of a focused position
15 of radio wave reflected by the reflector, and a converter for ensuring frequency conversion of radio wave taken in the primary radiator. The primary radiator comprises a radiator main body having an opening on which radio wave is incident, and to which
20 a feedome is generally mounted to prevent a penetration of rainwater, dust, etc. However, mounting of the feedome has the following effect:

Radio wave I radiated by the radiator main body and incident on the feedome is decomposed into an
25 electric power R which reflects on the side of the radiator main body, and an electric power T which passes through the feedome. Except when the feedome is very thin, and has a relative dielectric constant in the order of 2, a reflection loss defined by an
30 electric power ratio R/I of the incident radio wave I

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to the reflected radio wave R is generally increased by mounting the feedome, resulting in lowered gain of the antenna.

5 It is noted that, in order to decrease a
reflection loss of the primary radiator with the
feedome, the following measures are taken
conventionally. The first measure is to construct the
feedome in the form of a very thin film, which is
disposed to be in close contact with the opening of the
10 radiator main body or adjacent thereto. The second
measure is to construct the feedome to be sufficiently
thinner than the wavelength of radio wave, which is
disposed in a position substantially a half wavelength
(λ_0 : atmospheric wavelength) distant with respect to
15 the opening of the radiator main body. The third
measure is to construct the feedome to have a thickness
of substantially half wavelength (λ : wavelength in the
feedome), which is disposed in a position substantially
a half wavelength (λ_0 : atmospheric wavelength) distant
20 with respect to the opening of the radiator main body.
The second and third measures are based upon a theory,
as described in the "ELECTROMAGNETIC THEORY", pp. 511-
515, J.A. Stratton, published by McGRAW-HILL Book
Company in 1941, that, when the thickness of air or
25 dielectric is a half of the transmitted wavelength, a
reflection loss of radio wave transmitting through the
medium is minimum.

However, the above conventional measures
produce the following problems. The first measure

produces a problem of easy breakage, etc. due to extremely small thickness of the feedome, resulting in its unpracticality when being set out of doors. The second measure produces a problem of enlarged size of the primary radiator since the feedome is disposed distant from the opening of the radiator main body. The third measure produces a problem of not only further enlarged size than that of the second measure, but increased weight due to large thickness of the feedome itself.

It is, therefore, an object of the present invention to provide a feedome, etc. which present excellent reflection loss characteristic and sufficient strength, and contribute to a reduction in size and weight of a primary radiator.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to one aspect of the present invention, there is provided a feedome, comprising:

a dielectric board having a thickness sufficiently smaller than a wavelength of radio wave, said dielectric board having a first side; and

a dielectric protrusion fixedly mounted to said dielectric board substantially in a center of said first side thereof, said dielectric protrusion having a height approximately equal to integral number times $(1/2) \cdot \lambda$ where said wavelength of radio wave is λ , and a diameter approximately equal to said height of said dielectric protrusion.

Another aspect of the present invention lies in

providing a primary radiator, comprising:

a main body having an opening on which radio wave is incident; and

5 a feedome disposed on a side of said opening of said main body,

said feedome comprising:

a dielectric board disposed with respect to said opening of said main body and having a thickness sufficiently smaller than a wavelength of radio wave,
10 said dielectric board having a first side; and

a dielectric protrusion fixedly mounted to said dielectric board substantially in a center of said first side thereof, said dielectric protrusion having a height approximately equal to integral number times $(1/2) \cdot \lambda$
15 where said wavelength of radio wave is λ , and a diameter approximately equal to said height of said dielectric protrusion.

The other aspect of the present invention lies in providing an antenna for microwave, comprising:

20 a reflector arranged to reflect radio wave; and
a primary radiator disposed with respect to said reflector, said primary radiator receiving radio wave reflected by the reflector,

said primary radiator comprising a main body
25 having an opening, and a feedome disposed on a side of said opening of said main body,

said feedome comprising:

a dielectric board disposed with respect to said opening of said main body and having a thickness

sufficiently smaller than a wavelength of radio wave, said dielectric board having a first side; and

5 a dielectric protrusion fixedly mounted to said dielectric board substantially in a center of said first side thereof, said dielectric protrusion having a height approximately equal to integral number times $(1/2) \cdot \lambda$ where said wavelength of radio wave is λ , and a diameter approximately equal to said height of said dielectric protrusion.

10 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1A is an exploded perspective view showing a primary radiator according to the present invention;

Fig. 1B is a sectional view showing the primary radiator;

15 Fig. 2A is a front view showing an antenna for microwave according to the present invention;

Fig. 2B is a side view of the antenna for microwave;

20 Fig. 3 is a graph showing a reflection loss characteristic of the primary radiator with a feedome disposed;

Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 3, showing a reflection loss characteristic of the primary radiator with no feedome disposed;

25 Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 4, showing a reflection loss characteristic of the primary radiator with a feedome disposed;

Fig. 6A is a view similar to Fig. 1B, showing a variant of the feedome; and

Fig. 6B is a perspective view showing the variant of the feedome.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Referring to Figs. 1A to 5, a preferred embodiment of the present invention will be described. Referring first to Figs. 2A and 2B, an antenna for microwave comprises a reflector 1 for reflecting radio wave, which is fixedly mounted to a support 3 through a mounting portion 2. An inner surface of the reflector 1 forms a paraboloid of revolution, or a parabola. A primary radiator 4 is disposed substantially in a focused position of radio wave reflected by the paraboloid of revolution.

The primary radiator 4 comprises a radiator main body 4 and a feedome (abbreviation of "feed horn dome") 6, the radiator main body 5 being fixedly mounted to the mounting portion 2 through a mounting arm portion 7. Moreover, a converter 8 is fixedly mounted to a rear end surface of the radiator main body 5.

Referring to Figs. 1A and 1B, the radiator main body 5 includes a circular wave guide portion 5a and a conical horn portion 5b connected to a front end thereof, the conical horn portion 5b having a pointed end formed with as an opening 5c.

The feedome 6 is constructed by a dielectric material such as AES (acrylonitrile-ethylene-styrol) resin, and comprises a dielectric board 6a disposed to be in close contact with the opening 5c or adjacent

thereto, and a dielectric protrusion 6b fixedly mounted substantially in the center of the inner side of the dielectric board 6a. The dielectric board 6a is formed like a disc having an outer peripheral end as bent slightly, and is constructed to have a thickness t sufficiently smaller than the wavelength of radio wave in the dielectric board 6a. The dielectric protrusion 6b is formed like a cylinder, a height h of which is determined to be approximately equal to integral number times $(1/2) \cdot \lambda$ where the wavelength of radio wave in the dielectric protrusion 6b is λ . Moreover, a diameter d of the dielectric protrusion 6b is determined to be approximately equal to the height h . In other words, the height h and diameter d of the dielectric protrusion 6b are determined to be approximately equal to integral number times (1, 2, 3, 4...) a half wavelength.

In this embodiment, on the assumption that the primary radiator 4 is applied with linearly polarized wave in the vicinity of a 12 GHz band, the thickness t of the dielectric board 6a, the height h of the dielectric protrusion 6b, the diameter d of the dielectric protrusion 6b, a dielectric constant ϵ (the wavelength λ of radio wave in the feedome 6 is 15-16 mm), a diameter A of the opening 5c of the radiator main body 5, and a distance L between the opening 5c of the radiator main body 5 and the dielectric board 6a of the feedome 6 are determined: $t = 0.8$ mm, $h = 8.0$ mm, $d = 8.0$ mm, $\epsilon = 3.0$, $A = 31$ mm, and $L = 0$ mm.

With the above structure, radio wave reflected by the reflector 1 goes forward to converge in the vicinity of a focused position. Then, it passes through the feedome 6, and is collected in the radiator main body 5 via the opening 5c. A reflection loss characteristic of the above primary radiator 4 is measured, a result of which is as shown in Fig. 3. Moreover, a reflection loss characteristic of the primary radiator 4 with no feedome disposed is measured, a result of which is as shown in Fig. 4. The results of the two measurements reveal that the primary radiator 4 with the feedome 6 has a reflection loss characteristic equivalent to or higher than the primary radiator 4 with no feedome disposed.

Further, since the thickness t of the dielectric board 6a of the feedome 6 is 0.8 mm, sufficient strength of the feedome 6 can be obtained. Furthermore, since not only the thickness t of the dielectric board 6a of the feedome 6 is 0.8 mm and small, but the dielectric board 6a is disposed to be in close contact with the opening 5c of the radiator main body 5c, and has the dielectric protrusion 6b arranged to the inner side of the dielectric board 6a, the primary radiator 4 has a reduced size and weight.

On the other hand, in this embodiment, when the thickness t of the dielectric board 6a of the feedome 6 is determined to 1.1 mm, and the height h of the dielectric protrusion 6b is determined to 7.5 mm, and the diameter d is determined to 10.0 mm, a reflection

loss characteristic of the primary radiator 4 is excellent as shown in Fig. 5.

Referring to Figs. 6A and 6B, a variant of the feedome will be described. Referring to Fig. 6A, a feedome 10 comprises a dielectric board 10a shaped substantially like a disc, and a dielectric protrusion 10b shaped substantially like a cylinder in the same way as the above feedome 6, the dielectric protrusion 10b having a center portion formed with a cavity 10c. With the feedome 10, also, substantially the same reflection loss characteristic as that of the feedome 6 can be obtained with further weight reduction.

It is noted that the shape of the sectional outline of the dielectric protrusion 6a, 10a may be not circular, and may be polygonal, e.g. quadrangular as shown in Fig. 6B. When the dielectric protrusion 6a, 10a is formed in a polygon, the length of a diagonal line thereof is determined to be approximately equal to the height thereof.

Further, the primary radiator 4 may be not only of the conical horn type, but of the type of a corrugated horn, multimode horn, etc. Furthermore, the antenna for microwave may not be an offset antenna, and may be a Cassegranian antenna. Still further, polarized wave may be not only linearly polarized wave, but circularly polarized wave.



WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A feedome, comprising:

a dielectric board having a thickness sufficiently smaller than a wavelength of radio wave, said dielectric board having a first side; and

a dielectric protrusion fixedly mounted to said dielectric board substantially in a center of said first side thereof, said dielectric protrusion having a height approximately equal to integral number times $(1/2) \cdot \lambda$ where said wavelength of radio wave is λ , and a diameter approximately equal to said height of said dielectric protrusion.

2. A feedome as claimed in claim 1, wherein said diameter of said dielectric protrusion includes a diagonal line.

3. A primary radiator, comprising:

a main body having an opening on which radio wave is incident; and

a feedome disposed on a side of said opening of said main body,

said feedome comprising:

a dielectric board disposed with respect to said opening of said main body and having a thickness sufficiently smaller than a wavelength of radio wave, said dielectric board having a first side; and

a dielectric protrusion fixedly mounted to said dielectric board substantially in a center of said first side thereof, said dielectric protrusion having



a height approximately equal to integral number times $(1/2) \cdot \lambda$ where said wavelength of radio wave is λ , and a diameter approximately equal to said height of said dielectric protrusion.

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4. A primary radiator as claimed in claim 3, wherein said dielectric board is in close contact with said opening of said main body.

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5. A primary radiator as claimed in claim 3, wherein said dielectric board is adjacent to said opening of said main body.

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6. A primary radiator as claimed in claim 3, wherein said diameter of said dielectric protrusion includes a diagonal line.

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7. An antenna for microwave, comprising:
a reflector arranged to reflect radio wave; and
a primary radiator disposed with respect to said reflector, said primary radiator receiving radio wave reflected by the reflector,

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said primary radiator comprising a main body having an opening, and a feedome disposed on a side of said opening of said main body,

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said feedome comprising:
a dielectric board disposed with respect to said opening of said main body and having a thickness sufficiently smaller than a wavelength of radio wave, said dielectric board having a first side; and



a dielectric protrusion fixedly mounted to said dielectric board substantially in a center of said first side thereof, said dielectric protrusion having a height approximately equal to integral number times $(1/2) \cdot \lambda$ where said wavelength of radio wave is λ , and a diameter approximately equal to said height of said dielectric protrusion.

8. An antenna as claimed in claim 7, wherein said dielectric board is in close contact with said opening of said main body.

9. An antenna as claimed in claim 7, wherein said dielectric board is adjacent to said opening of said main body.

10. An antenna as claimed in claim 7, wherein said diameter of said dielectric protrusion includes a diagonal line.