

## SPECIFICATION

### WIDE ANGLE CIRCULAR POLARIZATION ANTENNA

#### 5 FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a communication field, and particularly relates to miniaturization and configuration of a wide angle circular polarization antenna adapted for portable radio communication using a satellite.

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#### BACKGROUND ART

Recently, plans of portable telephone using a satellite have been proposed by some companies. As for frequency bands in those plans, a band of 1.6 GHz is allocated to communication  
15 (transmission) from a ground portable telephone to a satellite, and a band of 2.4 GHz is allocated to communication from the satellite to the ground portable telephone.

In addition, the band of 1.6 GHz is allocated also as a frequency band used for bidirectional communication from the  
20 ground to the satellite and from the satellite to the ground.

As an antenna adapted for such satellite communication, an omnidirectional antenna is proposed (JP-A-7-183719). Fig. 12 shows the structure of this omnidirectional antenna disclosed in the JP-A-7-183719.

25 In Fig. 12, a microstrip planar antenna (MSA) 1 is

constituted by a feeding pin 1a, a patch-like radiating element 1b, and a dielectric substrate 1c. The microstrip planar antenna (MSA) 1 is characterized in that a ground conductor plate 1d is extended downward to form a conductor cylinder 1e as a ground.

5           Usually, the microstrip planar antenna (MSA) 1 has such a configuration that the patch-like radiating element 1b is arranged on the ground conductor plate 1d in parallel therewith through the dielectric substrate 1c. However, the omnidirectional antenna shown in Fig. 12 is characterized in that  
10 the whole circumference of the ground conductor plate 1d is extended downward to form a cylindrical shape as mentioned above.

By this characteristic, in the omnidirectional antenna shown in Fig. 12, the ground conductor plate 1d of the microstrip planar antenna (MSA) 1 is extended downward to improve the gain  
15 at a low elevation angle.

In the above-mentioned omnidirectional antenna, however, it is difficult to obtain sensitivity of a horizontally polarized component of a circular polarization at a low elevation angle.

Accordingly, in practical use, there is a case where it is  
20 difficult to keep sensitivity of communication since trees or the like absorb a vertically polarized component.

#### DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

In order to solve the foregoing problem, according to the  
25 present invention, a plurality of planar radiating elements are

disposed under a ground conductor plate of a microstrip planar antenna and electrically coupled with the ground conductor plate.

Further, according to the present invention, a plurality of planar radiating elements and a plurality of linear radiating  
5 elements are disposed under a ground conductor plate of a microstrip planar antenna and electrically coupled with the ground conductor plate. Further, a sperrtopf (blocking bushing) is provided in the above-mentioned invention. The "sperrtopf" is a blocking bushing having a configuration in which a cylindrical  
10 conductor of  $1/4$  wavelength or  $1/2$  wavelength is provided to cover a coaxial line in a vicinity just under the feeding point of the antenna in order to prevent a leakage current from flowing in the outer surface of the outer conductor of the coaxial cable, the cylindrical conductor being opened on the antenna side while it  
15 is connected at the other side to the outer conductor of the coaxial line.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a perspective view illustrating the  
20 configuration of a wide angle circular polarization antenna for explaining an embodiment of the present invention;

Figs. 2A to 2D are diagrams illustrating various examples of the basic and typical shape of the planar radiating element according to the embodiment of the present invention;

25 Figs. 3A to 3K are diagrams illustrating various examples

of the typical modified shape of the planar radiating element according to the embodiment of the present invention;

Figs. 4A to 4C are diagrams illustrating various examples of the position where a ground conductor plate and the planar radiating element are electrically coupled with each other by an electrically coupling means according to the embodiment of the present invention;

Figs. 5A to 5C are diagrams illustrating various examples of the system in which the ground conductor plate and the planar radiating element are electrically coupled with each other by the electrically coupling means in the embodiment of the present invention, Fig. 5A being a diagram of DC coupling by means of a wire, Fig. 5B being a diagram of capacitive coupling by means of a capacitive element, Fig. 5C being a diagram of inductive coupling by means of an inductive element;

Figs. 6A to 6E are diagrams illustrating various examples of the length and width of the electrically coupling means for electrically coupling the ground conductor plate and the planar radiating element according to the embodiment of the present invention;

Figs. 7A to 7C are views illustrating examples of the embodiment of the present invention, Fig. 7A being a side sectional view of a wide angle circular polarization antenna provided with means for correcting the distortion of a radiating pattern, Fig. 7B being a bottom view of Fig. 7A, Fig. 7C being a side sectional

view of the wide angle circular polarization antenna in which the means for correcting the distortion of a radiating pattern is provided in the vicinity of a feeder line;

5 Figs. 8A to 8B are views illustrating an example of application of the wide angle circular polarization antenna according to the present invention mounted on a portable radio equipment, Fig. 8A being a view illustrating the state in which the wide angle circular polarization antenna is kept away from the portable radio equipment housing and the feeder line is drawn  
10 out of the housing, Fig. 8B being a view illustrating the state in which the wide angle circular polarization antenna is kept close to the portable radio equipment housing, and the feeder line is drawn into the housing;

Figs. 9A and 9B are diagrams relating to the wide angle  
15 circular polarization antenna according to the embodiment of the present invention, Fig. 9A showing an example of Smith chart showing double resonance, Fig. 9B showing an example of VSWR;

Fig. 10 is a diagram showing an example in which a radiation pattern in the wide angle circular polarization antenna  
20 according to the embodiment of the present invention is measured in the positional relationship in which horizontal polarization is provided at a low elevation angle;

Fig. 11 is a diagram showing an example in which a radiation pattern in the wide angle circular polarization antenna  
25 according to the embodiment of the present invention is measured

in the positional relationship in which vertical polarization is provided at a low elevation angle;

Fig. 12 is a perspective view for explaining a conventional technique;

5        Fig. 13 is a perspective view of a wide angle circular polarization antenna for explaining another embodiment of the present invention;

      Figs. 14A and 14B are radiation characteristic diagrams of the antenna of Fig. 13 at a low elevation angle, Fig. 14A showing  
10 a vertical polarization component, Fig. 14B showing a horizontal polarization component;

      Fig. 15 is a view illustrating a further embodiment of the present invention; and

      Figs. 16A and 16B are radiation characteristic diagrams  
15 of the antenna shown in Fig. 13, in which a radio wave absorber is charged in the inside of the dielectric cylinder up to the position corresponding to the height of the planar radiating element, Fig. 16A showing a vertical polarization component, Fig. 16B showing a horizontal polarization component.

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#### THE MOST PREFERRED MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

      Fig. 1 is a schematic diagram illustrating a configuration of the present invention. In Fig. 1, portions equivalent to those in Fig. 12 are referenced correspondingly.

25        That is, the reference numeral 1 represents a microstrip planar

antenna (MSA); 1a, a feeding pin of the MSA; 1b, a patch-like radiating element of the MSA; 1c, a dielectric substrate of the MSA; 1d, a ground conductor plate of the MSA; 2, an electrically connecting means; 3, a planar radiating element; 4, a dielectric cylinder (support cylinder); 5, a feeding point; and 6, a feeder line (coaxial line, or coaxial cable).

The microstrip planar antenna (MSA) 1 in the form of a circle, a quadrilateral, or the like, acts as a circular polarization antenna with a desired frequency when suitable design is given to the parameters such as relative dielectric constant, dimensions, etc. of the dielectric substrate 1c, the size of the patch-like radiating element 1b pasted on the dielectric substrate 1c, the position of the feeding pin 1a, and so on.

However, the impedance matching based on the resonance frequency and the position of the feeding pin 1a should be done carefully because it depends on the shape and arrangement of the planar radiating element, and the electrically connecting means.

In the impedance matching based on the position of the feeding pin 1a, it is necessary to make an offset from the center of the dielectric substrate 1c in order to meet the characteristic impedance of the feeder line 6 (usually  $50\ \Omega$ ). This offset causes turbulence in a high-frequency current, so that the radiating pattern is distorted.

Fig. 1 shows an embodiment of the present invention, in

which the operating frequency of the microstrip planar antenna (MSA) 1 is about 1.6 GHz. The circular patch-like radiating element 1b is pasted on the circular dielectric substrate 1c. The ground conductor plate 1d of the microstrip planar antenna (MSA) 1 is supported by the dielectric cylinder 4 having substantially the same diameter as the former. Four same planar radiating elements 3 curved in accordance with the curved shape of the circumference of the dielectric cylinder 4 are pasted on the whole circumference of the latter equidistantly or at regular intervals.

The planar radiating elements 3 are not always necessary to be curved but they may be arranged without being curved. Preferably, the number of the planar radiating elements 3 is selected to be four or more.

Further, it is preferable to select the thickness of the dielectric substrate 1c is made substantially equal to the longitudinal dimension of the planar radiating elements 3. In order to obtain a radiation pattern omnidirectionally, it is important that the surface where the planar radiating elements 3 are distributed and disposed is the circumference having substantially the same diameter as the microstrip planar antenna (MSA) 1. The ground conductor plate 1d is electrically coupled with the planar radiating elements 3 through wires (electrically coupling means 2). The ground conductor plate 1d is a ground conductor common to the microstrip planar antenna (MSA) 1 and the

planar radiating elements 3.

The dielectric substrate 1c has a relative dielectric constant of about 20, a diameter of about 30 mm, and a thickness of about 10 mm. The dielectric cylinder 4 has a relative  
5 dielectric constant of about 4, a diameter of about 30 mm, and a height of about 20 mm. The thickness of the dielectric substrate 1c and the longitudinal dimension of the planar radiating elements 3 are made substantially equal to each other.

In the antenna according to this embodiment, the  
10 sensitivity of a horizontal polarization component in the microstrip planar antenna (MSA) 1 at a low elevation angle is improved by the action of a high-frequency current flowing in the transverse direction of the planar radiating elements 3, while the sensitivity of a vertical polarization component is improved  
15 by the action of a high-frequency current flowing in the longitudinal direction of the elements 3.

In comparison with the above antenna, in the configuration according to the conventional technique shown in Fig. 12, it is difficult for a high-frequency current to flow  
20 horizontally so that the axial ratio is large at a low elevation angle, though the sensitivity of a vertical polarization component is improved.

In the embodiment shown in Fig. 1 according to the present invention, the four planar radiating elements 3 are made  
25 rectangular and disposed on one and the same circumference of the

side surface of the dielectric cylinder 4. However, the present invention is not limited to such an embodiment, but, for example, various planer radiating elements shown in Figs. 2A to 2D, Figs. 3A to 3K, or the like, may be combined desirably in accordance  
5 with the form of a satellite orbit, a satellite altitude or the like of a desired satellite communication system.

Figs. 2A to 2D show examples of the typical basic shape of the planar radiating element. The examples of the basic shape include a rectangle which is long from side to side as shown in  
10 Fig. 2A, a rectangle which is longer than it is wide as shown in Fig. 2B, a square as shown in Fig. 2C, and a triangle as shown in Fig. 2D.

Figs. 3A to 3K show examples of the typical modified shape of the planar radiating element. The examples include uneven  
15 shapes as shown in Figs. 3A to 3E, an inclined shape as shown in Fig. 3F, notched shapes as shown in Figs. 3G and 3H, hollow shapes (frame-like shapes) as shown in Figs. 3I and 3J, and a radial shape as shown in Fig. 3K.

Further, according to the present invention, various  
20 configurations of the electrically coupling means as shown, by way of example, in Figs. 4A to 4C, Figs. 5A to 5C, and Figs. 6A to 6E may be desirably combined with various planar radiating elements as shown in Figs. 2A to 2D and Figs. 3A to 3K.

Figs. 4A to 4C show examples of the configuration of the  
25 coupled positions between the conductor plate 1d and the planar

radiating element 3 by the electrically coupling means 2.

Figs. 5A to 5C are diagrams each showing coupling system of the electrically coupling means (electrically coupled portion) 2. Fig. 5A shows a DC coupling in which the conductor plate 1d and the planar radiating element 3 are coupled through the electrically coupling means 2 constituted by a wire. Fig. 5B shows a capacitive coupling through the electrically coupling means 2 constituted by a capacitive element. Fig. 5C shows an inductive coupling through the electrically coupling means 2 constituted by an inductive element.

Figs. 6A to 6E show examples of the configuration of the electrically coupling means 2 different in width and length from each other. Figs. 6A to 6C show examples of the electrically coupling means 2 different in length from each other, while Figs. 6D and 6E show examples of the electrically coupling means 2 different in width from each other.

The various examples of the planar radiating element mentioned above, and the various examples of the electrically coupling means mentioned above and shown in Figs. 2A to 2D, Figs. 3A to 3K, Figs. 4A to 4C, Figs. 5A to 5C and Figs. 6A to 6E may be selectively desirably combined as setting elements for obtaining a desired antenna radiation pattern. Because there are many combinations as described above, the degree of freedom in design for obtaining a desired antenna radiation pattern is very large.

In addition, Figs. 7A and 7B show an example in which there is provided means for correcting distortion of the radiation pattern caused by the interaction with a feeder line is provided.

Fig. 7A is a side sectional view of a wide angle circular polarization antenna, and Fig. 7B is a view of the wide angle circular polarization antenna viewed from the bottom to show the inside of the dielectric cylinder 4. An ellipsoidal conductor 7 (see Fig. 7B) is used as a correction means, and a feeder line 6 is passed through the conductor 7. The planar radiating elements 3 and the electrically coupling means 2 pasted on the curved surface of the dielectric cylinder 4 are not shown in Figs. 7A and 7B.

Fig. 7C is a sectional view showing another example of means for correcting distortion of the radiation pattern. In this configuration, the feeder line 6 is surrounded by a dielectric body 8.

In combination with a portable radio equipment, when a wide angle circular polarization antenna is installed removably from a portable radio equipment housing, the example of the configuration shown in Fig. 7C may be used as means for fixedly supporting the wide angle circular polarization antenna on the portable radio equipment housing at a predetermined distance from the housing.

Figs. 8A and 8B show a configuration in which a wide angle circular polarization antenna can be made close to or away from

the housing of a portable radio equipment.

That is, Figs. 8A and 8B are schematic sectional views showing a main part in section of the wide angle circular polarization antenna according to the present invention is  
5 attached to a portable radio equipment.

As shown in each of Figs. 8A and 8B, a dielectric body 8 provided with a built-in feeder line is arranged so that it can be pushed into and drawn out of the housing 9 of a portable radio equipment desirably.

10 In Figs. 8A and 8B, the reference numeral 10 represents a portable radio equipment circuit. A wide angle circular polarization antenna configured similarly to that shown in Fig. 7C according to the present invention is provided at the top of the dielectric body 8.

15 In this embodiment shown in Figs. 8A and 8B, an elastic body is attached to the outer circumference of the dielectric body 8. That is, the dielectric body 8 is disposed, for example, inside a spring 11 which is an elastic body.

When the wide angle circular polarization antenna is  
20 drawn out of the housing 9 (see Fig. 8A), the elastic force of the spring 11 (the force for pushing and opening the wide angle circular polarization antenna and the housing) acts so that the dielectric body 8 fixedly supports the wide angle circular polarization antenna in a predetermined position away from the  
25 housing 9.

On the other hand, when the dielectric body 8 is pushed into the housing 9 (see Fig. 8B), the wide angle circular polarization antenna is fixed in the vicinity of the portable radio equipment housing 9 by means of a suitable lock means (not shown) against the repulsive force of the spring 11.

Figs. 9A, 9B, 10 and 11 show examples of measurement of Smith chart, VSWR, radiation pattern, and so on, of the wide angle circular polarization antenna in the embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 13 shows another embodiment of the wide angle circular polarization antenna according to the present invention.

In Fig. 13, parts equivalent to those in Fig. 1 are referenced correspondingly, and the description about those parts is omitted here.

Of the constituent parts of the antenna in this embodiment shown in Fig. 13, linear radiating elements 12 and a sperrtopf 13 are not provided in the antenna shown in Fig. 1.

The sperrtopf 13 is constituted by a conductor cylinder 13a put on a coaxial line 6. The coaxial line 6 and the conductor cylinder 13a are opened on the microstrip planar antenna (MSA) side, while an outer conductor of the coaxial line 6 is connected to the conductor cylinder 13a so as to be short-circuited in an end portion 13b on the side opposite to the MSA.

The electrical length of the sperrtopf 13 thus configured is selected to be about  $1/4$  wavelength or about  $1/2$  wavelength.

The four linear radiating elements 12 are made to have an electrical length of about  $1/4$  wavelength, and disposed on the side surface of the dielectric cylinder 4 alternately with four planar radiating elements 3. One end of each linear radiating  
5 element 12 is electrically coupled with a ground conductor plate 1d, while the other end of the elements 12 is electrically connected to the surface of the conductor cylinder 13a.

In such a manner in this embodiment of Fig. 13, there is provided a composite radiation element structure in which the  
10 liner radiating elements 12 is provided in addition to the planar radiating elements 3.

In the embodiment of Fig. 13, a dielectric substrate 1c has a relative dielectric constant of about 29, a diameter of 28 mm, and a thickness of 10 mm. A dielectric cylinder 4 is formed  
15 of ceramics (forsterite) having a relative dielectric constant of about 6.5, a diameter of 28mm, a height of 20 mm, and a thickness of 2 mm. A wire of 0.6mm diameter is used for the linear radiating elements 12. The conductor cylinder 13a of the sperrtopf 13 has an outer diameter of 6mm diameter.

20 A semi-rigid cable having an outer diameter of 2.2mm diameter is used as the coaxial line 6. A central conductor of the coaxial line 6 is connected at its one end to a feeding pin 1a, and connected at its other end to a connector 15. Each of the planar radiating elements 3 is 10 mm long and 15 mm wide. Each  
25 of the electrically coupling means 2 is 5 mm long and 2 mm wide.

The sperrtopf 13 is disposed under the planar radiating elements 3 so as not to overlap the planar radiating elements 3.

In the wide angle circular polarization antenna of Fig. 13, the sensitivity of a horizontal polarization component in the microstrip planar antenna (MSA) 1 at a low elevation angle is improved by the action of a high-frequency current flowing in the transverse direction of the planar radiating elements 3, while the sensitivity of a vertical polarization component in the microstrip planar antenna (MSA) 1 at a low elevation angle is improved by the action of a high-frequency current flowing in the longitudinal direction of the planar radiating elements 3 and a high-frequency current flowing along the linear radiating elements 12.

As has been described above, in this embodiment of the present invention, four rectangular planar radiating elements are disposed on one and the same side circumferential surface of the dielectric cylinder 4. However, the present invention is not limited to this, and various shapes of the planer radiating elements 3 may be combined desirably in accordance with the forms of a satellite orbit, a satellite altitude, or the like, of a desired satellite communication system. Further, as for the linear radiating elements 12 and the sperrtopf 13, it is possible to control the axial ratio or the gain by adjusting the respective lengths of the linear radiating elements and the sperrtoph or coupled positions thereof.

Figs. 14A and 14B are radiation characteristic diagrams at a low elevation angle of the antenna in Fig. 13, Fig. 14A showing a vertical polarization component, Fig. 14B showing a horizontal polarization component.

5            Fig. 15 is a sectional view of a wide angle circular polarization antenna showing a further embodiment of the present invention. Also in Fig. 15, parts equivalent to those in the other drawings are referenced correspondingly.

          In this embodiment shown in Fig. 15, a radio wave absorber  
10    14 is charged, as means for correcting distortion of the radiation pattern, in the inside of the dielectric cylinder 4 in the antenna shown in Fig. 1.

          Inside the four planar radiating elements 3, the radio wave absorber 14 relieves interference between the feeder line  
15    6 and the planar radiating elements 3. As a result, the radiation patterns of a horizontal polarization component and a vertical polarization component become substantially uniform.

          Figs. 16A and 16B are radiation characteristic diagrams in which the radio wave absorber is charged in the inside of the  
20    dielectric cylinder 4 up to the position corresponding to the height of the planar radiating elements 3 in the antenna shown in Fig. 13, Fig. 16A showing the result of measurement of a vertical polarization component, Fig. 16B showing the result of measurement of a horizontal polarization component.

25            If the characteristics of Figs. 16A and 16B are compared

with those of Figs. 14A and 14B, it is clear that the embodiment shown in Figs. 16A and 16B in which a radio wave absorber is charged, is superior in effect to the embodiment shown in Figs. 14A and 14B in which no radio wave absorber is charged.

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#### INDUSTRIAL UTILIZATION

As has been described above, according to the present invention, it is possible to provide a wide angle circular polarization antenna in which sensitivity of a horizontal  
10 polarization component in circle polarization at a low elevation angle can be obtained, and the sensitivity of communication can be maintained in practical use even if the vertical polarization component is absorbed by trees, or the like.