

PID-based performance optimization of ultra-wideband microstrip patch antennas for indoor positioning systems

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Article Info

Article history:

Received Oct 4, 2024

Revised May 14, 2026

Accepted Jun 29 2026

Keywords:

Fuzzy logic

Indoor positioning system

Microstrip antenna

PID controllers

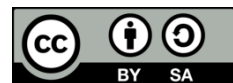
Rough set theory

UWB building systems

ABSTRACT

Ultra-wideband (UWB) technology has become a key enabler for high-accuracy indoor positioning systems (IPs), where antenna performance directly influences localization accuracy, signal quality, and communication reliability. However, designing compact UWB microstrip patch antennas with wide bandwidth, low reflection loss, and stable radiation characteristics remains a significant challenge. This paper presents a PID-based performance optimization approach for UWB microstrip patch antennas to improve antenna characteristics for indoor positioning applications. The proposed methodology integrates MATLAB-based electromagnetic simulation with parameter optimization to refine antenna geometry while incorporating optimization concepts inspired by rough set theory and fuzzy logic to support efficient design parameter selection. Using MATLAB and the Parallel Computing Toolbox, the proposed approach significantly reduces computational complexity while accelerating the optimization process. Experimental results demonstrate substantial improvements in reflection coefficient (S11), voltage standing wave ratio (VSWR), radiation pattern, and antenna directivity, particularly around the target operating frequency of 10 GHz. Among the evaluated configurations, the optimized rectangular microstrip patch antenna consistently outperformed the triangular design in terms of impedance matching and radiation performance. The proposed optimization framework provides an effective and computationally efficient solution for enhancing UWB antenna performance, making it well suited for high-precision indoor positioning and next-generation wireless communication systems.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Ultra-wideband (UWB) technology has emerged as a promising solution for high-accuracy indoor positioning systems (IPs) because of its wide bandwidth, low transmission power, high data rate, and exceptional ranging accuracy. Unlike the global positioning system (GPS), whose performance deteriorates significantly in indoor environments due to signal attenuation and multipath propagation, UWB-based positioning systems can provide reliable localization in complex indoor scenarios, including smart buildings, industrial automation, healthcare facilities, warehouses, and emergency response operations [1]–[3].

Consequently, UWB technology has attracted considerable research interest as an enabling technology for next-generation indoor localization. Although various indoor positioning techniques based on radio frequency (RF), inertial navigation, vision, and acoustic sensing have been investigated, UWB remains one of the most effective solutions owing to its superior positioning precision, robustness against multipath interference, and high communication reliability. However, the overall performance of UWB-based IPSs is strongly influenced by antenna characteristics, including impedance matching, operating bandwidth, gain, radiation pattern, and directivity. Therefore, the design and performance optimization of UWB microstrip patch antennas have become essential for achieving accurate localization and reliable wireless communication in indoor environments.

RF systems like Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, and UWB are popular positioning technologies employed in various scenarios, including logistics, manufacturing, retail, smart cities, and healthcare [4]. UWB is particularly suitable for challenging environments like in-patient wards of hospitals, where the large number of rooms can impair UWB signal transmission and reception. Electromagnetic interference or noise can also block or reflect UWB signals, causing the multipath effect [5]. UWB also offers high accuracy in tracking the target in real-time, and the accuracy is at meter level [6]–[8]. These systems work hand in hand to calculate the location of the target in real time [9].

In general, integrating these diverse technologies lays the foundation for developing robust IPSs capable of addressing the multifaceted needs of various industries. These integrated systems are also robust because they provide precise and real-time tracking. Furthermore, it makes operations, in general, more efficient, as it increases productivity and encourages innovation.

UWB antennas can be used in various applications. Indoor environments present challenges like noise interference and inaccuracy. Fortunately, these challenges can be simulated using MATLAB. This software can simulate different scenarios in the environment of UWB systems [10]–[12]. UWB can be optimized for specific applications like tracking and indoor positioning. This optimization can address issues in the scalability and adaptability of the system. UWB antennas have emerged as necessary components in wireless communication, ushering in a system change between different applications, specifically in indoor environments [13], [14]. The UWB is recognized for its superior dependability and accuracy. These types of antennas have become essential in determining the direction of wireless communication technology.

Designing UWB antennas with optimal characteristics is a significant challenge, as they need to have broader bandwidth, characteristics that are well-featured, stable gain, and impedance matching over the operational bandwidth. UWB antennas have various applications in UWB communications, radar, sensing, and indoor localization [15], [16]. They are also crucial for fifth-generation (5G) communications, connecting many devices with high-speed data transmission and low latency. Operating easily in different broad spectrum of frequencies, UWB antennas excel in the transmission and reception of short-duration pulses of data [17]. This unique characteristic gives them a range of applications, from high-data-rate communications to the particulars of precise location tracking [18]. The functionalities of UWB antennas applied in IPSs are explored in this research. As technology continues to advance, it is crucial to grasp the design principles and functionalities of UWB antennas.

Common patch antenna designs for UWB applications in recent literature include diamond [19], [20], leaf-shaped bowtie [21], two-loop [22], log-periodic toothed trapezoidal [23], triangular [24], and Metasurfaced-based [25]. These antenna designs are small and compact, making them suitable for various mounting methods in indoor settings. Many of these antennas are only a few centimeters in size. The small size does provide a limitation when it comes to the gain of the antennas, with most antennas having a gain of 2 to 5 dBi. However, this can be easily mitigated by placing the antenna design in an array. This can be seen in the leaf-shaped bowtie array as it had an individual antenna gain close to 2.5 dBi, but it increased to 8 to 10 dBi when placed in an array. The ranges of these antenna designs may vary with the antenna power and design where the highest operational range is 55 m with the diamond patch antenna and the shortest distance being the triangular patch antenna of 1.46 m.

Aside from the self-produced antennas mentioned, commercial antennas also provide UWB functionality. Two models were commonly found, which are the Qorvo MDEK1001 [4] and the DWM1000 antenna module [26], [27]. The Qorvo has an operational range of 30 m around the antenna, a gain of 2.5 dBi, and a working frequency of 5.5 to 7.5 GHz. On the other hand, the DWM1000 has an operational range of 45 m during non-line-of-sight (NLOS) operation and 290 m during line-of-sight (LOS) operation. Moreover, it uses a center frequency of 5 GHz. Where both of the antennas also use the design of a patch antenna, with the DWM1000 specifically having an L-shaped antenna.

One prominent application of UWB antennas is indoor tracking, where multiple studies utilize UWB antennas along with software that can reduce errors in transmitting and receiving data. The usual setup of the tracking system is to have the UWB antenna transmitters to be in fixed locations in a room while there are receivers attached to the person or object that will be tracked [28]–[32]. The transmitters are usually referred to as “anchors,” while the receivers are “tags.” Multiple anchors are required to be placed in rooms in order

to track the location of an object in a room more accurately. However, this would mean that larger indoor locations would require more anchors present. This is not only to compensate for the limited range of the anchors but also to account for the loss of signal through NLOS. A larger indoor environment would have more rooms present within them, and the walls of these rooms can block the signals from the anchors. This makes the anchors less accurate in tracking the tagged person or object through a wall. These tracking systems also monitor people or objects in real-time. UWB antennas are mostly favored in these applications because of the large bandwidth they provide, with the largest bandwidth used being 4.29 GHz. This large area for data storage allows the tracking of multiple persons or items at once. This large bandwidth also affects the speed of transmission between the anchors and tags. This is especially important for real-time tracking, as quicker location updates will provide a more accurate reading of the current location of the tag.

The utilization of rough set theory in optimization applications has been relevant in present studies. This also includes a fuzzy logic approach, as in the paper of Chaturvedi and Daniel (2020) [33], where they demonstrated improved network performance in wireless sensor networks by proposing a hybrid protocol that effectively enhances target coverage. Aside from wireless communication applications, fuzzy logic, and rough set theory have also been applied in i) processing large datasets without information loss [33], ii) generalized data reduction [34], and iii) enhancing student career selection with a hybridized distance measure, with case studies demonstrating their effectiveness [35].

Applications in proportional integral derivative (PID) control in IPS UWB building systems are also noteworthy in recent advance research. This system employs UWB technology to deliver high-precision indoor localization, enabling accurate tracking of objects and people across various sectors, including smart buildings, healthcare, logistics, and security. Studies on UWB-based IPS highlight its capabilities in achieving precise location accuracy, as seen in robotic platform tracking [36] and emergency response scenarios with sub-meter accuracy for static targets [37], 2) real-time tracking applications requiring high precision [38], and the use of global navigation satellite system (GNSS)-real-time kinematic (RTK) for rapid emergency deployment [37]. Fundamentally, these applications rely on UWB signals for indoor tracking.

The UWB antennas have a short range of detection, which is a limiting factor to their price-to-performance ratio. In order to accurately measure a person or object inside of a small room, multiple anchors are required to track them accurately. The greatest number of anchors used is eight in a single room [39]. This would make it expensive to track people or objects in a larger location, such as industrial buildings, as multiple anchor points are needed just to cover the area of the building. Therefore, a UWB antenna design that can increase the current operating range of present antenna designs is desirable.

This study aims to contribute significantly to this understanding by delving into the background of UWB antennas, illuminating their unique characteristics, and exploring potential innovations by honing in on the capabilities of UWB antennas; the research endeavors to uncover novel possibilities for augmenting wireless communication and positioning technologies across diverse applications, thereby shaping the future landscape of indoor wireless systems. This study aims to articulate and address these challenges, and the MATLAB software is used to simulate the complexities of the UWB antenna and propose innovative solutions to enhance their efficiency in wireless communication systems in the landscape of UWB technology. Also, this paper aims to design a UWB microstrip antenna in MATLAB, simulate the radiation pattern of the designed UWB microstrip antenna, obtain the reflection coefficient of the designed UWB microstrip antenna, obtain the VSWR of the designed UWB microstrip antenna, and verify if the bandwidth of the designed microstrip antenna is operating in the UWB spectrum.

The successful implementation of this research can revolutionize different sectors like radar systems, telecommunications, and the internet of things (IoT). Increasing the bandwidth within the spectrum of the UWB could lead to more reliable and faster data transfers. This research also contributes to the global trend of utilizing wireless technologies. The demand for high-speed communication persists, particularly in urban areas, and in this context, the UWB microstrip antenna will be valuable.

2. METHODS

This study proposes a systematic methodology for the design, simulation, and performance optimization of UWB microstrip patch antennas intended for IPS applications. The overall framework combines electromagnetic antenna modeling, simulation-based performance evaluation, and PID-based optimization to improve antenna characteristics while maintaining computational efficiency. The methodology consists of three main stages: i) antenna design and parameter configuration, ii) simulation and performance analysis, and iii) PID-based performance optimization.

In the first stage, the geometric parameters of the UWB microstrip patch antenna are determined based on the target operating frequency and substrate characteristics. The antenna dimensions, including the patch geometry, feed position, substrate thickness, dielectric constant, and ground plane configuration, are

carefully selected to achieve wide impedance bandwidth, effective impedance matching, and stable radiation characteristics. Both rectangular and triangular microstrip patch antenna configurations are investigated to evaluate their suitability for indoor positioning applications.

The second stage involves electromagnetic simulation and performance evaluation using the MATLAB Antenna Toolbox integrated with the parallel computing toolbox. The simulated antenna models are analyzed using several key performance indicators, including the reflection coefficient (S11), VSWR, impedance bandwidth, radiation pattern, gain, and directivity. These parameters provide quantitative measures of antenna performance and serve as the basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the proposed optimization strategy.

In the final stage, a proportional–integral–derivative (PID)-based optimization approach is employed to iteratively adjust the antenna design parameters in order to achieve improved electromagnetic performance. The optimization process minimizes impedance mismatch while enhancing radiation efficiency and antenna gain across the desired UWB operating band. Simulation data generated during each optimization iteration are further analyzed to identify the optimal antenna configuration that satisfies the design objectives for IPSs.

The proposed methodological framework enables the systematic evaluation of antenna performance while providing an efficient optimization strategy for UWB antenna design. The resulting optimized antenna is expected to exhibit improved impedance matching, wider operational bandwidth, enhanced radiation characteristics, and higher directivity, thereby supporting reliable and accurate wireless communication for high-precision indoor positioning applications.

The flowchart of the MATLAB code for both patch antennas is depicted in Figure 1 at Appendix. Figure 1(a) shows the flow of the MATLAB code for the triangular patch microstrip antenna. The code starts with creating a MATLAB object for the triangular antenna. This object will store the properties of the antenna. Next, the parameters (center frequency and frequency range) for the said antenna are inputted. These are the working/operating frequencies for the antenna. The `design()` function was used to create the antenna object in accordance with the center frequency. Once the antenna object is created, the model of the antenna is displayed along with the radiation patterns, S-parameter, and VSWR plot. In order to create the most optimal antenna for UWB applications, the antenna's bandwidth must be maximized to achieve a minimum of 500 MHz bandwidth. As such, optimization is required. To do this, the parameters of the antenna to be optimized are its side, height, and feed offset. With this, lower and upper bounds of the parameters are also included so that MATLAB can adjust these parameters accordingly. Once this is done, the `optimize()` function is used with the antenna object, center frequency, objective (maximize bandwidth), and bounds were used as input. Also, the function `canUseGPU()` was used to enable parallel computing during the optimization computations to speed up the computations. Once the function is done running, it will output the optimized antenna object. With this, the optimized antenna model, along with its radiation patterns, S-parameter, VSWR, and current distribution plots, will be displayed.

As shown in Figure 1(b), the flow of the MATLAB code for the rectangular patch antenna is seen. The flow for the rectangular antenna is the same as the triangular antenna. The main difference would be the parameters adjusted for optimization, wherein the side, height, and feed offset are to be adjusted for the triangular antenna. While for the rectangular antenna, the length, width, and height of the antenna are adjusted for the optimization process. The objective of optimization is still the same, which is to maximize the bandwidth of the antenna. For comparing the two antennas, the radiation pattern, gain, bandwidth (from the S-parameter plot), and VSWR are the factors to be considered.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

An analysis of the data obtained from the MATLAB-based design process of the UWB microstrip antenna is discussed in this section. Several key observations can be drawn from the simulation results. The initial phase of the study brought to light a noteworthy challenge in the form of the time-consuming nature of simulating the UWB microstrip antenna design. This extended duration was primarily attributed to the considerable demands on computational resources. Recognizing this hindrance, the researchers strategically implemented a solution by leveraging the parallel computing toolbox. This toolbox, designed for parallel processing, played a pivotal role in significantly enhancing the efficiency and speed of the simulation process. By distributing the computational workload across multiple processors or cores simultaneously, the parallel computing toolbox effectively mitigated the resource-intensive nature of the simulation, resulting in a notable improvement in the overall runtime. The analysis of the initial design reveals that it operates within the UWB band, albeit not optimally. Examination of Figures 2 and 3 (rectangular patch) and Figures 4 and 5 (triangular patch) depicting the reflection coefficient and SWR versus frequency graphs indicates that the antenna primarily operates at approximately 10 GHz.

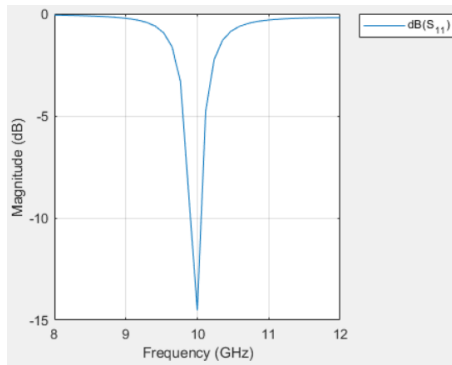


Figure 2. Reflection coefficient vs frequency graph of the rectangular patch microstrip antenna

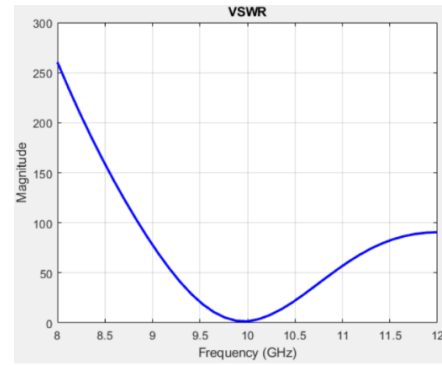


Figure 3. VSWR vs frequency graph of the rectangular patch microstrip antenna

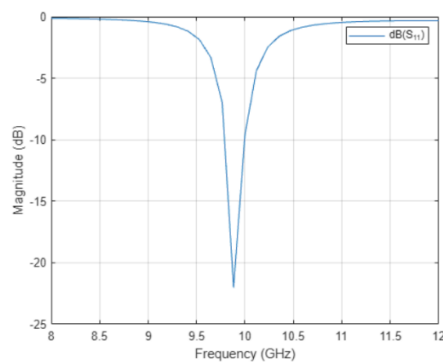


Figure 4. Reflection coefficient vs. frequency graph of the improved rectangular patch microstrip antenna

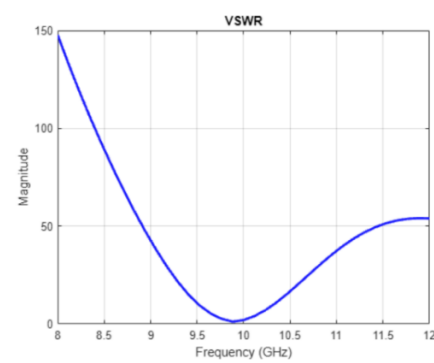


Figure 5. VSWR vs. frequency graph of the improved rectangular patch microstrip antenna

Subsequently, the optimized antenna design, developed using the MATLAB optimization script, demonstrated substantial performance improvements over the initial configuration. As illustrated in Figures 6 and 7 for the rectangular microstrip patch antenna and Figures 8 and 9 for the triangular configuration, the optimized designs achieved improved reflection coefficient (S_{11}) characteristics and lower VSWR values across the target operating frequency range. These improvements indicate enhanced impedance matching between the antenna and the transmission line, thereby reducing signal reflections and increasing power transfer efficiency. The optimized antennas consistently operated around the target frequency of 10 GHz, satisfying the design requirements for UWB IPS applications. The radiation characteristics shown in Figure 10 (initial design) and Figure 11 (optimized design) further confirm the effectiveness of the optimization process. The optimized antenna exhibits a more stable and directional radiation pattern at the intended operating frequency, indicating improved electromagnetic performance and more efficient signal propagation.

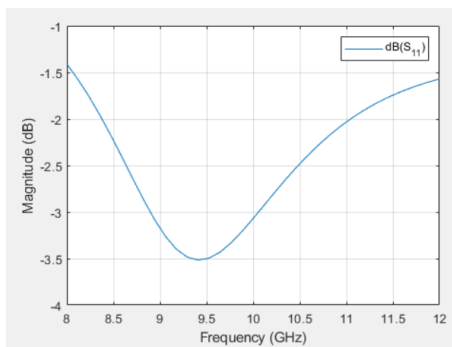


Figure 6. Reflection coefficient vs frequency graph of

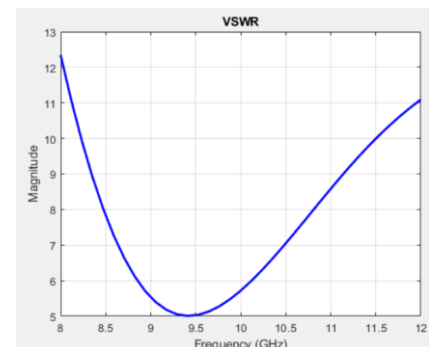


Figure 7. VSWR vs frequency graph of the

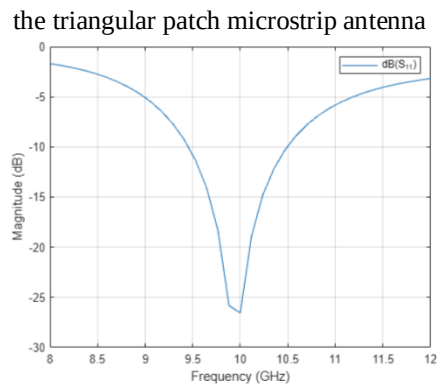


Figure 8. Reflection coefficient vs. frequency graph of the improved triangular patch microstrip antenna

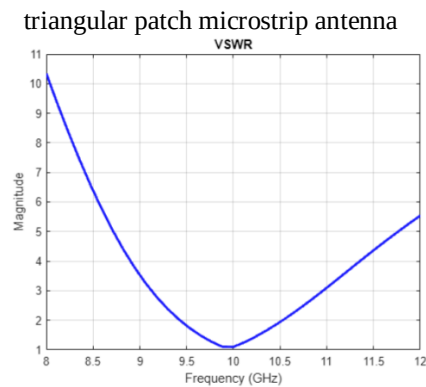


Figure 9. VSWR vs. frequency graph of the improved triangular patch microstrip antenna

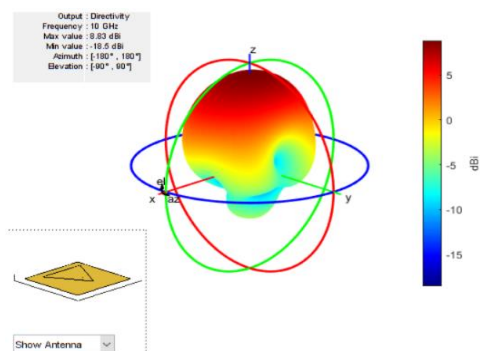


Figure 10. 3-D radiation pattern of triangular patch microstrip antenna

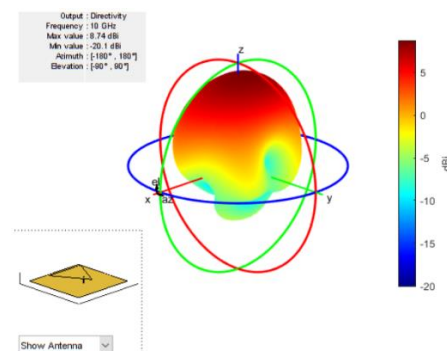


Figure 11. 3-D radiation pattern of improved triangular patch microstrip antenna

In addition to improved impedance characteristics, the optimization process also enhanced the antenna's radiation performance. Comparative analysis revealed that the optimized rectangular UWB microstrip patch antenna consistently outperformed the triangular configuration in terms of directivity and gain. Specifically, the rectangular antenna achieved a maximum gain of 10.1 dBi, whereas the triangular antenna exhibited gains ranging from approximately 8.74 dBi to 8.83 dBi. This improvement in antenna gain indicates a greater ability to concentrate radiated energy toward the desired direction, resulting in stronger signal transmission and improved coverage. Such characteristics are particularly important for IPSs, where localization accuracy and communication reliability depend heavily on antenna performance. Overall, the simulation results demonstrate that the proposed optimization strategy successfully enhances the key electromagnetic characteristics of the UWB microstrip patch antenna, making the optimized rectangular design a more suitable candidate for high-precision indoor positioning and next-generation wireless communication applications.

All in all, the most optimal design presented by the proponents, based on the data and results, is the improved design of the rectangular UWB microstrip patch antenna. This design is particularly well-suited for IPS applications due to its compact form factor, which aligns with the operating characteristics of a UWB antenna.

The findings can lead to several recommendations that could further improve our understanding and practical use of UWB microstrip antennas. Researchers might explore alternative simulation software to address the computational challenges encountered during simulation. This could enable a comparative analysis of different simulation software for UWB microstrip antenna performance. Future research efforts could focus on optimizing antenna design parameters such as patch shapes, dimensions, and substrate material to determine their effect on performance metrics.

4. CONCLUSION

This paper presented a PID-based performance optimization approach for UWB microstrip patch antennas intended for IPS applications. The proposed methodology combined electromagnetic simulation

using MATLAB with a systematic optimization strategy to improve the antenna's impedance matching, radiation characteristics, and overall communication performance. The integration of the MATLAB Parallel Computing Toolbox significantly reduced simulation time and enhanced computational efficiency during the antenna optimization process. Simulation results demonstrated that the optimized rectangular UWB microstrip patch antenna achieved substantial improvements in key performance metrics, including the reflection coefficient (S11), VSWR, radiation pattern, and directivity at the target operating frequency of approximately 10 GHz. Comparative analysis further revealed that the optimized rectangular antenna consistently outperformed the triangular design, achieving a maximum gain of 10.1 dBi, compared with 8.74–8.83 dBi for the triangular configuration. These results confirm that the proposed optimization strategy effectively enhances antenna performance while satisfying the operational requirements of high-accuracy IPSs. Overall, the proposed PID-based optimization framework provides an effective and computationally efficient approach for designing high-performance UWB microstrip patch antennas suitable for next-generation indoor localization and wireless communication applications. Although the present study is based on electromagnetic simulations, future work will focus on fabricating and experimentally validating the optimized antenna under real-world indoor environments. Additional investigations will explore alternative patch geometries, substrate materials, feeding techniques, and advanced intelligent optimization methods to further improve antenna bandwidth, gain, radiation efficiency, and localization accuracy.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors gratefully acknowledge the financial and institutional support provided by the Department of Science and Technology – Engineering Research and Development for Technology (DOST–ERDT), which made this research possible.

APPENDIX

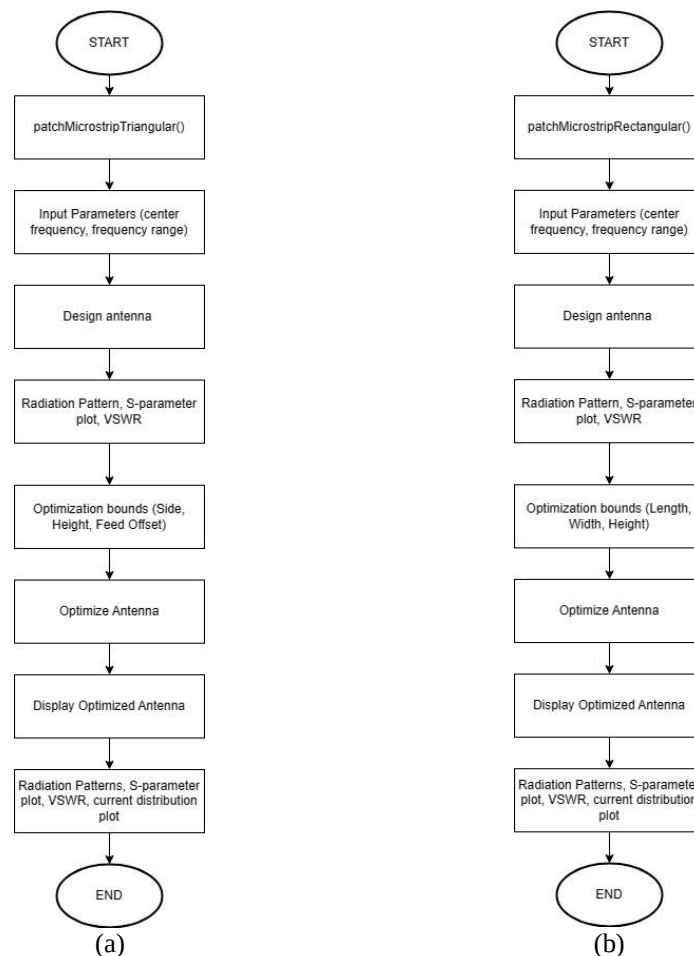


Figure 1. Flowchart of the MATLAB code for (a) triangular and (b) rectangular patch microstrip

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