

Conformal Magnetic Composite RFID for Wearable RF and Bio-Monitoring Applications

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Abstract—This paper introduces for the first time a novel flexible magnetic composite material for RF identification (RFID) and wearable RF antennas. First, one conformal RFID tag working at 480 MHz is designed and fabricated as a benchmarking prototype and the miniaturization concept is verified. Then, the impact of the material is thoroughly investigated using a hybrid method involving electromagnetic and statistical tools. Two separate statistical experiments are performed, one for the analysis of the impact of the relative permittivity and permeability of the proposed material and the other for the evaluation of the impact of the dielectric and magnetic loss on the antenna performance. Finally, the effect of the bending of the antenna is investigated, both on the S -parameters and on the radiation pattern. The successful implementation of the flexible magnetic composite material enables the significant miniaturization of RF passives and antennas in UHF frequency bands, especially when conformal modules that can be easily fine-tuned are required in critical biomedical and pharmaceutical applications.

Index Terms—Conformal antennas, magnetic composites, miniaturization, RF identification (RFID), RF passives, statistical tools, UHF, wearable applications.

I. INTRODUCTION

THE DEMAND for flexible miniaturized RF identification (RFID) tags has rapidly increased due to the requirements of automatic identification in various areas, such as item-level tracking and patient life-signs monitoring [1], [2]. The technology for RFID systems continuously improves and extends to structures of nonplanar shapes and to conformal sensors for wireless body-area networks (WBANs) [3]. Also, there is an increased demand for miniaturization, potentially addressed by the choice of substrate material, particularly magnetic materials [4]. The magnetic materials allow the miniaturization of the circuits without the use of a very large dielectric constant substrate. 3-D transponder antennas that utilize wound coil inductors do

make use of magnetic cores, but they are quite bulky and impractical. On the other side, flexible magnetic materials for two-dimensional embedded conformal planar antennas have not yet been successfully realized for standard use. This paper introduces for the first time a novel, mechanically flexible magnetic composite for printed circuits and two-dimensional antennas, which can reap the same miniaturization and tuning benefits as the nonflexible magnetic cores used for three-dimensional antennas.

One of the most significant challenges for applying new magnetic materials is understanding the interrelationships of the properties of the new materials with the design and performance of the specific topology (e.g., radiation pattern, scattering parameters). In previous studies, it has often been cited that the objectives of miniaturization and improved performance are tempered by the limited availability of materials that possess the required magnetic properties, while maintaining an acceptable mechanical and conformality performance [5]. Recently, formulation of nano-size ferrite particles has been reported [6] and formulation of magnetic composites comprised of ferrite filler and organic matrix has been demonstrated [7]. The implication of new magnetic materials has yet not been investigated for specific electromagnetic (EM) systems above the low megahertz range. Additionally, in the cases of complex microwave systems involving numerous interconnects, dielectric interfaces or radiating structures, the simultaneous optimization of the structure geometry along with the material may be necessary in order to achieve the optimal targeted performance. The aim of this work is to provide a basis for this co-design of materials and electromagnetic structures, namely for the benchmarking case of a novel flexible magnetic composite, a BaCo ferrite-silicone composite, and a UHF RFID antenna, respectively. Compared with the lower frequency tags operating in the LF and HF bands that suffer from limited read range, RFID tags operating in the UHF band are forecast to find the widest use due to their higher read range and higher data transfer rate in a more miniaturized size [8]. The UHF RFID bands vary in frequency, power levels, number of channel and sideband spurious limits of the RFID readers signal, depending on the application and the area of operation, such as 866–956 MHz in North America/Europe for EPC GEN2 item-level tracking and the lower band around 400 MHz for bio-applications.

Specifically, in this study, a benchmark structure was first designed for 480 MHz in a full-wave simulator for an unfilled silicone substrate; then the magnetic particles, namely the Co_2Z powder from Trans-Tech, were added and the same antenna was redesigned for 480 MHz by reducing its physical size, thus

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proving the miniaturization concept. It is well known that the size of the antenna is inversely proportional to the square root of the product of effective permittivity and effective permeability. Therefore, a nonmagnetic material would have to have a permittivity close to about 18 to give comparable miniaturization capability, which is high compared to the permittivity of 7.14 for the magnetic material used in this work. The next step was the fabrication of the material and the measurement of the dielectric and magnetic characteristics, including loss. The benchmarking miniaturized antenna was fabricated on the magnetic composite and its performance was measured validating the simulations with the measured data [9]. Furthermore, the impact of the material on the system-level performance of the antenna was thoroughly investigated using a hybrid method including electromagnetic simulators and statistical tools: first, the very important issue of dielectric and magnetic losses, then both the relative permittivity and permeability. Finally, the performance of the antenna when conformed on a foam cylinder was measured, both the S -parameters and radiation pattern, and it was concluded that the antenna is still functional even for a tight bending radius of 27 mm. Magnetic materials can provide RF designers with increased options in their system design, especially if their effects are better understood. This detailed analysis of the system-level impact of the electrical parameters of the magnetic composite attempts to bring more understanding and to enable a more extensive future use of such materials. The presented magnetic substrate is the first flexible magnetic composite tested and proven for the 480 MHz bandwidth (BW) with acceptable magnetic losses, which makes it usable for lightweight conformal/wearable applications like pharmaceutical industry and wireless health monitoring in hospital, ambulance and home-based patient care, as well as wearable communication and authentication devices.

II. MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT

The first step for this work was to develop a magnetic composite that provides the advantage of low-temperature processing for compatibility with organic substrate processing, mechanical flexibility, and high adhesion. With regard to these three properties, the magnetic composite would have to be compatible with common substrates used for RFID, such as polyethylene terephthalate (PET) and polyimide. Additionally, the composite dielectric loss can affect circuit performance, thus low dielectric loss should be targeted. For these objectives, the properties of candidate materials should include low-temperature processability, high mechanical flexibility, high adhesion, and low dielectric loss. Dielectric constant can also affect the circuit performance and should be carefully monitored. The matrix materials considered candidates for this proposed work included silicone and benzocyclobutene (BCB). Silicone provides reasonable viscosities required for good filler mixing during processing, that is, not too low to promote settling and not too high for uniform mixing. Additionally, silicone provides the properties of mechanical flexibility and, for some formulations, good adhesion.

After careful analysis, the matrix material was chosen to be Dow Corning Sylgard 184 silicone. The dielectric parameters of the unfilled silicone, used in the initial antenna design, are $\epsilon_r =$

TABLE I
MEAN AND 95% CONFIDENCE INTERVALS FOR ϵ AND μ
MEASUREMENTS OF FERRITE COMPOSITE AT 480 MHz

	<i>mean</i>	<i>Lower CI</i>	<i>Upper CI</i>
ϵ_r	7.142	7.083	7.201
μ_r	2.463	2.457	2.468
$\tan\delta_\epsilon$	0.0017	0.0005	0.0028
$\tan\delta_\mu$	0.0391	0.0358	0.0424

2.65 and $\tan\delta_\epsilon = 0.001$. The choice for the magnetic composite was Co_2Z powder supplied by Trans-Tech. A 40 vol% ferrite paste was produced with a mixer at 240 rpm (rotations per minute) and 110 °C for 30 minutes. The paste was transferred into a flat mold and vacuum cured with a hold confirmed to occur at > 125 °C for 50 min to produce a 1.3 mm thick substrate.

The material was measured using an HP4291A impedance analyzer to obtain complex permittivity (ϵ) and permeability (μ) (real and imaginary parts) with material fixtures 16453A for ϵ and 16454A for μ over the frequency range of 1 MHz to 1.8 GHz. There were 5 measurements taken for each ϵ_r , μ_r , $\tan\delta_\epsilon$ and $\tan\delta_\mu$. The summary statistics, including the mean and 95% C.I. (confidence intervals) for ϵ_r , μ_r , $\tan\delta_\epsilon$ and $\tan\delta_\mu$ of the ferrite composite at 480 MHz are given in Table I. Based on these results, the values used in the model were $\epsilon_r = 7.14$, $\mu_r = 2.46$, $\tan\delta_\epsilon = 0.0017$, and $\tan\delta_\mu = 0.039$.

III. ANTENNA DESIGN AND MEASUREMENT

One of the main challenges in designing an RFID tag is the impedance matching between the terminals of the tag antenna and those of the IC. This requires a conjugate matching technique, such as series or parallel stubs and/or using inductively coupling. The matching network of the tag has to guarantee the maximum power delivered to the IC, which is used to store the data transmitted to and receive from the RFID reader. The return loss (RL) of RFID antenna can be calculated based on the power reflection coefficient which takes into account the reactance part of the IC impedance [10]

$$|S|^2 = \left| \frac{Z_{IC} - Z_{ANT}^*}{Z_{IC} + Z_{ANT}} \right|^2 \quad (1)$$

where Z_{IC} represents the impedance of the IC and Z_{ANT} represents the impedance of the antenna terminals with Z_{ANT}^* being its complex conjugate.

Another challenge is the dimensions of the RFID tag. The free space wavelength at 480 MHz is 625 mm. For an application as wristband patient monitoring, it is clear that the miniaturization of the tag becomes a priority.

To verify the miniaturization benefits of the presented magnetic composite, a folded bow-tie meander line dipole antenna was designed and fabricated on the characterized magnetic composite material substrate. The RFID prototype structure is shown in Fig. 1 along with dimensions, with the IC placed in the center of the shorting stub arm.

The nature of the bow-tie shape of the half-wavelength dipole antenna body allows for a more broadband operation [11]. The meander line helps further miniaturizing the antenna structure [12]. The shorting stub arm is responsible for the matching of

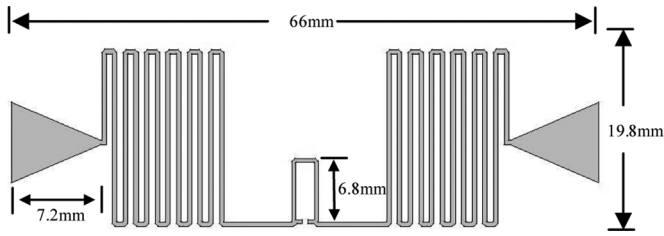


Fig. 1. Configuration of the RFID tag module on magnetic composite substrate.

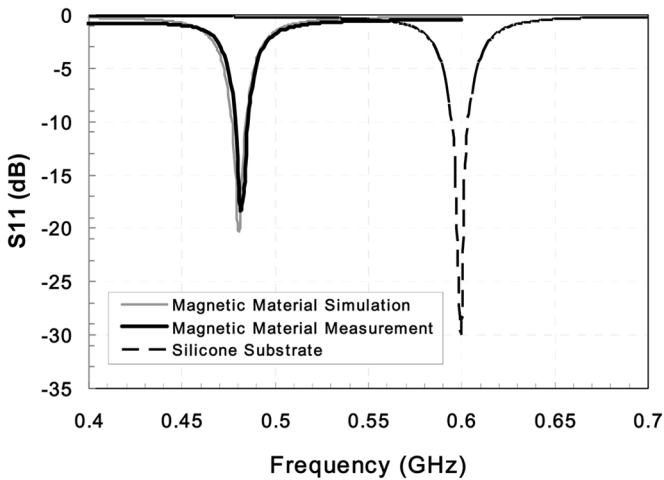


Fig. 2. Measured and simulated RL of the RFID tag antenna on the magnetic material with the comparison of the one on the silicone substrate.

the impedance of the antenna terminals to that of the IC through the fine tuning of the length.

Next, a GS 1000 μm pitch probe was used for impedance measurements. In order to minimize backside reflections, the fabricated antenna was placed on a custom-made probe station using high density polystyrene foam with low relative permittivity of value 1.06, resembling that of the free space. The calibration method used was short-open-load-thru (SOLT). The initial structure was designed for the lower end of the UHF spectrum and was modeled using Zeland IE3D full wave EM software. The initial substrate was pure silicone ($\epsilon_r = 2.65$ and $\tan \delta_\epsilon = 0.001$) of 1.3 mm thickness. The same dimensions of the antenna were maintained for the magnetic composite material. The RL plot is shown in Fig. 2, demonstrating a frequency down shifting of 20% due to the enhanced combined relative permeability and relative permittivity, which proves the miniaturization concept. Fig. 2 shows a very good agreement for the simulations versus measurements for the antenna on the magnetic composite.

The radiation pattern comparison of simulation versus measurements of the RFID tag module on magnetic substrate is shown in Fig. 3, showing good agreement. The radiation pattern is almost uniform (omnidirectional) at 480 MHz with a gain around -4.63 dBi.

IV. MAGNETIC COMPOSITE IMPACT ON ANTENNA PERFORMANCE

One of the most critical factors in the magnetic composite fabrication was the control of the permittivity and permeability

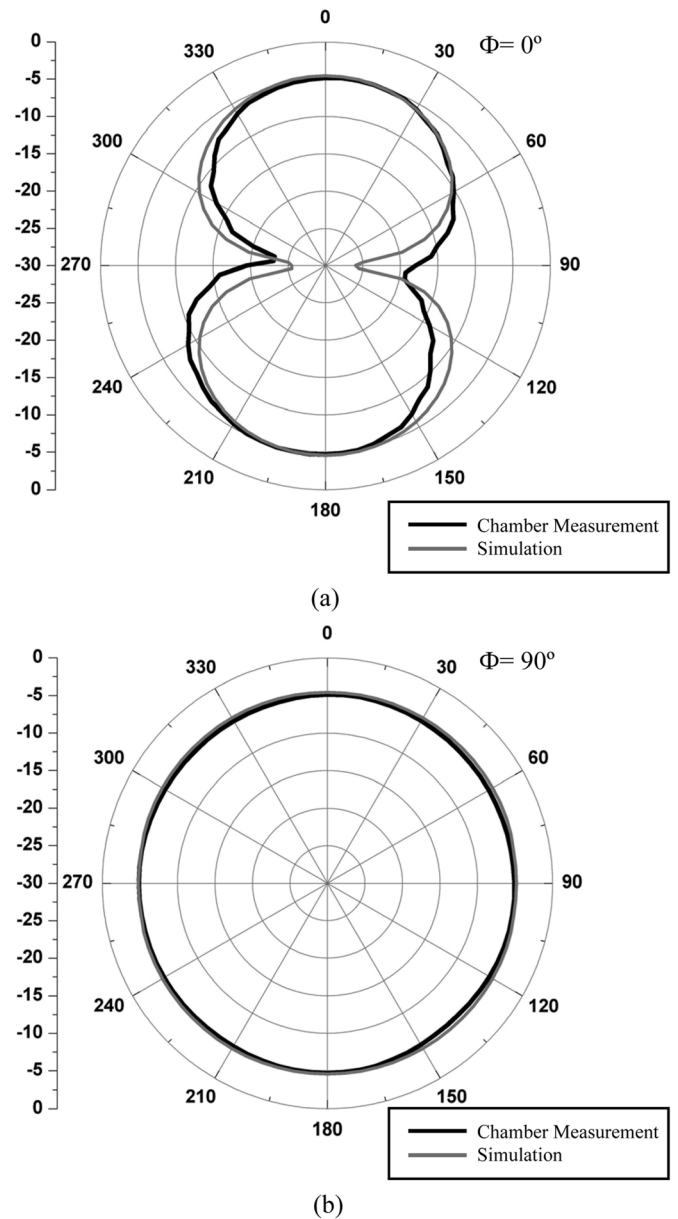


Fig. 3. Simulated versus measured 2-D radiation plots for: (a) $\phi = 0^\circ$ and (b) $\phi = 90^\circ$.

values, so a careful analysis of the impact of both the dielectric and magnetic performance based on the fabrication variability was necessary. These material properties are not mutually exclusive. The permittivity [13] and permeability [14] are both governed by the molecular arrangement (lattice structure) and elemental composition of the material, which prevents the tuning of these properties independently. So the following analysis does not attempt to optimize the material parameters, but rather to quantify the effect of the parameters on the system-level performance of the antenna.

First, the impact of the loss tangents was investigated. The methodology used involves electromagnetic simulations and statistical tools and is presented as a flowchart in Fig. 4. First, a design of experiments (DOE) [15] is performed to develop the first order (linear) statistical model, including both loss tangents, dielectric and magnetic. Then, the model is checked

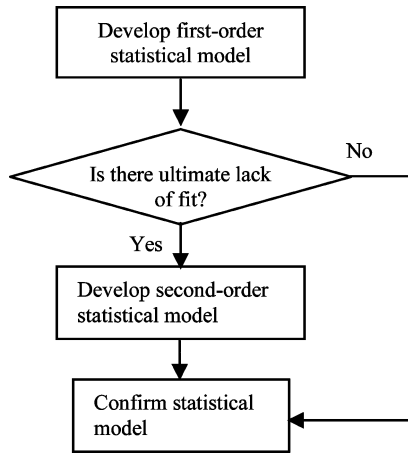


Fig. 4. Procedure for statistical model development.

for ultimate lack of fit, more specifically, if curvature might be present in the output response. If curvature in the response is detected, the analysis is extended to additional points indicated by the response surface methodology (RSM) [15] which can account for curvature through second-order model development. Usually, these second-order models are reasonable approximations of the true functional relationship over relatively small regions. Once validated using statistical diagnostic tools, the models approximate the actual system within the defined design space. Hybrid methods including statistical tools and EM simulations have been extensively used for RF and microwave systems analysis and optimization [16].

The statistical experimentation method chosen for the first-order statistical model is a full factorial DOE with center points [15]. The factorial designs are used in statistical experiments involving several (k) factors where the goal is the study of the joint effects of the factors on a response and the elimination of the least important ones from further optimization iterations. The 2^k factorial design is the simplest one, with k factors at two levels each. It provides the smallest number of runs for studying k factors and is widely used in factor screening experiments [15]. Center points are defined at the center of the design space and enable investigating validity of the model, including curvature in the response, and account for variations in the fabrication process of the structure. Since the statistical models are based on deterministic simulations, the variations of the center points were statistically simulated assuming a 3σ process with a $\pm 2\%$ tolerance for both $\tan \delta_\epsilon$ and $\tan \delta_\mu$.

In this case, since we have two input variables, a 2^2 full factorial DOE was performed for the first-order statistical model, with the following four output variables as the antenna performance figures of merit: resonant frequency f_{res} , minimum RL, maximum gain at 480 MHz G , and the 10 dB BW. The ranges of the input variables are presented in Table II, while ϵ_r and μ_r have been kept at their nominal values of 7.14 and 2.46 respectively.

The first-order models showed curvature in all of the responses, and RSM was needed for the second-order statistical model. Validation of the models was investigated, with all but the BW validated for the normality assumption, and the equal variance was validated for RL and G , but not for f_{res} and BW.

TABLE II
RANGES FOR THE INPUT VARIABLES

Variable	Low value “-”	High value “+”	Center point
$\tan \delta_\epsilon$	0.00136	0.00204	0.0017
$\tan \delta_\mu$	0.0312	0.0468	0.039

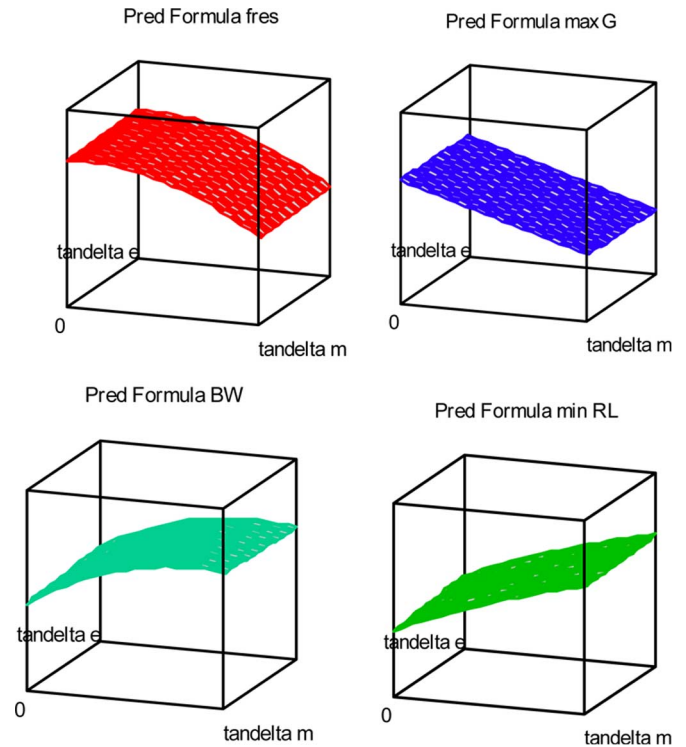


Fig. 5. Surfaces of possible solutions for outputs.

The four models are given by (2)–(5). An interesting result is the fact that the resonant frequency is not dependent upon $\tan \delta_\epsilon$. This is due to the fact that the interval of analysis of $\tan \delta_\epsilon$ shown in Table II, chosen based on the real material, is of an order of magnitude smaller than $\tan \delta_\mu$, because $\tan \delta_\epsilon$ is of an order of magnitude smaller than $\tan \delta_\mu$ and the intervals are chosen to be 20% up and down the center point value. However, when reflected in loss and BW in (3)–(5), even the much smaller $\tan \delta_\epsilon$ becomes significant.

The models allow for the “a priori” prediction of the antenna performance with respect to either figure of merit or all simultaneously allocating any weight factors to each one of them. The goals chosen in this case were a specific f_{res} of 480 MHz (center point value), maximum gain G , minimum RL, and maximum BW, all with equal weight. The surfaces for the four figures of merit as a function of the input parameters are presented in Fig. 5, indicating the curvature in the models. The values that satisfied the four goals within the ranges presented in Table II were $\tan \delta_\epsilon = 0.00136$ and $\tan \delta_\mu = 0.032427$, leading to the predicted values of the four figures of merit of $f_{\text{res}} = 480.48$ MHz, $\text{RL} = -22.97$ dB, $G = -4.32$ dBi and $\text{BW} = 7.63$ MHz. So, ideally, these values of the loss tangents would provide optimal performance of the antenna for the above mentioned goals. The models indicate that the resonant frequency decreases with the losses, as the gain and the RL obviously degrade. For the BW, although the model is significant

and shows an increase of the BW with dielectric loss, the absolute numbers in the RSM vary only between 7.61–7.7 MHz, which is not a large difference for practical applications.

The consideration of the relative permeability in the antenna design requires a more detailed analysis of its impact, together

TABLE III
RANGES FOR THE INPUT VARIABLES

Variable	Low value “-“	High value “+”	Center point
ϵ_r	5.712	8.568	7.14
μ_r	1.968	2.952	2.46

$$f_{res}(\text{MHz}) = 480.47 - 0.024 \left(\frac{\tan \delta_m - 0.039}{0.0078} \right) - 0.013 \left(\frac{\tan \delta_m - 0.039}{0.0078} \right)^2 \quad (2)$$

$$\text{RL}(\text{dB}) = -20.34 + 0.18 \left(\frac{\tan \delta_e - 0.0017}{0.00034} \right) + 2.48 \left(\frac{\tan \delta_m - 0.039}{0.0078} \right) - 0.062 \left(\frac{\tan \delta_m - 0.039}{0.0078} \right)^2 - 0.43 \left(\frac{\tan \delta_e - 0.0017}{0.00034} \right) \times \left(\frac{\tan \delta_m - 0.039}{0.0078} \right)$$

$$G(\text{dBi}) = -4.57 - 0.019 \left(\frac{\tan \delta_e - 0.0017}{0.00034} \right) - 0.26 \left(\frac{\tan \delta_m - 0.039}{0.0078} \right) - 0.0044 \left(\frac{\tan \delta_m - 0.039}{0.0078} \right)^2 + 0.0005 \left(\frac{\tan \delta_e - 0.0017}{0.00034} \right) \times \left(\frac{\tan \delta_m - 0.039}{0.0078} \right) \quad (3)$$

$$\text{BW}(\text{MHz}) = 7.69 + 0.0000088 \left(\frac{\tan \delta_e - 0.0017}{0.00034} \right) + 0.038 \left(\frac{\tan \delta_m - 0.039}{0.0078} \right) - 0.031 \left(\frac{\tan \delta_m - 0.039}{0.0078} \right)^2 - 0.005 \left(\frac{\tan \delta_e - 0.0017}{0.00034} \right) \times \left(\frac{\tan \delta_m - 0.039}{0.0078} \right) \quad (4)$$

with the relative permittivity, on the antenna performance. The next statistical experiment analyzes the impact of these two parameters on the same major antenna outputs: resonant frequency f_{res} , minimum RL, maximum gain at the resonant frequency G , and the 10 dB BW.

The methodology used is the same as the one used for the loss tangent analysis and shown in Fig. 4.

In this case, since we have two input variables, the same 2^2 full factorial DOE was performed for the first-order statistical model, with the ranges of the input variables presented in Table III, while $\tan \delta_e$ and $\tan \delta_\mu$ have been kept at their nominal values of 0.0017 and 0.039, respectively.

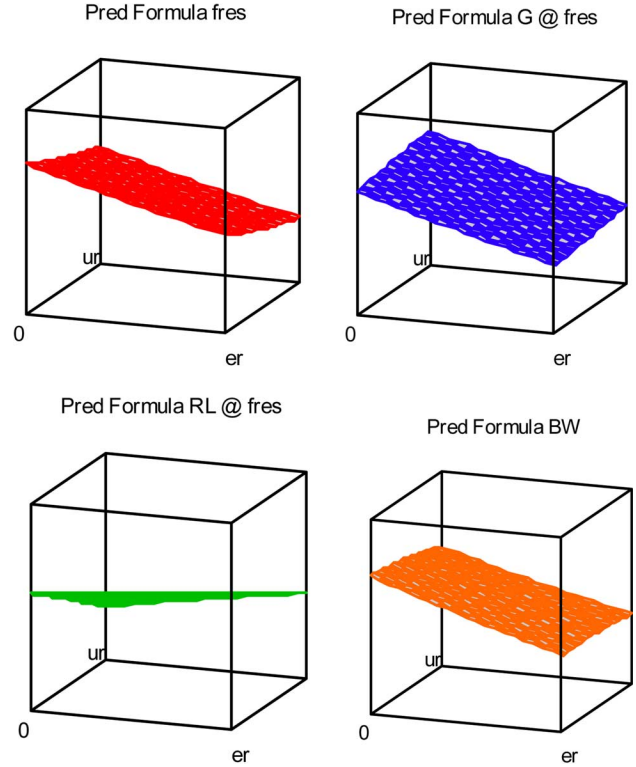


Fig. 6. Surfaces of possible solutions for outputs.

The first order models showed curvature in all of the responses, and RSM was needed for the second-order statistical model. The validation of the models was investigated. For the normality of residuals assumption, all models but G have normally distributed residuals. For the validation of the equal variance of residuals assumption, all the models had equal variance of residuals. The four models are given by (6)–(9).

The antenna performance was predicted again for the same goals: f_{res} of 480 MHz (center point value), maximum gain G , minimum RL, and maximum BW, all with equal weight. The surfaces for the four figures of merit as a function of the input parameters are presented in Fig. 6, indicating slight curvature in the models. The values that satisfied the four conditions within the ranges presented in Table III were $\epsilon_r = 6.41$ and $\mu_r = 2.95$, leading to the values of the four figures of merit of $f_{res} = 480.56$ MHz, $\text{RL} = -24.08$ dB, $G = -4.42$ dBi and $\text{BW} = 7.73$ MHz. The models indicate that the resonant frequency decreases with the relative permittivity and permeability, which again proves the miniaturization concept. For the BW and the gain, although the models are significant, the absolute numbers in the RSM vary only between 7.23–8.22 MHz for the BW and 4.27–4.81 dBi for the gain, which are not large differences for practical applications.

As reported above, the analysis does not attempt to optimize

$$f_{\text{res}}(\text{MHz}) = 480.61 - 15.19 \left(\frac{\epsilon_r - 7.14}{1.428} \right) - 9.5 \left(\frac{\mu_r - 2.64}{0.492} \right) + 1.01 \left(\frac{\epsilon_r - 7.14}{1.428} \right)^2 + 1.46 \left(\frac{\mu_r - 2.64}{0.492} \right)^2 \quad (6)$$

$$\text{RL}(\text{dB}) = -20.34 + 1.19 \left(\frac{\epsilon_r - 7.14}{1.428} \right) - 2.78 \left(\frac{\mu_r - 2.64}{0.492} \right) + 0.39 \left(\frac{\epsilon_r - 7.14}{1.428} \right) \left(\frac{\mu_r - 2.64}{0.492} \right) - 0.14 \left(\frac{\epsilon_r - 7.14}{1.428} \right)^2 - 0.11 \left(\frac{\mu_r - 2.64}{0.492} \right)^2 \quad (7)$$

$$G(\text{dBi}) = -4.56 - 0.19 \left(\frac{\epsilon_r - 7.14}{1.428} \right) + 0.032 \left(\frac{\mu_r - 2.64}{0.492} \right) + 0.0087 \left(\frac{\epsilon_r - 7.14}{1.428} \right)^2 + 0.0024 \left(\frac{\mu_r - 2.64}{0.492} \right)^2 \quad (8)$$

$$\text{BW}(\text{MHz}) = 7.68 - 0.35 \left(\frac{\epsilon_r - 7.14}{1.428} \right) - 0.09 \left(\frac{\mu_r - 2.64}{0.492} \right) + 0.037 \left(\frac{\epsilon_r - 7.14}{1.428} \right) \left(\frac{\mu_r - 2.64}{0.492} \right) + 0.022 \left(\frac{\epsilon_r - 7.14}{1.428} \right)^2 - 0.029 \left(\frac{\mu_r - 2.64}{0.492} \right)^2 \quad (9)$$

the material parameters, but rather to quantify the effect of the parameters on the system-level performance of the antenna. Even if the two values of $\tan \delta_\epsilon = 0.00136$ and $\tan \delta_\mu = 0.032427$ or $\epsilon_r = 6.41$ and $\mu_r = 2.95$ cannot be achieved simultaneously, this analysis gives a thorough understanding of the effects and provides the designer with a systematic approach in choosing the materials and the antenna geometry.

V. CONFORMAL PERFORMANCE

In order to verify the performance of the proposed RFID antenna in conformal applications, measurements were performed by conforming the same RFID tag onto a foam cylinder, as shown in Fig. 7. The radius of the cylinder was chosen to be very small at 27 mm, in order to explore the limits of the design. The

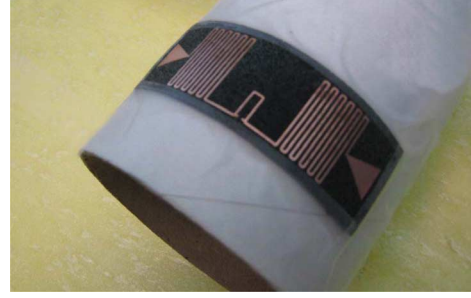


Fig. 7. Conformal RFID tag on a foam cylinder.

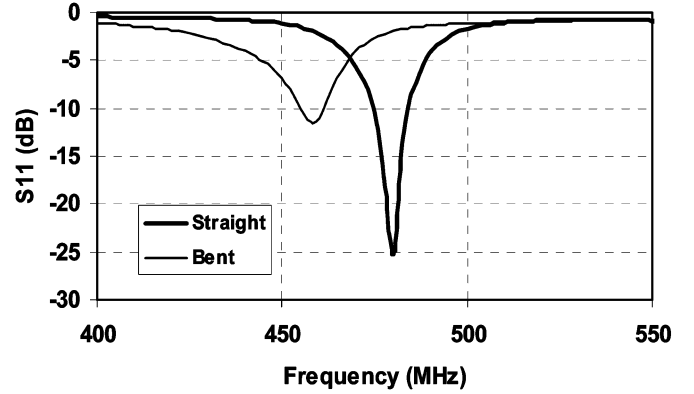


Fig. 8. Measured RL of the flat RFID tag and the conformal RFID tag. 20 MHz frequency down shifting is observed.

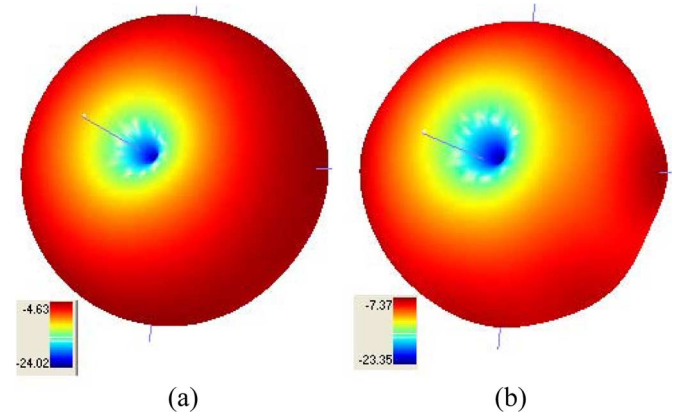


Fig. 9. Measured radiation pattern of: (a) the flat RFID tag and (b) the conformal RFID tag. Max gain drops from -4.63 to -7.37 dBi.

result in Fig. 8 shows that the RL of the fabricated antenna is shifted down by 22 MHz with a center frequency at 458 MHz. Previous results [9] showed a shift of 6 MHz for a lower curvature of 54 mm radius, which proves that the shift is increasing with the curvature level. Overall, the antenna still has good performance if the shift in frequency is considered at the beginning of the design process, even for such a large bend. Fig. 9 shows the radiation patterns for the straight and conformal antennas. The doughnut shape is slightly degraded for the conformal antenna and the maximum gain drops from -4.63 to -7.37 dBi.

The flexible nature of the proposed substrate enables the RFID tag module's application in various areas. Fig. 10 demonstrates the conformal RFID tag prototype in the applications



Fig. 10. Embodiments of the conformal RFID tag prototype in the applications of wireless health monitoring and pharmaceutical drug bottle tracking.

of wireless health monitoring and pharmaceutical drug bottle tracking.

VI. CONCLUSION

This work is the first demonstration of a flexible magnetic composite proven for the 480 MHz BW with acceptable magnetic losses that makes it usable for small size, lightweight conformal applications like wireless health monitoring in pharmaceuticals, hospital, ambulance and home-based patient care. A combination of electromagnetic tools and measurements has been used to investigate the impact of magnetic composite materials to the miniaturization of RFID antennas considering geometric and material parameters, as well as conforming radius. This approach has been applied to the design of a benchmarking conformal RFID tag module and has enabled the assessment of implication that the choice of materials have on this design, specifically the antenna miniaturization by using the magnetic composite versus pure silicone. A real composite material has been fabricated and the performance of the miniaturized antenna predicted using the models. Next, the important issues of the dielectric and magnetic losses has been addressed by performing a thorough statistical analysis to investigate the impact of the losses on the antenna performance. Furthermore, since the permeability was first introduced in this paper for a conformal antenna, the impact of the relative permeability in conjunction with relative permittivity were addressed together in another statistical analysis. The losses impact the resonant frequency, RL, and antenna gain, whereas the dielectric constant and magnetic property mostly decrease the resonant frequency, thus proving the miniaturization concept.

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