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An electromagnetic cloaking scheme using magnetic dipole based scattering cancellation

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Abstract: This paper explores the possibility of creating a cylindrical electromagnetic cloaking scheme using resonant magnetic dipole excitation. Split-ring resonators are arranged around the cylindrical metal target to generate strong subwavelength resonant magnetic dipole moments to cancel far-field scattered power from the target. We used the multipole scattering theory to identify the actual reason behind scattering cancellation. The scattering from resonant circulating magnetic dipoles interferes destructively with that from the non-resonant electric dipole moments of the target resulting in a significant reduction in the Scattering Cross Section. The results are verified using full-wave simulation software and subsequently validated with backscattering measurements inside an anechoic chamber.

1. Introduction

The experimental realization of the electromagnetic invisibility cloaking scheme has attracted much research interest recently. The term cloaking refers to the significant reduction of scattering from reference metallic or dielectric targets. Mathematically, it refers to the effective reduction of the Scattering Cross Section (SCS) of the target, including the incident direction and all directions prone to scattering. The undetectability of the target finds applications in the area of sensors, Radars etc. It is a well-known fact that when the electric and magnetic dipoles induced on the sub-wavelength dielectric sphere oscillate out-of-phase, then the SCS of the composite will be significantly reduced [1]. This conclusion is known as Kerker's paradox, and a wide variety of studies are available on this particular research topic [2]. The problem with this scheme is the unavailability of natural magnetic materials used to create magnetic dipole moments at microwave frequencies. Artificial magnetic inclusions of circulating current loops are the right choice for obtaining magnetic polarizability in such a situation. However, such a closed metallic ring's diamagnetic susceptibility is too small to cause negative permeability [3]. The polarizability of the ring could be significantly enhanced by loading the loop with a

capacitor [4]. Loading the capacitor creates resonance, and the modified polarizability could be written as

$$\alpha_{zz}^{mm} = \frac{\pi^2 r^4}{L} \left(\frac{\omega_0^2}{\omega} - 1 \right)^{-1} \quad (1)$$

It is clear from the equation that frequencies lying just above the resonant frequency exhibits negative permeability. In the microwave regime, the best option to implement the capacitive effect is to load a slit instead of using the lumped capacitor. Using this idea, J.B Pendry et al. showed that the Split-Ring Resonators (SRR) made of concentric metallic split rings could achieve artificial magnetism at microwave frequencies [5]. This invention is treated as a paradigm shift in electromagnetics because we could control the amplitude and phase of electric and magnetic moments individually to achieve unprecedented control over electromagnetic scattering.

J.B Proposed the practical demonstration of a cloaking scheme to make a copper cylinder invisible using single split-ring resonator metamaterials [6]. The combination of the target and the metamaterial creates an electromagnetic environment similar to space. Scattering cancellation-based cloaking is also implemented using plasmonic covers over dielectric objects [7]. The dielectric target's scattered field is canceled in plasmonic cloaking due to the anti-phase scattering from the negative permittivity outer layer. The mantle cloaking technique is used to cloak both the dielectric and metallic targets, and its basic idea relies on tuning the surface reactance of the FSS layer to cancel far-field scattering [8]. Recently, Fano resonance-based scattering cancellation techniques have attracted significant research interest [9]. Fano resonance arises due to the destructive interference between the bright resonant mode of the continuum and the dark asymmetric resonant mode. It is worth mentioning that the magnetic dipole transitions are approximated to be 10^5 times weaker than the corresponding electric dipole transition, and hence the optical frequency regime is said as a world of pure electric dipoles [10]. So the creation of Fano resonance is an excellent choice to excite strong magnetic dipole excitation in the visible regime[11]. The intense excitation of magnetic dipoles is used for electromagnetic cloaking in the microwave regime [12].

The authors proposed electromagnetic cloaking schemes using dogbone-shaped metallic particles [13-14]. Here, we propose another cylindrical cloaking scheme by arranging SRR particles around a cylindrical metallic target. The arrangement of SRR around the target excites the magnetic dipole resonance, and the scattering caused by them destructively interferes with that from the non-resonant electric dipole moment of the target to make the target invisible. We used the multipole scattering theory to validate the reason behind the scattering reduction. Experiments are performed inside an anechoic using the Anritsu MS2027C Network analyzer to validate the full-wave simulation results.

2. *Geometrical Description*

For experimental and simulation studies, we constructed three prototypes. The first one, designated as case 1, consists of a cylindrical metallic target surrounded by only two SRR strips, as shown in fig. 1(a). The azimuth displacement between the two strips is 180° . Eight SRR cells are arranged vertically in a strip, and the assembly consists of 16 SRR inclusions. The length of the target cylinder is 160 mm, and its radius is 5mm. The dimensions of the SRR used are shown in the inset of fig. 1(a). In the second design (case2), we used four SRR strips arranged around the target, as shown in fig. 1(b). The total number of SRR in this design is 32. In the third design (case 3), the number of SRR strips is increased to 8, as shown in fig. 1(c). The SRR strips are printed on an epoxy substrate of dielectric constant 4.4 and height 1.6mm using the standard photo-lithographic procedures. The thickness of the implanted Copper metalization is 35 μm . The dimensions of the SRR used are $r=6.7$ mm, $d=2$ mm, $s=0.8$ mm, $w=1$ mm, $h=1.6$ mm, and $p1=p2=20$ mm.

Fig.1 Geometry of the cloaking scheme a) two-layer cloak (case 1), b) Four-layer cloak (case 2), and c) Eight layer cloak (case 3) with the description of SRR dimensions in the inset.

3. Simulation Results

We performed full-wave simulation studies on the three prototypes using CST Microwave Studio. The three structures are analyzed independently in the simulation by exciting the complete structure with a plane wave. The polarization of the plane wave is oriented along the Y-axis. The computed Scattering Cross Section (SCS) of the three structures are illustrated in fig. 2. The scattering dip for case 1 is observed at 2GHz, and it shows comparable scattering characteristics to the uncloaked metallic target. Case 2 reduces the SCS of the target significantly, and a well-defined resonant scattering reduction is observed. Case 2 shows a maximum scattering reduction at 1.9 GHz. Due to the increase in the mutual coupling between the SRR elements, a significant redshift is observed for case 3. The resonance is observed to be

at 1.6 GHz for this design and since this design shows the maximum scattering reduction, it is taken as the optimum design.

Fig.2 Scattering Cross Sections of the three prototypes

To understand the cloaking operation, the field distributions are studied for the cloaked and uncloaked target. Fig. 3 shows the simulated field distributions on the uncloaked target under consideration. One could observe from fig. 3(a) that the uncloaked cylinder blocks electromagnetic power flow, and a shadow is observed behind the target.

Fig. 3 Results of numerical simulation for the uncloaked target at 1.6 GHz a) Electric field distribution from the YZ plane and b) Pointing vector distribution from the XZ plane

The significant perturbation of electromagnetic power is also evident from the Pointing power distribution shown in fig. 3(b).

Fig. 4 Computed fields of the cloaked target at 1.6 GHz a) Electric field distribution, b) magnetic field distribution, and c) Pointing vector distribution

The computed field distributions for the cloaked target (case 3) are shown in fig. 4. A smooth flow of electric and magnetic fields is observed in the computational domain, as shown in fig. 4(a) and (b) respectively. This means that the cloaking structure significantly reduces scattering from the metallic target under consideration. The Poynting vector distribution, shown in fig. 4(c) illustrates a smooth flow of electromagnetic power, and the shadow observed in the uncloaked target is absent in the cloaked scenario. The SRR cloak cover transfers smoothly or bends the incident electromagnetic wave into the output face, and no scattering is observed around the cloaking layer.

The scattering characteristics of the cloaked and uncloaked targets are also verified by computing the 3D scattering patterns. Fig. 5(a) shows the scattering pattern of the uncloaked target. The uncloaked target scatters electromagnetic power equally in the azimuth plane, and two principal nulls are observed along the elevation plane. The non-resonant electric dipole excitation is responsible for this scattering mechanism, and hence the target is detectable from far-field scattering measurements. Fig. 5(b) shows the scattering pattern of the cloaked target (Case 3). A significant reduction in scattered power is observed at the far-field around the target.

Fig. 5 Scattering patterns of the cloaked and uncloaked targets a) uncloaked target and b) cloaked target

4. *Experimental Results*

The scattering characteristics of the three prototypes are verified using backscattering measurements using a network analyzer. To measure backscattering, the uncloaked target is placed at the center of a turntable assembly. Two ultra-wideband antennas are utilized for the measurement. One antenna is configured in the transmission mode and the second one in the reception mode. A THRU calibration is performed by connecting the two RF cables, and Frequency Gated by Time (FGT) calibration is applied to notch out unwanted noise signals received from other directions. The resultant received power is taken as the reference, and finally, the cloaked target is placed instead of the bare metallic cylinder target. The backscattered power thus received is recorded using the interface computer. For bistatic measurements, the receiving horn antenna is rotated along the azimuth angle using the turntable assembly, and the corresponding backscattered powers are recorded for the three fabricated prototypes. Since the eight-layer structure (case 3) is showing a better reduction in backscattered power, it is taken as the optimum design. Fig. 5 shows the backscattered power from the fabricated designs.. Fig. 5(a) shows the backscattered power from the two-layer (Case1) design. It is evident that the design shows poor backscattering characteristics compared to the other two designs. For this case, the backscattered power is comparable in magnitude for most of the azimuth angle as that of the bare metallic target. It is interesting to note that as the number of SRR layers around the target increases, the backscattered power is decreased, as shown in fig. 5(b) and (c). Case 2 shows better backscattering characteristics compared to case 1. A significant reduction in backscattering is observed for the eight-layer design (Case 3) compared to the other two designs. A maximum backscattering reduction of the order of -16 dB is observed for this design.

Fig. 5 Backscattered power from the fabricated samples a) Case 1, b) case 2, and c) Case 3

We have also performed the monostatic scattering measurements to compare the scattering performance of the three fabricated prototypes. In monostatic measurements, the power received from the uncloaked target located at the turntable assembly center is taken as the reference after performing the FGT calibration. The cloaked target is rotated along the azimuth plane while two UWB antennas are kept fixed. The received power thus obtained is plotted in fig. 6 for the three configurations under study. It is evident from the graph that the eight-layer configuration (case 3) gives a better backscattering reduction for all azimuth rotations of the target. It is also noted that the two-layer (case 1) and four-layer (case 2) structures also exhibit scattering reduction compared to a bare metallic target.

Fig. 6 Monostatic Scattering characteristics of the fabricated configurations

5. Discussions

To clarify the reason behind this peculiar scattering behavior, multipole scattering theory has been utilized to retrieve the structure's resonant mechanism [15]. The multipolar decomposition provides an in-depth description of the scattering properties of the composite due to the induced charge-current distributions. Scattered power from the induced multipoles could be calculated by integrating spatially distributed current distributions of the unit cell. The multipole amplitudes can be calculated as

$$P = \frac{1}{i\omega} \int J d^3r \quad (2)$$

$$M = \frac{1}{2c} \int (\vec{r} \times J) d^3r \quad (3)$$

$$P = \frac{1}{10c} \int [(\vec{r} \cdot J) - 2r^2 J] d^3r \quad (4)$$

where P is the electric dipole moment, M is the magnetic dipole moment, T is the toroidal moment, c is the velocity of light in vacuum, $\vec{r}$ is the displacement vector from the origin, ω is the angular frequency, and J is the surface current density retrieved from simulations. The total power radiated from different multipole moments can be formulated as

$$I = \frac{2\omega^4}{3c^3} |P|^2 + \frac{2\omega^4}{3c^3} |M|^2 + \frac{2\omega^6}{3c^5} |T|^2 + \dots \quad (5)$$

Fig. 7 Radiated power from different multipoles for the eight-layer design (Case 3)

The radiated power from the electric, magnetic, and toroidal dipole moments for the three configurations under study are illustrated in fig. 7. It is clear from the graph that the power radiated from the magnetic dipole moment is dominant over the electric and toroidal dipole moment. The resonant behavior of the SRR element is evident around 2.19 GHz, which is the resonant frequency of the selected SRR unit cell under the $H_{\perp}$ excitation scenario. However, it is observed from the Scattering characteristics shown in fig. 2 that this frequency point shows super scattering. The SCS of the composite is significantly higher than the uncloaked target at this frequency. At this frequency point, the toroidal moment shows a hike even though its magnitude is weak. It is noted that the scattering reduction from frequency lies at a lower spectral range of around 1.6 GHz in comparison with the magnetic resonance of the SRR. The specialty is that the power radiated from the toroidal and electric dipole moments at this frequency shows a significant dip, and the magnetic dipole moment is significantly higher. So it can be concluded that the scattering reduction arises from the destructive interference from the electric and magnetic dipole moments at the far-field.

6. Conclusions

The experimental realization of the cylindrical electromagnetic cloaking scheme using resonant magnetic dipole excitation in the microwave regime is studied and presented in this paper. The Split-Ring resonators arranged around the cylindrical metallic target excites strong magnetic dipole moments, and the scattering from these magnetic dipole moments destructively interferes at the far-field resulting in a reduction in the Scattering Cross Section of the target. These results are verified using the multiple scattering theory and experimentally verified in the microwave regime inside an anechoic chamber.

7. Methods

The simulation studies of the proposed designs are performed in the frequency domain using the commercially available CST Microwave Studio. The complete structure is illuminated with a plane wave with polarization parallel to the axis of the metallic target to study the scattering characteristics. In order to increase the accuracy of computations, adaptive mesh refinement is used. Field monitors are used to extract the electrical currents excited on the composite, and mathematical computations are performed on these retrieved current distributions using the GNU Octave software to calculate the power radiated from different multipoles.

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Author Contributions

Sarin V.P made a substantial contribution to the conception, design, fabrication, simulation, and measurement of the research work. Vinesh P.V performed the simulation and measurements of the

cloaking structures. Manoj M, Mohanan P, and Vasudevan K participated in the simulation and computational studies of the paper.

Additional Information

Competing financial interests: The authors declare no competing financial interests.