

Machine-Learning-Driven 3D Antenna Design for Energy-Efficient HAPS in Smart Cities

Kholod D Alsufiani, Eman S. Alkhalifah



Abstract: The development of smart sustainable cities increasingly relies on advanced communication infrastructures to support intelligent transportation systems, energy management, and data-intensive urban services. The rapid expansion of Internet of Everything networks has led to rising energy consumption, posing a critical challenge for sustainable urban development. This research was conducted to address the need for energy-efficient, high-performance wireless communication solutions capable of supporting large-scale, innovative city applications. In particular, High Altitude Platform Systems have emerged as promising communication enablers due to their wide coverage and deployment flexibility; however, their effectiveness is constrained by the energy efficiency and performance of antenna systems. This study investigates the application of Machine Learning techniques for the optimisation of 3D antenna structures to enhance communication efficiency. The 3D intelligent Microstrip Patch Multiple Input Multiple Output antenna operating at 28 GHz was designed and optimised using a Machine Learning-driven framework. The antenna design process was carried out using 3D digital Computer Simulation Technology software, enabling precise electromagnetic modelling and performance evaluation. Machine Learning algorithms were employed to systematically adjust antenna parameters, allowing the identification of optimal design configurations beyond conventional trial-and-error methods. The performance of the optimised antenna was evaluated using Quality of Service parameters for power efficiency and last-mile connectivity. Comparative analysis with non-optimised antenna designs demonstrated substantial performance gains. The results reveal an improvement of up to 31% in power efficiency, accompanied by enhanced connectivity performance. These findings indicate that Artificial Intelligence-driven antenna design is a practical approach to developing sustainable, energy-efficient communication infrastructure for future, innovative city environments.

Keywords: 3D Digital Design, AI, ML, Optimisation, Smart Cities.

Nomenclature:

ICTs: Information and Communication Technologies
 ITU: International Telecommunication Union
 SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals
 ML: Machine Learning
 AI: Artificial Intelligence
 IoE: Internet of Everything
 HAPs: High-Altitude Platforms

IoV: Internet of Vehicles
 SOA: Swarm Optimisation Algorithm
 MILP: Mixed-Integer Linear Programming
 RF: Radio Frequency
 ADCs: Analogue-to-Digital Converters
 RIS: Reconfigurable Intelligent Surface
 4IR: Fourth Industrial Revolution
 M2M: Machine-to-Machine
 EEUD: Energy-Efficient Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Deployment
 EPOS: Economic Planning and Optimized Selections
 MIMO: Multiple Input Multiple Output
 PECM: Propulsion Energy Consumption Model
 AO: Alternative Optimization
 SCA: Successive Convex Approximation
 HFL: Heterogeneous Federated learning
 CST: Computer Simulation Technology
 BER: Bit Error Rate
 QoS: Quality of Service
 VSWR: Voltage Standing Wave Ratio
 MAPL: Maximum Allowable Path Loss
 AWGN: Additive White Gaussian Noise
 MSE: Mean Squared Error

I. INTRODUCTION

The world's population continues to grow; urbanisation remains one of the most pressing challenges facing humanity. Smart sustainable cities offer a promising way to meet this challenge by creating more livable, equitable, and environmentally friendly urban environments. Smart sustainable cities are urban areas that use information and communication technologies (ICTs) to improve the quality of life, the efficiency of urban operations and services, and competitiveness, while ensuring they meet the needs of present and future generations across economic, social, environmental, and cultural aspects.

Smart sustainable cities can play a significant role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by using technology to improve the efficiency of urban systems and services. For instance, goal 11 (sustainable cities and communities), where smart cities can help to make cities more inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable by improving infrastructure, transportation, waste management, and responsible power consumption [1, 2]. According to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the revised the concept of "Smart City" is "Smart Sustainable City", which can be defined as "A Smart Sustainable City is an innovative city that uses Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and other means to improve quality of life, efficiency of urban operation and services, and competitiveness, while ensuring that it meets the needs of present and future generations with respect to economic, social, environmental as well as cultural aspects" [3]. Thus, according to McKinsey, the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) has a significant impact on smart, sustainable cities,

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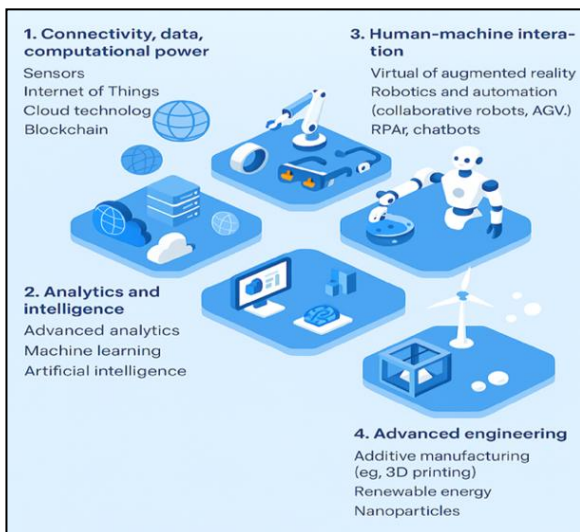
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where the combination of Machine Learning (ML) with communication systems can open new possibilities for innovation.

Figure 1 shows the main pillars of the 4IR that support smart cities [4, 5]. Two main pillars of the 4IR that support smart cities are ML and Internet of Everything (IoE), which have the potential to revolutionise the way we live, work, and interact with the world around us. Where the IoE is the concept of connecting any device with an on/off switch to the Internet and/or to other devices, this includes everything from cellphones, coffee makers, washing machines, headphones, wearable devices, and smart cities. At the same time, ML is a form of artificial intelligence (AI) that enables software applications to become more accurate at predicting outcomes without being explicitly programmed to do so. ML algorithms use historical data as input to predict new output values [6, 7].



[Fig.1: The Main Pillars of the 4IR that Support Smart Cities]

Interest in unamended, helium-filled solar-powered platforms, such as High-Altitude Platforms (HAPs) that operate in the stratosphere, up to 20km above ground, is growing. They have many merits, such as satellite systems, but without the distance penalty. The combination of IoE and ML connected to the HAPs system would enable a wide range of smart city solutions. For example, the IoE can be used to collect data from sensors throughout the city, and ML can be used to analyse this data to identify patterns and trends with aerial support from HAPs' wireless network. This information can then be used to make informed decisions about improving the efficiency and sustainability of urban systems [8, 9]. In the context of smart sustainable cities, both ML and IoE can be used to:

- Collect data from sensors and devices throughout the city. This data can be used to monitor and improve a wide range of urban systems, such as transportation, energy, and waste management.
- Enable real-time communication between devices. This can be used to improve coordination and efficiency in areas such as traffic management and emergency response.
- Provide citizens with access to information and services. This can be used to improve civic engagement and make cities more responsive to residents' needs.

Some specific examples of how the IoE is being used to create smart sustainable cities include: smart grids, smart

buildings and streets, intelligent transportation systems, and innovative waste management systems. The IoE has the potential to make a significant contribution to achieving the SDGs. By improving the efficiency of urban systems and services, the IoE can help to reduce energy consumption, emissions, and waste [10, 11].

The IoE can also improve the quality of life for urban residents by providing access to information and services that enable them to live more sustainably. As the IoE continues to develop, we can expect to see even more innovative solutions that help to create more sustainable cities. The IoE and ML are potent tools for building more sustainable cities. By using these technologies to collect and analyse data, cities can make informed decisions to improve the efficiency and sustainability of urban systems [12]. Moreover, the upcoming 6G network generation is being designed to meet the stringent requirements of smart cities in terms of quality of service, availability, and dependability.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows: Section 2 presents literature review. Section 3 describes the proposed model along with the mathematical calculations. Section 4: The simulations, validation, and highlight the main findings. Section 5, the paper concludes.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

This section shows articles that collectively provide insights into the key technologies, applications, and challenges in the context of smart cities. This section presents representative literature reviews related to our research that highlight research gaps, thereby allowing our research motivations to emerge.

This section also highlights the importance of energy efficiency and sustainability, and the transformative potential of these technologies in creating more innovative and efficient urban environments. The articles also emphasize the role of AI in empowering wireless networks and enabling innovative applications such as digital twins and immersive realities. Overall, these recent articles contribute to our understanding of the advancement of smart cities in the era of 6G, ML, and IoE, thereby clarifying our motivations.

Articles in [12-14] emphasize the importance of HAPs in supporting last-mile connectivity and empower smart cities in various aspects. Authors in [15] introduced a collaborative, efficient energy management network using a smart grid and an IoT framework for sustainable management in smart cities. The obtained results confirm that utilising such an advanced concept in the current digital era would reduce energy consumption and hence support a sustainable smart city.

The use of IoT and the Internet of Vehicles (IoV) for waste management in smart cities was presented in [16]. An IoV-based data collection architecture for waste management in a sustainable smart city has been considered, relying on static and mobile sensor nodes; however, data can also be collected using mobile vehicles and fixed base stations.

A multipath propagation channel with Doppler frequency shift is discussed in [17] for a digital twin in an urban vehicular environment, using both conventional and dynamic channel estimation schemes. Results were promising, yet

geometry-based areas could increase computation load. As a recommendation, channel optimisation for future smart cities is pioneering work that could open new research opportunities for connected autonomous vehicles.

Researchers in [18] emphasize that Machine-to-Machine (M2M) communication applications, which support IoT, requiring low data rates are now endorsed by innovative satellite communication technologies. IoT devices in rural areas can benefit from backup connectivity thanks to satellite technology. A recent study presented a technique for integrating solar and wind turbine power generation systems with satellite communication technologies into a smart grid.

To convey data swiftly between communication channels and receivers with reasonable energy usage, an optimization approach is recommended in [19], which can help improve energy grids for a sustainable smart city. IoT and ML are discussed as possible solutions to smart cities' farming in [20]. Where various parameters can be monitored in an optimized LoRa network. Results indicate low power consumption of the proposed work.

In [21], researchers are moving towards smart sustainable cities using Li-Fi technology due to its high bandwidth. Power consumption and continuous wireless connectivity remain open challenges. The nested cells distribution of the beehive multilayer architecture for 6G in Futuristic Sustainable Smart Cities was presented in [22]. Results indicate a noticeably high level of computational power on the ground, due to the nature of the terrestrial network. Thus, an aerial network, such as HAPs or satellites, would mitigate this issue. Channel modelling for IoT and smart cities was intensively reviewed in [23] with highlights of the challenges and opportunities. Where optimizing propagation models for power consumption reduction is recommended to support smart sustainable cities.

A decentralized energy-aware coordination model was used in [24] for spatio-temporal sensing via a swarm of 10 drones. Accuracy and efficiency were obtained using the proposed model. Authors in [25] present a study to maximise the energy efficiency of a UAV system by jointly optimising the UAV trajectory and IoT communication resources. The proposed framework suggested an improvement in energy efficiency.

Further, similar work presented in [26] considers an air-to-ground propagation model and jointly optimises the UAV trajectory with reconfigurable intelligent surface (RIS) phase shifts. The proposed AI framework used an energy-efficient unmanned aerial vehicle deployment (EEUD) algorithm. Yet, it is recommended as future work to investigate further propagation models that consider the Rician factor and elevation angle.

A combined optimization of task segmentation and UAV with resource allocation with intelligent reflecting surfaces (IRS) for wireless powered mobile edge computing networks in smart cities was discussed in [27]. The IoT devices exhibited reduced energy consumption. Researchers in [28] used a swarm of intelligent UAVs for distributed sensing to enhance power consumption using Economic Planning and Optimized Selections (EPOS) for the testbed. This approach can effectively support innovative applications in cities and farms.

A framework introduced in [29] to compute UAV swarm placement and task scheduling for better energy consumption.

A tethered UAV coverage over innovative environments was introduced in [30] using flexible beamforming. The proposed work aims to maximise the number of users while minimising energy waste. Another approach to noticeably reduce energy consumption while utilising UAVs is to optimise task offloading, as presented in [31].

A method discussed in [32] that combined a deep learning-based energy optimization and an adaptive adjustment for UAV-aided communication. The method shows a decent improvement in energy consumption. However, considering LoS and NLoS conditions in complex environments is needed as future work. Authors in [33] worked on reducing the energy consumption of UAVs via a swarm optimisation algorithm (SOA) by enhancing UAV routes for disaster management in smart cities.

In [34], energy consumption and task delays of the UAV system were optimised using differential evolution and ant colony techniques. The obtained results supported the designated aims. Further energy optimisation for UAV path planning was discussed in [35] using particle swarm optimisation. The obtained results indicate that the proposed work has reduced non-essential energy consumption during UAV flight operations.

Path planning for a swarm of UAVs is presented in [36] to reduce power consumption in industrial IoT. The proposed work uses a ground-air propagation model along with Multiple Input Multiple Output (MIMO) antenna and double-loop iterative for optimization. More optimization in terms of UAV trajectory planning for an innovative IoT environment is discussed in [37].

A Mixed-Integer Linear Programming (MILP) optimisation model was used in [38] to optimise the energy efficiency of offloading Cloud-Fog via a trajectory-based UAV. Results show visible energy efficiency. Authors in [39] discussed optimising energy for device-to-device UAV communications for smart industrial IoT. The proposed system used a directive antenna for propagating RF signals. Recourse allocation and multi-UAV scenarios are recommended as future work.

A deep reinforcement learning solution was proposed in [40] to maximize data rate of UAV communication in smart cities. Results show enhancement in data rate and convergence time. Energy consumption optimisation should be addressed in future work. To enhance the received signal patterns in a 5G smart city UAV network, the authors of [41] used a deep residual learning-based cognitive model. Results show a modest improvement that slightly affects the energy consumption of IoT devices and sensors.

A generalized propulsion energy consumption model (PECM) was proposed in [42, 43] to minimize power consumption and maximize throughput for multi-UAV enabled IoT. Where Alternative optimization (AO) and successive convex approximation (SCA) techniques were applied. The obtained results showed that the UAV trajectory has reduced the energy consumption and resource management.

A multi-objective optimization for the trajectory discussed in [44] for energy efficiency in Multi-UAV-enabled communication systems. Approximating the LoS

propagation channel model is recommended for future work to suit complex environments. More multi-objective optimization was presented in [45] to improve throughput and energy efficiency in UAV-enabled IoT. Where LoS propagation was used with an omnidirectional antenna, there was a noticeable improvement in throughput and energy, but additional transmission conditions warrant further testing and enhancement.

A joint optimization of energy and delay parameters was tested in [46] in a cluster-based UAV network. By relaying tasks between UAVs using free-space propagation, the aim of the proposed work was pursued. Optimizing energy allocation for a space-based system of CubeSats has studied

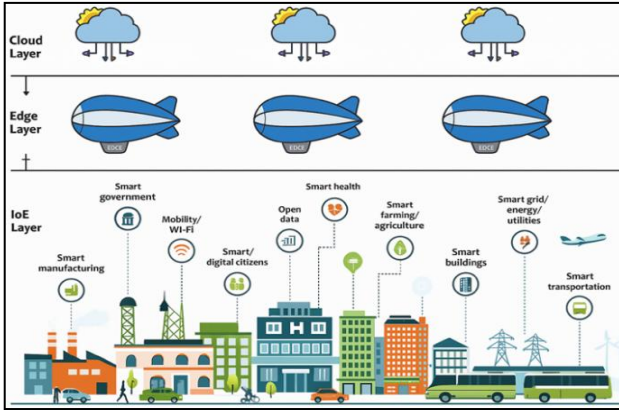
in [47] using serious gaming approach. Performance indicators suggest decent improvements in power consumption. Table 1. Summary of the related study in relation to the proposed work, so the motivation of our work can be drawn. There is a need of an optimization framework that could enhance propagation model that include the full range of link budget parameters. The optimised model can be evolved from a MIMO antenna design. Therefore, this paper aims to develop an intelligent MIMO antenna to optimise the wireless connectivity of HAPS in smart, sustainable cities using a machine learning approach, thereby achieving the goal of power consumption. This is the main contribution of this work, a noticeable improvement over exciting work.

Table I: Summary of the Related Study

| Ref. | Platform Type | AI Framework | Propagation Model | Antenna Type | Scope of Optimization | Issues |
|--------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|---|--|
| [25] | Drone | Dinkelbach algorithm | Free space | Omnidirectional | Jointly optimize trajectory & IoT comms. resources | Antenna constraints lead to more power consumption |
| [26] | Drone | EEUD algorithm | Air-to-ground | Directional | Jointly optimize trajectory with RIS phase shifts | Antenna constraints lead to more power consumption |
| [27] | Drone | Mixed integer & non-convex | Free space with IRS | Directional | Combined optimize of UAV placement and task segmentation with IRS | Antenna constraints lead to more power consumption |
| [28] | UAV | EPOS algorithm | Free space | Omnidirectional | Swarm of intelligent UAVs and sensing map | Channel modelling to enhance connectivity |
| [29] | Airborne | Multi-objectives algorithm | Multi-ray Propagation | Omnidirectional | Convergence of airborne swarm and task scheduling | Antenna constraints lead to more power consumption |
| [30] | Tethered UAV | x | Air-to-ground | MIMO | Optimizing bandwidth and power allocations | No AI optimization |
| [31] | UAV | Three-layer game algorithm | Free space | Omnidirectional | Optimizing tasks offloading | Deep learning is suggested as future work |
| [32] | Drone | Deep Learning | Free space | Omnidirectional | Optimizing for edge device | Beyond LoS is not considered |
| [33] | UAV | SOA | Radio propagation | Omnidirectional | Optimize UAV route | Antenna constraints lead to more power consumption |
| [34] | UAV | differential evolution & ant colony | Free space | Omnidirectional | Optimizing tasks offloading | Ground users' mobility can be considered as future work |
| [35] | UAV | Particle swarm optimization | Free space | Omnidirectional | Optimizing path planning of UAV | Environmental factors have to be considered |
| [36] | UAV | Double loop iterative | Channel attenuation | MIMO | Swarm path planning & tasks offloading optimization | Channel modeling constrains |
| [37] | UAV | multi-objective optimization | Free space | Omnidirectional | UAV trajectory planning | An enhanced air-ground channel model is recommended as future work |
| [38] | Drone | MILP optimization | Free space | Omnidirectional | UAV trajectory planning & tasks offloading optimization | Design heuristic algorithms for multi-UAV scenarios |
| [39] | Drone | Multiojective evolutionary algorithm | Free space | MIMO | Enhance transmission | Channel modeling constrains |
| [40] | UAV | Deep Q-Learning | Air-to-ground | Directional | Enhance small cells communication | Energy consumption optimization should be addressed |
| [41] | UAV | Deep residual learning | Rayleigh channel | Directional | Develop connectivity | Channel modeling constrains |
| [42] [43] | UAV | (AO) & (SCA) | LoS channel | Directional | Jointly optimizing scheduling & UAV trajectory variables | Antenna constraints lead to more power consumption |
| [45] [46] | UAV | multi-objective optimization | Air-to-ground | Omnidirectional | Jointly optimizing throughput & UAV trajectory | Deep learning is suggested as future work |
| [47] | CubeSats | Serious gaming | Free space | MIMO | Optimizing propagation model | Channel modeling constrains |
| Proposed | HAP | Machine learning | Log-normal shadowing | Intelligent MIMO | Optimizing beams, gains, and power consumption | Complexity |

III. 3D PROPOSED MODEL

The proposed model aims to develop an intelligent MIMO antenna to optimise the wireless connectivity of HAPs in smart, sustainable cities using a machine learning approach, thereby achieving the goal of power consumption. Figure 2 shows an outline of the proposed structure, which consists of three layers: 1) Cloud layer, which has the cloud for storage and processing tasks. 2) Edge layer, which has the HAP network that includes the HAP platforms with their communication payload, including MIMO antenna. 3) IoE layer, which has the ground control station, ground sensors, and mobile devices. The remainder of the section will cover the mathematical analysis of the proposed work and the design specifications of the smart MIMO antenna.



[Fig.2: Outline of the Proposed Structure]

Log Normal Shadowing is the propagation model considered here, together with its link budget parameters, which help predict the behaviour of electromagnetic waves as they propagate through various environments and under shadowing conditions. This propagation model is associated with MIMO intelligent antenna, enabling spatial multiplexing or diversity techniques that exploit multi-path propagation characteristics [48, 49].

A. The Proposed ML Model

Figure 3 shows the proposed intelligent MIMO system for a 6G network using an ML model. Radio Frequency (RF) chains and Analogue-to-Digital Converters (ADCs) are integrated into an ML model, thereby enhancing beam patterns for improved wireless connectivity and reducing power consumption. Thanks to the adaptivity of the ML framework, which helps adopt the geomatic channel model for the HAP network [52-55]. The equations for an intelligent MIMO system using Heterogeneous Federated learning (HFL), which is one of the advanced collaborative ML techniques, as per equations (1) to (4):

$$\sqrt{FL}(\tilde{w}) = \sum_{k=1}^k \frac{mk}{M} L_k(\tilde{w}) \quad \dots (1)$$

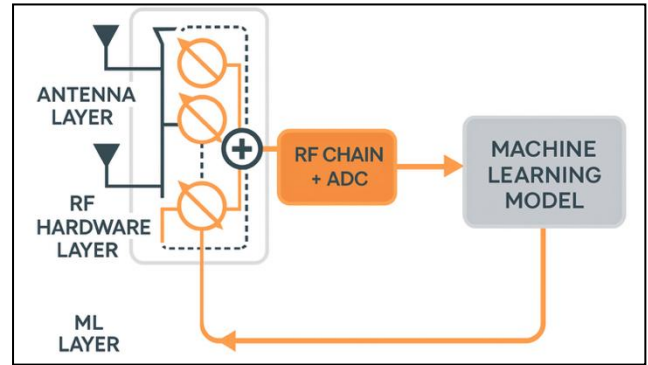
$$L_k(\tilde{w}) = \frac{1}{mk} \sum_{k=1}^k L(\hat{y}_k^{(i)}, y_k^{(i)}) \quad \dots (2)$$

$$\tilde{w}_k := \tilde{w}_k - \alpha \frac{\delta L_k}{\delta \tilde{w}_k} \quad \dots (3)$$

$$\tilde{w} := \tilde{w} - \sum_{k=1}^k \frac{mk}{M} \tilde{w}_k \quad \dots (4)$$

where $\sqrt{FL}(\tilde{w})$ refers to the FL objective function, $L_k(\tilde{w})$ refers to the loss function of k clients, \tilde{w}_k refers to the updated global state, mk refers to local training samples.

The objective function of the proposed HFL model is based on user distributions, in which intelligent MIMO beams and gains are clustered and optimised according to connectivity (LoS or NLoS) scenarios to achieve high beamforming performance. Therefore, thus optimizing power consumption.



[Fig.3: The Proposed ML Model]

The log-normal shadowing propagation model that is considered in this work is modified by evolving the elevation angle factor (θ) when calculating the distance, which is a noticeable improvement that suits the nature of space-based communication systems like HAP. Further, the link budget parameters represent a comprehensive accounting of all the gains and losses that a communication signal experiences as it travels from the HAP transmitter to the terrestrial receiver. This analysis is vital to ensure the efficiency and reliability of the wireless connectivity via the HAP system. THE received signal power is sufficient for reliable communication. The analysis is crucial in the design and optimization of wireless communication systems. The link budget parameters include RSSI (Received Signal Strength Indicator, in dBm), SINR (Signal-to-Interference-plus-Noise Ratio, in dB), and T (Throughput, in b/s) [50, 51].

The equations for the log-normal shadowing model and the link budget parameters as per equations (5) to (9):

$$PL = PL(d_0) + 10 * n * \log\left(\frac{d}{d_0}\right) + X \quad \dots (5)$$

$$d = 2E_r \left[\cos^{-1} \left(\frac{E_r}{E_r + h_t} * \cos(\theta) \right) - \theta \right] \quad \dots (6)$$

$$RSSI = p_t + g_t + g_r - PL - L \quad \dots (7)$$

$$SINR = \frac{RSs}{N + 1} \quad \dots (8)$$

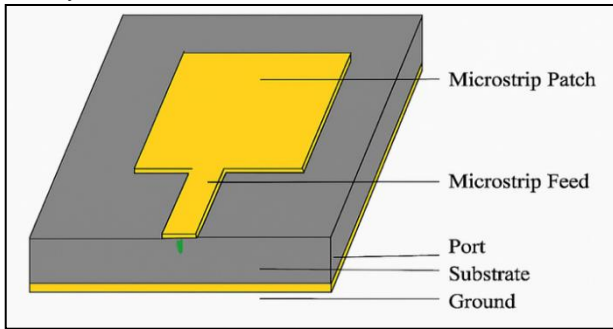
$$T = B * \log_2 \left(1 + \left(10^{\frac{SINR}{10}} \right) \right) \quad \dots (9)$$

Where PL refers to the path loss of the log-normal shadowing propagation

model, $\overline{PL(d_0)}$ refers to path loss in dB at a distance d_0 ; χ is a zero-mean Gaussian-distributed random variable (in dB) with standard deviation (σ). This variable is used only when a shadowing effect is present; otherwise, it is set to 0. n denotes the path-loss exponent for various environments. $\overline{R_e}$ refers to Earth's radius at 6,378 km, h_t refers to the altitude of HAP, and θ refers to the minimum elevation angle from a receiver and/or user's location.

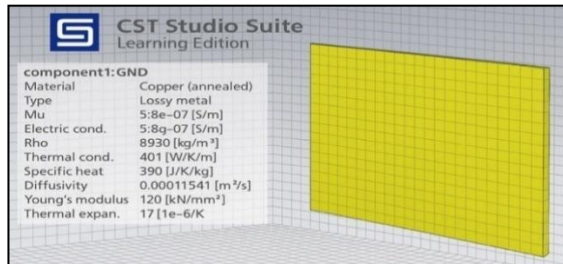
B. The 3D Digital Antenna Design

In this proposed work, a Microstrip Patch intelligent MIMO antenna is designed using Computer Simulation Technology (CST) software to achieve long-range wireless communication across different environments with the highest possible efficiency. Figure 4 shows the Microstrip Patch intelligent MIMO antenna using CST at 28 GHz. Further, the 3D Patch Microstrip intelligent MIMO antenna enables us to analyse electromagnetic components through its three layers.

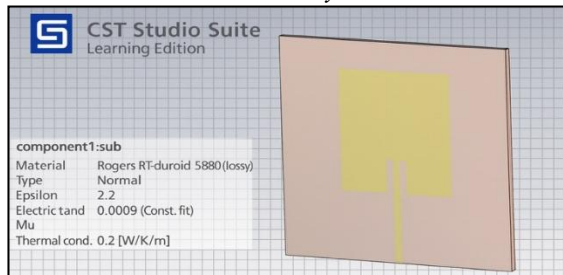


[Fig.4: 3D Design of the Microstrip Patch Intelligent MIMO Antenna Using CST]

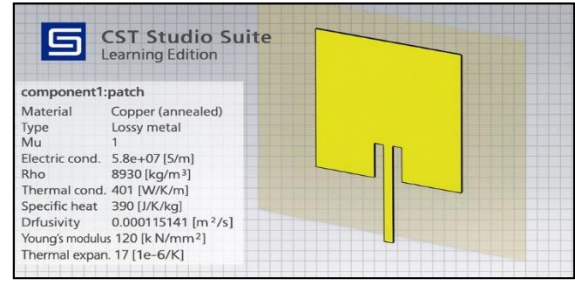
Figure 5 displays. The first layer is the ground layer, made of copper, which improves radiation efficiency and protects it from unwanted signals. The second layer, the Substrate layer made of Rogers RT5880, provides desirable properties that make it well-suited for antenna substrates, such as thermal conductivity and dimensional stability, thereby improving the antenna's performance and reliability. The third layer is the patch layer made of copper. The Inset-fed type was adopted in this design because it provides a strong bandwidth for resistance and is easy to integrate, making it a better option for HAP use.



a. First Layer



b. Second Layer



c. Third Layer

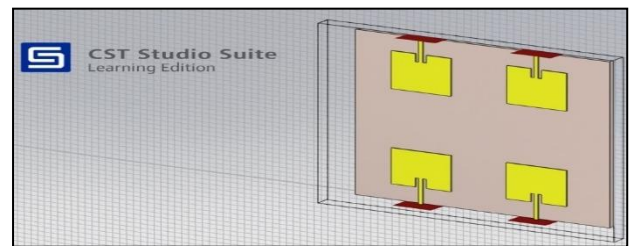
[Fig.5: The three Layers of the 3D Patch Microstrip Smart MIMO Antenna in CST Software]

Table II: Measurements of the Three Layers of the Optimised Antenna

| The Ground Layer | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Parameter | Symbol | Value (mm) |
| Width | W _{Gr} | 40 |
| Length | L _{Gr} | 40.61 |
| Thickness | h _G | 0.035 |
| The Substrate Layer | | |
| Parameter | Symbol | Value (mm) |
| Width | W _s | 40 |
| Length | L _s | 40.61 |
| Thickness | h _s | 0.508 |
| The Patch Layer | | |
| Parameter | Symbol | Value (mm) |
| Width | W _p | 9.9 |
| Length | L _p | 9.7 |
| Thickness | h _p | 0.035 |
| The Gap Dimensions | | |
| Parameter | Symbol | Value (mm) |
| Width | W _G | 0.5 |
| Length | L _G | 2.4 |
| The Feed Line Dimensions | | |
| Parameter | Symbol | Value (mm) |
| Width | W _F | 0.7 |
| Length | L _F | 4.75 |

The simulation specifications is considered in this work a 5G MIMO that obtained ITU Radiocommunication Study as follows: frequency [28 GHz], transmitter power [43 dBm], modulation type [256 QAM], bandwidth [20 MHz], noise figure [7 dBm], transmitter altitude [20 km], transmitter antenna gain with diversity [20 dBi], received altitude [1.5 m], receiver antenna gain with diversity gain [5 dBi], receiver power [27 dBm], transmitter sensitivity [-88 dBm], interference margin loss [5 dB], losses [1.2 dB], receiver sensitivity [-87.3 dBm].

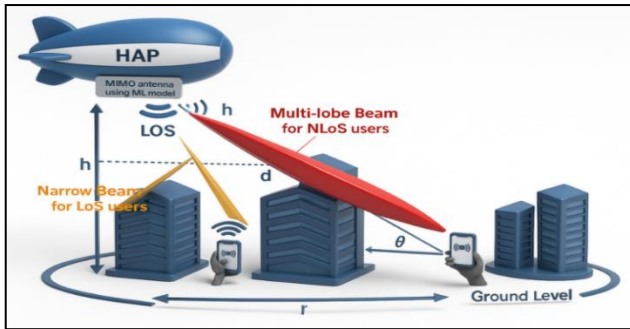
Figure 6 shows the optimised antenna shape for a 4x4 microstrip patch MIMO intelligent antenna, while Table 2 presents measurements of the three layers of the optimised antenna.



[Fig.6: The Optimized Antenna Shape Using a 4x4 Microstrip Patch MIMO Antenna in CST Software]

Figure 7 displays the beam patterns of the learned codebook using the HFL model of an intelligent MIMO

antenna. It shows how the ML-driven MIMO antenna adaptively optimises beamforming: focusing energy for LoS users while flexibly shaping beams to overcome blockage for NLoS users. This enables improved connectivity, spectral efficiency, and energy savings, which are essential for HAP-based communication systems in smart, sustainable cities.



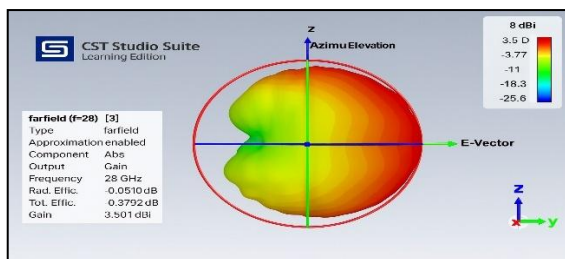
[Fig.7: The Proposed Beam Patterns of the Learned Codebook Using the HFL Model of an Intelligent MIMO Antenna]

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

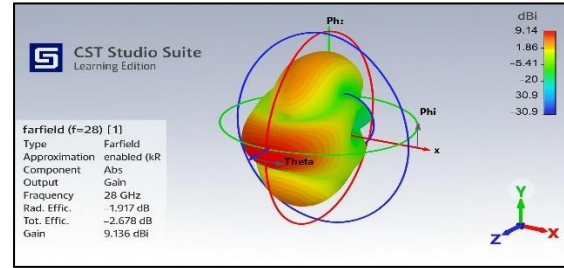
This section presents the predicted results and highlights the main features of the proposed solution, starting with connectivity and link-budget parameters, then progressing to MIMO antenna design, and finally to the optimised results of the intelligent MIMO antenna using the HFL model. The proposed framework was validated using Energy per Bit to Noise Spectrum Density (E_b/N_0) and Bit Error Rate (BER), two well-known Quality of Service (QoS) parameters, to assess the effectiveness of the wireless system from the perspective of smart IoE devices.

Understanding gain and directivity is crucial for selecting and using MIMO intelligent antennas effectively in various wireless communications, let alone when they are optimised and enhanced. Figures 8 and 9 show the gain and directivity of the proposed Microstrip Patch MIMO intelligent antenna in non-optimized and optimized scenarios using CST toolbox, respectively. Clearly, higher gain and directivity indicate that the antenna is more focused in its radiation, which has an excellent impact on receiving signals in the desired direction over longer distances with greater efficiency, as in the optimised antenna scenario.

From these figures, it can be concluded that, in an optimised antenna scenario, the proposed Microstrip Patch MIMO intelligent antenna improves signal quality, capacity, interference-rejection capabilities, radiation-pattern flexibility, and spectral efficiency. Another notable point is that the coverage footprint and connectivity were better in the optimised antenna scenario, with parallel transmission and reception of independent data streams, supporting IoE applications in smart, sustainable cities.

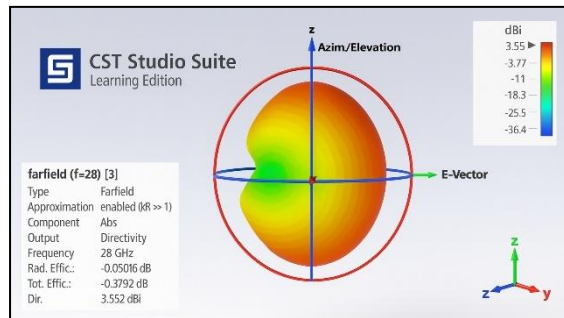


a. Non-optimised Scenario

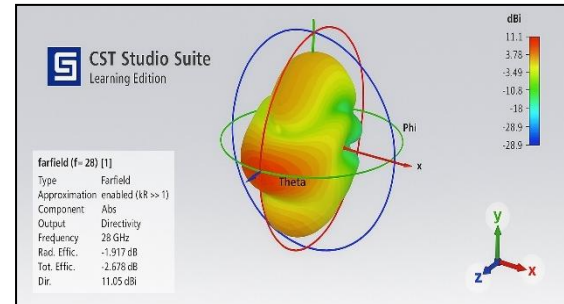


b. Optimised Scenario

[Fig.8: Gain of the Microstrip Patch MIMO Intelligent Antenna Using the CST Toolbox]



a. Non-optimized Scenario



b. Optimized Scenario

[Fig.9: Directivity of the Microstrip Patch MIMO Intelligent Antenna Using CST Toolbox]

In addition to gain and directivity, there are vibrant parameters by which to evaluate the performance of the microstrip patch MIMO intelligent antenna, as demonstrated in Figure 10. The parameters under consideration are as follows: reflection coefficient (S_{11}), bandwidth, voltage standing wave ratio (VSWR), and efficiency. As illustrated in Figure 10, the graphs demonstrate the parameters in both optimised and non-optimised scenarios. The S_{11} optimized The value indicates good impedance matching and efficient power transfer, which, in turn, improves antenna performance.

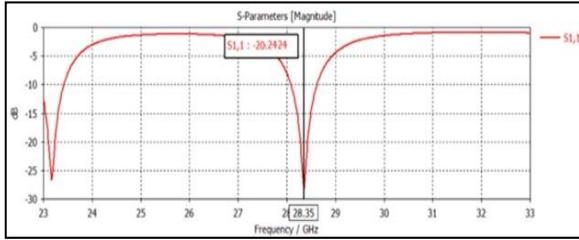
The optimised bandwidth indicates a wider bandwidth that can operate effectively over a broader frequency range, making it versatile for a variety of applications. The optimised VSWR for a microstrip patch MIMO intelligent antenna is less than 2, which is acceptable. The efficiency of a system is measured by the ratio of the radiated power to the total input power. A higher efficiency indicates that the antenna is less lossy and can radiate more of the power that is fed into it. The optimised antenna demonstrated an efficiency of 90.08%, indicating a notable performance enhancement.

Table 3 shows numerical

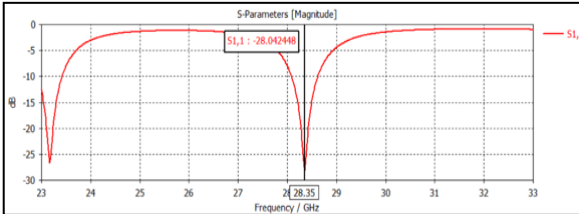
results for the evaluation parameters of the Microstrip Patch MIMO intelligent antenna in non-optimised and optimised scenarios. Overall, it is evident that there is a noticeable improvement of the optimized Microstrip Patch MIMO intelligent antenna in relation to non-optimized version.

Table III: Numerical Results of the Evaluation Parameters of the Microstrip Patch MIMO Intelligent Antenna

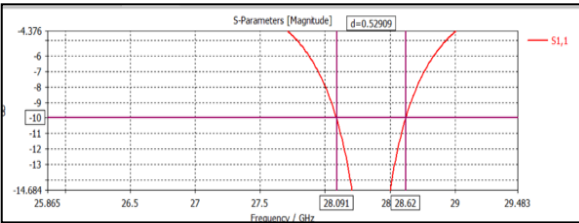
| Parameter | Values of a Non-Optimised Antenna | Values of Optimize Antenna |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Gain (dB) | 3.501 | 9.136 |
| Directivity(dBi) | 3.552 | 11.05 |
| S11 (dB) | -20.2424 | -28.042448 |
| BW (GHz) | 3.1459 | 0.52909 |
| VSWR | 1.5375576 | 1.0825024 |
| Efficiency (%) | 83.74% | 94.08% |



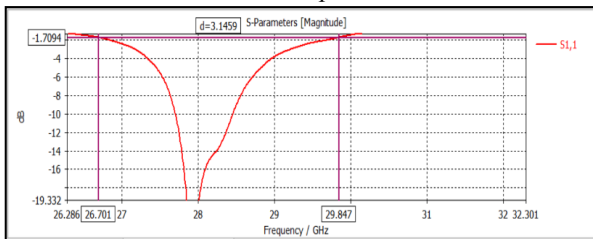
a. Reflection Coefficient (S11) - Non-Optimized Scenario



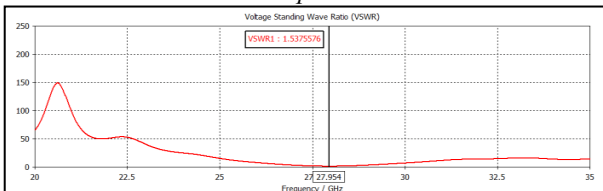
a. Reflection Coefficient (S11) - Optimized Scenario



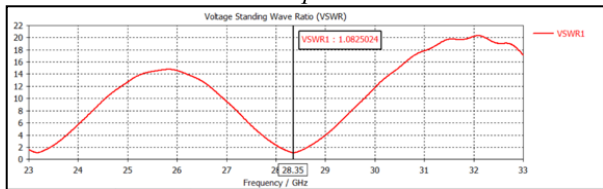
b. Bandwidth- Non-Optimized Scenario



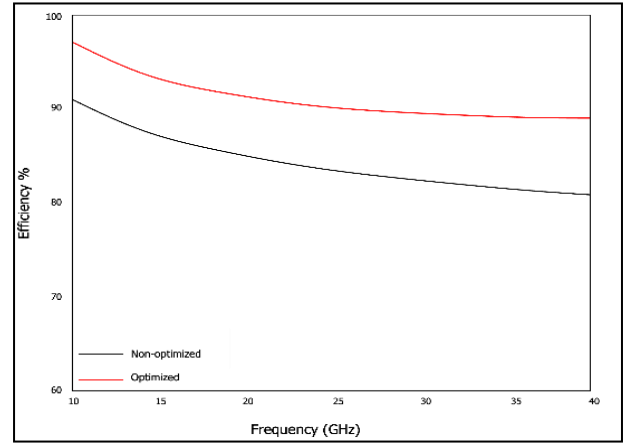
b. Bandwidth- Optimized Scenario



c. VSWR - Non-Optimized Scenario

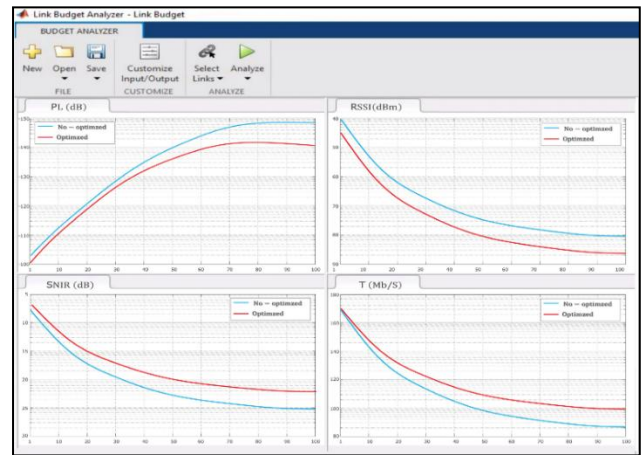


c. VSWR - Optimized Scenario



d. Efficiency

[Fig.10: Evaluating Parameters of the Microstrip Patch MIMO Intelligent Antenna in Optimized Scenario Using CST Toolbox]



[Fig.11: The Predicted Results of the Link Budget Parameters]

Figure 11 shows the predicted link budget parameters for the modified log-normal shadowing propagation model, with θ included in both non-optimised and optimised scenarios, using MATLAB. In the stratosphere, the HAP altitude is set to 20km above ground. PL predicted results of the log-normal shadowing model show values below the maximum allowable path loss (MAPL) value of 150dB. Indeed, the PL increases gradually as the footprint converges. The standard deviation of the log-normal random variable is called the shadowing margin.

The shadowing margin is a measure of RSSI variability. Where the RSSI is aligned with PL predictions, it shows similar characteristics, with a peak value of -88 dBm. SNIR ranges between the upper and lower bounds of 6-25 dB. T falls with distance and with higher PL. Network footprint coverage is affected by transmitter and receiver antenna specifications, geomorphology, and a moderate θ of 15°. Therefore, the HAP convergence reaches 100km at a HAP altitude of 20 km.

After optimisation, the predicted link budget results have shown a noticeable improvement. This suggests that the signal has become stronger, resulting in better communication quality at all distances. Further, these improvements collectively

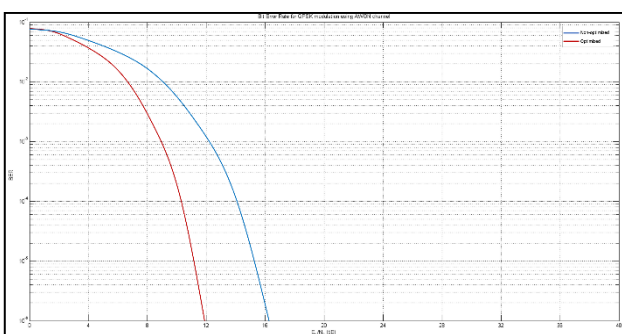
enhance the system's performance. Furthermore, optimized link budget results not only lead to better connectivity, but also strengthen power consumption, which enhance the IoE sensors and devices in sustainable smart city.

To validate the performance of the proposed Microstrip Patch MIMO intelligent antenna from a power consumption perspective, the two QoS parameters (E_b/N_0 and BER) are evaluated. Figure 12 shows a comparison of the predicted E_b/N_0 and BER values of an Additive white Gaussian noise (AWGN) channel of the proposed Microstrip Patch MIMO intelligent antenna in non-optimised and optimised scenarios using the "semilogy" function in MATLAB.

Evidently, the optimized scenario shows better E_b/N_0 performance at the lowest BER achieved of 1×10^{-6} with around a 4dB difference. Another observed point is that as the E_b/N_0 and BER values decrease, wireless link performance enhances. This means that a channel with low error rates is used, and minimum transmission power is used. Thanks to the optimized diversity gain and collaborative beamforming of the proposed Microstrip Patch MIMO intelligent antenna. This maximises link budget, capacity, and coverage without consuming more transmission power between the HAP and the ground IoE nodes.

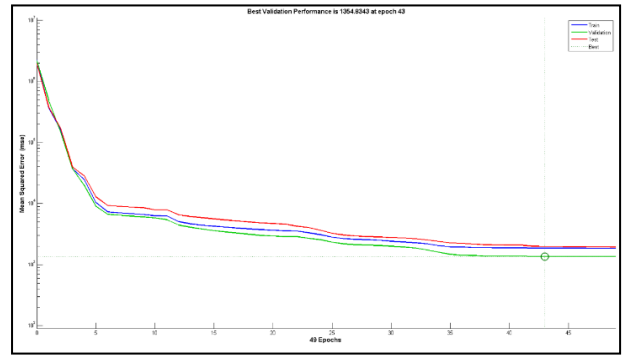
Bearing in mind that enhancing the power consumption of IoE nodes is an essential matter in the context of smart, sustainable cities. Optimizing how these devices sip, rather than guzzle, electricity is crucial for both sustainability and cost efficiency. The benefits of optimizing energy use in these complex ecosystems are manifold:

- Less energy use equals a lower carbon footprint, aligning with global sustainability goals.
- Extended IoE devices' lifetime, where batteries in remote sensors last longer, minimising maintenance and device replacements.
- Cost savings via reducing energy bills for individuals and businesses, making IoE more accessible and attractive.
- Economic optimization, where Smart energy grids and optimized resource allocation save city budgets and enable investments in other crucial areas like education and healthcare.



[Fig.12: Qos Parameters of E_b/N_0 and BER to Validate the Proposed Work]

Figure 13 shows the Mean Squared Error (MSE) performance of the HFL model. The graph shows the training, testing, and validation process, with error rates gradually decreasing up to 43 iterations. Then, the training stops as the error rate increases. The achieved result seems rational, as no significant overfitting has occurred. Also, the ultimate MSE is low, and the test-set and validation-set errors are similar.



[Fig.13: The MSE Performance of the HFL Model]

V. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

The future of smart, sustainable cities depends on leveraging 4IR technologies to build interconnected, data-driven, and eco-efficient urban systems. Integrating IoE with intelligent MIMO antennas offers significant potential to enhance these cities. This study focuses on optimising energy efficiency in IoE devices by developing an intelligent microstrip patch MIMO antenna to improve HAPs' wireless connectivity and power consumption using the HFL model. Simulations were performed in CST at 28 GHz, and MATLAB was used for HFL and validation through E_b/N_0 and BER parameters. Results showed a 31% reduction in power use and improved last-mile connectivity. Future work will include real-world testing to compare simulated and experimental outcomes.

DECLARATION STATEMENT

As the article's author, I must verify the accuracy of the following information after aggregating input from all authors.

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- **Data Access Statement and Material Availability:** The adequate resources of this article are publicly accessible.
- **Author's Contributions:** The authorship of this article is contributed equally to all participating individuals.

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