

MoM-based Path Loss Modelling in Rural Areas

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Abstract—MeerKAT is a strategic Square Kilometre Array (SKA) precursor instrument designed to demonstrate and develop relevant technology in the mid-frequency band (350 MHz - 3050 MHz). Maintaining the electromagnetic quietness of the telescope's environment is key in achieving the intended scientific objectives. In the furtherance of good EMC and spectrum management practices, we have embarked on a full electromagnetic (EM) site evaluation of the MeerKAT facility. Propagation modelling is the first step in this process with a three-fold rationale: i) there is some debate within the SKA over which models should be used; ii) RFI engineers working at the MeerKAT facility need propagation tools that are reliable and easy to implement for routine RFI monitoring; iii) it has been observed that a systematic approach for site characterization of radio observatories is lacking. In view of the multiple site location of the SKA, and particularly other sites in Africa, it is imperative to establish and standardize evaluation procedures.

I. INTRODUCTION

PROPGATION modelling is an important tool in the roll-out of a radio link with respect to assessing interference effects in the intervening path. The goal is to quantify the degree of signal degradation between wireless transceivers due to reflection, diffraction, scattering and other propagation phenomena besides spreading (free space) loss. Expressed as the ratio of transmitted to received power, the extent of signal attenuation is called *path loss*. It is a vital parameter for coverage mapping and spectrum management [1], [2]. Numerous path loss prediction tools utilizing theoretical, statistical, empirical and deterministic schemes have been developed over the last seven decades [3], [4]. This highlights the significance of propagation modelling in planning various types of wireless networks. Empirical models (synthesized based on multiple measurements) tend to be most common due to their ease of implementation. However, the predictions quickly become inaccurate when they are employed in an environment other than the one on which the data is based. On the other end of the spectrum, deterministic models (derived from Maxwell's equations) offer high accuracy but require detailed information of the environment (site-specific) and are computationally expensive [4], [5].

Unsurprisingly, the vast majority of models focus on mobile radio services in urban areas as well as FM radio and television broadcast services. In the former case, propagation is typically by diffraction and scattering since there are seldom line of sight (LoS) paths. Consequently, a multipath environment exists since the received signal is a superposition of several delayed waves [6]. In this regime, multipath fading – the variability of the wave due to constructive and destructive interference – becomes particularly important and is accounted

for using a Rayleigh probability distribution [7]. In the latter scenario, high antenna heights and long distances proliferate the dominance of atmospheric scattering and refraction as the characteristic propagation effects. One thus finds that models addressing propagation in open areas are few and far between and do not typically consider short transmitter-receiver (T-R) separation distances. With the outset of advanced and highly sensitive radio telescopes such as the Square Kilometre Array (SKA), probing signal propagation at path lengths and heights that differ from conventional telecommunication standards becomes important. Moreover, literature is thin on propagation modelling to aid electromagnetic characterization of radio astronomy facilities. We thus present a novel full wave propagation model (FWPM) based on the method of moments (MoM) for path loss predictions at T-R lengths less than 1 km. Electrical properties of the earth are taken into account and simulated as a dielectric ground plane. Combined with the full-wave nature of the model, the ground-reflected wave is thus approximated very well. In its present form, the FWPM has no restriction on frequency but is presently limited to the range 100 – 2700 MHz which falls within the mid-frequency band of the SKA. As a case study, comparisons of the FWPM predictions are made to measured data obtained at the MeerKAT facility in South Africa's semi-desert Karoo region. Statistical error analysis yields an unprecedented 3.28 dB root mean square error.

The paper is fashioned with an overview on propagation modelling in Section II which introduces the statistical metrics used in the study. In Section III a description of the FWPM is provided and validated by a comparison to the Friis transmission equation. The main contributions are highlighted in Section IV where statistical analysis is made against measured data. Summary statements are made in Section V.

II. OVERVIEW OF PROPAGATION MODELLING

A. Basic Modelling

In the log domain, a radio link is modelled as

$$P_r = \text{EIRP} + G_r - PL, \quad (1)$$

where P_r is the received power in dBm, $\text{EIRP} = P_t + G_t$ is the effective isotropic radiated power (dBm), G_t and G_r are the respective transmitter and receiver gains in dBi. The term PL (dB) is the attenuation (path loss) due to environmental and propagation effects given as

$$PL = L_{fsl} + L_{\text{env}}, \quad (2)$$

where L_{fsl} is the free space loss derived from the Friis transmission formula with isotropic transceivers as the reference. The term L_{env} is the loss due to reflection, diffraction or scattering depending on the propagation mode and surrounding

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medium¹. In cases where a LoS path exists and the antennas are several wavelengths above the ground, equation (2) can be approximated as

$$PL = L_{fsl} = 10 \log \left[\left(\frac{4\pi d_m f}{c} \right)^2 \right], \quad (3)$$

where f (Hz) is the carrier frequency, d_m (m) is the T-R length and c (m/s) the speed of light in a vacuum. In practical units, equation (3) is given as

$$L_{fsl} = 20 \log(f) + 20 \log(d) + 32.45, \quad (4)$$

with f in MHz and $d = 10^{-3} d_m$ in km.

Propagation models strive to predict as accurately as possible the loss L_{env} . The general input parameters include frequency, antenna heights and T-R separation. More complex models such as the Longley-Rice Irregular Terrain Model (ITM) and the ITU-R P.452 model can incorporate terrain data in order to account for diffraction loss due to obstructions. Effectiveness of a model in predicting path attenuation depends on its input parameters as well as whether the model is applied within its coverage range. A wide survey of various models and how they predict PL is presented in [3].

B. Statistical Analysis Metrics

1) *Prediction Error and Root Mean Square Error*: The prediction error, ε^2 , is the most basic of metrics in evaluating a propagation model. It is the difference between the measured and predicted value of path loss, given for a specific path as

$$\varepsilon_{m,i} = PL_{meas} - PL_{m,i}, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N \quad (5)$$

where subscript m denotes a model and N is the number of sample (frequency) points. The mean prediction error is simply

$$\bar{\varepsilon}_m = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \varepsilon_{m,i}, \quad (6)$$

and its associated standard deviation is

$$\sigma_{\bar{\varepsilon}_m} = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^N (\varepsilon_{m,i} - \bar{\varepsilon}_m)^2}{N-1}}. \quad (7)$$

A more qualitative description of a models performance is the root mean square error (RMSE)

$$RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \varepsilon_{m,i}^2}, \quad (\text{dB}) \quad (8)$$

which is a measure of deviation from the measured value. Hence the RMSE serves as the standard error of the predictions.

2) *Relative Error and Accuracy*: Relative Error (RE) is the magnitude of the prediction error weighted by the measured (true) value of path loss. It is the fractional error

$$RE_m = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{|\varepsilon_{m,i}|}{PL_{meas}}, \quad (9)$$

from which the accuracy $A_m = (1 - RE_m) \times 100$, can be calculated. The accuracy provides a confidence level for a models prediction.

3) *Correlation Coefficient*: Linearity between measurement and predictions is determined by the correlation coefficient

$$\rho = \frac{N \sum_{i=1}^N PL_{meas} PL_{m,i} - \sum_{i=1}^N PL_{meas} \sum_{i=1}^N PL_{m,i}}{(N-1) \sum_{i=1}^N PL_{meas} \sum_{i=1}^N PL_{m,i}}. \quad (10)$$

It must be noted here that strong correlation will not necessarily mean that a model performs well but rather indicates that the model exhibits similar trends as the measured data.

III. THE FULL-WAVE PROPAGATION MODEL

Numerical solutions to Maxwell's equations that make no *a priori* physical approximations are called full-wave techniques [8]. Computational electromagnetics (CEM) offers a number of such methods which are described in several texts (see [8]–[10]). The full-wave propagation model (FWPM) described here is based on the method of moments (MoM) and incorporates a dielectric ground plane to simulate the influence of the earth.

A. The Method of Moments

The MoM is a frequency domain full-wave technique well suited to problems involving radiation and scattering. The method utilizes an appropriate Green function to derive an integro-differential form of Maxwell's equations. To reduce the number of unknowns and make the problem tractable computationally, a suitable boundary condition and *basis functions* must be selected. This results in a system of linear equations of the form [9],

$$V_m = \sum_{n=1}^{N-1} Z_{mn} I_n, \quad m = 1, 2, \dots, N-1 \quad (11)$$

where Z_{mn} is called the system matrix, V_m is the source vector and I_n is the unknown vector that is solved for using LU-factorization. Subscript m represents sampling points while n refers to source points.

A key advantage in using the MoM formulation is that discretisation is limited to the radiating or scattering structure only, since it is a *source* method. In contrast, field methods require that free space be discretised as well. The MoM implementation in the FEKO software suite includes extensions that enable the modelling of dielectrics. Of special interest here is the Sommerfeld formulation and reflection coefficient approximation for simulating of “real ground”.

¹Small-scale fading effects are neglected here

²Not to be confused with permittivity, ϵ

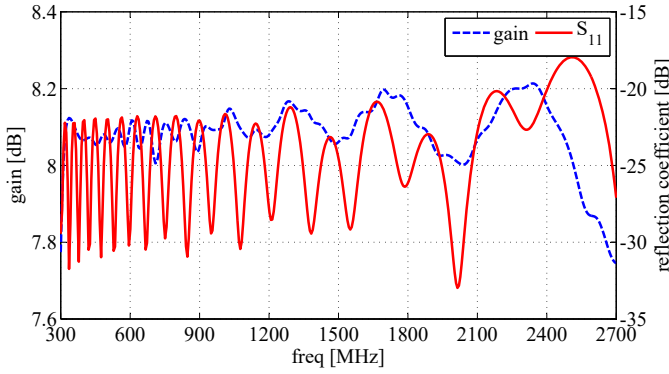


Fig. 1. Characteristic gain (dBi) and reflection coefficient (S_{11} , dB) of the LPDA used for the FWPM simulations

B. Antenna Characteristics

The quality of radiation source data is a vital part of the FWPM. The initial intention had been to generate the data using half-wave dipoles but mismatch effects were too significant over the designed frequency range. In keeping with a relatively simple design, log-periodic dipole array (LPDA) antennas were realized in Antenna Magus and subsequently exported to FEKO. An arithmetic bandwidth of 160 was achieved with 27 elements parametrized by a spacing factor of 0.131. Load and input impedances were 292.19Ω and 200Ω , respectively. Simulation runs in the ‘low frequency’ (100 - 900 MHz) range utilized an LPDA design with a centre frequency of 500 MHz while the ‘high frequency’ setup (900 - 2700 MHz) used a centre of frequency of 1500 MHz. The gain and reflection coefficient of the ‘high frequency’ antenna are shown in Fig 1.

C. Influence of the Ground

Radio wave transmission that takes place in the vicinity of the earth is called ground wave propagation. Three waves are to be considered in general: surface, direct and ground-reflected waves. In many scenarios the contribution of the surface wave is negligible so that the received wave is predominantly the sum of the direct and ground-reflected waves, collectively called the space wave. In view of reflections, the electrical characteristics of the ground must be taken into account.

1) *Complex Permittivity*: Given a dielectric medium of permittivity ϵ and effective conductivity σ , the Maxwell-Ampere equation can be written as [11]

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{H} = j\omega\epsilon\mathbf{E} + \sigma\mathbf{E} = j\omega \left[\epsilon - j\frac{\sigma}{\omega} \right] \mathbf{E} = j\omega\dot{\epsilon}\mathbf{E}, \quad (12)$$

where $\dot{\epsilon}$ is the complex permittivity³ that typifies the behaviour of a partially conducting dielectric. The relative complex permittivity can then be defined as

$$\dot{\epsilon}_r = \frac{\dot{\epsilon}}{\epsilon_0} = \epsilon_r - j\frac{\sigma}{\omega\epsilon_0} = \epsilon_r - jx. \quad (13)$$

³Strictly speaking complex permittivity is presented as $\dot{\epsilon} = \epsilon' - j\epsilon''$ [12]. However, in practice the macroscopic effect of the alternating field conductivity, $\omega\epsilon''$, is indistinguishable from the effect of σ .

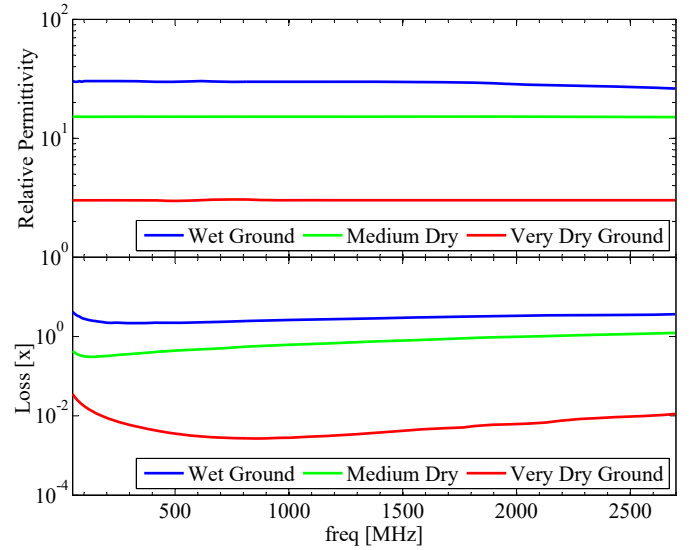


Fig. 2. Relative permittivity and the loss term x

Electrical characteristics of a given ground are summarized by $\dot{\epsilon}_r$. Relative permittivity and the loss term x are shown in Fig 2 for three types of ground as provided in [13].

2) *Plane Earth Reflection*: A simplified but practical approach to model ground wave propagation is [14], [15]

$$\frac{E}{E_0} = 1 + Re^{-j\Delta\phi} + (1 - R)Fe^{-\Delta\phi}, \quad (14)$$

where E and E_0 represent the received and free space electric fields, respectively. The term R represents the Fresnel reflection coefficients for vertical or horizontal polarization as shown in equations (16) and (17); F is the attenuation factor (equation (19)) that heavily influences the surface wave; the angle

$$\Delta\phi = \frac{\omega}{c} (R_2 - R_1) \quad (15)$$

accounts for the phase difference between the direct and reflected waves where

$$R_1 = d_m \sqrt{\left(\frac{h_t - h_r}{d_m} \right)^2 + 1}$$

and the reflected

$$R_2 = d_m \sqrt{\left(\frac{h_t + h_r}{d_m} \right)^2 + 1},$$

with d_m as the T-R length in metres as before.

Reflection at the interface of two media is a well known and widely discussed phenomenon. For dielectrics, the reflection coefficient will be a function of the ratio of the permittivity of the two media, polarization and angle of incidence. It can be shown that setting the relative complex permittivity of the earth to $\dot{\epsilon}_r$ yields [11], [12]

$$R_v = \frac{\dot{\epsilon}_r \sin \psi - \sqrt{\dot{\epsilon}_r - \cos^2 \psi}}{\dot{\epsilon}_r \sin \psi + \sqrt{\dot{\epsilon}_r - \cos^2 \psi}}, \quad (16)$$

$$R_h = \frac{\sin \psi - \sqrt{\dot{\epsilon}_r - \cos^2 \psi}}{\sin \psi + \sqrt{\dot{\epsilon}_r - \cos^2 \psi}}, \quad (17)$$

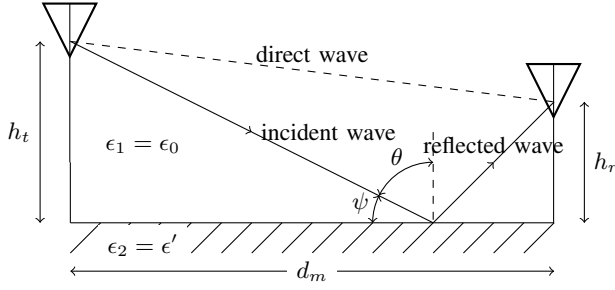


Fig. 3. Geometry of ground-reflected waves

as the the reflection coefficients for vertical (parallel) and horizontal (perpendicular) polarizations with

$$\psi = \arctan\left(\frac{h_t + h_r}{d_m}\right) \quad (18)$$

as the angle of incidence (Fig 3). If the surface wave is required, the attenuation function is given by

$$F = \{1 - j\sqrt{\pi\nu}e^{-\nu} [\operatorname{erfc}(j\sqrt{\nu})]\}, \quad (19)$$

where erfc is the complementary error function. For vertical polarization, the term ν is given by

$$\nu_v = \frac{-j\omega d_m}{2\dot{\epsilon}_r c} \left(1 - \frac{\cos^2 \psi}{\dot{\epsilon}_r}\right) \left[1 + \frac{\dot{\epsilon}_r \sin \psi}{\sqrt{\dot{\epsilon}_r - \cos^2 \psi}}\right]^2, \quad (20)$$

while for horizontal polarization it is

$$\nu_h = \frac{-j\omega d_m}{2c/\dot{\epsilon}_r} \left(1 - \frac{\cos^2 \psi}{\dot{\epsilon}_r}\right) \left[1 + \frac{\dot{\epsilon}_r^{-\frac{1}{2}} \sin \psi}{\sqrt{\dot{\epsilon}_r - \cos^2 \psi}}\right]^2. \quad (21)$$

The FWPM results presented here make use of the reflection coefficient approximation which does not compute the surface wave. However, at the expense of shorter simulation runtime the model can be set to utilize the full Sommerfeld formulation which will incorporate the contribution of the surface wave to the received field.

D. Simulation Setup and Validation

Simulated path loss was computed via S-Parameters as

$$PL_s = 10 \log \left| \frac{1}{S_{21}'} \right|^2 + 2G, \quad (22)$$

where $|S_{21}'|^2 \equiv$ power received/power radiated is the transmission coefficient corrected for mismatch and G is the gain of transmitter and receiver in dBi. To ensure that the FEKO model was correctly configured, a comparison was made to theory (equation (4)). As can be seen from the sample result in Fig 4, the simulated prediction is in good agreement with the theoretical formulation of the Friis transmission equation. This is quite a remarkable result that highlights the power of a full-wave simulation.

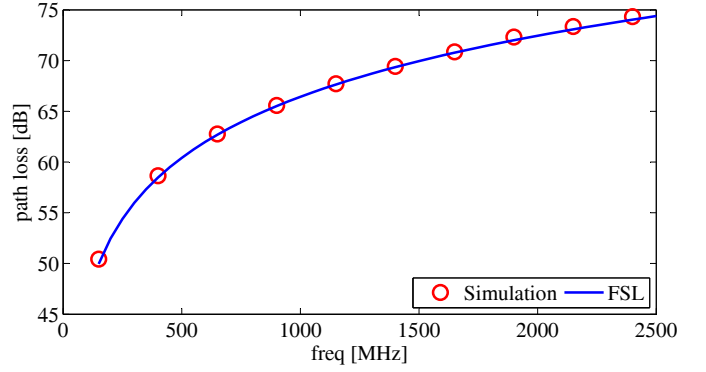


Fig. 4. Free space path loss predictions at a T-R distance of 50 m

TABLE I
EQUIPMENT USED FOR VERIFICATION MEASUREMENTS

AnaPico APSIN6010 DC Generator	
output power (used)	-20 dBm
frequency range	0.009 – 6100 MHz
PCB-LPDA (transmitter and receiver)	
average gain	5 dBi
frequency range	400 – 6000 MHz
FSH4 Handheld Spectrum Analyser (SA)	
sensitivity	-141 dBm
frequency range	0.009 – 3600 MHz

IV. COMPARISON OF FWPM PREDICTIONS TO MEASURED DATA

A. Measurements in a Controlled Environment

Path loss results can change quite dramatically when transmission takes place in the vicinity of the ground such as when transceiver heights are low. In a ‘simple’ scenario involving a flat ground, the key issue for the FWPM is with regard to the value of $\dot{\epsilon}_r$ in modelling the electrical characteristics of the earth. Actual conditions of the soil will seldom be known and some intuitive guesses may be required.

Predictions from three types of simulated ‘ground’ were compared to measured data that was obtained at a field akin to an open area test site. A summary of the equipment used is presented in Table I.

A PCB-LPDA was connected to the Anapico DC signal generator to form the transmitting unit while the receiver unit comprised a similar PCB-LPDA and the FSH4 handheld spectrum analyser. With the transmitting antenna fixed at a height of 5 m and the receiving antenna at 2 m, the maximum received power was recorded at five distances between 20 and 200 m. This was done with Some results are shown in Fig 5. Statistical analysis of the predictions is shown in Table II. Although all three FWPM simulations yield very good predictions, based on the root mean square errors the best approximation to the measurement scenario is the medium dry ground setup. More significantly, it can be seen that the

TABLE II
MEAN PREDICTION ERROR AND RMSE ANALYSIS FOR THE FWPM VALIDATION

d_m	Mean Prediction Error, $\bar{\epsilon}$ [dB]				Maximum Residual, ϵ_{\max} [dB]				Standard Dev, $\sigma_{\bar{\epsilon}}$ [dB]				RMSE [dB]			
[m]	dry	med	wet	FSL	dry	med	wet	FSL	dry	med	wet	FSL	dry	med	wet	FSL
20	1.96	2.36	2.65	8.41	8.44	7.42	8.34	13.87	2.85	2.19	2.22	2.33	3.46	3.22	3.45	8.73
50	2.50	2.92	3.25	8.35	16.05	14.76	14.06	19.70	3.92	3.71	3.92	4.44	4.65	4.71	5.09	9.45
100	2.54	2.69	2.82	6.86	13.40	12.67	12.23	18.13	5.54	4.58	4.08	3.73	6.09	5.31	4.96	7.81
150	0.91	1.21	1.42	5.74	16.33	16.18	16.17	23.21	4.30	3.84	3.71	5.03	4.39	4.02	3.96	7.63
200	2.01	1.98	1.97	4.54	8.00	8.02	8.04	11.21	1.87	1.97	2.06	2.97	2.75	2.78	2.85	5.43
mean	1.99	2.23	2.42	6.78	12.44	11.81	11.77	17.22	3.70	3.26	3.20	3.70	4.27	4.01	4.06	7.81

question of path loss below 1 km is not trivially equivalent to free space loss as often presumed. There is a significant deviation which can be costly where accuracy is required.

B. Case Study: Field Measurements in the Karoo

The Karoo is a semi-desert region in South Africa's Northern Cape Province and is home to MeerKAT – a Square Kilometre Array Telescope precursor. Propagation modelling has a vital role to play in the furtherance of good EMC and spectrum management practices wherein predictions form part of the basis on which RFI threshold levels are determined. The need for accuracy cannot therefore be overstated.

Recently, a comparative study used data obtained at the MeerKAT site to examine the efficacy of ITU-R P.1546 and ITM models for path loss predictions at shorter path lengths and lower transceiver heights than originally intended [16]. While acceptable error margins were reported, it is desirable to achieve higher accuracy and synthesize a site-specific model to aid electromagnetic characterisation of the MeerKAT environment.

Karoo data analysed here is the same dataset as in [16]. Equipment used during the measurement campaign included a CPS1 pulse generator, LPDA (R&S HL033) and a horn antenna (EM-7020) at the transmitting end. On the receiving end, two LPDA's (R&S HL023 and a custom-built PCB-LPDA) were deployed in conjunction with a real-time analyser (RTA). Use of the pulser and RTA made broadband time-domain recordings possible, speeding up the survey time significantly. Measurements were recorded for vertical polarization transmissions at five T-R separation distances between 50 and 3600 m for transmitter heights of 5 and 7.5 m. With free space loss as a reference, measured and predicted path loss curves are shown Figs 6 and 7 while the statistical analysis on the FWPM predictions is shown in Table III.

Electrical parameters corresponding to wet ground were found to provide the best fit to Karoo data. Assuming that the predominant source of attenuation is ground loss, this would suggest that the relative permittivity of Karoo soil is on the order of 32. This value stands in stark contrast to attempts that have been made at extracting the complex permittivity of Karoo soil such as in [17] where a value of 3.8 (typical for dry ground) is reported for the S and X bands. However, this is presently not problematic since this work does not attempt to determine the value of ϵ_r but focuses on accounting

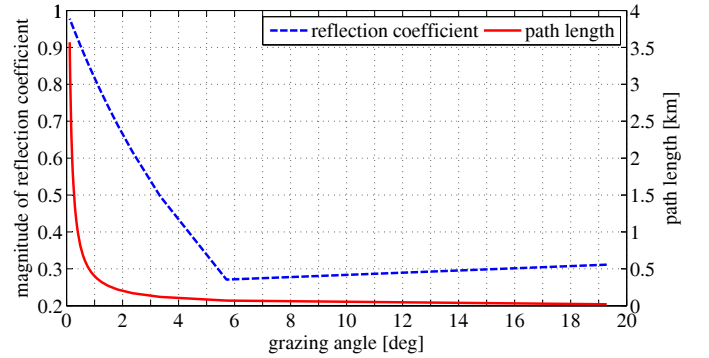


Fig. 8. Fresnel reflection coefficient and the variation of grazing angle with distance

for its effects with respect to obtaining the best predictions. Moreover, this discrepancy might be due to differences in moisture content at the time of the respective measurements. Determining the exact values of complex permittivity is desirable but highly challenging particularly since properties such as compactness and moisture content of the soil change as soon as it has been removed from its locale. Hence, for propagation modelling, finding the best fit using existing data may be the most practical approach.

It is interesting to note that the although implemented assuming a flat earth, the FWPM predictions follow the measured data quite well even above 1 km. On the other hand, free space loss yields poor predictions across the band. We reiterate that the value of path loss at short distances (< 1 km) cannot be presumed to be free space loss especially when transceiver heights are low.

Fig 8 shows the magnitude of the Fresnel reflection coefficient as a function of grazing angle ψ (dotted line) as well as the dependence of ψ on distance (solid line). It is apparent in Fig 8 that when $d_m > 500$ m the grazing decreases asymptotically towards zero. These small grazing angles yield a reflection coefficient of -1 as predicted by equation (16), indicating a phase shift of 180° which is typically associated with overlap and cancellation of the direct and reflected waves. It is plausible that the relative 'flattening' of the path loss curves at 700, 1800 and 3600 m is due to this effect which is most pronounced at the higher frequencies.

In Table III, mean 1 is the average value corresponding to path lengths below 1 km while mean 2 is the average across all

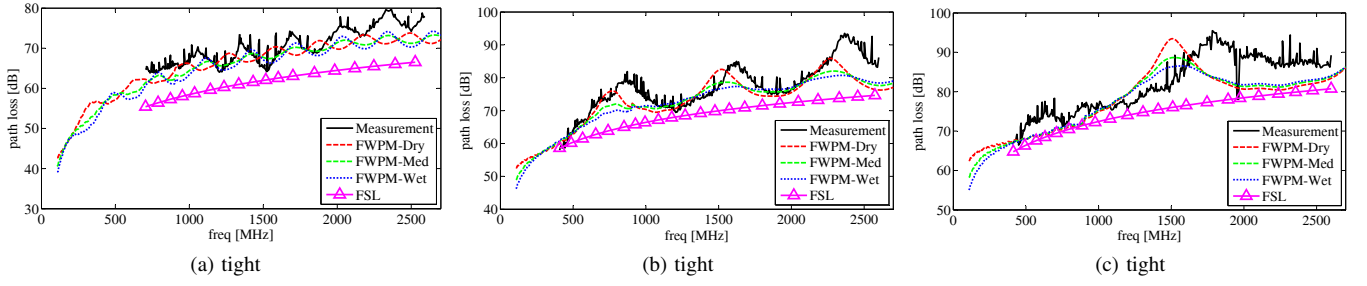


Fig. 5. Open area measurements and predicted path loss at T-R separations of (a) 20 m, (b) 50 m and (c) 100 m. In all cases $h_t = 5$ m and $h_r = 2$ m

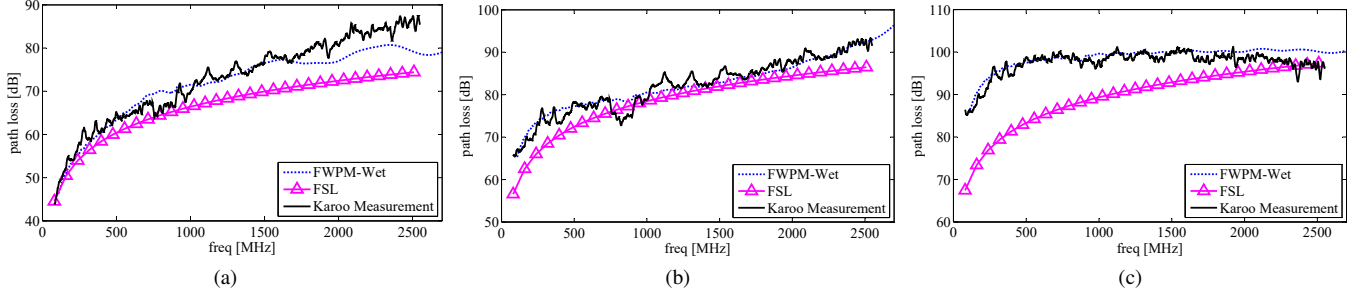


Fig. 6. Measured and predicted path loss in the Karoo: $h_t = 5$ m, $h_r = 2$ m at T-R separations of (a) 50 m, (b) 200 m and (c) 700 m

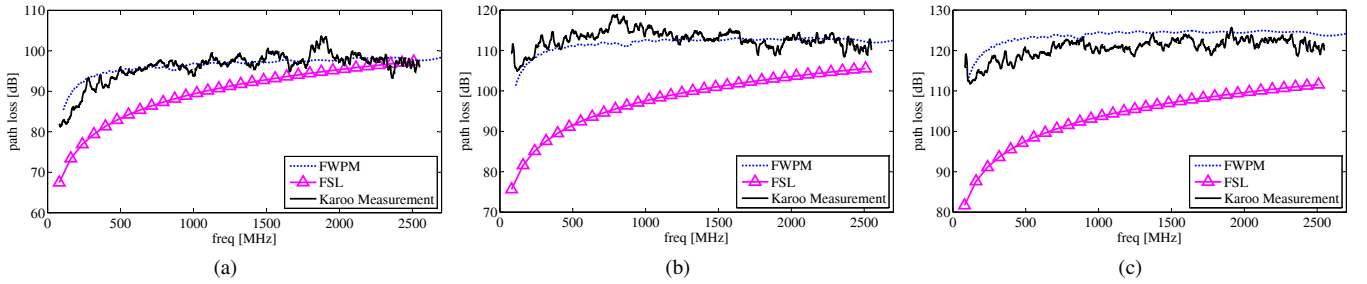


Fig. 7. Measured and predicted path loss in the Karoo: $h_t = 7.5$ m, $h_r = 2$ m at T-R separations of (a) 700 m, (b) 1800 m and (c) 3600 m

TABLE III
STATISTICAL ANALYSIS ON FWPM AND FSL FOR PATH LOSS PREDICTIONS IN THE KAROO

Case I: $h_t = 5$ m, $h_r = 2$ m										
d_m	Prediction Error, $\bar{\varepsilon}$		RMSE [dB]		Relative Error		Accuracy		Corr Coefficient, ρ	
[m]	FWPM	FSL	FWPM	FSL	FWPM	FSL	FWPM	FSL	FWPM	FSL
50	1.31	6.13	3.33	6.97	0.034	0.080	96.60	92.01	0.956	0.979
200	-0.05	3.18	2.11	3.88	0.018	0.043	98.19	95.75	0.951	0.944
700	-1.30	7.73	2.25	9.25	0.016	0.081	98.38	91.86	0.783	0.702
1800	-1.01	15.68	2.68	17.12	0.020	0.138	98.04	86.22	0.338	0.029
3600	-4.67	17.91	5.05	18.88	0.039	0.147	96.06	85.28	0.616	0.512
mean 1	-0.02	5.68	2.56	6.70	0.023	0.068	97.72	93.21	0.896	0.875
mean 2	-1.15	10.13	3.08	11.22	0.025	0.098	97.45	90.23	0.729	0.633
Case II: $h_t = 7.5$ m, $h_r = 2$ m										
50	1.89	7.40	5.06	8.94	0.056	0.094	94.43	90.55	0.966	0.977
200	-0.20	5.35	4.40	7.89	0.036	0.059	96.43	94.10	0.929	0.892
700	-0.41	6.21	2.53	7.34	0.017	0.067	98.28	93.28	0.802	0.857
1800	0.96	14.82	2.38	16.20	0.016	0.131	98.39	86.87	0.487	0.238
3600	-3.12	16.56	3.47	17.26	0.026	0.138	97.38	86.21	0.792	0.819
mean 1	0.43	6.32	3.99	8.06	0.036	0.074	96.38	92.64	0.899	0.909
mean 2	-0.18	10.07	3.57	11.53	0.030	0.098	96.98	90.20	0.795	0.757

path lengths. Predictions of the free space loss (FSL) model are acceptable in respect of the 10 – 15 dB RMSE allowance for rural areas. Under a kilometre, 6.70 and 8.06 dB were obtained for the two respective cases, while 11.22 and 11.53 dB were obtained overall. However, if the individual path is considered, FSL predictions fall outside the acceptable margin above 1 km

V. CONCLUSION

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P. Gideon Wiid Biography text here.



Temwani J. Phiri Biography text here.