Radio-wave propagation basics

Ryszard Struzak

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Purpose

• The purpose of the lecture is to refresh radio wave propagation physics (basics) needed to understand the operation of wireless local area networks
Important notes

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• Beware of misprints!!! These materials are preliminary notes for my lectures and may contain misprints. If you notice some, or if you have comments, please send these to r.struzak@ieee.org.
Topics for discussion

• Why consider propagation?
• What is Free-space, Fresnel zone, etc.?
• What are long-term and short term modes?
• What are reflections effects?
• What is DTM and how to produce it?
• …
Lightning

- Natural phenomenon known from the beginning of human existence
- Effects:
  - Lightning flash, Acoustic pulse, Heat stroke, EM pulse,
  - Can destroy electronic and electric networks, trees, buildings, etc.
- Continuing studies:
  - Artificially provoked lightning's to facilitate observations/measurements


http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lightning
Basic concepts
Classical physics

~100 years from Coulomb to Maxwell
~100 years from Maxwell to IEEE 802.11

Coulomb (1736-1806)
Galvani (1737-1798)
Volta (1745-1827)
Ampere (1775-1836),
Faraday (1791-1867)
Henry (1791-1878),

Maxwell (1831-1879)
Heaviside (1850-1925)
Tesla (1853-1943)
Hertz (1857-1894)
Popov (1859-1906)
Marconi (1874-1937)
What is EM field?

• A spatial distribution of stress - forces acting on an electric charge
  – A pair of vectors E and H
    – (Magnitude, Direction, Orientation)
  – Varying in time and space
• Six numbers at every point:
  – \( E_x(x,y,z,t), E_y(x,y,z,t), E_z(x,y,z,t) \)
  – \( H_x(x,y,z,t), H_y(x,y,z,t), H_z(x,y,z,t) \)
EM interactions

• EM fields interact with the matter
  – Electric component (E) interacts with electric charges, fixed and moving
  – Magnetic component (H) interacts only with moving electric charges

• Electricity and magnetism were considered as separate (and mysterious) phenomena (until Maxwell)
Classic theory

- EM wave is associated with accelerating/decelerating charges
  - When an electric charge accelerates or decelerates, EM wave is produced
  - When EM wave acts on an electric charge, it accelerates or decelerates

- Maxwell equations (+ Hertz, + Heaviside)
  - [http://www.amanogawa.com/archive/wavespdf.html](http://www.amanogawa.com/archive/wavespdf.html)
Quiz: How strong?
Quiz: How strong?

• Imagine 2 persons at 1 m distance.
  – Their bodies consist of balanced set of electrons & protons, but - by some magic - we decrease the number of protons by 1% in each
  – Now they have more electrons than protons -- they repulse each other
  – How strong is the repulsive force?
    • Could it be strong enough to move a hair? Or stronger?
• The force would be strong enough to lift the whole Earth!

– As calculated by Richard Feynman
Quiz: How far?
Quiz: How far?

• At which distances the EM forces act?
  – At meter distances? Or thousand kilometers?
• Classic electromagnetic theory does not impose any distance limits
  » In vacuum or in uniform dielectric lossless material
• Classic electromagnetic theory does not impose any distance limits
  » In vacuum or in uniform dielectric lossless material

• EM energy is radiated into space where it travels to infinity.
  » During the travel, the EM energy can transform into another form
• Classic electromagnetic theory does not impose any distance limits
  » In vacuum or in uniform dielectric lossless material

• EM energy is radiated into space where it travels to infinity.
  » During the travel, the EM energy can transforms into another form

• Evidence:
  – We see light (i.e. visible EM waves) from stars and galaxies
  – EM forces generated there move electrons on the Earth!
Quiz: How long?
Quiz: How long?

• How long the EM forces can last?
  • Seconds? Hours? Years?
Quiz: How long?

• How long the EM forces can last?
  • Seconds? Hours? Years?
• Classic EM theory does not impose any time limits
  • for EM waves in vacuum or in unlimited dielectric
• Arno Penzias & Robert Wilson, of Bell Telephone Labs, observed in 1965 the residual cosmic (galactic) radio noise
  » (i.e. chaotic EM forces moving electrons in their antenna)
• They showed that the noise has been generated in a specific moment billions years ago!
• It was a strong experimental argument in support the Big-Bang theory of the Origin of the Universe. They have got the 1978 Nobel Prize
  » Electric charges that caused them ceased to exist in the meantime (like lasting lightning effects)
A consequence:

- The EM field in any point around us is a result of vector combination of uncountable components coming from the Universe
  - Generated by natural processes and by man-made devices during the past time elapsed from the big-bang up to present moment
- Such is the environment in which we live and in which modern wireless communication systems have to operate
Simplest waves
TEM - simplest EM wave

Linearly-polarized plane wave traveling in vacuum with the speed of light:

\[(x, t) = A \sin[\omega(t - x/c) + \varphi]; \quad \omega = 2\pi F; \quad c \approx 3 \times 10^8 \text{m/s}\]

Power vs. field-strength

• $[E] = \text{V/m}$
• $[H] = \text{A/m}$
• TEM plane wave in vacuum:
  – $E \perp H \perp$ direction of wave propagation
  – $E/H = 120\pi \ (\sim 377) \ \text{ohm} - \text{wave impedance}$
  – PDF (Power-flux-density) –
    • $P_1 = ExH \ W/\text{m}^2$
      $= E^2 / 120\pi \ W/\text{m}^2$
Energy spreading

- Sometimes one ignores vectorial character of EM waves, considering PDF (energy treated as scalar)
- Spherical spreading:
  - PDF = EIRP/(4\(\pi\)d²) decreases with distance squared (in vacuum)
- Planar spreading (2-D duct):
  - PDF = EIRP/(a²\(\pi\)d) decreases with distance (vacuum)
- No spreading (1-D duct or waveguide):
  - PDF = EIRP/(b²) does not depend on distance (vacuum)

- PDF: power-flux density, W/m²
- EIRP: equivalent isotropically radiated power, W
- a: duct equivalent size, m
- b: duct equivalent cross-section, m²
- d: distance from the radiation source (transmitter), m

Frequency

- A linear radio frequency scale of 1Hz = 1/3 mm ($10^9$ m) would extend beyond the Moon ($3.8 \times 10^8$ m)
- Almost all RF spectrum is regulated and allocated to various services

\[ f = \frac{c}{\lambda} \]

\[ c \approx 3 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s} \]
Prefixes

Prefixes and their corresponding numerical multipliers:

- $10^{18}$: E (exa)
- $10^{15}$: P (peta)
- $10^{12}$: T (tera)
- $10^{9}$: G (giga)
- $10^{6}$: M (mega)
- $10^{3}$: k (kilo)
- $10^{2}$: h (hecto)
- $10^{1}$: da (deca)

- $10^{-1}$: d (deci)
- $10^{-2}$: c (centi)
- $10^{-3}$: m (milli)
- $10^{-6}$: µ (micro)
- $10^{-9}$: n (nano)
- $10^{-12}$: p (pico)
- $10^{-15}$: f (femto)
- $10^{-18}$: a (atto)

Numerical multiplier prefix

$10^0 = 1$
Latency & frequency shift

- Consequences of limited velocity of radio wave:
  - Received wave is delayed due to the travel time
  - Received wave-frequency is shifted due to Doppler effect (if transmitter or receiver move)

Doppler Shift: $\Delta f/f = v/c$

Latency: $\Delta t = c.d$
Quiz

• What is latency of signals
  – From International Space Station (360 km)? [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Space_Station](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Space_Station)
  – From Voyager 1 cosmic sonde (14.2 billion km) [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Voyager_1#Distance_travelled](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Voyager_1#Distance_travelled)
Doppler effect

= the apparent change in frequency of a wave that is perceived by an observer moving relative to the source of the wave


Quiz

• What is Doppler shift of 3 GHz signal received at a fixed station
  – From a car (100 km/h)?
  – From jet aircraft (1000 km/h)?
  – From Voyager-1 cosmic vehicle (17.2 km per second)?

  • Case of communication sonde - satellite on the Mars
Phase representation

Time-wise representation
\[ u = \frac{t}{T} \]
\[ \theta = \frac{2\pi t}{T} \]
\[ \theta = 2\pi u \]

Distance-wise representation
\[ u = \frac{r}{\lambda} \]
\[ \theta = \frac{2\pi r}{\lambda} \]

Angle-wise representation
\[ u = \begin{cases} \frac{\phi}{360^\circ} & \text{if } \phi \leq 360^\circ \\ \frac{\phi}{2\pi} & \text{if } \phi > 360^\circ \end{cases} \]
\[ \theta = \phi \]

\[
\begin{array}{cccccc}
0 & T/4 & T/2 & 3T/4 & T \\
0 & \lambda/4 & \lambda/2 & 3\lambda/4 & \lambda \\
0 & \pi/2 & \pi & 3\pi/2 & 2\pi \\
\end{array}
\]

\[ (T: \text{period} \quad \lambda: \text{wavelength} \quad f: \text{frequency}) \]
Sum of two linearly-polarized waves

Polarization

Linear

Circular

Elliptical

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polarization

Property of R. Struzak
Polarization ellipse

- The superposition of two plane-wave components results in an elliptically polarized wave.
- The polarization ellipse defined by:
  - axial ratio $N/M$ (ellipticity),
  - tilt angle $\psi$ and
  - sense of rotation.
– Interactive applets on wave propagation physics

• [http://www.amanogawa.com/archive/wavesA.html](http://www.amanogawa.com/archive/wavesA.html)
• [http://www.falstad.com/mathphysics.html](http://www.falstad.com/mathphysics.html)
Comments on Polarization

• At any moment in a chosen reference point in space, there is actually a single electric vector $E$ (and associated magnetic vector $H$).
• This is the result of superposition (addition) of the instantaneous vectors $E$ (and $H$) produced by all radiation sources
• The separation of fields by their wavelength, polarization, or direction is the result of ‘filtration’
Radio link
Radio transmission

RF LINES & AUXILIARY EQUIPMENT

Transmitter

Wave radiated

EM wave propagation path

Receiver

Wave received

RF LINES & AUXILIARY EQUIPMENT

Input signal

Signal radiated

Transmitter

EM wave propagation channel

Signal transformations due to natural phenomena; attenuation, external noise/signals, fading, reflection, refraction, etc.

Receiver

Output signal

Information destination

Information source

(Transmitting station)

Transmitter signal processing

(Receiving station)

Receiver signal processing

Property of R. Struzak
Radio Link Signal Mapping
Radio Link Signal Mapping

Original message/ data
Radio Link Signal Mapping

Original message/data

Transmitter

Man-made
Processing
Radio Link Signal Mapping

Original message/ data

Transmitter

T-antenna

Man-made Processing
Radio Link Signal Mapping

Original message/data

Transmitter

T-antenna

Propagation medium

Man-made Processing
Radio Link Signal Mapping

Original message/ data

Transmitter

T-antenna

Propagation medium

R-antenna

Man-made Processing
Radio Link Signal Mapping

Original message/data

Transmitter -> T-antenna

Propagation medium

R-antenna -> Receiver

Man-made Processing
Radio Link Signal Mapping

Original message/data

Transmitter

T-antenna

Propagation medium

R-antenna

Receiver

Reconstructed message/data

Man-made Processing

Property of R. Struzak
Radio Link Signal Mapping

Original message/data

Transmitter

T-antenna

Propagation medium

R-antenna

Receiver

Reconstructed message/data

Man-made Processing

Noise

Property of R. Struzak
Radio Link Signal Mapping

Original message/data

Transmitter

T-antenna

Propagation medium

R-antenna

Receiver

Reconstructed message/data

Man-made Processing

Natural EM wave Propagation Process

Property of R. Struzak
Why consider propagation?
Why consider propagation?

1. Could my system operate correctly (wanted signal)?
   - Required signal intensity/ quality of service over required distance/ area/ volume, given the geographic/ climatic region and time period
Why consider propagation?

1. Could my system operate correctly (wanted signal)?
   - Required signal intensity/ quality of service over required distance/ area/ volume, given the geographic/ climatic region and time period

2. Could my system coexist with other systems (unwanted signals)?
   - Degradation of service quality and/ or service range/ area due to potential radio interference?
     - Will my system suffer unacceptable interference?
     - Will it produce such interference to other systems?
Principal propagation effects
Principal propagation effects

1. Basic energy spreading
Principal propagation effects

1. Basic energy spreading
2. Effects of obstructions (indoor, outdoor)
Principal propagation effects

1. Basic energy spreading
2. Effects of obstructions (indoor, outdoor)
3. Effects of the ground
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2. Effects of obstructions (indoor, outdoor)
3. Effects of the ground
4. Tropospheric effects (outdoor)
   - clear air
   - non-clear air
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5. Ionospheric effects (outdoor)
Principal propagation effects

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Principal propagation effects

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5. Ionospheric effects (outdoor)

Generally, dependence on
- Wavelength (frequency) & polarization
- Environment/ climate/ weather
- Time
What is propagation model?

• Relation between the signal radiated and signal received as a function of distance and other variables

• Different models
  – Various dominating propagation mechanisms
    • different environments (indoor-outdoor; land-sea-space; … )
    • different applications (point-to-point, point-to-area, …)
    • different frequency ranges
    • …

• Some models include random variability
Indoor propagation

- Reflected
- Diffracted
- Direct-attenuated
- Scattered
Outdoor propagation: long-term modes

- Tropospheric scatter
- Diffraction
- Reflection
- Line-of-sight

ITU
Outdoor propagation: short-term modes

Anomalous (short-term) interference propagation mechanisms

- Hydrometeor scatter
- Elevated layer reflection/refraction
- Ducting
- Line-of-sight with multipath enhancements
Ionospheric “reflections”

- The ionosphere is transparent for microwaves but reflects HF waves
- There are various ionospheric layers (D, E, F1, F2, etc.) at various heights (50 – 300 km)
- Over-horizon communication range: several thousand km
- Suffers from fading

Ionospheric reflectivity depends on time, frequency of incident wave, electron density, solar activity, etc. Difficult to predict with precision.
Basic mechanisms
# Radio Wave Components

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct wave</td>
<td>Free-space/ LOS propagation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attenuated wave</td>
<td>Through walls etc. in buildings, atmospheric attenuation (&gt;~10 GHz)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflected wave</td>
<td>Reflection from a wall, passive antenna, ground, ionosphere (&lt;~100MHz), etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refracted wave</td>
<td>Standard, Sub-, and Super-refraction, ducting, ionized layer refraction (&lt;~100MHz)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diffracted wave</td>
<td>Ground-, mountain-, spherical earth- diffraction (&lt;~5GHz)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface wave</td>
<td>(&lt;~30 MHz)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scatter wave</td>
<td>Troposscatter wave, precipitation-scatter wave, ionized-layer scatter wave</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reflection

• = the abrupt change in direction of a wave front at an interface between two dissimilar media so that the wave front returns into the medium from which it originated.

• Reflecting object is large compared to the wavelength.
Scattering

- a phenomenon in which the direction (or polarization) of the wave is changed when the wave encounters propagation medium discontinuities smaller than the wavelength (e.g. foliage, …)

- Results in a disordered or random change in the energy distribution
Diffraction

• the mechanism the waves spread as they pass barriers in obstructed radio path (through openings or around barriers)
• important when evaluating potential interference between stations sharing the same frequency (e.g. terrestrial/earth)
Absorption

• = the conversion of the transmitted EM energy into another form, usually thermal.
  – as a result of interaction between the incident energy and the material medium, at the molecular or atomic level.
  – One cause of signal attenuation due to walls, precipitations (rain, snow, sand) and atmospheric gases
Refraction

- redirection of a wavefront passing through a medium having a refractive index that is a continuous function of position (e.g., a graded-index optical fibre, or earth atmosphere) or through a boundary between two dissimilar media
  - For two media of different refractive indices, the angle of refraction is approximated by Snell's Law known from optics
Super-refraction and ducting

Important when evaluating potential interference between stations sharing the same frequency (e.g. terrestrial/earth):

- coupling losses into duct/layer
  - geometry
- nature of path (sea/land)
- propagation loss associated with duct/layer
  - frequency
  - refractivity gradient
  - nature of path (sea, land, coastal)
  - terrain roughness

Standard atmosphere: -40 N units/km (median), temperate climates
Super-refractive atmosphere: < -40 N units/km, warm maritime regions
Ducting: ≤ -157 N units/km (fata morgana, mirage)
Simplest models
The simplest model: Free-space

\[ P_R = P_T \times G_{TR} \times G_{RT} \times \left( \frac{\lambda}{4\pi d_{TR}} \right)^2 \]

\[ P_{RdB} = P_{TdB} + G_{TRdB} + G_{RTdB} + 10 \log_{10} \left( \frac{\lambda}{4\pi d_{TR}} \right)^2 \]

- \( P_T \) = transmitted power [W]
- \( d \) = distance between antennas Tx and Rx [m]
- \( P_R \) = received power [W]
- \( G_T \) = transmitting antenna power gain
- \( G_R \) = receiving antenna power gain
- \( \frac{P_R}{P_T} \) = free-space propagation (transmission) loss (gain)

**Notes:**
1. Propagation of a plane EM wave in a homogeneous ideal absorption-less medium (vacuum) unlimited in all directions.
2. Doubling the distance results in four-times less power received; the frequency-dependence is involved (antenna gains vary with frequency)
3. Matched polarizations
4. Specific directions
• Power flow from T to R concentrates in the 1\textsuperscript{st} Fresnel zone.

• LOS model approximates the free-space model if:
  – 1\textsuperscript{st} Fresnel zone unobstructed
  – no reflections, absorption & other propagation effects
Fresnel Zone

- Fresnel zones are loci of points of constant path-length difference of $\lambda/2$ ($180^0$ phase difference).
  - The $n$-th zone is the region enclosed between the 2 ellipsoids giving path-length differences $n(\lambda/2)$ and $(n-1)(\lambda/2)$.

\[ r_1 = \sqrt{\frac{\lambda d_1 d_2}{d}} \leq \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\lambda d} \]

- $r_1$: radius of the 1st Fresnel zone, m
- $d = d_1 + d_2$: distance T-R, m
- $\lambda$: wavelength, m
- $d_1, d_2$: distance to R and to T, m

**Example:** max. radius of the 1st Fresnel zone at 3 GHz ($\lambda = 0.1$m) with T – R distance of 4 km:
\[ = (1/2)sqrt(0.1*4000) = 10m \]

Property of R. Struzak
Okumura-Hata model

Microwave transmission gain up to the radio horizon:

\[ G_{avrg} = Kd^{-n} \]

\( K, n \) – constants
Typically: \( 3 \leq n \leq 5 \)
\( n = 2 \): free space
\( n = 4 \): two-ray model

The best results – when the constants are determined

Long-term average

Signal strength (log)

Distance (log)

Free space

Open area (LOS)

Urban

Suburban
• MAPL = Max. Allowable Path Loss
  \[ \text{MAPL}_{\text{dB}} = P_{\text{Tmax}(\text{dB})} - P_{\text{Rmin}(\text{dB})} \]

• Max range:

\[
P_R \cong P_T G_T G_R \left( \frac{\lambda}{4\pi d} \right)^n
\]

\[
(d)^n \cong \frac{P_T}{P_R} G_T G_R \left( \frac{\lambda}{4\pi} \right)^n
\]

Property of R. Struzak
# MAPL & max range

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>n</th>
<th>$P_{TdBm}$</th>
<th>$P_{RdBm}$</th>
<th>MAPL dB</th>
<th>2.4 GHz range m</th>
<th>5 GHz range m</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-80</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>+20</td>
<td>-80</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-80</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>+20</td>
<td>-80</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Power budget example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameters</th>
<th>To access point</th>
<th>Peer to peer at different data rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11 Mbps</td>
<td>5.5 Mbps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency (GHz)</td>
<td>2.45</td>
<td>2.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transmit power (W)</td>
<td>0.020</td>
<td>0.020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transmit power (dBW)</td>
<td>16.9</td>
<td>16.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transmit antenna gain (dBi)</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polarization loss (dB)</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EIRP (dBW)</td>
<td>21.9</td>
<td>21.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Range (m)</td>
<td>25.1</td>
<td>37.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Path loss exponent (dB)</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free-space path loss (dB)</td>
<td>84.7</td>
<td>90.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rec. antenna gain (dBi)</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cable loss (dB)</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rake equalizer gain (dB)</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diversity gain (dB)</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receiver noise figure (dB)</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>13.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data rate (Kbps)</td>
<td>11000</td>
<td>5500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required Eb/No (dB)</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rayleigh fading (dB)</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receiver sensitivity (dBm)</td>
<td>80.1</td>
<td>86.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signal-to-noise ratio (dB)</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Link margin (dB)</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Non-LOS propagation

• when the 1\textsuperscript{st} Fresnel zone is obstructed and/or the signal reached the receiver due to reflection, refraction, diffraction, scattering, etc.

– An obstruction may lie to the side, above, or below the path.

» Examples: buildings, trees, bridges, cliffs, etc.

» Obstructions that do not enter in the 1\textsuperscript{st} Fresnel zone can be ignored. Often one ignores obstructions up to \(\frac{1}{2}\) of the zone
Quiz

- A radio link shown in the figure was designed with positive link budget. After deployment, no signal was received.
- Why?
Reflection
Reflection: what it does?

• Changes the direction, magnitude, phase and polarization of the incident wave
  – Depending on the reflection coefficient, wave polarization, and shape of the interface

• Reflection may be specular (*i.e.*, mirror-like) or diffuse (*i.e.*, not retaining the image, only the energy) according to the nature of the interface.

  • **Demonstration (laser pointer)**
• Boundary conditions
  – Tangential components of E (and H) at both sides of the border are equal to each other
  – With ideal conductor, tangential component of E is zero at the border
Reflection coefficient

- The ratio of the complex amplitudes of the reflected wave and the incident wave

\[ R_{HP} = \frac{\sin\psi - \sqrt{\varepsilon_c - \cos^2\psi}}{\sin\psi + \sqrt{\varepsilon_c - \cos^2\psi}} \]

\[ R_{VP} = \frac{\varepsilon_c \sin\psi - \sqrt{\varepsilon_c - \cos^2\psi}}{\varepsilon_c \sin\psi + \sqrt{\varepsilon_c - \cos^2\psi}} \]

\[ \varepsilon_c = \varepsilon_r - j600\sigma\lambda \] (complex dielectric const.)

\[ \psi : \text{grazing angle (complementary angle of incidence)} \]

\[ \varepsilon_r : \text{dielectric const. of reflection surface} \]

\[ \sigma : \text{conductivity of reflection surface, 1/ohm.m} \]

\[ \lambda : \text{wavelength, m} \]
Metallic plane reflection

Forward reflection

Backward reflection

Note: RHC (Right-handed circular) LHC (Left-handed circular)
RHE (Right-handed elliptical) LHE (Left-handed elliptical)

\( \Psi \): Grazing angle
\( \Psi_B \): Brewster angle

Ordinary earth
The received direct and reflected waves differ due to:
- Path-lengths difference
- Transmitting antenna (phase characteristics)
- Receiving antenna (phase characteristics)
- The antenna directive radiation pattern may have different magnitudes and phases for the direct ray and for the reflected ray
2 Rays: Path-length Difference

Direct ray: \( d_d = \sqrt{D^2 + (h_1 - h_2)^2} = D\sqrt{1+\left(\frac{h_1-h_2}{D}\right)^2} \approx D\left[1 + \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{h_1-h_2}{D}\right)^2\right] \)

Reflected ray: \( d_r = \sqrt{D^2 + (h_1 + h_2)^2} = D\sqrt{1+\left(\frac{h_1+h_2}{D}\right)^2} \approx D\left[1 + \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{h_1+h_2}{D}\right)^2\right] \)

\[ \sqrt{1+x} = 1 + \frac{1}{2}x - \frac{1}{2}\cdot\frac{1}{4}x^2 + \frac{1}{2}\cdot\frac{1}{4}\cdot\frac{1}{6}x^3 - \ldots \approx 1 + \frac{1}{2}x, \text{ if } x = 1 \]

\[ \Delta = d_r - d_d \approx \frac{(h_1 + h_2)^2}{2D} - \frac{(h_1 - h_2)^2}{2D} = \frac{h_1^2 + 2h_2h_1 + h_2^2 - h_1^2 + 2h_2h_1 - h_2^2}{2D} = \frac{2h_1h_2}{D} \]
Quiz

- At what distance difference the phase of the direct ray differ from that of the reflected ray by 180 deg at
  - 3 MHz?
  - 300 MHz?
  - 3 GHz?
2 rays: resultant field strength

Plane TEM wave: \( PFD = \frac{P_T}{(4\pi D^2)} \)

\[ E_0 = \sqrt{120\pi PFD} = \sqrt{\frac{30P_T}{D}} \]

\( PFD \): free-space power flux density, W/m\(^2\)

\( P_T \): power radiated (isotropic antenna), W

\( D \): distance between antennas, m

\( E_0 \): free space field strength (isotropic antenna), V/m

Note: With real antennas, use e.i.r.p. instead of P

\[ |E| = \sqrt{E_{\text{direct}}^2 + E_{\text{refl}}^2 - 2E_{\text{direct}}E_{\text{refl}} \cos(\delta + \phi_R - \pi)} = E_{\text{direct}} \sqrt{1 + R^2 - 2R \cos(\delta + \phi_R - \pi)} \]

\[ R = \frac{E_{\text{refl}}}{E_{\text{direct}}} e^{-j\phi_R}; \quad \delta = 2\pi \Delta/\lambda \quad (= \text{lagging angle due to path-length difference}) \]

\( \Delta = \text{length difference} = (\text{reflected path}) - (\text{direct path}) \)

\( \delta \rightarrow 4\pi h_1 h_2/\lambda D, \text{ if } D/(h_1 + h_2) \rightarrow \infty \)
2-ray model: max signal

\[ E = E_{\text{direct}} \sqrt{1 + R^2 - 2R \cos(\delta + \phi_R - \pi)} \]

\[ \text{max if } \cos(\delta + \phi_R - \pi) = -1 \]

\[ E_{\text{max}} = E_{\text{direct}} \sqrt{1 + R^2 + 2R} = E_{\text{direct}} (1 + R) \]

\[ \cos(.) = -1 \text{ if } (\delta + \phi_R - \pi) = \pi, 3\pi, ..., (2k + 1)\pi \]

\[ \delta = 2k\pi - \phi_R \]

Substituting for \( \delta \), we have

\[ \frac{4\pi h_1 h_2}{\lambda D} \approx 2k\pi - \phi_R \]

If \( \phi_R = 0 \), then \( \frac{2h_1 h_2}{\lambda D} \approx k \)
2-ray model: min signal

\[ \min \quad \text{if} \quad \cos(\delta + \phi_R - \pi) = 1 \]

\[ E_{\text{min}} = E_{\text{direct}} \sqrt{1 + R^2 - 2R} = E_{\text{direct}} (1 - R) \]

\[ (\delta + \phi_R - \pi) = 0, 2\pi, \ldots, 2k\pi \]

\[ \delta = (2k + 1)\pi - \phi_R \]

substituting for \( \delta \), we have

\[ \frac{4\pi h_1 h_2}{\lambda D} \approx (2k + 1)\pi - \phi_R \]

if \( \phi_R = 0 \), then \( \frac{4h_1 h_2}{\lambda D} \approx (2k + 1) \)
2 rays: \( R \approx -1 \)

\[
\frac{E}{E_{\text{direct}}} = \sqrt{2(1 - \cos \delta)} = 2 \sin \frac{\delta}{2}
\]

\[
\frac{E}{E_{\text{direct}}} = 2 \sin \frac{2\pi h_1 h_2}{\lambda D}
\]

\[
\sin x = x - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} - \ldots
\]

\[
\frac{E}{E_{\text{direct}}} \approx \frac{4\pi h_1 h_2}{\lambda D} \quad \text{if} \quad \frac{2\pi h_1 h_2}{\lambda D} = 1
\]
Distance Dependence

Doubled power received!

Level relative to Free-space, dB

Log. distance

$\log_{10}(\text{distance})$

$\text{Level relative to Free-space, dB} = \text{Slope: } -20\text{dB/dec} (-40 \text{ dB/dec abs})$

$0 \text{ dB relative to free-space}$

$6 \text{ dB}$

Property of R. Struzak
Simulated Experiments

• Distance dependence
• Height dependence
• Frequency dependence
Example 1: distance

Variable:
\( d = 500-1000 \text{m} \)
Step = 10m

Fixed parameters:
\( F = 2.4 \text{ GHz} \)
\( H1 = 11 \text{m} \)
\( H2 = 10 \text{m} \)
\( |R| = 1 \)
\( \text{Arg}(R) = 180^\circ \)
Example 2: height

Variable:
\[ H2 = 2 - 3m \]
Step = 1 cm

Fixed parameters:
\[ F = 2.4GHz \]
\[ H1 = 1m \]
\[ D = 3m \]
\[ |R| = 1 \]
\[ \text{Arg}(R) = 180^0 \]
Example 3: frequency

Variable:
\[ F = 2.4 - 2.6 \text{ GHz Step = 2 MHz} \]

Fixed parameters:
- \( H_1 = 14 \text{ m} \)
- \( H_2 = 12 \text{ m} \)
- \( D = 104 \text{ m} \)
- \(|R| = 1\)
- \(\text{Arg}(R) = 180^0\)
Quiz

- What precision of antenna location ($\Delta D$, $\Delta h$) is required to assure $|E/E_{\text{direct}}| < 3$ dB (assuming 2-rays propagation model) at frequency
  - 30 MHz?
  - 300 MHz?
  - 3 GHz?
Field-strength measurements

- The field strength strongly depends on local environment.
- Measurement results depend on the antenna location/ orientation, local cables, etc.
- Measurement uncertainty can be reduced by statistical evaluation of many measurements at slightly changed antenna positions.
Avoiding negative reflection effects

- Controlling the directive antenna gain at the transmitter and/or receiver

- Blocking the reflected ray at the transmitter-reflector path and/or reflector – receiver path

- Combine constructively the signals using correlation-type receiver
  - Antenna diversity (~10 dB)
  - Dual antennas placed at $\lambda/2$ separation
Absorbing reflections

- Absorbing the reflected wave
- Covering reflecting objects by absorbing material (Black-body in optics)

Source: Rohde & Schwarz
Passive relaying
Multipath
Multipath propagation

Indoor

Outdoor: reflection (R), diffraction (D), scattering (S)
• The effects of multipath include constructive and destructive interference, and phase shifting of the signal. This causes Rayleigh fading, with standard statistical distribution known as the Rayleigh distribution.

• Rayleigh fading with a strong line of sight content is said to have a Rician distribution, or to be Rician fading.

Time – Frequency Characteristics

• Radio channel can be treated as a linear two-terminal-pair transmission channel (input port: transmitting antenna; output port: receiving antenna).

\[ Y(\omega) = X(\omega)H(\omega) \]

\[ y(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x(t)h(t-\tau) \, d\tau = x(t) \otimes h(t) \]

\[ H(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} h(t)e^{-j\omega t} \, dt \] (frequency transfer function of the channel)

\[ h(t) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} H(\omega)e^{j\omega t} \, d\omega \] (impulse response of the channel)

\[ \omega = 2\pi f \]

\[ x(t), X(\omega) : \text{input signal time and spectral representation} \]

\[ y(t), Y(\omega) : \text{output signal time and spectral representation} \]
Direct RF Pulse Sounding

Pulse Generator

Key

Detector

BPF

Digital Storage Oscilloscope

Direct ray

Reflected ray
Frequency Domain Sounding

\[ X(\omega) \]

\[ Y(\omega) \]

**Vector Network Analyzer & Swept Frequency Oscillator**

**S-Parameter Test Set**

\[ S_{21}(\omega) \approx H(\omega) = \frac{[X(\omega)]}{[X(\omega)]} \]

**Inverse DFT Processor**

\[ h(t) = \text{Inverse Fourier Transform of } H(\omega) \]

\[ h(t) \]
Time Response, 2 Rays

\[ \Delta \tau = c(d_{\text{reflect}} - d_{\text{direct}}) \]

Transmitted signal

Received signal

\[ x(t) \quad a_1 \quad y(t) \quad + \quad a_2 \quad \Delta \tau \]

Light velocity

Path-length difference

Property of R. Struzak
Power Delay Profile

- If an impulse is sent from transmitter in a multiple-reflection environment, the received signal will consist of a number of impulse responses whose delays and amplitudes depend on the reflecting environment of the radio link. The time span they occupy is known as delay spread.

- The dispersion of the channel is normally characterized using the RMS Delay Spread, or standard deviation of the power delay profile.

\[
\tau_{\text{aver}} = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^{N} \tau_k \alpha_k^2}{\sum_{k=1}^{N} \alpha_k^2}
\]

\[
\tau_{\text{rms}} = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{k=1}^{N} (\tau_k - \tau_{\text{aver}})^2 \alpha_k^2}{\sum_{k=1}^{N} \alpha_k^2}}
\]
**Inter-symbol Interference**

- The delay spread limits the maximum data rate: no new impulse should reach the receiver before the last replica of the previous impulse has perished.

- Otherwise the symbol spreads into its adjacent symbol slot, the two symbols mix, the receiver decision-logic circuitry cannot decide which of the symbols has arrived, and inter-symbol interference occurs.
Error Bursts

• When the delay spread becomes a substantial fraction of the bit period, error bursts may happen.

• These error bursts are known as irreducible since it is not possible to reduce their value by increasing the transmitter power.
Error Reduction

- Elimination of reflections as discussed earlier, plus
- Applying error-resistant modulations, codes, and communication protocols
- Applying Automatic Repeat Request (ARQ)
  - Retransmission protocol for blocks in error
## Microcell vs. Macrocell

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Microcell</th>
<th>Macrocell</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cell radius</td>
<td>0.1-1 km</td>
<td>1-20 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tx power</td>
<td>0.1-1 W</td>
<td>1-10 W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fading</td>
<td>Ricean</td>
<td>Rayleigh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RMS delay spread</td>
<td>10-100 ns</td>
<td>0.1-10 us</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bit Rate</td>
<td>1 Mbps</td>
<td>0.3 Mbps</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After R.H.Katz CS294-7/1996
Propagation effects
Troposphere

- = the lower layer of atmosphere (between the earth surface and the stratosphere) in which the change of temperature with height is relatively large. It is the region where convection is active and clouds form.
- Contains ~80% of the total air mass. Its thickness varies with season and latitude. It is usually 16 km to 18 km thick over tropical regions, and less than 10 km thick over the poles.
Troposphere effects (clear air)
Troposphere effects (clear air)

- absorption by atmospheric gases
  - molecular absorption by water vapor and $\text{O}_2$
  - important bands at ~22 and ~60 GHz
Troposphere effects (clear air)

- absorption by atmospheric gases
  - molecular absorption by water vapor and $O_2$
  - important bands at ~22 and ~60 GHz

- refractive effects
  - ray bending
  - super-refraction and ducting
  - multipath

  » scintillation: a small random fluctuation of the received field strength about its mean value. Scintillation effects become more significant as the frequency of the propagating wave increases.
LOS – Radio Horizon

• **Earth curvature**

• Radio waves go behind the geometrical horizon due to refraction: the air refractivity changes with height, water vapor contents, etc.

• In standard conditions the radio wave travels approximately along an arc bent slightly downward.

• K-factor is a scaling factor of the ray path curvature. $K=1$ means a straight line. For the standard atmosphere $K=4/3$. An equivalent Earth radius $KR_{\text{earth}}$ ‘makes’ the path straight.

• Departure from the standard conditions may led to subrefraction, superrefraction or duct phenomena.

Strong dependence on meteorological phenomena.
Atmospheric Absorption

- Important at frequencies >10 GHz
- The atmosphere introduces attenuation due to interaction of radio wave at molecular/atomic level
  - Exploited in Earth-exploration passive applications
  - New wideband short-distance systems
Ground and obstacles
Ground and obstacles

• terrain (smooth Earth, hills and mountains)
  – diffraction, reflection and scattering
Ground and obstacles

• terrain (smooth Earth, hills and mountains)
  – diffraction, reflection and scattering
• buildings (outside and inside)
  – diffraction, reflection and scattering
Ground and obstacles

- **terrain** (smooth Earth, hills and mountains)
  - diffraction, reflection and scattering
- **buildings** (outside and inside)
  - diffraction, reflection and scattering
- **vegetation**
  - attenuation
  - scattering
Obstacles & diffraction

Obstacles such as a mountain range or edge of a building are often modeled as *knife-edge* obstacle.
Huygens principle

• Dutch physicist and astronomer Christiaan Huygens (1629 - 1695) offered an explanation of wave propagation near obstacles (diffraction) in the far field.
  • Each point of an advancing wave front acts as a source of secondary spherical waves. The advancing wave as a whole is the sum of all the secondary waves arising from points in the medium already traversed. When the wave front approaches an opening or barrier, only the wavelets approaching the unobstructed section can get past. They emit new wavelets in all directions, creating a new wave front, which creates new wavelets and new wave front, etc. - the process self-perpetuates.
  • Example: two rooms are connected by an open doorway and a sound is produced in a remote corner of one of them; in the other room the sound seems to originate at the doorway.
Effects of Buildings - inside
Effects of Buildings - inside

- Important for the planning of indoor LAN’s and wireless private business exchanges for high data rate services
  - Reflection, multipath and diffraction from objects
    - delay spread 70 - 150 ns (~2 GHz; residential – commercial; compare with symbol length)
    - statistical or site-specific propagation models
  - Path loss through walls and floors
    - frequency re-use?
  - Channeling of energy along the building structures
Effects of Buildings - outside
Effects of Buildings - outside

- Important in the planning of short-range mobile and personal communication systems, LAN’s and Wireless Local Loop systems
  - Wall/ roof attenuation if antennas located in the building
  - Line-of-sight path outside
    - Attenuation (free-space, atmospheric gases, rain, etc.)
  - Non line-of-sight path
    - reflection, diffraction and scatter
      - building height, density, street width, orientation
      - crossing streets, corner angle (street canyon)
    - Multipath delay spread e.g. 0.8 - 3 μs (urban - suburban)
Troposphere effects (non-clear air)
Troposphere effects (non-clear air)

• rain effects
  – attenuation
  – depolarization
  – scattering
Troposphere effects (non-clear air)

• rain effects
  – attenuation
  – depolarization
  – scattering

• cloud effects
  – attenuation
Troposphere effects (non-clear air)

• rain effects
  – attenuation
  – depolarization
  – scattering

• cloud effects
  – attenuation

• system availability considerations
  99.9 % availability (rain at 0.1 % time)
  90 % availability (cloud at 10 % time)
Effects of vegetation shadowing

Pine tree

Attenuation up to 20 dB

Depends on the species of tree, density and structure of foliage, movement of branches and foliage, etc.

Important for the planning of microwave propagation path over wooded areas

Palm tree

ITU
Fading

• Case of more than one propagation path (mode) exists between T and R
• Fading = the result of variation (with time) of the amplitude or relative phase, or both, of one or more of the frequency components of the signal.
• Cause: changes in the characteristics of the propagation path with time.
• Variations

Shadowing: log-normal distribution

\[ p(G_s) = \frac{1}{\sigma_s \sqrt{2\pi}} \exp \left[ -\frac{(G_s - G_{avrg})^2}{2\sigma_s^2} \right] \]

\( p(G_s) \): probability density function
\( \sigma_s \): standard deviation (8 – 12 dB)

Multipath fading: Rayleigh, Rice, and/or Nagakami-Rice distributions
Digital terrain model
SISP

- SISP – Site Specific propagation models based on an analysis of all possible rays between the transmitter and receiver to account for reflection, diffraction & scattering

- Requires exact data on the environment
  - Indoor: detailed 3D data on building, room, equipment
  - Outdoor: 3D data on irregular terrain infrastructure, streets, buildings, etc. (Fresnel-Kirchhoff or Deygout theoretical constructions)
  - Large databases
    - Satellite/ aerial photographs or radar images,
Signal coverage map

- Example of computer-generated signal-level distribution superimposed on a terrain map
  - Light-blue = strong signal
DTM

- Application of detailed propagation prediction models requires topographical information: Digital Terrain Model (DTM) or Digital Terrain Elevation Data (DTED)
DTM data base

- transmitters
- reference points
- borders, roads, rivers, etc.
- localities - population
- terrain irregularities
- terrain coverage - land use data
- terrain elevation data
- common co-ordinate system
• Production of 2-D profile from 3-D DTM
• Direct geodetic terrain measurements
• Scanning/ digitizing paper maps/ plans
• Scanning/ digitizing aerial photographs
• Scanning/ digitizing satellite photographs
• Direct stereoscopic satellite/ aerial radar/ lidar/ infrared measurements
DTM production

- Irregularly-distributed data (triangulation)
- Regularly-distributed data \((x_i, y_i)\)
• DTM (height) produced from a ‘paper map’ as set of interpolated numerical values at intersections of grid lines
Digital terrain elevation maps

Most of DTM & DTED were created from paper maps.

Recently, they were also produced from radar data collected from satellite.

Best resolution: 1 arc-sec (~30 m)

30 times as precise as the best global maps in use today. First such maps were planned for 2004.

Source: NASA (http://www2.jpl.nasa.gov/srtm/)

Property of R. Struzak
Radar Topography

Radar interferometry compares two radar images taken at slightly different locations.

Combining the two images produces a single 3-D image.

Shuttle Radar Topographic Mission (SRTM) used single-pass interferometry: the two images were acquired at the same time -- one from the radar antennas in the shuttle's payload bay, the other from the radar antennas at the end of a 60-meter mast extending from the shuttle.

Source: NASA
Shuttle Radar Topography Mission 2000

- Collected: 9 terabytes of raw data (~15,000 CDs)
- More than 80 hours data recording

- Orbiter: Shuttle Endeavour (7.5km/sec)
- Nominal altitude: 233 km (with orbital adjustment once per day)
- Inclination: 57 degrees
- 6-member crew
  - to activate payload, deploy and stow mast, align inboard and outboard structures, monitor payload flight systems, operate on-board computers & recorders, & handle contingencies

Source: NASA

Property of R. Struzak 122
Google Earth

• Download: http://earth.google.com/download-earth.html
Summary
What we have learned

• Radio propagation conditions decide on the system performance
• The best transmitter, receiver, antennas, cables, etc. may not work as expected if the relevant propagation effects are ignored or incorrectly taken into consideration
• The propagation mechanisms of the wanted signal and unwanted signals must be carefully analyzed
Selected references

• Some software available at ICTP:
  – MLINK
  – RadioMobile
  – ITS Irregular Terrain Model
  – SEAMCAT

• International recommendations
  – ITU-R recommendations series SG3
  – Major propagation models & related computer programs: see ITU (www.itu.int) and ERO documents (e.g. www.ero.dk/seamcat - free!)

• Books:
  – Shigekazu Shibuya: A basic atlas of radio-wave propagation; Wiley
  – Freeman RL: Radio System Design for Telecommunications, Wiley
  – Coreira LM: Wireless Flexible Personalised Communications, Wiley

» Acknowledgment: Some of the material is based on Dr. Kevin Hughes' presentations at previous ICTP Schools
Any question?

Thank you for your attention