

ANTENNAS AND PROPAGATION

Modeling, Simulation & Measurements

Edited by

MD. RAFIQUUL ISLAM B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D., MIEEE
International Islamic University Malaysia

JALEL CHEBIL B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D., MIEEE
International Islamic University Malaysia



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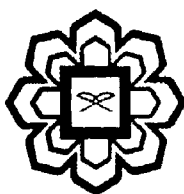
INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

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Chapter 35

Analyses of Rain Fade Characteristics for a 38 GHz Link in the Tropics

Ahmad Fadzil Ismail and Khairayu Badron*

35.1 Introduction

Most of the attenuation studies on Earth-satellite paths have been conducted in the temperate region of the world. It has been documented in the literatures that the cumulative distributions of path attenuation due to rain do vary greatly from region to region [1, 2]. It is worthwhile noting that rain induced attenuation is strongly dependent on the operating frequency. Attenuation due to rain at 4 GHz is minimal even for very heavy rainfall but at 38 GHz it can be significant. Experimental findings obtained by the use of ITALSAT satellite signals at 18.7, 39.6 and 49.5 GHz confirm that fade levels are much dependent on frequencies [3].

The increasing use of satellites for telecommunications and terrestrial point-to-point communications have necessitated more than before the need for detailed attenuation research in the tropics. Data such as these without a doubt can be used in determining the likely user acceptance of the new High Definition Digital to Home (HDDTH) and the miniature Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSAT) services. For instance, by simply developing an appreciation for the variations in service quality over monthly and seasonal periods may allow the service provider to modify the dimensioning of the link with the month and/or season. This might be particularly valuable if the service provider is offering service to more than one country, or over a very large continent. Varying the distribution of transmitted power in the spacecraft antenna to take account of seasonal variability would confer substantial competitive lead to the service providers.

35.2 Probability of Exceeding Specific Attenuation

The depths of selected fades over a twenty-month measurement campaign [4] are presented in detail to highlight the severity of rain-induced attenuation encountered in tropical region. Investigation findings are presented in the form of probability of exceeding a specific threshold of attenuation level statistics. The outcomes that are presented through this type of statistics were derived from the previously presented cumulative distributions of rain attenuation [5]. These new results format are more suitable for the presentation of seasonal and diurnal effects than the typical cumulative distributions because comparisons between specific attenuation levels at a specific time interval are easier to observe. The respective probability was denoted in the process of revealing and determining the monthly or seasonal and detailed diurnal variations.

* *Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Kulliyah of Engineering
International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM)*