

DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW RAIN ATTENUATION MODEL FOR
THE DEPLOYMENT OF HIGH ALTITUDE PLATFORM STATIONS

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AUTHOR DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the work in this thesis is my own except for some equations which have been duly acknowledged. I declare that it has not been previously submitted to any academic institutions.

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ABSTRAK

Pelemahan hujan adalah sumber utama penyusutan isyarat HAPS, terutamanya bagi sistem yang beroperasi pada frekuensi melebihi 10 GHz. Pelemahan hujan boleh memberi kesan yang besar ke atas ketersediaan perkhidmatan sistem komunikasi radio yang beroperasi di Ka-band; 10 kali lebih besar daripada di C-band.

Model ITU-R pelemahan hujan menggunakan andaian bahawa hujan menembusi sepenuhnya laluan condong. Hakikatnya, laluan isyarat tidak sepenuhnya merentasi hujan, kerana jarak laluan berkesan bergantung kepada saiz sel hujan. Sebuah model yang boleh meramalkan pelemahan hujan bumi-angkasa apabila laluan isyarat sama ada sepenuhnya atau sebahagiannya dipengaruhi oleh hujan dibangunkan.

Bagi mewujudkan infrastruktur lengkap sistem komunikasi tanpa wayar, satelit boleh disepadukan dengan HAPS untuk menyediakan keupayaan yang tinggi untuk perkhidmatan. Oleh itu, model baru telah dibangunkan untuk meramalkan pelemahan hujan untuk sumber-sumber yang tidak bergerak seperti satelit Orbit Bumi Sederhana (MEO) dan Orbit Rendah Bumi (LEO). Kaedah baru untuk meramalkan pelemahan hujan untuk sumber-sumber bukan pegun juga dicadangkan. Kaedah ini menggunakan teorem 'konvolusi' untuk mengintegrasikan pelemahan hujan keseluruhan isyarat yang menembusi ke dalam hujan.

Berdasarkan 13 tahun data statistik hujan dengan masa integrasi selama 1 minit, penilaian terhadap ramalan pelemahan hujan telah dijalankan bagi rantau Semenanjung Malaysia bertujuan mengenal pasti lokasi terbaik untuk segmen stratosfera HAPS. Kajian ini dilaksanakan terhadap 10 stesen bumi yang menerima keamatan hujan tertinggi. Lokasi terbaik untuk bahagian utara dan platform selatan didapati berada di 4.11° N, 102.88° E, dan 2.23° N, 102.02° E masing-masing, di mana kedudukan terbaik segmen stratosfera telah dikaji dengan menggunakan matriks 10×10 .

ABSTRACT

Rain attenuation is the primary source of High Altitude Platform Station's (HAPS) signal degradation, especially for the systems operating at frequencies above 10 GHz. Rain attenuation can have a significant impact on the service availability of radio communication systems that operate in the Ka-band where the rain attenuation is 10 times larger than at C-band.

ITU-R rain attenuation model assumes that the entire slant path is completely penetrated by rain, while in reality the signal path does not completely traverse the rain, because the length of the effective path depends on the rain cell size. A model that can predict the earth-space rain attenuation when the signal path is either completely or partially affected by the rain is developed.

To implement a complete infrastructure for wireless communications, a satellite can be integrated with HAPS to provide a high capability for the services. Therefore, a new model has been presented to predict the rain attenuation for non-stationary satellites such as the Medium Earth Orbit (MEO) and Low Earth Orbit (LEO). For verification, a new method to predict the rain attenuation for non-stationary sources is proposed. The method uses the convolution theorem to integrate the rain attenuation overall the signal which penetrated into the rain.

Based on thirteen years statistical rainfall data with an integration time of one min, an evaluation of predicting the rain attenuation has been conducted for the peninsular Malaysian region to identify the best location for placing the HAPS stratospheric segment. The study was done based on ten ground stations that suffer the highest rainfall intensities on the ground. The best locations for the northern and the southern platform were found to be at Sungai Lembing (4.11° N, 102.88° E), and Tanjung Kling (2.23° N, 102.02° E) respectively, where the best position of the stratospheric segment was investigated using a matrix of 10*10.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT	4
1.3 THESIS OBJECTIVES	5
1.4 SCOPE OF THE THESIS	6
1.5 THESIS STRUCTURE	6
CHAPTER II: LITERATURE REVIEW	8
2.1 INTRODUCTION	8
2.2 RAIN ATTENUATION STUDIES	9
2.3 RAIN ATTENUATION MODELING	12
2.4 TYPES OF RAIN	13
2.5 ITU-R GLOBAL RAINFALL RATE	14
2.6 RELATION BETWEEN RAIN AND ATTENUATION	14
2.7 RAIN SCATTERING AND ABSORPTION	15
2.8 HAPS ADVANTAGES	16
2.9 APPLICATIONS AND SERVICES	17
2.9.1 NARROWBAND SERVICES	17
2.9.2 BROADBAND SERVICES	18
2.10 HAPS COVERAGE FACTORS	18
2.11 HAPS ARCHITECTURE	19
2.11.1 STRATOSPHERIC SEGMENT	19
2.11.1.1 PLATFORMS	20
2.11.1.2 TELECOMMUNICATIONS PAYLOAD	21
2.11.1.3 TELEMETRY	21
2.11.1.4 COMMAND	22
2.11.1.5 TRACKING	22
2.11.2 GROUND SEGMENT	23
2.12 MALAYSIAN ACTIVITIES ON HAPS	24
2.13 HAPS NETWORK	25
2.13.1 STANDALONE PLATFORM LINKS	25

2.13.2	PLATFORMS CONNECTED VIA GROUND STATIONS	26
2.13.3	HAPS INTERCONNECTION VIA IPLS	27
2.14	HAPS-SATELLITE INTEGRATION	28
2.15	SATELLITE SYSTEMS	30
2.15.1	LOW EARTH ORBIT SATELLITE SYSTEMS	30
2.15.2	MEDIUM EARTH ORBIT SATELLITE SYSTEMS	31
2.15.3	GEOSTATIONARY SATELLITE SYSTEMS	31
2.16	RAIN ATTENUATION	32
2.16.1	RAIN RATE	32
2.17	RAIN ATTENUATION MODELS	33
2.17.1	SPECIFIC ATTENUATION	35
2.17.2	ITU-R RAIN ATTENUATION MODEL	37
2.17.3	RAIN MICROSTRUCTURE	46
2.17.3.1	RAINDROP SIZE DISTRIBUTION	46
2.17.3.2	MARSHALL-PALMER DSD	47
2.17.3.3	RAIN CROSS SECTION	48
2.18	SUMMARY	50
CHAPTER III: METHODOLOGY		52
3.1	INTRODUCTION	53
3.2	COVERAGE OVER PENINSULAR MALAYSIA	56
3.3	LOCATION OF HAPS GROUND SEGMENTS	57
3.4	HAPS AREAS COVERAGE	59
3.5	MODIFIED ITU-R RAIN ATTENUATION MODEL FOR STATIONARY SATELLITES	60
3.6	NEW RAIN ATTENUATION MODEL FOR NON-STATIONARY SATELLITES	66
3.7	RAIN ATTENUATION PREDICTION USING CONVOLUTION METHOD	70
3.8	EFFECTIVE RAIN CELL SIZE	71
3.9	FADE MITIGATION TECHNIQUES	73
3.9.1	SITE DIVERSITY GAIN	73
3.9.2	VARIABLE EQUIVALENT ISOTROPIC RADIATED POWER	76
3.10	DEPENDENCE OF ELEVATION ANGLE	77
3.11	HAPS LINK BUDGET	78
3.11.1	FREE-SPACE PROPAGATION AND PATH LOSS THEORY	80
3.11.2	FADE MARGIN	82

3.12	<u>SOFTWARE TOOLS</u>	82
3.13	<u>SUMMARY</u>	83
CHAPTER IV: RESULTS AND ANALYSIS		85
4.1	<u>INTRODUCTION</u>	85
4.2	<u>COMPARISON BETWEEN MODIFIED HAPS-GEO MODEL AND ITU-R MODEL</u>	85
4.3	<u>DROP SIZE DISTRIBUTION</u>	90
4.4	<u>SPECIFIC ATTENUATION</u>	92
4.5	<u>RAIN HEIGHT DEPENDENCE</u>	93
4.6	<u>RAIN ATTENUATION PREDICTION RESULTS</u>	95
4.7	<u>FREE SPACE LOSS</u>	97
4.8	<u>LINK BUDGET</u>	100
4.9	<u>HAPS DOWN-LINK SIGNAL</u>	103
4.11	<u>RAIN ATTENUATION PREDICTION MODEL FOR NON-STATIONARY SATELLITES</u>	108
4.12	<u>RAIN ATTENUATION PREDICTION USING CONVOLUTION METHOD</u>	112
4.13	<u>THE EFFECTIVE RAIN CELL SIZE</u>	113
4.14	<u>SITE DIVERSITY</u>	115
4.15	<u>RAIN ATTENUATION TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS OF MALAYSIAN PENINSULAR</u>	117
4.16	<u>IDENTIFICATION OF THE BEST HAPS LOCATION</u>	119
4.17	<u>SUMMARY</u>	124
CHAPTER V: CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK		II
5.1	<u>CONCLUSION</u>	II
5.2	<u>FUTURE WORKS</u>	V

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1: Communication services provided by HAPS Technology	2
Figure 2.1: HAPS System	9
Figure 2.2: Rainfall global climatic zones	14
Figure 2.3: Raindrop scattering principle	15
Figure 2.4: Specific attenuation of water vapor and oxygen for different frequencies	16
Figure 2.5: Coverage area radius in systems based on HAPS	19
Figure 2.6: Subsystems of the HAPS stratospheric segment	20
Figure 2.7: HAPS ground segment subsystem	23
Figure 2.8: Stand-alone HAPS network	26
Figure 2.9: HAPS interconnected using ground stations	27
Figure 2.10: Interconnection of HAPS via IPLs	28
Figure 2.11: HAPS network integrated to satellite	29
Figure 2.11: Orbits of Satellite Systems	30
Figure 2.13: Behavior of raindrop velocity based on drop radius	33
Figure 2.14: Relationship between specific attenuation and rainfall rate for different frequencies	37
Figure 2.15: Slant-path geometry for ITU-R model	39
Figure 2.16-A: Flowchart design for ITU-R model	43
Figure 2.16-B: Flowchart design for ITU-R model	44
Figure 2.16-C: Flowchart design for ITU-R model	45
Figure 2.17: Relation Between DSD and Raindrop Radius for Different Rainfall Rates	48
Figure 3.1: Methodology Flow Chart	52
Figure 3.2: HAPS areas coverage	59
Figure 3.3: Prediction scenario for HAPS and stationary satellites	61
Figure 3.4: Flowchart Design for The Modified Model	65
Figure 3.5: Prediction scenario for non-geostationary sources	66
Figure 3.6: Time series of non-geostationary satellite signal penetrated in rain	72

Figure 3.7: Site diversity scenario	74
Figure 3.8: Antenna elevation angle	78
Figure 4.1: Relationship between the elevation angle and slant path length	86
Figure 4.2: Path length estimated by the modified model for different angles	87
Figure 4.3: Comparison of rain attenuation obtained by ITU-R model and the modified model based on the elevation angle	88
Figure 4.4: Variation of the rain attenuation with the rain cell size	89
Figure 4.5: Relationship between DSD and raindrop diameter for northern HAPS	90
Figure 4.6: Relationship between DSD and raindrop diameter for southern HAPS	91
Figure 4.7: Variation of the specific attenuation with the signal frequency	92
Figure 4.8: Relationship between slant path length and rain height when $\theta=45^\circ$	93
Figure 4.9: Relationship between slant path length and rain height when $\theta=90^\circ$	94
Figure 4.10: Rain attenuation behavior based on rainfall average time for the selected earth stations (C polarization)	95
Figure 4.11: Variation of the rain attenuation against the earth stations latitude	96
Figure 4.12: Relationship between the FSL and the elevation angle for northern part	99
Figure 4.13: Relationship between the FSL and the elevation angle for southern part	99
Figure 4.14: Behavior of the received signal for different total loss	102
Figure 4.15: Received signal power variation due to EIRP	103
Figure 4.16: Relationship between received signal power and receiver antenna gain	104
Figure 4.17: Relationship between fade margin and received power for different receiver thresholds	107
Figure 4.18: Relationship between rain attenuation and the number of the intersections between the signal and the rain cell for northern part of peninsular Malaysia	109
Figure 4.19: Relationship between rain attenuation and number of the intersections between the signal and the rain cell for southern part of peninsular Malaysia	110
Figure 4.20: Relationship between the number of the intersections of the signal with	

the rain cell and cloud velocity, when satellite and clouds are moving in same direction	111
Figure 4.21: Relationship between the number of the intersections of the signal with the rain cell and cloud velocity, when satellite and clouds are moving in opposite directions	112
Figure 4.22: Comparison between rain attenuation obtained by the model of the non-geostationary sources and the convolution method	113
Figure 4.23: Relationship between the effective rain cell size and the signal cross section distance	114
Figure 4.24: Variation of the rain attenuation due to effective rain cell	115
Figure 4.25: Site diversity behavior at different separation distances	116
Figure 4.26: Rainfall rate contour lines in peninsular Malaysia	117
Figure 4.27: Rain attenuation contour lines in peninsular Malaysia	118
Figure 4.28: Locations of the earth stations	120
Figure 4.29: Rain attenuation matrix obtained for each part of the peninsular	121
Figure 4.30: Maximum Rain attenuation matrix obtained for each part of the peninsular	122
Figure 4.31: Rain attenuation matrix indicates the best HARS location	123
Figure A.1: Relationship between rain attenuation and rainfall average time for the northern part (H polarization)	141
Figure A.2: Relationship between rain attenuation and rainfall average time for the southern part (H polarization)	142
Figure A.3: Relationship between rain attenuation and rainfall average time for the northern part (V polarization)	143
Figure A.4: Relationship between rain attenuation and rainfall average time for the southern part (V polarization)	144
Figure A.5: Relationship between rain attenuation and rainfall average time for the northern part (C polarization)	145
Figure A.6: Relationship between rain attenuation and rainfall average time for the southern part (C polarization)	146

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1: Vertical and horizontal parameters for K and α	36
Table 3.1: HAPS system parameters	77
Table 4.1: Free Space loss for circular polarization	98
Table 4.2: Result for link budget calculation for $A_{0.01}$	101
Table 4.3: Result for Calculated Fade Margin	106
Table A.1: Rain attenuation at Kampung Sungai Tong	136
Table A.2: Rain attenuation at Batu Kurau	136
Table A.3: Rain attenuation at Taiping	137
Table A.4: Rain attenuation at Kampar	137
Table A.5: Rain attenuation at Bidor	138
Table A.6: Rain attenuation at Tanjung Malim	138
Table A.7: Rain attenuation at Kepong	139
Table A.8: Rain attenuation at Endau	139
Table A.9: Rain attenuation at Jln Kluang Mersing	140
Table A.10: Rain attenuation at Kahang Kluang	140
Table A.10: Coordinates of earth stations	146

ABBREVIATION

HAPS	High Altitude Platform Station/System
HALE	High Altitude Long Endurance
SPFs	Stratospheric Platforms
ITU-R	The International Telecommunication Union for Radio
CCIR	International Radio Consultative Committee
VPI	Virginia Polytechnic Institute
SU	State University
GHz	Gigahertz
EIRP	Effective Isotropic Radiated Power
MHz	Megahertz
H ₂ O	Water
O ₂	Oxygen
UAC	Urban Area Coverage
SAC	Suburban Area Coverage
RAC	Rural Area Coverage
km	Kilometer
LOS	Line of Sight
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IPLs	Inter-Platform Links
LEO	Low Earth Orbit
MEO	Medium Earth Orbit
GEO	Geo-Stationary Earth Orbit
GPS	Global Positioning System
SAM	Simple Attenuation Model
dB	Decibel
CRC	Communication Research Center
mm	Millimeter
hr	Hour

DSD	Drop Size Distribution
MMD	Malaysian Metrological Department
MMO	Malaysia Meteorological Office
ES	Earth Station
SPP	Sub-Platform Point



LIST OF SYMBOLS

$A_{0.01}$	Predicted attenuation exceeded 0.01% of time in average year
C_S	Cloud speed
d	Separation between the two sites
d_R	Distance between the initial position of where the signal touched the cloud at the first moment of the penetration, and the edge of the rain cell
$EIRP$	Equivalent isotropic radiated power
F	Operational frequency
G_r	Receiver antenna gain
G_t	Transmitter antenna gain
$g(x')$	Specific attenuation for convolution model
H_0	Mean isotherm height above mean sea level
h_R	Rain height
h_S	Height above mean sea level of the earth station
$h(x')$	Effective slant path penetrated into the rain for convolution model
k	Power law parameter, which depends on polarization and frequency
L_1	Slant path penetrated in rain
L_E	Effective path length affected by the rain
L_{fs}	Free space loss
L_G	Horizontal projection of the slant path
L_S	Slant path length under the rain

L_{s3}	Slant path length under the rain
N_D	Number of raindrops
N_0	Fitting parameter for marshal-palmer model
P_r	Received power
P_t	Transmitted power
Q_t	Attenuation cross-section
$R_{0.01}$	Horizontal reduction factor
$R_{0.01}$	Rainfall rate exceeded for 0.01% of time in average year
RC	Rain cell size
R_E	Effective radius of the earth
S_s	Satellite speed
τ	Polarization tilt angle relative to the horizontal
$V_{0.01}$	Vertical reduction factor
$v(D)$	Raindrop velocity
x	Horizontal projection of the non-affected path
α	Power law parameter, which depends on polarization and frequency
γ_R	Specific attenuation
Λ	Fitting parameter for marshal-palmer model
Ψ	Angle made by the azimuth of the propagation path
θ	Elevation angle (degrees)
φ	Latitude of the earth station (degree)

LIST OF APPENDIXES

Appendix A	rain attenuation details for the ground stations
Appendix B	Sub-MATLAB program to predict the rain attenuation using Modified ITU-R model and to identify the best of HAPS location
Appendix C	Sub-MATLAB program to predict the rain attenuation using ITU-R model
Appendix D	Sub-MATLAB program to calculate drop size distribution
Appendix E	Sub-MATLAB program to calculate the site diversity
Appendix F	Sub-MATLAB program to predict the rain attenuation for the non-stationary sources (north part)
Appendix G	Sub-MATLAB program to predict the rain attenuation for the non-stationary sources (south part)
Appendix H	Sub-MATLAB program to calculate the intersection times for the signal with the rain (satellite direction is against the clouds)
Appendix I	Sub-MATLAB program to calculate the intersection times for the signal with the rain (satellite and clouds moves in same direction)
Appendix J	Sub-MATLAB program to calculate the effective rain cell size
Appendix K	Sub-MATLAB program to predict the rain attenuation using convolution method