



Comparative Study of Radius of Curvature of Rounded Edge Hill Obstruction Based on Occultation Distance and ITU-R 526-13 Methods

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Abstract: In this paper, comparative study of the ITU 526-13 method and the occultation distance-based method for computing the radius of curvature for rounded edge fitted to the vertex of hilltop obstruction is presented. In the study, path profiles of microwave links with isolated single edged hilltop and another path profile with isolated double edged hilltop are used. The frequencies considered are from the 1.5GHz in the L-band to 36GHz in the K-band. The result show that for all the frequencies considered, the occultation distance for the single edged hilltop remained constant at 80.923 m and that for the double edged hilltop remained constant at 532.203 m. Also, while the radius of curvature by the ITU 526-13 method varies with frequency in the two path profiles considered, the radius of curvature by the occultation distance method remained constant for all the frequencies considered in each of the two path profiles considered. Also, for the double edged hilltop, the radius of curvature from ITU 526-13 method greatly exceeded the radius of curvature by the occultation distance method for all the frequencies considered. The least difference in about 58% at frequency of 1.5GHz and the difference increased to about 115% at 36GHz. However, for the single edged hilltop, the radius of curvature for the two methods are relatively equal for frequencies above 6GHz. Essentially, ITU 526-13 method works well like the occultation distance-based method for the single edged hilltop. Further studies are therefore required to determine the situations under which the ITU 526-13 method can be applied in computing the radius of curvature for rounded edge approximation used in diffraction loss computation.

Keywords: Radius of Curvature, Rounded Edge Obstruction, ITU 526-13 Method, Occultation Distance, Double Edged Hilltop, Single Edged Hilltop, Fresnel Zone, Radius of Fresnel Zone

1. Introduction

In line-of-sight (LOS) microwave communication system significant diffraction loss occurs when obstruction in the signal path extends into the first Fresnel zone [1-8]. Usually, such obstruction can be modeled as either knife edge or rounded edge obstruction [9-16]. Knife edge obstruction model in most cases underestimates the diffraction loss. In that case, the rounded edge model is used for such obstructions as isolated hill [17-19]. The total obstruction for a rounded edge is the sum of the knife edge obstruction and the extra diffraction due to the rounded edge [17-19].

Computation of the extra diffraction due to the rounded

edge requires that a rounded edge should be fitted to the vertex of the obstruction. The radius of curvature of the rounded edge is then used to determine the extra diffraction due to the rounded edge. Researchers have developed methods to obtain approximate value for the radius of curvature. One popular method is based on the occultation distance [20-21]. The occultation distance indicates the maximum distance of the shadowed region in the path profile. In the determination of the rounded edge diffraction loss, the occultation distance is given as that distance between the two tangents points near the vertex of the obstruction profile. The first tangent point is made by a line drawn from the transmitter and tangential to the path profile from the transmitter side. The second tangent

point is made by a line drawn from the receiver and tangential to the path profile from the receiver side. The two tangent line meet at a point above the vertex of the obstruction. The intersection point of the two tangent lines gives the tip of the knife edge. The height of the tip of the knife edge above the LOS line gives the clearance height which is used to compute the knife edge diffraction loss. On the other hand, the distance between the two tangent points on the path profile gives the occultation distance which is used to determine the radius of curvature or the rounded edge fitted to the vertex of the hill obstruction.

Another method of computing the radius of curvature for the rounded edge diffraction obstruction is the ITU-R 526-13 method [22]. In this case, the radius of a parabola fitted to the vertex of the obstruction is determined according to the ITU-R 526-13 formula. The ITU-R 526-13 method requires that the radius of the first Fresnel zone be used to determine the maximum occultation distance that will be considered in the computation of the radius of curvature.

In the occultation distance approach, the tangent is drawn using normal geometric techniques. occultation distance is then determined from the tangent points of the two tangent lines drawn, one from the transmitter and the other one from the receiver. In the ITU-R 526-13 method the radius of the first Fresnel zone is first determined. The radius of curvature is determined based on the points on the obstruction profile that are not more than the radius of the first Fresnel zone from the obstruction apex. Since the radius of the Fresnel zone is a function of frequency, the radius of curvature determined using the ITU-R 526-13 method varies with frequency for the same obstruction. In this paper, the effect of frequency on the radius of curvature by the two methods is studied and their results are compared based on sample rounded edge obstruction in the signal path of a LOS microwave link.

2. Theoretical Background

Two methods of computing the radius of curvature of rounded edge fitted to the vertex of isolated hill are compared. The first method used to compute the radius of curvature is the occultation distance based approach whereas the second method is ITU-R 526-13 method [22].

2.1. Occultation Distance Based Approach

From the occultation distances the radius, R of the rounded edge fitted in the vicinity of the hill vertex can be determined as follows [20-21];

$$R = \frac{2(D)(d_1)(d_2)}{(\alpha)[(d_1)^2+(d_2)^2]} \quad (1)$$

where D is the occultation distance, d_1 is distance from the transmitter, d_2 is distance from the receiver and the angle α in radian is obtained from the graph plot of the path profile and Rounded Edge Diffraction Geometry, as shown in figure 1.

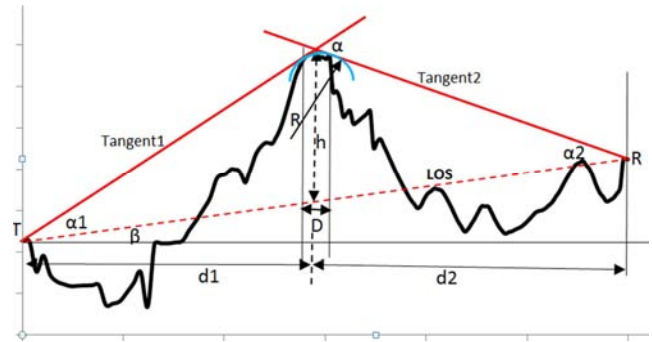


Figure 1. The Path Profile Of The Isolated Hill With The Rounded Edge Diffraction Geometry.

In figure 1, tangent 1 line is drawn from the transmitter to be tangential (at point T1) to the path profile at the vicinity of the hill apex. Also, tangent line is drawn from the receiver to be tangential (at point T2) to the path profile at the vicinity of the hill apex. Let the tangent point of tangent 1 with the path profile be denoted as T2. The occultation distance, D is the point tangent 1 and tangent 2 intersect above the hill vertex, as shown in figure 1.

As shown in figure 2, d_1 is distance from the transmitter to the point where tangent 1 and tangent 2 intersect and d_2 is distance from the receiver to the point where tangent 1 and tangent 2 intersect. Let d be the distance between the transmitter and the receiver, then;

$$d = d_1 + d_2 \quad (2)$$

The angle Tangent 1 makes with the LOS is denoted as α_1 while the angle Tangent 2 makes with the LOS is denoted as α_2 . The angles α_1 and α_2 are obtain by cosine rule as follows;

$$\text{Cos}(\alpha_1) = \frac{(S_1)^2+(S_3)^2-(S_2)^2}{2(S_1)(S_3)} \quad (3)$$

$$\alpha_1 = \text{Cos}^{-1} \left(\frac{(S_1)^2+(S_3)^2-(S_2)^2}{2(S_1)(S_3)} \right) \quad (4)$$

Similarly,

$$\alpha_2 = \text{Cos}^{-1} \left(\frac{(S_2)^2+(S_3)^2-(S_1)^2}{2(S_2)(S_3)} \right) \quad (5)$$

where

S_1 is the length of the tangent 1 measured from the transmitter to the point of intersection of tangent 1 and tangent 2, as shown in figure 1.

S_2 is the length of the tangent 2 measured from the receiver to the point of intersection of tangent 1 and tangent 2, as shown in figure 1.

S_3 is the length of the LOS measured from the transmitter to receiver.

S_1, S_2 and S_3 are in meter and they are measured out from the path profile plot and the tangent line drawn on the path profile. The angle α is given as;

$$\alpha = \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 \quad (6)$$

2.2. The ITU Radius of Curvature Method For The Rounded Edge Diffraction Computation

In the ITU-R 526-13 method, the radius of curvature of the rounded edge corresponds to the radius of a circle fitted to the vicinity of the apex of a parabola in the vicinity of the top of the obstacle profile. Let r_i be the radius of curvature corresponding to the sample i of the vertical profile of the ridge, in figure 2 [22].

$$r_i = \frac{x_i^2}{2(y_i)} \quad (7)$$

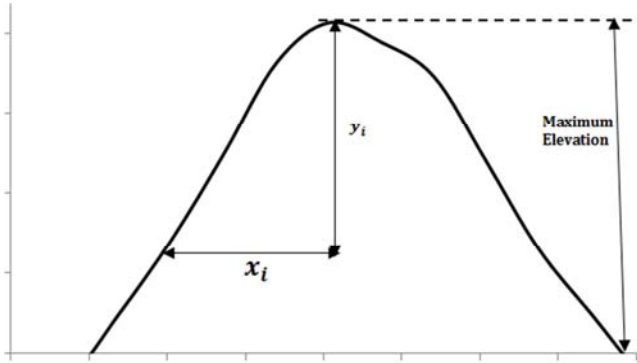


Figure 2. The Geometry of the Vertical Profile of the obstruction used for the determination of the radius of the rounded edge fitted to the vicinity of the obstruction vertex according to ITU Method.

When fitting the parabola, the maximum vertical distance from the apex to be used in this procedure should be of the order of the first Fresnel zone radius where the obstacle is located. As such, in figure 1 and figure 2, the maximum y_i is less or equal to the radius of first Fresnel zone at the point of maximum elevation. In the case of N samples, the median radius of curvature of the obstacle is denoted as R where [22]:

$$R = \sum_{i=1}^{i=N} (r_i) = \sum_{i=1}^{i=N} \left(\frac{x_i^2}{2(y_i)} \right) \quad (8)$$

According to the ITU-R 526-13 recommendation, from the obstruction apex (in figure 2) the maximum value of y_i should be within the radius of the first Fresnel zone denoted as r_{f1} . Essentially;

$$\text{maximum}(y_i) \leq r_{f1} \quad (9)$$

The radius of the first Fresnel zone (r_1) at distance d_1 from the transmitter and d_2 from the receiver is given as;

$$r_1 = \sqrt{\frac{\lambda(d_1)(d_2)}{(d_1 + d_2)}} \quad (10)$$

where λ is the signal wavelength which is given as;

$$\lambda = \frac{c}{f} \quad (11)$$

f is the frequency in Hz and c is the speed of light which is 3×10^8 m/s.

3. Results and Discussion

In the study path profiles of microwave links with isolated single edged hilltop (Table 1) and another path profile with isolated double edged hilltop (Table 2) are used. The frequencies considered are from the 1.5GHz in the L-band to 36GHz in the Ka-band.

Table 1. The path profiles data for the of microwave links with isolated single edged hilltop.

Distance (m)	Elevation (m)	Distance (m)	Elevation (m)	Distance (m)	Elevation (m)	Distance (m)	Elevation (m)	Distance (m)	Elevation (m)
0.0	390.9	1206.9	379.8	2413.8	401.7	3180.8	401.8	4876.1	366.9
40.2	390.9	1247.2	378.0	2454.1	397.3	3201.0	402.7	4921.4	367.5
80.5	390.9	1287.4	377.2	2494.3	401.8	3221.2	402.5	4966.7	368.0
120.7	390.7	1327.6	376.3	2534.5	403.9	3248.1	401.7	5011.9	368.0
160.9	390.7	1367.8	375.0	2574.8	401.8	3288.3	402.0	5057.2	368.0
201.2	390.9	1408.1	374.0	2615.0	402.3	3328.6	401.8	5102.4	368.0
241.4	390.9	1448.3	373.4	2655.2	408.8	3368.8	397.4	5147.7	368.0
281.6	390.4	1488.5	372.9	2695.5	408.9	3835.2	379.8	5193.0	368.5
321.8	389.6	1528.8	373.0	2735.7	411.8	3880.4	380.3	5238.2	369.0
362.1	388.4	1569.0	372.7	2755.9	410.9	3925.7	379.3	5283.5	369.3
402.3	387.5	1609.2	382.0	2776.1	411.7	3971.0	377.9	5328.7	369.4
442.5	386.9	1649.5	381.5	2796.4	412.4	4016.2	376.9	5374.0	368.9
482.8	386.7	1689.7	381.2	2816.6	411.9	4061.5	376.0	5419.3	368.3
523.0	386.7	1729.9	380.5	2836.8	412.4	4106.7	374.9	5464.5	368.0
563.2	386.4	1770.1	379.0	2857.1	412.4	4152.0	373.5	5509.8	367.9
603.5	386.1	1810.4	379.1	2877.3	412.8	4197.2	372.4	5555.0	368.7
643.7	385.6	1850.6	381.3	2897.5	411.7	4242.5	371.5	5600.3	367.5
683.9	385.2	1890.8	384.0	2917.8	410.5	4287.8	371.2	5645.6	366.9
724.2	385.1	1931.1	387.5	2938.0	411.0	4333.0	371.1	5690.8	366.3
764.4	385.4	1971.3	383.8	2958.2	409.2	4378.3	370.7	5736.1	366.4
804.6	385.5	2011.5	387.2	2978.5	398.5	4423.5	370.2	5781.3	366.4
844.8	385.6	2051.8	385.6	2998.7	399.0	4468.8	369.4	5826.6	366.2
885.1	384.6	2092.0	387.5	3018.9	398.7	4514.1	368.3	5871.8	367.1
925.3	383.4	2132.2	389.4	3039.1	398.8	4559.3	367.6	5917.1	366.0
965.5	380.9	2172.5	391.1	3059.4	398.9	4604.6	366.7	5962.4	366.9

Distance (m)	Elevation (m)	Distance (m)	Elevation (m)	Distance (m)	Elevation (m)	Distance (m)	Elevation (m)	Distance (m)	Elevation (m)
1005.8	377.9	2212.7	392.8	3079.6	401.0	4649.8	366.0	6007.6	367.7
1046.0	377.0	2252.9	396.1	3099.8	400.3	4695.1	365.5	6052.9	368.6
1086.2	376.0	2293.1	396.8	3120.1	402.2	4740.4	365.9	6098.1	370.9
1126.5	375.0	2333.4	398.3	3140.3	402.0	4785.6	366.3	6143.4	370.9
1166.7	374.1	2373.6	400.3	3160.5	401.9	4830.9	366.5	6188.7	370.9

Table 2. The path profiles data for the of microwave links with isolated double edged hilltop.

Distance (m)	Elevation (m)	Distance (m)	Elevation (m)	Distance (m)	Elevation (m)	Distance (m)	Elevation (m)	Distance (m)	Elevation (m)
0.0	390.9	1206.9	379.8	2413.8	401.7	3180.8	411.8	4876.1	366.9
40.2	390.9	1247.2	378.0	2454.1	397.3	3201.0	412.7	4921.4	367.5
80.5	390.9	1287.4	377.2	2494.3	401.8	3221.2	412.5	4966.7	368.0
120.7	390.7	1327.6	376.3	2534.5	403.9	3248.1	411.7	5011.9	368.0
160.9	390.7	1367.8	375.0	2574.8	401.8	3288.3	412.0	5057.2	368.0
201.2	390.9	1408.1	374.0	2615.0	402.3	3328.6	411.8	5102.4	368.0
241.4	390.9	1448.3	373.4	2655.2	408.8	3368.8	407.4	5147.7	368.0
281.6	390.4	1488.5	372.9	2695.5	408.9	3835.2	380.8	5193.0	368.5
321.8	389.6	1528.8	373.0	2735.7	411.8	3880.4	380.3	5238.2	369.0
362.1	388.4	1569.0	372.7	2755.9	410.9	3925.7	379.3	5283.5	369.3
402.3	387.5	1609.2	382.0	2776.1	411.7	3971.0	377.9	5328.7	369.4
442.5	386.9	1649.5	381.5	2796.4	412.4	4016.2	376.9	5374.0	368.9
482.8	386.7	1689.7	381.2	2816.6	411.9	4061.5	376.0	5419.3	368.3
523.0	386.7	1729.9	380.5	2836.8	412.4	4106.7	374.9	5464.5	368.0
563.2	386.4	1770.1	379.0	2857.1	412.4	4152.0	373.5	5509.8	367.9
603.5	386.1	1810.4	379.1	2877.3	412.8	4197.2	372.4	5555.0	368.7
643.7	385.6	1850.6	381.3	2897.5	411.7	4242.5	371.5	5600.3	367.5
683.9	385.2	1890.8	384.0	2917.8	410.5	4287.8	371.2	5645.6	366.9
724.2	385.1	1931.1	387.5	2938.0	411.0	4333.0	371.1	5690.8	366.3
764.4	385.4	1971.3	383.8	2958.2	409.2	4378.3	370.7	5736.1	366.4
804.6	385.5	2011.5	387.2	2978.5	408.5	4423.5	370.2	5781.3	366.4
844.8	385.6	2051.8	385.6	2998.7	409.0	4468.8	369.4	5826.6	366.2
885.1	384.6	2092.0	387.5	3018.9	408.7	4514.1	368.3	5871.8	367.1
925.3	383.4	2132.2	389.4	3039.1	408.8	4559.3	367.6	5917.1	366.0
965.5	380.9	2172.5	391.1	3059.4	408.9	4604.6	366.7	5962.4	366.9
1005.8	377.9	2212.7	392.8	3079.6	411.0	4649.8	366.0	6007.6	367.7
1046.0	377.0	2252.9	396.1	3099.8	410.3	4695.1	365.5	6052.9	368.6
1086.2	376.0	2293.1	396.8	3120.1	412.2	4740.4	365.9	6098.1	370.9
1126.5	375.0	2333.4	398.3	3140.3	412.0	4785.6	366.3	6143.4	370.9
1166.7	374.1	2373.6	400.3	3160.5	411.9	4830.9	366.5	6188.7	370.9

Table 3 and figure 3 show that the for the single edged hilltop, the radius of curvature for the two methods are relatively equal for frequencies above 6GHz. At this frequency (6GHz) the radius of curvature from ITU 526-13 method is about 3% above the radius of curvature by the occultation distance method. However, at frequencies above 10GHz, the radius of curvature by the occultation distance method exceeds that from ITU 526-13 method.

Conversely, Table 4 and figure 4 show that the for the double edged hilltop, the radius of curvature from ITU 526-13 method greatly exceeded the radius of curvature by the occultation distance method for all the frequencies considered. The least difference in about 58% at frequency of 1.5GHz and

the difference increased to about 115% at 36GHz.

For all the frequencies considered, the occultation distance for the single edged hilltop remained constant at 80.923 m and that for the double edged hilltop remained constant at 532.203 m. Also, while the radius of curvature by the ITU 526-13 method varies with frequency in each of the two cases considered, the radius of curvature by the occultation distance method remained constant for all the frequencies considered in each of the two path profiles considered. However, there is difference between the radius of curvature by the occultation distance method for the single knife edge and the double knife edge hilltop. The difference is mainly due to the difference in the occultation distance.

Table 3. The radius of curvature in the two methods and the radius of first Fresnel zone for the Single Edged Hilltop for various frequencies.

f (GHz)	The radius of curvature, R (m) By ITU Method	The radius of curvature R(m) By Occultation Method	Percentage difference between the radius of curvature in the two method (%)	Radius of First Fresnel Zone (m)	Occultation Distance (m)
1.5	5,519.47	3,769.18	46.43663176	19.50748	80.923
3	4,657.10	3,769.18	23.55735235	13.79387	80.923
6	3,888.72	3,769.18	3.171419781	9.75374	80.923
12	3,677.88	3,769.18	-2.422449543	6.896936	80.923
24	3,677.88	3,769.18	-2.422449543	4.87687	80.923
36	3,677.88	3,769.18	-2.422449543	3.981948	80.923

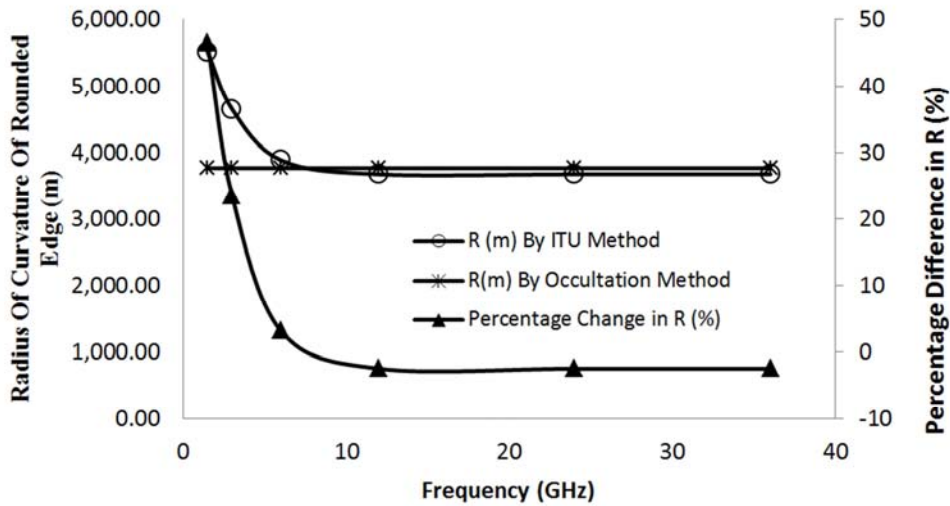


Figure 3. The radius of curvature in the two methods and Percentage difference between the radius of curvature in the two methods for the Single Edged Hilltop for various frequencies.

Table 4. The radius of curvature in the two methods and the radius of first Fresnel zone for the Double Edged Hilltop for various frequencies.

f (MHz)	R (m) By ITU Method	R(m) By Occultation Method	Percentage Difference in R (%)	Radius of First Fresnel Zone (m)	Occultation Distance (m)
1500	36,975.97	23,265.15	58.93283487	20.05594	532.203
3000	40,734.97	23,265.15	75.0900696	14.18169	532.203
6000	46,206.97	23,265.15	98.61022159	10.02797	532.203
12000	47,526.22	23,265.15	104.2806893	7.090847	532.203
24000	48,379.92	23,265.15	107.9501214	5.013986	532.203
36000	50,064.92	23,265.15	115.192747	4.093902	532.203

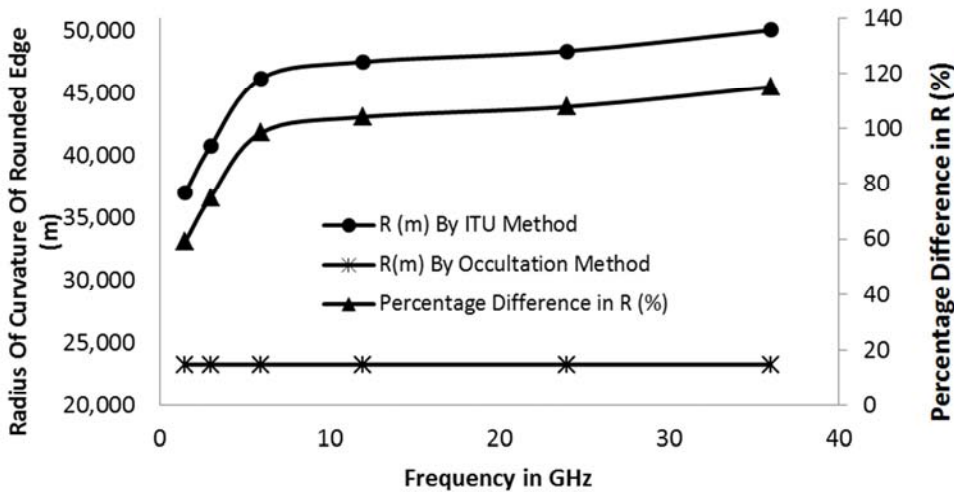


Figure 4. The radius of curvature in the two methods and percentage difference between the radius of curvature in the two method for the double edged hilltop for various frequencies.

4. Conclusion

The ITU 526-13 method and the occultation distance-based method for computing the radius of curvature for rounded edged fitted to the vertex of hilltop obstruction is presented. The radius of curvature is usually required for computing rounded edge diffraction loss. The results showed that both frequency and occultation distance affect the radius of curvature computed by the ITU 526-13 method whereas the occultation distance-based method is not affected by

frequency of the signal. Also, for small occultation distance and frequencies above 6GHz, the radius of curvature for rounded edged computed by the two methods are relatively equal with minimal difference. However, for large occultation distance the radius of curvature for rounded edged computed by the ITU 526-13 method is very large compared to the values obtained with the distance-based method. Further studies are therefore required to determine the situations under which the ITU 526-13 method can be applied.

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