Comparative Evaluation of the Pathloss Prediction Performance Hata-Okumura Pathloss Model for Urban, Suburban and Rural Areas

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Abstract: In this paper, comparative evaluation of the pathloss prediction performance of the popular Hata-Okumura model for urban, suburban and rural areas is carried out. The study is based on empirical measurements conducted at Imo state university campus for 800 MHz GSM network. The prediction performance of the three categories of the Hata-Okumura model is analyzed and compared in terms of Mean Absolute Error (MAE), Root Mean Square Error (RMSE), and Prediction Accuracy (PA). The results showed that the Hata-Okumura model for the Urban area has the best prediction accuracy when not optimised but it has the lowest optimised prediction accuracy. On the other hand the Hata-Okumura model for the rural/open area has the least prediction accuracy when not optimised but it has the highest prediction accuracy when it is optimised. The results show that adoption of a model because it has the highest prediction accuracy is not the best approach to the selection of pathloss models. Rather the models should be optimised and the best optimised model should be adopted.

Keywords: Pathloss, Hata-Okumura Model, Pathloss Model, Model Tuning, Least Square Method

1. Background of the Study

In the telecommunication industry, pathloss is the reduction in power density of an electromagnetic wave signal as it propagates from the transmitter to the receiver [1]. Accurate prediction of pathloss is very essential in GSM network planning and optimization. Propagation pathloss models are used to calculate pathloss during transmission of a signal so as to predict the mean signal strength for an arbitrary transmitter-receiver separation distance [2, 3, 4, 5]. In general, pathloss models are categorized as empirical, stochastic and deterministic [6, 8]. Among the three categories, the empirical models are frequently used for outdoor pathloss predictions. However, in practice, empirical pathloss model tuning is usually required due to significant drop in prediction performance of empirical models when applied in the environments other than the ones they are designed.

Generally, the goal of model tuning is to minimize the difference between measured pathloss and corresponding model predicted pathloss [8]. The tuning can be done by adding correction factor to the original model or by

modifying the coefficients of some of the model's parameters. Among the different model tuning approaches, the Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) based approach has been the easiest and most popular. In the RMSE-based tuning approach, the RMSE between the predicted and the measured pathloss is used as the correction factor which is either added or subtracted from the model to minimize its prediction error. After tuning, the pathloss model prediction performance is evaluated using statistical parameters such as the RMSE, the coefficient of determination (R^2), among others. According to available literatures, the performance of a pathloss model is considered acceptable if it provides an overall RMSE of about 6-7dB for urban areas and 10 to 15dB for suburban and rural areas [26, 27, 28]. Studies have also shown that most empirical pathloss models have high prediction errors with RMSE above the given acceptable range for the particular environment being studied. Therefore, model tuning is usually employed to reduce the model prediction error so that the RMSE falls within the acceptable range.

In most published works on empirical pathloss models, usually, different pathloss models are studied and compared

in terms of their pathloss prediction performance and the model with best prediction performance is select and then optimized for the study area. In this paper, the Hata Okumura pathloss model is studied. Specifically, the three categories of the Hata-Okumura model are employed in the pathloss prediction for a university campus. The pathloss prediction performance of the models are compared before and after optimization. The study seek to establish that in some cases, models that has the best prediction performance before optimisation may not give the best prediction after optimisation.

2. The Methodology

The methodology that is used to accomplish the objectives of the paper is given in Figure 1. The research method is a combination of empirical and simulation approaches. According to Figure 1, the work started with literature review of relevant studies along with the review of published works on the propagation environments that are considered in the paper. The research method can be applied for optimisation of any empirical pathloss model based on data captured from drive test on wireless networks which can be Wi-Fi or GSM networks.

Figure 1. The Research Methodology.

Among other data collected during the measurement campaign, the Received Signal Strength (RSS) and spatial data (longitude and latitude) are further processed to obtain the measured pathloss (PL) and the transmission distance (d) for each of the locations where data is collected. The distance (d) data is used to simulate the selected pathloss model to generate the predicted pathloss. The prediction accuracy of the pathloss model is evaluated with respect to the measured pathloss. The pathloss model is then optimised to improve on the prediction accuracy of the selected pathloss model. The optimised pathloss model is validated by evaluating its prediction accuracy. Finally, the prediction accuracy of the optimised pathloss model is compared with the prediction accuracy of the original un-optimised pathloss model. Particularly, in this paper, the urban, suburban and rural versions of the popular Hata-Okumura pathloss model are studied and compared for their pathloss prediction performance for a university

campus in Imo state, Nigeria

2.1. Okumura Pathloss Model

Hata-Okumura pathloss model is derived from the original graphical information presented in Okumura Model [12, 13, 14, 15] The basic Hata-Okumura model is for urban areas and it is a widely used propagation model for predicting path loss in urban areas. This model takes into account the effects of diffraction, reflection and scattering caused by city structures. Hata-Okumura model has specific model versions for urban, suburban and rural areas.

The Okumura's model is applicable to frequencies within the range of 150 to 1920MHz, transmitter height of 30 m to 200 m, Link Distance of 1 km to 20 km, Mobile Station (MS) height of 1 m to 10 m. The pathloss prediction formula according to Okumura's model is expressed as follows [13, 14, 15, 16]:

$$LP_{OK_HATA(urban)} = A + B * \log_{10}(d) \text{ for Urban Area} \quad (1)$$

$$LP_{OK_HATA(suburban)} = A + B * \log_{10}(d) - C \text{ for Suburban Area} \quad (2)$$

$$LP_{OK_HATA(open/rural)} = A + B * \log_{10}(d) - D \text{ for Open Area/Rural} \quad (3)$$

$$A = 69.55 + 26.16 * \log_{10}(f) - 13.82 * \log_{10}(h_b) - a(h_m) \quad (4)$$

$$B = 44.9 - 6.55 * \log_{10}(h_b) \quad (5)$$

$$C = 5.4 + 2 * \left[\log_{10} \left(\frac{f}{28} \right) \right]^2 \quad (6)$$

$$D = 40.94 + 4.78 * [\log_{10}(f)]^2 - 18.33 * \log_{10}(f) \quad (7)$$

$$a(h_m) = [1.1 * \log_{10}(f) - 0.7] * h_m - [1.56 * \log_{10}(f) - 0.8] \quad (8)$$

Eq 3.8 is for *small city, medium city, open area, rural area and suburban area*

$$a(h_m) = 8.28 * [\log_{10}(1.54 * h_m)]^2 - 1.1 \text{ for large city } f \leq 200\text{MHz} \quad (9)$$

$$a(h_m) = 3.2 * [\log_{10}(11.75 * h_m)]^2 - 4.97 \text{ for large city } f \geq 400\text{MHz} \quad (10)$$

Where

- f is the centre frequency f in MHz
- d is the link distance in km
- $a(h_m)$ is an antenna height-gain correction factor that depends upon the environment
- C and D are used to correct the small city formula for suburban and open areas
- $150 \text{ MHz} \leq f \leq 1000\text{MHz}$
- $30\text{m} \leq h_b \leq 200\text{m}$
- $1\text{m} \leq h_m \leq 10 \text{ m}$
- $1 \text{ km} \leq d \leq 20\text{km}$

2.2. Data Collection

The measurement campaign is carried out in Imo state university campus for a GSM network operating in the 800MHz frequency band. A drive test was conducted to obtain the actual field measurement data which was later used in tuning and appraising the accuracy of the empirical

pathloss models under study. The drive test equipment consists of Android/Smart mobile phone which hosts and runs all the software used for capturing the GPS data as well as the RSS data in dB. Particularly, Cellmapper android application was installed on the android phone used for the measurement campaign. The cellmapper application captures and logs the received signal strength (RSS), the cell tower data, GPS data of the measurement point, among others. The data is exported as text of CSV file which is then used for the pathloss analysis.

2.3. Calculation of the Measured Path Length from the GPS Coordinates

The GPS coordinates captured for each measurement point are used to determine the distance of the measurement point from the transmitting station. Haversine formula Eq 11 is used to computer the distances or path lengths as follows;

$$d = 2r \sqrt{\sin^2\left(\frac{LAT_2 - LAT_1}{2}\right) + \cos(LAT_1) \cos(LAT_2) \sin^2\left(\frac{LONG_2 - LONG_1}{2}\right)} \quad (11)$$

$$LAT \text{ in Radians} = \frac{(LAT \text{ in Degrees} * 3.142)}{180} \quad (12)$$

$$LONG \text{ in Radians} = \frac{(LONG \text{ in Degrees} * 3.142)}{180} \quad (13)$$

Where

LAT1 and LAT2 are the latitude of the coordinates of point1 and point 2 respectively

LONG1 and LONG2 are the longitude of the coordinates of point1 and point 2 respectively

R = radius of the earth = 6371 km

d = the distance between the two coordinates

R varies from 6356.752km at the poles to 6378.137 km at the equator

2.4. Calculation of the Measured Pathloss from the Measured RSS

Each of the Received Signal Strength (RSS) value recorded at various distances from each of the routes for the GSM base station is converted to Measured Pathloss ($PL_{m(dB)}$) using the formula (Ajose and Imoize, 2013; Rappaport 2002; Seybold 2005):

$$\text{Pathloss Measured} = PL_{m(dB)} = EIRP_t \text{ (dBm)} - P_r \text{ (dBm)} \quad (14)$$

where $PL_{m(dB)}$ is the measured pathloss for each measurement location at a distance d (km), EIRPt is the Effective Isotropic Radiated Power in dBm and Pr is the mean Received Signal Strength (RSS) in dBm = the measured received signal strength.

The effective isotropic radiated power EIRPt (dBm) is given as:

$$EIRPt = PBTS + GBTS + GMS - LFC - LAB - LCF \quad (15)$$

where PBTS = Transmitter Power (dBm), GBTS = Transmitter Antenna Gain (dBi), GMS = receiver antenna gain (dBi), LFC = feeder cable and connector loss (dB), LAB = Antenna Body Loss (dB) and LCF = Combiner and Filter Loss (dB). The values of these parameters are given as (Ajose and Imoize, 2013; Mishra, 2007; Saunders and Aragon-Zavala, 2007) as: PBTS = 40 W = $[30 + 10\log_{10} 40] = 46$ dBm, GBTS = 16 dBd = $[16 + 2.15] = 18.15$ dBi, GMS = 0 dBi, LFC = 3 dB, LAB = 3 dB, and LCF = 4.7 dB. Substituting these values into equation (11) gives; EIRPt = 46 + 18.15 - 3 - 3 - 4.7 EIRPt = 53.5 dBm.

The pathloss values measured in dB are obtained by substituting the calculated value of EIRPt (dBm) and the measured values of Pr (dBm) into equation 10.

2.5. Performance Analysis of the Models

In this paper, prediction performance of the pathloss models are evaluated in terms of Mean Absolute Error (MAE), Root Mean Square Error (RMSE), and Prediction Accuracy (PA).

The Mean Absolute Error (MAE) between the measured

data and the theoretical estimations is calculated as follows:

$$MAE = \frac{1}{n} \left(\sum_{i=1}^n |PL_{(measured)(i)} - PL_{(predicted)(i)}| \right) \quad (16)$$

where: $PL_{(measured)(i)}$ is the measured pathloss (dB), $PL_{(predicted)(i)}$ is the predicted pathloss (dB), and n is the number of measured data points.

The Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) is calculated as follows:

$$MSE = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n} \left[\sum_{i=1}^n |PL_{(measured)(i)} - PL_{(predicted)(i)}|^2 \right]} \quad (17)$$

$$\text{Square Of Error} = |PL_{(measured)(i)} - PL_{(predicted)(i)}|^2 \quad (18)$$

$$\therefore MSE = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n} \left[\sum_{i=1}^n (\text{Square Of Error}) \right]} \quad (19)$$

where: $PL_{(measured)(i)}$ is the measured pathloss (dB), $PL_{(predicted)(i)}$ is the predicted pathloss (dB), $PL_{(measured)}$ is the mean of measured pathloss, and n is the number of measured data points.

The prediction accuracy (PA, %) based on mean absolute percentage deviation (MAPD) or Mean Absolute Percentage Error (MAPE) is calculated as follows:

$$PA = \left\{ 1 - \frac{1}{n} \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \left| \frac{PL_{(measured)(i)} - PL_{(predicted)(i)}}{PL_{(measured)(i)}} \right| \right) \right\} * 100\% \quad (20)$$

2.6. Model Optimization

Pathloss model optimization is a process in which a theoretical propagation model is adjusted with the help of measured values obtained from test field data. The aim is to get the predicted field strength as close as possible to the measured field strength. The parameters of the Hata-Okumura pathloss models are adjusted (optimized) using least square algorithm. The simple approach to accomplish the tuning is as follows;

- Compute the Sum of errors and the RMSE from the measured and the model predicted pathloss values. In this case, the error computed as $PL_{(measured)(i)} - PL_{(predicted)(i)}$.
- Next, the RMSE is added to each predicted pathloss value if the sum of error is positive; otherwise, the RMSE is subtracted from each predicted pathloss value. The optimized model is therefore, the original model plus the RMSE. The pathloss prediction performance of the optimized model is then determined and compared with untuned

3. Results and Discussion

Measured Received Signal Strength (RSSI), Measured Pathloss and Distance for GSM operating in the 800MHz

frequency band are given in Table 1. The GSM base station longitude and latitude are 7.047507 and 5.510168 respectively. The base station coordinates and the coordinates of each of the measurement point are used in a Haversine formula to determine distance of each of the measurement point from the

base station. The measured RSSI values were converted to measured Pathloss using Eq 7 and Eq 8. Figure 2, give the radial graph of measured RSS (dB) and measured path loss (dBm).

Table 1. The Measured Received Signal Strength (RSSI) and Measured Pathloss and Distance.

S/N	Longitude	Latitude	d (km)	f (MHz)	RSSI (dBm)	Field Measured Path Loss (dBm)
1	7.040935	5.507852	0.7726	800	-81	106.3
2	7.040672	5.507752	0.8038	800	-85	110.3
3	7.040565	5.50762	0.8199	800	-85	110.3
4	7.040438	5.507713	0.8297	800	-85	110.3
5	7.040467	5.507362	0.8404	800	-85	110.3
6	7.040458	5.507215	0.8475	800	-85	110.3
7	7.040433	5.507063	0.8568	800	-91	116.3
8	7.040448	5.506895	0.863	800	-91	116.3
9	7.041365	5.5054	0.8632	800	-91	116.3
10	7.040448	5.506722	0.8713	800	-91	116.3
11	7.041168	5.505432	0.8784	800	-91	116.3
12	7.040332	5.50657	0.8903	800	-91	116.3
13	7.040413	5.506352	0.8936	800	-91	116.3
14	7.040918	5.50544	0.9001	800	-91	116.3
15	7.040405	5.50624	0.9004	800	-97	122.3
16	7.040135	5.506553	0.9107	800	-97	122.3
17	7.040382	5.506077	0.9115	800	-97	122.3
18	7.04046	5.505925	0.9127	800	-97	122.3
19	7.039983	5.506675	0.92	800	-97	122.3
20	7.040647	5.50549	0.9215	800	-97	122.3
21	7.040435	5.505672	0.9299	800	-97	122.3
22	7.039803	5.506722	0.936	800	-97	122.3
23	7.03963	5.50678	0.9509	800	-97	122.3
24	7.039477	5.506815	0.965	800	-97	122.3
25	7.039288	5.50683	0.9837	800	-97	122.3
26	7.03911	5.506847	1.0013	800	-97	122.3
27	7.039023	5.506815	1.0116	800	-99	124.3

Figure 2. The Radial Graph Of Measured RSS (dB) and Measured Path Loss (dBm) vs Distance.

Table 2 and figure 3 show the predicted pathloss (dB) versus distance for the un-tuned Hata-Okumura Models. Also, Table 3 and figure 4 show the predicted pathloss (dB) versus distance for the optimised Hata-Okumura Models. Table 4 and figure 5 give the prediction performance of the models in terms of RMSE value. Table 5 and figure 6 give the prediction performance of the models in terms of Mean Absolute Error (MAE) whereas Table 6 and figure 7 give the prediction performance of the models in terms of prediction accuracy (%).

From the table 4, 5 and 6 and bar charts of figure 5, 6 and 7, it can be stated that the Hata-Okumura model for the urban area has the best prediction accuracy when not optimised but it has the lowest prediction accuracy when optimised. On the other hand, the Hata-Okumura model for the rural/open area has the least prediction accuracy when not optimised but it has the highest prediction accuracy when it is optimised. The improvement in the prediction accuracy for the three models are: Hata-Okumura Urban (8.49%), Hata-Okumura Sub-Urban (16.73%) and Hata-Okumura Rural/Open (29.91%).

Table 2. Predicted Pathloss (dB) vs Distance For The Un-tuned Hata-Okumura Models.

d (km)	Field Measured Pathloss (dBm)	Hata-Okumura Urban	Hata-Okumura Suburban	Hata-Okumura Open /RURAL AREA
0.7726	106.3	15.08	24.34	39.57
0.8038	110.3	15.08	24.34	39.57
0.8199	110.3	15.08	24.34	39.57
0.8297	110.3	15.08	24.34	39.57

d (km)	Field Measured Pathloss (dBm)	Hata-Okumura Urban	Hata-Okumura Suburban	Hata-Okumura Open /RURAL AREA
0.8404	110.3	15.08	24.34	39.57
0.8475	110.3	15.08	24.34	39.57
0.8568	116.3	15.08	24.34	39.57
0.863	116.3	15.08	24.34	39.57
0.8632	116.3	15.08	24.34	39.57
0.8713	116.3	15.08	24.34	39.57
0.8784	116.3	15.08	24.34	39.57
0.8903	116.3	15.08	24.34	39.57
0.8936	116.3	15.08	24.34	39.57
0.9001	116.3	15.08	24.34	39.57
0.9004	122.3	15.08	24.34	39.57
0.9107	122.3	15.08	24.34	39.57
0.9115	122.3	15.08	24.34	39.57
0.9127	122.3	15.08	24.34	39.57
0.92	122.3	15.08	24.34	39.57
0.9215	122.3	15.08	24.34	39.57
0.9299	122.3	15.08	24.34	39.57
0.936	122.3	15.08	24.34	39.57
0.9509	122.3	15.08	24.34	39.57
0.965	122.3	15.08	24.34	39.57
0.9837	122.3	15.08	24.34	39.57
1.0013	122.3	15.08	24.34	39.57
1.0116	124.3	15.08	24.34	39.57

Figure 3. Path Loss vs Distance For The Untuned Hata-Okumura Models.

Table 3. Optimised Predicted Path Loss (dB) vs Distance For The Optimised HATA-OKUMURA Models.

d (km)	Field Measured Path Loss (dBm)	Hata-Okumura Urban	Hata-Okumura Suburban	Hata-Okumura Open /RURAL AREA
0.7726	106.3	116.6	116.21	115.97
0.8038	110.3	117.19	116.8	116.56
0.8199	110.3	117.49	117.1	116.86
0.8297	110.3	117.67	117.27	117.03
0.8404	110.3	117.86	117.47	117.23
0.8475	110.3	117.98	117.59	117.35
0.8568	116.3	118.15	117.75	117.51
0.863	116.3	118.25	117.86	117.62
0.8632	116.3	118.26	117.86	117.63
0.8713	116.3	118.4	118	117.77
0.8784	116.3	118.52	118.13	117.89
0.8903	116.3	118.72	118.33	118.09
0.8936	116.3	118.77	118.38	118.14
0.9001	116.3	118.88	118.49	118.25
0.9004	122.3	118.89	118.5	118.26
0.9107	122.3	119.06	118.67	118.43
0.9115	122.3	119.07	118.68	118.44
0.9127	122.3	119.09	118.7	118.46
0.92	122.3	119.21	118.82	118.58
0.9215	122.3	119.23	118.84	118.6
0.9299	122.3	119.37	118.98	118.74

d (km)	Field Measured Path Loss (dBm)	Hata-Okumura Urban	Hata-Okumura Suburban	Hata-Okumura Open /RURAL AREA
0.936	122.3	119.47	119.08	118.84
0.9509	122.3	119.7	119.31	119.07
0.965	122.3	119.92	119.53	119.29
0.9837	122.3	120.21	119.82	119.58
1.0013	122.3	120.47	120.08	119.84
1.0116	124.3	120.63	120.24	120

Figure 4. Path Loss vs Distance for the Optimized Hata-Okumura Models.

Table 4. Root Mean Square Error for the Hata-Okumura Models.

	Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) Hata-Okumura Urban	Root Mean Square Error Hata-Okumura Sub-Urban	Root Mean Square Error Hata-Okumura Rural/Open Area
Untuned Models	52.28	61.7	76.91
Optimized Models	13.54	13.44	13.34

Figure 5. Bar chart Of The Root Mean Square Error For The Hata-Okumura Models.

Table 5. Mean Absolute Error (MAE) For The HATA-OKUMURA Models.

	Mean Absolute Error (MAE) Okumura Urban	Mean Absolute Error Okumura Sub-Urban	Mean Absolute Error Okumura Rural/Open Area
Untuned Models	50.77	60.43	75.9
Optimized Models	11.4	11.31	11.22

Figure 6. Mean Absolute Error (MAE) For The HATA-OKUMURA Models.

Table 6. Prediction Accuracy (%) For The Models.

	Prediction Accuracy (%) Okumura Urban	Prediction Accuracy (5%) Okumura Sub-Urban	Prediction Accuracy (5%) Okumura Rural/Open Area
Untuned Models	88.22	80.01	66.85
Optimized Models	96.71	96.74	96.76
Improvement	8.49	16.73	29.91

Figure 7. Prediction Accuracy (%) For The Models.

Where

The original Hata-Okumura model is given in Eq 21 to Eq 23 as:

For Urban Area

$$LP_{OK_HATA(urban)} = A + B * \log_{10}(d) \quad (21)$$

For Suburban Area

$$LP_{OK_HATA(suburban)} = A + B * \log_{10}(d) - C \quad (22)$$

For Open Area/Rural

$$LP_{OK_HATA(open/rural)} = A + B * \log_{10}(d) - D \quad (23)$$

The optimized model is given by adding an optimization constant, K_{OPT} as follows;

For Urban Area

$$LP_{OK_HATA(urban)} = A + B * \log_{10}(d) + K_{OPT} \quad (24)$$

For Suburban Area

$$LP_{OK_HATA(suburban)} = A + B * \log_{10}(d) - C + K_{OPT} \quad (25)$$

For Open Area/Rural

$$LP_{OK_HATA(open/rural)} = A + B * \log_{10}(d) - D + K_{OPT} \quad (26)$$

$$K_{OPT} = 15.08 \text{ for Urban} \quad (27)$$

$$K_{OPT} = 24.34 \text{ for Sub-Urban} \quad (28)$$

$$K_{OPT} = 39.57 \text{ for Rural/Open Area} \quad (29)$$

4. Conclusion

A study on the three categories of Hata-Okumura pathloss model for urban, sub urban and rural/open area presented based on empirical measurements carried out for only 800 MHz GSM network at Imo state University campus. The results showed that the Hata-Okumura model

for the Urban area has the best prediction accuracy when not optimised but it has the lowest optimised prediction accuracy. On the other hand the Hata-Okumura model for the rural/open area has the least prediction accuracy when not optimised but it has the highest prediction accuracy when it is optimised. The results show that adoption of a model because it has the highest prediction accuracy is not the best approach to the selection of pathloss models. Rather the models should be optimised and the best optimised model should be adopted.

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