



The far-field distance is given by

$$d_f = \frac{2D^2}{\lambda}$$

where D is the largest physical linear dimension of the antenna.

- Friis equation does not hold for $d = 0$. For this reason, large-scale propagation models use a close-in distance, d_0 , as a known received power reference point.
- The received power, $P_r(d)$, at any distance $d > d_0$, may be related to P_r at d_0 .
- The value $P_r(d_0)$ may be predicted from Friis equation, or may be measured in the radio environment by taking the average received power at many points located at a close-in radial distance d_0 from the transmitter.
- The reference distance must be chosen such that it lies in the far-field region, that is, $d_0 \geq d_f$, and d_0 is chosen to be smaller than any practical distance used in the mobile communication system. Thus, using Friis equation, the received power in free space at a distance greater than d_0 is given by

$$P_r(d) = P_r(d_0) \left(\frac{d_0}{d} \right)^2$$

where $d \geq d_0 \geq d_f$

- Because of the large dynamic range of received power levels, often *dBm* or *dBW* units are used to express received power levels. This is done by simply taking the logarithm of both sides and multiplying by 10.

For example, if P_r is in units of *dBm*, the received power is given by

$$P_r(d) \text{ dBm} = 10 \log \left[\frac{P_r(d_0)}{0.001 \text{ W}} \right] + 20 \log \left(\frac{d_0}{d} \right)$$

where $P_r(d_0)$ is in units of watts.

Example 1

Find the far-field distance for an antenna with maximum dimension of $1m$ and operating frequency of 900 MHz .

Solution

Given:

Largest dimension of antenna, $D = 1m$,

Operating frequency, $f = 900 \text{ MHz}$,

$$\lambda = \frac{c}{f} = \frac{3 \times 10^8}{900 \times 10^6} = 0.33m$$

$$d_f = \frac{2D^2}{\lambda} = \frac{2(1)^2}{0.33} = 6m$$

Example 2

If a transmitter produces 50 *watts* of power, express the transmit power in units of

- dBm*,
- dBW*.

If 50 *watts* is applied to a unity gain antenna with a 900 *MHz* carrier frequency, find the received power in *dBm* at a free space distance of 100*m* from the antenna. What is P_r (10 *km*)? Assume unity gain for the receiver antenna.

Solution:

Given:

$$P_t = 50 \text{ W}, f = 900 \text{ MHz}$$

(a)

$$P_t(\text{dBm}) = 10 \log [P_t(\text{mW}) / (1 \text{ mW})] = 10 \log [50 \times 10^3] = 47 \text{ dBm}$$

(b)

$$P_t(\text{dBm}) = 10 \log [P_t(\text{W}) / (1 \text{ W})] = 10 \log [50] = 17 \text{ dBW}$$

The received power is

$$P_r(d) = \frac{P_t G_t G_r}{L} \left(\frac{\lambda}{4\pi d} \right)^2$$

$$P_r(d) = \frac{50 \times 1 \times 1}{1} \left(\frac{0.33}{4\pi \times 100} \right)^2 = 3.5 \times 10^{-6} \text{ W} = 3.5 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mW}$$

$$P_r(\text{dBm}) = 10 \log P_r(\text{mW}) = 10 \log (3.5 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mW}) = -24.5 \text{ dBm}$$

The received power at 10 *km* can be expressed in terms of *dBm* as

$$P_r(10 \text{ km}) = P_r(100) + 20 \log \left(\frac{100}{10000} \right) = -24.5 \text{ dBm} - 40 \text{ dB} = -64.5 \text{ dBm}$$

Example 3

Determine the isotropic free space loss at 4 GHz for the 3.5 km path to a receiver from transmitter.

Solution:

$$\lambda = \frac{c}{f} = \frac{3 \times 10^8}{4 \times 10^9} = 0.075 m$$

$$PL(dB) = -20 \log \left(\frac{0.075}{4\pi \times 3.5 \times 10^3} \right) = 115.4 dB$$

4.3 Basic Propagation mechanisms

The physical mechanisms that govern radio propagation are complex and diverse, but generally attributed to the following three factors

1. Reflection
2. Diffraction
3. Scattering

1- Reflection

1 Occurs when waves impinges upon an obstruction that is much larger in size compared to the wavelength of the signal

Example: reflections from earth and buildings , these reflections may interfere with the original signal constructively or destructively

2- Diffraction

1 Occurs when the radio path between sender and receiver is obstructed by an impenetrable body and by a surface with sharp irregularities (edges)

Explains how radio signals can travel urban and rural environments without a line-of-sight path