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Empirical Frequency-Dependent Wall Insertion Loss Model at 3–6 GHz for Future Internet-of-Things Applications

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ABSTRACT A novel frequency-dependent wall insertion loss model at 3–6 GHz is proposed in this paper. The frequency-dependence of the wall insertion loss is modeled by the Fourier triangular basis neural network. A method to determine the optimal weighted vector and the number of the neurons is introduced. In addition, the impact of the wider continuous spectrum on the wall insertion loss is analyzed and extensive measurements are performed to validate the proposed model. The results obtained with the proposed model match better with the measured results than other models. The proposed model can be used in future indoor Internet-of-Things applications such as service computing.

INDEX TERMS Wall insertion loss, neural network, 3-6 GHz, internet of things (IoT).

I. INTRODUCTION

As one of the key technologies in future wireless communication system, the internet of things (IoT) will gradually be integrated into daily life [1]. Service computing plays an important role in the IoT applications [2]. Through the information interaction between a huge number of devices and the computing among various services, the IoT can provide various kinds of smart applications [3], [4]. Among them, indoor services such as personal healthcare and smart home, are typical services provided by the IoT. Understanding the indoor propagation characteristics is very important for constructing the indoor IoT [5]. However, the densely and randomly distributed walls under the indoor environment makes the propagation properties much more complex. Accordingly, only modeling the wall insertion loss correctly can offer several useful options for the follow-up work, such as wireless coverage and interference suppression.

Towards this objective, various wall insertion models have been proposed in the past few decades. In general, these models can be classified into the material-dependent, angle-dependent and thickness-dependent models. In the material-dependent model, the wall insertion loss for typical materials, such as brick, glass, concrete, has been measured and analyzed [6]–[8]. In the angle-dependent model, the influence of the angle of incidence on the wall insertion loss has also been measured and analyzed [9], [10]. The thickness-dependent model indicates that the wall insertion loss in decibel has a linear relationship with the thickness [8], [11].

Basically, the above studies mainly focused on studying the wall insertion loss over the narrowband spectrum. Thus, the frequency dependence of the wall insertion loss was not considered in those studies. In the future IoT systems, a wider continuous spectrum may be allocated and a general, empirical, frequency-dependent wall insertion loss model may be more useful. In a previous study [12], the experimental results showed that the expectation of the wall insertion has a linear relationship with the frequency. However, the wall insertion loss may fluctuate significantly over such wider spectrum due to the inhomogeneity of the sampled wall. Thus, the wall insertion loss may show a complex and non-linear relationship with the frequency. Unfortunately, traditional algebraic approaches may not describe this frequency-dependence accurately. Therefore, it is a challenging task to develop a frequency-dependent wall insertion loss model.

In this situation, the neural network (NN) may play a substantial role in learning the complex non-linear dependence. Previous studies have shown that the NN can approximate any nonlinear function with lower estimated errors [13]–[16]. Motivated by the need of future indoor IoT systems, a novel NN-based frequency-dependent wall insertion loss model is proposed in this paper. The main contributions of this paper are the following:

- A novel, empirical, frequency-dependent wall insertion loss model based on a NN is proposed in this paper. The frequency-dependence of the wall insertion loss is fitted by a NN with the Fourier triangular basis. The formula to calculate the optimal weighted vector is derived and the procedure to determine the number of neurons in the hidden layer is introduced. Then the algorithm for simulating the wall insertion loss at each discrete frequency is given. Extensive measurements are performed to validate the proposed model. Compared with the linear model, the results obtained with our proposed model match better with the measured results. Compared with the back propagation (BP) NN method, our proposed model has faster calculation speed to achieve approximation performances.
- The impact of the wider continuous spectrum on the parameters and the wall insertion loss are analyzed. The results show that the m-parameters have no significant correlation with the frequency but the Ω parameters show a declined trend with the frequency. In addition, the wall insertion loss will rise with the frequency and fluctuate significantly during the rise.
- In order to verify the universality of the proposed model, we perform extensive measurements at another similarly sampled wall. The measured wall insertion loss is compared with the ones predicted by the proposed model. The results demonstrate the accuracy and universality of the proposed frequency-dependent model for predicting the wall insertion loss.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. The NN-based frequency-dependent wall insertion loss model is proposed in Section II. The measurement environment and setup are described in Section III. The analysis of the modeling results and validation of the universality of the proposed model are presented in Section IV. The conclusions drawn from this study are given in Section V.

II. NN-BASED FREQUENCY-DEPENDENT WALL INSERTION LOSS MODEL

In this section, a novel NN-based frequency-dependent wall insertion loss model is proposed. A Nakagami fading channel is assumed to describe the statistical properties of the wall insertion loss [17].



 $\phi_0(x), \ \phi_1(x) ... \phi_{i-1}(x)$ are a couple of the orthogonal trigonometric functions

FIGURE 1. the structure of NN for modeling the frequency-dependence of the parameters.

A. PROPOSED MODEL

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The wall insertion loss (dimensionless) is defined as the ratio of the instantaneous power in the absence (abs-link) and presence (pre-link) of the wall [18]. Previous studies have shown that the wall insertion loss over a Nakagami fading channel has a generalized beta prime distribution [19]. The probability distribution function (PDF) of the wall insertion is expressed as

$$f_{W_{loss}}(x) = \frac{\left(x \cdot \frac{\Omega_2}{\Omega_1} \cdot \frac{m_1}{m_2}\right)^{m_1 - 1} \left(1 + x \cdot \frac{\Omega_2}{\Omega_1} \cdot \frac{m_1}{m_2}\right)^{-m_1 - m_2}}{\frac{\Omega_1}{\Omega_2} \cdot \frac{m_2}{m_1} B(m_1, m_2)}$$
(1)

where m_1 , Ω_1 and m_2 , Ω_2 are the frequency-dependent parameters of the abs-link and pre-link respectively.

Then we use a NN with the Fourier triangular basis to model the frequency-dependence of the parameters. The structure of the Fourier triangular basis NN is shown in Fig.1, where the activation functions of the hidden layer are a couple of the orthogonal trigonometric functions. The Fourier triangular basis NN is constructed based on the fact that a sum of the orthogonal trigonometric functions can approximate to any objective function at the interval [a, b] [16].

$$y(x) \approx \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} \omega_i \varphi_i(x)$$
 (2)

$$\varphi_i(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & i = 0\\ \cos[(i+1) \cdot \frac{\pi}{2(b-a)}x), & i = 1, 3, 5, \cdots \\ \sin(i \cdot \frac{\pi}{2(b-a)}x), & i = 2, 4, 6 \cdots \end{cases}$$
(3)

We use the following function to define the error between the objective and approximated functions

$$e = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{M} \left[y(x_j) - y_{sim}(x_j) \right]^2$$
(4)

$$y_{sim}(x) = \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} \omega_i \varphi_i(x)$$
(5)

where $y(x_j)$ and $y_{sim}(x_j)$, (j = 1, ...M), represent each sample of the objective and approximated functions, respectively.

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Thus, the objective of the NN is to find the optimal weighted vector $\boldsymbol{\omega}^* = (\omega_0^* \omega_1^* \cdots \omega_{N-1}^*)$ corresponding to the minimum error e_{min} .

The typical training algorithm, such as Levenberg-Marquardt and Bayesian regularization [16] can achieve the optimal weighted vector $\boldsymbol{\omega}^*$ by many iterations. However, these iterations cost plenty of training time. To avoid the lengthy iterated process, we can obtain the optimal weighted vector $\boldsymbol{\omega}^*$ directly as follows:

$$\boldsymbol{\omega}^{*} = (\boldsymbol{X}^{T}\boldsymbol{X})^{-1}\boldsymbol{X}^{T}\boldsymbol{Y}$$
(6)
$$\boldsymbol{X} = \begin{pmatrix} \varphi_{0}(x_{1}) & \varphi_{1}(x_{1}) & \cdots & \varphi_{N-1}(x_{1}) \\ \varphi_{0}(x_{2}) & \varphi_{1}(x_{2}) & \cdots & \varphi_{N-1}(x_{2}) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \varphi_{0}(x_{M}) & \varphi_{1}(x_{M}) & \cdots & \varphi_{N-1}(x_{M}) \end{pmatrix}$$
(7)
$$\boldsymbol{Y} = (y(x_{1}) y(x_{2}) \cdots y(x_{M}))^{T}$$
(8)

where X and Y are defined as the eigen matrix and objective vector, respectively. (·) represents the transpose of the matrix.

Proof: The NN uses the gradient descent algorithm to find the optimal weighted vector ω^* . The iterative formula of the weighted coefficients can be expressed as

$$\omega_i(l+1) = \omega_i(l) - \eta \frac{\partial e}{\partial \omega_i} \tag{9}$$

where η is defined as the learning rate.

Substituting (4) and (5) into (9), we can get

$$\omega_i(l+1) = \omega_i(l) - \eta \sum_{j=1}^M \{ [\sum_{p=0}^{N-1} \omega_p(l)\varphi_p(x_j) - y(x_j)]\varphi_i(x_j) \}$$
(10)

In matrix form, equation (10) can be expressed as:

$$\boldsymbol{\omega}(l+1) = \boldsymbol{\omega}(l) - \eta \boldsymbol{X}^{T} [\boldsymbol{X} \boldsymbol{\omega}(l) - \boldsymbol{Y}]$$
(11)

where the matrix X and Y are defined as equations (7) and (8), respectively.

The vector $\boldsymbol{\omega}(l)$ is the weighted vector obtained from the l^{th} iterative step.

$$\boldsymbol{\omega}(l) = \left(\omega_0(l) \ \omega_1(l) \ \cdots \ \omega_{N-1}(l)\right)^T \tag{12}$$

Thus, the optimal weighted vector $\boldsymbol{\omega}^*$ can be obtained by taking the limit of both sides in (11).

$$\boldsymbol{\omega}^* = \lim_{l \to \infty} \boldsymbol{\omega}(l) = (\boldsymbol{X}^T \boldsymbol{X})^{-1} \boldsymbol{X}^T \boldsymbol{Y}$$
(13)

Therefore, the optimal weighted vector of each parameter can be estimated according to equation (6).

Next, the number of neurons in the hidden layer needs to be determined. The fitting may not be the best if the number of neurons is too low. On the other hand, overfitting may occur when the number of neurons is too large. Therefore, the number of neurons plays an important role in a NN. In this paper, the number of neurons is determined through the procedure depicted in Fig. 2.



FIGURE 2. The flowchart of the method to determine the number of neurons in the hidden layer.

B. PARAMETERS EXTRACTION

The algorithm for extracting the parameters m_1 , m_2 , Ω_1 , Ω_2 at each frequency can be expressed as

$$m_{1k} = E^2(P_k^{abs}) / Var(P_k^{abs})$$
(14)

$$\Omega_{1k} = E(P_k^{abs}) \tag{15}$$

$$m_{2k} = E^2(P_k^{pre}) / Var(P_k^{pre})$$
(16)

$$\Omega_{2k} = E(P_k^{pre}) \tag{17}$$

where P_k^{abs} and P_k^{pre} are the instantaneous power of the abslink and pre-link at each frequency, respectively.

To obtain a consistent threshold when determining the number of the neurons, all the parameters are normalized as

$$\bar{m}_{1j} = \frac{m_{1j} - \min(m_1)}{\max(m_1) - \min(m_1)}$$
(18)

$$\bar{\Omega}_{1j} = \frac{\Omega_{1j} - \min(\Omega_1)}{\max(\Omega_1) - \min(\Omega_1)}$$
(19)

$$\bar{m}_{2j} = \frac{m_{2j} - \min(m_2)}{\max(m_2) - \min(m_2)}$$
(20)

$$\bar{\Omega}_{2j} = \frac{\Omega_{2j} - \min(\Omega_2)}{\max(\Omega_2) - \min(\Omega_2)}$$
(21)

where $\min(\cdot)$ and $\max(\cdot)$ are the functions to calculate the maximum and minimum values over all the samples of each parameter.



FIGURE 3. the flowchart of generating the wall insertion loss.

C. PARAMETERS EXTRACTION

The simulated procedure for the wall insertion loss is depicted in Fig. 3. First, the parameters at each frequency are extracted from the measured data. Then a Fourier triangular basis NN is set up. The number of neurons in the hidden layer is determined through the procedure depicted in Fig. 2. Next, each parameter is simulated according to its own optimal weighted vector. Eventually, the wall insertion loss at each frequency is generated according to the PDF of the wall insertion loss.

III. MEASUREMENT SETUP

Extensive measurements are performed to determine the accuracy of the proposed model. In theory, the measurements should be conducted in an anechoic chamber. However, the experimental conditions do not allow us to perform the measurements in a microwave anechoic chamber. In the previous studies, several wall insertion loss measurements were performed under different environments. These studies



FIGURE 4. The layout of the environment.



FIGURE 5. Block diagram of frequency-domain measurement system.

showed that the approximate results could also be achieved if an approximated sampled wall was chosen [6], [9], [12].

A. ENVIRONMENT

In this study, the measurements are performed in a corridor in an office building. We choose a concrete wall with 17-cm thickness to perform the measurement. The sampled wall is large enough that the diffracted wave can be ignored [20]. The sampled wall is 4 m away from the sided wall. During the measurements, there are no the other objects or persons. The layout of the measured environment is depicted in Fig. 4.

B. MEASUREMENT SYSTEM

A frequency-domain measurement is performed using the Agilent 8720ET vector network analyzer (VNA), as shown in Fig. 5 [21]. The VNA generates a 10-dBm, 151-point sweeping signal from 3-6 GHz. The synchronization between the transmitted and received signal is achieved through a 15m-long coaxial feeder. Both the transmitter and receiver antennas are isotropic and vertical polarized antennas fixed at a height of 1.5 m. The gain of each antenna is 3 dBi. The measurement data are transmitted to the laptop computer through a GPIB interface. The calibration of this system is performed by the electronic calibration module. A higher dynamic range and lower noise level can be achieved with this measurement system.

TABLE 1. Number of neurons in the hidden layer for each parameter.

| parameter | m_1 | m_2 | Ω_1 | Ω_2 |
|-----------|-------|-------|------------|------------|
| number | 14 | 12 | 14 | 8 |

C. MEASUREMENT PROCEDURE

First, the frequency response in the absence of the wall is measured to establish a reference. Then we measure the frequency response in the presence of the sampled wall. The Tx-Rx distance is the same as that of the reference measurement and large enough to ensure that the sampled wall is in the far field. Both measurements are performed at 5×5 grids and the interval between the adjacent interval is 15 cm. At each grid, the measurements are repeated 8 times to reduce the noise.

IV. MODELING RESULTS

A. MODEL PARAMETERS EXTRACTION

The measured wall insertion loss at each discrete frequency point $f_i(i = 1...151)$ is computed as previously reported [6], as follows:

$$IL(f_i) = 10\log_{10} \frac{1}{200} \sum_{j=1}^{8} \sum_{k=1}^{25} \left| H_{ref}(t_j, g_k; f_i) \right|^2 - 10\log_{10} \frac{1}{200} \sum_{j=1}^{8} \sum_{k=1}^{25} \left| H(t_j, g_k; f_i) \right|^2$$
(22)

where $H(t_j, g_k; f_i)$ and $H_{ref}(t_j, g_k; f_i)$ are the measured frequency responses of the pre-link and abs-link, respectively; t_j (j = 1...8) stands for the temporal samples; g_k (k = 1...25) stands for the sample at each grid.

Then, we can extract the parameters of the pre-link and abslink from the measured frequency responses according to the equations (14)-(17).

B. NUMBER OF NEURONS IN THE HIDDEN LAYER

For each parameter, the number of neurons is determined by following the steps in Section II, subsection A. The results are summarized in Table 1. Only the parameter Ω_2 needs the lower number of neurons. Then we save the error and the optimal weighted vector corresponding to each parameter.

C. CORRELATION OF THE PARAMETERS WITH THE FREQUENCIES

Using the optimal weighted vector, we can simulate the parameter at each input frequency. The parameters against the frequencies are depicted in Fig. 6-9. Specifically, in Fig. 6 and 7, the m-parameters of both links show no significant correlation with frequency because the m-parameter depends mainly on the propagation environment. Besides, the m_2 parameter is larger than 1 at several frequencies since the principal component is even present in the pre-link. Furthermore, the results shown in Fig. 8 and 9 indicate that the



FIGURE 6. The frequency dependence of parameter m_1 .



FIGURE 7. The frequency dependence of parameter m_2 .



FIGURE 8. The frequency dependence of parameter Ω_1 .

 Ω_1 and Ω_2 parameters show a declined trend with the frequency as a result of the increased power loss.

D. FREQUENCY-DEPENDENCY OF THE WALL INSERTION LOSS

The simulated and measured wall insertion loss versus the frequency are shown in Fig. 10-Fig.12. Since the modeled



FIGURE 9. The frequency dependence of parameter Ω_2 .



FIGURE 10. The measured and fitted wall insertion loss versus the frequency at 10% quantile.



FIGURE 11. The measured and fitted wall insertion loss versus the frequency at 50% quantile.

and measured cumulative distribution functions (CDFs) at each discrete frequency point cannot be clearly graphically depicted, we choose the 10%, 50%, 90% quantile at each frequency. Previous studies indicate that the wall insertion



FIGURE 12. The measured and fitted wall insertion loss versus the frequency at 90% quantile.



FIGURE 13. The measured and fitted Ω_1/Ω_2 versus the frequency.

loss is mainly determined by the ratio of the parameter Ω_1 and Ω_2 . Then, the ratio of the parameter Ω_1 and Ω_2 versus the frequency is shown in Fig.13. These results reveal that the ratio of the parameters Ω_1 and Ω_2 show an uptrend with the frequency. Thus, as seen in Fig.10-Fig.12, the wall insertion loss rise with the frequency due to the increased Ω_1/Ω_2 . However, due to the inhomogeneity of the sampled wall, the wall insertion loss will fluctuate significantly during the rise.

E. COMPARED WITH OTHER MODELS

In a previous study [12], the expectation of the wall insertion loss was found to be linearly correlated with the frequency. Therefore, we compare the proposed model with the linear model so as to obtain a scientific quantification of the performance. In the linear model, the wall insertion loss against the frequency can be expressed as previously reported [12]:

$$I_{loss} = a_{I_{loss}}f + b_{I_{loss}} \tag{23}$$

Then we can estimate $a_{I_{loss}}$ and $b_{I_{loss}}$ from the measured data and simulate the wall insertion using the linear model.



FIGURE 14. The proposed modeled wall insertion loss versus the measured results at 10% quantile.



FIGURE 15. The linear modeled wall insertion loss versus the measured results at 10% quantile.

Each of the simulated wall insertion loss from the proposed model and linear model versus the measured results at each quantile are displayed in Fig.14-19. The R-square values and the fitting functions at each quantile are summarized in Table 2-4. The R-square value indicates the fitting performance between the simulated and measured results. The fitting with R-square = 1 is a perfect fitting. The nearer the fitting function approximates to the function y = x, the better the fitting is. As shown in Table 2-4, the proposed method is more accurate for modeling the wall insertion loss than the linear method.

In this paper, we also use a typical BP NN to model the frequency-dependence of the wall insertion loss [16]. The NN still includes three layers, namely the input layer, hidden layer, and output layer. The sigmoid function is used for the activation function of the hidden layer. The number of neurons in the hidden layer is the same as that in the Fourier triangular basis NN. Bayesian regularization training algorithm is used to train the NN.

The results obtained from the BP method are displayed in Fig. 20-22 The modeled results are compared with those



FIGURE 16. The proposed modeled wall insertion loss versus the measured results at 50% quantile.



FIGURE 17. The linear modeled wall insertion loss versus the measured results at 50% quantile.



FIGURE 18. The proposed modeled wall insertion loss versus the measured results at 90% quantile.

of the proposed model, as shown in Table 5. The comparison shows that the proposed model requires less computational time to achieve the approximation performances compared with the BP method. This demonstrates that the proposed



FIGURE 19. The linear modeled wall insertion loss versus the measured results at 90% quantile.

 TABLE 2. The R-square values and the fitting functions of the proposed and the linear model at 10% quantile.

| | Proposed model | Linear model |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| R-square | 0.67 | 0.41 |
| fitting function | y = 0.66x + 3.26 | y = 0.41x + 4.92 |

TABLE 3. The R-square values and the fitting functions of the proposed and the linear model at 50% quantile.

| | Proposed model | Linear model | |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|--|
| R-square | 0.75 | 0.55 | |
| fitting function | y = 0.74x + 4.52 | y = 0.56x + 7.90 | |

 TABLE 4. The R-square values and the fitting functions of the proposed and the linear model at 90% quantile.

| | Proposed model | Linear model |
|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| R-square | 0.63 | 0.50 |
| fitting function | y = 0.65x + 9.20 | y = 0.49x + 13.80 |

 TABLE 5. The computational time and R-square values of the proposed method and BP method.

| | proposed model | | | BP method | | |
|------------|----------------|------|------|-----------|------|------|
| time | 0.023s | | | 4.5s | | |
| R-square - | 10% | 50% | 90% | 10% | 50% | 90% |
| | 0.67 | 0.75 | 0.63 | 0.77 | 0.80 | 0.63 |

model is more effective because it does not require the lengthy iterative process.

F. VALIDATION OF THE UNIVERSALITY OF THE PROPOSED MODEL

In order to validate the universality of the proposed wall insertion loss model, we perform measurements at another similarly sampled wall. This sampled wall is also made of concrete with a thickness of 17 cm. The sampled wall is also large enough so as to ignore the diffracted wave. Then,



FIGURE 20. The wall insertion loss obtained from the BP method versus the measured results at 10% quantile.



FIGURE 21. The wall insertion loss obtained from the BP method versus the measured results at 50% quantile.



FIGURE 22. The wall insertion loss obtained from the BP method versus the measured results at 90% quantile.

we use the proposed model to predict the wall insertion loss and compare the predicted results with the measured data. The predicted wall insertion loss versus the measured ones are shown in Fig. 23-25 The R-square values at the



FIGURE 23. the predicted wall insertion loss versus the measured results at 10% quantile.



FIGURE 24. the predicted wall insertion loss versus the measured results at 50% quantile.



FIGURE 25. the predicted wall insertion loss versus the measured results at 90% quantile.

three quantiles are 0.6720, 0.7445, 0.6016 respectively. These results demonstrate the accuracy and universality of the proposed frequency-dependent model for predicting the wall insertion loss.

G. APPLICATION OF THE PROPOSED MODEL

The proposed wall insertion loss model can be employed in future indoor IoT applications. For example, it can be used in service computing when a link budget is required. The attenuation caused by the interior wall can be estimated by the proposed model and the link budget under the indoor propagation environment with random distributed walls will be more accurate. Thus, the service computing will be more effective.

In addition, this model can be expanded to be multidimensional. Since the wall insertion loss may be affected by several factors such as the frequency, thickness, material, a multi-dimensional model based on the NN algorithm will be feasible and useful.

Furthermore, we can also study other methods to further enhance the fitting performances. For example, we can design the NN with different orthogonal basis functions and try to calculate the optimal weighted vector with these orthogonal basis functions. Additionally, we can explore the other optimization methods to determine the optimal weighted vector.

V. CONCLUSION

In this paper, an empirical frequency-dependent wall insertion loss model at 3-6 GHz is proposed for IoT applications. A Fourier triangular basis NN is used to model the frequency-dependence of the distributed parameters of the wall insertion loss. The optimal weighted vector is given directly and the algorithm to determine the number of neurons in the hidden layer is introduced.

Extensive wall insertion loss measurements are performed to validate the proposed model. The *m*-parameters show no significant correlation with the frequency and most of them are larger than 1 due to the principal component. On the other hand, the Ω parameters show a fluctuating and declining trend with the frequency. Furthermore, the wall insertion loss will rise with the frequency as a result of the increased ratio of the parameters Ω_1 and Ω_2 .

To obtain a scientific quantification of the performance, the proposed method is compared with method involving the linear model and the BP algorithm. The R-square values and the fitting function indicate that the proposed model is more accurate than the linear model. Moreover, the proposed model requires the less computational time to achieve the approximation performances compared with the BP model. This finding demonstrates that the proposed model is more effective.

In order to confirm the universality of the proposed wall insertion loss model, we perform extensive measurements at another similarly sampled wall. We use the proposed model to predict the insertion loss at this sampled wall and compare it with the measured results. The R-square values between the predicted and measured results demonstrate the effectiveness and universality of the proposed frequency-dependent model for predicting the wall insertion loss.

The proposed wall insertion loss model can be employed in future indoor IoT applications, such as the link budget, network optimization and the evaluation of electromagnetic interference. Furthermore, this model can be expanded to be multi-dimensional.

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