Millimeter Wave and Sub-THz Indoor Radio Propagation Channel Measurements, Models, and Comparisons in an Office Environment

Yunchou Xing[®], Graduate Student Member, IEEE, Theodore S. Rappaport[®], Fellow, IEEE, and Amitava Ghosh, Fellow, IEEE

(Invited Paper)

Abstract—This letter provides a comparison of indoor radio propagation measurements and corresponding channel statistics at 28, 73, and 140 GHz, based on extensive measurements from 2014-2020 in an indoor office environment. Side-by-side comparisons of propagation characteristics (e.g., large-scale path loss and multipath time dispersion) across a wide range of frequencies from the low millimeter wave band of 28 GHz to the sub-THz band of 140 GHz illustrate the key similarities and differences in indoor wireless channels. The measurements and models show remarkably similar path loss exponents over frequencies in both line-of-sight (LOS) and non-LOS (NLOS) scenarios, when using a one meter free space reference distance, while the multipath time dispersion becomes smaller at higher frequencies. The 3GPP indoor channel model overestimates the large-scale path loss and has unrealistic large numbers of clusters and multipath components per cluster compared to the measured channel statistics in this letter.

Index Terms—mmWave, THz, channel models, multipath time dispersion, 5G, 6G, large-scale path loss, 3GPP InH.

I. INTRODUCTION

The use of wide bandwidths (e.g., ≥100 MHz) in 5G and future wireless communication systems will enable multi-Gbps data rates for mobile devices and will usher in many new applications such as wireless cognition and centimeter-level positioning [1]–[3]. Highly directional electronically-steered antenna arrays will be used by both handset terminals and base stations, resulting in directional wireless channels at mmWave, a significant departure from sub-6 GHz frequencies that use less directional antennas but undergo less penetration and diffraction loss from obstacles [1], [2], [4]. As shown in our companion letter [1], the FCC has recently opened up spectrum above 95 GHz with four new unlicensed bands from 116 GHz to 246 GHz, ushering in a new era of wireless networks that will have hundreds of Gbps of throughput.

Propagation channels at mmWave frequencies in the 24-73 GHz range are somewhat different from sub-6 GHz channels in transmission properties yet are viable through the use of directional antennas on both ends of the link [4]–[9]. However, there is very little known about indoor channels

Manuscript received February 28, 2021; revised April 22, 2021; accepted May 17, 2021. Date of publication June 10, 2021; date of current version October 11, 2021. This research was supported by the NYU WIRELESS Industrial Affiliates Program and NSF Research Grants: 1909206 and 2037845. The associate editor coordinating the review of this letter and approving it for publication was L. Dai. (Corresponding author: Yunchou Xing.)

Yunchou Xing and Theodore S. Rappaport are with the NYU WIRELESS, NYU Tandon School of Engineering, Brooklyn, NY 11201 USA (e-mail: ychou@nyu.edu; tsr@nyu.edu).

Amitava Ghosh is with the NOKIA Bell Labs, Naperville, IL 60563 USA (e-mail: amitava.ghosh@nokia-bell-labs.com).

Digital Object Identifier 10.1109/LCOMM.2021.3088264

above 100 GHz that have a coverage range of 30-40 m. Furthermore, it is currently unknown whether sub-THz wireless networks (i.e., 100-300 GHz) have similar or contrasting propagation characteristics compared to radio channels at lower frequencies. Knowledge of channel characteristics at frequencies above 100 GHz, as well as key differences from lower frequencies, is vital for the creation of frequency-dependent channel models that can be applied over vast frequency ranges (e.g., from 1-300 GHz) to support the design of multi-band indoor wireless modems in global standard bodies such as 3GPP and IEEE [10]. Also, knowledge of how channel characteristics vary over wide frequency ranges can be useful for futuristic applications such as intelligent reflecting surfaces [11] and precise position location [3].

Previous channel measurements in frequency bands from 28 to 380 GHz [12]–[14] have mostly focused on very close ranges (less than 10 m) due to the difficulty in achieving sufficient transmit power and large measurable path loss range [2]. Prior measurements at frequencies above 100 GHz [15]–[17] focused on line-of-sight (LOS) propagation using either reflective materials [15] or an RF-over-fiber extension [16], [17] of a VNA based system achieving over 100 m distance.

This letter presents the first comparison of the radio propagation characteristics from mmWave to sub-THz frequencies in an identical indoor office setting (the NYU WIRELESS center) based three different indoor propagation measurement campaigns at 28, 73, and 142 GHz with coverage distances up to 40 m. Section II shows both indoor directional and omnidirectional large-scale path loss models at 142 GHz and compares the data to 28 and 73 GHz using identical locations in the same office. Section III provides indoor channel statistics including delay spread, and the number of clusters and multipath components (MPCs) at 28, 73, and 142 GHz. Finally, concluding remarks are provided in Section IV.

II. INDOOR RADIO PROPAGATION MEASUREMENTS AND PATH LOSS MODELS AT 28, 73, AND 142 GHz

Above 100 GHz, high phase noise and Doppler spread, limited output power due to device limitations, and the need to fabricate more compact directional phased arrays present challenges for the deployment of future wireless networks above 100 GHz [2], [15], [18], [19]. To overcome these challenges, it is critical that designers first understand the channel characteristics for radio frequencies above 100 GHz.

A. Measurement Systems and Environments

To evaluate the similarity and differences of incumbent 5G bands with futuristic sub-THz bands above 100 GHz, extensive

TABLE I
SUMMARY OF CHANNEL SOUNDER SYSTEMS AND ANTENNAS USED
IN MEASUREMENTS AT 28, 73, AND 142 GHz [4], [20], [21]

| RF Freq. | RF Null-to-Null | Antenna | Ant. Gain |
|----------|-----------------|---------|-----------|
| (GHz) | Bandwidth | HPBW | (dBi) |
| 28 [4] | 0.8 GHz | 30° | 15.0 |
| 73 [20] | 0.8 GHz | 15° | 20.0 |
| 142 [21] | 1.0 GHz | 8° | 27.0 |

radio propagation measurements were conducted in an indoor hotspot (InH) office environment at 28, 73, and most recently 142 GHz over a period of 6 years since 2014 with TX-to-RX (TR) separation distances up to 40 m [6].

Sliding correlation-based wideband channel sounder systems with identical steerable horn antennas at both the TX and RX for each frequency were used during the measurements [4], [20], [21], as shown in Table I. The channel sounders provide power delay profiles (PDPs) with dual-directional angular information. Five TX locations and 20 RX locations were selected across the entire floor, with the same locations used at 28, 73, and 142 GHz, resulting in 20 TX-RX combinations for each measured band (8 LOS and 12 NLOS locations) ranging from 3.9 m to 40.0 m. The measured office environment and measurement procedures are described in [6], [22].

B. Path Loss Models at 28, 73, and 142 GHz

Radio propagation in mmWave and THz bands is range limited due to the severe path loss in the first meter and the limited output power of amplifiers, which are compensated by using directional antennas/arrays [1], [2]. The measured path loss in this letter is calculated by:

$$PL [dB] = P_t + G_t + G_r - P_r + G_{sym},$$
 (1)

where P_t is the output power fed into the TX antenna in dBm, G_t and G_r are TX and RX antennas gains in dBi, respectively, P_r is the measured received power in dBm, and G_{sym} is the processing gain of the channel sounder system in dB.

The 1 m close-in (CI) free space reference distance model (2) is one of the most commonly used large-scale path loss models to predict the signal strength over distance, and is valid over different frequency bands [6], [10], [22], [24], [25]:

$$PL^{CI}(f_c, d_{3D}) = \text{FSPL}(f_c, 1 \text{ m}) + 10n \log_{10} \left(\frac{d_{3D}}{1 \text{ m}}\right) + \chi_{\sigma},$$

$$\text{FSPL}(f_c, 1 \text{ m}) = 32.4 + 20 \log_{10} \left(\frac{f_c}{1 \text{ GHz}}\right), \tag{2}$$

where $d_{\rm 3D}$ is the 3D separation distance between the TX and RX antennas, FSPL($f_c, 1$ m) is the free space path loss at carrier frequency f_c in GHz at 1 m in dB, n is the path loss exponent (PLE), and χ_{σ} is the shadow fading in dB (a zero mean Gaussian random variable with a standard deviation σ in dB) [9], [23]–[26].

The indoor directional LOS PLE for the best-fit CI path loss model is n=1.90 at 28 GHz, n=1.63 at 73 GHz, and is n=2.05 at 142 GHz with a shadow fading standard deviation of $\sigma=3.38$ dB, 3.06 dB, and 2.89 dB, respectively, as presented in Table II. These values all are close to the theoretical free space PLE value of 2.0, with lower mmWave frequencies experiencing waveguiding effects and a PLE less than 2.0. This hints at the fact that higher sub-THz frequencies

have fewer reflections in LOS directional channels (e.g., less waveguiding) due to narrower beam antennas at both ends of the link that attenuate energy toward the reflecting surfaces of walls, ceiling, and floor (as shown in Table I). The LOS measurements show that there is 2-4 dB more average loss at 10 m and 3-7 dB more average loss at 40 m at 142 GHz compared to the average loss at 28 and 73 GHz when referenced to a one meter free space reference distance [2], [9], [28].

The $NLOS_{Best}$ is defined as the best pointing direction of both the TX and RX antennas for which the maximum power is received at the RX at each of the NLOS measurement locations. The best-fit $NLOS_{Best}$ PLEs are $n=2.75,\ 3.30,$ and 3.21 at 28, 73, and 142 GHz, respectively, with shadow fading standard deviations of $\sigma=7.00,\ 8.76,$ and 6.03 dB, respectively, showing that the indoor $NLOS_{Best}$ channels at 73 and 142 GHz are more lossy (higher PLEs) than the channels at 28 GHz.

Two transmission properties, reflections and penetrations, appear to cause the slight difference of the NLOS PLEs at 28 and 142 GHz [2], [8], since it is known that as frequencies increase, there is less transmissivity through reflecting objects and more power is reflected (i.e., greater power in the reflection direction but less penetrated power is observed at 142 GHz compared to 28 and 73 GHz) [8], [29]. However, the surfaces are relatively rough at higher frequencies, and indoor reflection and scattering measurements at 28, 73, and 142 GHz show that the scattered power is negligible (more than 20 dB less) compared to the signal power in the reflection direction for most indoor materials (e.g., drywall and clear glass) [8], [29].

Omnidirectional path loss models were developed from the directional measurements by synthesizing omnidirectional antenna patterns, received power, and path loss from directional antennas [24], [30]. The LOS omnidirectional PLE at 142 GHz is 1.74 with a shadow fading standard deviation of 3.62 dB, which, as expected, is less than the LOS directional PLE of 2.05 at the same 142 GHz due to the capture of energy over the entire horizon using an omnidirectional pattern [24], [30]. The LOS omnidirectional channel offers 3.1 dB less average loss at 10 m and 5.0 dB less average loss at 40 m than the LOS directional channel at 142 GHz (with antenna gains removed). However, in practice, omnidirectional antennas cover a shorter link range due to the lower antenna gain. The NLOS omnidirectional PLE at 142 GHz is 2.83 with a shadow fading standard deviation of 6.07 dB which is a much lossier channel than LOS, yet offers better link coverage than the NLOS_{Best} PLE of 3.21 and the arbitrary directional NLOS PLE of 4.60 at 142 GHz as shown in Tables II and III. The higher PLE in NLOS at higher frequencies suggest accurate beamforming algorithms will be needed to find, capture, and combine the most dominant multipath energy to maintain indoor NLOS communication links above 100 GHz [2], [7], [28].

The omnidirectional PLE and shadowing parameters of the CI path loss model with 1 m free space reference distance for both LOS and NLOS over each of the three bands and for all bands combined are summarized in Table III. The indoor omnidirectional LOS PLEs and shadow fading standard deviations (n,σ) are (1.17, 2.72 dB), (1.36, 2.30 dB), and (1.74, 3.62 dB) at 28, 73, and 142 GHz bands, respectively, and the higher LOS PLE at 142 GHz indicates that the MPCs

| IABLE II |
|--|
| TIONAL INH-OFFICE CHANNEL PARAMETERS OF CI AND CIF PATH LOSS MODELS, RMS DELAY SPREAD, THE NUMBER OF CLUSTERS, AND THE |
| NUMBER OF MPCS PER CLUSTER IN BOTH LOS AND NLOS ENVIRONMENTS AT 28, 73, AND 142 GHz [6], [9], [10], [22], [24], [27] |

| Environment type | | | LOS | | 1 | NLOS _{Best} | t | NLOS | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------|-------|--------------------|----------------------|-------|--------------------|--------|-------|--|
| Frequency [GHz] | | | 73 | 142 | 28 | 73 | 142 | 28 | 73 | 142 | |
| Directional Antenna H | PBW | 30° | 15° | 8° | 30° | 15° | 8° | 30° 15° 8° | | | |
| Single-Band | n | 1.90 | 1.63 | 2.05 | 2.75 | 3.30 | 3.21 | 4.39 | 5.51 | 4.60 | |
| Path Loss CI [9], [22], [27] | σ^{CI} [dB] | 3.38 | 3.06 | 2.89 | 7.00 | 8.76 | 6.03 | 7.30 | 8.94 | 13.80 | |
| Multi-Band | n | 1.86 | | | 3.07 | | | 5.02 | | | |
| Path Loss CI [9], [22], [27] | σ^{CI} [dB] | | 3.45 | | | 7.67 | | 13.97 | | | |
| Multi-Band | n, b | n = 1.86, b = 0.07 | | | n = 3.07, b = 0.05 | | | n = 5.02, b = 0.03 | | | |
| Path Loss CIF [9], [22], [27] | σ^{CIF} [dB] | 3.45 | | | 7.67 | | | 13.85 | | | |
| | \min_{DS} [ns] | 0.87 | 0.76 | 0.69 | 0.92 | 3.74 | 0.60 | 0.57 | 0.51 | 0.28 | |
| RMS Delay Spread [22], [24] | \max_{DS} [ns] | 5.50 | 5.34 | 11.94 | 44.49 | 31.37 | 10.76 | 198.55 | 141.97 | 92.45 | |
| | μ_{DS} [ns] | 3.85 | 3.53 | 2.71 | 10.23 | 7.39 | 5.65 | 17.64 | 12.50 | 8.86 | |
| NumCluster [6] | μ_{NC} | 1.41 | 1.32 | 1.25 | 1.65 | 1.48 | 1.16 | 3.41 | 2.60 | 2.39 | |
| Numeruster [0] | σ_{NC} | 0.85 | 0.96 | 0.94 | 0.78 | 0.89 | 0.69 | 1.96 | 1.70 | 1.48 | |
| NumMPCperCluster [6] | μ_{MPC} | 2.45 | 2.53 | 2.11 | 2.56 | 2.44 | 1.98 | 3.16 | 2.80 | 1.18 | |
| Numvir Oper Cluster [0] | σ_{MPC} | 2.19 | 2.27 | 1.43 | 1.54 | 2.18 | 2.26 | 4.56 | 5.20 | 2.21 | |

undergo penetration, reflection, and absorption with more loss at 142 GHz than at 28 and 73 GHz [8], [26]. In the NLOS omnidirectional case, the PLEs and shadow fading standard deviations (n, σ) are (2.37, 7.22 dB), (2.81, 8.71 dB), and (2.83, 6.07 dB) at 28, 73, and 142 GHz, respectively, showing that 28 GHz is less lossy than both 73 and 142 GHz, with the two higher bands behaving very similarly, except for the first meter loss.

DIRECTIONAL INH-OFFICE CHAN

The CI model with a frequency-weighted PLE (CIF) path loss model [9], [22] was proposed as a viable multi-band model for indoor path loss and can be considered as an extension of the CI path loss model to offer an extra degree of freedom for more accurate statistical modeling over a wide range of frequencies:

$$PL^{CIF}(f_c, d_{3D}) \text{ [dB]} = \text{FSPL}(f_c, 1 \text{ m})$$

$$+ 10n \left(1 + b \left(\frac{f - f_0}{f_0}\right)\right) \log_{10} \left(\frac{d}{1 \text{ m}}\right) + \chi_{\sigma}^{CIF}, \quad (3)$$

where n is the PLE at the weighted frequency average f_0 of all measurements for each specific environments, b is a model fitting parameter that presents the slope of linear frequency dependency of path loss, and $n(1 + b(f - f_0)/f_0)$ represents the frequency-dependent PLE at frequency f. The weighted average frequency f_0 is computed over K frequency bands as $f_0 = \sum_{k=1}^K f_k N_k / \sum_{k=1}^K N_k$, where N_k is the number of measurements at a particular frequency f [9], [22].

In this letter, we used the data to calculate $f_0 = 81$ GHz for both LOS and NLOS scenarios. In LOS omnidirectional scenarios, $n_{LOS}^{CIF}=1.42$ and $b_{LOS}^{CIF}=0.29$ are the best-fit parameters of the omnidirectional CIF path loss model with a shadow fading standard deviation of $\sigma_{LOS}^{CIF} = 2.94$ dB, as shown in Table III, when applied to all measurements across 28, 73, and 142 GHz. In NLOS omnidirectional scenarios, $n_{NLOS}^{CIF}=2.66$ and $b_{NLOS}^{CIF}=0.11$ are the best-fit parameters of the omnidirectional CIF path loss model with a shadow fading standard deviation of $\sigma_{NLOS}^{CIF}=7.53$ dB.

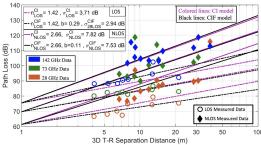


Fig. 1. InH-Office 28, 73, and 142 GHz multi-band omnidirectional CI and CIF path loss models for both LOS and NLOS scenarios with antenna gains removed and with respect to a 1 m free space reference [9], [22], [27]. The diamonds and circles represent measured omnidirectional path loss in NLOS and LOS locations, respectively [6], [8], [22]. The fixed reference frequency f_0 for the CIF path loss model is 81 GHz for both LOS and NLOS conditions.

Note that the CI path loss model (2) can also be used as a multi-band path loss model, using only a single parameter PLE [9], [22], [27]. Fig. 1 shows the indoor office 28, 73, and 142 GHz multi-band omnidirectional CI and CIF path loss models for both LOS and NLOS scenarios with antenna gains removed at both ends of the link and with respect to a 1 m free space reference. CI and CIF path loss models show remarkable similarity in terms of path loss exponents over 28, 73, and 142 GHz bands, when referenced to the first meter free space reference distance [9], [22], [27], implying the extra parameter in the CIF model may not be necessary over wide frequency bands. This illuminates the fact that an identical PLE may accurately model path loss over a vast range of frequencies, with the only frequency-dependent effect being the path loss in the first meter of propagation as energy spreads into the far field [1], [9], [22], [27].

III. MULTIPATH STATISTICS AT 28, 73, AND 142 GHz

The indoor wireless channel statistics at 28, 73, and 142 GHz bands are summarized in Tables II and III for directional and omnidirectional channels, respectively.

TABLE III

Omnidirectional Inh-Office Channel Parameters of CI and CIF Path Loss Models, RMS Delay Spread, the Number of Clusters, and the Number of MPCs per Cluster at 28, 73, and 142 GHz Compared to 3GPP Inh-Office Standard [6], [9], [10], [22], [24], [27]

| Environment type | | | InF | | InH-Office NLOS | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------|-------|-----------------|-------|--------------------|--------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| omnidirectional NYU & 3GPP | | NYU WIRELESS | | | 3GPP InH-Office | | NYU WIRELESS | | | 3GPP InH-Office | |
| Frequency [GHz] | | 28 | 73 | 142 | 28 | 73 | 28 | 73 | 142 | 28 | 73 |
| Single-Band | n | 1.17 | 1.36 | 1.74 | N/A | N/A | 2.37 | 2.81 | 2.83 | N/A | N/A |
| Path Loss CI [9], [22], [27] | σ^{CI} [dB] | 2.72 | 2.30 | 3.62 | N/A | N/A | 7.22 | 8.71 | 6.07 | N/A | N/A |
| Multi-Band | n | 1.42 | | | 1.73 | 2.66 | | | 3.19 | | |
| Path Loss CI [9], [22], [27] | σ^{CI} [dB] | 3.71 | | | | 3.00 | | 7.82 | | 8.29 | |
| Multi-Band | n, b | n = 1.42, b = 0.29 | | | N/A | N/A | n = 2.66, b = 0.11 | | | N/A | N/A |
| Path Loss CIF [9], [22], [27] | σ^{CIF} [dB] | 2.94 | | | N/A | N/A | 7.53 | | | N/A | N/A |
| RMS Delay Spread [22], [24] | \min_{DS} [ns] | 0.70 | 0.60 | 0.71 | N/A | N/A | 0.60 | 0.50 | 0.60 | N/A | N/A |
| | \max_{DS} [ns] | 134.40 | 101.90 | 11.94 | N/A | N/A | 198.50 | 142.00 | 60.87 | N/A | N/A |
| | μ_{DS} [ns] | 10.80 | 6.24 | 3.00 | 20.40 | 20.21 | 17.10 | 12.30 | 9.20 | 27.40 | 21.52 |
| NumCluster [6] | μ_{NC} | 4.60 | 2.76 | 1.90 | 15 | 15 | 5.40 | 3.20 | 2.80 | 19 | 19 |
| | σ_{NC} | 1.94 | 2.32 | 1.30 | N/A | N/A | 1.96 | 1.70 | 1.65 | N/A | N/A |
| NumMPCperCluster [6] | μ_{MPC} | 4.70 | 3.43 | 2.40 | 20 | 20 | 6.40 | 3.20 | 2.20 | 20 | 20 |
| | σ_{MPC} | 3.65 | 2.86 | 2.20 | N/A | N/A | 4.58 | 5.20 | 2.47 | N/A | N/A |

A. RMS Delay Spread

RMS Delay spread characterizes the multipath richness, time dispersion, and coherence bandwidth of a radio propagation channel, depending on the signal's bandwidth [23], [26]. A 5 dB SNR threshold relative to the mean thermal noise floor of a raw PDP was used for detecting and keeping the MPCs in each PDP [24]. The number of MPCs are computed by peak tracking algorithms as illustrated in [6] that one peak in a PDP is counted as a valid MPC if the time delay between its next adjacent peak (above the 5 dB SNR threshold) is larger than the channel sounder time resolution (the inverse of the channel bandwidth).

As shown in Table II, there is negligible RMS DS in LOS directional scenarios with a mean of 3-4 ns, which is close to the width of the channel sounder's probing signal across these three frequency bands when directional antennas are used to line up antenna boresights (our probe had a 3 dB power width of 2.5 ns at 28 and 73 GHz and 2 ns at 142 GHz as shown in Table I). The excess delays of the multipath components reflected from the walls, ceiling, and floor would be within (and cause a spread of) the original pulse width.

In NLOS_{Best} scenarios, the minimum RMS DS (\min_{DS}) is extremely small (e.g., 0.5 ns) and similar to the minimum RMS DS in LOS directional environments across 28, 73, and 142 GHz bands, however, the mean RMS DS (μ_{DS}) increases by a few ns (e.g., 3-6 ns) at all frequencies compared to LOS directional scenarios, and the maximum RMS DS (\max_{DS}) was observed to be 44 ns at 28 GHz, 31 ns at 73 GHz, and 11 ns at 142 GHz, with 90% of the RMS DS less than 40 ns, 25 ns, and 9 ns at 28, 73, and 142 GHz bands, respectively. The data clearly show maximum observable RMS DS is frequency dependent, with much less maximum delay spread at higher frequencies.

The omnidirectional RMS DS obtained from measurements for both the LOS and NLOS scenarios at 28, 73, and 142 GHz bands [6], [22] are presented in Table III and are compared with mean μ_{DS} and standard deviation σ_{DS} values from

3GPP TR 38.901 Release 16 (see Table 7.5-6 in [10]). Note that 3GPP does not specify the RMS DS for channels above 100 GHz.

In LOS omnidirectional scenarios, the mean RMS DS decreases with increasing frequency and is 11, 6, and 3 ns at 28, 73, and 142 GHz bands, respectively. By contrast, the mean RMS DS predicted by the 3GPP InH channel model is virtually identical at 28 and 73 GHz (20.40 ns and 20.21 ns, respectively), however, in our work the measured mean RMS DS at 73 GHz decreases by 40% (about 5 ns lower) than the measured mean RMS DS at 28 GHz, and the mean RMS DS decreases by 50% further to a very small 3 ns at 142 GHz.

In NLOS omnidirectional scenarios, when compared to LOS omnidirectional channels, the mean RMS DS increases by 60%, 100%, and 200% at 28, 73, and 142 GHz, respectively, with mean values of 17, 12, and 9 ns at 28, 73, and 142 GHz bands, respectively, indicating a wider time spread of multipath energy that is frequency dependent in NLOS environments. The free space path loss in the first meter and partition losses are larger at higher frequencies, such that the signal power of MPCs with large time delays (longer propagation distances and are more likely to be blocked, and hence have weaker power) may be below the noise floor and not detected by the channel sounder RX [24]. This is one cause for why the RMS DS at 142 GHz is lower than the RMS DSs at 73 and 28 GHz.

B. The Numbers of Time Clusters and MPCs per Cluster

The numbers of time clusters and MPCs per cluster depends on the minimum inter-cluster time void interval (MTI), which is the minimum time interval between two separate time clusters [4], [6], [31]. There are fewer time clusters but more MPCs per cluster when the MTI is larger. An MTI of 6 ns [6] (determined by the width of corridors, 2 m) is used in this letter, based on the idea that the physical environment helps delineate the observed tem-

poral cluster partitions of multipath energy arriving at a receiver [4], [31].

The number of time clusters follows a Poisson distribution at all three frequencies as shown in [6]. The omnidirectional mean numbers of time clusters are found to decrease with increasing frequency and are 4.60, 2.76, and 1.90 at 28, 73, and 142 GHz, respectively, in indoor LOS scenarios, and are 5.40, 3.20, and 2.80 at 28, 73, and 142 GHz in indoor NLOS scenarios, again showing the frequency dependent nature of multipath. The channels are more sparse in both LOS and NLOS omnidirectional scenarios at higher frequencies due to the larger partition loss (e.g., 4-8 dB higher loss at 142 GHz than 28 GHz for different materials [8]) which cause MPCs with longer propagation times and weaker power to fall below the noise floor. Using smart antennas to capture the most dominant multipath energy for beam combining to achieve range extension is needed as wireless moves into the THz regime [2], [7], [27], [28].

The number of MPCs per cluster follows a composite of a delta function $\delta(n-1)$ and a discrete exponential distribution at all three frequencies [6]. At 28 GHz, the mean number of MPCs per cluster in the NLOS omnidirectional scenarios is larger than in the LOS omnidirectional scenarios. However, there are fewer MPCs per cluster in the NLOS scenarios than in the LOS scenarios at 73 and 142 GHz, since the larger partition loss in NLOS scenarios makes the channels more sparse at higher frequencies [6], [8].

IV. CONCLUSION

Indoor mmWave and sub-THz wireless channels at 28, 73, and 142 GHz are compared based on extensive radio propagation measurements in a typical indoor office environment. The indoor office large-scale path loss results (CI and CIF path loss models) show that there is remarkable similarity in terms of path loss exponents over 28, 73, and 142 GHz for both LOS and NLOS scenarios, when referenced to the first meter free-space reference distance [4], [9], [22]. The results imply that THz channels are similar to today's mmWave wireless propagation channels except for the path loss in the first meter of propagation when energy spreads into the far field. Our results differ from existing 3GPP InH prediction models, and show strong frequency dependence on multipath time dispersion, with much less time dispersion at higher frequencies. Mathematical distributions of the number of multipath clusters, RMS delay spread, the number of multipath components or subpaths per cluster can be applied for frequencies above and below 100 GHz, although the statistical means of those distributions decrease with increasing frequency.

REFERENCES

- Y. Xing and T. S. Rappaport, "Spectrum coexistence between systems in space and on the ground at frequencies above 100 GHz (Invited)," *IEEE Commun. Lett.*, pp. 1–5, Jun. 2021.
 T. S. Rappaport *et al.*, "Wireless communications and applications above
- [2] T. S. Rappaport et al., "Wireless communications and applications above 100 GHz: Opportunities and challenges for 6G and beyond," IEEE Access, vol. 7, pp. 78729–78757, Feb. 2019.
- [3] O. Kanhere and T. S. Rappaport, "Position location for futuristic cellular communications: 5G and beyond," *IEEE Commun. Mag.*, vol. 59, no. 1, pp. 70–75, Jan. 2021.
- [4] T. S. Rappaport et al., "Millimeter wave mobile communications for 5G cellular: It will work!," IEEE Access, vol. 1, pp. 335–349, May 2013.
- [5] K. Haneda et al., "5G 3GPP-like channel models for outdoor urban microcellular and macrocellular environments," in Proc. IEEE 83rd Veh. Technol. Conf. (VTC Spring), May 2016, pp. 1–7.

- [6] S. Ju et al., "Millimeter wave and sub-terahertz spatial statistical channel model for an indoor office building," *IEEE J. Sel. Areas Commun.*, vol. 39, no. 6, pp. 1561–1575, Jun. 2021.
- [7] S. Sun *et al.*, "MIMO for millimeter-wave wireless communications: Beamforming, spatial multiplexing, or both?" *IEEE Commun. Mag.*, vol. 52, no. 12, pp. 110–121, Dec. 2014.
- [8] Y. Xing et al., "Indoor wireless channel properties at millimeter wave and sub-terahertz frequencies," in Proc. IEEE Global Commun. Conf. (GLOBECOM), Dec. 2019, pp. 1–6.
- [9] S. Sun et al., "Investigation of prediction accuracy, sensitivity, and parameter stability of large-scale propagation path loss models for 5G wireless communications," *IEEE Trans. Veh. Technol.*, vol. 65, no. 5, pp. 2843–2860, May 2016.
- [10] Study on Channel Model for Frequencies From 0.5 to 100 GHz, Standard TR 38.901 V16.1.0, 3GPP, 3rd Generation Partnership Project, Dec. 2019.
- [11] Q. Wu and R. Zhang, "Towards smart and reconfigurable environment: Intelligent reflecting surface aided wireless network," *IEEE Commun. Mag.*, vol. 58, no. 1, pp. 106–112, Jan. 2020.
- [12] L. Pometcu and R. D'Errico, "Characterization of sub-THz and mmWave propagation channel for indoor scenarios," in *Proc. 12th Eur. Conf. Antennas Propag. (EuCAP)*, Apr. 2018, pp. 1–4.
- [13] M. Jacob and T. Kurner, "Radio channel characteristics for broadband WLAN/WPAN applications between 67 and 110 GHz," in *Proc. 3rd Eur. Conf. Antennas Propag.*, Mar. 2009, pp. 2663–2667.
- [14] K. Guan et al., "Channel characterization for intra-wagon communication at 60 and 300 GHz bands," *IEEE Trans. Veh. Technol.*, vol. 68, no. 6, pp. 5193–5207, Jun. 2019.
- [15] J. Ma et al., "Channel performance for indoor and outdoor terahertz wireless links," APL Photon., vol. 3, no. 5, pp. 1–13, Feb. 2018.
- [16] N. A. Abbasi et al., "Double directional channel measurements for THz communications in an urban environment," in *Proc. IEEE Int. Conf.* Commun. (ICC), Jun. 2020, pp. 1–6.
- [17] S. L. H. Nguyen *et al.*, "Comparing radio propagation channels between 28 and 140 GHz bands in a shopping mall," in *Proc. 12th Eur. Conf. Antennas Propag. (EuCAP)*, 2018, pp. 1–5.
 [18] H. Viswanathan and P. E. Mogensen, "Communications in the 6G era,"
- [18] H. Viswanathan and P. E. Mogensen, "Communications in the 6G era," *IEEE Access*, vol. 8, pp. 57063–57074, Mar. 2020.
- [19] A. Ghosh et al., "5G evolution: A view on 5G cellular technology beyond 3GPP release 15," IEEE Access, vol. 7, pp. 127639–127651, Sep. 2019.
- [20] G. R. MacCartney and T. S. Rappaport, "A flexible millimeter-wave channel sounder with absolute timing," *IEEE J. Sel. Areas Commun.*, vol. 35, no. 6, pp. 1402–1418, Jun. 2017.
- [21] Y. Xing and T. S. Rappaport, "Propagation measurement system and approach at 140 GHz-moving to 6G and above 100 GHz," in *Proc. IEEE Global Commun. Conf. (GLOBECOM)*, Dec. 2018, pp. 1–6.
- [22] G. R. Maccartney et al., "Indoor office wideband millimeter-wave propagation measurements and channel models at 28 and 73 GHz for ultra-dense 5G wireless networks," *IEEE Access*, vol. 3, pp. 2388–2424, Oct. 2015.
- [23] T. S. Rappaport, Wireless Communications: Principles and Practice, 2nd ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ, USA: Prentice-Hall, 2002.
- [24] T. S. Rappaport et al., "Wideband millimeter-wave propagation measurements and channel models for future wireless communication system design," *IEEE Trans. Commun.*, vol. 63, no. 9, pp. 3029–3056, Sep. 2015
- [25] S. Sun et al., "Path loss, shadow fading, and line-of-sight probability models for 5G urban macro-cellular scenarios," in Proc. IEEE Globecom Workshops (GC Wkshps), Dec. 2015, pp. 1–7.
- [26] T. S. Rappaport et al., Millimeter Wave Wireless Communications. London, U.K.: Pearson, 2015.
- [27] M. K. Samimi *et al.*, "Probabilistic omnidirectional path loss models for millimeter-wave outdoor communications," *IEEE Wireless Commun. Lett.*, vol. 4, no. 4, pp. 357–360, Aug. 2015.
- [28] S. Sun et al., "Millimeter wave multi-beam antenna combining for 5G cellular link improvement in New York City," in Proc. IEEE Int. Conf. Commun. (ICC), Jun. 2014, pp. 5468–5473.
- [29] S. Ju et al., "Scattering mechanisms and modeling for terahertz wireless communications," in *Proc. IEEE Int. Conf. Commun. (ICC)*, May 2019, pp. 1–7.
- [30] S. Sun et al., "Synthesizing Omnidirectional antenna patterns, received power and path loss from directional antennas for 5G millimeter-wave communications," in *IEEE GLOBECOM*, Dec. 2015, pp. 3948–3953.
- [31] M. K. Samimi and T. S. Rappaport, "3-D millimeter-wave statistical channel model for 5G wireless system design," *IEEE Trans. Microw. Theory Techn.*, vol. 64, no. 7, pp. 2207–2225, Jul. 2016.