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Title:A technique to measure optical properties of brownout clouds for modeling terahertz propagation

Authors:Fiorino, Steven T. (1); Deibel, Jason A. (2); Grice, Phillip M. (1); Novak, Markus H. (1); Spinoza, Julian (1); Owens, Lindsay (2); Ganti, Satya (3)

Author affiliation:(1) Center for Directed Energy, Air Force Institute of Technology, 2950 Hobson Way, OH 45433-7765, United States; (2) Department of Physics, Wright State University, 3640 Colonel Glenn Highway, Dayton, OH 45435, United States; (3) Department of Electrical Engineering, Wright State University, 3640 Colonel Glenn Highway, Dayton, OH 45435, United States

Corresponding author: Fiorino, S.T. (steven.fiorino@afit.edu)

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Abstract:Brownout, the loss of visibility caused by dust resultant of helicopter downwash, is a factor in the large majority of military helicopter accidents. As terahertz radiation readily propagates through the associated dust aerosols and is attenuated by atmospheric water vapor within short distances, it can provide low-profile imaging that improves effective pilot visibility. In order to model this application of terahertz imaging, it is necessary to determine the optical properties of obscurants at these frequencies. We present here a method of empirical calculation and experimental measurement of the complex refractive index of the obscuring aerosols. Results derived from terahertz time-domain spectral measurements are incorporated into the AFIT CDE Laser Environmental Effects Definition and Reference (LEEDR) software. © 2012 Optical Society of America.

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Main heading: Time domain analysis

Controlled terms:Atmospheric aerosols - Dust - Military helicopters - Refractive index - Visibility Uncontrolled terms:Atmospheric water vapor - Complex refractive index - Dust aerosols -Empirical calculations - Experimental measurements - Low profile - Short distances - Spectral measurement - Tera Hertz - Terahertz imaging - Terahertz radiation - Time domain

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