

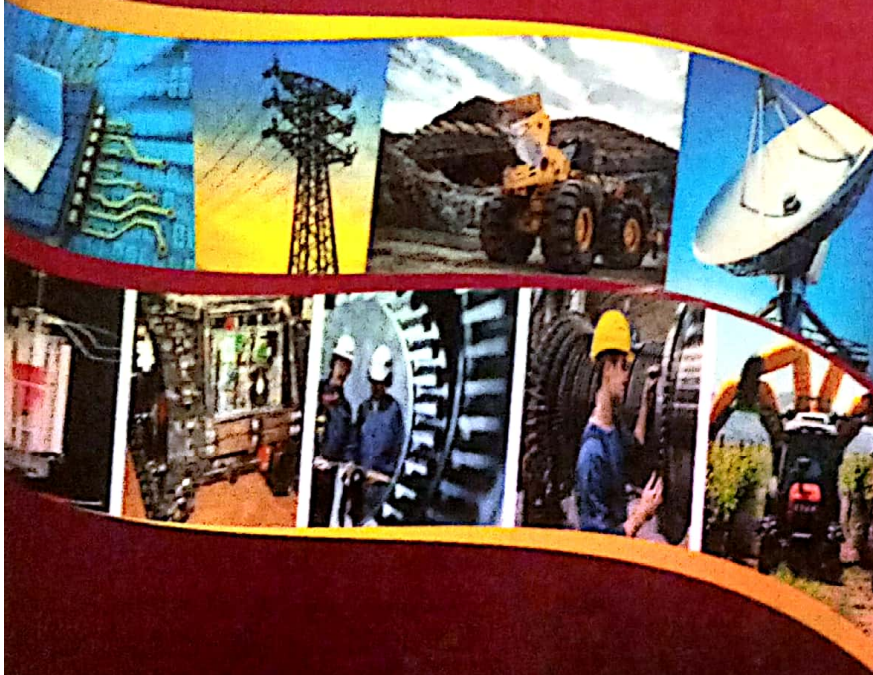


FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, MINNA
SCHOOL OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY &
SCHOOL OF INFRASTRUCTURE, PROCESS ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

**3rd INTERNATIONAL
ENGINEERING CONFERENCE
IEC 2019**

THEME THE ROLE OF ENGINEERING AND
TECHNOLOGY IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**BOOK of
PROCEEDINGS**



DATE:
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SEPTEMBER 2019

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LECTURE THEATER, FEDERAL
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MINNA, NIGER STATE

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CONTENTS

Content	Page
Cover Page	i
Table of Content	ii
Forward	ix
Acknowledgement	x
Statistical Optimization of Biodiesel Production from Jatropha Oil Using Calcined Snail Shell Catalyst <i>Afangide, U. N., Olutoye, M. A, & Aberuagba, F.</i>	1 – 5
Development of AgNPs-MWCNTs Adsorbent for Seawater Treatment <i>Mohammed, S. M., Muriana, R. A, Agboola, J. B, Abdulkareem, A. S., Kariim, I., & Yahya, M. D.</i>	6 – 14
The Role of Engineering and Technology and Sustainable Development Reducing Carbon Emission with Green and Sustainable Build Environment <i>Hashimu, L., Halilu, A, A., & Sani, I.</i>	15 – 23
Optimization and Kinetics Study of Biodiesel Synthesis from Beef Tallow Using Calcium Oxide from Limestone <i>Ogunjobi, T. O., Olutoye, M. A. & Aberuagba, F.</i>	24 – 33
Column Adsorption Studies of Textile Wastewater Using Iron Oxide Nanoparticles doped Zeolite A <i>Alaya-Ibrahim, S., Kovo, A.S., Abdulkareem, A.S., Adeniyi, O.D. & Yahya, M.D.</i>	34 – 43
A Comprehensive Review on Use of Poly Electrolyte Complex PEC as an Adsorbent for the Removal of Heavy Metals From Aqueous Solution. <i>Achanya, B. E. & M., Auta</i>	44 – 52
Computational Fluid Dynamics Simulation of FCC Regenerator of a Refinery <i>Usman, A. A., Onifade, K.R., Mohammed, I. A., & Garba, M.U.</i>	53 – 60
Assessment of Factors Affecting Stakeholder Management in Nigeria Construction Projects <i>Okosun, B. O., Idiake, J.E., Oyewobi, L.O., & Shittu, A.A.</i>	61 – 64
Effect of Partial Replacement of Fine Aggregate with Sawdust in Light Weight Concrete Production using Bida Natural Stone as Coarse Aggregate <i>Alhaji B., Abubakar M., Yusuf A., Oritola S. F, Mohammed S. & Kolo D. N.</i>	65 – 69
Quality Assessment of Locally Available Selected Cements in Nigeria <i>Muftau, O. S., Abdullahi, M., & Aguwa, J. I.</i>	70 – 76
Development of Mix Design Guide for Normal Weight Concrete using Locally Available Materials <i>Okoh S. O.; Abdullahi M.; & Alhaji, B.</i>	77 – 82
Comparative Evaluation of Strength of Compacted Lateritic Soil Improved with Microbial-Induced Calcite Precipitate <i>K. J. Osinubi, E.W. Gadzama, A. O. Eberemu, & T. S. Ijimdiya</i>	83 – 91
Effects of Urban Growth on Surface Temperature in Parts of Katsina State, Nigeria <i>Abdulsamad Isah & Abubakar A.S.</i>	92 – 98



- Kinetic Modelling and Error Analysis of the Bioremediation of Used Motor Oil Contaminated Soil Using Palm Bunch Ash as Stimulant
Abdulyekeen, K. A., Aliyu, A., Abdulkarim, A. Y., Salis, A., & Abdulkarim, A. S. 99 – 103
- Quantitative Risk Analysis for Communication Satellite Payload
Babadoko, D. M., & Ikechukwu, A. D. 104 – 113
- Characterization and Grading of South Eastern Nigerian Grown *Mangifera Indica* Timber in Accordance with British Standard 5268
Mbakwe C.C., Aguwa J.I., & Oritola S.F. 114 – 120
- Characterization of Palm Kernel Shell as Lightweight Aggregate in Concrete Production
Sunday I.O., Aguwa J.I. & Auta S.M. 121 – 125
- Integrated Geophysical Investigation of the Failed Portion of Minna-Zungeru Road, Minna Niger State
Osheku, G. A., Salako, K. A, & Adetona, A. A 126 – 132
- Partial Replacement of Fine Aggregate with Waste glass in Concrete made from Bida Natural Aggregate
Alhaji B., Kolo, D. N., Abubakar M., Yusuf A., Abdullahi, A. and Shehu, M. 133 – 137
- Assessment of the Compressive Strength of Concrete Produced with Fine Aggregate from Different Locations in Minna
Aminulai, H. O., Abdullahi, A., Abdulrahman, H. S., Alhaji, B., Joseph, O. F., Aliyu, S. Y. 138 – 143
- Response Surface Optimisation of the Adsorption of Cu (II) from Aqueous Solution by Crab Shell Chitosan
Babatunde E. O., Akolo S. A., Ighalo J. O. & Kovo A. S. 144 – 151
- The Linear Transformation of a Block Hybrid Runge-Kutta type Method for Direct Integration of First and Second Order Initial Value Problem
Muhammad, R., Yahaya, Y.A., & Abdulkareem, A.S. 152-154
- Groundwater Potential Mapping in Bosso Local Government Area, Niger State, Nigeria
Abubakar, U.B. & Muhammed, M. 155 – 159
- Optimization of Synthesis Parameters of Silica from Bentonite Clay Using Acid Leaching
Ogwuche, A. S., Auta, M., & Kovo, A. S. 160 – 163
- Chemical and Mineralogical Characterization of Locally Sourced Nigerian Clay
Sumanu, O. M., Dim, P.E. & Okafor, J. O. 164 – 167
- Production and Optimization of Bioethanol from Watermelon Rind using *Saccharomyces Cerevisiae*
Igbonekwu, C. A., Afolabi, E. A., Nwachukwu, F.O. 168 – 173
- Use of Carbide Waste as a Mineral Filler in Hot Mix Asphalt
Murana, A.A. & Musa, Y. 174 – 182
- Review of Bio Oil Upgrading from Biomass Pyrolysis
Abdullahi, M. A, Garba, M. U, Eterigho E. J, & Alhassan, M. 183 – 192



3rd International Engineering Conference (IEC 2019)
Federal University of Technology, Minna, Nigeria



Optimization study of Deacetylation Process in the Synthesis of Chitosan from Red Shrimp Using Response Surface Method <i>Atanda, A. S, Jimoh, A. & Ibrahim, A.A.</i>	193 – 204
Optimisation Study on the removal Pb(II), Cd(II) and Ni(II) from Pharmaceutical Wastewater using Carbonized African Giant Snail Shell (<i>Archachatina marginata</i>) as an Adsorbent. <i>Olanipekun, O., Aboje, A. A, Auto, M.</i>	205 – 215
Ground Electromagnetic Prospecting for Potential Ore Mineralisation Zones in Tsohon- Gurusu Area of Minna, North Central Nigeria <i>Ogale, O. D, Rafiu, A. A., Alhassan, D. U., Salako K. A., Adetona A. A. & Unuevho C.</i>	216 – 222
Magnetic and Geoelectrical Prospecting for Gold Mineralisation Within Tsohon-Gurusu Area, Part of Sheet 164 Minna, North-Central Nigeria <i>Omugbe, L. E, Salako, K. A, Unuevho, C.I, Rafiu, A. A, Alhassan, D. U, Ejepu, J. S, & Adetona, A. A.</i>	223 -228
Road Stabilization Using Cold Bitumen for Low Traffic Road <i>Kolo S. S., Jimoh, Y. A., Alhaji, M.M, Olayemi, J. & Shehu, M.</i>	229 – 233
Sawdust Ash Stabilization of Weak Lateritic Soil <i>Kolo S. S., Jimoh Y. A., Yusuf I. T, Adeleke O. O., Balarebe, F. & M. Shehu</i>	234 – 238
Radio Refractive Index and Refractive Index Gradients Variation in a Tropical Environment <i>I.M. Tukur, K.C. Igwe & J.O. Eichie</i>	239 - 243
Vocational and Technology Education: A Viable Entrepreneurship Tool for Rapid Economic Growth <i>Kareem, W.B., Abubakar, H.O. (Mrs.), Onuh, J., Abdulrahman, T.S., Abdullahi S.M.</i>	244 – 249
A 2-Step Hybrid Block Backward Differentiation Formula for the Approximation of Initial Value Problems of Ordinary Differential Equations <i>Akintububo, Ben.G & Umaru Mohammed</i>	250 – 254
Significant Delay Factors Affecting Completion Time of Public Sector Construction Projects in Niger State <i>Mamman, J. E., Abdullahi, A. H., Isah, L. M.</i>	255 – 260
Communication Frequency and Effectiveness on Construction Sites in Abuja, Nigeria <i>Mamman, J.E., Abdullahi, A.H. & Isah, M.L</i>	261 – 269
Contribution of Quality Management Practices towards Building Collapse In Nigeria <i>Yunusa, H., Makinde, J. K., & Oke, A. A.</i>	270 – 277
Assessment of Ethical Practices at Different Stages of Public Housing Delivery in Nigeria <i>Oluwadare, D. O. & Idlake, J. E.</i>	278 – 285
Participation of Female Quantity Surveyors in the Nigerian Construction Industry <i>Nnamoko, C. E</i>	286 – 292
Performance Evaluation of WUPA Wastewater Treatment Plant Idu-Industrial Area, Abuja <i>Saidu, M., Adesiji, A. R., Asogwa, E.O., Jiya, A.M. & Haruna, S.I.</i>	293 – 296
Evaluation of Strength Characteristics of Compacted Deltaic <i>Chikoko</i> Clay Stabilized with Rice Husk Ash <i>T.W.E. Adejumo & B. B. Olanipekun</i>	297 – 303



Empirical Impact Evaluation of Sales Promotional Mix on Sachet -Water Product Distribution on Enterprise Performance: A Survey of Selected Sachet- Water Outfits in Niger State <i>Adima Julius Osaremen</i>	304 - 312
Assessing the Level of Readiness to Adopt Building Information Modelling (BIM) Amongst Built Environment Professionals In Selected Northern Nigerian States <i>Abubakar, I. T. & Oyewobi, L. O.</i>	313 - 323
Design and Implementation of an SMS-based dynamic matrix LED Display Board <i>Habibu, H., Chukwu, E. C., Latifa, Y., Haris, M. Y. & Okosun, O. E.</i>	324 - 329
An Improved User Pairing, Subchanneling, and Power Allocation Algorithm For 5G Noma System. <i>Muhammad Z.Z., Tekanyi A.M.S., Abubilal K.A., Usman A. D., Abdulkareem H. A. & Kassim A. Y.</i>	330 - 337
Automation of Agricultural Machinery Operation Systems; An Imperative for Sustainable Development <i>Bala Ibrahim</i>	338 - 343
Electricity Generation using Locust Bean Waste and Coal in a Molten Carbonate Direct Carbon Fuel Cell <i>Yakubu E., Adeniyi, O.D., Alhassan M., Adeniyi, M.I., Uthman H., and Usman A.A.</i>	344 - 349
Design of a Programmable Solid State Circuit Breaker <i>Ajagun, A. S., Abubakar, I. N., Yusuf, L. & Udochukwu P. C.</i>	350 - 354
Design of an Arduino Based RFID Line Switching Using Solid State Relay with Individual Phase Selection <i>Ajagun, A. S., Yusuf, L., Abubakar, I. N. & Yusuff, S. D.</i>	355 - 361
Development of an Improved Adaptive Hybrid Technique to Mitigate Cross-Tier Interference in a Femto-Macro Heterogeneous Network <i>Kassim, A. Y., Tekanyi, A. M. S., Sani, S. M., Usman, A. D., Abdulkareem, H. A. & Muhammad, Z. Z.</i>	362 - 370
The Level of Awareness of Electrical Safety Among Energy Users in Sokoto State <i>Umar, A., Abubakar, I. N., Yusuf, H. M. & Okosun, O. E.</i>	371 - 376
Phytoremediation of Soil Contaminated with Brewery and Beverage Effluents using <i>Cynodon dactylon</i> <i>Mustapha, H., Ehichoya, C. S & Musa, J. J</i>	377 - 384
Application of Dreyfus Model of Skills Acquisition in Curbing Youth Unemployment Among the Motor vehicle Mechanic Students' in Nigeria <i>Aliyu Mustapha, Abdulkadir Mohammed, Abubakar Mohammed Idris & Benjamin Oke</i>	385 - 390
A Numerical Analysis of Convective Heat Transfer Rate from A Wavy Fin Projecting Horizontally From A Rectangular Base <i>Okon, J. O.</i>	391 - 396
Towards A Hybrid MQTT-COAP Protocol for Data Communications In Wireless Sensor Networks <i>Nwankwo, E. I, Onwuka, E. N & Michael, D.</i>	397 - 403
Toward a Hybrid Technique for Friends Recommendation System in Social Tagging <i>Usman Bukar Usman</i>	404 - 410
Towards A Model for Aspect Based Sentiment Analysis of Online Product Review <i>Abdulganiyu, O. H. & Kabiru, U.</i>	411 - 418



3rd International Engineering Conference (IEC 2019)
Federal University of Technology, Minna, Nigeria



Parametric Oscillations in Electric Oscillatory System <i>Enesi A.Y., Ejiogu. E. C.</i>	419 – 423
Fenestration Effect on the Adequacy of Classroom UDD <i>Azodo, A. P., Onwubalili, C. & Mezue T. C.</i>	424 – 431
Prediction of Upper Limb Functional Ability in Post-Traumatic Patients Using Machine Learning. <i>Zaiyanu Nuhu, Yeong Che Fai, Elijah David Kure, Ibrahim B. Shehu, Mahmoud Mustapha, Rabiu Al-Tanko & Khor Kang Xiang</i>	432– 441
Arduino Based Automatic Irrigation System <i>Ibrahim Bashir Shehu, Zayyan Nuhu & Rbiu Altanko Ummaisha</i>	442 – 448
Production and Application Potentials of Sugarcane Bagasse Reinforced Polymer Composites for Acoustic Control <i>Sanda Askira Damboama</i>	449 – 456
Electromagnetic Field analysis of a Single-phase Induction Motor based on Finite Element Method <i>Omokhafa J. Tola, Edwin A. Umoh, Enesi A. Yahaya, Chika Idoko, Ayo Imoru</i>	457 – 463
Parameter Investigation and Analysis for Elite Opposition Bacterial Foraging Optimization Algorithm <i>Maliki, D, Muazu, M.B, Kolo, J.G, & Olaniyi, O.M.</i>	464 – 471
Multi-Access Edge Computing Deployments for 5G Networks <i>Mosudi, I. O, Abolarinwa, J, & Zubair, S.</i>	472– 479
Suitable Propagation Models for 2.4 GHz Wireless Networks: Case Study of Gidan Kwano Campus, FUT MINNA. <i>Ogunjide, S. B., Usman, A. U., & Henry, O. O.</i>	480 – 488
A Survey on Mobile Edge Computing: Focus on MEC Deployment, Site Selection Problems and Application Scenarios. <i>Atolagbe, M. I, Osanaiye, O.</i>	489 – 496
Influence of Processing Techniques and Packaging Materials on Anti- Nutritional Properties of Soybean Flour <i>Orhevba, B. A., Anehi, A. & Obasa, P. A.</i>	497 – 503
Prospects and Challenges of Off-Grid Power Generation For Rural Communities in Nigeria – Theoretical Perspective <i>Dangana Audu & Ikechuku A. Diugwu</i>	504 – 509
Spectrum Occupancy Measurement in the VHF Band- Results and Evaluation in the Context of Cognitive Radio <i>Ajiboye, J.A, Adegboye, B.A, Aibinu, A.M, Kolo, J.G</i>	510 – 514
Modelling and Simulation of Adaptive Fuzzy-PID Controller for Speed Control of DC Motor <i>Timothy Onyechokwa, Adegboye B. A. & A.S. Mohammed</i>	515 – 520
Implementation of Remote Patient Monitoring System using GSM/GPS Technology <i>Umar Abdullahi, Salihu Aliyu Oladimeji, Waheed Moses Audu, Muslim Saidu, Manasseh Wayo</i>	521 – 527
Comparism of Adaptive Neuro Fuzzy Inference System and Support Vector Machine for the Prediction of Immunotherapy Warts Disease <i>Abisoye,B.O, Abisoye, O.A, Kehinde Lawal, Ogunwede E mmanuel</i>	528 – 536



Prediction of Epileptic Seizure using Support Vector Machine and Genetic Algorithm <i>Abisoye, O. A, Abisoye, B.O, Ekundayo Ayobami, & Ogunwede Emmanuel</i>	537 – 542
The Prediction of Cervical Cancer Occurrence Using Genetic Algorithm and Support Vector Machine <i>Abisoye, O. A, Abisoye, B.O, Ekundayo Ayobami & Kehinde Lawal</i>	543 – 549
Performance Evaluation of Ant Lion Optimization and Particle Swarm Optimization for Uncapacitated Facility Location Problem (UFLP) <i>Shehu Hussaina & Morufu Olalere</i>	550 – 558
Potential, Barriers and Prospects of Biogas Production in North- Central Nigeria <i>Ahonle Jennifer Eferi & Adeoye Peter Aderemi</i>	559 – 564
Design Analysis of Manually Operated Machine for On-Row Transplanting of Paddy Rice <i>Ibrahim, T. M., Ndagi, A., Katun. I. M. & Anurika, U. A.</i>	565 – 572
Investigation of Vulnerability of Oil and Gas Critical Infrastructures and Developing a Tracking Algorithm to track Malicious Attacks on the Streams <i>Isah, A.O., Alhassan, J.K, Idris, I., Adebayo, O.S., Onuja, A. M.</i>	573 – 580
Optimization of Process Variables in Bio-Waste Based Activated Carbon Preparation Using Response Surface Methodology. <i>Onuoha, D. C., Egbe, E. A. P., Abdulrahman, A. S. & Abdulkareem, A. S.</i>	581 – 589
Development of a Petroleum Pipeline Monitoring System for Detection, Location and Characterization of Damages in Pipes <i>Aba, E. N, Olugboji, O. A, Nasir, A, Oyewole, A, & Olutoye, M. A.</i>	590 – 598
Analysis of Maximum Power Point Tracking (MPPT) Techniques under Different Atmospheric Conditions: Technical Review <i>Dania, D. E, Tsado, J, Nwohu, M, & Olatomiwa, L</i>	599 – 608
Development OF Briquette-Powered Water Distiller <i>Muhammadu M. M, Unugbai, J. A, Bako M. D., Abubakar J. A.</i>	609 – 614
Impact of SVC and DG Coordination on Voltage Constrained Available Transfer Capability (VSATC) <i>Sadiq A. A, Adamu S. S, Abubakar I. N. & Yusuf L.</i>	615 – 619
Construction of a Solar Powered Battery Forge <i>Adimula, M. G., Abubakre, O. K., Muriana, R. A.</i>	620 – 625
Financial Assessment of the Flood Risk Preparedness of Some Selected States in Nigeria <i>Idachaba, A, Makinde, J & Oke, A.</i>	626 – 631
Development of Spin Dryer Machine <i>Alhassan T. Yahaya & Muhammadu M. M.</i>	632 – 641
Assesment of Quality Control Management in Sachet Water Packaging <i>T.J Bolaji and A.A. Abdullahi</i>	642 – 648
Survey of Tractor Usage and Parts Breakdown in Niger State, Nigeria <i>Dauda, S. M., Abdulmalik M.K., Isyaku M. I., Francis A.A. & Ahmad D.</i>	649 – 654



3rd International Engineering Conference (IEC 2019)
Federal University of Technology, Minna, Nigeria



Development of an Inspection Methodology for Peugeot 508 Bala Dauda & James Oseni Abu	655 – 660
Design and Fabrication of Banana Fiber Extractor machine and Performance Evaluation for the Reinforcement of Composites Odii Kinsley Chika & Ademoh N.A.	661 – 667
Optimisation of Biodiesel Production from Sandbox (<i>Hura Crepitans</i>) Seed Oil Usman M., Adebayo S., Aliyu M. & Dauda, S. M.	668 – 676
A Multi-source Broadband Radio Frequency Energy Harvester with Cascaded Diversity Combiner for Mobile Devices Ihemelandu, J. C., Onwuka, E. N., David, M., Zubair, S. & Ojerinde O. A.	677 – 683
Artificial Neural Network (ANN), a Formidable Tool for Atmospheric Forecasting. A Review Usman M.N., Aku I.G. & Oyedum O.D.	684 – 692
Development of a Model for Generation of Examination Timetable Using Genetic Algorithm Ahmed A., Umar B. U., Abdullahi I. M., Maliki. D., Anda I. & Kamaldeen J. A.	693 – 700
Smart Protection of Vehicle using Multifactor Authentication (MFA) Technique S. Aliyu , Umar Abdullahi, Majeedat Pomam, Mustapha Hafiz, Adeiza Sanusi, & Sodiq Akanmu	701 – 710
Development of Production Frame Work to Mitigate Corrosion in Under Groung Tanks Emenuwe Vincent & Aliyu Abdullahi	711 – 715
Physical Property Modification of Vegetable Bio-Cutting Oil Using Garlic as EP Additive Sanni John	716 - 719
Soil Moisture and Nutrients Control: An Automated Design Proposal Mustapha Mohammed, Elijah David Kure & Yusuf Mubarak	720– 727



FORWARD

The School of Engineering and Engineering Technology, Federal University of Technology, Minna, organized the 1st and 2nd International Engineering Conference in 2015 and 2017 respectively. With the emergence of the new School of Electrical Engineering and Technology and the School of Infrastructure, Process Engineering and Technology, the two schools came together to organize this 3rd International Engineering Conference (IEC 2019) with the theme: "The Role of Engineering and Technology in Sustainable Development" considering the remarkable attendance and successes recorded at the previous conferences. The conference is aimed at offering opportunities for researchers, engineers, captains of industries, scientists, academics, security personnel and others who are interested in sustainable solutions to socio-economic challenges in developing countries; to participate and brainstorm on ideas and come out with a communiqué, that will give the way forward. In this regard, the following sub-themes were carefully selected to guide the authors' submissions to come up with this communiqué.

1. Engineering Entrepreneurship for Rapid Economic Growth.
2. Regulation, Standardization and Quality Assurance in Engineering Education and Practice for Sustainable Development.
3. Solutions to the Challenges in Emerging Renewable Energy Technologies for Sustainable Development.
4. Electrical Power System and Electronic as a Panacea for Rapid Sustainable Development
5. Promoting Green Engineering in Information and Communication Technology
6. Reducing Carbon Emission with Green and Sustainable Built Environment
7. Artificial Intelligence and Robotics as a Panacea for Rapid Sustainable Development in Biomedical Engineering
8. Petrochemicals, Petroleum Refining and Biochemical Technology for Sustainable Economic Development.
9. Advances and Emerging Applications in Embedded Computing.
10. Traditional and Additive Manufacturing for Sustainable Industrial Development.
11. Emerging and Smart Materials for Sustainable Development.
12. Big Data Analytics and Opportunity for Development.
13. Building Information Modeling (BIM) for Sustainable Development in Engineering Infrastructure and Highway Engineering.
14. Autonomous Systems for Agricultural and Bioresources Technology.

The conference editorial and Technical Board have members from the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Malaysia, Australia and Nigeria. The conference received submissions from 4 countries namely: Malaysia, South Africa, the Gambia and Nigeria. It is with great joy to mention that 123 papers were received in total, with 0.9 acceptable rate as a result of the high quality of articles received. Each of the paper was reviewed by two personalities who have in-depth knowledge of the subject discussed on the paper. At the end of the review process, the accepted papers were recommended for presentation and publication in the conference proceedings. The conference proceedings will be indexed in Scopus.

On behalf of the conference organizing committee, we would like to seize this opportunity to thank you all for participating in the conference. To our dedicated reviewers, we sincerely appreciate you for finding time to do a thorough review. Thank you all and we hope to see you in the 4th International Engineering Conference (IEC 2021).

Engr. Dr. S. M. Dauda
Chairman, Conference Organizing Committee



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The Chairman and members of the Conference Organizing Committee (COC) of the 3rd International Engineering Conference (IEC 2019) wish to express our gratitude to the Vice Chancellor and the management of the Federal University of Technology, Minna, the Deans and all staff of the School of Electrical Engineering and Technology (SEET) and the School of Infrastructure, Process Engineering and Technology (SIPET) for the support towards the successful hosting of this conference. We also thank the entire staff of the university who contributed in one way or the other. We are sincerely grateful to you all.



Spectrum Occupancy Measurement in the VHF Band- Results and Evaluation in the Context of Cognitive Radio

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ABSTRACT

In this paper the results of spectrum occupancy survey in the context of Cognitive Radio was presented. In Cognitive Radio, secondary unlicensed users are allowed to opportunistically use the primary licensed users' bands with the understanding that there will be no interference i.e Secondary Users (SU) quits at the arrival of Primary Users (PU). A 24-hour measurement survey was carried out at the centre of Minna metropolis in Niger State, Nigeria covering a frequency range of VHF (30-300MHz). Aaronia HF 6065 V4 spectrum analyzer was used for data collection. Results show that the band allocated for Aeronautical Navigation has the highest spectral occupancy of 39.83% followed by the FM band with occupancy of 12.90% while the frequency band meant for Aeronautical Mobile and Space Operation has occupancy of 4.73% and TV Broadcasting 0.09%. The average occupancy of the VHF band is 14.39%.

Keywords: Cognitive Radio, FM, Primary Users, Secondary Users, VHF

1 INTRODUCTION

The rise in the demand for wireless devices and wireless communication technology has resulted to the scarcity of the finite radio spectrum. Several wireless services and applications like satellite radio broadband, Wi-Fi internet connections and Bluetooth devices have contributed to the heavy demand of the spectrum. Several regulatory bodies worldwide including the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) of the United States of America (USA) have discovered that lots of frequency bands in the radio frequency spectrum is currently under-utilized. Therefore, the implication is that most spectrum that are allocated are not fully utilized (Barau *et al.*, 2013). This has led to inefficient use of this natural resource (Weiss and Jondral 2004). In the current policy, unlicensed users are disallowed from accessing the spectrum even when they are not utilised by the primary users (Saladhine *et al.*, 2017). Cognitive Radio is envisioned to solve the problem of spectrum scarcity by gaining an understanding of the dynamism of the spectrum occupancy of the frequency band (Barnes *et al.*, 2013; Barnes and Maharaj, 2011).

According to Mitola and Maguire (1999) Cognitive Radio is a radio that senses the environment and adapt its operating parameters to changes in the environment. The essence of Cognitive Radio is to assess the free frequency bands so as to improve on the usage of spectrum opportunistically. It has been generally accepted as a standard solution to spectrum scarcity and under-utilization due to the ineffective way of spectrum allocation to

Primary User (PU). To effectively deploy Cognitive Radio, there is the need to have correct and accurate understanding of the allocated spectrum.

Several spectrum occupancy measurement campaigns have been conducted all over the world (Juarez *et al.*, 2016 and Wiles *et al.*, 2016). The study reveals heavy underutilization of spectrum. Few of the campaigns focused on some specific frequency bands while others focused on power received in dBm or percentage of spectrum utilization such as duty cycle (Lima and Mello 2013). Spectrum measurement campaigns is important so that spectrum occupancy samples on pre-selected frequency bands can be obtained such as in cellular bands or TV bands (Eltom *et al.*, 2018).

However, there is still a general lack of the understanding of the spectrum occupancy in Africa and in particular in Nigeria. According to Kliks *et al.*, (2013), spectrum occupancy measurement information for a particular location is not applicable for other locations. Therefore, this work presents results of an outdoor spectrum occupancy measurement in Minna metropolis, Niger State, Nigeria with focus on the Very High Frequency (VHF) band of 30-300MHz).

2 METHODOLOGY

The description of the measurement location and the equipment used are described in the following sub-sections.

2.1 MEASUREMENT LOCATION

A careful choice of a measurement location is essential for a good spectrum measurement campaign. The location site chosen has an impact on the spectrum occupancy measurement. In general, according to Sanders (1998), a site for spectrum measurement demands that:

1. Transmitters around the measurement location are minimal to avoid intermodulation and saturation challenges.
2. Minimal impulsive noise due to vehicular movements and electrical machines which can increase the signals received.

Bearing in mind these conditions, the spectrum occupancy measurement site for this work was chosen to be the Abuja Electricity Distribution Company (AEDC) office located at the centre of Minna town in Niger State, Nigeria. The google map of the site is shown in Fig. 1 while the Geographical Coordinates are shown in Figure 2.

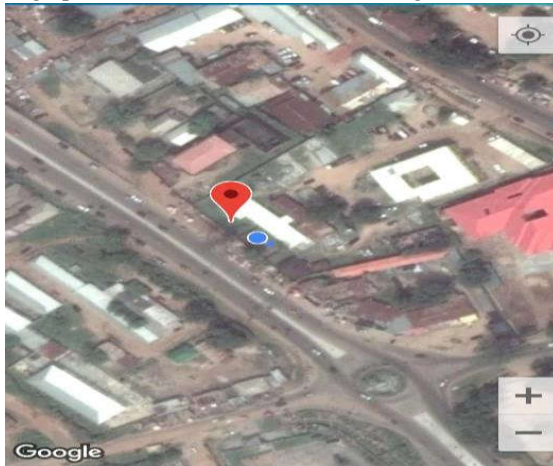


Figure 1: Google Map of Measurement Location

Current Rea	
Longitude:	6.55070667
Altitude:	257.90m. above ellipso
Altitude:	257.90m. above M.S.L.
Accuracy:	1.80m.
PDOP=	0.93
HDOP=	0.56
VDOP=	0.74
Satellites:	18/22
Auto <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Start accurate positioning	
Accurate Position	
Latitude:	9.61195620
Longitude:	6.55071664
Altitude:	248.08m. above ellipso
Altitude:	248.08m. above M.S.L.
Accuracy:	0.32m.
PDOP=	0.35
HDOP=	0.12
VDOP=	0.16
Readings:	H=97/V=97

Figure 2: Geographical Coordinates of the Site

2.2 MEASUREMENT EQUIPMENT

The setup of equipment used for measurement in this work includes a calibrated Aaronia Spectran HF-6065 V4 spectrum analyzer. The range of the spectrum analyzer is 10MHz to 6GHz and an Omni directional antennae with a range of 10MHz to 3GHz and a laptop connected via USB cable to the spectrum analyzer and an MCS software designed specifically to run on Aaronia Spectrum Analyzer. The equipment was powered with an 850VA inverter. The setup is as shown in Figure 3.



Figure 3: Equipment Setup

The full frequency measurement range of the study is 30-300MHz and was observed for 24 hours before band to band telecommunications spectrum occupancy analysis was carried out. As a result of the analysis, the occupied telecommunication bands were identified and the duty cycle and occupancy was measured. The parameter configuration of the spectrum analyzer is shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1: PARAMETER CONFIGURATIONS OF SPECTRUM ANALYZER

Parameter	Value
Frequency Range of the Analyzer	10MHz-6GHz
Frequency Range of the Antennae	10MHz-3GHz
Frequency Range for the Study	30-300MHz
Resolution Bandwidth (RBW)	100KHz
Video Bandwidth (VBW)	100KHz
Sample Time	1ms
Detection Type	RMS
Sample Points	5401
Attenuation Factor	Auto

2.3 DATA COLLECTION AND PROCESSING

The outdoor measurement was taken for 24 hours in the location. All raw data was collected by the spectrum analyzer in a matrix form as shown in Table 2 with P_{ij}

being the elements of the received signal powers in dBm while the rows and the columns records the time slots and the frequency respectively. A total of Thirty Million Eight Hundred and Fifty Thousand Five Hundred and Twelve (30,850,512) data elements was recorded by the spectrum analyzer and saved file using .csv extension. Processing of the measurement samples was done with the aim of getting necessary parameters in order to measure spectrum occupancy.

TABLE 2: Matrix for the Power Spectrum Measurement

Time/Frequency	1	→	5,401
1	$P_{1,1}$	→	$P_{1,5401}$
↓	↓	↘	↓
5,712	$P_{5712,1}$	→	$P_{5712,5401}$

The duty cycle is the same as the frequency occupancy rate and describes or quantifies how a particular frequency band is occupied by signal. According to Mehdawi (2013) and Paulson *et al.* (2018), the duty cycle shows how frequent signals are seen on a particular channel during a sample period and is obtained as shown in (1):

$$Duty\ Cycle = \frac{DD_{Tslot}}{N_{Tslot}} * 100\% \quad (1)$$

where DD_{Tslot} is the number of time slots where received signal power is equal to or greater than the decision threshold and,

N_{Tslot} is the entire time slot.

Spectrum power measurements was done by the Spectrum Analyzer at intervals of 50 kHz for the entire range of the 30 MHz to 300 MHz spectra span giving rise to 5401 trace points. Trace points determines the resolution. The higher it is the better the resolution.

In Energy detection, the determination of the decision threshold is very crucial. When the decision threshold is set too high, the entire spectrum is underestimated and many signals are missed. However, when the threshold is set too low, the spectrum is overestimated and even noise is seen as signals.

The noise levels are taken into consideration when the Energy Detection (ED) method is used to compute the proportion of the presence of signal in a particular band of

interest. The decision threshold is taken as 10 dBm power above the average noise level. The ED method therefore does a comparison between the signals received in a particular frequency band of interest to a predefined threshold values. In a situation when the signal is lower than the threshold then the band is assumed to be idle and hence is available for use by Cognitive Radio.

3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Analysis of the spectrum for some particular bands dedicated for specific services was done as shown in Table 3. The plot of Power Received (dBm) against Frequency (MHz) for the entire range of frequency measurement (30-300MHz) is shown in Figure 4.

TABLE 3: SERVICES ALLOCATED TO SPECIFIC FREQUENCY BANDS

Services	Frequency Range (MHz)
FM Radio	87.5-108
Aeronautical Navigation	108.05-137.95
Aeronautical Mobile & Space Operation	138-144
TV Broadcasting	174-230



Figure 4: Power Spectral Density Plot for 30-300MHz Frequency Range

Decision threshold plays a major role in determining the actual spectral occupancy in the frequency band under investigation. Whereas a high thresholds leads to underestimation of the spectrum a low threshold results in spectrum overestimation. When thresholds are extremely high signals in the occupied bands are missed. Likewise, very low thresholds are affected by noise hence assuming the frequency channel as not available. These scenario are shown in Figure 5. The Average duty cycle of 100% corresponds to a low decision threshold of -75 dBm for FM Radio, -81 dBm for Aeronautical Navigation, -81 dBm for Aeronautical Mobile and Space Operation and -87 dBm for TV Broadcasting. Also the Average duty cycle of 0%

corresponds to a high decision threshold of -57 dBm for FM Radio, -73 dBm for Aeronautical Navigation, -73 dBm for Aeronautical Mobile and Space Operation and -75 dBm for TV Broadcasting.

Broadcasting which is averaged for the 24 hours measurement period. Figure 6 shows that there are some activities within the FM band with only about two broadcasting stations active and with a threshold of -71 dBm. Figure 7 reveals significant activities with a threshold value of -77 dBm within the band allocated for Aeronautical Navigation while Figure 8 shows minor activities with a threshold of -69 dBm within the band allocated for Aeronautical Mobile and Space Navigation. Figure 9 shows no significant activities within the TV Broadcasting band with a threshold of -61 dBm.

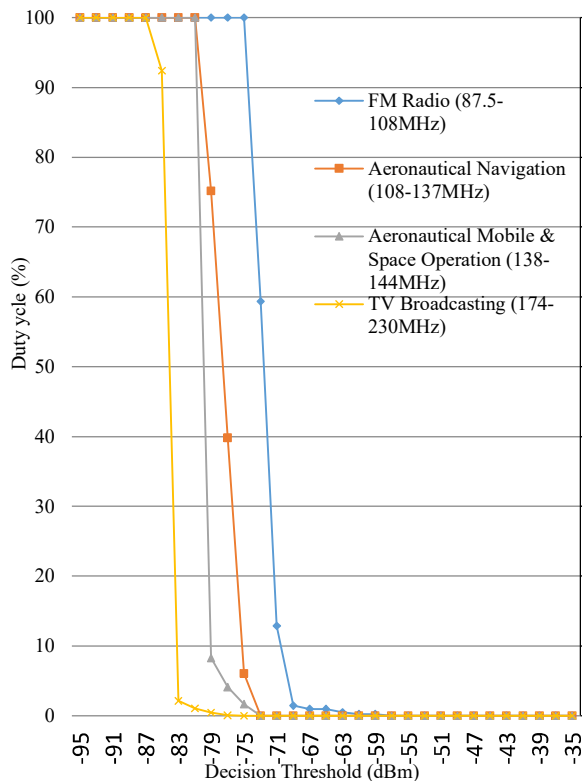


Figure 5: Average Duty Cycle as a Function of Decision Threshold

TABLE 2: AVERAGE DUTY CYCLE FOR SPECIFIED BANDS

Services	Frequency range (MHz)	Bandwidth (MHz)	No. of trace points in bandwidth	Average Duty Cycle (%)
FM Radio	87.5 – 108	20.5	411	12.90
Aeronautical Navigation	108.05 – 137	28.95	580	39.83
Aeronautical Mobile & Space Operation	138 - `144	6	121	4.73
TV Broadcasting	174 – 230	56	1121	0.09

Figure 6 to Figure 9 show the Power Spectral Density (PSD) Plots for FM Radio, Aeronautical Navigation, Aeronautical Mobile and Space Operation and TV

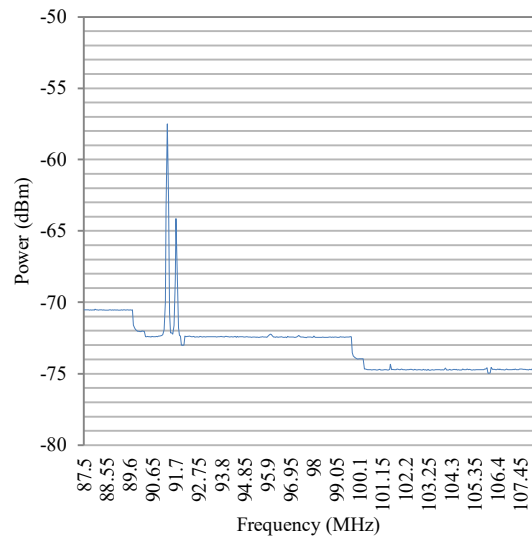


Figure 6: Power Spectral density Plot for FM Band

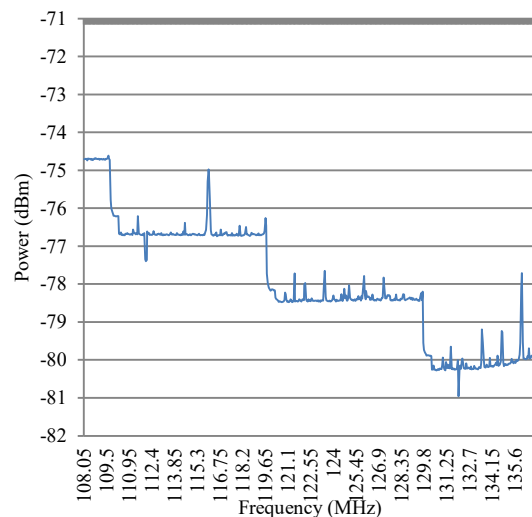


Figure 7: Power Spectral density Plot for Aeronautical Navigation

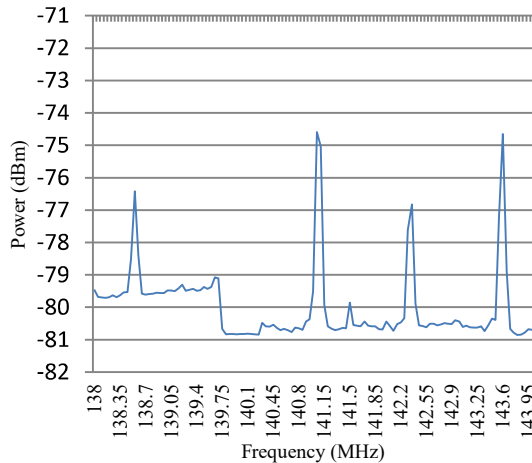


Figure 8: Power Spectral density Plot for Aeronautical Mobile & Space Operation

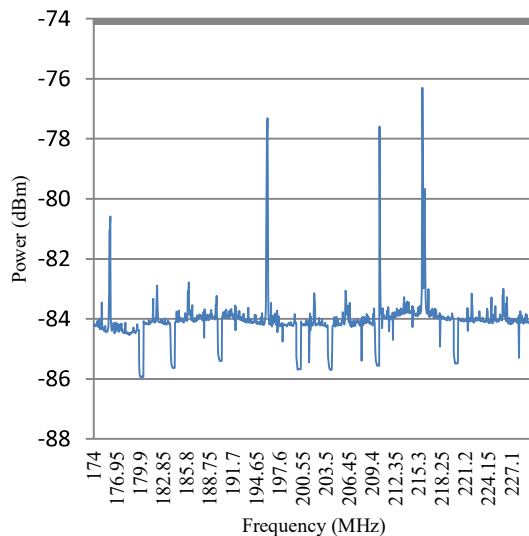


Figure 9: Power Spectral density Plot TV Broadcasting

4 CONCLUSION

Although several measurement campaigns have been done in many parts of the world, most of the campaigns focused on a wide band of frequency. This work focused on the narrow part of the VHF in the TV spectrum band. Spectrum Occupancy results show a very low occupancy particularly in the TV broadcasting sub band making the band appropriate for Cognitive Radio deployment.

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