

## **Maximum Usable Frequency Calculated Over Cachoeira Paulista Using TEC Data**

**Arruda, D.C.S.; Souza, J.R.; Batista, I.S.**

Aeronomy Division, DAE, National Institute for Space Research (INPE), São José dos Campos,  
12227-010, São Paulo, Brazil.

In this study, we present a method to calculate the Maximum Usable Frequency (MUF) using Total Electron Content (TEC) data registered over Cachoeira Paulista (22.5°S; 45°W). The data were downloaded from Brazilian GNSS receiver network RBMC (Rede Brasileira de Monitoramento Contínuo). MUF is the highest radio frequency that can be used for electromagnetic wave propagation between a pair of terminals by ionospheric refraction at a specified time. In this way, MUF is reliant of the ionospheric electronic density and can be calculated knowing the F<sub>2</sub>-layer critical frequency ( $f_oF_2$ ) and its corresponding virtual altitude ( $h'mF_2$ ). Our idea is to extracted the values  $f_oF_2$  from TEC data and develop an empirical representation for  $h'mF_2$  based on ionogram data registered by a digisonde operating at Cachoeira Paulista's station. The results, representative of equinoctial period and geomagnetic quiet conditions, are compared with experimental data.

In fact, we present the first step to develop a MUFs prediction model for the Brazilian sector which is important for the national radio communication community.