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Article

Electromagnetic Radiation Emissions by Mobile Devices under Distinct Ways of Usage

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Abstract: 123 mobile phones in the 1.5 GHz-2.1 GHz frequency band are observed for electromagnetic radiation at two distances from the device (0 m and 1 m) and four distinct ways of usage. Electric field spectra are measured within a seven minute interval. Spectrum measurements, minimum, average and maximum electric field (E_{min} , E_{ave} , E_{max}) are reported. These values range from 0,021 V/m to 15,0 V/m. The E_{max} spectra peaks are non-systematic, depend on the provider and phone and range between 1,72 GHz and 1,97 GHz. The E_{max} measurements are compared via box and whiskers plots. The boxplot Q1-Q3 spectra measurements are compared via ANOVA. The measurements between Q1 (25%) and Q3 (75%) quartiles follow the normal distribution while the outliers are more, denser and with higher maximum E_{max} values at 0 m distance (contact with ear) than at 1 m away. Through reorganisation of the whole dataset in columns, the four usage ways are compared. Most significant is the usage way of making a call where only the corresponding columns follow the normal distribution. Making a call signifies the emitted electric field.

Keywords: electromagnetic radiation; mobile phone, use

1. Introduction

Due to the ongoing demand for quality, speed and wide application range of modern mobile phones, the wireless technologies have significantly advanced [1]. This is a continuous process that began in the late nineties and is strongly related to the extensive installation of base stations [2]. Due to the development of communication protocols for mobile phone devices, the cellular network providers have constructed network infrastructures over a wide range of frequency bands referenced collectively as 2G, 3G, 4G, and 5G communications. Despite that 5G is regarded as a faster and more secure technology than the previous communication technology systems, the new 5G technology is very new [3] and the suggested frequency range from 24 GHz to 60 GHz (*mm* electromagnetic waves) has not developed all its full potential because the corresponding base stations have not been extensively constructed yet. Due to its very recent development, 5G technology makes advantage of recently opened frequencies or frequencies already assigned to 3G or 4G [3]. Especially in Greece even the specific 5G frequency range between 24.25 GHz and 29.5 GHz have not be developed satisfactory yet. Despite 5G allows for antenna array technologies of improved directivity, reduced latency and increased data transmission speeds [3], the 3G and 4G frequency band technologies are still dominant in Greece and this despite the fact that the network providers indicate 5G technology in the mobile smartphone devices.

Mobile phones have undergone a remarkable rise in use over the past twenty years with over 80% of people owning and using mobile phone devices [4]. It is nearly hard to imagine a world without smartphones given how commonplace such devices have become in the everyday life [5]. A primary

factor that boosts this growing trend, is the extensive internet access and the applications that are nowadays available by all cellular network providers [6]. Despite however the widespread usage of mobile phones, there is a growing unawareness of the hazards associated with the exposure to radiofrequency (RF) electromagnetic fields (EMF) [7]. This gives rise to concerns over the possible health consequences that result from extended exposure to radiofrequency radiation emanating from mobile devices [e.g 8–11]. The problem however, is restricted not only to mobile phones and the corresponding 2G-5G frequency range, but rather extends to the effects due to various sources and a wide range of frequency bands. Due to the international interest on the health effects of the electromagnetic fields, reputed worldwide organisations, such as the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection and the International Committee on Electromagnetic Safety of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) have issued guidelines [7,12–14] which address the potential health risks due to the exposure of the general population to electromagnetic fields, as well as related safety precautions [15]. The ICNIRP's guidelines are not regulatory. They rather set scientifically justified standards and a set of basic restrictions and reference levels [15]. The legislative organisation for Greece is European Union. European Union's legal area is strict and challenging, but the regulatory limits of 2010 [16] are based on the 2010 ICNIRP's report [12] and those of 1998 [17], to the 1998 ICNIRP's report [13]. Only some updates of technical standards refer to the current ICNIRP's 2020 guidelines [7].

The cellular network in Greece by far cannot be characterised as structured. In the last twenty years, the cellular network providers have changed names and ownership twice. Companies with many subscribers do not exist any more, while nowadays, three main providers have the majority of subscribers. In the last five years some fibre optics television providers try to get into the optical telephony and the mobile phone activity. The Hellenic state did not manage to control this boost. As a result, telecommunications antennas and receivers in big cities like Athens, have been installed without specific control and the same is the case for the cellular receivers and emitters. Several cellular type antennas are hidden in places that cannot be easily traced, such as billboards, tablets and signs. Any attempt from the state to rationalise this situation has not yet paid off. As a result the exposure of the Greek population to RF EMF from mobile phones is not known, neither the effects of the different usage scenarios of the mobile phones. The responsible Greek authority is the Hellenic Committee on Radiation Protection with offices within the Demokritos research centre of Greece, in Athens. This Committee may conduct checks by order of another authority or institution. Therefore, the research on mobile phone usage in Greece and, especially, Athens is limited. Hence there is a scientific gap which, importantly, is not of local character. Indeed, the papers of the last years focus on the negative effects of driving and using phone [18,19], the use of GPS smartphone data to achieve certain actions [20], in urban sensing [21], in mobile security [22], the use among pupils [23], students [24] and older people [25], the impact of mobile phone technology on humans [26] and crime applications [27] and various mobile applications development. Contemporary papers on the effects of mobile phone radiation focus on base stations [28] and on human head models [29]. Although the aim of this paper is not to provide a comprehensive review of the subject, it becomes evident from the above that there is restricted focus on the different scenarios of the usage of mobile phones and the corresponding effects.

In view of the international interest on the potential negative health consequences of radiofrequency electromagnetic fields, this paper reports electric field spectrum measurements for mobile phones operating in Athens Greece in contract with the main cellular providers of Greece. The electric field measurements are conducted with the Narda SRM-3006 instrument for four distinct ways of usage and for two different distances at 0 m and 1 m from the mobile phone. The dataset comprises eighty two mobile different phones from various vendors and cellular network providers of Greece (three total). The aim is to provide a scientific basis for further investigation of the effects that the the phone usage has on the emitted electromagnetic radiation in the nearby environment and also a foundation for more comprehensive EMF measurements, especially in Greece.

In the following, the usage ways, the methodology for the electric field measurements and the statistical analysis of the research are described in **Section 2**. Selected spectrum electric field measurements together with the results from the statistical analysis and the discussion are given in **Section 3**. The conclusions of the study are presented in **Section 4** and the evaluation and the limitations are given in **Section 5**.

2. Materials and Methods

The employed Narda SRM-3006 instrument for electric field measurements, receives and records electric field spectra, namely, electric field (V/m) versus frequency (GHz) within a user-defined frequency range and time interval. Minimum (E_{min}), average (E_{ave}) and maximum (E_{max}) electric field values are provided for every frequency bin throughout the duration of each measurement set. In compliance to the ICNIRP and EU recommendations the measurements duration is fixed to seven minutes compensating accuracy in measurement and convenience in recording. Taking into account that 5G is not practically in operation in Greece, the frequency range is set between 1.5 GHz and 2.1 GHz focusing hence on the 4G part of the future 5G network.

The investigated ways of usage are given in Table 1.

Table 1. The distinct ways of usage of the investigated mobile phones.

Code	Way of Phone Usage
UW1	Standby
UW2	Attempting calling
UW3	Calling
UW4	End of Call

The electric field spectrum measurements are repeated for every way and mobile phone at 0 m (in contact with the phone) and at 1 m (away from the mobile phone) both operated via a hands free headphone. The measurements contain the following categories

1. Four (4) usage modes;
2. Two (2) different distances for each mobile phone;

combined with :

Eighty two (82) different mobile phones, namely phones from 82 different vendors, namely 82 electric field spectra from completely different phones;

Some mobile phones are from the same vendor but from a different provider. As a result the total measurements contain:

- (a) Two hundred forty six (246) total electric field spectra from mobile phones;
- (b) One hundred twenty three ($123=246:2$) total electric field spectra at 0 m and another one hundred twenty three (123) at 1 m from the source.

The research questions are the following:

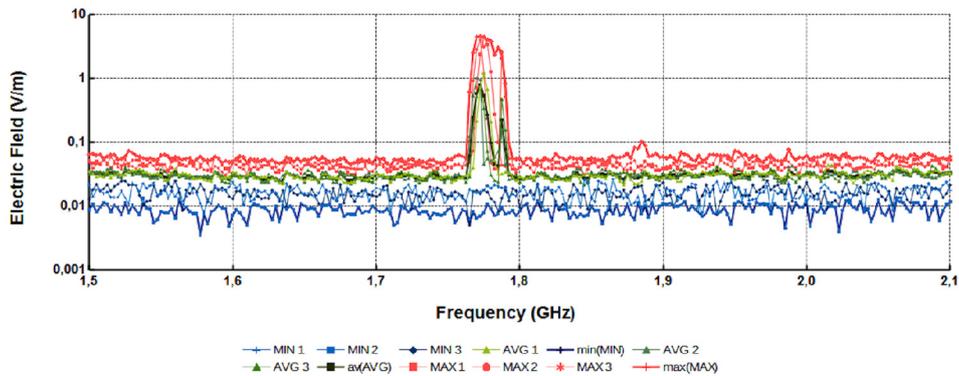
- (a) Is there any differentiation in E_{min} , E_{ave} and E_{max} between the phones?
- (b) Using the mobile phone at 1 m distance from the source, is the situation better in terms of emitted electromagnetic radiation?
- (c) Which way of usage is most significant?

Statistical analysis performed in terms of box and whiskers plots, Analysis of Variance (ANOVA), Wilcoxon signed-rank test, t-test and paired t-test.

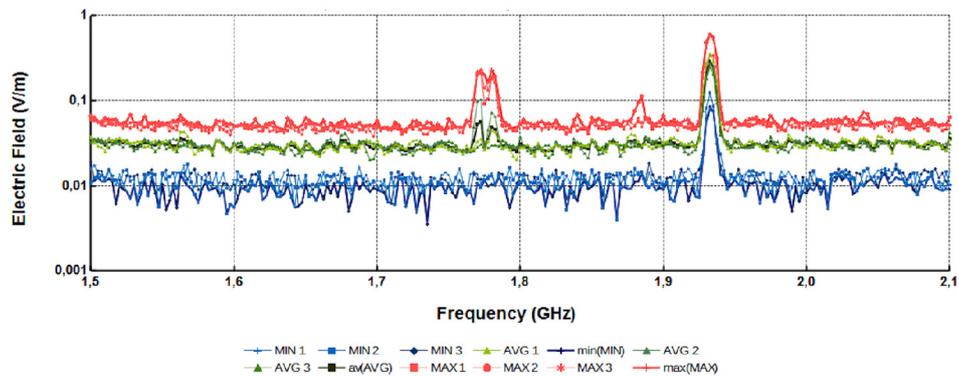
3. Results and discussion

Noteworthy variations are found in the electric field spectra. All types of measurements, i.e., E_{min} , E_{ave} and E_{max} fluctuate with frequency f in all ways of usage (Table 1). Three characteristic cases are shown in Figure 1. As mentioned in the caption of this figure, this specific experiment has been repeated three times to estimate possible deviations in E_{min} , E_{ave} and E_{max} spectra measurements. As can be observed from **sub-figure a** of Figure 1, a single peak is found in both E_{ave} and E_{max} in all three repetitions as well as in the average values of E_{ave} [av(AVG)] (for each frequency) and the maximum values of E_{max} [max(MAX)] (for each frequency). All these peaks are between 1,76 GHz and 1,80 GHz. These peaks range between 0,080 V/m and 8,0 V/m (two significant figures). These peaks are not found in any spectrum measurement of E_{min} nor in the minimum values of E_{min} [min(MIN)]. The case of **sub-figure b** of Figure 1 is different. One peak is found in the same frequency range as the one of **sub-figure a**, namely between 1,76 GHz and 1,80 GHz (three significant figures) but this is mild since the E_{ave} and E_{max} are between 0,0080 V/m and 0,14 V/m. As with **sub-figure a**, peaking is not found in E_{min} spectra or in minimum values of E_{min} [min(MIN)]. On the other hand, a second higher peak is observed in all values (E_{min} , E_{ave} , E_{max} , [min(MIN)], [av(AVG)] and [max(MAX)] for frequencies between 1,92 GHz and 1,95 GHz. In **sub-figure c** of Figure 1 there is a single peak in E_{ave} and E_{max} in all three repetitions. Single peak is observed also in [av(AVG)] and [max(MAX)]. The single peak in all these values is slightly shifted in respect to the second peak of **sub-figure b**. Indeed the corresponding frequency range is between 1,95 GHz and 1,97 GHz. The electric field of these peaks is between 0,090 V/m and 1,0 V/m. The reader may note here that there were no expectations beforehand about these electric field peaks and the differentiations between them. Hence they rely on the measurements. The peaking alterations (both in electric field and frequency range) may be attributed to the different specifications of each mobile phone and the cellular network parameters that the providers set or change. Taking into account that the mobile network in Greece is not developed systematically and with a strict structure, the reader may find another explanation for these observations. Despite that only three sub-figures are provided the situation is similar within all data set. These issues are discussed later in text after additional calculations. The most significant finding from Figure 1 is that the call with a mobile phone imposes significant increase in the electric field mainly in E_{max} and E_{ave} . This increase can reach significant electric field values (e.g **sub-figure a**) and, as will presented later, this increase may be quite high. This increase is not known by the users and may be of importance in respect to the exposure to electric fields from mobile communications. Concluding with the results from Figure 1, it can be supported that the electric field spectra measurements provide information on the number of peaks, the corresponding frequency range and electric field value. These are deemed of significance. The above electric field range is within the international range (e.g., [4,30–32], and references therein).

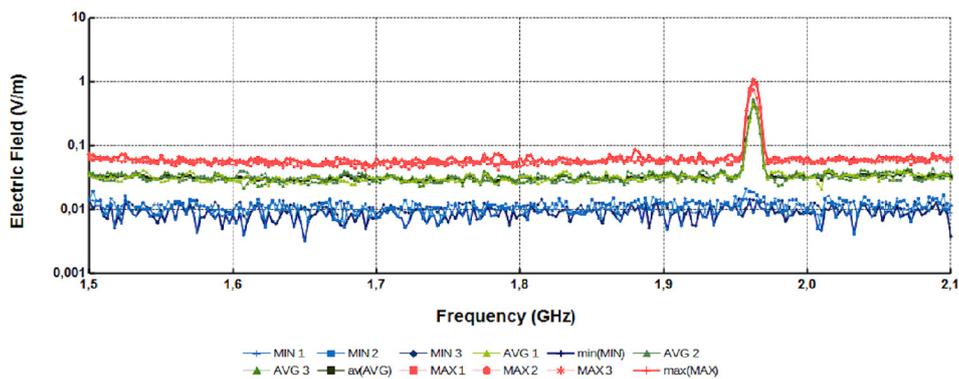
From the data presented so far, it becomes evident that the $E_{max}(f)$ versus f spectra measurements are the most important ones in terms of radiation exposure. In this sense, Figure 2 presents characteristic cases of the highest measured peaks of E_{max} . The figure presents the electric field spectra from three worst case scenarios. The frequency range here is limited between 1,70 GHz and 2,00 GHz so as to have a clearer view on the peaks. No peak curve functions are employed because these figures present only the basic tendencies. Statistical associations will be presented later in text. It can be observed that spectrum number 92 reaches a maximum of 15 V/m during call. This value is well above the electric field values (in V/m) presented in the systematic review Ramirez-Vazquez et al. [33]. According to this review, a maximum electric field of 1,64 V/m is associated with a high intensity of 7100 $\mu\text{W}/\text{m}^2$, a maximum electric field of 5,00 V/m with as high as 66400 $\mu\text{W}/\text{m}^2$ and the maximum $E_{max}(f)$ value of 15,0 V/m (spectrum 92 in Figure 2) is associated to the extremely high value of 199000 $\mu\text{W}/\text{m}^2$. This latter value is almost equal to the 200 W/m^2 exposure limit proposed by IEEE and ICNIRP [3], however for frequencies $f > 6 \text{ GHz} - 300 \text{ GHz}$. The estimated intensity values are high even when compared to the maximum permissible electromagnetic radiation levels from base station towers, namely to 3000 $\mu\text{W}/\text{m}^2$ for USA and to 4500 $\mu\text{W}/\text{m}^2$ for India [28]. The exposure levels



(a) figure 1a: UW3, spectrum number 72.



(b) figure 1b: UW3, spectrum number 73.



(c) figure 1c: UW3, spectrum number 80.

Figure 1. Characteristic cases of E_{min} , E_{ave} and E_{max} spectra measurements at 0 m distance for UW3. Each spectrum is repeated here three times. Legend: MIN1, MIN2, MIN3, AVG1, AVG2, AVG3, MAX1, MAX2 and MAX3 are the three repeated spectra of E_{min} , E_{ave} and E_{max} . The minimum of the E_{min} spectra is indicated as min(MIN), the average of the E_{ave} spectra is av(AVG) and the maximum of the E_{max} spectra is indicated as max(MAX). All measurements represent the electric field spectra during the seven minute measurement interval of each phone. All phones are from different vendors.

from the above figures are within the exposure value range reported in Australia [34] with the latter reference reporting values up to $1 \text{ kW}/\text{m}^2$ for the AM exposure, however for 1 minute measuring intervals. Interesting is also, as expected, that these exposures are much lower than the outdoor exposure levels reported by Paniagua-Sánchez et al. [35] for comparable frequency range. These estimations are in the upper limits of exposure because they are based on the maximum measured electric field of the worst case scenario of phones of Figure 2. In this sense they rather serve as an indication of the maximum exposure that might occur during calling. The reader should however note in association, that for frequencies between 100 kHz and 6 GHz the health effects from radiofrequency electric fields are expressed as a function of the incident electromagnetic power per tissue mass (W/kg) and only above 6 GHz as a function incident power density (W/m^2) [3,7]. This restricts the above worst case estimations.

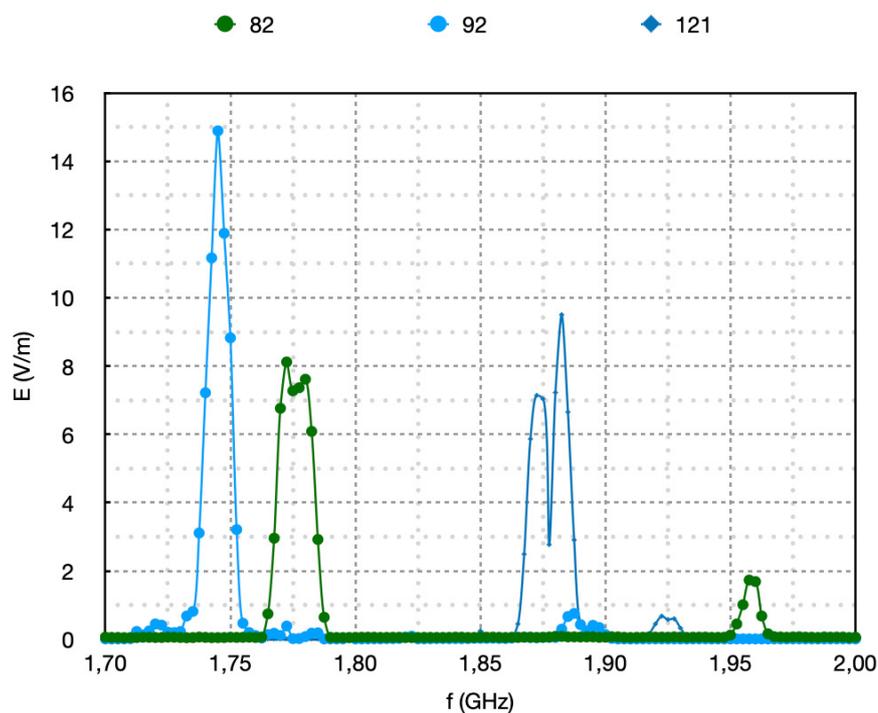


Figure 2. Characteristic cases with high E_{max} values at 0 m distance for UW3. The data are the $E_{max}(f)$ values versus f during the seven minute measurement interval. The legend indicates the number of the spectrum (1-123).

Figure 3 and Figure 4 present the medium and mild case scenarios in terms of electric field measurements. The focus is also here on the maximum electric field values. Spectrum 117 peaks at $0,61 \text{ V}/\text{m}$, spectrum 79 at $0,50 \text{ V}/\text{m}$ and spectrum 85 at $0,46 \text{ V}/\text{m}$. The maximum electric field values of spectrum 110 is $0,045 \text{ V}/\text{m}$ and of 123 $0,021 \text{ V}/\text{m}$. Spectrum 120 has no peak in E_{max} . However apart from the vertical axis alterations, the reader may also focus on the differentiations in the horizontal axis, i.e., the changes in the frequency ranges of the peaks. Observing the frequencies of Figure 2, Figure 3 and Figure 4 it is clear that the ranges of the peaks is not systematic. This observation has been expressed already in the discussion of Figure 1. Specifically in Figure 2, in all cases (spectra 82, 92, 121) there is a main peak in different frequencies and a second small peak, again in different frequency ranges. The situation of Figure 3 is different. Spectrum 117 has three peaks, two main and one minor between $1,72 \text{ GHz}$ and $1,74 \text{ GHz}$. Spectrum 79 has one peak between $1,76 \text{ GHz}$ and $1,79 \text{ GHz}$, but interestingly, the two minor peaks of spectrum 85 are in the same ranges of the high peaks of spectra

of 79 and 117, whereas its main peak is between 1,86 GHz and 1,88 GHz. Peaks of electric field spectra various frequencies are reported by other researchers as well [30–32,36,37].

It can be supported from Figures 1, 2, 3 and 4 that making a call with a mobile phone yields to peaking in the electric field (V/m) which is associated with significant increase in the electric field's intensity ($\mu W/m^2$) and an additional exposure of the mobile phone user. The associated effects are, rationally and experimentally, stronger for E_{max} , milder for E_{ave} and even milder (if not negligible) for the E_{min} measurements with NARDA SMR-3006. That are the findings. Up to now the results are discussed quantitatively and comparatively without any attempt of statistical testing. The presentation up to now has focused only on the tendencies of the measured quantities and their differentiations. Hereafter, in the consensus of the findings so far, further statistical tests are applied to the collected data.

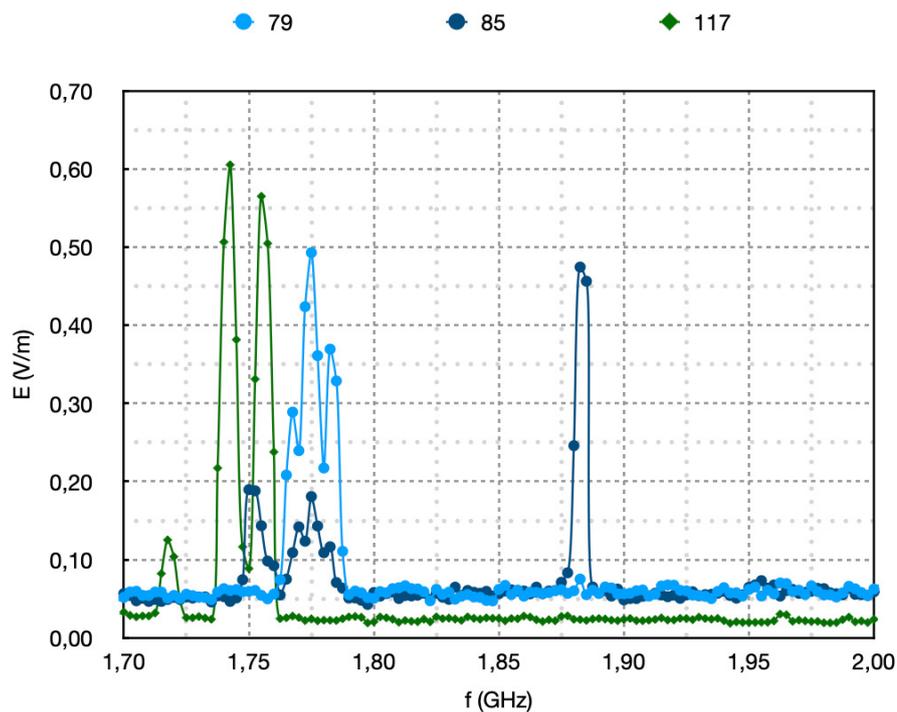


Figure 3. Characteristic cases with mild E_{max} values at 0 m distance for UW3. The data are the $E_{max}(f)$ values versus f during the seven minute measurement interval. The legend indicates the number of the spectrum (1-123).

Figure 5 presents the Box and Whiskers plots of the eighty two (82) phones that are from completely different vendors. The data set is presented both at 0 m distance (contact with phone) and at 1 m distance from the phone. The data of every Box and Whiskers plot is extracted to ASCII format for convenience in testing. A first important observation from the phones of this figures is that the in-box distribution shape of each Box and Whiskers plot is symmetric implying a normal distribution of electric field values. In order to test if this is valid for the whole Box and Whiskers dataset of Figure 5, the median (Q2,50th percentile) of each plot is compared to the calculated average value of each distribution of electric fields via a paired t-test, omitting however the outliers, namely all the values above $\pm 1,5 \cdot IQR$, where IQR is the interquartile range, namely the total distance between Q1 (25th percentile) and Q3 (50th percentile). Under this restriction, the median and the average values of each Box and Whiskers plot do not differ significantly, both for the 0 m ($p < 0,01$) and for the 1 m dataset ($p < 0,05$). As a further normality test, the Kolmogorov-Smirnov normality test is employed in the Q1-Q3 parts via R. The data of Figure 5 between Q1 and Q3 quartiles satisfy the Kolmogorov-Smirnov

test both at 0 m ($p < 0,05$) and at 1 m ($p < 0,05$). Since the data are normal without the outliers and median and average values do not differ significantly (as observed and as consequently rational from the normality test), further comparison can be performed in the view that the median value ($Q_{2,50}^{th}$ percentile) is the average (statistically equal) and the (found) symmetric Q1-Q2 and Q2-Q3 interquartile ranges are the corresponding error bars. In this viewpoint, each median (average) value has error $\pm 0.5 \cdot (\frac{Q_3 - Q_1}{2})$. The reader should note here two facts. First, through this treatment the non-outlier data can be compared as averages \pm errors. Second, through this all outliers are surely excluded and due to this any possible bias. All spectra follow a normal distribution and for this reason one way ANOVA is further applied via R. The null hypothesis is that all $N=82$ values have equal means and emerge from a distribution of equal variances. The degrees of freedom are $df_1=1$ (one independent measurement set, one statistical treatment) and $df_2=81$ ($df_2 = N - df_1 \Rightarrow df_2 = 82 - 1 \Rightarrow df_2 = 81$). The critical F value for $\alpha=0.01$ (1% significance \Rightarrow 99% confidence interval) and degrees of freedom $df_1=1$ and $df_2=81$ is $F_{critical}=6,958$. Now, calculated F statistic for the 0 m dataset equals 3,440 and for the 1 m data set equals 4,442. Since both $F=3,440 < F_{critical}=7,085$ (0 m data) and $F=4,442 < F_{critical}=7,085$ (1 m data), it can be supported that both for the distance of 0 m (in contact with the phone) and for 1 m the median (averages) of the 82 Box and Whiskers plots are statistically equal both for 0 m and for 1 m. The reader should note here that from the ANOVA application it follows that all the distributions have equal variances. As another observation it seems that the boxplot data are organised in four Q1-Q3 groups with different average Q1-Q3 E_{max} . This is due to the process of collecting the measurements. Each measurement set lasts 1 hour for the total of all measurements, namely the four usage ways and the two distances, not taking into account the time for storing, analysing, presenting, software creation and debugging. Because of these, the measurement number of each phone corresponds more or less to its technology. To the viewpoint of the authors this is an issue of the evolution of this research and not a general tendency and for this reason it is not deemed of importance for the claims already given and those presented later in text. This can be further comprehended by the fact that the technological specifications of each phone are not given due to ethical reasons that emerge both for the protection of the vendors names and the identification of non-public data.

The need for omitting the outlier data of Figure 5 so as to succeed the normality tests, shows how significantly the outliers bias the whole data set. On the other hand the distribution of the outliers in Figure 5 is much closer to the Box and Whiskers plot of the 1 m dataset than the one of the 0 m dataset. To check this statistically, the outliers range is calculated for every spectrum of Figure 5 as the difference between the maximum value and the lowest potential value for outliers which equals $1.5 \cdot IQR$. In this manner the outlier range, R_{outlr} , is calculated as $R_{outlr} = \max(E_{max}) - 1.5 \cdot IQR$. In this way, 82 values of R_{outlr} are calculated for the 0 m data and another 82 R_{outlr} values for the 1 m data. Since the outliers mainly affect the deviation of the data from normality, it is rational that the distribution of R_{outlr} is a-priori not normal. Indeed the Kolmogorov-Smirnov normality test of R_{outlr} give p-values above 0,1 namely ($p > 0,1$ for R_{outlr} values both at 0 m and at 1 m). In order to statistically if R_{outlr} at 0 m is less than the one at 1 m the Wilcoxon signed-rank test can be used and is further employed. The null hypothesis is that there is no difference between R_{outlr} at 0 m and 1 m. z-value for $N=82$ phone and ranking the difference between R_{outlr} at 0 m in reference to the one at 1 m is $z = 15,537$ and $p < 0,01$. The positive sign of z implies that R_{outlr} at 0 m is deviates more than the one at 1 m. Therefore calling with a mobile phone being positioned it at 1 m from the ear, yields to lower deviations of R_{outlr} namely to lower maximum values of E_{max} and to lower deviations from the mainstream tendencies. In another interpretation the outlier at 0 m are denser and with higher deviations. This means that using a phone in contact with the ear yields to potentially higher effects.

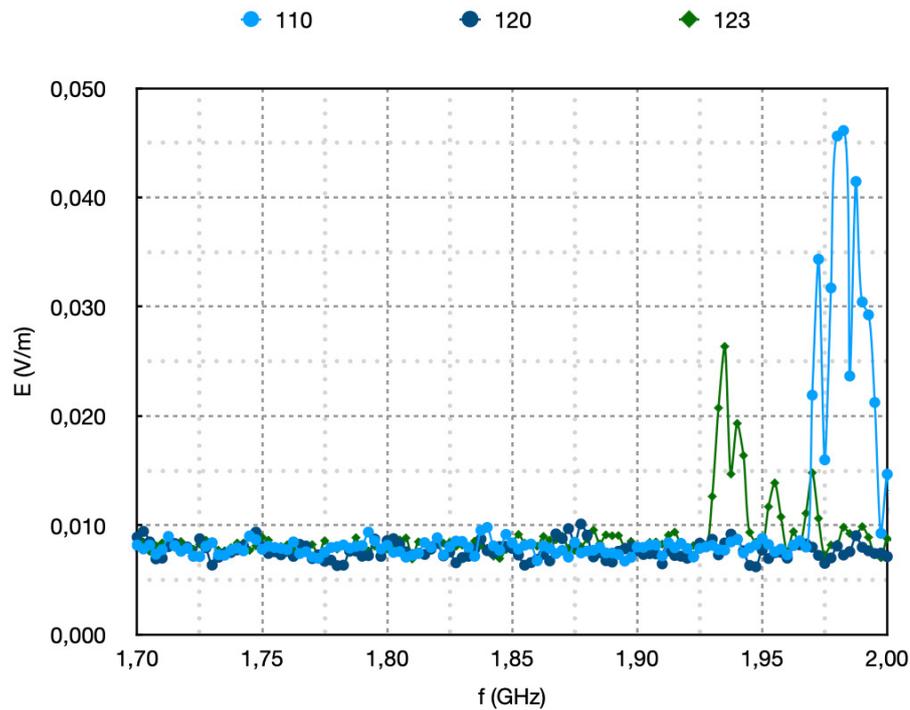
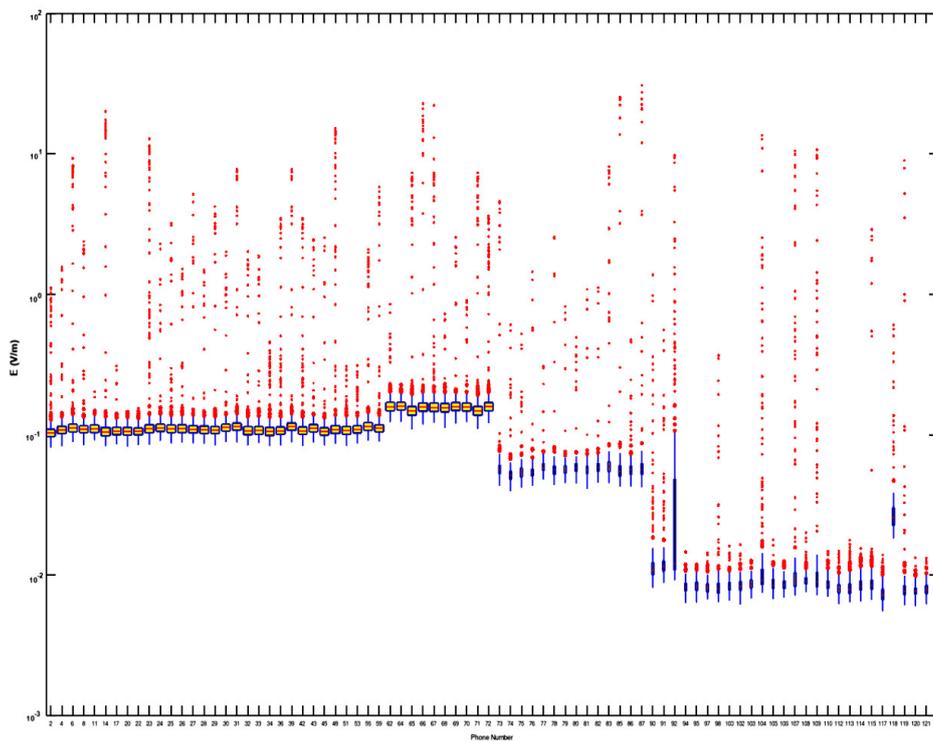
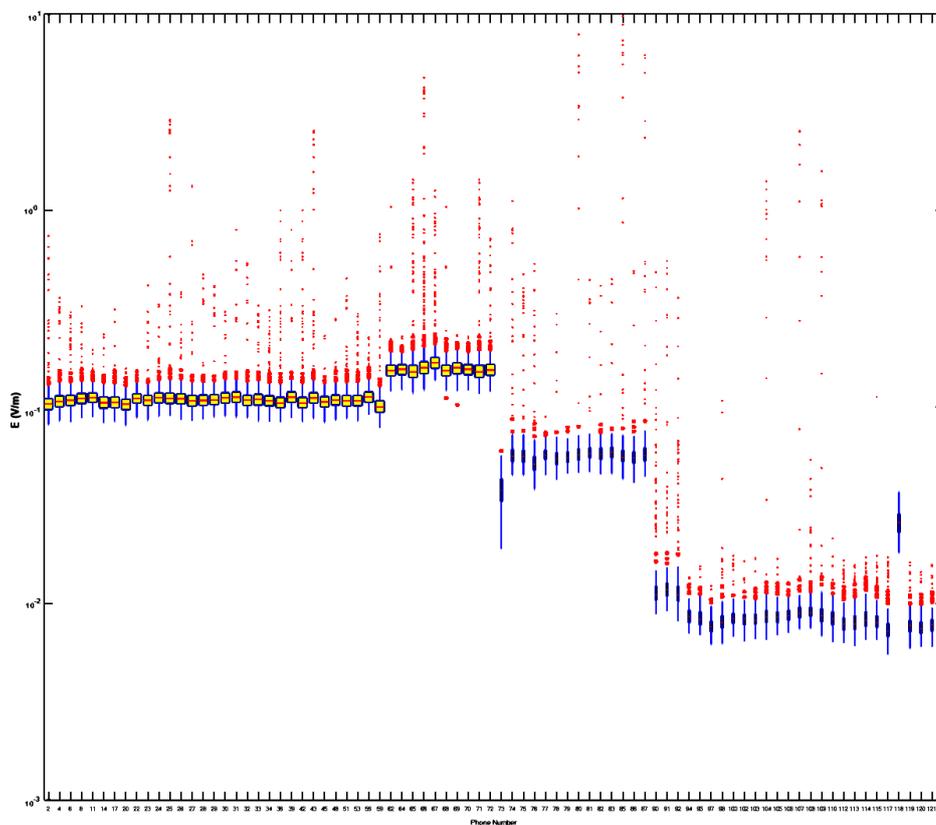


Figure 4. Characteristic cases with low E_{max} values at 0 m distance for UW3. The data are the $E_{max}(f)$ values versus f during the seven minute measurement interval. The legend indicates the number of the spectrum (1-123).

Figure 6 presents the Box and Whiskers plots of the measured E_{max} of the total dataset of the 123 phones at 0 m and at 1 m (total 256 spectra). As mentioned in this figure 41 phones (123 total-82 different phones) are from same vendors as the phones of Figure 5, but from a different provider. Due to this the 123 are organised in the same four Q1-Q3 groups as those of Figure 5. The statistical methodology of the previous two paragraphs is followed here as well. For this case $N=123$. Omitting the outliers and by employing the ASCII outputs of the Q1-Q3 parts of the $2 \times 123 = 256$ Box and Whiskers plots of Figure 6, it is found that the main 123 Q1-Q3 parts pass the Kolmogorov-Smirnov normality test, both for the 0 m dataset ($p < 0,05$) and for the 1 m dataset ($p < 0,05$). As the above analysis, the null hypothesis is that all E_{max} -spectra have equal means and emerge from a distribution of equal variances. The degrees of freedom are also $df_1=1$ (one independent measurement set, one statistical treatments) and $df_2=122$ ($df_2 = N - df_1 \Rightarrow df_2 = 123 - 1 \Rightarrow df_2 = 122$). The critical F value for $\alpha=0.01$ (1% significance \Rightarrow 99% confidence interval) and degrees of freedom $df_1=1$ and $df_2=122$ is $F_{critical}=6.847$. The calculated F statistic for the 0 m dataset equals 4,526 and for the 1 m data set equals 5,426. Since both $F=4,526 < F_{critical}=6,847$ (0 m data) and $F=5,426 < F_{critical}=6,847$ (1 m data), it can be supported that both for the distance of 0 m (in contact with the phone) and for 1 m the median (averages) of the 123 Box and Whiskers plots are statistically equal both for 0 m and for 1 m. Further, as above, the Wilcoxon signed-rank test is employed to test R_{outlr} at 0 m and at 1 m. Again the null hypothesis is that there is no difference between R_{outlr} at 0 m and 1 m. Here $z = 18,152$ and $p < 0,01$ for the Wilcoxon test. z is again positive and hence the 0 m data set has higher R_{outlr} in comparison to the 1 m dataset. Therefore from the whole dataset it can be supported once more, that speaking with the phone in contact with the ear yields to denser and greater deviations and therefore it more probable to encounter high maximum E_{max} values which means that it more probable to have higher exposures speaking near the phone.

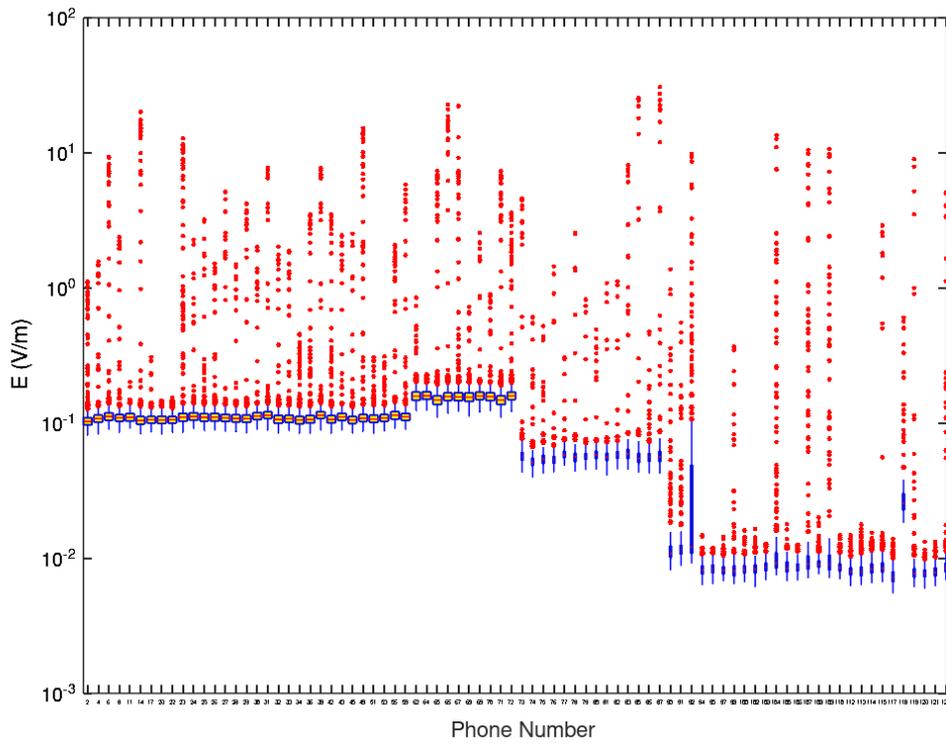


(a) Distance 0 m (in contact with phone).

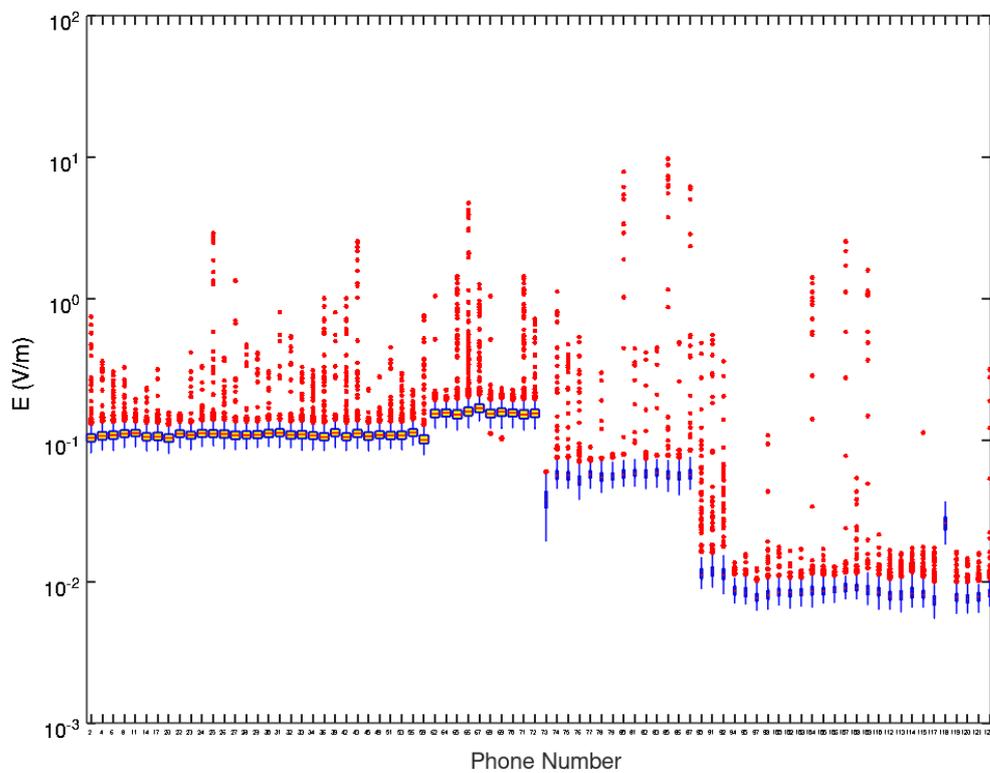


(b) Distance 1 m from the phone.

Figure 5. Box Whiskers plots of measured E_{max} spectra at distances 0 m and 1 m for the 82 phones from different vendors. The data for all E_{max} are provided during the seven minute measurement interval.



(a) Distance 0 m (in contact with phone).

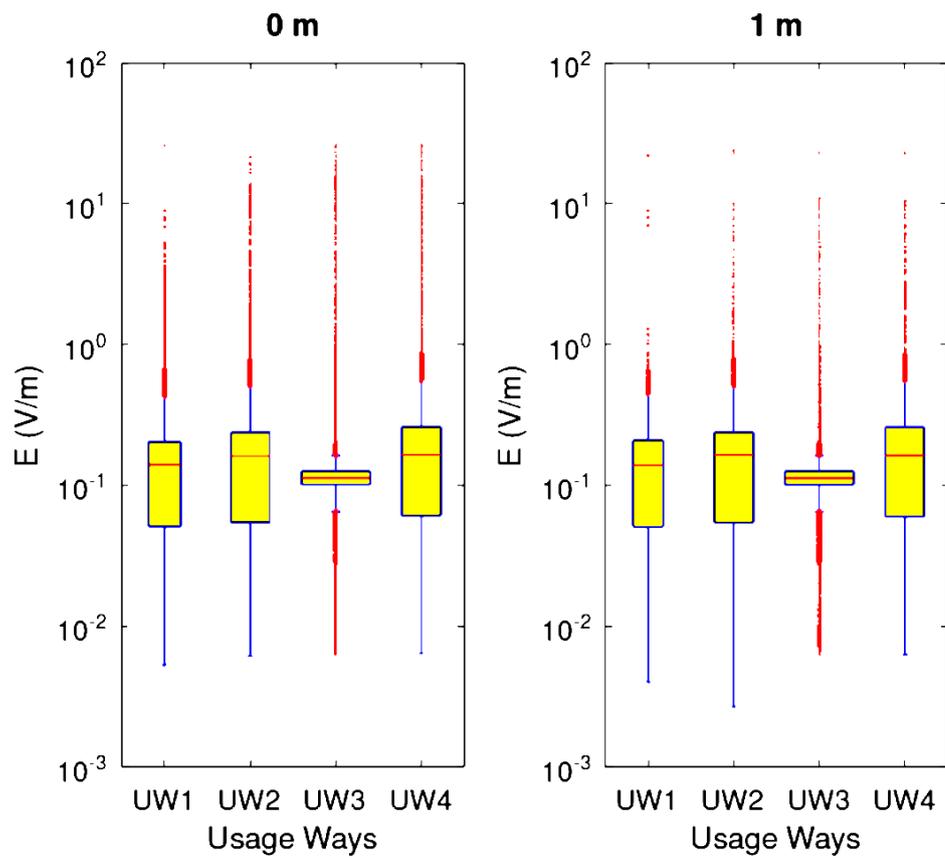


(b) Distance 1 m from the phone.

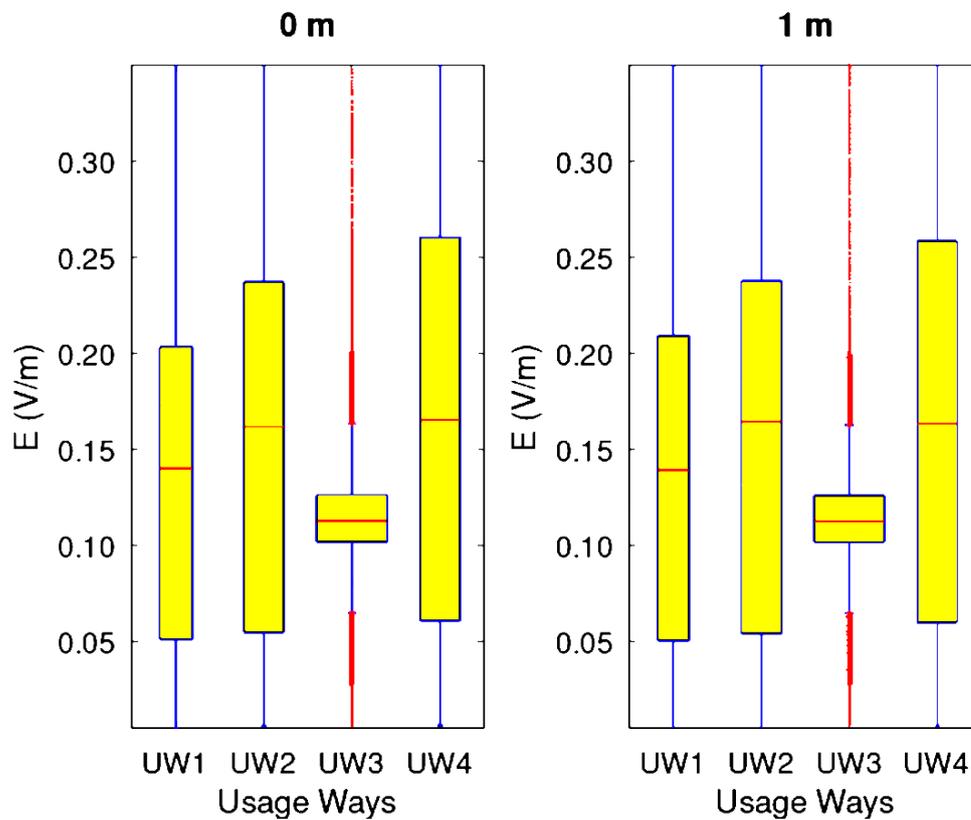
Figure 6. Box Whiskers plots of measured E_{max} spectra at distances 0 m and 1 m for the total 123 phones. The data for all E_{max} are provided during the seven minute measurement interval.

Figure 7 presents the Box and Whiskers plots for the usage ways of Table 1. To derive this figure the data of all 123 phones were distributed to the usage ways they correspond, generating hence eight (8) tabular data, four (4) referring to 0 m distance and the other four (4) to 1 m distance. Thereafter, each tabular data was converted to a separate column data, forming hence a total eight (8) columns containing all data, sequentially one after the other and corresponding again to four columns for 0 m distance and four columns for the 1 m distance. To avoid bias from zero (i.e., no data) the zeros were neglected from all column data. It is evident that each Box and Whiskers bar is constructed by a large non-zero column data (e.g. for UW3, $k_1=93408$ rows at 0 m and $k_2=91152$ rows at 1m). Therefore, the Box and Whiskers plots of Figure 7 contain the maximum useful information available from the whole dataset. However, this column re-arrangement applies both to the partial E_{max} Q1-Q3 data and the corresponding outliers. In another interpretation there is a ninety degree rotation of the partial E_{max} rows and a merging of these rotated rows. This is actually a representation of $R_1 \times R_2$ space to R_3 where R is the set of real numbers. Through this the Box and Whiskers plot per usage way and distance is achieved (Figure 7), however at the cost of interference from outliers. This aspect may explain why the full non-zero column dataset for the usage ways UW1, UW2 and UW4 do not satisfy the Kolmogorov-Smirnov both for the 0 m distance and the 1 m distance, in contrary to findings of partial data (Figure 5 and Figure 6). On the other hand, the main Q1-Q3 part of the Box and Whiskers plot of the data of usage way UW3 (procedure of making a call) of Figure 7 satisfies the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test at $p < 0.05$ both for the 0 m and the 1 m columns despite that the outlier interference is also present in UW3. This may be due to the fact that several sets of partial Q1-Q3 parts in Figure 5 and Figure 6 are gathered on the upper parts only. This behaviour, is not found in the partial UW1, UW2 and UW4 data where the outliers are also positive and negative (not shown here all these for brevity reasons). The reader should note here that in a previous work (for a different phone dataset) some E_{ave} group values were found to follow the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test also for UW1, UW2 and UW4 [38]. However the total phones in each group were few (below 25) and for this reason this approach was not sought in the present paper.

Since the columnar data of the usage ways UW1, UW2 and UW4 do not behave normally they can be compared only visually via the corresponding boxplots. Focusing only on the usage ways UW1, UW2 and UW4, it is observed that both the median values, as well as the Q1 (25% quartile) and Q3 (75% quartile) values are higher in both UW2 and UW4 than those of UW1 (stand-by). This is valid both at 0 m and at 1 m. In the logarithmic plot (subfigure a, Figure 7) no differentiation is observed in the median and Q1, Q3 values between UW2 and UW4. However in the corresponding arithmetic plot (subfigure b, Figure 7), it is observed that the median in UW4 is slightly higher than the median of UW2 and this is more evident for Q1 and Q3 values between UW2 and UW4. This tendency is observed both at 0 m and at 1 m. Comparing the columnar data of UW1, UW2 and UW4 between 0 m and 1 m no differentiation is found in the Q1-Q3 ranges or the median value. When focusing on the logarithmic scale a similar observation is found as in the discussion of Figure 5 and Figure 6. The number outliers at 0 m are significant more at 0 m compared to those at 1 m. This is valid when comparing each usage way (UW1 or UW2 or UW4) at 0 m versus at 1 m. As has been already supported the possibility of addressing high E_{max} is higher or, alternatively, the maximum E_{max} at 0 m is higher than the one at 1 m. The outlier density at 0 m is also higher. The minimum E_{max} value for UW2 is higher than the minimum of E_{max} of UW1 but for 1 m this completely opposite. This contradictory observation might reflect the fact that the effect of all outliers included in the columnar data is higher at 1 m than in 0 m. This potential tendency might also explain why the minimum E_{max} at 0 m does not differ from the minimum E_{max} at 1 m. Therefore it may be supported that when using a mobile phone for making a call (without answering) to higher electric field values than those of during phone standby and slightly higher electric field values when ending the call until the phone finally returns to the standby mode.



(a) Full value range (logarithmic scale).



(b) Selected value range (arithmetic scale).

Figure 7. Box Whiskers plots of measured E_{max} spectra per Usage Way at distances 0 m and 1 m for the total 123 phones. The data for all E_{max} are provided during the seven minute measurement interval.

Focusing solely on UW3 columnar data which behave normally it is observed that the E_{max} values of UW3 are slightly lower at 1 m than those at 0 m. The corresponding descriptive statistics for E_{max} are presented in Table 2. Due to the data transformational and the space representation of the previous paragraph the statistical testing of the previous sections discussing the outcomes from of Figure 5 and Figure 6 cannot be employed. Apart from the reasons already given in the above paragraph there is also another reason. Indeed, the outliers of UW3 sub-figures Figure 7 are different even from the set of all outliers of Figure 5 and Figure 6 altogether. Therefore E_{max} Q1-Q3 columnar data at 0m and at 1 m can be statistically checked by other criteria. Since the UW3 Q1-Q3 data follow the normal distribution but have different total values ($k_1=93408$ rows at 0 m and $k_2=91152$ as mentioned). The sample t-test can hence be employed because the data values between 0 m and 1 m independent, they consist a random sample from potential data measurement and the data are normally distributed. The null hypothesis is that there is no difference between the E_{max} Q1-Q3 columnar data at 0m and at 1 m, i.e., there is no difference when making a call with a mobile phone in contact with the ear and at 1 m away. The one-tailed alternative hypothesis states that the E_{max} Q1-Q3 value at 1 m away is less than the E_{max} Q1-Q3 value at 0 m. As mentioned there are $k_1=93408$ degrees of freedom at 0 m and $k_2=91152$ at 1m. The degrees of freedom for the sample t-test are $k_1 + k_2 - 2 = 93408 + 91152 - 2 = 184558$ and the t-student critical value for an one-tail test at $\alpha=0,05$ (95% confidence interval) is $t_{critical}=1,646$. The t value from the UW3 Q1-Q3 data between 0 m and 1m is $t_{UW3}=3,789$. Since $t_{UW3} > t_{critical}$ the null hypothesis can be rejected, hence E_{max} Q1-Q3 values at 0m are different from the ones at 1m. Accounting the results of Table 2, it may be supported that E_{max} at 0 m is greater than E_{max} at 1 m, there therefore the findings already discussed for the comparisons between 0 m and 1 m are verified from Figure 7. Therefore making a call with a mobile phone yields to significant electric fields than in standby, making a call without reply, or returning to standby after the end of call. These claims are supported by different aspects of the analysis of the collected electric field database from mobile phones in Greece. Despite the electromagnetic background from the extended use of mobile phones by users, the present study supported the claims from different analysis aspects.

Table 2. Descriptive statistics of the UW3 dataset of Figure 7.

Distance	Minimum	Q1	(Median Value)	Q3
0 m	0,0615	0,0901	0,1186	0,1648
0 m	0,0552	0,0815	0,1078	0,1551

4. Conclusions

This paper focuses on the measurement of electric field spectra emitted by mobile phones via NARDA SMR-3006 instrument. The spectrum measurements are repeated for 4 possible ways of usage at 0 m distance (in contact with the ear) and at 1 m away. The sample contains spectra from 123 phones from which 82 are from different vendors. The measurements are reported between 1.5 GHz-2.1 GHz. Four distinct ways of usage are investigated at 0 m and at 1 m. The electric field spectra measurements are repeated in seven minute intervals for every measurement setup. Minimum, average and maximum electric field (E_{min} , E_{ave} , E_{max}) measurements within the above intervals are reported.

Characteristic electric field spectra measurements are reported for all E_{min} , E_{ave} , E_{max} values are continuously given by NARDA SMR-3006. From the reported spectra it is found that electric field values range from 0,021 V/m to 15,0 V/m. The E_{max} spectra peaks are non-systematic. They depend on the provider and the phone. The frequency of the peaks are between 1,72 GHz and 1,97 GHz. In order to collectively present and compare the electric fields of the different mobile phones, the Box and Whiskers plots of E_{max} values are presented for the phones by the 82 different vendors and the 123 total phones. The box and whiskers plots are presented for both cases at 0 m distance and at 1 m. The Q1-Q3 parts of the boxplots behave normally. Due to this they the differentiations between 0 m and 1 m are compared via ANOVA under certain statistical aspect. E_{max} boxplot values are higher at 0 m compared to those at 1 m. Importantly, the outliers are more and denser at 0 m distance. Employing statistical

parameters (R_{outlr}) the outlier differentiations are quantified and checked in terms of ANOVA and F -test statistics.

The comparison of the data per usage ways necessitated the transformation of data to columns. Through this approach the Box and Whiskers plots of four usage ways of the whole dataset is achieved and presented. Only the data corresponding to UW3 way behave normally while the columns of the other three ways no. The boxplot data of UW3 are statistically checked via paired t -test. Slightly higher E_{max} electric field values are found at 0 m when compared to those of 1 m . The differentiation in respect to previous findings is attributed to the influence of outliers and the differentiations between the phones and the providers. Due to this the column data of the usage ways UW1, UW2 and UW4 did not follow the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test and due to this they are compared visually. Both visual and statistical approaches of the columnar data of the usage ways, show again that the electric fields at 0 m are higher (slightly this time) than those at 1 m . The outliers for every usage way are more and denser at 0 m than at 1 m . The potential maximum E_{max} values are higher at 0 m distance.

It is concluded that making a call with a mobile phone yields to instances of significant electric fields during phone usage despite the main batch of field values are low. This is a significant finding for the approach through Box and Whiskers plots and outlier data investigation. The cases are rather lower when the phone is in stand by, making a call without answering or returning to standby. The process of making a call tends to present slightly higher electric field than the standby mode and similar is the case during returning to stand by after a call.

5. Evaluation-limitations

The main positive contribution of this study is that it proves scientifically that the way in which a mobile phone is used is associated with elevated electric fields at least at time instances and this without altering the main baseline values and, consequently, the potential health effects. This fact highlights the significance of spectral electric field measurements of course in extended time intervals. A significant contribution is the analysis approach which manages to quantify and qualify several partial results. Another plus of this paper is the employment of a scientific protocol for the investigation that worked in the past and is proved here also to work. Due to this new measurements are undertaken and will continue in the future, since the measured mobile sample can, and should be increased. A main limitation is the great amount of time that is needed for the collection of the measurements and the analysis. For example, a full measurement set for of a phone needs approximately one hour not accounting the time for saving, renaming and storing of data. The analysis needs more time per phone since the extracted data should be checked visually, analysed with special software and analysed statistically. Here Octave (GNU commitment) R (GNU commitment as well) was used for the analysis not accounting the time for software development, debugging and running. These are significant constraints. Another limitation is the great amount of storage needed for the whole analysis. The full dataset for the 123 phones is stored as 26 GB. All these make the investigation very difficult to implement but on the other hand it signifies, simultaneously, the importance of the presented results. Therefore this is on the one aspect negative and on the other aspect positive. Nevertheless to continuation and the similar studies will increase the knowledge as the mobile technology progresses.

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