

# Analysis Of Lora-Based Iot Sensor Node Required Transmitter Power Variation With Communication Range And Bit Error Performance Configurations

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**Abstract**— In this paper, analysis of LoRa-Based IoT sensor node required transmitter power variation with communication range and bit error performance configurations is presented. The operating signal to noise ratio, SNRopr and link margin were first determined for different BER after which Egli propagation loss model was used with different communication ranges to compute the required transmitter power for different spreading factor settings of the LoRa transceiver. The results show that for SF of 7, the operating signal to noise ratio, SNRopr = -3.52935 dBm whereas the required signal to noise ratio for the SF of 7 is -7.5 dBm, hence, the link margin is 3.97 dBm. The results also show that for the BER = 1E-15, the operating signal to noise ratio, SNRopr and link margin decrease with SF, with SF of 12 having the lowest value. The results show that SF of 7 has the highest required transmitter power for each communication range while SF=12 has the least required transmitter power. Also, LoRa transceiver datasheet indicates that the maximum transmitter power permitted is 20 dBm. Based on the datasheet specifications, the results show that with BER = 1E-15, the SF = 7 LoRa transceiver cannot exceed 6.1 km communication range. Also, while the SF =12 LoRa transceiver cannot exceed 13.5 km communication range with the given propagation loss. In all, the results show that the maximum communication range for BER =1 E -15 increases exponentially with the spreading factor, from a value of 6.093 km at SF = 7 to a value of 13.461 km at SF = 12.

**Keywords**— LoRaWAN, Transceiver, Required Transmitter, Communication Range, Bit Error

## 1. Introduction

The wireless communication and sensor technologies are greatly revolutionising the world with their support for Internet of things (IoT), as well as smart city applications [1,2,3,4,5]. This has become more prominent as many applications seek for timely or even real-time delivery of solutions, as well as location aware capabilities. In such cases, sensors are deployed to any location of interest to monitor the environmental parameters and communicate same to network gateways and servers where they are used

for requisite operations [6,7,8, 9,10, 11,12,13,14, 15,15,17,18]. Designing such wireless networks that will connect the distributed wireless sensor nodes deployed even to remotes areas require adequate knowledge of different parameters that pertains to the environment, the sensor nodes and the other network link components [19,20,21, 22,23,24, 25,26,27, 28,29, 30,31, 32].

As regards the wireless signal propagation environment, issues of propagation loss must be considered such as free space path loss, diffraction loss, multipath loss, atmospheric loss and other losses that degrade the signal strength [33,34,35,36, 37,38,39, 40,41,42,43,44]. In any case, in order to accommodate those losses, the sensor nodes must have adequate transmitter power. However, sensor nodes are constrained in terms of resource including power, memory capacity, antenna gain, and processing capabilities. As such, especially for battery-powered sensor nodes, the lifespan of the sensor is highly dependent on the provisions that are made during the design of the network [45,46,47,48,49,50,51]. Accordingly, in this paper, the procedure that can be used at design time to determine the appropriate transmitter power required by a sensor node for different communication ranges and required bit error rate performance is presented. The requisite mathematical expressions for computing the relevant parameters are presented along with numerical examples based on LoRa-based IoT sensor node. The LoRa technology adopts Chirp Spread Spectrum (CSS) modulation scheme and operates in different chirp spreading factors [52,53,54,55,56,57]. As such, the BER used in the analysis is based on the LoRa CSS modulation scheme and the analysis is conducted for the different chirp spreading factors for a LoRa-based sensor node operating in the 125 kHz bandwidth.

## 2 Methodology

The general link budget expressions for received signal power ( $P_{rx}$ ) with respect to pathloss and in terms of link margin (LM) are given as follows;

$$P_{rx} = P_{tx} + (G_{tx} + G_{rx}) - L_{path} \quad (1)$$

$$P_{rx} = LM + S_{LoRa} \quad (2)$$

Where  $P_{tx}$  is the transmitter power,  $G_{tx}$  is the gain of the transmitter antenna,  $G_{rx}$  is the gain of the receiver antenna and  $S_{LoRa}$  is the LoRa transceiver sensitivity. The  $S_{LoRa}$  is defined in terms of the bandwidth (BW), the required signal to noise ratio ( $SNR_{RQD}$ ) and the noise figure (NF) as follows;

$$S_{LoRa} = -174 + 10 \log_{10}(BW) + NF + SNR_{RQD} \quad (3)$$

Hence,

$$P_{tx} = P_{rx} - (G_{tx} + G_{rx}) + L_{Path} \quad (4)$$

$$P_{tx} = LM + S_{LoRa} - (G_{tx} + G_{rx}) + L_{Path} \quad (5)$$

In this paper, the Egli model is used to determine the pathloss, which is expressed as [58,59,60,61];

$$L_{Path} = P_{LEGL\_dBm} = G_{tx} + G_{rx} + 20 \log \left( \frac{(h_t)(h_r)}{(d)^2} \right) + 20 \log \left( \frac{40}{f} \right) \quad (6)$$

Where  $h_t$  and  $h_r$  the transmitter antenna height and receiver antenna height respectively,  $d$  represents the communication path length, and  $f$  is the frequency. For any given Bit Error Rate (BER) the operating signal to noise ratio,  $SNR_{OPR}$  can be determined as follows;

$$BER = \frac{1}{2} \left[ 1 - \operatorname{erf} \left( \left( \frac{\log_{12}(SF)}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \left( \frac{E_b}{N_o} \right) \right) \right] \quad (7)$$

$$\frac{E_b}{N_o} = \frac{\operatorname{erf}^{-1}(1-2(BER))}{\left( \frac{\log_{12}(SF)}{\sqrt{2}} \right)} \quad (8)$$

$$SNR_{OPR} = 10 \log \left( \frac{E_b}{N_o} \right) + 10 \log_{10}(SF) + 10 \log_{10} \left( \frac{4}{4+n} \right) - 10 \log_{10}(2^{SF}) \quad (9)$$

$$SNR_{OPR} = 10 \log \left( \frac{\operatorname{erf}^{-1}(1-2(BER))}{\left( \frac{\log_{12}(SF)}{\sqrt{2}} \right)} \right) + 10 \log_{10}(SF) + 10 \log_{10} \left( \frac{4}{4+n} \right) - 10 \log_{10}(2^{SF}) \quad (10)$$

Table 2 The operating signal to noise ratio, SNROpr and link margin for BER =1E-15 and spreading factors which ranges from 7 to 12

SF	Operating SNROpr (dBm) for BER =1E-15	Link Margin (dBm) for BER =1E-15
7	-3.52935	3.97
8	-6.24797	3.75
9	-8.98602	3.51
10	-11.7422	3.26
11	-14.5147	2.99
12	-17.3019	2.70

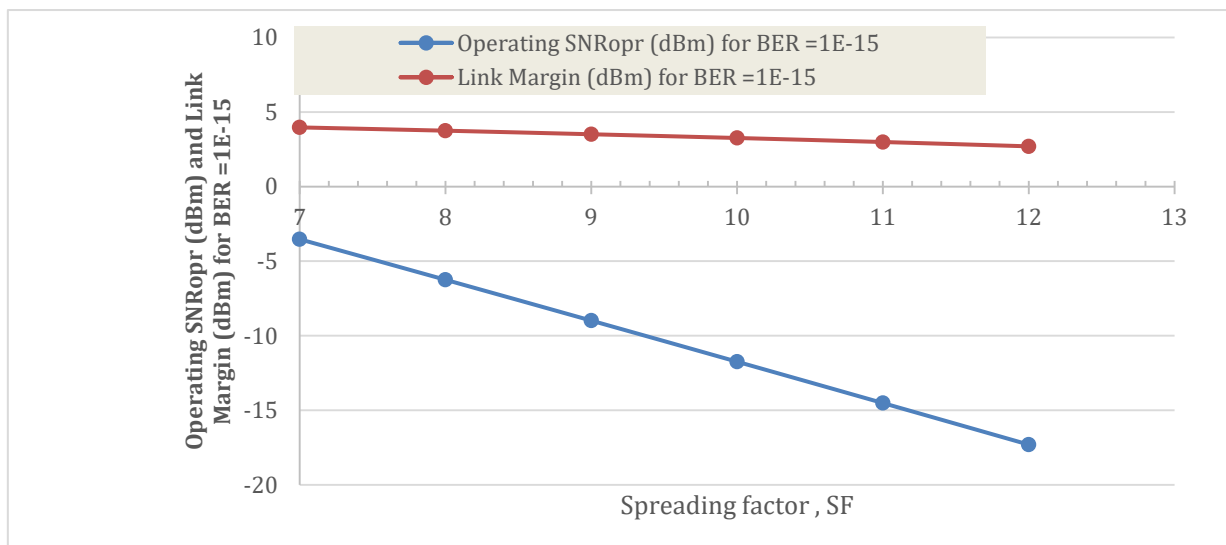


Figure 1 The operating signal to noise ratio, SNROpr and link margin for BER =1E-15 and spreading factors which ranges from 7 to 12

The link margin,  $LM$  is given as;

$$LM = SNR_{OPR} - SNR_{RQD} \quad (11)$$

$$P_{tx} = SNR_{OPR} - SNR_{RQD} + S_{LoRa} - (G_{tx} + G_{rx}) + L_{Path} \quad (12)$$

### 3. Results and discussions

The operating signal to noise ratio,  $SNROpr$  and link margin were first determined for different BER. Next, the required transmitter power was computed for different communication ranges. The results for the operating signal to noise ratio,  $SNROpr$  and link margin for BER = 1E-15 and spreading factors which ranges from 7 to 12 are presented in Table 1 as well as in Figure 1. The results presented in Table 1 and Figure 1 show that for SF of 7, the operating signal to noise ratio,  $SNROpr$  = -3.52935 dBm whereas the required signal to noise ratio for the SF of 7 is -7.5 dBm, hence, the link margin is 3.97 dBm. This means that the operating signal to noise ratio is 3.97 dBm above the minimum required noise ratio for the SF of 7. The results also show that for the BER = 1E-15, the operating signal to noise ratio,  $SNROpr$  and link margin decrease with SF, with SF of 12 having the lowest value.

The Egli propagation loss model was used in computing the required transmitter power for  $BER = 1E-15$  with communication range from 2 km to 12 km and the results are given in Table 2 and Figure 2. The results show that SF of 7 has the highest required transmitter power for each communication range while SF=12 has the least required transmitter power. According to the datasheet of the LoRa transceiver, the maximum transmitter power permitted is 20 dBm. Hence, for the SF =7, the transmitter power for

different communication range, d is shown in Figure 3. The results show that with  $BER = 1E-15$ , the SF = 7 LoRa transceiver cannot exceed 6.1 km communication range. Also, for the SF =12, the transmitter power for different communication range, d is shown in Figure 4. The results show that with  $BER = 1E-15$ , the SF = 12 LoRa transceiver cannot exceed 13.5 km communication range with the given propagation loss.

Table 2 The results of the required transmitter power for  $BER = 1E-15$  with communication range from 2 km to 12 km

SF	Required Transmitter Power (dBm) for d = 2 km and BER =1E-15	Required Transmitter Power (dBm) for d = 3 km km and BER =1E-15	Required Transmitter Power (dBm) for d = 6 km km and BER =1E-15	Required Transmitter Power (dBm) for d = 9 km km and BER =1E-15	Required Transmitter Power (dBm) for d = 12 km km and BER =1E-15
7	0.6	7.7	19.7	26.8	31.8
8	-2.1	5.0	17.0	24.1	29.1
9	-4.8	2.2	14.3	21.3	26.3
10	-7.6	-0.5	11.5	18.6	23.6
11	-10.3	-3.3	8.7	15.8	20.8
12	-13.1	-6.1	6.0	13.0	18.0

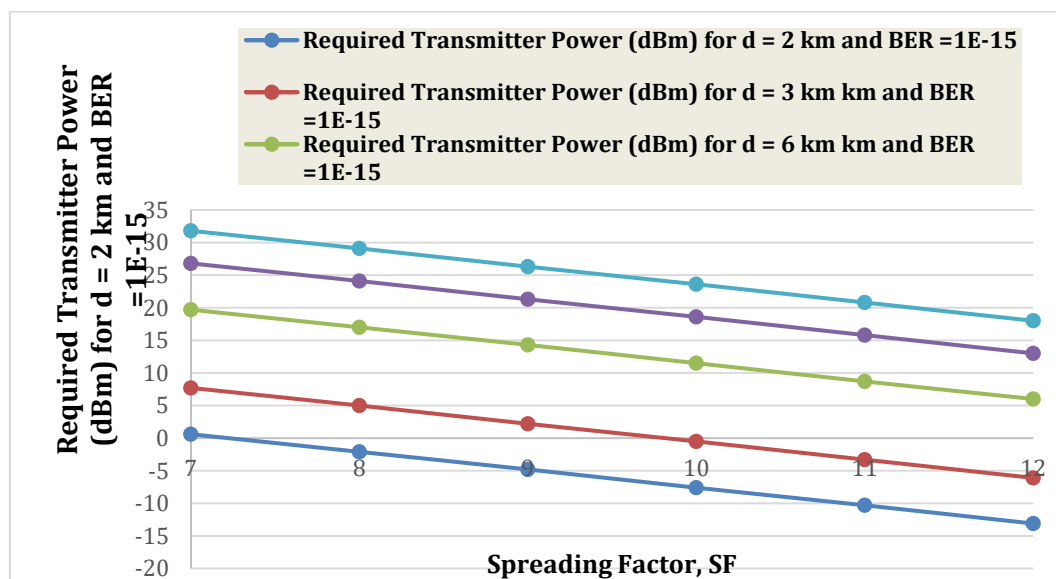


Figure 2 The required transmitter power for  $BER = 1E-15$  with communication range from 2 km to 12 km

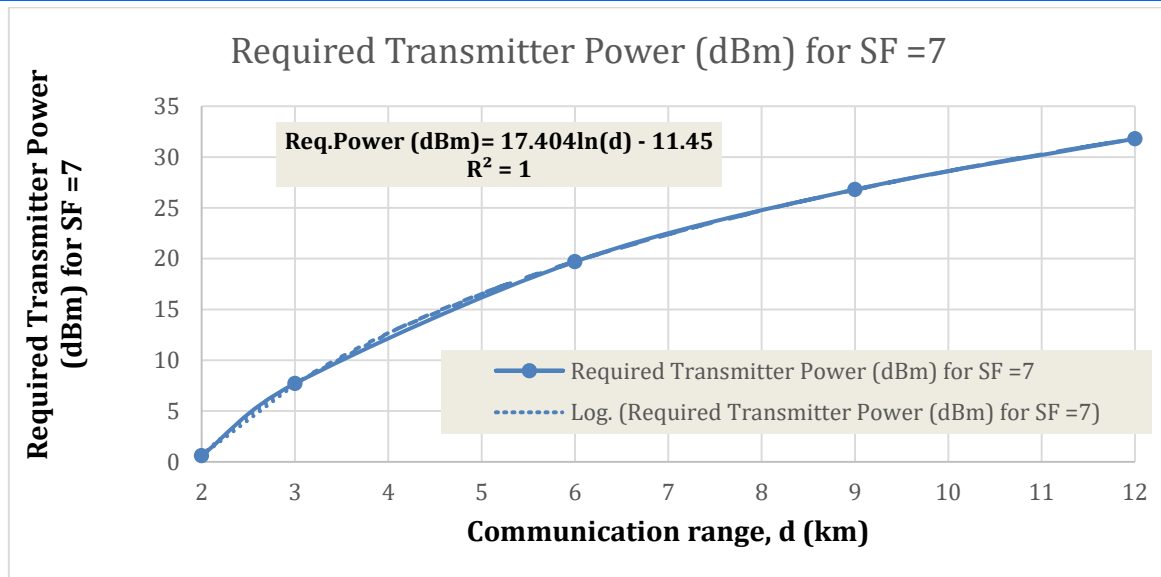


Figure 3 The transmitter power for different communication range, d for SF =7

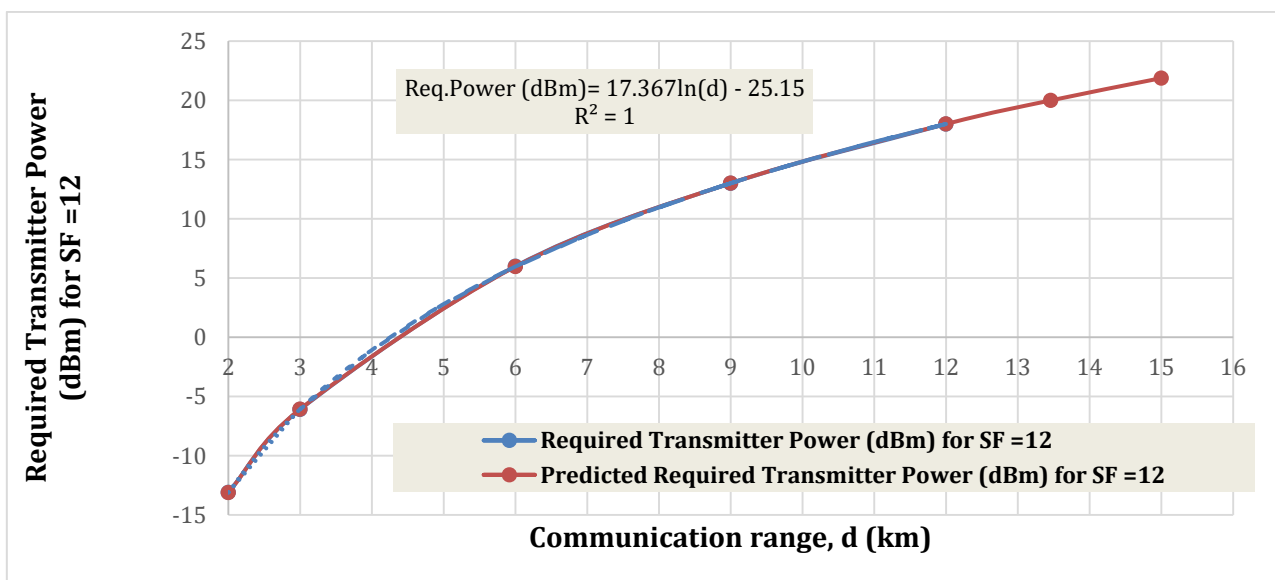


Figure 4 The transmitter power for different communication range, d for SF =12

Similarly, the results for the operating signal to noise ratio, SNRopr and link margin for BER = 1E-12 and spreading factors ranging from 7 to 12 are given in Table 3 while the required transmitter power for BER = 1E-12 with communication range from 2 km to 12 km are given in Table 4. The results show that for SF of 7, the operating signal to noise ratio, SNRopr = -4.05602 dBm whereas the required signal to noise ratio for the SF of 7 is -7.5, hence,

Table 3 The results for the operating signal to noise ratio, SNRopr and link margin for BER = 1E-12 and spreading factors ranging from 7 to 12

SF	Operating SNRopr (dBm) for BER = 1E-12	Link Margin (dBm) for BER = 1E-12
7	-4.05602	3.44
8	-6.77464	3.23

the link margin is 3.44 dBm. This means that the operating signal to noise ratio is 3.44 dBm above the minimum required noise ratio for the SF of 7. The results also show that for the BER = 1E-12, the operating signal to noise ratio, SNRopr and link margin decrease with SF, with SF of 12 having the lowest value.

9	-9.51269	2.99
10	-12.2688	2.73
11	-15.0413	2.46
12	-17.8286	2.17

Table 4 The results for the required transmitter power for BER = 1E-12 with communication range from 2 km to 12 km

SF	Required Transmitter Power (dBm) for d = 2 km and BER =1E-12	Required Transmitter Power (dBm) for d = 3 km and BER =1E-12	Required Transmitter Power (dBm) for d = 6 km and BER =1E-12	Required Transmitter Power (dBm) for d = 9 km and BER =1E-12	Required Transmitter Power (dBm) for d = 12 km and BER =1E-12
7	0.1	7.2	19.2	26.2	31.2
8	-2.6	4.4	16.5	23.5	28.5
9	-5.3	1.7	13.7	20.8	25.8
10	-8.1	-1.0	11.0	18.0	23.0
11	-10.9	-3.8	8.2	15.3	20.3
12	-13.7	-6.6	5.4	12.5	17.5

In addition, the graph for the operating signal to noise ratio, SNRopr for BER = 1E-6, 1E-12, and 1E-15 and spreading factors which ranges from 7 to 12 are presented in Figure 5. The results presented in Figure 5 show that the BER =1E-15 has the highest range of values for SNRopr while the BER =1E-6 has the lowest range of values for SNRopr. Again, the graph for the link margin for BER = 1E-6, 1E-12, and 1E-15 and spreading factors ranges from 7 to 12 are presented in Figure 6. The results presented in Figure 6 show that the BER =1E-15 has the highest range of values for link margin while the BER =1E-6 has the lowest range of values for link margin. Furthermore, the graph for the required transmitter power for BER = 1E-6, 1E-12, and 1E-15 and spreading factors ranging from 7 and 10 are given in Figure 7. The results show that the required transmitter power increases with decrease in BER

and also the required transmitter power for SF =7 is higher than that for SF = 10.

Further analysis of the maximum communication range of the LoRa transceiver for BER =1 E -15 for SF of 7 to 12 gave the results shown in Table 5 as well as in Figure 8. The results presented in Figure 8 indicates that the maximum communication range,  $d_{max}$  (km) for BER =1 E -15 increases exponentially with the spreading factor, from a value of 6.093 km at SF = 7 to a value of 13.461 km at SF = 12. The model for estimating the maximum communication range,  $d_{max}$  (km) for BER =1 E -15 is obtained from Figure 8 as;

$$d_{max} = 2.0022e^{0.1587(SF)} \quad (13)$$

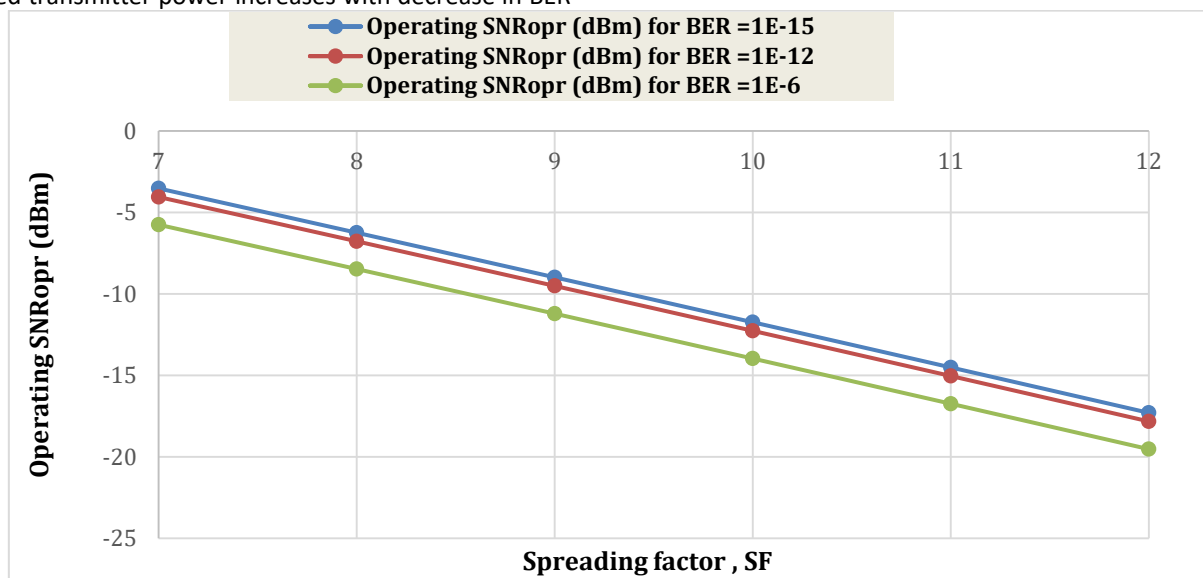


Figure 5 , The graph for the operating signal to noise ratio, SNRopr for BER = 1E-6, 1E-12, and 1E-15 and spreading factors ranging from 7 to 12

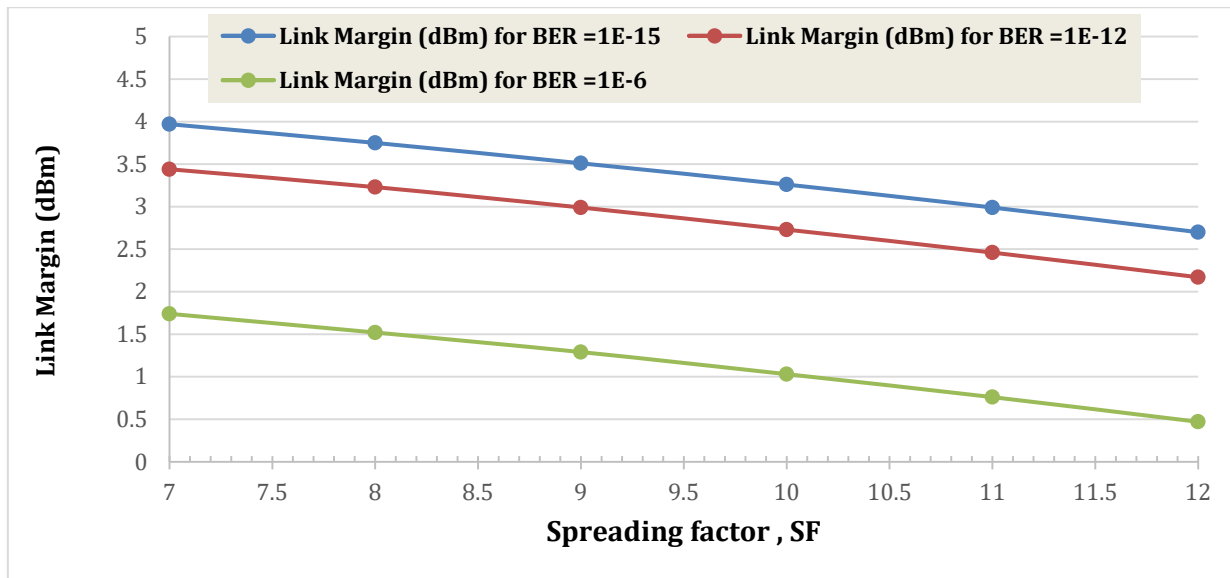


Figure 6 The graph for the link margin for BER = 1E-6, 1E-12, and 1E-15 and spreading factors ranging from 7 to 12

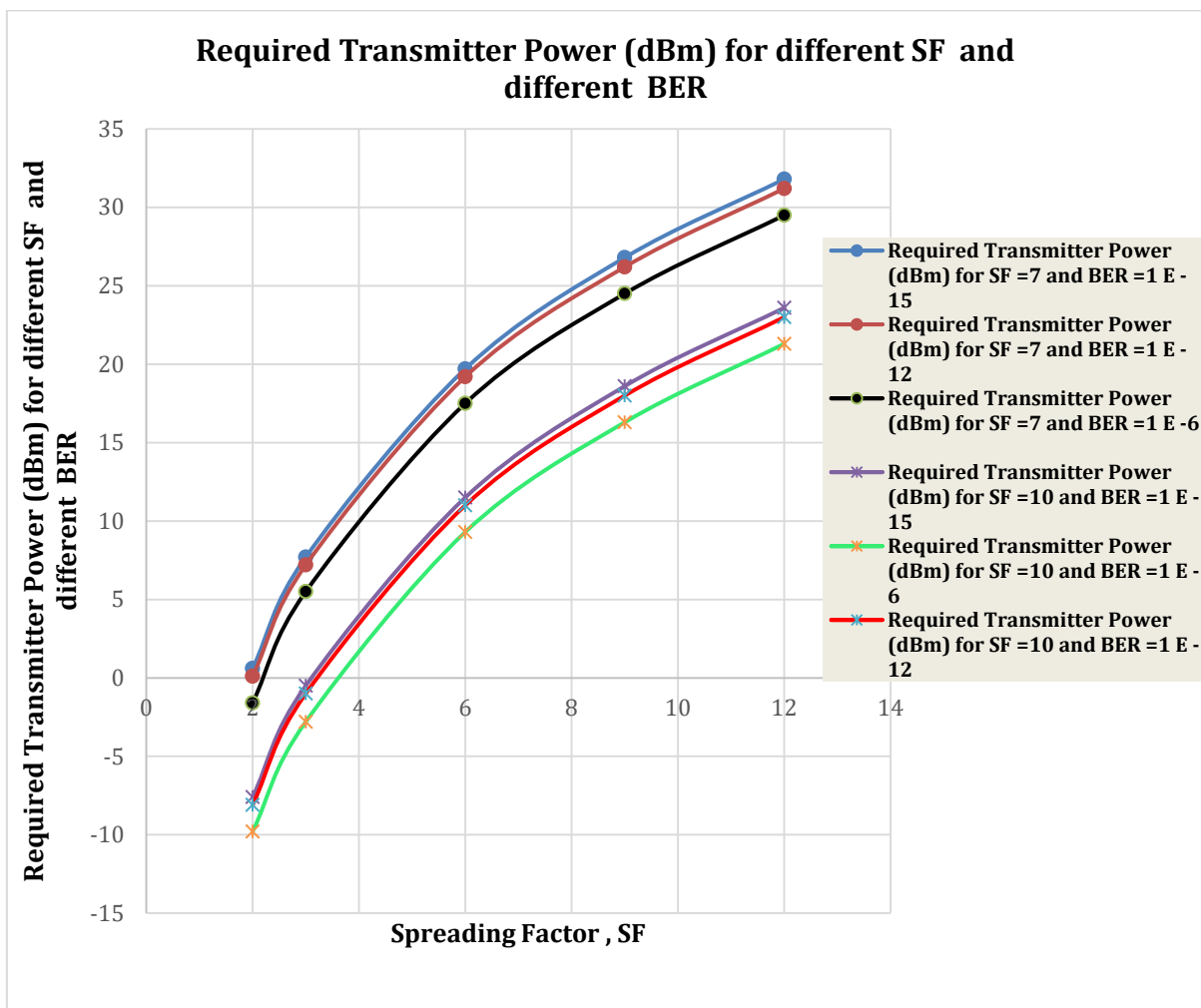


Figure 7 The graph for the required transmitter power for BER = 1E-6, 1E-12, and 1E-15 and spreading factors ranging from 7 and 10

Table 5 The maximum communication range , dmax (km) for BER = 1 E -15 for SF of 7 to 12

SF	Maximum Communication Range , dmax (km) for BER =1 E -15
7	6.093
8	7.115
9	8.346
10	9.76
11	11.473
12	13.461

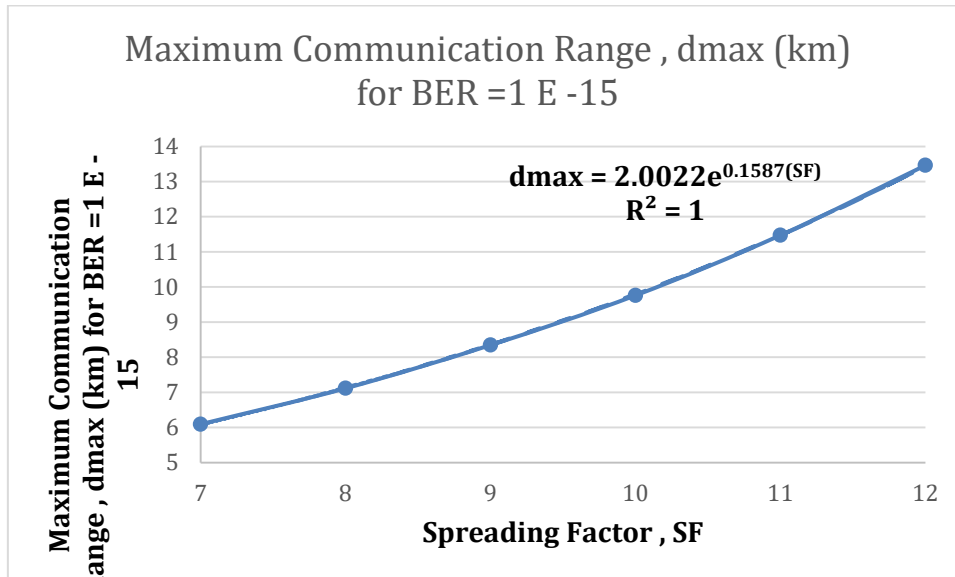


Figure 8 The maximum communication range, dmax (km) for BER =1 E -15 for SF of 7 to 12

#### 4. Conclusion

An approach for assessing the required transmitter power for LoRa transceiver used in wireless sensor network is presented. The study determined the required transmitter power for the LoRa transceiver for different bit error rare (BER) and different communication ranges. The analysis was repeated for six different spreading factor settings of the LoRa transceiver. The Egli propagation loss model was used for the computation of the propagation loss for any given communication range. The BER value was first used to determine the operating signal to noise ratio and then the link margin. Thereafter, the Eglis model was employed to determine the the propagation loss for the different communication ranges considered in the study. Eventually, for each communication range the required transmitted power for the LoRa transceiver was determined. Also, the maximum communication range that can be realised with any given s factor setting of the LoRa transceiver was also determined. In all, the required transmitter power increases as BER decreases. Also, the required transmitter power increases as BER SF decreases.

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