

Find % correction needed to account for the signal delay due to the earth's atmosphere.

$$d_{em} = 3.84 \times 10^8 \text{ m}$$

$$h_{atm} = 30.0 \times 10^3 \text{ m} \quad n_{atm} = 1.000293$$

assuming no atmospheric effect, the time for the signal to go to the moon back to the earth is

$$\Delta x = v \cdot \Delta t \quad \rightarrow \quad \Delta x = 2 \cdot d_{em}$$

$$\therefore \Delta t = \frac{\Delta x}{v} = \frac{2 d_{em}}{v} = \frac{2(3.84 \times 10^8 \text{ m})}{3.00 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}}$$

$$\Delta t = 2.56 \text{ s}$$

Going through the atmosphere both ways takes

$$\Delta t_{atm} = \frac{2 \cdot \Delta x_{atm}}{v} = \frac{2(30 \times 10^3 \text{ m})}{3.00 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}} = 2.0 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}$$

This is if there is no change in the speed of light.

However, in the atmosphere,

$$n = \frac{c}{v} \quad v = \frac{c}{n} = \frac{3.0 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}}{1.000293} = 2.9991 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}$$

and the time through the atmosphere is

$$\Delta t_{atm, true} = \frac{2(30. \times 10^3 \text{ m})}{2.9991 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}} = 2.0006 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}$$

∴ The additional time for the round trip due to the atmosphere is

$$\Delta t_{\text{atm}} - \Delta t_{\text{atm, true}} = 2.0006 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s} - 2.0000 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s} = 6.0 \times 10^{-8} \text{ s}$$

∴ correction is this delay divided by the round trip time of the signal $\times 100\%$

$$\% \text{ delay} = \frac{6.0 \times 10^{-8} \text{ s}}{2.56 \text{ s}} \times 100\% = \boxed{2.34 \times 10^{-6} \%}$$

Not taking the atmosphere into account results in an error of 2 millionths of a percent. This doesn't seem like much, but over a distance of $3.84 \times 10^8 \text{ m}$, you could be off by 9 m

$$x_{\text{error}} = d_{\text{em}} \times \frac{\% \text{ delay}}{100\%} = 3.84 \times 10^8 \text{ m} \left(\frac{2.34 \times 10^{-6} \%}{100\%} \right)$$

$$x_{\text{error}} = 8.99 \text{ m}$$