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## Agenda



#### • Overview:

- ✤ What is spectrum analysis?
- What measurements do we make?
- Theory of Operation:
  - Spectrum analyzer hardware
- Specifications:
  - Which are important and why?
- Features
  - Making the analyzer more effective

Summary

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## Agenda



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**Frequency versus Time Domain** 



#### Overview

**Different Types of Analyzers** 

### **Fourier Analyzer**



#### Overview

**Different Types of Analyzers** 

### **Swept Analyzer**



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#### Theory of Operation Spectrum Analyzer Block Diagram













Video Filter



**Other Components** 



How it all works together





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Accuracy: Frequency Readout Accuracy

## Typical datasheet specification:

#### Spans < 2 MHz: ± (freq. readout x freq. ref. Accuracy + 1% of frequency span + 15% of resolution bandwidth + 10 Hz "residual error")

Accuracy: Frequency Readout Accuracy Example

### Single Marker Example:

2 GHz 400 kHz span 3 kHz RBW

#### Calculation: $(2x10 \text{ Hz}) \times (1.3x10 \text{ //} \text{r.ref.error}) = 260 \text{ Hz}$ 1% of 400 kHz span = 4000 Hz 15% of 3 kHz RBW = 450 Hz 10 Hz residual error = 10 Hz $\text{Total} = \frac{1}{2} 4720 \text{ Hz}$

Accuracy: Relative Amplitude Accuracy

- Display fidelity
- Frequency response
- $\triangle$  **RF Input attenuator**
- $\triangle$  Reference level
- $\triangle$  Resolution bandwidth
- $\triangle$  CRT scaling

Accuracy: Relative Amplitude Accuracy - Display Fidelity

Applies when signals are not placed at the same reference amplitude

Display fidelity includes

 Log amplifier or linear fidelity
 Detector linearity
 Digitizing circuit linearity

Technique for best accuracy

Accuracy: Relative Amplitude Accuracy - Freq. Response



#### Specification: ± 1 dB

Accuracy: Relative Amplitude Accuracy

- $\triangle$  RF Input attenuator
- **A Resolution bandwidth**
- $\triangle$  CRT scaling

Accuracy: Absolute Amplitude Accuracy

Calibrator accuracy

Frequency response

Reference level uncertainty

Accuracy: Other Sources of Uncertainty

- **Mismatch**(RF input port not exactly 50 ohms)
- Compression due to overload h-level
- Distortion products

## input signal)

- Amplitudes below the log amplifier range
- Signals near noise
- Noise causing amplitude variations
- Two signals incompletely resolved



### What Determines Resolution?



Resolution Bandwidth



RBW Type and Selectivity



**Residual FM** 



**Noise Sidebands** 

**Resolution: Resolution Bandwidth** 



**Resolution: Resolution Bandwidth** 



Resolution: RBW Type and Selectivity



Resolution: RBW Type and Selectivity



#### Specifications Resolution: Residual FM



Residual FM "Smears" the Signal

#### **Resolution:** Noise Sidebands



Noise Sidebands can prevent resolution of unequal signals Spectrum Analysis Basics
# Specifications

**Resolution: RBW Determines Measurement Time** 



# **Specifications**

**Resolution: Digital Resolution Bandwidths** 



5:1

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#### Specifications Sensitivity/DANL



A Spectrum Analyzer Generates and Amplifies Noi Just Like Any Active Circuit





Signal-To-Noise Ratio Decreases as RF Input Attenuation is Increased

Spectrum Analysis Basics 40

#### Specifications Sensitivity/DANL: IF Filter (RBW)



#### Decreased BW = Decreased Noise

Specifications Sensitivity/DANL: VBW





### Specifications Sensitivity/DANL

For Best Sensitivity Use:

**\* Narrowest Resolution BW** 

**\* Minimum RF Input Attenuation** 

★ Sufficient Video Filtering (Video BW < .01 Res BW)</p>



# **Mixers Generate Distortion**





# Most Influential Distortion is the Second and Third Order





**Two-Toned Intermod** 

Harmonic Distortion





# Relative Amplitude Distortion Changes with Input Power Level





# Distortion is a Function of Mixer Level





→ Change in amplitude = at least some of the distortion is being generated inside

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# Signal-to-Noise Ratio Can Be Graphed



# **Dynamic Range Can Be Presented Graphically**



# **Calculated Maximum Dynamic Range**

 $MDR_{2} = 2/3 (DANL - TOI)$ 

$$MDR_{2} = 1/2 (DANL - SOI)$$

Where TOI = Mixer Level - dBc/2

SOI = Mixer Level - dBc

**Optimum Mixer Level = DANL - MDR** 

**Attenuation = Signal - Optimum Mixer Level** 



## **Example Calculation**



# Dynamic Range for Spur Search Depends on Closeness to Carrier



# Actual Dynamic Range is the Minimum of:

Maximum dynamic range calculation

Calculated from: → distortion → sensitivity

Noise sidebands at the offset frequency







Spectrum Analysis Basics J

Console Location 3, 22-MAR-1995 13:21 Pbar SA Plot 03/22/95 1306 STACK PROFILE GREEN BEFORE RED AFTER TUNING 29 MA Scale 10 dB/div . Atten Ø dB . Swp 1 sec Vid BW 300 Hz ۲ Res BW 300 Hz Ref Lv1 -30 dB VID AVG BEFORE AFTER Stop Freq 79.26000001 MHz

Start Freq 79.21000001 MHz

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Console Location 1, Emittance Measurement / Traces

10-DEC-1994 23:46

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Basic Operation: Remote Operation, Markers & Limit Lines



Modulation Measurements: Time Domain



#### Features Modulation Measurements: E

#### Modulation Measurements: FFT



#### Modulation Measurements: FFT



Modulation Measurements: AM/FM Detector with Speake



Modulation Measurements: Time-Gating

Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA)



**Modulation Measurements: Time-Gating** 

#### **Time-Gated Measurements in the** gate **Frequency Domain** angth "time gating" gate delay Envelope GATE Detector Video Filter Frequency 70 Spectrum Analysis Basics

Noise Measurements: Noise Marker & Video Averaging



#### Features Stimulus Response: Tracking Generator Receiver Source **Spectrum Analyzer** RF in CR1 Displa IF LO TG out Tracking Adjust **Tracking Generator**
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