Frequency response measurement

WAC consortium

July 4, 2025

Equations

Definitions:

- Digitizer: measures amplitude D(f), have got frequency dependent gain G(f). Time dependence of the gain is neglected.
- Thermal transfer standard: U is output DC voltage measured by the multimeter, and the overall gain is $\Delta(f)$. Thermal transfer standard and the multimeter are supposed to be stable in time.
- AC source: generates signal of amplitude with non-negligible time and frequency dependence Z(f,t).

One measurement of the AC source by digitizer and by the thermal transfer standard is expressed as:

$$D(f,t) = Z(f,t) \cdot G(f) \tag{1}$$

$$U(f,t) = Z(f,t) \cdot \Delta(f) \tag{2}$$

If the measurement by digitizer and by the themral transfer standard is done simultaneously, or almost simultaneously, then:

$$D(f) = Z(f) \cdot G(f) \tag{3}$$

$$U(f) = Z(f) \cdot \Delta(f) \tag{4}$$

Two measurements are done, for measured and reference frequencies marked as $f_{\rm M}$ and $f_{\rm R}$. If these measurements are done right after another, then the time dependence of the AC source can be neglected and only frequency dependence is taken into account:

$$t_{\rm R} \approx t_{\rm M} \implies Z\big|_{t_{\rm R}} = Z\big|_{t_{\rm M}}$$
 (5)

Then we can write both measurements as:

$$D(f_{\mathcal{M}}) = Z(f_{\mathcal{M}}) \cdot G(f_{\mathcal{M}}) \tag{6}$$

$$U(f_{\rm M}) = Z(f_{\rm M}) \cdot \Delta(f_{\rm M}) \tag{7}$$

$$D(f_{\rm R}) = Z(f_{\rm R}) \cdot G(f_{\rm R}) \tag{8}$$

$$U(f_{\rm R}) = Z(f_{\rm R}) \cdot \Delta(f_{\rm R}) \tag{9}$$

Combining the equations:

$$\frac{G(f_{\rm M})}{G(f_{\rm R})} = \frac{D(f_{\rm M})}{D(f_{\rm R})} \cdot \frac{U(f_{\rm R})}{U(f_{\rm M})} \cdot \frac{\Delta(f_{\rm M})}{\Delta(f_{\rm R})} \tag{10}$$

For $f_{\rm M}$ varied through whole input bandwidth of the digitizer, the ratio returns the frequency response of the digitizer related to the gain at reference frequency $f_{\rm R}$. If the reference frequency is small enough, the gain $G_{f_{\rm R}}$ can be measured using DC method.

DC offset is not result of measurement and processing!

AC-DC measurements:

$$\Delta_L = 1 + \delta(f) \tag{11}$$

$$U_{\rm AC_{\rm in}} = U_{\rm DC_{\rm in}} \cdot (1 + \delta \cdot 10^{-1}) \tag{12}$$

With:

$$\delta_{792} = \frac{U_{\text{out}_{AC}} - U_{\text{out}_{DC}}}{n \cdot U_{\text{out}_{DC}}} \tag{13}$$