fundamental and its harmonics.

It is often desired to measure the amplitude of each harmonic or fundamental individually. This can be performed by instruments called wave analyzers. This is the simplest form of analysis in the frequency domain, and can be performed with a set of tuned filters and a voltmeter. Wave analyzers are also referred to as frequency selective voltmeters, carrier frequency voltmeters, and selective level voltmeters. The instrument is tuned to the frequency of one component whose amplitude is measured.

BASIC WAVE ANALYZER

9.2

A basic wave analyzer is shown in Fig. 9.1(a). It consists of a primary detector, which is a simple LC circuit. This LC circuit is adjusted for resonance at the frequency of the particular harmonic component to be measured.

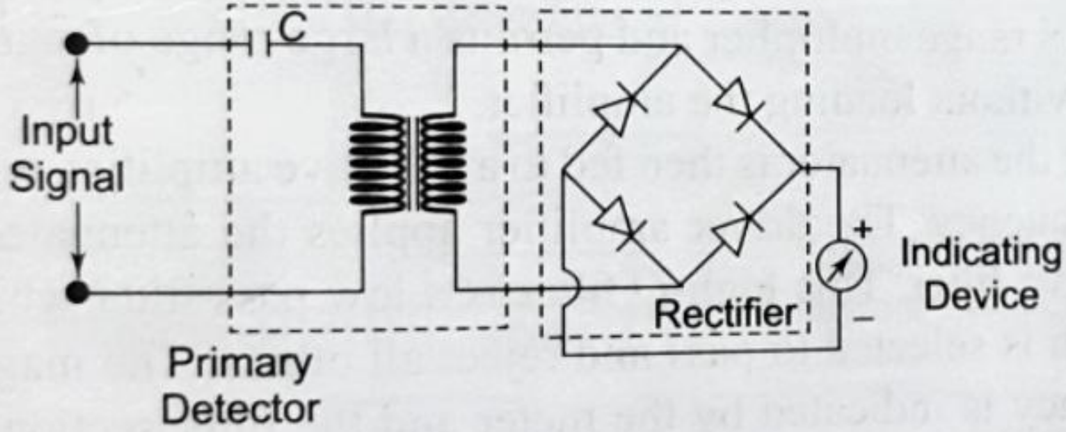

Fig. 9.1 (a) Basic wave analyzer

The intermediate stage is a full wave rectifier, to obtain the average value of the input signal. The indicating device is a simple dc voltmeter that is calibrated to read the peak value of the sinusoidal input voltage.

Since the LC circuit is tuned to a single frequency, it passes only the frequency to which it is tuned and rejects all other frequencies. A number of tuned filters, connected to the indicating device through a selector switch, would be required for a useful Wave analyzer.

The wave analyzer consists of a very narrow pass-band filter section which can be tuned to a particular frequency within the audible frequency range (20 Hz – 20 kHz). The block diagram of a wave analyzer is as shown in Fig. 9.1(b).

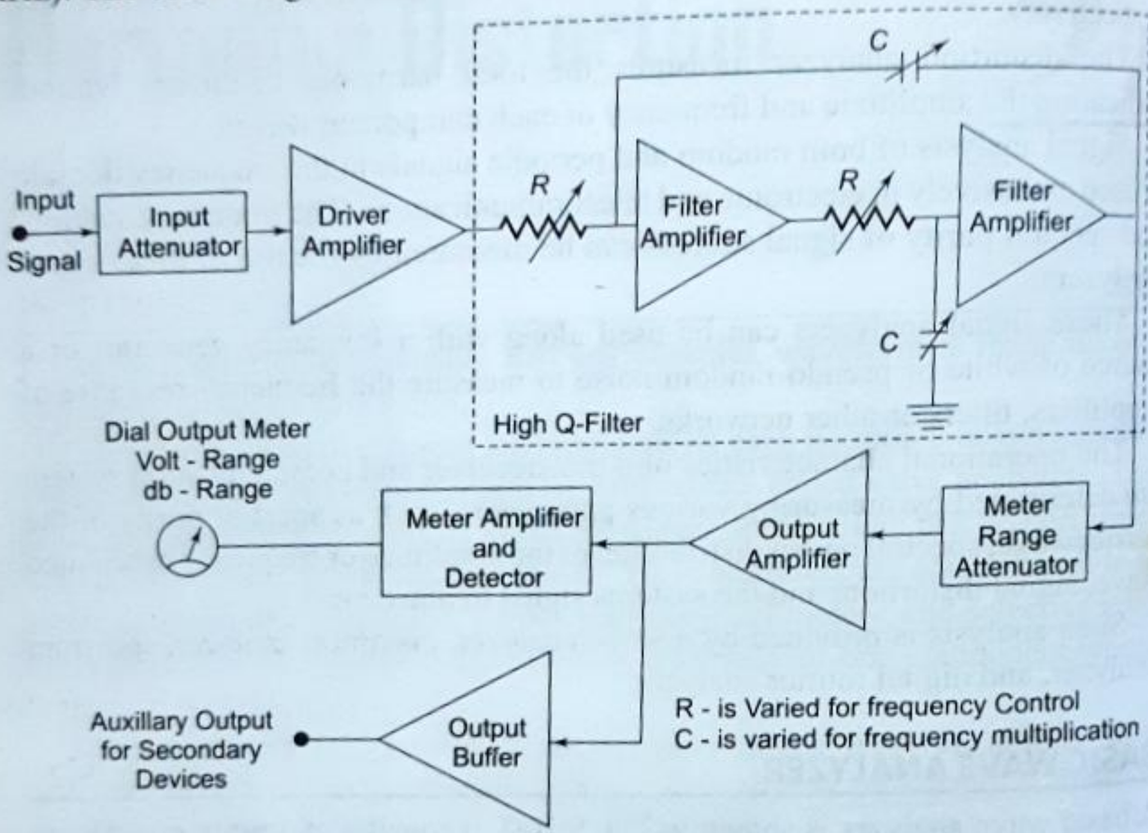

Fig. 9.1 (b) Frequency selective wave analyzer

The complex wave to be analyzed is passed through an adjustable attenuator which serves as a range multiplier and permits a large range of signal amplitudes to be analyzed without loading the amplifier.

The output of the attenuator is then fed to a selective amplifier, which amplifies the selected frequency. The driver amplifier applies the attenuated input signal to a high-Q active filter. This high-Q filter is a low pass filter which allows the frequency which is selected to pass and reject all others. The magnitude of this selected frequency is indicated by the meter and the filter section identifies the frequency of the component. The filter circuit consists of a cascaded RC resonant circuit and amplifiers. For selecting the frequency range, the capacitors generally used are of the closed tolerance polystyrene type and the resistances used are precision potentiometers. The capacitors are used for range changing and the potentiometer is used to change the frequency within the selected pass-band. Hence this wave analyzer is also called a Frequency selective voltmeter.

The entire AF range is covered in decade steps by switching capacitors in the RC section.

The selected signal output from the final amplifier stage is applied to the meter circuit and to an untuned buffer amplifier. The main function of the buffer amplifier is to drive output devices, such as recorders or electronics counters.

The meter has several voltage ranges as well as decibel scales marked on it. It is driven by an average reading rectifier type detector.

The wave analyzer must have extremely low input distortion, undetectable by the analyzer itself. The bandwidth of the instrument is very narrow, typically about 1% of the selective band given by the following response characteristics shown in Fig. 9.2).

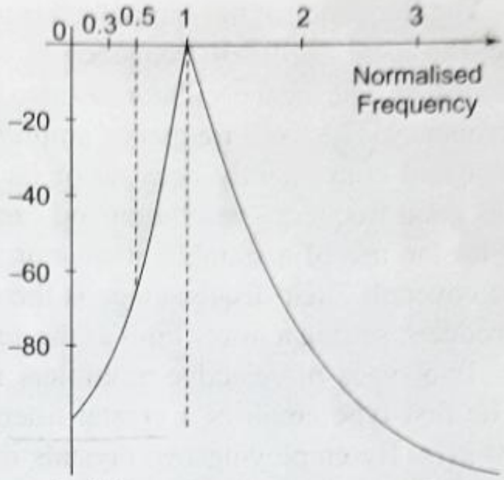

Fig. 9.2 Relative response in dBs

HETERODYNE WAVE ANALYZER 9.4

Wave analyzers are useful for measurement in the audio frequency range only. For measurements in the RF range and above (MHz range), an ordinary wave analyzer cannot be used. Hence, special types of wave analyzers working on the principle of heterodyning (mixing) are used. These wave analyzers are known as Heterodyne wave analyzers.

In this wave analyzer, the input signal to be analyzed is heterodyned with the signal from the internal tunable local oscillator in the mixer stage to produce a higher IF frequency.

By tuning the local oscillator frequency, various signal frequency components can be shifted within the pass-band of the IF amplifier. The output of the IF amplifier is rectified and applied to the meter circuit.

An instrument that involves the principle of heterodyning is the Heterodyning tuned voltmeter, shown in Fig. 9.3.

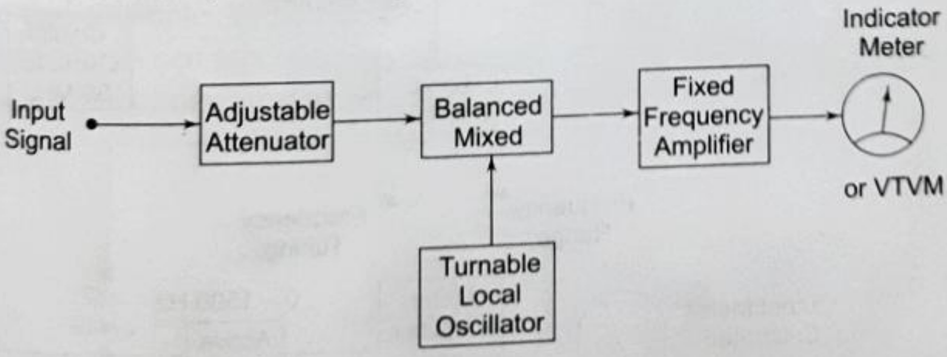

Fig. 9.3 Heterodyne wave analyzer

The input signal is heterodyned to the known IF by means of a tunable local oscillator. The amplitude of the unknown component is indicated by the VTVM or output meter. The VTVM is calibrated by means of signals of known amplitude.

vacuum tube voltmeter

The frequency of the component is identified by the local oscillator frequency, i.e. the local oscillator frequency is varied so that all the components can be identified. The local oscillator can also be calibrated using input signals of known frequency. The fixed frequency amplifier is a multistage amplifier which can be designed conveniently because of its frequency characteristics. This analyzer has good frequency resolution and can measure the entire AF frequency range. With the use of a suitable attenuator, a wide range of voltage amplitudes can be covered. Their disadvantage is the occurrence of spurious cross-modulation products, setting a lower limit to the amplitude that can be measured.

Two types of selective amplifiers find use in Heterodyne wave analyzers. The first type employs a crystal filter, typically having a centre frequency of 50 kHz. By employing two crystals in a band-pass arrangement, it is possible to obtain a relatively flat pass-band over a 4 cycle range. Another type uses a resonant circuit in which the effective Q has been made high and is controlled by negative feedback. The resultant signal is passed through a highly selective 3-section quartz crystal filter and its amplitude measured on a Q-meter.

When a knowledge of the individual amplitudes of the component frequency is desired, a heterodyne wave analyzer is used.