

Noise Figure Measurements

Feb 24, 2009

Account Manager : Peter Caputo

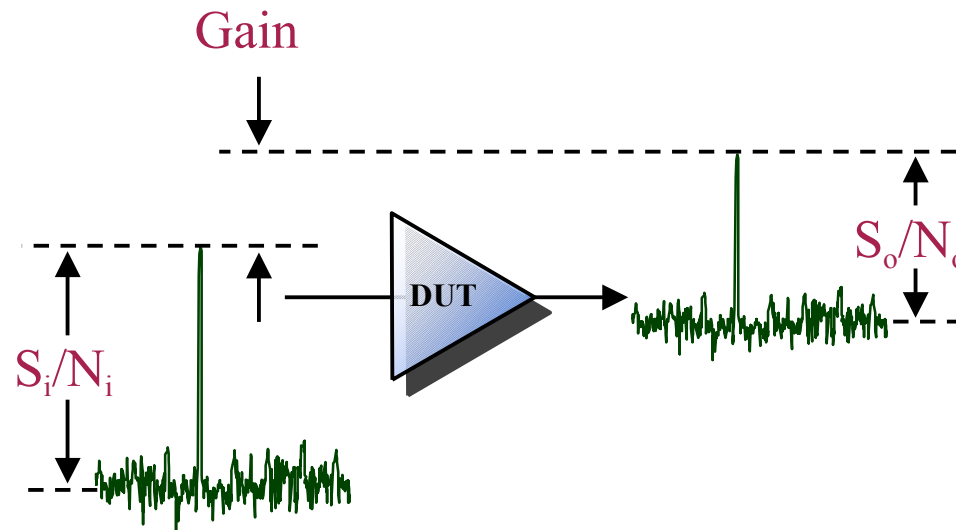
Presented by : Ernie Jackson



Agilent Technologies

Agenda

- ➔ • Overview of Noise Figure
- Noise Figure Measurement Techniques
- Accuracy Limitations
- PNA-X's Unique Approach



Noise Contributors

Thermal Noise: (otherwise known as Johnson noise) is the kinetic energy of a body of particles as a result of its finite temperature

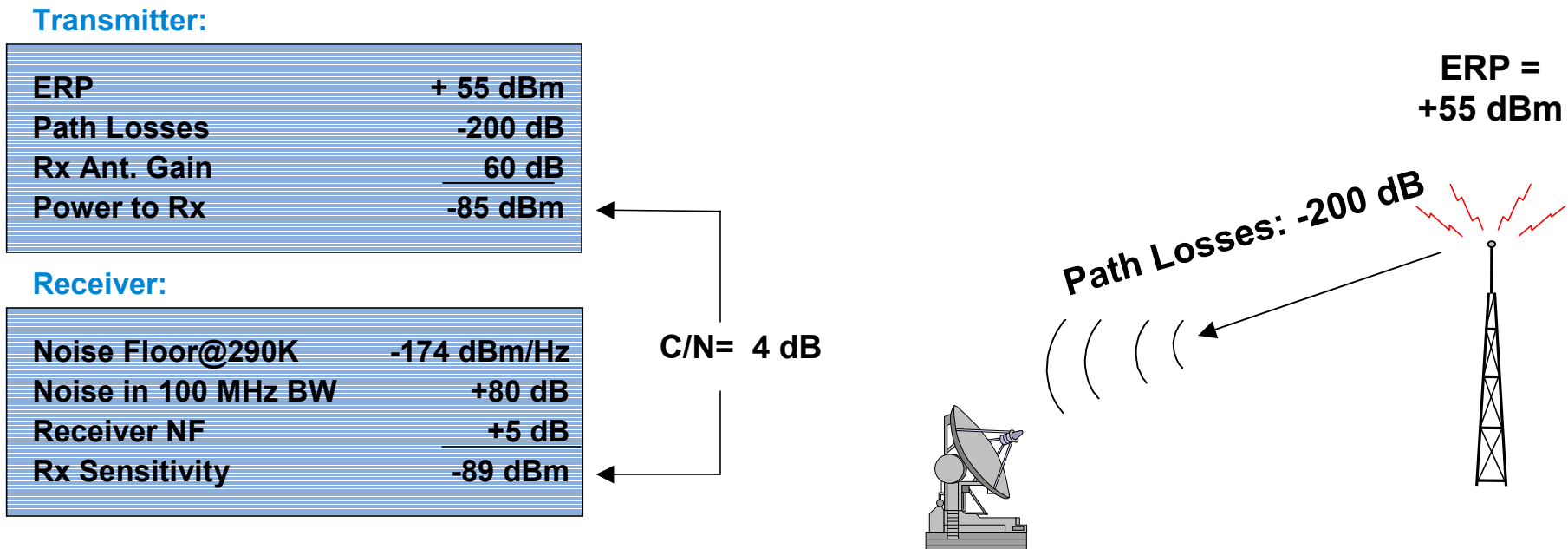
$$P_{\text{therm}} = kTB$$

Shot Noise: caused by the quantized and random nature of current flow

Flicker Noise: (or 1/f noise) is a low frequency phenomenon where the noise power follows a $1/f^\alpha$ characteristic



Why do we measure Noise Figure? Example...



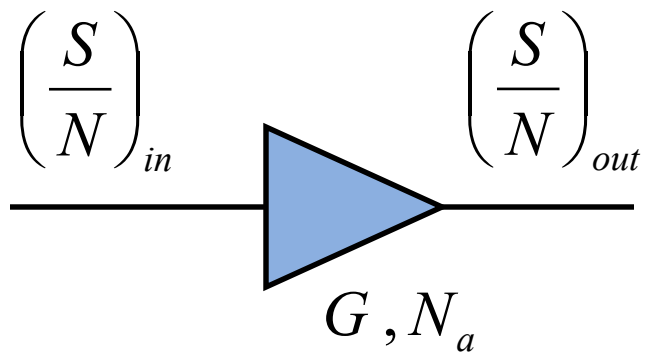
- Choices to increase Margin by 3dB**
1. Double transmitter power
 2. Increase gain of antennas by 3dB
 3. Lower the receiver noise figure by 3dB

Receiver NF: 5dB
Bandwidth: 100MHz
Antenna Gain: +60dB

Power to Antenna: +40dBm
Frequency: 12GHz
Antenna Gain: +15dB

The Definition of Noise Factor or Noise Figure in Linear Terms

- **Noise Factor** is a figure of merit that relates the **Signal to Noise** ratio of the output to the **Signal to Noise** ratio of the input.
- **Most basic definition** was defined by Friis in the 1940's.

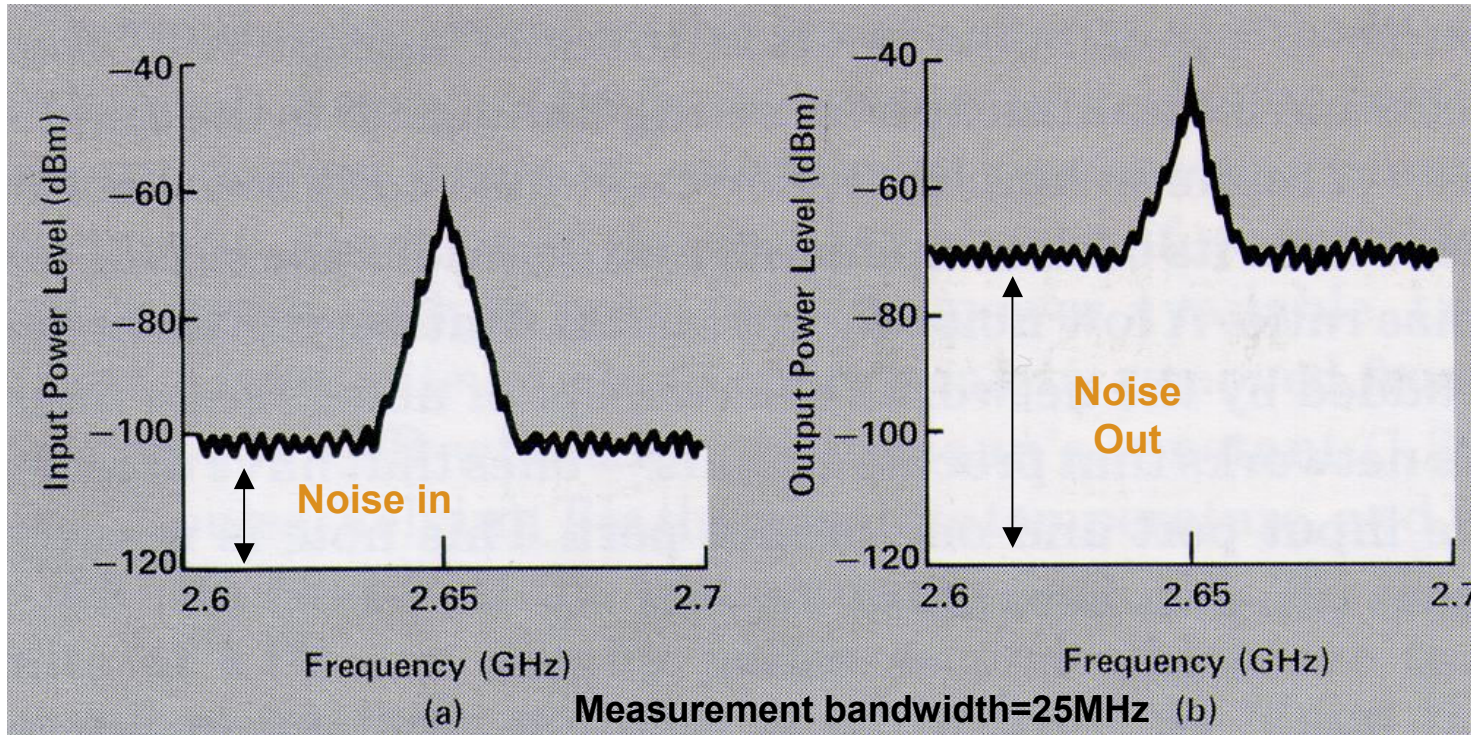


$$F = \frac{\left(\frac{S}{N}\right)_{in}}{\left(\frac{S}{N}\right)_{out}}$$

Reference: Harald Trap Friis: 1944: Proceedings of the IRE

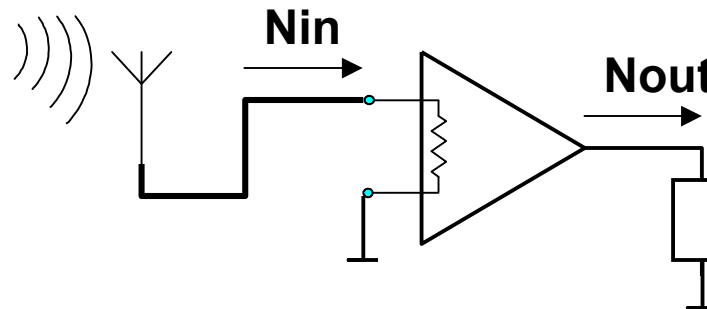


What is Noise Figure ?

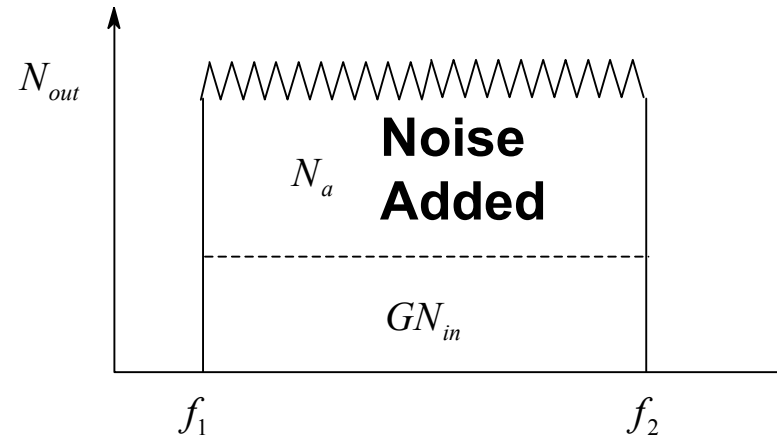
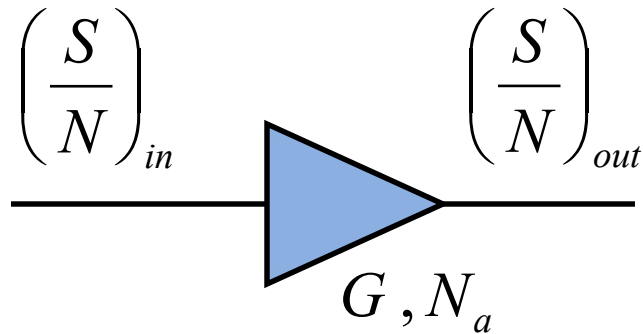


a) C/N at amplifier input

b) C/N at amplifier output

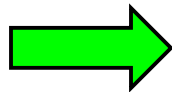


Definition of Noise Figure



$$\text{Gain} = G = \frac{S_{out}}{S_{in}} \quad N_{out} = N_a + GN_{in}$$

$$F = \frac{\left(\frac{S}{N}\right)_{in}}{\left(\frac{S}{N}\right)_{out}}$$



$$F = \frac{N_{out}}{GN_{in}} = \frac{N_a + GN_{in}}{GN_{in}}$$

$$NF \text{ (dB)} = 10 \log \left(\frac{N_a + GN_{in}}{GN_{in}} \right)$$

Noise Factor

Noise Figure



Noise Voltage

Standard Equation for Noise Voltage produced by a Resistor

$$e^2 = 4kTBR$$

k = Boltzman's Constant = 1.38×10^{-23} Joules/°K

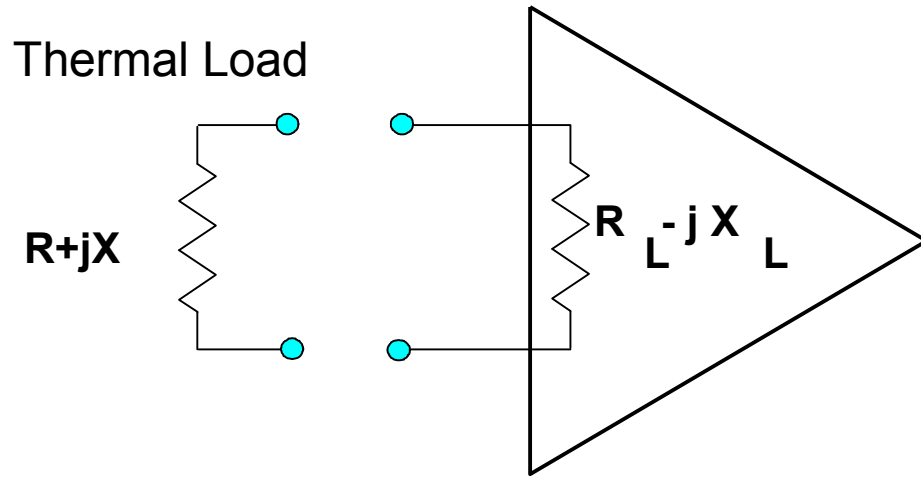
T is absolute temperature (°K)

B is bandwidth (Hz)

e is rms voltage

Reference: JB Johnson/Nyquist: 1928: Bell Labs

Noise Power at Standard Temperature



$k = 1.38 \times 10^{-23}$ joule / k
 $T =$ Temperature (K)
 $B =$ Bandwidth (Hz)

Available Noise Power Delivered to a Conjugate Load,

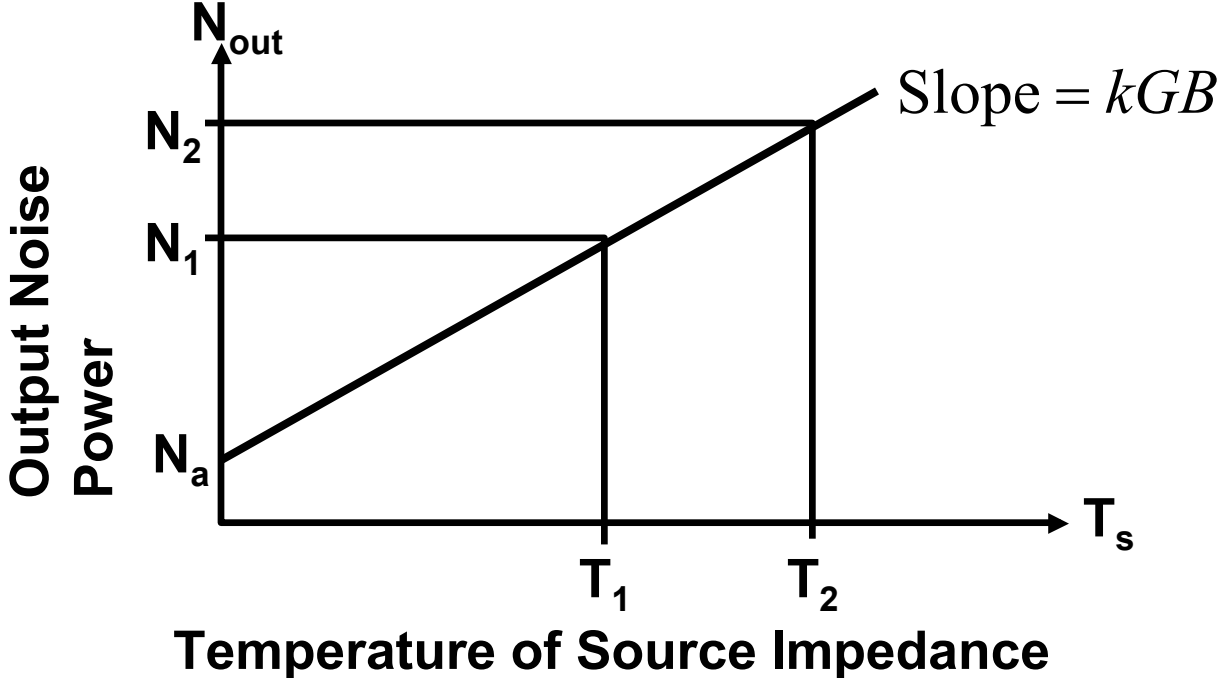
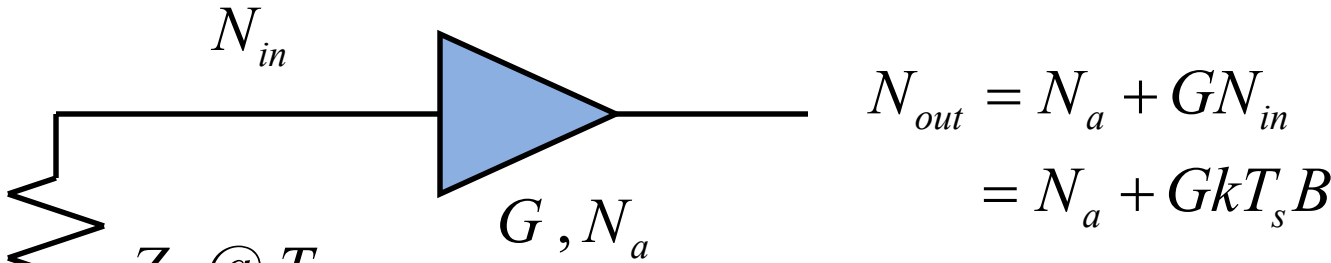
$$P_{av} = kTB$$

At 290K $P_{av} = 4 \times 10^{-21}$ W/Hz = -174dBm / Hz

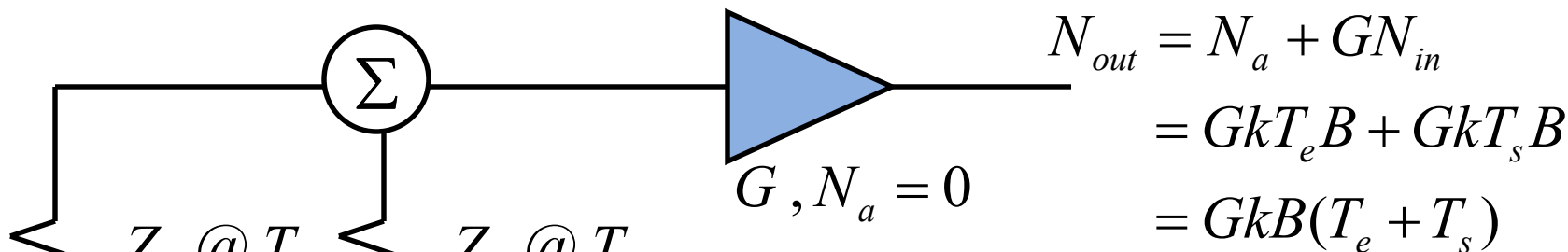
In deep space $kT =$ -198dBm/Hz



Noise Power is Linear with Temperature



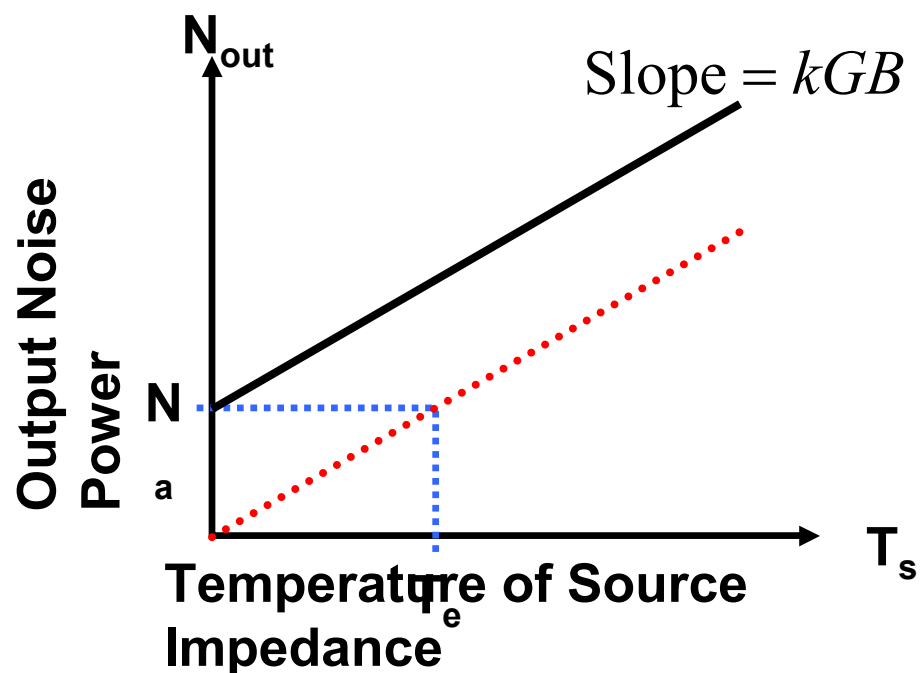
An Alternative Way to Describe Noise Figure: Effective Input Noise Temperature (T_e)



$$T_e = (F - 1)T_s$$

and

$$F = \frac{T_e + T_s}{T_s}$$



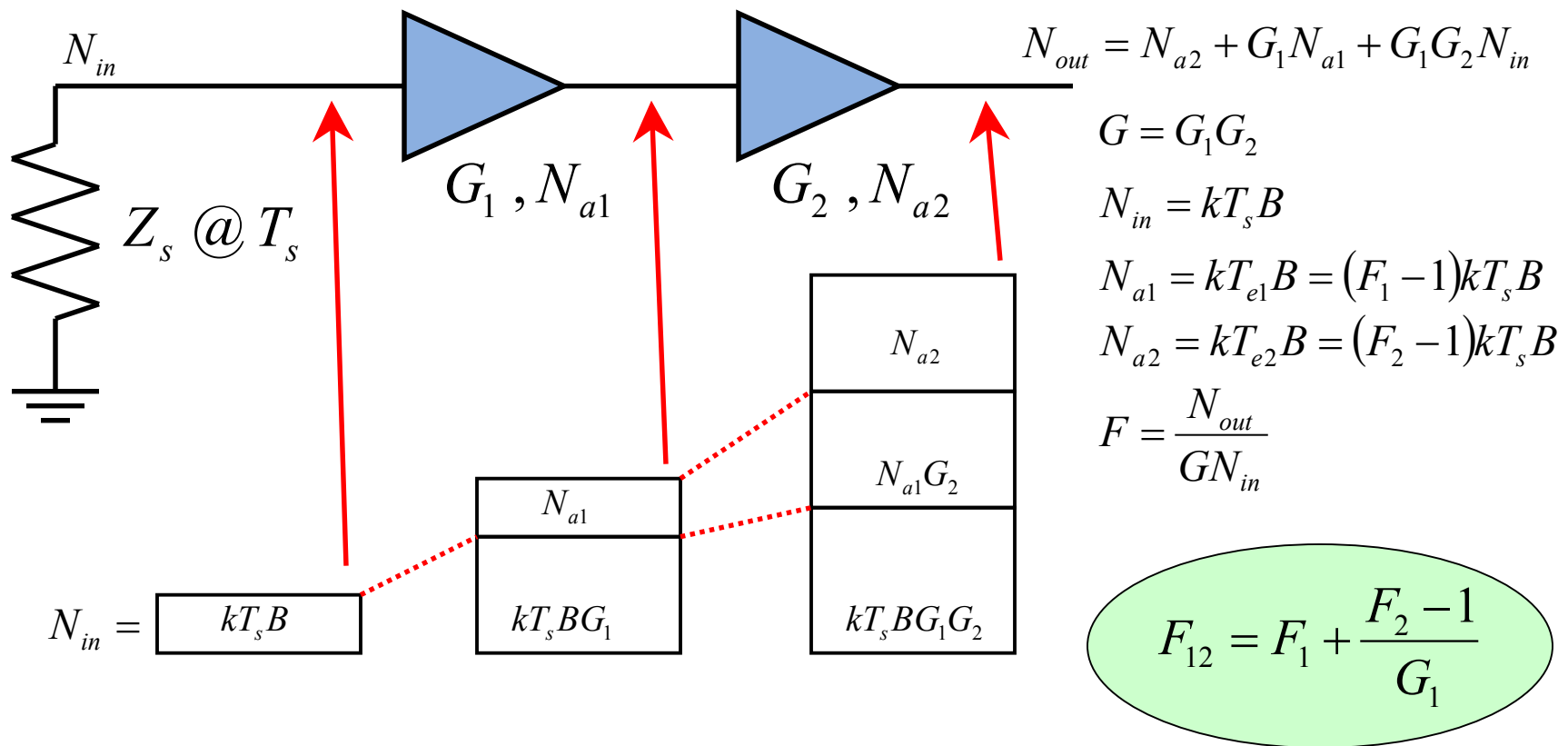
Te or NF: which should I use?

- **Use either - they are completely interchangeable**
- **Typically NF for terrestrial and Te for space**
- **NF referenced to 290K - not appropriate in space**
- **If Te used in terrestrial systems, the temperatures can be large (10dB=2610K)**
- **Te is easier to characterize graphically**



Friis or Cascade Equation

- Here we see what contribution a second amplifier has on the overall noise factor.



$$N_{out} = N_{a2} + G_1 N_{a1} + G_1 G_2 N_{in}$$

$$G = G_1 G_2$$

$$N_{in} = kT_s B$$

$$N_{a1} = kT_{e1} B = (F_1 - 1)kT_s B$$

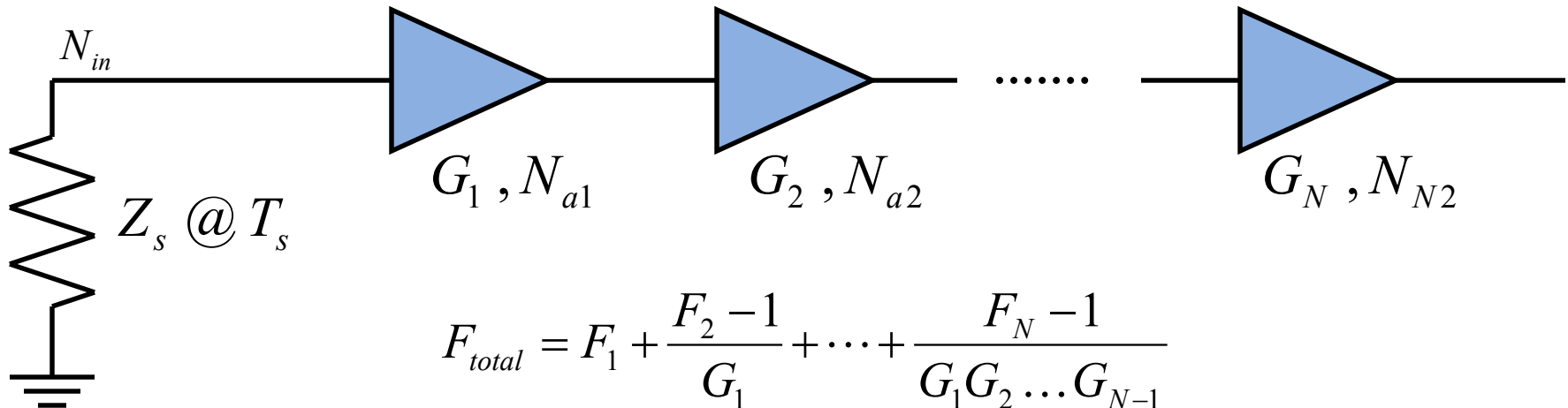
$$N_{a2} = kT_{e2} B = (F_2 - 1)kT_s B$$

$$F = \frac{N_{out}}{GN_{in}}$$



Effects of Multiple Stages on Noise Factor

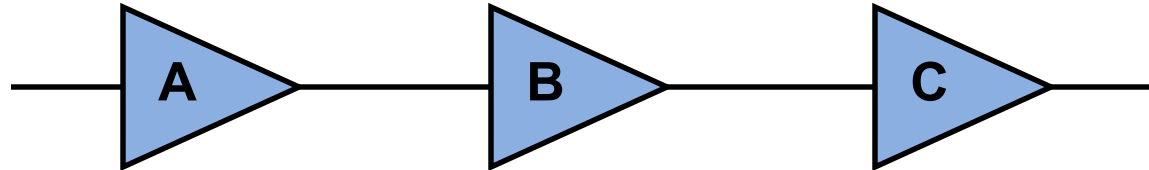
- The cascade equation can be generalized for multiple stages



$$F_{total} = F_1 + \sum_{i=2}^N \left(\frac{F_i - 1}{\prod_{j=i}^N G_{j-1}} \right)$$

Demo of Cascade Equation

$$F = F_1 + \frac{F_2 - 1}{G_1}$$



Gain (dB)	6.0	12.0	20.0
Gain	4.0	16.0	100.0
Noise Figure(dB)	2.3	3.0	6.0
Noise Factor	1.7	2.0	4.0

$$F_{ABC} = 1.7 + \frac{2.0 - 1}{4.0} + \frac{4.0 - 1}{4.0 \times 16.0} = 1.70 + 0.25 + 0.047 = 1.997$$

$$NF_{ABC} = 10 \log(1.997) = 3.00 \text{ dB}$$

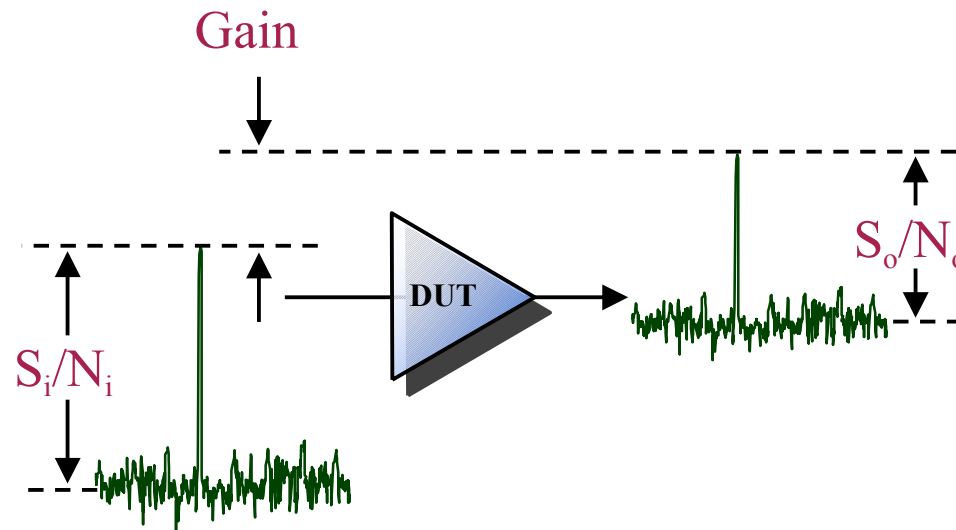
$$F_{ACB} = 1.7 + \frac{4.0 - 1}{4.0} + \frac{2.0 - 1}{4.0 \times 100.0} = 1.70 + 0.75 + 0.025 = 2.475$$

$$NF_{ACB} = 10 \log(2.475) = 3.93 \text{ dB}$$

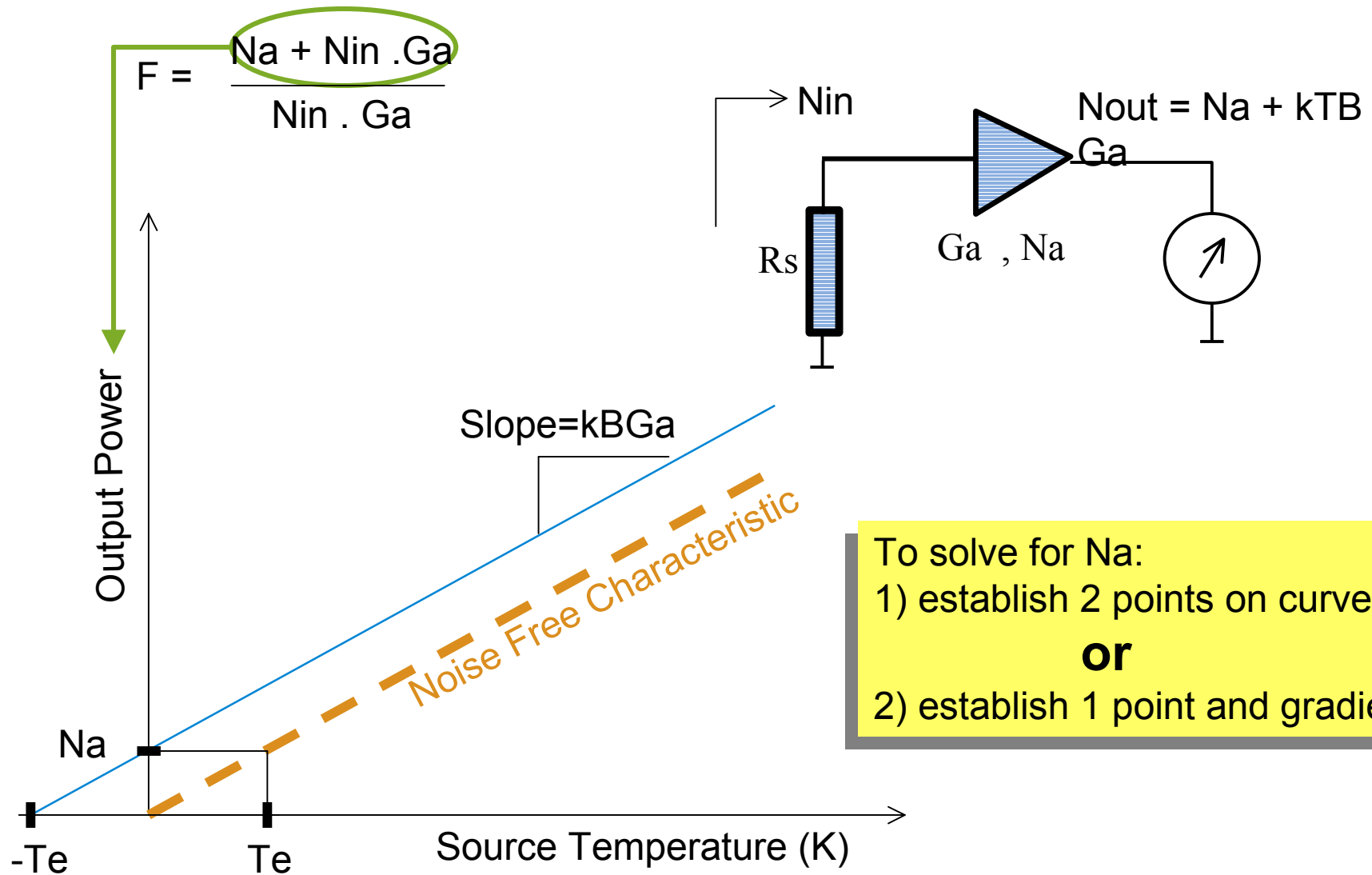


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- Accuracy Limitations
- PNA-X's Unique Approach



Measuring Noise Figure



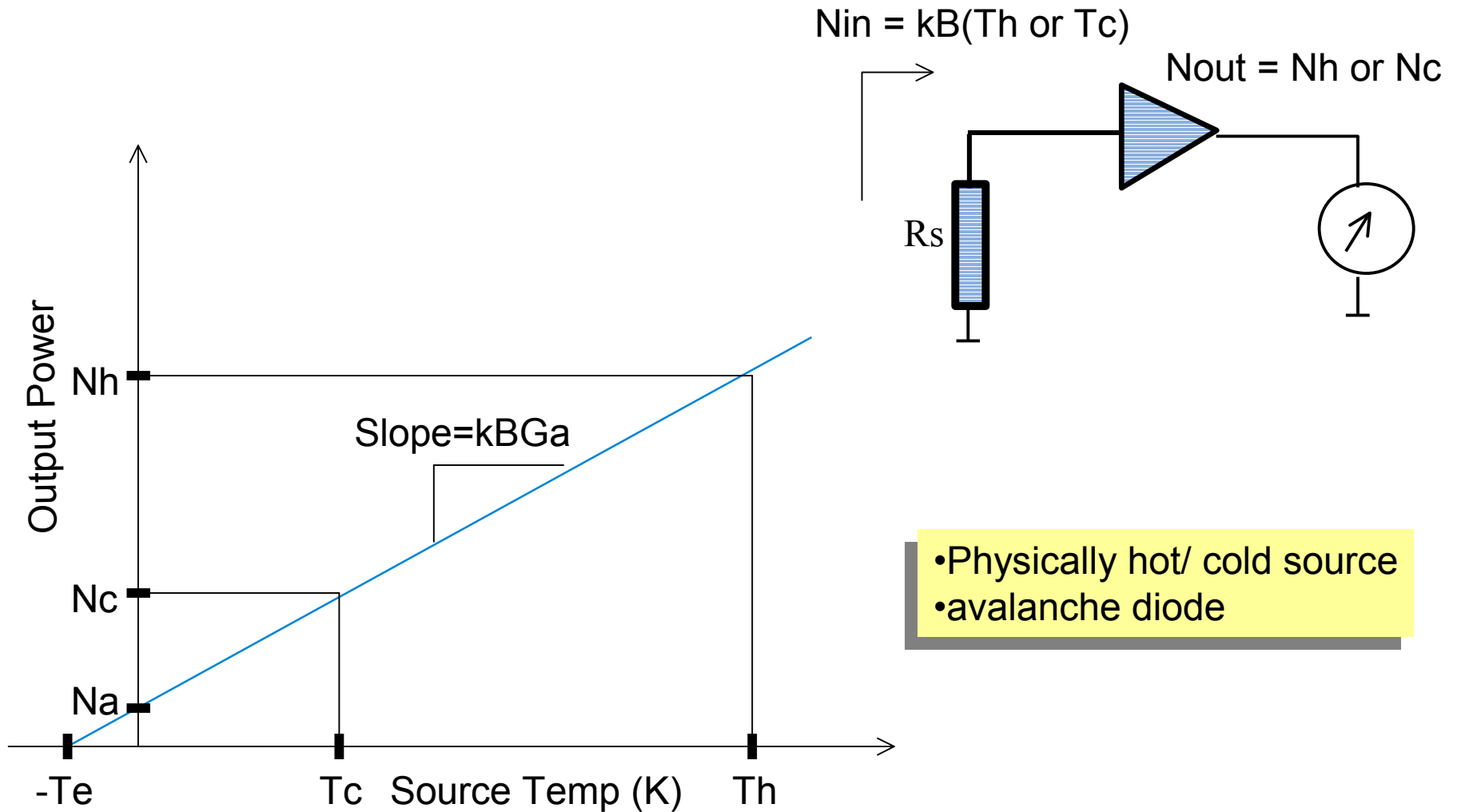
To solve for Na :

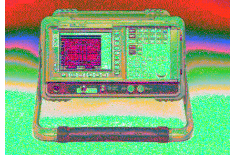
- 1) establish 2 points on curve

or

- 2) establish 1 point and gradient

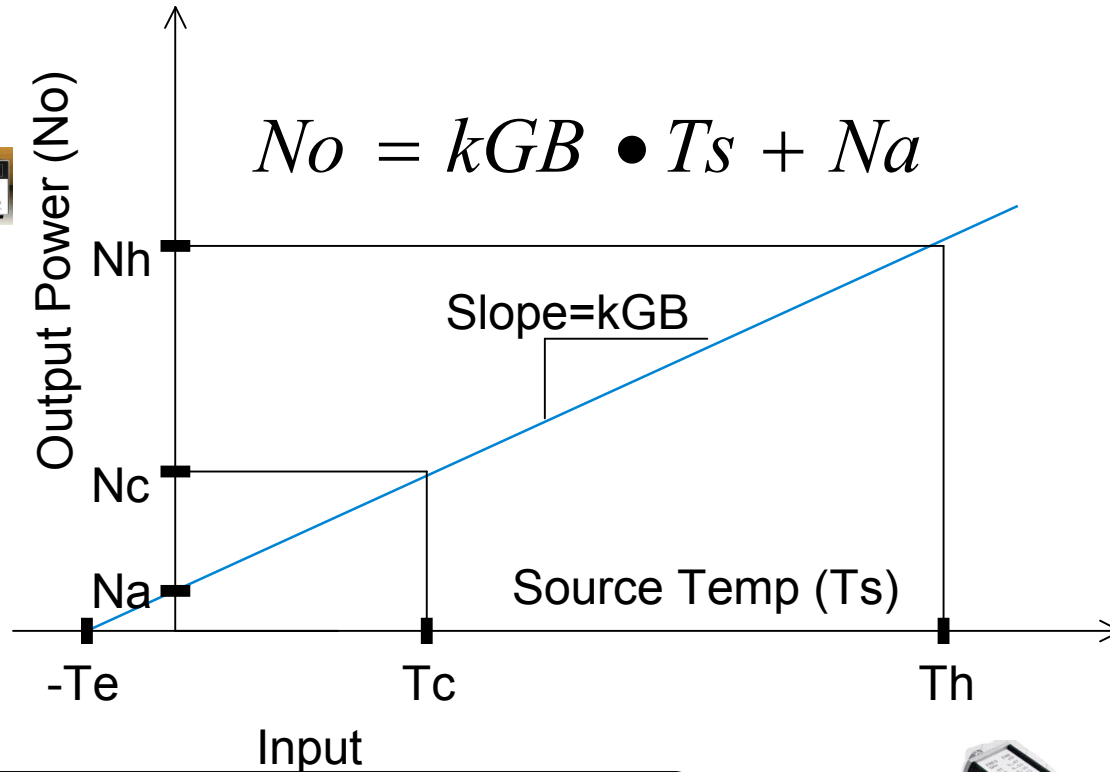
Hot/Cold Technique





Measured

$$Y = \frac{N_h}{N_c}$$



$$ENR = \frac{(T_h - T_o)}{T_o}$$



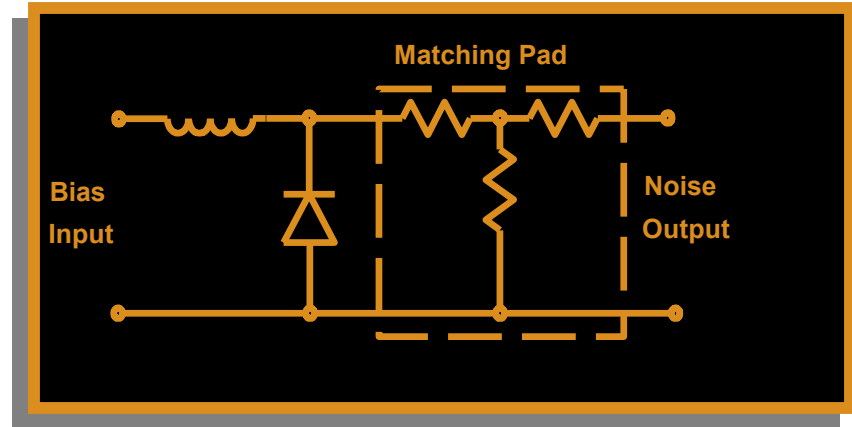
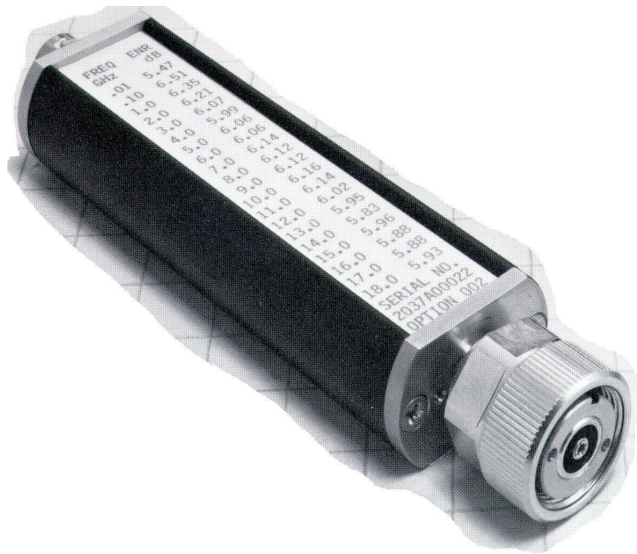
Calculated

$$N_a = kBG T_o \left(\frac{ENR}{Y-1} - 1 \right) \qquad T_e = \frac{N_a}{kGB}$$

$$F = \frac{N_a + kGB T_o}{kGB T_o} = \frac{ENR}{Y-1} = \frac{T_e + T_o}{T_o} \qquad T_e = T_o(F - 1)$$



Noise Source - the Avalanche Diode

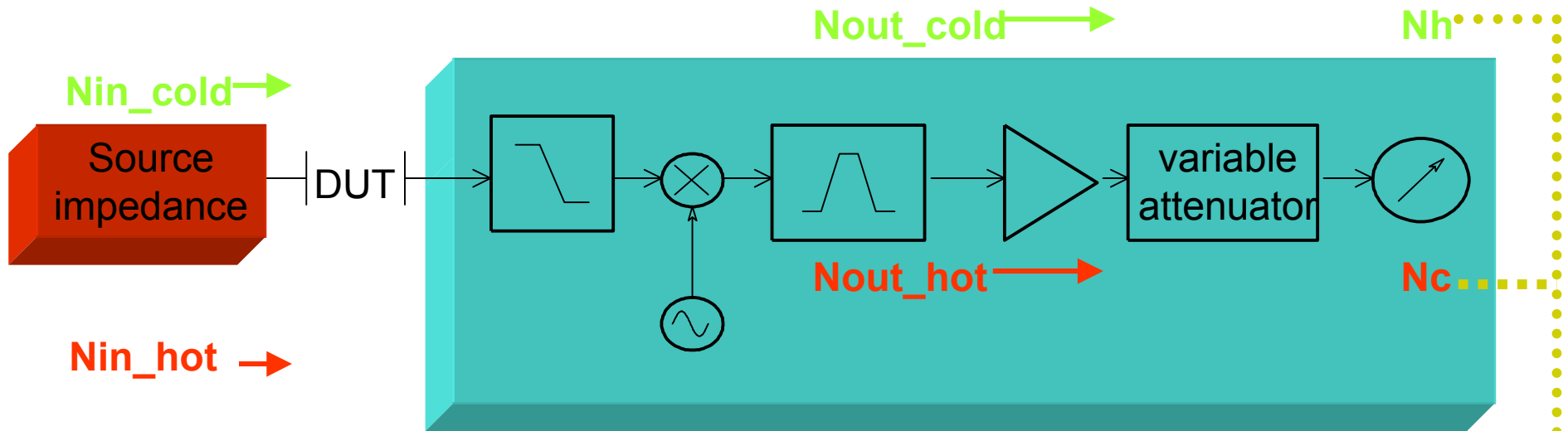


Excess Noise Ratio, ENR (dB) = $10 \text{ Log}_{10} \left(\frac{T_h - 290}{290} \right)$

Frequency	ENR dB
XXX	AAA
YYY	BBB
ZZZ	CCC
⋮	⋮



Noise Figure Analyzer



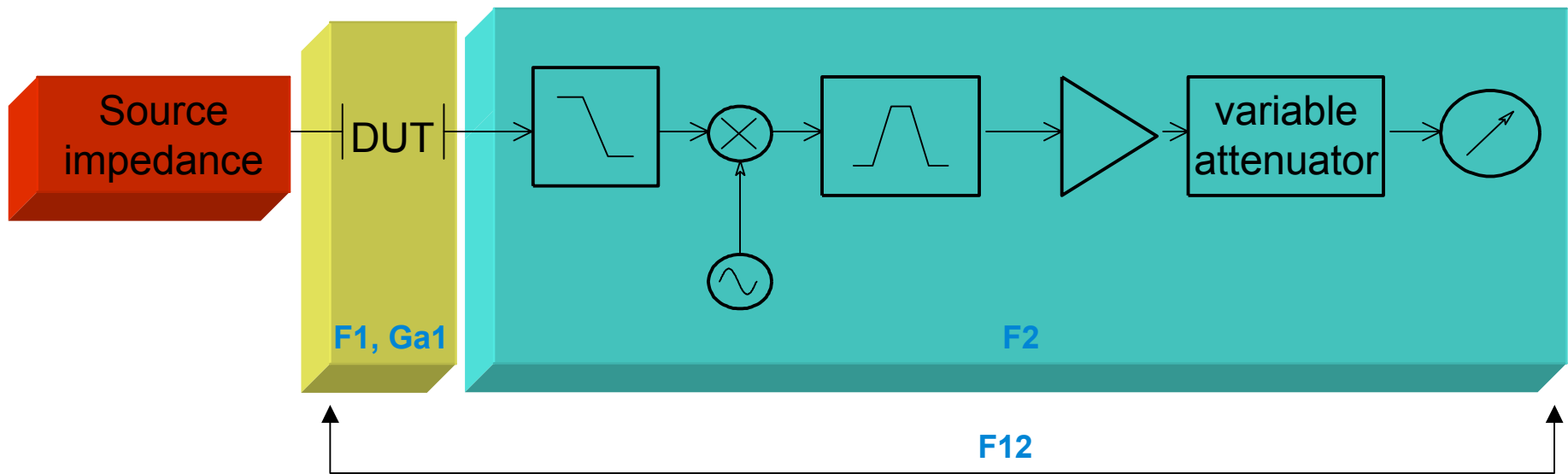
$$Y = \frac{N_h}{N_c} = \frac{kGB(T_e + T_h)}{kGB(T_e + T_c)}$$

$$T_e = \frac{T_h - Y T_c}{Y - 1} \quad (\text{solve for } T_e)$$

$$F = \frac{T_e + T_o}{T_o}$$



Calibrating out System NF



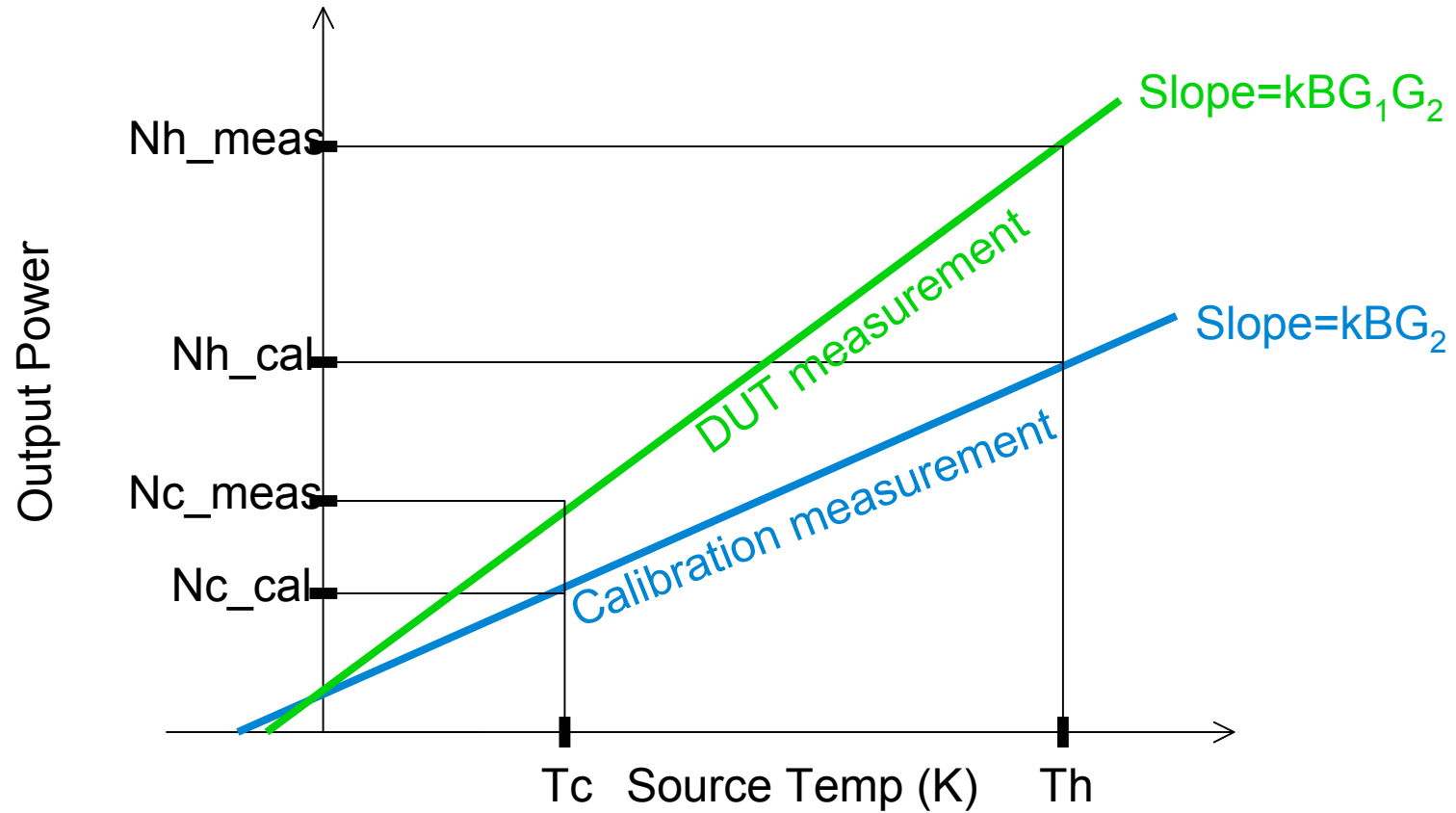
$$F_1 = F_{12} - \frac{F_2 - 1}{G_{a1}}$$

$$\text{if } F_{12} \approx \frac{F_2 - 1}{G_{a1}}$$

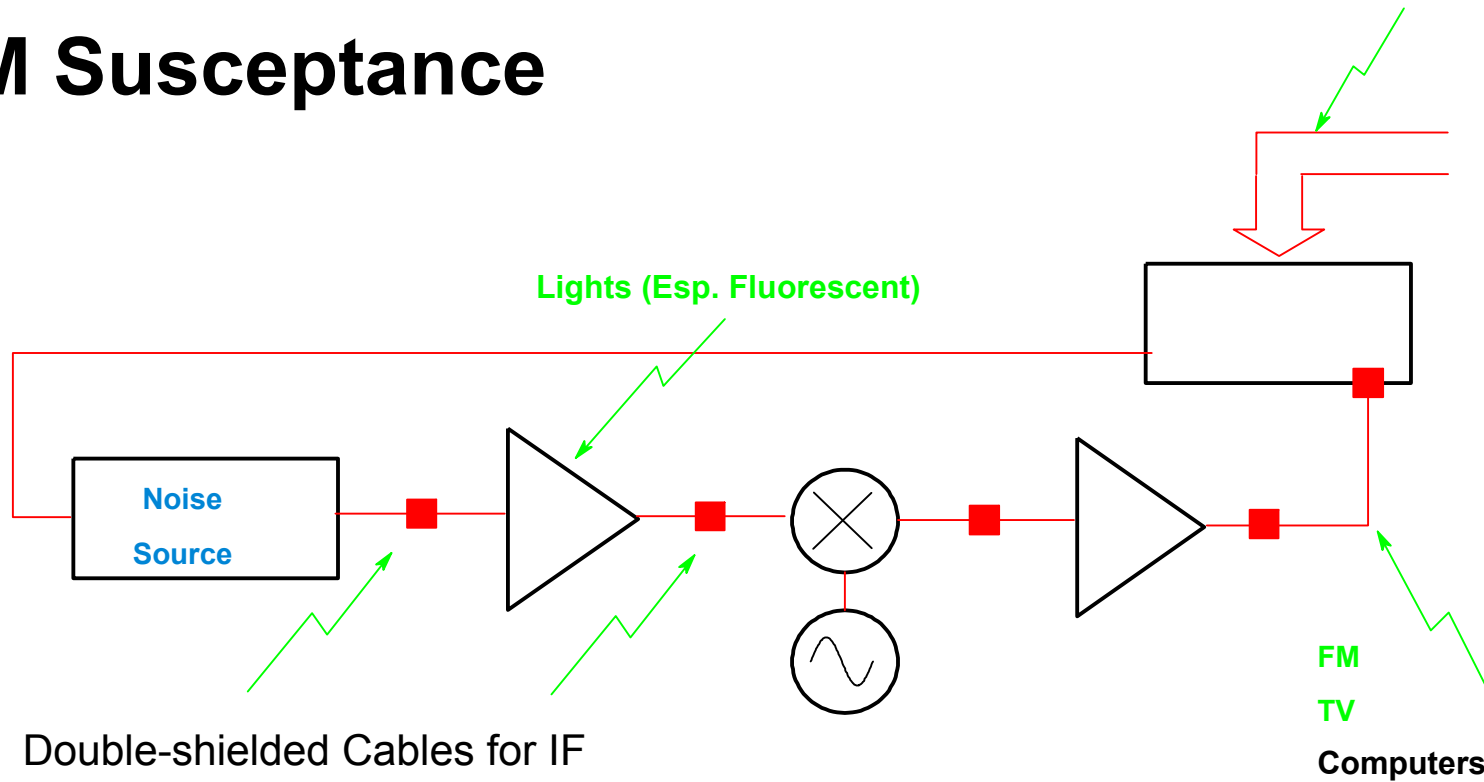
then uncertainty increases, so beware if F_1 and G_1 are low



How does the NFA measure gain



Avoidable Measurement Errors: EM Susceptance



- * Double-shielded Cables for IF
(Ordinary Braid if porous)
- * Shielded HP-IB Cables
- * Enclose All Circuits
- * Jiggle Connectors (Esp. BNC)
- * Try snap-on ferrite cores on cables, dampen common-mode currents
- * LO Contributes Spurious and Noise

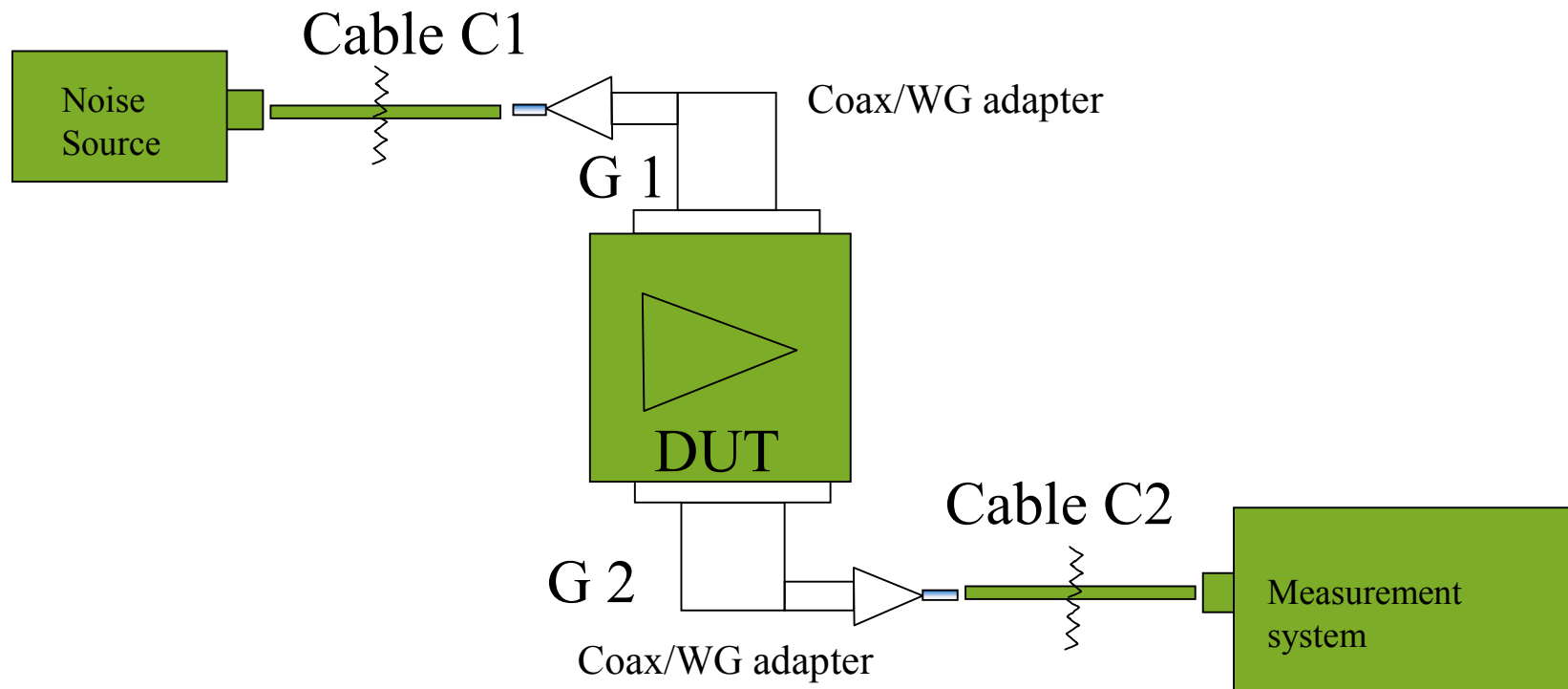


Avoidable Measurement Errors: Choose the Appropriate Noise Source

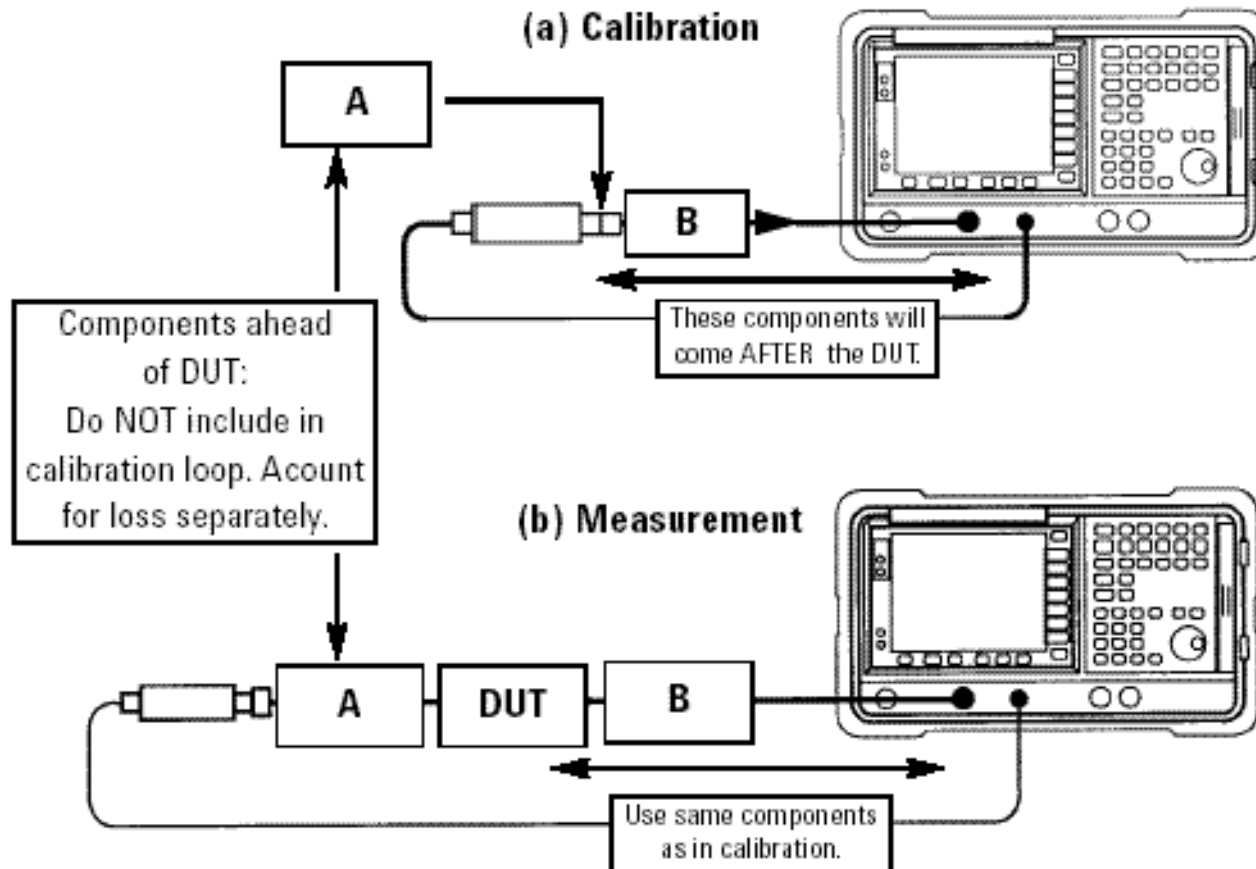
- 15dB ENR noise source to measure NF of up to 30dB (eg N4001A, N4002A, 346B/C)
- Use 6 dB ENR for very low noise figure devices to keep noise detector linearity issues to a minimum (eg N4000A, 346A).
- Use a Noise Source with greater internal attenuation if the DUT is match sensitive (eg N4000A, 346A).



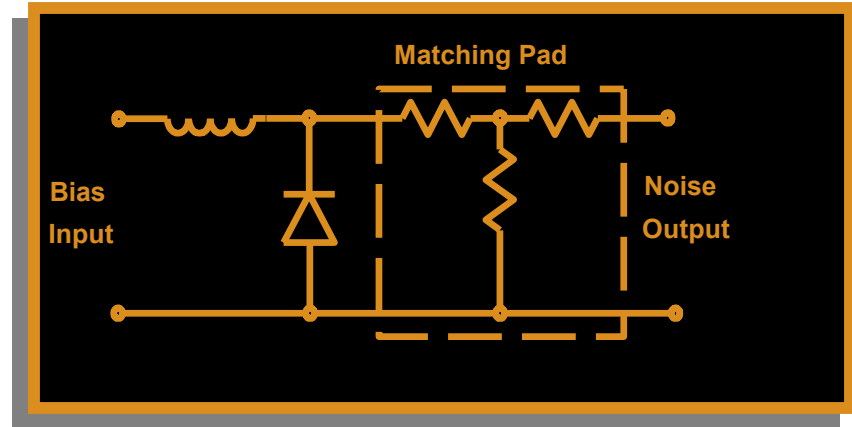
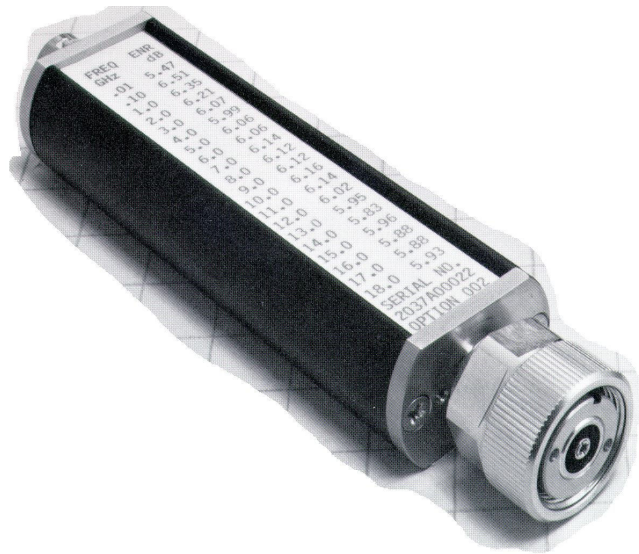
Avoidable Measurement Errors: Accurate Loss Compensation



Avoidable Measurement Errors: Loss Compensation and Calibration



Noise Source - the Avalanche Diode

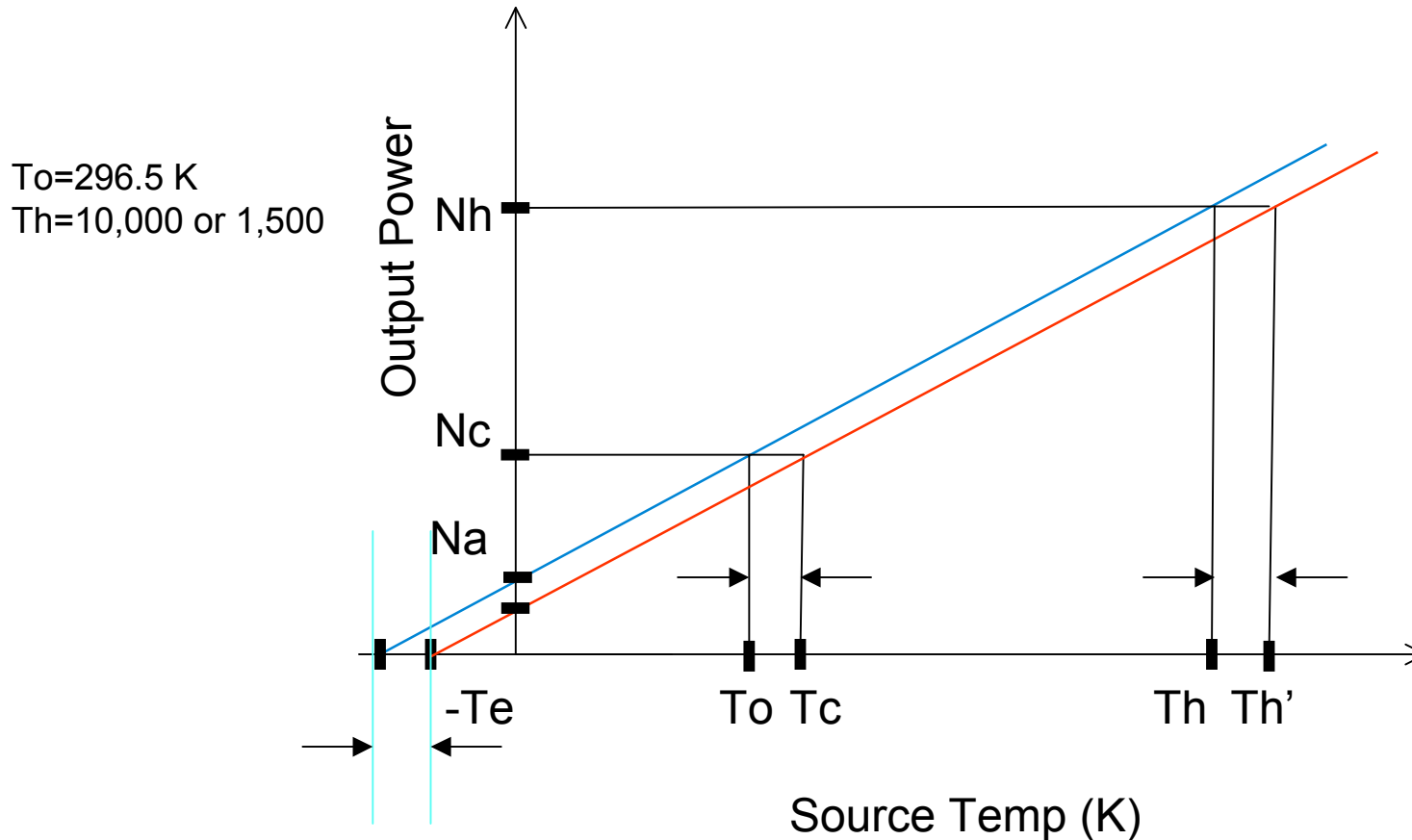


Excess Noise Ratio, ENR (dB) = $10 \text{ Log}_{10} \left(\frac{T_h - 290}{290} \right)$

Frequency	ENR dB
XXX	AAA
YYY	BBB
ZZZ	CCC
⋮	⋮



Avoidable Measurement Errors: Temperature Considerations (Diode)



Report Ambient Temperature to Analyzer for Accurate ENR Interpretations

NF

ENR: 10

Tcold: 306.5

dB / Lin

Cal Hot: 3196.5

Cal Cold: 296.5

Dut Hot: 3246500.0

Dut Cold: 346500.0

Gain Lin: 1000

Gain dB: 30

Te: 50

F Lin: 1.17241

F dB: 0.690809

Thot: 3196.5

Calc Print

Exit

NF

ENR: 10

Tcold: 306.5

dB / Lin

Cal Hot: 3196.5

Cal Cold: 296.5

Dut Hot: 3246500.0

Dut Cold: 346500.0

Gain Lin: 1000

Gain dB: 30

Te: 40.01

F Lin: 1.13797

F dB: 0.561291

Thot: 3206.5

Calc Print

Exit



Avoidable Measurement Errors: Loss and Temperature Corrections

Agilent 20:44:30 Jan 12, 1970

UnCorr

Loss Compensation Before DUT Table

Index 1

	Frequency	Loss Value
1	1.00000 MHz	5.000 dB
2	2.00000 MHz	4.800 dB
3	3.00000 MHz	4.870 dB
4	***	***

Index 1

Frequency 1.00000 MHz

Loss Value 5.000 dB

New Entry

Delete Row

Delete All

Use 'File' hardkey to Load or Save a table.

Prototype Instrument - Not For Sale

Agilent 11:35:27 Nov 1, 2000

Loss Frequency 10.00000000 MHz

Loss Compensation Before DUT Table

Loss Frequency	Loss Value
10.00000000 MHz	3.400 dB
20.00000000 MHz	3.450 dB
30.00000000 MHz	3.490 dB
40.00000000 MHz	3.620 dB
50.00000000 MHz	3.860 dB
60.00000000 MHz	3.820 dB
70.00000000 MHz	3.890 dB
80.00000000 MHz	3.880 dB
----	----
----	----
----	----
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Before Table

Row Up

Row Down

Page Up

Page Down

Add

Delete Row

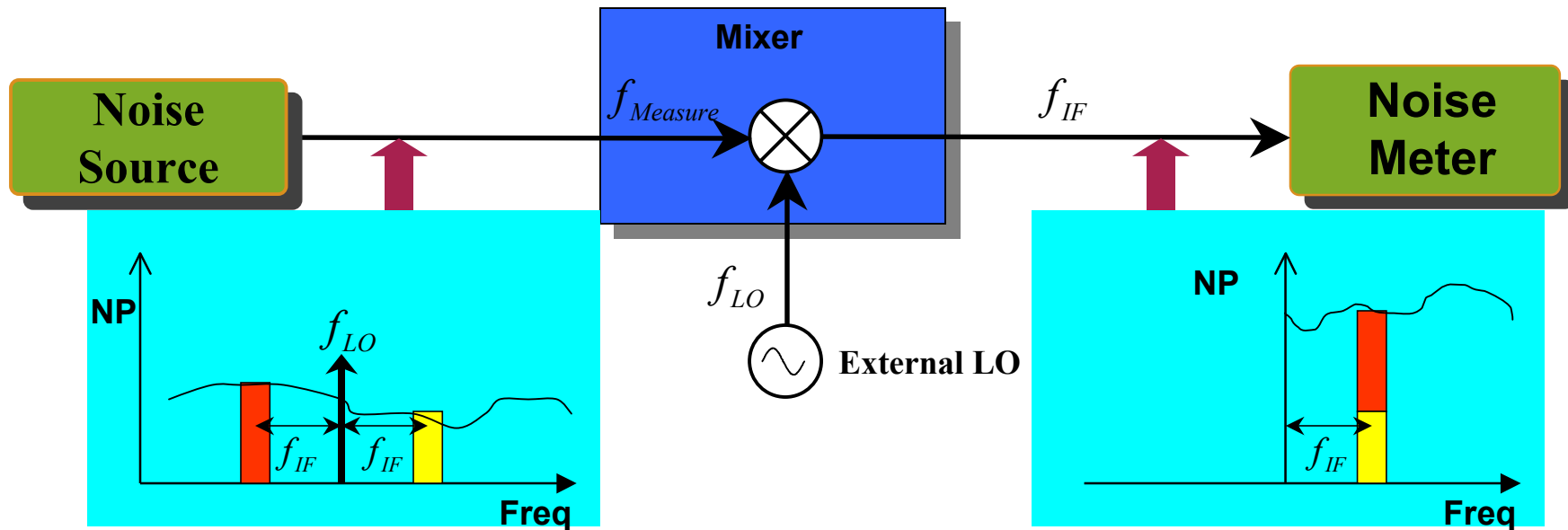
Clear Table

Use 'File' key to Load or Save a table.

- A temperature must be entered in Loss Compensation Setup for valid results
NFA & PSA **Default = 0 degrees K**
- The NFA and PSA accept S2P files from a Network Analyzer for the Loss Compensation table

Avoidable Measurement Errors:

Account for Frequency Conversion (DSB Measurement)



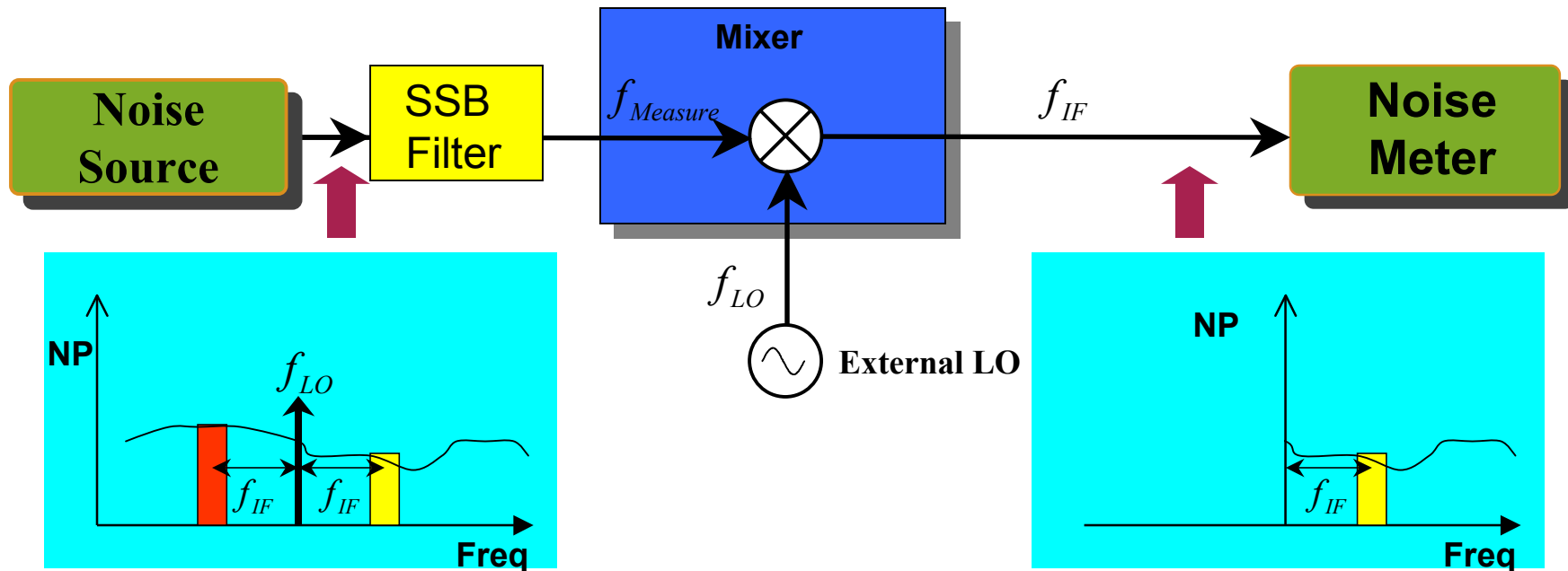
DSB is recommended when :

- The application is DSB
- The DUT is broadband
- No SSB filter is available
- The frequency range make SSB filters impossible/impractical

Loss compensation of 3dB (under perfect conditions) needs to be entered to account for doubling of power during measurement

Avoidable Measurement Errors:

Account for Frequency Conversion (SSB Measurement)



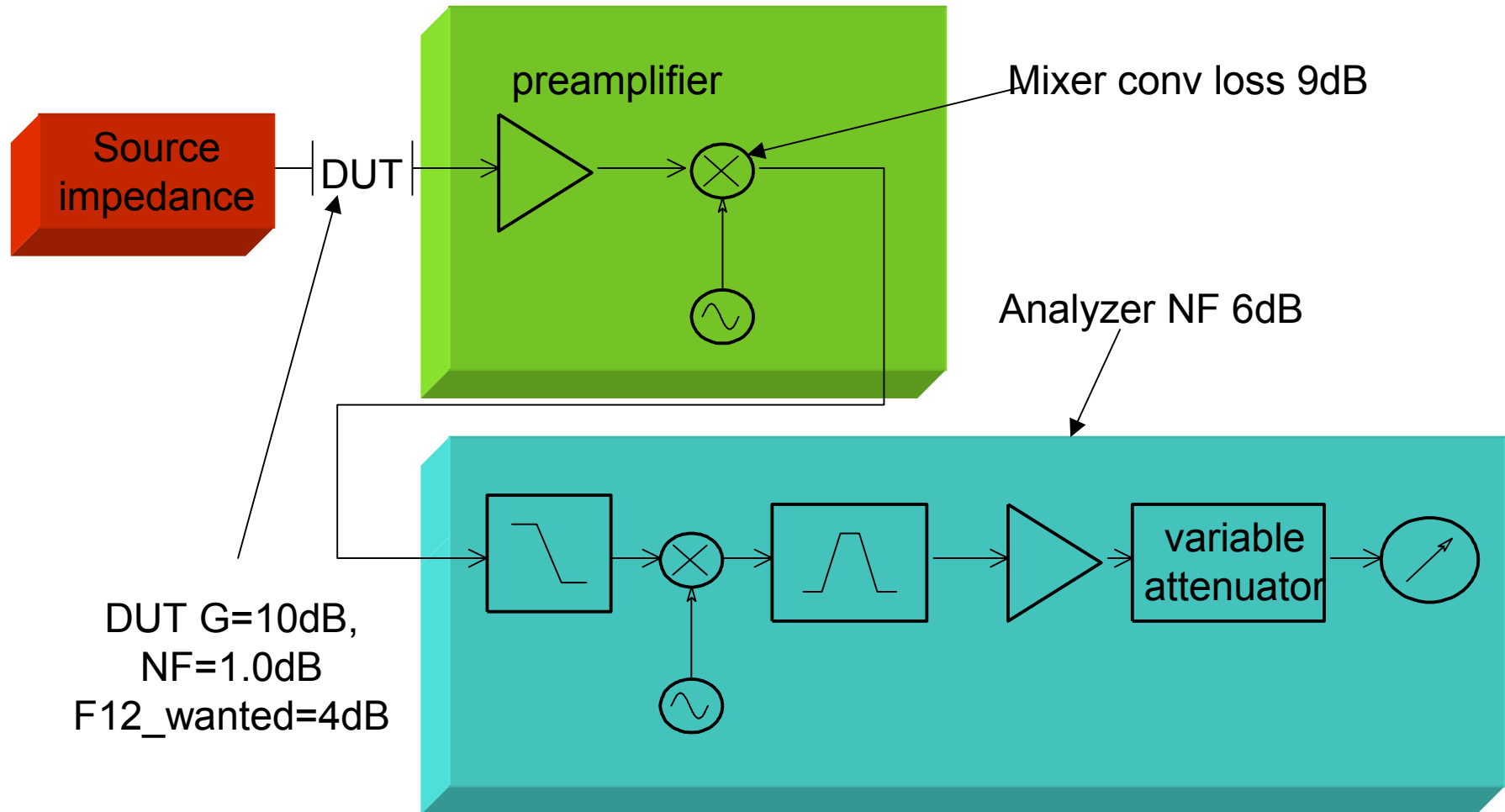
SSB is recommended when :

- The application is SSB
- The DUT is narrowband

If down conversion is part of the measurement system, filters should be included in calibration path and measurement path because the calibration and measurement are performed at the same frequencies.

Reduce Measurement System Noise Figure

Using a pre-amplifier to improve accuracy



Minimise Errors which cannot be eliminated: Reduce Measurement System Noise Figure

- Most important of all uncertainties
- if DUT has low gain/ low NF - watch out!
- $NF2 \leq (NF1 + G1) - 5dB$ for accuracy
- work out new system NF with preamp
- work out preamp gain
- avoid overload

$$P_{in} = -174dBm/Hz + ENR(dB) + 10\log(BW) + NF1 + G1(dB) + G_{pre}(dB)$$

$$F = F_1 + \frac{F_2 - 1}{G_1}$$

$$F_1 = F_{12} - \frac{F_2 - 1}{G_{a1}}$$

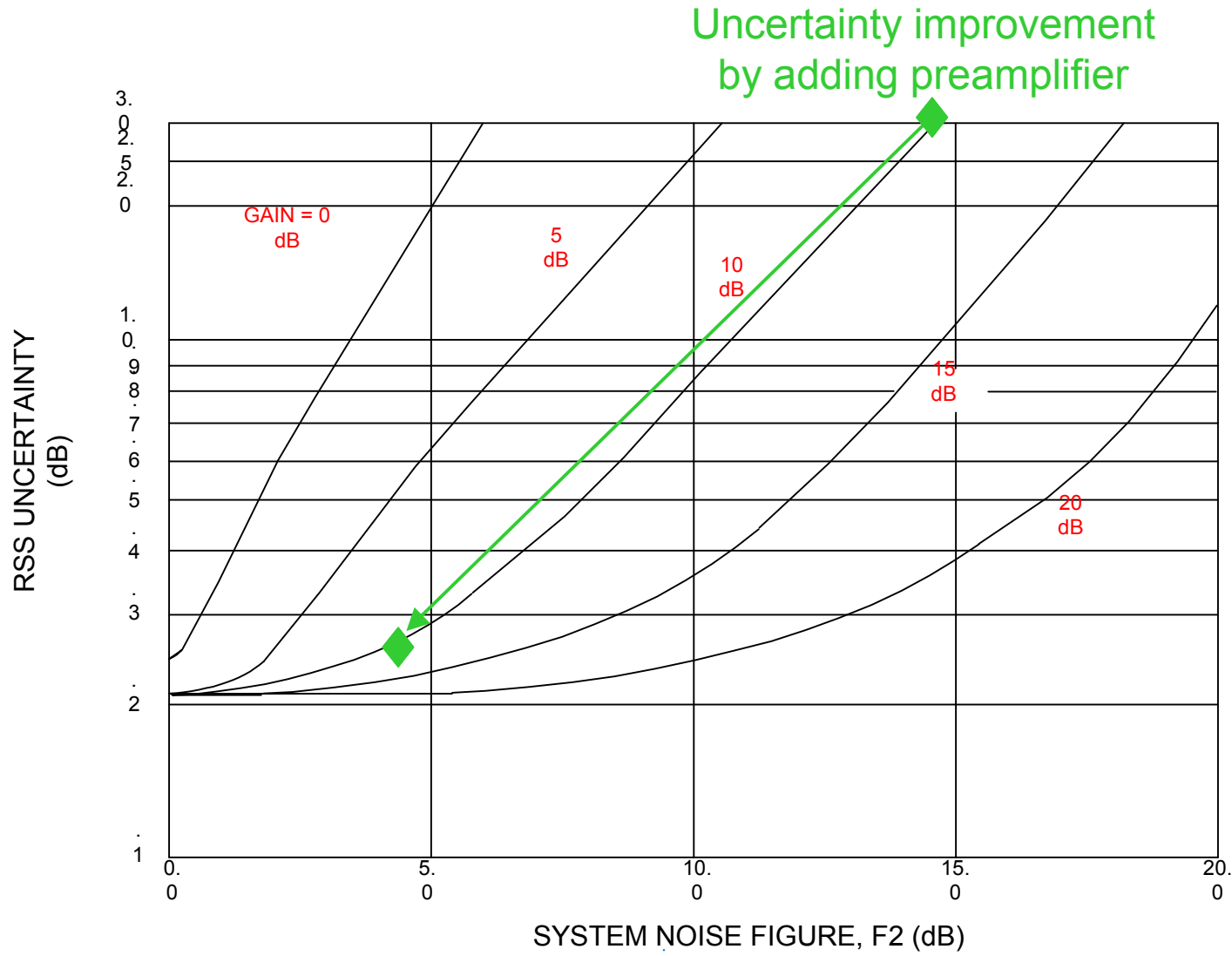
$$F_{2_{reduced}} = F_{preamp} + \frac{F_{2_{current}} - 1}{G_{preamp}}$$

$$G_{preamp} = \frac{F_{2_{current}}^p - 1}{F_{2_{reduced}} - F_{preamp}}$$



Reduce Measurement System Noise Figure (cont)

Error in 2nd Stage Correction



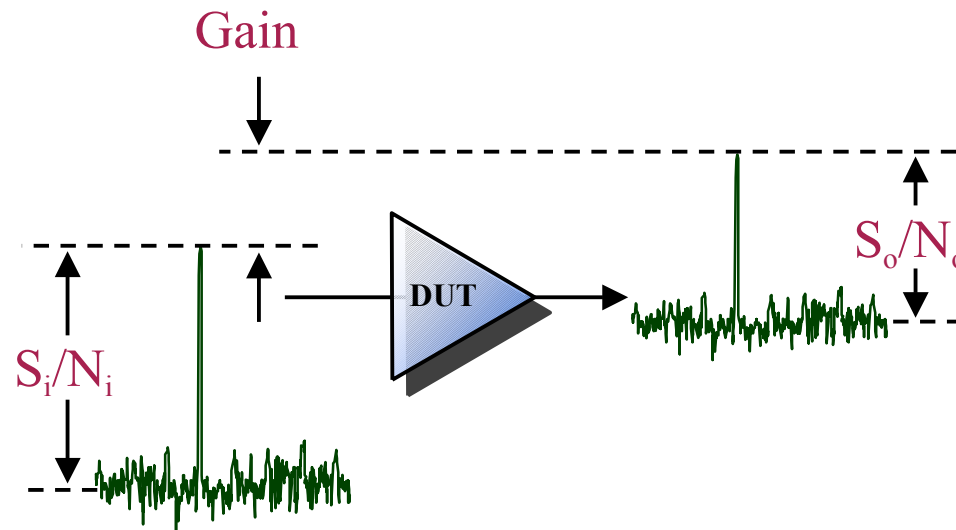
Additional Recommendations

- **Minimize the noise figure of the test system (especially when measuring low gain DUTs).**
- **Reduce the magnitude of all mismatches by using isolators or pads**
- **Minimize the number of adapters, and take care of them**
- **Calibrate Noise Source ENR values regularly and use good pedigree calibration**
- **Use Averaging to Avoid Display Jitter**
- **Choose the Appropriate Bandwidth**
- **Avoid DUT non-linearities**



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Calculating Unavoidable Uncertainty

Available at : www.agilent.com/find/nfu

Microsoft Excel - NF Uncertainty Calculator.xls:1

File Edit View Insert Format Tools Data Window Help

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This spreadsheet calculates the uncertainty of noise figure measurements. The numbers in yellow are user variables and the green area is a calculation area. The final uncertainty is shown in blue, this should be added to and subtracted from the result shown on the noise figure measurement instrument in order to give the spread of possible values.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
9		dB	Linear					
10	DUT NF, F1=	9	7.943282		F12/F1=	1.003083		
11	Instrument NF, F2=	16	39.81072		F2/F1G1=	0.003162		
12	DUT GAIN, G1=	32	1584.893		(F2-1)/F1G1=	0.003083		
13	Combined NF, F12=	9.013368	7.96777		(F12/F1)-(F2/F1G1)=	0.999921		
15	Match	Units*	Refl Coef			Negative	Positive	Max
16	Noise Source=	1.35	0.148936		Uncert NS-DUT IN=	0.26266	0.25495	0.26266
17	DUT Input=	1.5	0.2		Uncert NS-NFA=	0.54971	0.516981	0.54971
18	DUT Output=	1.5	0.2		Uncert DUT OUT-NFA=	0.746486	0.687378	0.746486
19	Instrument=	2.4	0.411765					
21	Uncertainties	dB						
22	Instrument NF=	0.15			Uncert NF12=	0.300198		
23	Instrument Gain=	0.17			Uncert NF2=	0.5669		
24	Noise Source ENR=	0.2	(Amplifiers Only)		Uncert G1=	0.94335		
25	Noise Source ENR=	0	(Receivers Only)		Uncert ENR=	0.2		
27	Noise Figure Uncertainty =					0.357835 dB		
28	Frequency measurement Range = 20 to 26.5 GHz							
29	* This term can be entered in dB (Sxx), VSWR or as a reflection coefficient.						D.Boyd 1999	
30	e.g. -15dB = 1.43 VSWR = 0.178 reflection coefficient							

N8975A with 346C / N8975A with N4002A / E4448A with

Measurement Uncertainty Case Studies

Noise Figure Uncertainty

The uncertainty of the overall noise system is related to the noise source (match and ENR uncertainty), device under test (noise figure, gain, i/p and o/p match) and instrument parameters (noise figure uncertainty, gain uncertainty, level of noise figure and match).

See <http://www.agilent.com/find/nfu>

Example 1. @ 1GHz DUT Noise Figure = 1dB DUT Gain = 20dB
DUT i/p match = 1.5 DUT o/p match = 1.5
PSA = 0.167 dB 8970B = 0.19 dB; N8973A = 0.167 dB
12% less RSS noise figure uncertainty with NFA or PSA

Example 2. @ 6GHz DUT Noise Figure = 6dB DUT Gain = 15dB
DUT i/p match = 1.5 DUT o/p match = 1.5
PSA = 0.186 dB 8970B = 0.327 dB N8973A = 0.186 dB
43% less RSS noise figure uncertainty with NFA or PSA

Example 3. @ 12GHz DUT Noise Figure = 4dB DUT Gain = 20dB
DUT i/p match = 1.8 DUT o/p match = 1.8
8970B/8971C = 0.423 dB N8975A = 0.353 dB
16% less RSS noise figure uncertainty with NFA

Example 4. @ 20GHz DUT Noise Figure = 4dB DUT Gain = 20dB
DUT i/p match = 1.8 DUT o/p match = 1.8
8970B/8971C = 0.945 dB N8975A = 0.409 dB
57% less RSS noise figure uncertainty with NFA

Calculator	Tabular Results	Graphical Results		
Press this Button to reset the form to default values				
Device Under Test <input checked="" type="radio"/> Amplifier <input type="radio"/> Frequency Convertor				
Noise Source Defaults		Instrument Defaults		
<input type="text" value="346B"/>		<input type="text" value="N8973A"/>		
ENR Uncertainty (+/-dB)	DUT Noise Figure, NF1 (dB)	Instr. Noise Fig. Uncert.(+/-dB)		
<input type="text" value="0.2"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>	<input type="text" value="0.05"/>		
NS Match *	DUT Gain, G1 (dB)	Gain Uncertainty (+/-dB)		
<input type="text" value="1.15"/>	<input type="text" value="20"/>	<input type="text" value="0.2"/>		
	DUT Input Match *	Instrument Noise Fig, NF2 (dB)		
	<input type="text" value="1.5"/>	<input type="text" value="6"/>		
	DUT Output Match *	Instrument Match *		
	<input type="text" value="1.5"/>	<input type="text" value="1.6"/>		
Sweep	Parameter	Lower Value	Upper Value	Number of Points
	<input type="text" value="NONE"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
* This term can be entered in dB(Sxx), VSWR or as a reflection coefficient. e.g. -15 (dB) = 1.43 (VSWR) = 0.178 (Refl. Coef.)				

Calculator		Tabular Results	Graphical Results	
Coefficient	Contributors	Factors	Contribution (dB)	
$(F12/F1)$	- Mismatch between the noise source and the DUT - Instrument noise figure measurement uncertainty		0.134	
$(F2/F1G1)$	- Mismatch between the noise source and the instrument - Instrument noise figure measurement uncertainty		0.003	
$((F2 - 1)/(F1G1))$	- Mismatch between the noise source and the DUT - Mismatch between the noise source and the Instrument - Mismatch between the DUT and the instrument - Instrument gain measurement uncertainty		0.007	
$(F12/F1)-(F2/F1G1)$	- Noise source ENR uncertainty		0.199	
RSS Noise Figure Measurement Uncertainty (+/-dB)			0.238	



Agilent's Noise Figure Legacy



340A
1958



8970
1980



8560/90 with NF
1995

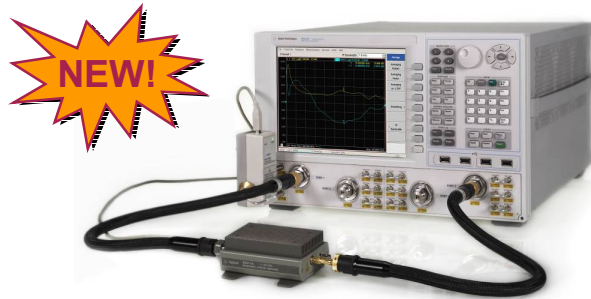


85120
1999



NFA
2000

Nearly 50 years of Leadership



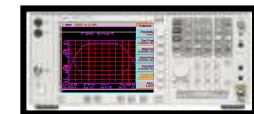
PNA-X with
NF
2007



MXA, EXA with
NF
2007



ESA with NF
2003

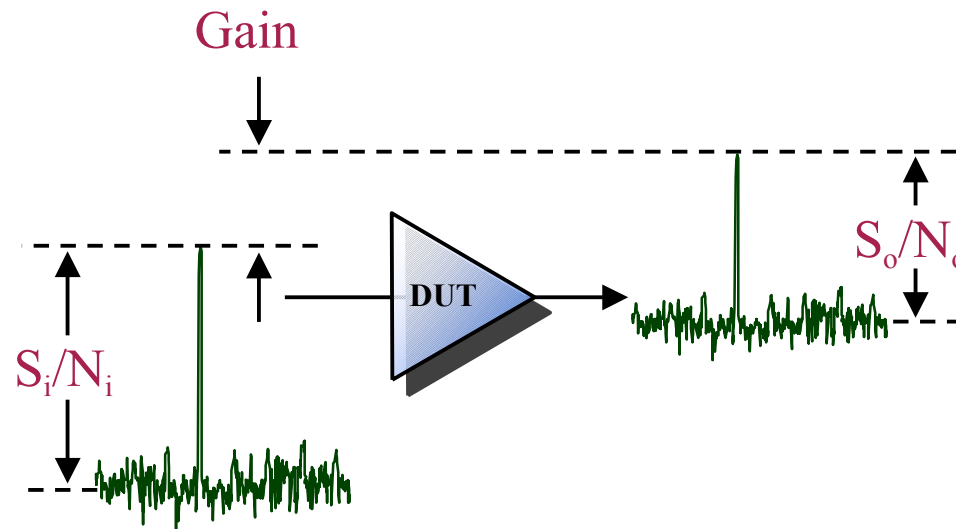


PSA with NF
2002

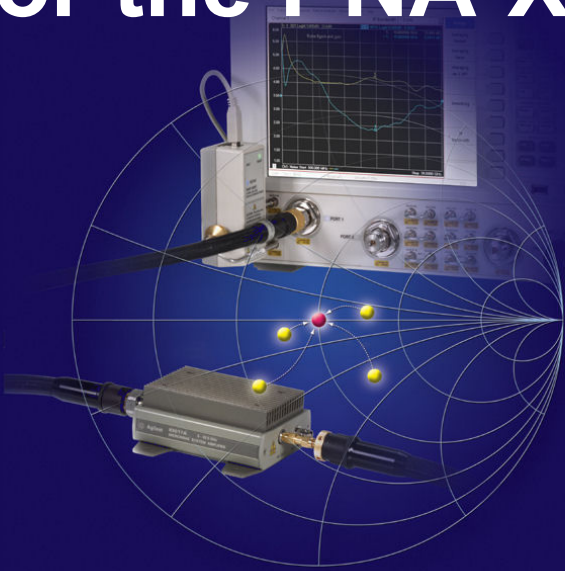


Agenda

- Overview of Noise Figure
- Noise Figure Measurement Techniques
- Accuracy Limitations
- ➔ • PNA-X's Unique Approach



Source-corrected Noise Figure Measurements for the PNA-X



PNA Series

325 GHz

110 GHz

67 GHz

50 GHz

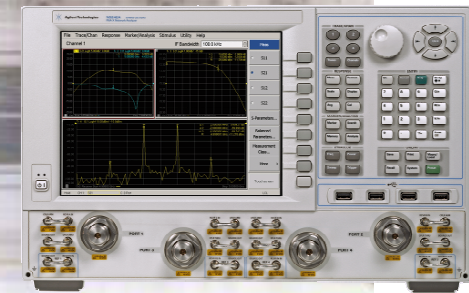
40 GHz

20 GHz

13.5 GHz

6 GHz

PNA-X



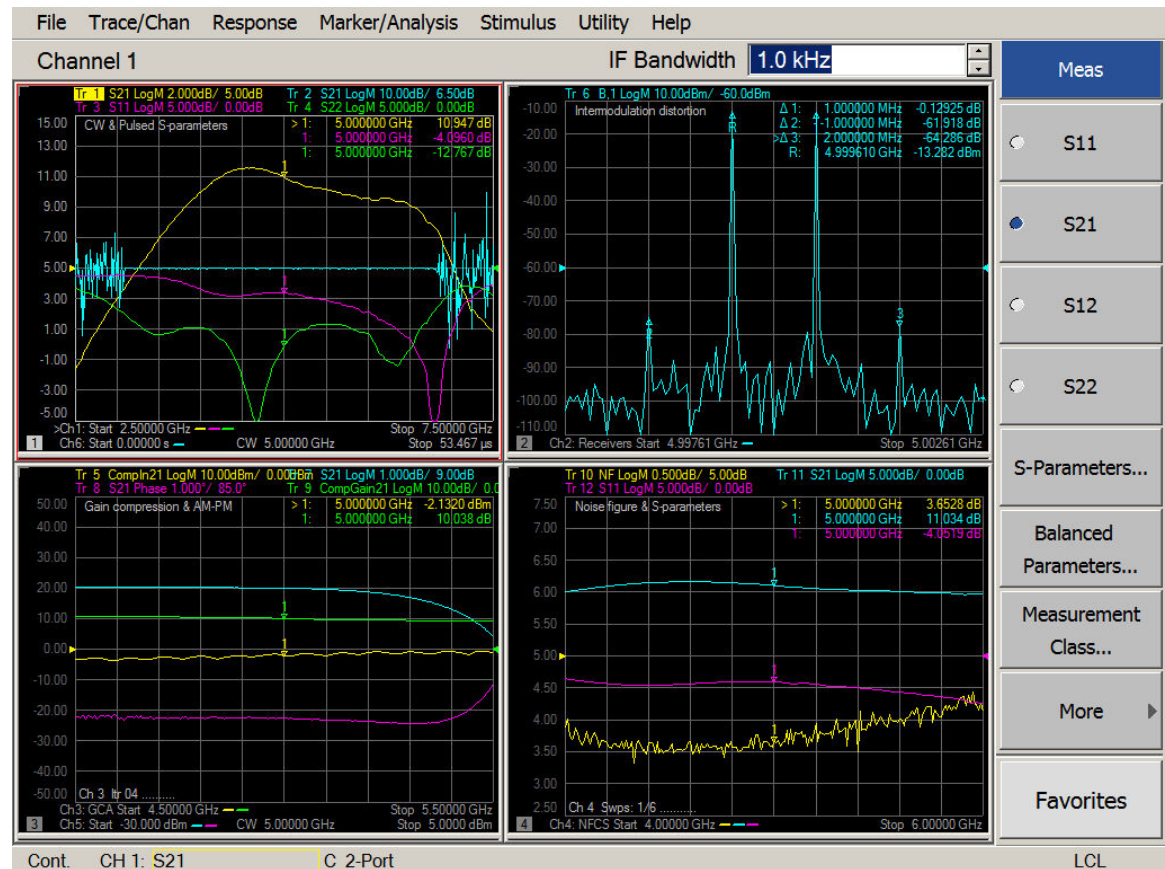
10 MHz - 26.5 GHz



Single Connection, Multiple Measurements

- Easily switch between measurements:

- One signal source
- CW S-parameters
- Pulsed S-parameters
- Gain compression
- AM-to-PM conversion
- Harmonics
- Two signal sources
- Intermodulation distortion
- Hot- S_{22}
- Phase versus drive
- True-mode stimulus
- Conversion loss/gain
- Noise figure

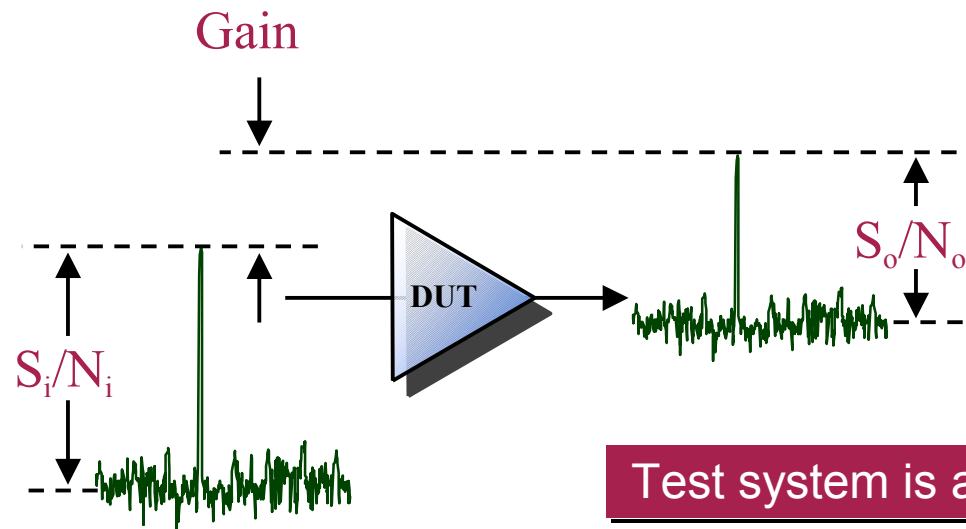


Noise Figure Definition

Noise figure is defined in terms of SNR degradation:

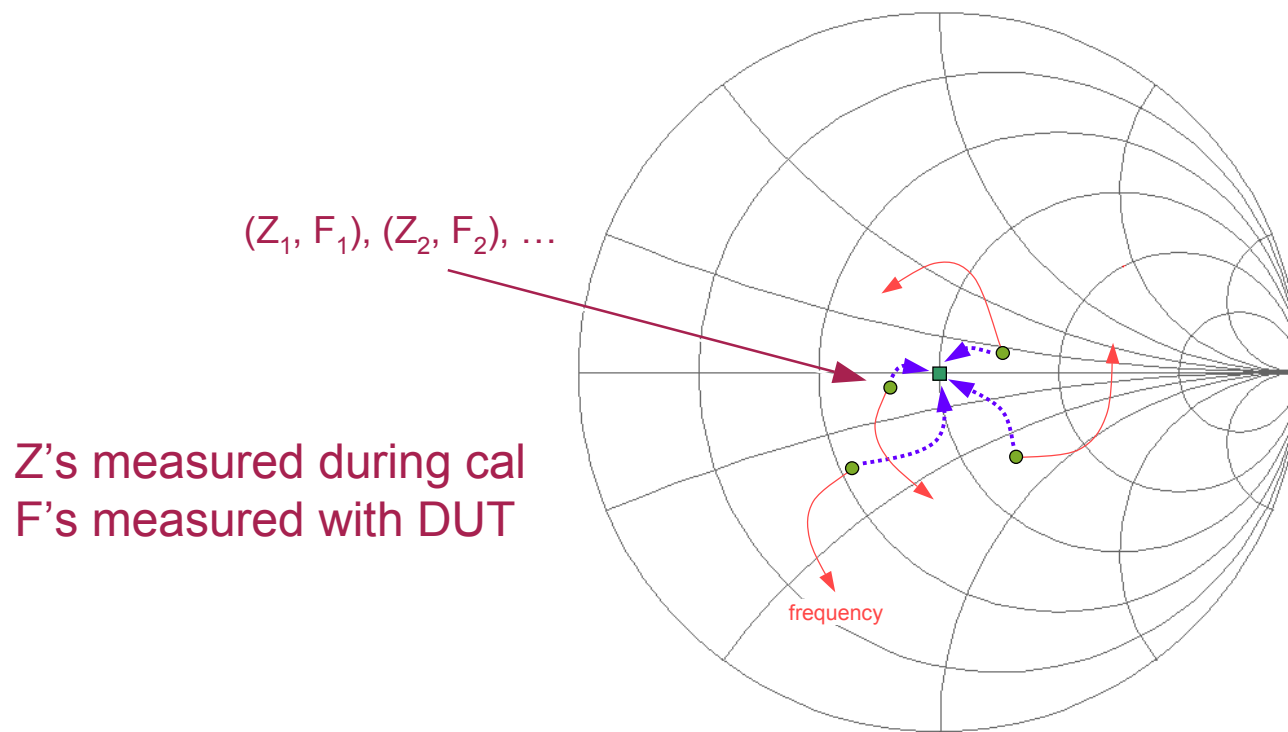
$$F = \frac{(S_i/N_i)}{(S_o/N_o)} = \frac{(N_o)}{(G \times N_i)} \quad (\text{noise factor})$$

$$\text{NF} = 10 \times \log (F) \quad (\text{noise figure})$$

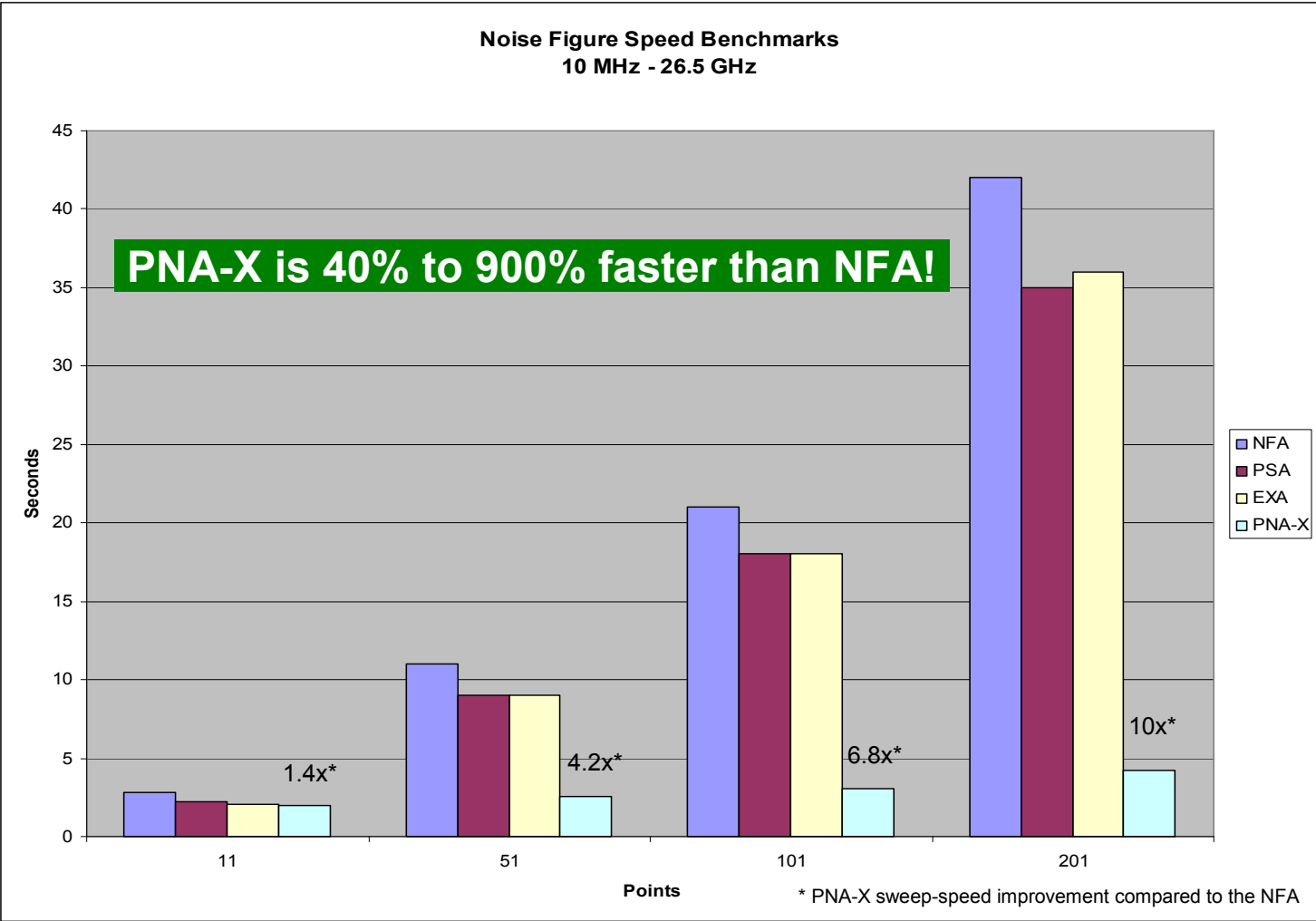


PNA-X's Unique Source-Corrected Technique

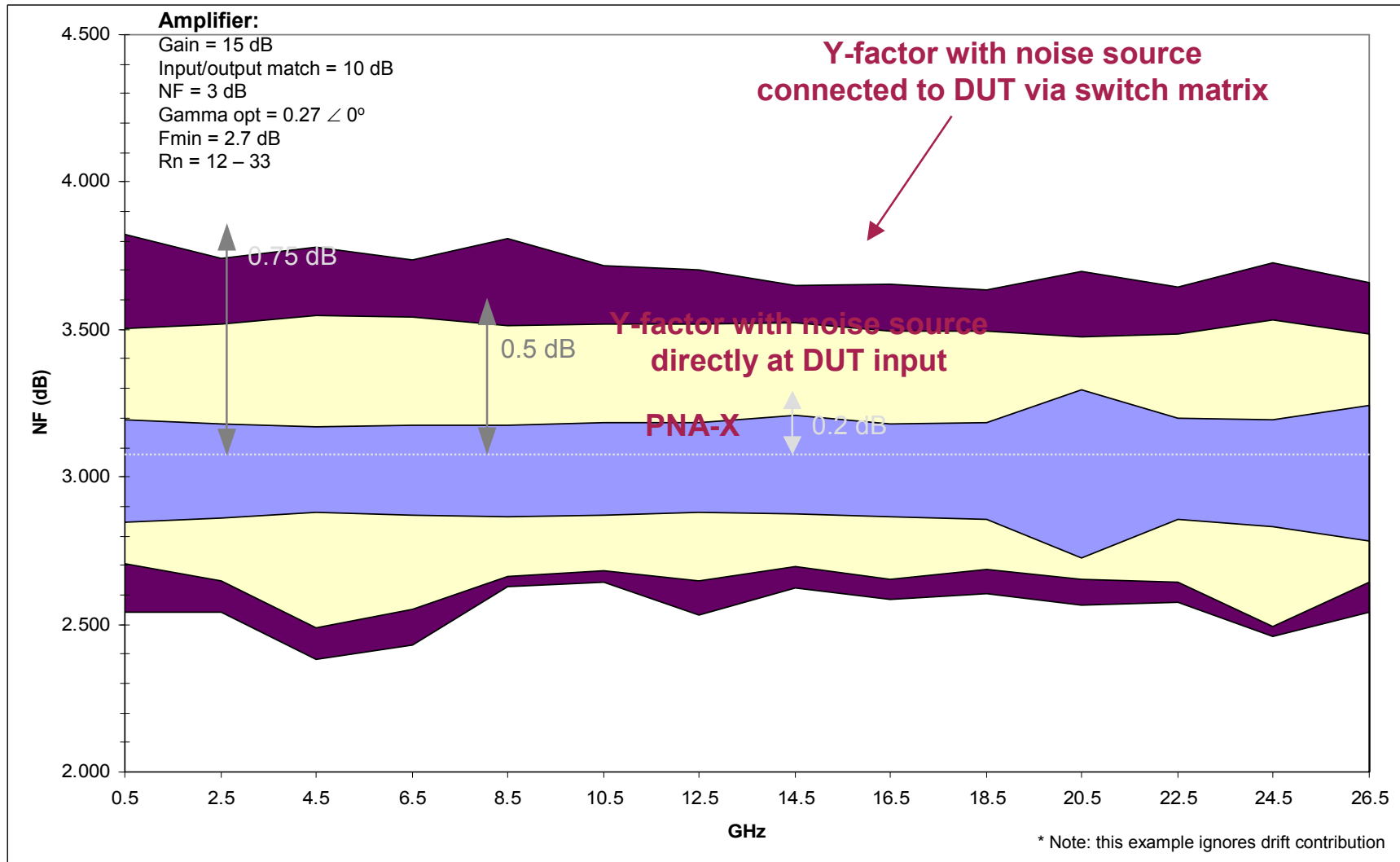
- PNA-X varies source match around 50 ohms using an ECal module (source-pull technique)
- With resulting impedance/noise-figure pairs and vector error terms, very accurate 50-ohm noise figure (NF_{50}) can be calculated
- Each impedance state is measured versus frequency



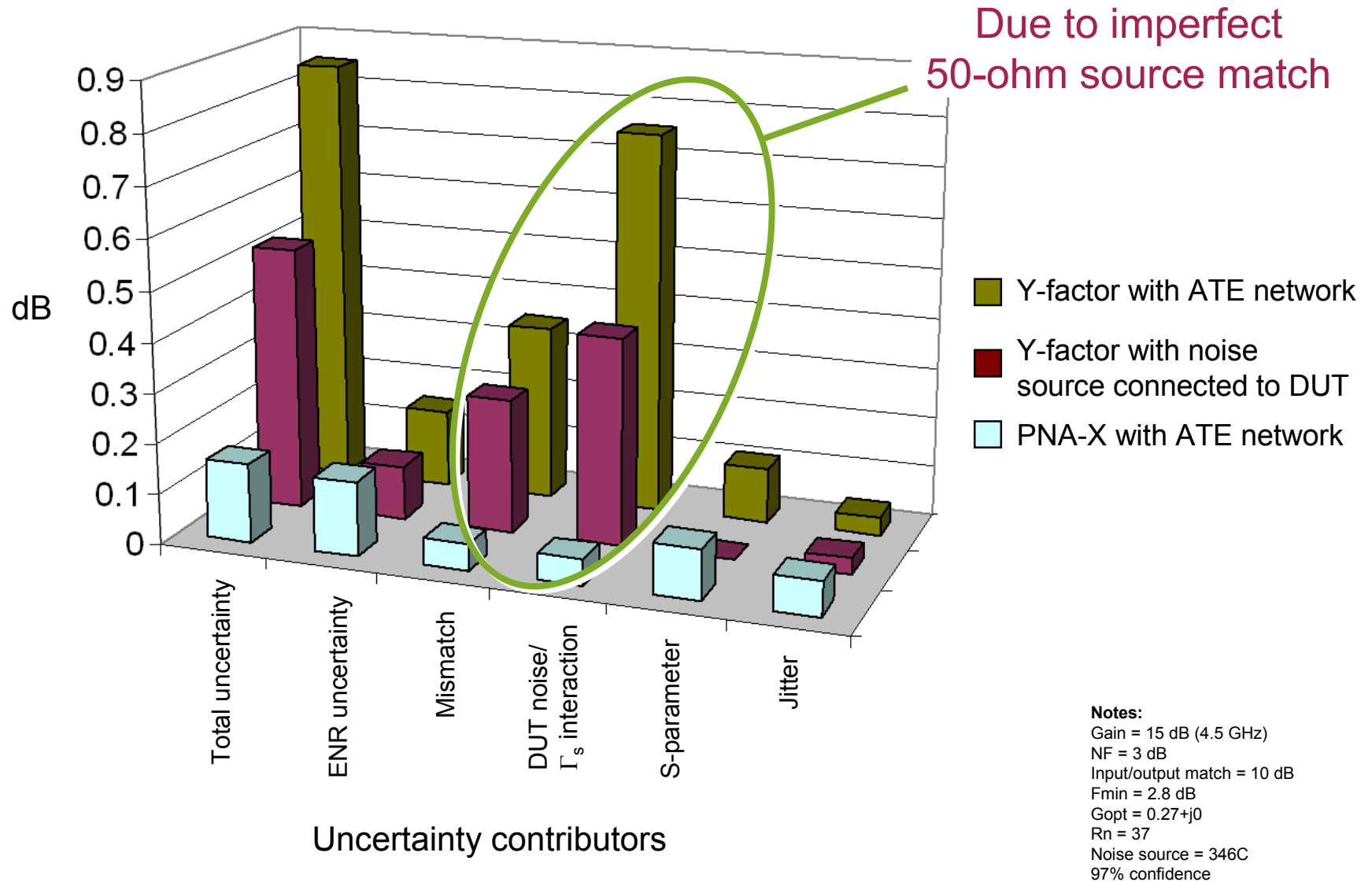
Speed Comparison: PNA-X Versus Y-Factor



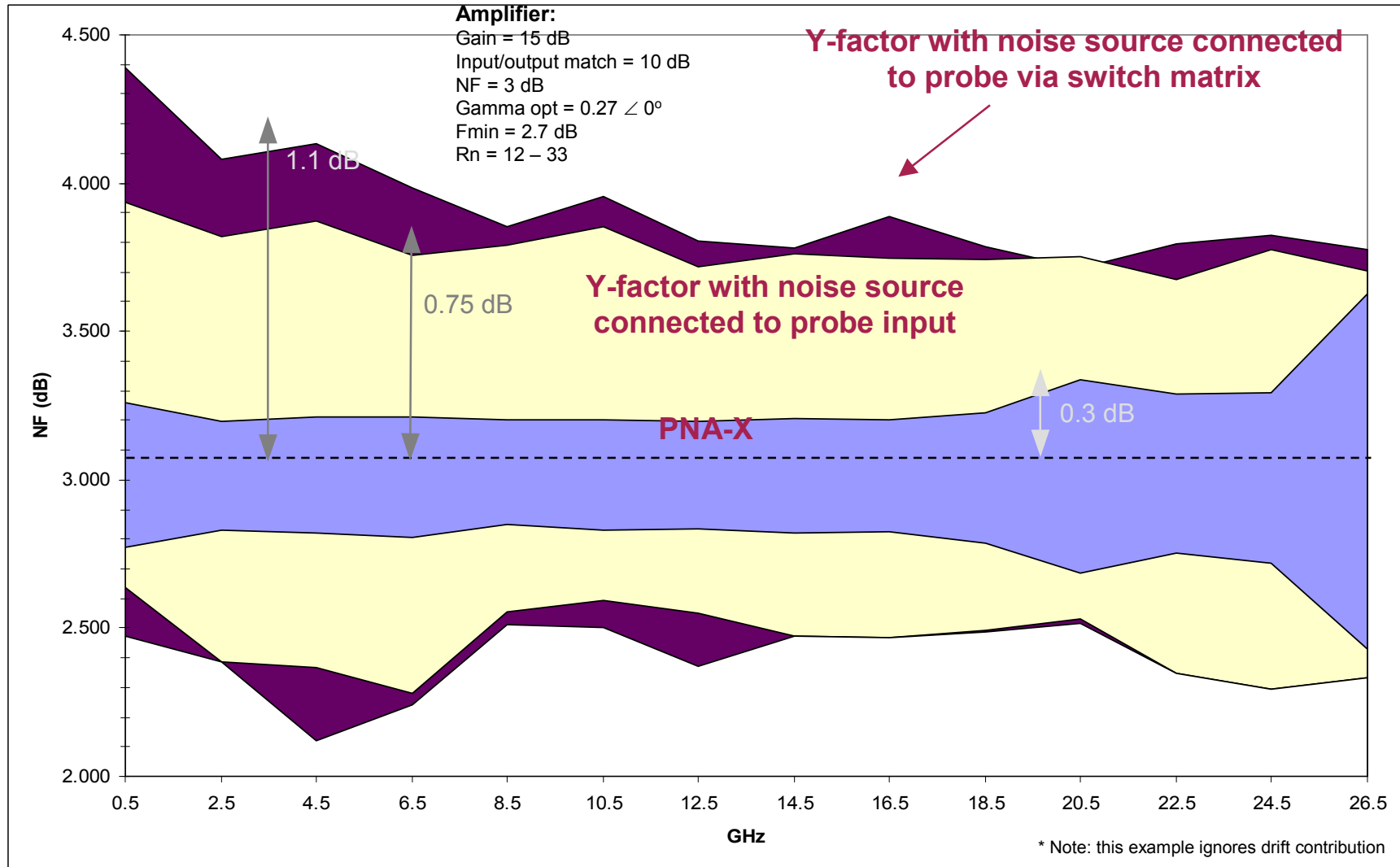
Noise Figure Uncertainty Example (ATE Setup)



Uncertainty Breakdown (ATE Setup)

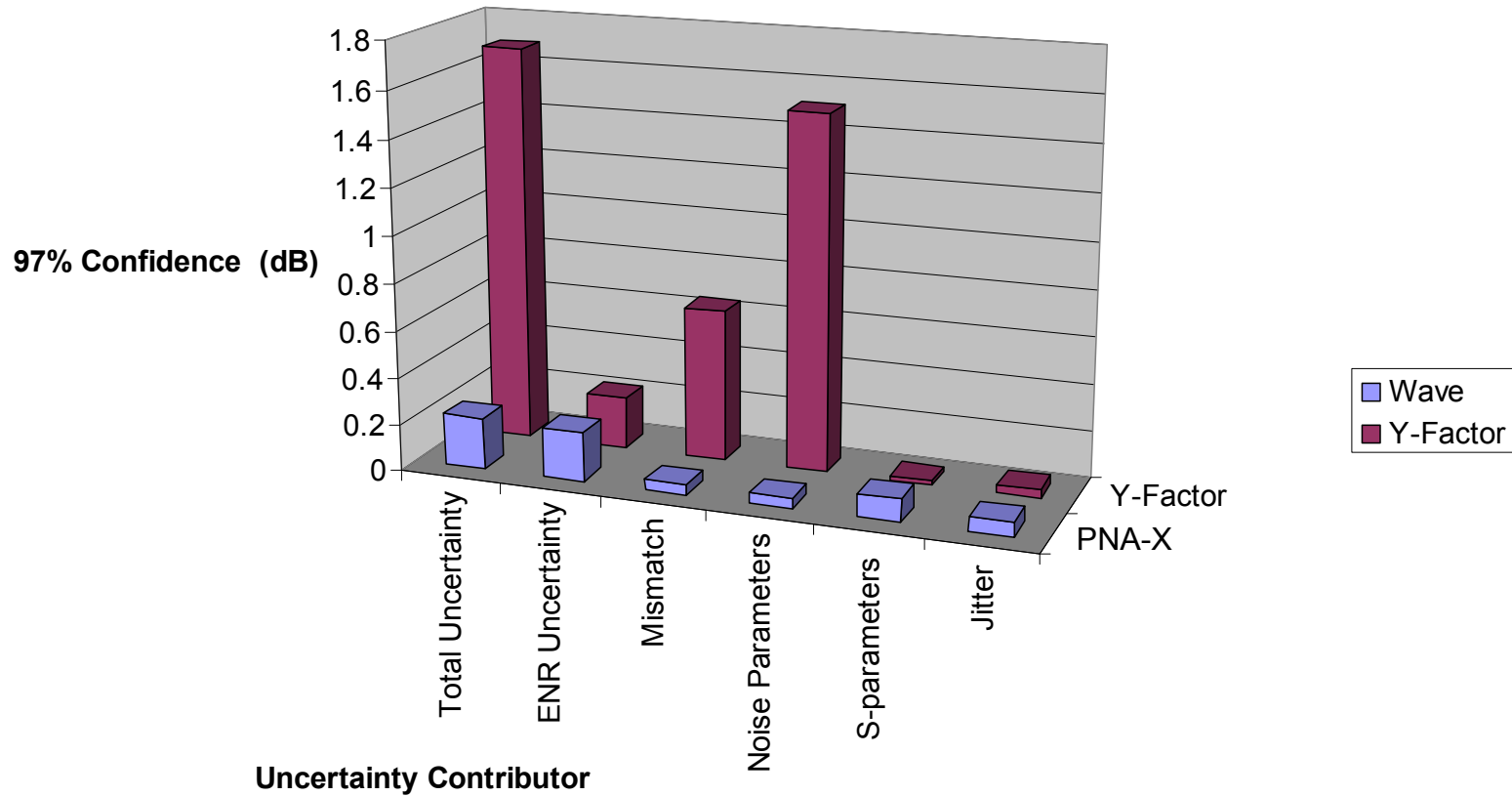


Noise Figure Uncertainty Example (Wafer Setup)

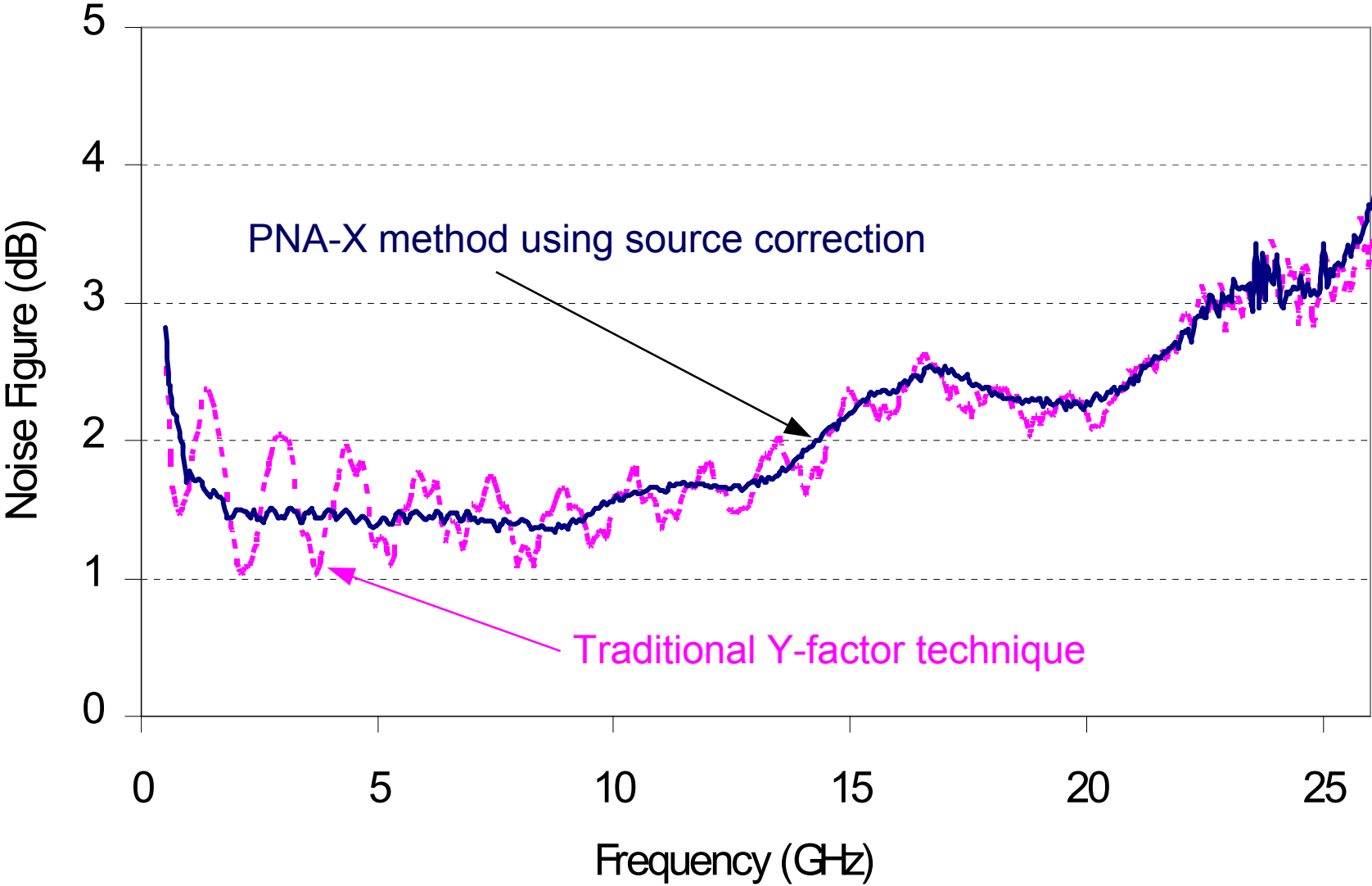


Uncertainty Breakdown (Wafer Setup)

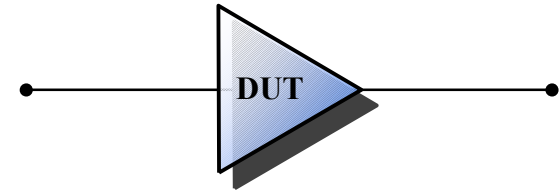
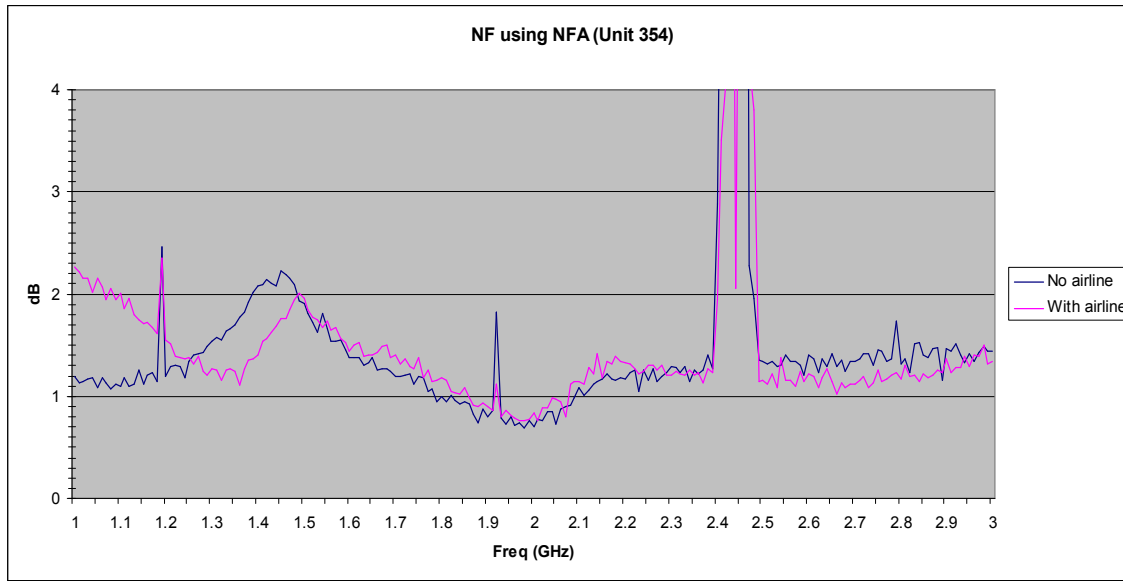
On Wafer 15 dB amp with 3 dB Noise figure at 4.5 GHz
(Fmin = 2.8 dB, Gopt = 0.27 +j0, Rn = 37.4)



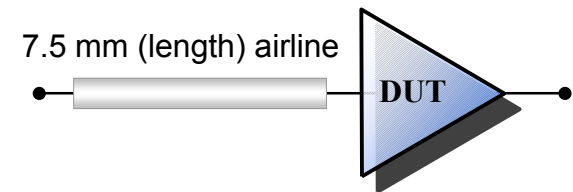
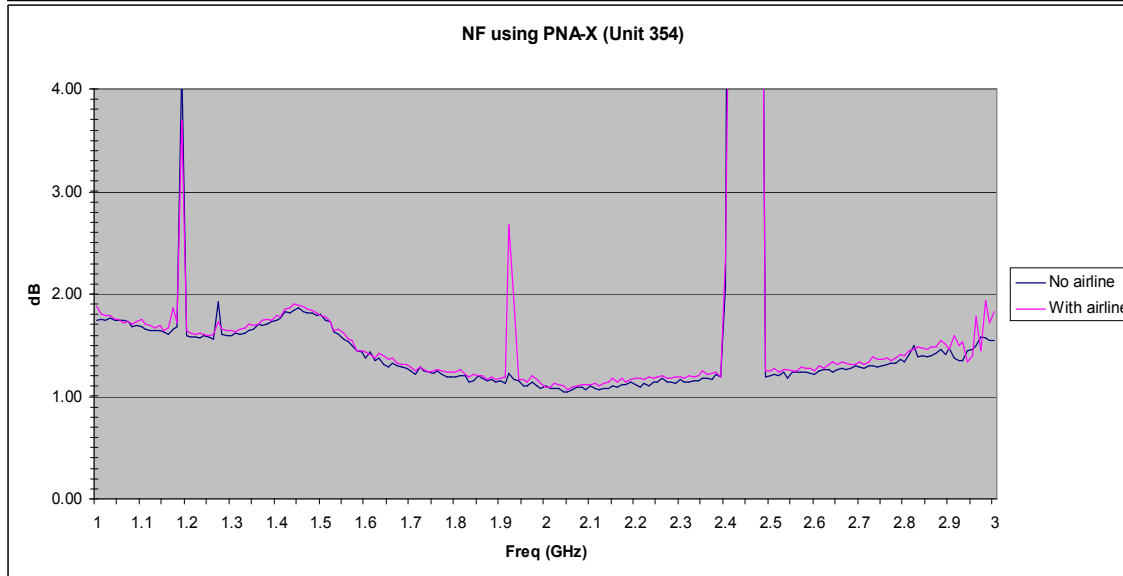
Example NF Measurements



Airline Demonstration



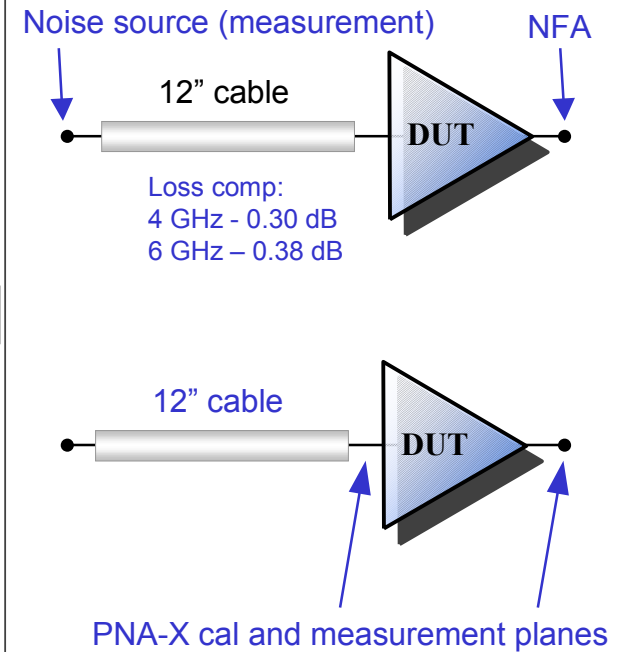
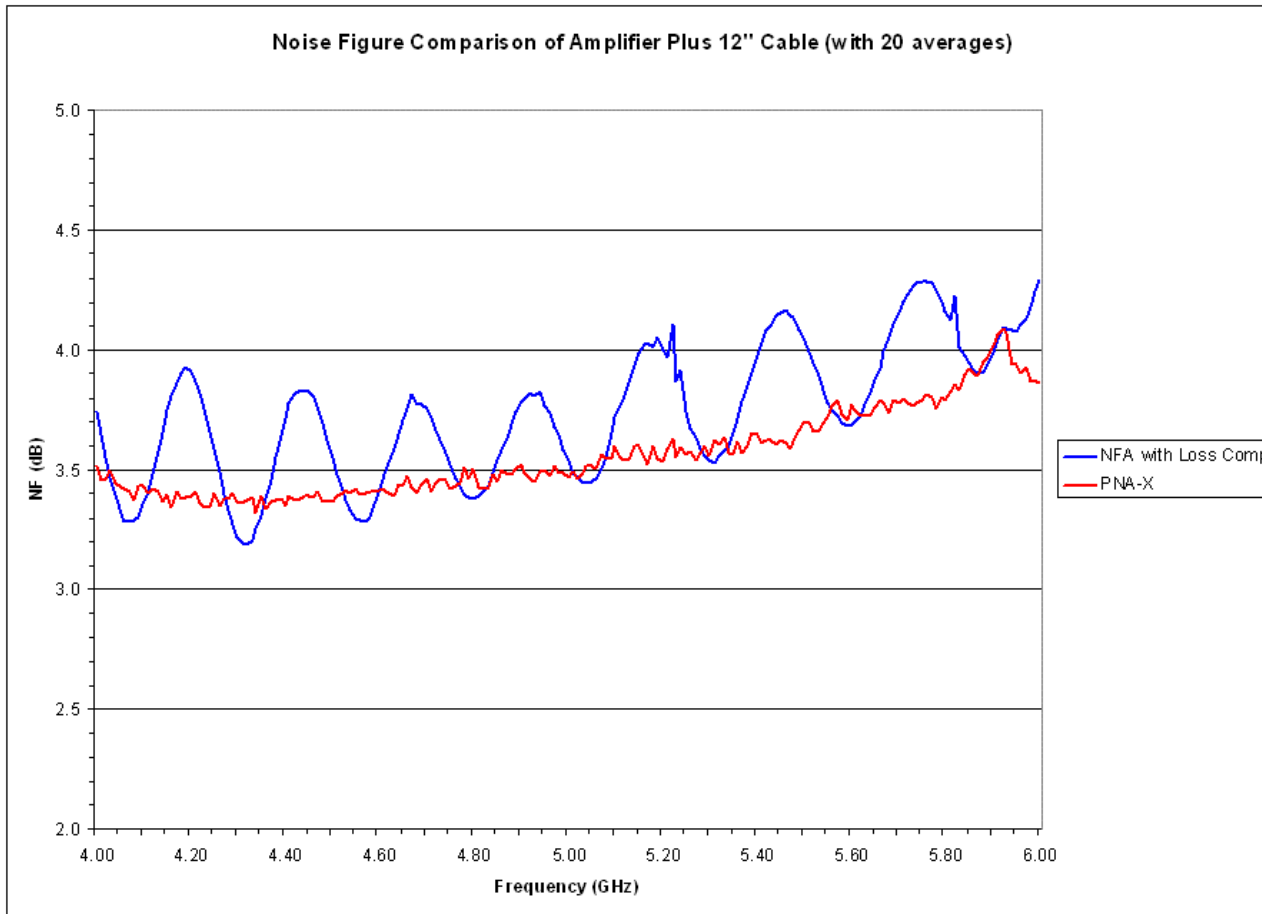
Measurement 1:
DUT alone



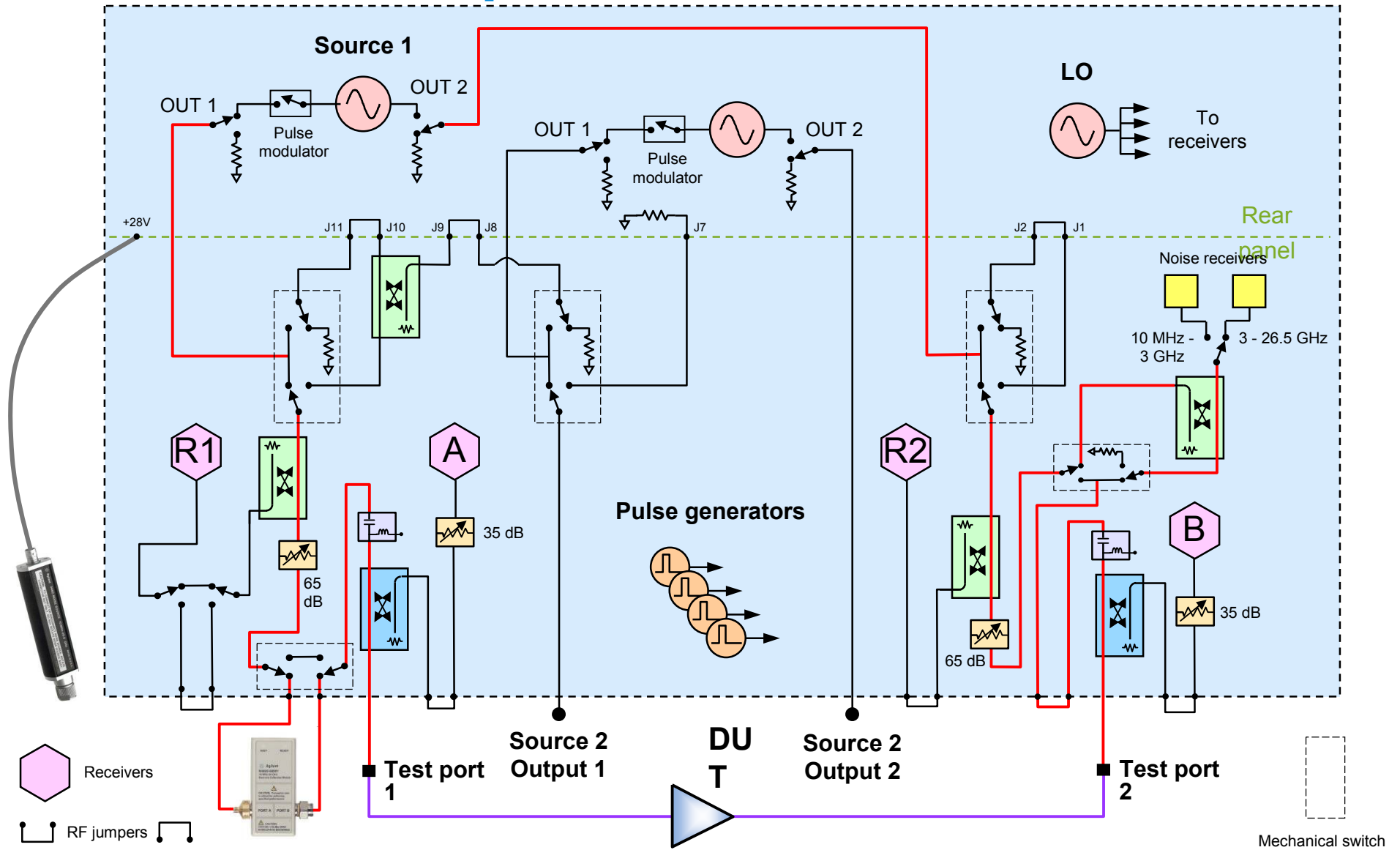
Measurement 2:
DUT with airline



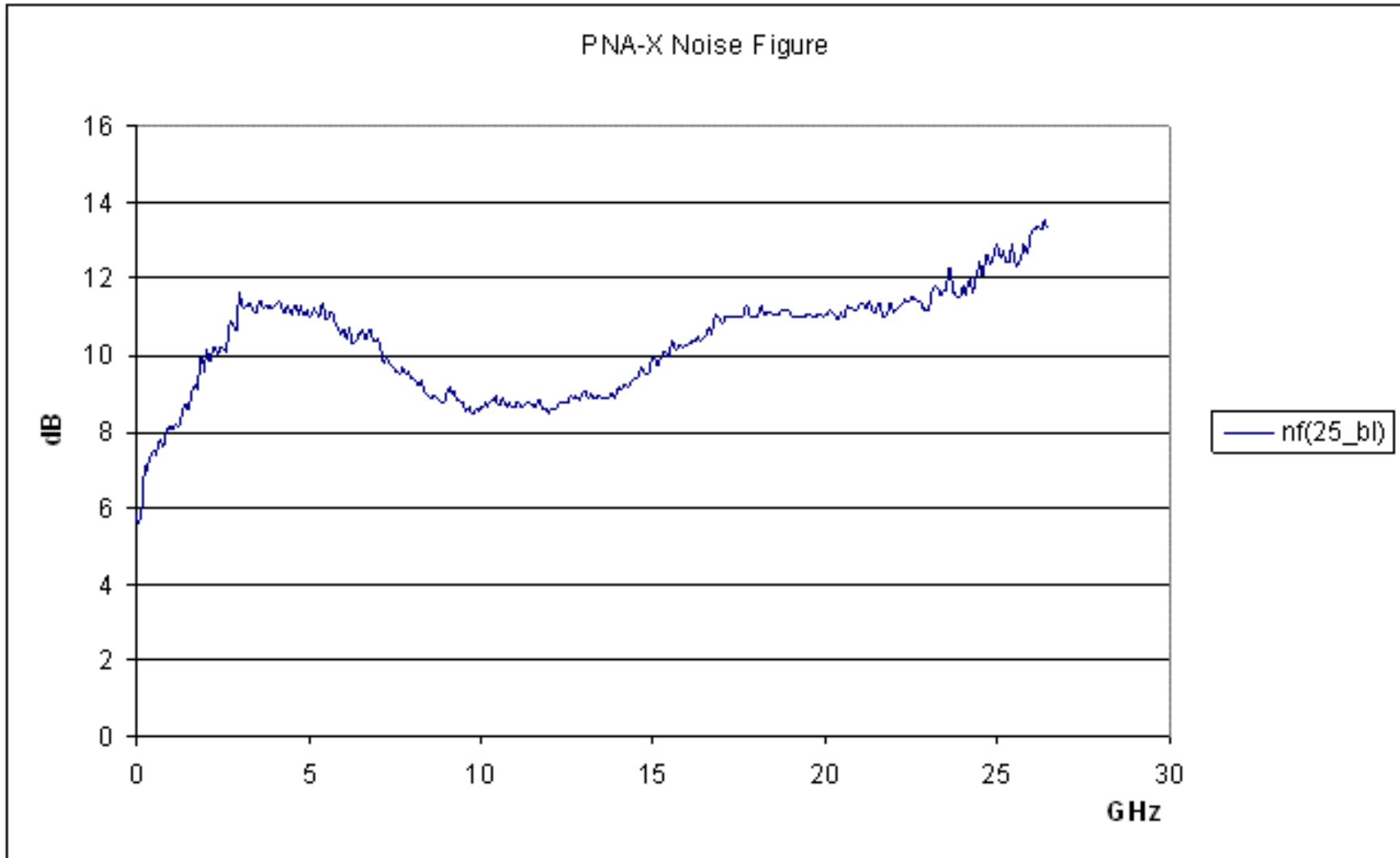
NF Comparison in Pseudo ATE environment



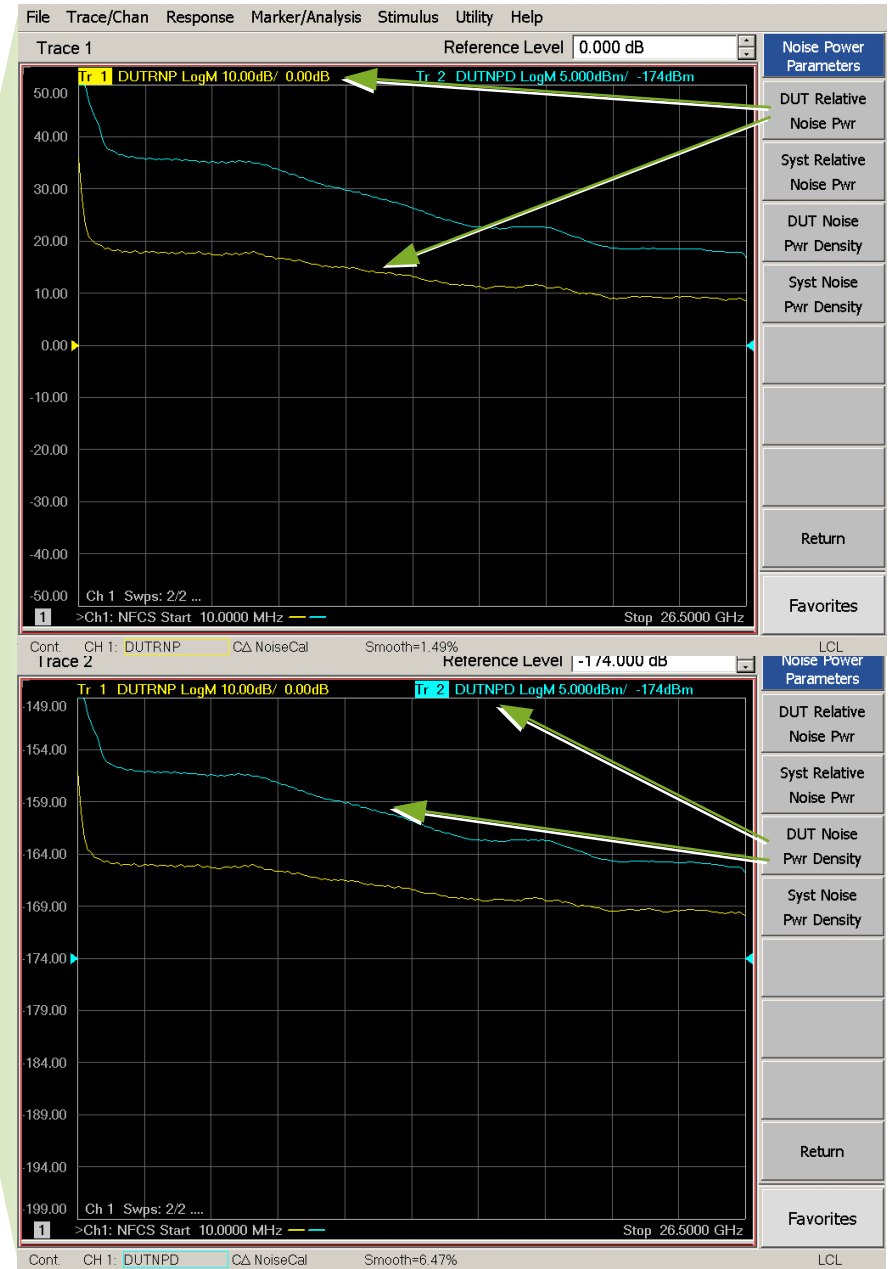
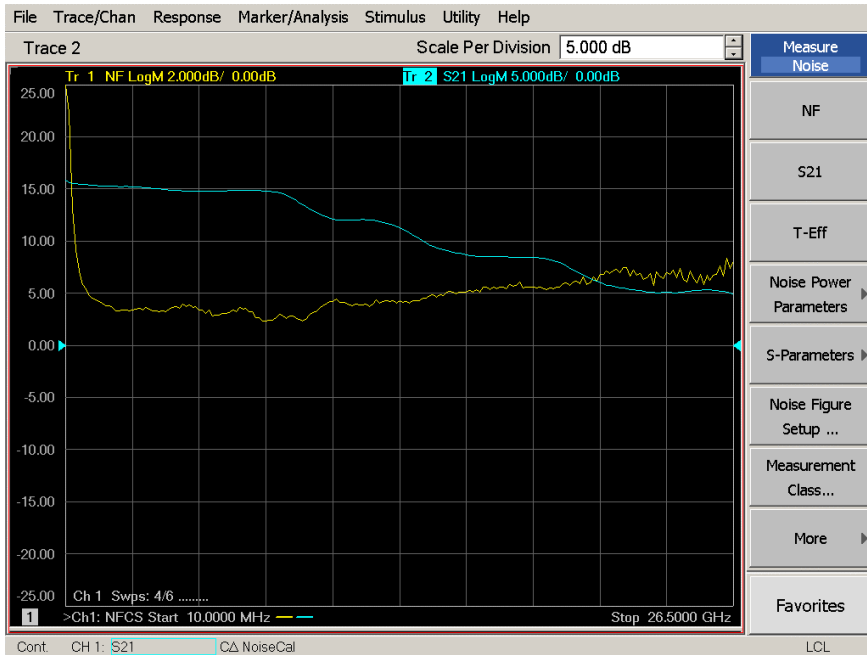
2-Port PNA-X Options 219, 224, 029



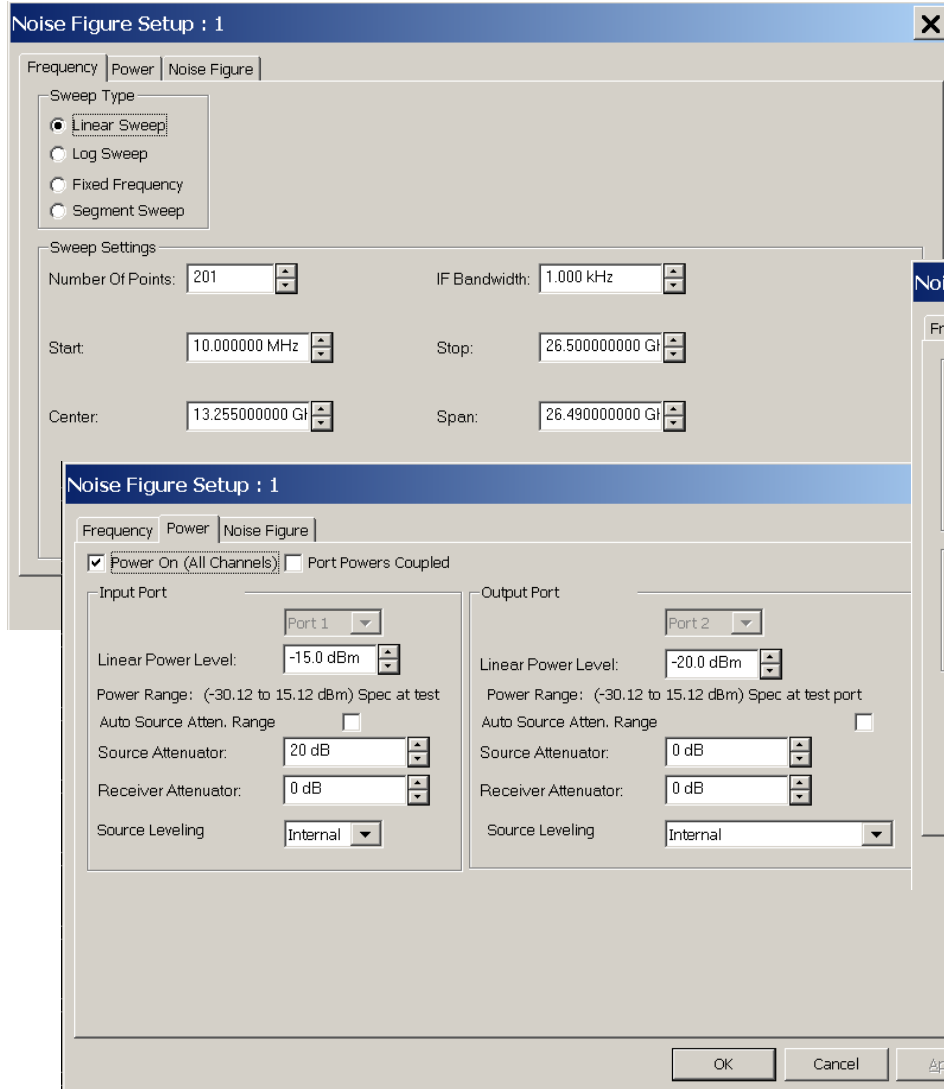
Typical Noise Figure of Port Two



Noise Channel Parameters



Noise Figure Setup



Frequency | Power | Noise Figure

Sweep Type

- Linear Sweep
- Log Sweep
- Fixed Frequency
- Segment Sweep

Sweep Settings

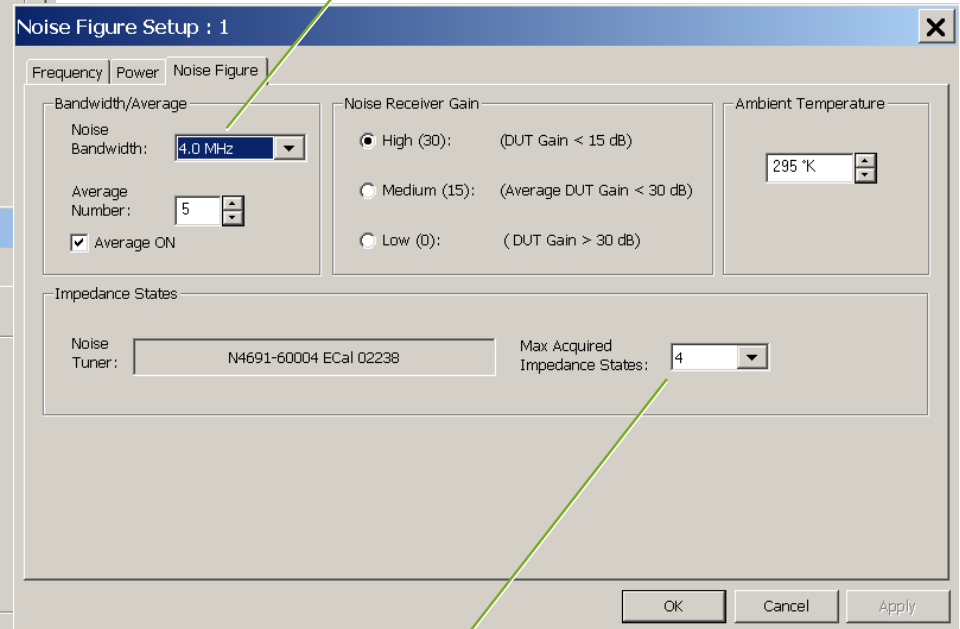
Number Of Points: 201 IF Bandwidth: 1.000 kHz

Start: 10.000000 MHz Stop: 26.50000000 Gi

Center: 13.255000000 Gi Span: 26.490000000 Gi

OK Cancel Apply

- 24 MHz
- 8.0 MHz
- 4.0 MHz
- 2.0 MHz
- 800 kHz



Frequency | Power | Noise Figure

Bandwidth/Average

Noise Bandwidth: 4.0 MHz

Average Number: 5

Average ON

Noise Receiver Gain

- High (30): (DUT Gain < 15 dB)
- Medium (15): (Average DUT Gain < 30 dB)
- Low (0): (DUT Gain > 30 dB)

Ambient Temperature: 295 °K

Impedance States

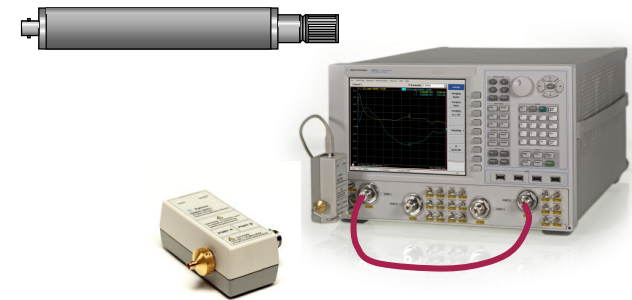
Noise Tuner: N4691-60004 ECal 02238 Max Acquired Impedance States: 4

OK Cancel Apply

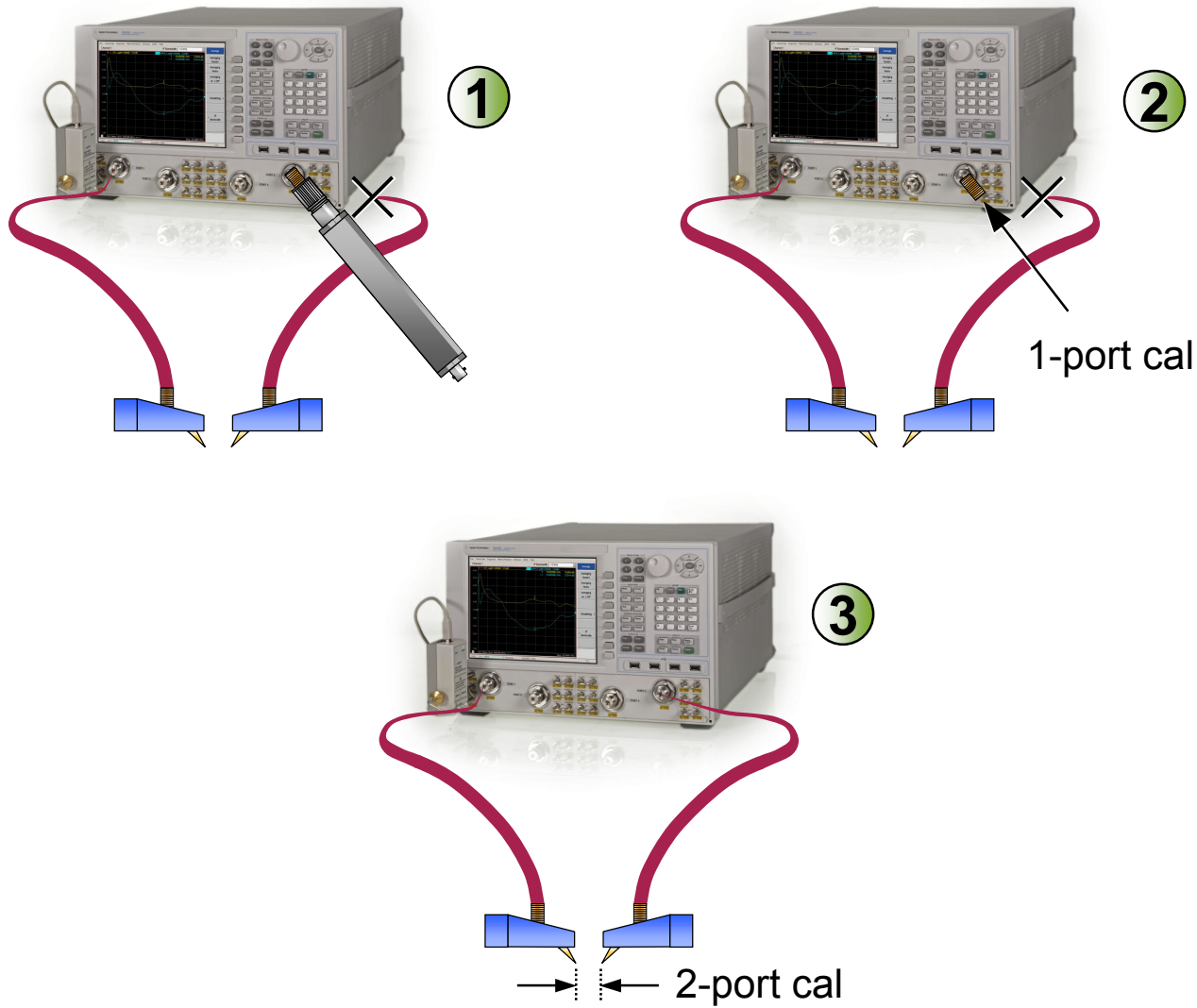
4 through 7

Calibration Procedure

- Calibration uses sinusoidal and noise sources, plus cold terminations
- Some differences between high and low band calibrations
- Calibration sequence for simplest case (insertable)
 1. Connect noise source to port 2
 - Measure hot and cold noise power
 - Measure hot and cold match of noise source
 2. Connect through (ports 1 and 2)
 - Measure gain differences between 0, 15, 30 dB stages
 - Measure load match of noise receivers
 - Measure Γ_s values of ECal used as impedance tuner
 - Measure receiver noise power with different tuner Γ_s values (mechanical cal only)
 3. Connect calibration standards (ports 1 and 2)
 - Measure normal S-parameter terms
 - Measure receiver noise power with different Γ_s values (use ECal or mechanical standards)
- Non-insertable cases require extra steps
 - additional 1-port calibration to account for adapter if noise source is non-insertable
 - additional S-parameter cal steps for non-insertable DUTs

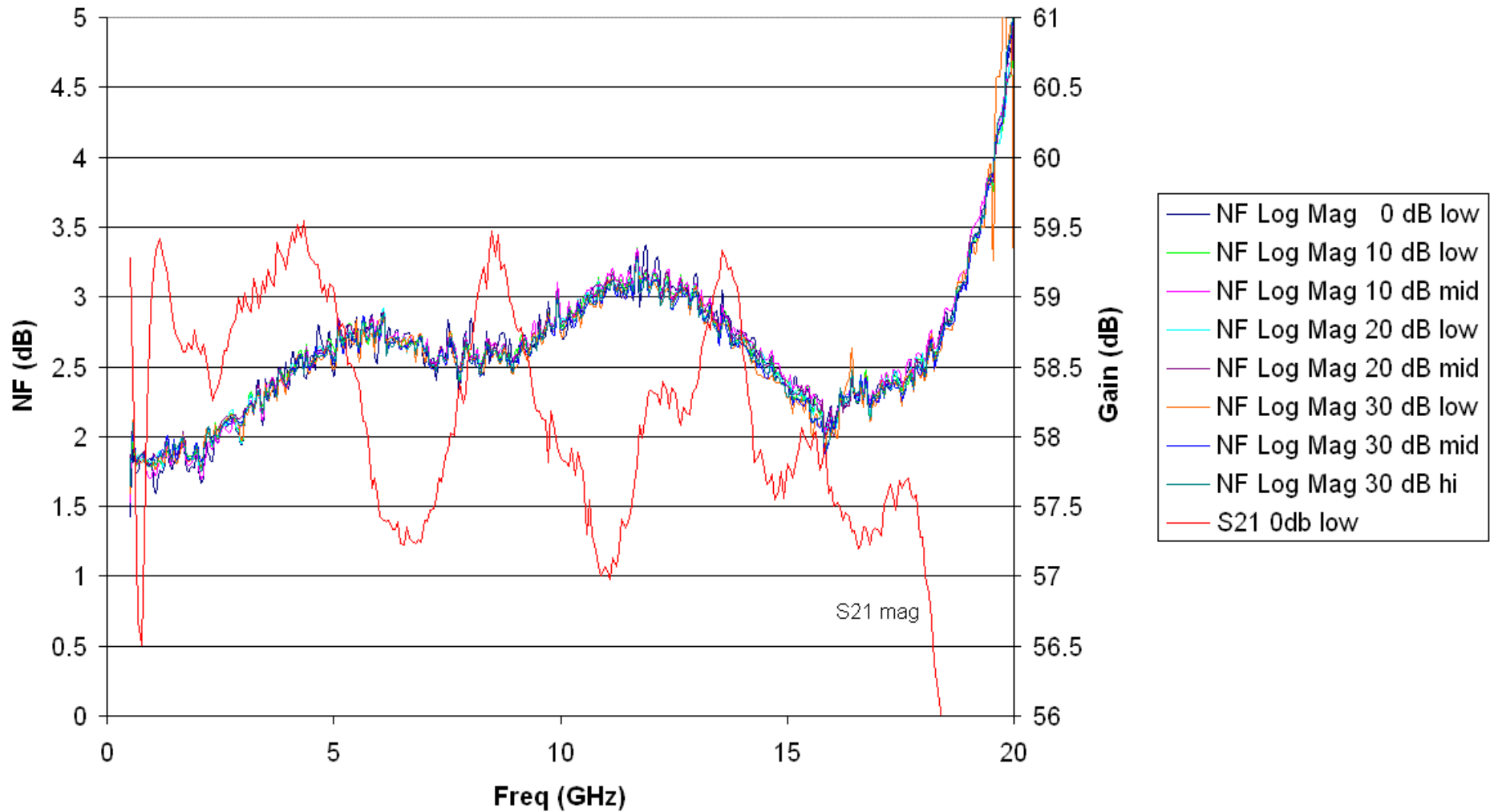


Calibrating On Wafer

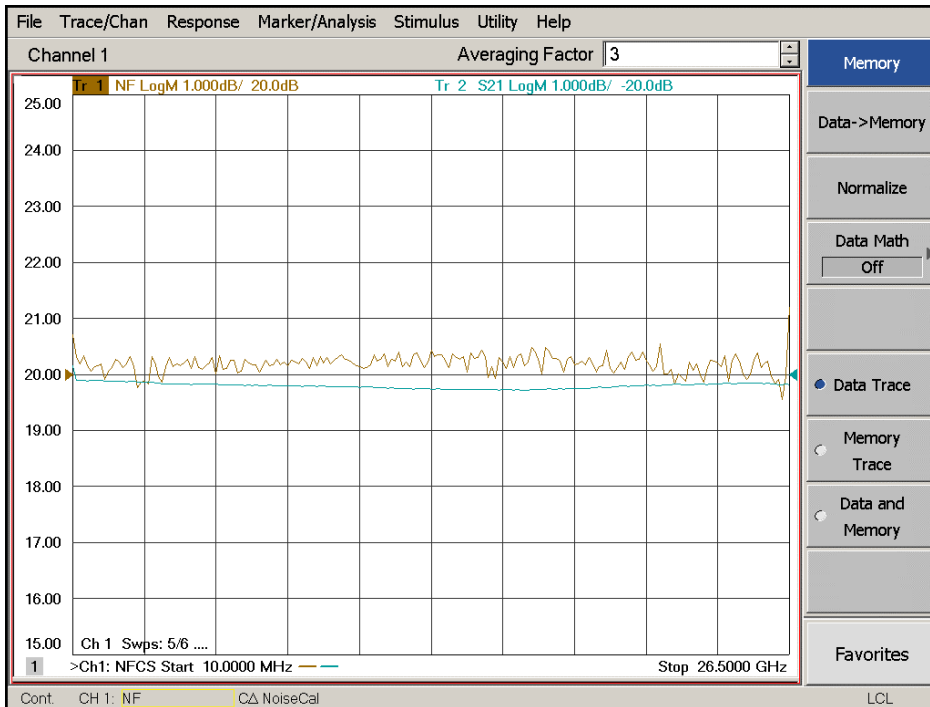


Comparison Between Gain Settings

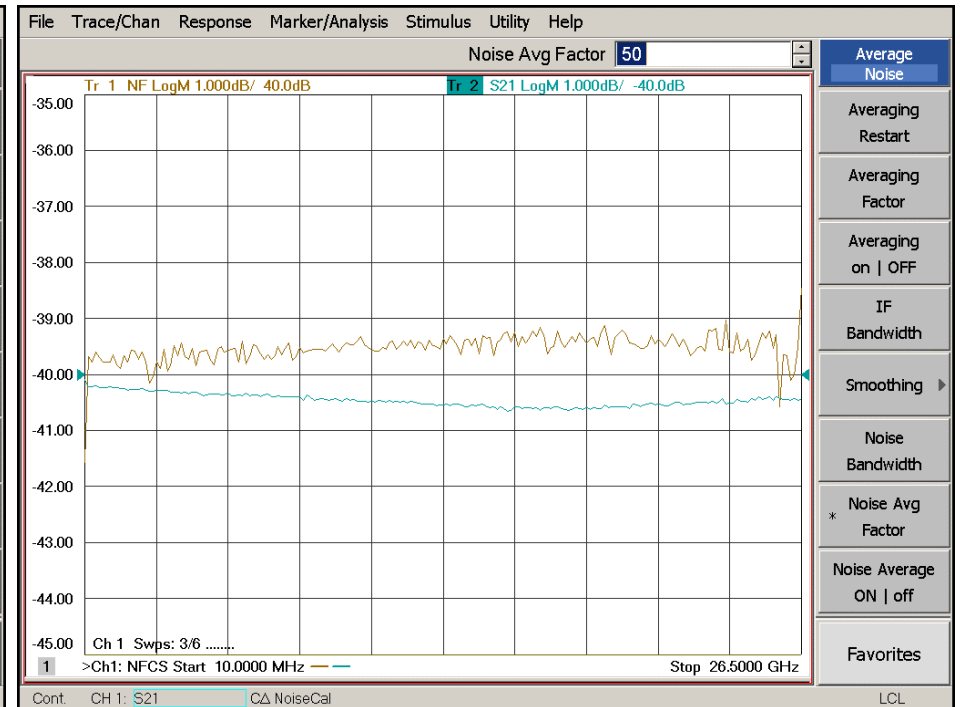
NF AMF7D Miteq w/various pads



Measuring Attenuators



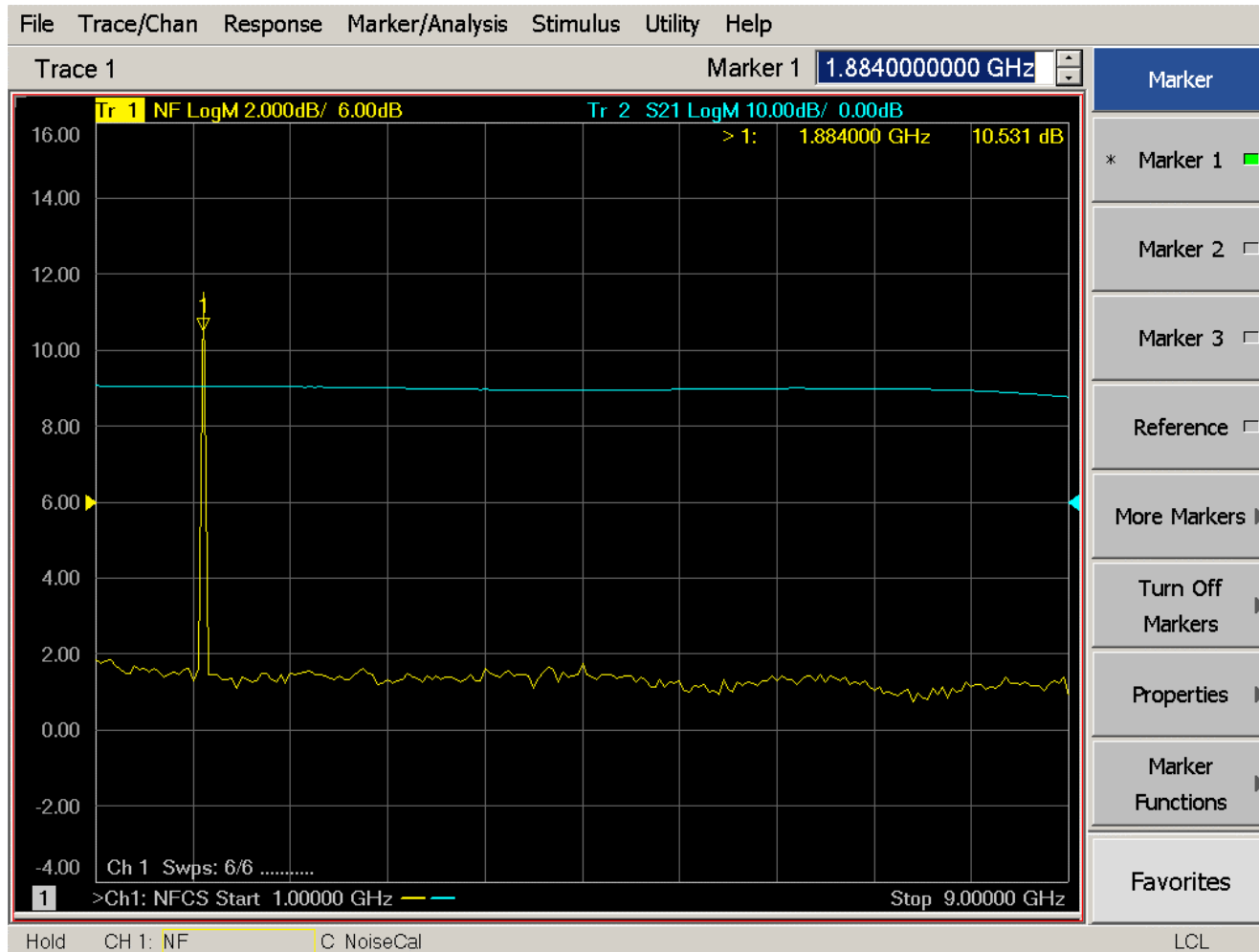
20 dB attenuator



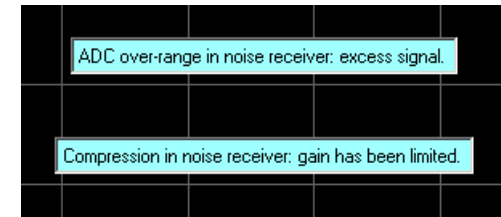
40 dB attenuator

Interference

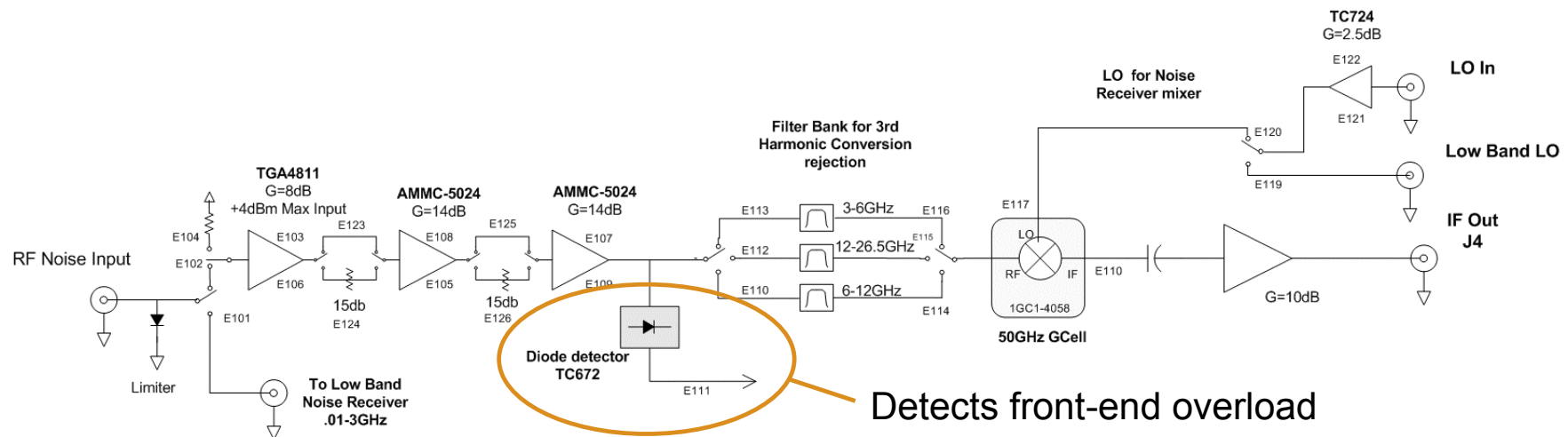
Beware of unshielded devices, especially near 0.9, 1.8, 2.4, 5.5 GHz!



Compression and Damage

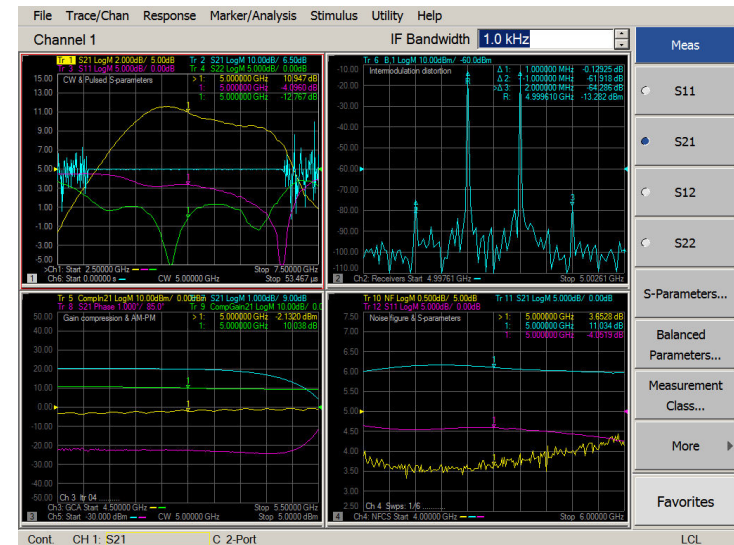
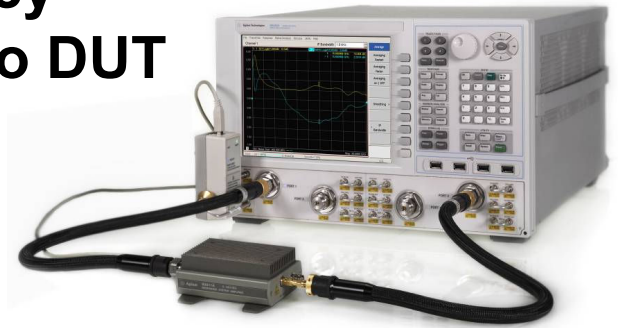


- **Compression in noise receivers:**
 - Wideband noise compresses front-end amplifiers first
 - Narrowband noise likely to compress ADC before front-end amplifiers
 - PNA-X will report overload for both cases
- **Damage level for noise receivers is lower than standard receivers**
 - Front-panel specification is +25 dBm in noise mode
 - Firmware checks power before switching in 30 dB stage



Summary

- Y-factor method offers reasonable accuracy when noise source is connected directly to DUT
- Source-corrected cold-source technique:
 - Offers best accuracy in all cases
 - Works in fixtured, on-wafer, and ATE environments
 - Is 1.4 to 10 times faster than NFA
- PNA-X offers highest accuracy as well as speed and convenience of single connection to DUT for a variety of amplifier measurements



References

- **Applications Notes**

- **Fundamentals of RF and Microwave Noise Figure Measurements, AN 57-1, Publication Number 5952-8255E**
- **Noise Figure Measurement Accuracy - The Y-Factor Method, AN 57-2, Publication Number**
- **10 Hints for Making Successful Noise Figure Measurements, AN 57-3, Publication Number 5980-0288EN**

- **Web Links**

<http://www.agilent.com/find/nf>

NFA : <http://www.agilent.com/find/nfa>

PSA : <http://www.agilent.com/find/psa>

NF Uncertainty Calculators: <http://www.agilent.com/find/nfu>

