

Power Integrity Measurement With Rohde & Schwarz VNA



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Typical PDN Impedance Profile



- Impedance profile formed by the interaction of various PDN components
- Impedance peak at package/chip resonance
- Peak impedance dependent on package, PCB, and on-chip parameters
- Typical impedance in the range of tens of milliohms



2-Port VNA Measurements of Low Z_{DUT}



1st order Analysis
(Z_{DUT}<<Z_o)

$$Z_{DUT} = 25 \, \mathrm{S}_{21} \, \Omega$$

• 2nd order Analysis

$$Z_{DUT} = 25 \ \frac{S_{21}}{1 - S_{21}} \qquad \Omega$$



Low-Freq Errors Caused by Ground Loop



If the DUT's impedance is very small (ZDUT < tens of milliohms) Source current flows into source-to-receiver cable GND loop. Measurement errors occur at LF range (<20kHz)



Use Transformer to Break the Ground Loop





18 GHz R-Probe





R-Probe is ideal for probing a populated board with test points surrounded by components because of its 30-mil probe tips. Typical R-Probe applications are PDN and RF measurements.

TCS70 Calibration Substrate



Specifications:

Substrate: Polished alumina **Structure**: Open, short, thru, 25 Ω , 50 Ω , 100 Ω **Contact Material**: Gold **Accuracy**: 25 Ω , 50 Ω < 0.5%, 100 Ω < 1% **Size**: 17.3 x 9.4 x 0.6 mm (0.68 x 0.37 x 0.025 in)

R-Probe Part No.

- RP-GR-151502 18 GHz, 0.2 mm/ 8 mil pitch
- **RP-GR-151503** 18 GHz, 0.3 mm/ 8 mil pitch
- RP-GR-151504 15 GHz, 0.4 mm/16 mil pitch
- **RP-GR-151505** 15 GHz, 0.5 mm/20 mil pitch
- RP-GR-121508 12 GHz, 0.8 mm/32 mil pitch
- RP-GR-121510 12 GHz, 1.0 mm/40 mil pitch



Probe-Pitch Selection



R-Probe Part Number:

- RP-GR-181502 18 GHz, 0.2 mm/ 8 mil pitch
- RP-GR-181503 18 GHz, 0.3 mm/ 12 mil pitch
- RP-GR-151504 15 GHz, 0.4 mm/ 16 mil pitch
- RP-GR-151505 15 GHz, 0.5 mm/ 20 mil pitch
- RP-GR-121508 12 GHz, 0.8 mm/ 32 mil pitch
- **RP-GR-121510** 12 GHz, 1.0 mm/ 40 mil pitch

Recommendation: B + 0.2 mm < Probe Pitch < A – 0. 2mm

| Size | Probe Pitch | Α | В | С | D | Component |
|-------|----------------------|------|------|------|------|------------|
| | | | | | | Size |
| 01005 | RP-GR-181503 | 0.48 | 0.12 | 0.18 | 0.20 | 0.4 x 0. 2 |
| 0201 | RP-GR-151505 | 0.75 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.6 x 0.3 |
| 0402 | 0.7mm < Pitch <1.3mm | 1.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.60 | 1.0 x 0.5 |
| 0603 | 0.8mm < Pitch <1.9mm | 2.10 | 0.60 | 0.90 | 0.90 | 1.6 x 0.8 |
| 0805 | 1.2mm < Pitch <2.8mm | 3.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.25 | 2.0 x 1.25 |

Typical Reflow Soldering Footprint and Component Size in mm



Power Integrity Probing



 PI Probing amid surrounding components is challenging



Milliohm PDN Measurements





Probe Planarization Tips

- Good contact of both probe tips with the DUT is essential to accurate calibration and measurements.
- Mylar tape provides leveling guidance on flat, even surface (bare PCB).
- Color marker helps on uneven surface (solder bump).
- A good microscope is important. You might damage the probe if you cannot see its tips well.







TP250 Precision Positioner



- **XYZ-axis travel**: 16 mm with 500 μm/turn (50 TPI, 5μm resolution)
- Height coarse adjustment: 5 mm/step (14 steps)
- **O** (**Planarity**) control: $\pm 10^{\circ}$ with 2.5° /turn and 0.025° resolution
- **Dimension**: 9" L x 2.7" W x 4.3" H
- Weight: 2.86 lb./1.30 kg



Probe Planarization with TP250



Probe Planarization Video:

https://packetmicro.com/Videos/PacketMicro_Probe_Planarization.mp4



Probe-tip SOLT Cal

| 🛞 Calibration Presetting | - | | * = = | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Ports and Type | New New | ar h | | | | Cal |
| Select the ports to be ca | librated and the ty | pe of the ca | libration. | | 2 | Calibration |
| Ports P1 () | P3 🕡 |) - P2 | | P4 💿 📕 | j7.001 kΩ 0.011142 H | Start (Cal Unit) |
| | × | | | × | An a | Start (Manual) |
| TOSM | P1, P2 | • | | | | S Repeat |
| Туре | 2 | 2 | | = | , f | Scalar Power Cal |
| Refl Norm Open | Refl Norm Short | Refl OSM | Trans Norm | Trans Norm Both | | Cal |
| 5 | 53 | | | | Stop 3 GHz | SMARTerCal |
| One Path Two Ports | TOSM | UOSM | TRL | том | | (Cal Unit) |
| | 11 | Ū | Ū | | | (Manual) |
| TSM | TRM | TNA | Adapter Removal | | | Repeat |
| Source | • | | | alibrate all Channels | M3 | |
| | | Back | Next 🔀 | Cancel 😰 Help | kHz -102.4104 dB MHz -121.9748 dB GHz ⁻⁹ -87.2361 ³ dB | |
| | | | | | Stop 3 GHz | |



Probe-tip SOLT Cal – cont.

| Calibration | Presetting | D DEE Nov | * | | X |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Connectors a Select con an appro | nd Cal Kits nnector type and ge priate one. | nder for ports. If ne | ecessary, change the | e Cal Kit or load | \$ |
| Ports | P1 🔘 🗖 | P3 💿 🗆 | P2 🔘 | Р4 🔘 | |
| | | × | | × | |
| | TOSM | P1, P2 | | | |
| - | | | (<u> </u> | | |
| Connector | Probe 🗘 | | Probe | ÷ <mark>/</mark> | |
| Gender | | | | | |
| Cal Kit | RP15G0.5-70V2 = | J1 | RP15G0.5-70V2 | | |
| | | | | | 2 |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | 1 |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | 12 |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | Same Connector all Ports | r Same Ge all Ports | ender | import Cal Kit | |
| | | 🗲 Back | Start | Cancel | Help |

 Make sure to use the right .calkit file that is probe pitch dependent.



Load Calibration





Short Calibration



- frequency Good short contact makes phase
- Good short contact makes phase change ~ 180 deg



Open



Make sure that probe tips contact the open pattern.





Thru





Apply Calibration



S21 should be close to a flat line after calibration is applied



Use Thru for calibration verification



 After lifting up and then lowering down the probe tips, S21 should be flat around 0 dB up to 50% of probe bandwidth.



Electronic Calibration



 For many applications, you may be able to use electronic calibration



Electronic Calibration – cont.







Electronic Calibration – cont.



 Both cables are connected to probes that are lifted up in the air. Both cables are left open





Test Cases





PDN DUT – SOLT Calibration





Measurement vs. Simulation





CST Simulation was provided by Yifan Ding of Univ. of Missouri Science & Technology



Measurement vs. Simulation – cont.





PDN DUT – Electronic Calibration





Comparison – PDN DUT



 SOLT calibration is slightly better than electronic calibration.



Copper DUT – SOLT Calibration





Copper DUT – Electronic Calibration





Comparison – Copper DUT



 SOLT calibration is slightly better than electronic calibration.



22-Layer Stratix III Test Board





PI Probing Demo





Measure impedance of 0.9 V core voltage
Probe on C639 and C644



PI Probing Demo





R-Probe & Microprobe Comparison





Impedance Between Bare and Populated Boards





References

Istvan Novak, "Power Integrity: Advanced Design and Characterization"

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 Istvan Novak, "Measuring Milliohms and Pico Henrys in Power Distribution Networks"

(http://electrical-

integrity.com/Paper_download_files/DC00_MeasuringMiliohms_slides.pdf)

 Istvan Novak, "PDN Measurements: Reducing Cable-Braid Loop Error"

(http://www.electrical-integrity.com/Quietpower_files/Quietpower-3.pdf)



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- CSS AITT Signal-Integrity Tool
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