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STANDARDIZATION SECTOR
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SPECIFICATIONS FOR MEASURING EQUIPMENT

GROUP-DELAY MEASURING EQUIPMENT FOR THE RANGE 5 TO 600 kHz

ITU-T Recommendation O.82

(Extract from the *Blue Book*)

NOTES

1 ITU-T Recommendation O.82 was published in Fascicle IV.4 of the *Blue Book*. This file is an extract from the *Blue Book*. While the presentation and layout of the text might be slightly different from the *Blue Book* version, the contents of the file are identical to the *Blue Book* version and copyright conditions remain unchanged (see below).

2 In this Recommendation, the expression “Administration” is used for conciseness to indicate both a telecommunication administration and a recognized operating agency.

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**GROUP-DELAY MEASURING EQUIPMENT
FOR THE RANGE 5 TO 600 kHz**

(Geneva, 1972)

The requirements for the characteristics of a group-delay measuring set for data circuits which are described below must be adhered to in order to ensure compatibility between equipments standardized by the CCITT, and produced by different manufacturers.

1 Measuring principle

In the case of group-delay distortion measurements over a line (straightaway measurements), a signal for phase demodulation is required on the receiving side whose frequency corresponds exactly to the modulation (split) frequency on the transmitting side and whose phase does not change during the measurement. With the proposed measuring principle, this frequency is generated in a split-frequency oscillator in the receiver whose frequency is controlled with the aid of a reference carrier. The reference carrier is amplitude modulated with the same modulation frequency as the measuring carrier and is transmitted over the path to be measured in periodical alternation with the measuring carrier. During the changeover from measuring carrier to reference carrier no phase or amplitude surge must occur in the sending signal. For the sake of identification the reference carrier is furthermore amplitude modulated with an identifying signal.

If the path to be measured has different group delay and/or attenuation for the measuring carrier and the reference carrier, a phase and/or amplitude surge appears at the output of the path to be measured at the carrier changeover point within the receiver. This phase or amplitude surge is evaluated by the receiver of the measuring set. Thus, the receiver is provided with a phase measuring device for the purpose of group-delay measurements. This measuring device includes the above-mentioned frequency controlled split-frequency oscillator whose phase is automatically adjusted to the mean value derived from the phases of the split frequencies transmitted with the measuring and the reference carriers. The split-frequency voltage fed to the phase meter is taken from the output of an amplitude demodulator which can simultaneously be used for measuring amplitude variations. In order to recognize the actual measuring frequency on the receiving side – particularly during sweep measurements – a frequency discriminator may be provided.

If the frequency of the measuring carrier differs from the frequency of the reference carrier during the measurement and if the path to be measured has different group-delay and attenuation values for the two frequencies, a square-wave signal appears at the outputs of the phase meter, the amplitude demodulator and the frequency discriminator in the receiver, whose amplitudes are proportional to the respective measuring results – referred to the frequency of the reference carrier – and whose frequency corresponds to the carrier changeover frequency on the transmitting side. These three square-wave signals are subsequently evaluated with the aid of controlled rectifiers and allow indications, together with the correct signs, of differences in group-delay distortion, attenuation and measuring frequency between measuring and reference carrier frequencies.

2 Technical details

2.1 Transmitter

The modulation split frequency shall be 416.66 Hz (= 10 000 Hz/24). With the aid of this signal the reference and measuring carriers are amplitude modulated to a modulation depth of 40%. Both sidebands are transmitted. The modulation distortion factor shall be smaller than 1%. The changeover from measuring carrier to reference carrier is carried out within a switching time of ≤ 100 microseconds. The changeover frequency is rigidly tied to the modulation frequency by binary frequency division and is 41.66 Hz (416.6 Hz/10). The carrier changeover occurs at the minimum of the modulation envelope. Deviations of $\leq \pm 20$ microseconds are admissible. The carrier frequency which is not transmitted in each case has to be suppressed by at least 60 dB referred to the sending signal.

The identifying signal which is required for identifying the reference carrier is also rigidly tied to the modulation (split) frequency. The assigned frequency of 1666 Hz is derived by multiplying the modulation (split) frequency by four or by dividing 10 kHz by six. The rectangular-shaped identifying signal derived from 10 kHz through frequency division can be used for direct modulation after having passed through an RC lowpass filter with a time