bservatoire SYRTE

Systèmes de Référence Temps-Espace





LP2N

Distribution et transfert du temps



Paul-Eric Pottie









planches basées sur des apports substantiels de Marie-Christine Angonin Anne Amy-Klein (LPL/UP13-CNRS) Noel Dimarcq Giorgio Santarelli

> Marc Weiss, Nathan Newbury (NIST) Felicitas Arias (BIPM) Ron Beard (USNO) John Vig (IEEE)





Introduction

Dissemination of Time and **Frequency from Clocks**



Definition & Variations in fundamental constants

Fundamental Scientific Applications





Geodesy: Earth Science

Positioning, Navigation and Timing Large instruments, array of detectors $\Delta v/v = g\Delta h/c^2$ $g/c^2 \sim 1.1 \times 10^{\cdot 18}/cm$ 10⁻¹⁸/cm synthetic aperture global imaging Courtesy of N. Newbury NIST

Sensing/Defense:





- T/F metrology
- Instruments
- Satellite T/F transfer
- Fiber links





- Frequency standards
- Time scales
- What do metrologist measure ?
- Statistical tools: Allan deviation(s)





Frequency standards : basic principles

$$|e
angle$$
 $\hbar\omega_{ef} = h\nu_{ef} = E_e - E_f$
 $|f
angle$

$$Q_{at} = \frac{\nu_{ef}}{\Delta \nu} \propto \nu_{ef} T$$

Need high carrier frequency

<u>Relative frequency stability :</u>

$$\sigma_y(\tau) \propto \frac{\sigma_{\delta P}}{Q_{at}} \sqrt{\frac{T_c}{\tau}}$$

tau = Integration time, Tc = Cycle time



with T: Interrogation duration





Atomic clock : a frequency standard

Clock signal is

$$S(t) = A.\cos(2\pi v(t).t) = A.\cos(\varphi(t))$$

Fréquence : $v(t) = v_0 \times (1 + \varepsilon + y(t))$

Phase:

$$\varphi(t) = 2\pi \int_{0}^{t} v(t')dt' = 2\pi v_0 \left[(1+\varepsilon)t + \int_{0}^{t} y(t')dt' \right]$$

<u>Temps</u>: $T(t) = \frac{1}{2\pi V_0} \varphi(t) = \left(1 + \frac{\varepsilon}{V_0}\right) t + x(t)$

$$y(t) = \frac{dx(t)}{dt}$$

Note : introduction of the integration time (or observation time)

Courtesy M.-C. Angonin



Mathematical model of a periodic signal

$$v(t) = [A_0 + a(t)] \sin[2\pi v_0 t + \phi(t)]$$

$$\phi(t)$$

Ensemble averages

$$\langle \phi \rangle = \overline{\phi} = \lim_{T \to \infty} \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \phi(t) dt$$

$$\sigma_{\phi}^2 = \lim_{T \to \infty} \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T [\phi(t) - \overline{\phi}]^2 dt$$

 $y = \frac{\Delta v(t)}{v_0} = \frac{v_0 - v(t)}{v_0} = \frac{1}{v_0} \frac{\phi(t)}{2\pi}$

$$a(t) << A_0$$

amplitude noise is negligible

Ergodic random process wide sense stationary (WSS)

Time averages

Average value

Variance, (sqrt->standard deviation)

Relative frequency fluctuations



Single side power spectral density

$$S_{\phi}(f) = \begin{cases} 2S_{\phi}^{TS}(f) & f \ge 0\\ 0 & f < 0 \end{cases} \qquad \left[\frac{rad^2}{Hz}\right]$$



$$S_{\varphi}(f) = |H(j2\pi f)|^2 S_{\phi}(f)$$





Frequency fluctuations

$$\Delta v(t) = v_0 - v(t) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{d\phi(t)}{dt}$$
$$\int_{\Delta v} (f) = f^2 S_{\phi}(f) \left[\frac{Hz^2}{Hz}\right]$$

Frequency fluctuations spectral density

Phase fluctuations

$$\phi(t) = 2\pi \int \Delta v(t) dt$$

$$\int S_{\phi}(f) = \frac{S_{\Delta v}(f)}{f^2}$$

Phase fluctuations spectral density





Phase / Frequency : fractional fluctuations

$$y = \frac{\Delta v(t)}{v_0} = \frac{v_0 - v(t)}{v_0} = \frac{1}{v_0} \frac{\dot{\phi}(t)}{2\pi}$$
 Dimension less
quantity
$$S_y(f) = \left(\frac{f}{v_0}\right)^2 S_{\phi}(f) \left[\frac{1}{Hz}\right]$$

Scales as the invert of the square of carrier frequency !
Advantages to work at the highest possible frequency

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Distribution/Transfert temps

LPL Laboratoire de physique des lasers

PSD Phase / Frequency noise : order of magnitudes



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Type of noise	$S_{\phi}(f)$	$S_{y}(f)$
White phase	h_2	$h_2 f^2$
Flicker phase	h_1 / f	$h_2 f$
White freq./ random walk ph.	h_0 / f^2	h_0
Flicker frequency	h_{-1} / f^3	h_{-1} / f
Random walk freq.	h_{-2} / f^4	h_{-2} / f^2





Plot of z(t) vs. t	$S_z(f) = h_\alpha f^\alpha$	Noise name
	α = 0	White
www.waterenter.where where have have have have have have have hav	α = -1	Flicker
mannen	α = -2	Random walk
	α = -3	

From John Vig IEEE

Plots show fluctuations of a quantity z(t), for instance :

output of a counter (Δf vs. t) ,

or output of a phase detector (ϕ [t] vs. t).

Simulated time-domain behaviors corresponding to the most common (power-law) spectral densities

 h_{α} is an amplitude coefficient.

Note: since $S_{\Delta f} = f^2 S_{\phi}$, e.g. white frequency noise and random walk of phase are equivalent.





$$\overline{y}(t_k,\tau) = \frac{1}{\tau v_0} \int_{t_k}^{t_k+\tau} (u) du$$

Average relative frequency fluctuations over a time τ



A counter produces M frequency measurements separated by a time T with a gate time of τ , the difference T- τ is called dead-time between measurements.



Frequency stability: The Allan Variance

Allan variance is the two sample variance with zero dead time between measurements

$$N = 2 T = \tau$$

$$\sigma_{y}^{2}(2,\tau,\tau) = \frac{1}{2} \langle \overline{y}_{1} - \overline{y}_{2} \rangle^{2}$$

The Allan variance can be related to power spectrum density of rel. frequency fluctuations or phase noise

$$\sigma_{y}^{2}(\tau) = \frac{1}{\pi v_{0} \tau} \int_{0}^{\infty} H(f,\tau) S_{y}(f) df = \frac{1}{\pi v_{0} \tau} \int_{0}^{\infty} H_{1}(f,\tau) S_{\phi}(f) df$$

D.W Allan, Proc. of the IEEE **54**, 221–230 (1966). Riley, W. J. Handbook of Frequency Stability Analysis. 31, (1994).





Frequency Noise and $\sigma_v(\tau)$



W. J. Riley, Handbook of Frequency Stability Analysis. 31, (1994).

Interpretation of stability plots:

Howe, D. A. in Proc. IEEE IFCS 725-732 (2002). doi:10.1109/FREQ.2002.1075976





Stability and accuracy



From John Vig IEEE







Amplitude des fluctuations y(t) (stabilité de fréquence) ou x(t) (stabilité en temps)

Estimée par un écart-type $\sigma_y(t)$ (sans dimension) ou $\sigma_x(t)$ (en seconde) : $\sigma_x(\tau) \propto \sigma_y(\tau).\tau$

Exactitude :

Incertitude sur la valeur de ε

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Atomic fountains: a frequency standard



More than 10 fountains in operation (LNE-SYRTE, PTB, NIST, USNO, JPL, NICT, NMIJ, METAS, INRIM, NPL, NIM, USP,...)

with an accuracy a few 10⁻¹⁵ and <10⁻¹⁵ for a few of them.





Optical clocks : (87Sr) trapped in optical lattice

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Pictures of frequency standards











Industrial clocks

Maser Hydrogène (oscillator) Kvarz CHI-75A



Cs 'chaud' Micro semi HP5071 A



Rb chaud Chip scale Atomic Clock

Rb chaud Spectratime

Rb froid MuQuans MuClock









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Stabilités de fréquence typiques



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400 years of improvements...



S. A. Diddams et al., Science (2004) **306 (**5700), pp1318-1324 DOI: 10.1126/science.1102330





60 years of improvements...



A simplified vision:

Frequency standards (accurate time intervals) + continuous oscillator (continuous, phase keeper) + tick counter (display digits)



AQ

D



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BIPM Time Scale Generation



Le Temps Atomique International TAI est la coordonnée de repérage temporel établie par le Bureau International de l'Heure (remplacé maintenant par le Bureau International des Poids et Mesures) sur la base des indications d'horloges atomiques fonctionnant dans divers établissements conformément à la définition de la seconde, unité de temps du Système International d'unités.

Il est défini par la seconde du SI réalisé sur un géoide en rotation.

Echelle continue depuis 1958





Atomic time scales

TAI is built from 350 industrial clocks

Accuracy and long term stability is provided by the ultra-stable clocks operated by some designated laboratories







Atomic time scales

Courtesy R. Beard, USNO









ITU-R TF.460-6 STANDARD-FREQUENCY AND TIME-SIGNAL EMISSIONS (1970-1974-1978-1982-1986-1997-2002)

TAI - Echelle internationale de temps de référence à partir du temps atomique issue de la définition de la seconde et d'un géoïde en rotation.
Echelle continue dont l'origine est le 1er Jan 1958
TAI = UT1 le 1er janvier 1958, 0 h

UTC - Référence coordonnée sur laquelle se fonde les signaux standards de temps et de fréquence. Maintenue par le BIPM. Correspond exactement au TAI décalé d'un nombre entier de secondes afin d'assurer un accord avec UT1 inférieur à 0.9 s. TAI – UTC = 37 s en 2018

Attention ! UTC est une échelle de temps <u>papier</u> diffusée par la circulaire T. UTC(k) est une réalisation locale, c'est un signal physique.

Les secondes intercalaires peuvent être introduites comme dernière seconde de n'importe quel mois, préférentiellement décembre et juin, en deuxième choix mars et septembre.





A time scale over the years (continuous)





Legal time in France < March, 2017

Le temps légal et l'Observatoire de Paris

Courtesy M.-C. Angonin



1911 : Méridien de Greenwich (GMT)

ARTICLE I	UNIQUE	L'heure	légale	en
France et	en Algérie	est l'he	ure, ter	nps
moyen de	Paris, retar	dée de ne	ouf minu	ites
vingt-et-un	e secondes.			

1978 : Temps atomique international

L'heure légale en France est déterminée par le décret du 9 aout 1978 : "le temps légal est obtenu en ajoutant ou en retranchant un nombre entier d'heures au temps universel coordonné", ce nombre entier d'heure étant fixé par décret. L'heure légale en France est fabriquée et diffusée par le SYRTE à l'Observatoire de Paris.





Décret n° 2017-292 du 6 mars 2017 relatif au temps légal français

Le temps légal (ou heure légale) sur le territoire de la République française est fixé par référence au temps universel coordonné (UTC) établi par le Bureau international des poids et mesures (BIPM) dans le cadre de la conférence générale des poids et mesures.

II. - Dans le cadre de la coordination de la métrologie française et des règles fixées par le BIPM pour l'établissement du temps universel coordonné, l'Observatoire de Paris est chargé d'établir la valeur locale de l'UTC, dénommée « temps légal de base », et de la fournir aux utilisateurs.

III. - Le temps légal sur les différentes parties du territoire de la République française est défini à partir du temps légal de base auquel est ajouté ou retranché un nombre entier d'heures dans les conditions fixées aux articles 2 à 4 du présent décret.




Frequency/Phase noise

Delay

Calibration methods and uncertainty





Frequency analysis

Phase noise characterization is a comparison process.

2 categories :

1. comparing with itself (delayed self-homodyne, delayed self-heterodyne, or Michelson interferometer).

2. comparing the laser under test with a much better source



Figure 1.1: Conventional analog spectral analysis



Old way : frequency mixing and low sampling rate

Nowadays : High sampling rate Data processing

<u>heterodyne methods :</u> Beat notes at low frequency (<50 MHz) Frequency counter

Cross correlation :

Reference paper : E. Rubiola and V. Giordanno <u>https://doi.org/10.1063/1.1304871</u> In the optical domain : X. Xie, Opt. Lett. **42** (7) (2017) <u>https://doi.org/10.1364/OL.42.001217</u>





Phase noise analyzer







Frequency counter / Phase meter

- Use only dead-time free frequency counter !
- Many operation possibilities :



E. Rubiola, RSI **76**, 054703 (2005) Dawkins, IEEE T-UFFC **54**, 918–925 (2007)

Keysight 53230A



Pendulum CNR-91R







The Need for a Reference Plane

- With a need for true "time accuracy" the four dimensional space-time continuum is and engineering reality!
- We establish a plane of connectors with synchronized timing signals
- A signal travelling away loses time at some fraction of the speed of light = 1 ft/ns = 30 cm/ns
- For GPS receivers, calibration and measurements are relative to the reference point, and signals out are delayed relative to this

Time is marked by a 1 pulse per second (PPS) signal

Courtesy M. Weiss, NIST



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Scope



Modern scopes will provide you with a standard deviation based on gaussian assumptions in most cases



- Long run deviates from such simple approaches
- Issues with the outliers
- Trigger level

The best is to record data and to process yourself





Time interval counter







Calibration methods

Les méthodes de calibration sont des méthodes variationnelles :

- 1. Installation du banc de mesure ('Calibrator')
- 2. Réglage des offsets, mesure des stabilités
- 3. Insertion de l'élément à caractériser, et mesure du nouveau délai
- 4. Nouvelle mesure sans le nouvel élément (bouclage)

Contributions à l'incertitude systématique des délais instrumentaux par

- 1. Effets liés à la température
- 2. Tensions de référence
- 3. Capacités parasites (connecteurs, cables...)
- 4. Maitrise des paramètres expérimentaux (AM/PM, forme des signaux...)
- 5. Problèmes de méthodologie (répétabilité...)

Délai de propagation

- 1. à portée local: même méthodes, même problèmes
- 2. à longue portée : mesure en pratique d'un aller-retour
 - 1. Hypothèse de chemin réciproques
 - 2. Modélisation de la propagation (multi-chemin...)
 - 3. Corrélations





Error Sources



Courtesy M. Weiss, NIST





- Basic ideas
- Satellite
- Fibre





Means to compare/disseminate clocks



Means to compare/disseminate clocks





Time/Frequency transfer : basic ideas



The path delay AB needs to be determined. Hypothesis

Celerity of the waves

Propagation modeling

Spatial coordinates

Measure a time interval at B side

Both clocks must transmit signals.

Measure the Round trip time (RTT).

One way delay is estimated as half of the round tr value.

Hypothesis of reciprocity.

Applied in : Two-Way satellite T&F transfer, T&F over optical fiber links, NTP, PTP...

Applied in GPS time transfer method



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Time accuracy : basic ideas

Temps : la coordonnée de temps d'un repère espace-temps Mais le plus souvent *temps* = délai à une échelle de temps de référence

Transfert de temps = transfert d'un signal de référence, où le signal reçu en un point B à l'instant t a un délai connu par rapport à l'échelle de temps de référence localisée en A à l'instant t

Délai = Instrumental + propagation (+ effet physique lié aux différences de coordonnées)

Délai instrumental : mesuré ('mal' modélisé) Délai propagation : mesuré et/ou modélisé (avec ajout(s) de nouvelles données)



Time/Frequency dissemination nowadays



Courtesy M.-C. Angonin





- Radio broadcast
- GNSS
- Advanced methods
- TWSTFT
- T2L2
- Optical methods





France Inter

Depuis 1977, la fréquence 162 kHz transmet un signal horaire de référence élaboré à partir d'horloges atomiques et fournit l'heure légale française.

Ce service est largement utilisé dans des secteurs clés de l'industrie française pour synchroniser plus de 200 000 horloges.

D : DCF77 (77.5 kHz), depuis 1959 F : France-Inter (162 kHz) depuis juillet 1980



France Inter



Comparaison 1 PPS France Inter - UTC(OP)





Satellite methods



Equation de mesure GPS

$$P(f_i) = c(\tau_{geom} + \tau_{iono}(f_i) + \tau_{tropo} + \tau_{relat}) + c\Delta t_r - c\Delta t_e + \sigma_p$$

A chaque terme son intérêt...

 $\begin{array}{l} \tau_{geom} & : \text{Géodésie (positionnement / Rotation terrestre / Orbitographie)} \\ \Delta t_{r} & : \text{Transfert de temps} \\ \tau_{iono}(f_{i}) & : \text{Détermination du contenu électronique de la ionosphère} \\ \tau_{tropo} & : \text{Etude de l'atmosphère} \end{array}$





Relativistic corrections



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Relativistic corrections seen by Navstar GPS TS-2 (1977)



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GPS commercial receivers

Oscilloquartz 5201 (ADVA)



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GPS commercial receivers

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Systèmes de Référence Temps-Esi

Oscilloquartz 5201 (ADVA)



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Courtesy M. Weiss, NIST





"Best" Error Budget Peak Values

• UTC as the reference source – if multiple constellations are allowed

- UTC from GPS minus UTC(USNO) 10 ns

System calibration by manufacturer

User calibration issues

- All of these are < 1 ns if done well
 - Antenna coordinates
 - User time reference delay
 - Possible change of antenna cable
 - Disciplining oscillator

Courtesy M. Weiss, NIST





Ways to improve further

Les systèmes d'augmentation SBAS (Satellite Based Augmentation System)

 Amélioration du système de positionnement par l'utilisation d'informations complémentaires aux observations classiques:

• **Performance** $\rightarrow \sim 1 - 2 \text{ m}$

Disponibilité \rightarrow échelle d'un continent ou d'un pays

Fiabilité → message d'intégrité



Principe de fonctionnement: WADGNNS (Wide Area Differential GNSS) → voir cours sur les signaux

réseau de stations GNSS au sol
corrections transmises à un satellite (souvent géostationnaire)
puis retransmises aux utilisateurs aux sol

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Satellite methods

Моу	ens de transfert de	T&F existants ou en	développement
LIEN	Type de comparaison	Technique	PERFORMANCE
GPS, GALILEO	Espace → Sol Sol → Sol en vue commune (pas de mesure dans l'espace)	Down link Phase porteuse + phase code 2 fréquences bande L	Stabilité : 100 ps – 1 ns sur 1 jour Exactitude : 1 ns
TWSTFT	Sol → Sol Via un satellite géostationnaire (pas de mesure dans l'espace)	Up et down links Phase code 2 fréquences bande Ku	Stabilité : 100 ps – 1 ns sur 1 jour Exactitude : 1 ns
ACES MWL	Sol → Espace Sol → Sol en vue commune ou non (mesures sol et espace)	Up and Down links phase code + phase porteuse 3 fréquences bande S et Ku	Stabilité : 0.3 ps sur 300 s < 10 ps sur 1 jour Exactitude ≈ 100 ps
T2L2	Sol → Espace Sol → Sol en vue commune ou non (mesures sol et espace)	Up and Down links Datation d'impulsions 1 voire 2 fréquences optiques	Stabilité : 0.3 ps sur 1000 s < 5 ps sur 1 jour Exactitude : 50 ps

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Laboratoire de physique des lasers

Satellite methods : more advanced methods



Two way satellite time transfer: Carrier Phase (state-of-the-art)



Fujieda, M. et al., Metrologia **51**, 253–262 (2014).



T2L2 (optical method)



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Optical combs



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30 years of improvements







part 4 : Fiber Links

- Introduction
- Classification of links
- Review of methods
 - PTP, WR-PTP
 - ELSTAB
 - Pure' Optical
- Fundamental and technical limits





part 4 : Fiber Links

Introduction

- Classification of links
- Review of methods
 - PTP, WR-PTP
 - ELSTAB

Review article O. Lopez et al., Comptes Rendus Physique, 16 (5), pp. 459-586 (2015) Suggested focus on : P. Krehlik, et al.; Metrologia, 52 , pp. 82-88, (2015) Parker et al., **53**,(35),8157-8166 (2014) G. Marra et al., **20**_(2),1775-1782 (2012)

- Pure' Optical
- Fundamental and technical limits






Core (glass) : central zone with higher optical index n_1 , where most of the light propagates, diameter $2a \le 10\mu m$

Cladding (glass): surrounding zone with (a little) lower index n₂, typical diameter 125 μm

Also : jacket to protect the fiber

- Widely used for telecommunications since 30 years
- Optical waves are guided inside the optical fibers (velocity ~c/n)
- Monomode propagation if

- $V = \frac{2\pi a}{\lambda} \sqrt{n_1^2 n_2^2} < 2.4$
- Very low losses, minimum attenuation 0.2 dB/km at 1.55 μ m
- Very low dispersion : 17 ps/(km.nm) at 1.55 μm

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Attenuation



https://www.fiberoptics4sale.com/blogs/archive-posts/95052294-optical-fiber-attenuation





Spectral sharing



http://www.fowiki.com/b/understand-fiber-attenuation/





Noise

- Propagation noise (also for RF transfer)
 - Fiber optical length n L (index x length) varies with acoustical and thermal fluctuations
 - This induces phase fluctuations and therefore frequency fluctuations
 - This propagation noise is quite low but has to be corrected for metrological applications





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- Two-way : Stabilized / Post-processed
 - Post-processed techniques used for comparison purposes
- One way: Unstabilized (affects stability and accuracy)

- Bi-directional or uni-directional (affects the correlations)
- Analog or digital (affect the scalability)





2 classes of experiments



Analog

- RF or MW transfer (100 MHz to 10 GHz)
 - Amplitude modulation of the optical carrier



- Direct transfer of an optical frequency
 - Well-suited to optical clocks comparison







Fiber links : seminal works (Primas et al., 1988)

STABILIZED FIBER OPTIC FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM*

Lori E. Primas George F. Lutes Richard L. Sydnor Jet Propulsion Laboratory Pasadena, California 91109

Passive stabilization of fiber optic transmission links, such as burial of the cable, is not sufficient for maintaining stabilities in the range required for many applications. When stabilities higher than a part in 10^{15} are required the link must be actively stabilized.



Fiber links : seminal works (Primas et al., 1988)

STABILIZED FIBER OPTIC FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM*

- Active noise compensation after one round-trip
- Strong hypothesis : noise forth and back are the same
- 2 ends at the same place (for link stability measurements)
 RF, hF or optical signals



TELECOM STRATUM HIERARCHY







ΡΤΡ



PTP accounts for instrumental asymmetries.

Round trip time (RTT) = (t2-t1) + (t4-t3)

Clock offset = $t2 - t1 + \delta MS$

In case of asymmtery ($\delta MS \neq \delta SM$):

error = $(\delta MS - \delta SM)/2$

FIGURE 2.1: PTP two way messsage exchange mechanism [36].



РТР

Results from test set-up using M1000 units

20 15

10

5

2

Test set-up: A master M1000 unit with a 1PPS and NTP reference from UTC(NPL) transmitting PTP to a slave M1000 unit over two 50km fibre spools with long range SFPs.



WR-PTP

Synchronous Ethernet (SyncE)

Layer-1 syntonization

A common frequency reference for the entire network

All nodes of the network are locked to the frequency of the System timing master

Digital Dual Mixer Time Difference (DDMTD)

Precise phase measurement A phase compensated clock signal for the slave

Asymmetry compensation

Sources of propagation asymmetry in a White Rabbit link:

Chromatic dispersion

Unequal fiber lengths

'Static' correction of propagation asymmetry possible with WR.

G. Daniluk, (CERN). Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics Research 725, 187–190 (2013).











-95.0

-95.2 -95.4

-95.6

-95.8

-96.0

Results from test set-up using White Rabbit

Test set-up: A grandmaster WRS unit with a 1PPS and 10 MHz reference from UTC(NPL) transmitting WR to a master WRS unit over two 50km fibre spools with long range SFPs.

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Ways to improved WR



Trick : increased PLL bandwidth of the GM L.O. to a good quality reference signal (H-Maser)

(M. Rizzy)

NB 10⁻¹⁰: Many other work to improve performances of WR (better clocking scheme, better choice of components (clock fan out), etc

WR community os very active !



WR-PTP short range

- 2 architectures possible
 - 2 similar wavelength, 2 fibers
 - 2 wavelengths (1310/1490), 1 fiber
- Similar performances for frequency transfer (time stability)
- Time calibration :
 - Input refraction index difference
 - < 10 ns (conservative)</pre>
 - <I ns doable with proper calibration (including instruments...)
 - On LAN : fiber swapping technique
 - Fiber delay calibration

accuracy < 10 ns doable



FIGURE 3.15: Phase data for the uni-directional (Bi-fiber) and bidirectional (Bi-color) setups.



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WR-PTP long range : experiments with spools



WR-PTP long range : MIKES







Analog methods

A non-exhaustive review:

Hyper-frequency:

O. Lopez, et al. Applied Physics B 98, 723–727 (2010).
F. Yin, F. et al. Optics Express 22, 878 (2014).
X. Chen, X. et al. Optics Letters 40, 371 (2015).
S. Schediwy, Optics Letters 42, 1648 (2017).

Radio-frequency:

C. Daussy et al. Physical Review Letters 94, (2005).
J.-F. Cliche et al. IEEE Control Systems Magazine 26, 19–26 (2006).
M. Fujieda et al., IEEE T-IM 58, 1223–1228 (2009).
R.Wilcox, Optics Letters 34, 3050 (2009).
Y.He, et al. Optics Express 21, 18754 (2013).
P. Krehlik, IEEE T-UFFC 63, 993–1004 (2016).
D. Gozzard, IEEE Photonics Technology Letters 30, 258–261 (2018).





ELSTAB



- 10-MHz + 1pps joint transfer through intensity modulation of the optical carrier; stabilized laser
- Roundtrip propagation in the same fiber for noise correction
- Active stabilization of the propagation delay through a variable delay module (DLL)

Commercially available by PikTime







Delay-stabilized time transfer

- 420-km loop fiber (Polish Telecom -Krakow-Skawina and back)
 - Full bi-directional (1 fiber, 1 wavelength)
 - Accuracy 100 ps, Stability (1d) : 0.3 ps



P. Krehlik, Ł. Śliwczyński, Ł. Buczek, M. Lipiński, AGH University of Science and Technology, Institute of Electronics, Kraków, Poland, IEEE Trans. on Instr. and Meas. (2012).





Optical methods

- For long range frequency transfer
- Optical frequency metrology
- Spectroscopy, high precision measurements
- Ultra-stable laser @ 1,55 µm using ultra-stable cavity
- Rel. frequency stability ~ 10^{-15} @ 1 s
- Uncertainty none by itself
- Optical frequency is measured with optical frequency combs≤ 10⁻¹⁴ as compared to optical clocks or fountains clocks



- Basically sub-Hz laser
 - Optical frequency comb
 - Spectral purity transfer
 - Frequency ratio

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Courtesy J. Ye, JILA

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Advantages of the full optical method



- Heterodyne detection at remote end
- Signal $S(t) = |\mathbf{E}_s + \mathbf{E}_{LO}|^2$

with $E_S(t) = \sqrt{P_S} e^{j(\omega_S t + \phi_S(t))}$ and $E_{LO}(t) = \sqrt{P_{LO}} e^{j(\omega_{LO} t + \phi_{LO}(t))}$

After AC filter: $S(t) \propto \sqrt{P_{LO}P_s} \cos((\omega_s - \omega_{LO})t + \phi_s(t) - \phi_{LO}(t))$

- \rightarrow detection of the transmitted field (not intensity)
- \rightarrow fiber losses of X dB reduce the detected signal by X/2 dB





The optical way : Seminal works (Ma et al., 1994)

November 1, 1994 / Vol. 19, No. 21 / OPTICS LETTERS 1777

Delivering the same optical frequency at two places: accurate cancellation of phase noise introduced by an optical fiber or other time-varying path

Long-Sheng Ma,* Peter Jungner,⁺ Jun Ye, and John L. Hall[‡]

Joint Institute for Laboratory Astrophysics, University of Colorado and National Institute of Standards and Technology, Boulder, Colorado 80309-0440

Received May 12, 1994

Although a single-mode optical fiber is a convenient and efficient interface/connecting medium, it introduces phase-noise modulation, which corrupts high-precision frequency-based applications by broadening the spectrum toward the kilohertz domain. We describe a simple double-pass fiber noise measurement and control system, which is demonstrated to provide millihertz accuracy of noise cancellation.





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Fig. 2. Optical field spectrum at the output of a 25-m fiber. The input optical signal approximates a delta function. The signal arrives at the far end with a 1.2-kHz width, shown in (a). In (b) the phase-noise compensation system is operational, and one regains 99.6% of the power in the sharp spectral feature. The resolution bandwidth is 15.6 Hz. In (c) the resolution bandwidth is 0.95 mHz. The carrier is reduced by only 1.3 dB from (b) to (c) because of noise near the carrier.

25-m optical fiber link





Optical frequency comparison with two-way



- Laser Lights propagate from the two sides.
- Noise rejection can be 6 dB better (with post-processing).
- No active compensation. But it's the same signal processing.

Calosso et al., Opt. Lett. **39**, 1177-1180 (2014) A. Bercy et al., Phys. Rev. A 90, 061802(R) (2014) : Two-way set-ups F. Stefani *et al*, «Tackling the limits of optical fiber links», JOSA B 32, 787-797 (2015)





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Detection of round-trip noise

- Strongly unbalanced Michelson interferometer
- Frequency shifter $\omega_1 \rightarrow$ heterodyne detection at $2\omega_1$
- Using Faraday mirrors automatically aligns polarisations at detection



- ✓ + Laser autocorrelation noise $\phi_{laser}(t) \phi_{laser}(t 2\tau)$
- \rightarrow Ultrastable laser are needed with coherence length > 2L
- to keep the coherent regime





Active noise compensation in an optical fiber link

Doppler noise compensation or active noise compensation



- Noise correction Φ_c applied at the link input : $2(\Phi_c + \Phi_p) = 0$
- Assumption : Forward noise = ½ Round-trip noise
 → corrects only reciprocal noise

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Evaluation of noise compensation



- So-called "End-to-end" instability measurement
- Demonstration with 2 parallel fibers or one loop fiber: two ends at the same place





Example: optical link stability – 2x43 km



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Xu et al, Opt. Exp. 2018





Carrier = 200 THz



Jiang et al, JosaB 2008





Bidirectional amplification

- Erbium-doped fiber amplifier (10<G<20 dB)
 - Wide bandwidth (40 nm)
 - Gain should be limited to avoid self-oscillation
 - Widely used, commercially available with remote gain control
- Fiber Brillouin amplifier (<60 dB)
 - Narrow bandwidth (10 MHz)
 - Very selective, enabling high gain
- Raman amplifier (20-25 dB)
 - Intermediate bandwidth (1THz)
 - High pump power, intermediate gain





Optical regeneration (repeater laser station, 2dBm output)

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Fiber Brillouin amplifier





- Amplify opposite to pump with narrow bandwidth (10 MHz)
- Small signal gains up to 60 dB
- Amplifier spacing up to 250 km: demonstration of a 480-km link with one FBA
- Brillouin amplification supports 1×10⁻²⁰ uncertainty (demonstration over 1400 km of underground fiber)

Raupach et al, PRA2015, Raupach et al, OE 2014, Terra et al, OE 2010



Cascaded links

- Multi-segments approach :
 - Link is divided into a few segments, depending on noise and losses
 - \rightarrow shorter delay
 - \rightarrow larger bandwidth and better noise rejection
- Repeater stations are needed :
 - Repeater station N : send back signal to station N-1, amplify and filter, correct the noise of next link N



Repeater laser station commercially available F.Guillou-Camargo et al, Appl. Opt., AO 57, 7203–7210 (2018).







Last results with cascaded links (1420 km, 4 cascades)



Corresponds to 5 10⁻²⁰ @ 500 000 s integration time



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Optical time transfer

Amplitude or Phase modulation of the optical carrier

O.Lopez, et al. Applied Physics B 110, 3–6 (2013).

5MHz &1PPS Local I Remote MODEM MODEN Tx | Rx Tx Rx Optical Phase RF Processing **RF** Processing Corrector 540 km PD PLL link PD Ultrastable RIO EOM AOM EOM Laser v₁ Laser v FM Optical frequency stability measurement **10**¹¹ **Optical hybridation** P. Krehlik, et al. IEEE T-UFFC 64, **10¹²** 1884–1890 (2017) TDEV (s) **10**¹³ **Techniques not yet as mature 10**¹ 10² 10^{3} **10**⁵ **1**0^⁴ 10 10 Averaging time (s)

Optical demodulation

F. Frank, et al. IEEE T-UFFC 1–1 (2018)

as frequency transfer

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25 years of range improvement



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Fiber links range (km)

Future prospects

Towards Research Infrastructure

- Work with Network for Education and Research Industry to make the technology available
- Ways to access the network
- Compatibility with TelCo

Project CLONETS involved 16 partners from 7 European countries. Partners represent 4 main areas:

- National Measurement Institutes: OBS PARIS (FR), NPL (UK), PTB (DE), INRIM (IT)
- National Research and Education Network: RENATER (FR), CESNET (CZ), PSNC (PL), GARR* (IT),
- Academic Laboratories: AGH (PL), UP13 (FR), UCL (UK), ISI (CZ), CNRS* (FR)
- Industrial: MUQUANS (FR), MENLO (DE), PIKTIME (PL), SEVEN SOL (SP), OPTOKON (CZ), TOP-IX* (IT)







Take away messages

- Clocks and time scales were improved by order of magnitude
- Many ways to disseminate T/F
- GNSS methods are the most widely used
- Fiber links improve by order of magnitude capabilities



