

Analysis of Microwave Measurement Techniques by Means of Signal Flow Graphs

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Microwave measurement techniques can be analyzed more simply by using signal flow graphs instead of the customary scattering matrices to describe the microwave networks used in the measuring system. This is because the flow graphs of individual networks are simply joined together when the networks are cascaded and the solution for the system can be written down by inspection of the over-all flow graph by application of the nontouching loop rule. This paper reviews the method of setting up flow graphs of microwave networks and the rule for their solution. A single directional-coupler reflectometer system for measuring the reflection coefficient of a load is then analyzed by this method. The analysis shows how auxiliary tuners can be used to cancel residual error terms in the measurement of the magnitude of the reflection coefficient at a particular frequency. The analysis also shows how an additional tuner can be used to measure the phase angle of the reflection coefficient. These reflectometer techniques are particularly useful in the measurement of very small reflections.

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