



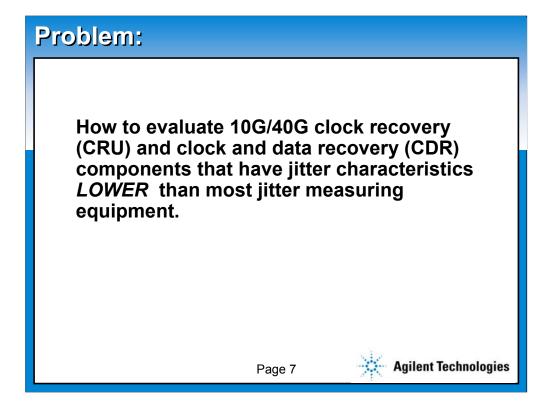
**Agilent Technologies** 

## Characterizing Low Jitter 10G and 40G Electrical Components for SONET/SDH Applications

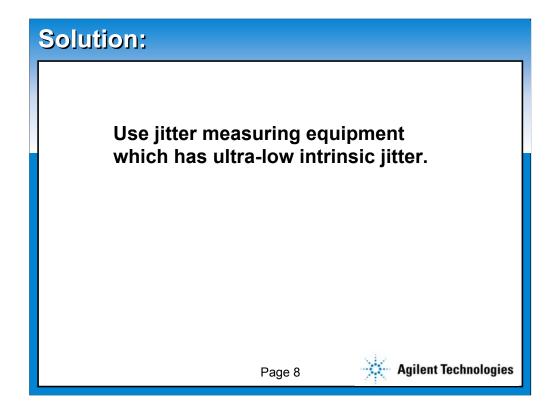
June 4, 2002

presented by:

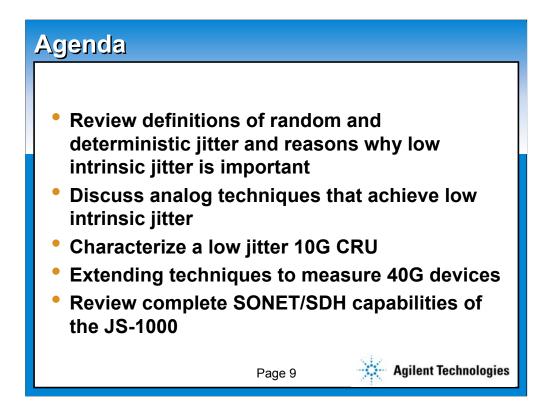
**Paul Schmitz** 



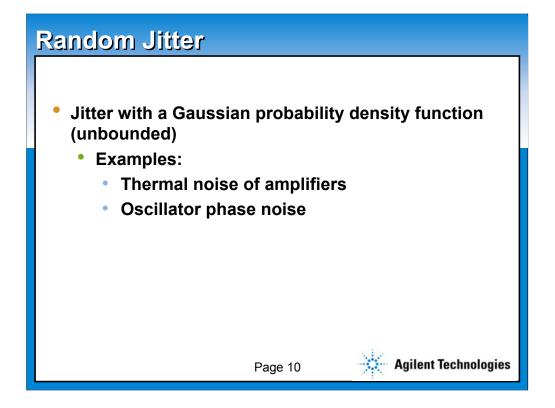
A real problem for many development engineers is how to characterize low jitter electrical devices such as clock recovery or clock and data recovery units when the measuring equipment available has intrinsic jitter levels higher than the device-under-test



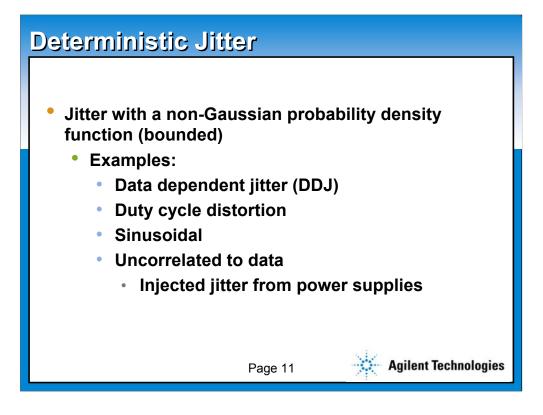
The best answer is to use measurement solutions that have ultra-low intrinsic jitter.



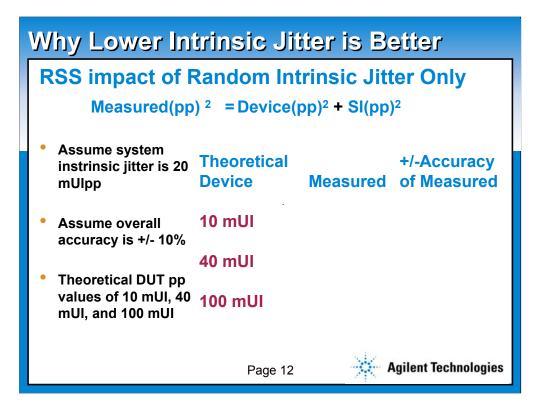
Today's discussion will start with reviewing the classical definitions of jitter and the reasons why low instrinsic jitter is important. Then we will look at high performance analog measurement techniques that achieve ultra-low jitter. Using these techniques, I will show SONET/SDH measurement results of a low jitter 10G clock recovery unit. Finally we will look at how we plan to extend these techniques to 40G components and what solution is available today which provides this capability.



Random Jitter is defined as that jitter which has a Gaussian probability density function. Some examples of Gaussian noise include broadband KTB noise, thermal noise of amplifiers as well as phase noise of oscillators.



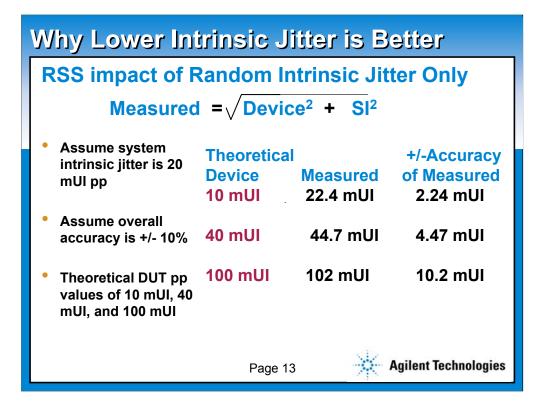
Jitter that is bounded and thus has a non-gaussian probability density function is defined as deterministic jitter. Examples included data dependent jitter, duty cycle distortion, sinusodial and other jitter that is uncorrelated to the data.



- If we assume that random intrinsic jitter will add to a DUT response in an RSS (root sum square) fashion, we can see why lower system intrinsic jitter is better, especially when characterizing device designs.
- Combining the pp jitter of a device with the measurement system intrinsic jitter through RSS means that they add as a sum of power, shown here by summing the squared values of each characteristic. The resulting squared value (measured) is what we would expect to receive from the measurement system.

To demonstrate this, we will make a number of assumptions:

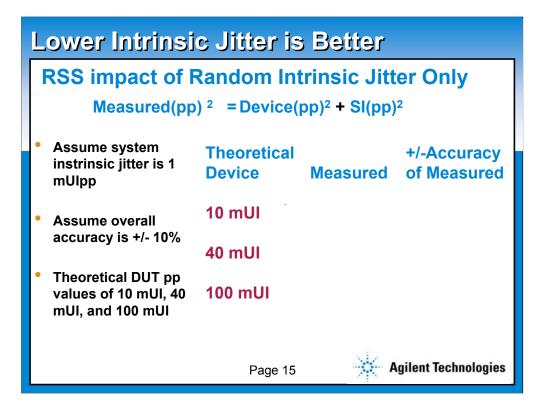
- 1) The pp system intrinsic jitter is 20 mUI;
- 2) The overall measurement accuracy of the system is +/- 10%;
- 3) The theoretical device pp values that we will use are 10 mUl, 40 mUl, and 100 mUl;



- To determined the expected measured values, we will take the square root of the sum of the two squares.
- Notice that the overall measurement accuracy is based on the total signal that is measured.
- Also notice, that a 10 mUI jitter is inaccurately measured, while the higher levels of jitter are reasonably accurate.

Typical Intrinsic Jitter			
Extracting DUT numbers through RSS			
Extracted = $\sqrt{Measured^2 - Sl^2}$			
<ul> <li>Use the RSS process to extract DUT values from total</li> </ul>	Measured	Extracted DUT	+/- Extracted DUT Accy
measured jitter	25 mUl	15 mUl	-4.7/+3.9 mUI
<ul> <li>Assume +/- 10% accuracy of measurement</li> </ul>	50 mUI	45.8 mUI	-5.5/+5.3 mUI
<ul> <li>Assume 20 mUl pp intrinsic jitter</li> </ul>	90 mUI	87.7 mUI	+/- 9.2 mUI
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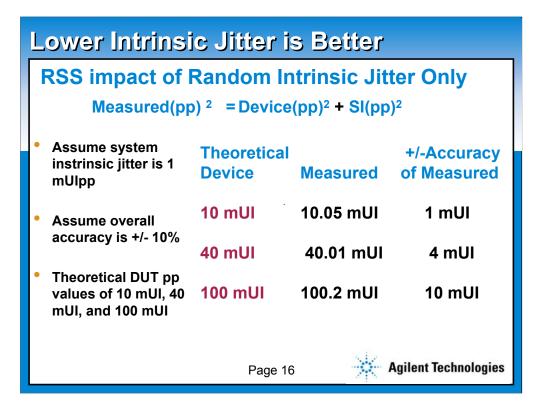
- Real world conditions always has the DUT characteristics as the unknown.
- If we use the RSS process to extract a DUT value from total measured jitter, using the same assumptions as before, we notice something very interesting:
- Measurement accuracy for the DUT extraction must also be determined using the same process – and the accuracy values of the DUT characteristic is NOT 10% of the DUT value for small values of DUT jitter (close to the intrinsic jitter);
- 2) The smaller the DUT value, the larger the DUT uncertainty will become;
- 3) The large the DUT value, the DUT uncertainty will converge to the total measured uncertainty.



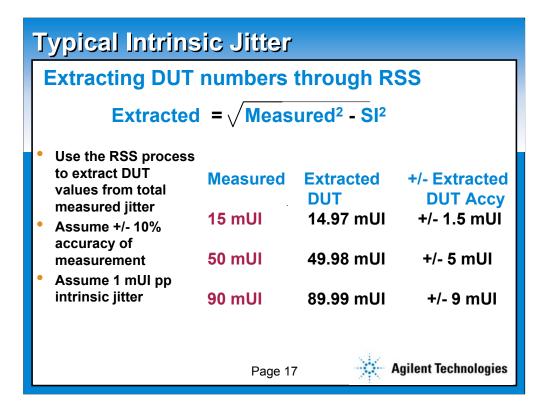
- Let's see what happens if the measurement system that has ultra low intrinsic jitter of 1 mUlpp and we apply the same principals as before.
- Combining the pp jitter of a device with the measurement system intrinsic jitter through RSS means that they add as a sum of power, shown here by summing the squared values of each characteristic. The resulting squared value (measured) is what we would expect to receive from the measurement system.

To demonstrate this, we will make a number of assumptions:

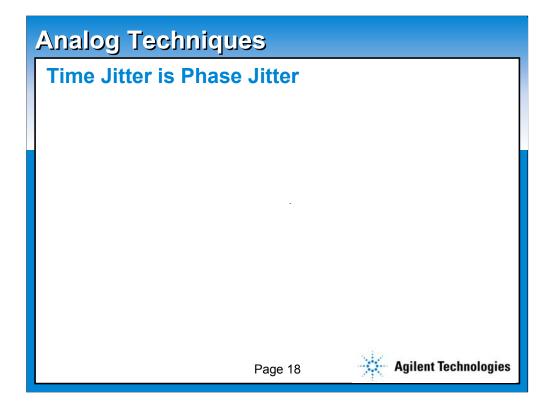
- 1) The pp system intrinsic jitter is 1 mUI;
- 2) The overall measurement accuracy of the system is +/- 10%;
- 3) The theoretical device pp values that we will use are 10 mUl, 40 mUl, and 100 mUl;



Even though the measurement system has the same measurement accuracy as before, the expected results will have better overall accuracy.

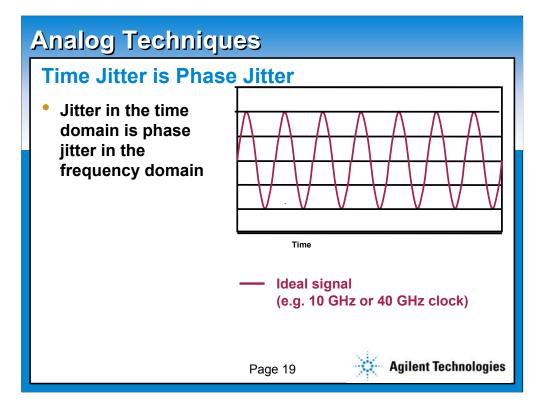


When the measurement system has lower intrinsic jitter, the accuracy of the extracted DUT value is essentially the same as the accuracy of the measurement.

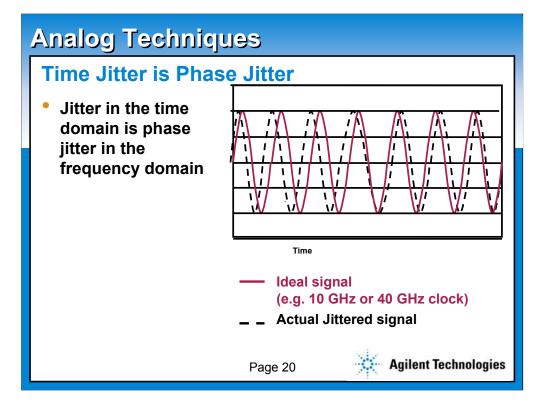


If we are going to have a system with low intrinsic jitter, we need to make jitter measurements using different techniques than the traditional time domain techniques that are currently being used.

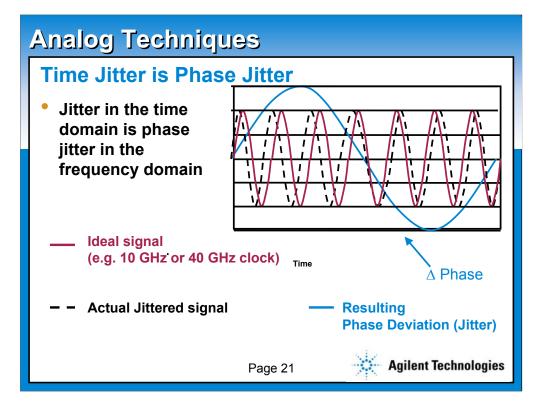
First we will demonstrate that time jitter (in the time domain), is equivalent to phase jitter in the frequency domain.



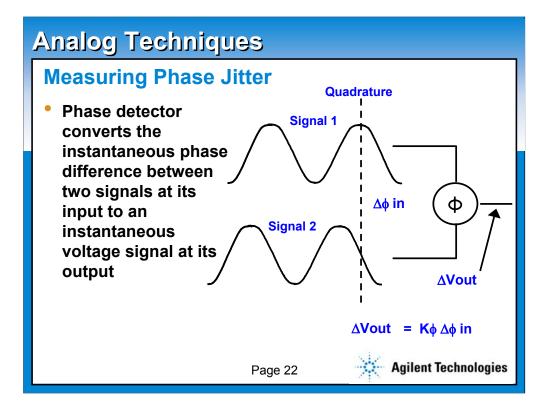
We will start with an ideal signal - like a clock signal - that has no jitter.



As shown here, we have applied jitter to vary the zero crossings of the ideal signal. In the left half of the example, the jittered signal zero crossings lead the ideal and in the right half, the jittered zero crossings lag the ideal.

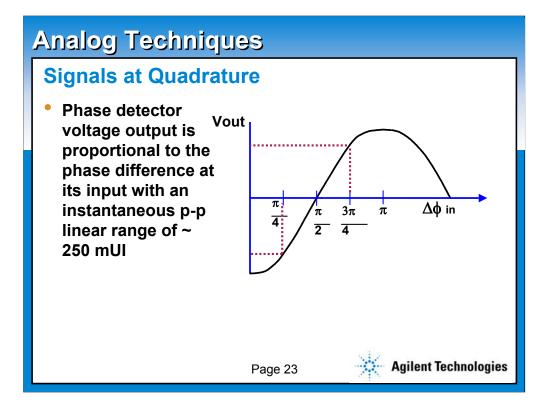


The overall result in the frequency domain is a phase deviation that is positive in the left half and negative in the right half. Phase deviations, using analog techniques within frequency domain approaches can be measured to very low levels.

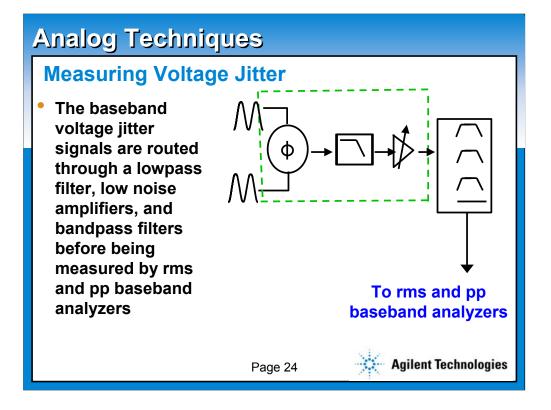


The basic phase measurement device within the frequency domain is the analog phase detector. It requires two input signals of the same frequency to detect a phase difference (a reference signal and a test signal).

If the two signals are in quadrature (90 degree difference), the output of the phase detector becomes 0 Volts. Thus any instantaneous phase difference between the two signals appears as an instantaneous voltage difference at the output. The phase detector constant in volts/rad relates the output voltage to the input phase difference.

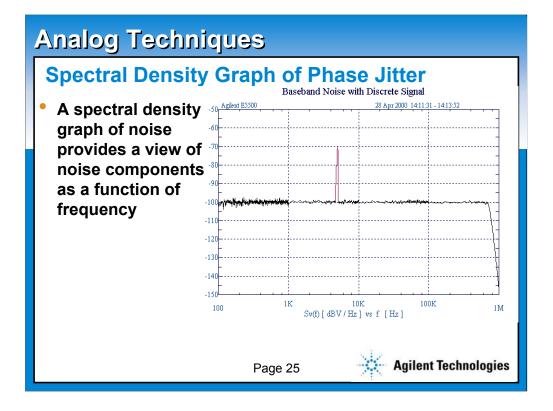


With the phase difference at the input of the phase detector fixed at 90 degrees, the range of linear instantaneous phase changes detectable is approximately +/- 1/8 of a Unit Interval (UI) or a p-p range of 1/4 UI (250 mUI).

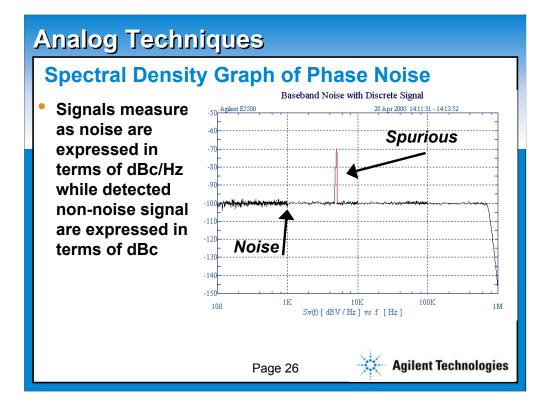


The instantaneous voltage signals produced are then processed through a low pass filter and low noise amplifiers. The LPF is used to protect the LNAs, and the LNAs are used to amplify the voltage signal to a level that allow relatively inexpensive rms and p-p baseband analyzers to measure them accurately. Required SONET filtering for p-p measurements is implemented at baseband frequencies.

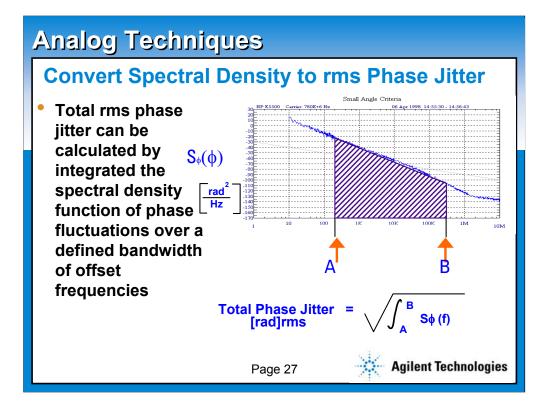
This general measurement technique has been employed by Agilent within accurate phase noise measurement solutions for > 20 years.



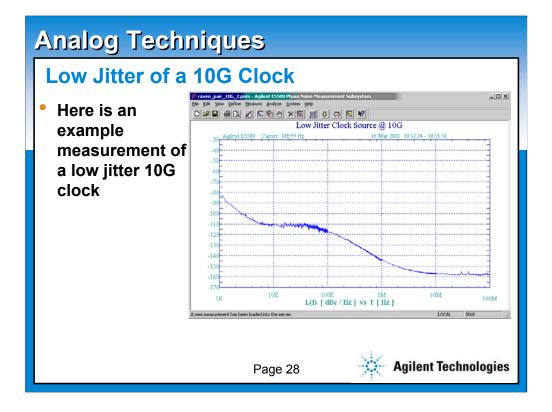
An example of frequency domain information provided is shown here. Noise (random) signals and non-noise signals are displayed. This particular example is broadband noise that has a discrete (non-random) signal within it.



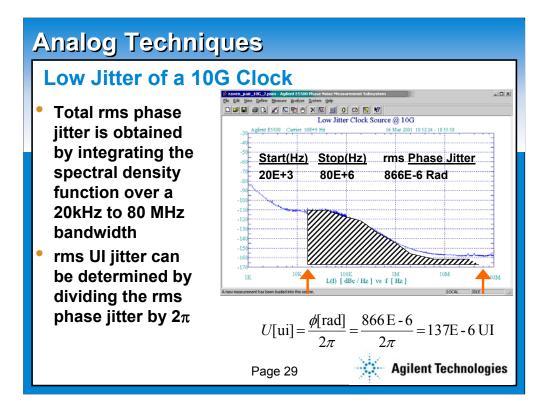
Noise terms (vertical axis) are plotted in a 1 Hz bandwidth and expressed in terms of dBc/Hz (dB below the carrier in a 1 Hz bandwidth) as a function of offset frequency from the carrier signal (horizontal axis). Detected non-random signals are expressed in their normal dBc value (they are not normalized to a 1 Hz bandwidth value).



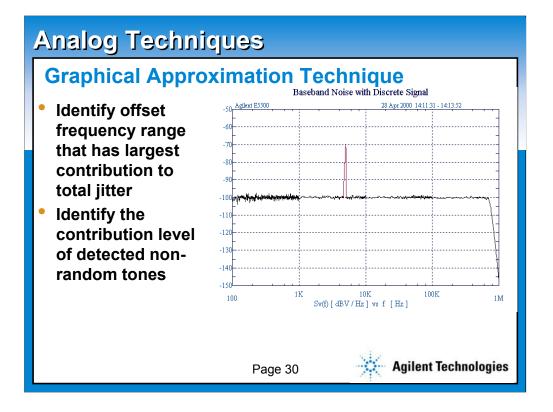
If we display the spectral density of phase fluctuations (Sphi(f)) which has the units of radians<sup>2</sup>/Hz, we can obtain total rms phase jitter by integrating the Sphi(f) results over an offset frequency range (bandwidth) of interest.



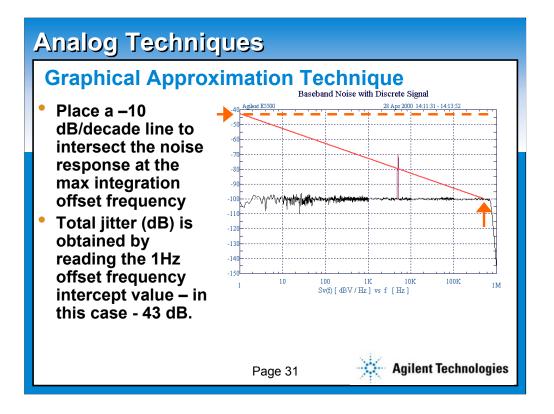
To illustrate this process, we will determine the rms phase jitter of a low noise 10G clock signal. As you can see here, the noise of this signal approaches –160 dBc/Hz phase noise for offsets far from carrier (> 10 MHz).



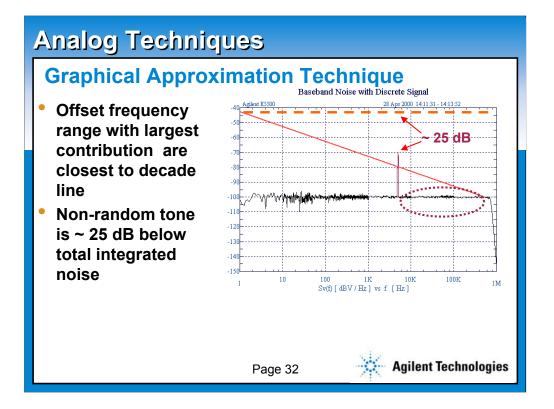
The integral of the spectral density of phase fluctuations for this measurements over bandwidth of 20 kHz to 80 MHz yields a value of 866 micro rad (rms) which equates to 137 uUI (rms) of total jitter.



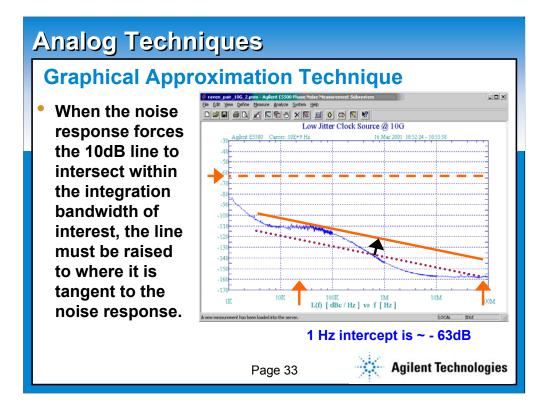
While the mathematical integration process is necessary, there is a way that you can estimate the total integrated noise (in terms of dB) by using a simple graphical technique with the measured phase noise response. The purpose for doing so would be to quickly identify the offset frequency range which has the largest contribution to total jitter, and to evaluate non-random signals as to their contribution to total jitter.



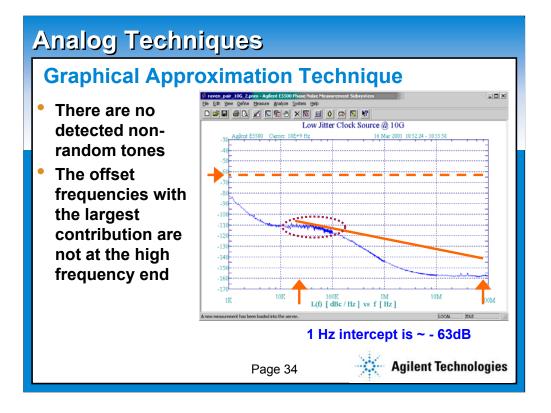
For broadband noise characteristics, place a -10 dB/decade starting at the maximum offset frequency (for the integration) and using this line to determine the 1 Hz offset intercept value (in this case -43 dB).



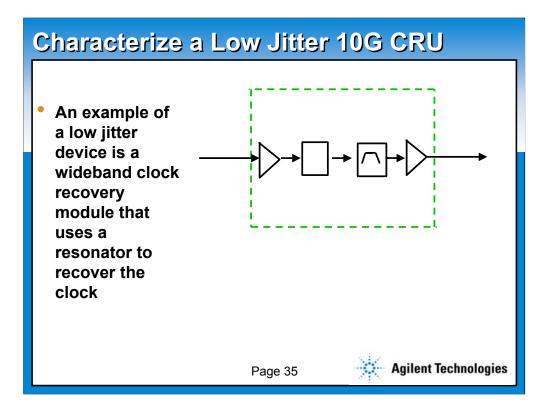
The two characteristics that the graphical approximation technique presents are 1) the offset frequencies that have the largest contribution to total jitter are those closest to the 10 dB/decade approximation (the horizontal scale is in log frequency and there are more frequencies closer to the decade line than farther away); and 2) the dBc level of the nonrandom tones with respect to the total integrated noise – in this example the non-random tone is 25 dB below the total integrated noise and has no discernable affect on total jitter.



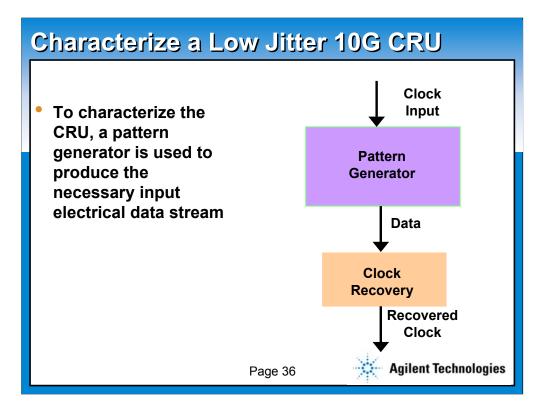
When the DUT noise response causes an unwanted intersection of the 10 dB/decade line within the integration bandwidth of interest, then the 10 dB line must be raised until it is tangent to the highest point in the response (within the integration bandwidth). Total integrated noise is obtained by looking at the 1 Hz offset frequency intercept value.



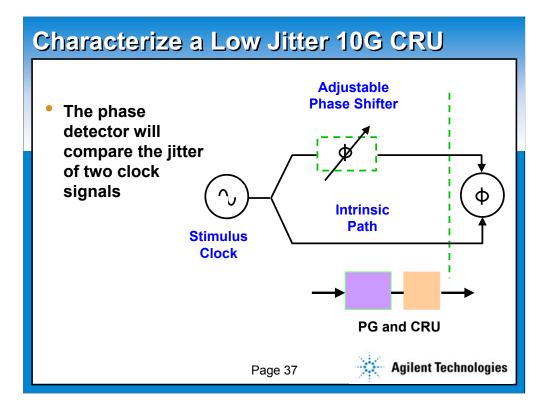
In the case of this DUT, the offset frequencies that have the largest contribution to total jitter are in the 20 kHz to 120 kHz range. This means that if the characteristics of the DUT where to be lowered in this area (and not raised in other areas), then the total jitter would decrease. The total integrated noise is  $\sim$  -63 dB.



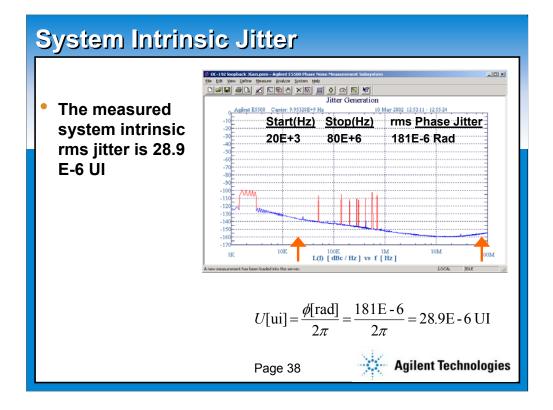
An example of a low jitter device is a wideband clock recovery module that uses a resonator to recover the clock signal from a NRZ data stream. The components of the CRU are mostly active devices that essentially have broadband noise characteristics.



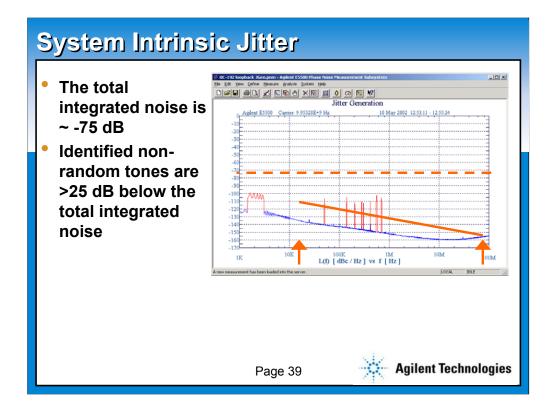
To characterize such a device, it is necessary to apply a serial data stream from a pattern generator. The recovered clock is measured for total jitter.



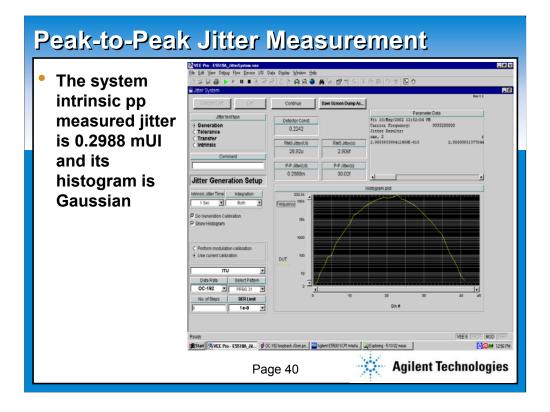
The lowest noise technique to measure the additive jitter of the CRU is shown here. A stimulus clock is used to provide both signals to the phase detector, with the adjustable phase shifter being used to establish the necessary quadrature conditions. The noise at both inputs is the same and is effectively cancelled out, leaving the intrinsic noise of the phase detector plus the baseband path. To measure the CRU, the pattern generator and CRU combination is inserted into one signal path and quadrature established (the noise of the stimulus clock continues to be cancelled at the phase detector). The measurement result will be that of the PG/CRU combination.



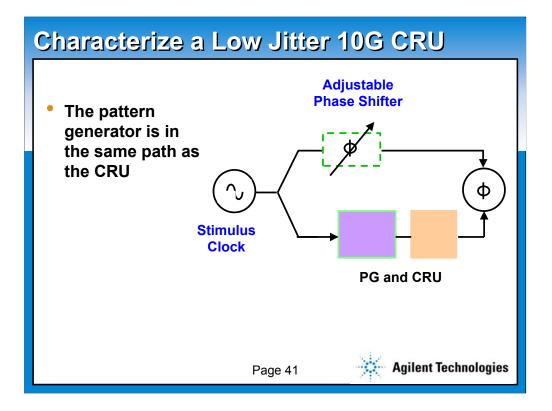
Shown here is the noise characteristics of the intrinsic paths only. The total rms jitter of this configuration is only 42 uUI. This configuration uses the low noise 10 G clock observed early as the stimulus clock. Notice that the system intrinsic jitter is lower than the rms jitter of the clock itself (29 uUI vs 137 uUI).



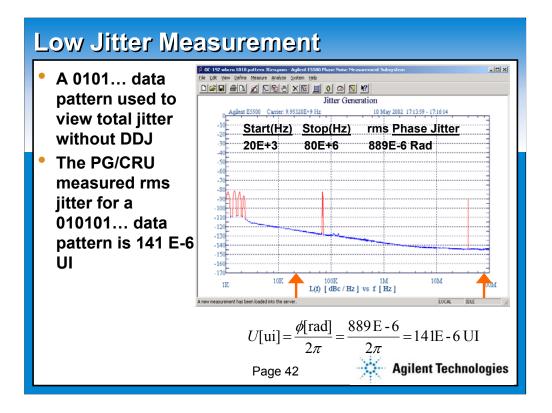
The approximate total integrated noise is -75 dB. The detected nonrandom tones are > 25 dB below the total integrated noise and have no affect on total jitter.



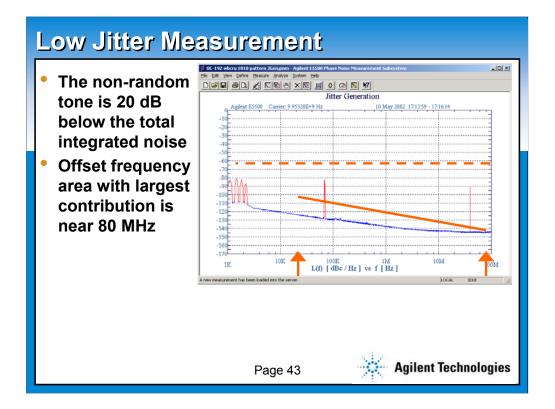
The histogram characteristics of the measured system intrinsic p-p jitter (0.2988 mUI) is clearly Gaussian in shape (the vertical scale is a log scale of the occurances).



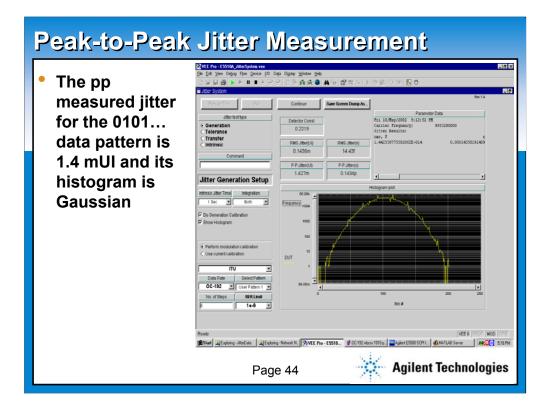
To measure the CRU, the PG/CRU combination are inserted into one of the signal paths and quadrature established.



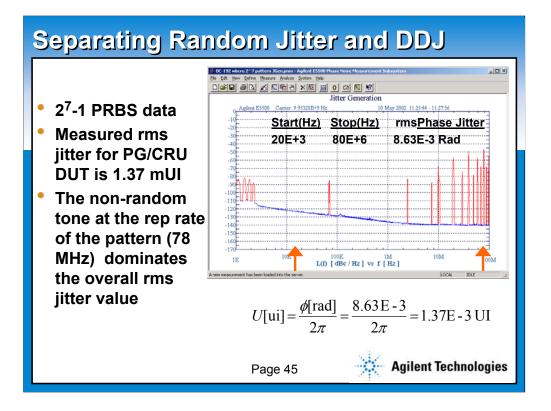
A 0101...pattern, applied to the CRU, will place any pattern dependent jitter well outside the SONET bandwidth, leaving random jitter as the primary jitter contribution. For this measurement, the total rms jitter for a 0101... pattern is 1417 uUI.



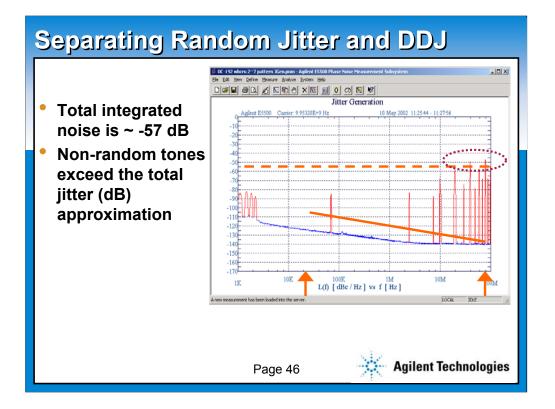
With graphical approximation, the total integrated noise is ~ -65 dB. The non random tone at ~ 80 kHz is ~ -85 dBc which is ~ 20 dB lower than the integrated noise and will have no substantial contribution to total jitter.



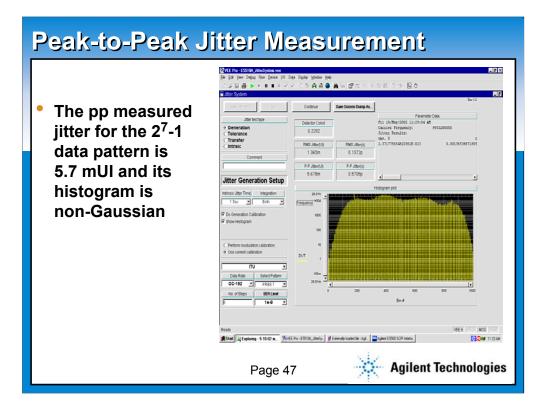
The histogram characteristics of the measured p-p jitter value of 1.4 mUI and is clearly Gaussian in shape (the vertical scale is a log scale of the occurances).



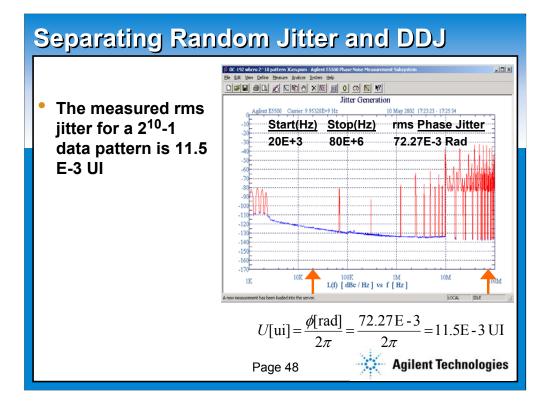
Applying a 2^7-1 PRBS data pattern to the CRU results with this response. The repetition rate of a 2^7 pattern at 10G is ~ 78 MHz and the detected non-random tones (shown in red > 1 MHz offset from carrier) are related to the data pattern. Random characteristics are shown in blue. The 78 MHz tone is ~ -47 dBc which is ~ 10 dB larger than the total integrated random noise. This tone dominates total jitter.



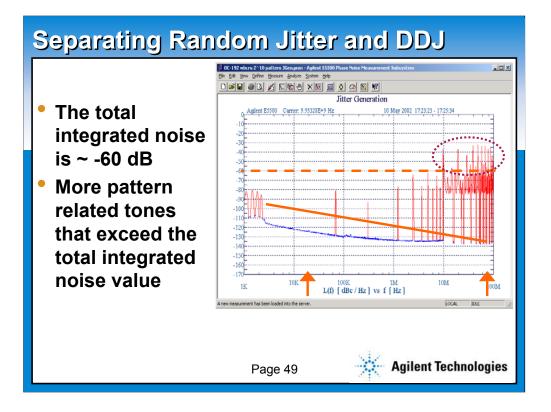
A quick application of the graphical approximation technique shows the the fundamental repetition rate of the data pattern has a magnitude greater than the approximate total integrated noise. Tones which exceed the total integrated noise will dominate the total jitter response.



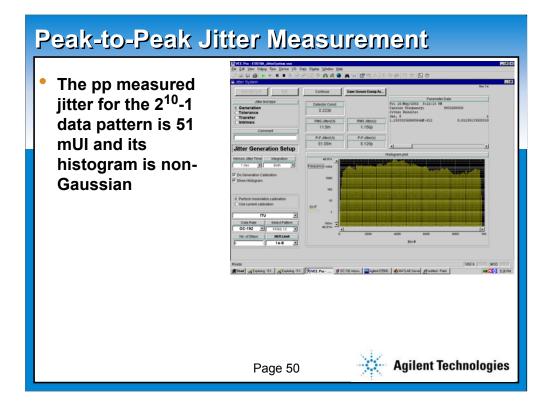
The histogram of the measured p-p jitter is shown here and is clearly not Gaussian.



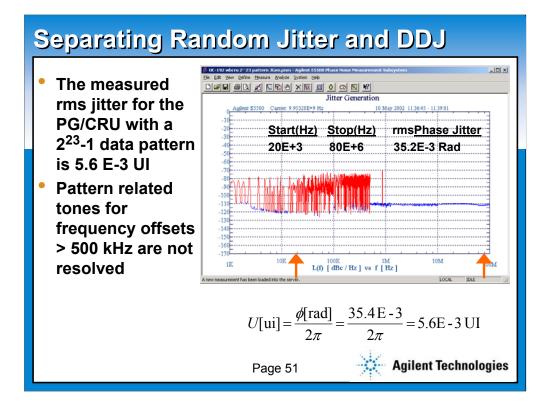
Increasing the pattern length to 2^10-1 shows more pattern related tones. The level of the tones are dominating the overall rms jitter measurement.



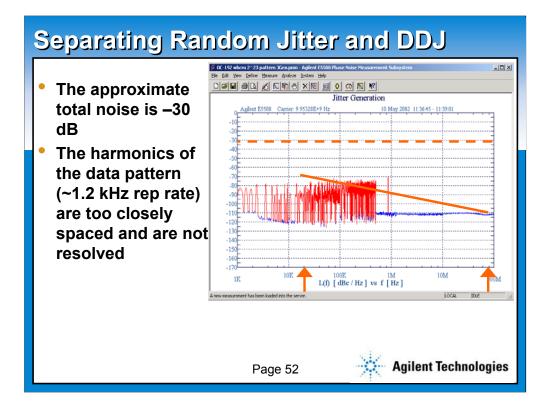
As we can see here, there are more tones than the previous 2<sup>7</sup> pattern that exceed the total integrated noise level.



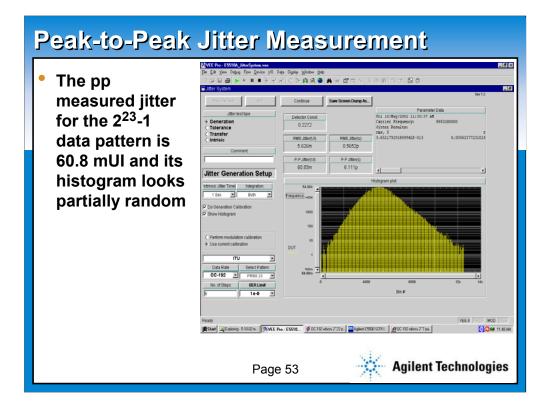
It is not surprising that the pp jitter measurement of total jitter has leaped to 51 mUI.



As the PRBS data pattern gets longer, the repetition rate in frequency gets smaller. For  $2^23-1$  pattern, the total rms jitter is 5.6 mUl, considerably larger than the shorter data patterns. The repetition rate of the pattern is ~ 1.2 kHz and pattern related tones > 500 kHz offset from the carrier are not resolved and appear as noise (random).

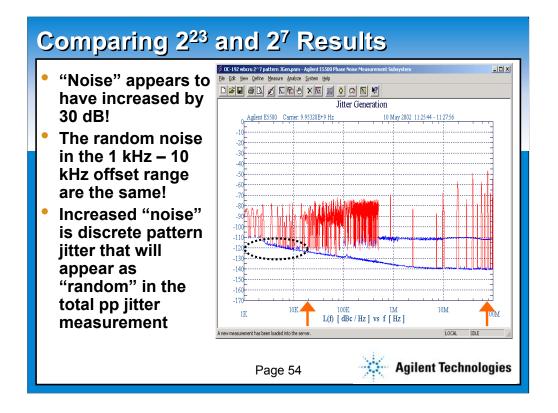


A quick application of the graphical approximation technique yields a total integrated noise of  $\sim$  -30 dB.

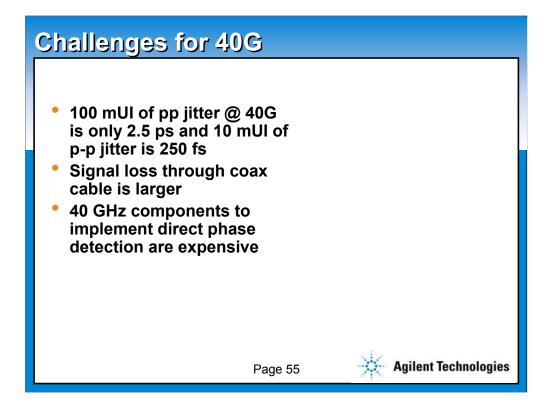


The histogram for the pp measurement actually looks random (starting to approach Gaussian). It appears that PRBS related tones for long data patterns that are measured with a relatively narrow bandwidth look like noise, even this effective noise is "data dependent".

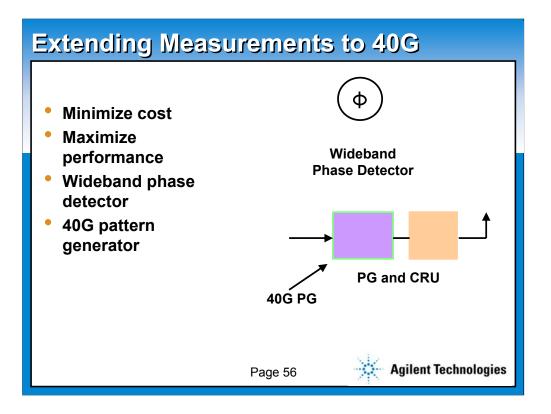
Notice that the pp value has risen only modestly from the 2^10 pattern while the rms value is actually smaller than the 2^10 rms value.



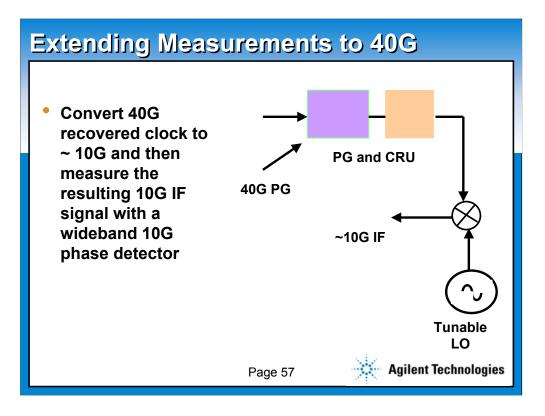
If we compare a 2^23 data pattern result with a 2^7 data pattern result, we can see that the non-data-dependent noise (shown here within the indicated circle) is the same for both patterns. The many unresolved tones far from carrier is what causes the increase of "noise" for the 2^23 pattern (as compared to the 2^7 pattern).



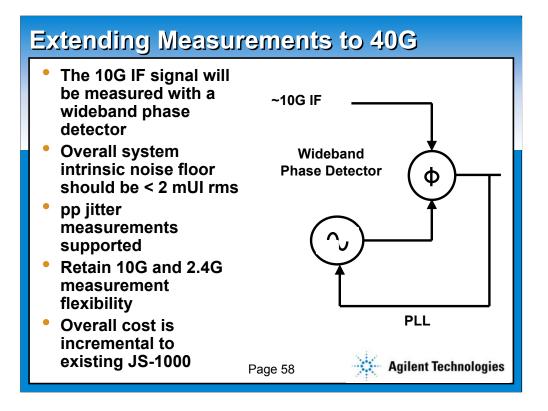
At 40G data rates, achieving low jitter is even more challenging. At 40G, 100 mUl of jitter of 2.4 ps is 1/4 that at 10G. Signal losses through coax cable is larger at 40G, and certainly to implement direct phase detection at 40 G, when 40G components are used, will result in a very expensive solution.



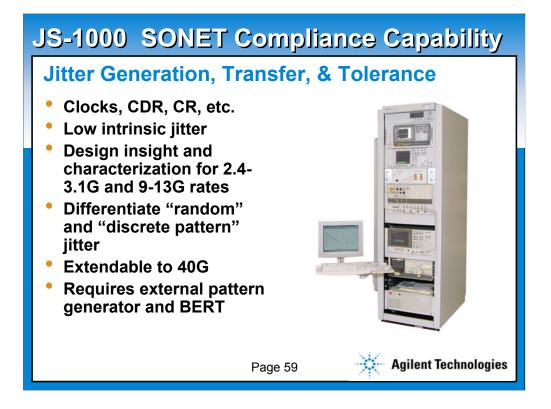
For the frequency domain approach, the goal is to extend the phase detector approach while minimizing the overall cost. Required elements at 40G include a wideband phase detector (up to 320 MHz of baseband bandwidth) and a 40G pattern generator.



Assuming that a 40G pattern generator is in place, the recovered clock (DUT) can be mixed down to an  $\sim$  10GHz IF signal by using a low noise mixer and a low noise tuneable LO.



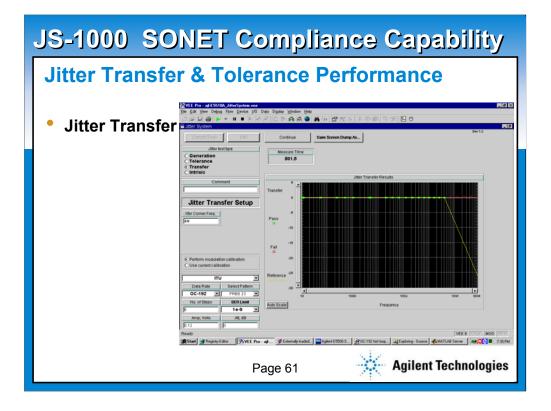
The wideband phase detector is being implemented at ~ 10G to minimize costs down while keeping the performance high. In this approach, the overall system intrinsic jitter is expected to be < 2 mUl rms (.05 ps rms) for the expected SONET bandwidth of 320 MHz. The resulting 40G configuration will be incremental to that of a 10G solution while retaining the flexibility to measure 10G (and 2.4G) components.



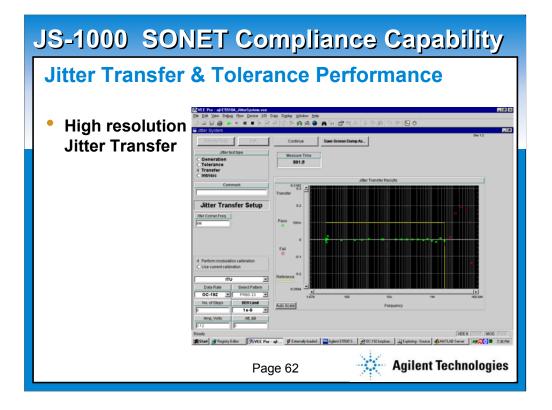
The analog techniques we have been discussing are implemented within Agilent's JS-1000 jitter measurement solution. In addition to measuring low levels of jitter (jitter generation) for SONET clock rates of 2.4-3.1G and 9-13G, the JS-1000 also provides a compliant measurement solution for jitter transfer and tolerance. All of these measurements require an external pattern generator and jitter tolerance requires an external error detector. Lastly, the JS-1000 10G solution is extendable to 40G.

Jitter Transfer Capability		
0.005 dB resolution and 0.01 dB accuracy		
• Sinusoidal Jitter available:		
<i>Modulation Rate</i> 5-80 MHz 4 MHz 400 kHz 10 kHz 10 Hz	<i>ITU 0.172 requirements</i> 0.2 UI pp 0.2 UI pp 2.0 UI pp 2 UI pp 3,200 UI pp	<i>System limits</i> 0.5 UI pp 0.625 UI pp 6.25UI pp 500 UI pp 500,000 UI pp
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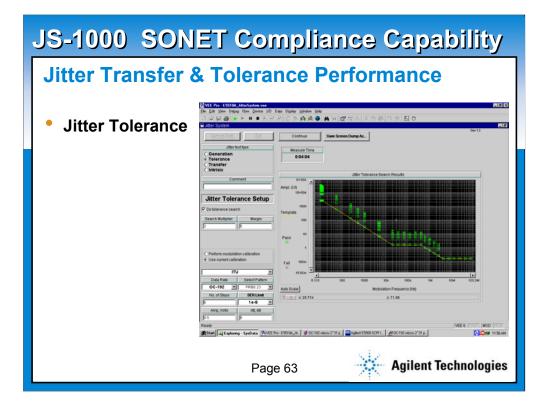
Jitter transfer and tolerance SONET/SDH measurements require intentional sinusoidal jitter be applied. The JS-1000 exceeds the intentional jitter requirements allowing stress testing of devices during development.



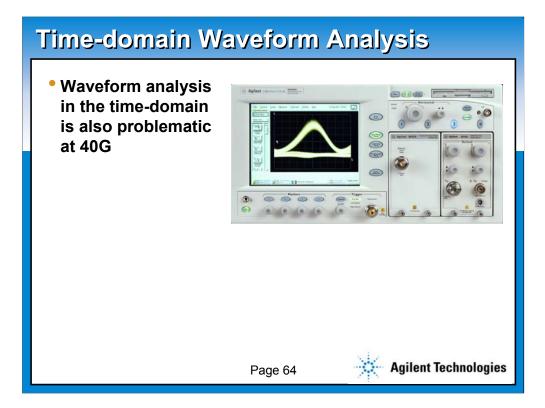
Shown here is a typical 10G jitter transfer result at full scale. It is difficult to observe the peaking at this scale.



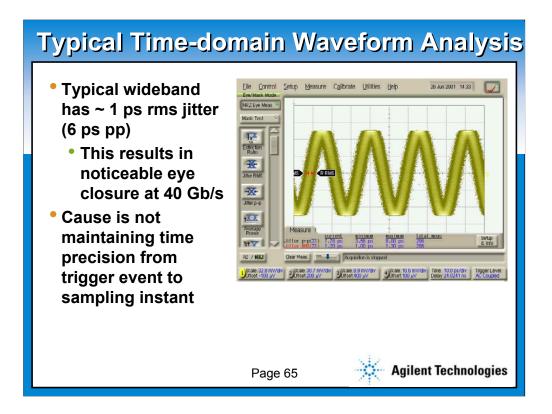
Jitter transfer can also be observed in high resolution mode where it is easy to see small variation in the results. The JS-1000 has 0.005 dB of resolution and 0.01 dB of accuracy up to 10 MHz of applied jitter modulation.



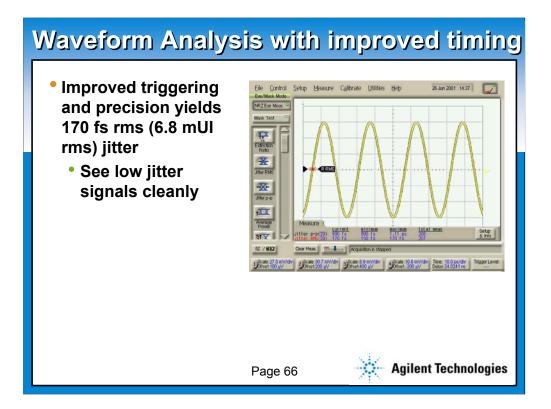
A typical 10G jitter tolerance output where stress levels of sinusoidal beyond compliance have been applied.



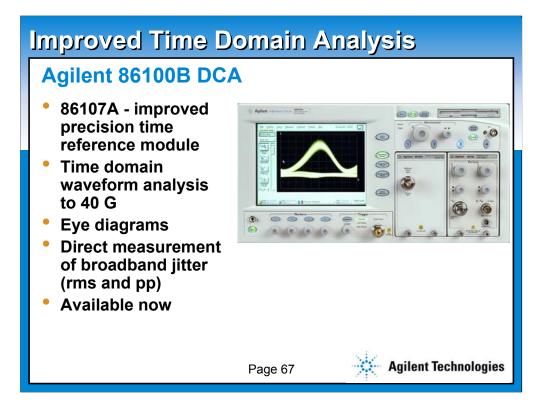
Looking at a low noise 40G clock signal in the time domain using a typical wide-bandwidth oscilloscope (one with ~ 1 ps of rms jitter) will result in significant eye closure if the typical scope timing is not improved.



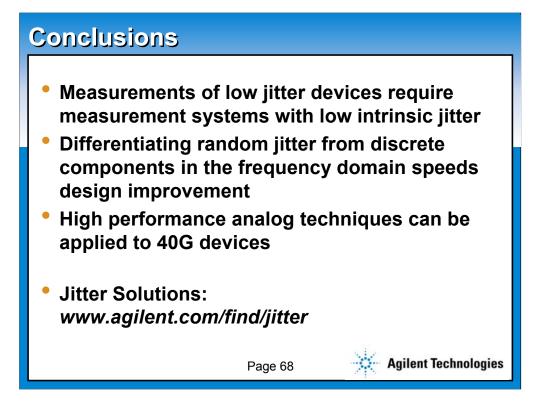
An example of measuring a 40 G clock signal with a typical wideband oscilloscope is shown here. Notice that the rms jitter is  $\sim$  1 ps rms and 6 ps pp.



By applying an improved triggering/time reference to the scope, the intrinsic jitter of the scope can be reduced significantly allowing a more clear view of a low jitter signal. 0.17 ps of rms jitter at 40G is equal to 6.8 mUI rms jitter.



The Agilent 86100B DCA family with its 86107A improved precision time reference module provides the low time domain intrinsic jitter for direct time-domain wave form and eye diagram analysis.



In conclusion:

- 1) the characterization of low jitter devices require solutions that have low intrinsic jitter.
- 2) Information gathered and displayed in the frequency domain, such as differentiating random jitter from discrete data related tones, speeds overall design improvements;
- 3) High performance analog techniques that are successful at 10G can be extended and applied to 40G device measurements.