

Products: Signal Analyzer FSIQ (with option FSIQ-B70 and FSIQ-K72)

Measurements on 3GPP Base Station Transmitter Signals

Application Note

This application note explains the measurements on 3GPP Base Station Transmitter signals according to TS 25.141, using the Signal Analyzer FSIQ with the Code Domain Power application firmware FSIQ-K72.



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1 Overview

With the introduction of a CDMA transmission scheme for the third generation of mobile radio systems new requirements on test equipment arise. The CDMA transmission scheme is already used and the measurement techniques are well known from the existing American IS 95 system. However, due to the variable and higher data rates possible with the 3GPP system, the signal structure is more complex compared to IS95. With the 3GPP system each user can be assigned a different bit rate from 7.5 kbit/s to 512 kbit/s. This is not the case with the second generation systems.

The conformance test for 3GPP base station transmitters is described in the 3GPP document TS 25.141. It requires different measurements on BTS transmit signals only possible by de-spreading the CDMA signal into the different code channels. A dedicated analyzer is necessary to de-spread the signal and measure power of the different code channels, as well as the modulation quality of the whole signal. In addition to these in-band measurements, out of band transmission and spurious measurements are necessary to protect other W-CDMA channels or other radio systems from interference. Additional measurements not required by the standard are desirable, for example to assure on module level that the whole base station transmitter will work or to troubleshoot non-working modules.

The structure of the W-CDMA signal is explained as far as this knowledge is needed for understanding the measurement. Especially with the in-channel measurement explained in section 3 and 4 the structure of the signal is of importance. In section 5 the out-of-band measurements are discussed. These are spectrum measurements requiring specific functions of the spectrum analyzer.

2 Structure of the 3GPP W-CDMA Signal

To help understand the measurements in the code domain this section gives a short overview of the W-CDMA signal structure.

Structure in Code Domain

Different bit rates for data transmission are implemented in the 3GPP standard by using different spreading factors of the information bits. Spreading Factors (SF) between 4 and 512 are defined. Each SF is assigned a number of code channels. The number of code channels available for a specific SF is dependent on the SF itself. The different code channels can be shown in the so-called code tree (see figure 1).

The different codes with a specific SF are orthogonal (vertical bars in fig 1). The codes of branches in the tree (connected through lines in figure 1) are related to each other, i. e. they are not orthogonal. If one single code channel in a branch of the code tree is occupied, other users cannot use all other codes in the branch.

With a spreading factor of 4 four users are possible in theory. With a spreading factor of 512 the theoretical maximum number of users is 512. However, not all channels can be used for payload. Some channels must be used for network signalling overhead, such as exchanging network information with the users or for initiating a call. For the purposes of this application note, these network signalling channels are referred to as organization channels. The most important organization channels are:

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CPICH	Common Pilot Channel (SF 256, position 0)
PICH	Paging indication channel (SF256, position 16)
PCCPCH	Primary common control physical channel (SF 256, position 1)
PSCH	Primary Synchronization channel
SSCH	Secondary Synchronization Channel

The PSCH and the SSCH are only transmitted during the first 256 chips of a slot. They are not orthogonal because they are superimposed on the other channels. Therefore they are not assigned to a code position.

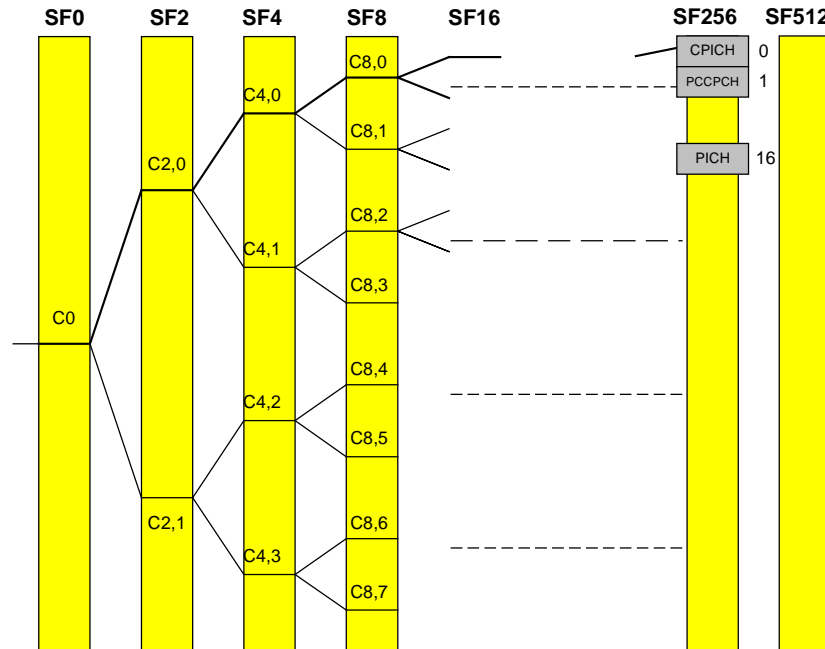


Fig 1 Code Tree of a W-CDMA signal. The organization channels are shown on their position in code class 256 (15 kbps)

Structure in Time Domain

The W-CDMA signal is organized in frames with a length of 10 ms. A frame consists of 15 slots with 625 μ s duration, each. With the 3.84 MHz chip rate used each slot contains 2560 chips. A super frame consists of 72 frames.

the structure and the purpose of the different channels are explained below with respect to their use for transmitter measurements.

Dedicated Physical Channel (DPCH)

A traffic channel for transmission of voice or user data has the structure shown in figure 2.

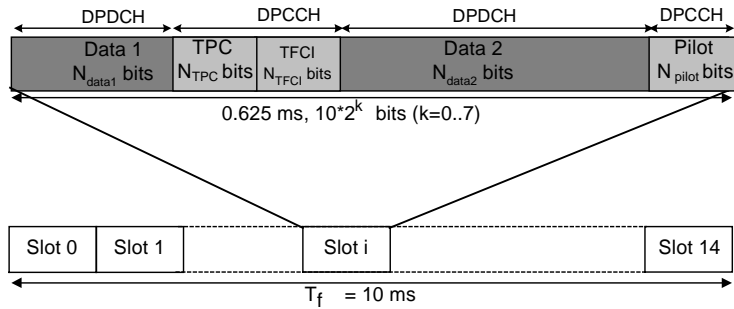


Fig 2 Structure of a W-CDMA traffic channel in time domain

- DPCCH = Dedicated Physical Control Channel
- DPDCH = Dedicated Physical Data Channel
- TFCI = Transport Format Combination Indicator
- TPC = Transmit Power Control
- Pilot = Pilot Symbols

The DPCH contains control and data information. The data portion contains the Dedicated Physical Data Channel (DPDCH), with 4 to 1248 data bits, dependent on the spreading factor of the code channel. Control information includes

- the DPCCH (Dedicated Physical Control Channel) comprising the Pilot symbols,
- the Transmit Power Control (TPC) bits and
- the Transport Format Combination Indicator (TFCI) bits.

The number of pilot bits can vary between 2 and 16. The number of TPC bits is 2, 4 or 8. For higher bit rates more TPC bits are used. An all zero TPC bit pattern stands for a power down command for the mobile station and an all one bit pattern for a power up command for the mobile station. Alternating 1's and 0's result in no power change by the mobile.

Common Pilot Channel (CPICH)

To synchronize the mobile station the base station transmits a Common Pilot Channel (CPICH) with a pre-defined symbol sequence. It is transmitted continuously at a fixed power level. Its structure is shown in figure 3.

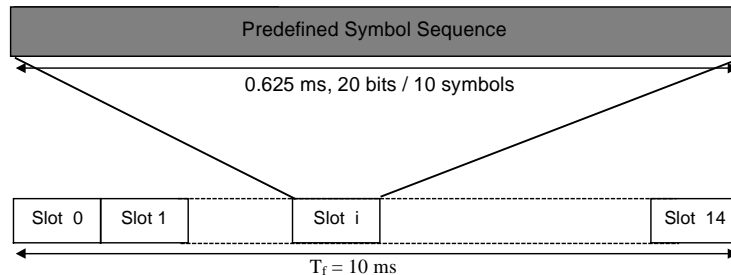


Fig 3 Structure of the Common Pilot Channel (CPICH)

The spreading factor of the CPICH is 256; i. e. the transmission rate is 30 kbps. In the code tree the CPICH is on position 0. The CPICH is the phase reference for all other channels in the downlink.

Paging Indication Channel (PICH)

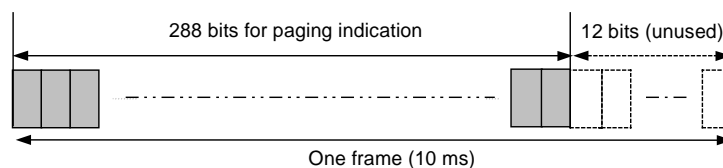


Fig 4 Structure of the Paging Indication Channel (PICH)

The PICH does not contain any pilot or other control channels. If the Paging Indicator in a certain frame is set to "1" it is an indication for mobile stations associated with this page indicator to read a message in the corresponding frame of the associated Secondary Common Control Physical Channel (S-CCPCH).

Synchronization Channel (SCH)

The Synchronization Channel (SCH) is for cell search. It consists of two sub-channels, the Primary SCH (P-SCH) and Secondary SCH (S-SCH). The 10 ms frames of the Primary and Secondary SCH are divided into 15 slots, each of length 2560 chips. Figure 5 illustrates the structure of the SCH radio frame.

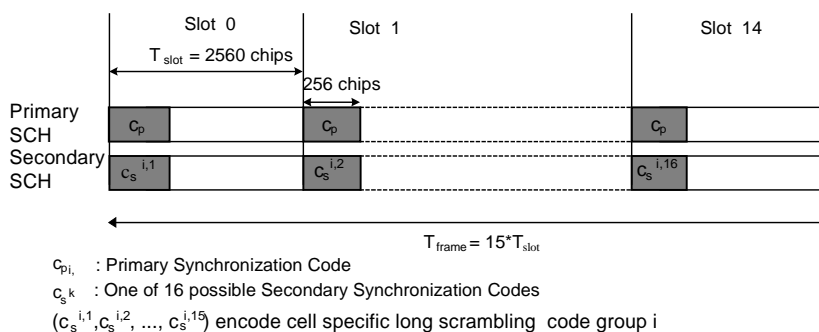


Fig 5 Structure of the Synchronization Channel (SCH)

The synchronization channel is non-orthogonal to the other channels and is only switched on during the first 256 chips of each slot. For that reason the SCH creates some interference in all other channels. EVM measurement in the presence of the SCH requires special techniques in the test equipment to remove the effects of this distortion..

Primary Common Control Physical Channel (P-CCPCH)

The P-CCPCH is a fixed rate (30 kbps, SF = 256) downlink physical channel used to carry the Broadcast Channel (BCH). The BCH sends system- and cell-specific information to all users. It is always transmitted over the entire cell with a low fixed bit rate.

Figure 6 shows the frame structure of the P-CCPCH. The frame structure differs from the downlink DPCH in that no TPC commands, no TFCI and no pilot bits are transmitted. The P-CCPCH is not transmitted during the first 256 chips of each slot. Instead, Primary SCH and Secondary SCH are transmitted during this period (see figure 5).

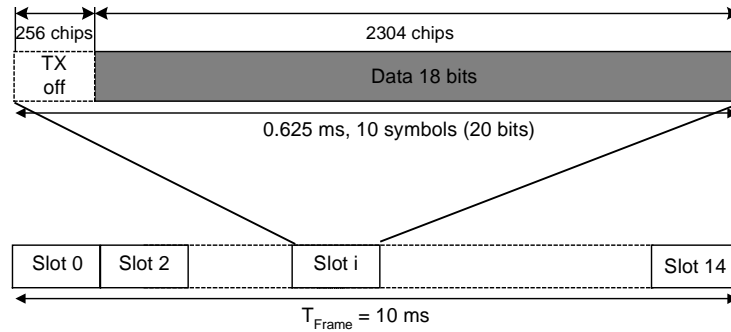


Fig 6 Structure of the Primary Common Control Physical Channel (PCCPCH)

Code Channel Timing Offsets

The power of each user code channel is controlled on slot basis. Dependent on the transmission quality the mobile station reports, the base station adjusts the power of each individual code channel separately.

To minimize the crest factor of the W-CDMA signal, each code channel can be assigned a timing offset such that the absolute time of a slot is different for each channel. The reference channel is the CPICH. The timing offset can be between 0 and 38144 chips in steps of 256 chips, or nearly a complete frame.

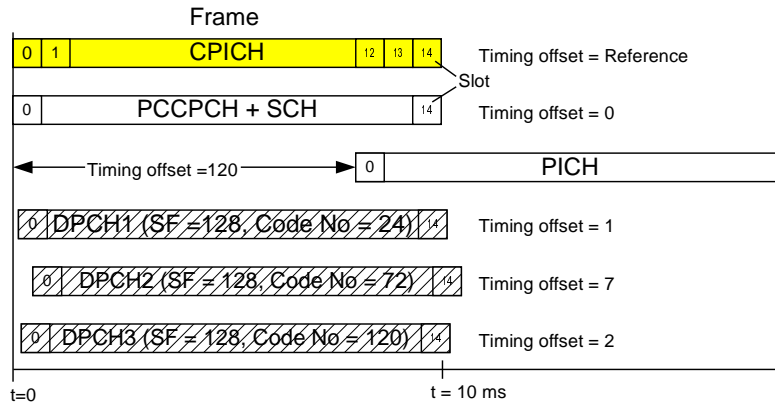


Fig 7 Absolute timing of the code channels of test model 1.

During a CPICH timeslot, the other active channels may belong to a different slot number or even to a different frame number compared to the CPICH. Due to the timing offset two different time scalings can be defined:

- With absolute time scaling the power of all code channels is referenced to the CPICH. With this absolute time reference the slot timing of all other channel do not necessarily match the slot timing of the CPICH.
- With logical time scaling all channels are regarded in respect to their frame number and timeslot number. The logical time scaling corresponds to the absolute time scaling, if the timing offsets are removed and the corresponding timeslots are overlaid.

The FSIQ uses absolute time scaling referenced to the start of CPICH slot 0 for measurements in the code domain. The power in the different code channels is displayed in the raster of the CPICH timeslots.

3 Measurements in Code Domain

The most prominent requirement for in-channel measurements on W-CDMA signals is Code Domain Power analysis. As all channels use the same spectrum, the measurement must be performed by de-spreading the W-CDMA signal into its individual code channels and measuring their individual power and quality.

Test Models

The 3GPP standard TS 25.141 defines four different test models to assure that the results between different base stations are comparable.

Each of these test models contain organization channels listed on page 4 and a number of Dedicated Physical Channels, each using the spreading factor 128 or 256 (corresponds to 30 kbps or 15 kbps transmission rate). Each channel is assigned a specific power level and timing offset. The contents of the different channels of the test models are exactly specified in TS 25.141.

Test model 1 is primarily used for measurement of the out of band spectrum and the maximum output power of the base station. It uses 64 user code channels at 30 kbps (spreading factor 128) randomly distributed across the code space with random power levels and random timing offsets. The intention is to use a signal with a high crest factor to simulate a realistic traffic scenario. If the base station does not support 64 traffic channels, models using 32 or 16 traffic channels are specified.

Test model 1 is used with the following measurements specified in TS 25.141:

- spectrum emission mask
- adjacent channel leakage ratio (ACLR)
- spurious emissions
- transmit intermodulation
- base station maximum output power

Test model 2 is used for the measurement of the output power dynamics. It comprises the organization channels P-CCPCH + SCH, CPICH, PICH and 3 traffic channels, each with 30 kbps transmission rate.

Test model 3 is used for the measurement of Peak Code Domain Error (PCDE). It contains in addition to the organization channels P-CCPCH + SCH, CPICH, PICH 16 or 32 traffic channels each with spreading factor 256 (= 15 kbps transmission rate), dependent on the capability of the base station.

Test model 4 is used for measurement of Error Vector Magnitude (EVM). It uses the P-CCPCH, SCH and CPICH (optional), only. No traffic channel is active.

Maximum Output Power

For the measurement of the maximum output power test model 1 is used.

Maximum output power of the base station is the mean power level per carrier at the antenna connector as specified by the manufacturer. It is defined as the mean power over certain slots and shall be within 2 dB of the manufacturer's specification.

Measurement of the mean power can be performed in two different ways:

- The FSIQ uses the integrated bandwidth method in spectrum mode to measure the channel power. Using the rms detector the measurement result is very accurate and repeatable. However, there is no relation to specific slots of the W-CDMA signal.

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- Using the Code domain power function of the option FSIQ-K72, the power is measured during a selectable slot of the W-CDMA signal. To enable the FSIQ to detect the PICH in test model 1, it supports the selection of the test model to be measured. With the test model selected, the FSIQ knows the code configuration of the test signal in advance. The calculations in code domain are then performed exactly to the specification. The test result is reported as a numeric value in the result summary.

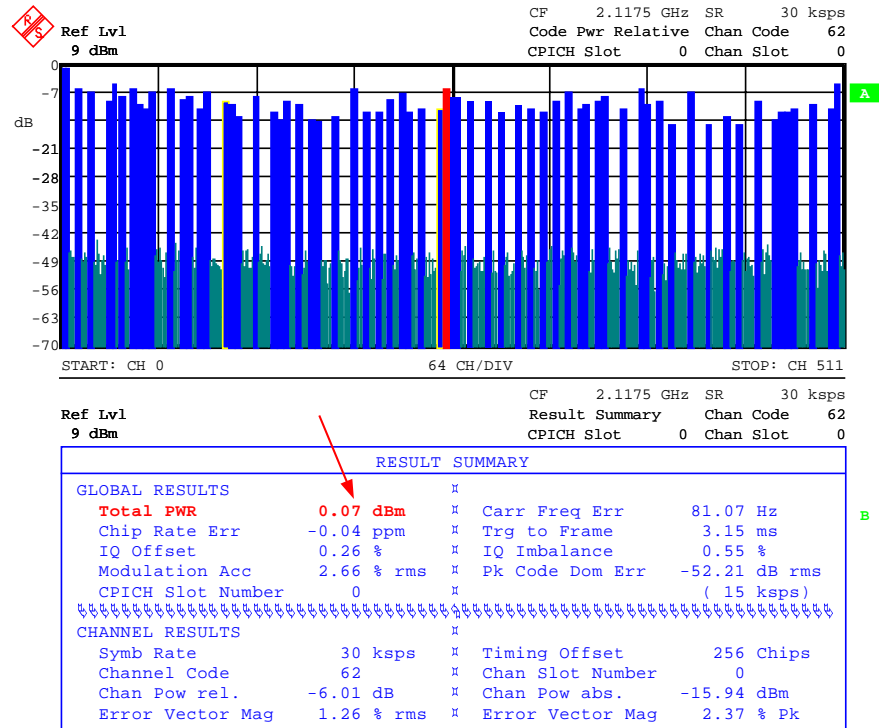


Fig 8 Numeric measurement result for the total power using test model 1 (Total Pwr, arrowed)

In addition to the total power the result summary table shows other useful information characterizing the W-CDMA signal in more detail. Some of the measurement values apply to the whole signal such as the carrier frequency error, chip rate error, modulation accuracy (EVM) and the peak code domain error (PCDE). They are listed in the section GLOBAL RESULTS. In addition to the Global Results, characteristics and test results for a specific code channel are output. These are the symbol rate, the code number, the slot number, the timing offset and the error vector magnitude for the de-spread symbols. These are listed in the CHANNEL RESULTS table.

CPICH Power Accuracy

The purpose of this test is to verify the CPICH power to match the power stated by the manufacturer with the limits given in TS 25.141 (± 2.1 dB).

With the code domain power analyzer, the power of the P-CCPCH and the P-CPICH must be measured while the base station is transmitting with the maximum power and inner loop power control is disabled. For the measurement of the CPICH power accuracy test model 2 is used.

The CPICH Power accuracy can easily be measured with the FSIQ by using the marker. After analyzing the signal in code domain power mode, the marker is set to the CPICH or the PCCPCH by using the dedicated marker functions (MKR -> CPICH or MKR -> PCCPCH). The marker read out shows the respective power level (see marker output in figure 9).

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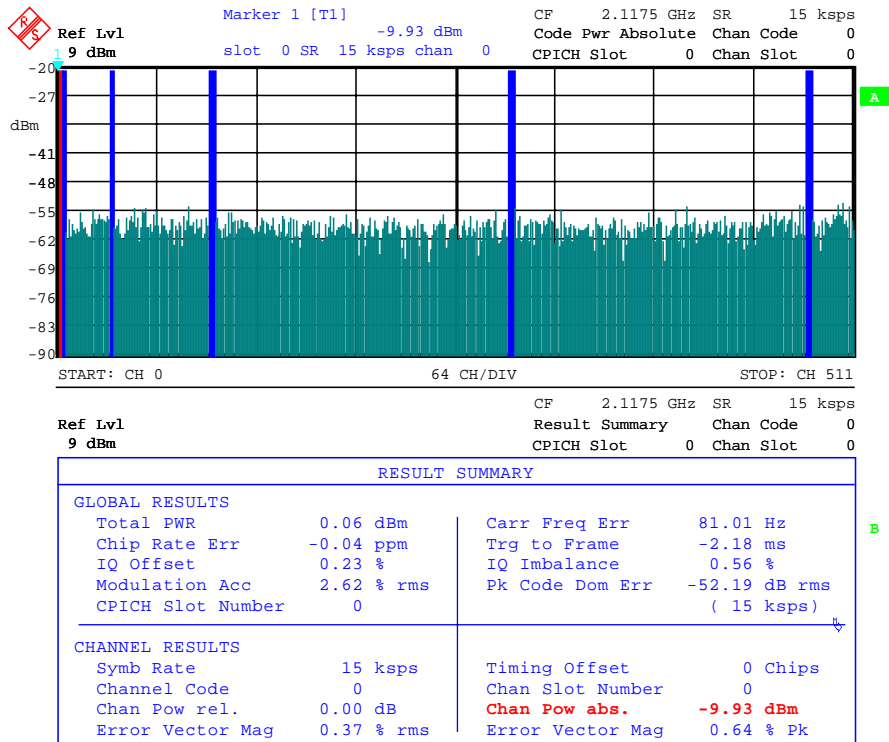


Fig 9 Code domain power display with the marker readout for CPICH power. Test model 2 signal used.

The absolute power is output also in the RESULT SUMMARY in the CHANNEL RESULT section.

Frequency Stability

With the frequency stability measurement the correct frequency of the base station is to be verified. The requirement is a frequency accuracy of 0.05 ppm of the set transmit frequency. The standard requires only that the transmit signal be continuously modulated. No specific channel configuration is stated in the standard.

The FSIQ can measure the frequency error of the base station in any channel configuration. Along with the RESULT SUMMARY the frequency error is always output in the GLOBAL RESULTS table (see figure 9, Carr Freq Err). It is calculated during synchronization to the W-CDMA signal. However, for highest accuracy the FSIQ needs a high precision external reference fulfilling the high stability requirements. Oven controlled crystal oscillators normally do not provide sufficient stability to meet the requirement. An external reference signal, for example a Rubidium oscillator, is necessary to synchronize the internal reference oscillator of the FSIQ.

Power Control Steps and Combined Power Control Tolerance

Tight control of output power is essential for CDMA systems. To minimize interference with other users the transmitted power in each code channel must be kept at its minimum for a reliable connection. The mobile station therefore sends a power control message (TPC bits, see figure 2) to the base station in each timeslot to command the base station to decrease or increase the transmit power.

The base station needs to adjust the power of an individual code channel in 1-dB steps (optional 0.5-dB steps) dependent on the power control symbol sent by the mobile station. In order to guarantee minimum interference to

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other users, the transmit power of the base station must be set very accurately. The accuracy of the 1-dB steps is required to be ± 0.5 dB and for the optional 0.5-dB steps the accuracy must be ± 0.25 dB.

After 10 consecutive steps in one direction the error of the relative power is required to be within a 2-dB tolerance for 1-dB steps and within a 1-dB tolerance for 0.5-dB steps.

Test model 2 is used for testing the power control steps.

The FSIQ evaluates a complete frame for code domain power measurement. Therefore, the measurement of the power control step tolerance and the combined power control tolerance can be measured in a single run.

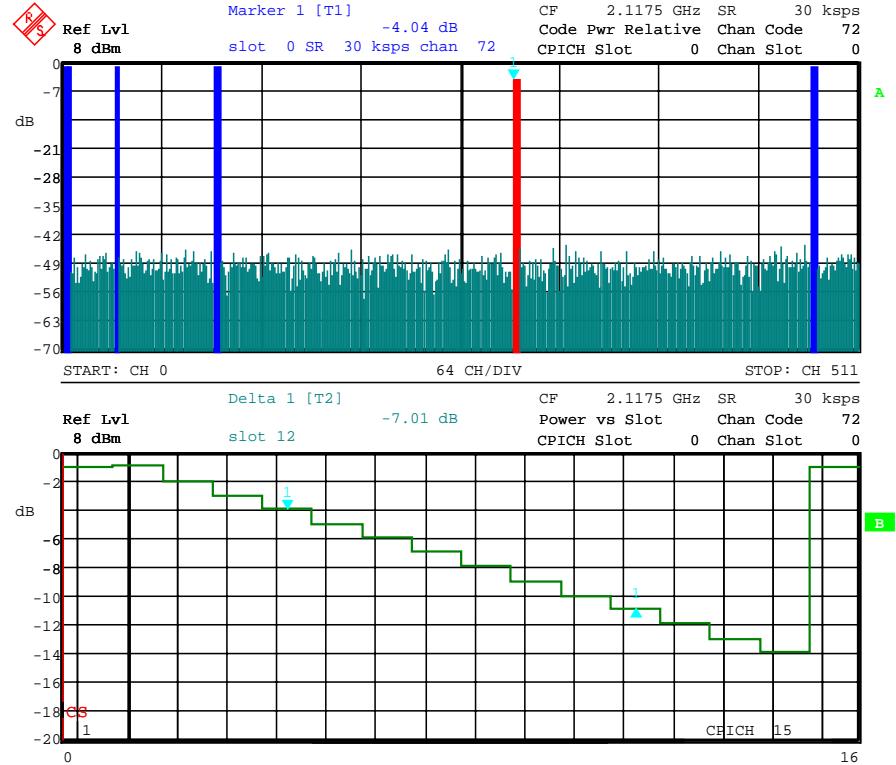


Figure 10 Measurement of the 1-dB power control steps

Using the marker and delta marker function in the time domain display the accuracy of each power step can be measured directly with the delta marker readout. Similarly, the relative power after 10 steps can be measured.

With the time domain display the relation between the CPICH and the code channel under test can be checked. In figure 10 the power of code channel 72 is controlled in 1-dB steps. The steps can be seen to be not aligned with the grid. This is due to the timing offset of channel 72 in test model 2. It is 7×256 chips = 1792 chips. The grid is instead aligned to the CPICH slots marked within the x-axis of the grid from 0 to 14. The vertical line marked with CS (Start Slot) shows the start of slot 0 of code channel 72. The timeslot number of the displayed code channel is labeled below the grid (-1 to 15). Switching the display in the lower screen to 'Result Summary' outputs the measured timing offset (see e.g. figure 8).

The code levels shown in the upper part of the display in figure 10 are measured during the timeslot of the CPICH. As only 30% of code channel 72 matches the CPICH slot the power read out by a marker set to code channel 72 is 70% from the previous timeslot and 30 % from the selected

CPICH slot number. For accurate power measurement of code channels with a timing offset the time domain display is the right choice.

Total Power Dynamic Range

The total power dynamic range is the difference between the maximum output power and the minimum output power of a base station for the entire signal. It is measured with test model 2, but all traffic channels are switched off. The base station output signal consists of the CPICH, the P-CCPCH + SCH and the PICH channel, only. All channels must have equal power.

For testing the total power dynamic range the maximum output power must first be measured. Then, all code channels are set to their minimum power. The total power must be at least 18 dB below the maximum output power.

The total power dynamic range can be measured in the spectrum mode as well as with the Code Domain Power function of the FSIQ. In spectrum mode, the channel power function leads to faster results as the code power calculation within the FSIQ is not necessary. In code domain mode in addition to the total power measurement, the correct code configuration of the device under test can be checked. For both possibilities the FSIQ offers one-button solutions. The level auto adjust function of the FSIQ frees the user from the need to manually optimize the analyzer input settings.

Power Control Dynamic Range

The purpose of the test is to verify the dynamic range of an individual code channel. The code channel under test is set to its maximum power, and to its minimum power. At its maximum power the code channel must be greater than the total power of the signal -3 dB. Its minimum power must be less than the total power -28 dB.

The test is performed on traffic channels (DPCH) using test model 2. It uses 3 traffic channels. The DPCH under test is set to its maximum power level. The level of the other DPCHs is reduced to meet the requirement for the DPCH under test to be greater than the total power - 3 dB. Then power of the DPCH under test is set to its minimum power control level. The power of the other code channels remains unchanged. In this configuration the level of the DPCH under test is measured.

If the device under test can be commanded to set the power in 3-dB steps the measurement can be carried out in a single run. If only 1-dB steps are possible a two-pass measurement is necessary, the first pass at the maximum power of the code channel under consideration and the second pass at its minimum power.

Figure 11 shows an example for measuring power control dynamic range by commanding the device under test in 3-dB steps. The Delta Marker readout shows the level of code channel 72 after 9 steps.

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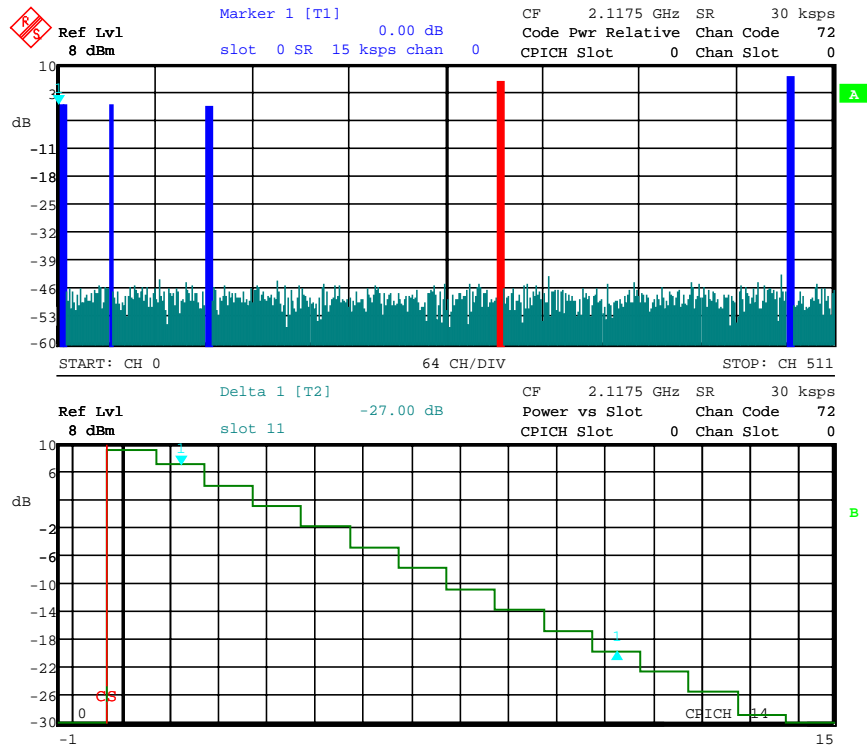


Fig 11 Measurement of the power control dynamic range using 3-dB steps for code channel 72

Measurement of the Transmit Modulation Quality

Modulation Accuracy (EVM)

The Error Vector Magnitude (EVM) is defined as the difference between the measured waveform and the theoretical modulated waveform. An error vector is calculated from the difference of both waveforms for each chip. From the error vectors the Mean Error Vector Power (MEVP) is calculated for a complete timeslot. The MEVP is related to the Mean Reference Signal Power (MRSP) within the same slot. From these two power values the EVM is calculated as follows:

$$EVM/\% = \sqrt{\frac{MEVP}{MRSP}}$$

Test model 4 using the Paging Indication Channel (PICH) and the Synchronization Channels (SCH), only is applied. As the measurement interval is specified to be one timeslot, the EVM result is one numbered value per timeslot. The specification of the EVM is valid over the total power dynamic range.

As the Synchronisation Channels in the test signal are not orthogonal to the other code channels, they increase the EVM unless special measures are taken to account for the distortion created by the SCH. When calculating the ideal waveform the FSIQ takes into account the non-orthogonal SCHs. That way both the ideal waveform and the measured waveform have the SCH included. This procedure results in an EVM value that represents the behavior of the device under test rather than the impact of the SCHs.

In general any code channel configuration can be used for the EVM measurement. However, with different code channel configurations to test model 4, a different crest factor of the signal will result in a higher stress to the device under test.

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The FSIQ needs the CPICH (optional in test model 4) to be available in the W-CDMA signal in order to synchronize to the W-CDMA waveform. Otherwise any code channel configuration can be used for EVM measurement. This allows for the modulation quality to be tested under various conditions to determine the impact of different loading conditions to the device under test. The following screen-shot shows the EVM measurement using a W-CDMA signal loaded with 32 code channels (test model 3).

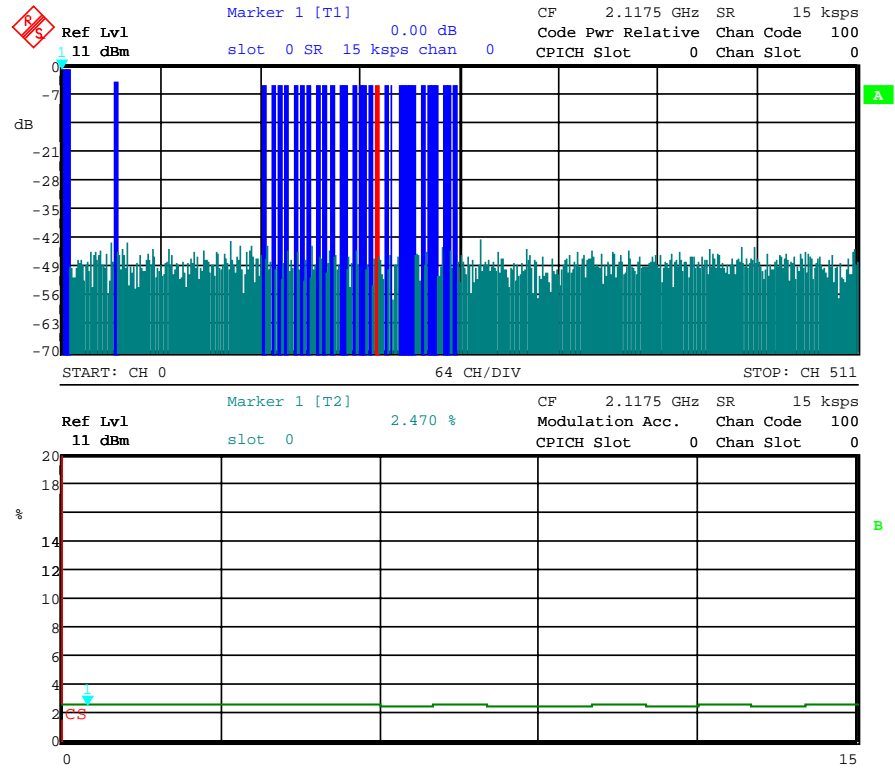


Fig 12 Graphic display of the EVM dependent on the slot number for a complete frame

The EVM for all 15 slots of a W-CDMA frame is displayed graphically in the lower part of the screen. The numbered values for the EVM can be read out easily using the marker.

Alternately the mean value for the EVM over all slots of the analyzed frame can be read in the GLOBAL RESULTS of the RESULT SUMMARY.

RESULT SUMMARY		RESULT SUMMARY	
GLOBAL RESULTS		Carr Freq Err	81.44 Hz
Total PWR	-0.00 dBm	Trg to Frame	2.64 ms
Chip Rate Err	-0.04 ppm	IQ Imbalance	0.40 %
IQ Offset	0.35 %	Pk Code Dom Err	51.79 dB rms (15 kps)
Modulation Acc	2.83 % rms		
CPICH Slot Number	0		
CHANNEL RESULTS		Timing Offset	256 Chips
Symb Rate	15 kps	Chan Slot Number	0
Channel Code	100	Chan Pow abs.	-15.98 dBm
Chan Pow rel.	-5.01 dB	Error Vector Mag	2.09 % Pk
Error Vector Mag	1.03 % rms		

Fig 13 Numeric display for the EVM of the complete frame in the RESULT SUMMARY

Peak Code Domain Error (PCDE)

With the PCDE measurement the difference between the test signal and the ideal reference signal is projected onto the code space at a specific spreading factor. PCDE is a measure for the leakage of occupied code channels into all other channels. It represents the relative power leakage of non-ideal code channels into free code channels. For Peak Code Domain Error (PCDE) measurement test model 3 is used. In addition to the organization channels it uses 16 or 32 traffic channels with a 15 kbps transmission rate each.

The TS25.141 standard specifies that the projection is made onto code channels with spreading factor 256, i.e. 15 kbps transmission rate. The measurement has to be performed on timeslot basis, i. e. for each slot one value or numbered result is calculated. The FSIQ allows to select the spreading factor of the code channels with the projection of the error vector. That way the influence on code channels with different spreading factors can be evaluated. A typical test result for PCDE measurement with the Signal Analyzer FSIQ is shown in the following figure.

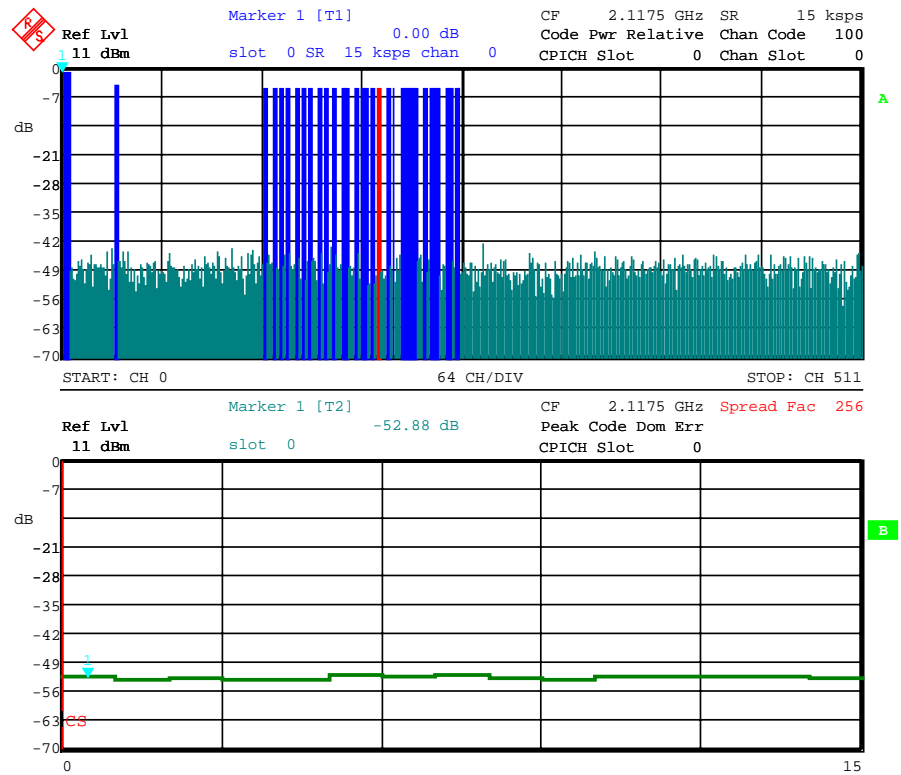


Fig 14 Graphic display of the Peak Code Domain Error using test model 3 dependent on the slot number for a complete frame

In the lower part of the screen the PCDE in each of the 15 timeslots of a W-CDMA frame is output in a trace. Within a timeslot the PCDE is a constant value. The numbered value of the PCDE can easily read out using the marker. The spreading factor used for the error projection is output on top of the PCDE display (= 256 in figure 14).

Alternately the PCDE for the complete frame can be read out from the GLOBAL RESULTS in the Result Summary (see figure 15).

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GLOBAL RESULTS		CARR FREQ ERR	
Total PWR	-0.00 dBm	Carr Freq Err	81.44 Hz
Chip Rate Err	-0.04 ppm	Trg to Frame	2.64 ms
IQ Offset	0.35 %	IQ Imbalance	0.40 %
Modulation Acc	2.83 % rms	Pk Code Dom Err	51.79 dB rms
CPICH Slot Number	0		(15 kspss)

CHANNEL RESULTS		TIMING OFFSET	
Symb Rate	15 kspss	Timing Offset	256 Chips
Channel Code	100	Chan Slot Number	0
Chan Pow rel.	-5.01 dB	Chan Pow abs.	-15.98 dBm
Error Vector Mag	1.03 % rms	Error Vector Mag	2.09 % Pk

Fig 15 Numeric display of the Peak Code Domain Error

4 Measurements in Spectrum Domain

Occupied Bandwidth (OBW)

Occupied Bandwidth (OBW) is a measure of the bandwidth containing 99% of the total integrated power for transmitted spectrum and is centered on the assigned channel frequency. The occupied channel bandwidth shall be less than 5 MHz based on a chip rate of 3.84 Mcps.

For measurement of the OBW test model 1 is used.

The FSIQ measures the OBW using scalar spectrum analyzer mode. By setting up the OBW measurement with the dedicated function provided by FSIQ-K72, the FSIQ uses a pre-defined setting as specified in TS25.141. The total power is measured within a span of 10 MHz.

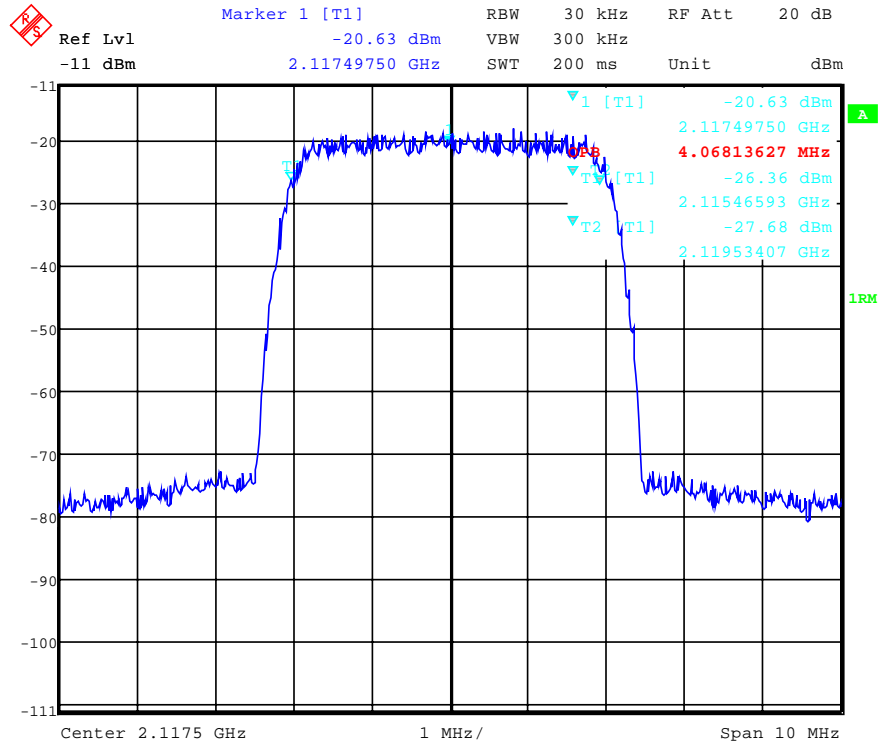


Figure 16 Measurement example for Occupied Bandwidth measurement

The FSIQ first measures the total power by integrating the pixels of the complete trace. The FSIQ then integrates the trace beginning with the start frequency until the power is 0.5 % of the total power. Finally it integrates the trace beginning with the stop frequency until 0.5 % of the total power is reached. The OBW is calculated from both frequencies at the 0.5-% power point.

Spectrum Emission Mask

The Spectrum Emission Mask measurement defines a mask in a 25 MHz span, which must be met by a base station output signal. Close to the carrier a 30 kHz bandwidth is used whereas far off the carrier a 1 MHz bandwidth is used. Test model 1 is specified in TS25.141 for the measurement.

The following figure shows the limits and the associated measurement bandwidths dependent on the frequency offset from the transmit channel:

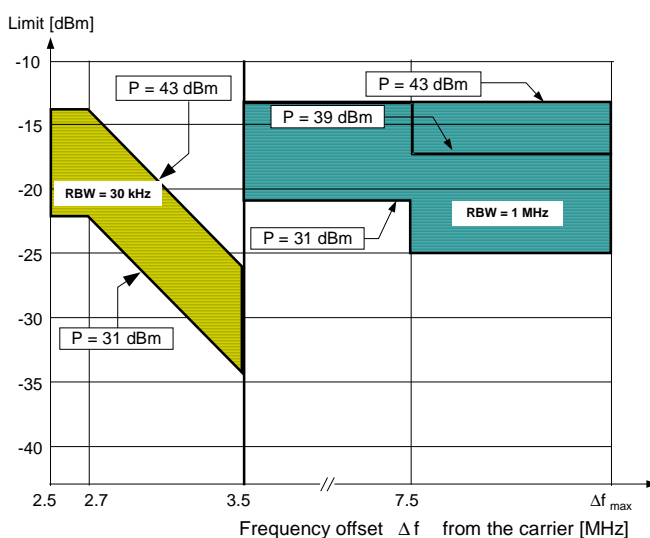


Fig 17 Limits for the spectrum emission mask measurement

The limits are dependent on the output power of the base station. With most spectrum analyzers, using 4- or 5-pole Resolution Bandwidth (RBW) filters the selectivity of the 1-MHz RBW filter causes leakage of the transmit signal close to the carrier at 3.5 MHz offset. Using a 1-MHz resolution bandwidth, leakage power due to the filter characteristic is measured rather than leakage power due to the signal itself.

The standard TS25.141 therefore allows simulating the 1-MHz bandwidth by using a narrow resolution bandwidth and integration over 1 MHz. This so-called Integrated Bandwidth method (IBW) gives true results for the average power in the 1 MHz bandwidth. However, peak power due to transients cannot be measured correctly.

At the publication date of this application note, the spectrum mask measurement requires manual setup of the FSIQ for the two measurement conditions. However, FSIQ-K72 will be enhanced with automated spectrum mask measurements, incorporating one-button measurements for simpler operation.

Measurement of the Adjacent Channel Leakage Ratio (ACLR)

For Adjacent Channel Leakage Ratio measurement (ACLR) test model 1 is used. ACLR is defined as the ratio of the average power in the transmit channel to the power in the 5-MHz and 10-MHz offset channels, each measured with a 3GPP receive filter (root raised cosine filter, $\alpha = 0.22$ and $f_{\text{chip}} = 3.84$ Mcps). The standard states that a true rms voltage or an average power measurement method must be used. The stability of the test result shall be ≤ 0.2 dB at a 95 % confidence level. A favorable method to accomplish this is the use of a rms detector in a spectrum analyzer. It measures the true average power during a settable time frame.

The Signal Analyzer FSIQ provides a pre-defined test routine for ACLR measurement on 3GPP signals using the rms detector. It calculates the required root raised cosine filter by weighting the trace pixels before integrating them for the power in the different channels. The stability of the test result is influenced by the set sweeptime.

When measuring all 5 channels specified in the standard a sweeptime of 500 ms leads to a standard deviation of the ACLR values of 0.1 dB. This corresponds to 0.2-dB stability with a 95 % confidence level.

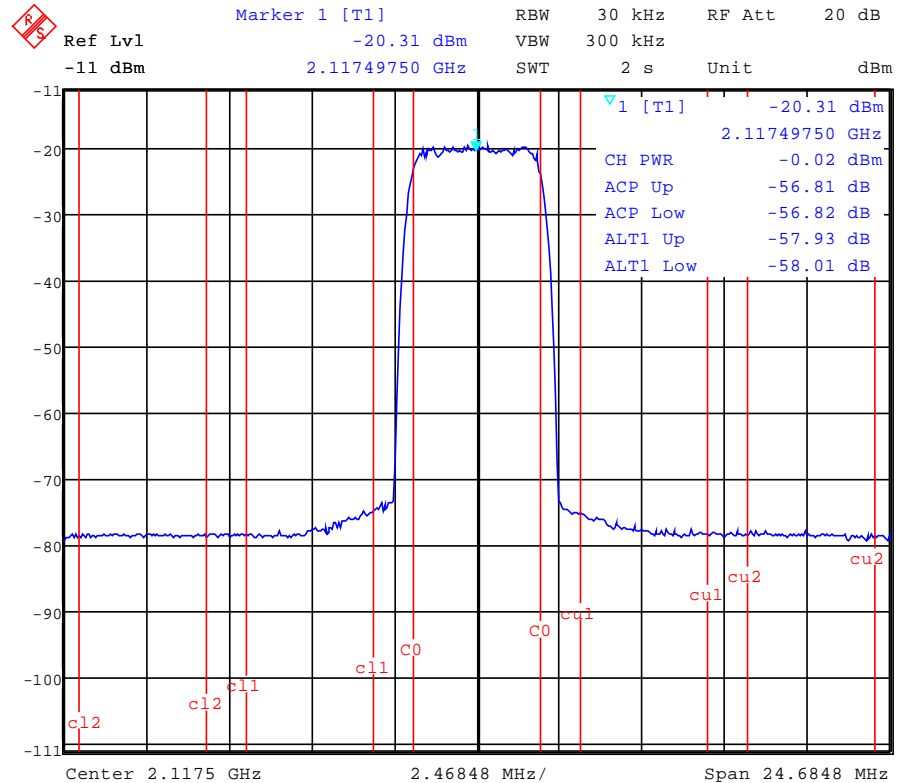


Fig 18 Measurement of the Adjacent Channel Leakage Ratio using the FSIQ

In the 3GPP standard (TS 25.141, Ver. 3.10) the following ACLR values are mandatory at the antenna connector of the base station:

Channel offset	ACLR
± 5 MHz	-45 dBc
± 10 MHz	-50 dBc

3GPP Base Station Transmitter Test

For the analyzer not to influence the ACLR value the inherent ACLR should be about 10 dB lower than the specified limits to measure. With 10 dB margin the error introduced by the analyzer is +0.41 dB.

As all stages of the transmitter chain contribute to the total ACLR at the base station output, in general the ACLR values of the different stages need to be lower. This sets higher requirements for the inherent ACLR of the analyzer.

In the 2-GHz frequency range the FSIQ provides an inherent ACLR of -75 dBc in the 5-MHz offset channel at the optimum mixer level¹ of about -12 dBm. Taking the 10-dB step-size of the input attenuator into consideration the inherent ACLR is -71 dBc in the worst case within the mixer level range between -8 and -18 dBm. For higher requirements a 1-dB step attenuator (option FSE-B13) can be added to the FSIQ to meet the optimum level (-12 dBm) of the mixer for any level at the RF input. In the 10-MHz offset channel the respective value is -81 dBm at the optimum mixer level of -3 dBm. The assumed crest factor of the W-CDMA signal is 11 dB for these values.

For details of ACLR measurement using FSE Spectrum Analyzers see [3].

¹ Mixer level = level at the RF connector of the analyzer - RF attenuation

5 Additional useful Code Domain Measurements

In addition to the measurements required for the conformance test according to TS 25.141 other measurements are very helpful while developing base stations or their modules, and for trouble-shooting.

For a quick check of the organization part of a channel, viewing the bitstream within a slot is very helpful. The FSIQ outputs the detected bitstream for the selected code channel and timeslot.

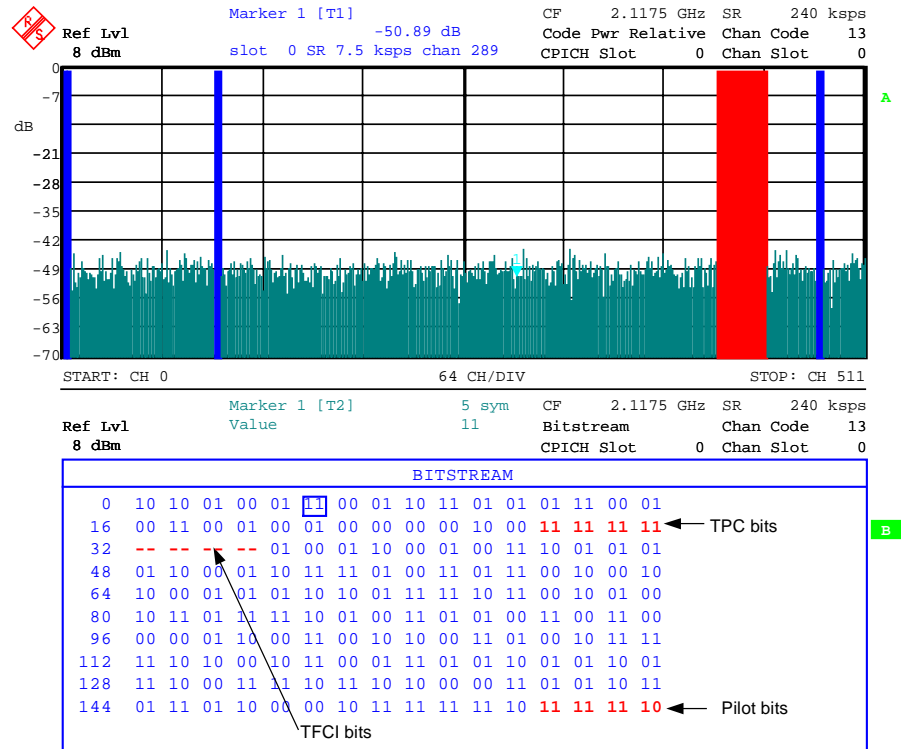


Fig 19 Bitstream Output of the dedicated physical channel 13 using a symbol rate of 240 kbps, timeslot 0

The example in figure 19 shows the bitstream in slot 0 of code channel 13 with a symbol rate of 240 kbit/s. No TFCI bits (Transport Format Combination Indicator) have been transmitted in this channel. Therefore on the positions of the TFCI bits '-' are output as the FSIQ could not detect valid symbols.

Symbol Constellation Diagram

For each channel a constellation diagram of the de-spread symbols can be defined. As a measure of the quality of the specific code channel an EVM at the symbol level is helpful as a numbered value. From both, the impact of a non-ideal transmission block on an individual user channel can be seen.

Figure 20 shows an example for a constellation diagram of code channel 72 marked red in the code domain display. The signal under test has been clipped in baseband in front of the transmit filter.

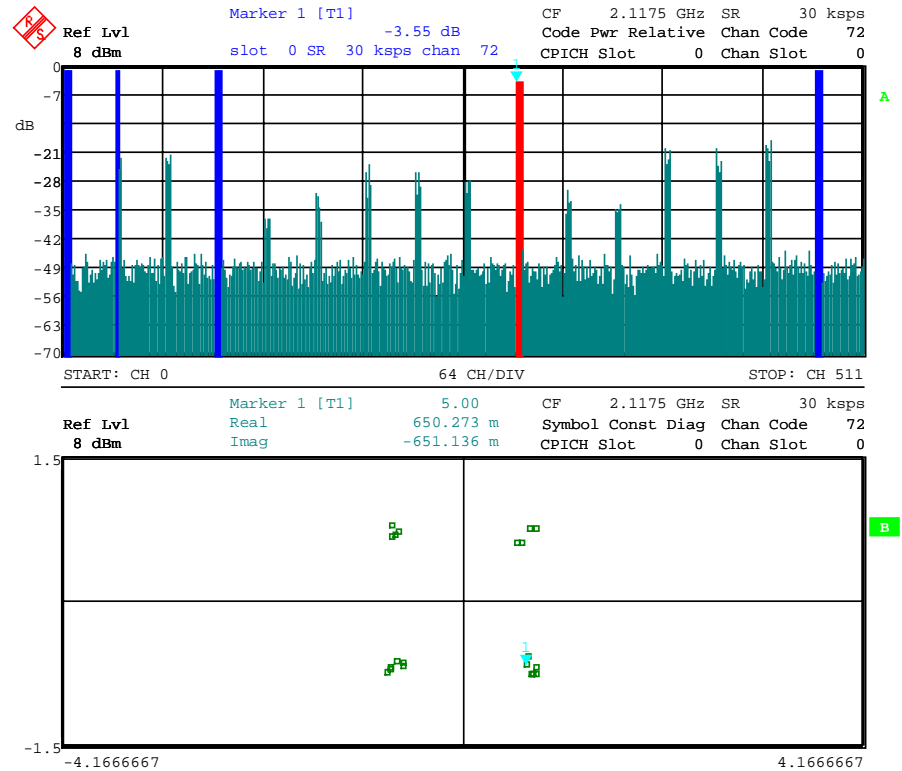


Fig. 20 Constellation diagram of code channel 72 and code domain power of a W-CDMA signal with clipping.

Due to the clipping, energy from the used code channels is spread into inactive code channels. The clipping can be seen more clearly in the symbol constellation diagram. Some of the constellation points show a lower magnitude than expected from an ideal signal.

6 Literature

- [1] Technical Specification TS 25.101 V 3.1.0, 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP), Technical Specification Group (TSG) RAN WG4, UE Radio transmission and Reception (FDD)
- [2] Application Note 1GP39_0E, W-CDMA Signal Generator Solutions by Rohde & Schwarz
- [3] Application Note 1EF40_E, Measurement of Adjacent Channel Power on Wideband CDMA Signals
- [4] Josef Wolf and Bob Buxton, "Measure Adjacent Channel Power With a Spectrum Analyzer," *Microwaves & RF*, January 1997, pp. 55-60.

7 Ordering information

Type of instrument		Ordering number
FSIQ3	20 Hz to 3.5 GHz	1119.5005.13
FSIQ7	20 Hz to 7 GHz	1119.5005.17
FSIQ26	20 Hz to 26.5 (27) GHz	1119.6001.27
FSIQ40	20 Hz to 40 GHz	1119.6001.40
FSIQ-B70	DSP and IQ Memory Extension	1119.6747.02
FSIQ-K72	Application Firmware 3GPP Code Domain Power Measurement for FSIQ	1126.4746.02



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