## Introduction to Jitter Techniques for High Speed Serial Technologies







#### **Industry Trends**

#### Fast Data Rates, More HF Loss



Reference Maxim Note HFDN-27.0 (Rev. 0, 09/03)



#### **Industry Trends**

#### Multiple Lanes Result in Crosstalk



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#### Anatomy of a Serial Data Link



**Aspirational goal: 0 errors** Practical Goal: Bit Error Rate < Target BER

• Since BER is the ultimate goal, why not measure it directly?

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#### **TDR Measurements Basics**

#### TDR Basics



*Transition points involve combinations of solder joints, circuit board vias, and connectors:* 

*these all can have substantial effect on the total link performance.*

*TDR also is capable of producing S-parameters*



# Jitter Basics

#### **Definitions**





#### Jitter Plot?







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#### Bandwidth & Harmonics

#### **Digital Square Wave – Odd Fourier Sums**



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#### Bandwidth & Harmonics

#### **Digital Square Wave – Odd Fourier Sums**



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#### What is Jitter?

- **-** Definitions
	- "The deviation of an edge from where it should be"
	- ITU Definition of Jitter: "Short-term variations of the significant instants of a digital signal from their ideal positions in time"





#### Jitter is caused by many things…

- Causes of Random Jitter
	- Thermal noise
		- Generally Gaussian
		- External radiation sources
		- Like background conversations...random and ever changing
- Causes of Periodic Jitter
	- Injected noise (EMI/RFI) & Circuit instabilities
		- Usually a fixed and identifiable source like power supply and oscillators
		- Will often have harmonic content
		- Transients on adjacent traces
		- Cabling or wiring (crosstalk)
	- PLL's problems
		- Loop bandwidth (tracking & overshoot)
		- Deadband (oscillation / hunting)
- Causes of Data Dependent Jitter
	- Transmission Losses
		- There is no such thing as a perfect conductor
		- Circuit Bandwidth
		- Skin Effect Losses
		- Dielectric Absorption
		- Dispersion *esp. Optical Fiber*
		- Reflections, Impedance mismatch, Path discontinuities (connectors)





**Period Jitter** 





■ Period Jitter







- **Period Jitter**
- **-** Cycle-to-Cycle Jitter



– **Cycle-to-Cycle Jitter** is the first-order difference of the Period Jitter



#### Types of Jitter (Visualization)





- **Period Jitter**
- **Cycle-to-Cycle Jitter**
- **TIE (Time Interval Error)**



– **Period Jitter** is the first-order difference of the **TIE Jitter** (plus a constant)  $P_n = TIE_n - TIE_{n-1} + K$ 



#### Types of Jitter (Visualization)





# Advanced Jitter - Decomposition

#### Rj / Dj Separation





#### Motivations for Jitter Decomposition

- **Speed**: Directly measuring error performance at 1e-12 requires directly observing MANY bits (1e14 or more). This is time consuming! Extrapolation from a smaller population can be done in seconds instead of hours.
- **Knowledge**: Jitter decomposition gives great insight into the root causes of eye closure and bit errors, and is therefore invaluable for analysis and debug.
- **Flexibility:** Already have a scope on your bench? You can do Jitter@BER measurements without acquiring more, perhaps somewhat specialized equipment.



#### Common Terms

- Random Jitter (RJ)
- **Deterministic Jitter (DJ)** 
	- Periodic Jitter (PJ)
	- Sinusoidal Jitter (SJ)
	- Duty Cycle Distortion (DCD)
	- Data-Dependent Jitter (DDJ)
	- Inter-Symbol Interference (ISI)
- **Bit Error Rate (BER)**
- Total Jitter ~ (TJ or TJ@BER)
- **Eye Width @BER** 
	- versus Actual or Observed Eye **Width**





#### Random Jitter (RJ)

- **Jitter of a random nature is assumed to have a** Gaussian distribution (Central Limit Theorem)
- Histogram (estimate)  $\leftrightarrow$  pdf (mathematical model)
- **Peak-to-Peak = ... unbounded!**





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#### Deterministic Jitter (DJ)

- **•** Deterministic jitter has a bounded distribution: the observed peak-to-peak value will not grow over time
- $\blacksquare$  Histogram = pdf (close enough)







#### Periodic Jitter (PJ, SJ)

- **TIE vs. time is a repetitive waveform**
- **Assumed to be uncorrelated with** the data pattern (if any)
- **Sinusoidal jitter is a subset of** Periodic Jitter







#### Duty Cycle Distortion (DCD)

- DCD is the difference between the mean TIE for rising edges and the mean TIE for falling edges
- **Causes** 
	- Asymmetrical rise-time vs. fall-time
	- Non-optimal choice of decision threshold
- For a clock signal, the pdf consists of two impulses





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#### Data-Dependent Jitter

- DDJ or PDJ used interchangeably
- ISI usually considered to be the physical effect that causes DDJ
- **Characterizes how the jitter on each transition is correlated with** specific patterns of prior bits
	- Due to the step response of the system
	- Due to transmission line effects (e.g. reflections)







#### Composite Jitter Rj/Dj using dual-dirac or Spectral method?

- "Turn it on and run it for a while…"
- **Historical Eye-Closure Measurement**
- Jitter value including all Rj+Dj components
- Expressed as 1 sigma RMS or Pk-Pk
- **Unbounded, result depends on measurement interval**





1000 Hits, 10 ps RMS, 40 ps Pk-Pk 644M Hits, 44 ps RMS, 166 ps Pk-Pk



#### ► Histograms vs. Eye Diagrams : Dual Dirac method, Rj and Dj

**How open is the eye, anyway?** 

(…depends how long you watch)





#### Elements of the Dual-Dirac Model

$$
\left[\delta(x-\mu_L) + \delta(x-\mu_R)\right] * \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \exp\left(-\frac{x^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \left[\exp\left(-\frac{(x-\mu_L)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) + \exp\left(-\frac{(x-\mu_R)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)\right]
$$













#### More about Bathtub Rjδδ/Djδδ *from* Tj @ BER

Assume bi-modal distribution (dual-Dirac), measure Tj at two BER

Fit curve to points, slope is Rj, Intercept is Dj



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#### DJ(dd): Model Dependence of DJ (2)

#### $DJ(\delta\delta) \leq DJ(p-p)$

- … Is the reason dual-Dirac is controversial
- **It's okay for a model to have model-dependent** parameters
- **Make sure to use**  $DJ(\delta\delta)$  in  $TI(BER) = 2Q_{BER} \times RJ + DJ$

#### **Besides**

- It's easier to measure  $DJ( $\delta\delta$ )$  than  $DJ(p-p)$
- For getting TJ(BER), DJ( $\delta\delta$ ) is more useful than DJ(p-p)





### Spectral Method Rj/Dj but Pj DCD and ISI

- **Start with** 
	- TIE
	- PLL TIE
- **Perform FFT** 
	- Determine frequency and pattern rate
	- Measure RMS of background bins
	- Sum pattern related bins
	- Sum unrelated periodic bins via iFFT
	- Estimate BER



#### Bounded Uncorrelated Jitter

- **Interconnect and board layout technology is** advancing and the greatest area of focus is in reducing the insertion loss and Signal-to-Crosstalk ratio.
- **The implications of complex channel interaction** can be observed and identified by examining the type and amount of Bounded Uncorrelated Jitter or BUJ.
- There is a strong Cause–and-Effect relationship between Crosstalk and BUJ which often gets classified as Random if special steps are not observed.

#### **Table 4-6. Stressed Receiver Conditions**





#### Bounded Uncorrelated Jitter (BUJ)

- **Definitions of Jitter Properties:** 
	- **Bounded**: Having a PDF (histogram) that does not grow in width as the observation interval increases



- **Uncorrelated**: Specifically, not correlated to the pattern of data bits
	- Note that PJ (Periodic Jitter) is both bounded and uncorrelated  $\rightarrow$  BUJ!
- **Deterministic**: Future behavior can be predicted based on observed past.
	- Deterministic jitter is always bounded
	- But… bounded jitter isn't necessarily deterministic
- **RJ**: By convention, random jitter with a Gaussian histogram
- **NPJ or NP-BUJ**: Non-Periodic (Bounded Uncorrelated) Jitter. This is basically random jitter with a bounded PDF



#### Jitter Measurement in the Presence of Crosstalk: Problem Summary

- Crosstalk-caused jitter typically is Bounded Uncorrelated Jitter (BUJ); depending on the spectra this should be separated as either
	- PJ (Periodic BUJ)

or

- NPJ (Non-Periodic BUJ)
- **IF In traditional oscilloscope-based jitter measurement methodology the** more spectrally diffuse BUJ components (i.e. NPJ) are not distinguished from RJ.
	- The inflated RJ is multiplied by a factor, thereby grossly inflating TJ.

Example:  $TJ = DJ + 14*RJ$  (at BER = 1e-12)

**This is well known and was documented e.g. in** "*Method of BER Analysis of High Speed Serial Data Transmission in Presence of Jitter and Noise*", Zivny at all, DesignCon 2007.



#### Crosstalk Problem Summary (Graphical Version)





 $0.35$  $0.4$  $0.45$  $0.5$ 

 $0.05$  $0.1$   $0.15$  $0.2$  $0.25$  $0.3$   $\times 10^4$ 



 $\times 10^{-11}$ 

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## Theory: Q-Scale Analysis for Detecting NPJ

**• Cumulative Distribution Function (CDF)** for a Gaussian Distribution:

$$
CDF(x_{Gaus}) = \frac{1 + erf\left(\frac{x}{\sigma\sqrt{2}}\right)}{2}
$$

**Q Scale Definition:** 

$$
Q(x) = \sqrt{2} \cdot erf^{-1}(2CDF(x) - 1)
$$

• Q Scale for a Gaussian:

$$
Q(x_{Gaus}) = \frac{x}{\sigma}
$$

– This is a straight line with a slope of  $1/\sigma!$ 





#### Separation of BUJ and RJ Jitter Components Methodology

- After PJ and DDJ are removed using the spectral approach, RJ + NPJ is converted to a histogram and then plotted using the Q Scale
- Straight lines are fitted to the left and right tails to determine both the RJ sigma and the dual-dirac weight of the NPJ



Spectral-Only Method:  $TJ(1e-12) = 0.00 + 3.056 * 14 = 42.8$  ps Spectral+BUJ Method: TJ(1e-12) = 2.79 + 2.303 \* 14 = 35.0 ps

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## DPOJET Setup for BUJ / NPJ Measurements

- **Enable** Spectral+BUJ either through the Preferences Setup or the Jitter Map
- **Minimum # of UI** control is only available via Preferences Setup
	- Default is 1M but it can be reduced as low as 10k.
	- Agilent EZJIT has a similar (non-adjustable) population requirement, ~ 150k





## DPOJET Results for BUJ / NPJ Measurements

 Clock NPJ measurement shows actual progress toward the population requirement





#### Jitter Visualization







Gaussian Random Noise **Sinusoidal Jitter** 









#### Jitter Visualization – Bathtub Plot

- **Shows the Eye Opening at a Specified BER Level**
- Note the eye closure of System I vs. System II due to the RJ- RJ is unbounded so the closure increases as BER level increases
	- System I has .053UI of RJ with no PJ
	- System II has .018UI of RJ and .14UI of PJ @ 5 and 10Mhz









#### Jitter Visualization – Time Trend

- **Histogram does not have any context of time**
- **Time Trend can reveal repeating patterns that may indicate** modulation on the signal
	- For example 5 cycle of SSC @ 30khz as shown below





#### Jitter Visualization – Spectral Plot

- Frequency domain view of the signal content
- Deterministic components show as lines above the noise
	- DDJ is at frequencies of the bit rate / pattern length (example below is 5Gb/s PRBS7) Note the spikes at intervals of 40Mhz in the plot.
	- Constant Clock CR was used





#### TIE Jitter needs a Reference Clock

- The process of identifying the reference clock is called Clock Recovery.
- **There are several ways to define the reference clock:** 
	- Constant Clock with Minimum Mean Squared Error
		- This is the mathematically "ideal" clock
		- But, only applicable when post-processing a finite-length waveform
		- Best for showing very-low-frequency effects
		- Also shows very-low-frequency effects of scope's timebase
	- Phase Locked Loop (e.g. Golden PLL)
		- Tracks low-frequency jitter (e.g. clock drift)
		- Models "real world" clock recovery circuits very well
	- Explicit Clock
		- The clock is not recovered, but is directly probed
	- Explicit Clock (Subrate)
		- The clock is directly probed, but must be multiplied up by some integral factor



## Reference Clock for Jitter : Clock Recovery?

In a receiver

- **The clock positions the sampling point**
- **Comparator determines logic level**

How can we reduce the effect of jitter in the decision circuit?



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#### Phase Locked Loop Clock Recovery



To extract a useful clock, the data must…

- **Have plenty of logic transitions** 
	- No long runs of identical bits
- Be DC balanced

Data signals are encoded, e.g., 8B/10B encoding



#### JTF vs PLL Loop Bandwidth

- Configuring the correct PLL settings is key to correct measurements
- **Most standards have a reference/defined CR setup** – For example, USB 3.0 uses a Type II with JTF of 4.9Mhz
- **Type I PLL** 
	- Type I PLL has 20dB of roll off per decade
	- JTF and PLL Loop Bandwidth are Equal
- **Type 2 PLL** 
	- Type II PLL has 40dB of roll off per decade
	- JTF and PLL Loop Bandwidth are not Equal
		- For example, USB 3.0 uses a Type 2 PLL with a JTF of 4.9Mhz. The corresponding loop bandwidth is 10.126 Mhz
		- Setting the Loop Bandwidth as opposed to JTF will lead to incorrect jitter measurement results



#### PLL Loop Bandwidth vs. Jitter Transfer Function (JTF)







#### Effect of CR Bandwidth on Eye Opening





## Results depend on CR Settings USB 3.0 Example

- The example below shows the effects of using a JTF set to 4.9Mhz vs. Loop Bandwidth set to 4.9Mhz for a Type II PLL
- Note the difference in the jitter that is tracked
	- The results on the left are correct as the JTF was properly set to
		- 4.9Mhz, as opposed to the loop bandwidth





#### Further Comparison of PLL Types using Spectrum Plots



First Cursor in each plot is @ 33Khz to illustrate effect on SSC



#### Further Comparison of PLL Types using Transfer Function Plots

**Type II** 40 dB roll off per decade @ 4.9Mhz



#### JTF Filtering Effects based on different PLL bandwidths



#### Open Closed Eyes *Apply Receiver Equalization*

- The example below shows a PCI Express 3.0 signal at the far end (input to the receiver)
	- Note that the eye is closed
	- Note that clock recovery would have failed due to the channel loss
	- After applying DFE equalization the signal can be measured with DPOJET





#### The problem *is the channel* …

 $\rightarrow$  Channel exhibits large frequency dependent loss



- Loss/dispersion of the channel closes the eye
- Receivers now incorporate methods to compensate for loss (equalization)

#### Equalization: The solution #1: High Frequency "Boost"

The problem is just what you'd think it would be:



 …you need to boost the channel so much.

The noise amplification is huge, and it hurts the improvement you get (Signal to noise)



## Equalization: CTLE frequency response



- **CTLE Continuous Time Linear Equalization**
- **Linear HF filter/boost**
- **Advantages: Low power & Simple implementation**
- **•** ... but it amplifies noise



#### Channel Testing *Simulate Compliance Channels*





#### Channel Testing *Simulate Compliance Channels*



# Trois Instruments pour la même mesure Tx?





## Real-time Scope, Sampling Scope, BERT Scope







**Scope BW 70GHz AWG BW 18GHz**

**Standard tool for Tx test Datacom**

**Rx test < 6.25Gbits**

**Optical and Electrical BW 80GHz** 

**Standard tool for Tx test Telecom**

**No Rx test**

**BERT Scope 28.6Gbits Tx/Rx**

**PPG 40Gbits Tx/Rx**

**Standard tool for Rx test Super High speed**

**No Tx test**



#### Real -time Scope



**Advanced trigger on signal No clock need**

> **Built in Clock recovery**

**One sample every 5ps with continue acquisition (depend on memory)**

**Dual -Dirac /spectral and Q -scale method for complete Tx analysis**

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## Sampling Scope



#### **Electrical and Optical acquisition**

**Need external trigger clock**

**Need external Clock recovery**

> **Only Tx measurement**

**80GHz BW but only repetitive acquisition at 300kS/s**

**Very precise Rj measurement. Trigger Jitter scope <100fs**

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#### BERT Scope



**Need external trigger clock**

**Need external Clock recovery**

**28.6Gbit Rx and Tx**

**See all bit and can measure Tj directly (no extrapolation)**

> **Stressed Eye capability**

**Eye diagram and Jitter map capability**

> **Error Location capability**

**PRBS31 length capabilityTektronix**®

#### 1. Stressed Receiver Tolerance Testing **Start Testing Quickly**



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- 1. Recall stressed eye configuration
- 2. Apply stressed eye signal to DUT's receiver
- 3. DUT loops received bits back to BERTScope Error Detector
- 4. BERTScope counts any errors

#### 2. Creating the Stressed Signal

#### Dynamically change Data Rate, Stress, Pattern





#### 3. BER-Based Analysis Deep Insight with the BERTScope Toolkit





#### 4. Drilling Down From Eye to Errors Linked Tools Enable Deep Insight





#### 5. Jitter Map




### 6. The Right Companion Products The BERTScope Product Family Makes Compliance Easy



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## BERTScope® Family of Products

 BSA Family is a series of BERT and Analysis tools spanning 500Mbps to 28.6Gbps. Upgrades avenues from lower performing units to higher performing ones will continue to be preserved.







# Tektronix LE320/LE160 32 & 16Gbps Linear Equalizer Product Introduction

- Compact two channel 32Gbps 9 Tap linear equalizer design in a "remote module" configuration
- +-20dB tap controls offer flexible pre-emphais or channel de-embed capabilities.
- **User (and PI) configurable filter** properties allows flexible parametric equalization
- Electronically switchable frequency dependent filter capability permits DDJ tolerance testing and testing against known reference channel models
- Front-end signal path (CTLE) for Sampling or BERT Instruments





## Tektronix LE320 32G Linear Programmable Equalizer

**9 Tap linear equalizer design, supporting 14-32Gbps operation**



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### PPG/PED

#### **PPG Base Instruments**

- **PPG1251** 12.5Gb/s PPG Jitter insertion (LF+HF)
- **PPG300X** 30Gb/s PPG - LF jitter insertion 1/2/4 Channel
	- HF jitter insertion

#### **PPG320X** 32Gb/s PPG

- 1/2/4 Channel
- Adjustable output
	- LF jitter insertion
- HF jitter insertion
- **PPG4001** 40Gb/s PPG
	- LF jitter insertion
	- HF jitter insertion



#### PPG3204 32Gb/s 4 channel PPG



PED3202 32Gb/s 2 channel PED

### **PED Base Instruments**

- **PED320X** 32Gb/s PED
- 1/2 Channel
- Full or half rate clock input
- AC or DC coupled input

#### **PPG400X** 40Gb/s PED

- 1/2 Channel
	- Full or half rate clock input
	- AC or DC coupled input



### 32Gb/s and 40Gb/s SERDES JTOL testing

#### **SERDES JTOL Testing**



Some ASICs/FPGAs have built-in BER testing and don't require loop back with a PED



### **Advantages**

- Separate PPG and PED for users with on-chip BER capabilities
- Low intrinsic jitter
- Fast rise-fall times and high signal integrity
- SJ/RJ/BUJ insertion for standards compliance tests
- Software analysis tools *(bathtubs, JTOL, J2/J9, etc)*
- Easy-to-use touchscreen and USB programmability



### 100G Ethernet SR4/LR4/ER4 transceiver testing



Note: Tektronix CR286 may be added for clock recovery



#### **Advantages**

- Flexible multi-channel solution
- Low intrinsic jitter
- Fast rise-fall times and high signal integrity
- SJ/RJ/BUJ insertion for standards compliance tests
- Software analysis tools *(bathtubs, JTOL, J2/J9, etc)*
- Easy-to-use touchscreen and USB programmability



### What is PAM?

# **P**ulse **A**mplitude **M**odulation

–PAM4 combines two bit streams and uses 4 levels to encode 2 bits into 1 UI

–For Example, 56 Gbit/s PAM4 runs at a symbol rate of 28 GBaud









### What are the differences between PAM4 and NRZ?

- $\blacksquare$  PAM4
	- $-4$  Levels  $\rightarrow$  3 Eyes
	- Sensitive to SNR (eyes smaller)
	- 2 bits into 1 UI
	- $-$  1/<sub>2</sub> Symbol Rate for same data throughput  $(28 \text{ GBaud} = 56 \text{Gbps})$
	- Adds complexity/cost to Tx/Rx



- **NRZ** 
	- $-2$  Levels  $\rightarrow$  1 Eye
	- Less Sensitive to SNR
	- $-1$  bit in 1 UI
	- 2X Symbol Rate for same data throughput (28GBaud = 28Gbps)





### Considerations for a PAM4 Signal Generation Engine



Manufacturing



### PAM4 Generation & BER Analysis using Pattern Generators





- **PED3202 Error Detector**
- BERT products bundled into a PAM4 system:
	- Programmable pattern generator
	- Programmable error detector
	- **Analysis software**
	- **Broadband components** (power combiners/attenuators)
- PAM4 Pattern Generator
	- Phase-aligned channels simplify multi-level signal generation
- User-programmable data patterns allow test of PAM4 custom data
- PAM4 Error Detector
	- BER measurements analyzes every bit of each pattern
	- Contour plots, bathtub curves, total jitter analysis via software tools
	- Can be used for BER measurements generated by PPG and/or AWG



# Test Methodologies for PAM Signaling Validation

*Tektronix provides complete support for validation of PAM4 at 28 & 56G*



