Center for Electronics and Electrical Engineering

Technical Publication Announcements

Covering Center Programs, October to December 1985 with 1986 CEEE Events Calendar

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National Engineering Laboratory
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INTRODUCTION TO THE CEEE TECHNICAL PUBLICATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

This is the seventh issue of a quarterly publication providing information on the technical work of the National Bureau of Standards Center for Electronics and Electrical Engineering. This issue of the CEEE Technical Publication Announcements covers the fourth quarter of calendar year 1985.

Organization of Bulletin: This issue contains citations and abstracts for Center papers published in the quarter. Entries are arranged by technical topic as identified in the table of contents and alphabetically by first author within each topic. Following each abstract is the telephone number of the individual to contact for more information on the topic; unless otherwise noted, this person is the first author. This issue also includes a calendar of Center conferences and workshops now planned for calendar year 1986, an announcement of recently issued standard reference materials, and a list of sponsors of the work.

Center for Electronics and Electrical Engineering: Center programs provide national reference standards, measurement methods, supporting theory and data, and traceability to national standards.

The metrological products of these programs aid economic growth by promoting equity and efficiency in the marketplace, by removing metrological barriers to improved productivity and innovation, by increasing U.S. competitiveness in international markets through facilitation of compliance with international agreements, and by providing technical bases for the development of voluntary standards for domestic and international trade. These metrological products also aid in the development of rational regulatory policy and promote efficient functioning of technical programs of the Government.

The work of the Center is divided into two major programs: the Semiconductor Technology Program, carried out by the Semiconductor Materials Division and the Processes and Semiconductor Devices and Circuits Divisions in Gaithersburg, MD, and the Signals and Systems Metrology Program, carried out by the Electrosystems Division in Gaithersburg and the Electromagnetic Fields and Electromagnetic Technology Divisions in Boulder, CO. Key contacts in the Center are given on the back cover; readers are encouraged to contact any of these individuals for further information.

Center sponsors: The Center Programs are sponsored by the National Bureau of Standards and a number of other organizations, in both the Federal and private sectors; these are identified on page 24.

Note on Publication Lists: Guides to earlier as well as recent work are the publication lists covering the work of each division. These lists are revised and reissued on an approximately annual basis and are available from the originating division.
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SEMICONDUCTOR TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Silicon Materials


Raman spectroscopy is used to characterize carbon-doped silicon samples prepared by ion implantation and pulsed laser annealing. Sharp lines are observed in the Raman spectra due to the 12C local mode at 604 ± 1 cm⁻¹ and the 13C local mode at 589 ± 1 cm⁻¹. At the highest carbon densities, these local modes broaden considerably. Identical spectra are obtained from a given carbon implant whether it is annealed using a 10-ns pulsed ruby laser or a 1-μs pulsed rhodium 6G dye laser. It is shown that Raman spectroscopy has sufficient sensitivity to detect striated carbon distributions in as-grown commercial silicon. Finally, at high carbon density in the implanted and laser-annealed samples, a disorder-induced first-order Raman spectrum is observed, produced by the mass defect of the substitutional carbon. [Contact: (301) 921-3786]


The photoionization cross section of the platinum-acceptor level in silicon was measured (in relative units) as a function of photon energy. Capacitance transients due to electron emission from this level were studied in a p⁺n-gated photodiode at temperatures of 40, 60, and 80 K. Measurements were made over the wavelength range of 2 to 5 μm with light from a prism monochromator with a constant bandpass of 10 meV. The platinum density in the diode was about 10¹⁴ cm⁻³, providing a ratio of deep to shallow (phosphorus) levels of about 1:10. The data are in good agreement with the Ridley-Amato lattice-coupling model when a Huang-Rhys parameter of S = 0.3 is used, corresponding to a Franck-Condon shift of 15 meV if an average phonon energy of 50 meV is assumed. The electronic energy of the acceptor level was 226 ± 5 meV below the conduction band, independent of temperature and in agreement with previous studies of thermal ionization. The present results provide the first clear experimental evidence of lattice relaxation associated with a deep level in silicon. However, the observed Huang-Rhys parameter is smaller than the theoretical estimates of Lowther (S = 1), suggesting that multi-phonon emission may not be the only mechanism for carrier recombination involving this level. [Contact: (301) 921-3786]


This short review of the electrical transport properties of silicon was written as a chapter for a VLSI handbook. The titles of the seven sections are: (1) Definition of Transport; Transport Equation; (2) Conversion Between Resistivity and Dopant Density; (3) Mobility of Charge Carriers; (4) Temperature Dependence of Resistivity and Mobility; (5) Dependence of Drift Velocity on Electric Field; (6) Minority-Carrier Mobility, Lifetime, and Diffusion Length; and (7) Mobility in an MOS Inversion Layer. The chapter includes 5 tables, 7 figures, and 35 references. [Contact: (301) 921-3786]

Analysis Techniques

**Analysis Techniques, cont'd.**

erized IR Spectroscopy, pp. 207-209 [paper given at conference, Ottawa, Canada, June 24-28, 1985].

Analog-to-digital converters (ADCs) are the interface between the analog data actually collected by a Fourier transform infrared (FT-IR) spectrophotometer and the digital computer which processes these data. In the typical case of absorption spectra obtained using a broadband source, interferograms with a very wide dynamic range (typically on the order of $10^6:1$) are required in order to produce spectra with adequate signal-to-noise ratios. This is a very demanding application, especially for a high-speed ADC. A numerical model of the effect of ADC errors, of ±1 least significant bit (LSB), shows that they can produce errors as large as 50% on the height of peaks in an absorbance spectrum at low signal levels. This result is consistent with our experimental observations. Four ADC circuit boards (all the same model) were tested in the NBS FT-IR spectrometer. At low signal levels, the disagreement between peak heights in spectra collected using the different ADC boards ranged as high as 30%, even though none of them produced the low-wavenumber distortions characteristic of inadequate ADC performance. The static transfer characteristics of each of the ADCs was determined using an automated test facility at the National Bureau of Standards. These tests showed that the boards produced errors ranging only up to 2 LSBs, in qualitative agreement with our numerical model. [Contact: (301) 921-3786]

**Gallium Arsenide Materials**


The design of a low-cost, high-throughput x-ray topography system is described, and its use in the examination of commercial gallium arsenide (GaAs) wafers is demonstrated. Double-crystal reflection (Bragg) topographs are obtained in two minutes and transmission (Laue) topographs in fifteen minutes, using copper Kα radiation from a conventional 1-KW, fine-focus, laboratory x-ray source. Reflection topographs of typical GaAs wafers using selected diffracting planes are presented, and their relative sensitivity to various defects discussed. In crystals grown by the liquid-encapsulated Czochralski method, transmission topographs using the (022) planes display the well-known large-scale dislocation patterns produced by relaxation of thermoelastic stress. [Contact: (301) 921-3786]

**Power Devices**


Experimental results of the failure of power MOSFETs during turn-off are discussed. It is shown that the electrical characteristics of these devices during failure are identical to those of a bipolar transistor undergoing second breakdown. Other comparisons of the power MOSFET failure and bipolar second breakdown are made. A nondestructive measurement system is used, allowing repeated measurements of the failure characteristics as a function of various parameters to be made on single devices. It is shown that practical, commercial power MOSFETs do not fail as a result of $dV/\text{d}t$ (rate of rise of drain voltage) currents. Drain voltage slew rates up to 22 V/ns were studied. Other measurements show that the drain voltage at which failure occurs increases with temperature, the critical current above
Power Devices, cont'd.

which failure occurs increases with temperature, the critical current above which failure occurs decreases with temperature, and the magnitude of the load inductance has no effect on the failure. The results of this study are consistent with the theory that activation of the parasitic bipolar transistor initiates the power MOSFET failure.

[Contact: (301) 921-3621]

Insulators and Interfaces


Single angle of incidence ellipsometric measurements have been extended to dual angle measurements on a newly constructed multi-method precision ellipsometer in order to determine better the optical constants of a substrate. Following the measurement error analysis that was prescribed in an earlier paper for single angle of incidence and fixed wavelength measurements, the results for dual angle of incidence are presented here. Using an Explicit Error Analysis (EEA) method, involving the differentials of the measurable optical constants of the surface, it is possible to find a well-defined combination of incident angles to perform the measurement. Without a measurement error analysis, there would be no way to know what the absolute measurement uncertainty is or what angles of incidence provide optimum measurement conditions.

As was the case for the single angle of incidence measurement where there was an optimum angle of incidence to assure the highest measurement accuracy, the dual angle of incidence measurement also predicts the two optimum angles of incidence. It was found that in the case of single angle of incidence ellipsometry, the principal angle of incidence can sharply define the optimum angle for measuring bare substrates and very thin films on a substrate. Likewise, for the dual angle of incidence measurement, there can also be two sharply defined angles for certain sample surface models. Results are given for a dual angle ellipsometric measurement of the real part of the refractive index of a silicon substrate at the wavelength of 632.8 nm. A silicon dioxide film thickness between 125 and 150 nm and the two angles of incidence, 68 and 72 deg, optimized this measurement. The real part of the refractive index of the silicon substrate was found to be 3.865 ± 0.001.

[Contact: (301) 921-3625]

Dimensional Metrology


A monochromatic, waveguide model is presented which can predict the optical microscope images of thick-layer objects including multi-layer structures; sloping, curved, and undercut edges; granular structures such as polysilicon; and asymmetric objects. The model is used to investigate the effects of line structure on the optical image, and good agreement with experimentally obtained optical image profiles is demonstrated. Implementation of the model is described by way of example, and the measurements involved in the different stages of manufacturing an MOS device are discussed.

[Contact: Robert D. Larrabee (301) 921-3625]

Nyyssonen, D., Focused-Beam vs. Con-
Dimensional Metrology, cont'd.


Current optical instrumentation being developed for critical dimension measurements in the integrated circuit industry is following one of two very different optical designs, i.e., either a focused laser beam which scans the wafer or the more conventional bright-field microscope. Traditional optical design lore has described these systems as "equivalent" based on the principle of reciprocity. More recent research has shown that the responses of these two types of systems are not equivalent for imaging of structures patterned in thin films, such as those found in integrated circuit wafer fabrication. This lack of reciprocity is the result of the dependence of the diffraction pattern on the angle of incidence of the illumination. The impact of the lack of reciprocity on the design and calibration of critical dimension measurement systems is discussed.

[Contact: Robert D. Larrabee (301) 921-3625]


The National Bureau of Standards is currently developing a new scanning electron microscope-based linewidth measurement system for future calibration of standard reference materials for the IC industry. This system incorporates a piezo/interferometric stage for precise translational motion and the monitoring of distance, improved vibration isolation, microprocessor stage control system, and computer data analysis. The specifications incorporated into the system are designed for the measurement of linewidth dimensions from 0.1 to 2 μm with a precision of 0.002 μm. The design philosophy of the system is discussed along with the current limitations of accurate edge detection in SEM-based systems.

[Contact: Michael T. Postek (301) 921-3625]

Integrated Circuit Test Structures


This paper describes a systematic approach to the comparative experimental evaluation of alternative sub-micron lithographic methods using microelectronic test structures. Measurements are presented for both polysilicon and aluminum lines with design geometries of 0.6 to 2.0 μm. These structures provide unambiguous results which can be used as a tool to improve the control and performance of VLSI devices.

[Contact: Loren W. Linholm (301) 921-3801]


The specific contact resistivity, $\rho_c$, has been measured using six-terminal Kelvin contact resistor test structures with contacts of varying sizes. Values
IC Test Structures, cont'd.

of \( \rho_c \) were determined for Al-1%Si-0.5%Cu metallizations to \( n^+ \) and \( p^+ \) silicon junctions having different surface concentrations, \( C_0 \). The magnitude of \( \rho_c \) was found to decrease with increasing \( C_0 \). Values of \( \rho_c \) were also determined for Al/TiW/PtSi contact metallizations to \( n^+ \) and \( p^+ \) and were found to be at least two times lower than that for Al-Si metallization. Also, the variation of \( \rho_c \) across the wafer for PtSi was found to be less than that for Al-Si. This indicates that Al/TiW/PtSi metallizations offer advantages when compared to Al-Si metallization and can contribute to improved performance of future VLSI circuits.

[Contact: Jeffrey A. Mazer (301) 921-3801]


The measurement accuracy of the cross-bridge resistor test structure and test method has been compared to well-characterized optical measurements for samples with near-micron and sub-micron design dimensions patterned in polysilicon films. Results are presented which show that the electrical measurements agree with the corresponding optical measurements to within the respective uncertainties of both measurements.

[Contact: (301) 921-3801]


Propagation delay is a parameter which needs to be accurately measured for characterization of VLSI fabrication technologies and VLSI circuit design. In this experiment, three different microelectronic test structures or test circuits were used to measure the propagation delay of a minimally sized CMOS inverter. The measured results and a comparison of the test circuits are presented.

[Contact: (301) 921-3801]


This paper describes an NMOS test chip, NBS-40, designed for use in a graduate-level course in the measurement of semiconductor parameters using test structures. The rationale and objectives of a parameter measurements course are discussed, and the organization and results of a course offered at the University of Cincinnati are described. The test chip layout and test structures are briefly described, and parameter measurements using the test structures are discussed. An NBS technical report describing the test chip has been prepared and is available as a student reference [NBSIR 84-2822]. Examples of recent measurement results obtained on chips fabricated through the MOSTIS service are provided to demonstrate the functionality of the chip.

[Contact: Loren W. Linholm (301) 921-3801]


This is an edited transcript of a talk given at the 1984 Wafer Reliability Assessment Workshop which includes questions, comments, and responses. The talk described plans for an interlaboratory experiment and other work that is
IC Test Structures, cont'd.

tory experiment and other work that is intended to lead to an improved way for characterizing metallizations from the point of view of electromigration. The talk outlined the steps of the interlaboratory experiment, discussed some of the design features of the test structures to be used, described the electromigration test chip, and mentioned some of the experiments that are to be performed.

[Contact: (301) 921-3801]


The empirical expression used to predict metallization resistance to electromigration failure involves the current density to a power of \( n \). A value for \( n \) of 1.5 was obtained from stressing unpassivated Al-1%Si metallization test structures over a range of current densities of from 0.5 to 2.5 MA/cm². The steps taken to ensure an accurate estimate of the metallization stress conditions of temperature and current density to obtain this value are described in detail.

[Contact: (301) 921-3801]

Process and Device Modeling


The two-dimensional distributions of particles, primary damage, Frenkel pairs, and electronic and nuclear energy loss were calculated for implantation of a line source into silicon targets by using the TRIM Monte Carlo code. In addition, the Kinchin-Pease equation was used to calculate approximate two-dimensional distributions of the Frenkel pairs (vacancy-interstitial) created by the primary displacement damage of the target atoms. These distributions allowed for the calculation of the one-dimensional distributions of these quantities for implantation into unmasked targets. The two-dimensional distributions of particles and approximate Frenkel pairs for implantation past a mask edge were constructed by means of superposition. The results are important for understanding the mass, energy, and dose dependence of implantation and the associated displacement damage.

[Contact: (301) 921-3621]


An alternative approach to the calculation of four-probe resistances of structures having nonuniform resistivity is presented. The basis of this approach is the form of the spreading resistance correction factor integral as given by Berkowitz and Lux. When this form is used, the difference of the spreading resistances involved in the four-probe resistance may be written as a simple integral which does not contain Bessel functions. Also, the derivative of the spreading resistance which is involved in the probe-spacing experiment simulation yields a simple algebraic expression. The resulting equations for the four-probe resistance and the derivative function are formally shown to be independent of both the probe radius and the probe-current density and involve only the kernel of the spreading resistance correction factor integral (sometimes known as the integrating factor). For the case of a uniform layer over insulating, conducting, or no boundaries (a semi-infinite slab), analytic expressions are derived for the four-probe
Process & Device Modeling, cont'd.

resistance and the derivative function and are investigated as a function of the probe spacing. For nonuniform resistivity structures, a relatively simple numerical procedure is used for the evaluation of the four-probe resistance integral. The results obtained from this numerical technique for the four-probe resistance and the algebraic expression for the derivative function are compared with those obtained from more extensive numerical techniques and are shown to be in excellent agreement. The evaluation of the four-probe resistance and the derivative function by means of the variational technique described by Choo and coworkers is presented. A caveat concerning the use of the Gauss-Laguerre technique for calculating the four-probe resistance is also discussed.

[Contact: (301) 921-3621]


The conventional device physics in most numerical simulations of bipolar transistors may not predict correctly the measured electrical performance of shallow, heavily doped emitters and bases. This paper presents improved device physics for numerical simulations of solid-state devices with dopant densities up to about $3 \times 10^{20}$ cm$^{-3}$ and with junction depths as small as 0.1 µm. This improved device physics pertains to bandgap narrowing, effective intrinsic carrier concentrations, carrier mobilities, and lifetimes. When this improved device physics is incorporated into device analysis codes such as SEDAN and then used to compute the electrical performance of npn transistors, the predicted values agree very well with the measured values of the current-voltage characteristics and dc common-emitter gains for junction depths between 10 µm and 0.16 µm.

[301] 921-3621


Understanding the effects of high- and low-temperature anneals of boron implanted in silicon is important in the calculation of shallow p-n junction profiles used as source and drain in p-channel MOSFETs. Here, a sample matrix of boron implanted into silicon over a range of fluences and annealing temperatures is considered. The matrix of samples was measured by SIMS (secondary ion mass spectrometry). The measured profiles were compared with simulations from an annealing/diffusion model. Calculations of the annealed profiles were found to be in agreement with the SIMS data at temperatures greater than 1000°C. At lower temperatures, the profiles exhibit effects due to implantation damage which are not included in the diffusion model.

[Contact: (301) 921-3621]


Measurements and input data required for accurate numerical simulation of MOS transistor characteristics are described. Techniques for determining dopant atom distributions, geometric parameters, and carrier mobility in the channel are discussed. The results are used to simulate the electrical characteristics of self-aligned, silicon-gate, n-channel MOSFETs with phosphorus source-drains having channel lengths of 0.80 µm, 1.83 µm, and 8.17 µm. It is possible to model the drain current for all of the transistors studied without
Process & Device Modeling, cont'd.

Two-dimensional models of MOSFETs are widely used for the design of short-channel transistors used in VLSI circuits. These models use low-order methods of discretization of solution variables. In this paper, a method of current calculation is presented which works with these methods and yields good accuracy. The method uses integration of the solution variables, rather than differentiation, and is similar to applying Ohm's law in two dimensions.

[Contact: (301) 921-3621]


Numerical models have been developed for Si MOSFETs which achieve high accuracy and retain numerical stability and physical flexibility. The methods used in these models can be applied to GaAs MESFETs to yield a computer model which retains the accuracy and robust numerical properties of two-dimensional Si MOSFET models, yet retains most of the physical detail of Monte Carlo simulation. Two significant differences between this model and previous models result. First, by incorporating intraband scattering directly, high field regions of the device are seen to be dominated by alternate regions in which conduction by central valley and satellite valley electrons dominate. Second, the two-dimensional field shape in the part of the transistor between the gate and the drain is critical in calculating the intraband scattering and in determining the average effective mobility.

[Contact: (301) 921-3621]


Earlier models have successfully modeled currents associated with device degradation due to channel hot-electrons. In this work, a high accuracy two-dimensional model of a silicon MOSFET is combined with a model of the SiO₂-Si interface which includes both the energy dependence of the interface traps within the silicon bandgap and the positional dependence of the oxide charge and the interface traps along the channel of the transistor. This model allows the effects of channel hot-electrons on the subthreshold, linear, and saturation region after injection of the device to be modeled without introducing free parameters.

[Contact: (301) 921-3621]


Using the data obtained from the measurements described in this work, it is possible to model the drain current for all of the transistors studied with no adjustable parameters. Transistors with 0.81-μm channel length differ in model input from those with 8.17-μm channel length only in the length of the polysilicon gate. The accuracy of the simulation is maintained over the subthreshold, triode, and saturation regions and is comparable for all channel lengths.

[Contact: (301) 921-3621]
Process & Device Modeling, cont'd.


A FORTRAN program, CSFIT, has been developed for fitting an expression for the current-voltage (I-V) characteristics of a long-channel MOSFET to experimental I-V curves. The one-dimensional charge-sheet model developed by Brews provides the basis for the I-V characteristics. The I-V characteristics given by this model are optimized with respect to a set of experimental data using the flatband voltage and the mobility as the only adjustable parameters. The program is written so that multiple sets of I-V data can be fit simultaneously if desired. The user must supply, in specified formats, a current-voltage data file, a device parameter file, and a starting value file.

[Contact: Charles L. Wilson (301) 921-3621]

**Radiation Effects**


A method for extracting values of oxide and interface charge from the current-voltage (I-V) characteristics of long-channel MOSFETs is described. The one-dimensional charge-sheet model developed by Brews provides the basis for the I-V characteristics. The I-V characteristics given by this model are optimized with respect to a set of experimental data for an irradiated device with the flatband voltage and the mobility the only free parameters. Simple relationships between these parameters and the radiation-induced interface and oxide charge are assumed.

[Contact: (301) 921-3541]


A method for extracting the flatband voltage and the channel mobility from the current-voltage (I-V) characteristics of long-channel MOSFETs is described. The one-dimensional charge-sheet model developed by Brews provides the basis for the I-V characteristics. The I-V characteristics given by this model are optimized with respect to a set of experimental data with the flat-band voltage and the mobility the only free parameters. A computer program, CSFIT, has been developed for this purpose. The choice of parameters is usually appropriate for a device subjected to a stress condition (e.g., hot-carrier injection or ionizing radiation). To illustrate the application of this method and CSFIT, the flatband voltage and mobility for an n-channel enhancement-mode device subjected to ionizing radiation are determined from the I-V curves, and the changes of these parameters with radiation dose are tracked.

[Contact: (301) 921-3541]

**Packaging**


Techniques to characterize thermally ceramic and plastic VLSI packages are discussed. Computer simulations and both direct and indirect thermal evaluation techniques are highlighted. Limitations and strengths of the various techniques are identified.

[Contact: (301) 921-3541]

**Other Semiconductor Metrology Topics**

Stern, E.A., Ma, Y., and Bouldin, C.E.,
Other Semiconductor Metrology, cont'd.


Extended x-ray absorption fine structure (EXAFS) measurements have been made at the Mn K-edge of quasicrystalline and crystalline forms of an Al₆Mn alloy. Two different quasicrystalline Mn sites are discerned to be populated in the ratio of 1 within experimental error. The more populous site is similar to that in the crystal but with bond angle distortions and elimination of an unusually short Al-Mn bond, while the other site has additional bond stretching distortions. The EXAFS measurements together with density measurements indicate that the volume per Mn-site is independent of type of site, suggesting that the quasicrystal is not a Penrose lattice.

[Contact: Charles E. Bouldin (301) 921-3786]

FAST SIGNAL ACQUISITION, PROCESSING, & TRANSMISSION

Waveform Metrology


Modern electronic instrumentation metrology in the low-frequency regime (dc to 10 MHz) was discussed in lecture talks and papers presented at NBS, Gaithersburg, MD, on October 18-19, 1983. The seminar program was organized into four main session topics.

This special publication contains independent papers that enlarge on subjects presented at the seminar. Six papers represent and describe the hardware and software techniques used for developing NBS laboratory standards and apparatus for testing ac sources and voltmeters, phase angle meters, transient waveform recorders, wideband wattmeters, and digital-to-analog and analog-to-digital converters. Three papers have been written to supplement the informal session on Instrumentation Metrology and are included as Appendices.

[Contact: (301) 921-2727]


Transient waveform recorders have been in use for more than 15 years with no commonly accepted test procedures for measuring the performance of these instruments in response to dynamic input signals. One test procedure that has been increasingly used by manufacturers and others in recent years involves the application of steady-state sinusoidal waveforms. These tests measure integral and differential linearity errors, missing codes, signal-to-noise ratios (effective number of bits), and aperture uncertainty.

Described are sine-wave tests that use non-linear, least-square curve fit procedures to measure the waveform recorder's noise, and thus the signal-to-noise ratio. This approach yields a "global" description of the recorder's errors. A sine-wave test in which the data are evaluated using a fast Fourier transform is described. This test is particularly useful to measure the integral linearity errors of the waveform recorder. A histogram test, which measures differential linearity errors and missing codes, is described. Results are given for the above tests. A method for measuring aperture uncertainty is briefly mentioned.

Two NBS-developed test procedures, a single-period transient sinusoidal test and a test based on the NBS voltage-step generator, are also described, and test results are given.

[Contact: (301) 921-2727]
Waveform Metrology, cont'd.


I propose the use of a template method for quantitative, correct, and transparent measurement of signal power to additive noise power ratios (SNRs) of digital signals and systems under full operating conditions. Outer guard chips of digital templates hold intersymbol interference fixed on inner target chips in realizations of the respective template patterns in traffic. The proposed template method needs to be developed and proven as a potentially valuable metrology capability; it can be especially important for real-time on-line performance assessment and monitoring of digital communication systems.

A correct measurement procedure by definition actually measures a specified parameter of a specified signal, channel, device, or system. A transparent measurement procedure by definition measures the specified parameter without degradation of the usable channel capacity and without modification to or interference with the functioning of the measured system.

I discuss the significance of transparent metrology, the measurement of various SNRs by the template method, and the general applicability of the template method for measurements on any noisy digital signal. The template method can provide transparent metrology procedures for other basic measurands, e.g., intersymbol interference, multiplicative noises, and synchronization. [Contact: (303) 497-5475]


A wide-band transconductance amplifier for current calibrations is described. The amplifier will deliver a ground-referenced constant current of 5 A rms from dc to over 100 kHz. Its stable magnitude and phase permit it to be used in precise power calibration systems to provide the current component of a phantom power source. The amplifier also provides a ground-referenced voltage output of 1 V/A for monitoring the magnitude and phase of the output current. [Contact: (301) 921-2727]


Electrical performance test procedures for audio distortion analyzers were developed by the National Bureau of Standards for the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command. The report provides detailed, step-by-step test procedures that are based on specifications supplied by the Army for the purpose of evaluating audio distortion analyzer bid samples. Examples of data sheets and tables are also provided for recording interim and final results.

The report discusses the philosophy of each measurement procedure with a view toward providing an understanding of the basic metrology required to perform the measurements. In addition, the sources of measurement error are discussed. The primary applications and basic principles of modern audio distortion analyzers are also described. [Contact: (301) 921-2727]


This paper describes a method for determining the frequency response of frequency-modulated generators, using a
Waveform Metrology, cont'd.

frequency-modulated generators, using a Bessel null method to control frequency deviation of the test signal applied to the generator. This test signal is in the form of a frequency-modulated radio-frequency carrier. A listing is provided of the computer program used in automating the method. The method applies to generators having an output frequency in the range 0.45 to 2000 MHz. Measurements obtained using this technique are more accurate than those obtained by a highly trained technician using a manual system.

Automated measurement of this process is desirable since the manual method is subject to the following problems: (1) excessive time, (2) error in finding the null, and (3) lack of assurance that the null is the first Bessel null. Automated measurements can be performed using a system controller, a spectrum analyzer, a function generator, and a voltmeter (all of which are compatible and controllable remotely).

The nonlinear relationship between modulating signal amplitude and the center frequency amplitude of the carrier is a major obstacle to automated measurement. This problem was solved by obtaining an approximate formula for this nonlinear curve.

Assurance that the null found is the first Bessel null is provided by the analysis of the frequency response of the test signal generator as displayed on the spectrum analyzer.

[Contact: (303) 497-3149]


The theory of digital waveform synthesis, including hardware implementations and practical limitations, is discussed. The generation of sinewaves as well as arbitrary waveforms using zero-order-hold and linear-point-connector reconstruction techniques is analyzed. An NBS-developed sinewave generator which provides a high-accuracy (50 ppm) signal from dc to 50 kHz is also described.

[Contact: (301) 921-2727]


A pulse generator for testing the approximate step-response of waveform recorders is described. The initial and final levels of voltage steps are each programmable within the range of ±1 V for a 50-Ω termination and within ±5 V for a high-impedance load. Voltage steps within these ranges settle to within ±0.02 percent of full-scale range in less than 30 and 40 ns, respectively, for a load capacitance of <30 pF. The corresponding 10- to 90-percent transition durations are approximately 7 and 12 ns.

[Contact: (301) 921-2727]


Methods are described for measuring the settling times (STs) and other dynamic characteristics of digital-to-analog converters, operational amplifiers, and precision voltage-step generators. The measurement of device STs from 5 μs to less than 20 ns with corresponding accuracies of 1 ppm and 0.1% is described.

[Contact: (301) 921-2727]

Waveform Metrology, cont'd.

Data converter test methods pertinent to measurement or control instrumentation applications are reviewed. Methods ranging from simple manual techniques to comprehensive fully automated approaches are discussed for both digital-to-analog and analog-to-digital converters. Strengths and weaknesses, major applications, and pertinent references are presented for each.

[Contact: (301) 921-2727]


Methods for generating efficient testing strategies for data converters are presented. Linear modeling techniques based on circuit analysis and empirical test data are included, as well as algorithms for selecting optimal test points. Using these tools, converter errors can be accurately estimated for all code states from a relatively small number of measurements.

[Contact: (301) 921-2727]


Measuring two signals simultaneously with a dual-channel sampling system allows for the calculation of many signal parameters not easily obtained with single-channel instruments. This paper concentrates on the use of dual-channel sampling for the measurement of power and phase angles. Theoretical interrelationships are developed for sampled data, measured quantities, and error sources. Both hardware and software errors are described. Calibration techniques are given for quantifying many of the error sources.

[Contact: (301) 921-2727]


An efficient strategy for accurately characterizing the frequency response of linear, time-invariant systems is presented. The approach, based on circuit modeling, test-point selection, and parameter estimation, optimizes calibration confidence with respect to test effort. The analytic tools and methodology needed for designing the strategy are included, together with experimental results. The approach can be particularly beneficial in volume testing of devices such as amplifiers, attenuators, and filters, or systems whose frequency response is dominated by such devices.

[Contact: (301) 921-2727]


Measurement of phase angles in the audio frequency range is discussed with emphasis on precision phase meters and their calibration using an NBS-developed Phase Angle Calibration Standard.

[Contact: (301) 921-2727]


A phase angle calibration standard covering a frequency range from 2 Hz to 50 kHz has been designed and constructed. Digital waveform generation is used to provide sinusoidal analog outputs having precisely settable phase angles. Output
Waveform Metrology, cont'd.

voltages are independently adjustable from 0.5 to 100 V rms on both channels. An auto-zero feed-back loop compensates for differential phase errors of the output amplifiers.
[Contact: (301) 921-2727]

Cryoelectronic Metrology


Josephson voltage standards utilize microwave-induced constant voltage steps occurring due to the ac Josephson effect. Existing standards can be considerably simplified and their accuracy improved by using a large number of series-connected Josephson tunnel junctions which are operated in the zero-current-step mode. For this purpose, superconducting millimeter wave integrated circuits have been designed, fabricated, and tested. The circuits consist of a broadband taper between the rectangular waveguide and the planar structure, the Josephson junction series, a well-matched load, and dc pads. Circuits with various numbers of junctions have been fabricated by photolithographic techniques and tested at 4.2 K in liquid helium. The version with 1474 junctions produced voltages up to 1.2 V when operated at 90 GHz.
[Contact: Richard L. Kautz, (303) 497-3391 or -3988]

Antenna Metrology


Power gain radiation patterns of mobile antennas mounted in six different locations on a test vehicle were measured with and without typical lights and sirens mounted on the roof. The measurements were performed at frequencies representing the frequency bands of 25 to 50, 150 to 174, 400 to 512, and 806 to 866 MHz. In addition, special antennas consisting of three disguised antennas operating at discrete frequencies of 40.27, 162.475, and 416.975 MHz and one slot antenna operating at 413 MHz were also measured. Plots of power gain radiation patterns are given for the mobile antennas mounted in six different locations on the test vehicle and for the special antennas. Results showing the effects of poor grounding characteristics are also included. Recommended locations for mounting the mobile antennas are given for specific frequency bands.
[Contact: (303) 497-3496]


A general theoretical approach is formulated to describe the complex electromagnetic environment of an N-element array. The theory reveals the element-to-element interactions and multiple reflections within the array. From the formulation, it is found that the interaction between an excited element and an open-circuited element can be viewed as the sum of terms describing all possible signal paths within the array environment which start from the radiating element and terminate on the element under observation. Within all paths except the most direct one, multiple reflections between subgroups of elements take place. The resulting solution is highly structured and recursive and is discussed in detail in the text.
Antenna Metrology, cont'd.

Illustrative examples are provided to facilitate understanding of these ideas.
[Contact: (303) 497-3603]


An investigation to demonstrate Planar Near Field measurement accuracy for ultralow sidelobe antennas is nearing completion at the National Bureau of Standards, Boulder, Colorado. The existing NBS scanner has been modified to accommodate antennas up to 10 m long and 4 m high. Two antennas will be measured as part of this research effort. They are the AWACS (U.S. Airborne Warning and Control System) and the ULSA (Ultra Low Sidelobe Antenna) travelling wave antennas which are, respectively, 8 m x 1.5 m and 6 m x 1 m. Results of tests to introduce controlled near-field measurement error confirm predicted far-field sidelobe accuracies at the ~60-dB level. Additional results show the utility of a new two-element probe to extend sidelobe measurement accuracy by steering a probe pattern null in the direction of the test antenna's mainbeam.
[Contact: (303) 497-3743]


The purpose of this program is to define and further develop the capabilities of near-field antenna test techniques, specifically for the requirements associated with the development and verification testing of reconfigurable, multi-beam, frequency reuse, commercial satellite antennas. Phase I, Part 1 gives a general survey, definition, and description of near-field and compact range measurement methods as they apply to satellite antenna systems testing. Each of these methods is evaluated to determine how well they meet the measurement requirements. Included for each technique is a summary of the measurement method, discussions on probe correction and data processing, measurement hardware considerations, a results-available section, and measurement accuracy and range certification considerations. The basis for the choice of the best measurement technique is established with the planar near-field measurement method receiving the best score for the directive antennas considered. As a result, further study will focus on this technique and will be reported on subsequently. A detailed presentation of planar near-field measurements theory is presented in Appendix A.
[Contact: (303) 497-3743]

Microwave Metrology


Coupling between two parallel-plate waveguides is investigated. Mutual excitation is due to a longitudinal slot in a common plate. The introduction of reflecting boundaries parallel to the slot allows one to model a number of planar waveguiding structures featuring a common coupling mechanism. Part I of this paper details the analysis of the basic slot scattering problem based on the singular integral equation method. If one assumes that the slot is small, then closed-form algebraic modal equations follow. These modal equations are well adapted to numerical parametric studies.
Microwave Metrology, cont'd.

Part II of this paper presents specific examples of the above approach along with numerical results. Examples include a rectangular coaxial transmission line, broadwall-coupled rectangular waveguides, coupled microstrips, and coupled microstrip and rectangular waveguide. [Contact: (303) 497-3842]

Laser Metrology


We consider realizing an electric-field measuring apparatus to measure the temporal and spatial modes of a laser pulse by using optical processing, tapered optical fibers, and a pair of detectors at the end of each optical fiber. Using an appropriate computer-generated hologram (CGH), we show it is possible to discriminate among a set of orthonormal modes used to represent the spatial features of the electric field with a signal-to-noise ratio of at least 100 to 1. The tapered fiber is a mode filter that is used in the transform plane of the CGH. This fiber allows the precise determination of the strength of each of the orthonormal modes being used as the spatial basis of the electric field before the optical processing. [Contact: (303) 497-3234]


National Bureau of Standards APD (Avalanche) and PIN silicon photodiode transfer standards are documented for a calibration service to measure 1.064-μm laser pulses from $\sim 10^{-8}$ to $\sim 10^{-4}$ W peak power and $\sim 10^{-16}$ to $\sim 10^{-11}$ J energy. A modulated continuous-wave measurement system generating known low-level pulse is described. Calibration support equipment, systematic and random errors, and computer programs and calibration data are also described. [Contact: (303) 497-5367 or -3616]

Other Fast Signal Topics

Bensema, W.D., Personal RM Transceivers, NIJ Standard 0209.01, National Institute of Justice, Technology Assessment Program, September 1985.

This document is an equipment standard developed by the Law Enforcement Standards Laboratory of the National Bureau of Standards and is produced as part of the Technology Assessment Program of the National Institute of Justice. The standard specifies performance and other requirements equipment should meet to satisfy the needs of criminal justice agencies for high-quality service. Performance requirements and methods of test are presented for nontrunked frequency modulated (FM) personal transceivers and their associated antennas and power sources. The standard applies to transceivers which either do not have special subsystems such as selective signaling or voice privacy, or in which such subsystems are bypassed or disabled during testing for compliance with the standard. [Contact: (303) 497-3465]


9.3 GHz measurement results of the relative permittivity and loss tangent of beryllium oxide at 99, 145, 223, and 300 K are reported. [Contact: (303) 497-3720]

Other Fast Signal Topics, cont'd.

Beijing, China, August 26-28, 1985, pp. 422-427.

The longwall method of coal mining in underground coal seams is very efficient in uniform seams, but coal seam anomalies can make the method unprofitable and unsafe. This paper describes the theoretical basis for detection of coal seam anomalies using medium frequency radio transmission over paths on the order of 200 meters in length. The key to the method is the sensitivity of the attenuation rate of the coal seam mode of propagation to changes in the coal seam parameters, such as height or electrical conductivity. From a large number of transmission paths, the principles of tomography can be used to reconstruct an image of the seam.

[Contact: (301) 921-2727]


A history of the scratch and dig standard is presented, describing its application and pointing out that it may not be used for quantitative assessments such as width measurement.

[Contact: (303) 497-3223 or -5342]

ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

Power Systems Metrology


The unit of electric power at 60 Hz is often derived using impedance bridge techniques in which the alternating voltage is referred to the direct voltage standard through a thermal convertor. An alternative calibration technique is described in which the ac-to-dc transfer is made through digital-to-analog converters (DACs) in the form of a dual-channel digital sinewave generator. The power is calculated from measurements of voltage, current, and phase angle, all of which rely on the accuracy of the digital generator and ultimately on the accuracy of the DACs. Measurement uncertainties of less than 100 ppm have been achieved.

[Contact: (301) 921-2727]


A method for calibrating high-accuracy wattmeters is described. The technique is a modification of a previously described approach that utilizes a power bridge based on a current comparator. In such a bridge, the test current of the wattmeter is balanced with a known current that is proportional to the test voltage. The measurement circuit described employs a high-voltage capacitance bridge in place of a special current comparator that was used in the previous system. High sensitivity and large ratios of the capacitance bridge enable using high impedances, such as stable gas-dielectric capacitors and resistors having low-power dissipation for the generation of reference currents. The voltage on the standard impedances is adjusted with inductive dividers to obtain any power factor between zero and one, lead and lag. A digitally synthesized dual-channel signal source serves as a stable source of voltage and current, and thus of "phantom" power.

[Contact: (301) 921-2727]

Superconductors

Moreland, J., and Bkin, J.W., Electron Tunneling Experiments Using Nb-Sn
Superconductors, cont'd.


An Nb-Sn filament mounted on a flexible glass beam can be broken to form an electron tunneling junction between the fracture elements. Breaking the filament in liquid helium prevents oxidation of the freshly exposed fracture surfaces. A sharp superconducting energy gap in the I-V characteristics measured at 4 K indicates the formation of a high-quality tunneling barrier between the fracture elements. The resistance of the junction between the fracture elements can be continuously adjusted by varying the surface-bending strain of the beam. An estimated 0.1-nm change in the barrier thickness produces about an order of magnitude change in the resistance over the range from $10^5$ to $10^8$ Ω. The exponential character of this dependence shows that the tunnel junction is freely adjustable without intimate contact of the junction elements. "Break" junctions made in this way offer a new class of tunneling experiments on freshly exposed surfaces of a fractured sample without the oxide barrier previously required for junction stability. Such experiments provide a simple technique for tunneling to new materials and may eliminate complications that can be encountered during interpretation of data obtained using oxide barriers.

Contact: (303) 497-3641


A new type of squeezable electron tunneling (SET) junction has been developed for tunneling into superconducting filaments. Stable, mechanically adjustable tunneling barriers between the native surfaces of sputtered Nb films and 30-μm diameter Nb filaments were established in liquid helium at 4 K. The current-versus-voltage characteristics of these SET junctions were used to determine the superconducting energy gap at the surface of the filaments. Since the filaments were etched from commercial superconducting magnet wire, this type of tunnel junction shows promise as a diagnostic probe of superconducting materials for high-field magnets.

[Contact: (303) 497-3641]

ELECTROMAGNETIC INTERFERENCE


This paper compares measurement results obtained using a $(2.7 \times 3.1 \times 4.6)$-m reverberation chamber and a $(4.9 \times 6.7 \times 8.5)$-m anechoic chamber to determine the electromagnetic susceptibility of equipment under test (EUT). The frequency range is 200 MHz to 18 GHz. The "correlation factor" between the two techniques appears to be directly proportional to the gain of the EUT. Four sample EUTs included in this study were a 1-cm dipole probe, a ridged horn antenna, a small rectangular TEM transmission cell with an aperture, and a modified 7.0 cm (2.75") diameter folded-fin aircraft rocket.

[Contact: (303) 497-5497]

Cruz, J.E., Driver, L.D., and Kanda, M., Design of the National Bureau of Standards Isotropic Magnetic Field Meter (MFM-10) 300 kHz to 100 MHz, NBS Tech. Note 1085 (October 1985).

A broadband magnetic field meter has been developed at the National Bureau of Standards (NBS) for the frequency range of 300 kHz to 100 MHz. The isotropic antenna unit consists of three mutually orthogonal loops, each 10 cm in diameter. The magnetic field probe described
Electromagnetic Interference, cont'd.

In this paper has a measurement range of 0.1 to 30 A/m. The readout of the meter is in terms of the Hermitian or "total" magnitude of the magnetic field strength which is equal to the root-sum-square value of the three orthogonal magnetic field components at the measurement point. This magnetic field meter is nearly isotropic over its dynamic range.

The electronic circuitry of the meter obtains the total magnitude of all field polarizations for all cw signals in the entire frequency band. The sensor is isotropic and is well suited for measuring the near field of an emitter, including regions of multiple reflections and standing waves. The meter can be used to monitor either the plane wave fields in the far zone of a transmitter, or the complicated fields very close to a radiofrequency leakage source. This report describes the design, performance, and operating instructions for the MFM-10.

[Contact: (303) 497-3763]


Site attenuation is a measure of performance of an open test site at frequencies below about 1 GHz. These sites typically consist of a large, obstruction-free ground plane and the hemisphere above it. Calculations of site attenuation are presented which provide a reference for measurements made on a 30-m by 60-m wire-mesh ground screen. Measured data are compared to the calculated results.

[Contact: (303) 497-3737]


Phased arrays can be used to produce a nearly uniform plane wave in the near field. This paper describes a small array of dipoles which we have studied theoretically and experimentally. The element excitations are determined from a near-field synthesis technique that optimizes the field uniformity throughout the test volume.

[Contact: (303) 497-3472]


Power gain radiation patterns of mobile antennas mounted in six different locations on a test vehicle were measured with and without typical lights and sirens mounted on the roof. The measurements were performed at frequencies representing the frequency bands of 25 to 50, 150 to 174, 400 to 512, and 806 to 866 MHz. In addition, special antennas consisting of three disguised antennas operating at discrete frequencies of 40.27, 162.475, and 416.975 MHz and one slot antenna operating at 413 MHz were also measured. Plots of power gain radiation patterns are given for the mobile antennas mounted in six different locations on the test vehicle and for the special antennas. Results showing the effects of poor grounding characteristics are also included. Recommended locations for mounting the mobile antennas are given for specific frequency bands.

[Contact: (303) 497-3496]


This paper discusses a methodology for
Electromagnetic Interference, cont'd.

evaluating anechoic chamber measurements. Anechoic chamber measurement is evaluated in terms of the net power delivered to a transmitting antenna, the near-zone gains of open-ended rectangular waveguides and rectangular pyramidal horns, and reflections from chamber walls. The on-axis field intensity of the standard transmitting horn in an anechoic chamber is calculated in terms of the net power delivered to the transmitting antenna. The resulting data can be used for estimating the overall uncertainty in the anechoic chamber measurements. Statistical control of the measurement process by use of transfer standard antennas will monitor the measurement uncertainties.

[Contact: (303) 497-5320]


As radiofrequency and microwave sources (both intentional and inadvertent) multiply, the electromagnetic (EM) environment in which electronic devices (and people) must function becomes increasingly complicated, while at the same time its characterization becomes more important. In order to completely characterize an EM environment without knowledge of the radiating sources, the sampling theorem requires that systematic measurements of the amplitude and phase of the field be made throughout the volume at spacings of no more than one-half wavelength (of the highest frequency present). This is often impossible and seldom convenient. There is a need for practical techniques which would determine useful properties of an EM environment from relatively few measurements. One recent suggestion for such a technique is to use directional measurements at a single point in conjunction with a plane-wave expansion of the field. This paper reports the formulation of the technique and the results of a simulation using it.

[Contact: (303) 497-3150]


The problem of characterizing complicated electromagnetic (EM) environments without actually measuring the field(s) throughout the entire volume of interest is of great practical importance in the areas of EM interference, EM compatibility, EM hazard assessment, etc. The question is how to obtain useful information about the volume of interest from a reasonably small number of measurements.

A recent suggestion which appears to hold considerable promise is to use a directional probe to measure at one point the field incident from different directions and then to reconstruct or bound the field throughout the volume by using these measurements in conjunction with a plane-wave expansion of the field. The formulation has now been completed and simulations performed for the (vector) electric field, and the results are reported in this paper. Simulation results are encouraging.

[Contact: (303) 497-3150]


An approach is outlined to the characterization of complicated electromagnetic environments based on a finite-element approximation to the action functional of the electromagnetic field. A stationary point of the action is found by a numerical search, subject to
Electromagnetic Interference, cont'd.

constraints imposed by boundary conditions and by measurements of the field at some number of points. The technique is illustrated by a simple example.
[Contact: (303) 497-3150]


The results of a study of electric-field-meter (EFM) errors in complex electromagnetic environments are reported. Two types of errors are considered -- errors in the measured electric field for a common EFM design, and errors in the assumption of equal electric and magnetic energy densities in a multiple-plane-wave environment. Typical errors in both cases are approximately one-half to three dB, but in some circumstances, they can exceed ten dB.
[Contact: (303) 497-3150]


A material's shielding effectiveness is often measured in terms of insertion loss, the field reduction between a transmitter and receiver achieved by introducing the shield material. The insertion loss concept is simply stated; however, ambiguities arise when one attempts to interpret specific insertion loss measurements. Insertion loss data depend not only on the shield material tested, but also on the measurement procedure. The antenna types used and their positioning, the incident waveform and its wave impedance, and the contact resistance between the test material and its mount (if any) can all affect insertion loss measurements, sometimes dramatically. These concepts are discussed based on the simple model of coupling through an electrically small aperture, loaded and unloaded, with the shield material. Emphasis is on the importance of understanding and recognizing these factors when obtaining or interpreting shielding effectiveness results.
[Contact: (303) 497-3842]

1986 CEEE Calendar

September 9-10 (Boulder, CO)

Symposium on Optical Fiber Measurements. This fourth biennial Symposium is devoted to measurements on optical fiber, related components, and systems. It is sponsored by NBS in cooperation with the IEEE Optical Communications Committee and the Optical Society of America and is intended to provide a forum for reporting the results of recent measurements research and for evaluating these results in terms of future directions. About one-quarter of the sessions will be workshops led by invited panelists. Summaries of presented papers will be published in a technical digest to be distributed at the Symposium.
[Contact: Susie A. Rivera, (303) 497-5342]

RECENTLY ISSUED
STANDARD REFERENCE MATERIALS

The first practical superconducting standard reference material (SRM) has been released by the Electromagnetic Technology Division to the NBS Office of
Recently Issued SRMs, cont'd.

Standard Reference Materials for sale to the public. The certified parameter of SRM 1457, Superconducting Critical Current -- NbTi Wire, is critical current at magnetic fields of 2, 4, 6, and 8 tesla at a temperature of 4.2 K and an electric field criterion of 0.2 μV/cm. Information is given to permit the user to determine critical current for temperatures in the range 3.90 to 4.24 K and electric field criteria from 0.05 to 0.2 μV/cm.

SRM 1457 consists of a 2.2-m length of a multifilamentary, niobium-titanium, copper-stabilized wire, wound in a single layer on a spool having a core diameter of 8.7 cm. The wire is evaluated for 34 parameters relating to current, voltage, magnetic field, temperature, strain, and physical specimen characteristics.

In conjunction with ASTM Standard Test Method B714-82, D-C Critical Current of Composite Superconductors, the new SRM is intended to provide means for calibrating apparatus used to measure key parameters of superconductor products and thus should be useful to buyers and sellers of superconductors, users of superconducting equipment, and researchers in superconducting technology.
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# Title and Subtitle
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## Abstract
This is the seventh issue of a quarterly publication providing information on the technical work of the National Bureau of Standards Center for Electronics and Electrical Engineering. This issue of the Center for Electronics and Electrical Engineering Technical Publication Announcements covers the fourth quarter of calendar year 1985. Abstracts are provided by technical area for papers published this quarter.
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