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To: RFI Group
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Subject: Correction antenna temperature for cable attenuation and antenna mismatch

A difficult problem in radiometry is the correction for the effects of the antenna VSWR and cable between the Dicke switch and the antenna. In a 3 position switched radiometer

$$P_A = g(T + T_R) \text{ - - power on antenna}$$

$$P_L = g(T_L + T_R) \text{ - - Power on load}$$

$$P_c + g(T_L + T_c + T_R) \text{ - power on load + calibration}$$

From which

$$T = T_c \left[\frac{(P_A - P_L)}{(P_c - P_L)} \right] + T_L$$

where $g = \text{gain}$

$P_A = \text{power on antenna}$

$P_L = \text{power on load}$

$P_c = \text{power on load + cal}$

$T_R = \text{receiver system noise}$

$T_c = \text{excess calibration noise}$

$T_L = \text{ambient load temperature}$

If the antenna is connected via cable then the relation between the antenna temperature and the measured temperature can be modeled using the sum of the multiple reflections between the antenna and the LNA. The 2-way cable delay is

$$\tau = 2\ell/(vc)$$

where $\ell = \text{cable length}$

$v = \text{velocity factor}$

$c = \text{free space velocity}$

The cable attenuation, cab , is approximately given by

$$cab = 3.0 \times (f/150)^{1/2} \times \ell/100 \text{ dB}$$

for LMR-240 whose one way loss is about 3 dB per 100 feet at 150 MHz. This loss results in a temperature T' reaching the LNA where

$$T' = T_A (1 - |\Gamma_A|^2) cab + T_L (1 - cab)$$

where Γ_A = antenna reflection coefficient

this ignores multiple reflections between the antenna and the LNA. If the LNA is mismatched

$$T_{obs} = T' (1 + 2a + a^2 + b^2) + T_{out} (c^2 + d^2) + (T_R T_{out})^{1/2} 2c\rho + T_L (1 - cab) (c^2 + d^2) / cab$$

where $a = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \alpha^j \cos(2\pi f \tau j)$

$$b = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \alpha^j \sin(2\pi f \tau j)$$

$$c = a + \cos(2\pi f \tau) |cab \times \Gamma_A \times (1 - |\Gamma_a|)|$$

$$d = b + \sin(2\pi f \tau) |cab \times \Gamma_A \times (1 - |\Gamma_a|)|$$

$$\alpha = |cab \times \Gamma_A \times \Gamma_a|$$

Γ_a = LNA reflection coefficient

T_{out} = noise transmitted out of LNA input

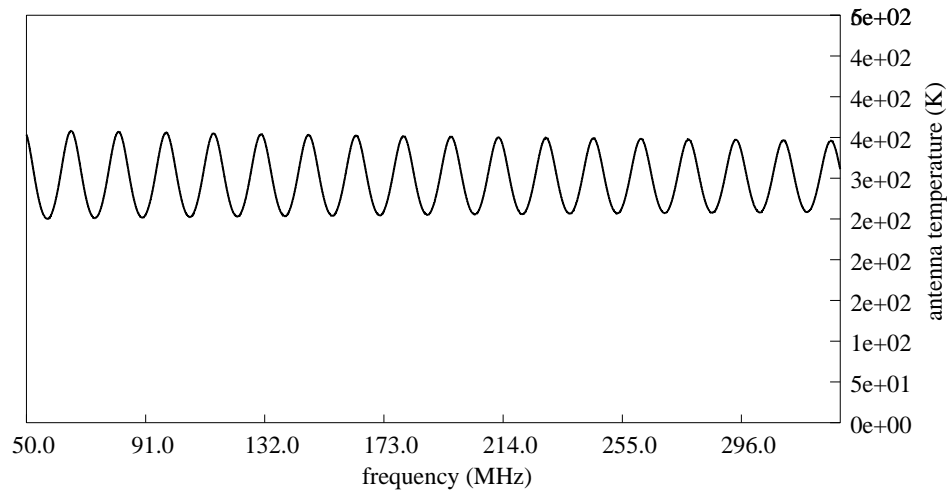
ρ = correlation coefficient between output noise and noise transmitted out of the LNA input.

T_R and T_{out} are both approximately 20 K and the LNA input reflection coefficient is approximated by $0.98 \times 10^{-0.01(f/100)}$ while $\rho \sim 0.5$.

The parameters of this model which are difficult to separately measure with test equipment (T_{out} , ρ and Γ_a) can be checked by comparing the observed temperature over a wide frequency range with a long open ended cable is connected to the radiometer. Another check can be made by terminating the cable with a load of known reflection coefficient (for example at 10 dB pad given $\Gamma_A = 0.1$). With known parameters the amplitude of the observed periodic ripple can be used to measure the antenna reflection coefficient and correction of the observed temperature, averaged over one cycle of ripple, for the $(1 - |\Gamma_A|^2)$ loss factor. This modeling makes it possible to obtain the true corrected antenna temperature over a wide range of frequency without the complication of using a matching circuit which is an intrinsically narrow band device and has to be “tuned” for each observed frequency.

The 2-fold objectives of EDGES:

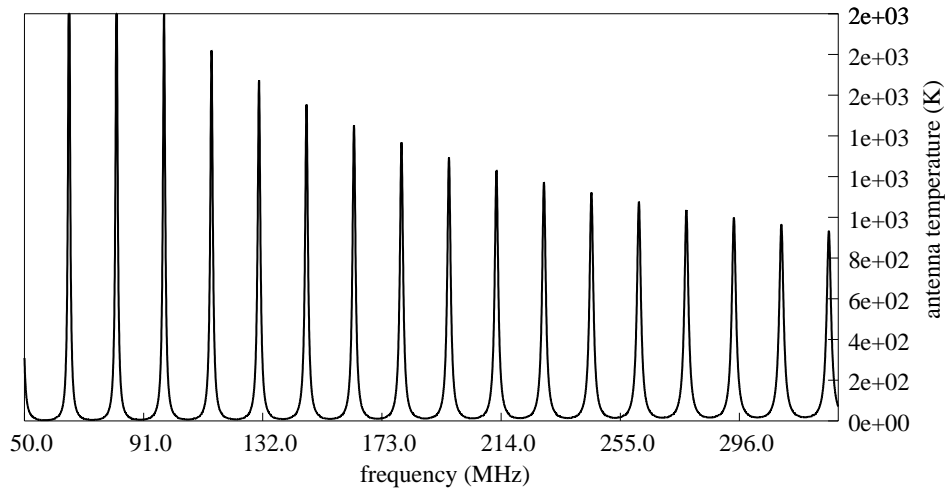
- 1] To measure the cosmic background magnitude and spectral index from 100 to 200 MHz with < 5% absolute accuracy.
- 2] To set limits on the smoothness of the variation of spectral index from 100-200 MHz and to apply this limits to model of the global EOR signature. The first objective may be best accomplished using a 25 foot (or longer) section of calibrated cable between the Dicke switched LNA and the antenna while the second objective will be best served with the shortest possible connection between the LNA and the antenna.



cor 1 npoly 0 dtyp 99 smooth 0 mdl 0.10 t150MHz 42 tr 19 tc 494 file: 2006_203_18.acq
 Acqiris atn 0 fpgatm 46.0 degC
 start 2006:203:18:39:57 stop 2006:203:18:39:57 resolution 122.0 kHz

Mon Jul 24 17:43:38 2006

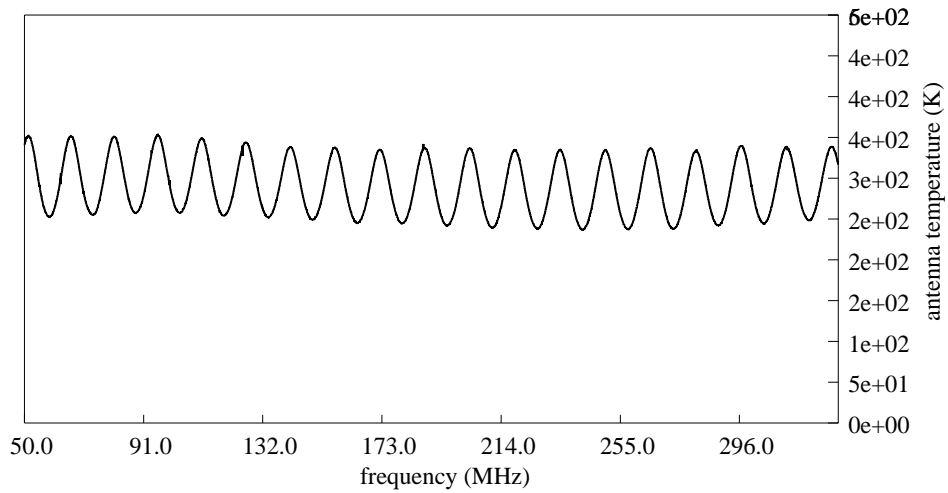
Fig 1. Modeled effect of $\Gamma_A = 0.1$ on 25' cable



cor 1 npoly 0 dtyp 99 smooth 0 mdl 1.00 t150MHz 42 tr 19 tc 494 file: 2006_203_18.acq
 Acqiris attn 0 fpgatm 46.0 degC
 start 2006:203:18:39:57 stop 2006:203:18:39:57 resolution 122.0 kHz

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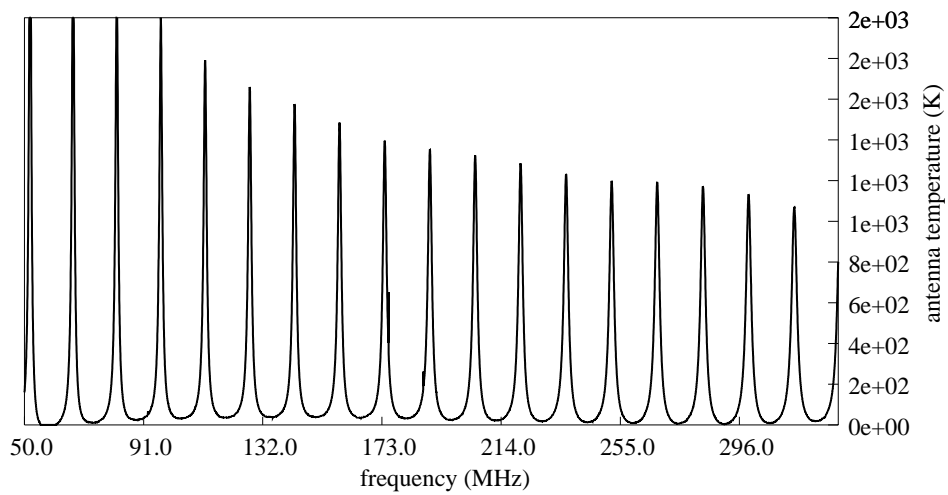
Fig 2. Modeled effect of open 25' cable



cor 1 npoly 0 dtyp 99 smooth 0 mdl 1.00 t150MHz 266 tr 11 tc 506 file: 2006_203_17.acq
 Acqiris attn 0 fpgatm 45.9 degC
 start 2006:203:17:14:31 stop 2006:203:17:14:32 resolution 122.0 kHz

Tue Jul 25 08:58:17 2006

Fig 3. Measured spectrum with $\Gamma_A = 0.1$ on end of 25' LMR-240



cor 1 npoly 0 dtyp 99 smooth 0 mdl 0.00 t150MHz 42 tr 19 tc 494 file: 2006_203_18.acq
 Acqiris attn 0 fpgatm 46.0 degC
 start 2006:203:18:39:57 stop 2006:203:18:39:57 resolution 122.0 kHz

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Fig 4. Measured spectrum with 25' LMR-240 open at the end.