

Calculate the velocity factor Vf from resonance measurements

J. Audet  
Jan. 2024

c = speed of light in meters/Sec or feet/Sec  
 $\lambda$  = wavelength in meters or feet, f = frequency in Hz  
 Vf = velocity factor (speed in cable / speed of light)  
 len = length of TRL in meters or feet

$$c = 2.99792 \cdot 10^8 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{sec}} \quad c = 9.83571 \cdot 10^8 \frac{\text{feet}}{\text{sec}} \quad \text{This value will be used for all succeeding calculations.}$$

$$c := 9.83571 \cdot 10^8 \frac{\text{feet}}{\text{sec}}$$

$\lambda \cdot f = c \cdot Vf$  Basic equation

When measuring Vf, we use a half wavelength line or quarter wavelength line

$$Vf = \frac{\lambda \cdot \text{len} \cdot f}{c}$$

$\lambda = 1$  for 360 deg resonance (one wavelength line)  
 $\lambda = 2$  for 180 deg resonance (half wavelength line)  
 $\lambda = 4$  for 90 deg resonance (quarter wavelength line)

For a resonance in the half wavelength mode, we find the value 'len' at freq. 'f' in MHz

$$\text{len} := 22.167 \quad \lambda := 2 \quad f := 19.89 \text{ MHz}$$

$$Vf := \frac{\lambda \cdot \text{len} \cdot f \cdot 10^6}{c} \quad \text{Eq. (1)}$$

For a resonance in the quarter wavelength mode, we find the value 'len' at freq. 'f'

$$\text{len} := 22.167 \quad \lambda := 4 \quad f := 9.9$$

$$Vf := \frac{\lambda \cdot \text{len} \cdot f \cdot 10^6}{c} \quad Vf = 0.892$$

Calculate the quarter wave resonant frequency: f4 in MHz

$\lambda = 4$  for quarter wave

$$Vf := \frac{\lambda \cdot \text{len} \cdot f \cdot 10^6}{c} \quad Vf = \frac{4 \cdot \text{len} \cdot f4 \cdot 10^6}{c}$$

Solving for f4 in Eq. (1), the quarter wave frequency in MHz:

$$f4 := \frac{Vf \cdot c}{4 \cdot 10^6 \cdot \text{len}}$$

With c in feet/sec and len in feet

$$c := 9.836 \cdot 10^8 \frac{\text{feet}}{\text{sec}} \quad Vf := 0.66 \quad \text{len} := 10 \text{ Feet}$$

$$f4 := \frac{Vf \cdot c}{4 \cdot 10^6 \cdot \text{len}} = 16.229 \text{ MHz}$$

Note Vf = 0.66 for coaxial cables with polyethylene insulation.

Calculate the length in feet for quarter wave resonance

Solving for len in Eq. (1), the length (len) is in feet and (c) is in feet/sec:

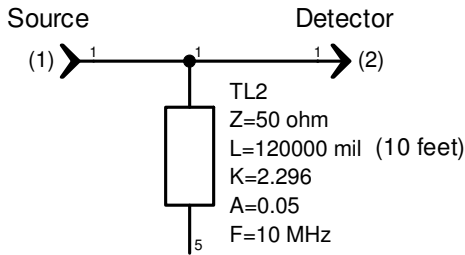
$$\text{len} := \frac{Vf \cdot c}{4 \cdot 10^6 \cdot f4} = 10 \text{ feet}$$

f4 is the resonant frequency.

Where c = speed of light in feet/sec.

Simulation

The transmission line under test (TL2) is connected in shunt



With  $Vf = 0.66$

The simulation uses K the dielectric constant, instead of Vf

$$K = \frac{1}{Vf^2} \quad K := \frac{1}{Vf^2} = 2.296$$

A = attenuation in dB/m at freq. F (MHz)

This end open for quarter wave resonance  
 This end shorted for half & full wave resonance

The first frequency of minimum response gives the resonant frequency f4.  
 As calculated previously len=10 feet

