

# Microchip Low Phase Noise Crystal Oscillators



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A Leading Provider of Smart, Connected and Secure Embedded Control Solutions

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Date: June 28, 2022



SMART | CONNECTED | SECURE

# Microchip in 5G

## 5G Infrastructure

### Radio & Small Cell

#### Precision Oscillators

Network Synchronization  
RF Diodes, LNAs, PAs

#### SAW Filters

Power over Ethernet  
Ethernet Switch/PHY  
FPGA  
Security  
AC-DC, DC-DC

### Baseband

#### Precision Oscillators

Network Synchronization  
FPGA  
Security  
AC-DC, DC-DC

### X-Haul

Ethernet PHYs w/ Security & Timing  
OTN / Ethernet Fronthaul Processors

#### Precision Oscillators

Network Synchronization  
FPGA  
Security  
AC-DC, DC-DC



### Edge Compute

FPGA / MPU / MCU  
Flash/Storage Controllers  
PCIe Switch  
Network Synchronization  
FPGA  
Security  
AC-DC, DC-DC

## 5G Enabled Markets

### Automotive

Ethernet, PCIe®  
FPGA / MPU / MCU

#### SAW Filters

Timing  
Security  
AC-DC, DC-DC

### Industry 4.0

Ethernet,  
FPGA  
MPU / MCU  
**SAW Filters**  
Timing  
Security  
AC-DC, DC-DC

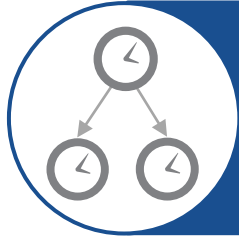
### Smart Home

MPU / MCU  
**SAW Filters**  
Security  
AC-DC, DC-DC

### Medical Devices

FPGAs  
MPU / MCU  
**SAW Filters**  
Security  
AC-DC, DC-DC

# Industry's Broadest Clock and Timing Portfolio



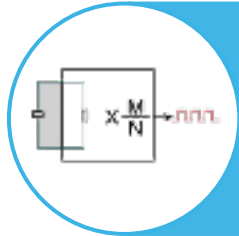
## Network Synchronization

- IEEE-1588 & Synchronous Ethernet Compliant Solutions
- PTP and Servo Algorithm Software
- Sub 100fs Jitter
- Multi-channel PLLs with Up to 20 Outputs



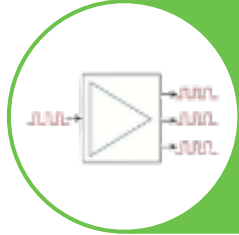
## Oscillators

- **Precision OCXO/TCXO/VCSO/VCXO**
- **Low-Cost Crystals and MEMS**
- **Low Noise**
- **Low-Power OCXO & TCXO**



## Clock Generation

- As Low as 78 fs Phase Noise
- Preconfigurable with up to 20 Outputs
- Crystal-less™ PCIe® Clock Generators



## Fan Out Buffers

- Low-Additive Jitter
- Any Format In/Any Format Out
- Gen 1-5 Compliant PCIe HCSL & LPHCSL Buffers
- Up to 22 Outputs



## Jitter Attenuators

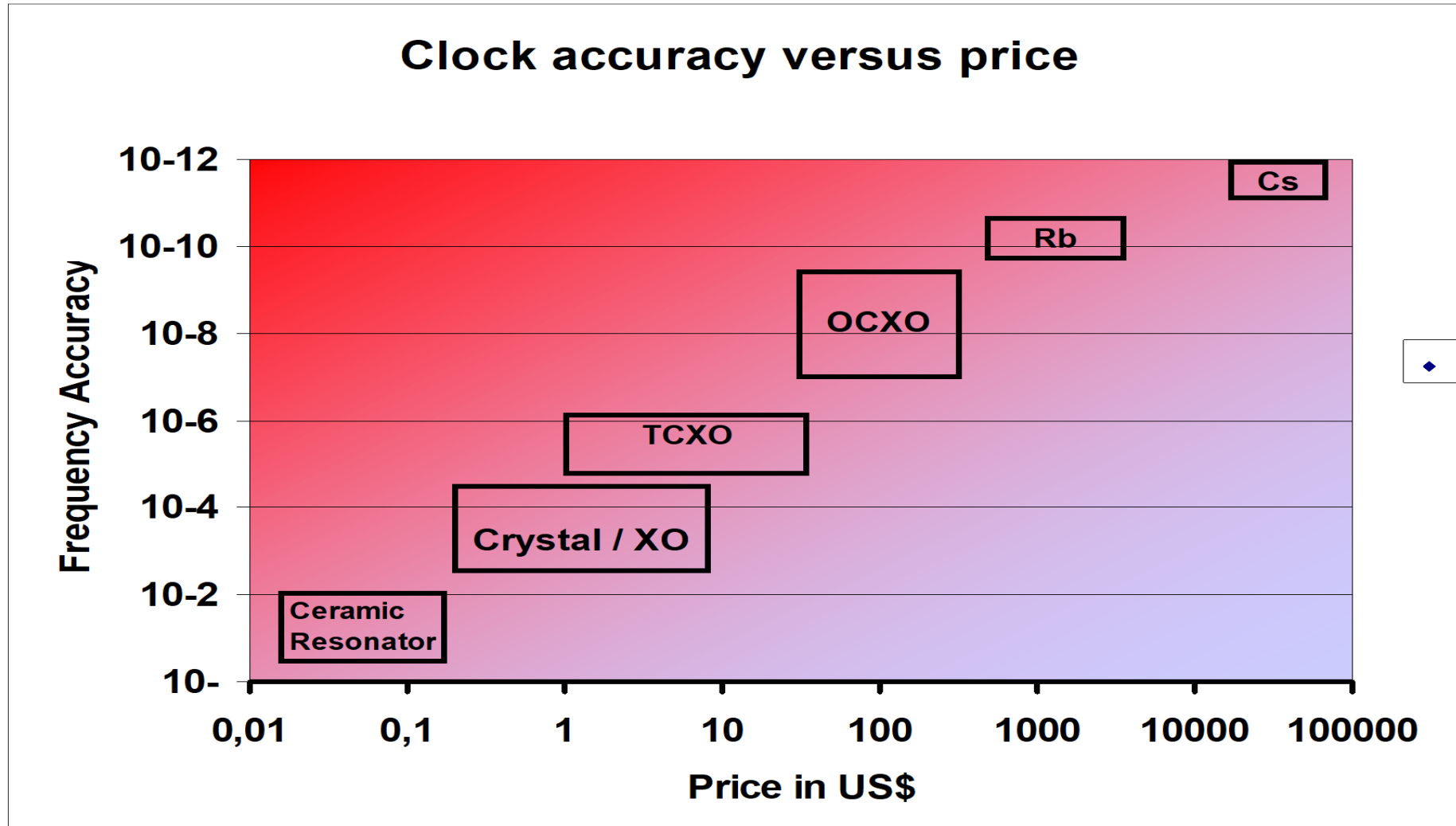
- Single and Multi-channel solutions
- Any Format In/Any Format Out
- Sub 100fs Jitter Performance

# Product Training

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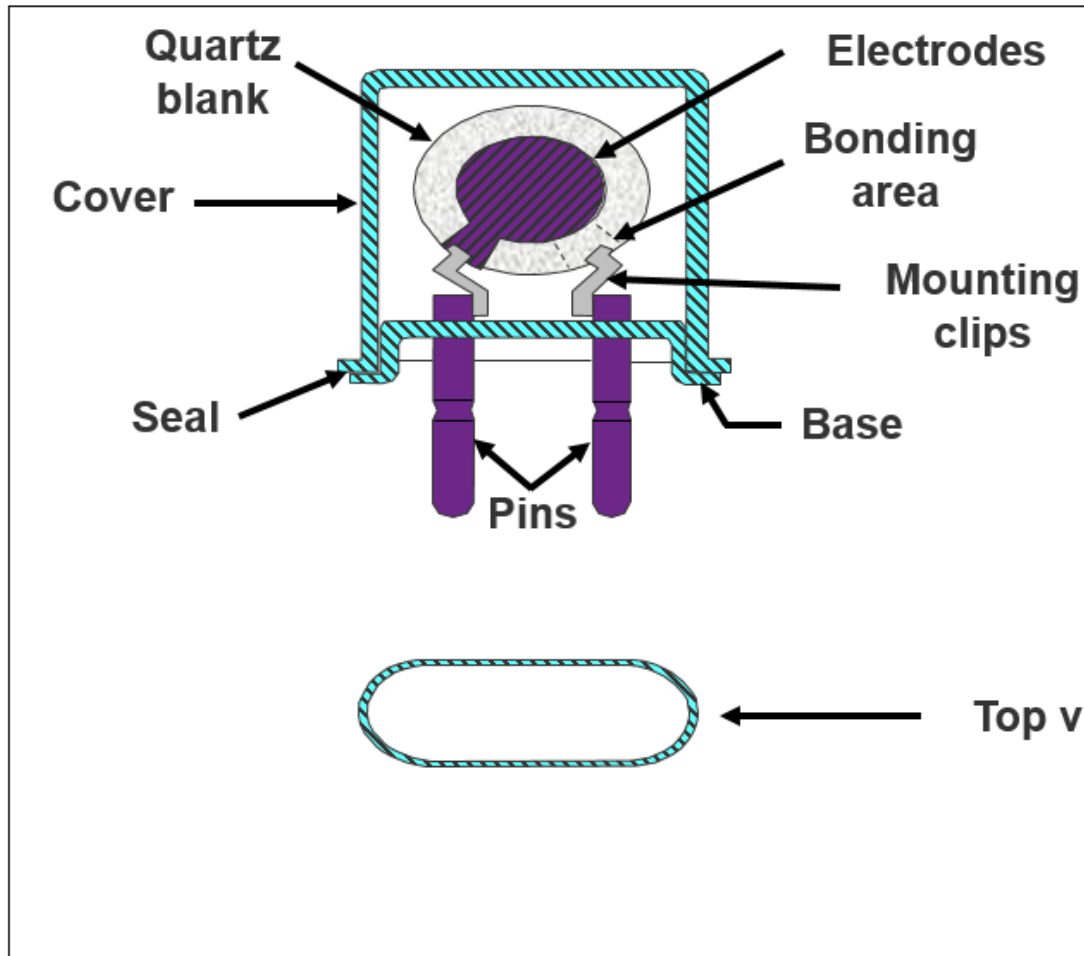
Oscillators Basic

# Crystal Basics: Hierarchy of Frequency Control Devices

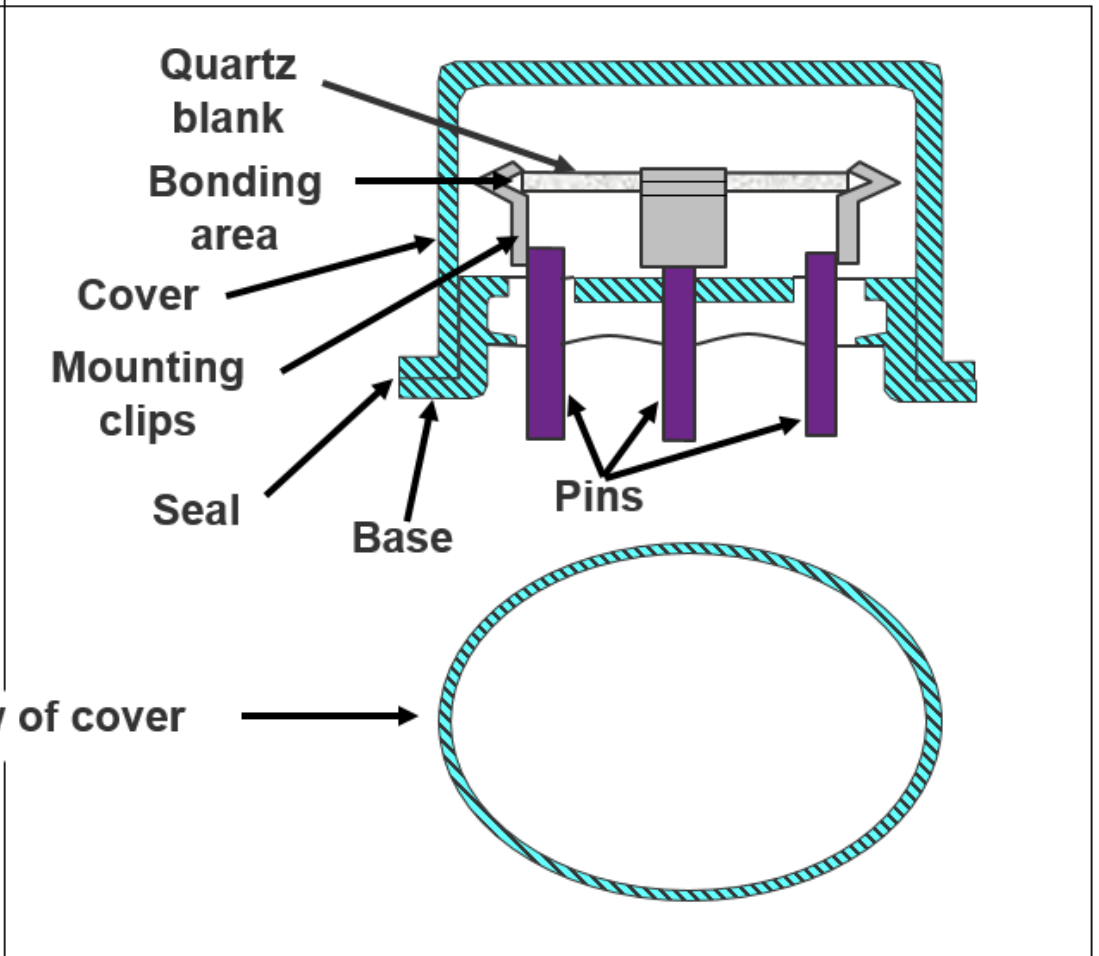


# Crystal Basics: Resonator Packaging

## Two-point Mount Package

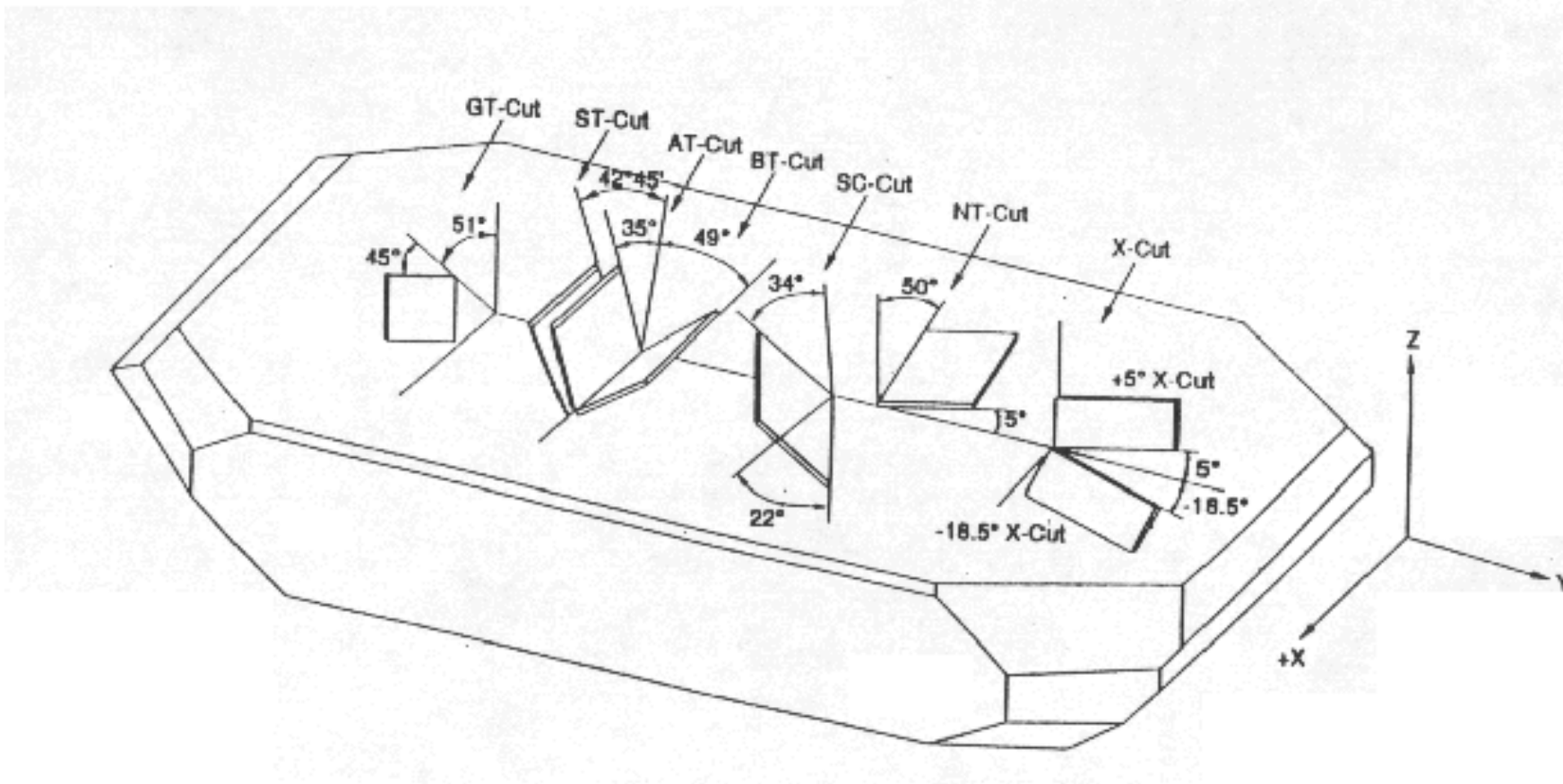


## Three- and Four-point Mount Package



# Types of Quartz Crystal Cuts

## Crystal Basics

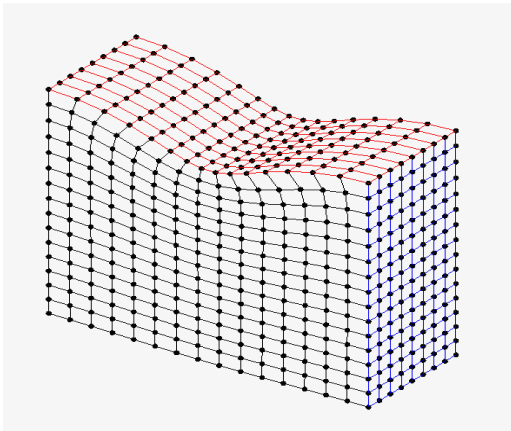


# How Do SAW/BAW Devices Work?

Piezo-Electric Effect: electrical energy  $\Leftrightarrow$  mechanical (acoustic) energy

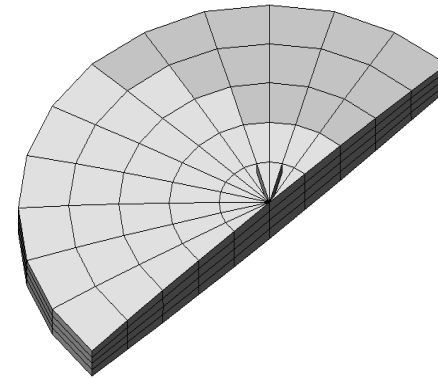
Surface Acoustic Waves:

- Filters
- Resonators



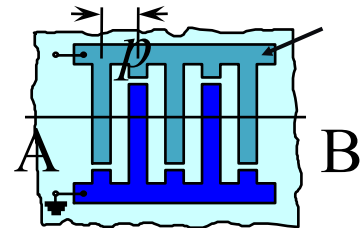
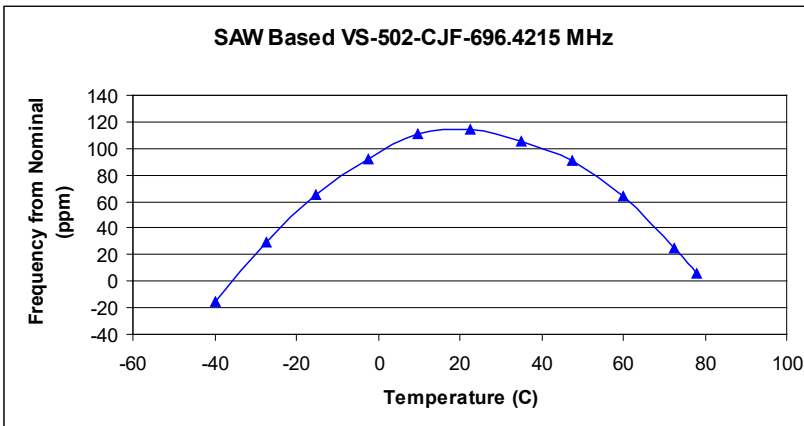
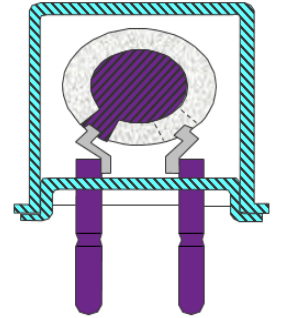
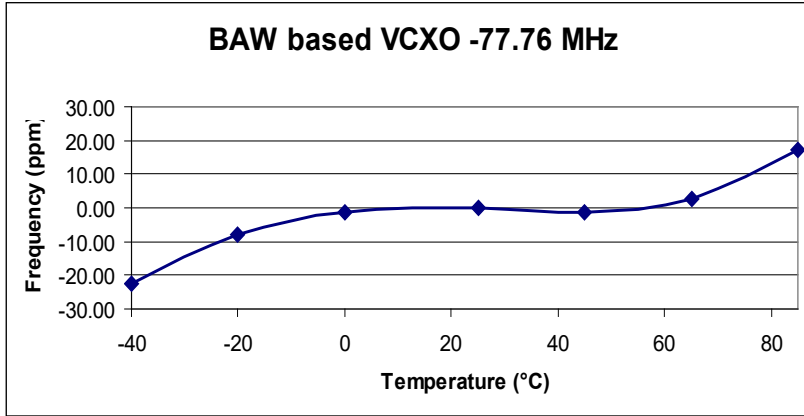
Bulk Acoustic Waves:

- Crystals
- Monolithic Crystal Filters



# Performance Difference from VCXO and VCXO

- **BAW (VCXO)** temperature coefficient is cubic and will move  $\sim \pm 20$  ppm over industrial temperature range
- **SAW (VCSO)** temperature coefficient is parabolic in nature and will move  $\sim \pm 150$  ppm over industrial temperature range
- To compensate for these differences, VCSOs have a deviation sensitivity ( $K_{vco}$ ) in ppm/V which is  $\sim 5$  times higher than a comparable VCXOs



# Product Training-II

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TCXO Basic

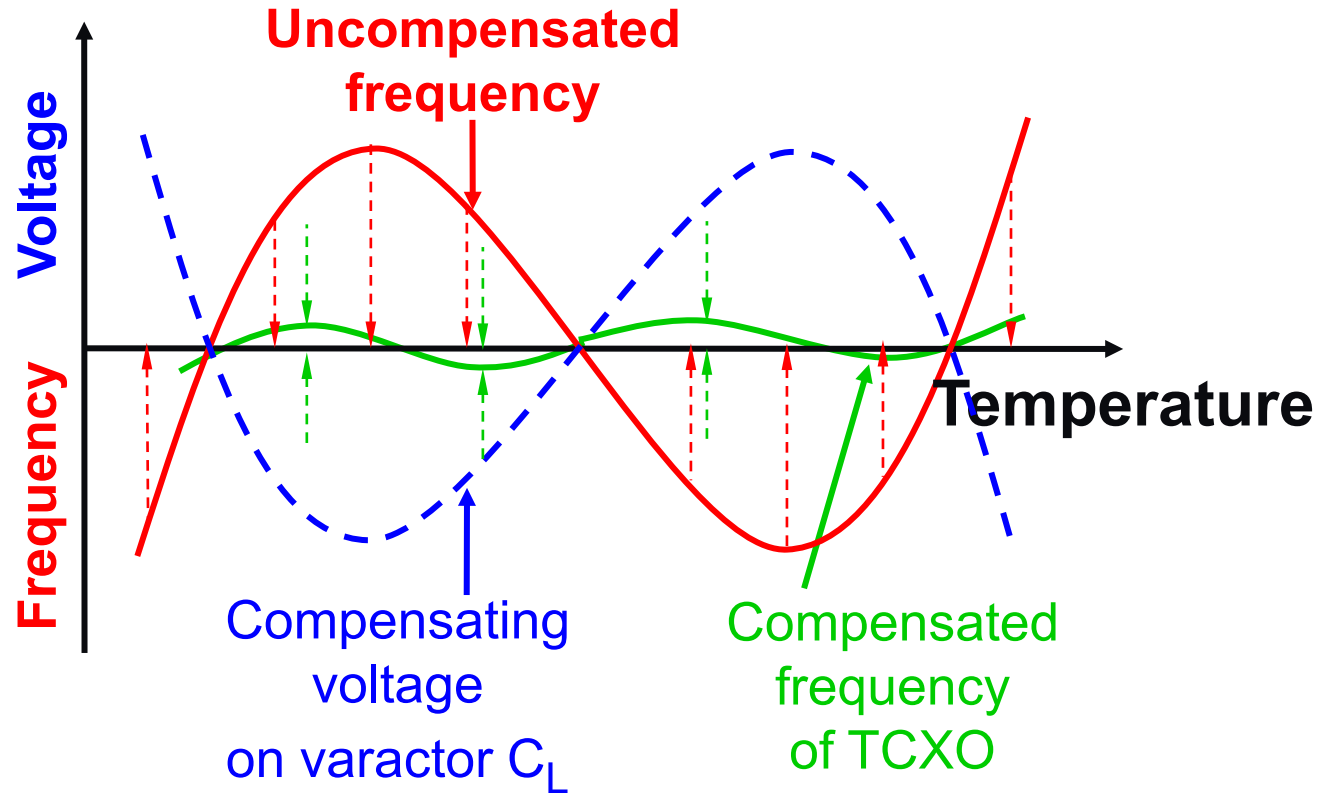
# Basic Structure and Function

- **TCXO = Temperature Compensated Xtal Oscillator**
- **To get a 15 to 75 times better frequency stability than a VCXO or a PXO while the power consumption remains the same.**  
**Up to 300 times total for DDC-TCXOs: MCXOs**
- **To close the gap between a high end PXO/VCXO and a medium end OCXO.**  
**To replace low end OCXOs**
- **A temperature compensation network is used to:**
  - **sense the ambient temperature**
  - **pull the crystal frequency to its nominal value**
- **Oscillator- and output- buffer-stage are identical to a VCXO.**

Basic structure and function
Compensation techniques
Production flow
Thermal effects
Measurement data
Specification
Cost reduction

# Compensation Techniques

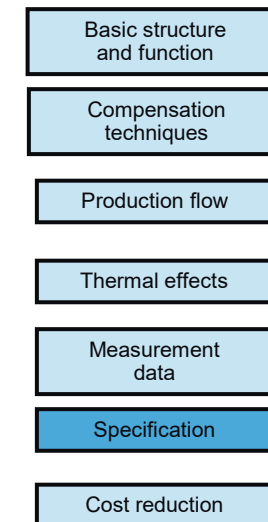
## Compensation Basics



- Basic structure and function
- Compensation techniques
- Production flow
- Thermal effects
- Measurement data
- Specification
- Cost reduction

# Specification

- **Main selection criteria**
  - **Frequency stability vs. temperature:**
    - 0 to 50°C → ±0.02ppm .... ±4ppm
    - 20 to 70°C → ±0.02ppm .... ±6ppm
    - 40 to 85°C → ±0.03ppm .... ±12ppm
  - **Aging:**
    - ± 0.5ppm/year ..... ± 1ppm/year
    - ± 2ppm/10years ..... ± 5ppm/10years
  - **Power consumption:**
    - 1mA to 5mA → clipped sinewave output; < 30MHz
    - 15mA max → HCMOS output; < 30MHz; Cload = 15pF
  - **Package:**
    - SMT - 3.2 x 5mm<sup>2</sup>; 5 x 7mm<sup>2</sup>; 9 x 14mm<sup>2</sup>; 22 x 25mm<sup>2</sup>;
  - **Pulling range (if needed):**
    - > ±5ppm .... < ±30ppm (depends on package)



# Product Training-III

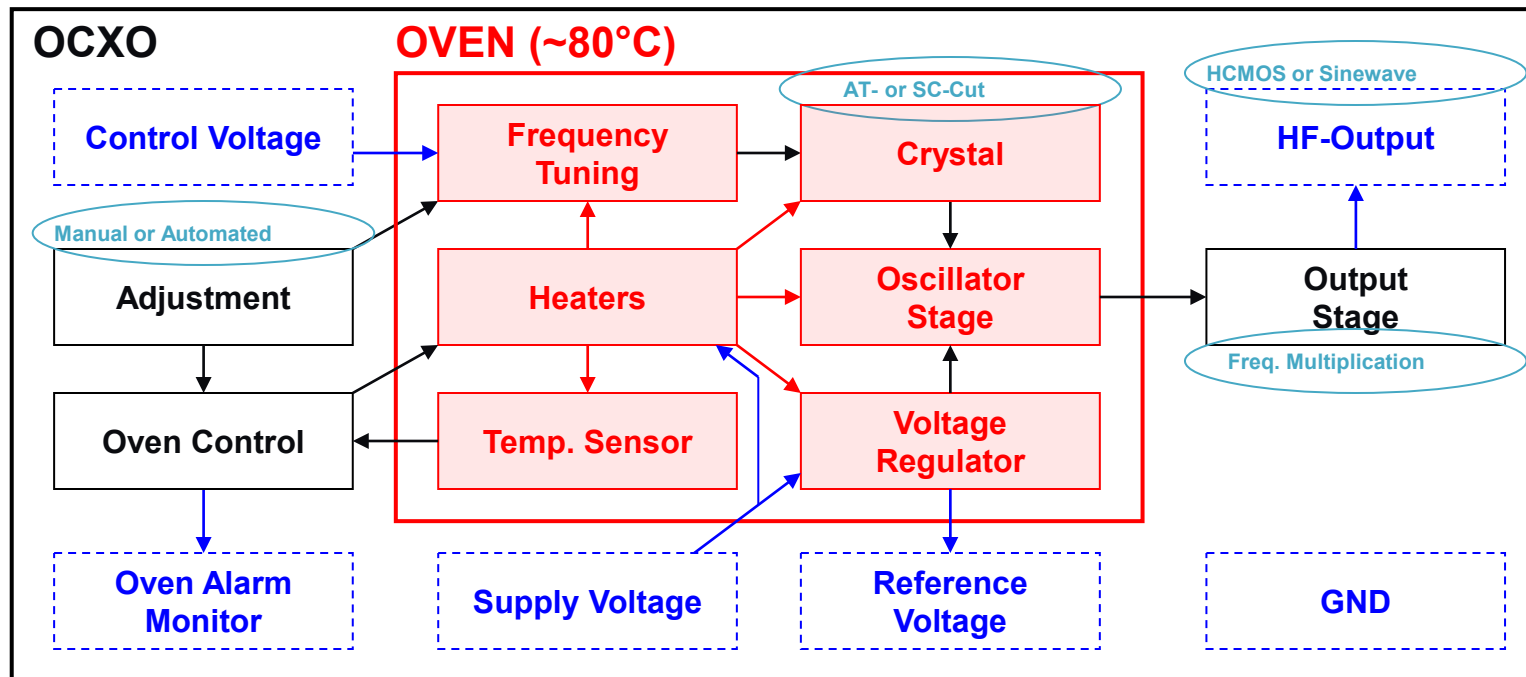
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OCXO Basic

# OCXO Tutorial Basic Description

OCXO = Oven Controlled Xtal (Crystal) Oscillator

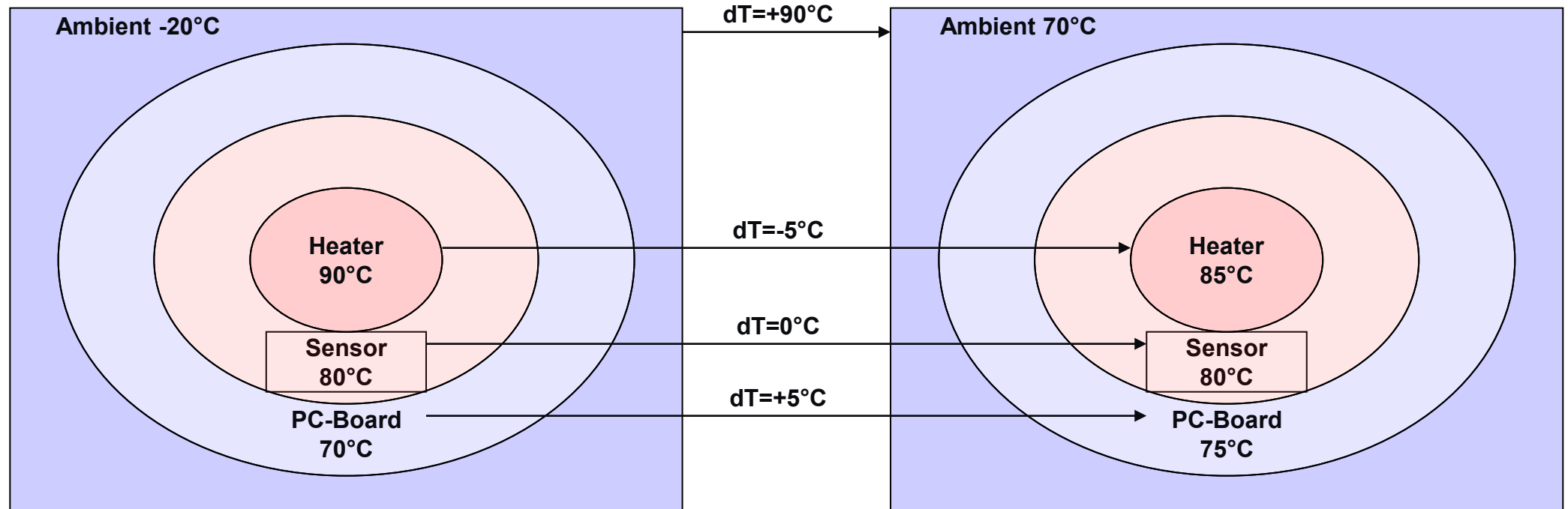
- Improves frequency vs. temperature stability due to stable crystal temperature
- Most stable crystal oscillator



# OCXO Tutorial Thermal Quality

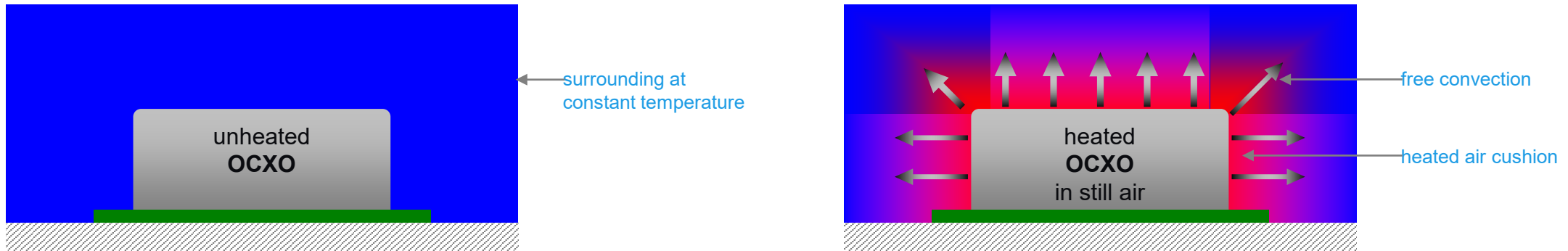
- The thermal Q describes the ratio between a temp change of the ambient and the corresponding temperature change in the oven.
- A good temperature stability results in a high Q.
- The area near the temperature sensor has a very high Q.
- The area near the heater usually has a poor negative thermal Q.
- The area at the border of the PCB usually has a poor positive thermal Q.
- Conclusion: Avoid temperature gradients to improve thermal Q.

$$Q_{TH} = \frac{\Delta T_{Ambient}}{\Delta T_{Oven}}$$



# OCXO Tutorial Airflow

The impact of airflow on the surrounding of an OCXO:

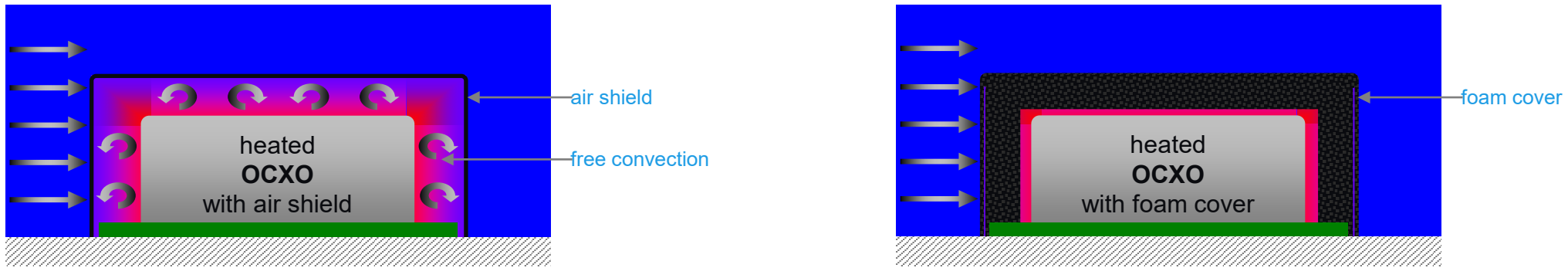


## Operation in still air:

- The OCXO heats up the air around its enclosure.
- This warm air cushion acts as additional insulation towards the environment.
- Therefore the cover temperature is considerable higher than the ambient temperature.
- Heat is transferred because of free convection.
- Due to the hot surrounding the power of the OCXO is fairly low.

# OCXO Tutorial Airflow -II

The impact of airflow on the surrounding of an OCXO:



## Shielding the airflow:

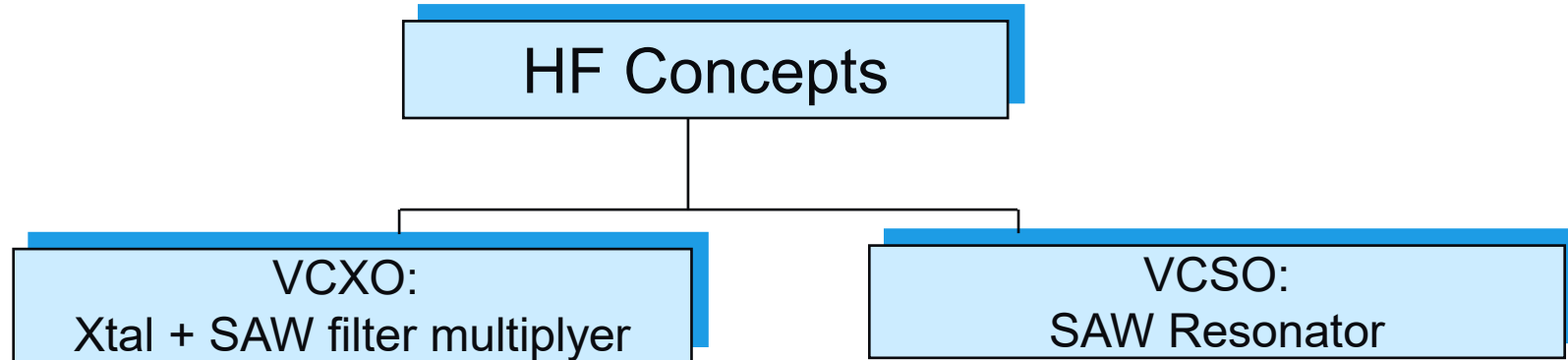
- A simple air shield (e.g. made of plastic) improves the short-term stability in turbulent environments significantly.
- Mount the shield with a gap of few millimeters to the OCXO enclosure.
- Inside the shielding the air may move slightly due to free convection.
- Use foam covers to suppress free convection.
- In general, it is preferable to have additional thermal insulation around the OCXO.

# VCXO vs. VCXO

## Realization of Frequencies

	<i>f</i> Range	<i>Typical concept</i>
VCXO	10MHz ... 50MHz	Fundamental crystal
	50MHz ... 200MHz	3rd overtone crystal
	200MHz ... 1GHz	3rd overtone crystal + SAW Filter multiplier
VCXO	400MHz ... 1,5GHz	SAW Resonator
	1,5GHz ... 6GHz	SAW Resonator + multiplier

# VCSO vs. VCXO



- ↑ Good temperature stability
- ↑ High linear pulling range
- ↑ Good close to carrier PN
- ↑ Good subharmonics suppression

- ↓ Higher device costs
- ↓ Max. output frequency  $\approx$  1GHz

- ↑ Up to 6GHz using multiplier stages
- ↑ Good PN & Jitter performance
- ↑ Single ended or balanced output
- ↑ High modulation BW
- ↑ No subharmonics up to 1,5GHz

- ↓ Moderate subharmonics using filter
- ↓ Moderate pulling range linearity

# Product Training-IV

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Low Phase Noise Crystal Oscillators

# Markets For Low Phase Noise



Radar and EW



Test and Measurement



Optical Networks



Medical Imaging



Satcom Terminals

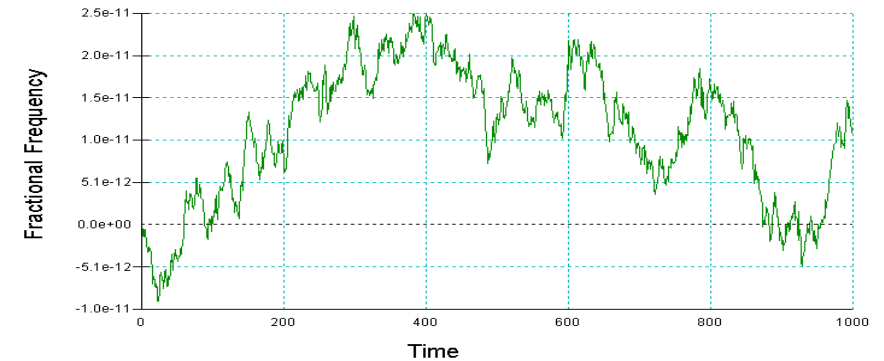
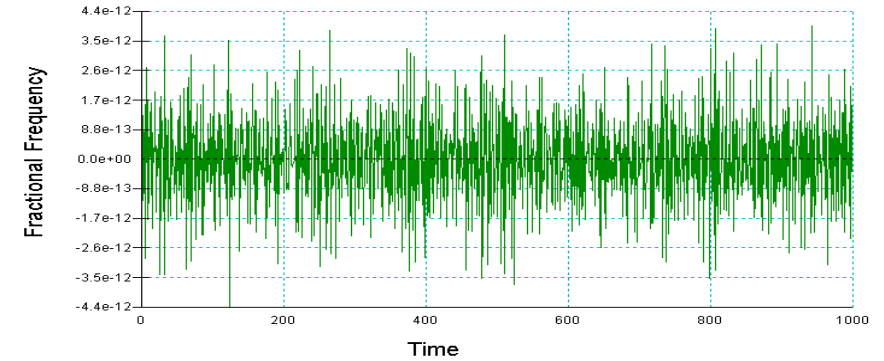


Data Centers

# Noise

## What is Noise?

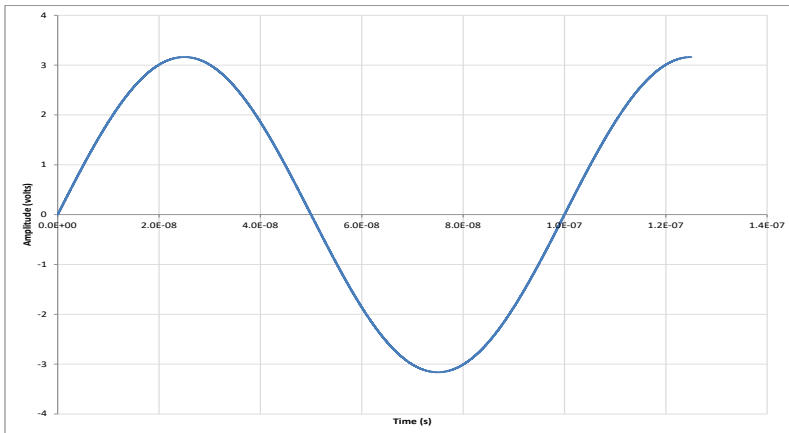
- **Noise is energy that may interfere with or degrade a system's effectiveness.**
- **The output of an ideal oscillator has a signal with a perfectly stable frequency and amplitude.**
- **The output of a real oscillator always deviates from the ideal as a consequence of both internal and external influences.**



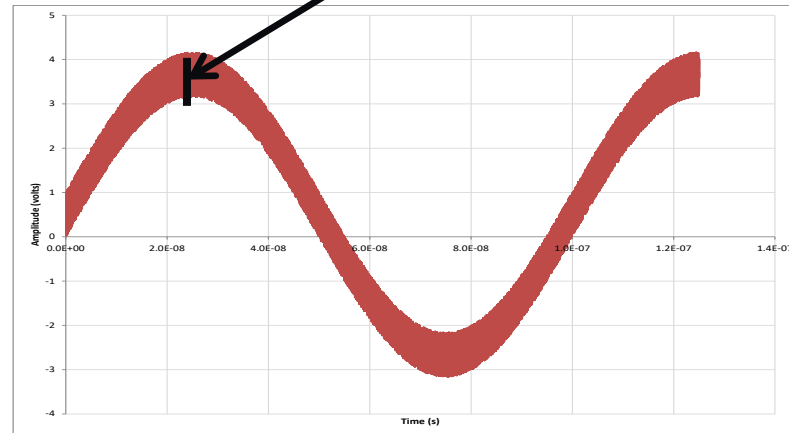
# AM and PM Modulation

- Amplitude and Phase perturbations on a periodic signal:

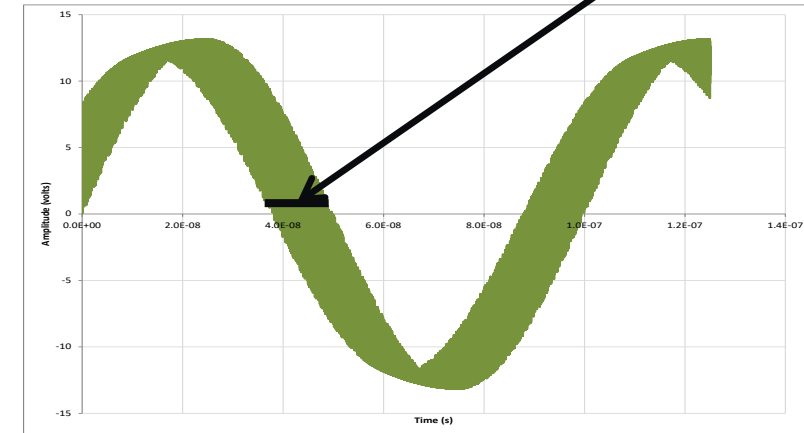
$$V(t) = [V_0] \sin[2\pi f_0 t]$$



$$V(t) = [V_0 + \epsilon(t)] \sin[2\pi f_0 t]$$

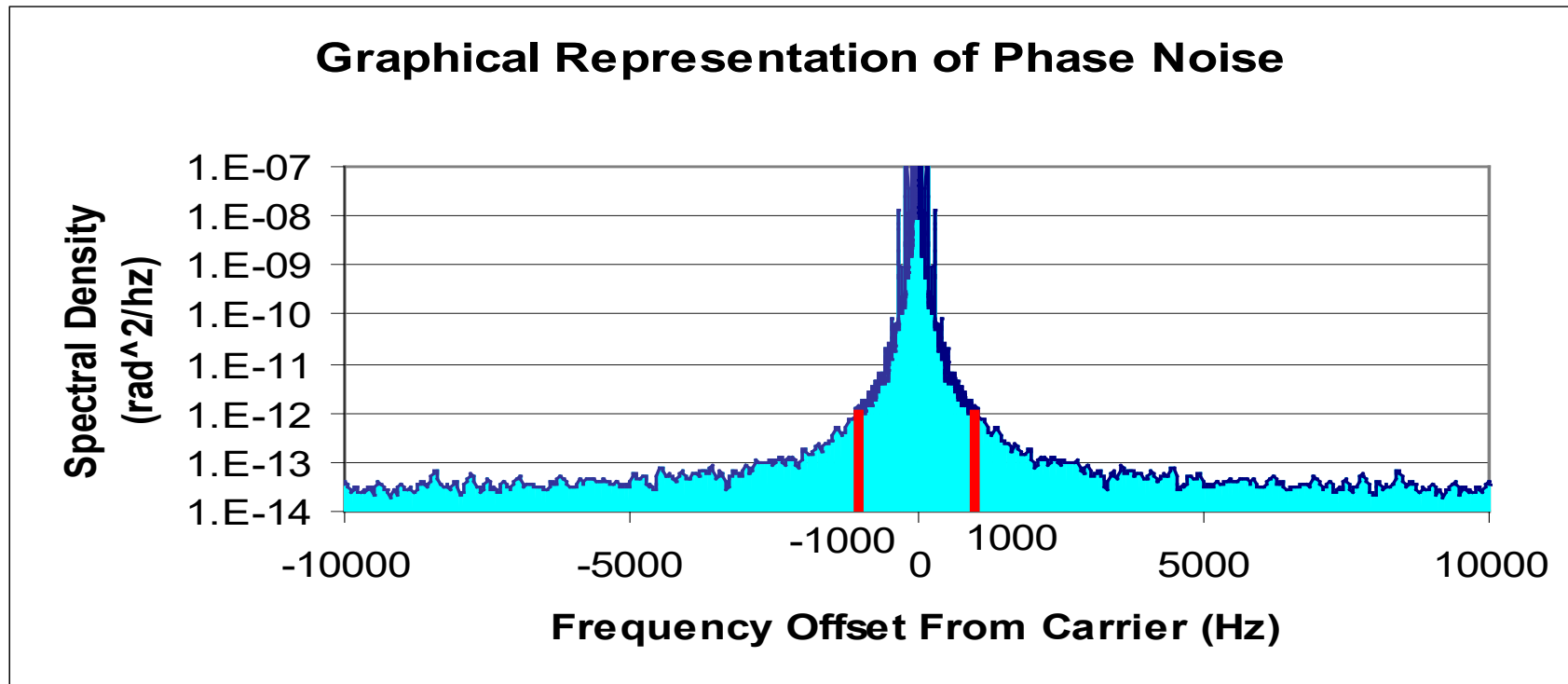


$$V(t) = [V_0] \sin[2\pi f_0 t + \phi(t)]$$



# Phase Noise

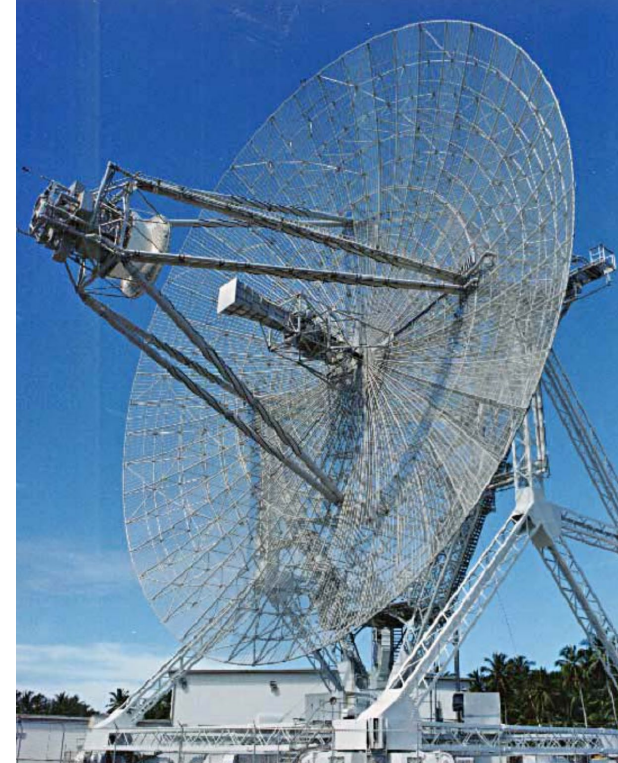
- Phase noise is a comparison of the of the noise (power) with a 1Hz Bandwidth at an offset  $f_1$  away from the carrier, to the total carrier signal power.
- Ratio of **red** to **blue** area



# Applications

## How can noise impact system performance?

- **Analog Communications:**
  - Decreases receiver sensitivity
  - PLL tracking problems
  - Decreases sensor sensitivity
- **Digital Communications:**
  - Increases bit-error rate
  - Decreases data rate
  - Excessive phase accumulation
- **Radar Systems:**
  - Increases the minimum signal level returned by target necessary for detection



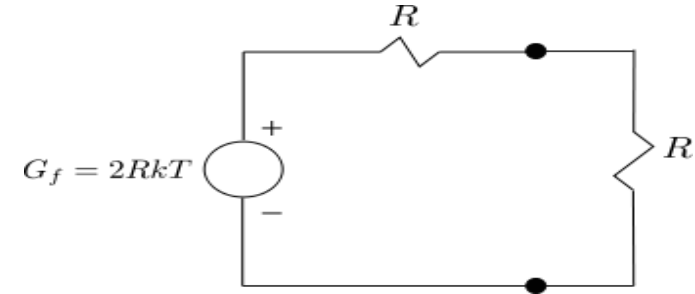
# Noise Sources

- Sources of Noise



## Deterministic Sources

- Vibration
- Noisy power supply
- Line Noise
- Coupling to other frequency sources
- Bump on the table
- Nearby transmitters



## Stochastic (Random)

- Thermal
- Passive devices
- Active devices
- Resonators
- Oven controllers

# Product- Space Qualified

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# Space-Qualified oscillators

- **Microchip designs and manufactures Space VCXOs, TCXOs and OCXOs**
  - Precise time and frequency solutions for customers with the most demanding performance requirements
- **9600/9700/9800 models offer an unsurpassed combination of small size, low-power and performance, 5MHz – 125MHz**
- **9500 Series Master Oscillators provide the worlds best performance for Frequency Stability and Phase Noise, up to 100MHz**
- **Heritage Programs**
  - GPS IIF, GPS III, MUOS, SBIRS, PAN
  - COSMO IV, CLOUDSAT, Messenger, DSAC



Model 9500B – 5-600 MHz OCXO



Model 9800 – 50-200 MHz OCXO



Model 9960/9940 – 10-600 MHz TCXO/VCXO



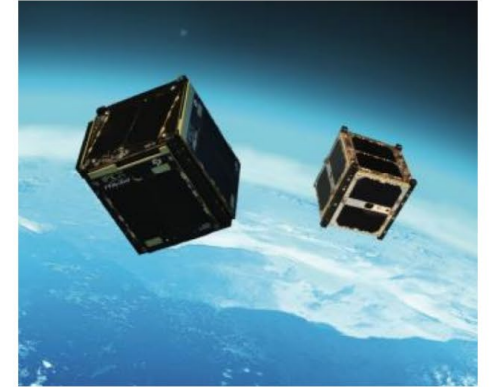
Model 9600/9700 – 5-25 MHz OCXO

# Space-CSAC

- Radiation Tolerance: 20 Krad and no SEL to 64 MeV.cm<sup>2</sup>/mg
- Low SWaP, COTS product
- Target LEO applications

## Key Specifications:

- <120 mW Power Consumption
- <17 cc in Volume
- $\pm 5.0E-10$  Tempco
- $<9.0E-10$  month aging rate, typical
- Operating Range: -10°C to +70°C
- 180s warm-up time
- 1PPS disciplining



Source: NASA/JPL-Caltech



# Thank You

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