Vector Signal Generators

SG390 Series – DC to 2 GHz, 4 GHz and 6 GHz vector signal generators



- DC to 2 GHz, 4 GHz or 6 GHz
- Dual baseband arb generators
- Vector and analog modulation
- I/Q modulation inputs (300 MHz RF BW)
- ASK, FSK, MSK, PSK, QAM, VSB, and custom I/Q
- Presets for GSM, EDGE, W-CDMA, APCO-25, DECT, NADC, PDC, ATSC-DTV & TETRA
- GPIB, RS-232 & Ethernet interfaces

SG390 Series Vector Signal Generators

Introducing the new SG390 Series Vector Signal Generators — high performance, affordable RF sources.

Three new RF Signal Generators, with carrier frequencies from DC to 2.025 GHz, 4.050 GHz and 6.075 GHz, support both analog and vector modulation. The instruments utilize a new RF synthesis technique which provides spur free outputs with low phase noise (-116 dBc/Hz at 1 GHz) and extraordinary frequency resolution (1 μ Hz at any frequency). Both analog modulation and vector baseband generators are included as standard features.

The instruments use an ovenized SC-cut oscillator as the standard timebase, providing a 100 fold improvement in the stability (and a 100 fold reduction in the in-close phase noise) compared to instruments which use a TCXO timebase.

A New Frequency Synthesis Technique

The SG390 Series Signal Generators are based on a new frequency synthesis technique called Rational Approximation Frequency Synthesis (RAFS). RAFS uses small integer divisors in a conventional phase-locked loop (PLL) to synthesize a frequency that would be close to the desired frequency (typically within ± 100 ppm) using the nominal PLL reference frequency. The PLL reference frequency, which is sourced by a voltage controlled crystal oscillator that is phase locked to a dithered direct digital synthesizer, is adjusted so that the PLL generates the exact frequency. Doing so provides a high phase comparison frequency (typically 25 MHz)



yielding low phase noise while moving the PLL reference spurs far from the carrier where they can be easily removed. The end result is an agile RF source with low phase noise, essentially infinite frequency resolution, without the spurs of fractional-N synthesis or the cost of a YIG oscillator.

Analog Modulation

The SG390 Signal Generators offer a wide variety of modulation capabilities. Modes include amplitude modulation (AM), frequency modulation (FM), phase modulation (Φ M), and pulse modulation. There is an internal modulation source as well as an external modulation input. The internal modulation source produces sine, ramp, saw, square, and noise waveforms. An external modulation signal may be applied to the rear-panel modulation input. The internal modulation generator is available as an output on the rear panel.

Unlike traditional analog signal generators, the SG390 Series can sweep continuously from DC to 62.5 MHz. And for frequencies above 62.5 MHz, each sweep range covers more than an octave.

Vector Modulation

The SG390 series builds upon this performance by adding full support for vector signal modulation on RF carriers between 400 MHz and 6.075 GHz. It features a dual, arbitrary waveform generator operating at 125 MHz for baseband signal generation. The generator has built-in support for the most common vector modulation schemes: ASK, QPSK, DQPSK, $\pi/4$ DQPSK, 8PSK, FSK, CPM. QAM (4 to 256), 8VSB, and 16VSB. It also includes built-in support for all the standard pulse shaping filters used in digital communications: raised cosine, root-raised cosine, Gaussian, rectangular, triangular, and more. Lastly, it provides direct support for the controlled injection of additive white Gaussian noise (AWGN) into the signal path.

Internal baseband generators

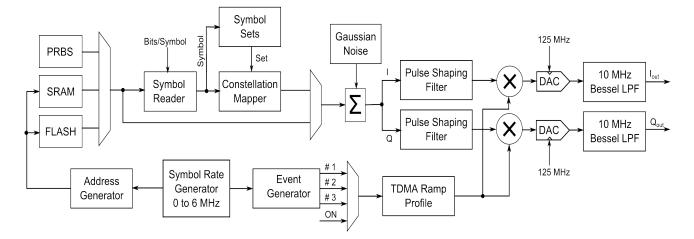
Using a novel architecture for I/Q modulation, the SG390 series provides quick, user-friendly waveform generation. The baseband generator supports the playback of pure digital data. It automatically maps digital symbols into a selected I/Q constellation at symbol rates of up to 6 MHz and passes the result through the selected pulse shaping filter to generate a final waveform updated in real time at 125 MHz. This baseband signal is then modulated onto an RF carrier using standard IQ modulation techniques.

Preset communications protocols (GSM, GSM EDGE, W-CDMA, APCO-25, DECT, NADC, PDC, TETRA, and ATSC DTV) quickly configure the signal generator to the correct modulation type, symbol data rates, TDMA duty cycles and digital waveform filters. The preset protocols also configure the rear-panel TDMA, START of FRAME, and SYMBOL CLOCK digital outputs. The baseband generators can be configured for these protocols without the use of external computers or third party software.

The I/Q waveforms are computed in real time. Symbols are mapped to constellations, digitally filtered, and up-sampled to 125 Msps to drive the I/Q modulator via dual 14-bit DACs. The symbols can be a fixed pattern, PRBS data from an internal source, or come from a downloaded user list of up to 16 Mbits. The constellation mapping can be modified by the user. Digital filters include Nyquist, root Nyquist, Gaussian, rectangular, linear, sinc, and user-defined FIR.

External I/Q Modulation

The rear-panel BNC I/Q modulation inputs and outputs enable arbitrary vector modulation via an external source. The external signal path supports more than 300 MHz of bandwidth with a full scale range of ± 0.5 V and a 50 Ω input impedance.



Baseband Dual Arbitrary Waveform Generator for IQ Modulation



Power vs Frequency

All SRS RF signal generators have cascaded stages of amplifiers and digital attenuators to drive the RF output. Five stages can provide up to +25 dB of gain to -130 dB of attenuation in 156 digitally controlled steps. During factory calibration the output power is measured at 32 frequencies per octave for each of the 156 attenuator steps to populate a memory matrix with about 40,000 elements. When set to a particular frequency and power, the instrument interpolates between these matrix elements to determine the best attenuator setting. An analog attenuator is used to provide 0.01 dB resolution between matrix elements and to compensate for residual thermal effects.

This method eliminates the need for precision attenuators and automatic level controls (ALC) without any sacrifice in performance. Eliminating the ALC also removes its unwanted interactions with amplitude, pulse and I/Q modulation.

OCXO or Rubidium Timebase

The SG390 Series come with a oven-controlled crystal oscillator (OCXO) timebase. The timebase uses a third-overtone stress-compensated 10 MHz resonator in a thermostatically controlled oven. The timebase provides very low phase noise and very low aging. An optional rubidium oscillator (Opt. 04) may be ordered to substantially reduce frequency aging and improve temperature stability. An external 10 MHz timebase reference may be supplied to the rear-panel timebase input.

Easy Communication

Remote operation is supported with GPIB, RS-232 and Ethernet interfaces. All instrument functions can be controlled and read over any of the interfaces. Up to nine instrument configurations can be saved in non-volatile memory.

Ordering Information

SG392	2 GHz signal generator
SG394	4 GHz signal generator
SG396	6 GHz signal generator
Option	04 Rubidium timebase
RM2U-S	Single rack mount kit
RM2U-D	Dual rack mount kit



SG394 rear panel



Frequency Setting

Frequency ranges DC to 62.5 MHz (BNC output, all models) 950 kHz to 2.025 GHz (N-type output) SG392 SG394 950 kHz to 4.05 GHz (N-type output) SG396 950 kHz to 6.075 GHz (N-type output) Frequency resolution 1 µHz at any frequency Switching speed <8 ms (to within 1 ppm) $<(10^{-18} + \text{timebase error}) \times f_C$ Frequency error 1×10^{-11} (1 s Allan variance) Frequency stability

Front-Panel BNC Output

Frequency range	DC to 62.5 MHz
Amplitude	1.00 Vrms to 0.001 Vrms
Offset	±1.5 VDC
Offset resolution	5 mV
Max. excursion	1.817 V (amplitude+offset)
Amplitude resolution	<1%
Amplitude accuracy	±5 %
Harmonics	<-40 dBc
Spurious	<-75 dBc
Output coupling	DC, $50 \Omega \pm 2\%$
User load	50 Ω
Reverse protection	±5 VDC

Front-Panel N-Type Output

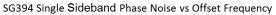
Frequency range	
SG392	950 kHz to 2.025 GHz
SG394	950 kHz to 4.050 GHz
SG396	950 kHz to 6.075 GHz
Power output	
SG392	+16.5 dBm to -110 dBm
SG394	+16.5 dBm to -110 dBm (<3 GHz)
SG396	+16.5 dBm to -110 dBm (<4 GHz)
Voltage output	
SG392	1.5 Vrms to 0.7 µVrms
SG394	1.5 Vrms to 0.7μ Vrms (<3 GHz)
SG396	1.5 Vrms to 0.7μ Vrms (<4 GHz)
Power resolution	0.01 dBm
Power accuracy	±1 dB
Output coupling	ΑC, 50 Ω
User load	50 Ω
VSWR	<1.6
Reverse protection	30 VDC, +25 dBm RF

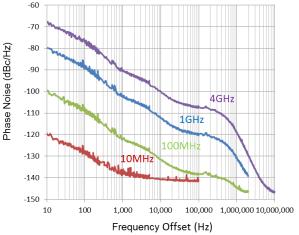
Spectral Purity of the RF Output Referenced to 1 GHz*

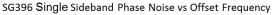
Sub harmonics Harmonics	None <-25 dBc (<+7 dBm, N-type output)
Spurious	
<10 kHz offset	<-65 dBc
>10 kHz offset	<-75 dBc
Phase noise (typ.)	
10 Hz offset	-80 dBc/Hz
1 kHz offset	-102 dBc/Hz
20 kHz offset	-116 dBc/Hz (SG392 & SG394)
	-114 dBc/Hz (SG396)
1 MHz offset	-130 dBc/Hz (SG392 & SG394)
	-124 dBc/Hz (SG396)

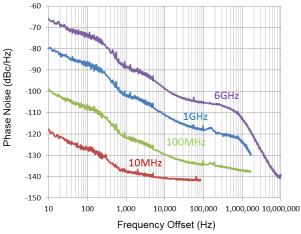
Residual FM (typ.) Residual AM (typ.) 1 Hz rms (300 Hz to 3 kHz BW) 0.006 % rms (300 Hz to 3 kHz BW)

* Spurs, phase noise and residual FM scale by 6 dB/octave to other carrier frequencies









Phase Setting on Front-Panel Outputs

Max. phase step
Phase resolution

±360° 0.01° (DC to 100 MHz) 0.1° (100 MHz to 1 GHz) 1.0° (1 GHz to 8.1 GHz)

Standard OCXO Timebase

Oscillator type Stability (0 to 45 °C) Aging Oven controlled, 3rd OT, SC-cut crystal <±0.002 ppm <±0.05 ppm/year



Rubidium Timebase (Opt. 04)

Oscillator type Physics package Stability (0 to 45 °C) Aging

Oven controlled, 3rd OT, SC-cut crystal Rubidium vapor frequency discriminator <±0.0001 ppm <±0.001 ppm/year

Timebase Input

Frequency $10 \text{ MHz}, \pm 2 \text{ ppm}$ 0.5 to 4 Vpp (-2 dBm to +16 dBm)Amplitude Input impedance 50Ω , AC coupled

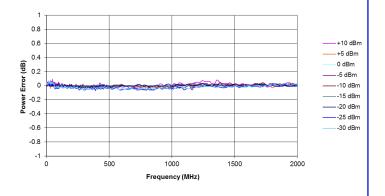
Timebase Output

Frequency	10 MHz, sine
Source	50 Ω , DC transformer coupled
Amplitude	$1.75 \text{ Vpp } \pm 10\% (8.8 \text{ dBm} \pm 1 \text{ dBm})$

Output Power Error

SG392 power error

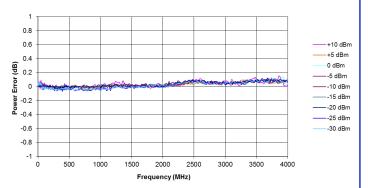
(-30 dBm to +10 dBm, DC to 2 GHz)



SG392 Output Power Error vs. Frequency

SG394 power error

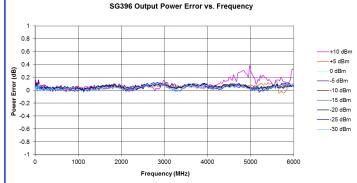
(-30 dBm to +10 dBm, DC to 4 GHz)



SG394 Output Power Error vs. Frequency

SG396 power error

(-30 dBm to +10 dBm, DC to 6 GHz)



Internal Modulation Source

Waveforms Sine THD Ramp linearity Rate	Sine, ramp, saw, square, pulse, noise -80 dBc (typ. at 20 kHz) <0.05% (1 kHz) 1 μ Hz to 500 kHz ($f_{C} \le 62.5 \text{ MHz}$ (SG392 & SG394)) ($f_{C} \le 93.75 \text{ MHz}$ (SG396)) 1 μ Hz to 50 kHz ($f_{C} > 62.5 \text{ MHz}$ (SG392 & SG394)) ($f_{C} > 93.75 \text{ MHz}$ (SG396))
Rate resolution Rate error Noise function Noise bandwidth Pulse generator period Pulse generator width Pulse timing resolution Pulse noise function	1μ Hz 1μ Hz $1:2^{31}$ + timebase error White Gaussian noise (rms=dev/5) 1μ Hz < ENBW < 50 kHz 1μ s to 10 s 100 ns to 9999.9999 ms 5 ns PRBS $2^5 - 2^{19}$. Bit period (100+5N) ns

Modulation Waveform Output

50Ω (for reverse termination)
Unterminated 50Ω coax
$\pm 1 \text{ V}$ for \pm full deviation
"Low"=0V, "High"=3.3VDC

External Modulation Input

Modes Unmodulated level AM, FM, ΦM Modulation bandwidth Modulation distortion Input impedance Input offset Pulse/Blank threshold +1 VDC

AM, FM, ΦM, Pulse, Blank 0 V input for unmodulated carrier ± 1 V input for \pm full deviation >100 kHz <-60 dB $100 \,\mathrm{k}\Omega$ <500 µV



SG390 Series Specifications (Analog)

Amplitude Modulation

Frequency Modulation

Frequency deviation		
Minimum		0.1 Hz
Maximum (SG392 &	SG394)	
$f_C \le 62.5 MHz$		Smaller of f _C or
		$64 \text{ MHz} - f_{C}$
$62.5 \mathrm{MHz} \le f_{\mathrm{C}} \le 126$	5.5625 MHz	1 MHz
$126.5625 \mathrm{MHz} < \mathrm{f_C}$	≤253.125 MHz	2 MHz
$253.125 \mathrm{MHz} < \mathrm{f_C} \le$		4 MHz
$506.25 \text{MHz} \le f_{\text{C}} \le 1$.0125 GHz	8 MHz
$1.0125\mathrm{GHz} \leq f_{\mathrm{C}} \leq 2$		16 MHz
$2.025 \mathrm{GHz} < \mathrm{f_C} \le 4.0$)50 GHz (SG394)	32 MHz
Maximum (SG396)		
$f_C \le 93.75 MHz$		Smaller of f _C or
		96 MHz $-f_{C}$
$93.75 \mathrm{MHz} < \mathrm{f_C} \le 18$	89.84375 MHz	1 MHz
$189.8437 \mathrm{MHz} < \mathrm{f_C}$		2 MHz
$379.6875 \mathrm{MHz} < \mathrm{f_C}$		4 MHz
$759.375 \text{MHz} < f_{C} \le$		8 MHz
$1.51875\mathrm{GHz} < \mathrm{f_C} \le$		16 MHz
$3.0375\mathrm{GHz} < \mathrm{f_C} \le 6$.075 GHz	32 MHz
Deviation resolution	0.1 Hz	
Deviation accuracy	<0.1%	
	$(f_C \le 62.5 \text{ MHz}(\text{SG}))$	392 & SG394))
	$(f_C \le 93.75 \text{ MHz}(SC))$	5396))
	<3 %	
	$(f_C > 62.5 \text{ MHz}(SG))$	
	$(f_{C} > 93.75 MHz(SC))$	5396))
Modulation source	Internal or external	
Modulation distortion	$<-60 \text{dB} (\text{f}_{\text{C}} = 100 \text{MH})$	
Ext. FM carrier offset	<1:1,000 of deviation	
Modulation bandwidth	500 kHz	
	$(f_C \le 62.5 \text{ MHz}(\text{SG}))$	
	$(f_C \le 93.75 \text{ MHz}(SC))$	G396))
	100 kHz	
	$(f_C > 62.5 \text{ MHz}(\text{SG}))$	
	$(f_{C} > 93.75 \text{ MHz}(SC))$	j396))

Frequency Sweeps (Phase Continuous)

Frequency span 10 Hz to entire sweep range Sweep ranges SG392 & SG394 DC to 64 MHz 59.375 MHz to 128.125 MHz 118.75 MHz to 256.25 MHz 237.5 MHz to 512.5 MHz 475 MHz to 1025 MHz 950 MHz to 2050 MHz

1900 MHz to 4100 MHz (SG394)

SG396	DC to 96 MHz 89.0625 MHz to 192.188 MHz 178.125 MHz to 384.375 MHz 356.25 MHz to 768.75 MHz 712.5 MHz to 1537.5 MHz 1425 MHz to 3075 MHz
Deviation resolution	2850 MHz to 6150 MHz 0.1 Hz
Sweep source	Internal or external
Sweep distortion	<0.1 Hz+(deviation/1,000)
Sweep offset	<1:1,000 of deviation
Sweep function	Triangle, ramp or sine up to 120 Hz
Phase Modulation	
Deviation	0 to 360°
Deviation resolution	0.01° to 100 MHz, 0.1° to 1 GHz, 1° above 1 GHz
Deviation accuracy	
	$(f_{\rm C} > 93.75 \text{MHz}(8G396))$
Modulation source	Internal or external
Modulation distortion	$<-60 \text{ dB} (f_{C} = 100 \text{ MHz}, f_{M} = 1 \text{ kHz}, \Phi_{D} = 50^{\circ})$
Modulation bandwidth	500 kHz (f _C >62.5 MHz(SG392 & SG394)) (f _C >93.75 MHz(SG396)) 100 kHz

Pulse/Blank Modulation

Pulse mode
Blank mode
On/Off ratio
BNC output
Type-N output
Pulse feed-through

Turn on/off delay

Modulation source

RF rise/fall time

Logic "High" turns RF "off" 70 dB 57 dB ($f_C \le 1$ GHz) 40 dB (1 GHz $\le f_C < 4$ GHz) 35 dB ($f_C \ge 4$ GHz) 10% of carrier for 20 ns at turn on (typ.) 60 ns 20 ns Internal or external pulse

 $(f_C > 62.5 \text{ MHz}(SG392 \& SG394))$ $(f_C > 93.75 \text{ MHz}(SG396))$

Logic "High" turns RF "on"

General

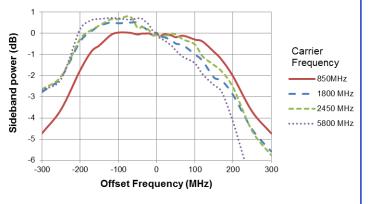
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Ethernet (LAN)
GPIB
RS-232
Line power
Dimensions, weight
Weight
Warranty
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10/100 Base-T.TCP/IP & DHCP default IEEE488.2 4800 to 115,200 baud, RTS/CTS flow <90 W, 90 to 264 VAC, 47 to 63 Hz w/ PFC 8.5" × 3.5" × 13" (WHD) 10 lbs. One year parts and labor on defects in materials and workmanship



External I/Q Modulation

External I/Q Bandwidth



Dual Baseband Generator (for Vector I/Q Modulation)

Channels DAC data format Reconstruction filter Arb symbol memory Symbol rate Symbol length Symbol mapping Symbol source

PRBS length

Pattern Generator Digital Filtering Filter type

Filter length Noise Impairments Additive noise Level

2 (I and Q) Dual 14-bit at 125 MS/s 10 MHz, 3rd order Bessel LPF Up to 16 Mbits 1 Hz to 6 MHz (1 µHz resolution) 1 to 9 bits (maps to constellation) Default or user-defined constellation User-defined symbols, built-in PRBS generator, or settable pattern generator $2^{n} - 1$ (5 < n < 32) (31 to about 4.3×10^9 symbols) 16 bits

Nyquist, Root Nyquist, Gaussian, Rectangular, Linear, Sinc, User FIR 24 symbols

White, Gaussian -70 dBc to -10 dBc (band limited by digital filter)

Vector Modulation

Modulation type	PSK, QAM, FSK, CPM, MSK,
	ASK, VSB
PSK derivatives	PSK, BPSK, QPSK, OQPSK,
	DQPSK, $\pi/4$ DQPSK, 8 PSK, 16 PSK,
	3π/8 8 PSK
QAM derivatives	4, 16, 32, 64, 256
FSK derivatives	1-bit to 4-bit with deviations from
	0 to 6 MHz
ASK derivatives	1-bit to 4-bit
CMP derivatives	1-bit to 4-bit with modulation indices
	from 0 to 1.0
VSB derivatives	8 and 16 (at rates to 12 MS/s)
Preset modes	GSM, GSM-EDGE, W-CDMA,
	APCO-25, DECT, NADC, PDC,
	TETRA, ATSC DTV, and audio
	clip (analog AM and FM)

and user-defined

 50Ω , AC coupled

Rear-Panel Markers

Type

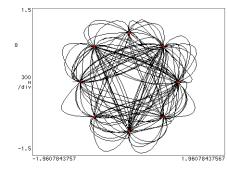
Amplitude Output impedance

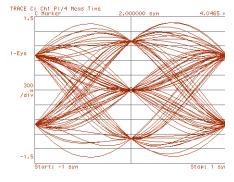
EVM or FSK Errors

TETRA EVM (typ.) (π/4 Diff Quad PSK, 24.3 kS/s, 420 MHz) 0.76 % (0 dBm)

Symbol Clock, Data Frame, TDMA,

0.5 to 4 Vpp (-2 dBm to +16 dBm)



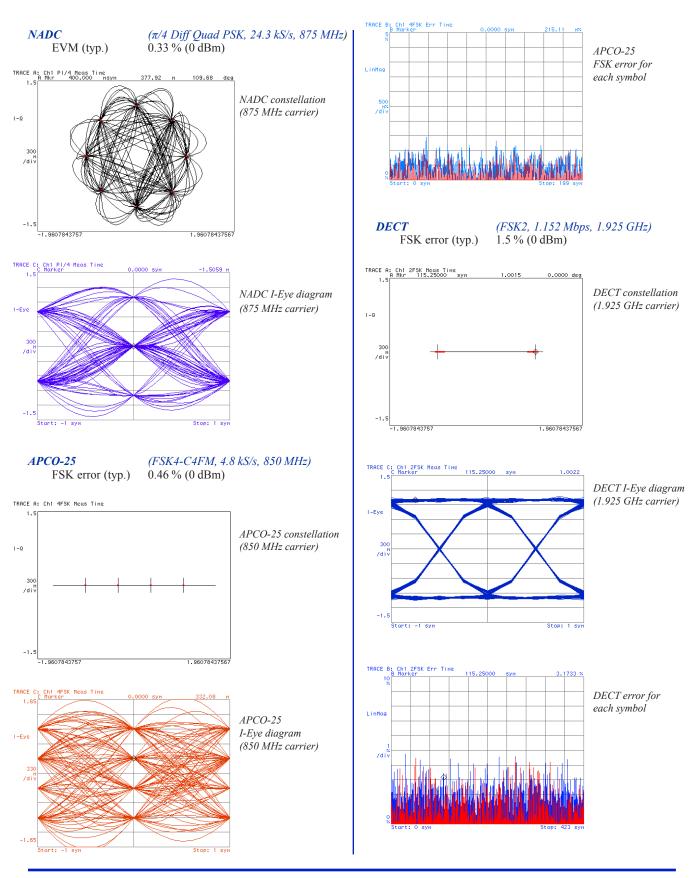


TETRA constellation (420 MHz carrier)

TETRA I-EYE diagram (420 MHz carrier)

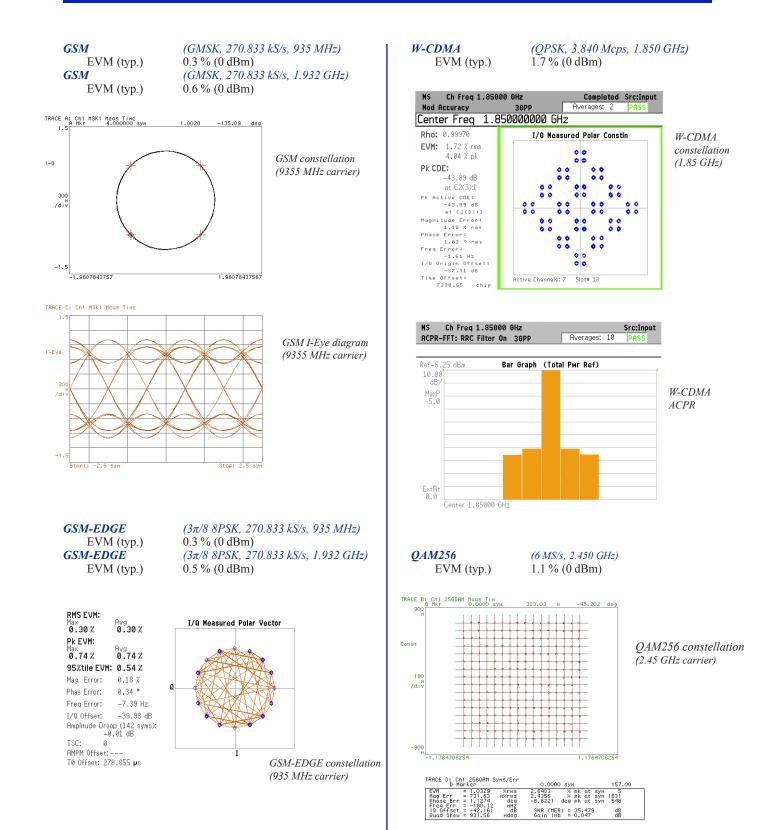


SG390 Series Specifications (Vector)



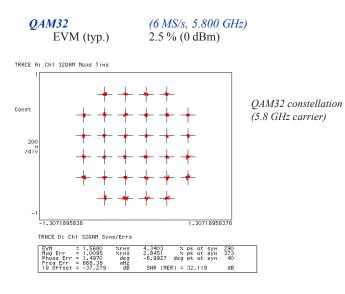


SG390 Series Specifications (Vector)

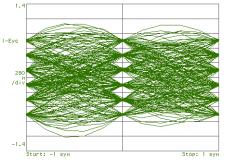




SG390 Series Specifications (Vector)

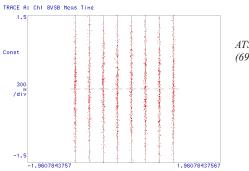


TRACE A: Ch1 320AM Meas Time



QAM32 I-Eye diagram (5.8 *GHz carrier*)

ATSC-DTV EVM (typ.) (8 VSB, 10.762 MS/s, 695 MHz) 2.2 % (0 dBm)



ATSC-DTV (8VSB) constellation (695 MHz carrier)

