A Three-Arm Current Comparator Digitally Assisted Bridge for the Comparison of Arbitrary Four Terminal-Pair Impedances

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A three-arm current comparator digitally-assisted bridge for the comparison of arbitrary four terminal-pair impedances

Massimo Ortolano, Vincenzo D’Elia, and Luca Callegaro

Abstract—High accuracy impedance measurements are performed with coaxial transformer bridges, whose conventional design allow the comparison of like impedances — pure resistors or capacitors. Here we present a current comparator bridge suited for the measurement of impedances of arbitrary magnitudes and phase angles. The bridge has three arms, to connect the impedance under measurement and two calibrated standards. The bridge is digitally assisted and its operation is based on a polyphase digital sine wave synthesizer. To allow the measurement of mid- to low-impedance magnitudes, the bridge network and the balancing procedure are designed to approximate the four terminal-pair definition of the three impedance standards. The bridge has been extensively tested with conventional impedance standards and custom designed phase standards. The relative base accuracy is in the $10^{-5}$–$10^{-6}$ range at kHz frequency.

Index Terms—Impedance measurement, bridge circuits, electromagnetic devices, precision measurements.

I. INTRODUCTION

Transformer impedance bridges [1]–[3] allow the measurement of the impedance ratio between two standards with ultimate accuracy at audio frequency. Such performance is based on the properties of the electromagnetic ratio devices employed, which provide voltage or current ratios very close to the nominal value and having extremely low drifts in time or versus environmental conditions [4]. The complexity of traditional transformer impedance bridges can be reduced in digitally-assisted bridges [3, Ch. 5] [5]–[9] which allow also automated or semi-automated operation.

The major limitation of transformer ratio bridges is that they provide a measurement only if the nominal ratio of the impedances being measured is either real (in ratio bridges) or the imaginary unit (in quadrature bridges) [3, Ch. 4].

This work presents a three-arm, four terminal-pair, current comparator, digitally-assisted bridge: its simple architecture allows the comparison of unlike impedances over the complex plane with a four terminal-pair definition in the audio frequency range. To keep the number of auxiliary signals components to a minimum, the four terminal-pair definition is here approximated by nulling the average of the low voltage terminal-pairs (ports) of the three impedances.

A current comparator (see [10] and references therein) then combines the three admittance currents in a weighted sum, each weight being equal to the number of turns of the corresponding comparator winding. Small deviations of this sum from zero are compensated by injecting a signal generated by a digital source.

This four terminal-pair bridge has been introduced in [11] and is a development of the two terminal-pair bridge described in [12]. In the present paper we develop in detail the theory of operation, the sources of errors and we present a large selection of results.

II. PRINCIPLE OF OPERATION

A simplified schematic of the three-arm, four terminal-pair, current comparator, digitally-assisted bridge is represented in Figure 1. It is composed of the following basic elements: the voltage source $E$, providing the bridge excitation; the current comparator $CC$; three main arms containing the compared admittances $Y_m$, $m = 1, \ldots, 3$ (for ease of notation, here and in the following sections, $k$ denotes an index running from 0 to 3, whereas $n$ denotes an index running from 1 to 3); the injection arm containing the voltage source $E_0$ which drives the admittance $Y_0$; and the synchronous detector $D$ which senses the bridge main balance. In addition, the auxiliary voltage sources $E_A$ and $E_{11}$, and the auxiliary detectors $D_A$ and $D_{11}$ are employed to approximate the four terminal-pair definition of the compared admittances, as described below in this Section. All sources are adjustable both in magnitude and phase. Without loss of generality, let us take admittances $Y_1$ and $Y_2$ as calibrated standards and $Y_0$ as the measurand. $Y_0$ is also a known admittance standard.

[Figure 1 about here.]

CC consists of a ferromagnetic core with high permeance $\mathcal{P}$, a primary winding with taps at turn numbers $n_1$, $n_2$ and $n_3$, an injection winding with turn number $n_0$ and a detection winding connected to $D$. Turn numbers are considered positive at the dotted ports, negative otherwise. The choice of turn numbers is briefly addressed in Section IV. The currents $I_k$, $k = 0, \ldots, 3$, crossing the bridge arms produce the magnetomotive force $\mathcal{M} = \sum_{k=0}^{3} n_k I_k$. The bridge is balanced when the magnetic...
flux $\Phi = PM$ in the comparator’s core is zero, that is, when the voltage measured by $D$ across the detection winding is zero. This condition implies $\sum_{k=0}^{3} n_k I_k = 0$ and can be achieved by adjusting $E_0$.

The two tracking voltage sources $E_L$ are arranged to let the adjustment of the low voltages $V_{Lm}$ without altering appreciably the voltage drops $V_{Hm} - V_{Lm}$, and, therefore, the currents $I_m$. Each low voltage $V_{Lm}$ can be measured by connecting the synchronous detector $D_H$ to the appropriate port.

The voltage source $E_H$ and the synchronous detector $D_H$ form a potentiometric arm measuring the voltage drop across the high side of the bridge, from the main excitation to each of the high-voltage ports $V_{Hm}$.

After applying the main excitation voltage $E$, the measurement procedure consists of the following steps:

0) Leaving unconnected the potentiometric arm composed by the source $E_H$, and the detector $D_H$, set $E_1 = 0$ and balance $D$ by adjusting $E_0$.

1) For each $Y_m$ connect the detector $D_L$ to the low-voltage port $V_{Lm}$; adjust $E_L$ to balance $D_L$, $V_{Lm} = 0$; if the main balance $D$ changes, readjust $E_0$ and $E_L$ in turns until both $D$ and $D_L$ are balanced; and let then $E_{Lm}$ be the value of $E_L$ for the admittance $Y_m$ at the convergence of the two equilibria.

2) Set $E_L = (\sum_{m=1}^{3} E_{Lm})/3$, to minimize the deviation of each low-voltage port from perfect four terminal-pair definition.

3) Recheck $D$ and, whether necessary, readjust $E_0$.

4) For each $Y_m$, connect the potentiometric arm $E_H$-$D_H$ to the high-voltage port $V_{Hm}$; balance $D_H$ by adjusting $E_H$; and let $E_{Hm}$ be the value of $E_H$ for the admittance $Y_m$ when $D_H$ is balanced.

To derive a practical measurement model from the above procedure, we make the assumptions below. We investigate the effect of these assumptions in Section III.

A1) All voltage sources are ideal with zero output impedance.

A2) The tracking between the two voltage sources $E_L$ is perfect.

A3) The bridge balance is not affected by small changes of $E_L$, that is, the currents $I_m$ do not change appreciably during steps 1 and 2 of the measurement procedure.

From figure 1, and by assumption A3, we have $I_m = Y_m (E + E_{Lm} - E_{Hm})$ at step 1, and $I_m = Y_m (E + E_1 - E_{Hm} - V_{Lm})$ at step 2. These yield $V_{Lm} = E_L - E_{Lm}$ and, by substitution, $I_m = Y_m (E + E_{Lm} - E_{Hm})$. In addition, when the bridge is balanced, $I_0 = 0$. With the currents $I_0, \ldots, I_3$ thus obtained, the bridge balance equation $\sum_{k=0}^{3} n_k I_k = 0$ can be solved for the unknown admittance $Y_3$ yielding

$$Y_3 = -\frac{E_0 Y_0}{n_3 (E + E_{L3} - E_{H3})} - \frac{n_1 Y_1 (E + E_{L1} - E_{H1}) + n_2 Y_2 (E + E_{L2} - E_{H2})}{n_3 (E + E_{L3} - E_{H3})}.$$

For practical calculations and for the evaluation of the uncertainty, it is more convenient to rewrite the measurement function (1) into the following form:

$$Y_3 = -t_{13} Y_1 + \frac{E_{L1} - E_{H1}}{E} + \epsilon + \epsilon_1 + \frac{E_{L2} - E_{H2}}{E} + \epsilon + \epsilon_3,$$

$$-t_{23} Y_2 + \frac{E_{L3} - E_{H3}}{E} + \epsilon + \epsilon_2 + \frac{E_{L3} - E_{H3}}{E} + \epsilon + \epsilon_3,$$

$$-t_{03} Y_0 + \frac{E_0}{E} + \epsilon + \epsilon_3,$$

where we have defined the turn ratios $t_{jk} = n_j/n_k$.

Of course, the bridge can also be used to compare like impedances. In such a case, only two arms are needed (e.g., $Y_1$ and $Y_3$) and the measurement model can be simplified to determine the ratio

$$W_{13} = \frac{Z_1}{Z_3} = -t_{13} + \frac{E_{L1} - E_{H1}}{E} + \frac{Y_0 Y_3}{Y_1 E},$$

with $Z_k = 1/Y_k$.

III. ERROR SOURCES

We now drop assumptions A1–A3 of Section II. Firstly, we add a series impedance $z_{1i}$ to the excitation branch $E + E_L$. This impedance is crossed by the total current $I_1 + I_2 + I_3$. Then, we accept a mismatch $\Delta E_L$ between the two voltages $E_L$. And lastly, we assume that there is a shunt admittance $Y_{Lm}$ at each low-voltage port. These admittances cause the equilibrium to be dependent on the low voltages $V_{Lm}$ and generate a measurement error due to the shunt currents.

Taking into account the above conditions, the currents entering the comparator are

$$I_m = Y_m [E + E_L + \Delta E_L - E_{Hm} - V_{Lm}] - z_H (I_1 + I_2 + I_3) - V_{Lm} Y_{Lm}.$$ (4)

At first order, $I_1 + I_2 + I_3 \approx Y E$, with $Y = Y_1 + Y_2 + Y_3$, and $V_{Lm} \approx E_L - E_{Lm}$. Therefore,

$$I_m \approx Y_m [E + E_{Lm} - E_{Hm} + \Delta E_L - z_H Y E] - (E_L - E_{Lm}) Y_{Lm}.$$ (5)

By substituting the currents $I_m$ into the bridge balance equation, after some algebra we obtain

$$Y_3 = -t_{13} Y_1 + \frac{E_{L1} - E_{H1}}{E} + \epsilon + \epsilon_1 + \frac{E_{L3} - E_{H3}}{E} + \epsilon + \epsilon_3,$$

$$-t_{23} Y_2 + \frac{E_{L3} - E_{H3}}{E} + \epsilon + \epsilon_2 + \frac{E_{L3} - E_{H3}}{E} + \epsilon + \epsilon_3,$$

$$-t_{03} Y_0 + \frac{E_0}{E} + \epsilon + \epsilon_3,$$ (6)
where we have defined the error source terms
\[
\epsilon = \Delta E_L \frac{1}{E} - 2 \Im Y
\]
and
\[
\epsilon_m = \frac{E_{Lm} - E_L Y_{Lm}}{E Y_m}.
\]

A Taylor series expansion of (6) yields the first-order error term
\[
\Delta Y_3 = -t_{13}Y_1(\epsilon_1 - \epsilon_3) - t_{23}Y_2(\epsilon_2 - \epsilon_3),
\]
which shows that \( \epsilon \) has no effect at first order. This is expected because, at first order, the bridge balance is independent of the excitation voltage.

At second order, a comprehensive analysis of the error is far from straightforward because all the terms are generally complex quantities and their relative magnitude is strongly dependent on the specific experimental set-up. However, the measurement function (6) can be used on a case-by-case basis to estimate the error and to evaluate the uncertainty, possibly with the help of a numerical tool.

In the case of comparison of like impedances, equation (3) becomes
\[
W_{13} = -t_{13} \left( \frac{1 + E_{L1} - E_{L11}}{E} + \epsilon + \epsilon_1 + t_{01} \frac{Y_0 E_0}{Y_1 E} \right) \left( \frac{1 + E_{L3} - E_{L13}}{E} + \epsilon + \epsilon_3 \right).
\]

IV. CURRENT COMPARATOR SETTINGS

The choice of the turn numbers \( n_1, n_2 \) and \( n_3 \) is described in detail in [12] and is here briefly recalled. The available standards \( Y_1 \) and \( Y_2 \) and the set of available CC tap triplets \( \{n_1, n_2, n_3\} \) define a discrete set of bridge nominal working points \( Y = \{Y_3^0(n_1, n_2, n_3)\} \), with \( Y_3^0(n_1, n_2, n_3) = -t_{13}Y_1 - t_{23}Y_2 \) in the admittance complex plane (and the reciprocal set \( Z = \{Z_3^0(n_1, n_2, n_3) = [Y_3^0(n_1, n_2, n_3)]^{-1}\} \) in the impedance plane). In other words, the admittances \( Y_1, Y_2 \) and \( Y_3^0(n_1, n_2, n_3) \) on taps \( n_1, n_2 \) and \( n_3 \) equilibrate the bridge with null injection \( I_0 \approx 0 \).

When measuring a generic admittance \( Y_3 \), better measurement accuracies are achieved for smaller injection currents \( I_0 \), that is, close to one of the working points of the set \( Y \). The partition of the complex admittance (impedance) plane into regions based on the distance\(^1\) from the points of the set \( Y \) (or \( Z \)) is called Voronoi tessellation [13]. An example tessellation is shown in Figure 2. The best bridge setting corresponds to the region (identified by a triplet \( (n_1, n_2, n_3) \)) closer to \( Y_3 \). In our implementation, the setting is identified by a simple program that performs an exhaustive search through all the possible triplets of turn numbers.

V. EXPERIMENTAL SET-UP

The implementation of the bridge here presented is derived from the two terminal-pair version described in [12]. The coaxial schematic of the bridge is reported in Figure 3, and a photograph is shown in Figure 4.

The bridge requires for its operation a polyphase signal source with source with adjustable amplitude and phase for each channel. In this work we have employed two different sources:

- A 5-channel source developed at INRIM and described in [6], [7], based on a commercial digital-to-analogue (DAC) board and filter/buffer output stages, with fine trimming of the analog gain of each channel.
- A 7-channel source developed at the University of Zielona Góra (UZG) [14], based on 18 bit digital-to-analogue converters with adjustable full scale (1 V, 2.5 V, 5 V and 10 V) and isolated precision filter/buffer output stages [15] having relative amplitude and phase stability in the \( 10^{-18} \) range.

The clocks of both sources are locked to the INRIM 10 MHz frequency standard.

Voltages \( E_L \) and \( E_H \) are obtained from two source output channels through 200:1 feedthrough injection voltage transformers [3, Sec. 3.3.9].

The current comparator CC, described in detail in [8], is wound on a toroidal amorphous ferromagnetic core. It is provided with a primary ratio winding having 21 taps corresponding to turn numbers \( n = -100, -90, \ldots , 90, +100 \), a \( n_0 = 40 \)-turn balance injection winding for \( I_0 \). The \( 200:1 \)-turn injection winding is doubly shielded (electrostatic and magnetic shields) from the other windings.

The detector employed is a Stanford Research mod. 830 lock-in amplifier, which is manually switched across the positions \( D, D_L \) and \( D_H \). When in position \( D_H \), the detector is connected to the bridge through a 1:200 feedthrough transformer.

The adjustments of the voltages \( E_0, E_{Lm} \) and \( E_{Hm} \) needed for the measurement procedure are done with an automatic balancing algorithm [16]. The whole measurement procedure takes around 5–10 min.

VI. MEASUREMENT RESULTS

A. Standards

The bridge implementation described in Section V has been thoroughly tested with different kind of impedances, pure and impure, in the 10 \( \Omega \)–100 k\( \Omega \) range. Here we report the results obtained in the range below around 10 \( \Omega \), the most interesting for what concerns four-terminal pair operation.

Table I lists the measured standards. TÜBITAK Ulusal Metroloji Enstitüsü (UME) developed a number of resistive ratio standards and impure impedance standards, the latter to be employed as phase standards at 1 kHz. Table I also reports

\(^{1}\)A proper definition of such a distance is given in [12].
the current comparator settings \( n_1, n_2 \) and \( n_3 \) for each set of standards.

[Table 1 about here.]

**B. Uncertainty components**

According to the measurement functions (6) and (10), we considered the following uncertainty components:

- **Uncertainty of the calibrated admittance standards** \( Y_1 \) and \( Y_2 \), and of the injection admittance standard \( Y_0 \). These are calibrated by comparison with the maintained national AC resistance and capacitance scales.

- **Uncertainty of the turn ratios** \( t_{jk} \). Since it has not yet been possible to carry out a complete calibration of CC, the measurement results have been obtained with the nominal turn ratios. The associated uncertainty has been evaluated through a partial characterization of CC as

\[
\frac{u(|t_{jk}|)}{|t_{jk}|} \approx 10^{-6} \times \max(|t_{jk}|, |t_{jk}|^{-1}) \left( \frac{f}{1000 \text{ Hz}} \right)^2,
\]

for the magnitude, and

\[
\frac{u(\arg t_{jk})}{\arg t_{jk}} \approx 1.5 \times 10^{-6} \times \frac{f}{1000 \text{ Hz}},
\]

for the phase.

- **Uncertainty of the voltage ratios** \( E_0/E \), \( E_{LM}/E \) and \( E_{HM}/E \). Four different source channels generate the voltages \( E \), \( E_0 \), \( E_{LM} \) and \( E_{HM} \). The voltage ratios can then be written as

\[
\begin{align*}
\frac{E_0}{E} &= (1 + g_0) \frac{E_0^{\text{set}}}{E}, \\
\frac{E_{LM}}{E} &= (1 + g_L) \frac{E_{LM}^{\text{set}}}{E} + \delta V_L, \\
\frac{E_{HM}}{E} &= (1 + g_H) \frac{E_{HM}^{\text{set}}}{E} + \delta V_H,
\end{align*}
\]

where the superscript \( \text{set} \) denotes the source settings; \( g_0 \) and \( g_L \) represent gain error terms; and \( \delta V_L \) and \( \delta V_H \) account for the balance uncertainty. The gain error terms depend on the matching between the source channels generating \( E_0 \), \( E_{LM} \), \( E_{HM} \) and the reference channel generating \( E \), and on the accuracy of the injection transformers voltage ratio. From (14) we can infer that voltages \( E_{LM} \) are correlated, with a correlation coefficient of about 1, because they are all generated from the same source channel, and \( g_L \) is independent of \( m \). The same can be said for the voltages \( E_{HM} \), from (15). This correlation limits the contribution of the voltages \( E_{LM} \) and \( E_{HM} \) to the overall uncertainty. The sources employed in this experiment have channel gains matched at the \( 10^{-6} \) level, for both magnitude and phase. The balance uncertainty is better than 1 µV.

- **Mismatch of the \( E_L \) sources.** This term is actually negligible and has not been considered.

- **Effect of the excitation branch impedance** \( Z_1 \). In our experimental set-up, the impedance \( Z_1 \) can be modelled as a resistance \( r_1 = (70 \pm 14) \text{ m}\Omega \) in series with an inductance \( l_1 = (1.9 \pm 1.1) \mu\text{H} \). This impedance comprises the source output impedance, the injection transformer impedance and the cable impedance up to node H of figure 3. Its large uncertainty accounts for possible set-up variations (e.g., the usage of two different sources).

- **Effect of the shunt admittances** \( Y_{LM} \). On the basis of our experimental set-up, we considered capacitive shunt admittances of the order of 500 pF. The term \( \Delta Y_3 \) has been accounted for as an uncertainty component.

The propagation of uncertainty has been carried out according to Supplement 2 of the Guide to the expression of uncertainty in measurement [17] with the help of Metas.UncLib [18].

**C. Results**

Tables II and III report the results obtained with the standards listed in Table I.

[Table 2 about here.]

[Table 3 about here.]

Table IV details the uncertainty budget for standard no. 13, a 30° inductive phase standard. The main uncertainty components are those associated to the reference standards \( Y_1 \) and \( Y_2 \). The uncertainty due to the approximate definition of the low port voltages is below \( 10^{-6} \). Table IV reports also, for comparison, the result \( Z_3^{\text{ref}} \) obtained with the three-voltmeter method \(^3\) [19]. The relative discrepancy between the two results is \( (9 \pm 40) \times 10^{-6} \). Also for the other results of Table III, the main uncertainty components are those of the standards \( Y_1 \) and \( Y_2 \), and, secondarily, that of CC. The uncertainties reported in Table III are at least one order of magnitude better than those of the best commercial \( LCR \) meters, and are comparable with those reported in the literature for state-of-the-art systems capable of arbitrary impedance measurements [19]–[22].

For the pure impedance standards of Table II, instead, the main uncertainty component is that of CC, especially at high turn ratios. This can be reduced through calibration.

[Table 4 about here.]

**VII. CONCLUSIONS**

The digitally assisted bridge here presented has two main features: i) it allows the measurement of impedances with arbitrary magnitude and phase; ii) it approximates the four-terminal pair definition of all standards with a minimal bridge network complexity. The bridge accuracy has been validated with purposely-built standards over a large range of magnitude and phase. The technique employed to achieve feature ii) is not limited to the particular bridge investigated and can be applied to other bridge networks too.

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\(^3\)For \( Z_3^{\text{ref}} \) only the magnitude is reported, because the phase uncertainty of \( Z_3^{\text{ref}} \) is much greater than that of \( Z_3 \).
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Massimo Ortolano was born in 1969. He received the M.Sc. degree in electronic engineering *cum laude* in 1997 from the Politecnico di Torino, Torino, Italy, and the Ph.D. degree in metrology in 2001, from the same university. Since 2000, he is an assistant professor with the Department of Electronics and Telecommunications, Politecnico di Torino, where he is in charge of several courses on electronic measurements. He collaborates with the Istituto Nazionale di Ricerca Metrologica (INRIM) on noise metrology, modelling of quantum Hall effect devices, impedance metrology and electrolytic conductivity measurements. His research interests include also fundamental constants and time and frequency metrology.

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Luca Callegaro was born in 1967. He received the degree in Electronic Engineering and the Ph.D. degree in Physics from Politecnico di Milano, Milan, Italy, in 1992 and 1996, respectively. He joined the Istituto Nazionale di Ricerca Metrologica, INRIM (formerly Istituto Elettrotecnico Nazionale Galileo Ferraris, IEN), Torino, Italy, in 1996. He has been member of the Scientific Council of IEN (1998-2005), adjunct professor of electronic measurements at Politecnico di Torino, Italy. He is responsible of research activity on electrical impedance at INRIM, and of the national standards of electrical capacitance, inductance, ac resistance and ac voltage ratio. He is the Italian contact person of EURAMET TC-EM and member of its Working Group on Strategic Planning. He is the Italian deputy officer for the Commission A of URSI. He is author of about 70 papers on international reviews and of the book *Electrical impedance: principles, measurement and applications* (Taylor & Francis, 2012).
Simplified schematic of the three-arm, four terminal-pair, current comparator, digitally-assisted bridge. The compared admittances are $Y_1$, $Y_2$ and $Y_3$. The voltage source $E$ is the main bridge excitation. CC is the current comparator. CC’s main winding has taps with turn numbers $n_1$, $n_2$ and $n_3$, counted with respect to the tap connected to $E_L$; positive turn numbers are marked by black dots (in the figure above, $n_1, n_2 > 0$ and $n_3 < 0$). Currents entering the CC taps are considered positive. CC’s injection winding, with turn number $n_0 < 0$, is connected to an injection arm composed of the voltage source $E_0$ and the admittance $Y_0$. CC’s detection winding is connected to the synchronous detector $D$, which senses the bridge main balance. The two tracking voltage sources $E_L$ allow the adjustment of the low-voltage ports voltages $V_{L1} - V_{L3}$, which are measured by the synchronous detector $D_L$. The potentiometric arm composed by the voltage source $E_H$ and the synchronous detector $D_H$ is used to measure the voltage drop across the high side of the bridge.

A region of the Voronoi tessellation of the complex plane corresponding to the measurement no. 13 reported in Table I. The white circles represent the bridge nominal working points, which depend on the values of $Y_1$ and $Y_2$, and on the available CC tap triplets $(n_1, n_2, n_3)$. The gray scale represents the magnitude of the magnetization of the current comparator generated by $I_0$ and needed to achieve bridge balance, relative to the total magnetization generated by $I_1$, $I_2$, $I_3$. The red circle is the $Z_3$ value being measured; $Z_3$ falls in the region corresponding to $n_1 = -60$, $n_2 = 70$, $n_3 = -100$, as reported in the last columns of Table I. It is worth noting that $Z_3$ is close to the boundary between two different regions: therefore, for this particular case, the bridge setting is sensitive to the a priori knowledge of $Z_3$.

Coaxial implementation of the principle schematic diagram of Figure 1. Injection/detection transformers provide voltages $E_L$, $E_H$ and the detection of $D_L$. The black rectangles along arms 1 and 3 represent two coaxial equalizers.

Picture of the experimental set-up (sources and detector not shown).
Figure 1. Simplified schematic of the three-arm, four terminal-pair, current comparator, digitally-assisted bridge. The compared admittances are $Y_1$, $Y_2$ and $Y_3$. The voltage source $E$ is the main bridge excitation. CC is the current comparator. CC’s main winding has taps with turn numbers $n_1$, $n_2$ and $n_3$, counted with respect to the tap connected to $E_L$; positive turn numbers are marked by black dots (in the figure above, $n_1, n_2 > 0$ and $n_3 < 0$). Currents entering the CC taps are considered positive. CC’s injection winding, with turn number $n_0 < 0$, is connected to an injection arm composed of the voltage source $E_0$ and the admittance $Y_0$. CC’s detection winding is connected to the synchronous detector D, which senses the bridge main balance. The two tracking voltage sources $E_L$ allow the adjustment of the low-voltage ports voltages $V_{L1}$–$V_{L3}$, which are measured by the synchronous detector $D_L$. The potentiometric arm composed by the voltage source $E_{H1}$ and the synchronous detector $D_{H}$ is used to measure the voltage drop across the high side of the bridge.
FIGURES

Figure 2. A region of the Voronoi tessellation of the complex plane corresponding to the measurement no. 13 reported in Table I. The white circles represent the bridge nominal working points, which depend on the values of $Y_1$ and $Y_2$, and on the available CC tap triplets $(n_1, n_2, n_3)$. The gray scale represents the magnitude of the magnetization of the current comparator generated by $I_0$ and needed to achieve bridge balance, relative to the total magnetization generated by $I_1$, $I_2$, $I_3$. The red circle is the $Z_3$ value being measured; $Z_3$ falls in the region corresponding to $n_1 = -60$, $n_2 = 70$, $n_3 = -100$, as reported in the last columns of Table I. It is worth noting that $Z_3$ is close to the boundary between two different regions; therefore, for this particular case, the bridge setting is sensitive to the a priori knowledge of $Z_3$. 
Figure 3. Coaxial implementation of the principle schematic diagram of Figure 1. Injection/detection transformers provide voltages $E_L$, $E_H$ and the detection of $D_L$. The black rectangles along arms 1 and 3 represent two coaxial equalizers.
Figure 4. Picture of the experimental set-up (sources and detector not shown).
Selection of measured standards with the corresponding current comparator settings ($n_0 = -40$ for all measurements) and the excitation voltage $E$ (RMS value). The upper part of the table lists pure impedance standards (for these, only two arms are employed, and fields $Y_2$ and $n_2$ are left empty; an asterisk * indicates that admittances $Y_3$ and $Y_1$ are part of a same ratio standard).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selection of measured standards</th>
<th>$n_0 = -40$ for all measurements</th>
<th>$E$ (RMS value)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Results for pure impedance standards. Uncertainties are stated as standard uncertainties with a coverage factor of 1. The numbers in brackets in the fourth and sixth columns represent respectively the relative uncertainties $u(Re W_{13})/|W_{13}|$ and $u(Im W_{13})/|W_{13}|$ in parts per $10^6$.

Results for impure impedance standards. Uncertainties are stated as standard uncertainties with a coverage factor of 1. The numbers in brackets in the fourth and sixth columns represent respectively the uncertainties $u(|Z_3|)/|Z_3|$ in parts per $10^6$ and $u(arg Z_3)$ in $\mu$rad.

Uncertainty budget for measurement standard no. 13 of Table I at frequency $f = 1003.0033$ Hz. Quantities $E_{L,1} - E_{L,3}$, like $E_{H,1} - E_{H,3}$, are correlated with a correlation coefficient of 1; the propagation of uncertainty accounts for these correlations. Column nine reports the relative uncertainty components $u_i(|Z_3|)/|Z_3|$ in parts per $10^6$. Main uncertainty components are highlighted in bold. Type A uncertainty is negligible and has not been reported. For comparison, the last row reports the result $Z_3^{ref}$ obtained by measuring the same standard with the three voltmeter method.
### Table 1

Selection of measured standards with the corresponding current comparator settings ($n_0 = -40$ for all measurements) and the excitation voltage $E$ (RMS value). The upper part of the table lists pure impedance standards (for these, only two arms are employed, and fields $Y_2$ and $n_2$ are left empty; an asterisk * indicates that admittances $Y_3$ and $Y_1$ are part of a same ratio standard).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$Y_3$</th>
<th>$Y_2$</th>
<th>$Y_1$</th>
<th>$Y_0$</th>
<th>$n_3$</th>
<th>$n_2$</th>
<th>$n_1$</th>
<th>$E/V$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pure impedance standards</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 TÜBITAK UME mod. 0083</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>1 kΩ</td>
<td>3 kΩ</td>
<td>Gen. Rad. mod. 3632</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>−90</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 TÜBITAK UME mod. 0084</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>1 kΩ</td>
<td>7 kΩ</td>
<td>Gen. Rad. mod. 3632</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>−70</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 TÜBITAK UME mod. 0086</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>10 kΩ</td>
<td>30 kΩ</td>
<td>Gen. Rad. mod. 3632</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>−90</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 TÜBITAK UME mod. 0087</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>10 kΩ</td>
<td>70 kΩ</td>
<td>Gen. Rad. mod. 3632</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>−70</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Tinsley</td>
<td>INRIM (custom)</td>
<td>10 Ω</td>
<td>10 nF</td>
<td>Towa</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>−50</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Tinsley</td>
<td>INRIM (custom)</td>
<td>10 Ω</td>
<td>10 nF</td>
<td>100 nF</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>−100</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Impure impedance standards (phase standards)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 TÜBITAK UME mod. 0097L</td>
<td>Tinsley</td>
<td>IET mod. 111</td>
<td>10 kΩ</td>
<td>Gen. Rad. mod. 223</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>−100</td>
<td>−90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 TÜBITAK UME mod. 0098R</td>
<td>Tinsley</td>
<td>IET mod. 111</td>
<td>10 kΩ</td>
<td>Gen. Rad. mod. 4127</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>−30</td>
<td>−80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 TÜBITAK UME mod. 0103L</td>
<td>Tinsley</td>
<td>IET mod. 111</td>
<td>10 kΩ</td>
<td>Gen. Rad. mod. 223</td>
<td>−30</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>−60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 TÜBITAK UME mod. 0103R</td>
<td>Tinsley</td>
<td>IET mod. 111</td>
<td>10 kΩ</td>
<td>INRIM (custom)</td>
<td>−100</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>−60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 TÜBITAK UME mod. 0104L</td>
<td>Tinsley</td>
<td>Agilent mod. 16380C</td>
<td>100 Ω</td>
<td>INRIM (custom)</td>
<td>−100</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>−60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 TÜBITAK UME mod. 0104R</td>
<td>Tinsley</td>
<td>Agilent mod. 16380C</td>
<td>100 Ω</td>
<td>INRIM (custom)</td>
<td>−30</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>−60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 INRIM SL006 + TÜBITAK UME R1</td>
<td>Tinsley</td>
<td>Gen. Rad. mod. 1404B</td>
<td>1 kΩ</td>
<td>ESI mod. SR1</td>
<td>−100</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>−60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 INRIM SL006 + TÜBITAK UME R2</td>
<td>Tinsley</td>
<td>Gen. Rad. mod. 1404B</td>
<td>1 kΩ</td>
<td>ESI mod. SR1</td>
<td>−30</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>−60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table II

Results for pure impedance standards. Uncertainties are stated as standard uncertainties with a coverage factor of 1. The numbers in brackets in the fourth and sixth columns represent respectively the relative uncertainties $u(\text{Re } W_{13})/|W_{13}|$ and $u(\text{Im } W_{13})/|W_{13}|$ in parts per 10^6.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$f$/Hz</th>
<th>$\text{Re } W_{13}$</th>
<th>$\text{Im } W_{13}$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>999.9945</td>
<td>2.999 951 3(96) [ 3.2]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>999.9945</td>
<td>6.999 812(51) [ 7.3]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>999.9945</td>
<td>3.000 083 7(30) [ 1.0]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>999.9945</td>
<td>3.000 083 9(96) [ 3.2]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>999.9945</td>
<td>3.000 083 7(25) [ 7.7]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>999.9945</td>
<td>3.000 080 36(12) [ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>999.9945</td>
<td>3.000 06(23) [ 75]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>999.9945</td>
<td>7.000 058(51) [ 7.3]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>999.9945</td>
<td>1.000 004 3(27) [ 2.7]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>1003.0031</td>
<td>0.100 000 0(12) [12]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table III

Results for impure impedance standards. Uncertainties are stated as standard uncertainties with a coverage factor of 1. The numbers in brackets in the fourth and sixth columns represent respectively the uncertainties \( u(|Z_3|)/|Z_3| \) in parts per 10^6 and \( u(\arg Z_3) \) in \( \mu \)rad.

| \( f/\text{Hz} \) | \( |Z_3|/\Omega \) | \( \arg Z_3/\degree \) |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 7 999.9945       | 7955.938(46)    | 30.023 87(29) [ 5.1] |
| 8 999.9945       | 5037.039(39)    | 60.438 85(47) [ 8.3] |
| 9 1002.9913      | 7281.304(68)    | 60.041 01(56) [ 9.8] |
| 10 1002.9913     | 12 568.878(70)  | 30.142 58(30) [ 5.3] |
| 11 1003.0033     | 125.671(15)[120 ] | 30.1359(43) [ 75 ] |
| 12 1003.0033     | 72.959(10)[140 ] | 59.813(13) [223 ] |
| 13 1003.0033     | 1256.911(33)[26 ] | 30.0968(18) [ 31 ] |
| 14 1003.0033     | 726.189(22)[31 ] | 60.2186(22) [ 38 ] |
Table IV
Uncertainty budget for measurement standard no. 13 of Table I at frequency \( f = 1003\,003\,033 \) Hz. Quantities \( E_{131} - E_{133} \), like \( E_{111} - E_{143} \), are correlated with a correlation coefficient of 1; the propagation of uncertainty accounts for these correlations. Column nine reports the relative uncertainty components \( u_i(\|Z_3\|)/m\Omega \) in parts per \( 10^6 \). Main uncertainty components are highlighted in bold. Type A uncertainty is negligible and has not been reported. For comparison, the last row reports the result \( Z_3^{\text{ref}} \) obtained by measuring the same standard with the three voltmeter method.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>( x_i )</th>
<th>( \arg x_i )</th>
<th>( u(|x_i|) )</th>
<th>( u(\arg x_i) )</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>( u_i(|Z_3|)/m\Omega )</th>
<th>( u_i(\arg Z_3)/\mu\text{rad} )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 ( Y_0 )</td>
<td>1.000 049 8 ( \mu )S</td>
<td>0.012 579 9</td>
<td>6.4 pS</td>
<td>0.000 004 2</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>[0.2]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 ( Y_1 )</td>
<td>630.260 ( \mu )S</td>
<td>1.570 725</td>
<td>11 nS</td>
<td>0.000 042</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>22.4</td>
<td>(17.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 ( Y_2 )</td>
<td>999.9248 ( \mu )S</td>
<td>−0.000 113</td>
<td>1.6 nS</td>
<td>0.000 034</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>18.9</td>
<td>[15.0]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 ( t_{03} )</td>
<td>0.400 000 000</td>
<td>0.000 000</td>
<td>1.0 ( \times 10^{-6} )</td>
<td>0.000 001 5</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>[0.1]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 ( t_{13} )</td>
<td>0.600 000 000</td>
<td>0.000 000</td>
<td>1.0 ( \times 10^{-6} )</td>
<td>0.000 001 5</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>[0.7]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 ( t_{23} )</td>
<td>0.700 000 000</td>
<td>3.141 592 7</td>
<td>1.0 ( \times 10^{-6} )</td>
<td>0.000 001 5</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>[1.3]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 ( E_{0}/E )</td>
<td>57.8816</td>
<td>1.050 02</td>
<td>0.0058</td>
<td>0.000 10</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>[2.9]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 ( E_{131}/E )</td>
<td>0.001 341 6</td>
<td>−2.7786</td>
<td>5.8 ( \times 10^{-6} )</td>
<td>0.0043</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>[2.8]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 ( E_{132}/E )</td>
<td>0.002 129 7</td>
<td>−3.1714</td>
<td>5.8 ( \times 10^{-6} )</td>
<td>0.0027</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>[5.1]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 ( E_{133}/E )</td>
<td>0.002 086 1</td>
<td>3.1336</td>
<td>5.8 ( \times 10^{-6} )</td>
<td>0.0028</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>[5.8]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 ( E_{111}/E )</td>
<td>0.000 104 2</td>
<td>0.451</td>
<td>5.8 ( \times 10^{-6} )</td>
<td>0.0055</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>[2.8]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 ( E_{112}/E )</td>
<td>0.000 260 3</td>
<td>0.093</td>
<td>5.8 ( \times 10^{-6} )</td>
<td>0.0022</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>[5.1]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 ( E_{113}/E )</td>
<td>0.000 211 7</td>
<td>−0.210</td>
<td>5.8 ( \times 10^{-6} )</td>
<td>0.0027</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>[5.8]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 ( \Delta Y_3 )</td>
<td>70.7 m\Omega</td>
<td>0.17</td>
<td>7.1 m\Omega</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>[0.4]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 ( \Delta Y_3 )</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.67 nS</td>
<td>6.28</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>0.81</td>
<td>[0.6]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\( Z_3 \) | 1256.911 \( \Omega \) | 0.525 291 | 33 | [26] | 31 |

\( Z_3^{\text{ref}} \) | 1256.898 \( \Omega \) | 37 | [30]