

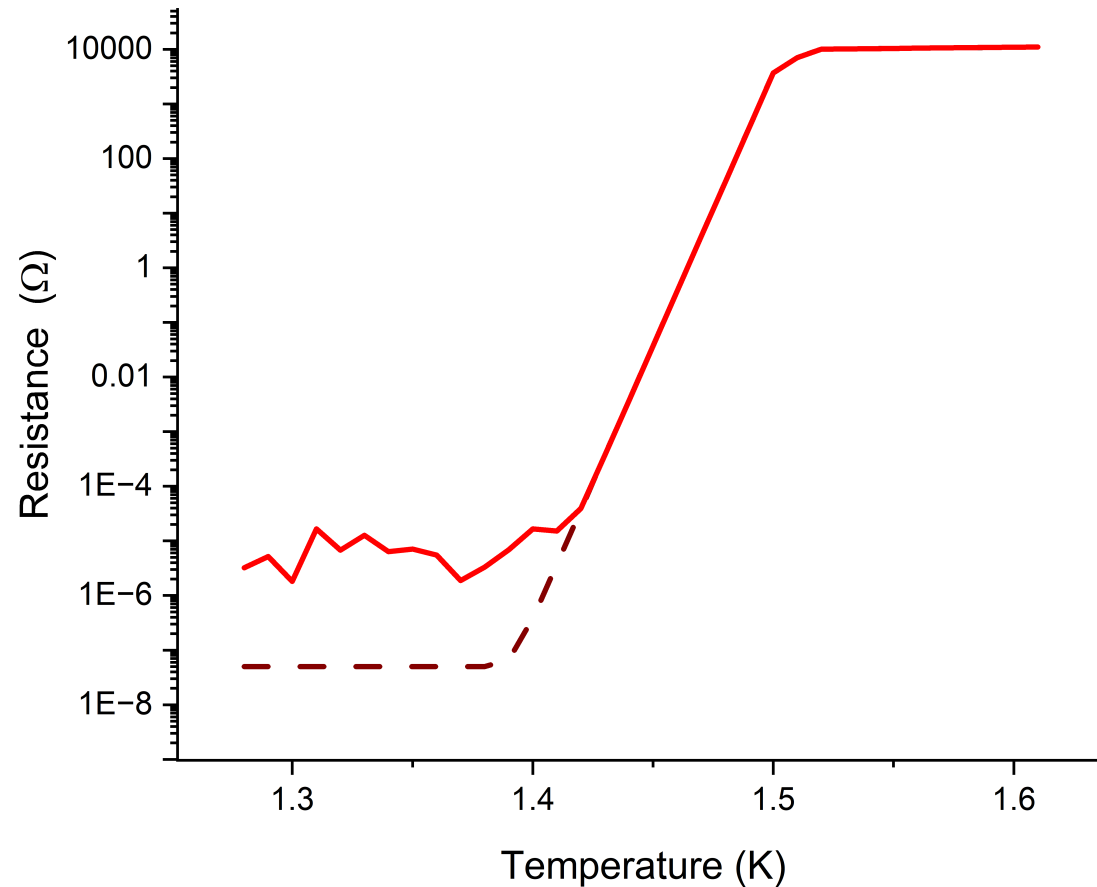
Really, Real

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Problem Statement

“The resistance of my device should be about $50\text{E-}9$ Ohm in the superconducting state. With a four-wire set-up and my M81, I’m measuring a resistance of about $1\text{E-}5$ Ohm in my cryostat. Can I test such small resistances?”

MAYBE



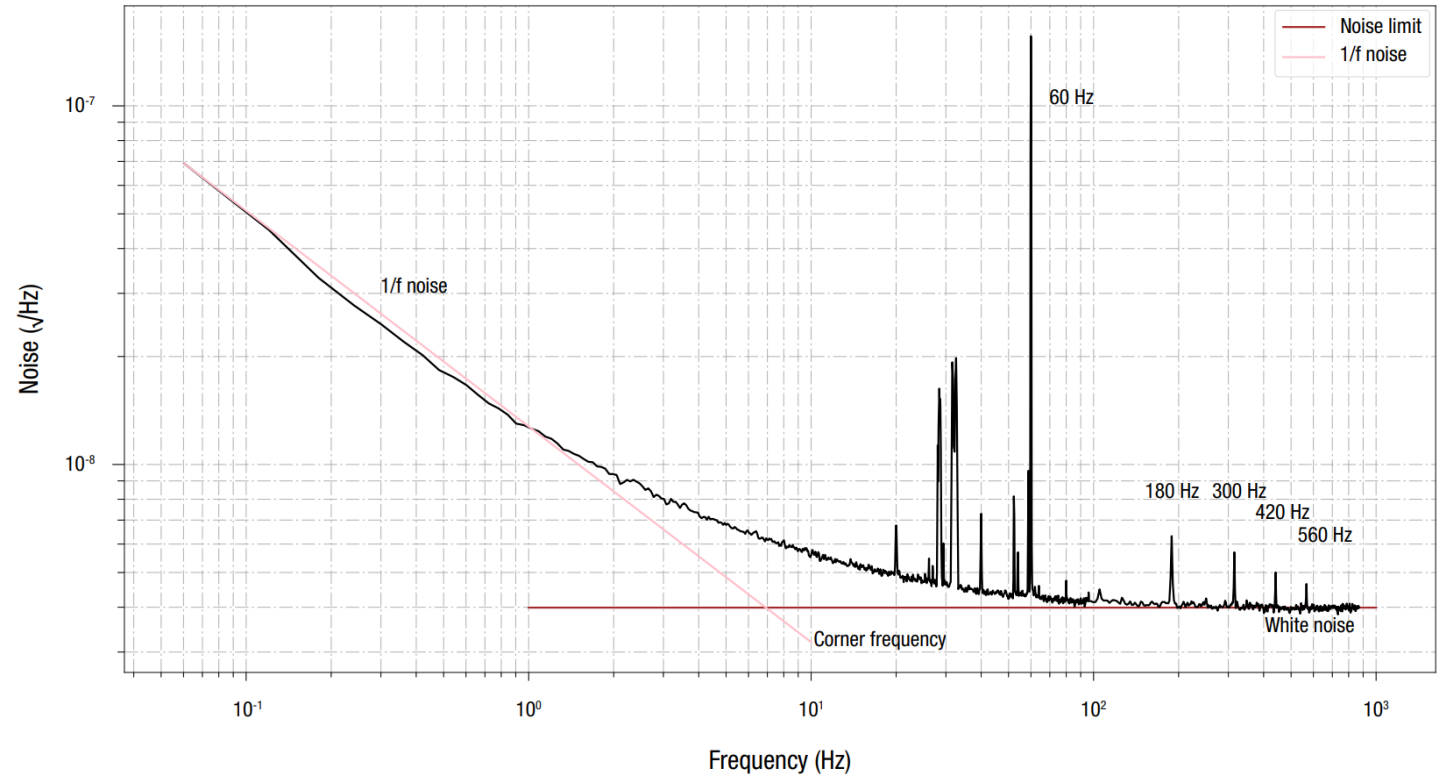
$$V = I R = 50 \text{ mA} \times 50 \text{ n}\Omega = 2.5 \text{ nV}$$

10 : 1 SNR for somewhat reliable results

0.25 nV noise floor

Noise Spectral Density

Range	Differential operation
	Voltage noise at 1 kHz
10 V	170 nV/ $\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$
1 V	50 nV/ $\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$
100 mV	4.5 nV/ $\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$
10 mV	4.1 nV/ $\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$

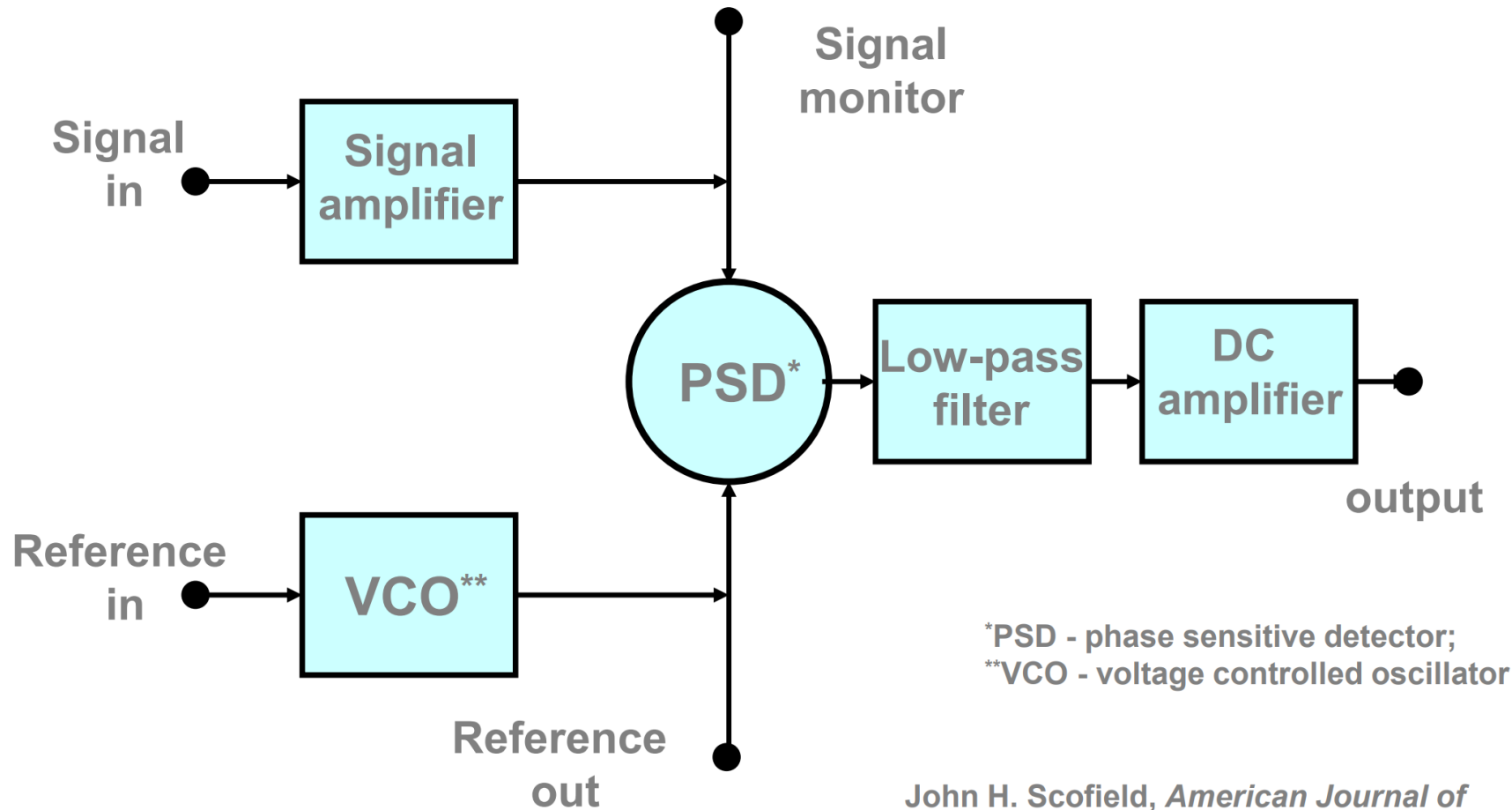


Voltage noise spectral density is a measurement of root-mean-square (rms) noise voltage per square root Hertz

$$\text{RMS voltage noise} = 4.1 \text{ nV}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}} \times \sqrt{\text{ENBW}}$$

“ENBW” – equivalent noise bandwidth

ENBW in a lock-in

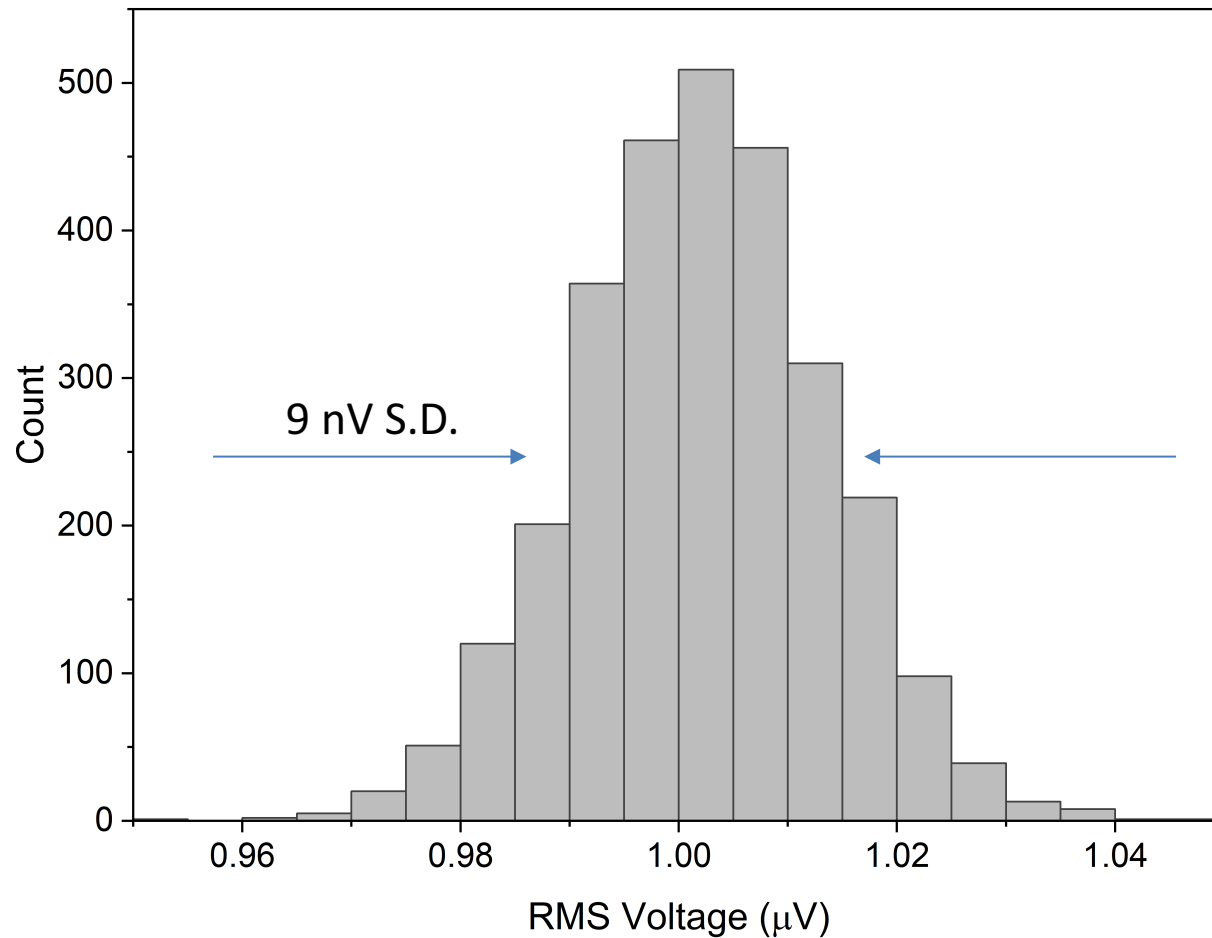


Roll-off	ENBW
dB	τ is time constant
6	$1/(4 \tau)$
12	$1/(8 \tau)$
18	$3/(32 \tau)$
24	$5/(64 \tau)$

IIR output filters

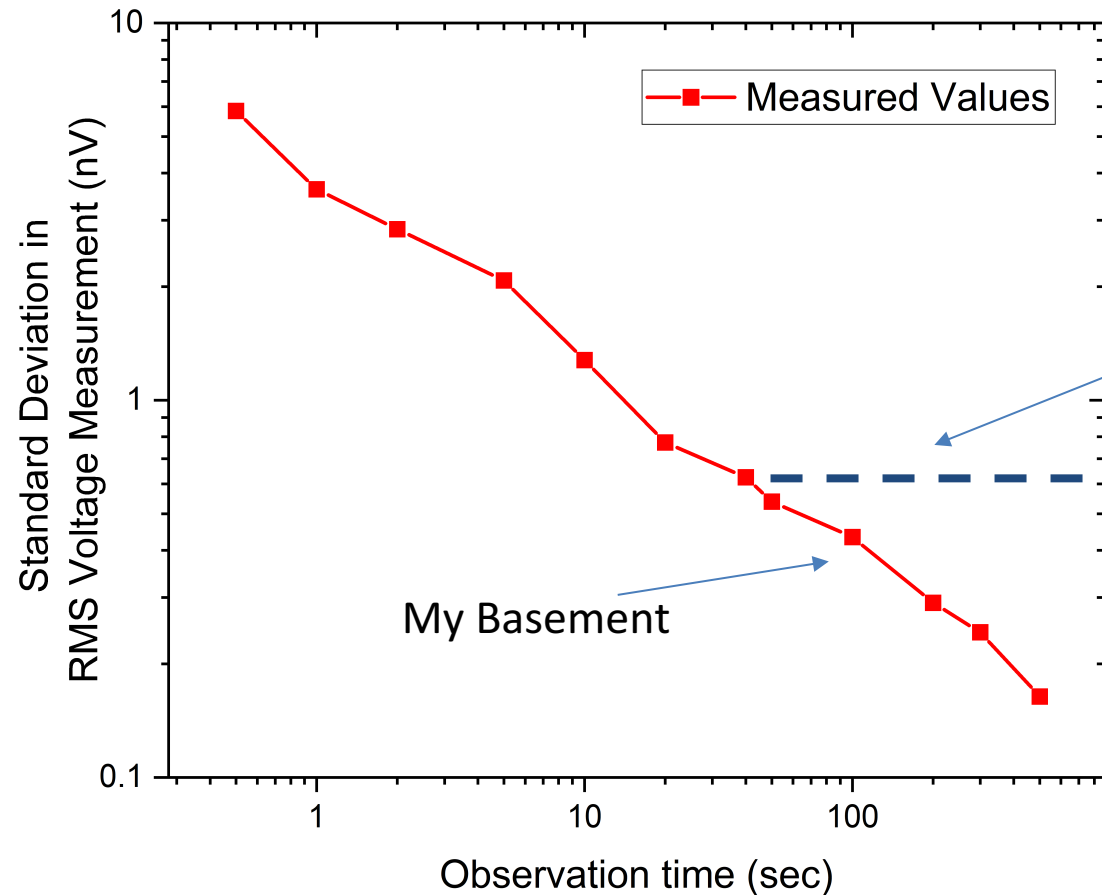
John H. Scofield, *American Journal of Physics* 62 (2) 129-133 (Feb. 1994).

RMS noise



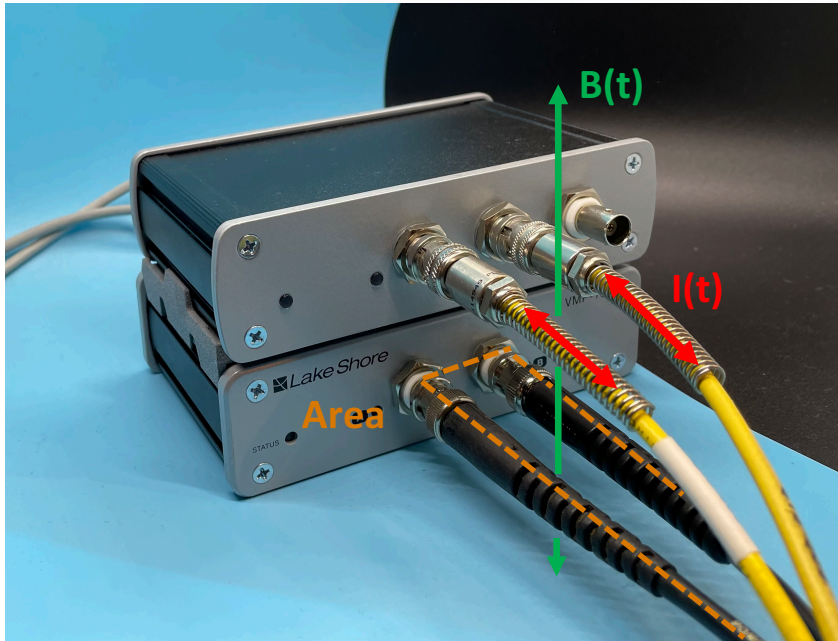
- Set-up lock-in filter
- Calculate ENBW & settle time
- Acquire a lock-in measurement every settle time period
- Take 750 to 1000 samples
- Look at the statistics

Allan deviation



Fluctuations in the system, electronics & environment may limit the noise floor

Cautionary tale – Cross talk



50 mA + ~ 1000 Hz → ~40 nV

Pick-up increases with:

- Current Amplitude
- Frequency → Reduce Frequency
- Proximity → Isolate Twisted pairs
- Size of magnetic aperture → Look for loops, especially at instruments, feedthroughs, and at sample holders

