Creating and Applying User Flatness Correction

User flatness correction allows the digital adjustment of RF output amplitude for up to 1601 frequency points in any frequency or sweep mode. Using an Agilent E4416A/17A or E4418B/19B power meter (controlled by the signal generator through GPIB) to calibrate the measurement system, a table of power level corrections is created for frequencies where power level variations or losses occur. These frequencies may be defined in sequential linear steps or arbitrarily spaced.

To allow different correction arrays for different test setups or different frequency ranges, you may save individual user flatness correction tables to the signal generator's memory catalog and recall them on demand.

Use the steps in the next sections to create and apply user flatness correction to the signal generator's RF output.

Afterward, use the steps in "Recalling and Applying a User Flatness Correction Array" on page 68 to recall a user flatness file from the memory catalog and apply it to the signal generator's RF output.

Creating a User Flatness Correction Array

In this example, you create a user flatness correction array. The flatness correction array contains ten frequency correction pairs (amplitude correction values for specified frequencies), from 1 to 10 GHz in 1 GHz intervals.

An Agilent E4416A/17A/18B/19B power meter (controlled by the signal generator via GPIB) and E4413A power sensor are used to measure the RF output amplitude at the specified correction frequencies and transfer the results to the signal generator. The signal generator reads the power level data from the power meter, calculates the correction values, and stores the correction pairs in the user flatness correction array.

If you do not have the required Agilent power meter, or if your power meter does not have a GPIB interface, you can enter correction values manually.

Required Equipment

- Agilent E4416A/17A/18B/19B power meter
- Agilent E4413A E Series CW power sensor
- GPIB interface cable
- adapters and cables, as required

NOTE If the setup has an external leveling configuration, the equipment setup in Figure 3-4 assumes that the steps necessary to correctly level the RF output have been followed. If you have questions about external leveling, refer to "Using External Leveling" on page 60.

Configure the Power Meter

1. Select SCPI as the remote language for the power meter.
2. Zero and calibrate the power sensor to the power meter.
3. Enter the appropriate power sensor calibration factors into the power meter as appropriate.
4. Enable the power meter's cal factor array.

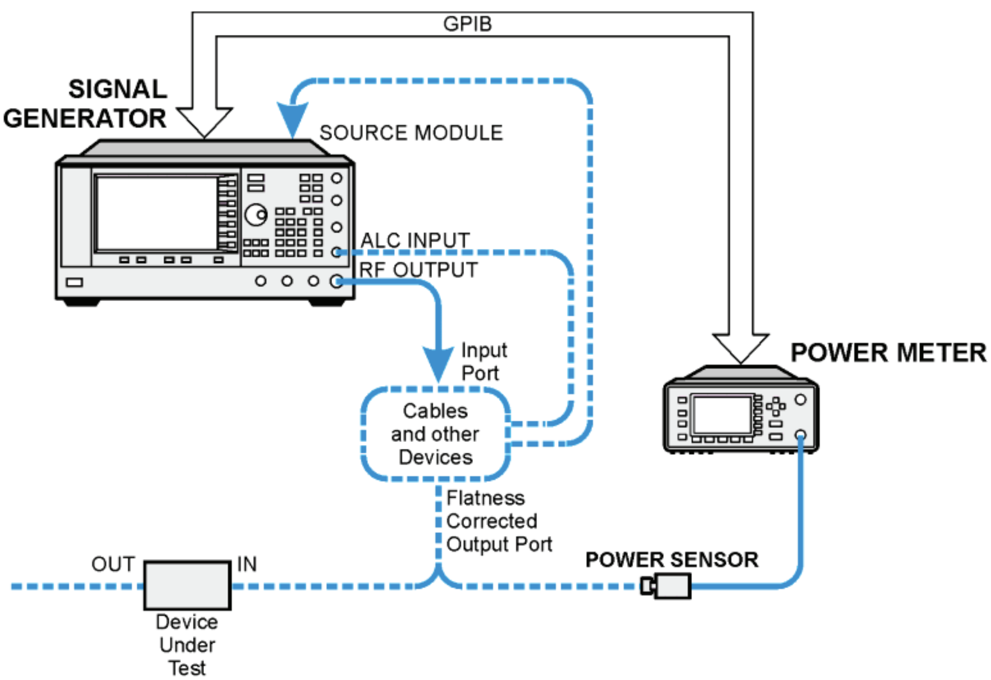
NOTE For operating information on a particular power meter/sensor, refer to its operating guide.

Connect the Equipment

Connect the equipment as shown in Figure 3-4.

NOTE During the process of creating the user flatness correction array, the power meter is slaved to the signal generator via GPIB. No other controllers are allowed on the GPIB interface.

Figure 3-4 User Flatness Correction Equipment Setup



Configure the Signal Generator

1. Press **Preset**.
2. Configure the signal generator to interface with the power meter.
   a. Press **Amplitude** > **More (1 of 2)** > **User Flatness** > **More (1 of 2)** > **Power Meter** > **E4416A**, **E4417A**, **E4418B**, or **E4419B**.
   b. Press **Meter Address** > enter the power meter's GPIB address > **Enter**.
   c. For E4417A and E4419B models, press **Meter Channel A B** to select the power meter's active channel.
   d. Press **Meter Timeout** to adjust the length of time before the instrument generates a timeout error if unsuccessfully attempting to communicate with the power meter.
3. Press **More (2 of 2)** > **Configure Cal Array** > **More (1 of 2)** > **Preset List** > **Confirm Preset**.

   This opens the User Flatness table editor and presets the cal array frequency/correction list.
4. Press **Configure Step Array**.

   This opens a menu for entering the user flatness step array data.
5. Press **Freq Start** > **1** > **GHz**.
6. Press **Freq Stop** > **10** > **GHz**.
7. Press **# of Points** > **10** > **Enter**.

   Steps 4, 5, and 6 enter the desired flatness-corrected frequencies into the step array.
8. Press **Return** > **Load Cal Array From Step Array** > **Confirm Load From Step Data**.

   This populates the user flatness correction array with the frequency settings defined in the step array.
9. Press **Amplitude** > **0** > **dBm**.
10. Press **RF On/Off**.

    This activates the RF output and the `RF ON` annunciator is displayed on the signal generator.

Perform the User Flatness Correction

NOTE If you are not using an Agilent E4416A/17A/18B/19B power meter, or if your power meter does not have a GPIB interface, you can perform the user flatness correction manually. For instructions, see "Performing the User Flatness Correction Manually" on page 67.

1. Press **More (1 of 2)** > **User Flatness** > **Do Cal**.

   This creates the user flatness amplitude correction value table entries. The signal generator enters the user flatness correction routine and a progress bar is shown on the display.

2. Press **Done**.

   This loads the amplitude correction values into the user flatness correction array.

   If desired, press **Configure Cal Array**.

   This opens the user flatness correction array, where you can view the stored amplitude correction values. The user flatness correction array title displays `User Flatness: (UNSTORED)` indicating that the current user flatness correction array data has not been saved to the memory catalog.

Performing the User Flatness Correction Manually

If you are not using an Agilent E4416A/17A/18B/19B power meter, or if your power meter does not have a GPIB interface, complete the steps in this section and then continue with the user flatness correction tutorial.

1. Press **More (1 of 2)** > **User Flatness** > **Configure Cal Array**.

   This opens the User Flatness table editor and places the cursor over the frequency value (1 GHz) for row 1. The RF output changes to the frequency value of the table row containing the cursor and `1.000 000 000 00` is displayed in the `AMPLITUDE` area of the display.

2. Observe and record the measured value from the power meter.
3. Subtract the measured value from 0 dBm.
4. Move the table cursor over the correction value in row 1.
5. Press **Edit Item** > enter the difference value from step 3 > **dB**.

   The signal generator adjusts the RF output amplitude based on the correction value entered.

6. Repeat steps 2 through 5 until the power meter reads 0 dBm.
7. Use the down arrow key to place the cursor over the frequency value for the next row. The RF output changes to the frequency value of the table row containing the cursor, as shown in the `AMPLITUDE` area of the display.
8. Repeat steps 2 through 7 for every entry in the User Flatness table.

Save the User Flatness Correction Data to the Memory Catalog

This process allows you to save the user flatness correction data as in the signal generator's memory catalog. With several user flatness correction files saved to the memory catalog, any file can be recalled, loaded into the correction array, and applied to the RF output to satisfy specific RF output flatness requirements.

1. Press **Load/Store**.
2. Press **Store to File**.
3. Enter the file name `FLATCAL1` using the alphanumeric softkeys, numeric keypad, or the knob.
4. Press **Enter**.

The user flatness correction array file FLATCAL1 is now stored in the memory catalog as a `UFLT` file.

Applying a User Flatness Correction Array

Press **Return** > **Return** > **Flatness Off On**.

This applies the user flatness correction array to the RF output. The `UF` indicator is activated in the `AMPLITUDE` section of the signal generator's display and the frequency correction data contained in the correction array is applied to the RF output amplitude.

Recalling and Applying a User Flatness Correction Array

Before performing the steps in this section, complete "Creating a User Flatness Correction Array" on page 64.

1. Press **Preset**.
2. Press **Amplitude** > **More (1 of 2)** > **User Flatness** > **Configure Cal Array** > **More (1 of 2)** > **Preset List** > **Confirm Preset**.
3. Press **More (2 of 2)** > **Load/Store**.
4. Ensure that the file `FLATCAL1` is highlighted.
5. Press **Load From Selected File** > **Confirm Load From File**.

   This populates the user flatness correction array with the data contained in the file `FLATCAL1`. The user flatness correction array title displays `User Flatness: FLATCAL1`.
6. Press **Return** > **Flatness Off On**.

   This applies the user flatness correction data contained in `FLATCAL1`.

Returning the Signal Generator to GPIB Listener Mode

During the user flatness correction process, the power meter is slaved to the signal generator via GPIB, and no other controllers are allowed on the GPIB interface. The signal generator operates in GPIB talker mode, as a device controller for the power meter. In this operating mode, it cannot receive SCPI commands via GPIB.

If the signal generator is to be interfaced to a remote controller after performing the user flatness correction, its GPIB controller mode must be changed from GPIB talker to GPIB listener.

If an RF carrier has been previously configured, you must save the present instrument state before returning the signal generator to GPIB listener mode.

1. Save your instrument state to the instrument state register.

   For instructions, see "Saving an Instrument State" on page 54.

2. Press **GPIB Listener Mode**.

   This presets the signal generator and returns it to GPIB listener mode. The signal generator can now receive remote commands executed by a remote controller connected to the GPIB interface.

3. Recall your instrument state from the instrument state register.

   For instructions, see "Saving an Instrument State" on page 54.

Creating a User Flatness Correction Array with a mm-Wave Source Module

In this example, a user flatness correction array is created to provide flatness-corrected power at the output of an Agilent 83554A millimeter-wave source module driven by an E8247C signal generator.

The flatness correction array contains 28 frequency correction pairs (amplitude correction values for specified frequencies), from 26.5 to 40 GHz in 500 MHz intervals. This will result in 28 evenly spaced flatness corrected frequencies between 26.5 GHz and 40 GHz at the output of the 83554A millimeter-wave source module.

An Agilent E4416A/17A/18B/19B power meter (controlled by the signal generator via GPIB) and R8486A power sensor are used to measure the RF output amplitude of the millimeter-wave source module at the specified correction frequencies and transfer the results to the signal generator. The signal generator reads the power level data from the power meter, calculates the correction values, and stores the correction pairs in the user flatness correction array.

If you do not have the required Agilent power meter, or if your power meter does not have a GPIB interface, you can enter correction values manually.