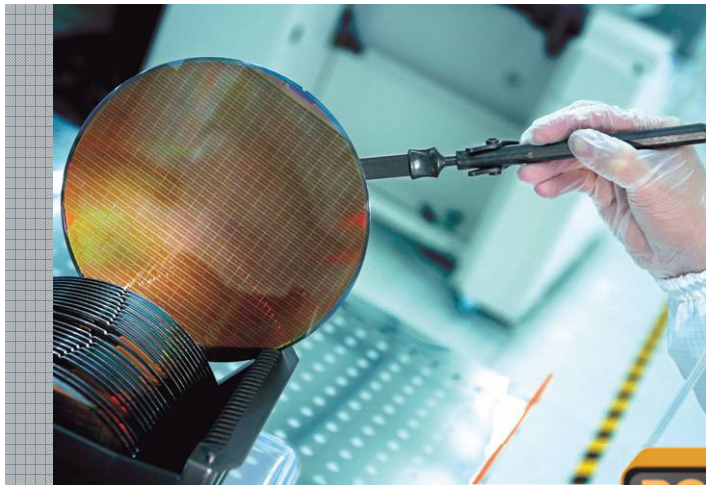


Make your test easier by understanding what source  
measure unit is



David Kwon

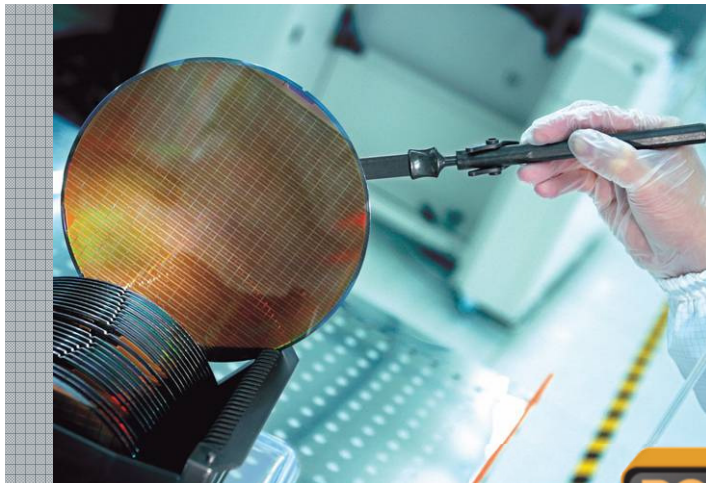




# Contents

- SMU instrument basics
- Measurement terminology
- Key Considerations for Selecting a SMU Instrument
- Applications

# SMU Instrument Basics



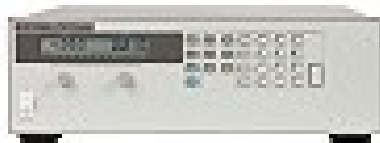
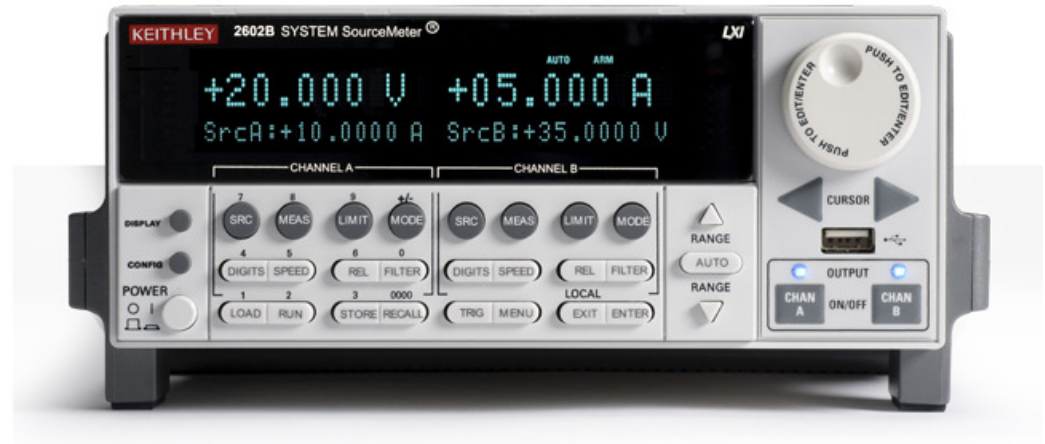
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# SourceMeter® SMU Instruments

- SMUs are precision instruments which are used for sourcing current or voltage and simultaneously measuring current, voltage and/or resistance with high speed and accuracy.



Precision Power Source

+



Precision DMM

+

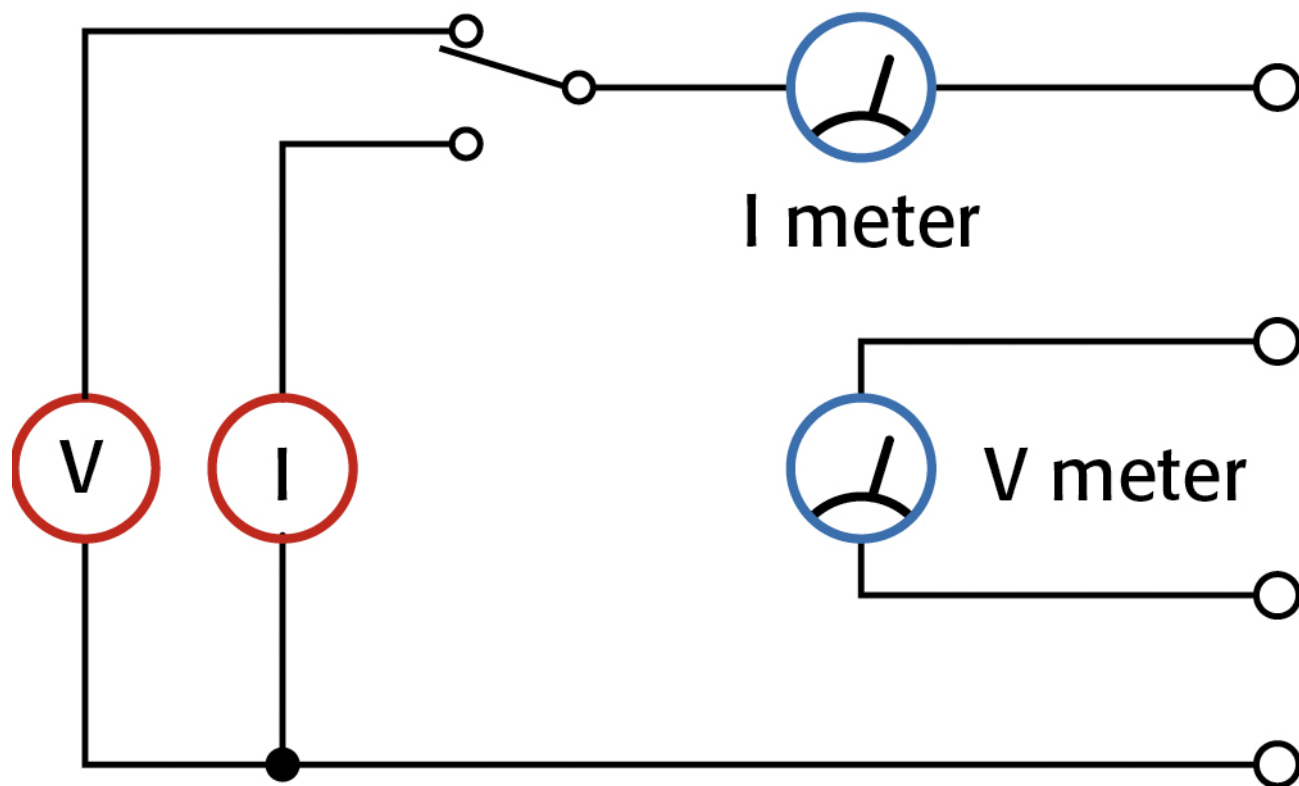


=



SourceMeter

## Basic SMU Topology



# Why SMU?



Energy is becoming “Greener”

- Emerging technologies such as photovoltaic generation

More advance features

- Small, but complex
- Lower power consumption
- Lower cost in manufacturing devices

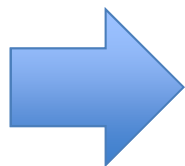
**SMU is a perfect solution performing electrical measurement with accuracy and speed**

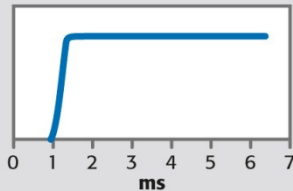
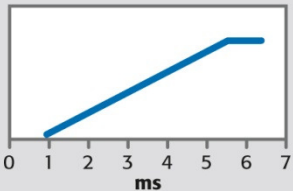


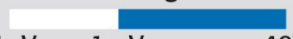

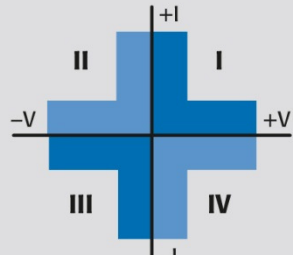
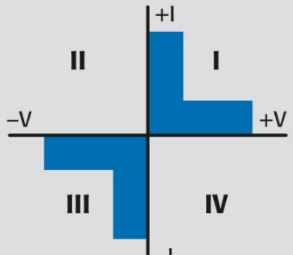


**Low Power  
Consumption**

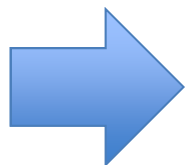


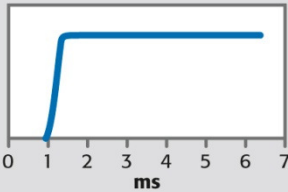
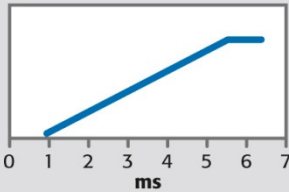


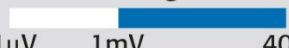

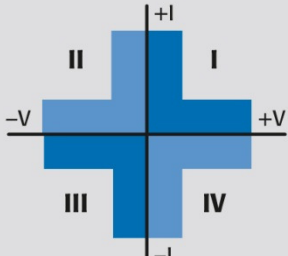
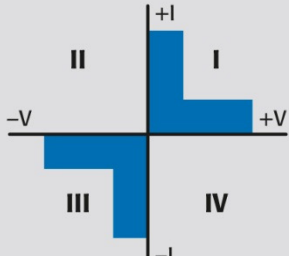
# SMUs compared to Power Supplies



	2602A SourceMeter Instrument	Typical Power Supply
<b>Speed</b>		
<b>Source/Measure Precision</b>	10 $\mu$ A measurement uncertainty = 5nA	10 $\mu$ A measurement uncertainty = 2500nA
<b>Voltage and Current Resolution</b>	<p><b>Voltage</b></p>  <p><b>Current</b></p> 	<p><b>Voltage</b></p>  <p><b>Current</b></p> 
<b>4 Quadrant Operation</b>	<p><b>Source + Sink</b></p> 	<p><b>Source Only</b></p> 

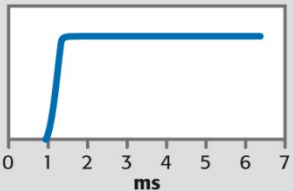
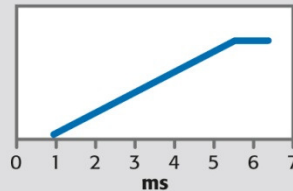
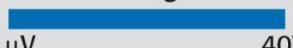



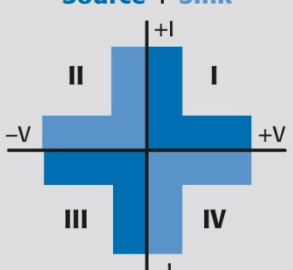
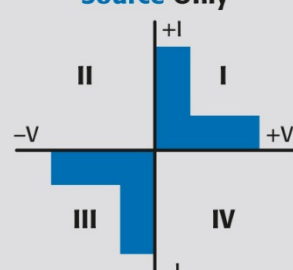
# SMUs compared to Power Supplies

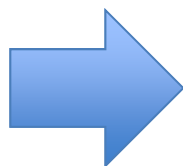


	2602A SourceMeter Instrument	Typical Power Supply
<b>Speed</b>		
<b>Source/ Measure Precision</b>	10 $\mu$ A measurement uncertainty = 5nA	10 $\mu$ A measurement uncertainty = 2500nA
<b>Voltage and Current Resolution</b>	<p><b>Voltage</b></p>  <p><b>Current</b></p> 	<p><b>Voltage</b></p>  <p><b>Current</b></p> 
<b>4 Quadrant Operation</b>	<p><b>Source + Sink</b></p> 	<p><b>Source Only</b></p> 



# SMUs compared to Power Supplies

	2602A SourceMeter Instrument	Typical Power Supply
<b>Speed</b>		
<b>Source/Measure Precision</b>	10 $\mu$ A measurement uncertainty = 5nA	10 $\mu$ A measurement uncertainty = 2500nA
<b>Voltage and Current Resolution</b>	<p><b>Voltage</b></p>  <p><b>Current</b></p> 	<p><b>Voltage</b></p>  <p><b>Current</b></p> 
<b>4 Quadrant Operation</b>	<p><b>Source + Sink</b></p> 	<p><b>Source Only</b></p> 

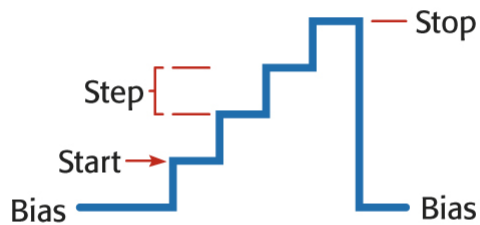


# Built-in Sweeps

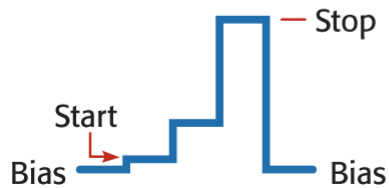
## DC



**Fixed Level**

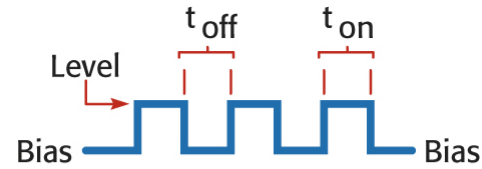


**Linear Stair**

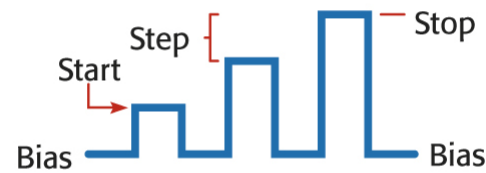


**Logarithmic Stair**

## Pulse



**Pulse**

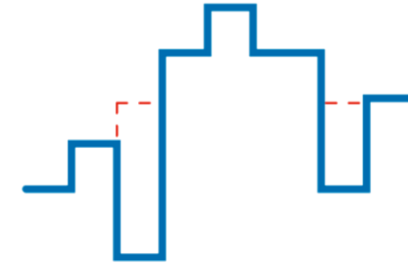


**Linear Stair Pulse**

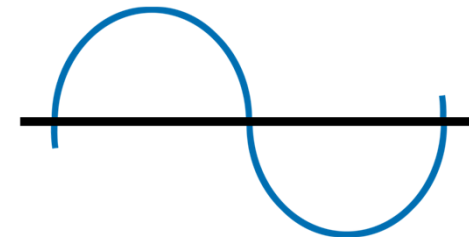


**Logarithmic Stair Pulse**

## Custom



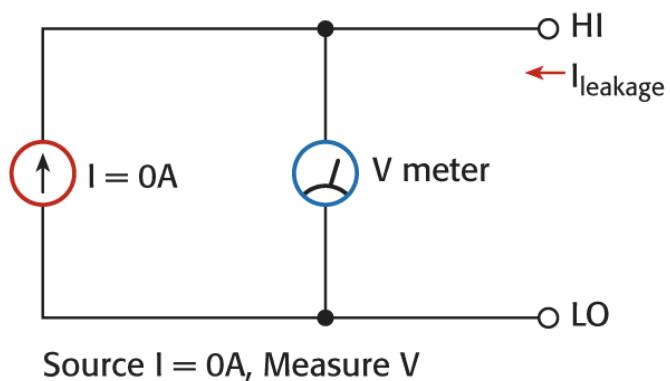
**Arbitrary**



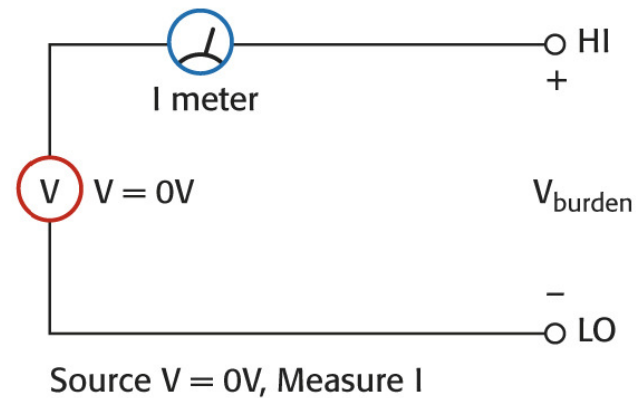
**Sine Wave**

# SMUs compared to DMMs

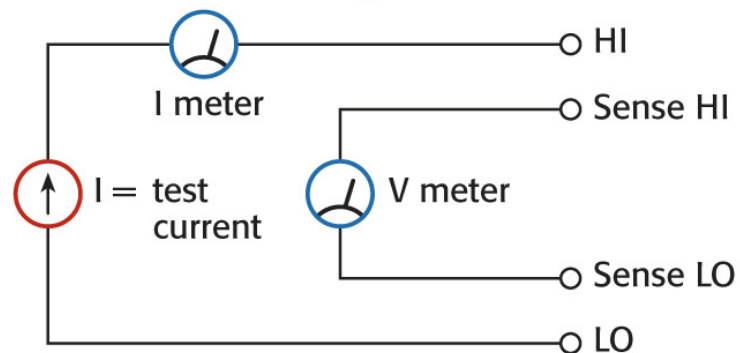
## Voltmeter Configuration



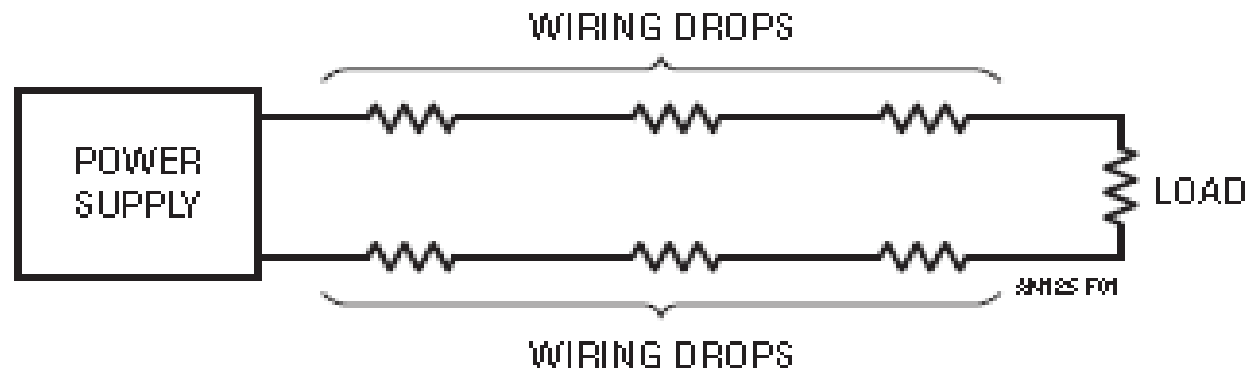
## Ammeter Configuration



## Ohmmeter Configuration

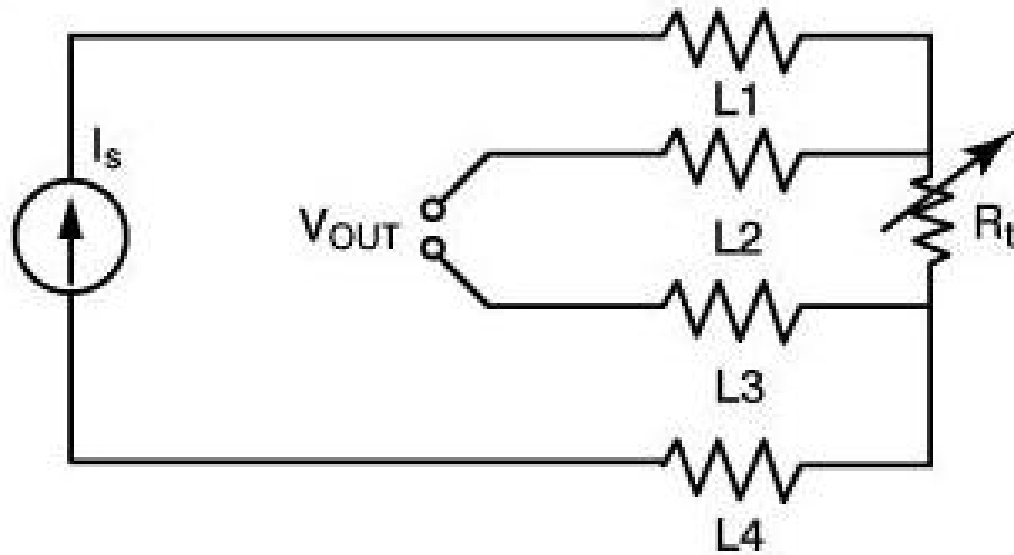


# Remote Sensing



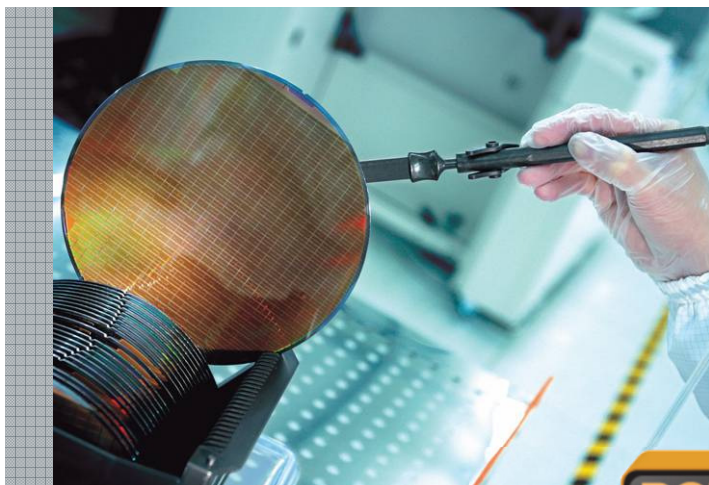
- Wires and connectors have resistance
- Prominent when smaller wires with longer distances
- Devices with small operation voltage can be critical error

# Remote Sensing



- Apply current and measure voltage drop across DUT
- Can eliminate line resistance worries
- Called remote sensing or 4 wire sensing

# Measurement Terminology



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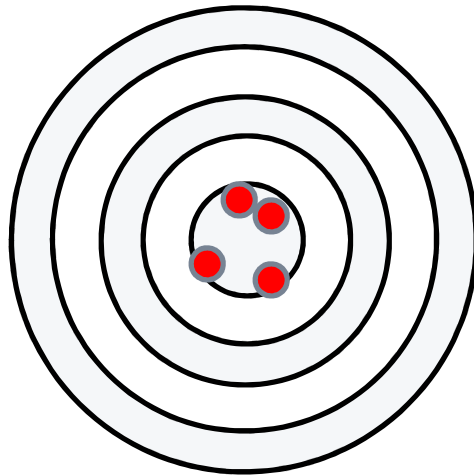
# Measurement Terminology

- Accuracy
- Repeatability
- Resolution
- Sensitivity
- A/D Converter Integration Time (NPLC)

# Measurement Terminology

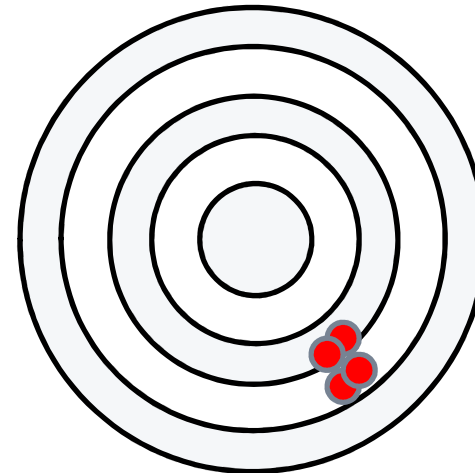


Accuracy



The closeness of agreement between the result of a measurement and its true value or accepted *standard value*.

Repeatability



The closeness of agreement between *successive* measurements carried out under the same conditions.

# Measurement Terminology



## Resolution

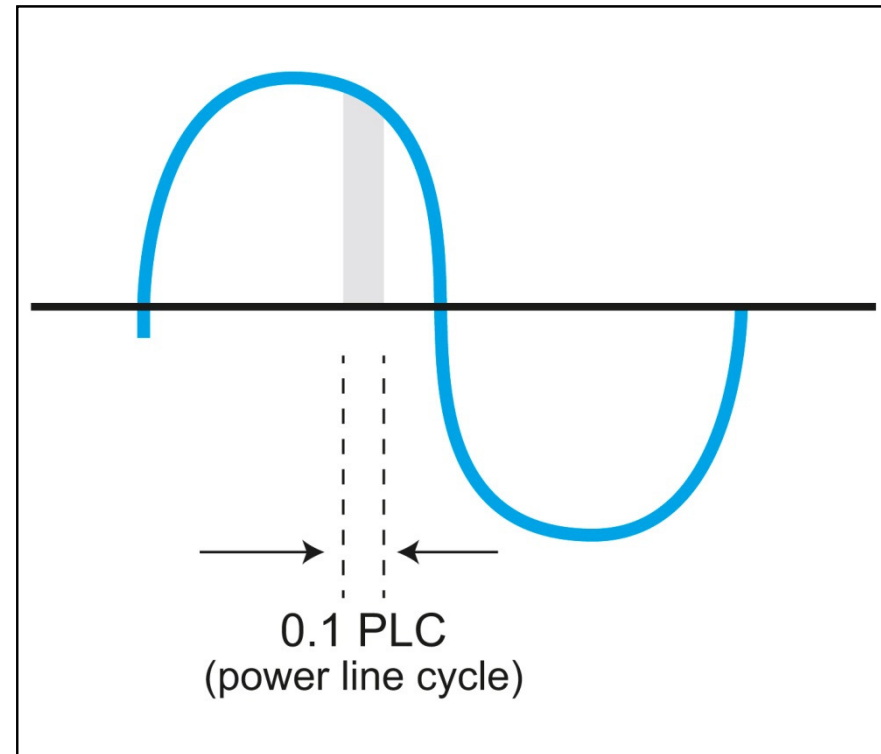
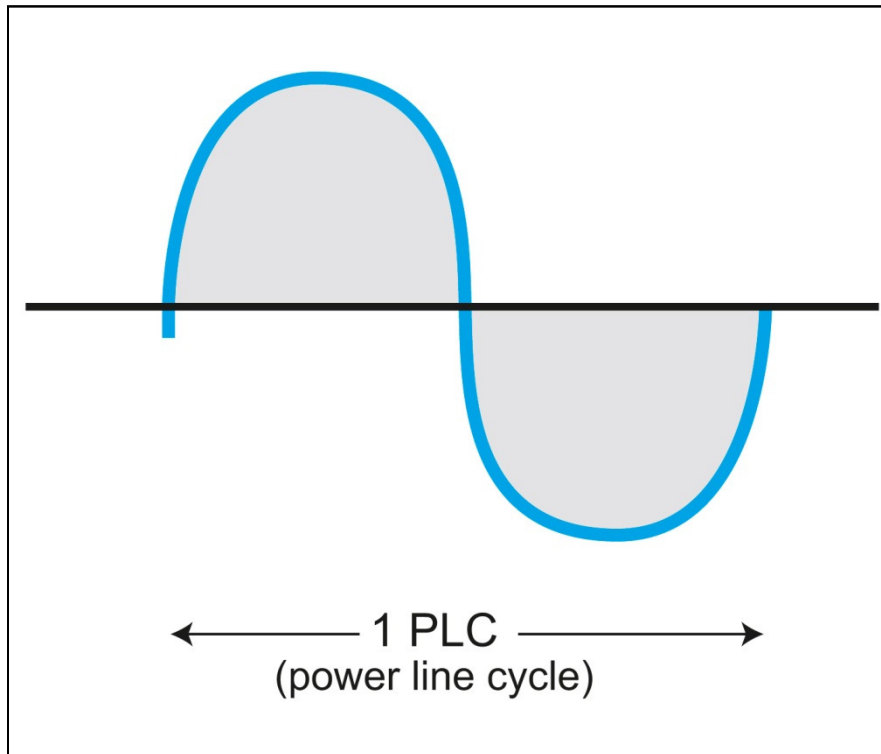
The smallest *portion* of the signal that can be observed.

## Sensitivity

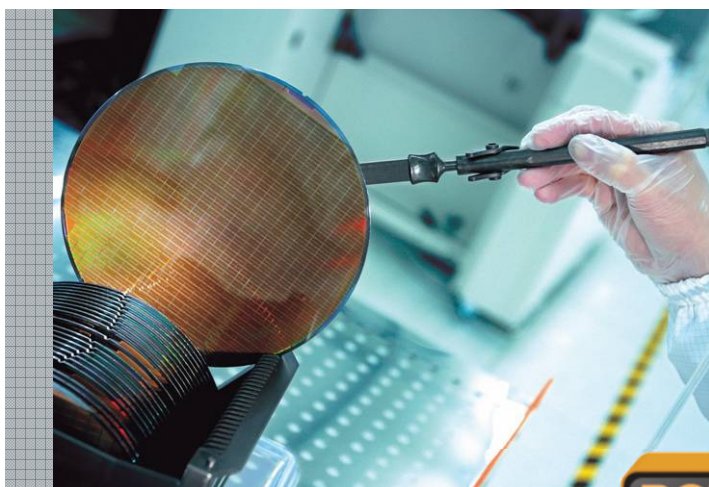
The smallest *change* in the signal that can be detected.



# A/D Converter Integration Time (NPLC)



# Key Considerations for Selecting a SMU Instrument



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# Key Considerations for Selecting a SMU Instrument

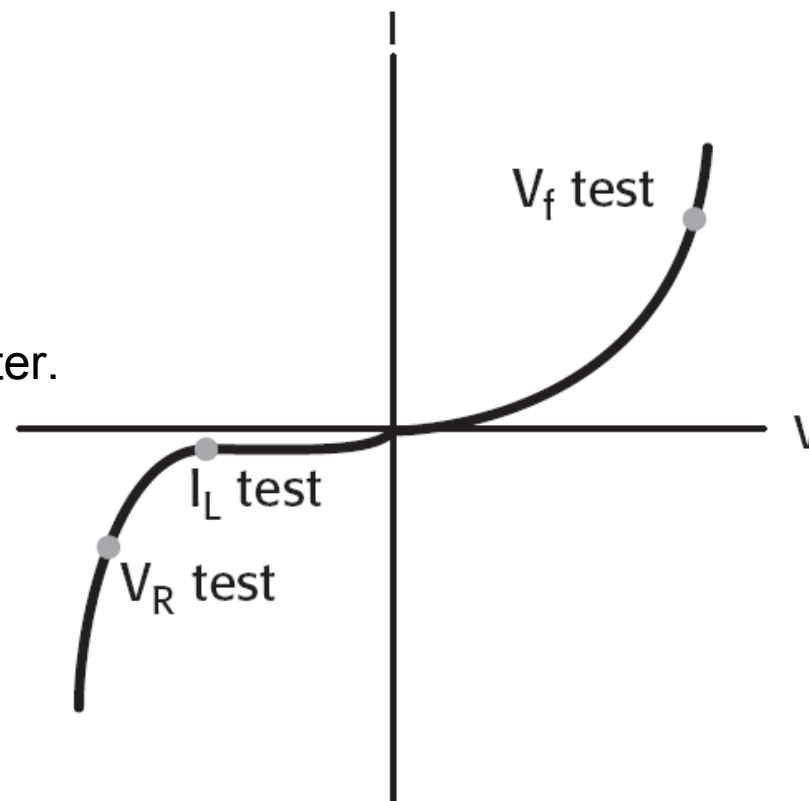
- System-level Speed / Throughput
- Source Resolution vs. Stability
- Measure Settling Time, Offset Error, Noise
- Cabling and Connections



# System-level Speed / Throughput

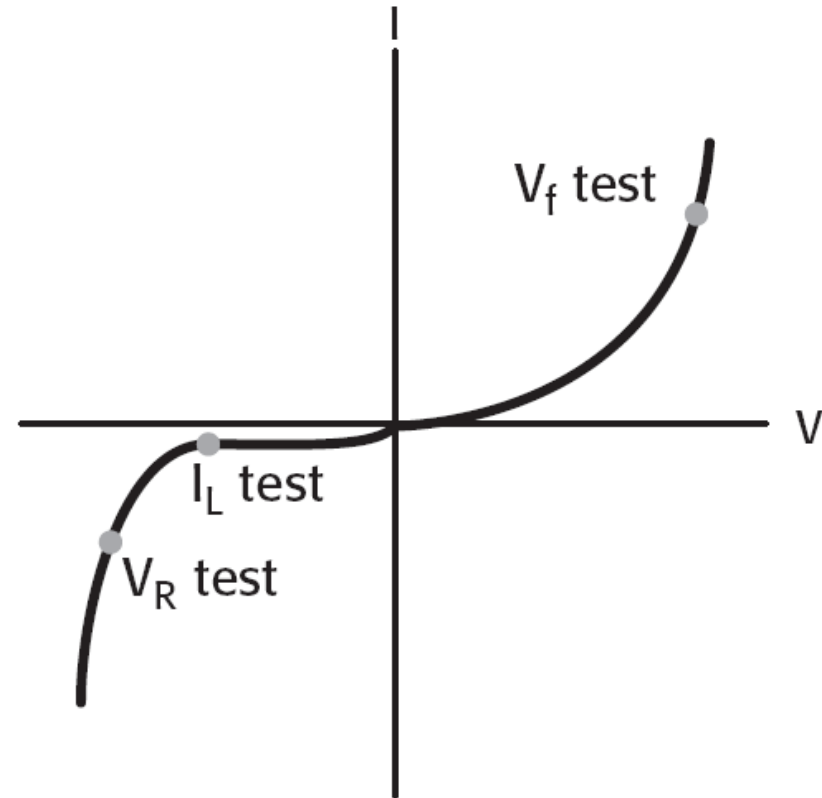
## Example: Diode / LED Test

- Three Measurements
  - $V_f$  – Forward Voltage
  - $V_R$  – Reverse Breakdown Voltage
  - $I_L$  – Reverse Leakage Current
- Measurements are compared against upper and lower limits for each parameter.

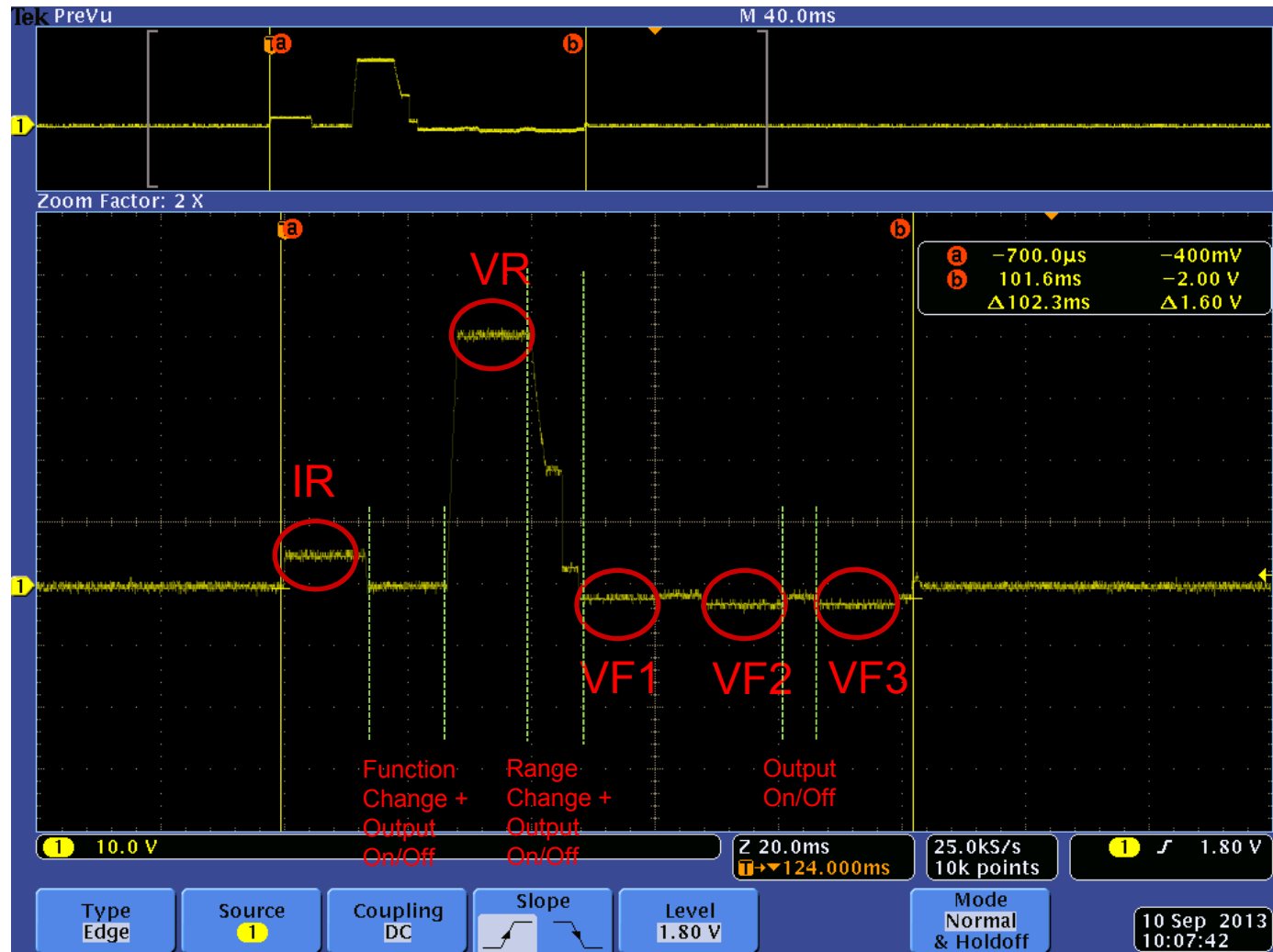


# System-level Throughput Considerations

- Must consider and optimize all elements of speed:
  - Trigger In Time
  - Range Change Time
  - Function Change Time
  - Source Settling Time
  - A/D Converter (NPLC)
  - Measurement Speed
  - Trigger Out Time
  - Program Execution Time



# System-level Throughput Considerations

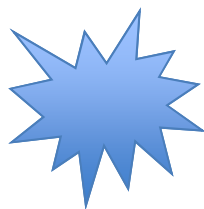


# Test Throughput: Actual Parts per Second

(more is better!)

	1 NPLC	0.1 NPLC	0.01 NPLC	0.001 NPLC	0.00048 NPLC
Non-Keithley SMU instrument	6.1	8.1	8.2	8.2	8.2
Keithley 2600A Series	13.3	33.2	37.8	38.2	N/A

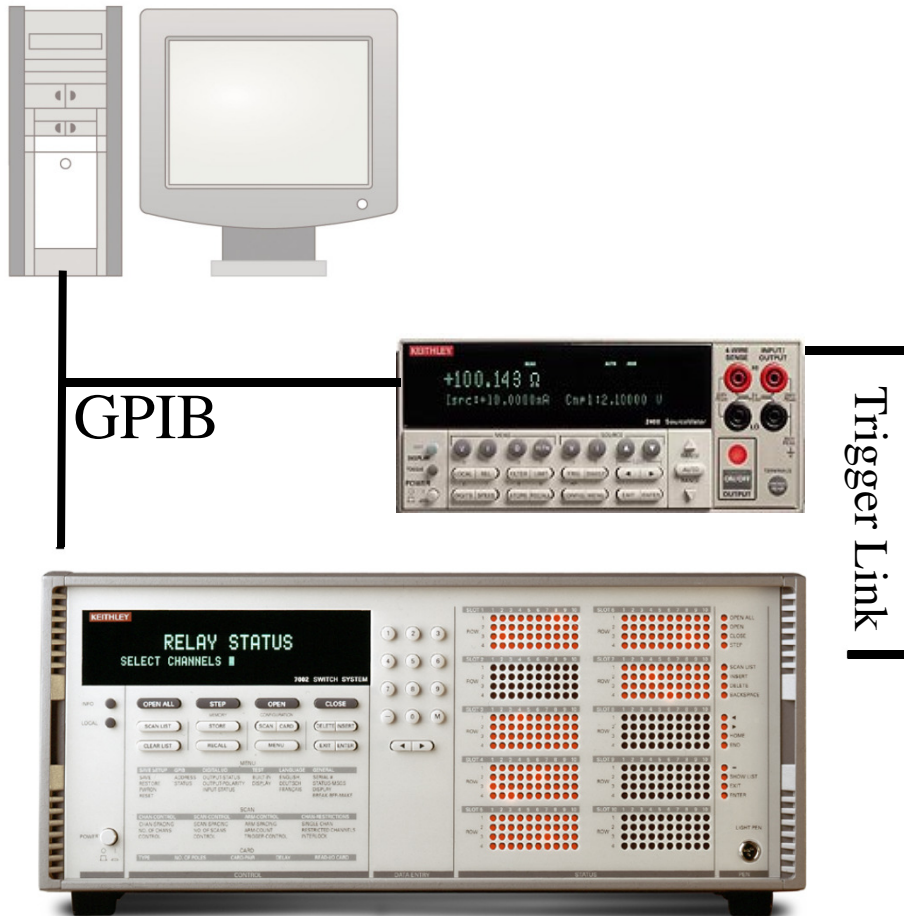
Most accurate ← → Least accurate



A SourceMeter running at 0.1 NPLC A/D conversion time is 4x faster and much more accurate than a SMU instrument running at 0.00048 NPLC

# Keithley TSP® Technology

- It is now...



## Configure Trigger Model of 2410

```
Send 2410 ("ARM:COUN 1")
Send 2410 ("ARM:SOUR IMM")
Send 2410 ("ARM:DIR ACC")
Send 2410 ("TRIG:COUN 7")
Send 2410 ("TRIG:SOUR TLINK")
Send 2410 ("TRIG:DIR ACC")
Send 2410 ("TRIG:OLIN 1")
Send 2410 ("TRIG:ILIN 2")
Send 2410 ("TRIG:OUTP SENS")
Send 2410 ("TRIG:DEL 0")
```

' Scan once per initialization  
' Immediately proceed to Trig Layer  
' Wait for Arm source (IMM)  
' Seven measurements per scan  
' Wait for Trig source (Trigger Link)  
' Don't skip first trigger  
' Define output trigger line  
' Define input trigger line  
' Output trigger after measurement  
' Set trigger delay

## Configure Trigger Model of 7002

```
Send 7002 ("ARM:LAY2:COUN 1")
Send 7002 ("ARM:LAY2:SOUR IMM")
Send 7002 ("ARM:LAY2:TCON:DIR ACC")
Send 7002 ("TRIG:COUN 7")
Send 7002 ("TRIG:SOUR TLINK")
Send 7002 ("TRIG:TCON:PROT ASYN")
Send 7002 ("TRIG:TCON:DIR SOUR")
Send 7002 ("TRIG:TCON:ASYN:OLIN 2")
Send 7002 ("TRIG:TCON:ASYN:ILIN 1")
Send 7002 ("TRIG:DEL 0")
```

' Scan once per initialization  
' Immediately proceed to Trig Layer  
' Wait for Arm source (IMM)  
' Seven measurements per scan  
' Wait for Trig source (Trigger Link)  
' Allow asynchronous triggering  
' Skip first trigger to start scan  
' Define output trigger line  
' Define input trigger line  
' Set trigger delay

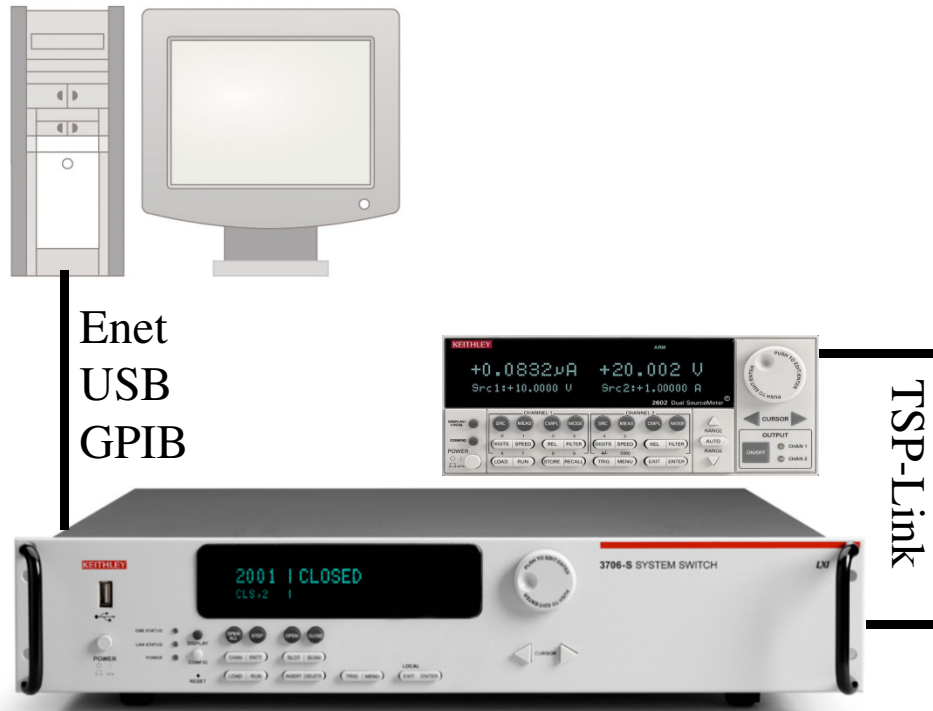
## Configure scan list

```
Send 7002 ("ABORT;OPEN ALL")
Send 7002 ("ROUT:CLOSE (@11,211)")
Send 7002 ("MEM:SAVE M1")
Send 7002 ("OPEN ALL")
Send 7002 ("ROUT:CLOSE (@113,213)")
Send 7002 ("MEM:SAVE M2")
Send 7002 ("OPEN ALL")
Send 7002 ("ROUT:CLOSE (@12,212)")
Send 7002 ("MEM:SAVE M3")
Send 7002 ("OPEN ALL")
Send 7002 ("ROUT:CLOSE (@111,211)")
Send 7002 ("MEM:SAVE M4")
Send 7002 ("OPEN ALL")
Send 7002 ("ROUT:CLOSE (@113,213)")
Send 7002 ("MEM:SAVE M5")
Send 7002 ("OPEN ALL")
Send 7002 ("ROUT:CLOSE (@111,212,312)")
Send 7002 ("MEM:SAVE M6")
Send 7002 ("OPEN ALL")
Send 7002 ("ROUT:CLOSE (@12,213,311)")
Send 7002 ("MEM:SAVE M7")
Send 7002 ("OPEN ALL")
Send 7002 ("ROUT:SCAN (@M1,M2,M3,M4,M5,M6,M7)")
```

' Abort operation and open all relays  
' Close channels for 1st bridgewire test  
' Save channels in 1st memory location  
' Open all relays  
' Close channels for 2nd bridgewire test  
' Save channels in 2nd memory location  
' Open all relays  
' Close channels to test housing contact  
' Save channels in 3rd memory location  
' Open all relays  
' Close channels for 1st shunt bar test  
' Save channels in 4th memory location  
' Open all relays  
' Close channels for 2nd shunt bar test  
' Save channels in 5th memory location  
' Open all relays  
' Close channels for 1st insulation test  
' Save channels in 6th memory location  
' Open all relays  
' Close channels for 2nd insulation test  
' Save channels in 7th memory location  
' Open all relays  
' Scan through memory locations

# Keithley TSP® Technology

- As to be !!



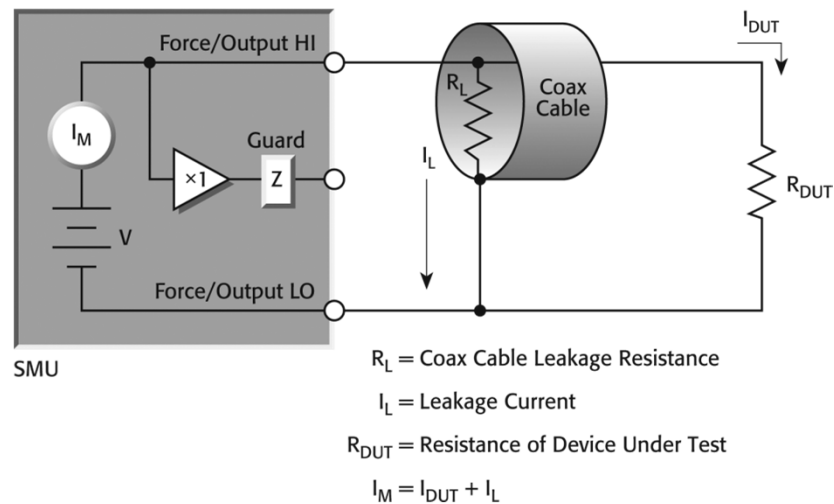
```
90tsplink.reset()
91
92smua = node[2].smua      --2602 set to node 2
93
94mem_pattern1 = ("1031,1914,1924","1032,1914,1924","1033,1914,1924","1034,1914,1924","1035,1914,1924","1036,1914,1924")
95
96smua.source.output = smua.OUTPUT_ON --Enable source
97
98for i = 1, 6 do
99
100  channel.exclusiveclose(mem_pattern1[i])
101
102  LEDTest()
103  ReturnData()
104
105end
106
107smua.source.output = smua.OUTPUT_OFF
108
```



# Cable and Connection Considerations

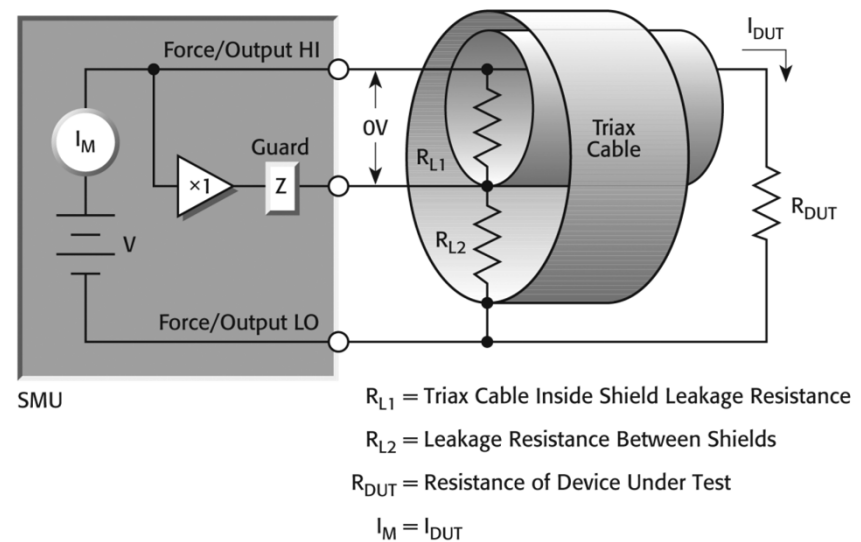
## Coax Cable

### a) Unguarded Circuit

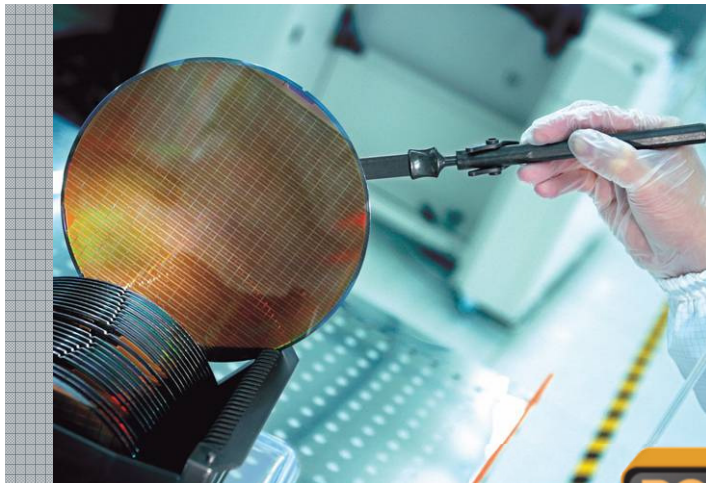


## Triax Cable

### b) Guarded Circuit



# Applications



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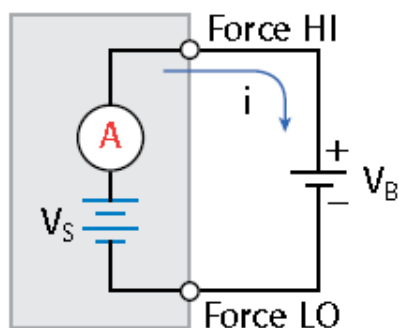
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# Application1 – Battery Discharge Test using 2450 SourceMeter

## Simplified circuit diagram

### Charge Cycle



**2450 SourceMeter**

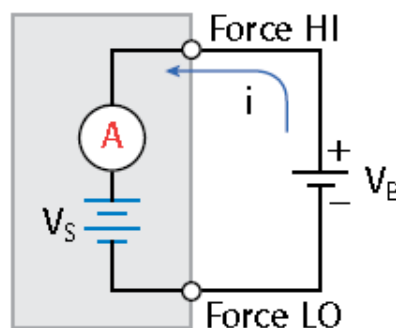
SourceMeter in Source Mode

$$V_S > V_B$$

SourceMeter functions  
as Power Supply

Charge Current ( $i$ ) is Positive

### Discharge Cycle



**2450 SourceMeter**

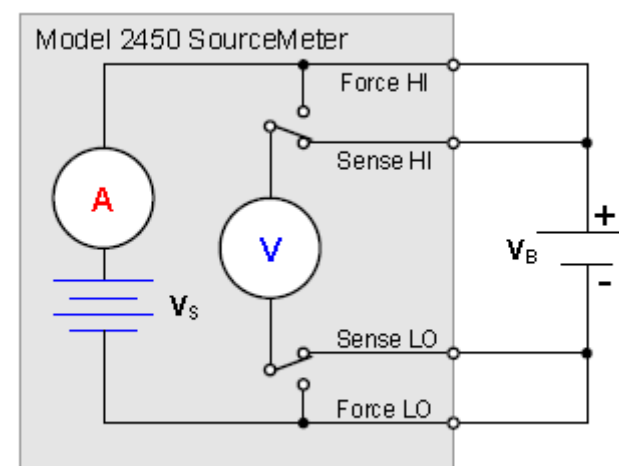
SourceMeter in Sink Mode

$$V_S < V_B$$

SourceMeter functions  
as Electronic Load

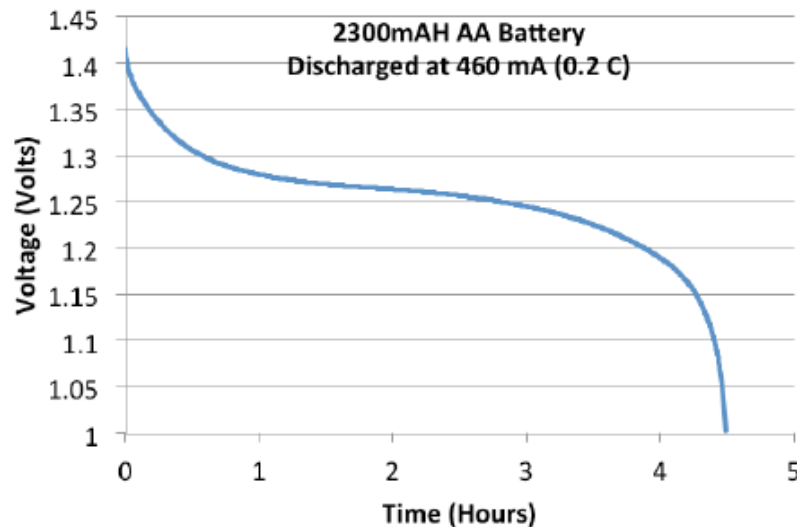
Discharge Current ( $i$ ) is Negative

## Connections

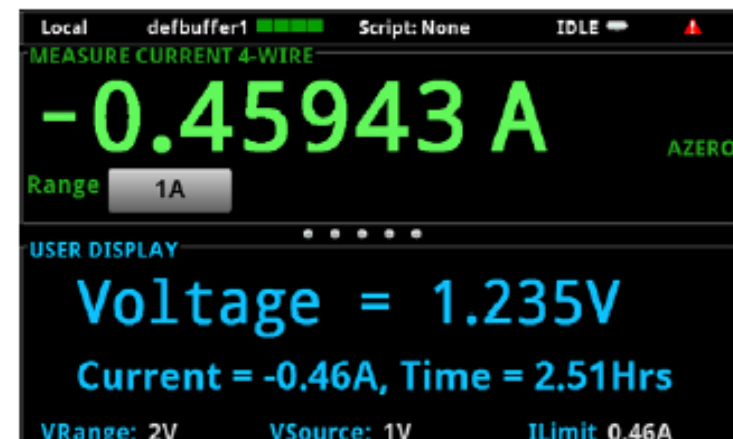


# Application1 – Battery Discharge Test

## Examples of Discharging an AA Battery

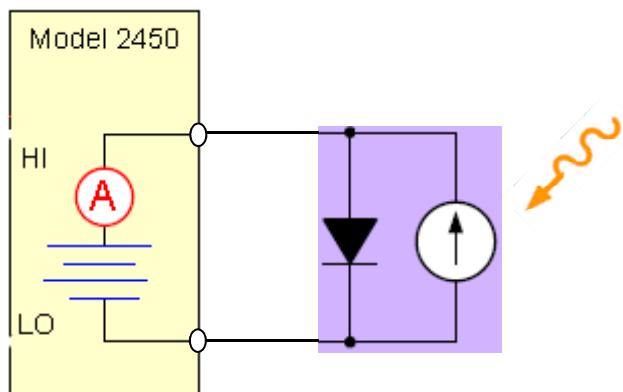


2450 Screen supports measured load Current, battery voltage, elapsed Time on screen etc.



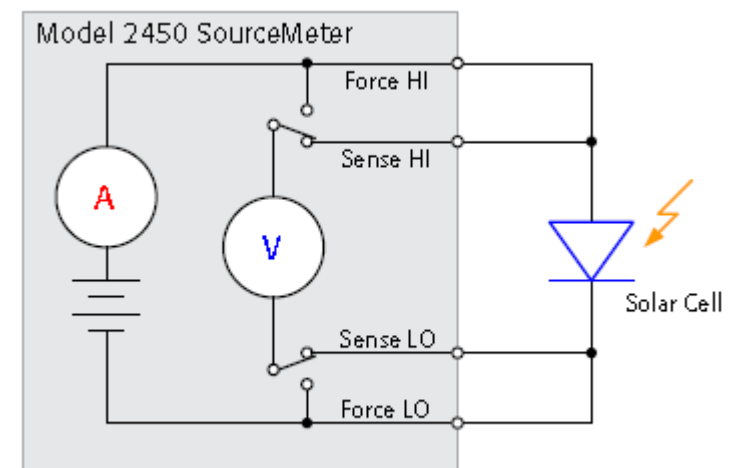
## Application2 – Photovoltaic Test using 2450 SourceMeter

Simplified circuit diagram



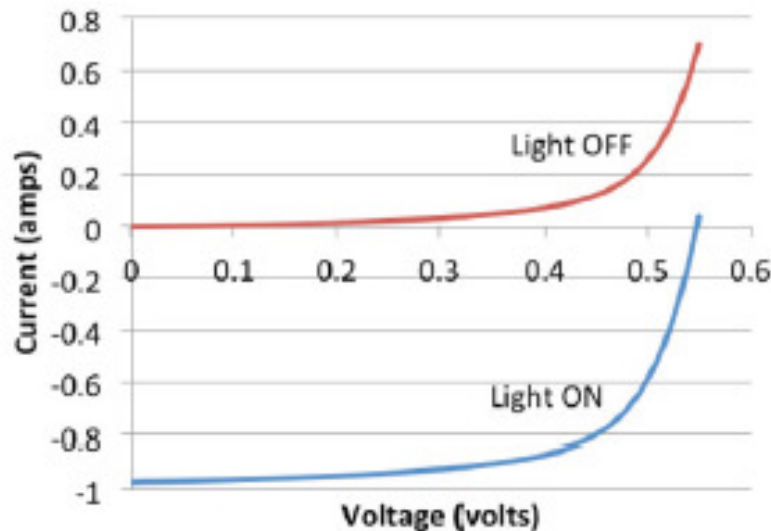
An illuminated solar cell will cause a current to flow when a load is connected to its terminals.

Connections



## Application2 – Photovoltaic Test using 2450 SourceMeter

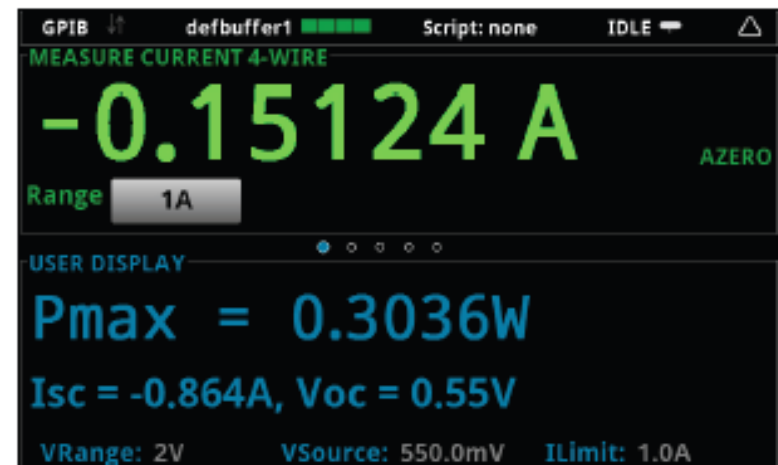
Examples of test output



Condition

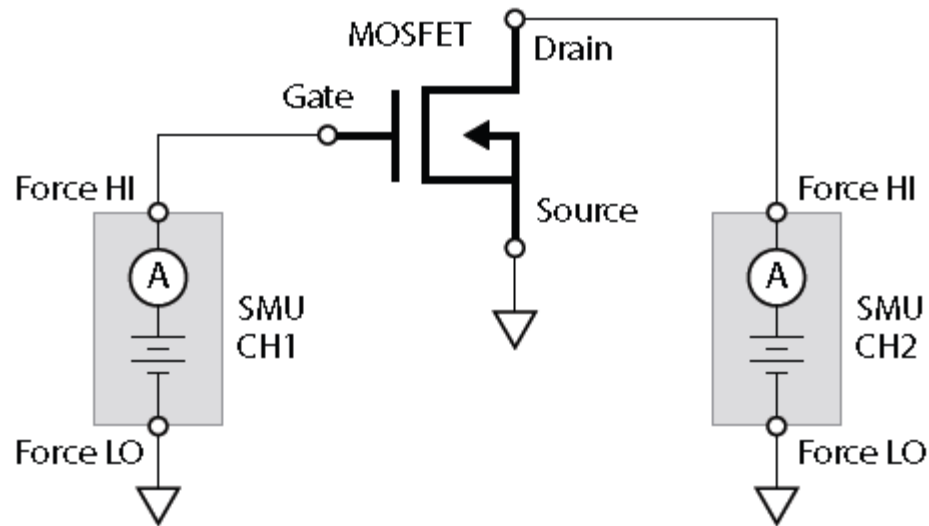
- Voltage sweep from 0V to 0.55V in 56 steps

2450 Screen supports circuit current, Maximum power, open circuit voltage Etc.

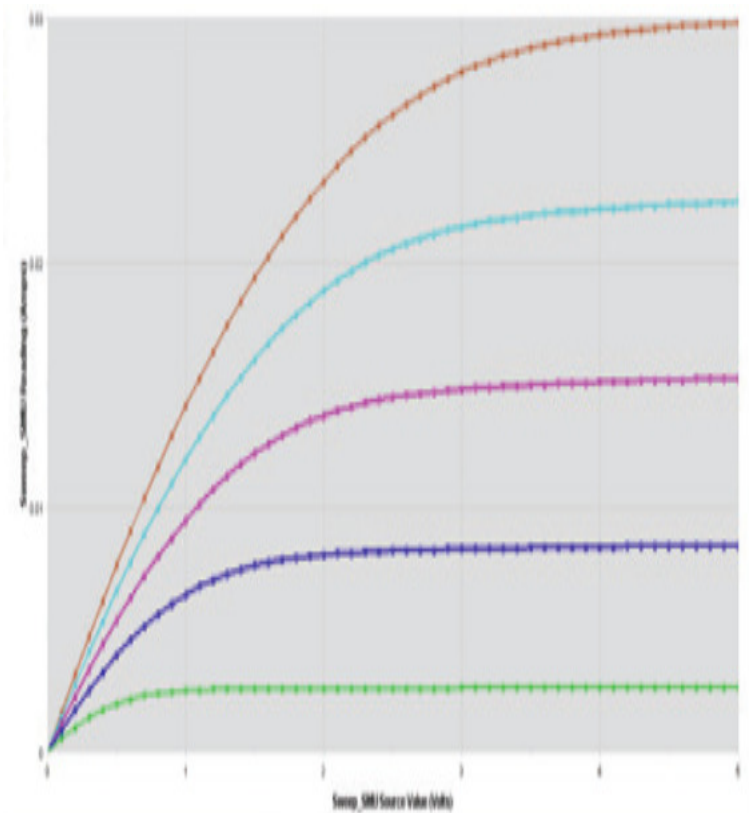




## Application3 – MOSFET Test



- Using 2 SMUs to Gate and Drain
- Measuring drain current curves ( $V_{ds}$ - $I_d$ )
- SMU CH1 steps gate voltage
- SMU CH2 sweeps drain voltage and measure current



Drain curves

# Keithley is the Leader in SMU Instruments

- 20 patents issued for SMU-specific technology
- Numerous industry awards, including *R&D100*, Test of Time, Best in Test, Best Electronic Design, and more
- Thousands and thousands of customers
- Serving Semiconductor, Electronic Components, Optoelectronics, Automotive, Mil/Aero, Medical, Research & Education, and many more industries



**Series 2400  
SourceMeter Instruments**



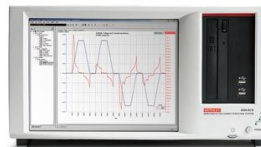
**Series 2600B System  
SourceMeter Instruments**



**265x High Power  
SourceMeter Instruments**



**Model 4200-SCS  
Semiconductor Characterization System**



**S500 and S530  
Parametric Test Systems**





# SMU Instrument Reference Library

[www.keithley.com](http://www.keithley.com)

- Choosing the Optimal Source Measurement Unit (SMU) Instrument for Your Test and Measurement Application
- Rapidly Expanding Array of Test Applications Continues to Drive Source Measurement Unit Instrument Technology
- Precision Sourcing and Measurement Techniques for Applications from Semiconductor Research and Development to High Throughput Component Test

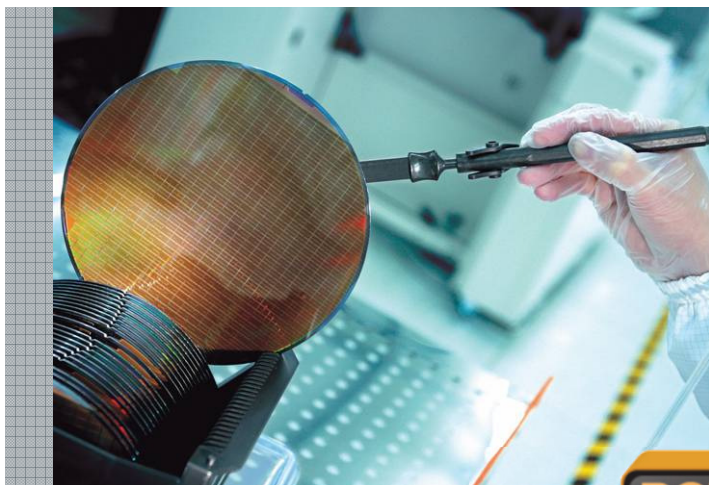
[www.keithley.com/knowledgecenter](http://www.keithley.com/knowledgecenter)

- Low Level Measurements Handbook: Precision DC Current, Voltage, and Resistance Measurements (Sixth Edition)

[www.keithley.com/events/semconfs/webseminars](http://www.keithley.com/events/semconfs/webseminars)

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# Thank You!



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