Evaluation of PTB primary caesium fountain frequency standard CSF2 between MJD 58939 - MJD 58969

PTB's primary caesium fountain frequency standard CSF2 was operated between MJD 58939, 0:00 UTC and MJD 58969, 0:00 UTC. Frequency comparisons were made with respect to PTB hydrogen maser H9, BIPM code 1400509.

The relative frequency instability of the relative frequency differences y(CSF2-H9) was $16.8 \times 10^{-14} \cdot (\tau/s)^{-1/2}$ during the 30 days, where the statistical uncertainty of the collisional shift evaluation is included. The actual measurement time amounts to 96.5% of the 30×24 hours. This results in a statistical uncertainty $u_A = 0.11 \times 10^{-15}$, assuming that white frequency noise is the dominant noise source.

For the uncertainty due to the clock link $u_{Lab} = 0.01 \times 10^{-15}$ is obtained by taking into account the actual measurement time. Finally, the estimated uncertainty for the link to TAI for 30 days is $u_{TAI} = 0.07 \times 10^{-15}$.

Frequency corrections for the following effects were applied to the raw data:

- Zeeman effect (magnetic field along the atoms' trajectory)
- blackbody effect (thermal radiation along the atoms' trajectory)
- relativistic redshift and relativistic Doppler effect
- cold collisions effect
- distributed cavity phase effect
- microwave lensing effect

The CSF2 standard uncertainty u_B is estimated as 1.7×10^{-16} (1 σ) for the relevant period [1].

Table of results of CSF2 compared to hydrogen maser H9 (1400509)

Interval of evaluation	MJD 58939, 0:00 UTC - MJD 58969, 0:00 UTC
Fractional dead time	3.5%
Resulting frequency difference	y(CSF2 – H9) = 9.67×10^{-15}
Type A uncertainty u_A (1 σ)	0.11×10^{-15}
Type B uncertainty u_B (1 σ)	0.17×10^{-15}
Link to clock u_{Lab} (1 σ)	0.01×10^{-15}
Link to TAI u_{TAI} (1 σ)	0.07×10^{-15} (30 days)
Combined uncertainty (1 σ)	0.21×10^{-15}

Type A (statistical) uncertainty of CSF2

For the microwave synthesis initially an optically stabilized microwave oscillator was utilized, which is locked to a hydrogen maser in the long-term [2]. After about a quarter of the 30 days measurement interval a new system for the optical generation of ultra-stable microwave signals has been put into operation and employed as local oscillator. The new system utilizes the same cavity stabilized laser as before, but a new commercial frequency comb system, where the microwave signal is obtained from a photodiode. Again this signal is locked to a hydrogen maser in the long-term.

For CSF2 operation at high density, in this measurement the resulting CSF2 frequency instability and the hydrogen maser frequency instability yield an overall instability of $\sigma_y = 4.9 \times 10^{-14}$ $(\tau/1s)^{-1/2}$ for relative frequency difference measurements y(CSF2 – Hmaser). The statistical measurement uncertainty u_A includes the statistical uncertainty of the collisional shift evaluation and is given by the CSF2 frequency instability at high and low density operation, the respective measurement durations and the hydrogen maser frequency instability [1].

The optically stabilized microwave systems were available during more than 97% of the TAI measurement interval. Alternatively a quartz-based frequency synthesis system was employed.

Type B (systematic) uncertainty of CSF2

In the table below we report the type B uncertainty evaluation results valid for the evaluation at hand. Detailed descriptions of the systematic uncertainty contributions of CSF2 have been published elsewhere [1].

At the 26th CGPM in November 2018, TAI has been newly defined (Resolution 2). As a result the relativistic redshift of a clock contributing to TAI is to be computed with respect to the conventionally adopted equipotential $W_0 = 62\ 636\ 856.0\ m^2s^{-2}$ of the Earth's gravity potential. The differentiation relating to the uncertainty of the relativistic redshift for the case of TAI contributions of the PTB fountain clocks in [1] is therefore no longer needed, so that a relativistic redshift uncertainty of 0.02×10^{-16} [1] is attributed now and in the future.

Frequency shifts, corrections and type B uncertainties of CSF2 (parts in 10^{16}):

Frequency shift	Correction	Uncertainty
Quadratic Zeeman shift	-1007.95	0.10
Blackbody radiation shift	166.50	0.63
Relativistic redshift and Doppler effect	-85.45	0.02
Collisional shift	76.8	0.4
Distributed cavity phase shift	-0.28	1.52
Microwave lensing	-0.7	0.2
AC Stark shift (light shift)		0.01
Rabi and Ramsey pulling		0.013
Microwave leakage		0.01
Electronics		0.1
Background gas collisions		0.1
Total type B uncertainty		1.7

References

[1] S. Weyers, V. Gerginov, M. Kazda, J. Rahm, B. Lipphardt, G. Dobrev and K. Gibble, Metrologia **55**, pp. 789–805 (2018), https://doi.org/10.1088/1681-7575/aae008

[2] B. Lipphardt, V. Gerginov, S, Weyers, IEEE Transactions on Ultrasonics, Ferroelectrics, and Frequency Control **64,** pp. 761–766 (2017), https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7807353