

Uninterruptable Power Supplies (UPS) and Electromagnetic Interference (EMI)



Background

- UPS (uninterruptable power supplies) provide power to your equipment during AC power outage or when certain parameters of power quality fall below acceptable limits
- UPS are found in production and test equipment, servers, data banks and elsewhere
- In the ideal case UPS would provide to your equipment the same voltage as the regular mains power
- This, however, is far from reality



Is it Only 50/60Hz or Something Else?

∿ 50.0U

- Many things are not what they appear to be
- UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply) is supposed to provide voltage similar to the one from the AC outlet
- Well, not necessarily sinewave and not necessarily clean...
- When AC mains are OK, UPS acts as passthrough device providing sinewave output to the load as shown to the right
- When AC mains voltage is not adequate, UPS generates its own "mains" which is far from sinewave



UPS output when adequate AC voltage is present



Time 5.

🛉 🚺 28.0 V 😐

<u>9</u>~4

UPS: Anything but Sinewave *Output voltage from different UPS*

Distorted Waveform is a Source of EMI

- Rapid voltage edges (otherwise known as dV/dt) contain significant high-frequency energy
- These screenshots show transient spikes on AC line at the output of a typical UPS that are synchronized with the reconstructed AC output

Yellow – reconstructed AC at the output of UPS

Green – noise at the output (synchronized with the AC output)

OnFILTER' CleanSweep[®] EMI Filter at the Output of UPS

- Any CleanSweep® EMI filter suppresses highfrequency transients to a negligible level
- Simply connect
 CleanSweep[®] EMI filter
 at the output of your
 UPS and then connect
 your equipment to the
 output of the filter

Yellow – reconstructed AC at the output of UPS after CleanSweep[®] filter

Green – greatly reduced transients at the output

UPS with and without CleanSweep[®] EMI Filter - Comparison

Yellow – reconstructed AC at the output of UPS

Green – noise at the output

Measuring Output of UPS Without Filter

- 1. Use fully-charged UPS
- 2. Connect equipment as shown
- 3. Make sure UPS is on
- 4. Observe approximate sinewave on oscilloscope
- 5. Unplug power cord of UPS itself from the AC outlet
- 6. Observe distorted waveform at the output of UPS and increased noise

Measuring Output of UPS With Filter

- 1. Use fully-charged UPS
- 2. Connect equipment as shown
- 3. Make sure UPS is on

- 4. Unplug power cord of UPS itself from the AC outlet
- 5. Observe still distorted waveform at the output of UPS but significantly reduced noise

MSN01 or MSN12 Power Line EMI Adapter. Set to differential mode (MSN01) or measure between Live and Neutral (MSN12)

> 100:1 Scope Probe. Connect between Live and Neutral

CleanSweep[®] AC EMI Filter

Connect load if desired. Load should not generate noise, i.e. incandescent light or heater

Contact Information

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CleanSweep[®] Family of Power Line EMI Filters

AF Series up to 20A 250VAC

AP Series 3A 250VAC

AL Series 10A 250VAC

