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# METAS VNA Tools - Data Formats V2.4.3

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# 1 Introduction

Touchstone and CITI are two well known file formats for storing S-parameters, but both of them don't support uncertainties with dependencies. Uncertainties with dependencies are a method with low memory consumption for taking correlations into account, see METAS UncLib. The solution is to define new data formats and file types which support uncertainties with dependencies.

The in the following described data and file formats were developed for VNA Tools. Including uncertainties increases the file size drastically. Several file formats which include compression (ZIP) are proposed for this reason.

A file format is a mapping of a data format. Thus the two data formats which are used in VNA Tools are described first. The following sections contain descriptions of the files formats which are derived from the data formats.

## 1.1 S-Parameter Data

S-Parameter Data is a data format. Most of the calculations in VNA Tools are done with the S-Parameter Data type. It is the main data format in VNA Tools. S-Parameter Data contains the following properties:

- Frequency List (1d array of double)
- Port Assignment (1d array of VnaPortDescription)
- Port Impedance (1d array of ComplexUncNumber) <sup>1</sup>
- Data (3d array of ComplexUncNumber)
  - Index 0: Frequency
  - Index 1: Receiver Port
  - Index 2: Source Port

As can be seen from the properties, this data format is well suited for storing S-parameters. S-Parameter Data supports the following file types:

**METAS sdatb** is a binary file format which contains the full information,

**METAS sdatx** is an XML file format which contains the same information as sdatb,

**METAS sdatcv** is an ASCII text file format which contains only a subset of the information (no correlation between frequency points and different sdatcv files),

**Touchstone snp** is an ASCII text file format which doesn't contain uncertainty information.

## 1.2 VNA Data

VNA Data is another data format in VNA Tools. It is used in the visualization part of VNA Tools to display receiver values and to be compatible with old file formats. VNA Data contains the following properties:



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- Frequency List (1d array of double)
- Port Assignment (1d array of VnaPortDescription)
- Port Impedance (1d array of ComplexUncNumber) <sup>1</sup>
- Parameter Data (1d array of VnaParameterData)
  - Parameter (VnaParameter)
  - Data (1d array of ComplexUncNumber)

As can be seen from the properties, this data format is suited for storing arbitrary receiver ratios as well as receiver values. It's more general than S-Parameter Data. VNA Data supports the following file types:

**METAS vdatb** is a binary file format which contains the full information,

**METAS vdatx** is an XML file format which contains the same information as vdatb,

**METAS vdatcv** is an ASCII text file format which contains only a subset of the information (no correlation between frequency points and different files),

**CITI** is an ASCII text file format which contains only a subset of the information (no correlation and no port impedance).

### 1.3 Data Collections

A single Data Collection file can contain either multiple S-Parameter Data files or multiple VNA Data files.

#### 1.3.1 S-Parameter Data Collection

S-Parameter Data Collection supports the following file types:

**METAS scolb** is a zip file format which contains multiple sdatb files,

**METAS scolcv** is an ASCII text file format which contains multiple standards (correlation between different standards in the same scolcv file) but only a subset of the information (no correlation between frequency points and different scolcv files).

#### 1.3.2 VNA Data Collection

VNA Data Collection supports the following file types:

**METAS vcolb** is a zip file format which contains multiple vdatb files,

**METAS vcolcv** is an ASCII text file format which contains multiple standards (correlation between different standards in the same vcolcv file) but only a subset of the information (no correlation between frequency points and different vcolcv files).

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<sup>1</sup>The port impedance is the complex reference impedance. It can be different for each port but not for each frequency. Complex reference impedance in function of frequency needs to be re-normalized. For changing the complex reference impedance see the appendix 'Transmission Line Junction' of the METAS VNA Tools - Math Reference.



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### 1.4 Overview

Table 1 shows an overview of the different file formats. Each file format can be converted into

Table 1: List of file formats

Format	Type	Port Assignment	Port Impedance	S-Parameter	Mixed-Mode P.	Receiver Values	Arbitrary Ratios	Collection	Uncertainties	Correlation	Dependencies	ZIP Compression	No Redundancy	File Size	Speed
METAS sdatb V1	binary	☺	☺	☺					☺	☺	☺	☺		☺	☺
METAS sdatb V2	binary	☺	☺	☺					☺	☺	☺		☺	☺	☺☺
METAS sdatb V3	binary	☺	☺	☺	☺				☺	☺	☺		☺	☺	☺☺
METAS sdatx	xml	☺	☺	☺	☺				☺	☺	☺	☺		☺☺	☺☺
METAS sdatcv	text	☺	☺	☺	☺				☺	☺	☺			☺	☺
Touchstone V1.x snp	text	☺	☺	☺					☺	☺	☺			☺	☺
Touchstone V2.0 ts	text	☺	☺	☺	☺				☺	☺	☺			☺	☺
METAS vdatb V1	binary	☺	☺	☺		☺	☺		☺	☺	☺	☺		☺	☺
METAS vdatb V2	binary	☺	☺	☺		☺	☺		☺	☺	☺		☺	☺	☺☺
METAS vdatb V3	binary	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺		☺	☺	☺		☺	☺	☺☺
METAS vdatx	xml	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺		☺	☺	☺	☺		☺☺	☺☺
METAS vdatcv	text	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺		☺	☺	☺			☺	☺
CITI	text	☺	☺	☺		☺	☺		☺	☺	☺			☺	☺
METAS scolb	zip	☺	☺	☺	☺			☺	☺	☺	☺	☺		☺	☺
METAS scolcv	text	☺	☺	☺	☺			☺	☺	☺	☺			☺	☺
METAS vcolb	zip	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺		☺	☺
METAS vcolcv	text	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺			☺	☺

another from this table.



## 2 sdatb File Specification

The sdatb-file format is a binary file type developed by METAS. The file can be written in a GZIP file stream to reduce the file size. The byte ordering is little-endian.

### 2.1 Binary Structure Version 1

Version 1 of sdatb uses a GZIP file stream to reduce the file size. The following enumeration describes the binary structure of a sdatb-file:

1. Header (string), value: '%SDATA'
2. Version (int32), value: 1
3. Number of Frequencies (int32)
4. Number of Ports (int32)
5. Frequency List (double[]), size: number of frequencies
6. Ports (int32[]), size: number of ports
7. Port Impedance (ComplexUncNumber[]), size: number of ports
8. Data (ComplexUncNumber[,]), size dim 0: number of frequencies, size dim 1 and 2: number of ports.

#### 2.1.1 Uncertainty Numbers

The following enumeration describes the binary structure of 'ComplexUncNumber':

1. Version (int32), value: 1
2. Real (UncNumber)
3. Imag (UncNumber)

The following enumeration describes the binary structure of 'UncNumber':

1. Version (int32), value: 1
2. Value (double)
3. Version2 (int32), value: 4
4. Number of Dependencies (int32)
5. Dependencies (DependsOn[]), size: number of dependencies

The following enumeration describes the binary structure of 'DependsOn':

1. Number of Id Bytes (int32)
2. Input Id (byte[]), size: number of id bytes



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3. Input Description (string)
4. Input IDof (double)
5. Jacobi (double)

### 2.2 Binary Structure Version 2

Version 2 of sdatb is not using a GZIP file stream. The redundancy of the data is removed by storing uncertainty inputs in a look up table. The uncompressed file size of version 2 is comparable to the GZIP compressed file size of version 1 and about four times smaller than the uncompressed file size of version 1. Avoiding the GZIP step and reducing the uncompressed file size speeds up loading and saving of files. The following enumeration describes the binary structure of a sdatb-file:

1. Header (string), value: '%SDATA'
2. Version (int32), value: 2
3. Number of Frequencies (int32)
4. Number of Ports (int32)
5. Frequency List (double[]), size: number of frequencies
6. Ports (int32[]), size: number of ports
7. Flat Vector (UncNumber[]), size:  $2N_{Ports} + 2N_{Freq}N_{Ports}N_{Ports}$

The last element contains the port impedance and the data mapped to a flat vector of uncertainty numbers.

#### 2.2.1 Flat Vector of Uncertainty Numbers

The following enumeration describes the binary structure of 'FlatVectorUncNumbers':

1. Version (int32), value: 1
2. Length (7-bit encoded int)
3. Values (double[]), size: length
4. Number of Inputs (7-bit encoded int)
5. Inputs (UnclInput[]), size: number of inputs
6. Dependencies (UncDependencies[]), size: length

The following enumeration describes the binary structure of 'UnclInput':

1. Temp (byte), bit 0: same id size, bit 1: empty description, bit 2: zero idof, bit 3-7: 0
2. Id Size (7-bit encoded int), field only present if not same id size





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3. Input Id (byte []), size: id size
4. Input Description (string), field only present if not empty description
5. Input IDof (double), field only present if not zero idof

The following enumeration describes the binary structure of 'UncDependencies'

1. Number of Dependencies (7-bit encoded int)
2. Dependencies (UncDependency[]), size: number of dependencies, pointer to inputs set to 0.

The following enumeration describes the binary structure of 'UncDependency'

1. Relative Pointer to Inputs (7-bit encoded int)
2. Jacobi (double)

### 2.3 Binary Structure Version 3

Version 3 of sdatb is an extension to version 2 which adds support for mixed-mode S-parameters. The following enumeration describes the binary structure of a sdatb-file:

1. Header (string), value: '%SDATA'
2. Version (int32), value: 3
3. Number of Frequencies (int32)
4. Number of Ports (int32)
5. Frequency List (double[]), size: number of frequencies
6. Ports (VnaPortDescription[]), size: number of ports
7. Flat Vector (UncNumber[]), size:  $2N_{Ports} + 2N_{Freq}N_{Ports}N_{Ports}$

The last element contains the port impedance and the data mapped to a flat vector of uncertainty numbers.

For the definition of 'Flat Vector of Uncertainty Numbers' see section 2.2.1.

#### 2.3.1 VNA Port Description

The following enumeration describes the binary structure of 'VnaPortDescription':

1. Port (int32)
2. Mode (VnaPortMode)

'VnaPortMode' is an enumeration represented by an integer where 0 is single-ended 's', 1 is differential mode 'd' and 2 is common mode 'c'.



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### 2.4 Example MATLAB Code

The following code shows how to load a sdatb-file in MATLAB:

```
1 function d = LoadSDATB(filepath)
2 % Loads VNA Tools II SParamData (*.sdatb) file
3 % Michael Wollensack METAS - 07.09.2018
4
5 d = {};
6 f3 = OpenFile(filepath);
7 % Type
8 type = char(f3.ReadString());
9 % Version
10 version = int32(f3.ReadInt32());
11 disp(['Type: ' type ', Version: ' num2str(version)])
12 if (strcmp(type, '%SDATA') && (1 <= version || version <= 3))
13     % Number of Frequencies
14     nfreq = f3.ReadInt32();
15     % Number of Ports
16     nports = f3.ReadInt32();
17     % Init
18     d.Frequency = zeros(1, nfreq);
19     d.Ports = cell(1, nports);
20     d.PortZr = LinProp(zeros(1, nports));
21     d.Data = LinProp(zeros([nfreq, nports, nports]));
22     % Frequency (Hz)
23     for i = 1:nfreq
24         d.Frequency(i) = f3.ReadDouble();
25     end
26     % Ports
27     ModeType = {'', 'd', 'c'};
28     for i = 1:nports
29         if (version < 3)
30             d.Ports{i} = num2str(f3.ReadInt32());
31         else
32             d.Ports{i} = [num2str(f3.ReadInt32()) ModeType{f3.ReadInt32()
33                 + 1}];
34         end
35     end
36     if (version == 1)
37         % Port Zr
38         for i = 1:nports
39             d.PortZr(i) = ReadComplexLinProp(f3);
40         end
41         % Data
42         for i1 = 1:nfreq
43             for i2 = 1:nports
44                 for i3 = 1:nports
45                     d.Data(i1, i2, i3) = ReadComplexLinProp(f3);
46                 end
47             end
48         end
49     elseif (version == 2 || version == 3)
50         % Flat Vector
51         v = ReadComplexFlatVectorLinProp(f3);
52         index = 1;
53         % PortsZr
54         for i = 1:nports
```



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```
54         d.PortZr(i) = v(index); index = index + 1;
55     end
56     % Data
57     for i1 = 1:nfreq
58         for i2 = 1:nports
59             for i3 = 1:nports
60                 d.Data(i1, i2, i3) = v(index); index = index + 1;
61             end
62         end
63     end
64 end
65 end
66 f3.Close();
67 end
68
69 function f3 = OpenFile(filepath)
70 % Open File
71 NET.addAssembly('System');
72 % File Stream
73 f1 = System.IO.FileStream(filepath, System.IO.FileMode.Open);
74 % Try if Stream is GZIP compressed
75 try
76     f2 = System.IO.Compression.GZipStream(f1,
77         System.IO.Compression.CompressionMode.Decompress);
78     f2.ReadByte();
79     f1.Position = 0;
80     f2 = System.IO.Compression.GZipStream(f1,
81         System.IO.Compression.CompressionMode.Decompress);
82     disp('GZIP compressed file')
83 catch
84     f1.Position = 0;
85     f2 = f1;
86     disp('Uncompressed file')
87 end
88 % Binary Reader
89 f3 = System.IO.BinaryReader(f2);
90 end
91
92 function c = ReadComplexLinProp(f3)
93 % Read ComplexLinProp using METAS UncLib
94 n = NET.createGeneric('Metas.UncLib.Core.Complex',
95     {'Metas.UncLib.LinProp.UncNumber'});
96 n.BinarySetDataFrom(f3);
97 c = LinProp(n);
98 end
99
100 function v = ReadComplexFlatVectorLinProp(f3)
101 % Read ComplexFlatVectorLinProp using METAS UncLib
102 list = Metas.UncLib.LinProp.UncList();
103 list.BinarySetDataFrom(f3);
104 n = NET.createGeneric('Metas.UncLib.Core.Ndims.RealNArray',
105     {'Metas.UncLib.LinProp.UncNumber'});
106 n.Init1dData(list.data);
107 r = LinProp(n);
108 v = r(1:2:end-1) + 1i.*r(2:2:end);
109 end
```



### 3 sdatx File Specification

The sdatx-file format is an XML file type developed by METAS. It's described using an XML schema. See <http://www.w3schools.com/schema/default.asp> for more details about XML schemas. The file can be written in a GZIP file stream to reduce the file size.

#### 3.1 XML Schema

The following listing shows the XML schema for 'SParamData':

```
1 <!-- definition of SParamData -->
2 <xs:element name="SParamData">
3   <xs:complexType>
4     <xs:sequence>
5       <xs:element ref="FrequencyList" />
6       <xs:element ref="PortList" />
7       <xs:element ref="PortZrList" />
8       <xs:element name="Data">
9         <xs:complexType>
10          <!-- Index 0: Frequency -->
11          <xs:sequence>
12            <xs:element maxOccurs="unbounded" name="Frequency">
13              <xs:complexType>
14                <!-- Index 1: Receiver Port -->
15                <xs:sequence>
16                  <xs:element maxOccurs="unbounded" name="ReceiverPort">
17                    <xs:complexType>
18                      <!-- Index 2: Source Port -->
19                      <xs:sequence>
20                        <xs:element maxOccurs="unbounded"
21                          name="SourcePort"
22                          type="ComplexUncNumberType" />
23                        </xs:sequence>
24                      </xs:complexType>
25                    </xs:element>
26                  </xs:sequence>
27                </xs:complexType>
28              </xs:element>
29            </xs:sequence>
30          </xs:complexType>
31        </xs:element>
32      </xs:sequence>
33    </xs:complexType>
34  </xs:element>
```

##### 3.1.1 Frequency and Port Lists

The following listing shows the XML schema for 'FrequencyList':

```
1 <!-- definition of FrequencyList -->
2 <xs:element name="FrequencyList">
3   <xs:complexType>
4     <xs:sequence>
5       <xs:element maxOccurs="unbounded" name="Frequency"
6         type="xs:double" />
```



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```
6     </xs:sequence>
7 </xs:complexType>
8 </xs:element>
```

The following listing shows the XML schema for 'PortList':

```
1 <!-- definition of PortList -->
2 <xs:element name="PortList">
3   <xs:complexType>
4     <xs:sequence>
5       <xs:element maxOccurs="unbounded" name="Port"
6         type="VnaPortDescriptionType" />
7     </xs:sequence>
8   </xs:complexType>
9 </xs:element>
```

The following listing shows the XML schema for 'VnaPortDescriptionType':

```
1 <!-- definition of VnaPortDescriptionType -->
2 <xs:simpleType name="VnaPortDescriptionType">
3   <xs:restriction base="xs:string">
4     <xs:pattern value="[0-9]+[sdc]?" />
5   </xs:restriction>
6 </xs:simpleType>
```

The following listing shows the XML schema for 'PortZrList':

```
1 <!-- definition of PortZrList -->
2 <xs:element name="PortZrList">
3   <xs:complexType>
4     <xs:sequence>
5       <xs:element maxOccurs="unbounded" name="PortZr"
6         type="ComplexUncNumberType" />
7     </xs:sequence>
8   </xs:complexType>
9 </xs:element>
```

### 3.1.2 Uncertainty Numbers

The following listing shows the XML schema for 'ComplexUncNumberType':

```
1 <!-- definition of ComplexUncNumberType -->
2 <xs:complexType name="ComplexUncNumberType">
3   <xs:sequence>
4     <xs:element name="Real" type="UncNumberType" />
5     <xs:element name="Imag" type="UncNumberType" />
6   </xs:sequence>
7 </xs:complexType>
```

The following listing shows the XML schema for 'UncNumberType':

```
1 <!-- definition of UncNumberType -->
2 <xs:complexType name="UncNumberType">
3   <xs:sequence>
4     <xs:element name="Value" type="xs:double" />
5     <xs:element name="Dependencies">
6       <xs:complexType>
7         <xs:sequence>
8           <xs:element minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"
9             name="DependsOn">
```



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```
9         <xs:complexType>
10         <xs:sequence>
11         <xs:element name="Input">
12         <xs:complexType>
13         <xs:sequence>
14         <xs:element name="Id" type="UncInputIdType" />
15         <xs:element name="Description" type="xs:string" />
16         <xs:element name="IDof" type="xs:double" />
17         </xs:sequence>
18         </xs:complexType>
19         </xs:element>
20         <xs:element name="Jacobi" type="xs:double" />
21         </xs:sequence>
22         </xs:complexType>
23         </xs:element>
24         </xs:sequence>
25         </xs:complexType>
26         </xs:element>
27         </xs:sequence>
28         </xs:complexType>
```

The following listing shows the XML schema for 'UncInputIdType':

```
1 <!-- definition of UncInputIdType -->
2 <xs:simpleType name="UncInputIdType">
3   <xs:restriction base="xs:string">
4     <xs:pattern value="([0-9a-fA-F][0-9a-fA-F][\-\-])+"/>
5   </xs:restriction>
6 </xs:simpleType>
```



### 4 sdatcv File Specification

The sdatcv-file format is an ASCII text file type developed by METAS. sdatcv-files consist of a header block followed by one or more sets of S-parameter data. For each frequency there is one set of data. It contains the values of the S-parameters and their covariance matrix. There are some general rules for sdatcv-files:

1. sdatcv-files contain only ASCII characters and the evaluation of sdatcv-files is case-insensitive.
2. Individual entries in a header or data line are separated by tabulator.
3. Header and data lines are terminated by a newline character (CR or CR/LF combination).
4. The decimal symbol for floating point values is the point (.) and not the comma (,), e.g.: 1.234567e-08. Note that digit-grouping symbols like (') are not allowed.
5. By convention, sdatcv-filenames use the file extension 'sdatcv'.

#### 4.1 Header Lines

Each sdatcv-file must contain a header block. The header block is formatted as follows:

```
1 SDATCV
2 Ports
3 1
4 Zr [1]re   Zr [1]im
5 50.0      0.0
6 Freq      S [1,1]re  S [1,1]im  CV [1,1]   CV [2,1]   CV [1,2]   CV [2,2]
```

Here the first header line defines that it is a sdatcv-file. The other five header lines are described in the following subsections.

##### 4.1.1 Port Assignment

The keyword 'Ports' in header line 2 initiates the port assignment. Header line 3 describes the used ports by a list of VNA port descriptions. A VNA port description consists of an integer port number and an optional letter which describes the port-mode. No letter or 's' denotes single-ended, 'd' is differential mode and 'c' is common mode.

##### 4.1.2 Reference Impedance

The reference impedance is described in header lines 4 and 5. For each port the reference impedance in Ohm is formatted as a pair of values (real-imaginary).

##### 4.1.3 Data Column Description

Header line 6 describes the data columns. The first column is the frequency column followed by the S-parameter data columns. These are formatted as pairs of values (real-imaginary).



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After the S-parameter columns follow the covariance columns. They are as well formatted as pairs of values. It's possible to specify only certain parts of the covariance matrix. For completing partially given covariance matrices, it's assumed that the matrix is symmetric. Values which can not be deduced from symmetry are set to zero. The following table describes the order of the S-parameters of a  $n$ -port in the covariance matrix:

Table 2: Order of the S-parameters in the covariance matrix

Parameter	Index	Parameter	Index	...	Parameter	Index
$S_{1,1re}$	1	$S_{1,2re}$	$2n + 1$	...	$S_{1,nre}$	$2n^2 - 2n + 1$
$S_{1,1im}$	2	$S_{1,2im}$	$2n + 2$	...	$S_{1,nim}$	$2n^2 - 2n + 2$
$S_{2,1re}$	3	$S_{2,2re}$	$2n + 3$	...	$S_{2,nre}$	$2n^2 - 2n + 3$
$S_{2,1im}$	4	$S_{2,2im}$	$2n + 4$	...	$S_{2,nim}$	$2n^2 - 2n + 4$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\ddots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$
$S_{n,1re}$	$2n - 1$	$S_{n,2re}$	$4n - 1$	...	$S_{n,nre}$	$2n^2 - 1$
$S_{n,1im}$	$2n$	$S_{n,2im}$	$4n$	...	$S_{n,nim}$	$2n^2$

E.g., the covariance of the real part of  $S_{1,1}$  and the imaginary part of  $S_{2,2}$  would be CV[1,8] for a two port device.

## 4.2 Data Lines

After the header lines follow the data sets. They contain the S-parameter data. Each data set starts with the frequency in Hz and ends with a newline character (CR or CR/LF combination). After the frequency follow the S-parameter and covariance data. These are formatted as pairs of values (real-imaginary). Each data set has to have as many entries as defined in the data column description. The data set have to be arranged in increasing order of frequency.

### 4.2.1 1-Port Example

The following example shows a sdatcv-file of a 1-port with a complete covariance matrix (correlation between real and imaginary parts):

```

1 SDATCV
2 Ports
3 1
4 Zr[1]re   Zr[1]im
5 50.0      0.0
6 Freq      S[1,1]re  S[1,1]im  CV[1,1]   CV[2,1]   CV[1,2]   CV[2,2]
7 1.00e+9   -9.16e-1  3.91e-1   1.39e-6   3.56e-7   3.56e-7   2.05e-6
8 2.00e+9   -6.90e-1  7.17e-1   1.98e-6   2.47e-7   2.47e-7   1.96e-6
9 3.00e+9   -3.55e-1  9.29e-1   2.58e-6   3.88e-7   3.88e-7   1.74e-6

```

**CV[1,1]** is the variance of the real part of  $S_{1,1}$ .

**CV[2,1] and CV[1,2]** describe the covariance between the real and imaginary parts of  $S_{1,1}$ .

**CV[2,2]** is the variance of the imaginary part of  $S_{1,1}$ .





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### 4.2.2 2-Port Examples

The following example shows a sdatcv-file of a 2-port with a reduced covariance matrix (correlation between real and imaginary parts, but no correlation between different S-parameters):

```
1 SDATCV
2 Ports
3 1      2
4 Zr[1]re Zr[1]im Zr[2]re Zr[2]im
5 50.0    0.0    50.0    0.0
6 Freq    S[1,1]re S[1,1]im S[2,1]re S[2,1]im S[1,2]re S[1,2]im
      S[2,2]re S[2,2]im CV[1,1] CV[2,1] CV[2,2] CV[3,3] CV[4,3]
      CV[3,4] CV[4,4] CV[5,5] CV[6,5] CV[5,6] CV[6,6] CV[7,7]
      CV[8,7] CV[7,8] CV[8,8]
7 1.00e+9 -3.72e-3 5.39e-3 2.35e-1 -2.13e-1 2.35e-1 -2.14e-1
      -3.90e-3 6.39e-3 8.00e-8 -1.32e-9 7.86e-8 4.48e-8 2.69e-8
      2.69e-8 4.98e-8 4.50e-8 2.70e-8 2.70e-8 5.00e-8 8.46e-8
      4.22e-11 4.22e-11 8.55e-8
8 2.00e+9 -4.99e-4 9.12e-3 3.05e-2 -3.15e-1 3.05e-2 -3.15e-1
      1.82e-3 8.80e-3 8.14e-8 -5.05e-10 7.97e-8 6.69e-8 4.46e-9
      4.46e-9 2.12e-8 6.74e-8 4.38e-9 4.38e-9 2.15e-8 8.06e-8
      9.99e-10 9.99e-10 8.25e-8
9 3.00e+9 3.81e-3 1.16e-2 -1.89e-1 -2.54e-1 -1.89e-1 -2.54e-1
      7.37e-3 7.74e-3 1.46e-7 6.52e-10 1.45e-7 4.72e-8 -1.88e-8
      -1.88e-8 3.59e-8 4.72e-8 -1.89e-8 -1.89e-8 3.59e-8 1.51e-7
      -7.87e-10 -7.87e-10 1.51e-7
```

**CV[1,1]** is the variance of the real part of  $S_{1,1}$ .

**CV[2,1] and CV[1,2]** describe the covariance between the real and imaginary parts of  $S_{1,1}$ .

**CV[2,2]** is the variance of the imaginary part of  $S_{1,1}$ .

**CV[3,3]** is the variance of the real part of  $S_{2,1}$ .

**CV[4,3] and CV[3,4]** describe the covariance between the real and imaginary parts of  $S_{2,1}$ .

**CV[4,4]** is the variance of the imaginary part of  $S_{2,1}$ .

**CV[5,5]** is the variance of the real part of  $S_{1,2}$ .

**CV[6,5] and CV[5,6]** describe the covariance between the real and imaginary parts of  $S_{1,2}$ .

**CV[6,6]** is the variance of the imaginary part of  $S_{1,2}$ .

**CV[7,7]** is the variance of the real part of  $S_{2,2}$ .

**CV[8,7] and CV[7,8]** describe the covariance between the real and imaginary parts of  $S_{2,2}$ .

**CV[8,8]** is the variance of the imaginary part of  $S_{2,2}$ .

The following example shows a sdatcv-file of a 2-port with a complete covariance matrix (correlation between real and imaginary parts of all S-parameters):



## METAS VNA Tools - Data Formats V2.4.3

```

1 SDATCV
2 Ports
3 1      2
4 Zr[1]re  Zr[1]im  Zr[2]re  Zr[2]im
5 50.0     0.0      50.0     0.0
6 Freq      S[1,1]re  S[1,1]im  S[2,1]re  S[2,1]im  S[1,2]re  S[1,2]im
   S[2,2]re  S[2,2]im  CV[1,1]   CV[2,1]   CV[3,1]   CV[4,1]   CV[5,1]
   CV[6,1]   CV[7,1]   CV[8,1]   CV[1,2]   CV[2,2]   CV[3,2]   CV[4,2]
   CV[5,2]   CV[6,2]   CV[7,2]   CV[8,2]   CV[1,3]   CV[2,3]   CV[3,3]
   CV[4,3]   CV[5,3]   CV[6,3]   CV[7,3]   CV[8,3]   CV[1,4]   CV[2,4]
   CV[3,4]   CV[4,4]   CV[5,4]   CV[6,4]   CV[7,4]   CV[8,4]   CV[1,5]
   CV[2,5]   CV[3,5]   CV[4,5]   CV[5,5]   CV[6,5]   CV[7,5]   CV[8,5]
   CV[1,6]   CV[2,6]   CV[3,6]   CV[4,6]   CV[5,6]   CV[6,6]   CV[7,6]
   CV[8,6]   CV[1,7]   CV[2,7]   CV[3,7]   CV[4,7]   CV[5,7]   CV[6,7]
   CV[7,7]   CV[8,7]   CV[1,8]   CV[2,8]   CV[3,8]   CV[4,8]   CV[5,8]
   CV[6,8]   CV[7,8]   CV[8,8]
7 1.00e+9   -3.72e-3  5.39e-3   2.35e-1   -2.13e-1  2.35e-1   -2.14e-1
   -3.90e-3  6.39e-3   8.00e-8   -1.32e-9  -9.15e-10 -2.38e-10 -1.30e-9
   5.48e-11  -2.13e-8  -4.74e-8  -1.32e-9  7.86e-8   -1.66e-9  -2.15e-9
   -1.91e-9  -2.48e-9  4.47e-8   -2.42e-8  -9.15e-10 -1.66e-9  4.48e-8
   2.69e-8   3.45e-8   2.79e-8   -1.49e-10 -7.61e-9  -2.38e-10 -2.15e-9
   2.69e-8   4.98e-8   2.80e-8   3.97e-8   3.21e-9   -7.84e-9  -1.30e-9
   -1.91e-9  3.45e-8   2.80e-8   4.50e-8   2.70e-8   5.68e-10 -7.06e-9
   5.48e-11  -2.48e-9  2.79e-8   3.97e-8   2.70e-8   5.00e-8   2.55e-9
   -7.22e-9  -2.13e-8  4.47e-8   -1.49e-10 3.21e-9   5.68e-10 2.55e-9
   8.46e-8   4.22e-11 -4.74e-8  -2.42e-8  -7.61e-9  -7.84e-9  -7.06e-9
   -7.22e-9  4.22e-11  8.55e-8
8 2.00e+9   -4.99e-4  9.12e-3   3.05e-2   -3.15e-1  3.05e-2   -3.15e-1
   1.82e-3   8.80e-3   8.14e-8   -5.05e-10 -1.21e-9  -2.87e-10 -1.58e-9
   -9.18e-10 -5.13e-8  2.08e-10  -5.05e-10 7.97e-8   -9.83e-10 2.11e-10
   -4.86e-10 -3.19e-10 -4.38e-9  -5.22e-8  -1.21e-9  -9.83e-10 6.69e-8
   4.46e-9   5.78e-8   4.67e-9  -2.97e-9  -4.73e-9  -2.87e-10 2.11e-10
   4.46e-9   2.12e-8   4.58e-9  1.01e-8   1.03e-9  -3.86e-10 -1.58e-9
   -4.86e-10 5.78e-8   4.58e-9  6.74e-8   4.38e-9  -2.53e-9  -4.32e-9
   -9.18e-10 -3.19e-10 4.67e-9  1.01e-8   4.38e-9  2.15e-8   5.67e-10
   4.68e-11 -5.13e-8  -4.38e-9  -2.97e-9  1.03e-9  -2.53e-9  5.67e-10
   8.06e-8   9.99e-10 2.08e-10  -5.22e-8  -4.73e-9  -3.86e-10 -4.32e-9
   4.68e-11 9.99e-10  8.25e-8
9 3.00e+9   3.81e-3  1.16e-2  -1.89e-1  -2.54e-1  -1.89e-1  -2.54e-1
   7.37e-3   7.74e-3   1.46e-7   6.52e-10  -9.51e-10 1.55e-9   -6.48e-10
   2.26e-9   -4.75e-8  2.02e-8   6.52e-10 1.45e-7   -1.75e-9  6.72e-10
   -2.51e-9  8.33e-10  -2.38e-8  -5.19e-8  -9.51e-10 -1.75e-9  4.72e-8
   -1.88e-8  3.74e-8   -1.98e-8  4.16e-9  -7.01e-9  1.55e-9  6.72e-10
   -1.88e-8  3.59e-8   -1.98e-8  2.55e-8  7.48e-10 6.13e-9  -6.48e-10
   -2.51e-9  3.74e-8   -1.98e-8  4.72e-8  -1.89e-8 3.44e-9  -6.72e-9
   2.26e-9  8.33e-10  -1.98e-8  2.55e-8  -1.89e-8 3.59e-8  3.21e-10
   5.44e-9  -4.75e-8  -2.38e-8  4.16e-9  7.48e-10 3.44e-9  3.21e-10
   1.51e-7  -7.87e-10 2.02e-8  -5.19e-8  -7.01e-9 6.13e-9  -6.72e-9
   5.44e-9  -7.87e-10 1.51e-7

```

### 4.3 Comment Lines

One can add comments to a sdatcv-file. Comments are always preceded by a percent sign (%). A comment can be the only entry on a line or can follow the data on any line.



### 5 Touchstone V1.x snp File Specification

The Touchstone snp-file format is an ASCII text file type developed by the EIA/IBIS Open Forum. For the Touchstone snp file specification see [https://ibis.org/connector/touchstone\\_spec11.pdf](https://ibis.org/connector/touchstone_spec11.pdf).

#### 5.1 Examples

The following example shows a Touchstone s1p-file of a 1-port:

```
1 # Hz S RI R 50.0
2 1.00e+9 -9.16e-1 3.91e-1
3 2.00e+9 -6.90e-1 7.17e-1
4 3.00e+9 -3.55e-1 9.29e-1
```

The following example shows a Touchstone s2p-file of a 2-port:

```
1 # Hz S RI R 50.0
2 1.00e+9 -3.72e-3 5.39e-3 2.35e-1 -2.13e-1 2.35e-1 -2.14e-1 -3.90e-3 6.39e-3
3 2.00e+9 -4.99e-4 9.12e-3 3.05e-2 -3.15e-1 3.05e-2 -3.15e-1 1.82e-3 8.80e-3
4 3.00e+9 3.81e-3 1.16e-2 -1.89e-1 -2.54e-1 -1.89e-1 -2.54e-1 7.37e-3
   7.74e-3
```



### 6 Touchstone V2.0 ts File Specification

The Touchstone ts-file format is an ASCII text file type developed by the EIA/IBIS Open Forum. For the Touchstone ts file specification see [https://ibis.org/touchstone\\_ver2.0/touchstone\\_ver2\\_0.pdf](https://ibis.org/touchstone_ver2.0/touchstone_ver2_0.pdf).

#### 6.1 Examples

The following example shows a Touchstone ts-file of a 1-port:

```
1 [Version] 2.0
2 # Hz S R I R 50.0
3 ! Metas.Vna.Tools, 2.1.6907.29753
4 ! Metas.Vna.Data, 2.1.6907.29469
5 ! Created: UTC 2018.11.30 07:25:08
6 [Number of Ports] 1
7 [Number of Frequencies] 3
8 [Reference]
9 50.0
10 [Network Data]
11 ! FREQ      re:S1,1   im:S1,1
12   1.00e+9   -9.16e-1   3.91e-1
13   2.00e+9   -6.90e-1   7.17e-1
14   3.00e+9   -3.55e-1   9.29e-1
15 [End]
```

The following example shows a Touchstone ts-file of a 2-port:

```
1 [Version] 2.0
2 # Hz S R I R 50.0
3 ! Metas.Vna.Tools, 2.1.6907.29753
4 ! Metas.Vna.Data, 2.1.6907.29469
5 ! Created: UTC 2018.11.30 07:25:20
6 [Number of Ports] 2
7 [Two-Port Data Order] 21_12
8 [Number of Frequencies] 3
9 [Reference]
10 50.0 50.0
11 [Network Data]
12 ! FREQ      re:S1,1   im:S1,1   re:S2,1   im:S2,1   re:S1,2   im:S1,2
13   re:S2,2   im:S2,2
14   1.00e+9   -3.72e-3   5.39e-3   2.35e-1   -2.13e-1   2.35e-1   -2.14e-1
15   -3.90e-3   6.39e-3
16   2.00e+9   -4.99e-4   9.12e-3   3.05e-2   -3.15e-1   3.05e-2   -3.15e-1
17   1.82e-3   8.80e-3
18   3.00e+9   3.81e-3   1.16e-2   -1.89e-1   -2.54e-1   -1.89e-1   -2.54e-1
19   7.37e-3   7.74e-3
20 [End]
```



### 7 vdatb File Specification

The vdatb-file format is a binary file type developed by METAS. The file can be written in a GZIP file stream to reduce the file size. The byte ordering is little-endian.

#### 7.1 Binary Structure Version 1

Version 1 of vdatb uses a GZIP file stream to reduce the file size. The following enumeration describes the binary structure of a vdatb-file:

1. Header (string), value: '%VDATA'
2. Version (int32), value: 1
3. Number of Frequencies (int32)
4. Number of Ports (int32)
5. Number of Parameters (int32)
6. Frequency List (double[]), size: number of frequencies
7. Ports (int32[]), size: number of ports
8. Port Impedance (ComplexUncNumber[]), size: number of ports
9. Data (VnaParameterData[]), size: number of parameters

For the definition of 'ComplexUncNumber' see section 2.1.1.

##### 7.1.1 VNA Parameter Data

The following enumeration describes the binary structure of 'VnaParameterData':

1. Parameter (VnaParameter)
2. Data (ComplexUncNumber[]), size: number of frequencies

##### 7.1.2 VNA Parameter

The following enumeration describes the binary structure of 'VnaParameter':

1. Numerator Receiver (ReceiverType)
2. Numerator Port (int32)
3. Denominator Receiver (ReceiverType)
4. Denominator Port (int32)
5. Source Port (int32)

'ReceiverType' is an enumeration represented by an integer where 0 is '1', 1 is the test receiver 'b' and 2 is the reference receiver 'a'.



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### 7.1.3 VNA Parameter Examples

Table 3 shows some examples of VNA Parameters. Where W1 is the switch term of port 1

Table 3: VNA Parameter

	S11	S21	S12	S22	W1	W2
Numerator Receiver	'b'	'b'	'b'	'b'	'a'	'a'
Numerator Port	1	2	1	2	1	2
Denominator Receiver	'a'	'a'	'a'	'a'	'b'	'b'
Denominator Port	1	1	2	2	1	2
Source Port	1	1	2	2	2	1

and W2 is the switch term of port 2

### 7.2 Binary Structure Version 2

Version 2 of vdatb is not using a GZIP file stream. The redundancy of the data is removed by storing uncertainty inputs in a look up table. The uncompressed file size of version 2 is comparable to the GZIP compressed file size of version 1 and about four times smaller than the uncompressed file size of version 1. Avoiding the GZIP step and reducing the uncompressed file size speeds up loading and saving of files. The following enumeration describes the binary structure of a vdatb-file:

1. Header (string), value: '%VDATA'
2. Version (int32), value: 2
3. Number of Frequencies (int32)
4. Number of Ports (int32)
5. Number of Parameters (int32)
6. Frequency List (double[]), size: number of frequencies
7. Ports (int32[]), size: number of ports
8. VNA Parameters (VnaParameter[]), size: number of parameters
9. Flat Vector (UncNumber[]), size:  $2N_{Ports} + 2N_{Parameters}N_{Freq}$

The last element contains the port impedance and the data mapped to a flat vector of uncertainty numbers.

For the definition of 'VnaParameter' see section 7.1.2. For the definition of 'Flat Vector of Uncertainty Numbers' see section 2.2.1.



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### 7.3 Binary Structure Version 3

Version 2 of vdatb is an extension to version 2 which adds support for mixed-mode parameters. The following enumeration describes the binary structure of a vdatb-file:

1. Header (string), value: '%VDATA'
2. Version (int32), value: 2
3. Number of Frequencies (int32)
4. Number of Ports (int32)
5. Number of Parameters (int32)
6. Frequency List (double[]), size: number of frequencies
7. Ports (VnaPortDescription[]), size: number of ports
8. VNA Parameters (VnaParameter[]), size: number of parameters
9. Flat Vector (UncNumber[]), size:  $2N_{Ports} + 2N_{Parameters}N_{Freq}$

The last element contains the port impedance and the data mapped to a flat vector of uncertainty numbers.

For the definition of 'VnaPortDescription' see section 2.3.1. For the definition of 'VnaParameter' see section 7.1.2. For the definition of 'Flat Vector of Uncertainty Numbers' see section 2.2.1.

### 7.4 Example MATLAB Code

The following code shows how to load a vdatb-file in MATLAB:

```
1 function d = LoadVDATB(filepath)
2 % Loads VNA Tools II VnaData (*.vdatb) file
3 % Michael Wollensack METAS - 10.09.2018
4
5 d = {};
6 f3 = OpenFile(filepath);
7 % Type
8 type = char(f3.ReadString());
9 % Version
10 version = int32(f3.ReadInt32());
11 disp(['Type: ' type ', Version: ' num2str(version)])
12 if (strcmp(type, '%VDATA') && (1 <= version || version <= 3))
13     % Number of Frequencies
14     nfreq = f3.ReadInt32();
15     % Number of Ports
16     nports = f3.ReadInt32();
17     % Number of Parameters
18     nparams = f3.ReadInt32();
19     % Init
20     d.Frequency = zeros(1, nfreq);
21     d.Ports = cell(1, nports);
22     d.PortZr = LinProp(zeros(1, nports));
23     d.VnaParameter = cell(1, nparams);
```



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---

```
24     d.Data = LinProp(zeros(nfreq, nparams));
25     % Frequency (Hz)
26     for i = 1:nfreq
27         d.Frequency(i) = f3.ReadDouble();
28     end
29     % Ports
30     ModeType = {'', 'd', 'c'};
31     for i = 1:nports
32         d.Ports{i} = ReadPort(f3, version);
33     end
34     if (version == 1)
35         % Port Zr
36         for i = 1:nports
37             d.PortZr(i) = ReadComplexLinProp(f3);
38         end
39         % VnaParameterData
40         for i2 = 1:nparams
41             % VnaParameter
42             d.VnaParameter{i2} = ReadVnaParameter(f3, version);
43             % Data
44             for i1 = 1:nfreq
45                 d.Data(i1, i2) = ReadComplexLinProp(f3);
46             end
47         end
48     elseif (version == 2 || version == 3)
49         % VnaParameter
50         for i2 = 1:nparams
51             d.VnaParameter{i2} = ReadVnaParameter(f3, version);
52         end
53         % Flat Vector
54         v = ReadComplexFlatVectorLinProp(f3);
55         index = 1;
56         % PortsZr
57         for i = 1:nports
58             d.PortZr(i) = v(index); index = index + 1;
59         end
60         % Data
61         for i2 = 1:nparams
62             for i1 = 1:nfreq
63                 d.Data(i1, i2) = v(index); index = index + 1;
64             end
65         end
66     end
67 end
68 f3.Close();
69 end
70
71 function p = ReadPort(f3, version)
72 % Read Port
73 ModeType = {'', 'd', 'c'};
74 if (version < 3)
75     p = num2str(f3.ReadInt32());
76 else
77     p = [num2str(f3.ReadInt32()) ModeType{f3.ReadInt32() + 1}];
78 end
79 end
80
```





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---

```
81 function p = ReadVnaParameter(f3, version)
82 % Read VNA Parameter
83 RcvType = {1, 'b', 'a'};
84 p = {};
85 p.NumRec = RcvType{f3.ReadInt32() + 1};
86 p.NumPort = ReadPort(f3, version);
87 p.DenRec = RcvType{f3.ReadInt32() + 1};
88 p.DenPort = ReadPort(f3, version);
89 p.SrcPort = ReadPort(f3, version);
90 end
91
92 function f3 = OpenFile(filepath)
93 % Open File
94 NET.addAssembly('System');
95 % File Stream
96 f1 = System.IO.FileStream(filepath, System.IO.FileMode.Open);
97 % Try if Stream is GZIP compressed
98 try
99     f2 = System.IO.Compression.GZipStream(f1,
100         System.IO.Compression.CompressionMode.Decompress);
101     f2.ReadByte();
102     f1.Position = 0;
103     f2 = System.IO.Compression.GZipStream(f1,
104         System.IO.Compression.CompressionMode.Decompress);
105     disp('GZIP compressed file')
106 catch
107     f1.Position = 0;
108     f2 = f1;
109     disp('Uncompressed file')
110 end
111 % Binary Reader
112 f3 = System.IO.BinaryReader(f2);
113 end
114
115 function c = ReadComplexLinProp(f3)
116 % Read ComplexLinProp using METAS UncLib
117 n = NET.createGeneric('Metas.UncLib.Core.Complex',
118     {'Metas.UncLib.LinProp.UncNumber'});
119 n.BinarySetDataFrom(f3);
120 c = LinProp(n);
121 end
122
123 function v = ReadComplexFlatVectorLinProp(f3)
124 % Read ComplexFlatVectorLinProp using METAS UncLib
125 list = Metas.UncLib.LinProp.UncList();
126 list.BinarySetDataFrom(f3);
127 n = NET.createGeneric('Metas.UncLib.Core.Ndims.RealNArray',
128     {'Metas.UncLib.LinProp.UncNumber'});
129 n.Init1dData(list.data);
130 r = LinProp(n);
131 v = r(1:2:end-1) + 1i.*r(2:2:end);
132 end
```



### 8 vdatx File Specification

The vdatx-file format is an XML file type developed by METAS. It's described using an XML schema. See <http://www.w3schools.com/schema/default.asp> for more details about XML schemas. The file can be written in a GZIP file stream to reduce the file size.

#### 8.1 XML Schema

The following listing shows the XML schema for 'VnaData':

```
1 <!-- definition of VnaData -->
2 <xs:element name="VnaData">
3   <xs:complexType>
4     <xs:sequence>
5       <xs:element ref="FrequencyList" />
6       <xs:element ref="PortList" />
7       <xs:element ref="PortZrList" />
8       <xs:element name="ParameterDataList">
9         <xs:complexType>
10          <xs:sequence>
11            <xs:element maxOccurs="unbounded" name="ParameterData">
12              <xs:complexType>
13                <xs:sequence>
14                  <xs:element name="Parameter" type="VnaParameterType" />
15                  <xs:element name="Data">
16                    <xs:complexType>
17                      <!-- Index: Frequency -->
18                      <xs:sequence>
19                        <xs:element maxOccurs="unbounded"
20                          name="Frequency" type="ComplexUncNumberType"
21                          />
22                      </xs:sequence>
23                    </xs:complexType>
24                  </xs:element>
25                </xs:sequence>
26              </xs:complexType>
27            </xs:element>
28          </xs:sequence>
29        </xs:complexType>
30      </xs:element>
31    </xs:sequence>
```

For the definition of 'FrequencyList', 'PortList', 'PortZrList' and 'ComplexUncNumberType' see section 3.1.1 and 3.1.2.

##### 8.1.1 VNA Parameter Description

The following listing shows the XML schema for 'VnaParameterType':

```
1 <!-- definition of VnaParameterType -->
2 <xs:complexType name="VnaParameterType">
3   <xs:sequence>
4     <xs:element name="NumRcv" type="ReceiverType" />
5     <xs:element name="NumPort" type="xs:integer" />
```



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---

```
6         <xs:element name="DenRcv" type="ReceiverType" />
7         <xs:element name="DenPort" type="xs:integer" />
8         <xs:element name="SrcPort" type="xs:integer" />
9     </xs:sequence>
10 </xs:complexType>
```

The following listing shows the XML schema for 'ReceiverType':

```
1 <!-- defintion of ReceiverType-->
2 <xs:simpleType name="ReceiverType">
3     <xs:restriction base="xs:string">
4         <xs:enumeration value="1"/>
5         <xs:enumeration value="b"/><!-- Test Receiver -->
6         <xs:enumeration value="a"/><!-- Reference Receiver -->
7     </xs:restriction>
8 </xs:simpleType>
```



### 9 vdatcv File Specification

The vdatcv-file format is an ASCII text file type developed by METAS. vdatcv-files consist of a header block followed by one or more sets of VNA parameter data. For each frequency there is one set of data. It contains the values of arbitrary receiver ratios or single receivers and their covariance matrix. There are some general rules for vdatcv-files:

1. vdatcv-files contain only ASCII characters and the evaluation of vdatcv-files is case-insensitive.
2. Individual entries in a header or data line are separated by tabulator.
3. Header and data lines are terminated by a newline character (CR or CR/LF combination).
4. The decimal symbol for floating point values is the point (.) and not the comma (,), e.g.: 1.234567e-08. Note that digit-grouping symbols like (') are not allowed.
5. By convention, vdatcv-filenames use the file extension 'vdatcv'.

#### 9.1 Header Lines

Each vdatcv-file must contain a header block. The header block is formatted as follows:

```
1 VDATCV
2 Ports
3 1
4 Zr [1]re   Zr [1]im
5 50.0      0.0
6 Freq      a1/b1,2re a1/b1,2im CV [1,1]   CV [2,1]   CV [2,2]
```

Here the first header line defines that it is a vdatcv-file. The other five header lines are described in the following subsections.

##### 9.1.1 Port Assignment

The keyword 'Ports' in header line 2 initiates the port assignment. Header line 3 describes the used ports by a list of VNA port descriptions. A VNA port description consists of an integer port number and an optional letter which describes the port-mode. No letter or 's' denotes single-ended, 'd' is differential mode and 'c' is common mode.

##### 9.1.2 Reference Impedance

The reference impedance is described in header lines 4 and 5. For each port the reference impedance in Ohm is formatted as a pair of values (real-imaginary).

##### 9.1.3 Data Column Description

Header line 6 describes the data columns. The first column is the frequency column followed by the VNA parameter data columns. These are formatted as pairs of values (real-imaginary). Table 4 describes some examples of valid VNA parameters.



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Table 4: Examples of valid VNA parameters

Parameter	Description
'S[1,1]'	S-Parameter, reflection at port 1
'S[2,1]'	S-Parameter, transmission from port 1 to port 2
'b1,1'	Test receiver of port 1 when the source is switched to port 1
'b2,1'	Test receiver of port 2 when the source is switched to port 1
'a1,1'	Reference receiver of port 1 when the source is switched to port 1
'a1/b1,2'	Ratio of reference to test receivers of port 1 when the source is switched to port 2

After the parameter columns follow the covariance columns. They are as well formatted as pairs of values. It's possible to specify only certain parts of the covariance matrix. For completing partially given covariance matrices, it's assumed that the matrix is symmetric. Values which can not be deduced from symmetry are set to zero.

### 9.2 Data Lines

After the header lines follow the data sets. They contain the parameter data. Each data set starts with the frequency in Hz and ends with a newline character (CR or CR/LF combination). After the frequency follow the parameter and covariance data.

These are formatted as pairs of values (real-imaginary). Each data set has to have as many entries as defined in the data column description. The data set have to be arranged in increasing order of frequency.

#### 9.2.1 Example

The following example shows a vdatcv-file with one parameter and its covariance:

```

1 VDATCV
2 Ports
3 1
4 Zr [1] re   Zr [1] im
5 50.0        0.0
6 Freq       a1/b1,2re a1/b1,2im CV [1,1]   CV [2,1]   CV [2,2]
7 1.00e+9    -9.16e-2  3.91e-2  1.39e-6   3.56e-7   2.05e-6
8 2.00e+9    -6.90e-2  7.17e-2  1.98e-6   2.47e-7   1.96e-6
9 3.00e+9    -3.55e-2  9.29e-2  2.58e-6   3.88e-7   1.74e-6

```

**CV[1,1]** is the variance of the real part of the receiver ratio  $\frac{a_1}{b_1}$  when the source is switched to port 2.

**CV[2,1]** describe the covariance between the real and imaginary parts of the receiver ratio  $\frac{a_1}{b_1}$  when the source is switched to port 2.

**CV[2,2]** is the variance of the imaginary part of the receiver ratio  $\frac{a_1}{b_1}$  when the source is switched to port 2.



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---

### **9.3 Comment Lines**

One can add comments to a vdatcv-file. Comments are always preceded by a percent sign (%). A comment can be the only entry on a line or can follow the data on any line.



### 10 CITI File Specification

The CITI-file format is an ASCII text file type developed by Agilent. For the CITI file specification see:

- <http://na.support.keysight.com/pna/dbcal.html>
- <http://literature.cdn.keysight.com/litweb/pdf/ads2001/pdf/instrumentio.pdf>
- [http://na.support.keysight.com/vna/help/latest/S5\\_Output/SaveRecall.htm#cti](http://na.support.keysight.com/vna/help/latest/S5_Output/SaveRecall.htm#cti)
- <http://hermes.eee.nott.ac.uk/teaching/ads/doc/cktsim/ck0419.html>

#### 10.1 Examples

The following example shows a CITI-file of a 1-port:

```
1 CITIFILE A.01.01
2 NAME DATA
3 VAR FREQ MAG 3
4 DATA S[1,1] RI
5 DATA U[1,1] RI
6 VAR_LIST_BEGIN
7 1.0000000000e+009
8 2.0000000000e+009
9 3.0000000000e+009
10 VAR_LIST_END
11 BEGIN
12 -9.1600000000e-001,3.9100000000e-001
13 -6.9000000000e-001,7.1700000000e-001
14 -3.5500000000e-001,9.2900000000e-001
15 END
16 BEGIN
17 2.3579652245e-003,2.8635642127e-003
18 2.8142494559e-003,2.8000000000e-003
19 3.2124756808e-003,2.6381811917e-003
20 END
```

The following example shows a CITI-file of a 2-port:

```
1 CITIFILE A.01.01
2 NAME DATA
3 VAR FREQ MAG 3
4 DATA S[1,1] RI
5 DATA U[1,1] RI
6 DATA S[2,1] RI
7 DATA U[2,1] RI
8 DATA S[1,2] RI
9 DATA U[1,2] RI
10 DATA S[2,2] RI
11 DATA U[2,2] RI
12 VAR_LIST_BEGIN
13 1.0000000000e+009
14 2.0000000000e+009
15 3.0000000000e+009
16 VAR_LIST_END
17 BEGIN
```



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---

```
18 -3.7200000000e-003,5.3900000000e-003
19 -4.9900000000e-004,9.1200000000e-003
20 3.8100000000e-003,1.1600000000e-002
21 END
22 BEGIN
23 5.6568542495e-004,5.6071380159e-004
24 5.7061365532e-004,5.6462376854e-004
25 7.6419847665e-004,7.6157671523e-004
26 END
27 BEGIN
28 2.3500000000e-001,-2.1300000000e-001
29 3.0500000000e-002,-3.1500000000e-001
30 -1.8900000000e-001,-2.5400000000e-001
31 END
32 BEGIN
33 4.2332020977e-004,4.4631815719e-004
34 5.1730068626e-004,2.9120439557e-004
35 4.3451121965e-004,3.7894590643e-004
36 END
37 BEGIN
38 2.3500000000e-001,-2.1400000000e-001
39 3.0500000000e-002,-3.1500000000e-001
40 -1.8900000000e-001,-2.5400000000e-001
41 END
42 BEGIN
43 4.2426406871e-004,4.4721359550e-004
44 5.1923019943e-004,2.9325756597e-004
45 4.3451121965e-004,3.7894590643e-004
46 END
47 BEGIN
48 -3.9000000000e-003,6.3900000000e-003
49 1.8200000000e-003,8.8000000000e-003
50 7.3700000000e-003,7.7400000000e-003
51 END
52 BEGIN
53 5.8172158289e-004,5.8480766069e-004
54 5.6780278266e-004,5.7445626465e-004
55 7.7717384603e-004,7.7717423771e-004
56 END
```





### 11 scolb File Specification

The METAS scolb file format is a zip file which contains multiple sdatb files, see section 2.

### 12 scolcv File Specification

The scolcv-file format is an ASCII text file type developed by METAS. scolcv-files consist of a header block followed by one or more sets of S-parameter data of multiple standards. For each frequency there is one set of data. It contains the values of the S-parameters of multiple standards and their covariance matrix. There are some general rules for scolcv-files:

1. scolcv-files contain only ASCII characters and the evaluation of scolcv-files is case-insensitive.
2. Individual entries in a header or data line are separated by tabulator.
3. Header and data lines are terminated by a newline character (CR or CR/LF combination).
4. The decimal symbol for floating point values is the point (.) and not the comma (,), e.g.: 1.234567e-08. Note that digit-grouping symbols like (') are not allowed.
5. By convention, scolcv-filenames use the file extension 'scolcv'.

#### 12.1 Header Lines

Each scolcv-file must contain a header block. The header block is formatted as follows:

```
1 SCOLCV
2 -----
3 Number
4 1
5 Name
6 Standard_01
7 Ports
8 1
9 Zr[1]re   Zr[1]im
10 50.0      0.0
11 -----
12 Number
13 2
14 Name
15 Standard_02
16 Ports
17 1
18 Zr[1]re   Zr[1]im
19 50.0      0.0
20 -----
21 Freq      1:S[1,1]re      1:S[1,1]im      2:S[1,1]re
           2:S[1,1]im      CV[1,1]      CV[2,1]      CV[3,1]      CV[4,1]      CV[2,2]
           CV[3,2]      CV[4,2]      CV[3,3]      CV[4,3]      CV[4,4]
```

Here the first header line defines that it is a scolcv-file. The other header lines are described in the following subsections.



## METAS VNA Tools - Data Formats V2.4.3

---

### 12.1.1 Number

The keyword 'Number' in header line  $9(i - 1) + 3$  initiates the number. Header line  $9(i - 1) + 4$  describes the current standard  $i$ .

### 12.1.2 Name

The name of the current standard is described in header lines  $9(i - 1) + 5$  and  $9(i - 1) + 6$ .

### 12.1.3 Port Assignment

The keyword 'Ports' in header line  $9(i - 1) + 7$  initiates the port assignment. Header line  $9(i - 1) + 8$  describes the used ports of the current standard by a list of VNA port descriptions. A VNA port description consists of an integer port number and an optional letter which describes the port-mode. No letter or 's' denotes single-ended, 'd' is differential mode and 'c' is common mode.

### 12.1.4 Reference Impedance

The reference impedance of the current standard is described in header lines  $9(i - 1) + 9$  and  $9(i - 1) + 10$ . For each port the reference impedance in Ohm is formatted as a pair of values (real-imaginary).

### 12.1.5 Data Column Description

The last header line describes the data columns. The first column is the frequency column followed by the S-parameter data columns of all standards. These are formatted as pairs of values (real-imaginary).

After the S-parameter columns follow the covariance columns. They are as well formatted as pairs of values. It's possible to specify only certain parts of the covariance matrix. For completing partially given covariance matrices, it's assumed that the matrix is symmetric. Values which can not be deduced from symmetry are set to zero.

## 12.2 Data Lines

After the header lines follow the data sets. They contain the S-parameter data. Each data set starts with the frequency in Hz and ends with a newline character (CR or CR/LF combination). After the frequency follow the S-parameter and covariance data. These are formatted as pairs of values (real-imaginary). Each data set has to have as many entries as defined in the data column description. The data set have to be arranged in increasing order of frequency.

### 12.2.1 Example

The following example shows a scolcv-file of two 1-port standards and their covariance matrix:

```
1 SCOLCV
2 -----
3 Number
4 1
```



## METAS VNA Tools - Data Formats V2.4.3

---

```

5 Name
6 Standard_01
7 Ports
8 1
9 Zr[1]re    Zr[1]im
10 50.0      0.0
11 -----
12 Number
13 2
14 Name
15 Standard_02
16 Ports
17 1
18 Zr[1]re    Zr[1]im
19 50.0      0.0
20 -----
21 Freq      1:S[1,1]re      1:S[1,1]im      2:S[1,1]re
      2:S[1,1]im      CV[1,1]    CV[2,1]    CV[3,1]    CV[4,1]    CV[2,2]
      CV[3,2]    CV[4,2]    CV[3,3]    CV[4,3]    CV[4,4]
22 1.00E+09  -3.72E-03  5.39E-03  -3.90E-03  6.39E-03  8.00E-08  -1.32E-09
      -2.13E-08  -4.74E-08  7.86E-08  4.47E-08  -2.42E-08  8.46E-08  4.22E-11
      8.55E-08
23 2.00E+09  -4.99E-04  9.12E-03  1.82E-03  8.80E-03  8.14E-08  -5.05E-10
      -5.13E-08  2.08E-10  7.97E-08  -4.38E-09  -5.22E-08  8.06E-08  9.99E-10
      8.25E-08
24 3.00E+09  3.81E-03  1.16E-02  7.37E-03  7.74E-03  1.46E-07  6.50E-10
      -4.75E-08  2.02E-08  1.45E-07  -2.38E-08  -5.19E-08  1.51E-07  -7.87E-10
      1.51E-07

```

**CV[1,1]** is the variance of the real part of  $S_{1,1}$  of standard 1.

**CV[2,1]** describe the covariance between the real and imaginary parts of  $S_{1,1}$  of standard 1.

**CV[3,1]** describe the covariance between standards 1 and 2 of the real parts of  $S_{1,1}$ .

**CV[4,1]** describe the covariance between standard 1 real part and standard 2 imaginary part of  $S_{1,1}$ .

**CV[2,2]** is the variance of the imaginary part of  $S_{1,1}$  of standard 1.

**CV[3,2]** describe the covariance between standard 1 imaginary part and standard 2 real part of  $S_{1,1}$ .

**CV[4,2]** describe the covariance between standards 1 and 2 of the imaginary parts of  $S_{1,1}$ .

**CV[3,3]** is the variance of the real part of  $S_{1,1}$  of standard 2.

**CV[4,3]** describe the covariance between the real and imaginary parts of  $S_{1,1}$  of standard 2.

**CV[4,4]** is the variance of the imaginary part of  $S_{1,1}$  of standard 2.

### 12.3 Comment Lines

One can add comments to a scolcv-file. Comments are always preceded by a percent sign (%). A comment can be the only entry on a line or can follow the data on any line.



### 13 vcolb File Specification

The METAS vcolb file format is a zip file which contains multiple vdatb files, see section 7.

### 14 vcolcv File Specification

The vcolcv-file format is an ASCII text file type developed by METAS. vcolcv-files consist of a header block followed by one or more sets of VNA parameter data of multiple standards. For each frequency there is one set of data. It contains the values of arbitrary receiver ratios or single receivers of multiple standards and their covariance matrix. There are some general rules for vcolcv-files:

1. vcolcv-files contain only ASCII characters and the evaluation of vcolcv-files is case-insensitive.
2. Individual entries in a header or data line are separated by tabulator.
3. Header and data lines are terminated by a newline character (CR or CR/LF combination).
4. The decimal symbol for floating point values is the point (.) and not the comma (,), e.g.: 1.234567e-08. Note that digit-grouping symbols like (') are not allowed.
5. By convention, vcolcv-filenames use the file extension 'vcolcv'.

#### 14.1 Header Lines

Each vcolcv-file must contain a header block. The header block is formatted as follows:

```
1 VC0LCV
2 -----
3 Number
4 1
5 Name
6 Standard_01
7 Ports
8 1
9 Zr [1] re    Zr [1] im
10 50.0        0.0
11 -----
12 Number
13 2
14 Name
15 Standard_02
16 Ports
17 1
18 Zr [1] re    Zr [1] im
19 50.0        0.0
20 -----
21 Freq          1: S [1, 1] re          1: S [1, 1] im          2: S [1, 1] re
                2: S [1, 1] im          CV [1, 1]          CV [2, 1]          CV [3, 1]          CV [4, 1]          CV [2, 2]
                CV [3, 2]          CV [4, 2]          CV [3, 3]          CV [4, 3]          CV [4, 4]
```



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---

Here the first header line defines that it is a vcolcv-file. The other header lines are described in the following subsections.

### 14.1.1 Number

The keyword 'Number' in header line  $9(i-1)+3$  initiates the number. Header line  $9(i-1)+4$  describes the current standard  $i$ .

### 14.1.2 Name

The name of the current standard is described in header lines  $9(i-1)+5$  and  $9(i-1)+6$ .

### 14.1.3 Port Assignment

The keyword 'Ports' in header line  $9(i-1)+7$  initiates the port assignment. Header line  $9(i-1)+8$  describes the used ports of the current standard by a list of VNA port descriptions. A VNA port description consists of an integer port number and an optional letter which describes the port-mode. No letter or 's' denotes single-ended, 'd' is differential mode and 'c' is common mode.

### 14.1.4 Reference Impedance

The reference impedance of the current standard is described in header lines  $9(i-1)+9$  and  $9(i-1)+10$ . For each port the reference impedance in Ohm is formatted as a pair of values (real-imaginary).

### 14.1.5 Data Column Description

The last header line describes the data columns. The first column is the frequency column followed by the VNA parameter data columns of all standards. These are formatted as pairs of values (real-imaginary). Table 5 describes some examples of valid VNA parameters for multiple standards.

After the parameter data columns follow the covariance columns. They are as well formatted as pairs of values. It's possible to specify only certain parts of the covariance matrix. For completing partially given covariance matrices, it's assumed that the matrix is symmetric. Values which can not be deduced from symmetry are set to zero.

## 14.2 Data Lines

After the header lines follow the data sets. They contain the parameter data. Each data set starts with the frequency in Hz and ends with a newline character (CR or CR/LF combination). After the frequency follow the parameter and covariance data. These are formatted as pairs of values (real-imaginary). Each data set has to have as many entries as defined in the data column description. The data set have to be arranged in increasing order of frequency.



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Table 5: Examples of valid VNA parameters for multiple standards

Parameter	Description
'1:S[1,1]'	S-Parameter, reflection at port 1 of standard 1
'2:S[1,1]'	S-Parameter, reflection at port 1 of standard 2
'1:S[2,1]'	S-Parameter, transmission from port 1 to port 2 of standard 1
'2:S[2,1]'	S-Parameter, transmission from port 1 to port 2 of standard 2
'1:b1,1'	Test receiver of port 1 when the source is switched to port 1 of standard 1
'2:b1,1'	Test receiver of port 1 when the source is switched to port 1 of standard 2
'1:b2,1'	Test receiver of port 2 when the source is switched to port 1 of standard 1
'2:b2,1'	Test receiver of port 2 when the source is switched to port 1 of standard 2
'1:a1,1'	Reference receiver of port 1 when the source is switched to port 1 of standard 1
'2:a1,1'	Reference receiver of port 1 when the source is switched to port 1 of standard 2
'1:a1/b1,2'	Ratio of reference to test receivers of port 1 when the source is switched to port 2 of standard 1

### 14.2.1 Example

The following example shows a vcolcv-file of two 1-port standards and their covariance matrix:

```

1  VC0LCV
2  -----
3  Number
4  1
5  Name
6  Standard_01
7  Ports
8  1
9  Zr[1]re    Zr[1]im
10 50.0        0.0
11 -----
12 Number
13 2
14 Name
15 Standard_02
16 Ports
17 1
18 Zr[1]re    Zr[1]im
19 50.0        0.0
20 -----
21 Freq      1:S[1,1]re    1:S[1,1]im    2:S[1,1]re
      2:S[1,1]im    CV[1,1]    CV[2,1]    CV[3,1]    CV[4,1]    CV[2,2]
      CV[3,2]    CV[4,2]    CV[3,3]    CV[4,3]    CV[4,4]
22 1.00E+09  -3.72E-03  5.39E-03  -3.90E-03  6.39E-03  8.00E-08  -1.32E-09
      -2.13E-08  -4.74E-08  7.86E-08  4.47E-08  -2.42E-08  8.46E-08  4.22E-11
      8.55E-08
23 2.00E+09  -4.99E-04  9.12E-03  1.82E-03  8.80E-03  8.14E-08  -5.05E-10
      -5.13E-08  2.08E-10  7.97E-08  -4.38E-09  -5.22E-08  8.06E-08  9.99E-10
      8.25E-08
24 3.00E+09  3.81E-03  1.16E-02  7.37E-03  7.74E-03  1.46E-07  6.50E-10
      -4.75E-08  2.02E-08  1.45E-07  -2.38E-08  -5.19E-08  1.51E-07  -7.87E-10
      1.51E-07

```



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---

**CV[1,1]** is the variance of the real part of  $S_{1,1}$  of standard 1.

**CV[2,1]** describe the covariance between the real and imaginary parts of  $S_{1,1}$  of standard 1.

**CV[3,1]** describe the covariance between standards 1 and 2 of the real parts of  $S_{1,1}$ .

**CV[4,1]** describe the covariance between standard 1 real part and standard 2 imaginary part of  $S_{1,1}$ .

**CV[2,2]** is the variance of the imaginary part of  $S_{1,1}$  of standard 1.

**CV[3,2]** describe the covariance between standard 1 imaginary part and standard 2 real part of  $S_{1,1}$ .

**CV[4,2]** describe the covariance between standards 1 and 2 of the imaginary parts of  $S_{1,1}$ .

**CV[3,3]** is the variance of the real part of  $S_{1,1}$  of standard 2.

**CV[4,3]** describe the covariance between the real and imaginary parts of  $S_{1,1}$  of standard 2.

**CV[4,4]** is the variance of the imaginary part of  $S_{1,1}$  of standard 2.

### 14.3 Comment Lines

One can add comments to a vcolcv-file. Comments are always preceded by a percent sign (%). A comment can be the only entry on a line or can follow the data on any line.



### A ZIP File with Embedded Data Files

Table 6 shows the supported file types for embedded data files in a ZIP file.

Table 6: File types

Description	Extension
S-Parameter Data Binary	(.sdatb)
S-Parameter Data Xml	(.sdatx)
S-Parameter Data Covariance Text	(.sdatcv)
S-Parameter Data Touchstone	(.s*p;.ts)
VNA Data Binary	(.vdatb)
VNA Data Xml	(.vdatx)
VNA Data Covariance Text	(.vdatcv)
VNA Data CITI	(.cti;.citi)

### B PDF file with Embedded Data Files

The supported file types for embedded data files in PDF file are the same like for a ZIP file, see appendix A and table 6.

#### B.1 Example

The following  $\LaTeX$ -code generates an example of a PDF/A-3u with two embedded data files:

```
1 \documentclass{minimal}
2
3 \usepackage[a-3u]{pdfx}
4 \usepackage{embedfile}
5 \newcommand{\datafile}[2]
6 {
7   \embedfile[
8     filespec={#2},
9     ucfilespec={#2},
10    filesystem=URL,
11    mimetype=application/octet-stream,
12    desc={#2},stringmethod=escape]{#1#2}
13 }
14 % missing /AF entry and /AFRelationship entry, see
15 % https://tex.stackexchange.com/q/426385/139832
16
17
18 \datafile{Collection/}{Standard_01.sdatb}
19 \datafile{Collection/}{Standard_02.sdatb}
20
21 \begin{document}
22 See the embedded data files ...
23 \end{document}
```