PSpice® Advanced Analysis User's Guide

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Before you begin

Welcome

Advanced Analysis allows PSpice and PSpice A/D users to optimize performance and improve quality of designs before committing them to hardware. Advanced Analysis' four important capabilities: sensitivity analysis, optimization, yield analysis (Monte Carlo), and stress analysis (Smoke) address design complexity as well as price, performance, and quality requirements of circuit design.

Advanced Analysis is integrated with OrCAD Capture and is available on Windows 98, Windows NT, and Windows 2000 platforms.

How to use this guide

This guide is designed to make the most of the advantages of onscreen books. The table of contents, index, and cross references provide instant links to the information you need. Just click on the text and jump.

Each chapter about an Advanced Analysis tool is self-contained. The chapters are organized into these sections:

- Overview: introduces you to the tool
- Strategy: gives you tips on planning your project
- Procedure: lists each step you need to successfully apply the tool
- Example: lists the same steps with an illustrating example
- For power users: provides background information

If you find printed paper helpful, print only the section you need at the time. When you want an in-depth tutorial, print the example. When you want a quick reminder of a procedure, print the procedure.

Symbols and conventions

Our documentation uses a few special symbols and conventions.

Notation	Examples	Description
Bold text	**Import Measurements**, **Modified LSQ,** **PDF Graph**	Indicates that text is a menu or button command, dialog box option, column or graph label, or drop-down list option
Icon graphic	P, 💾, ▶	Shows the toolbar icon that should be clicked with your mouse button to accomplish a task

Lowercase file extensions	.aap, .sim, .drt	Indicates a file name extension

Related documentation

In addition to this guide, you can find technical product information in the embedded AutoHelp, in related online documentation, and on our technical website. The table below describes the type of technical documentation provided with Advanced Analysis.

This documentation component . . .	Provides this . . .
This guide— PSpice Advanced Analysis User’s Guide	A comprehensive guide for understanding and using the features available in Advanced Analysis.

This documentation component . . .	Provides this . . .
Help system (automatic and manual)	Provides comprehensive information for understanding the features in Advanced Analysis and using them to perform specific analyses. Advanced Analysis provides help in two ways: automatically (AutoHelp) and manually. AutoHelp is embedded in its own window and automatically displays help topics that are associated with your current activity as you move about and work within the Advanced Analysis workspace and interface. It provides immediate access to information that is relative to your current task, but lacks the complete set of navigational tools for accessing other topics. The manual method lets you open the help system in a separate browser window and gives you full navigational access to all topics and resources outside of the help system. Using either method, help topics include: ✍ Explanations and instructions for common tasks ✍ Descriptions of menu commands, dialog boxes, tools on the toolbar and tool palettes, and the status bar ✍ Glossary terms ✍ Reference information ✍ Product support information
PSpice User’s Guide	An online, searchable user’s guide
PSpice Library List	An online, searchable library list for PSpice model libraries
PSpice Reference Guide	An online, searchable reference manual for the PSpice simulation software products
PSpice Quick Reference	Concise descriptions of the commands, shortcuts, and tools available in PSpice
OrCAD Capture User’s Guide	An online, searchable user’s guide

This documentation component . . .	Provides this . . .
OrCAD Capture Quick Reference Card	Concise descriptions of the commands, shortcuts, and tools available in Capture

Accessing online documentation

To access online documentation, you must open the Cadence Documentation window.

1 Do one of the following:

a.From the Windows Start menu, choose OrCAD 10.0 programs folder and then the Online Documentation shortcut.

b.From the Help menu in PSpice, choose Manuals.

2 Do one of the following:

a. From the Windows Start menu, choose Cadence Allegro 15.2 programs folder and then the Online Documentation shortcut.

b.From the Help menu in AMS Simulator, choose Manuals.

The Cadence Documentation window appears.

3 Click the PSpice category to show the documents in the category.

4 Double-click a document title to load that document into your web browser.

Introduction

1

In this chapter

Advanced Analysis overview

Advanced Analysis is an add-on program for PSpice and PSpice A/D. Use these four Advanced Analysis tools to improve circuit performance, reliability, and yield:

- Sensitivity identifies which components have parameters critical to the measurement goals of your circuit design.
- The four Optimizer engines optimize the parameters of key circuit components to meet your performance goals.
- Smoke warns of component stress due to power dissipation, increase in junction temperature, secondary breakdowns, or violations of voltage / current limits.

- Monte Carlo estimates statistical circuit behavior and yield.

Project setup

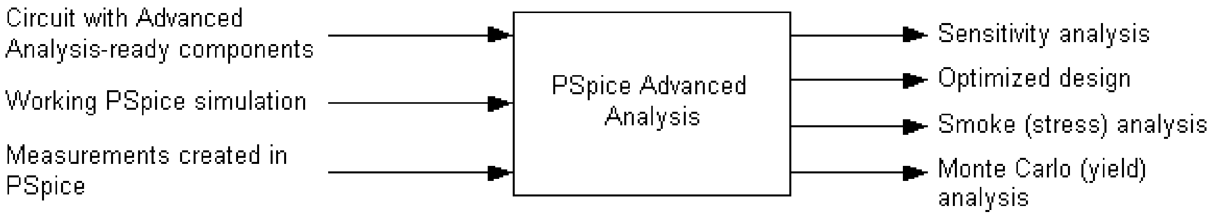
Before you begin an Advanced Analysis project, you need:

- Circuit components that are Advanced Analysis-ready

  Only those components that you want tested in Advanced Analysis have to be Advanced Analysis-ready. See Chapter 2, "Libraries."

  Note: You can adapt passive RLC components for Advanced Analysis without choosing them from parameterized libraries. See Chapter 2, "Libraries."

- A circuit drawn in Capture and successfully simulated in PSpice.
- PSpice measurements that check circuit behavior critical to your design.


Circuit with Advanced Analysis-ready components
Working PSpice simulation
Measurements created in PSpice
PSpice Advanced Analysis
Sensitivity analysis
Optimized design
Smoke (stress) analysis
Monte Carlo (yield) analysis

Creating measurement expressions

Sensitivity, Optimizer, and Monte Carlo require measurement expressions as input. You should create these measurements expressions in PSpice so you can test the results.

You can also create measurement expressions in Sensitivity, Optimizer, or Monte Carlo which can be exported to each other, but these measurements cannot be exported to PSpice for testing.

Validating the initial project

Before you use Advanced Analysis:

1 Make your circuit components Advanced-Analysis ready for the components you want to analyze.

See Chapter 2, “Libraries” for more information.

2 Set up a PSpice simulation.

The Advanced Analysis tools use the following simulations:

This tool...	Works on these PSpice simulations...
Sensitivity	Time Domain (transient) DC Sweep AC Sweep/Noise
Optimizer	Time Domain (transient) DC Sweep AC Sweep/Noise
Smoke	Time Domain (transient)
Monte Carlo	Time Domain (transient) DC Sweep AC Sweep/Noise

3 Simulate the circuit and make sure the results and waveforms are what you expect.

4 Define measurements in PSpice to check the circuit behaviors that are critical for your design. Make sure the measurement results are what you expect.

Note: For information on setting up circuits, see your schematic editor user guide, Project setup on page 16, and Chapter 2, “Libraries.”

For information on setting up simulations, see your *PSpice User’s Guide*.

For information on setting up measurements, see "Procedure for creating measurement expressions" on page 240.

Advanced Analysis files

The principal files used by Advanced Analysis are:

- PSpice simulation profiles (.sim)
- Advanced Analysis profiles (.aap)

Advanced users may also use these files:

- Device property files (.prp)

  For more information, see Appendix A, Property Files.

- Custom derating files for Smoke (.drt)

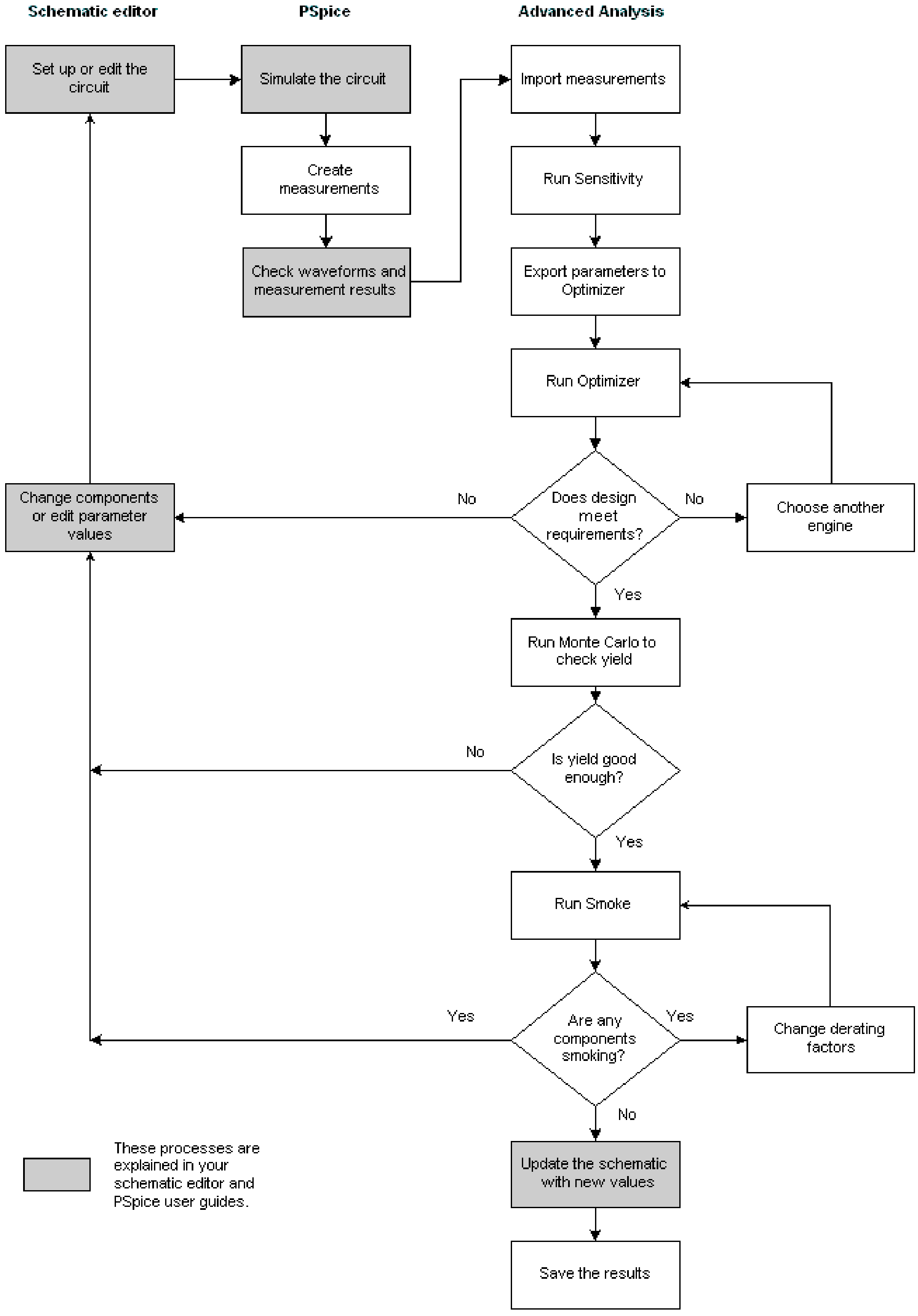
  For more information, see the technical note titled *Creating Custom Derating Files for Advanced Analysis Smoke* on www.orcadpcb.com.

- Discrete value tables for Optimizer (.table)

  For more information, see "What are Discrete Tables?" on page 131.

Workflow

There are many ways to use Advanced Analysis. This workflow shows one way to use all four features.


Schematic editor
PSpice
Advanced Analysis
Set up or edit the circuit
Simulate the circuit
Import measurements
Create measurements
Run Sensitivity
Check waveforms and measurement results
Export parameters to Optimizer
Run Optimizer
Change components or edit parameter values
No
Does design meet requirements?
No
Choose another engine
Yes
Run Monte Carlo to check yield
No
Is yield good enough?
Yes
Run Smoke
Yes
Are any components smoking?
Yes
Change derating factors
No
These processes are explained in your schematic editor and PSpice user guides.
Update the schematic with new values
Save the results

Numerical conventions

PSpice ignores units such as Hz, dB, Farads, Ohms, Henrys, volts, and amperes. It adds the units automatically, depending on the context.

Name	Numerical value	User types in:	Or:	Example Uses
femto-	10^{-15}	F, f	1e-15	2f 2F 2e-15
pico-	10^{-12}	P, p	1e-12	40p 40P 40e-12
nano-	10^{-9}	N, n	1e-9	70n 70N 70e-9
micro-	10^{-6} .000001	U, u	1e-6	20u 20U 20e-6
milli-	**$10^{-}3$** .001	**M, m**	**1e-3**	**30m** **30M** 30e-3 .03
kilo-	10^{3} 1000	K, k	1e+3	2k 2K 2e3 2e+3 2000

Name	Numerical value	User types in:	Or:	Example Uses
mega-	**10^6** 1,000,000	**MEG, meg**	**1e+6**	**20meg** **20MEG** 20e6 20e+6 20000000
giga-	10^9	G, g	1e+9	25g 25G 25e9 25e+9
tera-	10^{12}	T, t	1e+12	30t 30T 30e12 30e+12

Libraries

2

In this chapter

Overview

PSpice ships with over 30 Advanced Analysis libraries containing over 4,300 components. Separate library lists are provided for Advanced Analysis libraries and standard PSpice libraries. The components in the Advanced Analysis libraries are listed in the *Advanced Analysis library list*. See Using the online Advanced Analysis library list on page 28 for details.

The Advanced Analysis libraries contain parameterized and standard components. The majority of the components are parameterized. Standard components in the Advanced Analysis libraries are similar to components in the standard PSpice libraries and will not be discussed further in this document.

Parameterized components

A parameter is a physical characteristic of a component that controls behavior for the component model. In Capture, a parameter is called a **property**. A parameter value is either a number or a variable. When the parameter value is a variable, you have the option to vary its numerical solution within a mathematical expression and use it in optimization.

Design EntryWhen the parameter value is a variable, you have the option to vary its numerical solution within a mathematical expression and use it in optimization.In the Advanced Analysis libraries, components may contain one or more of the following parameters:

- Tolerance parameters

  For example, for a resistor the positive tolerance could be POSTOL = 10%.

- Distribution parameters

  For example, for a resistor the distribution function used in Monte Carlo analysis could be DIST = FLAT.

- Optimizable parameters

  For example, for an opamp the gain bandwidth could be GBW = 10 MHz.

- Smoke parameters

  For example, for a resistor the power maximum operating condition could be POWER = 0.25 W.

To analyze a circuit component with an Advanced Analysis tool, make sure the component contains the following parameters:

This Advanced Analysis tool...	Uses these component parameters...
Sensitivity	Tolerance parameters
Optimizer	Optimizable parameters
Smoke	Smoke parameters

This Advanced Analysis tool...	Uses these component parameters...
Monte Carlo	Tolerance parameters, Distribution parameters (default parameter value is Flat / Uniform)

Tolerance parameters

Tolerance parameters define the positive and negative deviation from a component's nominal value. In order to include a circuit component in a Sensitivity or Monte Carlo analysis, the component must have tolerances for the parameters specified. Use the *Advanced Analysis library list* to identify components with parameter tolerances.

In Advanced Analysis, tolerance information includes:

- Positive tolerance

  For example, POSTOL for RLC is the amount a value can vary in the plus direction.

- Negative tolerance

  For example, NEGTOL for RLC is the amount a value can vary in the negative direction.

Tolerance values can be entered as percents or absolute numbers.

Distribution parameters

Distribution parameters define types of distribution functions. Monte Carlo uses these distribution functions to randomly select tolerance values within a range.

For example, in Capture’s property editor, a resistor could provide the following information:

Property	Value
DIST	FLAT

Optimizable parameters

Optimizable parameters are any characteristics of a model that you can vary during simulations. In order to include a circuit component in an Optimizer analysis, the component must have optimizable parameters. Use the *Advanced Analysis library list* to identify components with optimizable parameters.

For example, in Capture’s property editor, an opamp could provide the following gain bandwidth:

Property	Value
GBW	1e7

Note that the parameter is available for optimization only if you add it as a property on the schematic instance and assign it a value.

During Optimization, the GBW can be varied between any user-defined limits to achieve the desired specification.

Smoke parameters

Smoke parameters are maximum operating conditions for the component. To perform a Smoke analysis on a component, define the smoke parameters for that component. You can still use non-smoke-defined components in your design, but the smoke test ignores these components. Use the online *Advanced Analysis library list* to identify components with smoke parameters.

Most of the analog components in the standard PSpice libraries also contain smoke parameters. Use the online *PSpice library list* to identify components in the standard PSpice libraries that have smoke parameters.

See also Smoke parameters on page 154.

For example, in Capture's property editor, a resistor could provide the following smoke parameter information:

Property	Value
POWER	RMAX
MAX_TEMP	RTMAX

Use the design variables table to set the values of RMAX and RTMAX to 0.25 Watts and 200 degrees Centigrade, respectively.

See Using the design variables table on page 33.

Location of Advanced Analysis libraries

The program installs the Advanced Analysis libraries to the following locations:

Capture symbol libraries

<Target_directory>\Capture\Library\PSpice\AdvAnls\

PSpice Advanced Analysis model libraries

<Target_directory> \ PSpice \ Library

Using Advanced Analysis libraries

In Capture, there are three ways to quickly identify if a component is from an Advanced Analysis library:

- Looking in the online *Advanced Analysis library list*
- Using the library tool tip in the **Place Part** dialog box
- Using the Parameterized Part icon in the **Place Part** dialog box

Using the online Advanced Analysis library list

You can find the online *Advanced Analysis library list* from your Windows Start menu.

1. Do one of the following:
   - ❑ From the Windows Start menu, choose the OrCAD 10.0 programs folder and then the Online Documentation shortcut.
   - ❑ From the Help menu in PSpice, choose Manuals.

   The Cadence Documentation window appears.
2. Click the PSpice category to show the documents in the category.
3. Double-click *Advanced Analysis library lis*t to load the document into your web browser.

The *Advanced Analysis library list* contains the names of parameterized and standard libraries. Most of the libraries are parameterized. Standard components in the Advanced Analysis libraries are similar to standard PSpice library components. Each library contains the following items:

- Component names and part numbers
- Manufacturer names
- Lists of component parameters for each component
  - ❑ Tolerance parameters
  - ❑ Optimizable parameters
  - ❑ Smoke parameters

Some component libraries, primarily opamp libraries, contain components with all of the parameter types.

Examples from the library list are shown below:

Device Type	Generic Name	Part Name	Part Library	Mfg. Name	TOL	OPT	SMK
Opamp	AD101A	AD101A	OPA	Analog Devices	Y	Y	Y
Bipolar Transistor	2N1613	2N1613	BJN	Motorola	N	Y	Y
Analog Multiplier	AD539	AD539	DRI	Analog Devices	N	N	N

The parameter columns are the three columns on the right in the list. The abbreviations in the parameter columns have the following meanings:

This library list column heading...	With the following notation...	Means the component...
TOL	Y	Has tolerance parameters in the model
TOL	N	Does not have tolerance parameters in the model
OPT	Y	Has optimizable parameters in the model
OPT	N	Does not have optimizable parameters in the model
SMK	Y	Has smoke parameters in the model
SMK	N	Does not have smoke parameters in the model
DIST	Y	Has a distribution parameter associated with the model
DIST	N	Does not have a distribution parameter associated with the model

Using the library tool tip

One easy way to identify if a component comes from an Advanced Analysis library is to use the tool tip in the **Place Part** dialog box.

1. From the Place menu, select **Part**.

The **Place Part** dialog box appears.

2. Enter a component name in the **Part** text box.
3. Hover your mouse over the highlighted component name.

   A library path name appears in a tool tip.
4. Check for **ADVANLS** in the path name.

   If ADVANLS is in the path name, the component comes from an Advanced Analysis library.

Using Parameterized Part icon

Another easy way to identify if a component comes from an Advanced Analysis library is to use the Parameterized Part icon in the **Place Part** dialog box.

1. From the Place menu, select **Part**.

   The **Place Part** dialog box appears.
2. Enter a component name in the **Part** text box.

   Or:

   Scroll through the **Part List** text box
3. Look for P in the lower right corner of the dialog box.

   This is the Parameterized Part icon. If this icon appears when the part name appears in the Part text box, the component comes from an Advanced Analysis library.

Preparing your design for Advanced Analysis

You may use a mixture of standard and parameterized components in your design, but Advanced Analysis is performed on only the parameterized components.

You may create a new design or use an existing design for Advanced Analysis. There are several steps for making your design Advanced Analysis-ready.

See “Modifying existing designs for Advanced Analysis” on page 35.

Creating new Advanced Analysis-ready designs

Select parameterized components from Advanced Analysis libraries.

1. Open the online *Advanced Analysis library list* found in Cadence Online Documentation.
2. Find a component marked with a **Y** in the **TOL**, **OPT**, or **SMK** columns of the *Advanced Analysis library list*.

   Components marked in this manner are parameterized components.
3. For that component, write down the **Part Library** and **Part Name** from the *Advanced Analysis library list*.
4. Add the library to your design in your schematic editor.
5. Place the parameterized component on your schematic.

   For example, select the **resistor** component from the **pspice_elem** Advanced Analysis library.

Setting a parameter value

For each parameterized component in your design, set the parameter value individually on the component using your schematic editor.

A convenient way to add parameter values on a global basis is to use the design variable table.

See Using the design variables table on page 33.

Note: If you set a value for POSTOL and leave the value for NEGTOL blank, Advanced Analysis will automatically set the value of NEGTOL equal to the value of POSTOL and perform the analysis.

Note: As a minimum, you must set a value for POSTOL. If you set a value for NEGTOL and leave the POSTOL value blank, Advanced Analysis will not include the parameter in Sensitivity or Monte Carlo analyses.

Adding additional parameters

If the component does not have Advanced Analysis parameters visible on the symbol, add the appropriate Advanced Analysis parameters using your schematic editor.

For example: For RLC components, the parameters required for Advanced Analysis Sensitivity and Monte Carlo are listed below. The values shown are those that can be set using the design variables table.

See Using the design variables table on page 33.

Part	Tolerance Property Name	Value
Resistor	POSTOL	RTOL%
Resistor	NEGTOL	RTOL%
Inductor	POSTOL	LTOL%
Inductor	NEGTOL	LTOL%
Capacitor	POSTOL	CTOL%
Capacitor	NEGTOL	CTOL%

For RLC components, the parameter required for Advanced Analysis Optimizer is the value for the component. Examples are listed below:

Part	Optimizable Property Name	Value
Resistor	VALUE	10K
Inductor	VALUE	33m
Capacitor	VALUE	0.1u

For example: For RLC components, the parameters required for Advanced Analysis Smoke are listed below. The values shown are those that can be set using the design variables table.

See Using the design variables table on page 33.

Part	Smoke Property Name	Value
Resistor	MAX_TEMP	RTMAX
Resistor	POWER	RMAX
Resistor	SLOPE	RSMAX
Resistor	VOLTAGE	RVMAX
Inductor	CURRENT	DIMAX
Inductor	DIELECTRIC	DSMAX
Capacitor	CURRENT	CIMAX
Capacitor	KNEE	CBMAX
Capacitor	MAX_TEMP	CTMAX
Capacitor	SLOPE	CSMAX
Capacitor	VOLTAGE	CMAX

If you use RLC components from the “analog” library, you will need to add parameters and set values; however, instead of setting values for the POSTOL and NEGTOL parameters, you set the values for the TOLERANCE parameter. The positive and negative tolerance values will use the value assigned to the TOLERANCE parameter.

Using the design variables table

The design variables table is a component available in the installed libraries that allows you to set global values for parameters. For example, using the design variables table, you can easily set a 5% positive tolerance on all your circuit resistors. The default information available in the design variables table includes variable names for tolerance and smoke parameters. For example, RTOL is a variable name in the design variables tables, which can be used to set POSTOL (and NEGTOL) tolerance values on all your circuit resistors.

1. From Capture's Place menu, select **Part**.
2. Add the PSpice SPECIAL library to your design libraries.
3. Select the **Variables** component from the PSpice SPECIAL library.
4. Click **OK**.

   A design variable table of parameter variable names will appear on the schematic.
5. Double click on a number in the design variable table.

   The **Display Properties** dialog box will appear.
6. Edit the value in the **Value** text box.
7. Click **OK**.

   The new numerical value will appear on the design variables table on the schematic and be used as a global value for all applicable components.

Parameter values set on a component instance will override values set in the design variables table.

Modifying existing designs for Advanced Analysis

Existing designs that you construct with standard components will work in Advanced Analysis; however, you can only perform Advanced Analysis on the parameterized components. To make sure specific components are Advanced Analysis-ready (parameterized), do the following steps:

- Set tolerances for the RLC components

  Note: For standard RLC components, the TOLERANCE property can be used to set tolerance values required for Sensitivity and Monte Carlo. Standard RLC components can also be used in the Optimizer.

- Replace active components with parameterized components from the Advanced Analysis libraries
- Add smoke parameters and values to RLC components

Example

This example is a simple addition of a parameterized component to a new design.

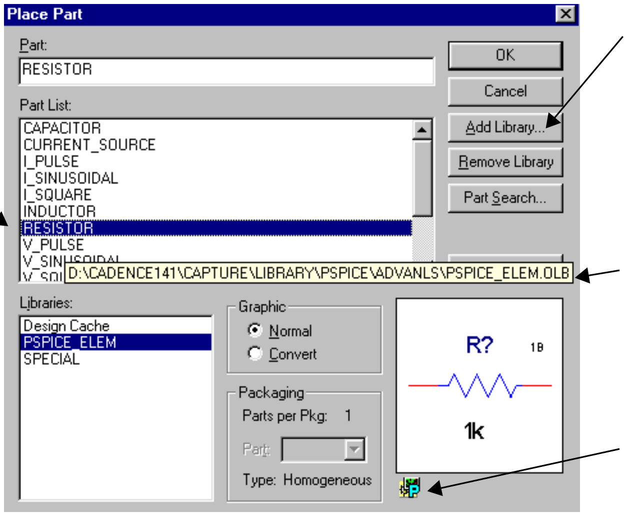
We'll add a parameterized resistor to a schematic and show how to set values for the resistor parameters using the property editor and the design variables table.

Selecting a parameterized component

We know the `pspice_elem` library on the *Advanced Analysis library list* contains a resistor component with tolerance, optimizable, and smoke parameters. We'll use that component in our example.

1 In Capture, from the Place menu, select **Part.**

The **Place Part** dialog box appears.



Place Part

Part: RESISTOR

Part List:
CAPACITOR
CURRENT_SOURCE
I_PULSE
I_SINUSOIDAL
I_SQUARE
INDUCTOR
RESISTOR
V_PULSE
V_SINUSOIDAL
V_SQ

D:\CADENCE141\CAPTURE\LIBRARY\PSPICE\ADVANLS\PSPICE_ELEM.OLB

Libraries:
Design Cache
PSPICE_ELEM
SPECIAL

Graphic
● Normal
○ Convert

Packaging
Parts per Pkg: 1
Part:
Type: Homogeneous

Select resistor from the pspice_elem library

Add the pspice_elem library from the advanls folder

Note ADVANLS in library path name

Icon tells you the part is parameterized

2 Use the Add Library browse button to add the **pspice_elem** library from the advanls folder to the **Libraries** text box.

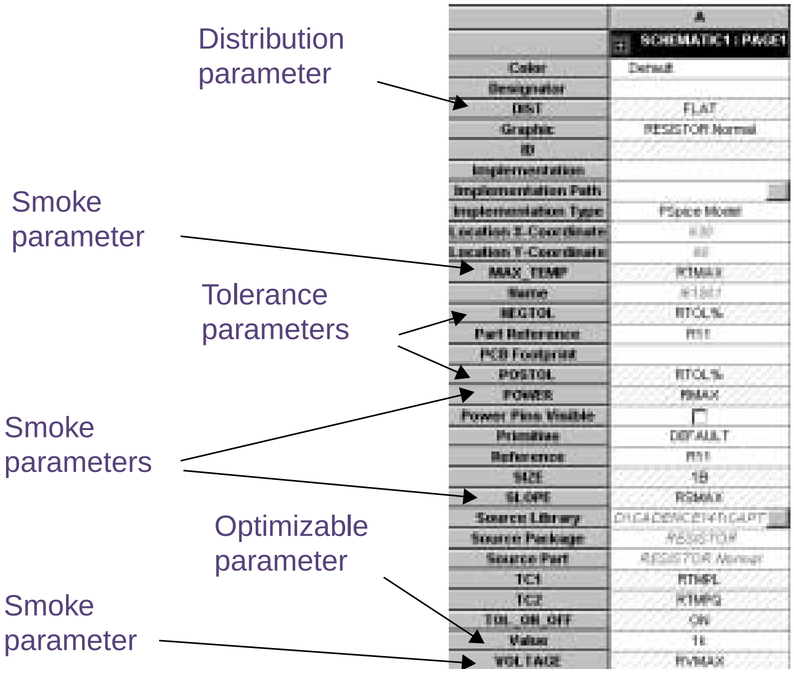
3 Select **Resistor** and click **OK**.

The resistor appears on the schematic.

Setting a parameter value

1. Double click on the Resistor symbol.

   The Property Editor appears. Note the Advanced Analysis parameters already listed for this component.



	A
	SCHEMATIC1 : PAGE1
Color	Default
Designator	
DIST	FLAT
Graphic	RESISTOR.Normal
ID	
Implementation	
Implementation Path	
Implementation Type	PSpice Model
Location X-Coordinate	430
Location Y-Coordinate	60
MAX_TEMP	RTMAX
Name	R1367
NEGTOL	RTOL%
Part Reference	R11
PCB Footprint	
POSTOL	RTOL%
POWER	RMAX
Power Pins Visible	□
Primitive	DEFAULT
Reference	R11
SIZE	1B
SLOPE	RSMAX
Source Library	D:\CADENCE\14\CAPT
Source Package	RESISTOR
Source Part	RESISTOR.Normal
TC1	RTMPL
TC2	RTMPQ
TOL_ON_OFF	ON
Value	1k
VOLTAGE	RVMAX

2. Verify that all the parameters required for Sensitivity, Optimizer, Smoke, and Monte Carlo are visible on the symbol.

   Refer to the tables in Adding additional parameters on page 32.

3. Set the resistor **VALUE** parameter to 10k.

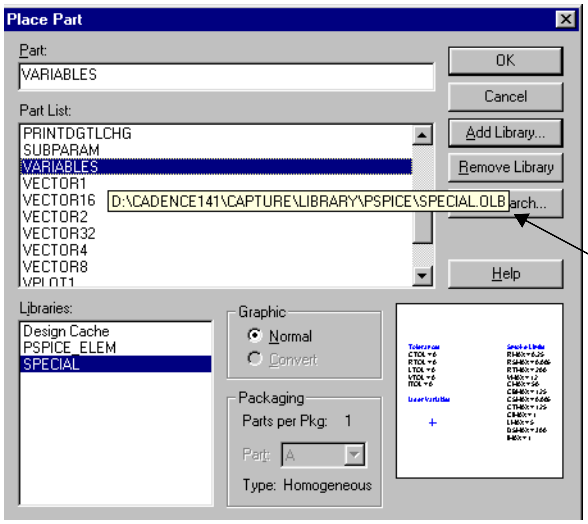
4. Set the resistor **POSTOL** parameter to **RTOL%**.

Using the design variables table

Set the resistor parameter values using the design variables table.

We’ll do one parameter for this resistor.

1 Select the **Variables** part from the PSpice SPECIAL library.



Part: VARIABLES

Part List:
PRINTDGTLCHG
SUBPARAM
VARIABLES
VECTOR1
VECTOR16
VECTOR2
VECTOR32
VECTOR4
VECTOR8
VPLOT1

D:\CADENCE141\CAPTURE\LIBRARY\PSPICE\SPECIAL.OLB

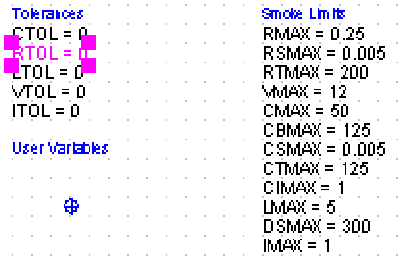
Libraries:
Design Cache
PSPICE_ELEM
SPECIAL

Graphic
● Normal
○ Convert

Packaging
Parts per Pkg: 1
Part: A
Type: Homogeneous

Note tool tip with the library path name

The design variables table appears on the schematic.



Tolerances
CTOL = 0
RTOL = 0
LTOL = 0
VTOL = 0
ITOL = 0

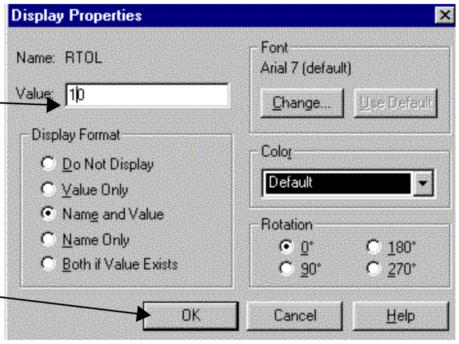
User Variables

Smoke Limits
RMAX = 0.25
RSMAX = 0.005
RTMAX = 200
VMAX = 12
CMAX = 50
CBMAX = 125
CSMAX = 0.005
CTMAX = 125
CIMAX = 1
LMAX = 5
DSMAX = 300
IMAX = 1

Double click on variable name to edit value

2 Double click on the RTOL number **0** in the design variables table.

The **Display Properties** dialog box appears.



Display Properties

Name: RTOL

Value: 10

Display Format

○ Do Not Display
○ Value Only
● Name and Value
○ Name Only
○ Both if Value Exists

Font: Arial 7 (default)

Color: Default

Rotation

● 0°
○ 90°
○ 180°
○ 270°

Edit value from 0 to 10

Click OK

3 Edit the value in the **Value** text box.

4 Click **OK**.

The new numerical value will appear on the design variable table on the schematic.

Advanced Analysis will now use the resistor with a positive tolerance parameter set to 10%. If we added more resistors to this design, we could then set the POSTOL resistor parameter values to RTOL% and each resistor would immediately apply the 10% value from the design variables table.

Note: Values set on the component instance override values set with the design variables table.

For power users

Legacy PSpice optimizations

For tips on importing legacy PSpice Optimizations into Advanced Analysis Optimizer, see our technical note on importing legacy PSpice optimizations.

Technical notes are posted on the PSPice page of the OrCAD community web site, www.orcadpcb.com.

Sensitivity

3

In this chapter

Sensitivity overview

Note: Sensitivity analysis is available with the following products:

- PSpice Advanced Optimizer Option
- PSpice Advanced Analysis

Sensitivity identifies which components have parameters critical to the measurement goals of your circuit design.

The Sensitivity Analysis tool examines how much each component affects circuit behavior by itself and in comparison to the other components. It also varies all tolerances to create worst-case (minimum and maximum) measurement values.

You can use Sensitivity to identify the sensitive components, then export the components to Optimizer to fine-tune the circuit behavior.

You can also use Sensitivity to identify which components affect yield the most, then tighten tolerances of sensitive components and loosen tolerances of non-sensitive components. With this information you can evaluate yield versus cost trade-offs.

Absolute and relative sensitivity

Sensitivity displays the absolute sensitivity or the relative sensitivity of a component. Absolute sensitivity is the ratio of change in a measurement value to a one unit positive change in the parameter value.

For example: There may be a 0.1V change in voltage for a 1 Ohm change in resistance.

Relative sensitivity is the percentage of change in a measurement based on a one percent positive change of a component parameter value.

For example: For each 1 percent change in resistance, there may be 2 percent change in voltage.

Since capacitor and conductor values are much smaller than one unit of measurement (Farads or Henries), relative sensitivity is the more useful calculation.

For more on how this tool calculates sensitivity, see Sensitivity calculations on page 66.

Absolute sensitivity should be used when the tolerance limits are not tight or have wide enough bandwidth. Where as relative sensitivity should be used when the tolerance limits are tight enough or have less bandwidth. The tolerance variations are assumed to be linear in this case.

Sensitivity strategy

If Sensitivity analysis shows that the circuit is highly sensitive to a single parameter, adjust component tolerances on the schematic and rerun the analysis before continuing on to Optimizer.

Optimizer works best when all measurements are initially close to their specification values and require only fine adjustments.

Plan ahead

Sensitivity requires:

- Circuit components that are Advanced Analysis-ready

  See Chapter 2, Libraries for more information.

- A circuit design, that is working and can be simulated in PSpice

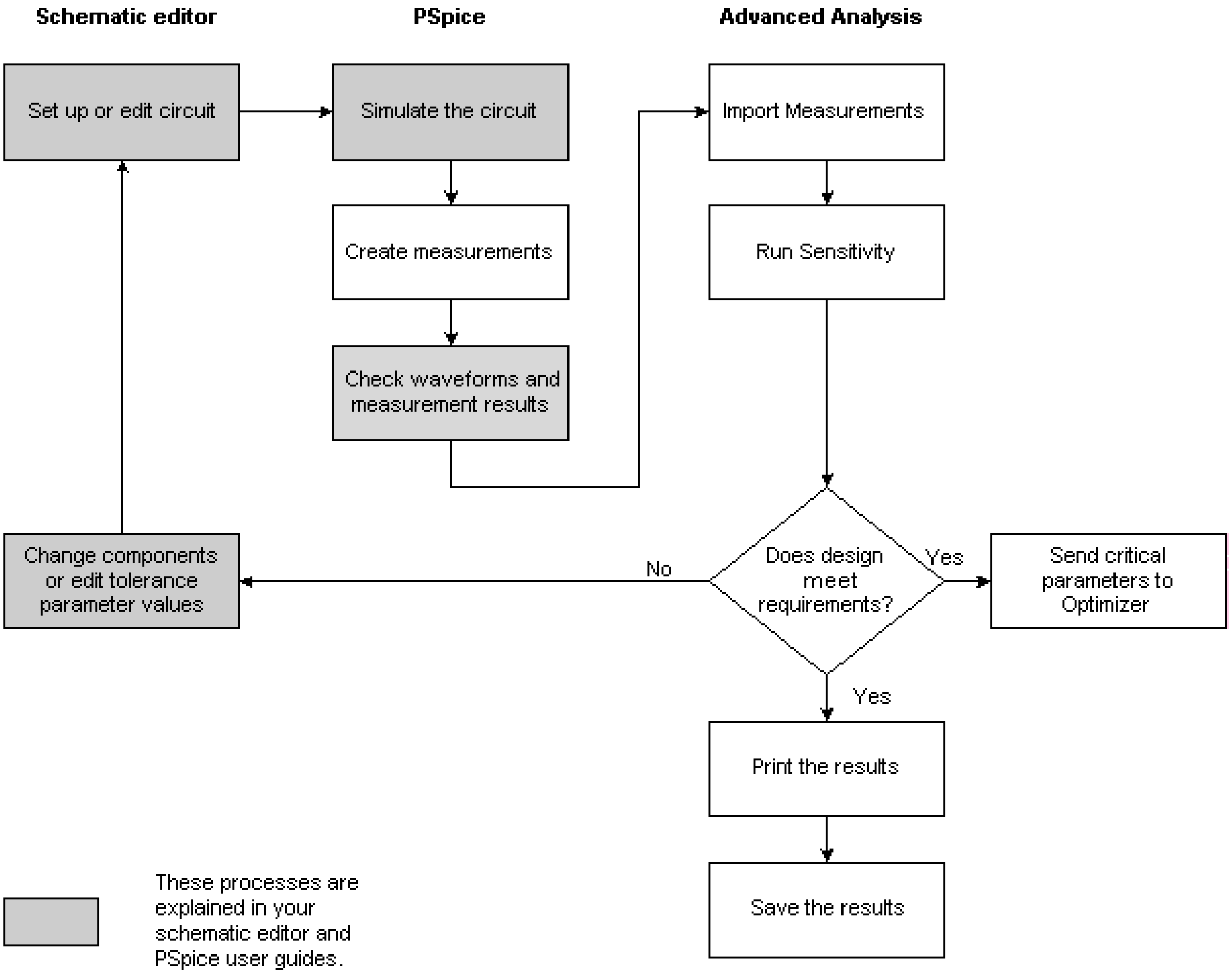
- Measurements set up in PSpice

  See Procedure for creating measurement expressions on page 240

Any circuit components you want to include in the Sensitivity data need to be Advanced Analysis-ready, with their tolerances specified.

See Chapter 2, Libraries for more information.

Workflow


Schematic editor
PSpice
Advanced Analysis
Set up or edit circuit
Simulate the circuit
Import Measurements
Create measurements
Run Sensitivity
Check waveforms and measurement results
Change components or edit tolerance parameter values
No
Does design meet requirements?
Yes
Send critical parameters to Optimizer
Yes
Print the results
Save the results
These processes are explained in your schematic editor and PSpice user guides.

Sensitivity procedure

Setting up the circuit in the schematic editor

Start with a working circuit in the schematic editor. Circuit components you want to include in the Sensitivity data need to have the tolerances of their parameters specified. Circuit simulations and measurements should already be set up.

The simulations can be Time Domain (transient), DC Sweep, and AC Sweep/Noise analyses.

1. Open your circuit from your schematic editor.
2. Run a PSpice simulation.
3. Check your key waveforms in PSpice and make sure they are what you expect.
4. Check your measurements and make sure they have the results you expect.

Note: For information on circuit layout and simulation setup, see your schematic editor and PSpice user guides.

For information on components and the tolerances of their parameters, see Preparing your design for Advanced Analysis on page 30.

For information on setting up measurements, see Procedure for creating measurement expressions on page 240.

For information on testing measurements, see Viewing the results of measurement evaluations on page 242.

Setting up Sensitivity in Advanced Analysis

1. From the **PSpice** menu in your schematic editor, select **Advanced Analysis** / **Sensitivity**.

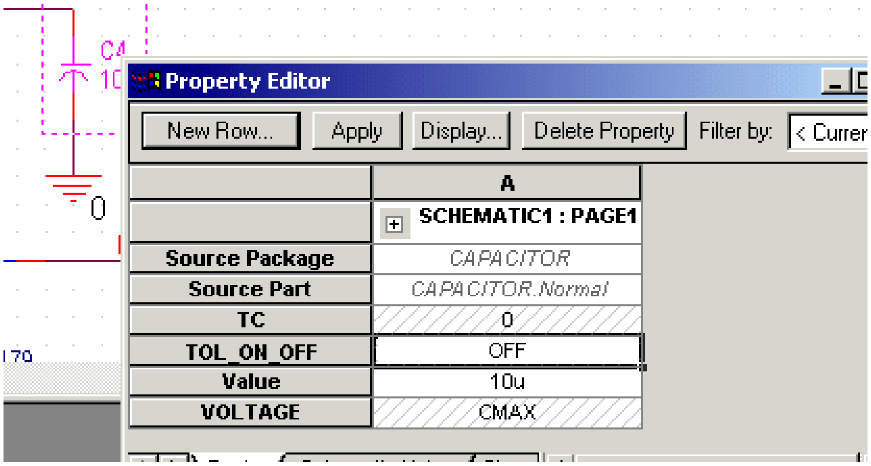
   The Advanced Analysis Sensitivity tool opens.

Parameters Window

In the Parameters window, a list of component parameters appears with the parameter values listed in the Original column. Only the parameters for which tolerances are specified appear in the Parameters window.

Note: Sensitivity analysis can only be run if tolerances are specified for the component parameters.

In case you want to remove a parameter from the list, you can do so by using the TOL_ON_OFF property. In the schematic design, set the value of TOL_ON_OFF property attached to the instance as OFF. If there is no TOL_ON_OFF property attached to the instance of the device, attach the property and set its value to OFF. This is so, because if the tolerance value is specified for a parameter and TOL_ON_OFF property is not attached to the component, by default Advanced Analysis assumes that the value of TOL_ON_OFF property is set to ON.



	A
	SCHEMATIC1 : PAGE1
Source Package	CAPACITOR
Source Part	CAPACITOR.Normal
TC	0
TOL_ON_OFF	OFF
Value	10u
VOLTAGE	CMAX

In case of hierarchical designs, the value of the TOL_ON_OFF property attached to the hierarchical block has a higher priority over the property value attached to the individual components. For example, if the hierarchical block has the TOL_ON_OFF property value set to OFF, tolerance values of all the components within that hierarchical design will be ignored.

Specifications Window

In the Specifications window, add measurements for which you want to analyze the sensitivity of the parameters. You can either import the measurements created in PSpice or can create new measurements in Advanced Analysis.

To import measurements:

1 In the Specifications table, click on the row containing the text “Click here to import a measurement created within PSpice.”

The **Import Measurement(s)** dialog box appears.

2 Select the measurements you want to include.

To create new measurements:

1. From the **Analysis** drop-down menu, choose **Sensitivity** / **Create New Measurements**.

   The **New Measurement** dialog box appears.

2. Create the measurement expression to be evaluated and click OK.

Running Sensitivity

- Click ▶ on the top toolbar.

  The Sensitivity analysis begins. The messages in the output window tell you the status of the analysis.

  For more information, see Sensitivity calculations on page 66.

Displaying run data

Sensitivity displays results in two tables for each selected measurement:

- Parameters table
  - Parameter values at minimum and maximum measurement values
  - Absolute / Relative sensitivities per parameter
  - Linear / Log bar graphs per parameter
- Specifications table
  - Worst-case min and max measurement values

Sorting data

- Double click on column headers to sort data in ascending or descending order.

Reviewing measurement data

– Select a measurement on the Specifications table.

  A black arrow appears in the left column on the Specifications table, the row is highlighted, and the **Min** and **Max** columns display the worst-case minimum and maximum measurement values.

  The Parameters table will display the values for parameters and measurements using the selected measurement only.

Interpreting @min and @max

Values displayed in the **@min** and **@max** columns are the parameter values at the measurement's worst-case minimum and maximum values.

If a measurement value is insensitive to a component, the sensitivity displayed for that component will be zero. In such cases, values displayed in the @Min and @Max columns will be same and will be equal to the Original value of the component.

Negative and positive sensitivity

If the absolute or the relative sensitivity is negative it implies that for one unit positive increase in the parameter value, the measurement value increases in the negative direction.

For example, if for a unit increase in the parameter value, the measurement value decreases, the component exhibits negative sensitivity. It can also be that for a unit decrease in the parameter value, there is an increase in the measurement value.

On the other hand, positive sensitivity implies that for a unit increase in the component value, there is an increase in the measurement value.

Changing from Absolute to Relative sensitivity

1. Right click anywhere in the Parameters table.
2. Select **Display** / **Absolute Sensitivity** or **Relative Sensitivity** from the pop-up menu.

Note: See Sensitivity calculations on page 66.

Changing bar graph style from linear to log

Most of the sensitivity values can be analyzed using the linear scale. Logarithmic scale is effective for analyzing the smaller but non-zero sensitivity values.

To change the bar graph style,

1. Right-click anywhere in the Parameters table.
2. Select **Bar Graph Style** / **Linear** or **Log** from the pop-up menu.

Important

If 'X' is the bar graph value on a linear scale, then the bar graph value on the logarithmic scale is not log (X). The logarithmic values are calculated separately.

Interpreting <MIN> results

Sensitivity displays <MIN> on the bar graph when sensitivity values are very small but nonzero.

Interpreting zero results

Sensitivity displays zero in the absolute / relative sensitivity and bar graph columns if the selected measurement is not sensitive to the component parameter value.

Controlling Sensitivity

Data cells with cross-hatched backgrounds are read-only and cannot be edited. The graphs are also read-only.

Pausing, stopping, and starting

Pausing and resuming

1 Click ⏸ on the top toolbar.

The analysis stops, available data is displayed, and the last completed run number appears in the output window.

2 Click the ⏸ or ▶ to resume calculations.

Stopping

– Click ■ on the top toolbar.

If a Sensitivity analysis has been stopped, you cannot resume the analysis.

Sensitivity does not save data from a stopped analysis.

Starting

– Click ▶ to start or restart.

Controlling measurement specifications

❑ To exclude a measurement specification from Sensitivity analysis: click ☑ on the applicable measurement row in the Specifications table.

This removes the check and excludes the measurement from the next Sensitivity analysis.

❑ To add a new measurement: click on the row containing the text “Click here to import a measurement created within PSpice.”

The **Import Measurement(s)** dialog box appears.

Or:

Right click on the Specifications table and select **Create New Measurement**.

The **New Measurement** dialog box appears.

See Procedure for creating measurement expressions on page 240.

❑ To export a new measurement to Optimizer or Monte Carlo, select the measurement and right click on the row containing the text “Click here to import a measurement created within PSpice.”

Select **Send To** from the pop-up menu.

Adjusting component values

Use **Find in Design** from Advanced Analysis to quickly return to the schematic editor and change component information.

For example: You may want to tighten tolerances on component parameters that are highly sensitive or loosen tolerances on component parameters that are less sensitive.

1. Right click on the component’s critical parameter in the Sensitivity Parameters table and select **Find in Design** from the pop-up menu.
2. Change the parameter value in the schematic editor.
3. Rerun the simulation and check results.
4. Rerun Sensitivity.

Varying the tolerance range

During Sensitivity analysis, by default Advanced Analysis varies parameter values by 40% of the tolerance range. You can modify the default value and specify the percentage by which the parameter values should be varied within the tolerance range.

To specify the percentage variation:

1. From the **Edit** drop-down menu in Advanced Analysis, choose **Profile Settings**.
2. In the Profile Settings dialog box, select the **Sensitivity** tab.
3. In the Sensitivity Variation text box, specify the percentage by which you want the parameter values to be varied.
4. Click OK to save the modifications.

If you now run the Sensitivity analysis, the value specified by you would be used for calculating the absolute and relative sensitivity.

Sending parameters to Optimizer

1. Select the critical parameters in Sensitivity.
2. Right click and select **Send to Optimizer** from the pop-up menu.
3. Select **Optimizer** from the drop-down list on the top toolbar.

   This switches the active window to the Optimizer view where you can double check that your critical parameters are listed in the Optimizer Parameters table.
4. Click the **Sensitivity** tab at the bottom of the Optimizer Specifications table.

   This switches the active window back to the Sensitivity tool.

Printing results

– Click 🖨 .

Or:

From the **File** menu, select **Print**.

Saving results

- Click 💾.

  Or:

  From the **File** menu, select **Save**.

  The final results will be saved in the Advanced Analysis profile (.aap).

Example

The Advanced Analysis examples folder contains several demonstration circuits. This example uses the RFAmp circuit.

The circuit contains components with the tolerances of their parameters specified, so you can use the components without any modification.

Two PSpice simulation profiles have already been created and tested. Circuit measurements, entered in PSpice, have been set up and tested.

Note: See Chapter 2, Libraries for information about setting tolerances for other circuit examples.

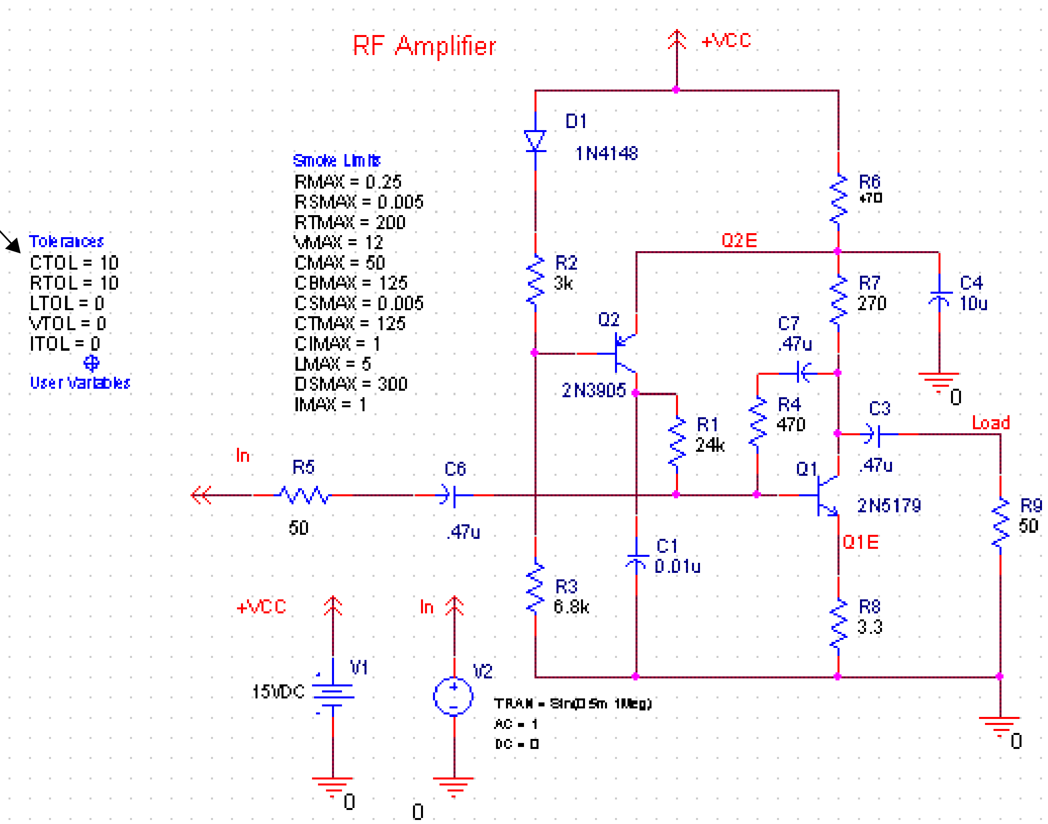
Setting up the circuit in the schematic editor

1. In your schematic editor, browse to the RFAmp tutorials directory.

   <target directory>
   \PSpice\tutorial\Capture\pspiceaa\rfamp

2 Open the RFAmp project.

Assign global tolerances using this table



Tolerances
CTOL = 10
RTOL = 10
LTOL = 0
VTOL = 0
ITOL = 0

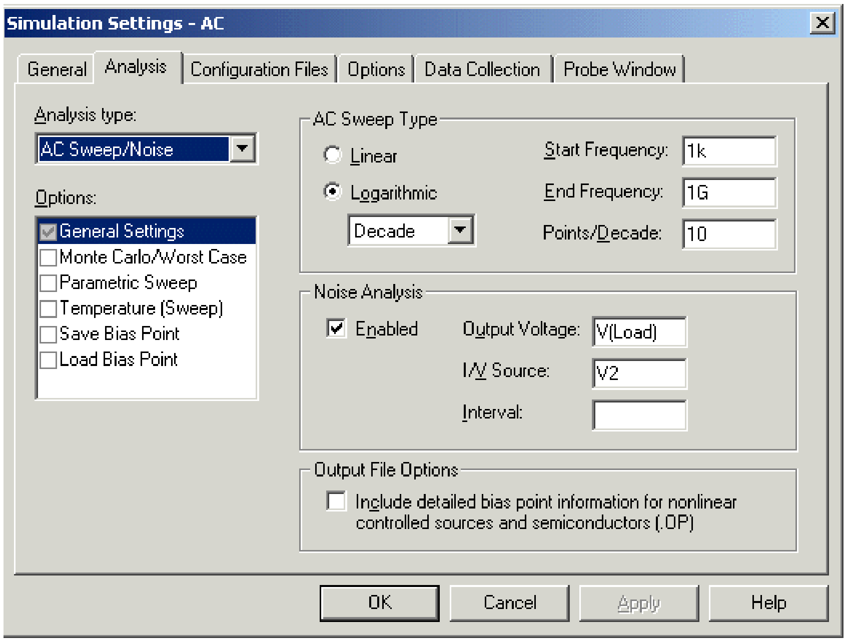
User Variables

Smoke Limits
RMAX = 0.25
RSMAX = 0.005
RTMAX = 200
VMAX = 12
CMAX = 50
CBMAX = 125
CSMAX = 0.005
CTMAX = 125
CIMAX = 1
LMAX = 5
DSMAX = 300
IMAX = 1

TRAN = Sin(0 5m 1Meg)
AC = 1
DC = 0

3 Select the SCHEMATIC1-AC simulation profile.

The AC simulation included with the RF example



Simulation Settings - AC

General | Analysis | Configuration Files | Options | Data Collection | Probe Window

Analysis type: AC Sweep/Noise

Options:
- ☑ General Settings
- □ Monte Carlo/Worst Case
- □ Parametric Sweep
- □ Temperature (Sweep)
- □ Save Bias Point
- □ Load Bias Point

AC Sweep Type
- ○ Linear
- ● Logarithmic
- Decade

Start Frequency: 1k
End Frequency: 1G
Points/Decade: 10

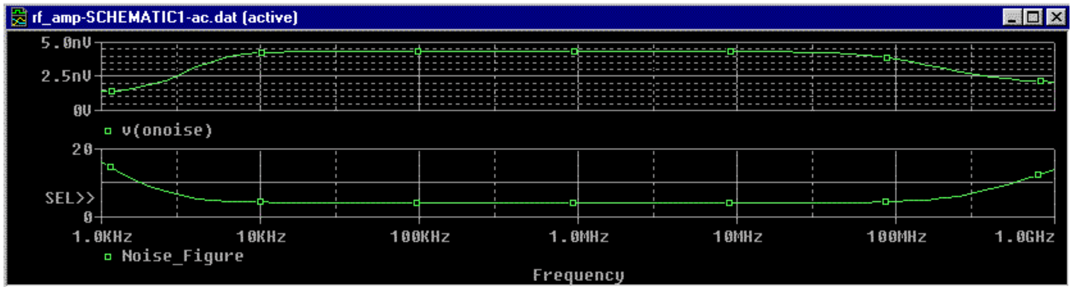
Noise Analysis
- ☑ Enabled

Output Voltage: V(Load)
I/V Source: V2
Interval:

Output File Options
- □ Include detailed bias point information for nonlinear controlled sources and semiconductors (.OP)

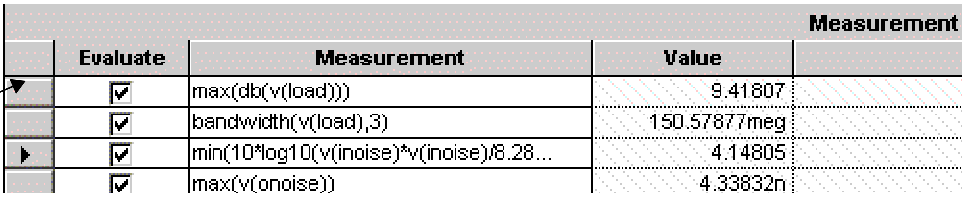
1 Click ▶ to run the simulation.

2 Review the results.



The waveforms are what we expected.

In the simulator, view measurement results



	Evaluate	Measurement	Value
	☑	max(db(v(load)))	9.41807
	☑	bandwidth(v(load),3)	150.57877meg
▶	☑	min(10*log10(v(inoise)*v(inoise)/8.28...	4.14805
	☑	max(v(onoise))	4.33832n

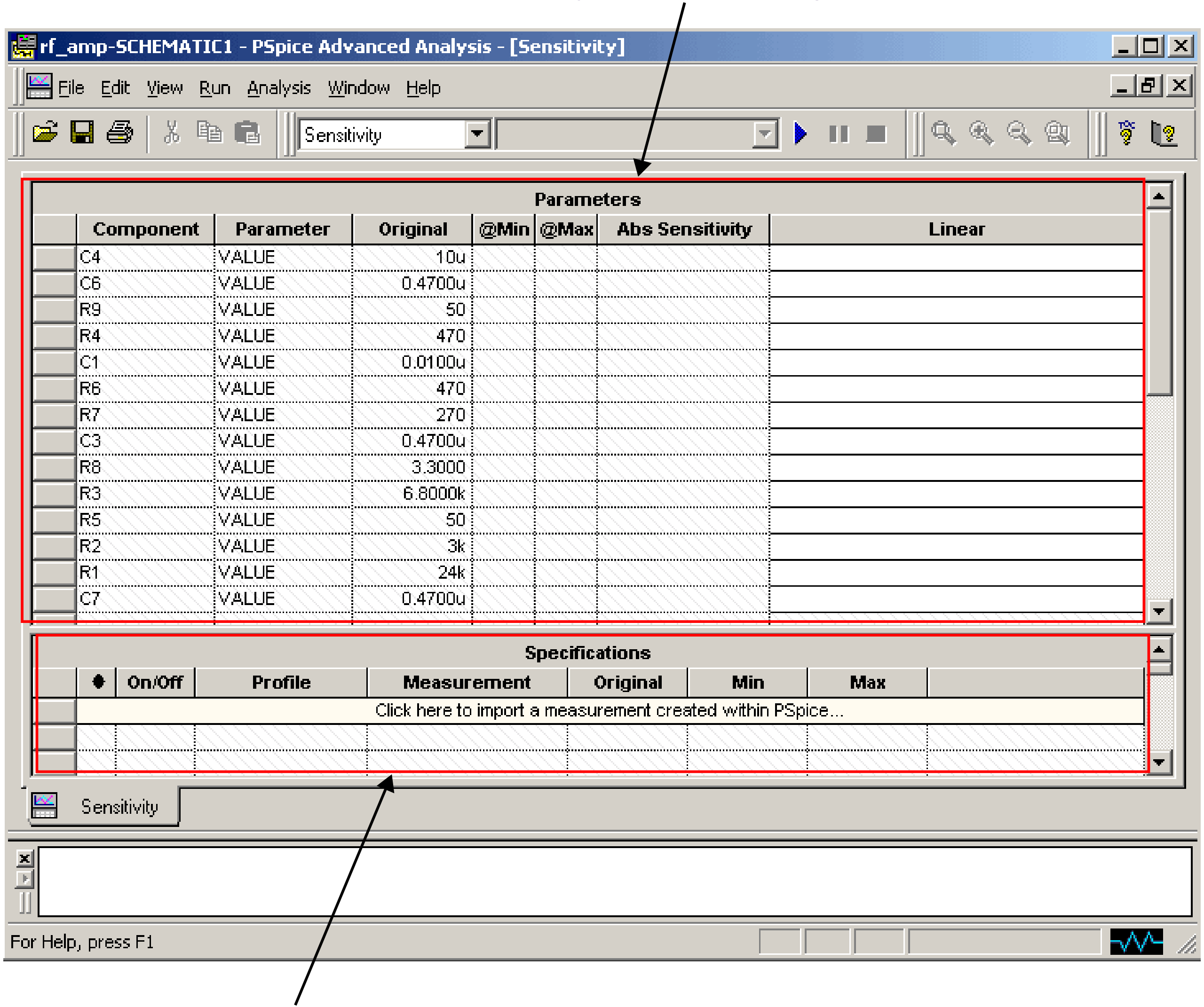
The measurements in PSpice give the results we expected.

Setting up Sensitivity in Advanced Analysis

1 From the **PSpice** menu in your schematic editor, select **Advanced Analysis** / **Sensitivity**.

The Advanced Analysis window opens, and the Sensitivity tool is activated. Sensitivity automatically lists component parameters for which tolerances are specified and the component parameter original (nominal) values.

Sensitivity Parameters table prior to the first run


rf_amp-SCHEMATIC1 - PSpice Advanced Analysis - [Sensitivity]
File Edit View Run Analysis Window Help
Sensitivity
Sensitivity
For Help, press F1

Parameters

	Component	Parameter	Original	@Min	@Max	Abs Sensitivity	Linear
	C4	VALUE	10u				
	C6	VALUE	0.4700u				
	R9	VALUE	50				
	R4	VALUE	470				
	C1	VALUE	0.0100u				
	R6	VALUE	470				
	R7	VALUE	270				
	C3	VALUE	0.4700u				
	R8	VALUE	3.3000				
	R3	VALUE	6.8000k				
	R5	VALUE	50				
	R2	VALUE	3k				
	R1	VALUE	24k				
	C7	VALUE	0.4700u				

Specifications

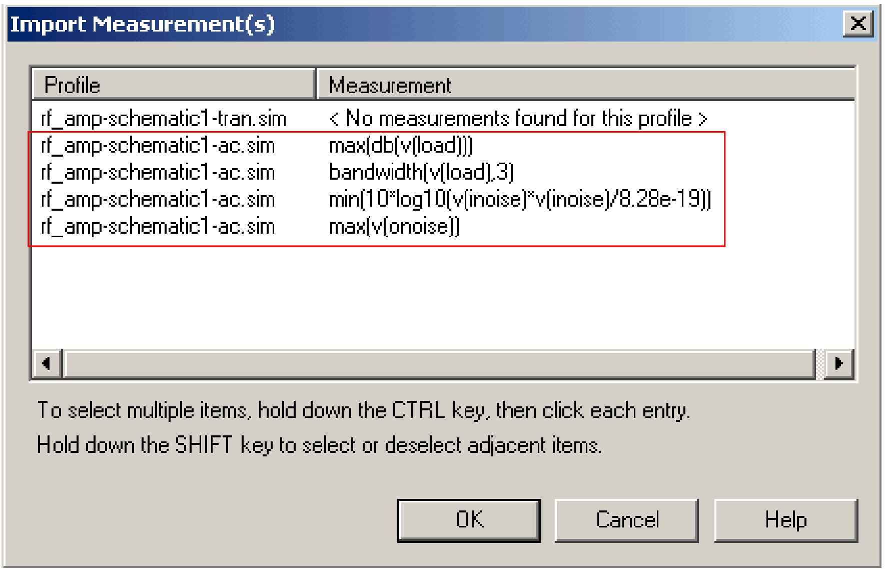
	●	On/Off	Profile	Measurement	Original	Min	Max
	Click here to import a measurement created within PSpice...						

Sensitivity Specifications table before a project is set up and run

In case you want to remove some parameters from the Parameters list, you can do so by modifying the parameter properties in the schematic capture tool.

2 In the Specifications table, right click the row titled, “Click here to import a measurement created within PSpice.”

The **Import Measurement(s)** dialog box appears with measurements configured earlier in PSpice .



Import Measurement(s)

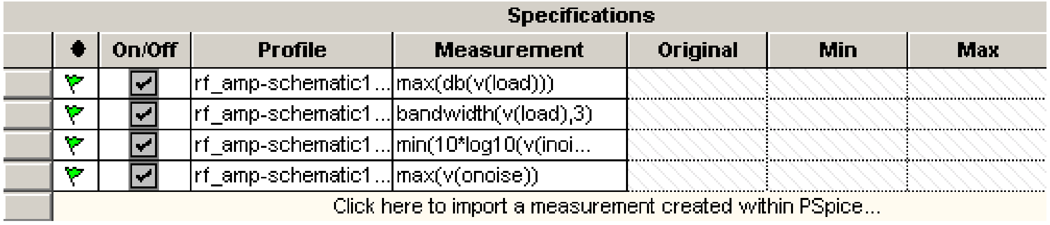
Profile	Measurement
rf_amp-schematic1-tran.sim	< No measurements found for this profile >
rf_amp-schematic1-ac.sim	max(db(v(load)))
rf_amp-schematic1-ac.sim	bandwidth(v(load),3)
rf_amp-schematic1-ac.sim	min(10*log10(v(inoise)*v(inoise)/8.28e-19))
rf_amp-schematic1-ac.sim	max(v(onoise))

To select multiple items, hold down the CTRL key, then click each entry.
Hold down the SHIFT key to select or deselect adjacent items.

3 Select the four ac.sim measurements.

4 Click **OK**.

The Specifications table lists the measurements.

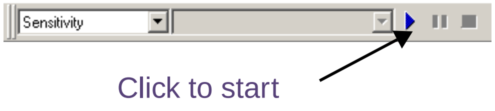


Specifications

	●	On/Off	Profile	Measurement	Original	Min	Max
	🚩	☑	rf_amp-schematic1 ...	max(db(v(load)))			
	🚩	☑	rf_amp-schematic1 ...	bandwidth(v(load),3)			
	🚩	☑	rf_amp-schematic1 ...	min(10*log10(v(inoi...			
	🚩	☑	rf_amp-schematic1 ...	max(v(onoise))			
	Click here to import a measurement created within PSpice...						

Running Sensitivity

– Click ▶ on the top toolbar.



Displaying run data

Results are displayed in the Parameters and Specifications tables according to the selected measurement.

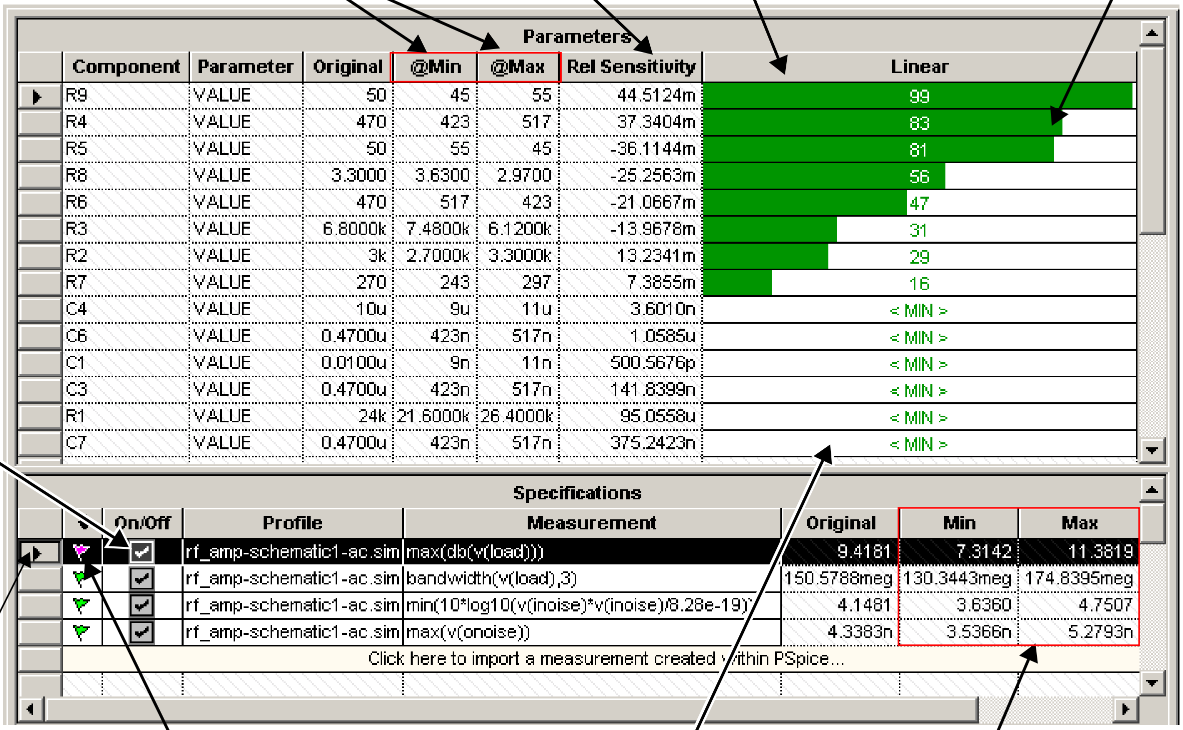
Parameter values that correspond to measurement min and max values

Right click to change Display to Absolute Sensitivity

Double click column headings to cha the sort order

Right click to change bar from Linear to Log

Click to exclude from analysis



Parameters

	Component	Parameter	Original	@Min	@Max	Rel Sensitivity	Linear
▶	R9	VALUE	50	45	55	44.5124m	99
	R4	VALUE	470	423	517	37.3404m	83
	R5	VALUE	50	55	45	-36.1144m	81
	R8	VALUE	3.3000	3.6300	2.9700	-25.2563m	56
	R6	VALUE	470	517	423	-21.0667m	47
	R3	VALUE	6.8000k	7.4800k	6.1200k	-13.9678m	31
	R2	VALUE	3k	2.7000k	3.3000k	13.2341m	29
	R7	VALUE	270	243	297	7.3855m	16
	C4	VALUE	10u	9u	11u	3.6010n	< MIN >
	C6	VALUE	0.4700u	423n	517n	1.0585u	< MIN >
	C1	VALUE	0.0100u	9n	11n	500.5676p	< MIN >
	C3	VALUE	0.4700u	423n	517n	141.8399n	< MIN >
	R1	VALUE	24k	21.6000k	26.4000k	95.0558u	< MIN >
	C7	VALUE	0.4700u	423n	517n	375.2423n	< MIN >

Specifications

		On/Off	Profile	Measurement	Original	Min	Max
▶	▼	☑	rf_amp-schematic1-ac.sim	max(db(v(load)))	9.4181	7.3142	11.3819
	▼	☑	rf_amp-schematic1-ac.sim	bandwidth(v(load),3)	150.5788meg	130.3443meg	174.8395meg
	▼	☑	rf_amp-schematic1-ac.sim	min(10*log10(v(inoise)*v(inoise)/8.28e-19)	4.1481	3.6360	4.7507
	▼	☑	rf_amp-schematic1-ac.sim	max(v(onoise))	4.3383n	3.5366n	5.2793n

Click here to import a measurement created within PSpice...

Click to select the measurement data set for review

Hover your mouse over a red flag to read the error messages

Min means that the sensitivity is very small, but not zero

A zero (0) displays if there is no sensitivity at all

The measurement's worst-case minimum and maximum values

Sorting data

– Double click on the **Linear** column header to sort the bar graph data in ascending order. Double click again to sort the data in descending order.

Selecting the measurement to view

– Select a measurement in the Specifications table.

The data in the Parameters table relates to the measurement you selected.

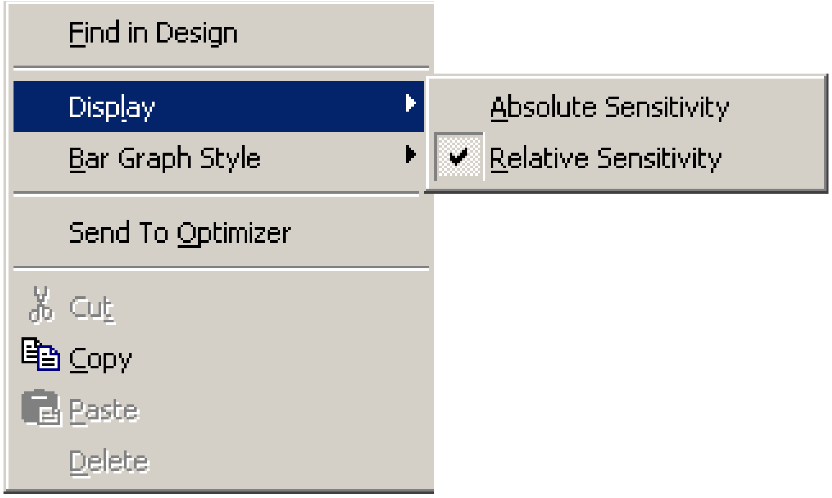
Table...	Column heading...	Means...
Parameters	Original	The nominal component parameter values used to calculate nominal measurement.
	@Min	The parameter value used to calculate the worst-case minimum measurement.
	@Max	The parameter value used to calculate the worst-case maximum measurement.
	absolute sensitivity	The change in the measurement value divided by a unit of change in the parameter value.
	relative sensitivity	The percent of change in a measurement value based on a one percent change in the parameter value.
Specifications	Original	The nominal value of the measurement using original component parameter values.
	Min	The worst-case minimum value for the measurement.
	Max	The worst-case maximum value for the measurement.

Note: To see all the parameter and measurement values used in Sensitivity calculations: from the View menu, select Log File.

Changing from Absolute to Relative sensitivity

1 Right click anywhere on the Parameters table.

A pop-up menu appears



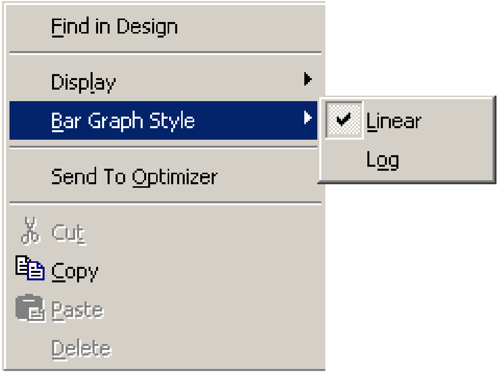
2 Select **Relative Sensitivity**.

Note: See Sensitivity calculations on page 66.

Changing the bar graph to linear view

1 Right click anywhere on the Parameters table.

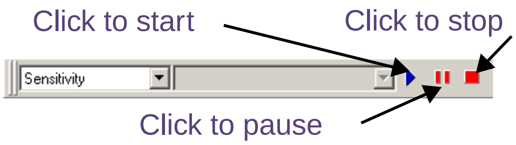
A pop-up menu appears.



2 Select **Linear**.

Controlling Sensitivity

Pausing, stopping, and starting



Pausing and resuming

1. Click ❚❚ on the top toolbar.

   The analysis stops, available data is displayed, and the last completed run number appears in the output window.

2. Click the depressed ❚❚ or ▶ to resume calculations.

Stopping

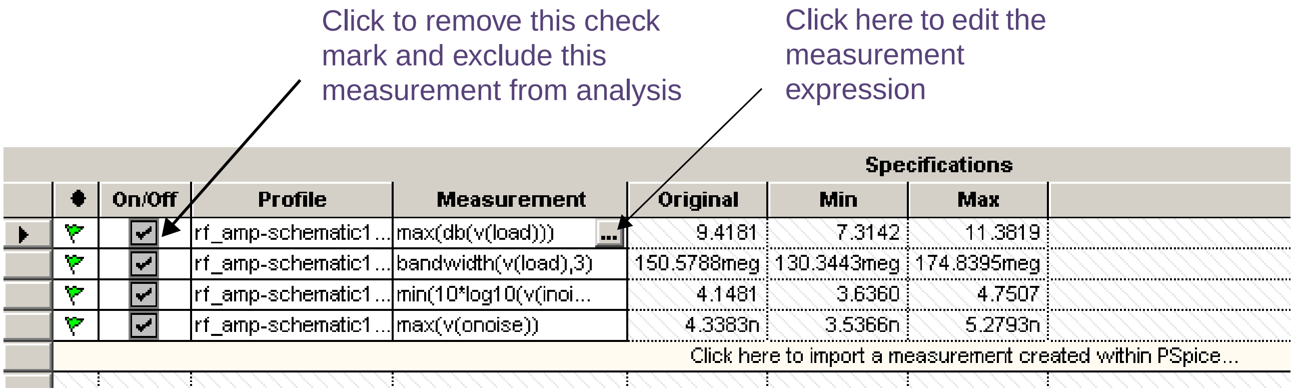
– Click ■ on the top toolbar.

If a Sensitivity analysis has been stopped, you cannot resume the analysis.

Starting

– Click ▶ to start or resume.

Controlling Measurements


Click to remove this check mark and exclude this measurement from analysis
Click here to edit the measurement expression

					Specifications			
	●	On/Off	Profile	Measurement	Original	Min	Max	
▶	▼	☑	rf_amp-schematic1...	max(db(v(load))) ...	9.4181	7.3142	11.3819	
	▼	☑	rf_amp-schematic1...	bandwidth(v(load),3)	150.5788meg	130.3443meg	174.8395meg	
	▼	☑	rf_amp-schematic1...	min(10*log10(v(inoi...	4.1481	3.6360	4.7507	
	▼	☑	rf_amp-schematic1...	max(v(onoise))	4.3383n	3.5366n	5.2793n	
	Click here to import a measurement created within PSpice...							

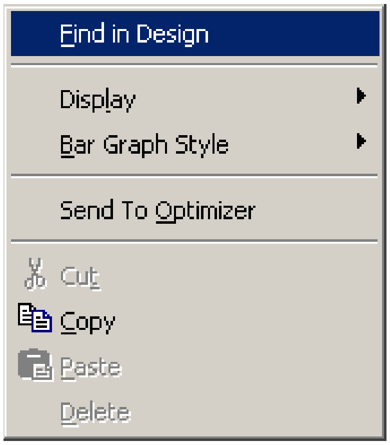
Adjusting component values

In the RF example, we will not change any component parameters.

With another example you may decide after reviewing sensitivity results that you want to change component values or tighten tolerances. You can use **Find in Design** from Advanced Analysis to return to your schematic editor and locate the components you would like to change.

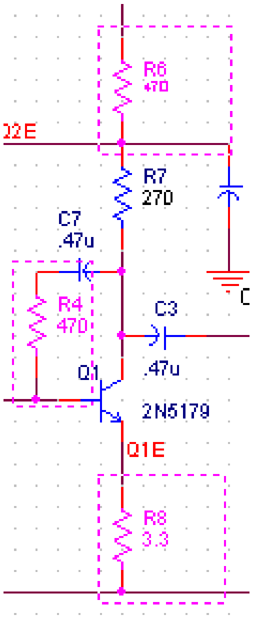
1. In the Parameters table, highlight the components you want to change.
2. Right click the selected components.

   A pop-up menu appears.



3. Left click on **Find in Design**.

The schematic editor appears with the components highlighted.



4 Change the parameter value in the schematic editor.

5 Rerun the PSpice simulation and check results.

6 Rerun Sensitivity.

Sending parameters to Optimizer

Review the results of the Sensitivity calculations. We need to use engineering judgment to select the sensitive components to optimize:

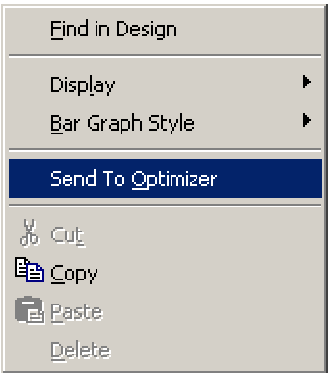
- We won’t change R5 or R9 because they control the input and output impedances.
- We won’t change R2 or R3 because they control transistor biasing.

The linear bar graph at the Relative Sensitivity setting shows that R4, R6, and R8 are also critical parameters. We’ll import these parameters and values to Optimizer.

1 In the Parameters table, hold down the Ctrl key and select R4, R6, and R8.

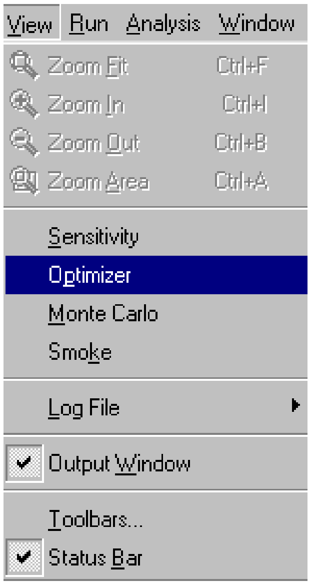
2 Right click the selected components.

A pop-up menu appears.



3 Select **Send to Optimizer**.

4 From the **View** menu, select **Optimizer**.



Select Optimizer view to switch to the Optimizer window and see the parameters you sent over from Sensitivity

Optimizer becomes the active window and your critical parameters are listed in the Optimizer Parameters table.

Printing results

– Click 🖶 .

Or:

From the **File** menu, select **Print**.

Saving results

– Click 💾.

Or:

From the **File** menu, select **Save**.

The final results will be saved in the Advanced Analysis profile (.aap).

For power users

Sensitivity calculations

Absolute sensitivity

Absolute sensitivity is the ratio of change in a measurement value to a one unit positive change in the parameter value.

For example: There may be a 0.1V change in voltage for a 1 Ohm change in resistance.

The formula for absolute sensitivity is:

$$[(M_S - M_n) / (P_n * S_v * Tol)]$$

Where:

M_S = the measurement from the sensitivity run for that parameter

M_n = the measurement from the nominal run

Tol = relative tolerance of the parameter

P_n = Nominal parameter value

S_v = Sensitivity Variation. (Default = 40%)

By default, the parameter value is varied within 40% of the set tolerance.

You can change this value to any desired percentage using the Profile settings dialog box.

1. From the Edit drop-down menu, choose Profile Settings.
2. In the Profile setting dialog box, select the Sensitivity tab.
3. In the Sensitivity Variation dialog box, specify the value by which you want to vary the parameter value.
4. Click OK to save your settings.

The values entered by you in the Profile Setting dialog box, are stored for the future use as well. Every time you load the project, old values are used for advanced analysis simulations.

Example

For example, if you specify the Sensitivity Variation as 10%, the parameter values will be varied within 10% of the tolerance value.

Consider that you want to test a resistor of 100k for sensitivity. The tolerance value attached to the resistor is 10%.

By default, for sensitivity calculations, the value of resistor will be varied from 96K to 104K. But if you change thedefault value of Sensitiviy Variation to 10%, the resistor values will be varied from 99K to 101K for sensitivity calculations.

Relative sensitivity

Relative sensitivity is the percentage of change in a measurement based on a one percent positive change of a component’s parameter value.

For example: For each 1 percent change in resistance, there may be 2 percent change in voltage.

The formula for relative sensitivity is:

$$[(Ms - Mn) / (S_V*Tol)]$$

Where:

M_s = the measurement from the sensitivity run for that parameter

M_n = the measurement from the nominal run

Tol = relative tolerance of the parameter

S_v = Sensitivity Variation. (Default = 40%)

Relative sensitivity calculations determine the measurement change between simulations with the component parameter first set at its original value and then changed by Sv percent of its positive tolerance. Linearity is assumed. This approach reduces numerical calculation errors related to small differences.

For example, assume that an analysis is run on a 100-ohm resistor which has a tolerance of 10 percent. The maximum value for the resistor would be 110 ohms. Assuming the default value of Sv, which is 40%, the analysis is run with the value of the resistor set to 104 ohms (40 percent of the 10 ohm tolerance) and a measurement value is obtained. Using that value as a base, Sensitivity assumes that the resistance change from 100 to 104 ohms is linear and calculates (interpolates) the measured value at 1 percent tolerance (101 ohms).

Worst-case minimums and maximums

For each measurement, Sensitivity sets all parameters to their tolerance limits in the direction that will increase the measurement value, runs a simulation, and records the measurement value. Sensitivity then sets the parameters to the opposite tolerance limits and gets the resulting value.

If worst-case measurement values are within acceptable limits for the design, the measurements can in most cases be ignored for the purpose of optimization.

Sensitivity assumes that the measured quantity varies monotonically throughout the range of tolerances. If not (if there is an inflection point in the curve of output function values), the tool does not detect it. Symptoms of this include a maximum worst-case value that is less than the original value, or a minimum value greater than the original value.

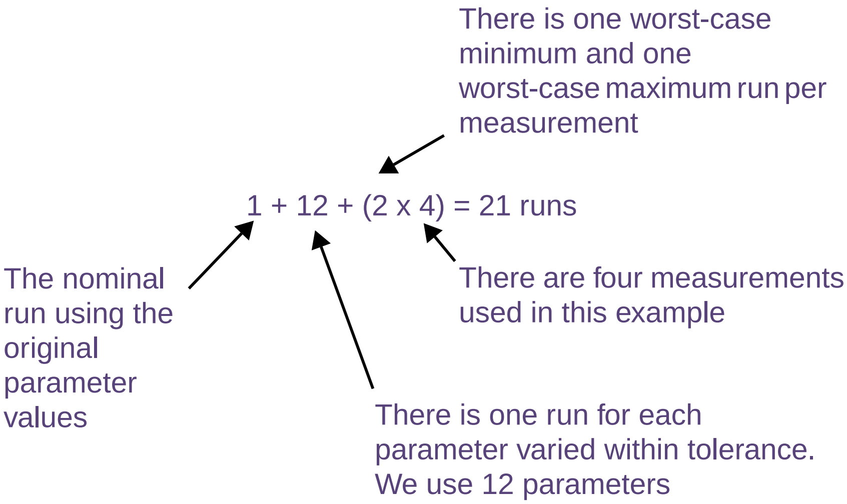
Sensitivity analysis runs

Sensitivity performs the following runs:

- A nominal run with all parameters set at original values
- The next run with one parameter varied within tolerance

  Values are obtained for each measurement. View the Log File for parameter values used in each measurement calculation.
- Subsequent runs with one parameter varied within tolerance
- A minimum worst-case run for each measurement
- A maximum worst-case run for each measurement

For our example circuit with 4 measurements and 12 parameters with tolerances, Sensitivity performs 21 runs.



There is one worst-case minimum and one worst-case maximum run per measurement

1 + 12 + (2 x 4) = 21 runs

The nominal run using the original parameter values

There are four measurements used in this example

There is one run for each parameter varied within tolerance. We use 12 parameters

To see the details of parameter and measurement calculations: from the **View** menu select **Log File**.

Optimizer

4

In this chapter

This chapter introduces you to Optimizer, its function, and the optimization process.

Optimizer overview

Note: Advanced Analysis Optimizer is available with the following products:

- PSpice Advanced Optimizer Option
- PSpice Advanced Analysis
- PSpice Optimizer

Optimizer is a design tool for optimizing analog circuits and their behavior. It helps you modify and optimize analog designs to meet your performance goals.

Optimizer fine tunes your designs faster and automatically than trial and error bench testing can. Use Optimizer to find the best component or system values for your specifications.

Advanced Analysis Optimizer can be used to optimize the designs that meet the following criteria:

- Design should simulate with PSpice.

  You can optimize a working circuit design that can be simulated using PSpice and the simulation results are as desired.

- Components in the design must have variable parameters, each of which relates to an intended performance goal.

Optimizer cannot be used to:

- Create a working design
- Optimize a digital design or a design in which the circuit has several states and small changes in the variable parameter values causes a change of state. For example, a flip-flop is on for some parameter value, and off for a slightly different value.

You can use the Advanced Analysis Optimizer to import legacy Optimizer projects. For view the detailed procedure, see the technical note posted on the OrCAD community site, www.orcadpcb.com. All PSpice related technical notes posted on the community site are available under *Application Notes* section of the PSpice page.

Terms you need to understand

Optimization

Optimization is the process of fine-tuning a design by varying user-defined design parameters between successive simulations until performance comes close to (or exactly meets) the ideal performance.

The Advanced Analysis Optimizer solves four types of optimization problems as described in the table shown below.

Problem Type	Optimizer Action	Example
Unconstrained minimization	Reduces the value of a single goal	Minimize the propagation delay through a logic cell
Constrained minimization	Reduces the value of a single goal while satisfying one or more constraints	Minimize the propagation delay through a logic cell while keeping the power consumption of the cell less than a specified value
Unconstrained least squares1	Reduces the sum of the squares of the individual errors (difference between the ideal and the measured value) for a set of goals	Given a terminator design, minimize the sum of squares of the errors in output voltage and equivalent resistance
Constrained least squares	Reduces the sum of squares of the individual errors for a set of goals while satisfying one or more constraints	Minimize the sum of squares of the figures of merit for an amplifier design while keeping the open loop gain equal to a specified value

[1] Use unconstrained least squares when fitting model parameters to a set of measurements, or when minimizing more than one goal.

Note: All four cases allow simple bound constraints; that is, lower and upper bounds on all of the parameters.

Optimizer also handles nonlinear function as constraints.

Curve fitting

Curve fitting is a method of optimizing a model to a waveform. In this method, the specifications are represented using a collection of x-y points. These points describe the response of a system or a part of it.

Parameter

A parameter defines a property of the design for which the Optimizer attempts to determine the best value within specified limits.

A parameter can:

- Represent component values (such as resistance, R, for a resistor).
- Represent other component property values (such as slider settings in a potentiometer).
- Participate in expressions used to define component values or other component property values.
- Be a model parameter, such as IS for a diode.

  Example: A potentiometer part in a schematic uses the SET property to represent the slider position. You can assign a parameterized expression to this property to represent variable slider positions between 1 and 0. During optimization, the Optimizer varies the parameterized value of the SET property.

Specification

A specification describes the desired behavior of a design in terms of goals and constraints.

For example: For a given design, the gain shall be 20 dB 1dB; for a given design, the 3 dB bandwidth shall be 1 kHz; for a given design, the rise time must be less than 1 usec.

A design must *always* have at least one goal. You can have any number of goals and constraints in any combination, but it is recommended that the number of goals should be less. You can easily change a goal to a constraint and vice-versa.

The Advanced Analysis Optimizer can have two types of specifications: internal and external.

Internal specifications

An internal specification is composed of goals and constraints that are defined in terms of target values and ranges. These specifications are entered using the Standard tab of the Advanced Analysis Optimizer.

External specifications

An external specification is composed of measurement data defined in an external data file, which is read by the Advanced Analysis Optimizer. The external specifications are entered using the Curve Fit tab of the Advanced Analysis Optimizer.

Goal

A goal defines the performance level that the design *should* attempt to meet (for instance, minimum power consumption). A goal specification includes:

- ❑ The name of the goal.
- ❑ An acceptable range of values.
- ❑ A circuit file to simulate, a simulation profile.
- ❑ An expression or a measurement function for measuring performance.

Constraint

A constraint defines the performance level that the design *must* fulfill. For example, an expression indicating that the output voltage that must be greater than a specific level can be a constraint. The constraint specification includes:

- ❑ The name of the constraint.
- ❑ An acceptable range of values.
- ❑ A circuit file to simulate or a simulation profile.
- ❑ An expression or a measurement function for measuring performance.
- ❑ An allowed relationship between measured values and the target value, which can be one of the following:

<=	measured value must be less than or equal to the target value
=	measured value must equal the target value
>=	measured value must be greater than or equal to the target value

It is recommended that in a design, nonlinear functions of the parameters should be treated as constraints and not as goals.

For example: Bandwidth can vary as the square root of a bias current and as the reciprocal of a transistor dimension.

Performance

The performance of a design is a measure of how closely the calculated values of its specifications approach their target values for a given set of parameter values.

Each aspect of a design’s performance is found by evaluating Optimizer expressionsL

In many cases (particularly if there are multiple conflicting specifications), it is possible that the Optimizer will not meet all of the goals and constraints. In these cases, optimum performance is the best *compromise* solution—that is, the solution that comes closest to satisfying each of the goals and constraints, even though it may not completely satisfy any single one.

Evaluation

An evaluation is an algorithm that computes a single numerical value, which is used as the measure of performance with respect to a design specification.

The Optimizer accepts evaluations in one of these three forms:

- Single-point PSpice A/DAMS trace function
- PSpice A/DAMS goal function
- Expression based on a combination of functions. For example `max(X)+max(Y)`

Given evaluation results, the Optimizer determines whether or not the changes in parameter values are improving performance, and determines how to select the parameters for the next iteration.

Trace function

A trace function defines how to evaluate a design characteristic when running a single-point analysis (such as a DC sweep with a fixed voltage input of 5 V). For example: V(out) to measure the output voltage; I(d1) to measure the current through a component.

> **Note:** Refer to the online PSpice A/D Reference Guide for the variable formats and mathematical functions you can use to specify a trace function.

Goal function

A goal function defines how to evaluate a design characteristic when running any kind of analysis other than a single-point sweep analysis. A goal function computes a single number from a waveform. This can be done by finding a characteristic point (e.g., time of a zero-crossing) or by some other operation.

For example, you can use a goal functions to:

- Find maxima and minima in a trace.
- Find distance between two characteristic points (such as peaks).
- Measure slope of a line segment.
- Derive aspects of the circuit’s performance which are mathematically described (such as 3 dB bandwidth, power consumption, and gain and phase margin).

To write effective goal functions, determine what you are attempting to measure, then define what is mathematically special about that point (or set of points).

Note: Be sure that the goal functions accurately measure what they are intended to measure. Optimization results highly depend on how well the goal functions behave. Discontinuities in goal functions (i.e., sudden jumps for small parameter changes) can cause the optimization process to fail.

Optimizer expression

An expression defines a design characteristic. The expression is composed of optimizer parameter values, constants, and the operators and functions shown in Table 4-1.

For example: To measure the sum of resistor values for two resistors with parameterized values named R1val and R2val, respectively, use the expression *R1val* + *R2val*.

Table 4-1 Valid Operators and Functions for Advanced Analysis Optimizer Expressions.

Operator	Meaning
+	addition
-	subtraction

Table 4-1 Valid Operators and Functions for Advanced Analysis Optimizer Expressions., *continued*

Operator	Meaning
*	multiplication
/	division
**	exponentiation
exp	e^x
log	ln(x)
log10	$\log_{10}(x)$
sin	sine
cos	cosine
tan	tangent
atan	arctangent

Note: Unlike trace functions and goal functions, Optimizer expressions are evaluated without using a simulation.

Derivative

A derivative can be defined as the rate of change of specification value with the change in parameter value.

Simulation profile

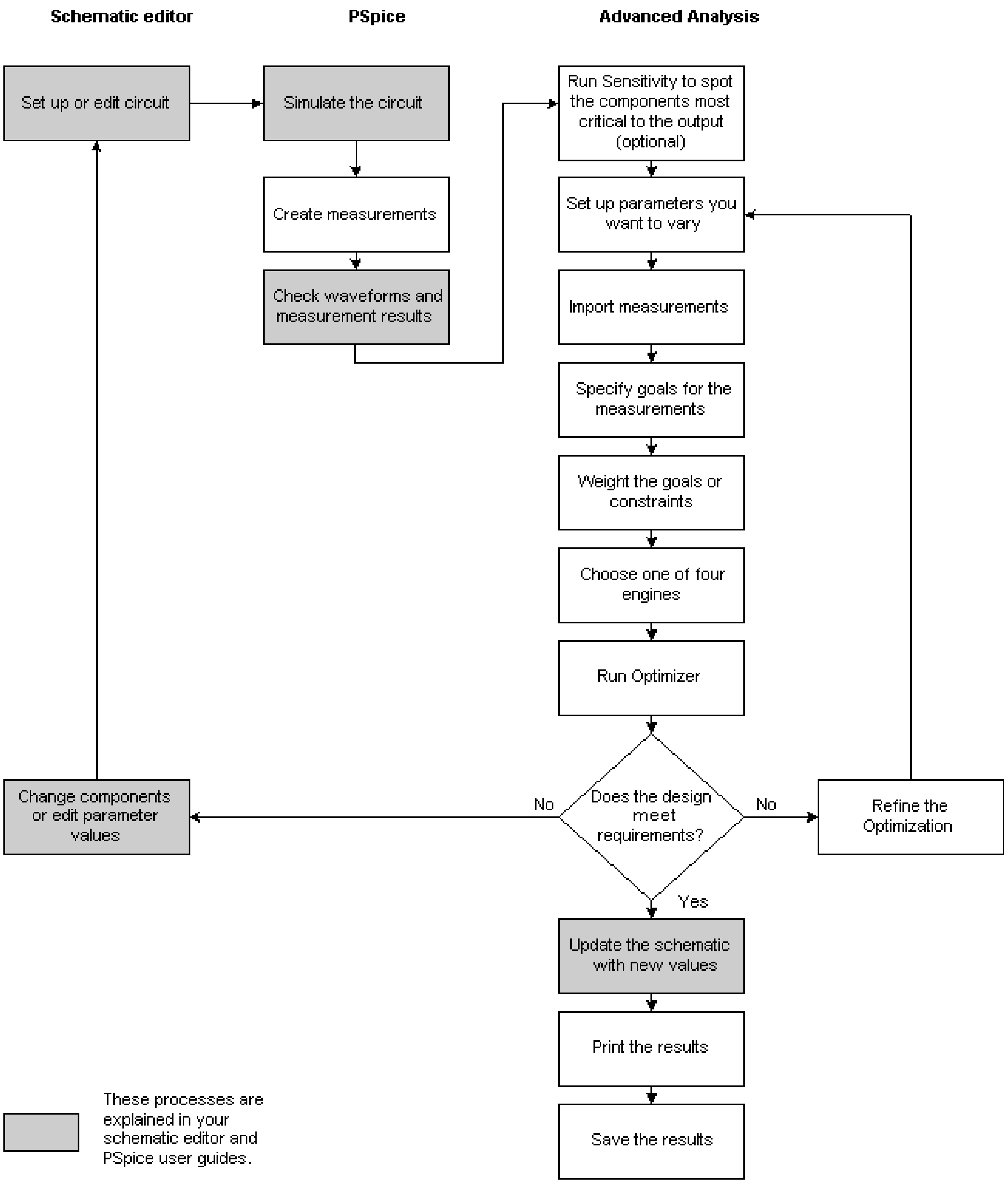
A simulation profile is used in the basic simulation flow. A simulation profile contains and saves the simulation settings for an analysis type so that it can be reused.

Advanced Analysis Profile

An advanced analysis profile contains and saves the advanced analyses (optimizer/sensitivity) settings so it can be reused.

Optimizer procedure overview

Workflow


Schematic editor
PSpice
Advanced Analysis
Set up or edit circuit
Simulate the circuit
Create measurements
Check waveforms and measurement results
Run Sensitivity to spot the components most critical to the output (optional)
Set up parameters you want to vary
Import measurements
Specify goals for the measurements
Weight the goals or constraints
Choose one of four engines
Run Optimizer
Does the design meet requirements?
No
No
Yes
Change components or edit parameter values
Refine the Optimization
Update the schematic with new values
Print the results
Save the results
These processes are explained in your schematic editor and PSpice user guides.

To obtain meaningful optimization results, the Optimizer requires a problem description that consists of a circuit design, a list of optimization parameters, number of problem constraints derived from the design specification, and a set of performance goals to optimize.

To optimize a circuit,

1. Create or edit a circuit using Capture.
2. Simulate and define circuit measurements.
3. Determine and set up optimization parameters that you want to vary during optimization.

   You can set up parameters from the Optimizer or on the schematic.
4. Specify the optimization specification.

- For Internal specifications use the standard tab.

  a. Define the goal for the circuit measurements.

  You can define goals such as rise time, phase margin, or entire response curves.

  b. Weight goals as needed.

- For External specifications use the Curve Fit tab.

  a. Specify the trace expression and the location of the reference file.

  b. For each of the Trace expression, specify the reference waveform, tolerance, and weight.

5. Select the Optimizer engine.

   You can use either the Least Squares Quadratic, Modified Least Squares Quadratic, or Random engines for optimization. The Discrete engine should be used after optimization to convert optimization parameters into discrete values only.
6. Start the analysis from the Optimizer.
7. Analyze or review the data in the Optimizer and refine the circuit design.

8. Save and print out your results.

Setting up in the circuit in the schematic editor

Start with a circuit in Capture. The circuit simulations and measurements should be already defined.

The simulation can be a Time Domain (transient), a DC Sweep, or an AC Sweep/Noise analysis.

1. From your schematic editor, open your circuit.
2. Simulate the circuit.
3. Check your key waveforms in PSpice and make sure they are what you expect.

Test your measurements and make sure they have the results you expect.

For information on circuit layout, and simulation setup, see your schematic editor or PSpice AMS user guides.

For information on setting up measurements, see “Measurement Expressions."

Setting up Optimizer in Advanced Analysis

Setting up the Optimizer consists of the following tasks:

- Opening Optimizer in Advanced Analysis
- Selecting an engine
- Defining Optimization parameters (Selecting Component Parameters)
- Setting up circuit measurements or specifications.
- Specifying optimization goals

Optimization goals are design specifications that you want to meet. Therefore, while defining optimization parameters, you need to determine parameters that affect your goals the most.

Opening Optimizer in Advanced Analysis

– From the **PSpice** menu in your schematic editor, select **Advanced Analysis / Optimizer.**

The Advanced Analysis Optimizer tool opens.

Selecting an engine

Optimizer in advanced analysis supports multiple engines. These are Least Square (LSQ), Modified LSQ (MLSQ), Random, and Discrete engines. In an optimization cycle, a combination of these engines is used.

Use these Optimizer engines for these reasons:

- Modified LSQ engine: to rapidly converge on an optimum solution.
- LSQ engine: to converge on an optimum solution if the Modified LSQ engine did not get close enough.
- Random engine: to pick a starting point that avoids getting stuck in local minima when there is a problem converging.

  See Local and global minimums on page 270.

- Discrete engine: to pick commercially available component values and run the simulation one more time with the selected commercial values.

The normal flow in which these engines are used is Random engine, followed by LSQ or MLSQ engine, and finally the Discrete engine.

To know more about the Optimizer engines see Engine overview.

– From the top toolbar engine drop-down list, select one of the four optimizing engines.

Note: The Discrete engine is used at the end of the optimization cycle to round off component values to commercially available values.

Setting up component parameters

In this step, you identify the components or the parts in the circuit, whose parameter values you need to vary. Though the Optimizer in Advanced Analysis can support any number of components, it is recommended that the number of components with the variable parameter values should be kept to minimum.

You can specify parameters using:

- Schematic Editor
- Optimizer
- Sensitivity

Schematic Editor

1. In the schematic editor, select the component, whose parameter values you want to vary.
2. Select **PSpice > Advanced Analysis > Export Parameters to Optimizer**.

   The component gets added in the *Parameters* table.

Note: After you select the component, you can right-click and select **Export Parameters to Optimizer** from the pop-up menu. This command is enabled only if the selected component is based on PSpice-provided templates.

Optimizer

1 In the Parameters table in Advanced Analysis, click on the row containing the text “Click here to import.”

The **Parameters Selection** dialog box appears.

2 Highlight the components you want to vary and click **OK**.

The components are now listed in the *Parameters* table.

Sensitivity

1 After you run the sensitivity analysis, select the most sensitive components and right-click.

2 From the pop-up menu, select **Send to Optimizer**.

Selected components are listed in the *Parameters* table.

When you add a component to the *Parameters* table, the parameter name, the original value of the parameter, and the minimum and maximum values of the parameter are also listed in the *Parameters* table. The **Min** and **Max** values sets the range the engine will vary the component’s parameters. These values are calculated by the Optimizer based on the original value. By default, **Min** value is one-tenth of the **Original** value and **Max** value is ten times the **Original** value.

You can use your engineering judgment to edit the Parameters table **Min** and **Max** values for the Optimization.

Caution

If you reimport any of the parameter that is already present in the *Parameters* table, the entries in the **Original**, **Min**, and **Max** columns are overwritten by the new values.

Guidelines for selecting components

Optimization parameters need to carefully selected to ensure quicker optimizations and the best results.

- Vary your specification's most sensitive components. Run a sensitivity analysis to find them.
- Use good engineering judgment. Don't vary components whose values need to stay the same for successful circuit operation.

  For example: if the input and output resistors need to be 50 ohms for impedance matching, do not choose those components to optimize.
- Vary just one component if varying other components can cause the same effect.

  For example: in an RC filter combination, both the resistor and capacitor affect the bandwidth. Selecting one parameter simplifies the problem. If your goal cannot be met with one parameter, you can add the second parameter.

Guidelines for setting up Parameters

- Make sure that ranges you specify take into account power dissipation and component cost.

  For example: a resistor with a small value (low ohms) could require a larger, more expensive power rating.
- Start with a small set of parameters (three or four) and add to the list during your optimization process, especially when running the LSQ engine.

- Aim for parameters with initial values near the range midpoints. Optimizer has more trouble finding solutions if parameter values are close to the endpoint of the ranges.
- Keep optimization parameter ranges within 1 or 2 orders of magnitude.

Setting up specifications

Using the Advanced Analysis Optimizer you can set two types of specifications:

- Measurement specifications - should be used in cases where circuit performance is measurable in terms of variable parameter values, such as gain margin for the circuit.
- Curve-fit specifications - should be used in cases where circuit output is a waveform, such as in wave shaping circuits.

Setting up measurement specifications

In the Advanced Analysis Optimizer, you can specify the measurement specification in the Standard tab.

1. In the Specifications table, click on the row containing the text “Click here to import...”

   The **Import Measurements** dialog box appears with measurements configured earlier in PSpice.

2. Highlight the measurements you want to vary and click **OK**.

   The components are now listed in the Specifications table.

3. Specify the acceptable minimum and maximum measurement values in the Specifications table **Min** and **Max** columns.
4. If you are using the Modified LSQ engine, mark the measurement as a goal or constraint by clicking in the **Type** column.

The engine strives to get as close as possible to the goals while ensuring that the constraints are met.

5. Weigh the importance of the specification using the **Weight** column.

   Change the number in the weight column if you want to emphasize the importance of one specification with respect to another. Use a positive integer greater than or equal to one.

Note: Trial and error experimenting is usually the best way to select an appropriate weight. Pick one weight and check the Optimizer results on the Error Graph. If the results do not emphasize the weighted trace more than the rest of the traces on the graph, pick a higher weight and rerun the Optimization. Repeat until you get the desired results.

Guidelines for setting up measurement specifications

- Determine your requirements first, then how to measure them.
- Don’t set conflicting goals.

  For example: Vout > 5 and Vout < 2 when the input is 3V.
- Make sure enough data points are generated around the points of measurements. Good resolution is required for consistent and accurate measurements.
- Simulate only what’s needed to measure your goal.

  For example: for a high frequency filter, start your frequency sweep at 100 kHz instead of 1 Hz.

Setting up curve-fit specifications

Use curve fitting for following:

1. To optimize a model to one or more sets of data points. Using curve fitting, you can optimize multiple model parameters to match the actual device characteristic represented either waveforms from data sheets or measured data.

2 When the goal functions are specified as values at particular points, YatX().

3 To optimize circuits that need a precise AC or impulse response. For example, you can use curve fitting for optimizing signal shaping circuits, where the circuit waveform must match the reference waveform.

To use curve fitting for optimizing a design, you need to specify the following in the Curve Fit tab of the Advanced Analysis Optimizer:

1 A curve-fit specification

You can either import a specification from an existing `.opt` file or can create a new specification.

Creating a new specification includes specifying a trace expression, a reference file containing measured points and the corresponding measurement values, and a reference waveform.

To know the details about the New Trace Expression dialog box, see *Advanced Analysis Online Help*.

To see the detailed procedure for creating a new curve-fit specification, see “Creating a Curve-fit Specification” on page 89.

To know more about the reference files, see Reference file on page 90.

2 List of parameters to be changed

All the optimizable parameters in a circuit are listed in the property map file. This file is created when you netlist the design, and has information of each of the device used in the circuit design.

Creating a Curve-fit Specification

1 Specify the Trace Expression.

a. In the Specifications area, click the row stating “Click here to enter a curve-fit specification”.

b. In the New Trace Expression dialog box, select the simulation profile from the Profile drop-down list, and also specify the trace expression or the measurement for which you want to optimize the design.

2 Specify the reference file.

3 Specify the reference waveform. The Ref. Waveform drop-down list box lists all the reference waveforms present in the reference file that is specified in the previous step.

4 Specify the Weight for the specification.

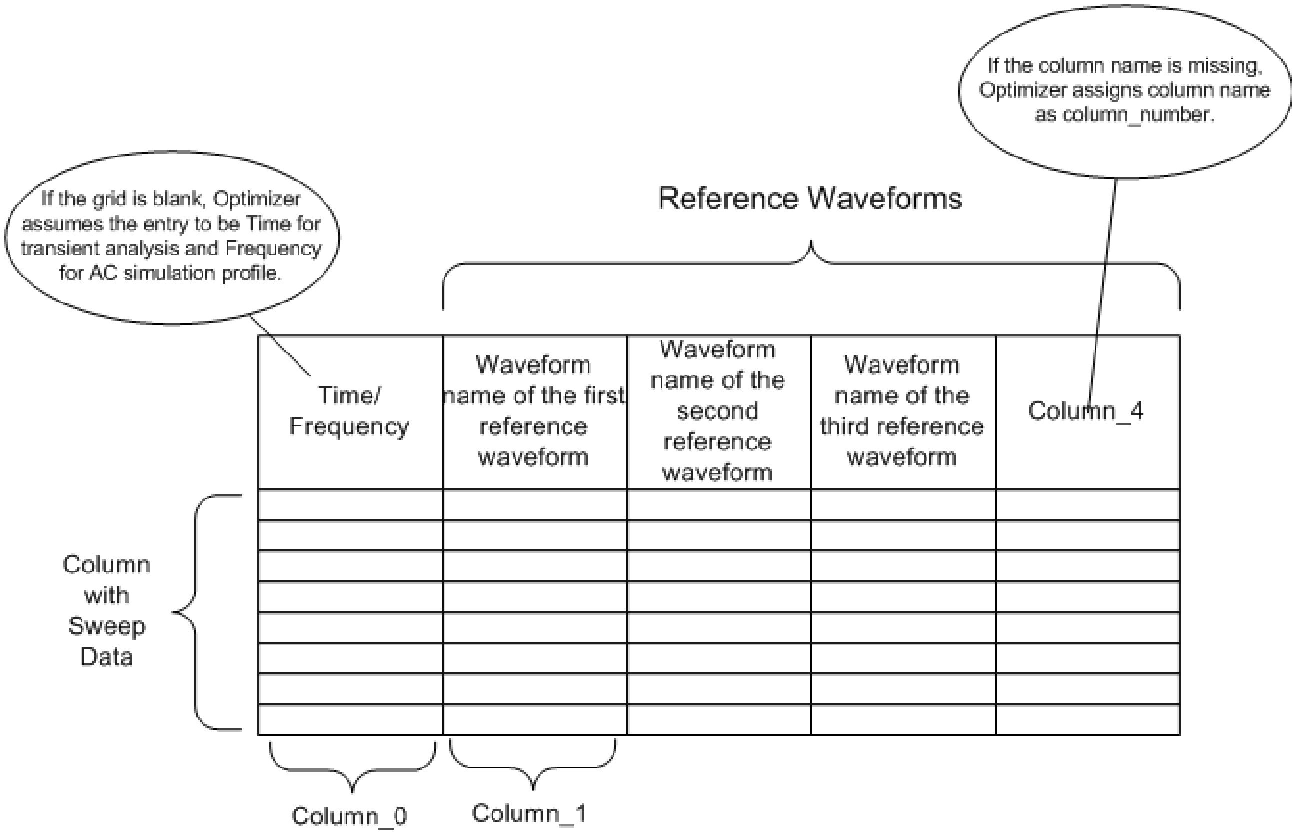
5 Specify the relative tolerance.

Reference file

To be able to use curve fitting for optimizing your circuit, you must have a reference waveform. In Advanced Analysis Optimizer, the reference waveform is specified in form of multiple data points stored in a reference file. A reference file is a text file that contains the reference waveform with respect to a sweep in the tabular form with the data values separated by *white spaces*, *blanks*, *tabs* or *comma*.

An reference file has to have a minimum of two columns, one for the sweep data and one for the reference waveform. A reference file can have multiple columns. Each extra column represents a different reference waveform.

The format of a multiple column reference file is shown below:


If the column name is missing, Optimizer assigns column name as column_number.
If the grid is blank, Optimizer assumes the entry to be Time for transient analysis and Frequency for AC simulation profile.
Reference Waveforms
Time/ Frequency
Waveform name of the first reference waveform
Waveform name of the second reference waveform
Waveform name of the third reference waveform
Column_4
Column with Sweep Data
Column_0
Column_1

A sample MDP file with one reference waveform is shown below.

```
  Time                V(D4:2)
                 0     1.35092732941686e-022
            2e-010    0.119616948068142
2.17331331036985e-010    0.129942461848259
2.51993993110955e-010    0.150499030947685
3.21319317258894e-010     0.19108946621418
4.59969965554774e-010    0.270239174365997
7.37271262146533e-010    0.420916199684143
1.14672723207623e-009    0.627191662788391
1.52335408125073e-009    0.802674531936646
2.27660777959973e-009     1.13146245479584
3.77361568603665e-009     1.87895023822784
6.76763149891049e-009      3.6644229888916
```

```
1.27556631246582e-008     7.35082197189331
2.46214577833191e-008     14.6913433074951
 4.1200489727594e-008      24.834680557251
6.12008282819763e-008     36.7118606567383
8.12011668363586e-008     48.0069961547852
1.01201505390741e-007     58.5374412536621
1.21201843945123e-007     68.1351776123047
1.41202182499506e-007     76.6477890014648
1.61202521053888e-007     83.9403915405273
 1.8120285960827e-007     89.8975143432617
2.01203198162653e-007     94.4249801635742
2.21203536717035e-007     97.4511413574219
2.41203875271417e-007     98.9281539916992
2.61204213825799e-007      98.832633972168
2.81204552380182e-007     97.1660690307617
3.01204890934564e-007     93.9547653198242
```

First column of the reference file contains the sweep data, which is plotted on the X-axis. The first element in the header row indicates the type of analysis. For transient analysis the entry should be **Time**, for ac analysis it is **Freq** (frequency). For the DC-analysis there is no special entry. In case you leave the column header of the first column blank, the Advanced Analysis Optimizer assumes the entries in the sweep column to be time or frequency depending on whether the simulation profile is ac or transient, respectively.

The remaining entries in the header row indicate the names of the reference waveform in each column. These entries are displayed in the Reference Waveform drop-down list of the Curve Fit tab.

Creating Reference Files

You can create a reference file using one of the following.

- Manually

  Write the x,y points of the reference waveform in a text file. Save the text file with either `.mdp`, `.csv`, or `.txt` extension.

- Using the Export command in the PSpice File menu.

a. Load a `.dat` file in PSpice.

b. In the PSpice File menu, choose Export. Select Text (.txt file).

c. The Export Text Data dialog box appears.

   The Output Variable to Export list displays the list of existing traces. You can add or delete traces from this list.

d. In the File name field, specify the name of the reference file and the location where the reference file is to be saved.

e. Click OK to generate the reference file.

   To know the details about the Export Text Data dialog box, see *PSpice AD online help*.

The reference file generated using the Export menu command, has data values separated by tab.

Error Calculation

The error displayed in the Error column of the Curve Fit tab is influenced by the following factors:

- Relative Tolerance, specified by the user in the Tolerance column of the Curve Fit tab.
- Curve Fit Gear, specified by the user in the Optimizer tab of the Profile Settings dialog box. Curve fit gears are the methods used for error calculations.

  Note: The Profile Settings dialog box is displayed when you choose Profile settings from the Advanced Analysis Edit menu.

The error displayed is the difference between Root Mean Square Error (E_{rms}) and the tolerance specified by the user.

The Root Mean Square Error (E_{rms}) is calculated using the following formula:

$$E_{rms} = 100 \times \frac{\sqrt{\sum (R_i - S_i)^2}}{\sqrt{\sum (R_i)^2}}$$

Where

$$R_i = Y_{at}X(R,X_i)$$

V_i represents the reference value at the same sweep point.

and

$$S_i = Y_{at}X(S,X_i)$$

Y_i is the simulated data value.

X_i indicates the set of sweep values considered for the error calculation. The value of X_i depends on the gear type selected by the user.

Legacy gear

In this case, each point in the reference waveform is treated as an individual specification (goal) by the Optimizer. In this method, every data point is optimized. Therefore, the error at each data point should be zero. The Optimizer calculates error at each of the reference point and the final error is the RMS of the error at all reference points.

> **Note:** The legacy gear works only if the number of data points to be optimized is less than 250. If the number of data points is more than 250, next gear selected automatically.

Weighted reference gear

In this case, the Advanced Analysis Optimizer considers a union of the reference data points as well as simulation data points in the common interval of time or frequency values. A weight factor is multiplied to the error at each X_i. In this case, Xi will contain both, the reference file points and the simulation sweep points, but the error is calculated by multiplying the weight factor to the error at each point. Therefore, the error is:

$$E_{rms} = 100 \times \frac{\sqrt{\sum W_i \times (R_i - S_i)^2}}{\sqrt{\sum W_i \times (R_i)^2}}$$

Where W_i is the weight that is calculated using the following formula.

- For data points appearing only in the simulation data.

  $$W_i = 1$$

- For data points appearing in the reference waveform.

  $$W_i = \left\lceil \frac{b}{a} \right\rceil^2$$

  Where

  $$b = \text{sizeof}\{X_{ref + sim}\}$$

  and

  $$a = \text{sizeof}\{X_{ref}\}$$

  The *sizeof* function returns the size of the vector.

  $X_{\text{ref + sim}}$ indicate the union of the reference data points as well as simulation data points in a common interval.

  Note: The weighted reference gear is same as Reference data points only gear for cases where $\frac{b}{a} \to \infty$.

Reference only gear

In this case, the Advanced Analysis Optimizer tries to fit in the simulation curve to the curve specified by the reference waveform, and the goal is to minimize the

(RMS_{error}/RMS_{ref}) below the tolerance level specified by the user. The error is calculated only at the reference data points. Therefore, X_i will only contain the points on the reference waveform.

The error calculation formula is same as used in the Weighted reference gear, except that W_i is zero for all data points that are not on the reference waveform.

Simulation also gear

In this case, the Advanced Analysis Optimizer considers a union of the reference data points as well as simulation data points in the common interval of Time or frequency values.

Therefore, the error is calculated using the following formula:

$$E_{rms} = 100 \times \frac{\sqrt{\sum (R_i - S_i)^2}}{\sqrt{\sum (R_i)^2}}$$

Note: Notice that if W_i is equal to 1 for all X_i, then the Weighted reference gear is same as the Simulation and reference data points alike gear.

Example

Consider a situation in which the reference sweep or the value of X for the reference waveform, ranges from 30u to 110u. The value of X for the simulation waveform ranges from 0u to 100u. In this case, sweep value for error calculation (Xi) will range from 30u to 100u. This is so because the common interval between ranges 0-100u and 30u-110u is 30u to 100u. Lets assume that in the above-mentioned range, there are 100 reference data points and a total of 400 data points (simulation plus reference) on which error is being calculated. The Erms will be calculated for all the 400 data points.

For each value of Xi, Si, which is the simulated value at Xi, can either be an exact value specified in the simulation data (.dat) file, or it can be the interpolated value at Xi. Similarly, Ri, which is the reference value at Xi, can either be an exact value specified in the reference file, or it can be the interpolated value at Xi.

Thus, for the simulation also curve-fit error gear, Xi contains both the reference file points and the simulation sweep points (a total of 400 data points). The error between the Ri and Si is calculated at each of the 400 points and the RMS of this error waveform is calculated. The ratio of RMS of the error waveform and the RMS of the reference waveform R is calculated and normalized to the equivalent percentage.

For the weighted reference curve-fit error gear, the weighted RMS error is calculated at each of the 400 points (Xi). In this case there is one reference point for every four simulation data points (assuming linear distribution of reference and simulated data points). So each of the reference points is weighted by a scale factor of four (400/100).

Note: In all gears except the legacy gear, error is calculated for all the sweep points that are overlapping between the output wave form and the reference waveform.

Using curve fitting to optimize a design

1. Open a Capture project (*.opj) and simulate it.

   Verify that circuit is complete and is working fine.

2. Invoke Advanced Analysis Optimizer, select the Curve Fit tab.

3. Create a curve-fit specification.
   Specify the following:

   a. Trace Expression

   Select a simulation profile and add a trace expression.

   b. Name and location of the Reference file

   c. Reference waveform as specified in the reference file.

   d. Tolerance

e. Weight

4 Select the optimizable parameters.

For each parameter, the original value, the min value (original value/10), and the max value (original value*10) displays automatically. You can change the min-max range as per the requirement.

5 Specify the method for error calculation.

a. From the *Edit* menu, choose *Profile Settings*.

b. From the *Curve-Fit Error* drop-down list in the *Optimizer* tab of the *Profile Settings* dialog box, select the method to be used for the error calculation.

To know more about error calaculation methods, see Error Calculation on page 93.

6 Specify whether or not you want to store simulation data.

a. In the *Profile Settings* dialog box, select the Simulation tab.

b. From the Optimizer drop-down list, select *Save All Runs*, if you want the simulation data to be stored, and select *Save None* if you do not want the simulation data to be stored.

7 Select an engine and start the Advanced Analysis Optimizer.

Running Optimizer

Starting a run

– Click ▶ on the top toolbar.

The optimization analysis begins. The messages in the output window tell you the status of the analysis.

A nominal run is made with the original component parameter values.

As the optimization proceeds, the Error Graph shows a plot with an error trace for each measurement. Data in the Parameters and Specifications tables is updated.

Displaying run data

– Place your cursor anywhere in the Error Graph to navigate the historical run data.

The Parameters and Specifications tables display the corresponding data calculated during that run. The optimization engine used for each run is displayed in the Optimization Engine drop-down list box. Though the engine name is displayed, the list box is disabled indicating that you can only view the engine used for the optimizer run selected in the Error Graph.

Note: The Advanced Analysis Optimizer saves only the engine name associated with the simulation run. Engine settings are not saved.

Clearing the Error Graph history

Selecting the Clear error graph history, retains the value of parameters at the last run. Simulation information for all previous simulation runs is deleted.

For example, if the Optimizer has information stored for N number of simulation runs then select Clear Error graph history will delete all the simulation information from 0 to N-1 runs. The values in the current column of the Parameters window are used as the starting point for the next simulation run.

To get back the original parameter values, you need to delete all parameters and import again.

– Right click on the Error Graph and select **Clear History** from the pop-up menu.

  This removes all historical data and restores the current parameter values to last parameter value.

Controlling optimization

You can stop an analysis to explore optimization trends in the Error Graph, reset goals when results are not what you expected, or change engines.

Pausing, stopping and starting

– To start or continue, click ▶ on the top toolbar.

– To pause, click ⏸ on the top toolbar.

  The analysis pauses at an interruptible point and displays the current data.

– To stop, click ■ on the top toolbar.

Note: Starting after pause or stop resumes the analysis from where you left off.

Controlling component parameters

The range that Optimizer varies a component's parameter is controlled by the Max and Min values.

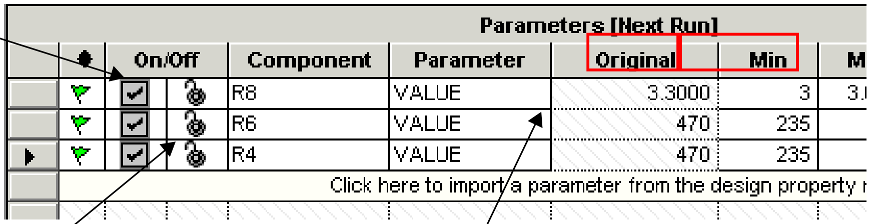
Default component values are supplied. For resistors, capacitors, and inductors the default range is one decade in either direction.

For more efficient optimization, tighten up the range between the Min and Max values.

- To change the minimum or maximum value a parameter is varied: click in the **Min** or **Max** column in the Parameters table and type in the change.
- To use the original parameter value (with no change) during the next optimizing run: click ☑ in the Parameters table to toggle the check mark off.
- To lock in the current value (with no change) of a parameter for the next optimizing run: click on the lock icon in the Parameters table to toggle the lock closed 🔒 .

  Note: If you cannot edit a value, and this is not the first run, you may be viewing historical data. To return to current data, click to the right of the horizontal arrow in the

Error Graph.



		Parameters [Next Run]					
	♦	On/Off	Component	Parameter	Original	Min	M
	▼	☑	R8	VALUE	3.3000	3	3.(
	▼	☑	R6	VALUE	470	235	
▶	▼	☑	R4	VALUE	470	235	
	Click here to import a parameter from the design property r						

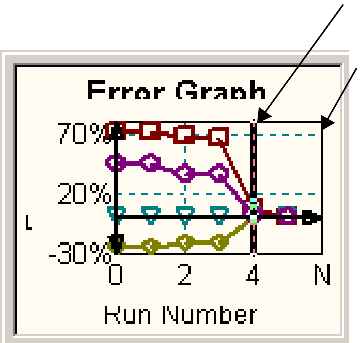
Click to remove the check mark, which tells Optimizer to use the Original value without variation during the next optimizing run.

Click to lock in the current value without variation during the next optimizing run.

Click a Min or Max value to type in a change.

Default component values are supplied.
For resistors, capacitors, and inductors the default range is one deca
in either direction.

Note:
If you can’t edit a value, you might be viewing the historical data (if y
have already run an optimization).



Click here to make changes which will affect the next run.

Controlling measurement specifications

Cells with cross-hatched backgrounds are read-only and cannot be edited.

- To exclude a measurement from the next optimization run, click the ☑ in the Specifications table, which removes the check mark.
- To hide a measurement’s trace on the Error Graph, click the graph symbol icon (▣) in the Specifications table, which toggles the symbol off.
- To edit a measurement, click on the measurement you want to edit, then click on ... .

- To add a new measurement, click on the row that reads “Click here to import a measurement...”

  Note: For instructions on setting up new measurements, see “Procedure for creating measurement expressions” on page 240.

- To export a new measurement to Optimizer or Monte Carlo, select the measurement and right click on the row containing the text “Click here to import a measurement created within PSpice.”

  Select **Send To** from the pop-up menu.

The example for this topic comes with measurements already set up in PSpice.

Copying History to Next Run

During optimization, you might want to modify an Optimizer run by copying parameter values from a previous optimization run into the current run database. You can then modify optimization specifications or engine settings, and run the Optimizer again to see the effects of varying certain parameters.

The Copy History to Next Run command allows you to copy the parameter values of the selected run to the last run which is also the starting point for the next simulation run.

Caution

Using Copy History To Next Run, you can only copy the parameter values of the selected run. The specifications, engine, and engine settings are not copied.

Use the following procedure to copy history.

1 In the Error Graph, select a run that you want to copy.

The history marker appears positioned on the selected run.

2 Right-click on the Error Graph.

3 Select **Copy History To Next Run** from the pop-up menu.

The parameters values are copied from the current marker run, for example, Run 1 to the end run.

Note: The **Copy History To Next Run** command is available only when you stop the Optimizer. Selecting **Pause** does not enable this menu command.

Consider a case where during optimization, parameter values do not converge after a particular point. In such cases, you can stop the Optimizer, copy the parameter values to the last run, select a different Optimizer engine and run the optimizer again.

Assigning available values with the Discrete engine

The Discrete engine is used at the end of the optimization cycle to round off components to commercially available values.

1 From the top toolbar engine field, select **Discrete** from the drop-down list.

A new column named **Discrete Table** appears in the Parameters table.

2 For each row in the Parameters table that contains an RLC component, click in the **Discrete Table** column cell.

An arrow appears, indicating a drop-down list of discrete values tables.

3 Select from the list of discrete values tables.

A discrete values table is a list of components with commercially available numerical values. These tables are available from manufacturers, and several tables are provided with Advanced Analysis.

4 Click ▶.

The Discrete engine runs.

The Discrete engine first finds the nearest commercially available component value in the selected discrete values table.

Next, the engine reruns the simulation with the new parameter values and displays the measurement results.

At completion, the **Current** column in the Parameters table is filled with the new values.

5 Return to your schematic editor and put in the new values.

See Finding components in your schematic editor.

6 While you are still in your schematic editor, rerun the simulation.

Check your waveforms and measurements in PSpice and make sure they are what you expect.

Finding components in your schematic editor

You can use the **Find in Design** feature to return to your schematic editor and locate the components you would like to change.

1. In the Parameters table, highlight the components you want to change.
2. With the components selected, right click the mouse button.

   A pop-up menu appears.
3. Select **Find in Design.**

   The schematic editor appears with the components highlighted.

Saving results

– Click 💾.

Or:

From the **File** menu, select **Save**.

The final results will be saved in the Advanced Analysis profile (.aap).

Examining a Run in PSpice

During the optimization process, one or more optimizer runs can fail. To investigate optimization failures,

- Select **Analysis > Optimizer > Troubleshoot in PSpice**.

  The simulation profile associated with the selected measurement opens in PSpice. PSpice then automatically opens the waveform viewer and shows a comparison of the last Optimizer simulation to a nominal PSpice simulation. PSpice lists results for both runs in the Measurement spreadsheet for easy comparison.

Example

This section, covers two design examples. The first example domesticates optimizing a design using measurement specifications. The second design example covers optimizing a design using curve-fit specifications.

Optimizing a design using measurement specifications

This example uses the tutorial version of RFAmp located at:

<target directory>\PSpice\tutorial\capture\pspiceaa\rfamp

The circuit is an RF amplifier with 50-ohm source and load impedances. It includes the circuit schematic, PSpice simulation profiles, and measurements.

Note: For a completed example see:

<*target directory*>\PSpice\Capture_Samples\AdvAnls\RFAmp directory.

The example uses the goals and constraints features in the Modified LSQ engine. The engine strives to get as close as possible to the goals while ensuring that the constraints are met.

When designing an RF circuit, there is often a trade-off between the bandwidth response and the gain of the circuit. In this example we are willing to trade some gain and input and output noise to reach our bandwidth goal.

Optimizer goal:

- Increase bandwidth from 150 MHz to 200 MHz

Note: Enter meg or e6 for MHz when entering these values in the Specifications table.

Optimizer constraints:

- Gain of at least 5 dB (original value is 9.4 dB)
- Max noise figure of 5 (original value is 4.1)

- Max output noise of 3 nano volts per root Hz (original value is 4.3 nano volts per root Hz)

Setting up the circuit in the schematic editor

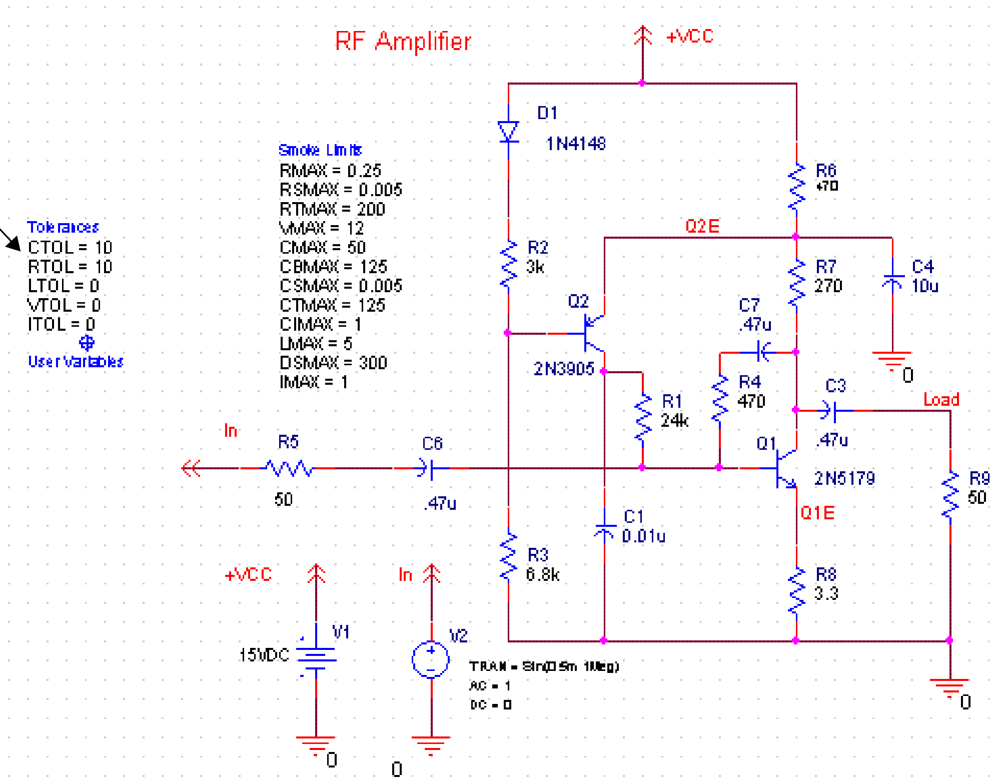
1 In your schematic editor, browse to the RFAmp tutorials directory.

<target directory>
\PSpice\tutorial\Capture\pspiceaa\rfamp

2 Open the RFAmp project.

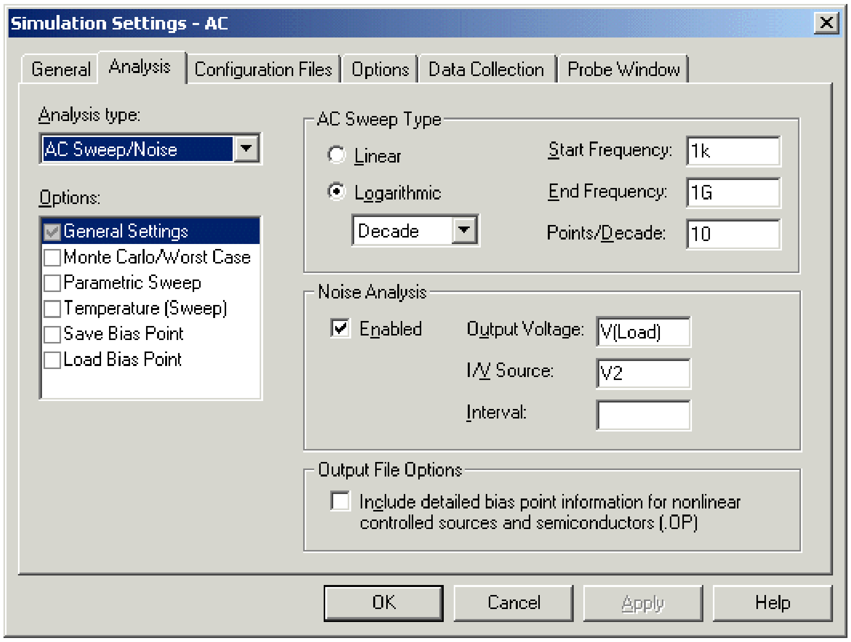
The RF amplifier circuit example

Assign global tolerances using this table



3 Select the SCHEMATIC1-AC simulation profile.

The AC simulation included in the RFAmp example



Simulation Settings - AC

General | Analysis | Configuration Files | Options | Data Collection | Probe Window

Analysis type: AC Sweep/Noise

Options:
- ☑ General Settings
- □ Monte Carlo/Worst Case
- □ Parametric Sweep
- □ Temperature (Sweep)
- □ Save Bias Point
- □ Load Bias Point

AC Sweep Type
- ○ Linear
- ● Logarithmic
- Decade

Start Frequency: 1k
End Frequency: 1G
Points/Decade: 10

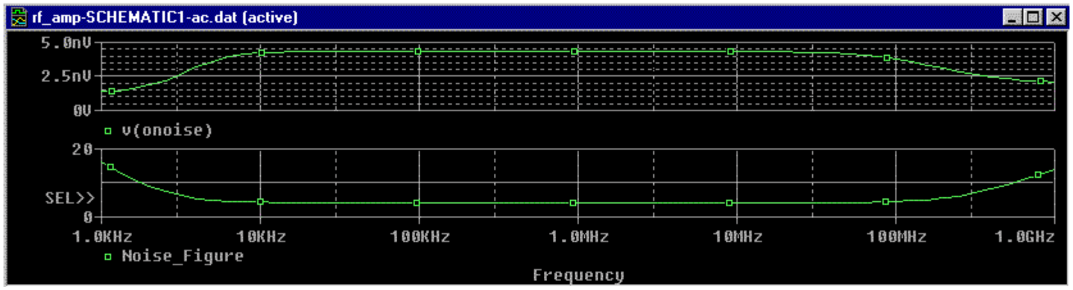
Noise Analysis
- ☑ Enabled

Output Voltage: V(Load)
I/V Source: V2
Interval:

Output File Options
- □ Include detailed bias point information for nonlinear controlled sources and semiconductors (.OP)

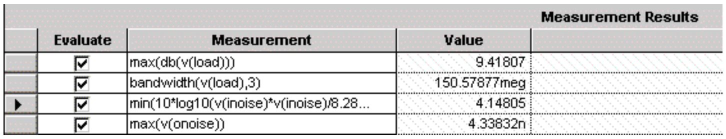
4 Click ▶ to run the PSpice simulation.

5 Review the results.



The waveforms in PSpice are what we expected.

In PSpice, view measurement results



Measurement Results

Evaluate	Measurement	Value
☑	max(db(v(load)))	9.41807
☑	bandwidth(v(load),3)	150.57877meg
☑	min(10*log10(v(inoise)*v(inoise)/8.28...	4.14805
☑	max(v(onoise))	4.33832n

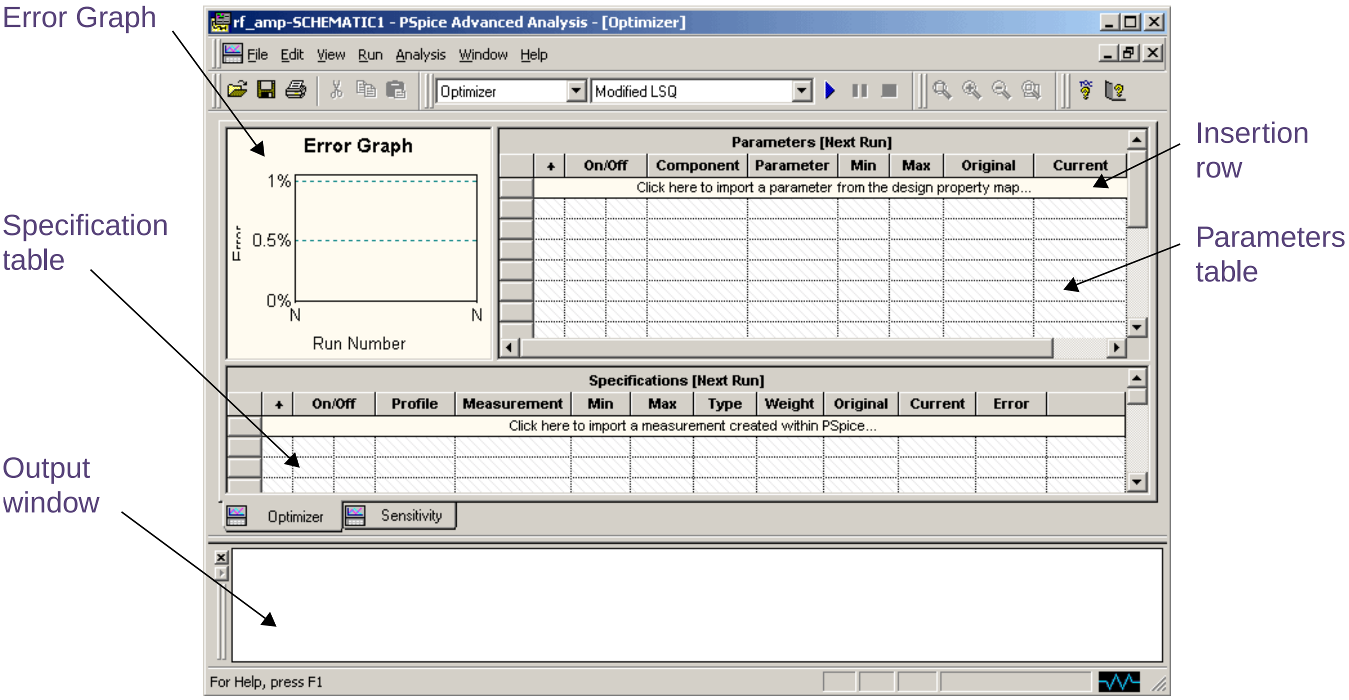
The measurements in PSpice give the results we expected.

Setting up Optimizer in Advanced Analysis

Opening Optimizer in Advanced Analysis

– From the **PSpice** menu in your schematic editor, select **Advanced Analysis** / **Optimizer**.

The Optimizer tool opens.


Error Graph
Specification table
Output window
Insertion row
Parameters table
rf_amp-SCHEMATIC1 - PSpice Advanced Analysis - [Optimizer]
File Edit View Run Analysis Window Help
Optimizer
Modified LSQ
Error Graph
1%
0.5%
0%
Error
N
N
Run Number
Parameters [Next Run]
+ On/Off Component Parameter Min Max Original Current
Specifications [Next Run]
+ On/Off Profile Measurement Min Max Type Weight Original Current Error
Optimizer
Sensitivity
For Help, press F1

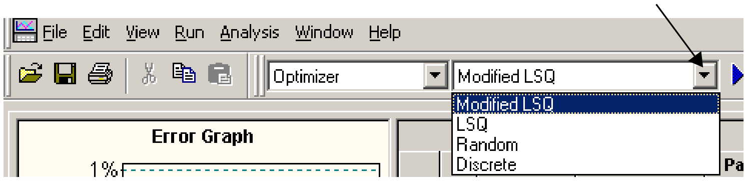
Click here to import a parameter from the design property map...

Click here to import a measurement created within PSpice...

Selecting an engine

1. Click on the drop-down list to the right of the Optimizer tool name.

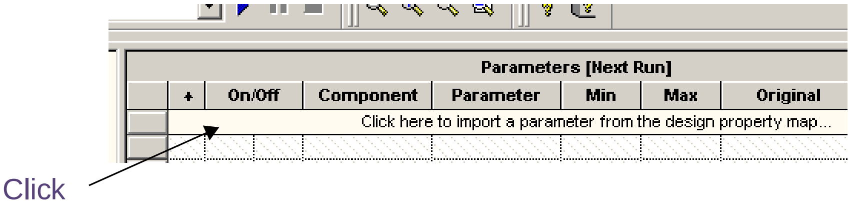
A list of engines appears.


Click to display drop-down list
File Edit View Run Analysis Window Help
Optimizer
Modified LSQ
Modified LSQ
LSQ
Random
Discrete
Error Graph
1%
Pa

2 Select the Modified LSQ engine.

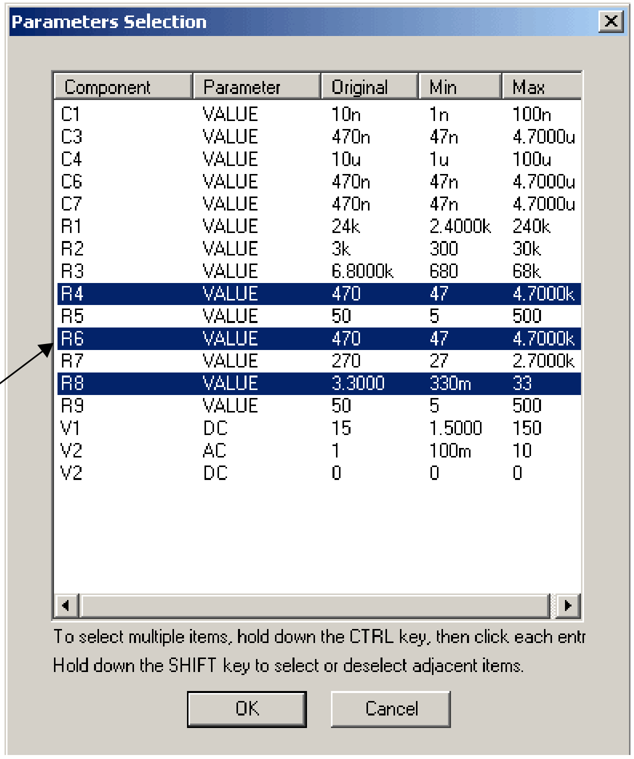
Setting up component parameters

1 In the Parameters table, click on the row containing the text “Click here to import...”



Parameters [Next Run]						
+	On/Off	Component	Parameter	Min	Max	Original
Click here to import a parameter from the design property map...						

The **Parameters Selection** dialog box appears.



Component	Parameter	Original	Min	Max
C1	VALUE	10n	1n	100n
C3	VALUE	470n	47n	4.7000u
C4	VALUE	10u	1u	100u
C6	VALUE	470n	47n	4.7000u
C7	VALUE	470n	47n	4.7000u
R1	VALUE	24k	2.4000k	240k
R2	VALUE	3k	300	30k
R3	VALUE	6.8000k	680	68k
R4	VALUE	470	47	4.7000k
R5	VALUE	50	5	500
R6	VALUE	470	47	4.7000k
R7	VALUE	270	27	2.7000k
R8	VALUE	3.3000	330m	33
R9	VALUE	50	5	500
V1	DC	15	1.5000	150
V2	AC	1	100m	10
V2	DC	0	0	0

To select multiple items, hold down the CTRL key, then click each entr

Hold down the SHIFT key to select or deselect adjacent items.

Hold down the CTRL key and click to add multiple components

2 Highlight these components in the **Parameters Selection** dialog box:

- ❑ R6, the 470 ohm resistor
- ❑ R4, the 470 ohm resistor
- ❑ R8, the 3.3 ohm resistor

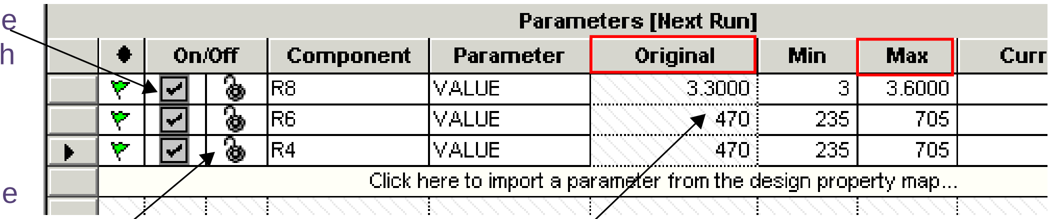
3 Click **OK**.

The components are now listed in the Parameters table

4 In the Parameters table **Min** and **Max** columns, make these edits:

- ❑ R8: min value 3, max value 3.6
- ❑ R6: min value 235, max value 705
- ❑ R6: min value 235, max value 705

This tightens the range the engine will vary the resistance of each resistor, for more efficient optimization.



Parameters [Next Run]

	●	On/Off	Component	Parameter	Original	Min	Max	Curr
		☑	R8	VALUE	3.3000	3	3.6000	
		☑	R6	VALUE	470	235	705	
►		☑	R4	VALUE	470	235	705	

Click here to import a parameter from the design property map...

Click to remove the check mark, which tells Optimizer to use the Original value without variation during the next optimizing run.

Click to lock in the current value without variation during the next optimizing run.

Click a Min or Max value to type in a change.

Default component values are supplied.
For resistors, capacitors, and inductors the default range is one decade in either direction.

Setting up measurement specifications

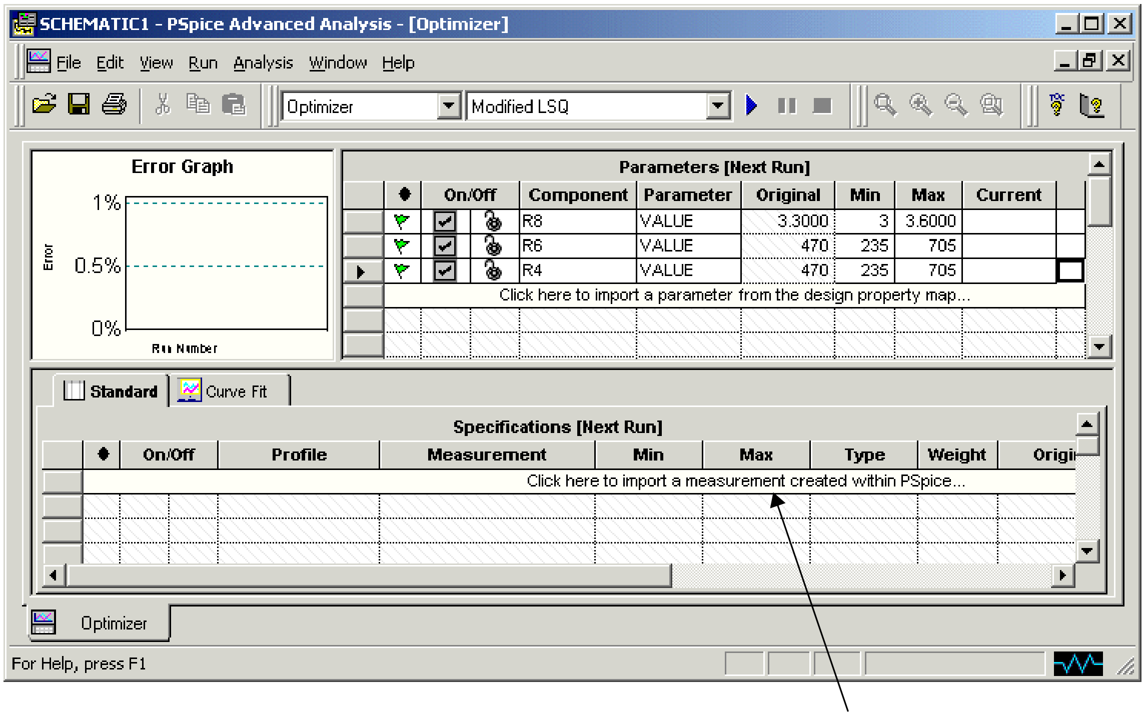
Measurements (set up earlier in PSpice) specify the circuit behavior we want to optimize. The measurement specifications set the min and max limits of acceptable behavior.

When using the Modified LSQ engine, you can also weigh the importance of the measurement specifications and mark them as constraints or goals.

The engine strives to get as close as possible to the goals while ensuring that the constraints are met.

When there is more than one measurement specification, change the number in the weight column if you want to emphasize the importance of one specification with respect to another.

1 In the Specifications table, click on the row containing the text “Click here to import....”



Parameters [Next Run]

●	On/Off		Component	Parameter	Original	Min	Max	Current
	☑		R8	VALUE	3.3000	3	3.6000	
	☑		R6	VALUE	470	235	705	
	☑		R4	VALUE	470	235	705	

Click here to import a parameter from the design property map...

Specifications [Next Run]

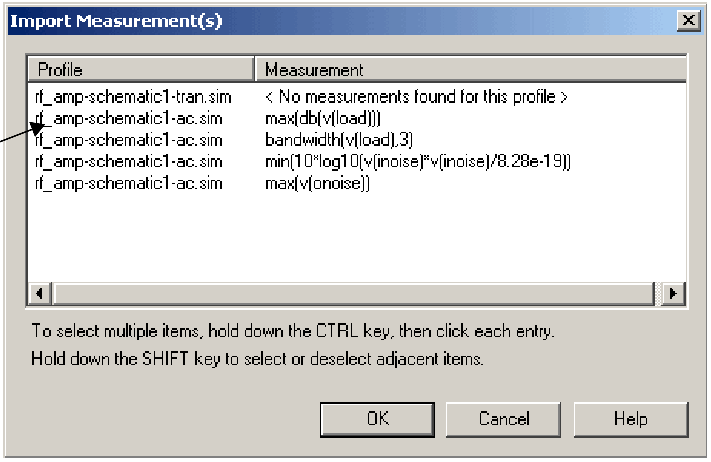
●	On/Off	Profile	Measurement	Min	Max	Type	Weight	Origi

Click here to import a measurement created within PSpice...

Click to import measurements

The **Import Measurements** dialog box appears with measurements configured earlier in PSpice.

Hold down the CTRL key and click to add multiple measurements

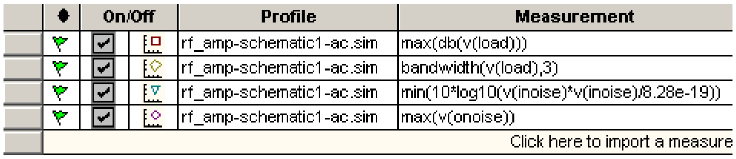


Profile	Measurement
rf_amp-schematic1-tran.sim	< No measurements found for this profile >
rf_amp-schematic1-ac.sim	max(db(v(load)))
rf_amp-schematic1-ac.sim	bandwidth(v(load),3)
rf_amp-schematic1-ac.sim	min(10*log10(v(inoise)*v(inoise)/8.28e-19))
rf_amp-schematic1-ac.sim	max(v(onoise))

To select multiple items, hold down the CTRL key, then click each entry.
Hold down the SHIFT key to select or deselect adjacent items.

2 Select all the AC sim measurements and click **OK**.

The measurements are now listed in the Specifications table.



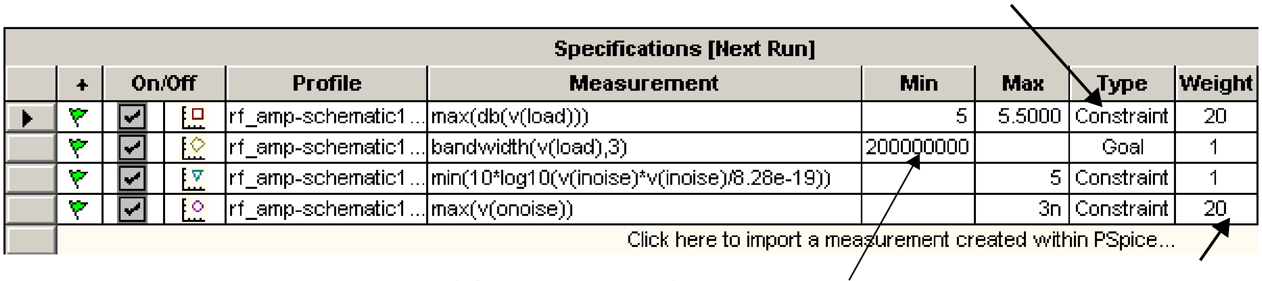
	◆	On/Off		Profile	Measurement
	⚑	☑	□	rf_amp-schematic1-ac.sim	max(db(v(load)))
	⚑	☑	◇	rf_amp-schematic1-ac.sim	bandwidth(v(load),3)
	⚑	☑	▽	rf_amp-schematic1-ac.sim	min(10*log10(v(inoise)*v(inoise)/8.28e-19))
	⚑	☑	○	rf_amp-schematic1-ac.sim	max(v(onoise))
					Click here to import a measure

3. In the **Max(DB(V(Load)))** row of the Specifications table:
   - ❑ Min column: type in a minimum dB gain of **5**.
   - ❑ Max column: type in a maximum dB gain of **5.5**.
   - ❑ Type column: click in the cell and change to **Constraint**
   - ❑ Weight column: type in a weight of **20**
4. In the **Bandwidth(V(Load),3)** row:
   - ❑ Min column: type in a minimum bandwidth response of **200e6**
   - ❑ Max column: leave empty (unlimited)
   - ❑ Type column: leave as a **Goal**
   - ❑ Weight column: leave the weight as **1**
5. In the **Min (10*log10(v(in...** row:
   - ❑ Min column: leave empty
   - ❑ Max column: type in a maximum noise figure of **5**
   - ❑ Type column: click in the cell and change to **Constraint**
   - ❑ Weight column: leave the weight as **1**
6. In the **Max(V(onoise))** row:
   - ❑ Min column: leave empty
   - ❑ Max column: type in a maximum noise gain of **3n**
   - ❑ Type column: click in the cell and change to **Constraint**

- ❑ Weight column: type in a weight of **20**

Note: For information on numerical conventions, Numerical conventions on page 20.

Click a cell to get a drop-down list and select Goal



Specifications [Next Run]

	+	On/Off		Profile	Measurement	Min	Max	Type	Weight
▶	▼	☑		rf_amp-schematic1 ...	max(db(v(load)))	5	5.5000	Constraint	20
	▼	☑		rf_amp-schematic1 ...	bandwidth(v(load),3)	200000000		Goal	1
	▼	☑		rf_amp-schematic1 ...	min(10*log10(v(inoise)*v(inoise)/8.28e-19))		5	Constraint	1
	▼	☑		rf_amp-schematic1 ...	max(v(onoise))		3n	Constraint	20
					Click here to import a measurement created within PSpice...				

Click a cell to type in a value

Select number and edit

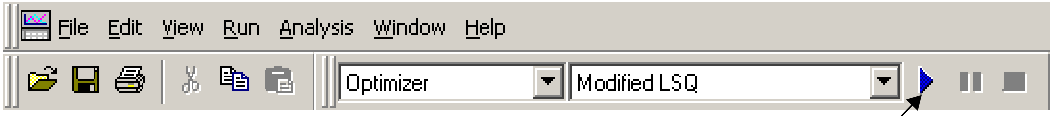
Tip

It is recommended that you complete the steps for setting up component parameters and measurement specifications. In case you choose not to perform the steps, you can use the `SCHEMATIC1_complete.aap` file located at `..\tools\pspice\tutorial\capture\pspiceaa\rfamp\rf_amp-PSpiceFiles\SCHEMATIC1`. To use the aap file provided with the design example, rename `SCHEMATIC1_complete.aap` to `SCHEMATIC1.aap`.

Running Optimizer

Starting a run

– Click ▶ on the top toolbar.



Click to start optimization

The optimization analysis begins. The messages in the output window tell you the status of the analysis.

A nominal run is made with the original component parameter values.

As the optimization proceeds, the Error Graph shows a plot with an error trace for each measurement.

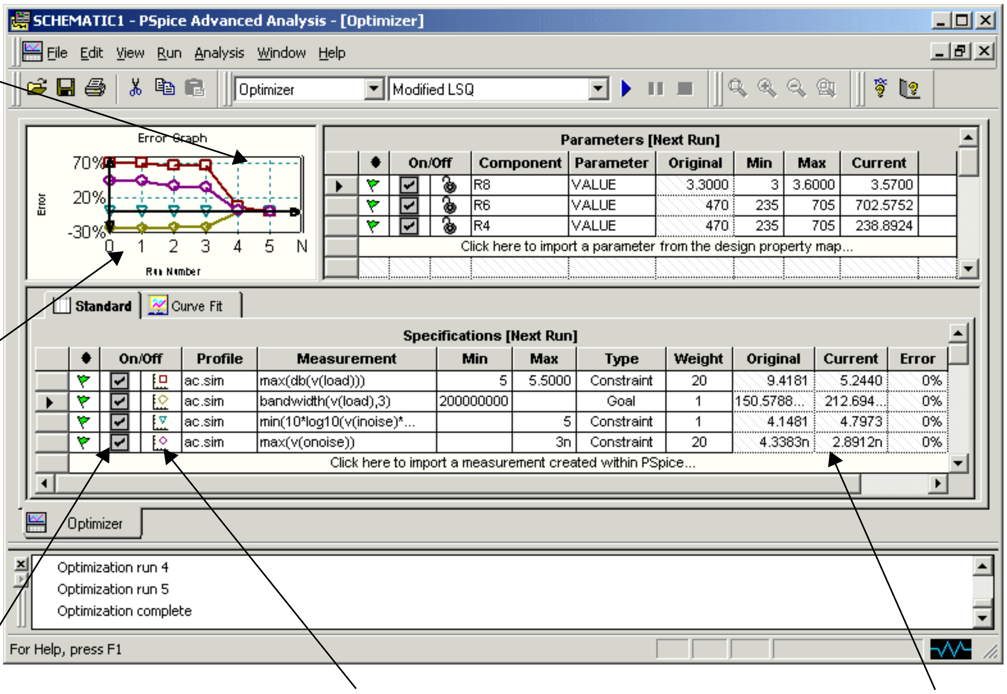
Data in the Parameters and Specifications tables is updated.

Optimizer finds a solution after five runs.

Displaying run data

– Place your cursor anywhere in the Error Graph to navigate the historical run data.

The Parameters and Specifications tables display the corresponding data calculated during that run. Historical run data cannot be edited. It is read-only, as indicated by the cross-hatched background.



Parameters [Next Run]

	●	On/Off		Component	Parameter	Original	Min	Max	Current
▶	⚑	☑	🔓	R8	VALUE	3.3000	3	3.6000	3.5700
	⚑	☑	🔓	R6	VALUE	470	235	705	702.5752
	⚑	☑	🔓	R4	VALUE	470	235	705	238.8924
	Click here to import a parameter from the design property map...								

Specifications [Next Run]

	●	On/Off		Profile	Measurement	Min	Max	Type	Weight	Original	Current	Error
	⚑	☑	□	ac.sim	max(db(v(load)))	5	5.5000	Constraint	20	9.4181	5.2440	0%
▶	⚑	☑	◇	ac.sim	bandwidth(v(load),3)	200000000		Goal	1	150.5788...	212.694...	0%
	⚑	☑	▽	ac.sim	min(10*log10(v(inoise)*...		5	Constraint	1	4.1481	4.7973	0%
	⚑	☑	◇	ac.sim	max(v(onoise))		3n	Constraint	20	4.3383n	2.8912n	0%
	Click here to import a measurement created within PSpice...											

Optimization run 4
Optimization run 5
Optimization complete

For Help, press F1

Click a run line to see data for that run The data in the Parameters and Specifications tables will change to reflect the values of that run

To clear the Error Graph and remove all historical data: right click on the Error Graph and select Clear History from the pop-up menu.

Click to remove the check mark, which excludes the measurement from the next optimization run

Click the graph symbol to toggle the symbol off, which hides the measurement's trace on the Error Graph

Cells with cross-hatched backgrounds are read-only and cannot be edited.

Controlling optimization

Pausing, stopping and starting

You can stop and resume an analysis to explore optimization trends in the Error Graph, to reset goals, or to change engines when results are not what you expected. The analysis will stop, saving the optimization data. You can also use pause and resume to accomplish the same thing.

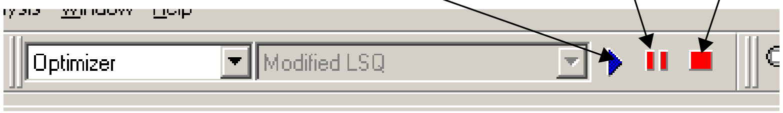
- To start or resume, click ▶ on the top toolbar.
- To pause, click ❚❚ on the top toolbar.

- To stop, click 🟥 on the top toolbar.

Click to start optimization

Click to pause optimization

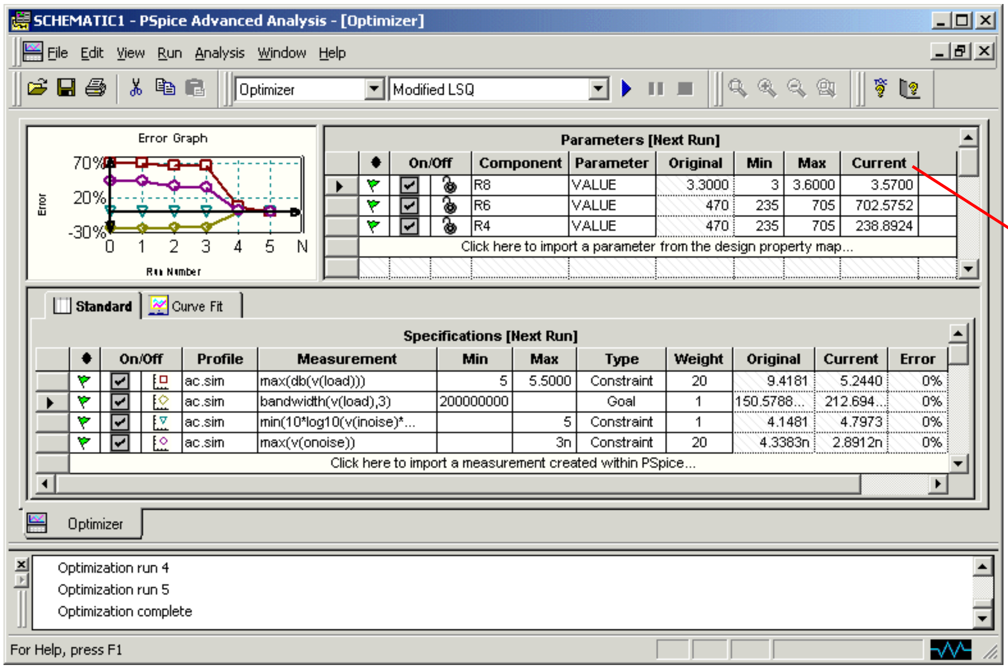
Click to stop optimization



Assigning available values with the Discrete engine

The Discrete engine is used at the end of the optimization cycle to round off component values to the closest values available commercially.

At the end of the example run, Optimization was successful for all the measurement goals and constraints. However, the new resistor values may not be commercially available values. You can find available values using the Discrete engine.



Parameters [Next Run]

	●	On/Off		Component	Parameter	Original	Min	Max	Current
▶		☑		R8	VALUE	3.3000	3	3.6000	3.5700
		☑		R6	VALUE	470	235	705	702.5752
		☑		R4	VALUE	470	235	705	238.8924

Click here to import a parameter from the design property map...

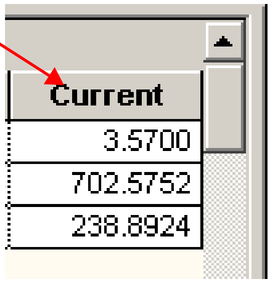
Specifications [Next Run]

	●	On/Off		Profile	Measurement	Min	Max	Type	Weight	Original	Current	Error
		☑		ac.sim	max(db(v(load)))	5	5.5000	Constraint	20	9.4181	5.2440	0%
▶		☑		ac.sim	bandwidth(v(load),3)	200000000		Goal	1	150.5788...	212.694...	0%
		☑		ac.sim	min(10*log10(v(inoise)*...		5	Constraint	1	4.1481	4.7973	0%
		☑		ac.sim	max(v(onoise))		3n	Constraint	20	4.3383n	2.8912n	0%

Click here to import a measurement created within PSpice...

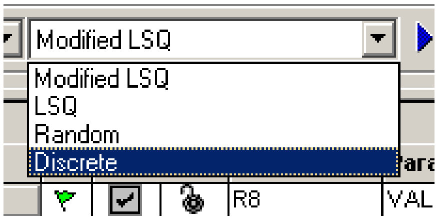
```
Optimization run 4
Optimization run 5
Optimization complete
```

Current values may not be commercially available



Current
3.5700
702.5752
238.8924

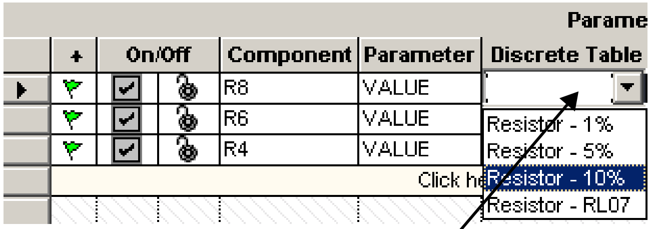
1 From the top toolbar engine text box, select Discrete from the drop-down list.



A new column named **Discrete Table** appears in the Parameters table. Discrete values tables for RLC components are provided with Advanced Analysis.

2 To select a discrete values table, click on any RLC component's **Discrete Table** column.

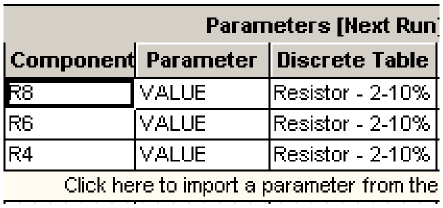
You will get a drop-down list of commercially available values (discrete values tables) for that component.



+	On/Off	Component	Parameter	Discrete Table
	☑	R8	VALUE	
	☑	R6	VALUE	
	☑	R4	VALUE	

Click here and select from the drop-down list of discrete values tables

3 Select the 10% discrete values table for resistor R8. Repeat these steps to select the same table for resistors R6 and R4.

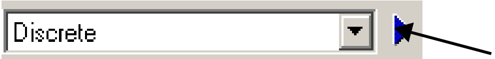


Parameters [Next Run

Component	Parameter	Discrete Table
R8	VALUE	Resistor - 2-10%
R6	VALUE	Resistor - 2-10%
R4	VALUE	Resistor - 2-10%

Click here to import a parameter from the

4 Click ▶.



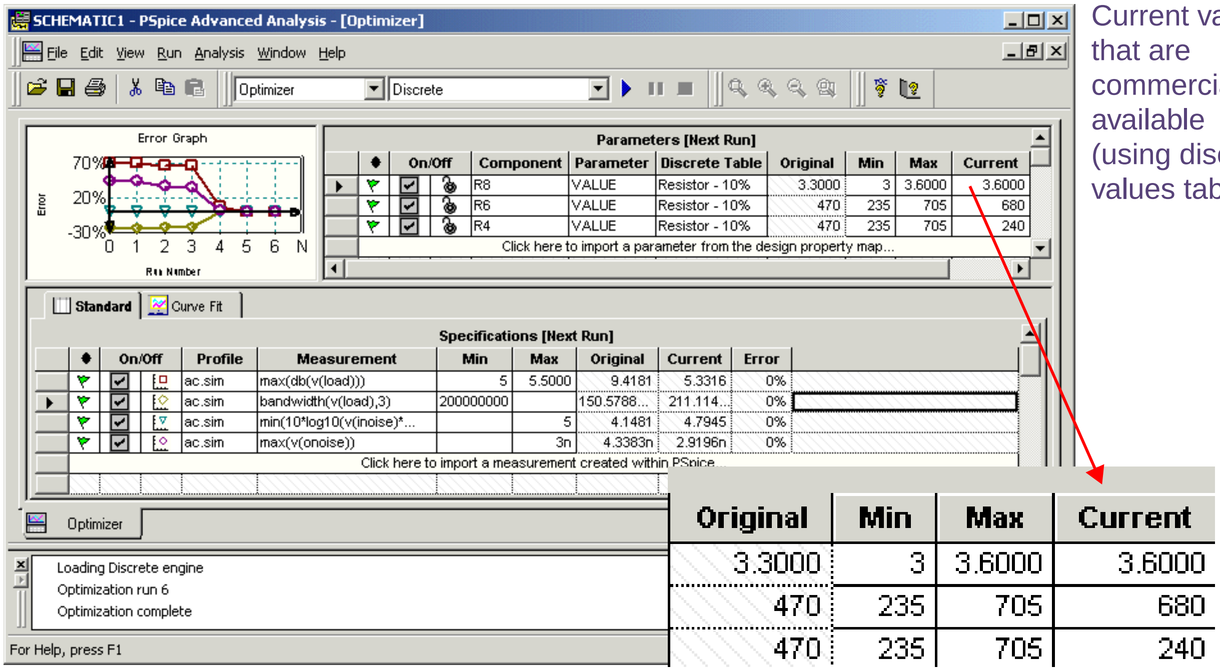
Click

The Discrete engine runs.

First, the Discrete engine finds the nearest commercially available component.

Next, the engine reruns the simulation with the new parameter values and displays the measurement results.

At completion, the **Current** column in the **Parameters** table is filled with the new values.



Parameters [Next Run]

	◆	On/Off		Component	Parameter	Discrete Table	Original	Min	Max	Current
▶		☑		R8	VALUE	Resistor - 10%	3.3000	3	3.6000	3.6000
		☑		R6	VALUE	Resistor - 10%	470	235	705	680
		☑		R4	VALUE	Resistor - 10%	470	235	705	240

Click here to import a parameter from the design property map...

Specifications [Next Run]

	◆	On/Off		Profile	Measurement	Min	Max	Original	Current	Error
		☑		ac.sim	max(db(v(load)))	5	5.5000	9.4181	5.3316	0%
▶		☑		ac.sim	bandwidth(v(load),3)	200000000		150.5788...	211.114...	0%
		☑		ac.sim	min(10*log10(v(inoise)*...		5	4.1481	4.7945	0%
		☑		ac.sim	max(v(onoise))		3n	4.3383n	2.9196n	0%

Click here to import a measurement created within PSpice...

```
Loading Discrete engine
Optimization run 6
Optimization complete
```

Original	Min	Max	Current
3.3000	3	3.6000	3.6000
470	235	705	680
470	235	705	240

Current values that are commercially available (using discrete values tables)

5 Return to your schematic editor and change:

- ❑ R8 to 3.6 ohms
- ❑ R6 to 680 ohms
- ❑ R4 to 240 ohms

Note: You can use **Find in Design** to locate components in your schematic editor. See Finding components in your schematic editor.

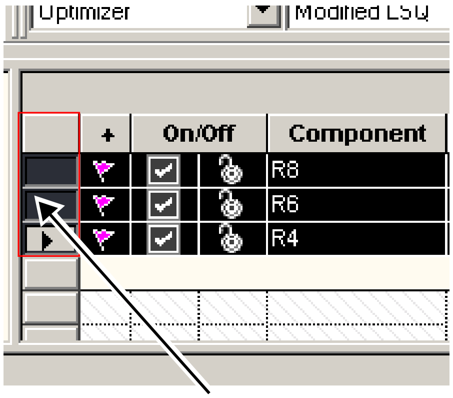
6 While you are still in your schematic editor, rerun the simulation titled AC.

Check your waveforms and measurements in PSpice and make sure they are what you expect.

Finding components in your schematic editor

You can use **Find in Design** from Advanced Analysis to return to your schematic editor and locate the components you would like to change.

1 In the Parameters table, highlight the components you want to change.

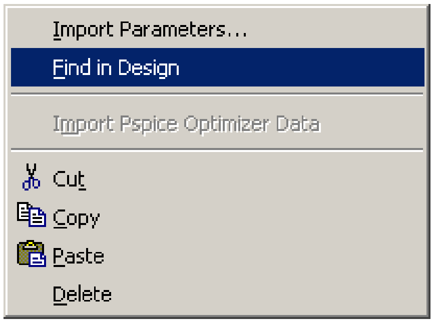


	+	On/Off		Component
		☑		R8
		☑		R6
		☑		R4

Click here to select components
(hold down shift key to select several)

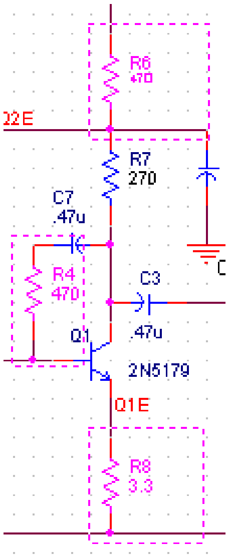
2 With the components selected, right click the mouse button.

A pop-up menu appears.



3 Left click on **Find in Design.**

The schematic editor appears with the components highlighted.

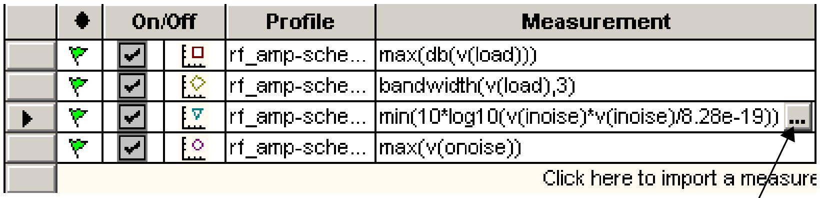


Editing a measurement within Advanced Analysis

At some point you may want edit a measurement. You can edit from the Specifications table, but any changes you make will not appear in measurements in the other Advanced Analysis tools or in PSpice.

1 Click on the measurement you want to edit.

A tiny box containing dots appears.

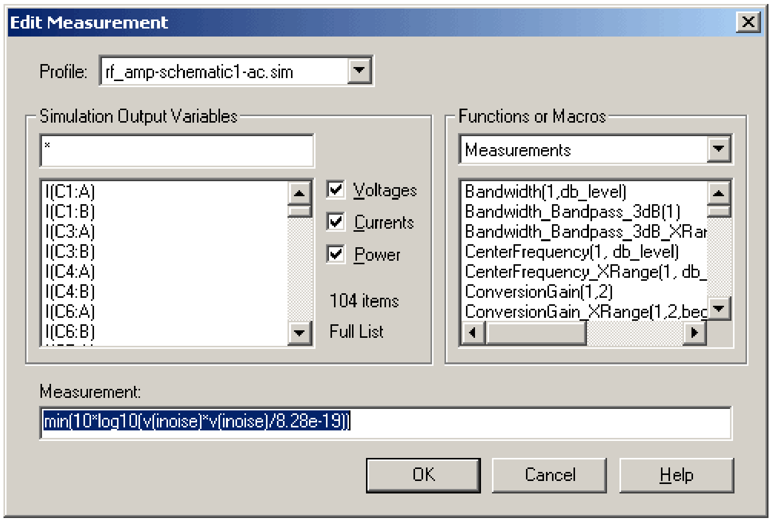


	♦	On/Off		Profile	Measurement
	▼	☑		rf_amp-sche...	max(db(v(load)))
	▼	☑		rf_amp-sche...	bandwidth(v(load),3)
▶	▼	☑		rf_amp-sche...	min(10*log10(v(inoise)*v(inoise)/8.28e-19)) ...
	▼	☑		rf_amp-sche...	max(v(onoise))
					Click here to import a measure

Click to edit

2 Click ... .

The Edit Measurement dialog box appears.


Edit Measurement
Simulation Output Variables
Functions or Macros
I(C1:A)
I(C1:B)
I(C3:A)
I(C3:B)
I(C4:A)
I(C4:B)
I(C6:A)
I(C6:B)
104 items
Full List
Bandwidth(1,db_level)
Bandwidth_Bandpass_3dB(1)
Bandwidth_Bandpass_3dB_XRar
CenterFrequency(1, db_level)
CenterFrequency_XRange(1, db_
ConversionGain(1,2)
ConversionGain_XRange(1,2,bec
OK
Cancel
Help

Profile: rf_amp-schematic1-ac.sim

*

☑ Voltages
☑ Currents
☑ Power

Measurements

Measurement:
min(10*log10(v(inoise)*v(inoise)/8.28e-19))

3 Make your edits.

It’s a good idea to edit and run your measurement in PSpice and check its performance before running Optimizer.

4 Click **OK**.

Printing results

– Click 🖨 .

Or:

From the **File** menu, select **Print**.

Saving results

– Click 💾.

Or:

From the **File** menu, select **Save**.

The final results will be saved in the Advanced Analysis profile (.aap).

Optimizing a design using curve-fit specifications

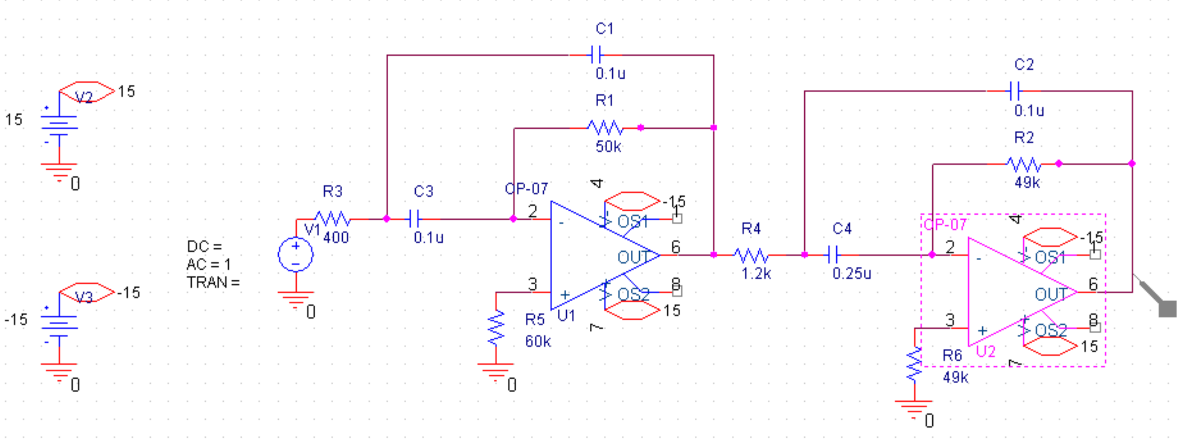
The design example covered in this section, explains how you can use curve fitting to achieve desired response from a multiple feedback two pole active bandpass filter.

This bandpass filter uses two, 7-pin operational amplifiers. A plot window template marker, Bode Plot dB - dual Y axes is added at the output of the second operational amplifier (before R7). This marker is used to plot the magnitude and the phase gain of the output voltage.

The LSQ engine will be used for optimizing this circuit design.

The design example is available at `..\tools\pspice\tutorial\capture\pspiceaa\bandpass`.

Figure 4-1 Bandpass Filter



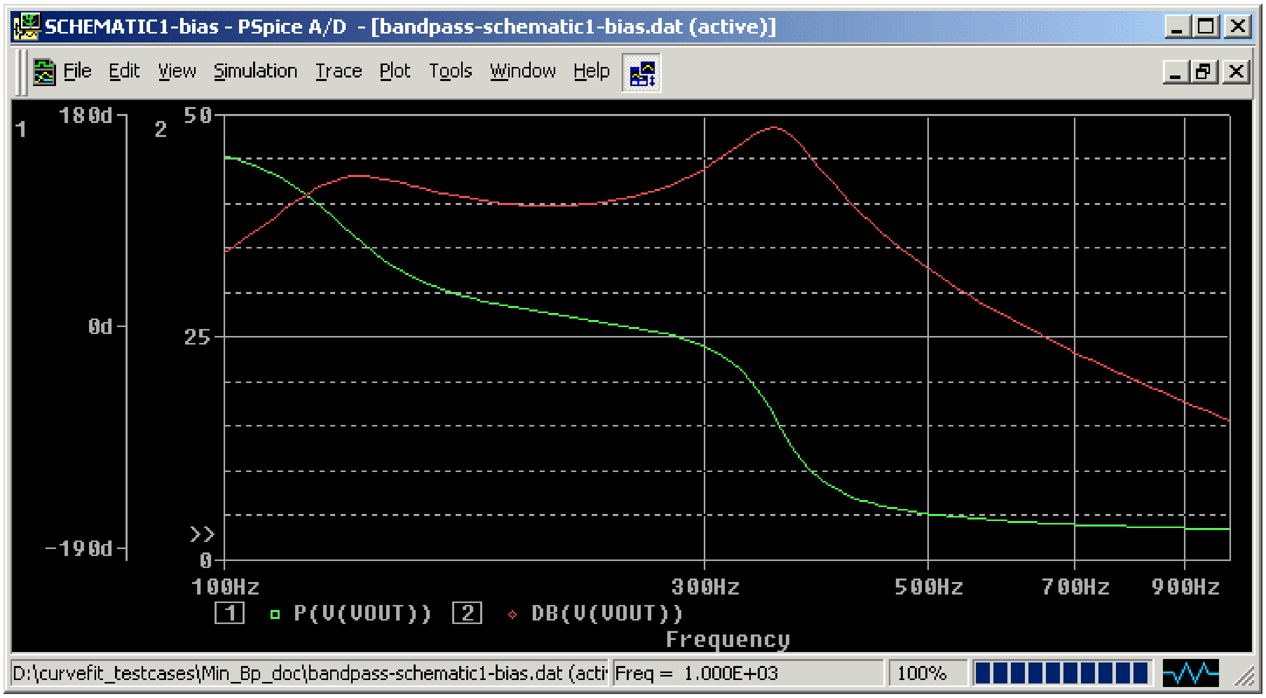
1 Draw the circuit as shown in Figure 4-1.

2 Simulate the circuit.

From the PSpice menu, choose Run.

3 The PSpice probe widow appears displaying the simulation results. Two traces, one for phase gain of the

output voltage and another for the voltage gain(dB) of the output voltage are displayed.


SCHEMATIC1-bias - PSpice A/D - [bandpass-schematic1-bias.dat (active)]
File Edit View Simulation Trace Plot Tools Window Help
1
180d
0d
-190d
2
50
25
0
>>
100Hz
300Hz
500Hz
700Hz
900Hz
1 □ P(V(VOUT)) 2 ◇ DB(V(VOUT))
Frequency
D:\curvefit_testcases\Min_Bp_doc\bandpass-schematic1-bias.dat (acti
Freq = 1.000E+03
100%

We will now optimize the values of the component parameters in the circuit, such that the output waveform matches the waveform described in the reference file. For this design example, we will use `reference.txt` for specifying the reference waveform for DB(V(V_{out}) and P(V(V_{out}).

Note: In a real life scenario, you will have to create a reference file containing the reference waveform, before you can use the curve fitting in Advanced Analysis Optimizer.

Opening Optimizer in Advanced Analysis

From the PSpice menu, choose Advanced Analysis Optimizer.

Selecting an engine

1. Click on the drop-down list to the right of the Optimizer tool name.

2. From the drop-down list, select the Modified LSQ engine.

Setting up component parameters

1. In the Parameters window, add the parameters that you want to optimize to obtain the desired output.

   Select the *Click here to import a parameter from the design property file* row.

2. In the Parameter Selection dialog box, select `C1`,`C2`,`C3`,`C4`,`R1`,`R2`,`R3`, and `R4`, and click OK.

   The selected components, their original values, and the min and max values that are calculated using the original values, appear in the Parameters window.

   For example, in the circuit, value of R4 is 1.2K. Therefore, the value displayed in the Original column against R4 is 1200. The min value displayed is 120 (1200/10) and the max value displayed is 12000 (1200*10).

3. In the Parameters tab, if you do not want the value of a particular parameter to change, you can do so by locking the parameter value. Lock the parameter values for R6 and R5.

4. You can also ignore some of the parameter values.

   Though we added the parameter R3, we will ignore it for this optimizer session. To do this, clear the check mark next to the message flag.

Setting up curve-fit specification

1. Select the *Curve Fit* tab in the Optimizer window.

2. In the *Curve Fit* tab, add specifications. Select the *Click here to enter a curve-fit specification* row.

3. In the *New Trace Expression* dialog box, first select P() from the list of Analog operators and Functions, and then select V(out) from the list of Simulation Output Variables.

   The Measurement text box should read *P(V(out))*.

4. Click *OK* to save the new trace expression.

5 In the Reference File text box, specify the location of `reference.txt`.

6 Click the *Ref.Waveform* list box. From the drop-down list that appears, select *PHASE*.

Note: The entries in the drop-down list are the column headings in the reference file. If you open the reference file, `reference.txt,` you will see that *PHASE* is the heading of the second column and the third column has no heading. When the column headers are blank in the reference file, the reference waveform drop-down list displays entries such as, Column_2 and Column_3, instead of a name.

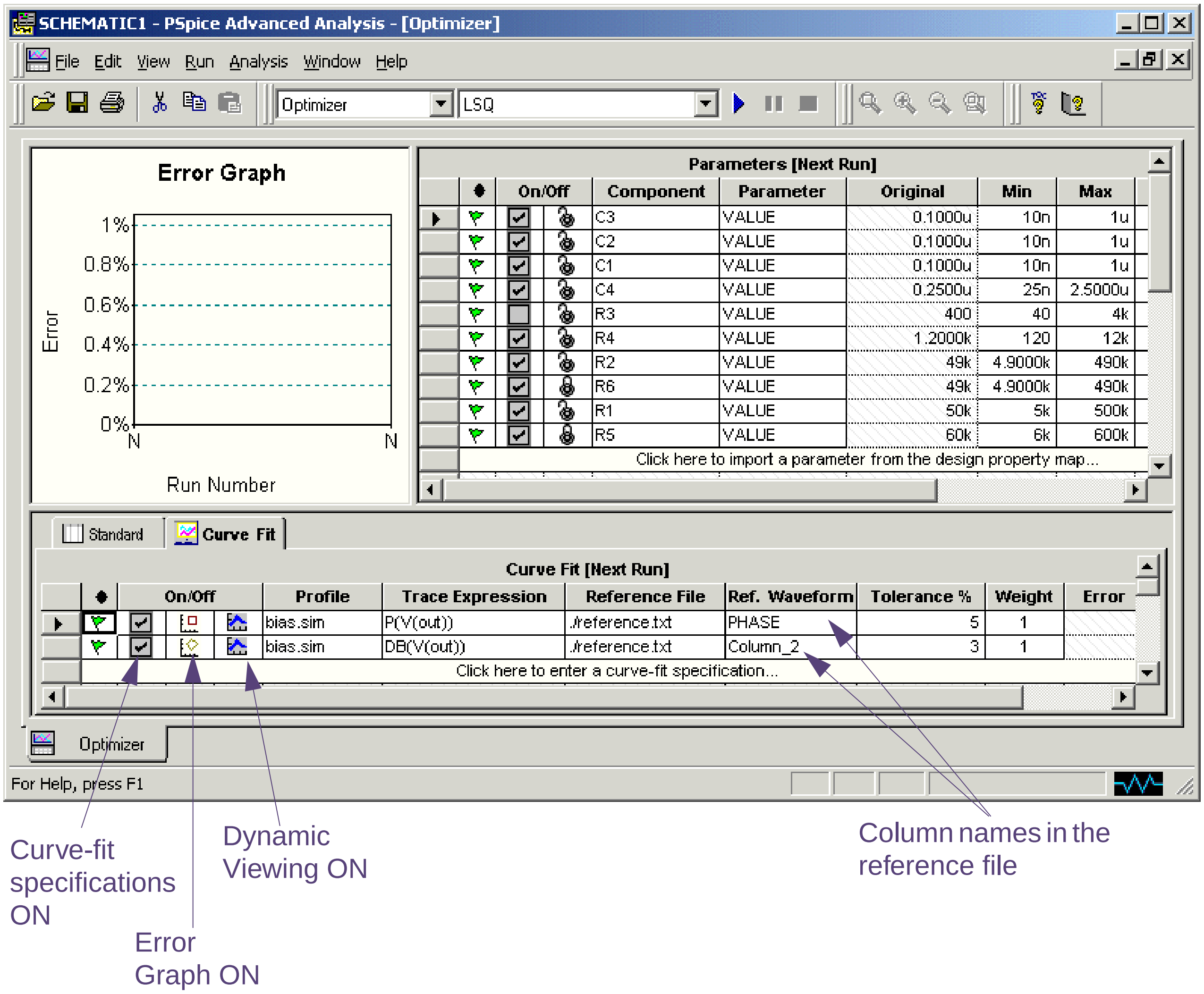
7 Specify the tolerance and weight at 5 and 1, respectively.

This completes the process of creating a new curve-fit specification. In case you want to enable dynamic viewing of the output waveform, select the third field in the On/Off column.

8 Similarly, add another specification. Specify the trace expression as *DB(V(out))*, reference file as `reference.txt`, reference waveform as *Column_2*, tolerance as 3, and weight as 1.

9 Turn the dynamic viewing on.

The snapshot of the Optimizer, after you have modified the settings, is shown below:


SCHEMATIC1 - PSpice Advanced Analysis - [Optimizer]
File Edit View Run Analysis Window Help
Optimizer
LSQ
Error Graph
1%
0.8%
0.6%
0.4%
0.2%
0%
Error
N
N
Run Number
Standard
Curve Fit
Optimizer
For Help, press F1
Curve-fit specifications ON
Dynamic Viewing ON
Error Graph ON
Column names in the reference file

Parameters [Next Run]

●	On/Off	Component	Parameter	Original	Min	Max
	☑	C3	VALUE	0.1000u	10n	1u
	☑	C2	VALUE	0.1000u	10n	1u
	☑	C1	VALUE	0.1000u	10n	1u
	☑	C4	VALUE	0.2500u	25n	2.5000u
	☐	R3	VALUE	400	40	4k
	☑	R4	VALUE	1.2000k	120	12k
	☑	R2	VALUE	49k	4.9000k	490k
	☑	R6	VALUE	49k	4.9000k	490k
	☑	R1	VALUE	50k	5k	500k
	☑	R5	VALUE	60k	6k	600k

Click here to import a parameter from the design property map...

Curve Fit [Next Run]

●	On/Off	Profile	Trace Expression	Reference File	Ref. Waveform	Tolerance %	Weight	Error
	☑	bias.sim	P(V(out))	./reference.txt	PHASE	5	1	
	☑	bias.sim	DB(V(out))	./reference.txt	Column_2	3	1	

Click here to enter a curve-fit specification...

10 In case you want that the simulation data should be available to you even after the optimization session is complete, you need to modify the Optimizer settings. From Advanced Analysis the Edit menu, choose Profile settings.

Tip

It is recommended that you complete the steps for setting up component parameters and curve-fit specifications. In case you choose not to perform the steps, you can use the `SCHEMATIC1_complete.aap` file located at `..\tools\pspice\tutorial\capture\pspiceaa\bandpass\bandpass-PSpiceFiles\SCHEMATIC1`. To use the aap file provided with the design example, rename `SCHEMATIC1_complete.aap to SCHEMATIC1.aap`.

11 Select the *Simulation* tab in the *Profile Settings* dialog box, and ensure that Optimizer data collection is set to *Save All Runs*.

12 Run the Optimizer.

The Pspice UI comes up displayed the changes in the output waveform for each Optimizer run. The Pspice UI comes up only if you have turned the dynamic viewing on.

After the optimization is complete, you can view any of the Optimizer runs, provided you had selected the Save All Runs option in the Profile Settings dialog box.

Viewing an Optimizer run

1 Select run 4 in the Error Graph section.

2 Select the curve-fit specification for which you want to view the run. Select the first specification.

3 Right-click and select View[Run #4] in PSpice.

The trace for the selected run opens in PSpice.

For Power Users

What are Discrete Tables?

After you have run Advanced Analysis optimizer and obtained the optimum values for your parts, it is possible that those values may not be commercially available. Optimizer has a Discrete engine feature that finds the closest available manufacturer's values for your parts. These values are discrete values and can be selected from a drop-down list of discrete values tables in Advanced Analysis Optimizer.

Discrete tables provided by the Advanced Analysis Optimizer are located at `<`*`your_installation_dir`*`>\tools\pspice\library\discretetables`. Under this directory, you find the following subdirectories, that contain the discrete value tables corresponding to each part.

- Capacitance
- Inductance
- Resistance

With Advanced Analysis, you get six discrete values tables. These tables are available on a global level. The range of values for each of the discrete value table is listed below.

Part	**Discrete table alias**	**Range of values**
Resistor	Resistor – 1%	10.0e0 to 20.0e5
Resistor	Resistor – 5%	10.0e-1 to 24.9e5
Resistor	Resistor – 10%	10.0e-1 to 27e5
Resistor	Resistor – RL07	51 to 150000
Capacitor	Capacitor	1.0e-12 to 1.0
Inductor	Inductor	3.9e-6 to 1.8e-2

Adding User-Defined Discrete Table

You can create your own discrete value table for components and variables that you want the Discrete Engine to read in your project directory where you run the Advanced Analysis Optimizer. Tasks to be completed for setting up a discrete value table for a user-defined variable are:

- Creating a new discrete value table
- Associating the table with the discrete engine
- Using the table

Creating a new discrete value table

1. Create a file called *xyz.table*.
2. Enter the table as shown.

```
START
1
1.2
1.4
....{fill in other values}
5.8
6.0
END
```

Associating the table with the discrete engine

After creating the table, the next step is to add the new discrete table to Advanced Analysis. You can create custom derate files at any location and then associate these with the Advanced Analysis discrete engine using the Advanced Analysis Optimizer Settings dialog box.

1. From the Advanced Analysis **Edit** menu, select **Profile Settings**.
2. Click the **Optimizer** tab.
3. Select **Discrete** from the **Engine** drop-down list.

4 Click the new file button in the **Discrete Files** text box, browse to the new table file you have created and select it.

5 Click in the **Discrete Table Alias** text box.

Advanced Analysis places the file alias name in the text box.

6 In the **Part Type** text box, select the part for which the new discrete value table is created. In case the discrete value table is not for Resistor, inductor, or capacitor, select **Other** from the drop-down list.

7 Click **OK**.

You can now use the information stored in the new table file.

Using the table

1 In the Advanced Analysis Optimizer view, select **Discrete** from the toolbar engine drop-down list.

The Discrete Table column gets added in the Parameters table.

2 In the Discrete Table column, select the required table from the drop-down list.

Device-Level Parameters

What are device-level parameters?

The devices are constructed as parameterized models, that allow passing of parameters from the instance of the device.

During optimization, you can also vary the device-level parameters of a component.

To add device-level parameters of a component to the parameter table in the Advanced Analyses Optimizer, complete the following tasks:

- Add device-level parameters as instance properties.

- Export these properties to Advanced Analysis optimizer.

Adding Device-level parameters as instance properties

1. Select the component.
2. Select **PSpice > Advanced Analyses > Import Optimizable Parameters**.
3. Select **AMS Simulator > Advanced Analyses > Import Optimizable Parameters**.

   The **Import Optimizable Parameters** dialog box appears.

   Note: After you select the component, you can right-click and select Import Optimizable Parameters from the pop-up menu.
4. Select the parameters you want to vary and click **OK**.

   The parameter name and the default value is now displayed in the schematic editor.
5. Save the schematic.

Exporting Device-level parameters to Optimizer

1. Select the component.
2. Select **PSpice > Advanced Analyses > Export Parameters to Optimizer**.
3. Select **AMS Simulator > Advanced Analyses > Export Parameters to Optimizer**.

   The component and parameters gets added in the *Parameters* table.

Note: This feature of exporting device-level parameters to Optimizer is available only for components based on PSpice-provided templates.

Optimizer log files

After every optimization run, Optimizer generates log files. This file contains information that can be used at instances where optimization failed to converge.

To view the optimizer log files choose **View > Log Files > Optimizer**.

The Optimizer log file opens in the text editor.

Engine Overview

Optimizer includes four engines:

- Least Squares Quadratic (LSQ) Optimization engine

  The LSQ engine uses a gradient-based algorithm that optimizes a circuit by iteratively calculating sensitivities and adjusting parameter values to meet the specified goals.

- Modified LSQ engine

  The Modified LSQ engine uses both constrained and unconstrained minimization algorithms, which allow it to optimize goals subject to nonlinear constraints. The Modified LSQ engine generally runs faster than the LSQ engine because it runs a reduced number of incremental adjustments toward the goal.

  When using the Modified LSQ engine, you can set your measurement specifications as goals or constraints.The engine strives to get as close to the goals as possible while ensuring that the constraints are met.

- Random engine

  The Random engine randomly picks values within the specified range and displays misfit error and parameter history.

- Discrete engine

  The Discrete engine is used at the end of the optimization cycle to round off component values to the closest values available commercially. Typically, once you have optimized your circuit, you will most likely want to convert your component values into “real-world” parts.

For example, the Optimizer determines that the 3K resistor in the RF amplifier circuit should be 2.18113K, but you cannot use this value in your manufactured design. You can then specify a discrete table and switch to the Discrete Engine. The Discrete engine determines a new value for this resistor depending on the table used. For a one percent table, the new value is 2.21K.

The Optimizer in Advanced Analysis provides discrete value defaults for resistors, capacitors, and inductors.

Smoke

5

In this chapter

Smoke overview

Note: Smoke analysis is available with the following products:

- PSpice Smoke Option
- PSpice Advanced Analysis

Long-term circuit reliability

Smoke warns of component stress due to power dissipation, increase in junction temperature, secondary breakdowns, or violations of voltage / current limits. Over time, these stressed components could cause circuit failure.

Smoke uses Maximum Operating Conditions (MOCs), supplied by vendors and derating factors supplied by designers to calculate the Safe Operating Limits (SOLs) of a component's parameters.

Smoke then compares circuit simulation results to the component's safe operating limits. If the circuit simulation exceeds the safe operating limits, Smoke identifies the problem parameters.

Use Smoke for Displaying Average, RMS, or Peak values from simulation results and comparing these values against corresponding safe operating limits

Safe operating limits

Smoke will help you determine:

- Breakdown voltage across device terminals
- Maximum current limits
- Power dissipation for each component
- Secondary breakdown limits
- Junction temperatures

Smoke strategy

Smoke is useful as a final design check after running Sensitivity, Optimizer, and Monte Carlo, or you can use it on its own for a quick power check on a new circuit.

Plan ahead

Smoke requires:

- Components that are Advanced Analysis-ready

  See Chapter 2, Libraries.

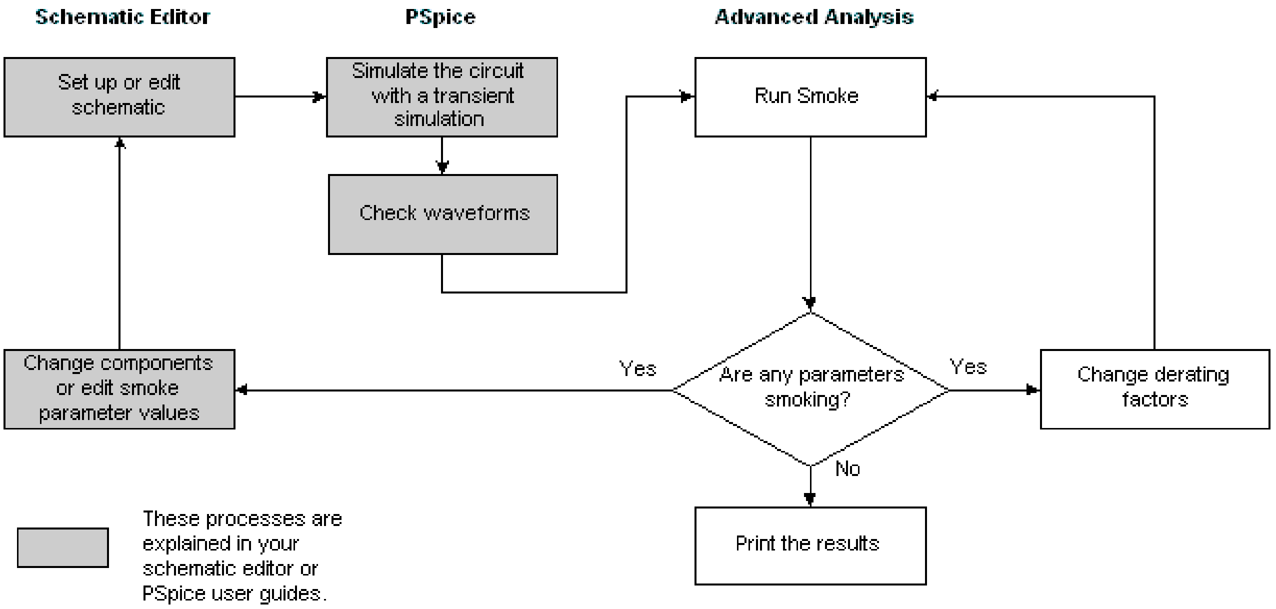
  See Smoke parameters on page 154 for lists of parameter names used in Advanced Analysis Smoke.

- A working circuit schematic and transient simulation
- Derating factors

  Smoke uses “no derating” as the default.

Note: See the online *Advanced Analysis library list* and the *PSpice library list* for components containing smoke parameter data.

Workflow


Schematic Editor
PSpice
Advanced Analysis
Set up or edit schematic
Simulate the circuit with a transient simulation
Check waveforms
Run Smoke
Are any parameters smoking?
Yes
Yes
No
Change components or edit smoke parameter values
Change derating factors
Print the results
These processes are explained in your schematic editor or PSpice user guides.

Smoke procedure

Setting up the circuit in the schematic editor

Advanced Analysis requires:

- A circuit schematic and working PSpice simulation

- Measurements set up in PSpice
- Performance goals for evaluating measurements
- Performance goals

Smoke analysis also requires:

- Any components included in a Smoke analysis must have smoke parameters specified.

  For more information see Chapter 2, Libraries.
- Time Domain (transient) analysis as a simulation

  Smoke does not work on other types of analyses, such as DC Sweep or AC Sweep/Noise analyses.

1. From your schematic editor, open your circuit.
2. Run a PSpice simulation.
3. Check your key waveforms in PSpice and make sure they are what you expect.

Note: For information on circuit layout and simulation setup, see your schematic editor and PSpice user guides.

See Smoke parameters on page 154.

Running Smoke

Starting a run

– In your schematic editor, from the **PSpice** menu, select **Advanced Analysis** / **Smoke**.

  Smoke automatically runs on the active transient profile.

  Smoke calculates safe operating limits using component parameter maximum operating conditions and derating factors.

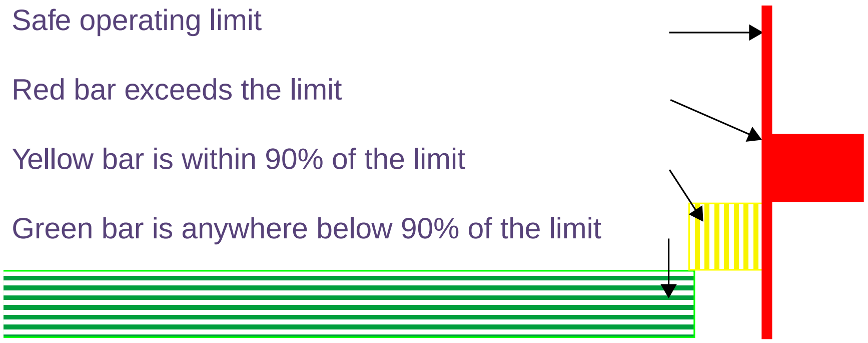
  The output window displays status messages.

Viewing Smoke results

- To see **Average**, **RMS**, and **Peak** values, right click and from the pop-up menu select the values you want to review.

  Check the bar graph:

  - ❑ Red bars show values that exceed safe operating limits.
  - ❑ Yellow bars show values getting close to the safe operating limits: between 90 and 100 percent of the safe operating limits.
  - ❑ Green bars show values within safe operating limits: less than 90 percent of the safe operating limits.
  - ❑ Grey bars indicate the limit is not available for the parameter.


Safe operating limit
Red bar exceeds the limit
Yellow bar is within 90% of the limit
Green bar is anywhere below 90% of the limit

- To decipher the acronym for a parameter, right click and from the pop-up menu select **Parameter Descriptions**.
- To view temperature parameters only, right click and from the pop-up menu select **Temperature Only Parameters**.

  Only average and peak values are useful when viewing temperature parameters.
- To change the sort order of a column, click on the column header.
- To locate a problem component in your schematic, right click on a component parameter and select **Find in Design** from the pop-up menu.

This returns you to the schematic editor with the component selected.

Printing results

– Click 🖨 .

Or:

From the **File** menu, select **Print**.

Configuring Smoke

Changing components or parameters

Smoke results are read-only. To modify the circuit:

1. Make your changes in your schematic editor.
2. Rerun the PSpice simulation.

Follow the steps for Setting up the circuit in the schematic editor on page 139 and Running Smoke on page 140.

Controlling smoke on individual design components

You can use the SMOKE_ON_OFF property to control whether or not you want to run smoke analysis on individual devices or blocks in a schematic.

If you attach the SMOKE_ON_OFF property to the device instance for which you do not want to perform the smoke analysis, and set the value to OFF, the smoke analysis would not run for this device.

This property can also be used on hierarchical blocks. The value of the SMOKE_ON_OFF property attached to the parent block has a higher priority over the property value attached to the individual components.

Selecting other deratings

To select other deratings:

1. Right click and from the pop-up menu select **Derating**.
2. Select one of the three derating options on the pull-right menu:

   ❑ No Derating

   ❑ Standard Derating

   ❑ Custom Derating Files

3. Click ▶ on the top toolbar to run a new Smoke analysis with the revised derating factors.

   New results appear.

For information on creating a custom derating file, see our technical note posted on our web site at: www.orcadpcb.com.

Example

Overview

This example uses the tutorial version of RFAmp located at:

<target directory>\PSpice\tutorial\capture\pspiceaa\rfamp

The circuit is an RF amplifier with 50-ohm source and load impedances. It includes the circuit schematic, PSpice simulation profiles, and measurements.

Note: For a completed example see:

`<target directory>`\PSpice\Capture_Samples\AdvAnls\RFAmp directory.

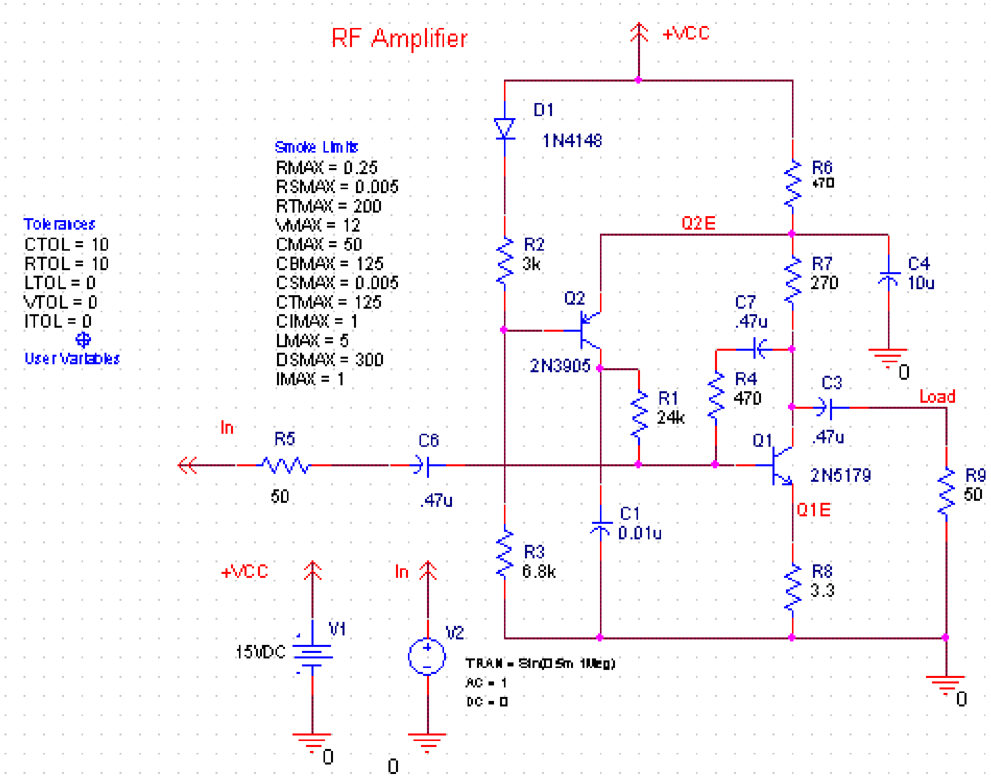
Setting up the circuit in the schematic editor

1. In your schematic editor, browse to the RFAmp tutorials directory.

   <target directory>
   \PSpice\tutorial\Capture\pspiceaa\rfamp

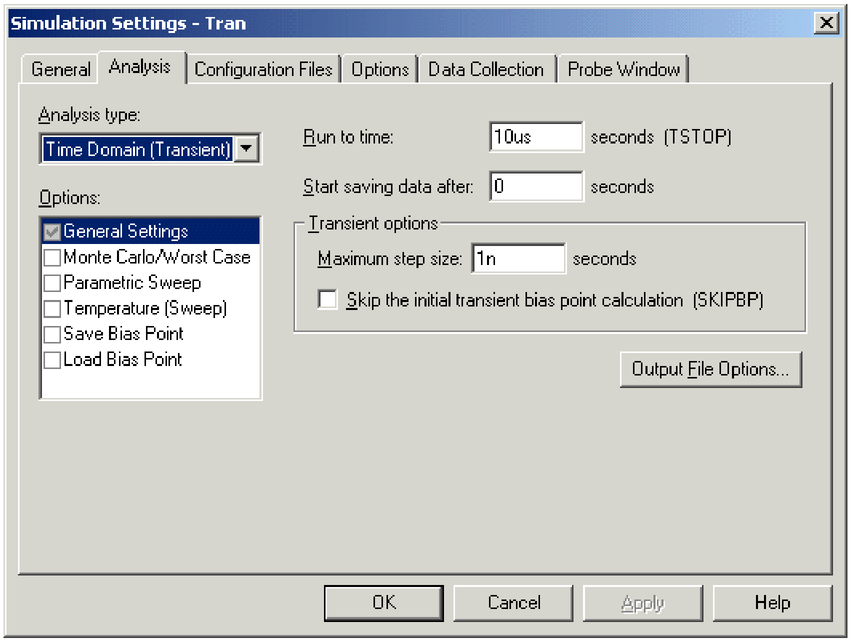
2. Open the RFAmp project.

The RF amplifier circuit example



3 Select SCHEMATIC1-Tran.

The Transient simulation included in the RF Amp example



Analysis type: Time Domain (Transient)

Options:
- ☑ General Settings
- □ Monte Carlo/Worst Case
- □ Parametric Sweep
- □ Temperature (Sweep)
- □ Save Bias Point
- □ Load Bias Point

Run to time: 10us seconds (TSTOP)

Start saving data after: 0 seconds

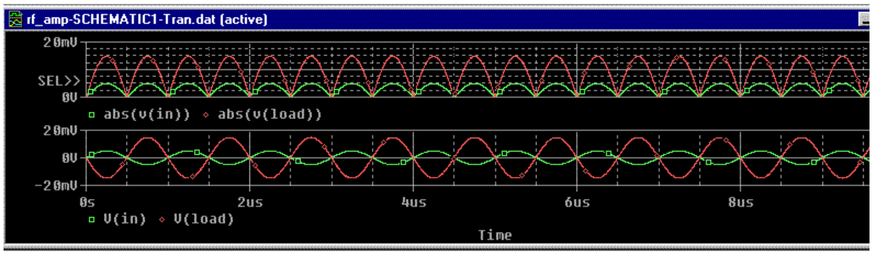
Transient options

Maximum step size: 1n seconds

□ Skip the initial transient bias point calculation (SKIPBP)

1 Click ▶ on the top toolbar to run the PSpice simulation.

2 Review the results.



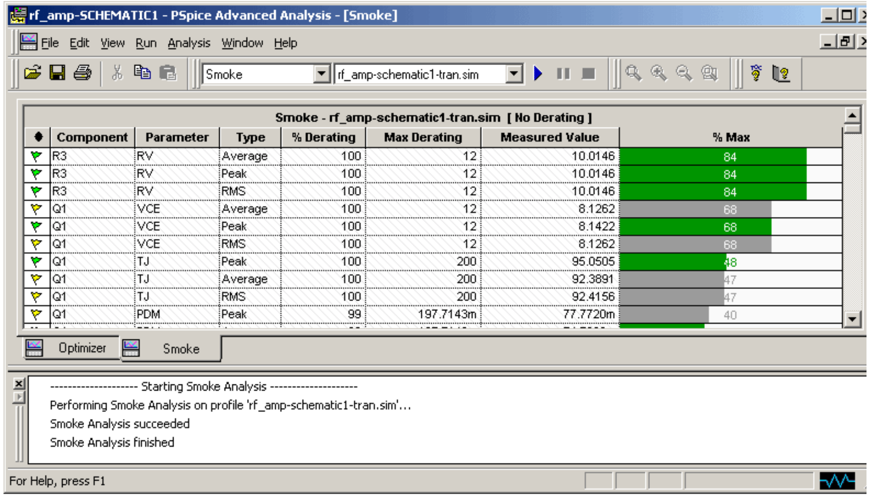
The key waveforms in PSpice are what we expected.

Running Smoke

Starting a run

– From the **PSpice** menu in your schematic editor, select **Advanced Analysis** / **Smoke**.

The Smoke tool opens and automatically runs on the active transient profile.


rf_amp-SCHEMATIC1 - PSpice Advanced Analysis - [Smoke]
File Edit View Run Analysis Window Help
Smoke
rf_amp-schematic1-tran.sim
Optimizer
Smoke
For Help, press F1

Smoke - rf_amp-schematic1-tran.sim [No Derating]

♦	Component	Parameter	Type	% Derating	Max Derating	Measured Value	% Max
⚑	R3	RV	Average	100	12	10.0146	84
⚑	R3	RV	Peak	100	12	10.0146	84
⚑	R3	RV	RMS	100	12	10.0146	84
⚑	Q1	VCE	Average	100	12	8.1262	68
⚑	Q1	VCE	Peak	100	12	8.1422	68
⚑	Q1	VCE	RMS	100	12	8.1262	68
⚑	Q1	TJ	Peak	100	200	95.0505	48
⚑	Q1	TJ	Average	100	200	92.3891	47
⚑	Q1	TJ	RMS	100	200	92.4156	47
⚑	Q1	PDM	Peak	99	197.7143m	77.7720m	40

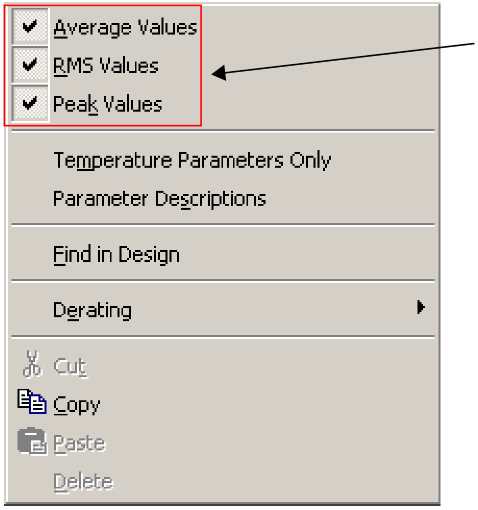
```
-------------------- Starting Smoke Analysis --------------------
Performing Smoke Analysis on profile 'rf_amp-schematic1-tran.sim'...
Smoke Analysis succeeded
Smoke Analysis finished
```

Smoke calculates safe operating limits using component parameter maximum operating conditions and derating factors.

The output window displays status messages.

Viewing Smoke results

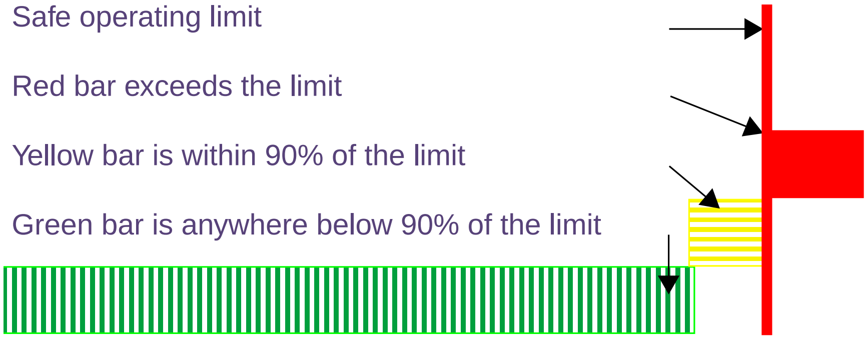
1 Right click and from the pop-up menu select **Average**, **RMS**, and **Peak Values**.



Click to choose average, RMS, and peak values

In the %Max column, check the bar graphs.

- Red bars show values that exceed safe operating limits.
- Yellow bars show values getting close to the safe operating limits: between 90 and 100 percent of the safe operating limits.
- Green bars show values well within the safe operating limits: less than 90 percent of the safe operating limits.
- Grey bars indicate that limits are not available for the parameters.


Safe operating limit
Red bar exceeds the limit
Yellow bar is within 90% of the limit
Green bar is anywhere below 90% of the limit

The value in the % Max column is calculated using the following formula:

(5-1) %Max=Actual operating Value/Safe operating limit *100

Where:

Actual operating value

- is displayed in the *Measured Value* column.
- is calculated by the simulation controller.

Safe operating limit

- is displayed in the *Max Derating* column.
- is `MOC*derating_factor`.
- MOC or the Maximum Operating Condition is specified is the vendor supplied data sheet
- derating factor, is specified by the users in the *% Derating* column.

The value calculated using the Equation 5-1 on page 148 is rounded off to the nearest integer, larger than the calculated value, and then displayed in the %Max column.

For example, if the calculated value of %Max is 57.06, the value displayed in the %Max column will be 58.

2 Right click on the table and select **Temperature Parameters Only** from the pop-up menu.

Only maximum resistor or capacitor temperature (TB) and maximum junction temperature (TJ) parameters are displayed. When reviewing these results, only average and peak values are meaningful.

In this example, none of the parameters are stressed, as indicated by the green bars.

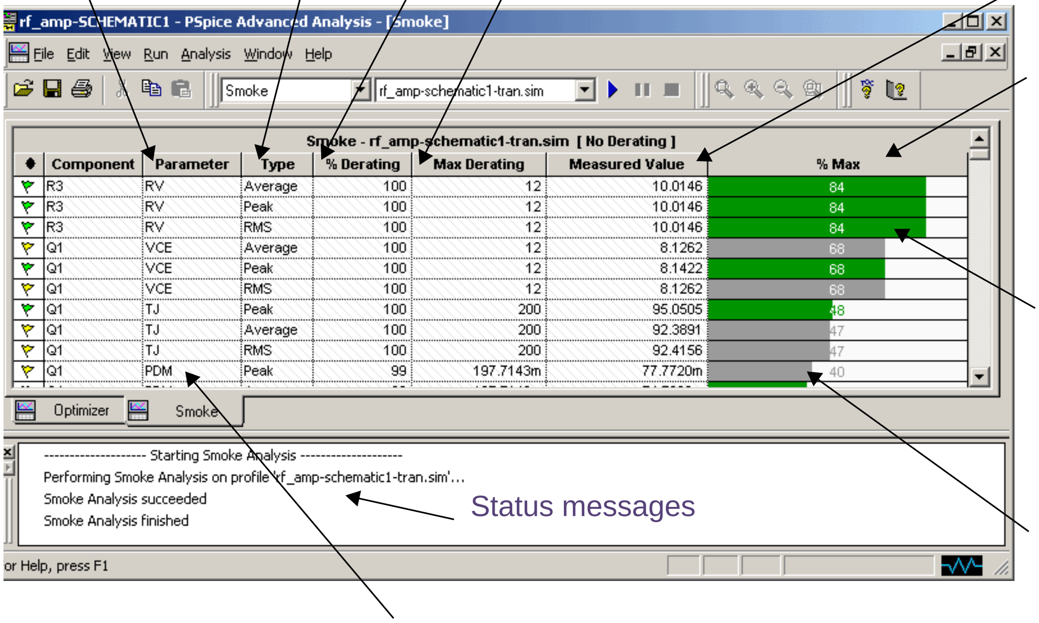
Right click to select average, RMS, and peak values

Right click to select temperature-only parameters

Shows the derating factor percentage

The calculated SOL is the max derating =
SOL = MOC x % derating

Shows the paramete measurement (for example: voltage, power, current, or temperature)



rf_amp-SCHEMATIC1 - PSpice Advanced Analysis - [Smoke]
File Edit View Run Analysis Window Help
Smoke
rf_amp-schematic1-tran.sim
Optimizer
Smoke

Smoke - rf_amp-schematic1-tran.sim [No Derating]

♦	Component	Parameter	Type	% Derating	Max Derating	Measured Value	% Max
⚑	R3	RV	Average	100	12	10.0146	🟩 84
⚑	R3	RV	Peak	100	12	10.0146	🟩 84
⚑	R3	RV	RMS	100	12	10.0146	🟩 84
⚑	Q1	VCE	Average	100	12	8.1262	▨ 68
⚑	Q1	VCE	Peak	100	12	8.1422	🟩 68
⚑	Q1	VCE	RMS	100	12	8.1262	▨ 68
⚑	Q1	TJ	Peak	100	200	95.0505	🟩 48
⚑	Q1	TJ	Average	100	200	92.3891	▨ 47
⚑	Q1	TJ	RMS	100	200	92.4156	▨ 47
⚑	Q1	PDM	Peak	99	197.7143m	77.7720m	▨ 40

```
------------------- Starting Smoke Analysis -------------------
Performing Smoke Analysis on profile 'rf_amp-schematic1-tran.sim'...
Smoke Analysis succeeded
Smoke Analysis finished
```

or Help, press F1

% Max is the (actual operating value / SOL) x 100

Green bars show values within the safe operating limits

Status messages

Grey bars indicate that limits are not available for the parameters

Right click and select Parameter Descriptions to decipher the parameter acronyms

Printing results

– Click 🖶 .

Or:

From the **File** menu, select **Print**.

Configuring Smoke

Selecting another derating option

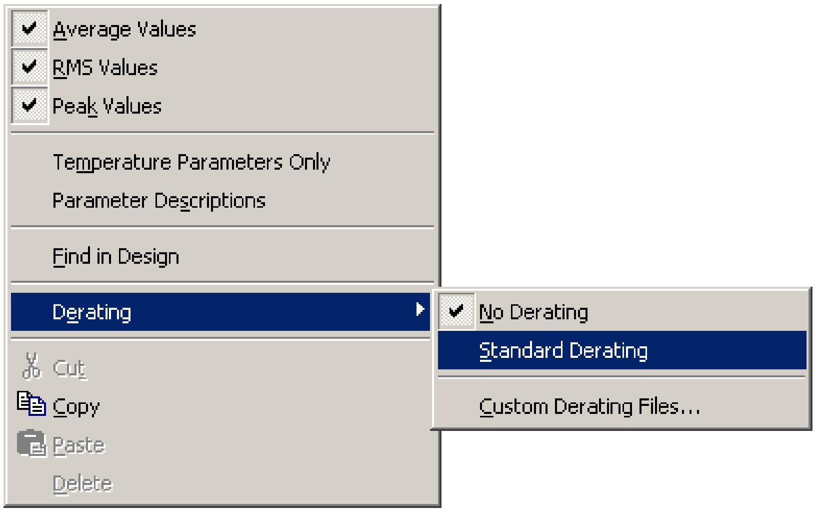
The default derating option uses 100% derating factors, also called No Derating.

We'll now run the circuit with standard derating and examine the results.

Selecting standard derating

1 Right click and from the pop-up menu select **Derating**.

2 Select **Standard Derating** from the pull-right menu.



3 Click ▶ on the top toolbar to run a new Smoke analysis.

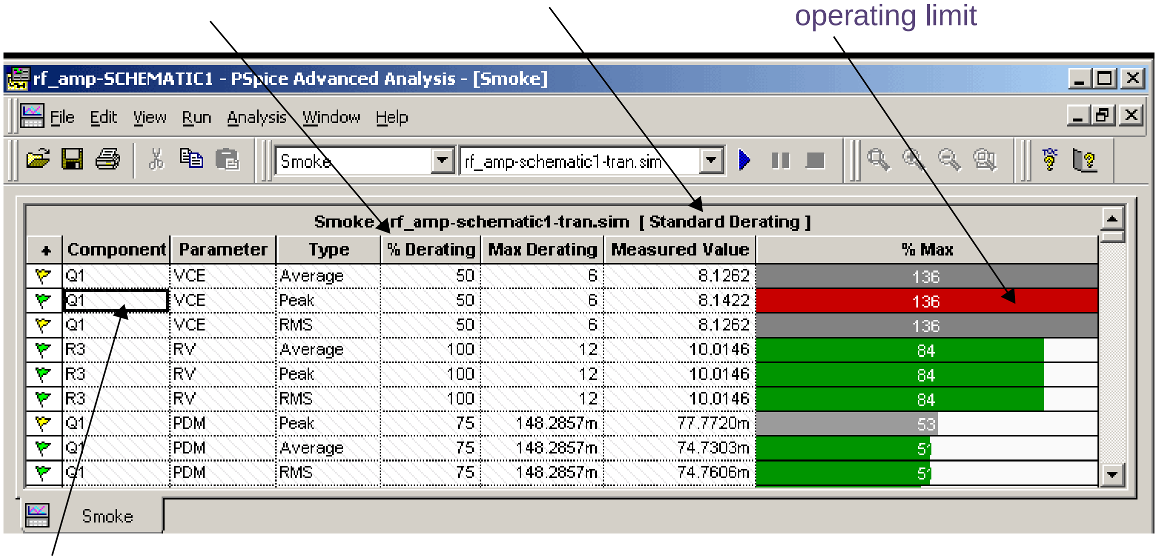
New results appear.

The red bar indicates that Q1’s VCE parameter is stressed.

Standard derating factors used in the calculations

Standard Derating appears in the title

Component Q1’s VCE parameter is stressed to 136 percent of its safe operating limit


rf_amp-SCHEMATIC1 - PSpice Advanced Analysis - [Smoke]
File
Edit
View
Run
Analysis
Window
Help
Smoke
rf_amp-schematic1-tran.sim
Smoke

Smoke: rf_amp-schematic1-tran.sim [Standard Derating]

+	Component	Parameter	Type	% Derating	Max Derating	Measured Value	% Max
	Q1	VCE	Average	50	6	8.1262	136
	Q1	VCE	Peak	50	6	8.1422	136
	Q1	VCE	RMS	50	6	8.1262	136
	R3	RV	Average	100	12	10.0146	84
	R3	RV	Peak	100	12	10.0146	84
	R3	RV	RMS	100	12	10.0146	84
	Q1	PDM	Peak	75	148.2857m	77.7720m	53
	Q1	PDM	Average	75	148.2857m	74.7303m	51
	Q1	PDM	RMS	75	148.2857m	74.7606m	51

Right click on Q1 and from the pop-up menu select Find in Design. This takes you to the schematic where the component parameter can be changed.

4 Resolve the component stress:

❑ Right click on Q1 VCE and from the pop-up menu select **Find in Design** to go to the schematic and adjust Q1’s VCE value.

Or:

❑ Right click and from the pop-up menu select **Deratings \ No Derating** to change the derating option back to **No Derating**.

5 Click ▶ on the top toolbar to rerun Smoke analysis after making any adjustments.

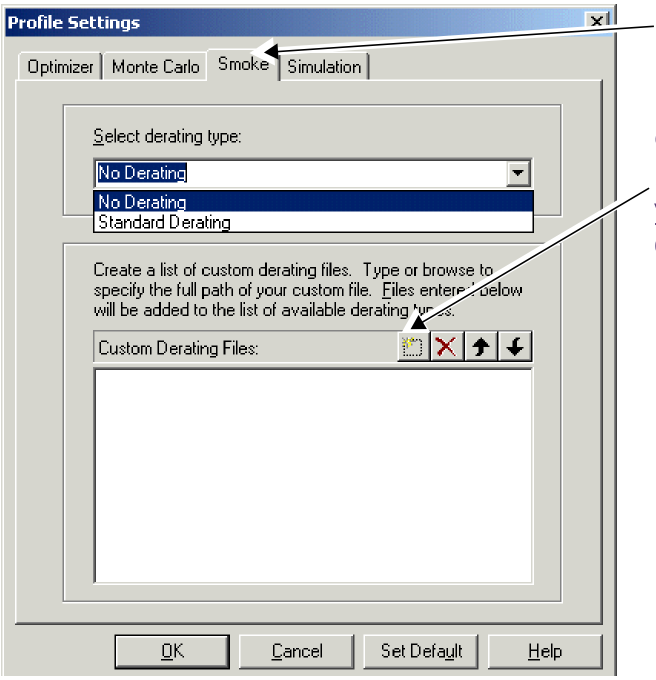
6 Check the results.

Selecting custom derating

If you have your own custom derating factors, you can browse to your own file and select it for use in Smoke. For information on creating a custom derating file, see our technical note posted on our web site at www.orcadpcb.com.

1 Once you have your custom derating file in place, right click and from the pop-up menu select **Derating**.

2 Select **Custom Derating Files** from the pull-right menu.



Select derating type: No Derating

Create a list of custom derating files. Type or browse to specify the full path of your custom file. Files entered below will be added to the list of available derating types.

Custom Derating Files:

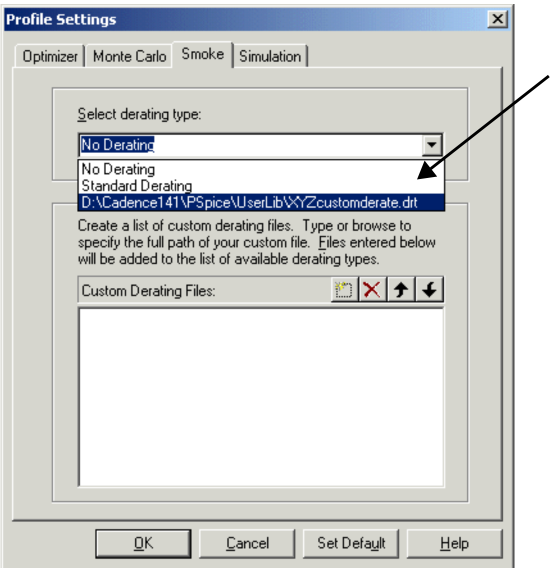
Click the Smoke tab

Click to browse to your custom derating file

3 Click the browse icon.

4 Browse and select your file.

The file name is added to the list in the Custom Derating Files text box and the drop-down list.



Select derating type: No Derating

Create a list of custom derating files. Type or browse to specify the full path of your custom file. Files entered below will be added to the list of available derating types.

Select the custom derating file in the drop-down list after finding the file using the browse text box below.

5 Select the custom derating file from the drop-down list.

6 Click **OK**.

7 Click ▶ on the top toolbar to run a new Smoke analysis.

New results appear.

8 Check the results.

To make changes, follow the steps for changing derating options or schematic component values.

See Selecting standard derating on page 151.

For power users

Smoke parameters

The following tables summarize smoke parameter names you will see in the Smoke results. The tables are sorted by user interface parameter names and include:

- Passive component parameters

- Semiconductor component parameters
- OpAmp component parameters

For passive components, three names are used in Smoke analysis: symbol property names, symbol parameter names, and parameter names used in the Smoke user interface. This table is sorted in alphabetical order by parameter names that display in the Smoke user interface.

Smoke User Interface Parameter Name	Passive Component	Maximum Operating Condition	Symbol Property Name	Symbol Smoke Parameter Name	Variable Table Default Value
CI	Capacitor	Maximum ripple	CURRENT	CIMAX	1 A
CV	Capacitor	Voltage rating	VOLTAGE	CMAX	50 V
IV	Current Supply	Max. voltage current source can withstand	VOLTAGE	VMAX	12 V
LI	Inductor	Current rating	CURRENT	LMAX	5 A
LV	Inductor	Dielectric strength	DIELECTRI C	DSMAX	300 V
PDM	Resistor	Maximum power dissipation of resistor	POWER	RMAX	0.25 W
RBA* (=1/SLOPE)	Resistor	Slope of power dissipation vs. temperature	SLOPE	RSMAX	0.005W/deg C
RV	Resistor	Voltage Rating	VOLTAGE	RVMAX	--
SLP*	Capacitor	Temperature derating slope	SLOPE of volt temperature curve	CSMAX	0.005 V/degC
TBRK*	Capacitor	Breakpoint temperature	KNEE	CBMAX	125 degC

Smoke User Interface Parameter Name	Passive Component	Maximum Operating Condition	Symbol Property Name	Symbol Smoke Parameter Name	Variable Table Default Value
TMAX*	Capacitor	Maximum temperature	MAX_TEMP	CTMAX	125 degC
TMAX, TB	Resistor	Maximum temperature resistor can withstand	MAX_TEMP	RTMAX	200 degC
VI	Voltage Supply	Max. current voltage source can withstand	CURRENT	IMAX	1 A

* Internal parameters not shown in user interface

The following table lists smoke parameter names for semiconductor components. The table is sorted in alphabetical order according to parameter names that will display in the Smoke results.

Smoke Parameter Name and Symbol Property Name	Semiconductor Component	Maximum Operating Condition
IB	BJT	Maximum base current (A)
IC	BJT	Maximum collector current (A)
PDM	BJT	Maximum power dissipation (W)
RCA	BJT	Thermal resistance, Case-to-Ambient (degC/W)
RJC	BJT	Thermal resistance, Junction-to-Case (degC/W)
SBINT	BJT	Secondary breakdown intercept (A)
SBMIN	BJT	Derated percent at TJ (secondary breakdown)
SBSLP	BJT	Secondary breakdown slope
SBTSLP	BJT	Temperature derating slope (secondary breakdown)

Smoke Parameter Name and Symbol Property Name	Semiconductor Component	Maximum Operating Condition
TJ	BJT	Maximum junction temperature (degC)
VCB	BJT	Maximum collector-base voltage (V)
VCE	BJT	Maximum collector-emitter voltage (V)
VEB	BJT	Maximum emitter-base voltage (V)
IF	Diode	Maximum forward current (A)
PDM	Diode	Maximum power dissipation (W)
RCA	Diode	Thermal resistance, Case-to-Ambient (degC/W)
RJC	Diode	Thermal resistance, Junction-to-Case (degC/W)
TJ	Diode	Maximum junction temperature (degC)
VR	Diode	Maximum reverse voltage (V)
IC	IGBT	Maximum collector current (A)
IG	IGBT	Maximum gate current (A)
PDM	IGBT	Maximum Power dissipation (W)
RCA	IGBT	Thermal resistance, Case-to-Ambient (degC/W)
RJC	IGBT	Thermal resistance, Junction-to-Case (degC/W)
TJ	IGBT	Maximum junction temperature (degC)
VCE	IGBT	Maximum collector-emitter (V)
VCG	IGBT	Maximum collector-gate voltage (V)
VGEF	IGBT	Maximum forward gate-emitter voltage (V)
VGER	IGBT	Maximum reverse gate-emitter (V)
ID	JFET or MESFET	Maximum drain current (A)
IG	JFET or MESFET	Maximum forward gate current (A)
PDM	JFET or MESFET	Maximum power dissipation (W)

Smoke Parameter Name and Symbol Property Name	Semiconductor Component	Maximum Operating Condition
RCA	JFET or MESFET	Thermal resistance, Case-to-Ambient (degC/W)
RJC	JFET or MESFET	Thermal resistance, Junction-to-Case (degC/W)
TJ	JFET or MESFET	Maximum junction temperature (degC)
VDG	JFET or MESFET	Maximum drain-gate voltage (V)
VDS	JFET or MESFET	Maximum drain-source voltage (V)
VGS	JFET or MESFET	Maximum gate-source voltage (V)
ID	MOSFET or Power MOSFET	Maximum drain current (A)
IG	MOSFET or Power MOSFET	Maximum forward gate current (A)
PDM	MOSFET or Power MOSFET	Maximum power dissipation (W)
RCA	MOSFET or Power MOSFET	Thermal resistance, Case-to-Ambient (degC/W)
RJC	MOSFET or Power MOSFET	Thermal resistance, Junction-to-Case (degC/W)
TJ	MOSFET or Power MOSFET	Maximum junction temperature (degC)
VDG	MOSFET or Power MOSFET	Maximum drain-gate voltage (V)
VDS	MOSFET or Power MOSFET	Maximum drain-source voltage (V)
VGSF	MOSFET or Power MOSFET	Maximum forward gate-source voltage (V)
VGSR	MOSFET or Power MOSFET	Maximum reverse gate-source voltage (V)
ITM	Varistor	Peak current (A)

Smoke Parameter Name and Symbol Property Name	Semiconductor Component	Maximum Operating Condition
RCA	Varistor	Thermal resistance, Case-to-Ambient (degC/W)
RJC	Varistor	Thermal resistance, Junction-to-Case (degC/W)
TJ	Varistor	Maximum junction temperature (degC)
IFS	Zener Diode	Maximum forward current (A)
IRMX	Zener Diode	Maximum reverse current (A)
PDM	Zener Diode	Maximum power dissipation (W)
RCA	Zener Diode	Thermal resistance, Case-to-Ambient (degC/W)
RJC	Zener Diode	Thermal resistance, Junction-to-Case (degC/W)
TJ	Zener Diode	Maximum junction temperature (degC)

The following table lists smoke parameter names for Op Amp components. The table is sorted in alphabetical order according to parameter names that will display in the Smoke results.

Smoke Parameter Name	Op Amp Component	Maximum Operating Condition
IPLUS	OpAmp	Non-inverting input current
IMINUS	OpAmp	Inverting input current
IOUT	OpAmp	Output current
VDIFF	OpAmp	Differential input voltage
VSMAX	OpAmp	Supply voltage
VSMIN	OpAmp	Minimum supply voltage
VPMAX	OpAmp	Maximum input voltage (non-inverting)
VPMIN	OpAmp	Minimum input voltage (non-inverting)

Smoke Parameter Name	Op Amp Component	Maximum Operating Condition
VMMAX	OpAmp	Maximum input voltage (inverting)
VMMIN	OpAmp	Minimum input voltage (inverting)

Adding Custom Derate file

Why use derating factors?

If you want a margin of safety in your design, apply a derating factor to your maximum operating conditions (MOCs). If a manufacturer lists 5W as the maximum operating condition for a resistor, you can insert a margin of safety in your design if you lower that value to 4.5W and run your simulation with 4.5W as the safe operating limit (SOL).

`As an equation: MOC x derating factor = SOL.`

In the example `5W x 0.9 = 4.5W`, the derating factor is 0.9. Also, 4.5W is 90% of 5W, so the derating factor is 90%. A derating factor can be expressed as a percent or a decimal fraction, depending on how it's used in calculations.

What is a custom derate file?

A custom derating file is an ASCII text file with a `.drt` extension that contains smoke parameters and derating factors specific to your project. If the "no derating" and "standard derating" factors provided with Advanced Analysis do not have the values you need for your project, you can create a custom derating file and type in the specific derating factors that meet your design specifications.

Figure 2 shows a portion of a custom derating file. The file lists resistor smoke parameters and derating factors. In your custom derating file, enter the derating factors as decimal percents in double quotes.

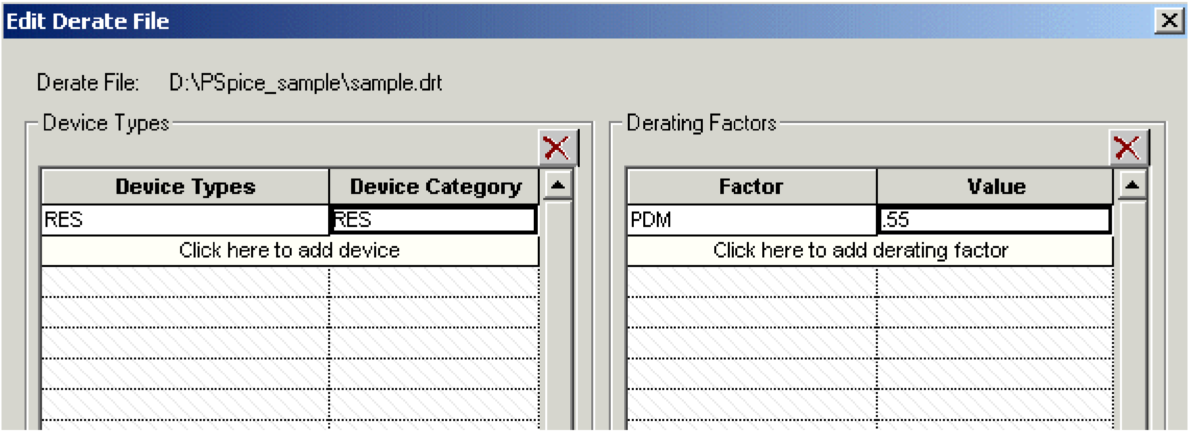
For the example below, if the resistor had a power dissipation (PDM) maximum operating condition of 5W, the .9 derating factor tells Advanced Analysis to use 0.9 x 5 = 4.5W as this resistor's safe operating limit.

```
("RES"
("PDM" "1")
("TMAX" "1")
("TB" "1")
)
```

Figure 5-2 Resistor smoke parameters and derating factors in a portion of a custom derating file

Creating a new custom derate file

Advanced Analysisprovides you the capability to create and edit derate files. You can perform this operation by using the Edit Derate File dialog box.



Derate File: D:\PSpice_sample\sample.drt

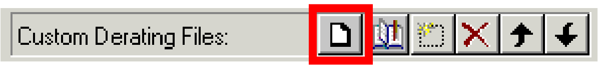
Device Types

Device Types	Device Category
RES	RES
Click here to add device	

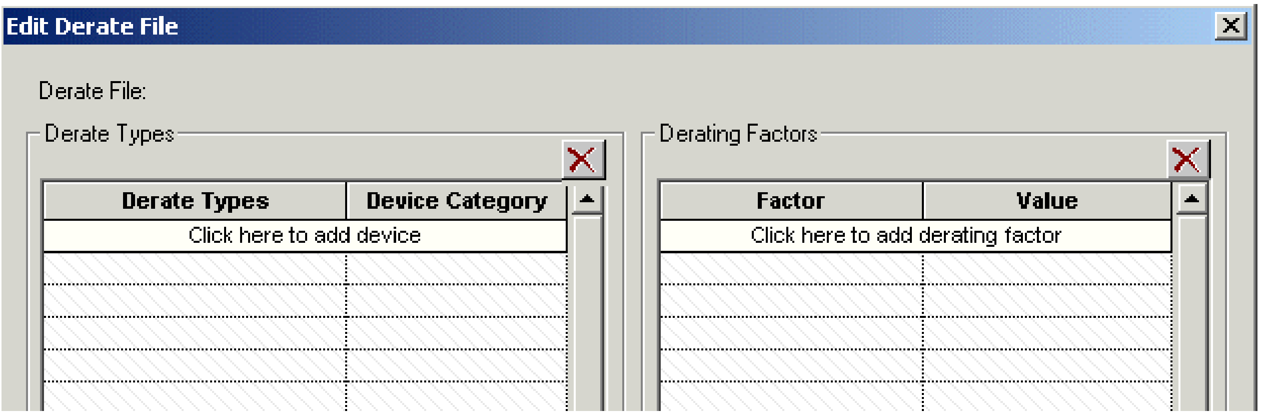
Derating Factors

Factor	Value
PDM	.55
Click here to add derating factor	

1 To create a new derate file from scratch, click the Create Derate File button.



The Edit Derate File dialog box appears.

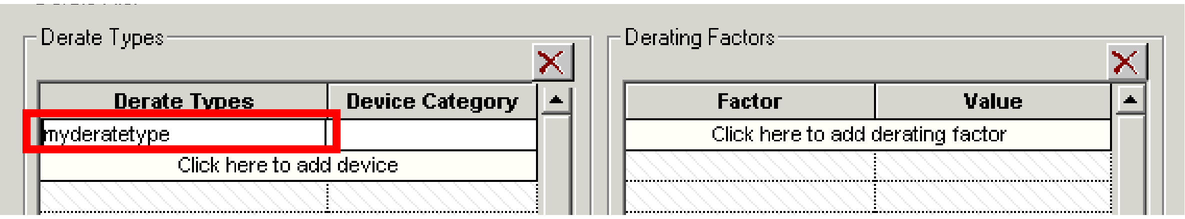


In the Edit Derate Type dialog box, type the derate type and select the corresponding device category. The derate type can be any user defined value.

2 To add a new derate type, click the *Click here to add a device* row.

A blank row gets added in the Derate Types pane.

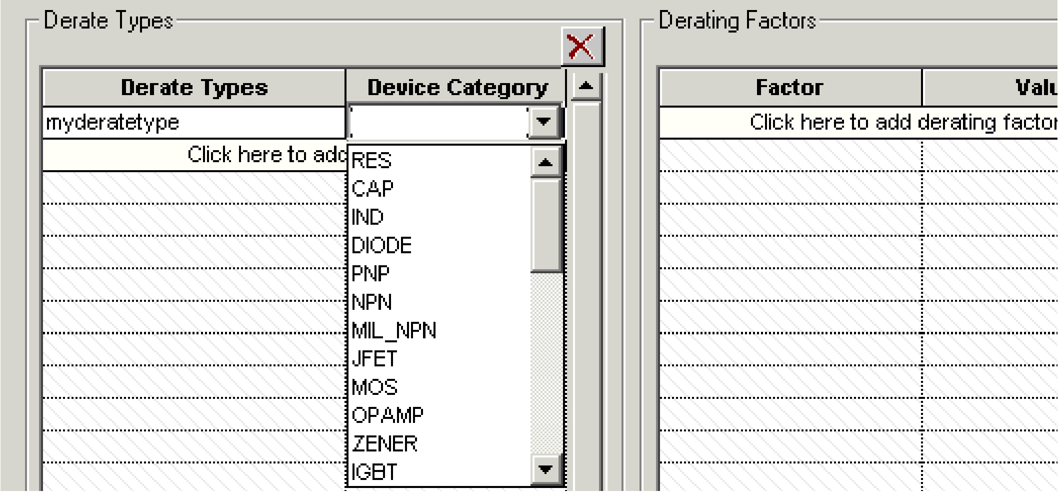
3 In the Derate Types text box, enter `myderatetype`



Derate Types	Device Category
myderatetype	
Click here to add device	

4 Click the Device Category grid.

5 From the drop-down list box select RES.



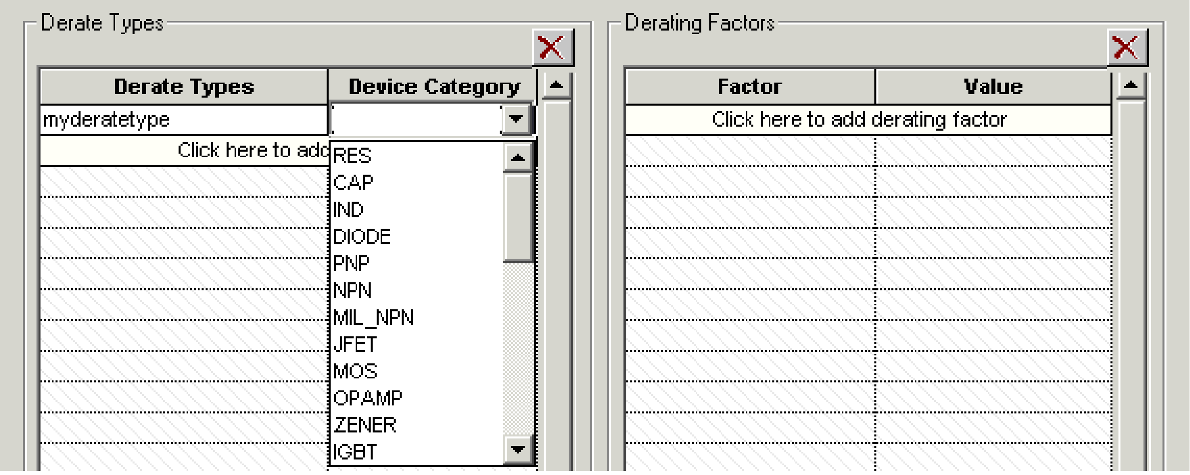
Derate Types	Device Category
myderatetype	
Click here to add	

Factor	Valu
Click here to add derating factor	

`myderatetype` is the derate type for a resistor of type ‘RES’.

6 To specify the derate values for various resistor parameters, click the *Click here to add derating factor* row in the Derating Factors window.

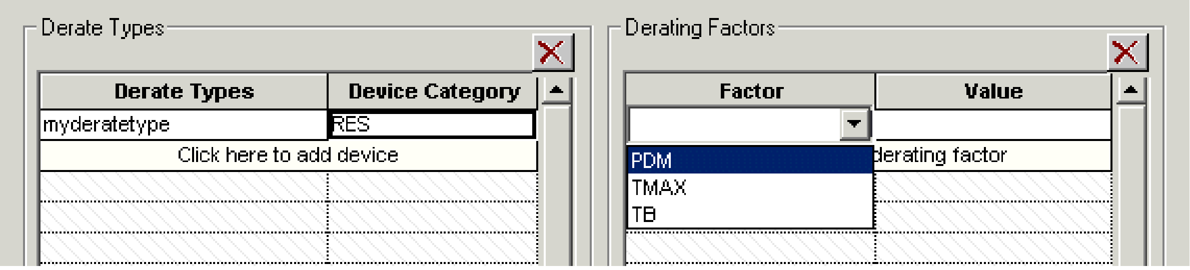
A blank row gets added.



Derate Types	Device Category
myderatetype	
Click here to add	

Factor	Value
Click here to add derating factor	

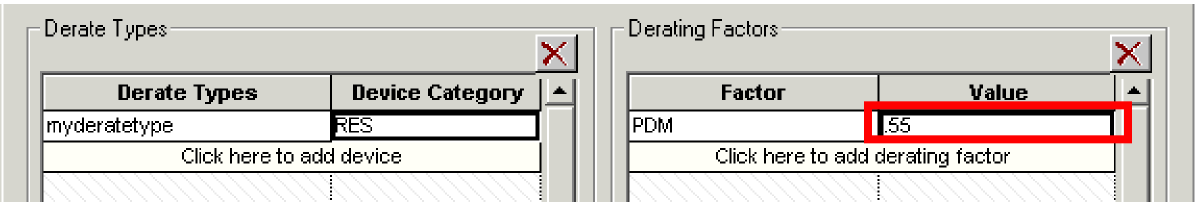
7 Select the derate factor from the Factor drop down list.



Derate Types	Device Category
myderatetype	RES

Factor	Value

The corresponding value for the derate factor is automatically filled in.



Derate Types	Device Category
myderatetype	RES

Factor	Value
PDM	.55

8 Modify the value of the derate factor as per the requirement.

9 Similarly, specify additional derate types and their corresponding categories, factors, and values.

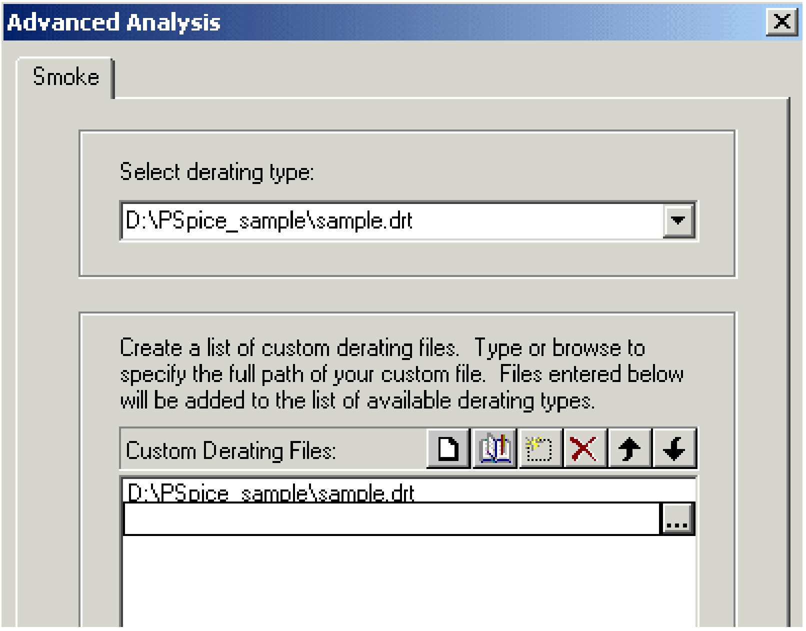
Note: Derate factors are populated based on the selected device category

10 Save the derate file.

Modifying existing derate file

You can also use this dialog box to modify the device type, device category, and the associated derating factor in an existing derate file.

1 Type the full path or browse to select an exisiting derate file.


Advanced Analysis

Smoke

Select derating type:

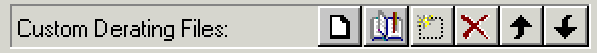
D:\PSpice_sample\sample.drt

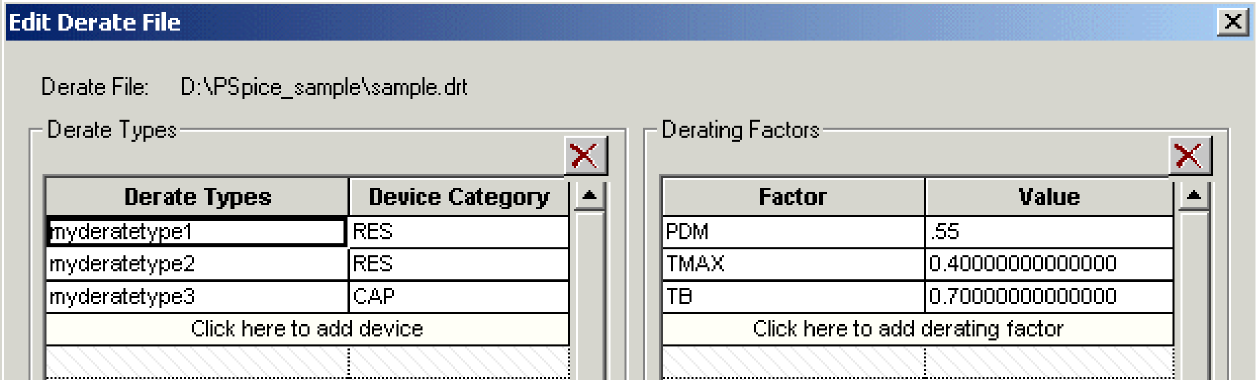
Create a list of custom derating files. Type or browse to specify the full path of your custom file. Files entered below will be added to the list of available derating types.

Custom Derating Files:

D:\PSpice_sample\sample.drt

2 Click the Edit Derate File button to display the Edit Derate File dialog box.


Custom Derating Files:


Edit Derate File

Derate File: D:\PSpice_sample\sample.drt

Derate Types

Derate Types	Device Category
myderatetype1	RES
myderatetype2	RES
myderatetype3	CAP
Click here to add device	

Derating Factors

Factor	Value
PDM	.55
TMAX	0.40000000000000
TB	0.70000000000000
Click here to add derating factor	

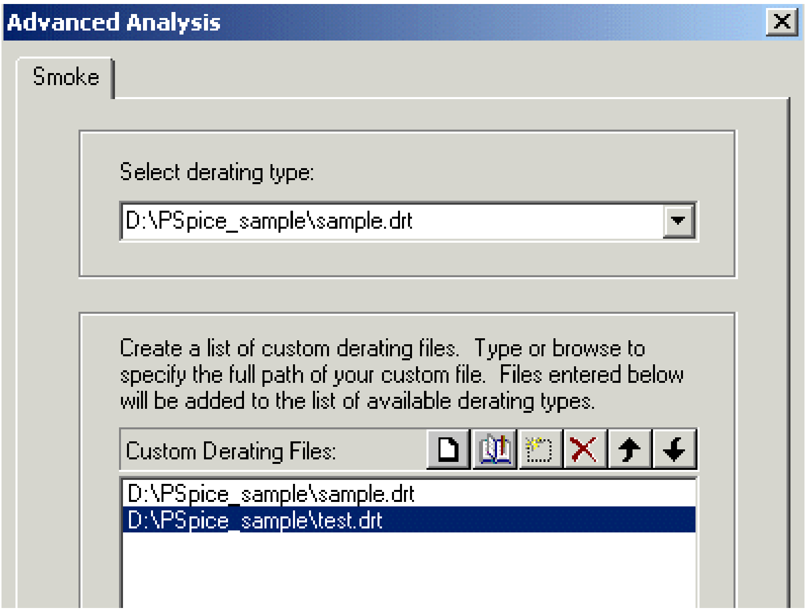
Adding the custom derating file to your design

To choose your custom derating file and apply the custom derating factors:

1. Right click on the Smoke display.

2. From the pop-up menu, select Derating > Custom Derating Files.

   The Advanced Analysis Smoke tab dialog appears.



Select derating type: D:\PSpice_sample\sample.drt

Create a list of custom derating files. Type or browse to specify the full path of your custom file. Files entered below will be added to the list of available derating types.

D:\PSpice_sample\sample.drt
D:\PSpice_sample\test.drt

3. To add one or more files to the Custom Derating Files list box, click the New(Insert) button.
4. Browse and select the custom derating file.

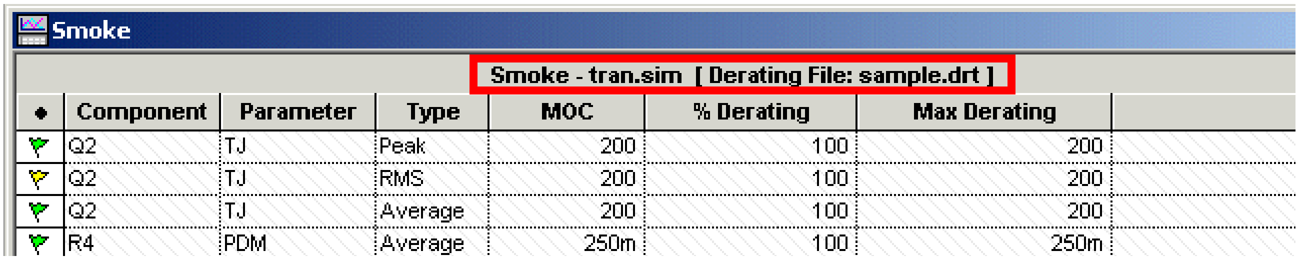
   The custom derating filename gets added in the Custom Derating Files list box.
5. In the Select derating type drop-down list, select the name of the derate file that you want to use during the smoke analysis.
6. Click OK.
7. Click the Run button (blue triangle).

   The Smoke data display title changes to "*Smoke - <profile name> [custom derate file name]*."

   Smoke results appear after the analysis in complete. The value of derate factors specified by you appear in the %Derating column.

Note: If the active derate file is different from the derate file used for the smoke results displayed, an asterix (*) symbol will be displayed along with the derate file name.

Consider an example where sample.drt was used to acheive the displayed smoke results.

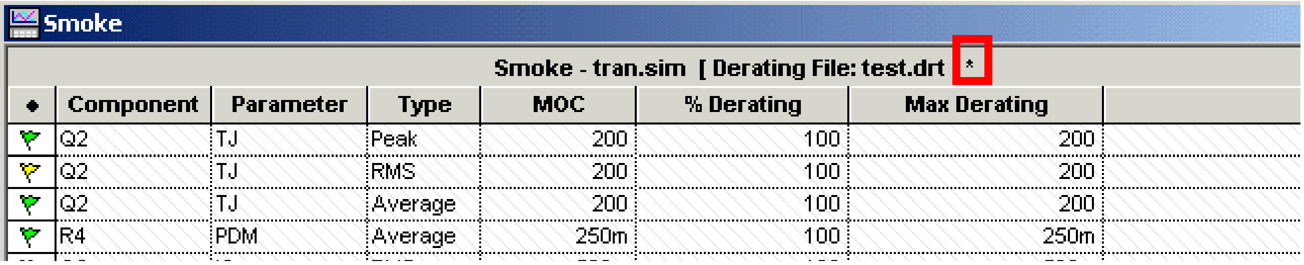


Smoke

Smoke - tran.sim [Derating File: sample.drt]

●	Component	Parameter	Type	MOC	% Derating	Max Derating
⚑	Q2	TJ	Peak	200	100	200
⚑	Q2	TJ	RMS	200	100	200
⚑	Q2	TJ	Average	200	100	200
⚑	R4	PDM	Average	250m	100	250m

In this case, if you change the active derate file to test.drt or if you edit the existing sample.drt, an asterix (*) symbol will be displayed along with the derate file name.



Smoke

Smoke - tran.sim [Derating File: test.drt *

●	Component	Parameter	Type	MOC	% Derating	Max Derating
⚑	Q2	TJ	Peak	200	100	200
⚑	Q2	TJ	RMS	200	100	200
⚑	Q2	TJ	Average	200	100	200
⚑	R4	PDM	Average	250m	100	250m

Caution

When you select a new derate file to be used for the smoke analysis, the contents of the %Derating column are updated with the new values only when you rerun the smoke analysis. Till you run the smoke analysis again, the values displayed in the %Derating column will be from the derate file used in the previous run.

Reading values from the derate file

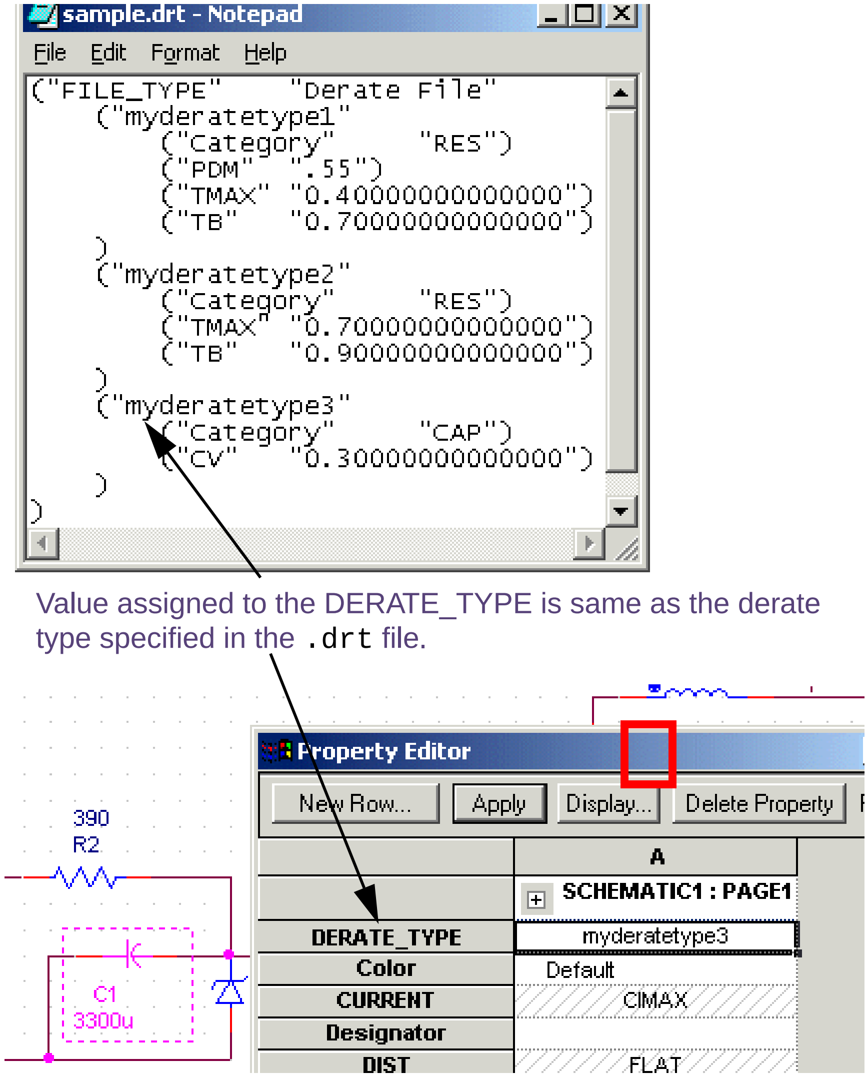
To be able to use the custom derate file, add the DERATE_TYPE property on the design instance. The value assigned to the DERATE_TYPE property should match the Derate Type specified by you in the derate file.

Consider a sample derate file, `sample.drt`. This derate file has two derate types for RES category, and one for capacitor. To use this derate file during the smoke analysis, load this file in Advanced Analysis. See Adding the custom derating file to your design on page 165.

Before you can use the derate file successfully, you need to complete the following steps in Capture.

1. Select the capacitor C1 and right-click.
2. From the pop-up menu, select Edit properties.
3. In the Property Editor window, click the New Row button.
4. In the Add New Row dialog box, specify the name of the new property as DERATE_TYPE.

5 Specify the property value as `myderatetype3`, which is same as the derate type specified by you in the `sample.drt` file, and click OK.



```
("FILE_TYPE"    "Derate File"
    ("myderatetype1"
        ("Category"     "RES")
        ("PDM"   ".55")
        ("TMAX"  "0.40000000000000")
        ("TB"    "0.70000000000000")
    )
    ("myderatetype2"
        ("Category"     "RES")
        ("TMAX"  "0.70000000000000")
        ("TB"    "0.90000000000000")
    )
    ("myderatetype3"
        ("Category"     "CAP")
        ("CV"    "0.30000000000000")
    )
)
```

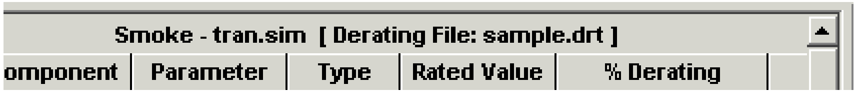
Value assigned to the DERATE_TYPE is same as the derate type specified in the `.drt` file.

	A
	SCHEMATIC1 : PAGE1
DERATE_TYPE	myderatetype3
Color	Default
CURRENT	CIMAX
Designator	
DIST	FLAT

6 Regenerate the PSpice netlist. From the **PSpice** drop-down menu select **Create Netlist**.

7 Run the smoke analysis. From the **PSpice** drop-down menu, select **Advanced Analysis** and then choose **Smoke**.

8 In Advanced Analysis, ensure that the `sample .drt` file is loaded and active. Then run the smoke analysis.



Smoke - tran.sim [Derating File: sample.drt]

omponent	Parameter	Type	Rated Value	% Derating

Note: To know more about loading a customized derate file to your design, see Adding the custom derating file to your design on page 165.

Supported Device Categories

Table 5-2 Supported derate type

Device Category	Physical Device
RES	Resistor
CAP	Capacitor
IND	Inductor
DIODE	Diode
NPN	NPN Bipolar Junction Transistor
PNP	PNP Bipolar Junction Transistor
JFET	Junction FET
N-CHANNEL	N-Channel JFET
P-CHANNEL	P-Channel JFET
NMESFET	N-Channel MESFET
PMESFET	P-Channel MESFET
MOS	MOSFET
NMOS	N-Channel MOSFET
PMOS	P-Channel MOSFET
OPAMP	Operational Amplifiers
ZENER	Zener Diode
IGBT	Ins Gate Bipolar Transistor
VARISTOR	Varistor
OCNN	Octo Coupler using PNP transistor
OCNPN	Octo Coupler using NPN transistor
THYRISTOR	Thyristor
POS_REG	Positive Voltage Regulator
LED	Light Emitting Diode

Monte Carlo

6

In this chapter

Monte Carlo overview

Note: Monte Carlo analysis is available with the following products:

- ❍ PSpice Advanced Optimizer Option
- ❍ PSpice Advanced Analysis

Monte Carlo predicts the behavior of a circuit statistically when part values are varied within their tolerance range. Monte Carlo also calculates yield, which can be used for mass manufacturing predictions.

Use Monte Carlo for:

- Calculating yield based on your specs
- Integrating measurements with graphical displays

- Displaying results in a probability distribution function (PDF) graph
- Displaying results in a cumulative distribution function (CDF) graph
- Calculating statistical data
- Displaying measurement values for every Monte Carlo run

Monte Carlo strategy

Monte Carlo requires:

- Circuit components that are Advanced Analysis-ready

  See Chapter 2, Libraries.
- A circuit schematic and working PSpice simulation
- Measurements set up in PSpice

  See “Procedure for creating measurement expressions” on page 240.

Plan Ahead

Setting options

- Start with enough runs to provide statistically meaningful results.
- Specify a larger number of runs for a more accurate graph of performance distribution. This more closely simulates the effects of mass production.
- Start with a different random seed value if you want different results.
- Set the graph bin number to show the level of detail you want. Higher bin numbers show more detail, but need more runs to be useful.
- If you are planning an analysis of thousands of runs on a complex circuit, you can turn off the simulation data storage option to conserve disk space. However, at this

setting, the simulation will run slower.
To turn off data storage:

- ❑ From the Advance Analysis menu select
  Edit / Profile Settings/ Simulation

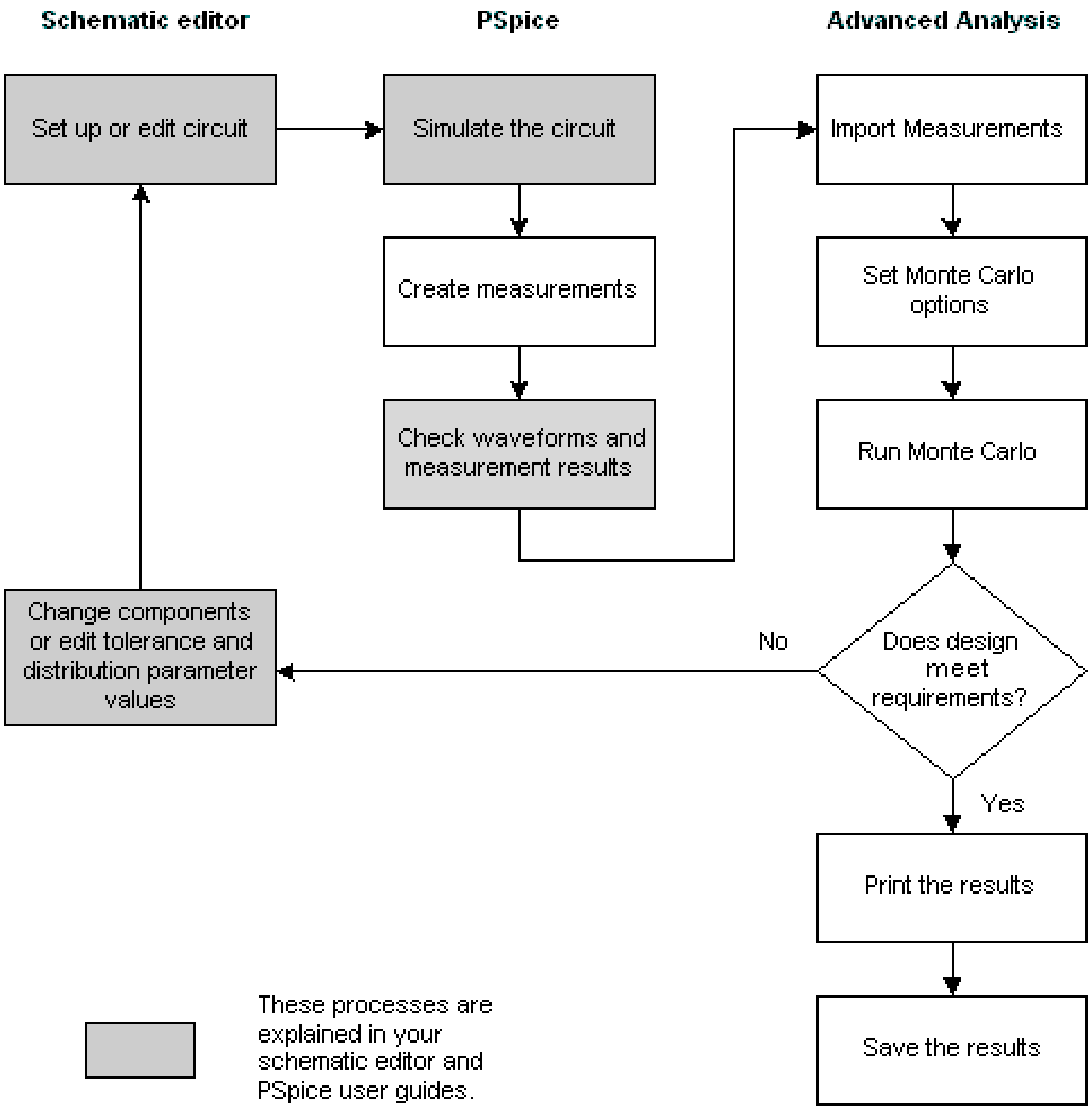
- ❑ From the Monte Carlo field, select **Save None**.

  The simulation data will be overwritten by each new run. Only the last run’s data will be saved.

Importing measurements

- ■ Find the most sensitive measurements in Sensitivity and perform Monte Carlo analysis on those measurements only. Limiting Monte Carlo to only important measurements saves run time.

Workflow


Schematic editor
PSpice
Advanced Analysis
Set up or edit circuit
Simulate the circuit
Import Measurements
Create measurements
Set Monte Carlo options
Check waveforms and measurement results
Run Monte Carlo
Change components or edit tolerance and distribution parameter values
No
Does design meet requirements?
Yes
Print the results
Save the results
These processes are explained in your schematic editor and PSpice user guides.

Monte Carlo procedure

Setting up the circuit in the schematic editor

Starting out:

- Have a working circuit in Capture.
- Circuit simulations and measurements should already be defined.

  The simulations can be Time Domain (transient), DC Sweep, and AC Sweep/Noise analyses.
- The circuit components you want to include in the data need to be Advanced Analysis-ready, with the tolerances of the circuit components specified.

  See Chapter 2, Libraries, for information about component tolerances.

1. From your schematic editor, open your circuit.
2. Run a PSpice simulation.

   Note: Advanced Analysis Monte Carlo does not use PSpice Monte Carlo settings.

   Note: You can run Advanced Analysis Monte Carlo on more than one simulation profile at once. However, if you have a multi-run analysis set up in PSpice (for example, a parametric sweep or a temperature sweep), Advanced Analysis Monte Carlo will reduce the simulation profile to one run before starting the Advanced Analysis Monte Carlo calculations. For temperature sweeps, the first temperature value in the list will be used for the Advanced Analysis Monte Carlo calculations.
3. Check your key waveforms in PSpice and make sure they are what you expect.
4. Test your measurements and make sure they have the results you expect.

For information on circuit layout and simulation setup, see your schematic editor and PSpice user guides.

Note: For information on setting up measurements, see “Procedure for creating measurement expressions” on page 240.

Setting up Monte Carlo in Advanced Analysis

Opening Monte Carlo

– From the **PSpice** menu in your schematic editor, select **Advanced Analysis / Monte Carlo**.

The Advanced Analysis Monte Carlo tool opens.

Importing measurements from PSpice

1. In the Statistical Information table, click on the row containing the text “Click here to import a measurement created within PSpice.”

   The **Import Measurement(s)** dialog box appears.

2. Select the measurements you want to include.

   For more information, see Importing measurements from PSpice on page 192 in the Example section.

Setting Monte Carlo options

From the Advanced Analysis **Edit** menu, select **Profile Settings**, click the **Monte Carlo** tab, and enter the following Monte Carlo options:

- Number of runs

  This is the number of times the selected simulation profiles will be run. For each run, component parameters with tolerances will be randomly varied. Run number one uses nominal component parameter values. The maximum number of runs is primarily limited by the amount of available memory.

- Starting run number

The default starting run number is one. This is the nominal run. If the random seed value is kept constant, then you can change the starting run number in order to duplicate a partial Monte Carlo simulation. You can use this to isolate specific random results which are of particular interest, without having to run an entire Monte Carlo simulation again.

- Random seed value

  The random number generator uses this value to produce a sequence of random numbers. Change the seed in order to produce a unique random sequence for each Monte Carlo simulation. If the seed and device properties are not changed, then the same sequence of random numbers will be generated each time a Monte Carlo analysis is done. You can use this procedure to reproduce a random simulation.

- Number of bins

  This value determines the number of divisions in the histogram. A typical value is one tenth of the number of runs. The minimum value is one and the maximum value is determined by the amount of available memory. It is recommended that this value be less than 10,000.

Running Monte Carlo

Monte Carlo calculates a nominal value for each measurement using the original parameter values.

After the nominal runs, Monte Carlo randomly calculates the value of each variable parameter based on its tolerance and a flat (uniform) distribution function. For each profile, Monte Carlo uses the calculated parameter values, evaluates the measurements, and saves the measurement values.

Monte Carlo repeats the calculations for the specified number of runs, then calculates and displays statistical data for each measurement.

For more detail on the displayed statistical data, see Example's section "Reviewing Monte Carlo data" on page 180.

Controlling MonteCarlo run

The MonteCarlo analysis can only be run if tolerances are specified for the component parameters. In case you want to prevent running these analysis on a component, you can do so by using the TOL_ON_OFF property.

In the schematic design, attach the TOL_ON_OFF property to the device instance for which you do not want to perform the Sensitivity and MonteCarlo analysis. Set the value of the TOL_ON_OFF property to OFF. When you set the property value as OFF, the tolerances attached to the component parameters will be ignored and therefore, the component parameters will not be available for analysis.

Reviewing Monte Carlo data

You can review Monte Carlo results on two graphs and two tables:

- Probability density function (PDF) graph
- Cumulative distribution function (CDF) graph
- Statistical Information table, in the **Statistics** tab
- Raw Measurements table, in the **Raw Meas** tab

Reviewing the Statistical Information table

For each run, Monte Carlo randomly varies parameter values within tolerance and calculates a single measurement value. After all the runs are done, Monte Carlo uses the run results to perform statistical analyses.

1. Click the **Statistics** tab to bring the table to the foreground.
2. Select a measurement row in the Statistical Information table.

   A black arrow appears in the left column and the row is highlighted. The data in the graph corresponds to the selected measurement only.

You can review results reported for each measurement:

Column heading...	Means...
Cursor Min	Measurement value at the cursor minimum location.
Cursor Max	Measurement value at the cursor maximum location.
Yield (in percent)	The number of runs that meet measurement specifications (represented by the cursors) versus the total number of runs in the analysis. Used to estimate mass manufacturing production efficiency.
Mean	The average measurement value based on all run values. See Raw Measurement table for run values.
Std Dev	Standard deviation. The statistically accepted meaning for standard deviation.
3 Sigma (in percent)	The number of measurement run values that fall within the range of plus or minus 3 Sigma from the mean
6 Sigma (in percent)	The number of measurement run values that fall within the range of plus or minus 6 Sigma from the mean
Median	The measurement value that occurs in the middle of the sorted list of run values. See Raw Measurement table for run values

Reviewing the PDF graph

A PDF graph is a way to display a probability distribution. It displays the range of measurement values along the x-axis and the number of runs with those measurement values along the y-axis.

1. Select a measurement row in the Statistical Information table.

2 If the PDF graph is not already displayed, right click the graph and select **PDF Graph** from the pop-up menu.

The corresponding PDF graph will display all measurement values based on the Monte Carlo runs.

3 Right click the graph to select zoom setting, another graph type, and y-axis units.

A pop-up menu appears.

- ❑ Select **Zoom In** to focus on a small range of values.
- ❑ Select **CDF Graph** to toggle from the default PDF graph to the CDF graph.
- ❑ Select **Percent Y-axis** to toggle from the default absolute y-axis Number of Runs to **Percent of Runs**.

4 To change the number of bins on the x-axis:

From the **Edit** menu, select **Profile Settings**, click the **Monte Carlo** tab, and typing a new number in the **Number of Bins** text box.

If you want more bars on the graph, specify more bins—up to a maximum of the total number of runs. Higher bin numbers show more detail, but require more runs to be useful.

Reviewing the CDF graph

The CDF graph is another way to display a probability distribution. In mathematical terms, the CDF is the integral of the PDF.

1 Select a measurement row in the Statistical Information table.

2 If the CDF graph is not already displayed, right click on the PDF graph and select **CDF Graph** from the pop-up menu.

The statistical display for the cumulative distribution function is shown on the CDF graph.

3. Right click the graph to select zoom setting and y-axis units.

   A pop-up menu will appear.

   ❑ Select **Zoom In** to focus on a small range of values.

   ❑ Select **PDF Graph** to toggle from the current CDF graph to the default PDF graph.

   ❑ Select **Percent Y-axis** to toggle from the default absolute y-axis Number of Runs to **Percent of Runs**.

4. Change the number of bins on the x-axis by going to the **Edit** menu, selecting **Profile Settings**, clicking the **Monte Carlo** tab, and typing a new number in the **Number of Bins** text box.

■ If you want more bars on the graph, specify more bins, up to a maximum of the total number of runs. Higher bin numbers show more detail, but require more runs to be useful.

Working with cursors

– To change a cursor location on the graph, click the cursor to select it and click the mouse in a new spot on the graph. A selected cursor appears red.

  The cursor’s location on the graph changes, and the measurement min or max values in the Statistical Information table are updated. A new calculated yield displays.

Restricting calculation range

To restrict the statistical calculations displayed in the Statistical Information table to the range of samples within the cursor minimum and maximum range, set the cursors in their new locations and select the restrict calculation range command from the right click pop-up menus.

1. Change cursors to new locations.

See Working with cursors above.

2 Right click in the graph or in the Statistical Information table and select **Restrict Calculation Range** from the pop-up menu.

The cross-hatched range of values that appears on the graph is the restricted range.

Reviewing the Raw Measurements table

The Raw Measurements table is a read-only table that has a one-to-one relationship with the Statistical Information table. For every measurement row on the Raw Measurements table, there is a corresponding measurement row on the Statistical Information table. The run values in the Raw Measurements table are used to calculate the yield and statistical values in the Statistical Information table.

1 Click the **Raw Meas** tab.

The Raw Measurements table appears.

2 Select a row and double click the far left row header.

The row of data is sorted in ascending or descending order.

Note: Copy and paste the row of data to an external program if you want to further manipulate the data. Use the **Edit** menu or the right click pop-up menu copy and paste commands.

3 From the **View** menu, select **Log File** / **Monte Carlo** to view the component parameter values for each run.

Controlling Monte Carlo

If you do not achieve your goals in the first Monte Carlo analysis, there are several things you can do to fine-tune the process.

Pausing, stopping, and starting

Pausing and resuming

To review preliminary results on a large number of runs:

- Click ⏸ on the top toolbar when the output window indicates approximately Monte Carlo run 50.

  The analysis stops at the next interruptible point, available data is displayed and the last completed run number appears in the output window.

1. Click the depressed ⏸ or ▶ to resume calculations.

Stopping

- Click ■ on the top toolbar.

  If a Monte Carlo analysis has been stopped, you cannot resume the analysis.

Starting

- Click ▶ to start or restart.

Changing circuit components or parameters

If you do not get the results you want, you can return to the schematic editor and change circuit parameters.

1. Try a different component for the circuit or change the tolerance parameter on an existing component.
2. Rerun the PSpice simulation and check the results.
3. Rerun Monte Carlo using the settings saved from the prior analysis.
4. Review the results.

Controlling measurement specifications

If you do not get the results you want and your design specifications are flexible, you can add, edit, delete or disable a measurement and rerun Monte Carlo analysis.

Cells with cross-hatched backgrounds are read-only and cannot be edited.

- To exclude a measurement from the next optimization run, click the ☑ in the Statistical Information table, which removes the check mark.
- To edit a measurement, click on the measurement you want to edit, then click ... .
- To edit a measurement specification Min or Max, click the minimum or maximum cursor on the graph (the selected cursor turns red), then click the mouse in the spot you want.

  The new value will display in the **Cursor Min** or **Cursor Max** column in the Statistical Information table.
- To add a new measurement, click on the row that reads “Click here to import a measurement...”

  Note: For instructions on setting up new measurements, see “Procedure for creating measurement expressions” on page 240.
- To export a new measurement to Optimizer or Monte Carlo, select the measurement and right click on the row containing the text “Click here to import a measurement created within PSpice.”

  Select **Send To** from the pop-up menu.

Printing results

- Click 🖨 .

  Or:

  From the **File** menu, select **Print**.

To print information from the Raw Measurements table on the **Raw Meas** tab, copy and paste to an external program and print from that program. You can also print the Monte Carlo Log File, which contains more detail about measurement parameters. From the **View** menu select **Log File**, **Monte Carlo**.

Saving results

– Click 💾.

Or:

From the **File** menu, select **Save**.

The final results will be saved in the Advanced Analysis profile (.aap).

Example

This example uses the tutorial version of RFAmp located at:

<target directory>\PSpice\tutorial\capture\pspiceaa\rfamp

The circuit is an RF amplifier with 50-ohm source and load impedances. It includes the circuit schematic, PSpice simulation profiles, and measurements.

Note: For a completed example see:

`<target directory>`\PSpice\Capture_Samples\AdvAnls\RFAmp directory.

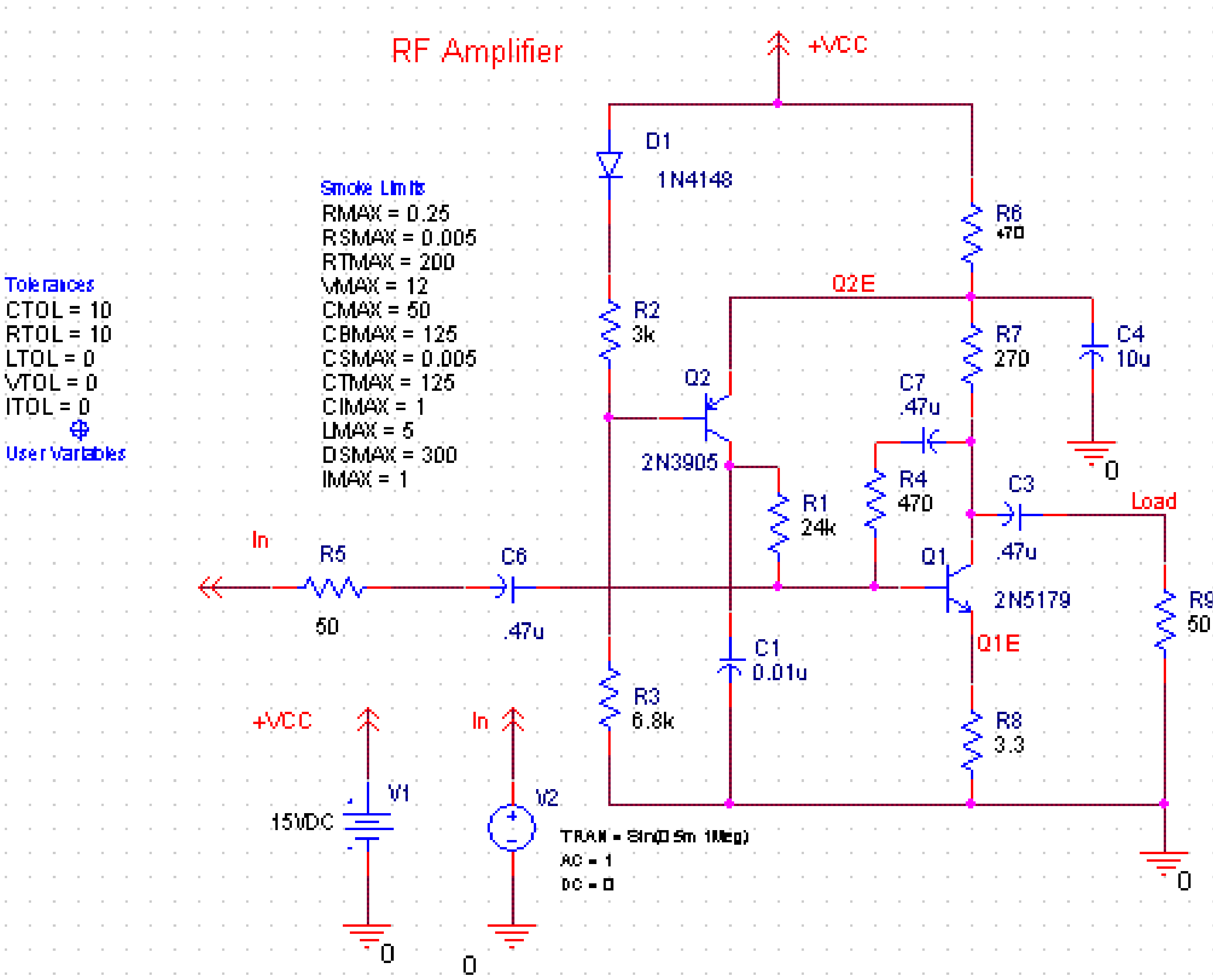
Setting up the circuit in the schematic editor

1. In your schematic editor, browse to the RFAmp tutorials directory.

   <target directory>
   \PSpice\tutorial\Capture\pspiceaa\rfamp

2. Open the RFAmp project.

The RF amplifier circuit example



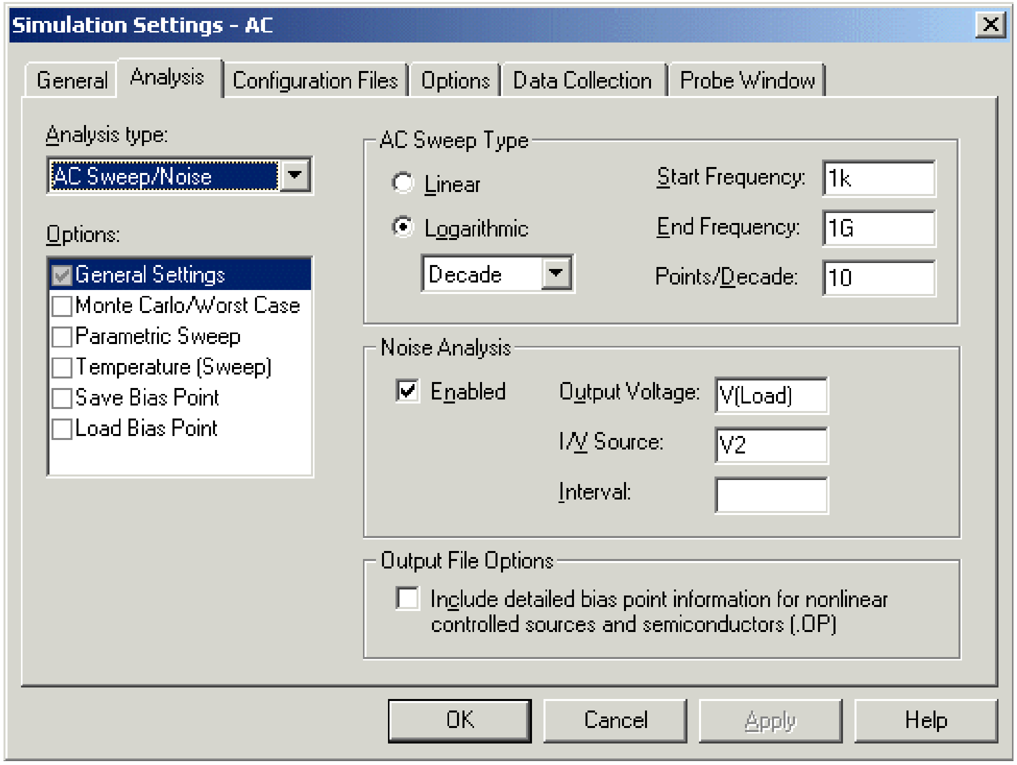
Tolerances
CTOL = 10
RTOL = 10
LTOL = 0
VTOL = 0
ITOL = 0
User Variables

Smoke Limits
RMAX = 0.25
RSMAX = 0.005
RTMAX = 200
VMAX = 12
CMAX = 50
CBMAX = 125
CSMAX = 0.005
CTMAX = 125
CIMAX = 1
LMAX = 5
DSMAX = 300
IMAX = 1

TRAN = Sin(0 5m 1Meg)
AC = 1
DC = 0

3 Select the SCHEMATIC1-AC simulation profile.

The AC simulation included in the RF amp example



Analysis type: AC Sweep/Noise

Options:
- ☑ General Settings
- □ Monte Carlo/Worst Case
- □ Parametric Sweep
- □ Temperature (Sweep)
- □ Save Bias Point
- □ Load Bias Point

AC Sweep Type
- ○ Linear
- ● Logarithmic
- Decade

Start Frequency: 1k

End Frequency: 1G

Points/Decade: 10

Noise Analysis
- ☑ Enabled

Output Voltage: V(Load)

I/V Source: V2

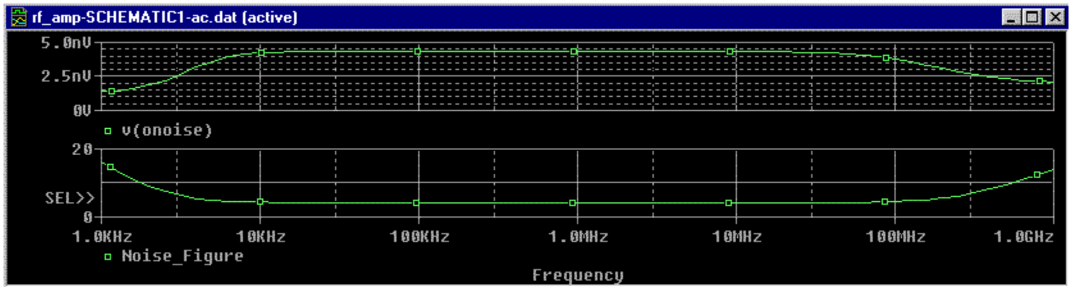
Interval:

Output File Options
- □ Include detailed bias point information for nonlinear controlled sources and semiconductors (.OP)

1 Click ▶ to run a PSpice simulation.

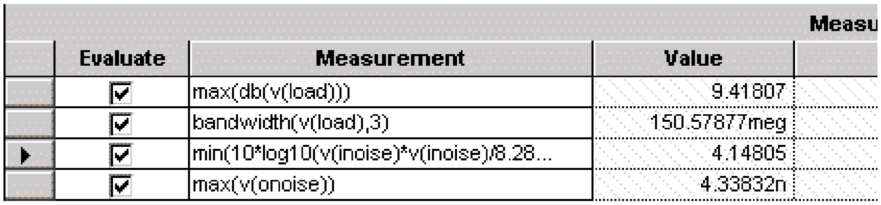
2 Review the results.

The waveforms in PSpice are what we expected.



The measurements in PSpice give the results we expected.

In PSpice, View Measurement Results



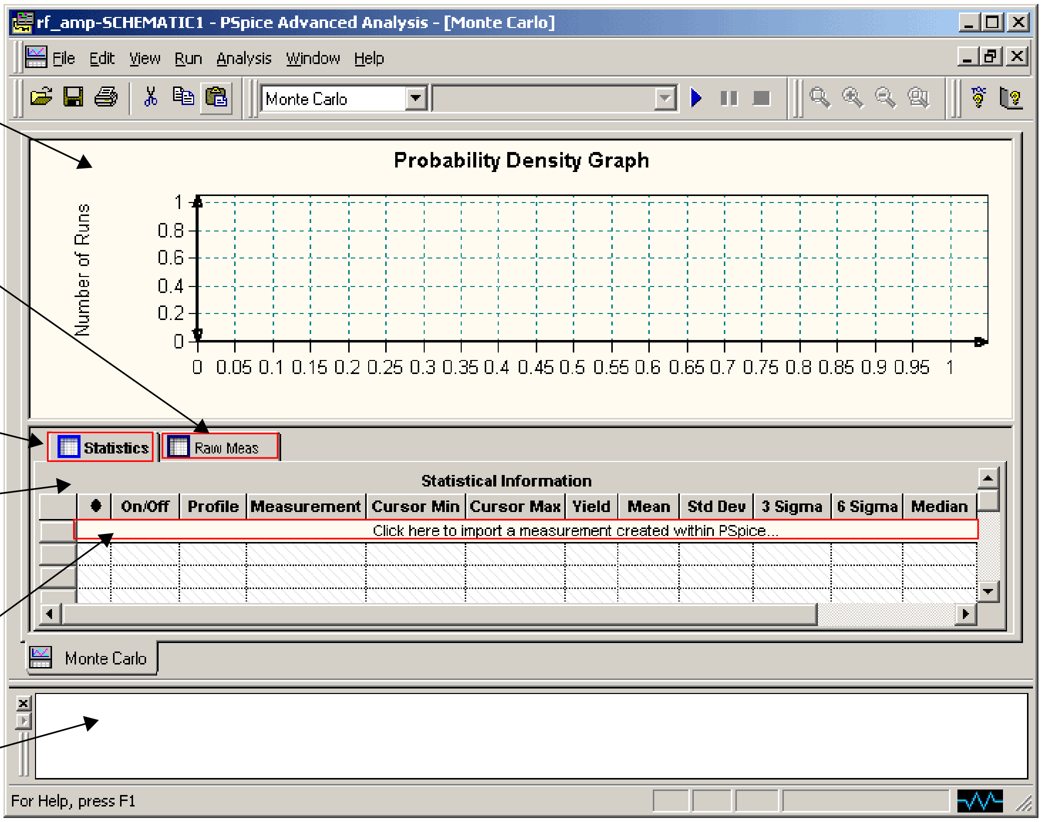
		Measu		
	Evaluate	Measurement	Value	
	☑	max(db(v(load)))	9.41807	
	☑	bandwidth(v(load),3)	150.57877meg	
▶	☑	min(10*log10(v(inoise)*v(inoise)/8.28...	4.14805	
	☑	max(v(onoise))	4.33832n	

Setting up Monte Carlo in Advanced Analysis

Opening Monte Carlo

– From the schematic editor **PSpice** menu, select **Advanced Analysis** / **Monte Carlo**.

The Advanced Analysis Monte Carlo tool opens.



Statistical Information

●	On/Off	Profile	Measurement	Cursor Min	Cursor Max	Yield	Mean	Std Dev	3 Sigma	6 Sigma	Median
Click here to import a measurement created within PSpice...											

PDF/CDF graph

Raw Measurements tab

Statistics tab

Statistical Information table

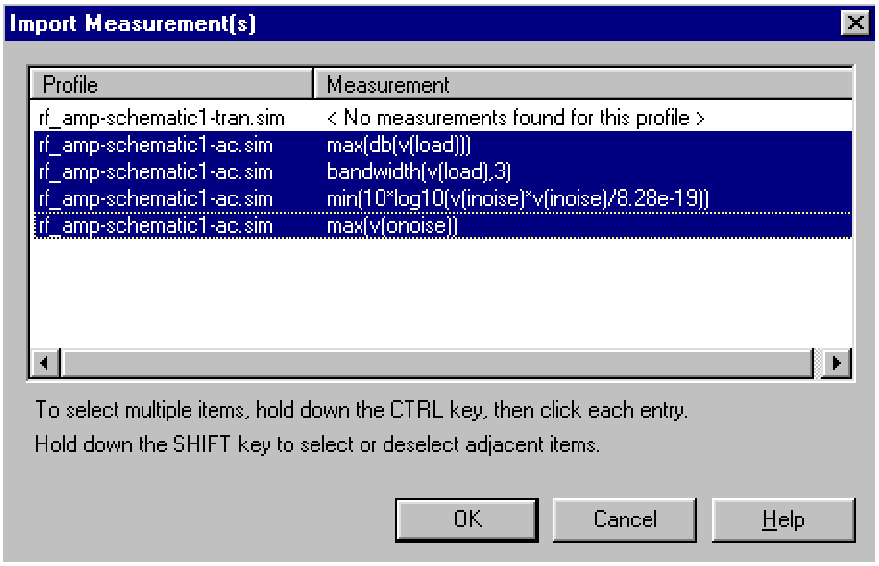
Click to import more measurements

Output window

Importing measurements from PSpice

1 In the Statistical Information table, click on the row containing the text “Click here to import a measurement created within PSpice.”

The **Import Measurement(s)** dialog box appears.



Profile	Measurement
rf_amp-schematic1-tran.sim	< No measurements found for this profile >
rf_amp-schematic1-ac.sim	max(db(v(load)))
rf_amp-schematic1-ac.sim	bandwidth(v(load),3)
rf_amp-schematic1-ac.sim	min(10*log10(v(inoise)*v(inoise)/8.28e-19))
rf_amp-schematic1-ac.sim	max(v(onoise))

To select multiple items, hold down the CTRL key, then click each entry.
Hold down the SHIFT key to select or deselect adjacent items.

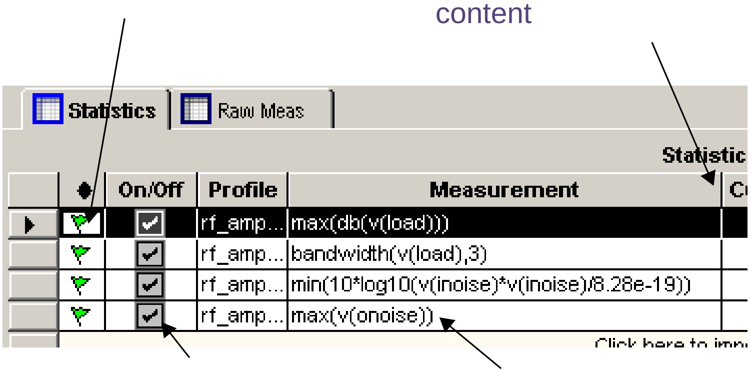
2 Select the four measurements:

- Max(DB(V(Load)))
- Bandwidth(V(Load),3)
- Min(10*Log10(V(inoise)*V(inoise)/8.28e-19))
- Max(V(onoise))

3 Click **OK**.

Hover your mouse over a red or yellow message flag to read error message

Click the cell boundary line and drag the double-headed arrow to widen cell and view all content



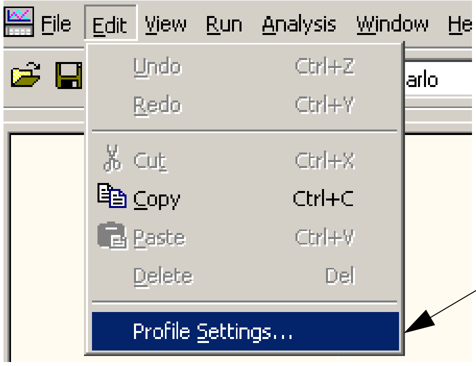
	●	On/Off	Profile	Measurement	C
▶	🟩	☑	rf_amp...	max(db(v(load)))	
	🟩	☑	rf_amp...	bandwidth(v(load),3)	
	🟩	☑	rf_amp...	min(10*log10(v(inoise)*v(inoise)/8.28e-19))	
	🟩	☑	rf_amp...	max(v(onoise))	
				Click here to imp	

Click to clear the check mark and exclude the measurement from the next analysis

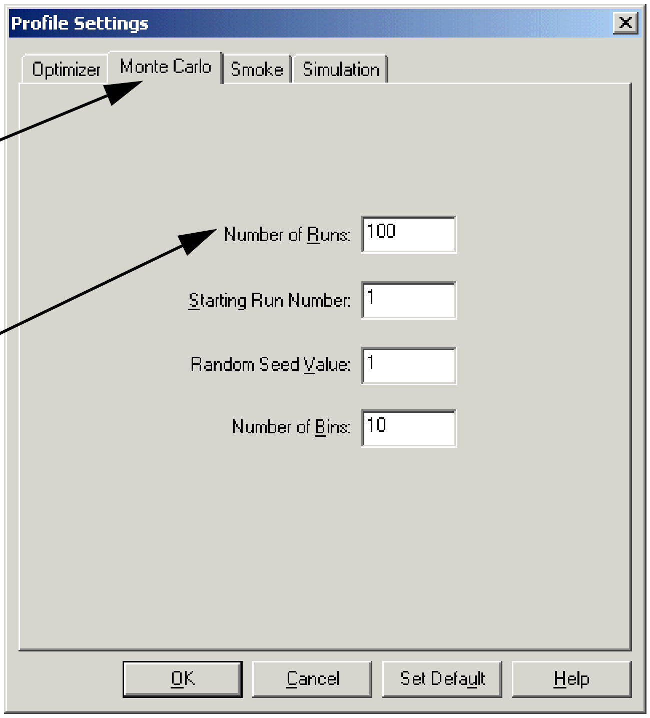
Measurements imported from PSpice

Setting Monte Carlo options

1 From the Advanced Analysis **Edit** menu, select **Profile Settings**, click the **Monte Carlo** tab, and enter the values shown in the dialog box.



Select Profile Settings from the Edit menu to bring up Monte Carlo options



Number of Runs: 100

Starting Run Number: 1

Random Seed Value: 1

Number of Bins: 10

Click to select Monte Carlo settings

Set Number of Runs to 100

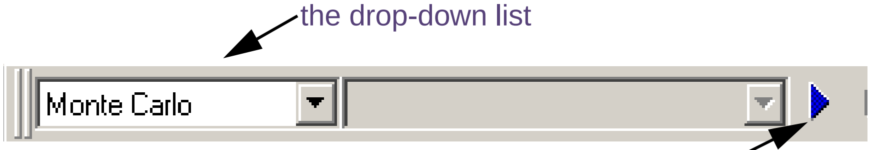
2 Click **OK**.

Running Monte Carlo

Starting the analysis

1 Click ▶.

Select Monte Carlo from the drop-down list



Monte Carlo

Click to start a Monte Carlo analysis

The Monte Carlo analysis begins. The messages in the output window give you the status.

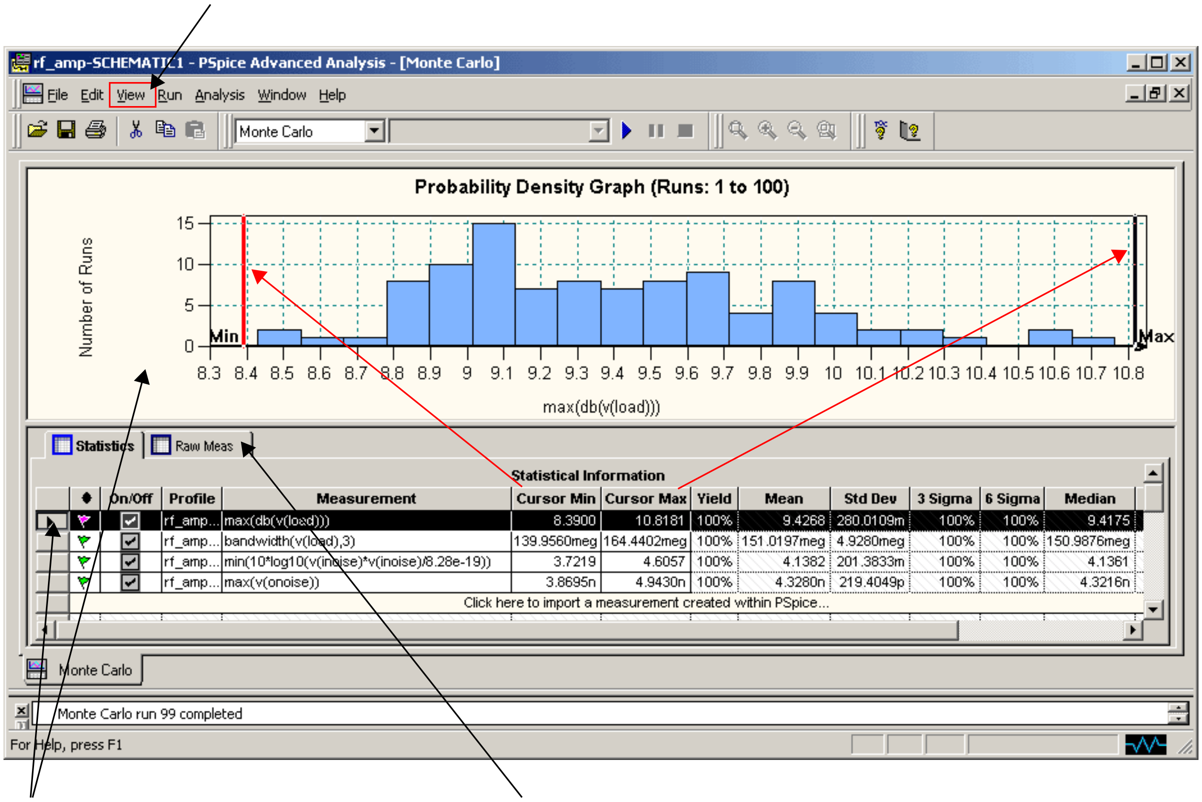
Monte Carlo calculates a nominal value for each measurement using the original parameter values.

After the nominal runs, Monte Carlo randomly calculates the value of each variable parameter based on its tolerance and a flat (uniform) distribution function. For each profile, Monte Carlo uses the calculated parameter values, evaluates the measurements, and saves the measurement values.

Monte Carlo repeats the above calculations for the specified number of runs, then calculates and displays statistical data for each measurement.

Ten bins of measurement data are displayed on the graph.

From the View menu, select Log File / Monte Carlo to see parameter values and other details



Statistical Information

	◆	On/Off	Profile	Measurement	Cursor Min	Cursor Max	Yield	Mean	Std Dev	3 Sigma	6 Sigma	Median
▶	▼	☑	rf_amp...	max(db(v(load)))	8.3900	10.8181	100%	9.4268	280.0109m	100%	100%	9.4175
	▼	☑	rf_amp...	bandwidth(v(load),3)	139.9560meg	164.4402meg	100%	151.0197meg	4.9280meg	100%	100%	150.9876meg
	▼	☑	rf_amp...	min(10*log10(v(inoise)*v(inoise)/8.28e-19))	3.7219	4.6057	100%	4.1382	201.3833m	100%	100%	4.1361
	▼	☑	rf_amp...	max(v(onoise))	3.8695n	4.9430n	100%	4.3280n	219.4049p	100%	100%	4.3216n

Click here to import a measurement created within PSpice...

Monte Carlo run 99 completed

The selected measurement's min, max, and other run results are plotted on the PDF graph

Click Raw Meas tab for 100 run results

Reviewing Monte Carlo data

The Statistics tab is already in the foreground and the Statistical Information table contains results for the four imported measurements.

– Select the **Max(DB(V(load)))** measurement row.

A black arrow appears in the left column and the row is highlighted. The values in the PDF graph correspond to this measurement.

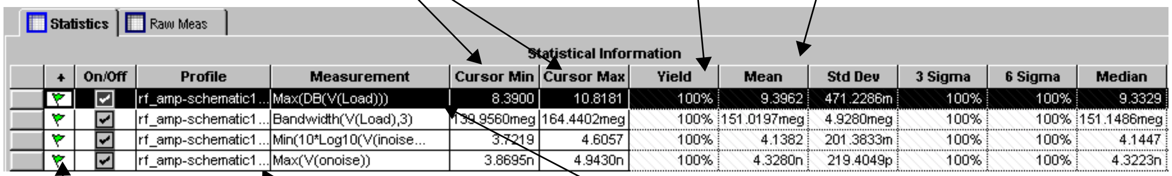
For each Monte Carlo run, Monte Carlo randomly varies parameter values within tolerance and calculates a single measurement value. After all the runs are done, Monte Carlo uses the run results to perform statistical analyses. The following statistical results are reported for our example: Mean, Std Dev, 3 Sigma, 6 Sigma, and Median.

In addition a yield is calculated and reported.

Check for acceptable values compared to design specs

Check for acceptable yields (near 100%)

Check statistical results



Statistical Information

	+	On/Off	Profile	Measurement	Cursor Min	Cursor Max	Yield	Mean	Std Dev	3 Sigma	6 Sigma	Median
	⚑	☑	rf_amp-schematic1...	Max(DB(V(Load)))	8.3900	10.8181	100%	9.3962	471.2286m	100%	100%	9.3329
	⚑	☑	rf_amp-schematic1...	Bandwidth(V(Load),3)	139.9560meg	164.4402meg	100%	151.0197meg	4.9280meg	100%	100%	151.1486meg
	⚑	☑	rf_amp-schematic1...	Min(10*Log10(V(inoise...	3.7219	4.6057	100%	4.1382	201.3833m	100%	100%	4.1447
	⚑	☑	rf_amp-schematic1...	Max(V(onoise))	3.8695n	4.9430n	100%	4.3280n	219.4049p	100%	100%	4.3223n

Hover mouse over the flag to see messages

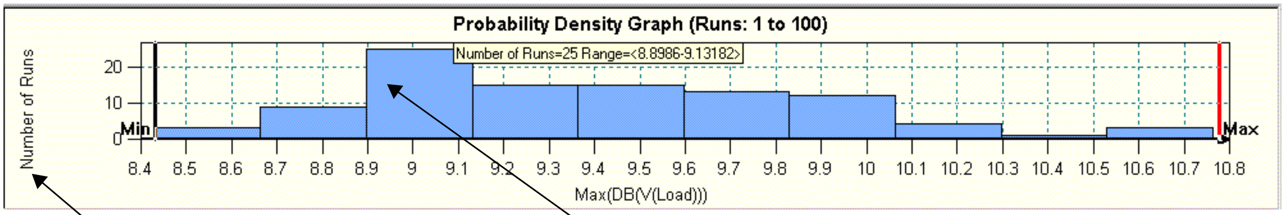
Click in right corner to select profile

Select measurement, then click the dotted box to edit

Reviewing the PDF graph

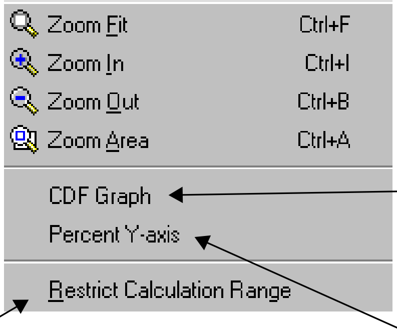
The PDF graph is a bar chart. The x-axis shows the measurement values calculated for all the Monte Carlo runs.

The y-axis shows the number of runs with measurement results between the x-axis bin ranges. The statistical display for this measurement's probability density function is shown on the PDF graph.



Right click on the graph and use pop-up menu to toggle to Percent Y-axis

Hover your mouse above the bin; details will appear in a pop-up message



Select to adjust your view of the graph

This pop-up menu appears when you right-click on the graph

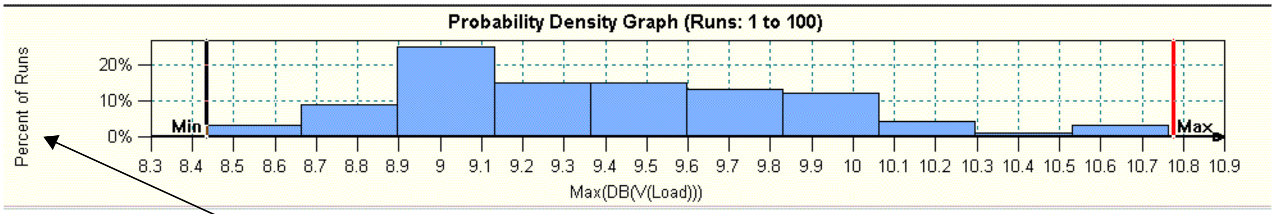
Select to toggle to the PDF Graph

Select to recalculate results for a different min/max range

Select to toggle between absolute runs and percentage of runs

1 Right click on the graph and select **Percent Y-axis** from the pop-up menu.

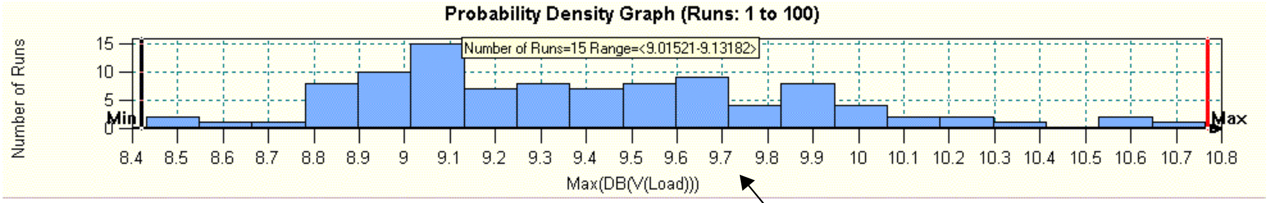
The Y-axis units changes from **Number of Runs** to **Percent of Runs**.



Y-axis changed to Percent of Runs

2 From the **Edit** menu, select **Profile Settings**, click the **Monte Carlo** tab, select the **Number of Bins** text box and type the number 20 in place of 10.

Notice the higher level of detail on the PDF graph.



Same statistical results, but 20 bins are specified: twice as many as first PDF graph

3 Right click on the graph and from the pop-up menu select **Zoom In** to view a specific range.

4 Select **Zoom Fit** to show the entire graph with cursors.

5 Click the **Max** cursor to select it (it turns red when selected), then click the mouse in a new location on the x-axis.

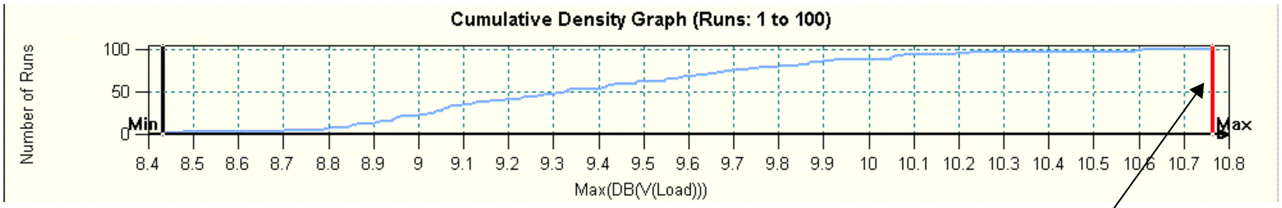
The cursor's location changes and the max value and yield numbers are updated in the Statistical Information table.

Note: Moving the cursor does not update the rest of the statistical results for this new min / max range. Use **Restrict Calculation Range** to recalculate the rest of the statistical results for this min / max range.

Reviewing the CDF graph

The CDF graph is a cumulative stair-step plot.

1. Select the **Max(DB(V(Load)))** measurement in the Statistical Information table.
2. Right click on the PDF graph and select **CDF Graph** from the pop-up menu.



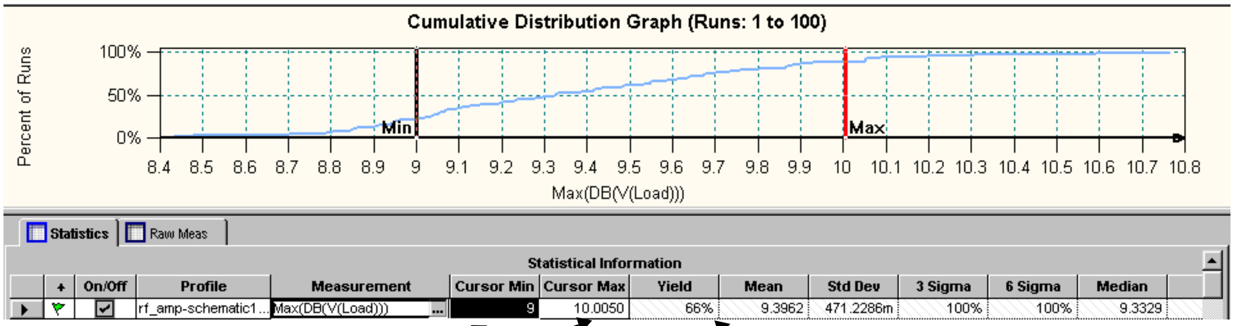
CDF graph with max cursor selected; before cursor is moved for restricted range calculation

3. Right click on the graph and select **Zoom In** to view a specific range.
4. Click the **Max** cursor to select the cursor.

   The Max cursor turns red.
5. Click the mouse at 10 on the x-axis.

   The cursor moves to the new position on the x-axis.
6. Click the **Min** cursor and click the mouse at 9 on the x-axis.

When you change the cursor location the min, max, and yield values are updated on the Statistical Information table.



Statistical Information

	+	On/Off	Profile	Measurement	Cursor Min	Cursor Max	Yield	Mean	Std Dev	3 Sigma	6 Sigma	Median
▶	▼	☑	rf_amp-schematic1...	Max(DB(V(Load))) ...	9	10.0050	66%	9.3962	471.2286m	100%	100%	9.3329

Cursor Min and Cursor Max data change to reflect new cursor positions

Yield value changes to reflect new min / max data

Restricting the calculation range

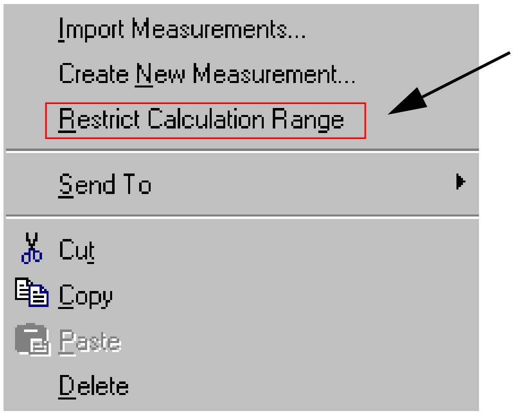
To quickly view statistical results for a different min / max range, use the **Restrict Calculation Range** command.

1 Set the graph cursors at **Min** = 9 and **Max** = 10.

Or:

Edit the min or max values in the Statistical Information table.

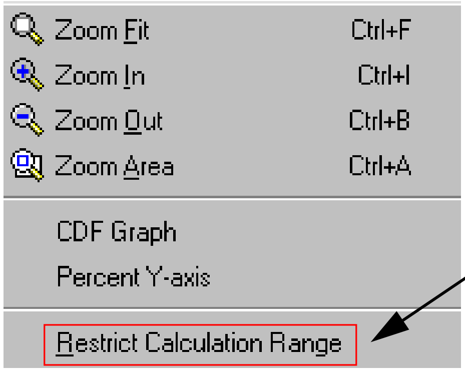
2 Right click in the table or on the graph and select **Restrict Calculation Range** from the pop-up menu.



Right click in the table for this pop-up menu

Or

Select **Restrict Calculation Range** from either menu



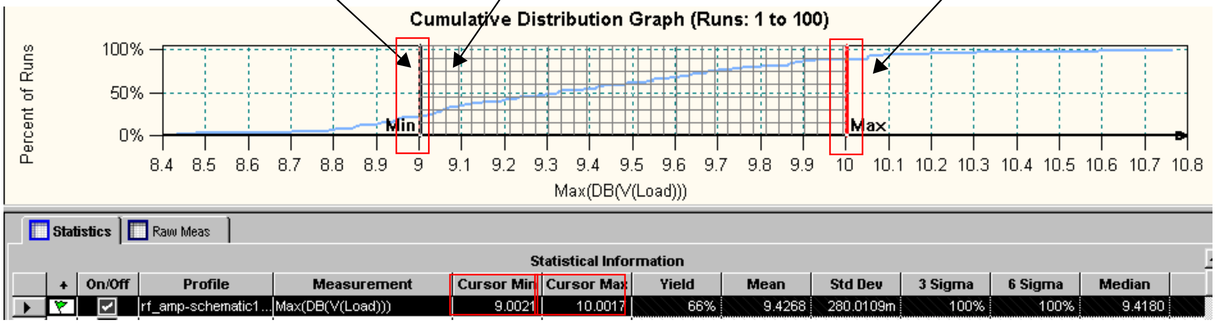
Right click in the graph for this pop-up menu

Monte Carlo recalculates the statistics and only includes the restricted range of values.

Min cursor changed to 9

Restricted range is cross-hatched

Max cursor changed to 10



Statistical Information

	+	On/Off	Profile	Measurement	Cursor Min	Cursor Max	Yield	Mean	Std Dev	3 Sigma	6 Sigma	Median
▶		☑	rf_amp-schematic1...	Max(DB(V(Load)))	9.0021	10.0017	66%	9.4268	280.0109m	100%	100%	9.4180

Editing the Cursor Min and Max cells also changes the range

Note the new results for statistics based on the restricted range

Raw Measurements Table

This read-only table has a one-to-one relationship with the Statistical Information Table. For every row on this table, there is a corresponding row on the other table where the statistics are displayed.

1 Click the **Raw Meas** tab.

The Raw Measurements table appears.

2 Select the **Max(DB(V(load)))** measurement row and double click the far left row header.

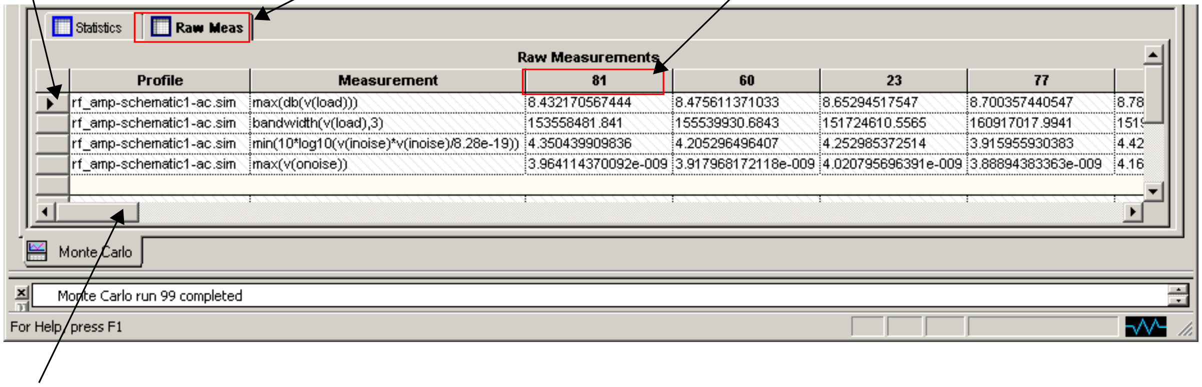
The row run data is sorted in ascending order.

Note: If you want to use the data in an external program, you can copy and paste a row of data.

Double click on a row header to sort run data

Click on the Raw Meas tab to select

Run 81 has the lowest measurement value



Raw Measurements

	Profile	Measurement	81	60	23	77	
▶	rf_amp-schematic1-ac.sim	max(db(v(load)))	8.432170567444	8.475611371033	8.65294517547	8.700357440547	8.78
	rf_amp-schematic1-ac.sim	bandwidth(v(load),3)	153558481.841	155539930.6843	151724610.5565	160917017.9941	151(
	rf_amp-schematic1-ac.sim	min(10*log10(v(inoise)*v(inoise)/8.28e-19))	4.350439909836	4.205296496407	4.252985372514	3.915955930383	4.42
	rf_amp-schematic1-ac.sim	max(v(onoise))	3.964114370092e-009	3.917968172118e-009	4.020795696391e-009	3.88894383363e-009	4.16

Monte Carlo run 99 completed

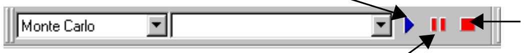
Scroll to see all run values

Data rows can be copied and pasted to external programs

Controlling Monte Carlo

Pausing, stopping, and starting

Click to start



Click to stop

Click to pause

Pausing and resuming

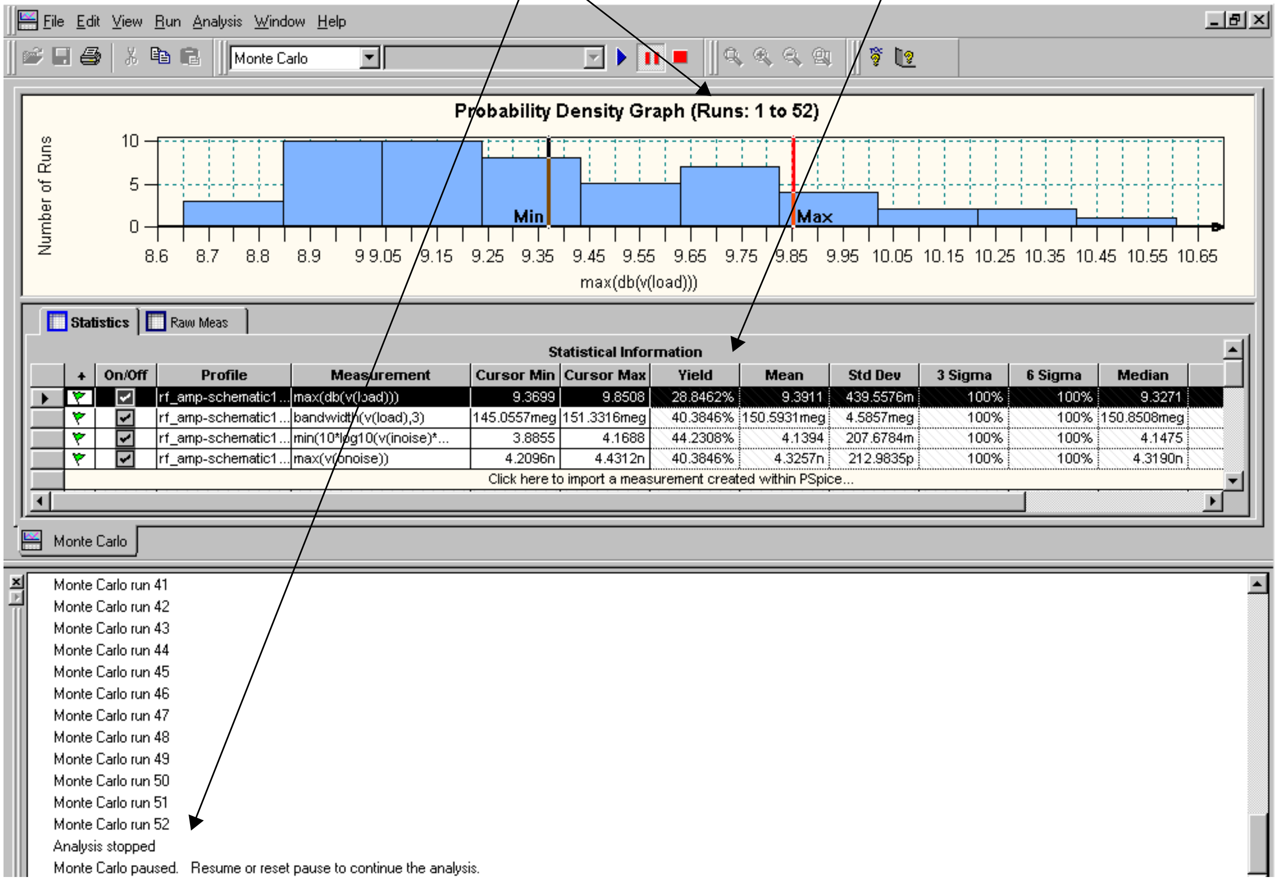
1 Click ❚❚ on the top toolbar.

The analysis stops, available data is displayed, and the last completed run number appears in the output window.

2 Click ❚❚ or ▶ to resume calculations.

The title and the messages in the output window show how the number of runs made before pausing

Partial results: compare these with final 100-run results



Statistical Information

+	On/Off	Profile	Measurement	Cursor Min	Cursor Max	Yield	Mean	Std Dev	3 Sigma	6 Sigma	Median
▶	☑	rf_amp-schematic1...	max(db(v(load)))	9.3699	9.8508	28.8462%	9.3911	439.5576m	100%	100%	9.3271
	☑	rf_amp-schematic1...	bandwidth(v(load),3)	145.0557meg	151.3316meg	40.3846%	150.5931meg	4.5857meg	100%	100%	150.8508meg
	☑	rf_amp-schematic1...	min(10*log10(v(inoise)*...	3.8855	4.1688	44.2308%	4.1394	207.6784m	100%	100%	4.1475
	☑	rf_amp-schematic1...	max(v(onoise))	4.2096n	4.4312n	40.3846%	4.3257n	212.9835p	100%	100%	4.3190n

Click here to import a measurement created within PSpice...

```
Monte Carlo run 41
Monte Carlo run 42
Monte Carlo run 43
Monte Carlo run 44
Monte Carlo run 45
Monte Carlo run 46
Monte Carlo run 47
Monte Carlo run 48
Monte Carlo run 49
Monte Carlo run 50
Monte Carlo run 51
Monte Carlo run 52
Analysis stopped
Monte Carlo paused.   Resume or reset pause to continue the analysis.
```

Stopping

– Click ■ on the top toolbar.

Note: Mont Carlo does not save data from a stopped analysis. After stopping, you cannot resume the same analysis.

Starting

– Click ▶ to start or restart.

Changing components or parameters

When running other examples, if you do not get the results you want, go to the schematic editor and change circuit information.

1. Try a different component for the circuit

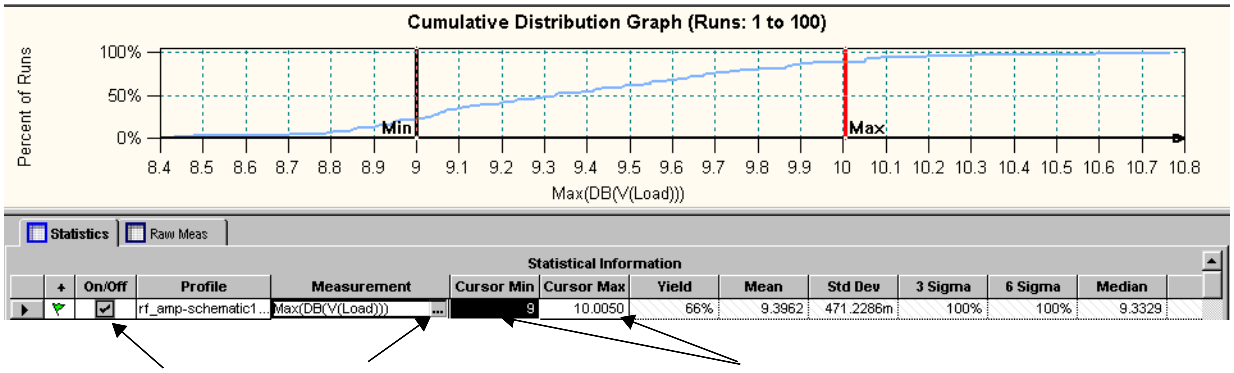
   Or:

   Change the tolerance of a parameter on an existing component.

2. Rerun the PSpice simulation and verify that the results are what you expect.
3. Rerun Monte Carlo using the settings saved from the prior analysis.
4. Review the results.

Controlling measurement specifications

If you do not get the results you want and your design specifications are flexible, you can change a specification or delete a measurement and rerun Monte Carlo analysis.



Statistical Information

	+	On/Off	Profile	Measurement	Cursor Min	Cursor Max	Yield	Mean	Std Dev	3 Sigma	6 Sigma	Median
▶	▼	☑	rf_amp-schematic1...	Max(DB(V(Load))) ...	9	10.0050	66%	9.3962	471.2286m	100%	100%	9.3329

Click here to remove the check mark and exclude the measurement from further analysis

Click on the dotted box and edit the measurement expression

Edit Cursor Min and Cursor Max values on the table; rerun Monte Carlo; observe new results.

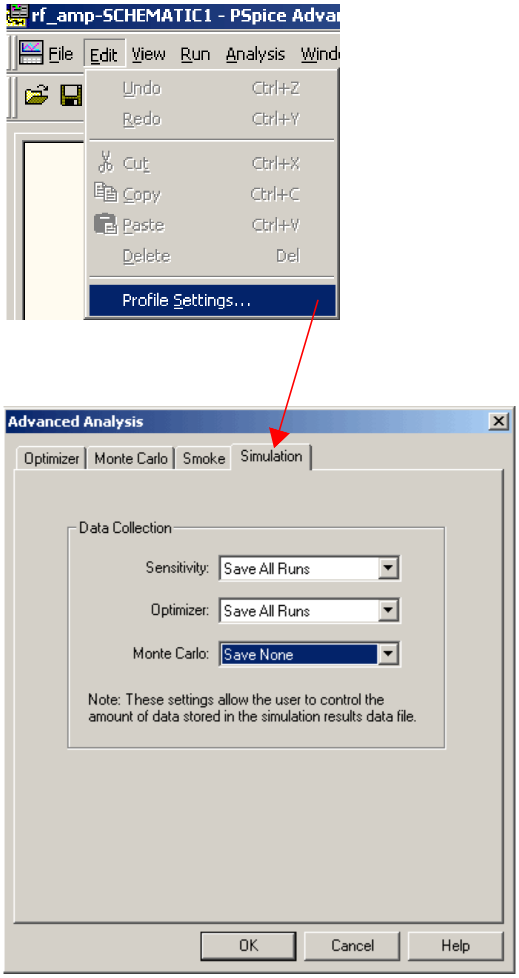
Storing simulation data

If you are planning an analysis of thousands of runs on a complex circuit, you can turn off the simulation data storage option to conserve disk space.

To turn off data storage:

1. From the Advance Analysis menu select *Edit / Profile Settings/ Simulation*.
2. From the Monte Carlo field, select **Save None**.

   The simulation data will be overwritten by each new run. Only the last run's data will be saved.
3. From the Advance Analysis menu select *Edit / Profile Settings/ Simulation*.



Sensitivity: Save All Runs

Optimizer: Save All Runs

Monte Carlo: Save None

Note: These settings allow the user to control the amount of data stored in the simulation results data file.

4 From the Monte Carlo field, select **Save None**.

The simulation data will be overwritten by each new run. Only the last run’s data will be saved.

Changing components or parameters

When running other examples, if you do not get the results you want, go to the schematic editor and change circuit information.

1. Try a different component for the circuit

   Or:

   Change the tolerance of a parameter on an existing component.

2. Rerun the PSpice AMS simulation and verify that the results are what you expect.
3. Rerun Monte Carlo using the settings saved from the prior analysis.
4. Review the results.

Printing results

– Click 🖨 .

Or:

From the **File** menu, select **Print**.

To print information from the Raw Measurements table on the **Raw Meas** tab, copy and paste to an external program and print from that program. You can also print the Monte Carlo Log File, which contains more detail about measurement parameters.

Saving results

– Click 💾.

Or:

From the **File** menu, select **Save**.

The final results will be saved in the Advanced Analysis profile (.aap).

Parametric Plotter

7

In this chapter

Overview

Note: Parametric Plotter is available only if you have PSpice Advanced Analysis license.

The Parametric Plotter added to Advanced Analysis provides you with the functionality of sweeping multiple parameters. Once you have created and simulated a circuit, you can use the Parametric Plotter to perform this analysis.

The Parametric Plotter gives users the flexibility of sweeping multiple parameters. It also provides a nice and an efficient way to analyze sweep results. Using Parametric Plotter, you can sweep any number of design and model parameters (in any combinations) and view results in PPlot/Probe in tabular or plot form.

Using the Parametric Plotter, you can:

- Sweep multiple parameters.
- Allow device/model parameters to be swept.
- Display sweep results in spreadsheet format.
- Plot measurement results in Probe UI.
- Post analysis measurement evaluation

Launching Parametric Plotter

From Capture

– From the PSpice menu in Capture, select Advanced Analysis > Parametric Plot.

  The Parametric Plotter window appears.

Stand Alone

1. From the Start menu, choose Programs > OrCAD 10.X > Advanced Analysis.
2. Open the `.aap` file.
3. From the Analysis drop-down list, select Parametric Plotter.

   The Parametric Plotter window appears.

You can now use the Parametric Plotter to analyze your circuit. Using Parametric Plotter is a two steps process.

1. In the first step, you select the parameters to be swept and also specify the sweep type. See “Sweep Types” on page 213.

2. In the second step, you specify the measurements to evaluated at each sweep. See "Specifying measurements" on page 218.

After you have identified the sweep parameters and specified measurements, run the sweep analysis and view the results in the Results tab or the Plot Information tab of the Measurements window.

Sweep Types

Advanced Analysis Parametric Plotter is used to perform the sweep analysis. When you run a sweep analysis, you evaluate the results of sweeping one or more parameter values, on the circuit output.

During the sweep analysis, the parameters values are varied as per the user specifications. There are four possible ways in which you can vary the parameter values. These are:

- Discrete Sweep
- Linear Sweep
- Logarithmic octave sweep
- Logarithmic decade sweep

Discrete Sweep

For discrete sweep, you need to specify the actual parameter values to be used during the simulation runs. The parameter values are used in the order they are specified.

Example

You can specify the values of variable parameters as 10, 100, 340, and so on.

Linear Sweep

For Linear sweep, specify the Start, End, and Step values. For each run of the parametric plotter, the parameter value is increased by the step value. In other words, the parameter values used during the simulation runs is calculated as `Start Value + Step Value`. This cycle continues till the parameter value is either greater than or equal to the `End Value`.

Example

If for a parameter you specify the start value as 1, End value as 2.5, and the step value as 0.5, the parameter values used by the Parametric Plotter are 1, 1.5, 2, and 2.5.

Logarithmic octave sweep

In the logarithmic octave sweep, the parameters are varied as a function of `ln(2)`.

For Logarithmic Octave sweep, you need to specify the Start Value, End Value, and number of points per Octave.

Number of points per Octave is number of points between the start value and two times start value. For example, if the start value is 10, number of points per Octave is 5, this implies that for sweep analysis, the Parametric Plotter will pick up 5 value between 10 and 20, with 20 being the fifth value.

During the analysis the parameter value in increased by a factor that is calculated using the following equation:

```
factor = exp[(ln(2)/N]
```

Where

N Number of points per octave

Example

Consider that the sweep type for a parameter is LogarithmicOct. The start value, end value and the number of points per Octave are specified as 10, 30, and 2, respectively.

The values used by the Parametric Plotter for LogarithmicOct sweep type will be `10`, `14.142`, `20`, `28.284`, and `40`.

In this example, the difference between start and end values is more than an octave, therefore, the actual number of values used by the Parametric Plotter is more than 2.

Logarithmic decade sweep

If the sweep type is LogarithmicDec, the parameter values are varied as a function of `ln(10)`. For Logarithmic decimal sweep, you need to specify the Start Value, End Value, and number of points per decade.

Number of points per decade is number of points between the start value and 10 times start value. For example, if the start value is 10, number of points per decade is 5, this implies that for sweep analysis, the Parametric Plotter will pick up 5 value between 10 and 100, with 100 being the fifth value.

During the analysis the parameter value in increased by a factor, which is calculated using the following equation:

```
factor = exp[(ln(10)/N]
```

Where

N Number of points per decade

Example

If you specify the start value as 10, end value as 100, and number of points per decade as 5, the parameter values used for sweep analysis will be 10, 15.8489, 25.1189, 39.8107, 63.0957, and 100.

Adding sweep parameters

In the Sweep Parameters window, add the parameters values that you want to vary during the sweep analysis.

1. In the Sweep Parameters window, click the *Click here to import a parameter from the design property map* row.

   The Parameter Selection dialog box appears with a list of components and the parameters for which you can sweep the parameter values.

   Only the component parameters that have been defined in the schematic, appear in the Parameter Selection dialog box.

2. For the parameter that you want to vary, specify the Sweep Type.

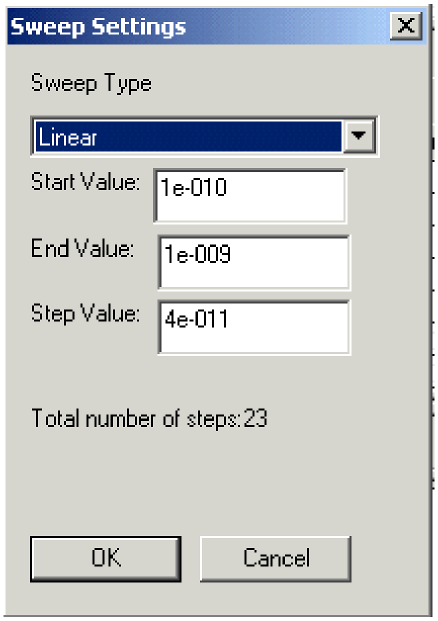
   a. In the Parameter Selection dialog box, click the *Sweep Type* grid.

   b. From the drop-down list, select the sweep type as `Discrete`, `Linear`, `LogarithmicDec`, or `LogarithmicOct`.

   Note: Sweep type defines the method used by the Parametric Plotter to calculate variable parameter values. To know more about the sweep types, see “Sweep Types” on page 213.

3. To specify the sweep values for the selected parameter, click the Sweep Values grid.

The Sweep Settings dialog box appears.



Sweep Settings

Sweep Type: Linear

Start Value: 1e-010

End Value: 1e-009

Step Value: 4e-011

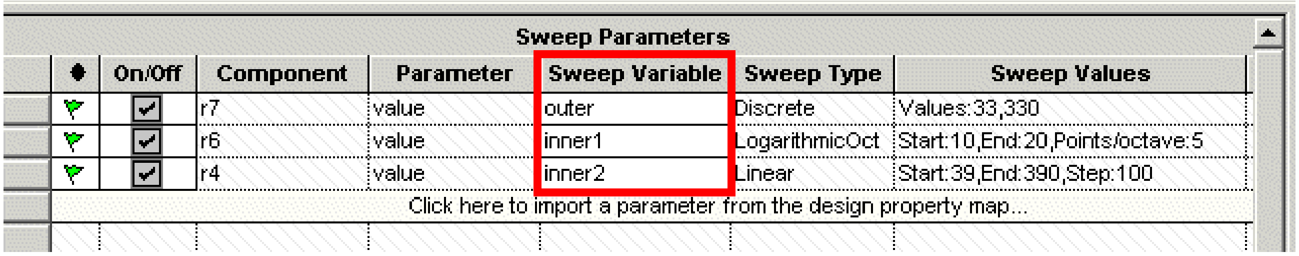
Total number of steps:23

4 In the Sweep Settings dialog box, the sweep type you selected in the previous step appears in the *Sweep Type* drop-down list box. Specify the parameter values that would be used for each parameter during sweep analysis.

To know more about the sweep types and sweep values to be specified, see Sweep Types on page 213

5 Click OK to save your specifications.

The selected parameters get added in the sweep parameter window. When you add the parameters, a Sweep Variable is automatically assigned to each of the parameters.



Sweep Parameters

●	On/Off	Component	Parameter	Sweep Variable	Sweep Type	Sweep Values
⚑	☑	r7	value	outer	Discrete	Values:33,330
⚑	☑	r6	value	inner1	LogarithmicOct	Start:10,End:20,Points/octave:5
⚑	☑	r4	value	inner2	Linear	Start:39,End:390,Step:100

Click here to import a parameter from the design property map...

Figure 7-3 Setting sweep parameters

The value of the sweep variable is an indication of how parameters will be varied during sweep analysis. Sweep Variables values are assigned in the order in which sweep parameters are defined. If required, you can change these values. While modifying the values of Sweep Variable, ensure that each parameter has a unique value of sweep variable attached to it. Also the values should follow the sequence. For example, if you select three parameters to be varied during the sweep analysis, the sweep variables should have values as `outer`, `inner1`, and `inner2`. You cannot have random values such as `inner1`, `inner2`, and `inner4`.

For the sweep analysis, the values of parameters is varied in nested loops. For example, if you select two variables, the outer variable is fixed for the analysis, while the inner variable goes through all of its possible values. The outer variable is then incremented to its next value, and the inner variable again cycles through all of its possible values. This process is continued for all possible values of the outer variable.

The result for each run of the analyzer appears in the Results pane. By default, the results are displayed in the order described above.

Tip

Similar process is followed in case multiple (more than two) parameter values need to be varied.

For example, in Figure 7-3 on page 217, for constant values of r7 and r6, the value of r4 will be varied. The values of r7 and r6 will not change till r4 has been assigned all possible values within the range specified by the user. After r4 completes a cycle, the value of r6 will be increased, and r4 will again be varied for all possible values.

Specifying measurements

Parametric Plotter is used for evaluating the influence of changing parameter values on an expression and on a trace. A measurement can be defined as an expression that evaluates to a single value, where a trace is an expression that evaluates to a curve.

Adding measurement expressions

You can either add a measurement expression that was created in PSpice A/D or can even create a new measurement in PSpice Advanced Analysis.

Adding measurements created in PSpice

1. In the Measurements tab, click the *Click here to import a measurement created in PSpice* row.

   The Import Measurements dialog box appears. This dialog box lists only the measurements that you created in PSpice A/D.

2. Select the measurement that you want to be evaluated and click OK.

   Selected measurement gets added in the Measurements tab.

Tip

Only the measurements that are listed in the Measurements Results window of PSpice A/D are available in the Import Measurements dialog box.

Adding new measurements

1. In the Measurements tab, right-click and select Create New Measurements.

   The New Measurement dialog box appears.

2. From the Profile drop-down list, select the simulation profile for which you want to create the measurement.

3. From the Measurements drop-down list, select the Measurement that you want to evaluate.

4. From the Simulation Output Variables list specify the variable on which the measurement is to be performed and click OK

   The new measurement gets added to the Measurements tab.

Important

Using the New Measurements dialog box, you can only add the already defined measurements to the Parametric Plotter window. To define new measurements in PSpice use the *Trace > Measurements* command in PSpice A/D.

Adding a trace

Using the Parametric Plotter, you can evaluate the influence of changing parameter values on a trace. To be able to do this, you need to add a trace in the Measurements tab.

1. From the Analysis drop-down menu, select *Parametric Plotter > Create New Trace*.

   Alternatively, right-click on the Measurements tab and select *Create New Trace*.

   The New Trace Expression dialog box appears.

2. Create an expression to define the new trace and click OK.

   The trace expression gets added in the Measurement window, with type as Trace.

Running Parametric Plotter

After you have specified the measurements and the list of variable parameters, run the Parametric Plotter.

– From the Run drop-down menu choose Start Parametric Plotter.

  Note: Alternatively, click the Run button on the toolbar or press `<CTRL>+<R>` keys.

For optimized performance of Parametric Plotter, maximum number of parametric sweeps supported in one session is 500. If for your selection of parameters and measurements, the total number of sweeps required is greater than 500, an error message is displayed in the Output Window, and analysis stops. As the simulation progresses, the Output Window also shows the profile selected and the number of sweep run being executed.

Important

The Number of parametric sweeps required, which is displayed in the Output window, should be interpretted as the number of sweeps required per profile. The total number of sweeps required is calculated separately for each profile.

Viewing results

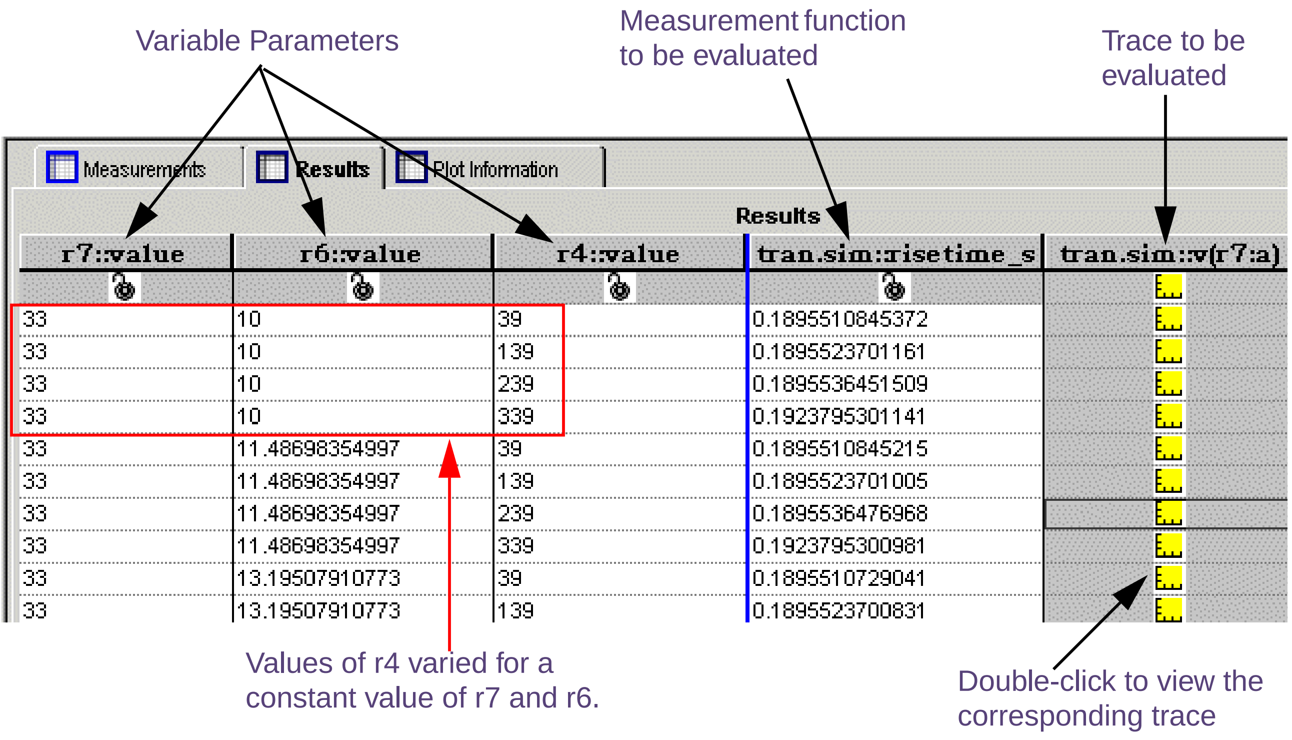
The results of the parametric sweep analysis are displayed in form of a spread sheet in the Results tab of the Measurement window. For the same results, you can define plot information using the Plot Information tab. The plot information is displayed in the PSpice Probe window.

Results tab

The results tab displays the simulation result for each run of the Parametric Plotter. Each run of the parametric plotter is indicated by a row in the Results tab. Therefore, if for the complete analysis Parametric plotter completes 100 runs, there will be 100 rows in the results tab.

The number of columns in the results tab is equal to the number of variable parameters and the number of measurements or the traces to be evaluated. There is one column each for a variable parameter and measurement expression to be evaluated.

In case of traces, instead of the measurement value, a trace is generated for each run of Parametric Plotter. As traces cannot displayed on the Results tab, therefore, instead of each trace a yellow colored bitmap is visible. To view the complete trace, double-click the yellow colored bitmap in the Results pane. The trace gets displayed in the PSpice Probe window.


Variable Parameters
Measurement function to be evaluated
Trace to be evaluated
Measurements
Results
Plot Information
Values of r4 varied for a constant value of r7 and r6.
Double-click to view the corresponding trace

Results

r7::value	r6::value	r4::value	tran.sim::risetime_s	tran.sim::v(r7:a)
33	10	39	0.1895510845372	🟨
33	10	139	0.1895523701161	🟨
33	10	239	0.1895536451509	🟨
33	10	339	0.1923795301141	🟨
33	11.48698354997	39	0.1895510845215	🟨
33	11.48698354997	139	0.1895523701005	🟨
33	11.48698354997	239	0.1895536476968	🟨
33	11.48698354997	339	0.1923795300981	🟨
33	13.19507910773	39	0.1895510729041	🟨
33	13.19507910773	139	0.1895523700831	🟨

Analyzing Results

You can set up the Parametric Plotter to display data in a number of ways.

Sorting values

You can sort the results of the sweep analysis according to the values in any column.

For example, if you want to view the result of keep r4 to a constant value of 39, sort the values in the third column and view the results.

To sort the values displayed in a column, double-click on the column name. Once the contents of the column are sorted, subsequent click on the column name with toggle the order of sorting.

For example, after the Results pane is populated, double-clicking the column name arranges the values in ascending order. Now if you again double-click on the column name, the column contents willl get arranged in descending order.

Locking Values

While analyzing the simulation results, you can lock the values displayed in one column. Once you have locked the values of a column, the order in which the values are displayed in that column do not change. You can then sort the values in other columns.

For example, you can sort the values of r7 and lock the column. If you now sort the values of r6, the values will be sorted for fixed value of r7.

To lock the values displayed in a column, click the lock icon at the top of the column.

Plot Information tab

The Plot Information tab can be used to specify a plot that you want to view in the Probe window. Using the Plot Information tab, you can view multiple traces in one window. This is useful when you want to view the result of varying a parameter on the output.

At any given point of time, you can add a maximum of four plots.

Adding plot

1. From the *Analysis* menu select *Parametric Plotter > Add New Plot*.

The Plot Wizard appears.

Note: Alternatively, right-click on the Plot Information tab and select Add Plot.

2 In the Select Profile page of the Plot Wizard, specify the simulation profile for which you want the profile to be created and click Next.

3 In the select X-Axis Variable page of the wizard, specify the variable parameter that you want to plot on the X-axis of the plot.

From the variables drop-down list you can select any of the sweep parameter or the measurements that you specified in the Measurements tab.

Besides the variable parameter and the measurements, the drop-down list has an extra entry, which is time or frequency.

When you select a transient profile, you can select Time as the X-Axis variable and plot out results against time. When you select a AC profile, you can select Frequency as the X-Axis variable.

4 Click Next.

5 In the Select Y-Axis Variable page, select the variable to be plotted in the Y-axis and click Next.

Depending on your selection in the previous page of the Plot wizard, either the measurement expressions or traces appears in the Variables drop-down list.

When you select time or frequency as X-Axis Variable, all the traces added by you in the Measurements tab appear in the drop-down list. For all other selections of X-Axis Variables, the measurements added by you in the Measurements tab, are listed in the drop-down list.

6 In the Select Parameter page of the Plot Wizard, specify the parameter that will be varied for each trace to be plotted and click Next.

7 In cases where there are more than two variable parameters, you need to specify a constant value for the

variable parameters that are not covered in Step 3 or Step 6.

Right-click on the parameter value and choose Lock.

8 Click Finish.

The complete plot information gets added in the Plot Information tab.

Viewing the plot

1 Select the plot to be displayed in the PSpice probe window.

2 From the Analysis drop-down menu, choose Parametric Plotter > Display Plot.

Alternatively, right-click on the selected row and choose Display Plot.

The PSpice probe window appears with multiple traces.

Measurements Tab

Example

In this section, you will use Parametric Plotter to evaluate a simple test circuit for inductive switching. This circuit is created using a power mosfet from the `PWRMFET.OLB`.

The design example is available at `..\tools\pspice\tutorial\capture\pspiceaa\snubber`.

Add two voltage markers added to the circuit as shown in Figure 7-5 on page 227, are used to plot the input and the output voltages.

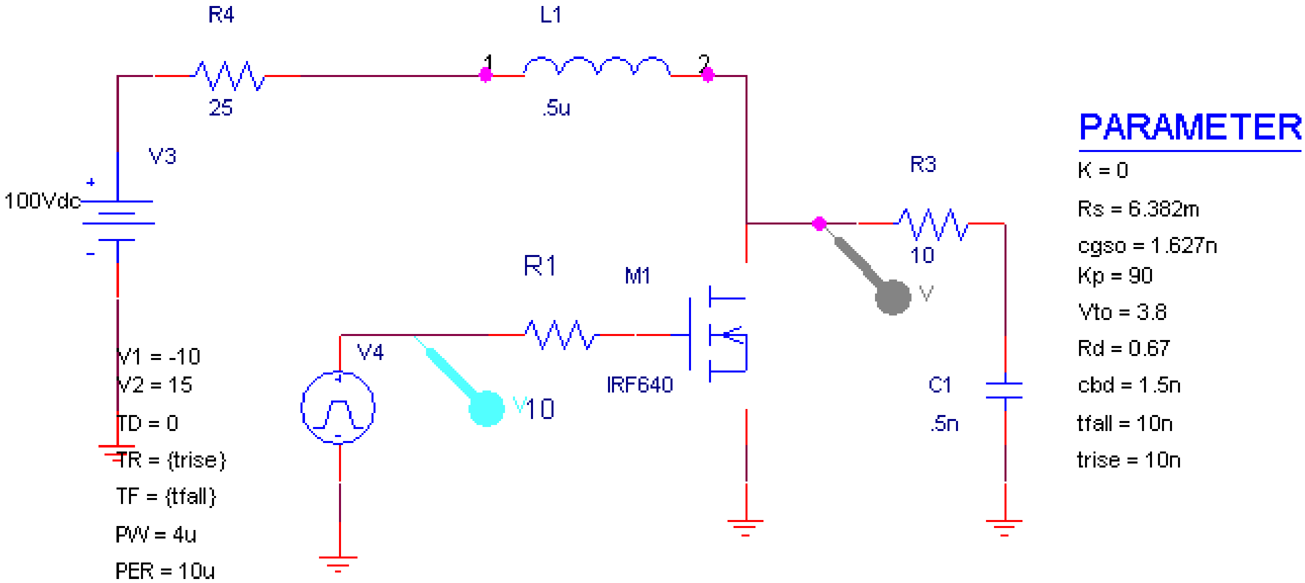


Figure 7-4 Inductive switching circuit

To view the input and the output voltages, you first need to simulate the circuit.

Simulating the circuit

– From the PSpice menu in Capture, select Run.

The input and the output waveforms are displayed in Figure 7-5. The output waveform displays a spike at every falling edge of the input waveform.

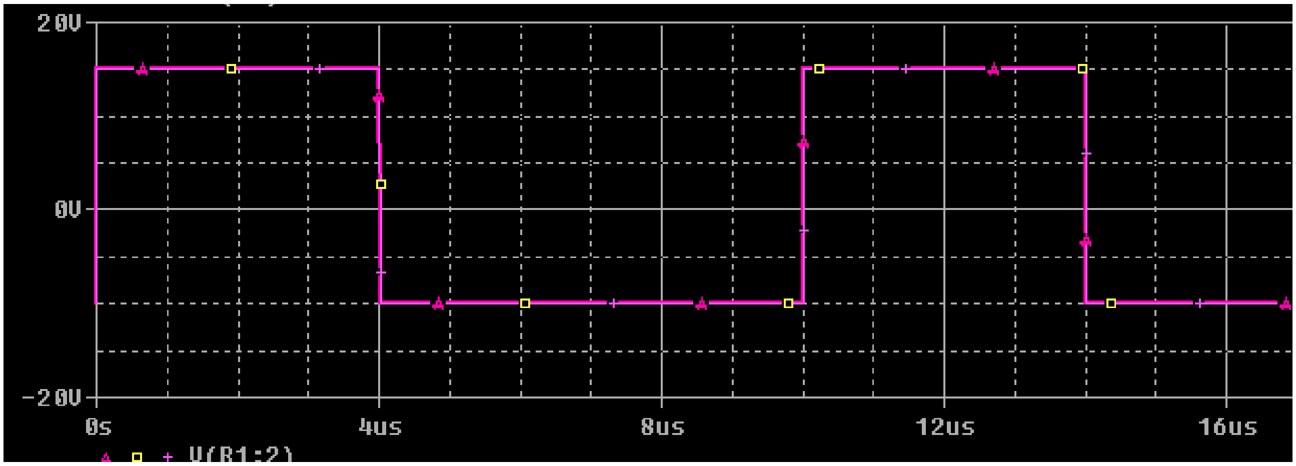


Figure 7-5 Input waveform

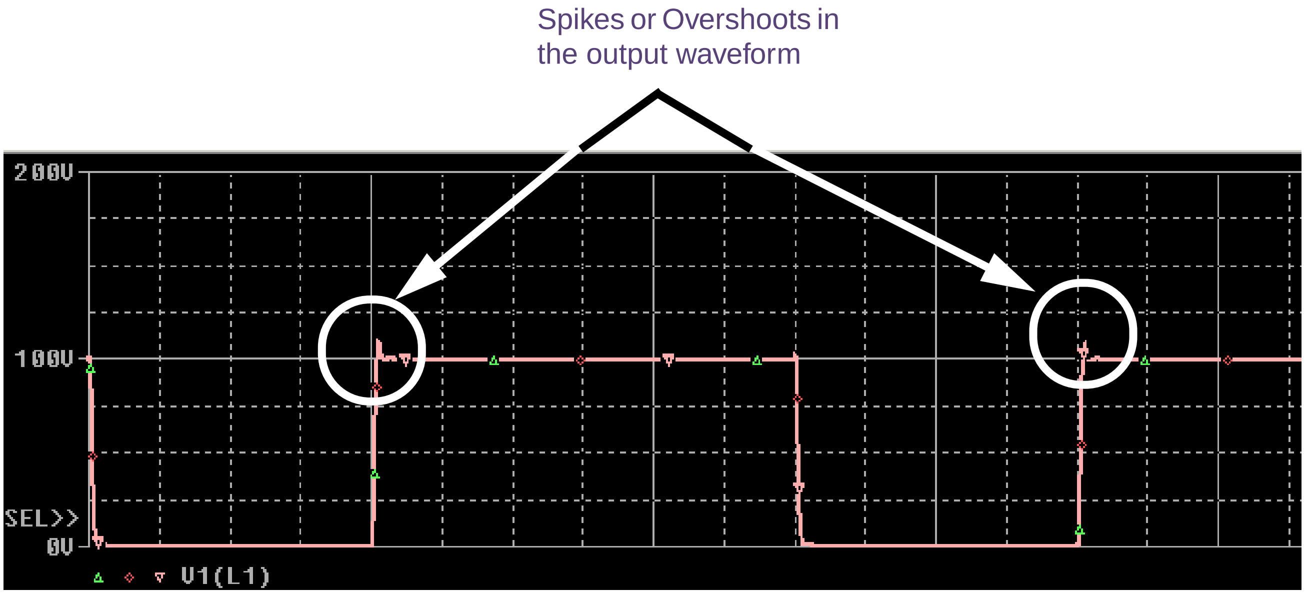


Figure 7-6 Output Waveform

Before users can use the output waveform, they need to adjust the circuit components so as to reduce the overshoot within the limit acceptable to the user. This can easily be done by increasing the values of resistor R3 and capacitor C1. But this results in increasing power dissipation across resistor R3.

Therefore, the design challange here is to balance the power dissipation and the voltage overshooot.

To find an acceptable soultion to the problem, we will vary the values of resistance R3, capacitor C1, and rise time of the input pulse and monitor the effect of varying the parameter values on the overshoot and the power dissipation across resistor R3.

To achieve this, use Parametric Plotter to run the sweep analysis. Before you can run the sweep analysis, complete the following sequence of steps.

1. Launch Parametric Plotter
2. Add sweep parameters
3. Add measurements
4. Run sweep analysis

Launch Parametric Plotter

om the PSpice menu in Capture, select Advanced Analysis > Parametric Plot.

Add sweep parameters

For the switching circuit design, we will vary `trise` linearly, specify discrete values for `R3`, and vary `C1` logarithmically.

1. In the Sweep Parameters window, click the *Click here to import a parameter from the design property map* row.
2. In the Sweep Parameters window, select the parameter named `trise` and click inside the corresponding Sweep Type grid.
3. From the drop-down list, select Linear.
4. To specify the range within which the parameter values should be varied, click corresponding Sweep Values grid.
5. In the Sweep Settings dialog box, specify start value as `5n`, stop value as `12n` and the step value as `1n`.

This implies that the rise time of the pulse will ve varied from 5 nano seconds to 12 nano seconds.

6 To add resistor R3 as the next sweep parameter, click the sweep type grid corresponding to the component named R3.

7 From the drop-down list, select Discrete.

8 To specify the values of resitor R3, click corresponding Sweep Values grid.

9 To specify a discrete value for resistor R3, click the New button and enter 5.

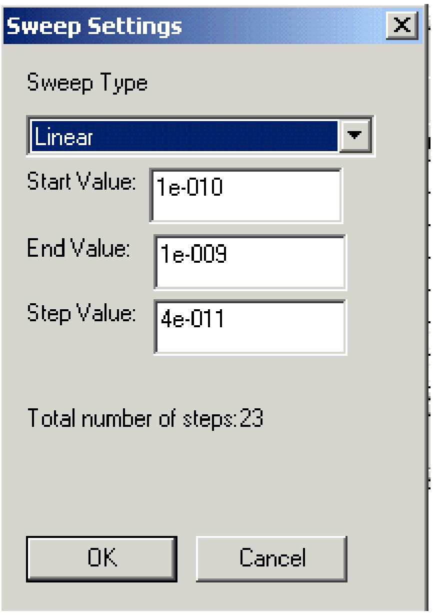
10 Similarly, specify other values as 15 and 20.

11 Click OK to close the Sweep Settings dialog box.

12 Finally, to add capacitor C1 as a sweep parameter and vary the capacitance value, click the sweep type grid corresponding to capacitor C1 and select Linear from the drop-down list.

13 Click the Sweep Values grid.

14 In the Sweep Settings dialog box, specify theStart Value as .1n, End value as 1n, and number of points as 10, and click OK.



Sweep Settings

Sweep Type: Linear

Start Value: 1e-010

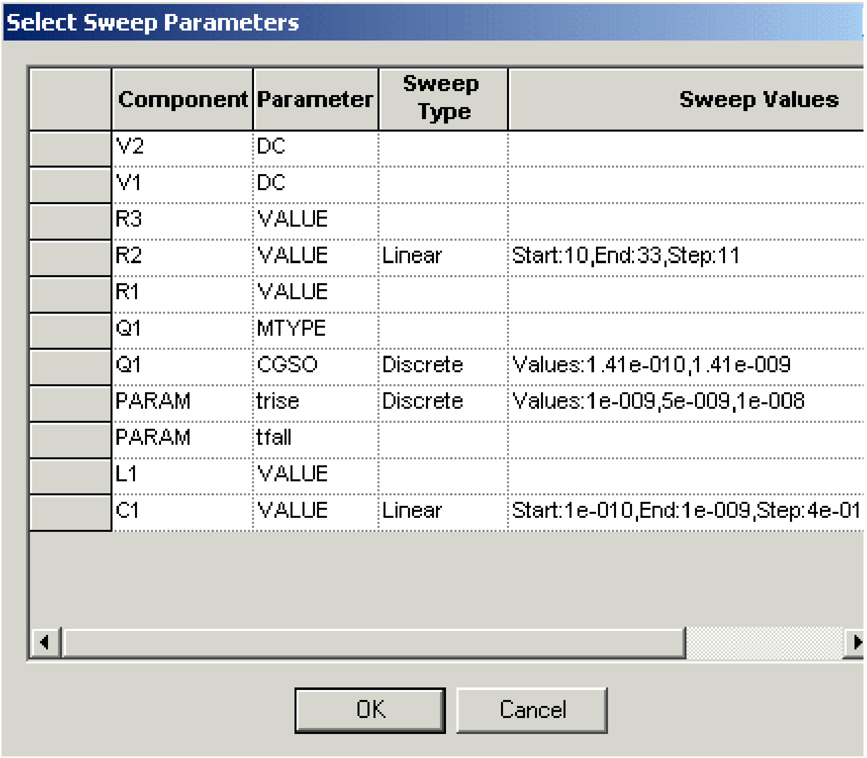
End Value: 1e-009

Step Value: 4e-011

Total number of steps:23

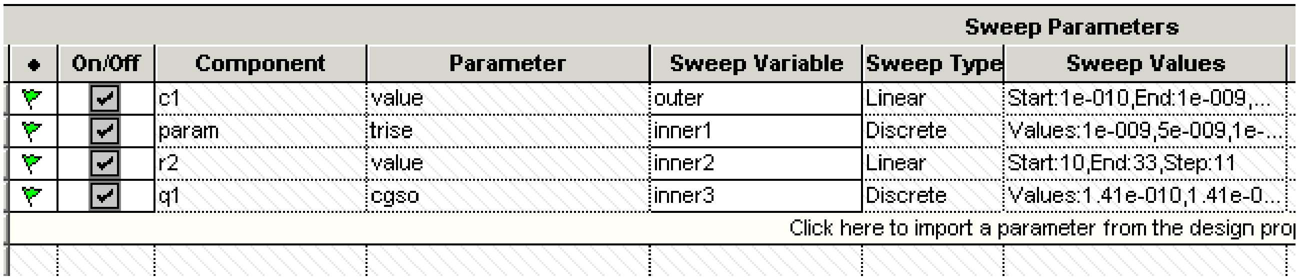
This implies that the sweep analysis will be performed for 10 values of capacitance between .1 nano farads to 1 nano farads.

15 In the Select Sweep Parameters dialog box, click OK to save your changes.



	Component	Parameter	Sweep Type	Sweep Values
	V2	DC		
	V1	DC		
	R3	VALUE		
	R2	VALUE	Linear	Start:10,End:33,Step:11
	R1	VALUE		
	Q1	MTYPE		
	Q1	CGSO	Discrete	Values:1.41e-010,1.41e-009
	PARAM	trise	Discrete	Values:1e-009,5e-009,1e-008
	PARAM	tfall		
	L1	VALUE		
	C1	VALUE	Linear	Start:1e-010,End:1e-009,Step:4e-01

The changes are reflected in the Sweep Parameters window.



◆	On/Off	Component	Parameter	Sweep Variable	Sweep Type	Sweep Values
🚩	☑	c1	value	outer	Linear	Start:1e-010,End:1e-009,...
🚩	☑	param	trise	inner1	Discrete	Values:1e-009,5e-009,1e-...
🚩	☑	r2	value	inner2	Linear	Start:10,End:33,Step:11
🚩	☑	q1	cgso	inner3	Discrete	Values:1.41e-010,1.41e-0...

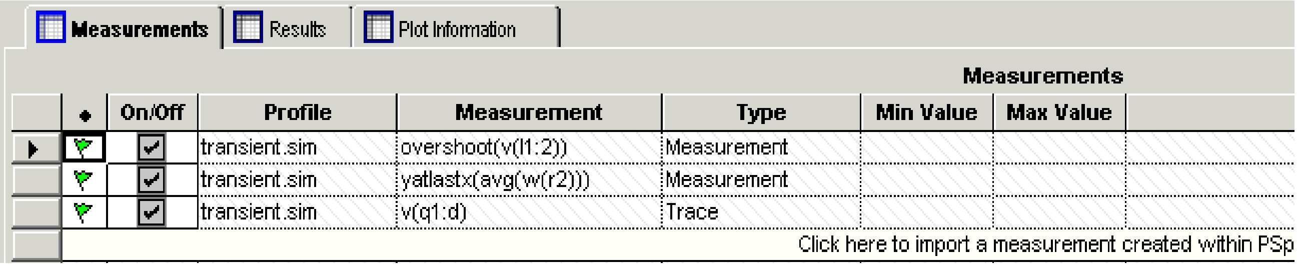
Besides the values entered by you in the Select Sweep Parameters dialog box, the Sweep Variable column also gets populated. Parametric Plotter assigns variables to the parameters depending on the order in which they are added. If required you can change this order.

Add measurements

To evalute the influence of varying parameter values on the overshoot and power disspipation across resistor R3, and to include a trace, add these three as the measurement expressions to be evaluated.

1. In the Measurements tab, select Click here to add a measurement created in PSpice row.
2. In the Import Measurement(s) dialog box, select `Overshoot(V(l1:2))`, `yatlastX(AVG(W(R2)))`, `and v(q1:d)` from the `transient.sim` profile.
3. Click OK.

   The measurements get added to the Measurements tab.

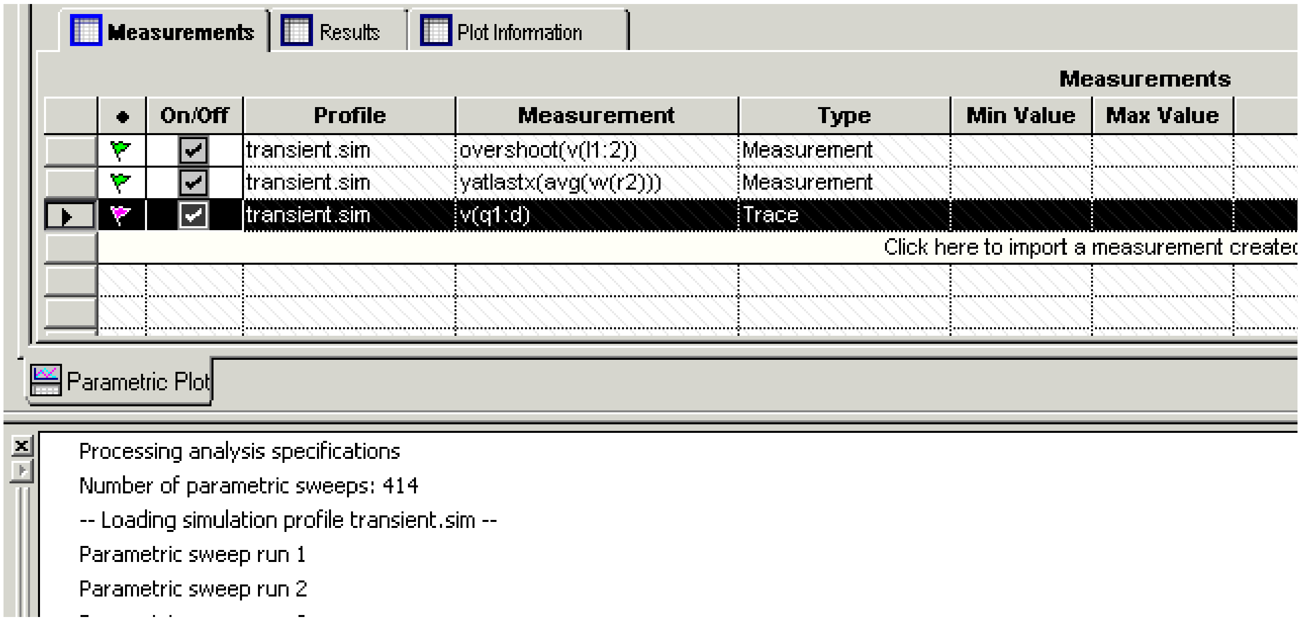


					Measurements			
	◆	On/Off	Profile	Measurement	Type	Min Value	Max Value	
▶	⚑	☑	transient.sim	overshoot(v(l1:2))	Measurement			
	⚑	☑	transient.sim	yatlastx(avg(w(r2)))	Measurement			
	⚑	☑	transient.sim	v(q1:d)	Trace			
	Click here to import a measurement created within PSp							

Run sweep analysis

– To run the sweep analysis, click the Start ▶ button on the toolbar.

As Parametric Plotter starts running the Output window is populated with the total number of sweeps required to complete the analysis.

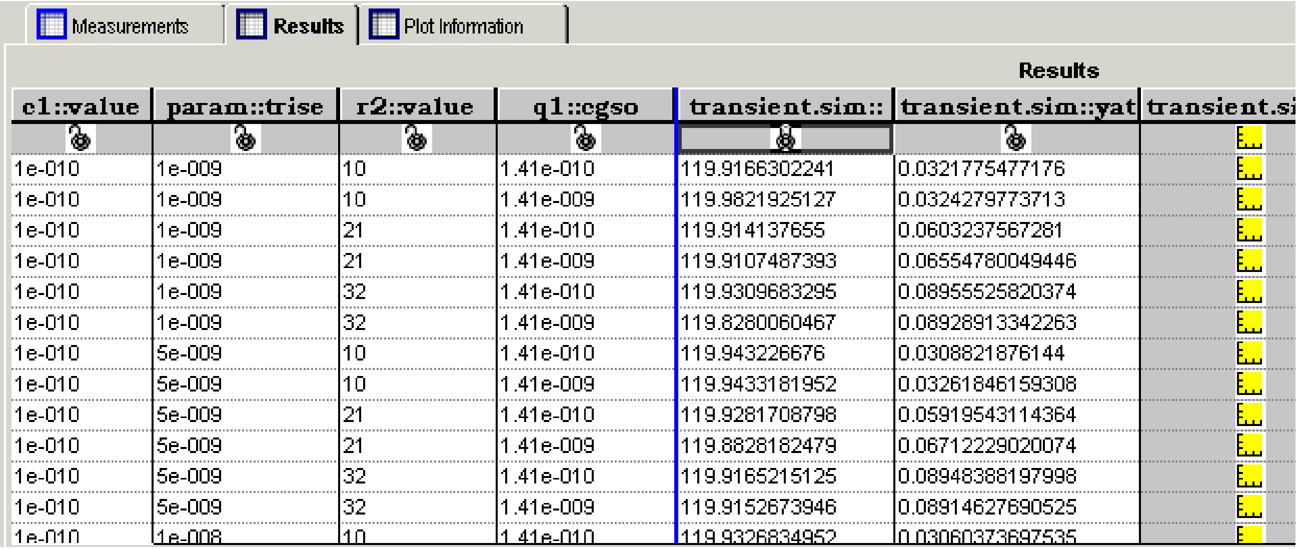


						Measurements	
	●	On/Off	Profile	Measurement	Type	Min Value	Max Value
	⚑	☑	transient.sim	overshoot(v(l1:2))	Measurement		
	⚑	☑	transient.sim	yatlastx(avg(w(r2)))	Measurement		
▶	⚑	☑	transient.sim	v(q1:d)	Trace		
	Click here to import a measurement createc						

```
Processing analysis specifications
Number of parametric sweeps: 414
-- Loading simulation profile transient.sim --
Parametric sweep run 1
Parametric sweep run 2
```

Once the analysis is over, the Min value and the Max Value columns are populated for each measurement specified in the

Measurements tab. Besides this, results of each run of Parametric Plotter are displayed in the Results tab.



Results

c1::value	param::trise	r2::value	q1::cgso	transient.sim::	transient.sim::yat	transient.si
1e-010	1e-009	10	1.41e-010	119.9166302241	0.0321775477176	
1e-010	1e-009	10	1.41e-009	119.9821925127	0.0324279773713	
1e-010	1e-009	21	1.41e-010	119.914137655	0.0603237567281	
1e-010	1e-009	21	1.41e-009	119.9107487393	0.06554780049446	
1e-010	1e-009	32	1.41e-010	119.9309683295	0.08955525820374	
1e-010	1e-009	32	1.41e-009	119.8280060467	0.08928913342263	
1e-010	5e-009	10	1.41e-010	119.943226676	0.0308821876144	
1e-010	5e-009	10	1.41e-009	119.9433181952	0.03261846159308	
1e-010	5e-009	21	1.41e-010	119.9281708798	0.05919543114364	
1e-010	5e-009	21	1.41e-009	119.8828182479	0.06712229020074	
1e-010	5e-009	32	1.41e-010	119.9165215125	0.08948388197998	
1e-010	5e-009	32	1.41e-009	119.9152673946	0.08914627690525	
1e-010	1e-008	10	1.41e-010	119.9326834952	0.03060373697535	

Figure 7-7 Results tab in Parametric Plotter

In the Results tab, you can sort and lock the results displayed in various columns. For example, consider that in case of the inductive switching circuit, your primary goal is to restrict the power loss, which is measured by `yatlastx(avg(w(r2))`, to less than `0.006`, and then minimize the overshoot.

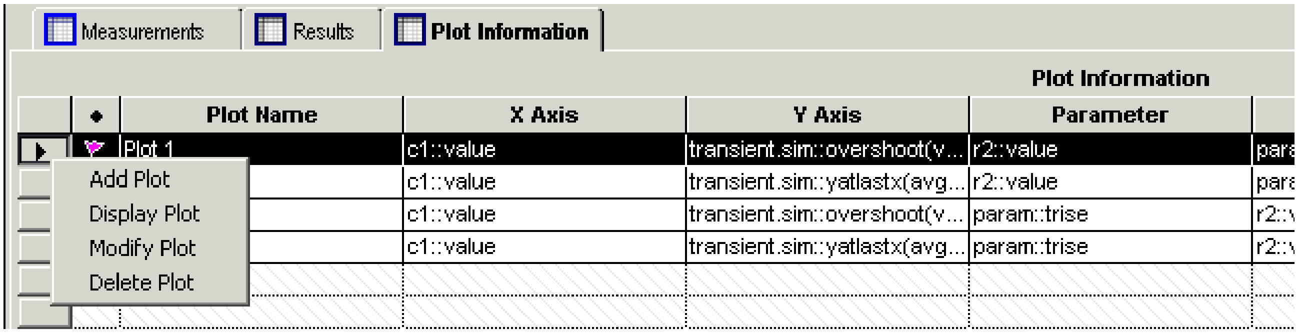
To achieve your goal, first sort the values displayed in the sixth column of Figure 7-7 on page 233. To sort the values, double-click on the column heading. The values get assorted in the ascending order. Next you lock the sorted values. To lock the values, click the lock icon on the top of the column.

After sorting the power loss values, sort the values displayed in the fifth column of Figure 7-7 on page 233. As a result of this sorting the values in the last column do not get disturbed. As a result, for all values of `atlastx(avg(w(r2))`, to less than `0.006`, the overshoot values get sorted. Thus you can view the combination(s) of the parameter values for which both the outputs are in the desired range.

Add Plot

You can plot a trace between the X-axis and Y-axis variables for all values of a sweep parameter by using the Plot wizard. This wizard helps you specify the settings to plot a trace in the PSpice Probe window.

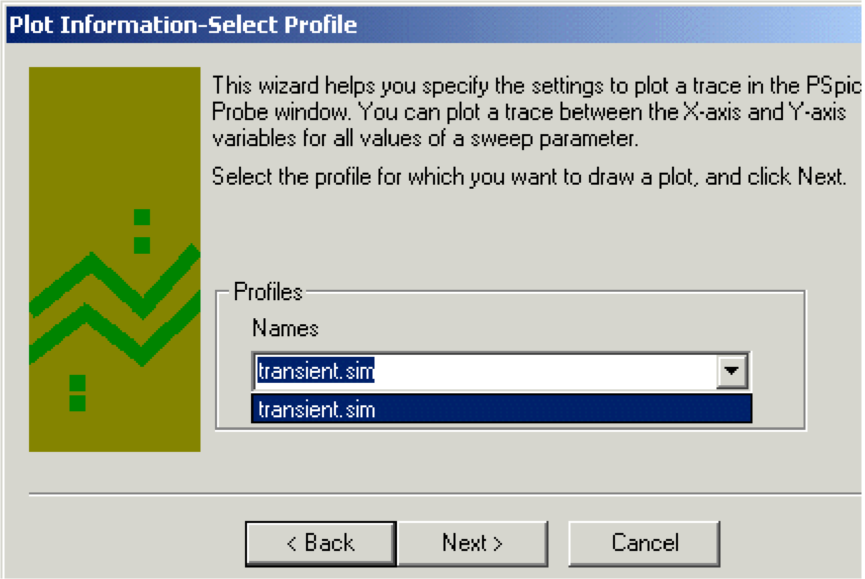
1 In the Plot Information tab, right-click in the plot information row and then click Add Plot. This displays the Plot wizard.



Plot Information

	●	Plot Name	X Axis	Y Axis	Parameter	
		Plot 1	c1::value	transient.sim::overshoot(v...	r2::value	para
			c1::value	transient.sim::yatlastx(avg...	r2::value	para
			c1::value	transient.sim::overshoot(v...	param::trise	r2::
			c1::value	transient.sim::yatlastx(avg...	param::trise	r2::

2 Select the `transient.sim` profile, and click Next.



Plot Information-Select Profile

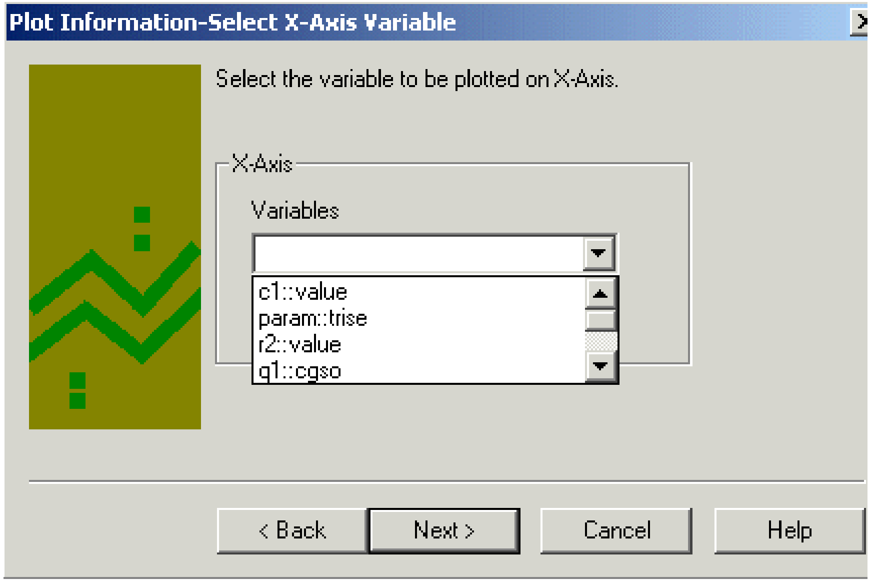
This wizard helps you specify the settings to plot a trace in the PSpic Probe window. You can plot a trace between the X-axis and Y-axis variables for all values of a sweep parameter.

Select the profile for which you want to draw a plot, and click Next.

Profiles

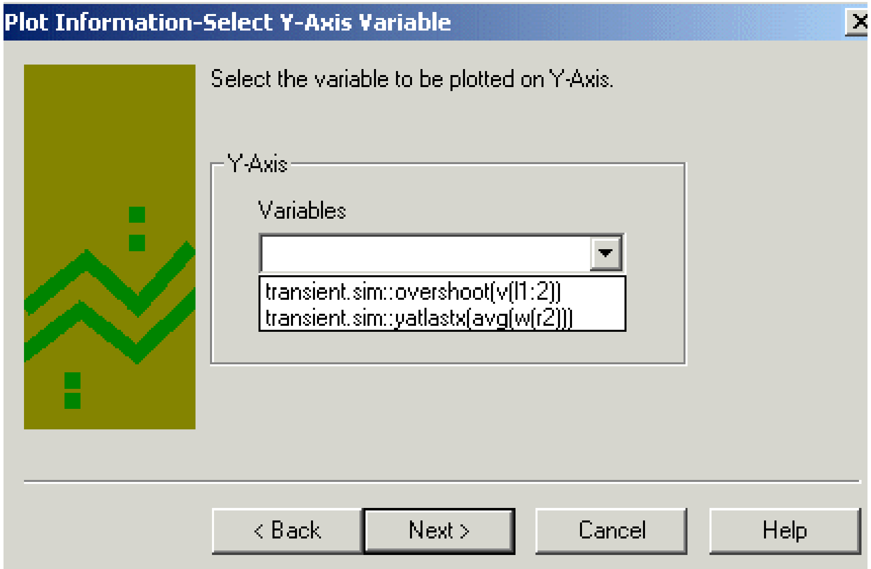
Names: transient.sim

3 Select `r2::value` as the variable to be plotted on the X-axis, and click Next.


Plot Information-Select X-Axis Variable
Select the variable to be plotted on X-Axis.
X-Axis
Variables
c1::value
param::trise
r2::value
q1::cgso
< Back
Next >
Cancel
Help

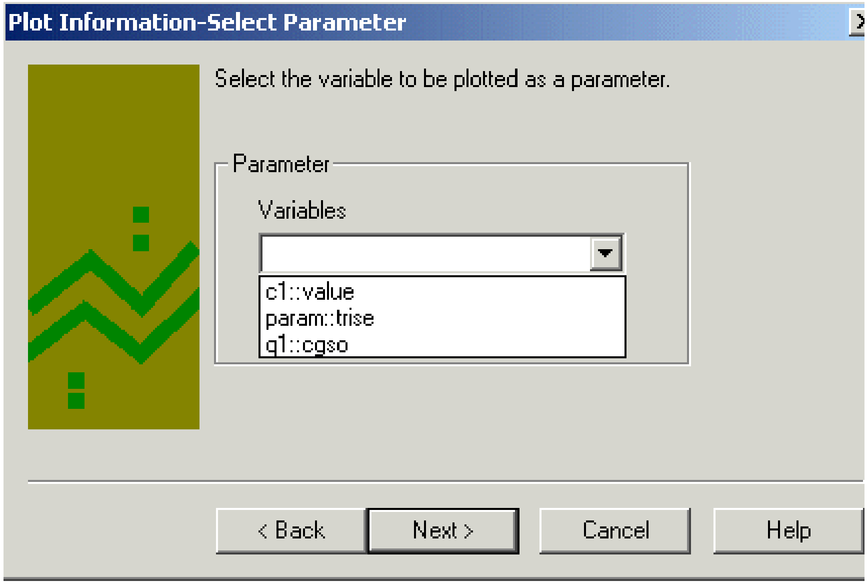
Note: If you select a Parameter or Measurement variable to be plotted on the X-axis, you will only be allowed to select a “Measurement” variable to be plotted on the Y-axis. If you select Time/Frequency variable, the wizard will only display a list of available traces that can be plotted on the Y-axis.

4 Select `transient.sim::overshoot(v[l1:2])` as the variable to be plotted on the Y-axis, and click Next.


Plot Information-Select Y-Axis Variable
Select the variable to be plotted on Y-Axis.
Y-Axis
Variables
< Back
Next >
Cancel
Help

transient.sim::overshoot(v[l1:2])
transient.sim::yatlastx(avg(w(r2)))

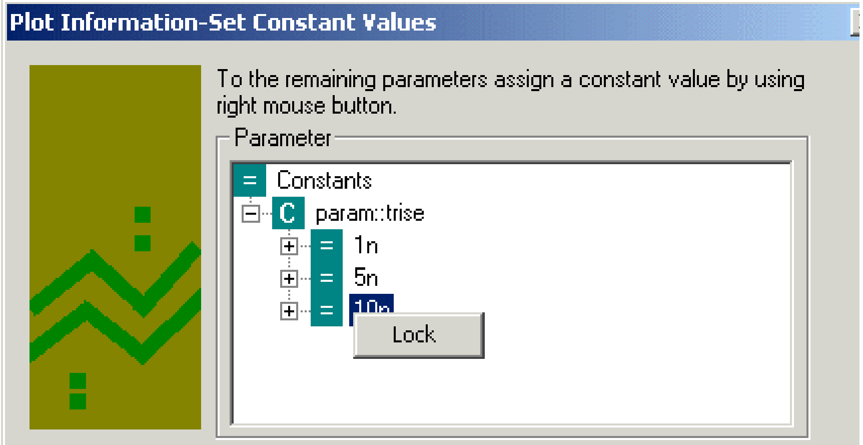
5 Select `c1::value` as the parameter to be varied, such that for each possible value of this parameter, you have a unique x-y trace, and click Next.


Plot Information-Select Parameter
Select the variable to be plotted as a parameter.
Parameter
Variables
< Back
Next >
Cancel
Help

c1::value
param::trise
q1::cgso

6 The remaining sweep parameters and their possible values are listed. For each parameter, select a constant value to be used for drawing the trace(s). To assign a

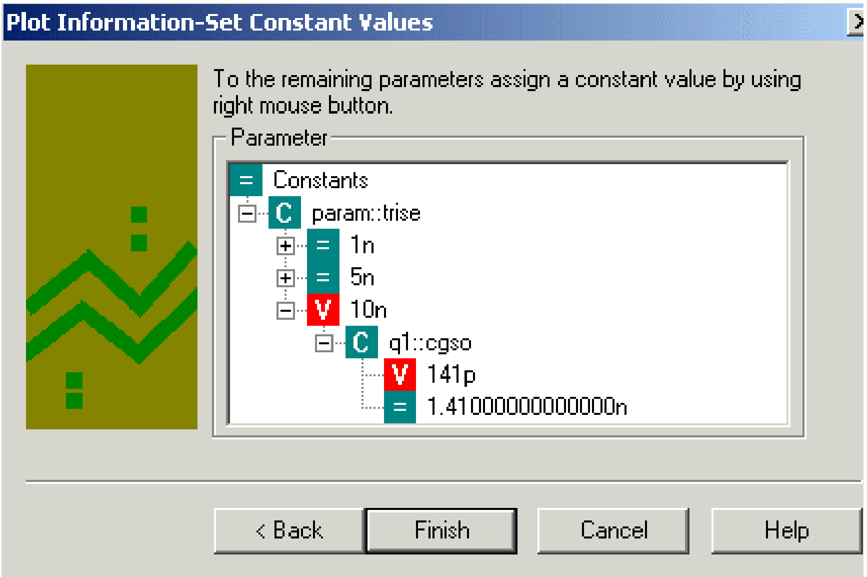
constant valueto `param::trise`, right-click on `10n` and lock it.



Plot Information-Set Constant Values

To the remaining parameters assign a constant value by using right mouse button.

7 Similarly assign a constant value to q1::cgso. Click Finish.

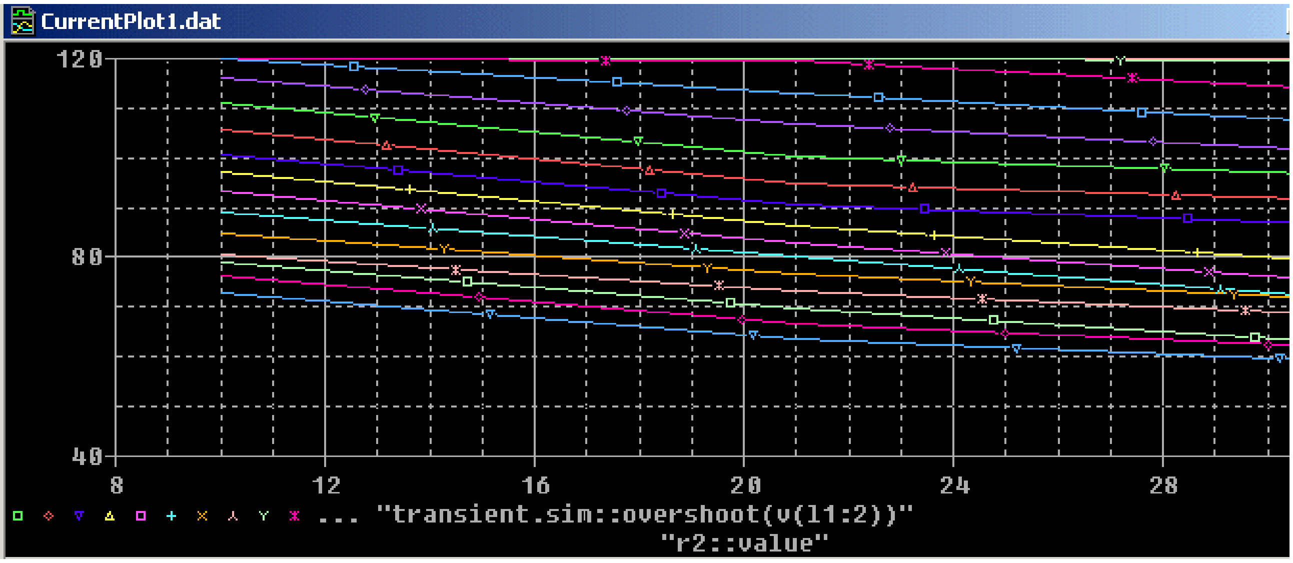


Plot Information-Set Constant Values

To the remaining parameters assign a constant value by using right mouse button.

8 In the Plot Information tab, right-click in the plot information row and then click Display Plot. This displays the trace that you plotted.

.



Measurement Expressions

8

In this chapter

Measurements overview

Measurement expressions evaluate the characteristics of a waveform. A measurement expression is made by choosing the waveform and the waveform calculation you want to evaluate.

The waveform calculation is defined by a measurement definition such as rise time, bandpass bandwidth, minimum value, and maximum value.

For example, if you want to measure the risetime of your circuit output voltage, use the following expression:

Risetime(v(out))

For a list of the PSpice measurement definitions, see Measurement definitions included in PSpice on page 247.

You can also create your own custom measurement definitions. See Creating custom measurement definitions in the Power user section of this chapter.

Measurement strategy

- Start with a circuit created in Capture and a working PSpice simulation.
- Decide what you want to measure.
- Select the measurement definition that matches the waveform characteristics you want to measure.
- Insert the output variable (whose waveform you want to measure) into the measurement definition, to form a measurement expression.
- Test the measurement expression.

Procedure for creating measurement expressions

Setup

Before you create a measurement expression to use in Advanced Analysis:

1. Design a circuit in Capture.
2. Set up a PSpice simulation.

   The Advanced Analysis tools use these simulations:

   - ❑ Time Domain (transient)
   - ❑ DC Sweep
   - ❑ AC Sweep/Noise
3. Run the circuit in PSpice.

Make sure the circuit is valid and you have the results you expect.

Composing a measurement expression

These steps show you how to create a measurement expression in PSpice. Measurement expressions created in PSpice can be imported into Sensitivity, Optimizer, and Monte Carlo.

You can also create measurements while in Sensitivity, Optimizer, and Monte Carlo, but those measurements cannot be imported into PSpice for testing.

First select a measurement definition, and then select output variables to measure. The two combined become a measurement expression.

Work in the Simulation Results view in PSpice. In the side toolbar, click on .

1. From the **Trace** menu in PSpice, select **Measurements**.

   The **Measurements** dialog box appears.

2. Select the measurement definition you want to evaluate.
3. Click **Eval** (evaluate).

   The **Arguments for Measurement Evaluation** dialog box appears.

4. Click the **Name of trace to search** button.

   The **Traces for Measurement Arguments** dialog box appears.

Note: You will only be using the Simulation Output Variables list on the left side. Ignore the Functions or Macros list.

5. Uncheck the output types you don’t need (if you want to simplify the list).
6. Click on the output variable you want to evaluate.

   The output variable appears in the **Trace Expression** field.

7. Click **OK**.

   The **Arguments for Measurement Evaluation** dialog box reappears with the output variable you chose in the **Name of trace to search** field.

8. Click **OK**.

   Your new measurement expression is evaluated and displayed in the PSpice window.

9. Click **OK** in the **Display Measurement Evaluation** pop-up box to continue working in PSpice.

   Your new measurement expression is saved, but it no longer displays in the window. The only way to get another graphical display is to redo these steps.

   You can see a numerical evaluation by following the next steps.

Viewing the results of measurement evaluations

1. From the **View** menu in PSpice, select **Measurement Results**.

   The **Measurement Results** table displays below the plot window.

2. Click the box in the **Evaluate** column.

   The PSpice calculation for your measurement expression appears in the **Value** column.

Example

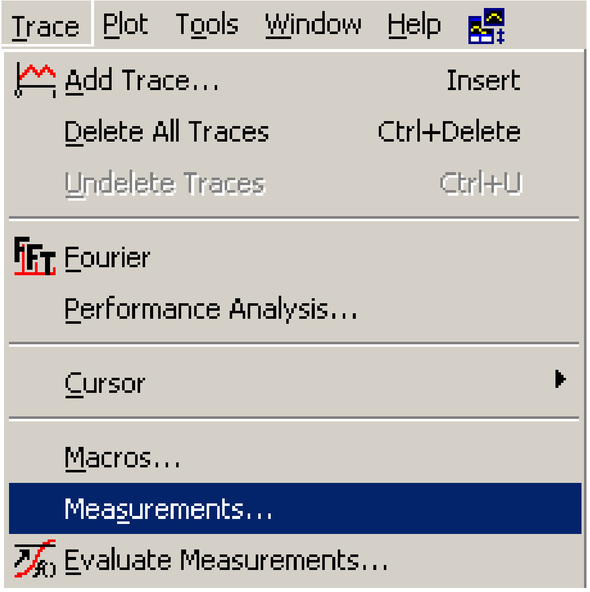
First you select a measurement definition, and then you select an output variable to measure. The two combined become a measurement expression.

Note: For the current design example, work in the Simulation Results view in PSpice.

1. In the side toolbar, click on .

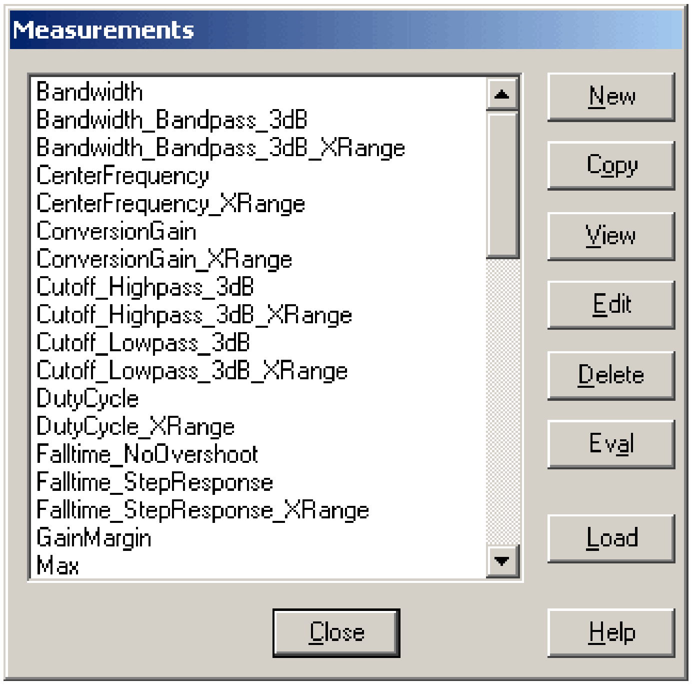
2. From the **Trace** menu in PSpice, select **Measurements**.

The **Measurements** dialog box appears.



3 Select the measurement definition you want to evaluate.

4 Click **Eval** (evaluate).

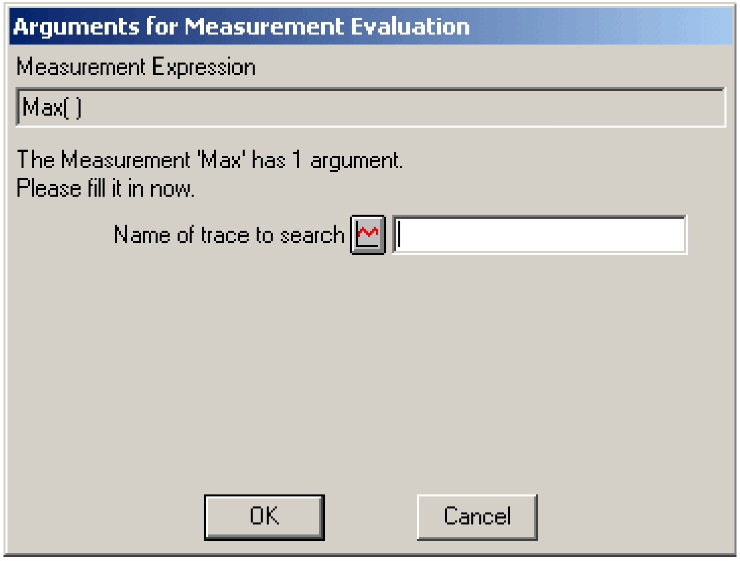

Measurements

Bandwidth
Bandwidth_Bandpass_3dB
Bandwidth_Bandpass_3dB_XRange
CenterFrequency
CenterFrequency_XRange
ConversionGain
ConversionGain_XRange
Cutoff_Highpass_3dB
Cutoff_Highpass_3dB_XRange
Cutoff_Lowpass_3dB
Cutoff_Lowpass_3dB_XRange
DutyCycle
DutyCycle_XRange
Falltime_NoOvershoot
Falltime_StepResponse
Falltime_StepResponse_XRange
GainMargin
Max

The **Arguments for Measurement Evaluation** dialog box appears.

5 Click the **Name of trace to search** button.

The **Traces for Measurement Arguments** dialog box appears.



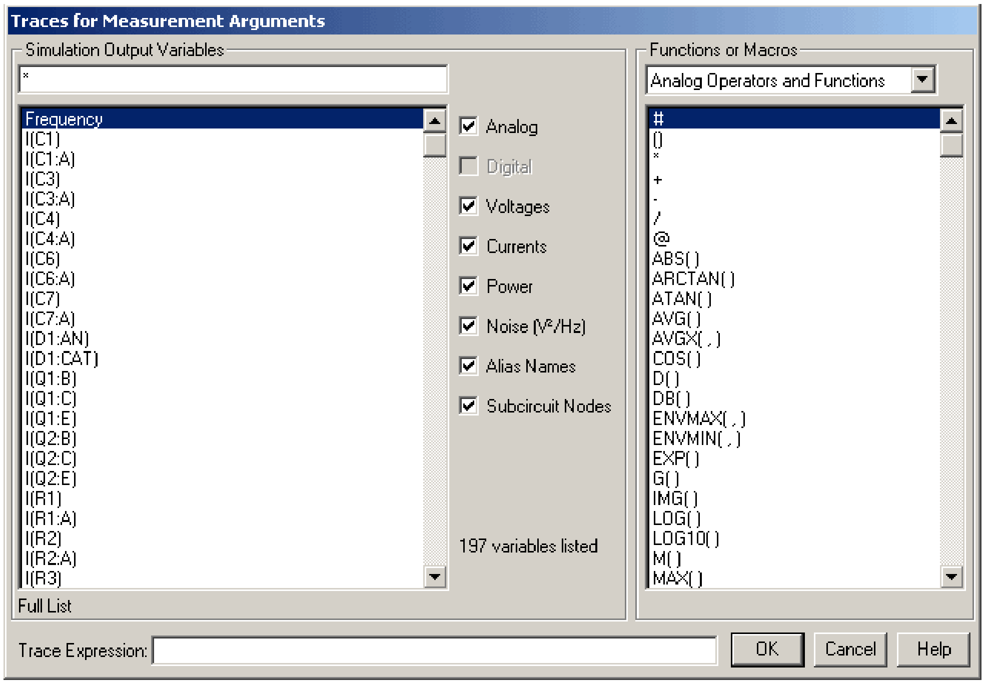
Arguments for Measurement Evaluation

Measurement Expression: Max( )

The Measurement 'Max' has 1 argument.
Please fill it in now.

Name of trace to search:

Note: You will only be using the Simulation Output Variables list on the left side. Ignore the Functions or Macros list.



Traces for Measurement Arguments

Simulation Output Variables: *

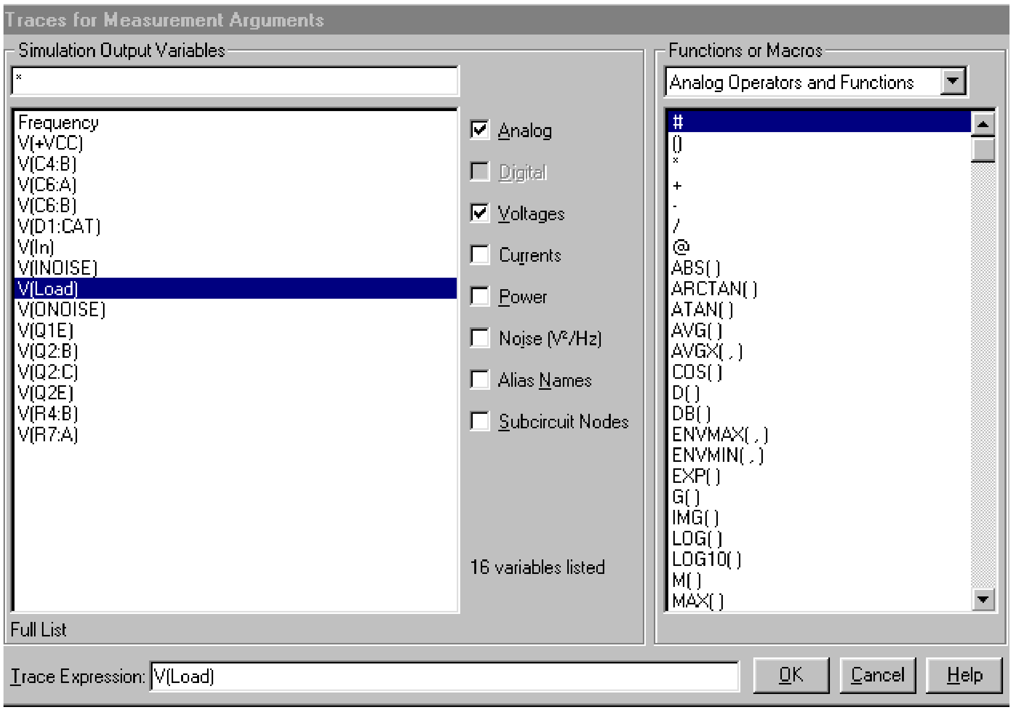
☑ Analog
□ Digital
☑ Voltages
☑ Currents
☑ Power
☑ Noise (V²/Hz)
☑ Alias Names
☑ Subcircuit Nodes

197 variables listed

Functions or Macros: Analog Operators and Functions

Trace Expression:

6 Uncheck the output types you don't need (if you want to simplify the list).



Traces for Measurement Arguments

Simulation Output Variables

*

Frequency
V(+VCC)
V(C4:B)
V(C6:A)
V(C6:B)
V(D1:CAT)
V(In)
V(INOISE)
V(Load)
V(ONOISE)
V(Q1E)
V(Q2:B)
V(Q2:C)
V(Q2E)
V(R4:B)
V(R7:A)

☑ Analog
☐ Digital
☑ Voltages
☐ Currents
☐ Power
☐ Noise (V²/Hz)
☐ Alias Names
☐ Subcircuit Nodes

16 variables listed

Full List

Functions or Macros

Analog Operators and Functions

#
()
*
+
-
/
@
ABS( )
ARCTAN( )
ATAN( )
AVG( )
AVGX(,)
COS( )
D( )
DB( )
ENVMAX(,)
ENVMIN(,)
EXP( )
G( )
IMG( )
LOG( )
LOG10( )
M( )
MAX( )

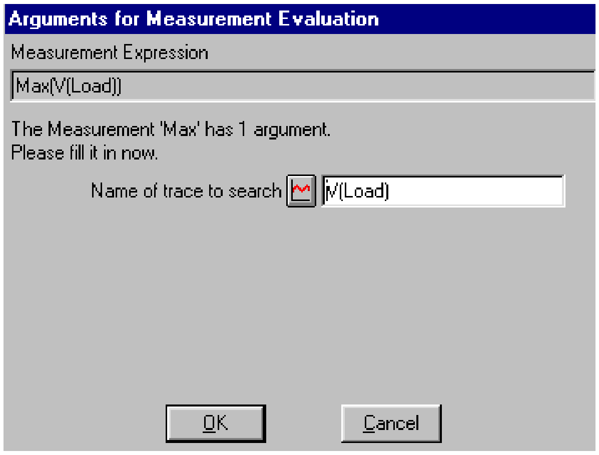
Trace Expression: V(Load)

7 Click on the output variable you want to evaluate.

The output variable appears in the **Trace Expression** field.

8 Click **OK**.

The **Arguments for Measurement Evaluation** dialog box reappears with the output variable you chose in the **Name of trace to search** field.



Arguments for Measurement Evaluation

Measurement Expression

Max(V(Load))

The Measurement 'Max' has 1 argument.
Please fill it in now.

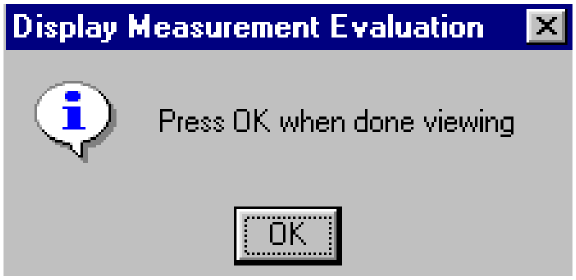
Name of trace to search: V(Load)

9 Click **OK**.

Your new measurement expression is evaluated and displayed in the PSpice window.

10 Click **OK** in the **Display Measurement Evaluation** pop-up box to continue working in PSpice.

Your new measurement expression is saved, but does not display in the window. The only way to get another graphical display is to redo these steps. You can see a numerical evaluation by following the next steps.



Display Measurement Evaluation

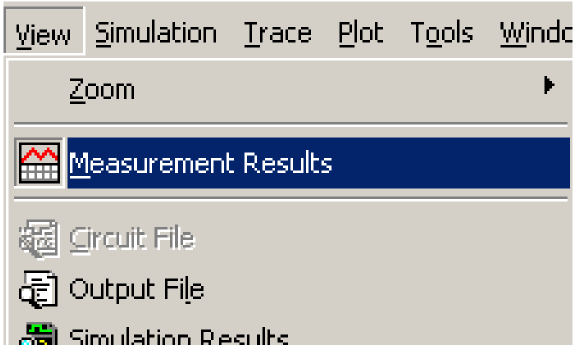
Press OK when done viewing

11 Click **Close**.

Viewing the results of measurement evaluations.

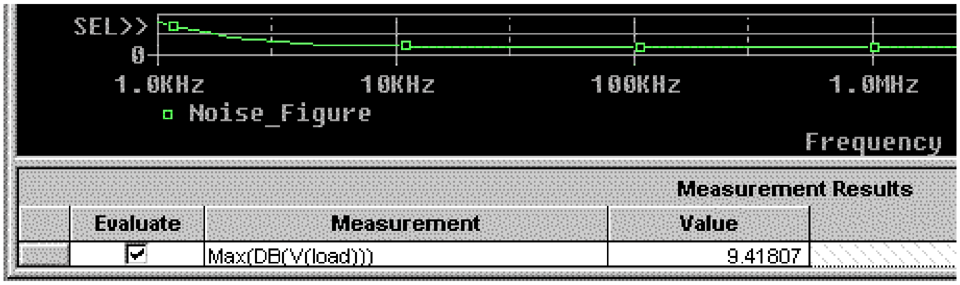
1 From the **View** menu, select **Measurement Results**.

The **Measurement Results** table displays below the plot window.



2 Click the box in the **Evaluate** column.

A checkmark appears in the **Evaluate** column checkbox and the PSpice calculation for your measurement expression appears in the **Value** column.



Measurement Results

Evaluate	Measurement	Value
☑	Max(DB(V(load)))	9.41807

Measurement definitions included in PSpice

Definition	Finds the. . .
Bandwidth	Bandwidth of a waveform (you choose dB level)
Bandwidth_Bandpass_3dB	Bandwidth (3dB level) of a waveform
Bandwidth_Bandpass_3dB_XRange	Bandwidth (3dB level) of a waveform over a specified X-range
CenterFrequency	Center frequency (dB level) of a waveform

Definition	Finds the. . .
CenterFrequency_XRange	Center frequency (dB level) of a waveform over a specified X-range
ConversionGain	Ratio of the maximum value of the first waveform to the maximum value of the second waveform
ConversionGain_XRange	Ratio of the maximum value of the first waveform to the maximum value of the second waveform over a specified X-range
Cutoff_Highpass_3dB	High pass bandwidth (for the given dB level)
Cutoff_Highpass_3dB_XRange	High pass bandwidth (for the given dB level)
Cutoff_Lowpass_3dB	Low pass bandwidth (for the given dB level)
Cutoff_Lowpass_3dB_XRange	Low pass bandwidth (for the given dB level) over a specified range
DutyCycle	Duty cycle of the first pulse/period
DutyCycle_XRange	Duty cycle of the first pulse/period over a range
Falltime_NoOvershoot	Falltime with no overshoot.
Falltime_StepResponse	Falltime of a negative-going step response curve
Falltime_StepResponse_XRange	Falltime of a negative-going step response curve over a specified range
GainMargin	Gain (dB level) at the first 180-degree out-of-phase mark
Max	Maximum value of the waveform
Max_XRange	Maximum value of the waveform within the specified range of X
Min	Minimum value of the waveform
Min_XRange	Minimum value of the waveform within the specified range of X

Definition	Finds the. . .
NthPeak	Value of a waveform at its nth peak
Overshoot	Overshoot of a step response curve
Overshoot_XRange	Overshoot of a step response curve over a specified range
Peak	Value of a waveform at its nth peak
Period	Period of a time domain signal
Period_XRange	Period of a time domain signal over a specified range
PhaseMargin	Phase margin
PowerDissipation_mW	Total power dissipation in milli-watts during the final period of time (can be used to calculate total power dissipation, if the first waveform is the integral of V(load)
Pulsewidth	Width of the first pulse
Pulsewidth_XRange	Width of the first pulse at a specified range
Q_Bandpass	Calculates Q (center frequency / bandwidth) of a bandpass response at the specified dB point
Q_Bandpass_XRange	Calculates Q (center frequency / bandwidth) of a bandpass response at the specified dB point and the specified range
Risetime_NoOvershoot	Risetime of a step response curve with no overshoot
Risetime_StepResponse	Risetime of a step response curve
Risetime_StepResponse_XRange	Risetime of a step response curve at a specified range
SettlingTime	Time from <begin_x> to the time it takes a step response to settle within a specified band
SettlingTime_XRange	Time from <begin_x> to the time it takes a step response to settle within a specified band and within a specified range

Bandwidth_Bandpass_3dB	Bandwidth (3dB level) of a waveform
Bandwidth_Bandpass_3dB_XRange	Bandwidth (3dB level) of a waveform over a specified X-range
CenterFrequency	Center frequency (dB level) of a waveform

Max_XRange	Maximum value of the waveform within the specified range of X
Min	Minimum value of the waveform
Definition	**Finds the...**
Min_XRange	Minimum value of the waveform within the specified range of X

Definition	Finds the. . .
SettlingTime	Time from <begin_x> to the time it takes a step response to settle within a specified band
SettlingTime_XRange	Time from <begin_x> to the time it takes a step response to settle within a specified band and within a specified range

Definition	Finds the. . .
YatX	Value of the waveform at the given X_value
YatX_PercentXRange	Value of the waveform at the given percentage of the X-axis range
ZeroCross	X-value where the Y-value first crosses zero
ZeroCross_XRange	X-value where the Y-value first crosses zero at the specified range

For power users

Creating custom measurement definitions

Measurement definitions establish rules to locate interesting points and compute values for a waveform. In order to do this, a measurement definition needs:

- A measurement definition name

  So it will come when it’s called.

- A marked point expression

  These are the calculations that compute the final point on the waveform.

- One or more search commands

  These commands specify how to search for the interesting points.

Strategy

1 Decide what you want to measure.

2 Examine the waveforms you have and choose which points on the waveform are needed to calculate the measured value.

3 Compose the search commands to find and mark the desired points.

4 Use the marked points in the Marked Point Expressions to calculate the final value for the waveform.

5 Test the search commands and measurements.

Note: An easy way to create a new definition:

From the PSpice **Trace** menu, select **Measurements** to open the **Measurements** dialog box, then:

- ❑ Select the definition most similar to your needs
- ❑ Click **Copy** and follow the prompts to rename and edit.

Writing a new measurement definition

1 From the PSpice **Trace** menu, choose **Measurements**.

The **Measurements** dialog box appears.

2 Click **New**.

The **New Measurement** dialog box appears.

3 Type a name for the new measurement in the **New Measurement name** field.

Make sure **local file** is selected.

This stores the new measurement in a .prb file local to the design.

4 Click **OK**.

The **Edit New Measurement** dialog box appears.

5 Type in the marked expression.

6 Type in any comments you want.

7 Type in the search function.

Note: For syntax information, see Measurement definition syntax on page 257.

Your new measurement definition is now listed in the **Measurements** dialog box.

Using the new measurement definition

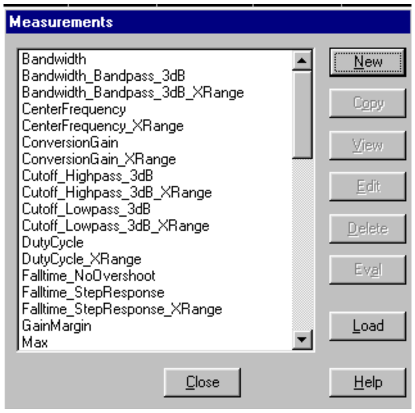
Your new measurement definition is now listed in the **Measurements** dialog box.

Note: For steps on using a definition in a measurement expression to evaluate a trace, see Composing a measurement expression on page 241.

Definition example

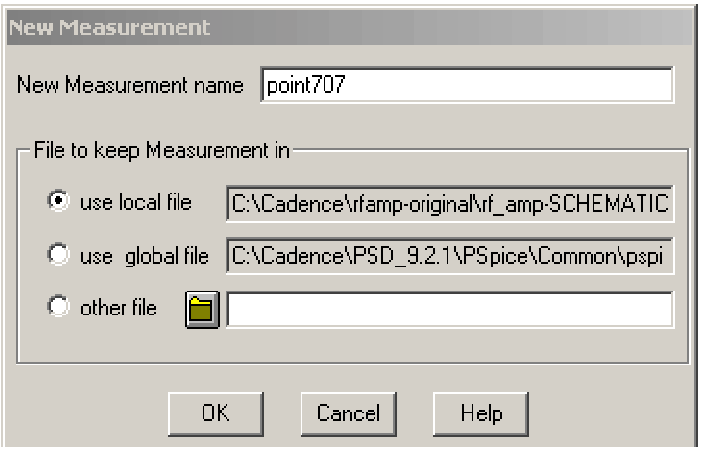
1 From the PSpice**Trace** menu, choose **Measurements**.

The **Measurements** dialog box appears.



2 Click **New**.

The **New Measurement** dialog box appears.



New Measurement

New Measurement name: point707

File to keep Measurement in

- ● use local file: C:\Cadence\rfamp-original\rf_amp-SCHEMATIC
- ○ use global file: C:\Cadence\PSD_9.2.1\PSpice\Common\pspi
- ○ other file

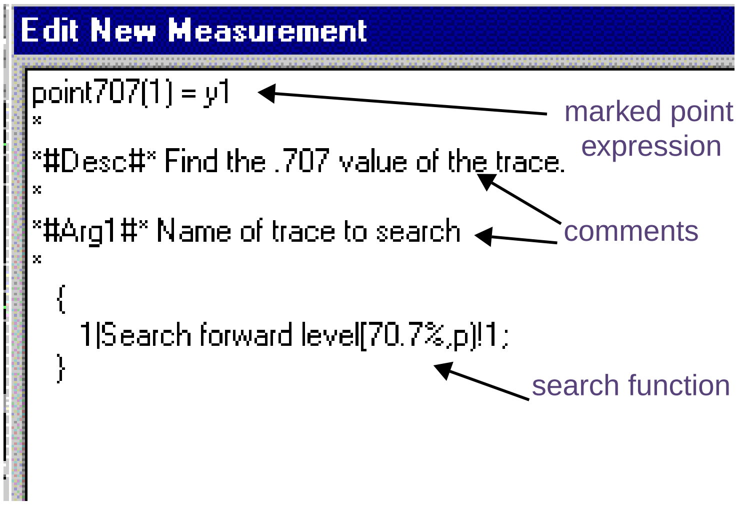
3 Type in a name in the **New Measurement name** field.

4 Make sure **use local file** is selected.

This stores the new measurement in a .prb file local to the design.

5 Click **OK**.

The **Edit New Measurement** dialog box appears.



Edit New Measurement

```
point707(1) = y1
*
*#Desc#* Find the .707 value of the trace.
*
*#Arg1#* Name of trace to search
*
  {
    1|Search forward level(70.7%,p)!1;
  }
```

marked point expression

comments

search function

6 Type in the marked expression:

point707(1) = y1

7 Type in the search function.

```
{
    1|Search forward level(70.7%, p) !1;
 }
```

Note: The search function is enclosed within curly braces.

Always place a semi-colon at the end of the last search function.

8 Type in any explanatory comments you want:

```
*
*#Desc#* Find the .707 value of the trace.
*
*#Arg1#* Name of trace to search
*
```

Note: For syntax information, see Measurement definition syntax on page 257.

Using the new measurement definition

Your new measurement definition is now listed in the **Measurements** dialog box.

For an example of using a definition in a measurement expression to evaluate a trace, see Example on page 242.

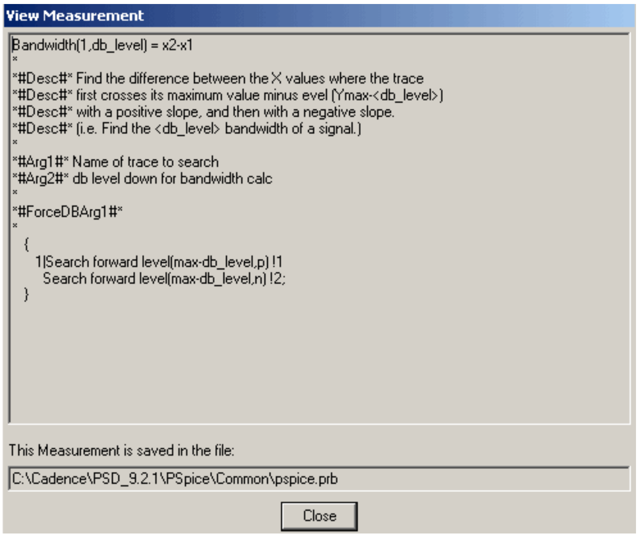
Measurement definition syntax

Check out the existing measurement definitions in PSpice for syntax examples.

1 From the **Trace** menu, choose **Measurements**.

The **Measurement** dialog box appears.

2 Highlight any example, and select **View** to examine the syntax.



```
Bandwidth(1,db_level) = x2-x1
*
*#Desc#* Find the difference between the X values where the trace
*#Desc#* first crosses its maximum value minus evel (Ymax-<db_level>)
*#Desc#* with a positive slope, and then with a negative slope.
*#Desc#* (i.e. Find the <db_level> bandwidth of a signal.)
*
*#Arg1#* Name of trace to search
*#Arg2#* db level down for bandwidth calc
*
*#ForceDBArg1#*
*
  {
    1|Search forward level(max-db_level,p) !1
      Search forward level(max-db_level,n) !2;
  }
```

This Measurement is saved in the file:

C:\Cadence\PSD_9.2.1\PSpice\Common\pspice.prb

Measurement definition: fill in the place holders

```
measurement_name (1, [2, …, n][, subarg1, subarg2, …, subargm]) =
marked_point_expression

{
1| search_commands_and_marked_points_for_expression_1;
2| search_commands_and_marked_points_for_expression_2;

n| search_commands_and_marked_points_for_expression_n;
}
```

Measurement name syntax

Can contain any alphanumeric character (A-Z, 0-9) or underscore _ , up to 50 characters in length. The first character should be an upper or lower case letter.

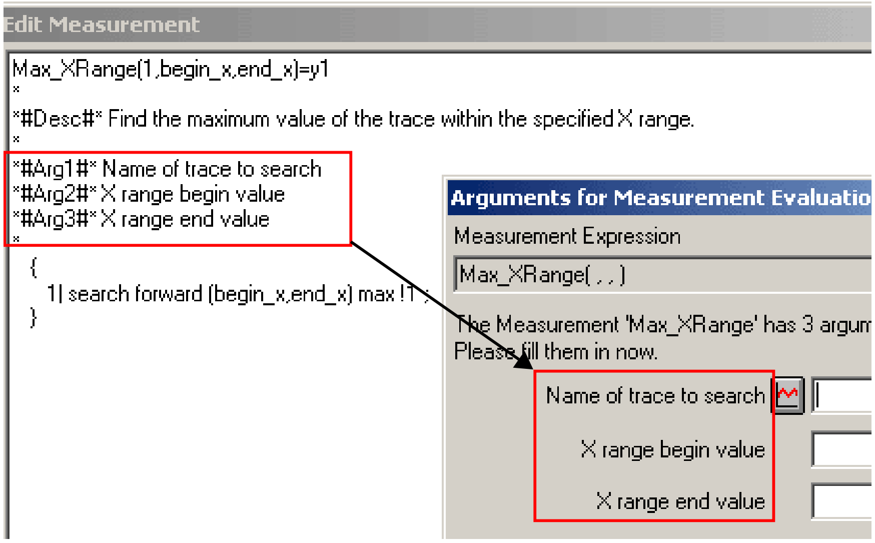
Examples of valid function names: Bandwidth, CenterFreq, delay_time, DBlevel1.

Comments syntax

A comment line always starts with an asterisk. Special comment lines include the following examples:

#Desc#	The measurement description
#Arg1#	Description of an argument used in the measurement definition.

These comment lines will be used in dialog boxes, such as the **Arguments for Measurement Evaluation** box.



```
Max_XRange(1,begin_x,end_x)=y1
*
*#Desc#* Find the maximum value of the trace within the specified X range.
*
*#Arg1#* Name of trace to search
*#Arg2#* X range begin value
*#Arg3#* X range end value
*
  {
    1| search forward (begin_x,end_x) max !1 ;
  }
```

Max_XRange(, ,)

The Measurement 'Max_XRange' has 3 argum
Please fill them in now.

Marked Point Expressions syntax

A marked point expression calculates a single value, which is the value of the measurement, based on the X and Y coordinates of one or more marked points on a curve. The marked points are found by the search command.

All the arithmetic operators (+, -, *, /, ( )) and all the functions that apply to a single point (for example, ABS(), SGN(), SIN(), SQRT()) can be used in marked point expressions.

The result of the expression is one number (a real value).

Marked point expressions differ from a regular expression in the following ways:

- Marked point coordinate values (for example, x1, y3), are used instead of simulation output variables (v(4), ic(Q1)).
- Multiple-point functions such as d(), s(), AVG(), RMS(), MIN(), and MAX() cannot be used.
- Complex functions such as M(), P(), R(), IMG(), and G() cannot be used.
- One additional function called MPAVG can also be used. It is used to find the average Y value between 2 marked points. The format is:

  MPAVG(p1, p2,[<.fraction>])

  where p1 and p2 are marked X points and fraction (expressed in decimal form) specifies the range. The range specified by [<.fraction>] is centered on the midpoint of the total range. The default value is 1.

Example:

The marked point expression

```
MPAVG (x1, x5, .2)
```

will find the halfway point between x1 and x5 and will calculate the average Y value based on the 20 percent of the range that is centered on the halfway point.

Search command syntax

```
search [direction]  [/start_point/]  [#consecutive_points#]  [(range_x [,range_y])]
[for]
[repeat:] <condition>
```

Brackets indicate optional arguments.

You can use uppercase or lowercase characters, because searches are case independent.

[direction]

forward or backward

The direction of the search. Search commands can specify either a forward or reverse direction. The search begins at the origin of the curve.

[Forward] searches in the normal X expression direction, which may appear as backwards on the plot if the X axis has been reversed with a user-defined range.

Forward is the default direction.

[/start_point/]

The starting point to begin a search. The current point is the default.

Use this…	To start the search at this…
^	the first point in the search range
Begin	the first point in the search range
$	the last point in the search range
End	the last point in the search range
xn	a marked point number or an expression of marked points, for example, x1 (x1 - (x2 - x1) / 2)

[#consecutive points#]

Defines the number of consecutive points required for a condition to be met. Usage varies for individual conditions; the default is 1.

A peak is a data point with one neighboring data point on both sides that has a lower Y value than the data point.

If *`[#consecutive_points#]`* is 2 and <*`condition`*> is PEak, then the peak searched for is a data point with two neighboring data points on both sides with lower Y values than the marked data point.

[(range_x[,range_y])]

Specifies the range of values to confine the search.

The range can be specified as floating-point values, as a percent of the full range, as marked points, or as an expression of marked points. The default range is all points available.

Examples

This range…	Means this…
(1n,200n)	X range limited from 1e-9 to 200e-9, Y range defaults to full range
(1.5,20e-9,0,1m)	both X and Y ranges are limited
(5m,1,10%,90%)	both X and Y ranges are limited
(0%,100%,1,3)	full X range, limited Y range
(,,1,3)	full X range, limited Y range
(,30n)	X range limited only on upper end

[for] [repeat:]

Specifies which occurrence of <*condition*> to find.

If repeat is greater than the number of found instances of <*condition*>, then the last <*condition*> found is used.

Example

The argument `2:LEvel` would find the second level crossing.

<condition>

Must be exactly one of the following:

❑ LEvel(value[,posneg])

- SLope[(posneg)]
- PEak
- TRough
- MAx
- MIn
- POint
- XValue(value)

Each `<condition>` requires just the first 2 characters of the word. For example, you can shorten LEvel to LE.

If a `<condition>` is not found, then either the cursor is not moved or the goal function is not evaluated.

LEvel(vahlue[,posneg])

[,posneg] Finds the next Y value crossing at the specified level. This can be between real data points, in which case an interpolated artificial point is created.

At least [#consecutive_points#]-1 points following the level crossing point must be on the same side of the level crossing for the first point to count as the level crossing.

[,posneg] can be Positive (P), Negative (P), or Both (B). The default is Both.

(value) can take any of the following forms:

Value form	Example
a floating number	1e5 100n 1
a percentage of full range	50%

Value form	Example
a marked point or an expression of marked points	x1 y1 (x1-x2)/2
a value relative to startvalue	.-3 ⇒ startvalue -3 .+3 ⇒ startvalue +3
a db value relative to startvalue	.-3db ⇒ 3db below startvalue .+3db ⇒ 3db above startvalue
a value relative to max or min	max-3 ⇒ maxrng -3 min+3 ⇒ minrng +3
a db value relative to max or min	max-3db ⇒ 3db below maxrng min+3db ⇒ 3db above minrng

decimal point (.)

A decimal point (.) represents the Y value of the last point found using a search on the current trace expression of the goal function. If this is the first search command, then it represents the Y value of the startpoint of the search.

SLope[(posneg)]

Finds the next maximum slope (positive or negative as specified) in the specified direction.

[(posneg)] refers to the slope going Positive (P), Negative (N), or Both (B). If more than the next [#consecutive_points#] points have zero or opposite slope, the Slope function does not look any further for the maximum slope.

Positive slope means increasing Y value for increasing indices of the X expression.

The point found is an artificial point halfway between the two data points defining the maximum slope.

The default [(posneg)] is Positive.

PEak

Finds the nearest peak. At least [#consecutive_points#] points on each side of the peak must have Y values less than the peak Y value.

TRough

Finds nearest negative peak. At least [#consecutive_points#] points on each side of the trough must have Y values greater than the trough Y value.

MAx

Finds the greatest Y value for all points in the specified X range. If more than one maximum exists (same Y values), then the nearest one is found.

MAx is not affected by [direction], [#consecutive_points#], or [repeat:].

MIn

Finds the minimum Y value for all points in the specified X range.

MIn is not affected by [direction], [#consecutive_points#], or [repeat:].

POint

Finds the next data point in the given direction.

XValue(value)

Finds the first point on the curve that has the specified X axis value.

The (value) is a floating-point value or percent of full range.

XValue is not affected by [direction], [#consecutive_points#], [(range_x [,range_y])], or [repeat:].

(value) can take any of the following forms:

Value form	Example
a floating number	1e5 100n 1
a percentage of full range	50%
a marked point	x1 y1
or an expression of marked points	(x1+x2)/2
a value relative to startvalue	.-3 ⇒ startvalue -3 .+3 ⇒ startvalue +3
a db value relative to startvalue	.-3db ⇒ 3db below startvalue .+3db ⇒ 3db above startvalue
a value relative to max or min	max-3 ⇒ maxrng -3 min+3 ⇒ minrng +3

Syntax example

The measurement definition is made up of:

- A measurement name
- A marked point expression
- One or more search commands enclosed within curly braces

This example also includes comments about:

- The measurement definition
- What arguments it expects when used
- A sample command line for its usage

Any line beginning with an asterisk is considered a comment line.

Risetime definition

```
Risetime(1) = x2-x1
    *
    *#Desc#* Find the difference between the X values
    *#Desc#* where the trace first crosses 10% and then
    *#Desc#* 90% of its maximum value with a positive
    *#Desc#* slope.
    *#Desc#* (i.e. Find the risetime of a step response
    *#Desc#* curve with no overshoot. If the signal has
    *#Desc#* overshoot, use GenRise().)
    *
    *#Arg1#* Name of trace to search
    *
    * Usage:
    *Risetime(<trace name>)
    *
       {
          1|Search forward level(10%, p) !1
            Search forward level(90%, p) !2;
       }
```

The name of the measurement is Risetime. Risetime will take 1 argument, a trace name (as seen from the comments).

The first search function searches forward (positive x direction) for the point on the trace where the waveform crosses the 10% point in a positive direction. That point's X and Y coordinates will be marked and saved as point 1.

The second search function searches forward in the positive direction for the point on the trace where the waveform crosses the 90% mark. That point's X and Y coordinates will be marked and saved as point 2.

The marked point expression is x2-x1. This means the measurement calculates the X value of point 2 minus the X value of point 1 and returns that number.

Optimization Engines

9

In this chapter

LSQ engine

The LSQ engine works with the measurement goals you define, minimizing the difference between the present circuit measurements and your goal by adjusting the circuit parameters you have chosen.

Principles of operation

Parameters

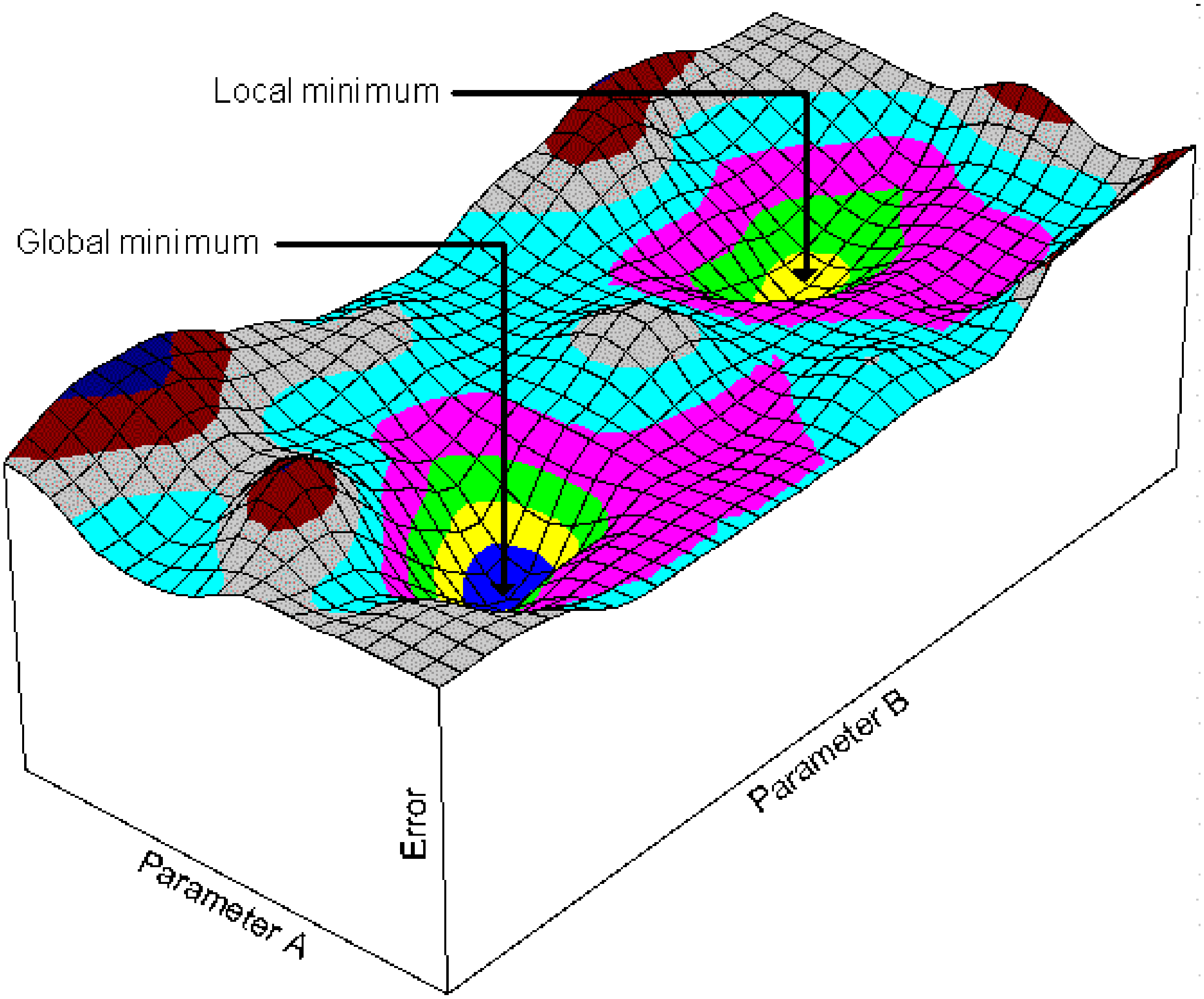
The LSQ engine optimizes the design by minimizing the total error.

$$\text{Totalerror} = \sqrt{\sum_{g=1}^{n} (\text{err}_g)^2}$$

Each parameter that is varied adds a dimension to the problem. In the simple case of two parameters, you have a three-dimensional problem. Complexity increases as you add parameters.

Local and global minimums

Picture the problem in terms of a metaphor such as a mountain range. Define the direction north/south as parameter A, direction east/west as parameter B, and the ground altitude above sea level as the total error. A grid plot of the total error relative to the parameters then resembles a topographic map, as the mountain range metaphor figure below shows. In the figure, the boundaries between shading colors represent equal error values, or altitude contours.



The map is bounded by the ranges of parameter A and parameter B, which define your *design space*. The terrain has mountains and valleys, or regions of high or low total error. Some valleys are sinks, completely bounded by contours. The bottom of any valley in the design space is a local minimum. It may be in a sink, or at a point where the valley is cut off by a design space boundary.

The global minimum is the lowest point within the area boundaries. Ideally, this point will be at sea level, or zero error. (There is no Death Valley, or negative error, sink in the metaphor.)

Your starting point depends on the initial values of each parameter. It might be close to a local minimum, or on a hill overlooking several local minimums. Typically, your starting point will be somewhere in the middle of the design space, but this can be changed by modifying component values.

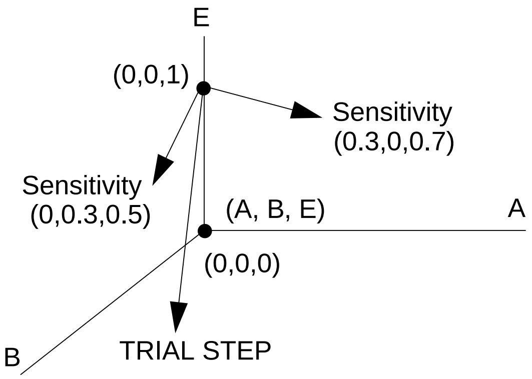
The LSQ engine, and you as the user, do not have an eagle's eye view of the terrain such as the topographic map figure above gives us. Instead, the terrain is completely fogged in.

The engine is set at a starting point without prior knowledge of the topography. It must search for the bottom of a valley (local minimum) by feeling its way with trial runs, and only taking steps that move downhill. The valley it moves into depends on the starting parameter values and the contour of the design space.

Your search objective is to find the optimum solution. This may be the global minimum. However, if factors such as cost and manufacturability are considered, the optimum solution may be another local minimum with an acceptable total error.

Finding the optimum result may require extensive searches with starting points widely distributed over the design space. This is especially true in complex schematics with numerous parameters.

Before each step, the LSQ engine does a sensitivity run for each parameter. These runs are essentially tiny steps in the Parameter A and Parameter B directions. From the up or down movement found in each direction, the LSQ engine estimates the downhill direction, or direction of steepest descent. It then takes a step in that direction.



For the first step, no slope (gradient) is known, so a guess on the step size is made based on the internal parameters in the LSQ engine. Often the LSQ engine attempts to take several steps based on the sensitivity data or the results of each step, but only one step is accepted for each iteration. As the LSQ engine completes an iteration, it begins to estimate the slope of the mountain. This aids it in determining the size of the next step and whether the bottom of the valley (local minimum) has been found.

When the engine finds a local minimum, it stops and reports the position and total error. This may or may not be the optimum solution or an acceptable solution.

Local minima and searching

Finding the optimum solution may be difficult in complex designs with many variables in the design space. Changing starting parameters, constraints, and goals can be used to search more of the design space in an attempt to find a better solution.

This extended searching of the design space usually is not needed because the LSQ engine can easily find a global minimum that is not the optimum solution yet is acceptable. Sometimes the local minimum is not acceptable and modifications to the optimization problem might help find an acceptable global minimum. This limitation is shared by all minimizing algorithms like LSQ.

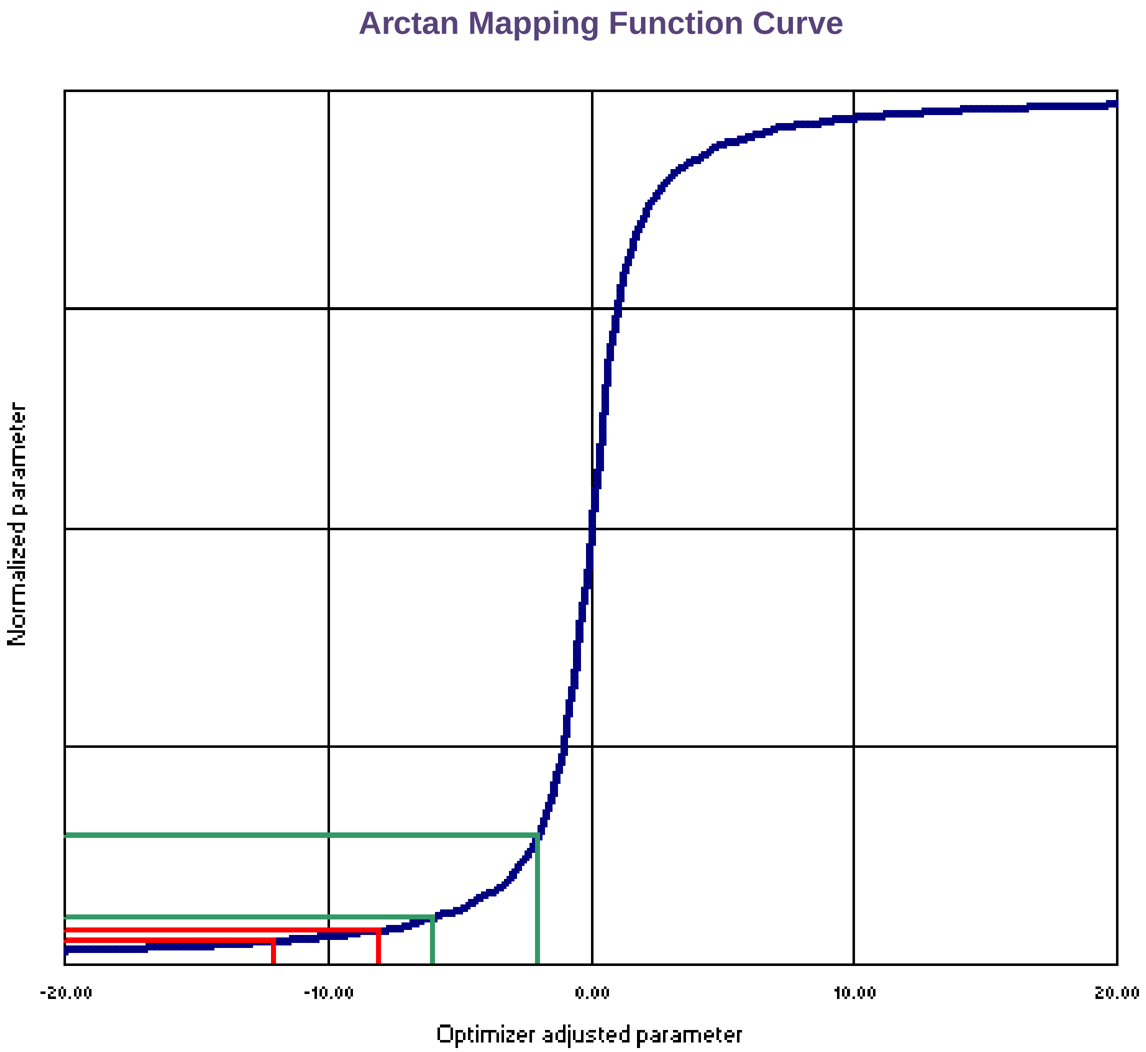
If the LSQ engine gets stuck in an unacceptable local minimum, several options can help find an acceptable answer. Three good approaches are:

- Start from different initial parameter values.
- Change a goal to a more optimistic or less optimistic value. This changes the shape of the terrain, or total error surface.
- Stop the Optimizer and then restart it. This throws out the slope (gradient) information, forcing the step size to be a guess which could get you out of the local minimum.

Parameter mapping

For reasons of numerical accuracy and solution stability, the LSQ optimizing algorithm does not work directly with schematic parameter values. Instead, a mapping and normalizing algorithm relates the schematic parameters to the variables that are adjusted during optimization. The mapping and normalizing restricts the parameter values to a range that you specify, and concentrates adjustments on the center of the range.

The LSQ engine uses a multiplier and an arctan function for mapping the values adjusted by the optimizer to the schematic parameter values. The arctan function is shown in the following figure.



In the figure, the value adjusted in the Optimizer is the x-axis. Potentially, it can have any value from negative infinity to positive infinity. In practice, its values are limited by the system, and the absolute magnitudes are usually small when a solution is near.

The arctan mapping function relates the normalized parameter range to the Optimizer adjusted value. When the adjusted value is near zero, the normalized parameter is near zero, and small value adjustments produce relatively large changes in the parameter. Farther from zero, the same adjustments produce smaller parameter changes, as shown in ranges A and B in the figure above.

You define the actual parameter range by choosing minimum and maximum values. The actual range is scaled and offset to the normalized range. You should center the minimum and maximum values on the actual parameter starting value, so that the starting value corresponds to zero in the normalized range.

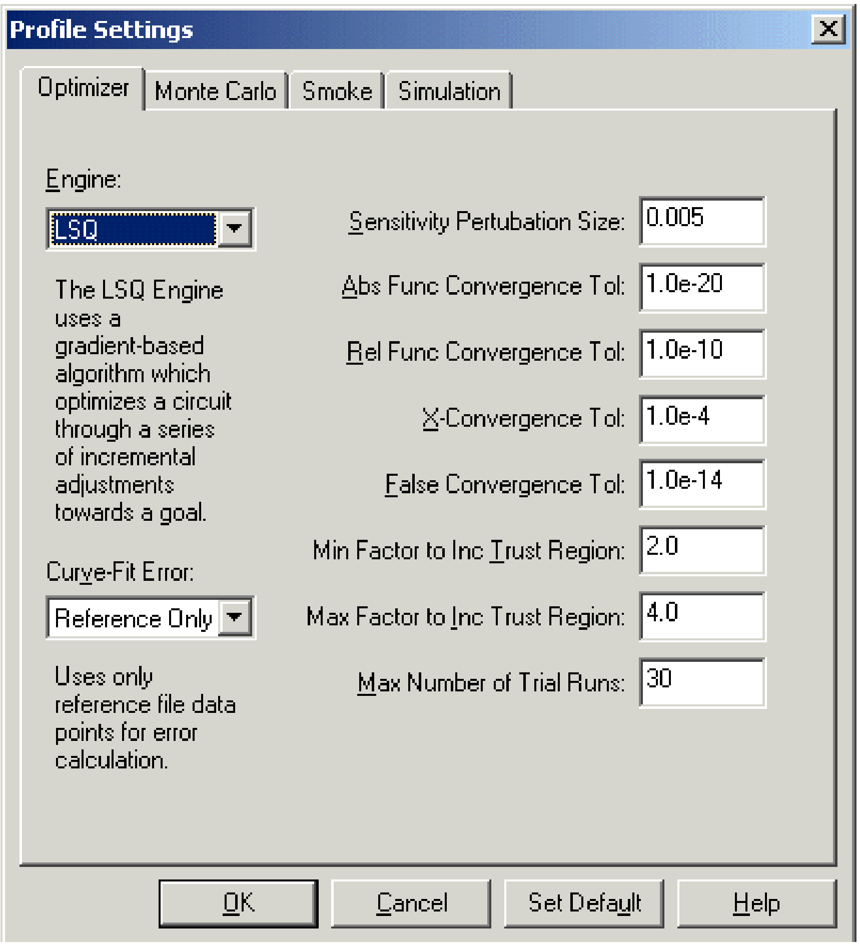
The linear approximations in optimization algorithms work well over about 90-95 percent of the normalized parameter range.

Difficulties occur when the parameter approaches either of its limits. When the parameter is within about one or two percent of the range from a minimum or maximum limit, the slope of the mapping function approaches zero and the parameter is essentially locked at its current value.

When the parameter is slightly farther from a minimum or maximum limit, the slope of the arctan curve changes rapidly. Linear approximations cause overshoot of the zero point, and the normalized values tend to bounce back and forth between near-minimum and near-maximum values. This bouncing can occur for several iterations, but usually stops as the parameter values move out of this area.

Configuring the LSQ engine

In most cases, you do not need to change the LSQ default options. The engine defaults do the best job in almost all situations. In the event that you do need to change a default option, use the **Optimizer** tab’s, **Engine, LSQ** options to do so.



Engine: LSQ

The LSQ Engine uses a gradient-based algorithm which optimizes a circuit through a series of incremental adjustments towards a goal.

Curve-Fit Error: Reference Only

Uses only reference file data points for error calculation.

Sensitivity Pertubation Size: 0.005

Abs Func Convergence Tol: 1.0e-20

Rel Func Convergence Tol: 1.0e-10

X-Convergence Tol: 1.0e-4

False Convergence Tol: 1.0e-14

Min Factor to Inc Trust Region: 2.0

Max Factor to Inc Trust Region: 4.0

Max Number of Trial Runs: 30

To view and change the default options:

1. From the Advanced Analysis **Edit** menu, select **Profile Settings**.
2. Click the **Optimizer** tab and select **LSQ** from the **Engine** drop-down list.
3. Edit default values in the labeled text boxes.

4 Click **OK**.

LSQ Engine Options	Default Value
Sensitivity Perturbation Size	.005
Absolute Function Convergence Tolerance	1.0e-20
Relative Function Convergence Tolerance	1.0e-10
X-Convergence Tolerance	1.0e-4
False Convergence Tolerance	1.0e-14
Minimum Factor to Increment Trust Region	2.0
Maximum Factor to Increment Trust Region	4.0
Maximum number of trial runs	0

If the LSQ engine has problems finding a solution or stops too soon, the convergence options can be modified to affect the algorithm. Unlike PSpice where only one solution exists, the LSQ engine potentially has many solutions (minimums) available in the design space. Some of the available options are also in the PSpice options list, although their effect in the LSQ optimization might not be as easy to follow as in PSpice.

The LSQ options affect how quickly a solution is obtained. By tightening the options, you may cause the LSQ engine to take extra iterations to find the solution. By loosening the options, you may find a less accurate solution.

Optimization Run Controls

One of the options available with the LSQ engine lets you limit the number of optimization trial runs. The **Max Number of Trial Runs** option provides a way for you to stop the optimizer after a specified number of trial runs.

This option can be used in any optimization to limit how long the optimizer tries to find a solution. This is done by stopping the optimizer after the maximum number of trial runs have been completed.

Also, depending on your design, the LSQ engine might find a very steep valley that it cannot descend into. In this case, the engine bounces from one side to the other without getting anywhere. Probe, the PSpice waveform analysis feature, will help you prevent this situation.

Sensitivity Analysis Options

The following options control the values used in the sensitivity analysis.

Note: Changes to the default values of these options can lead to an unpredictable solution (minimum). Use these options with extreme care.

Sensitivity Perturbation Size

The sensitivity perturbation size. This controls the delta increase used to determine the parameter value in each sensitivity run. The default is 0.005, which results in parameters using their present value times 0.5 percent for each sensitivity analysis.

Increasing the following options tends to make the algorithm take larger steps sooner. The trust region is the distance that the algorithm trusts its predictions.

Minimum Factor to Increment Trust Region

The minimum factor by which to increase the trust region. This option allows you to set the minimum step size increase allowed by the LSQ engine for trial runs.

Maximum Factor to Increment Trust Region

The maximum factor by which to increase the trust region. This option allows you to set the maximum step size increase allowed by the LSQ engine for trial runs.

Convergence Options

The following options control the convergence (stopping) criteria for the LSQ engine. These options are similar to convergence options in PSpice.

Note: Changes to the default values of these options can lead to an unpredictable solution (minimum). Use these options with extreme care.

Relative Function Convergence Tolerance

A relative function convergence tolerance (RFCTOL) that checks the error size. Relative convergence occurs if the:

$$\text{Current Value} - \text{Goal Value} \leq \text{RFCTOL} \times \text{Current Value}$$

X-Convergence Tolerance

The X-Convergence tolerance (XCTOL) that checks the step size. X-convergence occurs if a Newton step is tried and the relative step size is less than or equal to XCTOL.

Absolute Function Convergence tolerance

An absolute function convergence tolerance (AFCTOL). AFCTOL convergence occurs if the LSQ engine finds a point where the function value (half the sum of the squares) is less than AFCTOL, and RFCTOL and XCTOL tests have failed.

False Convergence Tolerance

The false-convergence tolerance (XFTOL) that checks if the solutions are converging to a noncritical point. False convergence occurs if:

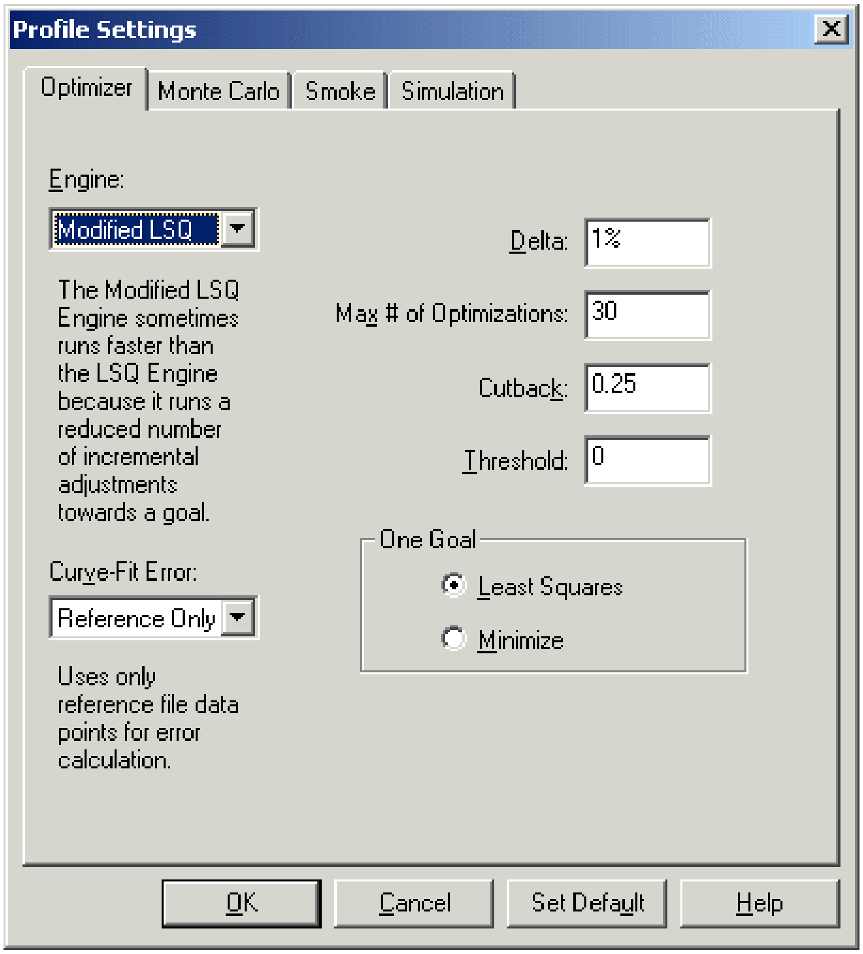
- There is no convergence of AFCTOL, RFCTOL, or XCTOL
- The present step yields less than twice the predicted decrease
- The relative step size is less than or equal to XFTOL

Modified LSQ engine

The Modified LSQ engine uses both constrained and unconstrained minimization algorithms, which allow it to optimize goals subject to nonlinear constraints. The Modified LSQ engine runs faster than the LSQ engine because it runs a reduced number of incremental adjustments toward the goal.

Configuring the Modified LSQ engine

1. From the Advanced Analysis **Edit** menu, select **Profile Settings**.
2. Click the **Optimizer** tab.
3. From the **Engine** drop-down list, select **Modified LSQ**.



Engine: Modified LSQ

The Modified LSQ Engine sometimes runs faster than the LSQ Engine because it runs a reduced number of incremental adjustments towards a goal.

Curve-Fit Error: Reference Only

Uses only reference file data points for error calculation.

Delta: 1%

Max # of Optimizations: 30

Cutback: 0.25

Threshold: 0

One Goal

● Least Squares

○ Minimize

4 Edit default values in the text boxes.

See detailed explanations provided on the next few pages.

5 Select the **One Goal** option that you prefer: **Least Squares** or **Minimize**.

See Single goal optimization settings on page 286 for details.

6 Click **OK**.

Modified LSQ Engine Options	Function	Default Value
Delta	The relative amount (as a percentage of current parameter value) the engine moves each parameter from the proceeding value when calculating the derivatives.	1%
Max # of Optimizations	The most attempts the Modified LSQ Engine should make before *giving up* on the solution (even if making progress).	20
Cutback	The minimum fraction by which an internal step is reduced while the Modified LSQ Engine searches for a reduction in the goal's target value. If the data is noisy, consider increasing the Cutback value from its default of 0.25.	0.25
Threshold	The minimum step size the Modified LSQ engine uses to adjust the optimization parameters.	0

Delta calculations

The optimizer uses gradient-based optimization algorithms that use a finite difference method to approximate the gradients (gradients are not known analytically). To implement finite differencing, the Modified LSQ engine:

1 Moves each parameter from its current value by an amount Delta.

2 Evaluates the function at the new value.

3 Subtracts the old function value from the new.

4 Divides the result by Delta.

Note: There is a trade-off. If Delta is too small, the difference in function values is unreliable due to numerical inaccuracies. However if Delta is too large, the result is a poor approximation to the true gradient.

Editing Delta

Enter a value in the Delta text box that defines a fraction of the parameter's total range.

> Example: If a parameter has a current value of 10^{-8}, and Delta is set to 1% (the default), then the Modified LSQ Engine moves the parameter by 10^{-10}.

The 1% default accuracy works well in most simulations.

If the accuracy of your simulation is very different from typical (perhaps because of the use of a non-default value for either RELTOL or the time step ceiling for a Transient analysis), then change the value of Delta as follows:

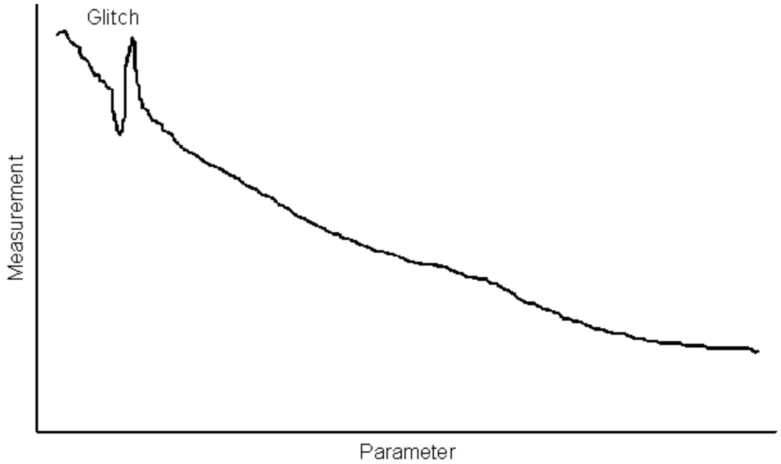
- ❑ If simulation accuracy is better, smaller adjustments are needed; decrease Delta by an appropriate amount.
- ❑ If simulation accuracy is worse, larger adjustments are needed; increase Delta by an appropriate amount.

Note: The optimum value of Delta varies as the square root of the relative accuracy of the simulation. For example, if your simulation is 100 times more accurate than typical, you should reduce Delta by a factor of 10.

Threshold calculations

The Threshold option defines the minimum step size the Modified LSQ Engine uses to adjust the optimization parameters.

The optimizer assumes that the values measured for the specifications change continuously as the parameters are varied. In practice, this assumption is not justified. For some analyses, especially transient analyses, the goal function values show discontinuous behavior for small parameter changes. This can be caused by accumulation of errors in iterative simulation algorithms.



The hypothetical data glitch figure demonstrates a typical case. The effect of the glitch is serious—the optimizer can get stuck in the spurious local minimum represented by the glitch. The optimizer's threshold mechanism limits the effect of unreliable data.

Between iterations

Enter a value that defines a fraction of the current parameter value.

> Example: A Threshold value of 0.01 means that the Modified LSQ Engine will change a parameter value by 1% of its current value when the engine makes a change.
>
> By default, Threshold is set to 0 so that small changes in parameter values are not arbitrarily rejected. To obtain good results, however, you may need to adjust the Threshold value. When making adjustments, consider the following:
>
> ❑ If data quality is good, and Threshold is greater than zero, reduce the Threshold value to find more accurate parameter values.

- ❑ If data quality is suspect (has potential for spurious peaks or glitches), increase the Threshold value to ensure that the optimizer will not get stuck during the run.

Least squares / minimization

The Modified LSQ Engine implements two general classes of algorithm to measure design performance: least squares and minimization. These algorithms are applicable to both unconstrained and constrained problems.

Least squares

When optimizing for more than one goal, the Modified LSQ Engine always uses the least-squares algorithm. A reliable measure of performance for a design with multiple targets is to take the deviation of each output from its target, square all deviations (so each term is positive) and sum all of the squares. The Modified LSQ Engine then tries to reduce this sum to zero.

This technique is known as least squares. Note that the sum of the squares of the deviations becomes zero only if all of the goals are met.

Minimization

Another measure of design performance considers a single output and reduces it to the smallest value possible.

Example: Power or propagation delay, each of which is a positive number with ideal performance corresponding to zero.

Single goal optimization settings

When optimizing for more than one goal, the Modified LSQ Engine always uses the least-squares algorithm. For a single goal, however, you must specify the algorithm for the optimizer.

1 Do one of the following:

- ❑ Select the **Least Squares** option button to minimize the square of the deviation between the measured and target value.

  Or:

- ❑ Select the **Minimize** option button to reduce a value to the smallest possible value.

If your optimization problem is to maximize a single goal, then set up the specification to minimize the negative of the value.

For example: To maximize gain, set up the problem to minimize $-gain$.

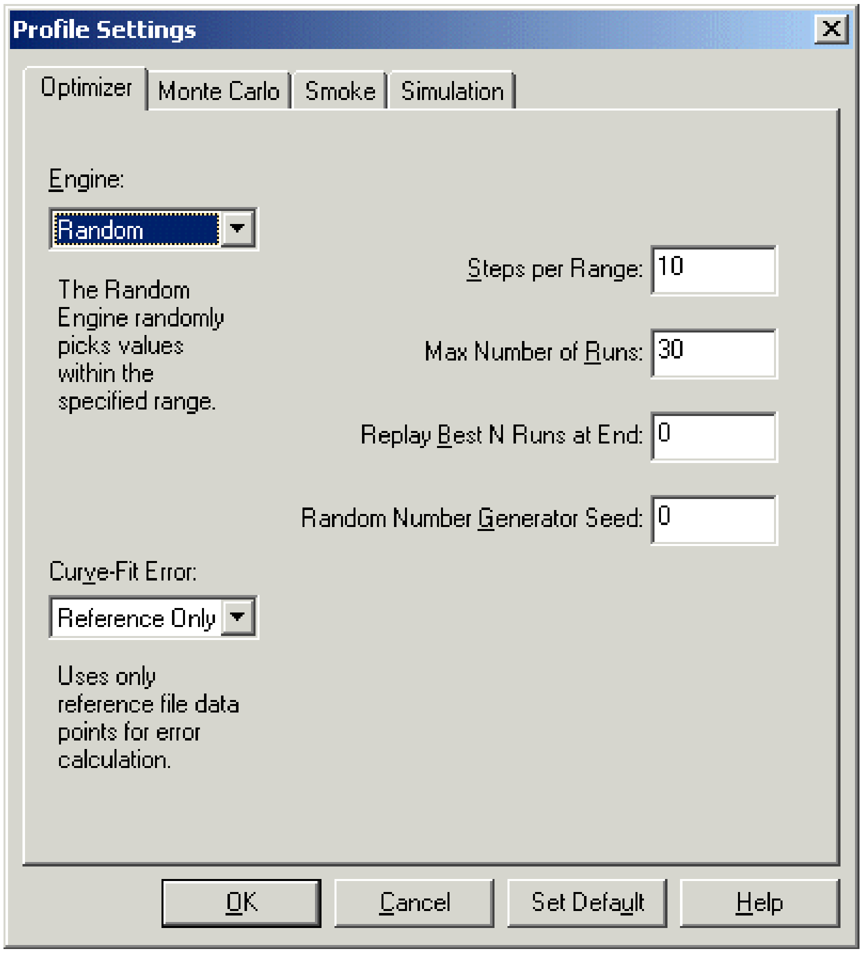
Random engine

When you use the LSQ or Modified LSQ engines, it is sometimes difficult to determine where your starting points for optimization should be. The Random engine provides a good way to find these points.

The Random engine applies a grid to the design space and randomly runs analysis at the grid points. It keeps track of the grid points already run so that it never runs a duplicate set of parameter values. Once it finishes its initial analysis, it reruns the best points so you can easily use them for LSQ or Modified LSQ.

Configuring the Random Engine

The Random Engine defaults are listed in a dialog box available from the **Optimizer** tab's, **Engine**, **Random** options.



Engine: Random

The Random Engine randomly picks values within the specified range.

Steps per Range: 10

Max Number of Runs: 30

Replay Best N Runs at End: 0

Random Number Generator Seed: 0

Curve-Fit Error: Reference Only

Uses only reference file data points for error calculation.

To view and change the default options:

1. From the Advanced Analysis **Edit** menu, select **Profile Settings**
2. Click the **Optimizer** tab and select **Random** from the **Engine** drop-down list.
3. Edit the default value in the text box.

4 Click **OK**.

Random Engine Options	Default Value
Steps per Range	10
Max Number of Runs	10
Replay Best N Runs at End	0
Random Number Generator Seed	0

Steps per Range

Specifies the number of steps into which each parameter’s range of values should be divided.

For example, if this option is set to 7 and you have the following parameters

Parameter	Min	Max
A	1	4
B	10	16

The possible parameter values would be

Parameter A = 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 3.5, 4

Parameter B = 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16

Max Number of Runs

Specifies the maximum number of random trial runs that the engine will run. The engine will run either the total number of all grid points or the number specified in this option, whichever is less.

Note: With 10 parameters, the number of grid points in the design exploration ($NumSteps^{\#params}$) would be 8^{10} = 1,073,741,824.

For example, if Max Number of Runs is 100, Steps per Range is 8, and you have one parameter being optimized, there will be 8 trial runs. However, if you have 10 parameters being optimized, then there will be 100 runs.

Replay Best N Runs at End

Specifies the number of “best” runs the engine should rerun and display at the end of the analysis.

Note: The Replay runs are done after the trial runs. If Max Number of Runs is 100 and Replay is 10, there may be up to 110 runs total.

Random Number Generator Seed

Specifies the seed for the random number generator. Unlike the Monte Carlo tool, the seed in this engine does not automatically change between runs. Therefore, if you rerun the Random engine without changing any values, you will get the same results.

Discrete engine

The Discrete engine finds the nearest commercially available value for a component. The other engines calculate component values, but those values might not be commercially available.

The discrete engine is a conceptual engine, rather than a true engine in that it does not actually perform an optimization, it finds available values from lists.

An example is a resistor that is assigned an optimal value of 1.37654328K ohms, which is not a standard value. Depending on the parameter tolerance and the manufacturer’s part number, the only values available might be 1.2K and 1.5K ohms. The Discrete engine selects parameter values based on discrete value tables for these parameters.

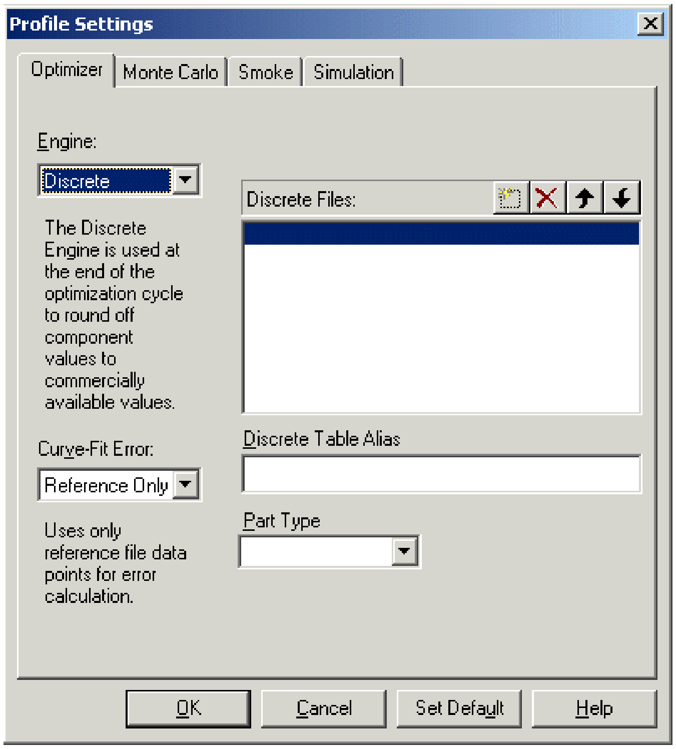
Once a value is selected, the engine makes a final run that lets you review the results in both the Optimizer and the output tools. If the results of the discrete analysis are not acceptable, the design can be optimized again to find another global minimum that might be less sensitive.

Commercially available values

Advanced Analysis includes discrete tables of commercially available values for resistors, capacitors, and inductors. These tables are text files with a .table file extension.

See “Assigning available values with the Discrete engine” on page 105 for instructions on selecting the discrete tables provided with Advanced Analysis Optimizer.

In addition, you can add your own discrete values tables to an Advanced Analysis project using the dialog box shown below. To know more about the adding user-defined discrete value tables, see Adding User-Defined Discrete Table on page 132.



Engine: Discrete

The Discrete Engine is used at the end of the optimization cycle to round off component values to commercially available values.

Curve-Fit Error: Reference Only

Uses only reference file data points for error calculation.

After you have found commercial values for your design, you should run Monte Carlo and Sensitivity to ensure that the design is producible. Occasionally, the optimization process can find extremely good results, but it can be sensitive to even minor changes in parameter values.

Troubleshooting

10

In this chapter

Troubleshooting feature overview

The Advanced Analysis troubleshooting feature returns you to PSpice to analyze any measurement specification that is causing a problem during optimization.

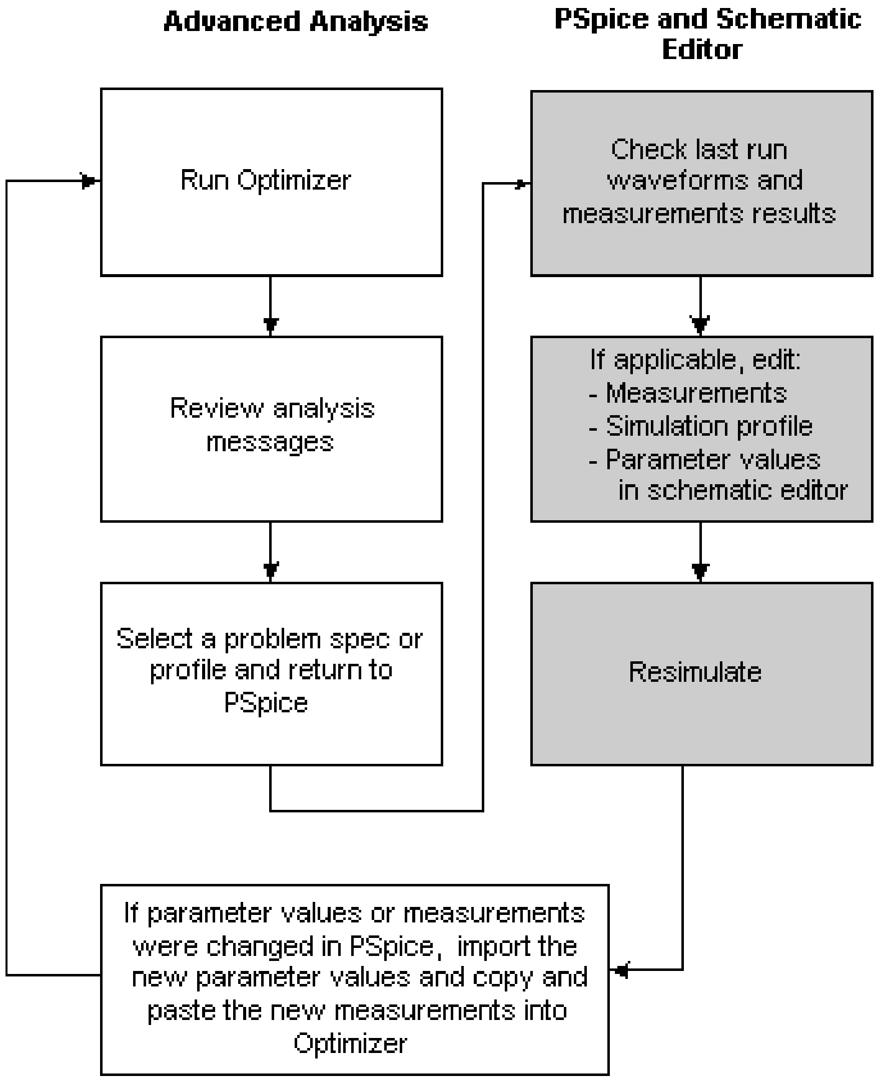
Strategy

When an Optimizer analysis fails, the error message displayed in the output window or a yellow or red flag in the Specifications table shows you which measurement and simulation profile is associated with the failure.

If the failure is a simulation failure (convergence error) or a measurement evaluation error, the troubleshooting feature can help track down the problem.

From the Optimizer tool in Advanced Analysis, you can right click on a measurement specification and select **Troubleshoot in PSpice**. PSpice will display two curves, one with the data from the original schematic values and one with the data of the last analysis run.

Workflow


Advanced Analysis
PSpice and Schematic Editor
Run Optimizer
Review analysis messages
Select a problem spec or profile and return to PSpice
Check last run waveforms and measurements results
If applicable, edit:
- Measurements
- Simulation profile
- Parameter values in schematic editor
Resimulate
If parameter values or measurements were changed in PSpice, import the new parameter values and copy and paste the new measurements into Optimizer

Procedure

When an optimization analysis fails, you can use the troubleshooting feature to troubleshoot a problem specification.

Read the error message in the output window to locate the specification to troubleshoot, or look for a yellow or red flag in the first cell of a specification row.

1. Right click anywhere in the specification row you want to troubleshoot.

   A pop-up menu appears.

2. Select **Troubleshoot in PSpice**.

   PSpice opens and the measurement specification data is displayed in the window.

   The first trace shows the data from the run with the original schematic values.

   The second trace shows the data from the last run.

3. Right click on a trace, and from the pop-up menu select **Information**.

   A message appears about the trace data.

4. Make any needed edits:

   ❑ In the PSpice window, check the measurement plot or click on to view the simulation output file.

   ❑ In the PSpice Measurements Results table, check the measurement syntax and the variables used.

   ❑ In PSpice, click to edit the simulation profile.

   ❑ In the schematic editor, make changes to parameter values.

5. Rerun the simulation in the schematic editor.

6. Return to Advanced Analysis.

7. If you made changes:

- ❑ To a measurement in PSpice, copy the edited measurement from PSpice to the Advanced Analysis Specifications table (Use Windows copy and paste)
- ❑ To parameter values in your schematic editor, import the new parameter data by clicking on the Optimizer Parameters table row titled “Click here to import a parameter...”

8 Right click in the Error Graph and from the pop-up menu select **Clear History**.

9 Rerun Optimizer.

Example

To show how to use the troubleshooting feature, we need an optimization project that fails to find a solution. We’ll use the example in the Troubleshoot folder from the Tutorial directory. This example results in an unresolved optimization.

Strategy

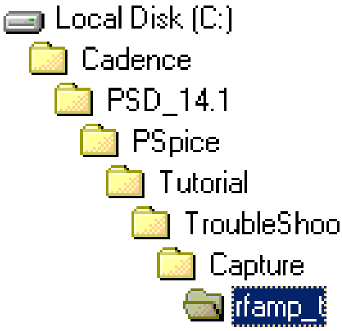
In this example we’ll:

- Open the RF amp circuit in the Troubleshooting directory
- Run the AC simulation and open Optimizer
- Use the troubleshoot function to view waveforms of the problem measurement

Setting up the example

1 In your schematic editor, browse to the TroubleShoot directory:

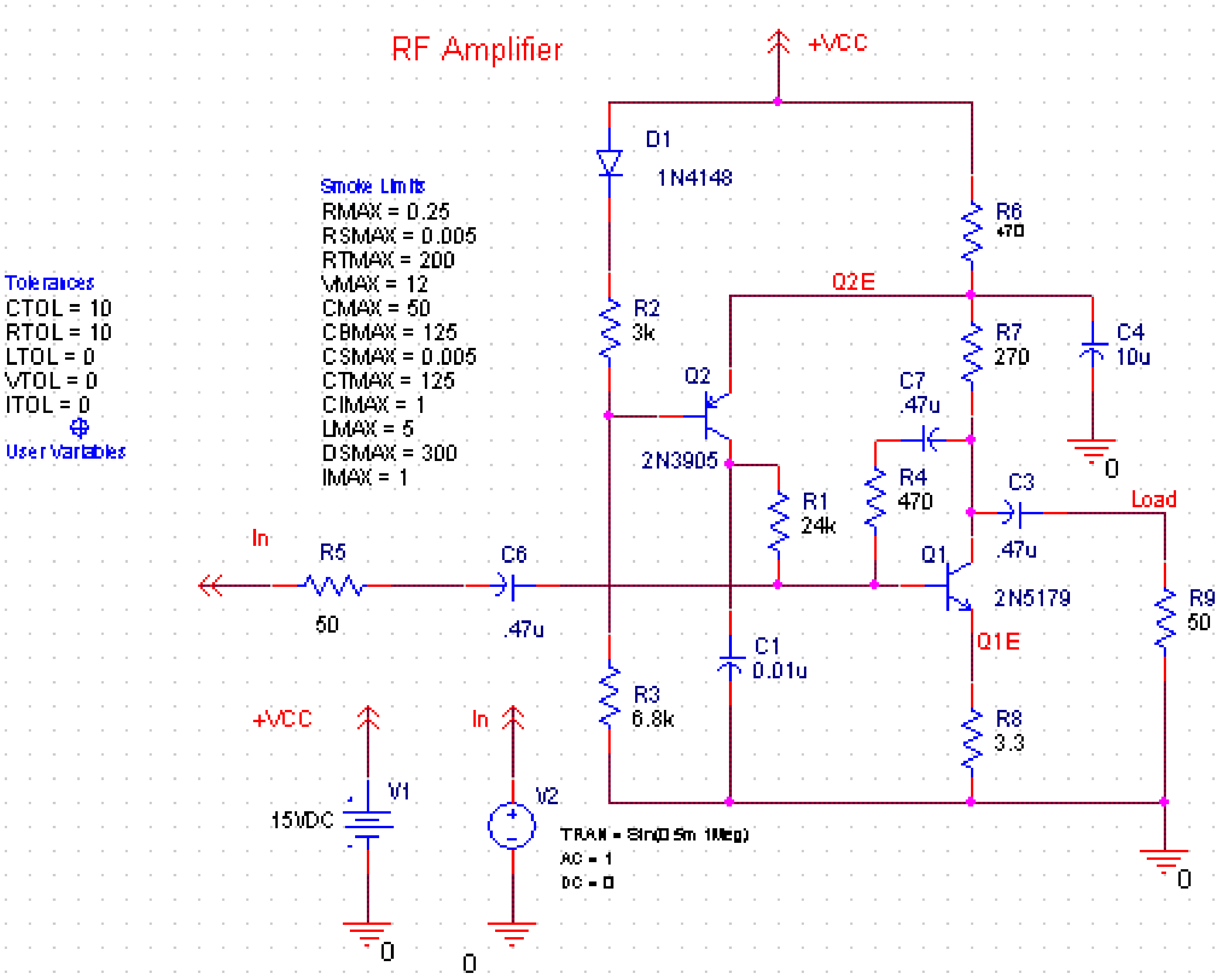
<target directory> \ PSpice \ Tutorial \



Local Disk (C:)
Cadence
PSD_14.1
PSpice
Tutorial
TroubleShooting
Capture
rfamp_t

2 From your schematic editor, open the rfampt project from the rfampt folder.

3 Open the schematic page.

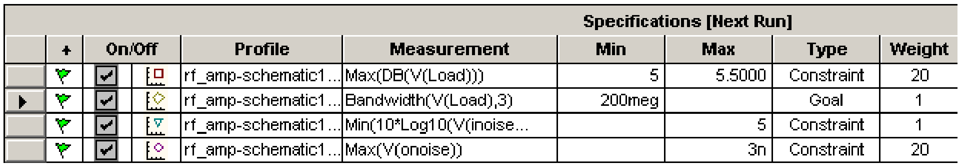


4 With the SCHEMATIC1-AC simulation profile selected, click ▶ to run the simulation.

5 From **PSpice** menu in Capture, select **Advanced Analysis** / **Optimizer**.

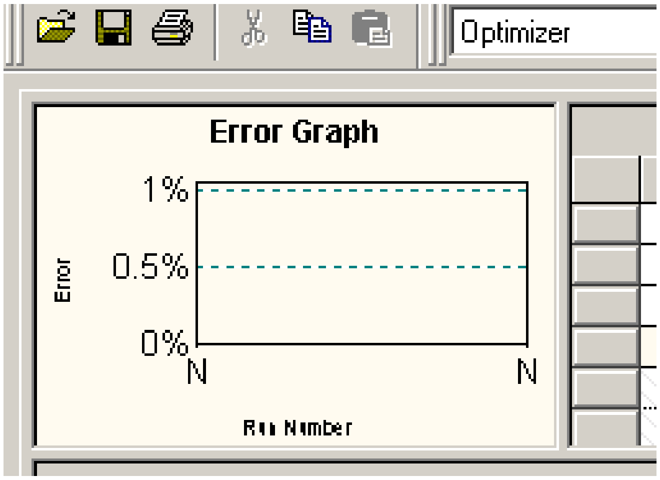
Advanced Analysis opens to the Optimizer view.

There are four measurement goals included in this example.



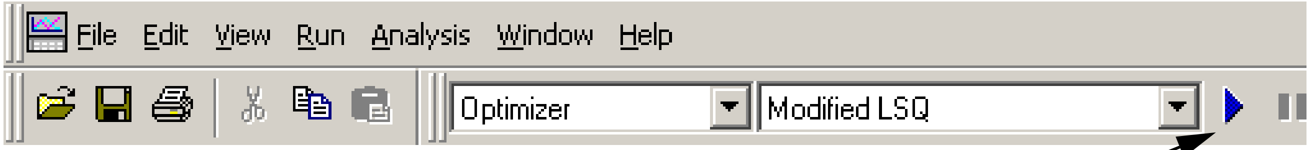
					Specifications [Next Run]			
	✦	On/Off	Profile	Measurement	Min	Max	Type	Weight
		☑	rf_amp-schematic1...	Max(DB(V(Load)))	5	5.5000	Constraint	20
▶		☑	rf_amp-schematic1...	Bandwidth(V(Load),3)	200meg		Goal	1
		☑	rf_amp-schematic1...	Min(10*Log10(V(inoise...		5	Constraint	1
		☑	rf_amp-schematic1...	Max(V(onoise))		3n	Constraint	20

6 If there is any history in the Error Graph, right click in the error graph window and select **Clear History** from the pop-up menu.



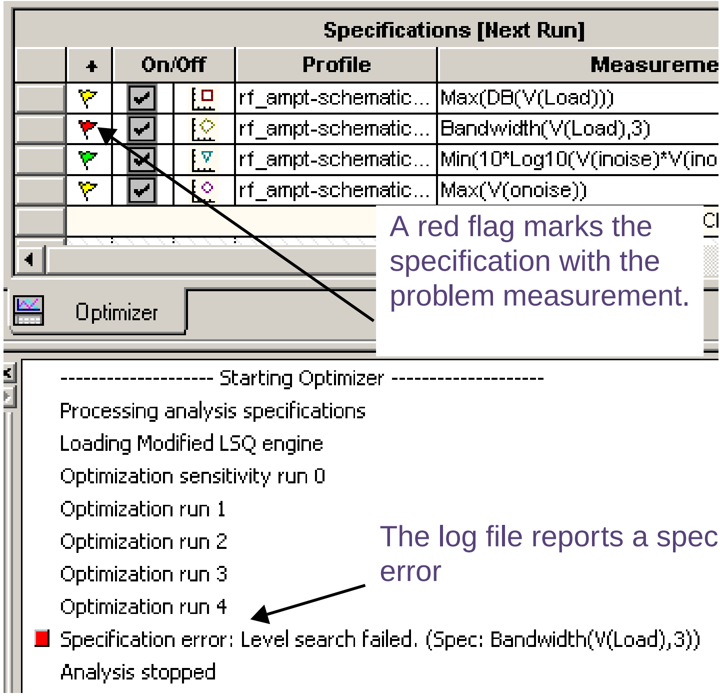
Error Graph with history cleared

7 Make sure the **Modified LSQ** engine is selected and click ▶ on the top toolbar to start the optimization.



Click to start optimization

The optimization starts and makes four run attempts.



Specifications [Next Run]

	✦	On/Off		Profile	Measureme
	⚑	☑		rf_ampt-schematic...	Max(DB(V(Load)))
	⚑	☑		rf_ampt-schematic...	Bandwidth(V(Load),3)
	⚑	☑		rf_ampt-schematic...	Min(10*Log10(V(inoise)*V(ino
	⚑	☑		rf_ampt-schematic...	Max(V(onoise))

A red flag marks the specification with the problem measurement.

```
------------------- Starting Optimizer -------------------
Processing analysis specifications
Loading Modified LSQ engine
Optimization sensitivity run 0
Optimization run 1
Optimization run 2
Optimization run 3
Optimization run 4
Specification error: Level search failed. (Spec: Bandwidth(V(Load),3))
Analysis stopped
```

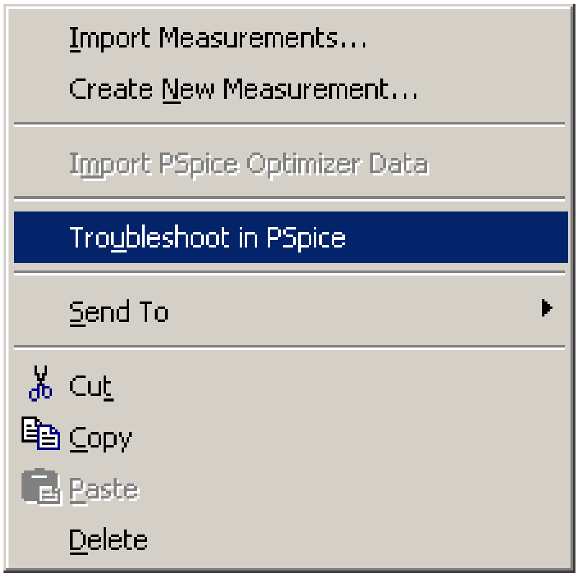
The log file reports a specification error

The Optimizer failed to find a solution. Let’s troubleshoot the problem measurement in PSpice.

Using the troubleshooting function

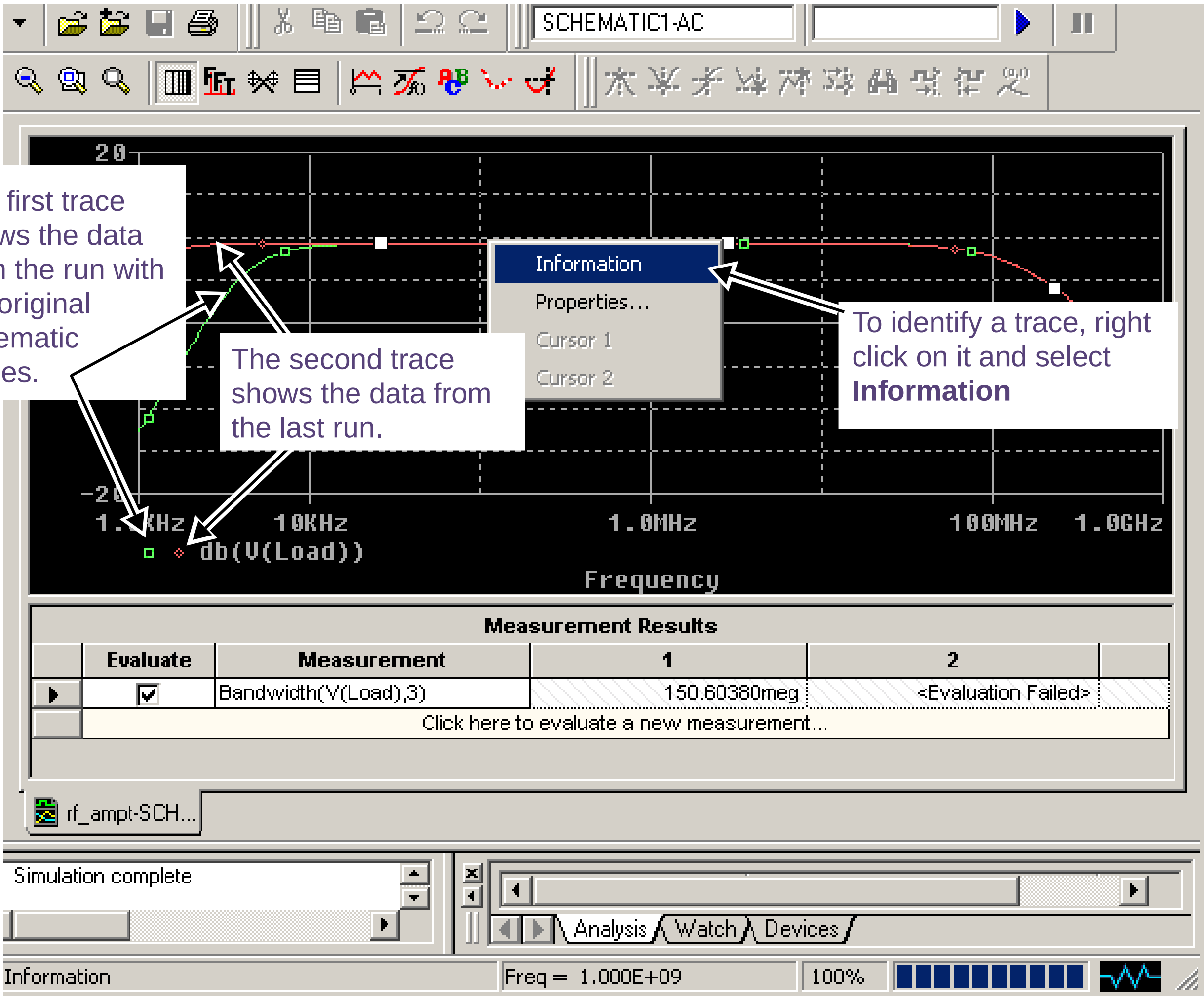
1 Right click in the specification row marked by the red flag (second row, Bandwidth(V(Load),3)).

A pop-up menu appears.



2 From the pop-up menu, select **Troubleshoot in PSpice**.

PSpice opens and the measurement specification data displays in the window.



The first trace shows the data from the run with the original schematic values.

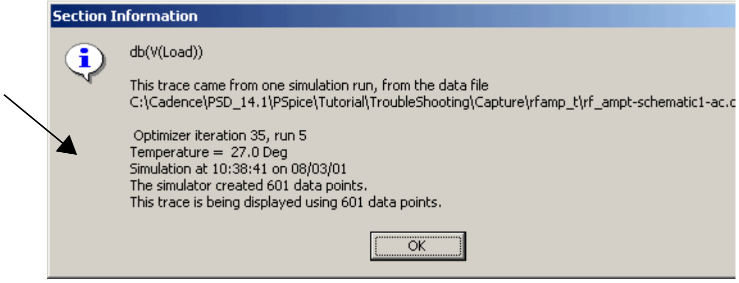
The second trace shows the data from the last run.

To identify a trace, right click on it and select **Information**

Measurement Results

	Evaluate	Measurement	1	2
▶	☑	Bandwidth(V(Load),3)	150.60380meg	<Evaluation Failed>
	Click here to evaluate a new measurement...			

A message appears about the trace data



Section Information

db(V(Load))

This trace came from one simulation run, from the data file
C:\Cadence\PSD_14.1\PSpice\Tutorial\TroubleShooting\Capture\rfamp_t\rf_ampt-schematic1-ac.d

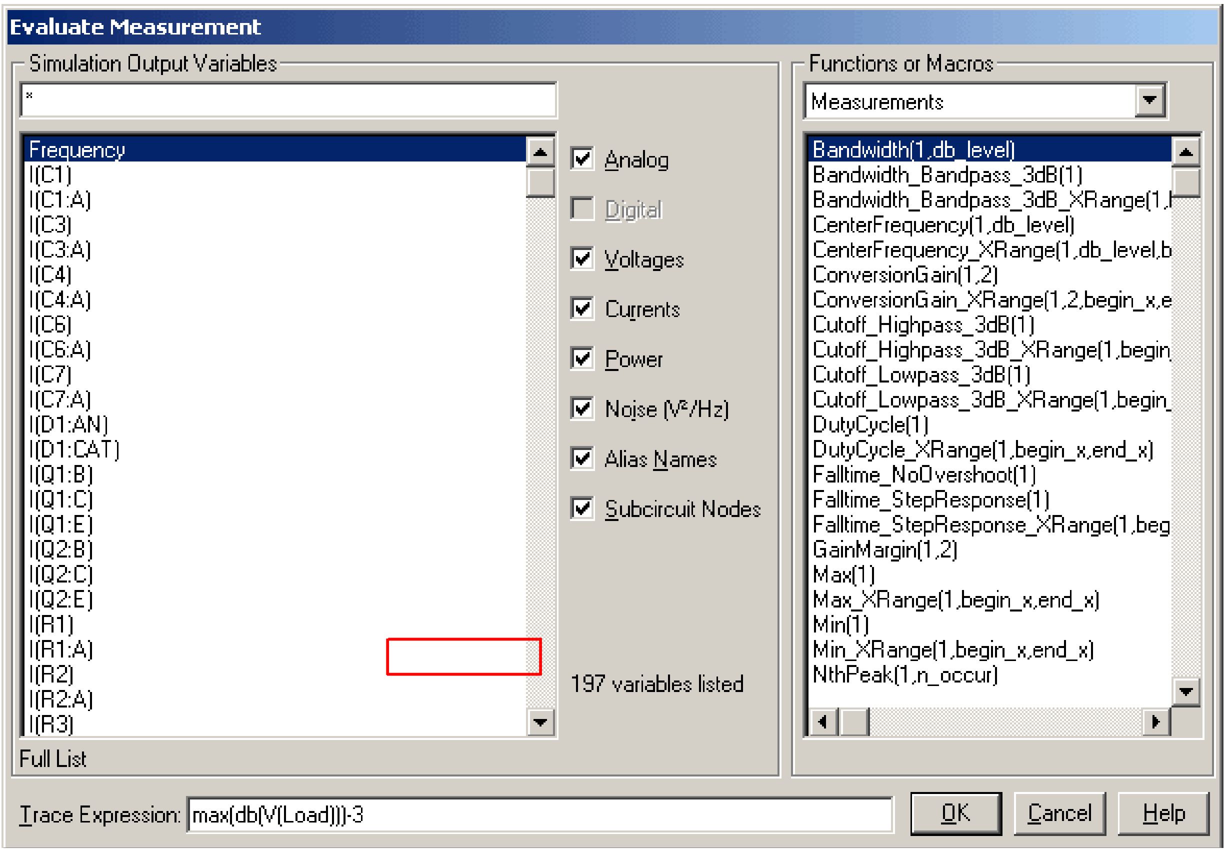
Optimizer iteration 35, run 5
Temperature = 27.0 Deg
Simulation at 10:38:41 on 08/03/01
The simulator created 601 data points.
This trace is being displayed using 601 data points.

Analyzing the trace data

We know the bandwidth constraint failed. We'll add a measurement in PSpice to find the -3dB point of the trace.

1 Click at the bottom of the Measurements Results table.

The Evaluate Measurement dialog box appears.



Evaluate Measurement

Simulation Output Variables

*

Frequency
I(C1)
I(C1:A)
I(C3)
I(C3:A)
I(C4)
I(C4:A)
I(C6)
I(C6:A)
I(C7)
I(C7:A)
I(D1:AN)
I(D1:CAT)
I(Q1:B)
I(Q1:C)
I(Q1:E)
I(Q2:B)
I(Q2:C)
I(Q2:E)
I(R1)
I(R1:A)
I(R2)
I(R2:A)
I(R3)

Full List

☑ Analog
☐ Digital
☑ Voltages
☑ Currents
☑ Power
☑ Noise (V²/Hz)
☑ Alias Names
☑ Subcircuit Nodes

197 variables listed

Functions or Macros

Measurements

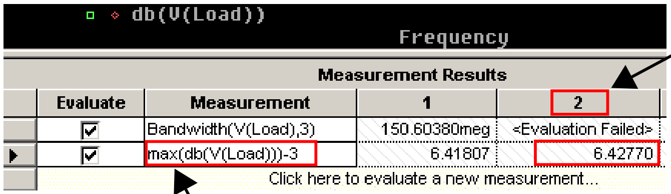
Bandwidth(1,db_level)
Bandwidth_Bandpass_3dB(1)
Bandwidth_Bandpass_3dB_XRange(1,b
CenterFrequency(1,db_level)
CenterFrequency_XRange(1,db_level,b
ConversionGain(1,2)
ConversionGain_XRange(1,2,begin_x,e
Cutoff_Highpass_3dB(1)
Cutoff_Highpass_3dB_XRange(1,begin
Cutoff_Lowpass_3dB(1)
Cutoff_Lowpass_3dB_XRange(1,begin_
DutyCycle(1)
DutyCycle_XRange(1,begin_x,end_x)
Falltime_NoOvershoot(1)
Falltime_StepResponse(1)
Falltime_StepResponse_XRange(1,beg
GainMargin(1,2)
Max(1)
Max_XRange(1,begin_x,end_x)
Min(1)
Min_XRange(1,begin_x,end_x)
NthPeak(1,n_occur)

Trace Expression: max(db(V(Load)))-3

2 In the Trace Expression field at the bottom, type in:

max(db(v(load)))-3

A measurement that calculates the -3dB point appears in the Measurement Results table.



db(V(Load))

Frequency

Measurement Results

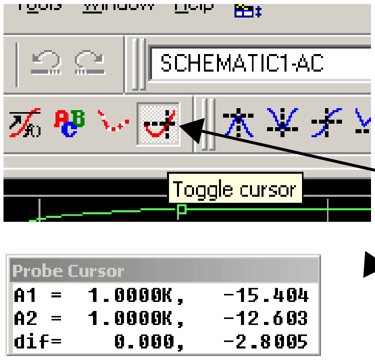
Evaluate	Measurement	1	2
☑	Bandwidth(V(Load),3)	150.60380meg	<Evaluation Failed>
☑	max(db(V(Load)))-3	6.41807	6.42770
	Click here to evaluate a new measurement...		

Trace 2

6.4 dB

The new measurement shows that the -3dB point of trace 2 is at 6.4 dB

3 Click to enable the Probe cursor.

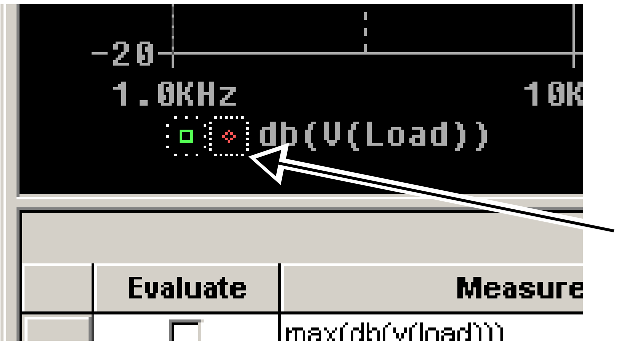


Probe Cursor

```
A1 =   1.0000K,    -15.404
A2 =   1.0000K,    -12.603
dif=     0.000,    -2.8005
```

Click to activate the probe cursor

4 Activate trace 2 in the probe cursor.



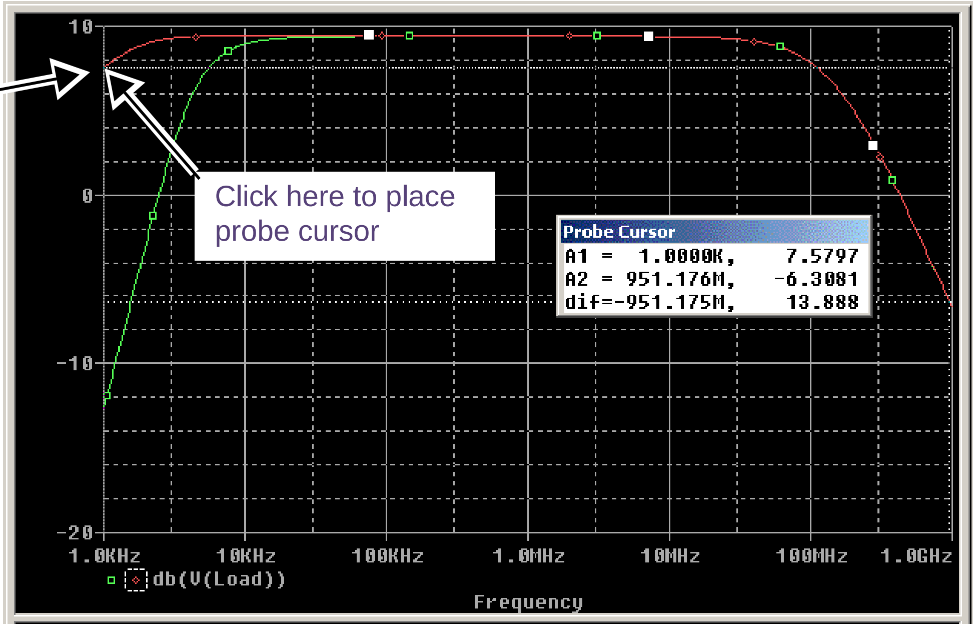
Click to activate trace 2 in the probe cursor

5 Click at the left end of trace 2.

The probe cursor shows that trace 2's -3dB point (6.4dB) occurs before 1kHz.

The Optimizer is increasing the bandwidth as we asked it to in the measurement specification, but not exactly in the way we wanted.

While this results show a slightly higher bandwidth, we are more interested in increasing the cut-off frequency.



At 1kHz, the gain is 7.58 dB

Click here to place probe cursor

Probe Cursor

```
A1 =   1.0000K,     7.5797
A2 = 951.176M,    -6.3081
dif=-951.175M,     13.888
```

Resolving the optimization

One solution may be to introduce a specification that keeps the low frequency cutoff above 1kHz, but this would complicate the optimization and take longer to complete.

Another solution may be to simplify things. It could be that we have given the optimizer too many degrees of freedom (parameters), some of which may not be necessary for meeting our goals.

Let’s check out the bandwidth measurement in Sensitivity to see which components are the most sensitive.

Sensitivity check

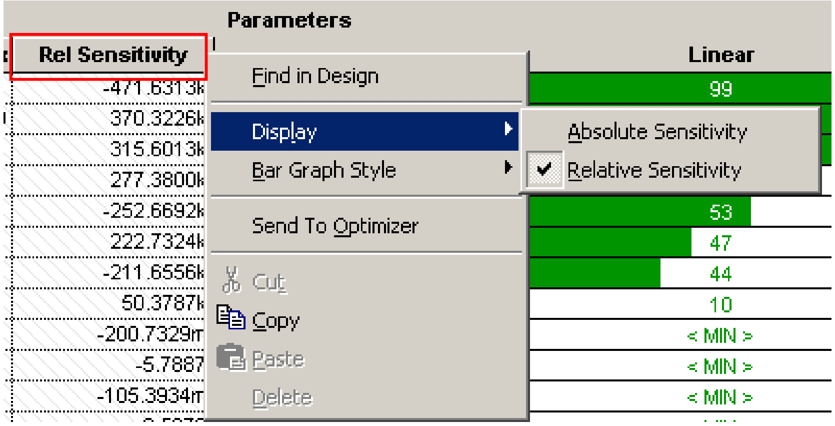
1 Return to Advanced Analysis and from the View menu, select **Sensitivity**.

The Sensitivity tool opens.

2 Make sure **Rel Sensitivity** is displayed in the Parameters table.

If you need to change the display from absolute to relative sensitivity:

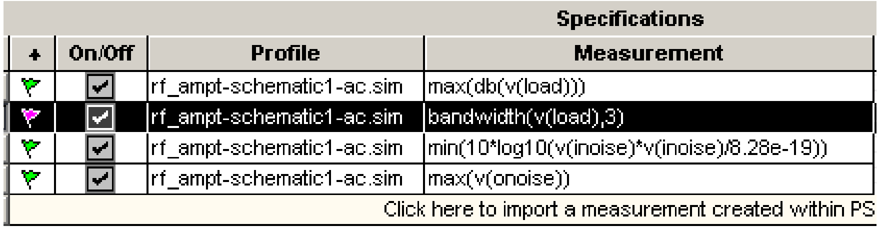
❑ Right click and from the pop-up menu choose Display / Relative Sensitivity.



Parameters

Rel Sensitivity	Linear
-471.6313k	99
370.3226k	
315.6013k	
277.3800k	
-252.6692k	53
222.7324k	47
-211.6556k	44
50.3787k	10
-200.7329m	< MIN >
-5.7887	< MIN >
-105.3934m	< MIN >

3 In the Specifications table, select the bandwidth measurement (second row).



Specifications

+	On/Off	Profile	Measurement
	☑	rf_ampt-schematic1-ac.sim	max(db(v(load)))
	☑	rf_ampt-schematic1-ac.sim	bandwidth(v(load),3)
	☑	rf_ampt-schematic1-ac.sim	min(10*log10(v(inoise)*v(inoise)/8.28e-19))
	☑	rf_ampt-schematic1-ac.sim	max(v(onoise))

Click here to import a measurement created within PS

4 Click ▶ on the top toolbar to start the sensitivity analysis.

Sensitivity runs.

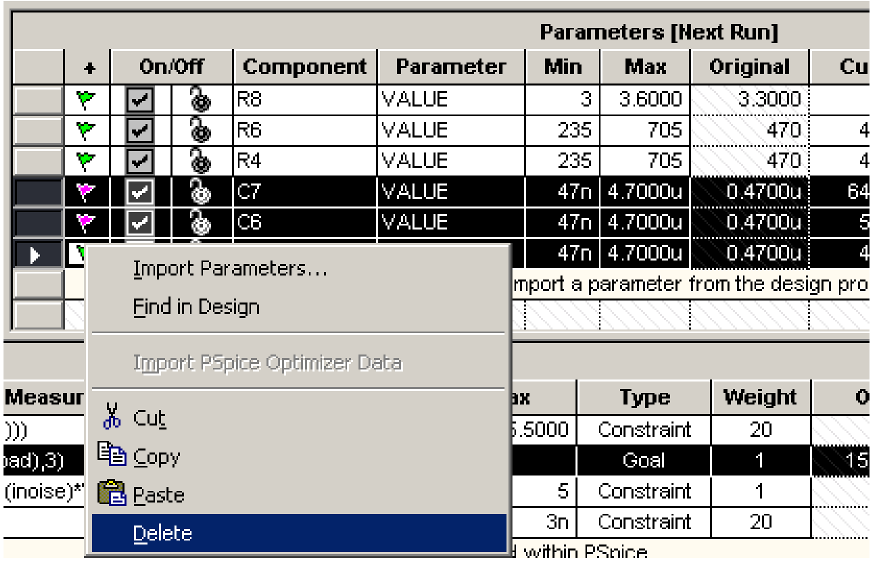
We can see that in the relative sensitivity analysis, Capacitors 3, 6, and 7 are not critical to the bandwidth response.

We'll return to Optimizer and remove the capacitors from the optimization analysis. Reducing variables may help Optimizer reach a solution.

Optimizer rerun

1 Return to the Optimizer tool and in the Parameters table, hold down your shift key and select the capacitor rows.

2 Right click and select **Delete** from the pop-up menu.



Parameters [Next Run]

	+	On/Off		Component	Parameter	Min	Max	Original	Cu
		☑		R8	VALUE	3	3.6000	3.3000	
		☑		R6	VALUE	235	705	470	4
		☑		R4	VALUE	235	705	470	4
		☑		C7	VALUE	47n	4.7000u	0.4700u	64
		☑		C6	VALUE	47n	4.7000u	0.4700u	5
						47n	4.7000u	0.4700u	4
						mport a parameter from the design pro			

Measur	ax	Type	Weight	O
)))	.5000	Constraint	20	
ad),3)		Goal	1	15
(inoise)*	5	Constraint	1	
	3n	Constraint	20	
	within PSpice			

3 If there is any history in the Error Graph, right click in the Error Graph window and select **Clear History** from the pop-up menu.

4 Select the Modified LSQ engine and click ▶ on the top toolbar to start the optimization.

The optimization starts and finds a solution.

Common problems and solutions

This section suggests solutions to problems you may encounter in any of the Advanced Analysis tools.

Check the following tables for answers these problems:

- Analysis fails
- Results are not what you expected
- Can’t make user interface do what you want
- Not enough disk space or memory

Analysis fails

Problem: Analysis fails	Possible cause	Solution
Smoke analysis won’t run.	May not have a transient profile in the design. If a transient profile is included in the design, Smoke automatically picks the first transient profile for the analysis.	Smoke analysis only works if you have one or more transient profiles. Smoke does not work on AC or DC sweeps.
Smoke analysis won’t run: message says “cannot find .dat file.”	Transient analysis simulation may not be done.	Simulate the transient analysis in PSpice, review the waveform and measurement results, then run Smoke.

Problem: Analysis fails	Possible cause	Solution
Smoke analysis fails: Output window displays the following error for smoke parameters: “Data not found for Smoke test. Please verify Save Data and Data Collection options in the simulation profile”	Data save start time is not zero or data collection options for voltages, currents and power is not set to **All**.	From the **Simulation** menu in PSpice, choose **Edit Profile** to open the **Simulation Settings** dialog box. Ensure that the data save start time in the **Analysis** tab is 0. Smoke analysis works only if data save start time is zero seconds. Or From the **Simulation** menu in PSpice, choose **Edit Profile** to open the **Simulation Settings** dialog box. Ensure that the data collection options in the **Data Collection** tab is set to **All** for voltages, currents and power.
Monte Carlo analysis takes too long.	The number of runs may be too large.	Decrease the number of runs in the Monte Carlo settings tab (from the **Edit** menu, select **Profile Settings** and click the **Monte Carlo** tab).
I get an evaluation error message.	You might be using the wrong profile for the type of measurement you’re evaluating.	Check the selected profile and change it to the profile that applies to your measurement. For example, change to an AC profile to evaluate bandwidth.

Problem: Analysis fails	Possible cause	Solution
Optimization didn't converge.	The engine may have found a local minimum, which may not be the best solution. See "Local and global minimums" on page 270.	Use the Random engine to search for alternate starting points. Go to the Error Graph history and copy the best Random engine result to the Nth run (the end). Then switch to the Modified LSQ or LSQ engine to pinpoint the final answer.
Optimization didn't converge after running through several iterations.	The parameters have changed the circuit's behavior, so the simulation results may not provide the information needed to meet the measurement goal.	Use the **Troubleshoot in PSpice** feature to check the shapes of the traces and make sure they are appropriate for the desired measurement (right click on a measurement row and select the Troubleshoot command from the pop-up menu). For example, do the traces show that the filter still looks like a bandpass? Try changing the simulation settings to increase the range of frequencies. Or Restrict the parameter ranges in the Optimizer **Parameters** table to prevent the problem.
Optimization didn't converge, but it looked like it was improving.	Too few iterations.	Increase number of iterations in the Optimizer engine settings tab (from the **Edit** menu, select **Profile Settings** and click the **Optimizer** tab.)

Problem: Analysis fails	Possible cause	Solution
Smoke analysis fails: Output window displays the following error for smoke parameters: “Data not found for Smoke test. Please verify Save Data and Data Collection options in the simulation profile”	Data save start time is not zero or data collection options for voltages, currents and power is not set to **All**.	From the **Simulation** menu in PSpice, choose **Edit Profile** to open the **Simulation Settings** dialog box. Ensure that the data save start time in the **Analysis** tab is 0. Smoke analysis works only if data save start time is zero seconds. Or From the **Simulation** menu in PSpice, choose **Edit Profile** to open the **Simulation Settings** dialog box. Ensure that the data collection options in the **Data Collection** tab is set to **All** for voltages, currents and power.
Monte Carlo analysis takes too long.	The number of runs may be too large.	Decrease the number of runs in the Monte Carlo settings tab (from the **Edit** menu, select **Profile Settings** and click the **Monte Carlo** tab).
I get an evaluation error message.	You might be using the wrong profile for the type of measurement you’re evaluating.	Check the selected profile and change it to the profile that applies to your measurement. For example, change to an AC profile to evaluate bandwidth.

Problem: Analysis fails	Possible cause	Solution
Optimization didn't converge.	The engine may have found a local minimum, which may not be the best solution. See "Local and global minimums" on page 270.	Use the Random engine to search for alternate starting points. Go to the Error Graph history and copy the best Random engine result to the Nth run (the end). Then switch to the Modified LSQ or LSQ engine to pinpoint the final answer.
Optimization didn't converge after running through several iterations.	The parameters have changed the circuit's behavior, so the simulation results may not provide the information needed to meet the measurement goal.	Use the **Troubleshoot in PSpice** feature to check the shapes of the traces and make sure they are appropriate for the desired measurement (right click on a measurement row and select the Troubleshoot command from the pop-up menu). For example, do the traces show that the filter still looks like a bandpass? Try changing the simulation settings to increase the range of frequencies. Or Restrict the parameter ranges in the Optimizer **Parameters** table to prevent the problem.
Optimization didn't converge, but it looked like it was improving.	Too few iterations.	Increase number of iterations in the Optimizer engine settings tab (from the **Edit** menu, select **Profile Settings** and click the **Optimizer** tab.)

Problem: Analysis fails	Possible cause	Solution
Optimization didn't converge. Parameters didn't change much from their original values.	Selected parameters may not be sensitive to the chosen measurement.	Choose different parameters more sensitive to the chosen measurement.
Optimization didn't converge. It was improving for a few iterations, then the Error Graph traces flattened out.	One or more parameters may have reached its limit.	If appropriate, change the range of any parameter that is near its limit, to allow the parameter to exceed the limit. If the limit cannot be changed, you may want to disable that parameter because it is not useful for optimization and will make the analysis take longer.

Results are not what you expected

Return to top of table.

Problem: Results are not what you expected	Possible cause	Solution
I set up my circuit and ran Smoke, but I'm not getting the results I expected.	Your components may not have smoke parameters specified.	Check the online *Advanced Analysis Library List* and *PSpice library list* for a complete list of components supplied with smoke parameters. Replace your existing components with those containing smoke parameters. or For R,L and C components, add the design variables table (default variables) to your schematic. This table contains default smoke parameters and values. See the Libraries chapter of this manual for instructions on how to add this table to your schematic. or Add smoke parameters to your component models using the instructions provided in our technical note, "Creating Models with Smoke Parameters," which is available on www.orcadpcb.com.

Problem: Results are not what you expected	Possible cause	Solution
Smoke analysis peak results don’t look right: measured values are too small.	Transient analysis may not be long enough to include the expected peaks or may not have sufficient resolution to detect sharp spikes.	Check the transient analysis results in PSpice. Make sure the analysis includes any expected peaks. If necessary, edit the simulation profile to change the length of the simulation or to take smaller steps for better resolution.
Smoke analysis average or RMS measured results are not what I expected.	Transient analysis may not be set up correctly.	Check the transient analysis results in PSpice. Make sure the average of voltages and currents over the entire range is the average value you’re looking for. If you want the measurement average to be based on steady-state operation, make sure the analysis runs long enough and that you only save data for the period over which you want to average.
I selected a custom derating or standard derating file in Smoke, but my %Derating and %Max values didn’t change.	Need to click the Run button to recalculate the Smoke results with the new derating factors.	In Smoke, click ▶ on the top toolbar and wait for the new values to appear.
My Smoke result has a yellow flag and a cell is grey.	The limit (average, RMS, or peak) is not typically defined for this parameter. Grey results show the calculated simulation values; however, grey results also indicate that comparison with the limit may not be valid.	The information is provided this way for user convenience, to show all calculated simulation values (average, RMS, and peak), but comparison to limits requires user interpretation. The color coding is intended to help.

Problem: Results are not what you expected	Possible cause	Solution
The derating factor for the PDM smoke parameter isn't 100% even though I'm using No Derating.	This is OK. Smoke applies a thermal correction to the calculation.	None needed. This is normal behavior.
My Optimizer results don't look right. The current results are missing.	Your cursor might be set on a prior run in the Error Graph. The results you see are history.	In the Error Graph, click on the Nth (end) run's vertical line. Current results will appear in the **Parameters** table.
In Optimizer, I finally get a good parameter value, but as I continue optimizing other things, the good parameter value keeps changing.	The good parameter value needs to be locked in so it won't change for the next runs.	In the Optimizer **Parameters** table, click the 🔓 icon for the applicable parameter. This will close the lock and the parameter value will not change for subsequent runs.
In Optimizer, there aren't any discrete values listed for my component.	Discrete values tables are provided for RLCs. If your component is not an RLC, you'll have to create a discrete values table.	Create a discrete values table for your non-RLC component using instructions provided in "Adding User-Defined Discrete Table" on page 132.
Can't see the Optimizer discrete tables column.	Optimizer engine is not set to **Discrete**.	Change the Optimizer engine to **Discrete** in the drop-down list.
I can't find my individual Monte Carlo run results.	Raw measurement tab is not selected.	Click on the tab labeled **Raw Meas** to bring individual run results to the foreground on your screen.
I want more detail on my Monte Carlo graph.	Bin size is too small for desired detail.	Increase bin size in the Monte Carlo setting tab (from the **Edit** menu, select **Profile Settings** and click the **Monte Carlo** tab).

Problem: Results are not what you expected	Possible cause	Solution
The Monte Carlo PDF / CDF graph doesn’t look right for my measurement.	The applicable measurement row may not be highlighted.	Click on the measurement row. The resulting graph corresponds to that measurement.
I can’t see the CDF graph.	Graph defaults to PDF view.	Right click the graph and select **CDF graph** from the pop-up menu.
I can’t find the parameter values for my Monte Carlo runs.	Monte Carlo parameter values are only available in the log file.	From the **View** menu, select **Log File** / **Monte Carlo** and scroll through the file to the applicable run.

Can’t make user interface do what you want

Return to top of table.

Problem: Can’t make user interface do what you want	Possible cause	Solution
I can’t get all my red bar graphs to appear at the top of my Smoke or Sensitivity tables.	Data isn’t sorted.	Click twice on the bar graph column header. The first click puts all the red bars at the bottom. The second click puts them at the top.
I don’t want to see the grey bars in Smoke.	Average, RMS, or peak limits that don’t apply to your parameter may be selected for viewing.	Double click the message flag column header. This will sort the grey bars so they appear at the bottom of the data display. or Right click and uncheck the average, RMS, or peak values on the right click pop-up menu.

Problem: Can’t make user interface do what you want	Possible cause	Solution
Why can’t I use my Monte Carlo settings and results from PSpice A/D?	The programs are separate and use different input.	Advanced Analysis Monte Carlo provides more information and can be run on more than one specification simultaneously. This is the trade-off.
Monte Carlo cursor won’t drag to a new location.	The cursor can be moved, but it doesn’t use the drag and drop method.	Click once on the cursor. Click in your desired location. The cursor moves to the location of the second click.

Not enough disk space or memory

Return to top of table.

Problem: Not enough disk space or memory	Possible cause	Solution
I get a disk space error message or an out of memory message and I’m running a Monte Carlo analysis.	Too much data is being saved for the Monte Carlo runs. For example, in a 10,000-run Monte Carlo analysis where all data is collected and saved, the data file and memory usage may become very large.	Turn off the option to save all simulation waveform data in Advanced Analysis. By doing this, saved data will be limited to just the current run. However, at this setting, the simulation will run slower. To turn off the data storage: **1.** From the Advance Analysis menu select: Edit / Profile Settings/ Simulation tab **2.** From the Monte Carlo field, select **Save None** from the drop-down list Advanced Analysis will overwrite the data file for each run.

Problem: Not enough disk space or memory	Possible cause	Solution
I get a disk space error message or an out of memory message and I'm running a Monte Carlo analysis (continued).	Too much data is being collected for each simulation run. For instance, collecting voltages, currents, power, digital data, noise data, and all of these for internal subcircuit components results in a large data file and large memory use. Note: You can also place markers on nets, pins, and devices on the schematic and collect data at these marker locations. In PSpice, set the data collection option to **At Markers Only** for all the data types you want. See the schematic editor help for more information on how to use markers on the schematic.	Limit data collection to only the information that is needed to perform Advanced Analysis. You can do this in conjunction with the data file solution mentioned on the previous page or do just this and save data for all Monte Carlo runs. To change data collection options for each simulation, do the following for each simulation profile used in Advanced Analysis: **1.** From the PSpice Simulation menu, select Edit Profile. **2.** In the Simulation Settings dialog box, select the Data Collection tab. **3.** Set the data collection option to **None** for all the data types that are not required. Use the drop-down list to select the option. **4.** Set the data collection option to **All but Internal Subcircuits** for data required for Advanced Analysis. Use the drop-down list to select the option.

Property Files

A

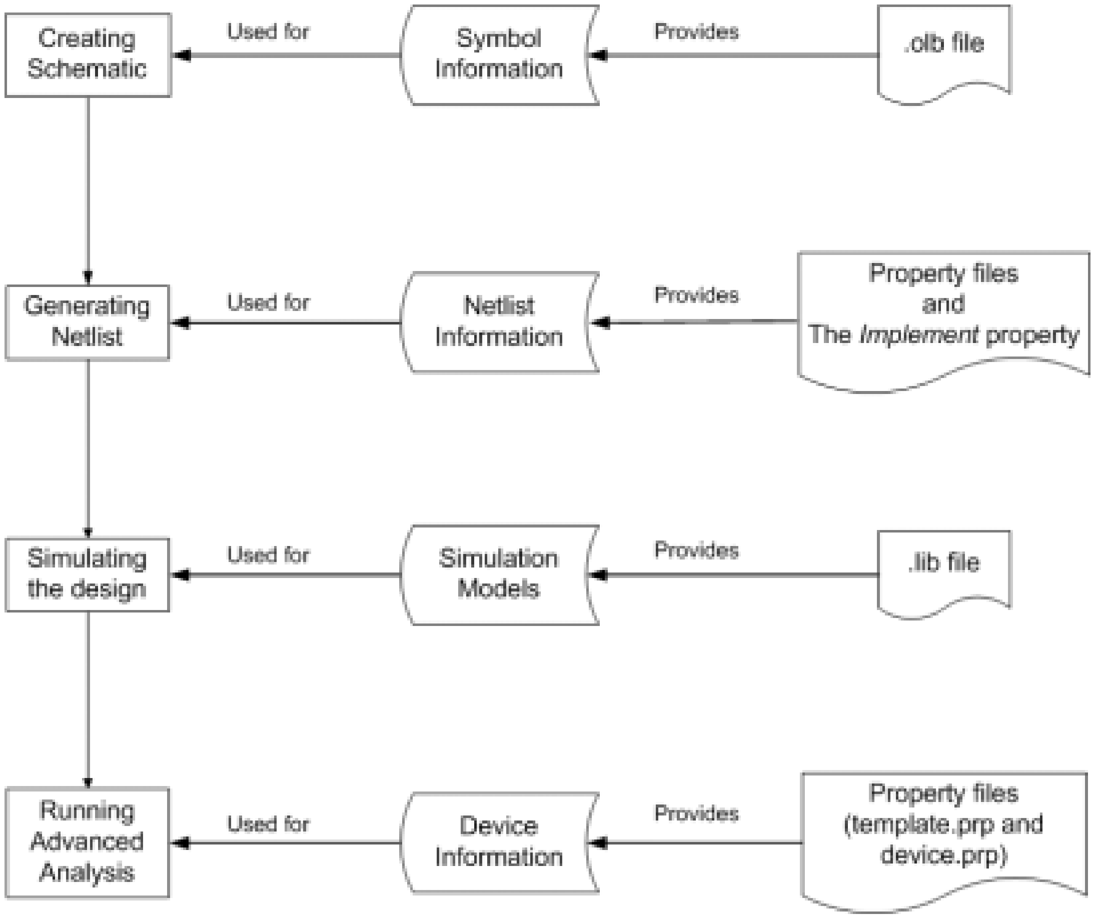
PSpice A/DAMS has an additional feature called Advanced Analysis. Using Advanced Analysis, you can run the following analyses:

- Sensitivity
- Monte Carlo
- Optimizer
- Smoke
- Parametric Plotter

For Advanced Analysis runs along with the simulation data, Advanced Analysis needs other device-specific data as well. Device-specific data, such as device parameter tolerance and maximum operating conditions, is available in property files. These property files are shipped along with PSpice libraries.

Property files are organized as the template property file and the device property file. The template property file contains generic information for a particular class of devices. The device property file contains information specific to a device.

The diagram shown below depicts the Capture-PSpice flow and the files used in the flow.


Creating Schematic
Used for
Symbol Information
Provides
.olb file
Generating Netlist
Used for
Netlist Information
Provides
Property files and The *Implement* property
Simulating the design
Used for
Simulation Models
Provides
.lib file
Running Advanced Analysis
Used for
Device Information
Provides
Property files (template.prp and device.prp)

Template property file

The template property file (TEMPLATES.PRP) contains information for all device types supported by PSpiceAMS. Only the information that is common across a set of devices is available in the template property file. Model information contained in this file includes simulation information and smoke information.

The template property file contains definitions of simulation parameters. It also lists the default values and the units for each of the simulation parameters.

For smoke, it lists parameter definitions, node to port mapping information, and the list of the smoke tests to be performed for a particular device or a family of devices.

A template property file has the following sections:

- The model_info section
- The model_params section
- The smoke section
    - max_ops_desc
    - pre_smoke
    - max_ops
    - smoke_tests

The template for the TEMPLATES.PRP file is shown below:

```
("0"
     (Creator "Template property file created by
analog_uprev on Wed Jan  3 09:57:42 IST 2001")
     ("model_info"
          ( ... )
     )
     (SMOKE
          ( "pre_smoke"
               (...)
          )
          ( "max_ops"
               (...)
          )
          ( "smoke_tests"
               (...)
          )
     )
)
(...)

("4"
     (Creator "....")
     ("model_info"
          (...)
     )
     ("model_params"
     ("level_0"
          ( "IS"
               ( ... )
          )
          ...
          )
     (SMOKE
          ...
          ...
     )
```

Table A-1 lists the sections of property files and the analysis in which these sections are used.

Table A-1 Usage of different sections of a property file

Statements/Sections in the property file...	Used in...
model_params	Optimization Monte Carlo analysis Sensitivity analysis
POSTOL and NEGTOL	Monte Carlo analysis Sensitivity analysis
DERATE_TYPE	Smoke analysis
smoke section	Smoke analysis
max_ops	Smoke analysis

The model_info section

A part of the TEMPLATES.PRP file containing the model_info section for an OPAMP model is shown below:

```
("739"
("model_info"
           ( SYMBOL_TYPE  "38" )
           ( DEFAULT_SYMBOL  "5_Pin_Opamp" )
           ( NAME  "FET Input Opamp" )
           ( "spice_dsg" "X" )
           ( "model_type" "M" )
      )
...
```

The first line in a template property file specifies the model template number. The model template number is used as a reference in the device property file to locate the generic model definition in the template property file.

The model_info section contains information such as symbol type, default symbol, symbol name, spice designator, and model type. Spice designator indicates the type of PSpice device. For example, the spice designator for an template-based diode model is X and the spice designator for the diode model based on device characteristic curves is D. Similarly, the model type can be either M for macro models or P for primitive models.

The model_params section

The model_params section lists all simulation parameters, along with the parameter types and the default values of the parameters, tolerances, and distributions.

All the parameters listed in this section are used for Sensitivity, Monte Carlo, and Optimizer runs. All of these properties can be made available to the Optimizer, provided they are added as properties on the part symbol in the schematic editor. These properties can also be used for Monte Carlo analysis if they have a POSTOL and NEGTOL place holders.

The model_params section starts with a level entry, which indicates the level of simulation parameters supported. For some of the models, there can be more that one level present in the property file. In case of multiple level models, as the parameter level goes higher, the number of simulation parameters included in the model increases. The highest level has all the simulation parameters of lower levels and some more simulation parameters.

For most of the models, the level is level_0 indicating that the model is a single-level model, and therefore, all the simulation parameters listed under level_0 are used while simulating the models.

If the level values are level_1, level_2, and level_3, the model is a multi-level model. For multi-level models, you can specify the simulation parameters to be used while simulating the device, using the LEVEL property on the device symbol. For example, if you specify the value of the LEVEL property as 2, only the simulation properties listed under level_1 and level_2 are used while simulating the device.

Note: For some of the models, the simulation parameters are divided into different levels. The level of parameters determines the complexity of the model. Higher the level more complex is the model. Level 1 indicates the lowest level of complexity. While simulating a device, you can specify the level of the simulation parameters to be used by adding the LEVEL property on the symbol in the schematic editor. Use Level 1 simulation parameters when you want to fast but not so accurate simulation results. Using Level 3 parameters increases the accuracy of simulation results but also increases the simulation time.

Template-based OPAMP models are an example of multi-level models supported by PSpiceAMS.

A part of the TEMPLATES.PRP file containing the model_params section for an OPAMP model is shown below.

```
...
("model_params"
    ("level_1"
      ( "VOS"
           ( "description" "Offset voltage" )
           ( "units" "V" )
           ( "val" "1e-6" )
           ...
("level_2"
 ( "CMRR"
      ( "description" "Common-mode reject." )
      ( "units" "V/V" )
      ( "val" "100000" )
      ...
      ...
```

Within the LEVEL section, various simulation parameters are defined. A parameter definition includes parameter description, measurement unit, and the default parameter value.

The information listed under the model_params section is used by the Model Editor also. The Model Editor reads this information and displays it in the Parameter Entry form.

The smoke section

This section of the template property file is used during the smoke analysis. The main objective of a smoke analysis is to calculate the safe operating limit of all the parts used in a circuit, given the Maximum Operating Conditions (MOCs) for each device in the circuit. These MOCs are defined in the smoke section of the property file.

The smoke section of the template property file contains smoke parameter definitions and how to measure them for a particular device or family of devices. Smoke parameters are used for defining maximum conditions that can be applied to a device.

The max_ops_desc section

The max_ops_desc section contains the description of the smoke parameters along with the unit of measurement for the parameter. All the entries in this section are displayed in the smoke parameters window in Model Editor.

For example:

```
( "IPLUS"
  ("description"  "Max input current(+)" )
  ("unit"  "A" )
)
```

where

IPLUS	smoke parameter
("description" "Max input current(+)"	description of IPLUS; maximum input current at the positive terminal.
("unit" "A")	unit of measurement is Ampere

The pre_smoke section

The pre_smoke section lists default mapping between the node names and the corresponding port names in the part symbol. This information is visible to you in the Test Node Mapping frame in the Model Editor. For template-based models, this information is not editable, but for non-parameterized models, you can edit this information. A sample of the pre_smoke section is shown below:

```
( "pre_smoke"
                ( NODE_POS "PIN" )
                ( NODE_NEG "NIN" )
                ( NODE_VCC "PVss" )
                ( NODE_VEE "NVss" )
                ( NODE_GND "0" )
                ( TERM_POS "-1" )
                ( TERM_NEG "-2" )
                ( TERM_OUT "-3" )
                ( DERATE_TYPE "OPAMP" )
```

The pre_smoke section also lists the derate type. The DERATE_TYPE line specifies the derate type to be used for the model. The derate types are defined in the STANDARD.DRT file.

Note: To find out more about derate types and derating files, see the chapter on Smoke.

Table A-2 lists the supported DERATE_TYPEs.

Table A-2 Supported derate type

DERATE_TYPE	Part
RES	Resistor
CAP	Capacitor
IND	Inductor
DIODE	Diode
NPN	NPN Bipolar Junction Transistor
PNP	PNP Bipolar Junction Transistor
JFET	Junction FET
N-CHANNEL	N-Channel JFET
P-CHANNEL	P-Channel JFET

Table A-2 Supported derate type

DERATE_TYPE	Part
NMESFET	N-Channel MESFET
PMESFET	P-Channel MESFET
MOS	MOSFET
NMOS	N-Channel MOSFET
PMOS	P-Channel MOSFET
OPAMP	Operational Amplifiers
ZENER	Zener Diode
IGBT	Ins Gate Bipolar Transistor
VARISTOR	Varistor
DIODE_BRIDE	Half Wave and Full Wave Rectifier
OCNN	
OCNPN	Octo Coupler using NPN transistor
THYRISTOR	Thyristor
SCR	Silicon Controlled Rectifier
VSRC	Voltage Source
C_REG_DIODE	Current Regulator Diode
POS_REG	Positive Voltage Regulator
LED	Light Emitting Diode
LASER	Laser
DUALNPN	Dual NPN Transistor
DUALPNP	Dual PNP Transistor
DUALNMOS	Dual NMOS
DUALPMOS	Dual PMOS

Table A-2 Supported derate type

DERATE_TYPE	Part
NPN_PNP	NPN and PNP transistors fabricated together
NMOS_PMOS	NMOS and PMOS fabricated together

Using DERATE_TYPE, the derating factor is read from the STANDARD.DRT file. This file lists the default derating factor for all the smoke parameters for a particular device.

Derating factor is the safety factor that you can add to a manufacturer’s maximum operating condition (MOC). It is usually a percentage of the manufacturer’s MOC for a specific component. MOCs, the derating factor, and Safe Operating Limits (SOL) are connected by the following equation.

$$\mathrm{MOC} \times \mathrm{derating}\overset{=}{\mathrm{f}}\mathrm{actor} = \mathrm{SOL}$$

You can also create you own derate file. You can use the CUSTOM_DERATING_TEMPLATE.DRT file as the template for creating new derate files.

Tip

To find out how to create custom derating files see the technical note titled *Creating Custom Derating Files for Advanced Analysis Smoke* on www.orcadpcb.com.

The max_ops section in the template property file lists the default values of MOCs. This information can be overridden by the information contained in the device property file.

Finally, the smoke test section of a template property file defines the test performed and the nodes for which the test holds.

Example:

A section of the template property file defining the IMINUS smoke parameter is listed below:

```
( "IMINUS"
           ("test" "current_test" )
           ("term" TERM_NEG)
```

To test for the maximum input current at the negative terminal of OPAMP, Advanced Analysis runs the current_test.

> **Note:** The actual value of the terminal is obtained from the device_pre_smoke or PORT_ORDER section of the corresponding DEVICE.PRP file.

A list of valid test types and their descriptions are listed in the table below:

Test Name	Descriptions
current_test	Finds current in the specified terminal
power_test	Finds power dissipation of the device
temp_null_test	
voltage_test	Finds voltage between two nodes
abs_voltage_test	Finds absolute voltage between two nodes
neg_current_test	Finds negative current in the specified terminal
breakdown test	Finds breakdown voltage between two nodes
abs_current_test	Finds absolute current at the terminal

The device property file

A device property file lists all the models associated with a device. A device property file lists the port order and maximum operating values or smoke parameter values entered by a user for a model. Information in the DEVICE.PRP file is divided into the device_info section and the device_max_ops section. Usually, the name of a device property file indicates the device type as well. For example, IGBT.PRP is the device property file for IGBT models based on device characteristic curves, and AA_IGBT.PRP is the device property file for IGBT models based on PSpice provided templates.

A sample device property file for a parameterized or a template-based model is shown below:

```
("awbad201a"
      (Creator "Device property file created by
analog_uprev on Thu Mar  1 18:48:14 IST 2001")
      ("device_info"
           ( MODEL_TYPE 739 )
           ( SYMBOL_NAME "7_Pin_Opamp" )
           ( PORT_ORDER
                ("PIN")
                ("NIN")
                ("OUT")
                ("PVSS")
                ("NVSS")
                ("CMP1")
                ("CMP2") )
      )
      ("model_params"
      ("level_1"
           ( "VOS"
                ( "val" "0.7m" )
                ( "postol" "1.3m" )
                ...
      ("level_2"
           ( "CMRR"
                ( "val" "6.3E4" )
           ...
      )
```

```
            ("level_3"
                 ( "CINDM"
                      ( "val" "1p" )
                 ...
                 ...
            )
            ("device_max_ops"
                 ( VDIFF "30" )
                 ( VSMAX "40" )
                 ( VSMIN "0" )
            )
      )
```

The first line in a DEVICE.PRP file is the file header or indicates the name of the model. For example, in the section shown above, *awbad201a* is the model name. The prefix awb in the model name indicates that it is an parameterized model shipped with PSpiceAMS. Parts created using the Model Editor do not have the *awb* prefix.

Within a model definition, you have the following sections:

- device_info
- device_max_ops
- model_params

The device_info section

This section lists the MODEL_TYPE, SYMBOL_NAME, and PORT_ORDER. The first line in the device_info section specifies MODEL_TYPE. The syntax is

```
( MODEL_TYPE Numeric_value )
```

For example:

```
( MODEL_TYPE 706)
```

MODEL_TYPE refers to the model template number in the template property file.

The line (SYMBOL_NAME "7_Pin_Opamp") refers to the name of the schematic symbol. The line is used by the Model Editor during part creation. In the above example, the schematic symbol created by the Model Editor will have *7_Pin_Opamp* as the symbol name.

Finally, PORT_ORDER lists the pin names in the order of the interface nodes on the .SUBCKT statement in the PSpice model. The PORT_ORDER information is available only for template-based PSpice models and is used during netlist creation.

The model_params section of a device property file lists the default value of the simulation parameter, the default positive and negative tolerance values, and the default distribution type. By default, the distribution type is flat for all parameters. The distribution type is used during the Monte Carlo analysis.

> **Note:** To know more about the distribution functions, see the application note named *Specifying Advanced Analysis Monte Carlo Distribution Functions* at www.orcadpcb.com.

Finally, the device_max_ops section displays the maximum operating values for each of the smoke parameters. If a smoke parameter for a model does not appear in this list, the default value as listed in the template property file is used.

The device_pre_smoke section

The device_pre_smoke section is present in the device property files of all the non-parameterized PSpice model libraries provided by OrCAD and the libraries that have been created or edited using the Model Editor.

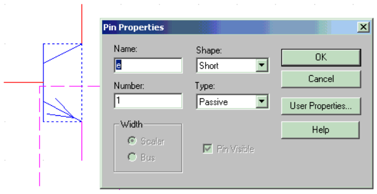
The device_pre_smoke section lists the default mapping between the node names and the corresponding port names in the part symbol. This section is copied from the pre_smoke section of the template property file. The entries in the device_pre_smoke section have higher precedence than the default values specified in the pre_smoke section.

For the non-parameterized models, the port names entered by users in the Test Node Mapping section, are written in the device_pre_smoke section. Users can get the port names of a part by opening the symbol in a schematic editor. A part of the BIPOLAR.PRP file with the device_pre_smoke section is shown below.

```
("device_pre_smoke"
     (TERM_IC "C")
     (TERM_IB "B")
     (NODE_VC "C")
     (NODE_VB "B")
     (NODE_VE "E")
     (DERATE_TYPE "PNP")
```

Tip

To get the port names by opening the symbol in Capture:
1) Select the part in Capture.
2) From the Edit menu, choose Part. The symbol view of the part displays.
4) Double-click the pin. The Name field in the Pin Properties dialog box displays the port name.



Pin Properties

Name: e

Number: 1

Shape: Short

Type: Passive

Width: ● Scalar ○ Bus

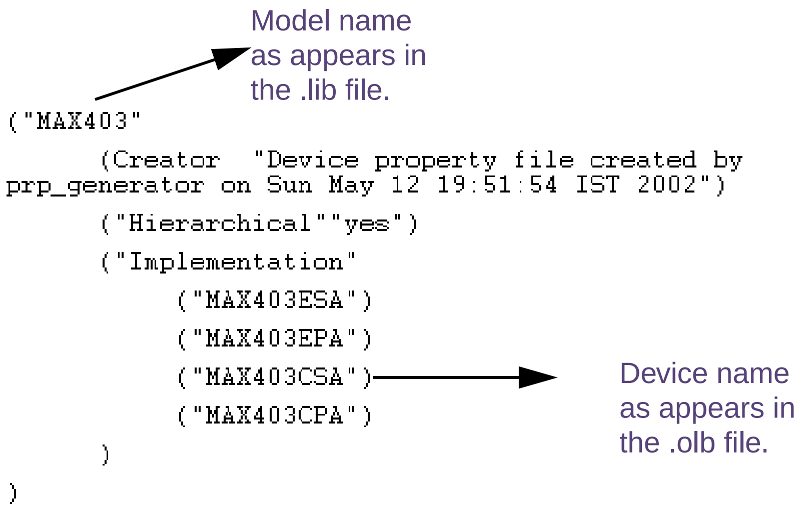
☑ Pin Visible

Optional sections in a device property file

Some simulation models have more than one physical device attached to them. In such cases, though the simulation model for physical devices is the same, the device-specific information stored in the device property file is different. For example, each of the physical device can have different smoke data.

The device property files of the models that have more than one physical devices attached to them have an index section. The index section has an Implementation statement that lists all the physical devices associated with a model.

A section of the OPAMP.PRP file, with the Implementation statement is shown below:



Model name as appears in the .lib file.

```
("MAX403"
      (Creator  "Device property file created by
prp_generator on Sun May 12 19:51:54 IST 2002")
      ("Hierarchical""yes")
      ("Implementation"
           ("MAX403ESA")
           ("MAX403EPA")
           ("MAX403CSA")
           ("MAX403CPA")
      )
)
```

Device name as appears in the .olb file.

Each of the device listed below the Implementation statement has all the entries in the device property file as any other device. The Model Editor uses the Implementation statement to access the device-specific information of the associated parts for the same model.

Glossary

A

absolute sensitivity

The change in a measurement caused by a unit change in parameter value (for example, 0.1V: 1Ohm).

The formula for absolute sensitivity is:

[(Ms - Mn) / (Pn * 0.4 * Tol)]

Where:

Mn = the measurement from the nominal run

Ms = the measurement from the sensitivity run for that parameter

Tol = relative tolerance of the parameter

B

bimodal distribution function

Related to Monte Carlo. This is a type of distribution function that favors the extreme ends of the values range. With this distribution function, there is a higher probability that Monte Carlo will choose values from the far ends of the tolerance range when picking parameter values for analysis.

C

component

A circuit device, also referred to as a part.

component parameter

A physical characteristic of a component. For example, a breakdown temperature is a parameter for a resistor. A parameter value can be a number or a named value, like a programming variable that represents a numeric value. When the parameter value is a name, its numerical solution can be varied within a mathematical expression and used in optimization.

constraint

Related to Modified LSQ optimization engine. An achievable numerical value in circuit optimization. A constraint is specified by the user according to the user’s design specifications. The Modified LSQ engine works to meet the goals, subject to the specified constraints.

cumulative distribution function (CDF)

A way of displaying Monte Carlo results that shows the cumulative probability that a measurement will fall within a specified range of values. The CDF graph is a stair-step chart that displays the full range of calculated measurement values on the x-axis. The y-axis displays the cumulative number of runs that were below those values.

D

derating factor

A safety factor that you can add to a manufacturer’s maximum operating condition (MOC). It is usually a percentage of the manufacturer’s MOC for a specific component. “No derating” is a case where the derating factor is 100 percent. “Standard derating” is a case where derating factors of various percents are applied to different components in the circuit.

device

See component

distribution function

Related to Monte Carlo. When Monte Carlo randomly varies parameter values within tolerance, it uses that parameter’s distribution function to make a decision about which value to select. See also: Flat (Uniform), Gaussian (Normal), Bimodal, and Skewed distribution functions. See also cumulative distribution function.

Discrete engine

Related to the Optimizer. The Discrete engine is a calculation method that selects commercially available values for components and uses these values in a final optimization run. The engine uses default tables of information provided with Advanced Analysis or tables of values specified by the user.

discrete values table

For a single component (such as a resistor), a discrete values table is a list of commercially available numerical values for that component. Discrete values tables are available from manufacturers, and several tables are provided with Advanced Analysis.

E

error graph

A graph of the error between a measurement's goal or constraint and the calculated value for the measurement. Sometimes expressed in percent.

Error =
(Calculated meas. value - Goal value) / Goal value

Error =
(Calculated meas. value - Constraint) / Constraint

F

flat distribution function

Also known as Uniform distribution function. Related to Monte Carlo. This is the default distribution function used by Advanced Analysis Monte Carlo. For a Flat (Uniform) distribution function, the program has an equal probability of picking any value within the allowed range of tolerance values.

G

Gaussian distribution function

Also known as Normal distribution function. Related to Monte Carlo. For a Gaussian (Normal) distribution function, the program has a higher probability of choosing from a narrower range within the allowed tolerance values near the mean.

global minimum

Related to the Optimizer. The global minimum is the optimum solution, which ideally has zero error. But factors such as cost and manufacturability might make the optimum solution another local minimum with an acceptable total error.

goal

A desirable numerical value in circuit optimization. A goal may not be physically achievable, but the optimization engine tries to find answers that are as close as possible to the goal. A goal is specified by the user according to the user's design specifications.

H

I

J

K

L

Least Squares Quadratic (LSQ) engine

One of the most common circuit optimization engines for optimizing to fixed goals. Optimizes the design by minimizing the total error.

local minimum

Related to the Optimizer. Local minimum is the bottom of any valley in the error in the design space.

LSQ engine

See least squares quadratic (LSQ) engine and Modified LSQ engine.

M

Maximum Operating Conditions (MOCs)

Maximum safe operating values for component parameters in a working circuit. MOCs are defined by the component manufacturer.

Modified Least Squares Quadratic (LSQ) engine

A circuit optimization engine that uses a slightly different algorithm than the LSQ engine, which results in fewer runs to reach results, and allows goal- and constraint-based optimization.

measurement expression

An expression that evaluates a characteristic of one or more waveforms. A measurement expression contains a measurement definition and an output variable. For example, Max(DB(V(load))). Users can create their own measurement expressions.

model

A mathematical characterization that emulates the behavior of a component. A model may contain parameters so the component's behavior can be adjusted during optimization or other advanced analyses.

Monte Carlo analysis

Calculations that estimate statistical circuit behavior and yield. Uses parameter tolerance data. Also referred to as yield analysis.

N

nominal value

For a component parameter, the nominal value is the original numerical value entered on the schematic.

For a measurement, the nominal value is the value calculated using original component parameter values.

normal distribution function

See Gaussian distribution function

O

optimization

An iterative process used to get as close as possible to a desired goal.

original value

See nominal value

P

parameter

See component parameter

parameterized library

A library that contains components whose behaviors can be adjusted with parameters. The Advanced Analysis libraries include components with tolerance parameters, smoke parameters, and optimizable parameters in their models.

part

See component

probability distribution function (PDF) graph

A way of displaying Monte Carlo results that shows the probability that a measurement will fall within a specified range of values. The PDF graph is a bar chart that displays the full range of calculated measurement values on the x-axis. The y-axis displays the number of runs that met those values. For example, a tall bar (bin) on the graph indicates there is a higher probability that a circuit or component will meet the x-axis values (within the range of the bar) if the circuit or component is manufactured and tested.

Q

R

Random engine

Related to Optimizer. The Random engine uses a random number generator to try different parameter value combinations then chooses the best set of parameter values in a series of runs.

relative sensitivity

Relative sensitivity is the percent change in measurement value based on a one percent positive change in parameter value for the part.

The formula for relative sensitivity is:

[(Ms - Mn) / (0.4*Tol)]

Where:

Mn = the measurement from the nominal run

Ms = the measurement from the sensitivity run for that parameter

Tol = relative tolerance of the parameter

S

Safe Operating Limits (SOLs)

Maximum safe operating values for component parameters in a working circuit with safety factors (derating factors) applied. Safety factors can be less than or greater than 100 percent of the maximum operating condition depending on the component.

sensitivity

The change in a simulation measurement produced by a standardized change in a parameter value:

$$S(\mathrm{measurement}) = \frac{\Delta_{\mathrm{measurement}}}{\Delta_{\mathrm{parameter}}}$$

See also relative and absolute sensitivity.

skewed distribution function

Related to Monte Carlo. This is a type of distribution function that favors one end of the values range. With this distribution function, there is a higher probability that Monte Carlo will choose values from the skewed end of the tolerance range when picking parameter values for analysis.

Smoke analysis

A set of safe operating limit calculations. Uses component parameter maximum operating conditions (MOCs) and safety factors (derating factors) to calculate if each component parameter is operating within safe operating limits. Also referred to as stress analysis.

specification

A goal for circuit design. In Advanced Analysis, a specification refers to a measurement expression and the numerical min or max value specified or calculated for that expression.

T

U

uniform distribution function

See flat distribution function

V

W

weight

Related to Optimizer. In Optimizer, we are trying to minimize the error between the calculated measurement value and our goal. If one of our goals is more important than another, we can emphasize that importance, by artificially making that goal’s error more noticeable on our error plot. If the error is artificially large, we’ll be focusing on reducing that error and therefore focusing on that goal. We make the error stand out by applying a weight to the important goal. The weight is a positive integer (say, 10) that is multiplied by the goal’s error, which results in a “magnified” error plot for that goal.

worst-case maximum

Related to Sensitivity. This is a maximum calculated value for a measurement based on all parameters set to their tolerance limits in the direction that will increase the measurement value.

worst-case minimum

Related to Sensitivity. This is a minimum calculated value for a measurement based on all parameters set to their tolerance limits in the direction that will decrease the measurement value.

X

Y

yield

Related to Monte Carlo. Yield is used to estimate the number of usable components or circuits produced during mass manufacturing. Yield is a percent calculation based on the number of run results that meet design specifications versus the total number of runs. For example, a yield of 99 percent indicates that of all the Monte Carlo runs, 99 percent of the measurement results fell within design specifications.

Z

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