

Using Sim Smith to Improve Antenna Matching

Jim Brown K9YC

k9yc@arri.net

<http://audiosystemsgroup.com/publish.htm>

The Objectives

- **Eliminate antenna tuners**
- **Improve match to our rigs**
- **Minimize losses**
- **Improve operating efficiency**
- **Prepare for automatic switching**

**I wanted to replace these tuners
that I also had to tune**



With this switching that I can automate with band decoders



The Tools

- **NEC Design Software**
- **Vector Network Analyzer**
or
- **Vector Impedance Analyzer**
- **Sim Smith Design Software**

The Process

- **Measure an existing antenna**
or:
- **Export antenna design from NEC**
- **Import data into Sim Smith, use it to design matching networks**
 - **Stubs**
 - **Matching sections**
 - **Capacitors, inductors, transformers**

About Analyzers

- **Vector Analyzer** – includes phase
 - Needed for any design work
- **Vector Impedance Analyzer (VIA)**
 - Single Port
 - Measures impedance ($R + jX$)
 - Time Delay Reflectometry (TDR)
 - Line length, cable quality, splices
 - Works even w/antenna connected

About Analyzers

- **Vector Network Analyzer (VNA)**
 - **Two port analysis**
 - **Measures impedance, TDR, and**
 - **Measures response through a network or system**
 - **Coax loss, velocity factor**
 - **Bandpass filter response**
 - **Coupling between antennas**
 - **Gain (loss) of networks and systems**

Single Port Vector Analyzers

- **AIM 4170 \$545, 180 MHz**
- **AIM UHF \$900 1 GHz**
- **Power AIM (Broadcasters) (\$3K)**

Two-Port Vector Network Analyzers

- **TenTec TAPR – 100 MHz**
discontinued, works up to 120 MHz
- **AIM VNA-2180 – 180 MHz \$1,500**
- **N2PK – 60 MHz**
M0WWA builds to order w/options
- **DG8SAQ VNWA 3E – 1.3GHz \$750**
–Sold by SDR kits in the UK
–Cost includes shipping to US

Low Cost Vector Analyzers

- All use a Windows computer to process and display data**
- All couple data via USB port**
- All come with free software**
- All come with calibration set**
- DG8SAQ powers from USB port**
- All others need DC power**
- All export data in standard formats**

My Choice – DG8SAQ VNWA 3E

- Self powered from USB port, easiest to set up in the field**
- Full specs to 500 MHz, reduced dynamic range to 1.3 GHz**
- Active Yahoo user group support**
- Ongoing development of software, firmware, hardware by DG8SAQ**

The DG8SAQ VNWA 3E



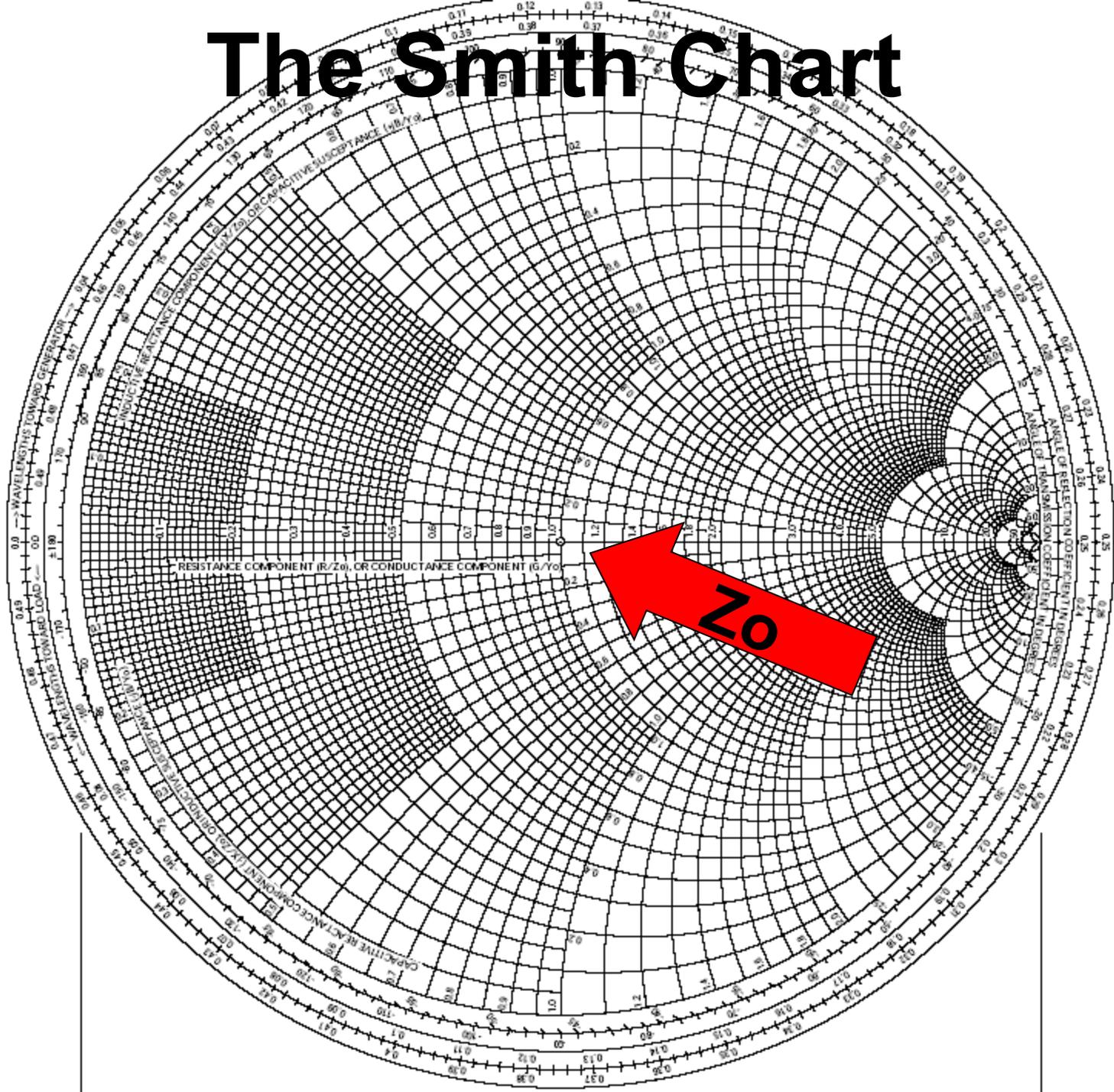
About the Smith Chart

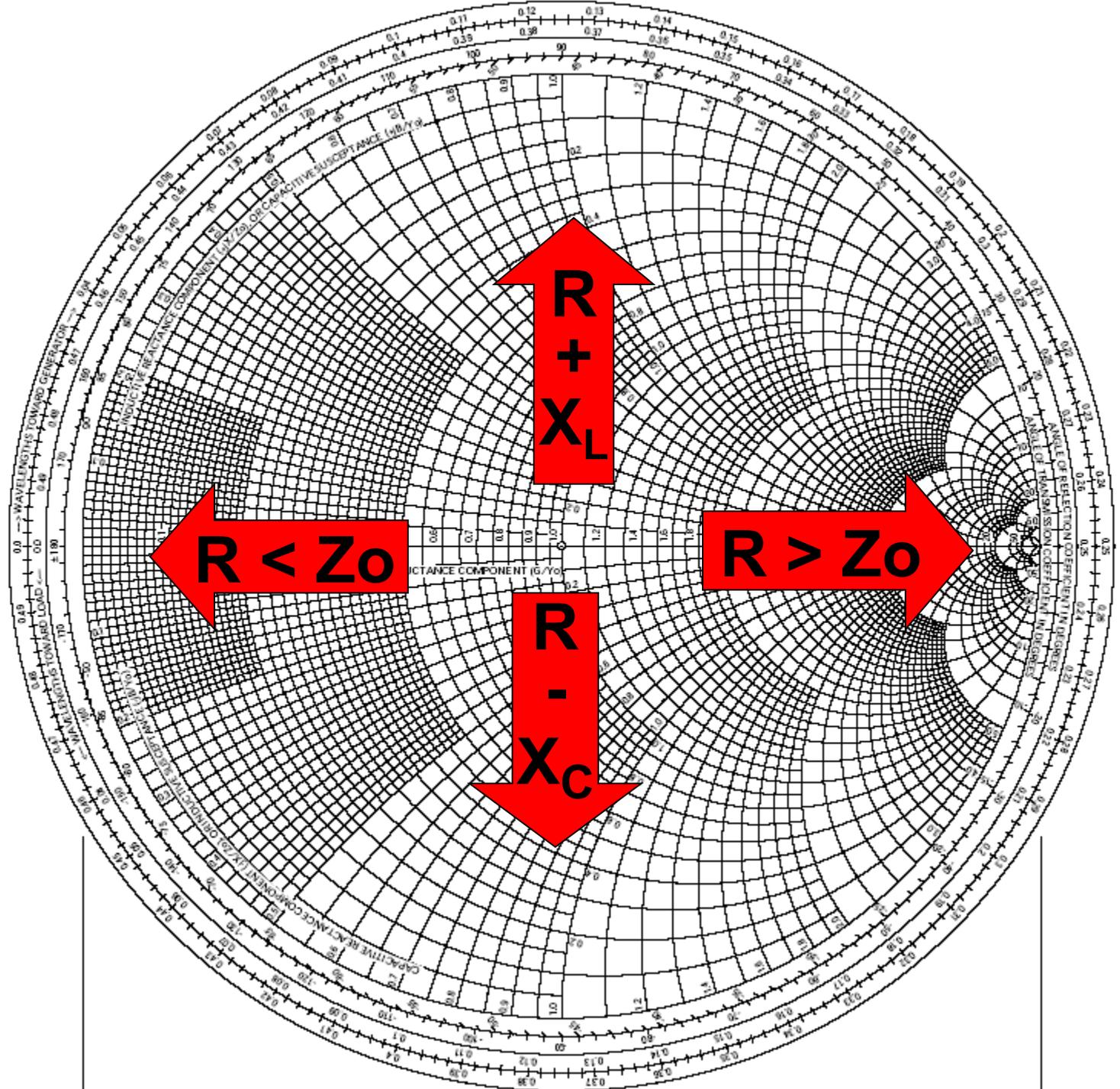
- **Developed by Phillip Smith in 1939**
- **A method of plotting $R + jX$ data that allows graphical computations involving transmission lines**
- **Allows a “way of looking” at a problem that, with experience, suggests solutions**
- **A great *learning* tool**

About the Smith Chart

- Impedances plotted on the chart are “normalized” to Z_0
- Normalized means every data point is divided by the same value, in this case, Z_0

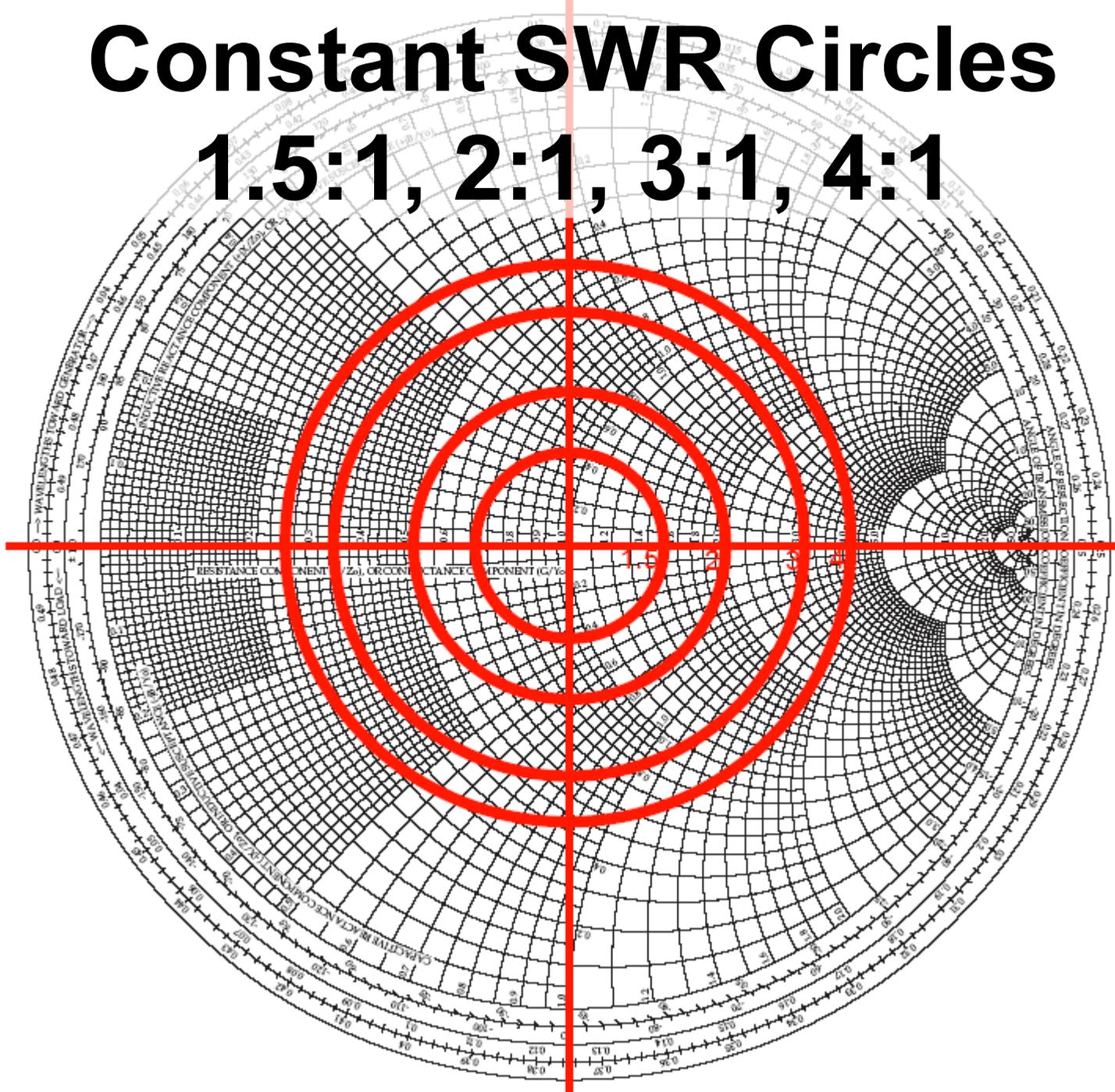
The Smith Chart



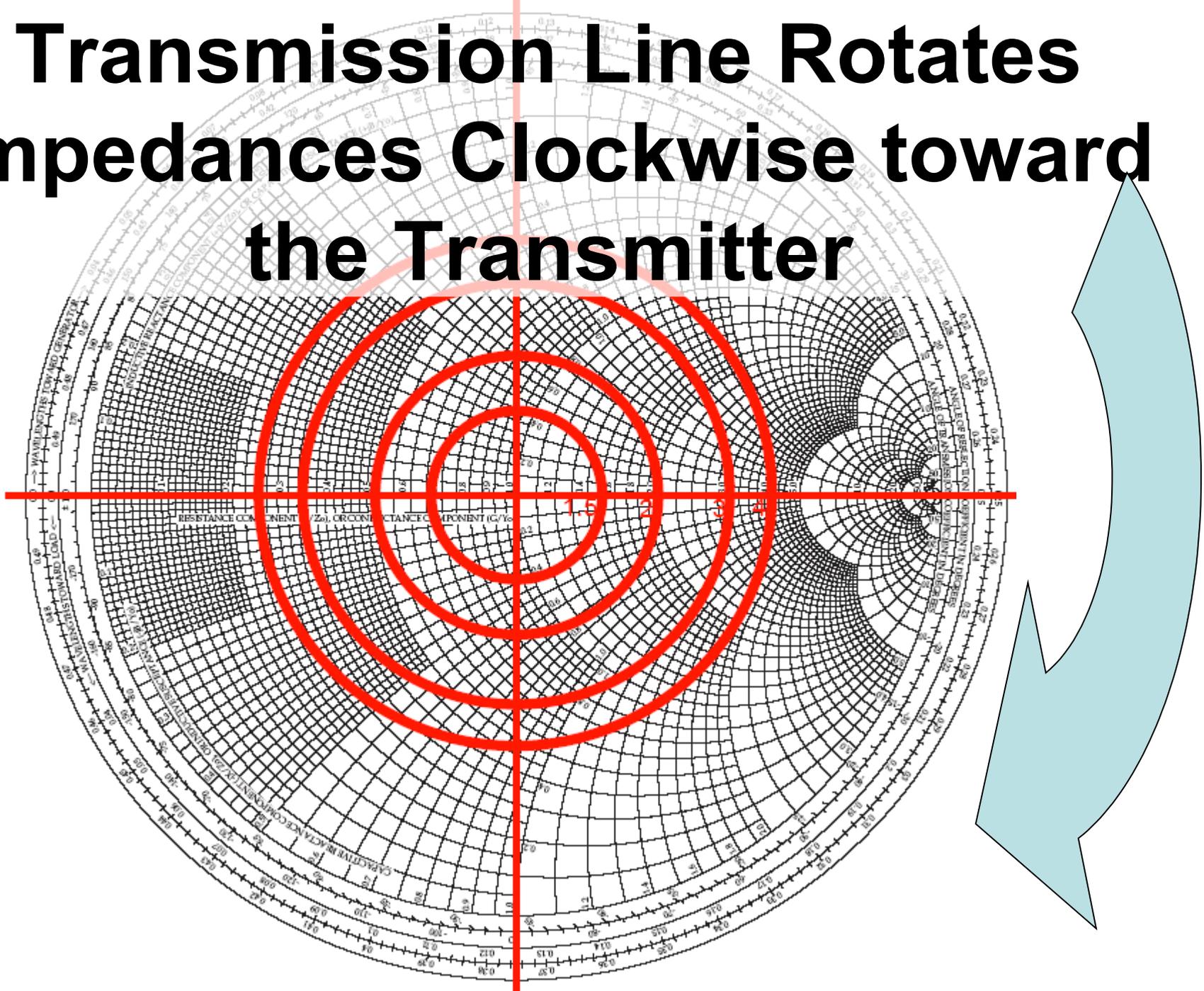


Constant SWR Circles

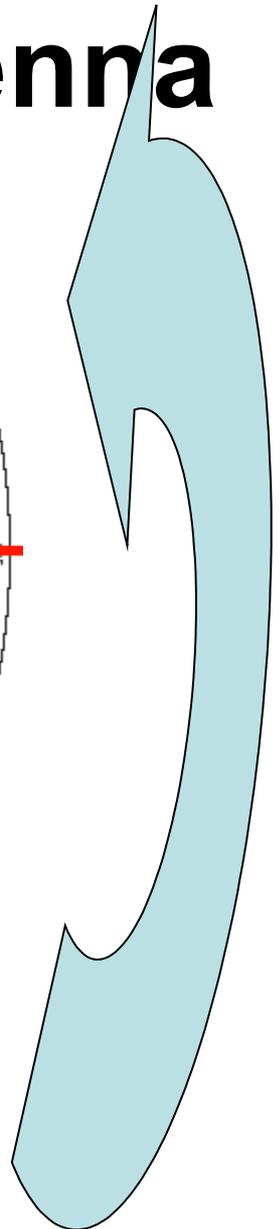
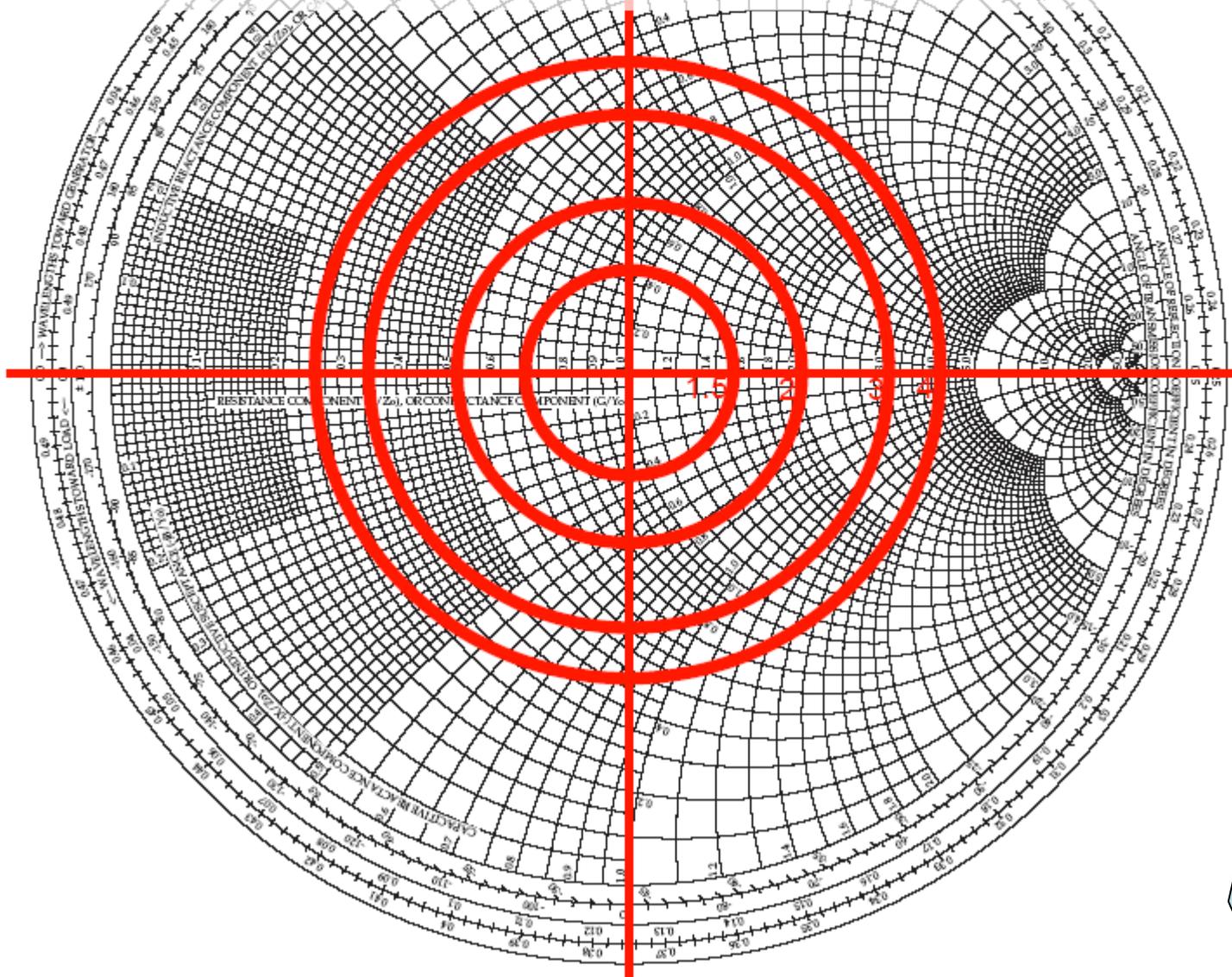
1.5:1, 2:1, 3:1, 4:1



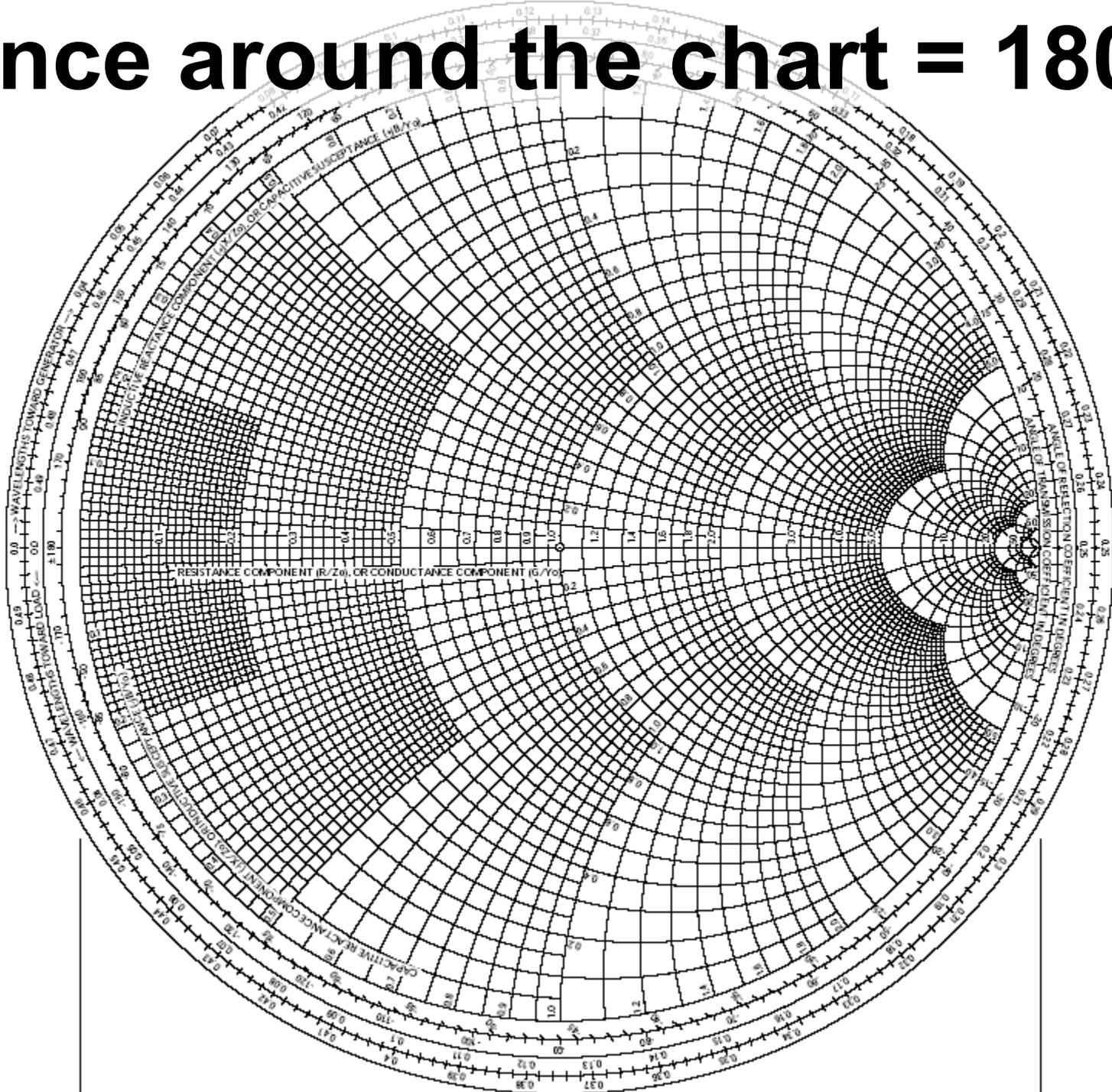
Transmission Line Rotates Impedances Clockwise toward the Transmitter



Impedances Rotate Counter-Clockwise toward the Antenna



Once around the chart = 180°



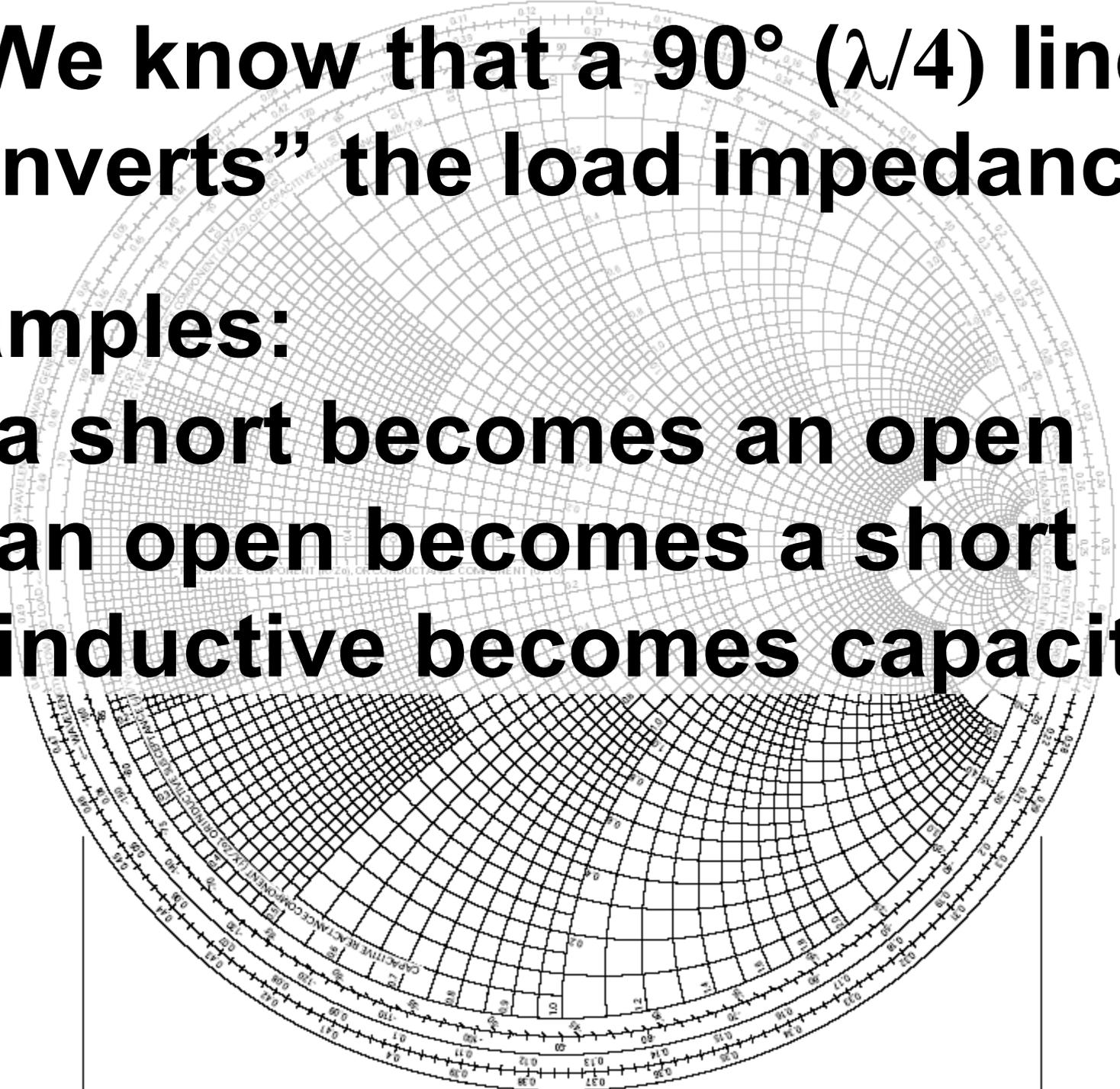
**We know that a 90° ($\lambda/4$) line
“inverts” the load impedance**

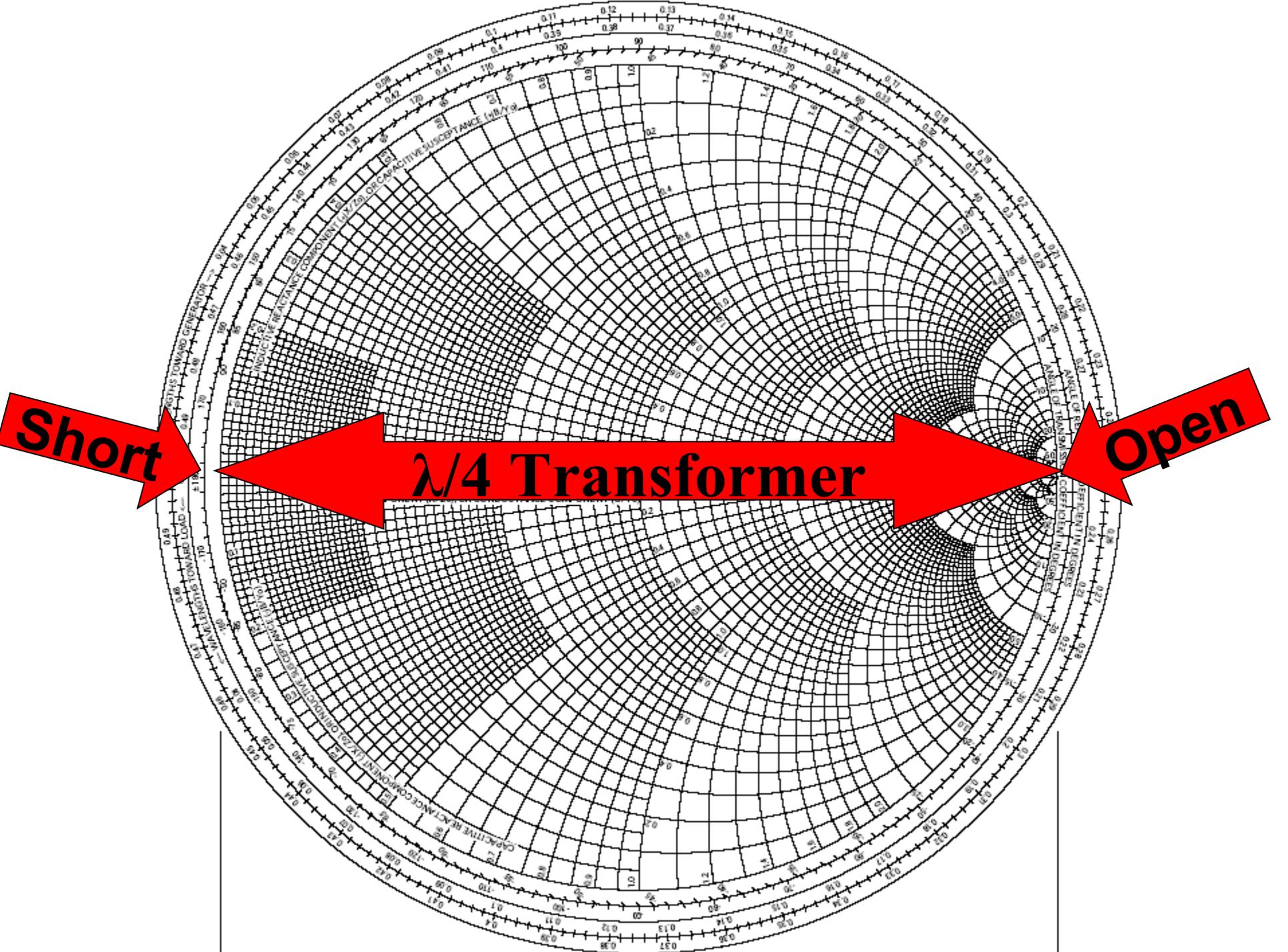
Examples:

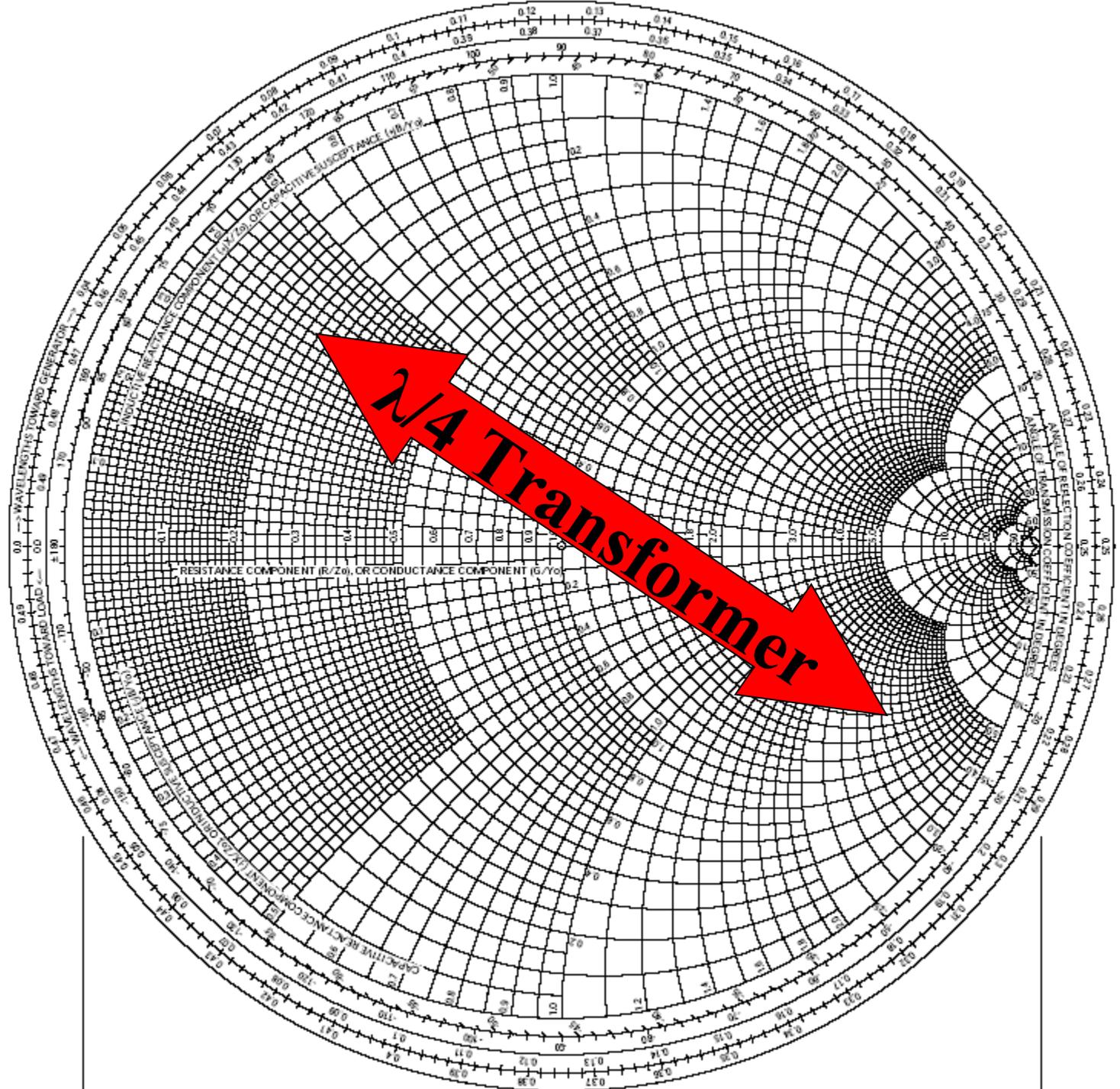
a short becomes an open

an open becomes a short

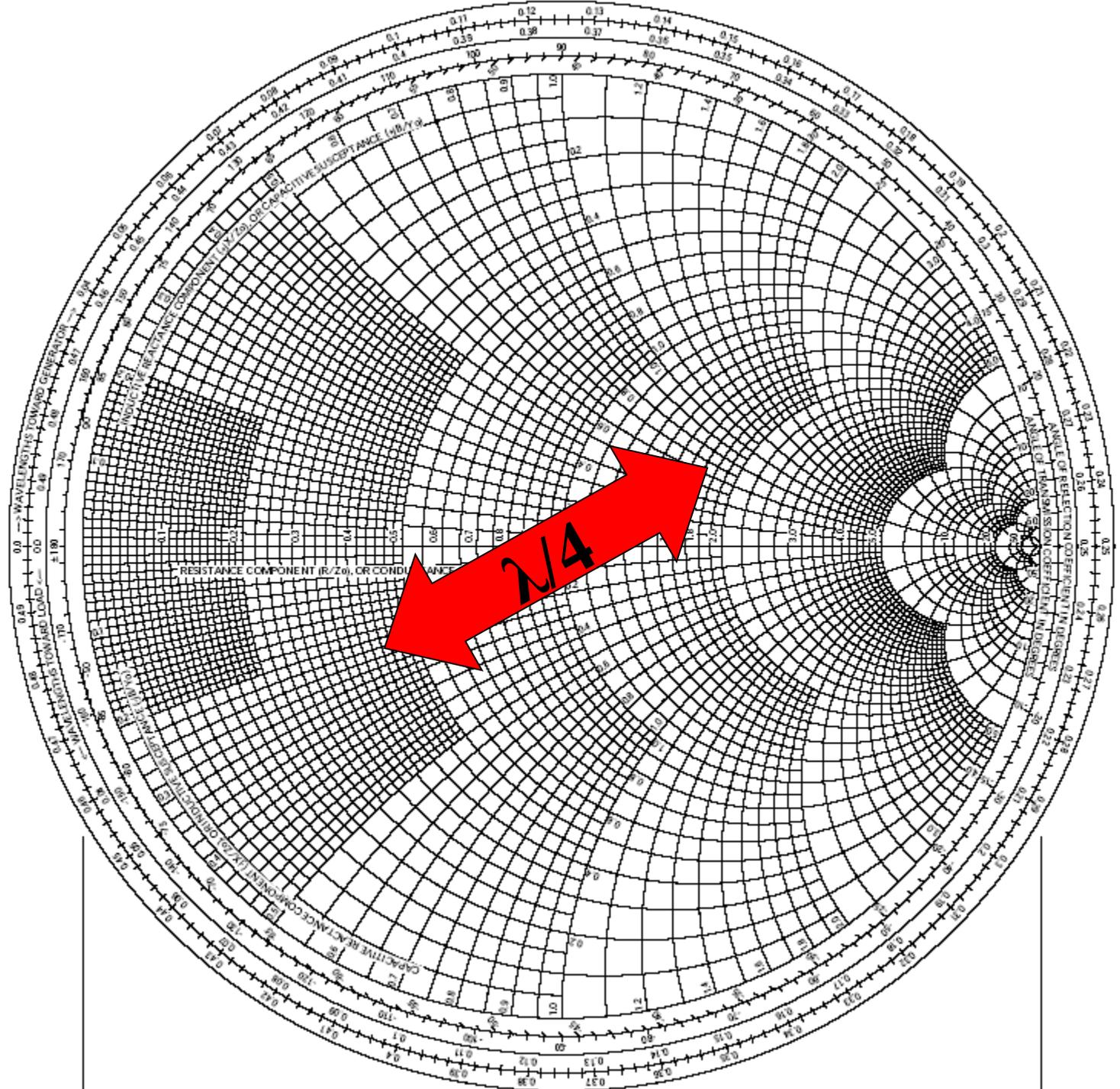
inductive becomes capacitive





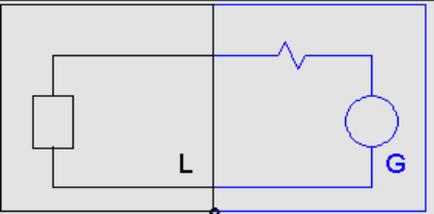


$\lambda/4$ Transformer



This Talk is About Sim Smith

- **Software that graphs transmission line problems and solves them**
- **We plug in our circuit, Sim Smith does all the math, graphs the result**
- **Sim Smith makes it easy**
- **It's like NEC for transmission lines**
- **Runs in Java**
- **Let's look at Sim Smith**

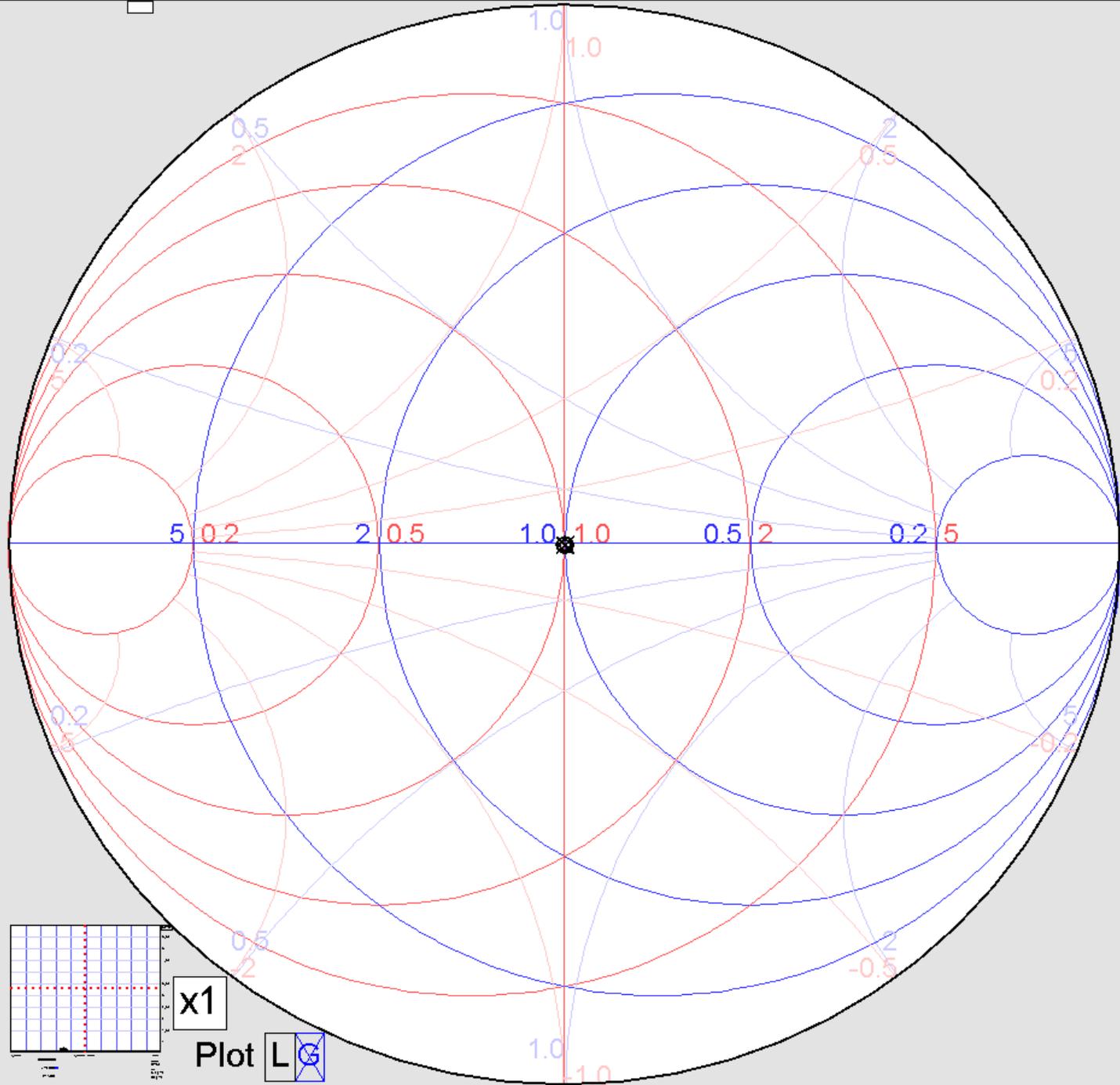


R= 50 Mag= 0
 X= ~0 Angle= ~0
 Pin= 1

50	Ohms	3.675	MHz
0	jOhms	useZo	type
		50	Zo
		1	SWR
		0	QEye

<<<	<<	<	>	>>	>>>
prev	closest		next		

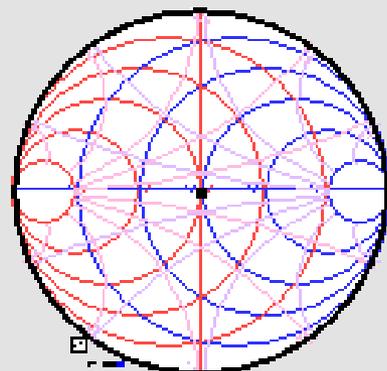
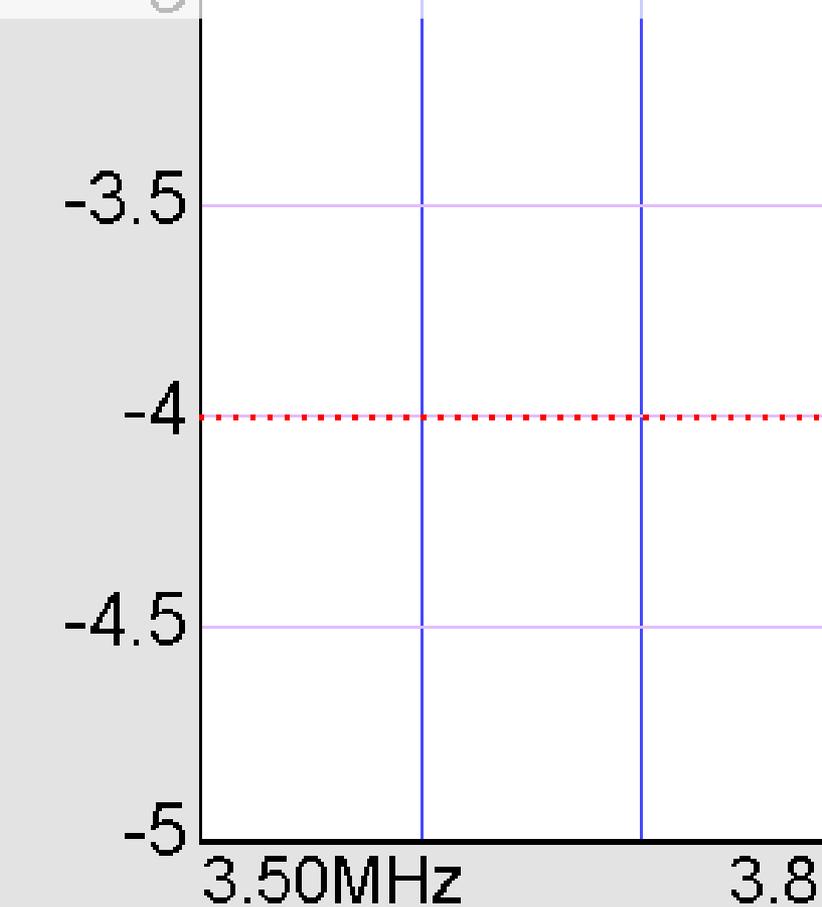
steps	from	to	name
<none>			file
50	lin	3.50	G.MHz



Zooming in on lower left corner

<<<	<<	<	>	>>	>>>
prev		closest		next	

steps	from	to	name
<none>			file
399	lin	3.5	4
			G.MHz

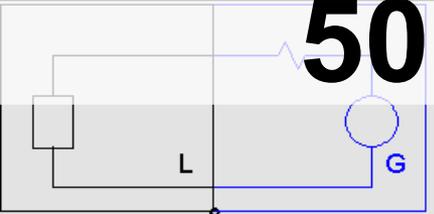


lin

SWR: L G

PGain: L

50Ω Plots at the Center

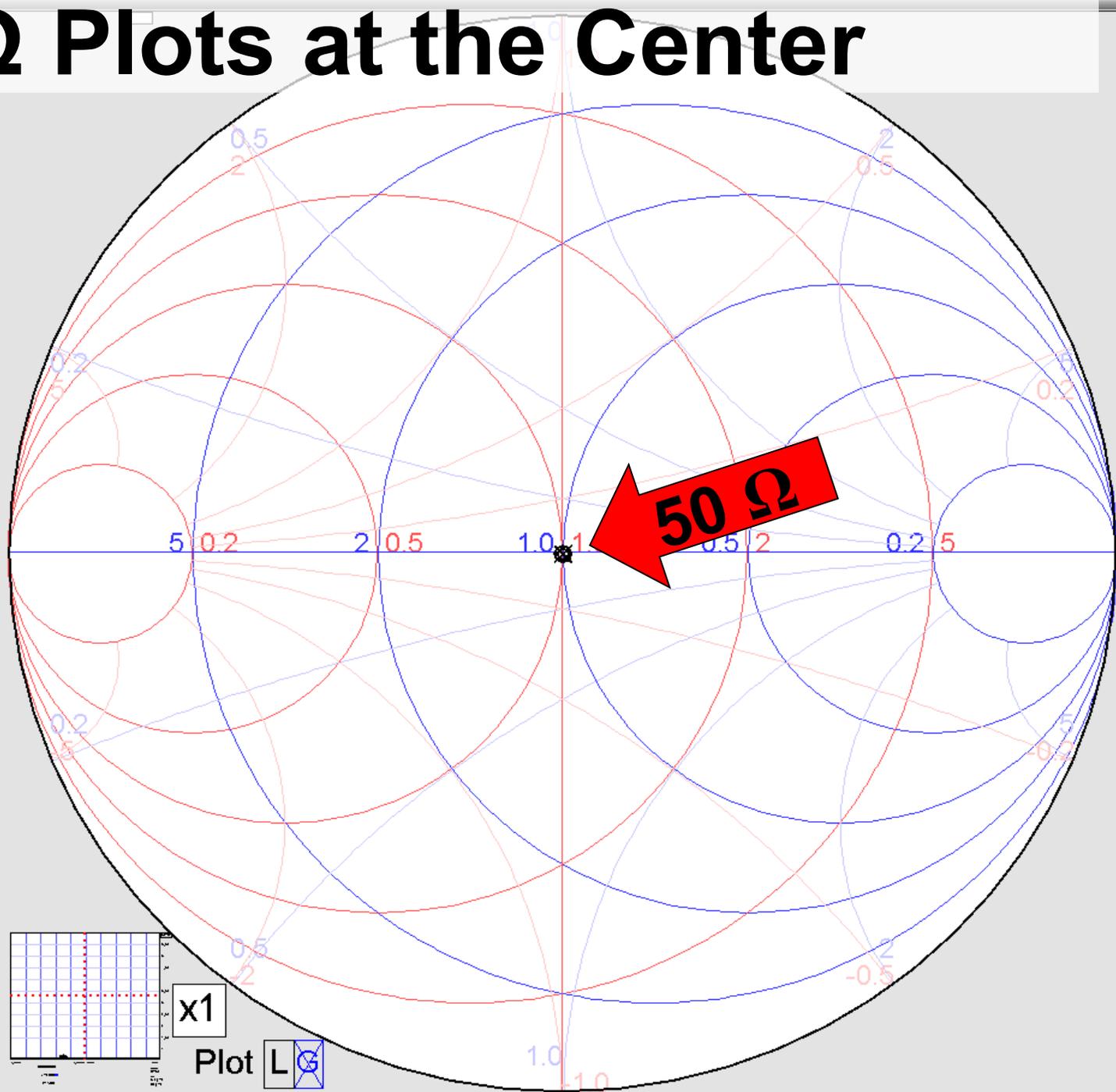


R= 50 Mag= 0
X= ~0 Angle= ~0
Pin= 1

50 Ohms	3.675 MHz
0 jOhms	useZo type
	50 Zo
	1 SWR
	0 QEye

<<<	<<	<	>	>>	>>>
prev	closest		next		

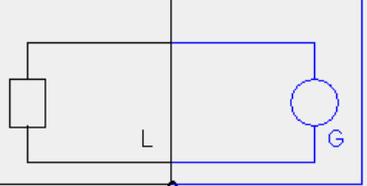
steps	from	to	name
<none>		clr	L file
50	lin	3.50	4 G.MHz



	X1
Plot	L G

SWR and Loss View of a Model

file print library standards references help

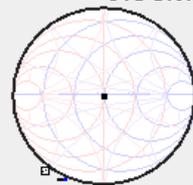
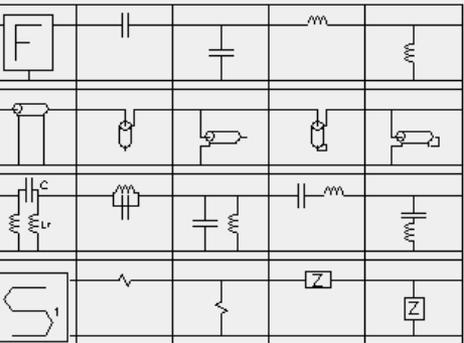


R= 50 Mag= 0
X= ~0 Angle= ~0
Pin= 1

50 Ohms	3.75 MHz
0 jOhms	xMtch type
	50 Zo
	1 swr
	0 QEye

<<< << < > >> >>>
prev closest next

steps	from	to	name	
<none>	<none>	<none>	L file	
399	lin	3.5	4	G.MHz



lin
SWR:
PGain:

4MHz
SWR~1
R=50
X=0
Mag=0
Deg=0

80M Dipole Imported From NEC,

$Z_0 = 50\Omega$

file print library standards references help

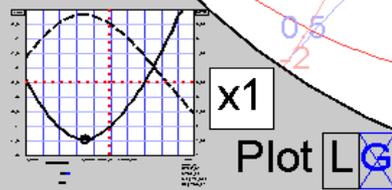
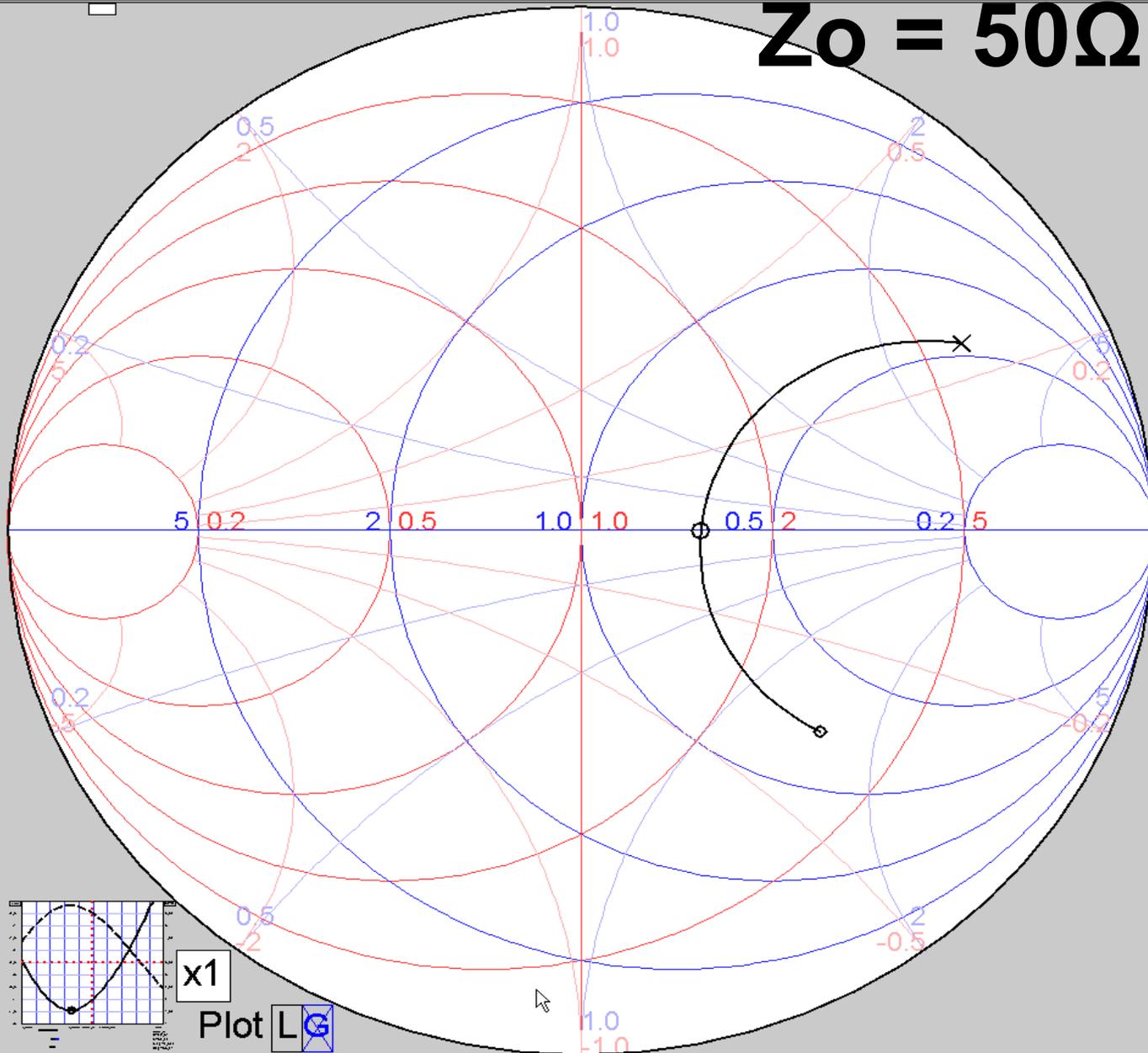


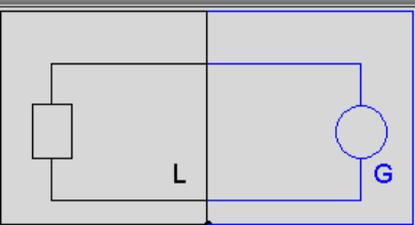
R= 76.439 Mag= 0.2091
X= ~0 Angle= ~0
Pin= 0.956

76.439 Ohms 3.675 MHz
-36.9m jOhms useZo type
50 Zo
1 SWR
0 QEye

<<< << < > >> >>>

steps	from	to	name
50	lin	3.50	4
			clr file
			G.MHz

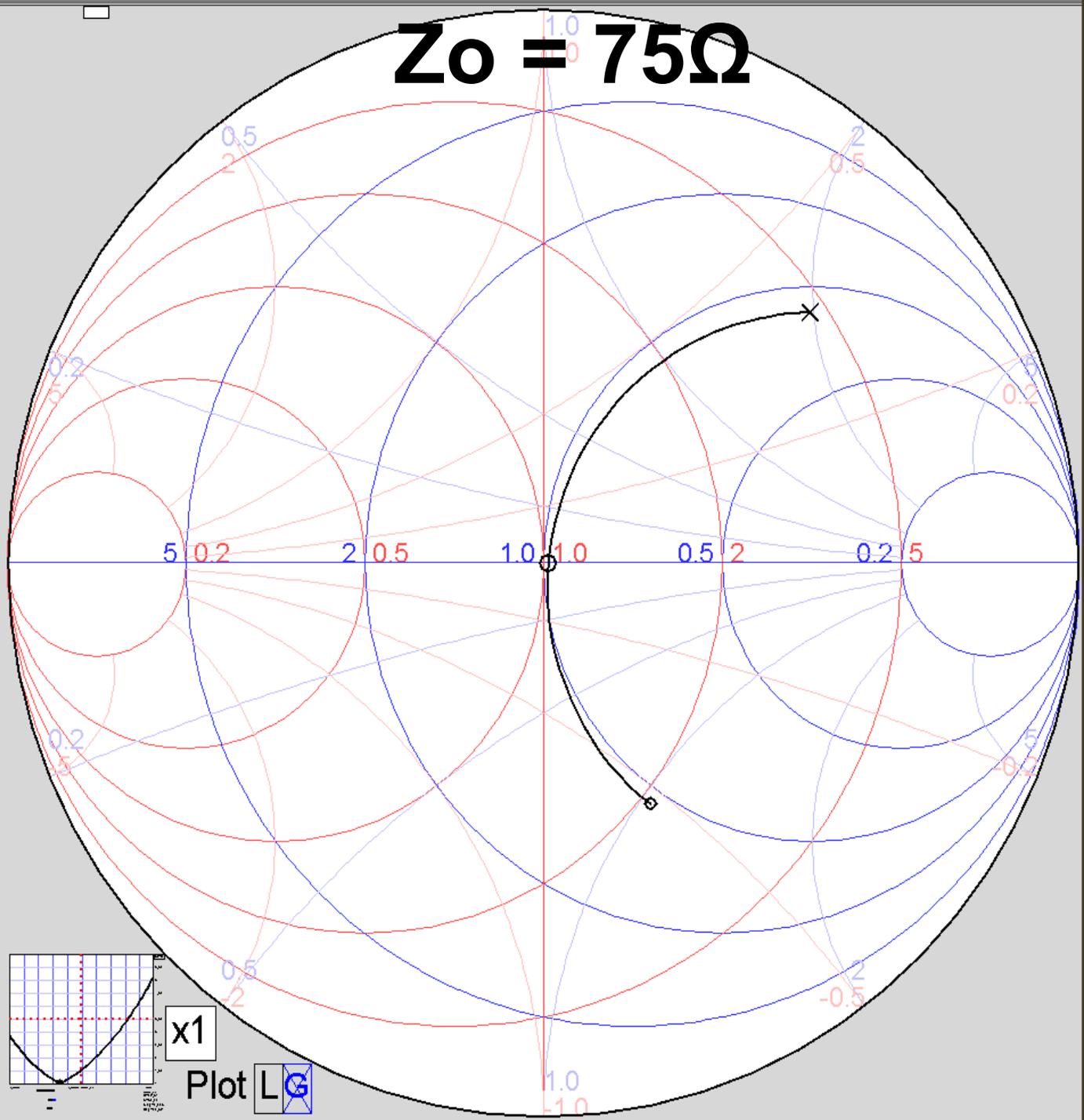




R= 76.439 Mag= 9.508m
 X= ~0 Angle= -1.454
 Pin= 1

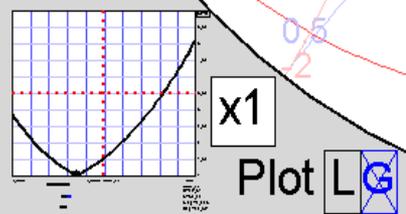
76.439 Ohms	3.675 MHz
-36.9m jOhms	xMtch type
	75 Zo
	1 SWR
	0 QEye

Zo = 75Ω

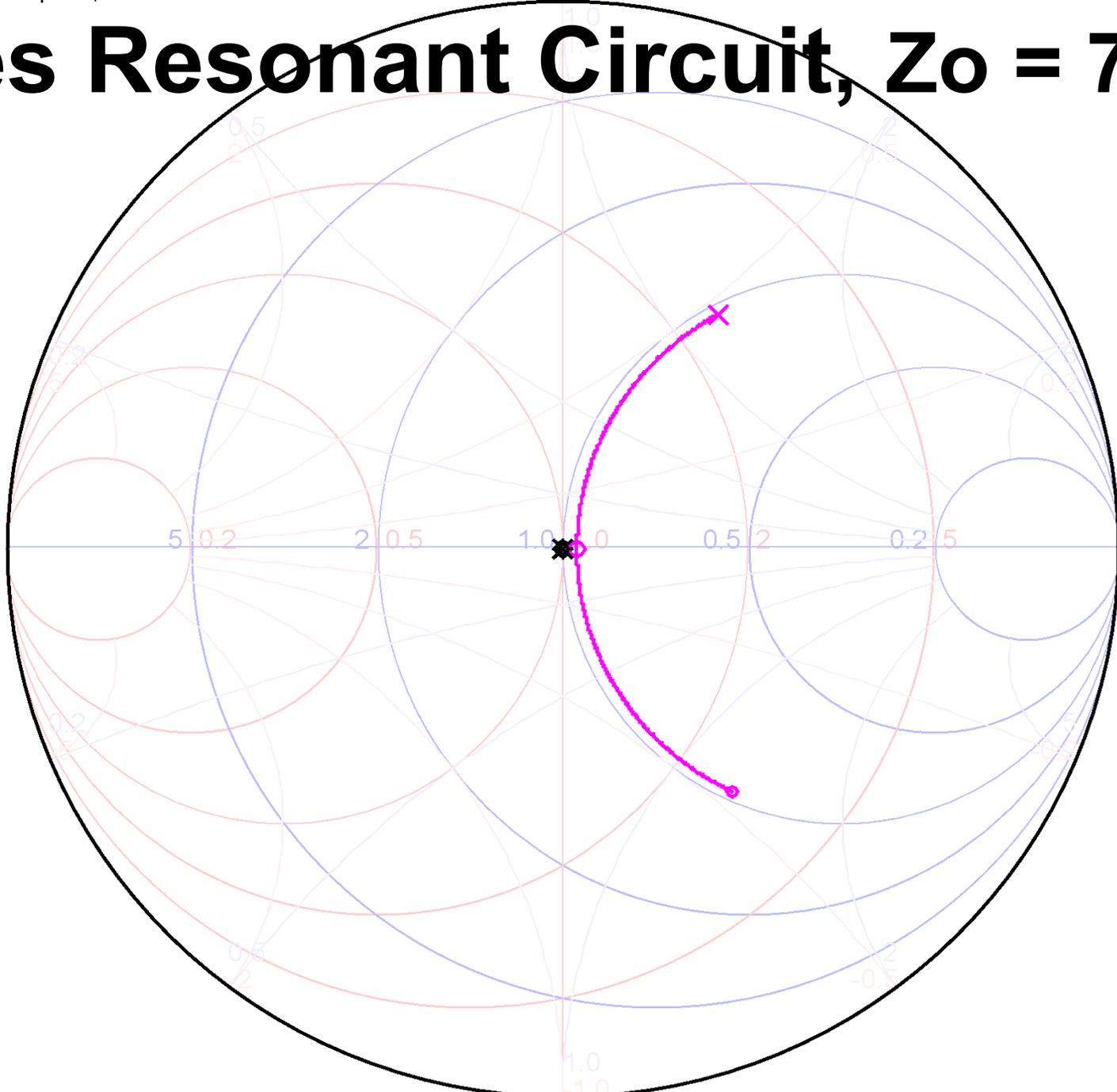


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steps	from	to	name
	LeesonDipole.txt	clr	file
50	lin	3.50	4 G.MHz



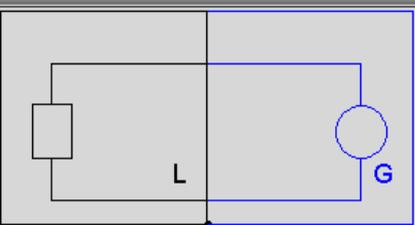
Series Resonant Circuit, $Z_o = 75\Omega$



$Z_o:75.0$

The Dipole

75 Ω

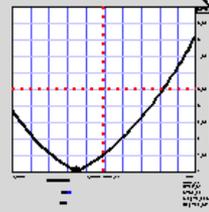
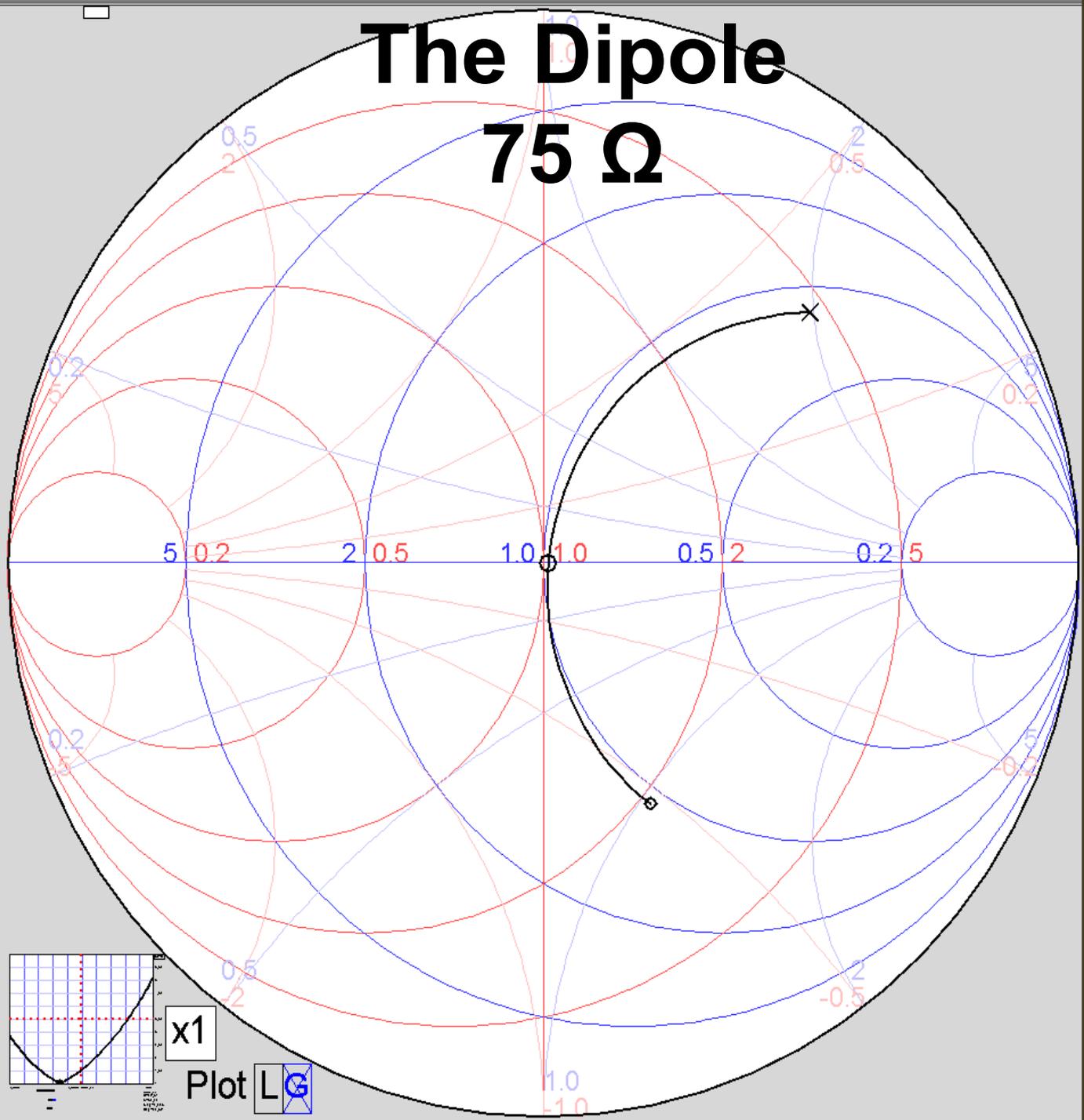


R= 76.439 Mag= 9.508m
 X= ~0 Angle= -1.454
 Pin= 1

76.439 Ohms	3.675 MHz
-36.9m jOhms	xMtch type
	75 Zo
	1 SWR
	0 QEye

Navigation buttons: <<< << < > >> >>>

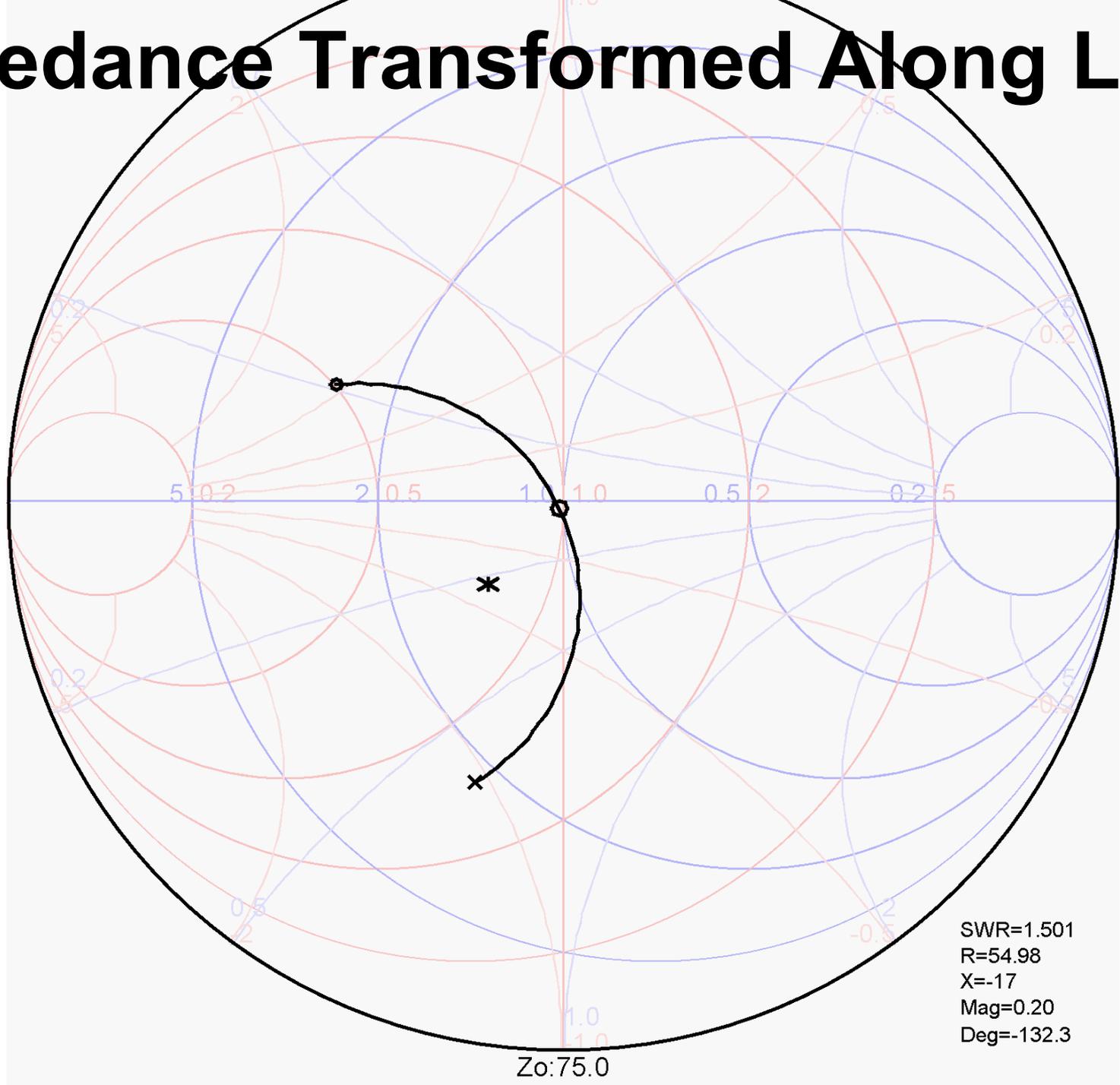
steps	from	to	name
	LeesonDipole.txt	clr	file
50	lin	3.50	4 G.MHz



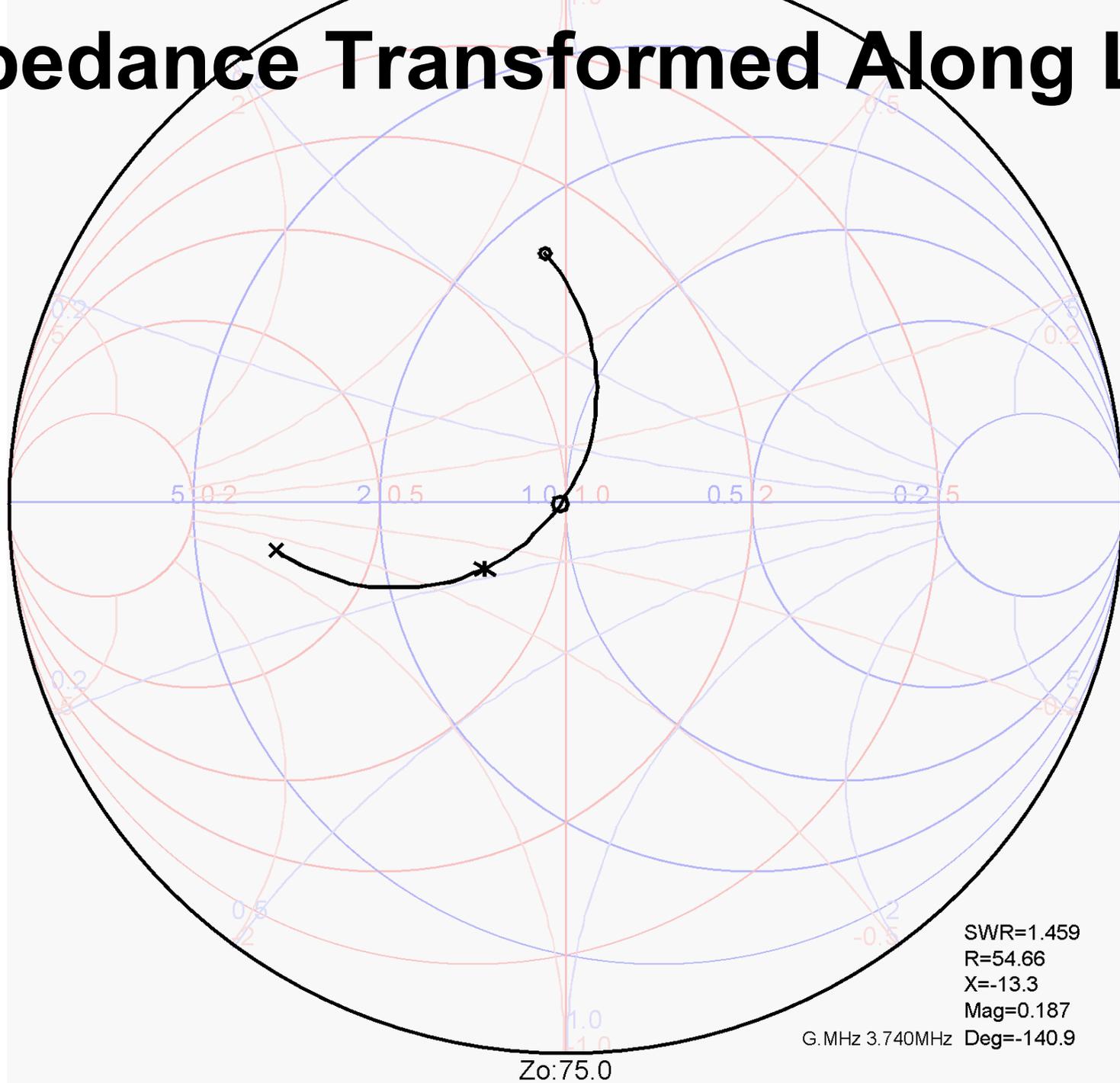
x1

Plot L G

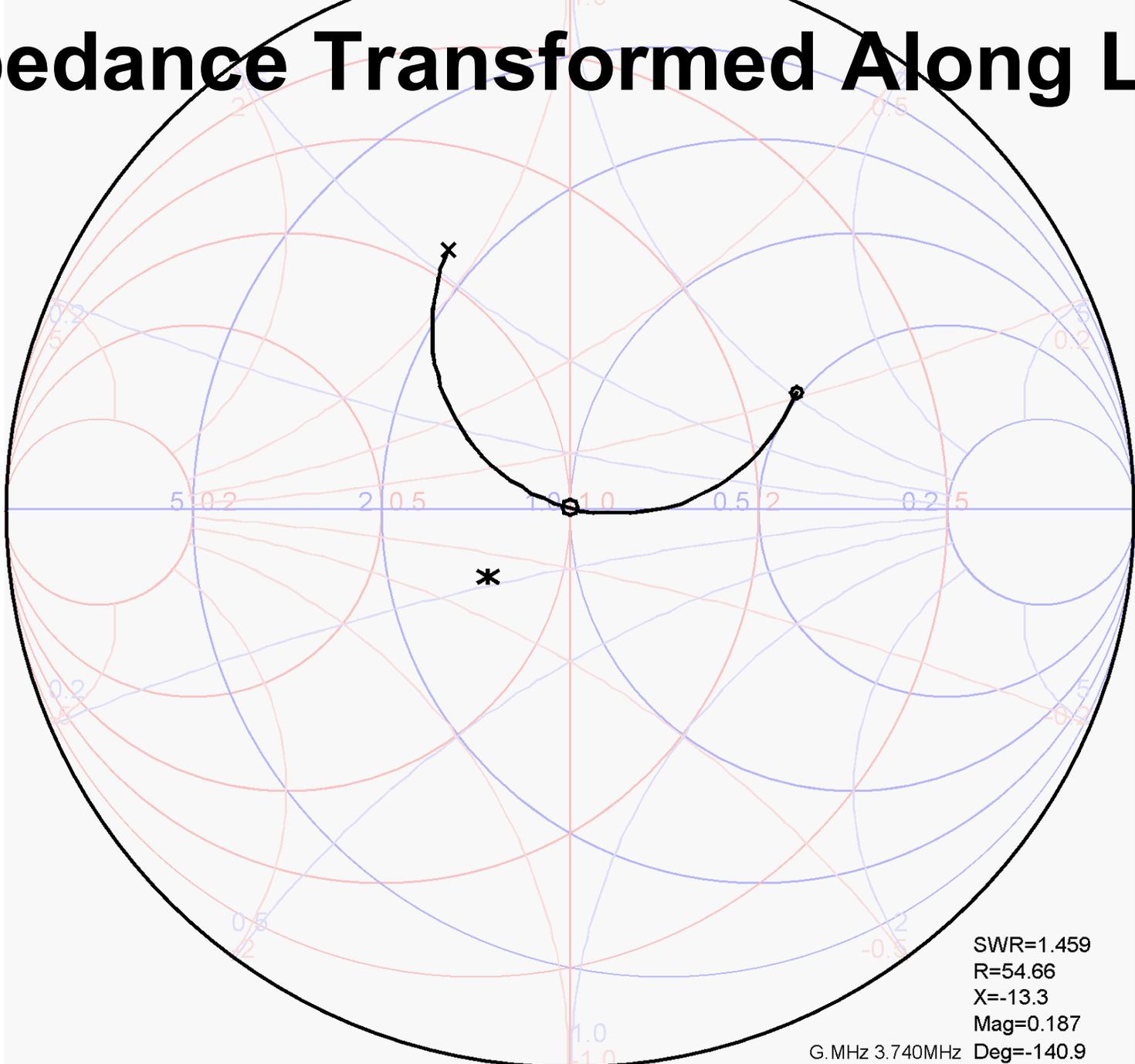
Impedance Transformed Along Line



Impedance Transformed Along Line



Impedance Transformed Along Line

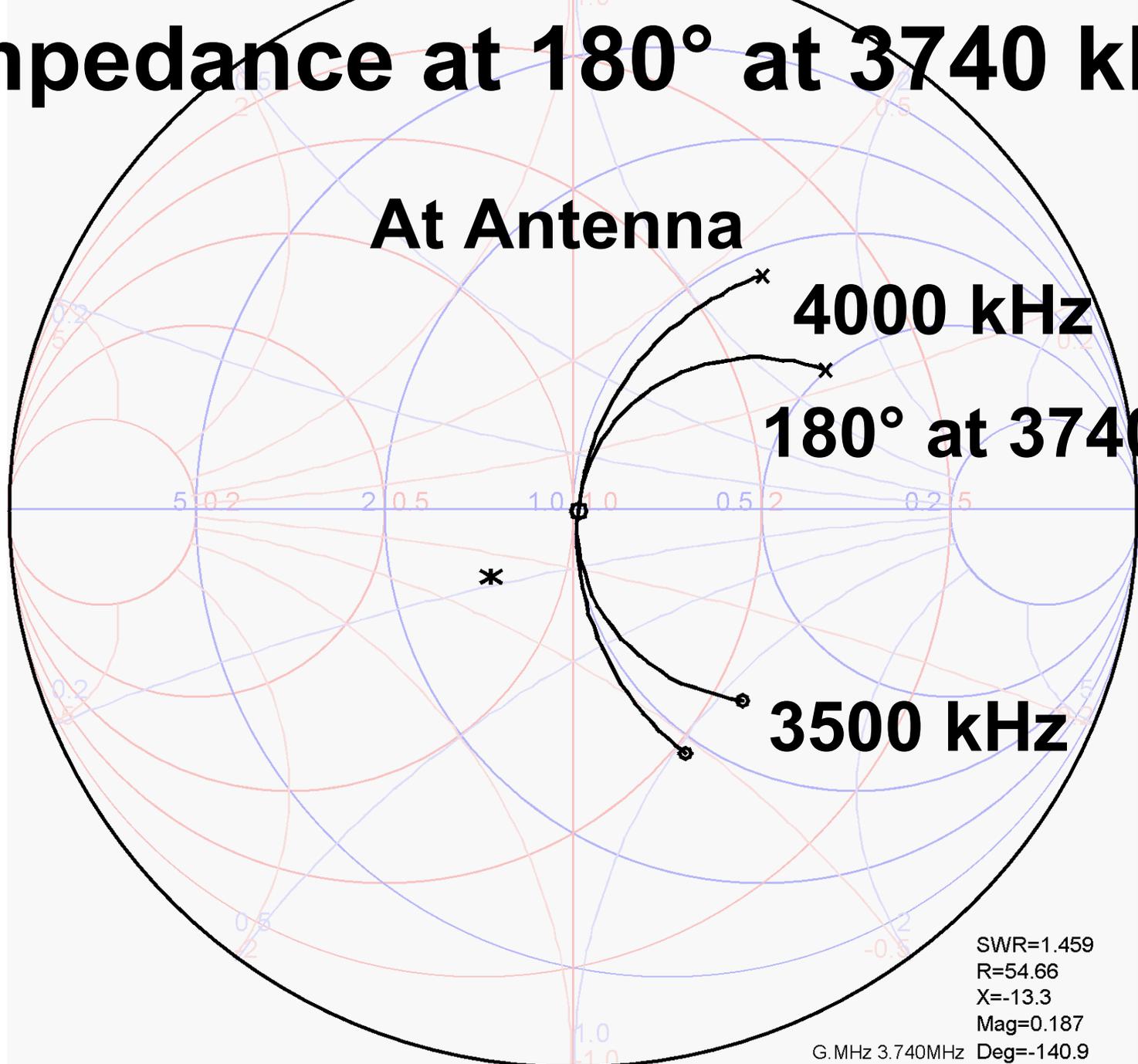


SWR=1.459
R=54.66
X=-13.3
Mag=0.187

G. MHz 3.740MHz Deg=-140.9

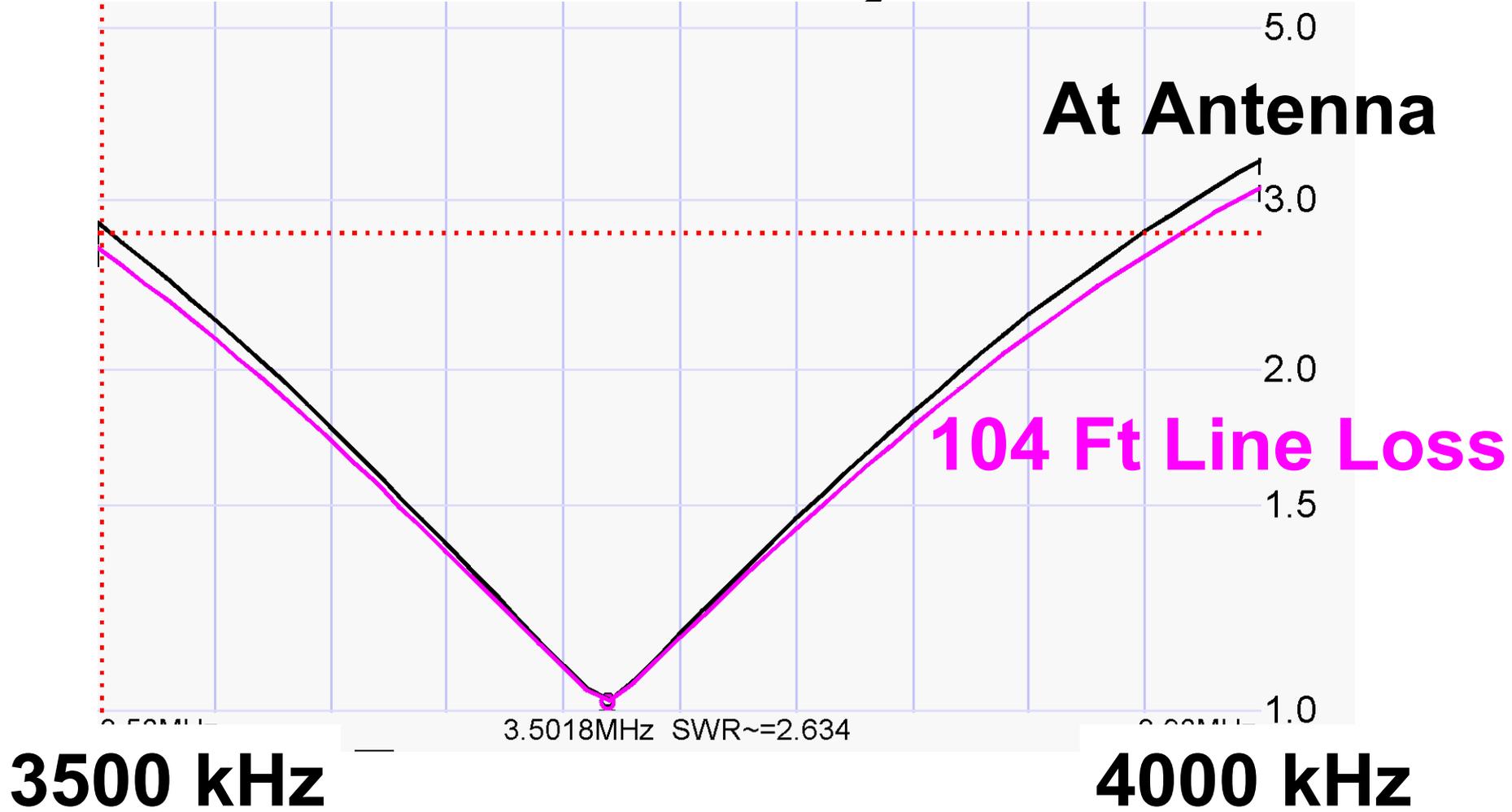
Zo:75.0

Impedance at 180° at 3740 kHz

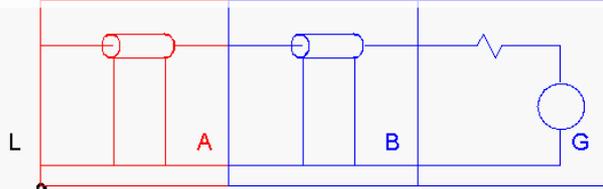


Zo:75.0

SWR Reduced By Line Loss



“Leeson” 80M Dipole Matching

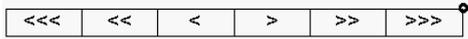
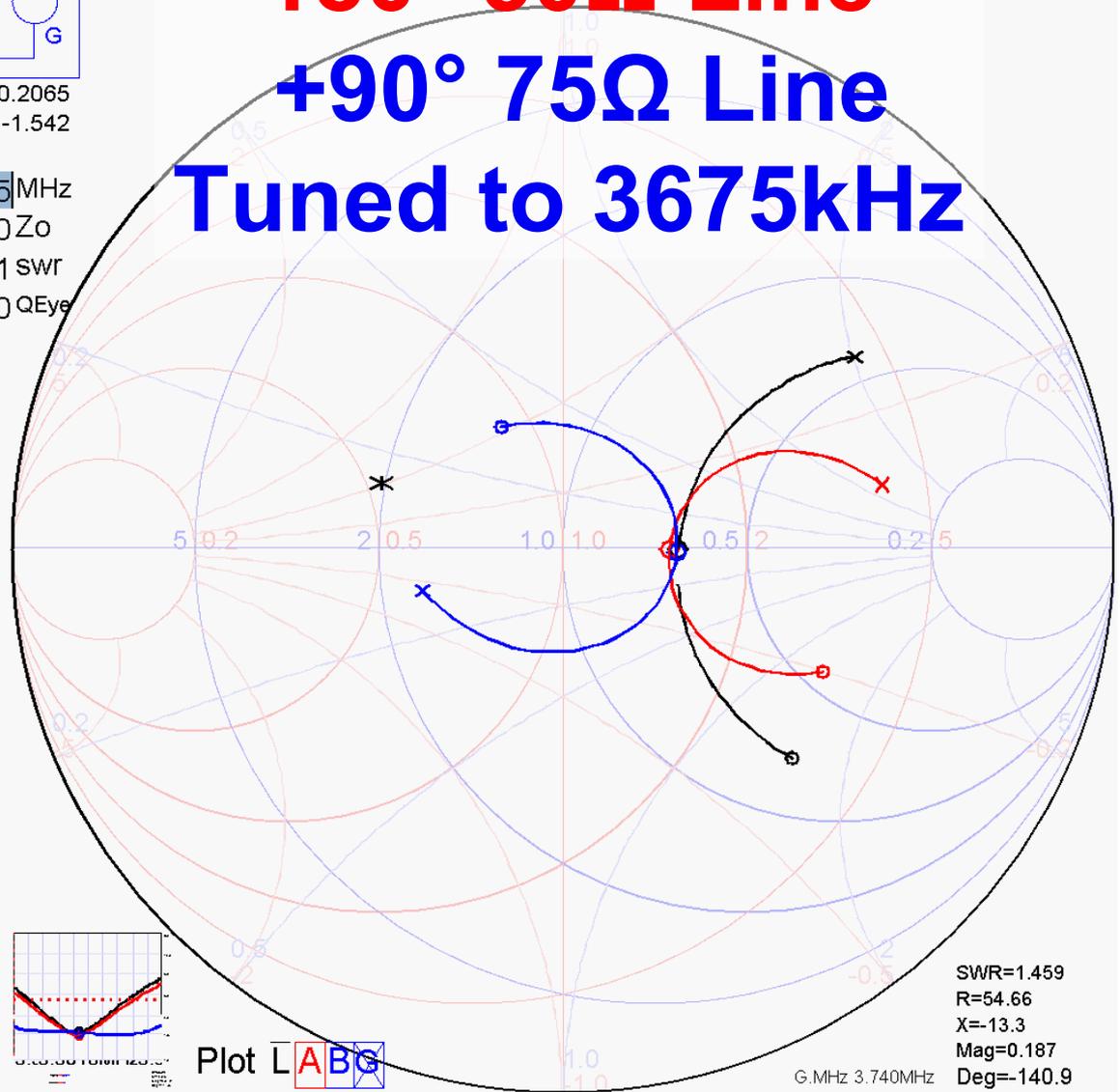


R= 76.439	R= 73.992	R= 75.999	Mag= 0.2065
X= ~0	X= ~0	X= -0.882	Angle= -1.542
Pin= 0.858	Pin= 0.933	Pin= 0.957	
76.439 Ohms	180 deg	90 deg	3.675 MHz
-36.9m jOhms	3.675 @MHz	3.675 @MHz	50 Zo
	113.08 ft	52.189 ft	1 SWR
	.845 vf	.78 vf	0 QEye
	50 Zo	75 Zo	
	.22 /100f	.35 /100f	
	2 @freq	10 @freq	

180° 50Ω Line

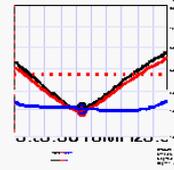
+90° 75Ω Line

Tuned to 3675kHz



steps	from	to	name
	LeesonDipole.txt	clr	L.file
50	lin	3.50	G.MHz

		m		
		m		
0)	()	(
c	m	m		
u	m	m		
2	<	>		



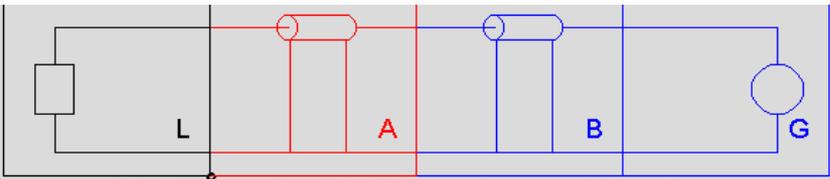
Plot L **A** **B** **G**

Zo:50.0

SWR=1.459
R=54.66
X=-13.3
Mag=0.187
Deg=-140.9

G.MHz 3.740MHz

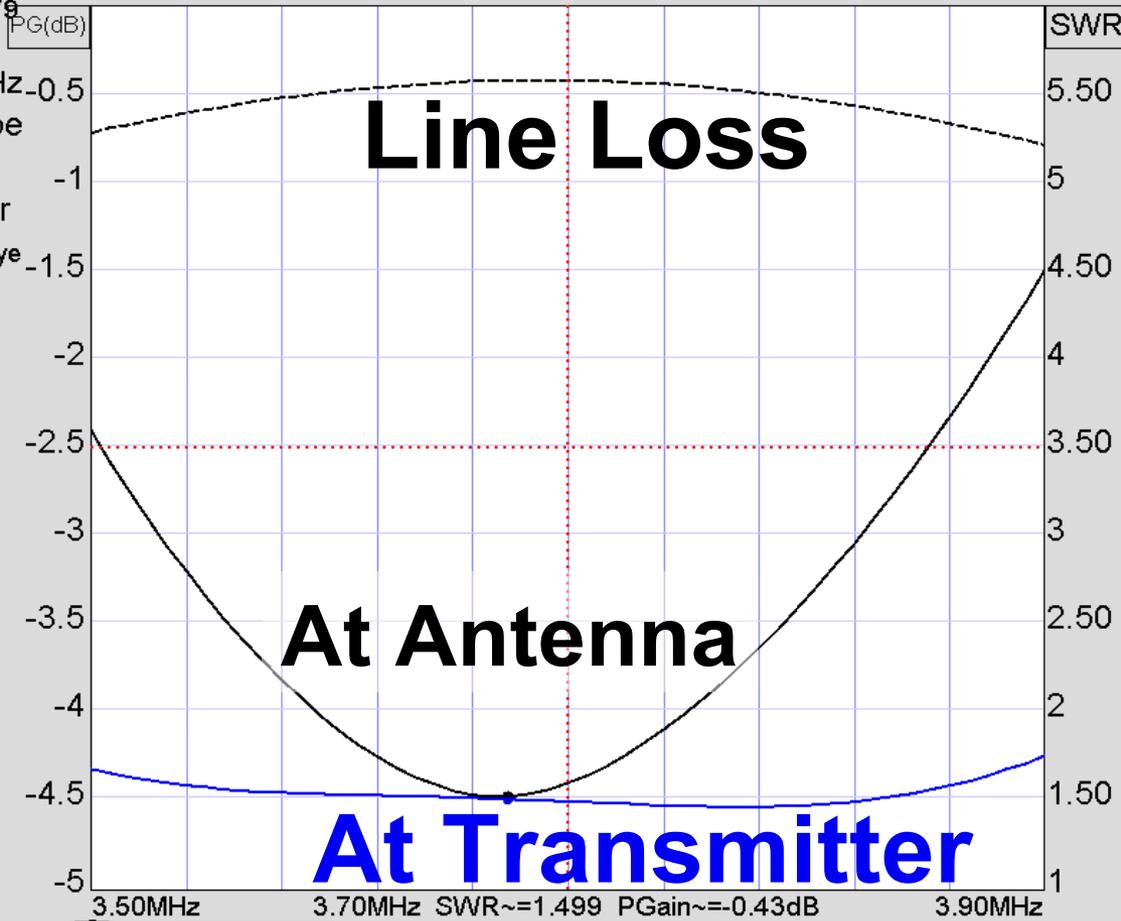
“Leeson” 80M Dipole Matching



R= 76.439 X= ~0 Pin= 0.906	R= 74.454 X= ~0 Pin= 0.969	R= 75.536 X= -1.108 Pin= 1	Mag= 0.2036 Angle= -1.979
76.439 Ohms -36.9m jOhms	180 deg 3.6750 @MHz	90 deg 3.6750 @MHz	3.675 MHz xMtch type
	89.204 ft 0.6666 vf 50 Zo	44.602 ft 0.6666 vf 75 Zo	50 Zo 1 swr 0 QEye
	0.50 /100f 10 @frq	0.50 /100f 10 @frq	

<<< << < > >> >>>

steps	from	to	name
50	lin	3.50	3.9
			G.MHz



lin

SWR: LABG

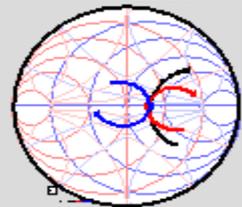
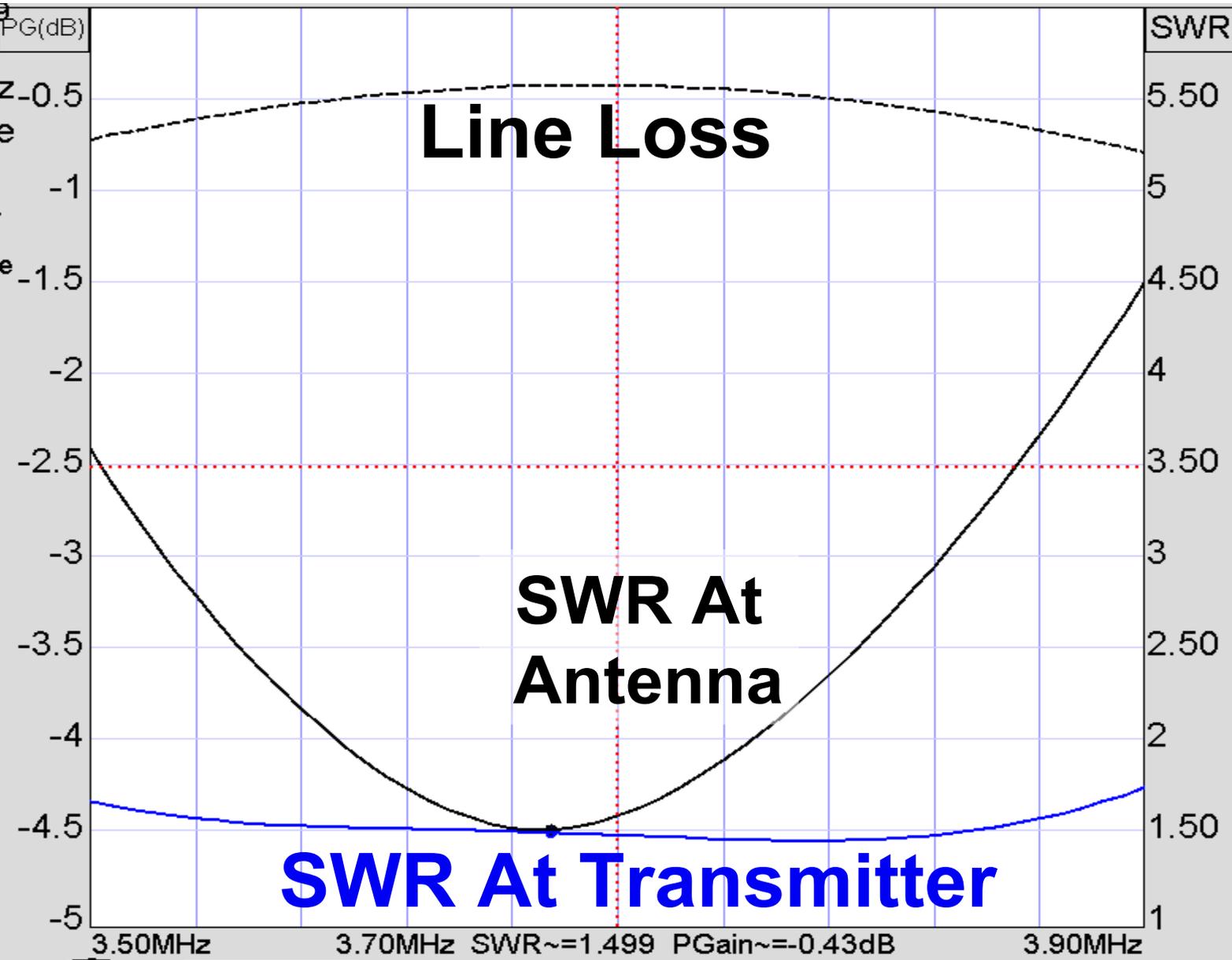
PGain: LAB

SWR~1.499
R=72.79
X=-9.18
Mag=0.20
Deg=-17.7

.108
in= 1
deg
@MHz
ft
vf
Zo
100f
@frq

Angle= -1.979

3.675	MHz	-0.5
xMtch	type	
50	Zo	-1
1	swr	
0	QEye	-1.5



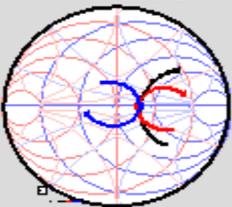
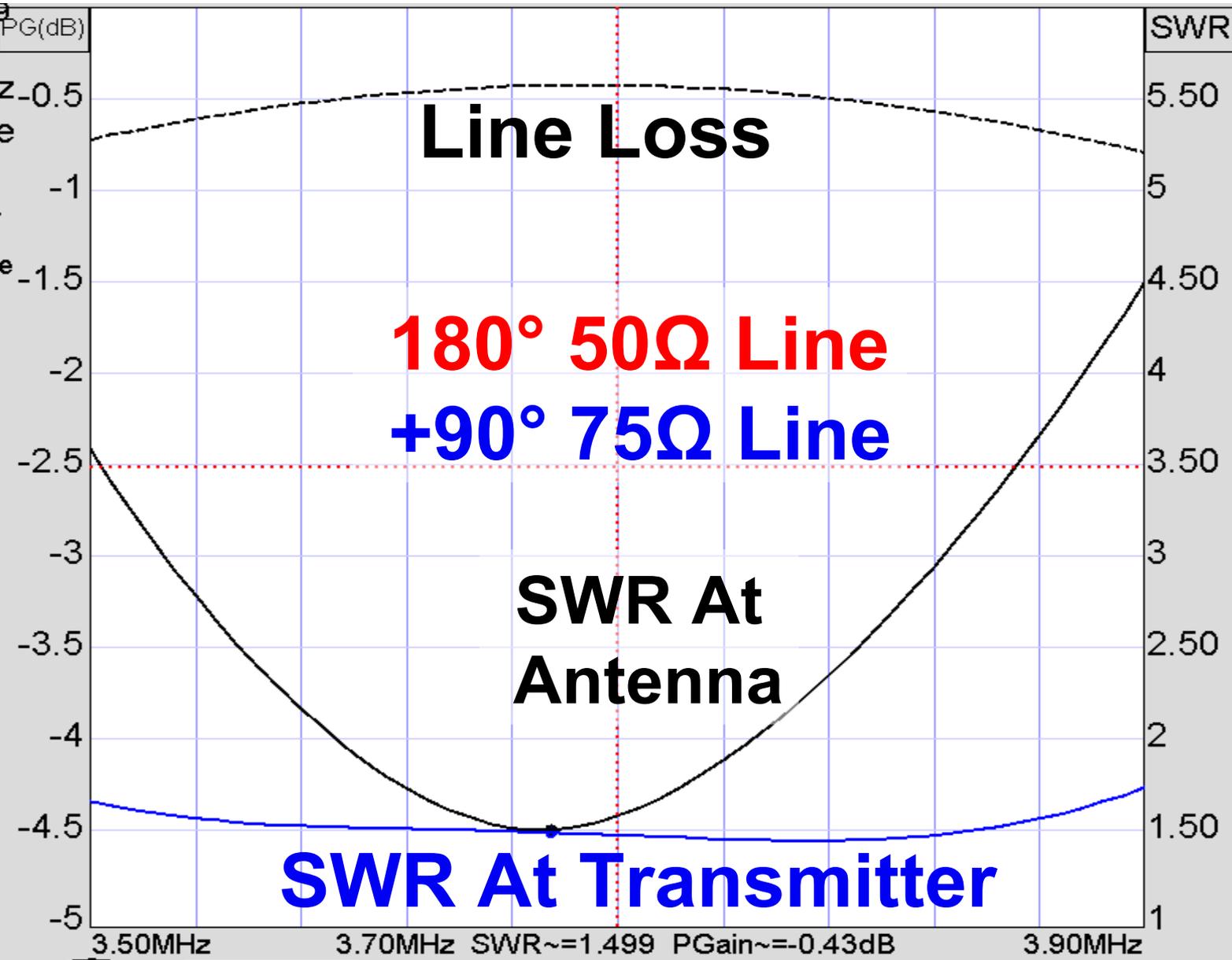
lin			
SWR:	L	A	B
PGain:	L	A	B

SWR~1.499
R=72.79
X=-9.18
Mag=0.20
Deg=-17.7

.108
deg
@MHz
ft
vf
Zo
100f
@frq

Angle= -1.979

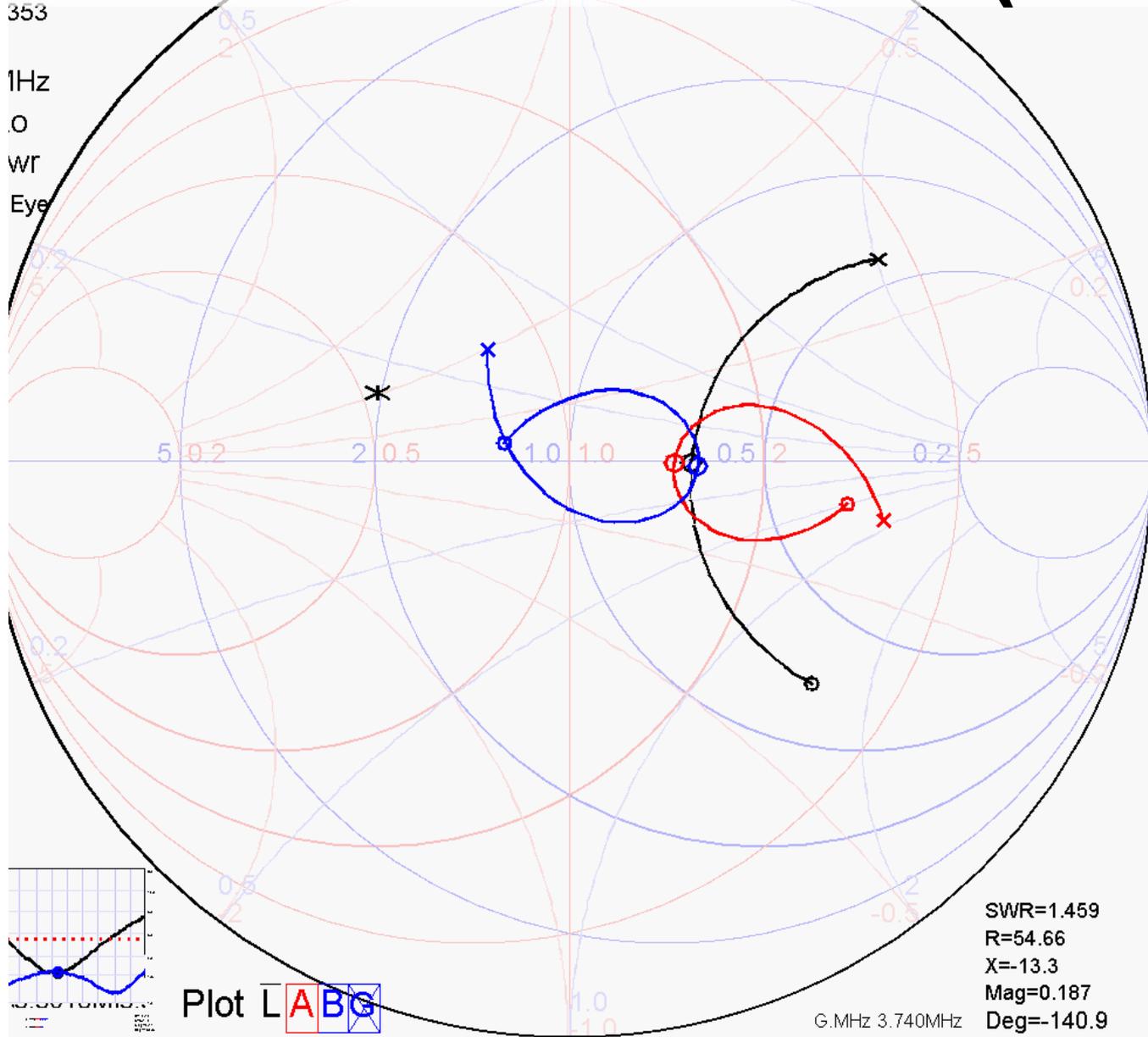
3.675	MHz	-0.5
xMtch	type	
50	Zo	-1
1	swr	
0	QEye	-1.5

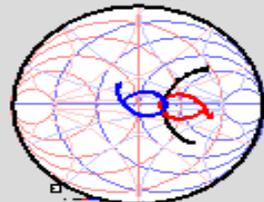
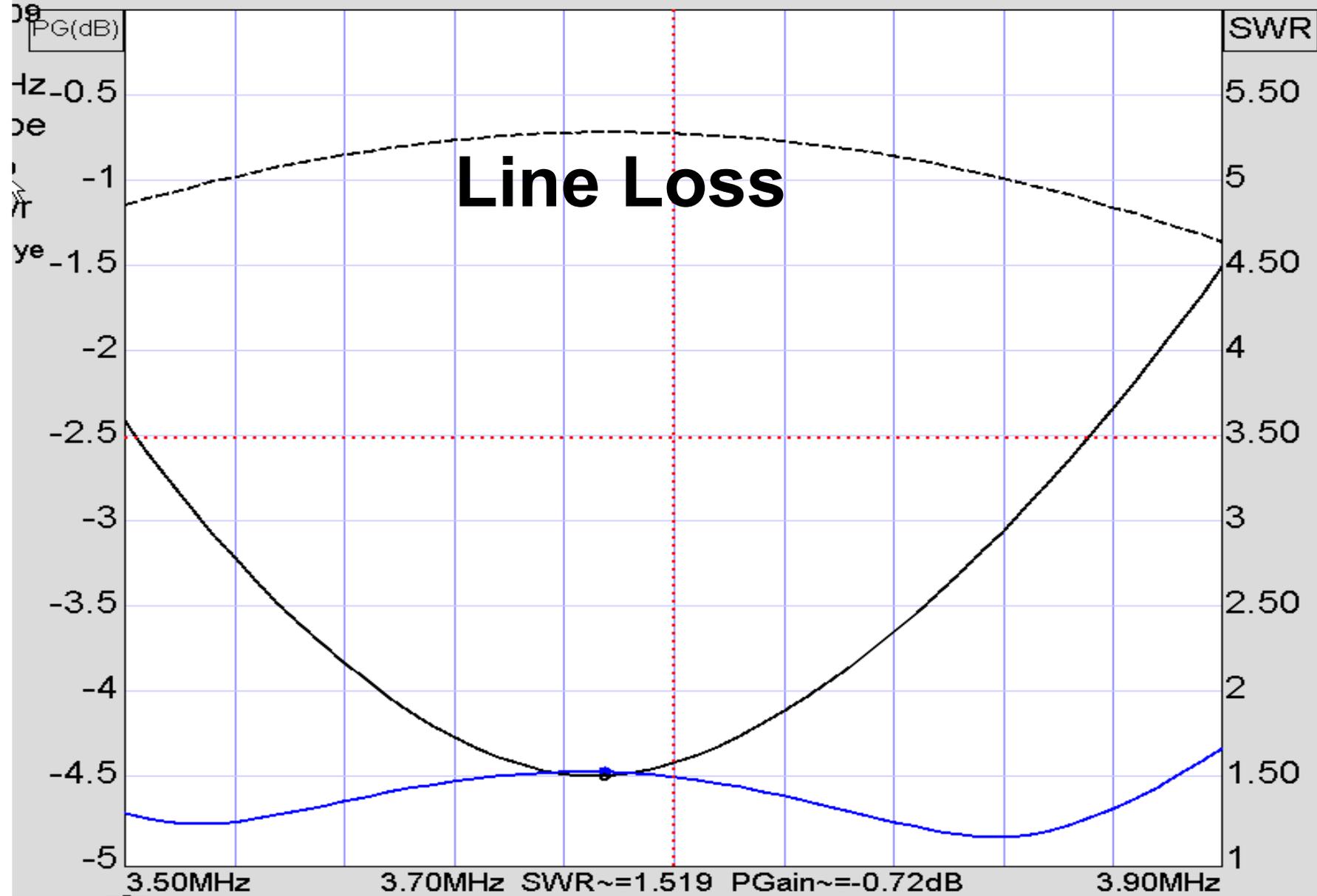


lin
SWR: L A B G
PGain: L A B

SWR~1.499
R=72.79
X=-9.18
Mag=0.20
Deg=-17.7

One More Time Around (360°)



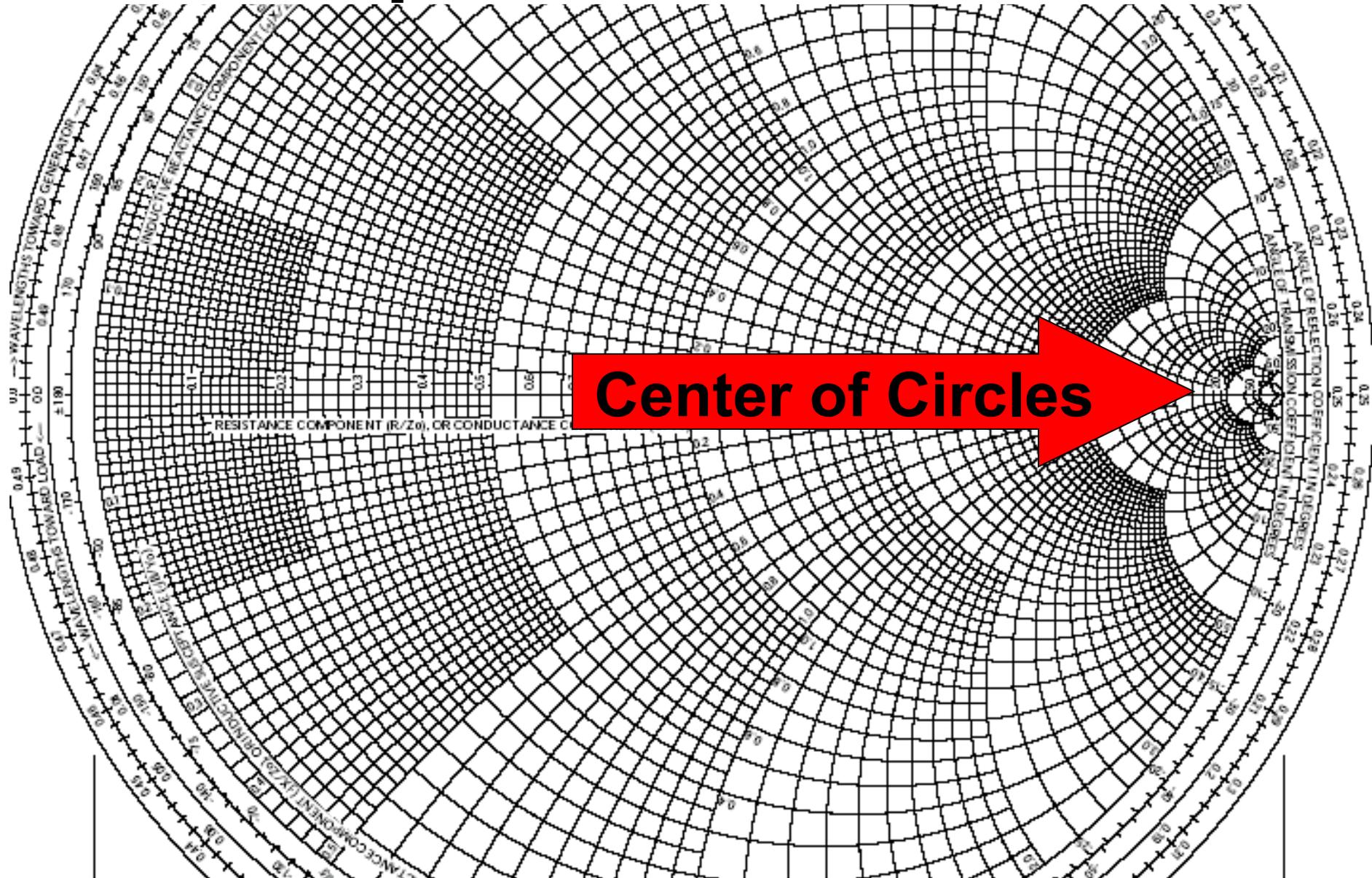


SWR~1.519
 R=74.57
 X=-7.58
 Mag=0.206
 Deg=-13.7

Designing Matching Networks

- We need to learn a bit more about the Smith Chart to design networks
- There are two versions of the Smith Chart
- The standard version works with impedance ($Z = R + jX$ Ohms)
 - Good for adding series reactance to a circuit
 - Centers of circles are on the right

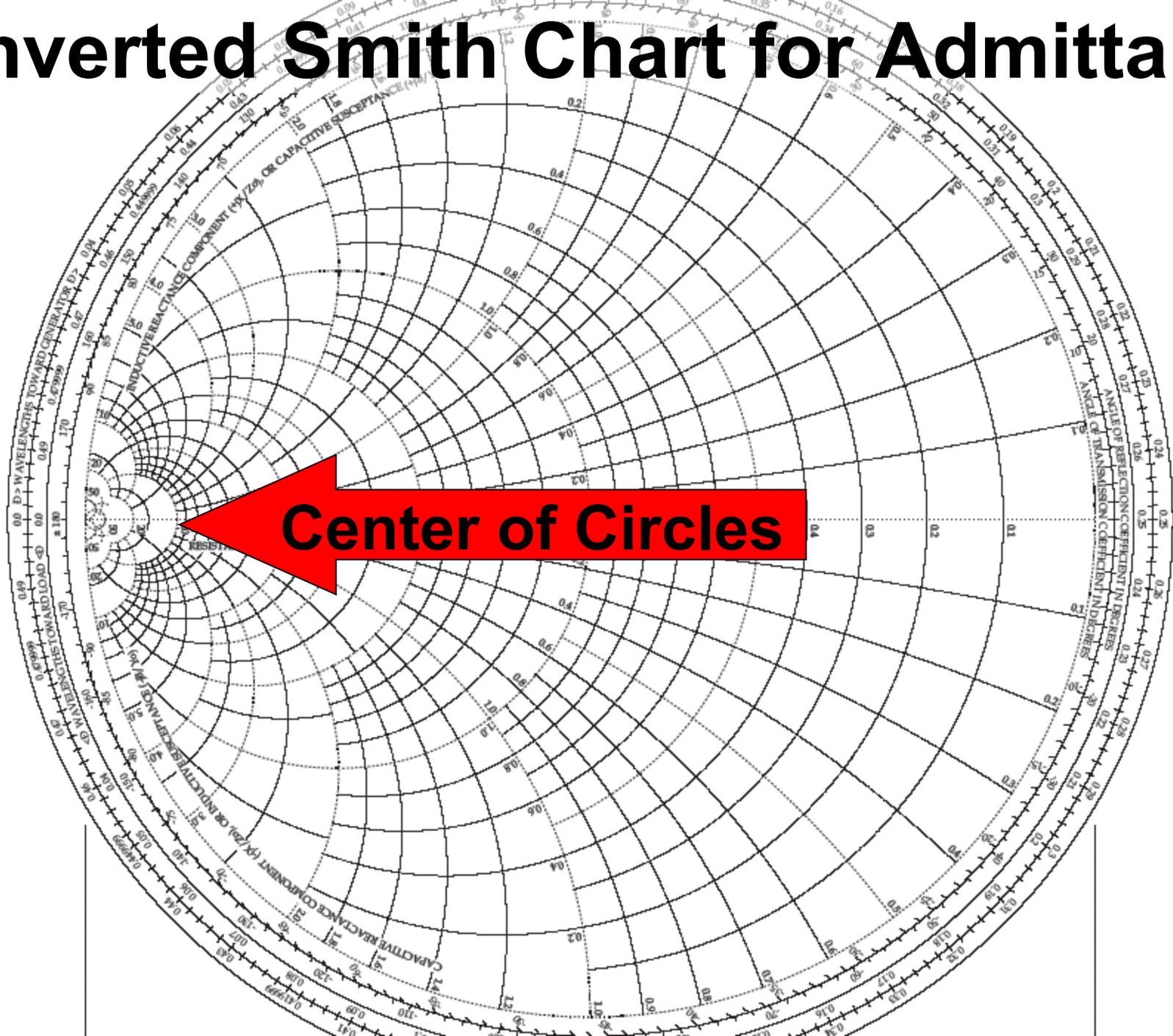
The Impedance Smith Chart



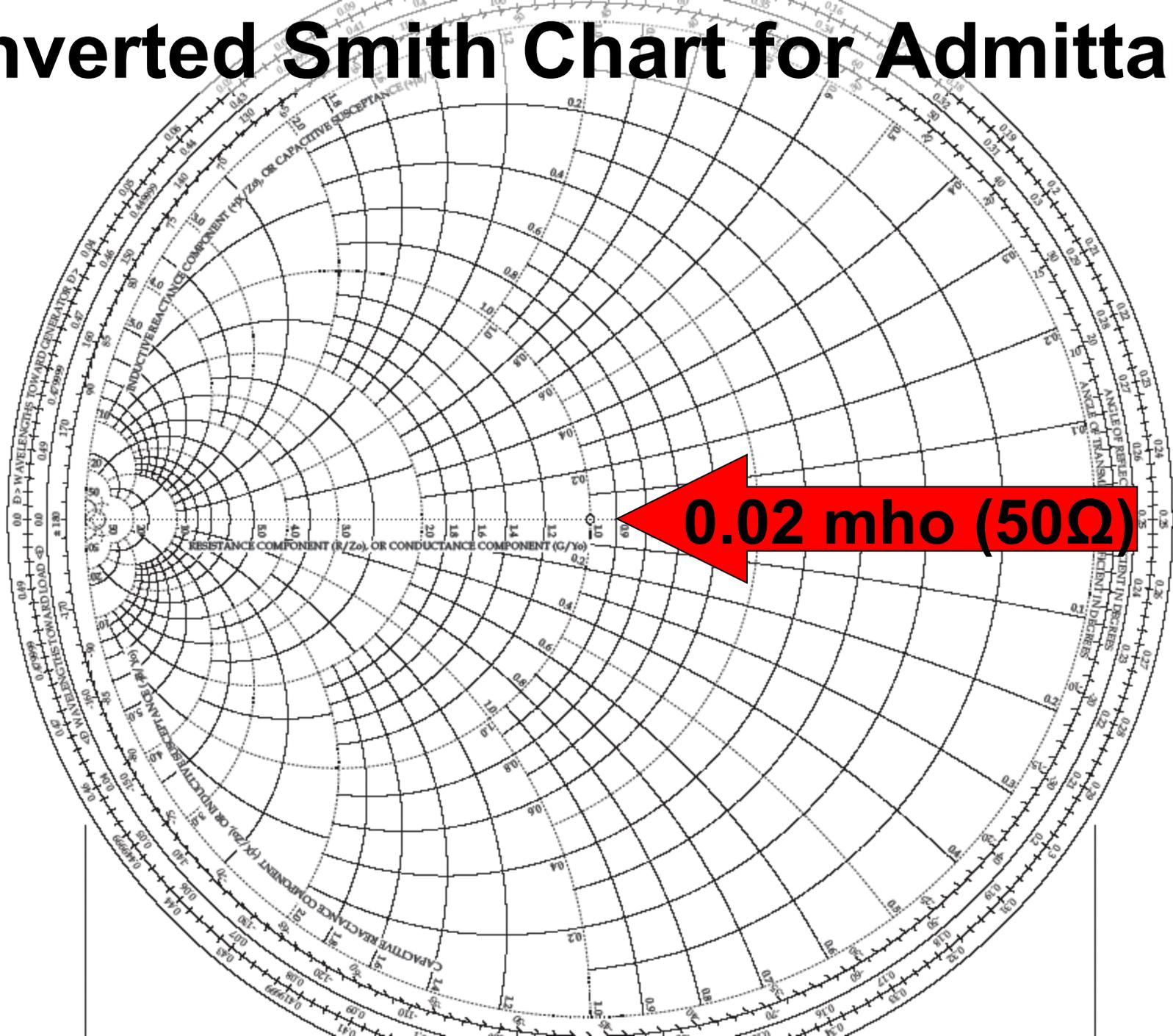
Two Versions of Smith Chart

- The inverted version works with admittance ($Y = G + jB$)
 - Good for adding components in parallel in a circuit
- Centers of circles are on the left

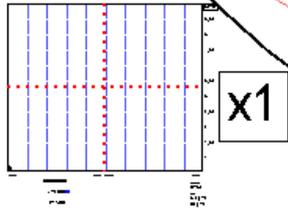
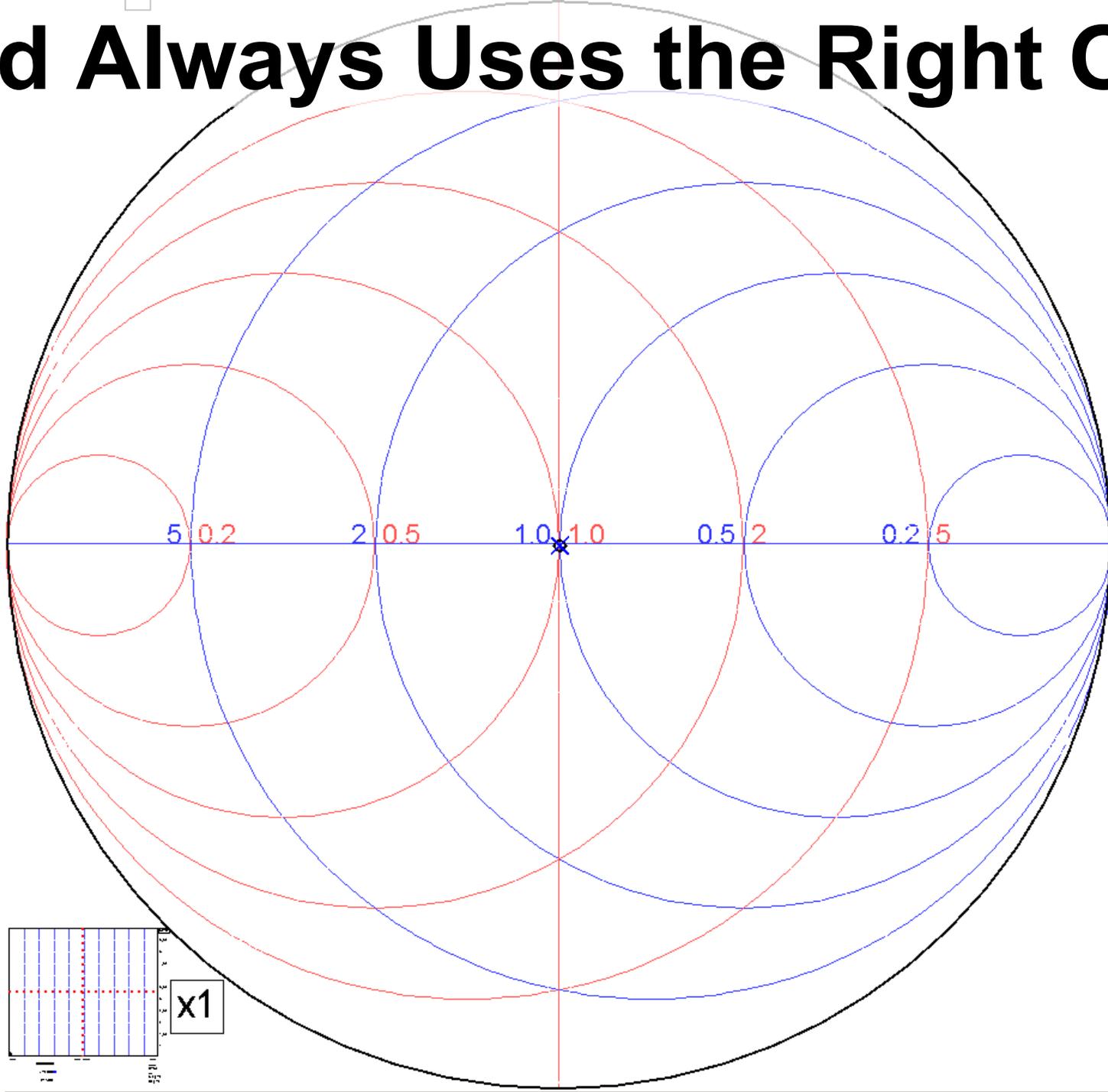
Inverted Smith Chart for Admittance



Inverted Smith Chart for Admittance

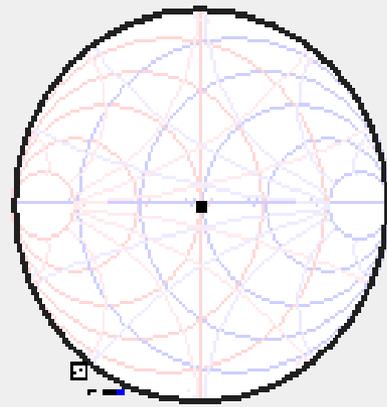


And Always Uses the Right Ones



<<<	<<	<	>	>>	>>>
prev		closest		next	

steps	from	to	name
	<none>	clr	file
399	lin	3.5	4
			G.MHz

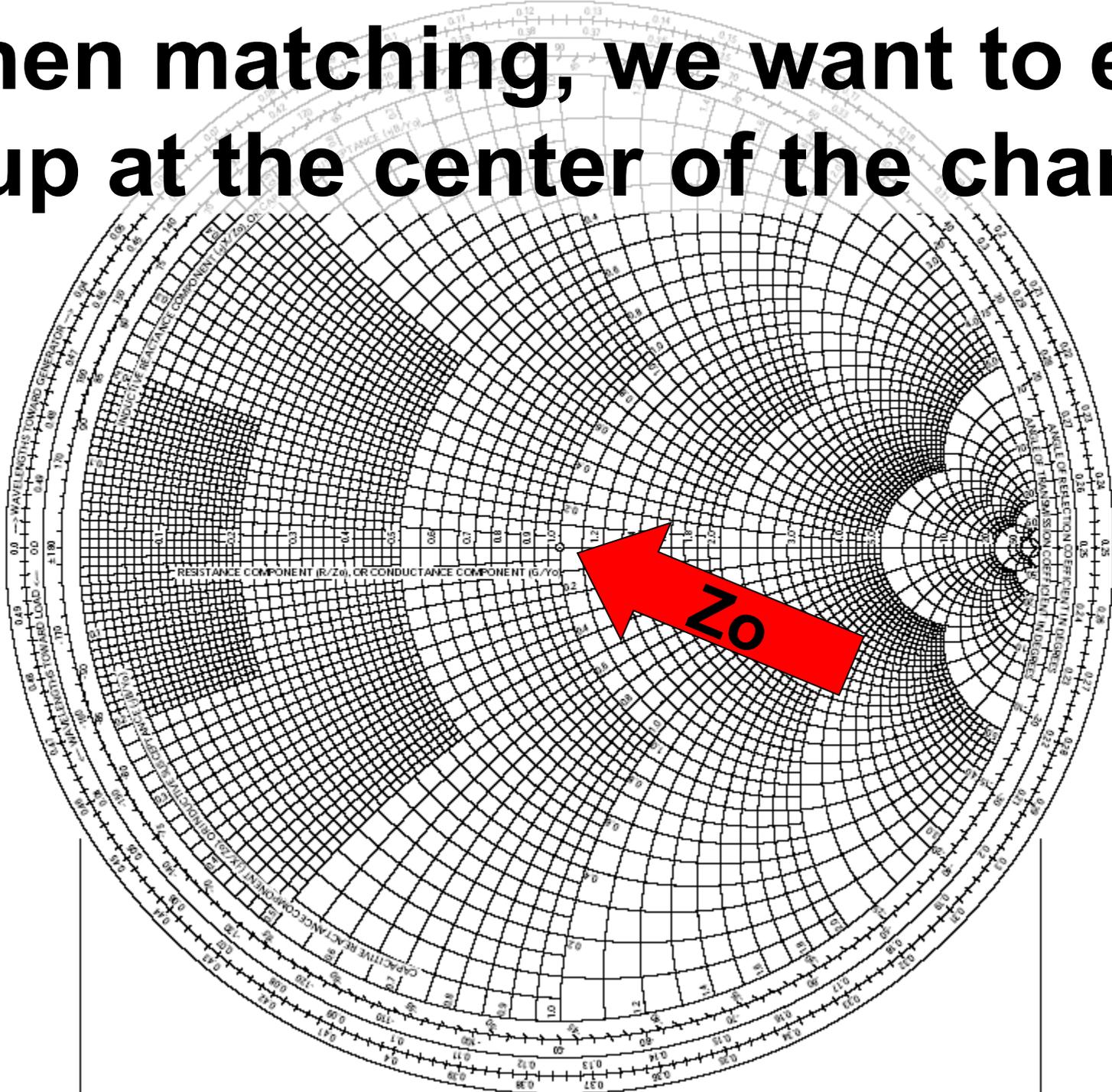


lin

SWR: L G

PGain: L

When matching, we want to end up at the center of the chart



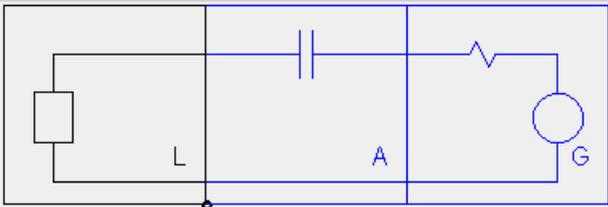
Designing Simple Networks

- **Adding reactance moves the impedance along the circles**
- **Series reactance moves Z along circles centered to the right**
- **Parallel reactance moves Z along circles centered to the left**
 - **Capacitance moves Z downward**
 - **Inductance moves Z upward**

A Simple Problem, at Only One Frequency

- We have a $50 + j40 \Omega$ load (it's inductive)
- We add a series capacitor
- Z moves along a right-centered circle, because it's a series cap

Series Reactance Moves Z Along Circles Centered Right

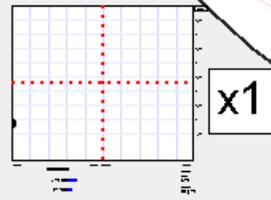
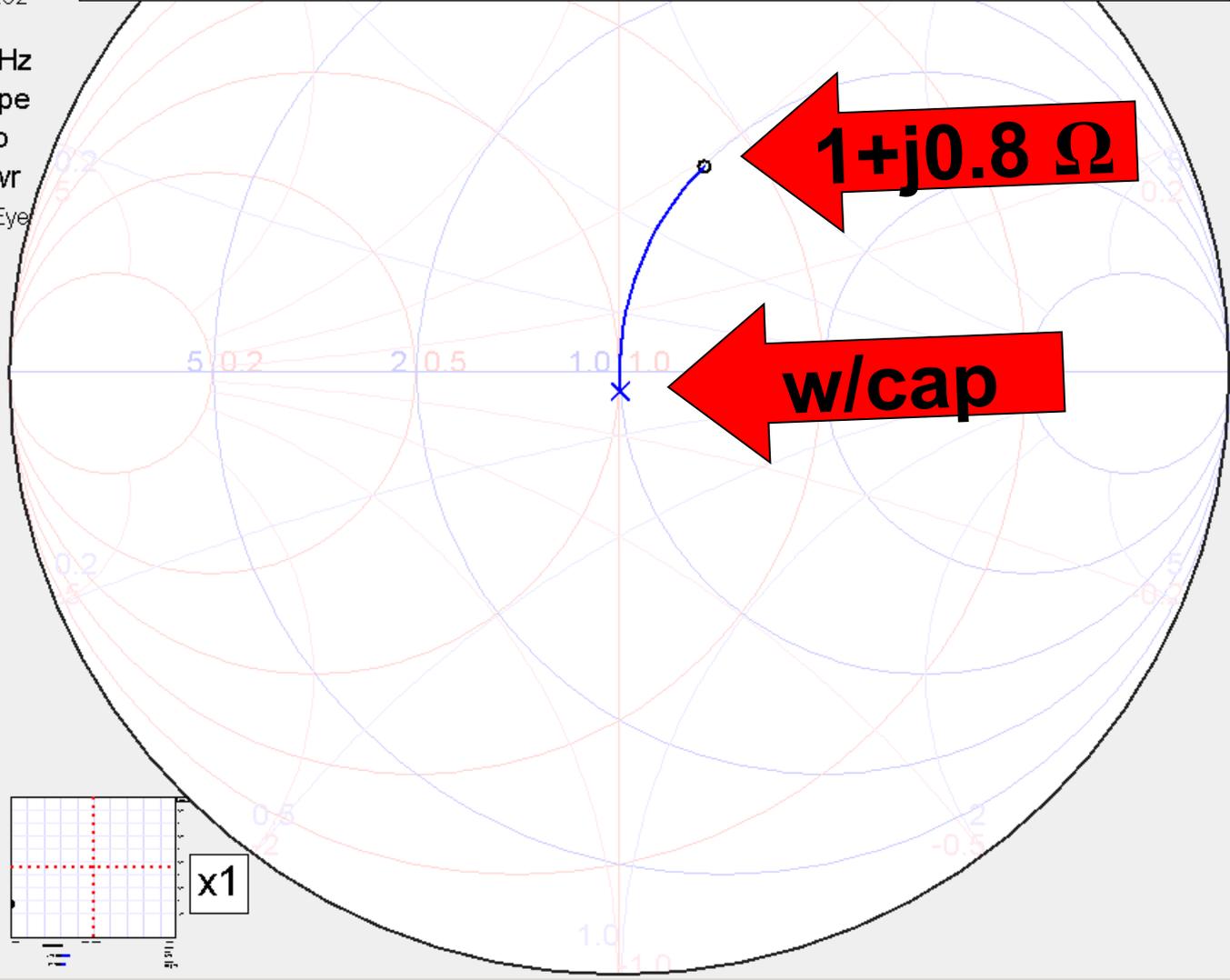


R= 50 R= 50.021 Mag= 28.77m
 X= 40 X= -2.879 Angle= -87.92
 Pin= 0.999 Pin= 0.999

50 Ohms	1010pF	3.675 MHz
40 jOhms	2.0KQ	useZo type
	0 @MHz	50 Zo
		1 swr
		0 QEye

<<<	<<	<	>	>>	>>>
prev	closest		next		

steps	from	to	name
<none>	clr		file
50	lin		0 MHz



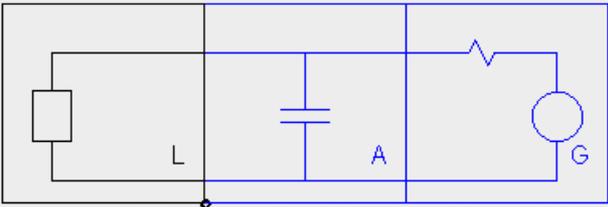
A Parallel Example

- **Same $50 + j40 \ \Omega$ load ($.0122 + j.0097$ siemens)**
- **On a paper Smith Chart, we would turn the chart upside down and plot it as $0.61 + j .485$**
- **We're used to thinking impedance, and there's a lot of trig in making that conversion**

SimSmith to the Rescue

- We draw the circuit with R, L, C, stubs, transmission lines, etc.**
- Sim Smith does all the math, plots everything in the right place, computes the right way, always displays the result in Ohms (the Impedance Smith Chart)**

Parallel Reactance Moves Z Along Circles Centered Left

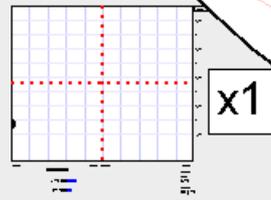
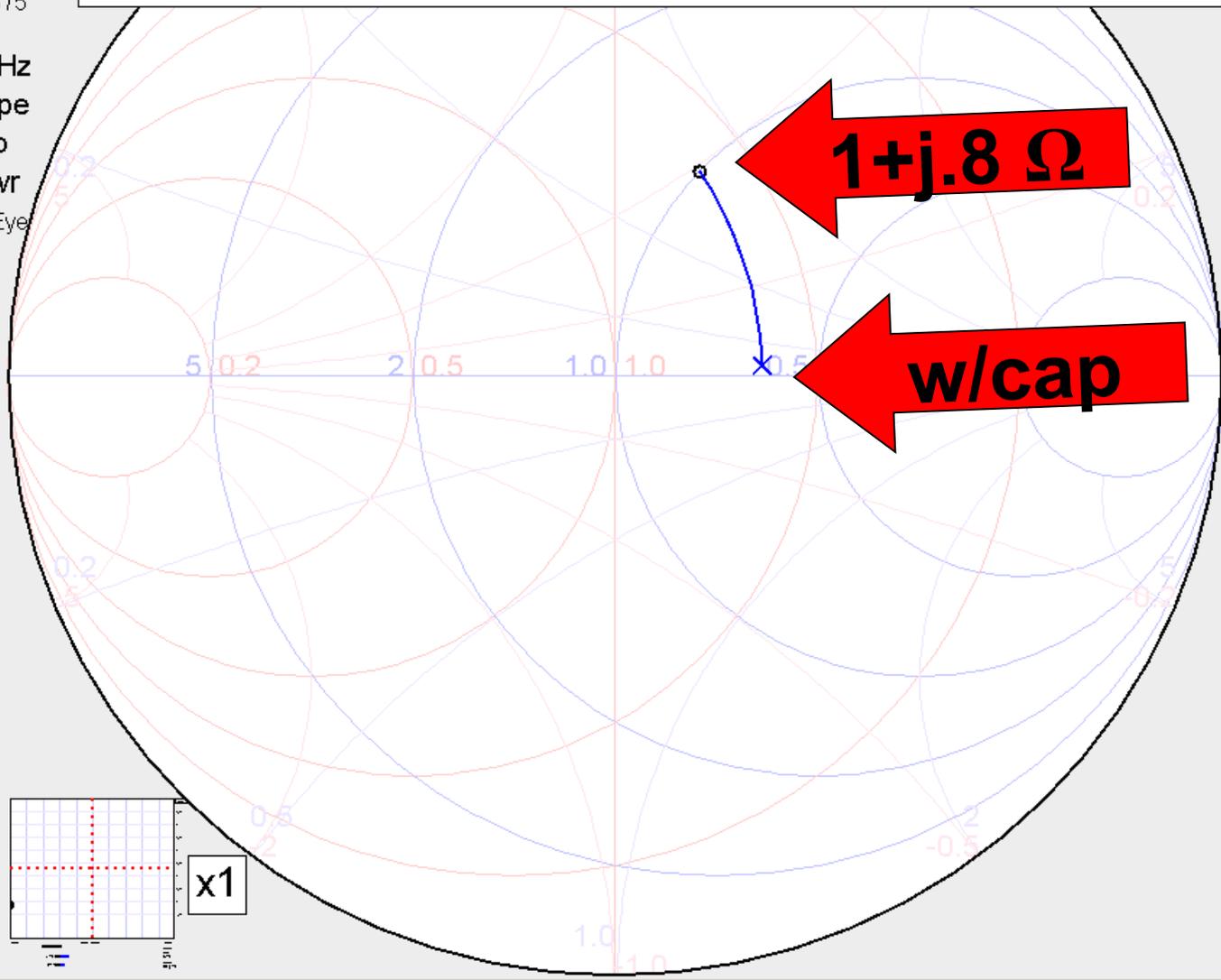


R= 50 R= 81.820 Mag= 0.2428
 X= 40 X= 3.4863 Angle= 4.7375
 Pin= 0.941 Pin= 0.941

50 Ohms	400pF	3.675 MHz
40 jOhms	2.0KQ	useZo type
	0 @MHz	50 Zo
		1 swr
		0 QEye

<<<	<<	<	>	>>	>>>
prev	closest		next		

steps	from	to	name
<none>		clr	<file>
50	lin		G.MHz



Our Simple Example

- Obviously, series C was the best solution for this network, but most matching stubs are connected in parallel**
- We'll nearly always be following the left-centered circles**

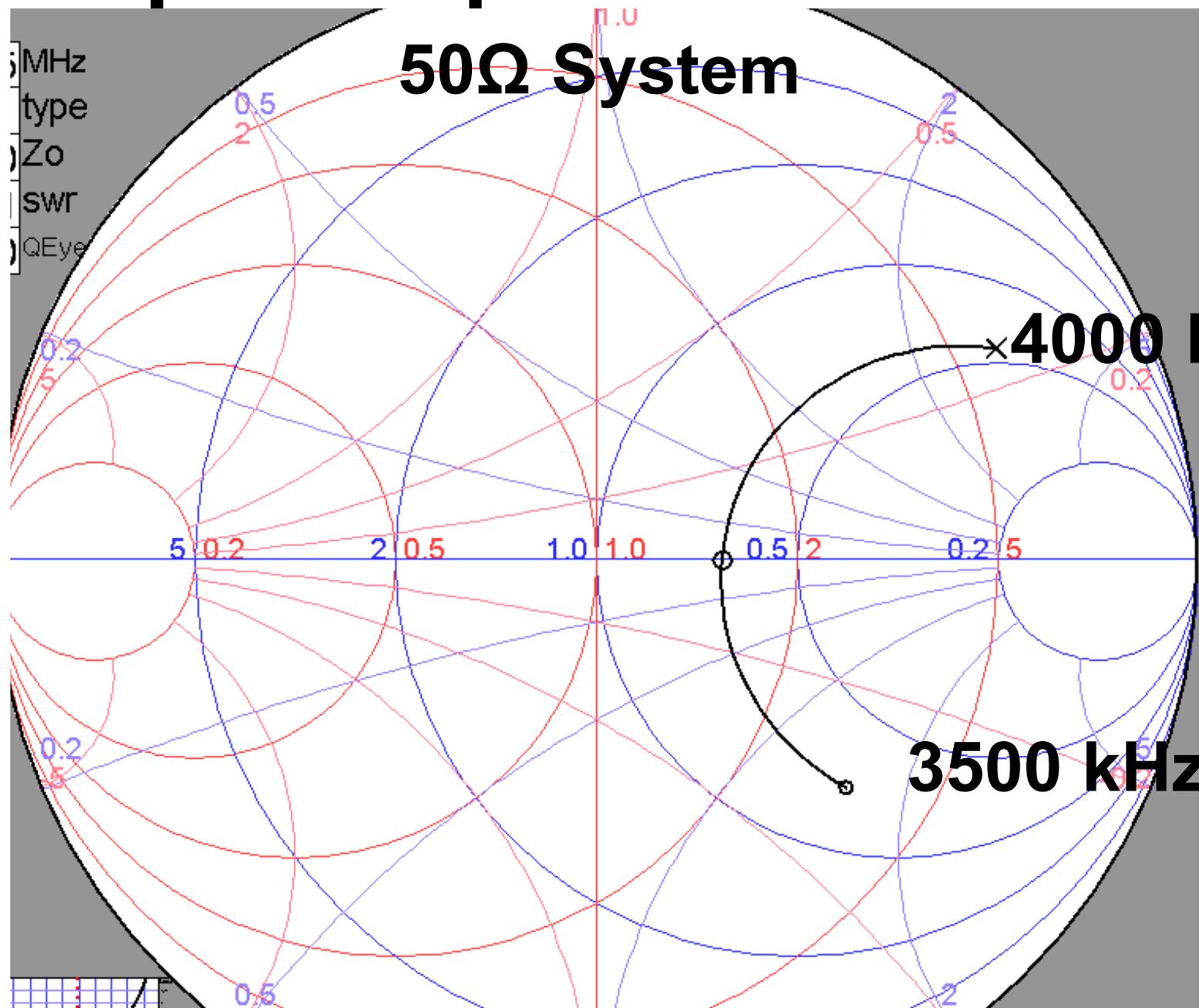
Back to Antennas

- **We design antennas to cover an entire band, not just one frequency**
- **NEC designs and antenna measurements produce not just one point on the Smith Chart, but many points**
- **SimSmith plots those points as a curve for the frequency range we are interested in**

Back to Antennas

- **Each point on the curve follows it's own circle**
- **This can be tricky to visualize, so let's look at our 80M dipole**

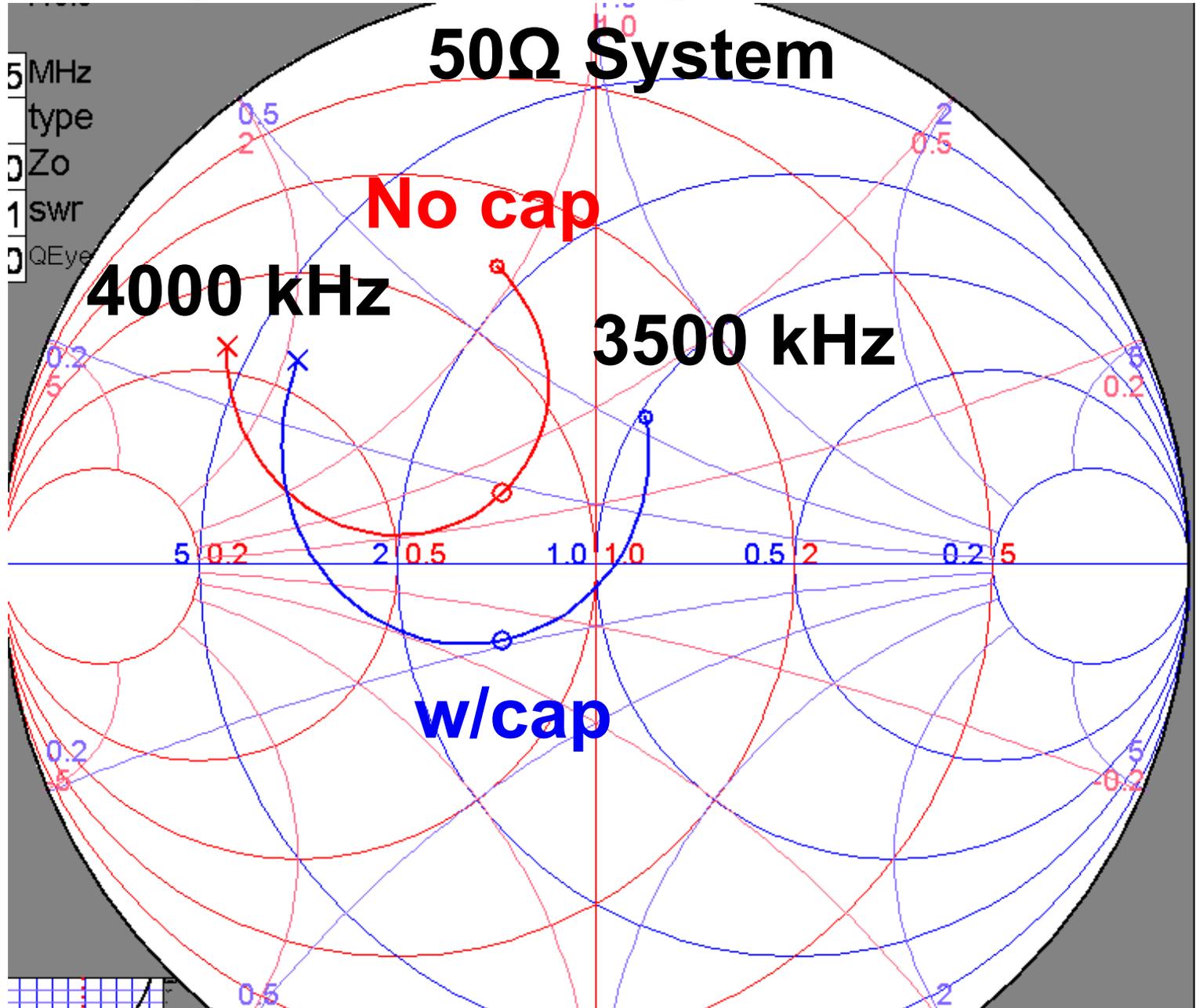
80M Dipole Imported From NEC



Back to Antennas

- Adding 110° of coax, we get the Red curve
- Adding the parallel capacitor we get the Blue curve

110 Degrees Along Line, Add Cap



Stub Matching

- **A stub is a short length of transmission line connected in parallel with the main transmission line**
- **An open stub $<90^\circ$ looks capacitive**
- **Find a point on the line where the impedance is inductive (the top half of the Smith Chart) and add an open stub**
- **Or add a shorted stub $<90^\circ$ at a point where impedance is capacitive (in the bottom half of the Smith Chart)**

Simple Stub Matching

- Find a point on the transmission line where we can move along a left circle to bring the curve closer to the center
- Usually easiest to add a small length of line, but we can also move along the line toward the antenna
- Add a stub that moves the impedance
 - Open stub to move down
 - Shorted stub to move up
- Tweak position and stub for best SWR

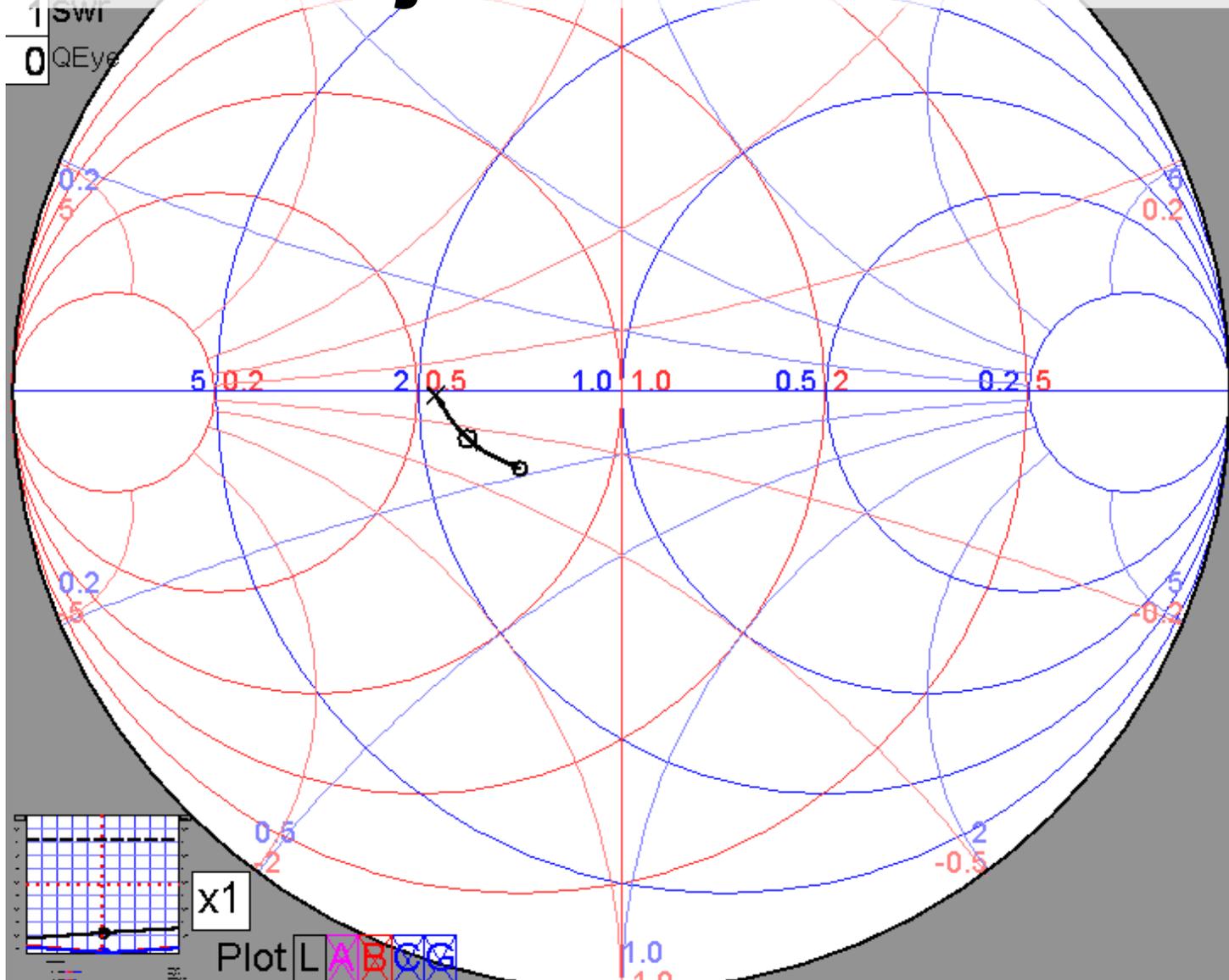
Example – My 15M Yagi

- Home brew 4-element, I didn't get the match quite right, and it's up there**
- A stub near the antenna will reduce SWR on the long run to the shack, also reducing cable loss**
- There's a coax splice below the rotator, a good place for a stub**
- I made a VNA measurement there**

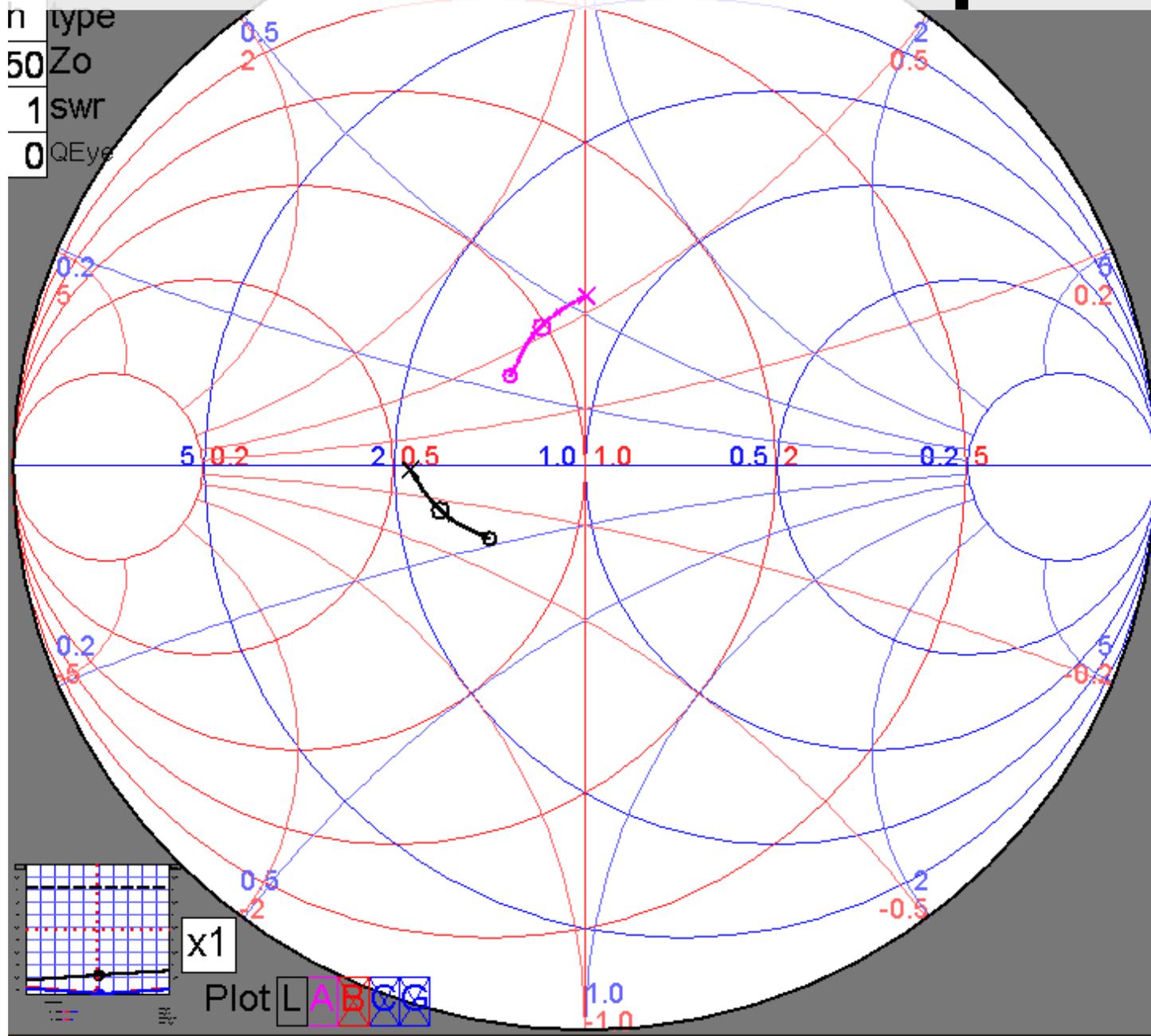
SWR of 15M Yagi



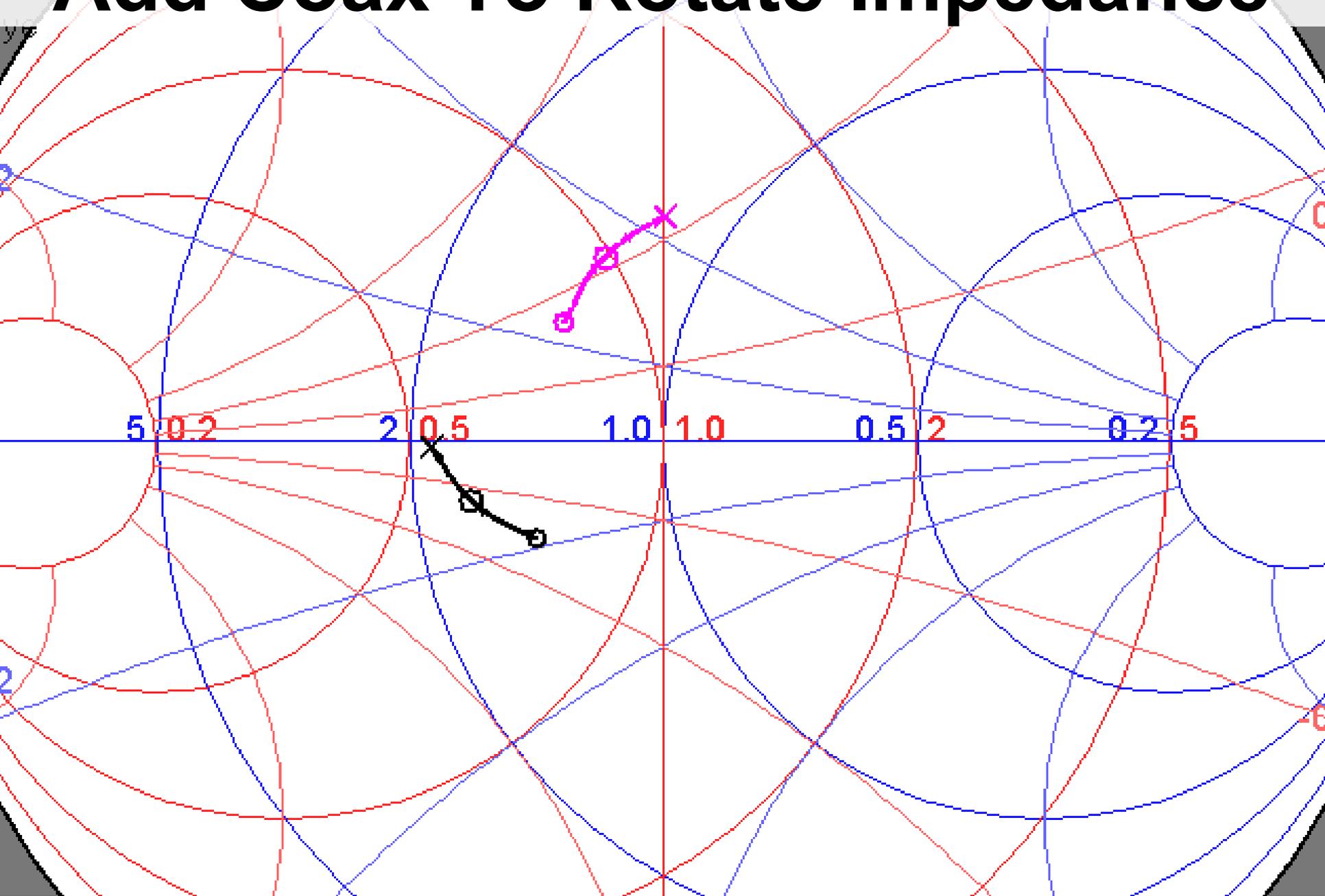
Smith Chart View of 15M Yagi, measured at junction below rotator



Add Coax To Rotate Impedance

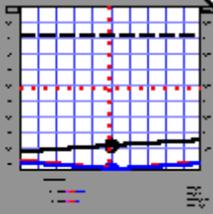
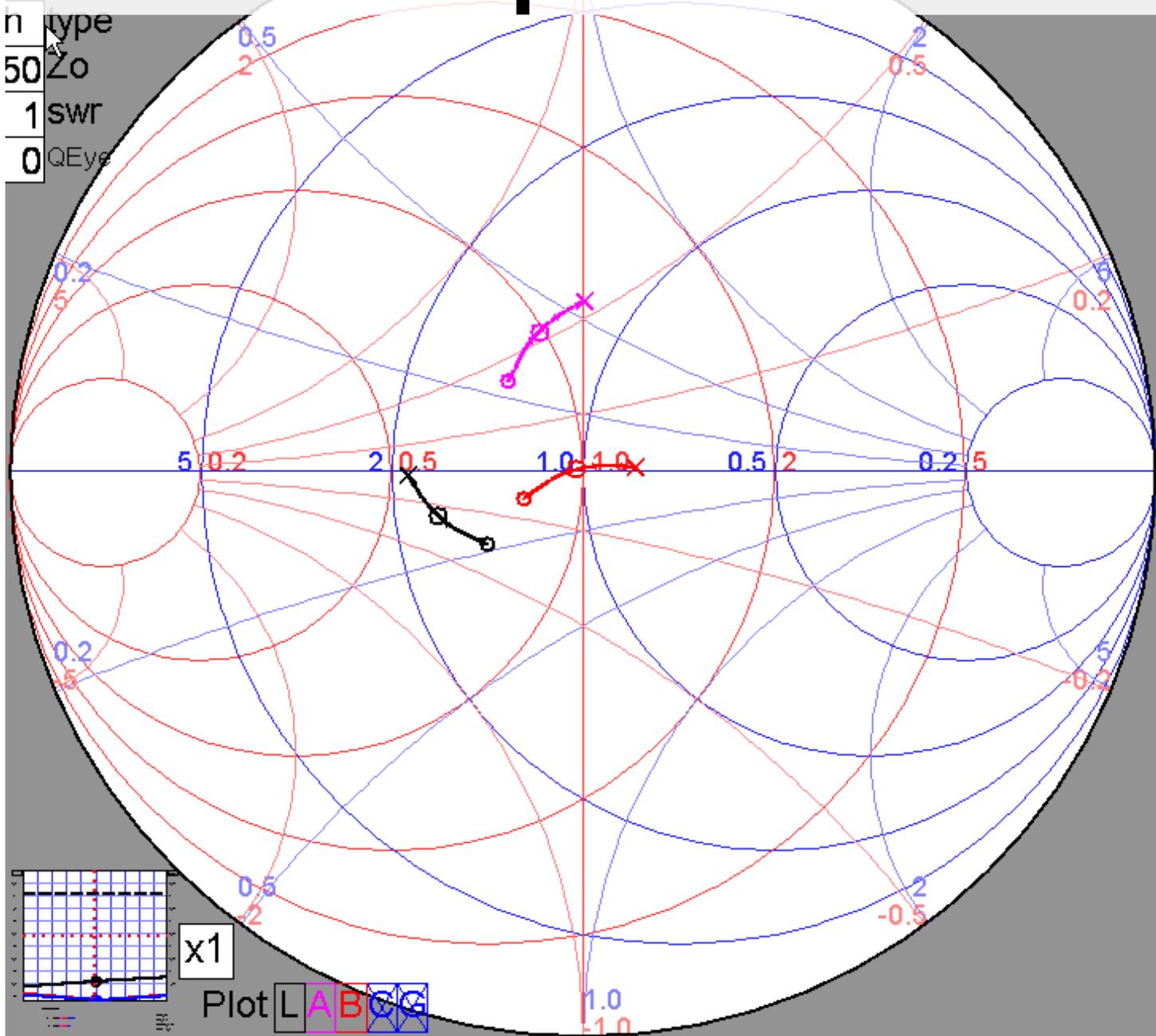


Add Coax To Rotate Impedance



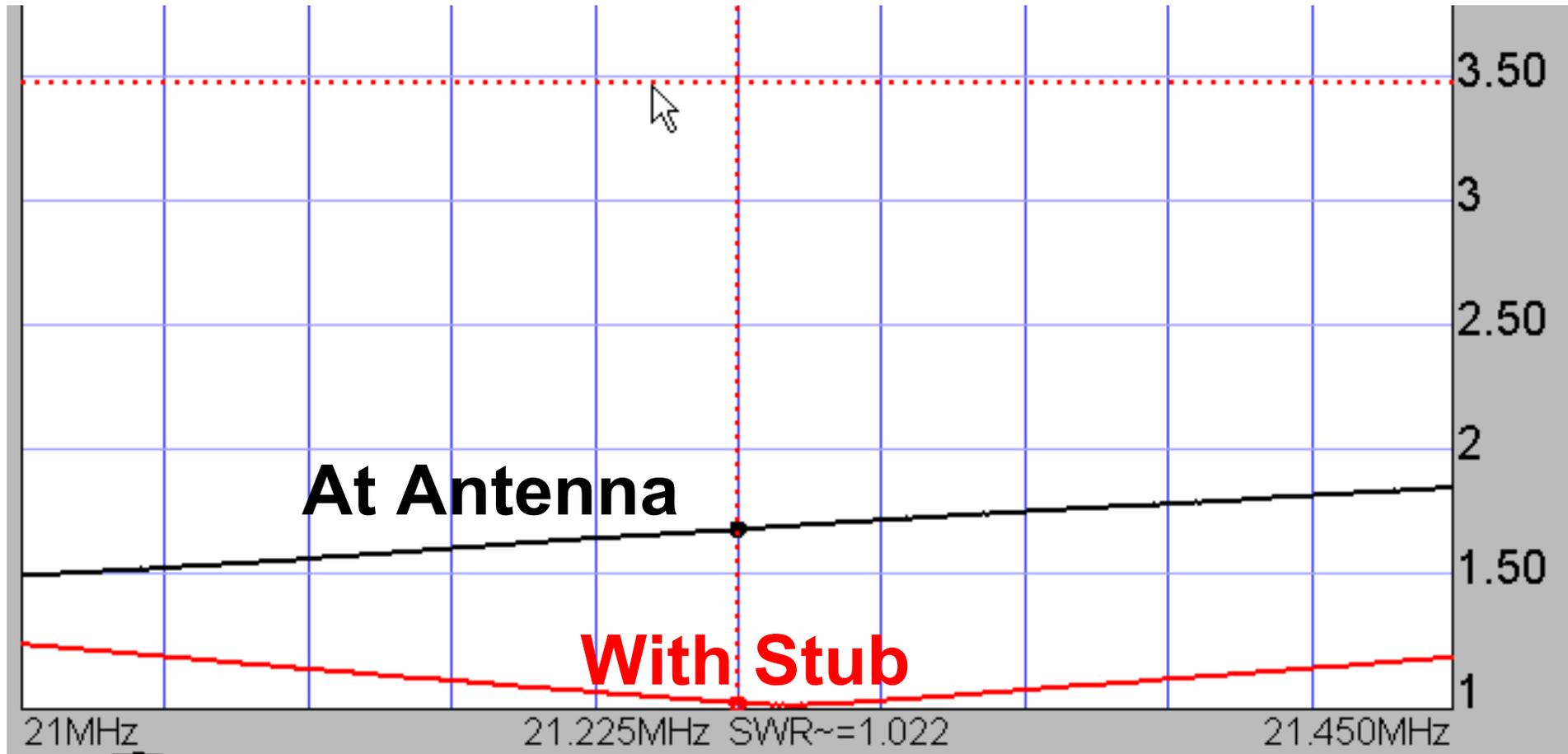
Add Open Stub

25 MHz
n type
50 Zo
1 SWR
0 QEye

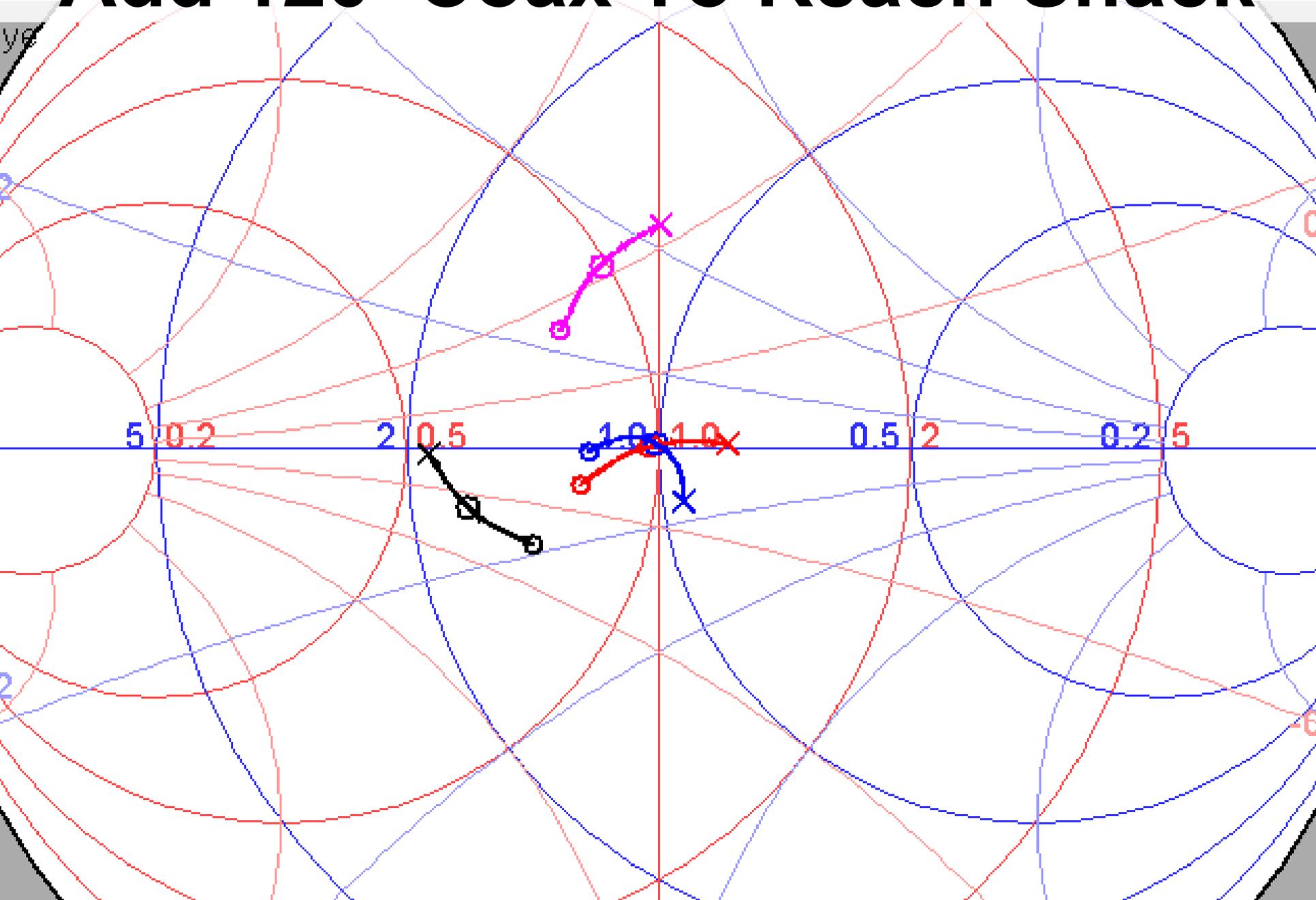


x1
Plot L A B C G

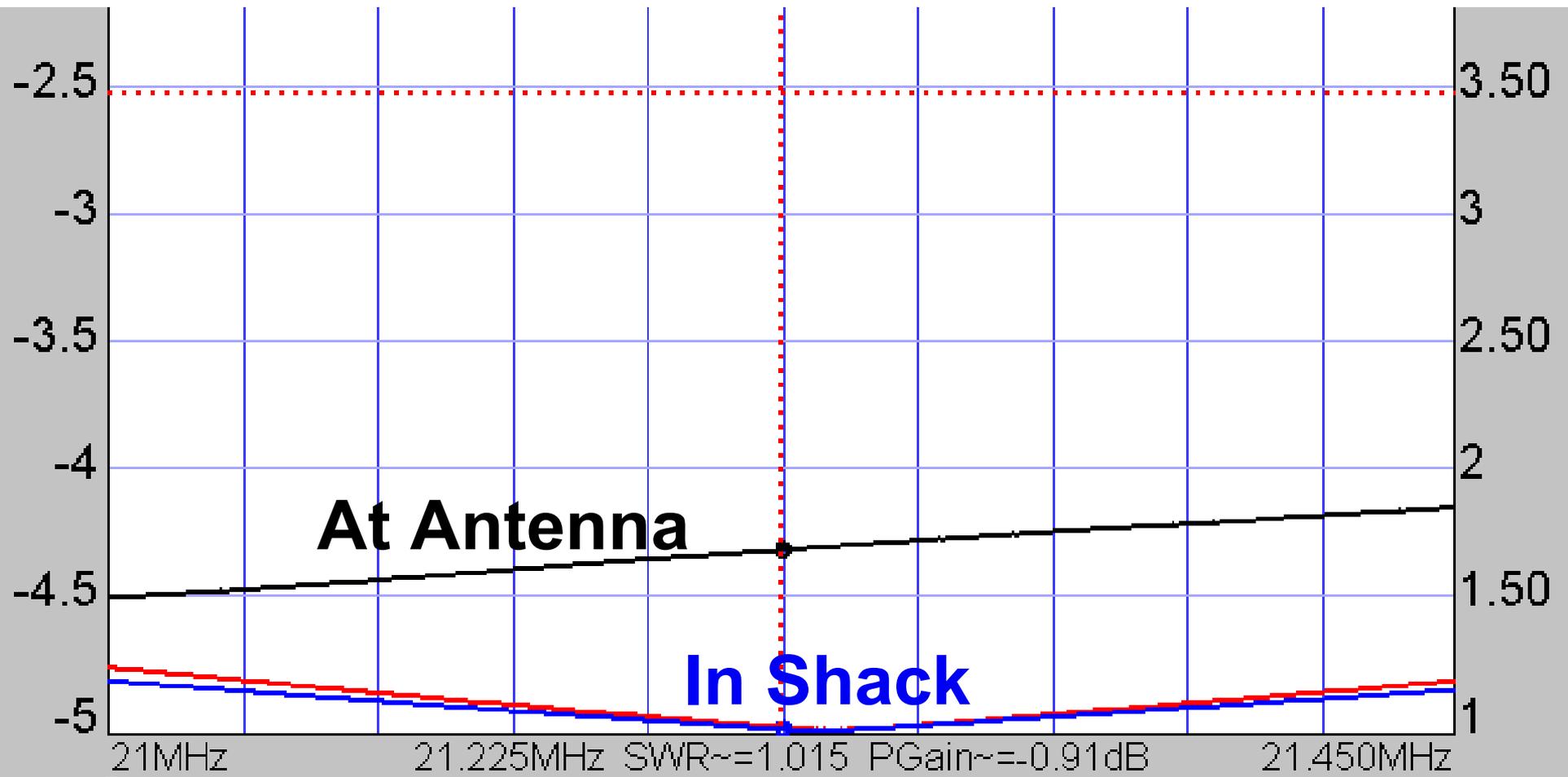
SWR View



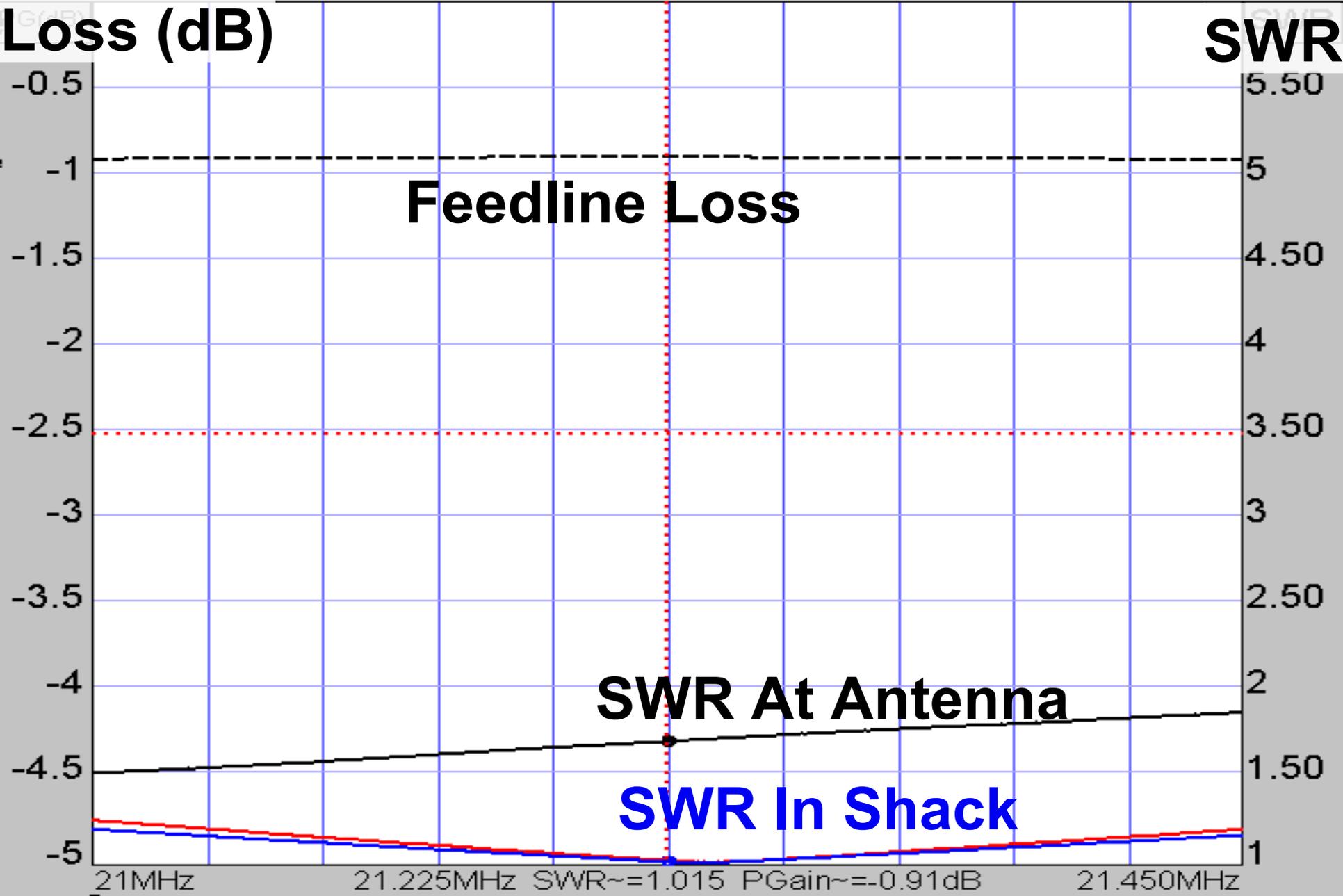
Add 120' Coax To Reach Shack



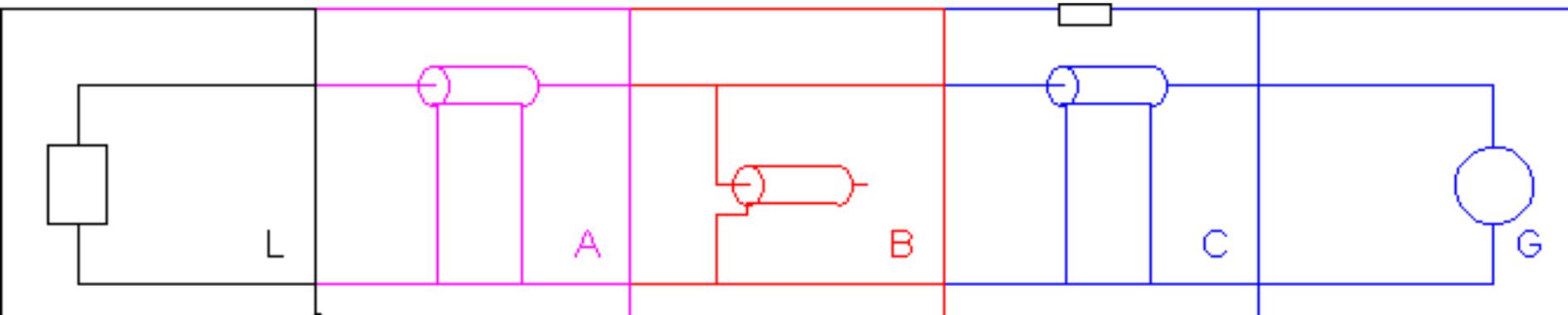
SWR View



SWR and Feedline Loss



Circuit For Stub



R= 29.644
 X= -4.946
 Pin= 0.812

R= 38.304
 X= 20.308
 Pin= 0.820

R= 49.027
 X= 0.4088
 Pin= 0.820

R= 49.812
 X= 0.7273
 Pin= 1

Mag= 7.527m
 Angle= 104.10

29.644	Ohms
-4.946	jOhms

45	deg
21.225	@MHz
3.8613	ft
0.6666	vf
50	Zo
0.50	/100f
10	@frq

28	deg
21.225	@MHz
2.4026	ft
0.6666	vf
50	Zo
0.50	/100f
10	@frq

1.103K	deg
21.225	@MHz
I 120	ft
.845	vf
50	Zo
.22	/100f
2	@frq

21.225	MHz
xMtch	type
50	Zo
1	SWR
0	QEye



W6GJB's 80M Dipole In Shack

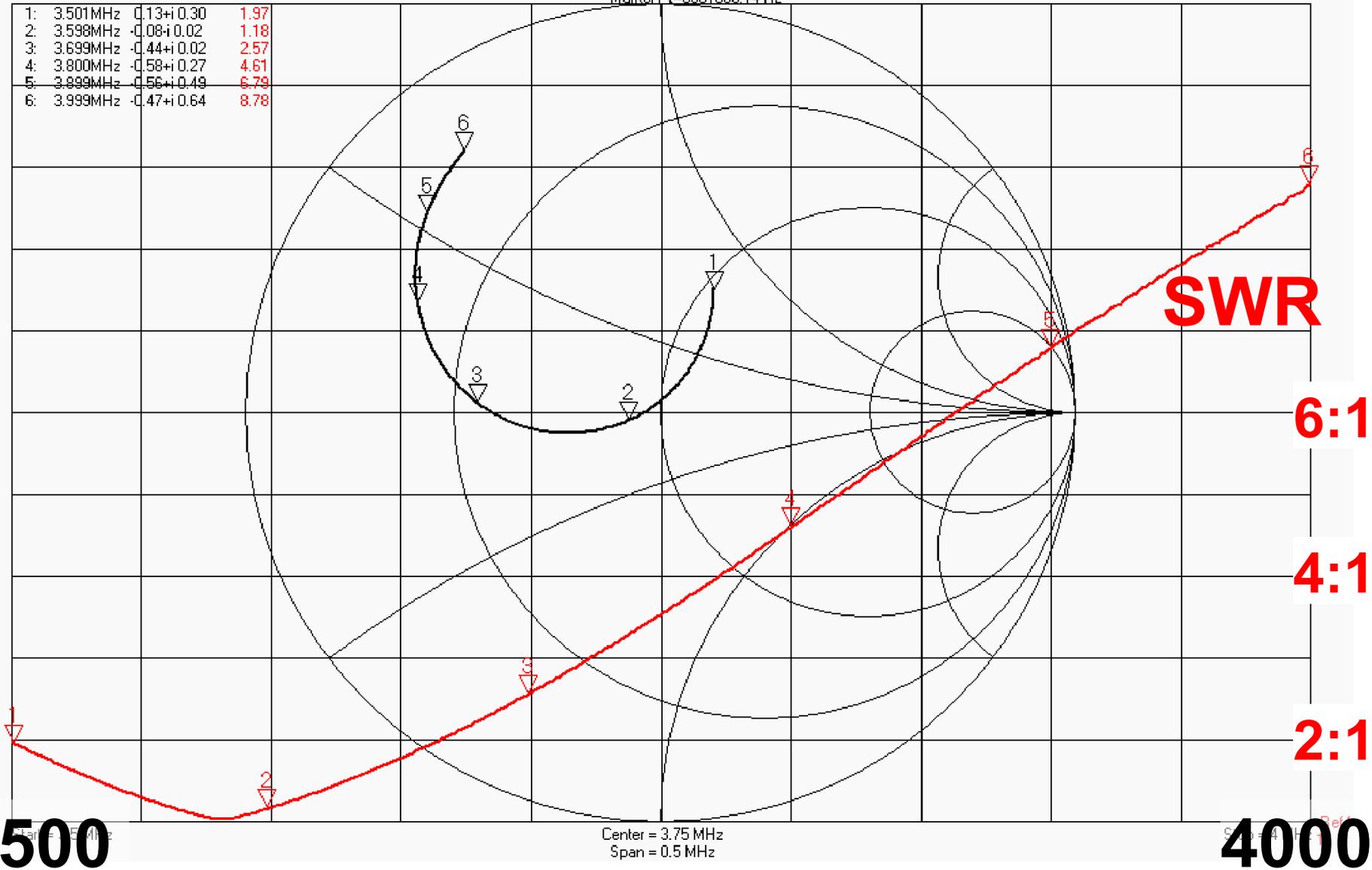
DG8SAQ Vector Network Analyzer Software

9/4/2012 5:16:45 PM W6GJB 80M Dipole

Cursor Trace4: 3.500MHz 11.74

1:	3.501MHz	0.13+i 0.30	1.97
2:	3.598MHz	-0.08+i 0.02	1.18
3:	3.699MHz	-0.44+i 0.02	2.57
4:	3.800MHz	-0.58+i 0.27	4.61
5:	3.899MHz	-0.56+i 0.49	6.79
6:	3.999MHz	-0.47+i 0.64	8.78

Marker1 @3501088.14 Hz

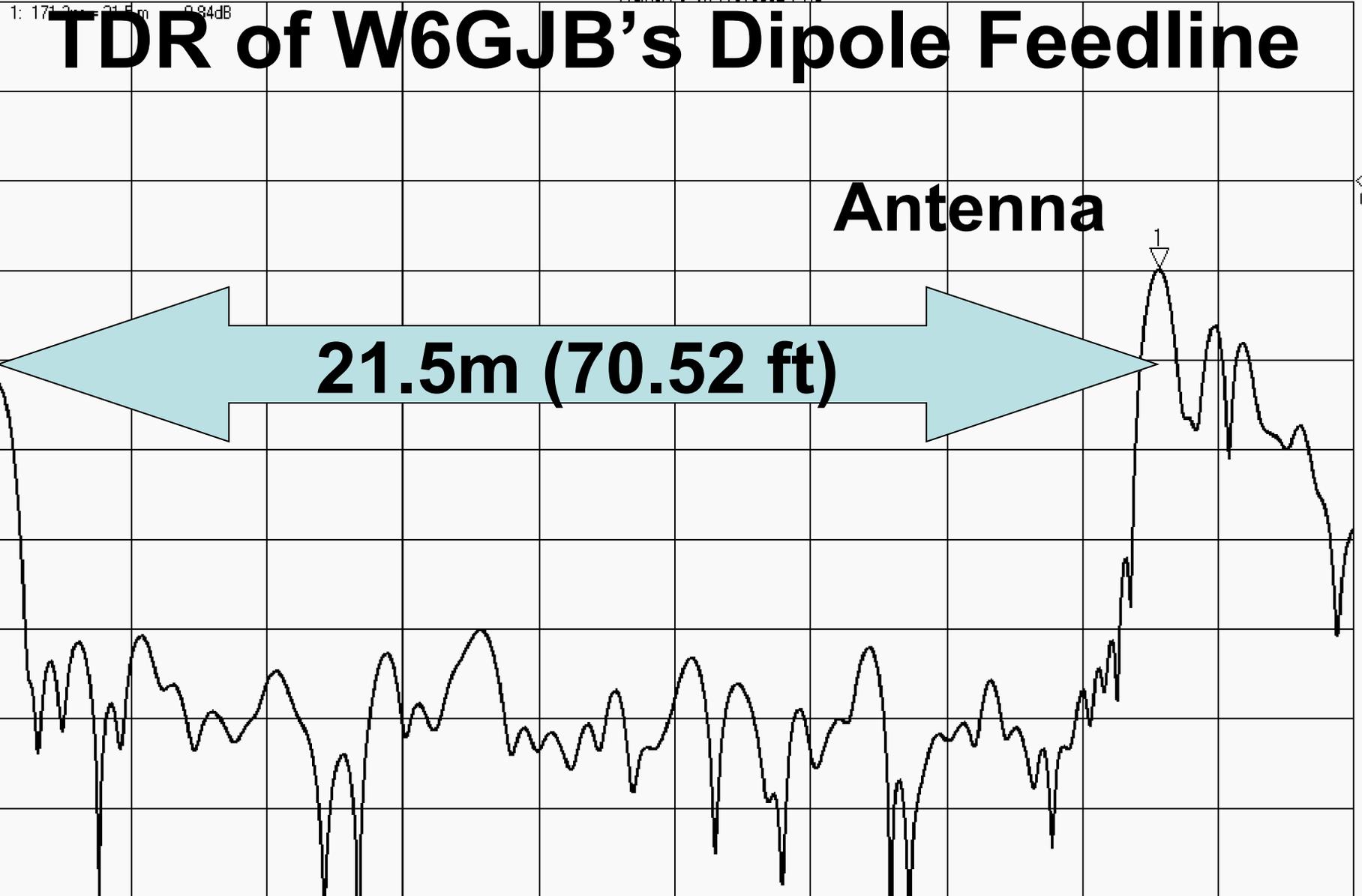


MC 3500

Center = 3.75 MHz
Span = 0.5 MHz

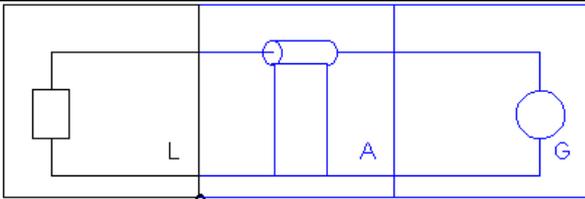
4000

Marker1 @1.71161008E-7 Hz



<Ref2
0dB

W6GJB's 80M Dipole

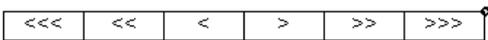


R= 47.483 R= 53.180 Mag= 30.83m

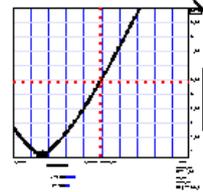
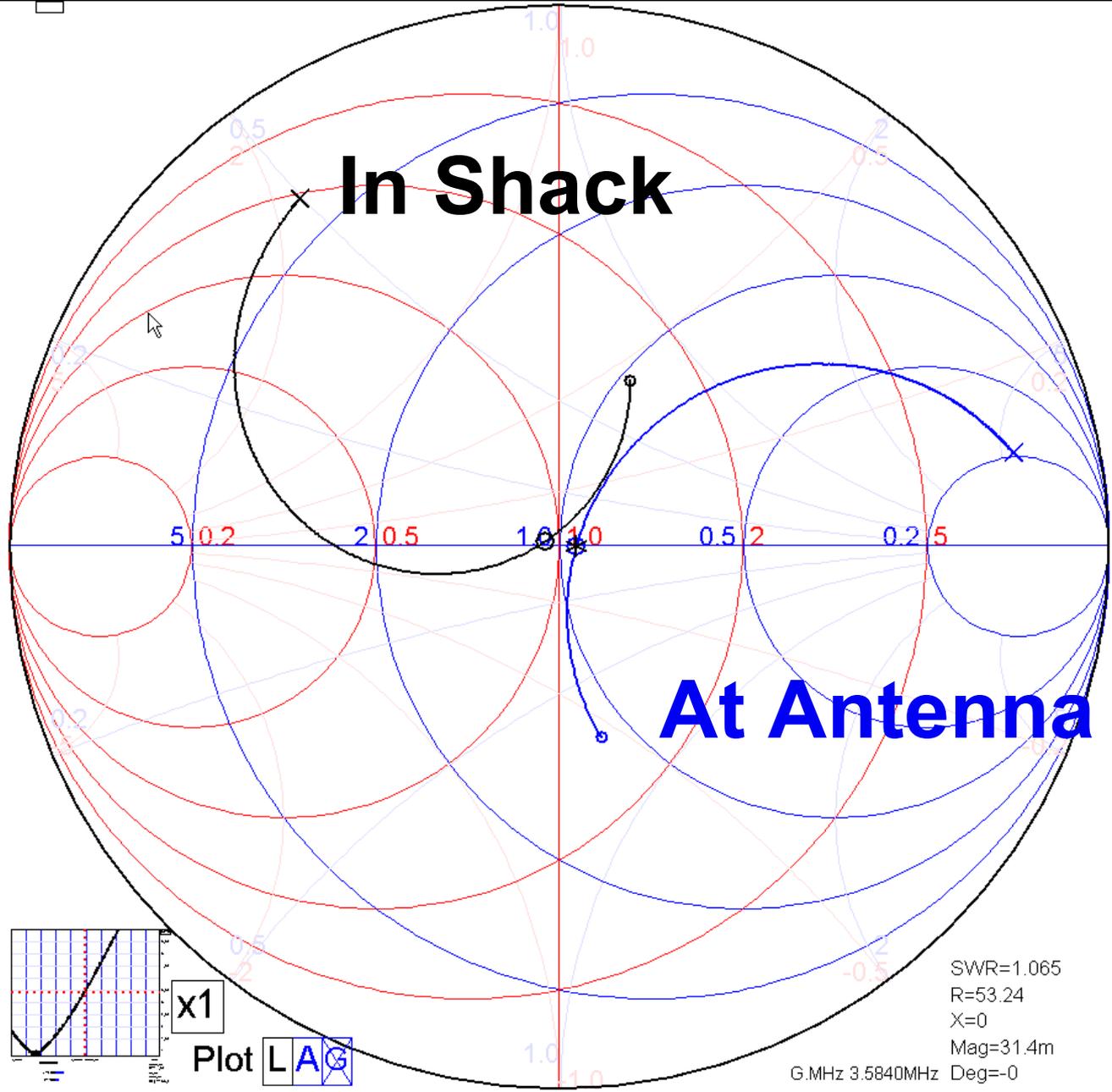
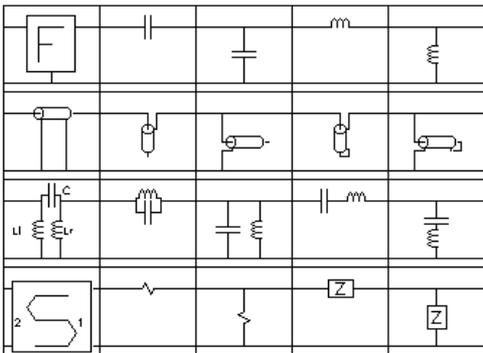
X= 0.9335 X= ~0 Angle= 0.9157

Pin= 1.050 Pin= 1

47.483 Ohms	-112.9 deg	3.584 MHz
0.9335 jOhms	3.675 @MHz	xMtch type
	-70.5 ft	50 Zo
	.84 vF	1 SWR
	50 Zo	QEye
	0.50 /100f	
	10 @freq	



steps	from	to	name
C:\NVA\GJB-80-1.s1p	clr		file
399 lin	3.50	4	G.MHz

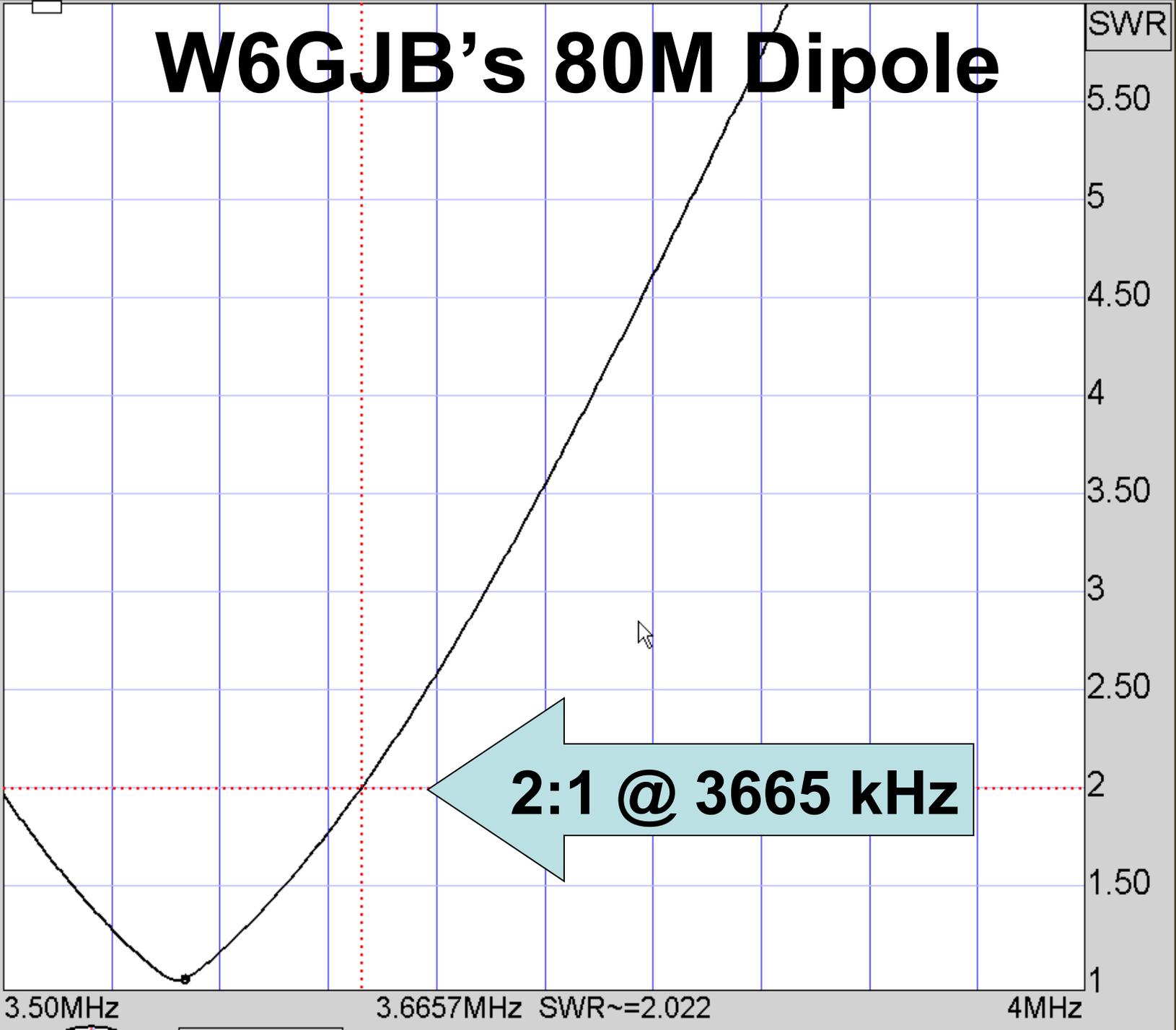


x1
Plot LAG

SWR=1.065
R=53.24
X=0
Mag=31.4m
Deg=-0

G.MHz 3.5840MHz

W6GJB's 80M Dipole



2:1 @ 3665 kHz

3.50MHz

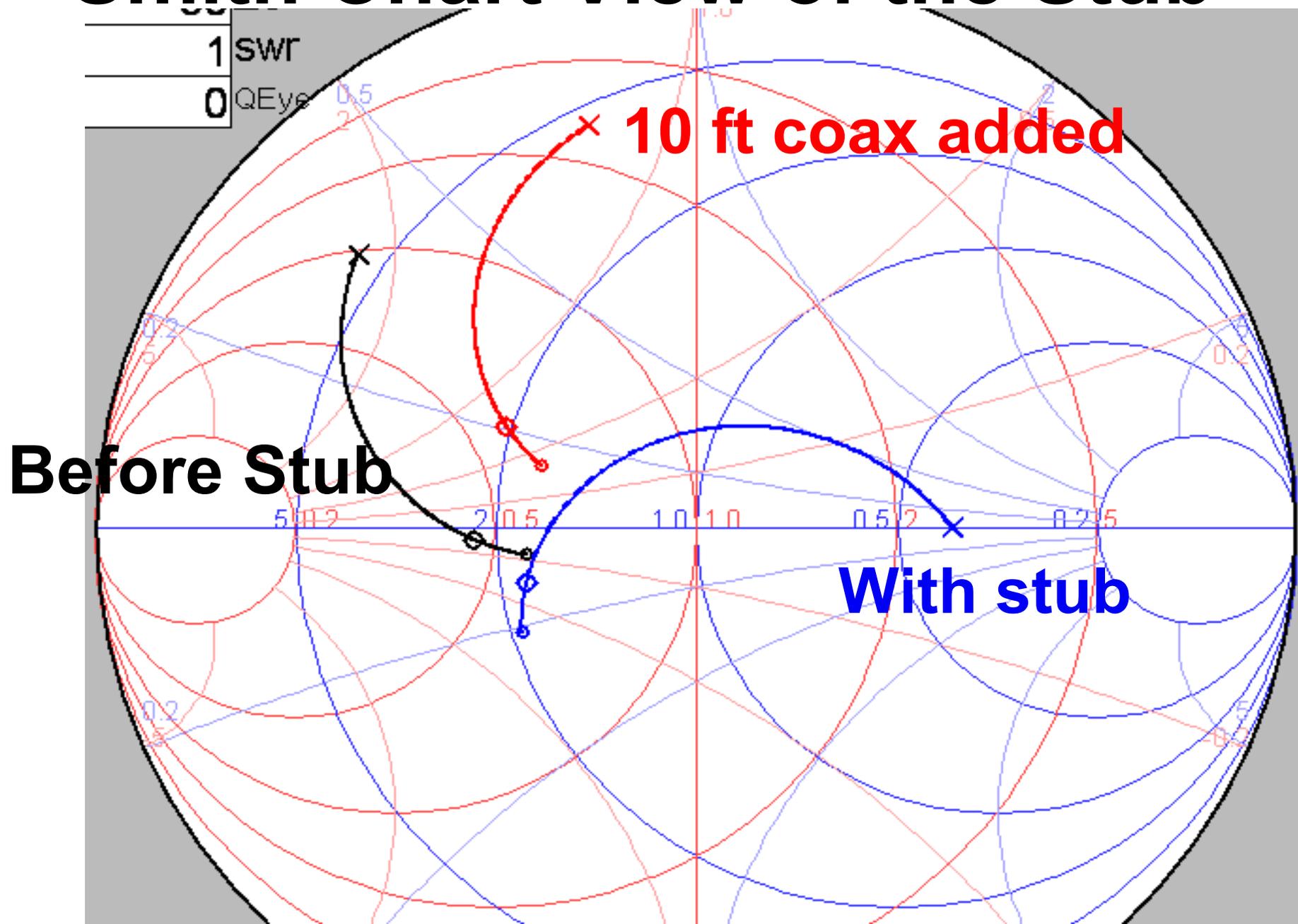
3.6657MHz SWR~2.022

4MHz

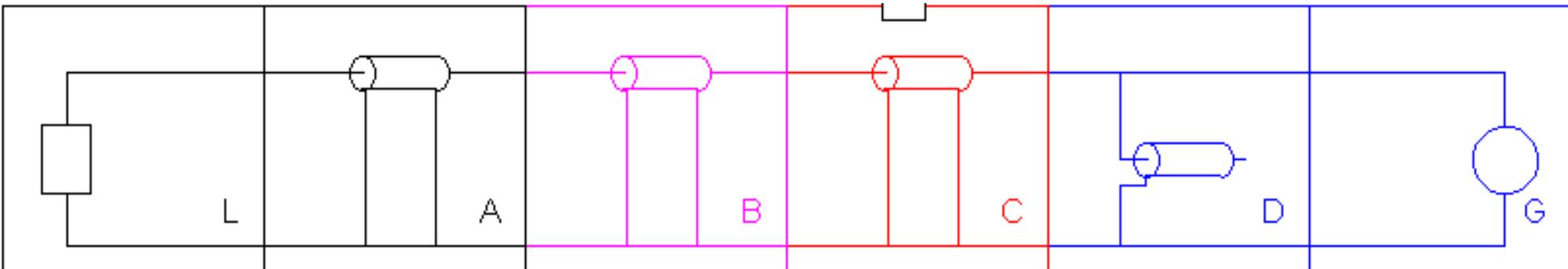
A Stub to Match for 75M SSB

- **SWR too high for power amp to load above 3650 kHz**
- **Set Sim Smith display limits to 3650 – 3900 kHz (makes it easier to see what you're doing)**
- **Add length to make Z inductive**
- **Add open stub**

Smith Chart View of the Stub



Sim Smith Circuit for the Stub



R= 23.004
X= -0.992
Pin= 0.979

R= 67.741
X= 45.078
Pin= 0.924

R= 23.004
X= -0.992
Pin= 0.979

R= 24.597
X= 10.358
Pin= 0.993

R= 27.583
X= -5.708
Pin= 1

Mag= 0.2974
Angle= -161.5

23.004	Ohms
-0.992	jOhms

-112.9	deg
3.675	@MHz

112.89	deg
3.675	@MHz

16.441	deg
3.675	@MHz

47.387	deg
3.675	@MHz

3.675	MHz
xMtch	type

-70.5	ft
.84	vf

70.5	ft
.84	vf

10.267	ft
.84	vf

29.593	ft
.84	vf

50	Zo
1	SWR

50	Zo
0.50	/100f

50	Zo
0.50	/100f

50	Zo
0.50	/100f

50	Zo
0.50	/100f

0	QEye
	PG(dB)

10	@frq
----	------

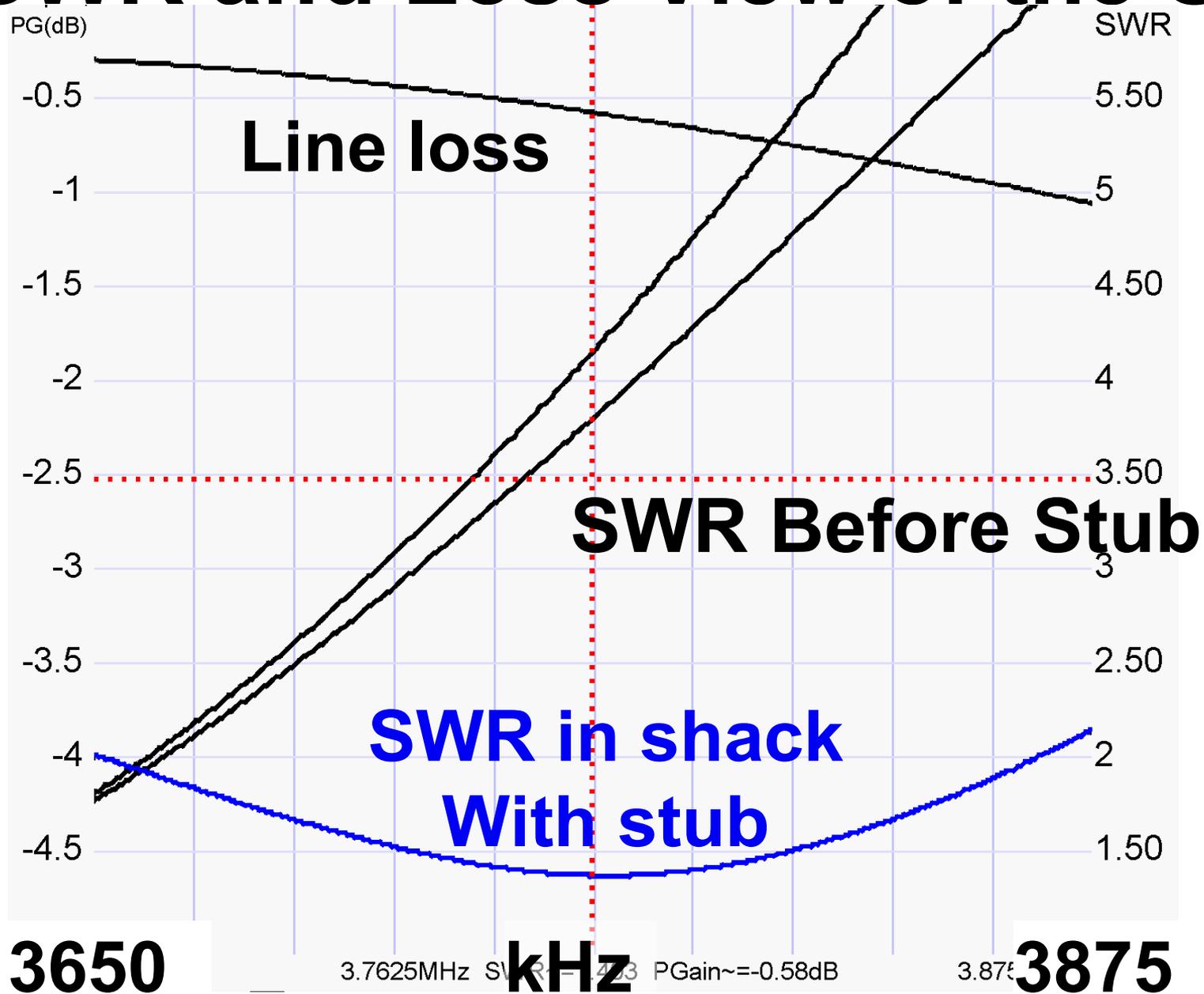
10	@frq
----	------

10	@frq
----	------

10	@frq
----	------

-0.5

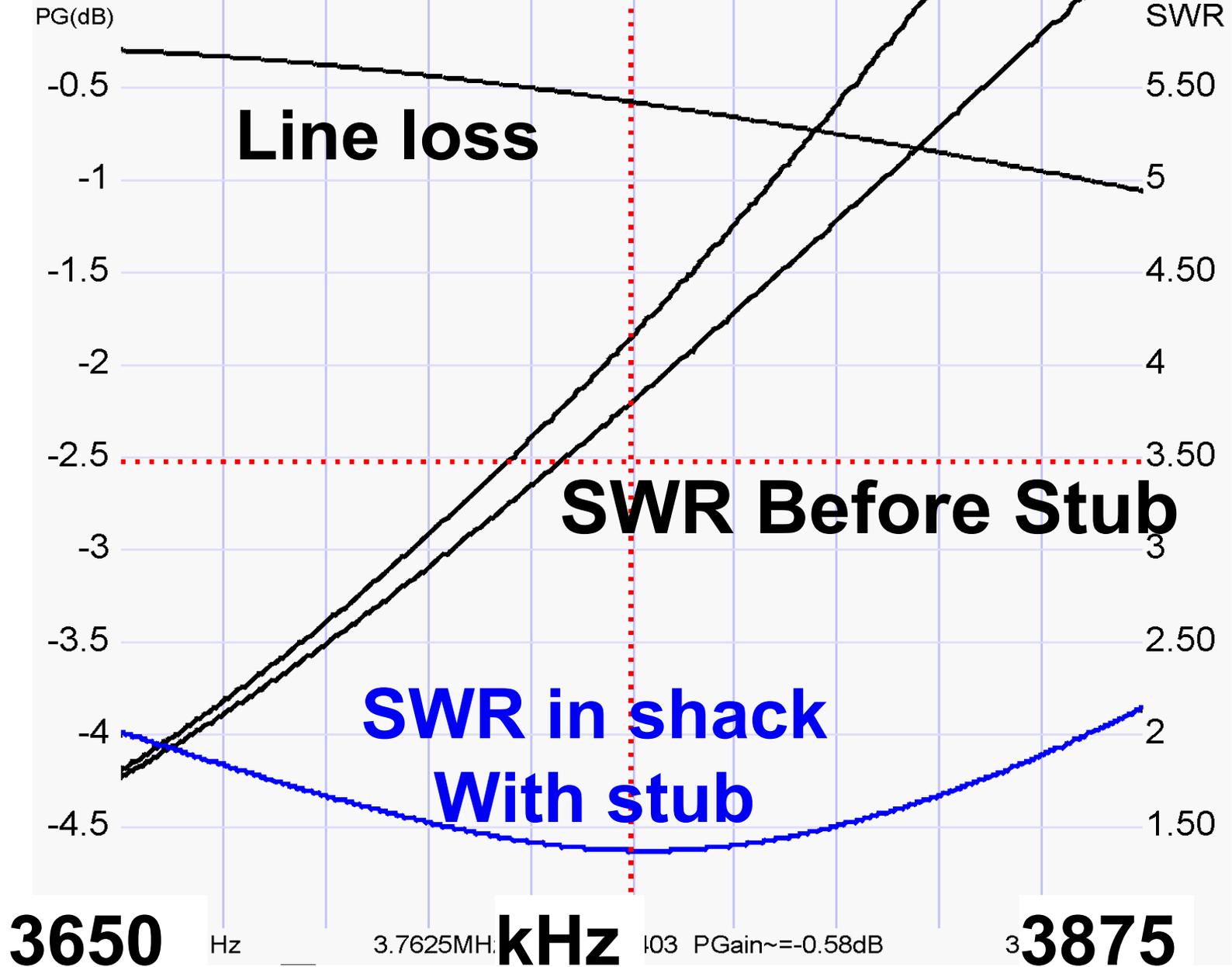
SWR and Loss View of the Stub



Two Methods to Compute Loss

- **Include impedance mis-match between transmitter and line (called “mismatch loss”)**
 - **Not really loss, simply less power transferred to line**
- **Ignore mis-match, assume some sort of antenna tuner is used, or that Z_s is significantly less than Z_o**

Without Mis-Match Loss



Line loss

SWR Before Stub

**SWR in shack
With stub**

3650

Hz

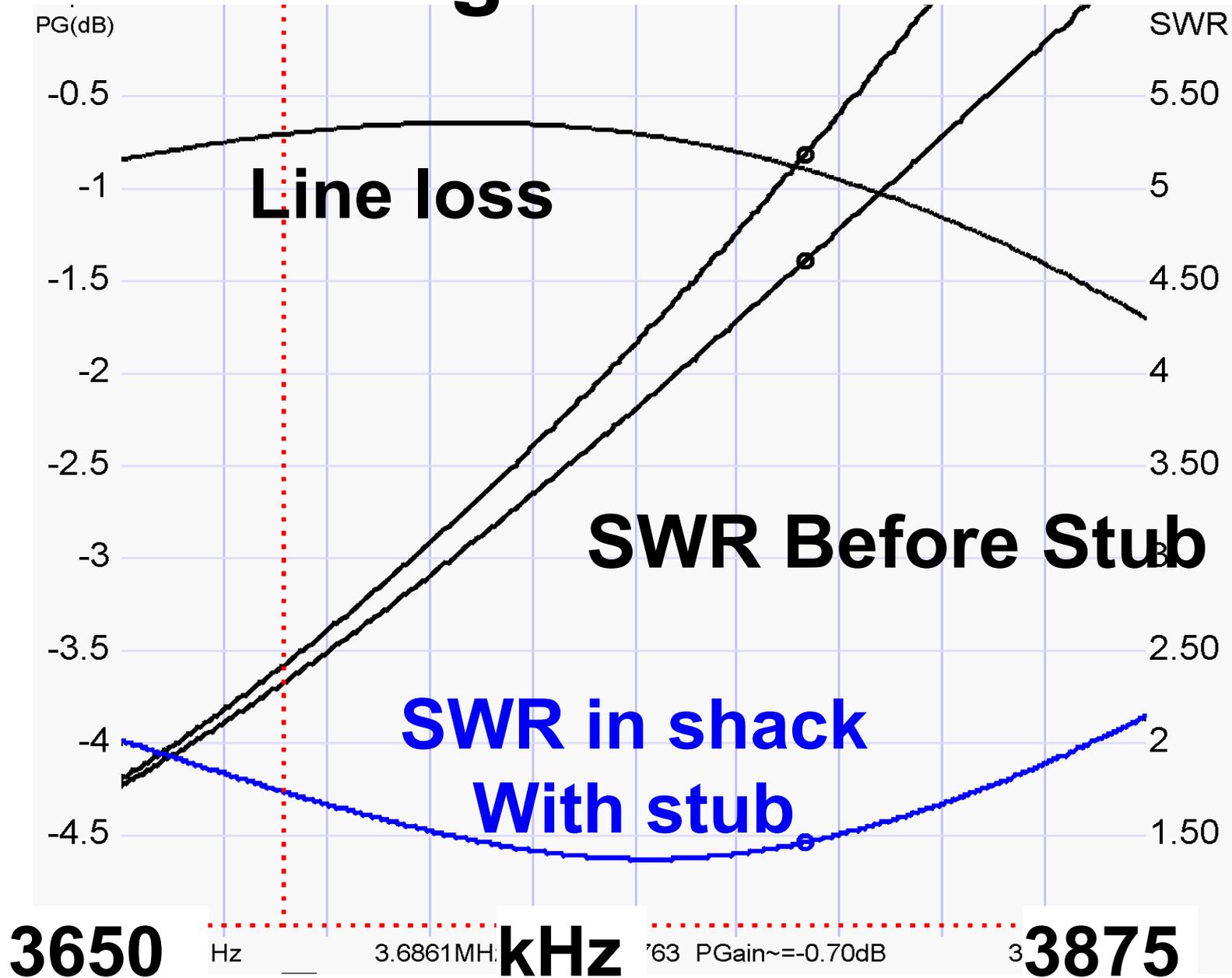
3.7625MHz

kHz

I03 PGain~=-0.58dB

3875

Including Mis-Match Loss



When To Include Mis-Match Loss

- **Most VHF/UHF systems**
 - The path between the output devices and the output terminals is quite likely to be matched
 - The source is likely to be 50Ω
- **When you know the source Z is really the same as Z_0**

When To Ignore Mis-Match Loss

- Any time an antenna tuner or matching network not part of the model is used to drive the line
- Any “tuned” power amp
- The source impedance, Z_s , of most HF power amps, including transceiver output stages, is likely to be closer 25Ω than 50Ω

Maximum Power Transfer

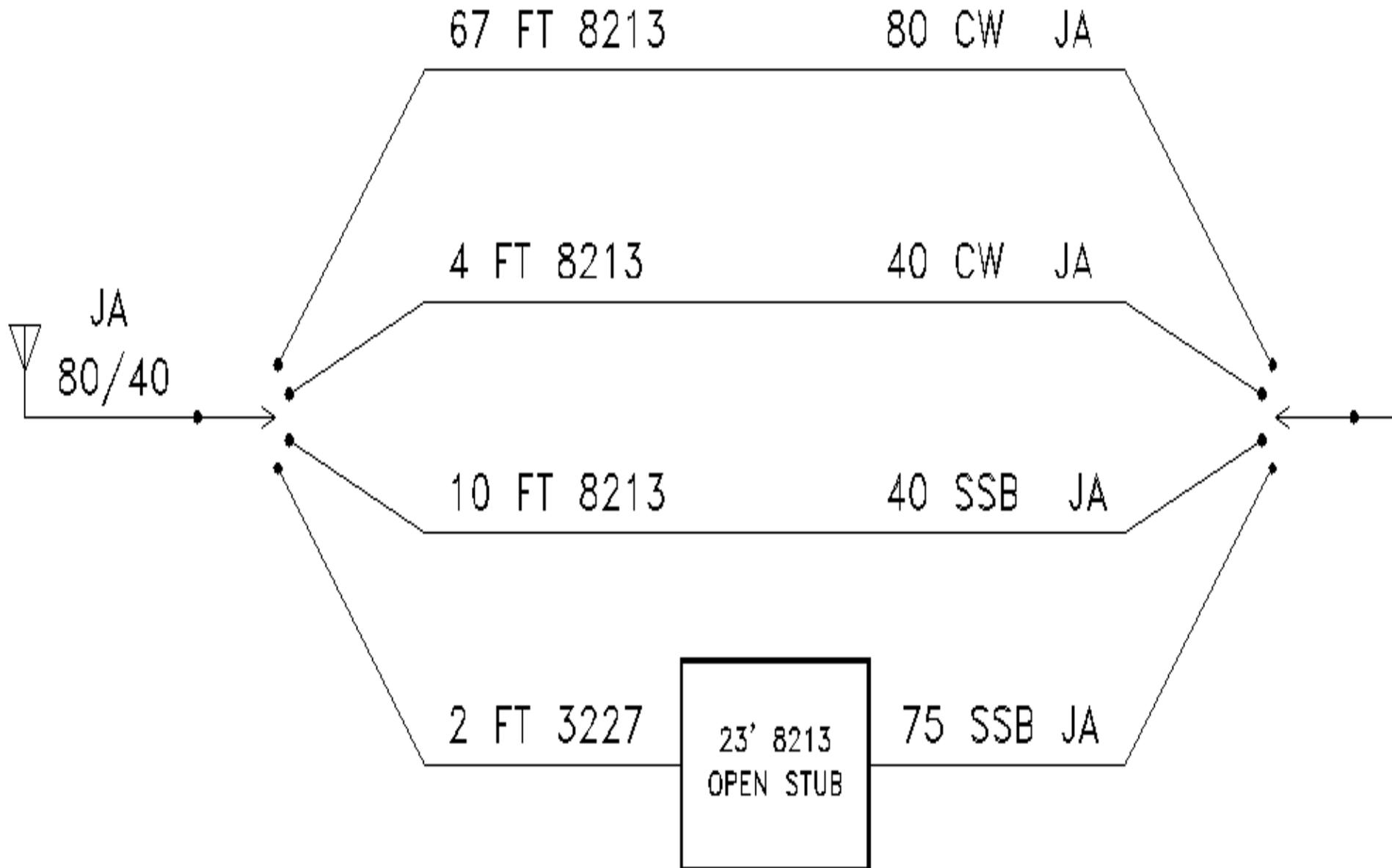
- The classic theorem requiring $Z_L = \text{the conjugate of } Z_{\text{SOURCE}}$ applies to a variable LOAD impedance
- If Z_{SOURCE} is variable, maximum power transfer occurs when $Z_{\text{SOURCE}} \ll Z_L$

Maximum Power Transfer

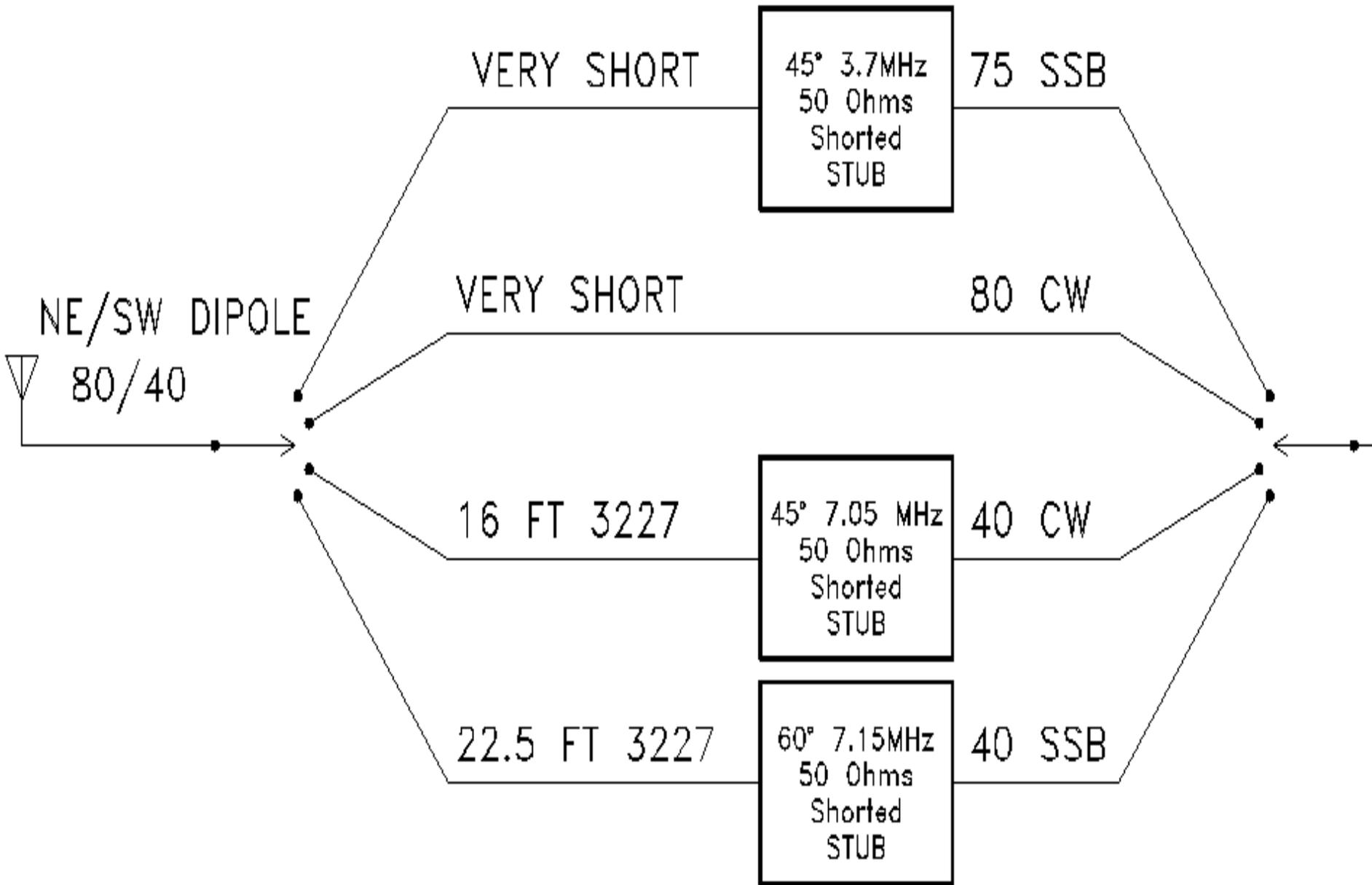
- The maximum power transfer theorem was derived for linear circuits
- Impedance matching at power amp outputs is really a matter of providing an impedance that the output devices want to see
- That may or may not be

$$Z_L = Z_{\text{SOURCE}}$$

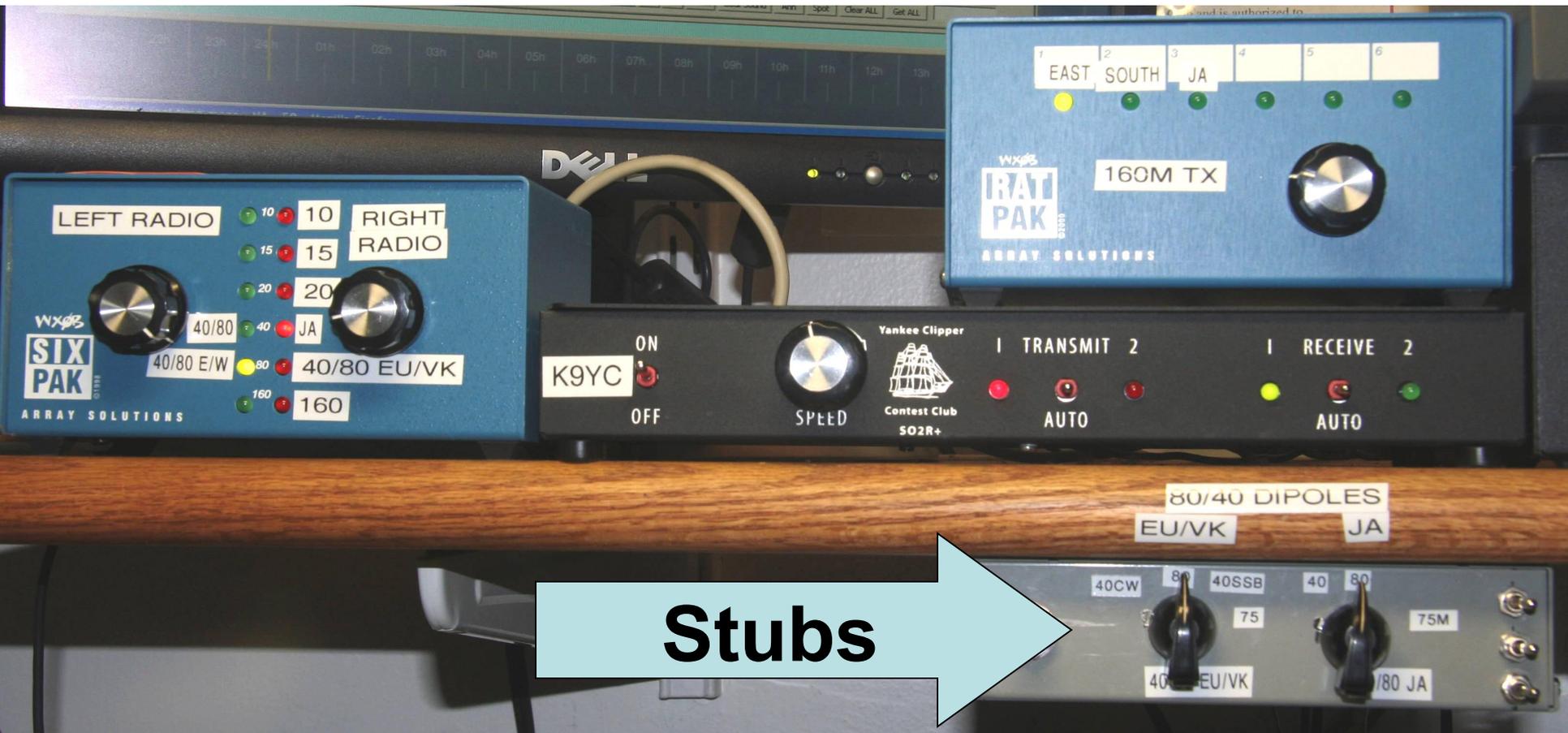
Matching my 80/40 JA Fan Dipole



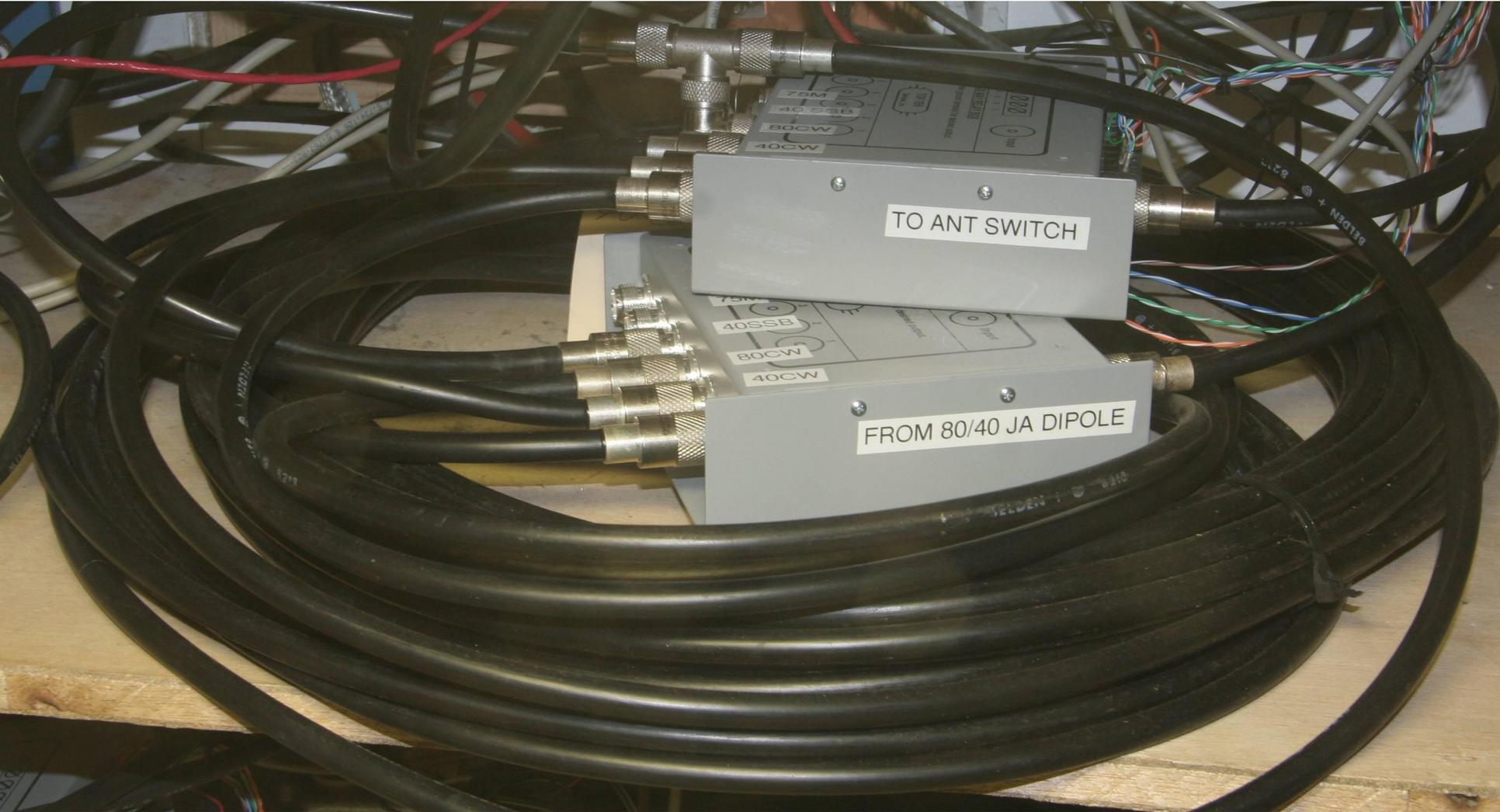
My 80/40 EU/VK Fan Dipole



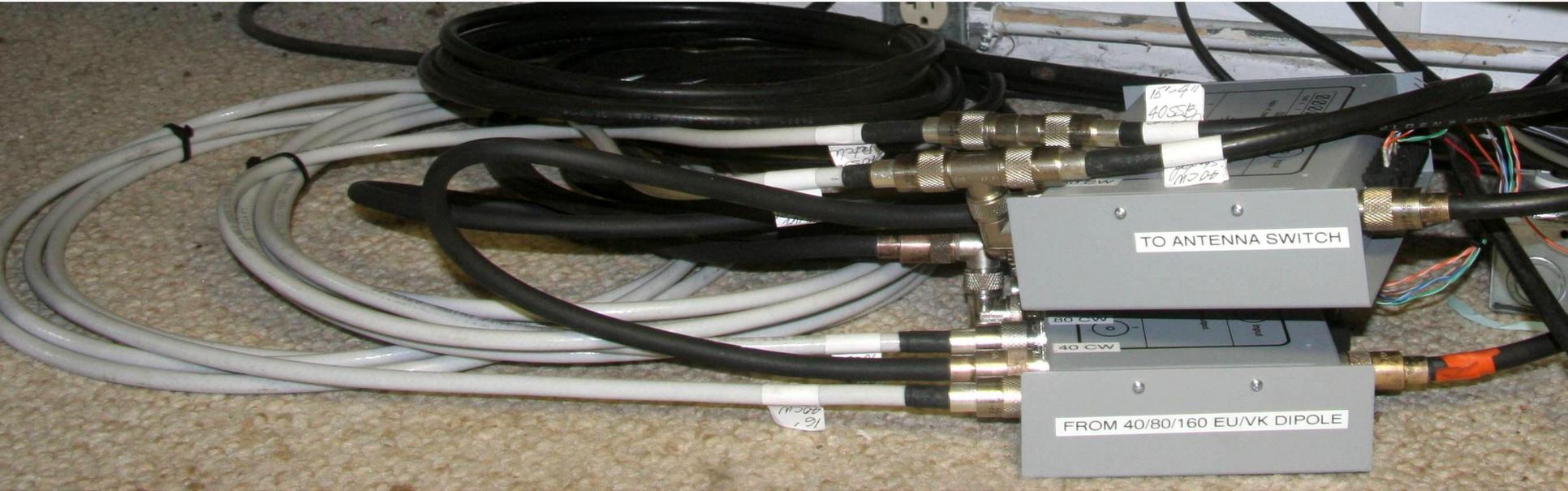
User Controls



Stubs for my JA Fan Dipole



Stubs for my EU/VK Fan Dipole



Tuners I Replaced (one more was added after photo)



Cost/Benefit Analysis – Benefits

- **Antenna tuners are gone**
- **SWR <1.5:1 all bands**
- **Switching is simple, instantaneous**
- **Exactly resettable**
- **Much less clutter on operating desk, space above desk for P3 VGA**
- **Ready for YCCC “Mother of All Antenna Switches” to control it**

Cost/Benefit Analysis – Benefits

- **I had a lot of fun designing and building it (and learning things)**
- **I'll use the VNA to tune bandpass filter boxes**
- **The VNA is a big help in finding issues in the antenna system, and in evaluating products like relay boxes**

Cost/Benefit Analysis – Costs

- **Some good coax, ~ 200 ft**
- **Top Ten 1x6 switches (\$110 each)**
- **Connectors**
 - **PL259s ~ \$3 each**
 - **Tees, a few at ~ \$11 each**
 - **Elbows, a few, ~ \$ 9 each**
- **Vector analyzer \$500 - \$1,500**
 - **Lower cost units plenty good enough for HF work**
 - **Or borrow one**

Cost/Benefit Analysis – Savings

- **Antenna tuners, manual switching**
 - **I've already sold five for a total of about \$1,100**
 - **I had ordered three of the new Elecraft tuners and am beta-testing one with my Titans, but I could live without them**
 - **I'll keep the beta unit for CQP**

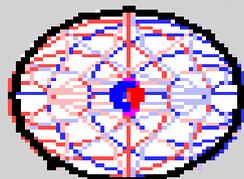
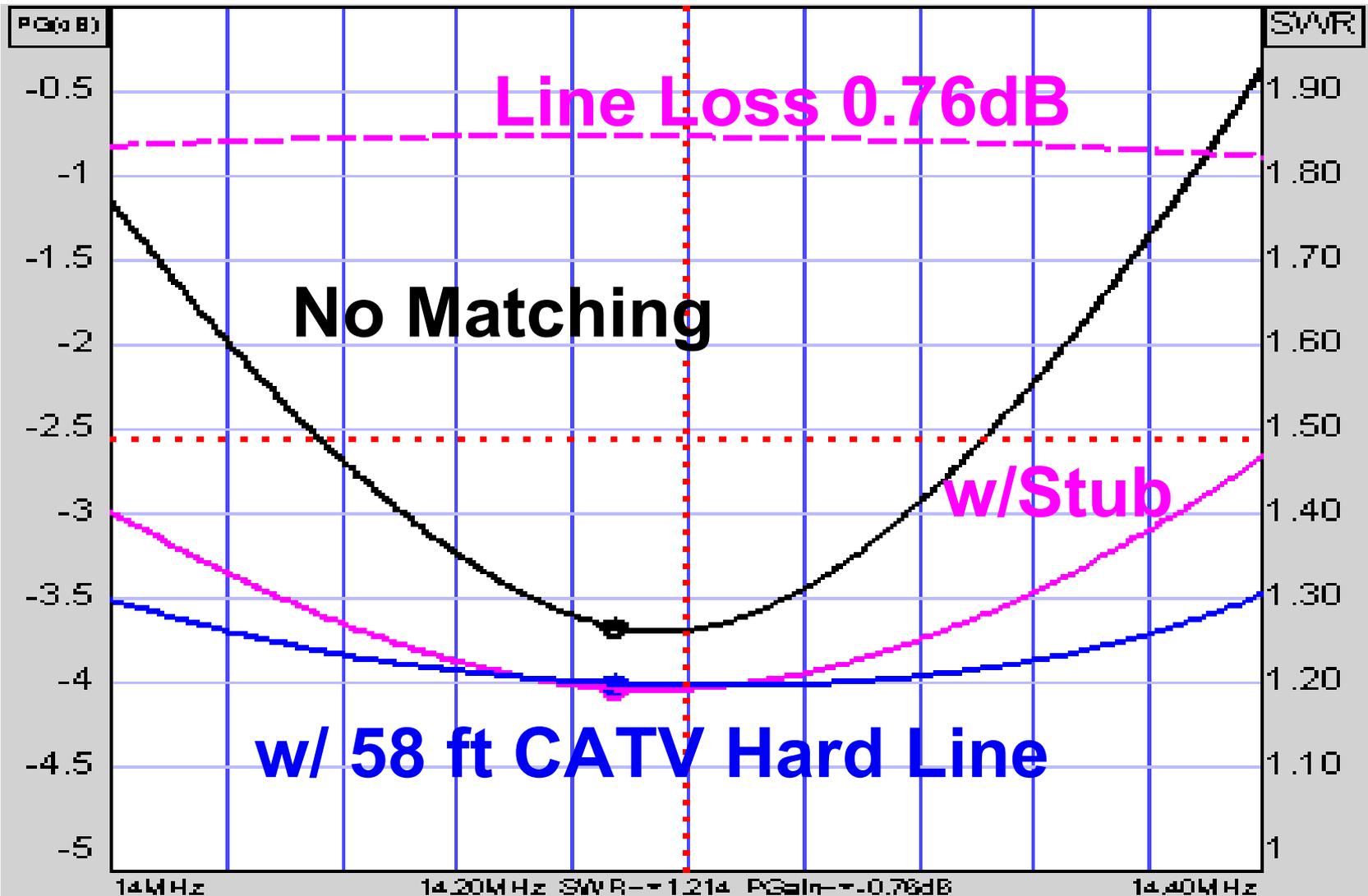
Rules of Thumb for Matching

- **Locate matching elements as close to the antenna as practical**
 - **Generally yields a better match**
 - **Reduces line loss by minimizing the length of line with high SWR**
 - **Practical for monoband antennas**
- **Matching in the shack works fine too, and is easier to switch**

Ideas for Matching

- **Try a 75Ω matching section in 50Ω line for an antenna near resonance**
 - **-90° , 180° and multiples of 180°**
 - **Add coax if needed to adjust length between 75Ω section and antenna so curve crosses the center horizontal (zero reactance line)**
 - **Tweak lengths watching SWR at TX**

1λ of 75Ω CATV Hard Line



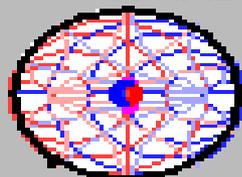
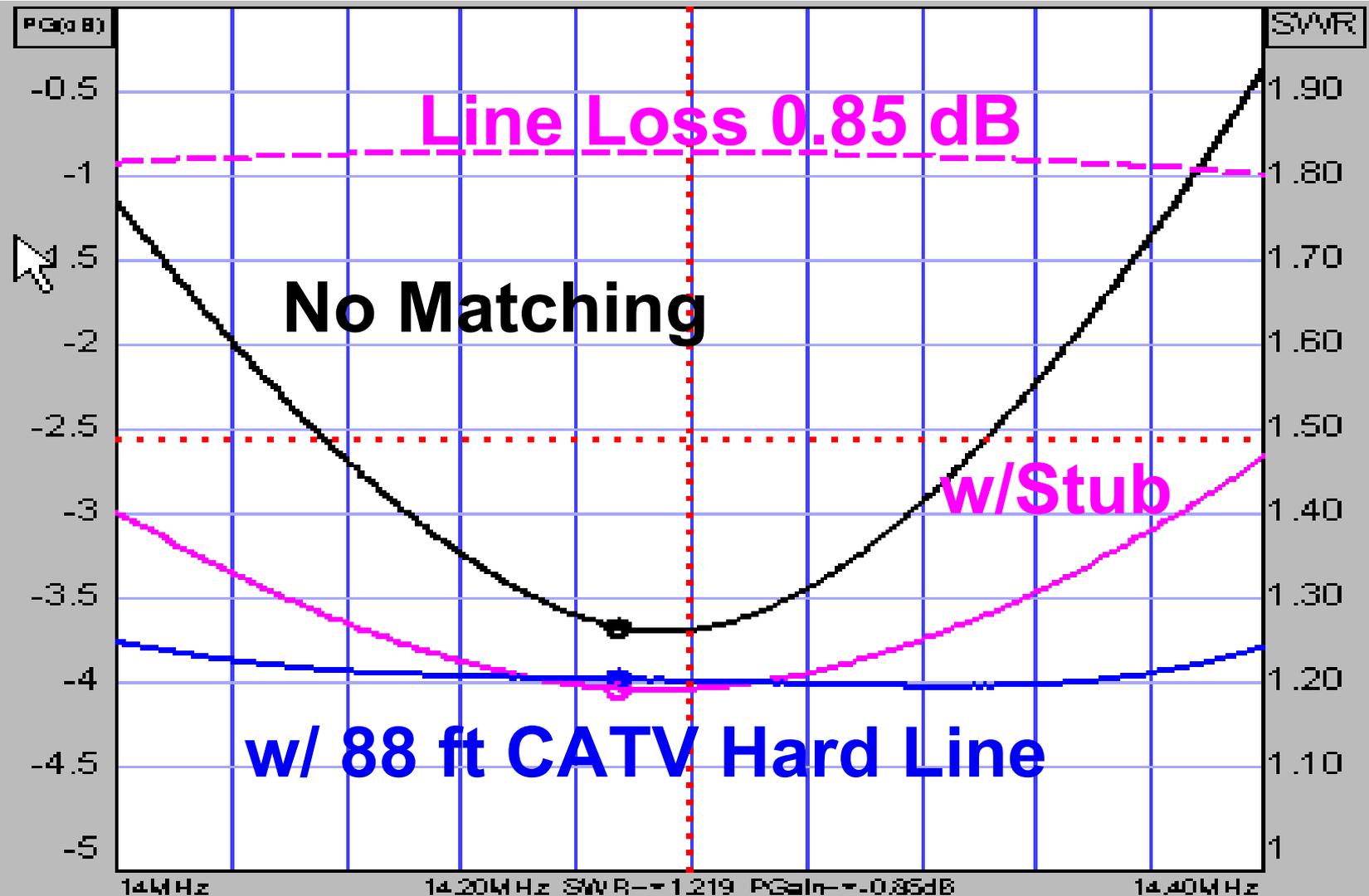
lin

SWR: L X M X N O P H X J X

PGain: X X M C X O X N X X

SWR=1.214
 R=41.25
 X=0.962
 Mag=96.5m
 Deg=170.1

3λ/2 of 75Ω CATV Hard Line



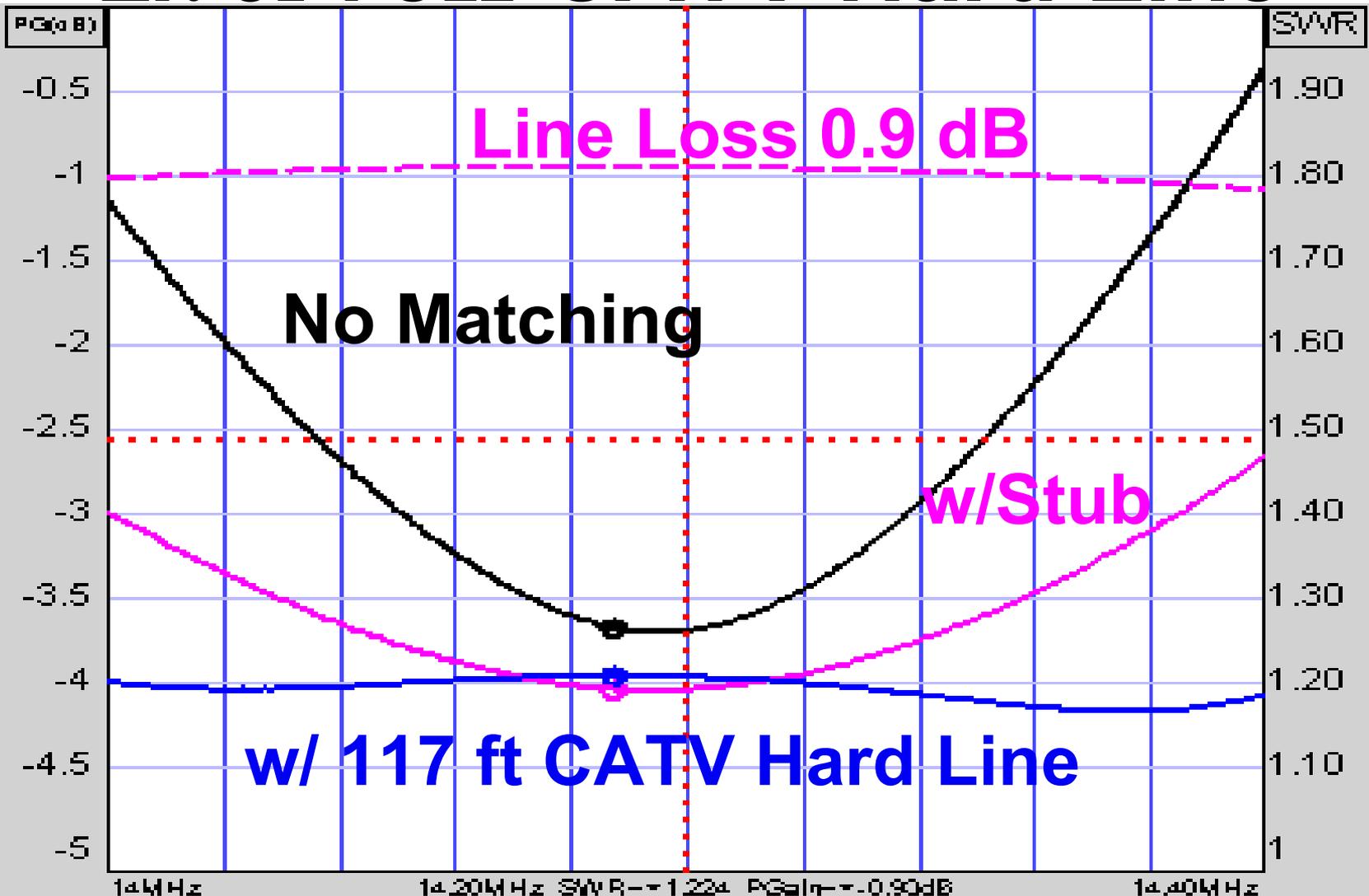
lin

SWR: L X M G H J

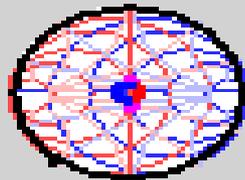
PGain: C G M

SWR=1.219
 R=41.07
 X=0.007
 Mag=99.6m
 Deg=170.6

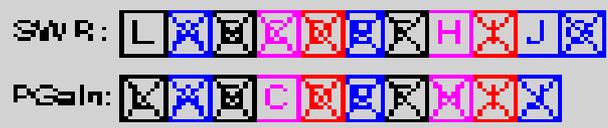
2λ of 75Ω CATV Hard Line



14.0MHz 14.20MHz SWR=1.224 PGain=-0.90dB 14.40MHz

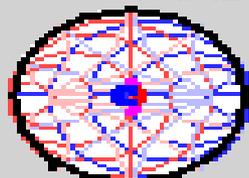
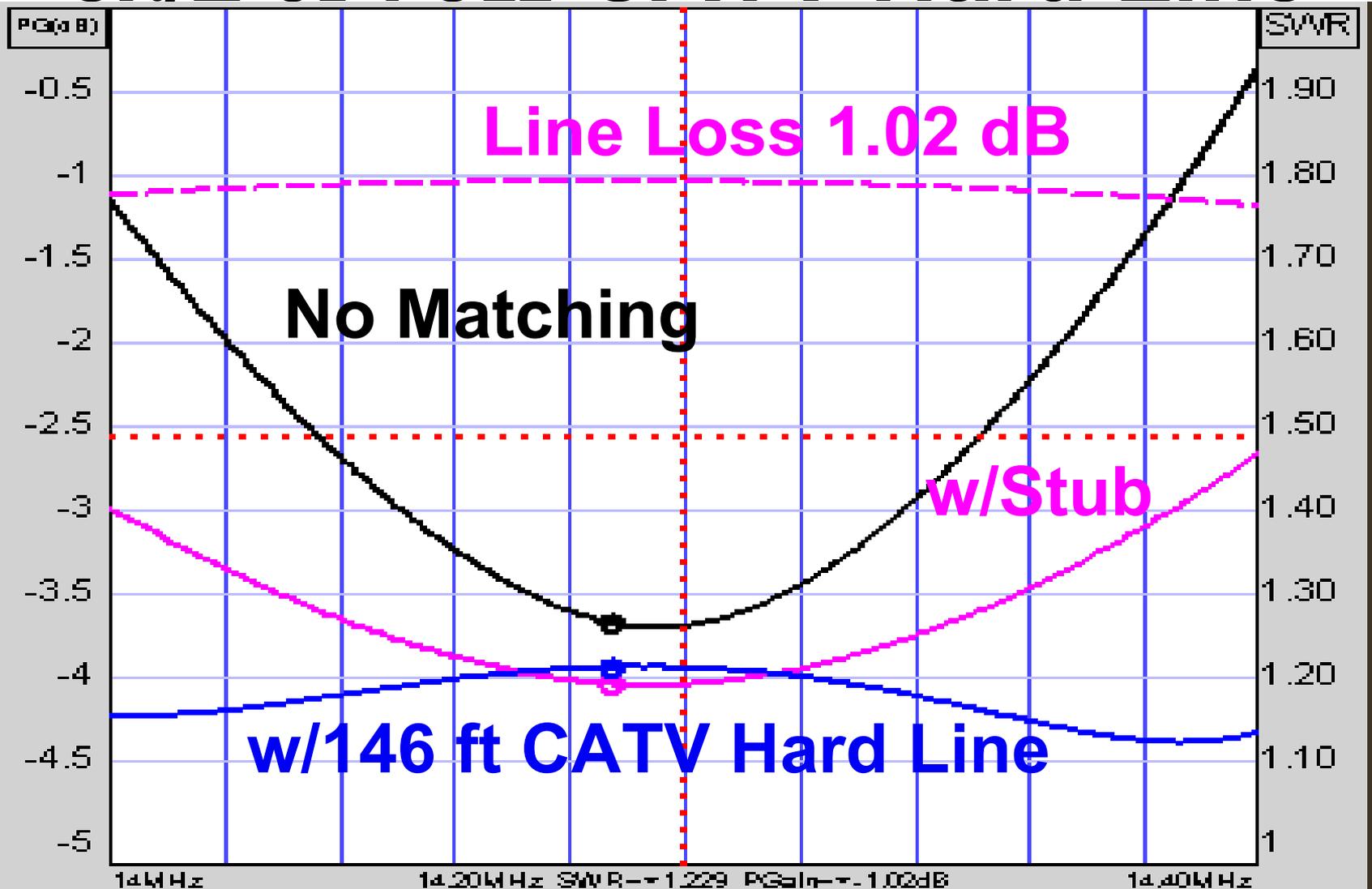


lin



SWR=1.224
 R=40.90
 X=0.895
 Mag=0.101
 Deg=174.1

5λ/2 of 75Ω CATV Hard Line



lin

SWR: L X X X X X H X J X

PGain: X X X C X X X X X

SWR=1.229
 R=40.73
 X=0.267
 Mag=0.100
 Deg=174.5

Rules of Thumb for Matching

- **Don't rule out a 75 ohm matching section with a tri-bander**
- **2λ on 20M (117 ft of CATV hard line) is 3λ on 15M and 4λ on 10M**
- **I'm using 117 ft lengths of CATV hard line on my 20M and 15M monobanders, and may put one half that length on my 10M Yagi (because it's much closer)**

Rules of Thumb for Stubs

- **Try for an open stub first**
 - **It's usually shorter for moderate mismatches**
- **Higher V_F coax requires more coax, but cutting errors will be lower**
- **Use good coax, but don't worry about small loss differences**

Other Smith Chart Uses

- **Smith charts can work for design of L – C networks too**
- **Many networks can be built with L and C or stubs, or even a mix**
- **BUT – although stubs are “sort-of like” L and C, they are fundamentally different**

How Stubs Are Different

- An open stub $<90^\circ$ is capacitive, but it's capacitance varies with frequency
- Likewise, the inductance of an shorted stub $<90^\circ$ also varies with frequency
- A stub or matching section that is 90° or 180° at some frequency F is 85.5° or 171° at $0.95x F$

How Stubs Are Different

- **These subtle differences often make one or the other kind of component a better choice for any given circuit**

Thinking About Stubs and Antennas

- Near resonance, a half wave dipole (or quarter wave vertical) acts much like a series resonant circuit
- Near resonance, an open $\lambda/4$ stub or shorted $\lambda/2$ stub acts like much series resonant circuit
- Near resonance, a shorted $\lambda/4$ stub or open $\lambda/2$ stub acts much like a parallel resonant circuit

Thinking About Stubs and Antennas

- **An open stub shorter than $\lambda/4$ looks capacitive, and can tune out inductance**
- **A shorted stub shorter than $\lambda/4$ looks inductive, and can tune out capacitance**
- **Stubs move impedance along left-centered curves to, or away from, center of Smith chart**

The Ultimate Matching Section

- Loss in any line causes the impedance to move closer to the center of the chart (lower SWR)
- High losses >>> low SWR
- 1,000 ft of RG58 makes almost any antenna look perfectly matched
 - Approaches 1:1 for almost any load
 - Burns 99% of the TX power at HF

The New Toy (Beta)



References

- **SimSmith info, download** http://www.ae6ty.com/Smith_Charts.html
- ***SimSmith and Smith Chart Tutorial***
http://www.ae6ty.com/Papers_files/QRParticle.pdf
- ***SimSmith Primer***
http://www.ae6ty.com/Smith_Charts_files/SimSmith%20Primer.pdf
- **Ward Silver, N0AX QST**
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Using Sim Smith to Improve Antenna Matching

Jim Brown K9YC

k9yc@arri.net

<http://audiosystemsgroup.com/publish.htm>