

# **AN OVERVIEW OF ATOMIC FREQUENCY STANDARDS**

Speaker/Author: Michael Garvey  
Datum Inc.  
34 Tozer Road  
Beverly, MA 01915-5510  
rmgarvey@datum.com

## **Abstract**

Atomic frequency standards are the ultimate reference standards for time and frequency measurements. This paper discusses the types of atomic frequency standards that are commercially-available, including rubidium, cesium, and hydrogen maser type standards. It discusses the theory of operation of these standards, their performance characteristics, and their applications in the world of metrology.