**LECTURE 4. HIGH-EFFICIENCY POWER AMPLIFIER DESIGN** 

4.1. Overdriven Class B

4.2. Class F circuit design

4.3. Inverse Class F

4.4. Class E with shunt capacitance

4.5. Class E with parallel circuit

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4.7. Broadband Class E circuit design

4.8. Practical high efficiency RF and microwave power amplifiers

#### 4.1. Overdriven Class B

In overdriven Class B, voltage and current waveforms have increased amplitudes with the same peak values as in conventional Class B



kI.

Is.

0

for DC voltage:

 $V_0 = V_{\rm cc}$ for fundamental voltage :  $V_1 = \frac{2V_{cc}}{\pi} \left( \frac{\theta_1}{\sin \theta_1} + \cos \theta_1 \right)$ 

for odd voltage components, n = 3, 5, ...:

$$V_{n} = \frac{2V_{cc}}{\pi} \left[ \frac{\sin(\theta_{1} - n\theta_{1})}{(1 - n)\sin\theta_{1}} - \frac{\sin(\theta_{1} + n\theta_{1})}{(1 + n)\sin\theta_{1}} + \frac{2\cos n\theta_{1}}{n} \right]$$

 $V_{\rm n} = 0$ for even voltage components, n = 2, 4, ...:

for DC current:

for fundamental current:  $I_1 = \frac{I_s}{\pi} \left( \frac{\theta_1}{\sin \theta_1} + \cos \theta_1 \right)$ 

 $I_0 = \frac{I_s}{\pi} \left( \frac{\pi}{2} - \theta_1 + \tan \frac{\theta_1}{2} \right)$ 

for odd current components, n = 3, 5, ...:

 $\int_{2\pi} \mathbf{I}_{n} = \frac{I_{s}}{\pi} \left| \frac{\sin(\theta_{1} - n\theta_{1})}{(1 - n)\sin\theta_{1}} - \frac{\sin(\theta_{1} + n\theta_{1})}{(1 + n)\sin\theta_{1}} + \frac{2\cos n\theta_{1}}{n} \right|$  $\pi - \theta_1 \pi$ 

#### 4.1. Overdriven Class B

$$P_1 = \frac{V_1 I_1}{2} = \frac{V_{cc} I_s}{\pi^2} \left(\frac{\theta_1}{\sin \theta_1} + \cos \theta_1\right)^2$$
$$P_0 = V_0 I_0 = \frac{V_{cc} I_s}{\pi} \left(\frac{\pi}{2} - \theta_1 + \tan \frac{\theta_1}{2}\right)$$

- fundamental output power

- DC output power

**Collector efficiency** 

**Out-of-band impedances :** 

- $Z_{\rm n} = \frac{2V_{\rm cc}}{I_{\rm s}} = R_{\rm L}$ , for odd *n*
- $Z_{\rm n} = 0$ , for even *n*

where R<sub>L</sub> is load resistance

$$\eta = \frac{P_1}{P_0} = \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{\left(\frac{\theta_1}{\sin\theta_1} + \cos\theta_1\right)^2}{\frac{\pi}{2} - \theta_1 + \tan\frac{\theta_1}{2}}$$

For 
$$\lim_{\theta_1 \to 0} \frac{\theta_1}{\sin \theta_1} = \lim_{\theta_1 \to 0} \frac{\theta_1}{\sin' \theta_1} = \lim_{\theta_1 \to 0} \frac{1}{\cos \theta_1} = 1 \quad \Longrightarrow \quad \eta = \frac{8}{\pi^2} = 81\%$$

- maximum collector efficiency for square voltage and current waveforms

Analyzing  $\eta$  on extremum gives  $\eta = 88.6\%$  for optimum angle  $\theta_1 = 32.4^\circ$ 





#### Harmonic impedance conditions:

$$Z_{1} = R_{L} = \frac{8}{\pi} \frac{V_{cc}}{I_{s}}$$
$$Z_{n} = 0 \text{ for even } n$$
$$Z_{n} = \infty \text{ for odd } n$$

#### 4.2. Class F circuit design: quarterwave transmisssion line



#### Assumptions for transistor:

• ideal switch: no parasitic elements

> half period is on, half period is off: 50% duty cycle

#### Assumptions for load:

 purely sinusoidal current: ideal L<sub>0</sub>C<sub>0</sub>-circuit tuned at fundamental

 $i(\omega t) = I_{\rm R} \sin \omega t$  - load current

 $v(\omega t) = 2V_{cc} - v(\omega t + \pi)$  - collector voltage

 $i_{\rm T}(\omega t) = i_{\rm T}(\omega t + \pi) = I_{\rm R} |\sin \omega t|$  - transmission-line current

 $i(\omega t) = I_{\rm R}(\sin \omega t + |\sin \omega t|)$  - collector current



#### 4.2. Class F circuit design: quarterwave transmission line

#### 4.2. Class F circuit design

For maximally flat waveforms:



Current har-	Voltage harmonic components					
monic compo- nents	1	1, 3	1, 3, 5	1, 3, 5, 7	1, 3, 5,,∞	
1	1/2 =0.500	9/16 = 0.563	75/128 = 0.586	1225/2048 = 0.598	$2/\pi = 0.637$	
1, 2	2/3 = 0.667	3/4 = 0.750	25/32 = 0.781	1225/1536 = 0.798	$8/3\pi = 0.849$	
1, 2, 4	32/45 = 0.711	4/5 = 0.800	5/6 = 0.833	245/288 = 0.851	$128/45\pi = 0.905$	
1, 2, 4, 6	128/175 = 0.731	144/175 = 0.823	6/7 = 0.857	7/8 = 0.875	$512/175\pi = 0.931$	
1, 2, 4,,∞	$\pi/4 = 0.785$	$9\pi/32 = 0.884$	$75\pi/256 = 0.920$	$1225\pi/4096 = 0.940$	1 = 1.000	

#### 4.2. Class F circuit design: second current and third voltage harmonic peaking



Output susceptance:

$$Im(Y_{out}) = j\omega C_{out} - j\frac{1 - \omega^2 L_2 C_2}{\omega L_1 (1 - \omega^2 L_2 C_2) + \omega L_2}$$

Three harmonic impedance conditions:

$$\begin{cases} \left(1 - \omega_0^2 L_1 C_{\text{out}}\right) \left(1 - \omega_0^2 L_2 C_2\right) - \omega_0^2 L_2 C_{\text{out}} = 0, \\ L_1 \left(1 - 4\omega_0^2 L_2 C_2\right) + L_2 = 0, \\ \left(1 - 9\omega_0^2 L_1 C_{\text{out}}\right) \left(1 - 9\omega_0^2 L_2 C_2\right) - 9\omega_0^2 L_2 C_{\text{out}} = 0, \end{cases}$$

 $S_{21}$  simulation ( $f_0 = 500$  MHz)



4.2. Class F circuit design: even current and third voltage harmonic peaking



#### 4.2. Class F circuit design

**Class F power amplifier with lumped elements** 



#### 4.2. Class F circuit design

#### **Class F power amplifier with transmission lines**



 $i_d, A$ 

0

t, nsec

1

#### 4.3. Inverse Class F

Concept of inverse Class F mode was introduced for low voltage power amplifiers designed for monolithic applications (less collector current)



at

 $2\pi$ 

π

0

$$Z_{\rm n} = \infty$$
 for even *n*

#### 4.3. Inverse Class F

**Optimum load resistances for different classes** 

Load resistance in Class B :

$$R_{\rm L}^{\rm (B)} = \frac{V_{\rm cc}}{I_1}$$

Load resistance in Class F :

$$R_{\rm L}^{\rm (F)} = \frac{4}{\pi} \frac{V_{\rm cc}}{I_1} = \frac{4}{\pi} R_{\rm L}^{\rm (B)}$$

T 7

Load resistance in inverse Class F :

$$R_{\rm L}^{(\rm invF)} = \frac{\pi}{2} \frac{V_{\rm cc}}{I_1} = \frac{\pi^2}{8} R_{\rm L}^{(\rm F)} = \frac{\pi}{2} R_{\rm L}^{(\rm B)}$$

Load resistance in inverse Class F is the highest (1.6 times larger than in Class B)



Less impedance transformation ratio and easier matching procedure

#### 4.3. Inverse Class F: second current and third voltage harmonic peaking



#### 4.3. Inverse Class F

Inverse Class F power amplifier with transmission lines



#### 4.3. Inverse Class F

#### Inverse Class F power amplifier with transmission lines













In Class E power amplifiers, transistor operates as on-to-off switch and ideal shapes of current and voltage waveforms do not overlap simultaneously resulting in 100% efficiency

Unlike Class F power amplifiers analyzed in frequency domain as their voltage and current waveforms contain either in-phase or out-of-phase harmonics, Class E power amplifiers are analyzed in time domain as their current and voltage waveforms contain harmonics having specified different phase delays depending on load network configuration

Basic circuit of Class E power amplifier with shunt capacitance consists of series inductance L, capacitor C shunting transistor, series fundamentally tuned L<sub>0</sub>C<sub>0</sub> resonant circuit, RF choke to supply DC current and load R

Shunt capacitor C can represent intrinsic device output capacitance and external circuit capacitance

Active device is considered as ideal switch to provide instantaneous device switching between its on-state and off-state operation conditions



Optimum voltage conditions across switch:



Idealized assumptions for analysis:

- transistor has zero saturation voltage, zero on-resistance, infinite offresistance and its switching action is instantaneous and lossless
- total shunt capacitance is assumed to be linear
- RF choke allows only DC current and has no resistance
- loaded quality factor Q<sub>L</sub> of series fundamentally tuned resonant L<sub>0</sub>C<sub>0</sub> circuit is infinite to provide pure sinusoidal current flowing into load
- reactive elements in load network are lossless
- for optimum operation 50% duty cycle is used

 $i_{\rm R}(\omega t) = I_{\rm R} \sin(\omega t + \varphi)$  - sinusoidal current flowing into load







Power loss due to non-zero saturation resistance

$$P_{\text{sat}} \cong \frac{8}{3} \frac{r_{\text{sat}} P_{\text{out}}^2}{V_{\text{cc}}^2} \cong 3 \frac{r_{\text{sat}}}{R}$$

Power loss due to finite switching time

 $P_{\rm a} \cong \frac{\tau_{\rm a}^2}{12}$ 

where  $\tau_a = 0.35$  or  $20^\circ$ Only 1%

> For nonlinear capacitances represented by abrupt junction collector capacitance with  $\gamma = 0.5$ , peak collector voltage increases by 20%



Optimum voltage conditions across switch:



 $i_{\rm R}(\omega t) = I_{\rm R} \sin(\omega t + \varphi)$  - sinusoidal current in load

 basic circuit of Class E power amplifier with parallel circuit consists of parallel inductance L supplying also DC current, parallel capacitor C shunting transistor, series fundamentally tuned L<sub>0</sub>C<sub>0</sub> resonant circuit and load R

 shunt capacitor C can represent intrinsic device output capacitance and external circuit capacitance

• active device is considered as ideal switch to provide instantaneous device switching between its on-state and off-state operation conditions



 $\pi \leq \omega t <$ 

Optimum voltage conditions across switch:

$$\begin{array}{c} v(\omega t) \Big|_{\omega t=2\pi} = 0 \\ \frac{dv(\omega t)}{d\omega t} \Big|_{\omega t=2\pi} = 0 \end{array}$$

$$0 \le \omega t < \pi$$
 - switch is on  $\Rightarrow v(\omega t) = V_{cc} - v_L(\omega t) = 0$  and  $i_C(\omega t) = \omega C \frac{dv(\omega t)}{d\omega t} = 0$ 

$$i(\omega t) = i_{\rm L}(\omega t) + i_{\rm R}(\omega t) = \frac{V_{\rm cc}}{\omega L}\omega t + I_{\rm R}\left[\sin(\omega t + \varphi) - \sin\varphi\right]$$

$$2\pi$$
 - switch is off  $\Rightarrow$   $i(\omega t) = 0 \Rightarrow$   $i_{\rm C}(\omega t) = i_{\rm L}(\omega t) + i_{\rm R}(\omega t)$ 

$$\omega C \frac{dv(\omega t)}{d(\omega t)} = \frac{1}{\omega L} \int_{\pi}^{\omega t} \left[ V_{cc} - v(\omega t) \right] d(\omega t) + i_{L}(\pi) + I_{R} \sin(\omega t + \varphi)$$

under initial conditions  $v(\pi) = 0$  and  $i_{\rm L}(\pi) = \frac{V_{\rm cc}\pi}{\omega L} - I_{\rm R}\sin\varphi$ 

$$\omega^{2}LC \frac{d^{2}v(\omega t)}{d(\omega t)^{2}} + v(\omega t) - V_{cc} - \omega LI_{R}\cos(\omega t + \varphi) = 0 - \text{second-order} \\ \frac{v(\omega t)}{V_{cc}} = C_{1}\cos(q\omega t) + C_{2}\sin(q\omega t) + 1 - \frac{q^{2}p}{1 - q^{2}}\cos(\omega t + \varphi) \\ \text{where } q = 1/\omega\sqrt{LC}, \quad p = \frac{\omega LI_{R}}{V_{cc}} \quad \text{and coefficients } C_{1} \text{ and } C_{2} \text{ are defined} \\ \text{from initial conditions} \end{cases}$$

To define three unknown parameters q,  $\varphi$  and p, two optimum conditions and third equation for DC Fourier component are applied resulting to system of three algebraic equations:

$$v(\omega t)|_{\omega t=2\pi} = 0 \qquad \frac{dv(\omega t)}{d\omega t}|_{\omega t=2\pi} = 0 \qquad V_{cc} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{0}^{2\pi} v(\omega t) d\omega t$$
$$q = 1.412 \qquad \varphi = 15.155^{\circ} \qquad p = 1.21$$



#### 4.6. Class E with transmission lines: approximation

 $R_{\rm L}$ 



Optimum impedance at fundamental seen by device :

 $Z_{\text{net1}} = R(1 + j \tan 49.052^\circ)$ 

 electrical lengths of transmission lines l<sub>1</sub> and l<sub>2</sub> should be of 45° to provide open circuit seen by device at second harmonic

• their characteristic impedances are chosen to provide optimum inductive impedance seen by device at fundamental

 for three harmonic approximation, additional open circuit transmission line stub with 90-degree electrical length at third harmonic is required (1.5 GHz, 1.5 W, 90%)

#### 4.6. Class E with transmission lines: approximation



Impedance seen by device at fundamental



Impedance seen by device at harmonics



Optimum impedance at fundamental seen by device :

 $Z_{\text{net1}} = R / (1 - j \tan 34.244^{\circ})$ 

Parallel inductance is replaced by transmission line providing optimum inductive reactance at fundamental :

 $Z_0 \tan \theta = \omega L$ 

where  $L = 0.732 \frac{R}{\omega}$ 

Relationship between optimum transmission line and load parameters :

$$\tan\theta = 0.732 \frac{R}{Z_0}$$



#### 4.6. Class E with transmission lines: approximation

# 4.6. Class E with transmission lines: design example

1.71-1.98 GHz handset InGaP/GaAs HBT power amplifier: two-stage MMIC designed in 2001



#### 4.6. Class E with transmission lines: design example



#### 4.6. Class E with quarterwave transmission line



Optimum voltage conditions across switch:

$$\frac{v(\omega t)}{d\omega t}\Big|_{\omega t=2\pi} = 0$$
$$\frac{dv(\omega t)}{d\omega t}\Big|_{\omega t=2\pi} = 0$$

- sinusoidal load current
- 50% duty cycle

$$\frac{d^2 i_{\rm C}(\omega t)}{d(\omega t)^2} + \frac{q^2}{2} i_{\rm C}(\omega t) + I_{\rm R} \sin(\omega t + \varphi) = 0 \qquad - \text{second-order differential} \\ \text{equation}$$

q

boundary conditions:

$$i_{\rm C}(\omega t)\Big|_{\omega t=\pi} = 2i_{\rm R}(\pi)$$

 $\frac{di_{\rm C}(\omega t)}{d(\omega t)}\Big|_{\omega t=\pi} = \frac{V_{\rm cc}}{\omega L} - I_{\rm R}\cos(\varphi)$ 

$$p = \frac{\omega LI_{\rm R}}{V_{\rm cc}} \qquad q = 1/\omega \sqrt{LC}$$
$$= 1.649 \qquad p = 1.302 \qquad \varphi = -40.8^{\circ}$$

#### 4.6. Class E with quarterwave transmission line



#### 4.6. Class E with quarterwave transmission line

#### Optimum impedances at fundamental and harmonics for different Class E load networks

Class E load network	$f_0$ (fundamental)	$2nf_0$ (even harmonics)	$(2n+1)f_0$ (odd harmonics)
Class E with shunt capacitance			
Class E with parallel circuit			
Class E with quarterwave transmission line			

#### 4.7. Broadband Class E circuit design

#### **Reactance compensation load network**



Reactance compensation principle



1 - impedance provided by series L<sub>0</sub>C<sub>0</sub> resonant circuit

2 - impedance provided by parallel LC resonant circuit

 summation of reactances with opposite slopes results in constant load phase over broad frequency range

Input load network admittance

$$Y_{\rm in} = \left(j\omega C + \frac{1}{j\omega L} + \frac{1}{R + j\omega' L_0}\right)$$
$$\omega' = \omega \left(1 - \frac{\omega_0^2}{\omega^2}\right) \qquad \omega_0 = 1/\sqrt{L_0 C_0}$$

To maximize bandwidth:

 $\left.\frac{d\operatorname{Im}Y_{in}(\omega)}{d\omega}\right|_{\omega=\omega_{0}}=0$ 

$$C + \frac{1}{\omega^2 L} - \frac{2L_0}{R^2} = 0$$

Optimum circuit parameters using equations for inductance L and capacitance C in Class E mode

$$L_0 = 1.026 \frac{R}{\omega}$$
$$C_0 = 1/\omega^2 L_0$$

#### 4.7. Broadband Class E circuit design



#### Load network phase angle



1 - single reactance compensation load network 2 - double reactance compensation load network

**Optimum circuit parameters using** equations for inductance L and capacitance C in Class E mode

$$L_{0} = \frac{R}{\omega} \frac{2}{\sqrt{5} - 1} \qquad C_{0} = \frac{1}{\omega^{2} L_{0}}$$
$$C_{1} = \frac{L_{0}}{R^{2}} \frac{3 - \sqrt{5}}{2} \qquad L_{1} = \frac{1}{\omega^{2} C_{1}}$$

#### 4.7. Broadband Class E circuit design

Broadband Class E power amplifier with double reactance compensation



#### Drain voltage and current waveforms $v_{\rm d}, V$ $i_{d}, A$ 80 1.5 60 1.0 ~, 40 0.5 20 0 1,2 1 11 0 -0.5 t, nsec

LDMOSFET: gate length 1.25 um gate width 7x1.44 mm 1 - drain efficiency > 71% 2 - power gain > 9.5 dB Input power - 1 W Input VSWR < 1.4 Gain flatness ≤± 0.3 4.8. Practical high efficiency RF and microwave power amplifiers Typical bipolar RF Class F power amplifier



• zero-volt Class C biasing using RF choke

> • T-type input and output matching circuits with parallel capacitance

• quarterwave transmission line in collector to suppress even harmonics

 high-Q series LC circuit to provide high impedance conditions for harmonics

Up to 90% collector efficiency for 10 W at 250 MHz

### 4.8. Practical high efficiency RF and microwave power amplifiers

#### Harmonic controlled MESFET microwave Class F power amplifier



 Class AB biasing with small quiescent current

> • T-type input and output matching circuits with parallel capacitance

 using second harmonic controlled circuits with series 50-ohm microstrip line and capacitance each at device input and output

Input second-harmonic termination circuit is required to provide input quasi-square voltage waveform minimizing device switching time

74% power-added efficiency for 1.4 W at 930 MHz

4.8. Practical high efficiency RF and microwave power amplifiers High power LDMOSFET RF Class E power amplifier



Class B with zero quiescent current

• series inductance and ferrite 4:1 transformer is required to match device input impedance

> L-type output transformer to match optimum 1.5-ohm output impedance to 50-ohm load

 quality factor of resonant circuit was chosen to be sufficiently low (~ 5) to provide some frequency bandwidth operation and to reduce sensitivity to resonant circuit parameters  required value of Class E shunt capacitance is provided by device intrinsic 38-pF capacitance and external 55-pF capacitance

70% drain efficiency for 54 W at 144 MHz

## 4.8. Practical high efficiency RF and microwave power amplifiers

Low voltage fully integrated MESFET Class E power amplifier



 Class E load network with optimum series inductance and shunt capacitance

• T-type output matching circuit for impedance transformation to 50-ohm load  Class F interstage harmonic controlled circuit using two LC resonant circuits tuned on fundamental and third harmonic to approximate square-wave driving signal

50% power-added efficiency for 24 dBm within 800-870 MHz

4.8. Practical high efficiency RF and microwave power amplifiers 225-400 MHz 28 V 20 W LDMOSFET Class AB power amplifier: simulations







**Power gain** 



**Power-added efficiency** 

