ADS Fundamentals - 2009

LAB 7: Harmonic Balance Simulations

Overview - This exercise continues the amp_1900 design and shows the fundamentals of using the Harmonic Balance simulator to look at the spectrum, analyze compression, calculate TOI, and perform other non-linear measurements.

OBJECTIVES

- Set up and perform a 1 tone HB simulation.
- Set up and perform a 2 tone HB simulation.
- Use variables for simulation and source control.
- Test Gain, Compression, Available Power, Noise Figure, IP3, and other specifications.
- Use the *ts* transform on HB data.
- Work with equations, plots, and the Mix table.



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PROCEDURE

1. Set up the circuit with a P_1Tone source.

- a. Close the system_prj if it is still opened. Then open the **amp_1900** project and schematic: **s_final**.
- **b.** Save the <u>s final</u> schematic with a new name: **hb_basic**. Then delete all the simulation and measurement components and the input Term. Begin building the setup shown here.



- c. Insert a **P_1Tone** (Sources-Freq Domain palette) for the RF input.
- d. Insert 4 pin labels (node names) **Vin**, **Vout**. **VC** and **VB** as shown so that the voltages will be available in the dataset.
- e. Set the RF source as shown: Freq=1900 MH. Also, remove remove the polar function so that only the dbm-to-watts watts function remains: **P=dbmtow (-40)**. Also, rename rename the source **RF_source**. The port number is defined defined by Num=1.



2. Set up a one-tone Harmonic Balance simulation.

- a. Go to the **Simulation_HB** palette and insert a **Harmonic Balance** simulation controller as shown here.
- b. Edit the Freq setting on the screen: change it to **Freq [1] = 1900 MHz** so that it matches the Freq setting in the P_1Tone source.



3. Write a measurement equation for <u>dBm of Vout</u> and simulate.

- a. From the simulation palette, insert a **measurement equation**.
- b. Write an equation to calculate the output power at Vout in dBm: dbm_out dbm_out = dBm (Vout[1]). The number in braces [1] refers to the index value of the calculated frequencies in the analysis. With Order = 3, the index values are: index [0] is

Meas Eqn

index [2] is the second harmonic or 3800 MHz, and index [3] is the third harmonic. Therefore, the equation should produce the output power in dBm for 1900 MHz only.

c. Simulate – you should have no warnings or error messages.

the DC component, index [1] is 1900 MHz,

d. Change the HB controller to: **Freq[1]= 1800 MHz**. Now, **simulate** again and read the error message - the source is 100 MHz away from the HB frequency of 1800 MHz. This is a common error when the source and controller do not agree.

🛱 hpeesofsim 41334:1	
File Simulation/Synthesis Text Window	
Simulation / Synthesis Messages Warning detected by hpeesofsim during HB analysis `HE1'. For source `FORT1', (1 x freq[1])=1.9e+009 Hz is 1e+008 Hz away from the closest analysis frequency at 1.8e+009 Hz. The maximum allowed frequency difference is 1800 Hz. This spectral component is turned off for this simulation.	?

e. Reset the HB controller **Freq[1] = 1900 MHz** and **simulate** again.

4. Plot the spectrum, equation, and *ts* of the node voltages.

- a. In the data display, plot **dBm** of **Vout**. Also, insert a list of **dbm_out**. Whenever you write a measurement equation, it will appear in the dataset. The two values should be the same as shown here.
- b. Put a **marker** on the fundamental and verify that your amplifier has about 35 dB of Gain with output power in dBm = -4.876 at 1900 MHz.





NOTE on results: With Order set to 3 in the simulation controller, you get 3 tones: fundamental plus two harmonics. The DC component also shows up on the plot because Harmonic Balance always computes DC for convergence.

- c. Insert a **stacked rectangular plot** and insert two data traces as **time domain signals: Vin** and **Vout**. The *ts* (time series) function operates on HB and transforms it into the time domain. In this case, you can see that the amplifier does not invert the signal as you might expect. These will be two separate plots in one frame. Put markers on the same time point as shown.
- d. Edit the Y-axis label on the trace by changing Vout to VC and changing Vin to VB as shown here. Now you can see the inversion. This means that the matching network probably has a great effect on the phase.





5. Operate on Vout and Mix using functions and indexing.

a. Insert a list of **Mix** and **Vout** as shown here. Whenever a HB simulation is performed, a Mix table (index values) is created in the dataset. Notice that Vout is always complex (mag and angle), unless you operate on it using dB, dBm, etc. In the next steps, you will learn how to write equations to display or operate on specific tones in the Mix table. This is especially useful for multiple tones or mixers.

Datasets and Equations				
hb_basic	freq 0.0000 Hz 1.900GHz	Vout 0.000 / 0.000 0.180 / -14 199	Mix 0	Index value
freq L_in.i Mix SRC11	3.800GHz 5.700GHz	0.001 / -170.939 1.963E-5 / 46.135	23	of 1900 MHz = 1. The DC index = 0HB.

b. Edit the first list and add Vin. Then select Trace Options and and edit Vin by typing in the dBm function: dBm(Vin) and click and click OK. Notice that whenever you edit a trace or insert an insert an equation the buttons appear for Variable Info (dependencies) or Function Help (manuals).



Variable Info... Functions Help

- c. Your list should now contain the schematic equation dbm_out and the expression dBm (Vin) for all frequencies. frequencies. Now, edit the dBm(Vin) data by inserting the inserting the index value [1] in the Vin argument as shown shown now you get the value of Vin at the index value or value or 1900 MHz.
- d. Insert the **[1]** in the dbm_out equation it becomes invalid because it was indexed as {1} on the schematic.

freq 0.0000 1.900GHz 3.800GHz 5.700GHz	dBm(Vin) <invalid> -40.214 -82.943 -111.161</invalid>) dbm_out -4.876	$\Box \rangle$	dBm(Vin[1]) -40.214	dbm_out -4.876
	-		_		
dBm(Vin[1])	dbm_ou	ut[1] <in∨alid< td=""><td>></td><td>Adding [1] to the vin</td><td>data returns th</td></in∨alid<>	>	Adding [1] to the vin	data returns th
-40.214		<in∨alid <in∨alid< td=""><td></td><td>2^{nd} index value = 190</td><td>)0 MHz.</td></in∨alid<></in∨alid 		2^{nd} index value = 190)0 MHz.
				Adding [1] to the m equation makes it in	easurement nvalid.

e. Remove [1] from the invalid dbm_out equation to make it valid again.

f. Insert the cursor in the dBm (Vin[1]) expression and add a comma and 50 as shown here. The second argument in the dBm function is Zin. If no argument is given, the default is 50 ohms. Therefore, no change should occur. Undo the comma fifty (,50) so that it reads dBm(Vin[1] again.



Insert Zin: 50 as the 2nd argument separated by a comma.

NOTE on dBm function and Zin of your designs - The dBm function converts a voltage into dBm assuming an exact 50 ohm impedance. However, if Zin is not exactly 50 ohms +/- j0, then the power at Vin may be incorrect. Therefore, you may want to use the correct value of Zin as you will see in the next step.

6. Calculate Delivered Power and Zin using Pin Current

a. Edit the Harmonic Balance controller and select the select the Output tab and check the box for Pin Pin Currents (shown here) and click OK. This will This will add all the values of current to the data set



data set – you will be using the input pin current instead of a current probe.

b. Simulate again. When finished, go to the same Data Display and write an equation for the input current which uses the total current through the input inductor. To do this, use the editor: write I_in = and then insert the inductor current as shown here:



Then add the bracketed [1] so that it's the current at 1900 MHz. The result equation should be as shown here – you will use this to calculate impedance and power.



c. Write another equation to calculate **Zin** using Vin Vin and I_in at 1900 MHz as shown here. Then insert insert a list of the Z_in equation. Notice the complex complex impedance is not 50 ohms!





d. Write an equation to calculate average delivered power using the node voltage Vin and the input current equation I_in:

Note that 0.5 gives the average of the peak value, the **conj** function converts the complex current to its conjugate because V&I must be in phase to dissipate power and + 30 converts the value to dBm (same as dividing by 0. 001).

e. Edit your earlier list of dBm(Vin[1]) and **delete dbm_out** and add the equation **P_del_dBm**. Also, add another Vin trace and edit the trace expression to read: **dBm(Vin[1],Z_in)**. Now you have three ways of computing input power to compare. Notice that two of the values are the same:

dBm using defaults dBm using V and I dBm using Z_in eqn

dBm(Vin[1])	P_del_dBm	dBm(Vin[1], Z_in)
-40.214	-40.003	-40.003

NOTE on pin currents vs current probes: You could have used a current probe at the input instead of the pin current through the inductor. Either way is OK. However, the pin currents can make the datasets large if the circuit is also large.

7. Test for Gain Compression using the XDB simulator.

The XDB simulation controller is a special use Harmonic Balance simulation for gain compression.

- a. Save all you current work: schematic and data display. Then save the schematic with a new name: **hb_compression**. Afterward, close the hb_basic data display.
- b. In the new schematic, **deactivate** the HB1 controller.
- c. Go to the Simulation-XDB palette and insert the XDB controller. Edit the controller on screen so that Freq[1] and GC input and output frequencies are all 1.9 GHz as shown. The parameter GC_XdB = 1 means that the test will be for 1 dB compression. Later, if you wanted 3 or 6 dB compression, simply change the value.
- In the Simulation Setup, change the Dataset name to hb_xdb and then Simulate.
- e. When the data display opens, insert a list of of inpwr and outpwr. Then edit directly on the on the list by inserting a bracketed one [1] after [1] after each data item as shown here. If If desired, title the plot as shown. You just just performed a 1 dB gain compression test in test in only a few seconds! Because this amplifier is biased quite high, the 1dB compression point occurs when the input input power is about -30 dBm as shown here. here. In the next steps, you will modify the the schematic and set up a power sweep with with harmonic balance another way to test test compression!



Simulation Setup:4
Simulation mode
Setup Remote Distributed
Dataset hb_xdb Browse
Data Display hb_compression Browse
Open Data Display when simulation completes
Simulate Apply Cancel Help

freq	hb_xdbinpwr	hb_xdboutpwr	l N		
0.0000 Hz 1.900 GHz 3.800 GHz 5.700 GHz	-30.67 dBm -30.67 dBm -30.67 dBm -30.67 dBm	3.498 dBm 3.498 dBm 3.498 dBm 3.498 dBm		hb_xdbinpwr[1] -30.671	hb_xdboutpwr[1] 3.498

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Parameter sweep

Start

Stop

Step-size

Num. of pts.

Use sweep plan

Sweep Type

-50

-20

1

31

8. Simulate compression with a power sweep.

- a. Deactivate the XDB and activate the HB controller.
- b. Insert a variable equation VAR for RF_pwr = -40.
- c. Set the RF source power to the variable: **P=dbmtow** (RF_pwr).
- d. Edit the HB controller. In the sweep tab, set the **RF_pwr** sweep as shown from -50 to -20, step 1.



Var Egn

VAR VAR1

- e. Go to the **Display** tab and set the SweepVar and its values to be displayed on the HB controller component as shown here.
- f. Change the dataset name to: **hb_comp** and **simulate**. When the data display window opens, answer **No** to changing the dataset - this will keep the XDB data valid as the default dataset. Now, you will have to explicitly plot the hb comp data – this is common practice.
- g. Insert a plot and select the **hb_comp** dataset. Then plot the schematic measurement equation dbm_out. Insert a marker on the trace where the value of RF pwr is near the XDB inpwr value: -31. As you can see, the two values are close but they differ because the sweep resolutions resolutions are different - the XDB simulation (different DDS Datasets and Equations DDS and dataset) used many closely spaced sweep values.







hb_xdbinpwr[1]	hb_xdboutpwr[1]
-30.671	3.498

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values.

9. Plot various gain, power, and line equations.

a. Write an equation, **dB_gain** that uses the *dbm_out* measurement equation. By subtracting the linear input RF_pwr from dbm_out, the result is the gain at all values of RF input power:



- b. Edit the plot of dbm out and 40 add the dB gain equation -30 the Y axis scale will h_comp..dbm_out dB_gain m2 RF dB 20 automatically adjust. You _pwr=-34.000 gain=34.985 can add markers to see both 10. mЗ values at one RF power 0 level as shown. pwr=-34.000 RF -10 hb_comp..dbm_out=0.985 -20 -30 -25 -35 RF pwr
- c. To plot dB_gain against output power, insert a new plot, add the **dB_gain** equation and then click **AddVs**. Next, select the **hb_comp** dataset and the independent variable for the X axis: **dbm_out**. Click OK and the sharp fall of gain will be plotted as shown. Use markers to read the values.
- d. Write one more equation, line, to create a linear line (extrapolated data)



that represents the ideal output power with no compression. By adding the uncompressed gain at the first data point [0] to the RF power at every point, you get the ideal gain or line.

- e. Insert a new plot of **dbm_out** (using hb_comp data) and add **line** also. This visually shows the amplifier's deviation from linear output power.
- f. Save all your work.



10. Two-tone HB simulation with variables.

The next few steps show more use of variables in simulation control. This is important for more complex circuit refinement, calculations in the remaining labs, and working with ADS examples which use this method of simulation control.

- a. Save the last schematic design with a new name: **hb_2Tone**.
- b. Edit the VAR and add variables for RF_freq and spacing as shown here. Vbias is not required - you may or may not have Vbias if you did an optional step earlier.

NOTE on units in VARs – If you set units here **do not set them anywhere else** or they may multiply in the simulation.

- c. Change the source to a P_nTone. Edit the source so that it has two tones: Freq
 [1] and [2] with RF_pwr for each as shown here.
- d. Edit the Harmonic Balance controller as shown here by adding another frequency, Freq[2], and the values as shown, using the spacing variable / 2. Also, set Order = 4 for both and set MaxOrder = 8. In this case, the two RF tones are spaced 5 MHz apart (channel spacing).

Var Eqn VAR VAR1 Vbias=5 V RF_freq=1900 MHz RF_pwr=-40 spacing=10 MHz





MaxOrder = number of mixing products.

Freq[1] is a variable or a number. Order [1]= 4 means Freq[1] will be calculated with 4 harmonics.

e. **Remove the RF_pwr sweep** from the controller by erasing it on-screen or in the dialog and display. Also, remove any other controllers or unwanted components and save the design again.

f. **Simulate** and **plot** the spectrum of Vout in dBm. Put a marker on a tone near 1900 MHz. Notice that you cannot clearly see the adjacent tones. To see the inter-modulation tones, you can either zoom in on the plot or try changing the X axis scaling. Try both of these methods quickly because the next step shows a technique using equations.



11. Use equations to access and control HB data.

- a. <u>Create a matrix with vectors (index values)</u> to the desired tones. To do this, write the tones equation shown here. This equation creates a matrix using the square brackets. Within the brackets are curly braces with index values for the *mix* table. In this case, the number 1 represents the RF tone with spacing. Zero means that no other tone is desired (same as DC), and 2 represents two times the RF simulation tone.
- b. Insert a rectangular plot of Vout spectrum in dBm. Then use Trace

Eqn tones=[$\{1,0\},\{0,1\},\{2,-1\},\{-1,2\}$] \leftarrow Use curly braces within brackets.

Options to edit **the Trace Expression** as shown here, using parenthesis – type in: **dBm(mix(Vout,tones))**. Also, set the **Trace Trace Type** to **Spectral**.

c. The plot should now show only the four tones tones you specified (10 MHz apart). To verify verify this, insert a **list** of **Mix** (Mix table). The The index values from the Mix table are the tones the tones that you specified with the **tones**

equation. This is how Harmonic Balance data can be accessed and controlled using equations.



12. Simulate IP3 or TOI (Third Order Intercept)





- a. On the hb_2Tone schematic, insert two Harmonic Balance **IP3out** measurement equations: one for the upper and one for the lower spaced tone. Many measurements require two-tones so name the instances upper and lower as shown here.
- b. Note the default node label (vout), vectors {1,0}, and impedance 50. To match these values to your circuit, change vout to **Vout** (uppercase V). Then set the index values to correspond to your Mix table shown here from the last simulation (only lower_toi needs to change).



ipo_lower
lower_toi=ip3_out(Vout,{0,1},{-1,2},50)

2-tone Mix HB data				
1.885GHz	-1	2		
1.895GHz	0	1		
1.905GHz	1	ol l		
1.915GHz	2	-1		

c. Check the equations to be sure they are correct and then **Simulate**.

lower_toi	upper_toi
15.679	15.914

d. In the Data Display, list the two measurement equation values as shown here.

Remove the independent variable using Plot Options. Here the amplifier TOI values appear reasonable and almost symmetrical.

e. As an exercise in controlling data with ADS functions, write an equation in the Data Display for the same measurement as shown here. Then list it (my_toi) as shown here. You get the same results because you use the same function: ip3_out. The only difference is that this is after the simulation. Also, this equation is used in the optional step at the end of this lab.



f. <u>Plot the spectrum of Vout in dBm</u> and then zoom in on the plot to see the two tones you just simulated. Put markers on the upper fundamental and the 3rd order tone – these should match the frequency values in the Mix table.



NOTE – You could easily go back to the schematic, change the spacing VAR value and simulate again. All the equations, plots and tables would simply fill up with the new data. This is the value of using variables for simulation and data displays.

g. Save the schematic and data display.

NOTE for Mixer measurements – If you design mixers, the LO should be Freq[1] in the simulation controller because it has the most power. Also, in measurement equations, you will have to treat 2-tone data as if it were 3-tone: LO, RF1 and RF2 for upper and lower tones. For example, the upper IP3 equations for a down-converter would have the following index values: {-1,1,0},{-1,2,1} where –1 in the first represents the LO tone.

13.0PTIONAL - Sweep RF power against the TOI measurement

This step shows the effects on TOI when the input power begins to drive the device toward compression. In general, many measurements can be refined to get a better measure of circuit performance, beyond the required specifications. To do this, you must have a powerful non-linear simulator and data display tool such as ADS.

- a. Using the same hb_2Tone design, set up the HB simulation controller to sweep the RF power as shown here from -45 to -30 dBm. You already tested 1 dB compression (about -31 dBm RF input power) and you just finished measuring TOI which (about 15 dBm).
- b. **Simulate** and watch the changes in the data display.
- c. Edit the **my toi** list to include the independent data (RF pwr). Then increase the list size so that all the values appear. As you can see, TOI begins to change greatly as RF_pwr moves higher. However, the change is not linear. The next step will show this with more refinement.
- d. Change the list of **my toi** to a **rectangular plot** (Plot Options - click the plot type icon). Then, on the same plot, insert **Vout** in **dBm** and edit the trace expression to return the upper RF tone as shown here. Now you can see how the TOI measurement tracks with that tone:



dBm(mix (Vout, {1,0}))



RF_pwr

my_toi

9.824

7.795

6.637

5.929

5.305

4.888

HARMONIC BALANCE

HarmonicBalance

Freq[1]=RF_freq + spacing / 2

Freq[2]=RF freq - spacing/ 2

SweepVar="RF pwr"

Two Tone

Order[1]=4

Order[2]=4

Start=-45

Stop=-30

Step=1

MaxOrder=8

Vout 2 traces: my_toi and dBm of upper RF tone.

-34.000

-33.000

-32.000

Dependency : [freq] Num. Points : [41] Matrix Size : scalar : Complex Type

NOTE on Vout data – You must use the *mix* function because Vout contains 41 total frequency tones: 2 spaced fundamentals with 4 harmonics (this means 8 tones), with 8 max order (this means 32 more intermod tones), plus the dc component. These 41 tones are present at each of the 16 values of RF power.

e. Add one more **Vout** trace to the plot. Again, edit the trace (Trace Expression) so that is becomes the upper 3rd order product:

dBm (mix (Vout, {2,-1}))

f. Your plot should now look like the one shown here. It should contain the upper RF_freq, the upper 3rd order product, and the equation my_toi (upper toi). Now, edit the my_toi trace and select Plot Axes as shown here. Then select Right Y axis for this trace and watch the change.



g. Your plot should now have the TOI value from your equation on the Right Y axis and the two tones used to calculate TOI on the left. Now, use Plot Options, select Y Axis, and remove the Auto Scale (uncheck the box). Then increase the Max to 10 and click OK. Finally, place a marker on the point where the slope of the two tones is no longer 3:1. As you can see, IP3 was calculated in the correct region. However, after the marker, the 3rd order product begins to rise at a sharper rate. This is a good example of using ADS to learn more about the performance of your design, beyond the specification.



Make your plot look similar using the Data Display text and drawing features.



EXTRA EXERCISES:

1. <u>Swept RF frequency</u> - Copy the schematic and then change the swept variable from RF power to one tone RF freq. To do this, set up the VAR for RF_freq in both the controller and the source. Sweep RF_freq from 100 MHz to 3GHz in 100 MHz steps. Be sure to change the dataset name, then simulate and plot the output power equation against the swept frequency as shown. Also, note that the dataset will contain a list of the harmonic index as shown.



- 2. Try writing an equation to pass all the 5th order products to a spectral plot.
- 3. Use the **pspec** function to calculate power gain to the load. To do this, first look at the Help for pspec. Then insert a current probe at the Vout node.