Millimeter-wave Mobile Broadband: Unleashing 3-300GHz Spectrum

Farooq Khan & Jerry Pi Samsung March 28, 2011

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RF Transceiver



Transceiver key RF components

• Antenna, Filters, Power Amplifier (PA), Low-Noise Amplifier (LNA), Oscillator (VCO), Mixer and Data converters (DAC/ADC)

Nonlinear Device

In the most general sense, the output response of a nonlinear circuit can be modeled as a Taylor series in terms of the input signal voltage

 V_o

$$v_0 = a_0 + a_1 v_i + a_2 v_i^2 + a_3 v_i^3 + \cdots$$

where the Taylor Coefficients are defined as

$$a_{0} = v_{0}(0)$$

$$a_{1} = \frac{dv_{0}}{dv_{i}} \Big|_{v_{i}} = 0$$

$$a_{2} = \frac{d^{2}v_{0}}{dv_{i}^{2}} \Big|_{v_{i}} = 0$$
Nonlinear device or network

and higher order terms

Gain Compression

Consider the case where a single frequency sinusoid is applied to the input of a nonlinear device such as a power amplifier

$$\begin{aligned} v_{i} &= V_{0} \cos \omega_{0} t \\ v_{0} &= a_{0} + a_{1} V_{0} \cos \omega_{0} t + a_{2} V_{0}^{2} \cos^{2} \omega_{0} t + a_{3} V_{0}^{3} \cos^{3} \omega_{0} t + \cdots \\ v_{0} &= a_{0} + a_{1} V_{0} \cos \omega_{0} t + a_{2} V_{0}^{2} \left(\frac{1 + \cos 2\omega_{0} t}{2} \right) + \\ a_{3} V_{0}^{3} \frac{1}{2} \cos \omega_{0} t + a_{3} V_{0}^{3} \left(\frac{\cos \omega_{0} t + \cos 2\omega_{0} t}{4} \right) + \cdots \\ v_{0} &= \left(a_{0} + \frac{1}{2} a_{2} V_{0}^{2} \right) + \left(a_{1} V_{0} + \frac{3}{4} a_{3} V_{0}^{3} \right) \cos \omega_{0} t + \\ \frac{1}{2} a_{2} V_{0}^{2} \cos 2\omega_{0} t + \frac{1}{4} a_{3} V_{0}^{3} \cos 3\omega_{0} t + \cdots \\ & G &= \frac{a_{1} V_{0} + \frac{3}{4} a_{3} V_{0}^{3}}{V_{0}} = a_{1} + \frac{3}{4} a_{3} V_{0}^{2} \end{aligned}$$

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Intermodulation Distortion

Consider two-tone input voltage consisting of two closely spaced frequencies



Output spectrum consists of harmonics of the form

 $m\omega_1 + n\omega_2$ $m, n = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2 \pm 3, \cdots$

These combinations of the two input frequencies are called intermodulation products

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Third-Order Intercept Point (IP3)

$$P_{\omega_1} = \frac{1}{2} a_1^2 V_0^2$$
$$P_{2\omega_1 - \omega_2} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{3}{4} a_3 V_0^2\right)^2 = \frac{9}{32} a_3^2 V_0^6$$

These two powers are equal at the third-order IP Let input signal voltage at the IP be V_{IP}

$$\frac{1}{2}a_{1}^{2}V_{IP}^{2} = \frac{9}{32}a_{3}^{2}V_{IP}^{6}$$

$$V_{IP} = \sqrt{\frac{4a_{1}}{3a_{2}}}$$

$$P_{3} = P_{\omega_{1}}\Big|_{V_{0}=V_{IP}} = \frac{1}{2}a_{1}^{2}V_{IP}^{2} = \frac{2a_{1}^{3}}{3a_{3}}$$



Mixer



 $v_{RF}(t) = K \Big[v_{LO}(t) v_{IF}(t) \Big] = K \cos 2\pi f_{LO} t \cos 2\pi f_{IF} t \qquad v_{IF}(t) = K \Big[v_{LO}(t) v_{RF}(t) \Big] = K \cos 2\pi f_{LO} t \cos 2\pi f_{RF} t \\ v_{RF}(t) = \frac{K}{2} \Big[\cos 2\pi (f_{LO} - f_{IF}) t + \cos 2\pi (f_{LO} + f_{IF}) t \Big] \qquad v_{IF}(t) = \frac{K}{2} \Big[\cos 2\pi (f_{RF} - f_{LO}) t + \cos 2\pi (f_{RF} + f_{LO}) t \Big]$

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Image Frequency



$$\begin{split} f_{IF} &= f_{RF} - f_{LO} = (f_{LO} + f_{IF}) - f_{LO} = f_{IF} \\ f_{IF} &= f_{IM} - f_{LO} = (f_{LO} - f_{IF}) - f_{LO} = -f_{IF} \end{split}$$

$$\begin{split} f_{IF} &= f_{RF} - f_{LO} = (f_{LO} - f_{IF}) - f_{LO} = -f_{IF} \\ f_{IF} &= f_{IM} - f_{LO} = (f_{LO} + f_{IF}) - f_{LO} = f_{IF} \end{split}$$

 $-f_{IF}$ is mathematically identical to f_{IF} because the frequency spectrum of any real signal is symmetric about zero frequency, and thus contains negative as well as positive frequencies

A received RF signal at the image frequency $f_{\rm IM}$ is indistinguishable at the IF stage from the desired RF signal of frequency $f_{\rm RF}$

Homodyne (Zero-IF) Receiver



Benefits	Drawbacks
Less hardware	LO Leakage
Low power consumption	DC offset errors
No IF stage and hence no image filter	I/Q mis-match
	Flicker (or 1/f) noise

Super-heterodyne Receiver



Benefits	Drawbacks		
Good sensitivity	High Q filter		
Good selectivity	High performance oscillator		
	LNA output impedance matched to 50 ohm is difficult		
	Integration of HF image reject filter is a major problem		

Wideband-IF Receiver



Benefits	Drawbacks
Image cancellation by IR mixer	IR Mixer
Image rejection from the RF front-end pre- selection filter	
Good phase noise performance	

Wideband-IF Receiver (Image Rejection)

Low-side injection $\omega_{RF} - \omega_{LO} = \omega_{LO} - \omega_{IM} = \omega_{IF}$ Signal of interest $x_{RF} \cos(\omega_{RF}t - \alpha) = x_{RF} \cos \alpha \cos \omega_{RF}t + x_{RF} \sin \alpha \sin \omega_{RF}t$ Image $x_{IM} \cos(\omega_{IM}t - \beta) = x_{IM} \cos \beta \cos \omega_{IM}t + x_{IM} \sin \beta \sin \omega_{IM}t$ $I(t) = [x_{RF} \cos(\omega_{RF}t - \alpha) + x_{RF} \cos(\omega_{RF}t - \beta)] \cos \omega_{LO}t$

$$T(t) = \left[x_{RF} \cos(\omega_{RF}t - \alpha) + x_{IM} \cos(\omega_{IM}t - \beta) \right] \cos\omega_{LO}t$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} x_{RF} \left\{ \cos(\omega_{IF}t - \alpha) + \cos\left[(\omega_{RF} + \omega_{LO})t - \alpha \right] \right\} + \frac{1}{2} x_{IM} \left\{ \cos(\omega_{IF}t + \beta) + \cos\left[(\omega_{IM} + \omega_{LO})t - \beta \right] \right\}$$

$$Q(t) = \left[x_{RF} \cos(\omega_{RF}t - \alpha) + x_{IM} \cos(\omega_{IM}t - \beta) \right] \sin\omega_{LO}t$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} x_{RF} \left\{ -\sin(\omega_{IF}t - \alpha) + \sin\left[(\omega_{RF} + \omega_{LO})t - \alpha \right] \right\} + \frac{1}{2} x_{IM} \left\{ \sin(\omega_{IF}t + \beta) + \sin\left[(\omega_{IM} + \omega_{LO})t - \beta \right] \right\}$$
After low page filtering

After low-pass filtering

$$I(t) = \frac{1}{2} \Big[x_{RF} \cos(\omega_{IF}t - \alpha) + x_{IM} \cos(\omega_{IF}t + \beta) \Big], \quad Q(t) = \frac{1}{2} \Big[-x_{RF} \sin(\omega_{IF}t - \alpha) + x_{IM} \sin(\omega_{IF}t + \beta) \Big]$$

$$I'(t) = I(t)\cos\omega_{IF}t - Q(t)\sin\omega_{IF}t = \frac{1}{2}x_{RF}\cos\alpha + \frac{1}{2}x_{IM}\cos(2\omega_{IF}t + \beta)$$
$$Q'(t) = I(t)\sin\omega_{IF}t + Q(t)\cos\omega_{IF}t = \frac{1}{2}x_{RF}\sin\alpha + \frac{1}{2}x_{IM}\sin(2\omega_{IF}t + \beta)$$

After low-pass filtering

$$I'(t) = \frac{1}{2} x_{RF} \cos \alpha, \ Q'(t) = \frac{1}{2} x_{RF} \sin \alpha$$

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Benefits	Drawbacks
Potential advantages of both heterodyne and homodyne receivers.	ADC dynamic range
The IF frequency is just one or two channels bandwith away from DC, which is just enough to overcome DC offset problems.	
Image reject mixer which is implemented in digital baseband	

Downlink RF Transceiver Requirement

Base station transmitter

- •Transmit antennas / antenna arrays
 - 20 30 dB antenna gain, horn antennas or phase antenna arrays (64 1024 elements)
- Power amplifier
 - 20 50 dBm, >20% efficiency, EVM < 5% for OFDM waveform
- Packaging
 - Integrated solution of antenna array / PA / MMIC / RFIC to minimize transmission loss

Mobile station receiver

- Receive antenna arrays
 - 6 18 dB antenna gain, phase antenna arrays (4 64 elements)
 - Receiver sensitivity < -80dBm
 - Total Rx chain Noise Figure < 7dB
- Similar solutions exist today!
 - 60GHz CMOS RFIC with phase antenna array (BWRC)
 - 60GHz Single-chip integrated antenna and RFIC (GEDC)
- Packaging
 - Integrated solution of antenna array / LNA / MMIC / RFIC to minimize transmission loss

Uplink RF Transceiver Requirement

Mobile station transmitter

- Transmit antenna arrays
 - 6 18 dB antenna gain, phase antenna arrays (4 64 elements)
- Power amplifier
 - 20 23 dBm, >20% efficiency, EVM < 5% for 16QAM single-carrier waveform
- Packaging
 - Integrated solution of antenna array / PA / MMIC / RFIC to minimize transmission loss
- Power consumption on the order of $100 \text{mW} \sim 1 \text{W}$

Base station receiver

- Receiving antennas / antenna arrays
 - 20 30 dB antenna gain, horn antennas or phase antenna arrays (64 1024 elements)
- Receiver sensitivity < -95 dBm
- Total Rx Noise Figure < 5dB
- Packaging
 - Integrated solution of antenna array / PA / MMIC / RFIC to minimize transmission loss

Travelling Wave Tube (TWT) Power Amplifier



TWT amplifiers have been extensively used for high power applications at millimeter wave frequencies

- Provides KWs to MWs power for satellite and radar
- Cost in 10K's of US\$ (too expensive for cellular)

Need to consider solid-state amplifier design for MMB

Solid-state Power Amplifier

Gallium-Nitride based power amplifier

- Wide bandgap materials such as gallium nitride (GaN) or silicon carbide (SiC) have much larger bandgaps than conventional semiconductors
- Gallium-nitride High Electron Mobility Transistor (GaN HEMT) devices have breakdown voltages 10 times higher than GaAs HEMT devices, allowing GaN HEMT devices to operate with much higher voltages

Si	Gale	4H_	GaN	
SI GAAS		411-		
		SiC		
1.11	1.43	3.26	3.42	
11.8	12.8	9.7	9.0	
2.5e5	3.5e5	35e5	35e5	
1.0e7	1.0e7	2.0e7	1.5e7	
1350	6000	800	1000	
450	330	120	300	
1.5	0.46	4.9	1.7	
	Si 1.11 11.8 2.5e5 1.0e7 1350 450 1.5	Si GaAs 1.11 1.43 11.8 12.8 2.5e5 3.5e5 1.0e7 1.0e7 1350 6000 450 330 1.5 0.46	Si GaAs 4H- SiC 1.11 1.43 3.26 11.8 12.8 9.7 2.5e5 3.5e5 35e5 1.0e7 1.0e7 2.0e7 1350 6000 800 450 330 120 1.5 0.46 4.9	

Si, GaAs, SiC, and GaN Material Properties

Source: "Gallium Nitride (GaN) Microwave Transistor Technology For Radar Applications", Microwave Journal, January 2008

Solid-state Power Amplifier

State-of-the-art for solid-state mmWave PAs

- 11 Watts at 34 GHz (D. C. Streit, et. al., "The future of compound semiconductors for aerospace and defense applications", CSIC 2005)
- 842 mW at 88 GHz (M. Micovic, et. al., "W-Band GaN MMIC with 842mW output power at 88 GHz", IMS 2010)
- 5.2 Watts at 95 GHz with a 12-way radial-line combiner (James Schellenberg, et. al., "W-Band, 5W solidstate power amplifier/combiner", IMS 2010)



State of the Art (Single Device)

Cascaded Constructive Wave Amplifier



Source: J. Buckwalter and J. Kim, ISSCC 2009

- Forward wave is amplified as it propagates along the transmission line
- Backward wave is attenuated as it propagates
- Distribution of N cascaded traveling wave stages
- Active devices along the transmission line provide feedback
- Relative phase of transmission line and active device determines amplification/ attenuation.

Low-Noise Amplifier [1/2]



Single Stage 60 GHz LNA

Source: Javier Alvarado, PhD thesis, May 2008

Gain	12 dB
Noise Figure	5 dB over 57 – 64 GHz
Power Consumption	4.5 <i>mA</i> from a 1.8 V source
1-dB compression point	+1.5dBm
Efficiency	17.4%
Process	IBM0.12 μm, 200 GHz f _τ , SiGe technology.

Low-Noise Amplifier [2/2]



Gain	12 dB
Noise Figure	4.5–6.3dB over 23–32 GHz
Power Consumption	13mW from a 1.5 V source
IP3	-4.5dBm to -6.3dBm [stage1=-2dBm, stage2=7dBm]
Efficiency	NA
Process	Jazz Semiconductor 0.18 m BiCMOS

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MMB downlink budget

Key system configuration parameters

- Base station Tx power: 35dBm 40dBm
- Base station Tx antenna gain: 17 dB 23 dB
- Mobile station Rx antenna gain: 3 dB 10 dB

MMB link downlink budget analysis	Case 1	Case 2	Case 3	Case 4	Case 5	Case 6	Case 7	Case 8
Transmit Power (dBm)	35.00	40.00	35.00	40.00	35.00	40.00	35.00	40.00
Transmit Antenna Gain (dBi)	17.00	17.00	23.00	23.00	17.00	17.00	23.00	23.00
Carrier Frequency (GHz)	28.00	28.00	28.00	28.00	28.00	28.00	28.00	28.00
Distance (km)	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
Propagation Loss (dB)	115.32	115.32	115.32	115.32	115.32	115.32	115.32	115.32
Other losses	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00
Receive Antenna Gain (dB)	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Received Power (dBm)	-80.32	-75.32	-74.32	-69.32	-73.32	-68.32	-67.32	-62.32
Bandwidth (MHz)	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500
Thermal Noise PSD (dBm/Hz)	-174.00	-174.00	-174.00	-174.00	-174.00	-174.00	-174.00	-174.00
Noise Figure	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00
Thermal Noise (dBm)	-80.01	-80.01	-80.01	-80.01	-80.01	-80.01	-80.01	-80.01
SNR (dB)	-0.31	4.69	5.69	10.69	6.69	11.69	12.69	17.69
Implementation loss (dB)	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Spectram Efficiency	0.37	0.95	1.12	2.23	1.31	2.50	2.78	4.29
Data rate (Mbps)	186.08	474.53	559.37	1117.08	653.70	1250.93	1390.35	2145.23

Path loss formula: $PL = 141.3 + 20log_{10}d$ with d in km (free-space loss + 20dB)

MMB uplink budget

Key system configuration parameters

- Mobile station Tx power: 20dBm 23dBm
- Mobile station Tx antenna gain: 3 dB 10 dB
- Base station Rx antenna gain: 17 dB 23 dB

MMB uplink budget analysis	Case 1	Case 2	Case 3	Case 4	Case 5	Case 6	Case 7	Case 8
Transmit Power (dBm)	20.00	23.00	20.00	23.00	20.00	23.00	20.00	23.00
Transmit Antenna Gain (dBi)	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Carrier Frequency (GHz)	28.00	28.00	28.00	28.00	28.00	28.00	28.00	28.00
Distance (km)	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
Propagation Loss (dB)	115.32	115.32	115.32	115.32	115.32	115.32	115.32	115.32
Other losses	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00
Receive Antenna Gain (dB)	17.00	17.00	23.00	23.00	17.00	17.00	23.00	23.00
Received Power (dBm)	-95.32	-92.32	-89.32	-86.32	-88.32	-85.32	-82.32	-79.32
Bandwidth (MHz)	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Thermal Noise PSD (dBm/Hz)	-174.00	-174.00	-174.00	-174.00	-174.00	-174.00	-174.00	-174.00
Noise Figure	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Thermal Noise (dBm)	-92.01	-92.01	-92.01	-92.01	-92.01	-92.01	-92.01	-92.01
SNR (dB)	-3.31	-0.31	2.69	5.69	3.69	6.69	9.69	12.69
Implementation loss (dB)	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Spectram Efficiency	0.20	0.37	0.67	1.12	0.80	1.31	1.98	2.78
Data rate (Mbps)	9.92	18.61	33.32	55.94	39.92	65.37	98.96	139.03

Path loss formula: $PL = 141.3 + 20log_{10}d$ with d in km (free-space loss + 20dB)

Link Budget Analysis Summary

MMB downlink budget

- Low end: 35 dBm Tx power, 17 dB Tx antenna gain, 3 dB Rx antenna gain, 5 dB implementation loss → 180 Mbps on 500 MHz bandwidth at 500 meters
- High end: 40 dBm Tx power, 23 dB Tx antenna gain, 10 dB Rx antenna gain, 5 dB implementation loss) → 2145 Mbps on 500 MHz bandwidth at 500 meters

MMB uplink budget

- Low end: 20 dBm Tx power, 3 dB Tx antenna gain, 17 dB Rx antenna gain, 5 dB implementation loss → 9.92 Mbps on 50 MHz bandwidth at 500 meters
- High end: 23 dBm Tx power, 10 dB Tx antenna gain, 23 dB Rx antenna gain, 5 dB implementation loss → 139 Mbps on 50 MHz bandwidth at 500 meters

Conclusion

 Assuming free-space plus 20dB path loss, MMB can provide 100 Mbps ~ 2 Gbps cell-edge throughput on the downlink and 10 Mbps ~ 100 Mbps cell-edge throughput on the uplink at 28 GHz for cell radius of 500 meters.

Link Level Performance

Length-432 and Length-1728 LDPC Code rate 1/2, 5/8, 3/4, 13/16 Layered decoding Maximum number of iterations



System Level Performance



Geometry with Single Rx Antenna



Geometry with Single Rx Antenna



Mobile station Rx beamforming



Geometry with Rx Beamforming



Geometry with Rx Beamforming



System Throughput Analysis

MMB system performance analysis assumptions		
Number of cells	19	
Number of sectors per cell	12	
Site to site distance	500 meters	
Carrier frequency	28 GHz	
System bandwidth	500 MHz	
Bath loss model	141.3 + 20log ₁₀ d,	
	or 157.4 + 20log ₁₀ d	
Base station Tx power	40, 43, 46, or 49 dBm	
Base station Tx antenna configuration	Single horn antenna	
Base station Tx antenna gain	20 dB	
Log-normal shadow fading STD	12 dB	
Mobile station Rx noise figure	7 dB	
Mobile station By antenna configuration	Single antenna, or Rx beamforming	
	with 4-element ULA	
Mobile station By antenna gain	-1 dB for single antenna case,	
MODIle Station KX antenna gain	-3 dB for ULA case	
System overhead (cyclic prefix, control channels, etc.)	40%	
Transceiver implementation loss	3 dB	

System Throughput



Cell-edge performance



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Summary

Millimeter wave spectrum (3-300GHz) can potentially provide the bandwidth required for mobile broadband applications for the next few decades and beyond.

• Opportunity to open 200 times the spectrum currently allocated for cellular below 3GHz.

Propagation and other losses due to rain, foliage and penetration through building materials needs better understanding

Millimeter waves are also attractive for mobile application due to small component sizes such as antennas.

• Further research is needed towards components and devices that meets mobile application demand of higher power and efficiency

Wireless community should take on the growing data demand by exploiting millimeter wave spectrum paving the way for multi-Gbps mobile broadband.