

# **MILLIMETER WAVE POWER AMPLIFIERS**

## **STATE OF THE ART AND FUTURE TECHNOLOGY TRENDS**

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*SCHOOL OF ELECTRICAL & COMPUTER ENGINEERING*

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“I joined the IEEE as a student ... and got in touch with experts in the field. It is such a rewarding experience to be part of this network of microelectronic designers. It was essential for my career.”



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“With a Solid-State Circuits Society membership, I am part of the SSCS family; I can attend conferences, communicate with top level experts... obtain cutting-edge technology information. All these activities are beneficial to career development”



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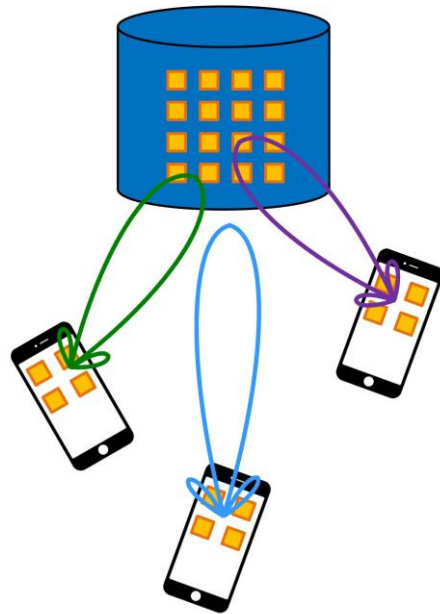
# Outline

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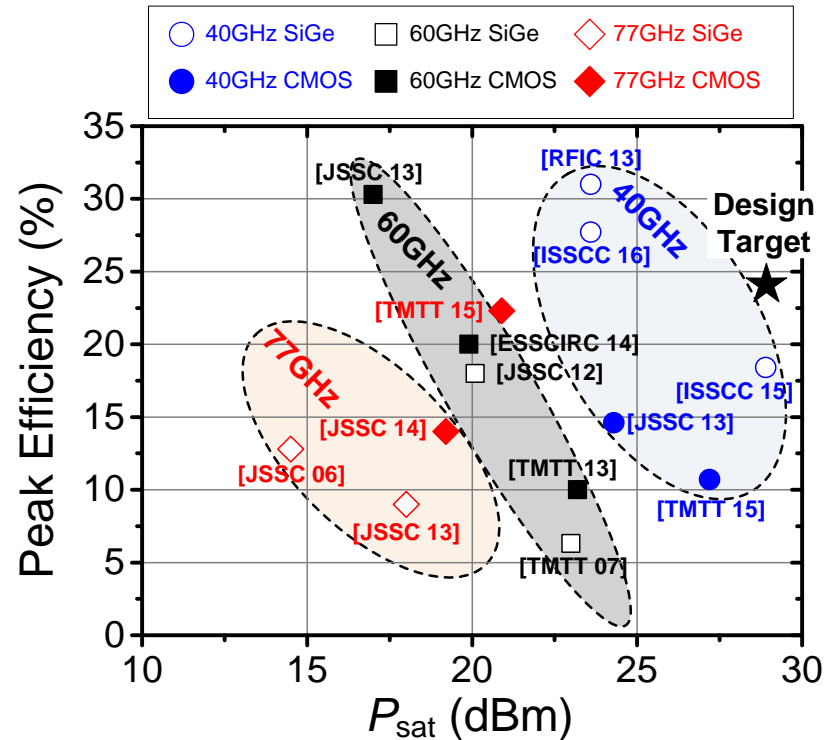
- **Introduction**
- **State of the Art: Georgia Tech PA Survey (2000-present)**
- **Broadband Linear Efficient PAs**
- **Antenna-PA Co-Designs: Multi-Feed Mm-Wave Radiators**
- **Conclusion**

# Introduction

- **Need:** large output power and peak efficiency



$$Path\ Loss = 20 \log_{10}(4\pi df/c)$$

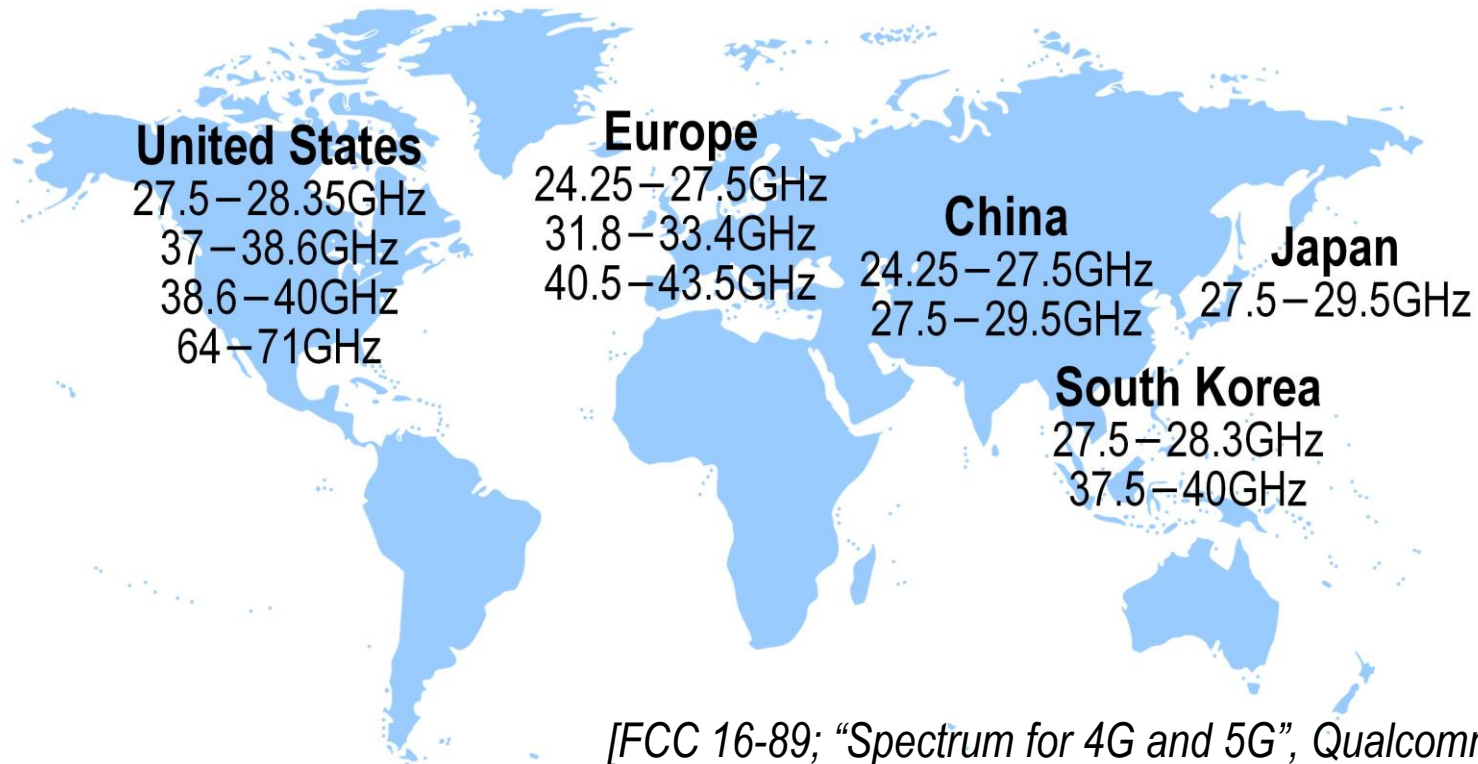


- Ensure sufficient link budget and compensate high path loss
- **Drain Efficiency**  $\eta = P_{out}/P_{DC}$  and **Power Added Efficiency**  $PAE = (P_{out} - P_{in})/P_{DC}$
- Thermal handling and device operation time



- **Need:** broad or reconfigurable carrier bands

## Potential 5G mm-wave bands



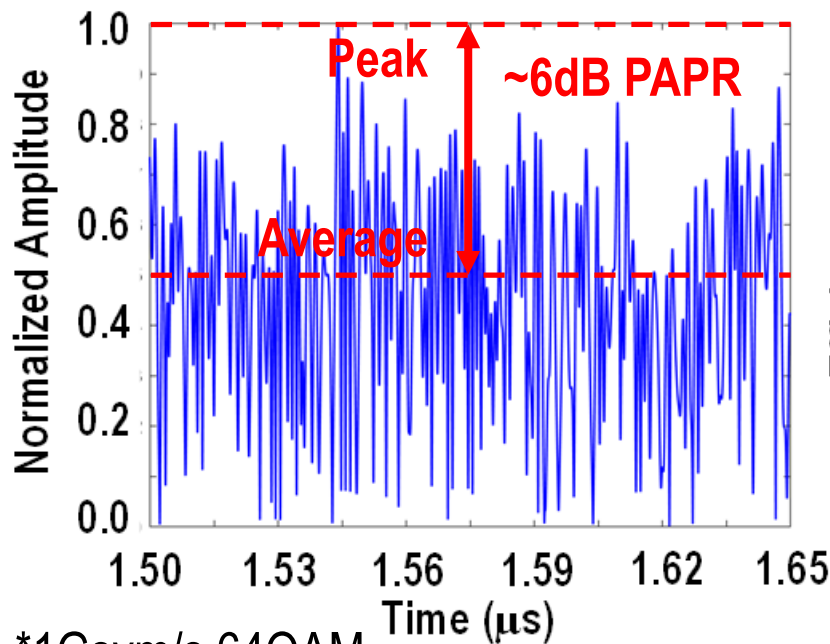
- Multi-standard communication or frequency reconfigurability and agility

# Introduction

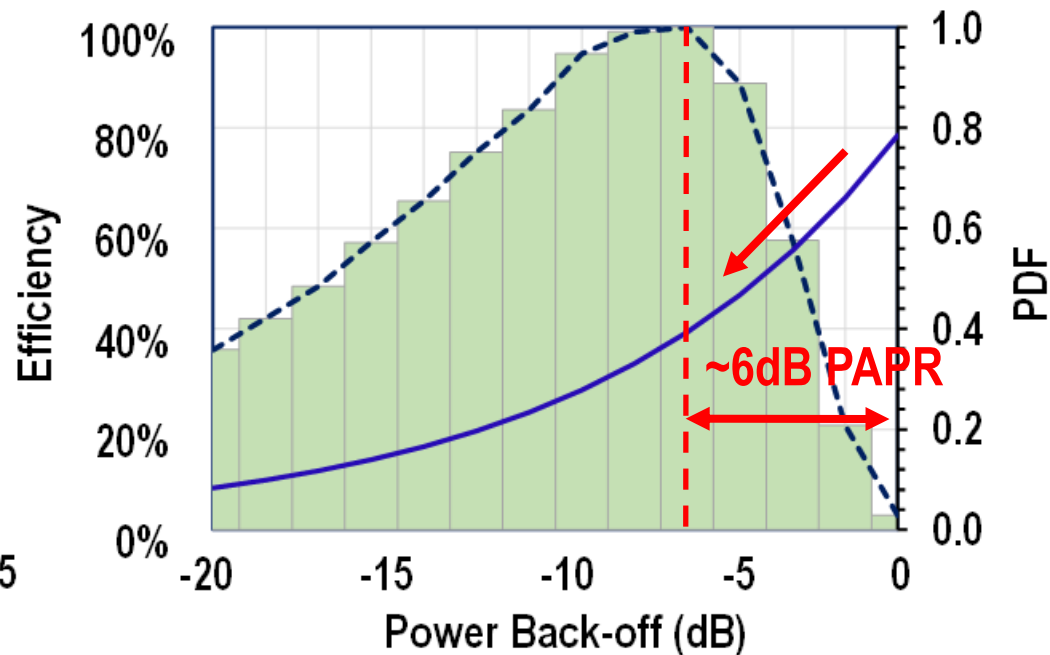
- **Need:** high back-off efficiency

**PA Average Efficiency**

$$\int \eta(P_{out}) \cdot pdf(P_{out}) dP_{out}$$



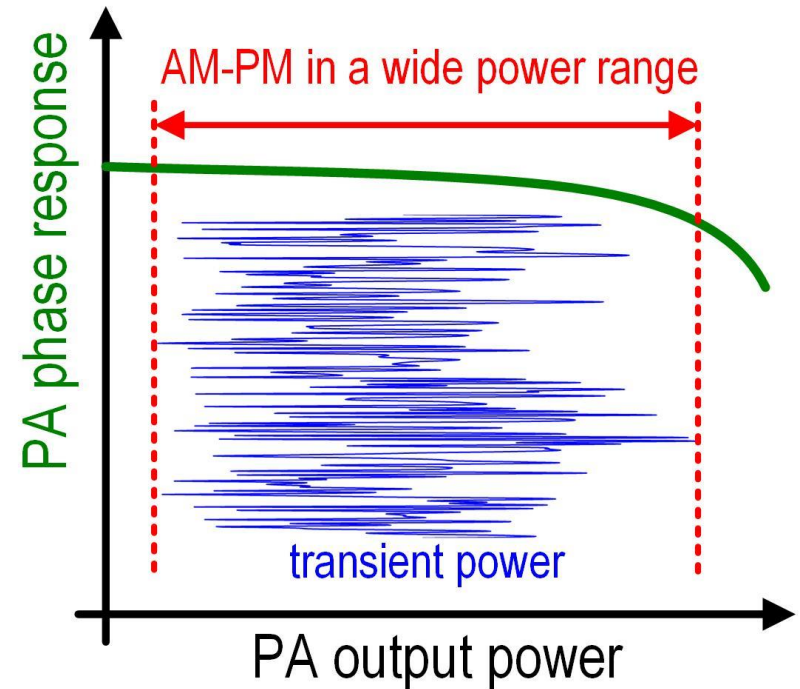
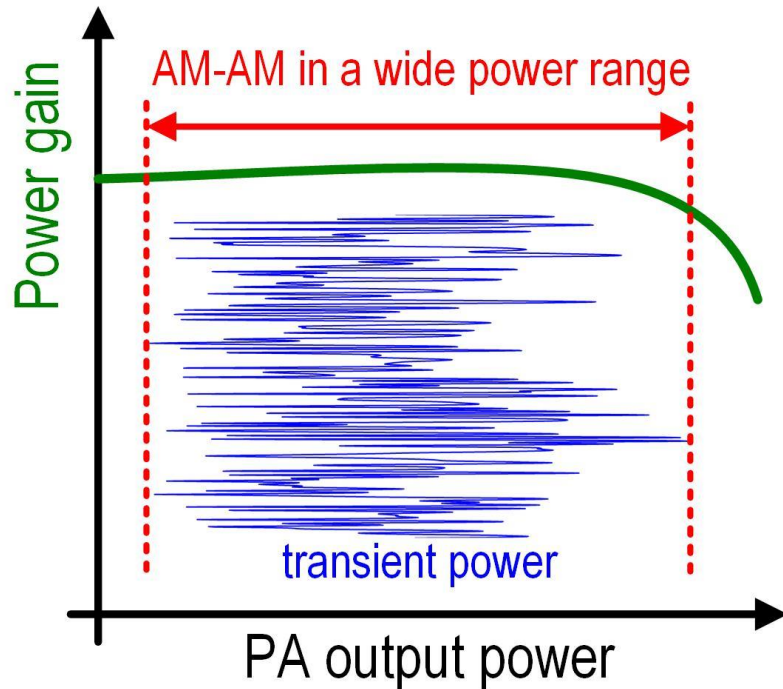
\*1Gsym/s 64QAM



- Spectrum-efficient modulation (high-order QAM, OFDM) leads to high PAPR
- System average efficiency largely depends on the back-off efficiency

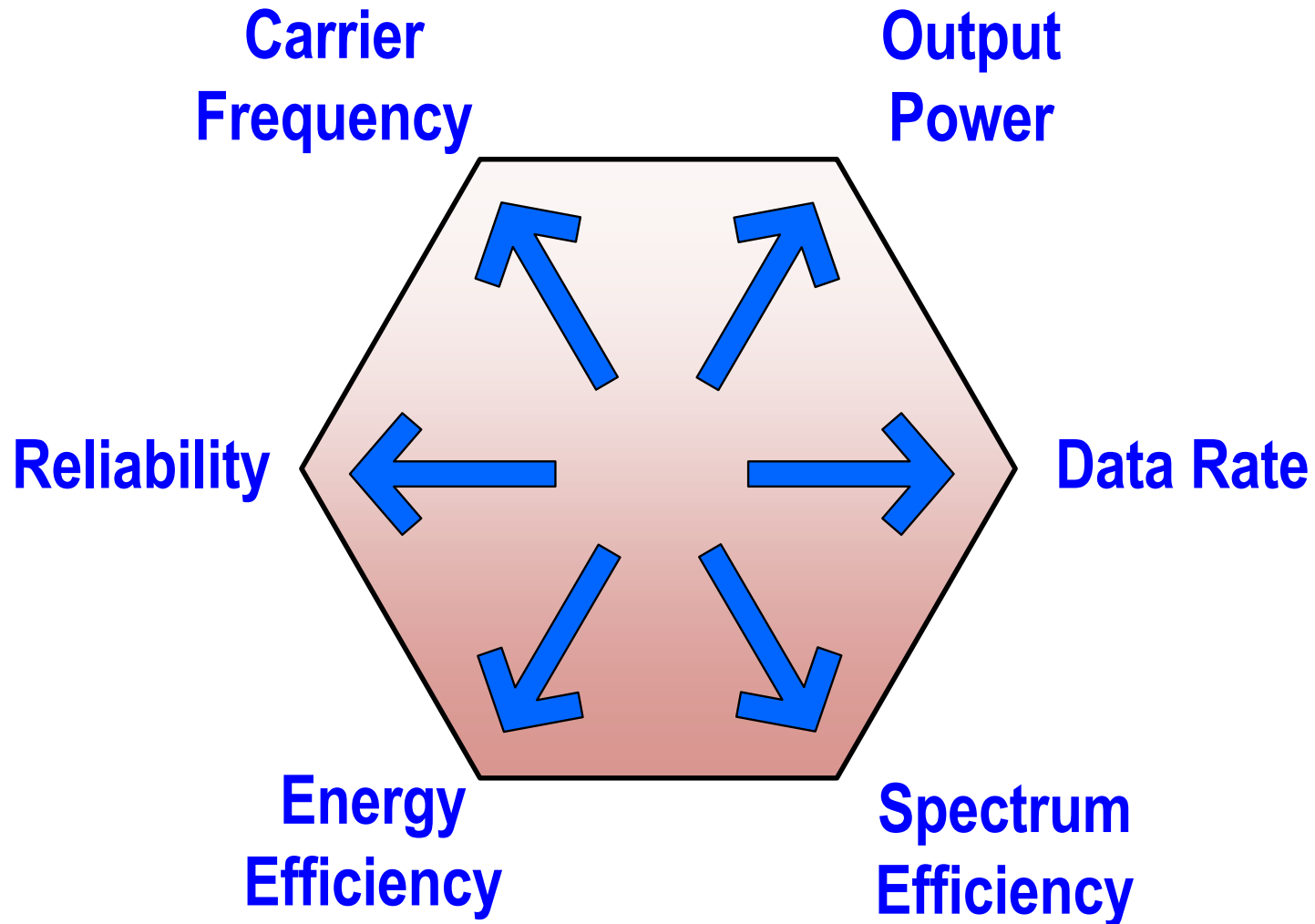
# Introduction

- **Need:** high linearity



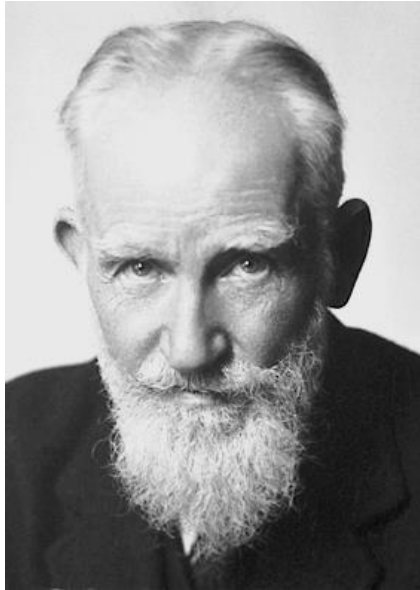
- Inherently linear for multi-Gbit/s complex modulations with minimum or even no digital pre-distortions (DPD)

# Unreasonable Request for “Perfect” Mm-Wave PAs...



# Unreasonable Request for “Perfect” Mm-Wave PAs...

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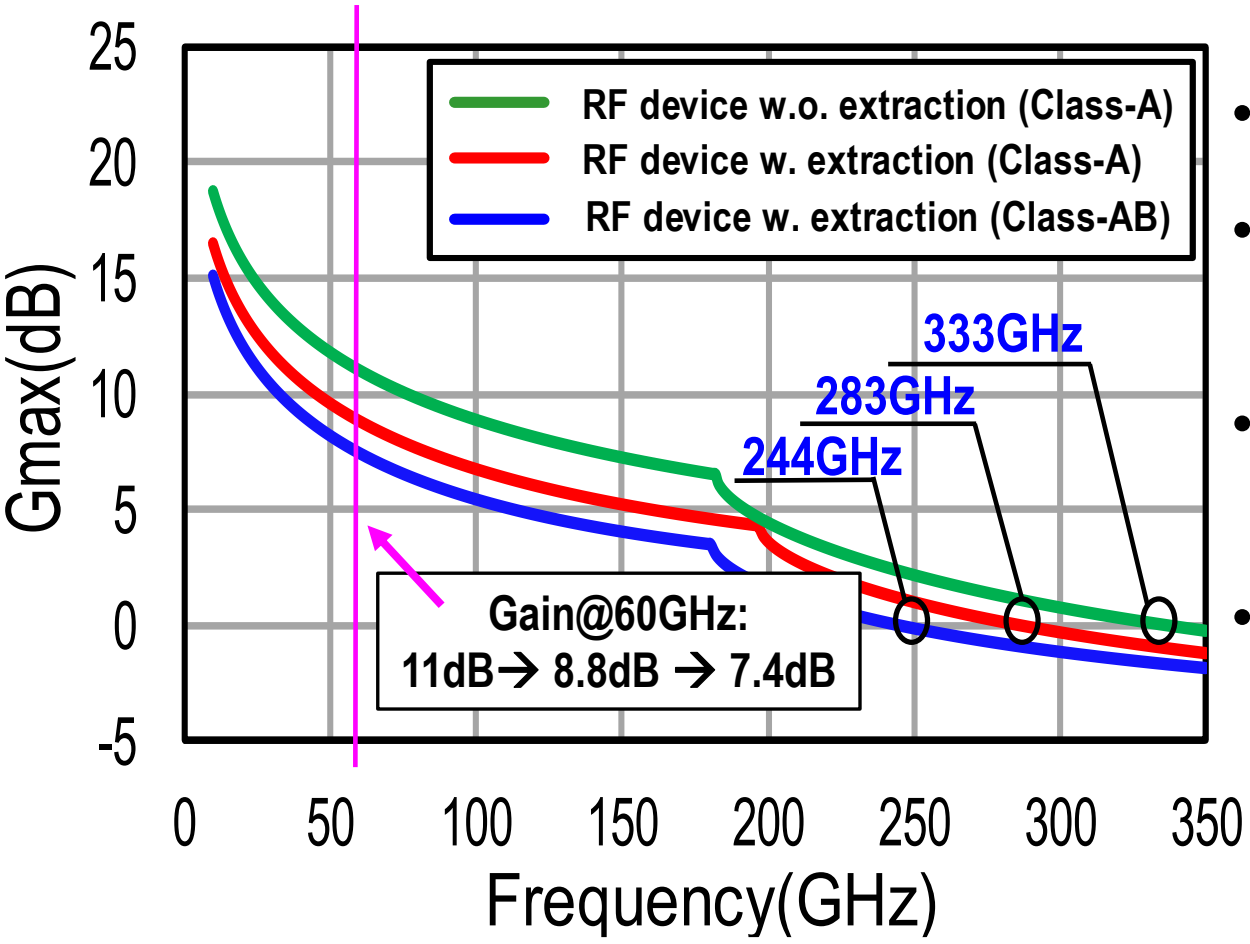
**...The reasonable man adapts himself to the world. The unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore all progress depends on the unreasonable man...**

**– George Bernard Shaw (26 July 1856 – 2 November 1950),  
Nobel Prize Laureate for Literature in 1925.**

# Challenge 1: Gain, Stability, and Efficiency



Power Gain vs. Freq. for a Typical Scaled CMOS Device



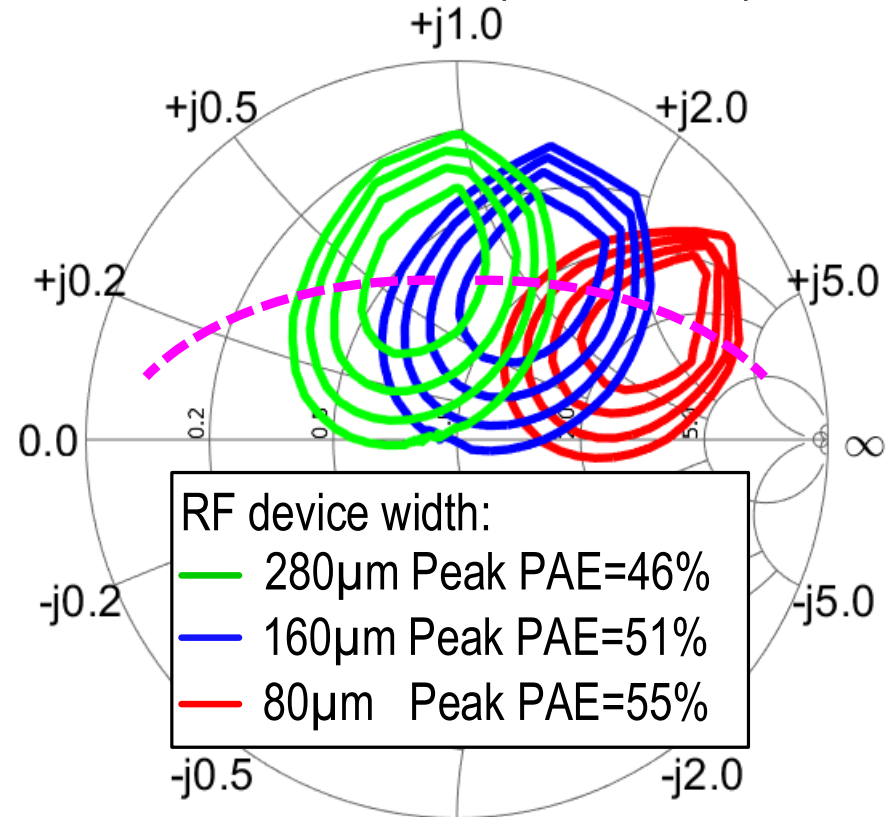
- Limited gain &  $f_{max}$
- Small signal gain vs. large signal gain
- Multiple stages lowering  $PAE = (P_{out} - P_{in}) / P_{DC}$
- Stability for broadband PA

# Challenge 2: Output Power and Efficiency

- Limited device output voltage swing ( $V_{DD}-V_{knee}$ ) and power
- $P_{out} = i_{max} \times (V_{DD}-V_{knee})/2$   
 $= (V_{DD}-V_{knee})^2/2R_L$
- Larger devices or more devices
- Lossy impedance transformation

• I. Aoki, S. Kee, D. Rutledge, and A. Hajimiri, *IEEE T-MTT*, 2002.

Typical Optimum Load Impedance and Peak PAE<sup>†</sup> vs. Device Sizes @28GHz

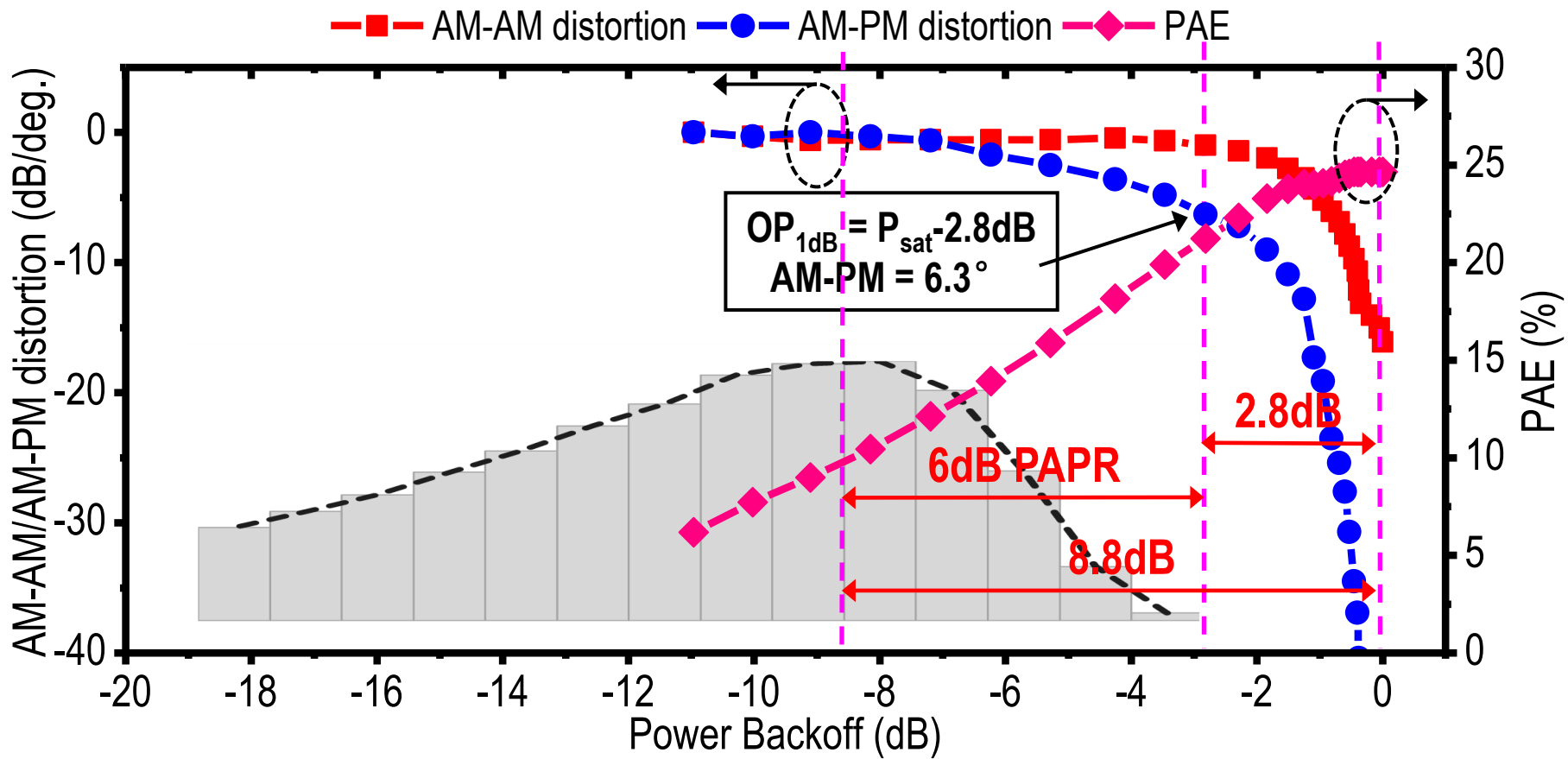


<sup>†</sup> Including PA output matching network passive loss

# Challenge 3: Efficiency and Linearity



Measured AM-AM/AM-PM vs.  $P_{out}$  backoff for a typical CMOS 28GHz 18dBm Class-AB PA



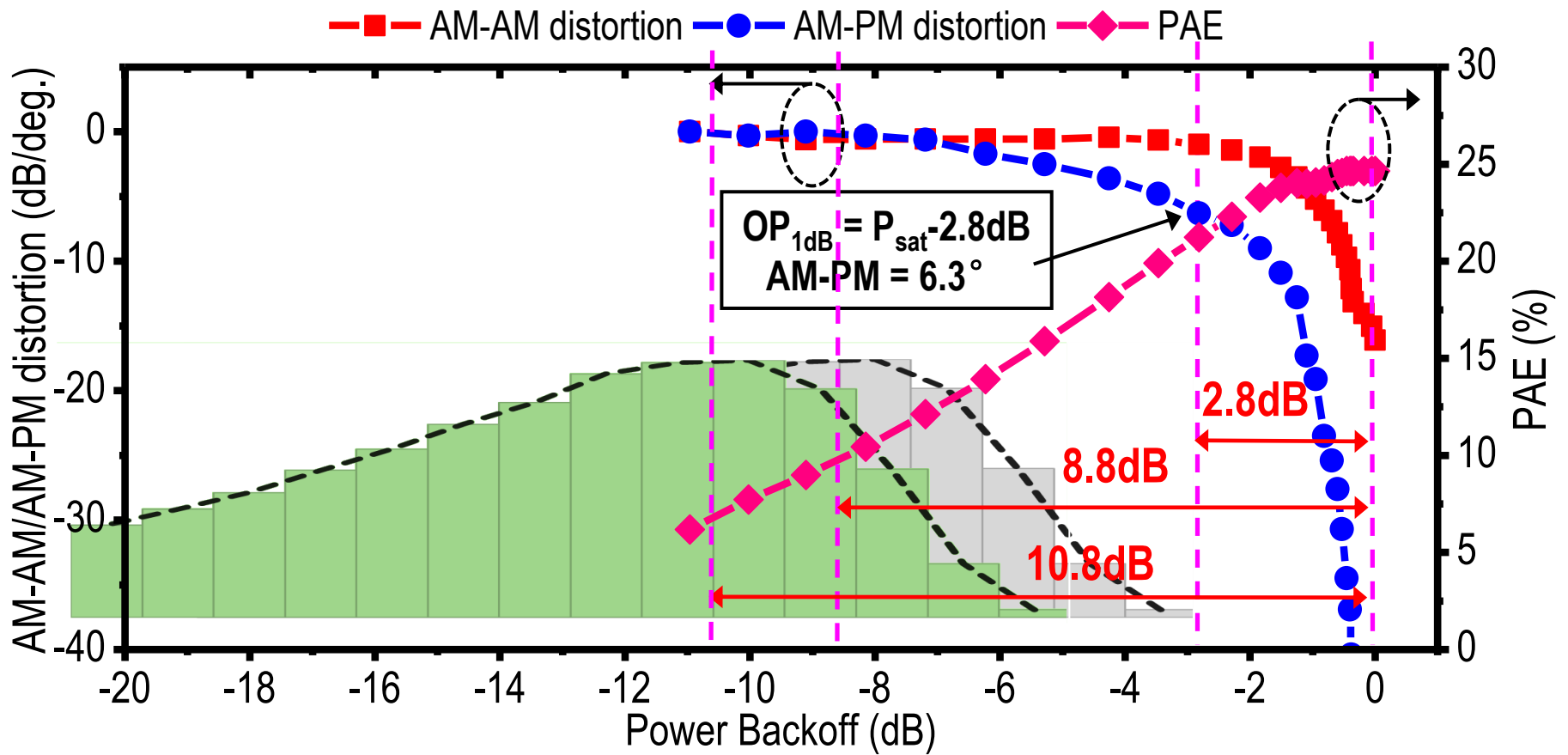
- Avoid amplitude clipping over  $OP_{1dB}$  → An extra power back-off of 2.8dB
- $P_{ave} = P_{sat} - 2.8dB - 6dB PAPR$  → **- 8.8dB PBO** → **~9% average PAE**



# Challenge 3: Efficiency and Linearity



Measured AM-AM/AM-PM vs.  $P_{out}$  backoff for a typical CMOS 28GHz 18dBm Class-AB PA

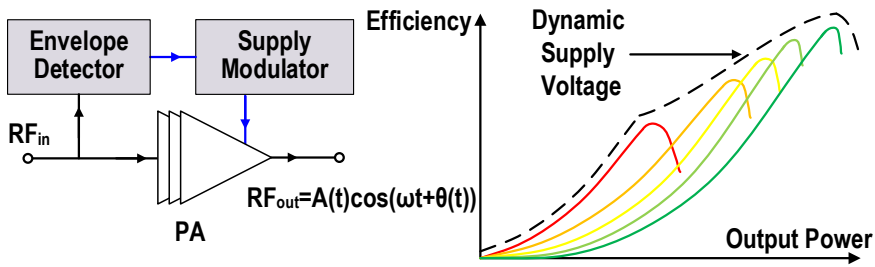


- Avoid AM-PM distortion → An additional power back-off of ~2dB
- $P_{ave} = P_{sat} - 2dB - 2.8dB - 6dB \text{ PAPR} \rightarrow -10.8dB \text{ PBO} \rightarrow \sim 6\% \text{ average PAE}$

# Challenge 4: Efficiency, Data Rate, Linearity

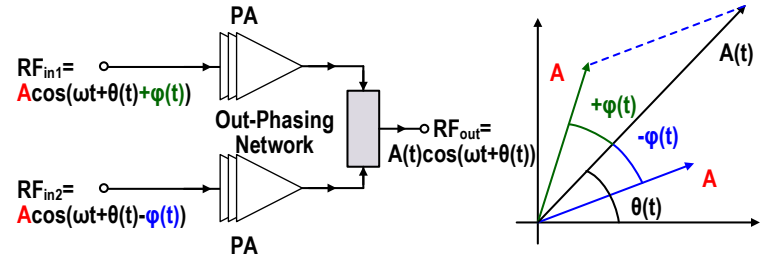


- ET PAs**
  - Deep PBO efficiency enhancement
  - Supply modulator efficiency
  - AM supply BW ( $\times 3 \sim \times 5$ )  $\rightarrow$  Limited mod. BW ( $\sim 150\text{MHz}$ )



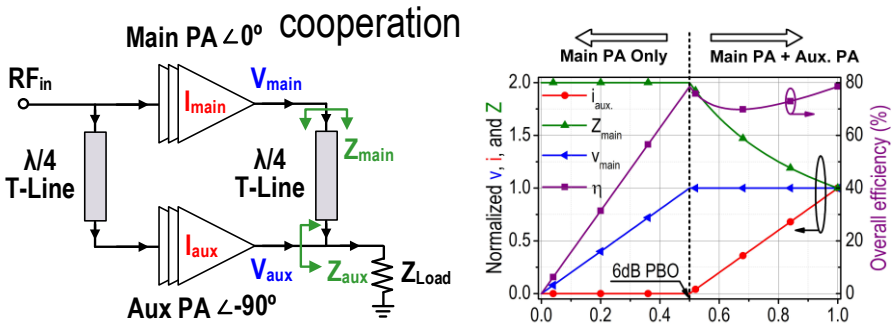
• Zoya Popovic, *IEEE Microwave Magazine*, May 2017.

- LINC PA Outphasing**
  - Deep PBO efficiency enhancement
  - DPD computation
  - Limited Chireix compensation BW
  - PM BW ( $\times 5 \sim \times 7$ )  $\rightarrow$  Limited mod. BW



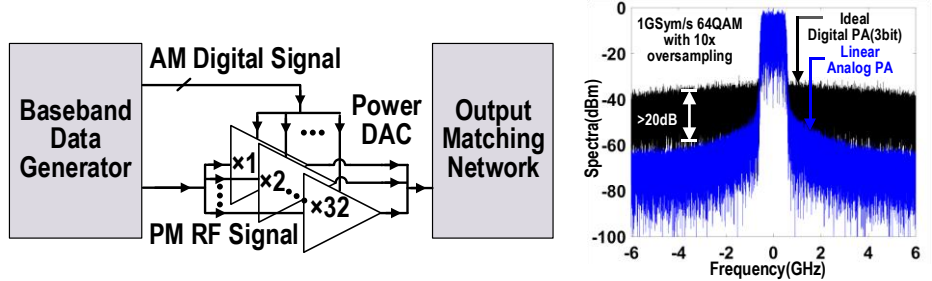
• Hongtao Xu, et al., *IEEE J. Solid-State Circuits*, May 2011.  
 • T. Barton, et al., *IEEE T-MTT*, Apr. 2016.

- Doherty PAs**
  - PBO efficiency enhancement
  - Wideband modulation
  - Limited carrier BW and Main/Aux cooperation



• B. Kim, et al., *IEEE Microwave Magazine*, Oct. 2006.  
 • S. Hu and H. Wang, *IEEE ISSCC*, 2017.

- Digital PAs / Power DACs**
  - Versatile controls & high peak efficiency
  - Spurs, Limited ENOB, AM/PM sync
  - AM ( $\times 3 \sim \times 5$ ) / PM ( $\times 5 \sim \times 7$ ) BW expansion
  - Baseband computation



• K. Khalaf, et al., *IEEE J. Solid-State Circuits*, Jul. 2016.

# Outline

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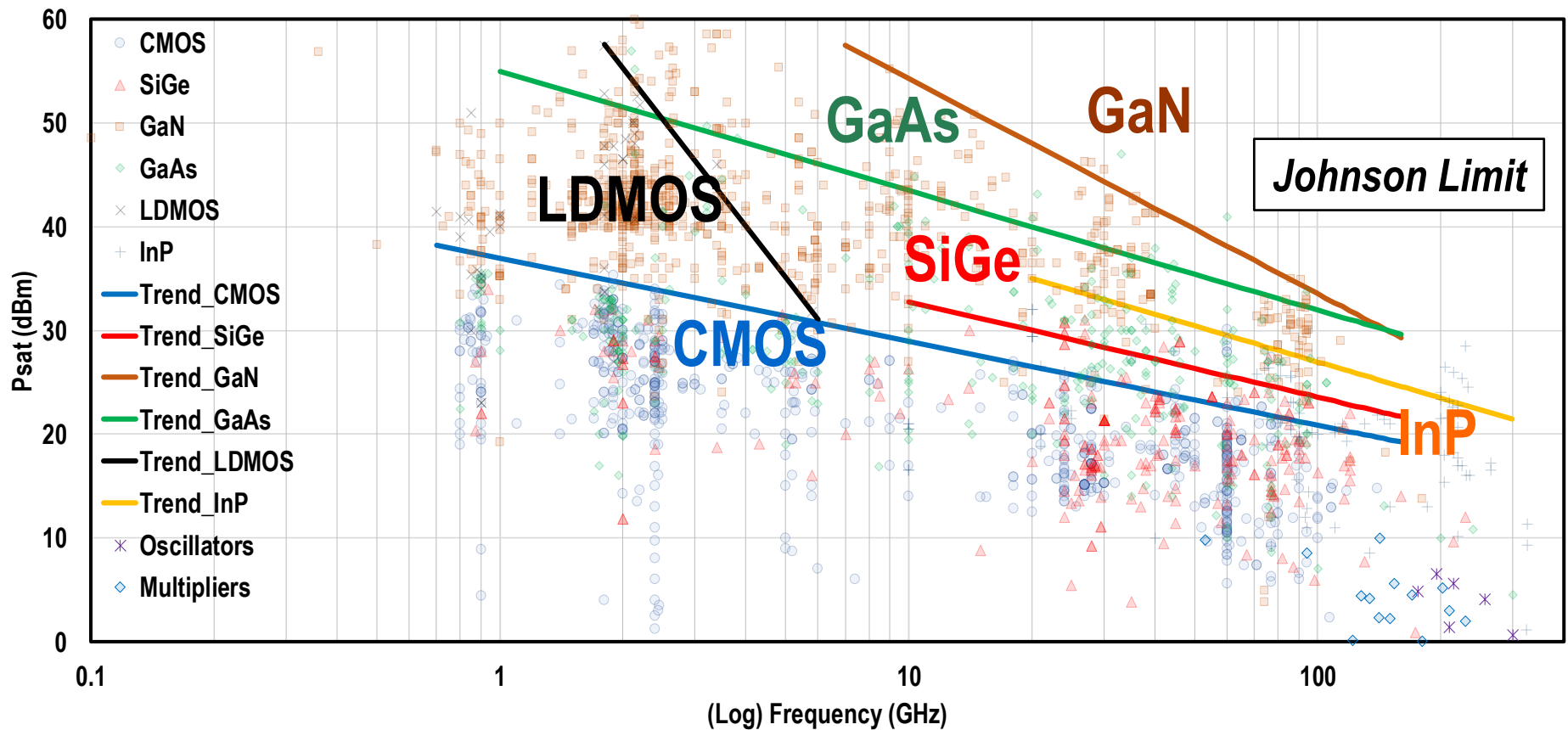
- Introduction
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- Broadband Linear Efficient PAs
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- Conclusion

# Georgia Tech PA Survey (2000-present) GEMS



- CW/Modulation Performance: Frequency (0.5-200GHz), Technologies,  $P_{out}$ , PAE, EVM, etc.
- Version-3 available to the public at [http://gems.ece.gatech.edu/PA\\_survey.html](http://gems.ece.gatech.edu/PA_survey.html)

Saturated Output Power vs. Frequency (All Technologies)

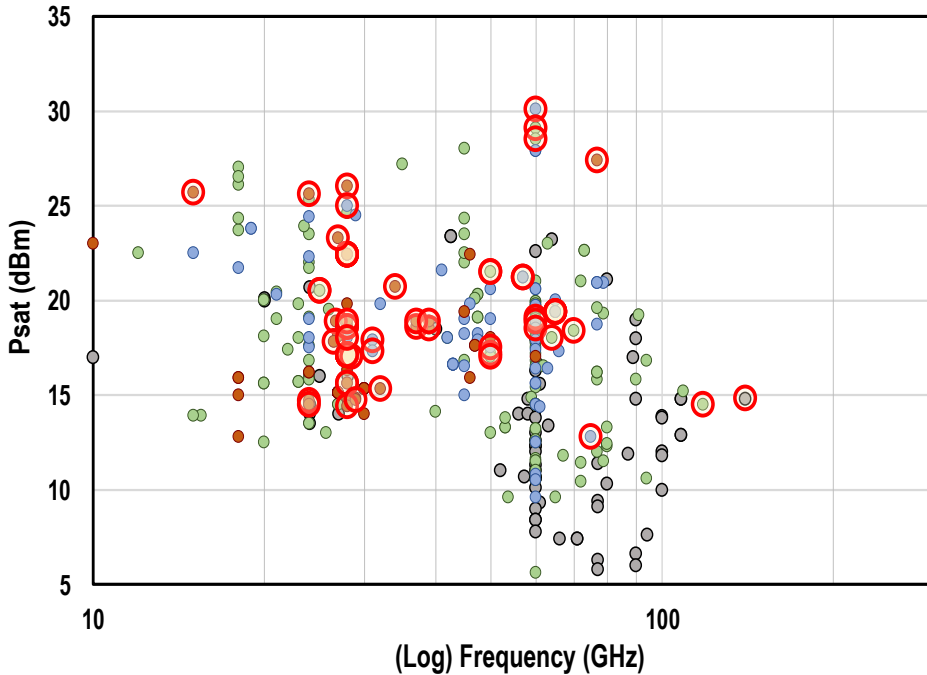




- State-of-the-Art PA  $P_{\text{sat}}$  vs. Frequency (CMOS and SiGe)

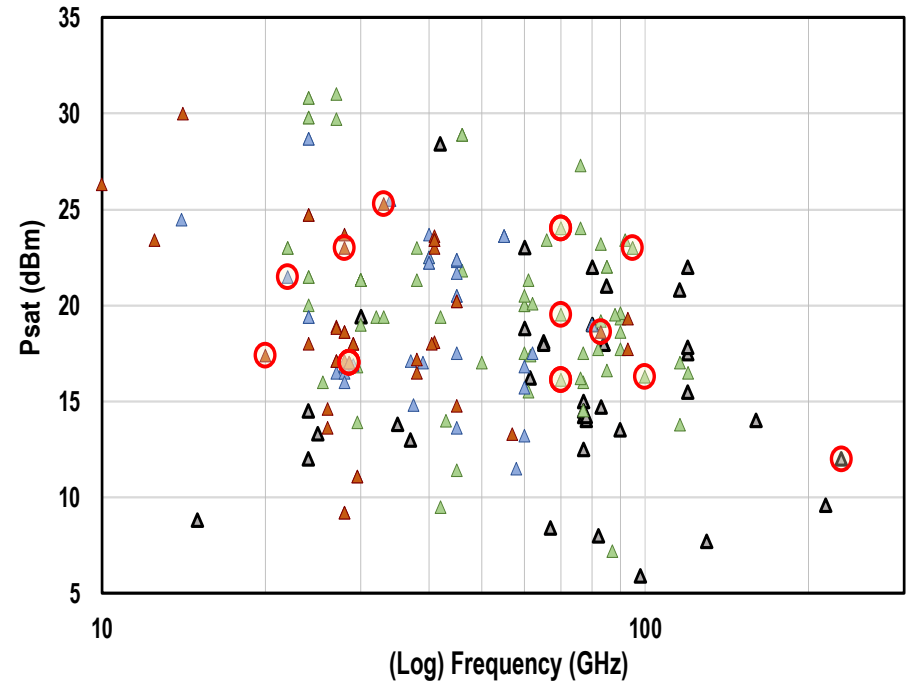
Saturated Output Power vs. Frequency (CMOS)

○ CMOS <10%   ● CMOS 10-20%   ● CMOS 20-30%   ● CMOS >30%   ○ CMOS From 2018



Saturated Output Power vs. Frequency (SiGe)

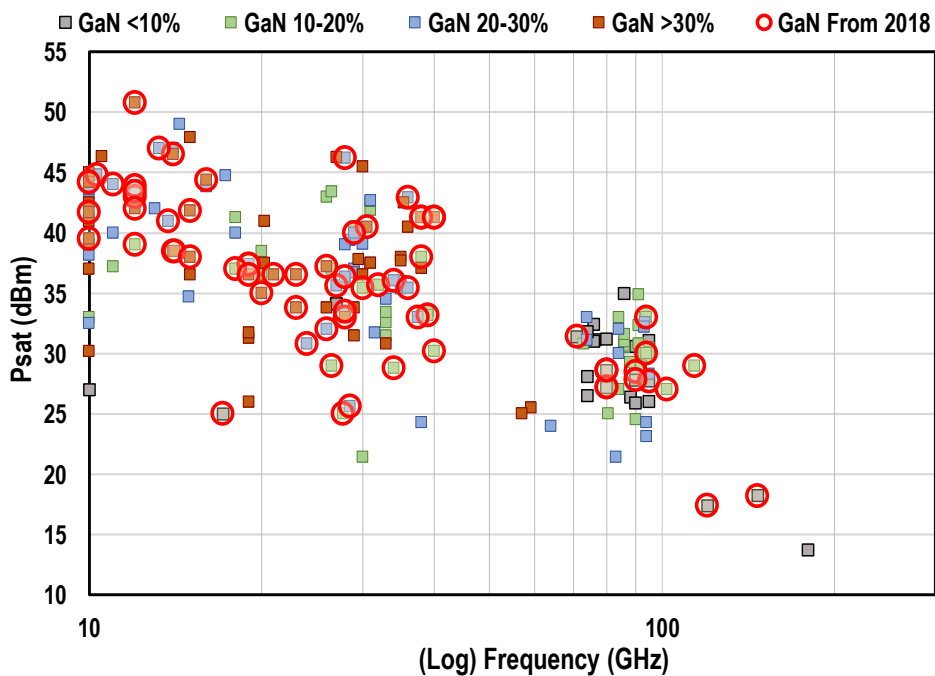
△ SiGe <10%   ▲ SiGe 10-20%   ▲ SiGe 20-30%   ▲ SiGe >30%   ○ SiGe From 2018



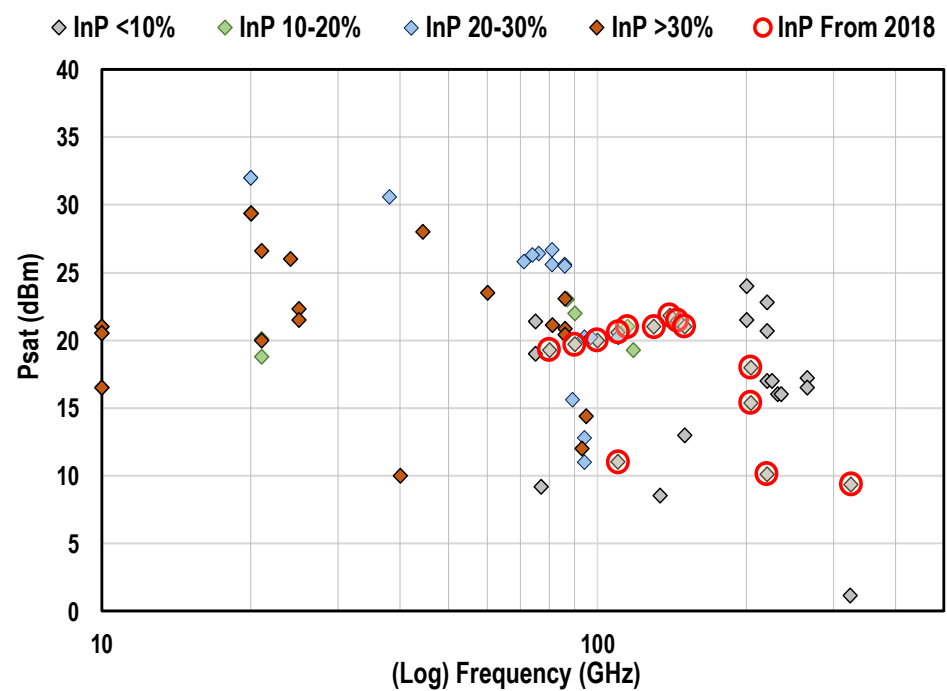


- State-of-the-Art PA  $P_{\text{sat}}$  vs. Frequency (GaN and InP)

Saturated Output Power vs. Frequency (GaN)



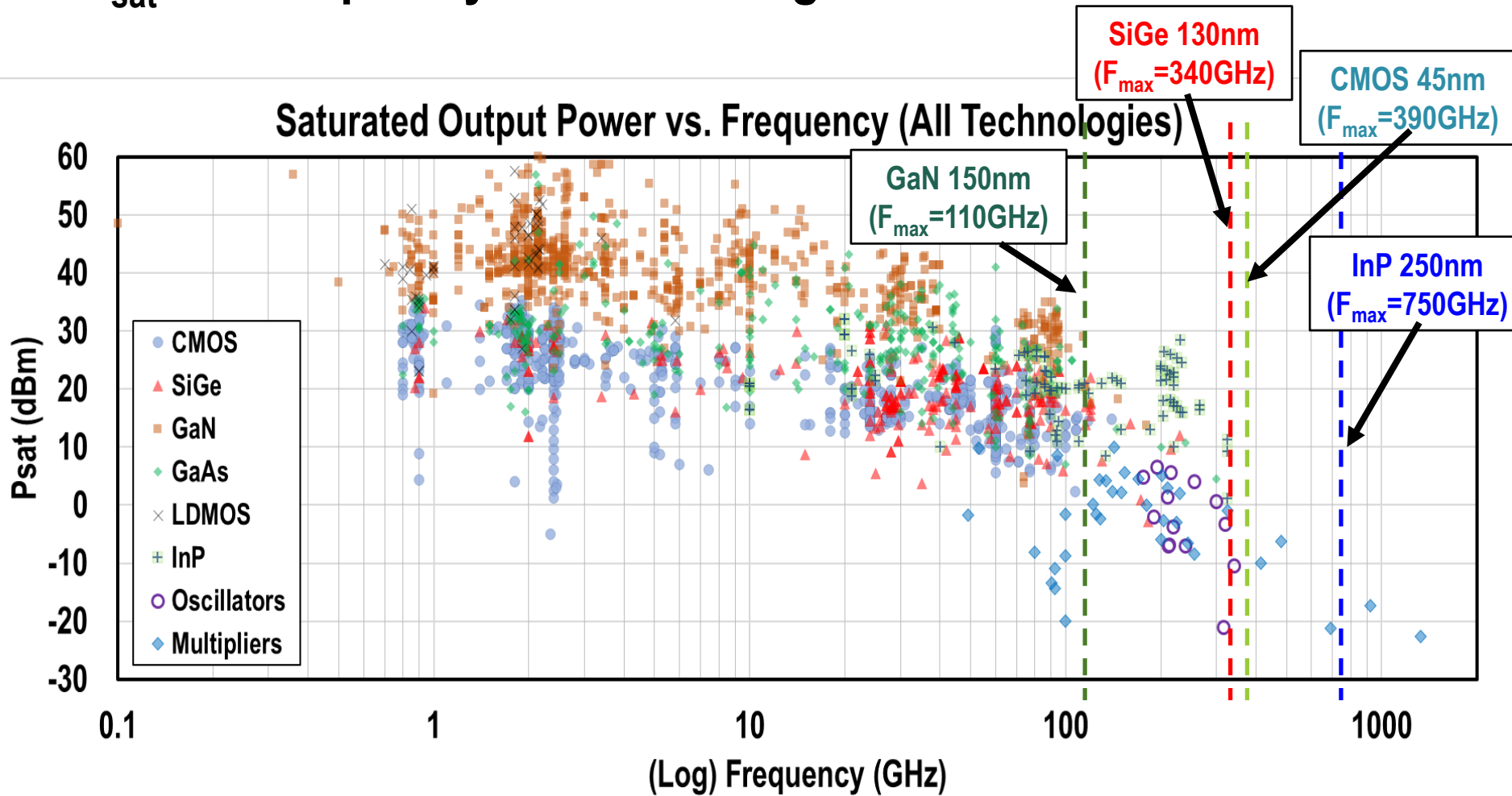
Saturated Output Power vs. Frequency (InP)



# Georgia Tech PA Survey (2000-present)



- $P_{\text{sat}}$  vs. Frequency vs. Technologies

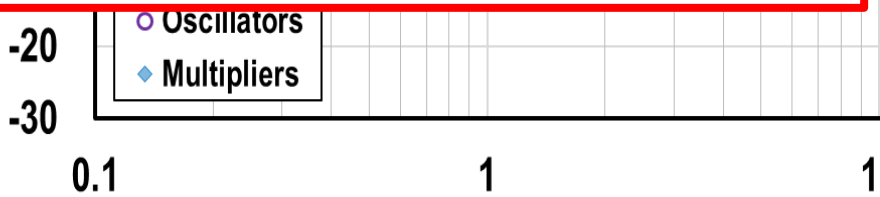


# Georgia Tech PA Survey (2000-present)

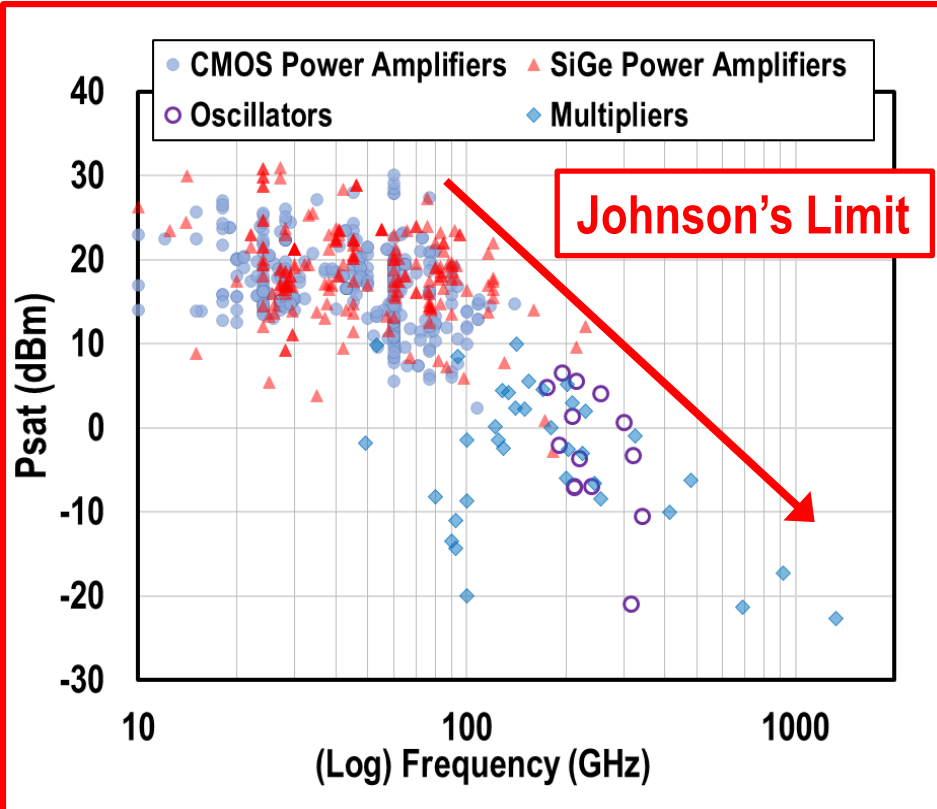


- $P_{\text{sat}}$  vs. Frequency vs. Technologies

- Output power vs. frequency
- Power generation scheme vs. frequency
- Power amplifiers and Fundamental Oscillators (~200GHz)
- Multipliers and Harmonic Oscillators (~500GHz and above)



(Log) Frequency (GHz)

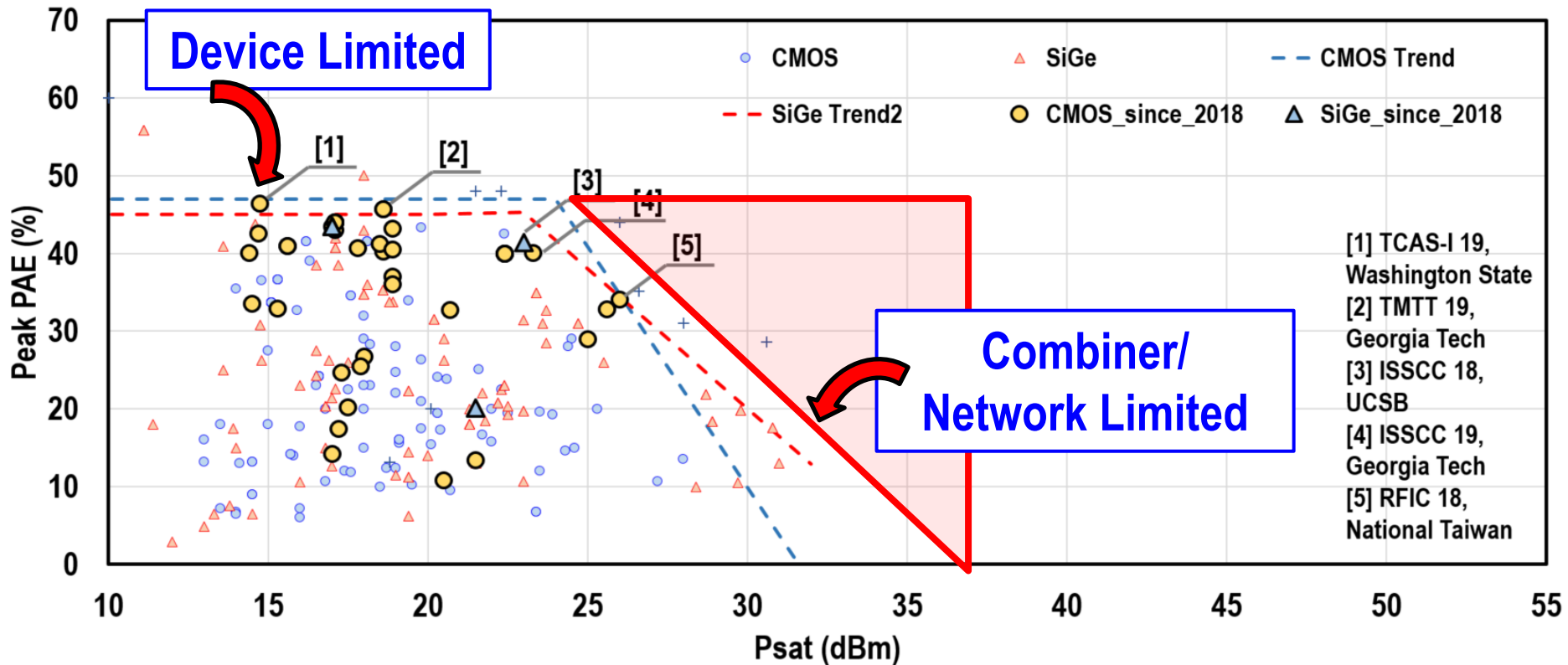




# Georgia Tech PA Survey (2000-present) GEMS



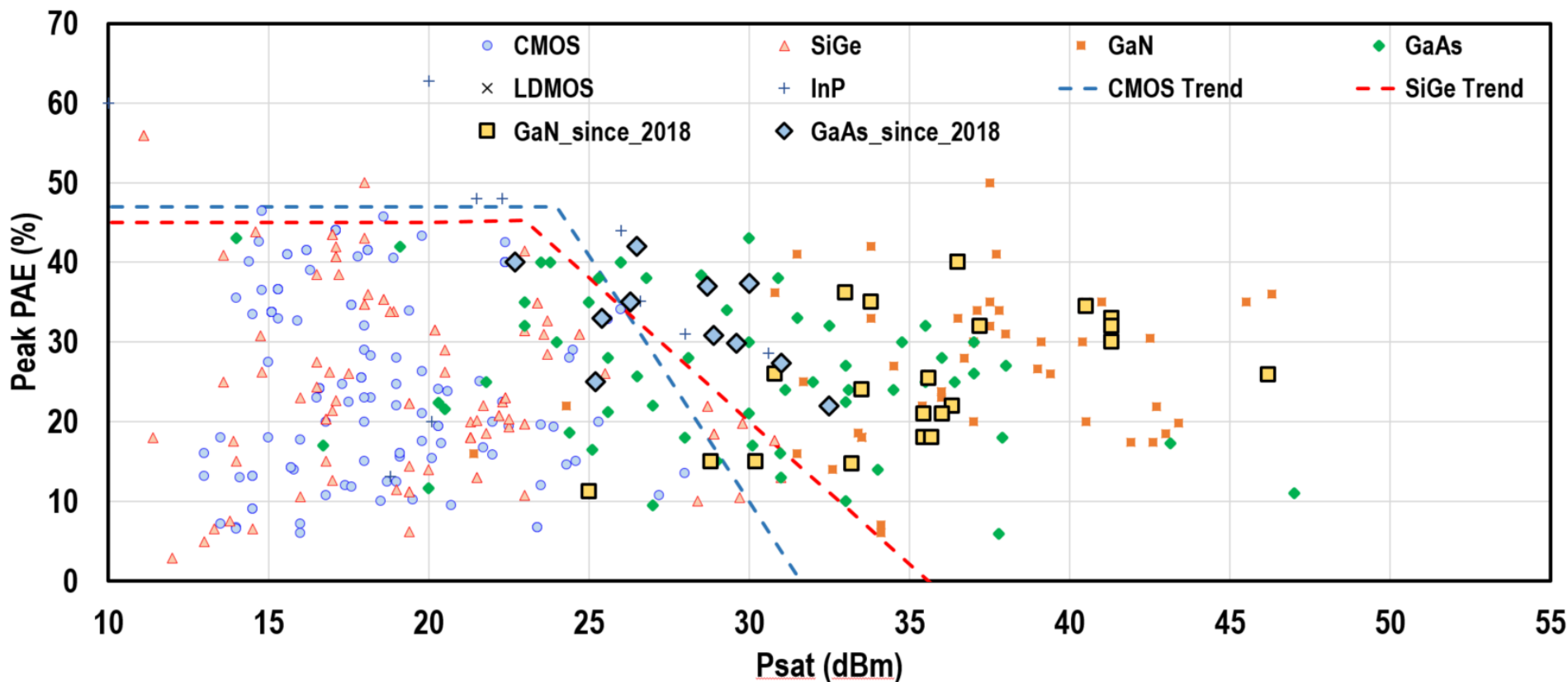
## • State-of-the-Art PA $P_{\text{sat}}$ vs. Peak PAE (20-50GHz PAs)



# Georgia Tech PA Survey (2000-present)



- State-of-the-Art PA  $P_{sat}$  vs. Peak PAE (20-50GHz PAs)

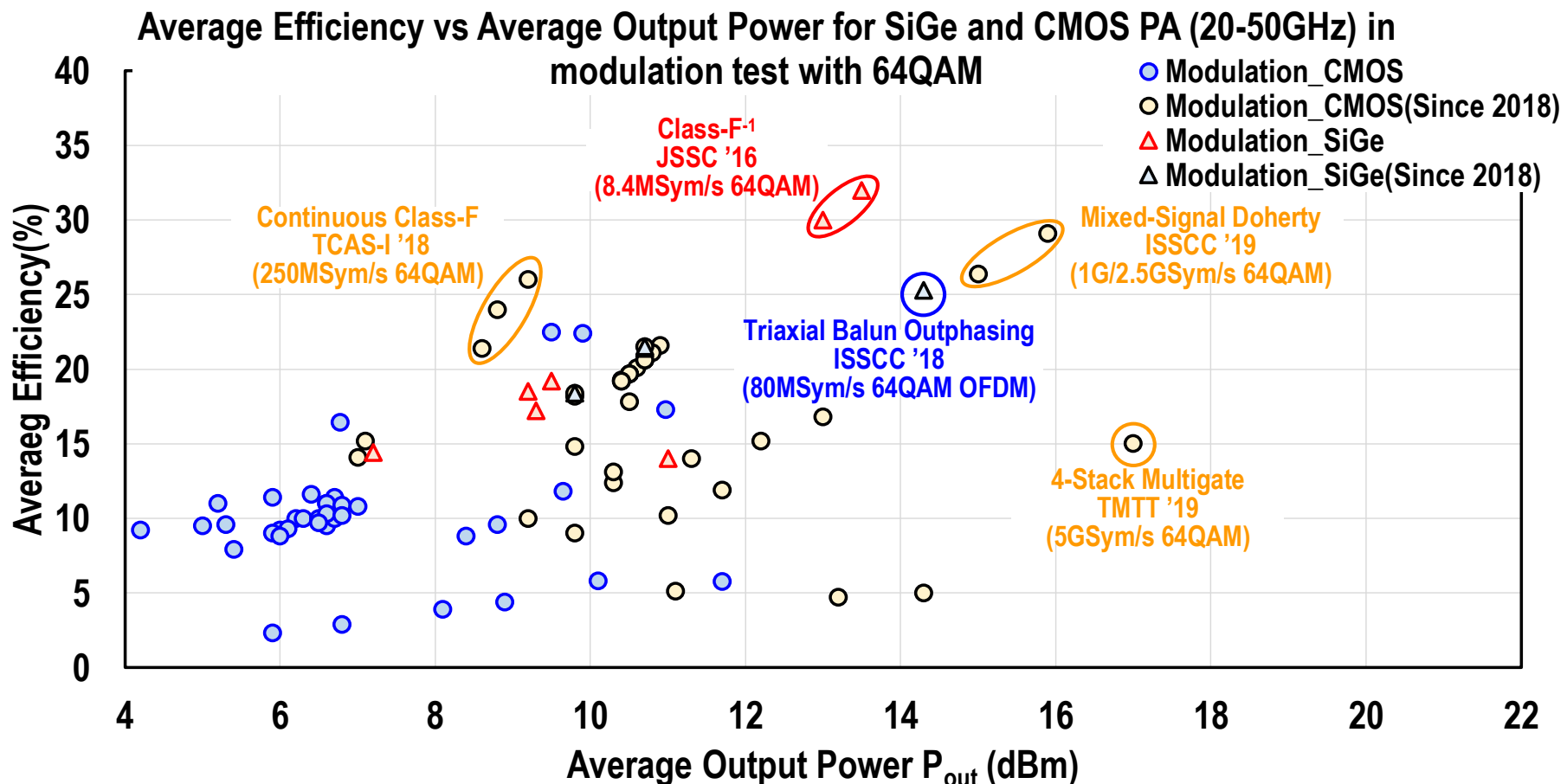


# Georgia Tech PA Survey (2000-present) **GEMS**



## • 20-50GHz CMOS/SiGe PAs with 64QAM modulation test

PAs with MER < -20dB and > 150MSym/s modulation rate. (Majority of the modulation signals have ~7dB PAPR. A few use OFDM 64QAM with ~9dB PAPR.)



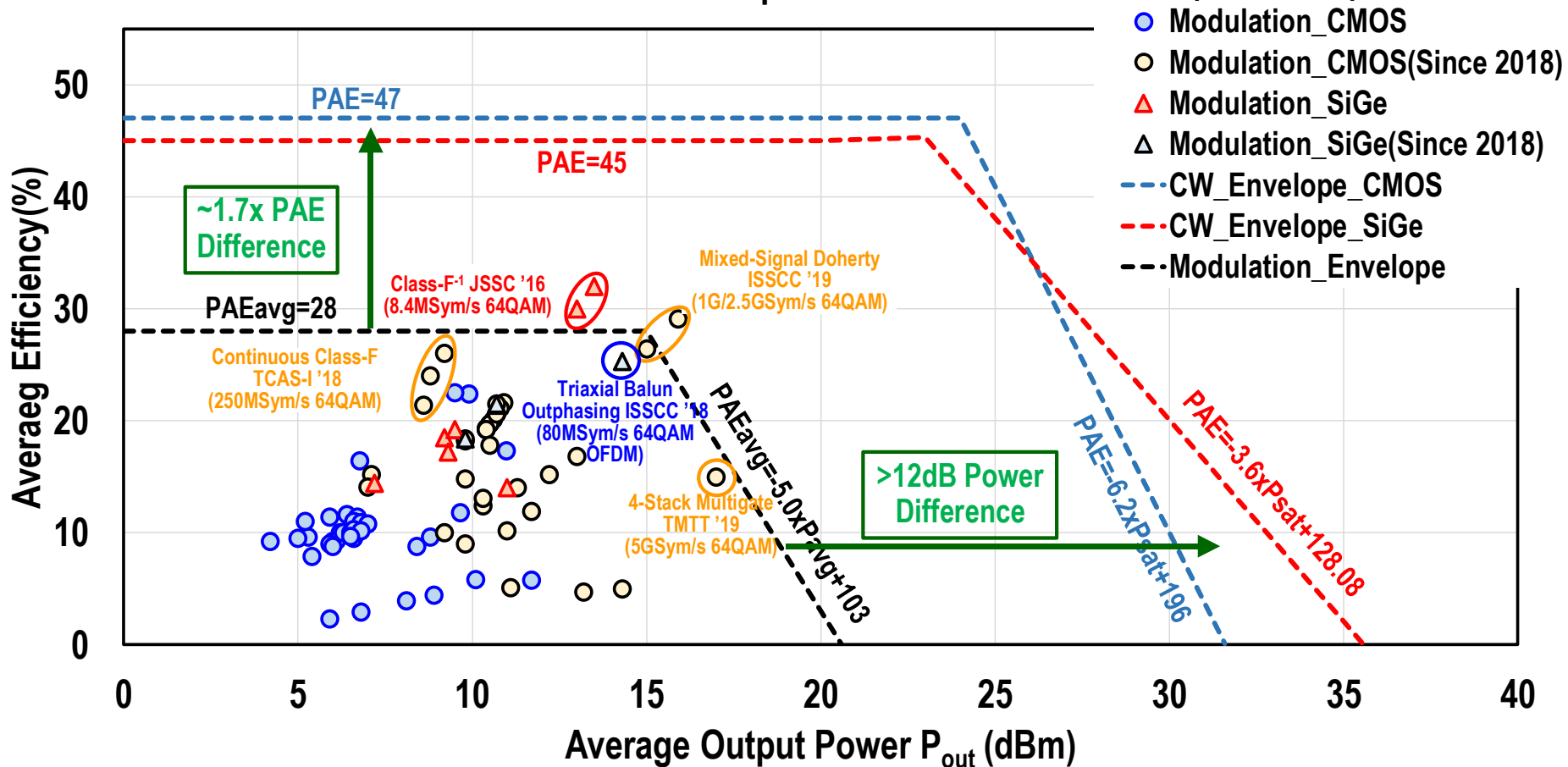
# Georgia Tech PA Survey (2000-present) **GEMS**



## • 20-50GHz CMOS/SiGe PAs with 64QAM modulation test

**HUGE DIFFERENCE** between  $P_{out}$  / PAE in modulation tests vs. CW operations.

Modulation and CW Performance Comparison for SiGe and CMOS (20-50GHz)



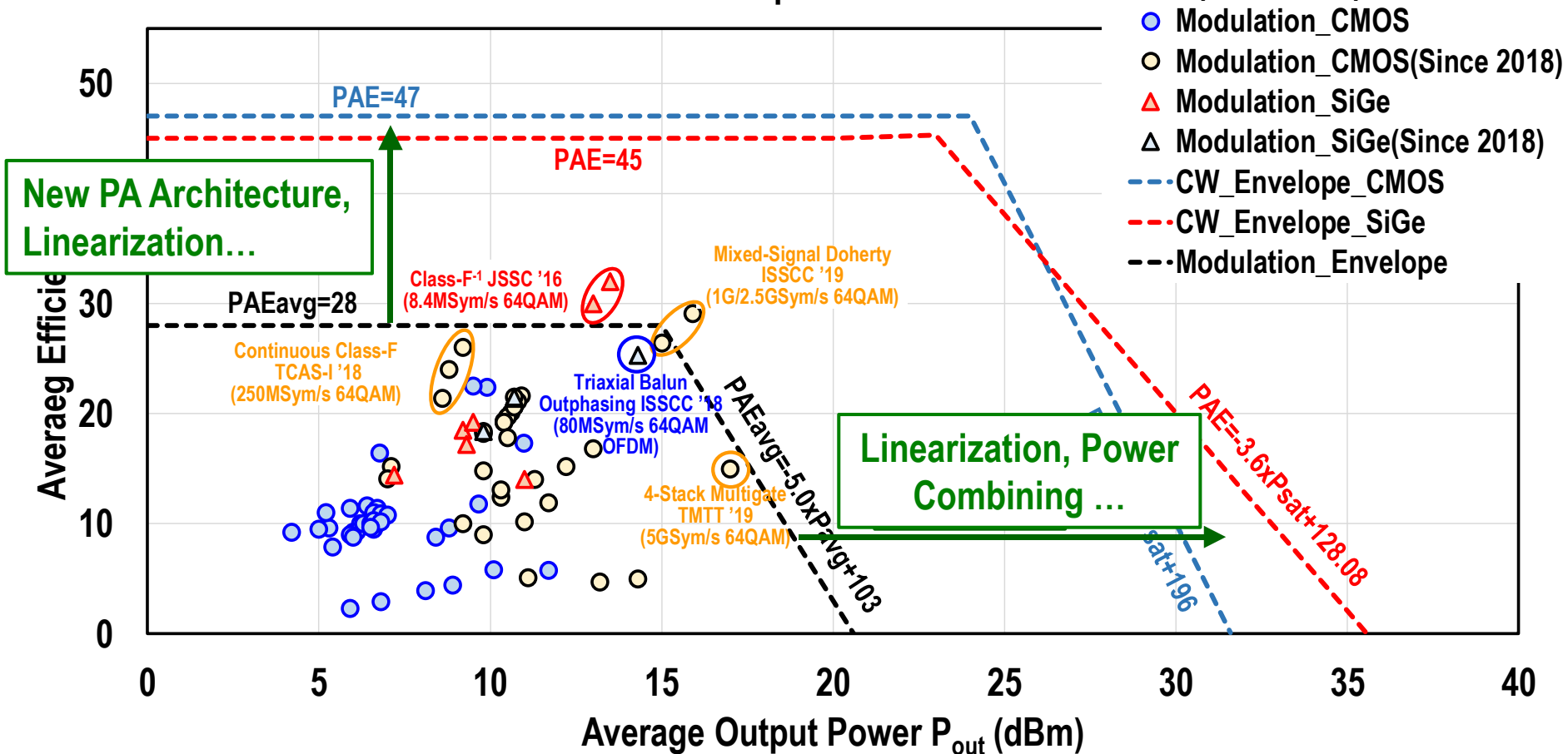
# Georgia Tech PA Survey (2000-present) **GEMS**



## • 20-50GHz CMOS/SiGe PAs with 64QAM modulation test

To push the boundary of average  $P_{out}$  and PAE requires linearization techniques, power combining, and new architecture .....

Modulation and CW Performance Comparison for SiGe and CMOS (20-50GHz)



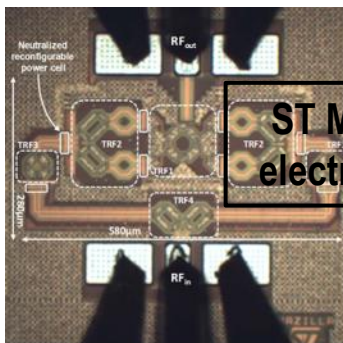
# Outline

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- Introduction
- State of the Art: Georgia Tech PA Survey (2000-present)
- **Broadband Linear Efficient PAs**
- Antenna-PA Co-Designs: Multi-Feed Mm-Wave Radiators
- Conclusion

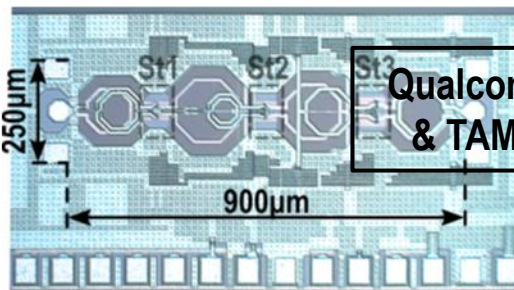
# Mm-Wave Linear Class-AB PAs in Silicon

- Balanced performance of efficiency, linearity, and modulation BW
- “RF-in-RF-out” PAs → System integration



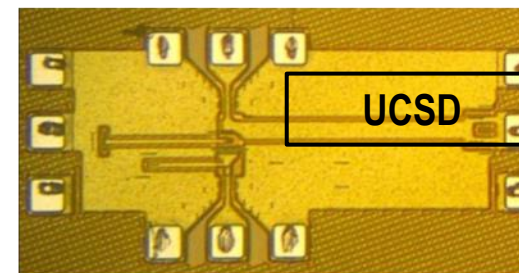
ST Micro-electronics

- A. Larie, *et al.*, *IEEE ISSCC 2015*.
- 60GHz Class AB/C in 28nm FD-SOI



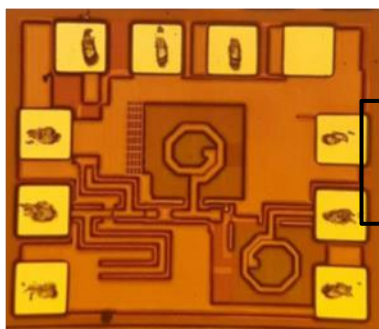
Qualcomm & TAMU

- S. Shakib, *et al.*, *IEEE ISSCC 2017*.
- 28GHz Class AB in 40nm CMOS



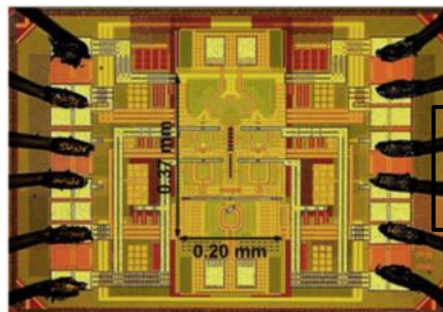
UCSD

- A. Agah, *et al.*, *IEEE RFIC 2012*.
- 45GHz Stacked Class AB in 45nm SOI



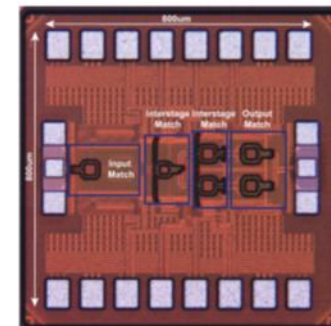
NC State

- A. Sarkar, B. Floyd, *IEEE T-MTT 2017*.
- 28GHz Class AB in 130nm SiGe



KU Leuven

- D. Zhao, P. Reynaert, *IEEE JSSC 2013*.
- 60GHz Class AB in 40nm CMOS

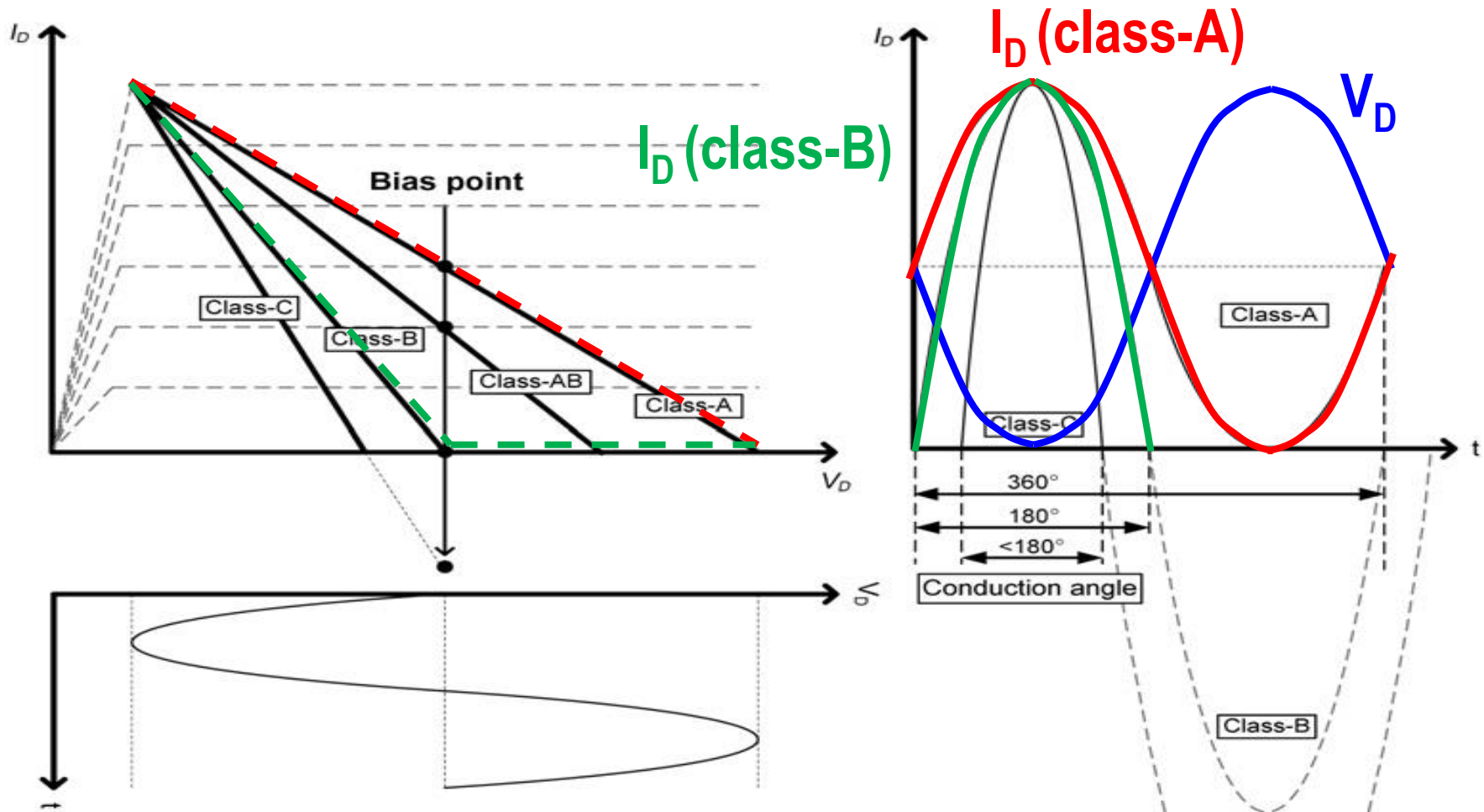


UC Berkeley & Intel

- S. Thyagarajan, A. Niknejad, C. D. Hull, *IEEE TCAS-I 2014*.
- 60GHz Class AB in 28nm CMOS<sub>31</sub>

# Power Amplifier Classes

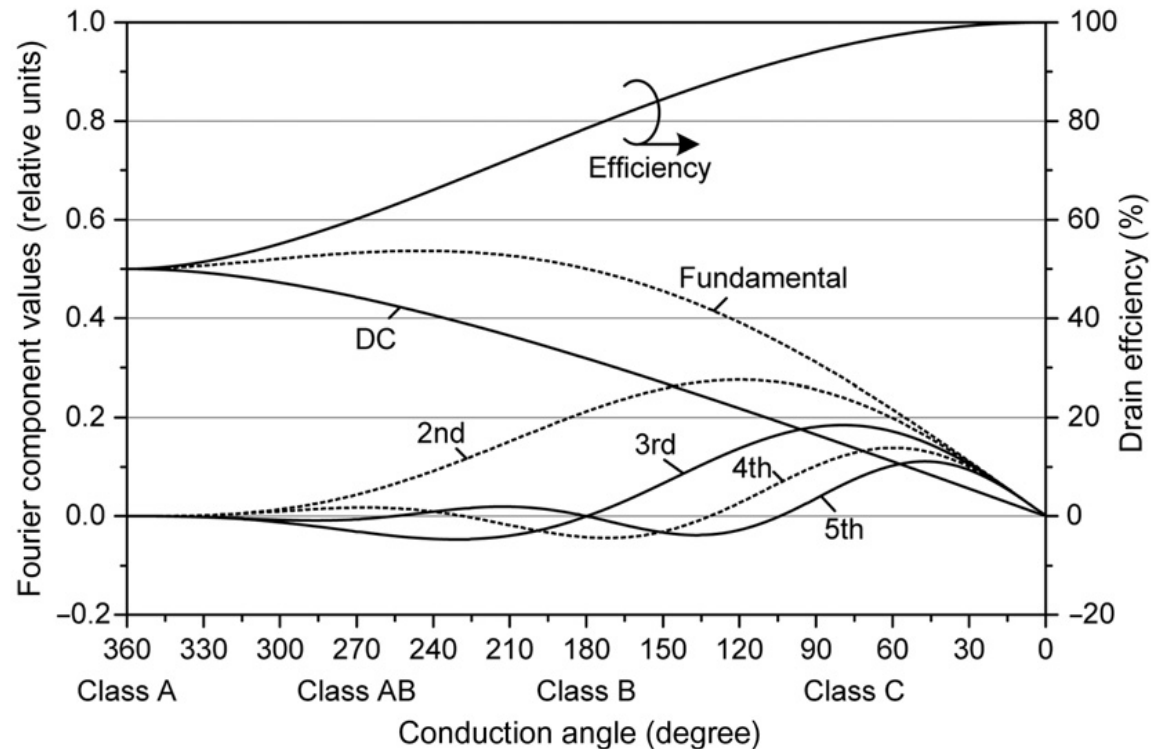
- Linear-Mode PAs: Classes A, B, AB, and C
- Assume linear device, harmonic short termination, no triode





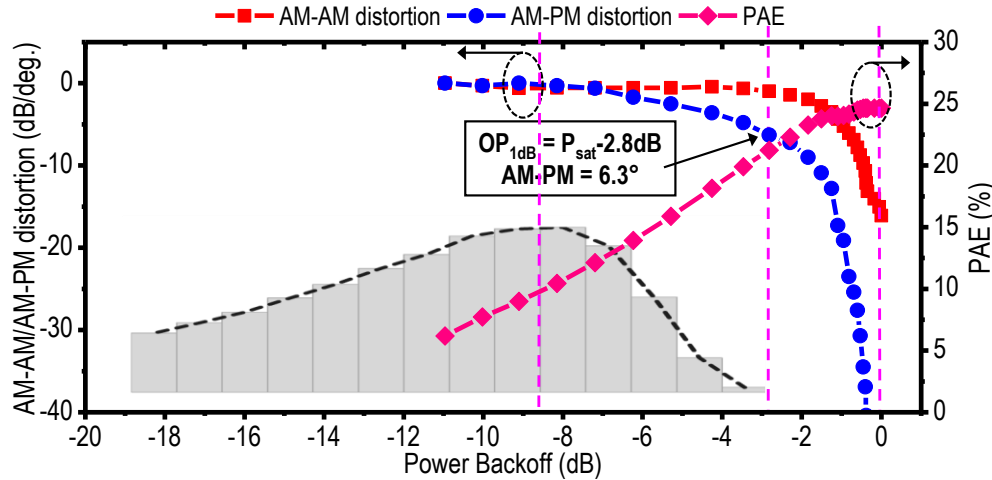
# Power Amplifier Classes

Class	Conduction Angle	Bias Point	Efficiency (Max Theoretical)	Gain	Linearity	Output Power (Normalized)
A	360°	Higher than $V_T$	50%	Largest	Good	1
AB	360° – 180°	Higher than $V_T$	50–78.5%	↓ Lowest	↓ Bad	Larger than 1 (max 1.15 at 240°)
B	180°	$V_T$	78.5%			1
C	180° – 0°	Lower than $V_T$	78.5–100%			1 at 180° 0 at 0°



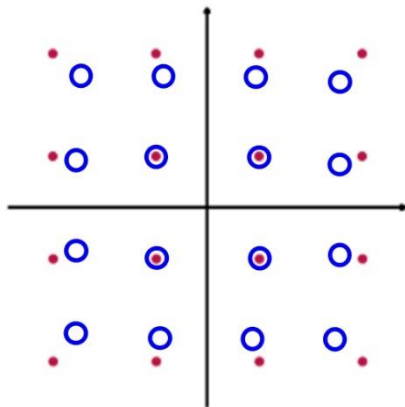
# Power Amplifier Linearity

## • AM-AM and AM-PM distortions

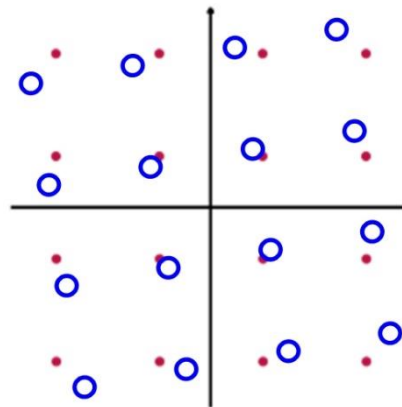


- In-band: Error Vector Magnitude (EVM)
- Out-of-band: Adjacent Channel Power Ratio (ACPR)

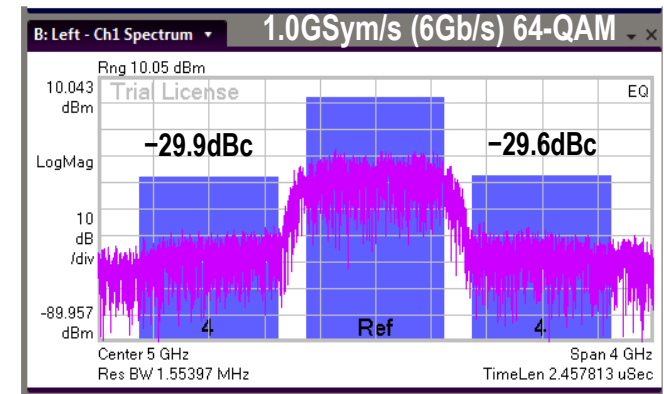
### AM-AM



### AM-PM



### ACPR

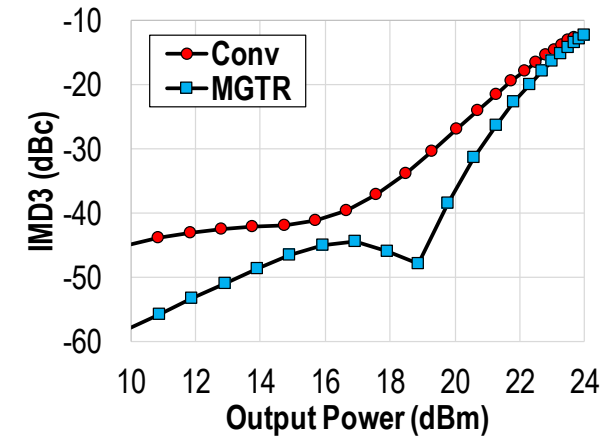
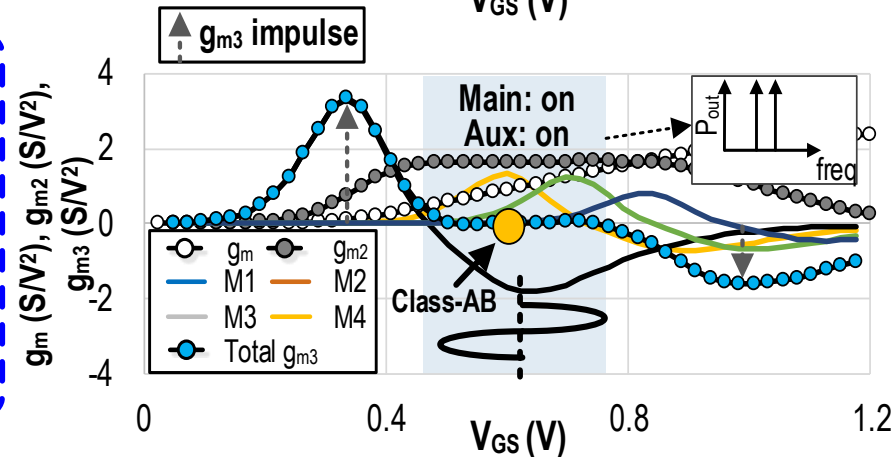
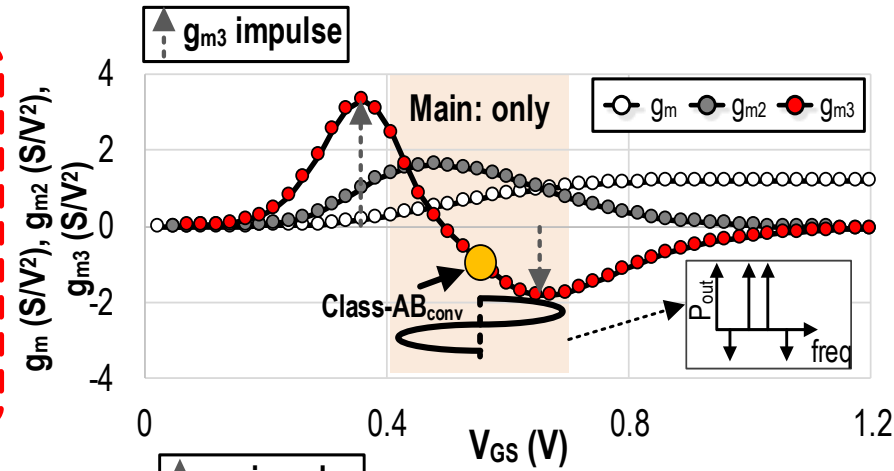
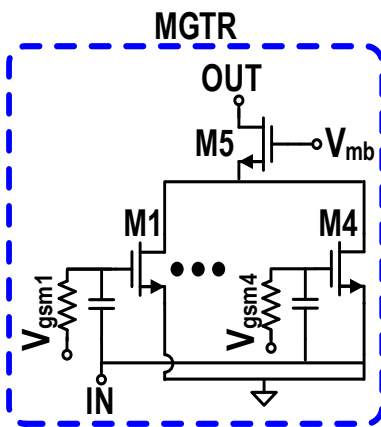
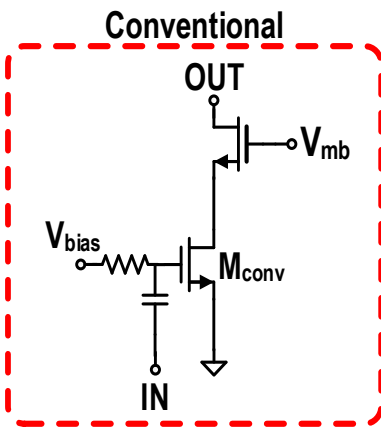


- Dynamic AM-AM/AM-PM and memory effect

# Multi-Gated Transistors PA

- $g_{m3}$  cancellation of PA stage

- Negative  $g_{m3}$  of M1 (Class-AB) is cancelled-out by the positive  $g_{m3}$  of M2-M4 (Class-C) → **Wide near-zero  $g_{m3}$  region, suppressing IMD3**



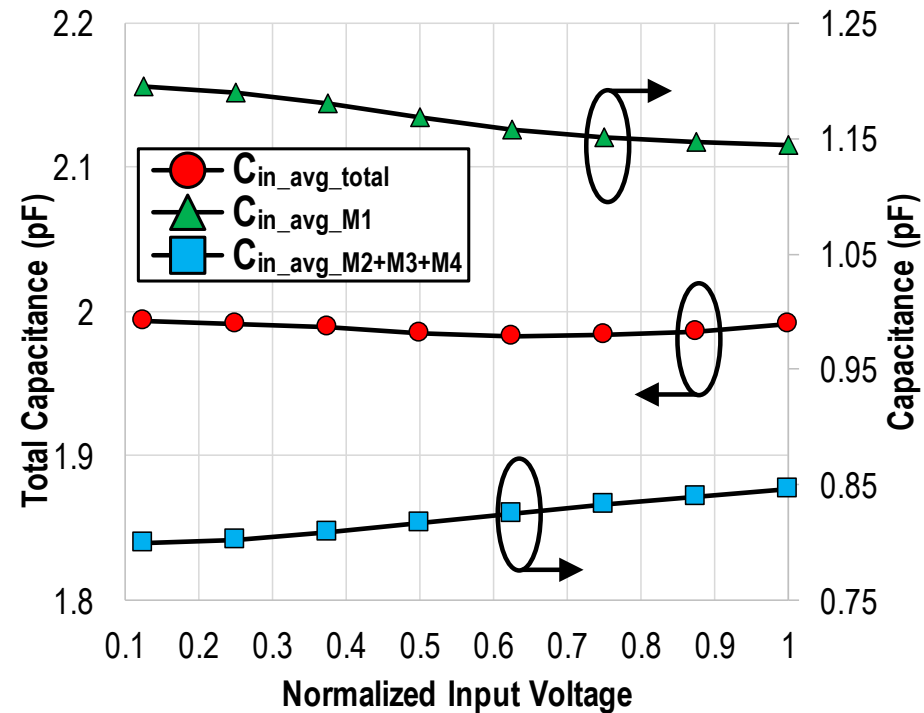
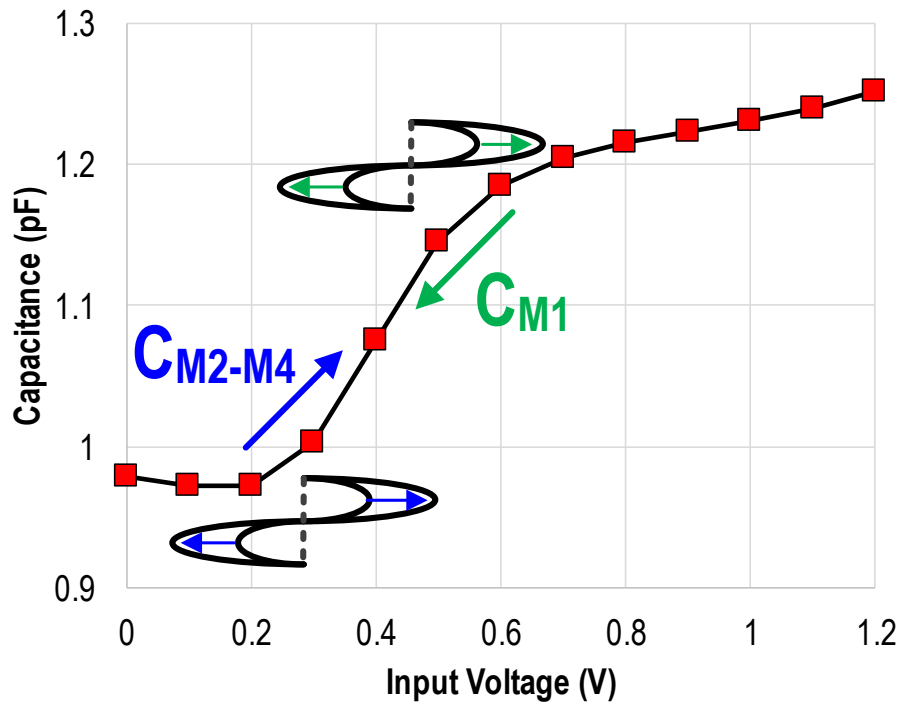
D. Jung, H. Zhao, and H. Wang, *IEEE IMS 2018 and T-MTT 2019.*

# Multi-Gated Transistors PA

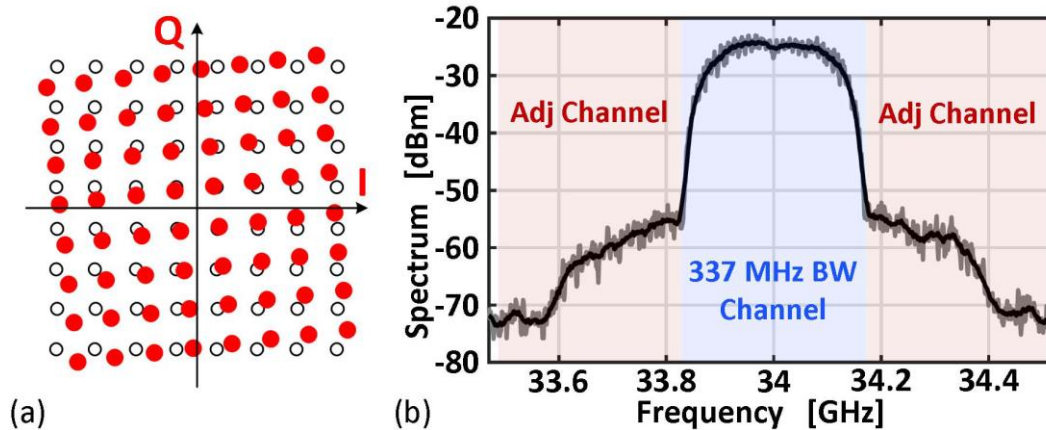
- Average input capacitance of PA stage

- Average input capacitance of M1 (Class-AB) ↓
- Average input capacitance of M2-M4 (Class-C) ↑

→ Less average input capacitance variance of common source transistors



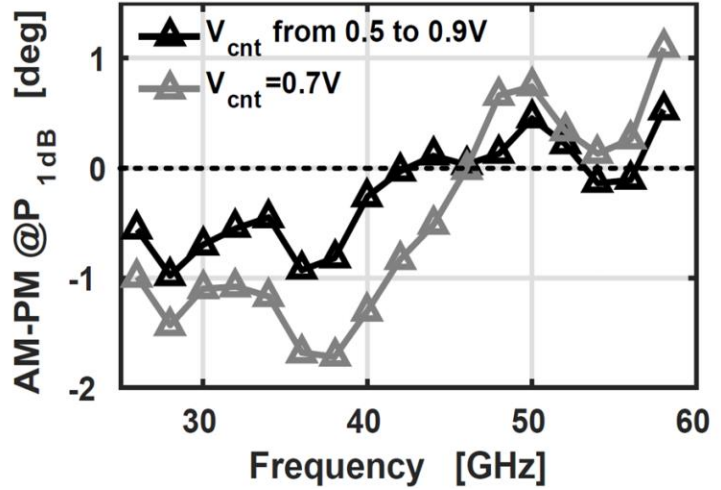
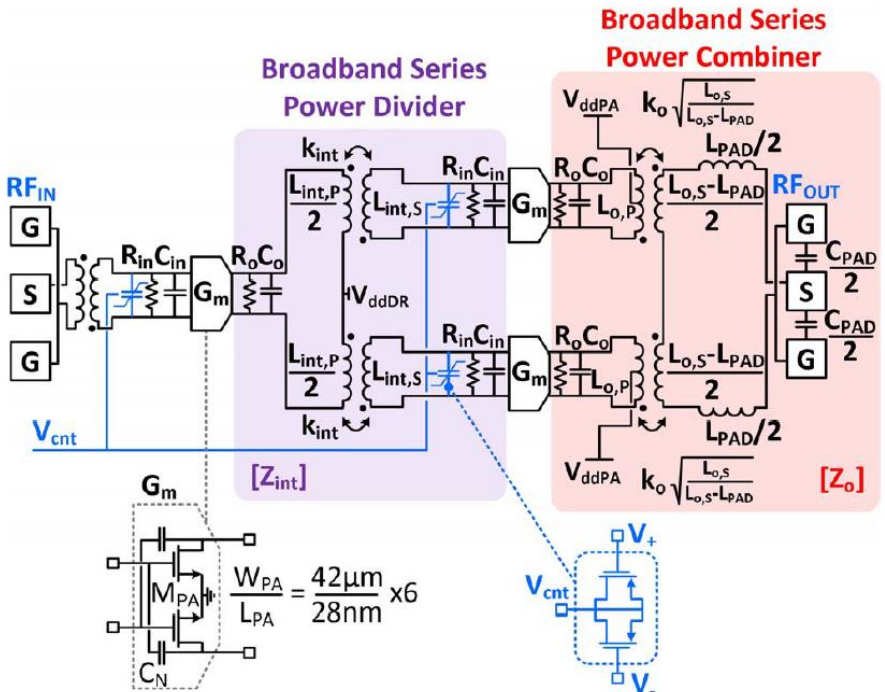
- AM-PM distortion in complex modulation



- PA input device nonlinear capacitor
- PA input Miller capacitor and nonlinear  $g_m$
- PA output device nonlinear capacitor

- M. Vigilante and P. Reynaert, JSSC 2018 and RFIC 2017
- J. Park, Y. Wang, S. Pellerano, C. Hull, H Wang, ISSCC 2017 and JSSC 2018
- S. Golara, S. Moloudi, and A. A. Abidi, TCAS-I 2017

# PA AM-PM Distortion



- PMOS varactor cancellation
- Wideband matching network
- PA-Driver AM-PM cancellation

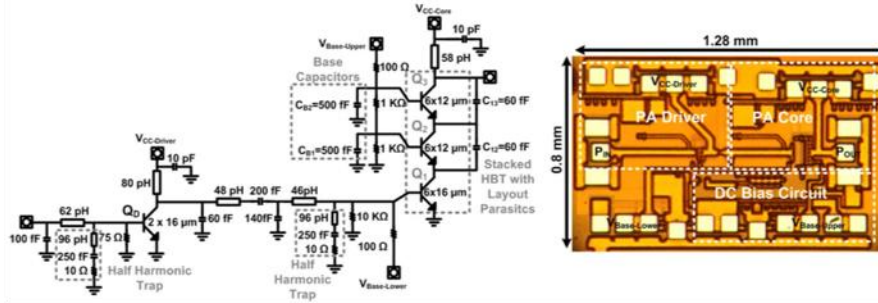
$P_{OUT}=10.1dBm, V_{dd}=0.9V$   
1.5Gb/s, 34GHz



EVM	= 5.5316	%rms	17.174	% pk at sym	2164
Mag Err	= 4.6047	%rms	-16.528	% pk at sym	2164
Phase Err	= 2.4050	deg	-13.851	deg pk at sym	2523
Freq Err	= -826.76	Hz			
IQ Offset	= -47.325	dB	SNR (MER) = 25.143		dB
Quad Err	= -113.39	mdeg	Gain lmb = 0.086		dB

# Mm-Wave Switching PAs or Harmonically-Tuned PAs in Silicon

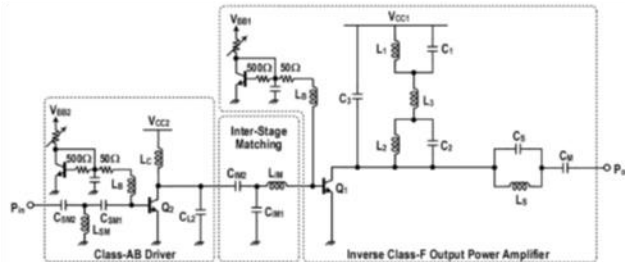
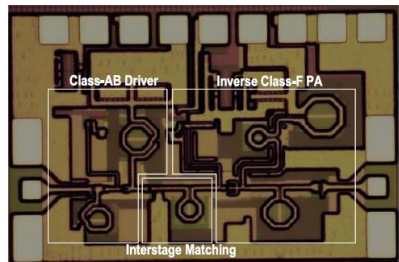
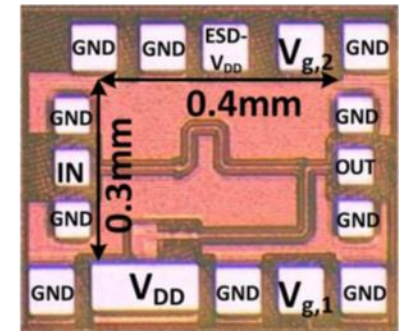
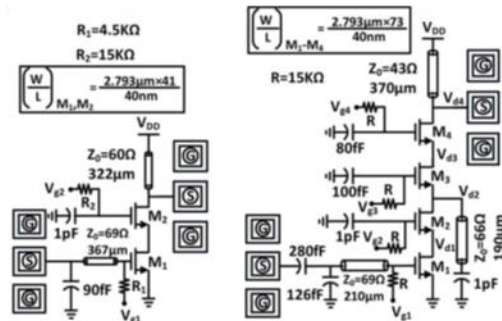
- Superior efficiency and output power



- K. Datta, H. Hashemi, *IEEE JSSC* 2014.
- 130nm SiGe ( $BV_{CEO}=1.7V$ ,  $BV_{CBO}=5.9V$ )
- 2-Stack Class-E @ 41GHz:  $P_{sat}$  23.4dBm, Peak PAE 31-34.9%.

- A. Chakrabarti and H. Krishnaswamy, *IEEE JSSC* 2014.

- 45nm CMOS SOI (nominal  $V_{DD} \sim 1V$ )
- 2-Stack Class-E @ 47GHz:  $P_{sat}$  17.6dBm, Peak PAE 34.6%.

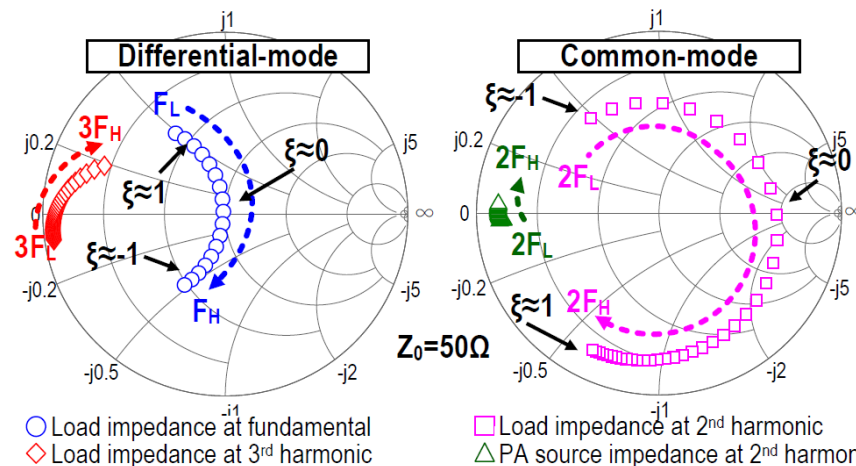
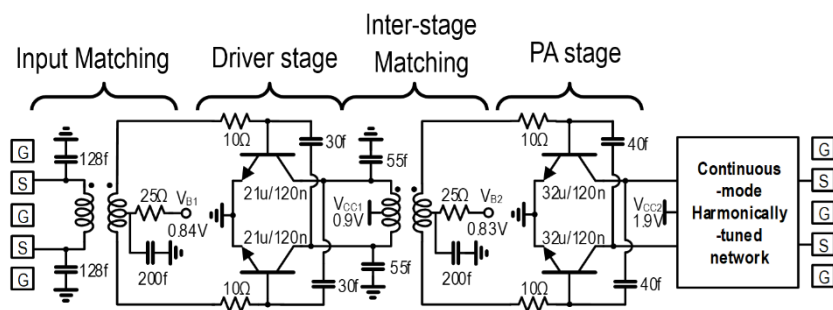
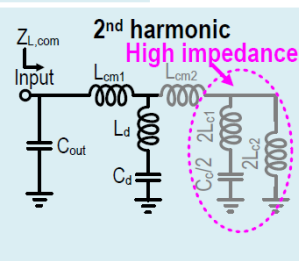
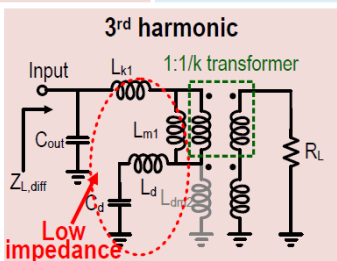
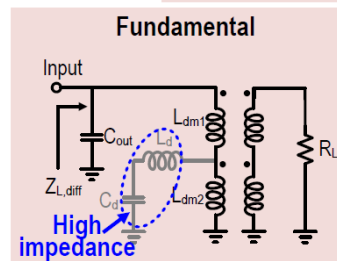
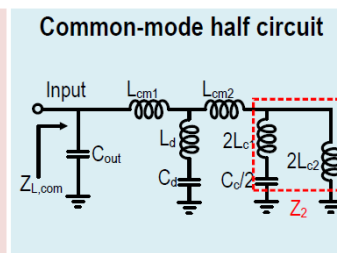
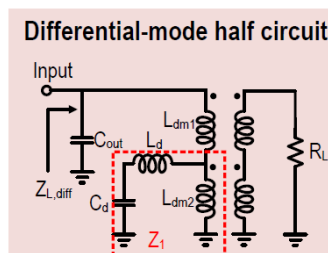
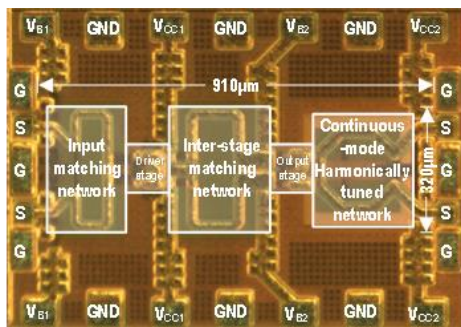
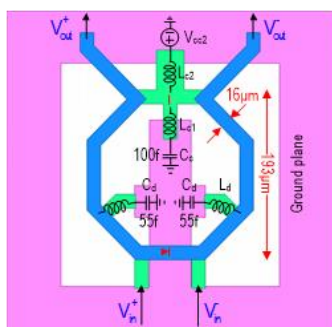


- S. Mortazavi, K.-J. Koh, *IEEE JSSC* 2016.
- 130nm SiGe ( $BV_{CEO}=1.7V$ ,  $BV_{CBO}=5.9V$ )
- Class-F<sup>-1</sup> @ 24GHz:  $P_{sat}$  18dBm, Peak PAE 50%.

# A Continuous-Mode $F^{-1}$ -like Harmonic Tuning Broadband PA in SiGe

- High modulation efficiency over a large carrier BW
- Ultra-compact

Exploring and enhancing transformer parasitics

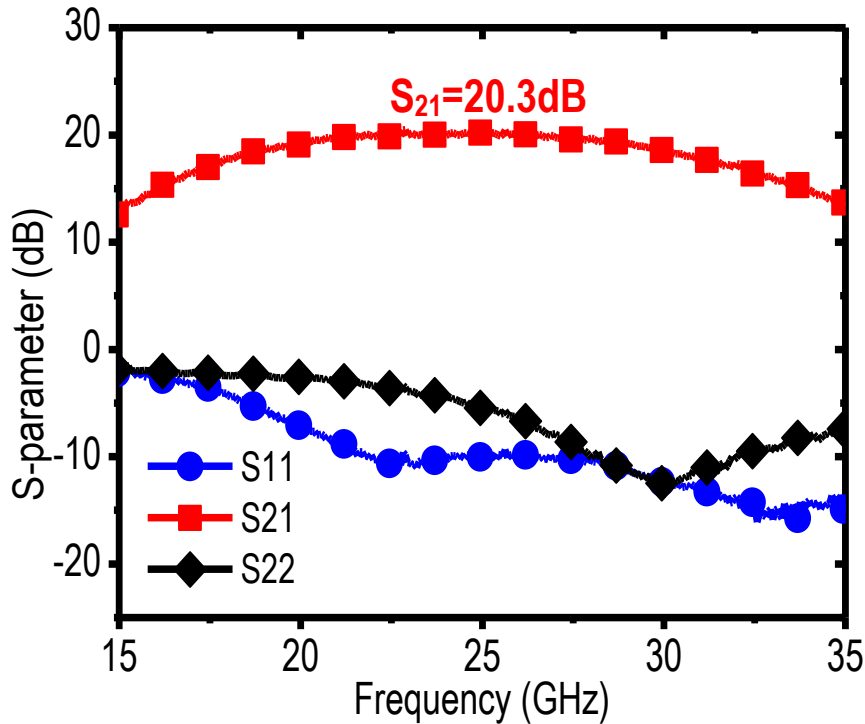


- Global Foundries 0.13 $\mu$ m SiGe
- Core area: 0.29mm<sup>2</sup>

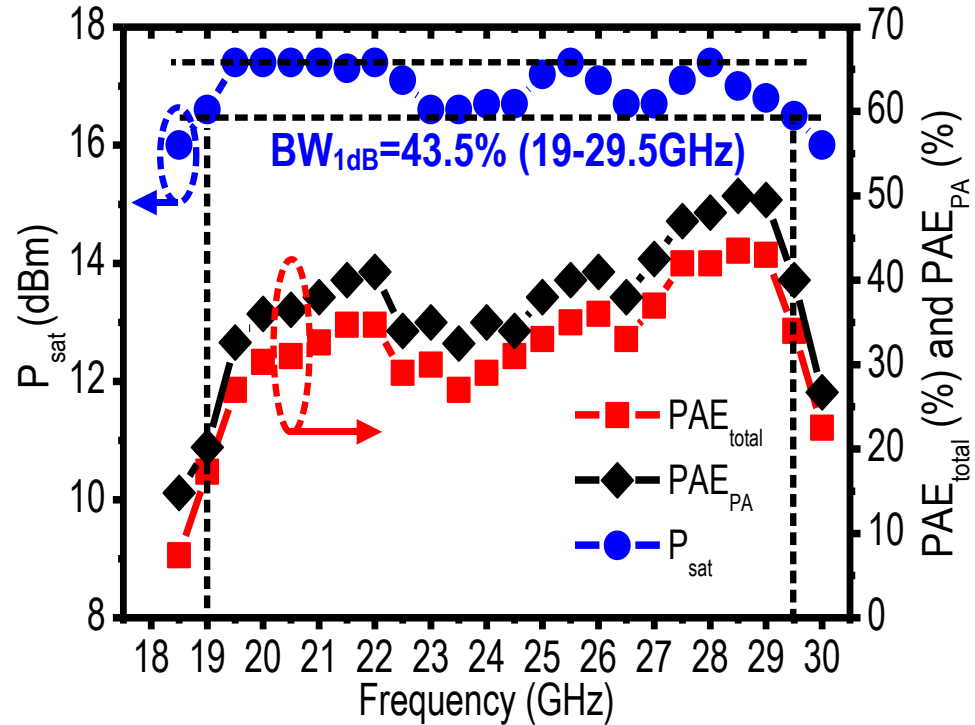


# A Continuous-Mode F<sup>-1</sup>-like Harmonic Tuning Broadband PA in SiGe

## • Small-signal CW



## • Large-signal CW



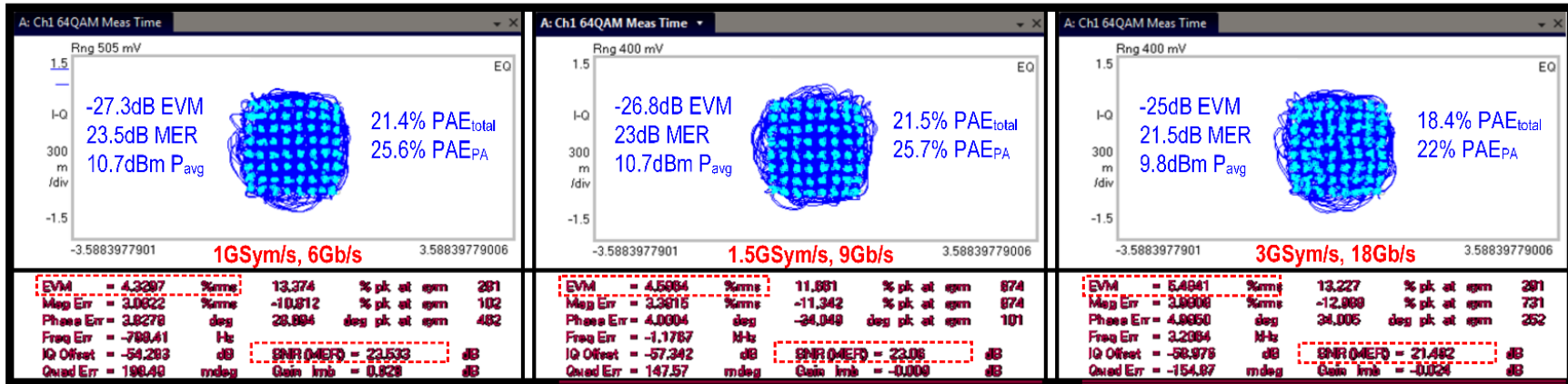
- $BW_{3\text{dB}} = 20.2\sim 28.9\text{GHz}$  (35.4%)
- $BW_{S_{11}} = 21.5\sim 39\text{GHz}$  (57.9%)

- $P_{\text{sat}} 1\text{dB BW} = 19\sim 29.5\text{GHz}$  (43%)
- Peak PAE = 45%

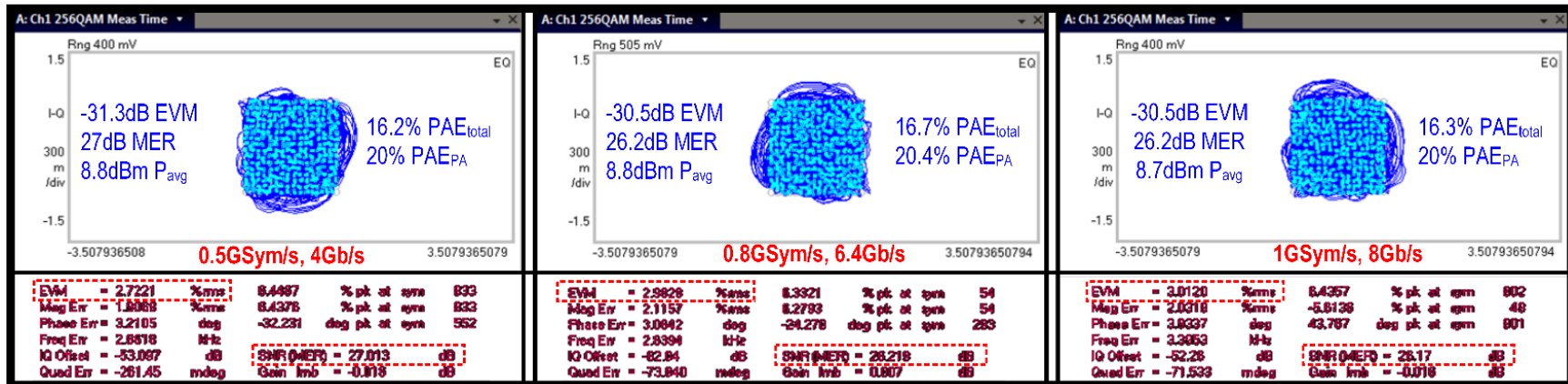
# A Continuous-Mode F<sup>-1</sup>-like Harmonic Tuning Broadband PA in SiGe



- 64-QAM modulation at 28.5GHz (EVM < -25dB up-to 18Gb/s)



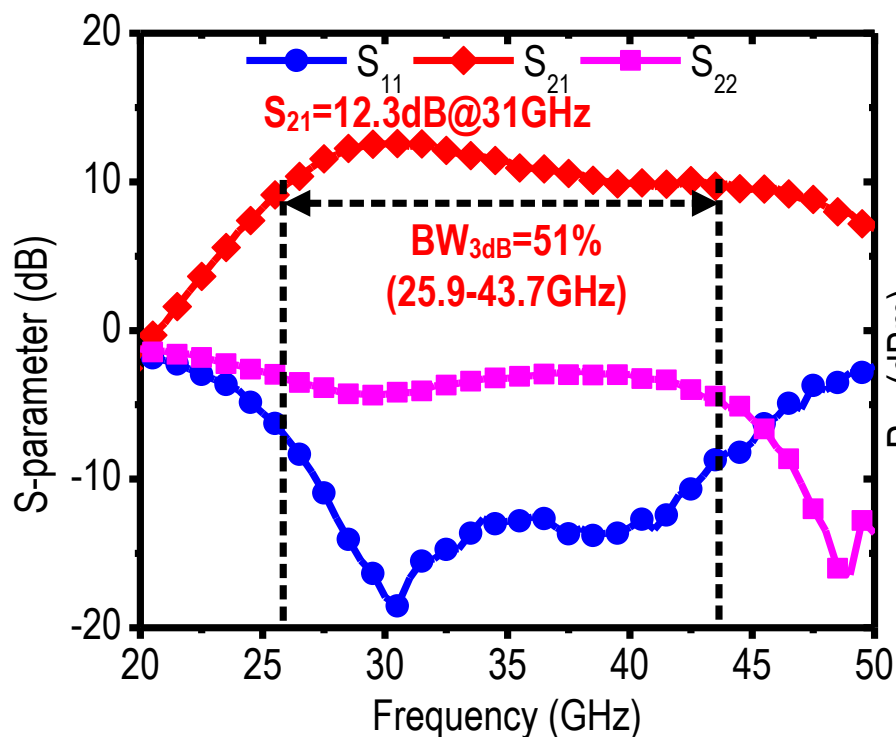
- 256-QAM modulation at 28.5GHz (EVM < -30.5dB up-to 8Gb/s)



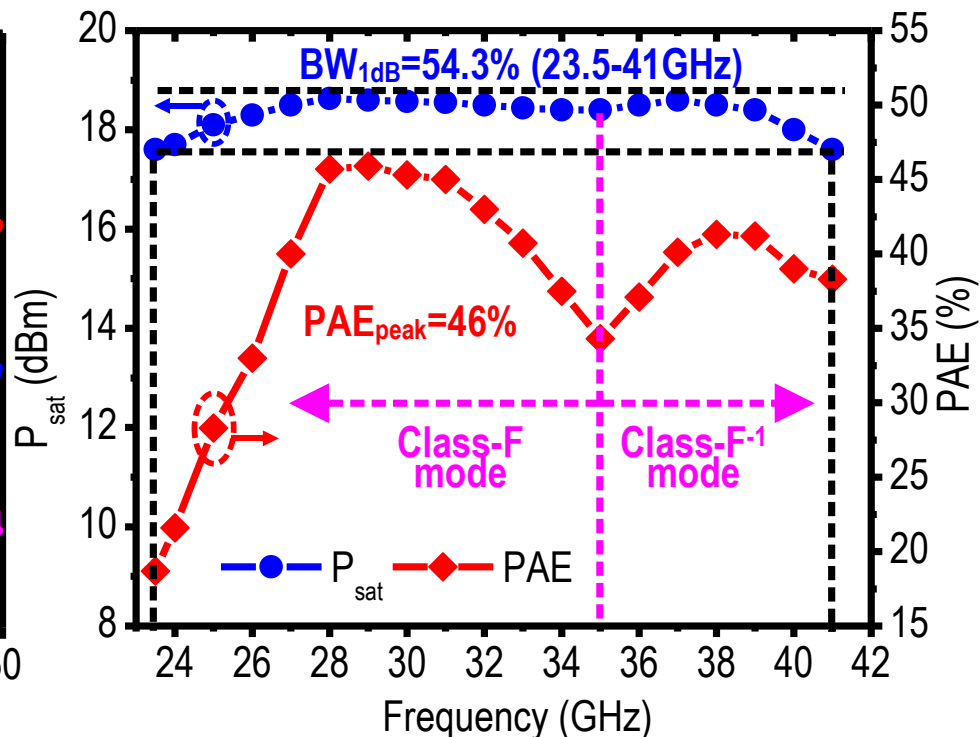
# A Continuous-Mode Class F/F<sup>-1</sup>-like Harmonic Tuning Broadband PA in 45nm CMOS SOI



## • Small-signal CW



## • Large-signal CW



- $\text{BW}_{3\text{dB}}=25.9\text{-}43.7\text{GHz}$  (51%)

- $\text{BW}_{S_{11}}=27.3\text{-}43.2\text{GHz}$  (45.1%)

- $P_{\text{sat}}$  1dB BW=23.5-41GHz (54.3%)

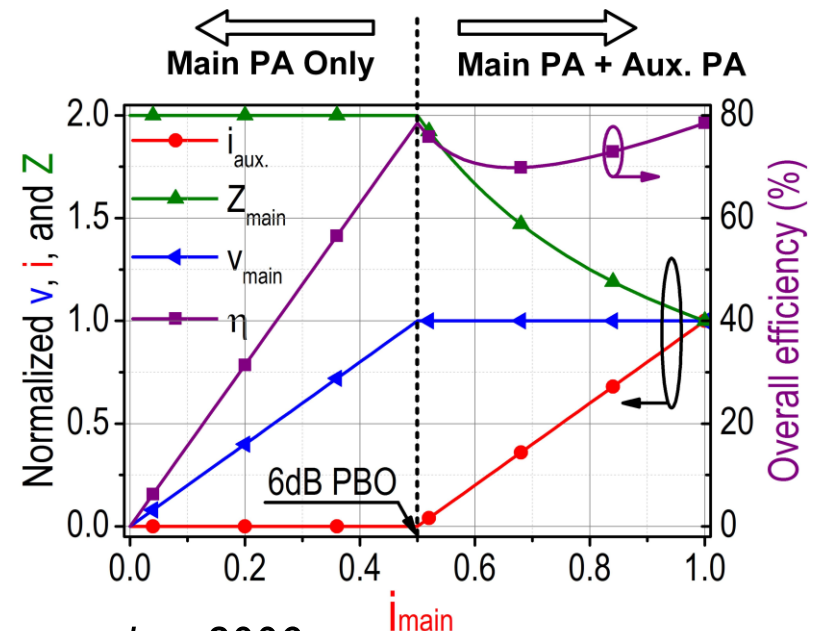
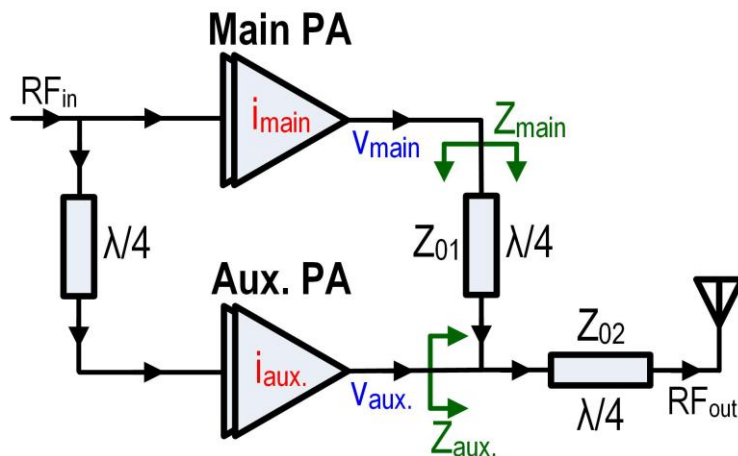
- Class F/F<sup>-1</sup> Mode Transition at 35GHz

- T. Li and H. Wang, *IEEE RFIC 2018* and *IEEE T-MTT 2019*.

# Mm-Wave Doherty PAs or Doherty-Like PAs in Silicon

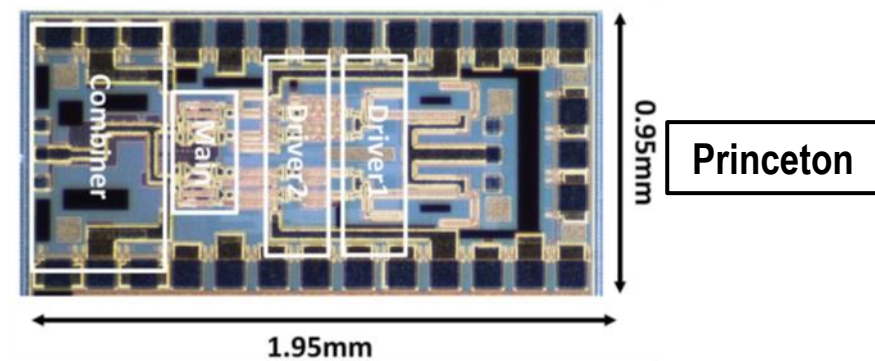
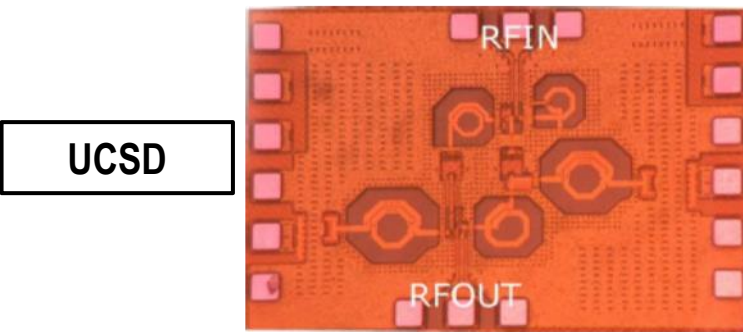
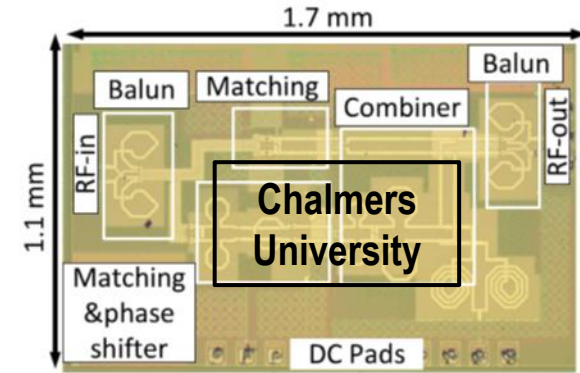
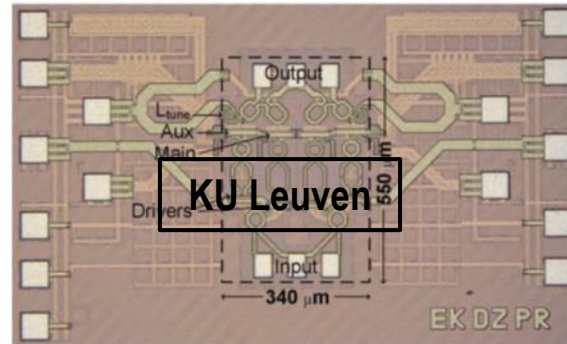
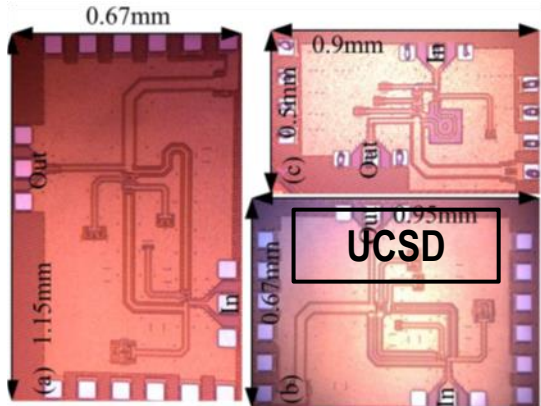
- **Doherty (General Active Load Modulation) PA – Power back-off efficiency enhancement**

- ✓ Large modulation bandwidth → **Broadband 5G**
- ✓ RF-in-RF-out operation → **Drop-in solution**
- ✗ On-chip output passive network
- ✗ Cooperation between two PA paths
- ✗ Carrier bandwidth



- B. Kim, J. Kim, I. Kim, J. Cha, *IEEE microwave magazine*, 2006.
- S. Hu, S. Kousai, and H. Wang, *IEEE T-MTT* 2015.

# Example Mm-Wave Doherty PAs or Doherty-Like PAs in Silicon



- A. Agah, *et al.*, *IEEE JSSC* 2013.
- 45GHz Doherty PA in 45nm FD-SOI
- Active phase-shift for auxiliary path
- Stacked transistor PA core

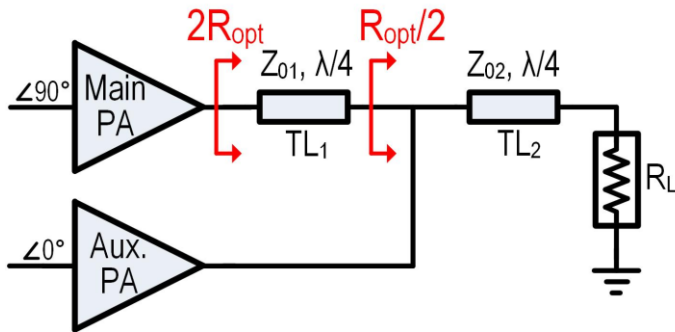
- E. Kaymaksut, D. Zhao, P. Reynaert, *IEEE T-MTT* 2015.
- 72GHz Doherty PA in 40nm CMOS
- XFMR series Doherty combiner

- M. Özen, *et al.*, *IEEE MWCL* 2017.
- 20GHz Doherty PA in 130nm SiGe
- Low loss Doherty power combiner

- N. Rostomyan, *et al.*, *IEEE MWCL* 2018.
- 28GHz Doherty PA in 45nm CMOS SOI
- Low loss Doherty power combiner

- C. Chappidi, X. Wu, K. Sengupta, *IEEE JSSC* 2018.
- 30-50GHz Doherty-like PA in 130nm SiGe
- RF power DAC
- Multi-port network

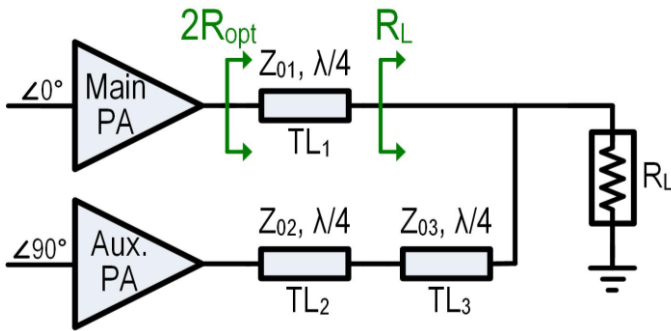
## • Broadband and low-loss Doherty parallel combiner



### Conventional design

- Impedance transformation ratio of  $TL_1$  at 6dB power back-off: **4**

$$Z_{01} = R_{opt}, Z_{02} = \sqrt{R_L R_{opt}/2} \quad * R_{opt} = 41.3\Omega$$



### Introduced design

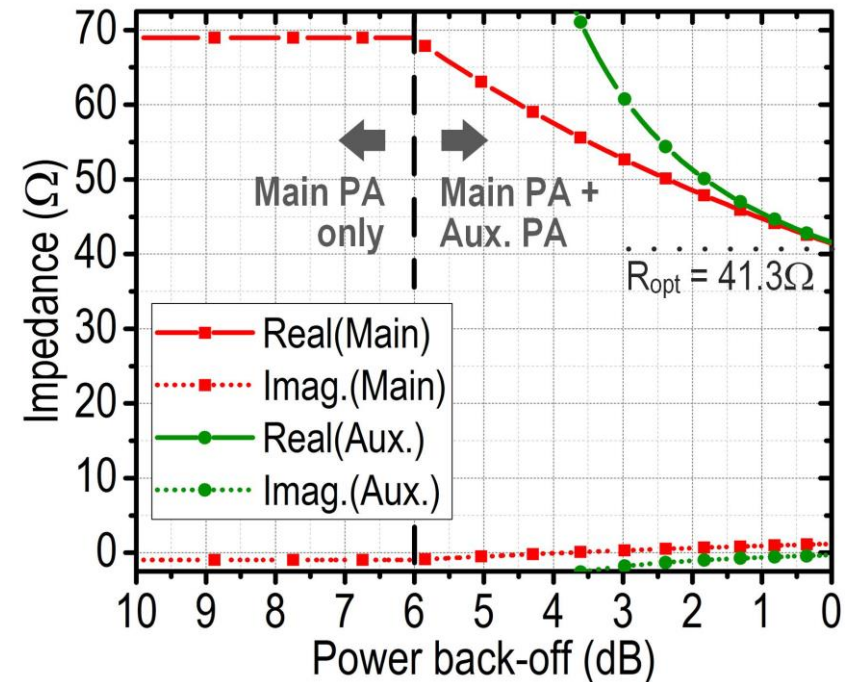
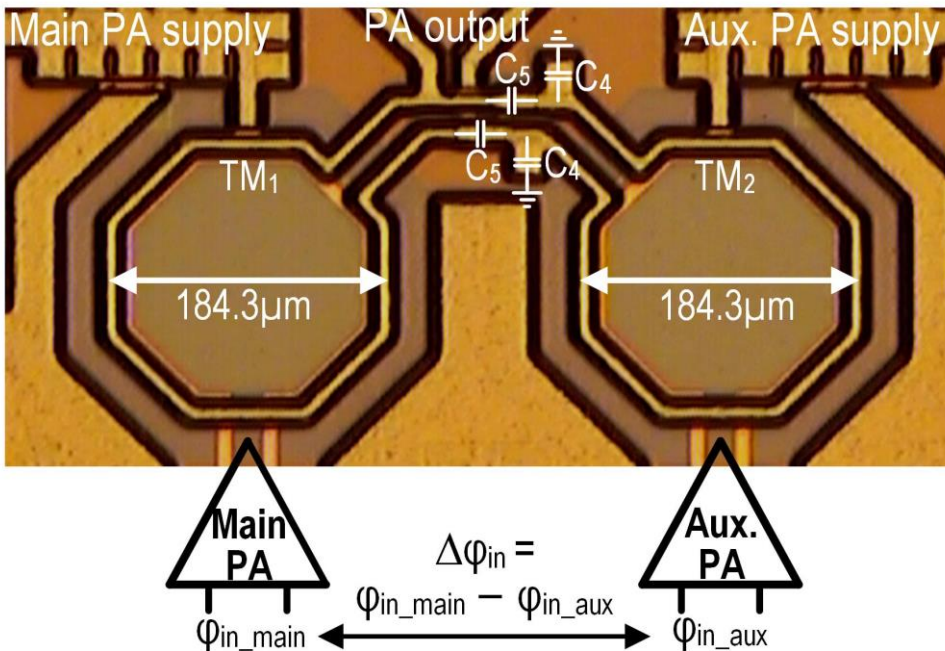
- Impedance transformation ratio of  $TL_1$  at 6dB power back-off: **1.65**

$$Z_{01} = Z_{02} = \sqrt{2R_L R_{opt}}, Z_{03} = 2R_L$$

- ✓ Enhanced passive efficiency in power back-off
- ✓ Enlarged bandwidth
- ✗ Passive area

# Broadband Mm-Wave Doherty PA

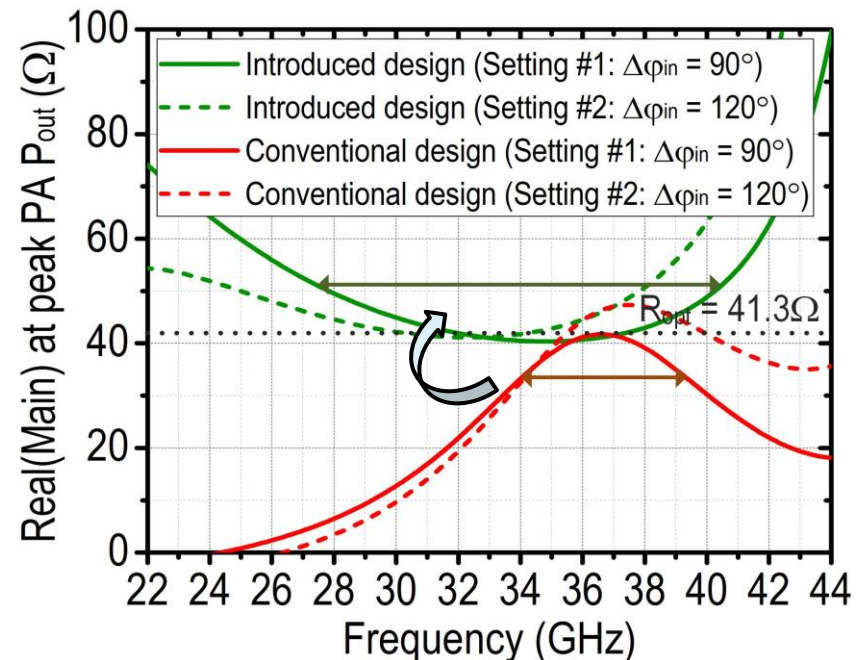
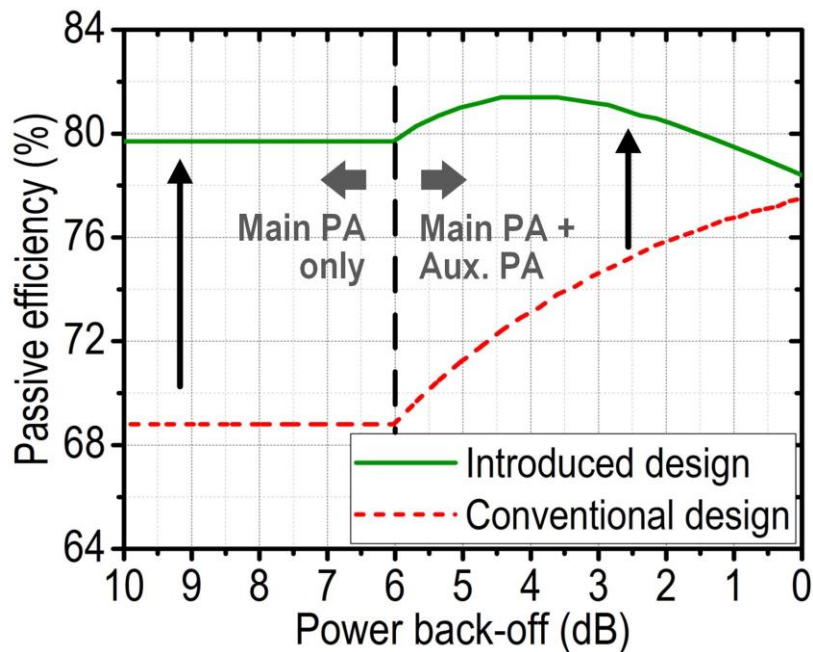
- **Introduced design** – Broadband/low-loss Doherty parallel combiner
  - ✓ Compact
  - ✓ Desired Doherty load modulation
  - ✓ Enhanced passive efficiency in power back-off
  - ✓ Extended bandwidth



• S. Hu, F. Wang, and H. Wang, *IEEE ISSCC 2017 and JSSC 2019*.

# Broadband Mm-Wave Doherty PA

- **Introduced design** – Broadband/low-loss Doherty parallel combiner
  - ✓ Compact
  - ✓ Desired Doherty load modulation
  - ✓ Enhanced passive efficiency in power back-off
  - ✓ Extended bandwidth

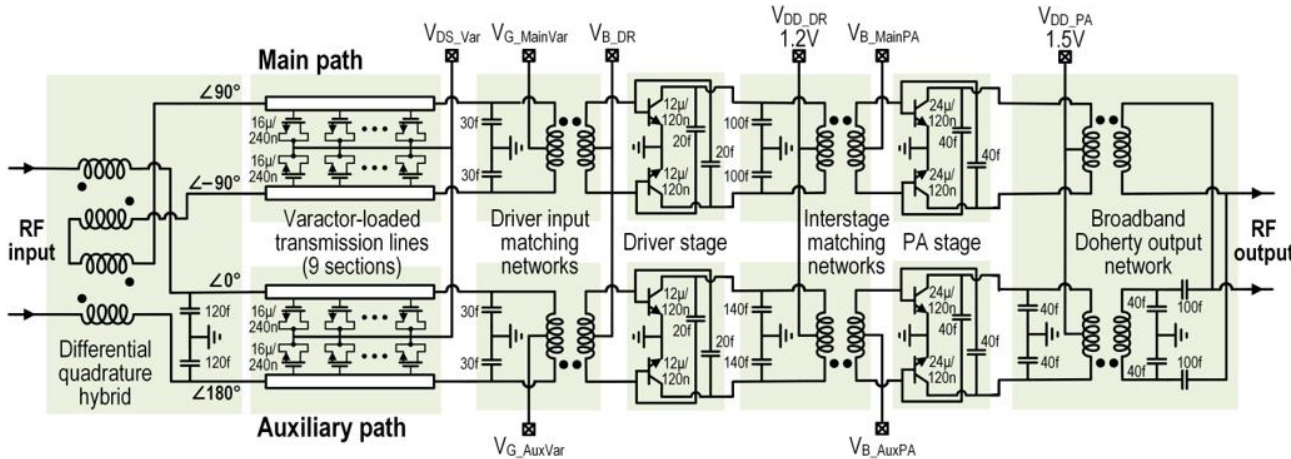


- S. Hu, F. Wang, and H. Wang, *IEEE ISSCC 2017 and JSSC 2019*.

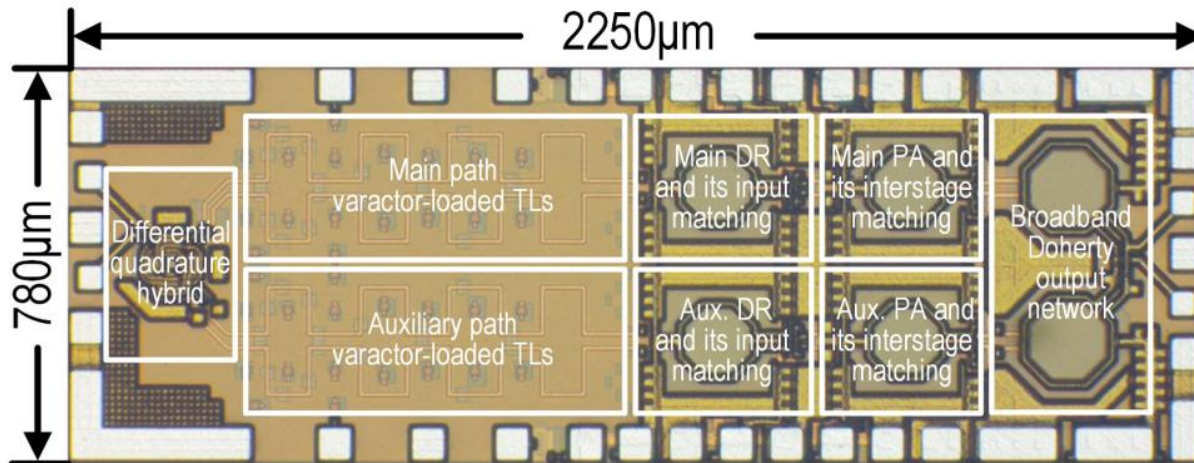


# Broadband Mm-Wave Doherty PA

- World-first 28/37/39GHz multiband Doherty PA for 5G MIMO



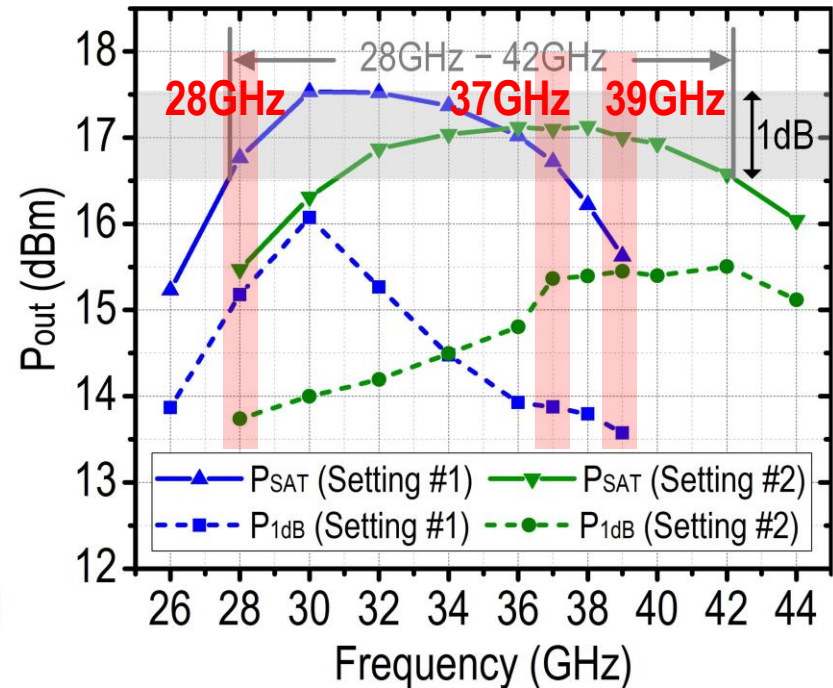
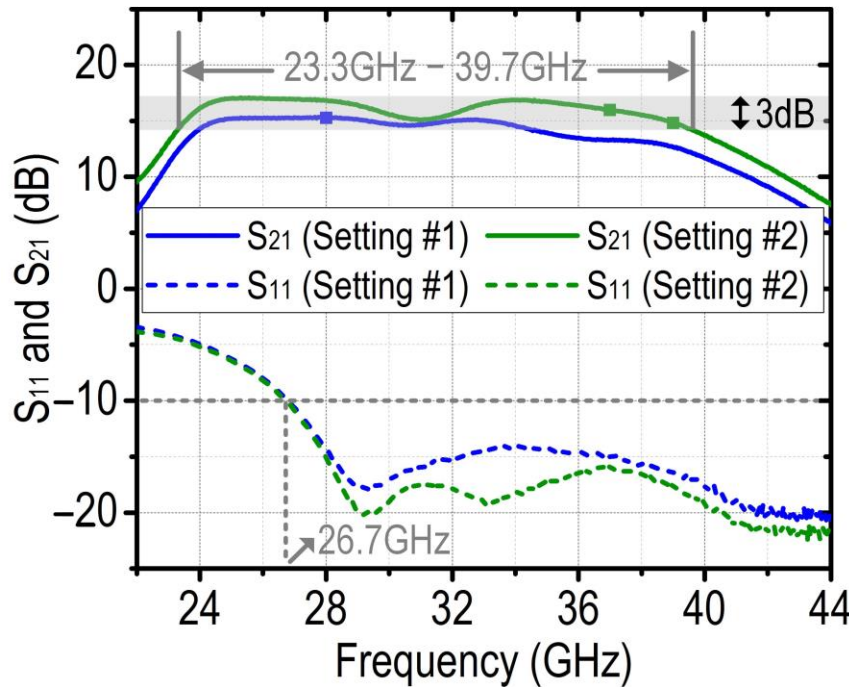
– Global Foundries  
130nm SiGe BiCMOS



- S. Hu, F. Wang, and H. Wang, *IEEE ISSCC 2017 and JSSC 2019*.

# Broadband Mm-Wave Doherty PA

- **CW measurements – Small-signal and large-signal**
  - Reconfigurable operation covers three 5G bands of 28/37/39GHz.



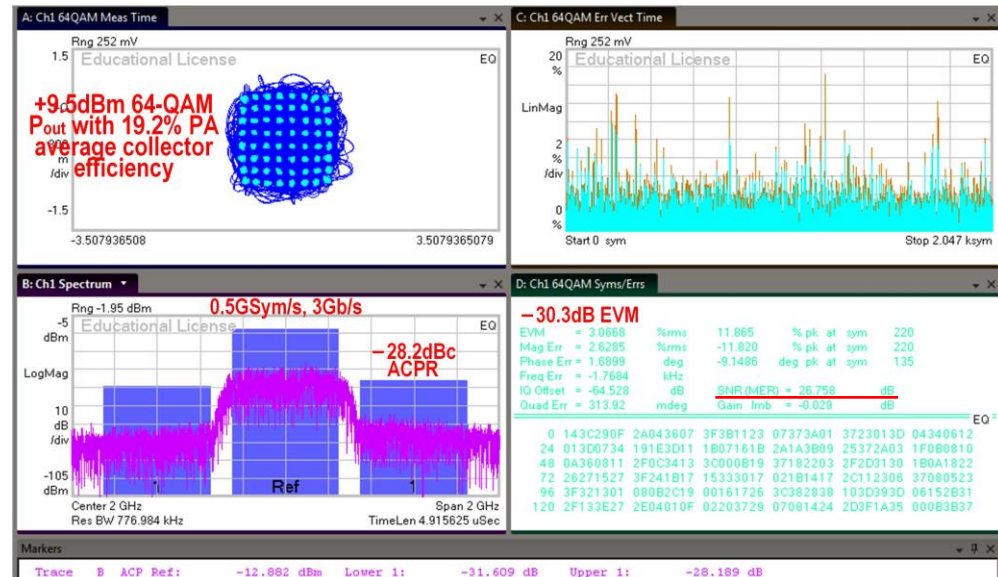
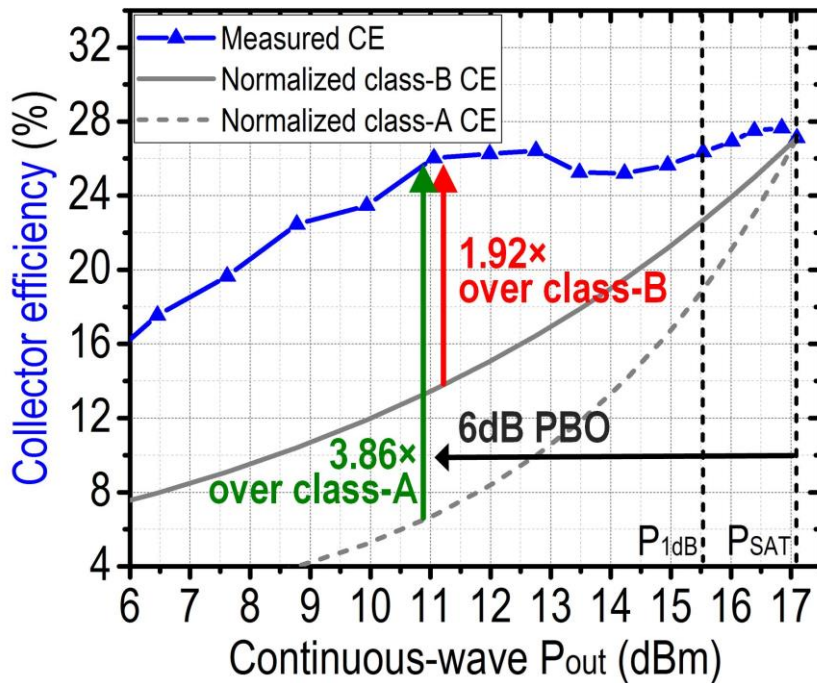
	Target band(s)	$V_{DS\_Var} - V_{G\_MainVar}$	$V_{DS\_Var} - V_{G\_AuxVar}$	$\Delta\phi_{in} = \phi_{in\_main} - \phi_{in\_aux}$
Setting #1	28GHz	0.5	0	120°
Setting #2	37GHz, 39GHz	0	0.5	90°

- S. Hu, F. Wang, and H. Wang, *IEEE ISSCC 2017 and JSSC 2019*.

# Broadband Mm-Wave Doherty PA



- CW measurements – Power back-off at 37GHz
  - +17.1dBm  $P_{sat}$ , +15.5dBm  $P_{1dB}$ , 27.6% peak CE
  - 1.92× efficiency enhancement over class-B at 6dB PBO
  - 500MSym/s 64QAM (3Gb/s) without digital predistortion (DPD)



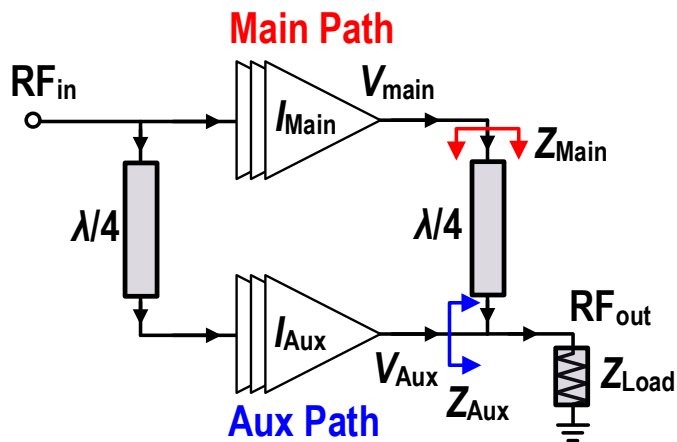
\* LO for the external mixers = 39GHz

- S. Hu, F. Wang, and H. Wang, *IEEE ISSCC 2017 and JSSC 2019*.

# Pushing the Doherty PA Further

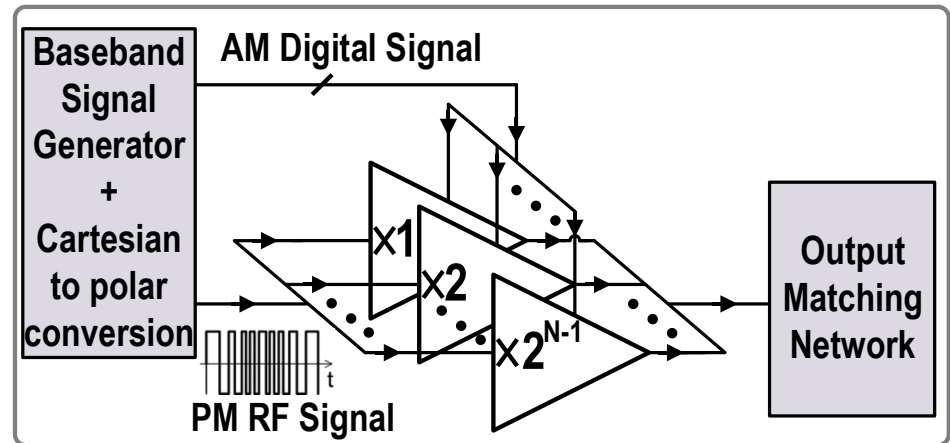
## • Doherty / Doherty-like PA

- 😊 PBO efficiency enhancement, wideband mod. BW
- ☹️ Cooperation between Main and Aux PA path

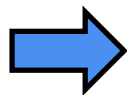


## • Polar Digital PA/TX (Power DAC)

- 😊 Precise control and reconfiguration
- ☹️ AM-/PM-path bandwidth expansions
- ☹️ Out-of-band (OOB) images and in-band noise
- ☹️ Limited ENOB for mm-wave digital PA



[S. Hu, H. Wang, et al., *IEEE TMTT*, vol. 63, no. 2, pp. 580-597, Feb. 2015.]

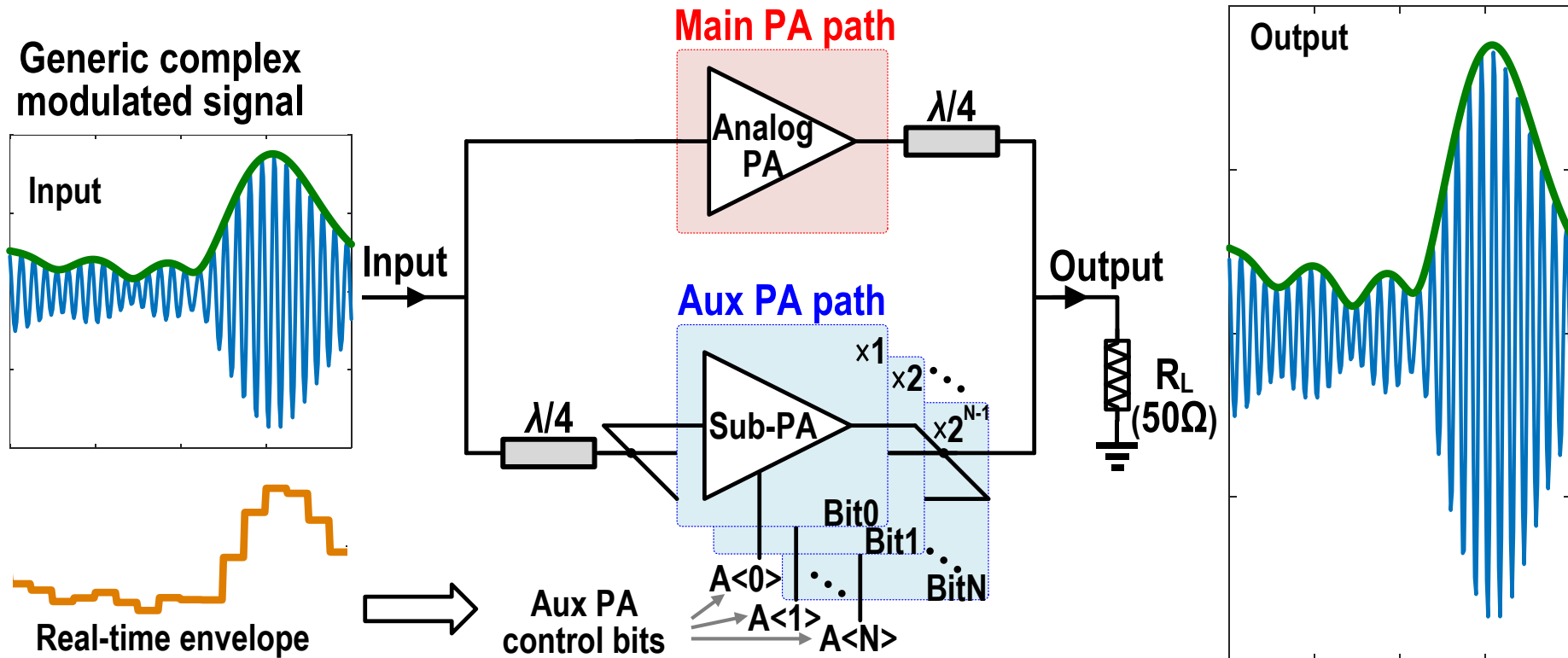


## New Doherty PA/TX Architecture?

# Mixed-Signal Doherty PA Architecture

## • Conceptual Schematic for Mixed-Signal Doherty PA

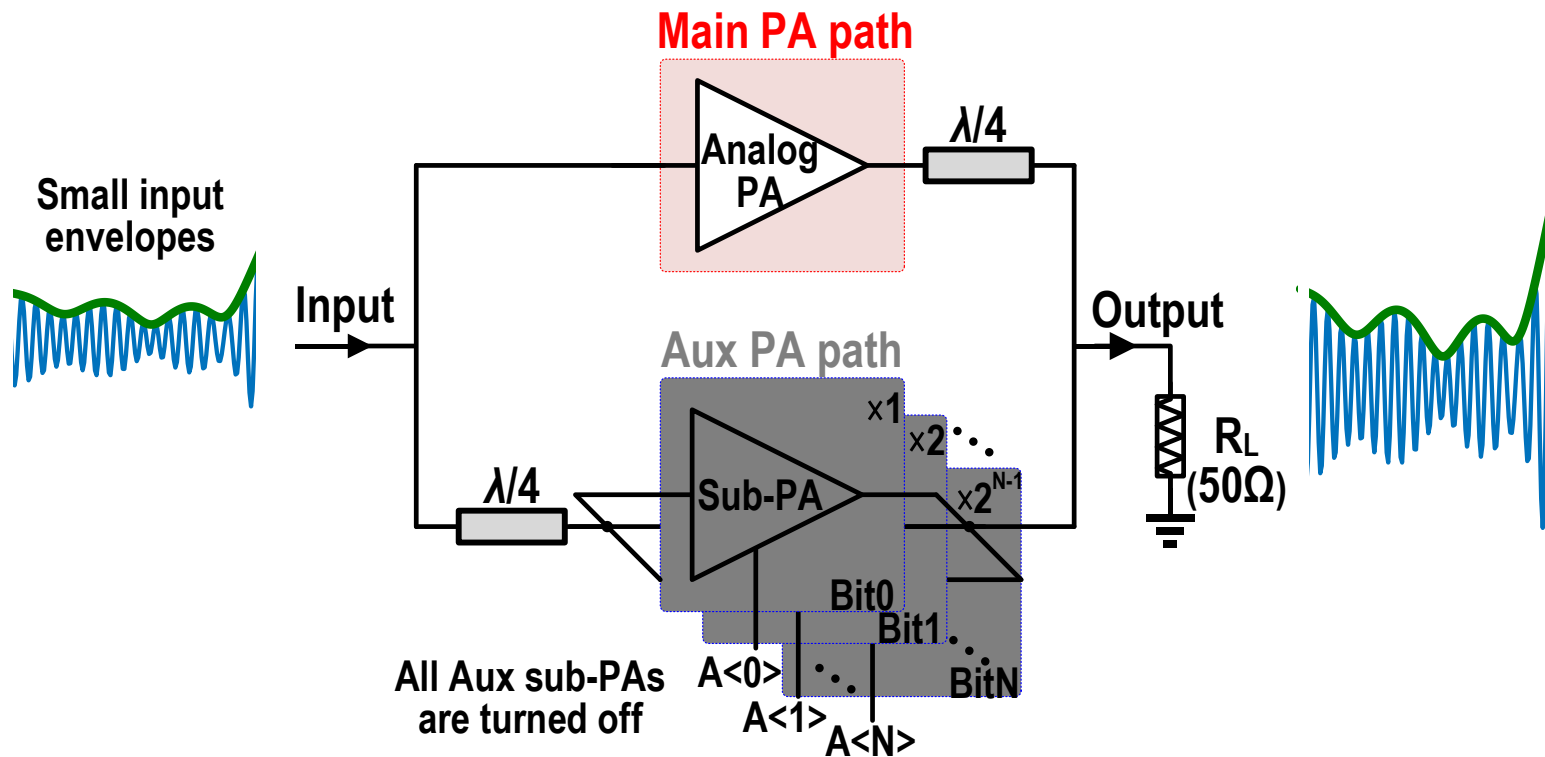
- (1) Main path: analog PA      Aux path: array of binary-weighted PA cells
- (2) Input signal: generic complex modulated signal (NOT constant envelop signal)



# Mixed-Signal Doherty PA Architecture

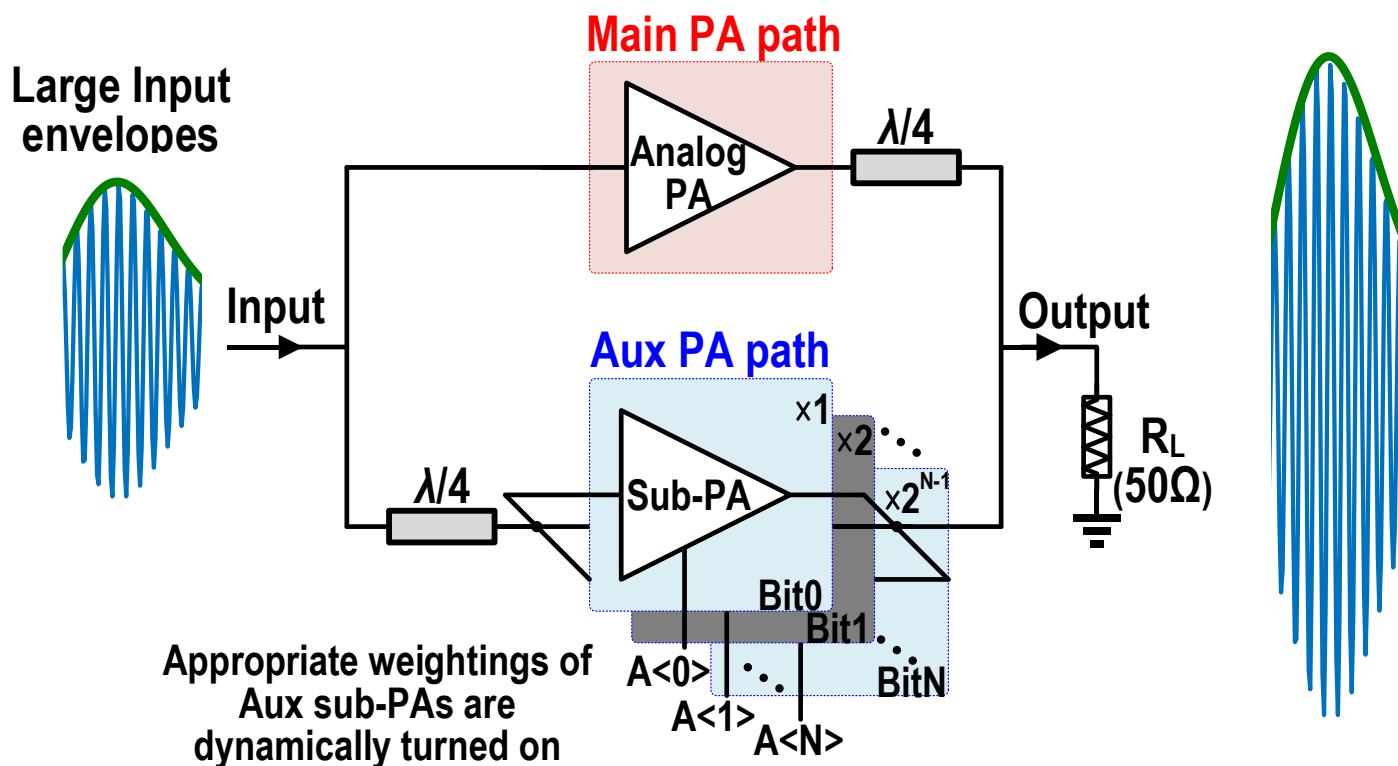
- **Small input envelopes: Analog Regime**

Only Main path analog PA is turned on → Operating as an analog PA



# Mixed-Signal Doherty PA Architecture

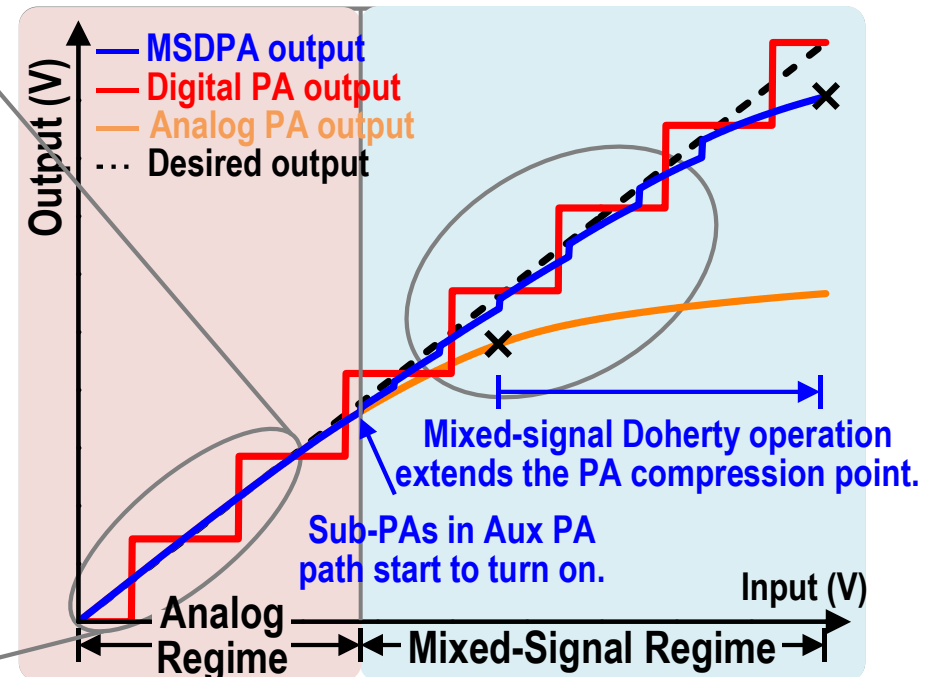
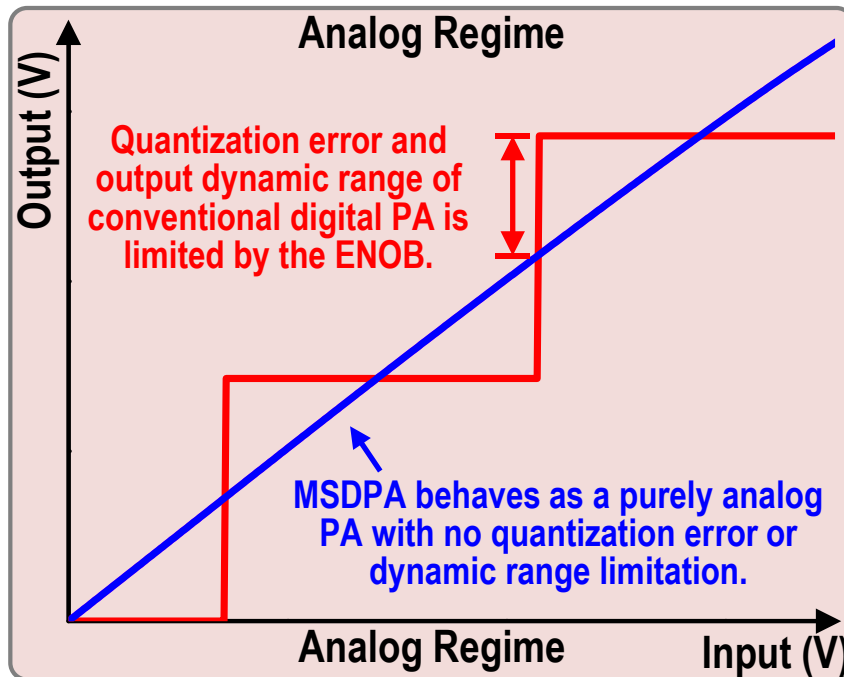
- **Large input envelopes: Mixed-Signal Regime**  
→ Aux sub-PAs are dynamically turned on.



# Unique Advantages of Mixed-Signal Doherty PA

- **Small Input Envelopes: Analog Regime**

A large dynamic range with no quantization error or LSB limitation, unlike digital PA

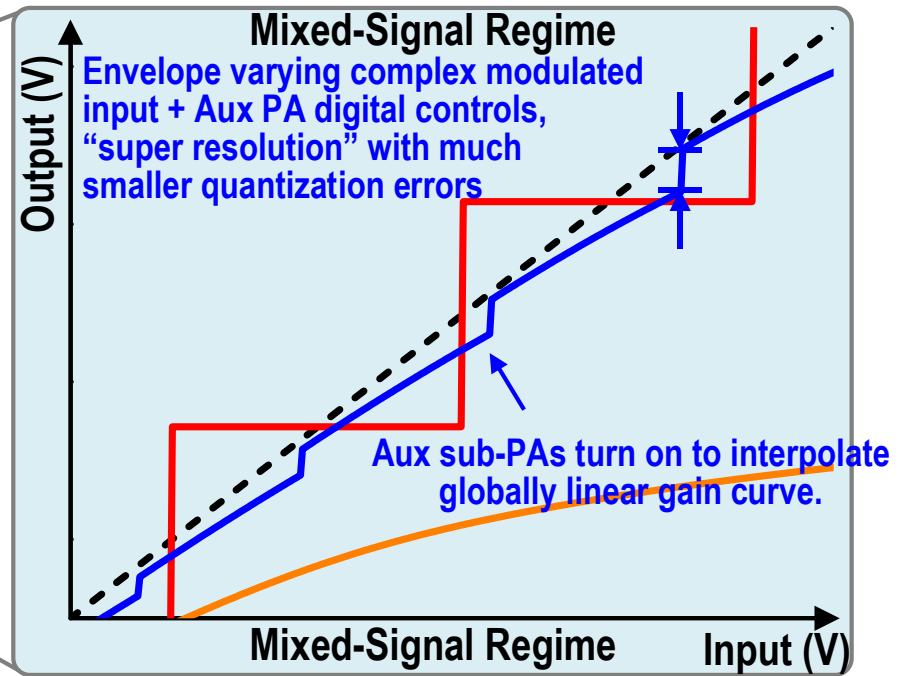
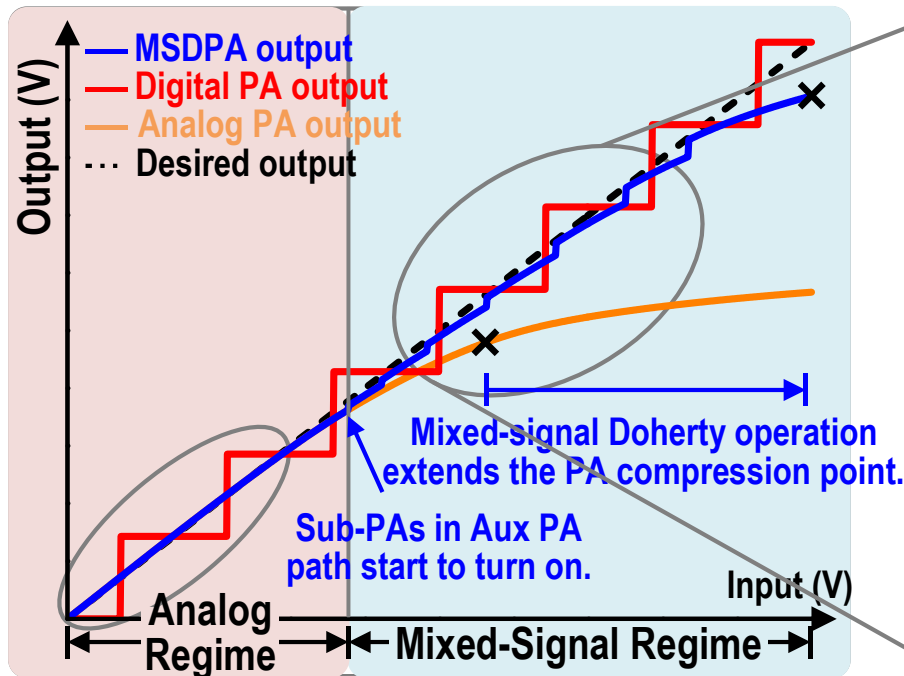




# Unique Advantages of Mixed-Signal Doherty PA

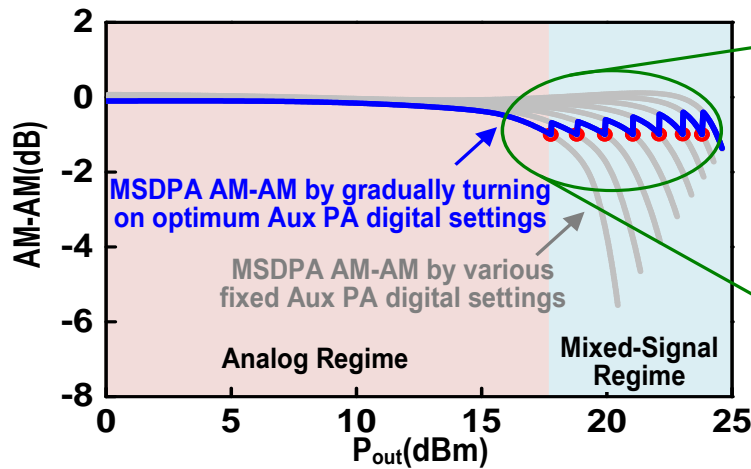
- **Large Input Envelopes: Mixed-Signal Regime**

The output envelope is interpolated by both envelope-varying input and real-time Aux PA digital controls. → Largely suppressing quantization errors

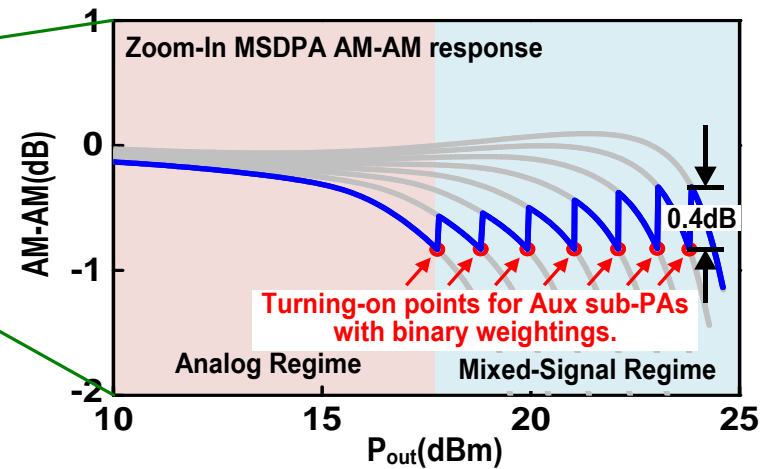


# Unique Advantages of Mixed-Signal Doherty PA

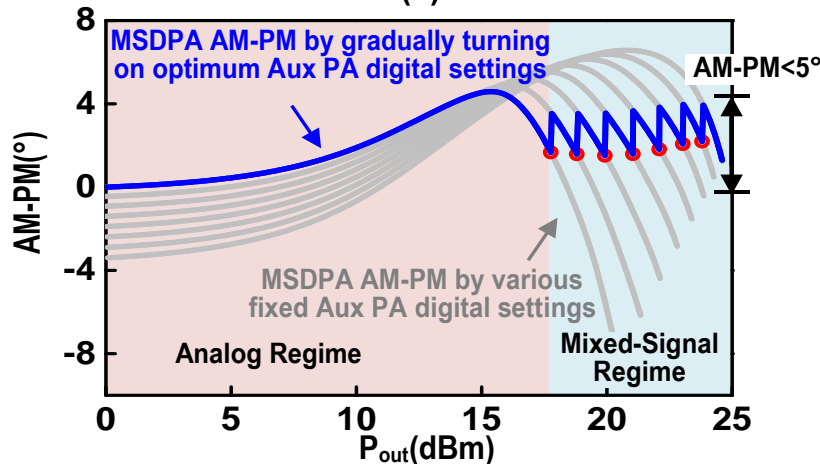
## Mixed-Signal Doherty PA (3-bit) Gain, Phase, and Efficiency



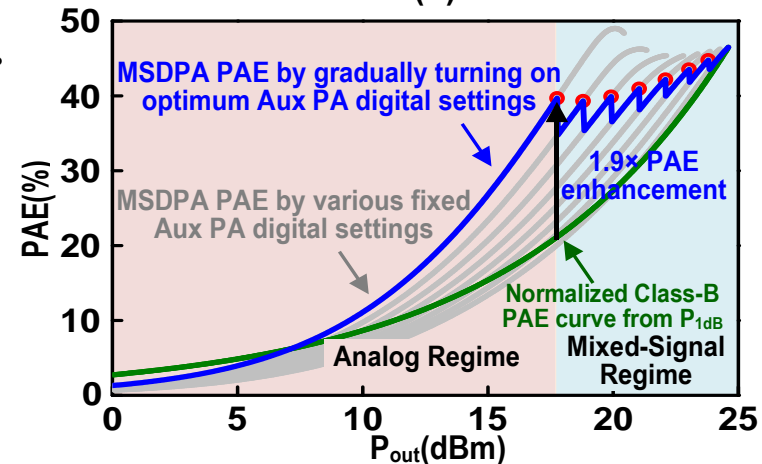
(a)



(b)



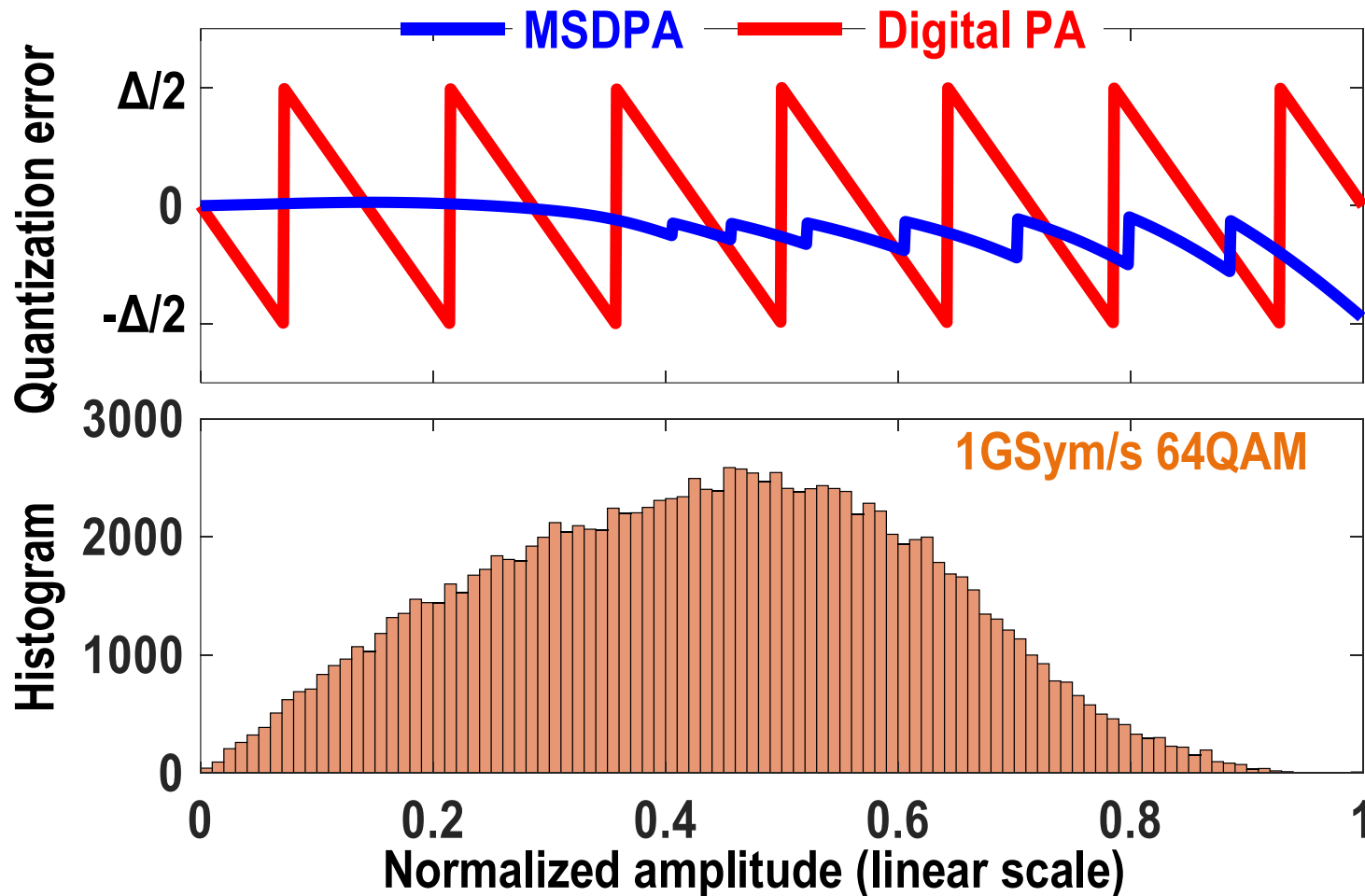
(c)



(d)

# Unique Advantages of Mixed-Signal Doherty PA

- Quantization Errors: Mixed-Signal Doherty PA vs. Digital PA (3-bits)



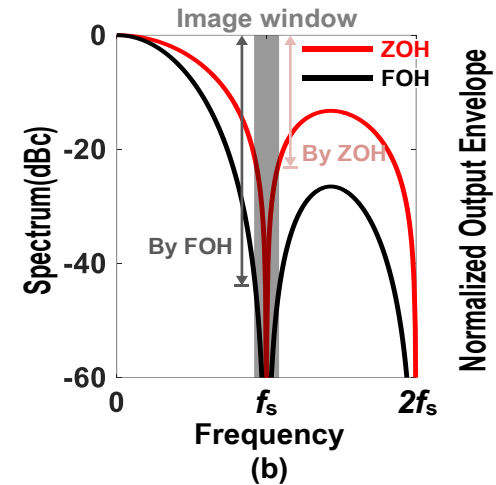
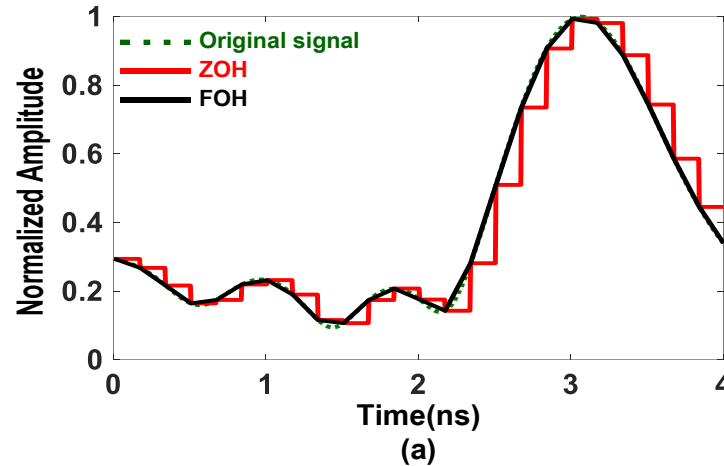
# Unique Advantages of Mixed-Signal Doherty PA

## • Signal Interpolation and Sampling Images

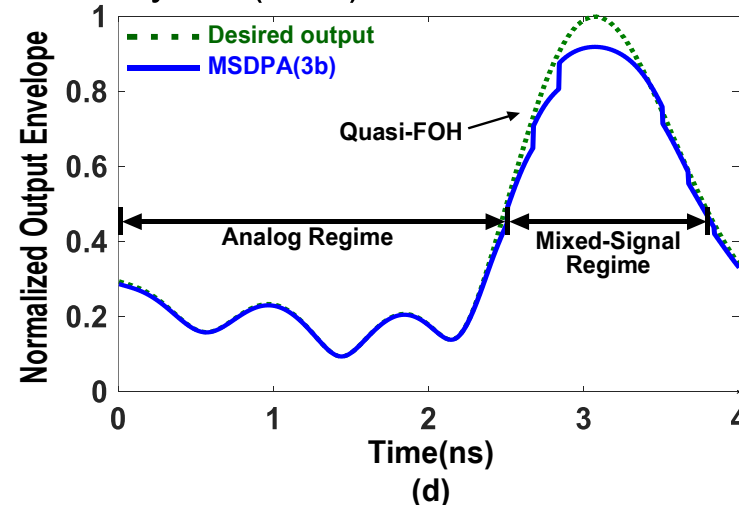
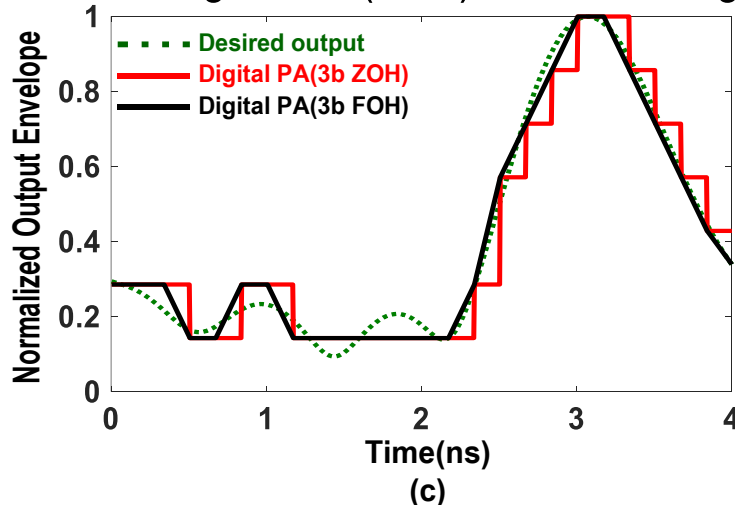
- Zeroth-Order-Hold (ZOH) vs. First-Order-Hold (FOH) systems

**Time domain:** Stair-case vs. Linear-interpolation

**Freq. domain:**  $|\text{Sinc}(f/f_s)|^2$  vs  $|\text{Sinc}(f/f_s)|^4$



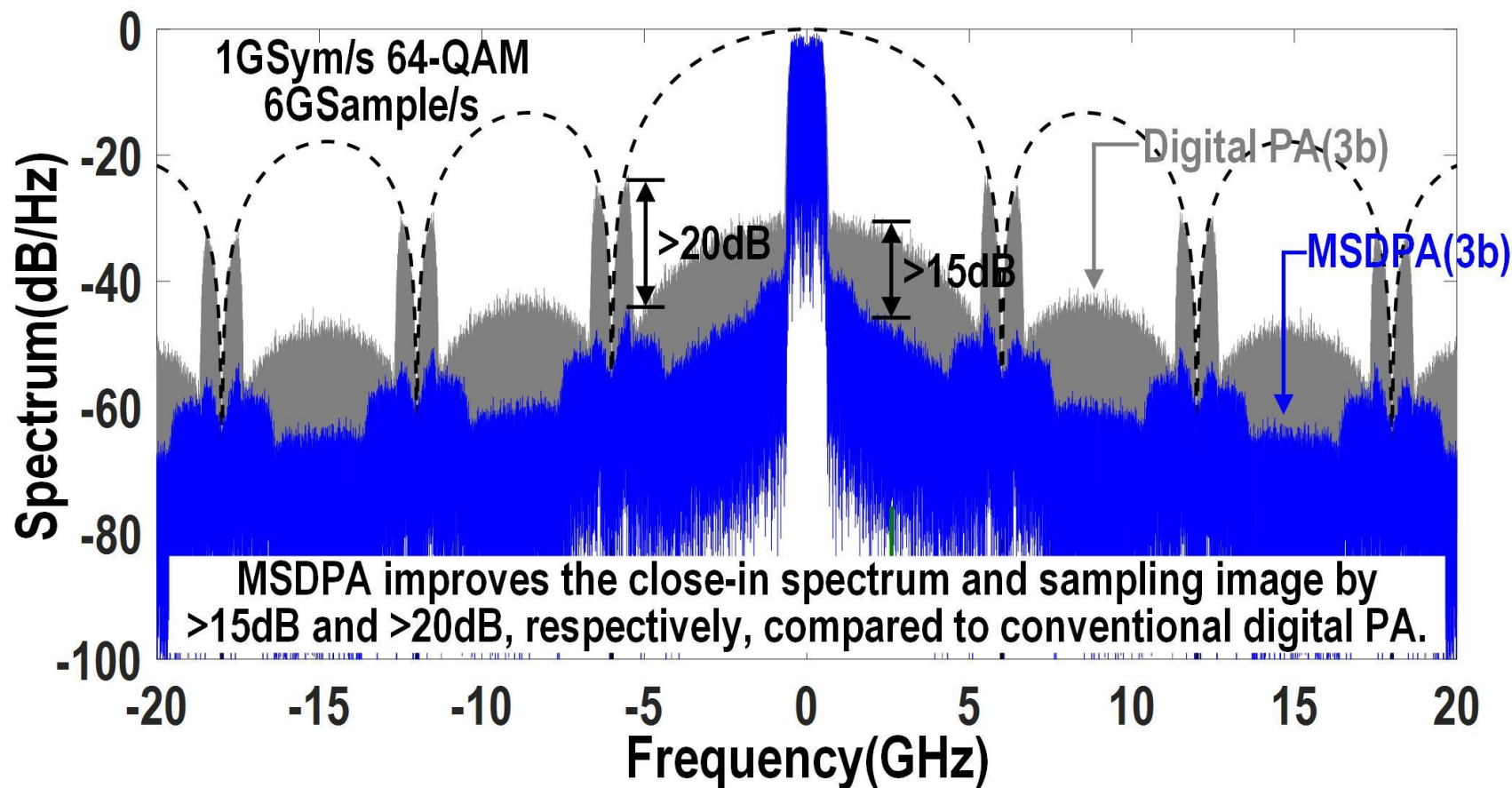
- Conventional digital PA (3-bit) vs. Mixed-signal Doherty PA (3-bit)



- F. Wang, T. Li, and H. Wang, *IEEE ISSCC* 2019.

# Unique Advantages of Mixed-Signal Doherty PA

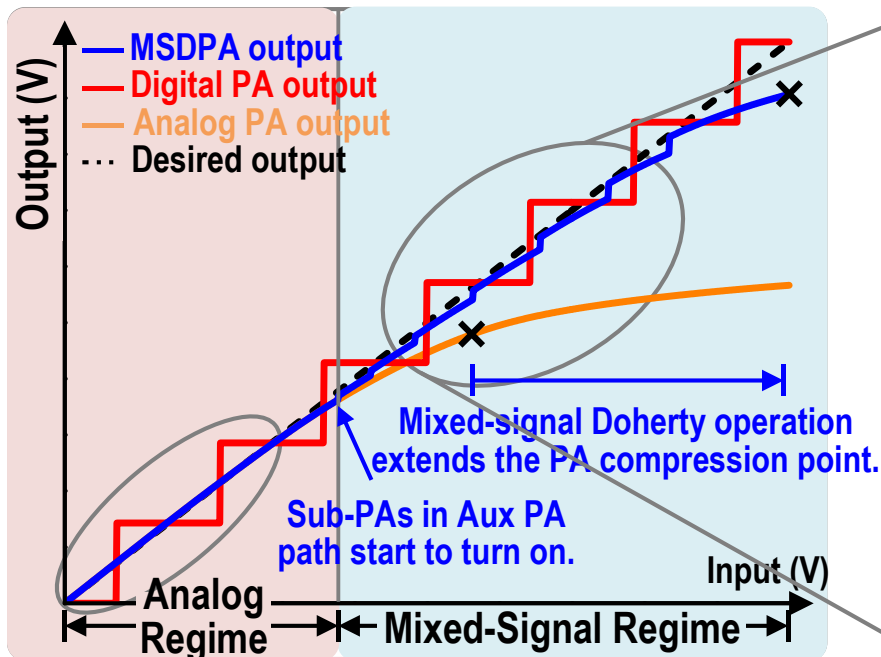
- Close-in spectrum and sampling images: Mixed-signal Doherty PA (3-bit) vs. Digital PA (3-bit)



- F. Wang, T. Li, and H. Wang, *IEEE ISSCC* 2019.

# Unique Advantages of Mixed-Signal Doherty PA

- “**Super Resolution**”: With the same number of bits, mixed-signal Doherty PA achieves superior linearity than conventional digital PA.



## Why Super Resolution?

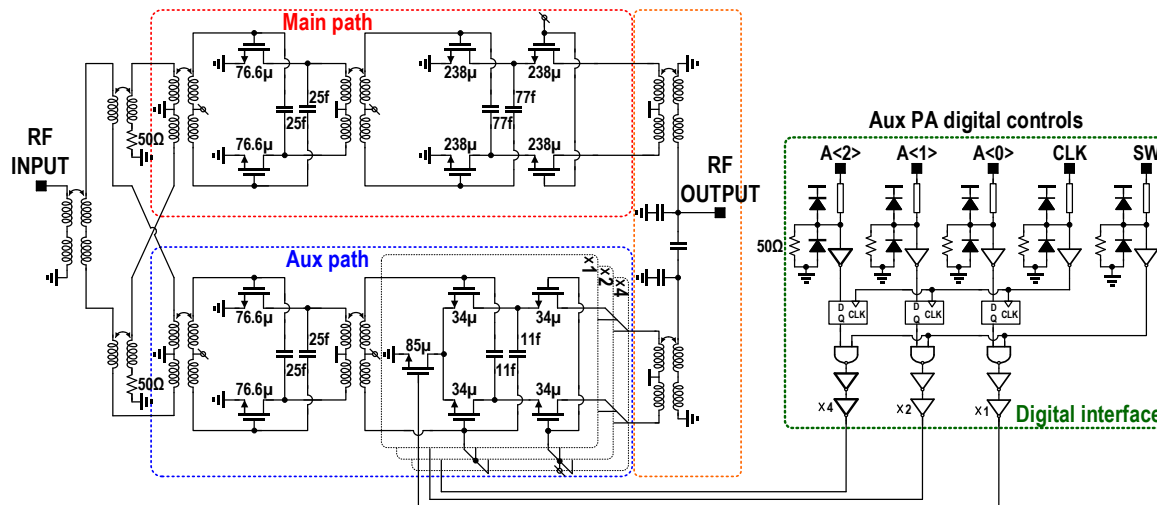
- (1) **Small input envelopes**: An analog PA with large dynamic range and no quantization error.
- (2) **Large input envelopes**: Output envelopes by both envelope-varying input and real-time Aux PA digital controls. **Quasi “First-Order Hold (FOH)”** → Much smaller quantization errors and sampling images
- (3) **Non-uniform quantization**

# Prototype Implementation

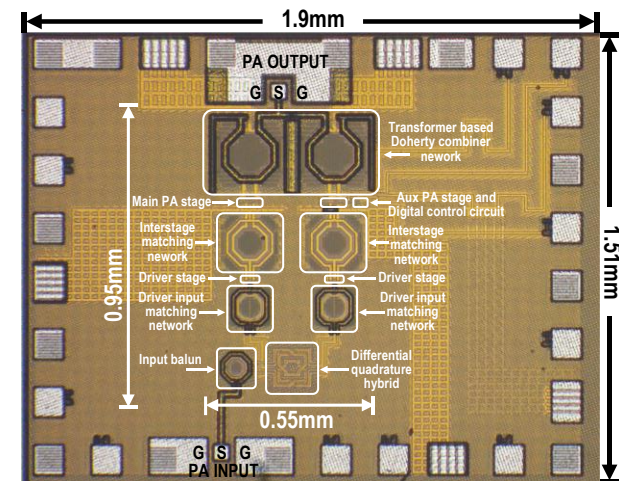
- 28GHz Mixed-Signal Doherty PA with only 3-bit Aux controls (ISSCC2019, ISSCC2017, JSSC2019)

Cascoded PA stage ( $476\mu\text{m}/40\text{nm}$ ) and  $V_{DD} = 2.0\text{ V}$

CS driver stage ( $153.2\mu\text{m}/40\text{nm}$ ) and  $V_{DD} = 1.0\text{ V}$

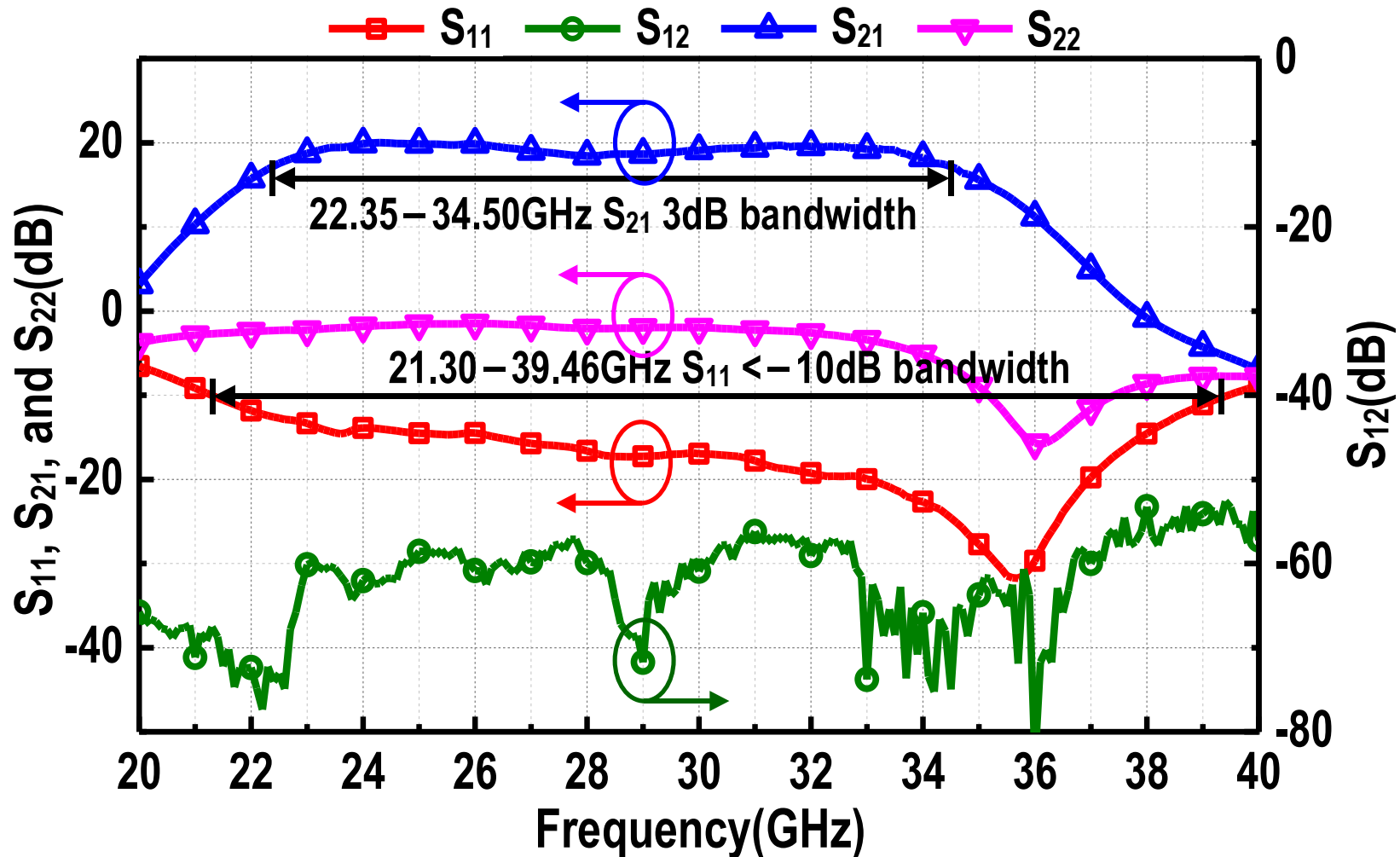


- Chip microphotograph  
45nm SOI CMOS process  
0.53mm<sup>2</sup> core area



# Experimental Results

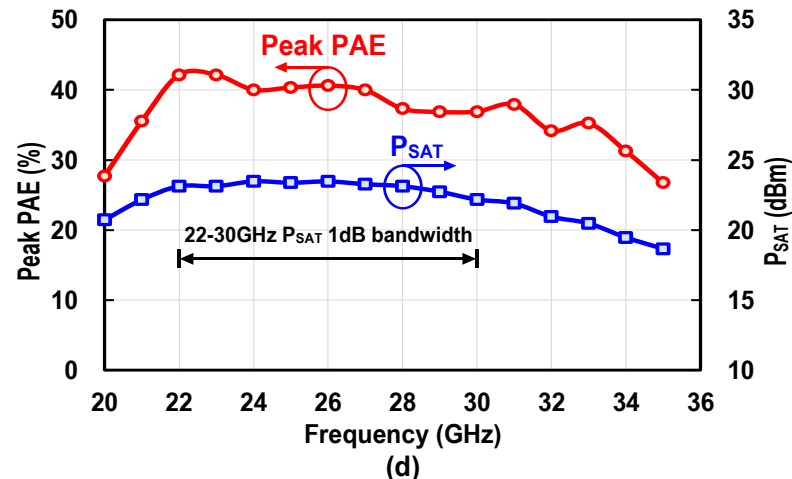
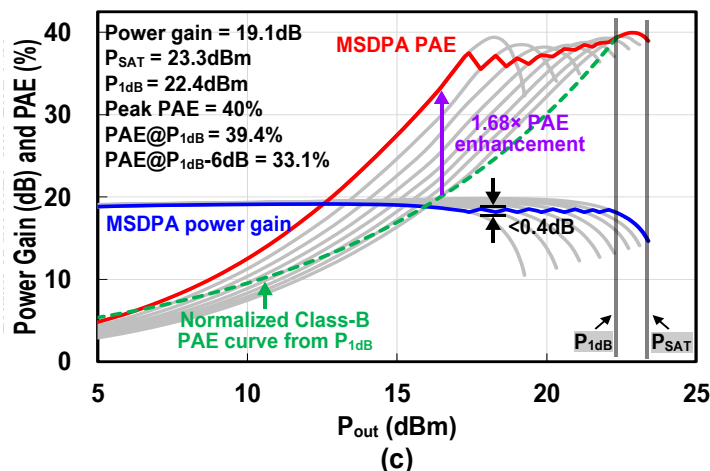
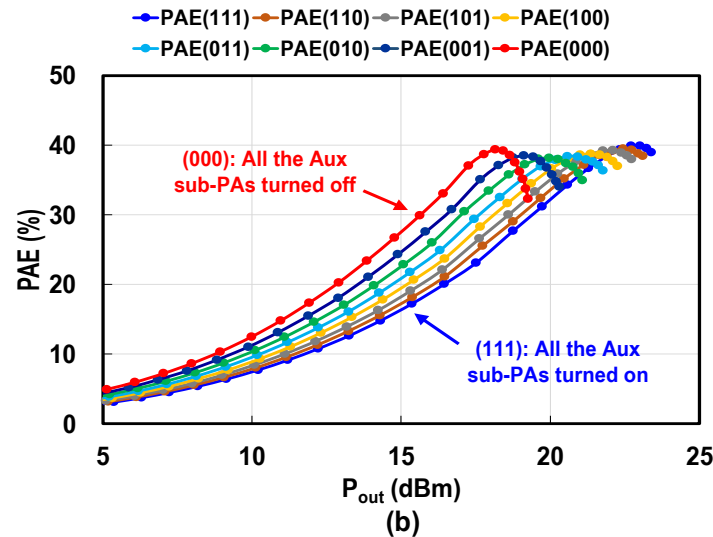
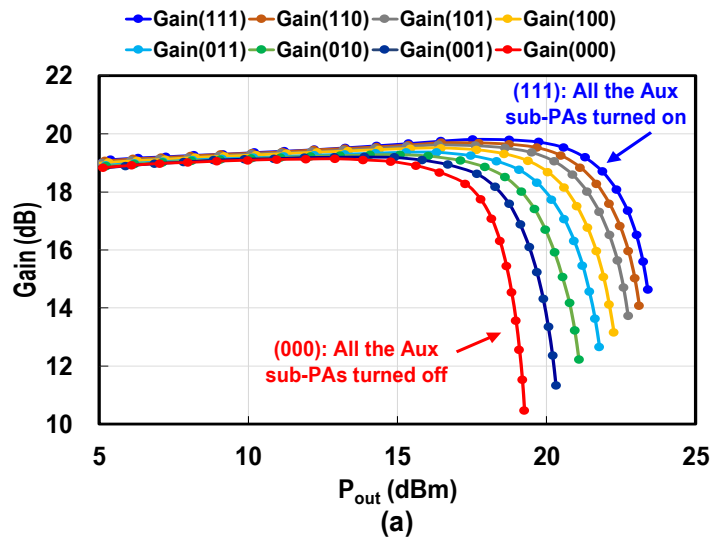
- Small-Signal CW Measurement





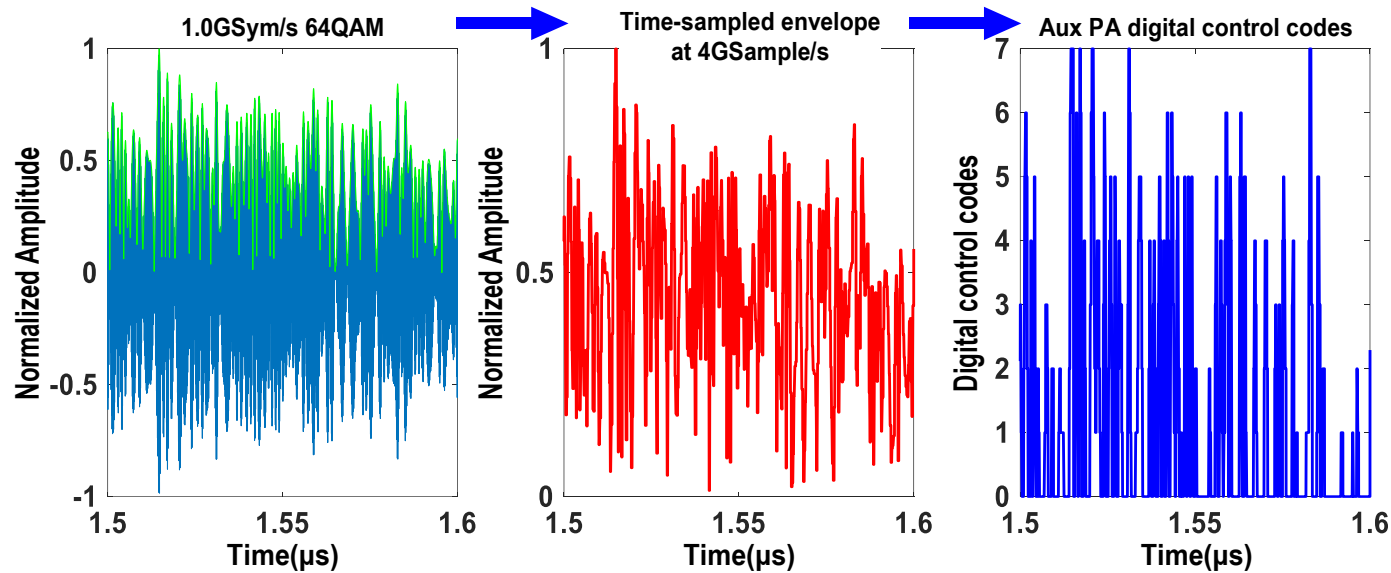
# Experimental Results

## Large-Signal CW Measurements at 28GHz

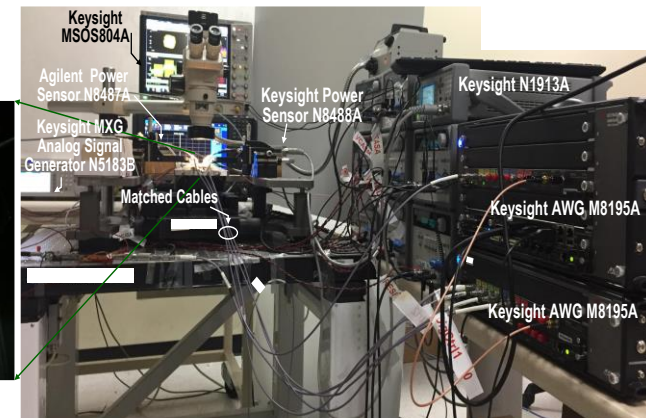
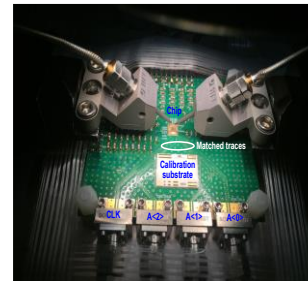
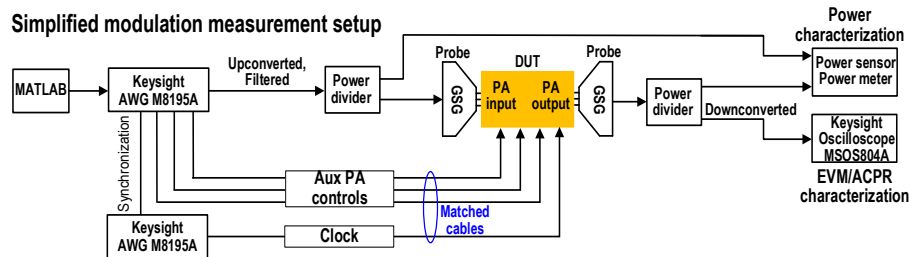


# Experimental Results

- Modulation measurement setup



Simplified modulation measurement setup



# Experimental Results

- **Modulation Measurements: EVM and ACPR**  
2.0GSym/s (12Gb/s) 64-QAM without predistortion

First demonstration of 64-QAM modulation with only 3-bit digital controls

$$P_{\text{avg}} = 15.6 \text{ dBm}$$

$$PAE_{\text{avg}} = 27.8\%$$

$$P_{\text{DC,digital}} = 9 \text{ mW}$$

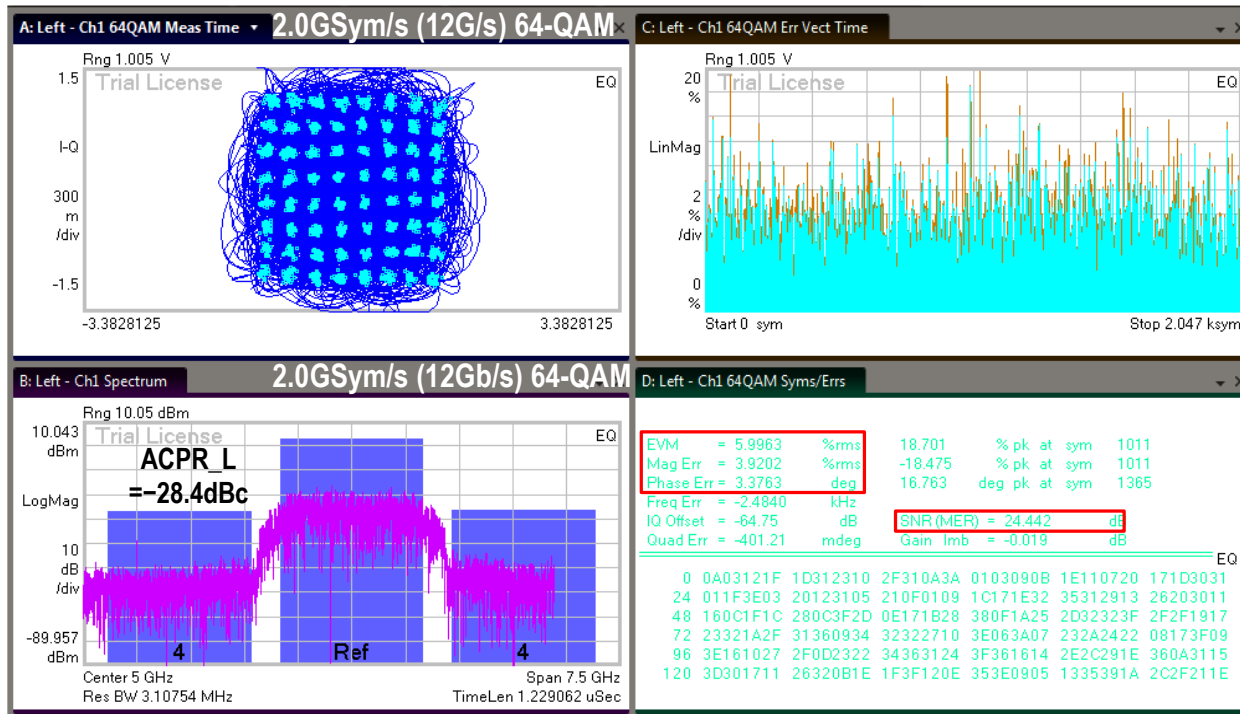
$$\text{rms EVM} = -24.4 \text{ dB}$$

$$\text{EVM} = 6.00 \% \text{rms}$$

$$\text{Mag Err} = 3.92 \% \text{rms}$$

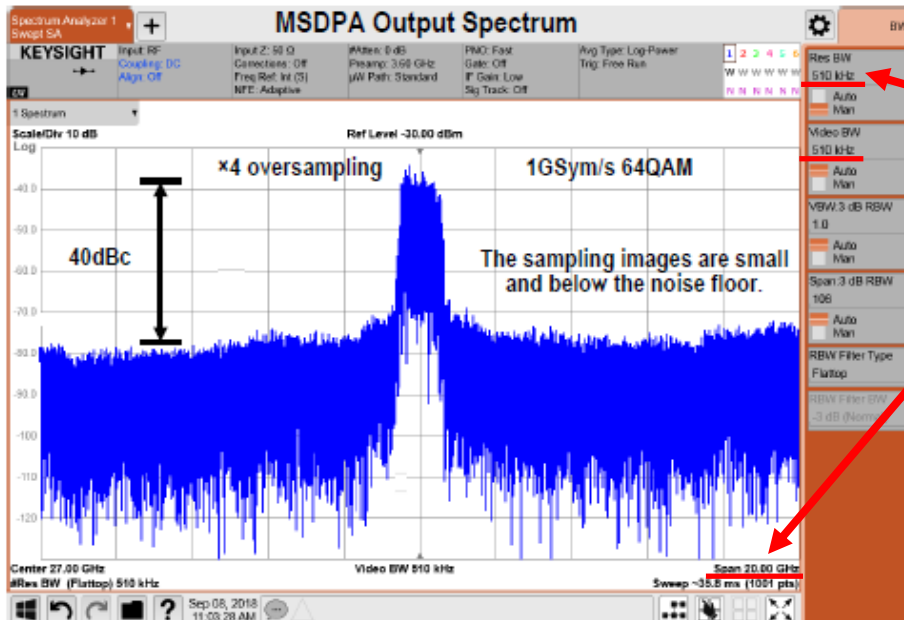
$$\text{Phase Err} = 3.38 \text{ deg}$$

$$\text{MER} = 24.4 \text{ dB}$$



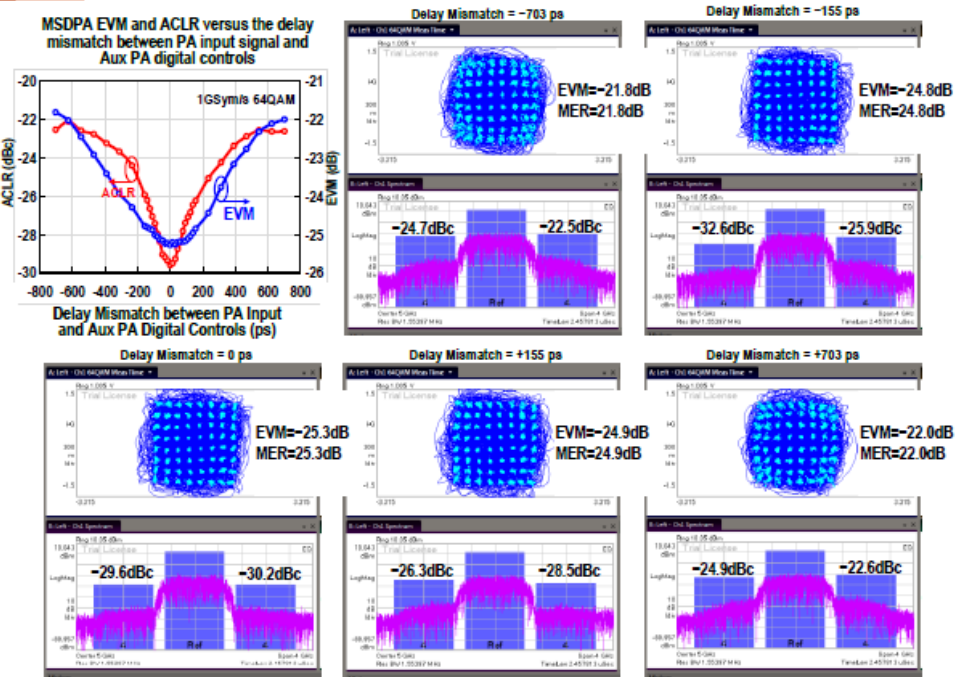
# Experimental Results

## Modulation Measurements: Out-of-Band Spurs and Delay Mismatch Effects



- 1G sym/s 64QAM with  $\times 4$  oversampling
- Resolution BW = 510 kHz
- Frequency Span = 20 GHz
- ~40dBc OOB floor without DPD
- No major sampling images observed

- 1G sym/s 64QAM with  $\times 4$  oversampling
- For delay mismatch (PA input vs. Aux. PA controls)  $< \pm 10\%$  symbol period ( $\pm 100\text{ps}$ ), rms  $\text{EVM} < -25\text{dB}$  and  $\text{ACLR} < -27\text{dBc}$
- ACLR is more sensitive than EVM for delay mismatches



# Outline

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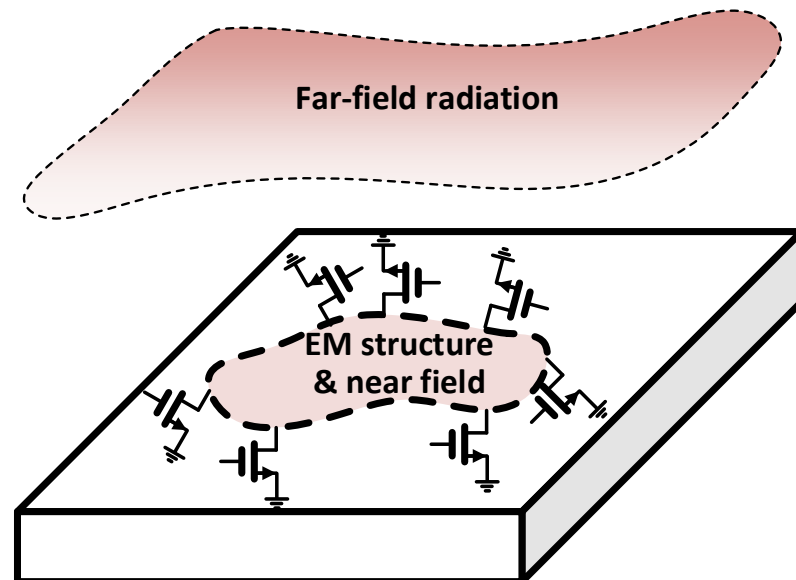
- Introduction
- State of the Art: Georgia Tech PA Survey (2000-present)
- Broadband Linear Efficient PAs
- **Antenna-PA Co-Designs: Multi-Feed Mm-Wave Radiators**
- Conclusion

# Merging Antennas with Electronics?

Can we synergistically merge antennas/EMs together with active circuits?

- **Novel hybrid antenna-electronics with “On-Radiator” functions**

- (1) Power Combining/Splitting
- (2) Impedance Scaling and Filtering
- (3) Active Load Modulation
- (4) Reconfigurability

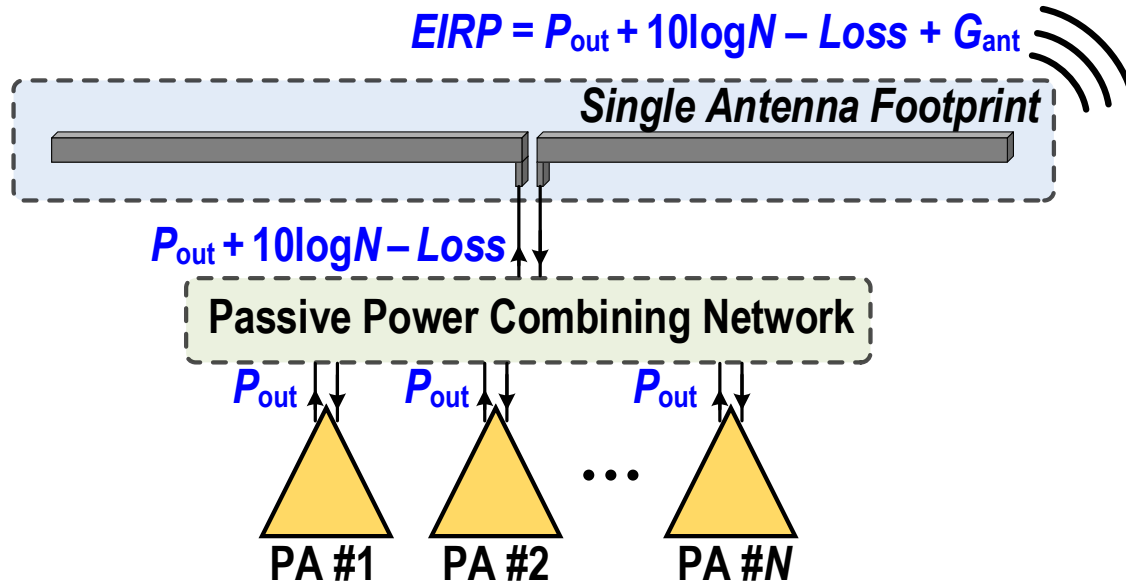


- R. King and T. Wu, “The Cylindrical Antenna with Arbitrary Driving Point,” *IEEE T-AP*, Sept. 1965.
- S. Bowers, A. Hajimiri, “Multi-Port Driven Radiators,” *IEEE T-MTT*, Dec. 2013.
- H. Wang, T. Chi, H. Nguyen, S. Li, J. Park, *et al.*, *IEEE APS/URSI 2016*, *T-AP 2017*, *ISSCC 2017*, *ISSCC 2018*, *RFIC 2018*.

# Multi-Feed Radiator for Direct On-Antenna Power Combining

- Conventional power combining technique I

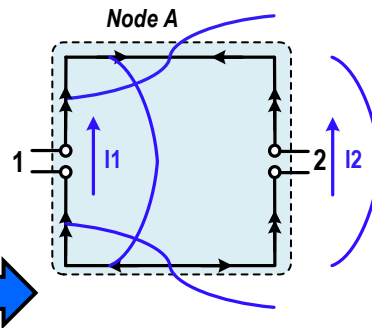
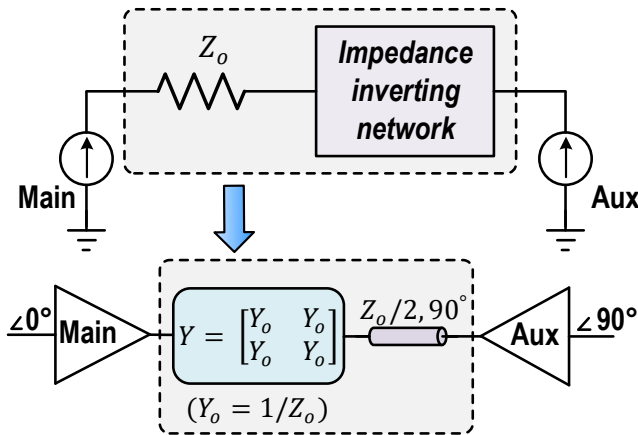
## Passive on-chip/on-package combining networks



- ✗ • Lossy passive combiner degrades efficiency, especially with large number of power devices and high impedance-transformation ratio

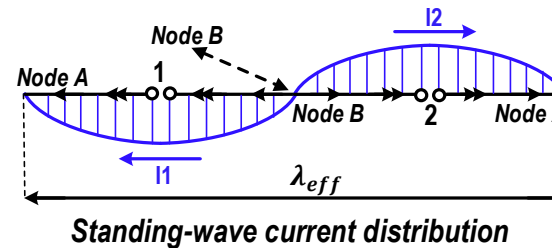
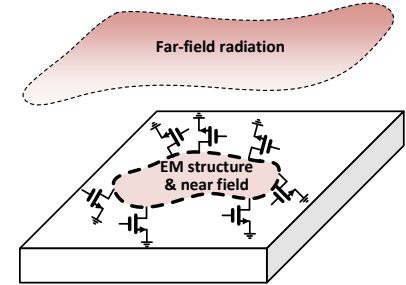
# Dual-Feed Mm-Wave Doherty Radiator

## Series Doherty Architecture



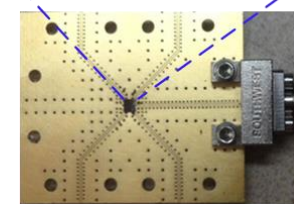
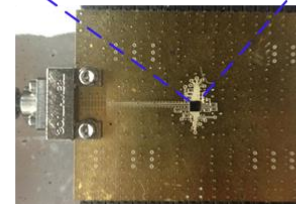
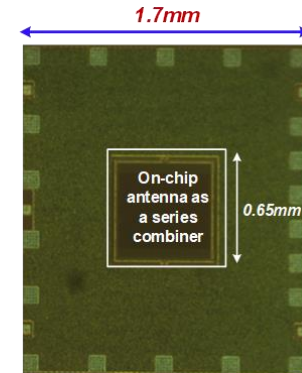
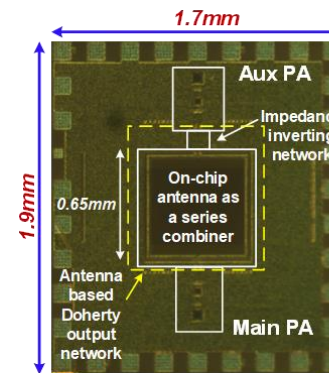
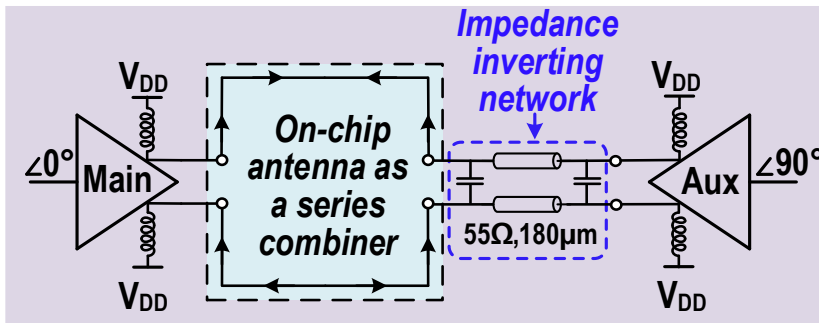
$$Y = \begin{bmatrix} Y_o & Y_o \\ Y_o & Y_o \end{bmatrix}$$

where  $Y_o = 1/Z_{rad}$



Dual-feed loop antenna =  
**Radiator + Differential series combiner**

## On-Antenna Doherty Radiator



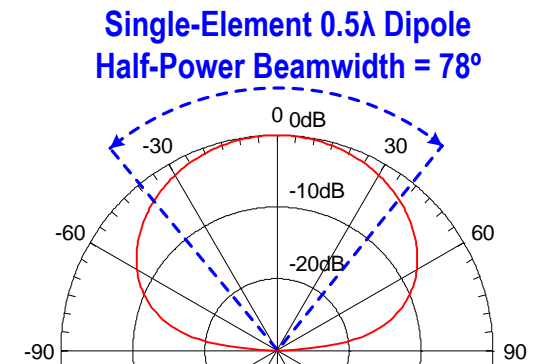
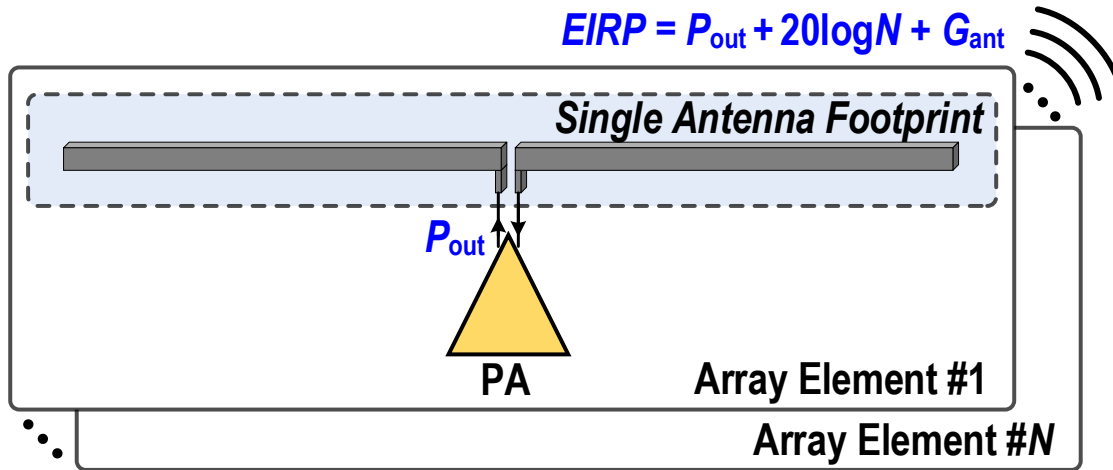
• H. T. Nguyen, T. Chi, S. Li, H. Wang, *IEEE ISSCC 2018 and IEEE JSSC 2018*.



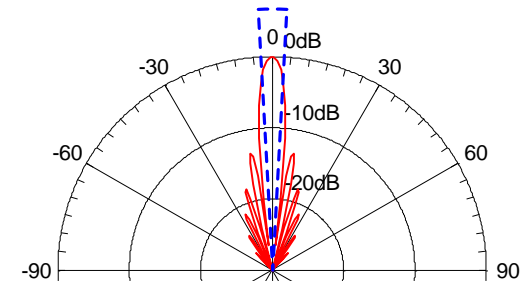
# Multi-Feed Radiator for Direct On-Antenna Power Combining

- Conventional power combining technique II

## Spatial power combining by large-scale antenna arrays



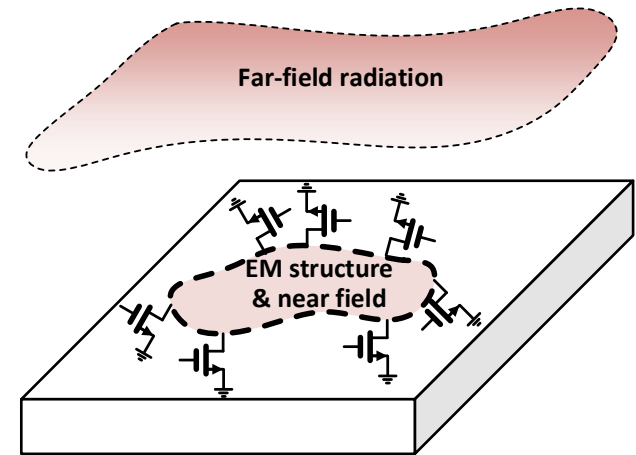
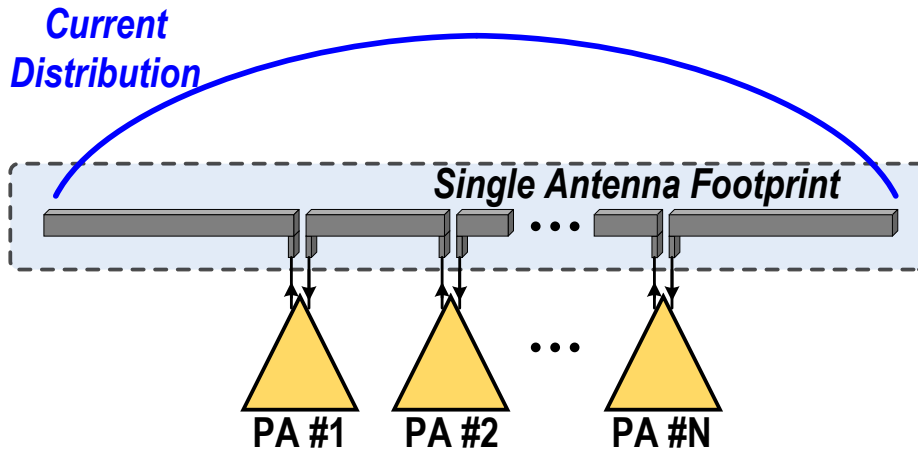
16-Element  $0.5\lambda$  Dipole Array  
Half-Power Beamwidth =  $6^\circ$



- ✓ • Ideally lossless and  $20\log N$  EIRP enhancement
- ✗ • Large antenna panel size
- ✗ • Narrow antenna beamwidth  $\rightarrow$  complicates Tx/Rx alignment for dynamic and mobile applications

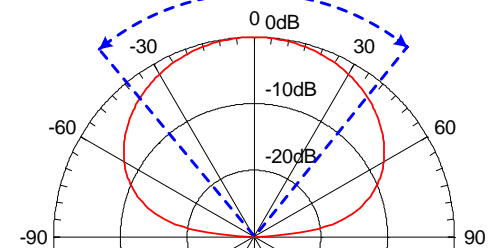
# Multi-Feed Radiator for Direct On-Antenna Power Combining

- Multifeed antenna (MFA) driven by multiple power amplifiers



- ✓ • Power combining direct on antenna → boost output power
- ✓ • Simplify impedance transformation → increase efficiency
- ✓ • Single antenna footprint → maintain field of view
- ✓ • Employed in an array → further increase EIRP or beam-steering

Single-Element  $0.5\lambda$  Dipole  
Half-Power Beamwidth =  $78^\circ$

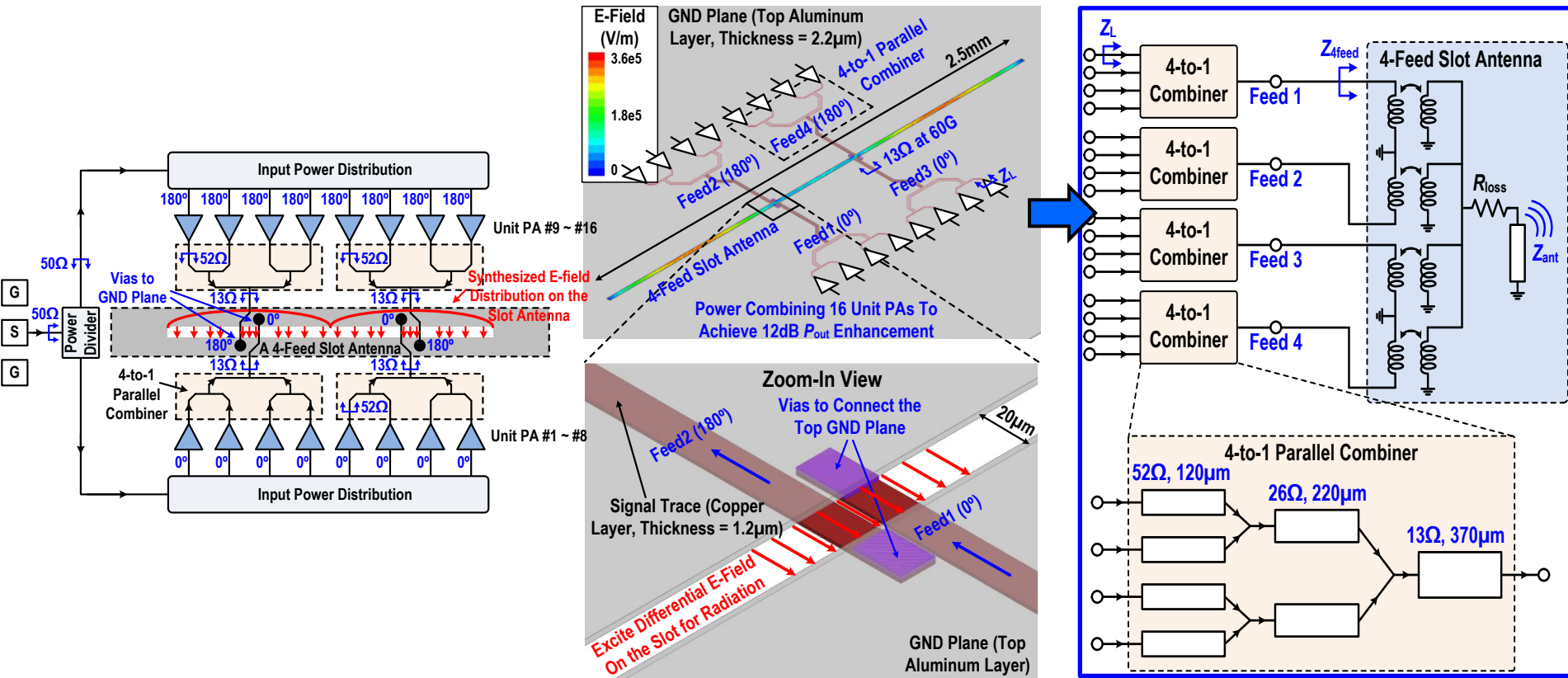


• T. Chi *et al.*, AP-S 2016, T-AP 2017, ISSCC 2017, IMS 2018]

# 60GHz On-Chip Linear Radiator

- Linear radiator (antenna + 16 PAs) at 60GHz in 45nm CMOS SOI

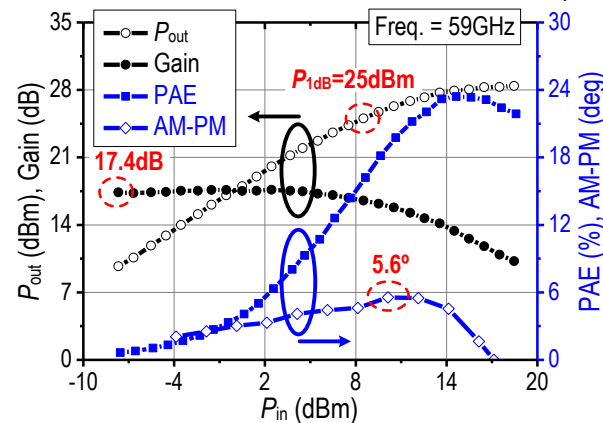
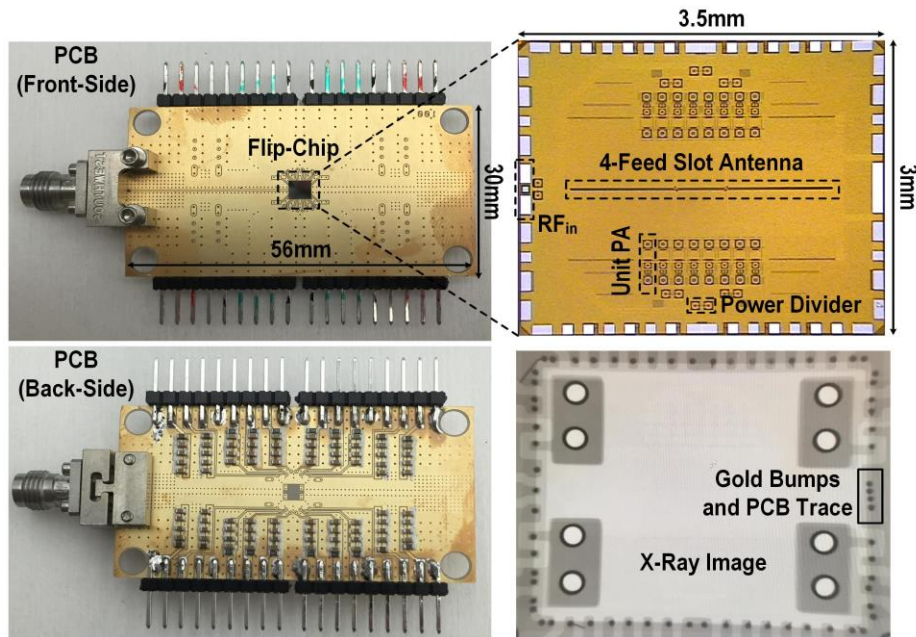
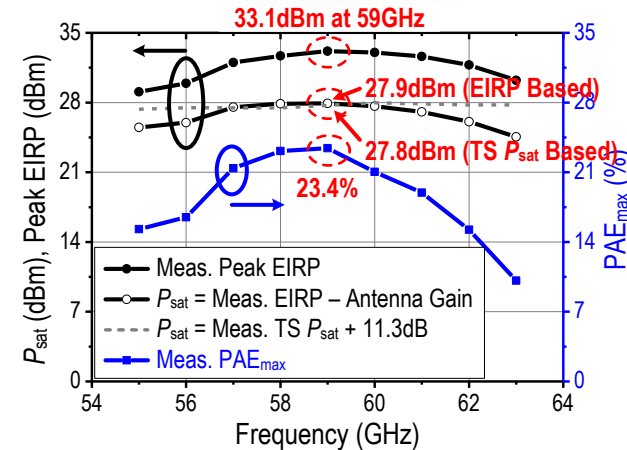
## “On-Antenna” Close-to-Ideal Parallel Combiner



• T. Chi *et al.*, ISSCC, Feb. 2017.

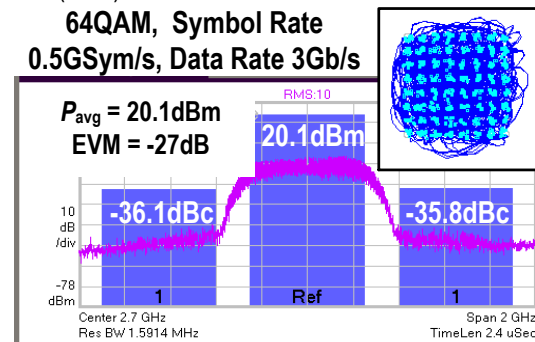
# 60GHz On-Chip Linear Radiator

- Linear radiator (antenna + 16 PAs) at 60GHz in 45nm CMOS SOI **Highest reported output power + efficiency**



**High linearity**

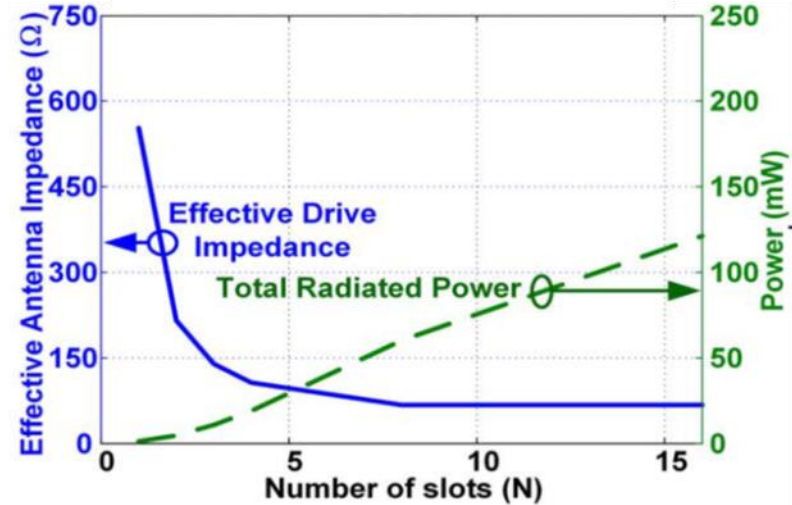
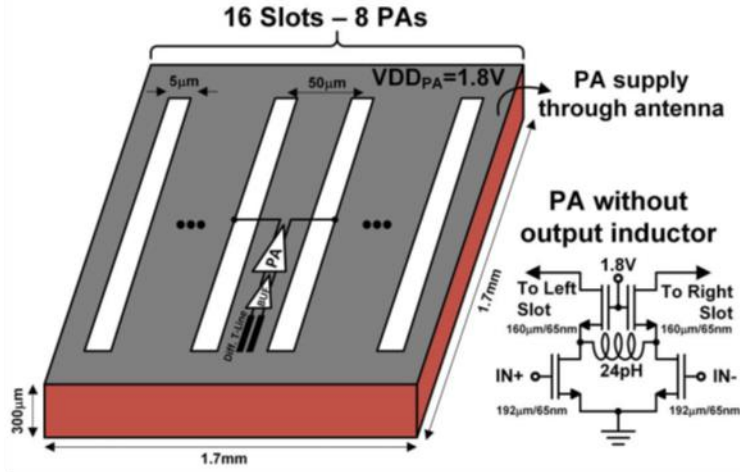
**High-speed complex modulation**



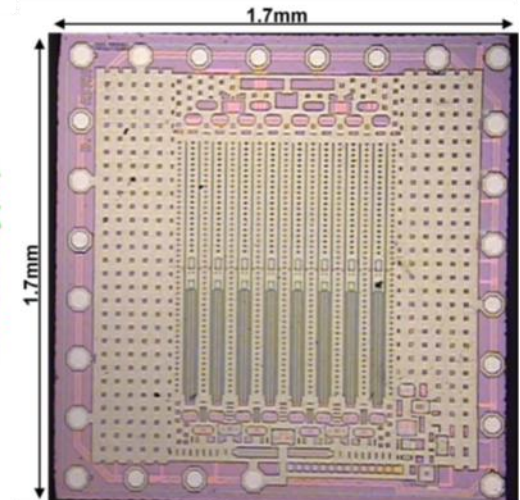
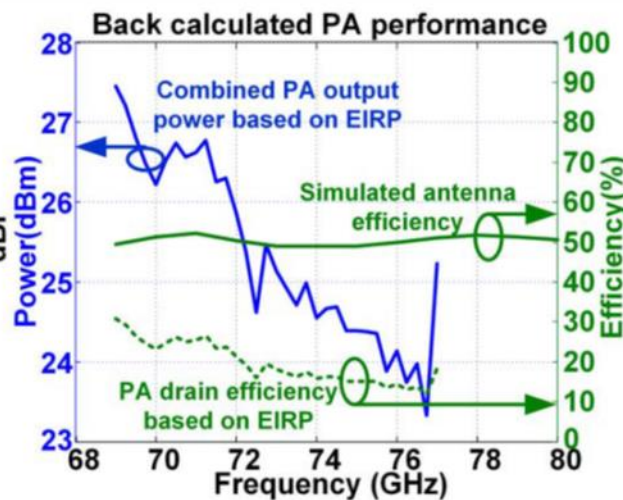
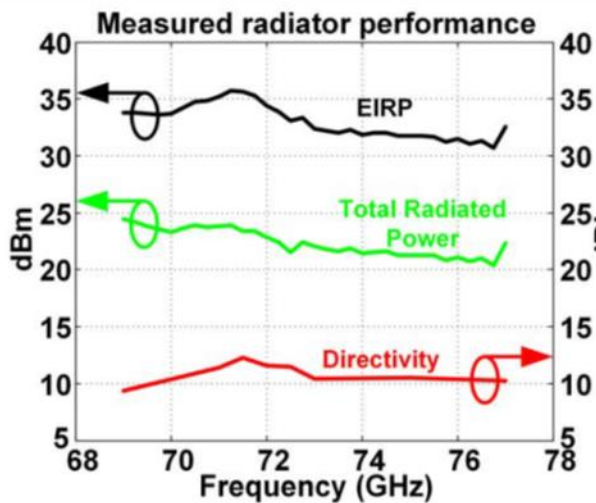
- T. Chi *et al.*, ISSCC, Feb. 2017.

# Direct On-Antenna Power Combining

- A 69-79GHz CMOS multi-port radiator with +35.7dBm CW EIRP



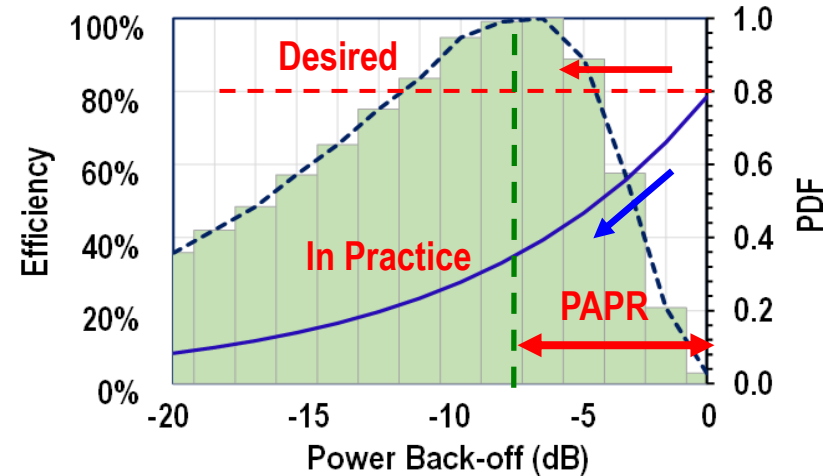
• B. Abiri, A. Hajimiri, *IEEE ISSCC 2018*.



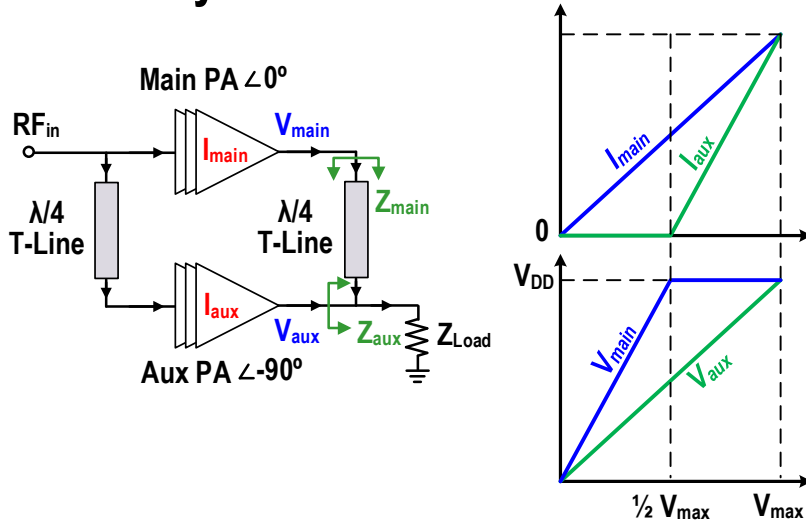
# Multi-Feed Radiator for Direct On-Antenna Active Load Modulation

- Advanced “on-antenna” active load modulation transmitters?

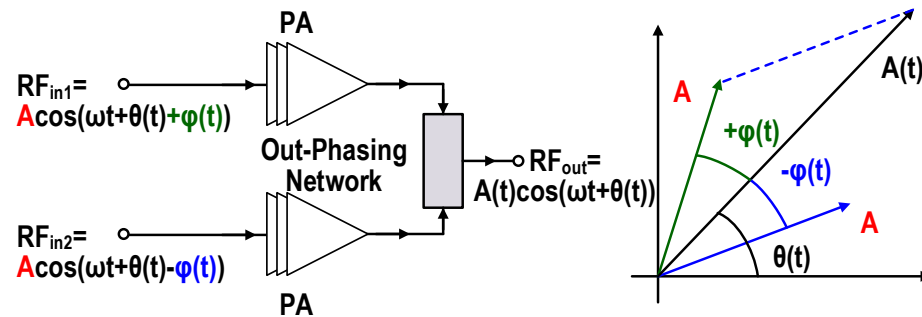
→ TX system back-off efficiency



## • Doherty Linear TX Architecture



## • Outphasing Nonlinear TX Architecture



- B. Kim, et al., *IEEE Microwave Magazine*, Oct. 2006.
- S. Hu and H. Wang, *IEEE ISSCC*, 2017.

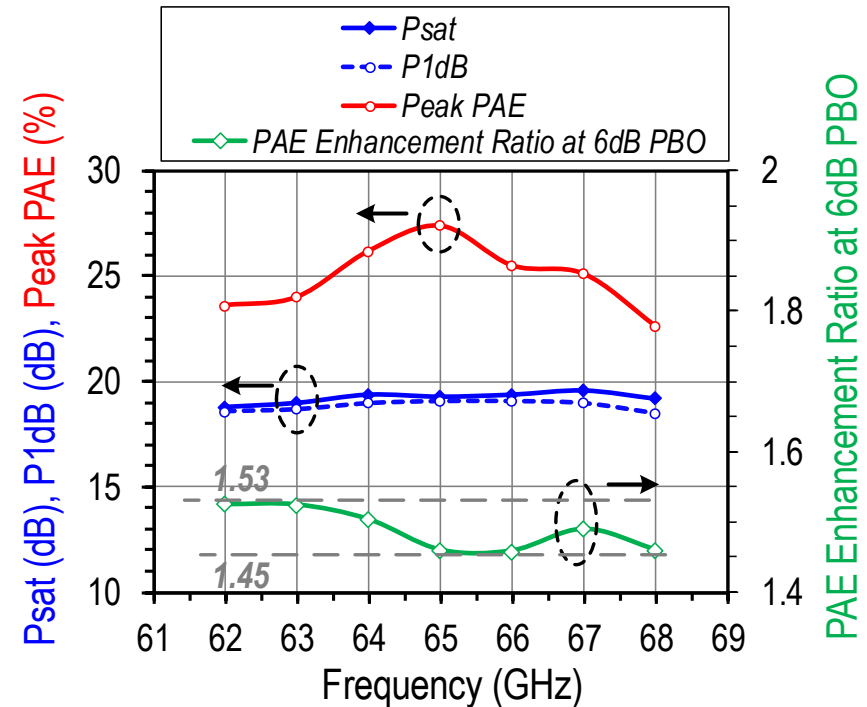
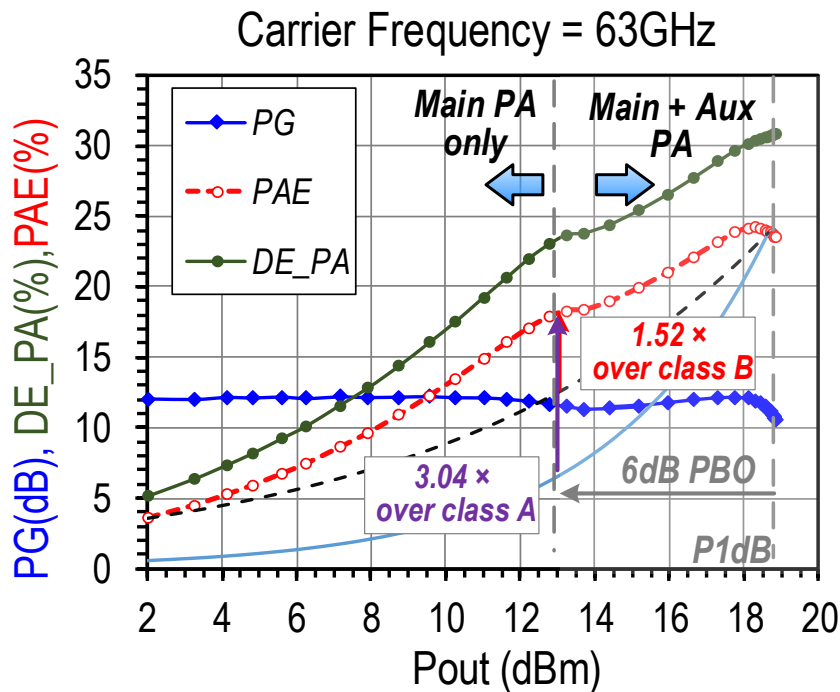
- Hongtao Xu, et al., *IEEE J. Solid-State Circuits*, May 2011.
- T. Barton, et al., *IEEE T-MTT*, Apr. 2016.

# 60GHz Doherty Radiator

## • CW measurement

- At 63GHz, +18.8 dBm  $P_{1dB}$ , 24% PAE  $_{0dB}$  PBO and 18.3% PAE  $_{6dB}$  PBO
- 1.52 × PAE enhancement over class-B at 6dB PBO

- 1.45-1.53 × PAE enhancement over class-B at 6dB PBO



• H. T. Nguyen, T. Chi, S. Li, H. Wang, *IEEE ISSCC 2018 and IEEE JSSC 2018*.

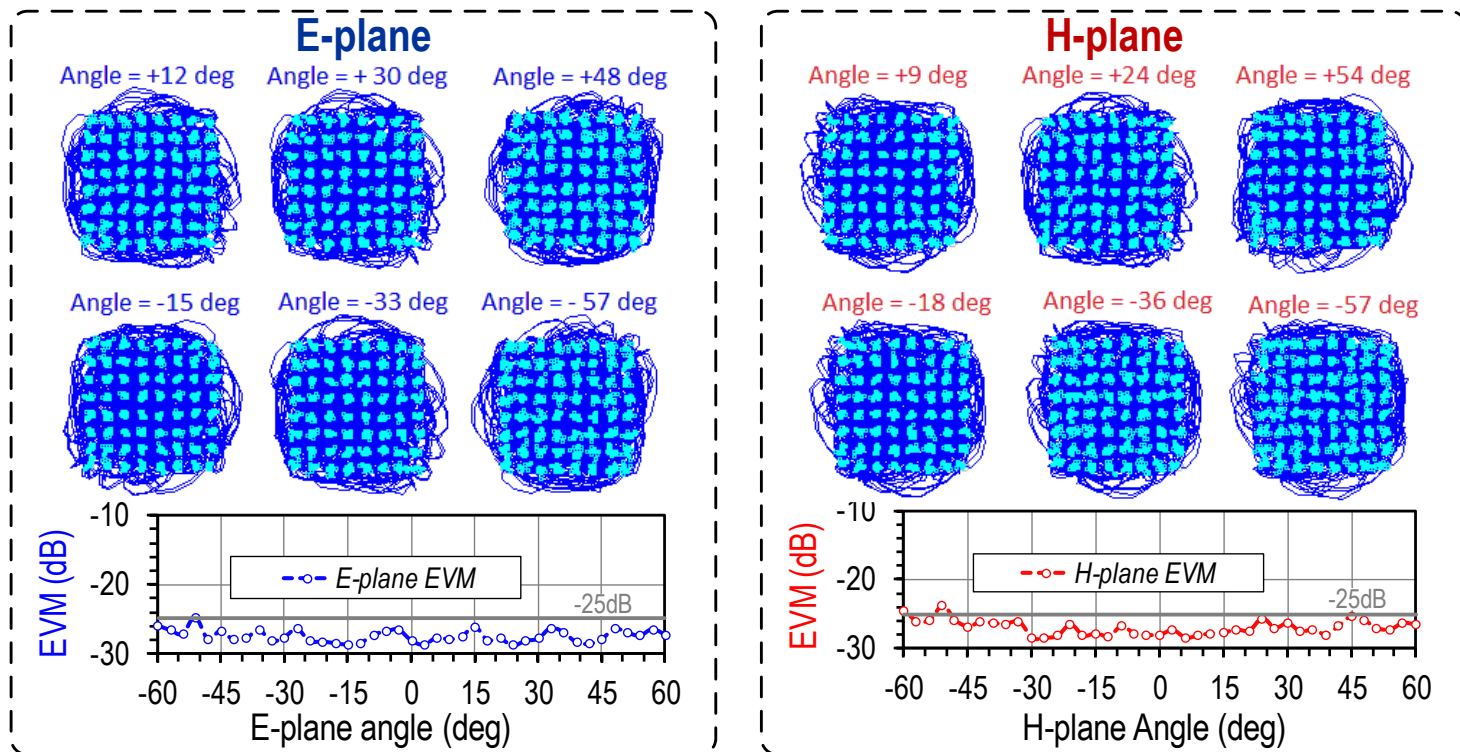
# 60GHz Doherty Radiator

- **Modulation measurement**

The Doherty radiator combines the power on the antenna before radiation

→ Maintaining constellation over the *entire antenna FoV*

**Undistorted modulation (in both E-plane and H-plane) over full FoV**

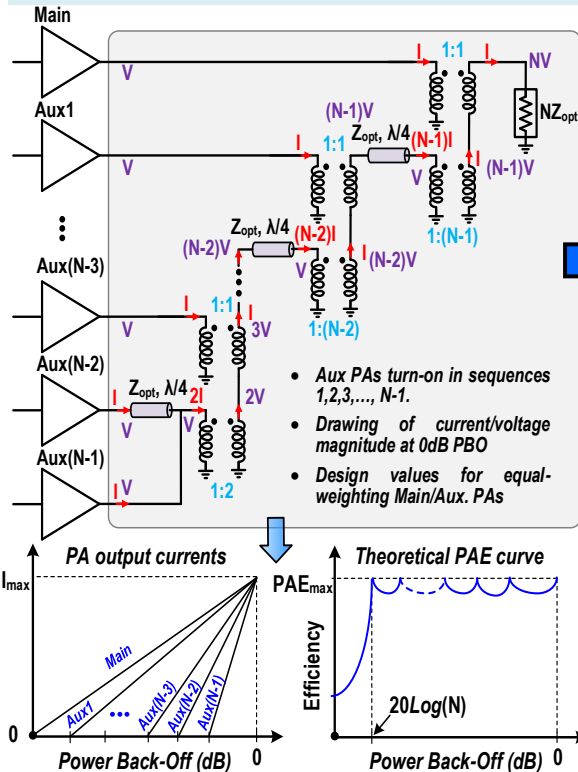




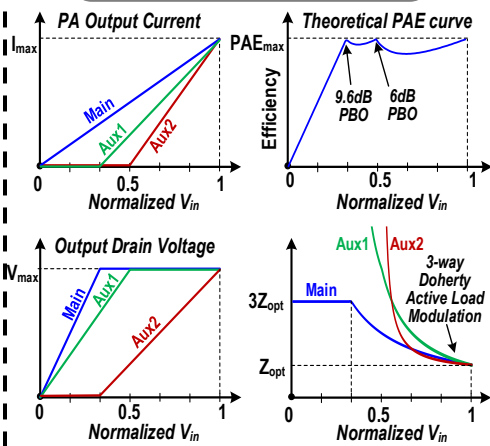
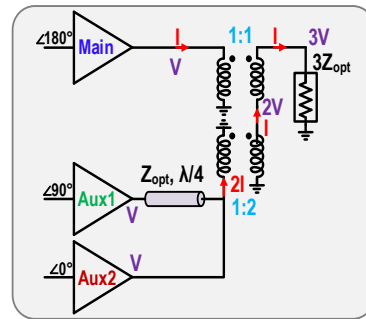
# Multi-Antenna Coupling for N-Way Mm-Wave High-Order Doherty Radiator

- Realizing *general N-Way Doherty TX* on radiator

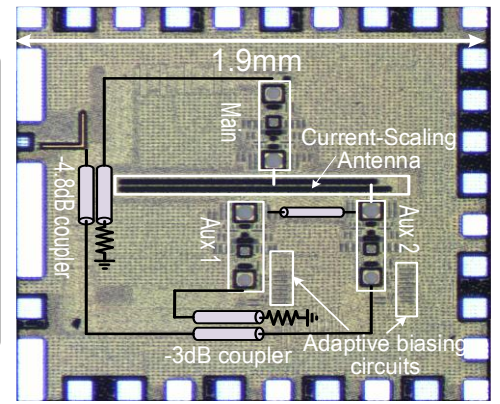
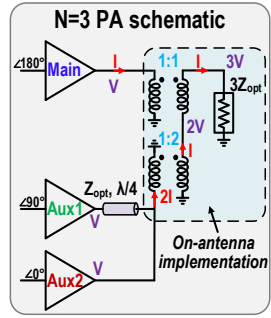
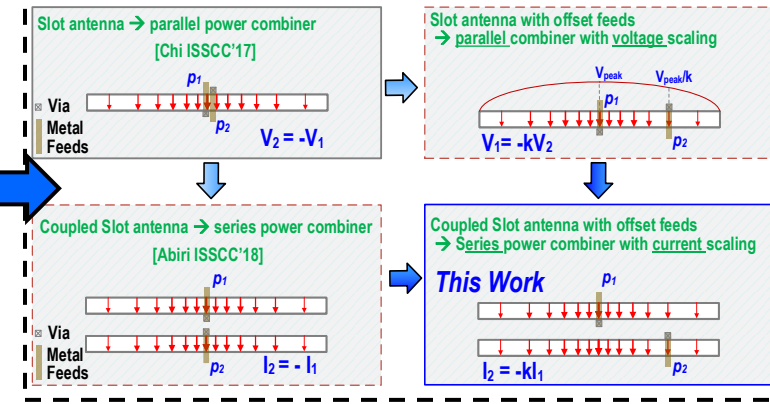
Proposed General N-way Doherty PA architecture



Example 3-way Doherty PA Architecture



Proposed Antenna-Based Current-Scaling Network

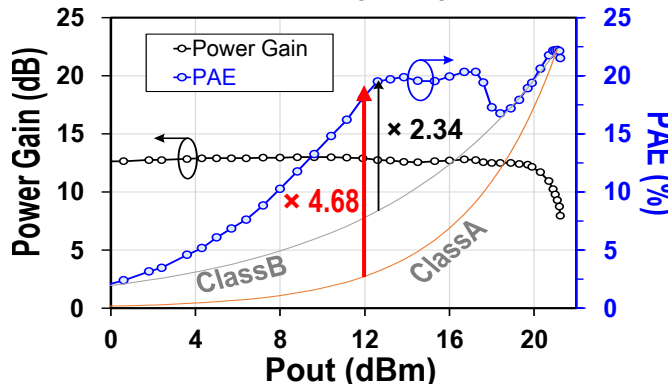
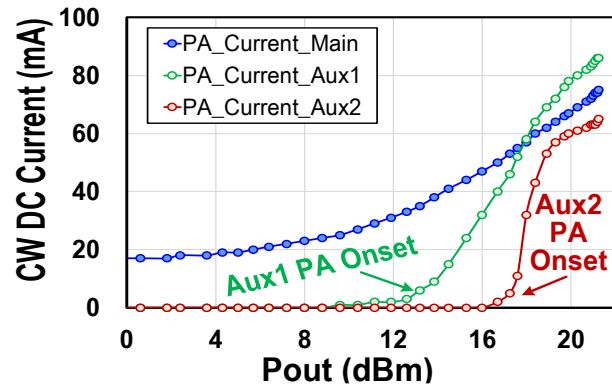


- H. T. Nguyen and H. Wang, *IEEE ISSCC 2019*.

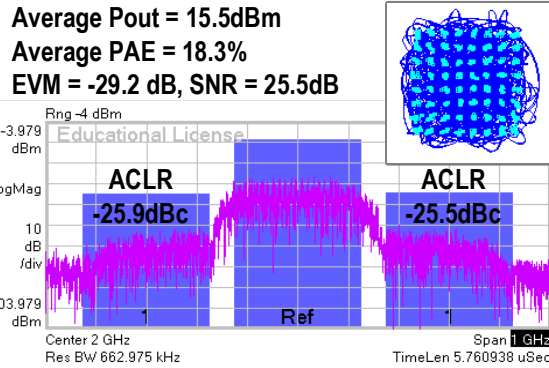
# Multi-Antenna Coupling for N-Way Mm-Wave High-Order Doherty Radiator

## • Measurements

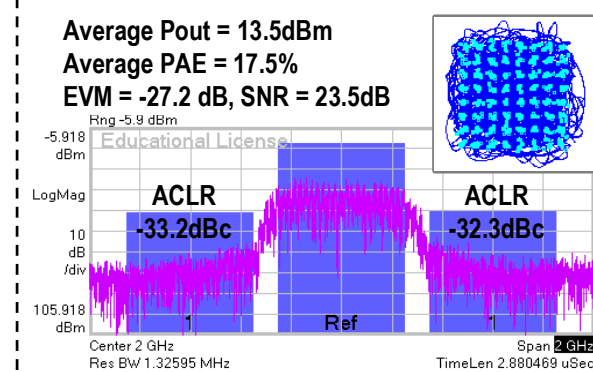
3-way Doherty Radiator CW Performance



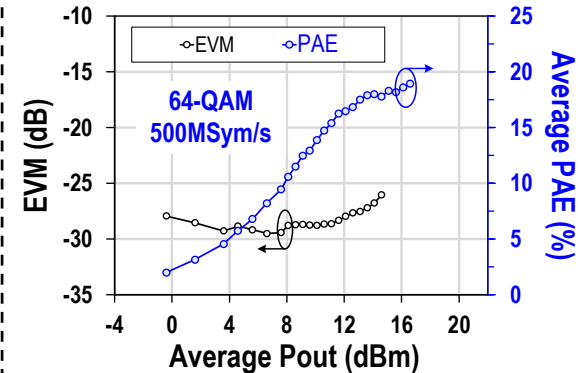
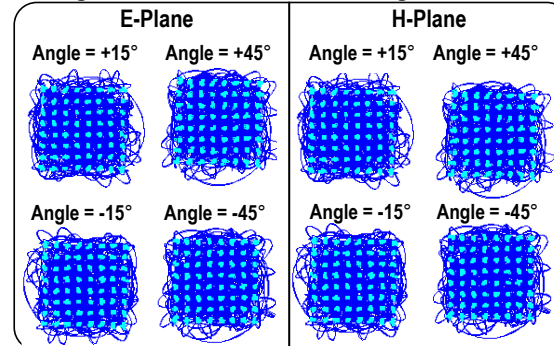
64-QAM 250MSym/s 1.5Gbit/s



64-QAM 500MSym/s 3Gbit/s

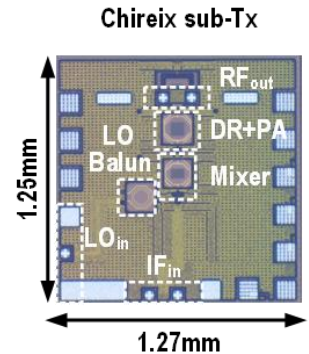
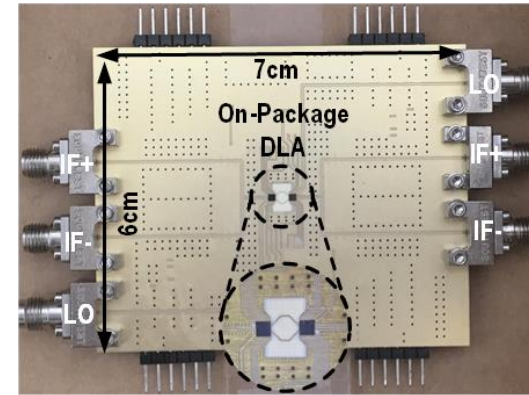
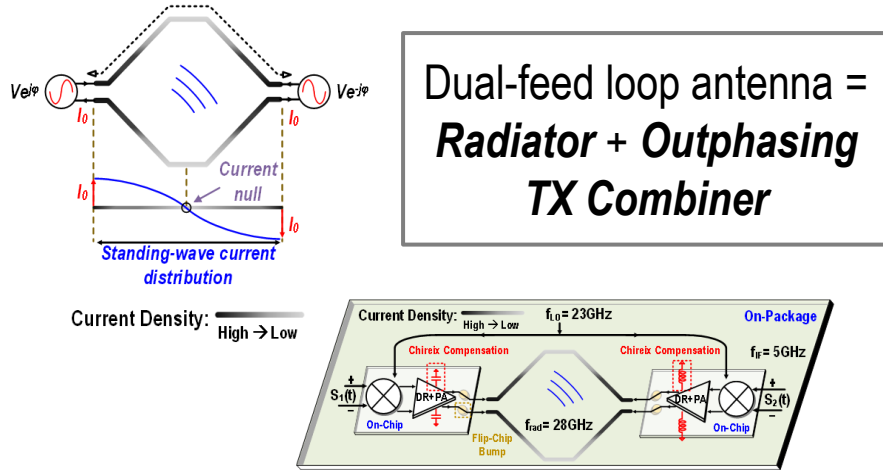


Average Pout = 12.8dBm , Average PAE = 17.5%



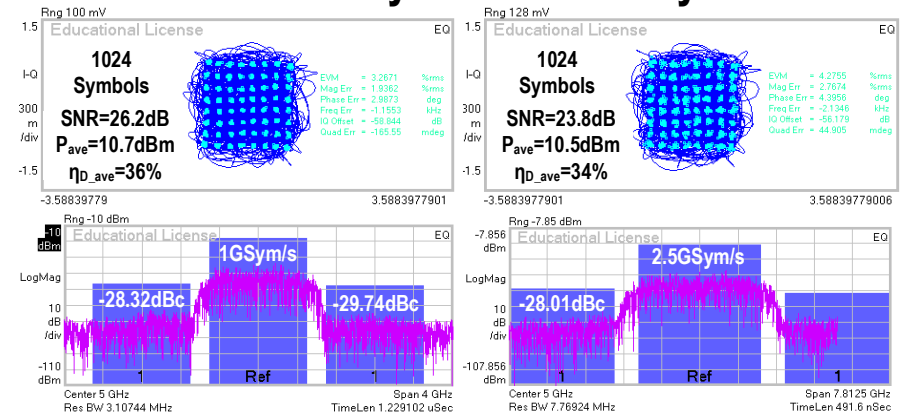
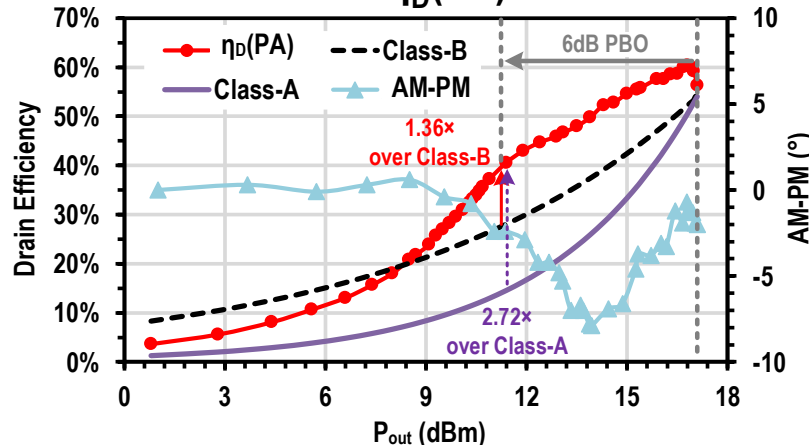
# Multi-Feed Antenna for Nonlinear Chireix Outphasing Mm-Wave Transmitter

- Realizing high-efficiency *Chireix Outphasing TX* on radiator



## 64-QAM 1Gsymb/s and 2.5Gsymb/s

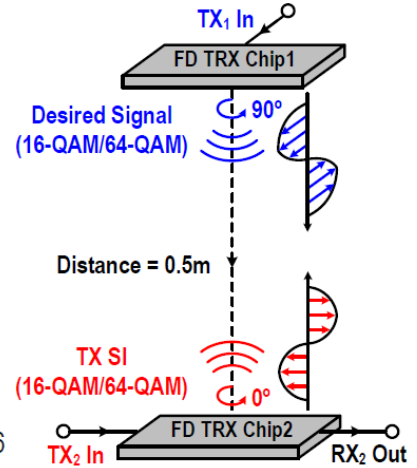
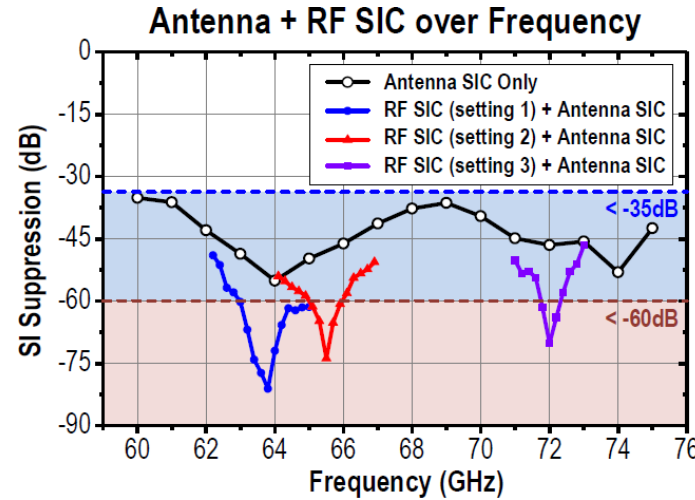
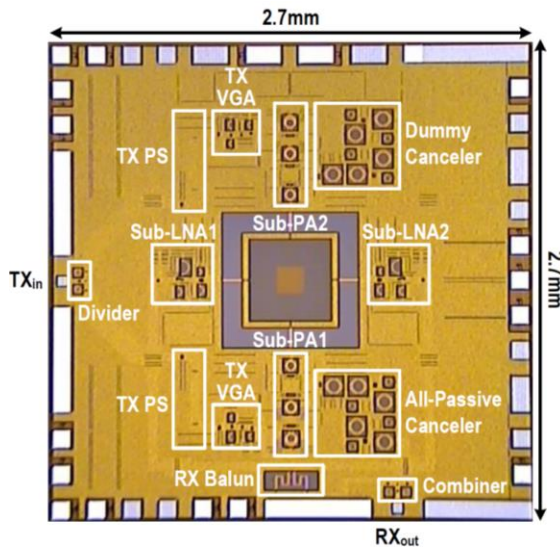
@ 28GHz  $P_{sat}$   $\eta_D(PA) = 56\%$ ,  
6dB PBO  $\eta_D(PA) = 38\%$



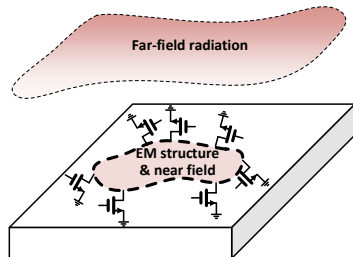
• S. Li, T. Chi, T. Huang, H. Nguyen, and H. Wang, *IEEE RFIC 2018 and JSSC 2019. – RFIC Best Student Paper Award*

# World-First Mm-Wave Polarization-Duplex TRX + Chip-to-Chip Demonstration

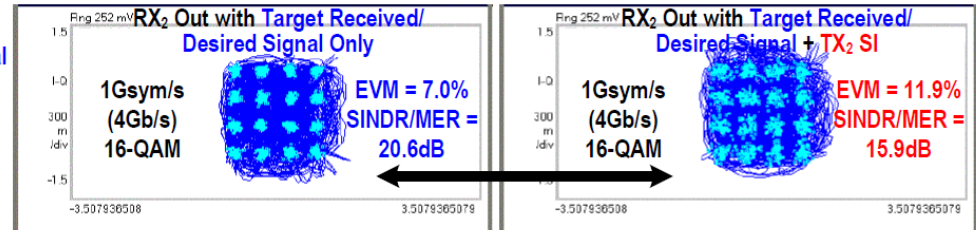
GEMS



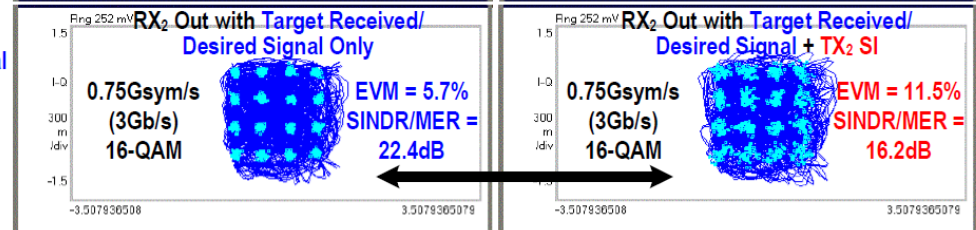
- Globalfoundries 45nm CMOS SOI
- No digital pre-distortion (DPD), channel equalization, or digital cancellation



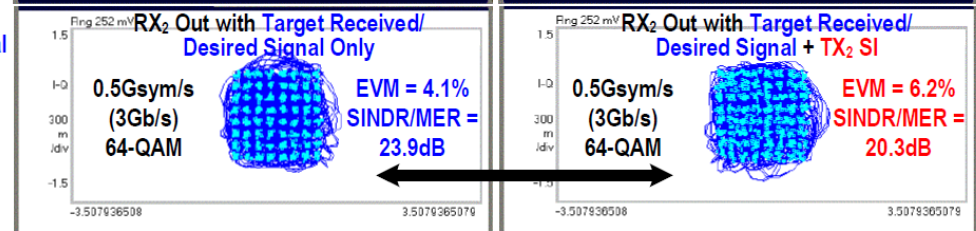
Desired Signal  
 $P_{avg} = 9\text{dBm}$   
 $f_c = 63.1\text{GHz}$   
 TX SI  
 $P_{avg} = 2\text{dBm}$   
 $f_c = 63.1\text{GHz}$



Desired Signal  
 $P_{avg} = 9\text{dBm}$   
 $f_c = 63.3\text{GHz}$   
 TX SI  
 $P_{avg} = 5\text{dBm}$   
 $f_c = 63.3\text{GHz}$



Desired Signal  
 $P_{avg} = 9\text{dBm}$   
 $f_c = 63.1\text{GHz}$   
 TX SI  
 $P_{avg} = 2\text{dBm}$   
 $f_c = 63.1\text{GHz}$



- T. Chi, J. Park, S. Li, and H. Wang, ISSCC 2018, JSSC 2018

# Outline

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- Introduction
- State of the Art: Georgia Tech PA Survey (2000-present)
- Broadband Linear Efficient PAs
- Antenna-PA Co-Designs: Multi-Feed Mm-Wave Radiators
- **Conclusion**

# Conclusion and Future Directions

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- Trade-offs of Carrier Bandwidth, Efficiency, Linearity, and Modulation Rate
- Future Directions
  - **Architecture:**
    - Broadband, linear, and efficient PA architectures
    - Antenna-PA/TX/RX co-designs
    - Compound semiconductor PA and heterogeneous integration
  - **Reliability:** Silicon PA in MIMO arrays
  - **Linearization:** Low overhead Gbit/s DPD

# Acknowledgement

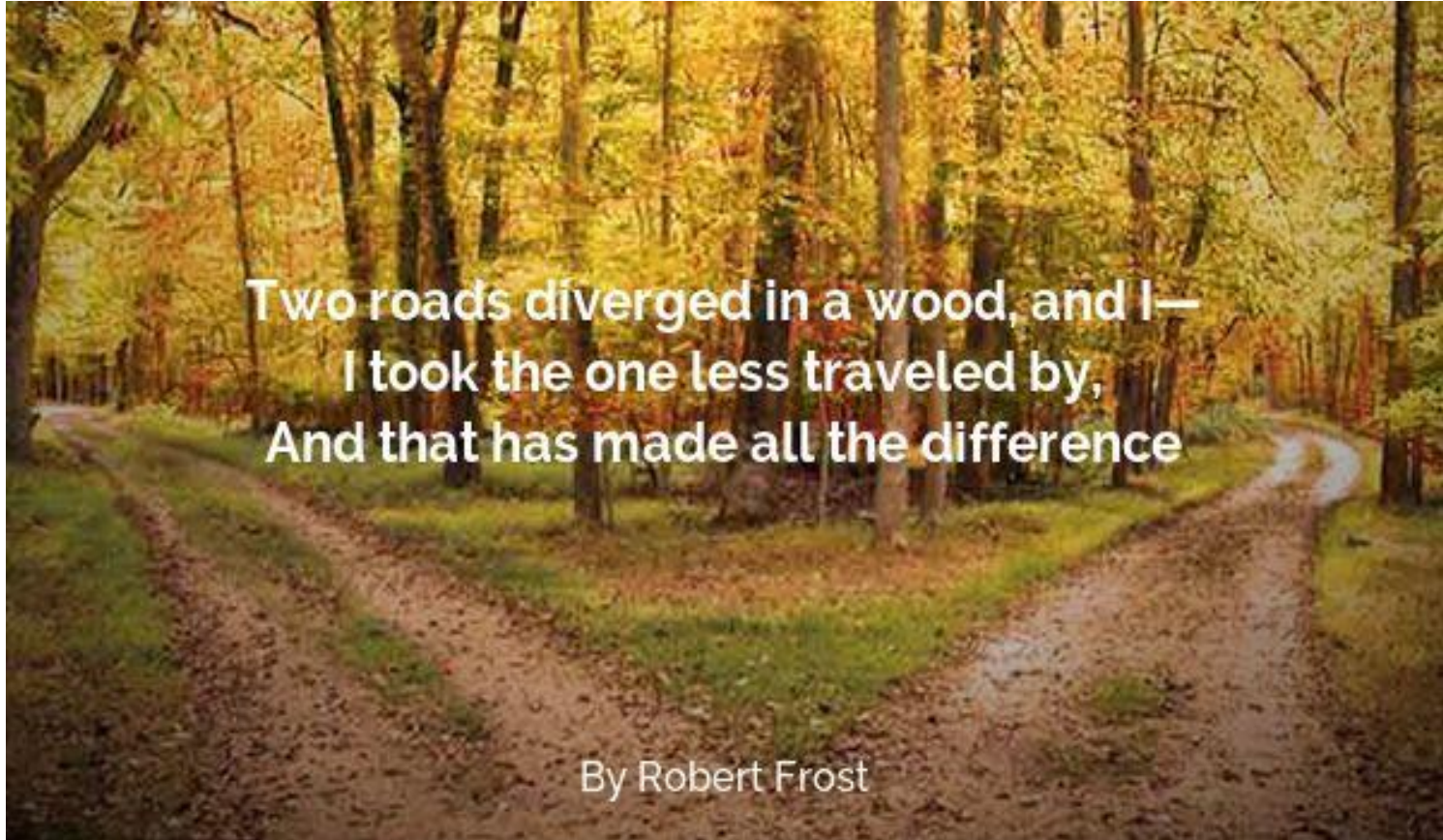
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GEMS  
GEMS



- DARPA, NSF, DoD, and Industry Sponsors
- Global Foundries for chip fabrication
- Members of Georgia Tech GEMS Lab

**Thank you!**



Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference

By Robert Frost

Thank you!