

Weighted Polynomial Digital Predistortion for Low Memory Effect Doherty Power Amplifier

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Abstract—We have proposed a simple and effective weighted polynomial digital predistortion algorithm, which consists of weighting, least square polynomial fit, and de-weighting. The weighting factor is introduced to describe the signal distribution statistics and high harmonic generation at a high power region to improve accuracy of the error function. A low memory linear Doherty power amplifier (PA) has been realized with two 90-W peak envelope power LDMOSFETs using memory effect reduction techniques, and the proposed algorithm has been applied to the PA. For the forward-link wideband code division multiple access 3FA signal, the adjacent channel leakage ratio performance at 5-MHz offset is -56 dBc with power-added efficiency of 20.78% at an average power of 40 dBm. The proposed weighting polynomial algorithm provides a significantly reduced error power and superior convergence behavior with improved linearization capability than the conventional polynomial. Moreover, the low memory Doherty amplifier could be linearized for a wideband signal using the simple algorithm without any memory effect compensation.

Index Terms—Digital predistortion (DPD), Doherty, linearization, memory effect, power amplifier (PA), weighted polynomial.

I. INTRODUCTION

MODERN wireless communication systems provide high-data-rate multimedia services to the numerous subscribers in time. In order to sustain these services, the power amplifier (PA) in the base station should transmit the multichannels of modulated signal without distortion. However, the PAs that amplify the wideband signals produce a severe memory effect and nonlinearities [1]. The memory effect especially restricts the linearization capacity of analog predistortion (PD)

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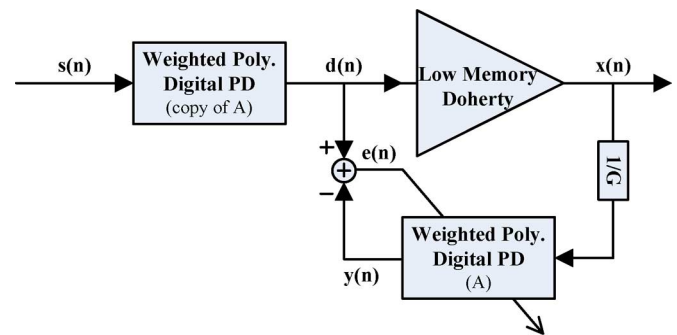


Fig. 1. Proposed weighted polynomial DPD with low memory Doherty PA.

[2], and the recent digital predistortion (DPD) techniques can compensate the memory effect using finite impulse response (FIR) filters, Volterra series or memory polynomials, etc. [3]–[5].

There are two distinct methods to implement the DPD algorithm, i.e., a lookup table (LUT) and a polynomial. The polynomial DPD is more immune to noise and requires less memory storage than the LUT case. Moreover, the polynomial can operate with only a few collected data, while the LUT needs sufficient data to fill all the operation area. However, the conventional polynomial has inferior accuracy to the LUT case [6], and we have proposed a weighted polynomial technique that provides a considerable improvement in accuracy, especially at the peak power region. A weighting factor is introduced to describe the signal distribution statistics and high harmonic generation property at a high power region to improve accuracy of the error function. The proposed weighted polynomial utilizes the indirect learning architecture [7], as shown in Fig. 1. The algorithm forces the PA output $x(n)$ to converge to the linear output $G \cdot s(n)$, as the error $e(n)$ approaches zero.

In this study, we have implemented a Doherty PA whose memory effect has been minimized using the drain and gate envelope terminations in front of quarter-wavelength bias lines [8]. The weighted polynomial indirect DPD algorithm without a complex memory effect cancellation has been applied to the PA. For the forward-link wideband code division multiple access (WCDMA) 3FA signal, the ACLR performance at 5-MHz offset is -56 dBc, while maintaining power-added efficiency (PAE) of 20.78% at an average power of 40 dBm. The proposed simple algorithm has a good linearization capability with significantly reduced error power for the low memory effect Doherty PA, which is superior to the conventional nonweighting polynomial indirect DPD.

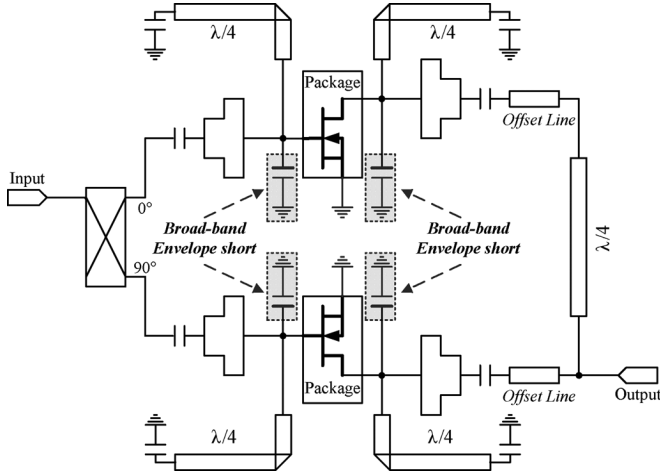


Fig. 2. Block diagram of the memory effect minimized Doherty PA.

II. LOW MEMORY EFFECT DOHERTY PA

The major sources of memory effect are the envelope and second harmonic components at the device terminals, and they should be reduced by proper terminations. We have reported a matching topology for minimizing the drain and gate impedances across the broadband of the envelope and second harmonic frequencies, while maintaining matchable impedances at an RF signal frequency [8]. The broadband second harmonic termination can be easily achieved without any change of the bias topology using a quarter-wavelength transmission line.

The conventional wisdom for the envelope signal termination is to provide a short after or inside of the quarter-wave bias line [9]. However, the termination produces dispersion by the line, disturbing the broadband envelope termination. The envelope frequency short circuit should be attached at the gate and drain terminals in front of the quarter-wavelength line, as shown in Fig. 2. The envelope signal termination is realized by using a series LC circuit, which is composed of a large tantalum capacitor with a small parasitic inductor of the package. The inductance of approximately 1.2 nH is practically short at the envelope frequency for Freescale's MRF5S21090 LDMOSFET, while it is a high impedance at the fundamental frequency. Therefore, the realized series LC circuit provides a broadband envelope termination, and the Doherty amplifier has a considerably reduced memory effect, while maintaining good power performances.

III. WEIGHTED POLYNOMIAL DPD

As shown in Fig. 3, the proposed weighted polynomial algorithm consists of the weighting, polynomial, and de-weighting blocks. The weighting is introduced to get an ideal error function for the least square fit algorithm [10]. The weighting function describes the statistical characteristics of the modulation signal and the harmonic generation property of an amplifier at a high power level. The weighted polynomial PD signals are then generated by using a polynomial least square fit algorithm. Finally, the generated PD signals are de-weighted and applied to the PA. These procedures are iterated using the indirect learning architecture until we get the linear output [7].

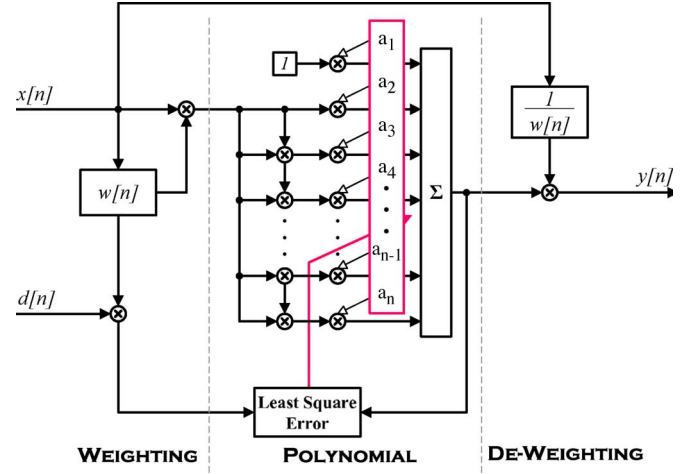


Fig. 3. Block diagram of the weighted polynomial DPD.

A. PD Signal Generation Using the Least Square Polynomial Fit

We have used the least square error algorithm to get the polynomial coefficients of the PD signal that minimizes the error function of (1). The indirect PD signal polynomial can be generalized to a degree $n - 1$, which has n coefficients, as shown in (2), as follows:

$$\text{least square fit error} = \sum_{i=1}^L [f(x_i) - d_i]^2 \quad (1)$$

$$f(x_i) = \sum_{k=1}^n p_k \cdot x_i^{k-1}. \quad (2)$$

In (3), the data points are raised to the $(n - 1)$ th-order powers and are constructed as an $L \times n$ "Vandermonde" matrix. The matrix is multiplied by an $n \times 1$ coefficient vector P , which produces the desired PD signal. The polynomial coefficients are the eigenvalues of (3) as follows:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & x_1 & x_1^2 & \dots & x_1^{n-1} \\ 1 & x_2 & x_2^2 & \dots & x_2^{n-1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & x_L & x_L^2 & \dots & x_L^{n-1} \end{bmatrix} P = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_L \end{bmatrix} \quad (3)$$

$$P = [p_1 \ p_2 \ \dots \ p_n]^T \quad (4)$$

where L is the number of input (or output) training signal data points used to determine the polynomial coefficients number of n . Mathematically, L should be equal to or larger than n in order to solve (3). In this adaptation, we have used L of 1024, which is larger than n , to delineate the amplifier distortion more accurately. There are a number of methods that have been developed to find the roots of the polynomial, and we have used the well-known QR method, which solves the eigenvalues of the matrix using numerical calculation [11].

B. Statistical Analysis of WCDMA Signal and Weighting

The least square fit algorithm is employed to optimize the coefficients with a minimum square error given by (1) for a sequential ramp training signal. For the modulated signal, the error function (1) is not accurate since the occurrence of the

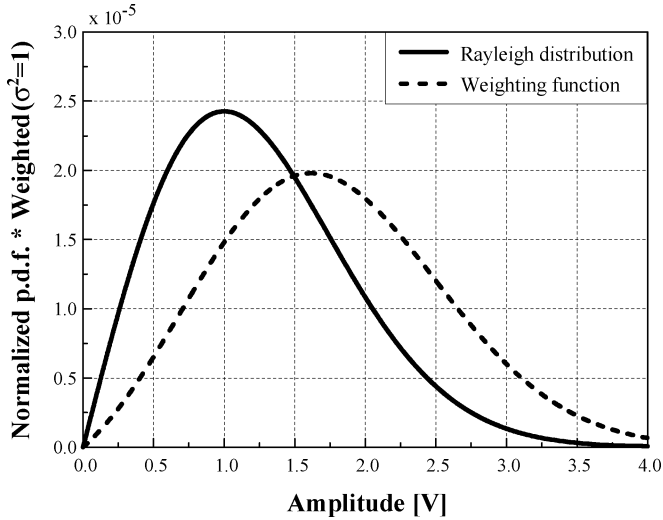


Fig. 4. p.d.f. of WCDMA signal and the weighting function.

data point, i.e., probability density function (p.d.f.) is different. In case of the forward-link WCDMA signal, the p.d.f. of the amplitude response has the Rayleigh distribution, as expressed as follows in (5) and shown in Fig. 4:

$$\text{p.d.f.}(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{x}{\sigma^2} \cdot e^{-x^2/2\sigma^2}, & \text{for } x \geq 0 \\ 0, & \text{for otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

We can estimate the overall error, which is sum of differences between modeled responses (y_i) and desired responses (d_i) of the modulated signal with the least square fit optimized polynomial coefficients. The overall error can be calculated by integrating the product of the average error distribution at each amplitude ($\text{error}_{\text{avg}}(x)$), which is determined by the least square fit model by the Rayleigh p.d.f. as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{overall error} &= \sum_{i=1}^N \{y_i - d_i\} \\ &= N \times \int \{\text{error}_{\text{avg}}(x) \cdot \text{p.d.f.}(x)\} dx. \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

The nonweighted ramp training signal has an uniform average error distribution, and it is not the optimum for the minimum overall error, given by (6), of the WCDMA signal. Therefore, the Rayleigh distribution weighting is applied to the least square fit error function of (1) for the ramp training signal.

Another point is that the PD signal at the peak power region, which is dominant for harmonic generation, should to be emphasized more than the other power regions. Therefore, we have implemented an increasing exponential weight to improve accuracy at the peak power region and to describe the harmonic generation property accurately as follows:

$$e^{a \cdot x_i} = 1 + a \cdot x_i + \frac{1}{2}a^2 \cdot x_i^2 + \frac{1}{6}a^3 \cdot x_i^3 + \dots \quad (7)$$

Equation (7) shows that it can represent the harmonic generation property of an amplifier, and as “ a ” becomes large, the high-order terms have more weighting than the low-order terms. As a consequence, the exponential function raises the accuracy at

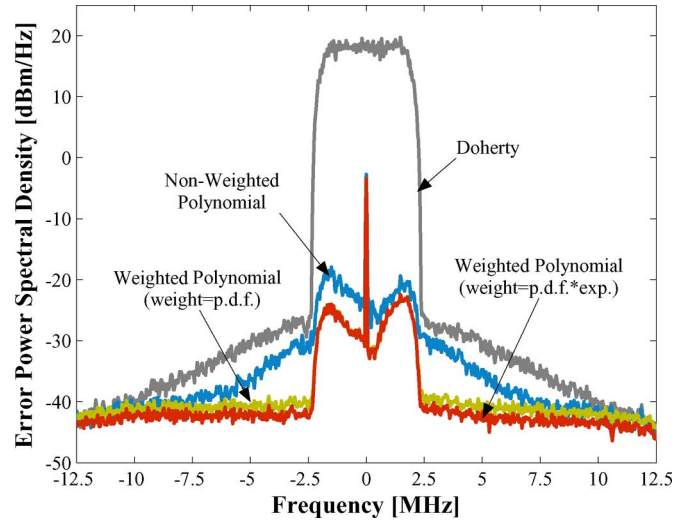


Fig. 5. Error power spectral densities for the model with each weighting function for the forward-link WCDMA 1FA signal at an average power of 43 dBm.

a higher power region, and $a = 1$ provides a good weighting function.

As shown in Fig. 5, we have examined the error power spectrums for the models with the weighed polynomials to verify the effect of weights. At the first step, we have used the Rayleigh p.d.f. weighting to minimize the in-band error that contributes mostly to the overall model error. We then add the exponential weight and adjust the coefficient “ a ” to model the nonlinearity more precisely. Consequently, we can get the optimum weighting function, as shown in Fig. 4, and minimized both in- and out-band errors. The data in Fig. 5 clearly show that the weighting function is very effective to reduce the error power. The optimum weighting and the error functions of the system becomes

$$\text{weight}(x_i) = e^{a \cdot |x_i|} \cdot \text{p.d.f.}(x_i) \quad (8)$$

$$\text{least square fit error} = \sum_{i=1}^L \{\text{weight}(x_i) \cdot [f(x_i) - d_i]\}^2. \quad (9)$$

For implementation of the weighted PD algorithm, the input signal is weighted at the input and the signal is de-weighted before the indirect PD signals are applied to the nonlinear PA (see Fig. 3). The procedures are iterated until the indirect learning algorithm converges to the linear output.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION AND EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

We have applied the indirect learning algorithm with the weighted least square polynomial fit to the low memory effect Doherty PA. In order to confirm the reduced memory effect of the proposed PA, we have tested the intermodulation distortions (IMDs) for various spacing two-tone signals and the ACLR characteristics for a forward-link WCDMA 4FA signal with 20-MHz bandwidth. The proposed optimum weighting polynomial algorithm has been compared for the linearization capability and convergence behavior with those of the Rayleigh

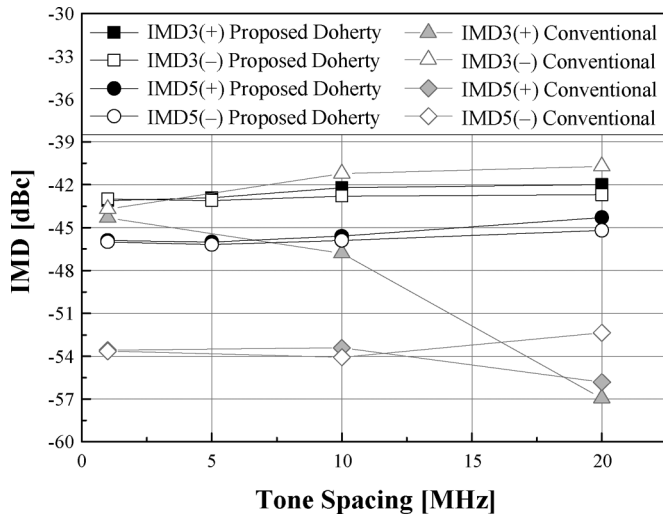


Fig. 6. Comparison of the measured IMDs of the low memory effect Doherty PA and conventional Doherty PA for the two-tone signals at an average power of 40 dBm.

p.d.f. weighting and the nonweighting polynomial cases for WCDMA 1FA and 3FA signals.

A. Low Memory Effect Doherty PA

For experimental demonstration, we have implemented the low memory effect Doherty PA using two Freescale MRF5S21090 LD MOSFETs. The broadband envelope and second harmonic terminations are attached at the gate and drain, which are introduced in Section II. The bias points of the carrier and peaking cells are adjusted to operate at class AB and C modes, respectively. The quiescent drain current of the carrier cell is 850 mA and the gate voltage of the peaking cell is set to 2.01 V.

Fig. 6 shows the third-order intermodulation distortions (IMD3s) and fifth-order intermodulation distortions (IMD5s) of the low memory Doherty PA and a conventional Doherty PA for two-tone signals with various tone spacings. The asymmetry of less than 1 dB is obtained for the signal with up to 20-MHz tone spacing, proving that the proposed PA has a considerably reduced memory effect. For a forward-link WCDMA 4FA signal, the measured ACLR at 5-MHz offset is -42.2 dBc with the low memory and the PAE is 28.3% at an average power of 43 dBm, as shown in Fig. 7. It especially has an asymmetry of less than 0.4 dB over the broad power levels up to 43 dBm for the forward-link WCDMA 4FA signal, which has the peak to average ratio (PAR) of 11 dB and the instantaneous bandwidth of 20 MHz. Compared with the test results at an average output power of 40 dBm for the low memory class AB PA implemented in a previous study [8], it is an improvement of the ACLR of 5.8 dB and efficiency of 11.6%.

B. Weighted Polynomial DPD

We have used the test setup in Fig. 8 for the demonstration of the weighted polynomial DPD. The digital signal processing core has been substituted by a PC with MATLAB software. The Agilent's ESG Signal Generator (E4438C) and PSA Spectrum Analyzer (E4440A) have been used for a generation of the PD

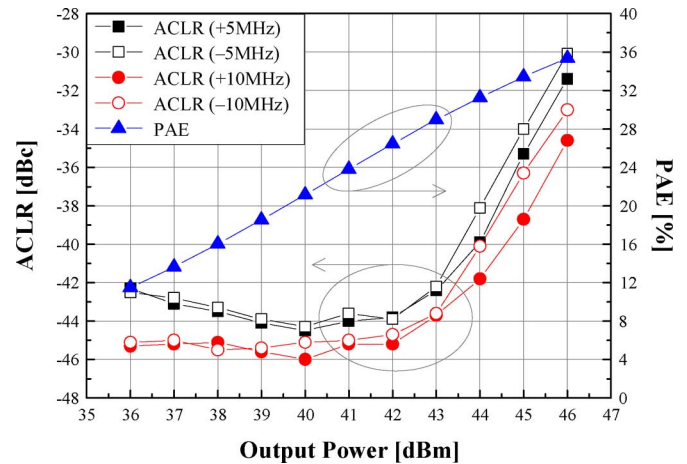


Fig. 7. Measured ACLR and PAE of the low memory effect Doherty PA for a forward-link WCDMA 4FA signal.

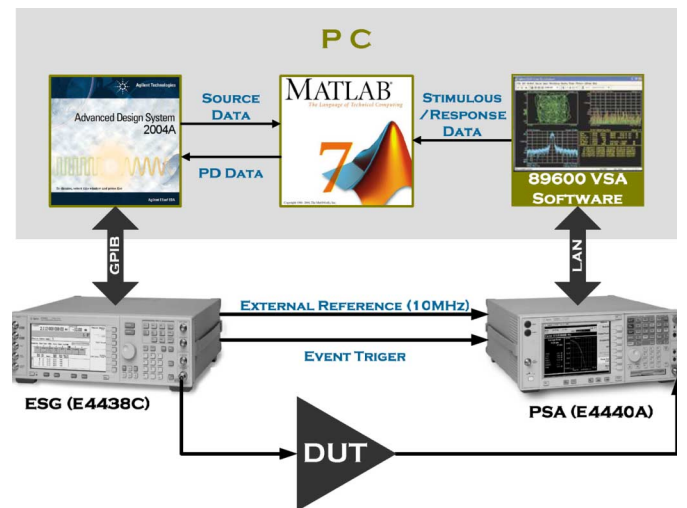


Fig. 8. Test setup for DPD algorithm.

signal and a collection of the PA response by use of Agilent's Advanced Design System (ADS) and Vector Signal Analyzer (VSA) softwares through networking with the PC [5], [12].

In Fig. 9, the linearization performance of the optimum (Rayleigh p.d.f. and exponential) weighted polynomial DPD algorithm is compared with those of the Rayleigh p.d.f. weighted and nonweighting polynomial for the forward-link WCDMA 1FA signal with PAR of 9.8 dB. For the experimental verifications, the algorithms have been implemented using the same polynomial order of 11 and loaded on the indirect learning architecture. The proposed optimum weighted polynomial algorithm cancels the ACLR approximately 12 dB more than that of the nonweighted polynomial PD up to an average power of 44 dBm, and 2 dB more than that of the Rayleigh p.d.f. weighted polynomial PD up to an average power of 43 dBm, which is the backed-off point by the amount of the PAR from the peak power. However, if the proposed algorithm is applied to the operation more than average output power of 43 dBm, which is insufficiently backed off, the convergence behavior of the proposed optimum weighted algorithm is similar to that of the p.d.f. weighted polynomial. The reason is that the PD signal

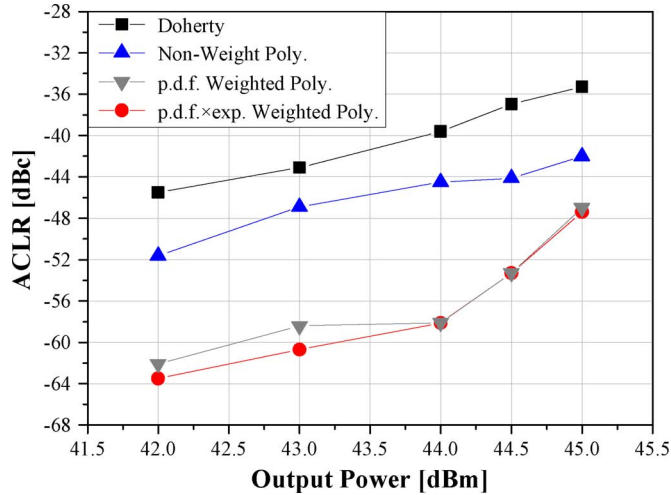


Fig. 9. Comparison of the measured ACLRs of the low memory effect Doherty with various linearization weighting modes for the forward-link WCDMA 1FA signal.

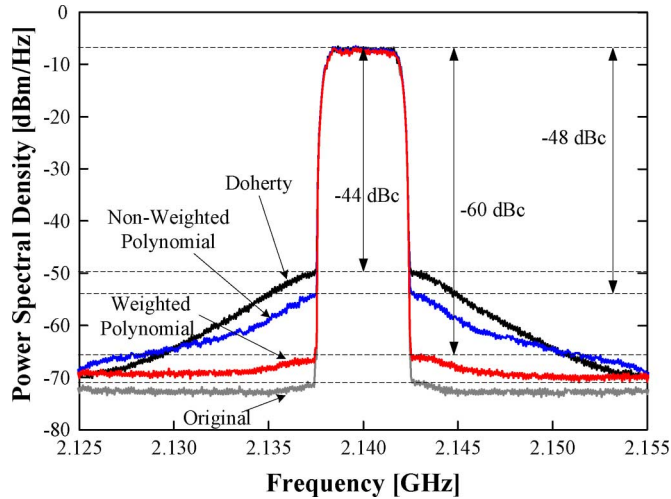


Fig. 10. Comparison of the measured power spectral densities of the low memory effect Doherty for the forward-link WCDMA 1FA signal at an average power of 43 dBm.

near the peak power level has been clipped out by the amplifier and the exponential weighting has no effect on the linearization performance.

Fig. 10 shows the measured power spectral densities obtained using the proposed optimum weighted polynomial algorithm and the nonweighted polynomial algorithm. The proposed optimum weighting algorithm could deliver a good ACLR of -60 dBc at an average power of 43 dBm, which is a cancellation of 16 dB with PAE of approximately 29%, while the nonweighted polynomial case has a poor ACLR cancellation of 4 dB at the same average power. Fig. 11 shows AM/AM curves with the optimum weighting algorithm and the nonweighting case. These results show clearly the improved accuracy of the optimum weighted polynomial fit.

The ACLR data for the forward-link WCDMA 3FA signal with a PAR of 12 dB is shown in Fig. 12. The ACLR performance of the proposed optimum weighting algorithm at 5-MHz offset is -56 dBc with 11-dB cancellation while maintaining

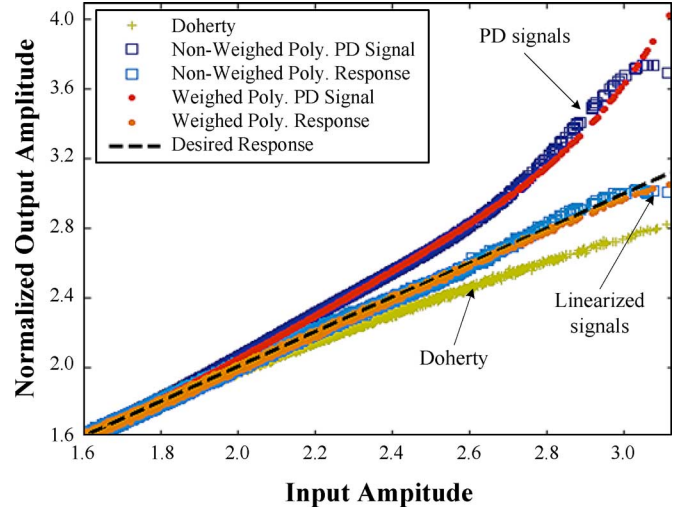


Fig. 11. Comparison of the AM/AM characteristics between weighted polynomial (filled) and nonweighting polynomial (empty) for the forward-link WCDMA 1FA signal at an average power of 43 dBm.

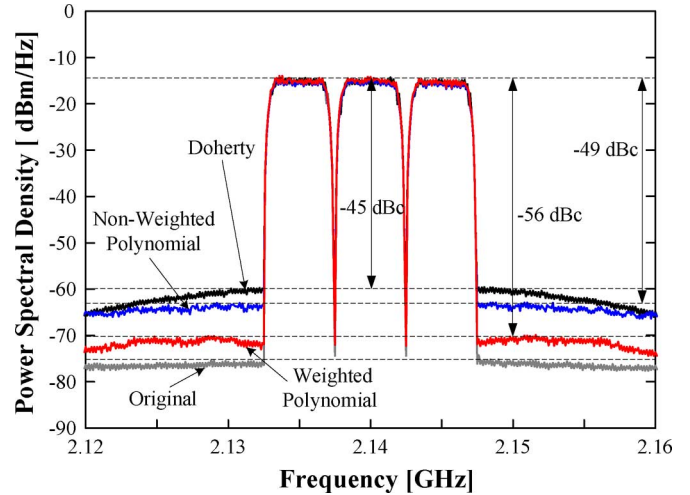


Fig. 12. Comparison of the measured power spectral densities of the low memory effect Doherty for the forward-link WCDMA 3FA signal at an average power of 40 dBm.

PAE of 20.78% at an average power of 40 dBm, which is a improvement ACLR of 7 dB more than that of the nonweighted polynomial case. The low memory Doherty PA could be linearized for the wideband signal using the proposed simple algorithm without any memory effect compensation methods.

V. CONCLUSIONS

In order to reduce the memory effect of a PA, we have implemented a new matching topology to minimize the drain and gate envelope impedances in front of the quarter-wavelength bias line, and the improved results have been verified using a Doherty amplifier for the two-tone and WCDMA 4FA signals. The amplifier has been linearized using a DPD. To improve the algorithm, we have introduced the weighting function. The Rayleigh distribution function to cover the statistical characteristics of the forward-link WCDMA signal and the exponential function to model the large harmonic generation at a high power region have been employed as a weighting function of the error extraction

using the least square fit algorithm. The new algorithm achieves far better ACLR cancellation and superior convergence behavior than the conventional nonweighted polynomial case. We have demonstrated the good performances for linearizing the Doherty PA using WCDMA 1FA and 3FA signals. The ACLR at 5-MHz offset is -56 dBc while maintaining the PAE of 20.78% at an average power of 40 dBm for WCDMA 3FA signal. These results are achieved without using any memory reduction method. Therefore, the low memory Doherty amplifier with the weighted polynomial algorithm can be a very simple solution for the improved transmitter system of next-generation base-station applications.

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