

Ultra-linear power amplifier characterization using dynamic range extension techniques

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The rapid growth of the wireless industry requires more efficient utilization of the available frequency spectrum. This has resulted in requirements for highly linear Multi-Channel Power Amplifiers (MCPAs) to support increases in voice and data traffic. To characterize the resulting ultra-linear MCPAs and to comply with intermodulation levels less than -80 dBc requires measurement systems with dynamic range performance beyond what is currently available. A new instrument, which extends the dynamic range of current distortion measurement systems by at least 25 dB, has been developed to meet this challenge.

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