

JON B. HAGEN

Radio-Frequency Electronics

Circuits and Applications

Second Edition

CAMBRIDGE



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Radio-Frequency Electronics

Circuits and Applications

This second, much updated edition of the best-selling *Radio-Frequency Electronics* introduces the basic concepts and key circuits of radio-frequency systems. It covers the fundamental principles applying to all radio devices, from wireless single-chip data transceivers to high-power broadcast transmitters.

New to this edition:

- Extensively revised and expanded throughout, including new chapters on radar, digital modulation, GPS navigation, and *S*-parameter circuit analysis.
- New worked examples and end-of-chapter problems aid and test understanding of the topics covered.
- Numerous extra figures provide a visual aid to learning, with over 400 illustrations throughout the book.

Key topics covered include filters, amplifiers, oscillators, modulators, low-noise amplifiers, phase lock loops, transformers, waveguides, and antennas. Assuming no prior knowledge of radio electronics, this is a perfect introduction to the subject. It is an ideal textbook for junior or senior courses in electrical engineering, as well as an invaluable reference for professional engineers in this area.

Praise for the first edition:

This book is wonderfully informative, and refreshingly different from the usual rehash of standard engineering topics. Hagen has put his unique insights, gleaned from a lifetime of engineering and radio science, into this volume and it shows. There's an insight per page, at least for me, that makes it truly enjoyable reading, even for those of us who think we know something about the field! *Paul Horowitz, Harvard University*

Jon B. Hagen was awarded his Ph.D. from Cornell University in 1972, where he went on to gain 30 years' experience as an electronic design engineer, as well as establishing and teaching a Cornell electrical engineering course on RF electronics. Now retired, he has held positions as Principal Engineer at Raytheon, Electronics Department Head at the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico, and Director of the NAIC Support Laboratory at Cornell.

Preface

This book was written to help the reader to understand, analyze, and design RF circuits. Developed as a textbook for an RF engineering course at Cornell University, it can also be used for self-study and as a reference for practising engineers. The scope of topics is wide and the level of analysis ranges from introductory to advanced. In each chapter, I have tried to convey an intuitive “how things work” understanding from which the mathematical analysis follows. The initial chapters present the amplifiers, filters, modulators, and demodulators, which are the basic building blocks of radio systems, from AM and FM to the latest digital radio systems. Later chapters alternate between systems, such as television, and radio astronomy, and theoretical topics, such as noise analysis and radio spectrometry. The book provides the RF vocabulary that carries over into microwave engineering, and one chapter is devoted to waveguides and other microwave components.

In this second edition, many chapters have been expanded. Others have been rearranged and consolidated. New chapters have been added to cover radar, the GPS navigation system, digital modulation, information transmission, and S -parameter circuit analysis.

The reader is assumed to have a working knowledge of basic engineering mathematics and electronic circuit theory, particularly linear circuit analysis. Many students will have had only one course in electronics, so I have included some fundamental material on amplifier topologies, transformers, and power supplies. The reader is encouraged to augment reading with problem-solving and lab work, making use of mathematical spreadsheet and circuit simulation programs, which are excellent learning aids and confidence builders. Some references are provided for further reading, but whole trails of reference can be found using the internet.

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Jon B. Hagen
Brooklyn, NY
July 2008

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	<i>page xiii</i>
1 Introduction	1
1.1 RF circuits	2
1.2 Narrowband nature of RF signals	3
1.3 AC circuit analysis – a brief review	3
1.4 Impedance and admittance	4
1.5 Series resonance	4
1.6 Parallel resonance	5
1.7 Nonlinear circuits	5
Problems	5
2 Impedance matching	10
2.1 Transformer matching	11
2.2 L-networks	12
2.3 Higher Q – pi and T-networks	14
2.4 Lower Q – the double L-network	15
2.5 Equivalent series and parallel circuits	16
2.6 Lossy components and efficiency of matching networks	16
Problems	17
3 Linear power amplifiers	19
3.1 Single-loop amplifier	19
3.2 Drive circuitry: common-collector, common-emitter, and common-base	20
3.3 Shunt amplifier topology	22
3.4 Dual-polarity amplifiers	22
3.5 Push–pull amplifiers	23
3.6 Efficiency calculations	25
3.7 AC amplifiers	26

3.8	RF amplifiers	29
3.9	Matching a power amplifier to its load	31
	Problems	31
4	Basic filters	34
4.1	Prototype lowpass filter designs	35
4.2	A lowpass filter example	36
4.3	Lowpass-to-bandpass conversion	38
	Appendix 4.1 Component values for normalized lowpass filters	41
	Problems	43
	References	45
5	Frequency converters	46
5.1	Voltage multiplier as a mixer	46
5.2	Switching mixers	48
5.3	A simple nonlinear device as a mixer	51
	Problems	53
6	Amplitude and frequency modulation	54
6.1	Amplitude modulation	55
6.2	Frequency and phase modulation	58
6.3	AM transmitters	62
6.4	FM transmitters	65
6.5	Current broadcasting practice	65
	Problems	66
7	Radio receivers	67
7.1	Amplification	67
7.2	Crystal sets	68
7.3	TRF receivers	68
7.4	The superheterodyne receiver	69
7.5	Noise blankers	74
7.6	Digital signal processing in receivers	75
	Problems	75
	References	76
8	Suppressed-carrier AM and quadrature AM (QAM)	77
8.1	Double-sideband suppressed-carrier AM	77
8.2	Single-sideband AM	78
8.3	Product detector	80
8.4	Generation of SSB	81

8.5	Single-sideband with class C, D, or E amplifiers	83
8.6	Quadrature AM (QAM)	84
	Problems	85
	References	86
9	Class-C, D, and E Power RF amplifiers	87
9.1	The class-C amplifier	87
9.2	The class-D RF amplifier	92
9.3	The class-E amplifier	94
9.4	Which circuit to use: class-C, class-D, or class-E?	99
	Problems	100
	References	100
10	Transmission lines	101
10.1	Characteristic impedance	101
10.2	Waves and reflected waves on transmission lines	103
10.3	Modification of an impedance by a transmission line	106
10.4	Transmission line attenuation	107
10.5	Impedance specified by reflection coefficient	107
10.6	Transmission lines used to match impedances	111
	Appendix 10.1. Coaxial cable – Electromagnetic analysis	114
	Problems	116
11	Oscillators	120
11.1	Negative feedback (relaxation) oscillators	120
11.2	Positive feedback oscillators	121
11.3	Oscillator dynamics	128
11.4	Frequency stability	128
11.5	Colpitts oscillator theory	129
	Problems	132
12	Phase lock loops and synthesizers	134
12.1	Phase locking	134
12.2	Frequency synthesizers	144
	Problems	150
	References	151
13	Coupled-resonator bandpass filters	152
13.1	Impedance inverters	152
13.2	Conversion of series resonators to parallel resonators and vice versa	155
13.3	Worked example: a 1% fractional bandwidth filter	156
13.4	Tubular bandpass filters	158
13.5	Effects of finite Q	160
13.6	Tuning procedures	161

13.7 Other filter types	161
Problems	162
References	163
14 Transformers and baluns	164
14.1 The “ideal transformer”	165
14.2 Transformer equivalent circuit	166
14.3 Power transformer operation	168
14.4 Mechanical analogue of a perfectly coupled transformer	169
14.5 Magnetizing inductance used in a transformer-coupled amplifier	170
14.6 Double-tuned transformer: making use of magnetization and leakage inductances	170
14.7 Loss in transformers	172
14.8 Design of iron-core transformers	172
14.9 Transmission line transformers	175
14.10 Baluns	176
Problems	178
References	180
15 Hybrid couplers	181
15.1 Directional coupling	182
15.2 Transformer hybrid	182
15.3 Quadrature hybrids	185
15.4 How to analyze circuits containing hybrids	186
15.5 Power combining and splitting	187
15.6 Other hybrids	189
Problems	192
Reference	194
16 Waveguide circuits	195
16.1 Simple picture of waveguide propagation	195
16.2 Exact solution: a plane wave interference pattern matches the waveguide boundary conditions	196
16.3 Waveguide vs. coax for low-loss power transmission	201
16.4 Waveguide impedance	201
16.5 Matching in waveguide circuits	202
16.6 Three-port waveguide junctions	202
16.7 Four-port waveguide junctions	203
Appendix 16.1 Lowest loss waveguide vs. lowest loss coaxial line	204
Appendix 16.2 Coax dimensions for lowest loss, highest power, and highest voltage	206
Problems	207
References	207

17 Small-signal RF amplifiers	208
17.1 Linear two-port networks	208
17.2 Amplifier specifications – gain, bandwidth, and impedances	210
17.3 Narrowband amplifier circuits	213
17.4 Wideband amplifier circuits	214
17.5 Transistor equivalent circuits	214
17.6 Amplifier design examples	215
17.7 Amplifier noise	219
17.8 Noise figure	220
17.9 Other noise parameters	222
17.10 Noise figure measurement	223
Problems	223
References	226
 18 Demodulators and detectors	 227
18.1 AM Detectors	227
18.2 FM demodulators	233
18.3 Power detectors	238
Problems	240
References	241
 19 Television systems	 242
19.1 The Nipkov system	242
19.2 The NTSC system	243
19.3 Digital television	251
Problems	257
References	258
 20 Antennas and radio wave propagation	 259
20.1 Electromagnetic waves	259
20.2 Radiation from a current element	261
20.3 Dipole antenna	262
20.4 Antenna directivity and gain	264
20.5 Effective capture area of an antenna	266
20.6 Reflector and horn antennas	267
20.7 Polarization	271
20.8 A spacecraft radio link	272
20.9 Terrestrial radio links	273
20.10 The ionosphere	273
20.11 Other modes of propagation	275
Problems	276
References	277

21 Radar	278
21.1 Some representative radar systems	278
21.2 Radar classification	281
21.3 Target characteristics and echo strengths	283
21.4 Pulse compression	285
21.5 Synthetic aperture radar	286
21.6 TR switches	288
21.7 Diode switches	291
21.8 Radar pulse modulators	293
Problems	297
References	298
22 Digital modulation techniques	300
22.1 Digital modulators	300
22.2 Pulse shaping	303
22.3 Root raised-cosine filter	307
22.4 8-VSB and GMSK modulation	308
22.5 Demodulation	309
22.6 Orthogonal frequency-division multiplexing – OFDM	310
22.7 Spread-spectrum and CDMA	315
Problems	318
Glossary	318
References	320
23 Modulation, noise, and information	321
23.1 Matched filtering	321
23.2 Analysis of a BPSK link	323
23.3 On–off keying with envelope detection	325
Problems	335
References	335
24 Amplifier and oscillator noise analysis	336
24.1 Amplifier noise analysis	336
24.2 Oscillator noise	342
24.3 Effect of nonlinearity	346
Problems	346
References	348
25 The GPS Navigation system	349
25.1 System description	349
25.2 GPS broadcast format and time encoding	350
25.3 GPS satellite transmitter	352
25.4 Signal tracking	353

25.5	Acquisition	356
25.6	Ionospheric delay	359
25.7	Differential GPS	360
25.8	Augmented GPS	361
25.9	Improvements to GPS	361
25.10	Other satellite navigation systems	362
	Problems	362
	References	363
26	Radio and radar astronomy	364
26.1	Radiometry	365
26.2	Spectrometry	366
26.3	Interferometry	366
26.4	Radar astronomy	368
	Problems	374
	References	374
27	Radio spectrometry	375
27.1	Filters and filterbanks	376
27.2	Autocorrelation spectrometry	376
27.3	Fourier transform spectrometry	381
27.4	I and Q mixing	384
27.5	Acousto-optical spectrometry	385
27.6	Chirp- z spectrometry	386
	Problems	388
	References	389
28	S-parameter circuit analysis	390
28.1	S -parameter definitions	390
28.2	Circuit analysis using S parameters	394
28.3	Stability of an active two-port (amplifier)	397
28.4	Cascaded two-ports	399
28.5	Reciprocity	400
28.6	Lossless networks	400
	Problems	404
	References	405
29	Power supplies	406
29.1	Full-wave rectifier	406
29.2	Half-wave rectifier	408
29.3	Electronically regulated power supplies	409
29.4	Three-phase rectifiers	410

29.5	Switching converters	411
	Problems	419
	References	421
30	RF test equipment	422
30.1	Power measurements	422
30.2	Voltage measurements	423
30.3	Spectrum analysis	424
30.4	Impedance measurements	425
30.5	Noise figure meter	432
	Problems	432
	References	433
	<i>Index</i>	434

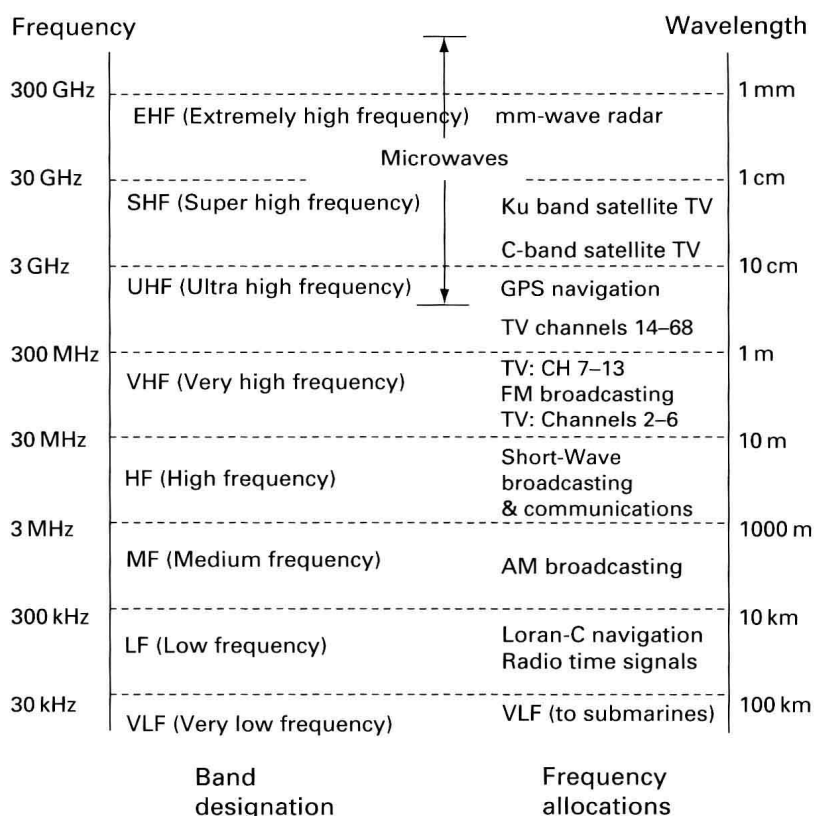
Introduction

Consider the magic of radio. Portable, even hand-held, short-wave transmitters can reach thousands of miles beyond the horizon. Tiny microwave transmitters riding on spacecraft return data from across the solar system. And all at the speed of light. Yet, before the late 1800s, there was nothing to suggest that telegraphy through empty space would be possible even with mighty dynamos, much less with insignificantly small and inexpensive devices. The Victorians could extrapolate from experience to imagine flight aboard a steam-powered mechanical bird or space travel in a scaled-up Chinese skyrocket. But what experience would have even hinted at *wireless* communication? The key to radio came from theoretical physics. Maxwell consolidated the known laws of electricity and magnetism and added the famous displacement current term, $\partial D/\partial t$. By virtue of this term, a changing electric field produces a magnetic field, just as Faraday had discovered that a changing magnetic field produces an electric field. Maxwell's equations predicted that *electromagnetic waves* can break away from the electric currents that generate them and propagate independently through empty space with the electric and magnetic field components of the wave constantly regenerating each other.

Maxwell's equations predict the velocity of these waves to be $1/\sqrt{\epsilon_0\mu_0}$ where the constants, ϵ_0 and μ_0 , can be determined by simple measurements of the forces between static electric charges and between current-carrying wires. The dramatic result is, of course, the experimentally-known speed of light, 3×10^8 m/sec. The electromagnetic nature of light is revealed. Hertz conducted a series of brilliant experiments in the 1880s in which he generated and detected electromagnetic waves with wavelengths very long compared to light. The utilization of Hertzian waves (electromagnetic waves) to transmit information developed hand-in-hand with the new science of electronics.

Where is radio today? AM radio, the pioneer broadcast service, still exists, along with FM, television and two-way communication. But radio now also includes digital broadcasting formats, radar, surveillance, navigation and broadcast satellites, cellular telephones, remote control devices, and wireless data communications. Applications of radio frequency (RF) technology outside

Figure 1.1. The radio spectrum.



radio include microwave heaters, medical imaging systems, and cable television. Radio occupies about eight decades of the electromagnetic spectrum, as shown in Figure 1.1.

1.1 RF circuits

The circuits discussed in this book generate, amplify, modulate, filter, demodulate, detect, and measure ac voltages and currents at radio frequencies. They are the blocks from which RF systems are designed. They scale up and down in both power and frequency. A six-section bandpass filter with a given passband shape, for example, might be large and water-cooled in one application but subminiature in another. Depending on the frequency, this filter might be made of sheet metal boxes and pipes, of solenoidal coils and capacitors, or of piezoelectric mechanical resonators, yet the underlying circuit design remains the same. A class-C amplifier circuit might be a small section of an integrated circuit for a wireless data link or the largest part of a multi-megawatt broadcast transmitter. Again, the design principles are the same.

1.2 Narrowband nature of RF signals

Note that most frequency allocations have small fractional bandwidths, i.e., the bandwidths are small compared to the center frequencies. The fractional bandwidth of the signal from any given transmitter is less than 10 percent – usually much less. It follows that the RF voltages throughout a radio system are very nearly sinusoidal. An otherwise purely sinusoidal RF “carrier” voltage¹ must be *modulated* (varied in some way) to transmit information. Every type of modulation (audio, video, pulse, digital coding, etc.) works by varying the amplitude and/or the phase of the sinusoidal RF wave, called the “carrier” wave. An unmodulated carrier has only infinitesimal bandwidth; it is a pure spectral line. Modulation always broadens the line into a spectral band, but the energy clusters around the carrier frequency. Oscilloscope traces of the RF voltages in a transmitter or on a transmission line or antenna are therefore nearly sinusoidal. When modulation is present, the amplitude and/or phase of the sinusoid changes but only over many cycles. Because of this narrowband characteristic, elementary sine wave ac circuit analysis serves for most RF work.

1.3 AC circuit analysis – a brief review

The standard method for ac circuit analysis that treats voltages and currents in linear networks is based on the linearity of the circuit elements: inductors, capacitors, resistors, etc. When a sinusoidal voltage or current generator drives a circuit made of linear elements, the resulting steady-state voltages and currents will all be perfectly sinusoidal and will have the same frequency as the generator. Normally we find the response (voltage and current amplitudes and phases) of driven ac circuits by a mathematical artifice. We replace the given sinusoidal generator by a hypothetical generator whose time dependence is $e^{j\omega t}$ rather than $\cos(\omega t)$ or $\sin(\omega t)$. This source function has both a real and an imaginary part since $e^{j\omega t} = \cos(\omega t) + j\sin(\omega t)$. Such a nonphysical (because it is complex) source leads to a nonphysical (complex) solution. But the real and imaginary parts of the solution are separately good physical solutions that correspond respectively to the real and imaginary parts of the complex source. The value of this seemingly indirect method of solution is that the substitution of the complex source converts the set of linear *differential* equations into a set of easily solved linear *algebraic* equations. When the circuit has a simple topology, as is often the case, it can be reduced to a single loop by combining obvious series and parallel branches. Many computer programs are available to

¹ There is no low-frequency limit for radio waves but the wavelengths corresponding to audio frequencies, hundreds to thousands of kilometers, make it inefficient to connect an audio amplifier directly to an antenna of reasonable size. Instead, the information is impressed on a carrier wave whose wavelength is compatible with practical antennas.

find the currents and voltages in complicated ac circuits. Most versions of SPICE will do this steady-state ac analysis (which is much simpler than the transient analysis which is their primary function). Special linear ac analysis programs for RF and microwave work such as Agilent's ADS and MMICAD include circuit models for strip lines, waveguides, and other RF components. You can write your own program to analyze ladder networks (see Problem 1.3) and to analyze most filters and matching networks.

1.4 Impedance and admittance

The coefficients in the algebraic circuit equations are functions of the complex *impedances* (V/I), or *admittances* (I/V), of the RLC elements. The voltage across an inductor is LdI/dt . If the current is $I_0e^{j\omega t}$, then the voltage is $(j\omega L)I_0e^{j\omega t}$. The impedance and admittance of an inductor are therefore respectively $j\omega L$ and $1/(j\omega L)$. The current into a capacitor is CdV/dt , so its impedance and admittance are $1/(j\omega C)$ and $j\omega C$. The impedance and admittance of a resistor are just R and $1/R$. Elements in series have the same current so their total impedance is the sum of their separate impedances. Elements in parallel have the same voltage so their total admittance is the sum of their separate admittances. The real and imaginary parts of impedance are called *resistance* and *reactance* while the real and imaginary parts of admittance (the reciprocal of impedance) are called *conductance* and *susceptance*.

1.5 Series resonance

A capacitor and inductor in series have an impedance $Z_s = j\omega L + 1/(j\omega C)$. This can be written as $Z_s = j(L/\omega)(\omega^2 - 1/[LC])$, so the impedance is zero when the (angular) frequency is $1/\sqrt{LC}$. At this *resonant frequency*, the series LC circuit is a perfect *short circuit* (Figure 1.2). Equal voltages are developed across the inductor and capacitor but they have opposite signs and the net voltage drop is zero.

At resonance and in the steady state there is no transfer of energy in or out of this combination. (Since the overall voltage is always zero, the power, IV , is always zero.) However, the circuit does contain *stored* energy which simply sloshes back and forth between the inductor and the capacitor. Note that this circuit, by itself, is a simple bandpass filter.

Figure 1.2. Series-resonant LC circuit.

