

Enhancing Power Efficiency of Doherty Power Amplifiers Using Windowing Based Crest Factor Reduction Technique

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Abstract—This paper investigates the performance of a Windowing Based Crest Factor Reduction (CFR_{WB}) technique, to enhance the power efficiency of Radio Frequency (RF) power amplifiers. In particular, CFR_{WB} is implemented on a Doherty Power Amplifier (DPA) in conjunction with Generalized Memory Polynomial (GMP_{DPD}), and Volterra series based Digital Predistortion (V_{DPD}) techniques. Key features like spectral regrowth, Peak to Average Power Ratio ($PAPR$) reduction, efficiency improvement and Error Vector Magnitude (EVM) have been used to measure the efficacy of the proposed method. Both simulation and experimental results show that the proposed combination of CFR_{WB} technique with GMP_{DPD} and V_{DPD} is able to reduce the $PAPR$ of the complex input signals by nearly 60%, with minimal degrading of the EVM and spectral regrowth. Moreover, such signal with reduced $PAPR$ can be used to overdrive the DPA, allowing for a relevant average efficiency enhancement (i.e., up to 25%), while fulfilling the requirements of modern communication standards such as Wideband Code Division Multiple Access ($WCDMA$) and long-term evolution (LTE).

1. INTRODUCTION

Demand for higher data rates, allocation of more users, and the need of robust wireless communication links have driven the development of modern standards like 3G and 4G. These technologies are bounded by very stringent specifications, that are continuously getting tougher as in the forthcoming 5th generation of wireless systems [1]. Complex modulation schemes, like Wideband Code Division Multiple Access (W-CDMA), and Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing (OFDM) are considered to be promising solutions to meet the expected requirements. Unfortunately, such signals are characterized by highly varying envelope [2–4], resulting in very high Peak to Average Power Ratio (PAPR). Therefore, such coding approaches are creating bigger challenges for Power Amplifiers (PAs) designers, who have either to conceive new PA configurations or to resurrect and optimize old PA architectures to set up novel ways to maximize the efficiency-linearity trade-off of the transmitters [5].

In this context, the Doherty Power Amplifier (DPA) has been rediscovered as one of the most promising PA architecture to fulfill such a goal. However, even if the DPA has the relevant capability to increase the average efficiency, when working with varying envelope signals, its linearity is usually worsen as compared to other PAs topologies [6, 7]. Therefore, methods and solutions to improve the DPA linearity, without worsening its efficiency behavior, are of great interest.

Crest Factor Reduction (CFR) techniques [8, 9], in conjunction with Digital Predistortion (DPD) techniques are considered to be a promising solution to simultaneously achieve higher linearity and efficiency [10–15]. However, a complete experimental validation of both benefits and drawbacks induced by their application on a DPA is not yet reported in literature. The aim of this paper is to fill such a gap, showing how a CFR_{WB} algorithm, in conjunction with DPD techniques, can be exploited to simultaneously improve the overall efficiency and linearity of a DPA. Moreover, for an in-depth performance analysis two different DPD approaches, i.e., Generalized Memory Polynomial (GMP_{DPD}),

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and Volterra series based Digital Predistortion (V_{DPD}) are adopted and applied onto two different signal standards: Long-Term Evolution (*LTE*) and multicarrier Wideband Code Division Multiple Access (*WCDMA*) with varying bandwidth. In particular, to reduce the PAPR of the signals, CFR_{WB} technique [9, 10] based on peak windowing is used and its performance in conjunction with GMP_{DPD} and V_{DPD} techniques is evaluated through several parameters such as Adjacent Channel Power ratio (ACPR), Error Vector Magnitude (EVM), and power efficiency increment.

This paper is organized as follows. The conventional clipping & filtering and clipping & windowing methods applied to reduce the PAPR of a complex signal are summarized in Section 2.1 and Section 2.2, respectively. The proposed CFR_{WB} algorithm is reported in Section 3, while GMP_{DPD} and V_{DPD} predistortion techniques are briefly introduced in Section 4. The registered experimental results, when the proposed method is applied to either *LTE* and *WCDMA* signals, are reported in Section 5.1 and Section 5.2, respectively. Finally, conclusions are drawn in Section 6.

2. CONVENTIONAL CFR TECHNIQUES

Both conventional hard clipping and clipping & filtering techniques are still considered to be the easiest methods of PAPR reduction. Unfortunately, they are not adequate enough to generate signals which can meet the stringent requirements of modern communication standards. In the following subsections, pros and cons of these conventional CFR techniques are briefly discussed, highlighting their limiting factors [6, 8, 10–12].

2.1. Clipping and Filtering

Conventional CFR techniques are based on classical limiting approach, in which peaks of the complex signal are reduced by hard clipping over a given maximum threshold. This approach generates sharp corners in the time domain signal, which give rise to out-of-band (*OOB*) spurious [5]. To mitigate them, clipping & filtering techniques can be used. However, such techniques are not able to fully restrict the peak-regrowth, and, above all, to properly control the in-band noise (i.e., avoiding EVM degradation) [9, 16, 17].

Conventional clipping & filtering techniques can be denoted by:

$$x_{clip}(n) = S_{fn}(n) \cdot x(n) \quad (1)$$

where $S_{fn}(n)$ represents the scaling function used to define the threshold limit for hard clipping, and $x(n)$ is the envelope of the baseband signal to be clipped & filtered to reduce the PAPR. The scaling function $S_{fn}(n)$ is defined by:

$$S_{fn}(n) = 1 - S_{pulse}(n) \quad (2)$$

where

$$S_{pulse}(n) = \begin{cases} 1 - \frac{A_{th}}{|x(n)|} & |x(n)| \geq A_{th} \\ 0 & |x(n)| < A_{th} \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

Here, A_{th} is the maximum threshold defined for clipping, and consequently, $x_{clip}(n)$ is the final clipped signal with reduced PAPR. This signal $x_{clip}(n)$ is then filtered to smooth the sharp edges generated after hard clipping [4]. Sequence of pulses $S_{pulse}(n)$ are normalized by the clipping threshold A_{th} . From (1)–(3), it is obvious that after direct clipping, the clipped corners in $S_{pulse}(n)$ also remain in $x_{clip}(n)$, which causes nonlinear distortions and regenerates *OOB* distortion, as well.

2.2. Clipping & Windowing

In clipping & windowing techniques, to reduce the *OOB* radiations, filtering functions are replaced by windowing functions. The latter are used to smooth the sharp edges of the clipped signals (x_{clip}). Conventional windowing technique can be represented by:

$$C_{sc}(n) = 1 - \sum_{i=-\infty}^{\infty} C_{eff}(i) \cdot W_{in}(n - n_i) \quad (4)$$

where $W_{in}(n)$ defines the windowing function, which can be any conventional function such as Hamming, Gaussian, Kaiser, etc. [17]. Scaling function used to scale down the PAPR of the complex signal is given by $C_{sc}(n)$, while $C_{eff}(i)$ are the coefficients selected such that the product of the original signal $x(n)$ and the scaling function $C_{sc}(n)$ does not exceed the maximum clipping threshold A_{th} . Therefore, like clipping & filtering functions, the clipped & windowed signal can be represented by:

$$x_{clipwin}(n) = C_{sc}(n) \cdot x(n) \tag{5}$$

3. PEAK WINDOWING BASED ALGORITHM FOR CFR

CFR_{WB} algorithm was proposed in [18], but in that work, performance measures such as, efficiency improvement, ACPR/ACLR, and EVM were not analyzed for upcoming communication standards. Therefore, for systems based on 3G and 4G technology, pros and cons of introducing such a technique in conjunction to DPD techniques is still an interesting area of investigation. In the CFR_{WB} technique, firstly a window covering L number of samples is defined, and this window is further divided into two asymmetric windows, namely left-side (win_{ls}) and right-side (win_{rs}), respectively. Secondly, in time domain, the peaks of reference signal $x(n)$ are detected, and these peaks are grouped into blocks if they fall within predefined frame of the main window, and their locations are indexed. For example, let window length L be 200, and corresponding samples are indexed by $m_1, m_2, m_3, \dots, m_{200}$. Suppose samples indexed by $m_{20}, m_{45}, m_{85}, m_{160}$ and m_{175} exceed the given windowing threshold A_{win} . Therefore, if the main window has been portioned assuming $win_{ls}=win_{rs}=100$ samples, then samples indexed by m_{20}, m_{45} and m_{85} fall in the left side of the main window, and they will be grouped in the win_{ls} , while the samples indexed by m_{160} and m_{175} will be grouped in win_{rs} . Peaks grouped in the windows are scaled down using the scaling function given by:

$$A_{pk-win}(n) = 1 - \sum_{m=-\infty}^{\infty} C_{eff-win}(m) \cdot [win_{ls}(n - n_m) + win_{rs}(n - n_m)] \tag{6}$$

where, two windowing functions $win_{ls}(n)$ and $win_{rs}(n)$ are two different windows defining the left and right side of the windowing function, respectively. $C_{eff-win}$ is the weighting factor for those left-out peaks which were not indexed by m . This down scaled signal $A_{pk-win}(n)$ is multiplied with the original signal $x(n)$ (i.e., signal with high PAPR), resulting into a signal with lower PAPR. This algorithm has been tested and verified with single and multicarrier signals as well. Each block of the windowing function is constructed in an adaptive manner to reduce over-attenuation caused by superposition of the windows. By this algorithm, small peaks are concealed under large neighboring peaks and only peaks with large amplitude are exploited to design the scaling function. Each block is then processed by the CFR_{WB} algorithm to reduce the PAPR and later its performance is analyzed in conjunction with the two DPD techniques. Fig. 1(a) reports the block diagrams of the three aforementioned methods.

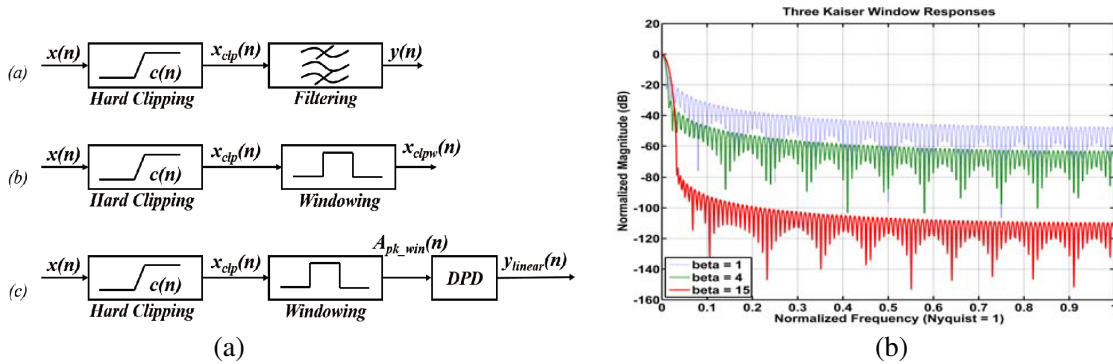


Figure 1. Figures showing the block diagram of CFR techniques and spectral response of Kaiser window. (a) Clipping and filtering. (b) Spectral response of Kaiser window with $L=200$ for different values of β .

3.1. Implementation of the Proposed Algorithm

For windowing purpose, any conventional window function such as Hamming, Gaussian, Kaiser or others can be used. In this work, Kaiser window is used because of its ability to control the windowing parameters by adjusting only two factors, namely window length L , and window shaping factor β [17]. In particular, $L = 200$ and $\beta = 15$ are used to implement $win_{ls}(n)$ and $win_{rs}(n)$ Kaiser windows, which can be expressed as:

$$win_k = \frac{I_0 \left\{ \beta \sqrt{1 - \left[\frac{2n}{L+1} - 1 \right]^2} \right\}}{I_0(\beta)} \quad (7)$$

where I_0 is the zeroth order modified Bessel function of the first kind, and β is an arbitrary, non-negative real number that determines the shape of the window. Fig. 1(b) shows the spectral response of Kaiser window with varying values of β , while keeping window length L constant at 200.

The flow chart shown in Fig. 2 provides in-depth explanation of the proposed CFR technique. Initially, all the peaks of the input signal are sorted and indexed in blocks with respect to their amplitudes from high to low. As stated earlier, maximum threshold for the window is assumed to be A_{win} . The samples above such threshold are labeled ‘Unprocessed’. The sample with highest amplitude in the block is labeled P . If the amplitude of sample ‘ P ’ is less than the assumed threshold A_{win} , then single peak windowing P_{win} is applied on P , and correspondingly A_{win} is modified as superposition of A_{win} and P_{win} , resulting in $A_{win} = A_{win} + P_{win}$, and the peak P is labeled ‘Survivor’.

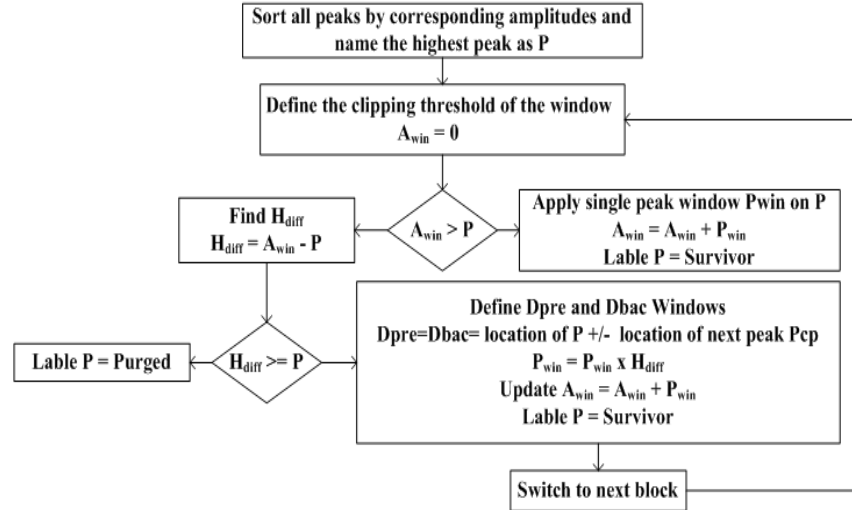


Figure 2. Flow chart of the proposed CFR algorithm.

Conversely, if the peak P is higher than A_{win} , then the difference between A_{win} and P_{win} is calculated and labeled ‘ H_{diff} ’, while sample P is labeled ‘Eradicate’. If the difference between A_{win} and P is less than zero, then the next closest peak P_{cp} is indexed and labeled ‘Survivor’. The difference between the peaks P and P_{cp} is calculated and labeled D_{pres} , and the left hand side of window is constructed by measuring the difference between the sample position of P and P_{cp} . Similarly, the next following peak on the right hand side of the peak P is measured and the corresponding window on the right hand side is calculated. In this case, the peak window P_{win} is denoted by $P_{win} \times H_{diff}$ and the threshold for peak windowing is updated as $A_{win} = A_{win} + P_{win}$. The above routine is repeated until all peaks are labeled either ‘Eradicated’ or ‘Survivor’ and correspondingly the size of the window A_{win} is adaptively updated. Fig. 3(a) and Fig. 3(b) show the complementary cumulative distribution function (CCDF) obtained after applying the proposed CFR technique on LTE and 2 carrier WCDMA signals, respectively, with 10 MHz bandwidth.

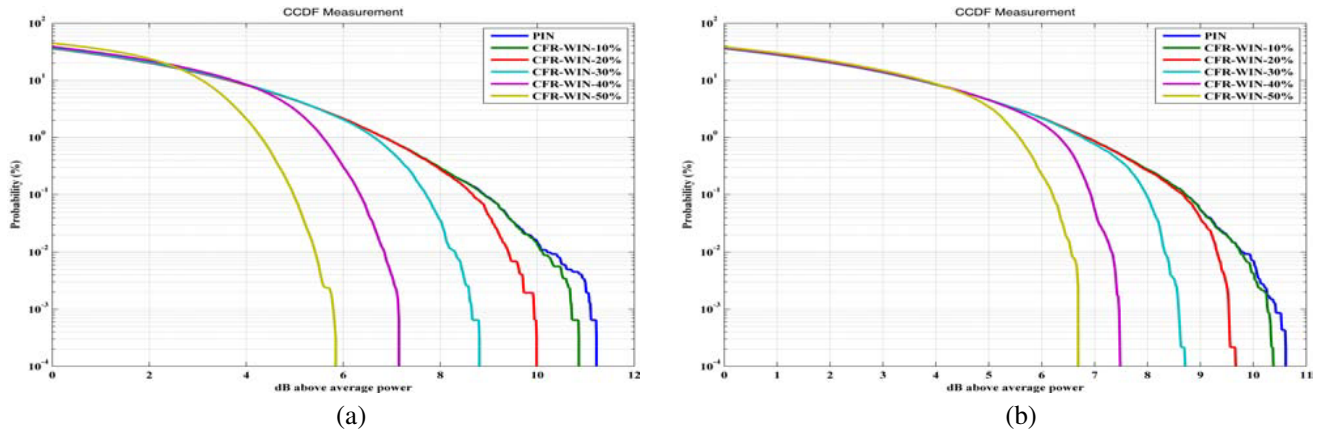


Figure 3. CCDF plots of the 10 MHz LTE and multicarrier WCDMA signals with and without CFR at different thresholds. (a) CCDF plots of the LTE signals. (b) CCDF plots of the multicarrier WCDMA signals.

From both figures, it is evident that the proposed CFR technique is capable to reduce the PAPR of both LTE and multicarrier WCDMA signals by nearly 4 dB. It is also visible that the performance of the proposed CFR technique is better when used with LTE signals, because the average value of the probability density function (PDF) of the LTE signal under consideration was higher than that for the multicarrier WCDMA signals. This implies that a higher number of peaks were clipped and windowed in case of LTE signal, resulting in a higher reduction of PAPR with respect to WCDMA signals.

Figure 4(a) shows the envelope of the WCDMA signal when it is hard clipped, clipped & filtered, and when it is treated with the proposed algorithm, respectively. As can be noted, the clipping & filtering process gives rise to peak regrowth after filtering, whereas the signal processed with the CFR_{WB} technique always remain within the maximum threshold.

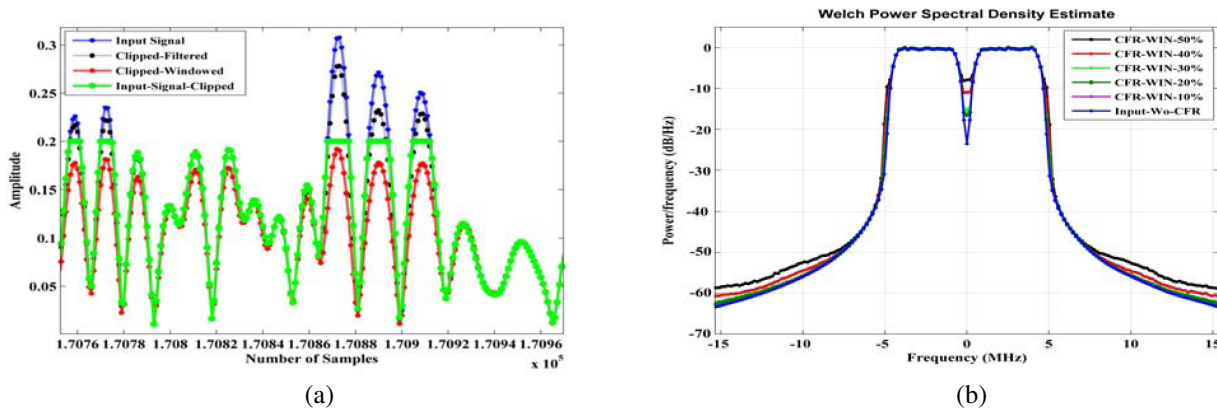


Figure 4. Figures showing time and frequency domain behaviors of 10 MHz WCDMA signal treated by CFR_{WB} . (a) Time Domain Envelope of the Multicarrier WCDMA signal. (b) Spectrum of clipped and windowed two carrier WCDMA signal.

As already mentioned, conventional CFR techniques give rise to OOB spurious. To measure the effectiveness of the proposed CFR technique, power spectrum of two carrier WCDMA signal with different CFR threshold were generated. Fig. 4(b) shows the spectral performance of the proposed CFR technique on two carrier WCDMA signals. It is worth noting that the proposed CFR technique generates almost null spectral regrowth (i.e., 4 dB maximum) at the highest level of clipping threshold (i.e., 50%).

4. GENERALIZED MEMORY POLYNOMIAL VS. VOLTERRA MODELS

To test the performance of the proposed CFR technique in conjunction with different DPD techniques, two DPD algorithms, namely Volterra series based Digital Predistortion (V_{DPD}) and Generalized Memory Polynomial (GMP_{DPD}), are selected. Volterra series with multidimensional convolutions are considered to be one of the most prominent and robust modelling techniques for PAs [10, 19–21]. The Volterra series predistorter can be described by:

$$Z_n = \sum_{m=0}^{Q-1} \dots \sum_{m_l=0}^{Q-1} h_l(m_1 \dots m_l) \prod_{l=1}^L x(n - m_l) \quad (8)$$

In the above equation, Z_n is an L dimensional summation of power series and past time envelope responses. $h_l(m_1 \dots m_l)$ are the coefficients associated with the L^{th} branch kernel of the Volterra series. This is a generalized power series representation with a finite memory of length $Q+1$.

Volterra series is a general nonlinear model with memory, but a full Volterra series with multidimensional convolutions produces a huge computational load, that limits its attractiveness in practical applications[20]. Therefore, it is generally simplified into Wiener, Hammerstein, Wiener-Hammerstein or generalized memory polynomial models (GMP_{DPD}) [20]. GMP_{DPD} reduces Volterra's model complexity [20–24]. For this work, indirect learning architecture has been used to construct the GMP_{DPD} , which eliminated the need for a model assumption and parameter estimation of the power amplifier [21, 22]. Moreover, GMP_{DPD} is more robust and its coefficients can be easily estimated using a least square algorithm [20, 21].

In this work, we did not need all the coefficients of GMP_{DPD} , because it was non intended to implement delay taps. Therefore, the following modified function was used as GMP_{DPD} :

$$\begin{aligned} Z_{GMP}(n) = & \sum_{k \in K_a} \sum_{l \in L_a} a_{kl} x(n-l) |x(n-l)|^k + \sum_{k \in K_b} \sum_{l \in L_b} \sum_{m \in M_b} b_{klm} x(n-l) |x(n-l-m)|^k \\ & + \sum_{k \in K_c} \sum_{l \in L_c} \sum_{m \in M_c} c_{klm} x(n-l) |x(n-l+m)|^k \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

Here, $x(n)$ and $Z_{GMP}(n)$ are the input and output signals of the modified GMP model. K_a , L_a and a_{kl} are the nonlinearity order, memory order and coefficients of the aligned terms between signal and its exponentiated envelope, respectively. K_b , L_b , M_b and b_{klm} are the nonlinearity order, memory depth, lagging cross terms index, and coefficients of the signal and lagging exponentiated envelope terms, respectively. K_c , L_c , M_c and c_{klm} are the nonlinearity order, memory depth, leading cross terms index, and coefficients of the signal and leading exponentiated envelope terms, respectively. The two above mentioned DPD techniques were used in conjunction with CFR_{WB} , so that the change in CFR performance with respect to different predistortion techniques can be evaluated.

5. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP AND RESULTS

For the experimental evaluation of the proposed method a 12 W GaN based Doherty power amplifier [24] was used, whose photo is shown in Fig. 5(a). MATLAB and Agilent VSA were used for the experimental validations. Fig. 5(b) shows the experimental test setup. In the first round of measurements (blue lines in Fig. 5(b)), baseband LTE and multicarrier WCDMA signals were mathematically generated from MATLAB, which were up-converted by vector signal generator Agilent ESG-E4438C. Agilent PSA-E4448A spectrum analyzer was used to down-convert the received signal before finally being captured from digital oscilloscope (Agilent DSO-6104A) using Agilent VSA. The captured signals in the first round were considered as the reference signal. In the second round of measurements, the DPA was driven with these reference signals, and the nonlinear DPA output was captured by following the methods mentioned in first round. In the third round of measurements, signals treated with DPD techniques alone, and signals treated with DPD techniques in conjunction with the CFR_{WB} , were used to analyse the performance of the DPD and CFR technique used, respectively. It is important to mention here that the average input power of the signals processed with CFR technique were increased by an amount equivalent to the average PAPR reduced by CFR_{WB} .

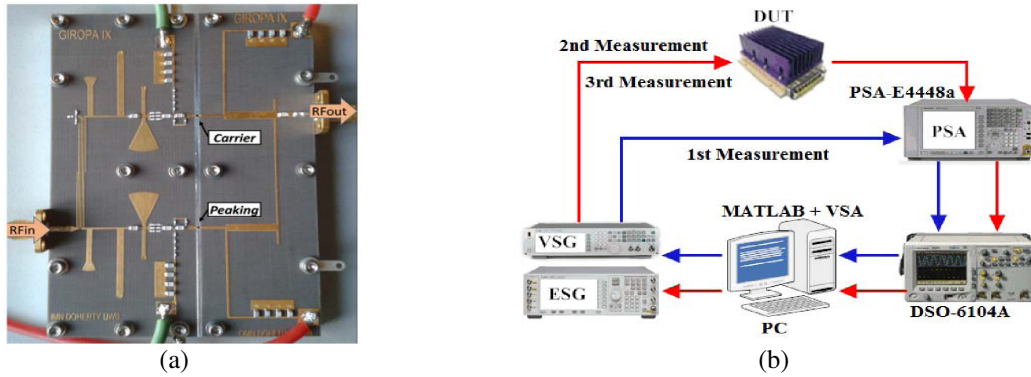


Figure 5. Figures showing the DPA and test and measurement set-up. (a) Photograph of the DPA used as device under test. (b) Test and measurement setup.

For the experimental validation, two signals’ families have been considered: LTE with varying bandwidth, and Multicarrier WCDMA with different bandwidths and number of carriers. Both LTE and multicarrier WCDMA signals were oversampled to attain a sampling frequency of 92.16 MHz.

5.1. Performance of Proposed CFR Technique for LTE Signals

To comply with the LTE standard, the maximum allowable *EVM* should be less than 8.5% and Adjacent Channel Leakage Ratio (ACLR) should be less than 45 dBc [25]. Similar are the specifications for multicarrier WCDMA signals. The linearization requirements for LTE were achieved by V_{DPD} technique at 7th order of nonlinearity and 3rd order of memory depth. Therefore, the order of nonlinearity and memory depth were not increased any further during the measurements, and same order of nonlinearity and memory depth were used to linearize DPA when driven with by multicarrier WCDMA signals. Table 1 shows the measured values of *EVM* and ACLR for LTE signals with and without V_{DPD} and CFR_{WB} . As can be seen, the combination of the CFR_{WB} technique with V_{DPD} complies the linearity requirements of LTE standards. It is observed that introducing CFR technique causes rise in EVM distortion, but it is important to notice that the ACLR and EVM values measured for the combination of V_{DPD} and CFR_{WB} are well within the requirements of LTE standards. Measured values of ACLR and EVM for LTE signals are also reported in Table 1.

Figure 6(a), Fig. 6(b) and Fig. 6(c) depict the measured power spectrum of 5 MHz, 10 MHz and

Table 1. Measured ACLR and EVM for LTE signals with and without V_{DPD} and CFR_{WB} .

LTE	Signals Measured	EVM %	ACLR (dBc)			
			-10 MHz	-5 MHz	5 MHz	10 MHz
5 Mhz	Pout	9.3	-46.6	-26.1	-26.6	-47.7
	DPD+PA	7	-47.3	-43.8	-43.4	-46.7
	DPD+PA+CFR	7.4	-50.1	-49.4	-48.1	-52.5
10 Mhz	Pout	9.5	-49.1	-29.1	-29.7	-48.9
	DPD+PA	6.69	-51.3	-46.6	-46.8	-49.8
	DPD+PA+CFR	7.53	-52.3	-47.3	-47.1	-51.8
15 MHz	Pout	9.15	-47.8	-26.8	-26.9	-44.9
	DPD+PA	6.39	-45.4	-39.0	-40.5	-46.3
	DPD+PA+CFR	7.12	-44.9	-37.3	-36.6	-45.5

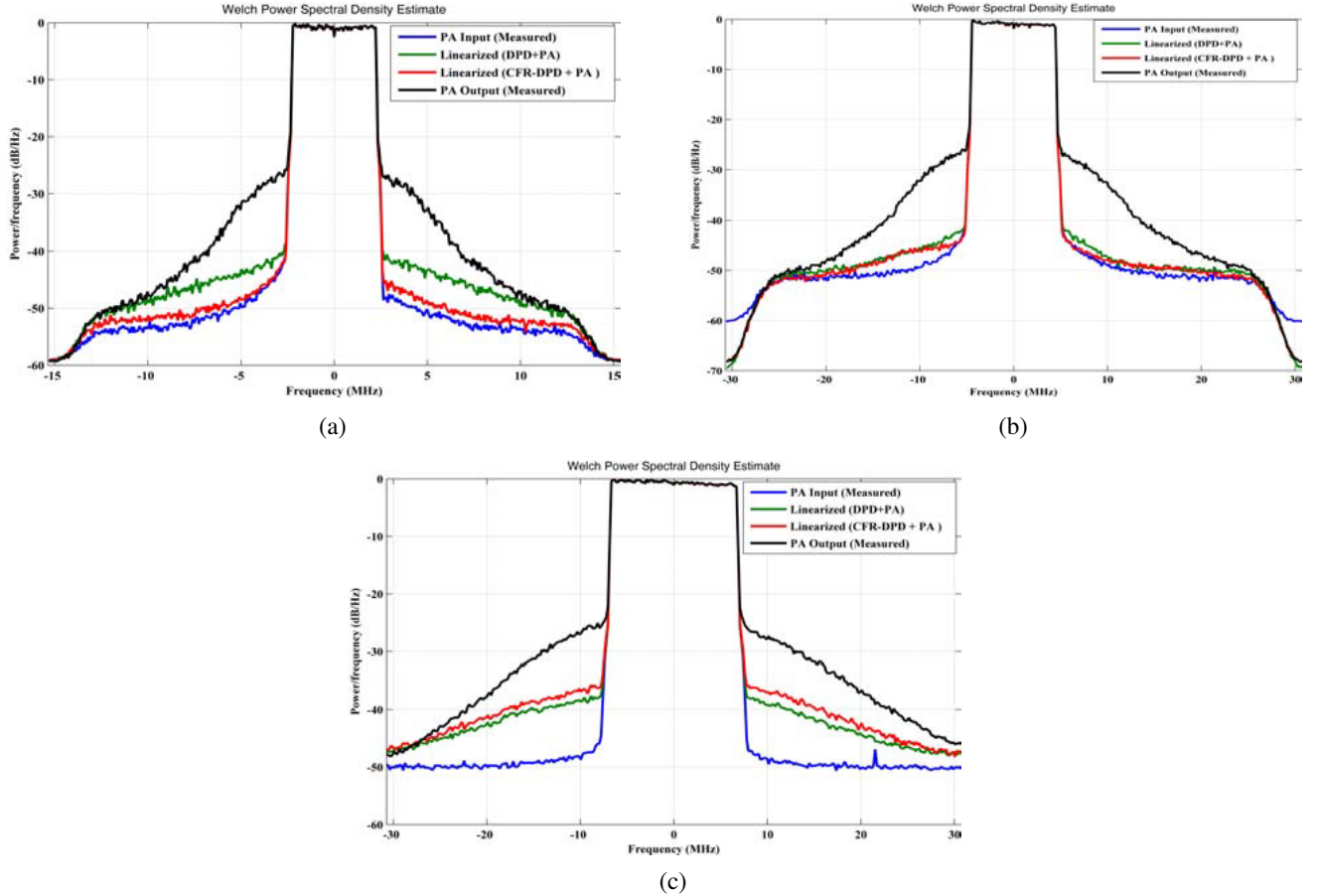


Figure 6. Measured power spectrum for LTE signals with varying bandwidth. (a) Measured power spectrum for 5 MHz LTE signal. (b) Measured power spectrum for 10 MHz LTE signal. (c) Measured power spectrum for 15 MHz LTE signal.

15 MHz LTE signal (16-QAM modulation and PAPR of 9.98 dB), respectively. The power spectrum shown in black lines are the DPA output without applying any DPD and CFR on the LTE reference signal. Green lines represent the spectrum of the DPA output when only V_{DPD} is applied to linearize the DPA, and the red lines are the power spectrum when V_{DPD} in conjunction with CFR_{WB} is applied to the reference LTE signals.

As previously illustrated (i.e., Fig. 3(a) and Fig. 3(b)), the CFR_{WB} technique is able to reduce the PAPR of the complex signals by nearly 4 dB. Consequently, the DPA can be driven with a higher input power when CFR_{WB} is applied, thus allowing for a relevant efficiency improvement. In particular, when the DPA was driven with this higher input power the average efficiency was enhanced by nearly 25%, while maintaining similar values of ACLR and EVM. From Fig. 6(a)–Fig. 6(c), it is worth to notice that ACLR performance of the DPA output for signals where CFR_{WB} is in conjunction with V_{DPD} deteriorates with respect to the increase in the bandwidth of input signal. The reason for such behaviour can be ascribed to the change in oversampling ratios of the input signals. In our case, to achieve a sampling frequency of 92.16 MHz, signals with 5 MHz, 10 MHz and 15 MHz bandwidth were oversampled 8, 8 and 4 times, respectively.

5.2. Performance of CFR_{WB} for Multicarrier WCDMA Signals

To further validate the performance analysis of CFR_{WB} , the V_{DPD} was replaced by GMP_{DPD} to linearize the DPA, and LTE signals were replaced by two and four carriers WCDMA signals with 10 MHz and 20 MHz bandwidths, respectively. Steps of measurements and methods of analysis used in

this section are concurrent to the procedures followed in Section V-A. Table 2 and Table 3 summarize the measured performance of CFR_{WB} in conjunction with GMP_{DPD} for multicarrier WCDMA signals with varying bandwidths.

Table 2. Measured ACPR and EVM for 2-carrier (10 MHz) WCDMA signals with GMP_{DPD} .

2C-WCDMA (21 dBm)	EVM (%)	ACPR (dBc) (MHz)				Δ PAE (%)
		-10	-5	5	10	
Pout	12.31	-43.6	-28.5	-27.4	-44.3	-
DPD+PA	7.52	-52.5	-51.8	-51.3	-53.5	-
DPD+PA+CFR	7.85	-52.4	-50.5	-50.2	-52.8	+10.8
2C-WCDMA (24 dBm)		-10	-5	5	10	
Pout	11.69	-43.7	-33.5	-31.99	-45.7	-
DPD+PA	6.82	-52.8	-52.3	-51.98	-52.6	-
DPD+PA+CFR	7.23	-51.6	-50.3	-50.8	-52.0	+15.6
2C-WCDMA (26 dBm)		-10	-5	5	10	
Pout	11.53	-43.5	-37.4	-37.4	-44.6	-
DPD+PA	7.63	-52.6	-51.28	-51.6	-52.8	-
DPD+PA+CFR	7.81	-51.2	-50.3	-50.4	-51.9	+21.3

Table 3. Measured ACPR and EVM for 4-Carrier (20 MHz) WCDMA signals with GMP_{DPD} .

4C-WCDMA (21 dBm)	EVM (%)	ACPR(dBc) (MHz)				Δ PAE (%)
		-10	-5	5	10	
Pout	12.52	-38.2	-36.9	-34.7	-35.6	-
DPD+PA	6.24	-50.5	-51.9	-51.3	-51.5	-
DPD+PA+CFR	7.15	-47.2	-45.6	-45.2	-47.3	+14.4
4C-WCDMA (24 dBm)		-10	-5	5	10	
Pout	11.87	-37.1	-35.7	-36.2	-37.6	-
DPD+PA	7.13	-51.8	-51.6	-51.4	-51.9	-
DPD+PA+CFR	7.25	-47.7	-46.2	-45.9	-47.6	+21.9
4C-WCDMA (26 dBm)		-10	-5	5	10	
Pout	11.2	-35.8	-34.13	-35.2	-37.0	-
DPD+PA	6.86	-51.6	-51.2	-51.8	-51.9	-
DPD+PA+CFR	7.24	-47.4	-45.6	-45.2	-48.1	+25.1

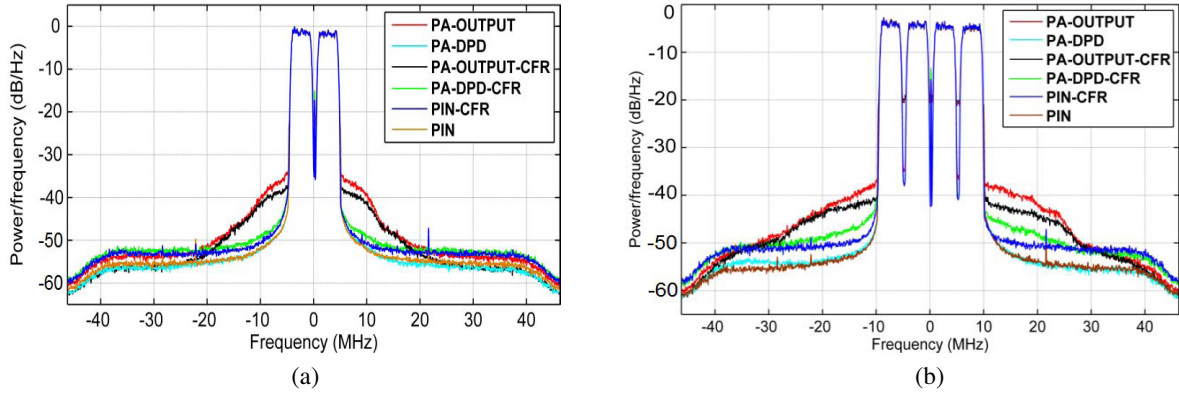


Figure 7. Measured power spectrum for WCDMA signals with varying bandwidth and different number of carriers. (a) Power spectrum of 2-carrier (10 MHz) WCDMA signal. (b) Power spectrum of 4-carrier (20 MHz) signal.

In these tables, column 2C-WCDMA and 4C-WCDMA represent two and four carriers WCDMA signals, respectively. Moreover, DPD+PA represents the DPA output when the input signals were treated only by GMP_{DPD} . DPD+PA+CFR is the DPA output when the input signals were processed by CFR_{WB} and GMP_{DPD} . Also in this case, the average power of the input signal treated with CFR_{WB} was increased by an amount equivalent to PAPR reduced by CFR_{WB} . The measured output spectrums of the considered cases are plotted in Fig. 7(a) and Fig. 7(b). In these figures, brown line show the spectrum of reference input signal (without CFR or DPD applied), while the blue one represents the spectrum of input signal after applying only CFR_{WB} (but with increased average power). The red line is the DPA output corresponding to reference input signal, whereas black line depicts the DPA output with only CFR_{WB} applied. Finally, green and cyan lines are the power spectral lines when GMP_{DPD} was applied to DPA output with and without CFR_{WB} , respectively.

After analyzing the spectrum, it is evident that GMP_{DPD} in conjunction with the CFR_{WB} technique is able to linearize the DPA to meet the ACPR requirements of the multicarrier WCDMA standards. Column ΔPAE in Table 2 and Table 3 reports the DPAs' power added efficiency improvements registered when both CFR_{WB} and GMP_{DPD} are applied together to the input signals. It expresses the increment in PAE when CFR and DPD are applied in conjunction, rather than applying the DPD alone. As can be noted, the proposed method allows to notably ameliorate the DPA efficiency without significantly worsening the modern communication standard parameters, such as ACPR and EVM. More in detail, the application of CFR effectively deteriorates the performance of the DPA in terms of OOB and EVM distortions, but in our case these distortions were well within the permissible limits of WCDMA standards. On the other hand, introduction of CFR_{WB} in conjunction with GMP_{DPD} allowed us to increase the average input power of the DPA and drive it closer to saturation, which in return enhanced the overall efficiency of the DPA by up to 25%.

6. CONCLUSION

This paper thoroughly investigates the pros and cons of introducing CFR technique in conjunction with DPD techniques to improve the linearity and power efficiency of power amplifiers. To substantiate the research conducted, performance analysis of CFR technique based on peak windowing algorithm (CFR_{WB}), in conjunction with two different DPD techniques (V_{DPD} and GMP_{DPD}), for two different complex communication standards signals with varying bandwidth (i.e., LTE and multicarrier WCDMA), were carried out. The performances of DPA output when driven with and without CFR and DPD, in terms of power added efficiency, PAPR reduction, EVM and ACPR have been reported. The results shown that, even with complex input signals with varying bandwidths, windowing based CFR (i.e., CFR_{WB}) technique provides consistent performance in reducing PAPR of the LTE and multicarrier WCDMA signals, and its performance with either V_{DPD} or GMP_{DPD} complies with the

EVM and ACPR requirements of above mentioned communication standards. It is also shown that PAPR reduction, achieved by applying CFR technique, allows to increase the input power of the DPA, which consequently permits the DPA output to be driven in deeper saturation, resulting in improvement of the overall power added efficiency, which in this study was achieved up to 25%.

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