

HPA  
(High Power Amplifiers)  
Nonlinear electrical modeling  
of transistors  
for CAD

# Basics of Active and Nonlinear High-Frequency Electronics

Michel CAMPOVECCHIO  $f > 1\text{GHz}$  ADS

# Prerequisites :

- Linear analogue circuits
- Resistive and reactive circuits
- Energy and dissipated power
- Transient and steady state conditions.
- Low-pass / high-pass / band-pass filters
- Bode diagram
- Voltage and current sources
- Thevenin / Norton.
- Bipolar and field effect transistors
- Small signal equivalent circuit models
- Input / output impedances.
- Voltage, current and power gains.
- Static and dynamic load lines

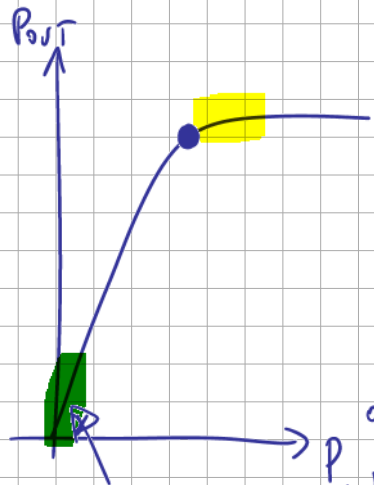
Part I : Michel Campovecchio (michel.campovecchio@unilim.fr) \*

- Lectures : 12 H - Tutorials : 15 H → Lectures and Tutorials 27 H

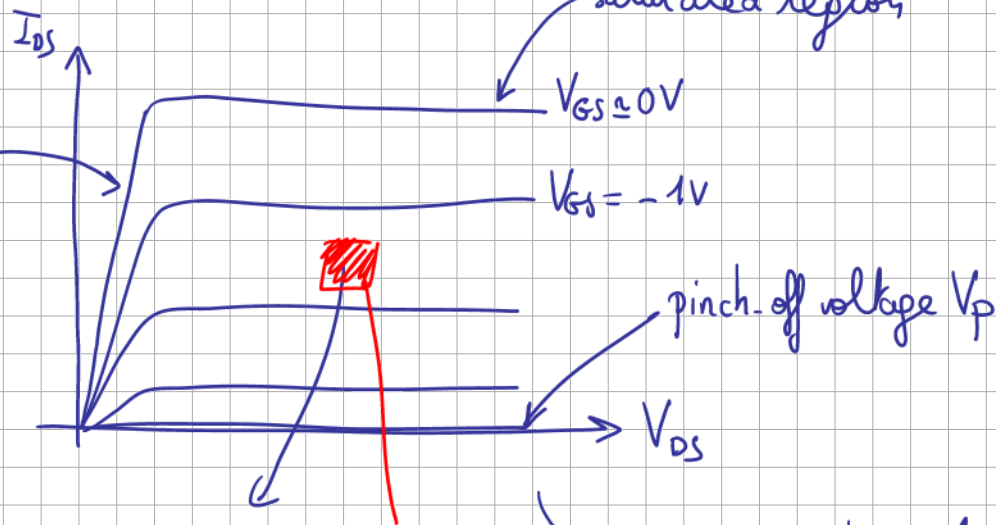
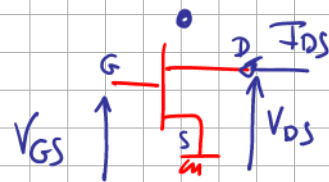
Part II : Jean Michel Nebus (jean-michel.nebus@unilim.fr) \*

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- ❑ Chapter I : Introduction to active high-frequency circuits in communication systems
- ❑ Chapter II : Introduction to the Non-linear Electrical Modeling of microwave transistors
- ❑ Chapter III : Design method of narrow-band power amplifiers
- ❑ Chapter IV : Architectures of high-frequency mixers \*
- ❑ Chapter V : Architectures of wideband resistive and distributed power amplifiers  
(depending on the course progress) \*
- ❑ Chapter VI : Architectures of non-linear active circuits controlled by cold HEMTs



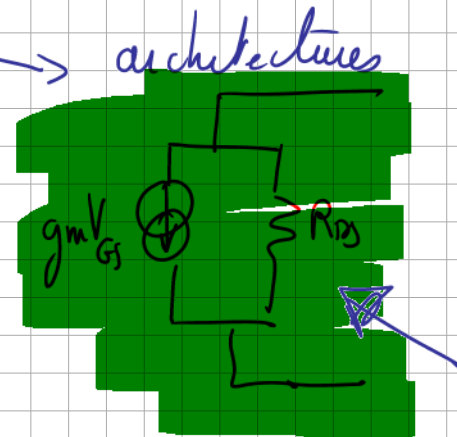
$$I_{DS}(t) =$$

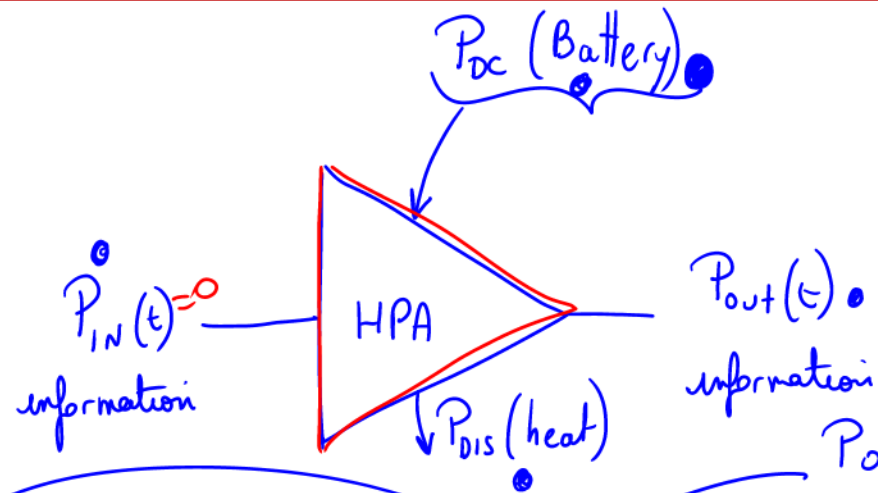


FET (Field Effect Transistor)  
HEMT (High Electron Mobility Transistor)

$$I_{DS}(V_{GS}, V_{DS})$$

study analytically simple circuits





## Chapter I :

$$P_{OUT} - P_{IN} = PAE \times P_{DC}$$

$$P_{IN} + P_{DC} = P_{OUT} + P_{DIS}$$

$$P_{DIS} = P_{DC} - (P_{OUT} - P_{IN})$$

$$= P_{DC} - PAE \times P_{DC}$$

$$P_{DIS} = P_{DC} (1 - PAE)$$

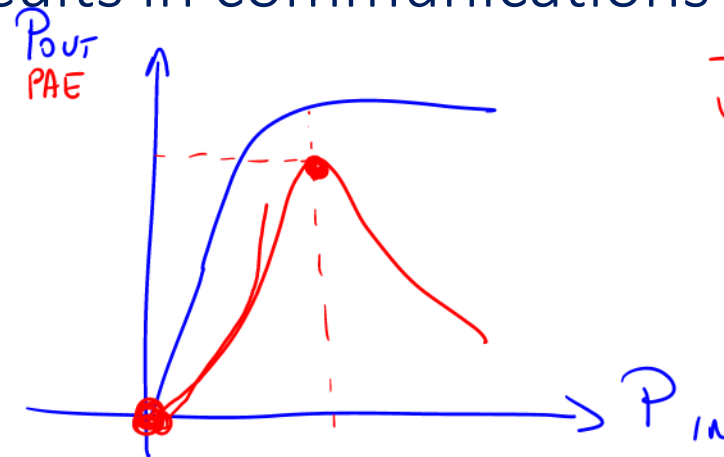
$$PAE = \frac{P_{OUT} - P_{IN}}{P_{DC}}$$

Power Added  
Efficiency

Introduction to

$$0 < PAE < 1$$

active high-frequency circuits in communications systems



$$T = k \times P_{DIS}$$

# I - Differences Active/Passive & Linear/Nonlinear

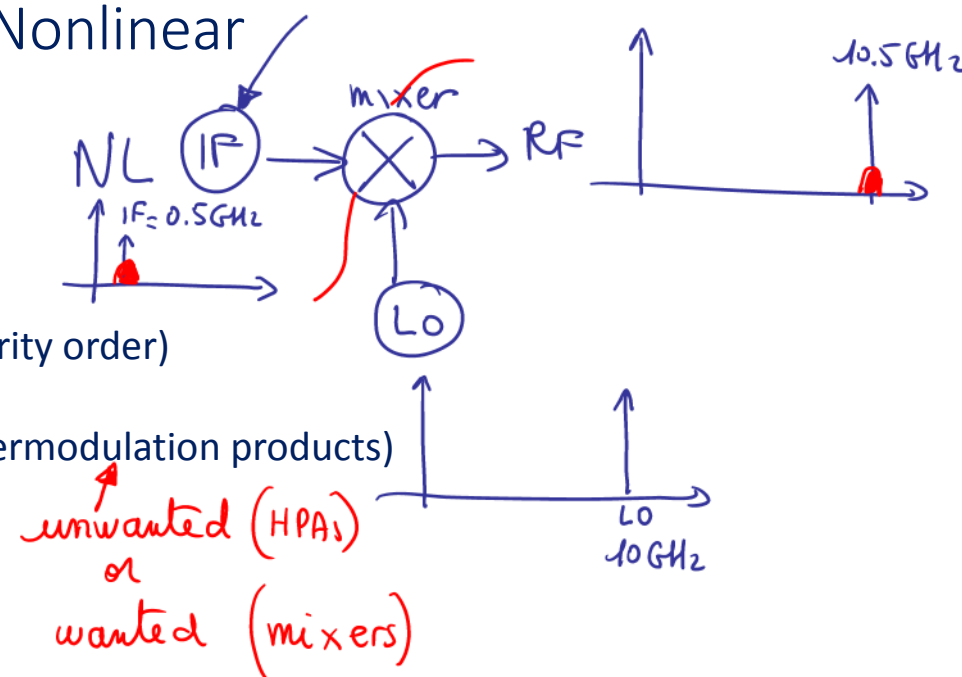
1) Power Losses / Gain / Bias

2) Linearity / Non-linearity

3) Frequency generation of nonlinear devices (Nonlinearity order)

\* a) Single carrier (harmonics)

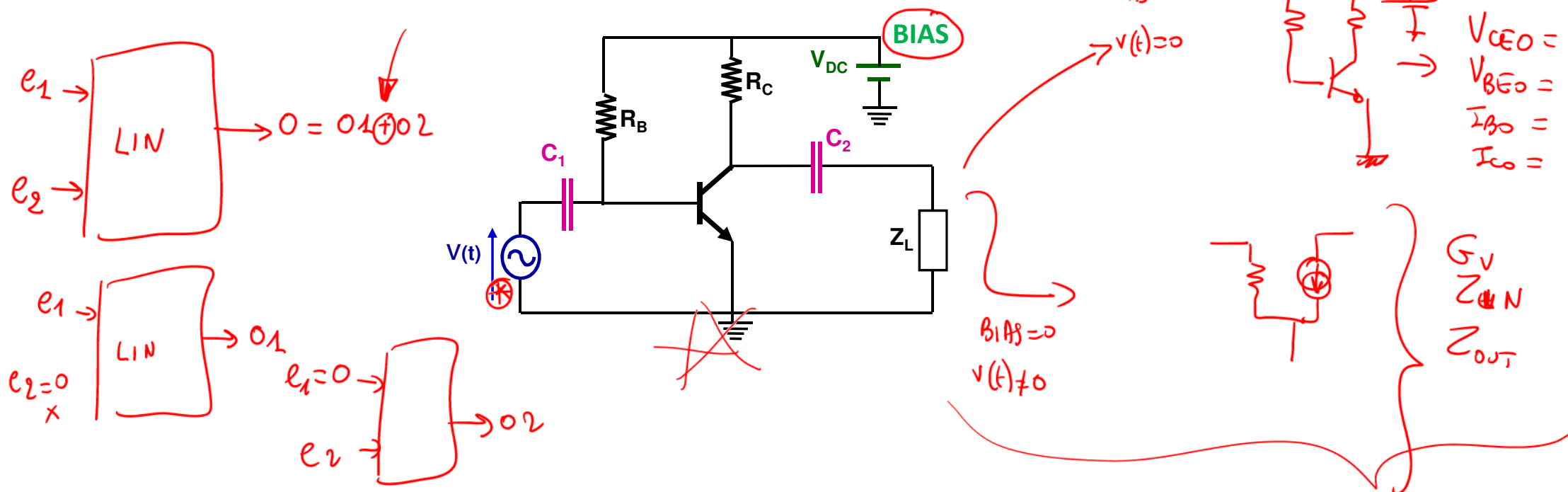
\* b) Multiple carriers (example of two carriers → intermodulation products)



# I - Differences Active/Passive & Linear/Nonlinear

## 1) Power Losses / Gain / Bias

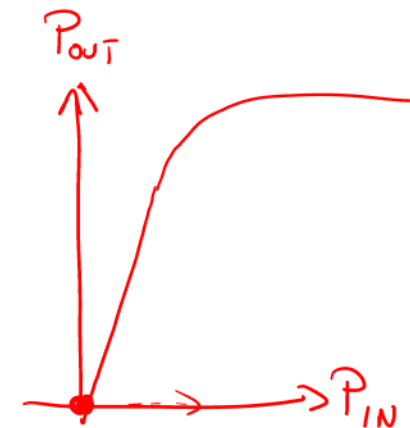
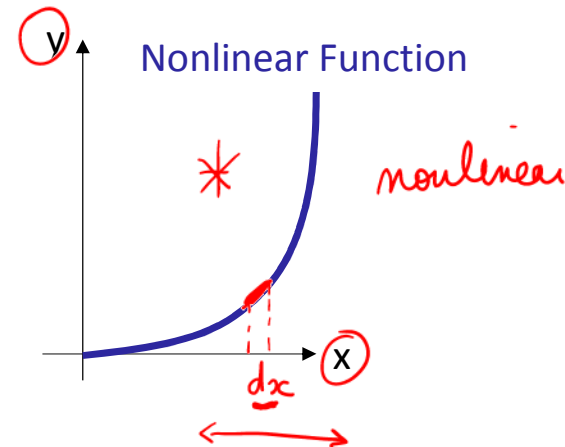
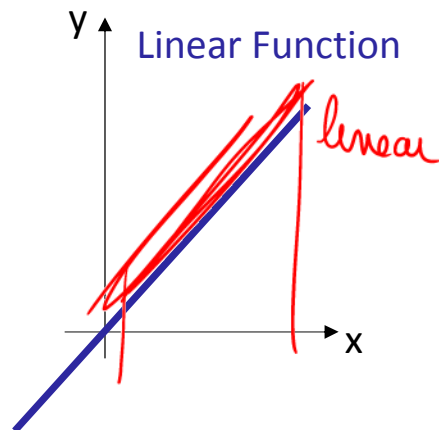
- A passive circuit cannot give power gain but only losses
- A passive circuit is linear and its response does not depend on the signal amplitude
- On the contrary, a power gain greater than unity is linked to active circuits and bias
- An active circuit can be linear or nonlinear depending on the signal amplitude (diode, FET, ...)



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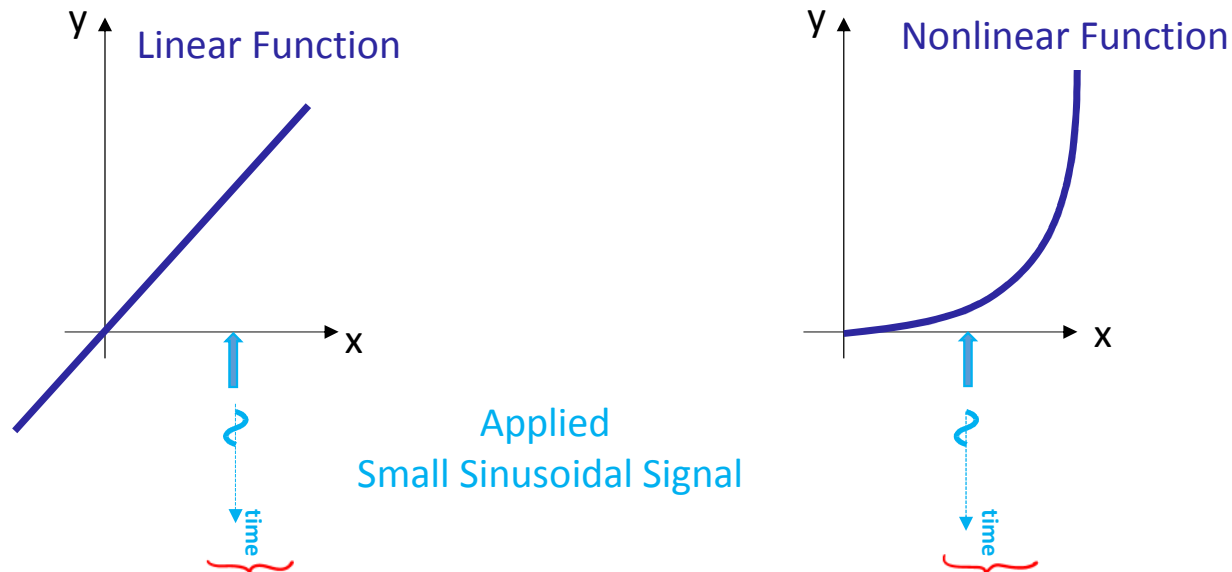




## I - Differences Active/Passive & Linear/Nonlinear

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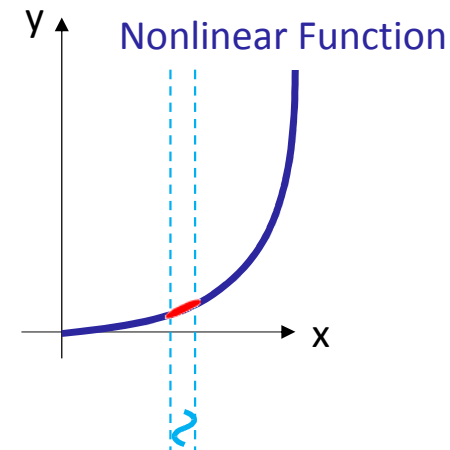
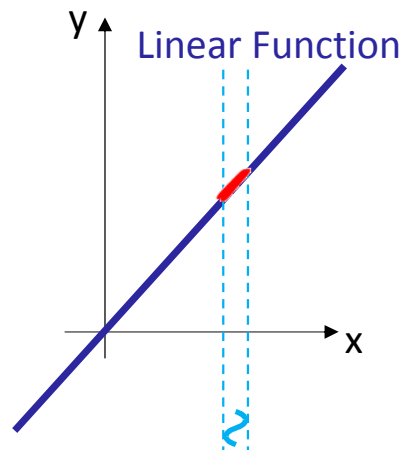
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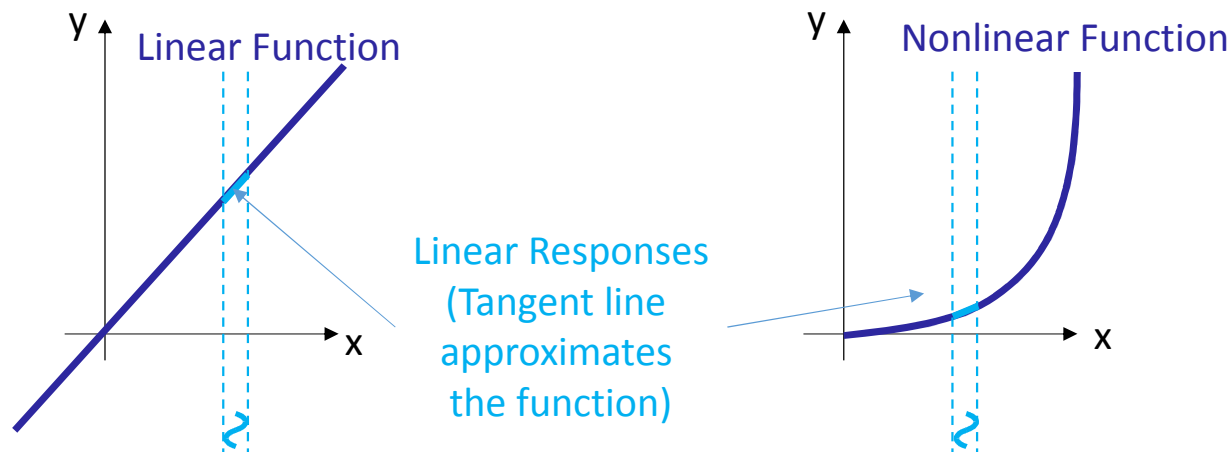
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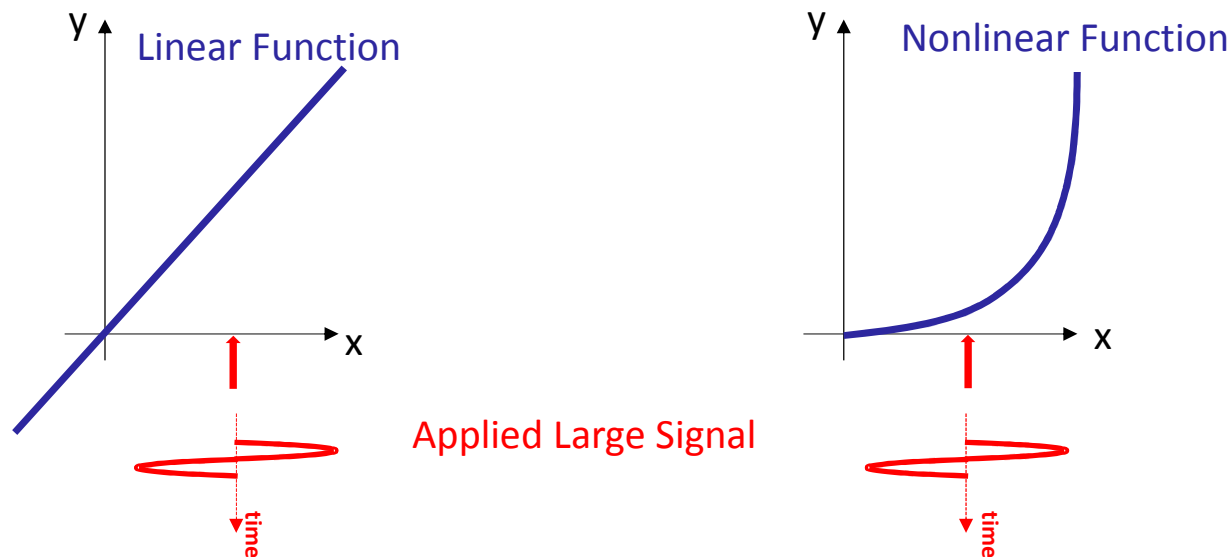


**Linear and Nonlinear circuits give a linear response to small signals**

## I - Differences Active/Passive & Linear/Nonlinear

### 1) Power Losses / Gain / Bias

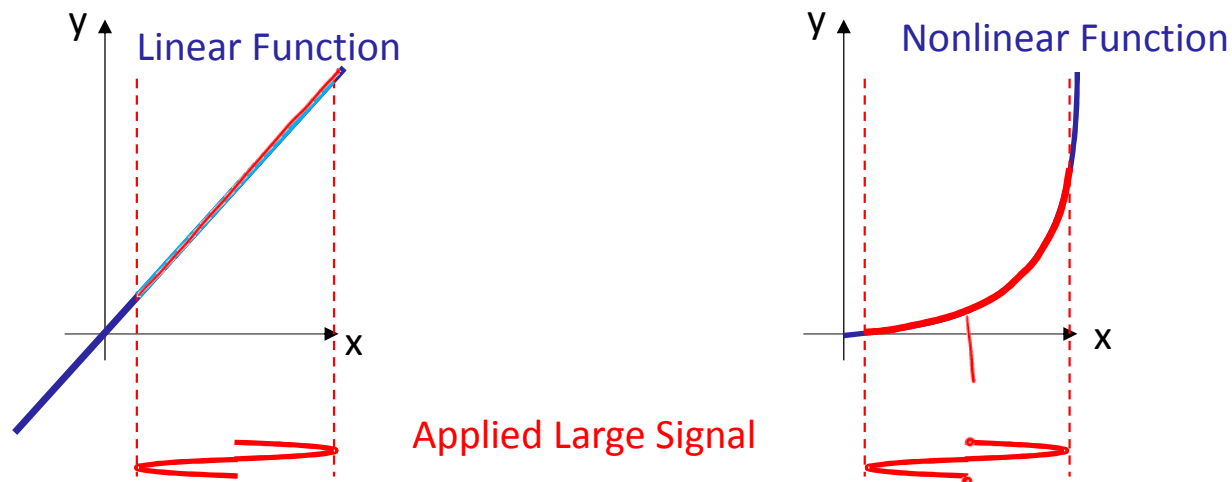
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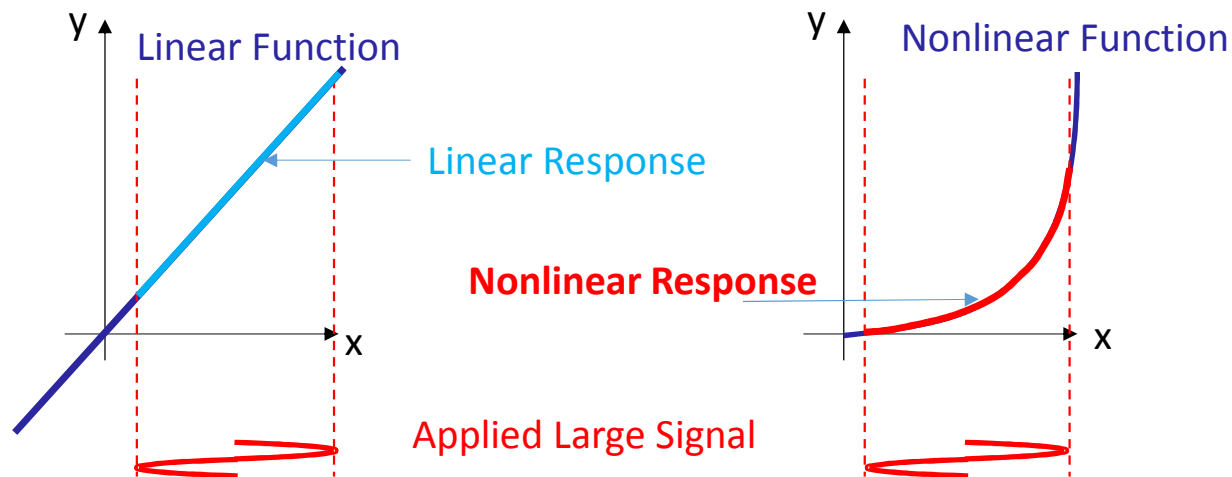
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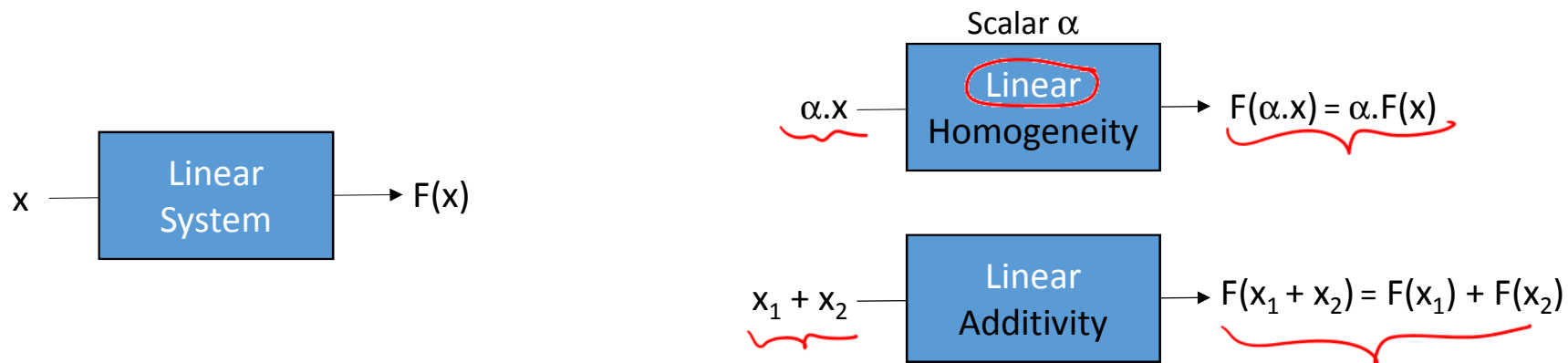
Linear circuits remain linear in the case of large signals

Nonlinear circuits give nonlinear responses to large signals → Harmonic generation in frequency domain

# I - Differences Active/Passive & Linear/Nonlinear

## 2) Linearity (superposition principle)

A system whose response  $F(x)$  satisfies the superposition principle is called a **linear system**.  
The superposition can be defined by two simple properties : **additivity** and **homogeneity**

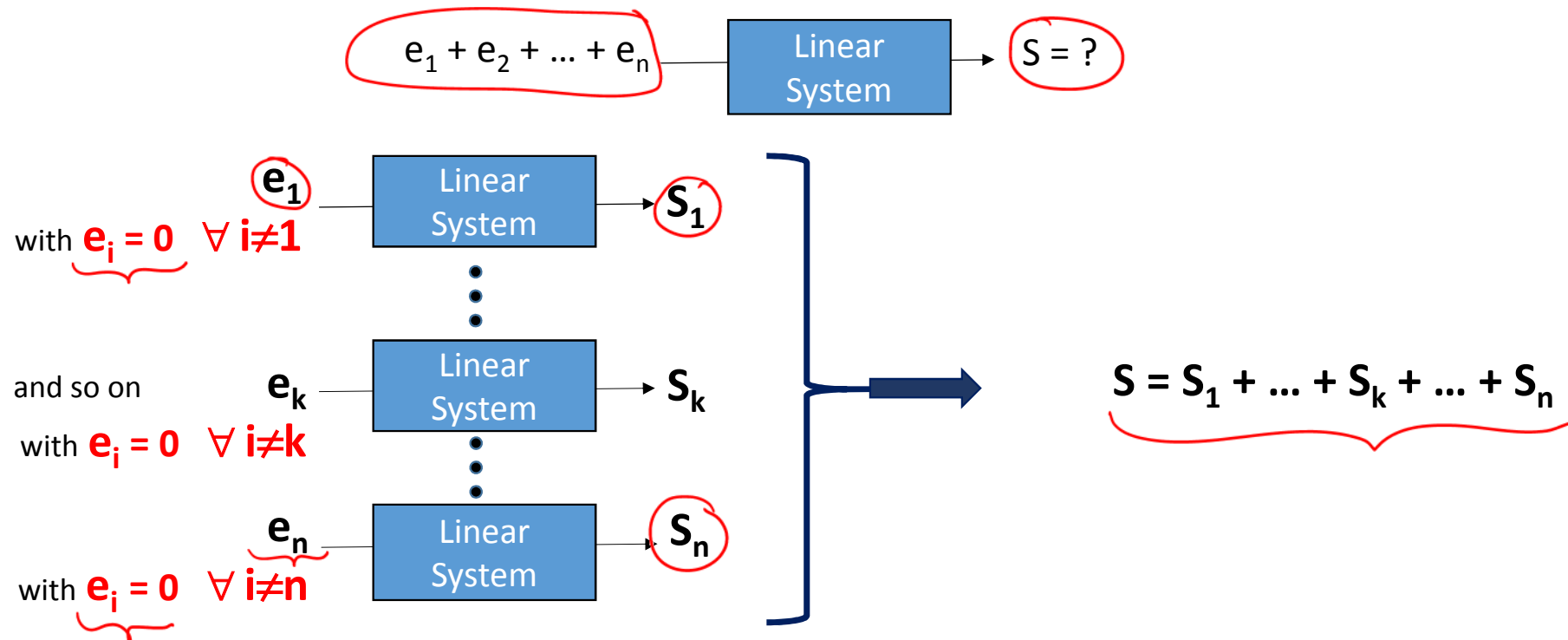


# I - Differences Active/Passive & Linear/Nonlinear

## 2) Linearity (superposition principle)

In the case of electrical circuits, the **superposition theorem** states that :

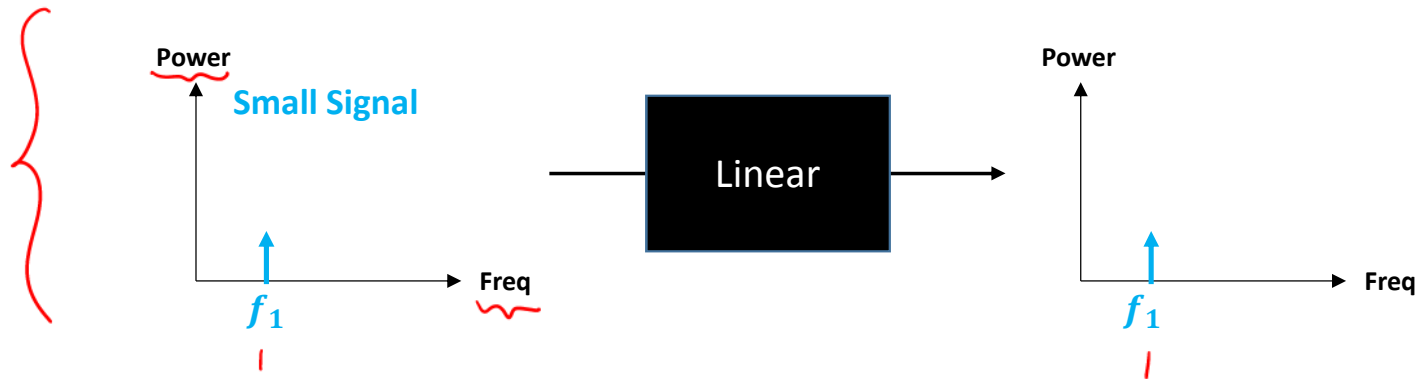
**the response of a linear circuit to n independent sources equals** the algebraic sum of the n responses caused by each independent source acting alone assuming that all the other independent sources are replaced by their internal impedances.





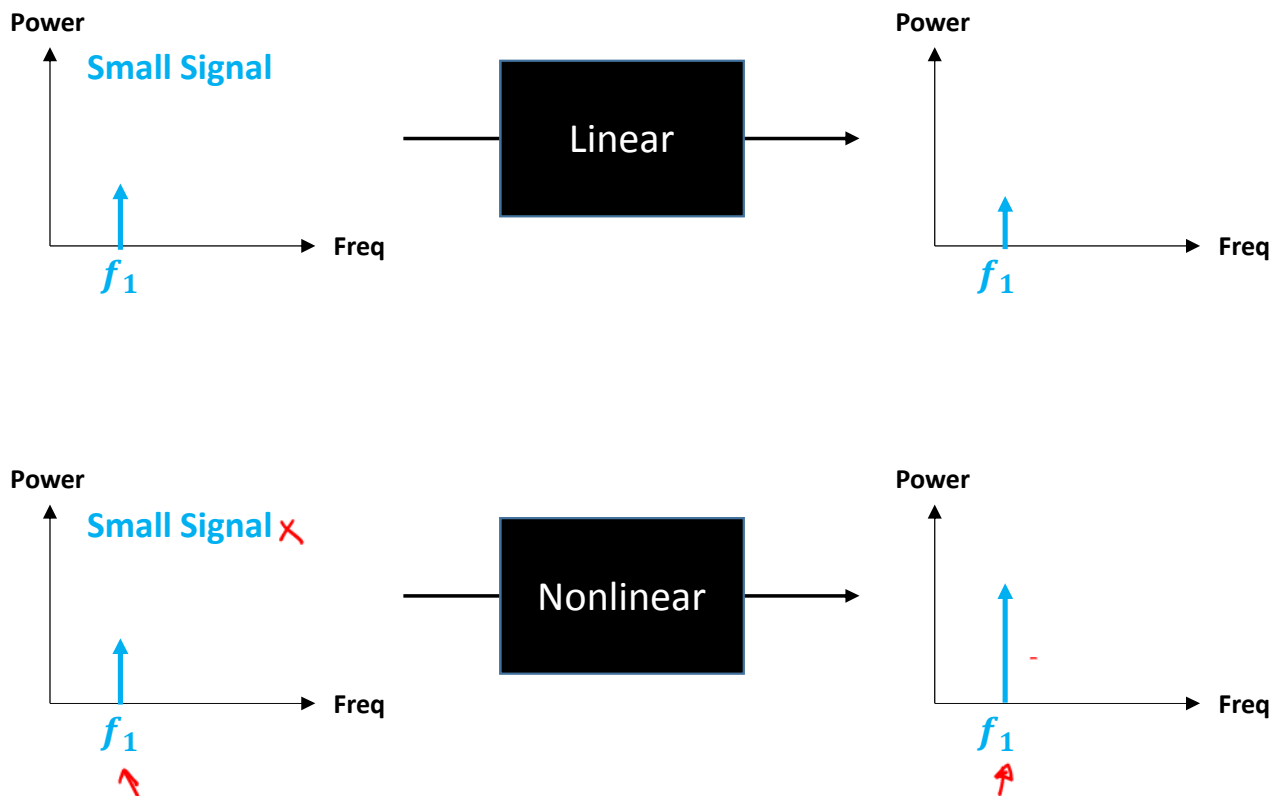
# I - Differences Active/Passive & Linear/Nonlinear

## 2) Linearity / Non Linearity (single carrier)



# I - Differences Active/Passive & Linear/Nonlinear

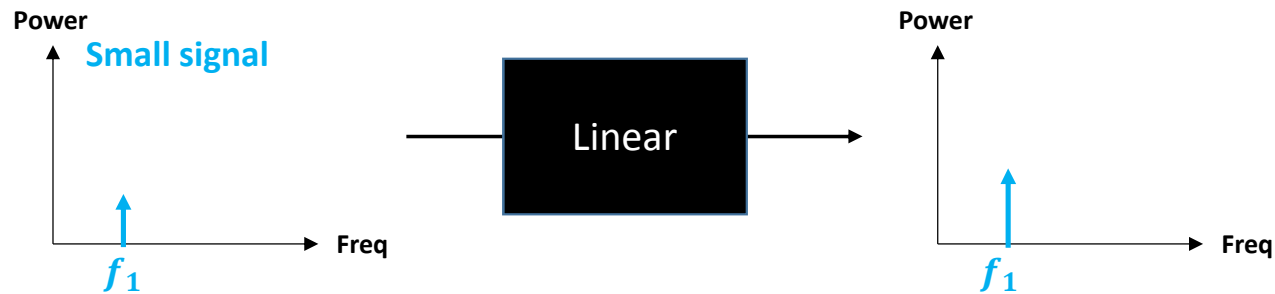
## 2) Linearity / Non Linearity (single carrier)



Whatever the type of device (linear or nonlinear), its response to small signals remains linear

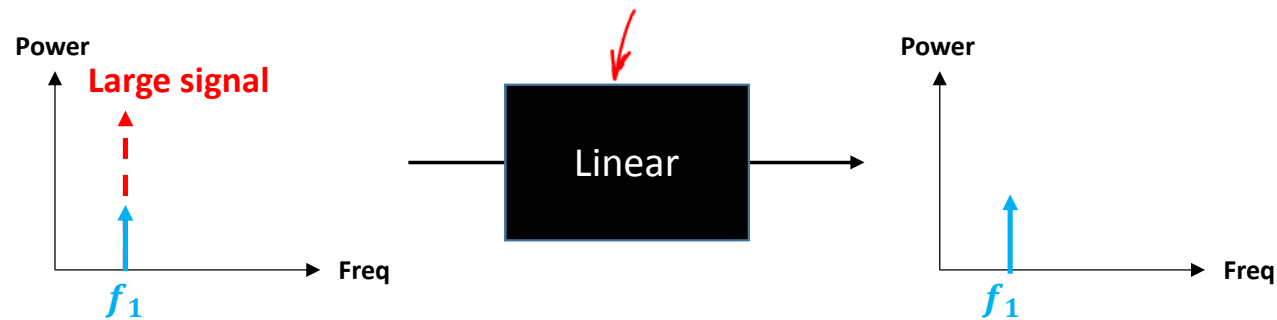
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## 2) Linearity / Non Linearity (single carrier)



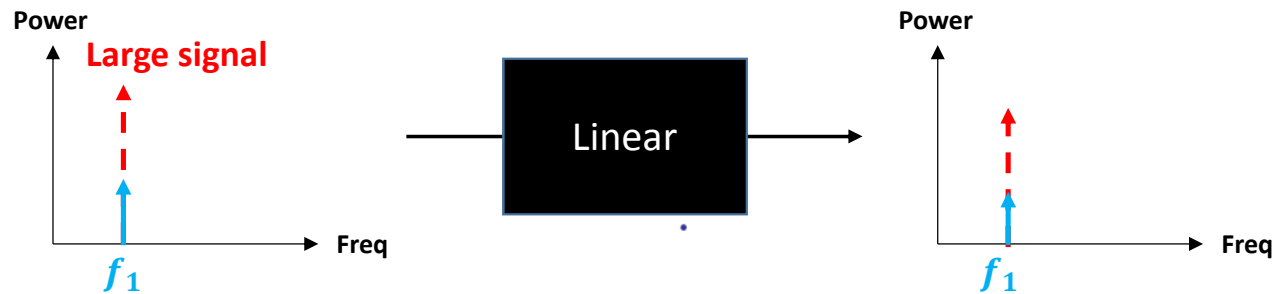
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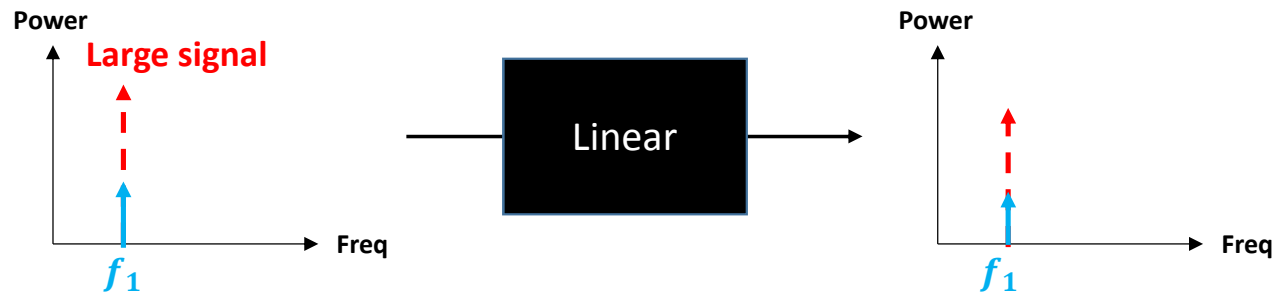
## 2) Linearity / Non Linearity (single carrier)



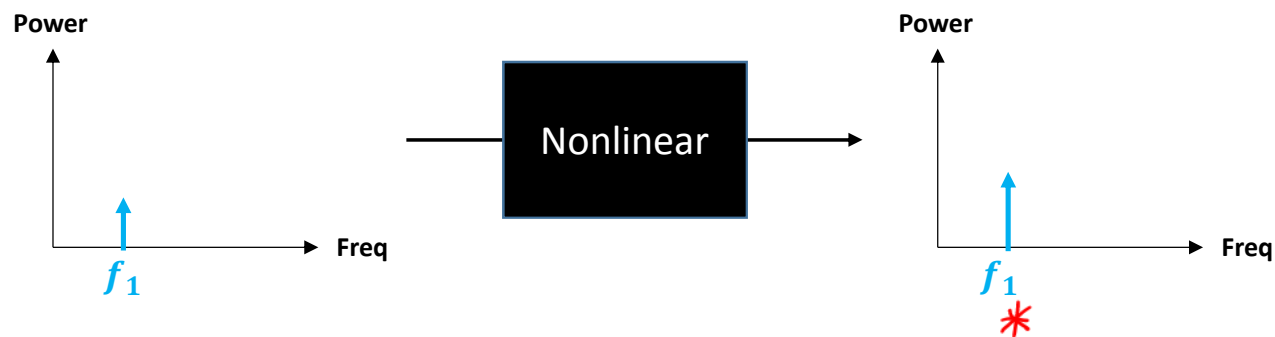
The response  
remains linear

# I - Differences Active/Passive & Linear/Nonlinear

## 2) Linearity / Non Linearity (single carrier)

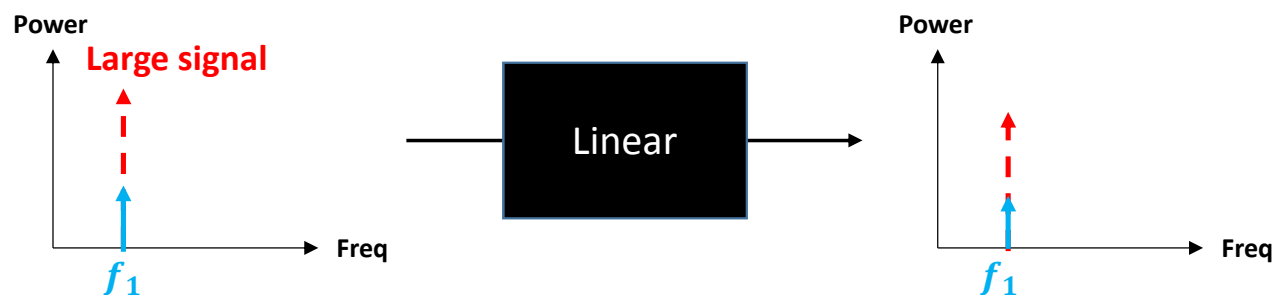


The response remains linear

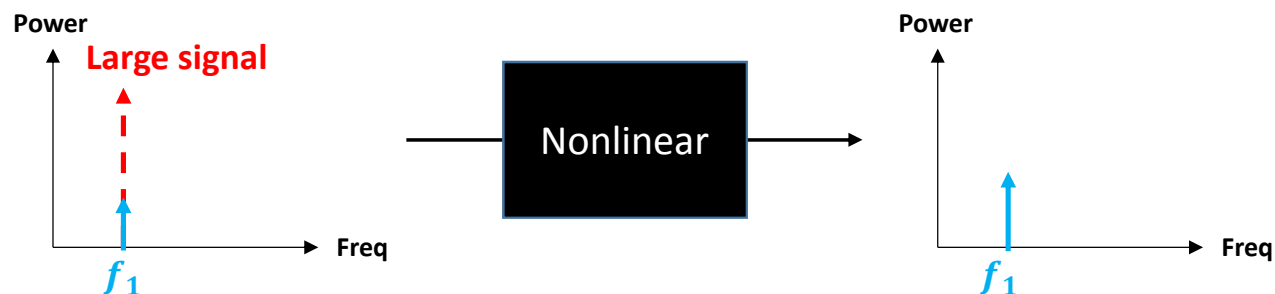


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## 2) Linearity / Non Linearity (single carrier)

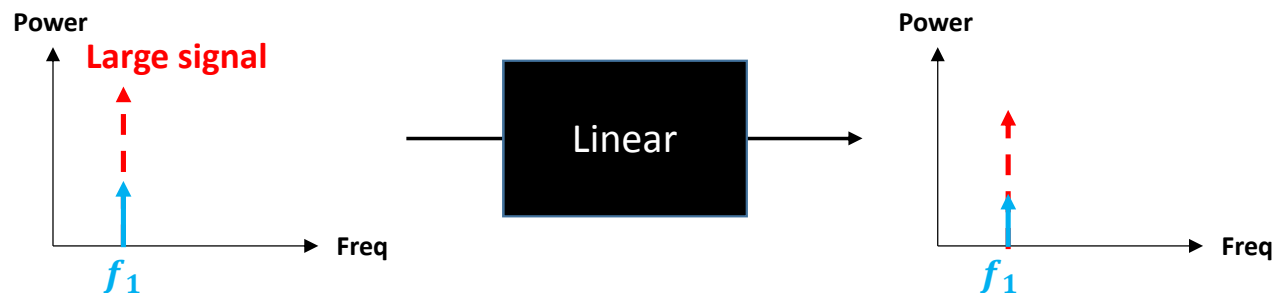


The response remains linear

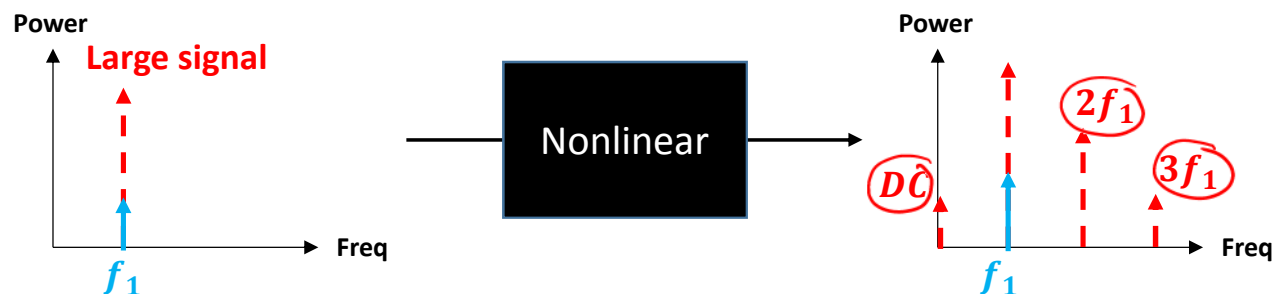


# I - Differences Active/Passive & Linear/Nonlinear

## 2) Linearity / Non Linearity (single carrier)



The response remains linear



The response is nonlinear (generation of harmonics)

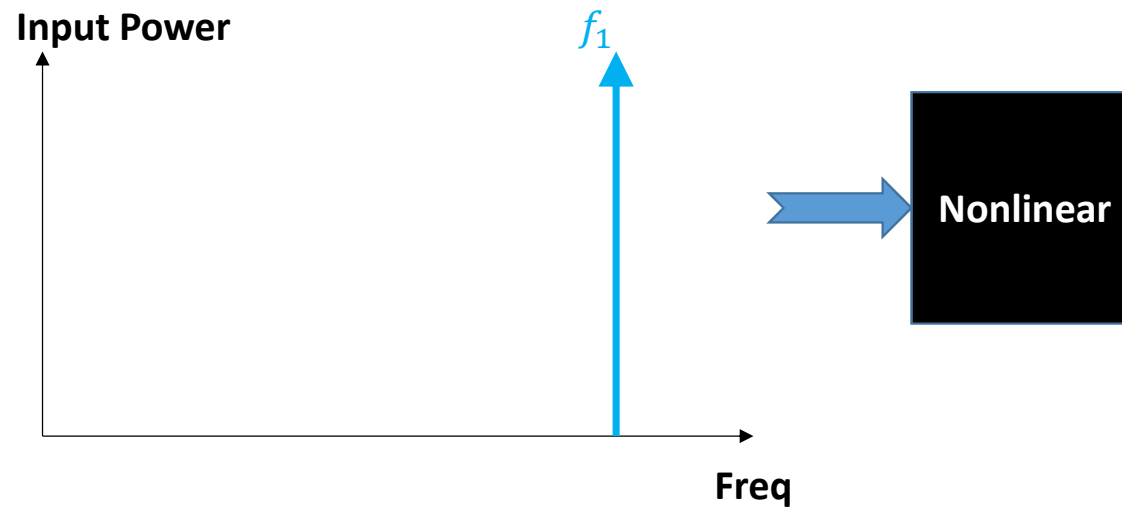


## I - Differences Active/Passive & Linear/Nonlinear

3) Frequency generation of nonlinear devices (key property that enables communications (mixers...))

a) Single carrier

A single carrier  $f_1$  in a 3<sup>rd</sup> order nonlinearity



## I - Differences Active/Passive & Linear/Nonlinear

### 3) Frequency generation of nonlinear devices

#### a) Single carrier

Illustration using a 3<sup>rd</sup> order polynomial nonlinearity



# I - Differences Active/Passive & Linear/Nonlinear

## 3) Frequency generation of nonlinear devices

### a) Single carrier

#### Illustration using a 3<sup>rd</sup> order polynomial nonlinearity



#### Review:

$$\cos(a+b) = \cos(a) \cdot \cos(b) - \sin(a) \cdot \sin(b)$$

$$\cos(a-b) = \cos(a) \cdot \cos(b) + \sin(a) \cdot \sin(b)$$

$$\cos(a) \cdot \cos(b) = \frac{1}{2} \cos(a+b) + \frac{1}{2} \cos(a-b)$$

$$\cos^2(x) = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \cos(2x)$$

$$\cos^2(x) = \frac{1}{2} [1 + \cos(2x)]$$

$$\cos^3(x) = \frac{1}{2} \cos(x) + \frac{1}{2} \cos(2x) \cos(x) = \frac{1}{2} \cos(x) + \frac{1}{4} \cos(3x) + \frac{1}{4} \cos(x)$$

$$\cos^3(x) = \frac{3}{4} \cos(x) + \frac{1}{4} \cos(3x)$$

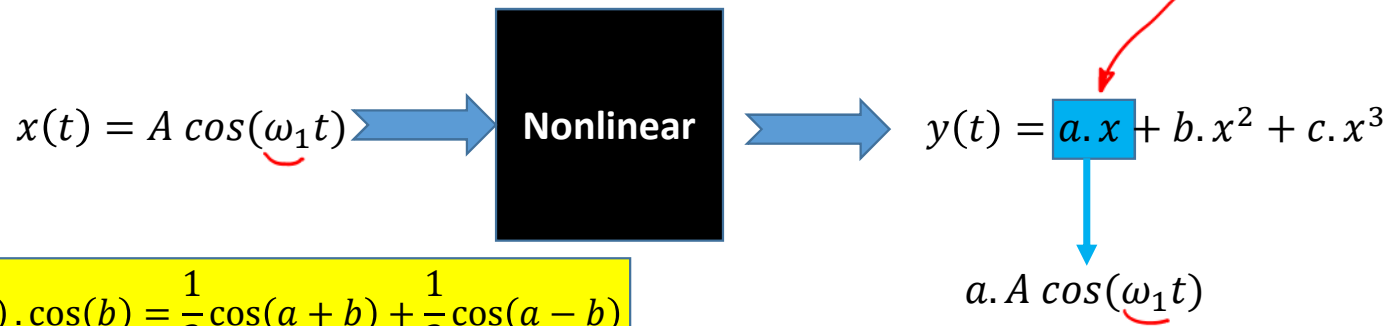
*You have to know these equations because they are often used to design nonlinear circuits (mixers ...)*

# I - Differences Active/Passive & Linear/Nonlinear

## 3) Frequency generation of nonlinear devices

### a) Single carrier

**Illustration using a 3<sup>rd</sup> order polynomial nonlinearity**



$$\cos(a) \cdot \cos(b) = \frac{1}{2} \cos(a + b) + \frac{1}{2} \cos(a - b)$$

$$\cos^2(x) = \frac{1}{2} [1 + \cos(2x)]$$

$$\cos^3(x) = \frac{3}{4} \cos(x) + \frac{1}{4} \cos(3x)$$

$$\cos^6(x) \rightarrow 0 \quad 2 \quad 4 \quad 6$$

## I - Differences Active/Passive & Linear/Nonlinear

### 3) Frequency generation of nonlinear devices

#### a) Single carrier

#### Illustration using a 3<sup>rd</sup> order polynomial nonlinearity



$$\cos(a) \cdot \cos(b) = \frac{1}{2} \cos(a+b) + \frac{1}{2} \cos(a-b)$$

$$\cos^2(x) = \frac{1}{2} [1 + \cos(2x)]$$

**Even Nonlinearity Order** → **Even Harmonics** less than or equal to the order

Example of  $\cos^2$  (Nonlinearity Order 2 → Harmonics 0 and 2)

$$\cos^3(x) = \frac{3}{4} \cos(x) + \frac{1}{4} \cos(3x)$$

**Odd Nonlinearity Order** → **Odd Harmonics** less than or equal to the order

Example of  $\cos^3$  (Nonlinearity Order 3 → Harmonics 3 and 1)

Without calculation of  $\cos^4$ , we know that a nonlinearity order of 4 → Harmonics 4, 2 and 0

Without calculation of  $\cos^5$ , we know that a nonlinearity order of 5 → Harmonics 5, 3 and 1

# I - Differences Active/Passive & Linear/Nonlinear

## 3) Frequency generation of nonlinear devices

### a) Single carrier

Illustration using a 3<sup>rd</sup> order polynomial nonlinearity

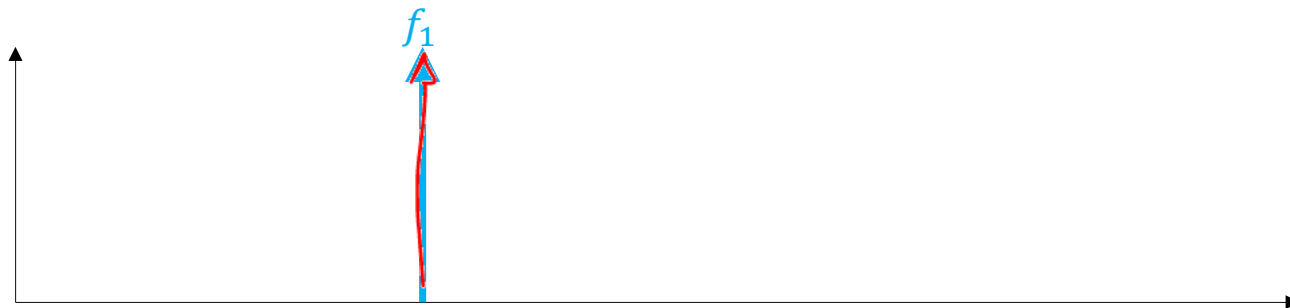


$a.A \cos(\omega_1 t)$  1<sup>st</sup> order of nonlinearity → Harmonic 1

$$\cos(a) \cdot \cos(b) = \frac{1}{2} \cos(a + b) + \frac{1}{2} \cos(a - b)$$

$$\cos^2(x) = \frac{1}{2} [1 + \cos(2x)]$$

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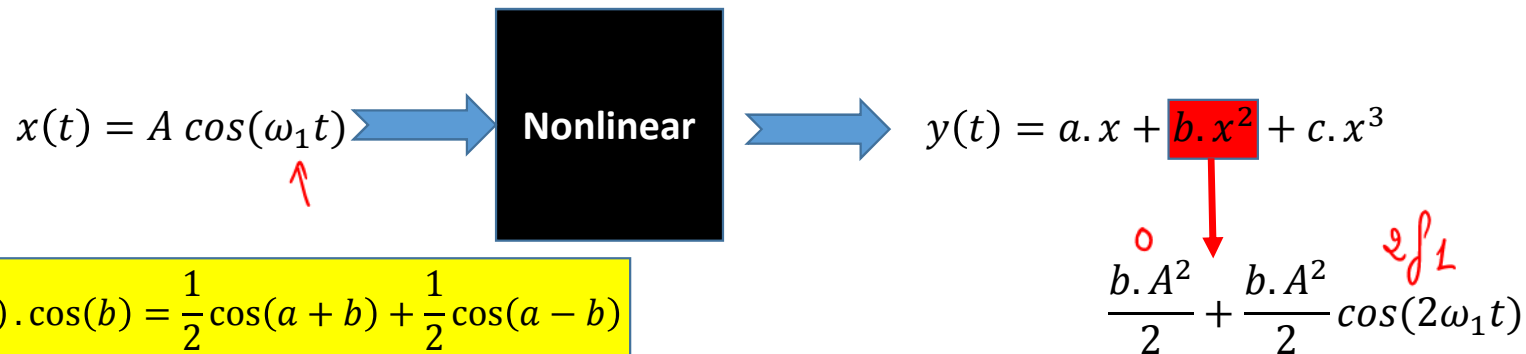


# I - Differences Active/Passive & Linear/Nonlinear

## 3) Frequency generation of nonlinear devices

### a) Single carrier

Illustration using a 3<sup>rd</sup> order polynomial nonlinearity



$$\cos^2(x) = \frac{1}{2} [1 + \cos(2x)]$$

$$\cos^3(x) = \frac{3}{4} \cos(x) + \frac{1}{4} \cos(3x)$$



# I - Differences Active/Passive & Linear/Nonlinear

## 3) Frequency generation of nonlinear devices

### a) Single carrier

**Illustration using a 3<sup>rd</sup> order polynomial nonlinearity**



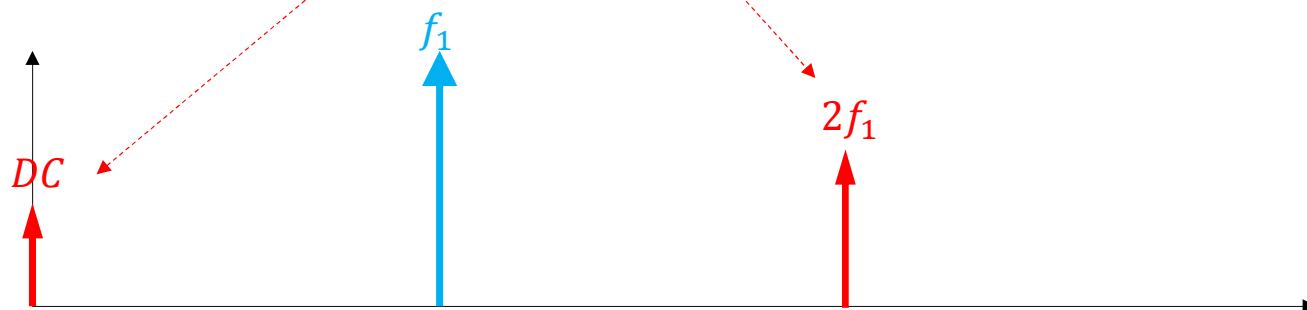
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$$\cos^2(x) = \frac{1}{2} [1 + \cos(2x)]$$

$$\cos^3(x) = \frac{3}{4} \cos(x) + \frac{1}{4} \cos(3x)$$

$$\frac{b.A^2}{2} + \frac{b.A^2}{2} \cos(2\omega_1 t)$$

**2<sup>nd</sup> order of nonlinearity  
→ Harmonics 0 and 2**



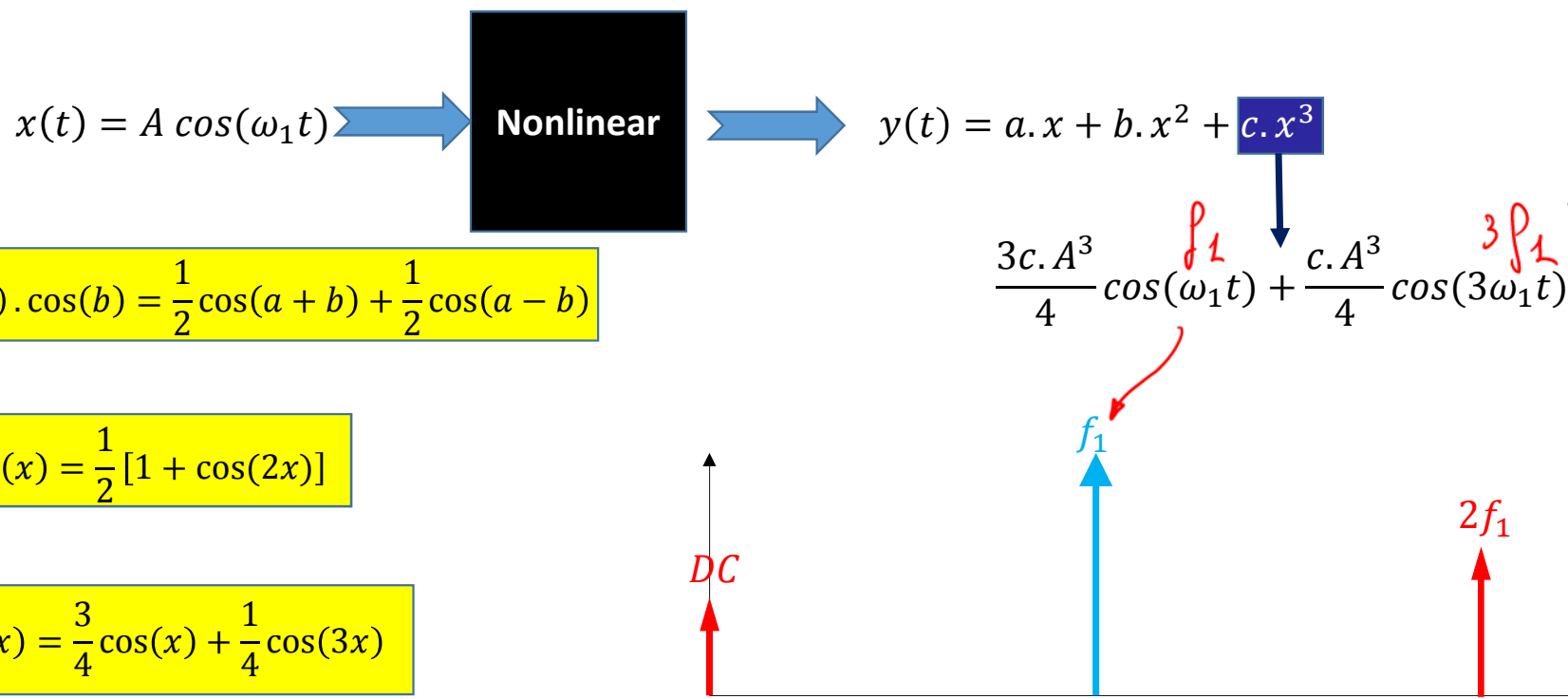


# I - Differences Active/Passive & Linear/Nonlinear

## 3) Frequency generation of nonlinear devices

### a) Single carrier

**Illustration using a 3<sup>rd</sup> order polynomial nonlinearity**



# I - Differences Active/Passive & Linear/Nonlinear

## 3) Frequency generation of nonlinear devices

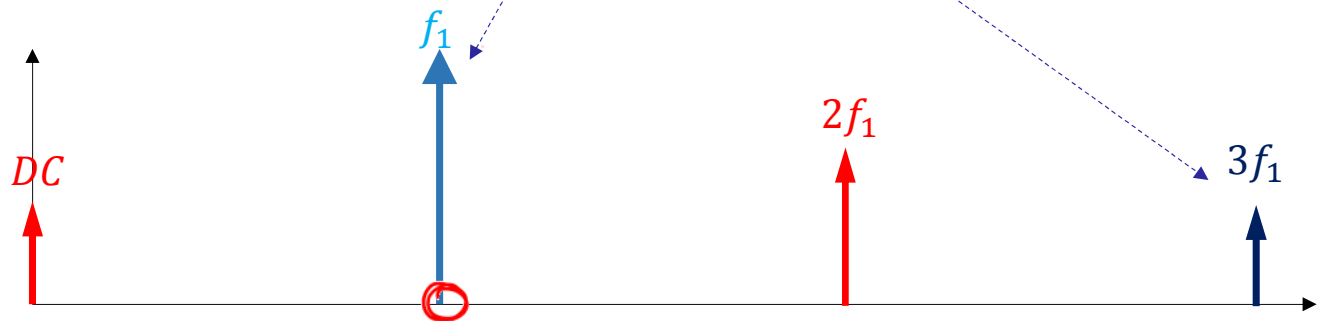
### a) Single carrier

**Illustration using a 3<sup>rd</sup> order polynomial nonlinearity**



$$\frac{3c.A^3}{4} \cos(\omega_1 t) + \frac{c.A^3}{4} \cos(3\omega_1 t)$$

**3<sup>rd</sup> order of nonlinearity → Harmonics 1 and 3**



$$\cos(a) \cdot \cos(b) = \frac{1}{2} \cos(a+b) + \frac{1}{2} \cos(a-b)$$

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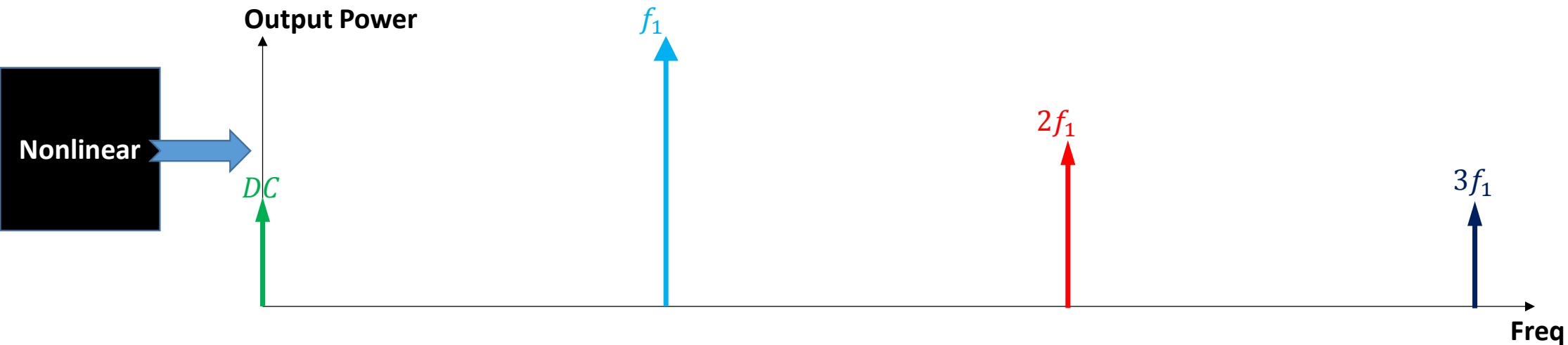
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# I - Differences Active/Passive & Linear/Nonlinear

## 3) Frequency generation of nonlinear devices

### a) Single carrier

A single carrier  $f_1$  in a  $n^{\text{th}}$  order nonlinearity  $\rightarrow$  **harmonics  $pf_1$  with  $p \leq n$**



# I - Differences Active/Passive & Linear/Nonlinear

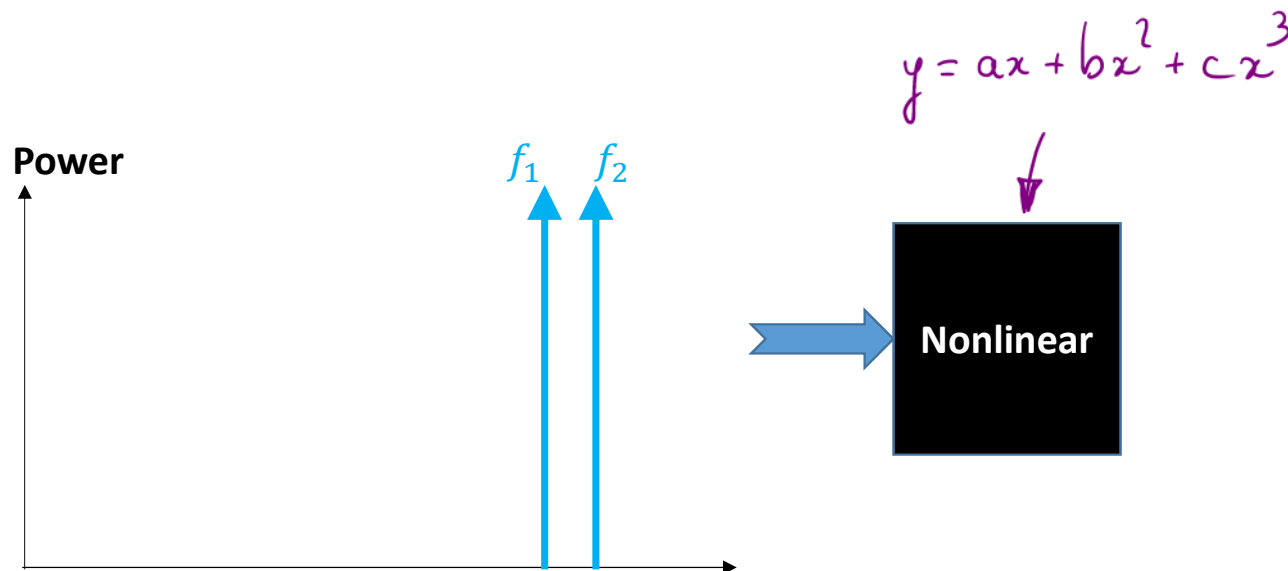
## 3) Frequency generation of nonlinear devices

### b) Multiple carriers (example of two carriers → intermodulation products or mixing products)

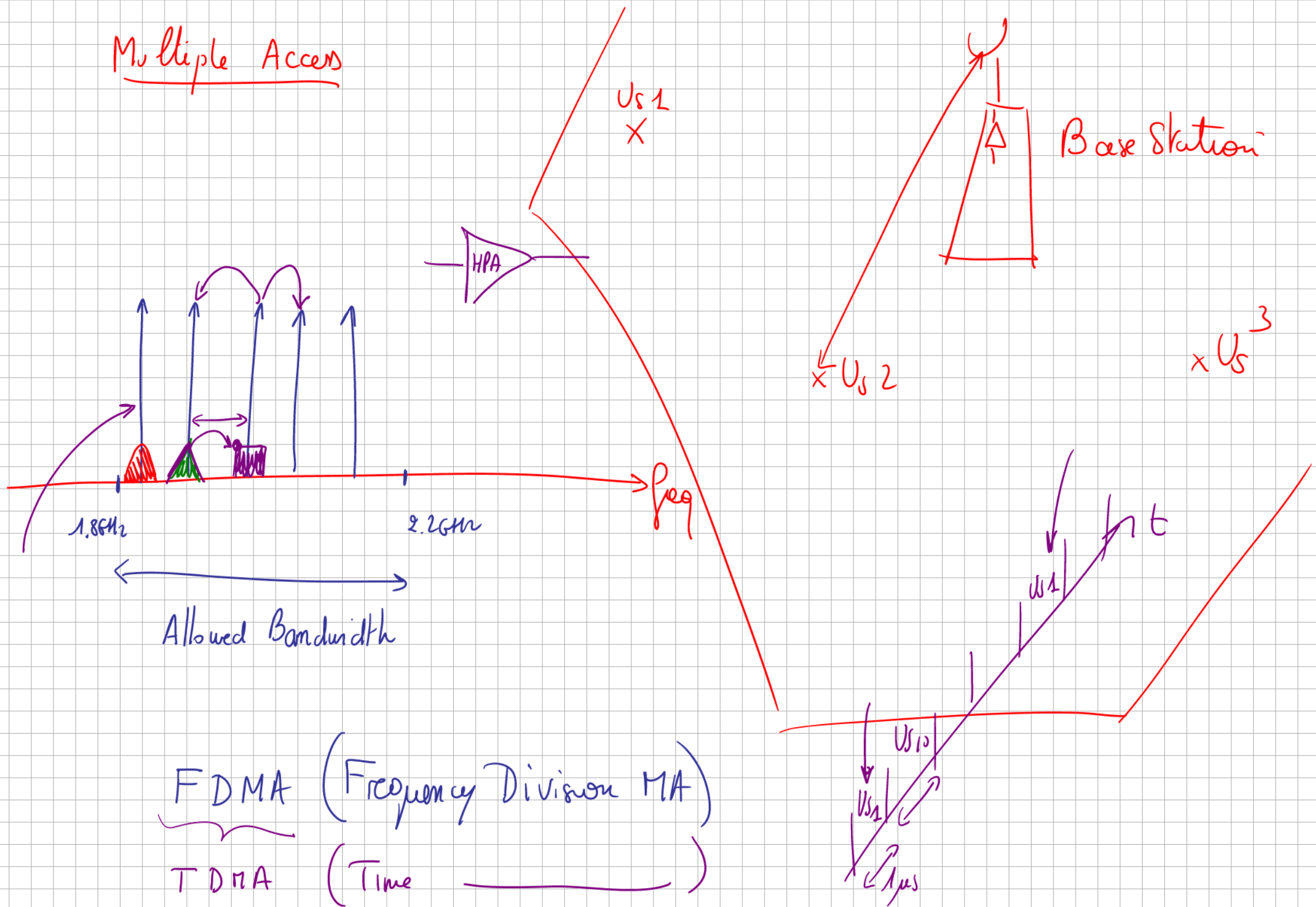
disadvantage for amplifiers

required for mixers

Two carriers  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  in a 3<sup>rd</sup> order nonlinearity

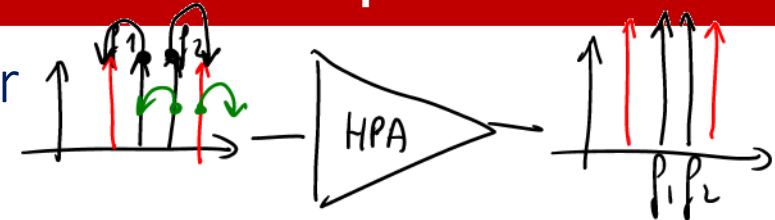


# Multiple Access





# I - Differences Active/Passive & Linear/Nonlinear



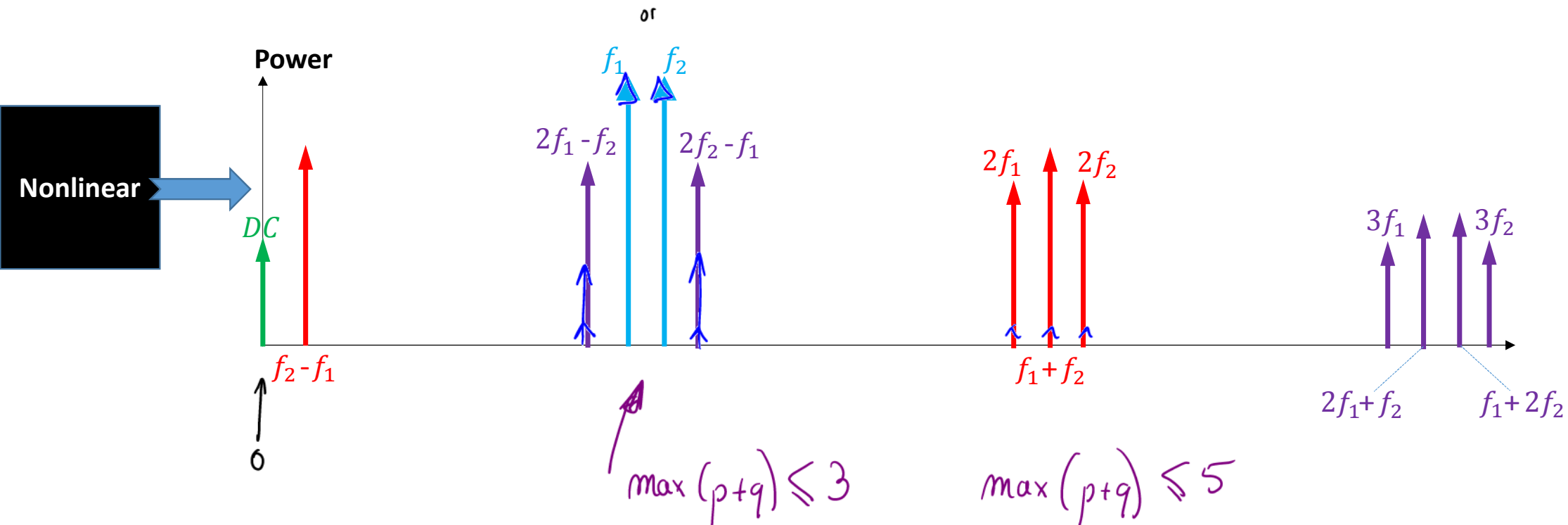
## 3) Frequency generation of nonlinear devices

### b) Multiple carriers (example of two carriers → intermodulation products)

Two carriers  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  in a 3<sup>rd</sup> order nonlinearity → **intermodulation products**  $(\pm p f_1 \pm q f_2)$  with  $\max(p+q) \leq 3$

$$f_1, f_2 \rightarrow \boxed{NL} \rightarrow \pm p f_1 \pm q f_2 \quad (p+q) = \text{intermodulation order}$$

$(p+q)$  is the order of nonlinearity

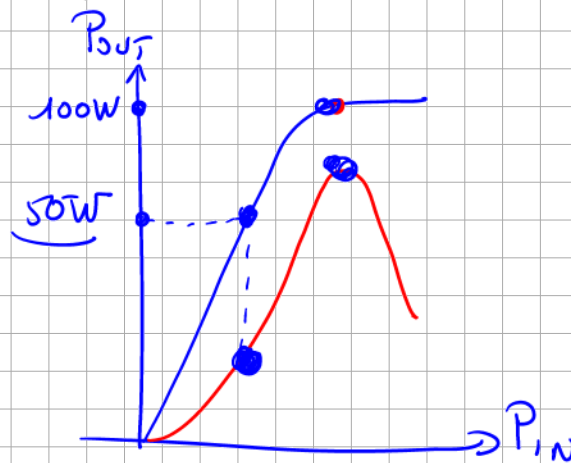


$$f_1 \propto f_2$$

$$\pm p f_1 \pm q f_2$$

$$p+q \leq 3$$

$$f_2 > f_1$$



$$\text{if } p=0$$

$$q=0, 1, 2, 3 \rightarrow f_2, 2f_2, 3f_2, \text{DC}$$

$$\text{if } p=1$$

$$q=0, 1, 2 \rightarrow f_1, f_1+f_2, f_1+2f_2, f_2-f_1, 2f_2-f_1$$

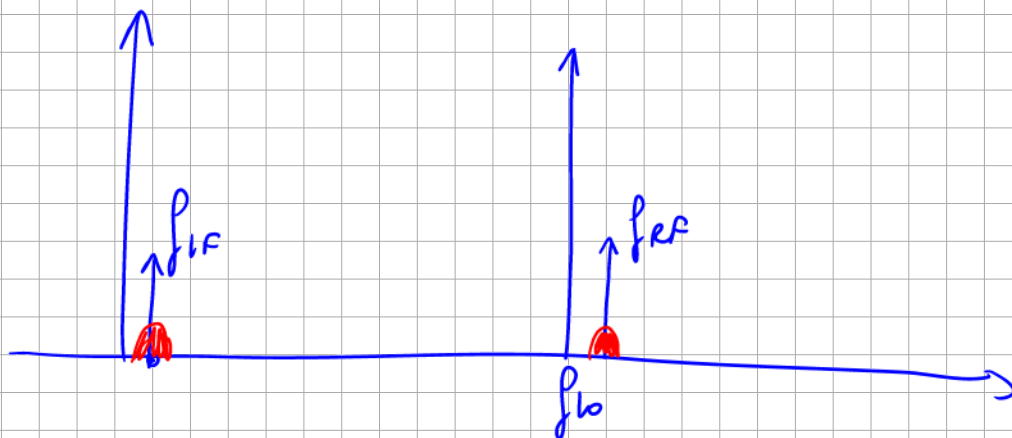
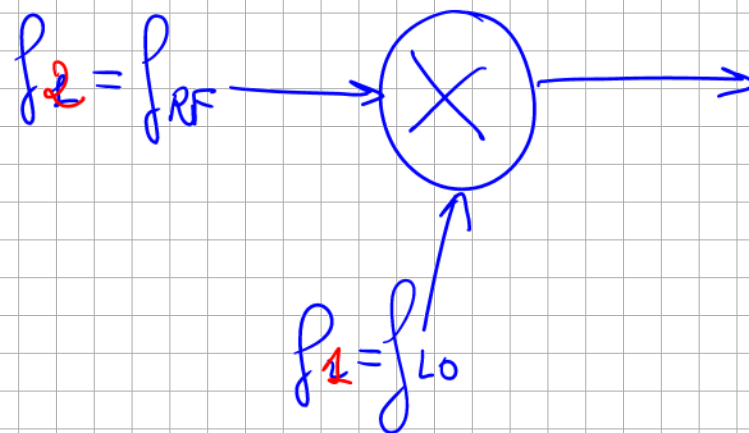
$$\text{if } p=2$$

$$q=0, 1 \rightarrow 2f_1, 2f_1+f_2, 2f_1-f_2$$

$$\text{if } p=3$$

$$q=0 \rightarrow 3f_1$$

$$f_2 - f_1$$



# I - Differences Active/Passive & Linear/Nonlinear

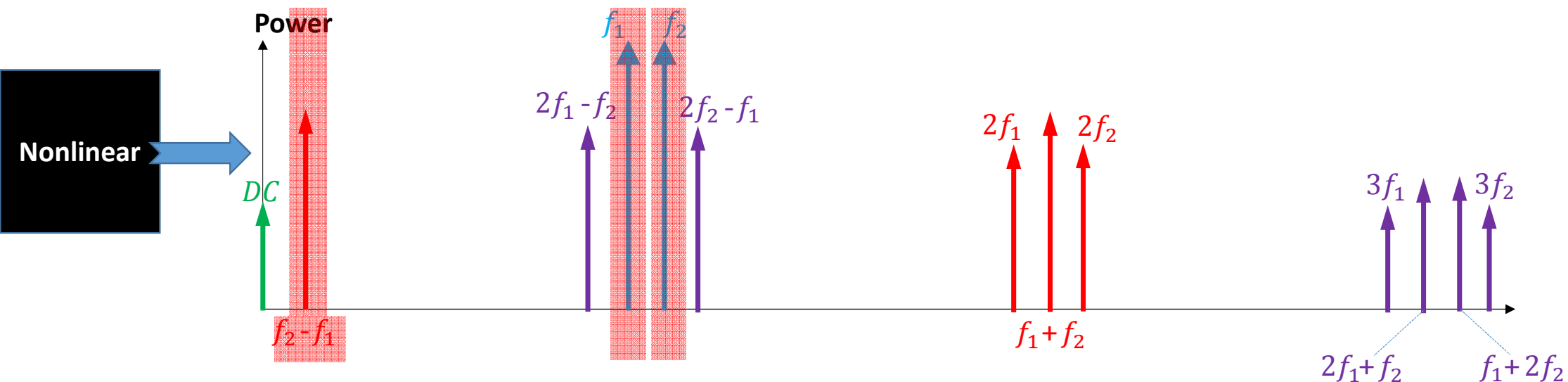
## 3) Frequency generation of nonlinear devices

### b) Multiple carriers (example of two carriers → intermodulation products)

Two carriers  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  in a 3<sup>rd</sup> order nonlinearity → **intermodulation products**  $(\pm p f_1 \pm q f_2)$  with  $\max(p + q) \leq 3$

$(p + q)$  is the order of nonlinearity

**2<sup>nd</sup> order intermodulation (IM2) → Mixing Function (IF, LO, RF)  
→ Frequency doublers**





# I - Differences Active/Passive & Linear/Nonlinear

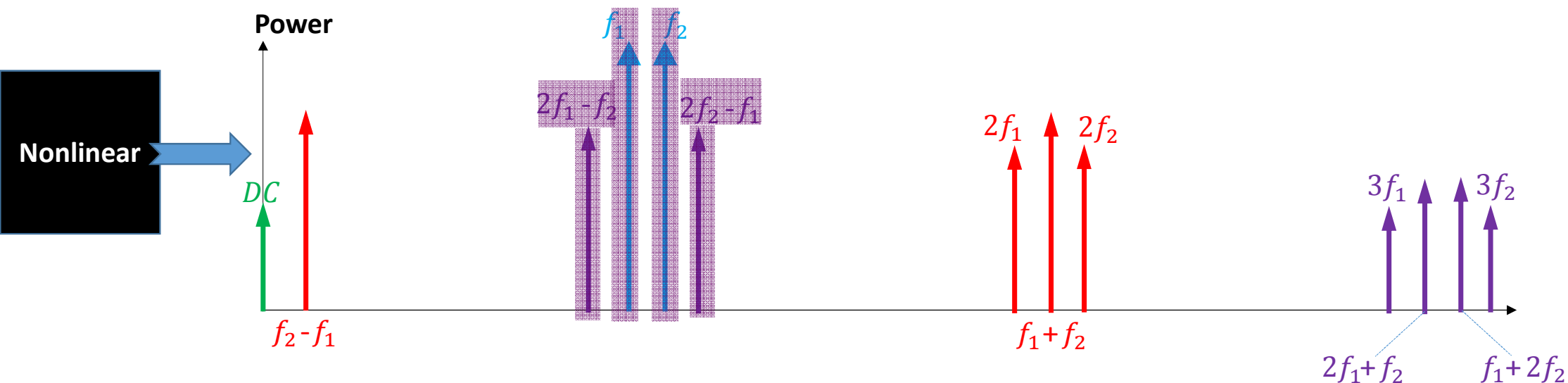
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$(p + q)$  is the order of nonlinearity

3<sup>rd</sup> order intermodulation (IM3) → Critical for multiple access



## II – Brief Overview of High-Frequency Active Devices for Power Amplifiers

### 1) Low Frequency (up to 100MHz)

- Well established consumer electronics / High level of integration / Low cost / High volumes
- Silicon Bipolar Transistors / MOSFETs (Metal Oxide Semiconductor FETs / BiCMOS ...)

### 2) Radio Frequency (up to 2-3 GHz)

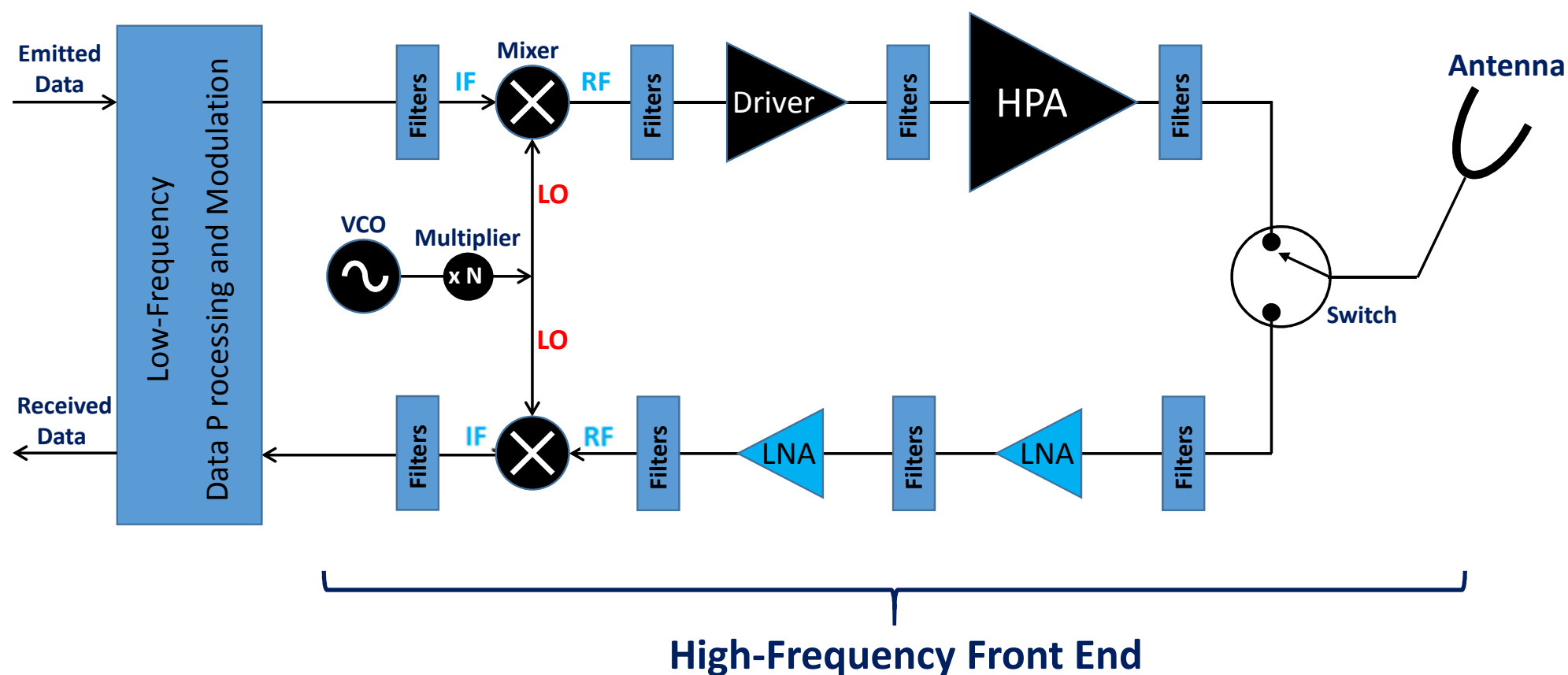
- Silicon LDMOS (Laterally Diffused MOSFETs to reach high powers @ RF)
- GaAs MESFETs (Metal Semiconductor FETs)
- GaAs HBTs (Heterojunction Bipolar Transistors)
- GaAs HEMTs (High Electron Mobility Transistors)

### 3) High Frequency (up to 100 GHz)

- GaAs HEMTs and HBT
- GaN HEMTs

## III – High-Frequency Active Circuits in Communication Systems

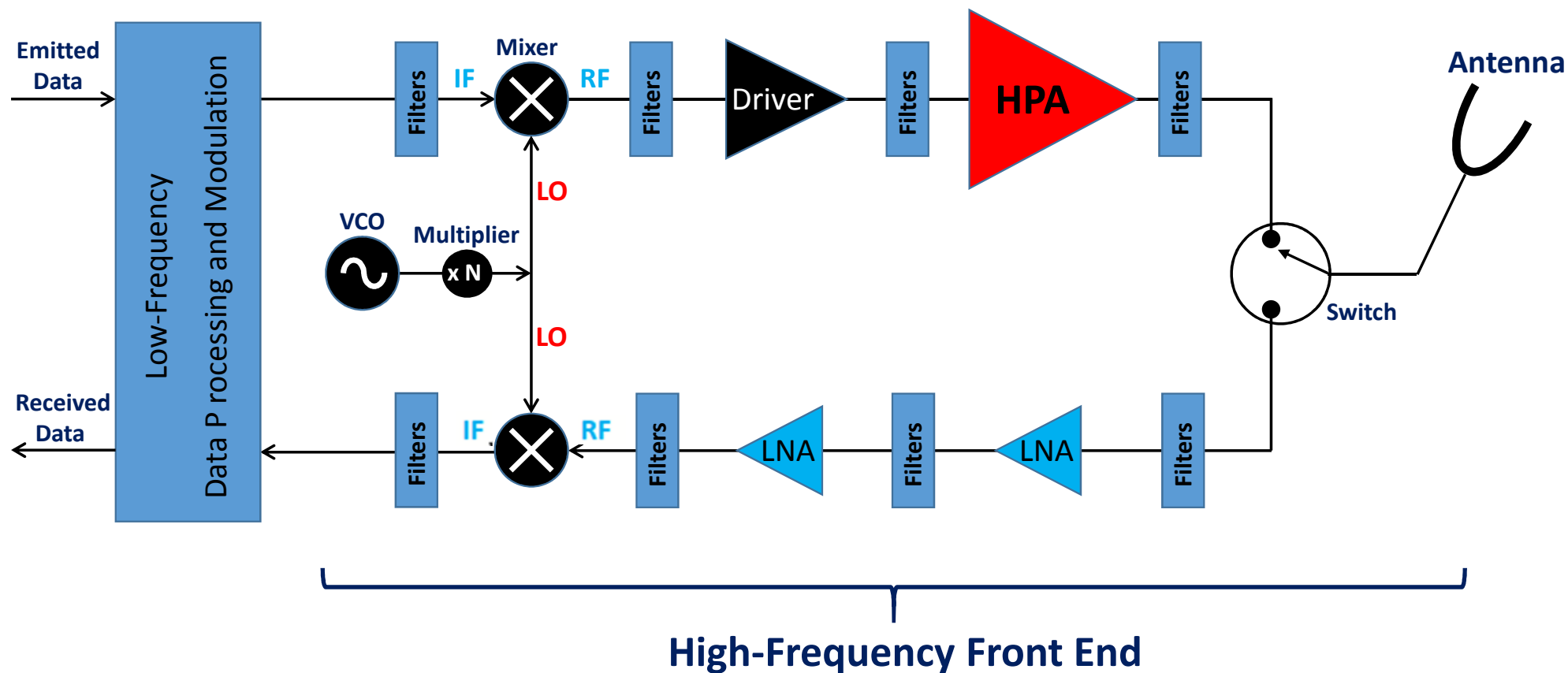
### 1) Example (Simplified Block Diagram of E/R Functions)



## III – High-Frequency Active Circuits in Communication Systems

### 2) Main High-Frequency Active Circuits

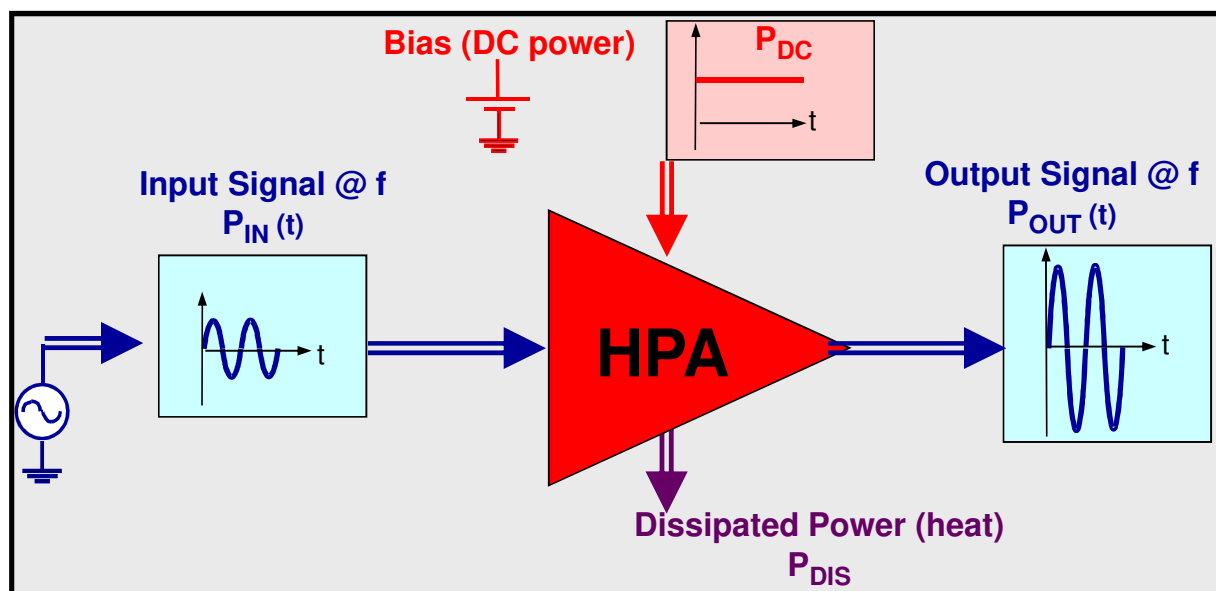
#### a) Amplifiers (HPA : High Power Amplifier)



## III – High-Frequency Active Circuits in Communication Systems

### 2) Main High-Frequency Active Circuits

#### a) **Amplifiers (HPA : High Power Amplifier)**



$$\sum \text{Input Powers} = \sum \text{Output Powers}$$

$$P_{IN} + P_{DC} = P_{OUT} + P_{DIS}$$

Power gain

and

Power Added Efficiency

$$G = P_{OUT} / P_{IN}$$

and

$$PAE = (P_{OUT} - P_{IN}) / P_{DC}$$

$$\rightarrow P_{DIS} = P_{DC} - (P_{OUT} - P_{IN}) = P_{DC} - PAE \cdot P_{DC}$$

Dissipated Power

Temperature

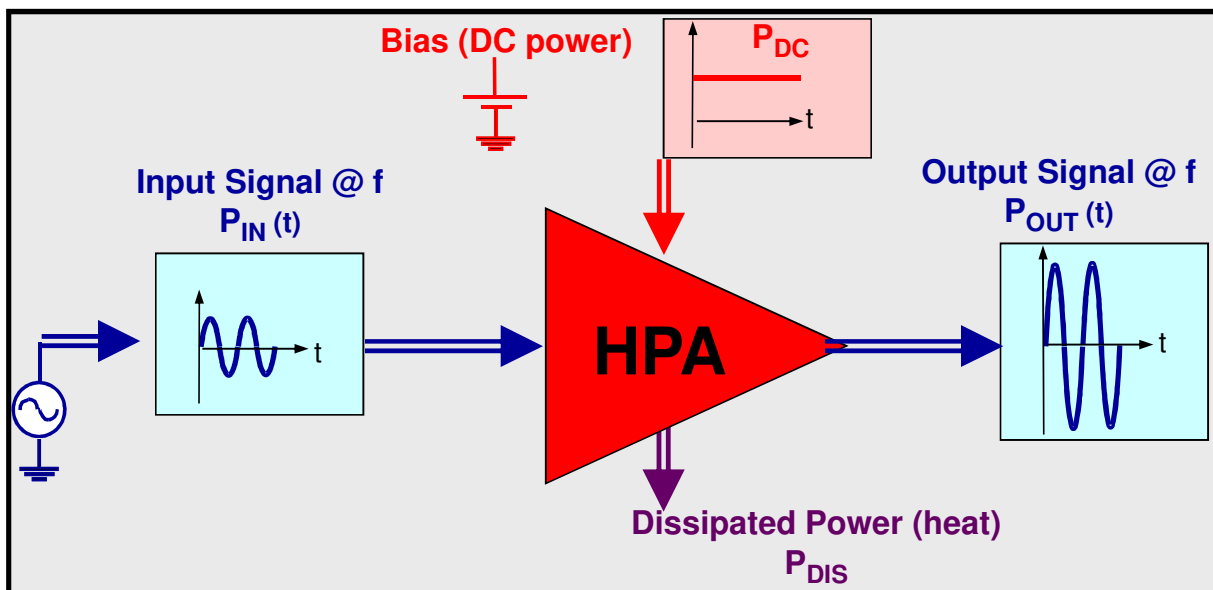
$$\rightarrow P_{DIS} = P_{DC} (1 - PAE)$$

$$T \sim P_{DIS}$$

## III – High-Frequency Active Circuits in Communication Systems

### 2) Main High-Frequency Active Circuits

#### a) **Amplifiers (HPA : High Power Amplifier)**



Only one accurate definition of efficiency  
(same value at low-frequency because of higher gain)

Power Efficiency

$$\eta = P_{OUT} / P_{DC}$$

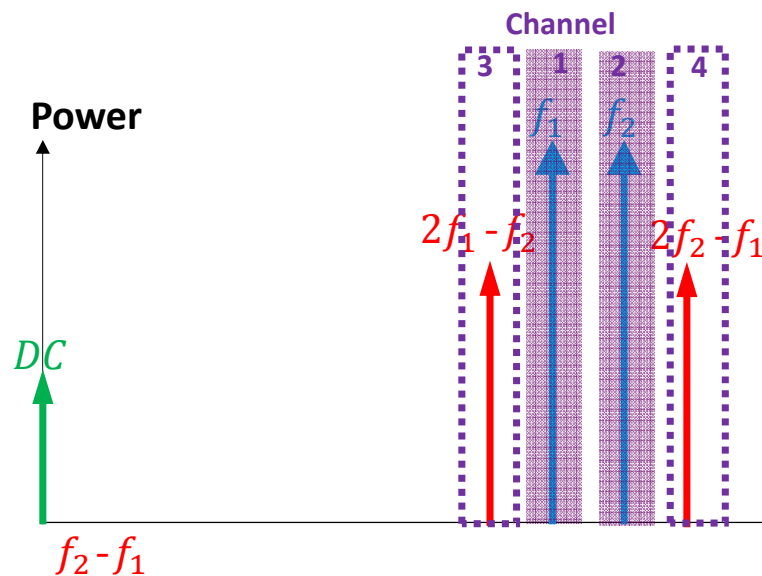
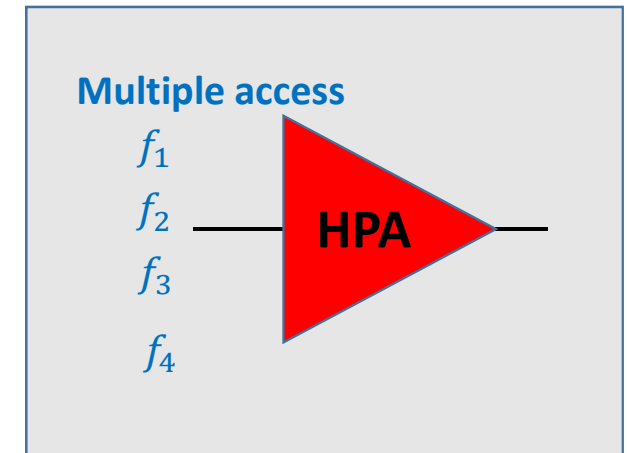
Power Added Efficiency

$$PAE = (P_{OUT} - P_{IN}) / P_{DC}$$

## Intermodulation products for power amplifiers

Two carriers  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  in a 3<sup>rd</sup> order nonlinearity → **intermodulation products**

3<sup>rd</sup> order intermodulation (IM3) → Critical for multiple access



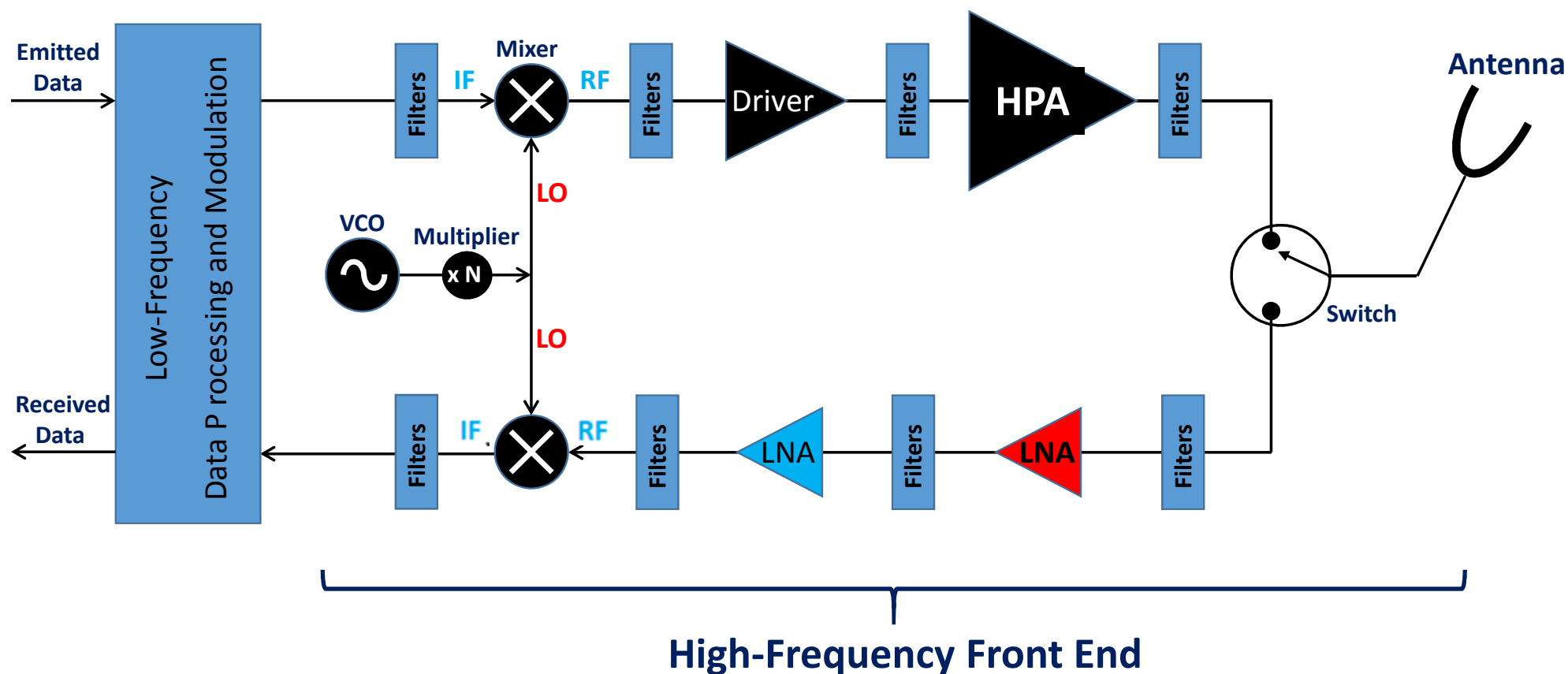
$f_1$  and  $f_2$  are the useful carriers of channel 1 and 2

Interference frequencies (Spurious frequencies)  
Spurs for  $f_3$  and  $f_4$  the carriers of channel 3 and 4

## III – High-Frequency Active Circuits in Communication Systems

### 2) Main High-Frequency Active Circuits

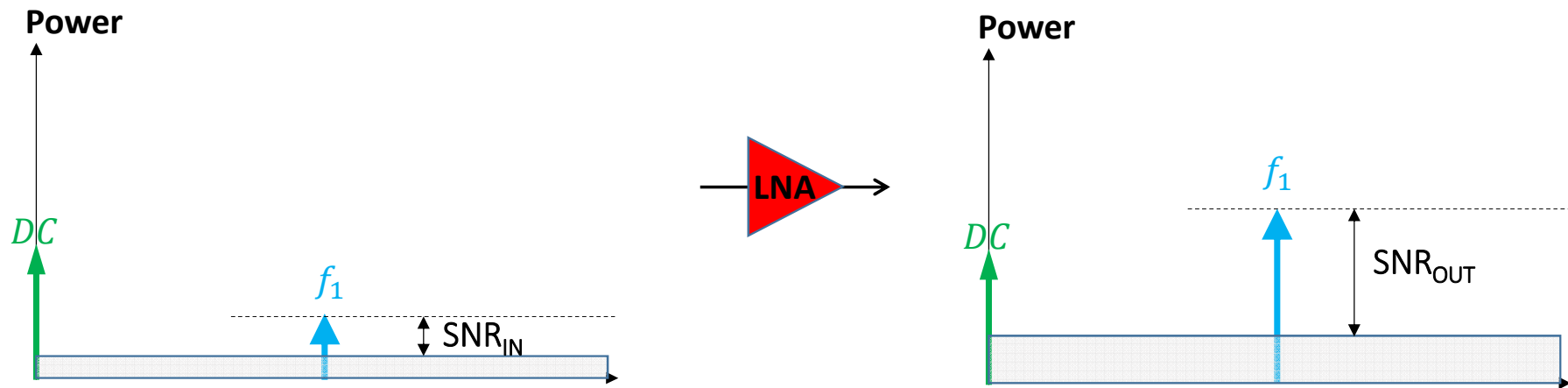
#### b) Amplifiers (LNA : Low Noise Amplifier)





# LNA (Low Noise Amplifiers)

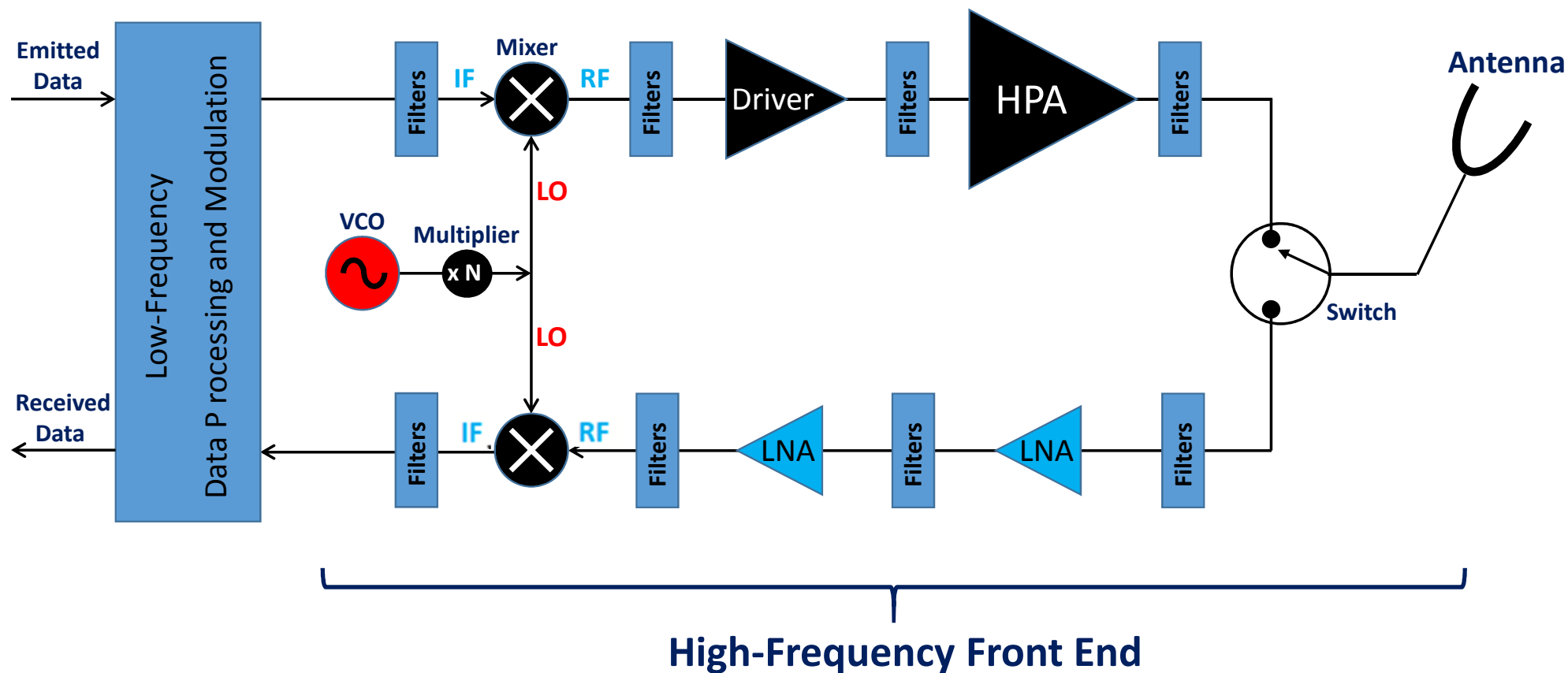
- Optimisation of Signal to Noise Ratio for LNAs → Noise property of LNA (Noise Factor)
- Increase the Signal to Noise Ratio (SNR)
- Linear operation due to the reception of very weak signals which have to be greater than the noise floor



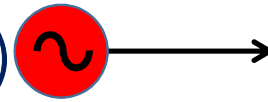
## III – High-Frequency Active Circuits in Communication Systems

### 2) Main High-Frequency Active Circuits

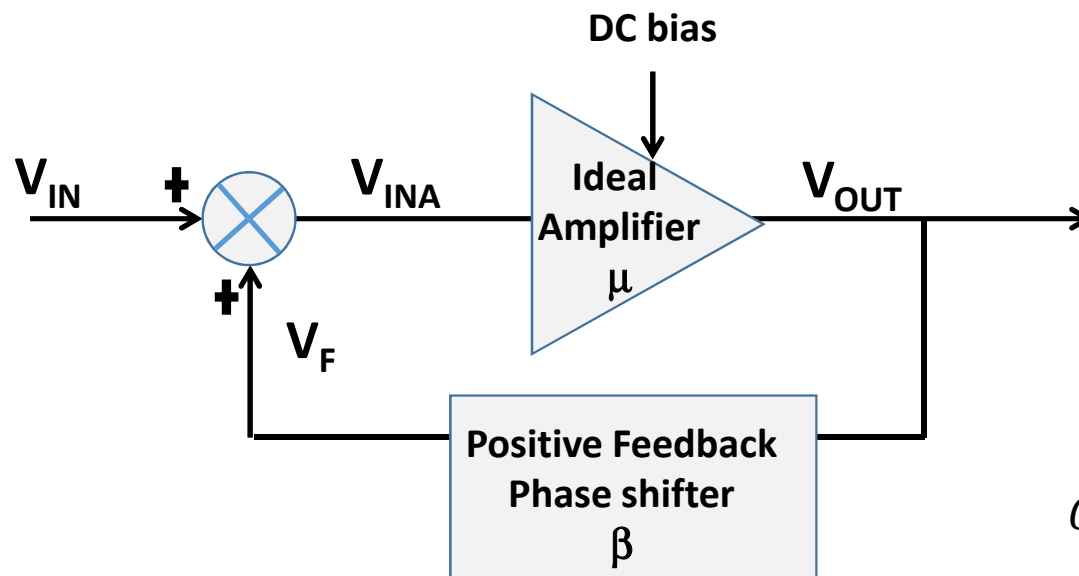
#### c) Oscillators (LO : Local Oscillator) (VCO: Voltage Controlled Oscillator)



## Block diagram of a feedback oscillator (Signal reference)



- Oscillations come from the control of the instability for an amplifier (Gain  $\rightarrow \infty$ ) at a given frequency
- Optimisation of Oscillator's noise  $\rightarrow$  Thermal noise,  $1/f$  noise ...
- Critical to ensure a perfect up-conversion (emission) and down-conversion (reception)
- Nonlinear operation (the oscillation frequency comes from the selective amplification of the noise)



### Closed-loop transfer function

$$Gain = \frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN}} = \frac{\mu V_{INA}}{V_{INA} - V_F}$$

$$Gain = \frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN}} = \frac{\mu V_{INA}}{V_{INA} - \beta \mu V_{INA}}$$

$$Gain(\omega) = \frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN}} = \frac{\mu(\omega)}{1 - \beta(\omega)\mu(\omega)}$$

Nyquist Criterion:

- Poles of the transfer function = Roots of  $(1 - \beta\mu)$  give the oscillation frequencies

$$V_{INA} = V_{IN} + V_F$$

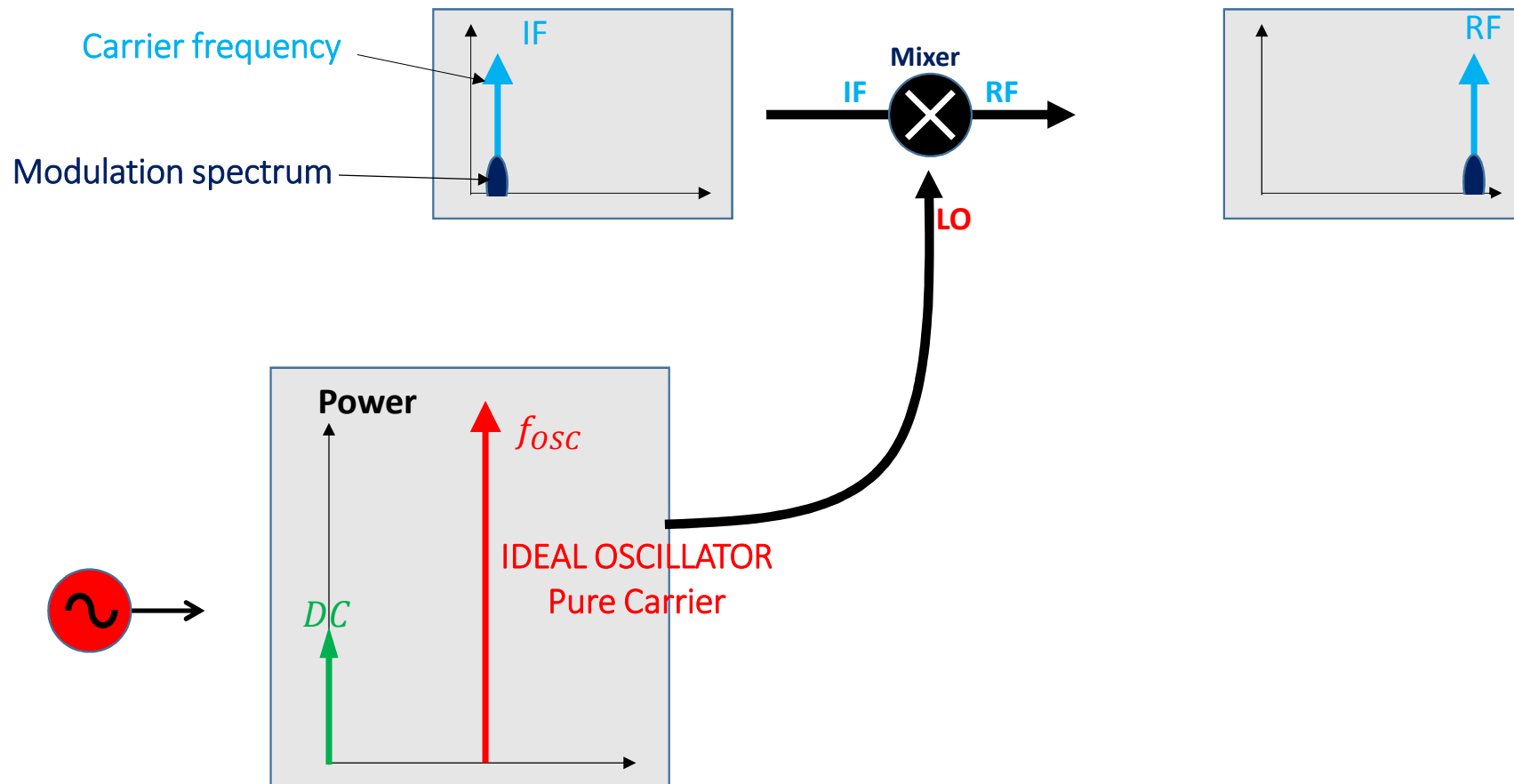
$$V_{OUT} = \mu V_{INA}$$

$$V_F = \beta V_{OUT} = \beta \mu V_{INA}$$

In the case ( $V_{IN}=0$ ), Barkhausen's criterions are on the loop gain : Modulus  $|\beta\mu|_{@ \omega_{osc}} \geq 1$  and  $\arg(\beta\mu)_{@ \omega_{osc}} = 2\pi n$

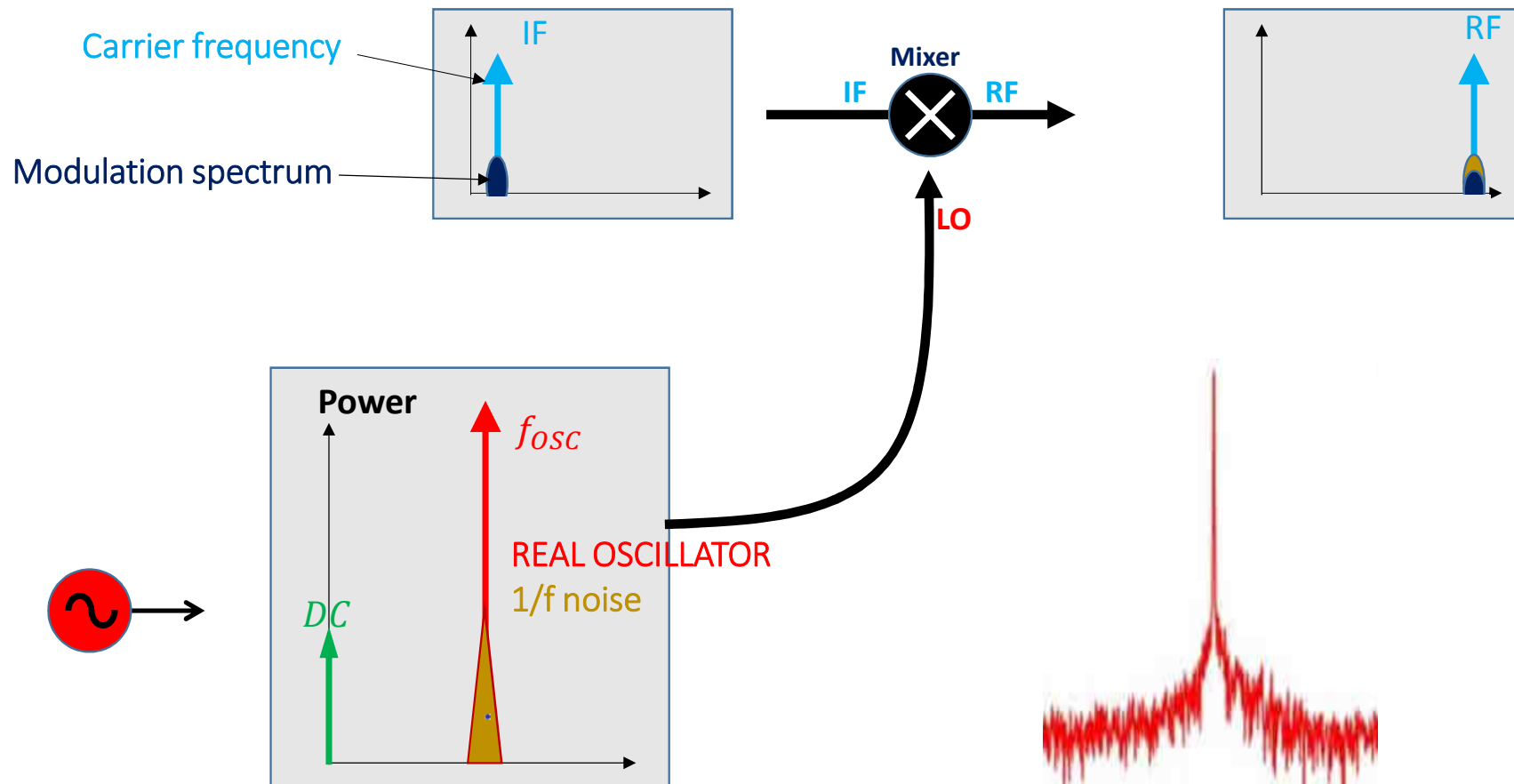
# Issue of 1/F noise of oscillators for ideal mixer operation

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# Issue of 1/F noise of oscillators for ideal mixer operation

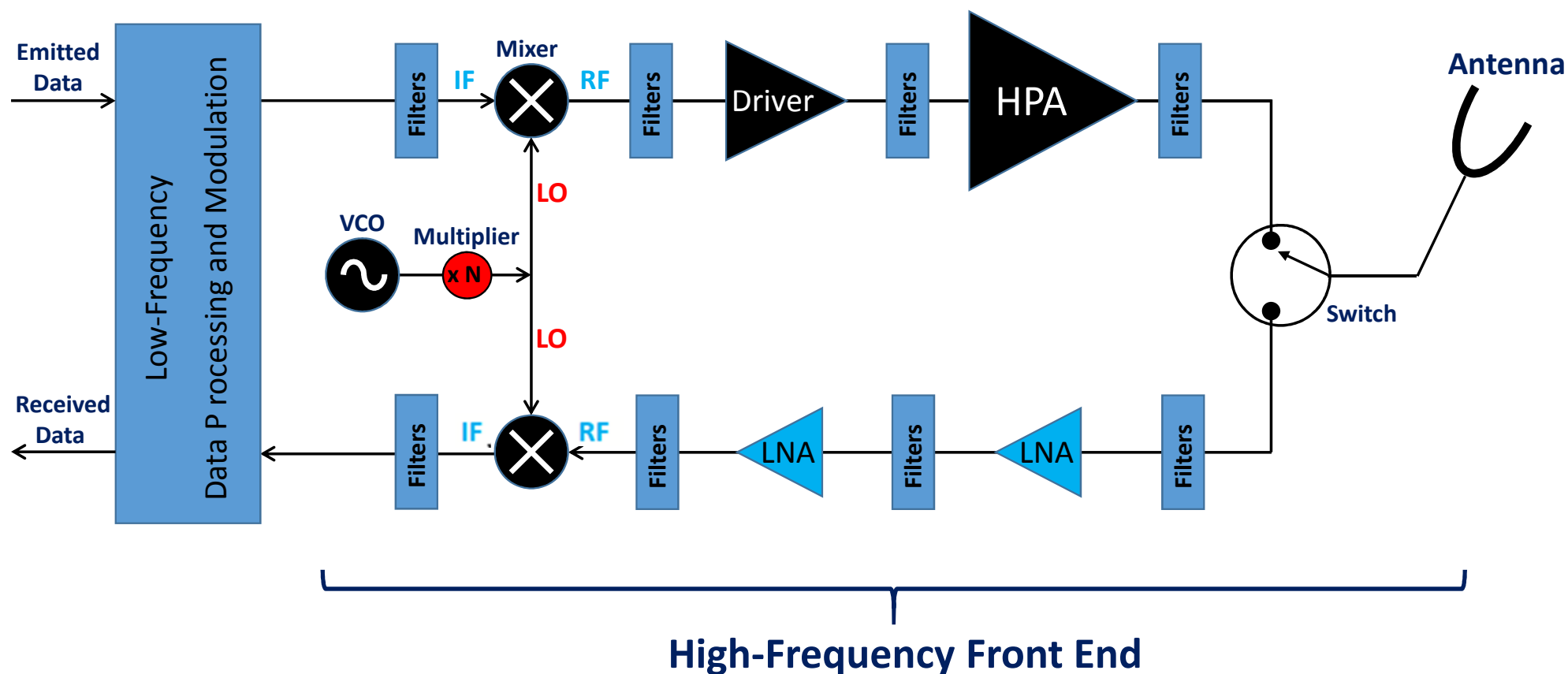
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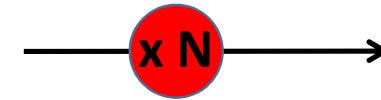
## III – High-Frequency Active Circuits in Communication Systems

### 2) Main High-Frequency Active Circuits

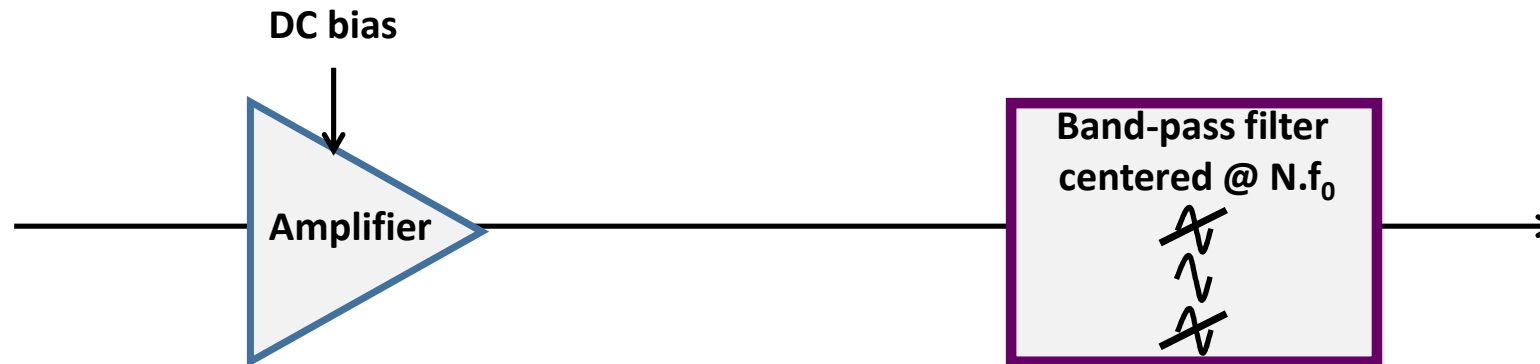
#### d) Multipliers



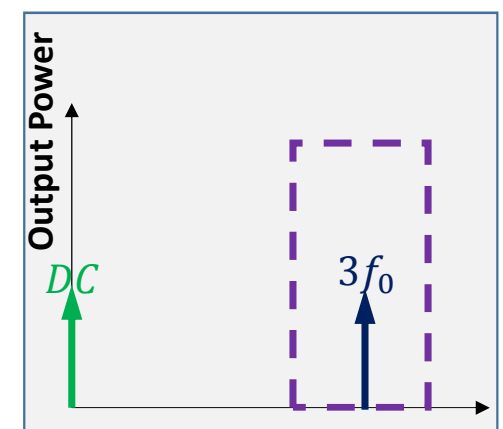
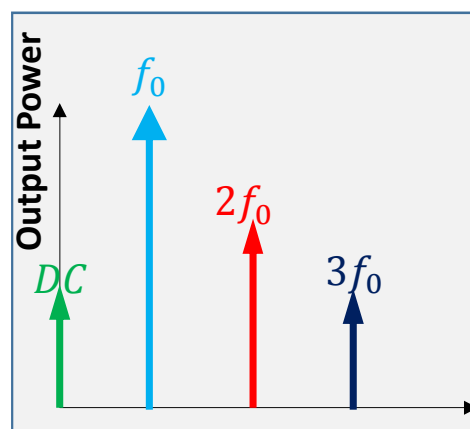
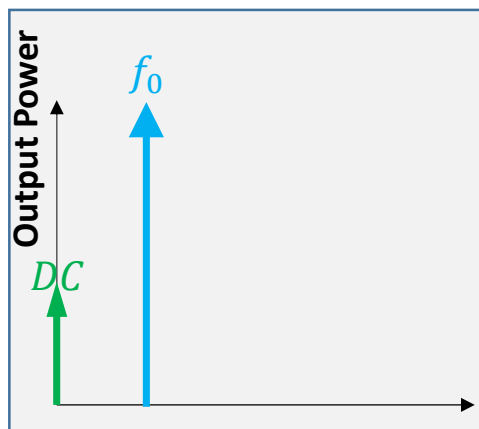
# Block diagram of a frequency multiplier



- Generate harmonics by using an amplifier in its nonlinear regime
- Select by band-pass filter the required output harmonic



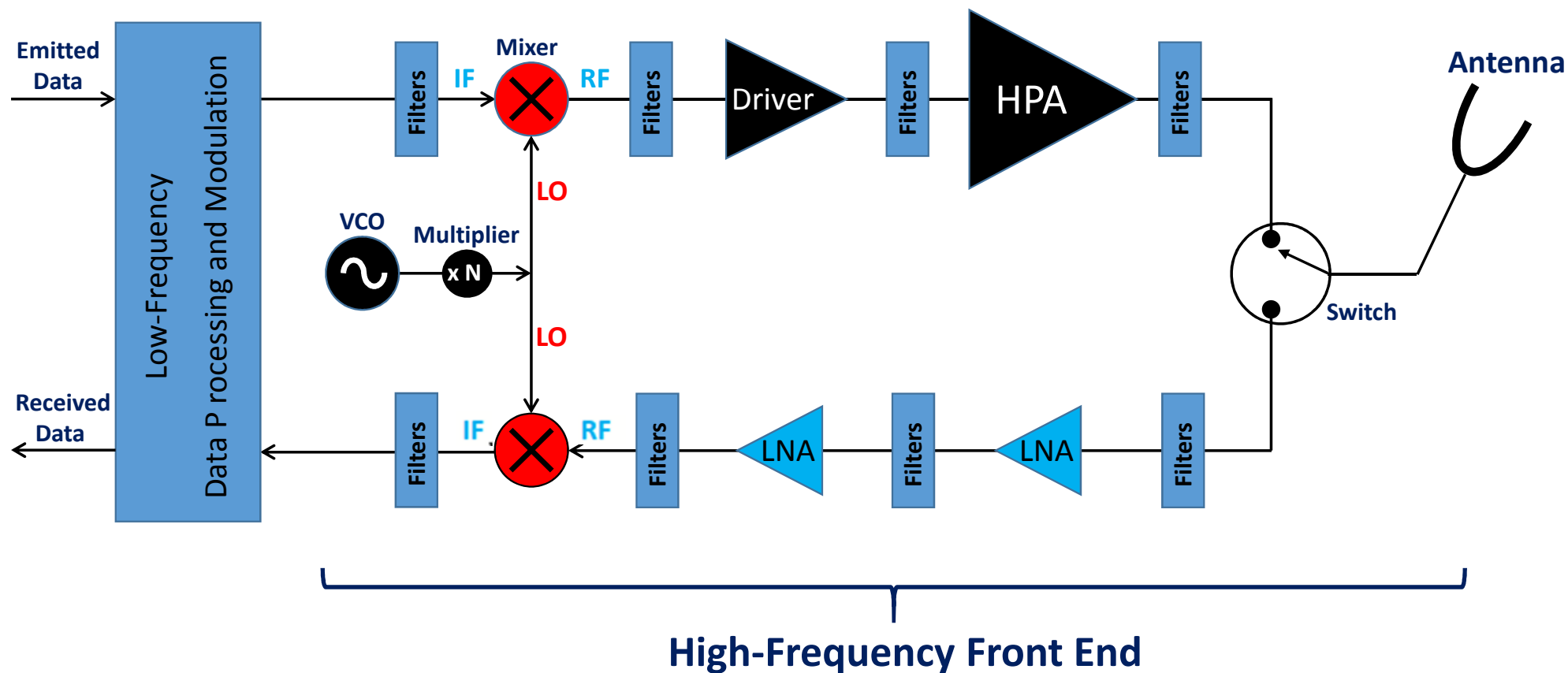
Example of tripler



## III – High-Frequency Active Circuits in Communication Systems

### 2) Main High-Frequency Active Circuits

#### e) Mixers (Up-converter and Down-converter)

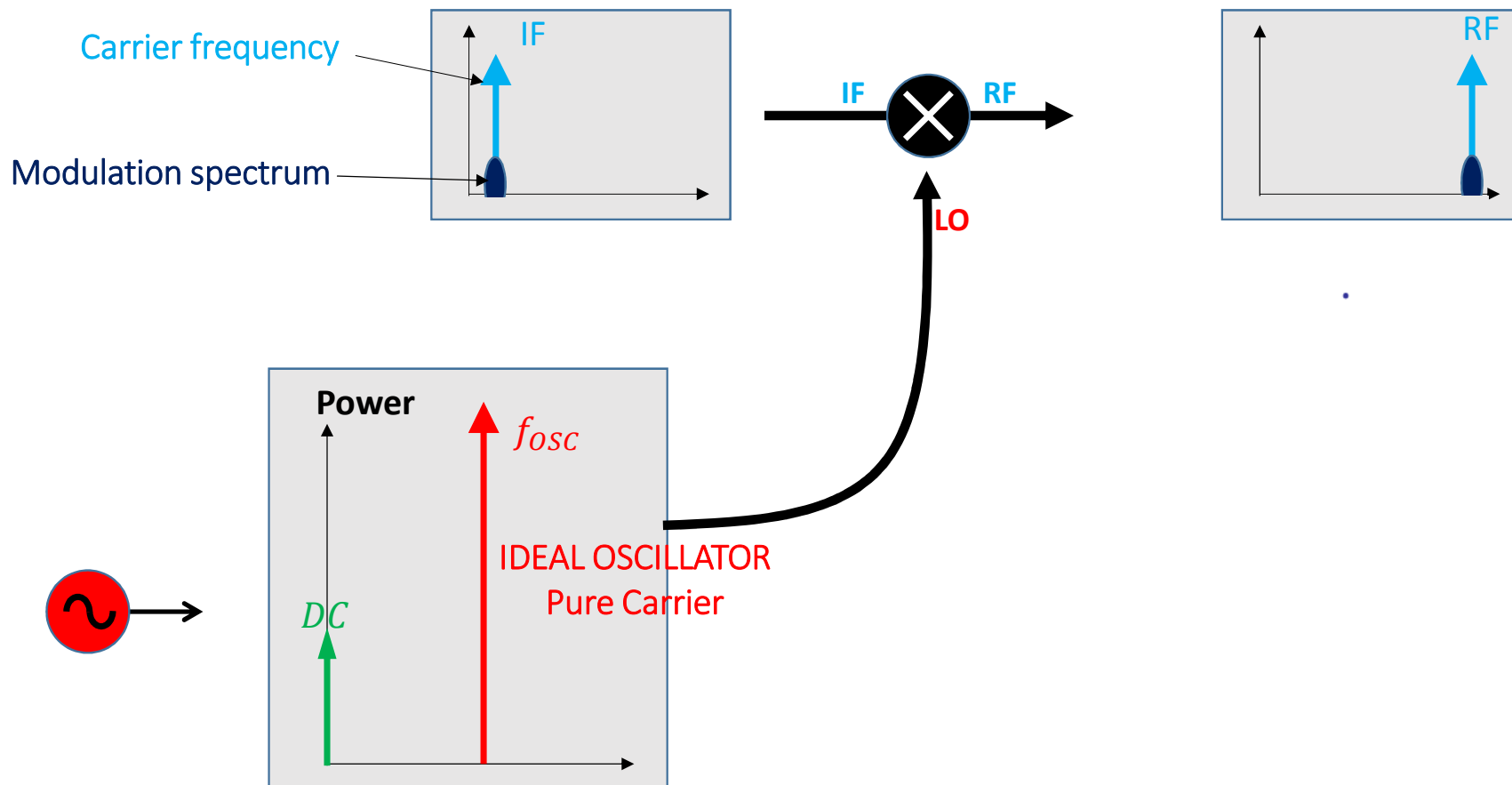




# Issues of mixer designs (Conversion gain, Isolations...)



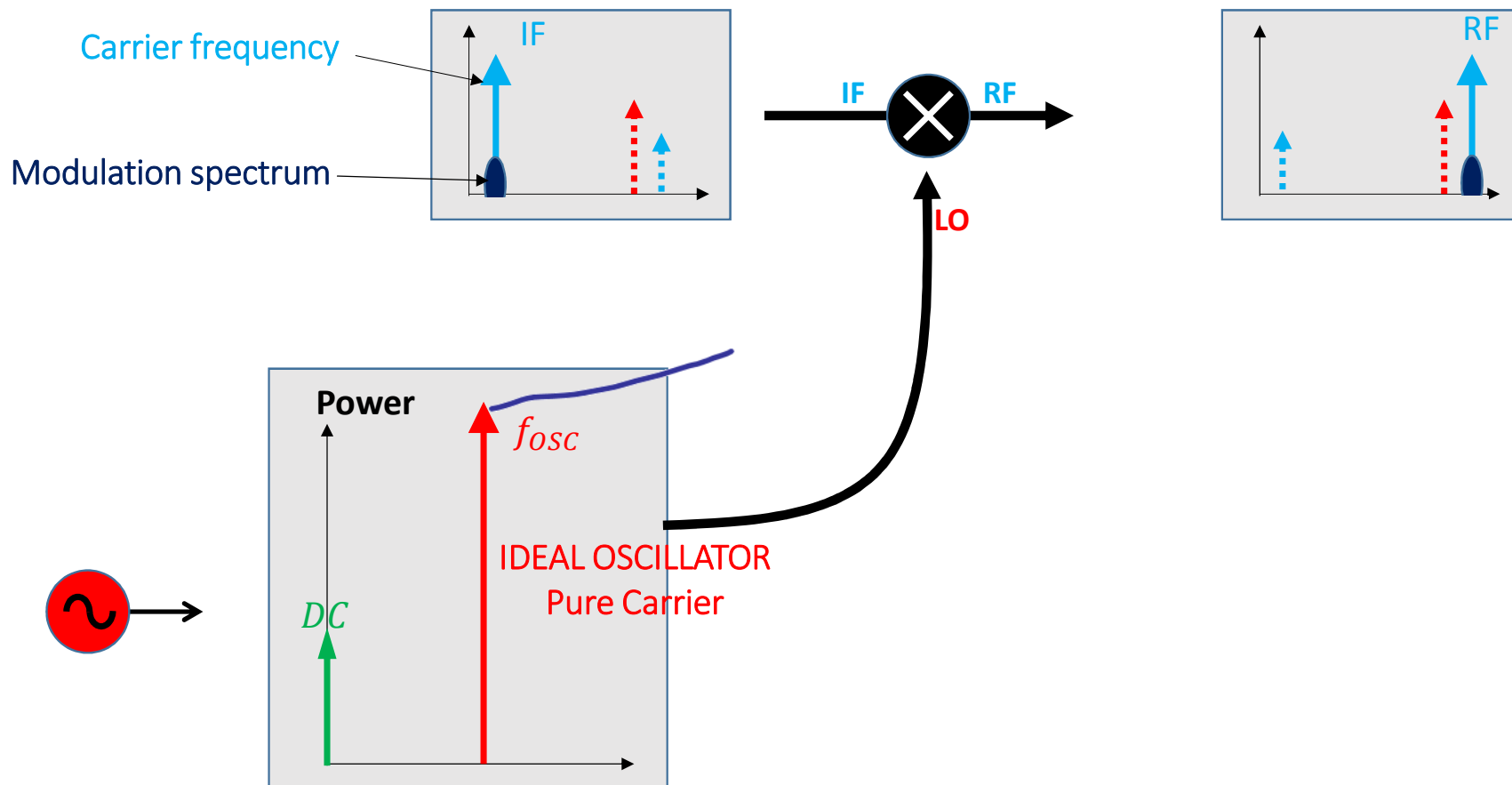
## Ideal Mixer



# Issues of mixer designs (Conversion gain, Isolations...)



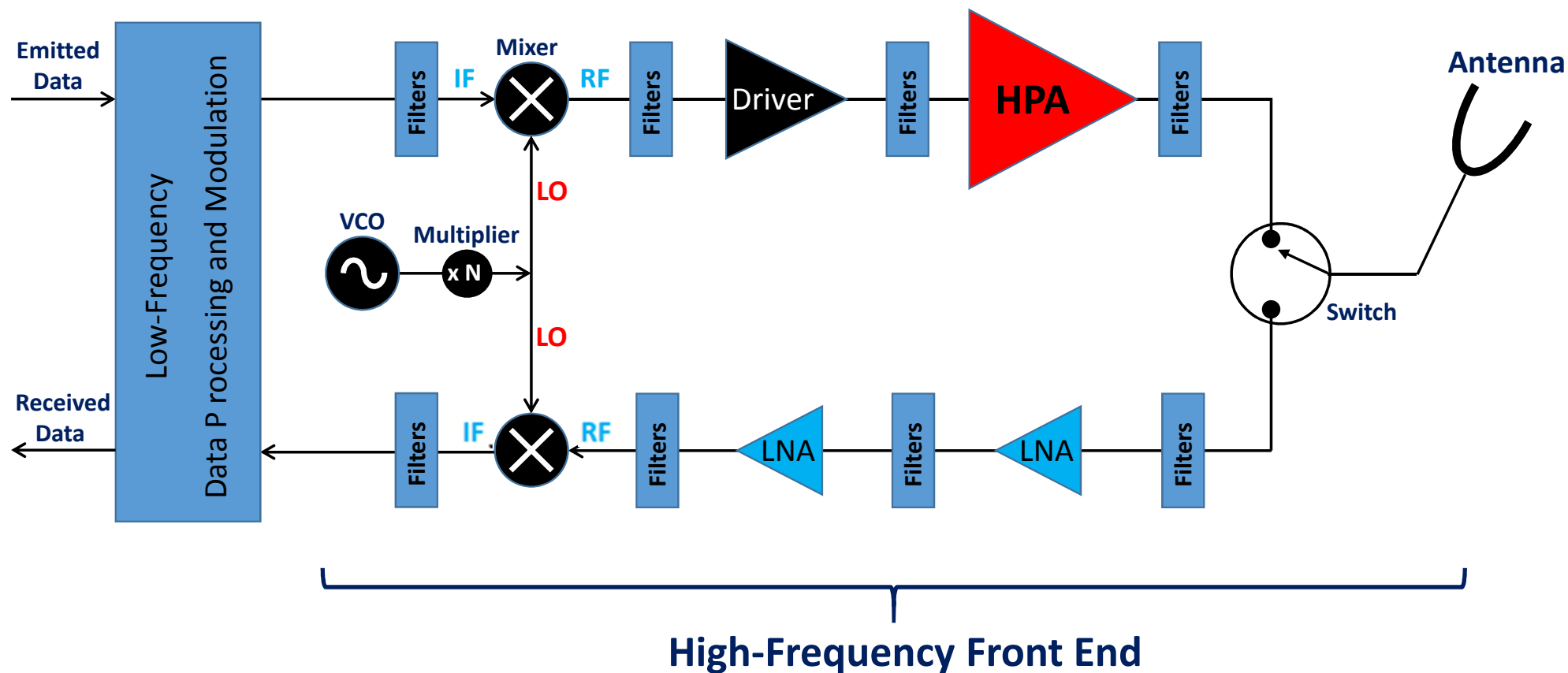
## Real Mixer



## III – High-Frequency Active Circuits in Communication Systems

### 2) Main High-Frequency Active Circuits

#### f) HPA (Tradeoffs Linearity vs PAE & Power → New Architectures → Master 2 & Research)



## III – High-Frequency Active Circuits in Communication Systems

### 2) Main High-Frequency Active Circuits

#### f) **HPA (Tradeoffs Linearity vs PAE & Power → New Architectures → Master 2 & Research)**

- ET (Envelope Tracking)
- DOHERTY
- LINC (Linear amplification with Nonlinear Components)

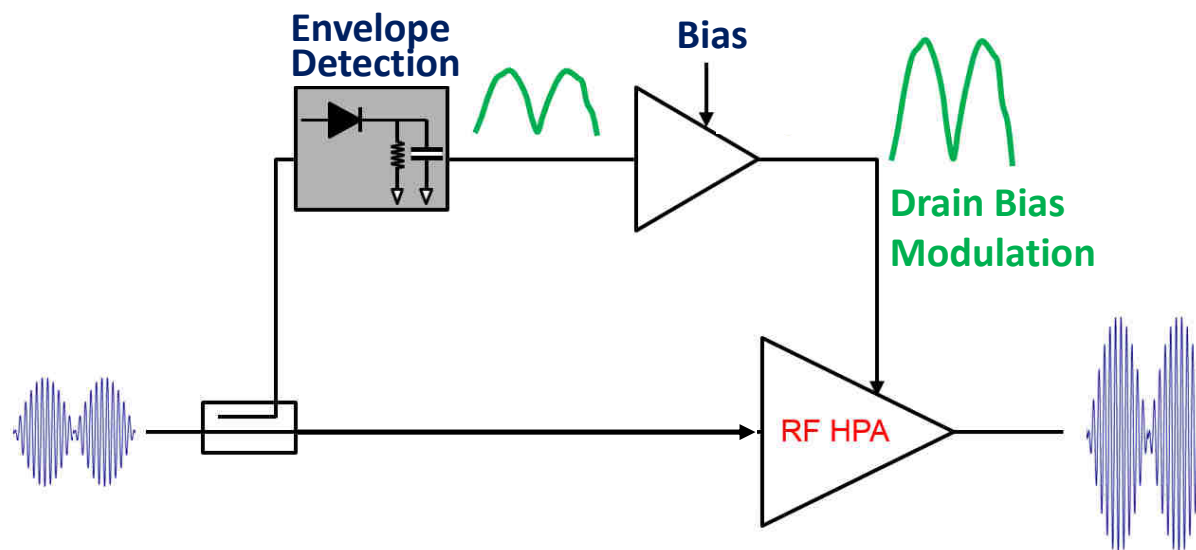
## III – High-Frequency Active Circuits in Communication Systems

### 2) Main High-Frequency Active Circuits

#### f) HPA (Tradeoffs Linearity vs PAE & Power → New Architectures → Master 2 & Research)

### - ET (Envelope Tracking)

Depending on the input power level,  
the drain bias of the power amplifier is dynamically changed  
to get the best PAE performance



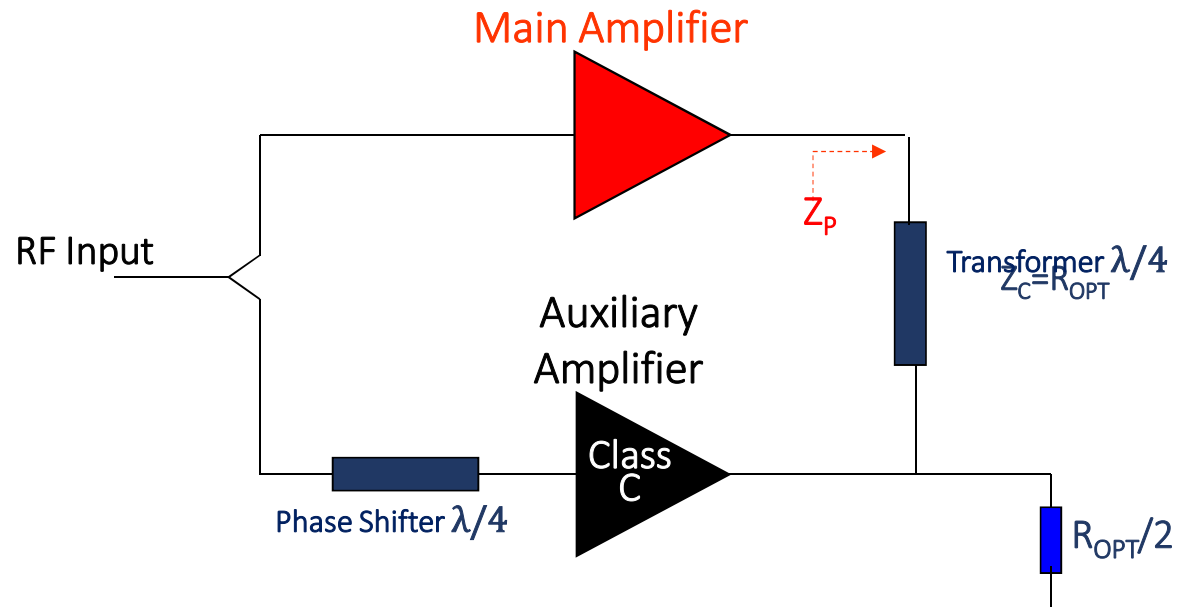
## III – High-Frequency Active Circuits in Communication Systems

### 2) Main High-Frequency Active Circuits

#### f) **HPA (Tradeoffs Linearity vs PAE & Power → New Architectures → Master 2 & Research)**

### - DOHERTY

Depending on the input power level,  
the load  $Z_p$  seen by the main amplifier is dynamically changed  
to get the best PAE performance



# III – High-Frequency Active Circuits in Communication Systems

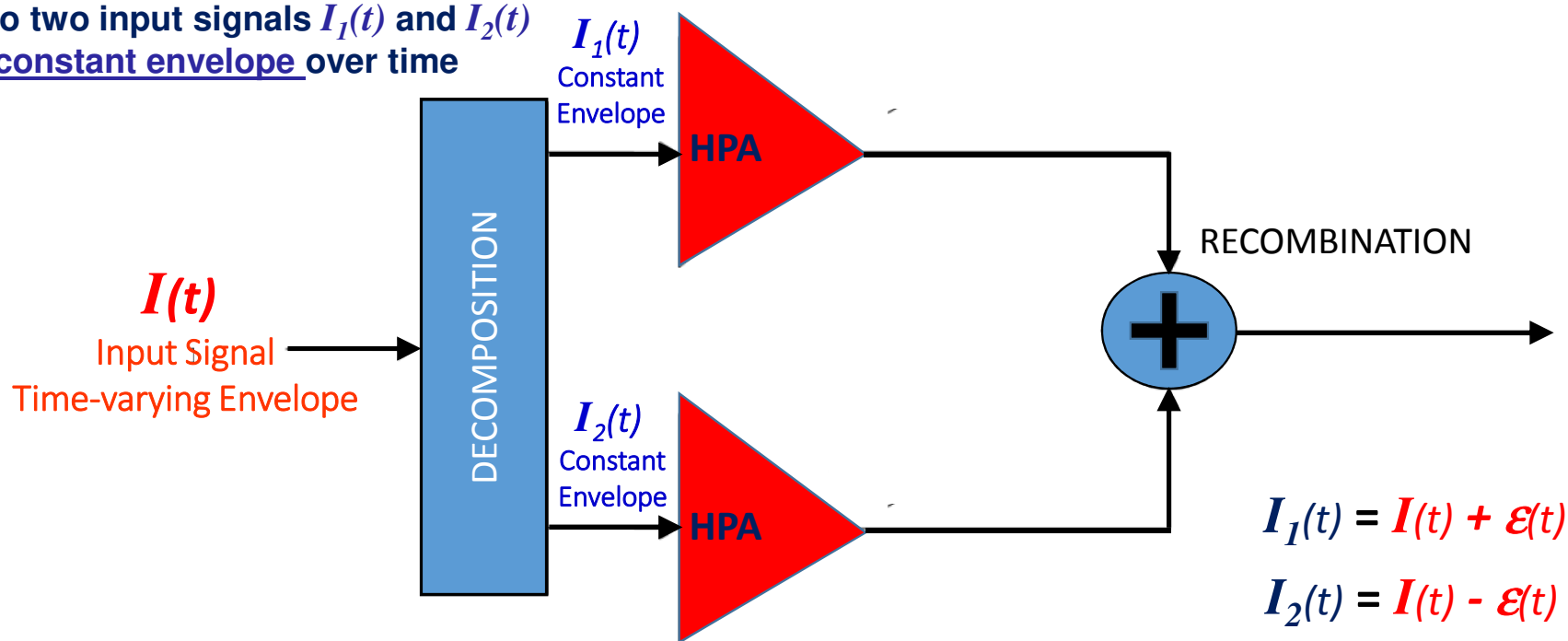
## 2) Main High-Frequency Active Circuits

### f) HPA (Tradeoffs Linearity vs PAE & Power → New Architectures → Master 2 & Research

## LINC (Linear amplification with Nonlinear Components)

The input signal  $I(t)$  which has a time-varying envelope

is decomposed into two input signals  $I_1(t)$  and  $I_2(t)$  which have a constant envelope over time



Introduction to  
Nonlinear Modeling Techniques  
of Microwave Transistors



# Design Methods of Narrow-band Power Amplifiers

# Architectures of High-Frequency Mixers

# Architectures of Wideband Resistive and Distributed Power Amplifiers

Architectures  
of Nonlinear Active Circuits  
controlled by Cold FETs

a) Power Losses / Gain / Bias / Efficiency / Temperature

## Electrothermal Analogy

### Thermal Variable

Temperature (K)

Temperature difference (K)  $\theta = T - T_0$

Thermal flux = Dissipated Power (W)

Thermal Resistance (convection) (K/W)

Thermal Capacitance (J/W)

→ Thermal time constant

### Electrical Equivalent

Potential (V)

Voltage (V)

Current (A)

Resistance  $R_{TH}$  ( $\Omega$ )

Capacitance  $C_{TH}$  (F)

→ Time Constant (s)  $\tau_{TH} = R_{TH} \cdot C_{TH}$

## **Electrothermal Analogy (simplest thermal cell)**