

MSc and EEE PART IV: MEng and ACGI

# RADIO FREQUENCY ELECTRONICS

Time allowed: 3:00 hours

**Answer FOUR questions.**

**Any special instructions for invigilators and information for candidates are on page 1.**

Examiners responsible      First Marker(s) :      S. Lucyszyn  
Second Marker(s) :      W.T. Pike

### **Special instructions for invigilators**

*This is a closed book examination.*

### **Special instructions for students**

*All variable have their usual meaning.*

*Standard filter curves and tables are given at the back.*

## The Questions

1.

a) The frequency spectrum has limits on performance and low cost exploitation.

- i) As frequency decreases below 1 GHz, what affects the signal/noise ratio of a wireless communications system? [2]
- ii) Why is the frequency spectrum between 1 GHz and 10 GHz so convenient for commercial exploitation? [2]
- iii) Where in the frequency spectrum are the water and oxygen absorption peaks, between 10 GHz and 200 GHz? [2]
- iv) What is significant about the 38 GHz and 94 GHz frequency bands? Give an appropriate application for each band and state the reasons for choosing these applications. [2]
- v) What is significant about the 60 GHz frequency band? Give two applications for this band and state the reasons for choosing these applications. [2]

b) Draw the block diagram for a TVRO LNB. For each block, comment on the suitability for their implementation using monolithic technology. [10]

2.

- a) An RF signal of 1 mW is input to a power amplifier with an output of 1 W. Design a suitable power amplifier configuration to give the best overall performance using the following transistor stages.

	$P_{OUT,MAX,LIN}$ [dBm]	$P_{DC}$ [mW]	$IP_3$ [dBm]
Stage 1	25	600	40
Stage 2	30	2000	40
Stage 3	15	60	40

Table 2.1 Transistor Stage Specifications.

(Note that all the transistors have a perfect impedance matching)

[2]

- b) From the design in 2(a), calculate the following at each stage and the overall values for:

- i) Power gain [1]
- ii) Output power [2]
- iii) Basic efficiency [2]
- iv) PAE [2]
- v)  $IP_3$  [2]
- vi)  $IMD_3$  for two-tone power level given in (ii) [2]
- vii) Dissipated power [2]

- c) From first principles, prove that the 3<sup>rd</sup> order intermodulation log-power gain slope is three times that of the desired output log-power slope. [2]

- d) In linear operation, if the overall input power drops by 3 dB, what happens to the following:

- i) Output power [1]
- ii)  $I_3$  power [1]
- iii)  $IMD_3$  [1]

3.

- a) The Michelson interferometer, shown in Figure 3.1, can be analysed as a general two-port network. By inspection of Figure 3.1, write down equations for the effective forward voltage-wave transmission coefficient  $S_{21}$  and input voltage-wave reflection coefficient  $S_{11}$  for this passive and reciprocal network. Clearly define all variables used. Hints, the electrical path lengths can be represented by  $(k_o dx)$ , where  $k_o = 2\pi/\lambda$ ,  $\lambda$  is the wavelength for a monochromatic RF input signal source, integer  $x$  identifies a particular path and the beam splitter is both symmetrical and reciprocal. [6]
- b) Given that the optical path difference is given by  $\delta = 2(d3 - d4)$ , if  $d1 = d2 = \lambda$  and both mirrors are made from perfectly conducting metals, simplify the equations obtained in 3(a). [3]
- c) For this interferometer to function properly, an ideal beam splitter must reflect 50% of any incident power and allow the rest of the power to be transmitted through without attenuation.
- Write down the effective forward voltage-wave transmission and forward voltage-wave reflection coefficients for an ideal beam splitter, given that they must be in phase quadrature with one another. Hint, there are a number of possible solutions, so only choose one. [4]
  - From the solution obtained in 3(c)(i), show that the beam splitter obeys the conservation of energy principle. [2]
  - Using the solution obtained in 3(c)(i), simplify the equations obtained in 3(b). [2]
  - From the solution obtained in 3(c)(iii), show that this Michelson interferometer obeys the conservation of energy principle for  $\delta = n\lambda$  and  $(n+1/2)\lambda$ , where  $n$  is any positive integer. [3]

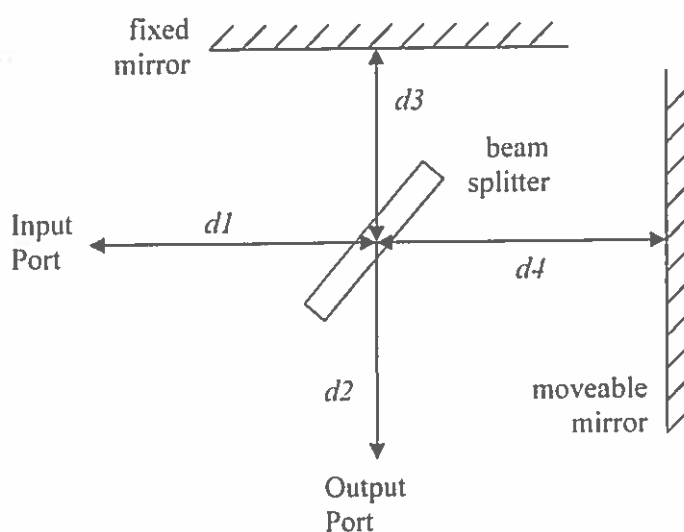


Figure 3.1 A Michelson interferometer

4.

- a) Draw the topology of a double-balanced amplifier. If 3 dB quadrature couplers are used in conjunction with identical non-ideal single-ended amplifiers, use S-parameter analysis to determine expressions for the overall insertion gain and input return loss. Assume the couplers are perfectly matched to the reference impedance  $Z_0$  and the interconnections between the main components are ideal.

[10]

- b) For the topology in 4(a), if the working single-ended amplifiers have a forward voltage wave transmission coefficient of  $S_{21} = |10|\angle 35^\circ$ , determine the overall insertion gain and input return loss if one of the amplifiers fails, such that  $S_{21} = 0$ . Assume that there is no change to the input or output impedances of the failed transistor. What is the main application of this topology and what are its advantages and disadvantages when compared to a single-ended amplifier?

[10]

5. The photograph in Figure 5.1 is of a MMIC.

- a) Draw the basic equivalent circuit model for the MMIC shown in Figure 5.1, and mark the RF and DC bias ports with the corresponding probe pad numbers shown. Describe the type of amplifier circuit. Hint: if you are uncertain about a component then state any assumptions used.

[10]

- b) Briefly describe the different range of component technologies used for the transistors, inductors and capacitors, and also state the advantages and disadvantages of these technologies. State what compromises have to be made with the design of MMICs, when compared to HMICs.

[5]

- c) Briefly comment as to why the complexity of the full equivalent circuit model is much more than the circuit derived in 5(a) and explain why circuit modelling alone is not sufficient if a significant reduction in the chip area is required.

[5]

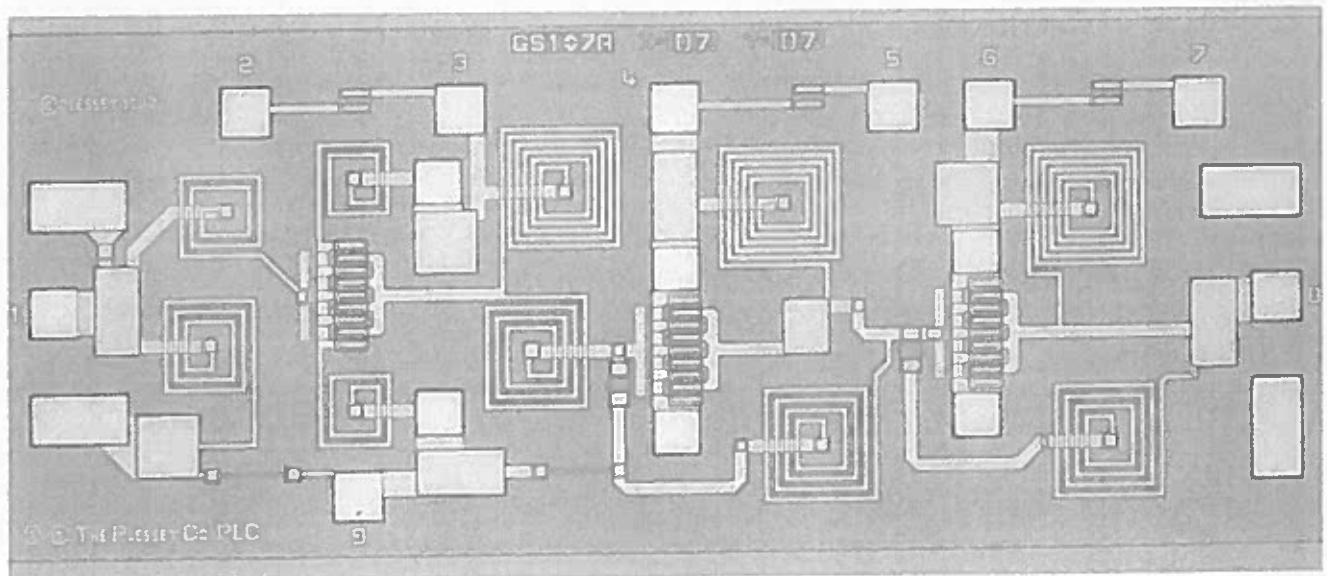


Figure 5.1 Photograph of a  $3.5 \times 1.5 \text{ mm}^2$  LNA

6.

- a) With the use of simple illustrations for the attenuation against frequency curves, describe the differences between Butterworth, Chebyshev and Elliptical-function filters. Also, comment on the group delay characteristics for these filters.

[5]

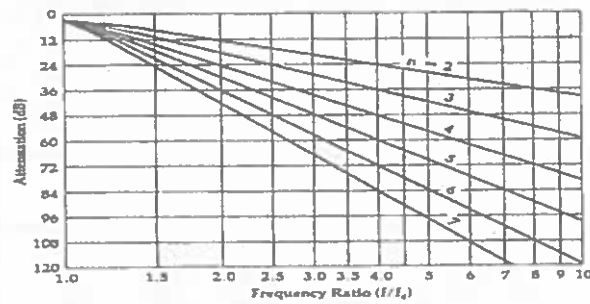
- b) Given prototype low-pass filter attenuation curves and tables for the corresponding normalised element values (see attached sheets), design an L-C lumped-element band-pass filter that meets the following specifications:

Centre Frequency, $f_0$	500 MHz
3 dB Bandwidth, $B$	50 MHz
Attenuation Bandwidth	100 MHz
Pass-Band Ripple (Peak-to-Peak)	0.1 dB
Stop-Band Attenuation	45 dB
Input Impedance, $R_{IN}$	100 $\Omega$
Output Impedance, $R_{OUT}$	50 $\Omega$

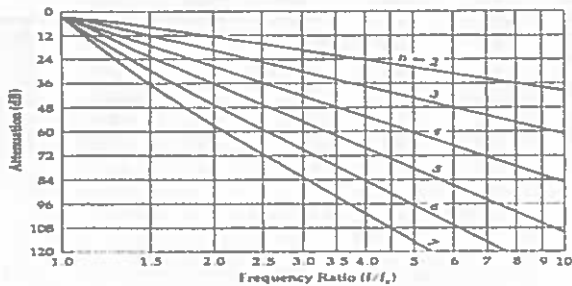
[15]



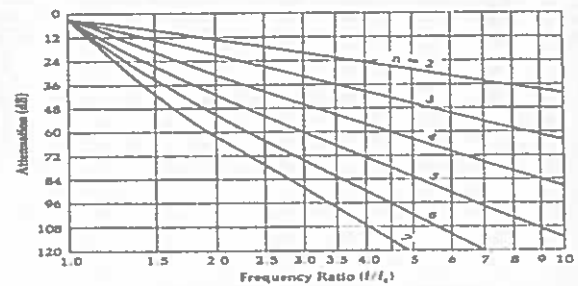
## Standard Filter Curves and Tables



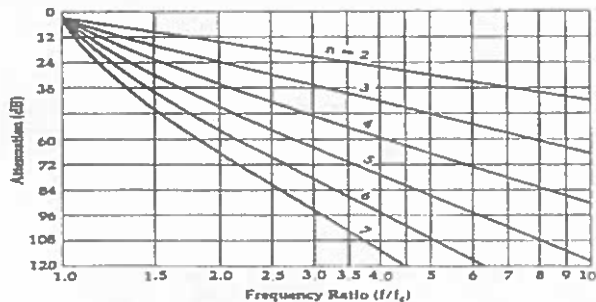
Attenuation characteristics for Butterworth filters.



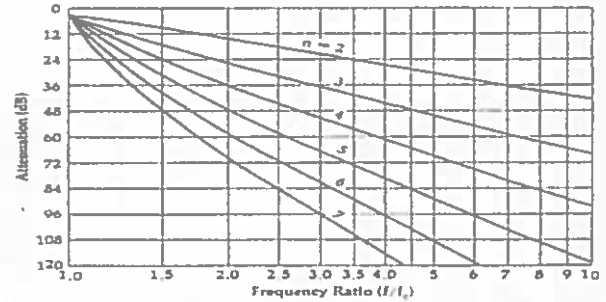
Attenuation characteristics for a Chebyshev filter with 0.01-dB ripple.



Attenuation characteristics for a Chebyshev filter with 0.1-dB ripple.

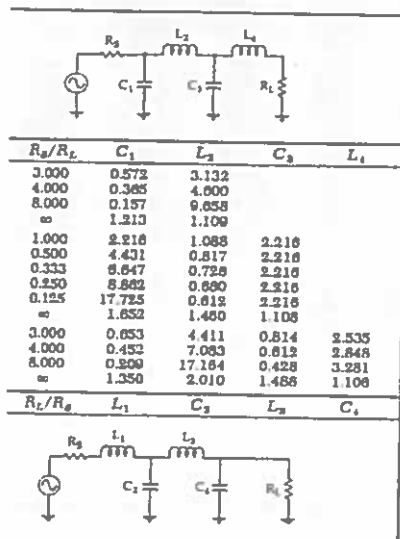


Attenuation characteristics for a Chebyshev filter with 0.5-dB ripple.

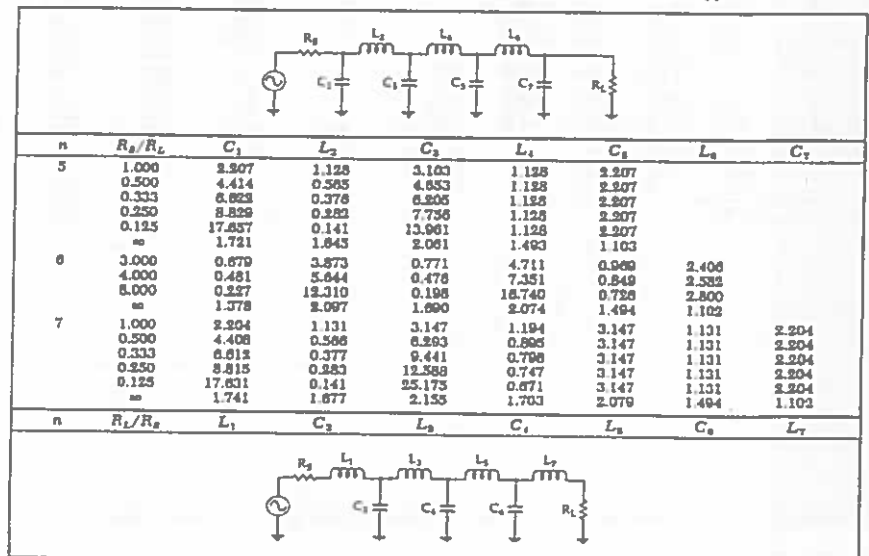


Attenuation characteristics for a Chebyshev filter with 1-dB ripple.

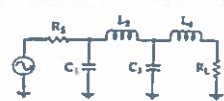
Chebyshev Low-Pass Prototype Element Values for 1.0-dB Ripple



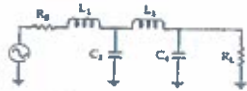
Chebyshev Low-Pass Prototype Element Values for 1.0-dB Ripple



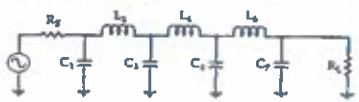
Butterworth Low-Pass  
Prototype Element Values



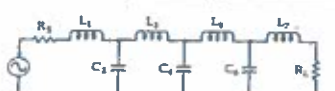
n	$R_1/R_L$	$C_1$	$L_2$	$C_3$	$L_4$
2	1.111	1.035	1.835		
	1.250	0.849	2.181		
	1.429	0.697	2.439		
	1.667	0.566	2.628		
	2.000	0.448	2.748		
	2.500	0.342	2.803		
	3.333	0.245	2.813		
	5.000	0.158	2.797		
	10.000	0.074	2.744		
$\infty$		1.414	0.707		
3	0.900	0.908	1.633	1.599	
	0.800	0.844	1.384	1.928	
	0.700	0.815	1.185	2.277	
	0.600	1.023	0.985	2.702	
	0.500	1.181	0.779	3.281	
	0.400	1.425	0.604	4.004	
	0.300	1.838	0.440	5.383	
	0.200	2.698	0.284	7.910	
	0.100	5.187	0.139	15.455	
$\infty$	1.500	1.333	0.500		
4	1.111	0.498	1.582	1.744	1.489
	1.250	0.388	1.693	1.511	1.811
	1.429	0.325	1.862	1.281	2.173
	1.667	0.288	2.103	1.082	2.613
	2.000	0.218	2.432	0.883	3.187
	2.500	0.169	2.989	0.691	4.009
	3.333	0.124	3.883	0.507	5.338
	5.000	0.080	5.684	0.331	7.940
	10.000	0.039	11.004	0.162	15.642
$\infty$	1.531	1.577	1.082	0.383	



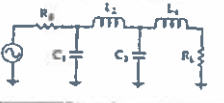
Butterworth Low-Pass Prototype Element Values



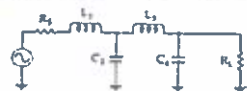
n	$R_1/R_L$	$C_1$	$L_2$	$C_3$	$L_4$	$C_5$	$L_6$	$C_7$
5	0.900	0.442	1.027	1.910	1.756	1.389		
	0.800	0.470	0.886	2.061	1.544	1.738		
	0.700	0.517	0.731	2.285	1.333	2.108		
	0.600	0.586	0.609	2.600	1.186	2.552		
	0.500	0.688	0.496	3.031	0.924	3.133		
	0.400	0.838	0.388	3.736	0.727	3.985		
	0.300	1.094	0.285	4.884	0.537	5.307		
	0.200	1.608	0.188	7.165	0.382	7.935		
	0.100	3.513	0.091	14.065	0.173	15.710		
$\infty$		1.545	1.604	1.382	0.894	0.309		
6	1.111	0.289	1.040	1.322	2.054	1.744	1.335	
	1.250	0.345	1.116	1.126	2.839	1.530	1.688	
	1.429	0.307	1.236	0.957	2.490	1.346	2.063	
	1.667	0.173	1.407	0.801	2.858	1.143	2.500	
	2.000	0.141	1.853	0.654	3.969	0.942	3.004	
	2.500	0.113	2.028	0.514	4.141	0.745	3.931	
	3.333	0.082	2.858	0.379	5.433	0.532	5.280	
	5.000	0.054	3.917	0.248	8.020	0.303	7.922	
	10.000	0.028	7.705	0.122	15.786	0.179	15.738	
$\infty$		1.553	1.759	1.553	1.202	0.758	0.259	
7	0.900	0.299	0.711	1.404	1.489	2.125	1.787	1.296
	0.800	0.322	0.806	1.517	1.278	2.334	1.544	1.652
	0.700	0.357	0.915	1.688	1.091	2.618	1.350	2.028
	0.600	0.408	0.432	1.928	0.917	3.005	1.150	2.477
	0.500	0.480	0.354	2.373	0.751	3.553	0.851	3.064
	0.400	0.590	0.278	2.796	0.592	4.380	0.784	3.904
	0.300	0.775	0.208	3.671	0.437	5.781	0.580	5.258
	0.200	1.145	0.135	5.487	0.297	8.528	0.389	7.908
	0.100	2.857	0.087	10.700	0.143	18.829	0.182	15.748
$\infty$		1.558	1.799	1.650	1.307	1.053	0.858	0.223



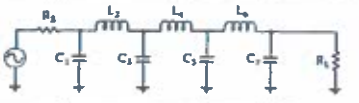
Chebyshev Low-Pass Element Values  
for 0.01-dB Ripple



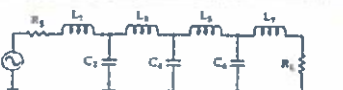
n	$R_1/R_L$	$C_1$	$L_2$	$C_3$	$L_4$
2	1.101	1.347	1.483		
	1.111	1.347	1.595		
	1.250	0.943	1.997		
	1.429	0.759	2.344		
	1.667	0.600	2.750		
	2.000	0.479	3.277		
	2.500	0.383	4.033		
	3.333	0.259	5.255		
	5.000	0.164	7.650		
	10.000	0.078	14.749		
$\infty$		1.418	0.742		
3	1.000	1.181	1.821	1.181	
	0.900	1.092	1.600	1.450	
	0.800	1.007	1.443	1.808	
	0.700	1.100	1.228	2.185	
	0.600	1.274	1.024	2.598	
	0.500	1.452	0.829	3.104	
	0.400	1.734	0.645	3.974	
	0.300	2.216	0.476	5.280	
	0.200	3.183	0.305	7.834	
	0.100	6.141	0.148	15.390	
$\infty$	1.501	1.433	0.591		
4	1.100	0.950	1.926	1.761	1.046
	1.111	0.854	1.946	1.744	1.165
	1.250	0.818	2.075	1.542	1.817
	1.429	0.495	2.279	1.331	2.009
	1.667	0.388	2.571	1.128	2.481
	2.000	0.316	2.894	0.928	3.045
	2.500	0.242	3.641	0.729	3.873
	3.333	0.174	4.727	0.538	5.209
	5.000	0.112	6.910	0.352	7.613
	10.000	0.054	13.409	0.173	15.310
$\infty$	1.529	1.691	1.312	0.523	



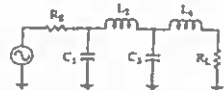
Chebyshev Low-Pass Element Values for 0.01-dB Ripple



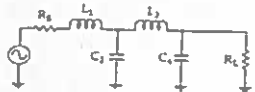
n	$R_1/R_L$	$C_1$	$L_2$	$C_3$	$L_4$	$C_5$	$L_6$	$C_7$
5	1.000	0.977	1.685	2.037	1.685	0.977		
	0.900	0.880	1.458	2.174	1.641	1.274		
	0.800	0.877	1.235	2.379	1.499	1.607		
	0.700	0.926	1.040	2.658	1.323	1.977		
	0.600	1.016	0.803	3.041	1.135	2.424		
	0.500	1.188	0.609	3.584	0.942	3.009		
	0.400	1.398	0.544	4.403	0.749	3.845		
	0.300	1.797	0.398	5.772	0.557	5.193		
	0.200	2.604	0.259	8.514	0.388	7.826		
	0.100	5.041	0.127	16.741	0.182	15.613		
$\infty$		1.547	1.785	1.645	1.237	0.488		
6	1.101	0.851	1.796	1.841	2.027	1.831	0.837	
	1.111	0.760	1.782	1.775	2.094	1.838	1.053	
	1.250	0.545	1.864	1.489	2.403	1.507	1.504	
	1.429	0.436	2.038	1.260	2.735	1.332	1.809	
	1.667	0.351	2.298	1.041	3.187	1.145	2.357	
	2.000	0.279	2.678	0.867	3.768	0.954	2.948	
	2.500	0.214	3.261	0.682	4.667	0.781	3.790	
	3.333	0.155	4.245	0.503	6.163	0.588	5.143	
	5.000	0.100	6.223	0.330	9.151	0.378	7.785	
	10.000	0.046	12.171	0.182	18.105	0.187	15.598	
$\infty$	1.531	1.547	1.790	1.598	1.190	0.469		
7	1.000	0.913	1.595	2.002	1.870	2.002	1.595	0.913
	0.900	0.816	1.362	2.080	1.722	2.202	1.581	1.206
	0.800	0.811	1.150	2.262	1.525	2.465	1.464	1.538
	0.700	0.857	0.987	2.516	1.323	2.802	1.307	1.910
	0.600	0.943	0.803	2.872	1.124	3.250	1.131	2.359
	0.500	1.080	0.650	3.382	0.928	3.875	0.947	2.948
	0.400	1.297	0.507	4.156	0.735	4.812	0.758	3.700
	0.300	1.669	0.372	5.454	0.548	6.370	0.568	5.148
	0.200	2.242	0.242	8.057	0.360	9.484	0.378	7.802
	0.100	4.701	0.119	15.872	0.178	18.818	0.188	15.632
$\infty$	1.550	1.667	1.868	1.765	1.563	1.181	0.456	



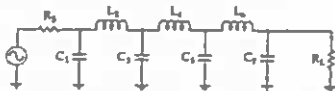
Chebyshev Low-Pass Prototype Element Values for 0.1-dB Ripple



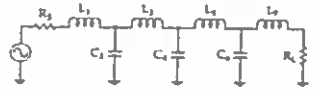
n	$R_1/R_L$	$C_1$	$L_1$	$C_2$	$L_2$
2	1.353	1.209	1.638		
	1.429	0.977	1.982		
	1.667	0.733	2.489		
	2.000	0.580	3.054		
	2.500	0.417	3.827		
	3.333	0.293	5.050		
	5.000	0.184	7.428		
	10.000	0.087	14.433		
	$\infty$	1.391	0.819		
3	1.000	1.433	1.594	1.433	
	0.900	1.426	1.494	1.822	
	0.800	1.451	1.356	1.871	
	0.700	1.521	1.193	2.190	
	0.600	1.648	1.017	2.603	
	0.500	1.833	0.838	3.159	
	0.400	2.188	0.660	3.968	
	0.300	2.783	0.486	5.379	
	0.200	3.942	0.317	7.850	
	0.100	7.512	0.155	15.466	
	$\infty$	1.513	1.510	0.716	
4	1.353	0.992	2.148	1.585	1.341
	1.429	0.779	2.348	1.429	1.700
	1.667	0.576	2.730	1.185	2.243
	2.000	0.440	3.227	0.967	2.858
	2.500	0.329	3.961	0.780	3.698
	3.333	0.233	5.178	0.590	5.030
	5.000	0.148	7.607	0.387	7.614
	10.000	0.070	14.887	0.190	15.230
	$\infty$	1.511	1.768	1.455	0.673



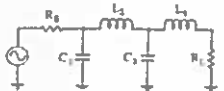
Chebyshev Low-Pass Prototype Element Values for 0.1-dB Ripple



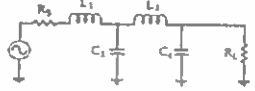
n	$R_1/R_L$	$C_1$	$L_1$	$C_2$	$L_2$	$C_3$	$L_3$	$C_4$	$L_4$	$C_5$
5	1.000	1.301	1.558	2.241	1.558	1.301				
	0.900	1.285	1.433	2.380	1.488	1.488				
	0.800	1.300	1.288	2.583	1.382	1.738				
	0.700	1.358	1.117	2.868	1.244	2.082				
	0.600	1.470	0.947	3.290	1.085	2.484				
	0.500	1.654	0.778	3.845	0.913	3.053				
	0.400	1.854	0.612	4.720	0.733	3.886				
	0.300	2.477	0.451	6.198	0.580	5.237				
	0.200	3.546	0.295	9.127	0.366	7.889				
	0.100	6.787	0.115	17.957	0.182	15.743				
	$\infty$	1.561	1.807	1.768	1.417	0.651				
6	1.353	0.942	2.060	1.650	2.247	1.334	1.377			
	1.429	0.733	2.249	1.454	2.544	1.405	1.629			
	1.667	0.542	2.800	1.183	3.064	1.185	2.174			
	2.000	0.414	3.088	0.958	3.712	0.979	2.794			
	2.500	0.310	3.765	0.749	4.631	0.778	3.643			
	3.333	0.220	4.927	0.531	6.195	0.580	4.908			
	5.000	0.139	7.250	0.361	9.281	0.384	7.818			
	10.000	0.067	14.250	0.178	18.427	0.190	15.350			
	$\infty$	1.534	1.834	1.831	1.749	1.394	0.638			
7	1.000	1.682	1.520	2.239	1.680	2.239	1.520	1.262		
	0.900	1.242	1.365	2.361	1.578	2.367	1.458	1.447		
	0.800	1.255	1.345	2.545	1.443	2.624	1.369	1.687		
	0.700	1.310	1.083	2.819	1.283	2.942	1.233	2.021		
	0.600	1.417	0.917	3.205	1.080	3.384	1.081	2.444		
	0.500	1.595	0.753	3.784	0.928	4.015	0.914	3.018		
	0.400	1.885	0.593	4.618	0.742	4.970	0.738	3.853		
	0.300	2.262	0.437	6.054	0.556	6.569	0.537	5.217		
	0.200	3.428	0.286	9.937	0.369	9.770	0.373	7.890		
	0.100	6.570	0.141	17.603	0.184	19.376	0.186	15.813		
	$\infty$	1.573	1.858	1.921	1.837	1.734	1.379	0.631		



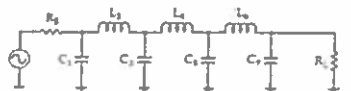
Chebyshev Low-Pass Prototype Element Values for 0.5-dB Ripple



n	$R_1/R_L$	$C_1$	$L_1$	$C_2$	$L_2$
2	1.884	0.983	1.950		
	2.000	0.909	2.103		
	2.500	0.584	3.185		
	3.333	0.375	4.411		
	5.000	0.228	6.700		
	10.000	0.105	13.322		
	$\infty$	1.307	0.975		
3	1.000	1.664	1.280	1.834	
	0.900	1.618	1.209	2.028	
	0.800	1.697	1.120	2.237	
	0.700	2.114	1.015	2.517	
	0.500	2.537	0.789	3.438	
	0.400	2.985	0.615	4.342	
	0.300	3.729	0.463	5.576	
	0.200	5.254	0.309	8.225	
	0.100	9.890	0.153	16.118	
	$\infty$	1.572	1.518	0.632	
4	1.884	0.920	2.586	1.304	1.820
	2.000	0.845	2.720	1.228	1.985
	2.500	0.516	3.766	0.890	3.121
	3.333	0.344	5.120	0.621	4.450
	5.000	0.210	7.708	0.400	6.987
	10.000	0.098	15.353	0.194	14.882
	$\infty$	1.436	1.880	1.321	0.613



Chebyshev Low-Pass Prototype Element Values for 0.5-dB Ripple



n	$R_1/R_L$	$C_1$	$L_1$	$C_2$	$L_2$	$C_3$	$L_3$	$C_4$	$L_4$	$C_5$
5	1.000	1.807	1.303	2.891	1.303	1.807				
	0.900	1.854	1.222	2.849	1.238	1.970				
	0.800	1.928	1.128	3.060	1.197	2.185				
	0.700	2.035	1.015	3.353	1.058	2.470				
	0.600	2.200	0.890	3.765	0.942	2.881				
	0.500	2.457	0.754	4.367	0.810	3.414				
	0.400	2.870	0.609	5.296	0.664	4.245				
	0.300	3.588	0.459	6.571	0.508	5.625				
	0.200	5.084	0.306	10.054	0.343	8.367				
	0.100	9.556	0.153	19.847	0.173	16.574				
	$\infty$	1.830	1.740	1.922	1.514	0.903				
6	1.884	0.905	2.577	1.385	2.713	1.385	1.706			
	2.000	0.830	2.704	1.291	2.872	1.297	1.956			
	2.500	0.506	3.722	0.890	4.100	0.681	3.103			
	3.333	0.337	5.053	0.632	5.690	0.635	4.481			
	5.000	0.206	7.613	0.406	8.732	0.412	7.031			
	10.000	0.096	15.186	0.197	17.661	0.202	14.433			
7	1.000	1.790	1.296	2.718	1.385	2.718	1.296	1.790		
	0.900	1.835	1.215	2.889	1.308	2.883	1.234	1.953		
	0.800	1.905	1.118	3.076	1.215	3.107	1.153	2.168		
	0.700	2.011	1.007	3.264	1.105	3.416	1.056	2.455		
	0.600	2.174	0.882	3.772	0.979	3.852	0.914	2.848		
	0.500	2.428	0.747	4.370	0.838	4.289	0.814	3.408		
	0.400	2.835	0.604	5.295	0.685	5.470	0.699	4.243		
	0.300	3.548	0.455	6.887	0.522	7.134	0.513	5.635		
	0.200	5.007	0.303	10.049	0.352	10.496	0.348	8.404		
	0.100	9.456	0.151	19.848	0.178	20.631	0.176	16.865		
	$\infty$	1.648	1.777	2.631	1.780	1.924	1.503	0.585		

