Designing Oscillator for an Antenna at ~3.5 GHz

2896

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Tel Aviv University

Milestones completed so far

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- Simulations evaluated a test schematic with an ideal transistor.
- LTSpice verified the design with the ideal transistor model.
- Selection of an RF transistor was based on simulation results.
- PSpice analyzed non-ideal behavior using the selected model.
- Essential data, like S-parameters, informed the matching network design.
- A matching network optimized impedance for Z_{out} and a 50[Ω] load at 3.5[*GHz*].
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Choosing the BJT

Reqired characteristics

- The transistor needs high-frequency performance, including $f_{\max}$ and f_t, well above 3.5[GHz].

- Low parasitic capacitance at collector, base, and emitter terminals is crucial.

- Low noise figure is essential.

- High gain, especially at the operating frequency, is necessary for stable oscillation.

- Ensure appropriate biasing for Colpitts oscillator operation, including DC voltages and currents.

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Transistor Details

BFP520 from Infenion[1]

- Surface mount low voltage silicon NPN RF bipolar transistor
- Transition frequency f_T of 45[GHz]
- High Gain, with $|S_{12}|$, G_{ma}, $G_{ms} > 16[dB]$ at 3.5[GHz] under $V_{ce} = 2[V]$
- Low Noise Figure, $NF < 1.2[dB]$ at 3.5[GHz], 2[V], 2[mA]

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[1] https://www.infineon.com/dgdl/Infineon-BFP520-DS-v02_00-EN.pdf?
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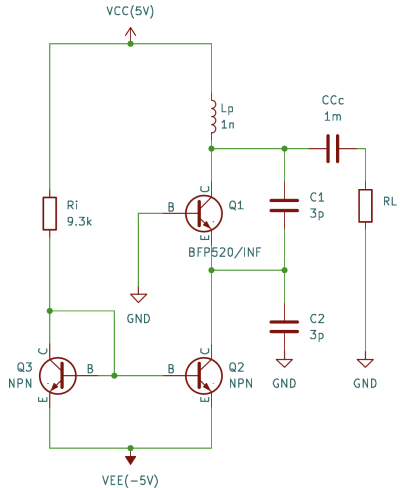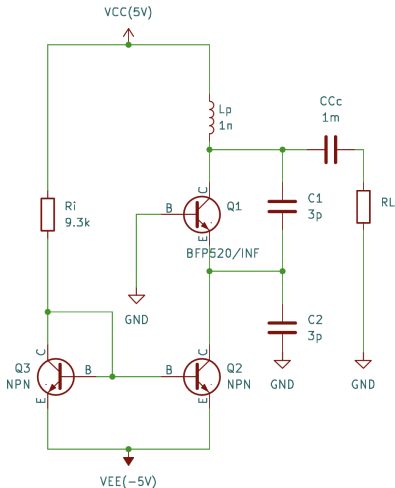

Oscillator Circuit

Collpit's Oscillator

- The circuit was tested with some high impedance load attached

- Values of L_p, C_1 and C_2 were computed using the operating frequency formula

$$f_c \approx \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{L_p \frac{C_1 C_2}{C_1 + C_2}}}$$

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*a*In-depth analysis in Appendix

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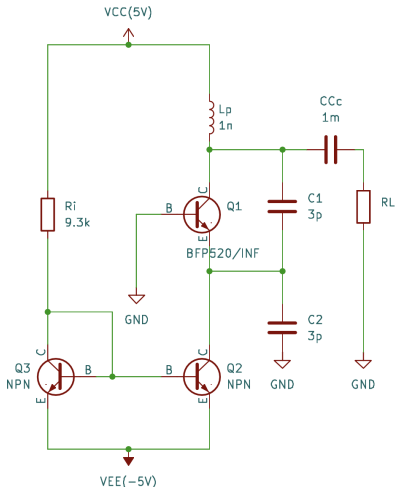

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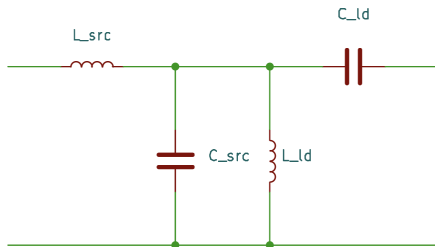
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Ouput Waveform

Choosing a Matching Network

Matching Network

T-matching is better for matching a load to a source impedance when there's a large disparity because it provides efficient power transfer, minimizes losses, and offers impedance transformation with stability.[2]

- $L_{src} =$
- $C_{src} =$
- $L_{ld} =$
- $C_{ld} =$

---

[2]Design method in Appendix

Tested with $R_S = 1000[\Omega]$ and $R_L = 50[\Omega]$

Ouput of Oscillator using Matching Network as $50[\Omega]$ load

Efficiency η

Defining η

- **Input:** $P_{DC} = V_{CC} I_C$
- **Output:** $P_{ac} = \frac{V_{rms}^2}{R_L}$ where $V_{rms} = \frac{V_{max}}{\sqrt{2}}$ for the output waveform
- **Efficiency:** $\eta = \frac{P_{ac}}{P_{CD}}$ [3]

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Calculation of η

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- Layout the PCB
- Fabrication and Testing

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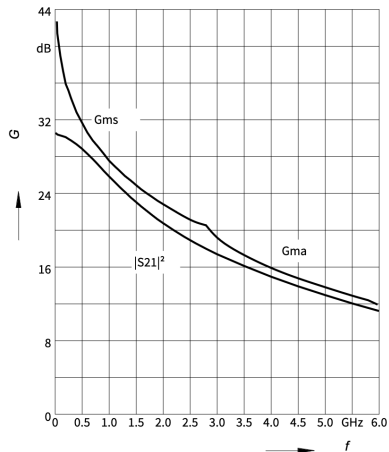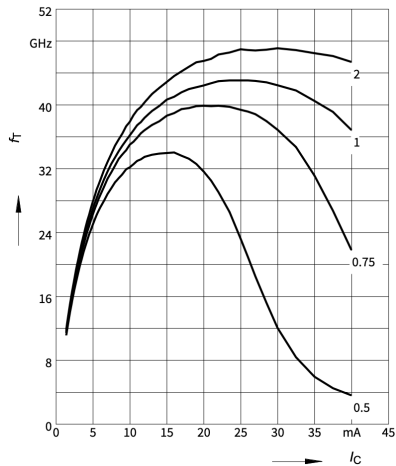
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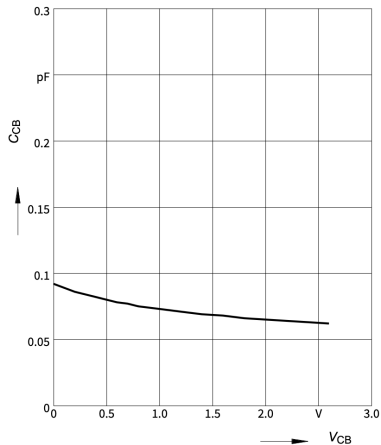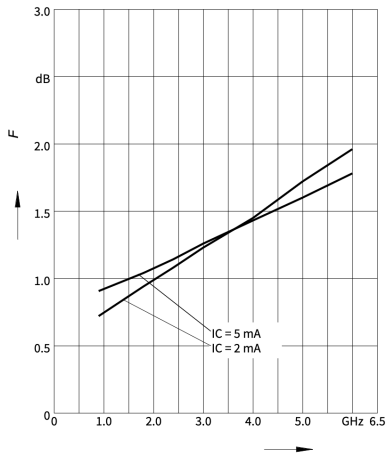- Fabrication and Testing

Appendix

Data from Infenion - 1

BFP520 Spice File

```
*$
.SUBCKT BFP520/INF 200 100 300
L1    1    10    0.47nH
L2    2    20    0.56nH
L3    3    30    0.23nH
C1    10   20    6.9fF
C2    20   30    134fF
C3    30   10    136fF
L4    10   100   0.53nH
L5    20   200   0.58nH
L6    30   300   0.05nH
Q1    2  1  3  BFP520
.ENDS
.MODEL BFP520 NPN(
+ IS  =1.5E-17      NF  =1            NR  =1
+ ISE=2.5E-14       NE  =2            ISC=2E-14
+ NC =2             BF  =235          BR  =1.5
+ VAF=25            VAR=2             IKF=0.4
+ IKR=0.01          RB  =11           RBM=7.5
+ RE  =0.6          RC  =7.6          CJE=2.35E-13
+ VJE=0.958         MJE=0.335         CJC=9.3E-14
+ VJC=0.661         MJC=0.236         CJS=0
+ VJS=0.75          MJS=0.333         FC=0.5
+ XCJC=1            TF=1.7E-12        TR=5E-08
+ XTF=10            ITF=0.7           VTF=5
+ PTF=50            XTB=-0.25         XTI=0.035
+ EG=1.11)
****************************************************************
*$                                                            14
```

We have the following small signal model of Collpit's oscillator, with $C_1 = C_2 = C$ [4]

———————————————
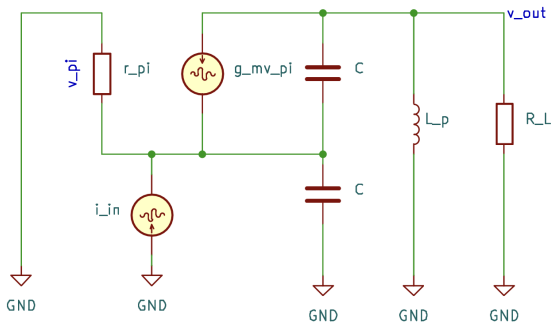
[4]In all the results, we try to ignore effects of r_π and then adjust the values accordingly to get required response

Proof of operating frequency - 2

$$i_{in} = -\frac{v_\pi}{r_\pi} - sC(v_{out} + 2v_\pi)$$

$$g_m v_\pi + sC(v_{out} + v_\pi) + \frac{v_{out}}{sL_p} + \frac{v_{out}}{R_L} = 0$$

This gives us the following frequency response

$$\frac{v_{out}}{i_{in}} = \frac{r_\pi L_p R_L (s^2 C + sg_m)}{r_\pi C^2 L_p R_L s^3 + (-r_\pi C L_p R_L g_m + 2r_\pi C L_p + C L_p R_L)s^2 + (2r_\pi C R_L + L_p)s + R_L}$$

Put $s = j\omega$ and let Im of denominator $\to 0$

$$\omega_0 = \sqrt{\frac{2r_\pi C R_L + L_p}{r_\pi C^2 L_p R_L}}$$

Assuming $r_\pi \to \infty$, as is the case is MOS, we reach the well-known expression $\omega_0 = \sqrt{\frac{1}{L\frac{C.C}{C+C}}}$

Proof of operating frequency - 3

For sustained oscillations, we need

$$-(r_\pi CL_p R_L g_m + 2r_\pi CL_p + CL_p R_L)\omega_0^2 + R_L > 0$$

This gives us

$$[5] R_L g_m - \frac{R_L}{r_\pi} - 2 > 0$$

Thus, we need to set R_L accordingly at the oscillating frequency, giving us a lower bound for load and thus a need for a matching network.

---

[5]This is similar to the condition found in Razavi, but for NMOS in place of NPN BJT

Calculation of matching network - 1

We have a source impedance Z_s, a load impedance Z_L, and operating frequency f_0 and we need to match Z_L to Z_s at f_0 using a T-Matching Network. We assume a central impedance Z_c such that $Z_c > \max(Z_s, Z_L)$, and then calculate the series and parallel reactive components on both sides.[6]

Source:

$$Q_{src} = \sqrt{\frac{Z_c}{Z_s} - 1}$$

$$X_{src}^{patallel} = \frac{Z_c}{Q_{src}}$$

$$X_{src}^{series} = Q_{src} Z_s$$

Load:

$$Q_{ld} = \sqrt{\frac{Z_c}{Z_L} - 1}$$

$$X_{ld}^{patallel} = \frac{Z_c}{Q_{ld}}$$

$$X_{ls}^{series} = Q_{ls} Z_L$$

Then, $L = \frac{X}{2\pi f_0}$ and $C = \frac{1}{2\pi f_0 X}$ for chosen X series/parallel

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[6]In our case, all impedances are real

Calculation of matching network - 2

Variable	Value
$f0$	3.5×10^9
$Z_{\text{out\_osc}}$	1000
Z_{load}	50
Z_{center}	1002
Q_{src}	0.0447214
$X_{\text{paralle\_src}}$	22405.4
$X_{\text{series\_src}}$	44.7214
L_{src}	2.03361×10^{-9}

Variable	Value
C_{src}	2.02955×10^{-15}
Q_{ld}	4.36348
$X_{\text{paralle\_ld}}$	229.633
$X_{\text{series\_ld}}$	218.174
L_{ld}	1.04421×10^{-8}
C_{ld}	2.08424×10^{-13}
C_{com}	2.10454×10^{-13}
L_{com}	1.70212×10^{-9}