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(54) **POWER TRACKER FOR MULTIPLE TRANSMIT SIGNALS SENT SIMULTANEOUSLY**

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Description**CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

[0001] The present disclosure claims priority to U.S. Nonprovisional App. No. 13/764,328 filed February 11, 2013.

BACKGROUND**I. Field**

[0002] The present disclosure relates generally to electronics, and more specifically to techniques for generating a power supply voltage for a circuit such as an amplifier.

II. Background

[0003] A wireless device (e.g., a cellular phone or a smartphone) in a wireless communication system may transmit and receive data for two-way communication. The wireless device may include a transmitter for data transmission and a receiver for data reception. For data transmission, the transmitter may process (e.g., encode and modulate) data to generate output samples. The transmitter may further condition (e.g., convert to analog, filter, amplify, and frequency upconvert) the output samples to generate a modulated radio frequency (RF) signal, amplify the modulated RF signal to obtain an output RF signal having the proper transmit power level, and transmit the output RF signal via an antenna to a base station. For data reception, the receiver may obtain a received RF signal via the antenna and may amplify and process the received RF signal to recover data sent by the base station.

[0004] The transmitter typically includes a power amplifier (PA) to provide high transmit power for the output RF signal. The power amplifier should be able to provide high transmit power and have high power-added efficiency (PAE).

Attention is drawn to document GB 2 476 393 A which relates to an active antenna array comprising different transmission paths, in which power amplifiers are powered by variable power supply units each controlled according to a common envelope signal which is detected, generated and tracked by an envelope detection system. Further attention is drawn to document GB 2 488 380 A which relates to a MIMO transmitter amplifier array with a common envelope-tracking supply to simplify the power supply circuit in a base station MIMO transmitter array, each of the power amplifiers is fed from a single tracking modulator. The envelope selector provides the largest of the envelope signals from the envelope processors to the supply modulator through a smoothing filter.

Finally, attention is drawn to document US 2012/326783 A1 which relates to techniques for efficiently generating a power supply. For example, an apparatus includes an envelope amplifier and a boost converter. The boost converter generates a boosted supply voltage having a higher voltage than a first supply voltage (e.g., a battery voltage). The envelope amplifier generates a second supply voltage based on an envelope signal and the boosted supply voltage (and also possibly the first supply voltage). A power amplifier operates based on the second supply voltage. In a further example, an apparatus includes a switcher, an envelope amplifier, and a power amplifier. The switcher receives a first supply voltage and provides a first supply current. The envelope amplifier provides a second supply current based on an envelope signal. The power amplifier receives a total supply current including the first and second supply currents.

SUMMARY

[0005] In accordance with the present invention, an apparatus, as set forth in claim 1, and a method, as set forth in claim 13, is provided. Further embodiments are claimed in the dependent claims. Techniques for generating a power tracking supply voltage for a circuit (e.g., a power amplifier) that processes multiple transmit signals sent simultaneously are disclosed herein. The multiple transmit signals may comprise transmissions sent simultaneously on multiple carriers at different frequencies.

[0006] In one exemplary design, an apparatus includes a power tracker and a power supply generator. The power tracker determines a power tracking signal based on inphase (I) and quadrature (Q) components of a plurality of transmit signals being sent simultaneously, as described below. The power supply generator generates a power supply voltage based on the power tracking signal. The apparatus may further include a power amplifier that amplifies a modulated RF signal based on the power supply voltage and provides an output RF signal.

[0007] Various aspects and features of the disclosure are described in further detail below.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0008]

FIG. 1 shows a wireless device communicating with a wireless system.

FIGS. 2A to 2D show four examples of carrier aggregation.

FIG. 3 shows a block diagram of the wireless device in FIG. 1.

FIG. 4 shows a transmit module comprising a separate power amplifier with separate power tracking for each transmit signal.

FIGS. 5 and 6 show two designs of a transmit module comprising a single power amplifier with power tracking for all transmit signals.

FIGS. 7A and 7B show power tracking for two and three transmit signals, respectively.

FIGS. 8 and 9 show a design of a power supply generator with power tracking.

FIG. 10 shows a process for generating a power supply voltage with power tracking.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0009] The word "exemplary" is used herein to mean "serving as an example, instance, or illustration." Any design described herein as "exemplary" is not necessarily to be construed as preferred or advantageous over other designs.

[0010] Techniques for generating a power tracking supply voltage for a circuit (e.g., a power amplifier) that processes multiple transmit signals sent simultaneously are disclosed herein. The techniques may be used for various electronic devices such as wireless communication devices.

[0011] FIG. 1 shows a wireless device 110 communicating with a wireless communication system 120. Wireless system 120 may be a Long Term Evolution (LTE) system, a Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) system, a Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) system, a wireless local area network (WLAN) system, or some other wireless system. A CDMA system may implement Wideband CDMA (WCDMA), CDMA 1X, Time Division Synchronous CDMA (TD-SCDMA), or some other version of CDMA. For simplicity, FIG. 1 shows wireless system 120 including two base stations 130 and 132 and one system controller 140. In general, a wireless system may include any number of base stations and any set of network entities.

[0012] Wireless device 110 may also be referred to as a user equipment (UE), a mobile station, a terminal, an access terminal, a subscriber unit, a station, etc. Wireless device 110 may be a cellular phone, a smartphone, a tablet, a wireless modem, a personal digital assistant (PDA), a handheld device, a laptop computer, a smartbook, a netbook, a cordless phone, a wireless local loop (WLL) station, a Bluetooth device, etc. Wireless device 110 may be capable of communicating with wireless system 120. Wireless device 110 may also be capable of receiving signals from broadcast stations (e.g., a broadcast station 134), signals from satellites (e.g., a satellite 150) in one or more global navigation satellite systems (GNSS), etc. Wireless device 110 may support one or more radio technologies for wireless communication such as LTE, WCDMA, CDMA 1X, TD-SCDMA, GSM, 802.11, etc.

[0013] Wireless device 110 may be able to operate in low-band (LB) covering frequencies lower than 1000 megahertz (MHz), mid-band (MB) covering frequencies from 1000 MHz to 2300 MHz, and/or high-band (HB) covering frequencies higher than 2300 MHz. For example, low-band may cover 698 to 960 MHz, mid-band may cover 1475 to 2170 MHz, and high-band may cover 2300 to 2690 MHz and 3400 to 3800 MHz. Low-band, mid-band, and high-band refer to three groups of bands (or band groups), with each band group including a number of frequency bands (or simply, "bands"). Each band may cover up to 200 MHz and may include one or more carriers. Each carrier may cover up to 20 MHz in LTE. LTE Release 11 supports 35 bands, which are referred to as LTE/UMTS bands and are listed in 3GPP TS 36.101.

[0014] Wireless device 110 may support carrier aggregation, which is operation on multiple carriers. Carrier aggregation may also be referred to as multi-carrier operation. Wireless device 110 may be configured with up to 5 carriers in one or two bands in LTE Release 11.

[0015] In general, carrier aggregation (CA) may be categorized into two types - intra-band CA and inter-band CA. Intra-band CA refers to operation on multiple carriers within the same band. Inter-band CA refers to operation on multiple carriers in different bands.

[0016] FIG. 2A shows an example of contiguous intra-band CA. In the example shown in FIG. 2A, wireless device 110 is configured with three contiguous carriers in one band in low-band. Wireless device 110 may send and/or receive transmissions on the three contiguous carriers in the same band.

[0017] FIG. 2B shows an example of non-contiguous intra-band CA. In the example shown in FIG. 2B, wireless device 110 is configured with three non-contiguous carriers in one band in low-band. The carriers may be separated by 5 MHz, 10 MHz, or some other amount. Wireless device 110 may send and/or receive transmissions on the three non-contiguous carriers in the same band.

[0018] FIG. 2C shows an example of inter-band CA in the same band group. In the example shown in FIG. 2C, wireless device 110 is configured with three carriers in two bands in low-band. Wireless device 110 may send and/or receive transmissions on the three carriers in different bands in the same band group.

[0019] FIG. 2D shows an example of inter-band CA in different band groups. In the example shown in FIG. 2D, wireless device 110 is configured with three carriers in two bands in different band groups, which include two carriers in one band

in low-band and one carrier in another band in mid-band. Wireless device 110 may send and/or receive transmissions on the three carriers in different bands in different band groups.

[0020] FIGS. 2A to 2D show four examples of carrier aggregation. Carrier aggregation may also be supported for other combinations of bands and band groups.

[0021] FIG. 3 shows a block diagram of an exemplary design of wireless device 110 in FIG. 1. In this exemplary design, wireless device 110 includes a data processor/ controller 310, a transceiver 320 coupled to a primary antenna 390, and a transceiver 322 coupled to a secondary antenna 392. Transceiver 320 includes K transmitters 330pa to 330pk, L receivers 380pa to 380pl, and an antenna interface circuit 370 to support multiple bands, carrier aggregation, multiple radio technologies, etc. K and L may each be any integer value of one or greater. Transceiver 322 includes M transmitters 330sa to 330sm, N receivers 380sa to 380sn, and an antenna interface circuit 372 to support multiple bands, carrier aggregation, multiple radio technologies, receive diversity, multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) transmission, etc. M and N may each be any integer value of one or greater.

[0022] In the exemplary design shown in FIG. 3, each transmitter 330 includes a transmit circuit 340 and a power amplifier (PA) 360. For data transmission, data processor 310 processes (e.g., encodes and symbol maps) data to be transmitted to obtain modulation symbols. Data processor 310 further processes the modulation symbols (e.g., for OFDM, SC-FDMA, CDMA, or some other modulation technique) and provides I and Q samples for each transmit signal to be sent by wireless device 110. A transmit signal is a signal comprising a transmission on one or more carriers, a transmission on one or more frequency channels, etc. Data processor 310 provides the I and Q samples for one or more transmit signals to one or more selected transmitters. The description below assumes that transmitter 330pa is a transmitter selected to send one transmit signal. Within transmitter 330pa, transmit circuit 340pa converts I and Q samples to I and Q analog output signals, respectively. Transmit circuit 340pa further amplifies, filters, and upconverts the I and Q analog output signals from baseband to RF and provides a modulated RF signal. Transmit circuit 340pa may include digital-to-analog converters (DACs), amplifiers, filters, mixers, matching circuits, an oscillator, a local oscillator (LO) generator, a phase-locked loop (PLL), etc. A PA 360pa receives and amplifies the modulated RF signal and provides an output RF signal having the proper transmit power level. The output RF signal is routed through antenna interface circuit 370 and transmitted via antenna 390. Antenna interface circuit 370 may include one or more filters, duplexers, diplexers, switches, matching circuits, directional couplers, etc. Each remaining transmitter 330 in transceivers 320 and 322 may operate in similar manner as transmitter 330pa.

[0023] In the exemplary design shown in FIG. 3, each receiver 380 includes a low noise amplifier (LNA) 382 and a receive circuit 384. For data reception, antenna 390 receives signals from base stations and/or other transmitter stations and provides a received RF signal, which is routed through antenna interface circuit 370 and provided to a selected receiver. The description below assumes that receiver 380pa is the selected receiver. Within receiver 380pa, an LNA 382pa amplifies the received RF signal and provides an amplified RF signal. A receive circuit 384pa downconverts the amplified RF signal from RF to baseband, amplifies and filters the downconverted signal, and provides an analog input signal to data processor 310. Receive circuit 384pa may include mixers, filters, amplifiers, matching circuits, an oscillator, an LO generator, a PLL, etc. Each remaining receiver 380 in transceivers 320 and 322 may operate in similar manner as receiver 380pa.

[0024] FIG. 3 shows an exemplary design of transmitters 330 and receivers 380. A transmitter and a receiver may also include other circuits not shown in FIG. 3, such as filters, matching circuits, etc. All or a portion of transceivers 320 and 322 may be implemented on one or more analog integrated circuits (ICs), RF ICs (RFICs), mixed-signal ICs, etc. For example, transmit circuits 340, LNAs 382, and receive circuits 384 may be implemented on one module, which may be an RFIC, etc. Antenna interface circuits 370 and 372 and PAs 360 may be implemented on another module, which may be a hybrid module, etc. The circuits in transceivers 320 and 322 may also be implemented in other manners.

[0025] Data processor/controller 310 may perform various functions for wireless device 110. For example, data processor 310 may perform processing for data being transmitted via transmitters 330 and data being received via receivers 380. Controller 310 may control the operation of transmit circuits 340, PAs 360, LNAs 382, receive circuits 384, antenna interface circuits 370 and 372, or a combination thereof. A memory 312 may store program codes and data for data processor/controller 310. Data processor/controller 310 may be implemented on one or more application specific integrated circuits (ASICs) and/or other ICs.

[0026] Wireless device 110 may send multiple transmit signals simultaneously. In one design, the multiple transmit signals may be for transmissions on multiple contiguous or non-contiguous carriers with intra-band CA., e.g., as shown in FIG. 2A or 2B. For example, each transmit signal may comprise a transmission sent on one carrier. In another design, the multiple transmit signals may be for transmissions on multiple frequency channels to the same wireless system. In yet another design, the multiple transmit signals may be for transmissions sent to different wireless systems (e.g., LTE and WLAN). In any case, data to be sent in each transmit signal may be processed (e.g., encoded, symbol mapped, and modulated) separately to generate I and Q samples for that transmit signal. Each transmit signal may be conditioned by a respective transmit circuit 340 and amplified by a respective PA 360 to generate an output RF signal for that transmit signal.

[0027] A PA may receive a modulated RF signal and a power supply voltage and may generate an output RF signal. The output RF signal typically tracks the modulated RF signal and has a time-varying envelope. The power supply voltage should be higher than the amplitude of the output RF signal at all times in order to avoid clipping the output RF signal, which would then cause intermodulation distortion (IMD) that may degrade performance. The difference between the power supply voltage and the envelope of the output RF signal represents wasted power that is dissipated by the PA instead of delivered to an output load.

[0028] It may be desirable to generate a power supply voltage for a PA such that good performance and good efficiency can be obtained. This may be achieved by generating the power supply voltage for the PA with power tracking so that the power supply voltage can track the envelope of an output RF signal from the PA.

[0029] FIG. 4 shows a design of a transmit module 400 supporting simultaneous transmission of multiple (K) transmit signals with a separate PA and separate power tracking for each transmit signal. Transmit module 400 includes K transmitters 430a to 430k that can simultaneously process K transmit signals, with each transmitter 430 processing one transmit signal. Each transmitter 430 includes a transmit circuit 440, a PA 460, and a power tracking supply generator 480.

[0030] Transmitter 430a receives I_1 and Q_1 samples for a first transmit signal and generates a first output RF signal for the first transmit signal. The I_1 and Q_1 samples are provided to both transmit circuit 440a and voltage generator 480a. Within transmit circuit 440a, the I_1 and Q_1 samples are converted to I and Q analog signals by DACs 442a and 443a, respectively. The I analog signal is filtered by a lowpass filter 444a, amplified by an amplifier (Amp) 446a, and upconverted from baseband to RF by a mixer 448a. Similarly, the Q analog signal is filtered by a lowpass filter 445a, amplified by an amplifier 447a, and upconverted from baseband to RF by a mixer 449a. Mixers 448a and 449a perform upconversion for the first transmit signal based on I and Q LO signals (ILO_1 and QLO_1) at a center RF frequency of the first transmit signal. A summer 450a sums the I and Q upconverted signals from mixers 448a and 449a to obtain a modulated RF signal, which is provided to PA 460a.

[0031] Within voltage generator 480a, a power tracker 482a receives the I_1 and Q_1 samples for the first transmit signal, computes the power of the first transmit signal based on the I_1 and Q_1 samples, and provides a digital power tracking signal to a DAC 484a. DAC 484a converts the digital power tracking signal to analog and provides an analog power tracking signal. A power supply generator 486a receives the analog power tracking signal and generates a power supply voltage for PA 460a. PA 460a amplifies the modulated RF signal from transmit circuit 440a using the power supply voltage from supply generator 486a and provides the first output RF signal for the first transmit signal.

[0032] Each remaining transmitter 430 may similarly process I and Q samples for a respective transmit signal and may provide an output RF signal for the transmit signal. Up to K PAs 460a to 460k may provide up to K output RF signals at different RF frequencies for up to K transmit signals being sent simultaneously. A summer 462 receives the output RF signals being sent simultaneously, sums the output RF signals, and provides a final output RF signal, which is routed through a duplexer 470 and transmitted via an antenna 490.

[0033] As shown in FIG. 4, power tracking may be used to improve the efficiency of PAs 460a to 460k. Each transmit signal may be processed by a respective transmitter 430 using a separate sets of mixers 448 and 449 and PA 460. Multiple transmit signals may be sent on different frequencies (e.g., different carriers) and hence may have increased envelope bandwidth. The increased envelope bandwidth may be addressed by using a separate transmitter 430 for each transmit signal. Each transmitter 430 may then handle the envelope bandwidth of one transmit signal. However, operating multiple transmitters 430 concurrently for multiple transmit signals may result in more circuits, higher power consumption, and increased cost, all of which are undesirable.

[0034] In an aspect of the present disclosure, a single PA with power tracking may be used to generate a single output RF signal for multiple transmit signals being sent simultaneously. A single power supply voltage may be generated for the PA to track the power of all transmit signals being sent simultaneously. This may reduce the number of circuit components, reduce power consumption, and provide other advantages.

[0035] FIG. 5 shows a design of a transmit module 500 supporting simultaneous transmission of multiple (K) transmit signals with a single PA and power tracking for all transmit signals. Transmit module 500 performs frequency upconversion separately for each transmit signal in the analog domain and sums the resultant upconverted RF signals for all transmit signals. Transmit module 500 includes K transmit circuits 540a to 540k that can simultaneously process K transmit signals, with each transmit circuit 540 processing one transmit signal. Transmit module 500 further includes a summer 552, a PA 560, a duplexer 570, and a power tracking supply generator 580.

[0036] Transmit circuit 540a receives I_1 and Q_1 samples for a first transmit signal and generates a first upconverted RF signal for the first transmit signal. The I_1 and Q_1 samples are provided to both transmit circuit 540a and voltage generator 580. Within transmit circuit 540a, the I_1 and Q_1 samples are converted to I and Q analog signals by DACs 542a and 543a, respectively. The I and Q analog signals are filtered by lowpass filters 544a and 545a, amplified by amplifiers 546a and 547a, upconverted from baseband to RF by mixers 548a and 549a, and summed by a summer 550a to generate the first upconverted RF signal. Mixers 548a and 549a perform upconversion for the first transmit signal based on I and Q LO signals at a center RF frequency of the first transmit signal.

[0037] Each remaining transmit circuit 540 may similarly process I and Q samples for a respective transmit signal and

may provide an upconverted RF signal for the transmit signal. Up to K transmit circuits 540a to 540k may provide up to K upconverted RF signals at different RF frequencies for up to K transmit signals being sent simultaneously. A summer 552 receives the upconverted RF signals from transmit circuits 540a to 540k, sums the upconverted RF signals, and provides a modulated RF signal to PA 560.

[0038] Within voltage generator 580, a power tracker 582 receives I_1 to I_K samples and Q_1 to Q_K samples for all transmit signals being sent simultaneously. Power tracker 582 computes the overall power of all transmit signals based on the I and Q samples for these transmit signals and provides a digital power tracking signal to a DAC 584. DAC 584 converts the digital power tracking signal to analog and provides an analog power tracking signal for all transmit signals. Although not shown in FIG. 5, a lowpass filter may receive and filter an output signal from DAC 584 and provide the analog power tracking signal. A power supply generator 586 receives the analog power tracking signal and generates a power supply voltage for PA 560.

[0039] PA 560 amplifies the modulated RF signal from summer 552 using the power supply voltage from supply generator 586. PA 560 provides an output RF signal for all transmit signals being sent simultaneously. The output RF signal is routed through duplexer 570 and transmitted via antenna 590.

[0040] FIG. 6 shows a design of a transmit module 502 supporting simultaneous transmission of multiple (K) transmit signals with a single PA and power tracking for all transmit signals. Transmit module 502 digitally upconverts each transmit signal to an intermediate frequency (IF) in the digital domain, sums the resultant upconverted IF signals for all transmit signals, and performs frequency upconversion from IF to RF for all transmit signals together in the analog domain. Transmit module 502 includes a digital modulator 520, a transmit circuit 540, PA 560, duplexer 570, and power tracking supply generator 580.

[0041] Digital modulator 520 receives I and Q samples for all transmit signals and generates a modulated IF signal for all transmit signals. Within digital modulator 520, the I_1 and Q_1 samples for the first transmit signal are upconverted to a first IF frequency by multipliers 522a and 523a, respectively, based on C_{I1} and C_{Q1} digital LO signals. The I and Q samples for each remaining transmit signal are upconverted to a different IF frequency by multipliers 522 and 523, respectively, for that transmit signal. The IF frequencies of the K transmit signals may be selected based on the final RF frequencies of the K transmit signals. A summer 524 sums the outputs of all K multipliers 522a to 522k and provides an I modulated signal. Similarly, a summer 525 sums the outputs of all K multipliers 523a to 523k and provides a Q modulated signal. The I and Q modulated signals from summers 524 and 525 form the modulated IF signal for all transmit signals.

[0042] Transmit circuit 540 receives I and Q modulated signals from digital modulator 520 and generates a modulated RF signal for all transmit signals. Within transmit circuit 540, the I and Q modulated signals are converted to I and Q analog signals by DACs 542 and 543, respectively. The I and Q analog signals are filtered by lowpass filters 544 and 545, amplified by amplifiers 546 and 547, upconverted from IF to RF by mixers 548 and 549, and summed by a summer 550 to generate the modulated RF signal. Mixers 548 and 549 perform upconversion for the modulated IF signal based on I and Q LO signals at a suitable frequency so that the K transmit signals are upconverted to their proper RF frequencies.

[0043] Power tracking voltage generator 580 receives the I_1 to I_K samples and the Q_1 to Q_K samples for all transmit signals being sent simultaneously. Voltage generator 580 generates a power supply voltage for PA 560 based on the I and Q samples. PA 560 amplifies the modulated RF signal from transmit circuit 540 using the power supply voltage from supply generator 580. PA 560 provides an output RF signal for all transmit signals being sent simultaneously. The output RF signal is routed through duplexer 570 and transmitted via antenna 590.

[0044] FIGS. 5 and 6 show two exemplary designs of a transmit module supporting simultaneous transmission of multiple transmit signals with a single PA and power tracking for all transmit signals. Multiple transmit signals may also be sent with a single PA and power tracking in other manners. For example, polar modulation may be used instead of quadrature modulation, which is shown in FIGS. 5 and 6.

[0045] Power tracker 582 may compute the digital power tracking signal based on the I and Q samples for all transmit signals in various manners. In one design, the digital power tracking signal may be computed as follows:

$$p(t) = \sqrt{K} \cdot \sqrt{I_1^2(t) + Q_1^2(t) + \dots + I_K^2(t) + Q_K^2(t)} \quad , \quad \text{Eq (1)}$$

where $I_k(t)$ and $Q_k(t)$ denote the I and Q samples for the k-th transmit signal in sample period t, for $k = 1, \dots, K$, and $p(t)$ denotes the digital power tracking signal in sample period t.

[0046] The quantity $I_k^2(t) + Q_k^2(t)$ denotes the power of the k-th transmit signal in sample period t. In the design shown in equation (1), the powers of all transmit signals are summed to obtain an overall power. The digital power

tracking signal is then obtained by taking the square root of the overall power. The scaling factor of $\sqrt{K}$ accounts for conversion between power and voltage.

[0047] In another design, the digital power tracking signal may be computed as follows:

$$p(t) = \sqrt{I_1^2(t) + Q_1^2(t)} + \dots + \sqrt{I_K^2(t) + Q_K^2(t)} \quad \text{Eq (2)}$$

[0048] The quantity $\sqrt{I_k^2(t) + Q_k^2(t)}$ denotes the voltage of the k-th transmit signal in sample period t. In the design shown in equation (2), the voltage of each transmit signal is first computed, and the voltages of all transmit signals are then summed to obtain the digital power tracking signal.

[0049] Equations (1) and (2) are two exemplary designs of computing the digital power tracking signal based on the I and Q samples for all transmit signals being sent simultaneously. The digital power tracking signal computed in equation (1) or (2) has a bandwidth that approximates the bandwidth of the widest transmit signal (instead of the overall bandwidth of all transmit signals being sent simultaneously). Having the bandwidth of the power tracking signal being smaller than a modulation bandwidth may allow for a more efficient power tracking circuitry and may also result in less noise being injected into PA 560 via the power supply.

[0050] The digital power tracking signal may also be computed based on the I and Q samples of the transmit signals in other manners, e.g., based on other equations or functions. In one design, the digital power tracking signal may be generated based on the I and Q samples for all transmit signals, without any filtering, e.g., as shown in equation (1) or (2). In another design, the digital power tracking signal may be filtered, e.g., with a lowpass filter having similar characteristics as lowpass filters 544 and 545 in transmit circuit 540.

[0051] In one design, the digital power tracking signal may be computed in the same manner (e.g., based on the same equation) regardless of the number of transmit signals being sent simultaneously. In another design, the digital power tracking signal may be computed in different manners (e.g., based on different equations) depending on the number of transmit signals being sent simultaneously. The digital power tracking signal may also be computed in different manners depending on other factors such as the transmit power levels of different transmit signals.

[0052] The techniques described herein for generating a power tracking supply voltage for multiple transmit signals may be used for various modulation techniques. For example, the techniques may be used to generate a power tracking supply voltage for multiple transmit signals sent simultaneously using orthogonal frequency division multiplexing (OFDM), SC-FDMA, CDMA, or some other modulation techniques. The techniques may also be used to generate a tracking power supply voltage for any number of transmit signals being sent simultaneously.

[0053] FIG. 7A shows an example of power tracking for two transmit signals sent on two non-contiguous carriers with SC-FDMA, e.g., for non-contiguous intra-band CA shown in FIG. 2B. The two transmit signals are sent on two carriers separated by a 25 MHz gap, with each carrier having a bandwidth of 10 MHz. A plot 710 shows an output RF signal comprising the two transmit signals and provided by PA 560 in FIG. 5 or 6. A plot 712 shows a power tracking signal provided by power tracker 582 in FIG. 5 or 6. The power tracking signal is computed based on I and Q samples for the two transmit signals in accordance with equation (1). As shown in FIG. 7A, the power tracking signal closely follows the envelope of the output RF signal. Hence, good performance and high efficiency may be achieved for PA 560.

[0054] FIG. 7B shows an example of power tracking for three transmit signals sent on three non-contiguous carriers with OFDM, e.g., for non-contiguous intra-band CA. The three transmit signals are sent on three carriers, with each carrier having a bandwidth of 5 MHz and being separated by a 15 MHz gap to another carrier. A plot 720 shows an output RF signal comprising the three transmit signals and provided by PA 560 in FIG. 5 or 6. A plot 722 shows a power tracking signal provided by power tracker 582 in FIG. 5 or 6. The power tracking signal is computed based on I and Q samples for the three transmit signals in accordance with equation (1). As shown in FIG. 7B, the power tracking signal follows the envelope of the output RF signal. Hence, good performance and high efficiency may be achieved for PA 560.

[0055] It can be shown that a power tracking supply voltage may also be generated for multiple transmit signals sent on multiple carriers with CDMA. In general, the power tracking supply voltage can closely follow the envelope of the output RF signal when two transmit signals are sent simultaneously, e.g., as shown in FIG. 7A. The power tracking supply voltage can approximate the envelope of the output RF signal when more than two transmit signals are sent simultaneously, e.g., as shown in FIG. 7B.

[0056] Power supply generator 586 may generate a power supply voltage for PA 560 based on a power tracking signal in various manners. Power supply generator 586 should generate the power supply voltage in an efficient manner in order to conserve battery power of wireless device 110.

[0057] FIG. 8 shows a design of power supply generator 586 in FIGS. 5 and 6. In this design, power supply generator 586 includes a power tracking amplifier (PT Amp) 810, a switcher 820, a boost converter 830, and an inductor 822.

Switcher 820 may also be referred to as a switching-mode power supply (SMPS). Switcher 820 receives a battery voltage (V_{BAT}) and provides a first supply current (I_{SW}) comprising DC and low frequency components at node A. Inductor 822 stores current from switcher 820 and provides the stored current to node A on alternating cycles. Boost converter 830 receives the V_{BAT} voltage and generates a boosted supply voltage (V_{BOOST}) that is higher than the V_{BAT} voltage. Power tracking amplifier 810 receives the analog power tracking signal at its signal input, receives the V_{BAT} voltage and the V_{BOOST} voltage at its two power supply inputs, and provides a second supply current (I_{PT}) comprising high frequency components at node A. The PA supply current (I_{PA}) provided to power amplifier 560 includes the I_{SW} current from switcher 820 and the I_{PT} current from power tracking amplifier 810. Power tracking amplifier 810 also provides the proper PA supply voltage (V_{PA}) at Node A for PA 560. The various circuits in power supply generator 586 are described in further detail below.

[0058] FIG. 9 shows a schematic diagram of a design of power tracking amplifier 810 and switcher 820 within power supply generator 586 in FIG. 8. Within power tracking amplifier 810, an operational amplifier (op-amp) 910 has its non-inverting input receiving the power tracking signal, its inverting input coupled to an output of power tracking amplifier 810 (which is node X), and its output coupled to an input of a class AB driver 912. Driver 912 has its first output (R1) coupled to the gate of a P-channel metal oxide semiconductor (PMOS) transistor 914 and its second output (R2) coupled to the gate of an N-channel metal oxide semiconductor (NMOS) transistor 916. NMOS transistor 916 has its drain coupled to node X and its source coupled to circuit ground. PMOS transistor 914 has its drain coupled to node X and its source coupled to the drains of PMOS transistors 918 and 920. PMOS transistor 918 has its gate receiving a C1 control signal and its source receiving the V_{BOOST} voltage. PMOS transistor 920 has its gate receiving a C2 control signal and its source receiving the V_{BAT} voltage.

[0059] A current sensor 824 is coupled between node X and node A and senses the I_{PT} current provided by power tracking amplifier 810. Sensor 824 passes most of the I_{PT} current to node A and provides a small fraction of the I_{PT} current as a sensed current (I_{SEN}) to switcher 820.

[0060] Within switcher 820, a current sense amplifier 930 has its input coupled to current sensor 824 and its output coupled to an input of a switcher driver 932. Driver 932 has its first output (S1) coupled to the gate of a PMOS transistor 934 and its second output (S2) coupled to the gate of an NMOS transistor 936. NMOS transistor 936 has its drain coupled to an output of switcher 820 (which is node Y) and its source coupled to circuit ground. PMOS transistor 934 has its drain coupled to node Y and its source receiving the V_{BAT} voltage. Inductor 822 is coupled between node A and node Y.

[0061] Switcher 820 operates as follows. Switcher 820 is in an ON state when current sensor 824 senses a high output current from power tracking amplifier 810 and provides a low sensed voltage to driver 932. Driver 932 then provides a low voltage to the gate of PMOS transistor 934 and a low voltage to the gate of NMOS transistor 936. PMOS transistor 934 is turned ON and couples the V_{BAT} voltage to inductor 822, which stores energy from the V_{BAT} voltage. The current through inductor 822 rises during the ON state, with the rate of the rise being dependent on (i) the difference between the V_{BAT} voltage and the V_{PA} voltage at node A and (ii) the inductance of inductor 822. Conversely, switcher 820 is in an OFF state when current sensor 824 senses a low output current from power tracking amplifier 810 and provides a high sensed voltage to driver 932. Driver 932 then provides a high voltage to the gate of PMOS transistor 934 and a high voltage to the gate of NMOS transistor 936. NMOS transistor 936 is turned ON, and inductor 822 is coupled between node A and circuit ground. The current through inductor 822 falls during the OFF state, with the rate of the fall being dependent on the V_{PA} voltage at node A and the inductance of inductor 822. The V_{BAT} voltage thus provides current to PA 560 via inductor 822 during the ON state, and inductor 120 provides its stored energy to PA 560 during the OFF state.

[0062] Power tracking amplifier 810 operates as follows. When the power tracking signal increases, the output of op-amp 910 increases, the R1 output of driver 912 decreases and the R2 output of driver 912 decreases until NMOS transistor 916 is almost turned OFF, and the output of power tracking amplifier 810 increases. The converse is true when the power tracking signal decreases. The negative feedback from the output of power tracking amplifier 810 to the inverting input of op-amp 910 results in power tracking amplifier 810 having unity gain. Hence, the output of power tracking amplifier 810 follows the power tracking signal, and the V_{PA} voltage is approximately equal to the power tracking signal. Driver 912 may be implemented with a class AB amplifier to improve efficiency, so that large output currents can be supplied even though the bias current in transistors 914 and 916 is low.

[0063] In one design, power tracking amplifier 810 operates based on the V_{BOOST} voltage only when needed and based on the V_{BAT} voltage during the remaining time in order to improve efficiency. For example, power tracking amplifier 810 may provide approximately 85% of the power based on the V_{BAT} voltage and only approximately 15% of the power based on the V_{BOOST} voltage. When a high V_{PA} voltage is needed for PA 560 due to a large envelope of the output RF signal, the C1 control signal is at logic low, and the C2 control signal is at logic high. In this case, boost converter 830 is enabled and generates the V_{BOOST} voltage, PMOS transistor 918 is turned ON and provides the V_{BOOST} voltage to the source of PMOS transistor 914, and PMOS transistor 920 is turned OFF. Conversely, when a high V_{PA} voltage is not needed for PA 560, the C1 control signal is at logic high, and the C2 control signal is at logic low. In this case, boost converter 830 is disabled, PMOS transistor 918 is turned OFF, and PMOS transistor 920 is turned ON and provides the V_{BAT} voltage to the source of PMOS transistor 914.

[0064] A control signal generator 940 receives the power tracking signal and the V_{BAT} voltage and generates the C1 and C2 control signals. The C1 control signal is complementary to the C2 control signal. In one design, generator 940 generates the C1 and C2 control signals to select the V_{BOOST} voltage for power tracking amplifier 910 when the magnitude of the power tracking signal exceeds a first threshold. The first threshold may be a fixed threshold or may be determined based on the V_{BAT} voltage. In another design, generator 940 generates the C1 and C2 control signals to select the V_{BOOST} voltage for power tracking amplifier 910 when the magnitude of the power tracking signal exceeds the first threshold and the V_{BAT} voltage is below a second threshold. Generator 940 may also generate the C1 and C2 signals based on other signals, other voltages, and/or other criteria.

[0065] Switcher 820 has high efficiency and delivers a majority of the supply current for PA 560. Power tracking amplifier 810 operates as a linear stage and has relatively high bandwidth (e.g., in the MHz range). Switcher 820 operates to reduce the output current from power tracking amplifier 810, which improves overall efficiency.

[0066] FIG. 9 shows an exemplary design of switcher 820 and power tracking amplifier 810 in FIG. 1. Switcher 820 and power tracking amplifier 810 may also be implemented in other manners. For example, power tracking amplifier 810 may be implemented as described in U.S. Patent No. 6,300,826, entitled "Apparatus and Method for Efficiently Amplifying Wideband Envelope Signals," issued October 9, 2001.

[0067] In an exemplary design, an apparatus (e.g., an integrated circuit, a wireless device, a circuit module, etc.) may comprise a power tracker and a power supply generator. The power tracker (e.g., power tracker 582 in FIG. 5) may determine a power tracking signal based on I and Q components (e.g., I and Q samples) of a plurality of transmit signals being sent simultaneously. The power supply generator (e.g., power supply generator 586 in FIG. 5) may generate a power supply voltage based on the power tracking signal.

[0068] In one design, the power tracker may determine an overall power of the plurality of transmit signals based on the I and Q components of the plurality of transmit signals, e.g., as $I_1^2(t) + Q_1^2(t) + \dots + I_K^2(t) + Q_K^2(t)$. The power tracker may then determine the power tracking signal based on the overall power of the plurality of transmit signals, e.g., as shown in equation (1). In another design, the power tracker may determine the power of each transmit signal based on the I and Q components of that transmit signal, e.g., as $I_k^2(t) + Q_k^2(t)$ for the k-th transmit signal. The power tracker may then determine the power tracking signal based on the powers of the plurality of transmit signals, e.g., as shown in equation (2). The power tracker may determine a voltage of each transmit signal based on the power of the transmit signal, e.g., as $\sqrt{I_k^2(t) + Q_k^2(t)}$. The power tracker may then determine the power tracking signal based on voltages of the plurality of transmit signals, e.g., as shown in equation (2). The power tracker may also determine the power tracking signal based on the I and Q components of the plurality of transmit signals in other manners. In one design, the plurality of transmit signals may be sent on a plurality of carriers at different frequencies. The power tracking signal may have a bandwidth that is smaller than an overall bandwidth of the plurality of carriers.

[0069] In one design, the apparatus may comprise a plurality of transmit circuits and a summer, e.g., as shown in FIG. 5. The plurality of transmit circuits (e.g., transmit circuits 540a to 540k) may receive the I and Q components of the plurality of transmit signals and may provide a plurality of upconverted RF signals. Each transmit circuit may upconvert I and Q components of one transmit signal and provide a corresponding upconverted RF signal. The summer (e.g., summer 552) may sum the plurality of upconverted RF signals and provide a modulated RF signal. In another design, the apparatus may comprise a transmit circuit (e.g., transmit circuit 540 in FIG. 6) that may receive a modulated IF signal for the plurality of transmit signals and provide a modulated RF signal. The modulated IF signal may be generated (e.g., by digital modulator 520 in FIG. 6) based on the I and Q components of the plurality of transmit signals. In an exemplary design, the apparatus may further comprise a PA (e.g., PA 560 in FIGS. 5 and 6) that may amplify the modulated RF signal based on the power supply voltage and provide an output RF signal.

[0070] In an exemplary design, the power supply generator may comprise a power tracking amplifier (e.g., power tracking amplifier 810 in FIGS. 8 and 9) that may receive the power tracking signal and generate the power supply voltage. The power supply generator may further comprise a switcher and/or a boost converter. The switcher (e.g., switcher 820 in FIGS. 8 and 9) may sense a first current (e.g., the I_{PT} current) from the power tracking amplifier and provide a second current (e.g., the I_{SW} current) for the power supply voltage based on the sensed first current. The boost converter (e.g., boost converter 830 in FIGS. 8 and 9) may receive a battery voltage and provide a boosted voltage for the power tracking amplifier. The power tracking amplifier may operate based on the boosted voltage or the battery voltage.

[0071] FIG. 10 shows a design of a process 1000 for generating a power supply voltage with power tracking. A power tracking signal may be determined based on I and Q components of a plurality of transmit signals being sent simultaneously (block 1012). In one design of block 1012, an overall power of the plurality of transmit signals may be determined based on the I and Q components of the plurality of transmit signals. The power tracking signal may then be determined based on the overall power of the plurality of transmit signals, e.g., as shown in equation (1). In another design of block

1012, the power of each transmit signal may be determined based on the I and Q components of the transmit signal. The power tracking signal may then be determined based on the powers of the plurality of transmit signals, e.g., as shown in equation (2).

[0072] A power supply voltage may be generated based on the power tracking signal (block 1014). In one design, the power supply voltage may be generated with an amplifier (e.g., amplifier 810 in FIG. 9) that tracks the power tracking signal. The power supply voltage may also be generated based on a switcher and/or a boost converter.

[0073] A modulated RF signal may be generated based on the I and Q components of the plurality of transmit signals (block 1016). In one design, I and Q components of each transmit signal may be upconverted to obtain a corresponding upconverted RF signal. A plurality of upconverted RF signals for the plurality of transmit signals may then be summed to obtain the modulated RF signal, e.g., as shown in FIG. 5. In another design, a modulated IF signal may be generated based on the I and Q components of the plurality of transmit signals, e.g., as shown in FIG. 6. The modulated IF signal may then be upconverted to obtain the modulated RF signal. In any case, the modulated RF signal may be amplified with a PA (e.g., PA 560 in FIGS. 5 and 6) operating based on the power supply voltage to obtain an output RF signal (block 1018).

[0074] The power tracker and power supply generator described herein may be implemented on an IC, an analog IC, an RFIC, a mixed-signal IC, an ASIC, a printed circuit board (PCB), an electronic device, etc. The power tracker and power supply generator may also be fabricated with various IC process technologies such as complementary metal oxide semiconductor (CMOS), NMOS, PMOS, bipolar junction transistor (BJT), bipolar-CMOS (BiCMOS), silicon germanium (SiGe), gallium arsenide (GaAs), etc.

[0075] An apparatus implementing the power tracker and/or power supply generator described herein may be a stand-alone device or may be part of a larger device. A device may be (i) a stand-alone IC, (ii) a set of one or more ICs that may include memory ICs for storing data and/or instructions, (iii) an RFIC such as an RF receiver (RFR) or an RF transmitter/receiver (RTR), (iv) an ASIC such as a mobile station modem (MSM), (v) a module that may be embedded within other devices, (vi) a receiver, cellular phone, wireless device, handset, or mobile unit, (vii) etc.

[0076] In one or more exemplary designs, the functions described may be implemented in hardware, software, firmware, or any combination thereof. If implemented in software, the functions may be stored on or transmitted over as one or more instructions or code on a computer-readable medium. Computer-readable media includes both computer storage media and communication media including any medium that facilitates transfer of a computer program from one place to another. A storage media may be any available media that can be accessed by a computer. By way of example, and not limitation, such computer-readable media can comprise RAM, ROM, EEPROM, CD-ROM or other optical disk storage, magnetic disk storage or other magnetic storage devices, or any other medium that can be used to carry or store desired program code in the form of instructions or data structures and that can be accessed by a computer. Also, any connection is properly termed a computer-readable medium. For example, if the software is transmitted from a website, server, or other remote source using a coaxial cable, fiber optic cable, twisted pair, digital subscriber line (DSL), or wireless technologies such as infrared, radio, and microwave, then the coaxial cable, fiber optic cable, twisted pair, DSL, or wireless technologies such as infrared, radio, and microwave are included in the definition of medium. Disk and disc, as used herein, includes compact disc (CD), laser disc, optical disc, digital versatile disc (DVD), floppy disk and blu-ray disc where *disks* usually reproduce data magnetically, while *discs* reproduce data optically with lasers. Combinations of the above should also be included within the scope of computer-readable media.

[0077] The previous description of the disclosure is provided to enable any person skilled in the art to make or use the disclosure. Various modifications to the disclosure will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art, and the generic principles defined herein may be applied to other variations without departing from the scope of the disclosure. Thus, the disclosure is not intended to be limited to the examples and designs described herein but is to be accorded the widest scope consistent with the principles and novel features disclosed herein.

Claims

1. An apparatus (500, 502) comprising:

a power tracker (582) configured to determine a single power tracking signal based on a plurality of inphase, I, and quadrature, Q, components of all of a plurality of transmit signals being sent simultaneously;
a power supply generator (586) configured to generate a single power supply voltage based on the single power tracking signal; and
a power amplifier, PA, (560) configured to receive the single power supply voltage and all of the plurality of transmit signals to produce a single output radio frequency, RF, signal.

2. The apparatus (500, 502) of claim 1, wherein the power tracker (582) is configured to:

determine an overall power of the plurality of transmit signals based on the I and Q components of the plurality of transmit signals, and
determine the power tracking signal based on the overall power of the plurality of transmit signals.

3. The apparatus (500, 502) of claim 1, wherein the power tracker (582) is configured to:

determine a power of each transmit signal in the plurality of transmit signals based on I and Q components of the transmit signal, and
determine the power tracking signal based on powers of the plurality of transmit signals.

4. The apparatus (500, 502) of claim 1, wherein the power tracker (582) is configured to:

determine a power of each transmit signal in the plurality of transmit signals based on I and Q components of the transmit signal,
determine a voltage of each transmit signal based on the power of the transmit signal, and
determine the power tracking signal based on voltages of the plurality of transmit signals.

5. The apparatus (500) of claim 1, further comprising:

a plurality of transmit circuits (540a...540k) configured to receive the I and Q components of the plurality of transmit signals and provide a plurality of upconverted RF signals, each transmit circuit configured to upconvert I and Q components of one of the plurality of transmit signals and provide a corresponding upconverted RF signal, and
a summer (552) configured to sum the plurality of upconverted RF signals and provide the modulated RF signal.

6. The apparatus (502) of claim 1, further comprising:

a transmit circuit (540) configured to receive a modulated intermediate frequency, IF, signal for the plurality of transmit signals and provide the modulated RF signal, the modulated IF signal being generated based on the I and Q components of the plurality of transmit signals.

7. The apparatus (500, 502) of claim 1, the power supply generator (586) comprising:

a power tracking amplifier (810) configured to receive the power tracking signal and generate the power supply voltage.

8. The apparatus (500, 502) of claim 7, the power supply generator (586) further comprising:

a switcher (820) configured to sense a first current from the power tracking amplifier and provide a second current for the power supply voltage based on the sensed first current.

9. The apparatus (500, 502) of claim 7, the power supply generator (586) further comprising:

a boost converter (830) configured to receive a battery voltage and provide a boosted voltage for the power tracking amplifier.

10. The apparatus (500, 502) of claim 9, wherein the power tracking amplifier operates based on the boosted voltage or the battery voltage.

11. The apparatus (500, 502) of claim 1, wherein the plurality of transmit signals are sent on a plurality of carriers at different frequencies.

12. The apparatus (500, 502) of claim 11, wherein the power tracking signal has a bandwidth that is smaller than an overall bandwidth of the plurality of carriers.

13. A method (1000) comprising:

determining (1012) a single power tracking signal based on all of a plurality of inphase, I, and quadrature, Q,

components of a plurality of transmit signals being sent simultaneously; and
generating (1014) a single power supply voltage based on the single power tracking signal; and
receiving the single power supply voltage and all of the plurality of transmit signals in a power amplifier, PA,
and producing, by the PA, a single output RF signal.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the generating the modulated RF signal comprises
upconverting I and Q components of each of the plurality of transmit signals to obtain a corresponding upconverted
RF signal, and
summing a plurality of upconverted RF signals for the plurality of transmit signals to obtain the modulated RF signal.

15. A computer program product, comprising
a non-transitory computer-readable medium comprising:

code for causing at least one computer to perform the method of any one of claims 13 to 14.

Patentansprüche

1. Eine Vorrichtung (500, 502), die Folgendes aufweist:

ein Leistungs-Tracking- bzw. Leistungsnachverfolgungselement (582), das konfiguriert ist zum Bestimmen eines
einzelnen Leistungsnachverfolgungssignals basierend auf einer Vielzahl von Inphase- bzw. I- und Quadratur-
bzw. Q-Komponenten aller einer Vielzahl von Sendesignalen, die gleichzeitig gesendet werden;
einen Leistungsversorgungsgenerator (586), der konfiguriert ist zum Generieren einer einzelnen Leistungsver-
sorgungsspannung basierend auf dem einzelnen Leistungsnachverfolgungssignal; und
einen Leistungsverstärker bzw. PA (PA = power amplifier) (560), der konfiguriert ist zum Empfangen der ein-
zelnen Leistungsversorgungsspannung und aller der Vielzahl von Sendesignalen zum Erzeugen eines einzelnen
Ausgangshochfrequenzsignals bzw. -HF-Signals.

2. Vorrichtung (500, 502) nach Anspruch 1, wobei das Leistungsnachverfolgungselement (582) konfiguriert ist zum:

Bestimmen einer Gesamtleistung der Vielzahl von Sendesignalen basierend auf den I- und Q-Komponenten
der Vielzahl von Sendesignalen, und
Bestimmen des Leistungsnachverfolgungssignals basierend auf der Gesamtleistung der Vielzahl von Sende-
signalen.

3. Vorrichtung (500, 502) nach Anspruch 1, wobei das Leistungsnachverfolgungselement (582) konfiguriert ist zum:

Bestimmen einer Leistung jedes Sendesignals in der Vielzahl von Sendesignalen basierend auf I- und Q-
Komponenten des Sendesignals, und
Bestimmen des Leistungsnachverfolgungssignals basierend auf Leistungen der Vielzahl von Sendesignalen.

4. Vorrichtung (500, 502) nach Anspruch 1, wobei das Leistungsnachverfolgungselement (582) konfiguriert ist zum:

Bestimmen einer Leistung jedes Sendesignals in der Vielzahl von Sendesignalen basierend auf I- und Q-
Komponenten des Sendesignals,
Bestimmen einer Spannung jedes Sendesignals basierend auf der Leistung des Sendesignals, und
Bestimmen des Leistungsnachverfolgungssignals basierend auf Spannungen der Vielzahl von Sendesignalen.

5. Vorrichtung (500) nach Anspruch 1, die weiter Folgendes aufweist:

eine Vielzahl von Sendeschaltungen (540a...540k), die konfiguriert ist zum Empfangen der I- und Q-Kompo-
nenten der Vielzahl von Sendesignalen und zum Liefern einer Vielzahl von hochkonvertierten HF-Signalen,
wobei jede Sendeschaltung konfiguriert ist zum Hochkonvertieren von I- und Q-Komponenten eines der Vielzahl
von Sendesignalen und zum Liefern eines entsprechenden hochkonvertierten HF-Signals, und
ein Summierelement (552), das konfiguriert ist zum Summieren der Vielzahl von hochkonvertierten HF-Signalen
und zum Liefern des modulierten HF-Signals.

6. Vorrichtung (502) nach Anspruch 1, die weiter Folgendes aufweist:

eine Sendeschaltung (540) die konfiguriert ist zum Empfangen eines modulierten Zwischenfrequenz- bzw. ZF-Signals für die Vielzahl von Sendesignalen und zum Liefern des modulierten HF-Signals, wobei das modulierte ZF-Signal generiert wird basierend auf den I- und Q-Komponenten der Vielzahl von Sendesignalen.

7. Vorrichtung (500, 502) nach Anspruch 1, wobei der Leistungsversorgungsgenerator (586) Folgendes aufweist:

einen Leistungsnachverfolgungsverstärker (810), der konfiguriert ist zum Empfangen des Leistungsnachverfolgungssignals und zum Generieren der Leistungsversorgungsspannung.

8. Vorrichtung (500, 502) nach Anspruch 7, wobei der Leistungsversorgungsgenerator (586) weiter Folgendes aufweist:

ein Schaltelement (820) das konfiguriert ist zum Abfühlen eines ersten Stroms von dem ersten Leistungsnachverfolgungsverstärker und zum Liefern eines zweiten Stroms für die Leistungsversorgungsspannung basierend auf dem abgefühlten ersten Strom.

9. Vorrichtung (500, 502) nach Anspruch 7, wobei der Leistungsversorgungsgenerator (586) weiter Folgendes aufweist:

einen Boost- bzw. Verstärkungswandler (830), der konfiguriert ist zum Empfangen einer Batteriespannung und zum Liefern einer erhöhten Spannung für den Leistungsnachverfolgungsverstärker.

10. Vorrichtung (500, 502) nach Anspruch 9, wobei der Leistungsnachverfolgungsverstärker basierend auf der erhöhten Spannung oder der Batteriespannung arbeitet.

11. Vorrichtung (500, 502) nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Vielzahl von Sendesignalen auf einer Vielzahl von Trägern mit unterschiedlichen Frequenzen gesendet wird.

12. Vorrichtung (500, 502) nach Anspruch 11, wobei das Leistungsnachverfolgungssignal eine Bandbreite hat, die kleiner als eine Gesamtbandbreite der Vielzahl von Trägern ist.

13. Ein Verfahren (1000), das Folgendes aufweist:

Bestimmen (1012) eines einzelnen Leistungs-Tracking- bzw. Leistungsnachverfolgungssignals basierend auf allen einer Vielzahl von Inphase- bzw. I- und Quadratur- bzw. Q-Komponenten einer Vielzahl von Sendesignalen, die gleichzeitig gesendet werden; und

Generieren (1014) einer einzelnen Leistungsversorgungsspannung basierend auf dem einzelnen Leistungsnachverfolgungssignal; und

Empfangen der einzelnen Leistungsversorgungsspannung und aller der Vielzahl von Sendesignalen in einem Leistungsverstärker bzw. PA (PA = power amplifier) und Erzeugen, durch den PA, eines einzelnen Ausgangs-HF-Signals.

14. Verfahren nach Anspruch 13, wobei das Generieren des modulierten HF-Signals Folgendes aufweist:

Hochkonvertieren von I- und Q-Komponenten jedes der Vielzahl von Sendesignalen zum Erlangen eines entsprechenden hochkonvertierten HF-Signals, und

Summieren einer Vielzahl von hochkonvertierten HF-Signalen für die Vielzahl von Sendesignalen zum Erlangen des modulierten HF-Signals.

15. Ein Computerprogrammprodukt, das Folgendes aufweist:

ein nicht transitorisches computerlesbares Medium, das Folgendes aufweist:

Code um wenigstens einen Computer zu veranlassen, das Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 13 bis 14 durchzuführen.

Revendications

1. Dispositif (500, 502) comprenant :

- 5 un suiveur de puissance (582) agencé pour déterminer un unique signal de suivi de puissance sur la base d'une pluralité de composantes en phase, I, et en quadrature, Q, de la totalité d'une pluralité de signaux d'émission qui sont envoyés simultanément ;
un générateur d'alimentation (586) agencé pour générer une unique tension d'alimentation sur la base de l'unique signal de suivi de puissance ; et
10 un amplificateur de puissance, PA, (560) agencé pour recevoir l'unique tension d'alimentation et la totalité de la pluralité de signaux d'émission pour produire un unique signal radiofréquence, RF, de sortie.

2. Dispositif (500, 502) selon la revendication 1, dans lequel le suiveur de puissance (582) est agencé pour :

- 15 déterminer une puissance globale de la pluralité de signaux d'émission sur la base des composantes I et Q de la pluralité de signaux d'émission, et
déterminer le signal de suivi de puissance sur la base de la puissance globale de la pluralité de signaux d'émission.

3. Dispositif (500, 502) selon la revendication 1, dans lequel le suiveur de puissance (582) est agencé pour :

- déterminer une puissance de chaque signal d'émission dans la pluralité de signaux d'émission sur la base des composantes I et Q du signal d'émission, et
20 déterminer le signal de suivi de puissance sur la base des puissances de la pluralité de signaux d'émission.

4. Dispositif (500, 502) selon la revendication 1, dans lequel le suiveur de puissance (582) est agencé pour :

- déterminer une puissance de chaque signal d'émission dans la pluralité de signaux d'émission sur la base de composantes I et Q du signal d'émission,
30 déterminer une tension de chaque signal d'émission sur la base de la puissance du signal d'émission, et
déterminer le signal de suivi de puissance sur la base de tensions de la pluralité de signaux d'émission.

5. Dispositif (500) selon la revendication 1, comprenant en outre :

- 35 une pluralité de circuits d'émission (540a ... 540k) agencés pour recevoir les composantes I et Q de la pluralité de signaux d'émission et fournir une pluralité de signaux RF élevés en fréquence, chaque circuit d'émission étant agencé pour élever en fréquence des composantes I et Q de l'un de la pluralité de signaux d'émission et fournir un signal RF élevé en fréquence correspondant, et
un additionneur (552) agencé pour faire la somme de la pluralité de signaux RF élevés en fréquence et fournir le signal RF modulé.
40

6. Dispositif (502) selon la revendication 1, comprenant en outre :

- 45 un circuit d'émission (540) agencé pour recevoir un signal de fréquence intermédiaire modulé, IF, pour la pluralité de signaux d'émission et fournir le signal RF modulé, le signal IF modulé étant généré sur la base des composantes I et Q de la pluralité de signaux d'émission.

7. Dispositif (500, 502) selon la revendication 1, dans lequel le générateur d'alimentation (586) comprend :

- 50 un amplificateur de suivi de puissance (810) agencé pour recevoir le signal de suivi de puissance et générer la tension d'alimentation.

8. Dispositif (500, 502) selon la revendication 7, dans lequel le générateur d'alimentation (586) comprend en outre

- 55 un dispositif de commutation (820) agencé pour détecter un premier courant de l'amplificateur de suivi de puissance et fournir un deuxième courant pour la tension d'alimentation sur la base du premier courant détecté.

9. Dispositif (500, 502) selon la revendication 7, dans lequel le générateur d'alimentation (586) comprend en outre

un convertisseur élévateur (830) agencé pour recevoir une tension de batterie et fournir une tension surélevée pour l'amplificateur de suivi de puissance.

- 5 **10.** Dispositif (500, 502) selon la revendication 9, dans lequel l'amplificateur de suivi de puissance fonctionne sur la base de la tension surélevée ou de la tension de batterie.
- 11.** Dispositif (500, 502) selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la pluralité de signaux d'émission est envoyée sur une pluralité de porteuses à des fréquences différentes.
- 10 **12.** Dispositif (500, 502) selon la revendication 11, dans lequel le signal de suivi de puissance a une largeur de bande inférieure à la largeur de bande globale de la pluralité de porteuses.
- 13.** Procédé (1000) comprenant :
- 15 déterminer (1012) un unique signal de suivi de puissance sur la base de la totalité d'une pluralité de composantes en phase, I, et en quadrature, Q, d'une pluralité de signaux d'émission qui sont envoyés simultanément ; et générer (1014) une unique tension d'alimentation sur la base de l'unique signal de suivi de puissance ; et recevoir l'unique tension d'alimentation et la totalité de la pluralité de signaux d'émission dans un amplificateur de puissance, PA, et produire, par le PA, un unique signal RF de sortie.
- 20 **14.** Procédé selon la revendication 13, dans lequel la génération du signal RF modulé comprend :
- élever en fréquence des composantes I et Q de chacun de la pluralité de signaux d'émission pour obtenir un signal RF élevé en fréquence correspondant, et
- 25 additionner une pluralité de signaux RF élevés en fréquence pour la pluralité de signaux d'émission pour obtenir le signal RF modulé.
- 15.** Produit programme d'ordinateur, comprenant
- 30 un support non transitoire lisible par un ordinateur comprenant :
- du code pour amener au moins un ordinateur à réaliser le procédé de l'une quelconque des revendications 13 à 14.

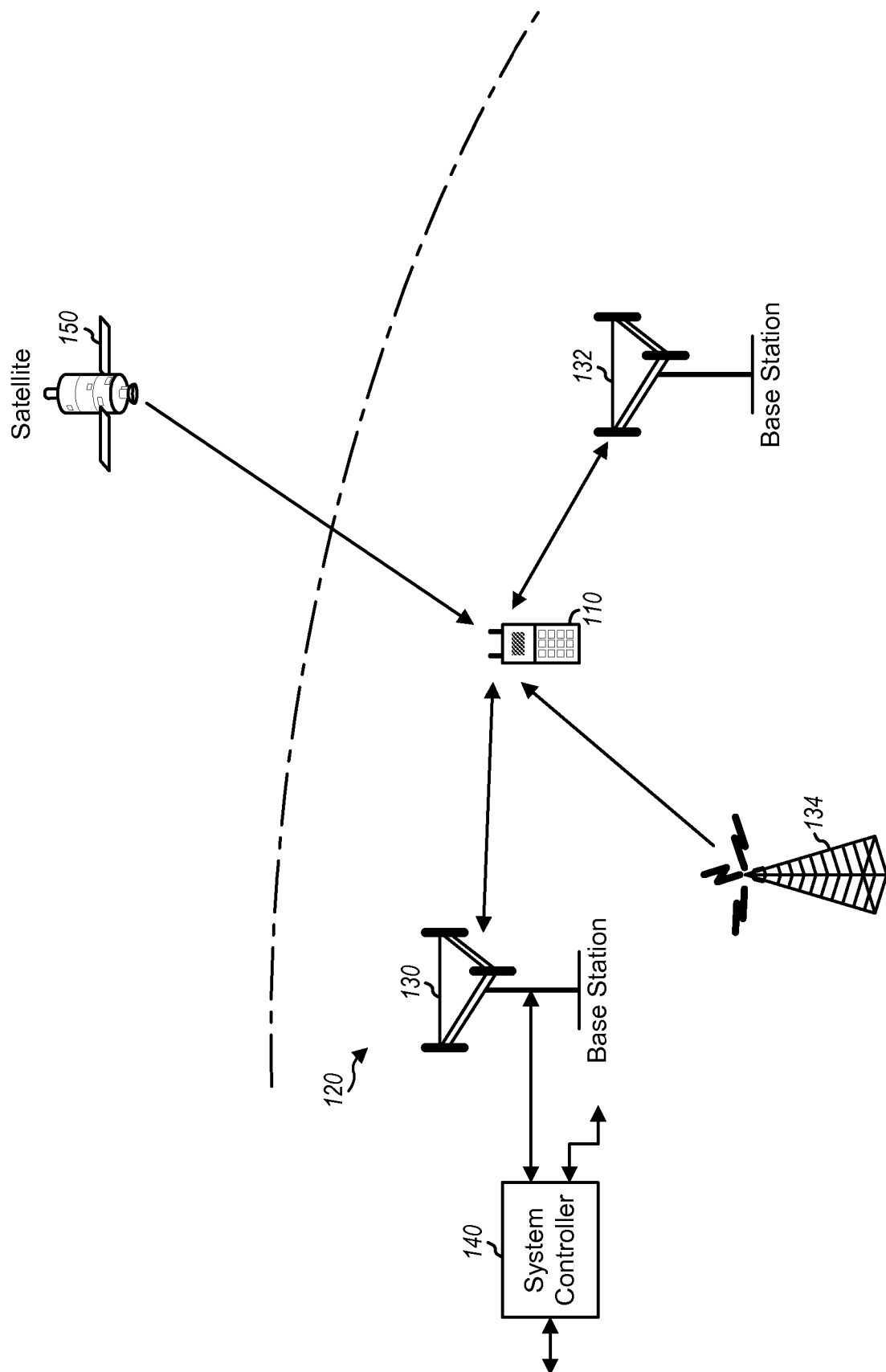
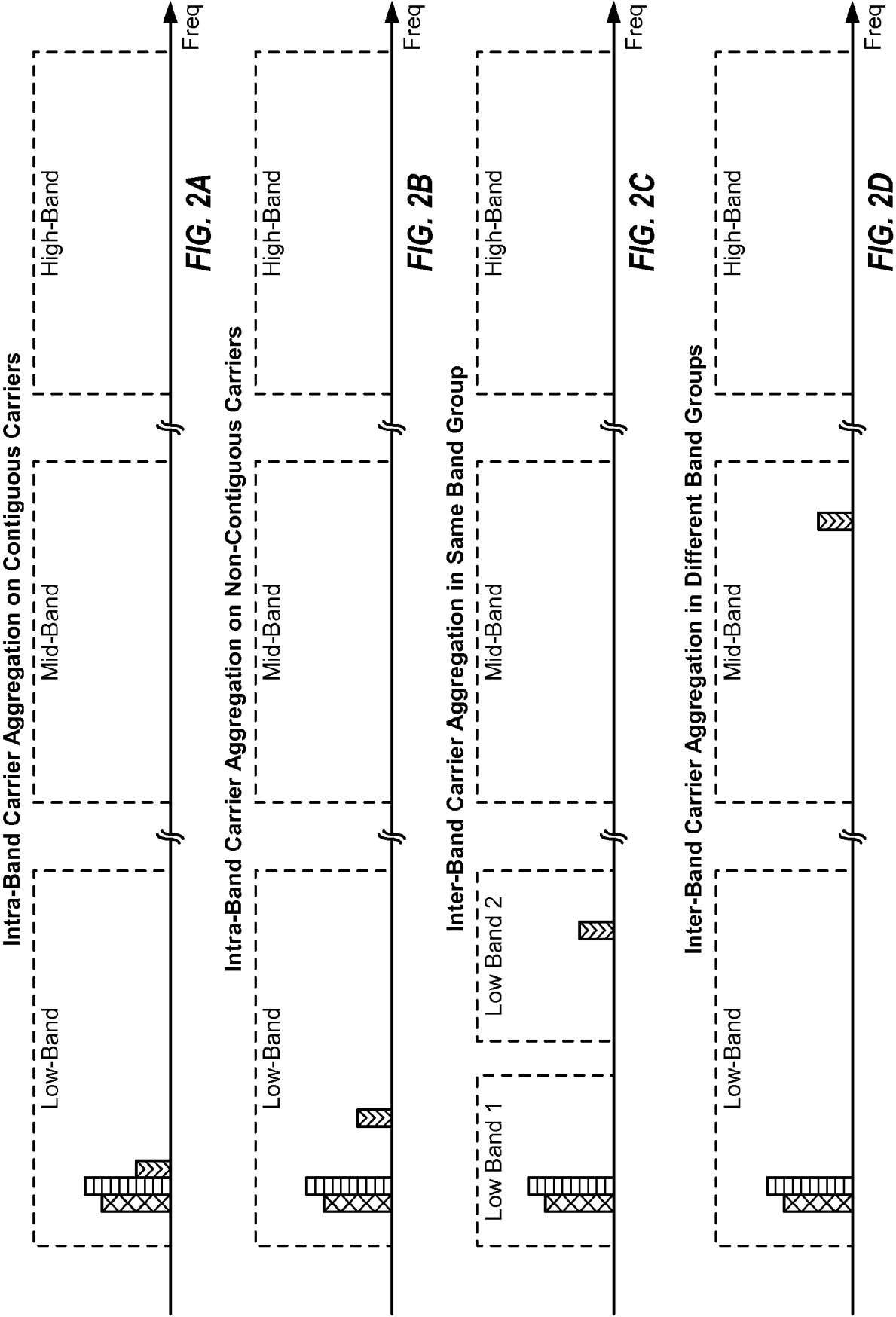


FIG. 1



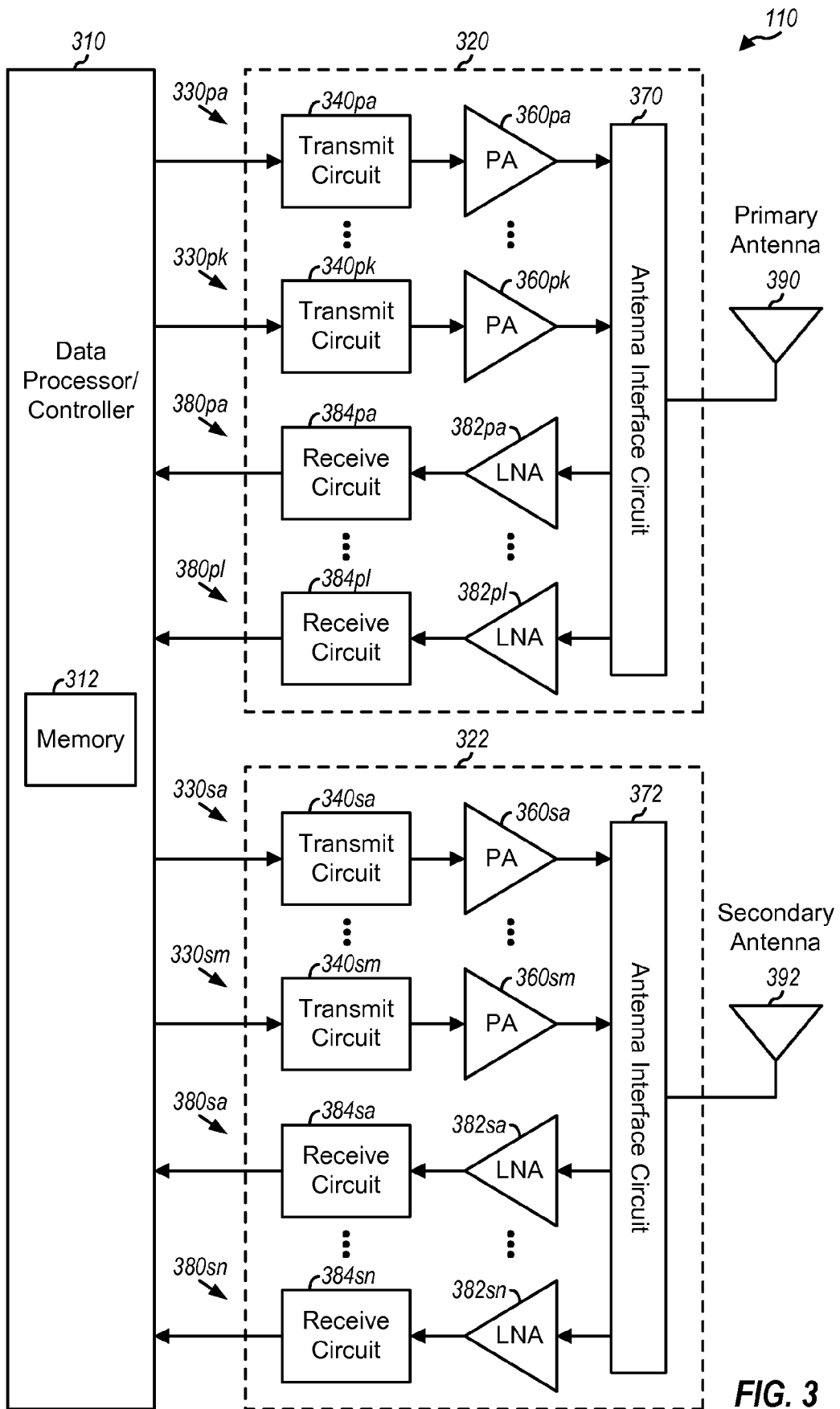
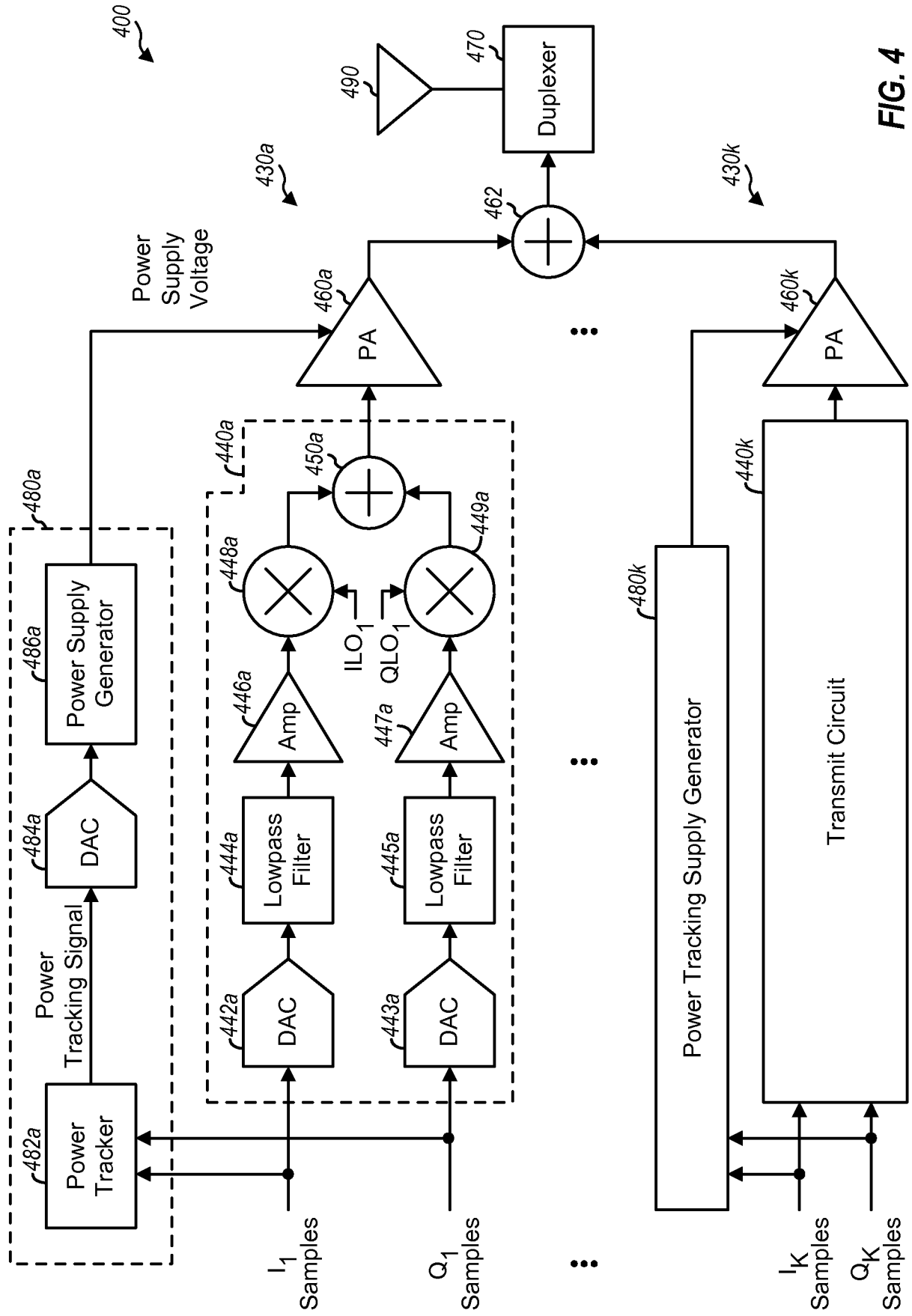
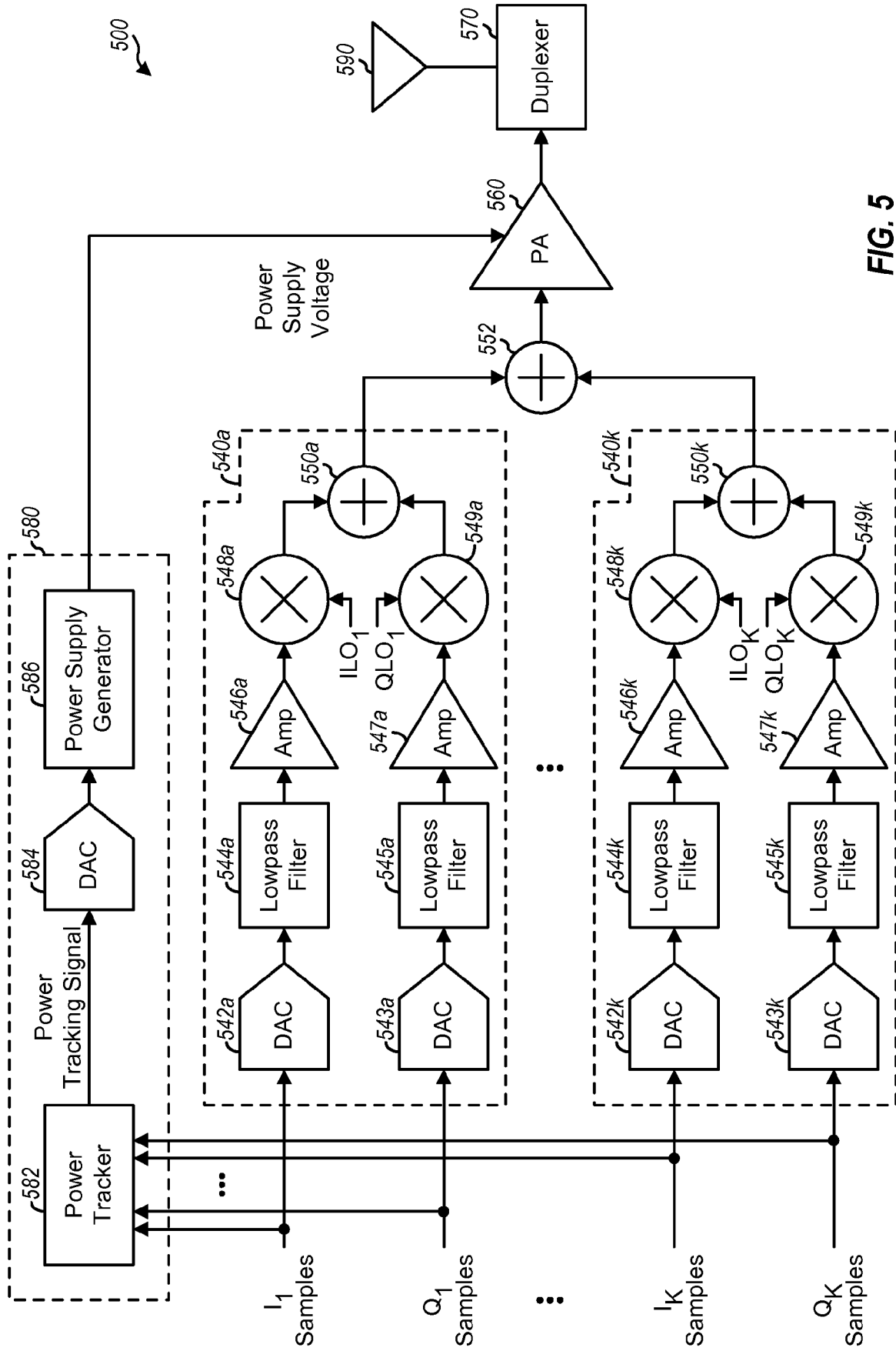


FIG. 3





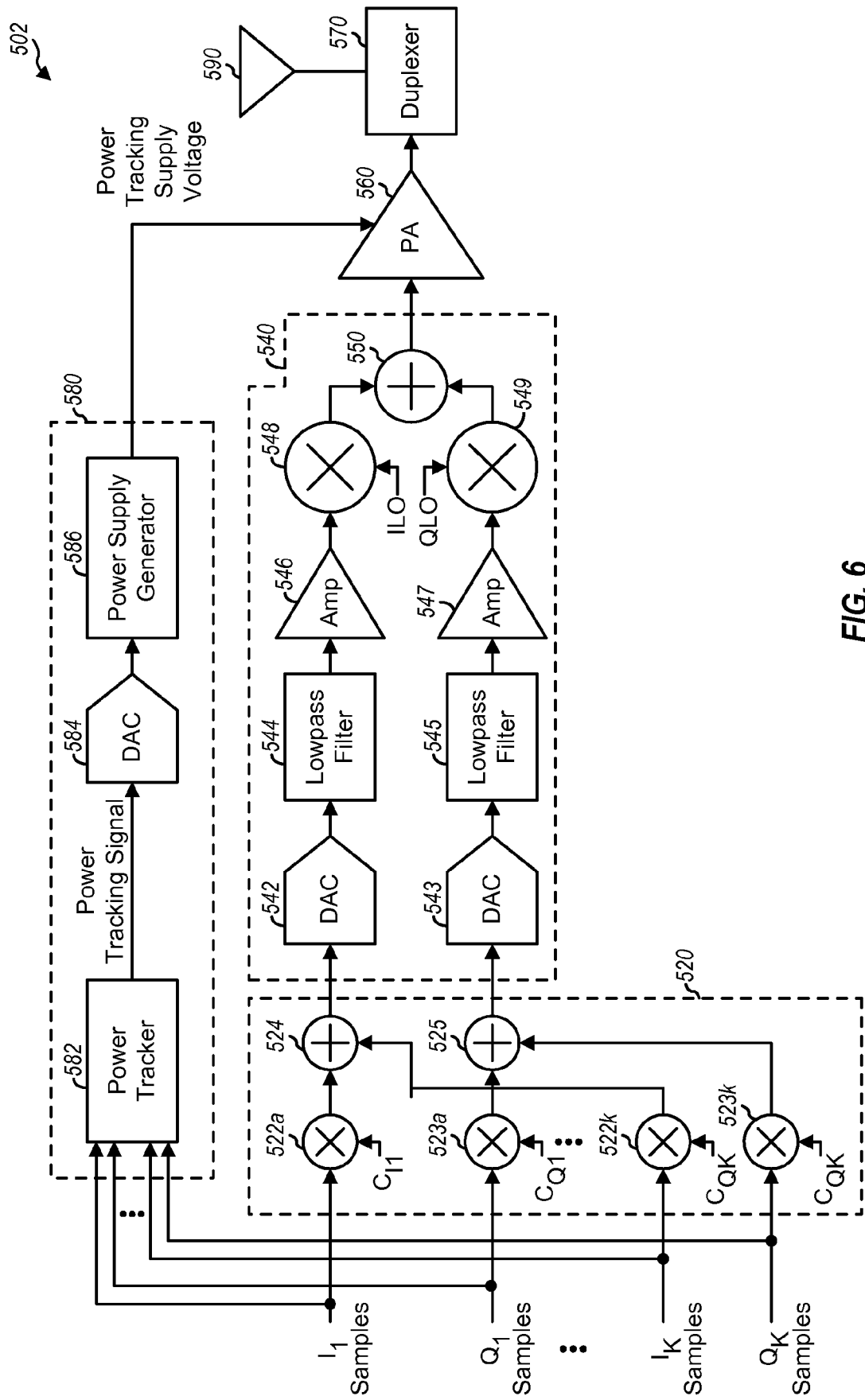
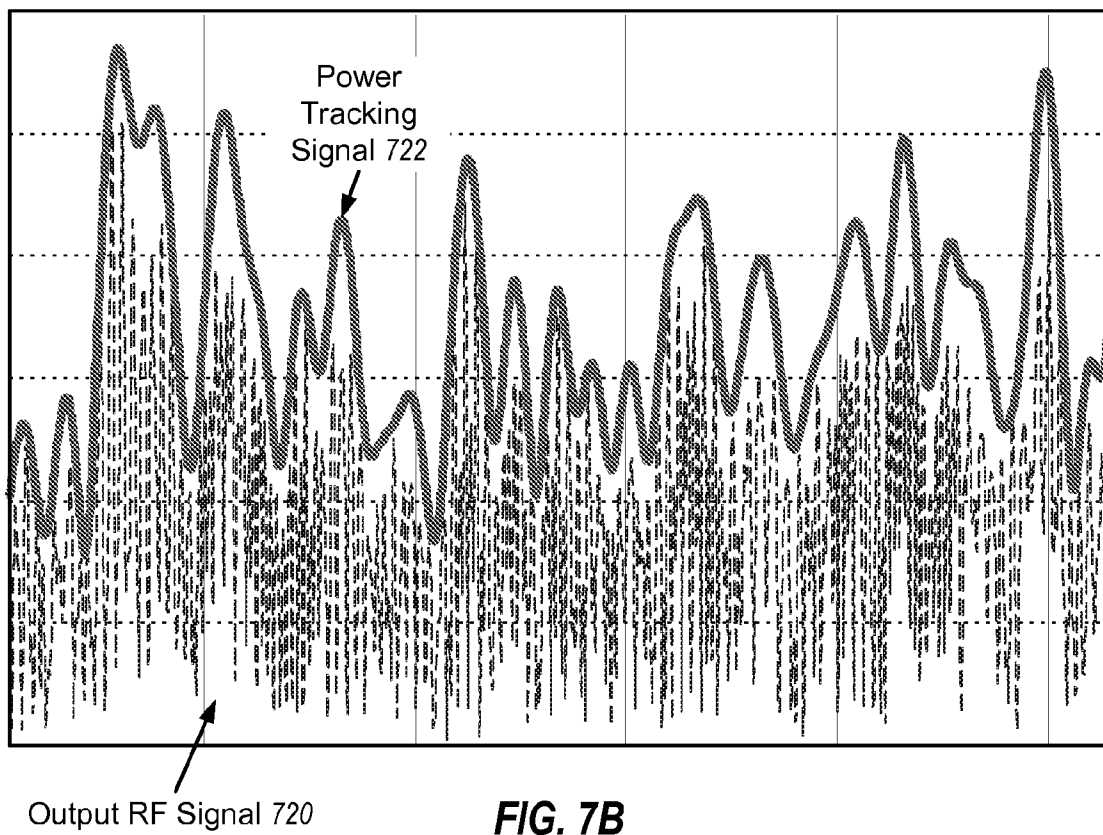
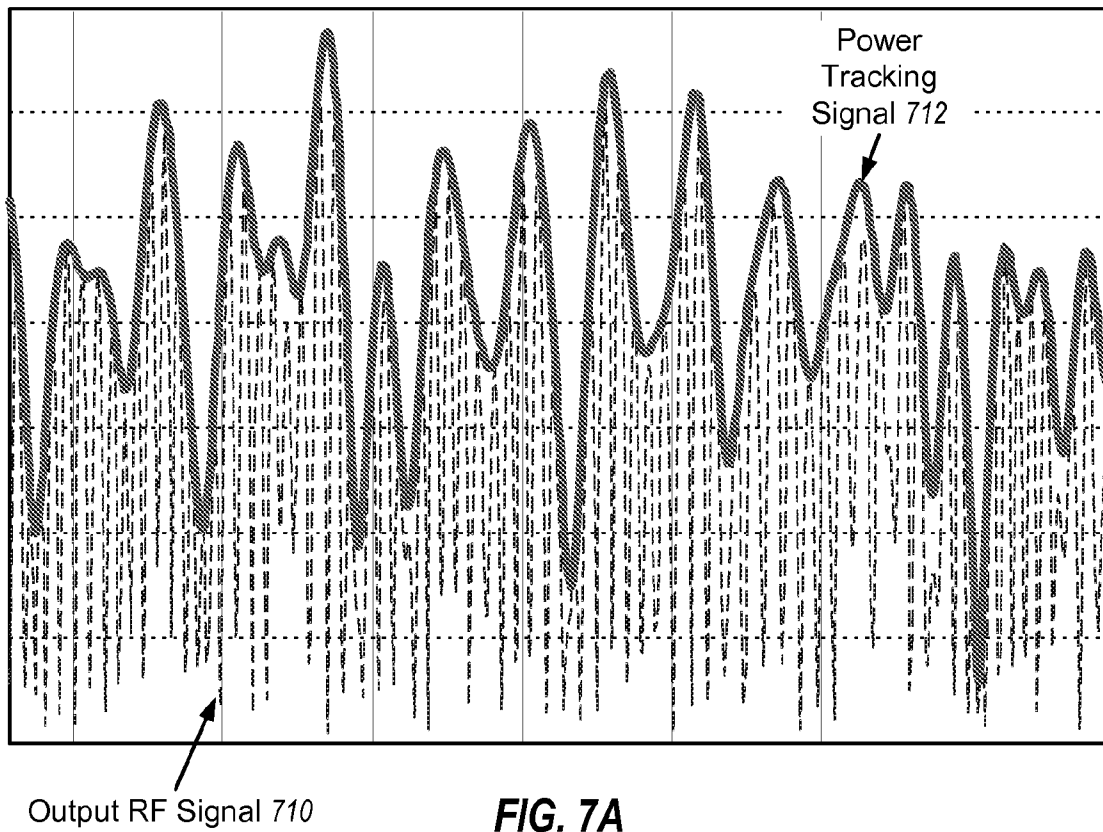


FIG. 6



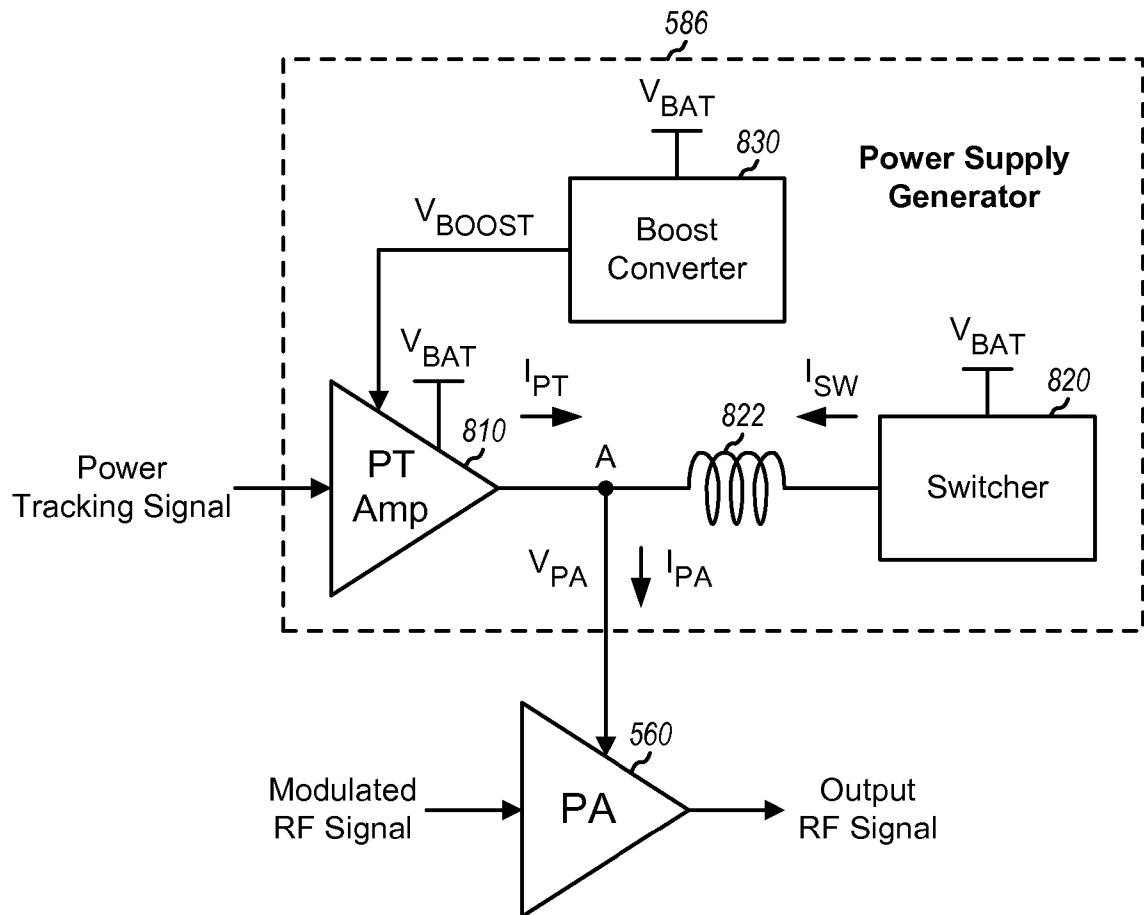
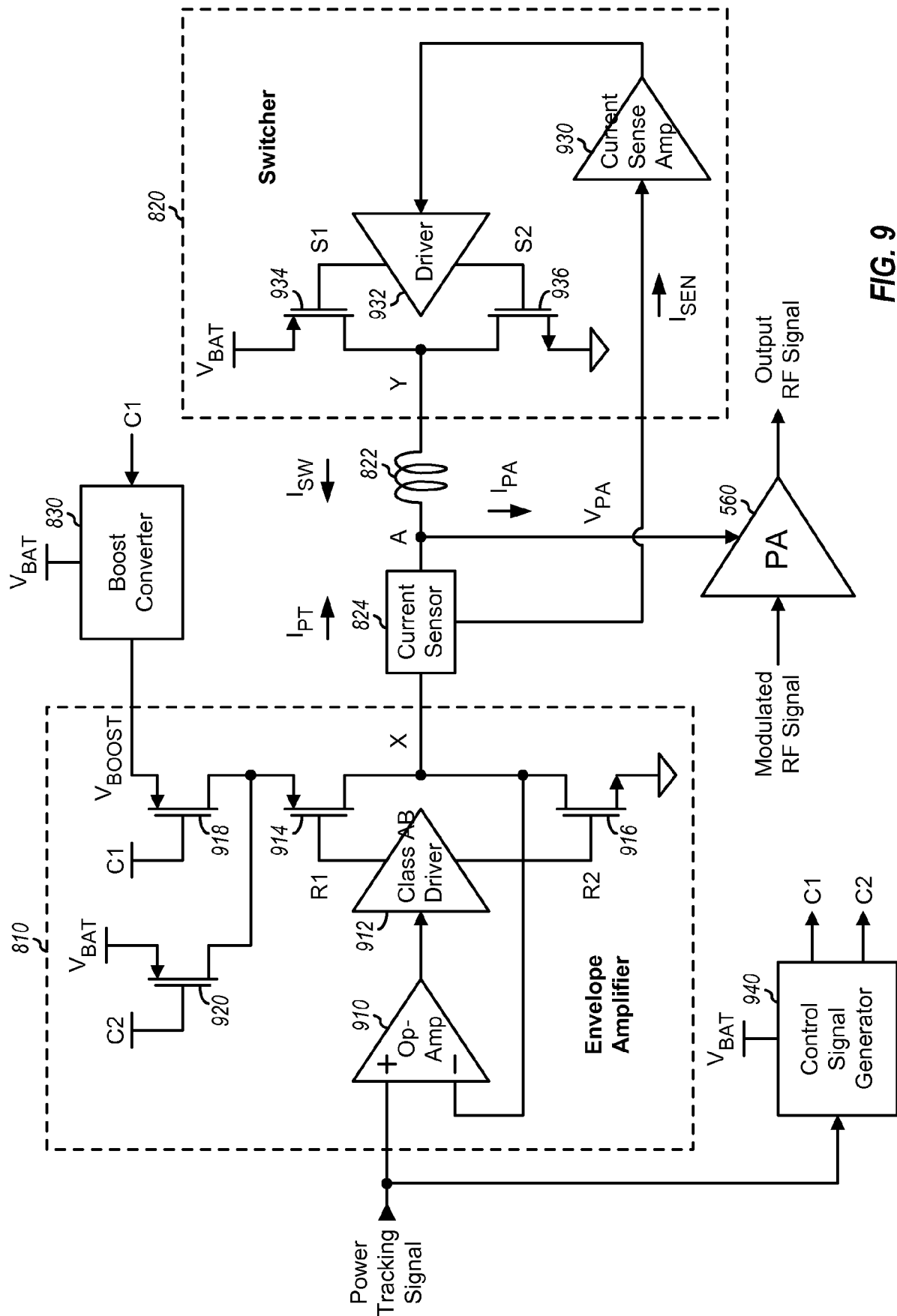


FIG. 8



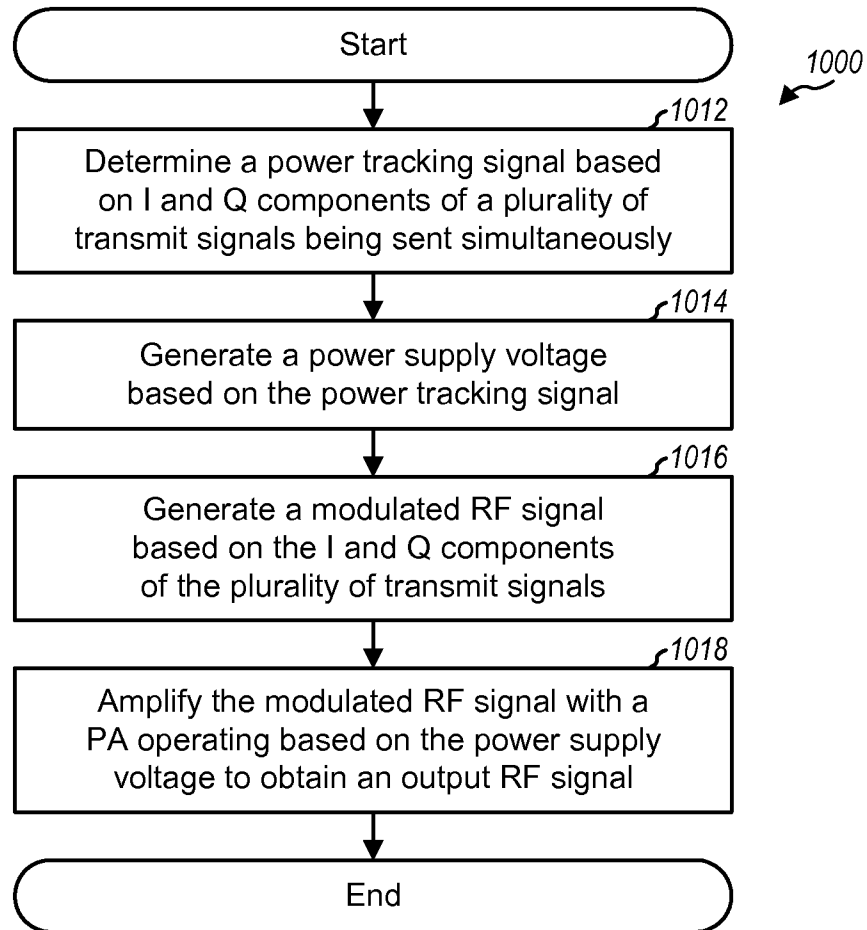


FIG. 10

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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TELJESÍTMÉNYKÖVETŐ EGYSÉG TÖBB EGYIDEJŰLEG KÜLDÖTT ADÁSI JELHEZ

SZABADALMI IGÉNYPONTOK

1. Berendezés (500, 502) amely tartalmaz:
 - egy teljesítménykövető egységet (582), amely úgy van kialakítva, hogy több egyidejűleg küldött adási jel mindegyikének fázison belüli, I, és kvadrátúra, Q, komponense alapján meghatároz egyetlen teljesítménykövetési jelet;
 - egy tápegység-generátort (586), amely úgy van kialakítva, hogy az egyetlen teljesítménykövetési jel alapján egyetlen tápfeszültséget állít elő; és
 - egy teljesítményerősítőt, PA, (560), amely úgy van kialakítva, hogy egyetlen kimeneti rádiófrekvenciás, RF, jel előállítására céljából fogadja az összes adási jelet és az egyetlen tápfeszültséget.
2. Az 1. igénypont szerinti berendezés (500, 502), ahol a teljesítménykövető egység (582) úgy van kialakítva, hogy:
 - az adási jelek I és Q komponensei alapján meghatározza az adási jelek összesített teljesítményét, és
 - az adási jelek összesített teljesítménye alapján meghatározza a teljesítménykövetési jelet.
3. Az 1. igénypont szerinti berendezés (500, 502), ahol a teljesítménykövető egység (582) úgy van kialakítva, hogy:
 - az egyes adási jelek I és Q komponensei alapján meghatározza mindegyik adási jel teljesítményét, és
 - az adási jelek teljesítményei alapján meghatározza a teljesítménykövetési jelet.
4. Az 1. igénypont szerinti berendezés (500, 502), ahol a teljesítménykövető egység (582) úgy van kialakítva, hogy:
 - az egyes adási jelek I és Q komponensei alapján meghatározza mindegyik adási jel teljesítményét, meghatározza minden egyes adási jel feszültségét az adási jel teljesítménye alapján, és
 - meghatározza a teljesítménykövetési jelet az adási jelek feszültségei alapján.
5. Az 1. igénypont szerinti berendezés (500), amely tartalmaz továbbá:
 - adási áramköröket (540a ... 540k), melyek úgy vannak kialakítva, hogy fogadják az adási jelek I és Q komponenseit és felkonvertált RF jeleket állítanak elő, ahol mindegyik adási áramkör úgy van kialakítva, hogy az adási jelek közül az egyiknek az I és Q komponensét konvertálja fel és egy ennek megfelelően egy felkonvertált RF jelet állít elő, és

egy összeadó egységet (552), amely úgy van kialakítva, hogy összeadja a felkonvertált RF jeleket és ily módon előállítja a modulált RF jelet.

6. Az 1. igénypont szerinti berendezés (502), amely tartalmaz továbbá:
egy adási áramkört (540), amely úgy van kialakítva, hogy az adási jelekhez egy modulált közben-ső frekvenciájú, IF, jelet fogad és előállítja a modulált RF jelet, ahol a modulált IF jel az adási jelek I és Q komponensei alapján van előállítva.
7. Az 1. igénypont szerinti berendezés (500, 502), ahol a tápegység-generátor (586) tartalmaz:
egy teljesítménykövető erősítőt (810), amely úgy van kialakítva, hogy fogadja a teljesítménykövető jelet és előállítja a tápfeszültséget.
8. A 7. igénypont szerinti berendezés (500, 502), ahol a tápegység-generátor (586) tartalmaz továbbá:
egy olyan kapcsolóegységet (820), amely úgy van kialakítva, hogy érzékeli egy, a teljesítménykövető erősítőtől érkező első áramot, és az érzékelt első áram alapján a tápfeszültség számára előállít egy második áramot.
9. A 7. igénypont szerinti berendezés (500, 502), ahol a tápegység-generátor (586) tartalmaz továbbá:
egy feltranszformáló átalakítót (830), amely úgy van kialakítva, hogy egy telepfeszültséget fogad, és egy feltranszformált feszültséget állít elő a teljesítménykövető erősítő számára.
10. A 9. igénypont szerinti berendezés (500, 502), ahol a teljesítménykövető erősítő a feltranszformált feszültség vagy a telepfeszültség alapján működik.
11. Az 1. igénypont szerinti berendezés (500, 502), ahol az adási jelek különböző frekvenciájú vivőkön vannak elküldve.
12. A 11. igénypont szerinti berendezés (500, 502), ahol a teljesítménykövető jel sávszélessége kisebb, mint a vivők együttes sávszélessége.
13. Eljárás (1000), amely során:
egyidejűleg elküldött adási jelek fázison belüli, I, és kvadrátúra, Q, komponenseinek összessége alapján meghatározunk (1012) egyetlen teljesítménykövetési jelet; és
az egyetlen teljesítménykövetési jel alapján előállítunk (1014) egyetlen tápfeszültséget; és
fogadjuk az egyetlen tápfeszültséget és az összes adási jelet egy teljesítményerősítővel, PA, és a teljesítményerősítővel előállítunk egyetlen kimeneti RF jelet.
14. A 13. igénypont szerinti eljárás, ahol a modulált RF jel előállítása során
az adási jelek mindegyikének I és Q komponensét felkonvertáljuk egy megfelelő felkonvertált RF jel előállításához, és

Összeadjuk az adási jelekhez tartozó felkonvertált RF jeleket a modulált RF jel előállításának céljából.

15. Számítógépi programtermék, amely tartalmaz

egy számítógéppel olvasható, nem átmeneti adathordozót, amely tartalmaz:

kódot a 13-14. igénypontok bármelyike szerinti eljárásnak legalább egy számítógéppel történő végrehajtására.