Harmonic Balance Simulation

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## Contents

1 Harmonic Balance Basics
   Performing a Harmonic Balance Simulation .......................................................... 1-3
   Examples (ADS only) ............................................................................................... 1-4
      Single Tone Harmonic Balance Simulation ..................................................... 1-5
      Swept Harmonic Balance Simulation ............................................................. 1-7
   Harmonic Balance Simulation Description ........................................................... 1-11
      The Simulation Process .................................................................................. 1-11
      Comparing Harmonic Balance and Time Domain Simulators ....................... 1-13
      Harmonics and Maximum Order .................................................................. 1-14
      Selecting a Solver ...................................................................................... 1-18
      Reusing Simulation Solutions ..................................................................... 1-20
   HB Simulation Controller ................................................................................... 1-22
      Setting Fundamental Frequencies .................................................................. 1-24
      Setting up a Sweep in ADS ......................................................................... 1-27
      Setting up a Sweep in RFDE ....................................................................... 1-28
      Defining Simulation Parameters .................................................................... 1-30
      Selecting a Harmonic Balance Technique ................................................... 1-36
      Enabling Transient Assisted Harmonic Balance ............................................ 1-40
      Setting Up Small-Signal Simulations in ADS .............................................. 1-42
      Setting Up Small-Signal Simulations in RFDE ............................................ 1-43
      Setting Up Parameters for Noise(1) Tab in ADS ........................................ 1-45
      Setting Up Parameters for Noise(2) Tab in ADS ........................................ 1-47
      Selecting Nonlinear Noise Controllers (ADS only) ....................................... 1-50
      Setting Up Nonlinear Noise Parameters in RFDE ....................................... 1-52
      Enabling Oscillator Analysis ....................................................................... 1-59
   Troubleshooting a Simulation ............................................................................. 1-61
      Selecting the Number of Harmonics ............................................................ 1-61
      Reducing Simulation Time .......................................................................... 1-62
      Solving Convergence Problems .................................................................... 1-63
      Oversampling to Prevent Aliasing ................................................................ 1-67
      Linearizing Nonlinear Devices ..................................................................... 1-70

2 Harmonic Balance for Nonlinear Noise Simulation
   Performing a Nonlinear Noise Simulation .......................................................... 2-2
   Performing a Noise Simulation with NoiseCons ................................................. 2-4
   Nonlinear Noise Simulation Description .............................................................. 2-5
   NoiseCon Component Description ..................................................................... 2-6
   NoiseCon Component ....................................................................................... 2-7
      Setting Up NoiseCon Frequency ................................................................ 2-7
      Setting Up NoiseCon Nodes ........................................................................ 2-8
3 Harmonic Balance for Oscillator Simulation

Performing an Oscillator Simulation ................................................................. 3-2
Using OscPort .................................................................................................. 3-2
Specifying Oscillator Nodes .............................................................................. 3-2
Setting up an Oscillator Analysis .................................................................... 3-3
Other Oscillator Analyses ............................................................................... 3-3
Examples (in ADS) ............................................................................................ 3-5
Finding the Frequency of Oscillation ............................................................... 3-6
Calculating Large-Signal, Steady-State Oscillation Conditions ....................... 3-8
Calculating Oscillator Loop Gain ...................................................................... 3-13
Using OscPort2 for Oscillator Analysis ............................................................ 3-16
Oscillator Simulation Description ..................................................................... 3-23
Performing VCO Tuning .................................................................................. 3-24
Measuring Oscillator Loop Gain ....................................................................... 3-24
Troubleshooting a Simulation ........................................................................... 3-27
Solving Convergence and Speed Problems .................................................... 3-27
Correcting for Search Failures .......................................................................... 3-28
Additional Potential Oscillation Frequencies .................................................. 3-29
When You Question the Accuracy of Frequency Results .................................. 3-30
Simulation Techniques for Recalcitrant Oscillators ......................................... 3-31
Using Transient Analysis for an Initial Guess .................................................. 3-33
Large-Signal Loop Gain Analysis .................................................................... 3-38

4 Oscillator Noise Simulation

Simulating Phase Noise Using OscPort ................................................................ 4-2
Simulating Phase Noise with NoiseCons ............................................................ 4-4
Single Sideband Phase Noise ........................................................................... 4-5
Relative Noise Voltage Spectrum ...................................................................... 4-7
Phase Noise Voltage Around a Harmonic ......................................................... 4-9
Absolute Noise Voltage Spectrum ................................................................... 4-11
Phase Noise Simulation Description .................................................................. 4-13
How ADS Simulates Phase Noise ...................................................................... 4-13
Possible Problems with Phase Noise Analysis .................................................. 4-14
Basic Phase Noise Theory .................................................................................. 4-16

5 Harmonic Balance for Mixers

Performing a Basic Mixer Simulation ................................................................. 5-2
Examples (ADS only) ......................................................................................... 5-3
Finding Mixer Output Tones .............................................................................. 5-3
Performing a Small-Signal Simulation of a Mixer .............................................. 5-7
Chapter 1: Harmonic Balance Basics

Harmonic balance is a frequency-domain analysis technique for simulating distortion in nonlinear circuits and systems. It is usually the method of choice for simulating analog RF and microwave problems, since these are most naturally handled in the frequency domain. Within the context of high-frequency circuit and system simulation, harmonic balance offers several benefits over conventional time-domain transient analysis. Harmonic balance simulation obtains frequency-domain voltages and currents, directly calculating the steady-state spectral content of voltages or currents in the circuit. The frequency integration required for transient analysis is prohibitive in many practical cases. Many linear models are best represented in the frequency domain at high frequencies. Use the HB simulation controller component to:

- Determine the spectral content of voltages or currents.
- Compute quantities such as third-order intercept (TOI) points, total harmonic distortion (THD), and intermodulation distortion components.
- Perform power amplifier load-pull contour analyses.
- Perform nonlinear noise analysis.

Refer to the following topics for details on Harmonic Balance simulation:

- “Performing a Harmonic Balance Simulation” on page 1-3 describes the minimum setup requirements for a harmonic balance simulation.
- “Examples (ADS only)” on page 1-4 describes in detail how to set up a basic single-point and a swept harmonic balance simulation, using a power amplifier.
- “Harmonic Balance Simulation Description” on page 1-11 is a brief description of the harmonic balance simulator.
- “HB Simulation Controller” on page 1-22 describes the dialog box fields for the HB Simulation controller.
- “Troubleshooting a Simulation” on page 1-61 offers suggestions on how to improve a simulation.
- Chapter 2, Harmonic Balance for Nonlinear Noise Simulation describes how to use the simulator for calculating noise.
Harmonic Balance Basics

- **Chapter 3, Harmonic Balance for Oscillator Simulation** and **Chapter 4, Oscillator Noise Simulation** describe how to use the simulator with oscillator designs.
- **Chapter 5, Harmonic Balance for Mixers** and **Chapter 6, Mixer Noise Simulation** describe how to use the simulator with mixer designs.
- **Chapter 7, Transient Assisted Harmonic Balance** describes how to use the automated TAHB to generate the transient initial guess for the Harmonic Balance simulation.
- For the most detailed description about setting up, running, and converging a harmonic balance simulation, see the following documentation:
  
  If you are using ADS, see
  
  Guide to Harmonic Balance Simulation in ADS
  
  If you are using RFDE, see
  
  Guide to Harmonic Balance Simulation in RFDE

**Note** You must have the Harmonic Balance simulator license (included with all Circuit Design suites except RF Designer) to run the following simulations. You can build the examples in this chapter without the license, but you will not be able to simulate them.
Performing a Harmonic Balance Simulation

Start by creating your design, then add current probes and identify the nodes from which you want to collect data

For a successful analysis:

- Add the HarmonicBalance simulation component to the schematic and double-click to edit it. Fill in the fields under the Freq tab:
  - Enter at least one fundamental frequency and the number (order) of harmonics to be considered in the simulation.
  
  Make sure that frequency definitions are established for all of the fundamentals of interest in a design. For example, mixers should include definitions for RF and LO frequencies.

- If more than one fundamental is entered, set the maximum order. This limits the number of mixing products to be considered in the simulation. For more information on this parameter, refer to “Harmonics and Maximum Order” on page 1-14.

- If you have a circuit with a large number of nonlinear devices or harmonics, the Krylov solver can improve simulation speed. For tips on using this option, refer to “Selecting a Solver” on page 1-18. For the details of the Krylov algorithm, refer to “Harmonics and Maximum Order” on page 1-14.

- You can use previous simulation solutions to speed the simulation process. For more information, refer to “Reusing Simulation Solutions” on page 1-20.

- You can perform budget calculations as part of the simulation. For information on budget analysis, refer to the chapter “Using Circuit Simulators for RF System Analysis” in the Using Circuit Simulators documentation.

- You can perform small-signal analysis. Enable the Small-signal option and fill in the fields under the Small-Sig tab. For details, refer to Chapter 5, Harmonic Balance for Mixers.
Harmonic Balance Basics

- You can perform nonlinear noise analysis. Enable the Nonlinear noise option and fill in the fields under the Noise(1) and Noise(2) tabs. For details, refer to Chapter 2, Harmonic Balance for Nonlinear Noise Simulation.

- If your design includes NoiseCon components, select the NoiseCons tab and fill in the fields. For more information, refer to Chapter 2, Harmonic Balance for Nonlinear Noise Simulation.

- If your design includes an OscPort component, enable Oscillator and fill in the fields under the Osc tab. Chapter 3, Harmonic Balance for Oscillator Simulation focuses specifically on simulating oscillator designs.

For details about each field, click Help from the dialog box.

Examples (ADS only)

This section gives detailed setups to perform these simulations on a power amplifier:

- “Single Tone Harmonic Balance Simulation” on page 1-5 applies a single tone to the power amplifier. This tone and 7 harmonics are analyzed.

- “Swept Harmonic Balance Simulation” on page 1-7 sweeps the input from 500 to 1500 MHz and analyzes the performance of the amplifier at points along the sweep.
Single Tone Harmonic Balance Simulation

Figure 1-1 illustrates the setup for simulating a power amplifier circuit.

![Figure 1-1. Example setup for a basic harmonic balance simulation](image)

**Note** This design, HB1.dsn, is in the Examples directory under Tutorial/SimModels_prj. The results are in HB1.dds.

1. From the **Sources-Freq Domain** palette, select and place a **V_1Tone** source on the schematic. Edit the component to set these values:
   - V = **0.01 V**
   - Freq = **20 MHz**. This is the first and only fundamental.

2. Ensure that the inputs and outputs of nodes at which you want data to be reported are appropriately labeled. In this example, the output node has been labeled Vout.
3. From the **Simulation-HB** palette, select and place the **HB** component on the schematic, then double-click to edit it. Select the **Freq** tab and edit these parameters:
- **Frequency** = 20 MHz
- **Order** = 7

Click **Add**. If this line appears as the second fundamental frequency in the list, select the one above it and click **Cut**. Make sure that 1 20 MHz 7 is the only line that appears in the list of fundamental frequencies.

**Note** With only a single frequency defined, the parameter **Maximum order** is not available.

4. **Simulate**. When the simulation is finished, a Data Display window opens. The following plot illustrates the results of the simulation, showing the fundamental and seven harmonics, declining in voltage (Vout) with increasing frequency.
Swept Harmonic Balance Simulation

In this example, the fundamental is swept from 500 MHz to 1500 MHz in 25 MHz steps. At 41 points along the sweep, data is collected for the value of the fundamental and 8 harmonics.

Figure 1-2 illustrates the setup for a swept harmonic-balance simulation of a power amplifier circuit.
Harmonic Balance Basics

**Note** This design, HB2.dsn, is in the Examples directory under Tutorial/SimModels_prj. The results are in HB2.dds.

To perform a swept harmonic balance simulation:

1. From **Sources-Freq Domain** palette, select and place a **P_1Tone** component on the schematic and edit it to set these values:
   - **Num = 1**
   - **P = dbmtow(-10)**. The function dbmtow() is used to convert power in dBm to watts for the purpose of simulation.
   - **Freq = freq_swp**. This sets the frequency to a variable which will be defined later.

2. Label the nodes at which you want data to be reported, in this example, label the output node as **Vout**.

3. From the **Simulation-HB** palette, select and place an **HB** simulation component on the schematic and edit it to select the **Freq** tab. Set the following parameters:
   - **Frequency = freq_swp MHz**. This is the only fundamental, or Freq[1].
   - **Order = 8**

   Click **Add**. If any other fundamentals appear in the list, select each line and click **Cut**. Make sure that 1 freq_swp MHz 8 is the only line that appears in the list of fundamental frequencies.

**Note** Ensure that frequencies are established for all of the frequencies of interest in a design under test (for example, RF, LO, and IF frequencies). You may want to display them on the schematic to facilitate editing.
4. Select the **Sweep** tab. Ensure that Start/Stop is selected and set the following:
   - Parameter to sweep = `freq_swp`
   - Sweep Type = **Linear**
   - Start = 500
   - Stop = 1500
   - Step = 25

5. Click **OK** to accept changes and close the dialog box.

6. From **Data Items** palette, select and place a **VAR** (variables and equations) component on the schematic and edit it:
   - Under Variable or Equation Entry Mode, select **Name=Value**.
   - Under Select Parameter, select the default equation \( X=1.0 \) and in the field to the right, change it to `freq_swp=1`. This assigns `freq_swp` to the fundamental.

7. Click **OK** to accept changes and close the dialog box.

8. **Simulate**. When the simulation is finished, a Data Display window opens. One way to plot Vout is against the harmonic index. By setting the Trace Type to a spectral display, it shows the strength of each of the eight harmonics as the fundamental changes from 500 MHz to 1500 MHz.
Harmonic Balance Basics

The harmonic index (harmindex) is a sequential index of frequencies, starting with zero. It is generated either during a frequency sweep, or during oscillator analysis (since the oscillation frequency as an unknown variable is swept during the analysis). The harmindex is always the innermost variable, which makes it the independent variable. Each harmindex value corresponds to an actual simulated frequency (harmonic or intermod product) for each frequency value of the frequency sweep. The following illustration shows the relationship between the LO, the RF frequency, and the harmonics generating the harmindex in a table of results. Assuming a downconverting mixer design, the

- LO freq = 16 GHz
- RF freq (swept) = 12 GHz to 14 GHz in 2 GHz steps
- The Harmonic Balance controller is set to:
  - Freq [1] = LO (Order = 1)
  - Freq [2] = RF (Order = 1)
  - MaxOrder = 2

Here are the reported values for the simulation frequency freq relative to the harmindex value that would appear in the data display:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>harmindex</th>
<th>freq</th>
<th>RFfreq=12 GHz</th>
<th>RFfreq=14 GHz</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0 GHz, 0 GHz</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4 GHz, 2 GHz</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>12 GHz, 14 GHz</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>16 GHz, 16 GHz</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>28 GHz, 30 GHz</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Harmonic Balance Simulation Description

Harmonic balance is a frequency-domain analysis technique for simulating distortion in nonlinear circuits and systems. It is well-suited for simulating analog RF and microwave problems, since these are most naturally handled in the frequency domain. You can analyze power amplifiers, frequency multipliers, mixers, and modulators, under large-signal sinusoidal drive.

Harmonic balance simulation enables the multitone simulation of circuits that exhibit intermodulation frequency conversion. This includes frequency conversion between harmonics. Not only can the circuit itself produce harmonics, but each signal source (stimulus) can also produce harmonics or small-signal sidebands. The stimulus can consist of up to twelve nonharmonically related sources. The total number of frequencies in the system is limited only by such practical considerations as memory, swap space, and simulation speed.

The Simulation Process

The harmonic balance method is iterative. It is based on the assumption that for a given sinusoidal excitation there exists a steady-state solution that can be approximated to satisfactory accuracy by means of a finite Fourier series. Consequently, the circuit node voltages take on a set of amplitudes and phases for all frequency components. The currents flowing from nodes into linear elements, including all distributed elements, are calculated by means of a straightforward frequency-domain linear analysis. Currents from nodes into nonlinear elements are calculated in the time-domain. Generalized Fourier analysis is used to transform from the time-domain to the frequency-domain.

The Harmonic Balance solution is approximated by truncated Fourier series and this method is inherently incapable of representing transient behavior. The time-derivative can be computed exactly with boundary conditions, \( v(0) = v(t) \), automatically satisfied for all iterates.

The truncated Fourier approximation + N circuit equations results in a residual function that is minimized.

N x M nonlinear algebraic equations are solved for the Fourier coefficients using Newton's method and the inner linear problem is solved by:

- Direct method (Gaussian elimination) for small problems.
- Krylov-subspace method (e.g. GMRES) for larger problems.
Nonlinear devices (transistors, diodes, etc.) in Harmonic Balance are evaluated (sampled) in the time-domain and converted to frequency-domain via the FFT.

A frequency-domain representation of all currents flowing away from all nodes is available. According to Kirchoff's Current Law (KCL), these currents should sum to zero at all nodes. The probability of obtaining this result on the first iteration is extremely small.

Therefore, an error function is formulated by calculating the sum of currents at all nodes. This error function is a measure of the amount by which KCL is violated and is used to adjust the voltage amplitudes and phases. If the method converges (that is, if the error function is driven to a given small value), then the resulting voltage amplitudes and phases approximate the steady-state solution. The following flow chart presents a visual representation of the process:
Comparing Harmonic Balance and Time Domain Simulators

In the context of high-frequency circuit and system simulation, harmonic balance has a number of advantages over conventional time-domain transient analysis:

- Designers are usually most interested in a system’s steady-state behavior. Many high-frequency circuits contain long time constants that require conventional transient methods to integrate over many periods of the lowest-frequency sinusoid to reach steady state. Harmonic balance, on the other hand, captures the steady-state spectral response directly.

- Harmonic balance is faster at solving typical high-frequency problems that transient analysis can’t solve accurately or can only do so at prohibitive costs. The applied voltage sources are typically multitone sinusoids that may have very narrowly or very widely spaced frequencies. It is not uncommon for the highest frequency present in the response to be many orders of magnitude greater than the lowest frequency. Transient analysis would require an integration over an enormous number of periods of the highest-frequency sinusoid. The time involved in carrying out the integration is prohibitive in many practical cases.

- At high frequencies, many linear models are best represented in the frequency domain. Simulating such elements in the time domain by means of convolution can result in problems related to accuracy, causality, or stability.
Harmonic Balance Basics

**Harmonics and Maximum Order**

With multiple sources in a circuit, mixing products will occur. The parameter **Maximum order** (under the Freq tab) determines how many mixing products are to be included in the simulation. Consider an example with two sources and three harmonics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Order</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fund 1</td>
<td>5 MHz</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund 2</td>
<td>7 MHz</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If **Maximum order** is 0 or 1, no mixing products are simulated. The frequency list consists of the fundamental (Fund) frequency and the first, second, and third harmonics of each source, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Combination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 Hz</td>
<td>DC term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 MHz</td>
<td>Fund 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 MHz</td>
<td>Fund 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 MHz</td>
<td>Second harmonic of Fund 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 MHz</td>
<td>Second harmonic of Fund 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 MHz</td>
<td>Third harmonic of Fund 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 MHz</td>
<td>Third harmonic of Fund 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If **Maximum order** is 2, the sum and difference frequencies of the two fundamentals are added to the list:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Combination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 MHz</td>
<td>Fund 2 − Fund 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 MHz</td>
<td>Fund 2 + Fund 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If **Maximum order** is 3, the second harmonic of one source can mix with the fundamental of the other. These frequencies are also added to the list:
This pattern is also used when there are three sources. The combined order is the sum of the individual signal orders that are added or subtracted to make up the frequency list.

Consider an example with the following three sources, where Maximum order = 5:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Order</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fund 1</td>
<td>10.00 GHz</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund 2</td>
<td>10.95 GHz</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund 3</td>
<td>11.05 GHz</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The frequencies that are used in the simulation and the combinations that produce them are listed in Table 1-1.

Table 1-1. Frequency List (Maximum order = 5)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Combination</th>
<th>Order</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.000 Hz</td>
<td>DC term</td>
<td>always present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100.0 MHz</td>
<td>Fund 3 – Fund 2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200.0 MHz</td>
<td>Second harmonic of Fund 3 – Second harmonic of Fund 2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>850.0 MHz</td>
<td>Second harmonic of Fund 2 – Fund 1 – Fund 3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>950.0 MHz</td>
<td>Fund 2 – Fund 1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.050 GHz</td>
<td>Fund 3 – Fund 1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.150 GHz</td>
<td>Second harmonic of Fund 3 – Fund 1 – Fund 2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.900 GHz</td>
<td>Second harmonic of Fund 2 – Second harmonic of Fund 1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.000 GHz</td>
<td>Fund 2 + Fund 3 – Second harmonic of Fund 1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.100 GHz</td>
<td>Second harmonic of Fund 3 – Second harmonic of Fund 1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Table 1-1. Frequency List (Maximum order = 5) (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Combination</th>
<th>Order</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.900 GHz</td>
<td>Third harmonic of Fund 1 – Second harmonic of Fund 3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.000 GHz</td>
<td>Third harmonic of Fund 1 – Fund 2 – Fund 3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.100 GHz</td>
<td>Third harmonic of Fund 1 – Second harmonic of Fund 2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.850 GHz</td>
<td>Second harmonic of Fund 1 + Fund 2 – Second harmonic of Fund 3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.950 GHz</td>
<td>Second harmonic of Fund 3 – Second harmonic of Fund 1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.050 GHz</td>
<td>Second harmonic of Fund 2 – Second harmonic of Fund 1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.150 GHz</td>
<td>Second harmonic of Fund 1 + Fund 3 – Second harmonic of Fund 2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.800 GHz</td>
<td>Fund 1 + Second harmonic of Fund 3 – Second harmonic of Fund 2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.900 GHz</td>
<td>Fund 1 + Fund 2 – Fund 3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.00 GHz</td>
<td>Fundamental 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.10 GHz</td>
<td>Fund 1 + Fund 3 – Fund 2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.20 GHz</td>
<td>Fund 1 + Second harmonic of Fund 3 – Second harmonic of Fund 2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.85 GHz</td>
<td>Second harmonic of Fund 2 – Fund 3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.95 GHz</td>
<td>Fundamental 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.05 GHz</td>
<td>Fundamental 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.15 GHz</td>
<td>Second harmonic of Fund 3 – Fund 2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.90 GHz</td>
<td>Second harmonic of Fund 2 – Fund 1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.00 GHz</td>
<td>Fund 2 + Fund 3 – Fund 1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.10 GHz</td>
<td>Second harmonic of Fund 3 – Fund 1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.95 GHz</td>
<td>Second harmonic of Fund 2 + Fund 3 – Fund 1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.05 GHz</td>
<td>Fund 2 + Second harmonic of Fund 3 – Second harmonic of Fund 1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.95 GHz</td>
<td>Third harmonic of Fund 1 – Fund 3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.05 GHz</td>
<td>Third harmonic of Fund 1 – Fund 2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.90 GHz</td>
<td>Second harmonic of Fund 1 + Fund 2 – Fund 3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.00 GHz</td>
<td>Second harmonic of Fund 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.10 GHz</td>
<td>Second harmonic of Fund 1 + Fund 3 – Fund 2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table 1-1. Frequency List (Maximum order = 5) (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Combination</th>
<th>Order</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20.85 GHz</td>
<td>Fund 1 + Second harmonic of Fund 2 – Fund 3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.95 GHz</td>
<td>Fund 2 + Fund 1 – 2nd order</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.05 GHz</td>
<td>Fund 3 + Fund 1 – 2nd order</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.15 GHz</td>
<td>Fund 1 + Second harmonic of Fund 3 – Fund 2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.90 GHz</td>
<td>Second harmonic of Fund 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.00 GHz</td>
<td>Fund 2 + Fund 3 – 2nd order</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.10 GHz</td>
<td>Second harmonic of Fund 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.95 GHz</td>
<td>Fund 3 + Second harmonic of Fund 2 – Fund 1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.05 GHz</td>
<td>Fund 2 + Second harmonic of Fund 3 – Fund 1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28.95 GHz</td>
<td>Fourth harmonic of Fund 1 – Fund 3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29.05 GHz</td>
<td>Fourth harmonic of Fund 1 – Fund 2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29.90 GHz</td>
<td>Third harmonic of Fund 1 + Fund 2 – Fund 3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.00 GHz</td>
<td>Third harmonic of Fund 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.10 GHz</td>
<td>Third harmonic of Fund 1 + Fund 3 – Fund 2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.85 GHz</td>
<td>Second harmonic of Fund 1 + Second harmonic of Fund 2 – Fund 3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.95 GHz</td>
<td>Second harmonic of Fund 1 + Fund 2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31.05 GHz</td>
<td>Second harmonic of Fund 1 + Fund 3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31.15 GHz</td>
<td>Second harmonic of Fund 1 + Second harmonic of Fund 3 – Fund 2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31.90 GHz</td>
<td>Fund 1 + Second harmonic of Fund 2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32.00 GHz</td>
<td>Fund 1 + Fund 2 + Fund 3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32.10 GHz</td>
<td>Fund 1 + Second harmonic of Fund 3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32.95 GHz</td>
<td>Fund 3 + Second harmonic of Fund 2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33.05 GHz</td>
<td>Fund 2 + Second harmonic of Fund 3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34.00 GHz</td>
<td>Second harmonic of Fund 2 + Second harmonic of Fund 3 – Fund 1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40.00 GHz</td>
<td>Fourth harmonic of Fund 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40.95 GHz</td>
<td>Third harmonic of Fund 1 + Fund 2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41.05 GHz</td>
<td>Third harmonic of Fund 1 + Fund 3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41.90 GHz</td>
<td>Second harmonic of Fund 1 + Second harmonic of Fund 2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Harmonic Balance Basics

Table 1-1. Frequency List (Maximum order = 5) (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Combination</th>
<th>Order</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>42.00 GHz</td>
<td>Second harmonic of Fund 1 + Fund 2 + Fund 3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42.10 GHz</td>
<td>Second harmonic of Fund 1 + Second harmonic of Fund 3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42.95 GHz</td>
<td>Fund 1 + Second harmonic of Fund 2 + Fund 3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43.05 GHz</td>
<td>Fund 1 + Fund 2 + Second harmonic of Fund 3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44.00 GHz</td>
<td>Second harmonic of Fund 2 + Second harmonic of Fund 3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50.00 GHz</td>
<td>Fifth harmonic of Fund 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50.95 GHz</td>
<td>Fourth harmonic of Fund 1 + Fund 2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51.05 GHz</td>
<td>Fourth harmonic of Fund 1 + Fund 3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51.90 GHz</td>
<td>Third harmonic of Fund 1 + Second harmonic of Fund 2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52.00 GHz</td>
<td>Third harmonic of Fund 1 + Fund 2 + Fund 3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52.10 GHz</td>
<td>Third harmonic of Fund 1 + Second harmonic of Fund 3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52.95 GHz</td>
<td>Second harmonic of Fund 1 + Second harmonic of Fund 2 + Fund 3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53.05 GHz</td>
<td>Second harmonic of Fund 1 + Fund 2 + Second harmonic of Fund 3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54.00 GHz</td>
<td>Fund 1 + Second harmonic of Fund 2 + Second harmonic of Fund 3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Selecting a Solver

Many harmonic balance simulators rely on the Newton-Raphson technique to solve the nonlinear systems of algebraic equations that arise in large-signal frequency-domain circuit simulation problems. Each iteration of Newton-Raphson requires an inversion of the Jacobian matrix associated with the nonlinear system of equations. When the matrix is factored by direct methods, memory requirements climb as \(O(H^2)\), where \(H\) is the number of harmonics. Thus, the factorization of a Jacobian at \(H=500\) will require 2500 times as much RAM as one at \(H=10\).

An alternate approach to solving the linear system of equations associated with the Jacobian is to use a Krylov subspace iterative method such as GMRES (generalized minimum residual). This method does not require the explicit storage of the Jacobian matrix \(J\), but rather only the ability to carry out matrix-vector products of the form \(J \cdot V\), where \(V\) is an arbitrary vector. But the information needed to carry out such an operation can be stored in \(O(H)\) memory, not in \(O(H^2)\), in the context of harmonic
balance. Thus, Krylov subspace solvers offer substantial savings in memory requirements for large harmonic-balance problems. Similar arguments show that even larger increases in computational speed can be obtained.

**Note** For circuits involving large numbers of frequencies, consider using the Circuit Envelope simulator.

Use the following guidelines when selecting a solver:

- **Direct Solver**
  
The Direct Solver option is recommended for the majority of small problems. A small problem can be roughly described as one where the circuit contains relatively few nonlinear components, there are one or two fundamental frequencies, relatively few harmonics, etc. In general, in such cases the Direct Solver is not only faster, but also exhibits superior convergence.

- **Krylov Solver**
  
The Krylov Solver option should be used when solving large problems. A large problem can roughly be described as one where memory usage exceeds 100 MB or the memory capacity of the computer (whichever occurs first). A problem may be large because of a large number of nonlinear components, a large number of harmonics required for simulation, or both. Krylov is less robust than the Direct Solver method because it uses iterative algorithms to solve the matrix equations. Krylov uses iteration for both the linear and nonlinear steps.

- **Auto Select**
  
Selecting this option allows the simulator to choose which solver to use. The simulator analyzes factors such as circuit or spectral complexity and compares memory requirements for each solver against the available computer memory. Based on this analysis it selects either direct solver or Krylov solver in a manner transparent to the user. Furthermore, if the Krylov solver is chosen by the simulator, several options for that solver are also automatically set.

In most cases, the choice between the Direct Solver or Krylov Solver should be fairly easy to make. If uncertain, use Auto Select.

Simulation time may not be a good indicator for the choice. Some problems are small, but still take a long time to simulate because parameters are being swept over many steps; such a problem should really be viewed as a sequence of small problems, and
Harmonic Balance Basics

thus Krylov is not necessarily applicable. When a parameter is swept, if it takes X seconds to compute a single solution using the Krylov solver, it will probably take approximately 10X seconds to compute 10 solutions. On the other hand, if it takes Y seconds to compute a single solution using the direct solver, it will probably take far less than 10Y seconds to compute 10 swept steps of the analysis.

For system-level applications (behavioral mixers, amplifiers, etc.), the Krylov solver should be the preferred method of solution, as it is very robust in this area. For some transistor-level circuits, the Krylov solver may experience convergence difficulties at high input power levels. If this occurs, an analysis using the direct solver or the Envelope simulator should be attempted.

To select a specific solver:

1. Select the Solver tab in the Harmonic Balance controller dialog box.
2. Select the desired solver option. In general, we recommend that you accept the defaults and click OK to close the dialog box (or select another tab to set additional simulation specifications, as needed).

For descriptions of the options and parameters associated with the solvers, click Help from the dialog box.

Reusing Simulation Solutions

Harmonic balance simulation solutions can be saved and used later as an initial guess for another simulation, including harmonic balance, large-signal S-parameter, gain compression, or circuit envelope. Reusing solutions can save a considerable amount of simulation time. For example, you can save a harmonic balance solution and perform a nonlinear noise simulation, using this saved solution as the initial guess. Doing so removes the time required to re-compute the nonlinear HB solution. Another instance would be to solve for an initial harmonic balance solution and then sweep a parameter to see the changes.
To save a simulation for reuse:

1. Add the desired simulation component to your schematic—harmonic balance, large-signal S-parameter, gain compression, or envelope. Double-click to edit it.
2. Select the **Params** tab. If using the Envelope controller, select the **HB Params** tab.
3. Enable **Write Final Solution**. Enter a file name and any extension, or use the default which is `<project_name>.hbs`. The file will be saved in the networks folder of the project.
4. Click **OK**. When you run the next simulation, the solution will be saved.

To select a solution file to be used as the initial guess:

1. Place the simulation component of interest on the schematic if one is not present, then double-click to edit it.
2. Select the **Params** tab.
3. Enable **Use Initial Guess**. Enter the filename and extension.
4. To view any messages regarding how the initial guess affects the simulation, add an Options component and set the **Annotate** parameter. For more information on how to do this, refer to the topic “Reusing DC Simulation Solutions” in the chapter “Simulation Basics” in the Using Circuit Simulators documentation.

---

**Note** Since harmonic balance simulations also use the DC solution, for optimum speed improvement, both the DC solution and the HB solution should be saved and re-used as initial guesses.

The initial guess file does not need to contain all of the harmonic balance frequencies. For example, you could perform a one-tone simulation with a very nonlinear LO, save the solution, and then use it as an initial guess in a two-tone simulation.

The exact frequencies do not have to match between the present analysis and the initial guess solution. However, the fundamental indexes should match. For example, a solution saved from a two-tone analysis with \( \text{Freq}[1] = 1\text{GHz} \) and \( \text{Freq}[2] = 1\text{kHz} \) would not be a good match for a simulation with \( \text{Freq}[1] = 1\text{kHz} \) and \( \text{Freq}[2] = 1\text{GHz} \).
HB Simulation Controller

The HB Simulation controller enables you to define the following aspects of the simulation:

- **Freq**—Frequencies of fundamentals.
- **Sweep**—Sweep type and associated characteristics.
- **Params**—Parameters related to status level for summary information and device operating-point levels, as well as parameters related to FFT oversampling and convergence.
- **Solver**—Choose between a Direct or Krylov solver or an automatic selection.
- **TAHB**—Enabling and setting up parameters for automated transient assisted harmonic balance so the simulator generates its own transient initial guess for Harmonic Balance simulation.
- **Small-Sig**—Parameters related to small-signal/large-signal simulation.
- **Noise (1)**—Parameters related to noise simulation, including sweeps, and input and output ports.
- **Noise (2)**—Nodes at which to calculate noise data and sort the noise contributors, as well as port noise options.
- **NoiseCons (in ADS)**—The nonlinear noise controllers to be simulated.
- **Osc**—Enabling and setting up parameters for oscillator analysis.
- **Output**—In ADS, selectively save simulation data to a dataset. For details, refer to the topic “Selectively Saving and Controlling Simulation Data” in the chapter “Simulation Basics” in the Using Circuit Simulators documentation.

In RFDE, use Outputs > Save Options in the Analog Design Environment window.

- **Display (in ADS)**—Control the visibility of simulation parameters on the Schematic. For details, refer to the topic “Displaying Simulation Parameters on the Schematic” in the chapter “Simulation Basics” in the Using Circuit Simulators documentation.
For additional information on setting up Harmonic Balance analysis, refer to previous sections of this chapter and these other chapters:

- **Chapter 2, Harmonic Balance for Nonlinear Noise Simulation** describes how to use the simulator for calculating noise.
- **Chapter 3, Harmonic Balance for Oscillator Simulation** describes how to use the simulator with oscillator designs.
- **Chapter 5, Harmonic Balance for Mixers** describes how to use the simulator with mixer designs.
- For the most detailed description about setting up, running, and converging a harmonic balance simulation, see the following documentation:
  
  If you are using ADS, see
  Guide to Harmonic Balance Simulation in ADS
  
  If you are using RFDE, see
  Guide to Harmonic Balance Simulation in RFDE
Setting Fundamental Frequencies

In this tab, the frequency portion of the simulation are specified. Simulator parameter names, as they appear in netlists and ADS schematics, are in parentheses.

Table 1-2. HB Simulation Freq Options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Freq</th>
<th>Options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fundamental Frequencies (in ADS)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundamental Tones (in RFDE)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum order (MaxOrder)</td>
<td>The maximum order of the intermodulation terms in the simulation. The combined order is the sum of the individual frequency orders that are added or subtracted to make up the frequency list. For example, assume there are two fundamentals and Order (see below) is 3. If Maximum order is 0 or 1, no mixing products are simulated. The frequency list consists of the fundamental and the first, second, and third harmonics of each source. If Maximum order is 2, the sum and difference frequencies are added to the list. If Maximum order is 3, the second harmonic of one source can mix with the fundamental of the others, and so on.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edit (in ADS)</td>
<td>Edit the Frequency and Order fields, then use the buttons to Add the frequency to the list displayed under Select.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency (Freq[n])</td>
<td>The frequency of the fundamental(s). Change by typing over the entry in the field. Select the units (None, Hz, kHz, MHz, GHz) from the drop-down list.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 1-2. HB Simulation Freq Options (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Order (Order[n])</th>
<th>The maximum order (harmonic number) of the fundamental(s) that will be considered. Change by typing over the entry in the field.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The number of harmonics need to be sufficiently large to represent nonlinear signals (sharp transitions, square waves). An increase in the Order slows down the simulation considerably or results in excessive memory usage. Use the Krylov solver if the problem is too big for the Direct solver.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The lower the Order, the greater the Harmonic Balance truncation error as a result of the Fourier truncation in the solution representation. As a rule of thumb, anything below 5-7 harmonics is unacceptable. Using the Manual Convergence Mode (ConvMode=1) and StatusLevel=4 or 5 will give an estimate of this error.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The computational complexity of the Krylov solver is determined by the size of FFT (i.e. by the number of samples). With Krylov Harmonic Balance, set Order to 7, 15, 31, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Keep in mind that according to the Nyquist theorem at least 2 x Order + 1 samples are needed to represent the highest harmonic. The Oversample parameter increases the number of samples beyond the minimum by this factor, and, due to the nature of FFT, the number of samples is rounded up to the nearest power of 2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select (in ADS)</td>
<td>Contains the list of fundamental frequencies. Double-click in the Edit field to add fundamental frequencies to this window.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Add enables you to add an item.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cut enables you to delete an item.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paste enables you to take an item that has been cut and place it in a different order.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Run transient analysis long enough to approach steady state.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- At least 4-5 periods of excitation frequency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Use fixed time-step (make sure it is small enough)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Apply window (HB_Window=yes) to smooth the transient waveforms</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Harmonic Balance Basics

Table 1-2. HB Simulation Freq Options (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fundamental Tones (in RFDE)</th>
<th>Add and edit fundamental tones by specifying these parameters:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Frequency-The frequency of the fundamental(s).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Order-The maximum order (harmonic number) of the fundamental(s) that will be considered.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oversample-Sets the FFT oversampling ratio. Higher levels increase the accuracy of the solution by reducing the FFT aliasing error and improving convergence. Memory and speed are affected less when the direct harmonic balance method is used than when the Krylov option is used.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Add enters the values from the input fields into the table.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Delete removes selected tone from the table.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Update changes tone selected in table with contents of the input fields.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clear removes contents of the input fields.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Small-signal (SS_MixerMode) (in ADS)—Choose this if you want a small-signal analysis. Used only with the Small-Sig tab. |
| Nonlinear noise (NLNoiseMode) (in ADS)—Choose this if you want a nonlinear noise analysis. Used only with the Noise(1) and Noise(2) tabs. |
| Oscillator (OscMode) (in ADS)—Choose this if you want a oscillator analysis. Used only with the Osc tab. |
Setting up a Sweep in ADS

Setting up the sweep portion of the simulation consists of two basic parts:

- Selecting the sweep type and setting the associated characteristics
- Optionally, specifying a sweep plan

To shorten simulation time in any parameter sweep, select a start point as close as possible to the convergence point and vary the parameter gradually. This yields better estimates for the next simulation, and achieves convergence more rapidly than if the parameter were changed abruptly. Simulator parameter names, as they appear in netlists and ADS schematics, are in parentheses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sweep</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parameter to sweep (SweepVar)—The name of the parameter to be swept. Choose a parameter that can be set to a value for which the circuit will easily converge: source amplitude / power (amplifiers), bias voltage / current, or any component parameter that controls the amount of non-linearity in the circuit. Find the parameter value for which the circuit converges. This is the start point of the sweep (e.g. smaller input power). The actual parameter value for which the circuit does not converge is the end point of the sweep.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parameter sweep—The sweep type and parameters. Sweep Type—A linear sweep works best in most cases Make sure Restart under the HB Params tab is not checked so that the sweep is used as a continuation (solution from previous sweep step used as an initial guess for the next step). The number of sweep points (or step-size) controls the continuation step. The more sweep points, the greater the chances of success, but longer computation time as well.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single point (Pt) Enables simulation at a single frequency point. Specify the desired value in the Parameter field.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linear Enables sweeping a range of values based on a linear increment. Click Start/Stop to set start and stop values for the sweep, or Center/Span to set the center value and a span of the sweep.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Log Enables sweeping a range of values based on a logarithmic increment. Click Start/Stop to set start and stop values for the sweep, or Center/Span to set the center value and a span of the sweep.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Setting up a Sweep in RFDE

Setting up the sweep portion of the simulation consists of three basic parts:

- Enabling the Parameter Sweep
- Specifying the parameter type
- Specifying a sweep plan

To shorten simulation time in any parameter sweep, select a start point as close as possible to the convergence point and vary the parameter gradually. This yields better estimates for the next simulation, and achieves convergence more rapidly than if the parameter were changed abruptly.
Table 1-4. RFDE HB Simulation Parameter Sweep

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Design Variable</td>
<td>Click Select to choose a variable name from the Select Design Variable form. The list contains variables set up in the Editing Design Variables form. You can also type in a name in the Variable Name field. However, the variable must exist in the design for a successful simulation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temperature</td>
<td>temp is automatically selected because it is a reserved variable name.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Component Parameter</td>
<td>Click Select and choose a component from the schematic. In the Select Component Parameter form, select the parameter to be swept, then click OK. You can also type in the names in the Component Name and Parameter Name fields. However, the component and parameter must exist in the design for a successful simulation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Model Parameter</td>
<td>Type in the name of a defined model and the name of the model parameter to be swept.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sweep Plan

**Choose one sweep range:**

- **Start-Stop**
  - Start - The start point of the sweep
  - Stop - The stop point of the sweep

- **Center-Span**
  - Center - The center point of a sweep
  - Span - The span of a sweep

**Choose one sweep type:**

- **Linear**
  - Enables sweeping a range of values based on a linear increment. Set the increment with Step Size or Number of Steps. Use Additional Points to add specific values.
  - Step Size - The increments at which the sweep is conducted
  - Number of Steps - The number of points over which sweep is conducted

- **Logarithmic**
  - Enables sweeping a range of values based on a logarithmic increment. Set the increment with Points Per Decade or Number of Steps. Use Additional Points to add specific values.
  - Points Per Decade - The number of points per decade.
  - Number of Steps - The number of points over which sweep is conducted

- **Points Only**
  - Enables simulation at specific values for the parameter. Enter values in the Specific Points field with a space between each one.

- **Additional Points**
  - When sweep type is Linear or Logarithmic, click this option to enter specific values to include in the sweep range. Enter values with a space between each one.
Harmonic Balance Basics

Defining Simulation Parameters

Defining the simulation parameters consists of the following basic parts:

- Enabling the Budget simulation (in ADS).
- Specifying the desired level of detail in the simulation status summary.
- Specifying the amount of device operating-point information to save.
- Specifying the FFT oversampling ratio (in ADS).
- Specifying the Convergence mode.
- Specifying the files for initial guess and final solution.

Simulator parameter names, as they appear in netlists and ADS schematics, are in parentheses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Params</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Budget (in ADS)</td>
<td>Enables Budget simulation, which reports current and voltage data at the pins of devices following a simulation. Current into the nth terminal of a device is identified as ...device_name.tn.i. Voltage at the nth terminal of a device is identified as ...device_name.tn.v.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perform Budget simulation (OutputBudgetIV)</td>
<td>Enables Budget simulation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levels (in ADS) Annotation (in RFDE)</td>
<td>Enables you to set the level of detail in the simulation status report.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status level (StatusLevel)</td>
<td>Prints information about the simulation in the Status/Summary part of the Message Window. - 0 reports little or no information, depending on the simulation engine. - 1 and 2 yield more detail. - Use 3 and 4 sparingly since they increase process size and simulation times considerably. The type of information printed may include the sum of the current errors at each circuit node, whether convergence is achieved, resource usage, and where the dataset is saved. The amount and type of information depends on the status level value and the type of simulation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Device operating point level (DevOpPtLevel)</td>
<td>Enables you to save all the device operating-point information to the dataset. In ADS, if this simulation performs more than one HB analysis (from multiple HB controllers), the device operating point data for all HB analyses will be saved, not just the last one. Default setting is None.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 1-5. HB Simulation Parameter Options (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None (None)</td>
<td>No information is saved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brief (Brief)</td>
<td>Saves device currents, power, and some linearized device parameters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detailed (Detailed)</td>
<td>Saves the operating point values which include the device’s currents, power, voltages, and linearized device parameters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FFT (for RFDE, set the Fundamental Tones/Oversample parameter)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundamental Oversample (FundOversample)</td>
<td>Sets the FFT oversampling ratio. Higher levels increase the accuracy of the solution by reducing the FFT aliasing error and improving convergence. Memory and speed are affected less when the direct harmonic balance method is used than when the Krylov option is used. Increasing the Oversample can help convergence by ensuring that rapid transitions and sharp features in waveforms are more precisely sampled. This does not increase the problem size, but does increase the number of device evaluations. The computational complexity of the direct Harmonic Balance solver (determined by the Order and size of circuit) is largely not affected. As a rule of thumb, try to set the Oversample to 2, 4, etc. For multi-tone Harmonic Balance, the number of samples is equal to the product of the sample sizes of the fundamentals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More... (Oversample[n])</td>
<td>Displays a small dialog box. To increase simulation accuracy, enter in the field an integer representing a ratio by which the simulator will oversample each fundamental.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convergence—Set the convergence mode, and maximum iterations.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mode (ConvMode)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto (Preferred) (=Auto (Preferred))</td>
<td>This is the default mode setting. It is both fast and robust, combining capabilities of the Basic and Advanced modes. This mode will automatically activate advanced features to achieve convergence. The Auto mode also allows for convergence at looser tolerances if the simulation does not meet the default tolerances. A warning message is given in the status window when this occurs, and it includes the tolerance level up to which convergence was achieved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced (Robust) (=Advanced (Robust))</td>
<td>Enables an advanced Newton solver. This mode is extremely robust, and ensures maximal KCL residual reduction at each iteration. It is recommended that the maximum number of iterations (MaxIters) be increased to the 50-100 range when this mode is selected.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Harmonic Balance Basics

Table 1-5. HB Simulation Parameter Options (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic (Fast) (=Basic (Fast))</td>
<td>Enables the basic Newton solver. It is fast and performs well for most circuits. For highly nonlinear circuits the basic mode may have difficulties converging. It is then recommended to switch to the Advanced convergence mode.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max. iterations (MaxIters)</td>
<td>The maximum number of Newton iterations to be performed. The simulation will iterate until it converges, an error occurs, or this limit is reached. The default value is 10, not counting Samanskii steps. The basic Newton solver mode will switch without warning to continuation once MaxIters is reached. The advanced damped Newton solver mode will provide a warning and then switch to continuation. If the residual shows some improvement in the last few Newton iterations, increase MaxIters (especially important in Manual, advanced damped Newton solver, mode).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restart (Restart=yes or no)</td>
<td>Instructs the simulator to not use the last solution as the initial guess for the next solution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pack FFT (PackFFT)</td>
<td>Controls the frequency map packing for multitone Harmonic Balance. By default, when it is not explicitly set to yes or no by the user, the simulator disables it (sets it to no) when there are three or fewer tones (fundamental frequencies), and enables it when there are four or more tones. Setting PackFFT to yes may improve the simulation speed and reduce memory consumption by using a smaller number of time samples (smaller FFTs), but at the potential loss of dynamic range and accuracy due to the aliased harmonics of the first fundamental now possibly landing on various mixing tones. For mixers and other applications with a single large dominant (LO) tone, that frequency should be assigned to the first fundamental and PackFFT should be left at the default setting of no so that any aliased harmonics of this large signal will just land on its own harmonics and not on mixing terms. If you are simulating mixer intermodulation or third-order intercept, it is recommended that this parameter be set to no to achieve the most accurate results. (To set this parameter in ADS, check it on the Display tab, then set it to yes or no directly on the schematic.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guard Threshold (GuardThresh)</td>
<td>The Jacobian matrix from the direct solver within the Newton solver is a block matrix. A block matrix is a matrix whose elements are matrices and vectors. The blocks of the Jacobian are truncated to a specified threshold by default. The default threshold (bandwidth) is set by Guard Threshold, and its default value is 10^-4. This bandwidth truncation speeds up the Jacobian factorization and saves memory, but can lead to convergence problems due to an inaccurate Newton direction. In order to get the full bandwidth of the Jacobian blocks and improve the convergence, set Guard Threshold=0. (In ADS, display and set this parameter directly on the schematic.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table 1-5. HB Simulation Parameter Options (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Samanskii Constant</td>
<td>Controls how frequently the Jacobian is constructed and factored rather than being reused. The default SamanskiiConstant is 2, and it will yield faster computation times due to fewer Jacobian factorizations. If the Direct solver fails to converge, then set SamanskiiConstant=0 so that the Jacobian will be computed at each iteration and will not get reused for future iterations. A ^ next to an iteration number in the status window output indicates a re-computation of the Jacobian for that iteration. (In ADS, display and set this parameter directly on the schematic.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arc Max Step</td>
<td>Limits the maximum size of the arc-length step during arc-length continuation. In the arc-length continuation, the arc-length is increased in steps. The step size is calculated automatically for each problem. However if the ArcMaxStep is specified and is nonzero, it will define an upper-limit for the size of the arc-length step. The default is 0 which means there is no upper limit for the ArcMaxStep. (In ADS, display and set this parameter directly on the schematic.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arc Level Max Step</td>
<td>Limits the maximum arc-length step size for source-level continuation. The default is 0 which means there is no limit for the ArcLevelMaxStep. (In ADS, display and set this parameter directly on the schematic.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arc Min Value</td>
<td>Set relative to ArcMaxValue. ArcMinValue determines the lower limit that is allowed for the continuation parameter p during the simulation. In the arc-length continuation, p can trace a complicated manifold and its value can vary non-monotonically. ArcMinValue specifies a lower bound for p such that if during the arc-length continuation, p becomes smaller than ArcMinValue, the simulation is considered to have failed to converge. The default is p_{min} - delta, where delta is p_{max} - p_{min}. p_{min} is the lower end of the parameter sweep, and p_{max} is the upper end of the parameter sweep. (In ADS, display and set this parameter directly on the schematic.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arc Max Value</td>
<td>Set relative to ArcMinValue. ArcMaxValue determines the allowed upper limit of the continuation parameter p during the simulation. In the arc-length continuation, p can trace a complicated manifold and its value can vary non-monotonically. ArcMaxValue specifies an upper bound for p such that if during the arc-length continuation, p becomes greater than ArcMaxValue, the simulation is considered to have failed to converge. The default is p_{max} + delta, where delta is p_{max} - p_{min}. p_{min} is the lower end of the parameter sweep, and p_{max} is the upper end of the parameter sweep. (In ADS, display and set this parameter directly on the schematic.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max Step Ratio</td>
<td>Controls the maximum number of continuation steps (default is 100). (In ADS, display and set this parameter directly on the schematic.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max Shrinkage</td>
<td>Controls the minimum size of the arc-length step (default is 1e-5). (In ADS, display and set this parameter directly on the schematic.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Harmonic Balance Basics

Table 1-5. HB Simulation Parameter Options (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initial Guess</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Use Initial Guess (UseInFile)</td>
<td>Check this box to enter a file name for a solution to be used as initial guesses. This file is typically generated from a previous simulation by enabling Write Final Solution. If no initial guess file name is supplied, a default name (using DC solution) is generated internally, using the design name and appending the suffix .hbs. A suffix is neither required nor added to any user-supplied file name. For example, if you have saved the Harmonic Balance solution from a previous simulation, you can later do a nonlinear noise simulation and use this saved solution as the initial guess, removing the time required to recompute the nonlinear Harmonic Balance solution. Or you could quickly get to the initial Harmonic Balance solution, then sweep a parameter to see the changes. In this latter case, you will probably either want to disable the Write Final Solution option or use a different file name for the final solution to avoid overwriting the initial guess solution. (See “Write Final Solution (UseOutFile)” on page 1-35.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Annotate value specified in the DC Solutions tab in the Options block is also used to control the amount of annotation generated when there are topology changes detected during the reading of the initial guess file. Refer to DC Simulation. Since HB simulations also utilize the DC solution, to get optimum speed-up, both the DC solution and the HB solution should be saved and re-used as initial guesses.

The initial guess file does not need to contain all the HB frequencies. For example, one could do a one-tone simulation with just a very nonlinear LO, save that solution away and then use it as an initial guess in a two tone simulation. The exact frequencies do not have to match between the present analysis and the initial guess solution. However, the fundamental indexes should match. For example, a solution saved from a two tone analysis with Freq[1] = 1GHz and Freq[2] = 1kHz would not be a good match for a simulation with Freq[1] = 1kHz and Freq[2] = 1 GHz.

If the simulator cannot converge with the supplied initial guess, it then attempts to a global node-setting by connecting every node through a small resistor to an equivalent source. It then attempts to sweep this resistor value to a very large value and eventually tries to remove it.

File (InFile) | Specify a filename to save results. |
Table 1-5. HB Simulation Parameter Options (continued)

| Final Solution | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| **Write Final Solution (UseOutFile)** | Check this box to save your final HB solution to the output file. If a file name is not supplied, a file name is internally generated using the design name, followed by an .hbs suffix. If a file name is supplied, the suffix is neither appended nor required. If this box is checked, then the last HB solution is put out to the specified file. If this is the same file as that used for the Initial Guess, this file is updated with the latest solution. Transient simulations can also be programmed to generate a harmonic balance solution that can then be used as an initial guess for an HB simulation. Refer to Harmonic Balance Simulation. |
| File (OutFile) | Specify a file name to save results. |
| Small-signal (SS_MixerMode) (in ADS)—Choose this if you want a small-signal analysis. Used only with the Small-Sig tab. | |
| Nonlinear noise (NLNoiseMode) (in ADS)—Choose this if you want a nonlinear noise analysis. Used only with the Noise(1) and Noise(2) tabs. | |
| Oscillator (OscMode) (in ADS)—Choose this if you want a oscillator analysis. Used only with the Osc tab. | |
Harmonic Balance Basics

Selecting a Harmonic Balance Technique

The Solver tab enables you to select from two separate harmonic balance techniques, or to allow the simulator to assign one automatically. Newton's method needs to solve a sequence of linear problems. If Newton's method doesn't converge or the convergence rate is too slow the Direct method will use arc-length continuation, while the Krylov method will use source stepping. Simulator parameter names, as they appear in netlists and ADS schematics, are in parentheses.

Table 1-6. HB Solver Parameter Options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Solver</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct (=no)</td>
<td>Best suited for smaller problems and faster. The computation time grows with</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>the cube of the problem size and memory grows with the square of the problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>size. The parts (blocks) of the Jacobian are truncated to a specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>threshold (bandwidth) by default (GuardThresh= 10 to the power 4). This</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>bandwidth truncation speeds up the Jacobian factorization, but can lead to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>convergence problems as the Newton direction is not accurate. Try setting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GuardThresh=0 (full bandwidth).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 1-6. HB Solver Parameter Options (continued)

| Krylov (=yes) | Intended for larger problems, includes advanced preconditioning technology with an iterative linear solver. This method greatly reduces memory requirements in large harmonic balance problems, such as those encountered in RFICs or RF System simulations. The computation time grows slightly faster than linear with the number of samples (FFT size), and memory grows linearly with the number of harmonics. This is an iterative linear solver that does not require explicit storage of Jacobian. The linear problem can be approximately solved in fewer iterations to a desired (loose) tolerance and the Newton direction is computed approximately. This can affect the Newton convergence properties, but not the accuracy of the final solution. Krylov solver iterations are limited by the max number of iterations (HB Solver tab, or KrylovMaxIters, default 150). Increase this limit if it is often reached. The Krylov solver achieves full convergence if the linear system residual is smaller than the tight tolerance (KrylovTightTol, default 0.001). After KrylovLooseIters iterations (default 50), the solver uses KrylovLooseTol (default 0.1) to achieve partial convergence. The solver fails if residual reduction factor in two adjacent iterations is larger than KrylovConvRatio (default 0.9). |
| Auto Select (=auto) | Allows the simulator to choose which solver would be most effective for the active design. In RFDE, enter value for Estimated Available RAM. |
| Optional Auto Select Info (AvailableRAMsize) | Estimated available RAM in MB. Enter the value, if desired, to specify the memory available to the simulator. This depends not only on the overall RAM, but also on the way the specific machine is used, in particular on the memory used by other processes. The default value is set conservatively to 128. |
| Krylov Parameters |  |
| Matrix packing (KrylovUsePacking) | Directs the solver to use the technique known as spectral packing, which reduces the memory needed for the Jacobian, typically by 60-80%. The penalty is a longer computation time if no swapping is required. By default, this feature is turned off. You should turn on for extremely large problems in which the available RAM would not be able to accommodate the Jacobian. |
| Maximum number of iterations (KrylovMaxIters) | Maximum number of GMRES iterations allowed. It is used to interrupt an otherwise infinite, loop in the case of poor or no convergence. The default is intentionally set to a large value of 150 to accommodate even slowly convergent iterations. You can still increase this number in cases where poor convergence may be improved and you are willing to allow more time for it. |
### Harmonic Balance Basics

#### Table 1-6. HB Solver Parameter Options (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>GMRES restart length</strong>&lt;br&gt;(GMRES_Restart)</td>
<td>Sets the number of GMRES iterations before the solver restarts. At this point the algorithm does not need data from previous steps, and the corresponding memory is released. Thus, smaller values lead to lower memory requirements, but might significantly affect convergence. The default is 10, and it is strongly recommended that you avoid decreasing this value unless the problem is extremely large and convergence is carefully monitored. Larger values offer potentially more robust performance, but require more memory.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Krylov noise tolerance</strong>&lt;br&gt;(KrylovSS_Tol)</td>
<td>Sets the tolerance for the Krylov solver when that solver is used either for small-signal harmonic balance analysis or for nonlinear noise analysis. It needs to be tight, and the default value is 1e-10. Larger values may lead to less accurate results, while further tightening may require longer simulation times.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preconditioner</strong>&lt;br&gt;(KrylovPrec)</td>
<td>The Krylov solver requires a preconditioner for robust and efficient convergence. Preconditioners (matrices approximating the Jacobian) are used to speed up the Krylov solver's convergence. ADS uses GMRES, a robust and theoretically optimal Krylov solver that is memory intensive without a restart.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DCP</strong>&lt;br&gt;(=DCP)</td>
<td>(DC Preconditioner) is the default preconditioner, which is effective in most cases, but fails for some very strong nonlinear circuits. It uses a DC approximation on the entire circuit. Due to its block-diagonal nature, it can be factored once and applied inexpensively at each linear solve step. This preconditioner approximates the Jacobian by ignoring all but the DC Fourier coefficients (consists of the diagonal blocks of the Jacobian).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **BSP**<br>(=BSP) | (Block Select Preconditioner) is recommended for instances when a Krylov HB simulation fails to converge using the DCP option. The BSP preconditioner is more robust than the DCP for highly nonlinear circuits. On those circuits that converge with DCP, the overhead that the BSP preconditioner introduces is small. On circuits that fail with the DCP using the BSP option will often achieve convergence at the cost of additional memory usage. Hidden BSP parameter is accessible only by using “Other=”:
- bspRHS_Thresh - activate BSP if Newton residual smaller than this threshold (default 0.05) |
(Schur-Complement Preconditioner) is also intended for use with circuits that fail to converge with the DCP preconditioner. This is a robust choice for highly nonlinear circuits. It uses the DC approximation for most of the circuit similar to DCP. The most nonlinear parts of the circuit are excluded, and are instead factored with a specialized Krylov solver. The complex technology of the SCP preconditioner results in a memory usage overhead. This overhead is due to a construction of a knowledge base that enables the SCP to be much more efficient in the later phase of the harmonic balance solution process. Hidden SCP parameters are accessible only by using "Other=":
- ScpRhsThresh activate SCP if Newton residual smaller than this threshold (default 0.05)
- ScpRestart inner SCP GMRES restart value (default 100)
- ScpTol inner SCP GMRES tolerance (default 0.001)
- ScpStartIter use SCP from this Newton iteration onward (default 0)

### Waveform Memory Reduction

- **Use dynamic waveform recalculation** (RecalculateWaveforms) Enables reuse of dynamic waveform memory instead of upfront storage on all waveforms. Small circuits might simulate a little slower, but not significantly.

- **Use compact frequency map** (UseCompactFreqMap) Enables a spectral compression, typically requiring less memory for individual waveforms.

### Packing Threshold

- **KrylovPackingThresh** Used with Matrix Packing. Packing Threshold sets the bandwidth threshold for the packing. The default value is 1e-8. Set this to a larger value to increase the memory reduction. (In ADS, display and set this parameter directly on the schematic.)

### Tight Tolerance

- **KrylovTightTol** The solver achieves full convergence if the Krylov solver residual is less than this tight tolerance setting (default=0.001). (In ADS, display and set this parameter directly on the schematic.)

### Loose Tolerance

- **KrylovLooseTol** After the number of iterations specified by the parameter Loose Iterations, the solver then uses Loose Tolerance (default=0.1) to achieve partial convergence. (In ADS, display and set this parameter directly on the schematic.)

| Loose Iterations (KrylovLooseIters) | Sets the number of iterations allowed (default=50) to achieve convergence before using the Loose Tolerance value. When the number of Loose Iterations is reached, the solver then uses the Loose Tolerance value to achieve partial convergence. (In ADS, display and set this parameter directly on the schematic.) |

| Table 1-6. HB Solver Parameter Options (continued) | SCP (=SCP) | (Schur-Complement Preconditioner) is also intended for use with circuits that fail to converge with the DCP preconditioner. This is a robust choice for highly nonlinear circuits. It uses the DC approximation for most of the circuit similar to DCP. The most nonlinear parts of the circuit are excluded, and are instead factored with a specialized Krylov solver. The complex technology of the SCP preconditioner results in a memory usage overhead. This overhead is due to a construction of a knowledge base that enables the SCP to be much more efficient in the later phase of the harmonic balance solution process. Hidden SCP parameters are accessible only by using "Other=":
- ScpRhsThresh activate SCP if Newton residual smaller than this threshold (default 0.05)
- ScpRestart inner SCP GMRES restart value (default 100)
- ScpTol inner SCP GMRES tolerance (default 0.001)
- ScpStartIter use SCP from this Newton iteration onward (default 0) | Waveform Memory Reduction | Use dynamic waveform recalculation (RecalculateWaveforms) Enables reuse of dynamic waveform memory instead of upfront storage on all waveforms. Small circuits might simulate a little slower, but not significantly. | Use compact frequency map (UseCompactFreqMap) Enables a spectral compression, typically requiring less memory for individual waveforms. | Packing Threshold (KrylovPackingThresh) Used with Matrix Packing. Packing Threshold sets the bandwidth threshold for the packing. The default value is 1e-8. Set this to a larger value to increase the memory reduction. (In ADS, display and set this parameter directly on the schematic.) | Tight Tolerance (KrylovTightTol) The solver achieves full convergence if the Krylov solver residual is less than this tight tolerance setting (default=0.001). (In ADS, display and set this parameter directly on the schematic.) | Loose Tolerance (KrylovLooseTol) After the number of iterations specified by the parameter Loose Iterations, the solver then uses Loose Tolerance (default=0.1) to achieve partial convergence. (In ADS, display and set this parameter directly on the schematic.) | Loose Iterations (KrylovLooseIters) Sets the number of iterations allowed (default=50) to achieve convergence before using the Loose Tolerance value. When the number of Loose Iterations is reached, the solver then uses the Loose Tolerance value to achieve partial convergence. (In ADS, display and set this parameter directly on the schematic.) |
Enabling Transient Assisted Harmonic Balance

To set up a transient assisted harmonic balance (TAHB) analysis:

- In ADS, on the TAHB tab in the Harmonic Balance setup dialog box, select the Enable check box.
- In RFDE, select HB analysis. In the setup dialog box, click Options. In the Harmonic Balance Options dialog, scroll to Transient Assisted Harmonic Balance and select it for access to the TAHB parameters.

By enabling TAHB, the simulator will generate its own transient initial guess for Harmonic Balance. You do not need to supply an initial guess. The following table shows the parameters available to set TAHB. Parameter names, as they appear in netlists and ADS schematics, are shown in parenthesis.

Table 1-7. HB TAHB Parameter Options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transient Assisted Harmonic Balance</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enable (ADS)</td>
<td>This enables harmonic balance to use a transient initial guess that is automatically generated by the simulator. For circuit envelope simulations, this enables a transient initial guess only for the harmonic balance simulation performed at the first time point in circuit envelope.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transient Assisted Harmonic Balance (RFDE) (TAHB_Enable)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transient Setup</td>
<td>This is the transient stop time. The default is 100 cycles of the commensurate frequency. The commensurate frequency for a single tone simulation will be ( \text{Freq} [1] ). If steady state is detected earlier than the ( \text{StopTime} ), then transient will end earlier than the ( \text{StopTime} ).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transient StopTime (StopTime)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transient MaxTimeStep (MaxTimeStep)</td>
<td>This is the transient maximum time step. The default is ( 1/(8 \times \text{Maximum frequency}) ).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Transient Parameters</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transient IV_REL_Tol (IV_RelTol)</td>
<td>This is the transient relative voltage and current tolerance. The default is ( 1e-3 ). When simulation options are included in the simulation (using the Options controller in ADS, or Simulation &gt; Options in RFDE), use this value to set specific relative tolerances to be used for transient only. The value will be used for both current and voltage relative tolerance for transient.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transient Other (AddtlTranParamsTAHB)</td>
<td>Enables ability to set other transient simulation parameters that are not found in this dialog box. For example, use this parameter to set the following transient convolution parameter ( \text{ImpMaxFreq}=10 \text{ GHz} ).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 1-7. HB TAHB Parameter Options (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transient Assisted Harmonic Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Use only Freq[1] for transient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(OneToneTranTAHB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output transient data to dataset</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(OutputTranDataTAHB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small-signal (SS_MixerMode) (in ADS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonlinear noise (NLNoiseMode) (in ADS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oscillator (OscMode) (in ADS) --</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choose this if you want an oscillator analysis.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Setting Up Small-Signal Simulations in ADS

This feature employs a large-signal/small-signal method to achieve much faster simulations when some signal sources (a) are much smaller than others, and (b) can be assumed not to exercise circuit nonlinearities. For example, in a mixer the LO tone could be considered the large-signal source and the RF the small-signal source. Simulator parameter names, as they appear in netlists and ADS schematics, are in parentheses.

Table 1-8. ADS HB Small-Signal Simulation Parameter Options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Small-Sig</th>
<th>Note: To edit these parameters and request a small-signal analysis, click Small-signal at the bottom of the dialog box.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Small-signal frequency</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweep Type</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single point (SS_Freq)</td>
<td>Enables simulation at a single frequency point. Specify the desired value in the Frequency field.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linear</td>
<td>Enables sweeping a range of values based on a linear increment. Click Start/Stop to set start and stop values for the sweep, or Center/Span to set the center value and a span of the sweep.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Log</td>
<td>Enables sweeping a range of values based on a logarithmic increment. Click Start/Stop to set start and stop values for the sweep, or Center/Span to set the center value and a span of the sweep.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start/Stop</td>
<td>Select the Start/Stop option to sweep based on start, stop, step-size or pts./decade, and number of points. Linear sweep uses Step-size; Log sweep uses Pts./decade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Start (SS_Start)—the start point of a sweep</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Stop (SS_Stop)—the stop point of a sweep</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Step-size (SS_Step)—the increments at which the sweep is conducted</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Pts./decade (SS_Dec)—number of points per decade</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Num. of pts. (SS_Lin)—the number of points over which sweep is conducted</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Setting Up Small-Signal Simulations in RFDE

Defining the small-signal simulation parameters consists of the following basic parts:

- Enabling the option to request a small-signal analysis and edit parameters.
- Specifying the frequency (or sweep plan).
- Specifying options to use of all small-signal frequencies and merge with large-signal frequencies.

This feature employs a large-signal/small-signal method to achieve much faster simulations when some signal sources (a) are much smaller than others, and (b) can be assumed not to exercise circuit nonlinearities. For example, in a mixer the LO tone could be considered the large-signal source and the RF the small-signal source.
### Table 1-9. RFDE HB Small-Signal Simulation Parameter Options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frequency</td>
<td>Enter a value for a single frequency point or set up a sweep plan to sweep frequencies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use Frequency Sweep Plan—Check this option to set up a sweep plan.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Choose one sweep range:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start-Stop</td>
<td>Sets the Start and Stop values of the sweep.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Start - The start point of the sweep</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Stop - The stop point of the sweep</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center-Span</td>
<td>Sets the Center value and a Span of the sweep.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Center - The center point of a sweep</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Span - The span of a sweep</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Choose one sweep type:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linear</td>
<td>Enables sweeping a range of values based on a linear increment. Set the increment with Step Size or Number of Steps. Use Additional Points to add specific values.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Step Size - The increments at which the sweep is conducted</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Number of Steps - The number of points over which sweep is conducted</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logarithmic</td>
<td>Enables sweeping a range of values based on a logarithmic increment. Set the increment with Points Per Decade or Number of Steps. Use Additional Points to add specific values.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Points Per Decade - The number of points per decade.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Number of Steps - The number of points over which sweep is conducted</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Points Only</td>
<td>Enables simulation at specific values for the parameter. Enter values in the Specific Points field with a space between each one.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Points</td>
<td>When sweep type is Linear or Logarithmic, click this option to enter specific values to include in the sweep range. Enter values with a space between each one.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use All Small-signal Frequencies</td>
<td>Solves for all small-signal mixer frequencies in both sidebands. This default option requires more memory and simulation time, but is required for the most accurate simulations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merge Small- and Large-signal Frequencies</td>
<td>By default, the simulator reports only the small-signal upper and lower sideband frequencies in a mixer or oscillator simulation. Selecting this option causes the fundamental frequencies to be restored to the dataset, and merges them sequentially.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Setting Up Parameters for Noise(1) Tab in ADS

Use this option to set up and run a small-signal/Harmonic Balance noise analysis following the final time point of the simulation. Simulator parameter names, as they appear in netlists and ADS schematics, are in parentheses.

Table 1-10. ADS HB Noise(1) Parameter Options

| Noise(1) | Note: To edit these parameters and request a noise analysis, click Nonlinear noise at the bottom of the dialog box.
|---|---
| Noise frequency | |
| Sweep Type | |
| Single point | Enables simulation at a single frequency point. Specify the desired value in the Parameter field.

(FreqForNoise)
| Linear | Enables sweeping a range of values based on a linear increment. Click the Start/Stop option to select start and stop values for the sweep.
| Log | Enables sweeping a range of values based on a logarithmic increment. Click the Center/Span option to select a center value and a span of the sweep.
| Start/Stop | Select the Start/Stop option to sweep based on start, stop, step-size and number of points.

- Start (NLNoiseStart)—the start point of a sweep
- Stop (NLNoiseStop)—the stop point of a sweep
- Step-size (NLNoiseStep)—the increments at which the sweep is conducted
- Num. of pts. (NLNoiseLin)—the number of points over which sweep is conducted
| Center/Span | Select the Center/Span option to sweep based on center and span.

- Center (NLNoiseCenter)—the center point of a sweep
- Span (NLNoiseSpan)—the span of a sweep
- Pts./decade (NLNoiseDec)—number of points per decade
- Num. of pts. (NLNoiseLin)—the number of points over which sweep is conducted

Note: Changes to any of the Start, Stop, etc. fields causes the remaining fields to be recalculated automatically.

Use sweep plan (NoiseFreqPlan)—Enables use of an existing sweep plan component (SweepPlan). Select this option and enter the name of the plan or select it from the drop-down list.
Harmonic Balance Basics

Table 1-10. ADS HB Noise(1) Parameter Options (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Input Frequency (InputFreq)</td>
<td>Because the simulator uses a single-sideband definition of noise figure, the correct input sideband frequency must be specified here. This parameter identifies which input frequency will mix to the noise frequency of interest. In the case of mixers, Input frequency is typically determined by an equation that involves the local oscillator (LO) frequency and the noise frequency. Either the sum of or difference between these two values is used, depending on whether upconversion or downconversion is taking place. The above parameters do not need to be specified if only the output noise voltage is desired (that is, if no noise figure is computed).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noise input port (NoiseInputPort)</td>
<td>Number of the source port at which noise is injected. This is commonly the RF port. Although any valid port number can be used, the input port number is frequently defined as Num=1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noise output port (NoiseOutputPort)</td>
<td>Number of the Term component at which noise is retrieved. This is commonly the IF port. Although any valid port number can be used, the output port number is frequently defined as Num=2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small-signal (SS_MixerMode) (in ADS)</td>
<td>Choose this if you want a small-signal analysis. Used only with the Small-Sig tab.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonlinear noise (NLNoiseMode) (in ADS)</td>
<td>Choose this if you want a nonlinear noise analysis. Used only with the Noise(1) and Noise(2) tabs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oscillator (OscMode) (in ADS)</td>
<td>Choose this if you want an oscillator analysis.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Setting Up Parameters for Noise(2) Tab in ADS

Defining the noise parameters consists of the following basic parts:

- Enable noise calculation.
- Specifying the nodes to use for noise parameter calculation.
- Specifying the noise contributors and the threshold for noise contribution.

Optionally, specifying the bandwidth over which the noise simulation is performed. Simulator parameter names, as they appear in netlists and ADS schematics, are in parentheses.

Table 1-11. ADS HB Noise(2) Parameter Options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Noise(2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Note: To edit these parameters and request a noise analysis, click Nonlinear noise at the bottom of the dialog box.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nodes for noise parameter calculation (NoiseNode[n])</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Note: The fewer the number of nodes requested, the quicker the simulation and the less memory required.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Edit</th>
<th>Select</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Holds the names of the nodes the simulator will consider.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Add -- adds a named node.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Cut -- deletes a named node.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Paste -- takes a named node that has been cut and places it in a different order in the Select window.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Noise contributors -- Use this area to sort the noise contributors list and to select a threshold below which noise contributors will not be reported. A list shows how each component contributes to noise at a specific node. The noise contributor data are always in units of V/sqrt(Hz) for noise voltages, and A/sqrt(Hz) for noise currents; they do not scale with noise bandwidth. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode (SortNoise)</th>
<th>Provides options for sorting noise contributors by value or name.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Off (Off)</td>
<td>Causes no individual noise contributors to be selected. The result is simply a value for total noise at the output.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sort by value (Sort by value)</td>
<td>Sorts individual noise contributors, from largest to smallest, that exceed a user-defined threshold (see below). The subcomponents of the nonlinear devices that generate noise (such as Rb, Rc, Re, Ib, and Ic in a BJT) are listed separately, as well as the total noise from the device.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parameter Options</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sort by name (Sort by name)</td>
<td>Causes individual noise contributors to be identified and sorts them alphabetically. The subcomponents of the nonlinear devices that generate noise (such as Rb, Rc, Re, Ib, and Ic in a BJT) are listed separately, as well as the total noise from the device.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sort by value with no device details (Sort by value with no device details)</td>
<td>Sorts individual noise contributors, from largest to smallest, that exceed a user-defined threshold (see below). Unlike Sort by value, only the total noise from nonlinear devices is listed without any subcomponent details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sort by name with no device details (Sort by name with no device details)</td>
<td>Causes individual noise contributors to be identified and sorts them alphabetically. Unlike Sort by name, only the total noise from nonlinear devices is listed without subcomponent details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dynamic range to display (NoiseThresh)</td>
<td>A threshold below the total noise, in dB, that determines what noise contributors are reported. All noise contributors less than this threshold will be reported. For example, assuming that the total noise voltage is 10 nV, a setting of 40 dB (a good typical value) ensures that all noise contributors up to 40 dB below 10 nV (that is, up to 0.1 nV) are reported. The default of 0 dB causes all noise contributors to be reported. This parameter is used only with Sort by value and Sort by value with no device details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Include port noise in node noise voltages (IncludePortNoise)</td>
<td>Causes port noise to be included in noise currents and voltages. Ports must be placed and defined.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Calculate noisy two-port parameters (NoisyTwoPort)

Causes an S-parameter simulation to be performed. Ports must be placed and defined. The Noise input port parameter should be set equal to the port number specified by the Num parameter on the input source, and the Noise output parameter to the number of the output Term (termination) component to Num=2. The following two-port parameters (dataset variables) are then returned and can be plotted:

- $\text{NFmin}$ -- minimum noise figure of a two-port circuit. It is equal to the noise figure when the optimum source admittance is connected to the circuit. (Its default unit is dB).
- $\text{Sopt}$ -- the optimum source match for a two-port circuit. It is the reflection coefficient (looking into the source) that gives the minimum noise figure.
- $\text{Rn}$ -- the effective noise resistance in ohms (unnormalized) of a two-port circuit. Effective noise resistance can be used to plot noise-figure circles or related quantities. This parameter determines how rapidly the minimum noise figure deteriorates when the source impedance is not at its optimum value.
- $\text{Icor}$ -- the noise current correlation matrix, in units of Amperes squared. It describes the short circuit noise currents squared at each port, and the correlation between noise currents at different ports.

These expressions for noise simulation can be manipulated in equations. At low powers, $\text{NFmin}$ agrees with $\text{NFssb}$ and both match the noise figure found from a small-signal analysis. As the input power increases and nonlinear devices compress, this is no longer the case. $\text{NFmin}$ and $\text{NFssb}$ both deteriorate from their small-signal values. $\text{NFmin}$ is an approximation to $\text{NFssb}$ which neglects higher order conversion gains, and the difference between $\text{NFmin}$ and $\text{NFssb}$ expresses the importance of these higher order conversion gains. For most applications, compression is moderate and $\text{NFmin}$ and $\text{NFssb}$ are close. For applications driven into severe compression, $\text{NFmin}$ and $\text{NFssb}$ can differ significantly. Also, note that $\text{Sopt}$ is only defined at one frequency and that severe compression may demand a matching network that takes into account other frequencies. Deep into compression, care should be taken when using the noisy two-port parameters for design.

Table 1-11. ADS HB Noise(2) Parameter Options (continued)
Harmonic Balance Basics

Table 1-11. ADS HB Noise(2) Parameter Options (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Use all small-signal frequencies (UseAllSS_Freqs)</td>
<td>Use all small-signal frequencies causes the simulator to solve for all small-signal mixer sidebands. This default option requires more memory but delivers more accurate results. In addition, it may require large kernel swap-size parameters. Only if there is insufficient memory should this option be set to no. Setting this option to no, causes only half of the small-signal mixer sidebands to be used and also uses one-fourth of the memory, but at the cost of generating potentially inaccurate results. Exercise caution when setting this option to no. Note: If you find you are running out of RAM, either set this parameter to no after reading the paragraph above, or switch to the Krylov option.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bandwidth (BandwidthForNoise)</td>
<td>Bandwidth for spectral noise simulation. 1 Hz is the recommended bandwidth for measurements of spectral noise power. The noise contributor data do not scale with noise bandwidth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small-signal (SS_MixerMode) (in ADS)</td>
<td>Choose this if you want a small-signal analysis. Used only with the Small-Sig tab.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonlinear noise (NLNoiseMode) (in ADS)</td>
<td>Choose this if you want a nonlinear noise analysis. Used only with the Noise(1) and Noise(2) tabs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oscillator (OscMode) (in ADS)</td>
<td>Choose this if you want an oscillator analysis.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Selecting Nonlinear Noise Controllers (ADS only)**

The NoiseCon is used to select which NoiseCon nonlinear noise controllers should be simulated with the current harmonic balance analysis. These noise simulations will be performed in addition to any noise simulation that may be set up with the Noise(1) and Noise(2) tabs.

The NoiseCons check-box in the tab must be clicked to enable noise simulation with NoiseCons. This button can be used to disable noise simulation of all NoiseCons without deleting them from the Select NoiseCons list. Simulator parameter names, as they appear in netlists and ADS schematics, are in parentheses.
Table 1-12. ADS HB NoiseCons Parameter Options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NoiseCons (NoiseConMode)</th>
<th>Note: It's not necessary to enable Nonlinear Noise at the bottom of the dialog box to select and simulate noise using NoiseCons. The Nonlinear Noise button is only used with the Noise(1) and Noise(2) tabs.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Edit</td>
<td>Specifies the name of the NoiseCon item to add to the simulation list.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Select NoiseCons (Noisecon[n]) | Holds the names of the NoiseCon items to be simulated.  
  - Add -- adds a NoiseCon name.  
  - Cut -- deletes a NoiseCon name.  
  - Paste -- takes a NoiseCon name that has been cut and places it in a different order in the Select window. |
Setting Up Nonlinear Noise Parameters in RFDE

Defining the noise parameters consists of the following basic parts:

- Enabling the noise option to request a noise analysis and edit parameters.
- Specifying the noise type, nodes, and frequency (or sweep plan).
- Specifying the noise nodes to use for noise parameter calculation.
- Specifying the noise contributors and the threshold for noise contribution.
- Specifying the bandwidth over which the noise simulation is performed.

Table 1-13. RFDE HB Nonlinear Noise Parameter Options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nonlinear Noise</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Noise Type</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noise Voltage and/or Noise Figure</td>
<td>A standard noise simulation where noise voltages and/or noise figure are computed at the requested nodes at specified noise frequencies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase Noise</td>
<td>Specifies that a phase noise simulation should be performed instead of a standard noise simulation. Phase noise can be simulated for any type of circuit, not just an oscillator. For example, this makes it possible to simulate the added phase noise due to an amplifier. Phase noise can also be computed around any large signal carrier frequency, not just the fundamental frequency of an oscillator. This makes it possible to simulate the phase noise after an oscillator signal passes through a frequency multiplier or mixer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noise Frequency</td>
<td>The parameter name changes with the Noise Type setting. For either parameter, enter a value for a single frequency point or set up a frequency sweep plan to sweep frequencies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noise Frequency or Offset Frequency</td>
<td>Noise Frequency - Sets the frequency at which the noise is computed. Offset Frequency - Sets the offset frequency from a large signal carrier which is specified in the Carrier Frequency section below. Noise simulation is performed at the specified frequencies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choose one sweep range:</td>
<td>Use Frequency Sweep Plan—Check this option to set up a sweep plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start-Stop</td>
<td>Sets the Start and Stop values of the sweep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center-Span</td>
<td>Sets the Center value and a Span of the sweep.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1-52 HB Simulation Controller
**Table 1-13. RFDE HB Nonlinear Noise Parameter Options (continued)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Choose one sweep type:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Linear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logarithmic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Points Only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Noise Nodes - Use this area to select nodes at which you want linear noise data to be reported. Noise voltages and currents are reported in rms units. Note: The fewer the number of nodes requested, the quicker the simulation and the less memory required.
Harmonic Balance Basics

Table 1-13. RFDE HB Nonlinear Noise Parameter Options (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Select Node        | Enables selection of nodes. Click the Select Node button for +Node or -Node, then click on the node instance in the schematic. The schematic must be open before selecting a node. Use the Esc key to cancel the selection action. The selected node name is updated in the Select Node field. Instead of selecting from the schematic, you also can enter the node name directly in the Select Node input field.  

  +Node - Selects the named node(s) for the simulator to consider.  

  -Node - Allows differential noise measurements to be set up. This dialog allows you to specify a differential noise measurement between two nodes. Unlike a harmonic balance simulation, the noise voltage between two nodes can’t be computed by first computing the noise voltage separately at each node and subtracting the results, due to possible correlation between the noise at each node. Using a differential noise measurement here the correlation effects will be considered. To request a differential noise measurement, enter the first node as +Node and the second node as -Node. The result in the dataset will have a name of the form HB1.NC1.posnode_minus_negnode. If a differential noise measurement is not required, leave the -Node field set at the default value. Differential measurements are supported only for node voltages, not branch current.  

  - Add enters selected nodes into the table.  

  - Delete removes node that is selected in the table.  

  - Update changes node selected in table with contents of the input fields.  

  - Clear removes node from the Select Node input fields.  

| Compute Noise Figure | This option is available when Noise Type is Noise Voltage and/or Noise Figure. Because the simulator uses a single-sideband definition of noise figure, the correct input sideband frequency must be specified here. This parameter identifies which input frequency will mix to the noise frequency of interest.  

  In the case of mixers, Input frequency is typically determined by an equation that involves the local oscillator (LO) frequency and the noise frequency. Either the sum of or difference between these two values is used, depending on whether upconversion or downconversion is taking place.  

  The above parameters do not need to be specified if only the output noise voltage is desired (that is, if no noise figure is computed).  

| Input Frequency     | Because the simulator uses a single-sideband definition of noise figure, the correct input sideband frequency must be specified here. This parameter identifies which input frequency will mix to the noise frequency of interest.  

  In the case of mixers, Input frequency is typically determined by an equation that involves the local oscillator (LO) frequency and the noise frequency. Either the sum of or difference between these two values is used, depending on whether upconversion or downconversion is taking place.  

  The above parameters do not need to be specified if only the output noise voltage is desired (that is, if no noise figure is computed).  

| Input Port Number   | Number of the source port at which noise is injected. This is commonly the RF port. Although any valid port number can be used, the input port number is frequently defined as 1. Use the Select button to select the input port from the schematic, or enter the port number directly in the input field. |
Output Port Number

Number of the Term component at which noise is retrieved. This is commonly the IF port. Although any valid port number can be used, the output port number is frequently defined as 2. Use the Select button to select the output port from the schematic, or enter the port number directly in the input field.

Calculate Noisy Two Port Parameters

This option is available when Use Oscport option in Oscillator Simulation section is disabled.

Causes an S-parameter simulation to be performed. Ports must be placed and defined. The Input Port Number parameter should be set equal to the port number specified by the Num parameter on the input source, and the Output Port Number parameter to the number of the output Term (termination) component to 2. The following two-port parameters (dataset variables) are then returned and can be plotted:

- NFmin -- minimum noise figure of a two-port circuit. It is equal to the noise figure when the optimum source admittance is connected to the circuit. (Its default unit is dB).

- Sopt -- the optimum source match for a two-port circuit. It is the reflection coefficient (looking into the source) that gives the minimum noise figure.

- Rn -- the effective noise resistance in ohms (unnormalized) of a two-port circuit. Effective noise resistance can be used to plot noise-figure circles or related quantities. This parameter determines how rapidly the minimum noise figure deteriorates when the source impedance is not at its optimum value.

- Icor -- the noise current correlation matrix, in units of Amperes squared. It describes the short circuit noise currents squared at each port, and the correlation between noise currents at different ports.

These expressions for noise simulation can be manipulated in equations. At low powers, NFmin agrees with NFssb and both match the noise figure found from a small-signal analysis. As the input power increases and nonlinear devices compress, this is no longer the case. NFmin and NFssb both deteriorate from their small-signal values. NFmin is an approximation to NFssb which neglects higher order conversion gains, and the difference between NFmin and NFssb expresses the importance of these higher order conversion gains. For most applications, compression is moderate and NFmin and NFssb are close. For applications driven into severe compression, NFmin and NFssb can differ significantly. Also, note that Sopt is only defined at one frequency and that severe compression may demand a matching network that takes into account other frequencies. Deep into compression, care should be taken when using the noisy two-port parameters for design.

Carrier Frequency—This option is available when Noise Type is Phase Noise.
Harmonic Balance Basics

Table 1-13. RFDE HB Nonlinear Noise Parameter Options (continued)

| Specification Method | The frequency of the large signal carrier used in all but the normal noise simulation are specified at the bottom of this tab. Any large signal carrier from the harmonic balance simulation may serve as the carrier frequency for phase noise simulation. There are two ways to specify the carrier frequency:

Select Carrier Mixing Indices, then enter the indices.

or

Select Carrier Frequency, then enter the frequency. |
| Carrier Mixing Indices | Select this method, then specify the indices in the Index List entry field. |
| Carrier Frequency | Select this method, then specify the frequency in the Frequency entry field. |
| Index List | When the Specification Method is Carrier Mixing Indices, enter values for the Index List. For example, the lower sideband mixing term in a mixer would be entered as 1 and -1. The indices are listed in sequential order by carrier. |
| Frequency | When the Specification Method is Carrier Frequency, enter a value for Frequency. Enter either a number or a variable name. Since the frequency may not be precisely known in an oscillator, the simulator searches for the frequency closest to the user-specified frequency. If the difference between the user-specified frequency and the actual large-signal frequency exceeds 10%, a warning message will be issued. A carrier frequency of zero cannot be entered directly as zero due to a limitation in the simulator; enter a small value such as 1 Hz instead. |
| Noise contributors—Sort contributions to noise, as well as a threshold below which noise will not be reported |
| Mode | Provides options for sorting noise contributors by value or name. |
| Off | Causes no individual noise contributors to be selected. The result is simply a value for total noise at the output. |
| Sort by Value | Sorts individual noise contributors, from largest to smallest, that exceed a user-defined threshold (see below). The subcomponents of the nonlinear devices that generate noise (such as $R_b$, $R_c$, $R_e$, $I_b$, and $I_c$ in a BJT) are listed separately, as well as the total noise from the device. |
| Sort by Name | Causes individual noise contributors to be identified and sorts them alphabetically. The subcomponents of the nonlinear devices that generate noise (such as $R_b$, $R_c$, $R_e$, $I_b$, and $I_c$ in a BJT) are listed separately, as well as the total noise from the device. |
| Sort by Value with no Device Details | Sorts individual noise contributors, from largest to smallest, that exceed a user-defined threshold (see below). Unlike Sort by value, only the total noise from nonlinear devices is listed without any subcomponent details. |
| Sort by Name with no Device Details | Causes individual noise contributors to be identified and sorts them alphabetically. Unlike Sort by name, only the total noise from nonlinear devices is listed without subcomponent details. |
Table 1-13. RFDE HB Nonlinear Noise Parameter Options (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dynamic Range to Display</td>
<td>A threshold below the total noise, in dB, that determines what noise contributors are reported. All noise contributors less than this threshold will be reported. For example, assuming that the total noise voltage is 10 nV, a setting of 40 dB (a good typical value) ensures that all noise contributors up to 40 dB below 10 nV (that is, up to 0.1 nV) are reported. The default of 0 dB causes all noise contributors to be reported. This parameter is used only with Sort by value and Sort by value with no device details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Include Port Noise in Node Noise Voltages</td>
<td>Causes the simulator to model noise at input and output ports.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bandwidth for Noise</td>
<td>The bandwidth over which the noise simulation is performed. 1 Hz is the recommended bandwidth for measurements of spectral noise power.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output Format</td>
<td>This option is available when Noise Type is Phase Noise.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Sideband Phase Noise</td>
<td>Single sideband phase noise is computed at the nodes specified, treating the frequency information on the Freq tab as an offset frequency from the large signal carrier. See below on how to specify the large signal carrier frequency. Noise results in the dataset are of the form HB1.NC1.vout.pnmx.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relative Noise Voltage Spectrum</td>
<td>Rather than compute the single sideband phase noise, the noise voltage is computed both at the carrier frequency minus the offset frequency and at the carrier frequency plus the offset frequency. The results are present as a relative noise spectrum around zero, with the results extending from minus the largest offset frequency to plus the largest offset frequency. Noise results in the dataset are of the form HB1.NC1.vout.noise.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Absolute Noise Voltage Spectrum</td>
<td>This is similar to the Relative Noise Voltage Spectrum, except the resulting spectrum is presented as an absolute spectrum around the large signal carrier frequency, extending from the carrier frequency minus the largest offset frequency to the carrier frequency plus the largest offset frequency. Noise results in the dataset are of the form HB1.NC1.vout.noise.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Harmonic Balance Basics

Table 1-13. RFDE HB Nonlinear Noise Parameter Options (continued)

| Integrated Over Bandwidth | This type of simulation integrates the noise around a large signal carrier. The user specifies the carrier in the Carrier Frequency section, specifying either the Carrier Frequency in Hertz or the Carrier Mixing Indices, which specify the frequency as \((\text{index1} \times \text{freq1} + \text{index2} \times \text{freq2} + \ldots)\). The noise is integrated over a bandwidth specified by the Bandwidth for Noise parameter, from carrier-bandwidth/2 to carrier+bandwidth/2. 

\[
\bar{v}_n = \frac{1}{f_{\text{carrier}} - \text{BW}/2} \int_{f_{\text{carrier}} + \text{BW}/2} \int v_n^2(f) \, df 
\]

A trapezoidal integration is performed (which takes into account the usual \(1/f^\alpha\) behavior of noise), using data at the frequencies specified for the Fundamental Tones. The specified frequencies are actually offset frequencies on either side of the carrier. The largest offset frequency should be at least half of the noise bandwidth to avoid extrapolation of the results during integration. Noise results in the dataset are of the form HB1.NC1.vout.noise.

The figure below shows an example of how the sample points for integration are chosen. Assume the carrier frequency is 10 MHz and the frequency sweep is set up to go from 1 kHz to 1 MHz in a logarithmic sweep with 1 point per decade, with a bandwidth of 2 MHz.

![Sample points for integration](image)

This integration can be performed for any type of circuit in which the total noise integrated over some bandwidth is required. It works for mixers as well as oscillators. If the mixer noise figure is computed, the integrated noise voltage will be used instead of the spot noise voltage.

Other | Check this box to enable access to hidden parameters. The text field is enabled to allow assigning values to the parameters. The format is Other=HiddenParameter1=value HiddenParameter2=value...

Hidden parameters are used typically when troubleshooting convergence problems. (In ADS, display and set parameter directly on the schematic.)
Enabling Oscillator Analysis

To set up oscillator analysis
  • in ADS, select the Oscillator option, then set the parameters on the Osc tab.
  • in RFDE, select the Oscillator Simulation option, then set the oscillator parameters.

Parameter names, as they appear in netlists and ADS schematics, are shown in parentheses.

Table 1-14. Oscillator Analysis Setup

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Oscillator</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oscillator Simulation (OscPortName) in RFDE</td>
<td>Enables oscillator analysis.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Method
Select *Use OscPort* if an OscPort or OscPort2 component is being used. There is no need to specify the name of the OscPort component; the simulator will find it automatically. Select *Specify Nodes (ADS) / Specify Oscillator Nodes (RFDE)* if an OscPort or OscPort2 component is not being used.

Specify Oscillator Nodes
The following parameters are available only when selected Method is *Specify Nodes (ADS) / Specify Oscillator Nodes (RFDE).*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Node Plus (OscNodePlus) in ADS (Node[1]) in RFDE</td>
<td>This is the required name of a named node in the oscillator. Recommended nodes are those at the input or output of the active device, or in the resonator. Hierarchical node names are permitted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Node Minus (OscNodeMinus) in ADS (Node[2]) in RFDE</td>
<td>This second node name should only be specified for a differential (balanced) oscillator. Leave it blank for single-ended oscillators. Node Plus and Node Minus should be chosen symmetrically. Hierarchical node names are permitted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundamental Index (OscFundIndex) in ADS (FundIndex) in RFDE</td>
<td>Specifies which of the fundamental frequencies is to be treated as the unknown oscillator frequency which the simulator will solve for. The default value of 1 means that Freq[1] is the unknown.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harmonic Number (OscHarmNum) in ADS (Harm) in RFDE</td>
<td>Specifies which harmonic of the fundamental frequency is to be used for the oscillator. Normally this parameter stays at its default setting of 1. If an oscillator followed by a frequency divider is to be analyzed, this parameter should be set to the frequency divider ratio.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Harmonic Balance Basics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1-14. Oscillator Analysis Setup</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Octaves to Search</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(OscOctSrch) in ADS (NumOctaves) in RFDE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Steps per Octave</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(OscOctStep) in ADS (Steps) in RFDE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Small-signal (SS_MixerMode) (in ADS)—</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nonlinear noise (NLNoiseMode) (in ADS)—</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Oscillator (OscMode) (in ADS)—</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Troubleshooting a Simulation

This section presents suggestions to help achieve a successful simulation that is fast and accurate. It includes the following topics:

- “Selecting the Number of Harmonics” on page 1-61 describes how to select an optimum number of harmonics in a simulation to ensure accuracy and minimize simulation time.
- “Reducing Simulation Time” on page 1-62 describes other methods to help reduce simulation time.
- “Solving Convergence Problems” on page 1-63 offers a variety of methods to try if your simulation is failing because it cannot converge.
- “Oversampling to Prevent Aliasing” on page 1-67 describes how the Oversampling parameter can be set to prevent aliasing during a simulation.
- “Linearizing Nonlinear Devices” on page 1-70 describes how making a circuit more linear can improve the chances of a successful simulation.

Also refer to the troubleshooting sections in the DC Simulation and Linear AC and Noise Simulation documentation.

Selecting the Number of Harmonics

The number of harmonics needed to simulate a circuit accurately depends on nonlinearities in the circuit, the accuracy desired, and the acceptable simulation time.

Consider the following in choosing or changing the number of harmonics:

- If the simulation has been run with fewer than the minimum number of harmonics that are required for convergence, no solution is found. The simulation may not converge.
- If the simulation has been run with the minimum number of harmonics that are required for convergence, the simulation converges but the results are inaccurate.
- If the simulation has been run with the optimum number of harmonics that are required for convergence, the simulation converges and the results are accurate.
Harmonic Balance Basics

• If the simulation has been run with more than the optimum number of harmonics that are required for convergence, the simulation converges and the results are accurate, but the simulation takes longer than necessary.

To verify that the simulation is accurate, choose a certain number of harmonics and perform the simulation. Then double the number of harmonics and simulate the circuit again.

If the results are the same, the first choice used enough harmonics for an accurate simulation. If the results differ, double the second choice and run the simulation again. Continue this procedure until there is no change (or there is an acceptable change) in the simulation after the number of harmonics is doubled.

Reducing Simulation Time

To reduce simulation time while still maintaining an accurate simulation, consider the following factors in your simulation and make the appropriate trade-offs:

• **Simulation frequencies**—The number of harmonically unrelated frequencies applied to a network increases the required memory and simulation time considerably.

• **Power levels**—Power levels that increase the degree of nonlinearity will increase simulation time.

• **Harmonics**—The more harmonics to be considered, the greater the memory and simulation time required.

• **Sample points**—Increasing the amount of oversampling may result in a modest increase in simulation time, unless the Krylov option is selected. (Refer to "Oversampling to Prevent Aliasing" on page 1-67).

• **Error tolerances**—The smaller the error tolerances, the greater the simulation time.

• **Device models**—The number of nonlinear elements in a device model and the number of devices used in the circuit will affect both the memory and simulation time required.
Solving Convergence Problems

Nonconvergence is a numerical problem encountered by the harmonic balance simulator when it cannot reach a solution, within a given tolerance, after a given number of numerical iterations. There is no one specific solution for solving convergence problems. However, consider the following guidelines:

- Increase the value of Order (or other harmonic controls); this is the most basic technique for solving convergence problems. However, if the time penalty for doing so becomes severe, other methods should be attempted.

- Use the Status server window as the main tool in solving convergence problems (set StatusLevel=4). For each Newton iteration the L-1 norm of the residuals throughout the circuit is printed: a "*" indicates a full Newton step (vs. a Samanskii step).

- Convergence criteria are controlled by Voltage relative tolerance, and Current relative tolerance (in the Options component, under the Convergence tab). In general, convergence speed is improved by increasing these values, but at the expense of accuracy. Similarly, the smaller these values are, the more accurate the results but the slower the convergence.

- Newton convergence issues with Krylov methods (because linear problem solutions can only approximate) can be improved by using better preconditioners.

- When using a direct linear solver, the blocks of the Harmonic Balance Jacobian inherit the Jacobian matrix ordering from the DC solution process. This matrix ordering can greatly affect the efficiency of the Harmonic Balance Jacobian factorization, and in some circuits show noticeable simulation slowdown. To circumvent this issue, use a DC convergence mode that hasn't changed, e.g. DC_ConvMode=3.

- For non-convergence due to tight tolerances, monitor the residuals in the Status Server window:
  - Increase I_AbsTol if the circuit is converging to within a few pA but not quite to I_AbsTol=1pA.
  - Increase I_RelTol if the problem is with nodes associated with large currents.
  - Increase I_AbsTol if the small current nodes are the issue.
  - Relax voltage tolerances for failure in the Newton update criterion.
Harmonic Balance Basics

- Set the Oversample parameter to a value greater than 1.0, such as 2.0 or 4.0. However, remember that although this can often solve convergence problems, it does so at the cost of computer memory and simulation time. For multiple-tone harmonic balance simulations, make sure that the largest signal in the circuit is assigned to Freq[1]. The simulator’s FFT algorithm is set up so that aliasing errors are much less likely to affect Freq[1] than any other tone. For instance, assign the LO signal in a receiver chain to Freq[1] and the RF signal Freq[2]. For more information, refer to “Oversampling to Prevent Aliasing” on page 1-67.

- Circuits that contain MOSFETS may fail to converge as a result of inherent limitations in the SPICE MOSFET model (Level 1, 2 and 3). This problem can often be circumvented by using the device’s Xqc parameter. Setting Xqc to a nonzero value allows the simulator to use a charge-based model (based upon the work of Ward and Dutton) for the gate capacitance. This often enables the simulator to converge, but at the cost of extracting an extra SPICE model parameter. Also, time-domain simulations usually handle MOSFETs with no difficulty.


- Harmonic balance simulation uses the parameters Current relative tolerance, Voltage relative tolerance, Current absolute tolerance, and Voltage absolute tolerance in the same way as DC simulation does. Refer to the topic “Adjusting Tolerance Parameters” in the DC Simulation documentation for more information on this subject.

- Do not use more harmonics than you really need. Too many harmonics can introduce so many unknowns to the solution that the simulator cannot find an answer (because the Jacobian becomes ill-conditioned). Removing harmonics can make the circuit easier (and faster) to solve, but if too many harmonics are removed, Fourier series truncation errors will become important. The simulator will converge on an answer, but it will not be accurate. Refer to “Selecting the Number of Harmonics” on page 1-61 for instructions on how to minimize the number of harmonics.

- If the simulator cannot find a solution, it will attempt to do source stepping. This sets all large-signal AC sources to zero (leaving DC sources alone) and
attempts to achieve convergence at a lower level. Starting from this solution point, the simulator will try to converge at the original level by repeatedly solving the circuit at incrementally increasing source levels, using the results of each simulation as the initial guess for the next. Very rarely, circuits can exhibit a bizarre behavior that can cause this technique to fail.

- If the harmonic balance simulation cannot converge on a solution within a given number of iterations, try increasing the limit in the Max. Iterations field, under the Params tab.

- The internal circuit simulator engine in ADS (ADSSim) runs from a netlist. ADS writes a netlist file (netlist.log) before invoking ADSSim. The order of the components and model definitions in the netlist determine the initial Jacobian matrix ordering. This matrix ordering can affect the efficiency of the Jacobian factorization and cause either a simulation slow down or non-convergence.

- For convergence problems due to errors in the component model equations (incorrect derivatives, etc.) make sure ancient Berkeley MOSFET Level 1, 2, 3 are not the culprit and that the latest model version is used (especially BSIM3 models). Model problems can cause the Newton residual to hit a threshold (greater than the convergence criteria tolerances) and stale the convergence process or even exhibit random jumps (sudden increase in value). Set the device's $X_{qc}$ parameter to a nonzero value to allow the simulator to use a charge-based model for the gate capacitance. This often enables convergence, but at the cost of extracting an extra SPICE model parameter.

**Sweeps as Convergence Tools**

Continuation methods provide a sequence of initial guesses that are sufficiently close to the solution to assure Newton's method convergence in Harmonic Balance. Sweeps can be used to formulate a specialized continuation method geared towards the particular circuit problem.

Try sweeping a parameter to correct a convergence problem. Find a circuit element that, when set to some different value, makes the circuit more linear. For instance, in an amplifier circuit there may be a resistor that can be used to lower the amplifier's gain. The simulator may be able to find a solution to the circuit under a low-gain condition. Then, if the component's value is swept toward the desired value, the simulator may be able to find a final solution. Start with a value that works, and stop with the desired value. Also, select Restart, under the Params tab. Usually, a better initial guess at each step helps the simulator to converge.
Harmonic Balance Basics

The two main ways to perform sweeps are:

- HB sweep within the HB controller. This is preferred for most sweeps, except frequency.
- Parameter sweep using a separate sweep controller.

Convergence and the Samanskii Steps

The Samanskii constant is a real non-negative number that is used to determine whether the simulator can skip the Jacobian evaluation in some iterations, and just reuse an approximate Jacobian instead (Samanskii steps). The Samanskii steps can significantly speed up the solution process. However, using an approximate Jacobian, particularly for a larger number of iterations, may result in poor or even no convergence. The constant is used in two ways. First, it becomes a more absolute measure when it is smaller. It then approaches the requirement that each iteration reduces the relevant norm by one-third.

Decreasing the Samanskii constant beyond a certain point (which in turn depends on the quality of the most recent Newton step) will make no difference. However, setting the Samanskii constant to zero will effectively disable any Samanskii steps altogether.

Increasing the Samanskii constant relaxes this requirements in general, but the condition becomes more dependent on the quality of the standard most recent Newton iteration. In other words, a more rapid convergence of the Newton step would also require better convergence of the Samanskii steps.

The default Samanskii constant of 2.0 corresponds to the quality of the Newton step such that the norm is reduced by 50% (decreasing the Samanskii constant will not make any difference if this is the case). Such a cut-off value gets larger with a more significant norm reduction of the Newton step. For example, an 83% norm reduction would result in a cut-off value of 10.

Note To edit this parameter, select the Display tab in the Harmonic Balance Simulation component and set Samanskii Constant to display on the schematic page. You can then edit the parameter directly on the schematic.
Convergence and Arc-Length Continuation

Arc-length continuation is an extremely robust algorithm. If it fails, try all other convergence remedies first before adjusting arc-length parameters:

- MaxStepRatio controls the maximum number of continuation steps (default 100).
- MaxShrinkage controls the minimum size of the arc-length step (default 1e-5).
- ArcMaxStep limits the maximum size of the arc-length step (default is 0, i.e. no limiting).
- ArcMinValue & ArcMaxValue define the allowed range for the variation of the continuation parameter.

Oversampling to Prevent Aliasing

Oversampling increases the accuracy of the solution by reducing the FFT aliasing error, and improves convergence for circuits with many nonlinear devices.

Aliasing error is introduced during the evaluation of nonlinear devices when a time waveform is converted into a spectrum. Aliasing is caused by using too few time-points to represent the time waveform. The Nyquist criterion states that to avoid aliasing errors, the sampling frequency should be at least twice the highest frequency present in the time waveform. If not, error is introduced into the high-frequency Fourier coefficients. The only way to eliminate aliasing error is to increase the sampling rate (that is, to increase the number of data points). This can be done by oversampling the time waveform (select Fundamental Oversample on the Params tab). The relationship between Order, Fundamental Oversample, and the number of samples for a single tone simulation is given by:

Number of Samples = \(2^{(\text{Order}[1] +1) \times \text{Oversample}}\), rounded up to the nearest power of two.

For the same value of Order, different values of Fundamental Oversample can yield the same number of samples. Also, oversampling can occur even with a Fundamental Oversample value of 1, because the system rounds the FFT size up to the next power of two. This can be seen from the following two tables:
In a multitone HB simulation, it is possible to set the oversample for each tone. To do this, click More next to the Fundamental Oversample parameter. The Oversample Options dialog box appears enabling you to enter the Oversample values for each fundamental in the multitone simulation. For a multitone simulation, the number of samples is determined in two parts. First, the same method used for the single tone case applies to the first tone; that is, \(2^*(\text{Order}[1]+1)^*\text{Oversample}\), rounded up to the nearest power of two. Second, for all successive tones (Order[i], i > 1), the number of samples is \(2^*\text{Order}[i]+1)^*\text{Oversample}\), rounded up to the nearest power of two. The final resultant number of samples is the product of the number of samples from each part.
In the case of having different sample values, the same rules apply for determining the total number of samples. The value for Oversample[1] applies only to Order[1], and Oversample[2] applies only to Order[2]. If a value is given for Fundamental Oversample and for Oversample[1], the value of Oversample[1] will be used.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2048</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

While oversampling does not increase the number of harmonics, it does increase the size of the FFT used in HB. This means that the HB simulation run time using the direct solver (which is determined by the Order and the circuit size) is not largely affected when the Fundamental Oversample is increased. However, an HB simulation run time using the Krylov solver will be slower since this solver's computational complexity depends on the size of the FFT.

Note that MaxOrder does not enter any of the calculations for the number of samples.
Linearizing Nonlinear Devices

The number of nonlinear devices in a network has a dramatic effect on the speed of harmonic balance simulation. For circuits with a large number of nonlinear devices, such as those found in RFICs and high-speed digital applications, a standard harmonic balance simulation may become extremely slow, especially for a multitone simulation or where large numbers of harmonics are involved. However, usually only a few devices in such circuits are driven into nonlinearity. Depending upon the application, many devices in the circuit may be operating in their linear region.

A significant increase in the speed of a harmonic balance simulation can be achieved without loss of accuracy if the devices that are operating in the linear region can be identified and linearized about their DC operating point. When these devices are simulated, they are treated as other linear elements and are evaluated in the frequency domain instead of the time domain. The increase in simulation speed is generally proportional to the number of valid device linearizations.

You may want to try the Krylov solver to improve simulation of nonlinear circuits. For more information, refer to “Selecting a Solver” on page 1-18.
Chapter 2: Harmonic Balance for Nonlinear Noise Simulation

The nonlinear noise options in the Harmonic Balance simulator enable you to calculate:

- Nonlinear spot noise
- Swept noise
- Noisy 2-port parameters

There are two methods of noise simulation. One is to use the parameters on the Noise tabs in the harmonic balance dialog box. A second method is to use the NoiseCon component. Using NoiseCon components, you can set up several noise simulations, thereby eliminating the need to change the values on the Noise tabs in the Harmonic Balance dialog box. With NoiseCons, you can also set parameters to calculate phase noise.

If you are not familiar with the harmonic balance simulator, refer to Chapter 1, Harmonic Balance Basics, before continuing with this chapter.

Refer to the following topics for details on harmonic balance for nonlinear noise simulation:

- “Performing a Nonlinear Noise Simulation” on page 2-2 describes the minimum setup for calculating noise.
- “Performing a Noise Simulation with NoiseCons” on page 2-4 describes how to set up NoiseCons and include them in the simulation.
- “Nonlinear Noise Simulation Description” on page 2-5 is an overview on how nonlinear noise is calculated in a simulation.
- “NoiseCon Component Description” on page 2-6 provides more details about the NoiseCon component.
- “NoiseCon Component” on page 2-7 provides details on the tabs and fields for the Noise component.
- Chapter 4, Oscillator Noise Simulation, focuses on setting up noise simulations for oscillators.
- Chapter 6, Mixer Noise Simulation, focuses on noise simulations for mixers.
Performing a Nonlinear Noise Simulation

Use this type of nonlinear noise simulation for spectral noise simulations of circuits that do not employ mixers, such as amplifiers.

For a successful analysis:

- Terminate all inputs and outputs with sources or terms. Use sources such as the P_1Tone component in the Sources-Freq Domain palette. Terminate outputs with the Term component, which can be found on several simulation palettes, including HB. Noise parameters are meaningful only with respect to two ports.
- Place a noise source where noise is to be injected and edit the component as required. Noise sources are found under the Sources-Noise palette.

**Note**  
The built-in BJT model (BJT_Model) has 1/f noise sources that can be turned on by setting certain model parameters.

**Note**  
When simulating noise figure, noise sources should not be added at the input. Noise sources can be added elsewhere in the circuit, as desired.

- From the Simulation-HB palette, select and place the HarmonicBalance component, and double-click to edit it. Enable Nonlinear noise at the bottom of the dialog box.
- Select the Noise(1) tab:
  - To calculate spot noise, set the Sweep Type to Single point and enter a frequency. If an input frequency is not specified, it is assumed to be the same as the spot noise frequency. This way, the input and output frequencies are the same.
  - For a swept noise analysis, set Sweep Type to Linear or Log and define the sweep with Start/Stop or Center/Span values.
  - In the Input frequency field, enter a frequency for the sideband that will mix to the spot-noise frequency of interest.
  - In the Noise input port field, enter the number of the port at which noise is injected.
• In the Noise output port field, enter the number of the Term component at which noise is retrieved.

• Select the Noise (2) tab:
  • To specify the nodes at which noise will be computed, select a node name from the Edit list and click Add.
  • The Noise contributors fields enable you to specify and sort the items that contribute noise to the simulation, and specify a threshold that determines whether contributors are reported or not.
  • You can calculate noisy 2-port parameters such as minimum noise figure, optimum source match, and effective noise resistance. These results will appear in the dataset as NFmin, Sopt, and Rn, respectively.

For more information about each field, click Help from the HarmonicBalance dialog box.

Note Once you have entered these settings, you can switch the noise simulation off by disabling Nonlinear noise at the bottom of the dialog. Your settings will remain in the Noise tabs and become active when Nonlinear noise is enabled again.

• Add an Options component to the schematic and set the temperature either by editing Temp=16.85 in the Schematic window, or by selecting the Misc tab and editing Simulation temperature to that value. This temperature, 16.85°C or 290 Kelvin, is the standard temperature for noise figure measurement as defined by the IEEE definition for noise figuration.

For more information about nonlinear noise analysis, refer to “Nonlinear Noise Simulation Description” on page 2-5.
Performing a Noise Simulation with NoiseCons

This section describes using the NoiseCon component to enable a noise simulation.

1. Select NoiseCon from the Simulation-HB palette and place it in the Schematic window. Edit it to select the Freq tab and enter noise frequency information.

2. Select the Nodes tab and enter information about the circuit nodes at which to compute noise.

3. Select the Misc tab and enter information for noise figure, noise contribution reports and noise bandwidth.

4. Select the PhaseNoise tab and enter information about phase noise simulation. Click OK.

5. Edit the Harmonic Balance simulation control item to select the NoiseCons tab and add the newly placed NoiseCon component to the list of NoiseCons to be simulated. It is not necessary to enable the Nonlinear Noise option at the bottom of the dialog box. Click OK.

When the simulation is performed, the noise simulation requested in the NoiseCon item will be simulated as well.

For more information about NoiseCons, refer to “NoiseCon Component Description” on page 2-6.
Nonlinear Noise Simulation Description

The results of the harmonic balance simulation are output to the dataset and are then used to determine the periodic operating point for the nonlinear noise simulation. The periodic operating point is the steady-state voltages and currents within the circuit at the fundamental, harmonic, and all mixing frequencies. Every upper and lower noise sideband is modeled for each large-signal spectral component; consequently, the number of noise frequencies simulated is double the harmonic frequencies and the sparse-matrix memory requirement is quadrupled (unless the Krylov option is used). The result is that a nonlinear noise simulation requires four times the memory of a normal harmonic balance simulation. Use low values for the parameter Maximum order (under the Freq tab) to limit the demands on computer memory.

**Note** In nonlinear noise analyses, we recommend that the Options component be used to establish a global simulation temperature of 16.85°C if a noise calculation is to be performed. This can be done by editing Temp=16.85 in the Schematic window, or by selecting the Misc tab and editing Simulation temperature to that value. This temperature, 16.85°C or 290 Kelvin, is the standard temperature for noise figure measurement as defined by the IEEE definition for noise figure.

If computer memory is insufficient for a noise simulation, eliminate the large-signal tone at the input and replace it with a Term component. Also, reduce the number of tones in the harmonic balance simulation component by 1. The results of the noise figure simulation should not change significantly. To view an example of how to simulate a mixer’s output noise without a large-signal RF input tone, look at examples/RFIC/Mixers_prj/NoiseFloor.

If the noise figure is needed, add ports to the circuit. In addition, because the single-sideband definition of noise figure is used, the correct input sideband frequency must be specified, by the parameter Input frequency (under the Noise tab). This identifies which input frequency will mix to the spot-noise frequency of interest. If the input frequency is not specified, it is assumed to be the same as the spot-noise frequency. This way, the input and output frequencies are the same, as is typical of amplifiers. Input frequency is the frequency at which the signal enters the mixer’s RF port. For mixers, Input frequency is typically determined by an equation that involves the local oscillator frequency and the noise frequency. Either the sum of or difference between these values is used, depending on whether upconversion or downconversion...
Harmonic Balance for Nonlinear Noise Simulation

is taking place. If an upper or lower sideband cannot be found that agrees with the specified input frequency, a warning is issued and the nearest sideband is used.

If noisy 2-port parameters such as $S_{opt}$, $R_n$, or $NF_{min}$ are required, select Calculate noisy two-port parameters. Noise data will be computed only for those nodes requested. The noise voltages and currents scale with the square root of the noise parameter Bandwidth. The default bandwidth is 1 Hz, so that the results have units of $V/\sqrt{Hz}$. The option Include port noise tells the simulator to include the contributions of port noise in the analysis of noise voltages and currents. The option Use small-signal frequencies (on by default) gives more accurate results, but also requires more memory.

**NoiseCon Component Description**

The NoiseCon nonlinear noise controller allows more flexibility in the simulation of noise than can be specified using the Noise(1) and Noise(2) tabs of the Harmonic Balance dialog box. The NoiseCon allows the computation of many noise-related quantities, including noise voltages and currents, differential noise voltages, noise figure and phase noise around any large-signal carrier. Multiple NoiseCons can be placed and simulated in one harmonic balance simulation.

Everything that can be specified in the Noise(1) and Noise(2) tabs can be specified in a NoiseCon. If you use NoiseCons to perform the noise simulation in harmonic balance, then you do not need to use the Noise(1) and Noise(2) tabs, nor do you need to select the Nonlinear Noise option (at the bottom of the Harmonic Balance dialog box).

In the dataset, noise results from the Noise(1) tab appear in the dataset with a name of the form HB1.HB_NOISE.vout.noise, where HB1 is the instance name of the harmonic balance control item. Noise results from a NoiseCon will appear in the dataset with a name of the form HB1.NC1.vout.noise, where NC1 is the instance name of the NoiseCon.
NoiseCon Component

Following are details on the tabs and data fields for the NoiseCon component, which is available from the Simulation - HB library.

Two common tabs for controller components include the following:

- **Output**—Selectively save simulation data to a dataset. For details, refer to the topic “Selectively Saving and Controlling Simulation Data” in the chapter “Simulation Basics” in the Using Circuit Simulators documentation.

- **Display**—Control the visibility of simulation parameters on the Schematic. For details, refer to the topic “Displaying Simulation Parameters on the Schematic” in the chapter “Simulation Basics” in the Using Circuit Simulators documentation.

Setting Up NoiseCon Frequency

The frequency at which noise should be computed is specified on the Freq tab. If a phase noise simulation is to be performed, as specified on the PhaseNoise tab, the interpretation of these noise frequencies is different. Instead of computing noise directly at these frequencies, they are interpreted as offset frequencies from a large signal carrier which is specified on the PhaseNoise tab.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Freq</th>
<th>Noise frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sweep Type</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single point</td>
<td>Enables simulation at a single frequency point. Specify the desired value in the Parameter field.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linear</td>
<td>Enables sweeping a range of values based on a linear increment. Click the Start/Stop option to select start and stop values for the sweep.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Log</td>
<td>Enables sweeping a range of values based on a logarithmic increment. Click the Center/Span option to select a center value and a span of the sweep.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Harmonic Balance for Nonlinear Noise Simulation

Table 2-1. NoiseCon Frequency Options (continued)

| Start/Stop       | Select the Start/Stop option to sweep based on start, stop, step-size and number of points. Start—the start point of a sweep Stop—the stop point of a sweep Step-size—the increments at which the sweep is conducted Num. of pts.—the number of points over which sweep is conducted |
| Center/Span      | Select the Center/Span option to sweep based on center and span. Center—the center point of a sweep Span—the span of a sweep Pts./decade—number of points per decade Num. of pts.—the number of points over which sweep is conducted |

Note: Changes to any of the Start, Stop, etc. fields causes the remaining fields to be recalculated automatically.

Use sweep plan—Enables use of an existing sweep plan component (SweepPlan). Select this option and enter the name of the plan or select it from the drop-down list.

Setting Up NoiseCon Nodes

The nodes at which noise voltages and branches through which noise currents are to be calculated are specified on this tab. Unlike the main harmonic balance simulation, noise is only computed at those nodes that the user specifies, not at all named nodes. If only the single sideband noise figure is to be computed, then no information need be entered here.

Table 2-2. NoiseCon Node Options

| Nodes for Noise Parameter Calculation -- |
| Use this area to select nodes at which you want linear noise data to be reported. Noise voltages and currents are reported in rms units. Note: The fewer the number of nodes requested, the quicker the simulation and the less memory required. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nodes</th>
<th>Pos Node</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Selects the named node(s) for the simulator to consider.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Setting Up the NoiseCon Misc. Tab

The NoiseCon noise tab includes an assortment of options.

Table 2-3. NoiseCon Misc. Options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Misc</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Input frequency - Because the simulator uses a single-sideband definition of noise figure, the correct input sideband frequency must be specified here. This parameter identifies which input frequency will mix to the noise frequency of interest.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the case of mixers, Input frequency is typically determined by an equation that involves the local oscillator (LO) frequency and the noise frequency. Either the sum of or difference between these two values is used, depending on whether upconversion or downconversion is taking place.

The above parameters do not need to be specified if only the output noise voltage is desired (that is, if no noise figure is computed).
Harmonic Balance for Nonlinear Noise Simulation

### Table 2-3. NoiseCon Misc. Options (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Noise input port</th>
<th>Number of the source port at which noise is injected. This is commonly the RF port. Although any valid port number can be used, the input port number is frequently defined as Num=1. If noise figure is not required, this field should be blank.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Noise output port</td>
<td>Number of the Term component at which noise is retrieved. This is commonly the IF port. Although any valid port number can be used, the input port number is frequently defined as Num=2. If noise figure is not required, this field should be blank.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Noise contributors --** Use this area to sort the noise contributors list and to select a threshold below which noise contributors will not be reported. A list shows how each component contributes to noise at a specific node. The noise contributor data are always in units of V/sqrt(Hz) for noise voltages, and A/sqrt(Hz) for noise currents; they do not scale with noise bandwidth.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Off -- causes no individual noise contributors (nodes) to be selected. The result is simply a value for total noise at the node.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sort by value -- sorts individual noise contributors, from largest to smallest, that exceed a user-defined threshold (see below). The subcomponents of the nonlinear devices that generate noise (such as Rb, Rc, Re, Ib, and Ic in a BJT) are listed separately, as well as the total noise from the device.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sort by name -- causes individual noise contributors to be identified and sorts them alphabetically. The subcomponents of the nonlinear devices that generate noise (such as Rb, Rc, Re, Ib, and Ic in a BJT) are listed separately, as well as the total noise from the device.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sort by value with no device details -- sorts individual noise contributors, from largest to smallest, that exceed a user-defined threshold (see below). Unlike Sort by value, only the total noise from nonlinear devices is listed without any subcomponent details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sort by name with no device details -- causes individual noise contributors to be identified and sorts them alphabetically. Unlike Sort by name, only the total noise from nonlinear devices is listed without subcomponent details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A threshold below the total noise, in dB, that determines what noise contributors are reported. All noise contributors more than this threshold will be reported. For example, assuming that the total noise voltage is 10 nV, a setting of 40 dB (a good typical value) ensures that all noise contributors up to 40 dB below 10 nV (that is, above 0.1 nV) are reported. The default of 0 dB causes all noise contributors to be reported. This parameter is used only with Sort by value and Sort by value with no device details.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Causes an S-parameter simulation to be performed. Ports must be placed and defined. The Noise input port parameter should be set equal to the port number specified by the Num parameter on the input source, and the Noise output parameter to the number of the output Term (termination) component to Num=2. The following two-port parameters (dataset variables) are then returned and can be plotted:

- **NFmin** -- minimum noise figure of a two-port circuit. It is equal to the noise figure when the optimum source admittance is connected to the circuit. (Its default unit is dB).
- **Sopt** -- the optimum source match for a two-port circuit. It is the reflection coefficient (looking into the source) that gives the minimum noise figure.
- **Rn** -- the effective noise resistance in ohms (unnormalized) of a two-port circuit. Effective noise resistance can be used to plot noise-figure circles or related quantities. This parameter determines how rapidly the minimum noise figure deteriorates when the source impedance is not at its optimum value.
- **Icor** -- the noise current correlation matrix, in units of Amperes squared. It describes the short circuit noise currents squared at each port, and the correlation between noise currents at different ports.

These expressions for noise simulation can be manipulated in equations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bandwidth</th>
<th>Bandwidth for spectral noise simulation. 1 Hz is the recommended bandwidth for measurements of spectral noise power. The noise contributor data do not scale with noise bandwidth.</th>
<th>Calculate noisy two-port parameters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Causes an S-parameter simulation to be performed. Ports must be placed and defined. The Noise input port parameter should be set equal to the port number specified by the Num parameter on the input source, and the Noise output parameter to the number of the output Term (termination) component to Num=2. The following two-port parameters (dataset variables) are then returned and can be plotted:

- **NFmin** -- minimum noise figure of a two-port circuit. It is equal to the noise figure when the optimum source admittance is connected to the circuit. (Its default unit is dB).
- **Sopt** -- the optimum source match for a two-port circuit. It is the reflection coefficient (looking into the source) that gives the minimum noise figure.
- **Rn** -- the effective noise resistance in ohms (unnormalized) of a two-port circuit. Effective noise resistance can be used to plot noise-figure circles or related quantities. This parameter determines how rapidly the minimum noise figure deteriorates when the source impedance is not at its optimum value.
- **Icor** -- the noise current correlation matrix, in units of Amperes squared. It describes the short circuit noise currents squared at each port, and the correlation between noise currents at different ports.

These expressions for noise simulation can be manipulated in equations. |
Setting Up NoiseCon PhaseNoise

This tab is used to specify that a phase noise simulation should be performed instead of a standard noise simulation. The default is None (mixer), a standard noise simulation where noise voltages are computed at the requested nodes at the noise frequency specified in the Freq tab. When a NoiseCon is used, phase noise can be simulated for any type of circuit, not just an oscillator. For example, this makes it possible to simulate the added phase noise due to an amplifier. Phase noise can also be computed around any large signal carrier frequency, not just the fundamental frequency of an oscillator. This makes it possible to simulate the phase noise after an oscillator signal passes through a frequency multiplier or mixer.

Table 2-4. NoiseCon PhaseNoise Options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PhaseNoise</th>
<th>Phase Noise Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None (mixer)</td>
<td>Noise voltages are computed at the nodes specified at the frequencies specified on the Freq tab. Noise results in the dataset are of the form HB1.NC1.vout.noise. There is no concept of a carrier frequency.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase noise spectrum</td>
<td>Single sideband phase noise is computed at the nodes specified, treating the frequency information on the Freq tab as an offset frequency from the large signal carrier. See below on how to specify the large signal carrier frequency. Noise results in the dataset are of the form HB1.NC1.vout.pnmx.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relative vnoise spectrum</td>
<td>Rather than compute the single sideband phase noise, the noise voltage is computed both at the carrier frequency minus the offset frequency and at the carrier frequency plus the offset frequency. The results are present as a relative noise spectrum around zero, with the results extending from minus the largest offset frequency to plus the largest offset frequency. Noise results in the dataset are of the form HB1.NC1.vout.noise.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Absolute vnoise spectrum</td>
<td>This is similar to the Relative vnoise spectrum, except the resulting spectrum is presented as an absolute spectrum around the large signal carrier frequency, extending from the carrier frequency minus the largest offset frequency to the carrier frequency plus the largest offset frequency. Noise results in the dataset are of the form HB1.NC1.vout.noise.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This type of simulation integrates the noise around a large signal carrier. The user specifies the carrier on the Phase Noise tab, specifying either the Frequency in Hertz or the Carrier Mixing Indices, which specify the frequency as (index1*freq1 + index2* freq2 + ...). The noise is integrated over a bandwidth specified by the Bandwidth parameter on the Misc tab, from carrier-bandwidth/2 to carrier+bandwidth/2.

\[
v_n = \int_{f = \frac{f_{\text{Carrier}} - BW/2}{f_{\text{Carrier}} + BW/2}} v_n^2 \langle f \rangle df
\]

A trapezoidal integration is performed (which takes into account the usual 1/f α behavior of noise), using data at the frequencies specified on the Freq tab. The specified frequencies are actually offset frequencies on either side of the carrier. The largest offset frequency should be at least half of the noise bandwidth to avoid extrapolation of the results during integration. Noise results in the dataset are of the form HB1.NC1.vout.noise.

The picture below shows an example of how the sample points for integration are chosen. Assume the carrier frequency is 10 MHz and the frequency sweep is set up to go from 1 kHz to 1 MHz in a logarithmic sweep with 1 point per decade, with a bandwidth of 2 MHz.

This integration can be performed for any type of circuit in which the total noise integrated over some bandwidth is required. It works for mixers as well as oscillators. If the mixer noise figure is computed, the integrated noise voltage will be used instead of the spot noise voltage.
Harmonic Balance for Nonlinear Noise Simulation

Table 2-4. NoiseCon PhaseNoise Options (continued)

| Specify phase noise carrier | The frequency of the large signal carrier used in all but the normal noise simulation are specified at the bottom of this tab. Any large signal carrier from the harmonic balance simulation may serve as the carrier frequency for phase noise simulation. There are two ways to specify the carrier frequency:

The frequency value may be specified directly by selecting the Frequency button and entering the frequency in the box below it. Either a number or a variable name may be entered. Since the frequency may not be precisely known in an oscillator, the simulator searches for the frequency closest to the user specified frequency. If the difference between the user specified frequency and the actual large signal frequency exceeds 10%, a warning message will be issued. A carrier frequency of zero cannot be entered directly as zero due to a limitation in the simulator; enter a small value such as 1 Hz instead.

The other method for specifying the carrier frequency is to enter it using Carrier mixing indices. See next item. |
| Carrier mixing indices | Specify these indices. For example, the lower sideband mixing term in a mixer would be entered as 1 and -1. The indices are listed in sequential order by carrier. |
Chapter 3: Harmonic Balance for Oscillator Simulation

The Harmonic Balance simulation component includes features specifically designed for simulating oscillators. You can obtain results such as:

- Oscillator frequency and spectrum
- Small-signal loop gain
- Large-signal loop gain
- Phase noise
- VCO tuning

If you are not familiar with the harmonic balance simulator, refer to Chapter 1, Harmonic Balance Basics before continuing with this chapter.

Refer to the following topics for details on harmonic balance for oscillator simulation:

- “Performing an Oscillator Simulation” on page 3-2 has the minimum setup requirements for simulating an oscillator.
- “Examples (in ADS)” on page 3-5 describes in detail how to set up simulations for many items of interest in an oscillator, such as finding the oscillation frequency, steady-state conditions, and loop gain.
- “Oscillator Simulation Description” on page 3-23 is a brief description of the oscillator simulation process.
- “Troubleshooting a Simulation” on page 3-27 offers suggestions on how to improve a simulation.
- “Simulation Techniques for Recalcitrant Oscillators” on page 3-31 offers two techniques to solve the occasional problem you might encounter with an oscillator that converges in a time-domain simulation but in which the harmonic balance oscillator algorithm is unable to find the solution.
- Chapter 4, Oscillator Noise Simulation focuses on noise simulations for oscillators.
Performing an Oscillator Simulation

The main goal of simulating an oscillator using harmonic balance is to find both the oscillation frequency and the output spectrum of the oscillator. There are two methods that can be used to simulate an oscillator using harmonic balance. The first method requires the insertion of an OscPort or OscPort2 into the feedback loop of the oscillator. The second method involves the identification of nodes in the feedback loop of the oscillator.

Using OscPort

The first method requires that an OscPort or OscPort2 be inserted into the oscillator.

- OscPort is a component that is inserted into the feedback loop of a single-ended oscillator.
- OscPort2 is a component that is inserted into the feedback loop of a differential (balanced) oscillator.

This component is inserted either in the feedback loop of the oscillator, or between the parts of the circuits that have negative resistance and the resonator. During harmonic balance oscillator analysis, the OscPort or OscPort2 is used by the simulator to monitor the loop gain of the oscillator and adjust the amplitude and frequency of oscillation.

Specifying Oscillator Nodes

The second method involves the identification of nodes in the feedback loop of the oscillator. For single-ended oscillators, one node in the feedback loop is identified; for differential oscillators, two nodes in the feedback loop are identified. These nodes should be either at the input or output of the active device of the oscillator, or in the oscillator’s resonant tank. Nodes in the bias circuitry or an output buffer amplifier should not be used. The simulator uses these nodes to inject a voltage into the oscillator and adjusts the voltage and frequency so that no current flows from the injected source to these nodes.
Setting up an Oscillator Analysis

Set up a Harmonic Balance simulation then enable the Oscillator analysis mode. Select a Method to use either an Oscport or to specify oscillator nodes. If you use an Oscport, there is no further information to be specified for this option. If you specify oscillator nodes, then more information must be specified:

- Enter a node name for Node Plus for all oscillators.
- Enter a node name for Node Minus only for differential oscillators; leave this blank for single-ended oscillators.

Set the fundamental frequency:

- For ADS, on the Freq tab, set the Fundamental Frequencies by entering the oscillation Frequency. Enter the number of harmonics of interest in the Order field.
- For RFDE, in the main Harmonic Balance analysis setup dialog box for Fundamental Tones, enter the oscillation Frequency. Enter the number of harmonics of interest in the Order field.

For details about each field, click Help in the dialog box.

The use of an OscPort in ADS is illustrated in the example “Calculating Large-Signal, Steady-State Oscillation Conditions” on page 3-8. The use of an OscPort2 is illustrated in the example “Using OscPort2 for Oscillator Analysis” on page 3-16.

Other Oscillator Analyses

For a successful analysis, make sure your active device has sufficient feedback gain to permit oscillation and your resonator exhibits resonance. To check this, run an S-parameter simulation on the circuit before attempting the harmonic balance simulation. A brief overview of how to set this up is in the example “Finding the Frequency of Oscillation” on page 3-6. For more details on how to set up the S-parameter simulations, refer to the S-Parameter Simulation documentation.

There are two ways that the small-signal oscillator loop gain can be simulated:
Harmonic Balance for Oscillator Simulation

- OscTest calculates loop gain for single-ended oscillators. Use it in circuits where you would use the OscPort. This component has a simulation controller already included in it, so you should not set up a Harmonic Balance simulation. This component is on the Probe Components palette in ADS. This is illustrated in an ADS schematic in the example “Calculating Oscillator Loop Gain” on page 3-13.

- OscPort2 can also be used to calculate the loop gain for differential (balanced) oscillators. The OscPort2 has a mode parameter that should be changed from its default setting of Automatic (for harmonic balance oscillator analysis) to Small Signal Loop Gain mode. This is illustrated in an ADS schematic in the example “Calculating Small-Signal Loop Gain” on page 3-20.

The placement and setup of the OscTest, OscPort, and OscPort2 components vary. For instructions on how to do this, in ADS place one in your schematic, double-click the component, click the Help button in the dialog box, and follow the instructions that appear. In RFDE, see the documentation for these components in Components > Circuit Components > Introduction to Circuit Components.

**Note**  Do not use more than one OscTest, OscPort, or OscPort2 in a circuit.

You can obtain certain oscillator characteristics using simulators other than the Harmonic Balance simulator:

- A DC simulation can be run separately to find the circuit’s DC operating point.
- An S-parameter can be used to find S21 (therefore, small-signal oscillator gain), and f0, the approximate frequency of oscillation.
- Transient analysis or Circuit Envelope can be used to simulate the startup of oscillation.
Examples (in ADS)

This section gives detailed setups for:

- “Finding the Frequency of Oscillation” on page 3-6
- “Calculating Large-Signal, Steady-State Oscillation Conditions” on page 3-8
- “Calculating Oscillator Loop Gain” on page 3-13
- “Using OscPort2 for Oscillator Analysis” on page 3-16

Note You must have the Harmonic Balance simulator license (included with all Circuit Design suites except RF Designer) to run the following simulations. You can build the examples without the appropriate licenses, but you will not be able to simulate them.
Finding the Frequency of Oscillation

Fundamental to any oscillator analysis is establishing the frequency of oscillation. The simplest way to do this is to use the S-parameter simulator. Figure 3-1 illustrates how to use the S-parameter simulator and Term components to find the resonant frequency. This simulation just gives a rough estimate of the frequency of oscillation.

If you are not familiar with S-parameter simulations, refer first to the S-Parameter Simulation documentation.

**Note** This design, OscFeedbackTest.dsn, is in the Examples directory under Tutorial/SimModels_prj. The results are in OscFeedbackTest.dds.

To find the frequency of oscillation:

1. Place Term components at the input and output of the resonant circuit, and run the S-parameter simulation.
2. Open a Data Display window and plot $S(2,1)$. Place a marker where the curve shows the peak response:

3. Note the frequency of oscillation, in this example, approximately 102 MHz. This frequency will be used in the next simulation example.
Harmonic Balance for Oscillator Simulation

Calculating Large-Signal, Steady-State Oscillation Conditions

Figure 3-2 illustrates a setup that uses the Harmonic Balance simulator and OscPort component.

For oscillators with a differential (or balanced) topology, the OscPort2 component in automatic mode should be used instead of OscPort. For an example using OscPort2, refer to “Using OscPort2 for Oscillator Analysis” on page 3-16.

Note This design, OSC2.dsn, is in the Examples directory under Tutorial/SimModels_prj. The results are in OSC2.dds.

This oscillator circuit consists of two subnetworks: an active gain stage and a frequency-determining feedback stage.

Figure 3-2. Example setup for a basic oscillator test using the harmonic balance simulator and the OscPort component
Figure 3-3 depicts the active gain stage.

![Figure 3-3. Active gain subnetwork](image)

Figure 3-4 depicts the resonant feedback stage.

![Figure 3-4. Resonator subnetwork](image)
Harmonic Balance for Oscillator Simulation

To determine large-signal, steady-state oscillation conditions:

1. From the Simulation-HB palette, select an OscPort grounded oscillator port (which is essentially a probe) and place it in the circuit so that it breaks the feedback loop.
   - In a feedback oscillator, use this port to break the feedback path. The arrow (and pin 2) should point in the direction of injection (the direction of the gain). Refer to Figure 3-2.
   - In a reflection oscillator, place the port so that it separates the negative-resistance portion of the oscillator from the resonator portion. The arrow (and pin 2) should point in the direction of the negative resistance.

   Note A circuit should contain only one oscillator port.

2. From the Simulation-HB palette, select the HarmonicBalance simulation component and place it on the schematic. Edit the component, scroll to the Osc tab and select it.
   - At the bottom of the dialog box, select Oscillator.
   - Enter the name of the OscPort item (in this example, oscport1, in the Oscport name field. This will report the values the simulator finds at this component. The circuit simulator is capable of automatically finding the only OscPort or OscPort2 in the circuit if the name is entered as “yes”. This is required if the OscPort2 component is used.

3. Scroll to the Freq tab and enter a frequency for the fundamental (Freq[1]), if you know it (in this example, 102 MHz). The oscillator will use this value and the values for the OscPort parameters NumOctaves and Steps to search a range of frequencies until the small-signal oscillation conditions are satisfied.

4. Set Order[1], the order of the fundamental, to 8.

5. Label nodes at which you want data to be reported. In this example, Output indicates the output of the gain stage.
6. **Simulate.** When the simulation is complete, open a Data Display window and do the following:

Plot the power relationship of the tones:

- Select the Rectangular plot option and select **Output** as the parameter to plot. Accept **dB** as the default plot type.
- After adding **Output** to the **Traces** field, select it and click **Trace Options**.
- Click **Trace Expression**, and enter the following equation:
  
  \[ \text{dBm(O}SC2..Output,1000) \]

This provides a value in dBm as referenced to the 1-kohm resistor in the gain stage (the default would otherwise be 50 ohms).

Click **OK**. The following appears, showing the power relationship of the eight tones (Order = 8), plotted as the harmonic index (harmindex):
Plot voltage output of the gain stage over time:

- Still in the Data Display window, select an Equation plot and enter the following equation:

  \[ \text{time\_wave} = \text{ts(Output)} \]

Plot the equation time\_wave to yield the following:
Calculating Oscillator Loop Gain

To calculate oscillator loop gain, use the OscTest component as described here. Because the OscTest component incorporates a simulation component into itself, no HarmonicBalance simulation component is required.

For oscillators with a differential topology, use the OscPort2 component for calculating loop gain. For an example, refer to “Using OscPort2 for Oscillator Analysis” on page 3-16.

Figure 3-5 illustrates a setup using the OscTest component.

Note  This design, OSC1.dsn, is in the Examples directory under Tutorial/SimModels_prj. The results are in OSC1.dds.

To determine oscillator loop gain:

1. From the Probe Components palette, select the OscTest grounded oscillator port and place it in the circuit so that it breaks the feedback loop:

   • In a feedback oscillator, use the OscTest component to break the feedback path. The arrow (and pin 2) should point in the direction of injection (the direction of the gain). Refer to Figure 3-5.

   • In a reflection oscillator, place the component so that it separates the negative resistance portion of the oscillator from the resonator portion. The arrow (and pin 2) should point in the direction of the negative resistance.

Figure 3-5. Example Setup for Using the OscTest Component
Harmonic Balance for Oscillator Simulation

2. Double-click the OscTest component to edit it. Edit values for Start and Stop frequencies, as well as Points (the number of frequency points to be considered). In this example:
   • Start = 90 MHz
   • Stop = 110 MHz
   • Points = 101

3. **Simulate.** When the simulation is complete, open a Data Display window and:
   • Select a Polar plot, plot S(1,1), and place a marker on the result, as follows.
* Plot both the magnitude and phase of S(1,1), and place a marker directly over the zero crossing of the phase plot (shown next)

As required, the gain is greater than unity at the resonant frequency.

**Hint** Sometimes the simulated loop gain obtained by this procedure is sensitive to the OscTest impedance, Z. If the small-signal loop-gain conditions cannot be satisfied, try running the simulation with Z as a swept parameter.
Using OscPort2 for Oscillator Analysis

The OscPort2 component combines the features of the OscPort and OscTest components and adds the abilities to examine large signal loop gain and to analyze oscillators with a differential topology. The OscPort2 can be used in the harmonic balance simulation of an oscillator to compute its large signal solution and frequency, like OscPort. It can be used to examine the small signal loop gain of an oscillator over a range of frequencies, like OscTest. It adds the ability to examine the large signal loop gain over a range of frequencies and injected signal levels.

The OscPort2 component provides the ability to easily handle oscillators with a differential, or balanced, circuit topology, which are commonly found in integrated circuits. OscPort2 can also be used to analyze a single-ended oscillator by grounding the negative input and output of the OscPort2.

Connecting OscPort2 in a Differential Oscillator

Figure 3-6 is the schematic of a differential ring oscillator. It is made of four differential amplifiers with differential inputs and outputs. Unlike a single-ended ring oscillator, a differential ring oscillator will oscillate with an even number of stages, provided that one of the connections between stages crosses over, connecting a positive output to a negative input and vice-versa.

Note This design, hbosc.dsn, is in the Examples directory under Tutorial/OscPort2_prj. The results are in hbosc.dds.

OscPort2 is available in both the Simulation-HB and Probe Components palettes. It should be inserted in a differential oscillator so that it intercepts both the positive and negative signals in the feedback loop. The arrow should point in the direction of loop gain or signal flow.
Calculating Oscillator Frequency and Harmonics

An OscPort2 in Automatic oscillator mode is used in a harmonic balance to simulate an oscillator and determine both its large signal oscillation spectrum as well as its actual frequency of oscillation. The Mode of the OscPort2 should be set to Automatic. The FreqPlan and VinjPlan are not used.

The simulation results for the oscillator are shown below. The frequency of oscillation was found to be 133.7 MHz. Both the differential output, from node vplus to vminus, and a single-ended output, from node vplus, are shown. As expected, the differential signal contains only odd-order harmonics.
Harmonic Balance for Oscillator Simulation

Calculating Large-Signal Loop Gain

OscPort2 can be used to simulate the large-signal loop gain of an oscillator using harmonic balance. The equivalent circuit of the OscPort2 in Large signal loop gain mode is shown below. The OscPort2 is used to break the oscillator feedback loop at the fundamental frequency only. The loop remains connected at DC and the other harmonics. A signal, LoopIn, is injected into the oscillator and the resulting signal that comes back around the loop, LoopOut, is obtained. The complex loop gain is computed using LoopOut/LoopIn and is placed in the dataset with the name LoopGain. The user can sweep both the injected signal frequency as well as its voltage. The circuit will oscillate at the injected frequency and voltage where the loop gain is exactly 1+j0.

Note  This design, loopgain_largedsn, is in the Examples directory under Tutorial/OscPort2_prj. The results are in loopgain_largedds

![Figure 3-7. Equivalent circuit of OscPort2 in large-signal loop gain mode](image)
Figure 3-8. Simulation setup to simulate large-signal loop gain of an oscillator.

Set the Mode parameter (of OscPort2) to simulate large-signal loop gain. Because the control items are built into OscPort2, no analysis controller is necessary, when using OscPort2 in this mode. The names of the appropriate SweepPlans should be set for FreqPlan and VinjPlan. For this oscillator, the injected frequency is swept from 130 MHz to 138 MHz using the SweepPlan named SweepFreq. The injected voltage level is swept from 0.01 V to 1.0 V using the SweepPlan SweepVinj.

The simulation results are shown above. In the dataset, the result named LoopGain is the complex loop gain for the oscillator. One typical way to present this information is to plot the loop gain phase against the loop gain magnitude in dB. The point of oscillation will then be at the 0,0 point on the graph. The lines on the plot are lines of constant frequency, plotted with increasing injected voltage. On these plots, the injected voltage increases from right to left, showing the gain compression of the oscillator as the injected signal increases.
Calculating Small-Signal Loop Gain

OscPort2 can be used to simulate the small-signal loop gain of an oscillator using small-signal AC analysis (like the OscTest component allows). The equivalent circuit of OscPort2 in Small-signal loop gain mode is shown below. The OscPort2 is used to break the oscillator feedback loop at the small signal frequency only. The loop remains connected at DC. A signal, LoopIn, is injected into the oscillator and the resulting signal that comes back around the loop, LoopOut, is obtained. The complex loop gain is computed using LoopOut/LoopIn and is placed in the dataset with the name LoopGain. The user can sweep the injected signal frequency. The circuit oscillates near the injected frequency where loop gain is approximately 1+j0. The loop gain calculation finds the point where the real part is maximum and the imaginary part is zero. In this example, the real part is slightly greater than one.

**Note** This design, loopgain_small.dsn, is in the Examples directory under Tutorial/OscPort2_prj. The results are in loopgain_small.dds

Figure 3-9. Equivalent circuit of OscPort2 in small-signal loop gain mode.
Figure 3-10. Simulation setup to simulate the small-signal loop gain of an oscillator.

Set the Mode parameter (of OscPort2) to Small-signal loop gain. Because the control items are built into OscPort2, no analysis controller is necessary (when using OscPort2 in this mode). The name of the frequency SweepPlan should be set for FreqPlan. For this oscillator, the injected frequency is swept from 15 MHz to 25 MHz using the SweepPlan named Plan1.
The simulation results are shown here. In the dataset, the result named LoopGain is the complex loop gain for the oscillator. The magnitude and phase of the loop gain are plotted and shown above. This oscillator will oscillate near 20.55 MHz.
Oscillator Simulation Description

Oscillators are nonlinear by nature, using positive feedback to achieve oscillation. The loop gain must be greater than one with a phase shift of zero. Once it has been placed in the appropriate point in the circuit, the OscPort (oscillator port) component checks for this condition. When the loop-gain calculations are being performed, the oscillator port becomes a short circuit to all harmonic frequencies and a unidirectional isolator to the fundamental. During these calculations, the port effectively turns the closed-loop oscillator into an open-loop amplifier.

When the Specify Oscillator Nodes method is used instead of placing an OscPort component, the concept of loop gain is lost. In this mode the simulator connects a special voltage source to the specified node(s). This special source is connected to the circuit at only the fundamental frequency; nothing is connected at DC or the harmonics. This special source injects a voltage at the fundamental frequency to excite the oscillator. The oscillation will be self sustained when the voltage and frequency are such that the voltage is nonzero and no current flows from the special source.

Although a loop gain greater than one is required for oscillation to begin, at some level the amplitude of oscillation is limited. This limit may come about through the saturation of some active device, or may be the result of an active gain control (AGC) network. Either way, the limiting action requires that the gain of the loop be a function of the amplitude of the signal. This requires a nonlinear analysis. The simulator uses an iterative process to try to find a set of nonzero steady-state solutions.

When the oscillator simulation is launched, a harmonic-balance search algorithm varies the operating frequency to find the oscillation frequency, as well as the final operating frequency and power levels, of the oscillator circuit.

---

**Note**  Power levels are computed by means of a reference impedance value. However, because this value typically does not represent your circuit’s impedance, the power levels may not be physically meaningful. For example, in a high-impedance oscillator, the simulation power levels may be much greater than the power the oscillator can actually deliver to its load.

The simulator performs a fully automated search for the oscillator’s operating characteristics. The automated search involves:
Harmonic Balance for Oscillator Simulation

- Searching for a frequency where the circuit satisfies the linear oscillation condition.
- Searching for a frequency and power such that the oscillator's open-loop gain is at unity magnitude and zero phase angle (within a given tolerance).
- A full closed-loop harmonic balance analysis in which frequency and oscillator power are further refined to a more exact solution.

Performing VCO Tuning

VCO tuning is accomplished by performing an oscillator simulation in conjunction with a swept variable analysis (refer to the chapter “Parameter Sweeps and Sweep Plans” in the Using Circuit Simulators documentation). The simulator performs a separate oscillator analysis for each swept variable value, then attempts to find the actual oscillation condition for each value. After the analysis is complete, you can display the frequency of oscillation and the output power of that frequency as a function of, for example, the swept variable.

You should not sweep a variable in large steps, because that may snap the algorithm out of the vicinity of the prior oscillation condition, resulting in a convergence failure.

Measuring Oscillator Loop Gain

A quick and efficient way to ensure that the network meets the necessary conditions for oscillation is to use the OscTest component to verify whether the linear oscillation conditions are satisfied. OscTest performs a small-signal loop gain analysis on the oscillator. It does the initial analysis that is performed by the OscPort component, and it acts like a signal source, load, and ideal circulator. The impedance of the source and load are the same, and are set via the Z-parameter on the OscTest component. For some oscillators, the loop gain and phase shift vary with this Z-parameter, so it is sometimes a good idea to check the loop gain and phase shift versus frequency for different values of the Z-parameter. The results of a simulation with an OscTest component are the small-signal open loop gain and phase shift, as a function of frequency. Generally, the circuit will oscillate if the open loop gain satisfies

$$|G| > 1, \quad \text{Im}(G) = 0$$

or equivalently, where the output impedance ($Z_{out}$) satisfies

$$\text{Re}(Z_{out}) < 0, \quad \text{Im}(Z_{out}) = 0$$
For a more rigorous description of the oscillation conditions that must be satisfied, refer to the oscillator component descriptions in the Circuit Components manual.

**Note**  Because the control items are built into OscTest, no analysis controller is necessary.

In addition, an example of this type of analysis can be found in the example file /examples/Tutorial/LearnOsc_pr/OscTest_VCO. The application note, PN 85150-4 Simulating Noise in Nonlinear Circuits Using MDS/RFDS, provides further information about determining the expected frequency of oscillation for an oscillator, including a description of a method that does not use the OscTest component. This application note is accessible from the Agilent EEsof website.

After performing the simulations with OscTest and finding the potential frequency of oscillation, OscTest can be replaced with an OscPort and oscillator harmonic balance simulations can then be run.

It is important to note that an OscTest analysis is not an accurate way to determine the oscillation frequency, nor does it help determine the operating power levels of the oscillator. During oscillation, reactances within the device change considerably, causing frequency shifts not predicted by the linear simulation.

A large-signal nonlinear analysis accounts for the variations in device reactances and provides a way to determine the oscillation frequency with far greater accuracy. It also provides information on the output power level of the oscillator, output power spectrum, and voltage and current waveforms.
Consider the operation of a negative-resistance oscillator from a point in the network between the resonating circuit and the nonlinear device:

- Ambient noise usually provides the initial stimulus. When a small voltage disturbance at the appropriate frequency is presented at this node, it encounters negative resistance at the device and reflects back to the resonator with a greater magnitude.

- The resonator reflects the signal, which experiences some loss as it propagates through the circuit. As long as the negative resistance of the device is sufficient to exceed the losses in the circuit, the stimulus signal continues to grow.

- At some point, the magnitude of the signal becomes sufficient to reduce the negative resistance of the device.

- Steady state is reached when the magnitude of the signal causes the negative resistance and the loss effects to be balanced. Nonlinearities in the device will generate harmonics, which also reach steady-state values.

There are two unknowns in the process of simulating an oscillator:

- Amplitude of the injection/feedback signal
- Frequency of oscillation

The injection amplitude must be adjusted and applied over a range of frequencies until the oscillation conditions are met at one of the frequencies. Only then is the oscillator's steady-state operating point obtained.
Troubleshooting a Simulation

This section presents suggestions for improving the accuracy of results.

Solving Convergence and Speed Problems

You may find that simulation of your oscillator circuit does not converge properly. It may converge to a frequency, but with negligible AC power (a DC solution), or it may completely fail to converge. You may find instead that the oscillator analysis moves too slowly and you may want to speed it up. There are several methods you can apply to correct these problems.

• Ensure that the OscPort component is placed properly (refer to “Calculating Large-Signal, Steady-State Oscillation Conditions” on page 3-8).

• Ensure that the OscPort component is connected to a node in the circuit where a nonzero voltage at the fundamental oscillation frequency is expected. It should not be connected to a node that contains only a DC bias voltage. Good locations to pick are at the input or output of the active device, within the feedback loop, or between the negative resistance and the resonator.

• If oscillator nodes are specified instead of using an OscPort, good nodes to pick are the input or output nodes of the active devices or nodes in the resonator tank. Do not pick nodes in the bias circuitry or nodes in an output buffer amplifier.

• When there are convergence problems, or when there is reason to question the accuracy of the result, try setting Oversample (under the Params (1) tab) to a value between 1 and 3 (2 is recommended). If sampling within this range does not help, leave Oversample at 2 and try some of the other techniques listed next.

• Modify the value of Order (under the Freq tab). A larger value is helpful when there are convergence problems, or when there is reason to question the accuracy of the result. This value cannot be increased arbitrarily, however, without a severe time penalty. Reducing the value of Order is an effective way to increase the analysis speed. You can often do so without dramatically affecting the results.
• If tolerances are set for Frequency relative tolerance and Frequency absolute tolerance (in the Options component, under the Convergence tab), decrease them to improve convergence and increase them to improve speed. This can help especially in the case of high-Q oscillators. Reductions in frequency tolerance can improve the accuracy of results, but the values should be reduced carefully to avoid very lengthy analyses.

• Oscillator analysis works best with default convergence tolerances. Avoid loosening tolerances, especially I_AbsTol, unless absolutely necessary.

Correcting for Search Failures

Status messages inform you of the simulation process and results for each step in the three-step process. A failure in one step may lead to a failure in a successive step. Be sure to check the status messages to verify that a successful analysis was accomplished. A negligible power level resulting from the analysis is also the sign of a search failure.

If any step fails, consider the following to achieve proper results:

• If the linear oscillation search fails, first verify that circuit is properly biased and that either the OscPort component is located properly or the correct oscillator nodes were identified. If this is so, modify the OscPort parameters Octaves to Search, Steps per Octave, and MaxLoopGainStep - notice high-Q effects.

• If the approximate frequency search fails, switch to the fixed frequency search. Set the Octaves to Search parameter to zero, make sure that the Frequency specified for the Fundamental Frequencies (Freq tab in ADS; Fundamental Tones in RFDE) is close to the expected frequency of oscillation, and resimulate. This analysis mode is useful for oscillators that don't display the usual concept of small-signal loop gain greater than one, such as ring oscillators.

• If the approximate frequency and power search fails (or is extremely slow), you may need to specify an initial guess at the fundamental voltage. Give a value to the parameter \( V \) in the OscPort component.
Additional Potential Oscillation Frequencies

Some circuits may have more than one oscillation frequency. During the linear frequency search, which is done at the beginning of the analysis, the simulator will determine if the circuit contains additional potential oscillation frequencies. In the case that more than one frequency is found during the linear frequency search, the simulator uses the smallest oscillation frequency. A warning message will be given in the status window if additional oscillation frequencies are found, and the frequency values of the additional ones. The message will also state the frequency at which the simulation will continue for the remainder of the analysis. If additional potential frequencies are found, Agilent EEsof recommends that you re-examine your circuit design.

When performing an oscillator simulation (of a ring oscillator, for example) using NumOctaves=0 on the OscPort component, or when Octaves to Search=0 when specifying oscillator nodes, the simulator uses an alternate method to find the oscillation frequency. With this approach, the simulator does not perform the linear frequency search. Thus, it will not detect any additional potential oscillation frequencies in this mode.
When You Question the Accuracy of Frequency Results

The accuracy of the completed oscillation frequency is a function of many variables. If you are concerned that results might be inaccurate, consider the following steps:

- It is possible that you have an insufficient number of harmonics to model your circuit. Increase the number of harmonics or add loss effects to your circuit, so that the higher-order harmonics become negligible.

- Decrease the values of Frequency relative tolerance and Frequency absolute tolerance (in the Options component, under the Convergence tab). This forces the simulator to take additional iterations when refining the frequency-of-oscillation solution. The oscillator frequency is considered converged if

$$|\Delta F| \leq \varepsilon_{\text{rel}} |F| + \varepsilon_{\text{abs}}$$

where $\varepsilon_{\text{rel}}$ is Frequency relative tolerance and $\varepsilon_{\text{abs}}$ is Frequency absolute tolerance.

- Decrease the values of Voltage relative tolerance, Voltage absolute tolerance, Current relative tolerance, and Current absolute tolerance (in the Options component, under the Convergence tab). This will increase the accuracy of the voltage and current computations and indirectly improve the accuracy of the oscillation frequency.
Simulation Techniques for Recalcitrant Oscillators

Note  If you have purchased and installed the Oscillator DesignGuide, you can access the examples shown in this chapter by selecting DesignGuide > Oscillator > Solving HB Convergence Problems from the Schematic window.

Harmonic balance simulation in Advanced Design System is an excellent way to analyze many oscillators in the frequency domain. Occasionally, you might have an oscillator that converges in a time-domain simulation, but the harmonic balance oscillator algorithm is unable to find the solution. There are two techniques in ADS for solving those oscillators:

- Analyzing the large-signal loop gain in harmonic balance to find the point of oscillation and using that as an initial guess for the full harmonic balance oscillator analysis
- Using a transient analysis to produce an initial guess for harmonic balance oscillator analysis.

The oscillator shown in Figure 3-11 is the starting point for our test case. This is a five-stage CMOS ring oscillator that oscillates at 86 MHz. The following two techniques that are demonstrated use a ring oscillator, but they can be used with any type of oscillator that won't converge in a standard harmonic balance oscillator simulation.
Harmonic Balance for Oscillator Simulation

Figure 3-11. Five-stage CMOS Ring Oscillator

Transient analysis shows that it works, but if we run a harmonic balance simulation, the analysis fails with the following error message:

```
Error detected by HPEESOF SIM in frequency search during HB analysis `HB5'.
Cannot find a frequency where loop gain phase equals 0.0 degrees.
The magnitude of the loop gain is greater than one but additional phase shift around the loop is needed.
Warning detected by HPEESOF SIM during HB analysis `HB5'.
Oscillator analysis did not converge. Setting solution to zero.
Warning detected by HPEESOF SIM during HB analysis `HB5'.
More than one mixing term has landed on frequency 0 Hz.
```
Using Transient Analysis for an Initial Guess

The simplest method is to use transient analysis of an oscillator to create an initial guess for the harmonic balance oscillator analysis. The transient analysis setup for this oscillator is shown in Figure 3-12.

Figure 3-12. Transient Analysis Setup

An initial condition is used to bring the vout node to 0V. This puts the oscillator in an unstable state, so it will start to oscillate almost immediately. If an initial condition was not used, the DC analysis would start from the metastable state where the output of each inverter was approximately halfway between Vss and Vdd. This would eventually oscillate, but the startup would take longer.

In this analysis, we are only trying to get an estimate of the oscillation frequency. The simulation results are shown in Figure 3-13.
The cross() function is used in the data display to compute the period of each cycle of the oscillator. It computes the time between successive zero crossing. In this case, we are computing the time between positive going crossings of 1.5V. It was found that the first two periods were very different due to oscillator startup. These were tossed out; the period of the remaining cycles are shown in the plot. The average of the periods is used to estimate the frequency of oscillation: 86.094 MHz.

When doing the transient analysis, it might be necessary to use an Options item to tighten the tolerances for transient analysis. By default, transient sets $V_{RelTol} = _{RelTol} = 1e-3$. This may not be accurate enough to generate a good
frequency estimate and initial solution for harmonic balance. Setting $V_{RelTol}=I_{RelTol}=1e-6$ is recommended.

This value is then used in a second transient analysis that will be used to write the initial guess. The $Freq$ variable is set equal to this estimate. $HB_{OutFile}$ is used to specify the name of the initial guess file. Using the frequency estimate, the simulator converts the last cycle of the time-domain output into the frequency domain and saves $Order$ harmonics of data for every node in the circuit. The analysis setup is shown in Figure 3-14.

```
TRANSIENT
Tran
Tran1
StepTime=100.0 nsec
MaxTimeStep=0.1 nsec
Freq[1]=8000 MHz
Order[1]=15
HB_Window=no
HB_Sol=yes
HB_OutFile="fig12_out"
```

Figure 3-14. Second Transient Analysis
Harmonic Balance for Oscillator Simulation

The simulation setup is shown in Figure 3-15. Harmonic balance simulation is done, the oscillator mode is selected and the OscPort name is entered (yes means automatically find it). The initial guess is read in using the InFile parameter. It should be set to read the file that was written out in the last step.

![Figure 3-15. Setup for Harmonic Balance Analysis](image)

The simulation goes quickly, as the simulator has a good initial guess. Unlike the loop-gain initial guess, the simulator does not complain about missing components and nodes, because we didn't have to make any changes to the circuit for this method. The results are shown in Figure 3-16.
Figure 3-16. Results Using Loop Gain Initial Guess
Large-Signal Loop Gain Analysis

We will take the view that an oscillator is an amplifier with a feedback loop. An initial small signal due to thermal noise or a startup impulse from a power supply goes around the loop and gets amplified and phase shifted by some small-signal gain. This larger signal continues to go around the loop, getting larger. At some point, the nonlinear nature of the amplifier kicks in, and the gain starts to decrease due to gain compression as the signal gets larger. At this point, we have to start thinking of it as a large-signal gain that is dependent on the amplitude of the signal. Ultimately, the signal gets so large that the gain is reduced to unity, and if the signal gets any larger, the gain is less than unity. This is the limiting nature of an oscillator.

At the frequency at which the large-signal gain is unity, the circuit is capable of sustaining the same signal it oscillates. Another requirement for oscillation is that the phase shift around the loop is zero (really a multiple of 360 degrees). So we can say that an oscillator will oscillate at some fundamental frequency with some voltage at that frequency when that signal would set unity gain and zero phase shift around the loop.
The circuit shown in Figure 3-17 shows how we can simulate large-signal loop gain in ADS.

Figure 3-17. Simulating Large Signal Loop Gain

The S4P is defined to have some special properties:

- $S(2,1)$, the forward signal flow from port 1 to port 2, is one at all frequencies except the fundamental is zero.
- $S(1,2)$, the reverse signal flow from port 1 to port 2, is one everywhere.
- $S(2,3)$ defines the injection from the source at port 3 into the loop at port 2; it is set up to pass only the fundamental frequency.
- $S(4,1)$ passes the full signal coming out of the loop to the termination at port 4. This terminates the fundamental but duplicates the rest of the signal (DC and harmonics). In this way, we have opened the feedback loop only at the fundamental frequency, allowing DC and the harmonics to continue to flow around the loop.
We can now inject a large signal tone at the fundamental frequency into the feedback loop and observe the fundamental after it travels around the feedback loop. We can then define the loop gain as the ratio of the voltage at the output to the voltage injected into the loop, both at the fundamental frequency. This analysis capability is built into the OscPort2 component in its large-signal loop gain mode.

**Swept Large-Signal Loop Gain**

We can now start our oscillator analysis. We will use a discrete version of the loop gain measurement rather than use the OscPort2, as it will be needed in the next step. The simulation setup is shown in Figure 3-18. The OscPort2 is disabled, as it is replaced by the S4P circuit for this analysis. A harmonic balance analysis will be done where both the injected voltage $V_{\text{inj}}$ and the fundamental frequency $F_{\text{osc}}$ are swept. This is not an oscillator analysis, because we are specifying the analysis frequencies and driving the circuit with a source.
We will start with a fairly coarse sweep. Frequency will be swept from 80 to 90 MHz in 2 MHz, and the injected voltage will be swept from 0.1 to 1.1V in 0.2V steps. We are looking for the frequency and voltage that will sustain oscillation: that point at which the loop gain is unity with zero phase shift. In terms of the expressions used in the data display, this is $\text{dB(LoopGain)}=0$ and $\text{phase(LoopGain)}=0$. A good way of viewing this is shown in Figure 3-19. We plot $\text{phase(LoopGain)}$ versus $\text{dB(LoopGain)}$, and the point of oscillation will be the $(0,0)$ point on the graph.
Harmonic Balance for Oscillator Simulation

Figure 3-19. Phase Loop Gain vs dB Loop Gain

The blue lines are lines of constant frequency and the red lines are lines of constant injected voltage. By using a marker, we can identify which line is which. We can see how the magnitude of the loop gain decreases as the injected voltage increases; the red lines move to the left as the voltage increases.
From this coarse plot, we can narrow down the range of our search for the next step. The frequency range will be swept from 84 to 87 MHz in 1 MHz step, and the injected voltage from 0.85 to 0.95V in 0.02V steps. The new results are shown in Figure 3-20. The (0,0) point is circled for clarity.
We will make one additional refinement on this analysis. The frequency range will be swept from 84.0 to 84.5 MHz in 0.1 MHz steps, and the injected voltage from 0.890 to 0.895V in 0.001V steps. These results are shown in Figure 3-21.

Figure 3-21. Results with Modified Frequency and Injected Voltage

Depending on the nature of the oscillator, more or less sweep refinements might be necessary. If the oscillator appears to be well behaved (plots have a nice grid-like structure), then less refinements may be needed. If the plots are more curvy, or show the possibility of multiple solutions, further refinement might be needed.
**Optimization of Large-Signal Loop Gain**

From this last analysis, we have a good estimate of the point at which oscillation will occur. Rather than continuing to manually sweep, we will switch to optimization and let ADS find this point by itself. From the last analysis, we can estimate a bounding box for the oscillation point and restrict the optimization to this range:

- \( F_{osc} = 86.1 \text{ MHz} \)  
  \( \text{opt} \{86.0 \text{ MHz to 86.5 MHz}\} \)
- \( V_{inj} = 0.89 \) \( \text{opt} \{0.88 \text{ to 0.90 }\} \)

The optimization goals are simple:

- \( \text{dB(LoopGain)} = 0 \)
- \( \text{phase(LoopGain)} = 0 \)

The circuit used is shown in Figure 3-22. Only the simulation setup is shown; the rest of the circuit is the same as the previous one. A gradient optimization is done using the two goals. The object is to find the frequency and injected voltage at which the oscillation condition is satisfied.
Harmonic Balance for Oscillator Simulation

Figure 3-22. Optimization Setup

```
Optim
Optim1
OptimType=Gradient
MaxIter=25
FinalAnalysis="None"
SaveGoals=yes
SaveNominal=no
UseAllGoals=yes

Goal
OptimGoal
Expr="toldB(LoopGain)"
SimInstanceName="HB2"
Min=0
Max=0

HarmonicBalance
HB2
Freq[1]=Fosc
Order[1]=15

VAR
VAR2
Zos=1.1
Vin=0.99 opt { 0.88 to 0.99 }  
Fosc=66.1 MHz opt { 66.0 MHz to 66.5 MHz }
Inj=2.0*Vin/Zos

MeasEqn
Meas1
LoopGain=LoopOut[1]*LoopIn[1]
```

3-46  Simulation Techniques for Recalcitrant Oscillators
The plot in Figure 3-23 shows the optimization results.

![Optimization Results]

The initial error values are shown, and they were fairly good to start with. But seven iterations get the error down below $10^{-8}$. The final values are $F_{osc}=86.1304$ MHz and $V_{inj}=0.890945$ V.

**Creation of Initial Guess**

We run one final simulation with this circuit, setting specifications for VAR, MeasEqn, and Harmonic Balance. The large signal loop gain will be simulated at one point, which includes the values found from optimization. The harmonic balance simulation will save all of its results (the voltage spectra at every node in the circuit) in an output file, using the OutFile parameter. This will be used as initial guess for a full oscillator simulation.

The VAR, MeasEqn, and Harmonic Balance items are set up as follows:
Harmonic Balance for Oscillator Simulation

- **VAR2**
  
  \[ Z_{osc} = 1.1 \]
  
  \[ V_{inj} = 0/890945 \]
  
  \[ F_{osc} = 86.1304 \text{ MHz} \]
  
  \[ \text{linj} = Z_0\ast V_{inj}/Z_{osc} \]

- **MeasEqn**
  
  \[ \text{LoopGain} = \text{LoopOut}[1]/\text{LoopIn}[1] \]

- **HB2**
  
  \[ F_{re1}[1] = F_{osc} \]
  
  \[ \text{Order}[1] = 15 \]
  
  \[ \text{OutFile} = \text{fig22.out} \]
  
  \[ \text{UseOutFile} = \text{yes} \]

**Final Oscillator Simulation**

Now that we have a good initial guess for the oscillator, we can return the automatic oscillator algorithm in harmonic balance. To use this, we must enable the OscPort2 component and disable the S4P and related components that were added to compute the loop gain.

The simulation setup is shown Figure 3-24. Harmonic balance simulation is done, the oscillator mode is selected and the OscPort name is entered ("yes" means automatically find it). The initial guess is read in using the InFile parameter. It should be set to read the file that was written out in the last step.
The simulation goes quickly, as the simulator has a good initial guess. The initial guess code will complain that some components in the input file don't exist in the current circuit and vice versa, but that doesn't affect its ability to converge. The important nodes (those associated with the nonlinear devices) get the correct initial guess values. The harmonic balance oscillator algorithm refines the frequency and voltages a little, and this time converges. The results are shown in Figure 3-25.
Figure 3-25. Results of Final Oscillation
If we look at the oscillation frequency to many decimal places, we'll see that the loop gain optimization came up with a slightly different value than the oscillator search algorithm found. They are close but vary a little because we did change the circuit a bit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fosc from optimization:</td>
<td>86.130 415 03 MHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fosc input to osc analysis:</td>
<td>86.130 4 MHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fosc final answer:</td>
<td>86.130 487 02 MHz</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Summary of Simulation Techniques**

The preceding shows two methods for solving difficult oscillators in harmonic balance using initial guesses. Initial guess can either be generated from harmonic balance by looking at the large signal loop gain, or from a transient analysis.

If we look at the oscillation frequency to many decimal places, we'll see that the loop gain optimization came up with a slightly different value than the oscillator search algorithm found. They are close but vary a little because we did make small changes to the circuit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fosc from transient:</td>
<td>86.094 601 MHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fosc input to osc analysis:</td>
<td>86.1 MHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fosc final answer:</td>
<td>86.131 078 MHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fosc from optimization:</td>
<td>86.130 415 MHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fosc input to osc analysis:</td>
<td>86.130 4 MHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fosc final answer:</td>
<td>86.130 487 MHz</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The harmonic balance oscillator results from the two methods are very similar. The frequencies differ by only 591 Hz, which is a relative difference of 6.9x10^{-6}. 
Harmonic Balance for Oscillator Simulation
Chapter 4: Oscillator Noise Simulation

This chapter focuses on setting up noise simulations for oscillators. It describes how to calculate:

- Phase noise around fundamentals and harmonics
- Absolute noise voltage spectrum around a harmonic
- Relative noise voltage spectrum around a fundamental

There are two methods of noise simulation: using the parameters on the Noise tabs (in the harmonic balance dialog box) or using NoiseCon components. Using NoiseCons, you can set up several noise simulations, thereby eliminating the need to change the values on the Noise tabs in the Harmonic Balance dialog box. With NoiseCons, you can also set parameters to calculate phase noise.

If you are not familiar with the general procedures for simulating oscillators, refer to Chapter 3, Harmonic Balance for Oscillator Simulation before continuing with this chapter.

Refer to the following topics for details on oscillator noise simulation:

- “Simulating Phase Noise Using OscPort” on page 4-2 describes how to set up a phase noise simulation in the context of an example.
- “Simulating Phase Noise with NoiseCons” on page 4-4 describes how to use NoiseCon components to calculate phase noise, relative noise voltage spectrum, phase noise voltage around a harmonic, and absolute noise voltage spectrum.
- “Phase Noise Simulation Description” on page 4-13 describes the calculations made during a phase noise analysis and an overview of the elements of phase noise.

Note: You must have the Harmonic Balance simulator license (included with all Circuit Design suites except RF Designer) to run the following simulations. You can build the examples without the appropriate licenses, but you will not be able to simulate them.
Simulating Phase Noise Using OscPort

Figure 4-1 illustrates an example setup for determining oscillator phase noise.

Note  This design, OSC3.dsn, is in the examples directory under Tutorial/SimModels_prj. The results are in OSC3.dds.

This example is similar to “Calculating Large-Signal, Steady-State Oscillation Conditions” on page 3-8 with the addition of the settings described below.

Figure 4-1. Setup for Determining Oscillator Phase Noise
To determine oscillator phase noise:

1. Label all nodes where you want to collect noise data.

2. Open the Harmonic Balance dialog box and enable **Nonlinear noise** and **Oscillator** at the bottom of the dialog.

3. Select the **Noise (1)** tab and set these parameters under **Noise frequency**:
   - **Sweep Type** = Log
   - **Start** = 1 kHz
   - **Stop** = 10 MHz
   - **Pts./decade** = 2

4. Select **Noise (2)**. In the section **Nodes for noise parameter calculation**, display the Edit drop-down list and select each node at which to report noise data and click **Add**. That node is listed in the **Select** list box.

5. **Simulate**. Plot **Gain_out.pnmx**, for phase noise due to noise mixing. The plot appears as follows:

![Phase Noise at node "Gain_out"](image)

Notice that the noise is at least 100 dB below the fundamental (resonant) frequency.
Simulating Phase Noise with NoiseCons

When you use a NoiseCon nonlinear noise controller with an oscillator, you have more flexibility in controlling over how noise simulation is performed than you do with Noise(1) and Noise(2). You can compute both single-sideband phase noise as well as a double-sideband noise voltage spectrum. In addition, you can compute phase noise around the oscillator fundamental, an oscillator harmonic or a mixing product. Figure 4-2 shows an oscillator with a frequency multiplier that will be used to demonstrate the use of NoiseCons with an oscillator.

Note Refer to the ADS project examples/Tutorial/Noisecon_prj for an illustration of how to use NoiseCons for oscillator phase noise simulation. See oscmul.dsn for the design and oscmul.dds for the results.

Figure 4-2. Setup for Demonstrating NoiseCons with an Oscillator

Four Noisecon components will be used to demonstrate:

- Phase noise around the fundamental
- Relative noise voltage spectrum around the fundamental
- Absolute noise voltage spectrum around a harmonic
- Phase noise around a harmonic
Single Sideband Phase Noise

The first NoiseCon illustrates phase noise around the fundamental frequency of the oscillator.

1. Place a NoiseCon from the Simulation-HB palette. Name it NC1.

2. Select the Freq tab to specify the phase noise offset frequencies. Select a Log sweep and set the Start frequency to 1 kHz, the Stop frequency to 1 MHz and Pts./decade to 3.

3. Select the Nodes tab and enter the name of the oscillator output node, vosc, in the Pos Node and Add it to the list.

4. Select the PhaseNoise tab and select Phase noise spectrum as the Phase Noise Type. Specify the Phase noise carrier (using Frequency) as 100 MHz. The simulator will find the closest actual frequency to this, which is the oscillation frequency of 103.6 MHz.

5. Edit the Harmonic Balance controller and select the NoiseCons tab. Select NC1 and Add it to the list of NoiseCons to be simulated.

The simulated single-sideband phase noise results are shown next. The result in the dataset has the name HB1.NC1.vosc.pnmx and is phase noise in dBc. Refer to “How ADS Simulates Phase Noise” on page 4-13 for more information on phase noise analyses.
Oscillator Noise Simulation

NC1: vosc Phase Noise

![Graph showing phase noise simulation]
Relative Noise Voltage Spectrum

The second NoiseCon illustrates the relative noise voltage spectrum. Rather than compute the single sideband phase noise, the noise voltage is computed both at the carrier frequency minus the offset frequency and at the carrier frequency plus the offset frequency. The results are presented as a relative noise voltage spectrum around zero, with the results extending from minus the largest offset frequency to plus the largest offset frequency.

1. From the Simulation-HB palette, select and place a NoiseCon. Name it NC1.

2. Select the Freq tab to specify the phase noise offset frequencies. Select a Log sweep and set the Start frequency to 1 Hz, the Stop frequency to 100 kHz and the Pts./decade to 3.

3. Select the Nodes tab. Select the name of the oscillator output node, vosc, from the Pos Node drop-down list and Add it to the list box for noise parameter calculation.

4. Select the PhaseNoise tab and select Relative vnoise spectrum as the Phase Noise Type. Specify the phase noise carrier (using Carrier mixing indices) as 1, which corresponds to the fundamental oscillation frequency.

5. Edit the Harmonic Balance controller and select the NoiseCons tab. Select NC2 and Add it to the list of NoiseCons to be simulated.

The simulated single-sideband phase noise results are shown next. The result in the dataset has the name HB1.NC2.vosc.noise and is a noise voltage. The spectrum extends from -100 kHz to +100 kHz, and is assumed to be centered relative to the carrier frequency.
Oscillator Noise Simulation

NC2: vosc Noise Spectrum

4-8 Simulating Phase Noise with NoiseCons
Phase Noise Voltage Around a Harmonic

The third NoiseCon illustrates the phase noise spectrum around the seventh harmonic of the oscillator after it passes through a diode frequency multiplier.

1. From the Simulation-HB palette, select and place a NoiseCon. Name it NC3.

2. Select the Freq tab to specify the phase noise offset frequencies. Select a Log sweep and set the Start frequency to 1 kHz, the Stop frequency to 1 MHz and the Pts./decade to 3.

3. Select the Nodes tab and select the frequency multiplier output node, vmul, from the Pos Node drop-down list and Add it to the list box for noise parameter calculation.

4. Select the PhaseNoise tab and select Phase noise spectrum as the Phase Noise Type. Specify the phase noise carrier (using Carrier mixing indices) as 7, corresponding to the frequency multiplier output harmonic with the largest power.

5. Edit the Harmonic Balance controller and select the NoiseCons tab. Select NC3 and Add it to the list of NoiseCons to be simulated.

The simulated single-sideband phase noise results are shown next. The result in the dataset has the name HB1.NC3.vosc.pnmx and is phase noise in dBc. Refer to “How ADS Simulates Phase Noise” on page 4-13 for more information on the phase noise analyses. If the phase noise results from this simulation at the seventh harmonic and the phase noise results around the fundamental are compared, the phase noise is seen to be increased 20 log(7), or 16.9 dB, as expected.
Oscillator Noise Simulation

NC3: vmul Phase Noise

[Graph showing phase noise vs. noise frequency]
Absolute Noise Voltage Spectrum

The fourth NoiseCon illustrates the absolute noise voltage spectrum. Rather than compute the single sideband phase noise, the noise voltage is computed both at the carrier frequency minus the offset frequency and at the carrier frequency plus the offset frequency. The results are presented as an absolute noise voltage spectrum around the carrier frequency, with the results extending from the carrier frequency minus the largest offset frequency to the carrier frequency plus the largest offset frequency.

1. From the Simulation-HB palette, select and place a NoiseCon. Name it NC4.
2. Select the Freq tab to specify the phase noise offset frequencies. Select a Log sweep and set the Start frequency to 1 Hz, the Stop frequency to 100 kHz and the Pts./decade to 3.
3. Select the Nodes tab and select the frequency multiplier output node, vmul, from the Pos Node drop-down list and Add it to the list box for noise parameter calculation.
4. Select the PhaseNoise tab and select Absolute vnoise spectrum as the Phase Noise Type. Specify the phase noise carrier (using Carrier mixing indices) as 7, corresponding to the frequency multiplier output harmonic with the largest power.
5. Edit the Harmonic Balance controller and select the NoiseCons tab. Select NC4 and Add it to the list of NoiseCons to be simulated.

The simulated single-sideband phase noise results are shown next. The result in the dataset has the name HB1.NC4.vosc.noise and is a noise voltage. The spectrum extends from 725.62 MHz to 725.82 MHz, centered around the seventh harmonic of the oscillator.
Oscillator Noise Simulation

NC4: vmul Noise Spectrum

4-12 Simulating Phase Noise with NoiseCons
Phase Noise Simulation Description

An oscillator phase noise analysis computes the noise sidebands of the oscillator carrier frequency as well as:

- Normal frequency conversion
- Amplitude-noise-to-frequency-noise conversion
- Frequency translation of noise, caused by component nonlinearities in the presence of large-signal oscillator signals. Upconverted flicker noise is a commonly observed effect.
- Bias changes due to the oscillator signals. Any shift in DC bias that occurs in the presence of the oscillation waveforms is taken into account. This bias-shift calculation is needed for accurate calculations of nonlinear device noise.

The results from the phase noise analysis have .pnmx (phase noise, in dBC/Hz) and .anmx (AM noise, in dBC/Hz) appended to the selected node name(s).

**Note** Most of the nonlinear devices in the semiconductor libraries do not have stable 1/f noise parameters. Instead, noise sources must be added to model the 1/f noise.

How ADS Simulates Phase Noise

Phase noise in an oscillator can be analyzed from small-signal mixing of noise. The small-signal mixing of noise comes from the nonlinear behavior of the oscillator, where noise mixes with the oscillator signal and harmonics to mix to sideband frequencies on either side of the oscillator signal.

The phase noise computed is available to the user directly in dBC. Assuming there is a node labeled vout for which phase noise is to be computed, the following variables are available for use in a data display following a phase noise analysis.

- hb_noise.vout.pnmx phase noise (in dBC) from mixing analysis
- hb_noise.vout.anmx AM noise in (dBC) from mixing analysis

To model oscillator phase noise with a noise mixing analysis, the noise at the sidebands on either side of the carrier \( (\omega_0 \pm \omega) \) are obtained from a small-signal mixer analysis where noise sources \( (\omega \pm \kappa \omega_0) \) mix with the oscillator large signals \( (\kappa \omega_0) \) to
produce noise sidebands. The noise at these two sideband frequencies and their correlation is then used to compute the phase noise. The mixing analysis additionally computes the AM noise as well as phase noise.

Possible Problems with Phase Noise Analysis

When simulating phase noise, it is recommended to set the Oversample parameter to 4 or higher.

For the mixing analysis, it is important that the analysis uses all of the small signal frequencies. By default, the simulator will use all of the small signal frequencies. The only way to make it not use all of them, and degrade the accuracy of the noise results, is to perform a small-signal analysis along with the noise analysis, and set Use all small-signal frequencies to no there. This parameter controls the number of small-signal frequencies used in the mixing analysis; if TRUE, then the sidebands around all of the large-signal frequencies are used (2 · order + 1 small-signal tones); otherwise sidebands are used only around the lowest half of the large-signal frequencies (order + 1 small-signal tones). (Note that order is the number of harmonics (including the fundamental) of the oscillator simulated.) Disabling this option can severely underpredict the phase noise from a mixing analysis, especially at small offsets; this is not because the extra sidebands contribute more noise, but is due to a matrix stability issue.

The following figure illustrates the different components of phase noise for a simple oscillator. Phase noise from the mixing analysis, pnmx, is shown both when all small-signal frequencies are used (all=yes) and when they are not used (all=no).
GDRI Phase Noise
01 bpk=10 Sampd=10

Phase Noise (dB)

Offset Frequency (Hz)

-100
-150
-200

1 10 100 1000 10000 100000
**Basic Phase Noise Theory**

Phase noise occurs naturally in electronic circuits. It can be observed in the time domain as phase jitter of the signal on an oscilloscope display or as time fluctuations of the zero crossings (see the following figure).

\[
V(t) = V_s \cos(\omega t)
\]

\[
\Delta t \leftrightarrow \Delta \phi(t)
\]

**Frequency and phase are related by:**

\[
f(t) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{d\phi(t)}{dt}
\]
Relationship of Phase Deviation and Sideband Level

Phase noise and frequency fluctuations are the same physical phenomenon. Noise in angular frequency can be obtained from the derivative of phase with respect to time. The modulation of the signal phase manifests itself in the sidebands of the oscillator carrier as offsets from the carrier frequency; these offsets are related to the multiples of angle-modulation frequency. For small angle modulation, only the first term is important and the relationship between the phase deviation and the sideband level is approximated as follows:

\[
\frac{P_{ssb}}{P_s} = \frac{1}{2} \Delta \phi^2_{\text{rms}(f)}
\]

For small angle modulation
\[
\Delta \phi \ll 1
\]
Single-Sideband Noise Power in a 1-Hz Bandwidth

A common but indirect representation of phase noise is denoted $L(f)$ (see the following figure). This is the ratio of the single-sideband noise power (in a 1-Hz bandwidth at an offset frequency from the carrier) to the total carrier power. This common representation is applicable only to small phase deviations.

$$L(f) = \frac{P_{ssb}(\text{per 1Hz})}{P_s} \quad \text[dBc/Hz]$$
Oscillator Phase-Noise Analysis

The simulator computes the noise at an offset from the unknown oscillation frequency. After the normal harmonic-balance noise analysis has determined the steady-state oscillation frequency and amplitude, the phase-noise analysis computes the noise amplitude as an offset from the carrier. With this noise spectral density $S_v(f)$, the phase noise can be computed as

$$L_f(f) = \frac{S_v(f)}{A_c}$$

where $A_c$ is the amplitude of the fundamental oscillator output.

There are four distinct regions of phase noise, as shown next. Note that not all oscillators will show all four regions.
Oscillator Noise Simulation

- The lowest frequency is dominated by flicker FM noise, which is device flicker noise that causes a random frequency modulation. This has a slope of $1/f^3$.
- White FM noise is white noise that causes a random frequency modulation. This has a slope of $1/f^2$.
- Flicker PM noise is modeled by flicker noise that mixes up to the oscillation frequency. This has a slope of $1/f$.
- White PM noise is simply white noise that mixes up to the oscillation frequency. This has the typical flat white-noise floor.

**Note** To model added white noise, select a V_Noise (Noise Voltage Source) component if you know the rms noise voltage, and an I_Noise (Noise Current Source) component if you know the rms noise current (these are found in the Noise and Controlled Sources palette). To model flicker PM or flicker FM noise, a device (such as a BJT) with flicker noise parameters must be in the circuit.
Chapter 5: Harmonic Balance for Mixers

This chapter discusses the use of the Harmonic Balance simulator for standard mixer analyses as well as the small signal option in the Harmonic Balance dialog box that simplifies mixer analyses.

The Small-signal option makes it possible to do a multitone analysis where sidebands are involved, as in a mixer analysis. By reducing by 1 the number of large-signal tones required in a conventional harmonic balance analysis, and eliminating the need to calculate large-signal products, the simulation is computationally efficient.

The starting point of this chapter assumes you are familiar with the basics of harmonic balance simulation, as described in Chapter 1, Harmonic Balance Basics.

Refer to the following topics for details on harmonic balance for mixers:

- “Performing a Basic Mixer Simulation” on page 5-2 gives the minimum setup for a mixer simulation.
- “Examples (ADS only)” on page 5-3 gives detailed setups for a variety of mixer analyses, such as looking at output tones, performing a small-signal mixer simulation, calculating conversion gain, and calculating intermodulation distortion.
- “Small-Signal Mode Description” on page 5-17 is a brief explanation of small-signal mixer simulation.
- Chapter 6, Mixer Noise Simulation focuses on noise simulation setups for mixers.
Performing a Basic Mixer Simulation

For a successful analysis:

- By convention, the mixer input port is considered to be port 1, the IF output port is port 2, and the LO input port is port 3. Set up sources and port numbers so that they match the mixer convention. You do this by editing the Num field for these components.

- Ensure that frequencies are established for all of the frequencies of interest—RF, LO, and IF—in the design.

- Add the Harmonic Balance simulation component to the schematic and double-click to edit it. Fill in the fields under the Freq tab:
  - Enter the RF, LO, and IF as fundamental frequencies and set the order.
  - Assign the LO frequency to Freq[1]; it is easier to achieve convergence if the frequency of the signal with the largest amplitude is assigned to Freq[1].
  - Since the number of tones in the simulation can affect simulation time, set the Maximum order to limit the number of tones that are considered in the simulation. For more information, refer to “Harmonics and Maximum Order” on page 1-14.
  - Tone assignment and aliasing error can affect the outcome of a mixer simulation. You may want to select the Params tab and set the FFT Oversample parameter. For more information refer to “Oversampling to Prevent Aliasing” on page 1-67.

For details about other fields, click Help from the dialog box.
Examples (ADS only)

This section gives detailed setups to perform harmonic balance simulations for:

- “Finding Mixer Output Tones” on page 5-3
- “Performing a Small-Signal Simulation of a Mixer” on page 5-7
- “Determining Mixer Conversion Gain” on page 5-10
- “Determining Mixer Intermodulation Distortion” on page 5-14

Note  You must have the Harmonic Balance simulator license (included with all Circuit Design suites except RF Designer) to run the following simulations. You can build the examples without the appropriate license, but you will not be able to simulate them.

Finding Mixer Output Tones

Figure 5-1 illustrates an example setup for determining the amplitudes and relationships of mixer output tones.

Note  This design, Mix1.dsn, is in the Examples directory under Tutorial/SimModels_prj. The results are in Mix1.dds. Refer also to the ADS examples in /examples/RFIC/Mixers_prj.

This example is a two-tone harmonic balance analysis. One tone is used for the RF, one for LO. At the IF we expect to find two fundamental tones at $f_{RF} - f_{LO}$ and $f_{RF} + f_{LO}$. We also expect to find spurious tones (attributed in this case to an intermodulation table). The mixer in this example is a MixerIMT component (available in the System-Data Models palette), which references the intermodulation table dbl1.imt. Conversion gain is determined by the parameter ConvGain, which uses the function dbpolar to set a gain of 6 dB at an angle of 0 degrees. The reflection parameters $S_{11}$, $S_{22}$, and $S_{33}$ have been set to 0.1, 0.33, and 0.1, respectively.
Harmonic Balance for Mixers

**Note**  By convention, the mixer input port is port 1, the IF output port is port 2, and the LO input port is port 3. This is different from the automatic component-naming convention used by the P_1Tone sources when they are placed sequentially in the Schematic window.

You can leave **SS_Sideband** set to its default value of **UPPER** for this simulation.

![HARMONIC BALANCE](image)

Figure 5-1. Setup for Finding Output Tones

To find the amplitudes and relationships of mixer output tones:

1. From the **Sources-Freq Domain** palette, select **P_1Tone** and place one instance of it at the RF input (PORT1) and another at the LO input (PORT2).

2. Edit the RF input source:
   - **Num = 1**. This is port 1.
   - **Z = 50 Ohms** (default value)
   - **P = dbmtow(-10)**. This converts the 0-dBm input to watts (the power unit used by the system).
   - **Freq = RFfreq**. This variable will be defined by a VarEqn component.
3. Edit the LO input source:
   • Num = 2. This is port 2.
   • Z = 50 Ohms (default value)
   • P = dbmtow(7)
   • Freq = \text{LOfreq}. This variable will be defined by a VarEqn component.
   • Noise = \text{No}. Unless you are doing a noise simulation, this parameter is ignored.

4. From the Data Items palette, select Var eqn (Variables and Equations), and place the VAR component on the schematic. Edit it and select the default equation, replacing it with the following equations:
   • \text{LOfreq} = 1850 MHz
   • \text{RFfreq} = 2100 MHz

5. From the Simulation-HB palette, select the HB simulation component and place it on the schematic. Edit to select the Freq tab and edit the following parameters:
   • Maximum order = 8
   • Frequency = \text{LOfreq}. This is Freq[1]. Set its order to 8.
   • Click Add to enter the second fundamental, Freq[2]. Set its frequency to \text{RFfreq}, and leave its order set to 8.

\textbf{Note}  Normally you would want to set orders for the RF tones lower, to achieve a faster simulation.
6. **Simulate.** When the simulation is finished, plot Vif in dBm, then place markers on the two fundamental IF tones, RFfreq - LOfreq (m1) and RFfreq + LOfreq (m2), as shown below:

Place more markers to view other frequencies and their magnitudes.
Performing a Small-Signal Simulation of a Mixer

Figure 5-2, similar to the preceding example, illustrates an example setup for performing a small-signal mixer analysis.

**Note** This design, Mix1_ssmix.dsn, is in the Examples directory under Tutorial/ SimModels_prj. The results of the simulation are in Mix1_ssmix.dds. For a detailed example refer to ADS examples/ RFIC/ MixerDiffMode_prj.

---

**Figure 5-2. Small-signal mixer analysis example**

The Small-signal option, which takes less time and uses less memory, makes it possible to do a multitone analysis where sidebands are involved. When you reduce by one the number of large-signal tones required in a conventional harmonic balance analysis (thereby eliminating the need to calculate large-signal products), the simulation is computationally efficient, because it treats the RF signal as a small-signal, and no harmonics of the RF signal are generated, yet it still forms mixing terms with the LO. This procedure requires that a P_1Tone component be placed where you want to simulate the effects of mixing a fundamental with its sidebands.
Harmonic Balance for Mixers

This procedure uses the upper sideband as an example only. Modify it to view the effects of mixing with the lower sideband. This basic example uses only one RF tone. With two RF tones defined in the RF source, this setup can also be used for a multitone analysis. Small-signal mixer data are indicated by SM.

To perform a small-signal analysis of a mixer:

1. Start with the circuit used in the example, “Performing a Small-Signal Simulation of a Mixer” on page 5-7.

   **Note** The *Freq* parameter of the P_1Tone component should be empty, as it will be ignored in this analysis. If you simulate or modify the Mix1_ssmix.dsn example shown in Figure 5-2, be sure to change *Freq* = None.

2. Edit the HarmonicBalance simulation component as follows:

   • Select the *Freq* tab and ensure that Frequency is *LOfreq* and its Order is 4. *LOfreq* (*Freq[1]*) is defined in the VAR component.

   • Select the *Small-Sig* tab and ensure that Sweep Type is *Single point*, and that Frequency is *IFfreq* (this is the IF resulting from RF freq – *LOfreq*). Also select *Use all small-signal frequencies*.

   **Note** Because we are specifying the power in the upper sideband in the RF source (PORT1), the frequency for this source is the sum of the difference frequency (250 MHz) and the LO frequency (1850 MHz). The RF input is therefore 2100 MHz.
3. **Simulate.** When the simulation is finished, place a Rectangular plot of SM.Vif in dBm, as follows:

![Graph showing dBm(SM.Vif) against frequency (GHz)]

Markers at 250 MHz ($f_{RF}$) and 3.750 MHz ($f_{LO} + f_{RF}$) indicate the effects—for our idealistic model—of 6 dB of gain on the input RF power (-60 dBm).
Determining Mixer Conversion Gain

Figure 5-3 illustrates an example setup for determining mixer conversion gain.

Note: This design, Mix1_convgain.dsn, is in the Examples directory under Tutorial/SimModel_prj. The results are in Mix1_convgain.dds.

This example uses the basic Mixer component from the System-Amps & Mixers palette, and also illustrates the use of the Krylov method. While a small-signal mixer analysis can be used to determine conversion gain, the method described here, in which the RF signal is not assumed to be small, should be used if the RF signal is large enough to drive the mixer into compression.
To determine mixer conversion gain:

1. Start with the circuit in the example, “Finding Mixer Output Tones” on page 5-3.

2. Edit the P_1Tone component at the RF source (PORT1)s:
   - \( P = \text{dbmtow}(\text{Power}_{RF}) \). \text{Power}_{RF} will be established by an equation.
   - \( F_{\text{req}} = RF_{freq} \)

3. Edit the P_1Tone component at the LO source (PORT2):
   - \( P = \text{dbmtow}(0) \)
   - \( F_{\text{req}} = LO_{freq} \)

4. Using the VAR component, enter the following equations (note the use of the underscore before dBm):
   - \( RF_{\text{power}} = -30 \_\text{dBm} \)
   - \( LO_{\text{power}} = -10 \_\text{dBm} \)
   - \( LO_{freq} = 1850 \text{ MHz} \)
   - \( IF_{freq} = RF_{freq} - LO_{freq} \)
   - \( RF_{freq} = 2100 \text{ MHz} \)

   Note: In ADS, dBm is not a recognized unit. The underscore in front of dBm (as in \_dBm) allows this unit to be used for documentation purposes without causing the simulator to issue a warning.

5. Edit the Harmonic Balance Simulation component, select the \text{Freq} tab, and edit the following parameters:
   - \( \text{Maximum order} = 5 \)
   - \( \text{Freq}[1] = LO_{freq} \)
   - Copy and paste the frequency above, creating \text{Freq}[2], the RF frequency. Then edit it so that its frequency is \( RF_{freq} \) and its order is 3.
6. Scroll to the **Solver** tab, then select **Krylov Solver**.

**Hint** To pass the variable RF\_power to the dataset for subsequent manipulation by equations, use the Output tab. Refer to the topic “Selectively Saving and Controlling Simulation Data” in the chapter “Simulation Basics” in the Using Circuit Simulators documentation.

7. **Simulate**. When the simulation is finished, do the following:

- Plot Mix(1) and Mix(2) in List format. This will show you the coefficients that generated the sum and difference tones. In this example we are interested in the fundamental IF tone $f_{\text{LO}} + f_{\text{RF}}$. As indicated in the area outlined in Figure 5-4, these coefficients are 1,1.

**Note** Inserting a listing column of the frequencies in the simulation also makes it possible to determine which index number to use to select a particular spectral component. For example, if you have a mixer that is upconverting to $f_{\text{LO}} + f_{\text{RF}}$, and you want to select that spectral component of Vif, then you select Vif[7], because $f_{\text{LO}} + f_{\text{RF}}$ (= 3.75 GHz) is the seventh frequency in the array.

- Using the mix function, write an equation in the Data Display window to find the power in dBm at $f_{\text{LO}} + f_{\text{RF}}$, which we know to be 3.750 GHz. That equation is:

  \[ \text{VIF}_{\text{tone}} = \text{dBm}(\text{mix}(\text{Vif},\{1,1\})) \]

- Write an equation in the Data Display window that expresses conversion gain as the difference between IF power (VIF\_tone) and RF\_power:

  \[ \text{MixConvGain} = \text{VIF}_{\text{tone}} - \text{RF\_power}[0] \]

  Any number could be used as the tonal index to the right of RF\_power, as this value is a constant.

**Note** The above equations could also be placed as MeasEqn components in the Schematic window. This would allow MixConvGain to be optimized. For a discussion of optimization, refer to the Tuning, Optimization and Statistical Design manual.
Figure 5-4 shows the mixing indexes, the equations, and a List plot of MixConvGain. This figure, 6.000, is precisely the value assigned to the parameter ConvGain in MIX1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>freq</th>
<th>Vif</th>
<th>Vf</th>
<th>Mix(1)</th>
<th>Mix(2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.000 Hz</td>
<td>0.75E-18</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250 MHz</td>
<td>6.000</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>660 MHz</td>
<td>0.200E-12</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000</td>
<td>-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.35 GHz</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.85 GHz</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.95 GHz</td>
<td>0.101E-48 / 0.000</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.10 GHz</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.35 GHz</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.65 GHz</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000</td>
<td>-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.45 GHz</td>
<td>0.790E-18 / 104</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.75 GHz</td>
<td>0.730E-18 / 52.4</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.95 GHz</td>
<td>0.300E-18 / 114V</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Eqn: \( V_{If} = dBm(\text{Mix}(Vf, 1, 1)) \)

Eqn: \( \text{MixConvGain} = V_{If} + \text{RF_power[0]} \)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>freq</th>
<th>MixConvGain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.95 GHz</td>
<td>8.000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 5-4.
Determining Mixer Intermodulation Distortion

Figure 5-5 illustrates an example for determining mixer intermodulation distortion (IMD). The approach used here is commonly referred to as third-order intercept (TOI) analysis.

Note: This design, Mix2_TOI.dsn, is in the Examples directory under Tutorial/SimModels_prj. The results are in Mix2_TOI.dds.

This example is similar to “Performing a Small-Signal Simulation of a Mixer” on page 5-7, except that it involves three tones as well as equations that determine \( F_{\text{req}[2]} \) and \( F_{\text{req}[3]} \).

Figure 5-5. Mixer intermodulation distortion example
To determine mixer intermodulation distortion:

1. Start with the circuit in the example, “Performing a Small-Signal Simulation of a Mixer” on page 5-7.

2. Edit the P_nTone component at the RF source (PORT1) as follows:
   - $P[1] = \text{dbmtow}(\text{Power}_{RF})$. Power RF will be established by an equation.
   - $P[2] = \text{dbmtow}(\text{Power}_{RF})$

   **Note** The indexes [1] and [2] are local to this source component only, and are not related to Freq[1] or Freq[2] in the Harmonic Balance Simulation component.

3. Edit the P_1Tone component at the LO source (PORT2) as follows:
   - $P = \text{dbmtow}(-5)$
   - $\text{Freq} = 1850 \text{ MHz}$

4. Enter the following equations in the VAR component:
   - $\text{Power}_{RF} = -50 \text{ dBm}$
   - $\text{RF}_\text{Freq} = 2100 \text{ MHz}$
   - $\text{F}_{\text{Spacing}} = 100 \text{ kHz}$

5. Edit the Harmonic Balance Simulation component, select the Freq tab, and edit the following parameters:
   - Maximum order = 8
   - Frequency = 1850 MHz. This is Freq[1], the LO frequency. Set its order to 5.
   - Copy and paste the frequency above, creating Freq[2], the RF frequency. Then edit it so that its frequency is $\text{RF}_\text{Freq} + \text{F}_{\text{Spacing}}/2$ and its order is 3.
   - Copy the above to create Freq[3], and edit so that its frequency is $\text{RF}_\text{Freq} - \text{F}_{\text{Spacing}}/2$. Its order is also 3.

6. Scroll to the Solver tab, then select Krylov Solver.

7. **Simulate.** When the simulation is finished, plot the following:
• Plot \( V_1 \), in dBm, in Rectangular format as shown below. A marker placed on the largest tone \((f_{LO} + f_{RF})\) confirms its frequency on the first line, its power on the second.

\[
\begin{align*}
m_1 & : \text{freq}=3.749750\text{GHz} \\
 & \text{dBm}(\text{Mix}_2\_T01\.\text{Vif})=-376.598400
\end{align*}
\]

• Plot \( V_1 \) again, this time changing the scale of the x-axis as follows:
Select the plot, then choose Edit > Item Options (or double-click). When the window opens, click the Plot Options tab.
Deselect Auto Scale On/Off, and make sure that xAxis is selected. Set \( \text{Min} = 3.7498e9 \), \( \text{Max} = 3.7502e9 \), \( \text{Step} = 4e5 \), and click OK. The following will appear, showing the tones centered around the fundamental IF tone \((f_{LO} + f_{RF})\) at 3.750 GHz:

\[
\begin{align*}
m_2 & : \text{freq}=3.750050\text{GHz} \\
 & \text{dBm}(\text{Mix}_2\_T01\.\text{Vif})=-44.010380
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
m_3 & : \text{freq}=3.750150\text{GHz} \\
 & \text{dBm}(\text{Mix}_2\_T01\.\text{Vif})=-112.000000
\end{align*}
\]
**Small-Signal Mode Description**

When the Small-signal mode option is selected, the simulator uses the frequency (or frequencies, in the case of a sweep) entered under the Freq tab to perform a normal large-signal simulation. It then takes the resulting data and performs a small-signal mixer simulation at all the original large-signal frequencies plus and minus the small-signal frequency or frequencies. The simulator essentially linearizes the circuit around the precomputed large-signal operating point.

All the time-varying nonlinearities that result from the presence of large signals are simulated, but with the assumption that the small signal does not change these nonlinearities. For example, a mixer will appear to be perfectly linear with respect to the amplitude of the small-signal input, but all the frequency translation terms will be computed. If a sweep is being performed, then the large-signal analysis is performed only once, followed by the required number of small-signal analyses.

The following assumptions and restrictions apply to mixer analysis:

- It is assumed that the amplitude(s) of the RF signal(s) are sufficiently small so that they generate negligible harmonics.
- It is assumed that the power level of the RF signal(s) is smaller than the power level of the LO signal. The LO source is therefore taken to be that with the highest signal level. For this reason, we do not recommend setting RF and LO sources at the same power level.
Harmonic Balance for Mixers
Chapter 6: Mixer Noise Simulation

This chapter focuses on setting up noise simulations for mixers. It describes how to calculate:

- Noise analysis frequency translation of the noise
- Nonlinear spot noise
- Nonlinear swept noise

There are two methods of noise simulation. One is to use the parameters on the Noise tabs in the harmonic balance dialog box. A second method is to use NoiseCons. Using NoiseCons, you can set up several noise simulations, thereby eliminating the need to change the values on the Noise tabs in the Harmonic Balance dialog box. With NoiseCons, you can also set parameters to calculate phase noise.

If you are not familiar with the general procedures for simulating mixers, refer to Chapter 5, Harmonic Balance for Mixers, before continuing with this chapter.

Refer to the following topics for details on mixer noise simulation:

- “Determining Mixer Noise” on page 6-2 is an example of how to set up a simulation to calculate noise.
- “Simulating Mixer Noise with NoiseCons (ADS only)” on page 6-5 illustrates how to perform noise simulations using NoiseCon components in ADS.
- “Small-Signal Noise Simulation” on page 6-13 is an overview of how nonlinear swept noise is calculated.

Note: You must have the Harmonic Balance simulator license (included with all Circuit Design suites except RF Designer) to run the following simulations. You can build the examples without the appropriate licenses, but you will not be able to simulate them.
Determining Mixer Noise

Figure 6-1 illustrates an example for determining mixer noise. It is based on the example, "Finding Mixer Output Tones" on page 5-3.

Note This design, Mix1_noisedsn, can be found in the examples directory under Tutorial/SimModels_prj. The results of the simulation can be found in Mix1_noisedds.

The additional steps configure the simulation for noise analysis. The MixerIMT parameters are the same as those in the previous example, except that NF (noise figure) has been set to 3 dB. The noise figure computed by a harmonic balance noise simulation is a single sideband noise figure.

Note Port sources and an output termination (Term component) are necessary only if a noise figure simulation is being performed. The model used in the current design is a 2-port model, and so ignores LO noise. In a circuit-based model, take LO noise into account.

To determine mixer noise:


2. From the Sources-Freq Domain palette, select a Term, place it at the output, and edit it:
   - Num = 2. This is port 2.
   - Z = 50 Ohms (default value)
   - Noise = No
3. Edit the HarmonicBalance simulation component select **Nonlinear noise** at the bottom of the dialog box. Select the **Noise (1)** tab and edit the following fields:

- **Sweep Type** = *Single Point*
- **Frequency** = 3.750 GHz \( (f_{LO} + f_{RF}) \). This is the frequency of the mixer output.
- **Input frequency** = \( f_{RF} \) (frequency of the RF input)
- **Noise input port** = 1 (the RF input port)
- **Noise output port** = 2 (the output or Term port)
Mixer Noise Simulation

4. From the Simulation-HB palette, select an **Options component** and place it on the schematic. Set Temp to **16.85 Celsius**.

**Note**  In nonlinear noise analyses, we recommend that the Options component be used to establish a global simulation temperature of 16.85°C if a noise calculation is to be performed. This can be done by editing Temp=16.85 in the Schematic window, or by selecting the Misc tab and editing Simulation temperature to that value. This temperature, 16.85°C or 290 K, is the standard temperature for noise figure measurement as defined by the IEEE definition for noise figuration.

5. **Simulate**. When the simulation is finished, plot nf(2) and te(2) in dB, as shown below. These are the noise figure and equivalent noise temperature (in Kelvin) at port 2, respectively.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>noisefreq</th>
<th>nf(2)</th>
<th>te(2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.950GHz</td>
<td>3.000</td>
<td>238.626</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The noise figure of 3 dB indicates that only the mixer is adding noise (NF = 3 dB, from the MixerIMT component).
Simulating Mixer Noise with NoiseCons (ADS only)

When you use a NoiseCon nonlinear noise controller with a mixer, you have more flexibility in controlling how the noise simulation is performed than you do with Noise(1) and Noise(2). You can compute noise figure, noise at different nodes and frequencies, and integrate the effects of oscillator phase noise.

Figure 6-2 shows a mixer that will be used to demonstrate the use of NoiseCons components with a mixer.

Note  Refer to the ADS project examples/Tutorial/Noisecon_prj for an illustration of how to use NoiseCons for mixer noise simulation. See mixer.dsn for the design and mixer.dds for the results.
Mixer Noise Simulation

Mixer Noise Figure

The NoiseCon components, NC_USB and NC_LSB, are used to compute the noise figure of the mixer. NC_USB is used to compute the noise figure to the up conversion (RF+LO) frequency. NC_LSB is used to compute the noise figure of the down conversion (RF-LO) frequency.

1. From the Simulation-HB palette, select a NoiseCon, place it in the design and name it NC_USB.
2. Select the Freq tab, select Single point for the frequency and set it to 1750 MHz, the up-conversion frequency for this mixer.
3. Select the Misc tab, set Noise input port to 1 and Noise output port to 2. Set the Input frequency to 900 MHz.
4. Place another NoiseCon and name it NC_LSB.
5. Select the Freq tab, select Single point for the frequency and set it to 50 MHz, the down-conversion frequency for this mixer.
6. Select the Misc tab, set Noise input port to 1 and Noise output port to 2. Set the Input frequency to 900 MHz.
7. Edit the Harmonic Balance controller and select the NoiseCons tab. Select NC_USB and NC_LSB and Add them to the list of NoiseCons to be simulated. The simulation results are shown next.
Simulating Mixer Noise with NoiseCons (ADS only) 6-7

- NC_USB.nf(2) is the noise figure when the mixer is used for up conversion.
- NC_LSB.nf(2) is the noise figure when the mixer is used for down conversion.

These values are slightly different due to high-frequency rolloff in the mixer.

**Noise at Different Nodes and Frequencies**

The NoiseCon components, NC_RF and NC_IF, are used to compute noise voltage at different nodes and frequencies in one simulation. NC_RF also illustrates the use of a differential noise measurement.

1. From the Simulation-HB palette, select a NoiseCon, place it in the design and name it NC_RF.
2. Select the Freq tab, select Single point for the frequency and set it to 900 MHz, the RF frequency for this mixer.
Mixer Noise Simulation

3. Select the **Nodes** tab to compute both noise at a single node and differential noise between two nodes. The nodes mix1.RFampp and mix1.RFampn are two internal nodes in the mixer subnetwork at the output of the internal RF preamplifier.
   - First, select the node name `mix1.RFampn` from the Pos Node drop-down list. Make sure the Neg Node entry field is blank. Now click **Add** to create the first entry in the list of nodes. This computes the noise at one node.
   - Next, select the node name `mix1.RFampp` from the Pos Node drop-down list and select the node name `mix1.Rfampn` from the Neg Node drop-down list. Click **Add** to create the second entry in the list of nodes. This computes the differential noise between two nodes.

4. Select the **Misc** tab and erase the default values for Noise input port and Noise output port so the noise figure is not computed with this NoiseCon.

5. Place another **NoiseCon** and name it **NC_IF**.

6. Select the **Freq** tab, select **Single point** for the frequency and set it to **50 MHz**, the IF frequency for this mixer.

7. Select the **Nodes** tab, enter the node name `vif` for Pos Node and click **Add**.

8. Select the **Misc** tab, erase the default entries for Noise input port and Noise output port so the noise figure is not computed with this NoiseCon.
   - Note that this could have also been done on the NC_LSB NoiseCon.

9. Edit the Harmonic Balance controller and select the **NoiseCons** tab. Select **NC_RF** and **NC_IF** and **Add** them to the list of NoiseCons to be simulated.

Note the following when viewing the results.
   - **NC_RF.mix1.RFampp.noise** is the noise at the single node in the RF preamplifier at the RF frequency.
   - **NC_RF.mix1.RFampp_minus_mix1.RFampn** is the noise measured differentially across the two nodes in the RF preamplifier at the RF frequency.
   - **NC_IF.vif** is the noise at the output of the mixer at the IF frequency.
Effects of LO Phase Noise on Noise Figure

You can set up an analysis, using a NoiseCon, that includes the effect of LO phase noise on the noise figure of the mixer. Figure 6-1 shows the setup to be used. This design is similar to the first design except the P1Tone ideal LO source has been replaced with an OSCwPhNoise source that includes phase noise.

**Note** Refer to the ADS project examples/Tutorial/Noisecon_prj for an illustration of how to use NoiseCons for mixer noise simulation. See mixer_pn.dsn for the design and mixer_pn.dds for the results.

Two NoiseCons are used to set up this simulation. The first computes the mixer noise figure without phase noise. This is done by setting the mixer input frequency and (output) noise frequency to be exactly equal to the large signal frequencies. No LO phase noise is considered. The second computes the mixer noise figure including the
phase noise from the LO. The input and output frequencies will be the same, but the total noise power at the output will be obtained by integrating over a bandwidth of 30 kHz centered around the IF frequency.

1. From the Simulation-HB palette, select and place a **NoiseCon** and name it **NC1**. This will be set up the same as the NC_LSB that was used previously.

2. Select the **Freq** tab, select **Single point** for the frequency and set it to **50 MHz**, the output frequency for this mixer.

3. Select the **Misc** tab, set the Noise input port to 1 and the Noise output port to 2. Set the Input frequency to **900 MHz**.

4. Place another **NoiseCon** and name it **NC2**. This will be used to compute the mixer noise figure including the effects of phase noise integrated over a 30 kHz bandwidth.

5. Select the **Freq** tab to set up the frequency that will serve as the offset frequency for the phase noise analysis that will be swept over the 30 kHz bandwidth. The mixer output frequency for this analysis will be set later on the PhaseNoise tab. Select a **Log** sweep, set the Start frequency to **1 Hz** and the Stop frequency to **100 kHz**. Set the Pts./decade to **3**.

6. Select the **Misc** tab, set the Noise input port to 1 and the Noise output port to 2. Set the Input frequency to **900 MHz**.

7. Select the **PhaseNoise** tab, select a Phase Noise Type of **Integrate over bandwidth**. The phase noise carrier frequency, which for this example is the output frequency of the mixer, is specified using Carrier mixing indices. For an IF frequency of 50 MHz, the mixing indices of interest is 1,-1. Enter the first Index of **1** and click **Add**; then enter the second Index of **-1** and click **Add**.

8. Edit the Harmonic Balance controller and select the **NoiseCons** tab. Select **NC1** and **NC2** and **Add** them to the list of NoiseCons to be simulated.
The simulation results are shown next.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>noise freq</th>
<th>NC1.nf(2)</th>
<th>NC2.nf(2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50.00MHz</td>
<td>12.513</td>
<td>12.865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cgain.lsb</td>
<td>46.458</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- NC1.nf(2) is the noise figure without phase noise.
- NC2.nf(2) is the noise figure including the effects of LO phase noise.

Note that the second value is larger than the first, demonstrating the degradation of the mixer noise figure due to the extra noise injected by the LO phase noise.

A standard noise figure computation is performed using the IEEE standard definition of single sideband noise figure:

$$\text{NF}_{\text{ssb}} = 10 \log_{10} \left( \frac{\left(\frac{v_n^2(f)}{R}\right) + kT_0(G_1 + G_2 + \ldots + G_n)}{kT_0G_1} \right)$$

where

- $k$ is Boltzmann's constant ($1.389658 \times 10^{-23}$)
- $T_0$ is the IEEE standard temperature for noise figure (290 K)
- $G_1$ is the conversion gain of the mixer
- $G_2$ is the image conversion gain of the mixer
- $G_3, \ldots, G_n$ are conversion gains of higher order mixing products
- $R$ is the resistance of the output termination
- $v_n$ is the noise voltage at the output port at the output frequency where the input and output terminations do not contribute any noise

When the effects of phase noise are included, the $v_n^2(f)/R$ term is replaced with total noise power at the output integrated over a bandwidth $B$ centered at the output IF frequency $f_{IF}$:
Mixer Noise Simulation

\[ \text{NF}_{\text{ssb}} = 10 \log_{10} \left( \frac{\int_{f_{1F} - B/2}^{f_{1F} + B/2} \left( \frac{v_n^2(f)}{R} \right) df + k T_0 B (G_1 + G_2 + \ldots + G_n)}{\int_{f_{1F} - B/2}^{f_{1F} + B/2} k T_0 B G_1} \right) \]

In a mixer, the LO will generate noise over a range of frequencies from \( f_{\text{LO}} - B/2 \) to \( f_{\text{LO}} + B/2 \). These will mix with the RF tone at \( f_{RF} \) to produce noise from \( f_{\text{IF}} - B/2 \) to \( f_{\text{IF}} + B/2 \), where \( f_{\text{IF}} = |f_{RF} - f_{\text{LO}}| \).

The single sideband noise figure is computed with the input port specified by the Noise input port parameter, and the output port specified by the Noise output port parameter. It is saved in the dataset as the variable \( \text{nf}(i) \), where \( i \) is the number of the noise output port. ADS also saves this value as \( \text{NF}_{\text{ssb}} \) in the output dataset.

ADS also computes the double sideband noise figure using the following equation:

\[ \text{NF}_{\text{dsb}} = 10 \log_{10} \left( \frac{\left( v_n^2(f)/R \right) + k T_0 (G_1 + G_2 + \ldots + G_n)}{k T_0 (G_1 + G_2 + \ldots + G_n)} \right) \]

This is the value that would be computed by a noise figure meter. It is saved in the dataset as \( \text{NF}_{\text{dsb}} \).
Small-Signal Noise Simulation

The small-signal noise simulator is a subset of the nonlinear noise simulator. (For a discussion of nonlinear noise, refer to “Nonlinear Noise Simulation Description” on page 2-5.) In a small-signal noise analysis, there is no frequency translation of the noise. Since the noise is assumed to be a small-signal perturbation, there can be no noise mixing without a large-signal harmonic balance source. The only mixing frequencies that are accounted for are the upper and lower sidebands of the normal harmonic-balance analysis.

Nonlinear Spot-Noise Simulation

A nonlinear spot-noise simulation computes the noise at a specific noise frequency, as a function of another variable (such as LO power). For noise figure to be calculated, noise must be injected at the input port. The noise input frequency is entered into the Input frequency field of the Noise (1) tab. Since frequency translation occurs in a mixer, you must specify at which input frequency noise is to be injected.

For example, for a downconverter you would specify

\[ \text{InputFreq} = \text{noisefreq} + \text{LOfreq} \]

where LOfreq is the local oscillator frequency input to the mixer.

The downconverter will shift INPUTFREQ to

\[ \text{InputFreq} - \text{LOfreq} = (\text{noisefreq} + \text{LOfreq}) - \text{LOfreq} = \text{noisefreq} \]

For an upconverter, INPUTFREQ would be

\[ \text{InputFreq} = \text{noisefreq} - \text{LOfreq} \]

Single-Frequency Nonlinear Spot Noise

The simulation results of a single-point analysis have no independent variable and therefore cannot be plotted on a rectangular plot, however, the data can be displayed in a listing column. Note that noise voltages are always rms.

If the amplitude of the RF signal is small compared to that of the LO, then the noise mixed by the LO and its harmonics will dominate, and simulations can be run much more quickly by simply including the LO and its harmonics in the harmonic balance noise analysis.
Mixer Noise Simulation

Multiple-Frequency Nonlinear Spot Noise

A sweep can also be used to compute noise at the specified noise frequency as a function of a variable. If an independent variable is in the nonlinear noise data, the data can be plotted on a rectangular plot.

Swept-Noise Simulation

A nonlinear swept-noise simulation computes the noise at a swept list of noise frequencies with another optional swept variable (for example, LO power). The result is analogous to a spectrum analyzer display. Nonlinear swept-noise analysis differs from nonlinear spot-noise analysis in that the noise frequency (in the Noise frequency area under the Noise (1) tab) is allowed to be swept in a manner similar to the way a spectrum analyzer sweeps a noise floor.

The noise frequency can be an expression if the noise frequency is swept. For example, to compute the noise figure of an upper sideband mixer in which the noise output frequency is swept but the LO frequency is fixed, set the parameter Input frequency as follows:

\[
\text{InputFreq} = \text{noisefreq} + \text{LOfreq}
\]

where noisefreq is the noise frequency and LOfreq is an equation defining the fixed LO frequency.

The results of the analysis can be plotted on a rectangular plot. The independent variable of the swept nonlinear noise analysis is always noisefreq.
Chapter 7: Transient Assisted Harmonic Balance

This chapter describes the automated transient assisted harmonic balance simulation (TAHB). For a harmonic balance simulation, an initial guess of the solution is needed. For circuits that are highly nonlinear and contain sharp-edged waveforms (such as dividers), a transient simulation often provides a good initial guess for the starting point of harmonic balance. In a TAHB simulation, a transient is performed to generate the initial guess for the harmonic balance. Then an HB simulation is performed using the transient initial guess. The simulator automatically generates the transient initial guess when the Enable check box is selected.

It is strongly recommended to use this simulation technique for divider circuits and others with sharp edged or pulse-like waveforms.

If you are not familiar with the harmonic balance simulator, see Chapter 1, Harmonic Balance Basics.

The following topics describe details about automated transient assisted harmonic balance:

- “Setting Additional Transient Parameters” on page 7-2 describes how to set parameters for automated TAHB.

- “Using a One-Tone Transient for a Multitone Harmonic Balance” on page 7-3 describes how to instruct the transient simulator to perform a one-tone simulation.

- “Using Sweeps and Optimization Simulations” on page 7-3 describes how to use sweeps and optimization simulations with automated TAHB.

- “Outputting the Transient Data to the Dataset” on page 7-4 describes how to control transient data output to the dataset.

For details about each individual TAHB parameter, see “Enabling Transient Assisted Harmonic Balance” on page 1-40.
Setting Additional Transient Parameters

The transient simulator uses intelligent defaults and determines a steady state solution for the initial guess in harmonic balance. For the automated TAHB, you are not required to set any transient parameters. However, you may set the transient parameters if desired.

The first parameter to set is StopTime. The default for StopTime is 100 cycles of the commensurate frequency. In a single tone analysis, this is simply the value of Freq[1]. This parameter determines how long transient should run when generating the initial guess. If the transient simulator detects steady state before it reaches the StopTime, then it will end at that point (earlier than the StopTime), then proceed with the harmonic balance simulation. When the transient does not find a steady state solution, then Harmonic Balance uses the last transient data point as an initial guess.

The next parameter to set is MaxTimeStep. The default for MaxTimeStep is 1/(2*4*Maximum Frequency). In a single tone transient analysis, the maximum frequency is Freq[1]*Order[1]. Adjust this parameter if a smaller or larger time step is required.

The simulator displays the values that it determined for StopTime and MaxTimeStep in the status window.

The parameter IV_RelTol is the transient current and voltage relative tolerance. The default value is 1e-3. This is a relative tolerance for transient only. If relative tolerances are set (on Options controller in ADS, or Simulator Options dialog box in RFDE) and the IV_RelTol is given, then it will override the relative tolerances for the Simulator Option’s relative tolerances for the transient simulation only. This parameter simply allows for having two sets of relative tolerances, one for transient and the other for harmonic balance.

The Transient Other parameter makes it possible to set transient parameters that are not found in the TAHB tab. For example, you can set the following transient convolution parameter ImpMaxFreq=10 GHz using the Transient Other parameter.

To see all of the transient parameters, please see the Transient/Convolution Simulation documentation.

When TAHB_Enable is selected, a user-supplied initial guess is not interpreted. If one is given, the simulator simply ignores it and continues to generate its own initial transient guess. The user-supplied initial guess is not over-written by the one that is generated by the simulator. If you would like to provide the initial guess, then you must resort to the manual TAHB simulation approach. Please refer to the Guide to

Using a One-Tone Transient for a Multitone Harmonic Balance

The Use only Freq[1] for transient parameter instructs the transient simulator to perform a one-tone simulation, and to use only the value of Freq[1] parameter set for the Harmonic Balance simulation for determining the StopTime and MaxTimeStep. This parameter is enabled by default. If there are multiple frequencies set for the HB simulation and this parameter is enabled, then sources in the circuit at the other frequencies will be turned off for the transient portion only. It is recommended to perform a one-tone transient simulation for a multitone HB simulation. Also, Freq[1] should be set to the frequency of the most nonlinear tone.

Using Sweeps and Optimization Simulations

Statistical simulations such as optimization, yield, Monte Carlo, DOE, and yield-optimization are not supported with automated TAHB. The simulation will terminate prematurely if such simulation types enabled with the TAHB.

Swept simulations are supported with automated TAHB.

- **In ADS**: There are two ways to sweep a parameter - using the Sweep tab on the Harmonic Balance controller or using the Parameter Sweep controller. When sweeping a parameter on the Sweep tab, a transient simulation is done for the harmonic balance simulation of the first sweep point only. When sweeping a parameter on the Parameter Sweep controller, a transient simulation is done for the first sweep point only, unless the Restart parameter is enabled on the Harmonic Balance controller’s Params tab. When Restart is enabled, a transient simulation is done at each sweep point which generates a new transient initial guess for each sweep point of the harmonic balance simulation.

- **In RFDE**: There are two ways to perform a parameter sweep - using the Parameter Sweep section on the HB analysis setup dialog box, or using the separate Parameter Sweep tool (Tools > Parameter Sweep). When sweeping a parameter using the HB analysis dialog box, a transient simulation is done for the harmonic balance simulation of the first sweep point only. When sweeping a parameter using the Parameter Sweep tool, a transient simulation is done for the first sweep point only, unless the Restart parameter is enabled in the
Transient Assisted Harmonic Balance

Convergence Mode section of the HB Analysis Options dialog box. When Restart is enabled, a transient simulation is done at each sweep point which generates a new transient initial guess for each sweep point of the harmonic balance simulation.

Outputting the Transient Data to the Dataset

The data from the transient simulation can be output to the dataset by enabling the Output transient data to dataset parameter. By default, this parameter is disabled and the transient simulation results are not in the dataset. Recall that the transient was used only to generate the initial guess for harmonic balance. If the transient results are desired in the dataset, then be sure to enable this parameter by checking the box. Proceed with caution for very large circuits since the dataset can grow to be very large if both transient and harmonic balance results are included.
Index

Numerics
TAHB
  Use only Freq, 7-3
Use only Freq, 7-3

A
  aliasing, 1-67
  automated TAHB, 7-1

B
  budget simulations
    and harmonic balance simulations, 1-30
  direct solver
    harmonic balance simulations, 1-19
    dynamic range
      and noise, 1-48, 2-10

C
  conversion gain
    mixers, 5-10

D
  datasets
    including transient data, 7-4
  direct solver
    harmonic balance simulations, 1-19
  dynamic range
    and noise, 1-48, 2-10

F
  for transient, 7-3
  for transient parameter, 7-3

G
  GMRES solver, 1-38

H
  harmindex (harmonic index), 1-9, 1-10
  harmonic balance simulations, 1-1, 1-37
    and budget simulations, 1-30
    and maximum order, 1-14
    and nonlinear noise, 2-2
    and number of nonlinear devices, 1-70
    and oscillator simulations, 1-59
    convergence, 1-63
  direct solver, 1-19
  Krylov solver, 1-19
  of mixer noise, 6-1
  of mixers, 5-1
  of nonlinear noise, 2-1
  of oscillators, 3-1
  overview, 1-11
  performing, 1-3
  reusing solutions, 1-20
  simulation parameters, 1-22
  swept simulation of power amplifier
    circuit, 1-7
  troubleshooting, 1-61
  versus time domain, 1-13
  harmonics
    and convergence problems, 1-64

I
  intermodulation distortion (IMD), 5-14
  IV_RelTol, 7-2

K
  KCL (Kirchoff's Current Law), 1-12
  Krylov
    option, 1-37
    subspace solver, 1-37
  Krylov solver
    harmonic balance simulations, 1-19

M
  maximum order, 1-14, 1-24
  MaxTimeStep, 7-2
  mixer analysis
    and small-signal frequencies, 1-50
  mixer noise simulations
    using NoiseCons, 6-5
  mixer simulations
    and harmonic balance simulations, 5-1
    and MixerIMT components, 5-3
    and small-signal noise, 6-13
    and Small-signal option, 5-1, 5-7
    determining mixer noise, 6-2
    finding conversion gain, 5-10
    finding output tones, 5-3
    fundamentals, 5-17
    nonlinear spot noise, 6-13
    nonlinear swept noise, 6-14
    performing, 5-2
    small-signal simulation, 5-7
    small-signal simulations, 5-17
    MixerIMT component, 5-3
MOSFETs
and harmonic balance simulations, 1-64

N
negative-resistance oscillators, 3-10, 3-13
noise
and harmonic balance simulations, 1-45, 1-47
flicker FM noise, 4-20
flicker PM noise, 4-20
mixer noise, 6-2
nonlinear, 2-1
description, 2-5
nonlinear noise, 6-13
nonlinear spot noise, 6-13
small-signal noise, 6-13
spot noise, 6-13
swept, 6-14
using noise sources, 4-20
white FM noise, 4-20
white PM noise, 4-20
noise figure
mixer, computing, 6-11
of mixers, 6-6
noise power
single-sideband noise power, 4-18
noise simulations
of mixers, 6-1
NoiseCon component
for mixer simulations, 6-5
for phase noise, 4-4
overview, 2-6
using, 2-4
noisy two-port parameters, 2-6
nonlinear devices
and harmonic balance simulation, 1-70
nonlinear noise simulations, 2-1
about, 2-5
performing, 2-2
with NoiseCons, 2-4
Nyquist criterion, 1-67

O
order
and harmonic balance simulations, 1-14
oscillator loop gain, 3-23, 3-24
oscillator phase noise, 4-19
oscillator simulations
additional frequencies, 3-29
and harmonic balance simulations, 1-59
and oscillator ports, 1-59
correcting for search failures, 3-28
description, 3-23
finding oscillation frequency, 3-6
inaccurate results in, 3-30
of phase noise, 4-1
oscillator loop gain, 3-13, 3-18
OscPort, 3-2
OscPort2, 3-2
other types, 3-3
performing, 3-2
power calculation problems, 3-23
setting up, 3-3
steady-state conditions, 3-8
troubleshooting, 3-27
using nodes, 3-2
VCO tuning, 3-24
with harmonic balance, 3-1
oscillators
negative resistance, 3-10, 3-13, 3-26
OscPort component
for phase noise, 4-2
usage, 3-27
OscPort2 component
using, 3-16
OscTest component
using, 3-13
Output transient data to dataset, 7-4
OutVar
using to send data to dataset, 5-12
oversampling, 1-67

P
phase noise
about, 4-13
and noise figure, 6-9
and sideband level, 4-17
in oscillators, 4-19
of oscillators, 4-1
pnmx (phase noise), 4-3

S
Samanskii constant, 1-66
simulation parameters
harmonic balance simulations, 1-22
simulations
harmonic balance, direct solver, 1-19
harmonic balance, Krylov solver, 1-19
small-signal options, 5-17
and mixer simulations, 5-1
mixer analysis, 5-7
solutions
reusing, 1-20
StopTime, 7-2
sweeping parameters in TAHB, 7-3

TAHB, 7-1
datasets, 7-4
IV_RelTol parameter, 7-2
MaxTimeStep parameter, 7-2
one-tone simulation, 7-3
Output transient data to dataset parameter, 7-4
parameter details, 1-40
StopTime parameter, 7-2
sweeping parameters, 7-3
TAHB_Enable parameter, 7-2
Transient Other parameter, 7-2
TAHB_Enable, 7-2
temperature
in nonlinear noise analyses, 6-4
third-order intercept (TOI)
using to find intermodulation distortion, 5-14
time domain simulations versus harmonic balance, 1-13
transient assisted harmonic balance, 7-1
Transient Other, 7-2
troubleshooting
harmonic balance simulations, 1-61
oscillator simulations, 3-27

X
Xqc device parameter, 1-64