Harmonic Balance Simulation

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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. Harmonic balance simulation obtains frequency-domain voltages and currents, calculating the spectral content of voltages or currents in the circuit. Use the HB simulation controller component to:

- 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 Overview” on page 1-10 is a brief description of the harmonic balance simulator.
- “HB Simulation Controller” on page 1-19 describes the dialog box fields for the HB Simulation controller.
- “Troubleshooting a Simulation” on page 1-46 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.
- 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.
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 1-11.

- **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 1-16. For the details of the Krylov algorithm, refer to “Harmonics and Maximum Order” on page 1-11.**

- **You can use previous simulation solutions to speed the simulation process. For more information, refer to “Reusing Simulation Solutions” on page 1-18.**

- **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 Circuit Simulation 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.

![Harmonic Balance Simulation Diagram](image)

**Figure 1-1. Example setup for a basic harmonic balance simulation**

**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:
   - $V = 0.01\, \text{V}$
   - $\text{Freq} = 20\, \text{MHz}$. 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.

Figure 1-2. Setup for a Swept Harmonic Balance Simulation
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.

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 $V_{out}$ 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

Harmonic Balance Overview

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 makes possible 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.

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.
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.

- 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.

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:
Harmonic Balance Basics

<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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Combination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 MHz</td>
<td>Second harmonic of Fund 1 – Fund 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 MHz</td>
<td>Second harmonic of Fund 2 – Fund 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 MHz</td>
<td>Second harmonic of Fund 1 + Fund 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 MHz</td>
<td>Second harmonic of Fund 2 + Fund 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<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>

**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>
<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>Frequency</td>
<td>Combination</td>
<td>Order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------</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>
<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>
</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>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>
<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>
</tbody>
</table>
Harmonic Balance Overview

Harmonic Balance Basics

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Combination</th>
<th>Order</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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>

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

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 filename 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 Circuit Simulation 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 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.

**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.
- **Small-Sig**—Parameters related to small-signal/large-signal simulation.
- **Noise (1)**—Parameters related to noise simulation, including sweeps, input and output ports, and FM noise (for oscillator simulations).
- **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.
Harmonic Balance Basics

- **Osc**—Parameters related to oscillator simulation.
- **Solver**—Choose between a Direct or Krylov solver or an automatic selection.
- **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 Circuit Simulation 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 Circuit Simulation documentation. RFDE does not have a similar feature.

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.

**Freq**

In this tab, the frequency portion of the simulation are specified:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1-2. HB Simulation Freq Options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Freq</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundamental Frequencies (in ADS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundamental Tones (in RFDE)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1-20  HB Simulation Controller
### Table 1-2. HB Simulation Freq Options (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Maximum order</strong></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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>If Maximum order is 2, the sum and difference frequencies are added to the list.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>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><strong>Edit (in ADS)</strong></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><strong>Frequency</strong></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>
<tr>
<td><strong>Order</strong></td>
<td>The maximum order (harmonic number) of the fundamental(s) that will be considered. Change by typing over the entry in the field.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Select (in ADS)</strong></td>
<td>Contains the list of fundamental frequencies. Use the Edit field to add fundamental frequencies to this window.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Add -- Allows you to add an item.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cut -- Allows you to delete an item.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paste -- Allows you to take an item that has been cut and place it in a different order.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fundamental Tones (in RFDE)</strong></td>
<td>Add and edit fundamental tones by specifying these parameters:</td>
</tr>
<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. Delete removes selected tone from the table. Update changes tone selected in table with contents of the input fields. Clear removes contents of the input fields</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Harmonic Balance Basics

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sweep</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Small-signal (in ADS)—Choose this if you want a small-signal analysis. Used only with the Small-Sig tab.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonlinear noise (in ADS)—Choose this if you want a nonlinear noise analysis. Used only with the Noise(1) and Noise(2) tabs.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oscillator (in ADS)—Choose this if you want a oscillator analysis. Used only with the Osc tab.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

Table 1-3. ADS HB Simulation Sweep Options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sweep Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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 Start/Stop to set start and stop values for the sweep, or Center/Spans 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/Spans 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. Start—the start point of a sweep Stop—the stop point of a sweep Step-size—the increments at which the sweep is conducted Pts./decade—number of points per decade Num. of pts.—the number of points over which sweep is conducted</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>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

---

Table 1-4. RFDE HB Simulation Parameter Sweep

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Temperature</td>
<td>temp is automatically selected because it is a reserved variable name.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Component</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**: Sets the Start and Stop values of the sweep
  - Start - The start point of the sweep
  - Stop - The stop point of the sweep

- **Center-Span**: Sets the Center value and a Span of the sweep.
  - 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.
• 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.

Table 1-5. HB Simulation Parameter Options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Params</th>
<th>Budget (in ADS)</th>
<th>Perform Budget simulation</th>
<th>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.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Levels (in ADS) Annotation (in RFDE) Enables you to set the level of detail in the simulation status report.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Status level                  |                 |                            | 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. |
| Device operating point level—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. | None | No information is saved. |                                                                                     |
|                               | Brief           | Saves device currents, power, and some linearized device parameters. |                                                                                     |
|                               | Detailed        | Saves the operating point values which include the device's currents, power, voltages, and linearized device parameters. |                                                                                     |
|                               | FFT (for RFDE, set the Fundamental Tones/Oversample parameter.) |                                                                         |                                                                                     |
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>Oversample</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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More...</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</td>
<td>(Slowest option) Automatically adjusts key convergence parameters and resimulates to achieve convergence. As it trades efficiency for ease of use, it is suited to beginning ADS users who are unfamiliar with the ADS parameters to control the convergence. This mode is based on the Advanced mode solver.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced mode</td>
<td>Enables an advanced damped Newton solver. This solver guarantees a robust and steady march toward the solution with each harmonic balance iteration. The convergence rate is enhanced by its selection of a near-optimal damping constant, choice of several individual norms in the convergence checks, and control over the residual reduction threshold at each iteration. The Advanced mode solver should exhibit more efficient and robust convergence than the default Basic mode for highly nonlinear circuits, as well as circuits that push the Basic mode to enter arc-length continuation prematurely. In most other cases, you might notice that the Advanced mode will be slightly slower due to the extra computational overhead of determining the damping constant at each iteration. We recommend that Max. iterations be increased to the 50-100 range when this mode is selected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic mode</td>
<td>Default mode setting. Selects the basic Newton solver.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max. Iterations</td>
<td>The maximum number of iterations to be performed. The simulation will iterate until it converges, an error occurs, or this limit is reached.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restart</td>
<td>Instructs the simulator to not use the last solution as the initial guess for the next solution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial Guess</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Use Initial Guess | Check this box to save your initial guess to a dataset that can be referred to for a subsequent harmonic balance simulation, including circuit envelope. For example, if you have saved the HB solution, 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 HB solution. Or you could quickly get to the initial HB solution, and then sweep a parameter to see the changes. In this later case, you will probably either want to disable the Write Final Solution (see following topic), or use a different file for the final solution, to avoid over-writing the initial guess solution. If no file name is supplied, a default name 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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Write Final Solution</td>
<td>Check this box to save your final HB solution to the output file. If a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>filename is not supplied, a file name is internally generate using the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>design name, followed by an .hbs suffix. If a file name is supplied, the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>suffix is neither appended nor required. If this box is checked, then</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>the last HB solution is put out to the specified file. If this is the same</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>file as that used for the Initial Guess, this file is updated with the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>latest solution. Transient simulations can also be programmed to generate a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>harmonic balance solution that can then be used as an initial guess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>for an HB simulation. Refer to Harmonic Balance Simulation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>File</td>
<td>Specify a filename to save results.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1-6. ADS HB Small-Signal Simulation Parameter Options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Small-Sig</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Small-signal frequency</td>
<td>Enables simulation at a single frequency point. Specify the desired value in the Frequency field.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sweep Type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Single point</th>
<th>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.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Linear</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Log</td>
<td></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.
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).

### Table 1-6. ADS HB Small-Signal Simulation Parameter Options (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Start/Stop</strong></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><strong>Center/Span</strong></td>
<td>Select the Center/Span option to sweep based on center and span, step-size or pts./decade, and number of points. Linear sweep uses Step-size; Log sweep uses Pts./decade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Note:</strong></td>
<td>Changes to any of the Start, Stop, etc. fields causes the remaining fields to be recalculated automatically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Use sweep plan</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Use all small-signal frequencies</strong></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><strong>Merge small- and large-signal frequencies</strong></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>
<tr>
<td><strong>Note:</strong></td>
<td>To edit these parameters and request a small-signal analysis, click Small-signal at the bottom of the dialog box.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nonlinear noise (in ADS)</strong></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><strong>Oscillator analysis (in ADS)</strong></td>
<td>Choose this if you want an oscillator analysis.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Harmonic Balance Basics

- 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 1-7. RFDE HB Small-Signal Simulation Parameter Options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Small Signal Simulation</th>
<th></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>
</tbody>
</table>

Use Frequency Sweep Plan—Check this option to set up a sweep plan.

Choose one sweep range:

| Start-Stop | Sets the Start and Stop values of the sweep |
|           | Start - The start point of the sweep         |
|           | Stop - The stop point of the sweep           |

| Center-Span | Sets the Center value and a Span of the sweep. |
|            | 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. |
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. However, FM noise will not be performed.

Table 1-8. ADS HB Noise(1) Parameter Options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Noise(1)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Noise frequency</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sweep Type

- **Single point**
  - Enables simulation at a single frequency point. Specify the desired value in the Parameter field.
- **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

- **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

- **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.
Harmonic Balance Basics

Table 1-8. ADS HB Noise(1) Parameter Options (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Use sweep plan</td>
<td>Enables use of an existing sweep plan component (SweepPlan). Select this</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>option and enter the name of the plan or select it from the drop-down list.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Input Frequency</td>
<td>Because the simulator uses a single-sideband definition of noise figure,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>the correct input sideband frequency must be specified here. This parameter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>identifies which input frequency will mix to the noise frequency of interest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In the case of mixers, Input frequency is typically determined by an</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>equation that involves the local oscillator (LO) frequency and the noise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>frequency. Either the sum of or difference between these two values is</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>used, depending on whether upconversion or downconversion is taking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The above parameters do not need to be specified if only the output noise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>voltage is desired (that is, if no noise figure is computed).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noise input port</td>
<td>Number of the source port at which noise is injected. This is commonly the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RF port. Although any valid port number can be used, the input port number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>is frequently defined as Num=1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noise output port</td>
<td>Number of the Term component at which noise is retrieved. This is</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>commonly the IF port. Although any valid port number can be used, the output</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>port number is frequently defined as Num=2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Include FM noise (osc. only)</td>
<td>Causes an FM noise analysis to be performed in addition to a mixing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>noise analysis for oscillator phase noise. This simulates a second model</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>for phase noise, which may be more accurate at small offset frequencies.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: To edit these parameters and request a noise analysis, click Nonlinear noise at the bottom of the dialog box.

Note: To edit these parameters and request a small-signal analysis, click Small-signal at the bottom of the dialog box.

Oscillator analysis -- Choose this if you want an oscillator analysis.

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.
### Table 1-9. ADS HB Noise(2) Parameter Options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Noise(2)</th>
<th>Nodes for noise parameter calculation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Note</td>
<td>The fewer the number of nodes requested, the quicker the simulation and the less memory required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edit</td>
<td>Select the named node(s) for the simulator to consider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select</td>
<td>Holds the names of the nodes the simulator will consider. Add -- adds a named node. Cut -- deletes a named node. Paste -- takes a named node that has been cut and places it in a different order in the Select window.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noise contributors -- Sort contributions to noise, as well as a threshold below which noise will not be reported</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mode</td>
<td>Provides options for sorting noise contributors by value or name.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</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 $R_b$, $R_c$, $R_e$, $I_b$, and $I_c$ in a BJT) are listed separately, as well as the total noise from the device.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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 $R_b$, $R_c$, $R_e$, $I_b$, and $I_c$ in a BJT) are listed separately, as well as the total noise from the device.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</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>
</tbody>
</table>
**Dynamic range to display**
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. If Sort by name is selected, accept the default.

**Include port noise in node noise voltages**
Causes port noise to be included in noise currents and voltages. Ports must be placed and defined.

**Calculate noisy two-port parameters**
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.
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.
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 1-10. ADS HB NoiseCons Parameter Options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NoiseCons</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Edit. | Specifies the name of the NoiseCon item to add to the simulation list. |
| Select NoiseCons | 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 1-11. RFDE HB Nonlinear Noise Parameter Options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nonlinear Noise</th>
<th>Noise Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 1-11. RFDE HB Nonlinear Noise Parameter Options (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Noise Frequency or Offset Frequency</th>
<th>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.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<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>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Use Frequency Sweep Plan—Check this option to set up a sweep plan.

Choose one sweep range:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Start-Stop</th>
<th>Sets the Start and Stop values of the sweep</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Center-Span</th>
<th>Sets the Center value and a Span of the sweep.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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>
</tbody>
</table>

Choose one sweep type:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Linear</th>
<th>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.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Logarithmic</th>
<th>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.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points Only</th>
<th>Enables simulation at specific values for the parameter. Enter values in the Specific Points field with a space between each one.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Additional Points</th>
<th>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.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</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 1-11. RFDE HB Nonlinear Noise Parameter Options (continued)

| 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.  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compute Noise Figure—This option is available when Noise Type is Noise Voltage and/or Noise Figure.</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 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. |
### Table 1-11. RFDE HB Nonlinear Noise Parameter Options (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Output Port Number</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 2. Use the Select button to select the output port from the schematic, or enter the port number directly in the input field.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calculate Noisy Two Port Parameters</td>
<td>This option is available when Use Oscport option in Oscillator Simulation section is disabled.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>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:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>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).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>These expressions for noise simulation can be manipulated in equations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrier Frequency</td>
<td>This option is available when Noise Type is Phase Noise.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specification Method</td>
<td>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:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select Carrier Mixing Indices, then enter the indices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>or Select Carrier Frequency, then enter the frequency.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrier Mixing Indices</td>
<td>Select this method, then specify the indices in the Index List entry field.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrier Frequency</td>
<td>Select this method, then specify the frequency in the Frequency entry field.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Harmonic Balance Basics

**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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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</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, I&lt;sub&gt;b&lt;/sub&gt;, and I&lt;sub&gt;c&lt;/sub&gt; in a BJT) are listed separately, as well as the total noise from the device.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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, I&lt;sub&gt;b&lt;/sub&gt;, and I&lt;sub&gt;c&lt;/sub&gt; 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</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</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>
</tbody>
</table>

**Dynamic Range to Display**
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. If Sort by name is selected, accept the default.

**Include Port Noise in Node Noise Voltages**
Causes the simulator to model noise at input and output ports.

**Bandwidth for Noise**
The bandwidth over which the noise simulation is performed. 1 Hz is the recommended bandwidth for measurements of spectral noise power.

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1-11. RFDE HB Nonlinear Noise Parameter Options (continued)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Index List</strong> 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Frequency</strong> 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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 1-11. RFDE HB Nonlinear Noise Parameter Options (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Output Format</th>
<th>This option is available when Noise Type is Phase Noise.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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 (and HB1.NC1.vout.pnfm for an oscillator only).</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>
</tbody>
</table>
This is similar to the Absolute 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.

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 (index1 * freq1 + index2 * freq2 + *). The noise is integrated over a bandwidth specified by the Bandwidth for Noise parameter, from carrier-bandwidth/2 to carrier+bandwidth/2.

\[
\overline{V_n} = \int_{f_{\text{Carrier}} - \text{BW}/2}^{f_{\text{Carrier}} + \text{BW}/2} V_n^2(f) \, df
\]

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.

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.
Selecting Ports and Enabling Oscillator Analysis

In ADS, the Osc tab enables you to name an OscPort analysis component. To enter the name of an oscillator port and request an oscillator analysis, click Oscillator at the bottom of the dialog box.

Oscpport name is the name of the OscPort analysis component. The circuit simulator is also capable of automatically finding the OscPort or OscPort2 component if the name is set to "yes". Setting the name to "yes" is required if the OscPort2 component is used and should work unless there are two or more OscPorts in the circuit, which is neither useful nor recommended.

In RF Design Environment, click Use Oscport to use the oscillator port and request an oscillator analysis.
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.

Table 1-12. HB Solver Parameter Options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Solver</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct</td>
<td>Best suited for smaller problems and faster.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Krylov</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto Select</td>
<td>Allows the simulator to choose which solver would be most effective for the active design. In RFDE, enter value for Estimated Available RAM.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Optional Auto Select Info

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Matrix packing</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum number of iterations</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GMRES restart length</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>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 1-12. HB Solver Parameter Options (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Krylov noise tolerance</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>Preconditioner -- The Krylov solver requires a preconditioner for robust and efficient convergence.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSP</td>
<td>(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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCP</td>
<td>(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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waveform Memory Reduction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use dynamic waveform recalculation</td>
<td>Enables reuse of dynamic waveform memory instead of upfront storage on all waveforms. Small circuits might simulate a little slower, but not significantly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use compact frequency map</td>
<td>Enables a spectral compression, typically requiring less memory for individual waveforms.</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 1-46 describes how to select an optimum number of harmonics in a simulation to ensure accuracy and minimize simulation time.
- “Reducing Simulation Time” on page 1-47 describes other methods to help reduce simulation time.
- “Solving Convergence Problems” on page 1-48 offers a variety of methods to try if your simulation is failing because it cannot converge.
- “Oversampling to Prevent Aliasing” on page 1-50 describes how the Oversampling parameter can be set to prevent aliasing during a simulation.
- “Linearizing Nonlinear Devices” on page 1-53 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.
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 1-50).
- **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.

- 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.

- 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 requirement 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 SamanskiiConstant to display on the schematic page. You can then edit the parameter directly on the schematic.

• 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 1-50.

• 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.


• Try sweeping a parameter. 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

- 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 1-46 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.

Oversampling to Prevent Aliasing

Oversampling increases the accuracy of the solution by reducing the FFT aliasing error. In addition, oversampling sometimes improves convergence.

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 Oversample, under the Params tab).
The relationship between \( \text{Order} \), \( \text{Oversample} \), and the number of samples is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Order</th>
<th>Oversample</th>
<th>Number of samples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To calculate the FFT size for a single-tone simulation, the system adds 1 to the user-specified order (to account for DC), multiplies this number by the Oversample value, and then rounds this value up to the next power of two. See the table that follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Order</th>
<th>Oversampling</th>
<th>Number of samples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note that for the same value of Order, different values of Oversample can yield the same number of samples. Also note that oversampling can occur even with an Oversample value of 1, because the system rounds the FFT size up to the next power of two.

If you click More to the right of Oversample, a Fundamental Oversample dialog box appears. This box allows you to set a separate oversampling for each fundamental.
Harmonic Balance Basics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1024</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note that in the n-tone case, the number of FFT samples grows roughly by the value of Oversample.
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 1-16.
Harmonic Balance Basics
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 Overview” on page 2-5 is an overview on how nonlinear noise is calculated in a simulation.
- “NoiseCon Component Overview” 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 Overview” 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 Overview” on page 2-6.
Nonlinear Noise Overview

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 Noisetab). 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...
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 Overview**

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 Circuit Simulation 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 Circuit Simulation 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>Enables simulation at a single frequency point. Specify the desired value in the Parameter field.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single point</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>

Table 2-1. NoiseCon Frequency Options
Harmonic Balance for Nonlinear Noise Simulation

Table 2-1. NoiseCon Frequency Options (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Start/Stop</td>
<td>Select the Start/Stop option to sweep based on start, stop, step-size and number of points.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Start—the start point of a sweep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stop—the stop point of a sweep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Step-size—the increments at which the sweep is conducted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Num. of pts.—the number of points over which sweep is conducted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center/Span</td>
<td>Select the Center/Span option to sweep based on center and span.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Center—the center point of a sweep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Span—the span of a sweep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pts./decade—number of points per decade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Num. of pts.—the number of points over which sweep is conducted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Note:</td>
<td>Changes to any of the Start, Stop, etc. fields causes the remaining fields to be recalculated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>automatically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use sweep plan</td>
<td>Enables use of an existing sweep plan component (SweepPlan). Select this option and enter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>the name of the plan or select it from the drop-down list.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nodes for Noise Parameter Calculation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pos Node</td>
<td>Selects the named node(s) for the simulator to consider.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2-8 NoiseCon Component
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>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Input frequency</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>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2-2. NoiseCon Node Options (continued)

| Neg 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 Pos Node and the second node as Neg 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 Neg Node field blank. Differential measurements are supported only for node voltages, not branch current. |
| Select         | Holds the names of the nodes the simulator will consider. Add - Adds a named node. Cut - Deletes a named node. Paste - Takes a named node that has been cut and places it in a different order in the Select window. |
| Include port noise | Causes port noise to be included in noise currents and voltages. Ports must be placed and defined. If Include port noise is selected, the thermal noise generated by the source resistance in frequency domain power sources and Term elements are included in the simulation results for noise voltages and currents. This does not affect the computation of noise figure. |
Harmonic Balance for Nonlinear Noise Simulation

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

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Noise input port</strong></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. If noise figure is not required, this field should be blank.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Noise output port</strong></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>
<tr>
<td><strong>Noise contributors --</strong></td>
<td>Use this area to sort contributions to noise, as well as a threshold below which noise will not be reported.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mode</strong></td>
<td>Off -- causes no individual noise contributors (nodes) to be selected. The result is simply a value for total noise at the node.</td>
</tr>
<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><strong>Dynamic range to display</strong></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. Accept the default if Sort by name is selected.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Calculate noisy two-port parameters

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.

| Bandwidth | Bandwidth for spectral noise simulation. 1 Hz is the recommended bandwidth for measurements of spectral noise power. |
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 Type</th>
<th>Description</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 (and HB1.NC1.vout.pnfm for an oscillator only).</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.

\[
\overline{v_n} = \int_{f_{\text{Carrier} - \text{BW}/2}}^{f_{\text{Carrier} + \text{BW}/2}} v_n^2(f) \, df
\]

A trapezoidal integration is performed (which takes into account the usual \(1/f^4\) 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 (ADS only)” on page 3-3 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 Overview” on page 3-21 is a brief description of the oscillator simulation process.
- “Troubleshooting a Simulation” on page 3-45 offers suggestions on how to improve a simulation.
- “Simulation Techniques for Recalcitrant Oscillators” on page 3-24 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

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

- A DC simulation can be run separately to find the device's DC operating point.
- A linear AC simulation can be used to find \( f_0 \), the frequency of oscillation.
- An S-parameter simulation can be used to find \( S_{21} \), and therefore oscillator gain and \( f_0 \).

For a successful analysis:

- Make sure your oscillator circuit has sufficient feedback gain to permit oscillation. To check this, run an S-parameter simulation on the oscillator 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 3-4. For more details on how to set up S-parameter simulations, refer to the S-Parameter Simulation documentation.

- Add an Oscillator probe component to your design:
  - OscPort is a grounded oscillator port (essentially a probe) and can be found on the Simulation-HB palette. This component calculates the oscillator waveform and amplitude.
  - OscPort2 can calculate waveform and amplitude, small-signal loop gain, or large-signal loop gain. Use this with circuits that have differential oscillator topologies. This component is on the Simulation-HB palette.
  - OscTest calculates oscillator loop gain. Use it in circuits where you would use the OscPort. This component has a simulation process already included in it, so you do not set up a harmonic balance component. This component is on the Probe Components palette.

The placement and setup of these components varies. For instructions on how to do this, place one in your schematic, double-click the component, click the Help button in the dialog box and follow the instructions that appear.

---

**Note** Do not use more than one oscillator probe component in a circuit.
• Place a HarmonicBalance simulation component (except if using the OscTest component) on the schematic and double-click to edit it. Enable Oscillator at the bottom of the dialog. Select the Osc tab and enter the name of the oscillator probe component that you added to the circuit.

• Select the Freq tab and enter the oscillation frequency as the fundamental. Enter the number of harmonics of interest in the Order field.

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

**Examples (ADS only)**

This section gives detailed setups for:

• “Finding the Frequency of Oscillation” on page 3-4
• “Calculating Large-Signal, Steady-State Oscillation Conditions” on page 3-6
• “Calculating Oscillator Loop Gain” on page 3-11
• “Using OscPort2 for Oscillator Analysis” on page 3-14

**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 licenses, but you will not be able to simulate them.
Harmonic Balance for Oscillator Simulation

**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.

---

Figure 3-1. Example Setup for Finding an Oscillator’s Resonant Frequency

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.
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 3-14.

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](image)

3-6  Examples (ADS only)
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)

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.
Harmonic Balance for Oscillator Simulation

---

**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:

  \[ \text{dBm}(\text{OSC2..Output},1000) \]

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 \( \text{time\_wave} \) 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 3-14.

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.
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.
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_large.dsn, is in the Examples directory under Tutorial/OscPort2_prj. The results are in loopgain_large.dds

Figure 3-7. Equivalent circuit of OscPort2 in large-signal loop gain mode
Set the Mode parameter (of OscPort2) 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.
Harmonic Balance for Oscillator Simulation

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 Overview

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.

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:

- 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 Circuit Simulation 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

\[ |G_l| > 1, \ I_m(G_l) = 0 \]

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

\[ \Re(Z_{out}) < 0, \ I_m(Z_{out}) = 0 \]

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 OscPort, 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.

**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:

---

3-24  Simulation Techniques for Recalcitrant 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.

![Figure 3-11. Five-stage CMOS Ring Oscillator](image)

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
```

---

Simulation Techniques for Recalcitrant Oscillators  3-25
Harmonic Balance for Oscillator Simulation

phase shift around the loop is needed.
Warning detected by HPEESOFSIM during HB analysis `HB5'.
Oscillator analysis did not converge. Setting solution to zero.
Warning detected by HPEESOFSIM 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](image)

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.
Harmonic Balance for Oscillator Simulation

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 \( V_{\text{RelTol}} = 1_{\text{RelTol}} = 1e-3 \). This may not be accurate enough to generate a good
frequency estimate and initial solution for harmonic balance. Setting $V_{\text{Rel Tol}} = I_{\text{Rel Tol}} = 1e^{-6}$ is recommended.

This value is then used in a second transient analysis that will be used to write the initial guess. The $\text{Freq}$ variable is set equal to this estimate. $\text{HB\_OutFile}$ 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.

![Second Transient Analysis](image)

**Figure 3-14.** Second Transient Analysis

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.
Harmonic Balance for Oscillator Simulation

![Harmonic Balance](image)

**Figure 3-15. Setup for Harmonic Balance Analysis**

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.
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.
Harmonic Balance for Oscillator Simulation

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 $V_{inj}$ and the fundamental frequency $F_{osc}$ 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.
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 3-20. Results with Lower Search Range
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:

\[ F_{osc} = 86.1 \text{ MHz opt \{86.0 MHz to 86.5 MHz\}} \]
Vinj = 0.89  opt {0.88  to 0.90  }

The optimization goals are simple:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{dB(LoopGain)} &= 0 \\
\text{phase(LoopGain)} &= 0
\end{align*}
\]

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

The plot in Figure 3-23 shows the 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:

- **VAR2**
  - \(Z_{osc} = 1.1\)
  - \(V_{inj} = 0/890945\)
  - \(F_{osc} = 86.1304\) MHz
  - \(I_{inj} = Z_0 \cdot V_{inj}/Z_{osc}\)

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

- **HB2**
  - \(\text{Freq}[1] = F_{osc}\)
  - \(\text{Order}[1] = 15\)
  - \(\text{OutFile} = \text{fig22_out}\)
UseOutFile = 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.
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.
Harmonic Balance for Oscillator Simulation

algorithm found. They are close but vary a little because we did change the circuit a bit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
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<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>
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<th>Frequency</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transient method:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<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>
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<th>Frequency</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loop gain method:</td>
<td></td>
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<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.
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 3-6).

• Ensure that the OscPort component marks a node in the circuit where a nonzero voltage at the fundamental oscillation frequency is expected. It should not mark a node that contains only a DC bias voltage.

• 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.
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 the circuit is properly biased and the OscPort component is located properly. If this is so, modify the OscPort parameters NumOctaves, Steps, and MaxLoopGainStep to either expand the frequency search or reduce the step size of the search. When a step size is too coarse, the simulator may not notice high-Q effects.

- 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.

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 \[ |\Delta F| \leq \varepsilon_{rel} |F| + \varepsilon_{abs} \]

  where \( \varepsilon_{rel} \) is Frequency relative tolerance and \( \varepsilon_{abs} \) 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.
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 Overview” 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 3-6 with the addition of the settings described below.

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 enable **Include FM noise (osc. only)**. Also 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.pnfm and Gain_out.pnmx, for phase noise due to frequency modulation and noise mixing, respectively. When these traces are plotted, they will appear as follows (FM noise is the top trace):

![Phase Noise at node "Gain_out"

Note that the noise is at least 80 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 results in the dataset have the names HB1.NC1.vosc.pnmx and HB1.NC1.vosc.pnfm and are phase noise in dBc. These are the results from the two different phase noise analyses that are performed for an oscillator. The results should be similar. Refer to “How ADS Simulates Phase Noise” on page 4-14 for more information on phase noise analyses.
Oscillator Noise Simulation

4-6 Simulating Phase Noise with NoiseCons
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

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 results in the dataset have the names HB3.NC1.vosc.pnmx and HB3.NC1.vosc.pnfm and are phase noise in dBc. These are the results from the two different phase noise analyses that are performed for an oscillator. The results should be similar. Refer to “How ADS Simulates Phase Noise” on page 4-14 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

![Graph showing phase noise simulation with NoiseCons]

4-10 Simulating Phase Noise with NoiseCons
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 725.44 MHz to 725.64 MHz, centered around the seventh harmonic of the oscillator.
Oscillator Noise Simulation

![Graph showing oscillatory noise frequency response](image)

4-12 Simulating Phase Noise with NoiseCons
Phase Noise Overview

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.

Selecting Include FM noise (osc. only) (under the Noise tab) causes the phase noise analysis to include additional phase noise results from a second phase noise analysis based on a frequency sensitivity technique. The results from the basic phase noise analysis have .pnmx (phase noise, in dBc/Hz) and .anmx (AM noise, in dBc/Hz) appended to the selected node name(s). If this option is selected, an additional phase noise result is computed with ".pnfm" (phase noise, in dBc/Hz) appended to the selected node names.

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 by two separate, independent methods: from the oscillator frequency's sensitivity to noise, and from small-signal mixing of noise. The frequency sensitivity to noise can be viewed as the oscillator acting as a VCO and changing its operating frequency due to FM modulation caused by noise generated in the oscillator. 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. These two models are two different ways of looking at the same problem.

The mixing analysis for phase noise is automatically performed by ADS when an oscillator analysis is performed with nonlinear noise. The frequency sensitivity to noise must be enabled by selecting Include FM noise (osc. only), on the Noise tab in the Harmonic Balance controller dialog box.

These two models are different views of the same process. The phase noise computed by both models 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.

- \( \text{hb\_noise.vout.pnfm} \) phase noise (in dBC) from frequency sensitivity analysis
- \( \text{hb\_noise.vout.pnmx} \) phase noise (in dBC) from mixing analysis
- \( \text{hb\_noise.vout.anmx} \) AM noise in (dBC) from mixing analysis

Both variables \( \text{hb\_noise.vout.pnmx} \) and \( \text{hb\_noise.vout.pnfm} \), which represent the different models of phase noise, should be plotted to view the simulated phase noise results. There should be a region of offset frequencies where they both produce similar results.

The frequency sensitivity to noise is obtained from the large-signal (harmonic balance) oscillator solution. The sensitivity of the oscillation frequency \( \omega_0 \) is obtained with respect to any injected noise in the circuit. After summing over all of the noise sources, the total spectral density of frequency fluctuations is obtained and converted to phase noise. This noise has a characteristic shape of \( f^{-2} \) or \( f^{-3} \) if \( 1/f \) noise sources are present. This description is valid at small offset frequencies, but is not good at large offsets as it goes to zero; it will not exhibit a noise floor but continues down as \( f^{-2} \).

The ADS model for frequency sensitivity to noise is based on a sensitivity analysis (evaluated at DC) of the oscillator frequency due to perturbations from noise. This
model may not predict phase noise well if there are lowpass filters in the circuit that tend to filter out noise, e.g. power supply decoupling.

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 \((\alpha \pm \omega_0)\) 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 phase noise from a mixing analysis tends to be valid at large offset frequencies and will show a finite noise floor. The mixing analysis additionally computes the AM noise as well as phase noise.

### Possible Problems with Phase Noise Analysis

Not all oscillators will show good agreement between phase noise results from the frequency sensitivity analysis and the noise mixing analysis. There can exist an offset frequency below which the noise mixing analysis shows phase noise that looks flat instead of showing the expected \(f^{-2}\) behavior at smaller offsets. The noise mixing analysis of phase noise is more valid at large offsets. Not all oscillators will exhibit this problem. To some extent, this corner frequency can be reduced by increasing oversample, at the expense of increased run time. A minimum oversample value of 4 is recommended.

For the mixing analysis, it is important that the Use all small-signal frequencies option in the Harmonic Balance dialog box is selected, which is the default. 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 \((2 \cdot \text{order} + 1)\) small-signal tones; otherwise sidebands are used only around the lowest half of the large-signal frequencies \((\text{order} + 1)\) 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. Verify that this option is selected to obtain good phase noise results from the mixing analysis.

The following figure illustrates the different components of phase noise for a simple oscillator. Phase noise from the mixing analysis, \(\text{pnmx}\), is shown both when all small-signal frequencies are used (all=yes) and when they are not used (all=no). The phase noise from frequency sensitivity analysis, \(\text{pnfm}\), is also shown. Good agreement can be seen between the phase noise from the frequency sensitivity analysis and the...
Oscillator Noise Simulation

mixing analysis all=yes case. There is not a good agreement at smaller offsets when all=no.
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 figure that follows).

Phase Noise Represented in the Time Domain

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

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

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 figure that follows). 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.

\[
L(f) = \frac{P_{ssb\ (per\ 1Hz)}}{P_s} \text{ [dBc/Hz]}
\]
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.

- 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.
Oscillator Noise Simulation
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 Overview" 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 1-11.
  - 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 1-50.

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.
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.

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 = LOfreq. This variable will be defined by a VarEqn component.
   • Noise = 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:
   • LOfreq = 1850 MHz
   • RFfreq = 2.1 GHz

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 = LOfreq. This is Freq[1]. Set its order to 8.
   • Click Add to enter the second fundamental, Freq[2]. Set its frequency to RFfreq, and leave its order set to 8.

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 $V_{if}$ in dBm, then place markers on the two fundamental IF tones, $RF_{freq} - LO_{freq}$ (m1) and $RF_{freq} + LO_{freq}$ (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 RFfreq – 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 (1750 MHz). The RF input is therefore 2 GHz.
3. Simulate. When the simulation is finished, place a Rectangular plot of SM.Vif in dBm, as follows:

![Rectangular plot of SM.Vif in dBm](image)

Markers at 250 MHz ($f_{IF}$) 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:
   - \( P = \text{dbmtow}(\text{Power}_{\text{RF}}) \). Power_RF will be established by an equation.
   - \( Freq = RFfreq \)

3. Edit the P_1Tone component at the LO source (PORT2):
   - \( P = \text{dbmtow}(0) \)
   - \( Freq = LOfreq \)

4. Using the VAR component, enter the following equations (note the use of the underscore before dBm):
   - \( RF\_power = -30 \_\text{dBm} \)
   - \( LO\_power = -10 \_\text{dBm} \)
   - \( LOfreq = 1750 \text{ MHz} \)
   - \( IFfreq = RFfreq - LOfreq \)
   - \( RFfreq = 2000 \text{ MHz} \)

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 Freq tab, and edit the following parameters:
   - Maximum order = 5
   - \( Freq[1] = LOfreq \)
   - Copy and paste the frequency above, creating \( Freq[2] \), the RF frequency. Then edit it so that its frequency is \( RFfreq \) and its order is 3.

6. Scroll to the Solver tab, then select Krylov Solver.
Harmonic Balance for Mixers

**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 Circuit Simulation 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 $f_{LO} + f_{RF}$. 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 $f_{LO} + f_{RF}$, and you want to select that spectral component of Vif, then you select Vif[7], because $f_{LO} + f_{RF}$ ( = 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 $f_{LO} + f_{RF}$, which we know to be 3.750 GHz. That equation is:

  \[
  \text{VIFtone} = \text{dBm}(\text{mix(Vif,\{1,1\}))}
  \]

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

  \[
  \text{MixConvGain} = \text{VIFtone} - \text{RF\_power[0]}
  \]

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.

5-12 Examples (ADS only)
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>$V_{f1}$</th>
<th>$V_{f2}$</th>
<th>Mix(1)</th>
<th>Mix(2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>250 MHz</td>
<td>6.000 V</td>
<td>0.000 V</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500 MHz</td>
<td>0.250 E-12</td>
<td>0.000 V</td>
<td>-2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.00 GHz</td>
<td>0.000 / 3.000 V</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000 V</td>
<td>-3</td>
<td>-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.55 GHz</td>
<td>0.015 / 4.00 / 3.000 V</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000 V</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.00 GHz</td>
<td>0.000 / 3.000 V</td>
<td>1.000 / 0.000 V</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.55 GHz</td>
<td>0.000 / 3.000 V</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000 V</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.00 GHz</td>
<td>0.000 / 3.000 V</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000 V</td>
<td>-2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.55 GHz</td>
<td>0.750 E-10 / 1.04 V</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000 V</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.00 GHz</td>
<td>0.750 E-10 / 4.75 V</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000 V</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.50 GHz</td>
<td>0.2035 E-18 / -1.5 V</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000 V</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.00 GHz</td>
<td>0.000 / 3.000 V</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000 V</td>
<td>-4</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.55 GHz</td>
<td>0.000 / 3.000 V</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000 V</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.00 GHz</td>
<td>0.000 / 3.000 V</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000 V</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.55 GHz</td>
<td>0.000 / 3.000 V</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000 V</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.00 GHz</td>
<td>0.000 / 3.000 V</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000 V</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.55 GHz</td>
<td>0.555 E-19 / 110 V</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000 V</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.00 GHz</td>
<td>0.555 E-19 / -7.73 V</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000 V</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.50 GHz</td>
<td>1.000 / 104 V</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000 V</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.00 GHz</td>
<td>1.000 / 103 V</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000 V</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.50 GHz</td>
<td>0.000 / 3.000 V</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000 V</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.0 GHz</td>
<td>0.000 / 3.000 V</td>
<td>0.000 / 0.000 V</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$$E_{\text{eqn1}} = d_{\text{Emix}}(V_{f1}(1.1))$$

$$E_{\text{eqn2}} = \text{MixConvGain} = V_{f1} - \text{RF_power}[0]$$

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>freq</th>
<th>MixConvGain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.30 GHz</td>
<td>6.000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 5-4.
Harmonic Balance for Mixers

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.

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 $Freq[2]$ and $Freq[3]$.

![Figure 5-5. Mixer intermodulation distortion example](image)

Note This design, Mix2_TOI.dsn, is in the Examples directory under Tutorial/SimModels_prj. The results are in Mix2_TOI.dds.
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:
   • \( P[1] = \text{dbmtow}(\text{Power}_\text{RF}) \). \text{Power}_\text{RF} will be established by an equation.
   • \( P[2] = \text{dbmtow}(\text{Power}_\text{RF}) \)

   \textbf{Note}  The indexes [1] and [2] are local to this source component only, and are not related to \( \text{Freq}[1] \) or \( \text{Freq}[2] \) in the Harmonic Balance Simulation component.

3. Edit the P_1Tone component at the LO source (PORT2) as follows:
   • \( P = \text{dbmtow}(-5) \)
   • \( \text{Freq} = 1750 \text{ MHz} \)

4. Enter the following equations in the VAR component:
   \begin{align*}
   \text{Power}_\text{RF} &= -50 \text{ dBm} \\
   \text{RF}_\text{Freq} &= 2000 \text{ MHz} \\
   \text{F}_\text{Spacing} &= 100 \text{ kHz}
   \end{align*}

5. Edit the Harmonic Balance Simulation component, select the \textit{Freq} tab, and edit the following parameters:
   • Maximum order = 8
   • Frequency = 1750 MHz. This is \text{Freq}[1], the LO frequency. Set its order to 5.
   • Copy and paste the frequency above, creating \text{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 \text{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 \textit{Solver} tab, then select Krylov Solver.

7. \textbf{Simulate}. When the simulation is finished, plot the following:
Harmonic Balance for Mixers

• Plot Vif, 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.

![Graph showing Vif with markers for frequencies and powers.]

$\text{freq} = 3.749750 \text{GHz}$
$\text{dBm}(\text{Mix}_2\_T01\_Vif) = -376.998400$

• Plot Vif 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 Min = $3.7498e9$, Max = $3.7502e9$, 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:

![Graph showing Vif with markers for frequencies and powers with the x-axis scaled differently.]

$\text{freq} = 3.750050 \text{GHz}$
$\text{dBm}(\text{Mix}_2\_T01\_Vif) = -44.010380$

$\text{freq} = 3.750150 \text{GHz}$
$\text{dBm}(\text{Mix}_2\_T01\_Vif) = -112.000000$
Small-Signal Overview

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.
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_noise.dsn, can be found in the examples directory under Tutorial/SimModels_prj. The results of the simulation can be found in Mix1_noise.dds.

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<sub>LO</sub> + f<sub>RF</sub>). This is the frequency of the mixer output.
   - Input frequency = RFfreq (frequency of the RF input)
   - Noise input port = 1 (the RF input port)
   - Noise output port = 2 (the output or Term port)

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>288.626</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.

Figure 6-2. Example demonstrating NoiseCons with a mixer
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.
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.
Mixer Noise Simulation

- 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 P_1Tone 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
Mixer Noise Simulation

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>noisefreq (MHz)</th>
<th>NC1.nf(2)</th>
<th>NC2.nf(2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50.000</td>
<td>12.513</td>
<td>62.865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cgain_xsb dBm</td>
<td></td>
<td>16.458</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:

\[
NF_{ssb} = 10 \log_{10} \left( \frac{\frac{v_n^2(f)}{R} + kT_0(G_1 + G_2 + \ldots + G_n)}{kT_0G_1} \right)
\]

where

- \( k \) is Boltzmann's constant (1.389658x10^{-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 \( \frac{v_n^2(f)}{R} \) 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

\[
NF_{ssb} = 10 \log_{10} \left( \frac{\int_{(f_{IF}-B/2)}^{(f_{IF}+B/2)} \left( \frac{v_n^2(f)}{R} + kT_0 B (G_1 + G_2 + \ldots + G_n) \right) df}{k T_0 B G_1} \right)
\]

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

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 \( nf(i) \), where \( i \) is the number of the noise output port. ADS also saves this value as \( NF_{ssb} \) in the output dataset.

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

\[
NF_{dsb} = 10 \log_{10} \left( \frac{\left( \frac{v_n^2(f)}{R} + kT_0 (G_1 + G_2 + \ldots + G_n) \right)}{k T_0 (G_1 + G_2 + \ldots + G_n)} \right)
\]

This is the value that would be computed by a noise figure meter. It is saved in the dataset as \( NF_{dsb} \).  

6-12 Simulating Mixer Noise with NoiseCons (ADS only)
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 Overview” 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.
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.
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