

innovating communications

Signal Optimization and Rectenna Design for Electromagnetic Energy Harvesting and Wireless Power Transfer

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## Outline

- Introduction
- Rectenna design
  - Dual band
  - Load independent performance
- Signal design
  - Random modulation, noise, chaotic signals
  - Mode locked oscillators
- Some circuits...!
  - Solar powered RF circuits
  - Multi-technology harvesters
- Conclusion





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# CTTC, Castelldefels – Barcelona

Founded in 2001







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- Research staff: 35 Ph.D., 20 M.Sc, 3500-m<sup>2</sup> building
- 3 Research Divisions: Comm. Systems, Comm. Networks, Comm. Technologies
- Department of Microwave Systems and Nanotechnology





# *CTTC, Castelldefels – Barcelona, SPAIN*

#### Active microwave circuit design

- Energy Harvesting and RFID
- Oscillator design including integrated CMOS oscillators (Fig. 1)
- Active antennas, phased arrays (Fig. 2), retro-directive arrays (Fig. 3)
- Substrate Integrated Waveguide (SIW) (Fig. 4)
- Efficient Power Amplifier (Fig. 5)





#### Fig. 4. SIW circuits.

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Fig. 5. Power Amplifier (SIW).



Fig. 1. CMOS VCO for UWB-FM



Fig. 2. C-band Coupled Oscillator Reflectrarray prototype



Fig. 3. S-band retro-directive array.









Rectifier circuits: envelope detector, charge pump circuits

□ Schottky diodes, low / zero barrier diodes



Reported UHF rectifier efficiencies for available input power levels in the order of 10 uW are near 20%, and increase to >50% for available power levels of 100uW.





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# Rectenna Design

Rectenna optimization using the RECEIVE antenna Thevenin (or Norton) equivalent circuit



□ Multiple goal harmonic balance for optimizing the RF-DC conversion efficiency  $\eta = \frac{P_{DC}}{P_{RE,qv}} = \frac{V_{DC}^2}{P_{RE,qv}R_I}$ 

Georgiadis, A.; Andia Vera, G.; Collado, A., "Rectenna design and optimization using reciprocity theory and harmonic balance analysis for electromagnetic (EM) energy harvesting," *Antennas and Wireless Propagation Letters, IEEE*, vol.9, no., pp.444,446, 2010





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# Rectenna Design

Open circuit voltage maybe calculated using reciprocity theory



# Harmonic balance for the optimization of the RF-DC conversion efficiency

Georgiadis, A.; Andia Vera, G.; Collado, A., "Rectenna design and optimization using reciprocity theory and harmonic balance analysis for electromagnetic (EM) energy harvesting," *Antennas and Wireless Propagation Letters, IEEE*, vol.9, no., pp.444,446, 2010



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Rectenna Design

• The open circuit voltage *MAGNITUDE* can also be calculated using the antenna effective area

$$E_{o} = \sqrt{2\eta_{o}S}$$

$$V_{V,H}^{oc}(\theta_{o},\phi_{o},S) = \frac{4\pi}{jk\eta_{o}}F_{V,H}(\theta_{o},\phi_{o})E_{o}$$

$$A_{e} = \frac{\lambda^{2}}{4\pi}G$$

$$P_{av} = A_{e}S$$

$$P_{av} = A_{e}S = \frac{\lambda^{2}}{8\pi\eta_{o}}G(\theta_{o},\phi_{o})E_{o}^{2}$$
HOW DO THEY COMPARE ?
$$V_{oc} = \sqrt{8P_{av}R_{A}} = \sqrt{\frac{G(\theta_{o},\phi_{o})R_{A}}{\pi\eta_{o}}}\lambda E_{o}$$

C. A. Balanis, Antenna Theory: Analysis and Design, 3rd Ed., Wiley,2005

R. E. Collin , Antennas and Radiowave Propagation . New York: Mc-Graw-Hill, 1985.







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# Rectenna Design

- Circuit topology important in low available power conditions
- Trade-off between efficiency and output voltage







# *RF to DC conversion efficiency optimization: Broadband Case*









#### **OPTIMIZATION PARAMETERS:**









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# *RF to DC conversion efficiency optimization: Dual-Band Case*





#### **OPTIMIZATION PARAMETERS:**

p<sub>1</sub>,...,p<sub>N</sub> R<sub>L</sub>



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# Theoretical limits: impedance bandwidth

Bode-Fano criteria (see e.g. D. Pozar, Microwave Eng.)



Let R = 1.5 KOhm, and C = 0.9 pF

What is the miminum reflection coefficient if one wants to cover a freq. band from 800 MHz to 2.6 GHz ?







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# Rectenna Design

## 850 MHz/1850 MHz Dual Band Rectenna

- Broadband monopole antenna (0.7GHz 6 GHz)
- Akaflex PCL3-35/75  $\mu$ m with  $\epsilon_r$  = 3.3 and tan $\delta$  = 0.08
- Silicon Schottky diode (Skyworks SMS7630)
- Coplanar waveguide matching network
- Optimization for input power of -20 dBm and  $R_L$ =2.2 k $\Omega$



Collado, A.; Georgiadis, A., "Conformal Hybrid Solar and Electromagnetic (EM) Energy Harvesting Rectenna," *Circuits and Systems I: Regular Papers, IEEE Transactions on*, vol.60, no.8, pp.2225,2234, Aug. 2013





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# Rectenna Design

Optimization goals are used to maximize the RF-DC conversion efficiency at 915 MHz and 2.45 GHz

 $\eta$  = 48% and  $\eta$  = 39% at 915 MHz and 2.45 GHz, for P<sub>in</sub>=0 dBm

#### $\eta$ <1 % for P<sub>in</sub><-33 dBm



Niotaki, K.; Sangkil Kim; Seongheon Jeong; Collado, A.; Georgiadis, A.; Tentzeris, M.M., "A Compact Dual-Band Rectenna Using Slot-Loaded Dual Band Folded Dipole Antenna," *Antennas and Wireless Propagation Letters, IEEE*, vol.12, no., pp.1634,1637, 2013









# Rectenna Design



[1] A. Collado, and A. Georgiadis, "Conformal Hybrid Solar and Electromagnetic (EM) Energy Harvesting Rectenna," *IEEE Trans. Circuits Syst. I, Reg. Papers*, vol. 60, no. 8, pp.2225,2234, Aug. 2013

[2] B. L. Pham and A.-V. Pham, "Triple Bands Antenna and High Efficiency Rectifier Design for RF Energy Harvesting at 900, 1900 and 2400 MHz," in *Proc. IEEE MTT-S Int. Microwave Symp.*, Seattle, WA, 2–7 June 2013.

[3] V.Rizzoli, G. Bichicchi, A. Costanzo, F. Donzelli, and D. Masotti, "CAD of multi-resonator rectenna for micro-power generation," in *Proc. Microwave Integrated Circuits Conference (EuMIC 2009)*, 28-29 Sept. 2009, pp.331–334.

- $\eta$  = 37% and  $\eta$  = 20% at 915 MHz and 2.45 GHz for a power density of 1 uW/cm<sup>2</sup>
  - 1 uW/cm<sup>2</sup> corresponds to  $P_{in}$ =-9 dBm and  $P_{in}$ =-15 dBm at 915 MHz and at 2.45 GHz



Rectenna Design

- Challenge: load and input power variation
- Resistance compression networks



Load resistance variation: 3 Ohm – 1000 Ohm Input resistance variation: 55 Ohm – 500 Ohm



Y. Han, O. Leitermann, D.A. Jackson, J.M. Rivas, and D.J. Perreault, "Resistance Compression Networks for Radio-Frequency Power Conversion," *IEEE Trans. on Power Electronics*, vol. 22, no. 1, pp. 41-53, Jan. 2007.



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# Dual-Band Resistance Compression Networks

- Resistance Compression Networks
  - Identical R<sub>load</sub> variations
  - Opposite phase response



RCN operating at single frequency

**Dual-Band RCN** 



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# Dual-Band Resistance Compression Networks

- Dual-Band RCNs
  - Opposite phase response at f<sub>1</sub> and f<sub>2</sub>
     (f<sub>1</sub> < f<sub>2</sub>)



K. Niotaki, A. Georgiadis, A. Collado, 'Dual-Band Rectifier Based on Resistance Compression Networks,' in Proc. IEEE MTT-S IMS, Tampa, 1-6 June 2014



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# **Dual-Band Resistance Compression Networks**



K. Niotaki, A. Georgiadis, A. Collado, 'Dual-Band Rectifier Based on Resistance Compression Networks,' in Proc. IEEE MTT-S IMS, Tampa, 1-6 June 2014





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# **Dual-Band Rectifiers**

- Dual-Band Resistance Compressed Rectifier
  - 2 unit cells for each branch
  - 915 MHz and 2.45 GHz
  - Skyworks Schottky SMS7630 diode





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# **Dual-Band Rectifiers**

- Performance comparison
  - Resistance compressed rectifier
  - Conventional envelope detector rectifier



- Rectifier design
  - Harmonic balance analysis (HB)
  - Large signal Scattering parameters (LSSP)

# **Resistance Compressed Rectifier**





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- Schottky diode
   SMS7630
- Arlon 25N
  - 30 mil
  - $\epsilon_r = 3.38$



# **Dual-Band Rectifiers**

- Efficiency Improvement of n
  - 37 % → 62.3 % for  $R_{load}$ =0.5 kOhm & Pin=0 dBm at 915 MHz





# **Dual-Band Rectifiers**

- Efficiency Improvement of *n* 
  - 41.2 % → 54.4 % for  $R_{load}$ =0.5 kOhm &  $P_{in}$ =0 dBm at 2.45 GHz



**Conventional Rectifier** 

**Resistance-Compressed Rectifier** 



# **Dual-Band Rectifiers**

• RF-DC conversion efficiency at 915 MHz  $- R_{load} = 1 \text{ kOhm}$ 



**Conventional Rectifier** 

Resistance-Compressed Rectifier



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## **Dual-Band Rectifiers**

• RF-DC conversion efficiency at 2.45 GHz  $- R_{load} = 1 \text{ kOhm}$ 



**Conventional Rectifier** 

**Resistance-Compressed Rectifier** 







 Dual band metamaterial based resistance compression network.



K. Niotaki, A. Collado, A. Georgiadis, "Dual band rectifier based on resistance compression networks," in Proc. 2014 IEEE MTT-S IMS, Tampa, 1-6 June 2014.



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Signal Design

- Signals with time-varying envelope (PAPR > 0 dB) lead to higher rectifier RF-DC conversion efficiency
  - Multi-sines (Durgin, Carvalho, Popovic, ...)
  - Chaotic signals
  - White noise
  - Random modulation (multi-carrier)





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- First experiments: chaotic oscillator
- Colpitts based chaotic generator
- □ Bipolar transistor BFP183w

 $V_{F}$ 

Lbias

R<sub>bias2</sub>≩







A. Collado, A. Georgiadis, "Improving Wireless Power Transmission Efficiency Using Chaotic Waveforms," in Proc. IEEE MTT-S IMS 2012, Montreal, 17-22 June 2012.



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#### Need to filter chaotic signal





## Total power of 1-tone signal selected to be equal to the chaotic signal total power in the bandwidth of the rectifier

A. Collado, A. Georgiadis, "Improving Wireless Power Transmission Efficiency Using Chaotic Waveforms," in Proc. IEEE MTT-S IMS 2012, Montreal, 17-22 June 2012.















A. Collado, A. Georgiadis, "Improving Wireless Power Transmission Efficiency Using Chaotic Waveforms," in Proc. IEEE MTT-S IMS 2012, Montreal, 17-22 June 2012.





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Signal	PAPR (dB)
1-tone	3
OFDM	12
White noise	13.7
Chaotic	14.8

 $PAPR[x(t)] \sim PAPR[e(t)] + 3 dB$ 





A. Collado, A. Georgiadis, 'Optimal Waveforms for Efficient Wireless Power Transmission,' IEEE Microwave and Wireless Components Letters, 2014, to appear.



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rectifier operates at 433 MHz
Skyworks SMS7630-02LF diode
output load of 5.6 KOhm



A. Collado, A. Georgiadis, 'Optimal Waveforms for Efficient Wireless Power Transmission,' IEEE Microwave and Wireless Components Letters, 2014, to appear.







# Signal Design

- High PAPR signals saturate the PAs
- Spatial power combining each tone amplified independently and then combined in free space
- Mode-locked coupled oscillators establish phase reference and control phase shift among elements



A. Georgiadis, A. Collado "Mode Locked Oscillator Arrays for Efficient Wireless Power Transmission," 2013 IEEE Wireless Power Transfer Conference (WPT), Perugia, May 15-16, 2013.







# Signal Design

# 4x1 active antenna oscillator array at 6 GHz Patch antenna aperture coupled to a VCO









# Signal Design

- Step1: 2 VCOs with 50 MHz spacing. Mixing products are created
- Step2: 3 VCOs. The third one with a free running frequency corresponding to one of the mixing products
- Step3: 4 VCOs. The fourth one with a free running frequency corresponding to one of the mixing products









- □ Comparison of obtained DC voltage by a rectifier when using:
  - generated mode-locked signal with high PAPR signal
  - □ single carrier signal

#### Same total average power for both signals







A. Boaventura, A. Collado, A. Georgiadis, N.B. Carvalho, 'Spatial Power Combining of Multi-sine Signals for Wireless Power Transmission Applications,' IEEE Transactions on Microwave Theory and Techniques, Special Issue on Wireless Power Transfer, 2014, accepted for publication

# Signal Design

- Power gain compares the obtained DC voltage by a rectifier when using the high PAPR signal in comparison with a one-tone signal
- □ Improved performance when using the high PAPR mode-locked signal



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## **Challenges - Applications**



## Multi-technology harvesters

Solar antennas and rectennas

## Flexible electronics

Paper - Textile – Plastic substrates

## Solar powered batteryless circuits



















## **Challenges - Applications**

### Solar RFID tag

- Solar => DC => RF
- UHF Class-E oscillator
- Solar antenna

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A. Georgiadis and A. Collado, "Improving Range of Passive RFID Tags Utilizing Energy Harvesting
and High Efficiency Class-E Oscillators," in Proc. EuCAP 2012, Prague, 26-30 March 2012.



A. Collado, A. Georgiadis, "24 GHz Substrate Integrated Waveguide (SIW) Rectenna for Energy Harvesting and Wireless Power Transmission", 2013 IEEE MTT-S IMS, Seattle 2-7 June 2013.

## Multiple Technology Harvesters Solar / EM



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K. Niotaki, F. Giuppi, A. Georgiadis and A. Collado. Solar/EM energy harvester for autonomous operation of a monitoring sensor platform. Wireless Power Transfer, vol. 1, no. 1, pp. 44-50, Mar 2014.

## Multiple Technology Harvesters Thermal / EM











M. Virili, A. Georgiadis, K. Niotaki, A. Collado, F. Alimenti, P. Mezzanotte,
L. Roselli, N.B. Carvalho, 'Design and Optimization of an Antenna with Thermo-Electric Generator (TEG) for Autonomous Wireless Nodes,' in Proc. 2014 IEEE RFID-TA, Tampere, Finland, 8-9 Sep 2014

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- Multi-band rectennas allow wider application
- Reactive networks capable of minimizing rectenna efficiency sensitivity to load variation
- □ High PAPR leads to higher efficiency
- □ Spatial power combining for WPT transmitters







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## *Cambridge Journal on Wireless Power Transfer*



### http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayJournal?jid=WPT

*Wireless Power Transfer (WPT)* is the first journal dedicated to publishing original research and industrial developments relating to wireless power.

#### Vol. 1. No. 1. March 2014

#### Vol. 1. No. 2. Accepting contributions .....

*WPT* will cover all methods of wireless power transfer and articles will reflect the full diversity of applications for this technology, including mobile communications, medical implants, automotive technology, and spacecraft engineering.

**Wireless Power Transfer** 









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## 2014 IEEE RFID-TA Conference 8-9 Sep 2014, Tampere, Finland http://www.rfid-ta2014.fi/













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