Simultaneous Suppression of IMD3 and IMD5 in Space TWT by IMD3 and 2HD Signal Injection

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This paper presents a signal injection technology showing significant reductions in both 3rd-order and 5th-order intermodulation distortions (IMD3 and IMD5) in space traveling wave tube (STWT). By applying the IMD3 to the IMD5 ratio (TFR) as measures of location, the simultaneous suppressions of IMD3 and IMD5 in TWT are achieved by second harmonic distortion (2HD) and IMD3 injection. According to the research on theoretical analysis and computer simulation, the optimum amplitude and phase parameters of the injected signal for maximum simultaneous suppressions are obtained. Then an experiment system is established based on vector network analyzer, optimum TFR are 2.1 dB and 12.5 dB, respectively, by second harmonic and IMD3 injection, and the output powers of IMD3 and IMD5 were decreased. TFR with IMD3 injection is smaller than that with second harmonic injection in STWT, and the experiment system is more straightforward and easy to operate. Thus, the IMD3 injection performs better than that of second harmonic injection to suppress IMD5s for the narrow-band STWT.

1. Introduction

Traveling wave tube (TWT) amplifier is widely used in the fields of communication, signal processing, radar, electronic warfare, and so forth. Space TWT is the core component of satellite communication system, and it plays a crucial role in power amplification in the field of space technology, high gain, and excellent linearity is an essential prerequisite for its normal operation. Unfortunately, TWT exhibits nonlinear characteristic and therefore generates unwanted intermodulation distortion (IMD) and second harmonic distortion (2HD). Among various distortions, harmonics can be eliminated by the filter, but the 3rd-order (IMD3) and 5th-order intermodulation (IMD5) fall on the main signal band and cannot be easily filtered out. Meanwhile, the IMD signal severely limits the fundamental energy of TWT and reduces the output power; thus it causes lower overall system performance. Earlier articles show that the mechanism of distortion suppression by signal injection is the destructive interference of the injected signal with nonlinerly generated distortion product [1–4]. Although the experimental condition of signal injection technology is relatively complex, it has very noticeable effect for distortion suppression in several experimental environments, so signal injection technology is used to study simultaneous suppressions in both IMD3 and IMD5 of STWT in this paper.

The MUSE theoretical model [1] was presented by Wöhlbier et al. The models can clearly describe the waveforms regarding injected and nonlinearly generated components in TWT. The comparison of reduction with second-order versus third-order signal before distortion method for TWT is studied by Singh in detail in her experiment [5–7]. In other areas of electronic device, An optoelectrical predistortion optical transmitter system is designed by Lee et al. [8]. This presents that the simultaneous suppressions of IMD3 and IMD5 are achieved by choosing an appropriate bias current and RF input power for the LD. The feedback second harmonic injection methods for simultaneous reduction of
IMD3 and IMD5 in bisection laser diode have been studied [9], and a novel distortion reduction scheme for gain lever laser diodes has been presented [10, 11].

In recent years, there are some new research results about signal injection including the improvement of the fundamental signal power of TWT by harmonic injection [4, 12], the harmonic and intermodulation distortions associated with two-tone modulation [13], the suppression of IMD3 by harmonic injection [14], and the particle swarm optimization (PSO) which are applied to suppress IMD [15, 16]. Furthermore, the previous research results of our research group show that IMD3 and 2HD injection approaches are all available in suppressing IMD3 components. IMD3 injection performs better than 2HD injection for narrow-band space TWT [17, 18]. The research on simultaneous reductions in both IMD3 and IMD5 of STWT by signal injection has not been conducted, which will be concerned and investigated in this paper.

First of all, many abbreviations in this paper are explained. FUN is the abbreviation of fundamental signal, and FUN- and FUN+ represent lower and upper fundamental, respectively, in two-tone signal. IMD3– and IMD3+ are lower and upper third-order intermodulation distortion components, and IMD5– and IMD5+ are lower and upper fifth-order intermodulation distortion components. Initial power and initial fundamental frequency represent input power and frequency of two-tone fundamental signal, they are variable, and the initial power and frequency variation of fundamental signal can influence output power of FUN, IMD3, and IMD5 under optimum injection and without signal injection.

2. Theoretical Analysis

We use the proposed nonlinear model on analog amplifier to analyze the suppression in IMD3 and IMD5 theoretically. The amplifier nonlinearity can be expressed with a Taylor series equation [8, 9, 19] connecting the output power $P$ to input signal $P_{in}$ by (1): $g_{m1}g_{m2}g_{m3}$ are constants.

$$P = g_{m1}P_{in} + g_{m2}P_{in}^2 + g_{m3}P_{in}^3. \quad (1)$$

The input signal (two-tone fundamental signal) consists of two tones given by expression $P_{in} = A_1 \cos \omega_1 t + A_2 \cos \omega_2 t$, the amplitude and phase are $A_1$, $A_2$ and $\omega_1$, $\omega_2$, and the amplitude represents the power of signal in terms of power amplifier. After being amplified, the IMD3 component at $2\omega_2 - \omega_1$ is $0.75A_2^2A_1g_{m3} \cos (2\omega_2 - \omega_1) t$, and IMD5 component at $3\omega_2 - 2\omega_1$ is

$$0.5g_{m4}A_2^3A_1^3 \cos [(3\omega_2 - 2\omega_1) t + \phi_1] + 0.625A_2^2A_1^2g_{m5} \cos (3\omega_2 - 2\omega_1) t. \quad (2)$$

A IM3 signal of amplitude $A_{21}$ and phase $\phi_{21}$ at $2\omega_2 - \omega_1$ is injected into the amplifier together with the two-tone fundamental signal; the input signal is

$$P_{in} = A_1 \cos \omega_1 t + A_2 \cos \omega_2 t + A_{21} \cos [(2\omega_2 - \omega_1) t + \phi_{21}]. \quad (3)$$

The IMD3 output power $(2\omega_2 - \omega_1)$ at the output of amplifier is expressed as

$$0.75A_2^2A_1g_{m3} \cos (2\omega_2 - \omega_1) t + 1.5A_2g_{m3}A_1^2 + 1.5A_2g_{m3}A_2^2 \quad (4)$$

$$+ 0.75A_1g_{m3}A_{21}^2 \cos (2\omega_2 - \omega_1 + \phi_{21}).$$

The IMD5 output power $(3\omega_2 - 2\omega_1)$ at the output of amplifier is written as

$$0.625g_{m5}A_2^2A_1^3 \cos (3\omega_2 - 2\omega_1)$$

$$+ [3.75g_{m5}A_1^2A_2^3A_1^2 + 1.25g_{m5}A_2A_2^4$$

$$+ 3.75g_{m5}A_1^2A_2^3A_2^2 + 3.75g_{m5}A_1A_2^3A_1^2$$

$$+ 1.5g_{m5}A_1A_2^2A_{21}^2] \cos (3\omega_2 - 2\omega_1 + 2\phi_{21}) \quad (5)$$

$$+ [3.75g_{m5}A_1A_2A_{21}^3 + 1.25g_{m5}A_1A_2^3A_{21}^2$$

$$+ 3.75g_{m5}A_1A_2A_{21}^3 + 3.75g_{m5}A_2A_1A_{21}^3$$

$$+ 1.5g_{m5}A_1A_2A_{21}^2] \cos (3\omega_2 - 2\omega_1 + \phi_{21}).$$

All parameters in (4) and (5) are known. The output power of IMD3 $2\omega_2 - \omega_1$ can be suppressed to zero by appropriately adjusting $A_{21}$ and $\phi_{21}$, but they are not the optimal parameters to completely suppress IMD5 $3\omega_2 - 2\omega_1$ at the same condition.

It can be seen from (5) that the expression of IMD5 is quite complicated. If we appropriately adjust the parameters theoretically $3\omega_2 - 2\omega_1$ can be suppressed to zero by observing expression. Maximum suppressions in IMD3 and IMD5 $(2\omega_2 - \omega_1$ and $3\omega_2 - 2\omega_1$) do not occur simultaneously by a set of amplitude and phase of injected signal, so we need to find the optimal amplitude and phase parameter to make compromises between them. By introducing the definition of IMD3 to the IMD5 ratio (TFR), and choosing the optimal operating point of the injected amplitude and phase where the TFR has minimum, the optimum signal injection conditions for simultaneous suppressions in the IMD3 and IMD5 can be determined. TFR (dB) is indicated to measure the relative power of IMD3 and IMD5 and represents multiple relationships between the output power of IMD3 and IMD5; it is the logarithmic representation of output power ratio.

$$L_{out,IM3} \text{ and } L_{out,IM5} \text{ represent the output power of IMD3 and IMD5, respectively; the unit is dBm.} \ W_{IM3}/W_{IM5} \text{ represent IMD3 and IMD5 output power ratio.}$$

$$TFR_{IM3 to IM5} = L_{out,IM3} - L_{out,IM5} \left[ \text{dB} \right] = 10 \log_{10} W_{IM3} - 10 \log_{10} W_{IM5} \quad (6)$$

$$= 10 \log_{10} \left( \frac{W_{IM3}}{W_{IM5}} \right).$$

When the optimal operating point of the injected amplitude and phase is found where $TFR_{IM3 to IM5}$ has minimum, the relative power of IMD5 and IMD3 and the difference of output power are minimum. The simultaneous suppression effect in the IMD3 and IMD5 is observed.
3. Simulation Results and Discussions

Serious nonlinear distortion components appear at the output port after STWT begin to work on saturation state. The third-order intermodulation frequencies $2\omega_1 - \omega_2$ and $2\omega_2 - \omega_1$ lie closest to the fundamental frequency among all intermodulation frequencies $m\omega_1 + n\omega_2$. Thus IMD3 are the main contributors to nonlinear distortion and have the most significant effect on the output power of the fundamental signal. IMD5 ($3\omega_1 - 2\omega_2$ and $3\omega_2 - 2\omega_1$) are also in the working frequency band of STWT, the effect on fundamental signal is next to IMD3, and both of them are the main performance of nonlinear distortion in STWT.

The study on signal injection to simultaneously suppress the IMD3 and IMD5 has been held all along to improve linearity performance of STWT significantly. Wöhlbier et al. study comprehensively physical principles of signal injection technique for TWT [1] and propose TWT nonlinear spectral model LATTE and S-MUSE. According to the nonlinear spectral model, various simulation experiments on the suppression of IMD3 and IMD5 are done in this paper under several types of signal injection. By adjusting the signal power, phase, and frequency precisely, the performance and change situation of output parameters such as power and frequency of STWT are shown.

3.1. Fundamental Signal Parameters. The 3D plots of the output gain and power of fundamental signal according to the fundamental frequency and initial power are shown in Figure 1. When the fundamental frequency is relatively low (less than 1.5 GHz), the gain effect is not evident. After the frequency increases to 2.0 GHz, and initial power is greater than $-5$ dBm, the gain will quickly be reduced to 30 dB. However, After the frequency is selected as 1.5 GHz, the amplification performance gets better, and output power of STWT is more than 30 dBm. Under smaller initial power ($-20$ dBm), besides, nonlinear phenomena emergence is delayed. So the fundamental frequency is set as 1.5 GHz in the paper.

The FUN− in two-tone frequencies is set to 1.5 GHz; frequency spacing is increased from 0 to 200 MHz; the 3D AM/AM curve of the two-tone fundamental signal according to the increasing fundamental frequency spacing is shown in Figure 2. With the increase of fundamental frequency spacing, the output power of FUN+ presents a slightly increasing trend, but FUN− reduces obviously, and the 3D curves differentiation is more and more evident. When frequency spacing is set as 20 MHz, output powers of FUN− and FUN+ under saturation condition are 42.81 and 43.24 dBm. The
difference between FUN− and FUN+ is the smallest, and amplification effect is more balanced; therefore fundamental frequency spacing is selected as 20 MHz.

It can be seen from Figure 3 that FUN− is severely suppressed and FUN+ remain stable according to the increase of relative power; the phenomenon of serious differentiation between them occurs. The difference of fundamental output power reaches the maximum at 14.23 dB when initial power is −4 dBm and power difference is 5 dB. The trend of IMD3 change is similar to that of fundamental signal, IMD3+ rapidly increase, and IMD3− significantly decrease according to the increase of relative power. The fundamental energy is transferred to nonlinear distortion component after intermodulation, and nonlinear distortion phenomenon of STWT is more serious. So the initial power of two-tone fundamental is assumed to be equal, and relative power of two-tone fundamental signal is zero.

3.2. Simultaneous Suppression for the IMD3 and IMD5.

On the basis of the previous research achievements on fundamental signal parameters in STWT, the initial two-tone fundamental frequencies $\omega_1$ and $\omega_2$ are set as 1.50 and 1.52 GHz; phase and amplitude are 0.0°, −10.0 dBm. The IMD3 signal ($2\omega_2−\omega_1$, 1.54 GHz) is introduced into the input port of STWT; the simulation experiment can precisely show the nonlinear characteristic of STWT according the output power responses to phase and amplitude scan of injected signal. Power scanning range is −28−−17 dBm and phase scanning range is 270°−310°. It can be seen from Figure 4 that IMD3+ output power can be reduced 39.3 dB while amplitude and phase of injected IM3 signal are −21 dBm and 312°; then minimum output power of IMD3+ is −9.6 dBm, but output power of IMD5+ is 17.9 dBm. While the amplitude and phase of injected IMD3 signal be adjusted to −25 dBm and 292°, minimum output power of IMD5+ is −11.1 dBm and IMD5+ maximum suppression is 31.6 dB; then output power of IMD3+ is 23.2 dBm. Figure 4 shows the 3D plots of the output power at IMD3 and IMD5 according to the phase and amplitude of injected IM3+ signal.
kept at minimum; the optimal signal injection conditions for IMD3 and IMD5 reach minimum value of 27.6 dB by IM3 injection is lower than that (−20.19 dB) of 2HD injection, and the total power of the nonlinear distortion component is lower; its optimizing effect on simultaneous suppression of IM3 and IMD5 is quite obvious. Figures 6 and 7 show that the initial power of the injected IM3 and 2HD is very different; the 3D curve of TFR changes smoothly with variation of input power but changes drastically with variation of input phase. According to the known research results, input phase plays more important role in the function of intermodulation in TWT compared to input power; it has more impact on the simultaneous suppressions in both IMD3 and IMD5. The phase range which makes TFR gradually go down to the minimum is all the 270° ~ 330° whether 2HD or IM3 injection, so the phase range can make the relative power of IMD3 and IMD5 achieve minimum value.

Fundamental frequency spacing for simultaneous suppression in both IMD3 and IMD5 of STWT is studied through the simulation method under the optimal signal injection for TFR_{IM3 to IMD3}. We measure the IM3 and IMD5 with and without injection for fundamental frequency spacing as shown in Figure 8. The center frequency of RF signals is 1.5 GHz, and then channel spacing is changed from 1 MHz to 10 MHz, 20 MHz, 40 MHz, 60 MHz, 80 MHz, and 100 MHz, and the initial two-tone fundamental power is set as −10 dBm. The suppression of IMD3+ was close to 40 dB under fundamental frequency spacing of 20 MHz after optimal signal injection in Figure 8. With the increase of

### Figure 5: The output power of FUN, IMD3, and IMD5 according to initial power variation under optimum IM3 injection and without IM3 injection.

![Curves of FUN IMD3 and IMD5](image)

3.3. Comparison on Simultaneous Suppression Effect by IM3 and 2HD Injection. Based on simulation results, IMD3 has larger output power level compared to IMD5 and more close to fundamental frequency, so IMD3 suppression is a more important work for improving the performance of STWT. IMD3 to IMD5 ratio (TFR) represents relative output power of IMD3 to IMD5 and is set as the parameter to evaluate the performance of signal injection technique.

The initial two-tone fundamental frequencies are set as 1.50 GHz and 1.52 GHz; amplitude and phase are 0°, −10.0 dBm. The amplitude and phase of the injected IM3+ signal are kept at −21 dBm, 312°; the minimum is −276 dB when the power of injected IM3+ increases from −28 dBm to −17 dBm and phase is kept from 270° to 310°. This condition represents the IMD3 to IMD5 relative power at corresponding frequency point (higher or lower order) achieving the minimum and making the optimum simultaneous suppression for both IMD3 and IMD5 of STWT; then the IMD3+ and IMD5+ output power is −9.6 dBm and 17.9 dBm, respectively.

Second harmonic (2ω2) injection can also significantly suppress IMD3 and IMD5 according to the previous research results; then whether the effect of 2HD injection is any better on simultaneous suppression in both IMD3 and IMD5 compared with IM3 injection is an important research topic. The power of injected 2HD increases from 10 to 30 dBm, phase scanning range is slightly expanded to 270° ~ 330°, minimum value of TFR_{IM3 to IMD5} is −20.19 dB, and then the output power of IMD3+ and IMD5+ is −4.6 dBm and 15.57 dBm, respectively. The amplifier performance of STWT by 2HD injection compared to IM3 injection has also been weakened slightly.

Minimum of TFR_{IM3 to IMD5} (−27.6 dB) by IM3 injection is lower than that (−20.19 dB) of 2HD injection, and the total power of the nonlinear distortion component is lower; its optimizing effect on simultaneous suppression of IM3 and IMD5 is quite obvious. Figures 6 and 7 show that the initial power of the injected IM3 and 2HD is very different; the 3D curve of TFR changes smoothly with variation of input power but changes drastically with variation of input phase. According to the known research results, input phase plays more important role in the function of intermodulation in TWT compared to input power; it has more impact on the simultaneous suppressions in both IMD3 and IMD5. The phase range which makes TFR gradually go down to the minimum is all the 270° ~ 330° whether 2HD or IM3 injection, so the phase range can make the relative power of IMD3 and IMD5 achieve minimum value.

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fundamental frequency spacing, the suppression effect of IMD3+ is weakened, but the suppression of 28 dB can still be obtained even at the 100 MHz. Meanwhile, IMD5 can also be suppressed at 1.85−5.35 dB; fundamental output power is almost constant. Therefore, IMD3 and IMD5 of STWT can be significantly suppressed in range of 0−100 MHz of fundamental frequency spacing under the optimal signal injection for TFR_{IM3 to IM5}.

4. Experiment and Analysis

The vector network analyzer (VNA) can precisely describe the property of a device according to its amplitude/phase responses to frequency and power scan of measurement signals.

The rated output power of the STWT which is used in the experiment is 120 W (55 dBm), its gain is 50 dB, and working frequency band is 1.4−1.6 GHz. The experiment block diagram of simultaneous suppressions in both IMD3 and IMD5 is shown in Figure 9. The initial two-tone fundamental frequencies are set as 1.50 and 1.52 GHz, and lower 2HD (3.00 GHz) and IM3 (1.48 GHz) are injected into the input port of STWT. The power and phase are adjusted by signal generator and phase shifter, the nonlinear component of injected signal and fundamental cancel one another in the output when they are equal in output power and opposite in phase. The output power of STWT is 45.9 and 46.0 dBm, and the power of IMD3− and IMD3+ is 33.9 and 33.2 dBm, respectively, under no signal injection.

4.1. IMD3 Injection. The IMD3− (1.48 GHz) is introduced into the input port of STWT, and phase and amplitude are adjusted by signal generator and phase shifter. When the injected IM3− power is −5.86 dBm, the minimum value of TFR_{IM3 to IM5} is obtained at 2.1 dB. Output signal spectrum under optimal signal injection for IMD3 and IMD5 of STWT is shown in Figure 10. Then the components of the output signal are 46.7 dBm (FUN−), 8.8 dBm (IMD3−), and 6.7 dBm (IMD5−).

Maximum suppression of 25.1 dB for IMD3− can be observed by vector network analyzer; then the suppression for IMD5− is 17.3 dB. The total output power of STWT is 121.4 W, and it also has good characteristics of gain. The experiment proves that IMD3 signal injection can make
simultaneous suppression for the IMD3 and IMD5 at corresponding frequency of STWT.

4.2. 2HD Injection. Alternatively, 2HD (3.0 GHz) is introduced into the STWT; when the amplitudes are adjusted to 13 dBm, the minimum value of TFR_{IM3 to IM5} is 12.5 dB.

4.3. Comparison between Simulation and Experiment. The value of TFR and IMD suppression achieved experimentally is limited by resolution bandwidths of signal generator

![Figure 9: The experiment block diagram of simultaneous suppressions in both IMD3 and IMD5.](image)

![Figure 10: The output signal spectrum under optimal 2HD injection of simultaneous suppression for IMD3 and IMD5.](image)

![Figure 11: The output signal spectrum under optimal IMD3 injection and 2HD injection in simulation.](image)

![Table 1: The output power, suppression, and corresponding TFR under optimum IM3 injection and 2HD injection in simulation.](table)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>TFR (dB)</th>
<th>Output power (dBm)</th>
<th>Suppression (dB)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IMD3</td>
<td>−27.6</td>
<td>17.9</td>
<td>−9.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMD5</td>
<td>43.3</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>IMD3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM3</td>
<td>−20.2</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>−4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMD3</td>
<td>42.9</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>IMD5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM3</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>6.7</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMD5</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>IMD5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The output signal spectrum under optimal signal injection for IMD3 and IMD5 of STWT is shown in Figure 11. Then the components of the output signal are 46.7 dBm (FUN−), 8.8 dBm (IMD3−), and 6.7 dBm (IMD5−). Maximum suppression of 12.7 dB for IMD3− can be observed. Besides, suppression for IMD5− is 15.4 dB, and the total output power also is improved by 0.5 dB. The results of experiments suggest that 2HD injection can make simultaneous suppression for the IMD3 and IMD5 at corresponding frequency of STWT. The output power and corresponding TFR values under optimum IM3 and 2HD signal injection by means of simulation and experiment are shown in Tables 1 and 2, respectively.
and phase shifter; in particular, the suppression of IMD is particularly sensitive to the phase adjustment of the phase shifter, and the amplitude and phase of injected signal can be tuned precisely to get simultaneous suppression.

Comparison of TFR and IMD suppression between simulation and experiment is shown in Tables 1 and 3. The TFR is 2.1 and 12.5 dB under IM3 and 2HD injection observed experimentally, much lower than the simulation results of TFR (~27.6 and ~20.2). Specifically, when the minimum value of TFR is 2.1 dB under IM3 injection, suppression of 25.1 dB for IMD3 can be observed in experiment, but suppression for IMD3 is 39.3 dB under the same simulation condition (minimum TFR is ~27.6 dB). The precision of input amplitude and phase was limited by signal generator and phase shifter to match the amount of suppression observed by means of simulation. In spite of these factors, the experiment and simulation are in very good qualitative agreement, the tendency that TFR with IM3 injection is lower than that with 2HD injection for STWT is very clear, and the results that the simultaneous suppression effect by IM3 injection is better than 2HD injection in simulation are in good agreement with the experimental data.

5. Conclusion

This paper introduces the definition of IMD3 to the IMD5 ratio (TFR), by choosing the optimal operating point of the injected amplitude and phase where the TFR has minimum variations, and derives the signal injection conditions for simultaneous suppression in the IMD3 and IMD5. According to the research on theoretical analysis and computer simulation, the optimal amplitude and phase parameters of the injected 2HD and IM3 for maximum simultaneous suppressions are obtained. Then an experiment system is established based on vector network analyzer; the optimal TFR are 2.1 dB and 12.5 dB, respectively, by 2HD and IM3 injection. The output power of IMD3 and IMD5 was decreased. TFR with IM3 injection is smaller than that with 2HD injection in STWT. The experiments system is more simple and easy to operate. Thus, the IM3 injection performs better than 2HD injection to suppress IMD5s for narrow-band STWT.

Disclosure

The corresponding author is Professor Kewen Xia.

Competing Interests

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interests regarding the publication of this paper.

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