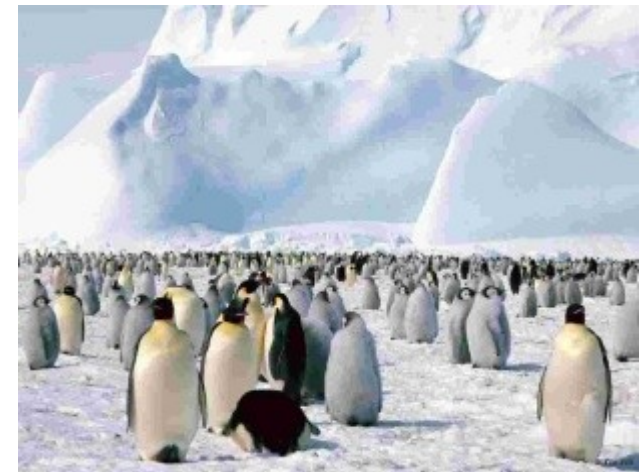


# S-functions

“The S-parameters  
for nonlinear components”

- Measure, Model, Verify,  
Simulate -



An application in ICE

# Outline

- Why S-functions? What is the impact?
- S-functions, the “S-parameters” for all nonlinear applications?
- S-functions: Key Benefits
- Theory: from S-parameters to S-functions
- Applicability and Assumptions of S-functions
- Confidence in S-functions
- S-function Extraction and Verification Tool
- Deployment of S-functions in ADS and MWO / VSS
- Strengths and Key Capabilities
- References
- Conclusion

# Why S-parameters?

## DESIGN

- Complete characterization of a component in linear mode of operation
  - Derive insertion loss, return loss, gain, ...
- S-parameters enable system-level interpretation of behavior of the component
  - Low – pass filtering, high reflective, ...
- S-parameters enable design in conjunction with other circuits

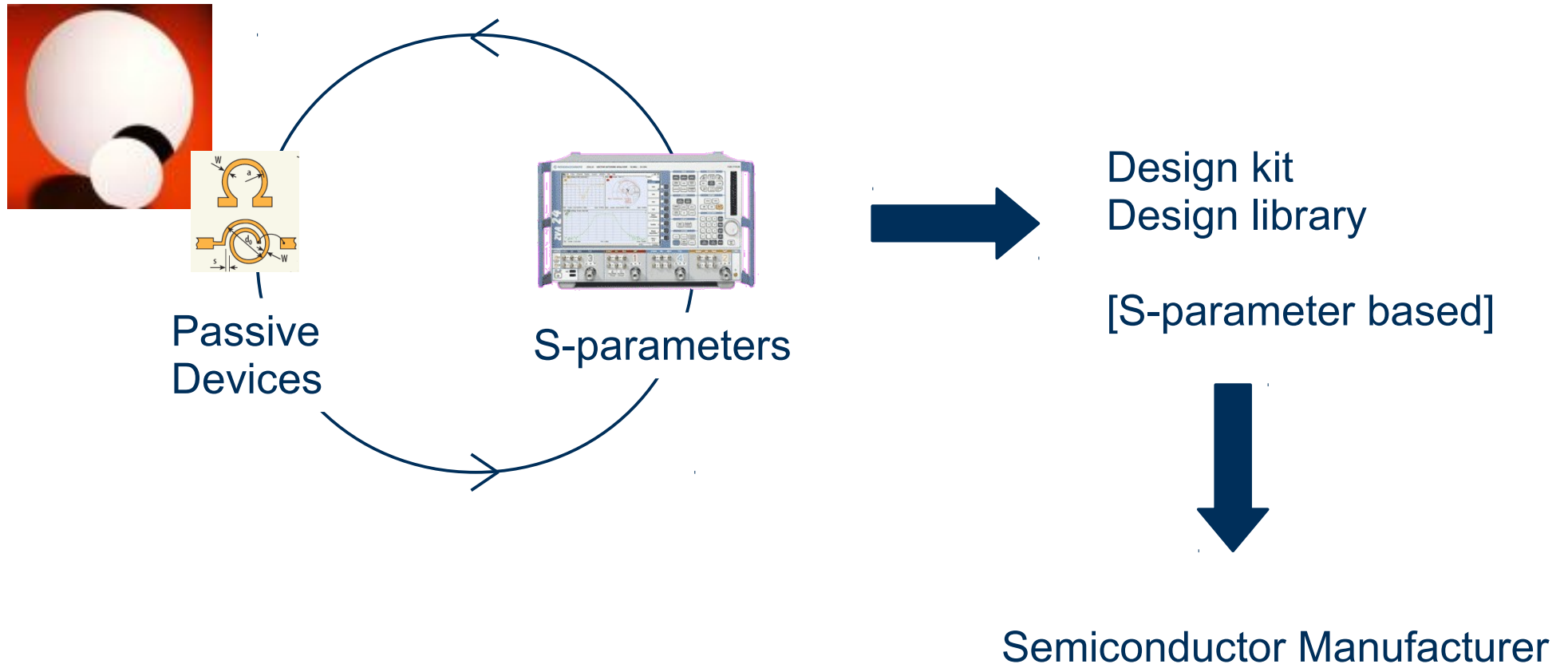
## TEST in Manufacturing

- S-parameters can be extracted for the designed circuit
- The S-parameters can be measured for the manufactured circuit and can be compared

S-parameters close the characterization, design and test loop

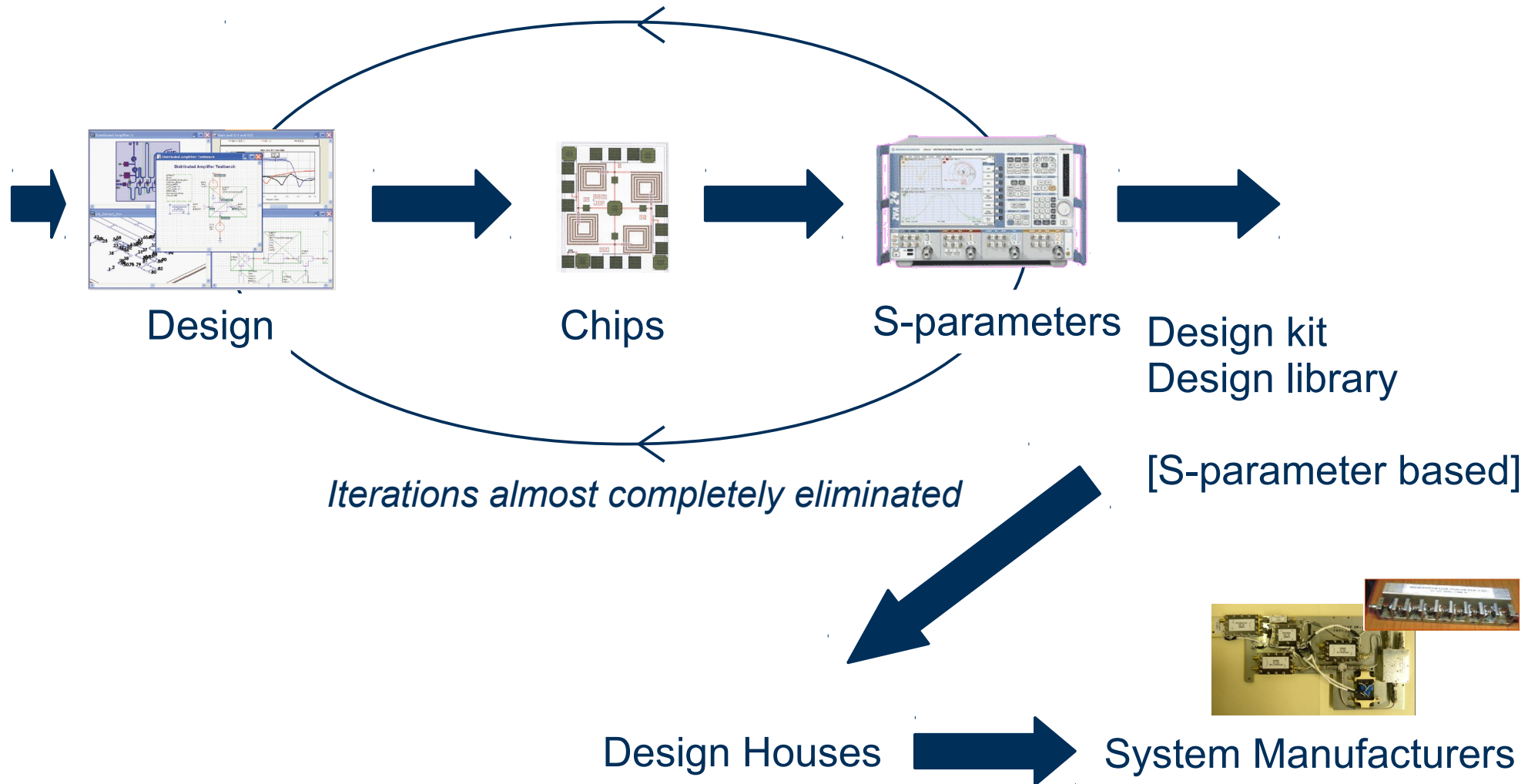
# S-parameter Design- and Test-Cycle for Linear Applications

At the Foundry



# S-parameter Design- and Test-Cycle for Linear Applications

At the Semiconductor Manufacturer

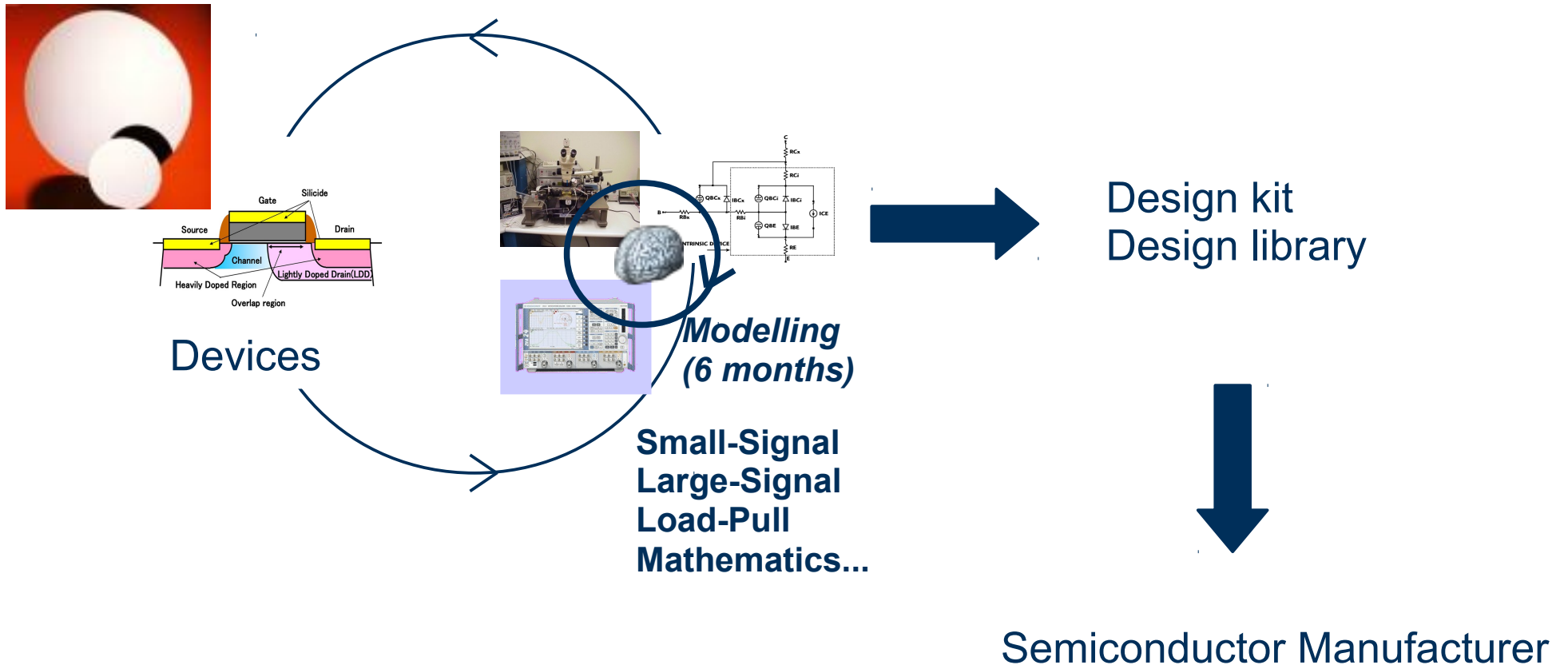


# Beyond S-parameters???

- **S-parameters**, the behavioural model for “linear” applications
  - Components in linear mode of operation **only**
    - Filters
    - Transistors under small signal of excitation
    - ...
  - Their success is based on its **uniform** approach for **linear** RF and microwave problems both to measure and to simulate
- **What about components in nonlinear mode of operation?**
  - No **uniform** approach for nonlinear RF and microwave problems
  - There is a lot of “trial and error” or “measure – tweak”
  - S-parameters are used mainly during device modelling in conjunction with a lot of model expertise to go from small-signal to large-signal

# “Trial-Error” Design- and Test-Cycle for “Nonlinear” Applications

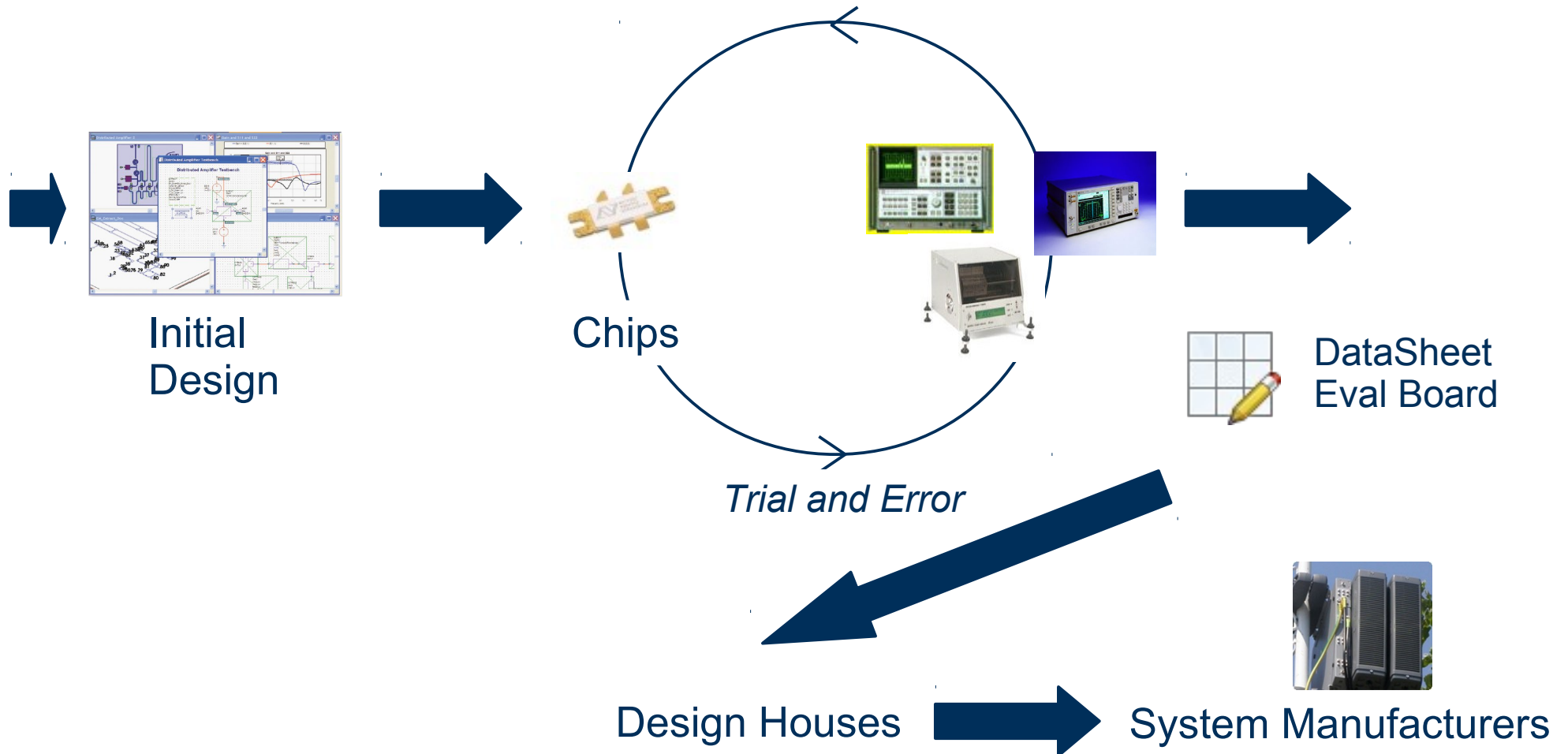
At the Foundry



# “Trial-Error” Design- and Test-Cycle for “Nonlinear” Applications

At the Semiconductor Manufacturer

- Models do not meet the needs of application
- Too time costly to develop own models
- Wafer fabs cannot worry about specific problems





S-Parameters



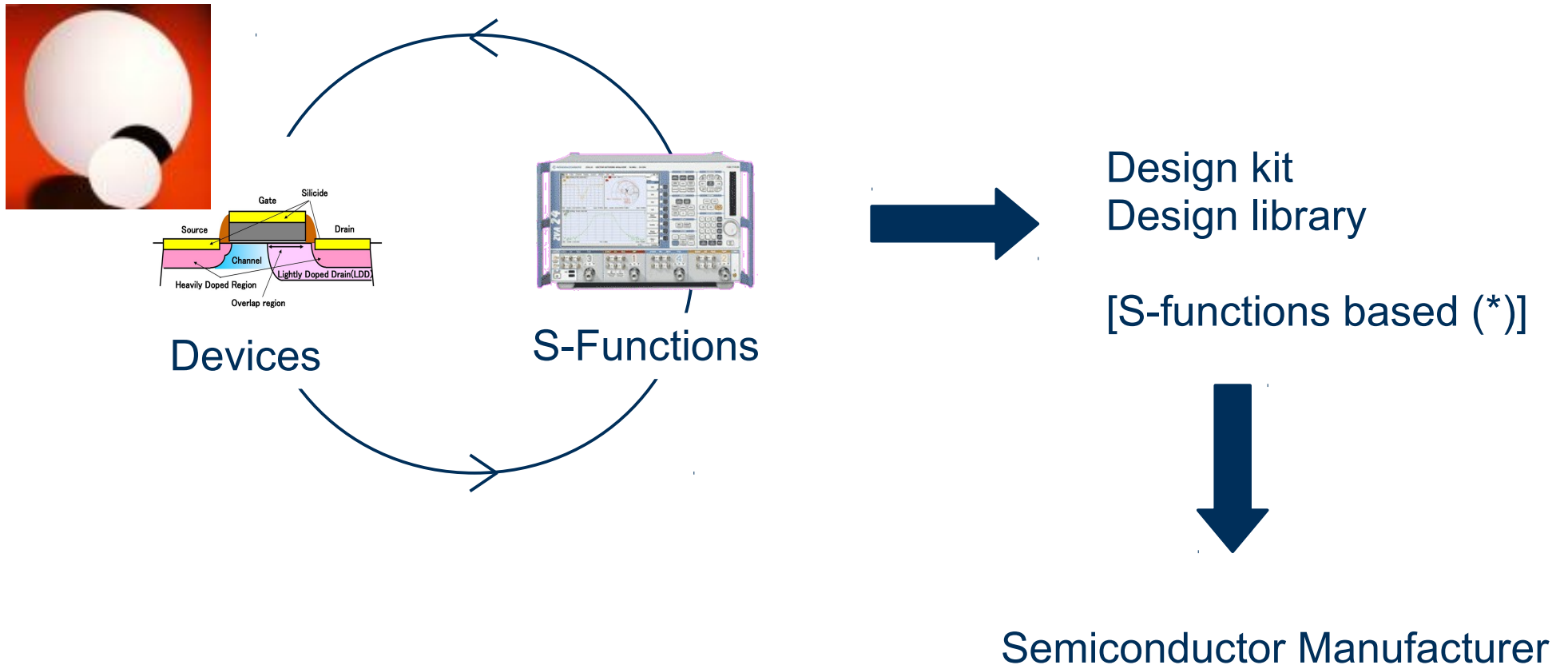
S-



S-functions

# The S-function Design- and Test-Cycle for Active Devices

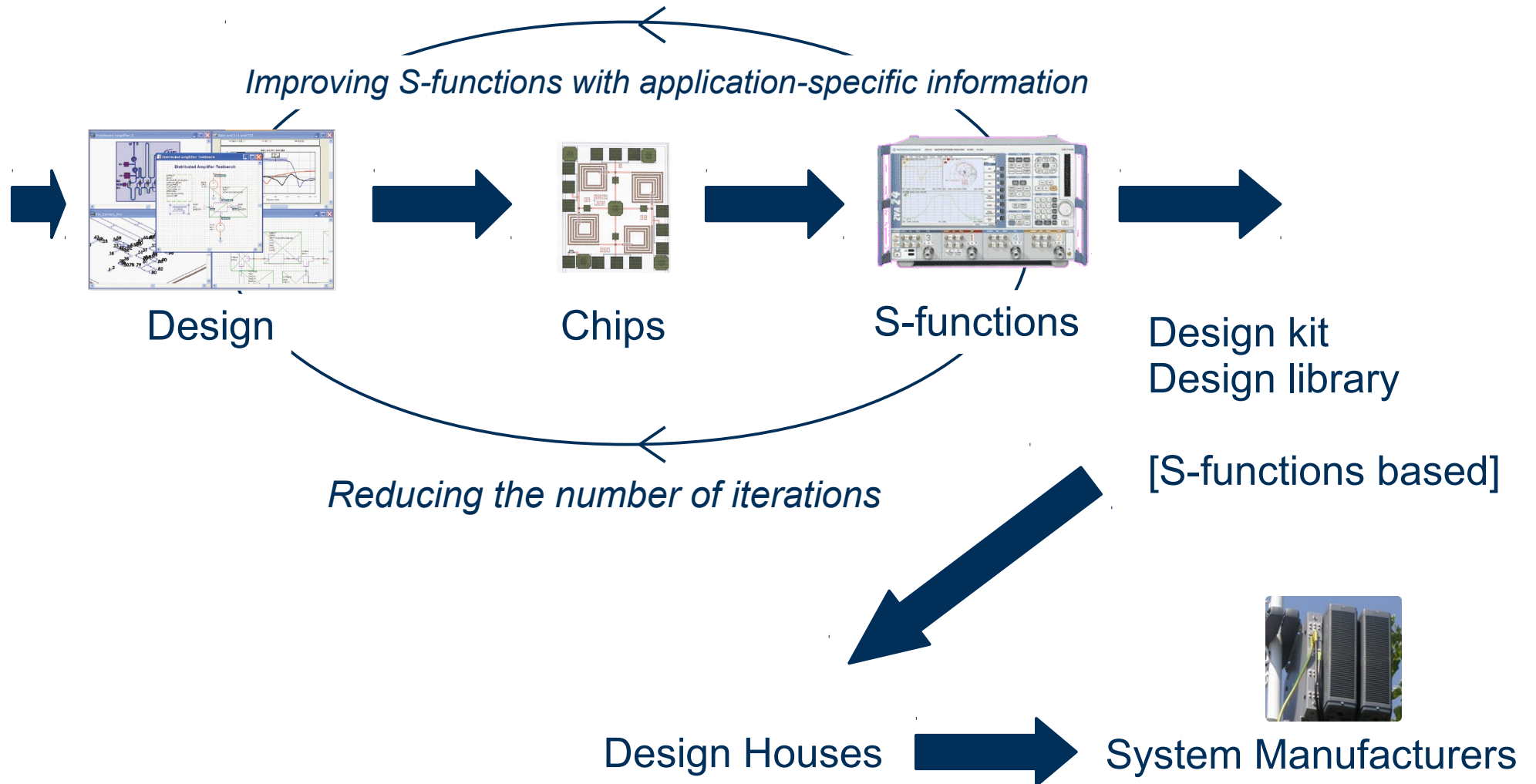
At the Foundry



(\*) S-functions for different applications

# The S-function Design- and Test-Cycle for Active Devices

At the Semiconductor Manufacturer



# Why S-functions? Adopting the S-parameter paradigm

## DESIGN

- “Complete” characterization of a component in nonlinear mode of operation for specific applications under a relevant set of conditions
  - Derive “insertion loss”, “return loss”, “gain”, “mismatch”, conversion coefficients
- S-functions enable system-level interpretation of behaviour of the component
  - Power- dependent Low – pass filtering, power conversions, ...
  - Ideal for dividers, multipliers and mixers
- S-functions enable design in conjunction with other circuits
  - When the signals are limited to the relevant set of conditions

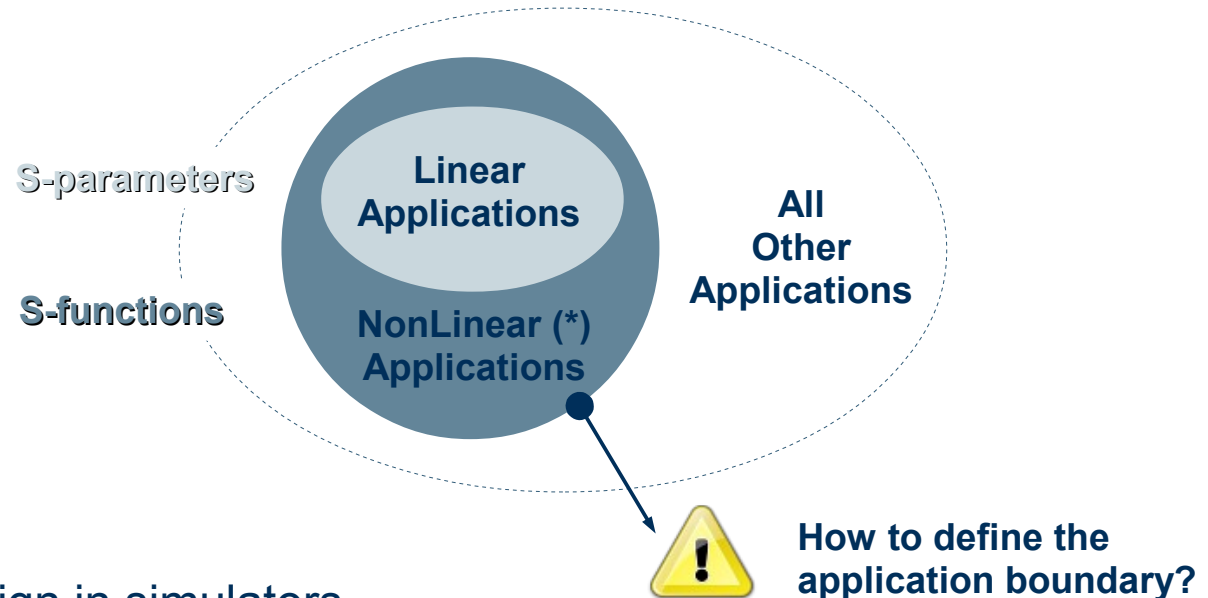
## TEST in Manufacturing

- S-functions can be extracted for the designed circuit
- The S-functions can be measured for the manufactured circuit and can be compared

S-functions close the characterization, design and test loop

# S-Functions, the “S-parameters” for nonlinear applications?

- **S-Functions**, the behavioural model for nonlinear applications
  - Deal with a subset of nonlinear RF and microwave phenomena in a **uniform way** as a natural extension of S-parameters
  - Will not solve “all” nonlinear problems



- Can be “measured”
- Can be used for design in simulators
- Can be used for test to compare with realizations in simulator

(\*): Nonlinear behaviour determined by a small number (e.g. 2) of tones

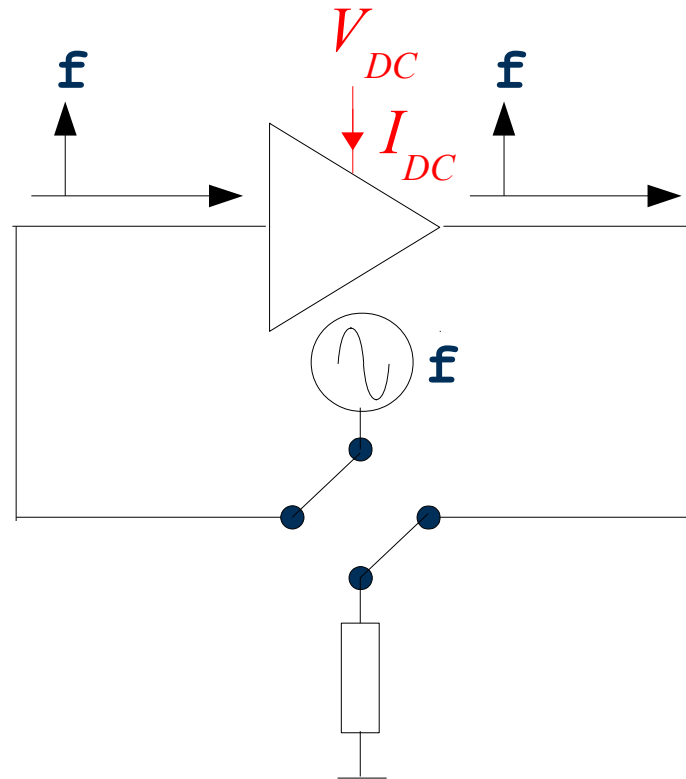
## **S-Functions are for nonlinear applications ... ... what S-parameters are for linear applications**

- **Simplify the use of HF components and circuits**
  - Complement limited data sheets with more complete system-level models
  - Complement evaluation boards, enabling upfront more realistic simulations
- **Improve and speed up the design and test process**
  - Adequate replacement when classic models fail
  - Simulate with a behavioural model, optimized for your design problem
  - Same Look and Feel as S-parameters: measure, model, verify and simulate
  - Verify the realized circuit with S-functions against the simulation during test
- **Shorter time to market for component manufacturers and buyers**

# From S-parameters to S-functions

S-parameters measured at fixed DC bias point

$$\longrightarrow S(f)$$



Keep signal small to stay in a linear mode of operation

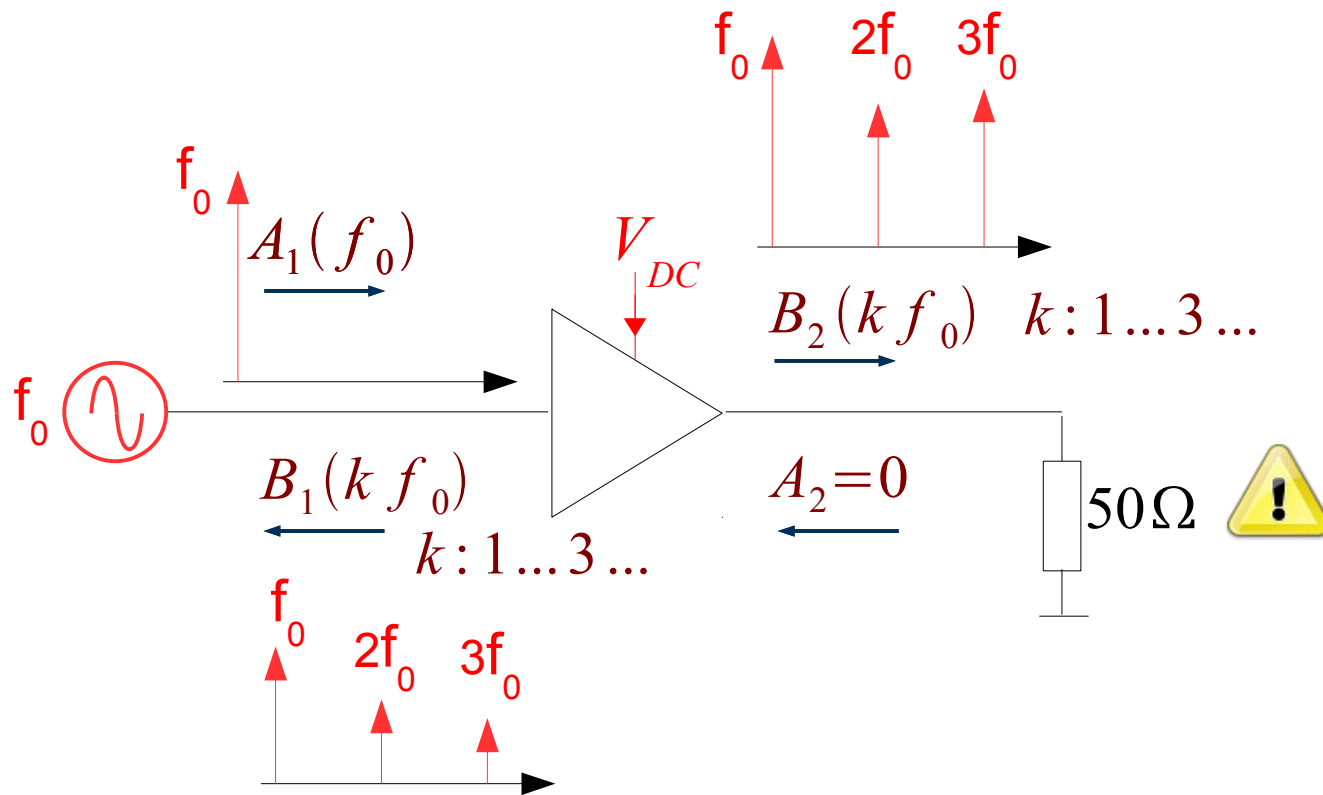
S-parameters measured at different DC bias points

Linear  $\longrightarrow S(V_{DC}; f)$

Nonlinear  $\longrightarrow I_{DC}(V_{DC})$

Remark: for the sake of intuitive explanation, mathematics is not 100% correct

# From S-parameters to S-functions



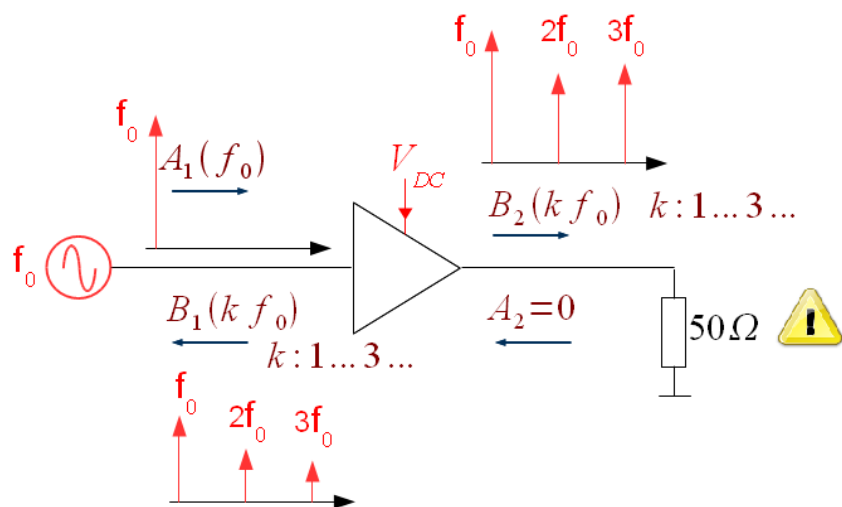
Simple model and “easy” to measure

Nonlinear  $\longrightarrow B_m(n f_0) = F_{mn}(V_{DC}, f_0, |a_1(f_0)|)$

Nonlinear  $\longrightarrow I_{DC} = H(V_{DC}, f_0, |a_1(f_0)|)$



# From S-parameters to S-functions



Simple model and “easy” to measure

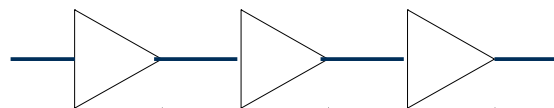
$$B_m(n f_0) = F_{mn}(V_{DC}, f_0, |a_1(f_0)|)$$

$$I_{DC} = H(V_{DC}, f_0, |a_1(f_0)|)$$

- AM-AM
- AM-PM
- Harmonic Distortion

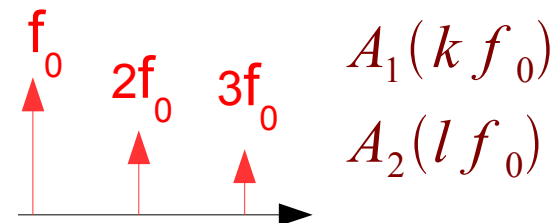
But not useful in the real world

- S-functions should be able to predict cascades

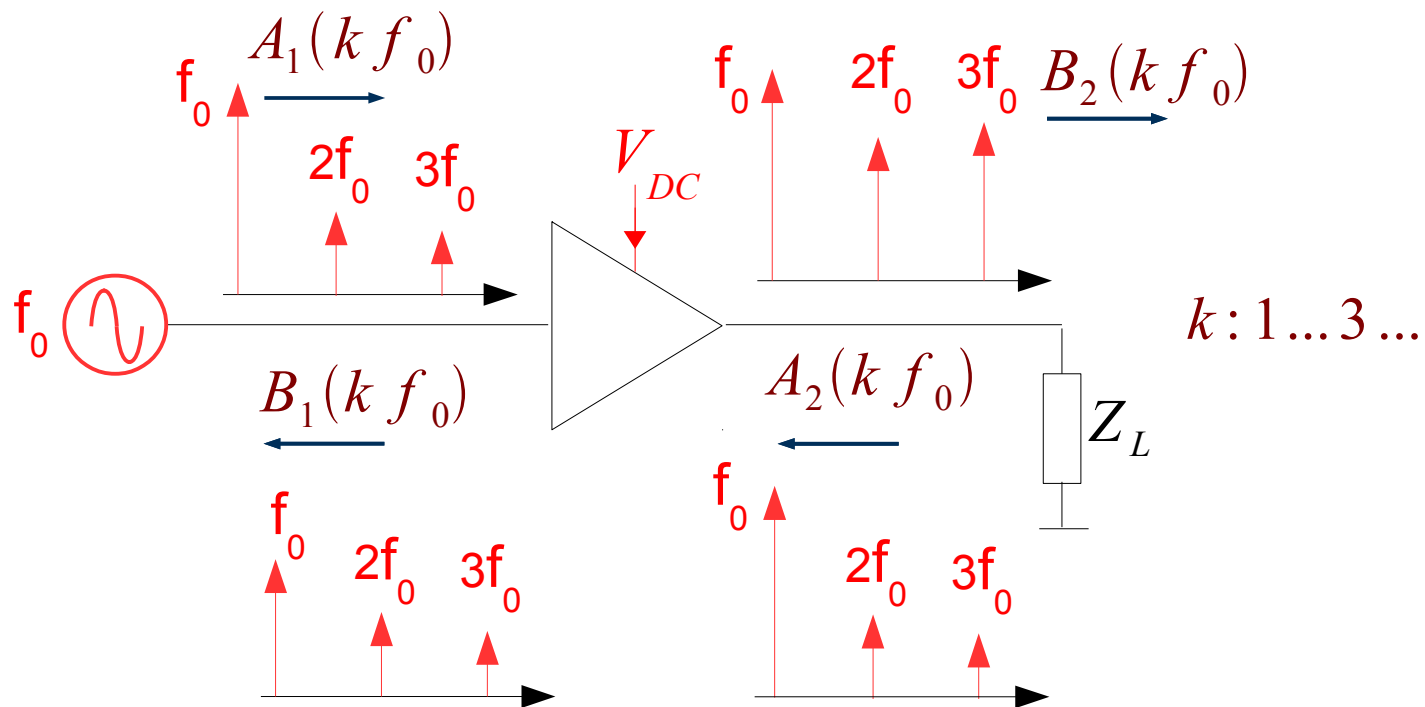


Input contains harmonics !!

- “Easy” to measure .... not in reality
  - Harmonic distortion of source
  - Imperfect match at input and output



# From S-parameters to S-functions



$$B_m(n f_0) = F_{mn}(V_{DC}, f_0, |a_1(f_0)|)$$

$$I_{DC} = H(V_{DC}, f_0, |a_1(f_0)|)$$

“Simple” model extension



$$B_m(n f_0) = F_{mn}(V_{DC}, f_0, |a_i(j f_0)|, \text{all phase comb of } (a_i(j f_0)))$$

$$I_{DC} = H(V_{DC}, f_0, |a_i(j f_0)|, \text{all phase comb of } (a_i(j f_0)))$$

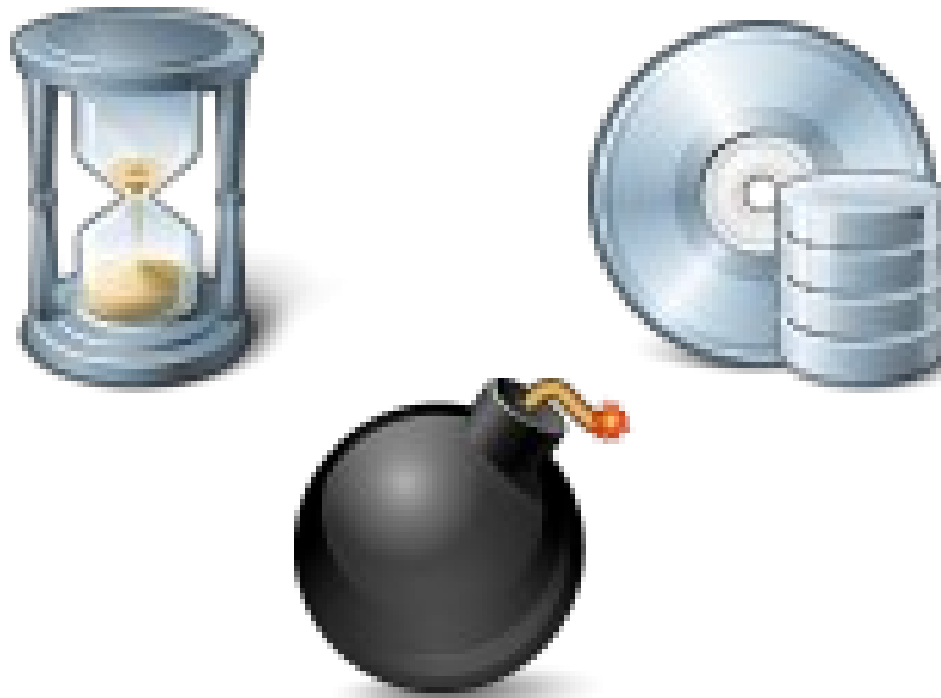
# From S-parameters to S-functions

$$B_m(n f_0) = F_{mn}(V_{DC}, f_0, |a_i(j f_0)|, \text{all phase comb of } (a_i(j f_0)))$$

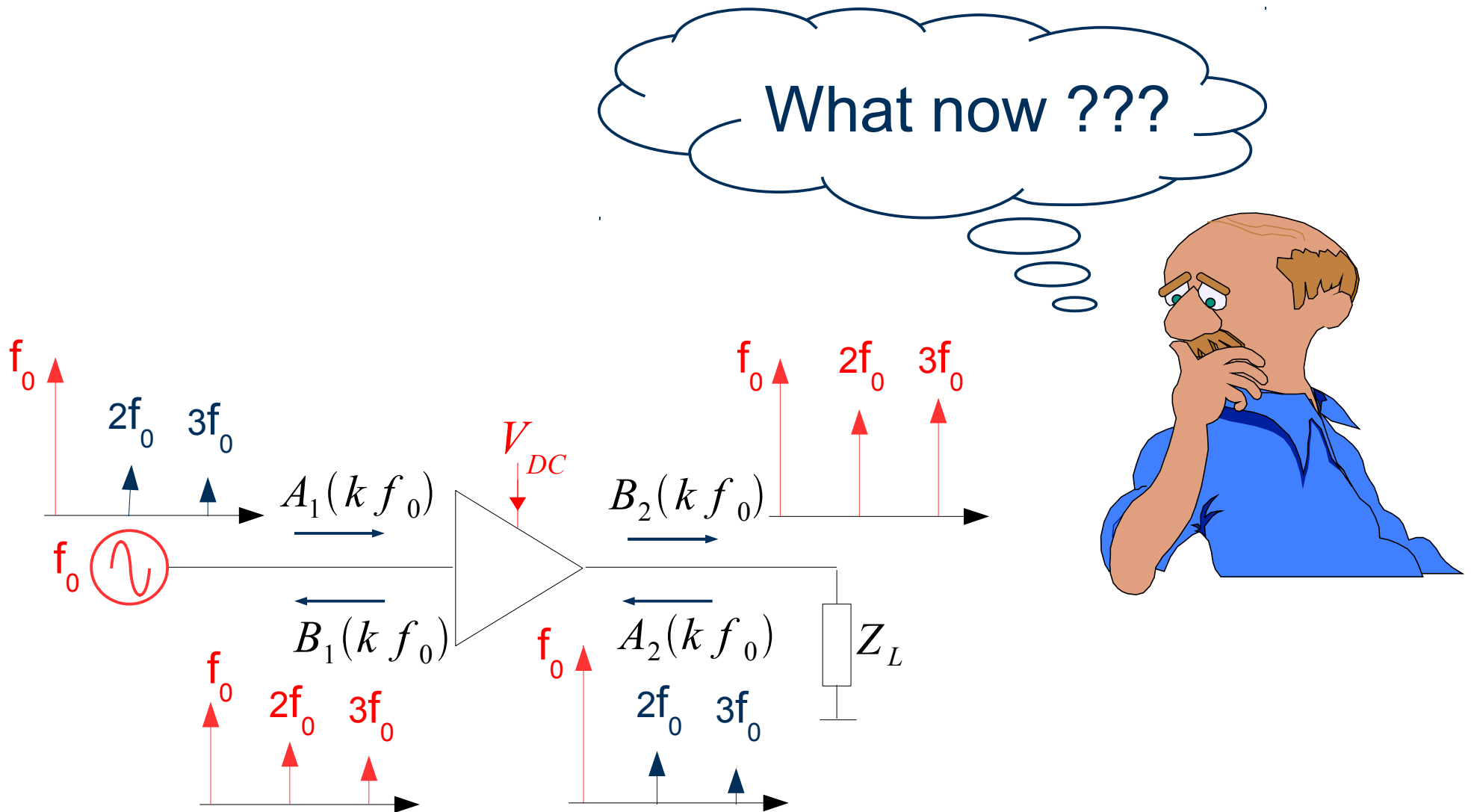
$$I_{DC} = H(V_{DC}, f_0, |a_i(j f_0)|, \text{all phase comb of } (a_i(j f_0)))$$



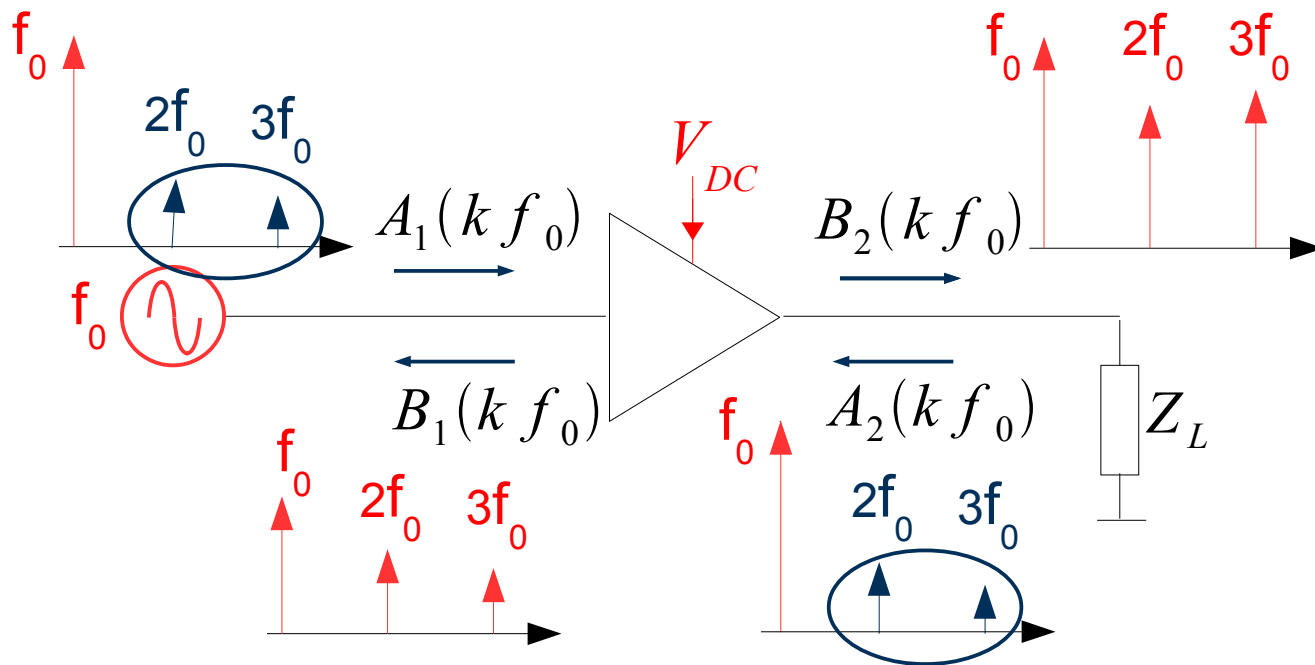
Huge number of combinations with sweeps in amplitude and phase



# From S-parameters to S-functions



# From S-parameters to S-functions



In many cases :  $A_1(kf_0), A_2(kf_0)$  with  $k > 1$

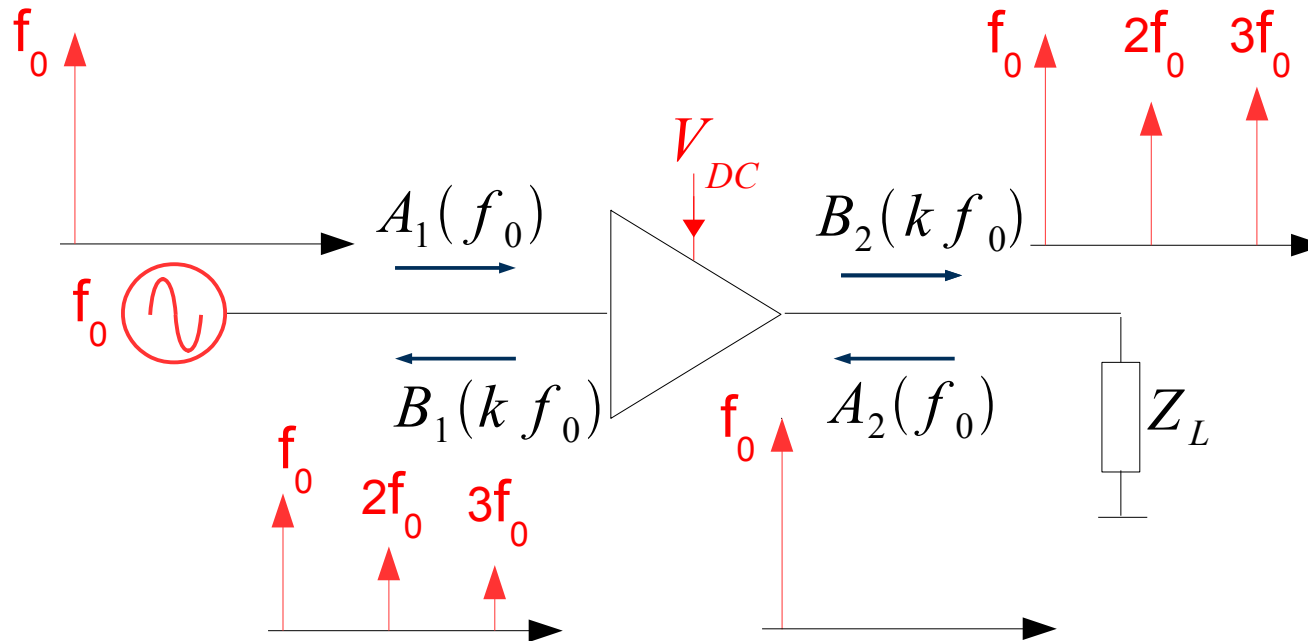
SMALL



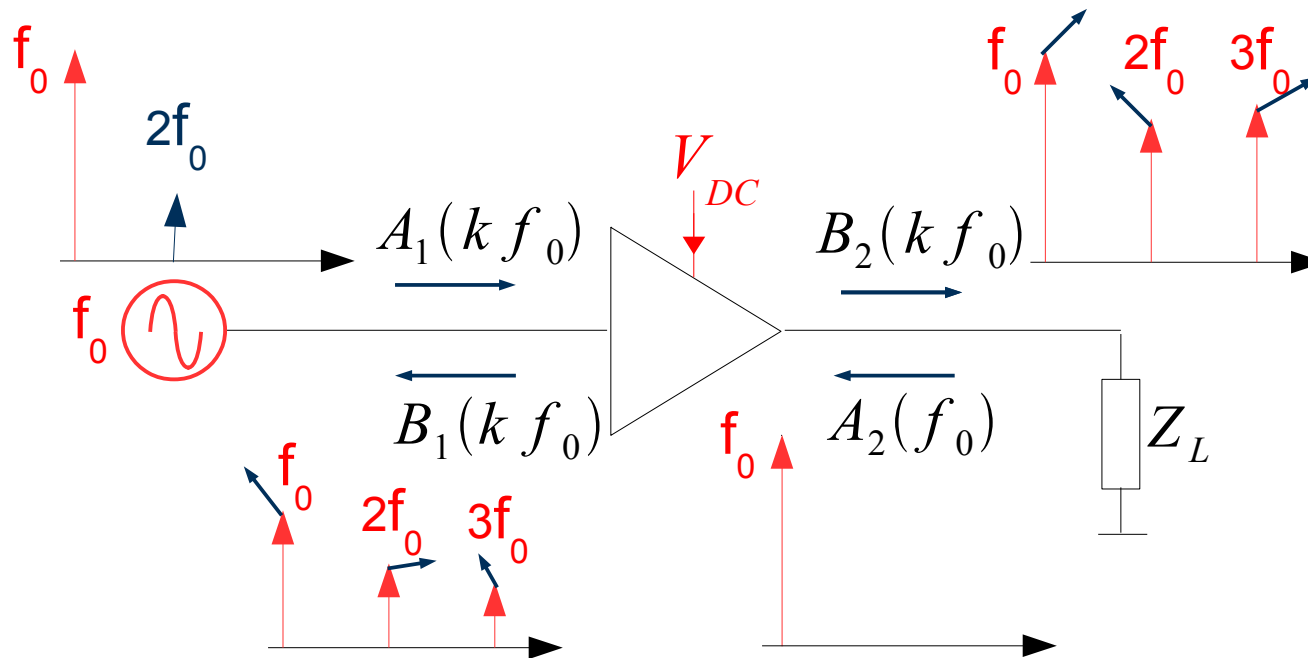
Linearize equations in  $A_1(kf_0), A_2(kf_0)$  with  $k > 1$

# From S-parameters to S-functions

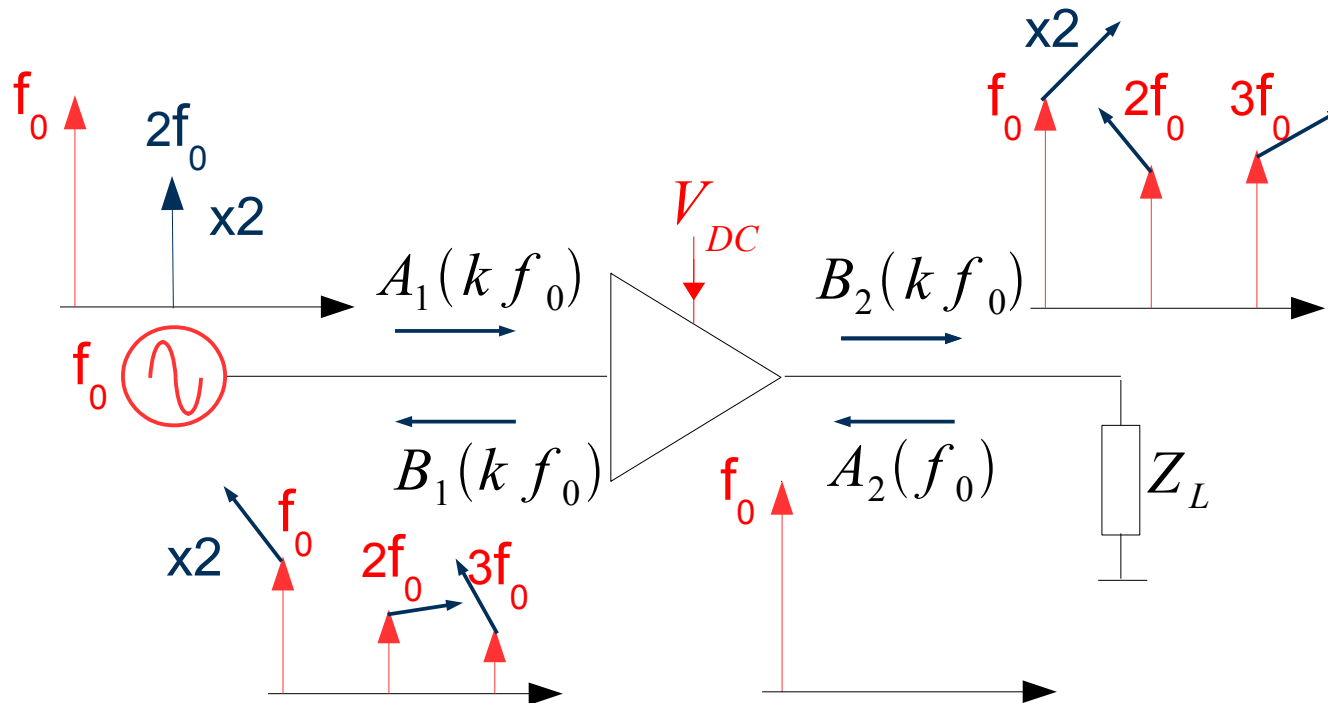
## The intuitive approach



# From S-parameters to S-functions



# From S-parameters to S-functions

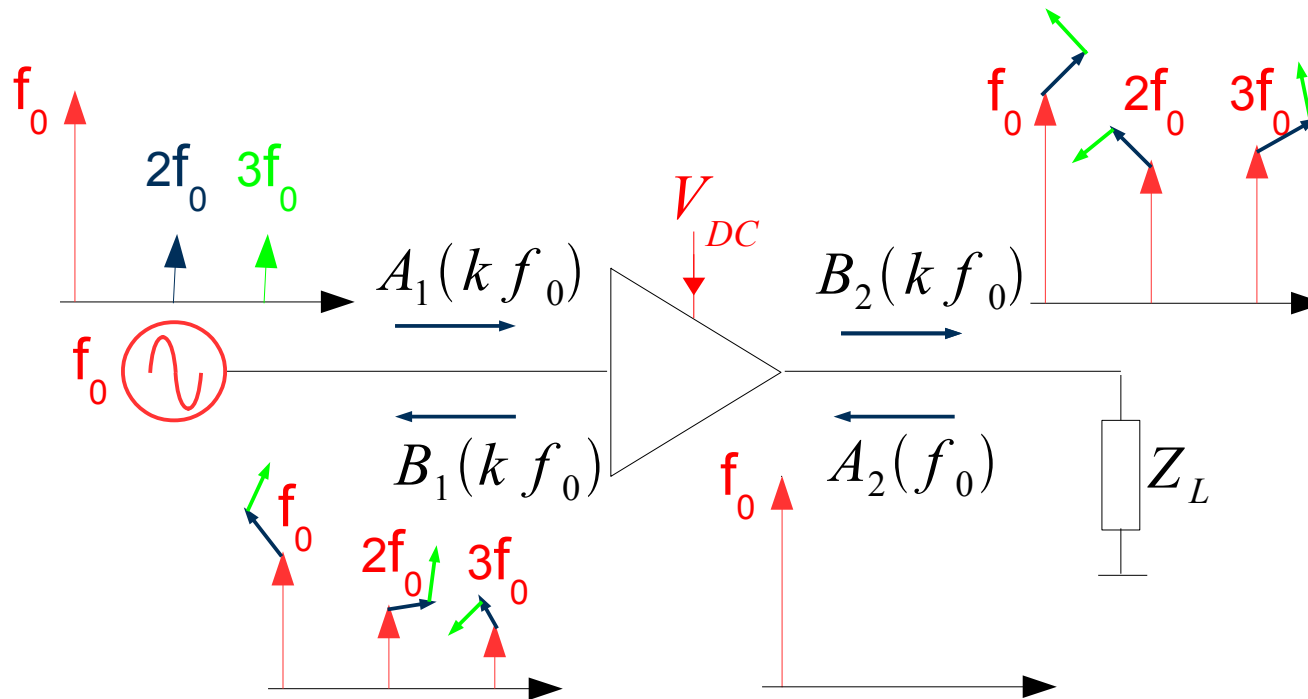


**LINEAR**

But with frequency conversion, like a mixer

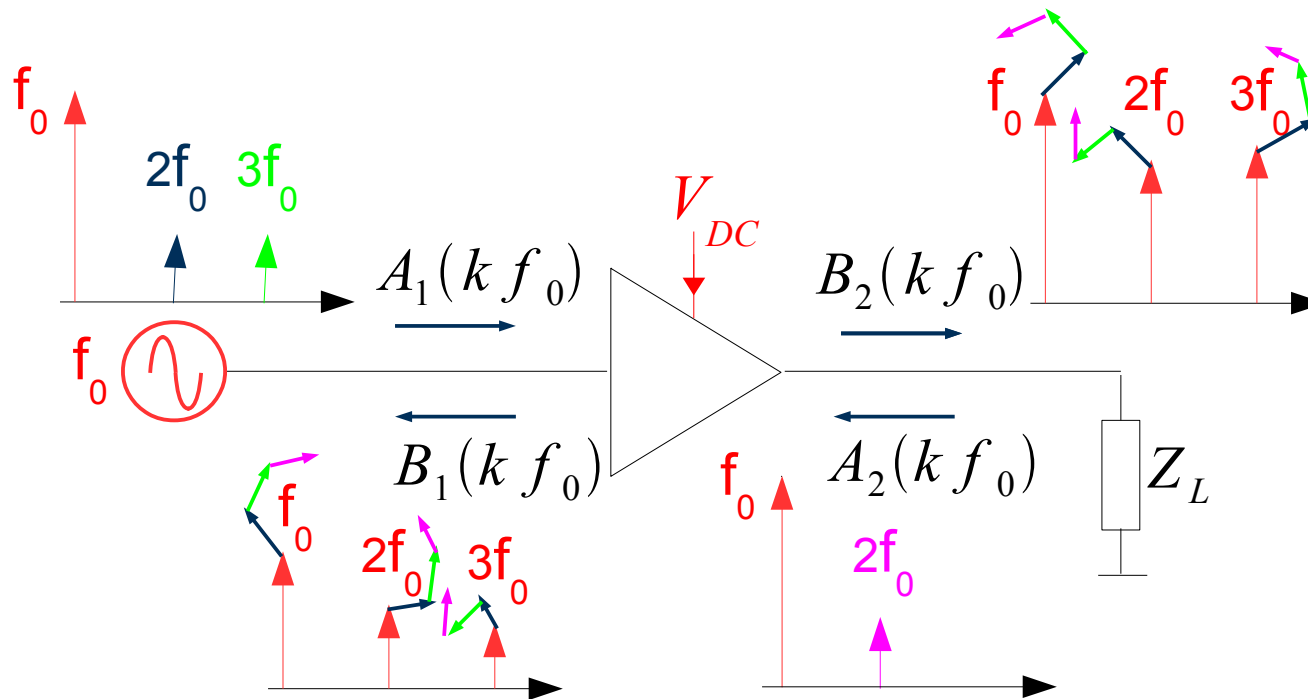


# From S-parameters to S-functions

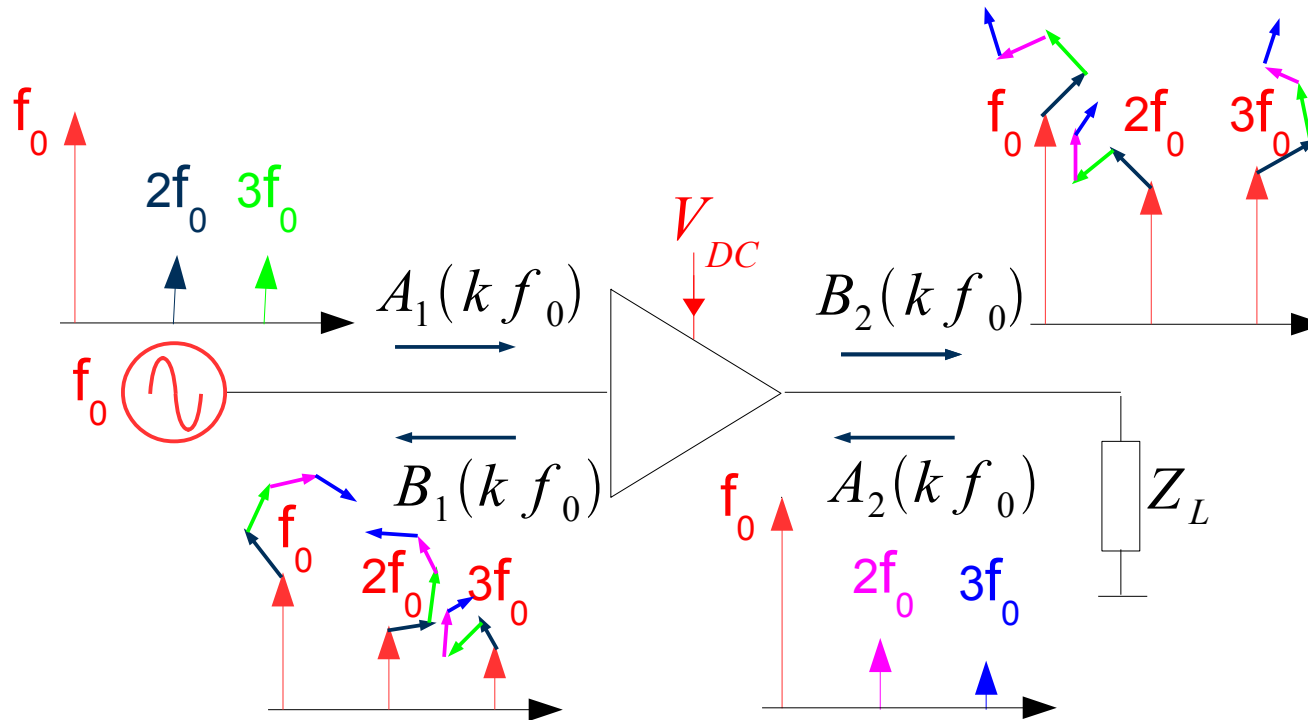


LINEAR Superposition

# From S-parameters to S-functions



# From S-parameters to S-functions



# From S-parameters to S-functions

## The Mathematical Approach

$$B_m(n f_0) = F_{mn}(V_{DC}, f_0, |a_i(j f_0)|, \text{all phase comb of } (a_i(j f_0)))$$

$$I_{DC} = H(V_{DC}, f_0, |a_i(j f_0)|, \text{all phase comb of } (a_i(j f_0)))$$

Linearization



### The S-functions

$$I_{DC} = Sf_{0001}(V_{DC}, A_{11}, A_{21}) + Sf_{00ij}(V_{DC}, A_{11}, A_{21}) A_{ij} + Sfc_{00ij}(V_{DC}, A_{11}, A_{21}) A_{ij}^*$$

$$B_{mn} = Sf_{mn01}(V_{DC}, A_{11}, A_{21}) + Sf_{mnij}(V_{DC}, A_{11}, A_{21}) A_{ij} + Sfc_{mnij}(V_{DC}, A_{11}, A_{21}) A_{ij}^*$$

“LSOP”

$Sf_{mnij}$  m: output port  
n: frequency at output port m  
i: input port  
j: frequency at input port i

with  $j > 1$  “Tickle tone”

with  $B_{mn} \equiv B_m(n f_0)$

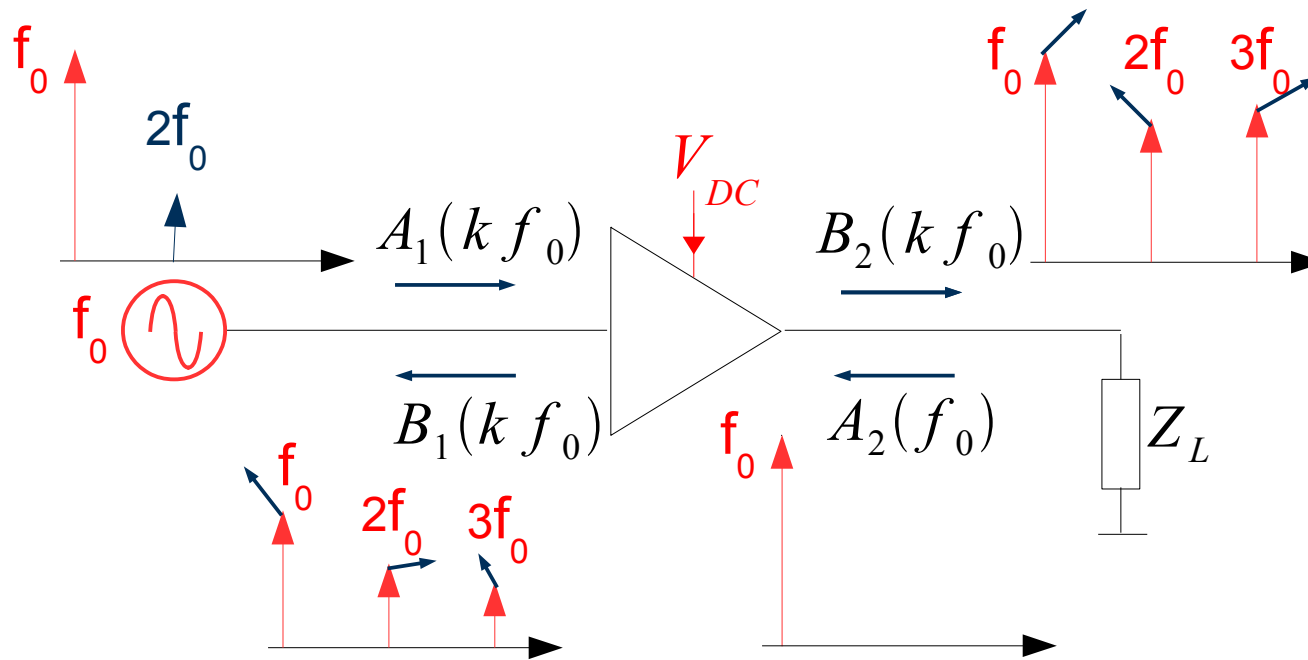
with  $A_{ij} \equiv A_i(j f_0)$

LSOP: large-signal operating point

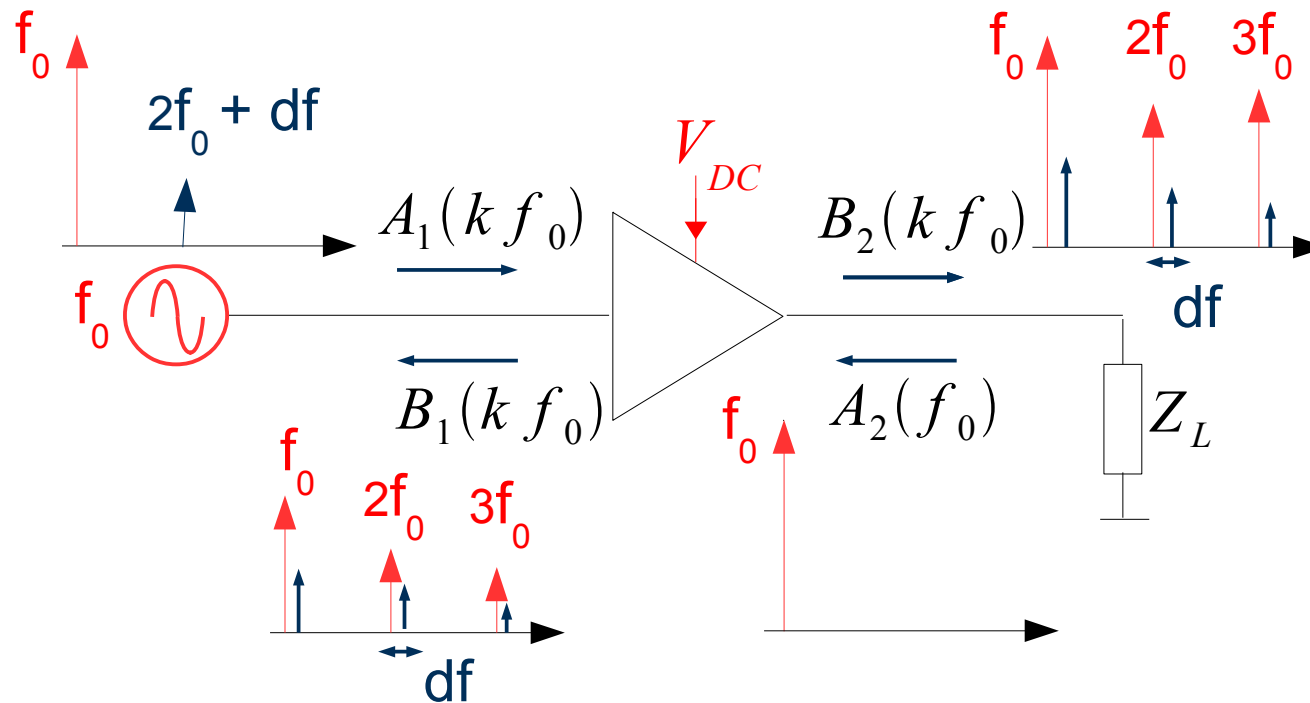


Sweep in strongly reduced LSOP

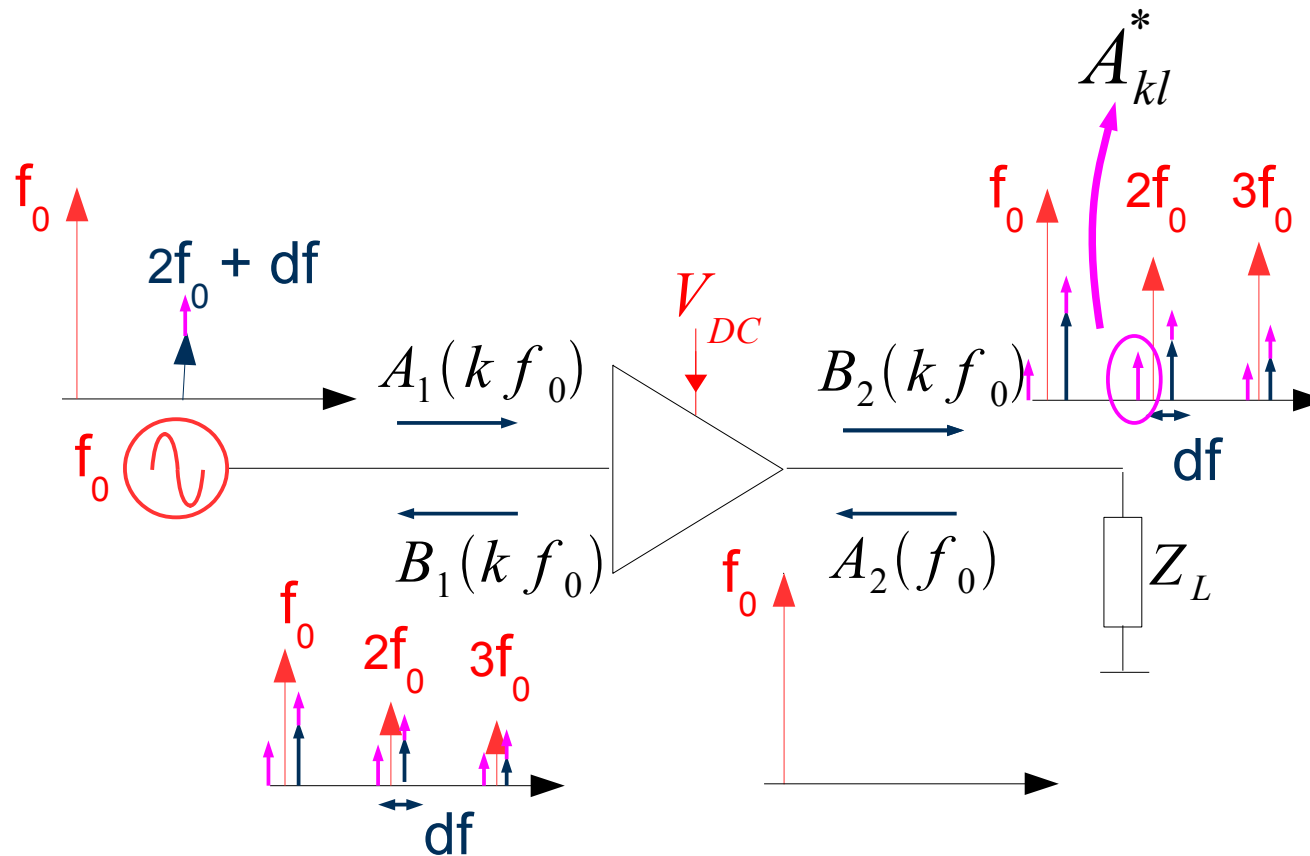
# Sfc ???



# Sfc ???




# Sfc ???



# How to extract S-functions?

Select a LSOP and keep it constant

$$B_{mn} = \underbrace{Sf_{mn01}(V_{DC}, A_{11}, A_{21})}_{\text{constant}} + \underbrace{Sf_{mnij}(V_{DC}, A_{11}, A_{21})}_{\text{constant}} A_{ij} + \underbrace{Sfc_{mnij}(V_{DC}, A_{11}, A_{21})}_{\text{constant}} A_{ij}^*$$


Change the tickle tones

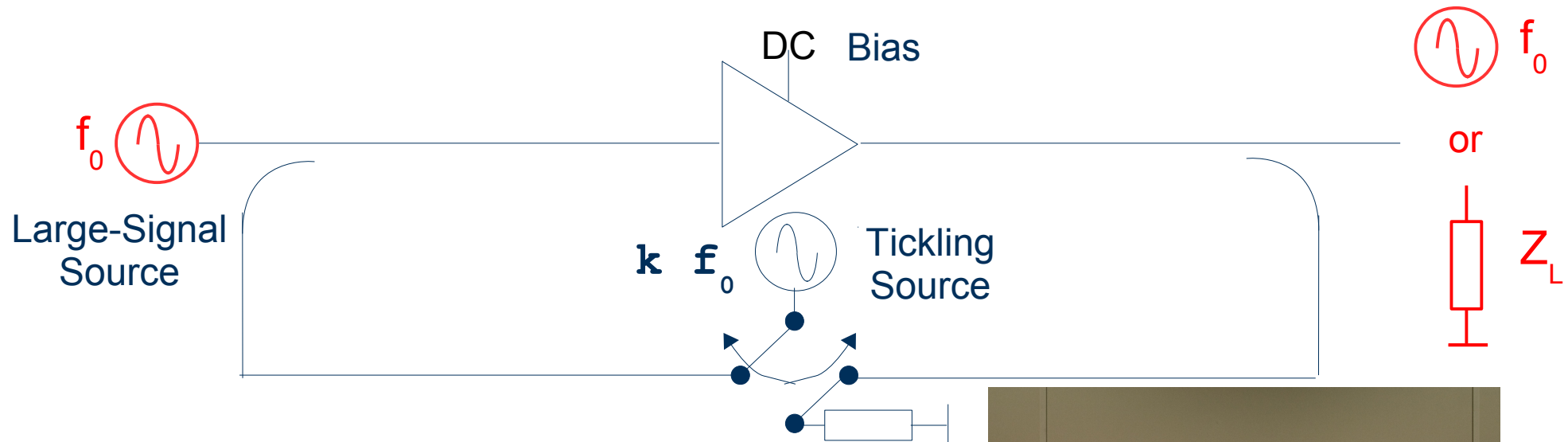
Measure each time  $A_{ij}, B_{mn}$

Solve for the S-functions :  $Sf_{mnij}(\text{LSOP}), Sfc_{mnij}(\text{LSOP})$

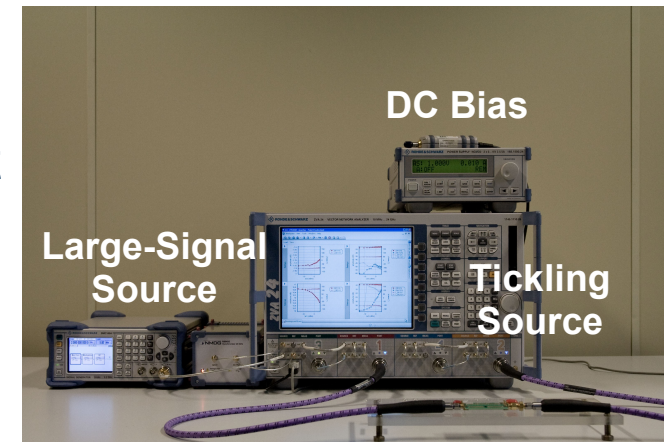
Select a new LSOP and repeat



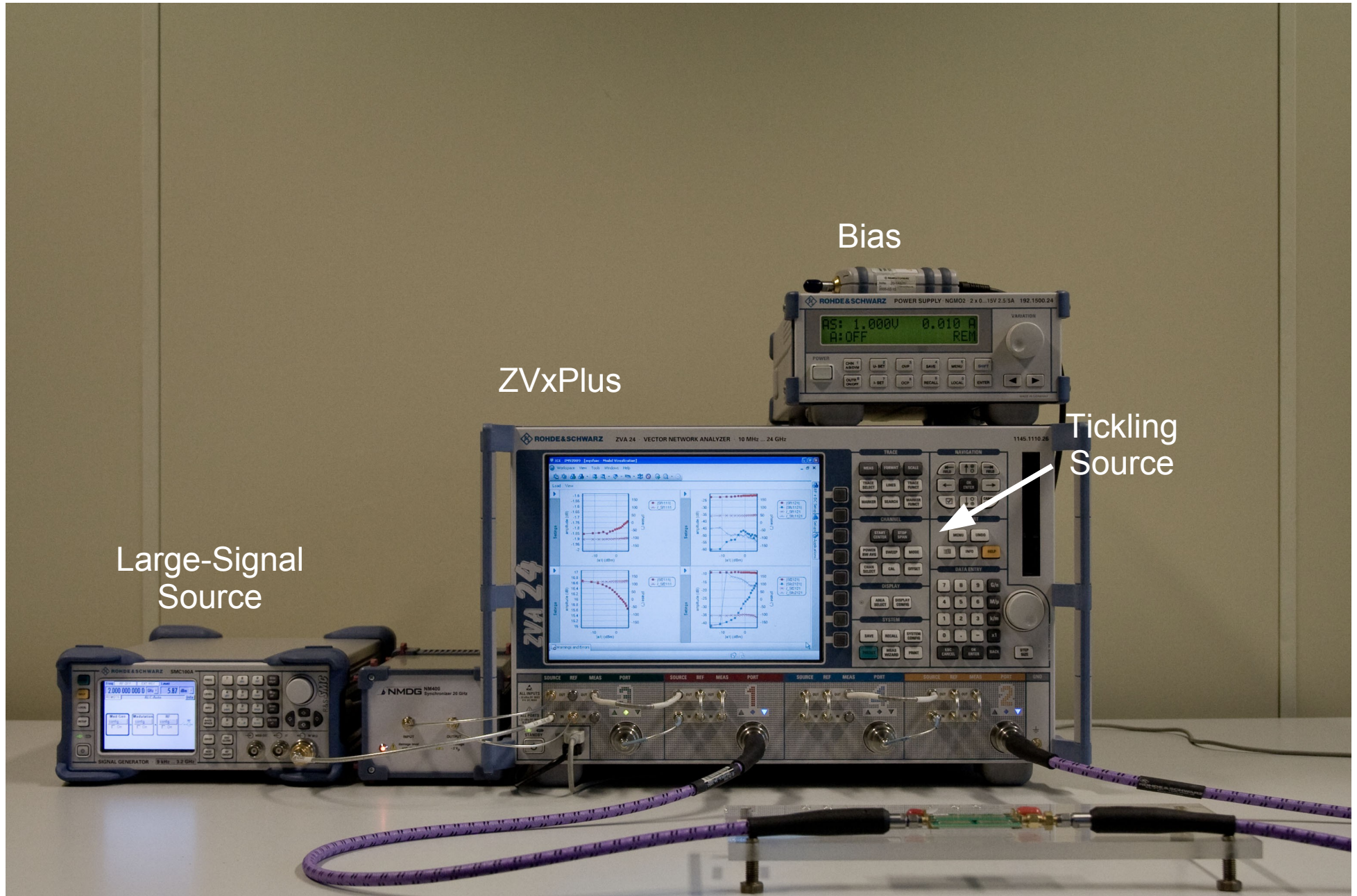
# Extract S-functions for a real device



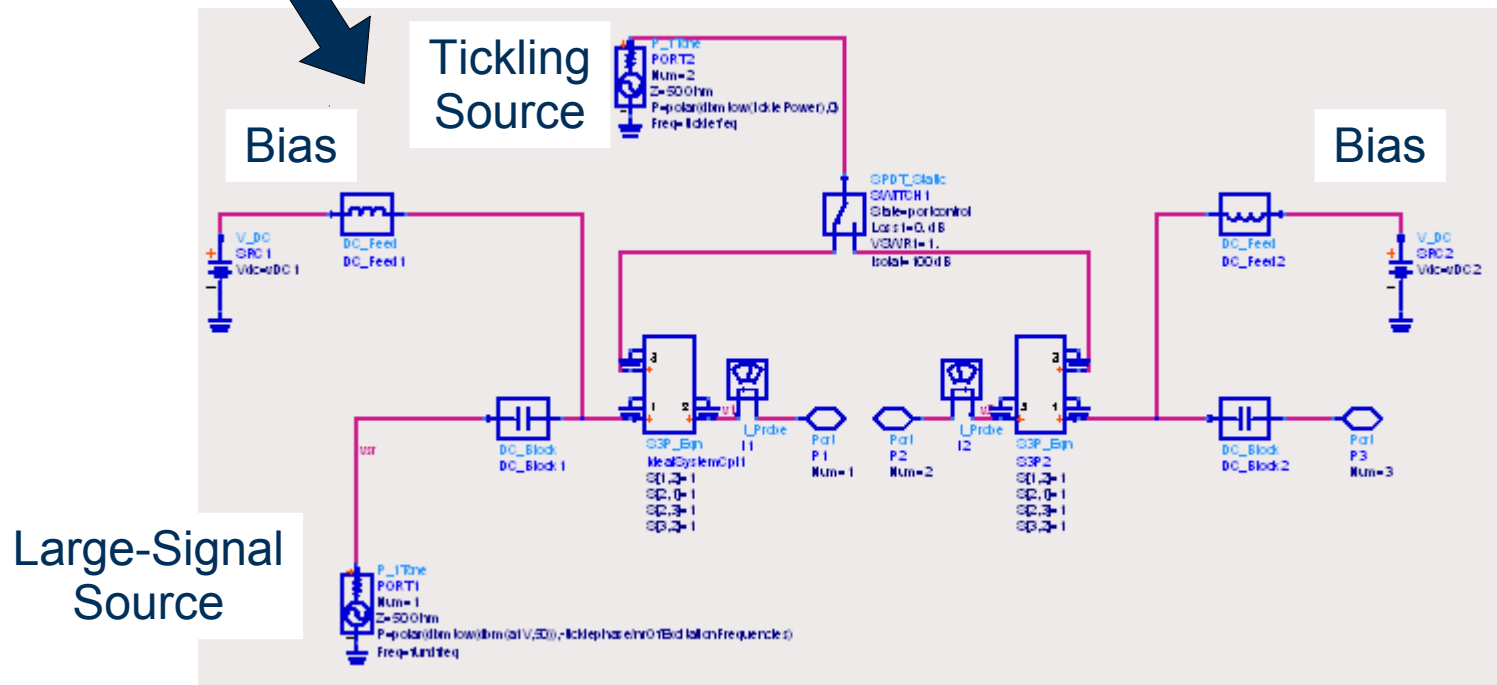
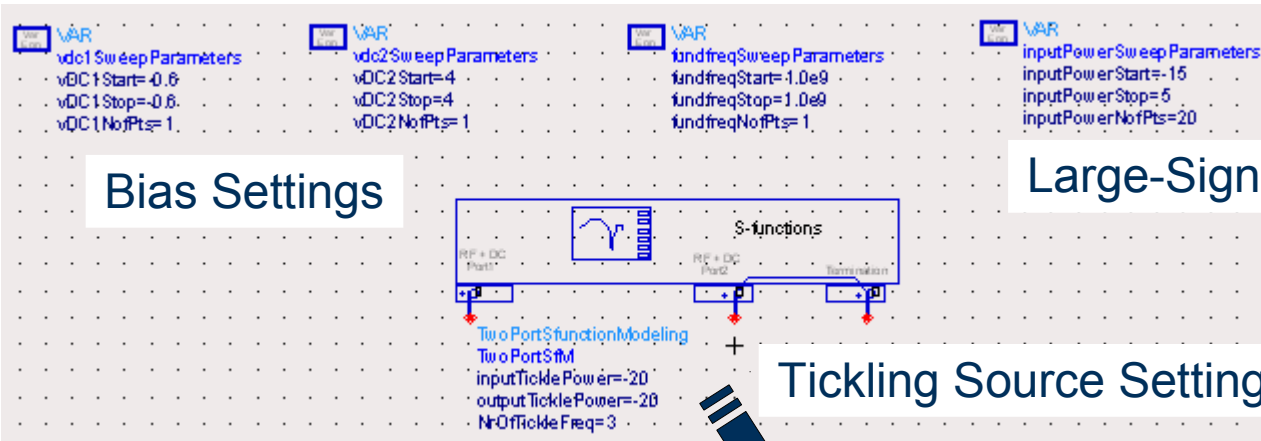
- Repeat the following for all LSOPs of interest
  - Select tickle tones
    - Large enough to be detectable
    - Small enough not to violate linearity assumption
  - **Measure** incident and reflected waves for different tickle tones
  - **Model** by solving for all  $S_f$  and  $S_{fc}$
- Resulting into S-functions



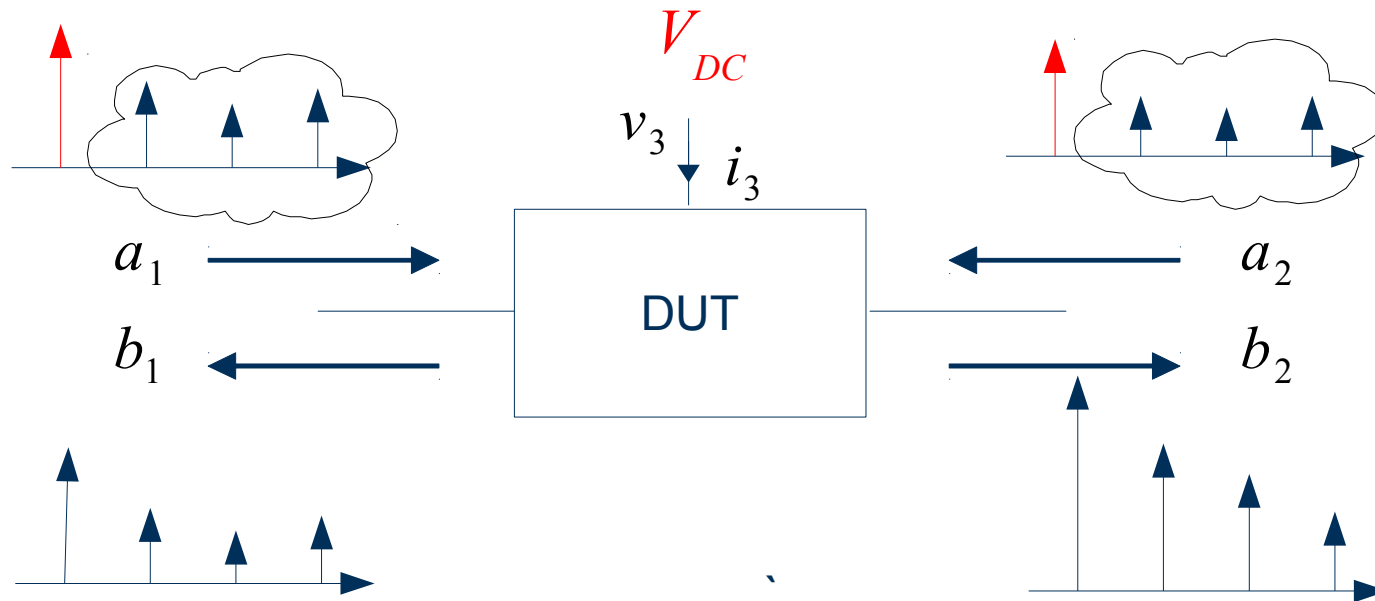
# S-functions for Real Devices with ZVxPlus



# Extract S-functions for a simulated device



# Assumptions of S-functions



$$a_1(k f_0), a_2(l f_0) \text{ with } l, k \neq 0, 1$$

Is causing only a LINEAR perturbation on the NONLINEAR behaviour

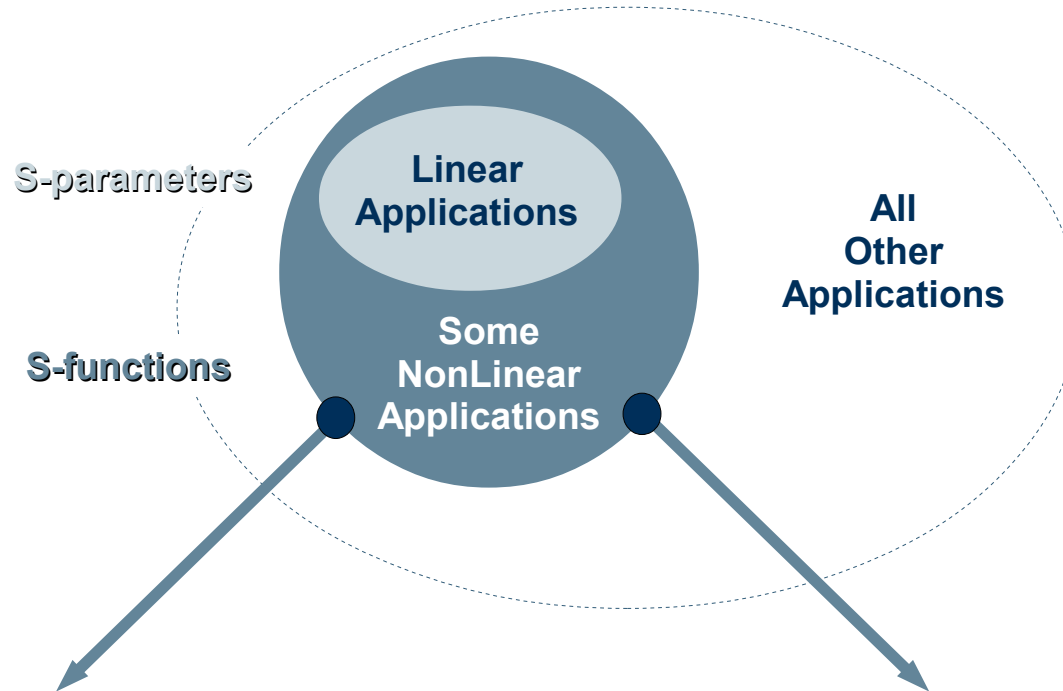
Large-Signal Operating Point (LSOP)

$$a_1(f_0), a_2(f_0) \text{ and } v_{dc}$$

Tickle or probing tones

$$a_1(k f_0), a_2(l f_0) \text{ with } l, k \neq 0, 1$$

# The crucial question for S-functions



Mathematically well-defined

To what applications does it apply?

$a_1(k f_0), a_2(l f_0)$  with  $l, k > 1$  SMALL

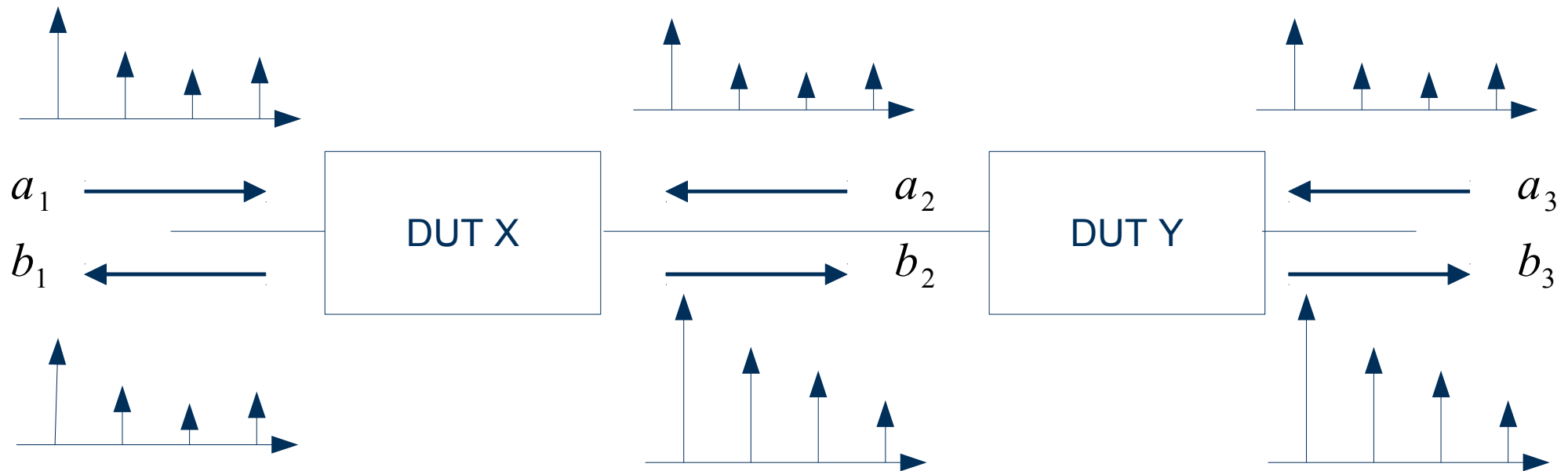


20 dBc down from main tone

BUT



# Applicability of S-functions



## Components

- Transistors
- Amplifiers
- Dividers
- Multipliers

## Prediction

- Harmonic distortion
- AM – AM and AM – PM
- Source-pull
- Load-pull
- Modulation behaviour (\*)
- Intermodulation

(\*): The component is assumed to be pseudo-static

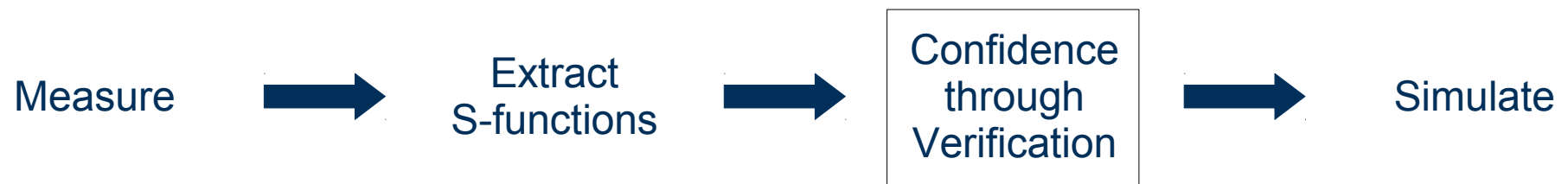
# S-functions in ICE<sup>(\*)</sup>

- Sweepable Large-Signal Operating Point (LSOP)
  - Auto or user-defined tickle signal level
  - From simple push-the-button solution to access to expert-level details
  - Visualization of component behaviour during data collection
  - Easy model verification (no EDA tool required)
  - Sanity checks included
  - Easy export to and integration in Agilent™ ADS and AWR™ MWO
- 
- Support for mismatched environments
  - Harmonics generated by RF sources don't cause any problem
  - Simple output prediction does not require EDA tool
  - Export to and integration in other EDA tools on request
  - Possible to extend the LSOP variables, e.g. temperature

<sup>(\*)</sup> Integrated Component Characterisation Environment

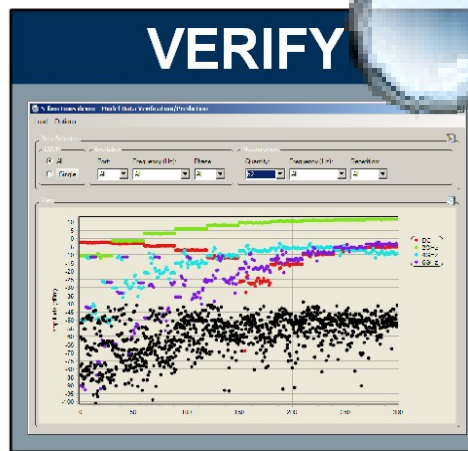
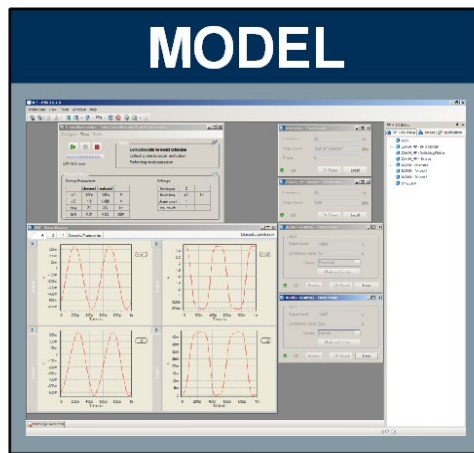
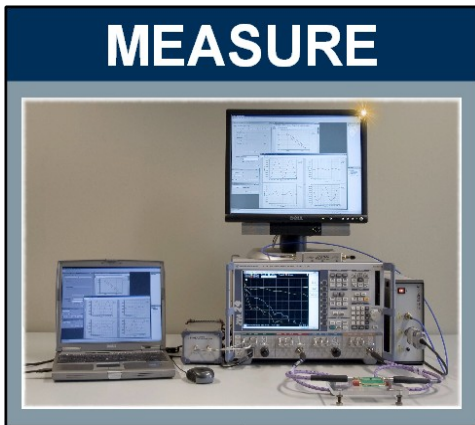
# Confidence in S-functions

- Constantness of LSOP
  - All Sf, and Sfc are assumed to be extracted at fixed LSOP
    - e.g. variation in DC drain voltage due to changing current violates this assumption
- Interpolation capability of all Sf, and Sfc
  - LSOP interleaving verification measurements
- Linearity assumption of tickle tones
  - Model verification for different amplitude and phases of tickle tones

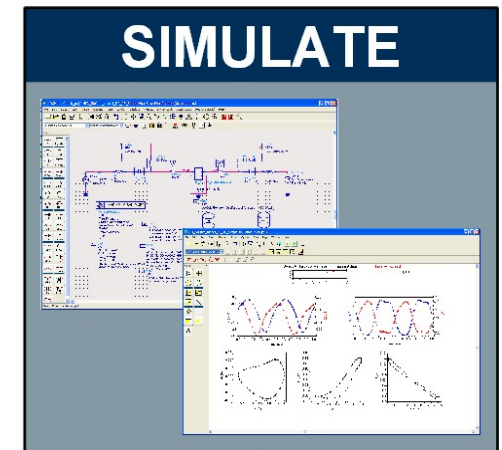




# Confidence in S-functions through Verification

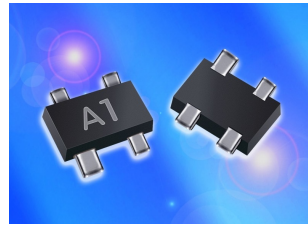


ADS  
MWO



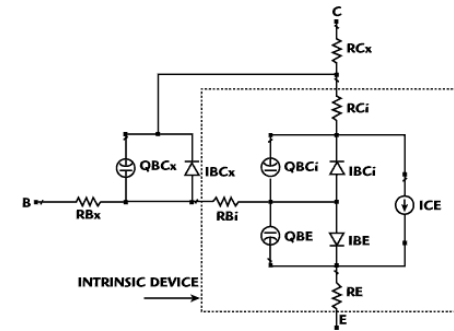
ADS: Agilent Technologies Advanced Design Systems design software  
MWO: AWR Corporation's Microwave Office design software

# S-functions for Real and Simulated Components / Circuits



Measurements  
on Real Devices  
using ICE (\*)

Data Collection



Simulations  
On Virtual Devices  
in Simulation Tool (ADS - MWO)



Extraction

S-functions

S-functions Verifications



Simulators  
(ADS - MWO)

S-functions Deployment

# S-functions Verification – Constantness of LSOP

S-functions Tool - Untitled \*

Project Tools Help

Visualization Verification **LSOP Constantness** Report

Data File: Extraction Data Display Type: LSOP Values

Data Selection

LSOP:  All  Select

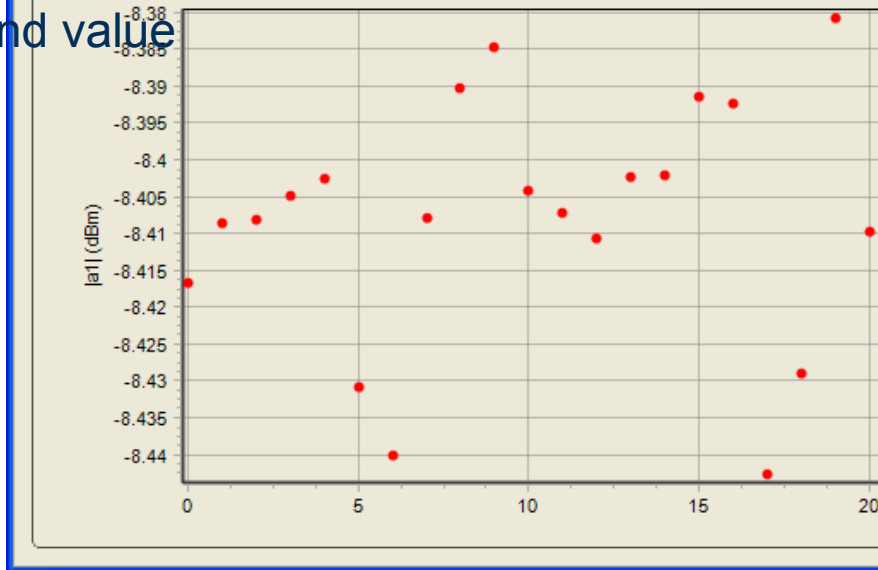
Excitation: Port: All Frequency (Hz): All Phase: All

Measurement: LSOP: la11 Repetition: All

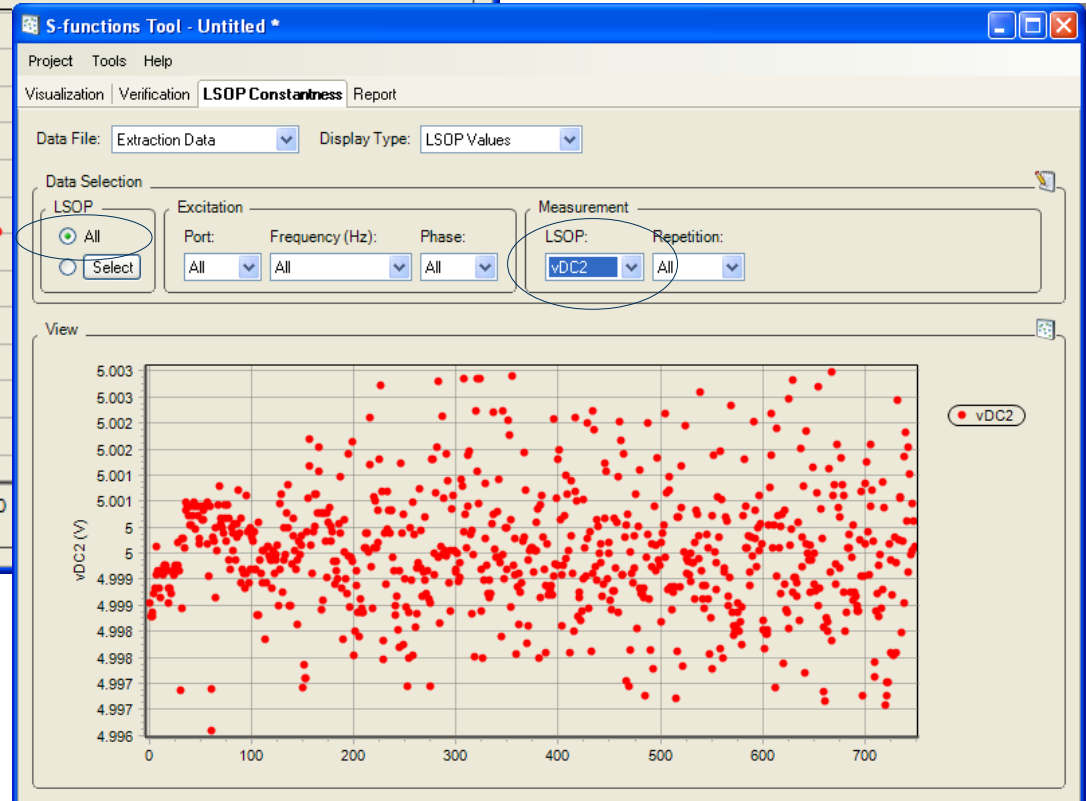
Select LSOP variable

Filter for a LSOP variable and value

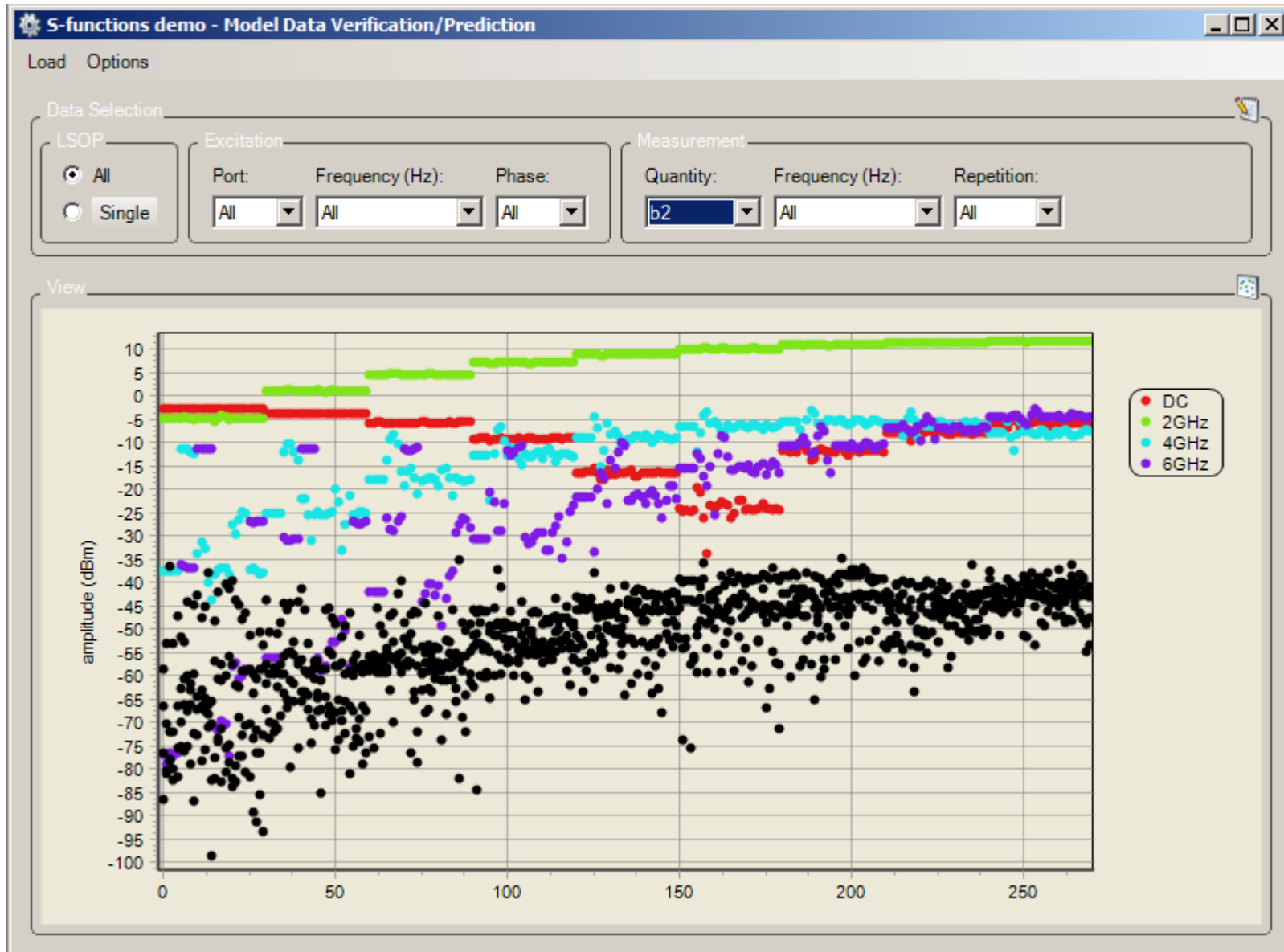
Variation on drain bias voltage



Variation on fixed input power

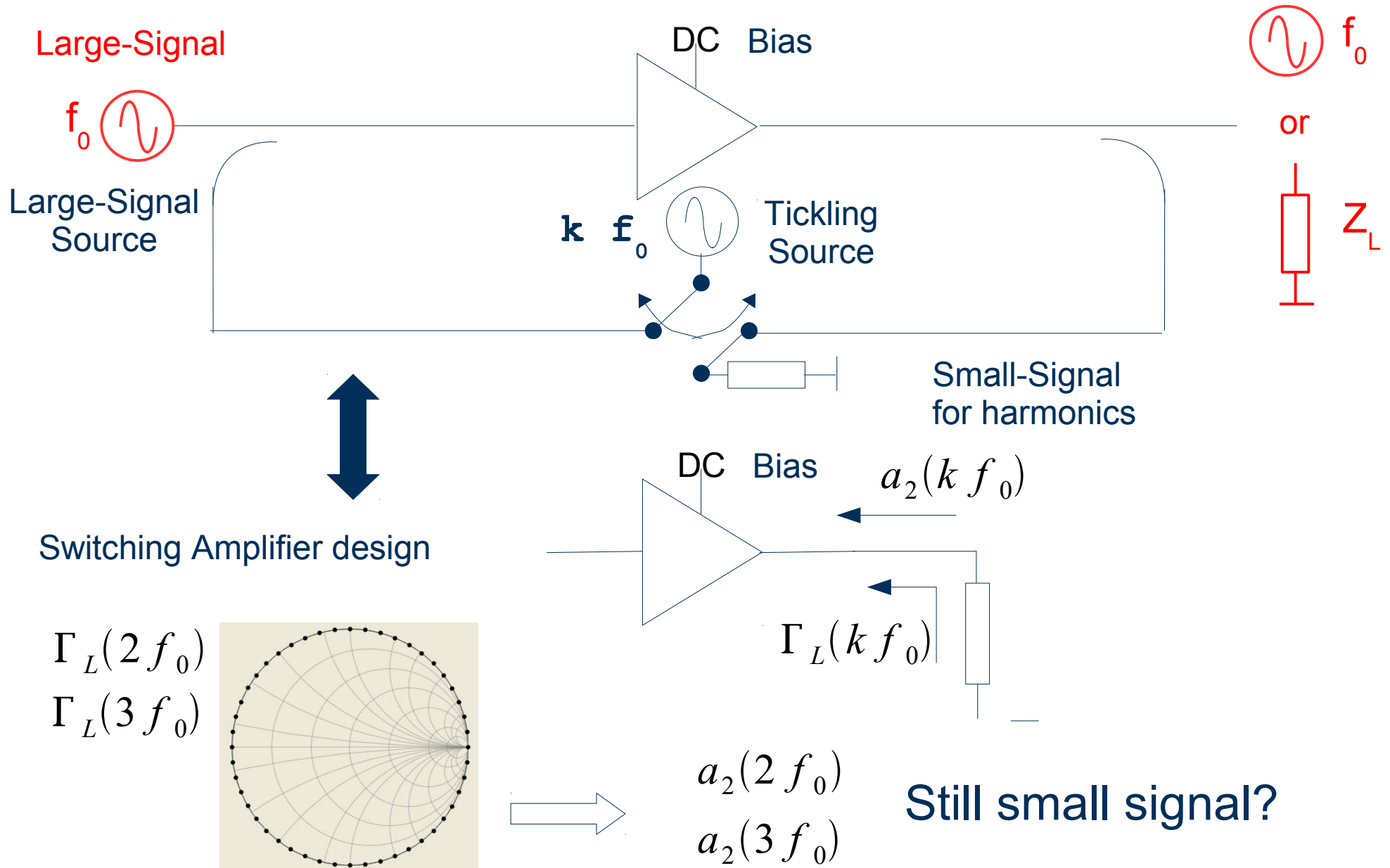


# S-functions Verification – Interpolation Capability



verify interpolation of  $b_2$  using independent set of measurements

# S-functions Verification – Linearity Assumption of Tickle Tones



# ICEBreaker – Option S-function Verification Tool

ICEBreaker  
Dataset



Predicted  
ICEBreaker  
Dataset



Compare  
Datasets

- Measured Data
- Realistic Sweep Plan
- Under multi-harmonic Load-Pull

- Using S-function

- Derived Quantities
- Incident / Reflected Waves
- Voltage and Current
- Absolute Error
- Relative Error

# Generation of "S-function Predicted Dataset" in ICEBreaker

The image shows the FSLP Data Analyzer interface. The top menu bar includes 'Datasets' and 'Help'. The 'Generate' menu is open, showing 'S-functions based Data' as the selected option. Below the menu, there are fields for 'vDC1' (2G) and 'vDC2' (-1.2). The main window displays a Smith chart with a color-coded contour plot of PAE(f) (%). The chart has a color scale on the right ranging from 48.4 to 50.9. A dialog box titled 'Generate S-functions-based Dataset' is overlaid on the chart, asking for file specifications. The dialog fields are: Source Dataset: C:\home\demo\epaB\FSLP\session2\FixedInputPower9dBmVg; S-functions Model: C:\home\demo\epaB\Sfunctions\SwnpPower8-10dBmVgMin1; Destination: C:\home\demo\epaB\FSLP\session2\FixedInputPower9dBmVg. The dialog has 'OK' and 'Cancel' buttons. Below the chart, there are controls for 'Vs: GammaL(3f0)' and a 'Datasets' list with 'ThirdHarmSwp' checked and 'ThirdHarmSwpSimul' unchecked. Arrows point from the text labels to the corresponding actions in the software.

Generate S-function based Dataset

Compare Dataset and S-function based Dataset

# Absolute Comparisons with S-function Predictions

Quantity for which to compare measurement and prediction

- **Derived quantities**

- Idc\_out
- Gain
- Pdel\_in
- Pdel\_out
- PAE
- ..
- Frequency selection

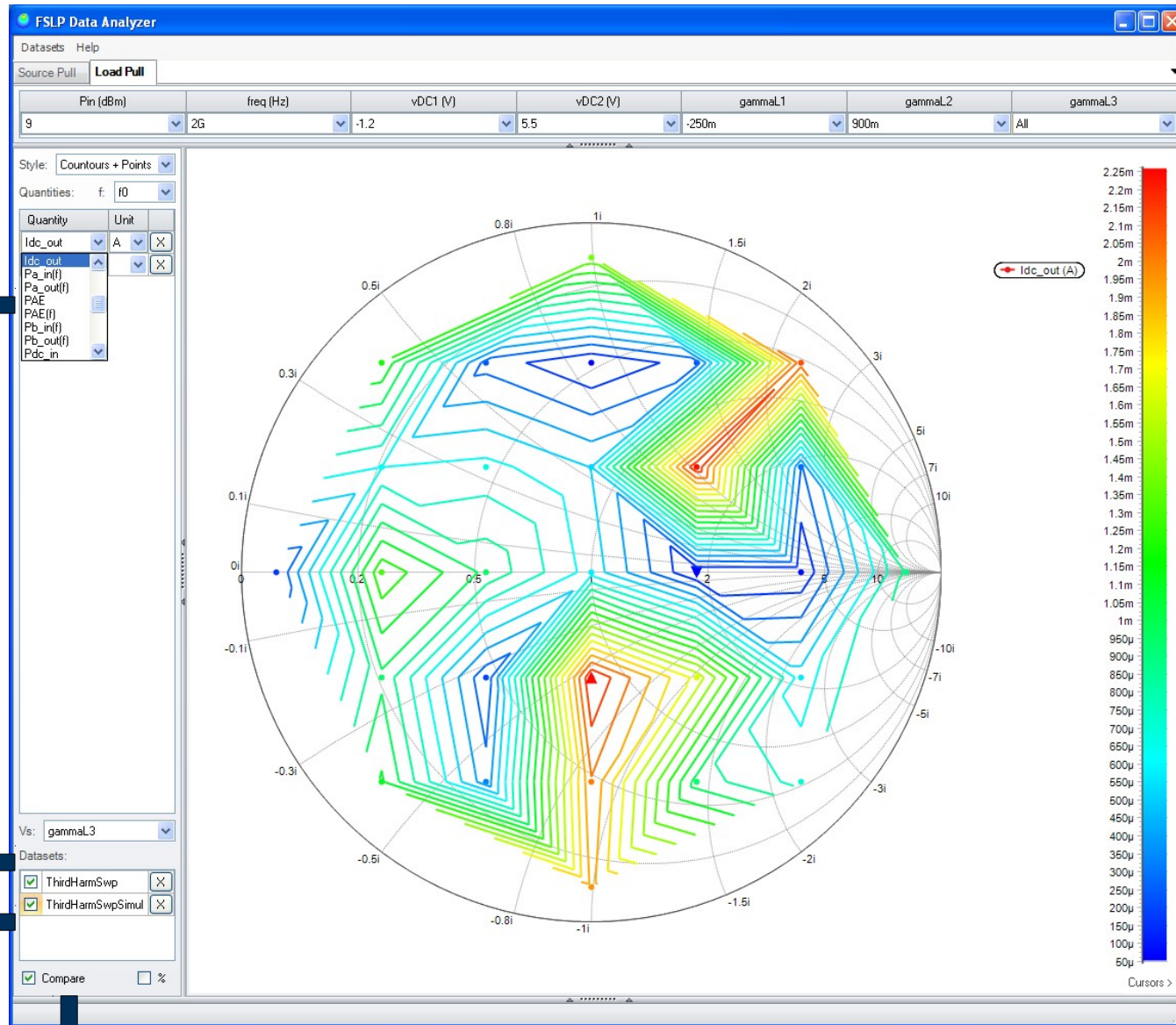
- **Basic quantities**

- Incident waves
- Reflected waves
- Voltages / Currents
- Frequency selection

Measurements

S-function Prediction

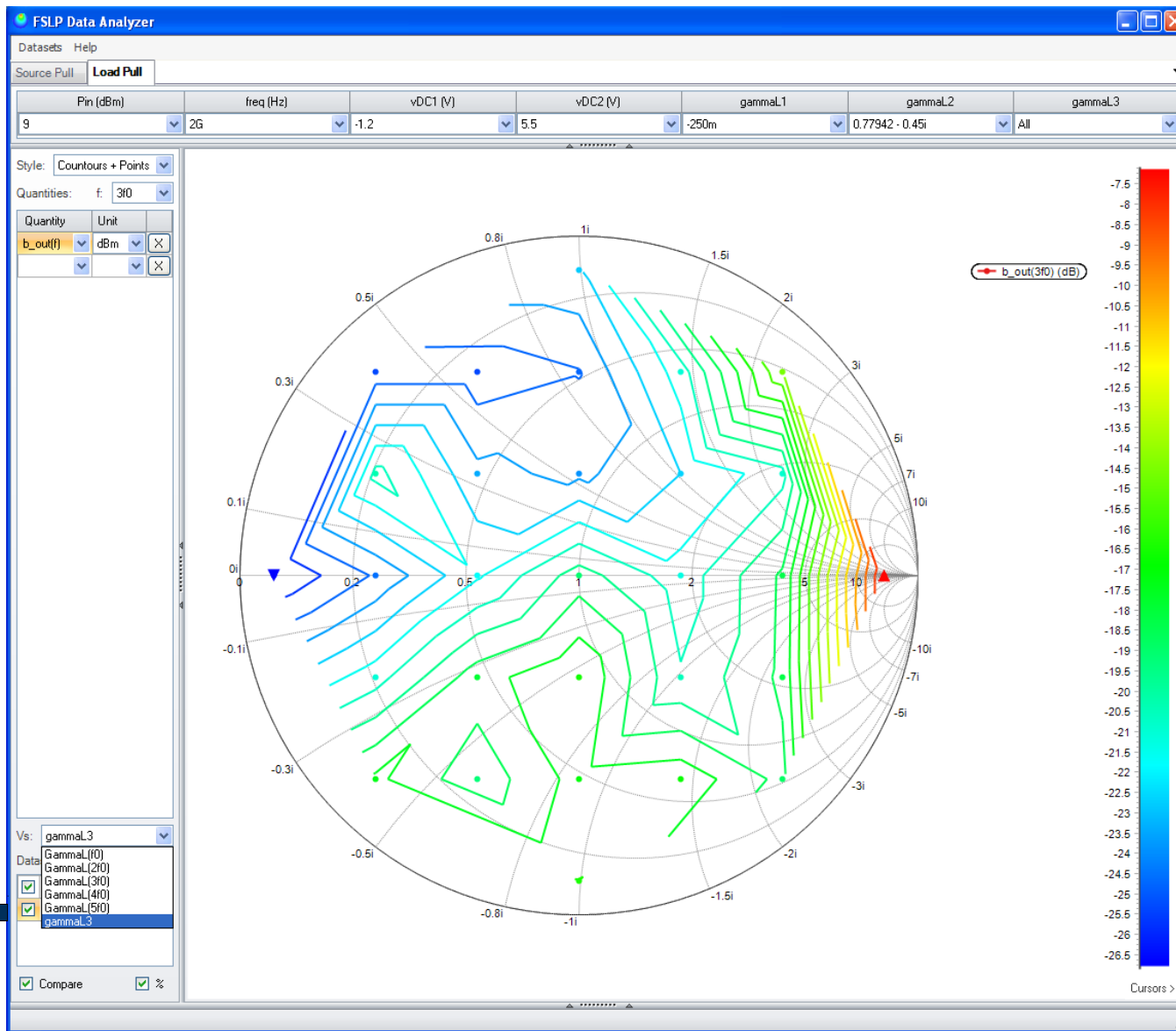
Absolute Error



$I_{dc\_out}$



# Relative Comparisons with S-function Predictions



b\_out(3f0)



- Versus
  - Harmonic index
  - Harmonic refl

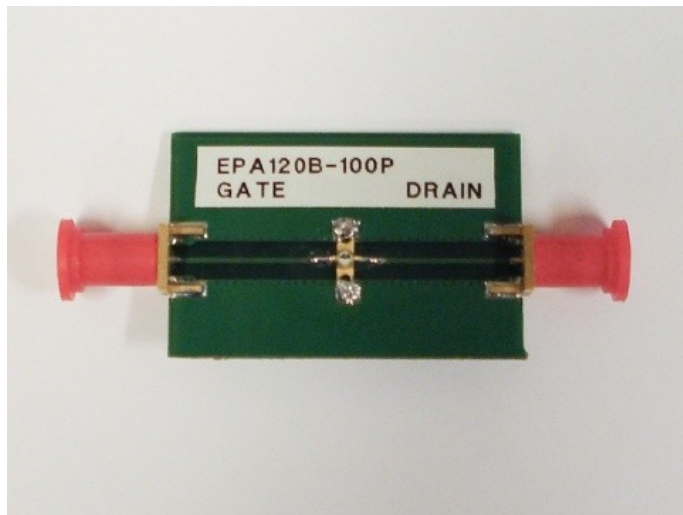


Relative Error (dB)

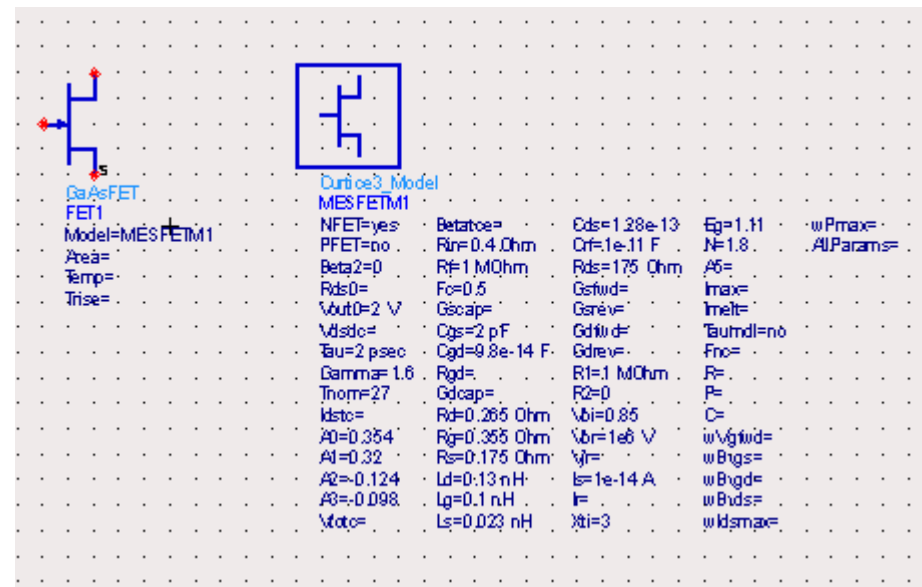


# Case Study<sup>(\*)</sup>: EPA120B-100P

- EPA120B-100P
  - high efficiency heterojunction power FET
  - power output: + 29.0dBm typ.
  - power gain: 11.5dB typ. @ 12 GHz



Real Device



Virtual Device

<sup>(\*)</sup>: all results in this slide set are based on S-function extraction and deployment for this device

# Data Collection with ZVxPlus

**LSOP  
sweep**

The screenshot shows the 'S-functions demo - Data Collection and Model Generation' window. It has a menu bar with 'Configure', 'Show', and 'Tools'. The main area is divided into several sections:

- Configuration:** Contains two tables for 'Sweep Parameters' and 'Settings', each with an 'Edit...' link.
- Control:** Includes a play button, a pause button, and a stop button, along with a progress bar.
- Status:** A list of three items, each with a green checkmark, indicating successful data collection and model extraction.
- Detailed Status:** Contains two tables: 'Sweep Parameters' with 'desired' and 'realized' columns, and 'Settings'.

Parameter	Value	Unit
a1  min	-20	dBm
a1  max	5	dBm
# steps	10	
vG	-300m	V
vD	1.5	V

Parameter	Value	Unit
Ptickle P1	-20	dBm
Ptickle P2	-20	dBm
# ham	3	
# phase	5	
# rep	1	

	desired	realized	
vG	-300m	-301m	V
vD	1.5	1.501	V
freq	2G	2G	Hz
a1	4.53	4.52	dBm

Parameter	Value	Unit
tickle port	2	
tickle freq	6G	Hz
phase count	5	
rep. count	1	

**“tickle”  
settings**

**detailed  
feedback  
of LSOP  
for actual  
measurement**

**detailed  
feedback  
on tickle  
for actual  
measurement**

# Expert Details If Desired @ Data Collection

Summary

The screenshot displays the ICE-IMS 2.0.4.0 software interface during a data collection process. The main window is titled "S-functions demo - Data Collection and Model Generation". It features a status bar indicating "Collecting data for model extraction" and "Performing model extraction". A progress bar shows "431 / 500 done".

Below the status bar, there are two tables: "Sweep Parameters" and "Settings".

	desired	realized	
vG	-300m	-301m	V
vD	1.5	1.498	V
freq	2G	2G	Hz
la1l	4.04	4.02	dBm

tickle port	2	
tickle freq	4G	Hz
phase count	1	
rep. count	1	

The interface also shows several control panels for different components:

- SMC100A - Front Panel:** Frequency: 2G Hz, Output Level: 10.6100113665047 dBm, Phase: 0.
- ZVA24\_4P - Source - Front Panel:** Frequency: 4G Hz, Output Level: -8.69 dBm.
- NGMO - Source1 - Front Panel:** Output Level: -300m V, Compliance Value: 5m A, Polarity: Reversed.
- NGMO - Source2 - Front Panel:** Output Level: 1.667 V, Compliance Value: 50m A, Polarity: Normal.

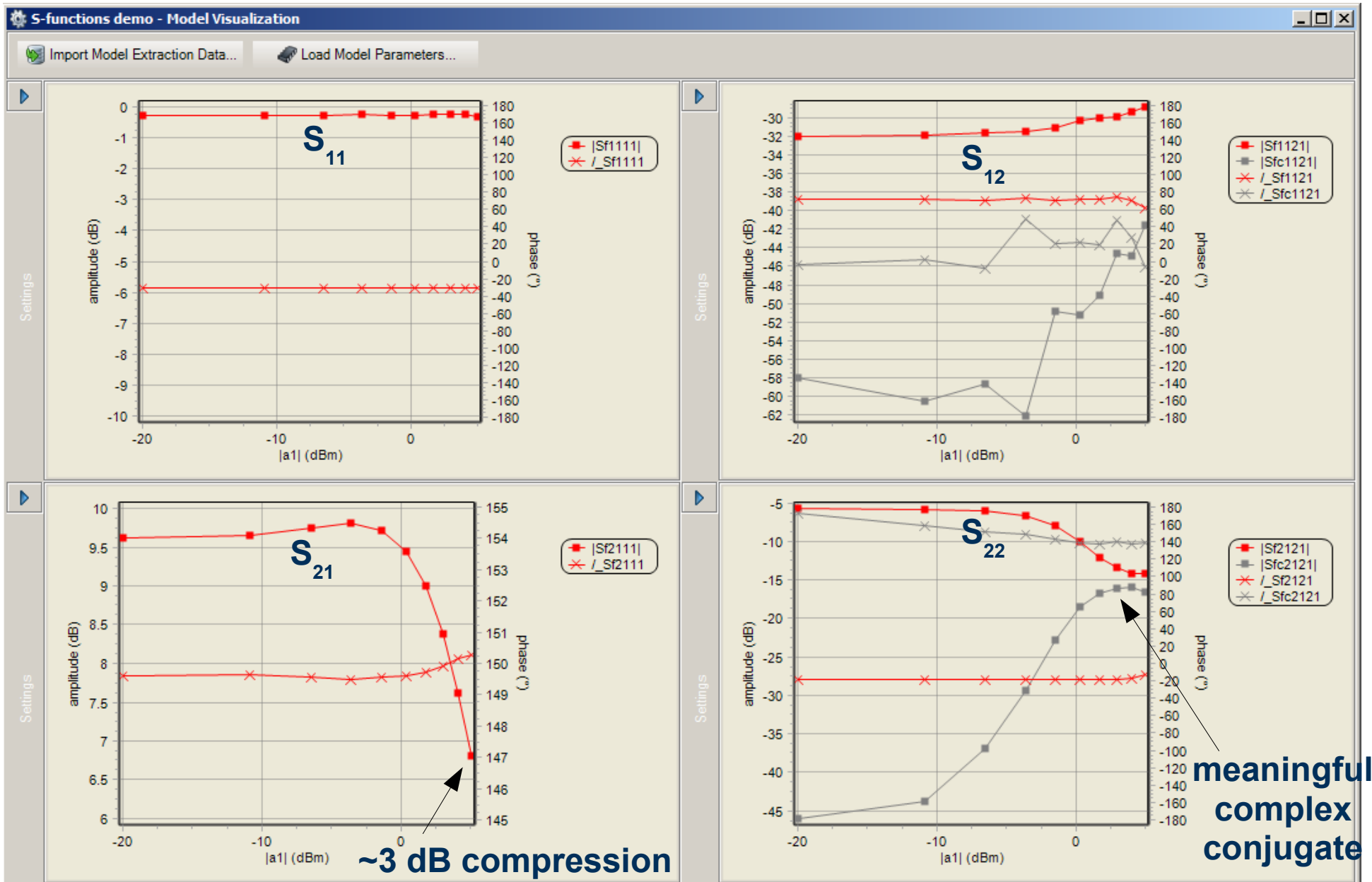
The "DUT - Basic Display" window shows four waveforms (a1, v2, b1, i2) plotted against Time (s). The waveforms show periodic signals, likely representing the input and output of the DUT.

The "RF + DC Setup" window shows a tree view of the setup, including DUT, ZVA24\_4P - RF Analyzer, ZVA24\_4P - SwitchingMatrix, ZVA24\_4P - Source, NGMO - Analyzer, NGMO - Source1, NGMO - Source2, and SMC100A.

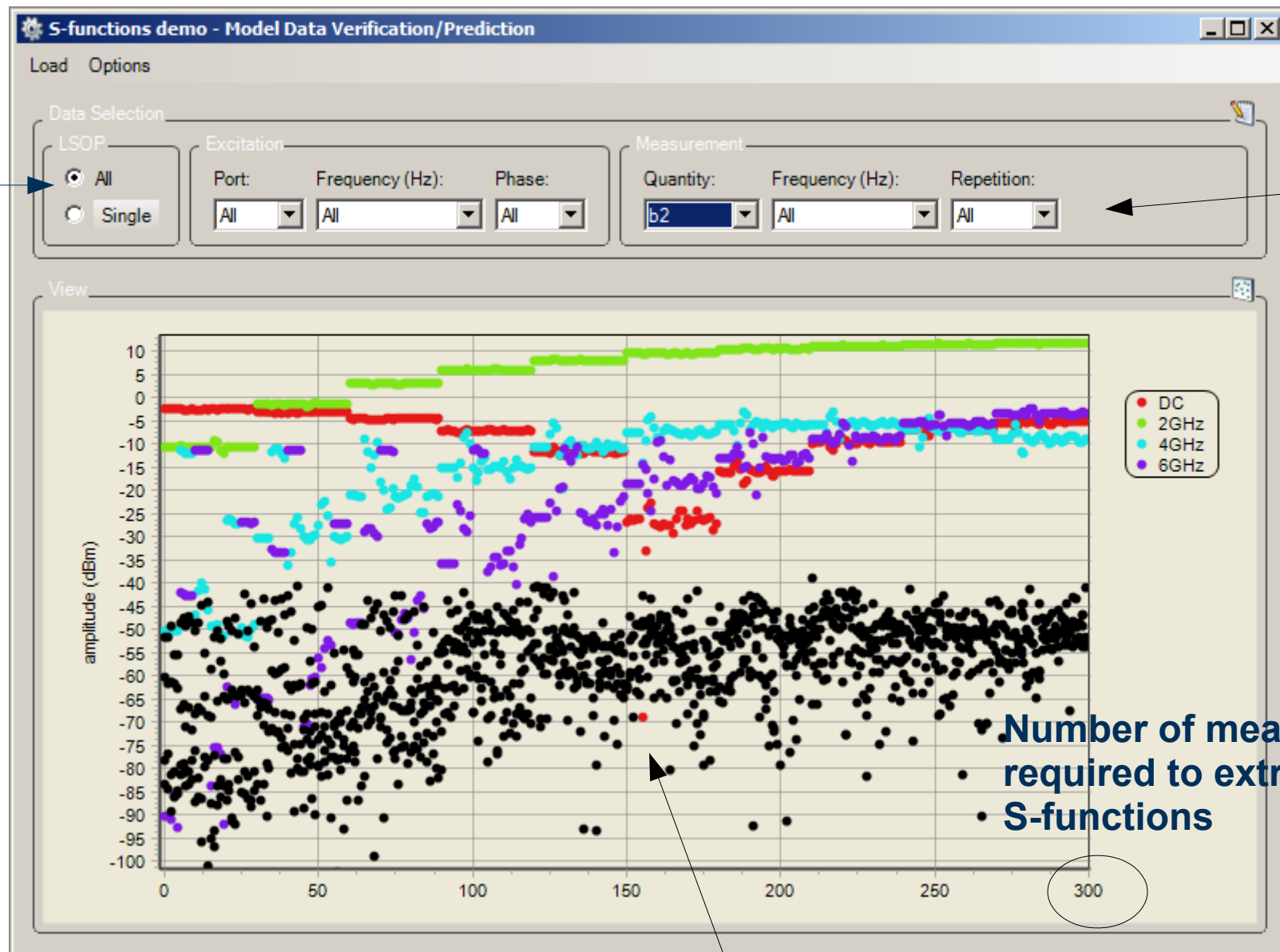
Monitor  
RF and DC  
source  
settings

Observe  
what happens  
at the DUT

# S-functions Extraction



# S-functions Verifications – Residual Error



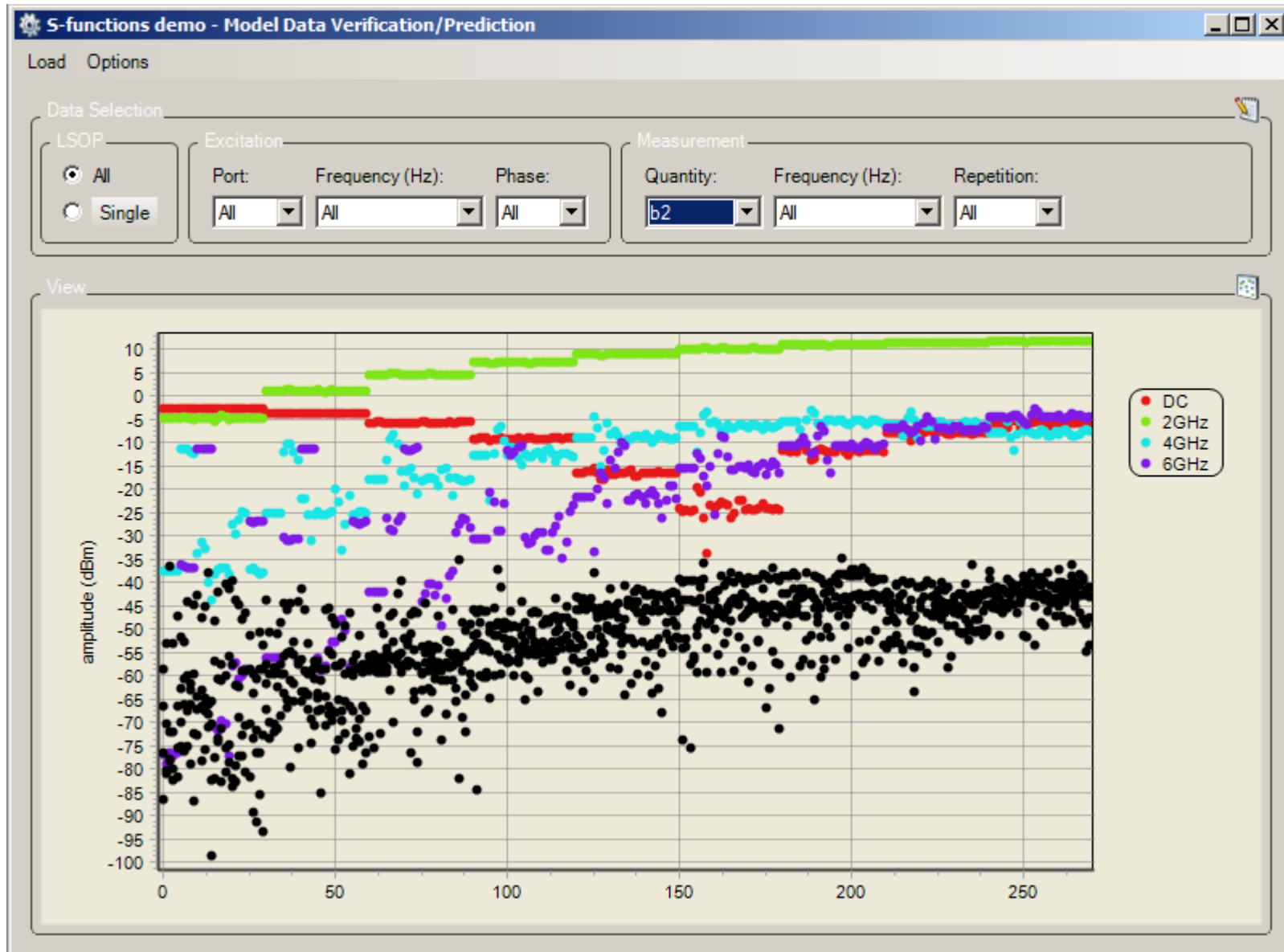
zoom in on tickling

zoom in on result

Number of measurements required to extract S-functions

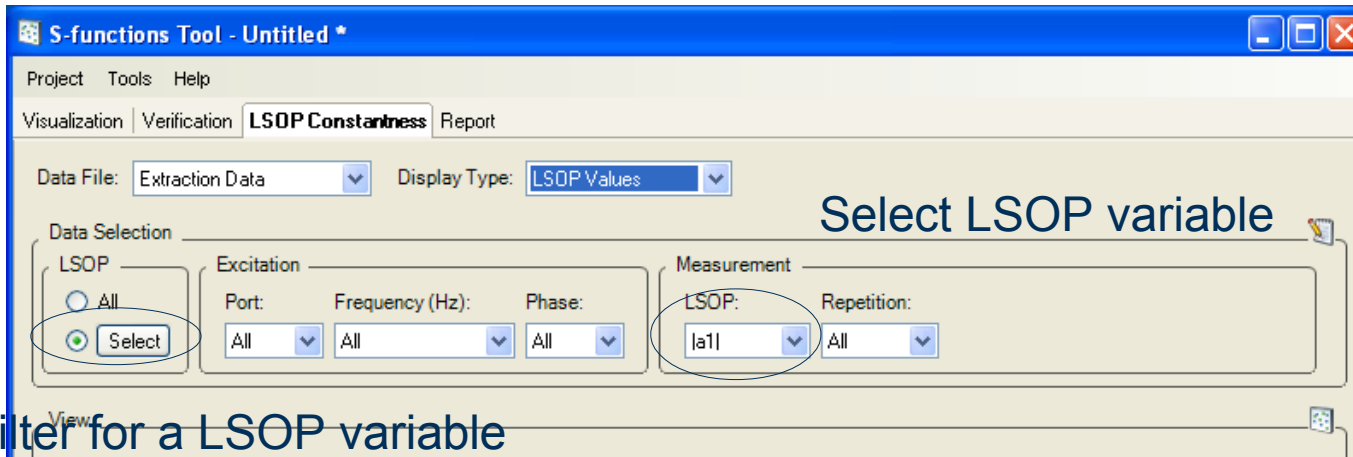
amplitude of complex error for measured and predicted  $b_2$  using extraction data

# S-functions Verification – Interpolation Capability



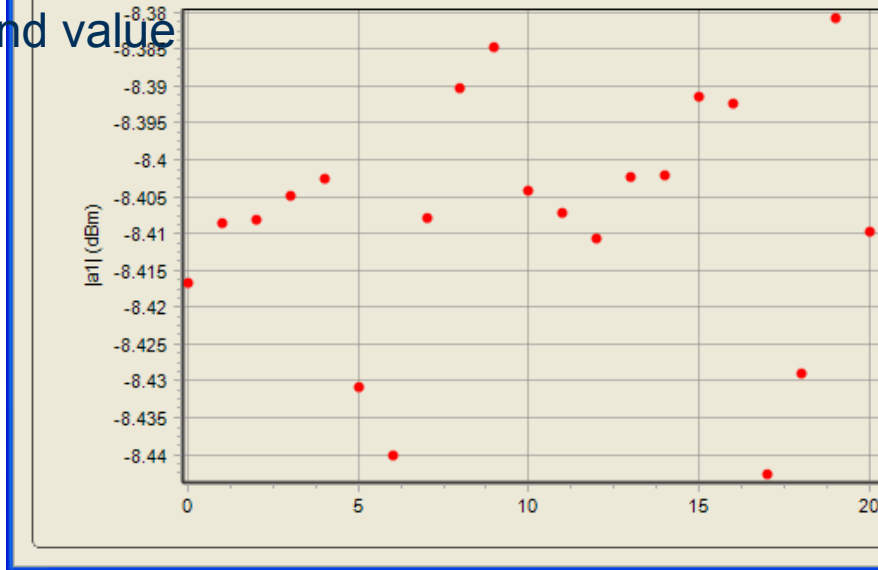
verify interpolation of  $b_2$  using independent set of measurements

# S-functions Verifications – Constantness LSOP

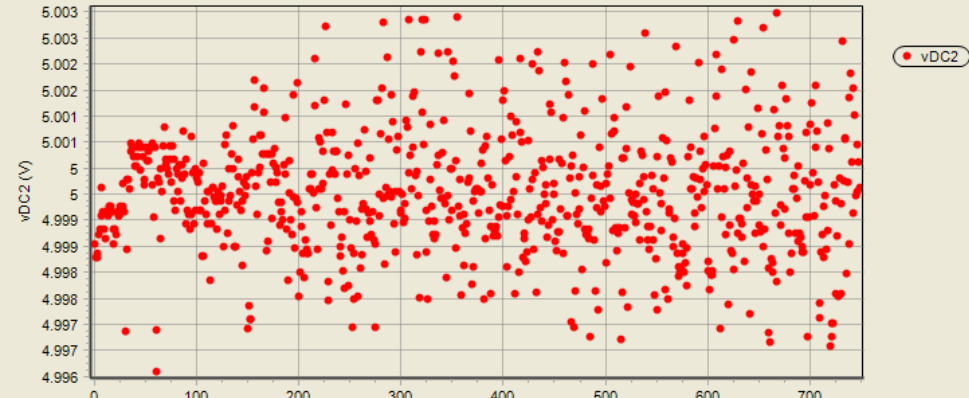
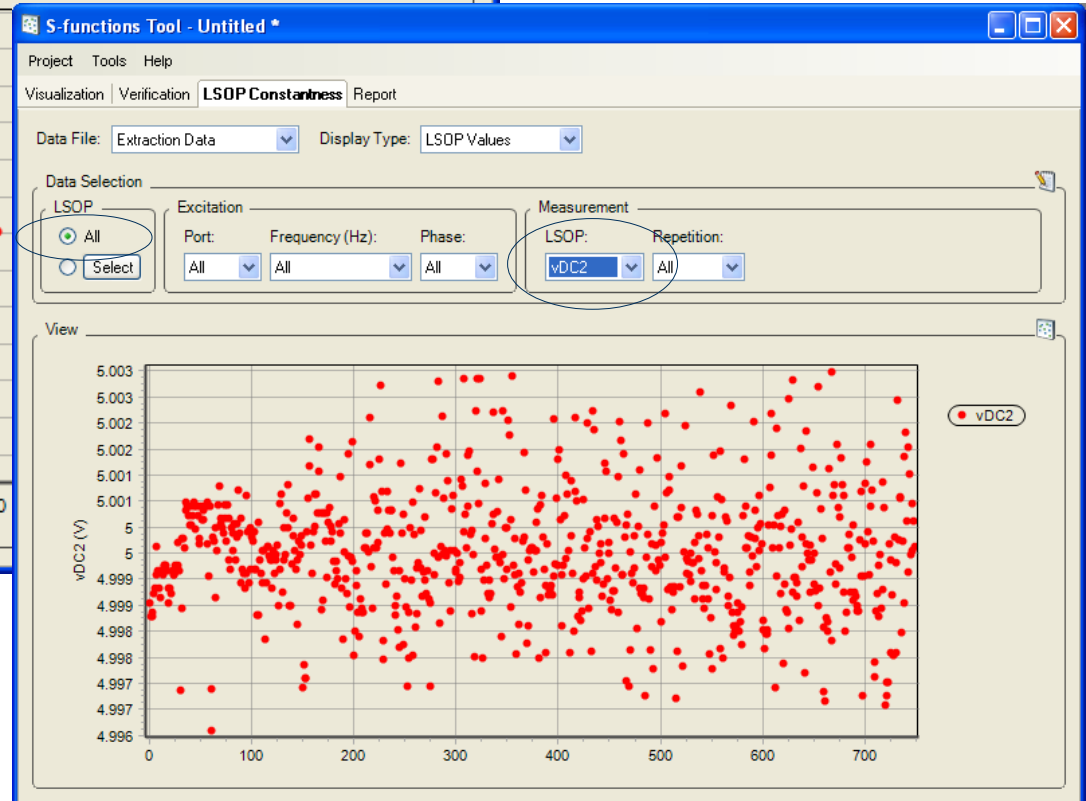


Filter for a LSOP variable and value

Variation on drain bias voltage



Variation on fixed input power



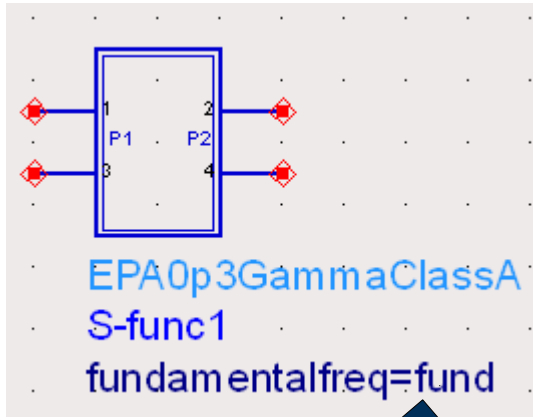


# S-functions in ADS

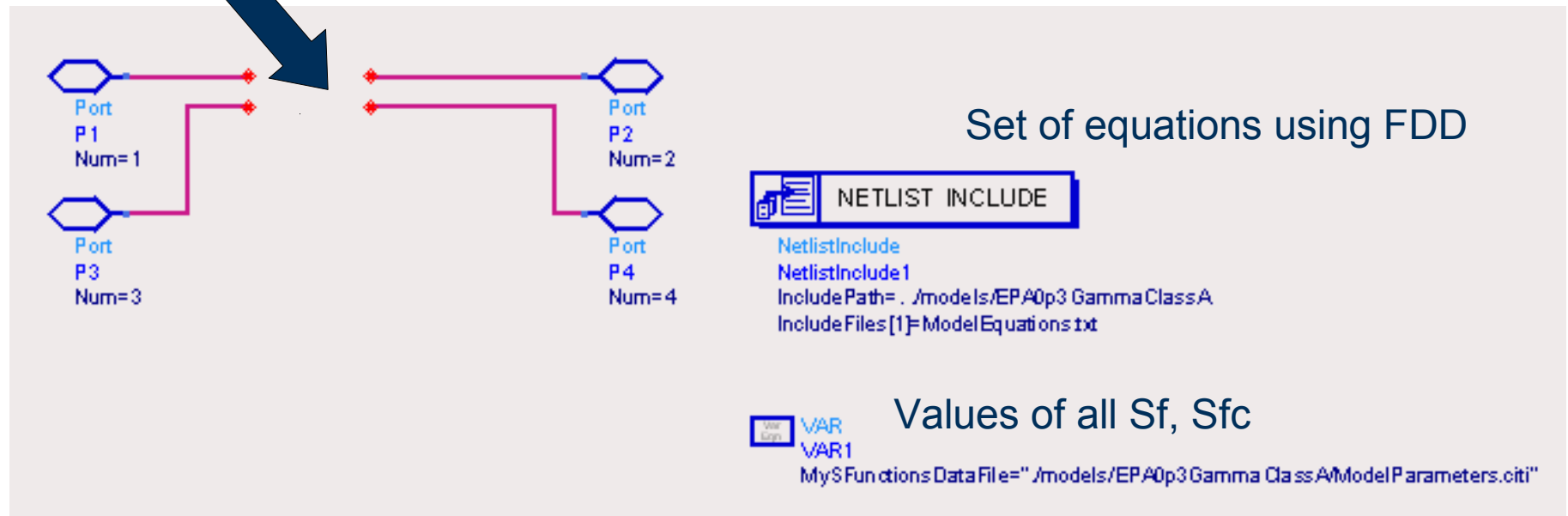
Acknowledgement:

With the support from Agilent Technologies providing ADS licensing

# S-functions Usage in Agilent ADS

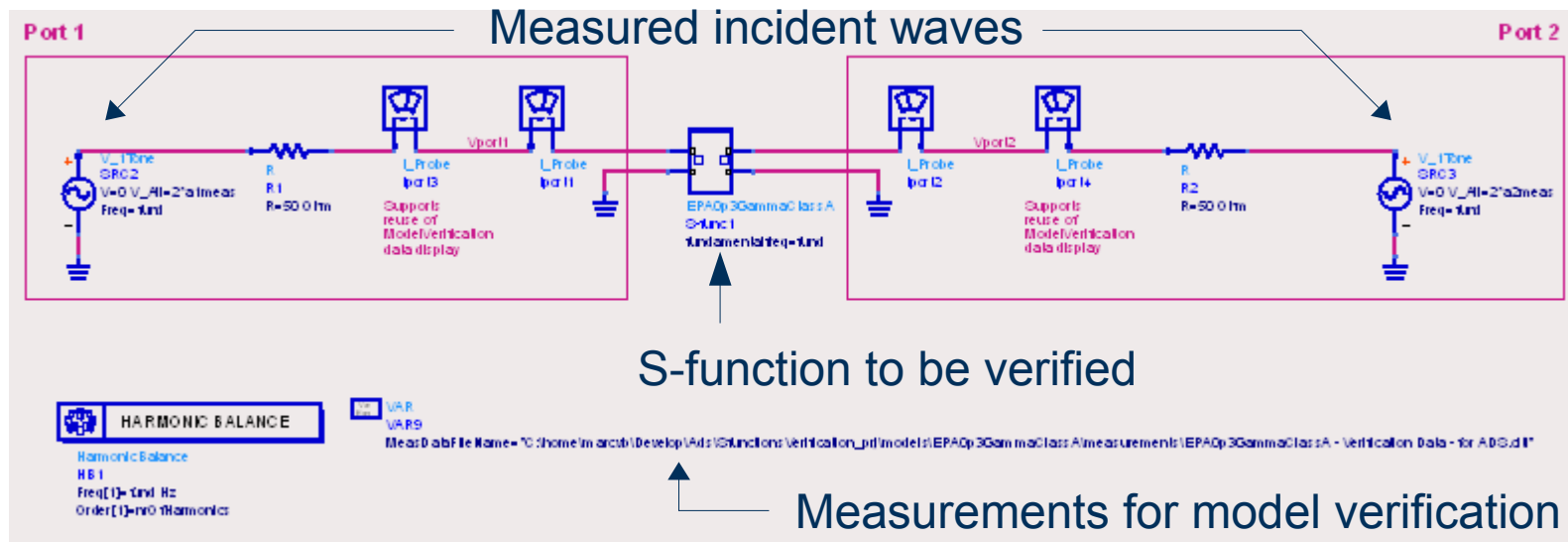


EPAClassAMediumPower.ael  
EPAClassAMediumPower.dsn



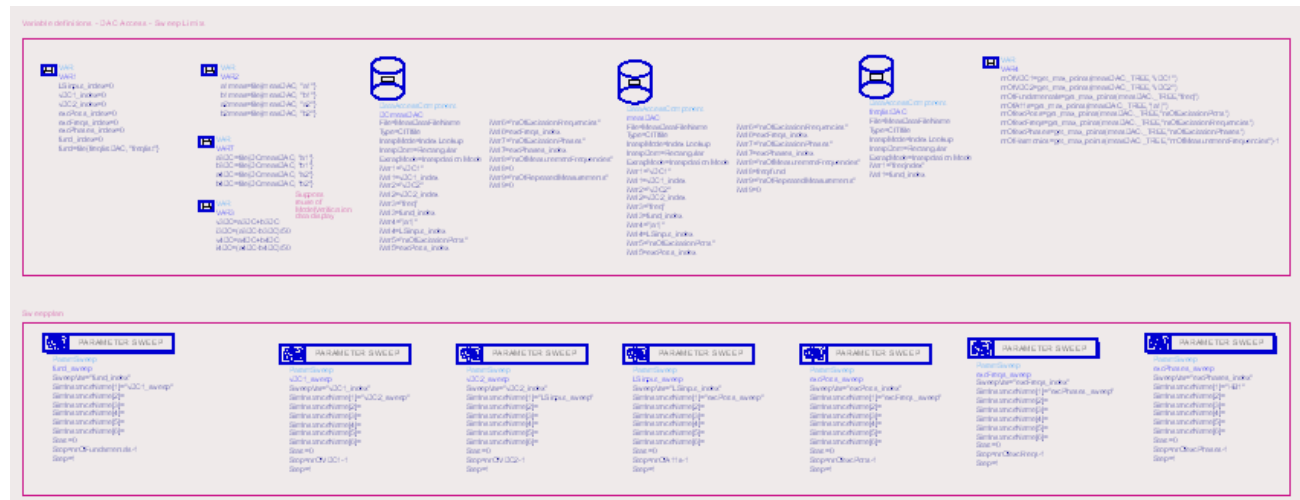
# S-functions Verification in ADS - Schematic

- Example: Harmonic Balance simulation with measured a1 and a2 spectra
- Excitation: Sweeping through a subset of LSOP points + tickle tones



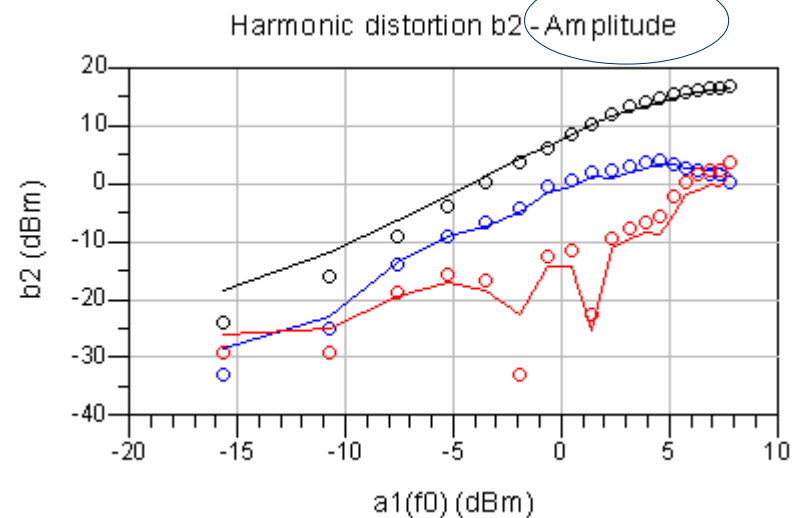
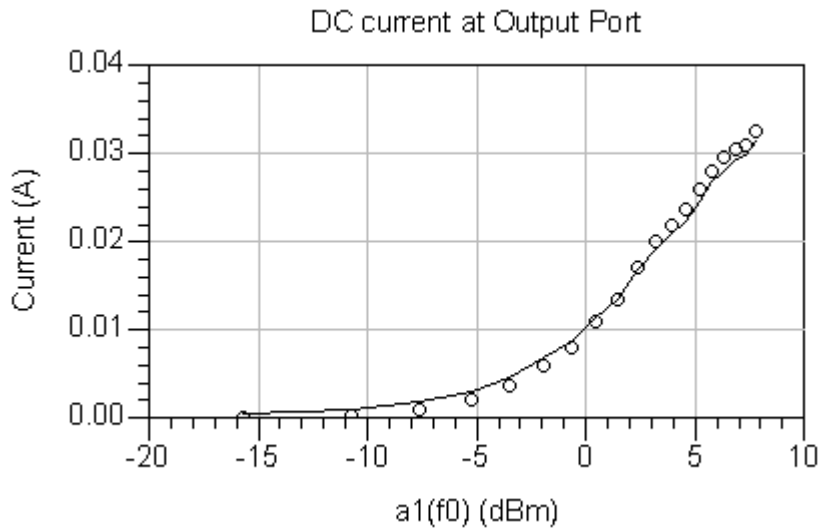
Access to measured data using DAC

Sweeping through subset of LSOP and tickle tones



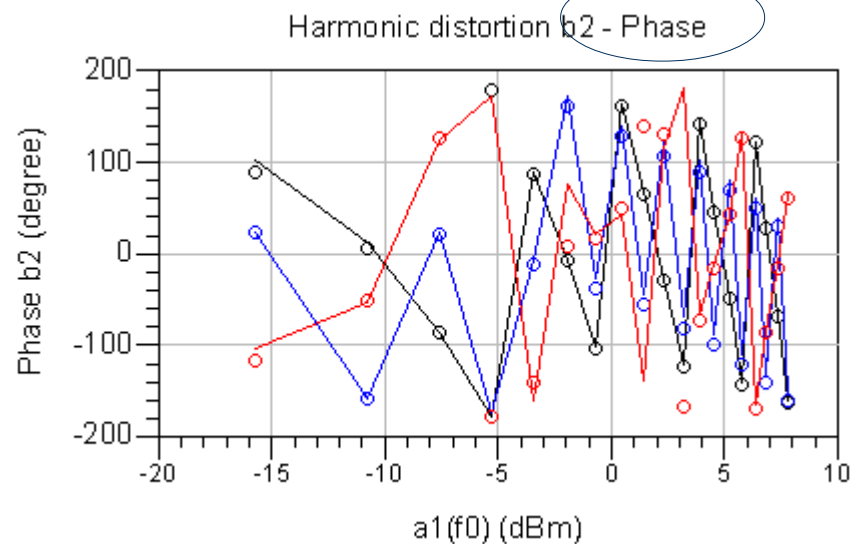
# S-functions Verification in ADS - Frequency Domain

Frequency = 2 GHz, VDC1= -1.3 V, VDC2= +2.0 V



Measurements at different input powers than those which were used for S-functions model extraction!

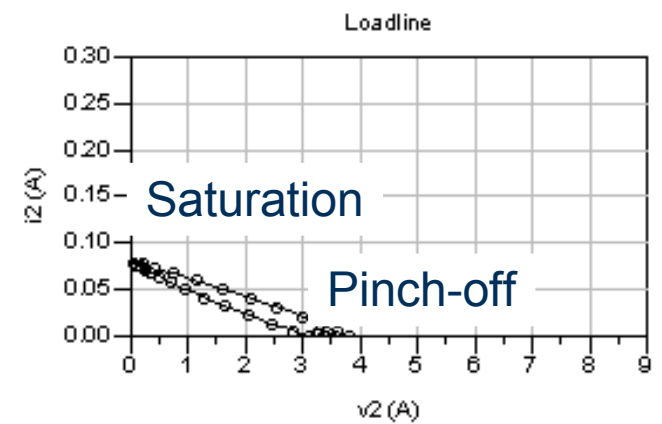
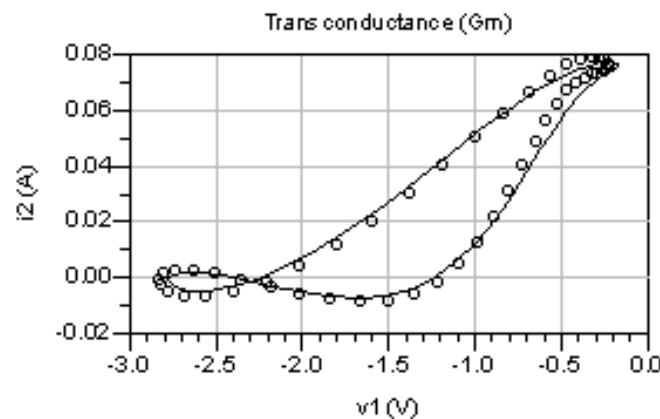
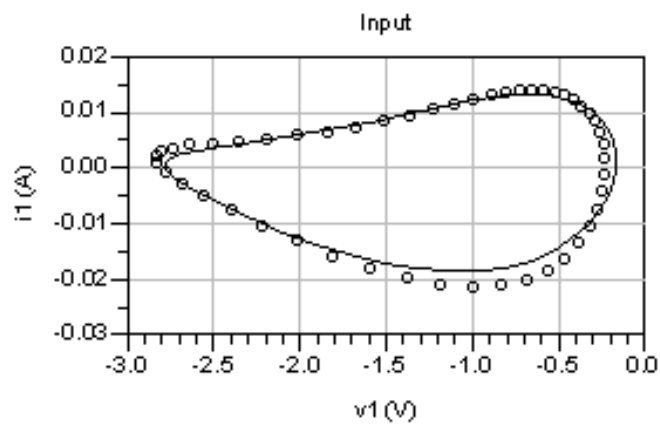
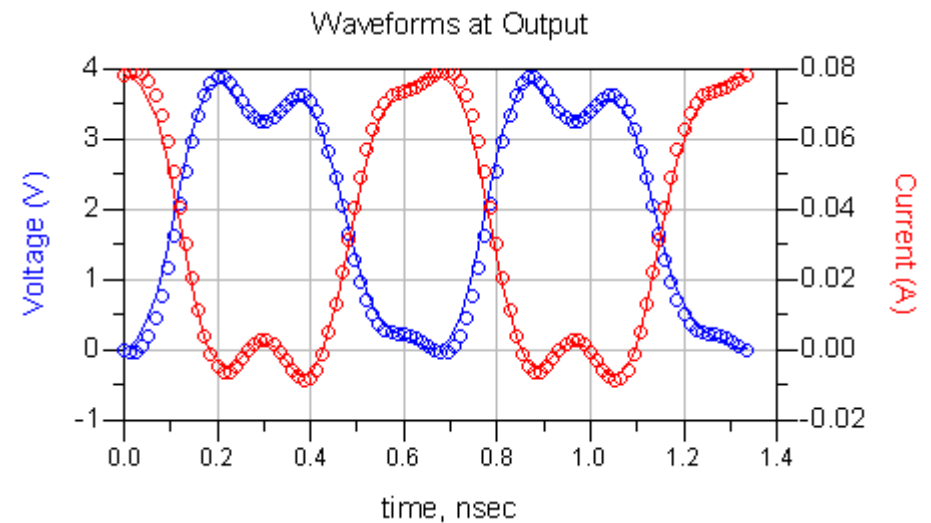
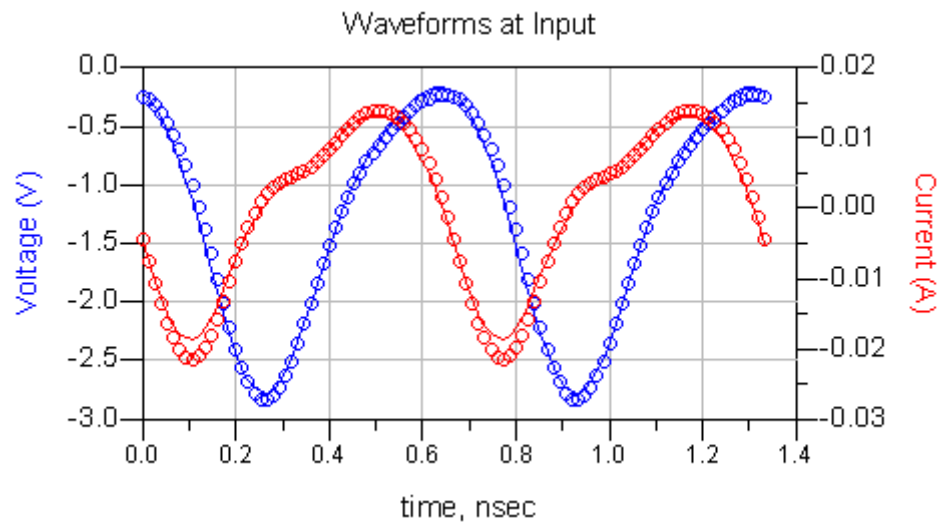
circles – measurements  
solid lines - simulations



# S-functions Verification in ADS - Time Domain

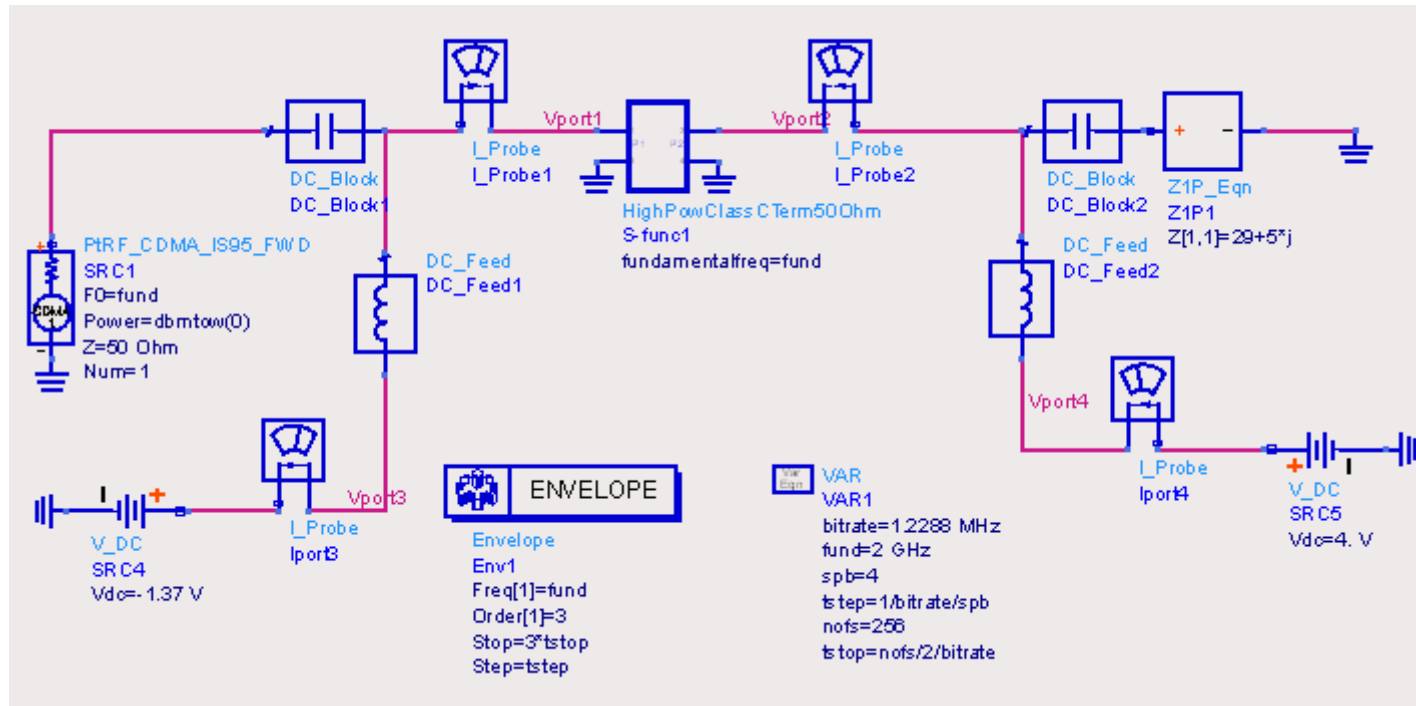
Frequency = 2 GHz, VDC1= -1.3 V, VDC2= +2.0 V, Pa1 = +10.0 dBm

circles – measurements  
solid lines - simulations



# S-functions in ADS – Modulation Prediction - Schematic

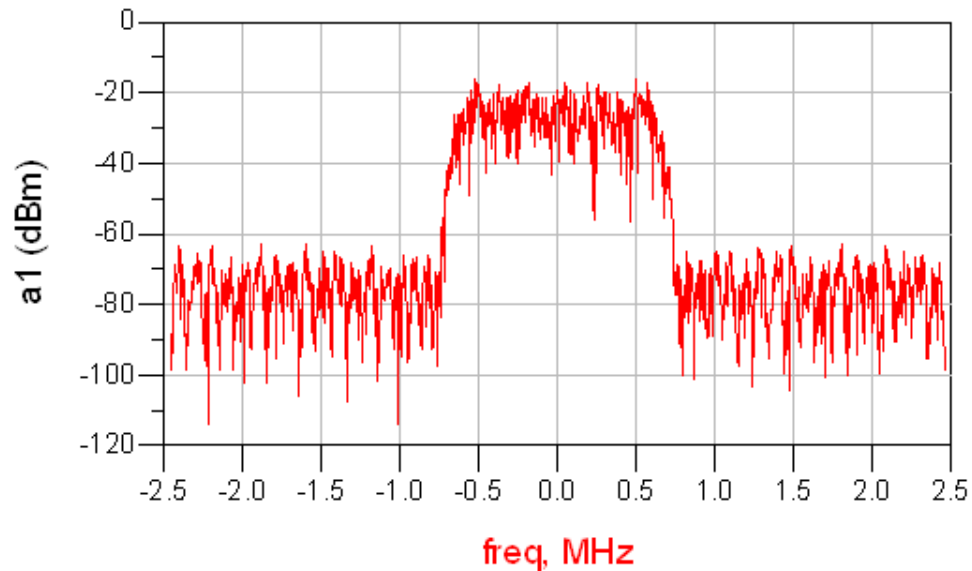
Frequency = 2 GHz, VDC1= -1.37 V, VDC2= +4.0 V, Pa1 = +0.0 dBm – Class C



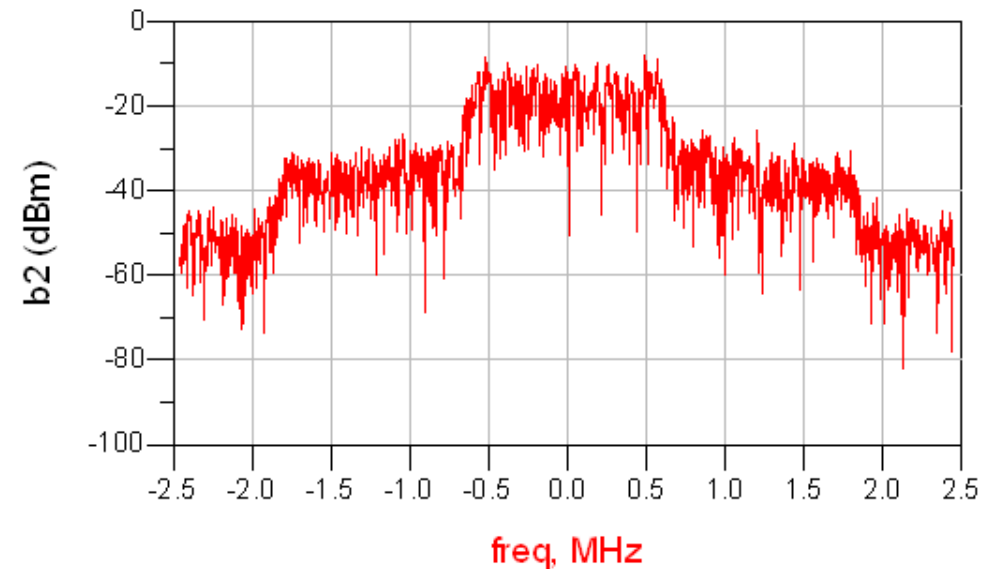
# S-functions in ADS – Modulation Prediction - Display

Frequency = 2 GHz, VDC1= -1.37 V, VDC2= +4.0 V, Pa1 = +0.0 dBm – Class C

Incident wave

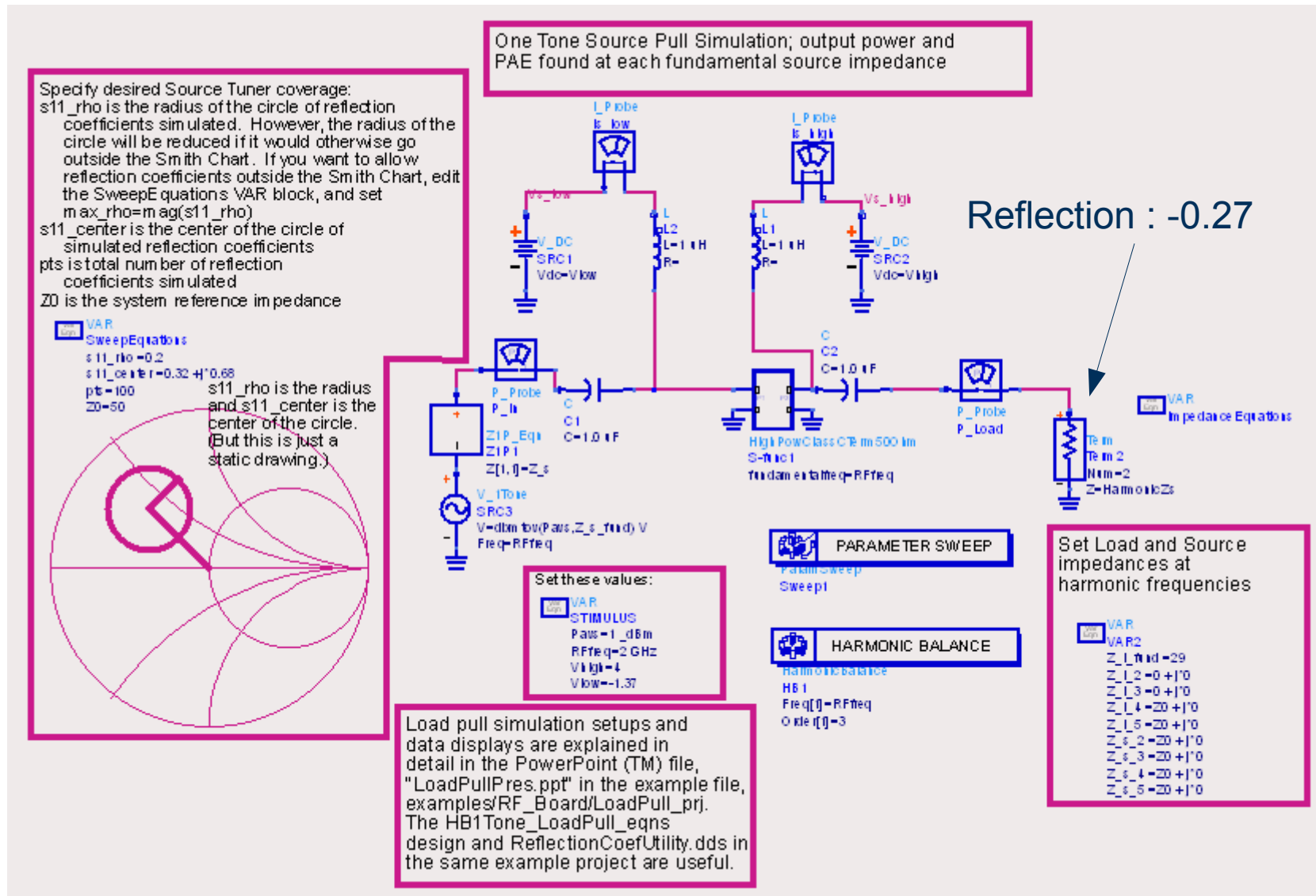


Transmitted wave



# S-functions in ADS – Source-Pull - Schematic

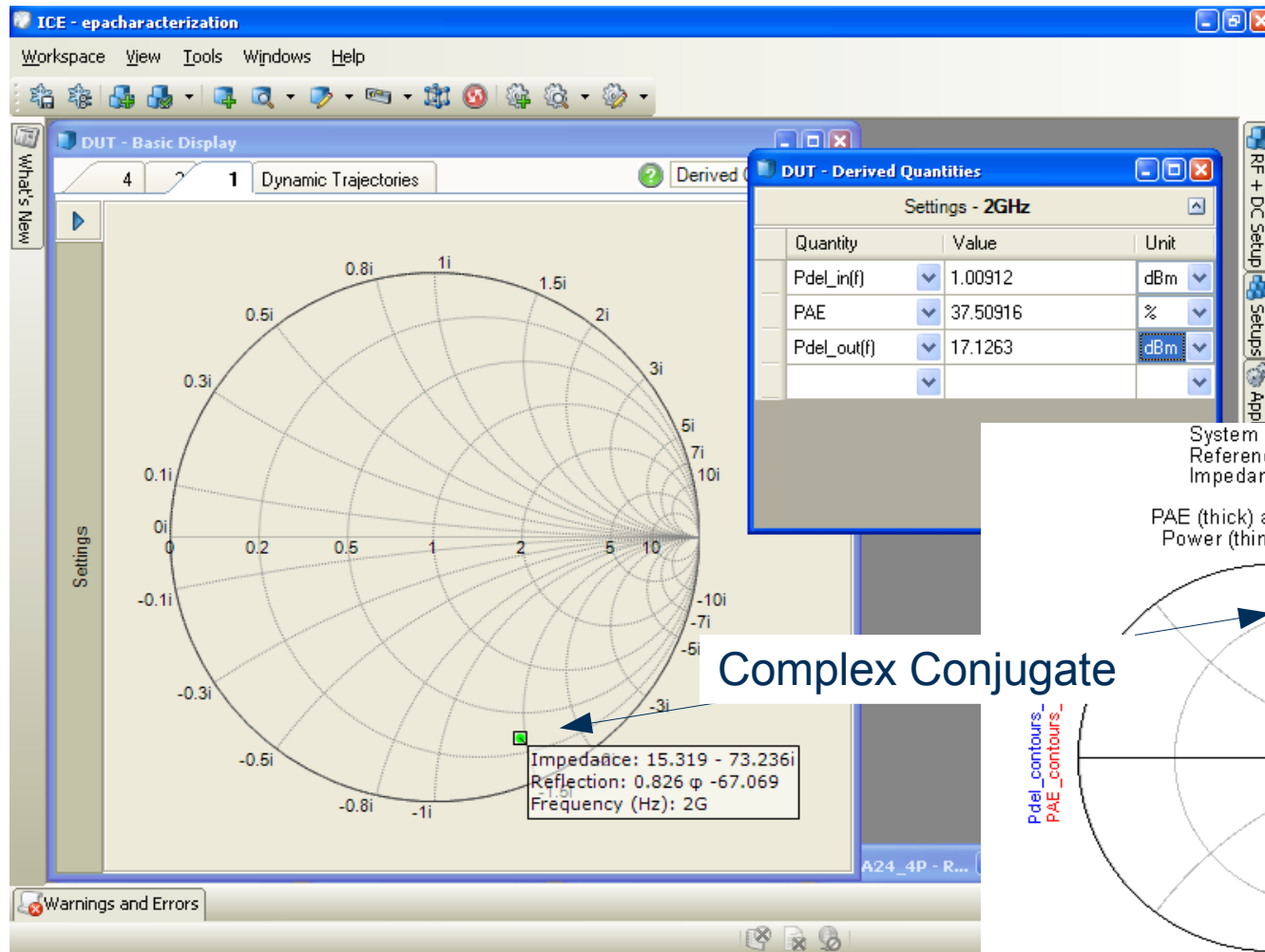
Frequency = 2 GHz, VDC1= -1.37 V, VDC2= +4.0 V, Pav = +1.0 dBm – Class C



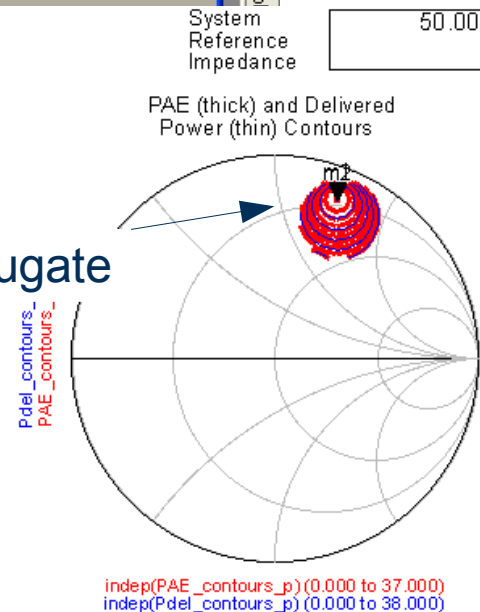


# S-functions in ADS – Source-Pull - Schematic

Frequency = 2 GHz, VDC1= -1.37 V, VDC2= +4.0 V, Pav = +1.0 dBm – Class C



Complex Conjugate



Set Delivered Power contour step size (dB) and PAE contour step size (%), and number of contour lines

```
Eqn Pdel_step=0.5
Eqn PAE_step=1
Eqn NumPAE_lines=10
Eqn NumPdel_lines=10
```

Maximum Power-Added Efficiency, %

37.90

Maximum Power Delivered, dBm

18.49

m1  
indep(m1)=5  
PAE contours\_p=0.845 / 68.734  
level=37.803499, number=1  
impedance = Z0 \* (0.259 + j1.430)

m2  
indep(m2)=4  
Pdel contours\_p=0.838 / 68.692  
level=18.475011, number=1  
impedance = Z0 \* (0.272 + j1.428)

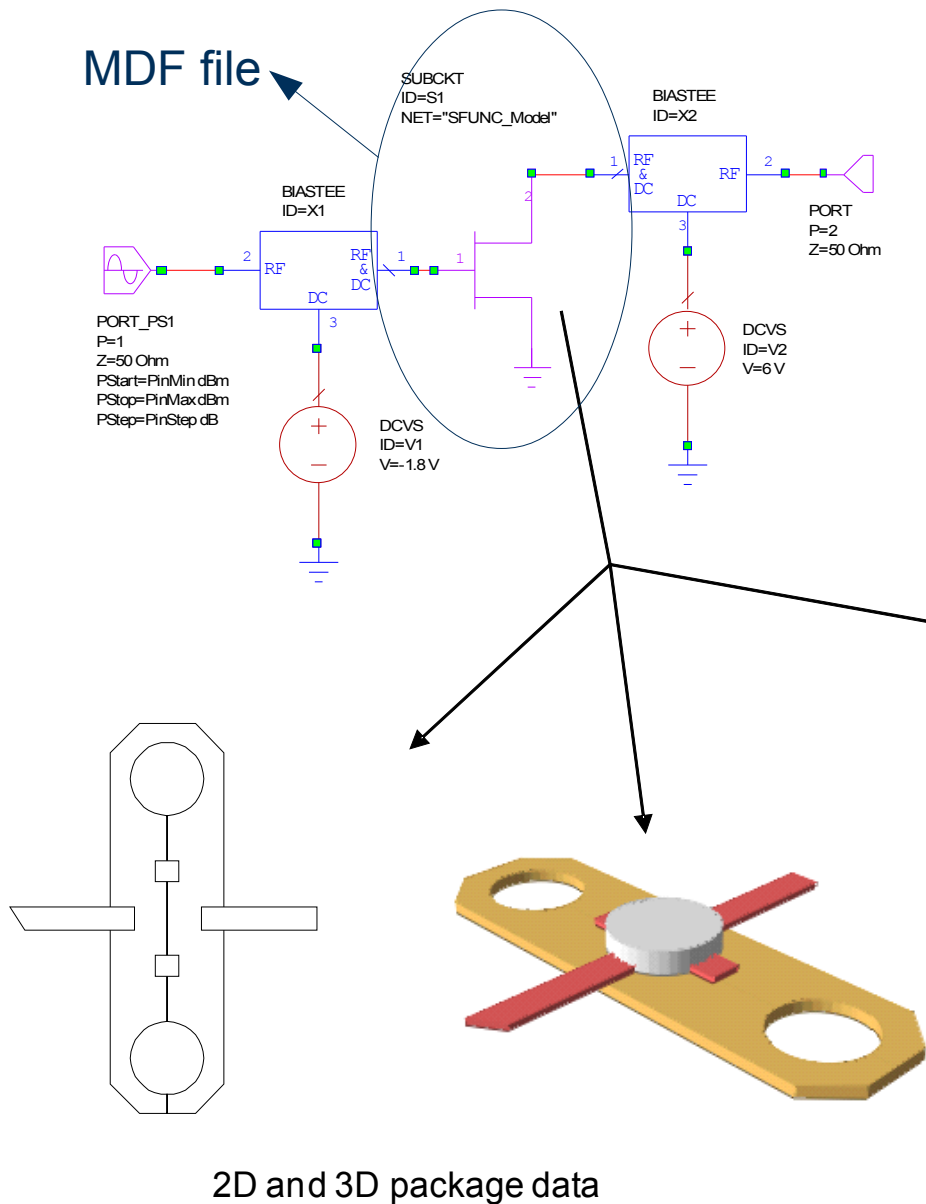
Measured Input Impedance

# S-functions in MWO

## Acknowledgement:

With the support from AWR providing MWO / VSS licensing

# S-functions Usage in AWR MWO

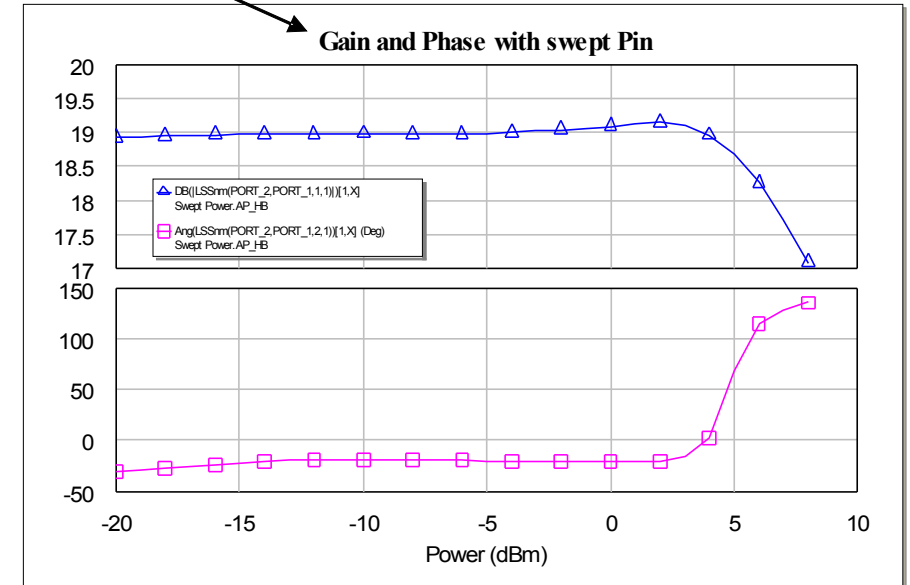
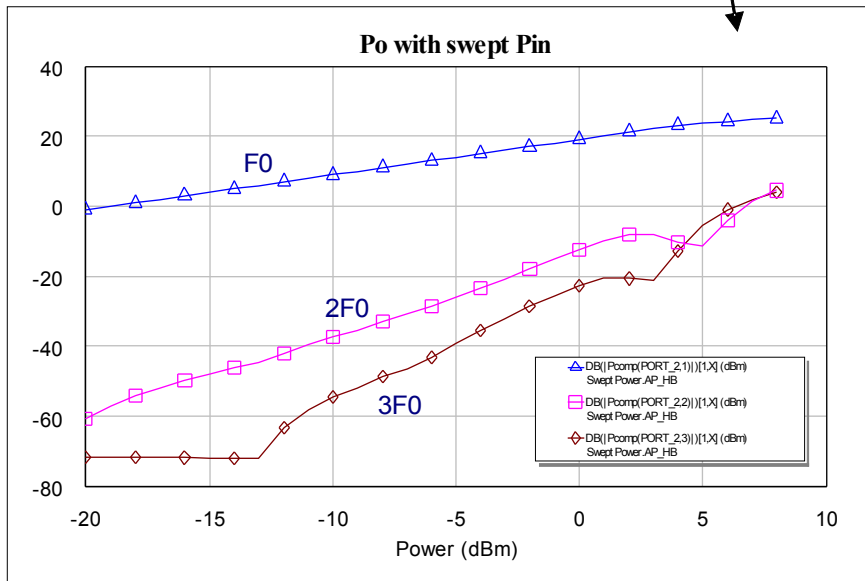
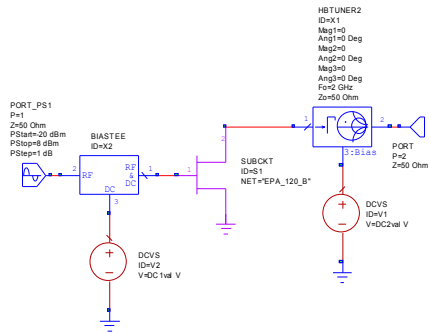


## Model data

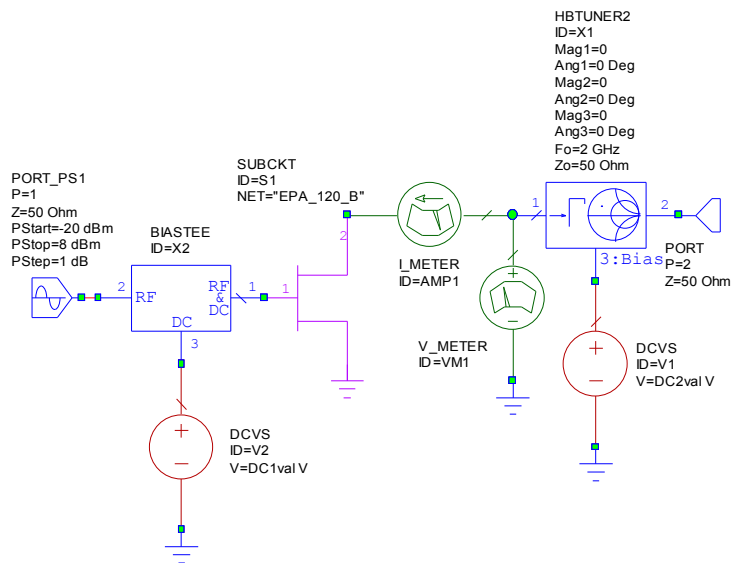
```

..
..
1.16226472890446E-16,-1.35308431126191E-16
-3.15025783237388E-15,4.72191730160887E-15
9.71445146547012E-17,-2.37310171513627E-15
1.51267887105178E-15,1.07899800205757E-15
-2.98198965520413E-15,1.59594559789866E-15
-5.759281940243E-16,-1.97758476261356E-16
-1.83880688453542E-15,1.92901250528621E-15
-5.06539254985228E-16,2.94209101525666E-15
-2.50494069931051E-15,-6.73072708679001E-16
-8.60422844084496E-16,2.65412691824451E-16
-2.019218126037E-15,2.7373936450914E-15
-2.28289609438548E-15,1.70870262383715E-15
1.08246744900953E-15,-6.78276879106932E-16
-1.02955838299224E-15,-1.31578775652841E-15
5.45570533194706E-16,3.99333344169861E-15
-3.62904151174348E-15,-1.74860126378462E-15
-2.00100352953925E-15,-5.68989300120393E-16
2.14975606760426E-15,-5.53376788836601E-16
-1.16226472890446E-15,-2.44942954807925E-15
2.08166817117217E-16,2.4980018054066E-15
1.04372118124342E-05,-1.36061371223614E-05
2.85882428840978E-15,3.11556336285435E-15
-2.15105711021124E-16,1.37390099297363E-15
9.71445146547012E-16,9.95731275210687E-16
-1.69309011255336E-15,2.33146835171283E-15
4.27435864480685E-15,3.3584246494911E-15
-1.08246744900953E-15,-8.60422844084496E-16
..
    
```

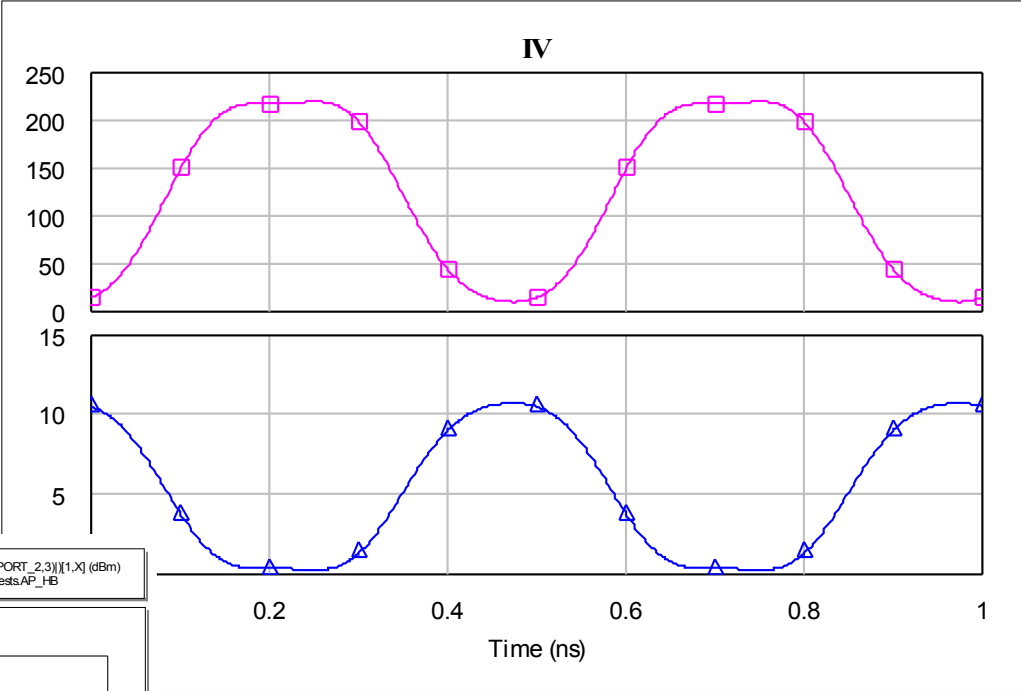
# S-functions Verification in MWO - Frequency Domain



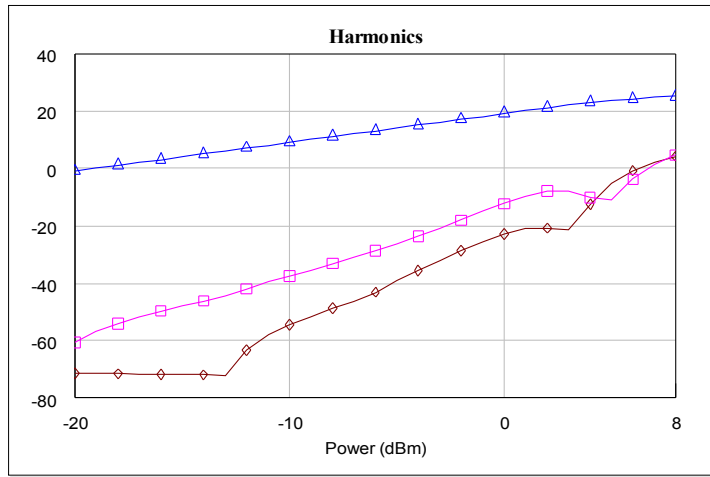
# S-functions Verification in MWO - Time Domain



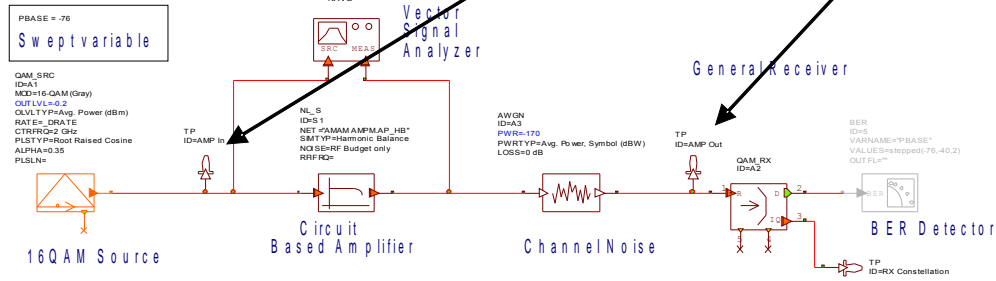
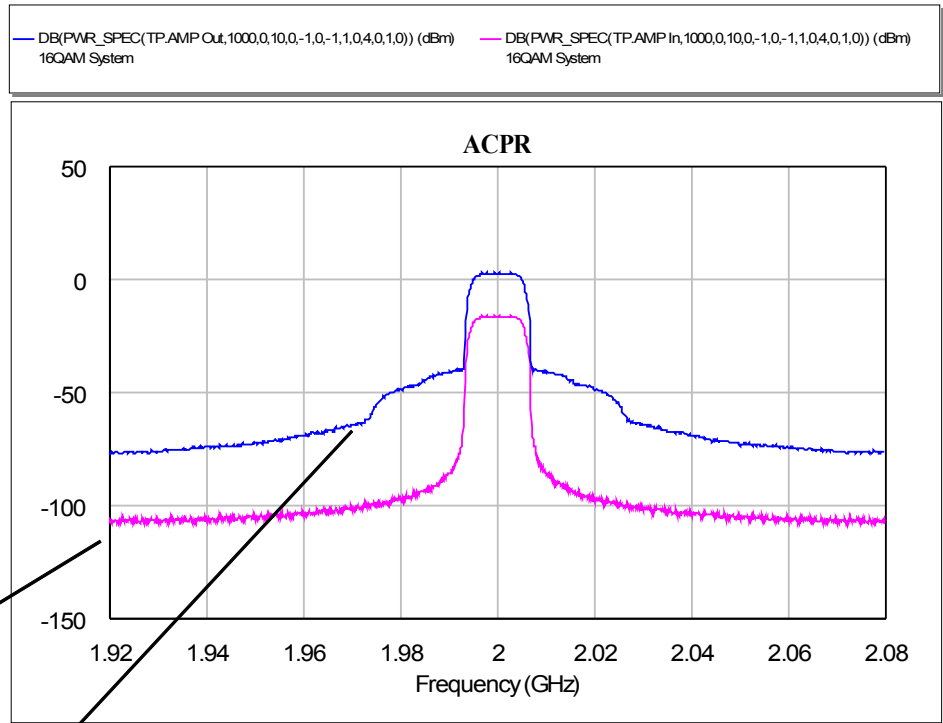
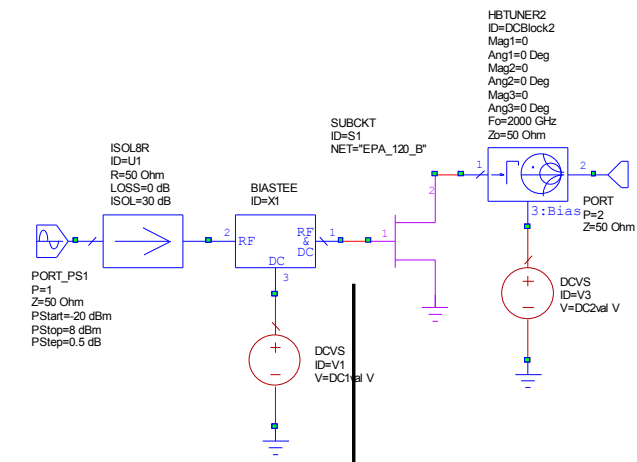
▲ Vtime(V\_METER.VM1,1)[\*,T] (V)      ■ Itime(L\_METER.AMP1,1)[\*,T] (mA)  
 Waveform Tests.AP\_HB                      Waveform Tests.AP\_HB



▲ DB(|Pcomp(PORT\_2,1)|[1,X]) (dBm)      ■ DB(|Pcomp(PORT\_2,2)|[1,X]) (dBm)      ◆ DB(|Pcomp(PORT\_2,3)|[1,X]) (dBm)  
 Waveform Tests.AP\_HB                      Waveform Tests.AP\_HB                      Waveform Tests.AP\_HB



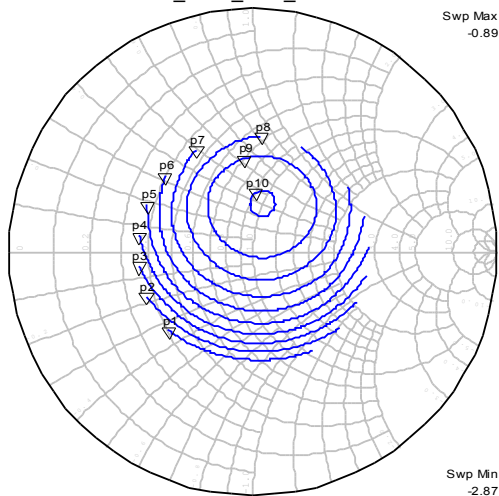
# S-functions in MWO – Modulation Prediction - Schematic



16QAM (Gray) System

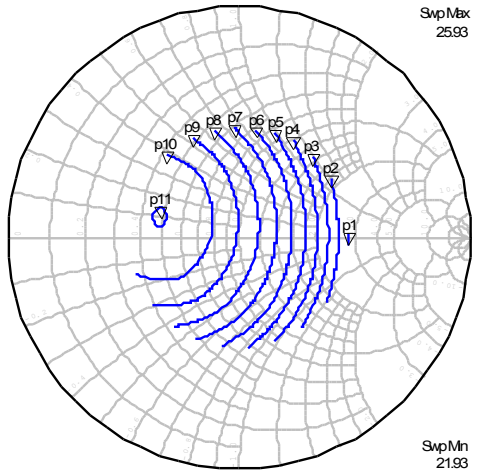
# S-functions in MWO – Load-Pull

LP\_Data\_Low\_Power

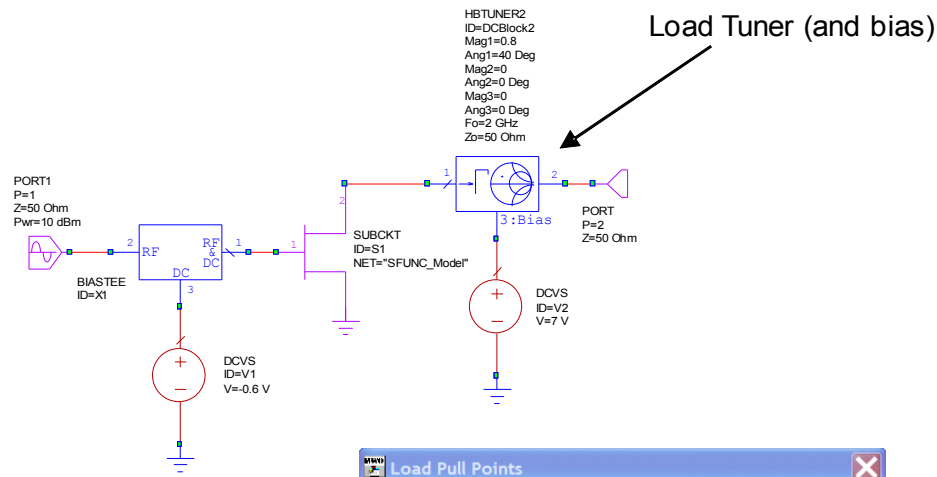


p1: Pcomp_PORT_2_1_M_DB = -2.87
p2: Pcomp_PORT_2_1_M_DB = -2.65
p3: Pcomp_PORT_2_1_M_DB = -2.43
p4: Pcomp_PORT_2_1_M_DB = -2.21
p5: Pcomp_PORT_2_1_M_DB = -1.99
p6: Pcomp_PORT_2_1_M_DB = -1.77
p7: Pcomp_PORT_2_1_M_DB = -1.55
p8: Pcomp_PORT_2_1_M_DB = -1.33
p9: Pcomp_PORT_2_1_M_DB = -1.11
p10: Pcomp_PORT_2_1_M_DB = -0.89

LP\_Data\_High\_Power



p1: Pcomp_PORT_2_1_M_DB = 21.93
p2: Pcomp_PORT_2_1_M_DB = 22.33
p3: Pcomp_PORT_2_1_M_DB = 22.73
p4: Pcomp_PORT_2_1_M_DB = 23.13
p5: Pcomp_PORT_2_1_M_DB = 23.53
p6: Pcomp_PORT_2_1_M_DB = 23.93
p7: Pcomp_PORT_2_1_M_DB = 24.33
p8: Pcomp_PORT_2_1_M_DB = 24.73
p9: Pcomp_PORT_2_1_M_DB = 25.13
p10: Pcomp_PORT_2_1_M_DB = 25.53
p11: Pcomp_PORT_2_1_M_DB = 25.93



**Load Pull Points**

Radius: 0.8

Center Magnitude: 0

Center Angle: 0

Number of Circles: 5

Points Per Circle: 10

Mode: Fixed Angle Between Points  
Fixed Number of Points  
Load Pull Wizard Mode

Coarse  Medium  Fine  Extra Fine

Read Existing Load Pull File

Existing Data File: LP\_Data  
LP\_Data2

Edit Points On Graph

OK Cancel

# S-functions Strengths

- S-functions are completely public
- S-functions are transparent
- S-functions are connected into ADS and MWO and can be connected in other tools on request, e.g. Matlab
- S-functions are closely integrated with load-pull in general and especially with tuners from Focus Microwave
- S-functions extraction tool has a verification capability for LSOP constantness and interpolation capability, investigating quality of model, without needing a simulation tool
- The source- and load-pull software ICEBreaker from NMDG allows S-function verification, related to the linearity assumption
- Customers can explore the capabilities of S-functions via NMDG services



# S-Functions - Key Capabilities

- **Natural extension of S-parameters**
  - Reduce to S-parameters for small-signal excitation
  - S-parameters are cascadeable, S-Functions are cascadeable too
  - e.g. Transistors, amplifiers, dividers, multipliers
- **Predict harmonic behaviour of components under different impedances**
  - Source – Pull
  - Load – Pull
  - Harmonic distortion, Waveforms
- **Predict modulation behaviour of components under different impedances**
  - When no long-term memory effects
- **Valid for multi-ports, applicable to differential components**

# References

- F. Verbeyst and M. Vanden Bossche, “VIOMAP, the S-parameter equivalent for weakly nonlinear RF and microwave devices”, published in the *Microwave Symposium Digest of IEEE 1994 MTT-S International* and published in the *1994 Special Symposium Issue of the MTT Transactions*, vol. 42, no. 12, pp. 2531 – 2535.
- F. Verbeyst and M. Vanden Bossche, “VIOMAP, 16QAM and Spectral Regrowth: Enhanced Prediction and Predistortion based on Two-Tone Black-Box Model Extraction”, published in the *Proceedings of the 45th ARFTG Conference*, Orlando, June 1995 and winner of the “Best Conference Paper Award”.
- J. Verspecht and P. Van Esch, “Accurately characterizing of hard nonlinear behaviour of microwave components by the Nonlinear Network Measurement System: introducing the nonlinear scattering function,” *Proc. International Workshop on Integrated Nonlinear Microwave and Millimeterwave Circuits (INMMiC)*, October 1998, pp.17-26.
- J. Verspecht, “Scattering functions for nonlinear behavioral modeling in the frequency domain,” *IEEE MTT-S Int. Microwave Symp. Workshop*, June 2003.
- J. Verspecht and D.E. Root “Polyharmonic Distortion Modeling,” *IEEE Microwave Magazine*, vol.7 no.3, June 2006, pp.44-57.
- D.E. Root, J. Horn, L. Betts, C. Gillease, and J. Verspecht, ”X-Parameters: The new paradigm for measurement, modeling, and design of nonlinear RF and microwave components,” *Microwave Engineering Europe*, December 2008, pp. 16-21.

# Conclusion

- S-functions are a natural extension to S-parameters for nonlinear behaviour
- S-functions aren't much more complex than S-parameters
- S-functions are accurate when assumptions are not violated
  - Linearity assumption
- S-function extraction is supported on R&S network analysers
- S-functions can be coupled into ADS and MWO
- S-functions can be used to compress or hide specifics of nonlinear circuits in ADS and MWO

**For more information**

[info@nmdg.be](mailto:info@nmdg.be)

[www.nmdg.be](http://www.nmdg.be)

# Explore the power of S-functions

Send your device or circuit to NMDG ...

... and NMDG sends you the S-functions

Please contact NMDG at [info@nmdg.be](mailto:info@nmdg.be)