



ADI 2007

Obscurities & Applications of RF Power Detectors

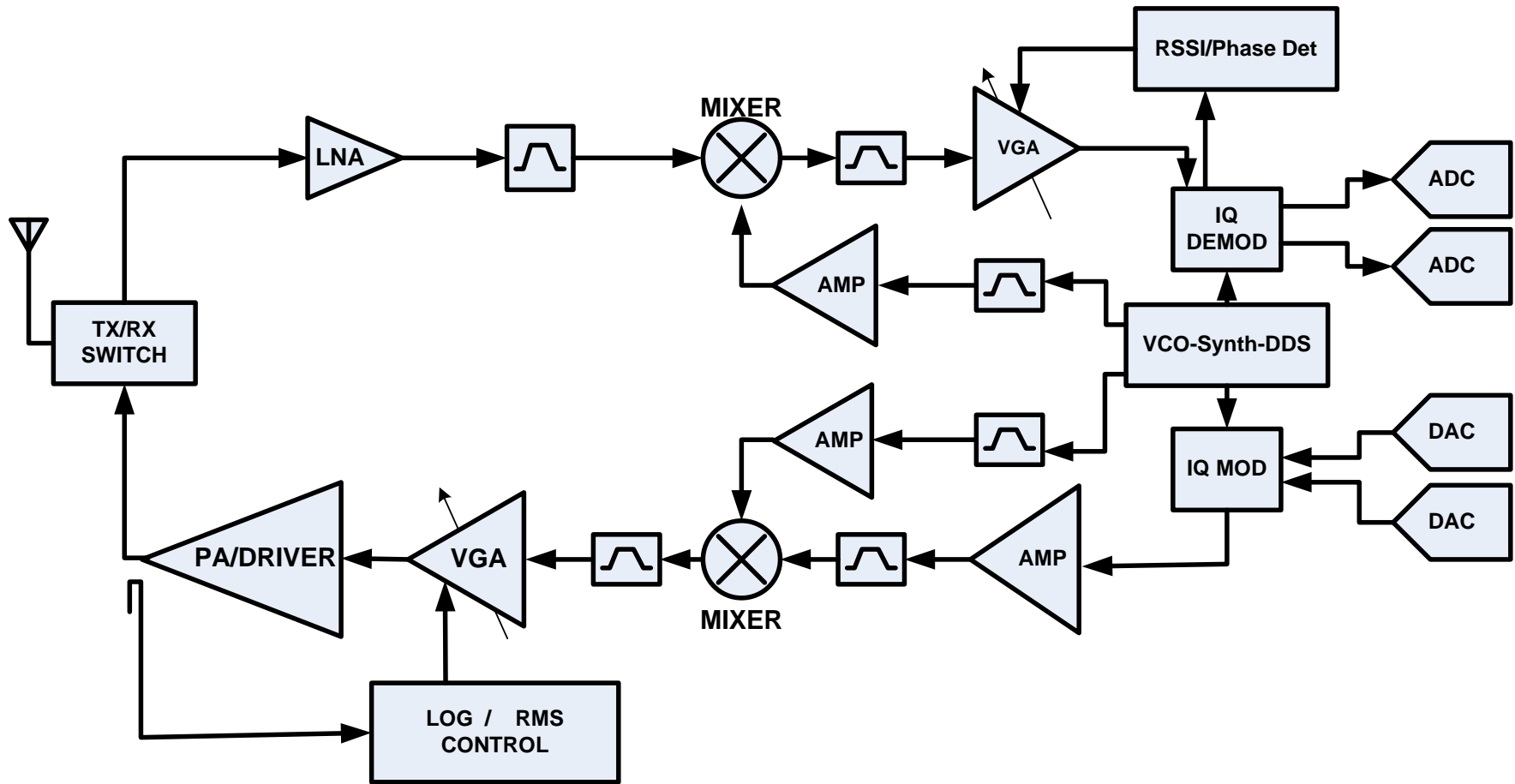
Carlos Calvo, Applications Engineer
carlos.calvo@analog.com



Why measure RF/IF power?

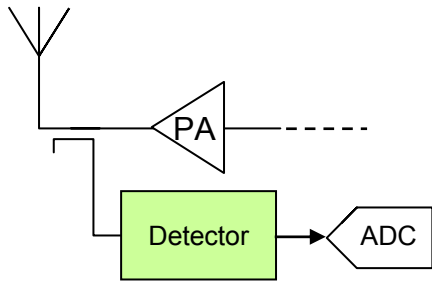
- ❑ **Set mobile's power level (RSSI measurement in BTS receiver)**
- ❑ **Signal Leveling in receivers (high precision generally not required, usually done at IF)**
- ❑ **Prevent interference with other systems and other users in same cell (mobile handset).**
- ❑ **Improve mobile talk time (operate at low end of permissible range, reduce SAR).**
- ❑ **Improve network robustness (operate at high end of permissible range).**
- ❑ **Thermal Dimensioning (mostly HPA)**

Typical RF Signal Chain

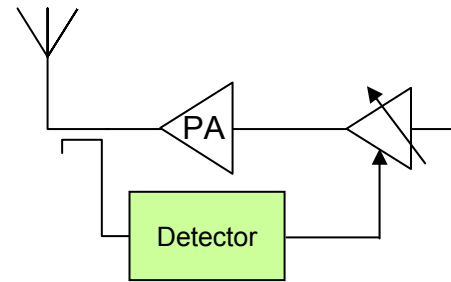


Typical Detector Applications

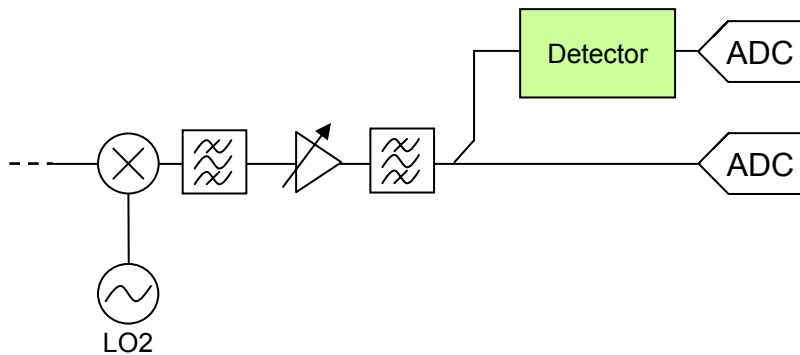
Tx Power Measurement



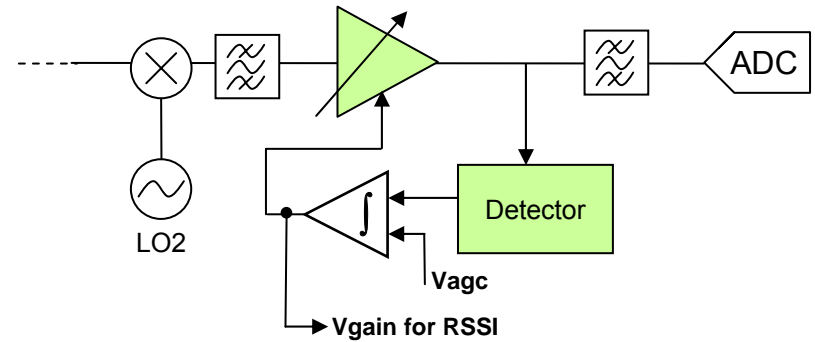
TX power control



Received Power Measurement



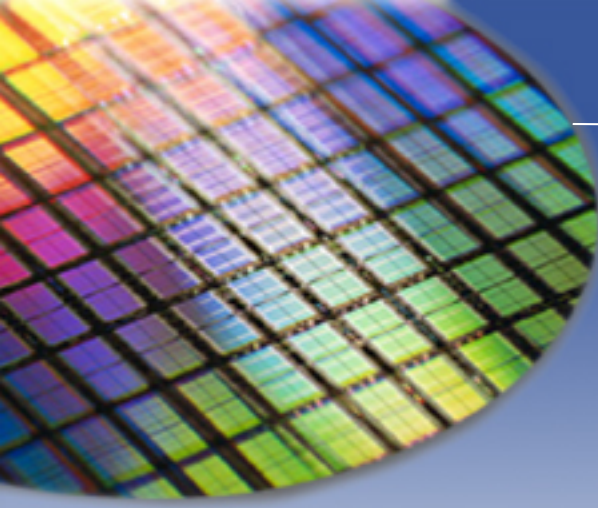
Received Power Control





RF Power Detectors Critical Specifications

- ❑ **Linearity and Temperature Stability of Output**
- ❑ **Dynamic Range**
- ❑ **Pulse Response**
- ❑ **Variations due to Power Supply and Frequency Changes**
- ❑ **Ease of Use and Calibration**
- ❑ **Change in response vs. signal crest factor**
- ❑ **Size and overall Component Count**

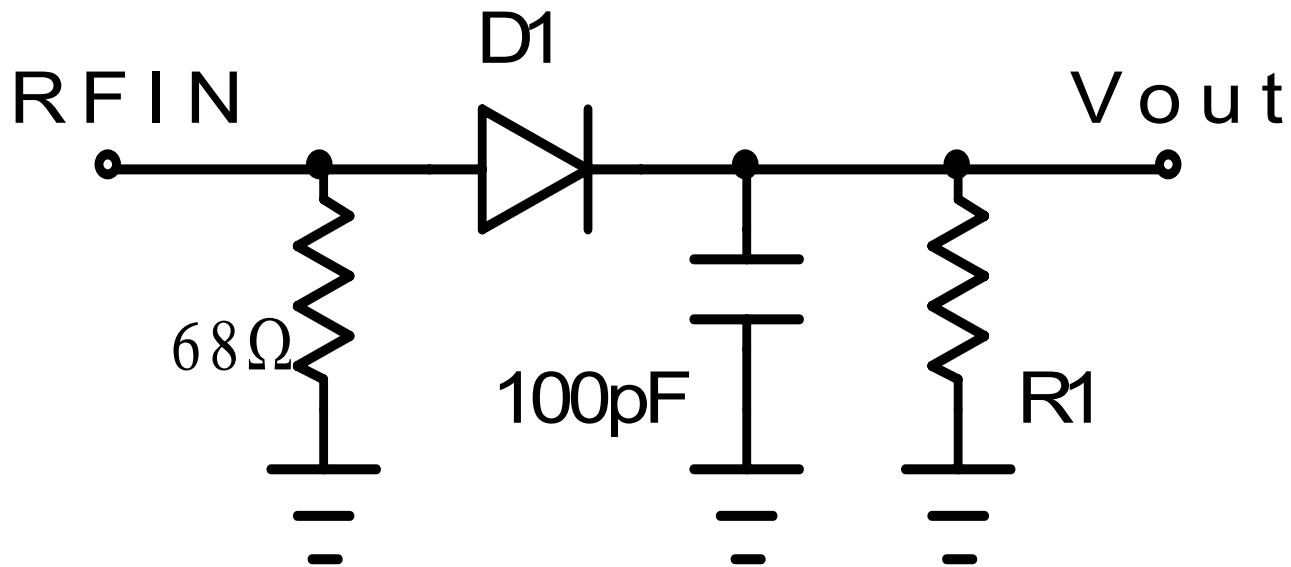


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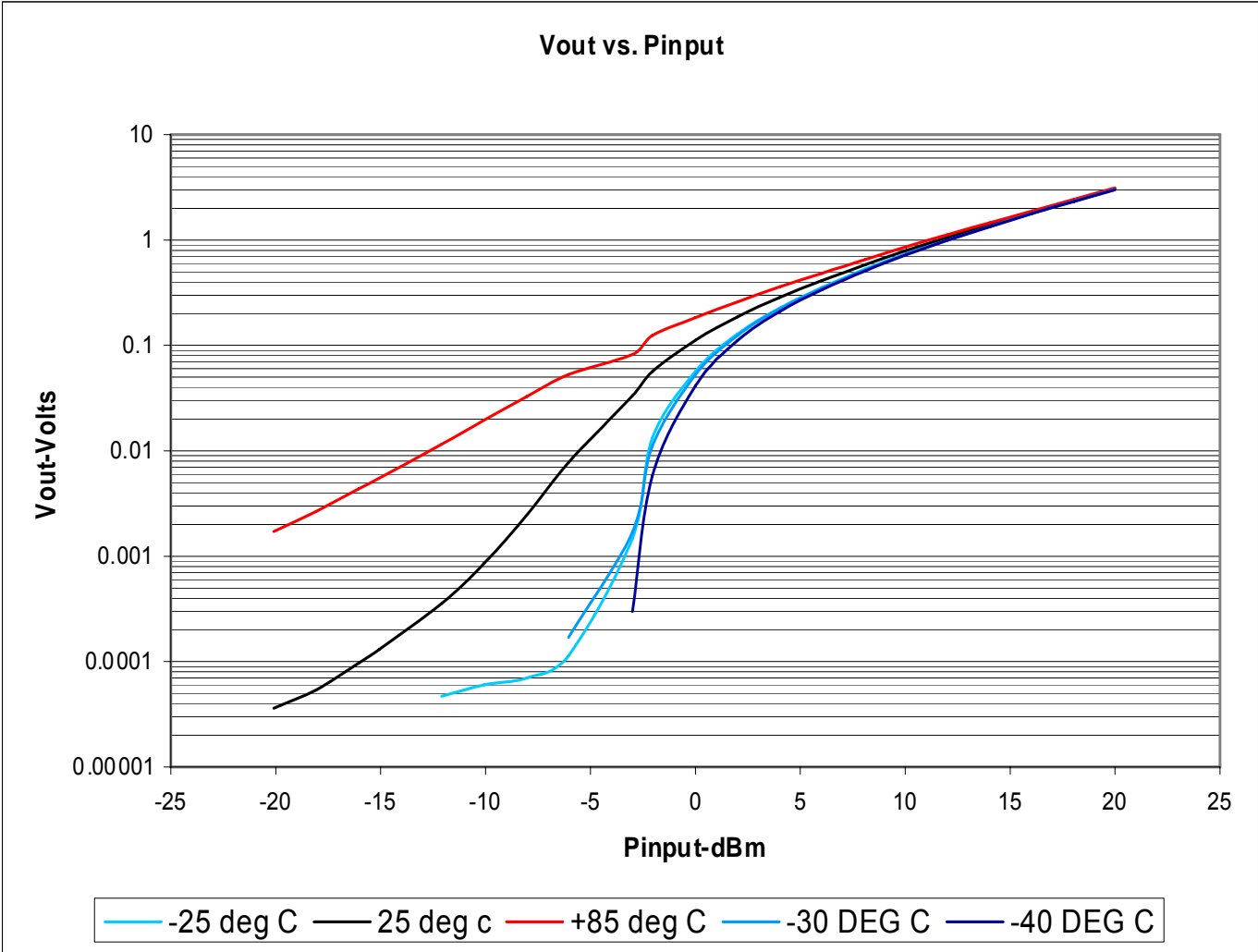
RF Power Measurement Techniques

Power Measurement Techniques

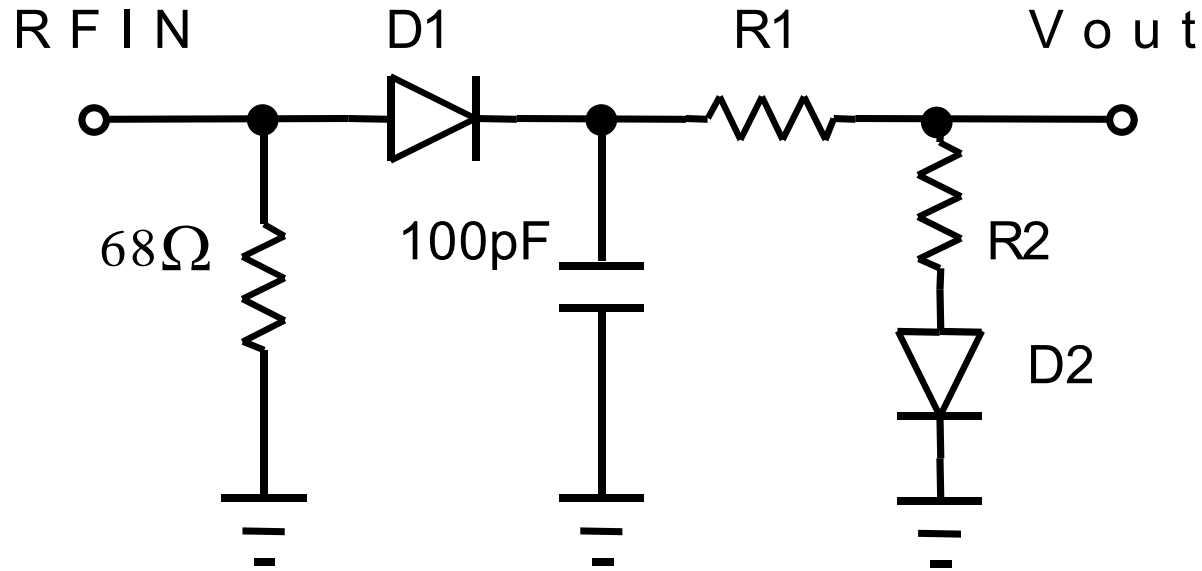
Diode Detection



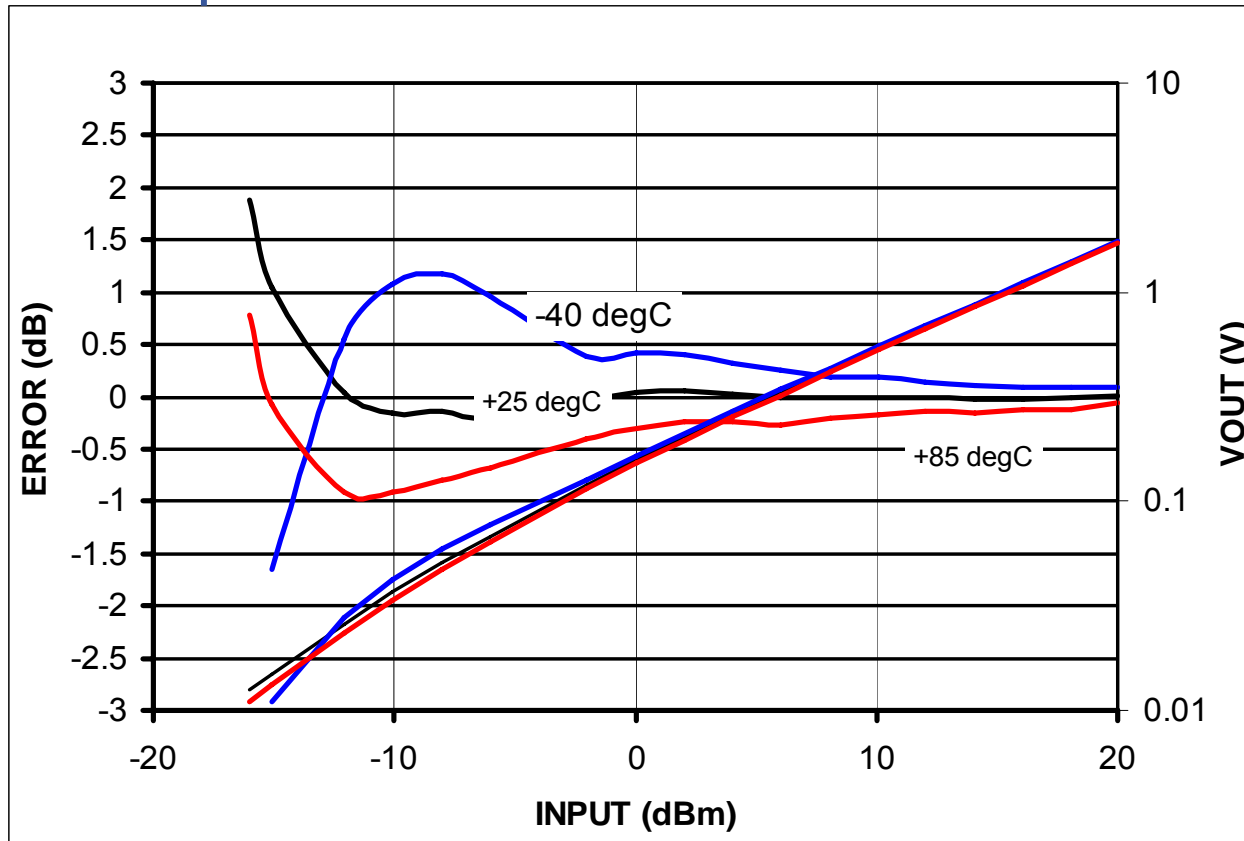
Transfer Function of Diode Detector



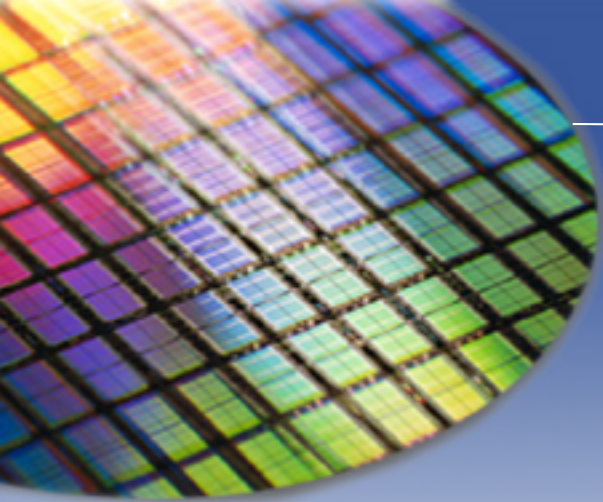
Diode Detector with Temperature Compensation



Transfer Function of Temperature Compensated Diode Detector



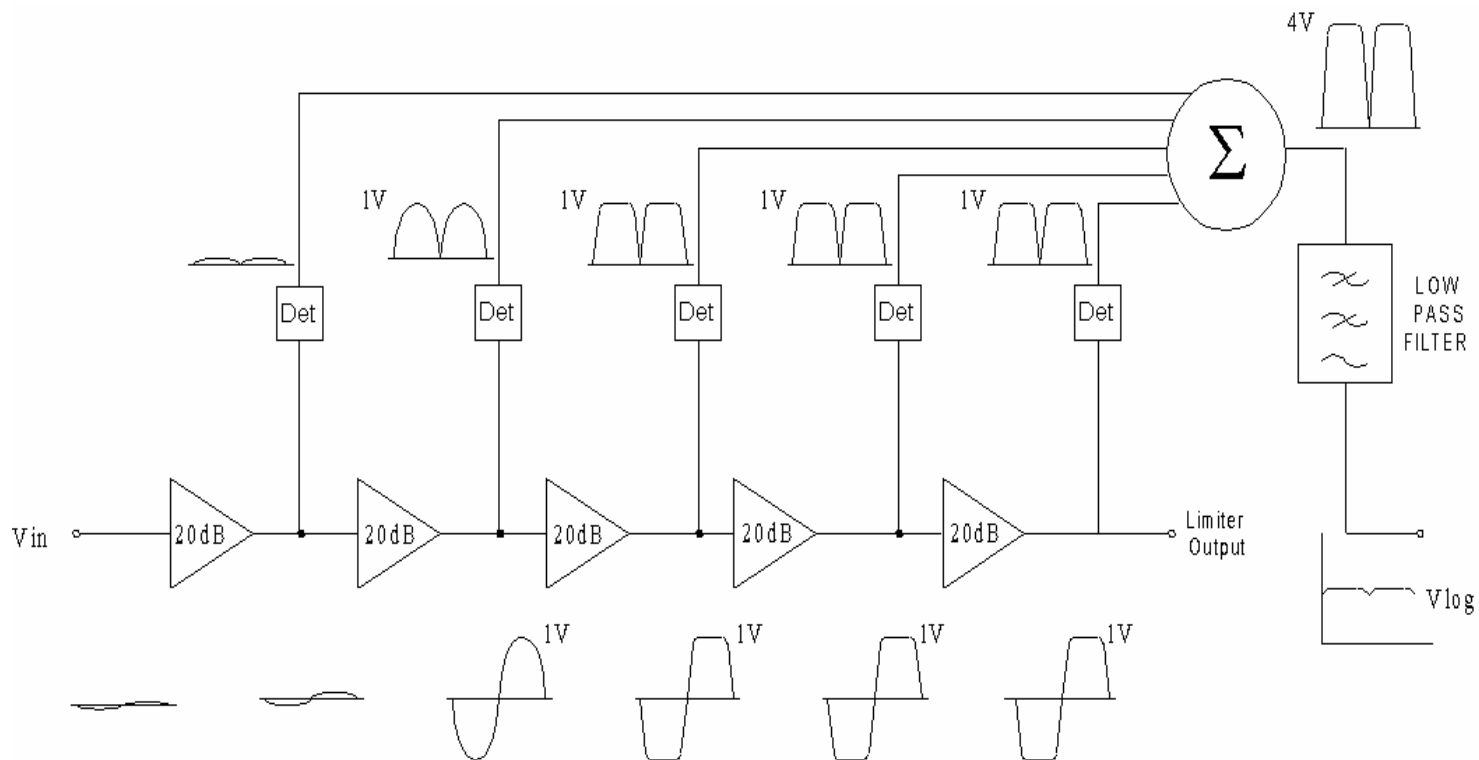
- *Excellent temperature stability at high power*
- *Limited Dynamic Range and poor low end temp. stability*
- *High Resolution ADC required for low end power measurement*
- *Lots of patented techniques which probably improve this performance*



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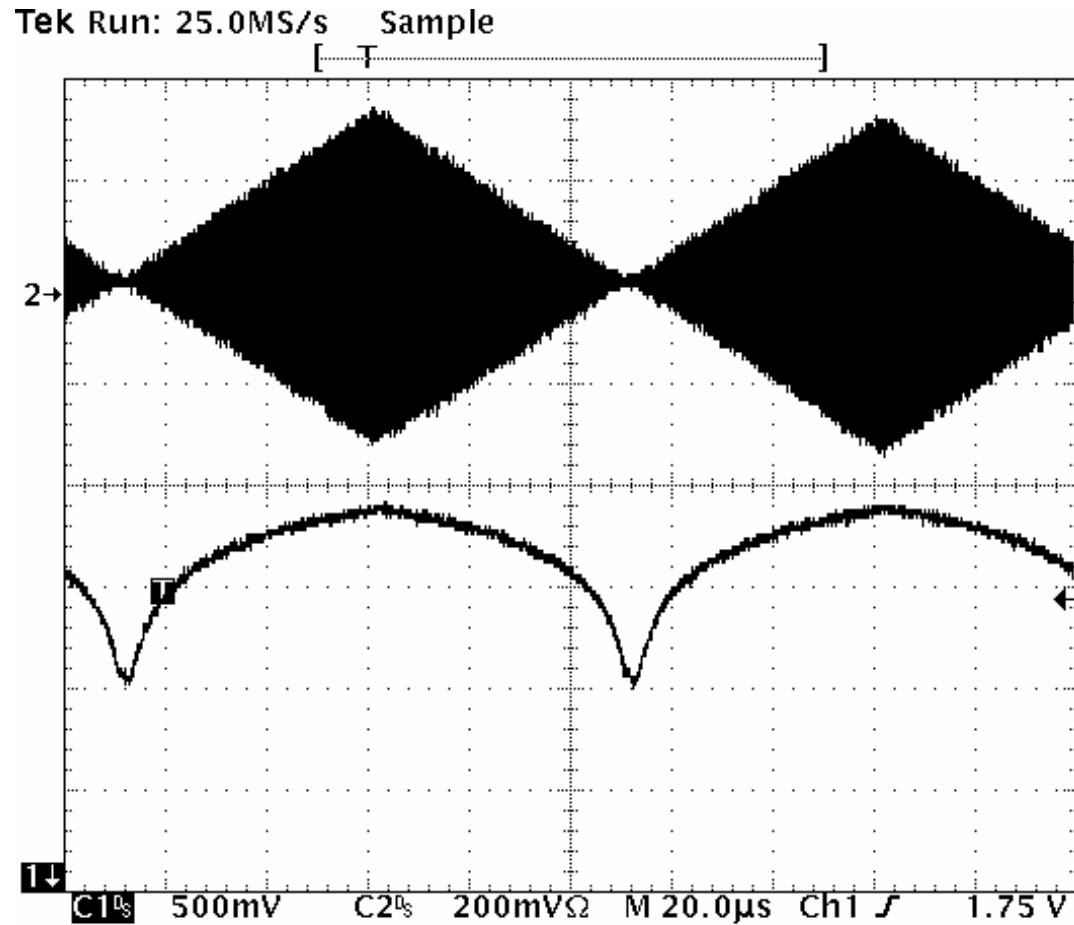
Logarithmic Amplifiers

Log Amp Block Diagram



- ❑ Signal propagates through gain chain until it limits
- ❑ Detectors full-wave rectify the signal at the output of each stage
- ❑ Outputs of detectors are summed and low-pass filtered

Log Amp Transfer Function in Time Domain



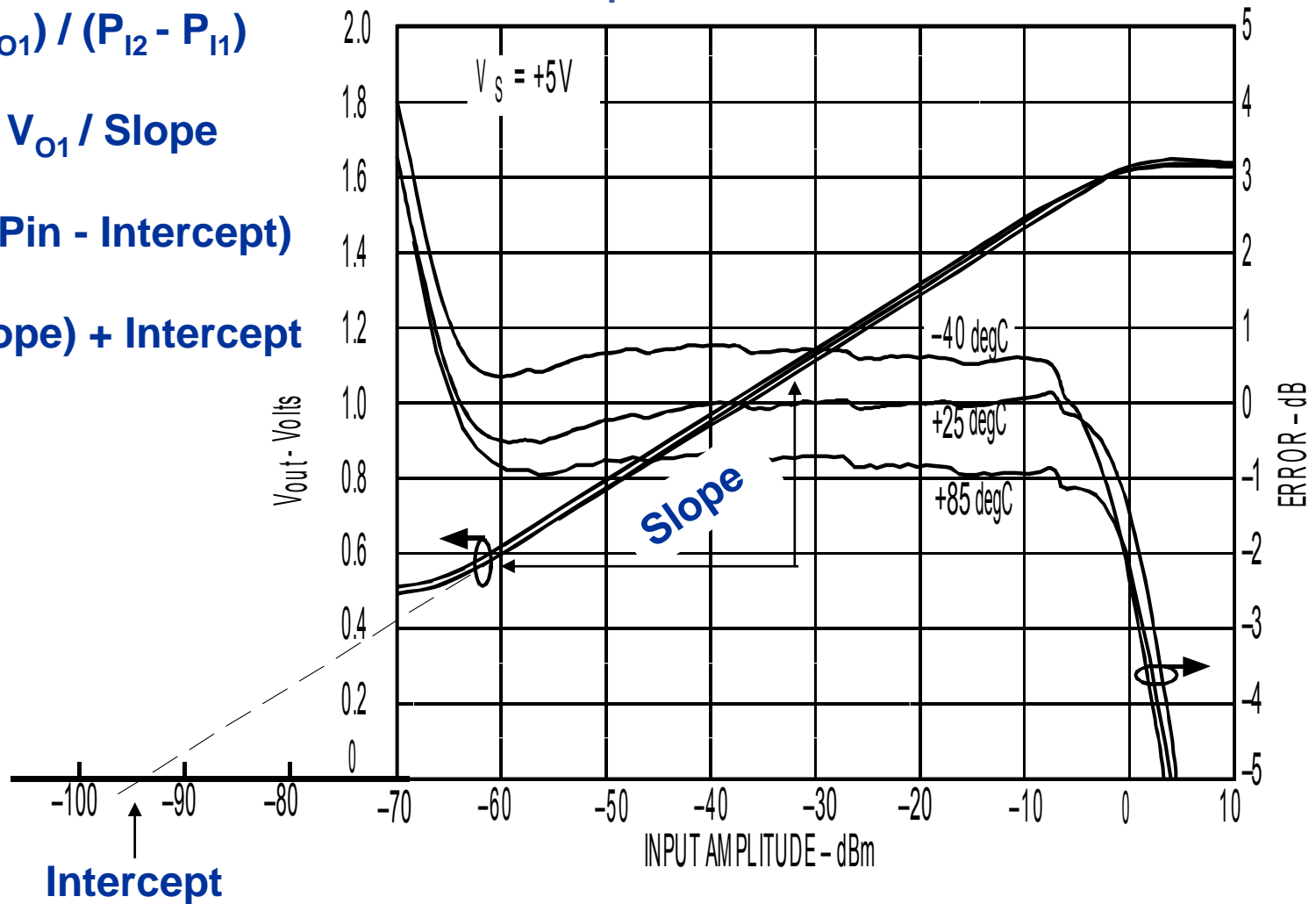
Log Amp Transfer Function - Slope and Intercept

$$\text{Slope} = (V_{O2} - V_{O1}) / (P_{I2} - P_{I1})$$

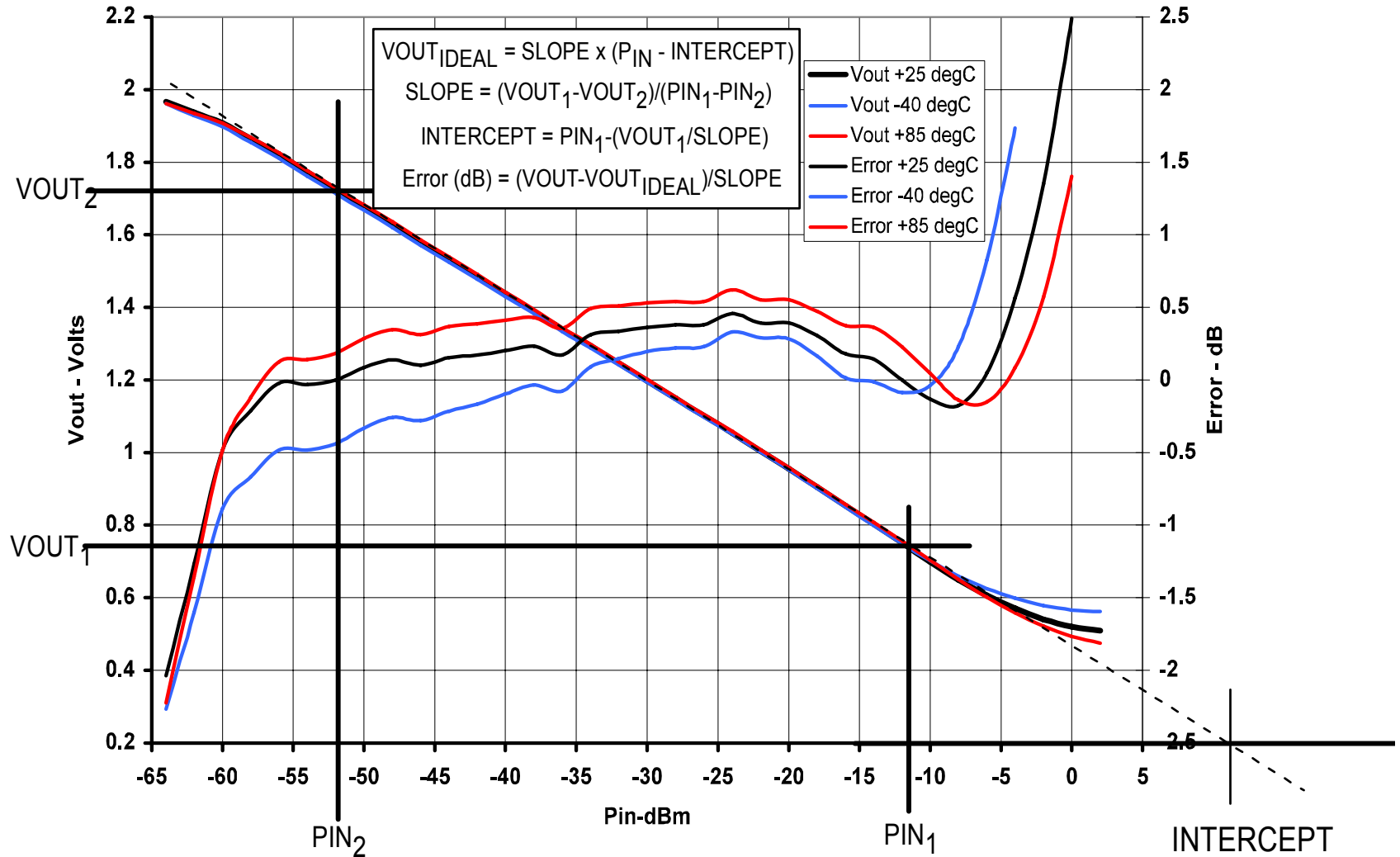
$$\text{Intercept} = P_{I1} - V_{O1} / \text{Slope}$$

$$V_{out} = \text{Slope} \cdot (P_{in} - \text{Intercept})$$

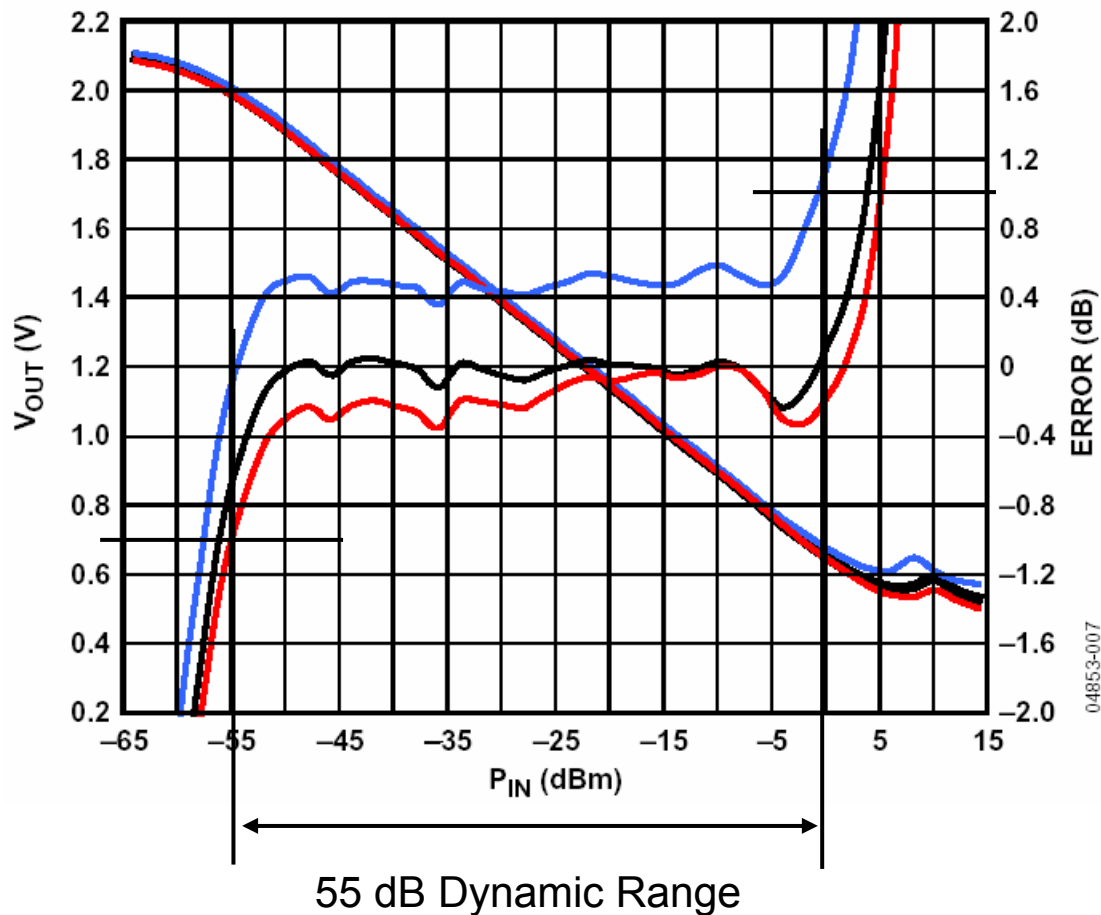
$$P_{in} = (V_{out} / \text{Slope}) + \text{Intercept}$$



RF Power Detector Calibration



± 1 dB Dynamic Range



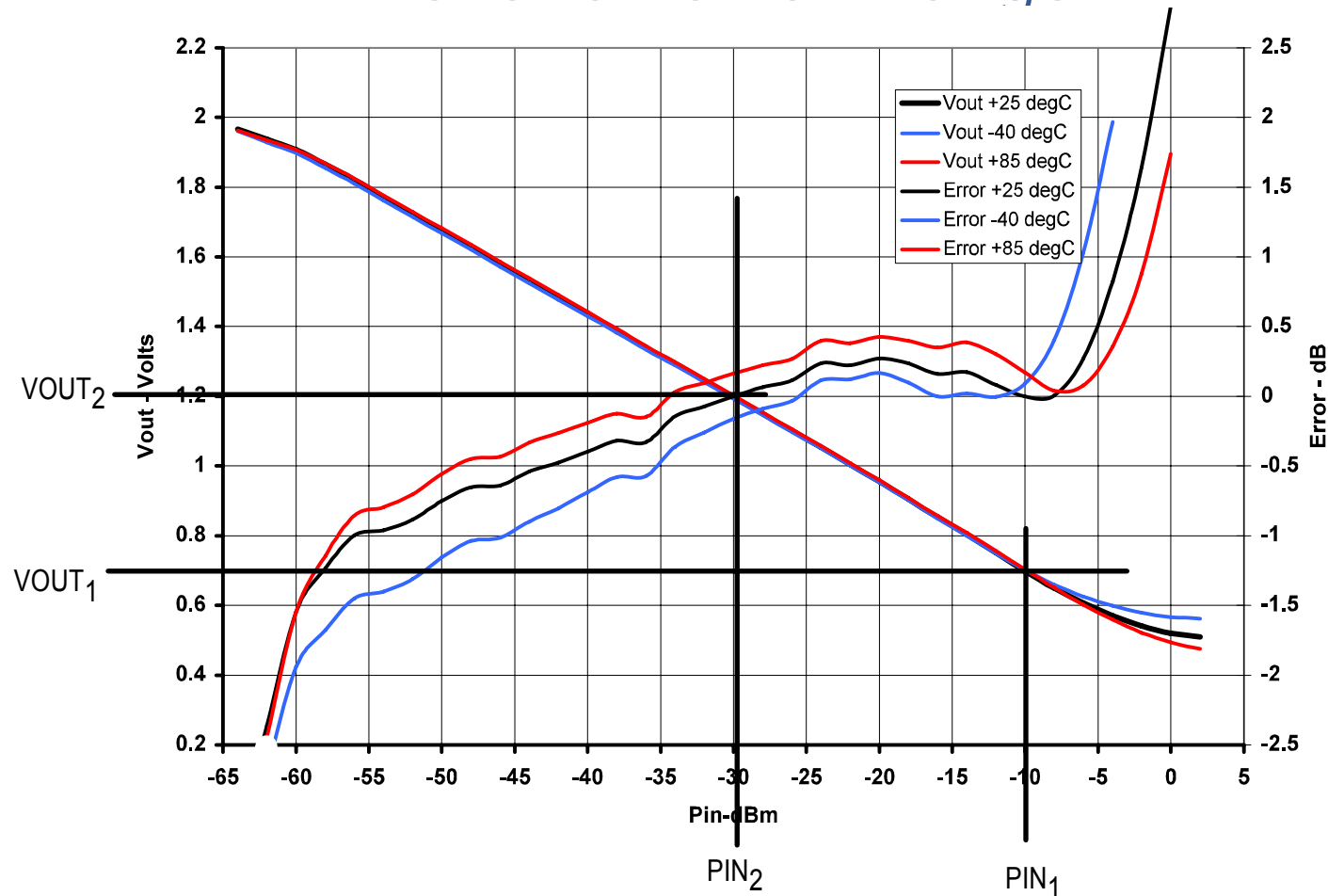
□ Temperature Drift can reduce Dynamic Range



Detector Calibration Procedure

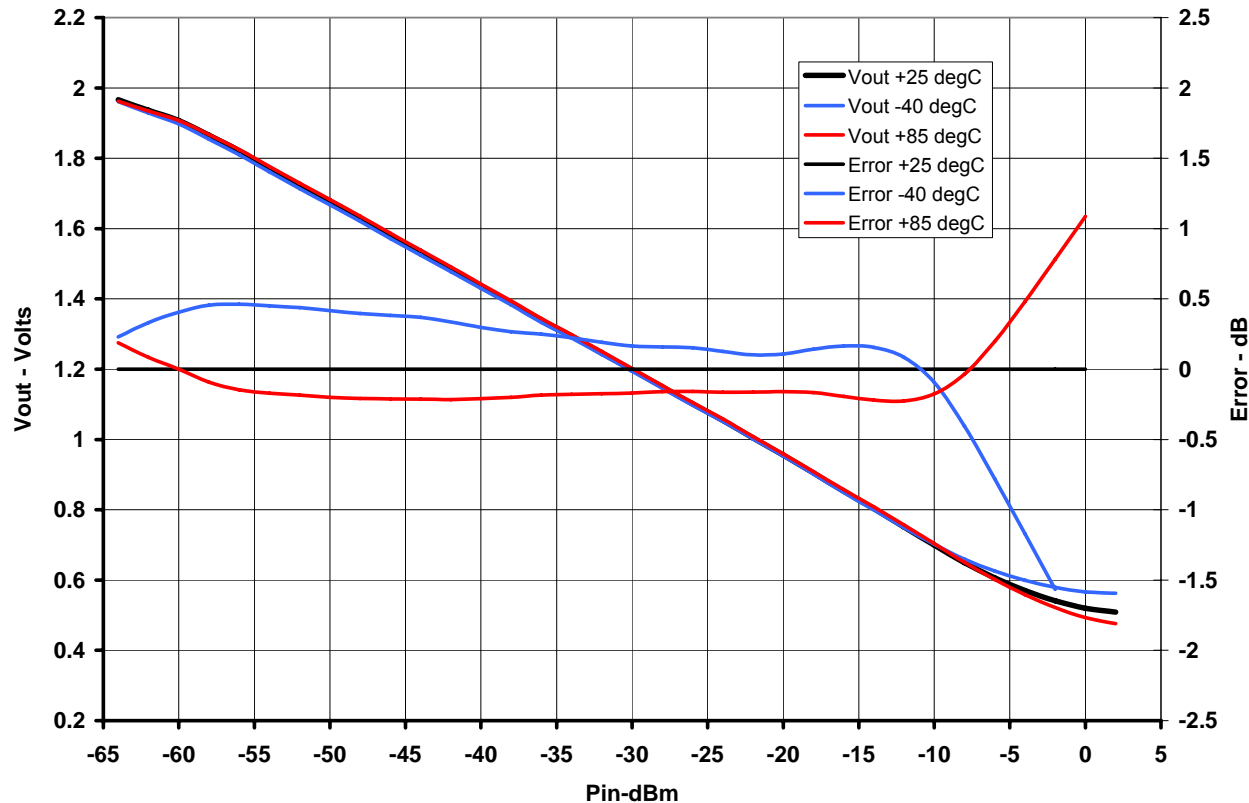
- ❑ **Factory Calibration:** Using a precise power source, measure output voltage from the detector with two known input powers at top and bottom of desired input range
- ❑ Perform calibration measurements only at room temperature
- ❑ Calculate SLOPE and INTERCEPT and store in non-volatile memory
- ❑ When equipment is in operation measure detector output voltage using ADC
- ❑ Calculate power using “ $P_{in} = (V_{out}/Slope) + Intercept$ ”
- ❑ No temperature compensation necessary

Adjust Calibration Points for optimal accuracy over a narrow range



Calibrate for highest accuracy at max RF power and degraded accuracy at lower powers

Temperature drift vs. Output Voltage at 25°C



□ Calibration eliminates error due to non-linearity at 25 °C



Temperature drift vs. Output Voltage at 25°C

- Removes error due to non-linearity at 25°C***
- Provides larger dynamic range and improved accuracy***
- Method however does not account for non-linearity in the transfer function at room temperature***
- For practical implementation, calibration measurements must be taken at multiple input powers (multi-point calibration vs. 2-point calibration)***

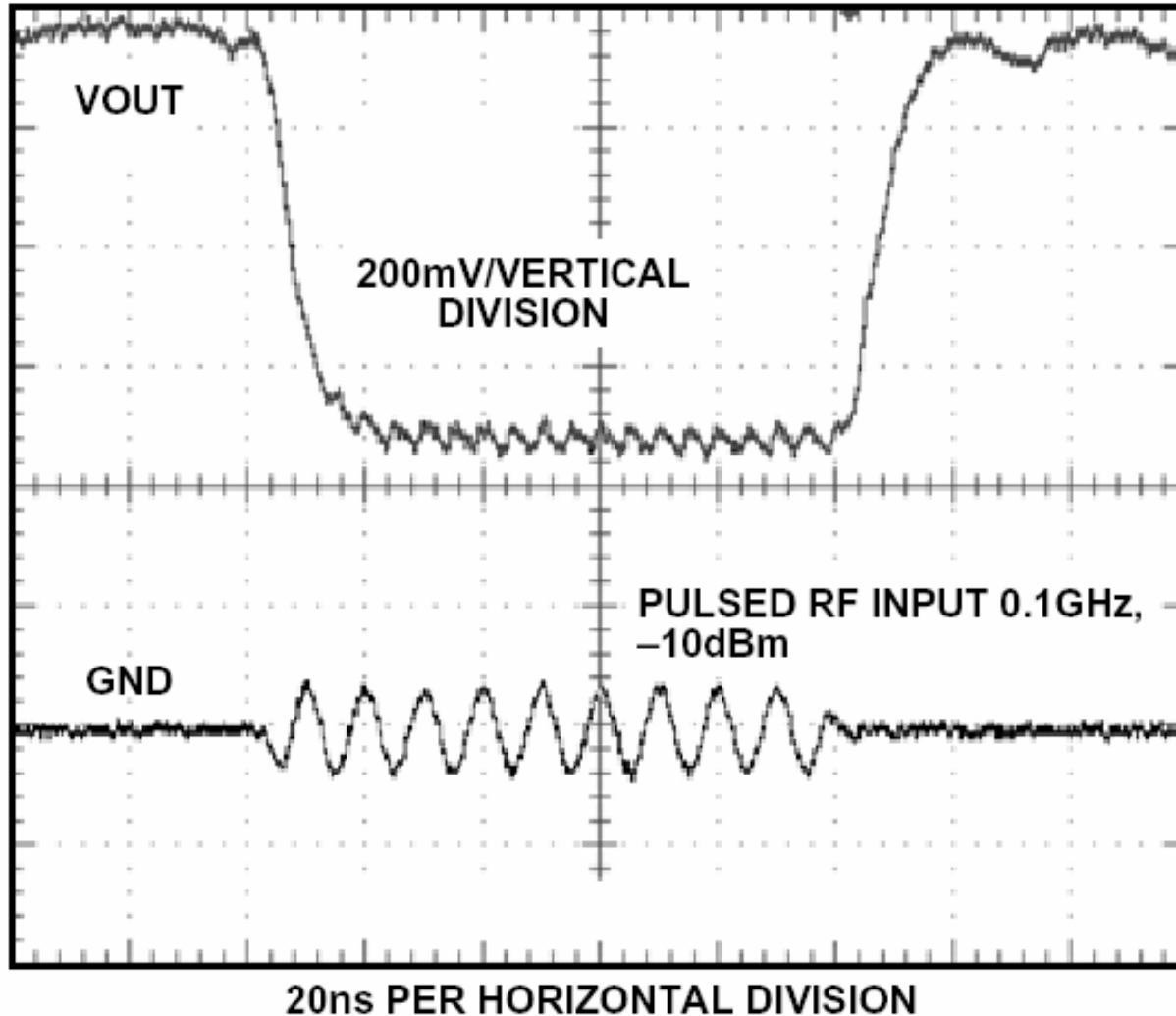


Log Amp Detectors vs. Diode Detectors

- ❑ **Log Amps have a higher dynamic range (40 dB or greater vs. 20-30 dB for a diode detector)**
- ❑ **Log Amps provide good temperature stability over a wide dynamic range.**
- ❑ **Diode detectors only provide good temperature stability at max input power (typically +15 dBm)**

Log Amp Pulse Response Time

10ns Response Time (10% - 90%)



2nd Generation Log Amp Detectors

| Part No. | RF Freq (MHz) | Dynamic Range (dB) | Temp Drift (dB) | Response Time (ns) | Package | Comments |
|----------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| AD8302 | dc to 2700 | 60 | ±1 | 60 | 14-lead TSSOP | Dual gain & phase detector |
| AD8306 | 5 to 400 | 100 | ±1 | 73 | 16-lead SOP | Military specified part available |
| AD8307 | dc to 500 | 92 | ±1 | 400 | 8-lead SOIC/DIP | - |
| AD8309 | 5 to 500 | 100 | ±1 | 67 | 16-lead TSSOP | Amplitude and limiter outputs |
| AD8310 | dc to 440 | 95 | ±1 | 15 | 8-lead MSOP | Low cost |
| AD8313 | 100 to 2500 | 70 | ±1.25 | 40 | 8-lead MSOP | - |
| AD8314 | 100 to 2700 | 45 | ±1 | 70 | 8-lead MSOP/CSP | Small package, lower power |

WIDEST RANGE AND BEST PERFORMANCE IN THE INDUSTRY!

3rd Generation Log Amp Detectors

| Part No. | RF Freq (MHz) | Dynamic Range (dB) | Temp Drift (dB) | Response Time (ns) | Package | Comments |
|----------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--|
| AD8317 | 1 to 10000 | 50 | ±0.5 | 8 | 8-Lead 3x2 mm CSP | Smaller package, Lower cost version of AD8318 |
| AD8318 | 1 to 8000 | 60 | ±0.5 | 10 | 16-Lead 4x4 mm CSP | 50 ohm drive, Integrated Temp Sensor |
| AD8319 | 1 to 10000 | 40 | ±0.5 | 8 | 8-Lead 3x2 mm CSP | Reduced dynamic range and lower cost version of AD8317 |
| ADL5519 | 1 to 10000 | 50 | ±0.5 | <10 | 24-Lead LFCSP | Dual Log Detector |

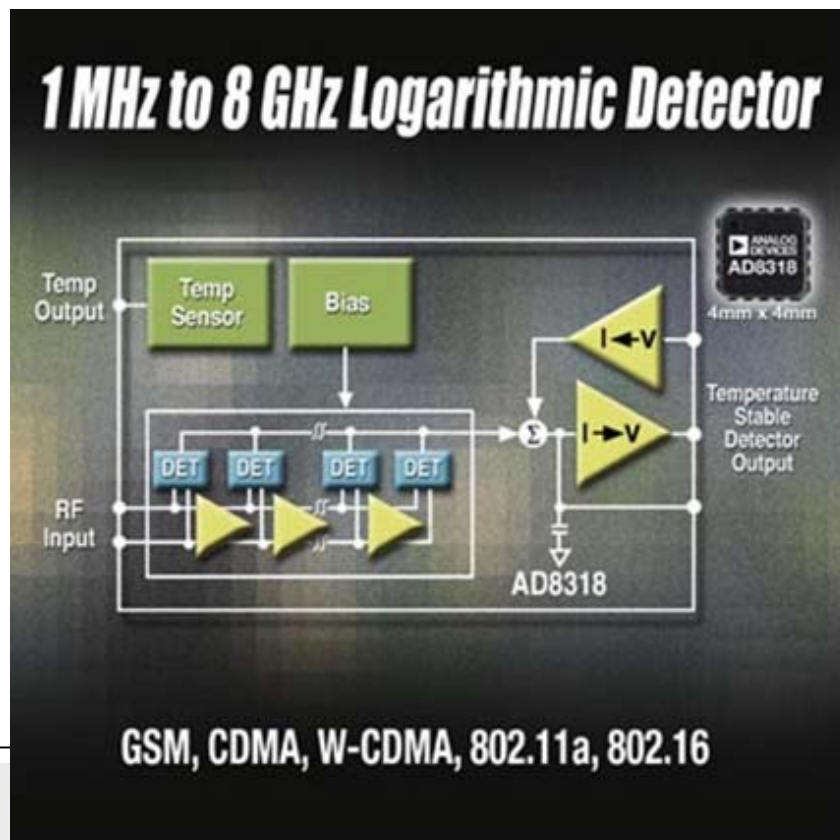
AD8318: Highest Performance Log Amp

KEY SPECIFICATIONS

- Bandwidth 1MHz to 8Ghz
- Stability over temperature: ± 0.5 dB
- Pulse response time 10 ns
- Package: 4mmx4mm, 16-pin LFCSP

FEATURES

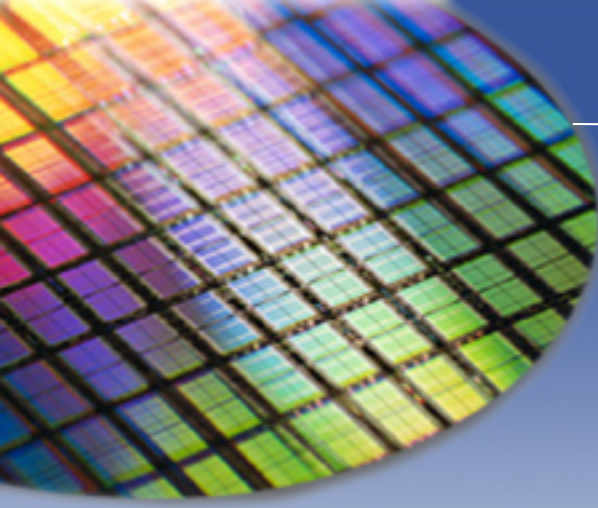
- Integrated temperature sensor
- Low noise measurement/controller output VOUT
- Power-down feature: < 1.5 mW at 5 V
- Fabricated using high speed SiGe process





Log Amps - Summary

- ❑ Provide power detection over large dynamic range (up to 100 dB)
- ❑ Operation from DC to 10 GHz
- ❑ With 2-Point Calibration, measurement accuracy of $\ll \pm 1$ dB is achievable.
- ❑ Devices are generally configured to provide a broadband 50 Ω match
- ❑ Pulse Response times of < 10 ns are achievable.
- ❑ Power consumption varies from 5 mA to 70 mA

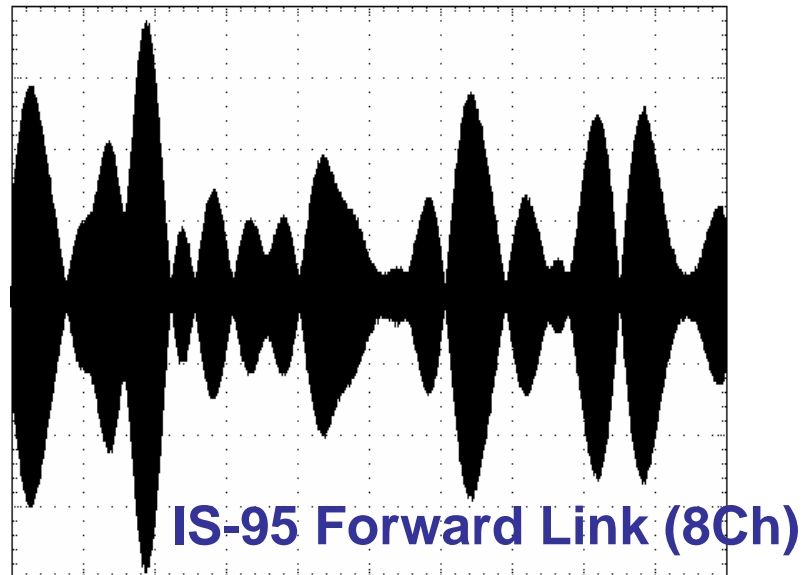
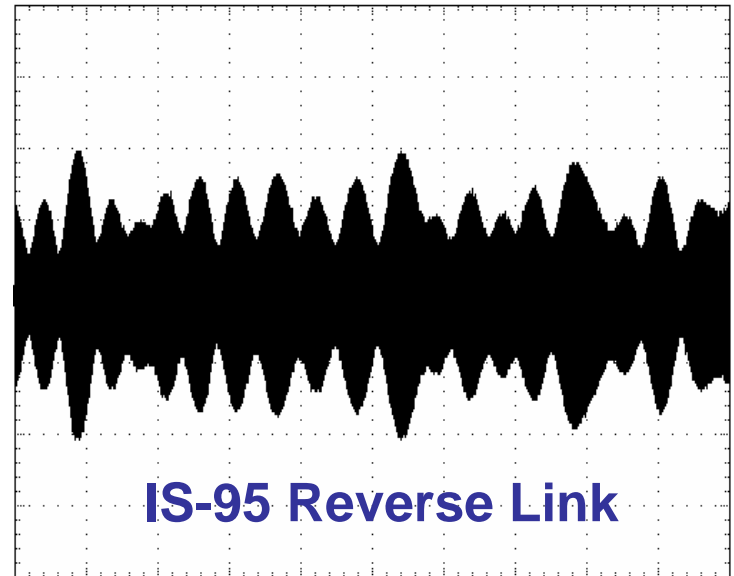
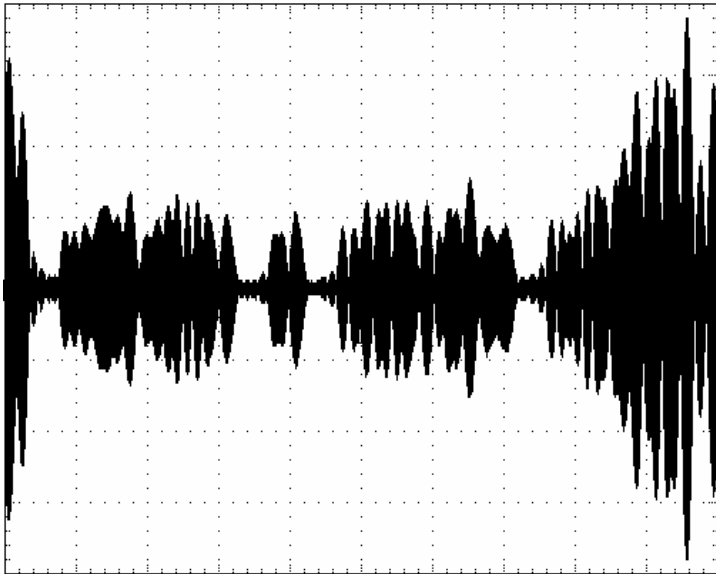


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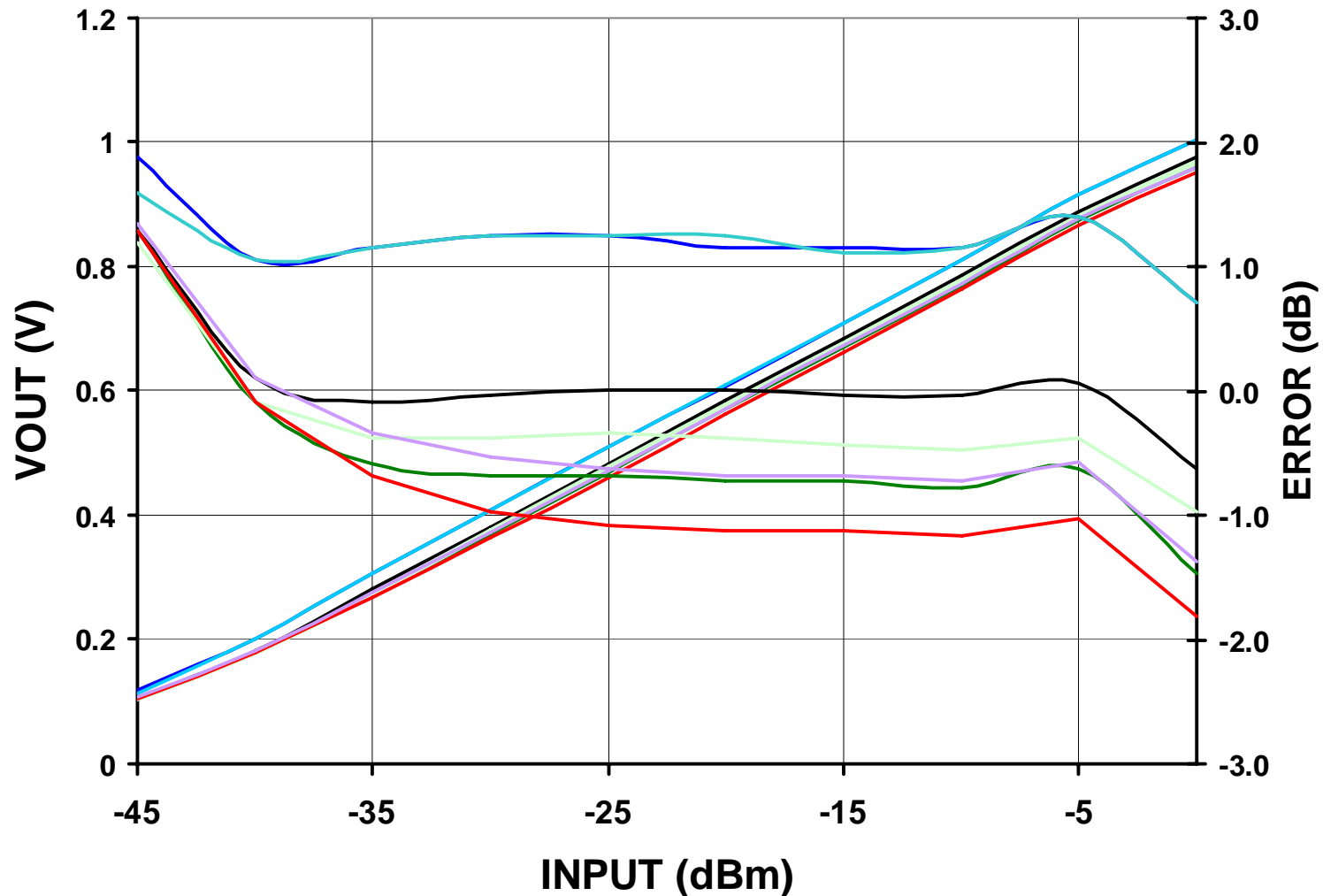
RMS-Responding RF Detectors

Difficult Measurements: Complex Waveforms

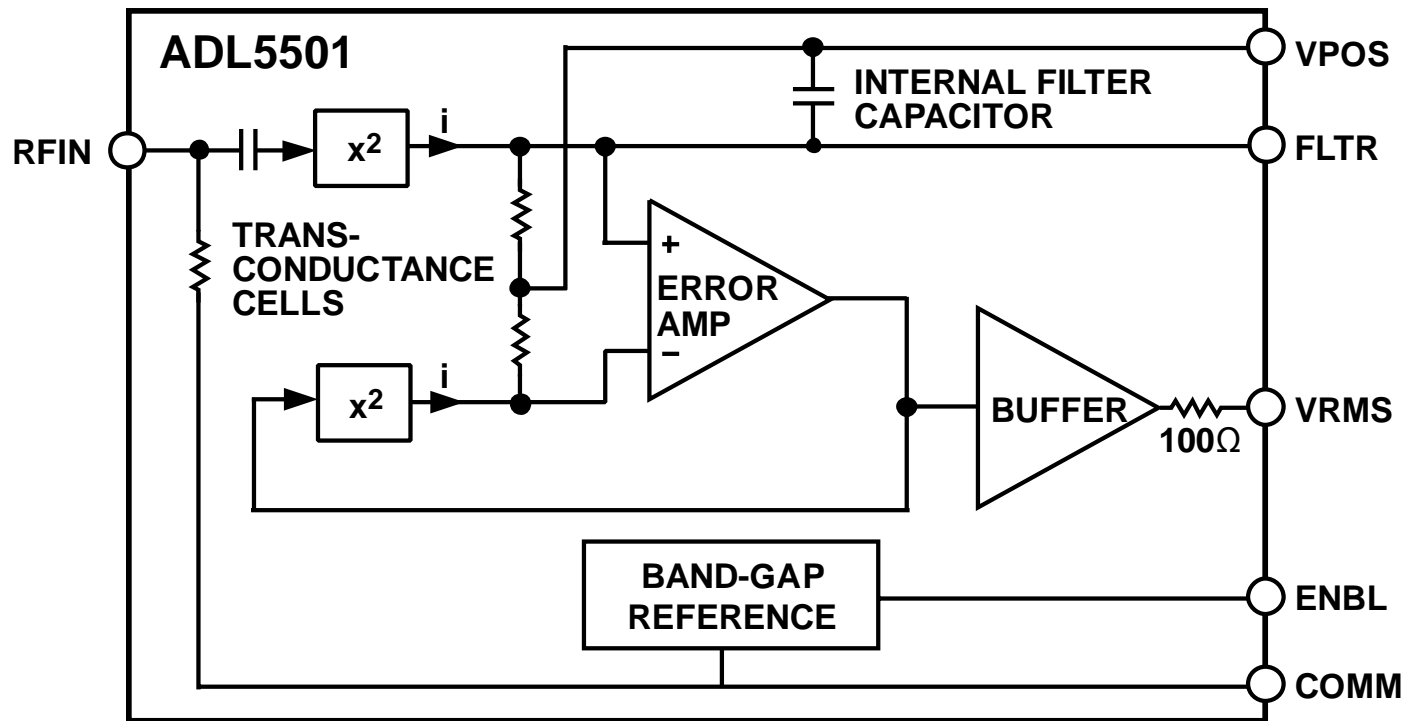
W-CDMA Forward Link, 4 Channels



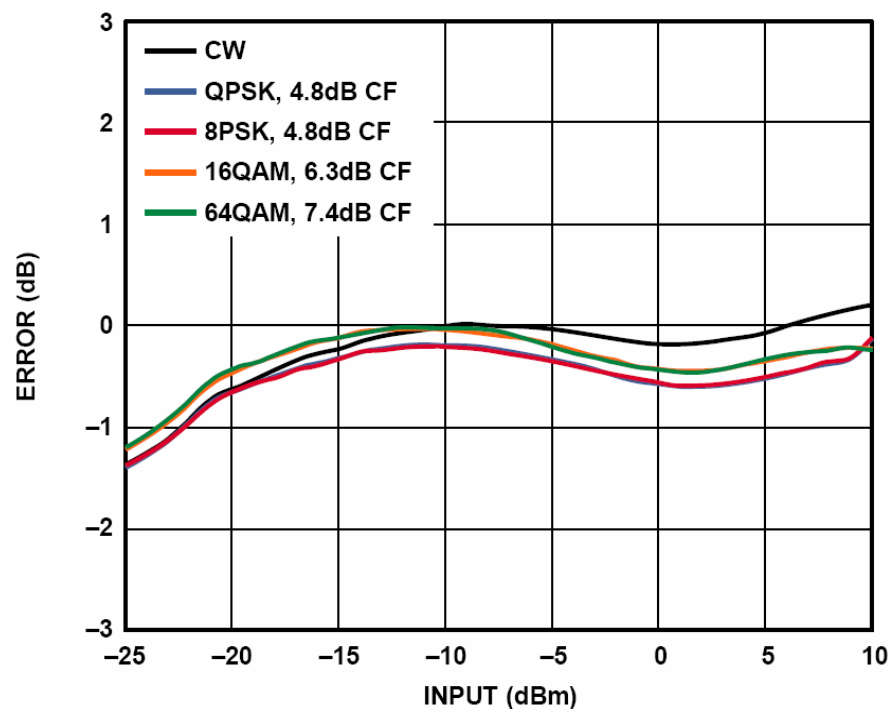
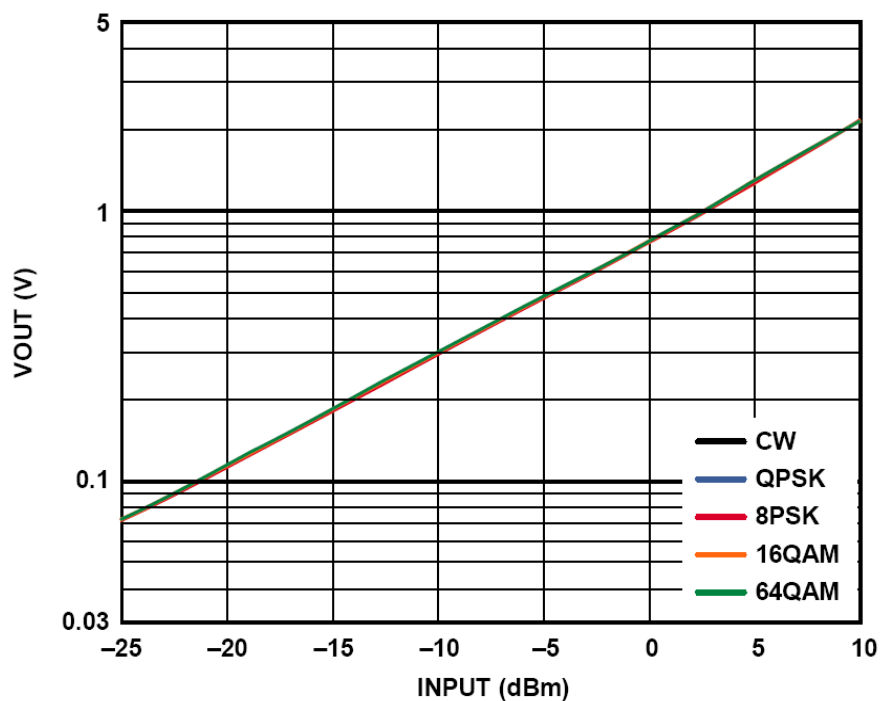
Response of a Successive Detection Log Amp to Varying Signals with Various Crest Factors



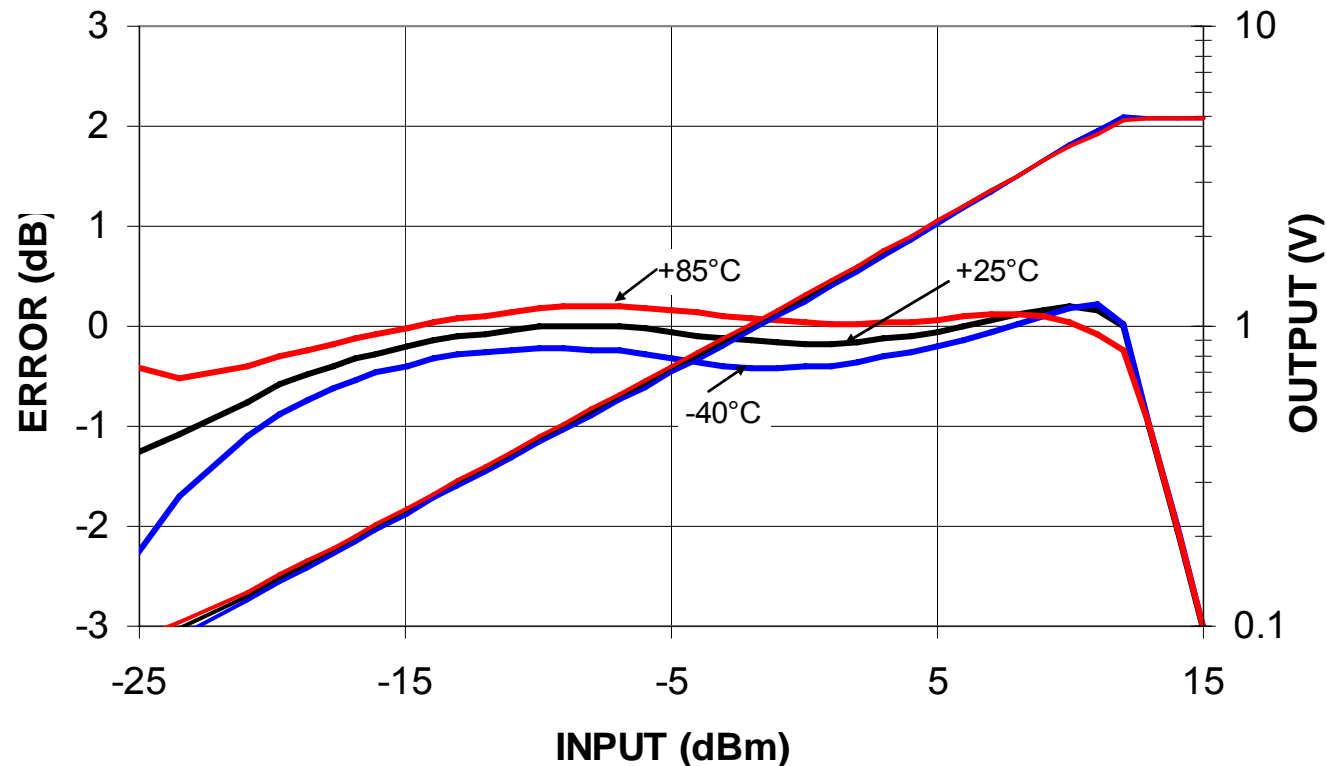
RMS-Responding RF Detector



RMS Detector Waveform Independence



Transfer Function and Temperature Drift RMS-To-DC Converter



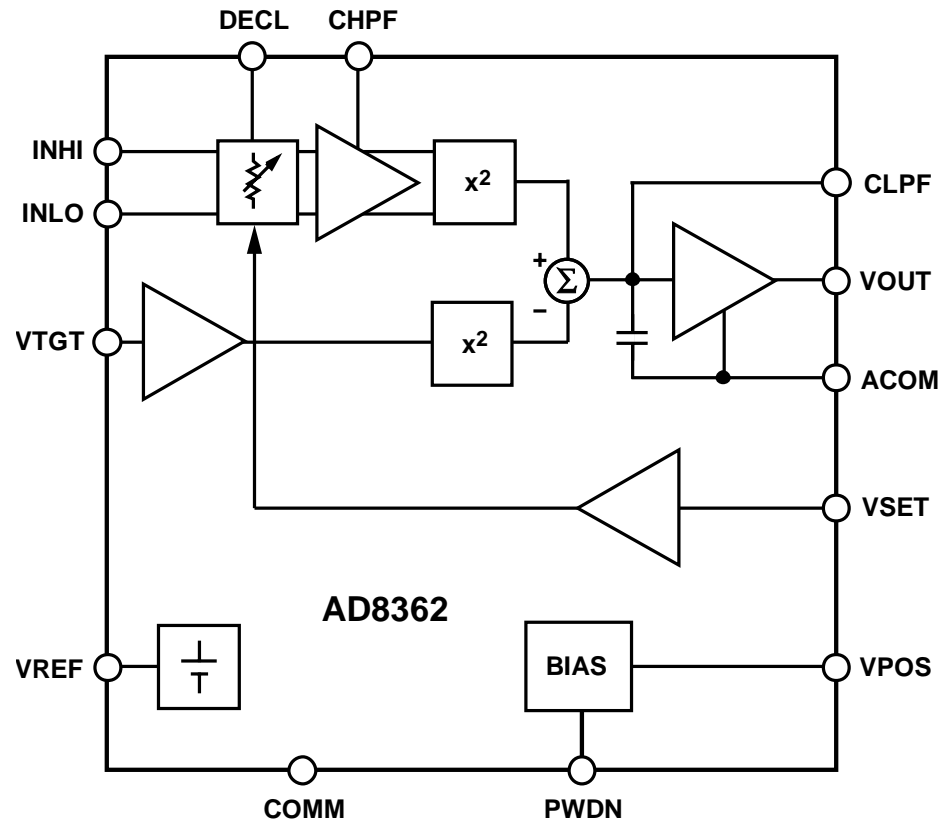
- ❑ Output Voltage increases exponentially as input increases in dB (i.e. response is linear in V/V, not logarithmic)
- ❑ Device achieves best temperature stability at max power (desirable for most applications)



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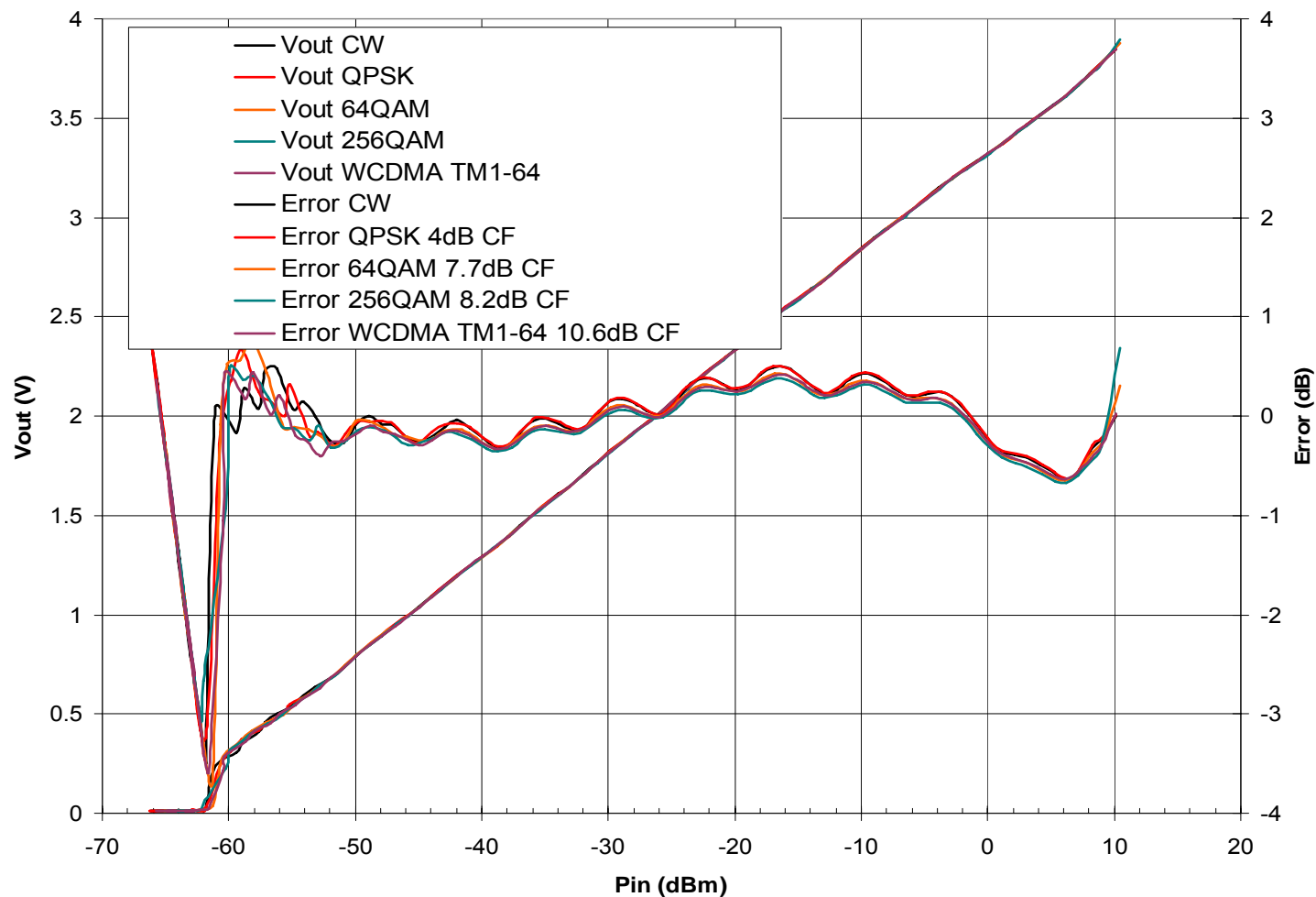
High Dynamic Range RMS Detection

60 dB TruPwr™ RMS Detector



- ❑ Waveform and Modulation Independent
- ❑ Linear-in-dB output

Response of AD8362 RMS Detector to CW, QPSK and QAM Signals



@1.9 GHz, $V_{tgt} = 0.625$ V

TruPwr™ RMS Detectors

- *Modulation Independent RF Measurements*

| Part# | RF Freq (MHz) | Dynamic Range (dB) | Temp Stability (dB) | Voltage Supply (V) | Supply Current (mA) | Package |
|------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| AD8361 | 2500 | 30 | ± 0.25 | 2.7 to 5.5 | 1.1 | 6-Lead SOT-23, 8-Lead uSOIC |
| ADL5501 | 4000 | 30 | ± 0.1 | 2.7 to 5.5 | 1.0 | SC-70 |
| AD8362 | 2700 | 60 | ± 1 | 4.5 to 5.5 | 20 | 16-Lead SOP |
| AD8364 (Dual Channel) | 2700 | 60 | ± 0.5 | 4.5 to 5.5 | 72 | 32-Lead LFCSP |

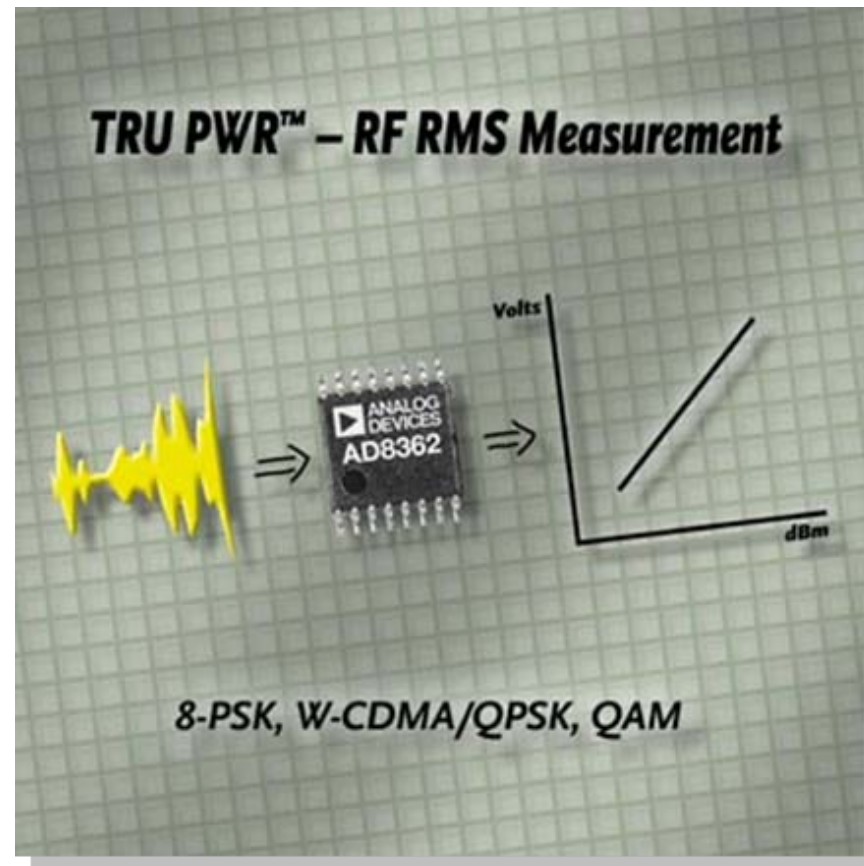
AD8362 TruPwr™ RMS Detector

KEY SPECIFICATIONS

- ❑ Dynamic Range: >60dB
- ❑ Temperature Stability: +/-1dB
- ❑ Frequency Range: LF to 2.7GHz
- ❑ Package: 16 Lead TSSOP

FEATURES

- ❑ True RMS responding power detector
- ❑ Waveform and Modulation Independent
- ❑ Linear-in-dB output

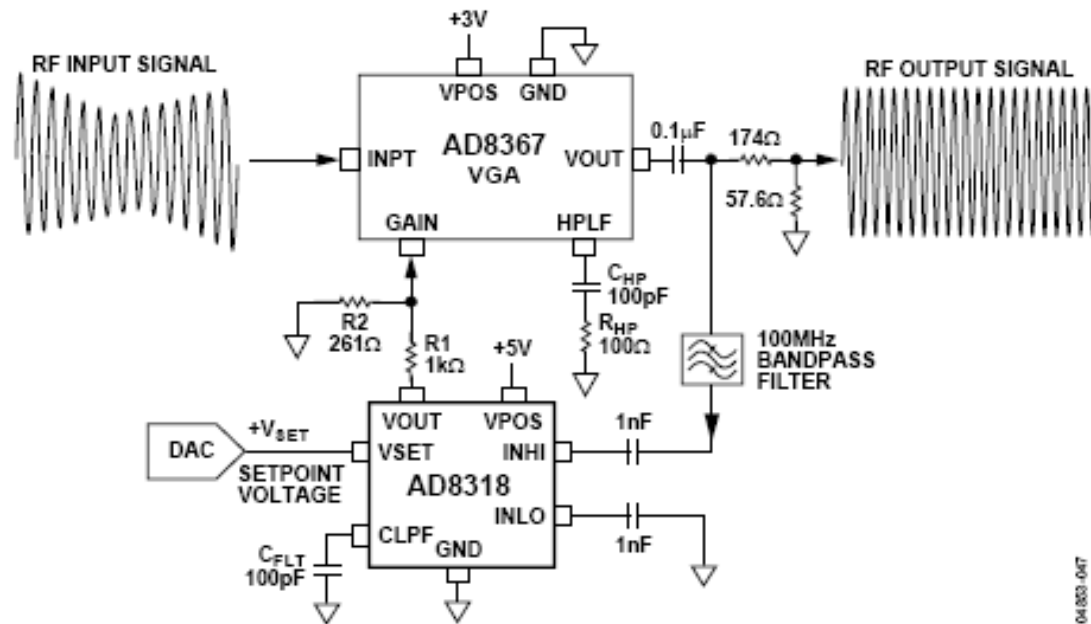




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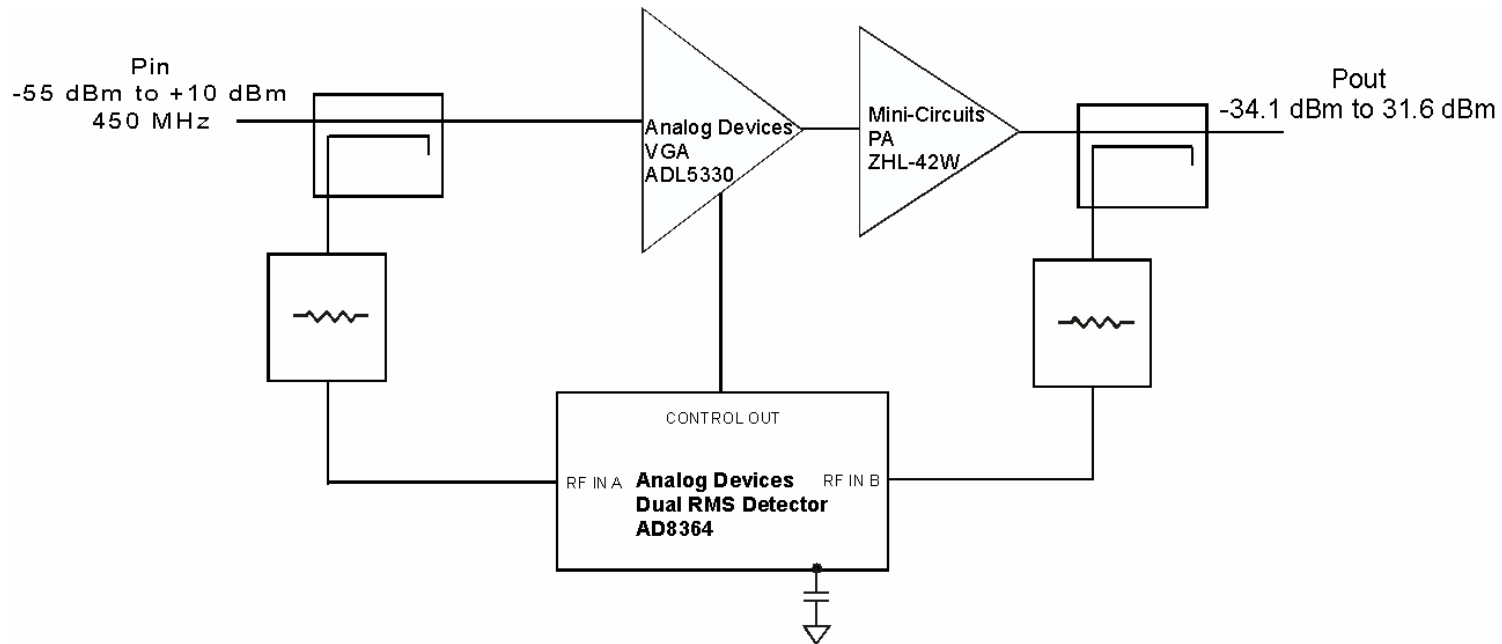
Controlling AGC Loops with RF Detectors

A Practical AGC Loop using a Log Amp



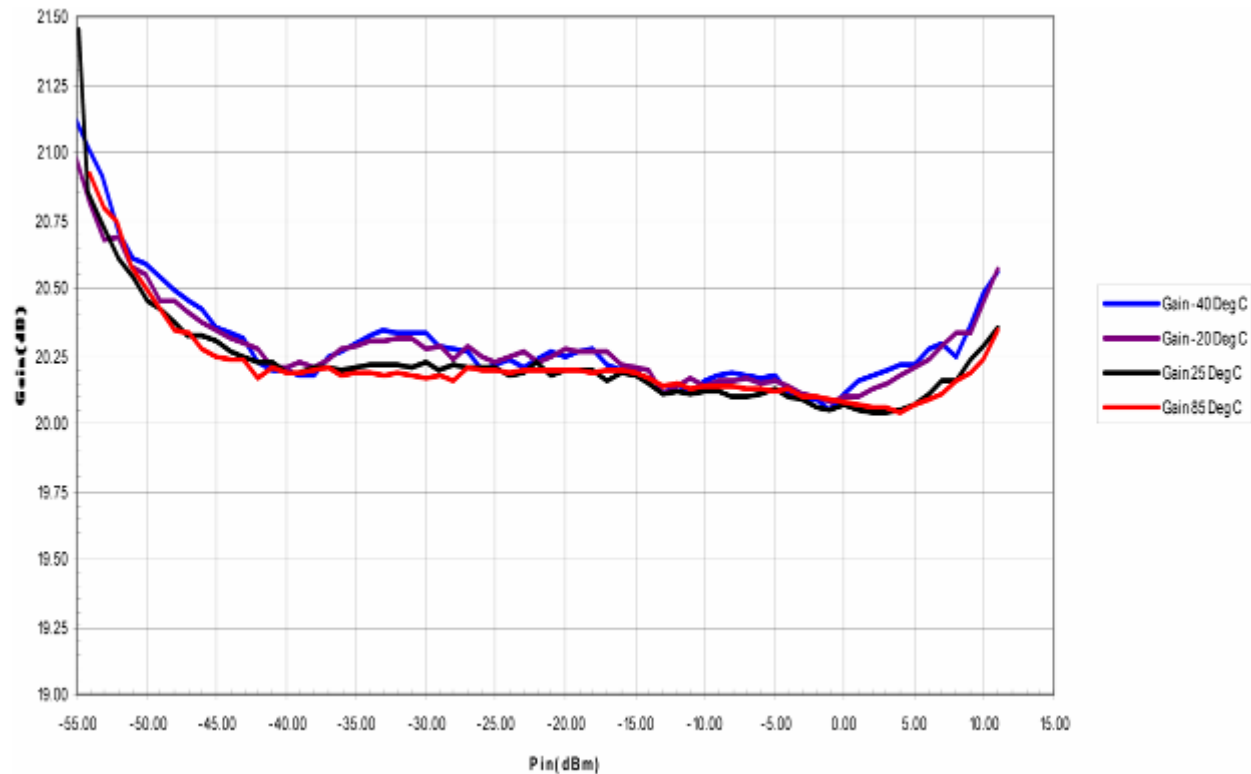
- ❑ Setpoint is applied to Detector VSET input
- ❑ Vout varies up or down to balance loop
- ❑ Use to set output to a fixed value (fixed VSET, variable input power) or to vary output power (variable VSET, fixed or variable input power)
- ❑ Set response time of loop by varying Cflt

Controlling Gain with a Dual RMS Detector

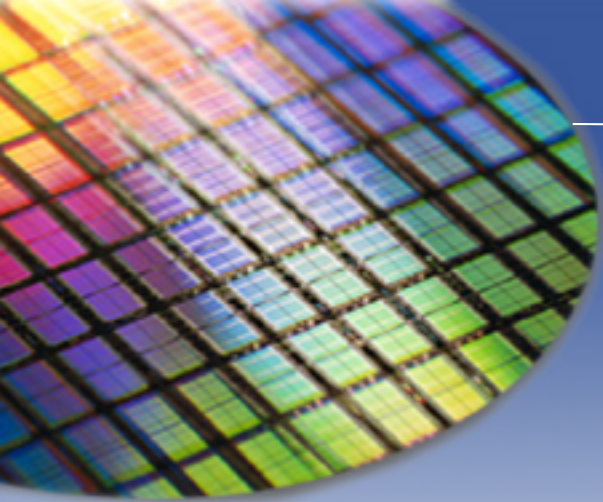


- ❑ Dual RMS Detector can also operate in Controller Mode
- ❑ Detector measures and controls VGA in an analog loop
- ❑ Detector tries to balance input power at its two RF inputs
- ❑ Gain setpoint is controlled by difference in external attenuators

Gain vs. Input Power for Analog Gain Control Loop



- Gain varies by only ± 0.25 over a 60 dB input range
- Excellent stability over temperature



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Carlos Calvo
carlos.calvo@analog.com
781-937-1850