



REVIEW

# The state of the art in beyond 5G distributed massive multiple-input multiple-output communication system solutions [version 1; peer review: 1 approved, 2 approved with reservations]

E. Meyer<sup>1</sup>, D. Kruglov<sup>2</sup>, M. Krivic<sup>3</sup>, M. Tanveer<sup>1</sup>, R. Argaez-Ramirez<sup>2</sup>, Y. Zhang<sup>2</sup>, A. Briseno Ojeda<sup>4</sup>, K. Smirnova<sup>4</sup>, K. Alekseev<sup>1</sup>, M. Safari Mugisho<sup>5</sup>, B. Cimbili<sup>5</sup>, N. Farid<sup>1</sup>, Y. Dang<sup>1</sup>, M. Shahid<sup>1</sup>, M. Ensan<sup>1</sup>, J. Banar<sup>2</sup>, H. Bao<sup>2</sup>, M. Matters-Kammerer<sup>1</sup>, U. Gustavsson<sup>6</sup>, F. Demuynck<sup>3</sup>, T. Zwick<sup>4</sup>, M. Acar<sup>7</sup>, C. Fager<sup>2</sup>, M. van der Heijden<sup>7</sup>, M. Ivashina<sup>2</sup>, D. Caratelli<sup>8</sup>, M. Hasselblad<sup>9</sup>, C. Ulusoy<sup>4</sup>, A.B. Smolders<sup>1</sup>, K. Eriksson<sup>6</sup>, M. Johansson<sup>6</sup>, R. Maaskant<sup>2</sup>, R. Quay<sup>5</sup>, D. Floriot<sup>10</sup>, M. Bao<sup>6</sup>, L.A. Bronckers<sup>1</sup>, J. Fridén<sup>6</sup>, M.C. van Beurden<sup>1</sup>, B.P. de Hon<sup>1</sup>, C. Kolitsidas<sup>6</sup>, D. Blanco<sup>6</sup>, F.M.J. Willems<sup>1</sup>, T. Eriksson<sup>2</sup>, A. Filippi<sup>7</sup>, F. Ponzini<sup>11</sup>, U. Johannsen<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Eindhoven University of Technology, Den Dolech 2, 5612 AZ Eindhoven, The Netherlands

<sup>2</sup>Chalmers University of Technology, Chalmersplatsen 4, 412 96 Göteborg, Sweden

<sup>3</sup>Keysight Technologies, Kortrijksesteenweg 1093B, 9051 Gent, Belgium

<sup>4</sup>Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, 6131 Karlsruhe, Germany

<sup>5</sup>Fraunhofer Institute for Applied Solid State Physics, IAF, Tullastraße 72, 79108 Freiburg, Germany

<sup>6</sup>Ericsson AB, Lindholmospiren 11, 417 56 Göteborg, Sweden

<sup>7</sup>NXP Semiconductors, High Tech Campus 60, 5656 AG Eindhoven, The Netherlands

<sup>8</sup>The Antenna Company, High Tech Campus 29, 5656 AE Eindhoven, The Netherlands

<sup>9</sup>Gapwaves, Nellickevagen 22, 412 63 Gothenburg, Sweden

<sup>10</sup>United Monolithic Semiconductors SAS, Bâtiment Charmille, Mosaic parc de Courtaboeuf, 10 avenue du Québec, 91140, Villebon-sur-Yvette, France

<sup>11</sup>Ericsson Telecomunicazioni SpA, Via Anagnina 203, 00118 Rome, Italy




**V1** First published: 02 Sep 2022, 2:106  
<https://doi.org/10.12688/openreseurope.14501.1>  
 Latest published: 02 Sep 2022, 2:106  
<https://doi.org/10.12688/openreseurope.14501.1>

## Abstract

Beyond fifth generation (5G) communication systems aim towards data rates in the tera bits per second range, with improved and flexible coverage options, introducing many new technological challenges in the fields of network architecture, signal processing, and radio frequency front-ends. One option is to move towards cell-free, or distributed massive Multiple-Input Multiple-Output (MIMO) network architectures and highly integrated front-end solutions. This

## Open Peer Review

Approval Status   

	1	2	3
version 1 02 Sep 2022	 view	 view	 view

1. Jagadeesh Babu kamili, St. Ann's College of Engineering & Technology, Chirala, India

paper presents an outlook on beyond 5G distributed massive MIMO communication systems, the signal processing, characterisation and simulation challenges, and an overview of the state of the art in millimetre wave antennas and electronics.

### Keywords

Millimetre-wave communication, MIMO, Antennas-in-Package, System-in-Package, beyond-5G




This article is included in the [Marie-Sklodowska-Curie Actions \(MSCA\)](#) gateway.



This article is included in the [Horizon 2020](#) gateway.



This article is included in the [Wireless Communications](#) collection.

2. **Daniyal Ali Sehrai** , University of Oviedo, Gijon, Spain
3. **Rashmi Sinha** , National Institute of Technology Jamshedpur, Jamshedpur, India
- Santosh Kumar Mahto**, Indian Institute of Information Technology Ranchi, Ranchi, India

Any reports and responses or comments on the article can be found at the end of the article.

**Corresponding authors:** E. Meyer ([e.meyer@tue.nl](mailto:e.meyer@tue.nl)), D. Kruglov ([dmitrii.kruglov@chalmers.se](mailto:dmitrii.kruglov@chalmers.se))

**Author roles:** **Meyer E:** Conceptualization, Project Administration, Supervision, Visualization, Writing – Original Draft Preparation, Writing – Review & Editing; **Kruglov D:** Investigation, Project Administration, Visualization, Writing – Original Draft Preparation, Writing – Review & Editing; **Krivic M:** Investigation, Project Administration, Visualization, Writing – Original Draft Preparation, Writing – Review & Editing; **Tanveer M:** Investigation, Writing – Original Draft Preparation, Writing – Review & Editing; **Argaez-Ramirez R:** Investigation, Writing – Original Draft Preparation, Writing – Review & Editing; **Zhang Y:** Investigation, Writing – Original Draft Preparation, Writing – Review & Editing; **Briseno Ojeda A:** Investigation, Writing – Original Draft Preparation, Writing – Review & Editing; **Smirnova K:** Investigation, Writing – Original Draft Preparation, Writing – Review & Editing; **Alekseev K:** Investigation, Writing – Original Draft Preparation, Writing – Review & Editing; **Safari Mugisho M:** Investigation, Writing – Original Draft Preparation, Writing – Review & Editing; **Cimbili B:** Investigation, Writing – Original Draft Preparation, Writing – Review & Editing; **Farid N:** Investigation, Writing – Original Draft Preparation, Writing – Review & Editing; **Dang Y:** Investigation, Writing – Original Draft Preparation; **Shahid M:** Investigation, Writing – Original Draft Preparation, Writing – Review & Editing; **Ensan M:** Investigation, Writing – Original Draft Preparation, Writing – Review & Editing; **Banar J:** Investigation, Writing – Original Draft Preparation, Writing – Review & Editing; **Bao H:** Investigation, Writing – Original Draft Preparation, Writing – Review & Editing; **Matters-Kammerer M:** Resources, Supervision, Writing – Review & Editing; **Gustavsson U:** Resources, Supervision, Writing – Review & Editing; **Demuyck F:** Resources, Supervision, Writing – Review & Editing; **Zwick T:** Resources, Supervision, Writing – Review & Editing; **Acar M:** Resources, Supervision, Writing – Review & Editing; **Fager C:** Resources, Supervision, Writing – Review & Editing; **van der Heijden M:** Resources, Supervision, Writing – Review & Editing; **Ivashina M:** Resources, Supervision, Writing – Review & Editing; **Caratelli D:** Resources, Supervision, Writing – Review & Editing; **Hasselblad M:** Resources, Supervision, Writing – Review & Editing; **Ulusoy C:** Resources, Supervision, Writing – Review & Editing; **Smolders AB:** Resources, Supervision, Writing – Review & Editing; **Eriksson K:** Resources, Supervision, Writing – Review & Editing; **Johansson M:** Resources, Supervision, Writing – Review & Editing; **Maaskant R:** Resources, Supervision, Writing – Review & Editing; **Quay R:** Resources, Supervision, Writing – Review & Editing; **Floriot D:** Resources, Supervision, Writing – Review & Editing; **Bao M:** Resources, Supervision, Writing – Review & Editing; **Bronckers LA:** Resources, Supervision, Writing – Review & Editing; **Fridén J:** Resources, Supervision, Writing – Review & Editing; **van Beurden MC:** Resources, Supervision, Writing – Review & Editing; **de Hon BP:** Resources, Supervision, Writing – Review & Editing; **Kolitsidas C:** Resources, Supervision, Writing – Review & Editing; **Blanco D:** Resources, Supervision, Writing – Review & Editing; **Willems FMJ:** Resources, Supervision, Writing – Review & Editing; **Eriksson T:** Resources, Supervision, Writing – Review & Editing; **Filippi A:** Resources, Supervision, Writing – Review & Editing; **Ponzini F:** Resources, Supervision, Writing – Review & Editing; **Johannsen U:** Conceptualization, Project Administration, Resources, Supervision, Writing – Review & Editing

**Competing interests:** No competing interests were disclosed.

**Grant information:** This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 860023.

**Copyright:** © 2022 Meyer E *et al.* This is an open access article distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

**How to cite this article:** Meyer E, Kruglov D, Krivic M *et al.* **The state of the art in beyond 5G distributed massive multiple-input multiple-output communication system solutions [version 1; peer review: 1 approved, 2 approved with reservations]** Open Research Europe 2022, 2:106 <https://doi.org/10.12688/openreseurope.14501.1>

**First published:** 02 Sep 2022, 2:106 <https://doi.org/10.12688/openreseurope.14501.1>

## 1 Introduction

Fifth generation (5G) networks aim to achieve a thousandfold data rate improvement with respect to the capability of fourth generation (4G) networks. From an engineering point of view, this goal requires an increase in the frequency bandwidth of operation for higher channel capacity and the number of antennas per base station for improved spectral efficiency<sup>1</sup>. Distributed Massive Multiple-Input Multiple-Output (DM-MIMO), discussed in [Section 2](#), is considered the most promising concept for future communication networks. Its distributed nature, large number of up- and downlink channels, and increased path loss in mmWave range pose serious problems for adequate signal processing. [Section 3](#) outlines the current state-of-the-art Distributed MIMO techniques and architectures, and discusses the multi-physics simulation issues rising from the growing scale of the problem.

For a MIMO system to work, the base stations must have versatile beamforming capabilities. In practice, this means large number of antennas closely packed in arrays, where each antenna is connected to a corresponding channel in the beamforming integrated circuit (IC). [Section 4](#) describes the most prominent issues in antenna design at higher frequencies and state-of-art solutions. Transceiver ICs must produce enough power, while being as efficient as possible, since the losses scale with the number of array elements. A transceiver chain has to be linear, have high-gain, high output power, and a wide frequency band. It is impossible to maximize all these parameters simultaneously, and so trade-offs are made specific to application and use case. Several challenges also exist on a component specific level, therefore [Section 5](#) outlines the state-of-art, challenges and requirements for the mmWave electronics in future communication networks.

## 2 Distributed massive MIMO

Over the past few decades, increasing the number of access points (APs) and antennas per AP has been an enabling factor to increase the data rate in wireless cellular networks. This approach would result in having smaller cells often with massive arrays of receiving/transmitting antennas to take advantage of the spatial reuse of the spectrum<sup>2</sup>. Employing massive array of antennas per AP not only increases the high sum spectral efficiency but also leads to simultaneously providing good service to many user equipments (UEs)<sup>3</sup>.

A conventional wireless network is typically divided into cell regions, and categorizes UEs into the cell-center and cell-edge classes. These two subsets of UEs could experience different path losses leading to varied quality of service in the network. This problem has been addressed in the distributed massive MIMO (DM-MIMO) networks where a large number of APs are located across the service area and simultaneously provide service for the UEs. Therefore, UEs would benefit from a more uniform quality of service due to the diversity in the experienced pathloss from different APs. The cooperation among APs discards the cellular structure in this distributed network. As a result, in the literature, this network is also referred to as cell-free massive MIMO<sup>4</sup>. In a DM-MIMO network, APs in a service area are connected to a central

processing unit (CPU) through a network of fronthaul links. In general, CPU in this network provides data for the APs and ensures cooperation and synchronization among them.

Distributed beamforming holds the potential for enhancing energy efficiency to a great extent in wireless networks. MIMO techniques have proved to be remarkable in enhancing both the capacity and energy efficiency of a wireless communication system and is a key technology enabler in current mobile wireless networks<sup>5,6</sup>. However, because all the antennas are co-located the line of sight (LOS) conditions between base station and user cause high correlation among various users and proves to be a bottleneck for a system throughout<sup>5,6</sup>. An alternate method is to increase the spatial degrees of freedom of each MIMO channel by making use of a concept called distributed. Distributed MIMO simultaneously achieves suppression of multiuser interference via spatial decoding and dense coverage such that a subset of the antennas is always present close to the user<sup>5-7</sup>.

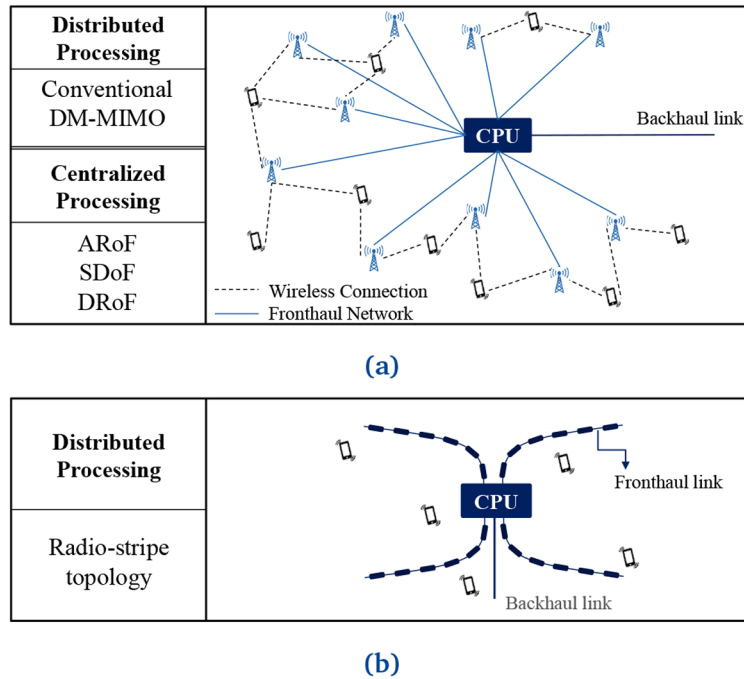
The promising performance metrics of massive MIMO such as power efficiency and spectral efficiency can only be realized to maximum extent if it is operated in rich scattering environments i.e. each of the channels from a base station to a single user are significantly different<sup>7</sup>. Thus, distribution of the antennas over a cell proves to be a straightforward solution to achieve low channel correlation. Ideally, a user being serviced simultaneously by multiple front ends will always have LOS conditions with at least one of them, while the network would be adaptive enough to respond to the user. Among others, benefits in favour of this topology are low latency, high throughput, and diversity of applications that can be serviced<sup>7</sup>.

### 2.1 Architectures of distributed MIMO

In the last couple of years, various kinds of DM-MIMO architectures have been proposed and in few cases implemented to demonstrate proof of concept<sup>5-10</sup>. Speaking from point of view of how signal processing component of MIMO is implemented, these architectures can be broadly classified into two categories, distributed and centralized signal processing, as shown in [Figure 1](#).

In distributed signal processing, both CPU and APs are involved in signal processing and communicate with each other via cables or optical fibers<sup>5,6,10</sup>. In these architectures common clock or timing synchronisation is often provided via IEEE 1588 protocol or more recently white rabbit scheme<sup>5</sup>.

Besides the general form of DM-MIMO implementation (see [Figure 1\(a\)](#)), radio stripe architecture (see [Figure 1\(b\)](#)) was proposed for dense scenarios, e.g., stadiums, stations and malls, by Ericsson in Mobile Congress 2019<sup>11</sup>. In radio stripes, multiple APs share one fronthaul cable for synchronisation, data transmission and power supply. The APs located in each of the stripes form a line network. These line networks can also be seen between some of the APs and the CPU in the general form of the DM-MIMO network. This architecture falls under the category of distributed processing DM-MIMO in the sense that each access point is supposed to have dedicated circuitry



**Figure 1. An overview of different processing approaches.** Conventional Distributed Massive Multiple-Input Multiple-Output (DM-MIMO) networks such as analog radio, radio frequency or digital over fiber (ARoF, SDoF and DRoF respectively) in (a). Radio-stripes topology in (b).

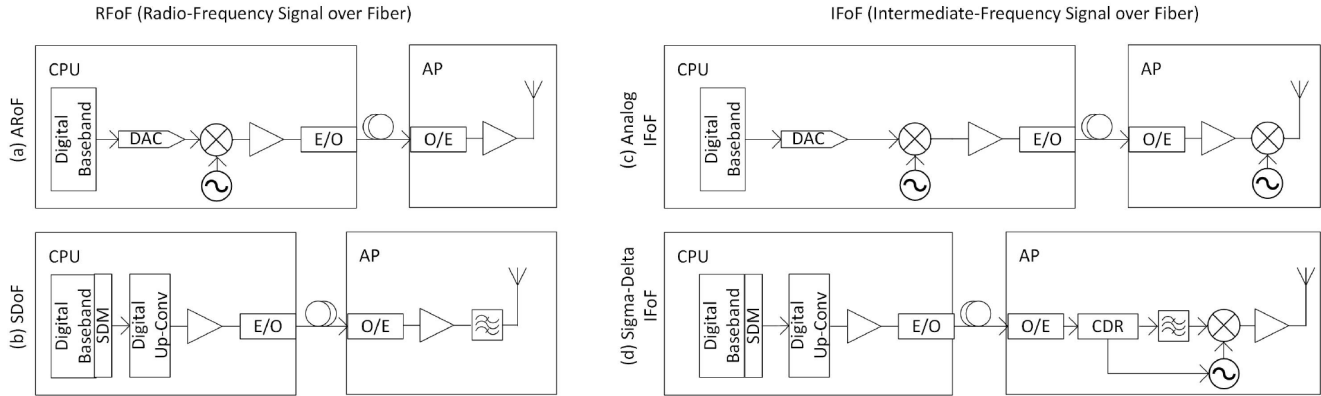
for digital signal processing (DSP) and the analog-to-digital or digital-to-analog converters (ADC/DAC) implemented<sup>10</sup>. It also requires common timing signals to be distributed in a similar way and suffers from the same limitation of not having common local reference frequency for the distributed front ends. However, from logistic point of view it is much more feasible to implement, as it requires only one cable from CPU to attach to many APs. Multiplexing/demultiplexing additionally needs to be performed at both the CPU and access point to make this topology successful.

The other architecture is classified as centralized signal processing for DM-MIMO – also see Figure 1. In this category of architectures<sup>8,9</sup>, all the signal processing is done at CPU while the APs consist of just the Radio Frequency (RF) front ends. No timing synchronisation is required in this case as the center of all APs is located at the CPU. Frequency synchronisation in this case is applicable only when the front ends at APs consist of some upconversion to higher frequencies. In the absence of an upconversion stage at the APs, a common local oscillator (LO) is distributed by the CPU. Electrical to optical and optical to electrical converters are used respectively on either side of fiber. The AP only consists of RF front ends that consist of power amplifiers, low noise amplifiers, antennas, switches, and filters.

One of the topologies to implement central processing distributed MIMO is analogue radio over fiber (ARoF)<sup>8</sup>. In 12,

radio frequency over fiber (RfOF) and intermediate frequency over fiber (IFoF) are shown for analogue radio solutions in Figure 2 (a) and (c) respectively. Analog radio receives analog signal from fiber as keeping digital to analog converter (DAC) at CPU. Occasionally, the ARoF architecture can also include mixers and local oscillators to transmit at higher frequencies. ARoF is advantageous for its optical spectral efficiency and simple remote radio unit architectures<sup>12</sup>. However, it has a drawback to being sensitive to nonlinear distortions and fiber transmission impairments that can cause large phase incoherency between the channels, especially if the frequency carrying the data in the optical fiber is high. Thus, this can lead to a more frequent need of performing calibration that would degrade system data throughput.

A combination of analog radio over and digital radio over fiber architectures called sigma-delta over fiber (SDoF)<sup>9</sup> has recently been demonstrated as another central processing DM-MIMO topology. In this case, the AP contains minimal components. The digital data at the CPU is not converted to analogue data but gets up-converted in the digital domain and then modulate the optical frequency, which at the other end after being demodulated is passed through a bandpass filter to recover the radio frequency (RF) passband frequency as shown in Figure 2 (b). This topology combines the advantages of digital radio over fiber in that it has much less sensitivity to non-linearities and distortion. However, the SDoF topology has a limitation of being employed at lower frequency bands.



**Figure 2. Analogue Radio over Fiber (ARoF) and Sigma-Delta over Fiber (SDoF) architectures.** CDR, Clock Data Recovery; AP, Access Point; DAC, Digital Analog Converter; CPU, Central Processing Unit; IFoF, Intermediate-Frequency signal over Fiber; SDM, Sigma-Delta Modulation.

For frequencies 28 GHz and above, additional mixers would be needed at each of the access points which would necessitate either common LO distribution architecture to be implemented or to carry out synchronization algorithms similar to architectures employed for distributed processing DM-MIMO; thus losing on the advantages that were gained in ARoF topology. Additionally, transmitter oversampling is proportional to RF therefore not suitable for FR2 or above frequency bands. Figure 2 (d) shows the state-of-the-art design for mmWave SDoF topology.

Besides the above discussion, a distributed 4-by-4 MIMO was demonstrated as a state-of-the-art mmWave communication radio design as in Figure 3. This system supports 1 GHz bandwidth for 1 km distance and also commercially worked for PyeongChang 2018 Olympic Winter Games<sup>13</sup>. In the CPU, an intermediate signal is generated for downlink communication. Then, the main hub unit (MHU) combines it with the clock and management (C&M) signal in a dedicated frame structure to transmit it through fiber. The transceivers (TRx) receives the optical signal for the AP intermediate frequency (IF) unit which does signal processing and upconversion to get the mmWave signal. Finally, the array antenna radiates wireless signal into the open air. C&M signal helps to synchronize radios for MIMO applications.

In summary, distributed processing architecture does clock or timing synchronization by following the standard protocol as being widely used in industry. In comparison, centralized processing architecture simplifies synchronization in general, and becomes a hot topic in the research area. Furthermore, in centralized processing architecture, ARoF has the simplest radio structure while RoF is the most complex solution; SDoF does not need DAC by implementing one-bit digital signal in the algorithm.

### 3 Signal processing for distributed massive MIMO

#### 3.1 Synchronization and calibration

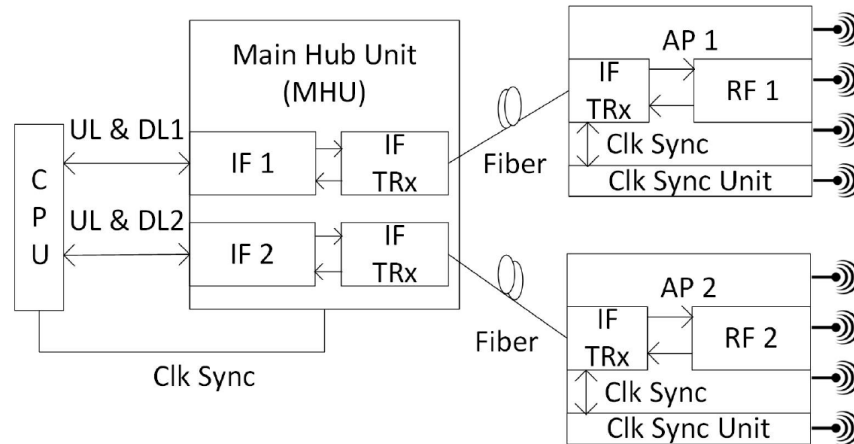
In a communication system, the receiver must be synchronized with the incoming signal to work correctly, and its

performance is related to the accuracy of the synchronization. Synchronization includes timing synchronization and carrier synchronization between the receiver and the incoming signal. Timing synchronization is the receiver's procedure for determining the time instants for sampling the incoming signal. Carrier synchronization is the receiver's procedure to adapt the local oscillator's carrier frequency and phase with those of the received signal. Generally, there is no prior knowledge about the transmitted signal related to the physical wireless channel or propagation delay for a wireless receiver. Furthermore, low-cost oscillators typically used in communication receivers have some drift.

Combining the benefits of "massive MIMO" and "small cells" will result in a wireless network architecture named DM-MIMO. In 6, a cost-effective scenario is expressed that included inexpensive APs connected to the CPU via a conventional wired digital backbone. An accurate, common clock for synchronizing the APs is needed using over-the-air signaling or a wired backhaul network.

In the context of an uplink-pilot/downlink-precoded transmission cycle, each AP individually processes the observed uplink pilots transmitted by UEs through a synchronization block. Each AP estimates the uplink channel and communicates this to the CPU through a digital backhaul network. The CPU is, therefore, able to calculate the DM-MIMO precoding matrix. In the downlink transmission phase, the precoded signal at each AP is calibrated. The calibration step compensates for the mismatches caused by the transmitter and receiver AP hardware, such as the non-reciprocal amplitude scaling and phase rotations. On the same time-frequency slot, all the APs in the DM-MIMO network send data simultaneously.

Synchronization is performed for uplink and downlink operations. The synchronization block in the AP synchronizes the frame and carrier frequency to transmit and receive on the assigned time slots. Jointly precoded APs send simultaneously downlink data that passed the synchronization block to the UEs. In this AP block, the timing misalignment and the



**Figure 3. Distributed Radio over Fiber (RoF) Multiple-Input Multiple-Output (MIMO) system.** CPU, Central Processing Unit; TRx, Transceivers; AP, Access Point; IF, Intermediate Frequency; UL, Uplink; DL, Downlink.

relative phase rotation of the downlink signal are compensated through some signal processing algorithms. These algorithms estimate the received signal parameters affected by a timing offset and carrier frequency offset to compensate them.

Due to the Time Division Duplex (TDD) used in massive-MIMO systems, the physical propagation channel can be approximated as reciprocal, which means the same channel is used in both the uplink pilot slot and the downlink data slot. Then, it is feasible to attain the downlink Channel State Information (CSI) via channel reciprocity based on the uplink pilots. While, the propagation channel between the transmitter and receiver's antenna is reciprocal, the hardware is not reciprocal, and there are an unknown amplitude scaling and phase shift between the uplink and downlink channels. A built-in self-calibration capability does not exist in the typical commercial grade radios, and nonreciprocity between the receiver and the transmitter hardware is rectified explicitly via a TDD reciprocity calibration protocol.

Calibration is used to compensate for the difference between uplink and downlink RF front-end components. In centralized massive-MIMO, antennas are placed near each other, and additional circuits can provide the reciprocity calibration. But there are two methods for reciprocity calibration in distributed massive-MIMO: full calibration and partial calibration<sup>14</sup>. In full calibration, an AP can determine its own mismatch matrix and the user equipment (UE) mismatch matrix using the downlink CSI feedback from the UE<sup>6</sup>. In partial calibration, only the AP mismatch matrix is determined to achieve multi-user interference suppression. The UE mismatch matrix effect is considered negligible due to its little impact on functional systems performance. This calibration method can be planned besides synchronization<sup>15</sup>.

### 3.2 Signal compression and quantization

In practice, the fronthaul links connecting APs and the CPU typically have limited capacity which impacts the spectral efficiency in a DM-MIMO network. Therefore, performing signal

compression techniques on the fronthaul load becomes a necessity. In general, APs' uplink observations are independently compressed and transmitted to the CPU over the capacitated fronthaul links. The CPU decompresses the received signals from each AP separately, and then performs joint decoding of UEs messages. The compression codebook at each AP is determined based on the AP's channel state information. Taking into the account that APs' observations are correlated, it is possible to further reduce the fronthaul rate by exploiting this correlation using distributed Wyner-Ziv compression. In this compression scheme, each AP will be required to have knowledge of the joint statistics of observations across all APs in order to determine the optimal joint compression codebook. Consequently, decompression and decoding will be performed jointly for all APs' relayed signals at the CPU. Choosing the optimal joint compression codebook for all APs is challenging and the fact that statistics in a wireless network change rapidly makes this compression approach rather impractical<sup>16</sup>. A more practical compression method is proposed in 17 for scenarios with imperfect statistical knowledge of the correlation among APs' observations. The compression problem is formulated based on a deterministic worst-case scenario and the solution is found by solving Karush-Kuhn-Tucker conditions. Numerical results in 17 have shown that sizeable errors in the statistical information at the APs are tolerable and would not severely affect the distributed compression performance among APs.

In some distributed architectures, including radio-stripes, APs are fairly simple units consisting of antennas and circuit-mounted chips while the CPU is responsible for the baseband processing<sup>11</sup>. These structures are addressed in the literature of oblivious relaying where APs operate without knowledge of UEs codebooks. Randomized encoding is used in the literature to model the communication over the wireless links (to take into the account the lack of codebook knowledge at the APs) and a type of compress-and-forward scheme including distributed Wyner-Ziv compression is implemented throughout the fronthaul links<sup>18-20</sup>. Among other compression

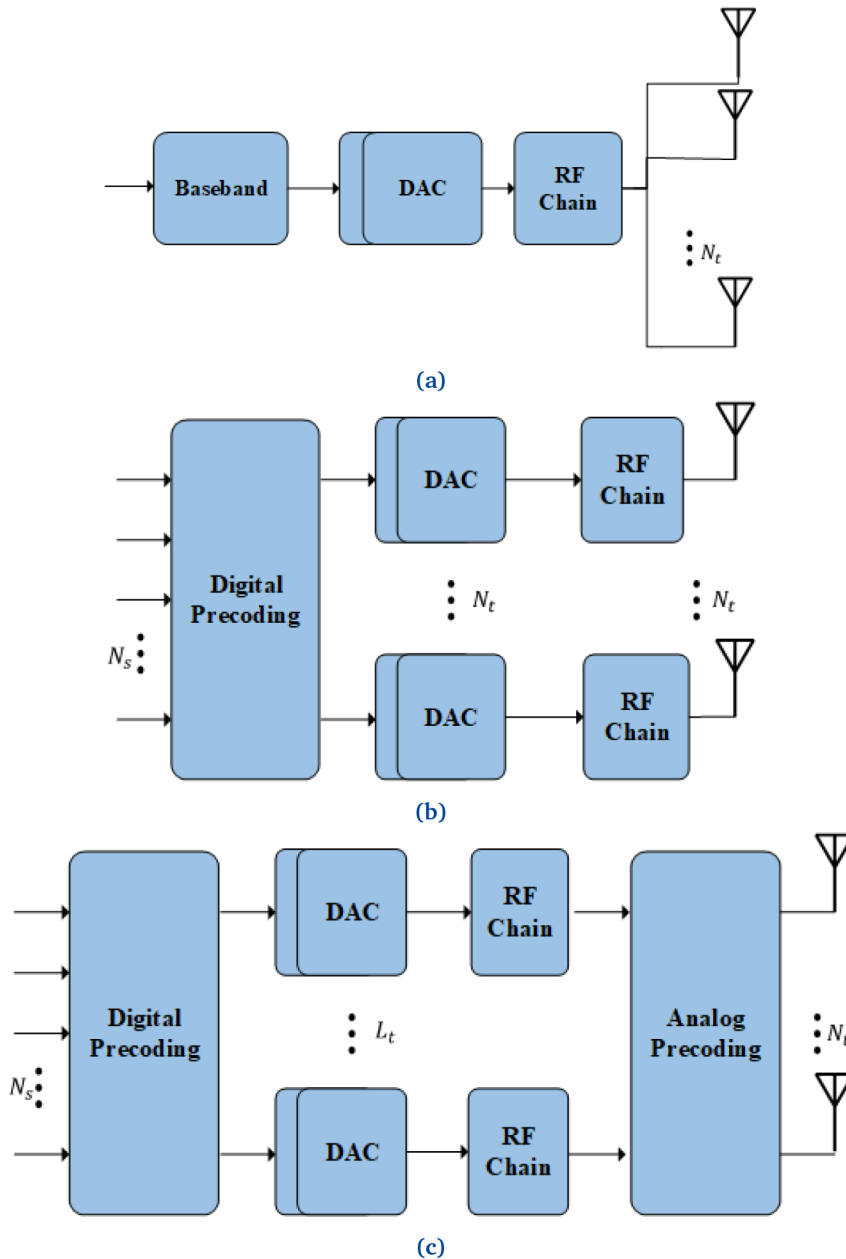
techniques are decode-and-forward<sup>21</sup> and compute-and forward<sup>22</sup> where APs are constrained to have knowledge of the codebooks employed by UEs. The rates provided by these schemes can sometimes be higher than the ones based on oblivious processing. Although, as the number of APs and UEs increases in the network, the signaling overhead to provide knowledge of UEs codebooks at the APs and performing encoding/decoding can become excessive.

### 3.3 Precoding and channel estimation

The design of precoding schemes is highly essential for mmWave massive MIMO cellular systems. Precoders optimize

the network’s performance using interface cancellation in advance, controlling the original signal’s phase and/or amplitude. This process is also known as beamforming. The primary purpose of this procedure is to transmit highly directional beams pointing to the terminals with minimal or no interference. The selection of the precoding scheme affects the signal processing design and the performance of MIMO systems. The precoding schemes can be classified into three (Figure 4):

*Analogue precoding:* In this scheme, only one RF chain is employed to transmit a single data stream, leading to relatively low hardware cost and energy consumption. The analog circuit is



**Figure 4.** Precoding architectures: (a) Analog, (b) Digital and (c) Hybrid. With  $N_s$  data streams,  $N_t$  total number of antennas and  $L_t \ll N_t$ . DAC, Digital Analog Converter; RF, Radio Frequency.



used to adjust the properties of the signals to achieve an array gain. However, since the analog circuit uses phase shifters to adjust the phase of the signal, as shown in Figure 4(a), their implementation at mmWave frequencies incurs higher loss. Moreover, an extension of this scheme to multiuser systems seems not trivial<sup>23</sup>, and so it cannot be used for mmWave massive MIMO networks. Nevertheless, this scheme has been adopted in indoor mmWave communications, such as 60 GHz WLAN<sup>24</sup>.

*Digital precoding:* this precoding is performed at baseband, where each antenna requires a dedicated RF chain<sup>25</sup>. Hence, it can be employed in both single-user and multiuser systems. The scheme has been used by conventional MIMO systems, but becomes unrealistic for mmWave massive MIMO systems. Firstly, the high resolution ADC/DAC needed are extremely power hungry. Secondly, this architecture requires  $N_t$  copies of the entire radio front-end, as shown in Figure 4(b), increasing the power consumption and manufacturing cost. Therefore, although the fully digital architecture for mmWave massive MIMO systems might be available in the future, alternative schemes are required for emerging mobile networks.

*Hybrid Precoding:* the architecture depicted in Figure 4(c) was agreed to be employed in 5G systems at the 3GPP RAN1 meeting<sup>26</sup>. It can be considered an extension of the analog architecture to the multi-stream scenario and can significantly reduce the number of RF chains. The main idea is to divide the conventional digital signal processing of large size into two parts: an analog signal processing stage (realized by the analog circuit) and a dimensional reduced digital signal processing (requiring a small number of RF chains). The hybrid precoding design is known to improve the energy efficiency (EE) of the system<sup>27,28</sup>. The analog circuits in this scheme can be implemented in different circuit topologies, such as the fully-connected, partially-connected, and lens antenna array<sup>25,29,30</sup>. The various implementations of analog circuits lead to different hardware constraints.

*Channel state information (CSI)* is essential to leverage the antenna gain provided by multiple antennas specially on mobile communications where the channel changes rapidly. With a conventional digital scheme at the receiver, the use of pilots to acquire CSI is the most common technique to use. For hybrid architectures, on which the signal processing is split into analog and digital part, the former is used to enhance the signal power and the latter is designed to suppress inter-user interference<sup>31-33</sup>. However, the CE is rather complicated since the information on each antenna cannot be extracted simultaneously. Additionally, as the dimension of the channel matrix increases, in the context of mmWave frequencies, the operations required to perform the CSI acquisition involve higher computational complexity. To cope with this problem, one of the techniques recently used is the exploitation of spatial sparsity and temporal correlation of massive MIMO channels. Nevertheless, it is still difficult to design efficient algorithms compared to conventional MIMO systems given the additional hardware

constraints that the use of a hybrid scheme brings. That is why, the joint design of CE and precoding/combining algorithms, as well as network architecture tailored to mmWave massive MIMO systems is still an open research topic.

### 3.4 Multiple access techniques

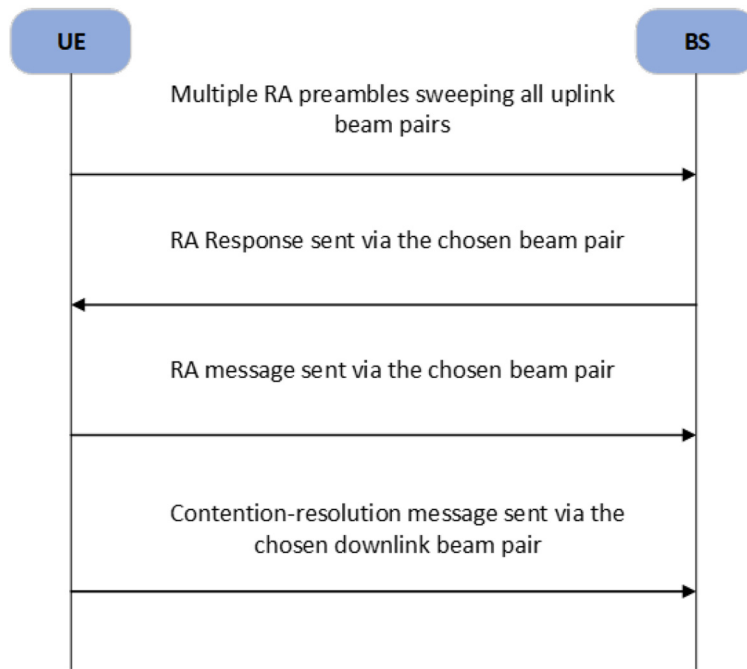
One key component in communication systems is the multiple access technique that it employs.

*Non-Orthogonal Multiple Access (NOMA):* in this scheme, the time-frequency resources of each user are allocated based on two regimes: power-based and code-based. Recent research has shown the potential of this technique in combination with mmWave massive MIMO systems implementing hybrid precoding. MIMO-NOMA reaches a better performance in terms of achievable sum-rate and robustness when compared with conventional MIMO systems. The main idea is that one beam can support several users with the help of intra-beam superposition coding and successive interference cancellation (SIC)<sup>34,35</sup>. Therefore, the challenge is to design optimum power allocation algorithms that can achieve a higher sum-rate.

*Random Access (RA):* to fully exploit the beamforming gain, the beam direction and the channel path of both the user and base station (BS) must be aligned. Using the beam quality estimation and information exchange between the UE and BS, the beam can be successfully aligned. A random access procedure in mmWave cellular networks is illustrated in Figure 5. However, there are certain moments when the best beam direction cannot be known a priori, as is the case of initial access. Most initial techniques can be classified into six groups: exhaustive search, iterative search, statistical, meta-heuristics, context-information based, and machine learning. All these techniques attain to search for the best beam pair between the user and the BS. The last four strategies mentioned also decreased the delay caused by searching in all directions, such as their counterparts exhaustive and iterative research. This delay must be small to meet some requirements for low end-to-end latency in subsequent communication systems. Initial access is still considered an open issue<sup>36</sup>.

### 3.5 Channel emulation for OTA verification

Performance of DM-MIMO highly depends on the characteristics of the propagation channel. Higher path loss, atmospheric attenuation, rain-induced fading, foliage attenuation, material penetration loss, and ease of blockage are some of the propagation challenges when migrating from microwave to mmWave frequencies<sup>37,38</sup>. Specifically, the electromagnetic waves will undergo less diffraction implying increased losses due to blocking which will result in a sparse multipath channel. Furthermore, the predicted outline for mmWave applications covers a wide range of user scenarios, namely indoor environments, outdoor environments, indoor-to-outdoor scenarios, and high mobility scenarios<sup>39-43</sup>. This translates into diverse propagation channels that differ vastly from each other in terms of power delay profile, delay spread, Doppler spread, and power angle profile. With decreased patchy coverage each use case is more



**Figure 5. The Random Access (RA) procedure in mmWave beamforming cellular networks.** BS, Base Station; UE, User Equipment.

specific than at lower frequencies where diffraction smears out the angular power profile. The device performance will vary more between use cases and even between actual installations, hence, evaluating the performance under realistic channel conditions with controlled angular profile is of great importance.

Considering the small component size and high integration of antenna systems as well as the large number of antenna elements, performing conducted tests is not feasible at mmWaves<sup>44</sup>. To carry out reliable and repeatable Over-The-Air (OTA) measurements, the behavior of the propagation channel should be emulated in a controlled laboratory environment. Anechoic Chambers (AC) and Reverberation Chambers (RC) are two test facilities widely used for this aim. By utilizing Multi-Probe Anechoic Chamber (MPAC)<sup>45,46</sup> and Radiated Two-Stage (RTS)<sup>47–49</sup> methods, OTA measurements are executed inside an AC. Limitations of the aforementioned methods are that they require a large number of range antennas at mmWaves, the calibration procedure is complex and careful antenna characterization must be performed. The RC offers time-efficient, cost-effective, and more flexible measurement setup where a rich multipath environment with different Rician K-factors can be obtained<sup>50,51</sup>. The main challenge in this regard is introducing the lost angular dependencies which is the topic of ongoing research<sup>52,53</sup>. An ideal AC can be considered as a Gaussian channel with a line-of-sight link while an ideal RC imitates a Rayleigh channel and is spatially white. A real-life scenario is most probably in between these two corner cases. Considering the multitude of use cases with unique channel characteristics,

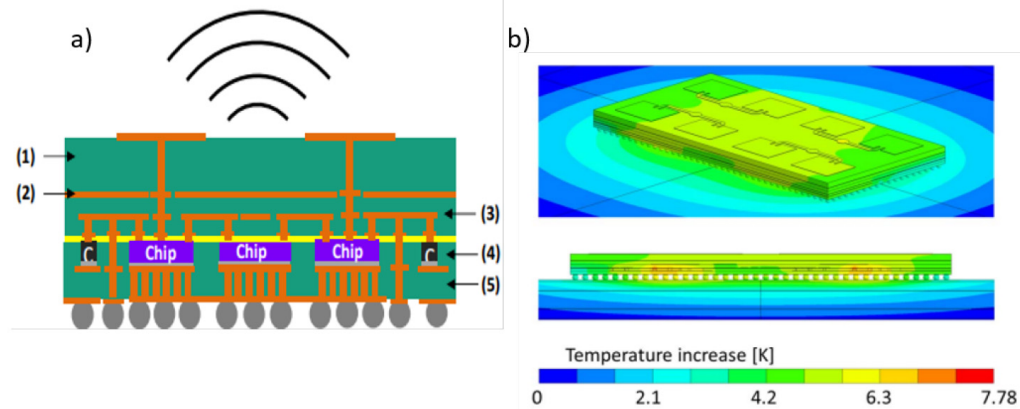
a need for channel emulation platform with capability to adapt to the desired scenario is foreseen.

### 3.6 Multi-physics simulation of MIMO systems

Multi-physics simulation can play an important role in the design and development of MIMO hardware architectures. This model technique can help to predict thermal and electrical properties in these complex multi-physics system thereby help in predicting thermal stress due to high temperature gradients and dissimilar thermal expansion coefficients which may lead to mechanical failures (e.g. delamination and lift-off<sup>54</sup>) and change in the EM properties of the materials which in turn affects signal and power integrity issues, such as clock skew, unintentional voltage drops, and spectrum shifts for filters and resonators<sup>55</sup>. In this way this advanced numerical method helps us to provide better design solutions with regards to thermal management and improved performance of communication systems. One such example as shown in [Figure 6b](#) demonstrates simulation result showing temperature distribution across different layers of AiP given in [Figure 6a](#).

It is therefore important to understand the resulting multi-physical modeling technique, its associated challenges and possible bottlenecks for the design and analysis of such integrated communications systems.

**3.6.1 Numerical modelling and simulation.** In the past few decades the development of numerical experimentation (numerical modelling and simulation method) as a powerful research tool<sup>56</sup> proved to be a very effective technique in modelling



**Figure 6.** a) Example of Antenna-in-Package (AiP) for 5G mmWave side view (left) and top view (right) 1) antenna layer; (2) shielding layer; (3) re-distribution/routing layer; (4) component layer; (5) temperature control layer; b) Example (AiP) showing simulation result of temperature distribution/increase due to 1W of power loss. ©2020 IEEE. Reprinted, with permission, from 57.

multi-physics phenomena across multiple time and length scales associated with electro-thermo-mechanical design of the present complex system.

With this powerful tool enabled by a recent advancement in the computing technology, it is now possible to develop models that can help to test the designs of hardware architecture (from antenna to base station) under different operating conditions required to meet the 5G challenges. It can thus help in rapidly prototyping and optimizing these designs before fabrications and thereby reduces cost and increases reliability, scalability and increases development speed. It is worth mentioning here that although there are various numerical methods<sup>56</sup> that are quite similar in representing a systematic numerical method for solving partial differential equation (PDE), they differ however, in implementation, robustness, accuracy and speed. Among these the finite element method (FEM) has gained more popularity in the sense that it is a very general method i.e. solving the resulting system of equations is very similar to well-known and efficient methods used for structural and electromagnetic analysis. It has the capability to locally approximate the physics field very accurately just by increasing the order of polynomial of elements. Moreover, the ability of combining different kinds of physical quantities (e.g. electromagnetic field, mechanical and heat transfer) within each element also called mixed formulations and ability to simulate more complex structures makes it particularly important for multi-physics analysis<sup>58</sup>.

**3.6.2 Multi-physics modelling.** Multi-physics model combined with co-simulation method helps to predict and capture the electro-thermal, thermo-mechanical, and electro-mechanical interactions at chip package and package-system interface.

Figure 7 represents the key physical phenomena that show how the electrical, thermal and mechanical domains interact with each other, demonstrating the need to co-design across chip-package-system domains and accurately model interactions<sup>59</sup>.

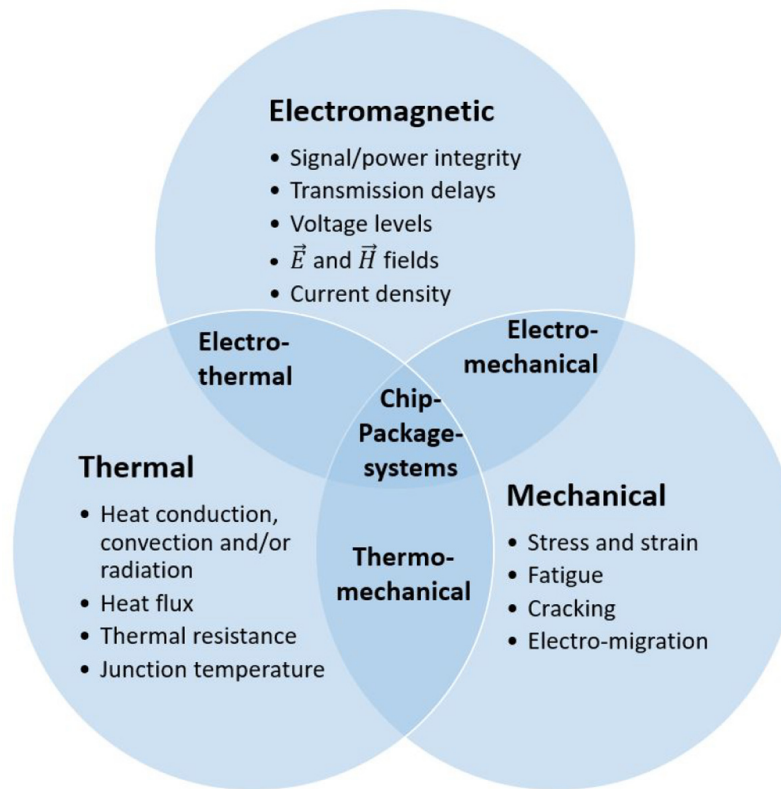
For example, power distribution at the electro-thermal interface should map accurately from a chip model into a package and system model. At the thermo-mechanical interface the accurate prediction of stress in the regions of the through silicon vias (TSV's) is necessary as it impacts the transistor threshold voltages and drive currents. Similarly, at the electro-mechanical interfaces accurate prediction of stresses helps in modelling metal migration at the chip level.

Multi-physics simulation methodology, can play a vital role in 5G and beyond in developing a hardware architecture for antenna and base station, by predicting better design decisions and rapidly prototyping and optimizing these designs before fabrications which results in low cost, high performance, reliable and scalable hardware architectures.

### 3.6.3 Multi-scale and multi-technology EM simulations.

Going towards 5G and beyond, the trend in mmWave design advances towards smaller, more complex devices and higher frequencies. System in Package (SiP), System on Chip (SoC), Antenna in Package (AiP), Antenna on Chip (AoC), 3D die stacking<sup>60,61</sup>, just to name a few, all imply a larger number of closely placed devices. In these complex, scaled down designs, it is becoming increasingly difficult to electromagnetically isolate all the design components. This trend increases the importance of an accurate EMI/EMC behavior prediction from which stems the need for all-encompassing and accurate EM simulations<sup>62</sup>. The increasing complexity and cost leave little space for iterative design changes after the device has been manufactured, which makes the EM simulation a significant element of the design process.

The most widely used simulation technologies are the finite element method (FEM), the finite difference time domain (FDTD) and the method of moments (MoM). Choosing the most adequate method to simulate a design with depends on the structure of the design itself. MoM being more suitable for planar designs, FEM for more complex 3D structures and



**Figure 7.** A diagram showing interactions between the physical domains.

FDTD for designs where the transient response is an important factor<sup>63</sup>.

All these techniques imply the discretization (meshing) of the design domains prior to solving the Maxwell equations to calculate the EM fields for a particular design. An all-encompassing EM simulation on a common modern mmWave electronic system would require discretization of the technologies spanning over dimensions ranging from  $10^{-8}$ m on the IC level all the way to  $10^{-1}$ m on the printed circuit board (PCB) level. The goal of a good discretization method is to find a good trade-off between accuracy and computational resource usage efficiency. Preserving a good accuracy - resource usage trade-off throughout the whole design, poses a great challenge for modern EM simulation tools.

Regardless of what simulation technology is used, the simulation of these complex multi-scale designs can frequently become a computationally intense problem, solving of which requires more memory and time than available. Another approach to tackle this problem is based on the *divide-and-conquer* strategy – the domain decomposition method (DDM) and it implies splitting the design into sub-domains and simulating those sub-domains with a simulation technology the most suitable for that particular design structure. This approach can either be mathematically inspired – solving large matrix systems by splitting them, or design inspired – the split at the hierarchical

design levels. Although the DDM methodology has been shown to improve the efficiency of the EM simulations in some specific problems, such as those described in 64 and 65, the study of the generalization of this principle is not yet available.

#### 4 MmWave antennas

One of the most desired frequencies for 5G due to its spectrum availability is 28 GHz. Successful antenna designs with > 1 Gbps throughput and high output power are demonstrated in phased-array architectures<sup>66,67</sup> and in massive-MIMO with hundreds of elements<sup>68,69</sup>. It is envisioned that the 5G base stations would use up to a thousand antenna elements<sup>70</sup>.

The next goal for 6G – or what is often called beyond-5G – would be to achieve 1 Tbps data rates<sup>71</sup>. For that, the operating frequencies of antennas must increase even further, to above 100 GHz. Higher frequency means less range due-to over-the-air path loss<sup>72</sup>, higher transmission line losses<sup>73</sup> and more interconnection losses<sup>74</sup>. Another issue is rapid decrease of efficiency of the power amplifying ICs with frequency<sup>75</sup>, to a point where the state-of-the-art PAs at 140 GHz have the power added efficiency of 6-7 %<sup>76</sup>. Section 5 discusses these issues in more details, e.g. see Table 5 for references. All of these mean that most of the power generated at 100+ GHz is dissipated in the system as heat. Thus, it is not enough just to scale down the current transceiver chips proportional to the wavelength since we will end up with prohibitively high power

consumption. Therefore, new design approaches are required for sub-THz frequency ranges.

#### 4.1 Antenna element design and array scaling

The choice of antenna element topology is a starting point of antenna system design. It involves a variety of considerations: the substrate technologies, the target performance (bandwidth, gain, radiation pattern), the required inter-element spacing (usually half wavelength) that defines the array size, and interconnection flexibility to allow radio-frequency integrated circuit (RFIC) assembly and multi-board integration in a system.

Phased array approach has a long history and is still in trend for state-of-art antenna development. The effective isotropic radiated power (EIRP) of an  $N$ -element phased array grows as  $N^2$  while the power consumption grows linearly with  $N$ , which provides a very efficient way to generate power in space. In 5G era, automotive radar, backhaul communications all require multiple point-to-point data links simultaneously, for which large phased arrays that produce multiple steered beams in various directions are favored. These beam-forming functions are realized by phase shifting among the antenna elements, which can be implemented in analogue circuits operating at RF, local oscillator (LO) or intermediate (IF) frequency, or in digital circuits<sup>77</sup>. Therefore, it is important to consider integration or interconnections design between the beamforming IC and the antenna elements/subarrays. As the frequency goes up to W-/D-band, the size of integrated active IC becomes comparable to the antenna element, which makes it harder to cascade independent beamformer to each element in phased array, thus posing a challenge to keep a large number of elements (higher radiated power) and tight element spacing (large angle beam steering) simultaneously. The general strategy for creating large phased arrays by combining repeatable circuit and/or antenna units is called phased-array scaling<sup>78</sup>.

At lower frequencies, many microwave systems consist of separate modular ICs and PCBs connected to each other on a common carrier board. The RF signal at these frequencies can be routed with tolerable losses between different chips via the transmission lines on the carrier board. This type of horizontal integration is also referred to as multichip modules (MCM). This approach is great for applications that prefer simplified integration and parallel component development, but at mmWave frequencies the interconnection losses become prohibitively high.

For better RF performance and further miniaturization, it is desirable to bring the sub-system components closer to each other. One solution is to package the analog, the digital and the antenna chips in the same packaging process step, creating an Antenna-in-Package (AiP). The main challenges here are the system complexity and heat dissipation<sup>79</sup>.

Another solution, with a higher level of integration, is to fabricate the sub-system elements on a single die. In this approach, the antenna is matched directly to the IC on the same chip. This Antenna-on-Chip (AoC) concept is especially promising

for 100+ GHz frequencies where the size of the radiating elements become small and it becomes feasible to allocate the expensive chip area for antennas. The main drawback of this approach is that the ICs are often fabricated on high-permittivity and low-resistivity silicon substrates. The former means that a lot of radiation is pulled into the substrate, and the latter makes this radiation dissipate in the substrate as heat. Another problem is spacing: it might not always be possible to fit the PAs, LNAs and other components between the antenna elements while simultaneously satisfying the  $\lambda/2$  inter-element separation and providing input/output signal routing.

#### 4.2 Phased array packaging solutions

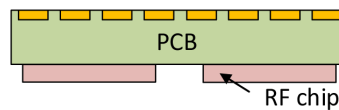
The low-cost Antenna-on-PCB solution is widely used in lower mmW designs. As [Figure 8\(a\)](#) shows, antenna arrays are implemented directly on the application PCB, with the RFICs module bonded to the board on the backward-radiating direction. PCB process allow flexible choices for printed antenna types that offer wide-band or wide-scan performances. However, due to PCB manufacturing tolerances when the frequency shifts higher and antenna scales tighter, it is difficult to combine on-chip RFICs with large numbers of array elements, which restrains the technology to be applied at 60+GHz bands. In 2018–2019 authors of Nokia Bell Labs presented a tiling architecture with one IC per 24-antenna tiles in a 384-element phased array for point-to-multipoint applications<sup>80,81</sup>. Two organic PCB interposers with integrated antenna sub-arrays were designed and co-assembled with the RFIC chipsets to produce a scalable phased-array tiles. The tiles were aligned onto a carrier PCB to form the large phased array. By far it's the most elements, most signal chains and highest EIRP of reported W-band AiP solutions.

To reduce the interconnections between discrete antennas and beamformer ICs, Antenna-in-Package (AiP) technology implements antennas with transceiver dies into a standard surface-mounted device<sup>79,82</sup>. AiP approach implements the antennas on the 1st-level package, see [Figure 8\(b\)](#). The antenna array with flip-chip bonded ICs form the 1st module, which is attached to a 2nd PCB board connected through ball-grid arrays (BGAs). Its main advantage is that the 1st-level embedded subarrays can be duplicated to form large arrays. In 2014, authors from IBM presented a 94 GHz four-IC phased-array tile with 64 dual-polarized antennas embedded in a multilayer substrate, with four SiGe (silicon-germanium) transceiver ICs flip-chip attached to the package by 292 BGAs<sup>83</sup>.

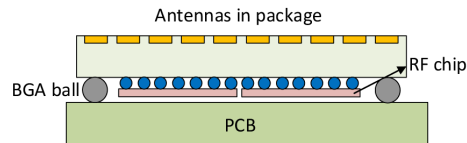
#### 4.3 On-chip antennas

The third packaging approach is to design antennas directly on the RFIC wafer, which eliminates the transition loss from the chip to the antenna by using high-efficiency on-chip quartz superstrate [see [Figure 8\(c\)](#)]. A typical IC consists of a thick high-permittivity substrate (Si, GaAs, GaN etc.), with an active region on top of it which is referred to as Front-End-of-Line (FEoL). Transistors and other active circuitry are formed on the FEoL layer. A thin dioxide layer, known as Back-End-of-Line (BEoL), which incorporates several planar metal layers, is grown on top of the FEoL. The BEoL is used to carry the signals to

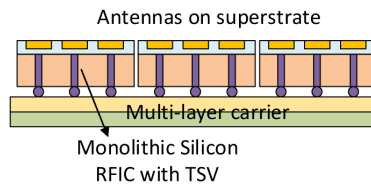
PCB with embedded antenna



(a) Antenna on PCB, with RFICs bonded to the board in opposite radiation direction



(b) Antenna-in-Package, with direct flip-chip attach of monolithic RFICs



(c) Antenna-on-Chip with TSVs in monolithic RFIC over a multi-layer carrier

**Figure 8. Classification of system packaging implementation diagram with different approaches.** RF, Radio Frequency; BGA, Ball-Grid Arrays; PCB, Printed Circuit Board; RFIC, Radio-Frequency Integrated Circuit; TSV, Through Silicon Via.

and from the FEOl, and to connect the IC to other devices. A typical SiGe chip (not to scale) with its different layers is depicted in Figure 9.

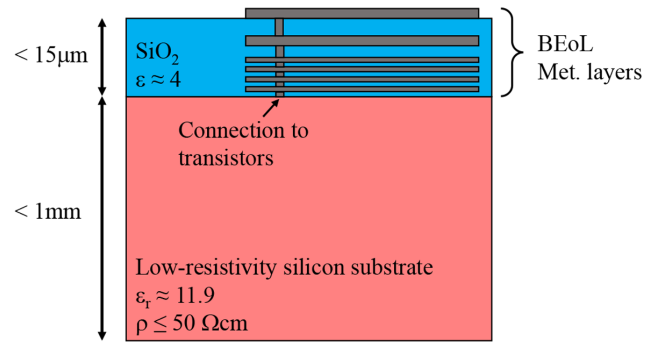
Antenna-on-chip (AoC) is often formed in the top metal layers of the chip's BEoL. By fabricating it on a chip we minimize the distance between the antenna and the active region where the signal amplification is happening (somewhere under Metal 1 in Figure 9), which reduces the interconnection losses and allows for better integration when compared to AiP approach. Modern advances in SiGe BiCMOS technologies promise excellent RF performance up until THz range<sup>84</sup>. A whole transceiver chain at 100+ GHz can be fabricated in this technology occupying less than 1.5 mm<sup>2</sup> chip area (Figure 10).

It is, however, very challenging to achieve good radiation performance of an antenna fabricated on a silicon substrate. Most of the antenna radiation is pulled into the substrate due to its high permittivity. This then couples to the substrate waves that dissipate as heat or re-radiate in undesired directions<sup>85,86</sup>. One solution to this issue is to ground off the substrate by placing the ground plane inside the BEoL, which in terms of Figure 9 means to use the bottom metal layer (for example) as a ground. This way we remove the silicon substrate from the equation, but the antenna now is placed too close to the ground plane, which reduces its bandwidth and radiation efficiency<sup>87</sup>. Another

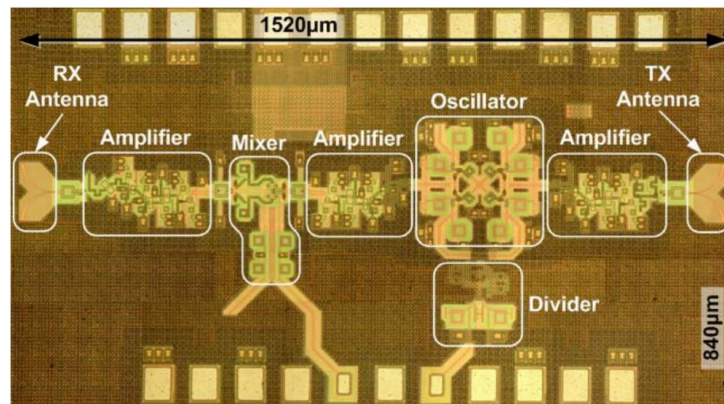
solution is to use cavity-backed antenna designs<sup>88</sup>, which may improve the radiation efficiency. However, it does not solve the problem completely and the device performance will still heavily depend on the chip geometry. When one designs an antenna-on-chip array, a smart placing of the antenna elements can result in substrate waves attenuation<sup>89</sup>, but this approach puts a lot of constraints on practical array implementations. With recent successes in miniaturization and development of advanced packaging techniques, it is becoming very popular to use metamaterials that can attenuate the undesired waves propagation in the system<sup>90</sup>. Metamaterials can also be used, for example, to tune the substrate wave dispersion relation in a controlled way which allows drastic array radiation efficiency improvements<sup>91</sup>.

## 5 mmWave electronics SoA

The broad-spectrum bandwidth and complex modulation techniques adopted in the 5G wireless communication systems pose significant challenges to the design of millimeter-wave (mmWave) front-ends. In addition to the stringent specifications imposed by the operational requirements of 5G wireless communication systems, the high frequency of operation makes the design of mmWave front-ends circuits such as low noise amplifiers (LNAs), phase-locked loops (PLLs), phase-shifters (PSs), mixers, and power amplifiers (PAs) more challenging than at lower frequencies. This is due to the power losses, the



**Figure 9.** A schematic view of a typical silicon-germanium (SiGe chip). BEoL, Back-End-of-Line.



**Figure 10.** An example of a silicon-germanium (SiGe) antenna-on-chip. RX, Receiver; TX, Transmitter. ©2008 IEEE. Reprinted with permission, from 92.

sensitivity to components tolerance, and the physical limitations of the transistor technologies. This section reviews state-of-art (SoA) mmWave front-end circuits, specifically LNAs, PLLs, PSs, mixers, and PAs.

### 5.1 Radio frequency front-end non-idealities

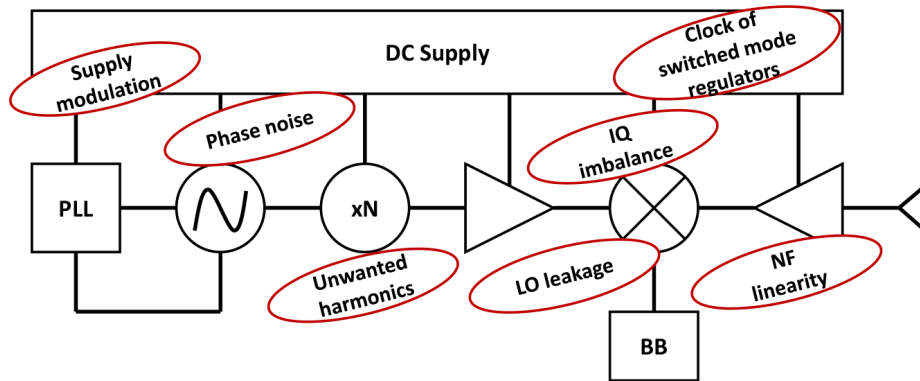
Through the advancement of the mobile communication technologies, each generation lead to higher effort on the design of the base station (BS) or AP and UE radio frequency front-ends (RFFE). Both are, in principle, implemented with the same building blocks, such as amplifiers, filters, antennas, mixers, etc. Consequently, they are prone to have a reduced performance due to the components non-idealities. There are many unwanted signals generated in the RFFEs as depicted in the Figure 11, where even the power supply imperfections would result in a signal modulation.

In the local oscillator (LO), the phase noise is an undesired property that is usually kept as low as possible by design to obtain a higher spectral purity. The quality factor of resonators in oscillators degrades with frequency. Therefore, to reduce the phase noise and achieve fair quality factor, frequency

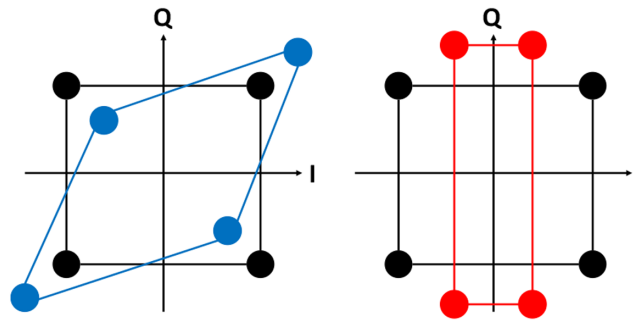
multipliers are implemented between a lower frequency LO and the mixer. With this configuration the module is often called sub-harmonically pumped mixer, as it uses harmonics of the LO to mix (or up/down convert) signals, this practice also contributed to increase the mixer port isolation in around 20-30 dB<sup>93</sup>.

The inphase-quadrature (IQ) amplitude and phase imbalance (Figure 12), affects the signal (symbol) detection and methods to overcome this effect have been developed. In the physical design of mixers, it is known that the LO port must be driven into saturation as it compensates the non-uniform baseband signal strength, so the amplitude impairment of the baseband signals are not a major problem, but as the LO port manages a high power, the isolation should be considered for circuit design.

The carrier frequency can be generated with a voltage controlled oscillator (VCO) attached to a PLL circuitry to stabilize the LO and in many cases using frequency multipliers. The frequency multipliers and mixers generate unwanted harmonics and intermodulated products that may propagate towards the PA, increasing the adjacent channel power ratio.



**Figure 11. Non-idealities of the Radio Frequency Front-Ends (RFFE).** PLL, Phase-Locked Loops; IQ, Inphase-Quadrature; LO, Local Oscillator; NF, Noise Figure; BB, Baseband.



**Figure 12. Inphase-Quadrature (IQ) phase (left) and amplitude (right) imbalance.**

The amplifiers have different requirements if they are implemented in the receiver (RX) or the transmitter (TX) path. The amplifiers for the RX path are called LNA providing low NF at the cost of lower power handling capabilities. The NF is an important factor from the transceiver chain to consider in the link budget, where all the power gains and losses in the signal path are accounted. On the other hand, for the TX path, PAs are used, as they provide a larger output power which is routed to the antenna for the propagation of the signal. The PA is probably the most non-linear element and this may handle the largest power in the whole TX. The non-linearities of a PA can be observed in amplitude-to-amplitude modulation (AM/AM) and amplitude-to-phase modulation (AM/PM) as shown in Figure 13, distorting the gain and output phase of the amplified signal, respectively. The more saturated is the PA, the higher is the distortion. These effects can be reduced with pre-distortion techniques. Furthermore, the PA should operate efficiently, because a high temperature of the transistor channel, reduces its median life time before failure.

### 5.2 Local oscillator distribution techniques in MIMO systems

Achieving synchronization in terms of frequency and phase between several of the tiles (where each of the tiles host a number of on-chip transceivers and local oscillator architecture

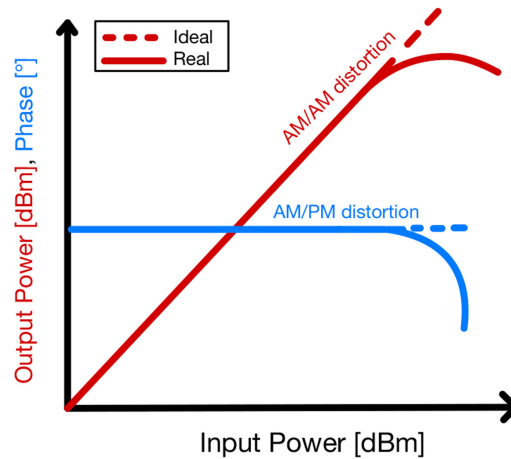
usually implemented as phase locked loop) on a base station poses a critical performance bottleneck; if left unattended it can prove to have disastrous affects for phased array performance of network<sup>81,94,95</sup>. To make several channels of transceivers phase coherent from a base station therefore is of paramount importance. The approach usually adopted is to make use of some calibration mechanism that tends to remove phase offsets between the transceivers of each channel periodically to make them more coherent.

These phase offsets exist within the transmitter, receiver architecture as well as within local oscillator architecture.

However, the synchronisation process for local oscillators is complicated by the fact that it involves two fundamental problems of phase noise and LO drift as function of temperature & time. Both issues are random with respect to time and cannot be calibrated out. In such an instance two obvious choices would be to either

- Reduce phase noise and LO drift to such an extent that channel-to-channel variation does not remain a bottleneck.
- Or
- To design a LO sharing architecture such that channels become coherent despite the variations.





**Figure 13. Amplitude and phase distortion in a Power Amplifier (PA).** AM/AM, Amplitude-to-Amplitude Modulation; AM/PM, Amplitude-to-Phase Modulation.

One of the most popular techniques currently being employed in state of the art of Massive MIMO systems is the H-tree technique<sup>96</sup>. In this method, a single Reference Clock is routed to each of the phase locked loops in each tile making use of power divider ensuring synchronised behaviour. One of the latest works consisting of all digital PLLs has incorporated this technique for achieving synchronisation in a phased array. In this work<sup>96</sup> phase array performance is demonstrated at 60 GHz using digital beam steering capability for MIMO transmitter by making multiple all digital Phase locked loops (ADPLLs) phase coherent using calibration method. Although having easy design, this method suffers from some critical limitations; namely scalability issue, power constraint on reference clock to drive many loads, requiring external hardware & software calibration mechanism to calibrate out the phase offsets.

Another technique that has been used lately is termed as daisy chain technique<sup>81</sup> (Figure 14). Its principle of operation is that each phase locked loop becomes a reference clock for each subsequent phase locked loop. Reference clock itself only feeds the first phase locked loop. Complex distribution network for reference clock is no longer needed (reduced footprint) and no constraints on the output power of reference clock. This technique has been intelligently adopted recently<sup>81</sup> by demonstrating a W-Band integrated 384 element phased array. In this work instead of using the output of each PLL directly as input, a frequency lower than output frequency (90GHz) at 27 GHz clock is used between the slave nodes. This reduces incoherence between channels due to LO drift because of lower multiplication factor and lower amount of voltage noise being translated to time noise as a result.

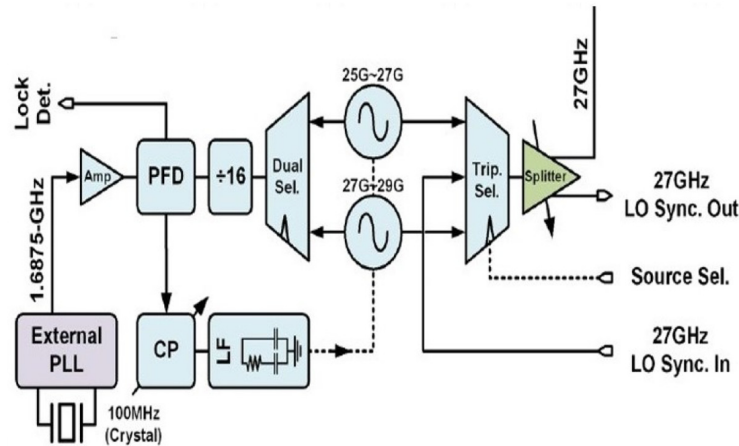
Daisy chain technique has a limitation however, as the number of PLL increases, the phase noise progressively becomes poorer in performance resulting in more incoherency among channels.

Another technique which is closely related to daisy chain method is called star coupled<sup>94</sup> technique. In this architecture, an optional LO porting block is added such that it allows of sharing of a common system RF-LO among various chips. With this mode, the LO from one Maser chip is distributed to all the slave chips as shown in Figure 15 driving their clock trees and dividers. Despite some fixed delay associated with LO distribution, many drifts related mechanism are dealt with.

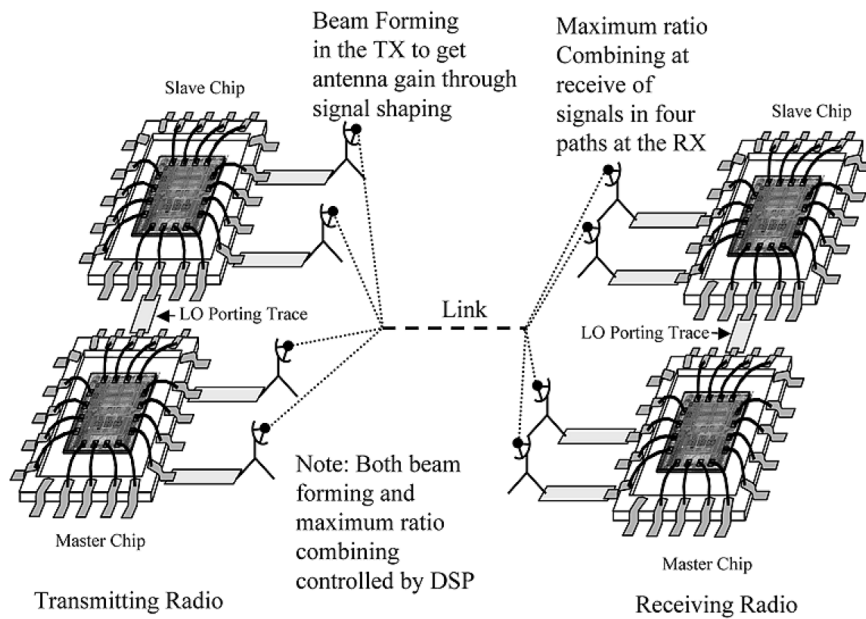
The techniques of coupled oscillators (Figure 16) and coupled phase locked loops have recently emerged as superior alternatives. The techniques were originally employed as alternatives to analog phase shifters by using oscillator elements directly to create the required phase offsets making use of injection locked technique.

The work<sup>97</sup> for example is based on coupled oscillator theory to generate multiple phases, Both the simulation and experimental results of the work show that the as the Number of oscillator cores  $N$  increases, the phase noise decrease by the amount  $10\log_{10}N$ , and the number of phases required can be expanded easily by adding one more resonator core.

Similarly, in 98 it's shown how phase controlling signals are applied separately to each of the oscillators in order to de-tune their natural frequencies of each of the oscillators, while a common injection locked signal is provided to each of the oscillators via power distribution network. This method not only aligns the oscillators to common frequency of injection locked signal but also allows control of constant phase progression as one move across the linear array of elements. Thus, it allows an efficient method of beam-steering the phase array without incurring additional power & area employed usually for analog phase shifters. This methodology is especially very useful for mmWave based phased arrays where substrate space



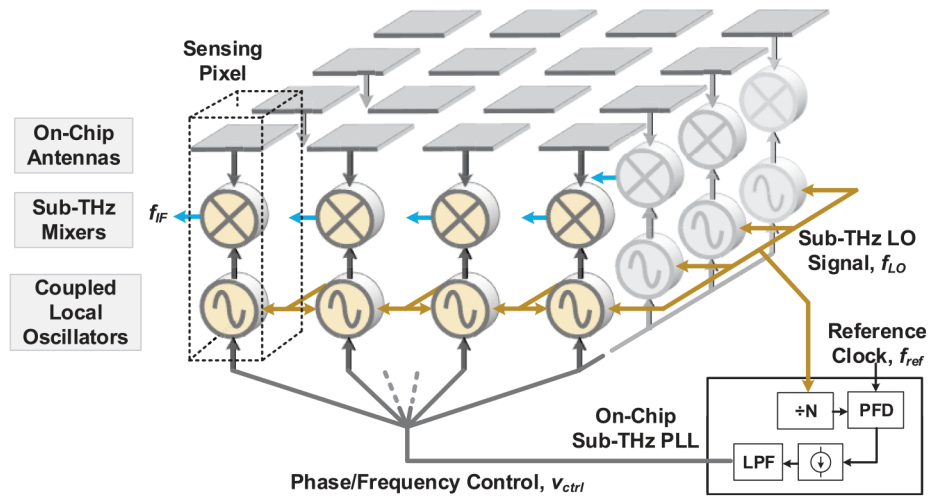
**Figure 14. Daisy chain technique.** PLL, Phase-Locked Loops; LO, Local Oscillator; CP, Charge Pump; LF, Low Pass Filter; PFD, Phase Frequency Detector. ©2019 IEEE. Reprinted, with permission, from 81.



**Figure 15. Star coupled technique.** RX, Receiver; TX, Transmitter; DSP, Digital Signal Processing; LO, Local Oscillator. ©2005 IEEE. Reprinted, with permission, from 94.

is scarce. . Although the injection locked oscillators seem like a convenient solution to beamforming in phased arrays or to achieve coherent output signals, they have some limitations inherent in their architecture. The phase dynamics and locking range of Injection locked oscillator depends on the quality factor of oscillator, the magnitude of the injected signal strength. Thus, they suffer from low locking range, and non-uniform amplitude of output waveform in the instance of frequency detuning, leading to more serious problems once the array size increases.

Thus, coupled PLL technique<sup>99-101</sup> offers superior results as far as locking range and amplitude performance is concerned. The type of PLL architecture also affects the overall performance metrics of coupled phase locked loop system. Circuit fabrication inconsistencies lead to changes in the free-running frequencies of oscillator which as a result cause phase errors and affect the beam-pointing performance. Likewise, these fluctuations can also impact the common frequency of oscillator array leading to deviation from the design frequency. These



**Figure 16. Coupled oscillators technique.** LO, Local Oscillator; PLL, Phase-Locked Loops; PFD, Phase Frequency Detector; LPF, Low-Pass Filter. ©2019 IEEE. Reprinted, with permission, from 95.

fluctuations also prove to be a bottleneck in the performance of coupled Phase locked loops if PLL is of Type-1 topology<sup>100</sup>. With the type-2 PLL topology adopted, the performance proves to be much more stable in terms of output frequency and the resilience of architecture against such fluctuations.

The work in 101 shown in Figure 17 is the most recent and promising result as far as application of coupled PLL in the synchronisation is concerned. The work improves upon the limitations of two-wire bidirectional coupling of phase locked loops by making use of single wire architecture using quadrature coupler at the input of each of the phase detectors in a single PLL IC. The architecture reduces the phase noise and is also a compact solution compared to two wire approach and can be readily employed in the tiled approach scaling of MIMO systems. Additionally, the structure make use of Type-2 PLL and includes variable phase shifters in each PLL cell to compensate for static phase offsets between the LO ICs which is undesirable for an application that doesn't make use of phase array performance into its design.

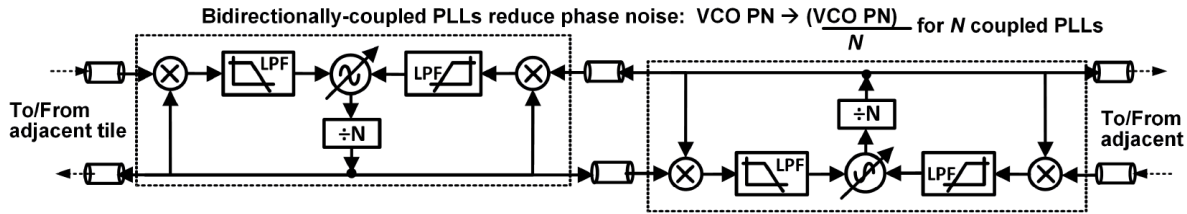
### 5.3 mmWave based oscillator

The continuous push to realize integrated digital intensive radar chip transceivers and wireless communication systems operating at mm waves has paved way for CMOS to become the natural technology of choice. Since the latest nanoscale technologies offer transit frequency ( $f_t$ ) and maximum oscillation frequency ( $f_{max}$ ) above several hundreds of gigahertz<sup>102,103</sup>. While the voltage control oscillator (VCO) lies at the heart of any transceiver system, it simultaneously must fulfill a set of conflicting requirements including low phase noise, wide tuning range, and high operating frequency. The lowest phase noise is required to enable higher modulation schemes in high data rate communication systems or to achieve better target discrimination in radar systems. While wide tuning range is essential for high resolution required in continuous wave radar sensor in gesture recognition or automotive. This necessitates the use of large

varactors that owing to low quality factor exhibit poor phase noise at mm waves<sup>104</sup>.

Voltage controlled oscillators can be categorized into two flavors: RC ring based, and LC based. The ring-based oscillators consist of several delay cells such that Barkhausen criteria is met. Advantage of this topology is absence of integrated inductors leading to more compact and wide tunable solutions; but suffers from a significant higher phase noise therefore is not often used in mm wave-based design. The highest mm wave frequency to have reported a ring oscillator is at 32 GHz<sup>105</sup>. The LC oscillator consists of a resonant tank, the losses of which are compensated by a negative resistance provided by active circuitry. Finally, there are also options for distributed oscillators to be implemented in CMOS<sup>106</sup> but at the expense of higher design complexity and larger chip area. The distributed standing wave topology is more favored toward 300GHz frequency<sup>107</sup>.

Designing and running a VCO at mm wave frequency poses additional constraints compared to classical VCO designs at few gigahertz of RF. The quality factor of switched capacitors and varactors fall rapidly with frequency leading to phase noise degradation as well as small output power<sup>108</sup>. Commonly this issue is alleviated by designing a VCO at lower mm wave frequency in conjunction with frequency multiplier<sup>109</sup>, extraction of harmonics<sup>104,110,111</sup>, and subharmonic injection locking technique<sup>112</sup>. The flicker noise corner also progressively becomes poor with the downscaling of CMOS technology node as well as the flicker noise contribution becomes worse at mm wave frequency Another major bottleneck is imposed by device parasitics and passive interconnects. These parasitics capacitances could add up to wanted capacitance and degrade the tuning bandwidth<sup>108</sup> and become especially challenging with reconfigurable passive resonators<sup>113</sup> as well as VCOs employing capacitive divider ladder networks<sup>114</sup>. Furthermore, the coupling between the neighboring inductor coils increases greatly at



**Figure 17. Coupled phase locked loop technique.** PLL, Phase-Locked Loops; LPF, Low-Pass Filter; VCO, Voltage-Controlled Oscillator; PN, Phase Noise. ©2016 IEEE. Reprinted, with permission, from 101.

mm wave frequencies and needs careful modeling and shielding techniques<sup>115</sup>. Finally, the parasitic inductance of traces could become comparable the actual inductance because of reduced size of inductor at these frequencies and negatively impacts the performance of system<sup>108</sup>.

There is a limit to which phase noise could be reduced with the proper selection and sizing of active and passive components. There are a couple of techniques that could be leveraged to reduce phase noise further. One of them is bilateral coupling of identical cores resulting in phase noise improvement of  $10\log N$  where  $N$  is number of coupling cores. The technique is bounded by practical limitations such as area and power constraints<sup>109,116,117</sup>. Also, to extend the frequency tuning one can replace varactors by a transformer<sup>117,118</sup>. Similarly, the work<sup>119</sup> in proposed employing a loop ground transmission line to achieve high tuning range. Another similar technique that proves to be promising is inductive tuning<sup>120</sup>. There is also another technique to extract higher harmonics from the same oscillator for example by realizing a push-push VCO one can extract second harmonic present at common mode of circuit by attaching a transformer<sup>104</sup>. Alternatively, it's possible to distinguish the second harmonic from fundamental by mode of signaling and second harmonic in common mode is capacitively coupled out<sup>121</sup>. A third harmonic could also be extracted by making use of power amplifiers that boost the third harmonic while suppresses the fundamental and second harmonics<sup>110,111</sup>.

#### 5.4 Mixers

While conventional solutions for mixers are remaining successfully implemented, circuit designers keep looking for possible improvements as well as integrating additional functions apart from solely up- and down-converting.

One of the possible enhancement techniques was demonstrated in 122. This work presents the 77 GHz down-converting mixer, based on the modified Gilbert cell. The main idea is to substitute the usual resistive loads with active ones, consisting of resistors and p-channel metal-oxide-semiconductor (PMOS) transistors. This solution is meant to stabilize the output DC voltage. In general, the presented mixer is power- and area-efficient, since  $P_{DC}$  of the mixer's core is only 1.5 mW and the device occupies 0.065 mm<sup>2</sup>.

An interesting device integration is presented in 123 (Figure 18). The authors used a transimpedance amplifier as a load for a broadband Gilbert cell mixer. Due to broadband RF

matching network, RF signals from 110 GHz to 170 GHz can be down-converted with a conversion gain of higher than 20 dB.

In general, both passive and active mixers have certain advantages. Passive mixers have zero power consumption and are highly linear and broadband devices. On the other hand, they require high LO power and exhibit high losses. Since passive mixers are still of interest, circuit designers try to make further improvements in such designs. Thus, presented in work<sup>124</sup> (Figure 19) mixers are based on the conventional diode ring. Due to the use of wideband transformer BALUNs at the RF and LO inputs, the widest frequency range achieved was 5 – 50 GHz. The novelty of this work is the use of additional phase-shifting components in order to compensate various imbalances at the edges of the frequency range.

The novel distributed mixer, achieving the record bandwidth of 194 GHz is shown in work<sup>125</sup> (Figure 20). As a method for liquidating the conversion gain degradations the use of non-equal emitter resistors among each cell was applied. Hence, the current of each unit cell can be adjusted separately to compensate for its non-uniformity.

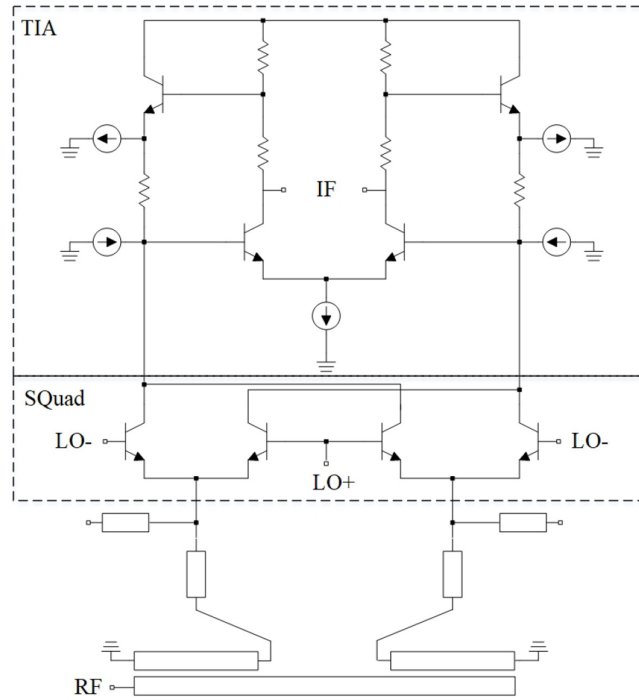
Performance of the recently presented devices is shown in the Table 1.

#### 5.5 Phase shifters

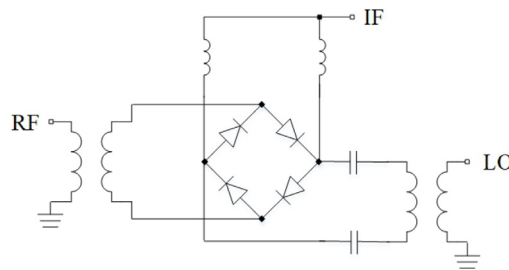
Designing a phase shifter, achieving full 360-degree range, becomes a challenging task at mmWave frequencies. Since the phase shifter is a key block in transceivers with an RF-beamforming scheme, it has a large influence on the overall transceiver performance.

The fully passive solutions provide the best linearity, however, due to very high losses, these are almost not used at mmWave frequencies. One of the most common configurations for high frequency applications is a vector modulator (VM), which is especially suitable for the systems without strict linearity requirements. This solution allows to reduce losses or even to achieve a certain gain, while keeping the power consumption relatively low.

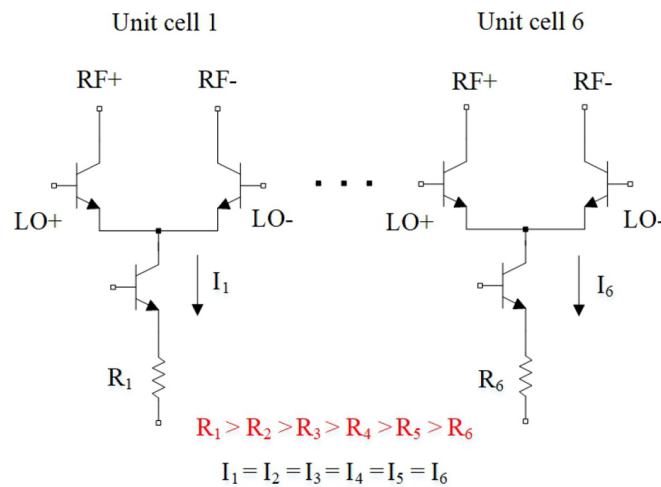
There were several attempts to integrate LNA with phase shifter, such as<sup>126</sup> (Figure 21). Here, the LNA stages were introduced between passive structures, performing partial phase shift.



**Figure 18. Mixer, loaded by a Transimpedance Amplifier (TIA).** IF, Intermediate Frequency; LO, Local Oscillator; RF, Radio Frequency. ©2021 IEEE. Adapted from 123 with permission.



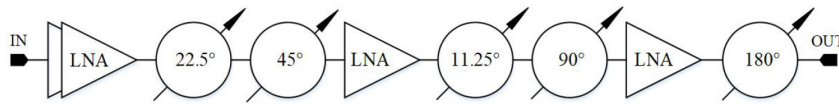
**Figure 19. Mixer, based on diode ring.** IF, Intermediate Frequency; RF, Radio Frequency; LO, Local Oscillator.



**Figure 20. Main concept used for distributed mixer.** RF, Radio Frequency; LO, Local Oscillator. ©2020 IEEE. Adapted from 125 with permission.

**Table 1. mmWave mixers.** CG, Conversion Gain; LO, Local Oscillator;  $P_{1dB}$ , 1-dB Compression Point;  $P_{DC}$ , DC power consumption.

	Frequency, GHz	CG, dB	LO power, dBm	Input $P_{1dB}$ , dBm	$P_{DC}$ , mW	Area, mm <sup>2</sup>
122	75-82	4.8	0	0.8	1.5	0.065
123	110-170	32	-2	-41	65	0.2
124	5-50	-15.5	15	-	0	1.05
125	0-194	-3	2	-	125	0.8
127	92-95	8.5	7.7	-12	11.5	0.33
128	180-194	-12.4	2	-	0	0.388
128	171-220	1	-4	-11	6.3	0.21



**Figure 21. Integration with Low Noise Amplifier (LNA) stages.** ©2018 IEEE. Adapted from 126 with permission.

The circuit provides 18 dB of gain, relatively low gain and phase errors (2 dB and 3.5 degrees). However, the linearity is quite poor, i.e. the input  $P_{1dB}$  is -25 dBm.

For the conventional VM, there are several approaches to build Variable-Gain Amplifiers (VGAs). The most well-known approach is to vary the transistor biasing. In this case, the Gilbert cell structure, cascode current steering structure, and the common source structure can be used<sup>129</sup> (Figure 22).

The main disadvantage is that the bias variations lead to impedance variations, additional gain and phase errors.

Another approach is to vary the transistor width to control the gain, as presented in 129 (Figure 23). However, this increases the number of transistor connections which can have a significant impact at higher frequencies.

Important advantage of VMs is reduced size in comparison to fully passive configurations. This can be crucial, especially for large phased arrays. Some of the most area efficient examples are<sup>130-132</sup>. The phase shifter, presented in 130, occupies only 0.07 mm<sup>2</sup> of area.

Each application, however, dictates different requirements. In some cases, there are relatively tough specifications in terms of linearity, which leads to the need of finding trade-off between meeting this requirement and power consumption.

Some of the recent works are shown in the Table 2.

### 5.6 Low noise amplifier review

Low noise amplifier (LNA) is typically the first active device in any receiver system. The main role of the amplifier is to gain a weak input signal with a minimum additional noise

contribution so that it can be used for the next processing in the system. Noise figure of the LNA therefore directly limits the sensitivity of the receiver because it can overlap the level of the input signal. If the performance of the LNA is insufficient, the rest of the receiver design and channel management to achieve necessary requirements will be useless.

The critical properties for all low noise transistor technologies is an electron high mobility in the channel<sup>133</sup>. Such devised have low noise values because the variation of the current in the bandgaps is low compared to standard technologies. The most widely using transistor technology for the LNA today are Pseudomorphic High Electron Mobility Transistor (pHEMT) and Metamorphic High Electron Mobility Transistor (mHEMT). These technologies use an extremely thin layer of one of the semiconductors materials – so thin that the crystal lattice simply stretches to fit the other material or special buffer layer between two substrates to avoid electron traps<sup>134</sup>. These techniques allow the construction of transistors with larger bandgap differences than otherwise possible, giving them better electrical performance<sup>135</sup>. Table 3 summarizes state-of-the-art commercial and published LNAs. Figure 24 presents noise trend lines from the information in Table 3. Indium phosphide (InP) has some of the lowest noise figure and highest frequency performance<sup>136</sup>, but this technology is more expensive and less frequently used for MMICs than GaAs HEMTs. Therefore, the InP technology is not presented in the Figure 24.

New processes based on SiGe, SOI CMOS, and GaAs materials have become increasingly popular for LNA manufacturing due to the improvement in performance is can offer in comparison to standard silicon counterpart. The mHEMP transistor technology is one of the better choice for the mmWave LNA from a noise minimization point of view, however, not only noise figure is important for the good mmWave receiver

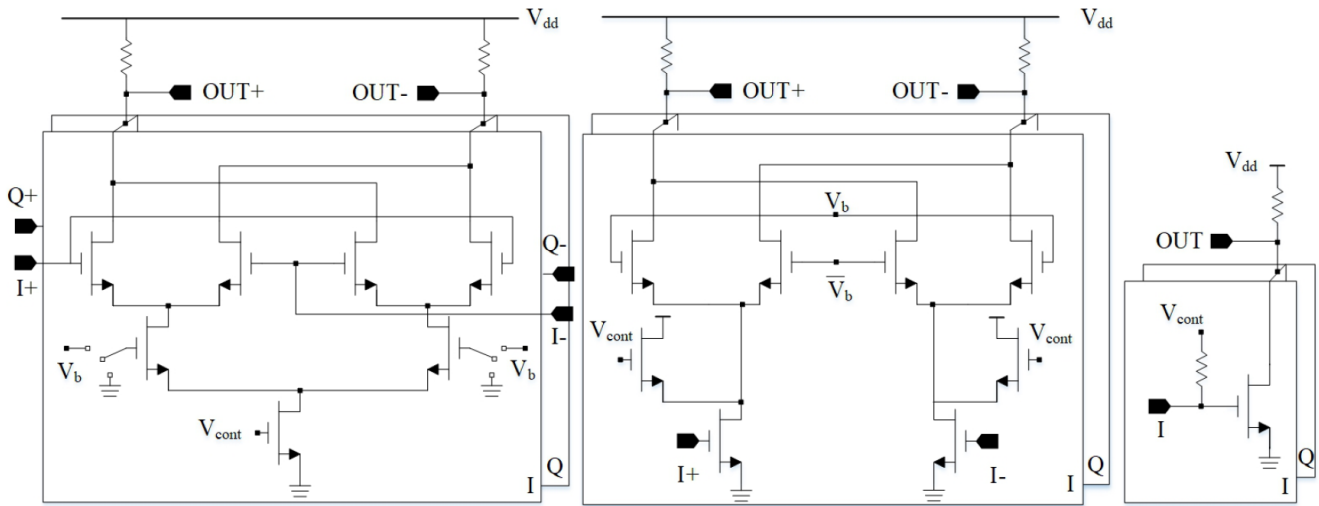


Figure 22. Variable-gain amplifier (VGA) architectures.

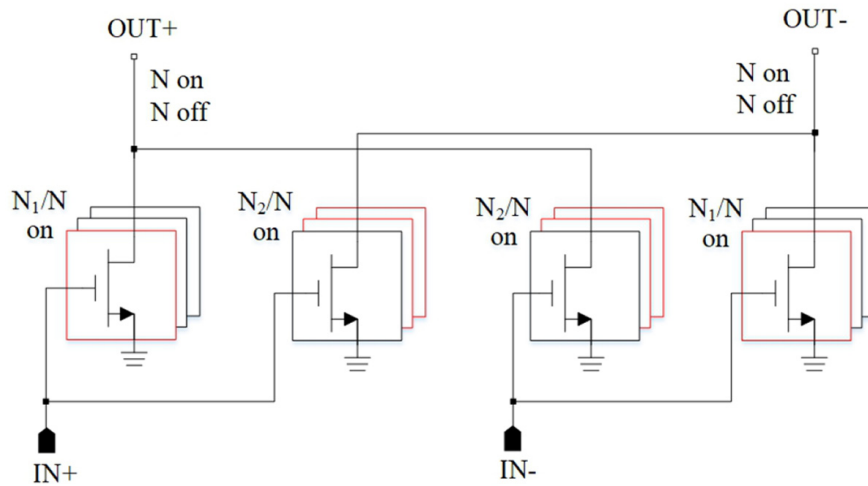


Figure 23. Variation of transistor width to build Variable-Gain Amplifier (VGA). ©2020 IEEE. Adapted from 129 with permission.

Table 2. mmWave phase shifters.  $P_{DC}$ , DC power consumption.

	Frequency, GHz	Phase resolution, bits	Gain, dB	RMS gain error, dB	RMS phase error, degrees	Input $P_{1dB}$ , dBm	$P_{DC}$ , mW	Area, mm <sup>2</sup>
131	57.7-84.2	5	-6	0.8-1.1	2.7-1.1	5	17	0.11
129	51-66.3	5	-3.8	0.25-0.72	3-7	-0.23	5	0.3
132	78.8-92.8	4	-2.3	< 2	< 11.9	-7	21.6	0.17
137	94	12	-1.5	0.36	< 0.77	-5	-	-
130	160-190	4	-6.2	< 1	< 8	-13.5	12.4	0.07
138	71-84	6	7	0.46-0.76	1.35-3.5	-10	60	0.31

**Table 3. Summary of the state-of-art mmWave Low Noise Amplifiers (LNAs).**

LNA name/reference	Technology	Frequency of interest, GHz	Gain, dB	Noise figure, dB
CGY2125AUH/C1 OMMIC		14	25	1
ADL5725 Analog Devices		18	25.1	2.4
HMC1040LP3CE Analog Devices		28	23	2.2
ADL7003 Analog Devices		70	14	5
HMC8325 Analog Devices		75	21	3.6
CHA1077a98F UMS		76	15	4.5
CHA1008-99F UMS		90	17	6.5
CHA1008-99F UMS		100	17	7
CGY2128UH/C2 OMMIC		28	24	1.3
CGY2122XUH/C2 Ommic		30	32	1.5
CGY2260UH/C1 OMMIC		30	24	1.5
139		70	26	2
140		71	27	2
141		80	25	1.6
CGY2190UH/C2 OMMIC		85	23	2.7
140		100	20	2.4
CGY2190UH/C2 OMMIC		105	23	3
139		110	22	2.4
142	SiGe HBT	10	22	1.2
142	SiGe HBT	20	18	2.1
143	SiGe BiCMOS	20	32.8	3.5
144	CMOS SOI	20	19.5	2.1
145	CMOS	23.5	20	3.6
146	CMOS	40	14	4.2
147	BiCMOS	55	20	6
146	CMOS	55	15	6.3
148	SiGe	58	15	3.5
149	SiGe BiCMOS	60	32	6
147	BiCMOS	70	23	7

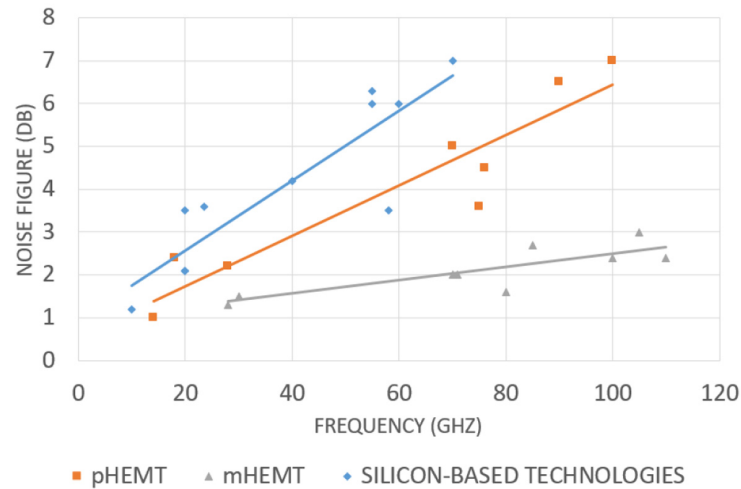
design. Due to the higher modulation schemes and channel characteristics envisioned for beyond 5G, improved distortion performance is required in the analog circuitry. Responsible for that parameter is amplifier linearity can be controlled on schematic design level. LNA linearity strongly depends on its power consumption<sup>150</sup>. Using feed-forward and derivative superposition, post distortion and negative feedback linearization

techniques presented in [151](#) possible to get better tradeoff between linearity and amplifier current consumption.

### 5.7 Power amplifiers

The overall performance of a mmWave transmitter depends on the performance of the PA used therein<sup>152-155</sup>, given that the PA governs the transmitted power level, efficiency, circuit bandwidth,





**Figure 24. Comparison of noise figure for various technologies based on the data in Table 3.** pHEMT, Pseudomorphic High Electron Mobility Transistor; mHEMT, Metamorphic High Electron Mobility Transistor.

and linearity of a transmitter. Consequently, for best performance, the PA is required to deliver a specified output power while maintaining a high gain, a high power-added efficiency (PAE), and high linearity over a wideband of frequencies<sup>152-155</sup>. In MIMO systems, the specification of the PA in terms of output power depends on the beamforming technique adopted in the transmitter. Although the circuit specifications of the PA are not clearly defined yet, Shakib *et al.*<sup>152</sup> investigated the optimum output power, gain, and linearity of a PA deployed in a MIMO system at mmWave considering array scale, path loss, and other factors. Based on this investigation, the specifications of a 5G PA were presented in <sup>156</sup> and are summarized in Table 4.

Furthermore, the output power and gain of a PA are directly related to the transistor technology adopted in the design thereof<sup>156,157</sup>. Hence, the first step in the design of a mmWave PA is the selection of the appropriate transistor technology.

**5.7.1 Technologies.** The output power and gain of a PA are respectively related to the power density, cut-off frequency ( $f_T$ ), and maximum oscillation frequency ( $f_{MAX}$ ) of the transistor technology adopted in the design of the PA. Consequently, these factors constitute the main figure of merit (FoM) for technology comparison<sup>157</sup>. Also, the beamforming technique adopted in the transmitter plays a crucial role in the selection of the PA transistor technology. The III-V compound semiconductor technologies such as gallium arsenide (GaAs) and gallium nitride (GaN), exhibit a high power density, gain, and efficiency over a broad frequency range.

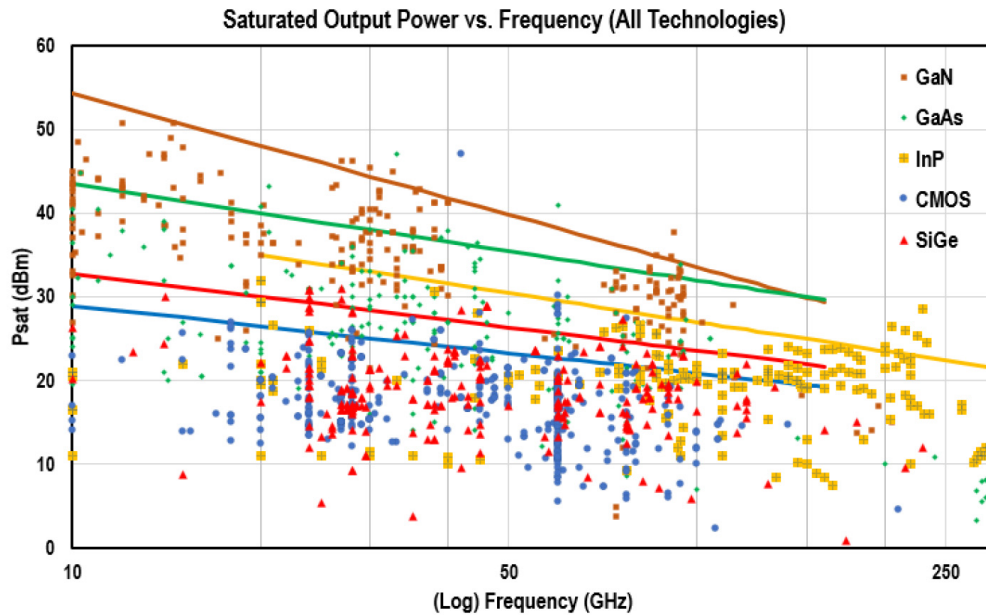
While the silicon-based technologies such as complementary metal-oxide-semiconductor (CMOS) and BiCMOS SiGe (Silicon-Germanium) technologies offer a high degree of integration and low cost when mass-produced<sup>157</sup>. The performance of PAs reported in the literature at mmWave frequencies

**Table 4. An example of a mmWave power amplifier specifications for 5G.** ACPR, Adjacent-Channel Leakage Ratio; EVM, Error-Vector Magnitude; QAM, Quadrature Amplitude Modulation.

Frequency (GHz)	24.75-27.5 / 37-42.5
Bandwidth (MHz)	800
Saturated output power (dBm)	25 (III-V) / 17 (Si)
Average efficiency (%)	20
ACPR (dBc)	-27.5
EVM (%)	5 (64 QAM) or < 3 (256 QAM)

for different transistors technologies is shown in Figure 25, extracted from the survey conducted at Georgia Tech<sup>158</sup>. A comprehensive comparison between the process parameters of different transistor technologies is provided in [Table 1, 158]. Transistor technologies with a higher power density (GaN or GaAs) are preferable in the case of analog beamforming given that a large number of antennas are fed by a single PA. While in the case of digital beamforming, transistor technologies (CMOS and SiGe) with a lower power density than GaN and GaAs but with a high degree of integration can be adopted since each antenna is fed by its own PA.

Regardless of the transistor technology used, it is difficult for a single-ended PA to deliver the specified output power and gain at mmWave frequencies. Moreover, the efficiency of the PA is limited by some characteristics of the transistor such as the ratio between the drain bias and the knee voltage<sup>157</sup>. Also, the parasitic elements such as the output capacitance of the transistor have a detrimental effect on the efficiency and the achievable circuit bandwidth of the PA<sup>152-157</sup>. Hence, it is



**Figure 25. Saturated output power versus frequency for different transistors technologies.** Own figure, utilising data published in the free access database<sup>158</sup>.

crucial to adopt appropriate solutions to maintain a high-efficiency operation over a broad frequency range. In addition to the power density of the transistor technology, the achievable output power relies on the breakdown voltage of the technology. III-V compound semiconductors such as GaN have a higher breakdown voltage than Si-based technologies. A low breakdown voltage implies that Si-based PAs are operated with a low supply voltage (hence low output power) to increase their reliability. The limitations associated with the low break down of Si-based technology such as CMOS are further exacerbated by the scaling down thereof.

**5.7.2 Design techniques.** In an attempt to meet the output power requirement of a mmWave PA, on-chip power combining techniques such as the parallel connection of transistors, differential drive plus output balun and the series transformer combining techniques have been used in 159–165. However, the loss of power combiner will reduce the PA's gain and PAE. Furthermore, additional parasitic paths added by the extra transistors limit the PA's performance. In the case of the differentially driven devices, the impedance transformation loss in the balun transformer limits the improvement in saturated output power to 2–3 dB while this improvement is limited to 2–2.5 dB in the case of multi-winding magnetic transformers due to the combiner size and mismatch losses<sup>152</sup>. In an attempt to improve back-off efficiency, power amplifiers implemented using advanced topologies such as Doherty PA and envelop tracking (ET) PA have been reported in 166–171 and 172–174 respectively. The advantages and limitations of each are discussed in 154 alongside others topologies such

as out-phasing and traveling-wave (distributed) PAs<sup>175</sup>, with the latter aimed at improving the bandwidth rather than the efficiency. The results of recently published work on mmWave PAs are summarized in Table 5. Other PAs with similar performances have been reported in 157.

## 6 Conclusions

With the viewpoint on increasing data rates, efficiency and cellular coverage, novel integrated millimetre wave solutions, signal processing techniques, and network architectures are investigated. An overview of distributed massive MIMO communication systems and architectures is provided in Section 2. Synchronization and radio structure simplicity, make the centralized processing with analogue radio over fibre and attractive option. Signal processing challenges in DM-MIMO are discussed in Section 2, including synchronization and calibration, precoding and channel estimation, signal compression and quantization, multiple access techniques, system characterization and simulation methods. The joint design of channel estimation, transmit precoding, and network architecture tailored to mmWave massive MIMO systems is well worth future research effort. Signal compression/quantization is critical to alleviating the impact of fronthaul constraints on spectral efficiency (SE) and energy efficiency (EE) performance. The multiple access techniques under consideration include non-orthogonal multiple access and random access, while initial access remains an open issue. It is clear that many challenges still exist in the characterization and multi-physics simulation of the future of MIMO systems. The radio frequency front-end components are considered in Section 4 and Section 5. For transceiver

**Table 5. Summary of the state-of-art mmWave power amplifiers.**  $P_{SAT}$  Saturation Output Power;  $PAE_{SAT}$  Power Added Efficiency at Saturation;  $PAE_{OBO}$  Power Added Efficiency at -6dB back-off; SS Gain, Small-Signal Gain.

Ref.	Year	Technolo	f (GHz)	Topology	N.of stages	$P_{SAT}$ (dB)	$PAE_{SAT}$ (%)	$PAE_{OBO}$ (%)	SS Gain (dB)
176	2014	40 nm GaN HEMT	65-110	Single-ended	3	31.1	27	-	20
159	2018	100 nm GaN/Si HEMT	37-43	Combined	3	40	23	-	18
160	2012	150 nm GaAs pHEMT	17-35	Combined	1	22.5	30	-	10
161	2003	100 nm GaAs mHEMT	32	4 ways Combined	2	35	40	-	24
162	2015	100 nm GaAs pHEMT	71-76	8-way combined	4	28	13	-	26
163	2019	45 nm CMOS SOI	56-63	24-way combined	3	28.5	15	-	24
164	2015	40 nm CMOS	71-86	4-way combined	2	20.9	22	-	18.1
175	2018	130 nm SiGe HBT	20-28	Distributed	4	19	8	-	-
165	2020	45 nm CMOS SOI	24-40	Differential cascode	2	19	36.6	-	12
177	2018	50 nm GaAs mHEMT	65-125	Stacked	1	22	10.7	-	16.8
178	2015	130 nm SiGe BiCMOS	93	Class-E	2	17.7	40.4	-	15
179	2018	45 nm CMOS	23.5-41	Continuous class F/F-1	-	18.6	45.7	-	11.4
166	2019	45 nm CMOS SOI	27	Cascode, mixed-signal Doherty	2	23.3	40.1	33.1	19.1
167	2019	45 nm CMOS SOI	60	Differential Doherty	3	20.5	26	16.6	13
168	2019	150 nm GaAs pHEMTs	26.5-29.5	Combined Doherty	2	25	35	25	10
169	2019	100 nm GaN/Si HEMT	27.5-28.35	Single device Doherty	2	32	25	28	10
170	2015	40 nm CMOS	72	Doherty	-	21	13.6	7	18.5
171	2018	45 nm CMOS SOI	65	Doherty	-	19.4	27.5	20.1	12.5

systems, a move towards antenna-on-chip and antenna-in-package solutions is probable, but many challenges for the rest of the transceiver in terms of stability, power distribution and management, synchronization and control would need to be addressed.

### Data availability

No data are associated with this article.

### Ethics and consent

Ethical approval and consent were not required.

## References

- Andrews JG, Buzzi S, Choi W, et al.: **What will 5g be?** *IEEE J Sel Areas Commun.* 2014; **32**(6): 1065–1082.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
- Andrews JG, Zhang X, Durgin GD, et al.: **Are we approaching the fundamental limits of wireless network densification?** *IEEE Commun Mag.* 2016; **54**(10): 184–190.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
- Marzetta TL, Ngo HQ: **Fundamentals of massive MIMO.** Cambridge University Press. 2016.
- Nayebi E, Ashikhmin A, Marzetta TL, et al.: **Cell-free massive mimo systems.** In *2015 49th Asilomar Conference on Signals, Systems and Computers.* IEEE 2015; 695–699.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
- Bigler T, Treytl A, Loschenbrand D, et al.: **High Accuracy Synchronization for Distributed Massive MIMO using White Rabbit.** *IEEE Int Symp Precise Clock Synchronization Meas Control Commun ISPCS.* 2018.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
- Rogalin R, Bursalioglu OY, Papadopoulos H, et al.: **Scalable synchronization and reciprocity calibration for distributed multiuser MIMO.** *IEEE Trans Wirel Commun.* 2014; **13**(4): 1815–1831.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
- Sezgin IC, Dahlgren M, Eriksson T, et al.: **A Low-Complexity Distributed-MIMO Testbed Based on High-Speed Sigma-Delta-Over-Fiber.** *IEEE Trans Microw Theory Tech.* 2019; **67**(7): 2861–2872.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
- Giannoulis G, Argyris N, Iliadis N, et al.: **Analog Radio-over-Fiber Solutions**

- for 5G Communications in the Beyond-CPRI Era.** *Int Conf Transparent Opt Networks.* 2018; 1–5.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
9. Breyne L, Torfs G, Yin X, et al.: **Comparison Between Analog Radio-Over-Fiber and Sigma Delta Modulated Radio-Over-Fiber.** *IEEE Photonics Technol Lett.* 2017; **29**(21): 1808–1811.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  10. Shaik ZH, Björnson E, Larsson EG: **Cell-Free Massive MIMO With Radio Stripes and Sequential Uplink Processing.** *arXiv.* 2020; 0–5.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  11. Björnson E, Interdonato G, and Ngo HQ, et al.: **Ubiquitous cell-free massive mimo communications.** *Wireless Communication Network.* 2019; 197.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  12. Wu CY, Li H, Kerrebrouck J Van, et al.: **Distributed antenna system using Sigma-Delta intermediate-frequency-over-fiber for frequency bands above 24 GHz.** *J Lightwave Technol.* 2020; **38**(10): 2765–2773.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  13. Sung M, Kim J, Kim ES, et al.: **Rof-based radio access network for 5G mobile communication systems in 28 GHz millimeter-wave.** *J Lightwave Technol.* 2020; **38**(2): 409–420.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  14. Wang D, Zhang C, Du Y: **Implementation of a cloud-based cell-free distributed massive MIMO system.** *IEEE Commun Mag.* 2020; **58**(8): 61–67.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  15. Zhang W, Ren H, Pan C, et al.: **Large-scale antenna systems with UL/DL hardware mismatch: Achievable rates analysis and calibration.** *IEEE Trans Commun.* 2015; **63**(4): 1216–1229.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  16. Peng M, Wang C, Lau V, et al.: **Fronthaul-constrained cloud radio access networks: Insights and challenges.** *IEEE Wirel Commun.* 2015; **22**(2): 152–160.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  17. Park SH, Simeone O, Sahin O, et al.: **Robust and efficient distributed compression for cloud radio access networks.** *IEEE Trans Veh Technol.* 2013; **62**(2): 692–703.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  18. Sanderovich A, Shamai S, Steinberg Y, et al.: **Communication via decentralized processing.** *IEEE Trans Inf Theory.* 2008; **54**(7): 3008–3023.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  19. Simeone O, Erkip E, Shamai S: **On codebook information for interference relay channels with out-of-band relaying.** *IEEE Trans Inf Theory.* 2011; **57**(5): 2880–2888.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  20. Estella Aguerri I, Zaidi A, Caire G, et al.: **On the capacity of cloud radio access networks with oblivious relaying.** *IEEE Trans Inf Theory.* 2019; **65**(7): 4575–4596.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  21. Cover T, Gamal AE: **Capacity theorems for the relay channel.** *IEEE Trans Inf Theory.* 1979; **25**(5): 572–584.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  22. Nazer B, Gastpar M: **Compute-and-forward: Harnessing interference through structured codes.** *IEEE Trans Inf Theory.* 2011; **57**(10): 6463–6486.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  23. Gao X, Dai L, Gao Z, et al.: **Precoding for mmwave massive mimo.** *mmWave Massive MIMO: A Paradigm for 5G.* 2017; 79–111.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  24. Kim J, Lee I: **802.11 WLAN: history and new enabling MIMO techniques for next generation standards.** *IEEE Commun Mag.* 2015; **53**(3): 134–140.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  25. Ayach OE, Rajagopal S, Abu-Surra S, et al.: **Spatially sparse precoding in millimeter wave mimo systems.** *IEEE Trans Wirel Commun.* 2014; **13**(3): 1499–1513.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  26. Xiao M, Mumtaz S, Huang Y, et al.: **Millimeter wave communications for future mobile networks.** *IEEE J Sel Areas Commun.* 2017; **35**(9): 1909–1935.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  27. Gao X, Dai L, Han S, et al.: **Energy-efficient hybrid analog and digital precoding for mmwave mimo systems with large antenna arrays.** *IEEE J Sel Areas Commun.* 2016; **34**(4): 998–1009.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  28. Uwaechia AN, Mahyuddin NM, Ain MF, et al.: **On the spectral-efficiency of low-complexity and resolution hybrid precoding and combining transceivers for mmwave mimo systems.** *IEEE Access.* 2019; **7**: 109259–109277.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  29. Han S, I Cl, Xu Z, et al.: **Large-scale antenna systems with hybrid analog and digital beamforming for millimeter wave 5g.** *IEEE Commun Mag.* 2015; **53**(1): 186–194.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  30. Brady J, Behdad N, Sayeed AM: **Beam-space mimo for millimeter-wave communications: System architecture, modeling, analysis, and measurements.** *IEEE Trans Antennas Propag.* 2013; **61**(7): 3814–3827.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  31. Alkhateeb A, El Ayach O, Leus G, et al.: **Hybrid precoding for millimeter wave cellular systems with partial channel knowledge.** In: *2013 Information Theory and Applications Workshop (ITA).* IEEE, 2013; 1–5.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  32. Uwaechia AN, Mahyuddin NM, Ain MF, et al.: **Compressed channel estimation for massive mimo-ofdm systems over doubly selective channels.** *Physical Communication.* 2019; **36**: 100771.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  33. Qin Q, Gui L, Cheng P, et al.: **Time-varying channel estimation for millimeter wave multiuser mimo systems.** *IEEE Trans Veh Technol.* 2018; **67**(10): 9435–9448.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  34. Hao W, Zeng M, Chu Z, et al.: **Energy-efficient power allocation in millimeter wave massive mimo with non-orthogonal multiple access.** *IEEE Wirel Commun Lett.* 2017; **6**(6): 782–785.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  35. Wang B, Dai L, Wang Z, et al.: **Spectrum and energy-efficient beam-space mimo-noma for millimeter-wave communications using lens antenna array.** *IEEE J Sel Areas Commun.* 2017; **35**(10): 2370–2382.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  36. Liu C, Li M, Hanly SV, et al.: **Millimeter-wave small cells: Base station discovery, beam alignment, and system design challenges.** *IEEE Wirel Commun.* 2018; **25**(4): 40–46.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  37. Hemadeh IA, Satyanarayana K, El-Hajjar M, et al.: **Millimeter-wave communications: Physical channel models, design considerations, antenna constructions, and link-budget.** *IEEE Communications Surveys Tutorials.* 2018; **20**(2): 870–913.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  38. Uwaechia AN, Mahyuddin NM: **A comprehensive survey on millimeter wave communications for fifth-generation wireless networks: Feasibility and challenges.** *IEEE Access.* 2020; **8**: 62367–62414.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  39. Huang J, Liu Y, Wang CX, et al.: **5G millimeter wave channel sounders, measurements, and models: Recent developments and future challenges.** *IEEE Commun Mag.* 2019; **57**(1): 138–145.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  40. TSGR: **5G; Study on channel model for frequencies from 0.5 to 100 GHz.** Technical Report (TR) 36.331, 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP), Version 16.1.0 Release 16. 2020.
  41. Cano C, Sim GH, Asadi A, et al.: **A channel measurement campaign for mmwave communication in industrial settings.** *IEEE Trans Wirel Commun.* 2021; **20**(1): 299–315.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  42. Jameel F, Wyne S, Nawaz SJ, et al.: **Propagation channels for mmwave vehicular communications: State-of-the-art and future research directions.** *IEEE Wirel Commun.* 2019; **26**(1): 144–150.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  43. He D, Guan K, García-Loygorri JM, et al.: **Channel characterization and hybrid modeling for millimeter-wave communications in metro train.** *IEEE Trans Veh Technol.* 2020; **69**(11): 12408–12417.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  44. Qi Y, Yang G, Liu L, et al.: **5G over-the-air measurement challenges: Overview.** *IEEE Trans Electromagn Compat.* 2017; **59**(6): 1661–1670.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  45. Fan W, de Lisbona XCB, Sun F, et al.: **Emulating spatial characteristics of MIMO channels for OTA testing.** *IEEE Trans Antennas Propag.* 2013; **61**(8): 4306–4314.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  46. Pei H, Chen X, Fan W, et al.: **Comparisons of channel emulation methods for state-of-the-art multi-probe anechoic chamber based millimeter-wave over-the-air testing.** In: *2019 IEEE 90th Vehicular Technology Conference (VTC2019-Fall).* 2019; 1–5.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  47. Yu W, Qi Y, Liu K, et al.: **Radiated Two-Stage Method for LTE MIMO User Equipment Performance Evaluation.** *IEEE Trans Electromagn Compat.* 2014; **56**(6): 1691–1696.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  48. Jing Y, Rumney M, Kong H, et al.: **Analysis of applicability of radiated two-stage test method to 5G radiated performance measurement.** In: *Proc Eur Conf Antennas Propag.* 2018; 1–5.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  49. Jing Y, Hertel T, Kong H, et al.: **Recent developments in radiated two-stage MIMO OTA test method.** In: *Proc Eur Conf Antennas Propag.* 2020; 1–5.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  50. Holloway CL, Hill DA, Ladbury JM, et al.: **On the use of reverberation chambers to simulate a rician radio environment for the testing of wireless devices.** *IEEE Trans Antennas Propag.* 2006; **54**(11): 3167–3177.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  51. Genender E, Holloway CL, Remley KA, et al.: **Simulating the multipath channel with a reverberation chamber: Application to bit error rate measurements.** *IEEE Trans Electromagn Compat.* 2010; **52**(4): 766–777.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  52. Becker MG, Horansky RD, Senic D, et al.: **Spatial channels for wireless**

- over-the-air measurements in reverberation chambers. In: *12th European Conference on Antennas and Propagation (EuCAP 2018)*. 2018; 1–5.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
53. Sorrentino A, Nunziata F, Cappa S, et al.: **A semi-reverberation chamber configuration to emulate second-order descriptors of real-life indoor wireless propagation channels**. *IEEE Trans Electromagn Compat*. 2021; **63**(1): 3–10.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
54. Lau J: **Thermal Stress and Strain in Microelectronics Packaging**. Springer, 1993.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
55. Jin JM, Yan S: **Multiphysics modeling in electromagnetics: Technical challenges and potential solutions**. *IEEE Antennas Propag Mag*. 2019; **61**(2): 14–26.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
56. Anderson JD: **Computational Fluid Dynamics: The Basics with Applications**. McGraw-Hill International Editions: Mechanical Engineering. McGraw-Hill, 1995.  
[Reference Source](#)
57. Ndiip I, Andersson K, Kosmider S, et al.: **A novel packaging and system-integration platform with integrated antennas for scalable, low-cost and high-performance 5G mmWave systems**. In: *2020 IEEE 70th Electronic Components and Technology Conference (ECTC)*. 2020; 101–107.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
58. Lau J: **The Finite Element Method in Electromagnetics**. 2nd Edition. John Wiley & Sons, Inc, 2002.  
[Reference Source](#)
59. Bailey C, Stoyanov S: **Co-simulation and modelling for heterogeneous integration of high-tech electronic systems**. In: *2017 40th International Spring Seminar on Electronics Technology (ISSE)*. 2017; 1–5.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
60. Karim R, Iftikhar A, Ijaz B, et al.: **The potentials, challenges, and future directions of on-chip-antennas for emerging wireless applications—a comprehensive survey**. *IEEE Access*. 2019; **7**: 173897–173934.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
61. Elisabeth S: **Advanced RF packaging technology trends, from WLP and 3D integration to 5G and mmWave applications**. In: *2019 International Wafer Level Packaging Conference (IWLPAC)*. 2019; 1–5.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
62. Ruehli AE, Miersch E: **Electromagnetic compatibility modeling techniques: Past, present and future**. In: *2008 Asia-Pacific Symposium on Electromagnetic Compatibility and 19th International Zurich Symposium on Electromagnetic Compatibility*. 2008; 1–4.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
63. Davidson DB: **Computational Electromagnetics for RF and Microwave Engineering**. Cambridge University Press, 2 edition, 2010.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
64. Kim M, Kong S: **Efficient approach for electrical design and analysis of high-speed interconnect in integrated circuit packages**. *Electronics*. 2020; **9**(2): 303.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
65. Mao K, Tan J, Jin JM: **A domain decomposition method for the finite element simulation of circuit board interconnects**. In: *2007 IEEE Electrical Performance of Electronic Packaging*. 2007; 279–282.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
66. Sadhu B, Tousi Y, Hallin J, et al.: **A 28-ghz 32-element trx phased-array ic with concurrent dual-polarized operation and orthogonal phase and gain control for 5g communications**. *IEEE J Solid-State Circuits*. 2017; **52**(12): 3373–3391.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
67. Kibaroglu K, Sayginer M, Phelps T, et al.: **A 64-element 28-ghz phased-array transceiver with 52-dbm eirp and 8–12-gb/s 5g link at 300 meters without any calibration**. *IEEE Trans Microw Theory Tech*. 2018; **66**(12): 5796–5811.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
68. Tawa N, Kuwabara T, Maruta Y, et al.: **28 ghz downlink multi-user mimo experimental verification using 360 element digital aas for 5g massive mimo**. In: *2018 48th European Microwave Conference (EuMC)*. 2018; 934–937.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
69. Yang B, Yu Z, Lan J, et al.: **Digital beamforming-based massive mimo transceiver for 5g millimeter-wave communications**. *IEEE Trans Microw Theory Tech*. 2018; **66**(7): 3403–3418.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
70. Shafi M, Molisch AF, Smith PJ, et al.: **5g: A tutorial overview of standards, trials, challenges, deployment, and practice**. *IEEE J Sel Areas Commun*. 2017; **35**(6): 1201–1221.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
71. Rajatheva N, Atzeni I, Bicaïs S, et al.: **Scoring the terabit/s goal: Broadband connectivity in 6g**. *arXiv preprint arXiv: 2008.07220*. 2020.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
72. Xing Y, Rappaport TS: **Propagation measurement system and approach at 140 GHz-moving to 6G and above 100 GHz**. In: *IEEE Glob Commun Conf*. IEEE, 2018; 1–6.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
73. Zwick T, Tretiakov Y, Goren D: **On-chip sige transmission line measurements and model verification up to 110 ghz**. *IEEE Microw Wirel Compon Lett*. 2005; **15**(2): 65–67.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
74. Beer S, Ripka B, Diebold S, et al.: **Design and measurement of matched wire bond and flip chip interconnects for d-band system-in-package applications**. In: *2011 IEEE MTTT Int Microw Symp*. IEEE, 2011; 1–4.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
75. Wang H, Wang F, Nguyen HT, et al.: **Power amplifiers performance survey 2000-present**. *Georgia Tech Electronics and Micro-System Lab (GEMS)*. 2018.
76. Griffith Z, Urteaga M, Rowell P: **A 140-ghz 0.25-w pa and a 55-135 ghz 115-135 mw pa, high-gain, broadband power amplifier mmics in 250-nm inp hbt**. In: *2019 IEEE MTTT Int Microw Symp*. 2019; 1245–1248.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
77. Hajimiri A, Hashemi H, Natarajan A, et al.: **Integrated phased array systems in silicon**. *Proceedings of the IEEE*. 2005; **93**(9): 1637–1655.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
78. Sadhu B, Gu X, Valdes-Garcia A: **The more (antennas), the merrier: A survey of silicon-based mm-wave phased arrays using multi-ic scaling**. *IEEE Microw Mag*. 2019; **20**(12): 32–50.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
79. Zhang Y, Mao J: **An overview of the development of antenna-in-package technology for highly integrated wireless devices**. *Proceedings of the IEEE*. 2019; **107**(11): 2265–2280.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
80. Shahramian S, Holyoak MJ, Baeyens Y: **A 16-element w-band phased-array transceiver chipset with flip-chip pcb integrated antennas for multi-gigabit wireless data links**. *IEEE Trans Microw Theory Tech*. 2018; **66**(7): 3389–3402.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
81. Shahramian S, Holyoak MJ, Singh A, et al.: **A fully integrated 384-element, 16-tile, w-band phased array with self-alignment and self-test**. *IEEE J Solid-State Circuits*. 2019; **54**(9): 2419–2434.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
82. Gu X, Liu D, Sadhu B: **Packaging and antenna integration for silicon-based millimeter-wave phased arrays: 5g and beyond**. *IEEE J Microw*. 2021; **1**(1): 123–134.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
83. Gu X, Liu D, Baks C, et al.: **An enhanced 64-element dual-polarization antenna array package for w-band communication and imaging applications**. In: *2018 IEEE 68th Electron Compon Technol Conf (ECTC)*. IEEE, 2018; 197–201.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
84. Rucker H, Heinemann B: **High-performance sige hbts for next generation bimos technology**. *Semicond Sci Technol*. 2018; **33**(11): 114003.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
85. Rutledge DB, Neikirk DP, Kasilingam DP: **Integrated circuit antennas**. *Infrared and millimeter waves*. 1983; **10**(2): 1–90.
86. Babakhani A, Guan X, Komijani A, et al.: **A 77-GHz phased-array transceiver with on-chip antennas in silicon: Receiver and antennas**. *IEEE J Solid-State Circuits*. 2006; **41**(12): 2795–2806.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
87. Pan S, Capolino F: **Design of a cmos on-chip slot antenna with extremely flat cavity at 140 ghz**. *IEEE Antennas Wirel Propag Lett*. 2011; **10**: 827–830.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
88. Wang R, Sun Y, Kaynak M, et al.: **A micromachined double-dipole antenna for 122 – 140 ghz applications based on a sige bimos technology**. In: *2012 IEEE MTTT Int Microw Symp*. IEEE, 2012; 1–3.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
89. Al-Zayed A, Swisher RR, Lecuyer F, et al.: **Reduction of substrate-mode effects in power-combining arrays**. *IEEE Trans Microw Theory Tech*. 2001; **49**(6): 1067–1072.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
90. Al-Hasan MJ, Denidni TA, Sebak AR: **Millimeter-wave compact ebg structure for mutual coupling reduction applications**. *IEEE Trans Antennas Propag*. 2014; **63**(2): 823–828.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
91. Sinha S, Libois M, Vaesen K, et al.: **Miniaturized (127 to 154) ghz dipole arrays in 28 nm bulk cmos with enhanced efficiency**. *IEEE Trans Antennas Propag*. 2021; **69**(3): 1414–1426.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
92. Laskin E, Tang KW, Yau KHK, et al.: **170-ghz transceiver with on-chip antennas in sige technology**. In: *2008 IEEE Radio Frequency Integrated Circuits Symposium*. 2008; 637–640.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
93. Bao M, Li Y, Zirath H: **A v-band high linearity two-stage subharmonically pumped mixer**. In: *2014 9th European Microwave Integrated Circuit Conference*. 2014; 162–165.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
94. Rogers JWM, Rahn DG, Cavin MS, et al.: **A fully integrated multi-band mimo wlan transceiver rfc**. *IEEE J Solid-State Circuits*. 2005; **40**(8): 1629–1641.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
95. Hu Z, Wang C, Han R: **A 32-Unit 240-GHz Heterodyne Receiver Array in 65-nm CMOS With Array-Wide Phase Locking**. *IEEE J Solid-State Circuits*. 2019; **54**(5):

- 1216–1227.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
96. Salarpour V, Farzaneh F, Staszewski RB: **Synchronization-Phase Alignment of All-Digital Phase-Locked Loop Chips for a 60-GHz MIMO Transmitter and Evaluation of Phase Noise Effects.** *IEEE Trans Microw Theory Tech.* 2019; **67**(7): 3187–3199.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  97. Jiang R, Noori H, Dai FF: **A Multi-Phase coupled oscillator using dual-tank magnetic coupling technique.** *Proc IEEE Bipolar/BiCMOS Circuits Technol Meet.* 2017; 154–157.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  98. York RA, Itoh T: **Injection- and phase-locking techniques for beam control.** *IEEE Trans Microw Theory Tech.* 1998; **46**(11 PART 2): 1920–1929.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  99. Chang HC: **Analysis of coupled phase-locked loops with independent oscillators for beam control active phased arrays.** *IEEE Trans Microw Theory Tech.* 2004; **52**(3): 1059–1066.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  100. Yan SH, Chu TH: **A beam-steering and -switching antenna array using a coupled phase-locked loop array.** *IEEE Trans Antennas Propag.* 2009; **57**(3): 638–644.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  101. Agrawal A, Natarajan A: **A scalable 28GHz coupled-PLL in 65nm CMOS with single-wire synchronization for large-scale 5G mm-wave arrays.** *Dig Tech Pap IEEE Int Solid-State Circuits Conf.* 2016; **59**: 38–39.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  102. Khalaf K, Vaesen K, Brebels S, et al.: **A 60GHz 8-way phased array front-end with TR switching and calibration-free beamsteering in 28nm CMOS.** *ESSCIRC 2017 - 43rd IEEE Eur Solid State Circuits Conf.* 2017; 203–206.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  103. Subburaj K, Ginsburg BP, Samala S, et al.: **A multimode 76-to-81GHz automotive radar transceiver with autonomous monitoring.** *Isscc 2018 / Sess. 9 / Wirel Transceivers Tech.* 2018; 158–160.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  104. Issakov V, Rimmelspacher J, Trotta S, et al.: **A 52-to-67 GHz dual-core push-push VCO in 40-nm CMOS.** *Eur Microw Week 2017 "A Prime Year a Prime Event", EuMW 2017 - Conf Proceedings; 47th Eur Microw Conf EuMC 2017.* 2017; 755–758.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  105. Jeong GS, Kim W, Park J, et al.: **A 0.015-mm<sup>2</sup> Inductorless 32-GHz Clock Generator with Wide Frequency-Tuning Range in 28-nm CMOS Technology.** *IEEE Trans Circuits Syst II Express Briefs.* 2017; **64**(6): 655–659.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  106. Moroni A, Genesi R, Manstretta D: **Analysis and design of a 54 GHz distributed 'hybrid' wave oscillator array with quadrature outputs.** *IEEE J Solid-State Circuits.* 2014; **49**(5): 1158–1172.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  107. Jalili H, Momeni O: **A 219-to-238-GHz Coupled Standing-Wave VCO with 3.4-dBm Peak Output Power in 65nm CMOS.** *Proc Cust Integr Circuits Conf.* 2019; 1–4.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  108. Heydari P: **Fundamentals of Millimeter-Wave Frequency Generation and Synthesis in Silicon.** *CICC Tutor.* 2018; 1–49.  
[Reference Source](#)
  109. Iotti L, Mazzanti A, Svelto F: **Insights into Phase-Noise Scaling in Switch-Coupled Multi-Core LC VCOs for E-Band Adaptive Modulation Links.** *IEEE J Solid-State Circuits.* 2017; **52**(7): 1703–1718.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  110. Zong Z, Babaie M, Staszewski RB: **A 60 GHz Frequency Generator Based on a 20 GHz Oscillator and an Implicit Multiplier.** *IEEE J Solid-State Circuits.* 2016; **51**(5): 1261–1273.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  111. Hu Y, Siriburanon T, Staszewski RB: **A Low-Flicker-Noise 30-GHz Class-F<sub>23</sub> Oscillator in 28-nm CMOS Using Implicit Resonance and Explicit Common-Mode Return Path.** *IEEE J Solid-State Circuits.* 2018; **53**(7): 1977–1987.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  112. Siriburanon T: **A Low-Power Low-Noise mm-Wave Subsampling PLL Using Dual-Step-Mixing ILFD and Tail-Coupling Quadrature Injection-Locked Oscillator for IEEE 802.11ad.** *IEEE J Solid-State Circuits.* 2016; **51**(5): 1246–1260.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  113. Wu W, Long JR, Staszewski RB: **High-resolution millimeter-wave digitally controlled oscillators with reconfigurable passive resonators.** *IEEE J Solid-State Circuits.* 2013; **48**(11): 2785–2794.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  114. Huang Z, Luong HC: **Design and Analysis of Millimeter-Wave Digitally Controlled Oscillators with C-2C Exponentially Scaling Switched-Capacitor Ladder.** *IEEE Trans Circuits Syst I Regul Pap.* 2017; **64**(6): 1299–1307.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  115. Issakov V, Werthof A, Rimmelspacher J, et al.: **Experimental Study on Crosstalk Reduction between Integrated Inductors up to Millimeter-Wave Regime.** *2018 91st ARFTG Microw Meas Conf Wideband Modul Test Signals Netw Anal Wirel Infrastruct Build Blocks ARFTG 2018.* 2018; 1–4.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  116. Ahmadi-Mehr SAR, Tohidian M, Staszewski RB: **Analysis and Design of a Multi-Core Oscillator for Ultra-Low Phase Noise.** *IEEE Trans Circuits Syst I Regul Pap.* 2016; **63**(4): 529–539.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  117. Padovan F, Quadrelli F, Bassi M, et al.: **A quad-core 15ghz bicmos vco with -124dbc/hz phase noise at 1mhz offset, -189dbc/hz fom, and robust to multimode concurrent oscillations.** In: *2018 IEEE International Solid-State Circuits Conference-(ISSCC).* IEEE, 2018; 376–378.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  118. Bevilacqua A, Pavan FP, Sandner C, et al.: **Transformer-Based Dual-Mode Voltage-Controlled Oscillators.** *IEEE Trans Circuits Syst II Express Briefs.* 2007; **54**(4): 293–297.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  119. Nakamura T, Masuda T, Washio K, et al.: **A 59GHz push-push VCO with 13.9GHz tuning range using loop-ground transmission line for a full-band 60GHz transceiver.** *IEEE J Solid-State Circuits.* 2012; **47**(6): 1267–1277.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  120. Chiang PY, Momeni O, Heydari P: **A 200-GHz Inductively Tuned VCO with -7-dBm Output Power in 130-nm SiGe BiCMOS.** *IEEE Trans Microw Theory Tech.* 2013; **61**(10): 3666–3673.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  121. Chao Y, Luong HC: **Transformer-based dual-band VCO and ILFD for wide-band mm-Wave LO generation.** *Proc Cust Integr Circuits Conf.* 2013; 1–4.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  122. Xu C, Chen J, Zhao D: **A 77-GHz 1.5-mW down-conversion mixer using active loads technique in 40-nm CMOS for automotive radar application.** In: *2020 IEEE International Conference on Integrated Circuits, Technologies and Applications (ICTA).* 2020; 7–8.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  123. Maiwald T, Potschka J, Kolb K, et al.: **A broadband zero-IF down-conversion mixer in 130 nm SiGe BiCMOS for beyond 5G communication systems in D-Band.** *IEEE Transactions on Circuits and Systems II: Express Briefs.* 2021; **68**(7): 2277–2281.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  124. Drobotun N, Danilov D, Drozdov A: **A decade bandwidth mixers based on planar transformers and quasi-vertical Schottky diodes implemented in GaAs MMIC technology.** In: *2020 50th European Microwave Conference (EuMC).* 2021; 957–960.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  125. Jyo T, Nagatani M, Ida M, et al.: **A DC to 194-GHz distributed mixer in 250-nm InP DHBT technology.** In: *2020 IEEE/MTT-S International Microwave Symposium (IMS).* 2020; 771–774.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  126. Sayginer M, Rebeiz GM: **A W-Band LNA/phase shifter with 5-dB NF and 24-mW power consumption in 32-nm CMOS SOI.** *IEEE Trans Microw Theory Tech.* 2018; **66**(4): 1973–1982.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  127. Yu KC, Kuo CN: **A 94 GHz down-conversion mixer for radar system in 40 nm digital CMOS technology.** In: *2020 IEEE Asia-Pacific Microwave Conference (APMC).* 2020; 116–118.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  128. Hassona A, Vassilev V, Zirath H: **G-band frequency converters in 130-nm InP DHBT technology.** In: *2020 50th European Microwave Conference (EuMC).* 2021; 1027–1030.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  129. Park GH, Byeon CW, Park CS: **A 60-GHz low-power active phase shifter with impedance-invariant vector modulation in 65-nm CMOS.** *IEEE Trans Microw Theory Tech.* 2020; **68**(12): 5395–5407.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  130. Testa PV, Carta C, Ellinger F: **A 160-190-GHz vector-modulator phase shifter for low-power applications.** *IEEE Microw Wirel Compon Lett.* 2020; **30**(1): 86–89.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  131. Hosseinzadeh N, Buckwalter JF: **A compact, 37 percent fractional bandwidth millimeter-wave phase shifter using a wideband lange coupler for 60-GHz and E-band systems.** In: *2017 IEEE Compound Semiconductor Integrated Circuit Symposium (CSICS).* 2017; 1–4.  
[Reference Source](#)
  132. Pepe D, Zito D: **A 78.8-92.8 GHz 4-bit 0-360° active phase shifter in 28nm FDSOI CMOS with 2.3 dB average peak gain.** In: *ESSCIRC Conference 2015 - 41st European Solid-State Circuits Conference (ESSCIRC).* 2015; 64–67.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  133. Niehenke EC: **The evolution of low noise devices and amplifiers.** In: *IEEE MTTs Int Microw Symp.* 2012; 1–3.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
  134. Mosbahi H, Gassoumi M, Charfeddine M, et al.: **Electron traps studied in algan/gan hemt on si substrate using capacitance deep level transient spectroscopy.** *J Optoelectron Adv Mater.* 2010; **12**(11): 2190–2193.  
[Reference Source](#)
  135. Cooke M: **Transcending frequency and integration limits.** *Semicond Today.* 2006; **1**(3): 28–31.  
[Reference Source](#)
  136. Galla T: **Rf low noise amplifier technology landscape grows more diverse.** In: *High frequency electronics.* 2019; 12.  
[Reference Source](#)
  137. Lee W, Plouchart JO, Ozdag C, et al.: **Fully integrated 94-GHz dual-polarized TX and RX phased array chipset in SiGe BiCMOS operating up to 105 °C.** *IEEE*

- J Solid-State Circuits*. 2018; **53**(9): 2512–2531.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
138. Li H, Chen J, Hou D, et al.: **A W-Band 6-bit phase shifter with 7 dB gain and 1.35° RMS phase error in 130 nm SiGe BiCMOS**. *IEEE Trans Circuits Syst II Express Briefs*. 2020; **67**(10): 1839–1843.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
139. Thome F, Leuther A, Massler H, et al.: **Comparison of a 35-nm and a 50-nm gate-length metamorphic hemt technology for millimeter-wave low-noise amplifier mmics**. In *2017 IEEE MTT-S International Microwave Symposium (IMS)*. 2017; 752–755.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
140. Tessmann A, Leuther A, Massler H, et al.: **A millimeter-wave low-noise amplifier mmic with integrated power detector and gain control functionality**. In *2016 IEEE MTT-S International Microwave Symposium (IMS)*. 2016; 1–3.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
141. Smith PM, Ashman M, Xu D, et al.: **A 50nm mhemt millimeter-wave mmic Ina with wideband noise and gain performance**. In *2014 IEEE MTT-S International Microwave Symposium (IMS2014)*. IEEE, 2014; 1–4.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
142. Kanar T, Rebeiz GM: **X- and K-band sige hbt Inas with 1.2- and 2.2-db mean noise figures**. *IEEE Trans Microw Theory Tech*. 2014; **62**(10): 2381–2389.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
143. Tabarani F, Schumacher H: **A 32.8 db gain, 3.5 db nf, 7 mw, 20.35 ghz Ina with embedded 30 ghz band-stop filter**. In *2017 IEEE Bipolar/BiCMOS Circuits and Technology Meeting (BCTM)*. 2017; 78–81.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
144. Kanar T, Rebeiz GM: **A 16-24 ghz cmos soi Ina with 2.2 db mean noise figure**. In *2013 IEEE Compound Semiconductor Integrated Circuit Symposium (CSICS)*. 2013; 1–4.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
145. Liu Z, Gao P, Chen Z: **A k-band low noise amplifier with on-chip baluns in 90nm cmos**. In *2015 IEEE International Symposium on Radio-Frequency Integration Technology (RFIT)*. 2015; 241–243.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
146. Yeh HC, Chiong CC, Aloui S, et al.: **Analysis and design of millimeter-wave low-voltage cmos cascode Ina with magnetic coupled technique**. *IEEE Transactions on Microwave Theory and Techniques*. 2012; **60**(12): 4066–4079.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
147. Liu G, Schumacher H: **Broadband millimeter-wave Inas (47-77 ghz and 70-140 ghz) using a t-type matching topology**. *IEEE Journal of Solid-State Circuits*. 2013; **48**(9): 2022–2029.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
148. Zihir S, Rebeiz GM: **A wideband 60 ghz Ina with 3.3 db minimum noise figure**. In *2017 IEEE MTT-S International Microwave Symposium (IMS)*. 2017; 1969–1971.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
149. Jang S, Nguyen C: **A high-gain power-efficient wideband v-band Ina in 0.18- $\mu$ m sige bicmos**. *IEEE Microw Wirel Compon Lett*. 2016; **26**(4): 276–278.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
150. Park Y, Lee CH, Cressler JD, et al.: **The analysis of uwb sige hbt Ina for its noise, linearity, and minimum group delay variation**. *IEEE Trans Microw Theory Tech*. 2006; **54**(4): 1687–1697.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
151. Szczepkowski G, Farrell R: **Study of linearity and power consumption requirements of cmos low noise amplifiers in context of lte systems and beyond**. *Int Sch Res Notices*. 2014; **2014**: 391240.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
152. Shakib S, Dunworth J, Aparin V, et al.: **mmWave CMOS Power Amplifiers for 5G Cellular Communication**. *IEEE Commun Mag*. 2019; **57**(1): 98–105.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
153. Lie DYC, Mayeda JC, Li Y, et al.: **A review of 5G power amplifier design at cm-wave and mm-wave frequencies**. *Wirel Commun Mob Comput*. 2018; **2018**: 6793814.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
154. Vasjanov A, Barzdenas V: **A review of advanced CMOS RF power amplifier architecture trends for low power 5G wireless networks**. *Electronics*. 2018; **7**(11): 271.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
155. Cheng QF, Zhu SK, Wu H: **Investigating the global trend of RF power amplifiers with the arrival of 5G**. In *2015 IEEE International Wireless Symposium (IWS)*. 2015.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
156. Chen W, Lv G, Liu X, et al.: **Doherty PAs for 5G Massive MIMO: Energy-Efficient Integrated DPA MMICs for Sub-6-GHz and mm-Wave 5G Massive MIMO Systems**. *IEEE Microw Mag*. 2020; **21**(5): 78–93.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
157. Camarchia V, Quaglia R, Piacibello A, et al.: **A review of technologies and design techniques of millimeter-wave power amplifiers**. *IEEE Trans Microw Theory Tech*. 2020; **68**(7): 2957–2983.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
158. Wang H, Huang TY, Mannem NS, et al.: **Power amplifiers performance survey. 2000-Present**. Accessed: 2022-04-13.  
[Reference Source](#)
159. Moron J, Leblanc R, Lecourt F, et al.: **12W, 30% PAE, 40 GHz power amplifier MMIC using a commercially available GaN/Si process**. In *International Microwave Symposium (IMS)*. 2018.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
160. Huang PC, Tsai ZM, Lin KY, et al.: **A 17–35 GHz Broadband, High Efficiency PHEMT Power Amplifier Using Synthesized Transformer Matching Technique**. In *IEEE Trans Microw Theory Tech*. 2012; **60**(1): 112–119.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
161. Smith PM, Dugas D, Chu K, et al.: **Progress in GaAs metamorphic HEMT technology for microwave applications**. *25th Annual Technical Digest 2003. IEEE Gallium Arsenide Integrated Circuit (GaAs IC) Symposium*. 2003; **25**: 21–24.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
162. Schwantuschke D, Godejohann BJ, Brückner P, et al.: **mm-wave operation of aln/gan-devices and mmics at v- & w-band**. In *2018 22nd International Microwave and Radar Conference (MIKON)*. IEEE, 2018; 238–241.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
163. Nguyen HT, Jung D, Wang H: **4.9 A 60GHz CMOS Power Amplifier with Cascaded Asymmetric Distributed-Active-Transformer Achieving Watt-Level Peak Output Power with 20.8% PAE and Supporting 2Gsym/s 64-QAM Modulation**. In *IEEE Int Solid State Circuits Conf*. 2019.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
164. Zhao D, Reynaert P: **An E-Band Power Amplifier With Broadband Parallel-Series Power Combiner in 40-nm CMOS**. In *IEEE Trans Microw Theory Tech*. 2015; **63**(2): 683–690.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
165. Wang F, Wang H: **An instantaneously broadband ultra-compact highly linear PA with compensated distributed-balun output network achieving >17.8dBm P1dB and >36.6% PAEP1dB over 24 to 40GHz and continuously supporting 64-/256-QAM 5G NR signals over 24 to 42GHz**. In *IEEE International Solid-State Circuits Conference (ISSCC)*. 2020.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
166. Wang F, Li TW, Wang H: **4.8 A Highly Linear Super-Resolution Mixed-Signal Doherty Power Amplifier for High-Efficiency mm-Wave 5G Multi-Gb/s Communications**. In *IEEE International Solid-State Circuits Conference - (ISSCC)*. 2019; 88–90.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
167. Nguyen HT, Wang H: **A Coupler-Based Differential Doherty Power Amplifier with Built-In Baluns for High Mm-Wave Linear-Yet-Efficient Gbit/s Amplifications**. *IEEE Radio Frequency Integrated Circuits Symposium (RFIC)*. 2019.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
168. Nguyen DP, Pham BL, Pham A: **A Compact Ka-Band Integrated Doherty Amplifier With Reconfigurable Input Network**. *IEEE Trans Microw Theory Tech*. 2019; **67**(1): 205–215.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
169. Giofrè R, Del Gaudio A, Limiti E: **A 28 GHz MMIC Doherty Power Amplifier in GaN on Si Technology for 5G Applications**. In *International Microwave Symposium (IMS)*. 2019.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
170. Kaymaksut E, Zhao D, Reynaert P: **Transformer-Based Doherty Power Amplifiers for mm-Wave Applications in 40-nm CMOS**. *IEEE Transactions on Microwave Theory and Techniques*. 2015; **63**(4): 1186–1192.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
171. Nguyen HT, Chi T, Li S, et al.: **A 62-to-68GHz linear 6Gb/s 64QAM CMOS doherty radiator with 27.5%/20.1% PAE at peak/6dB-back-off output power leveraging high-efficiency multi-feed antenna-based active load modulation**. *IEEE International Solid - State Circuits Conference (ISSCC)*. 2018.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
172. Popovic Z: **Ampling Up the PA for 5G: Efficient GaN Power Amplifiers with Dynamic Supplies**. *IEEE Microw Mag*. 2017; **18**(3): 137–149.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
173. Barradas FM, Tomé PM, Gomes JM, et al.: **Power, Linearity, and Efficiency Prediction for MIMO Arrays with Antenna Coupling**. *IEEE Trans Microw Theory Tech*. 2017; **65**: 5284–5297.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
174. Asbeck P, Popovic Z: **ET Comes of Age: Envelope Tracking for Higher-Efficiency Power Amplifiers**. *IEEE Microw Mag*. 2016; **17**(3): 16–25.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
175. Li S, Fritsche D, Carta C, et al.: **Design and characterization of a 12–40 ghz power amplifier in sige technology**. *2018 IEEE Topical Conference on RF/Microwave Power Amplifiers for Radio and Wireless Applications (PAWR)*. 2018; 23–25.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
176. Margomenos A, Kurdoghlian A, Micovic M, et al.: **GaN Technology for E, W and G-Band Applications**. *IEEE Compound Semiconductor Integrated Circuit Symposium (CSICS)*. 2014.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
177. Thome F, Leuther A, Schlechtweg M, et al.: **Broadband High-Power W-Band Amplifier MMICs Based on Stacked-HEMT Unit Cells**. In *IEEE Trans Microw Theory Tech*. 2018; **66**(3): 1312–1318.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
178. Song P, Oakley MA, Ulusoy AC, et al.: **A Class-E Tuned W-Band SiGe Power Amplifier With 40.4% power-added efficiency at 93 GHz**. *IEEE Microw Wirel Compon Lett*. 2015; **25**(10): 663–665.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)
179. Li T, Wang H: **A continuous-mode 23.5-41GHz hybrid class-F/F-I power amplifier with 46% peak PAE for 5G massive MIMO applications**. *IEEE Radio Frequency Integrated Circuits Symposium (RFIC)*. 2018.  
[Publisher Full Text](#)

# Open Peer Review

Current Peer Review Status:   

---

## Version 1

Reviewer Report 16 November 2023

<https://doi.org/10.21956/openreseurope.15654.r33904>

© 2023 Sinha R et al. This is an open access peer review report distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution License](#), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.



**Rashmi Sinha** 

Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering,, National Institute of Technology Jamshedpur, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand, India

**Santosh Kumar Mahto**

Indian Institute of Information Technology Ranchi, Ranchi, Jharkhand, India

The author reported the state of the art in beyond 5G distributed massive multiple-input multiple-output communication system solutions.

The overview and challenges of distributed massive MIMO communication systems and network architectures are discussed. Also, an overview of the state of the art in millimetre wave antennas and electronics is presented. The following questions should be addressed:

1. Are soft computing techniques utilized to estimate the channel in DM-MIMO?
2. What are the design challenges involved in millimetre wave antennas and electronics?
3. What is mutual coupling? What are the different techniques used to minimize mutual coupling?
4. What is OTFS? Different methods used for delay Doppler channel estimation in OTFS should be discussed in the manuscript.

**Is the topic of the review discussed comprehensively in the context of the current literature?**

Partly

**Are all factual statements correct and adequately supported by citations?**

Yes

**Is the review written in accessible language?**



Yes

**Are the conclusions drawn appropriate in the context of the current research literature?**

Partly

**Competing Interests:** No competing interests were disclosed.

**Reviewer Expertise:** Different methods used for delay Doppler channel estimation in OTFS should be discussed.

**We confirm that we have read this submission and believe that we have an appropriate level of expertise to confirm that it is of an acceptable scientific standard, however we have significant reservations, as outlined above.**

Reviewer Report 16 November 2023

<https://doi.org/10.21956/openreseurope.15654.r34537>

© 2023 Sehrai D. This is an open access peer review report distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution License](#), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.



**Daniyal Ali Sehrai** 

University of Oviedo, Gijon, Spain

This review article presents an outlook on 5G distributed massive MIMO communication systems, the signal processing, characterization, and simulation challenges, and an overview of the state of the art in millimeter wave antennas and electronics. The communication system is discussed regarding challenges and the possible solutions for the successful deployment of the beyond-5G communication system. A few suggestions are given below which can make this review article more insightful for the readers:

- As for 5G communication, two critical chunks of spectrum, i.e., Sub-6 GHz and mm-wave targeted. *(This should be little be highlighted in the introduction section)*
- Below 6 GHz, some other frequency bands are already allocated for many different applications like 5.35-5.69 GHz (LTE 46/WLAN). So, why is still Sub-6 GHz targeted for 5G and what were the drawbacks? *(This question should also be addressed in the introduction section)*
- Is Beyond-5G only focused on THz frequency bands? *(Please put some discussion about it in the introduction section)*
- Will the transmission based on the antennas operating at THz frequency bands be harmful to human tissues? What are the possible safety measures?
- Due to higher data rates and capacity demands, each new communication generation is targeting the higher part of the spectrum which causes a small coverage area and many

base station deployments to have a large coverage area. *(Please discuss the deployment, maintenance, and operation cost complexity as compared to the previous technologies)*

- At THz frequencies, the antenna size will become quite small, which will also pose some fabrication challenges. *(Please put some discussion and possible solutions)*
- As in the case of mm-wave transmission, atmospheric attenuations are a quite severe challenge. For this, high-gain antennas are a possible solution with MIMO capabilities. What about THz frequencies? For the THz-based antenna transmission, what would be the possible gain requirements?
- I suggest replacing figure 15 with its colored copy (RGB) instead of the black in white one.
- I would also suggest adding a comparison table in section 4, where authors can put a comparison from third generation to beyond 5G in terms of frequency bands targeted/aimed, pros and cons, challenges, and possible solutions (brief key statements would be enough), and the data rates achieved/aimed.

**Is the topic of the review discussed comprehensively in the context of the current literature?**

Partly

**Are all factual statements correct and adequately supported by citations?**

Yes

**Is the review written in accessible language?**

Yes

**Are the conclusions drawn appropriate in the context of the current research literature?**

Yes

**Competing Interests:** No competing interests were disclosed.

**Reviewer Expertise:** RF Sensors and Circuits, Antennas, Metamaterials, Implanted Antennas, Electromagnetic Imaging, Radars, Electromagnetics, RF front end, MIMO, Arrays

**I confirm that I have read this submission and believe that I have an appropriate level of expertise to confirm that it is of an acceptable scientific standard, however I have significant reservations, as outlined above.**

Reviewer Report 16 November 2023

<https://doi.org/10.21956/openreseurope.15654.r33908>

© 2023 kamili J. This is an open access peer review report distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution License](#), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

**Jagadeesh Babu kamili**

St. Ann's College of Engineering & Technology, Chirala, Andhra Pradesh, India

Overall, the manuscript is presented in a lucid and effective manner and hence can be accepted after incorporating the following minor suggestions:

- On page 4, second column, second paragraph, in the sentence, "**However, because all the antennas are co-located the line of sight (LOS) conditions between base station and user cause high correlation among various users and proves to be a bottleneck for a system throughout...**" Please check whether it is throughout or throughput.
- In Section 4, regarding antenna design and array scaling, the authors have presented the impact and role of antenna design in 5G and beyond in a lucid manner. However, the main problem in antenna design when employed in MIMO systems is mutual coupling, which deteriorates the overall system performance. Hence, the authors are suggested to give some information related to the mutual coupling issue in 5G MIMO.
- Authors are asked to give some information related to sub 6 GHz 5G systems.
- Regarding reference [88], on page no. 14, the authors mentioned that the use of cavity-backed antennas is required to improve radiation efficiency. However, the antenna design mentioned in Reference [88] does not use cavity back technology.
- Similarly, as mentioned by the authors, References [90] and [91] are not related to metamaterials.
- As a large number of references are given, authors are advised to check the accuracy of all the citations given in the main manuscript part and References part.

**Is the topic of the review discussed comprehensively in the context of the current literature?**

Yes

**Are all factual statements correct and adequately supported by citations?**

Partly

**Is the review written in accessible language?**

Yes

**Are the conclusions drawn appropriate in the context of the current research literature?**

Yes

**Competing Interests:** No competing interests were disclosed.

**Reviewer Expertise:** Antenna design for MIMO and 5G communications.

**I confirm that I have read this submission and believe that I have an appropriate level of**

**expertise to confirm that it is of an acceptable scientific standard.**

---