





# RF Power Amplifier Behavioral Modeling



## Behavioral Modeling for Concurrent Dual-band Power Amplifiers Using 2D Hammerstein/Warner Models

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## RF Power Amplifier Behavioral Modeling using a Globally Recurrent Neural Network

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**Abstract** — In this paper it is shown that a globally recurrent time delay neural network can accurately model a nonlinear RF power amplifier having significant memory. The recognized difficulty of training a recurrent neural network is overcome by reducing it initially to a feedforward network, training that network, and then using the weights established by this training sequence in a restructured recurrent network. The training of the recurrent network thus reduces to the training of a feedforward network and a simple restructuring. The required maximum input delay is established by examination of the temporal profile of the energy contained in the amplifier impulse response. The model was successfully trained with an RF passband time domain multi-tone signal and subsequently validated with another multi-tone signal composed of different size components at different amplitudes. A second model trained with a wider bandwidth multi-tone was successfully validated with a W-CDMA signal.

**Index Terms** — Behavioral modeling, neural networks, power amplifiers, recurrent neural networks.

### I. INTRODUCTION

In recent years increasing attention has been given to the application of neural networks to behavioral modeling of RF power amplifiers, see for example [1]. It has been shown that feedforward neural networks with sufficient neurons are 'universal approximators' and can model any linear or non-linear system without memory [2]. Difficulties have arisen due to the 'curse of dimensionality', which refers to the amount of training data required to fully characterise a system. Another problem is the sometimes lengthy training time required to reach an acceptable level of performance.

With the development of newer communication systems such as W-CDMA, wider power amplifier bandwidths have become necessary and the memory effects of the PA start to become more critical to performance, making a simple feedforward model inadequate. Recent approaches have used feedforward time delay networks (TDNN) [3] to enable a feedforward network to model a system's dynamics, but as this method is limited to an input moving average representation, it may be expected to fail when the system being modelled has significant memory effects [4].

By the addition of feedback connections (recurrency), a neural network can fully model dynamic systems. Fully recurrent networks have been proposed to model power amplifiers [5]. However recurrent networks can be very slow to converge using standard training algorithms such as the back propagation through time algorithm [6] due to the problem of vanishing gradients.

The addition suggested here of a global feedback connection to the TDNN network, but with no local feedback, allows the implementation of a full non-linear autoregressive moving average model with external inputs (NARMAX) and can give a more effective and flexible behavioral modeling method with potentially fewer weights needed in the model, leading to faster execution. In addition, a globally recurrent network can be trained using an approach that is simpler and faster than the back propagation through time method. This approach is not possible in fully recurrent networks as the locally recurrent signals are unknown.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows: Section II outlines the method used to train the globally recurrent network. In Section III we demonstrate the validation of a globally recurrent time delay neural network model for an amplifier with significant memory. Conclusions are contained in Section IV.

### II. TRAINING RECURRENT NEURAL NETWORKS

The conventional approach to training recurrent neural networks is the back propagation through time method [6]. In this method the network is 'unfolded in time' or effectively duplicated at each time step so that the dependency of the output on previous outputs can be calculated at each step. This means that the training effort is increased by a multiple of the number of feedback delays used relative to training of feedforward networks. Convergence using this or any of the standard recurrent training methods can be slow, resulting in very long training times. Also, the error performance may not be very good. These methods must be used when the network is locally recurrent as the local feedback signals are unknown. However, if recurrency is restricted to global feedback from output to input with no local feedback connections, the feedback signal is known, as it is actually the desired output signal or signals. A feedforward network can be constructed with inputs including the actual and delayed inputs and also the delayed desired output signals. This network can then be trained using any of the standard training methods used for feedforward networks. When trained, the network can be restructured into a recurrent network using the weight matrices learned under the feedforward training. This provides a fast training technique with good error performance.

Linear activation functions are used in the output layer. A direct connection of the input to the output layer allows the

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