



US008027326B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Shearer, III et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 8,027,326 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Sep. 27, 2011**

(54) **METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR HIGH DATA RATE MULTI-CHANNEL WLAN ARCHITECTURE**

(75) Inventors: **Daniel D. Shearer, III**, Scottsdale, AZ (US); **Mark A. Webster**, Indian Harbour, FL (US)

(73) Assignee: **Xocyst Transfer AG L.L.C.**, Wilmington, DE (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 1077 days.

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(21) Appl. No.: **11/033,524**

(22) Filed: **Jan. 12, 2005**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2005/0180314 A1 Aug. 18, 2005

Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Provisional application No. 60/535,540, filed on Jan. 12, 2004.

(51) **Int. Cl.**
H04J 1/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **370/343; 370/210; 370/480**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** **370/208, 370/343, 480**

See application file for complete search history.

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Primary Examiner — Jianye Wu

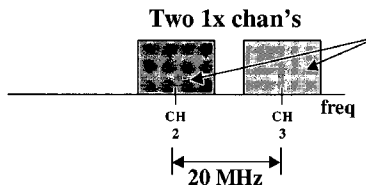
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method and system provides a way to achieve very high data rate expanded bandwidth (wide band) WLAN operations reusing existing single channel radio designs. The system provides a dual-channel form of operation for greater flexibility and performance across multiple platforms. Further, the system provides adaptive anti-aliasing techniques for eliminating aliasing due to adjacent channel waveform effects. These techniques mesh with existing systems cleanly.

18 Claims, 53 Drawing Sheets

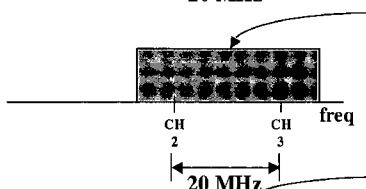
• **3 Spectrums**

CASE 1
Two 802.11a



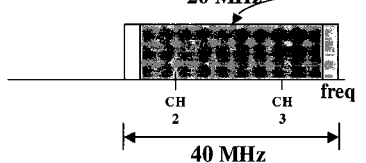
Each Waveform
• 52 OFDM Subcarriers
• = 48 Data Subcarrier
• + 4 Pilot Subcarriers

CASE 2
Filled-Gap OFDM



Fill gap between 2 "normal" OFDM channels

CASE 3
Alternative Mode OFDM



Use all usable Points in FFT Across 2 channels

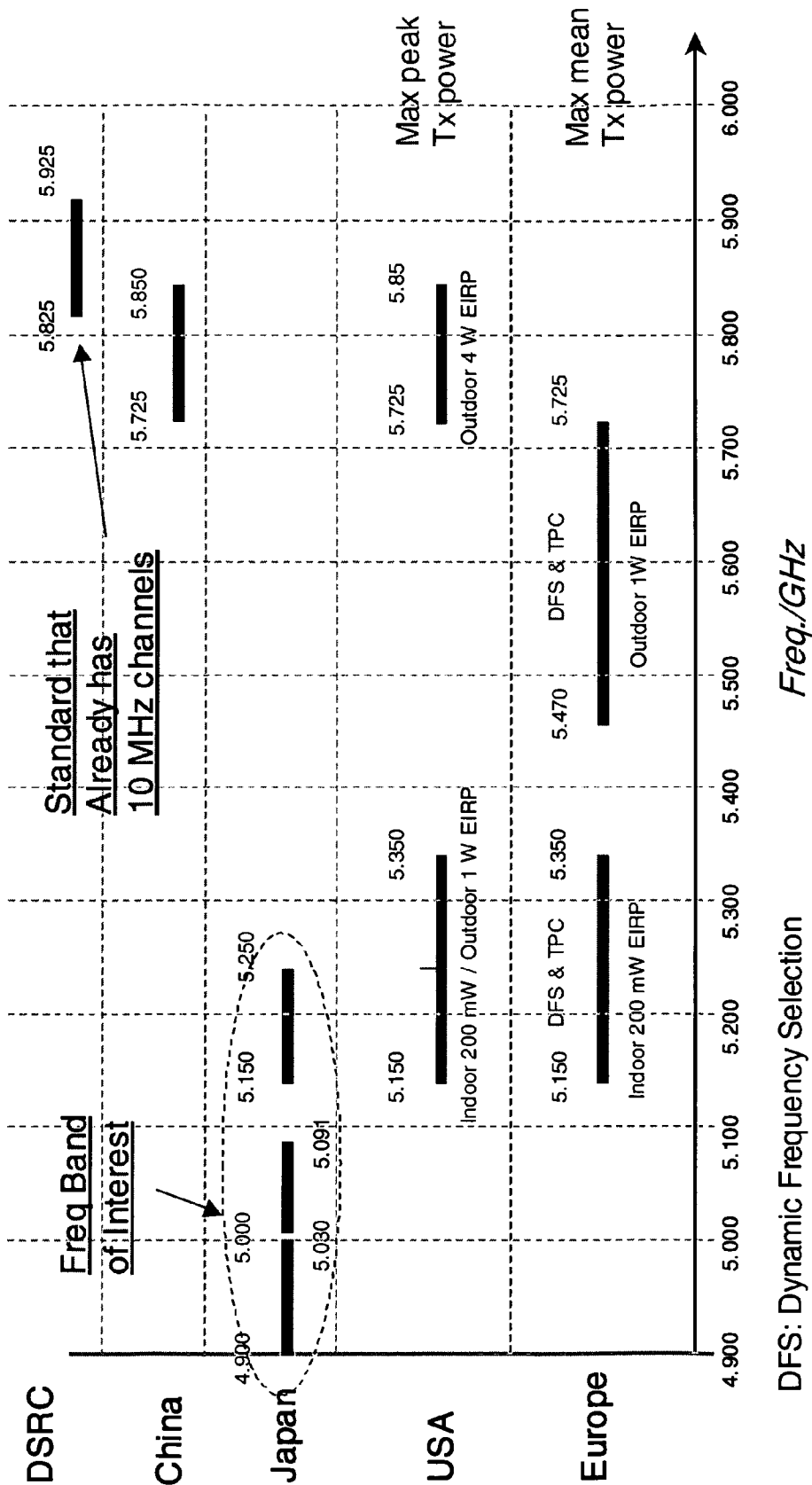


FIGURE 1

DFS: Dynamic Frequency Selection
TPC: Transmit Power Control

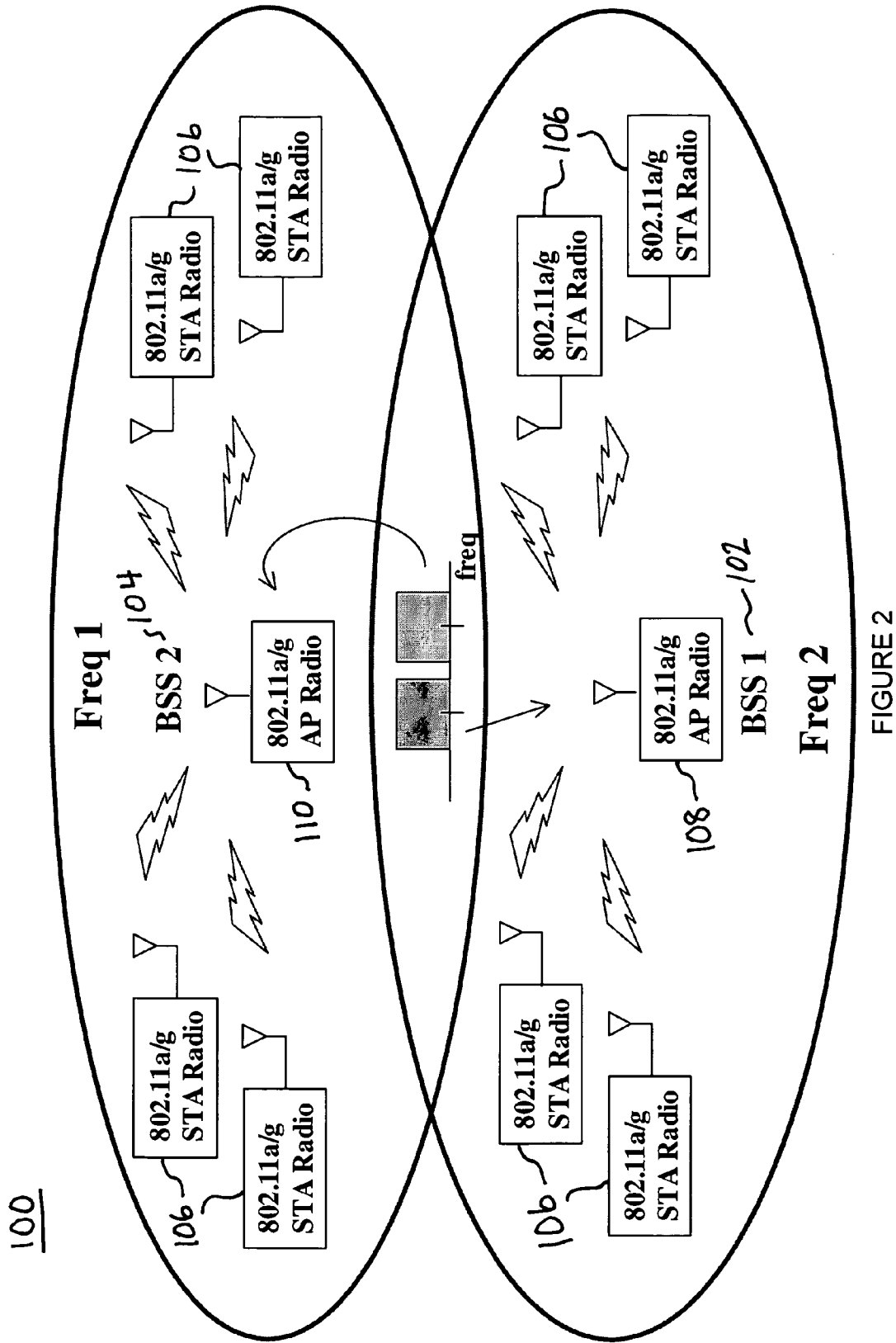


FIGURE 2

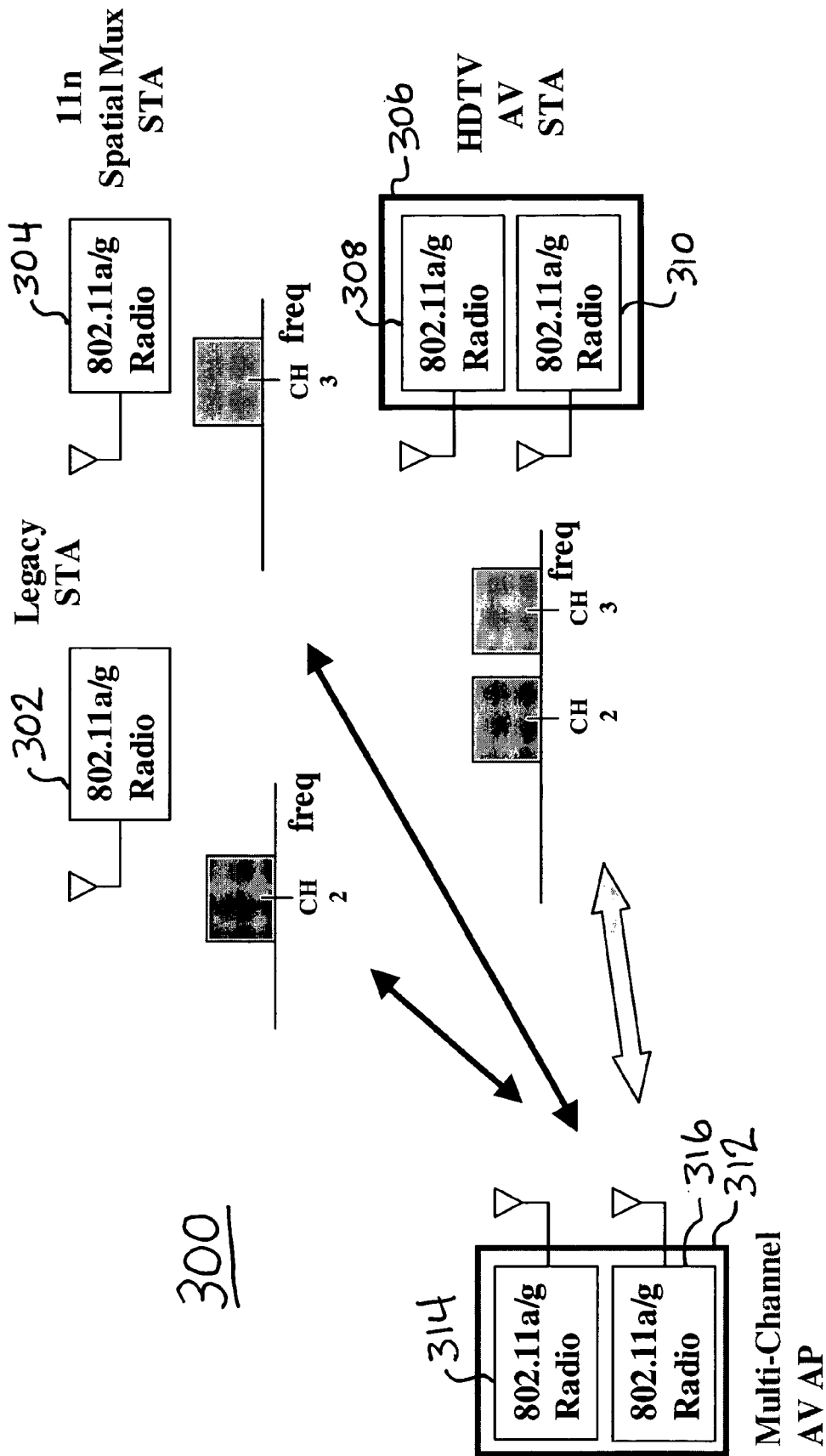
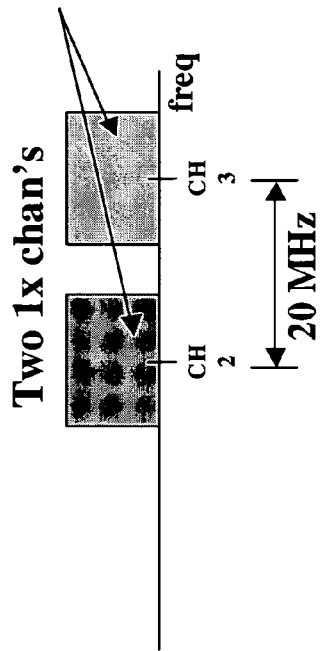


FIGURE 3

• **3 Spectrums**

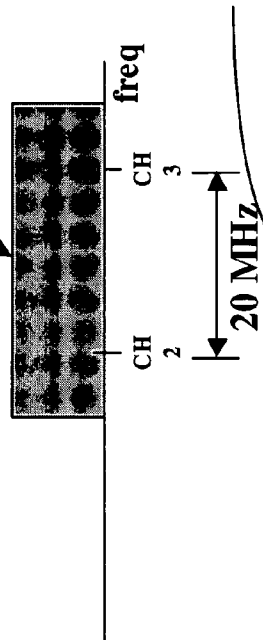
CASE 1
Two 802.11a



- Each Waveform
- 52 OFDM Subcarriers
 - = 48 Data Subcarrier
 - + 4 Pilot Subcarriers

CASE 2
Filled-Gap
OFDM

Fill gap between
2 "normal" OFDM
channels



CASE 3
Alternative Mode
OFDM

Use all usable
Points in FFT
Across 2 channels

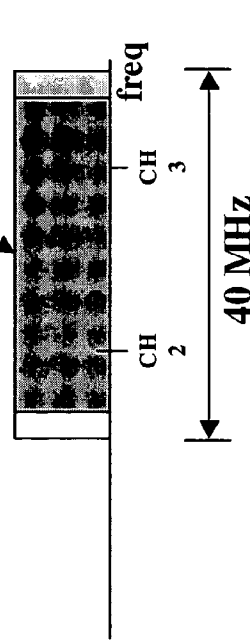


FIGURE 4

• 3 Spectrums

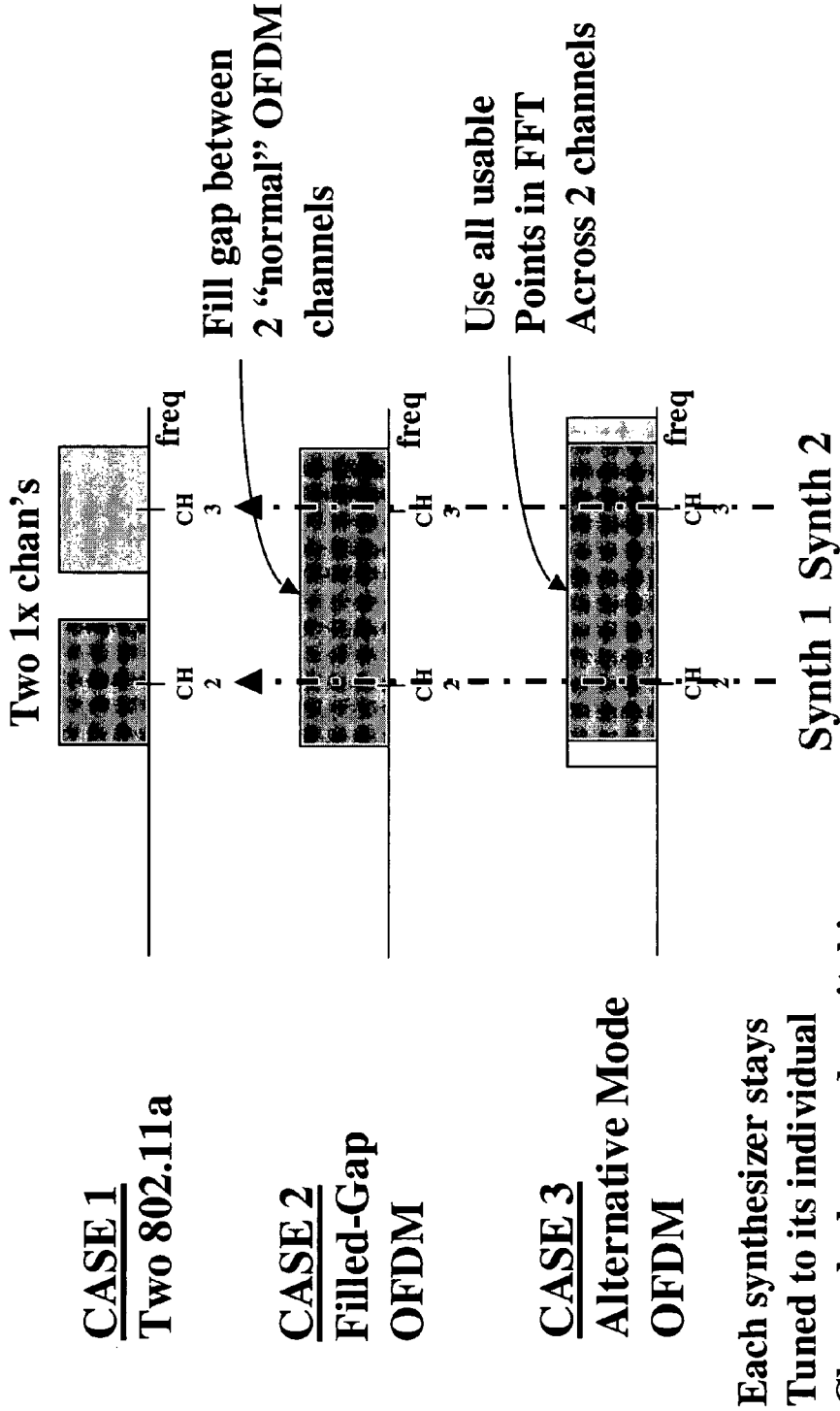


FIGURE 5

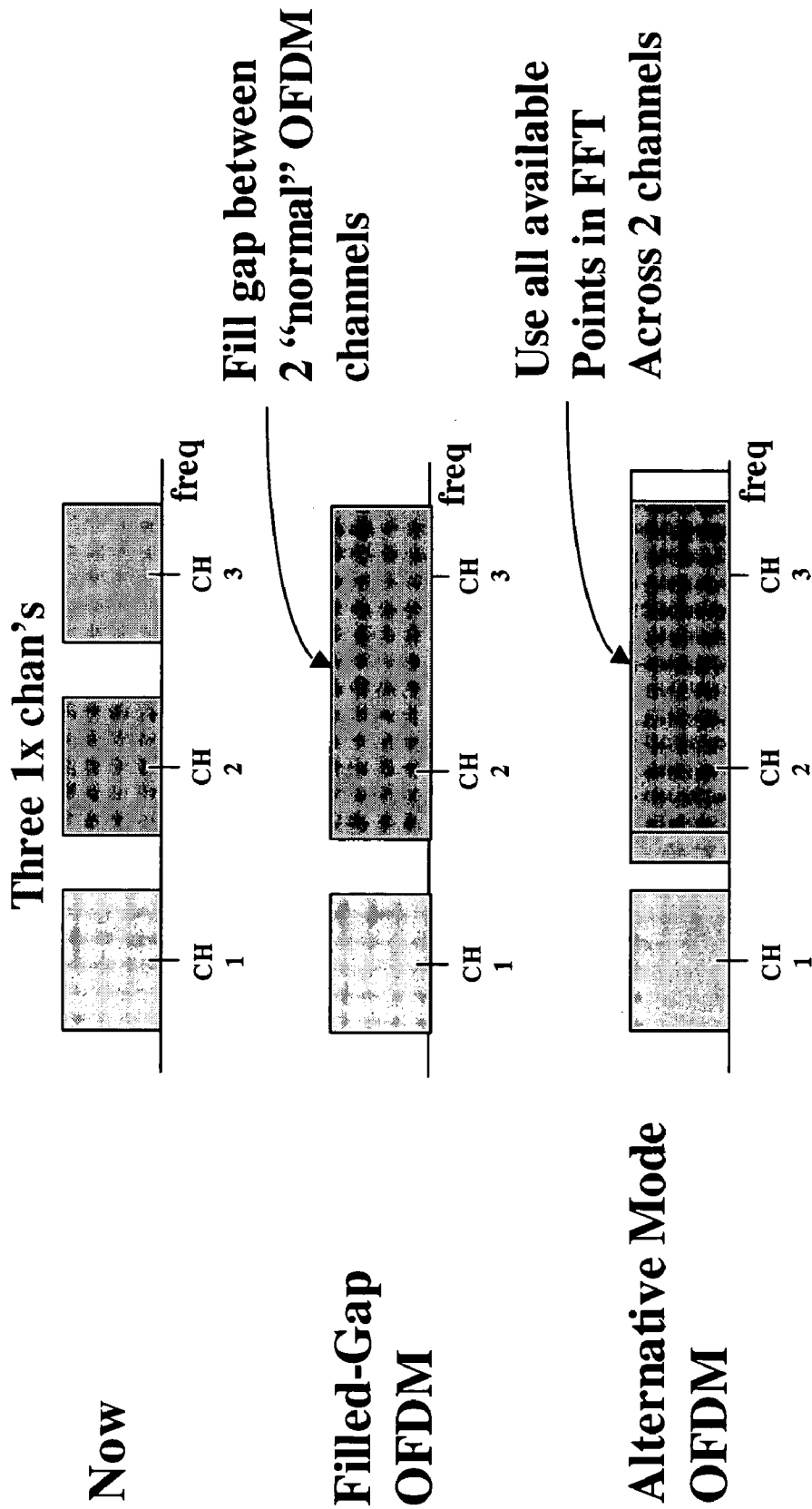


FIGURE 6

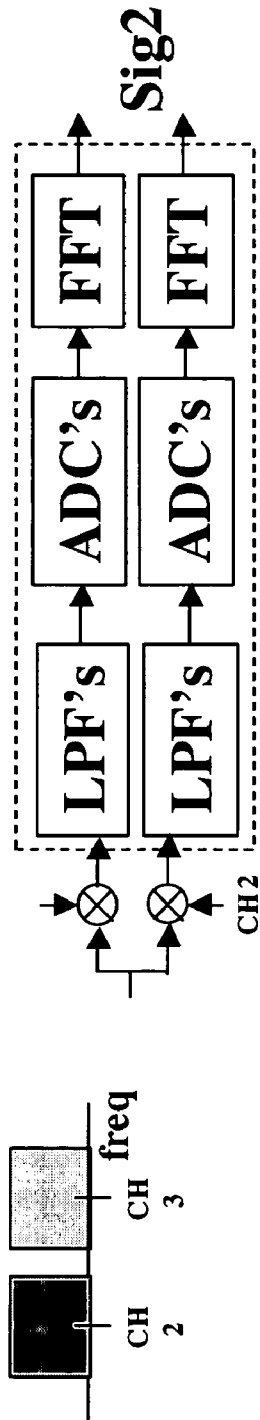


FIGURE 7

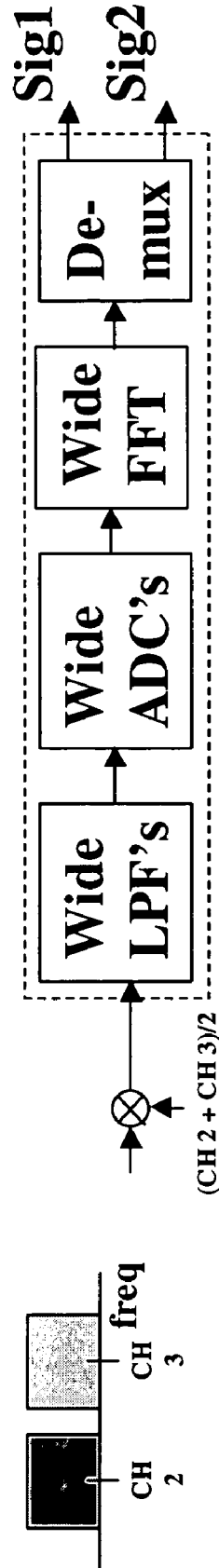
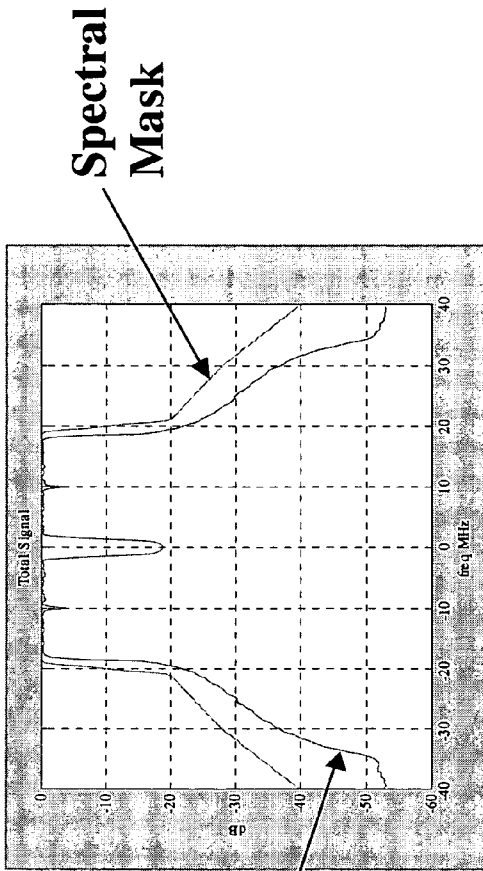


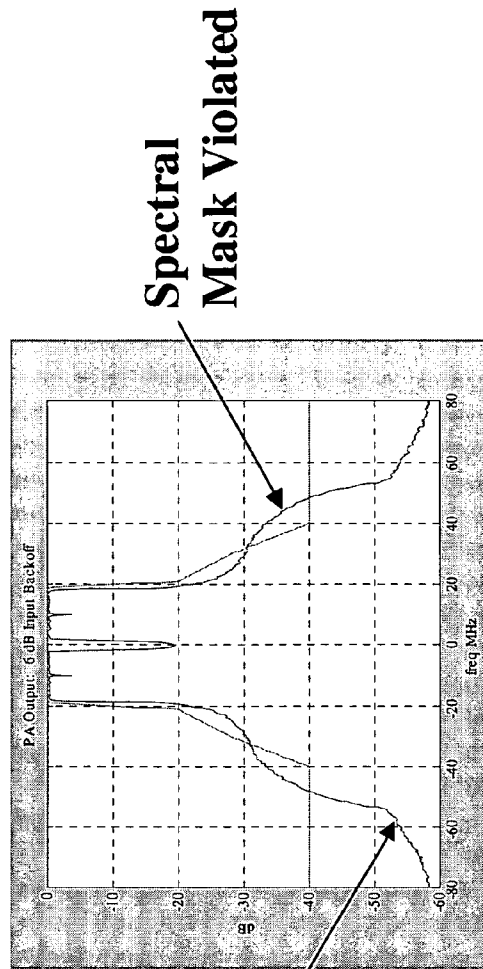
FIGURE 8



Spectral Mask

**Dual Chain Transmitter
Spectrum With
6 dB PA Back-off**

FIGURE 9



Spectral Mask Violated

**Single Chain Transmitter
Spectrum With
6 dB PA Back-off**

FIGURE 10

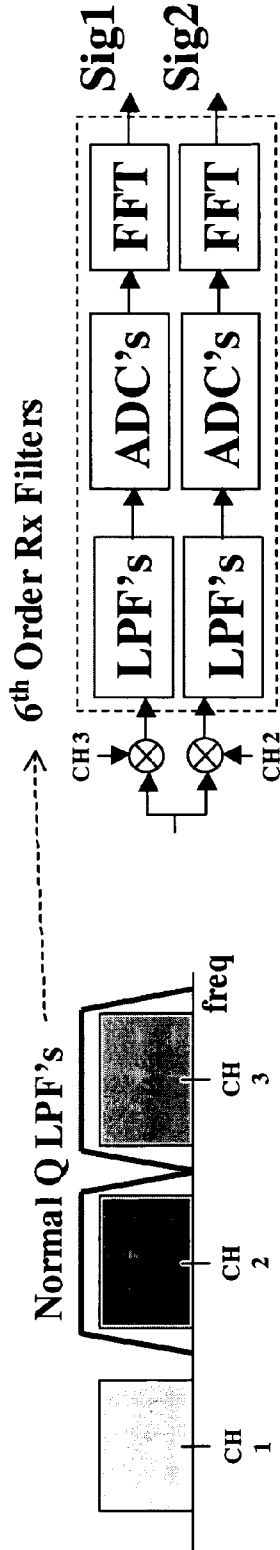


FIGURE 11

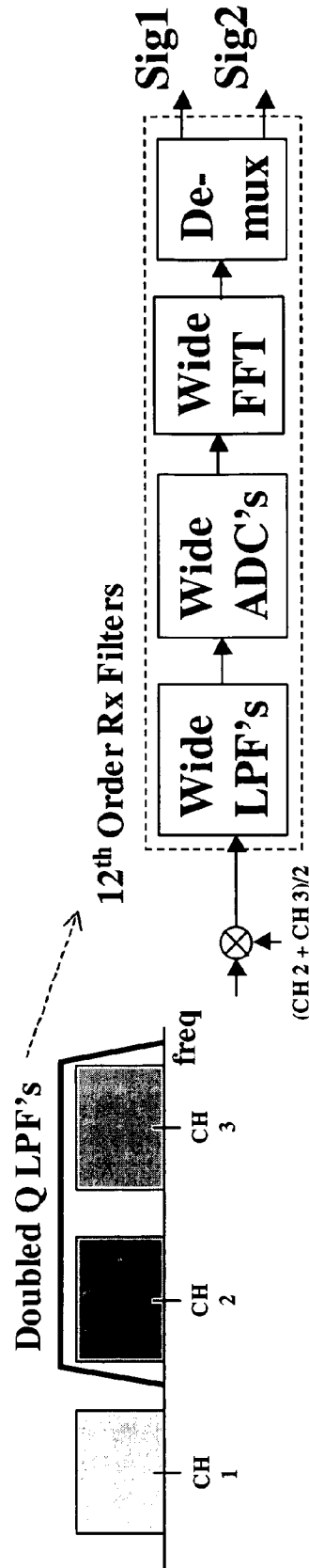


FIGURE 12

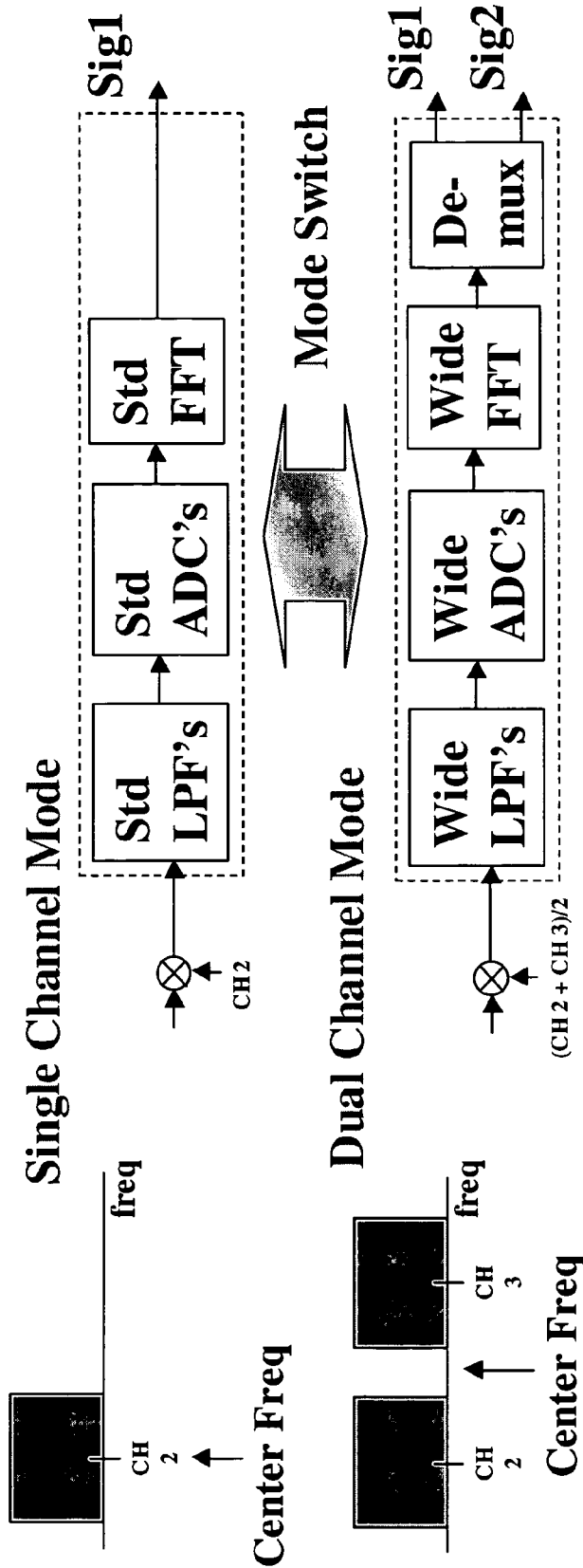


FIGURE 13

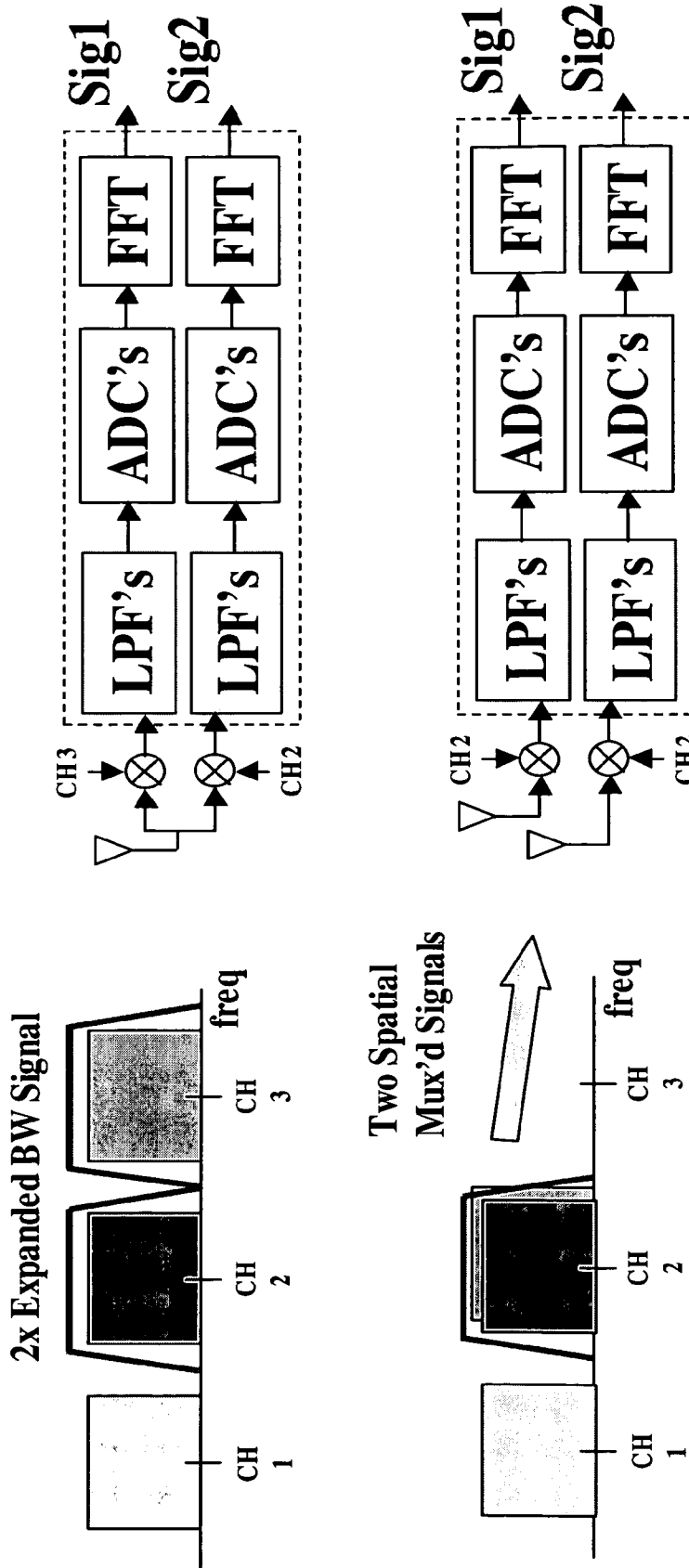


FIGURE 14

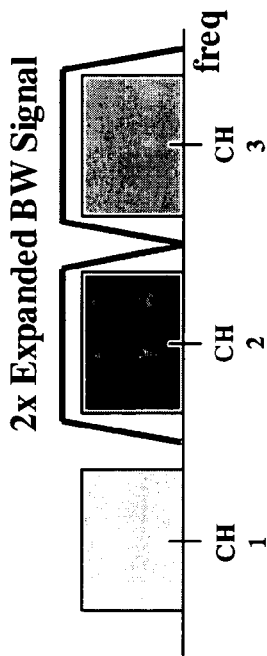
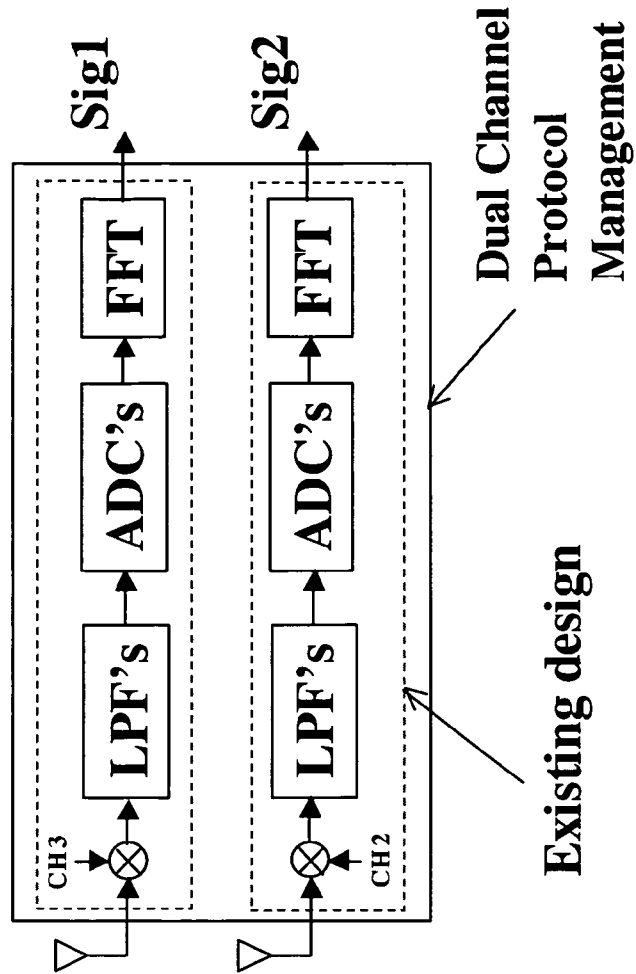


FIGURE 15

No synthesizer pop when
Switching between normal
And wide packets

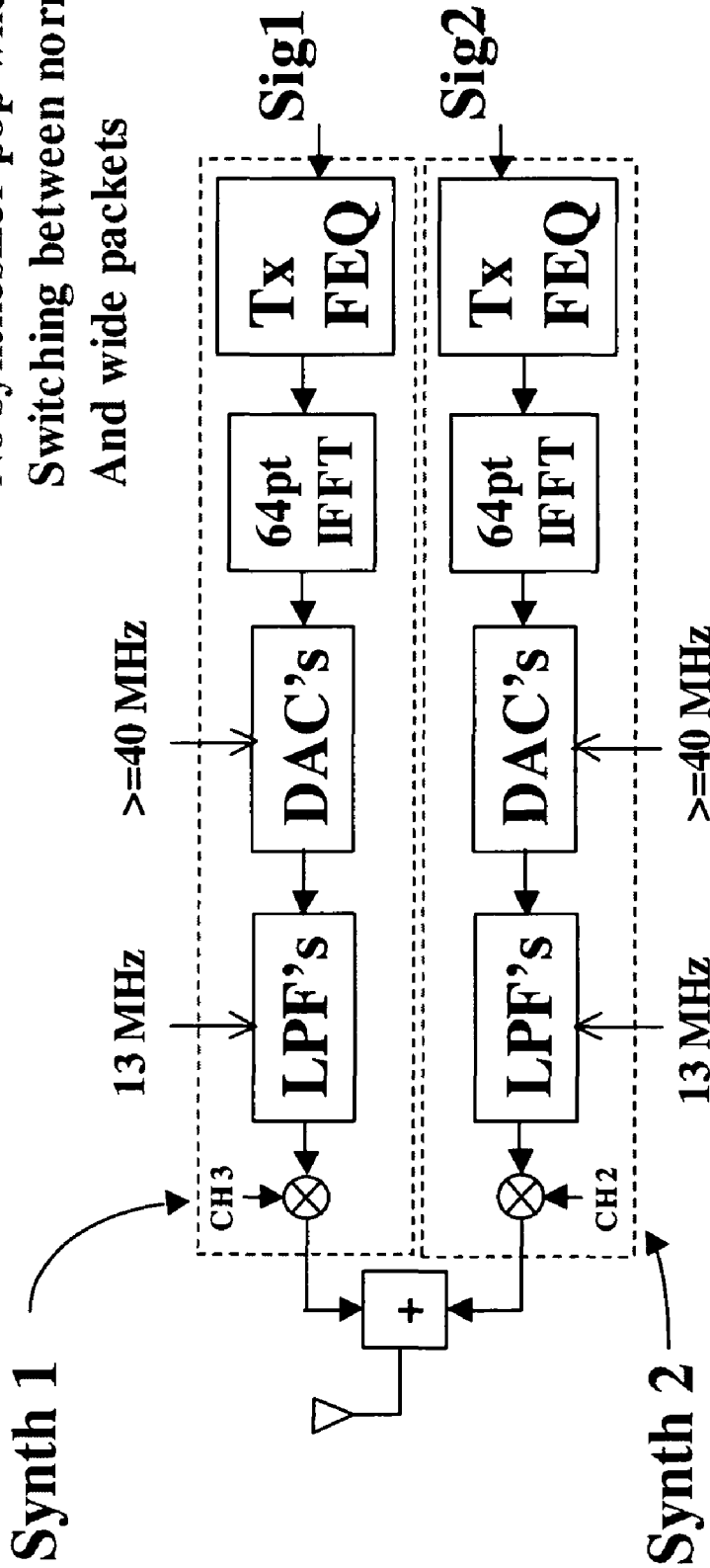


FIGURE 16

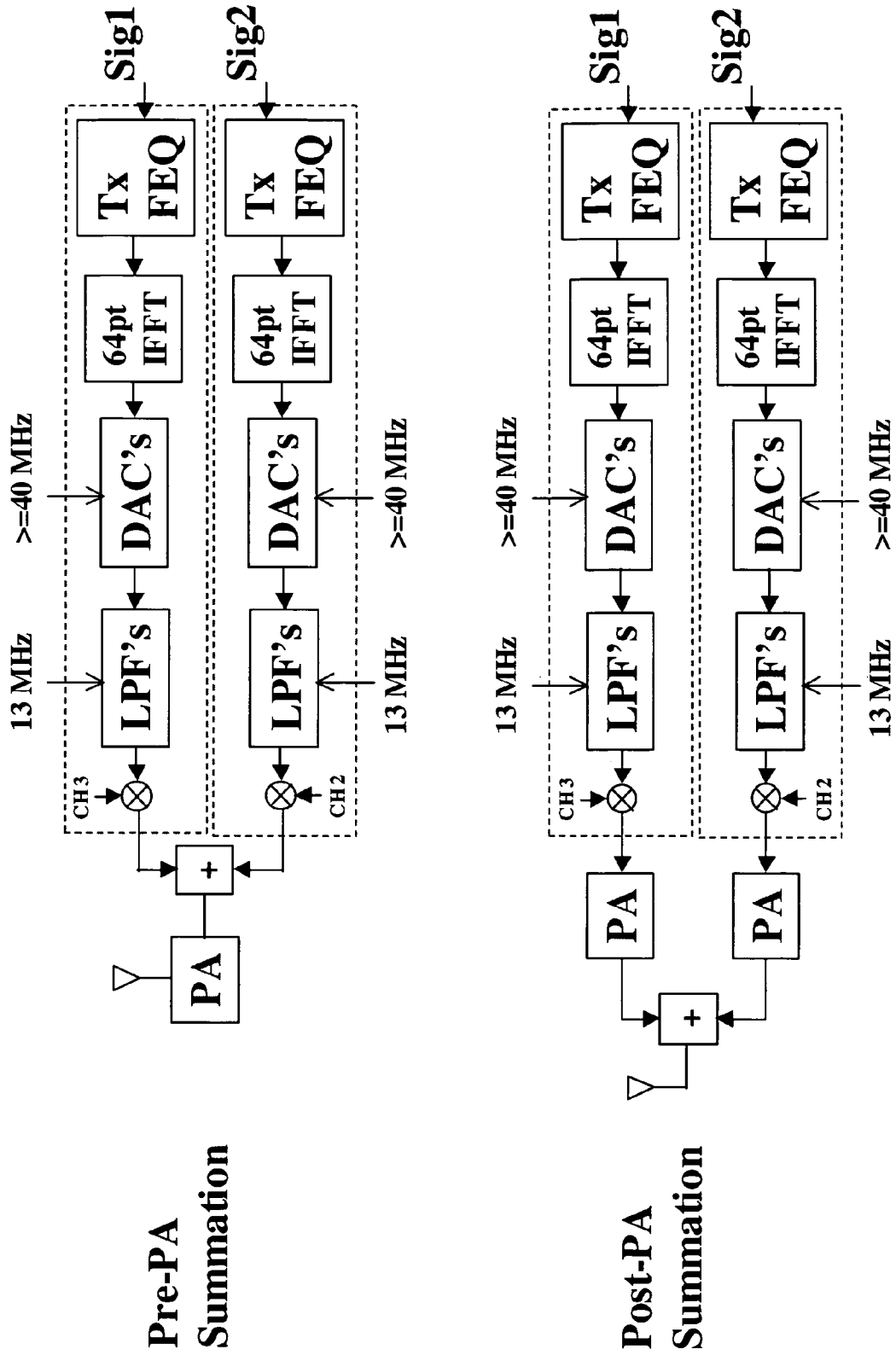


FIGURE 17

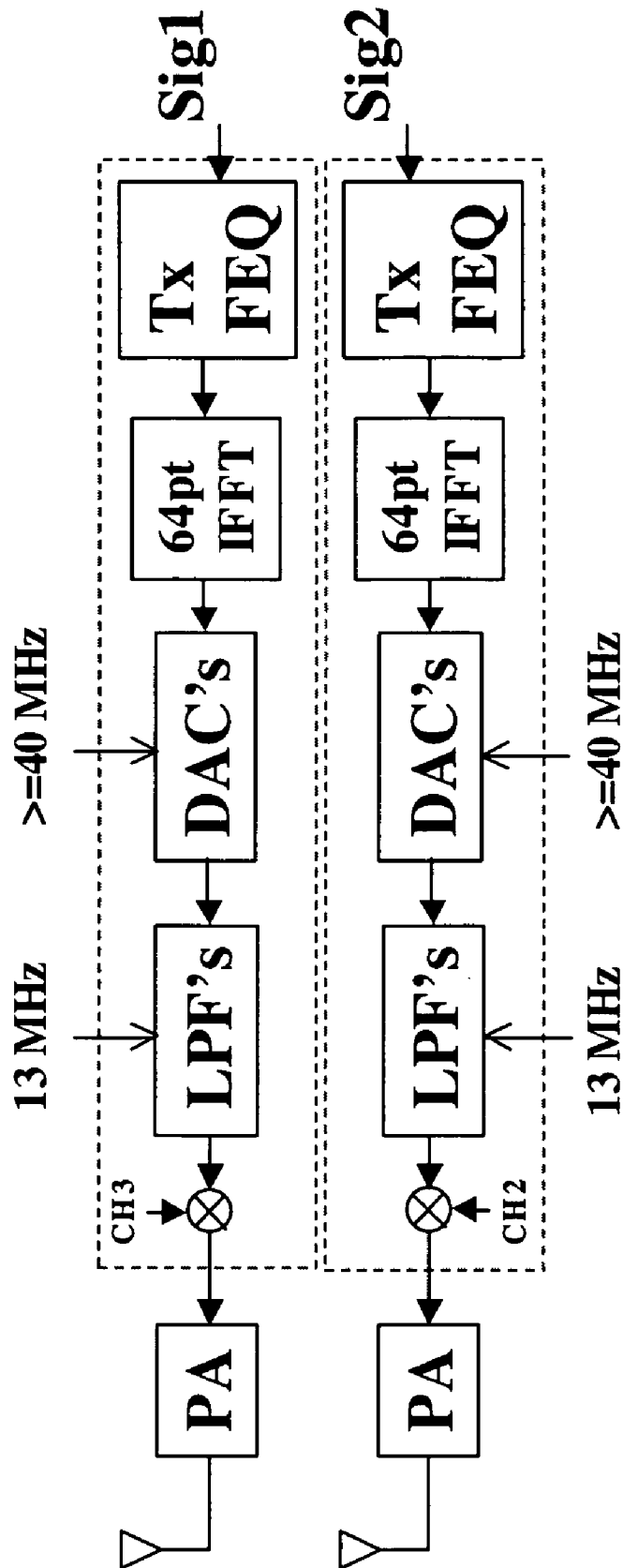


FIGURE 18

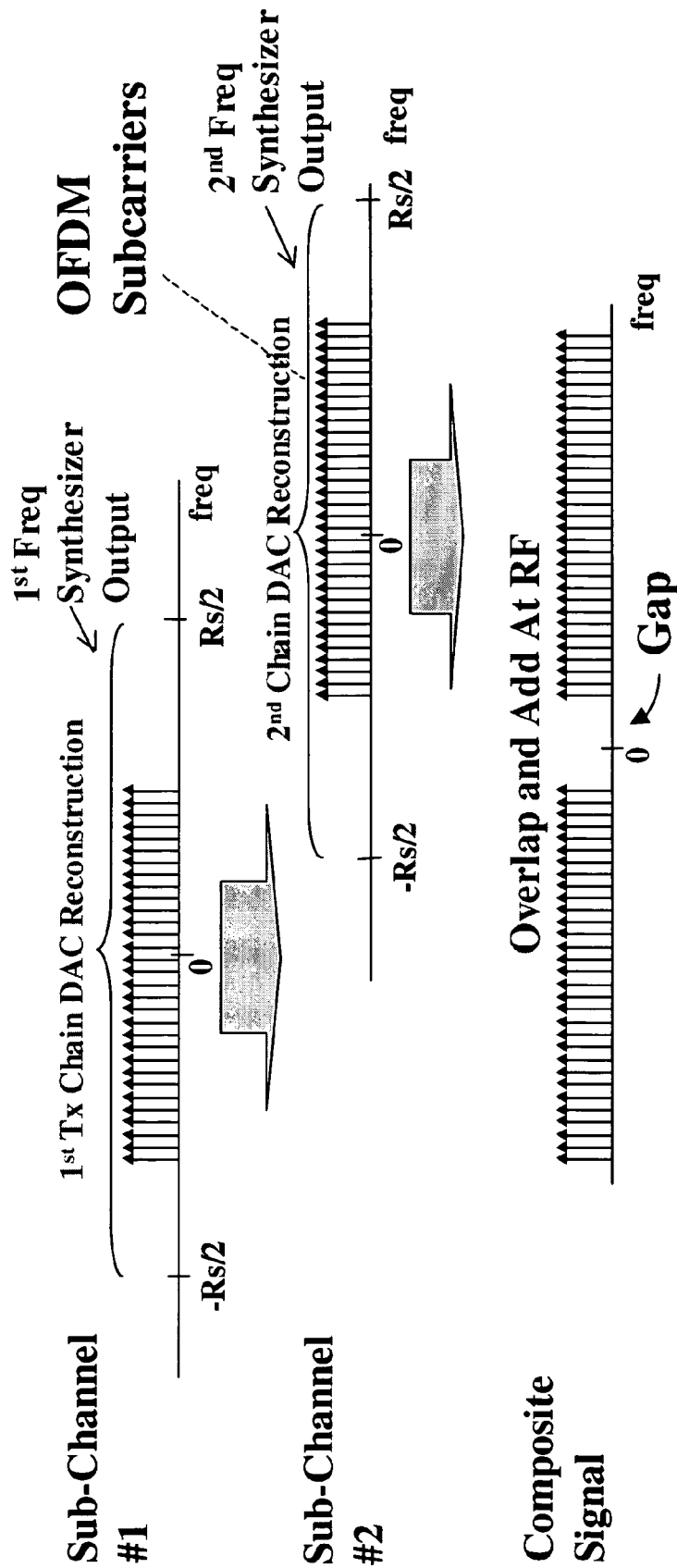


FIGURE 19

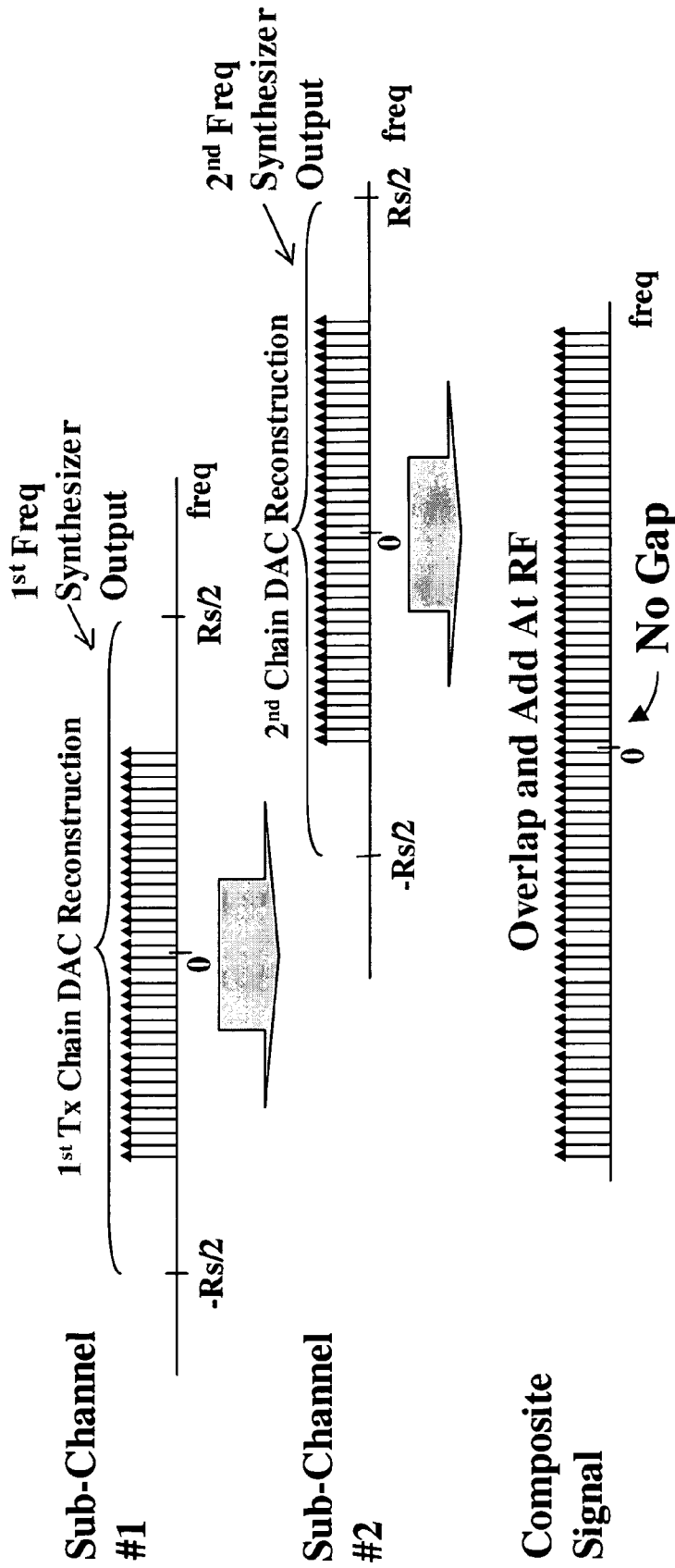


FIGURE 20

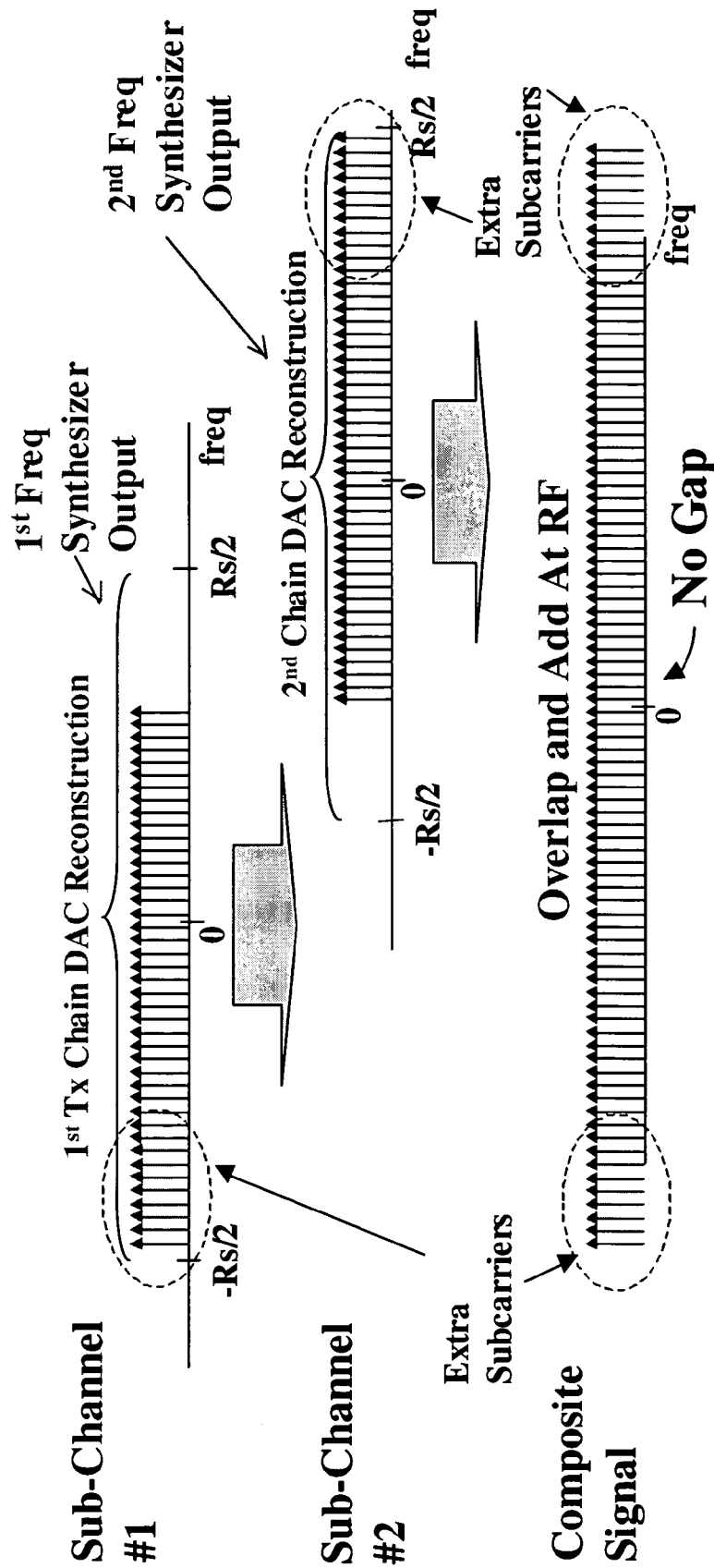


FIGURE 21

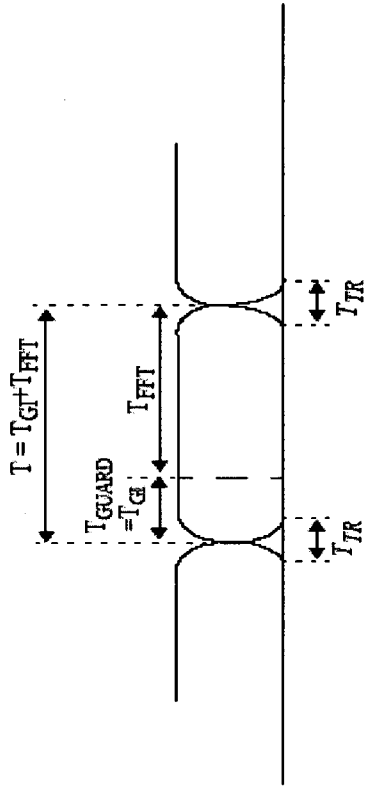


FIGURE 22

$$w_T(t) = \begin{cases} \sin^2\left(\frac{\pi}{2}(0.5 + t/T_{TR})\right) & (-T_{TR}/2 < t < T_{TR}/2) \\ 1 & (T_{TR}/2 \leq t < T - T_{TR}/2) \\ \sin^2\left(\frac{\pi}{2}(0.5 - (t-T)/T_{TR})\right) & (T - T_{TR}/2 \leq t < T + T_{TR}/2) \end{cases}$$

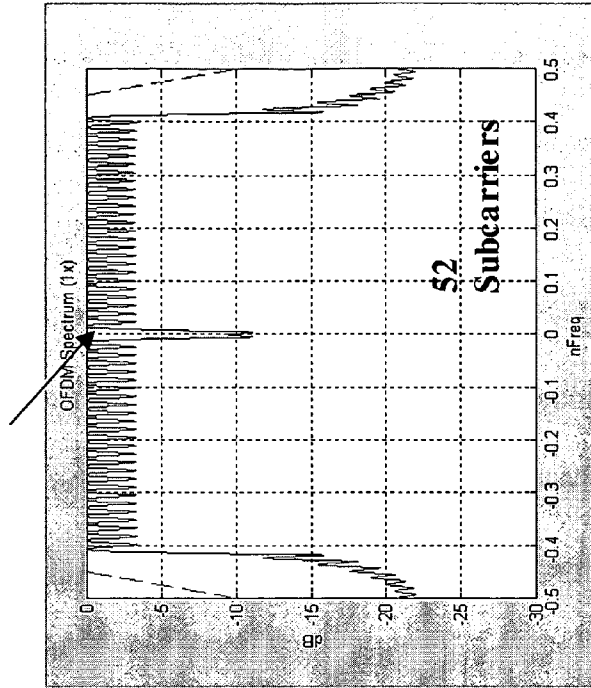
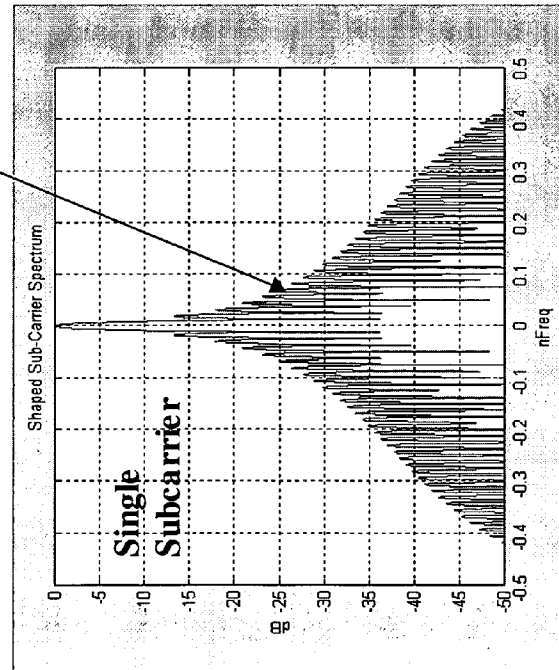
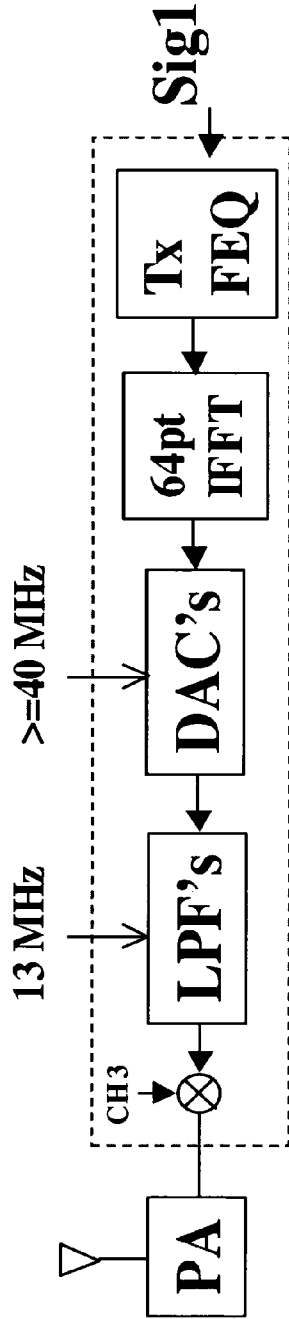


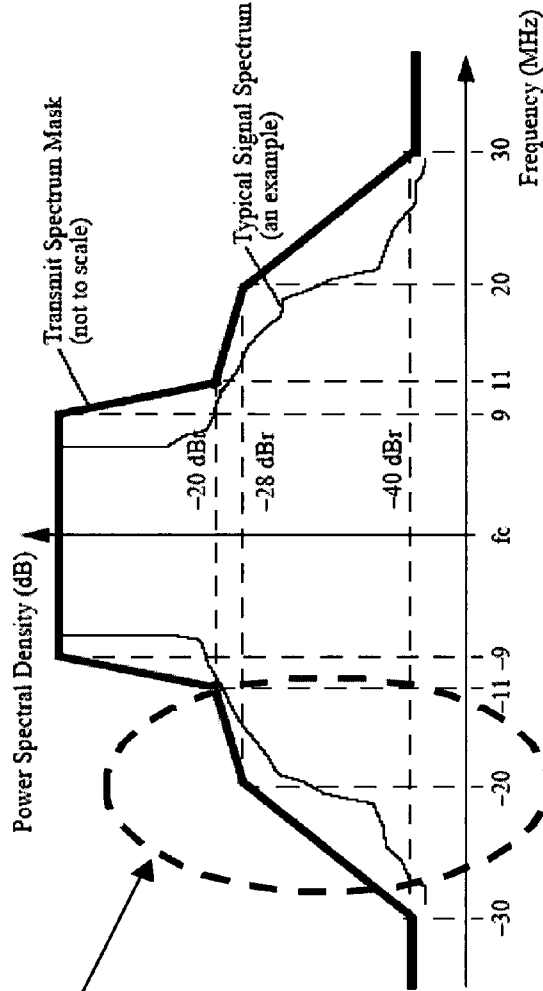
FIGURE 23





**Distortion
Created
By PA
Nonlinearities**

**802.11a
Spectral
Mask**



- Transmit spectrum mask

FIGURE 24

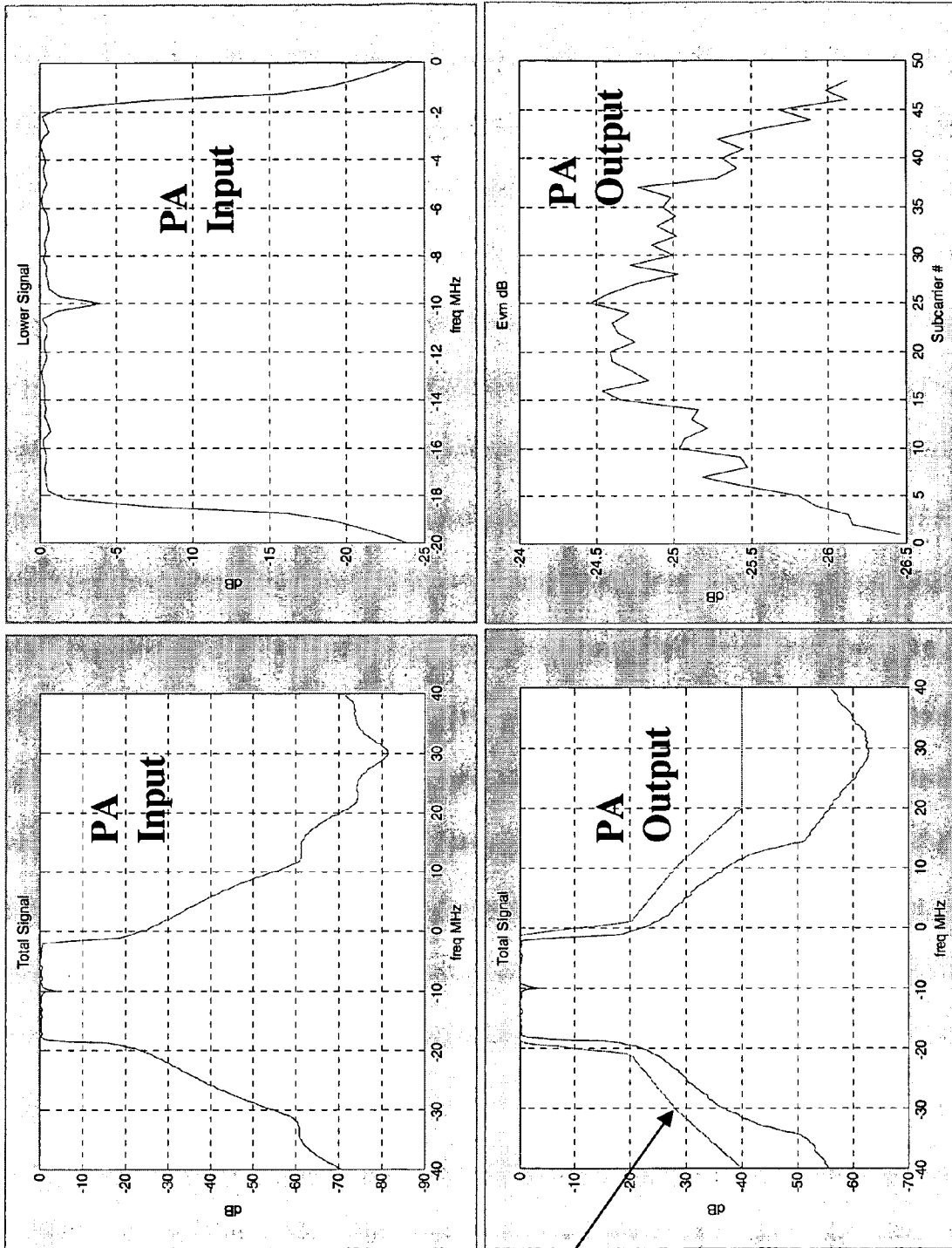


FIGURE 25

802.11a
Spectral
Mask

EVM = Constellation Point Fuzziness

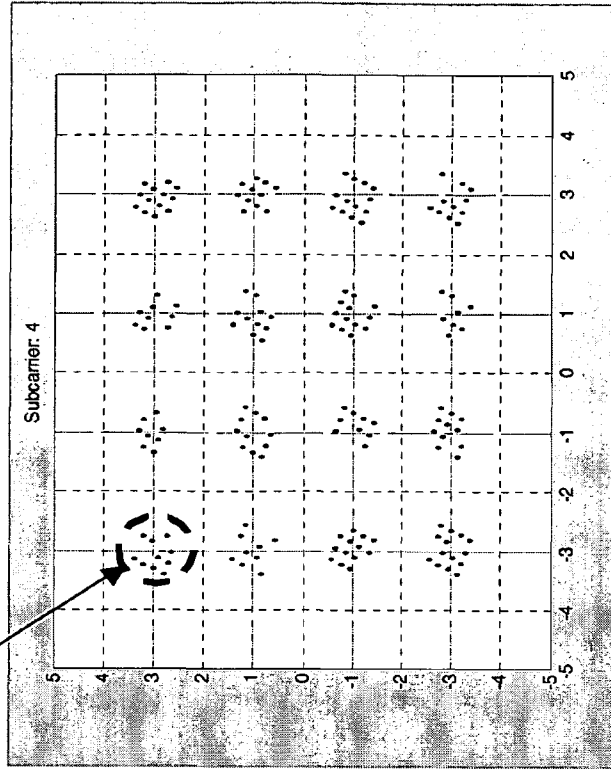


FIGURE 26

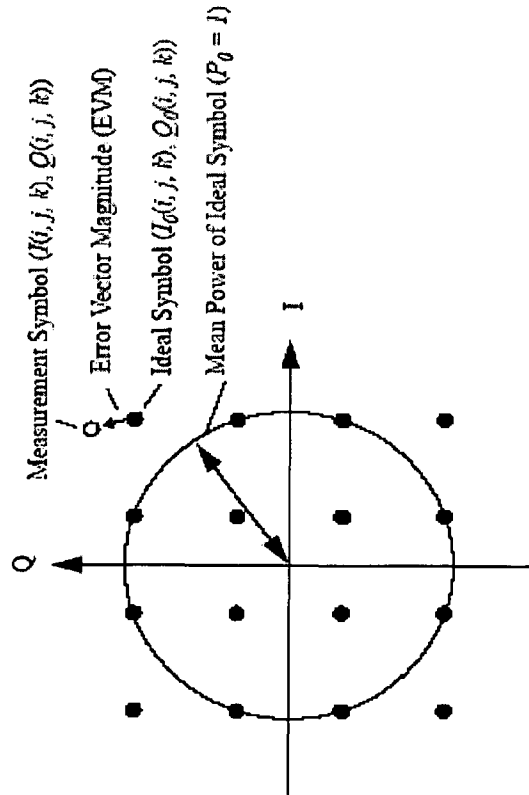


Figure 121 — Constellation error

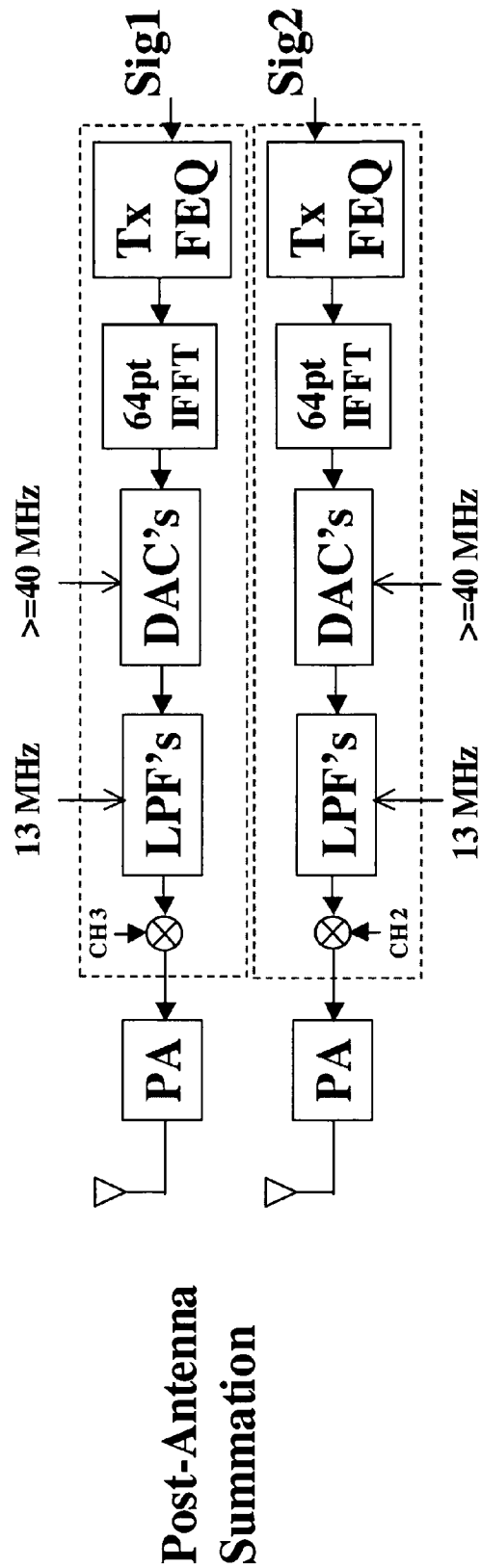
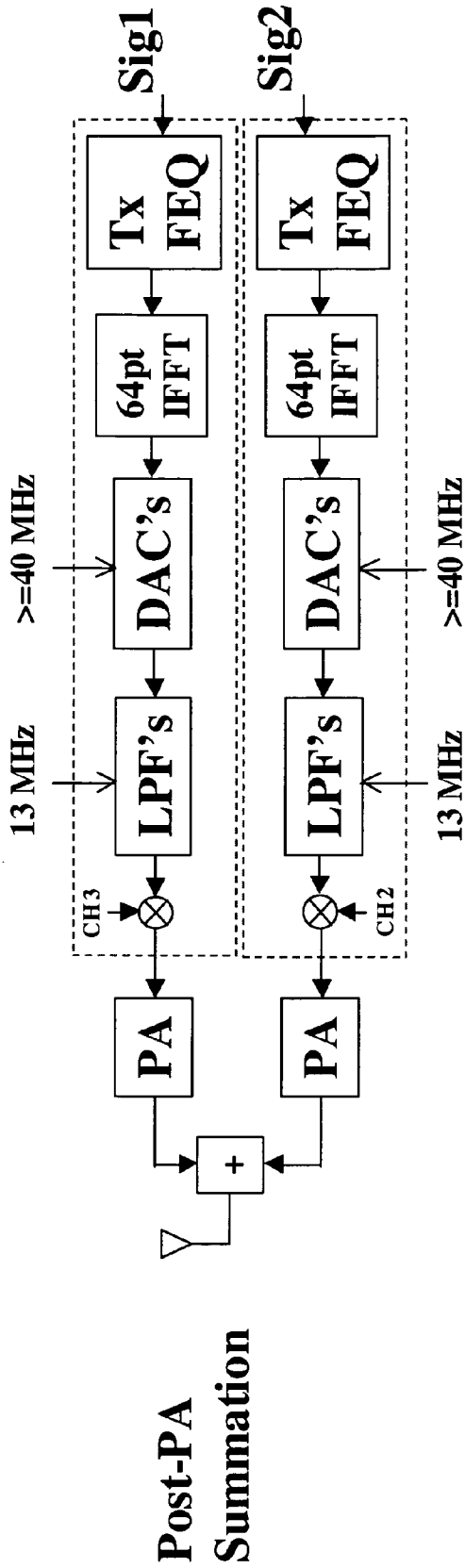


FIGURE 27

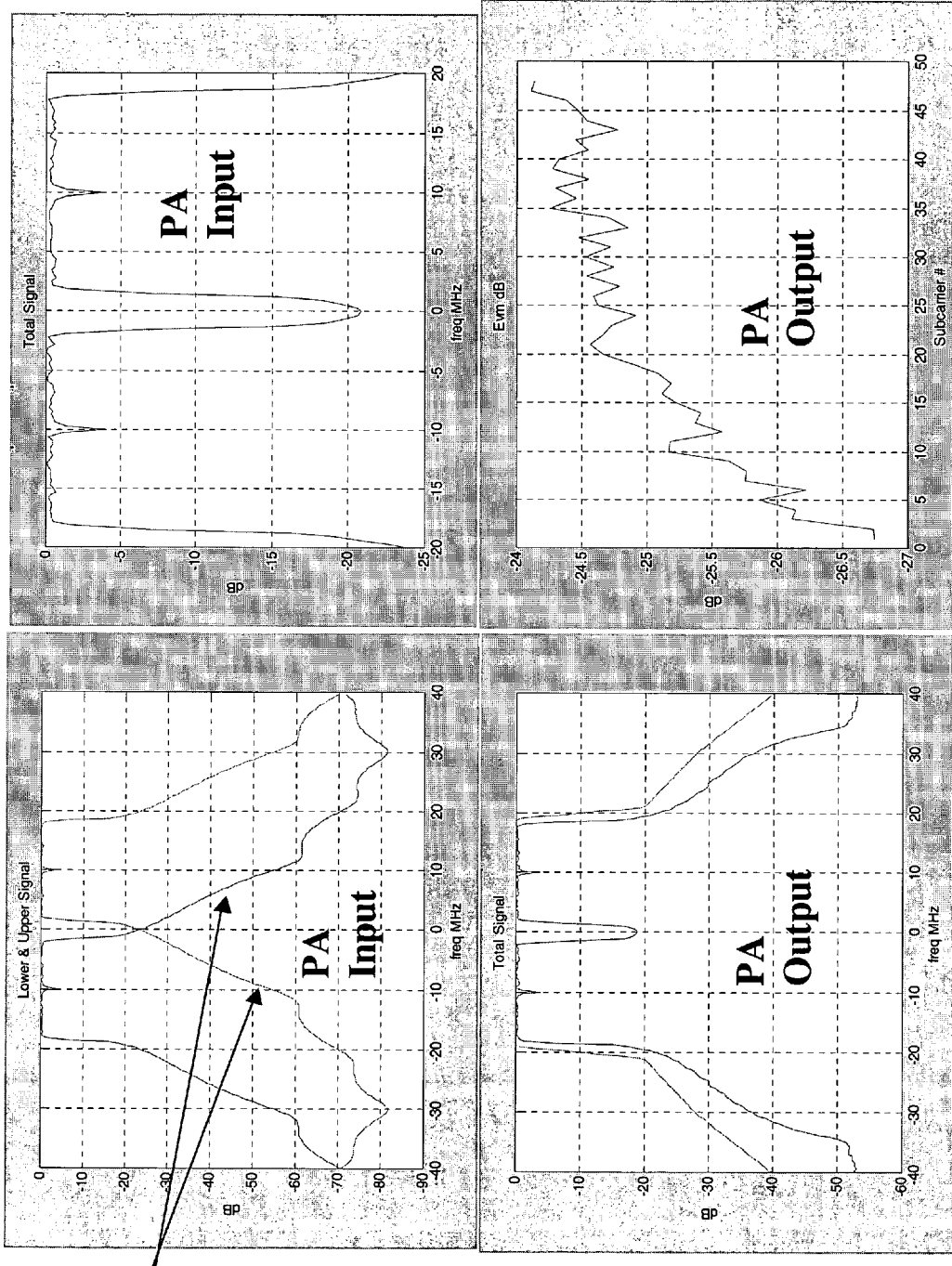


FIGURE 28

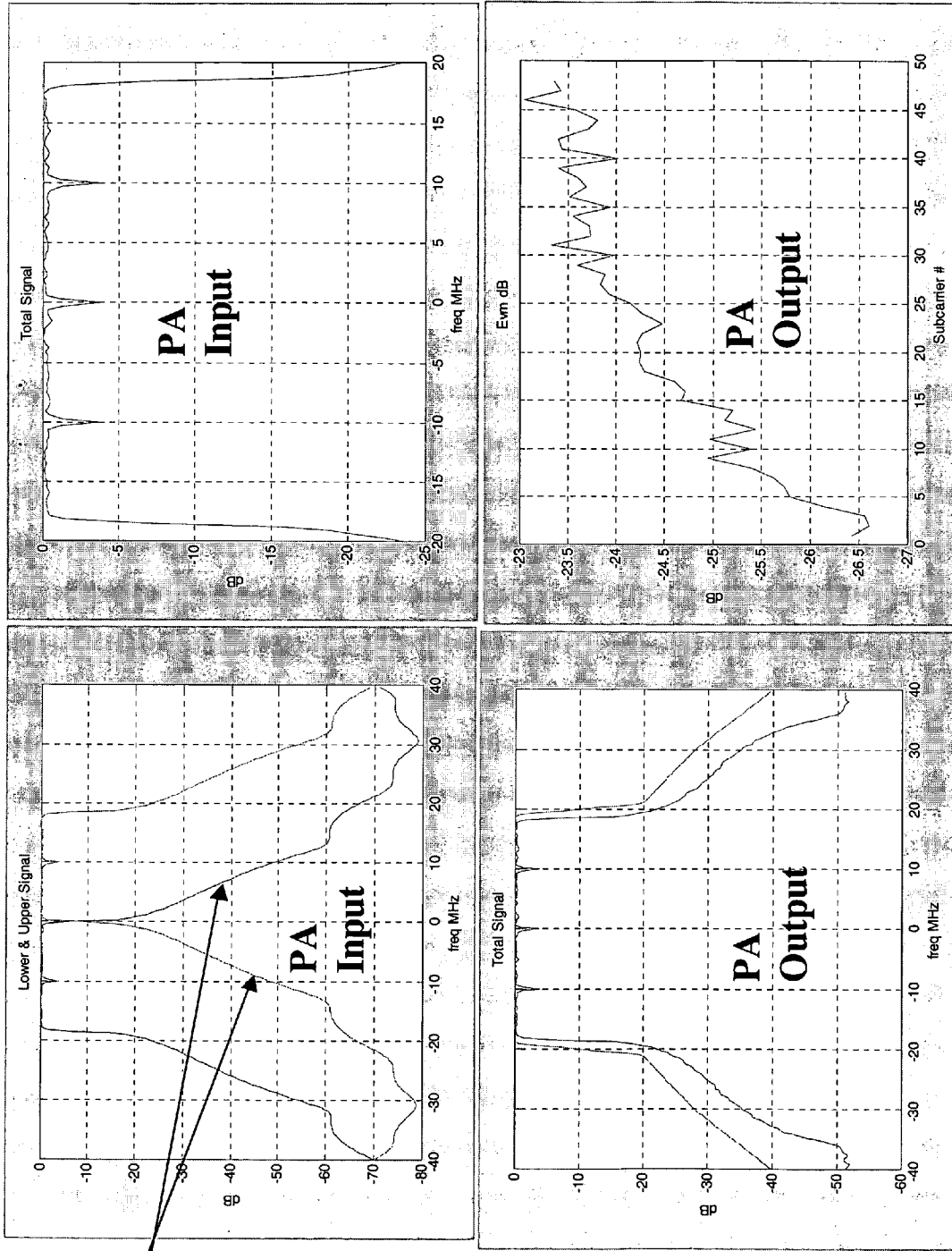


FIGURE 29

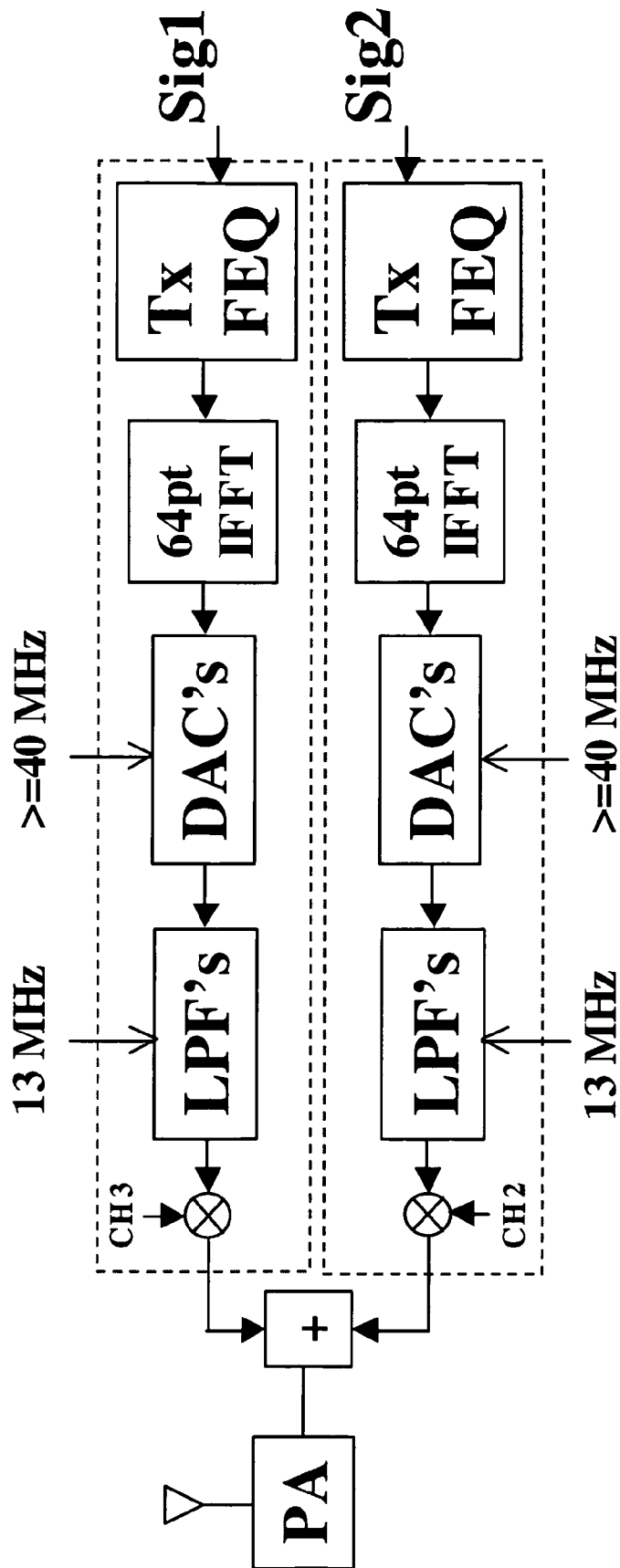


FIGURE 30

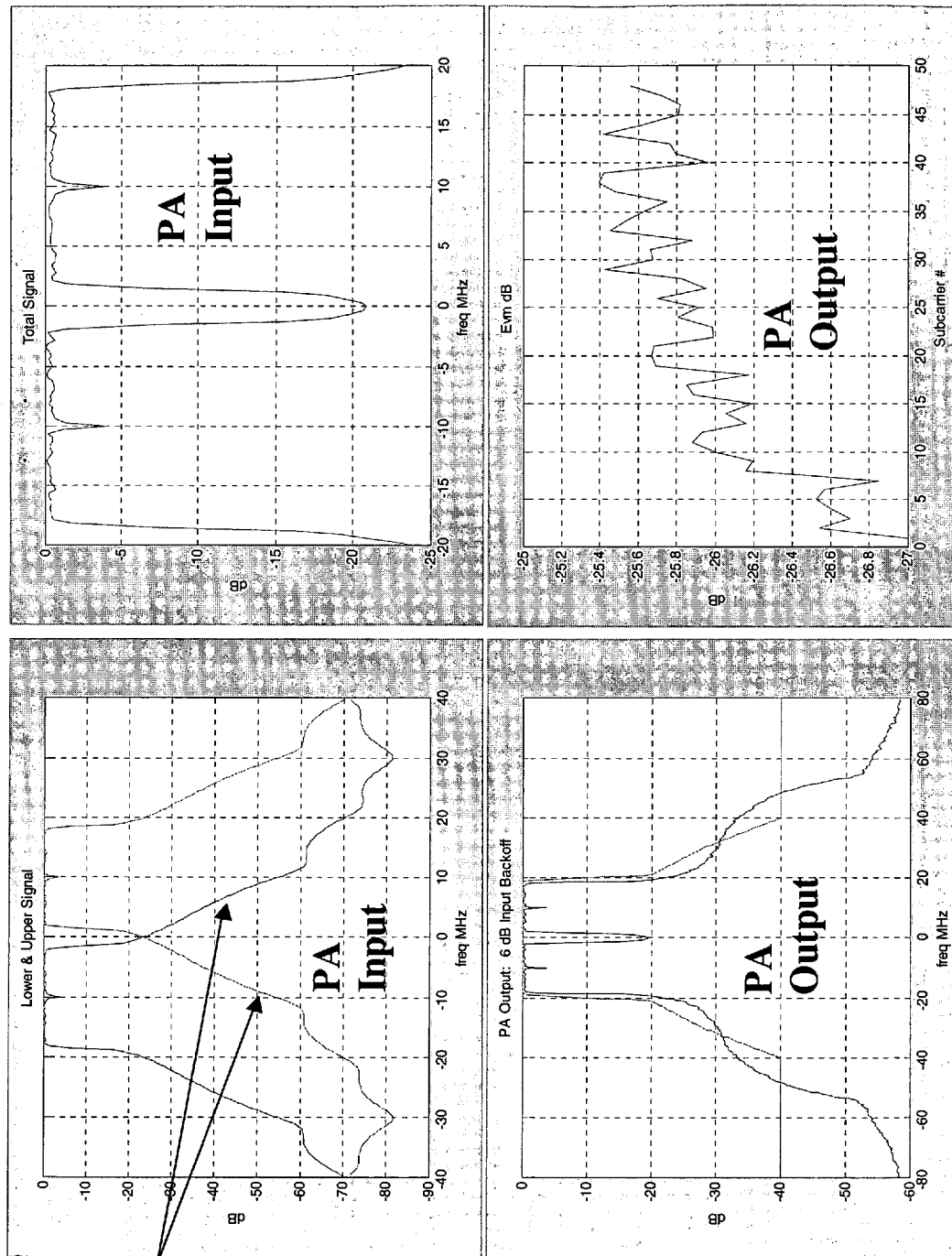


FIGURE 31

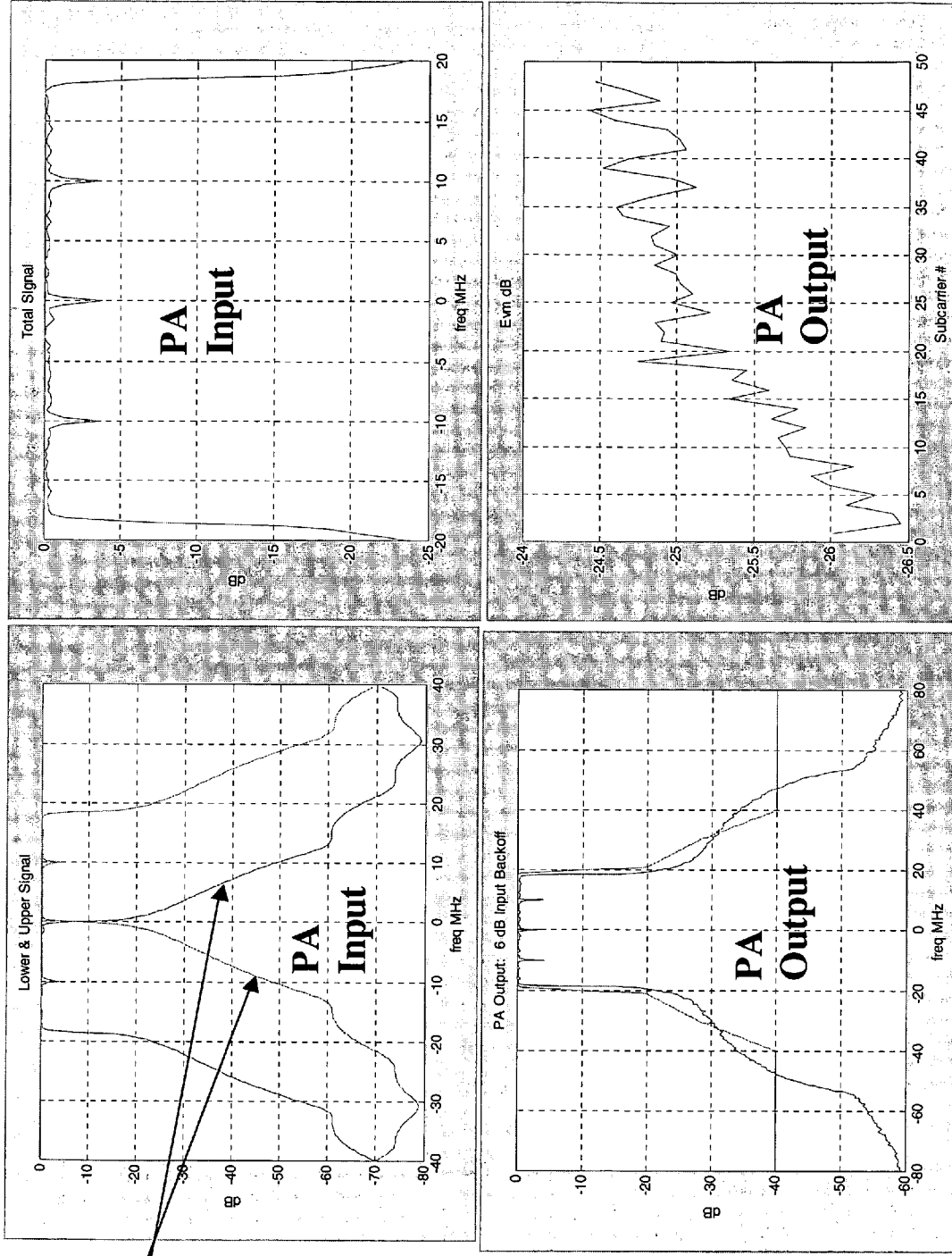
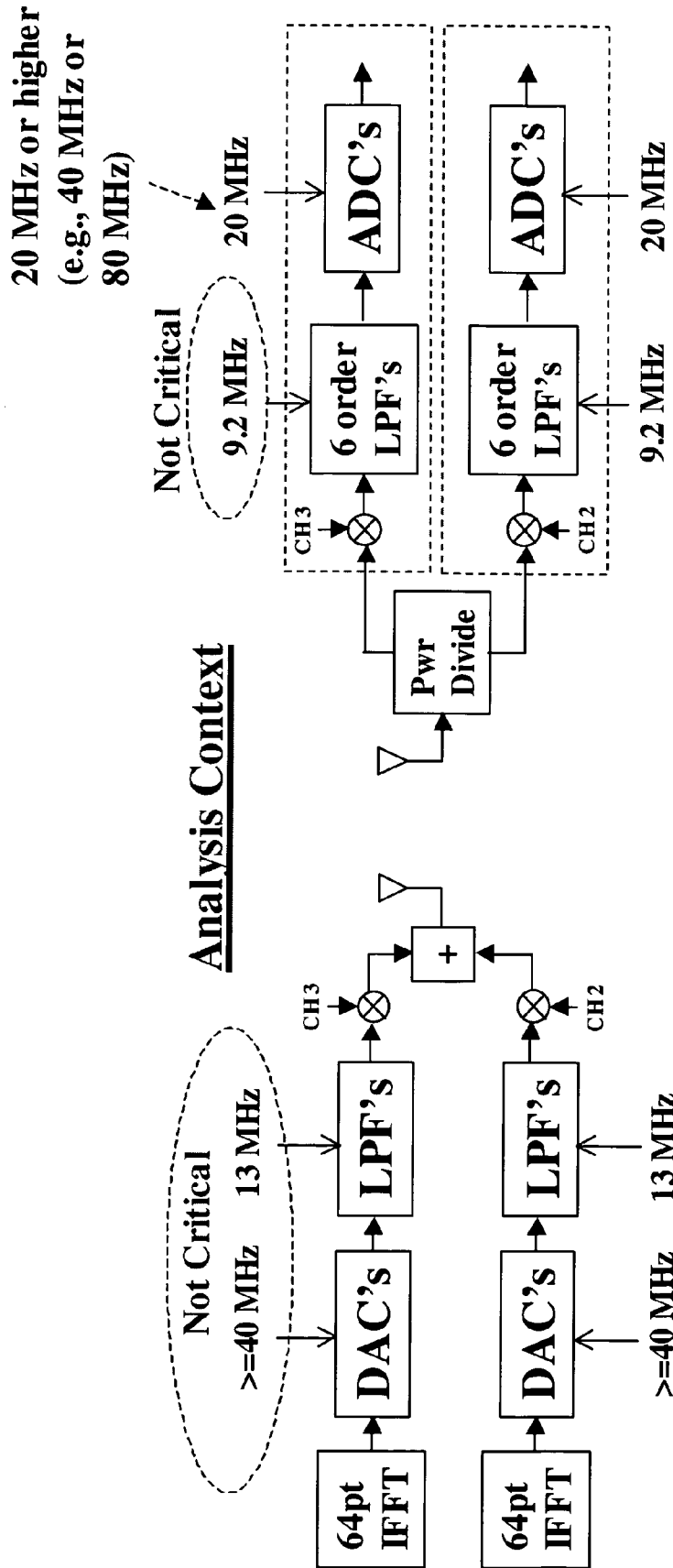


FIGURE 32



Analysis Context

Rx Signal Generator

Tx Signal Generator

FIGURE 33

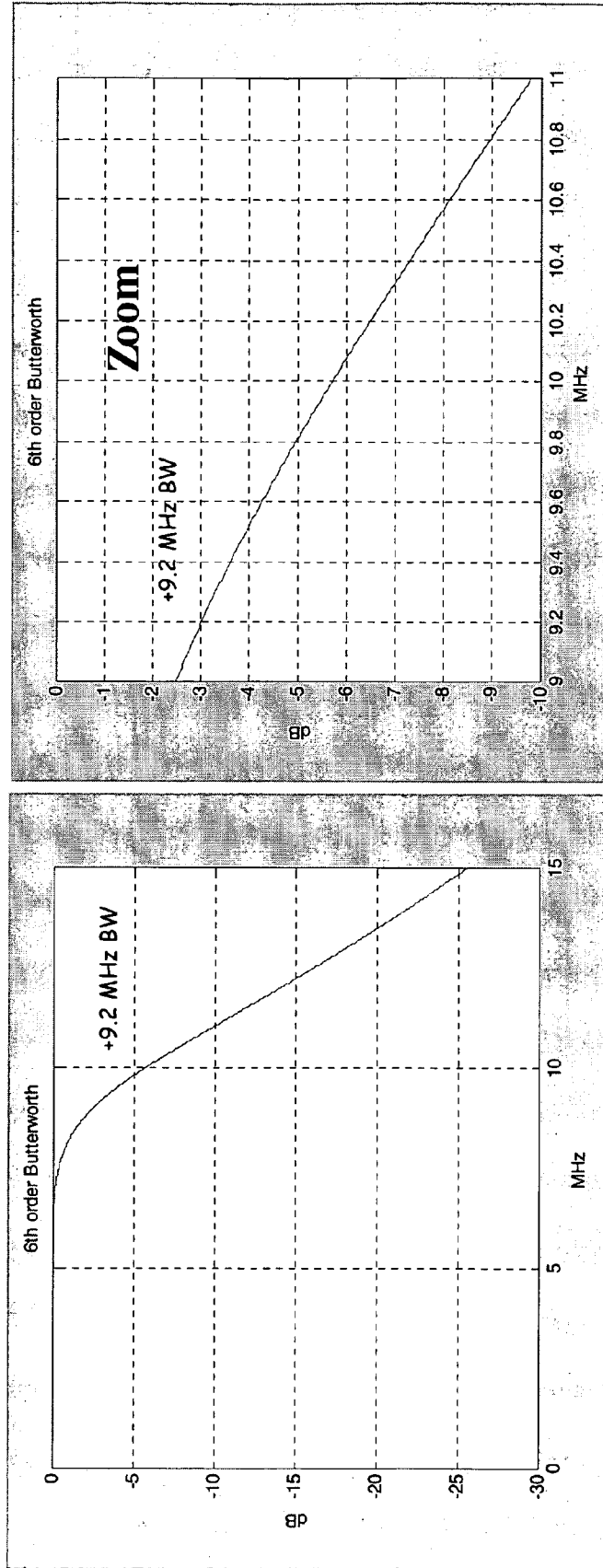
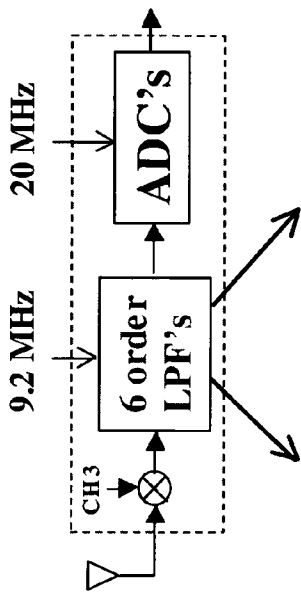


FIGURE 34

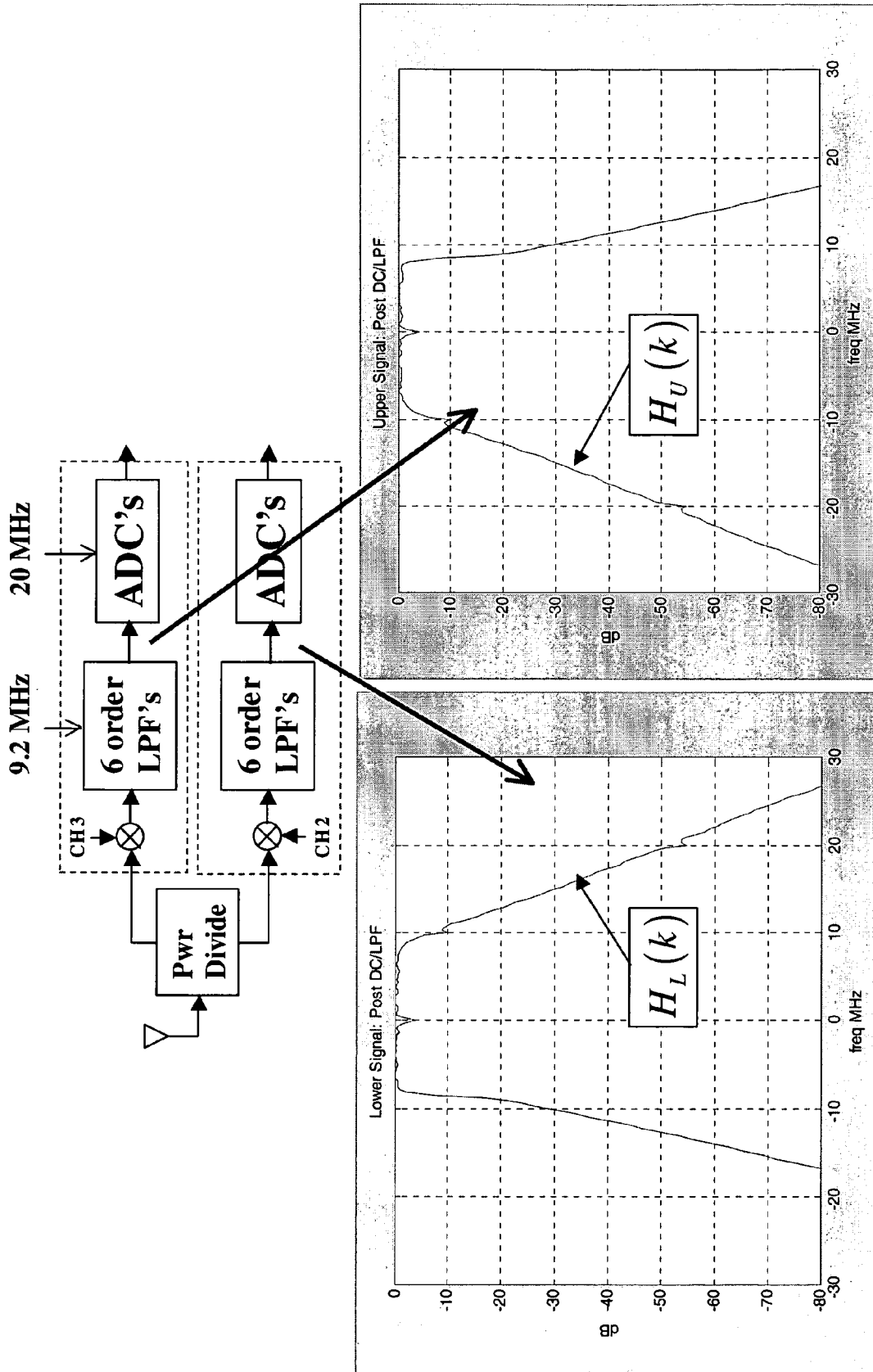
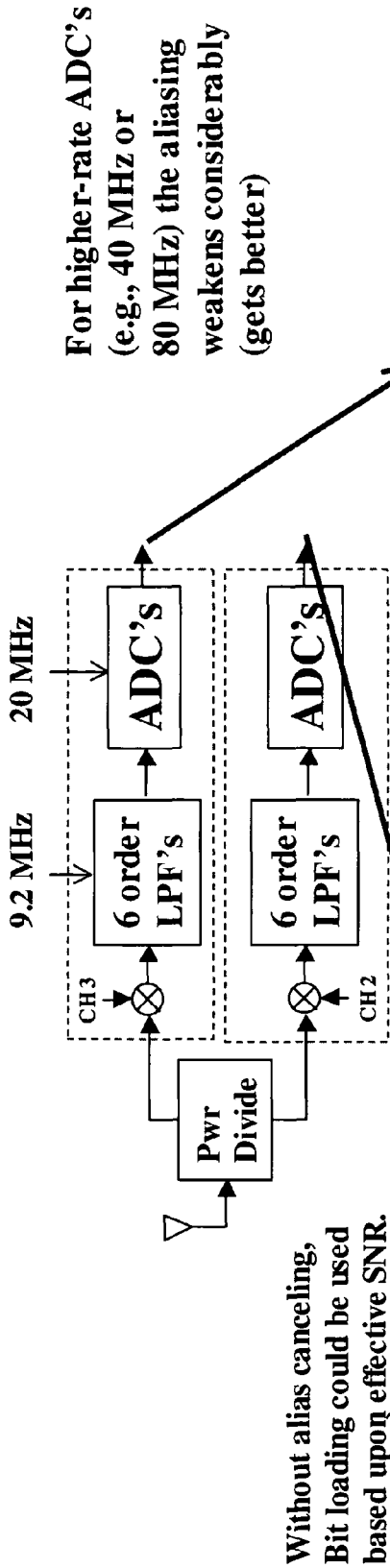


FIGURE 35



For higher-rate ADC's
(e.g., 40 MHz or
80 MHz) the aliasing
weakens considerably
(gets better)

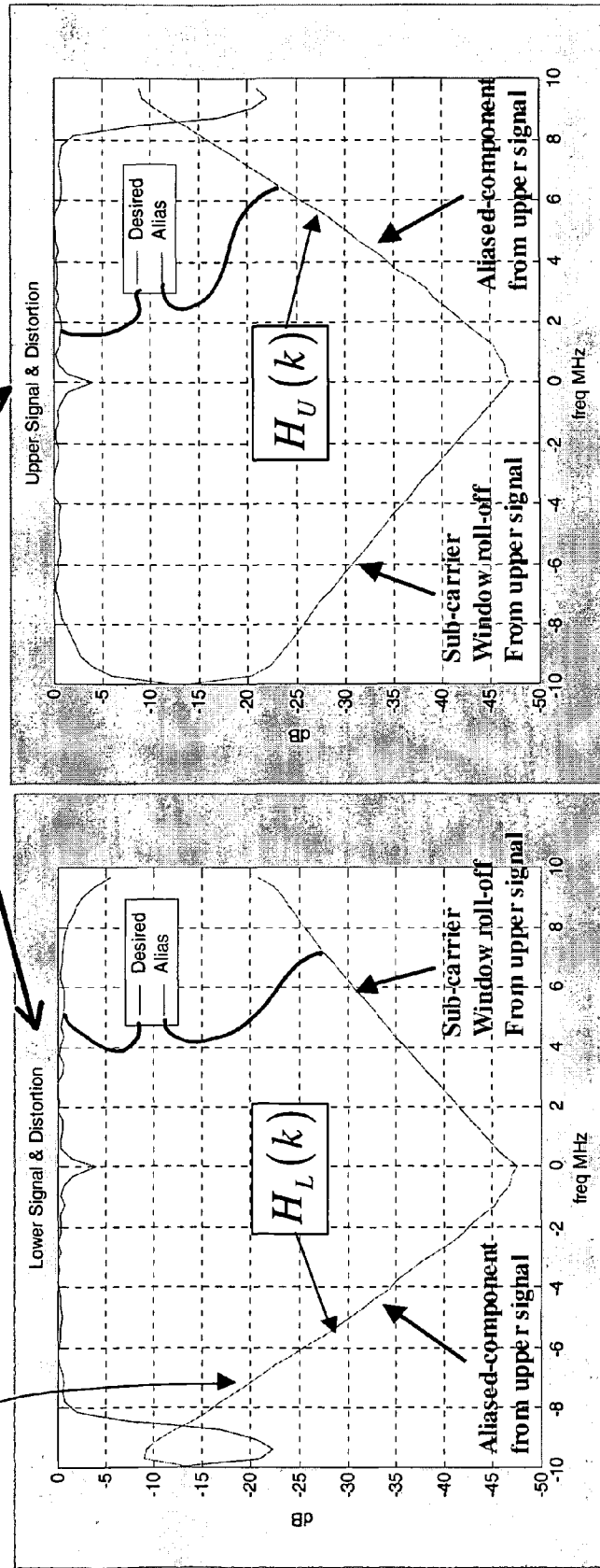
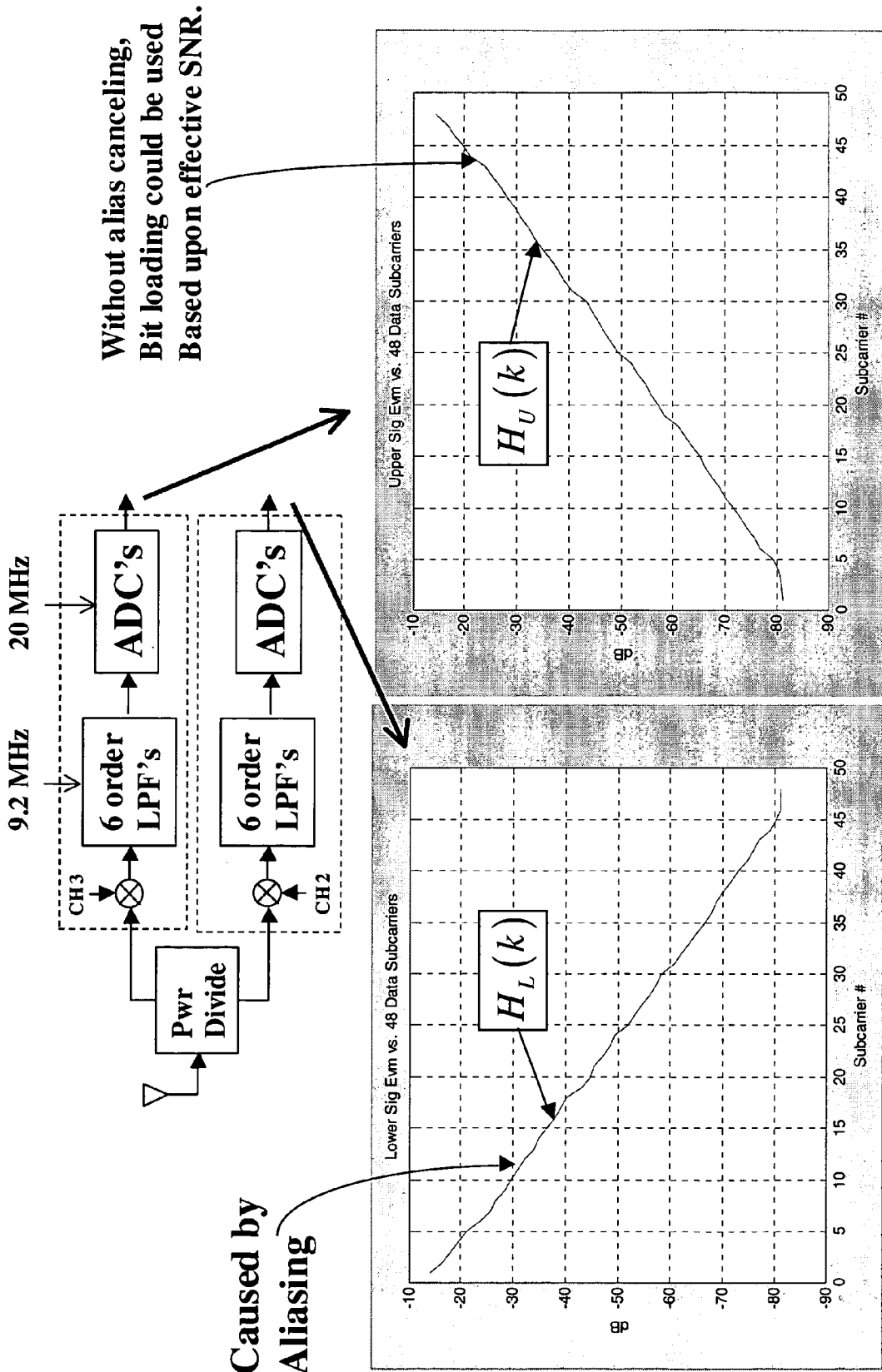


FIGURE 36



No frequency offset into 20 MHz ADC's

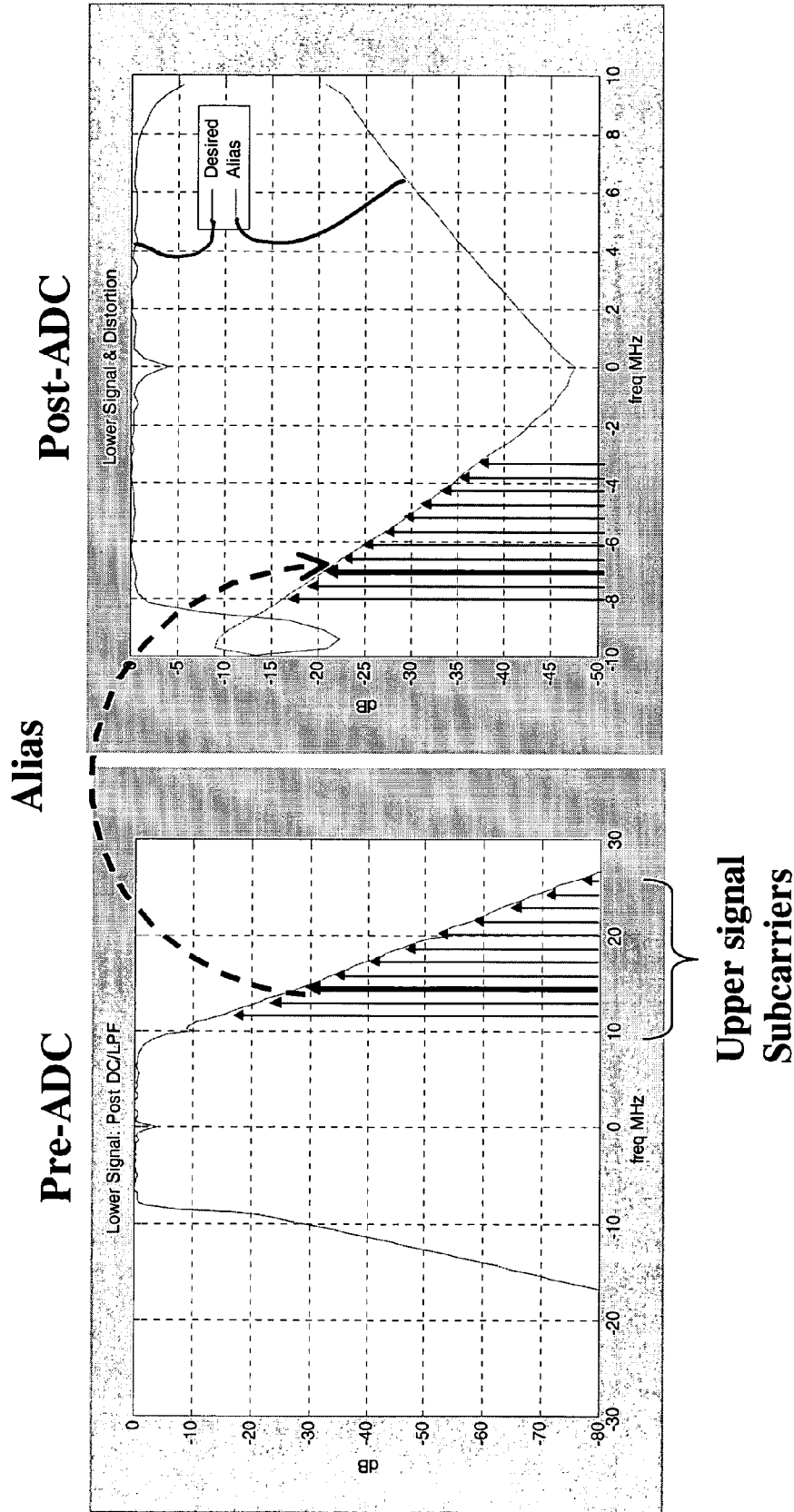
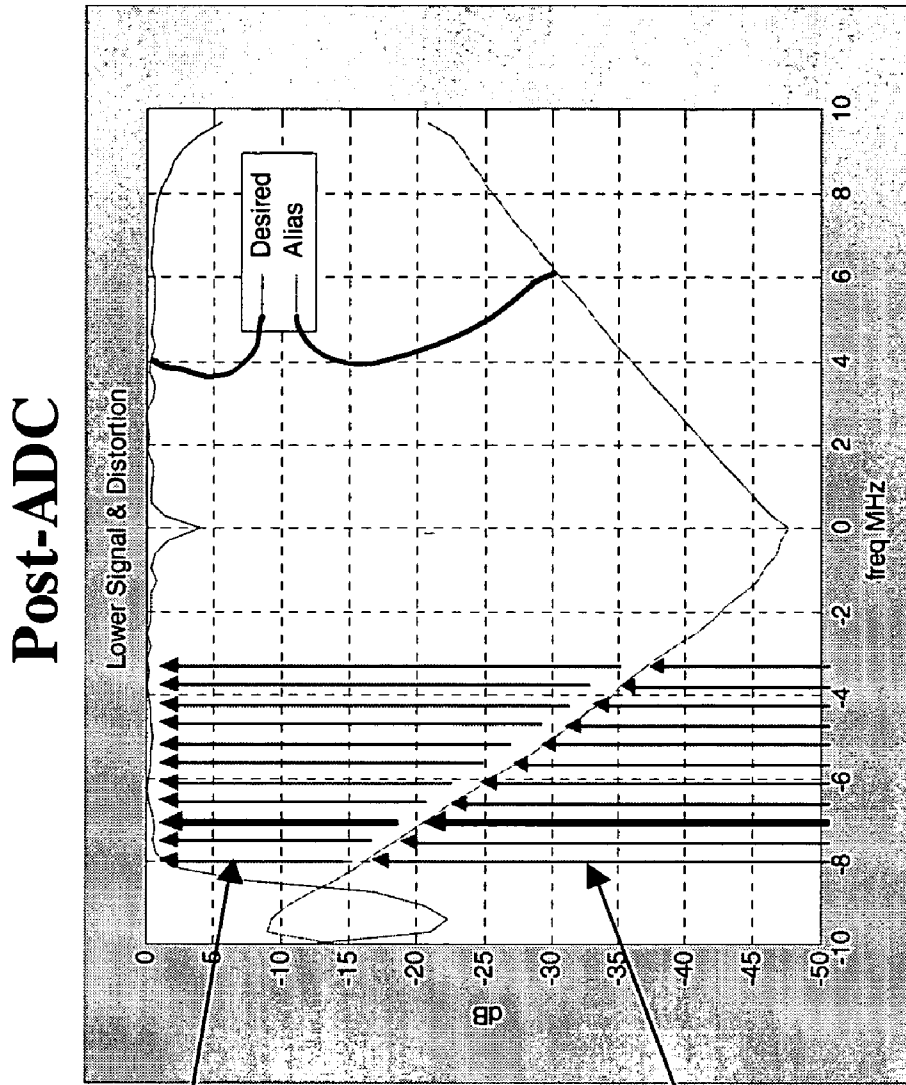


FIGURE 38



**Desired
Subcarrier
Components**

**Undesired
Alias
Subcarrier
Components**

FIGURE 39

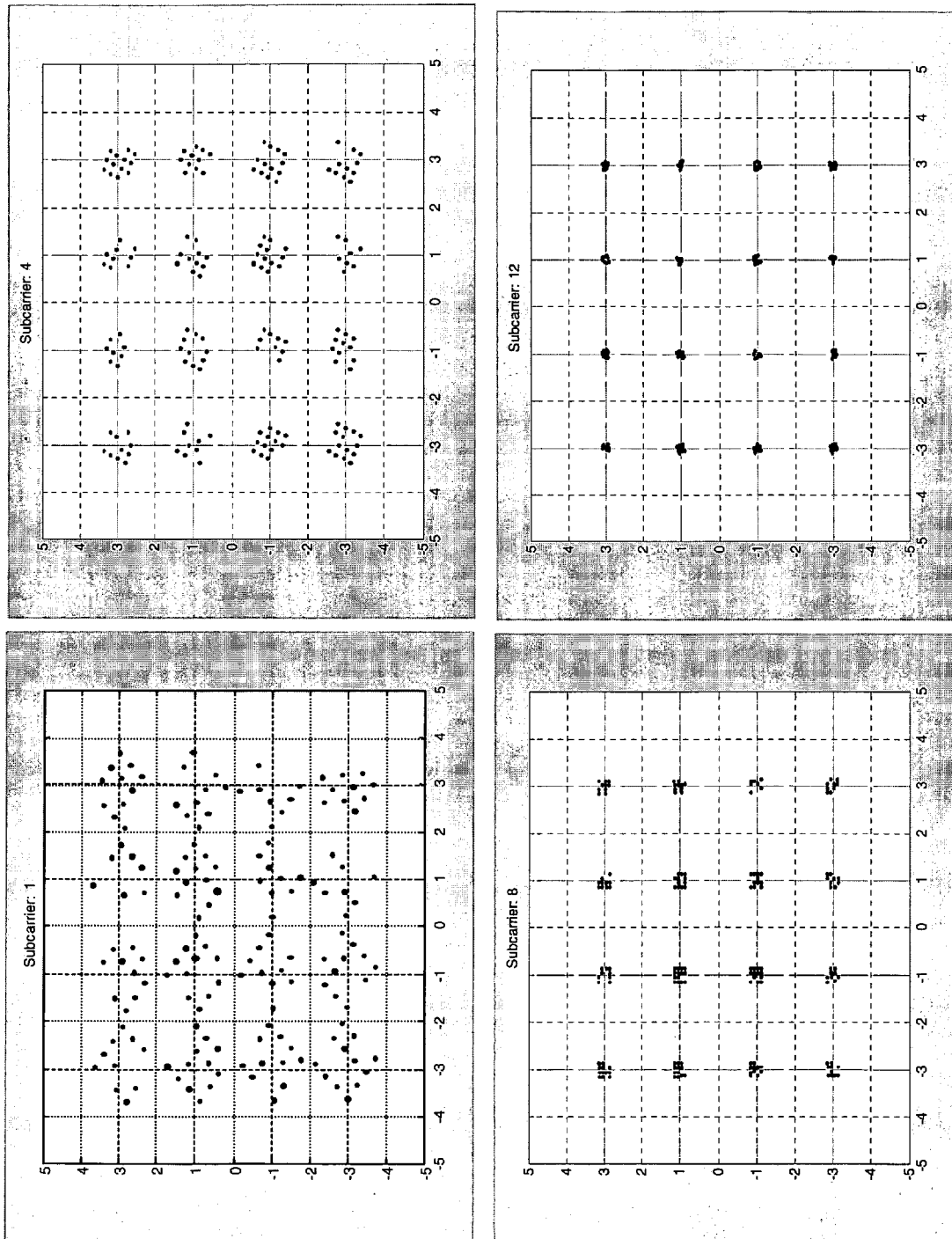


FIGURE 40

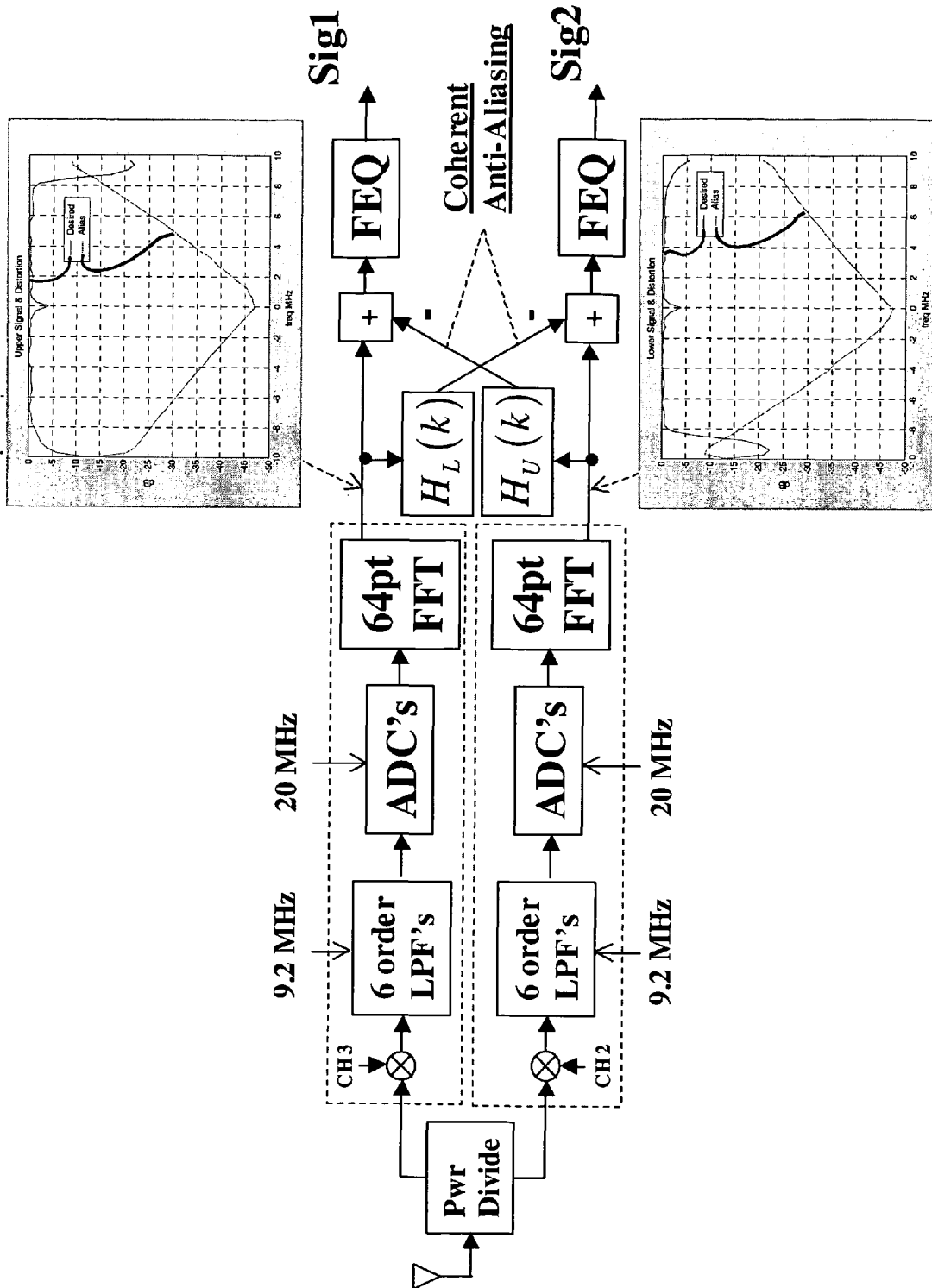


FIGURE 41

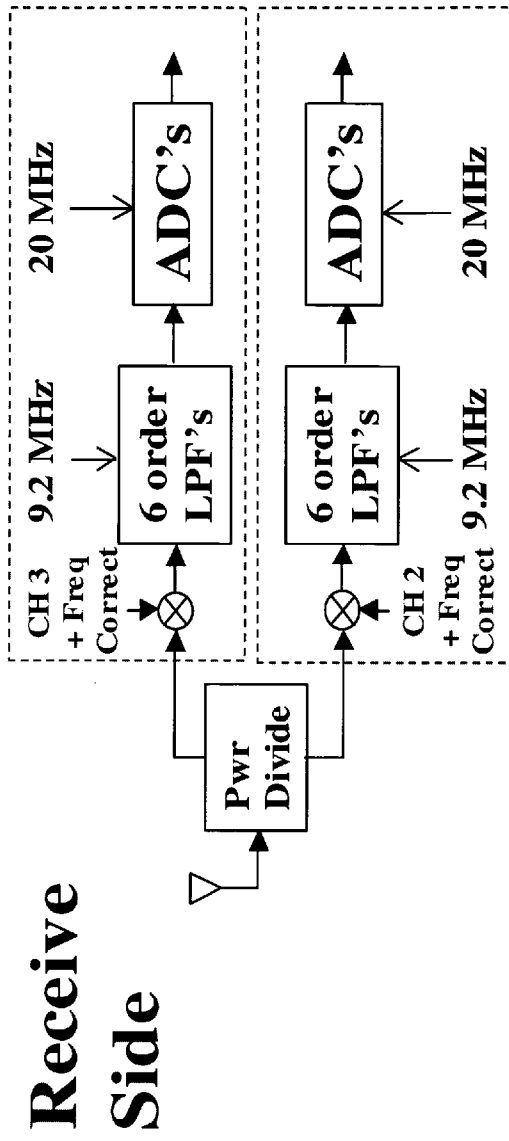


FIGURE 42

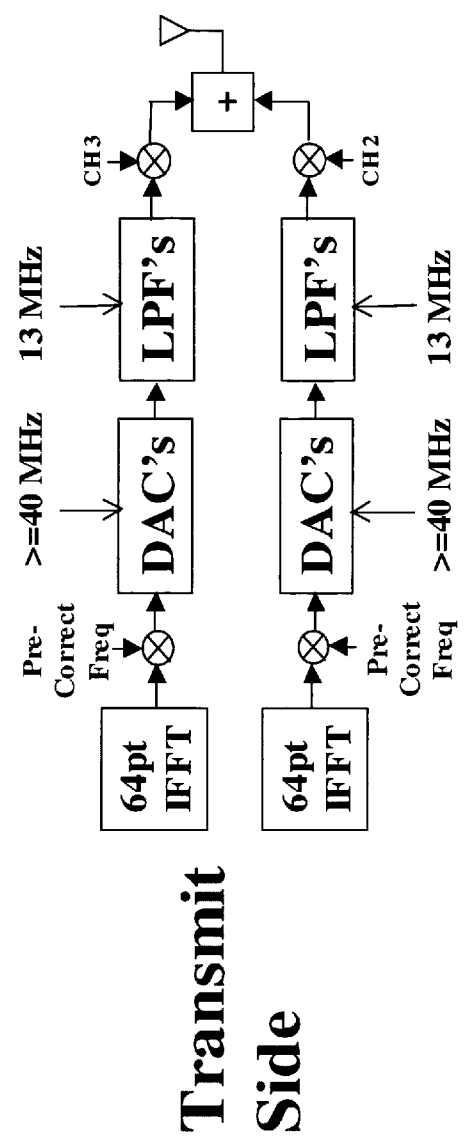


FIGURE 43

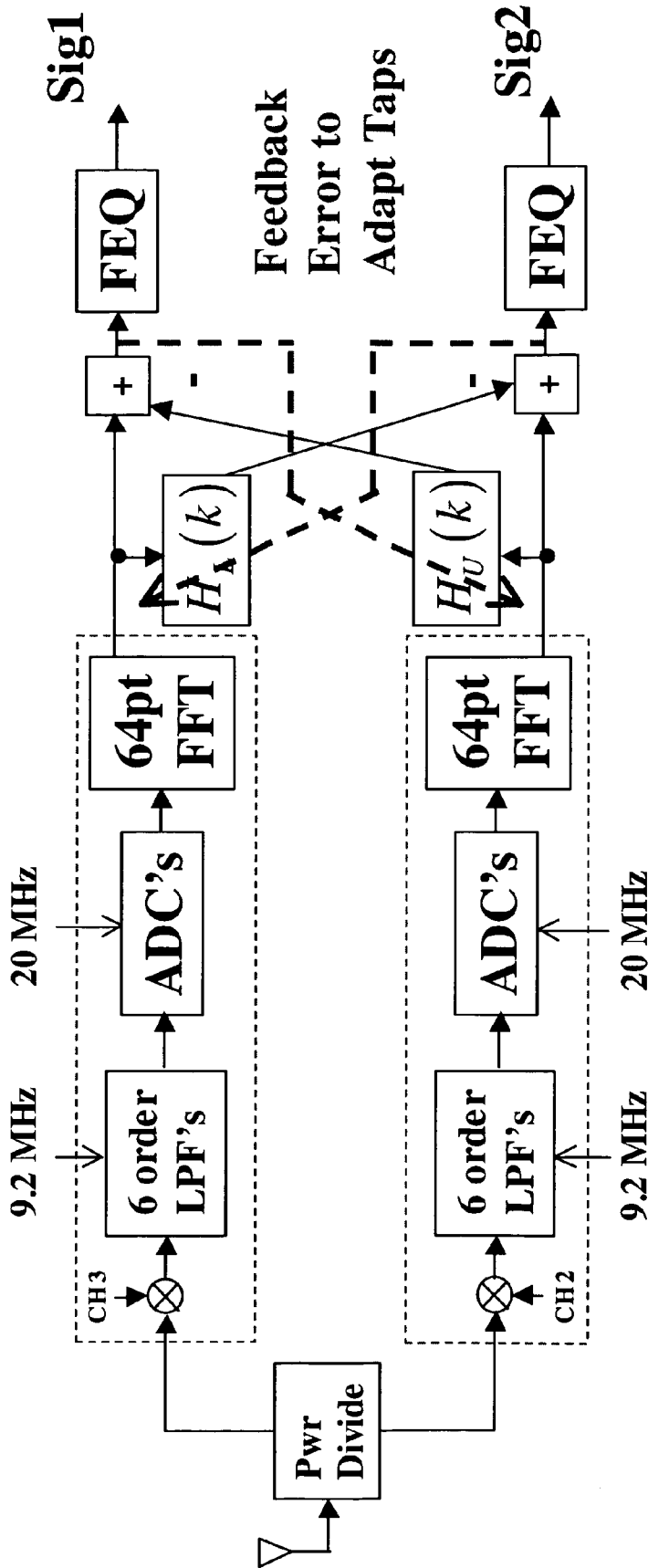


FIGURE 44

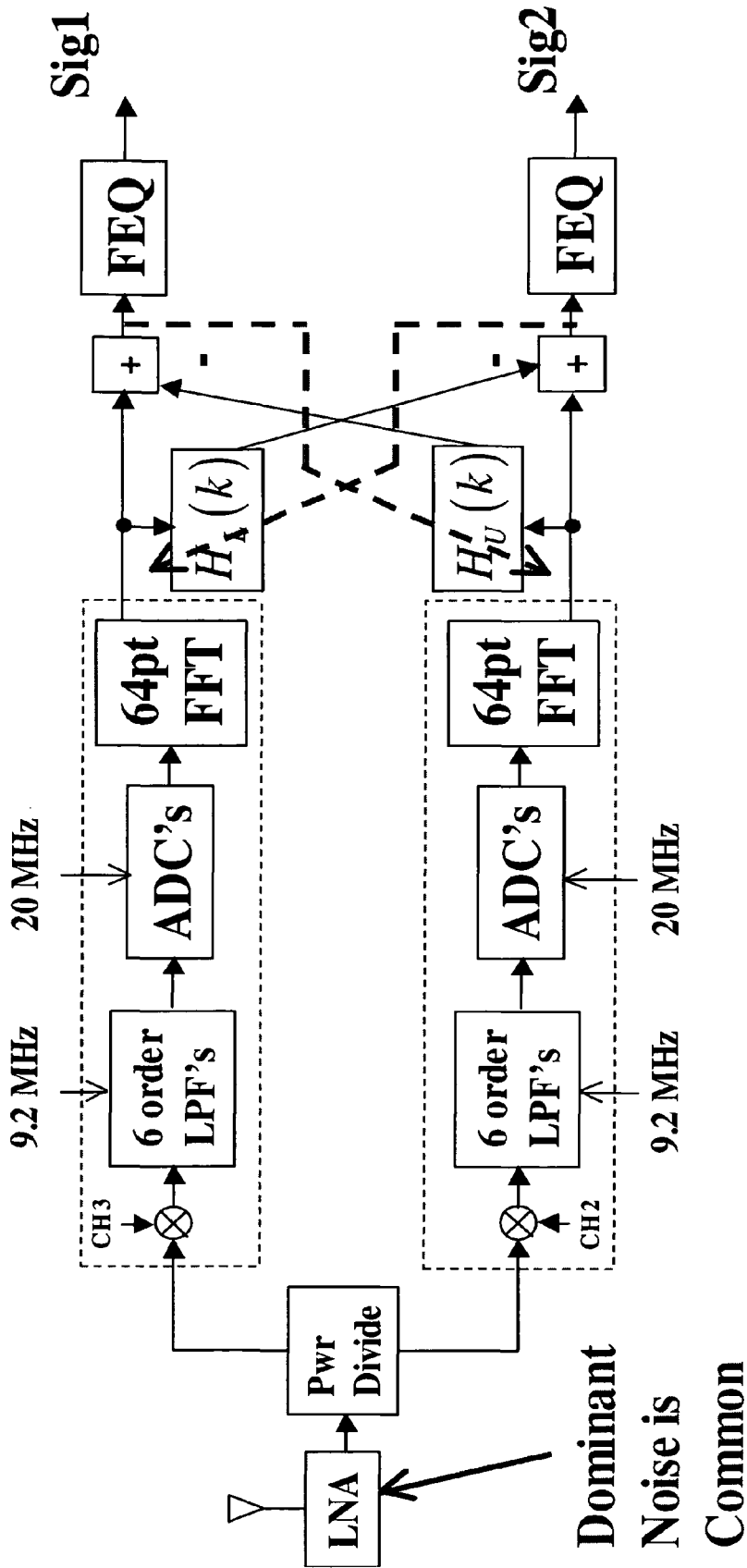
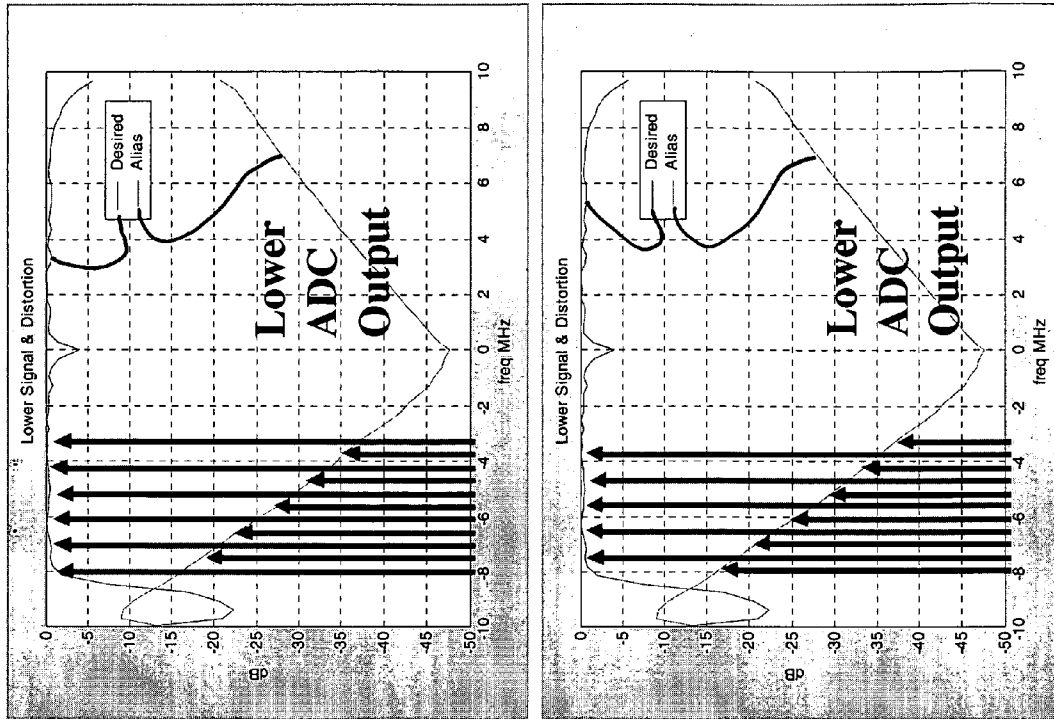
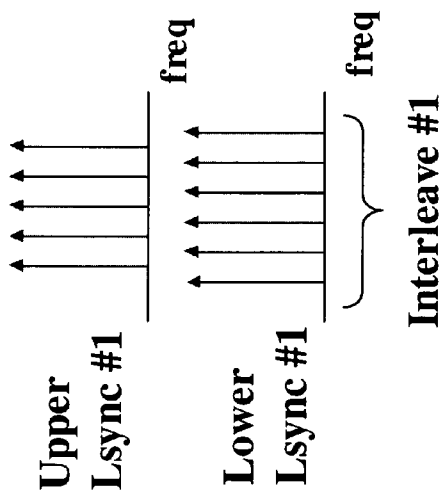
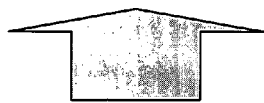


FIGURE 45



1st LSync



2nd LSync

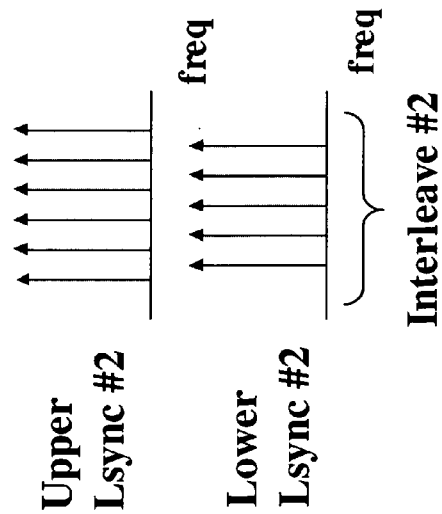
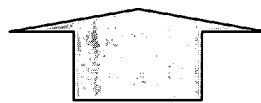
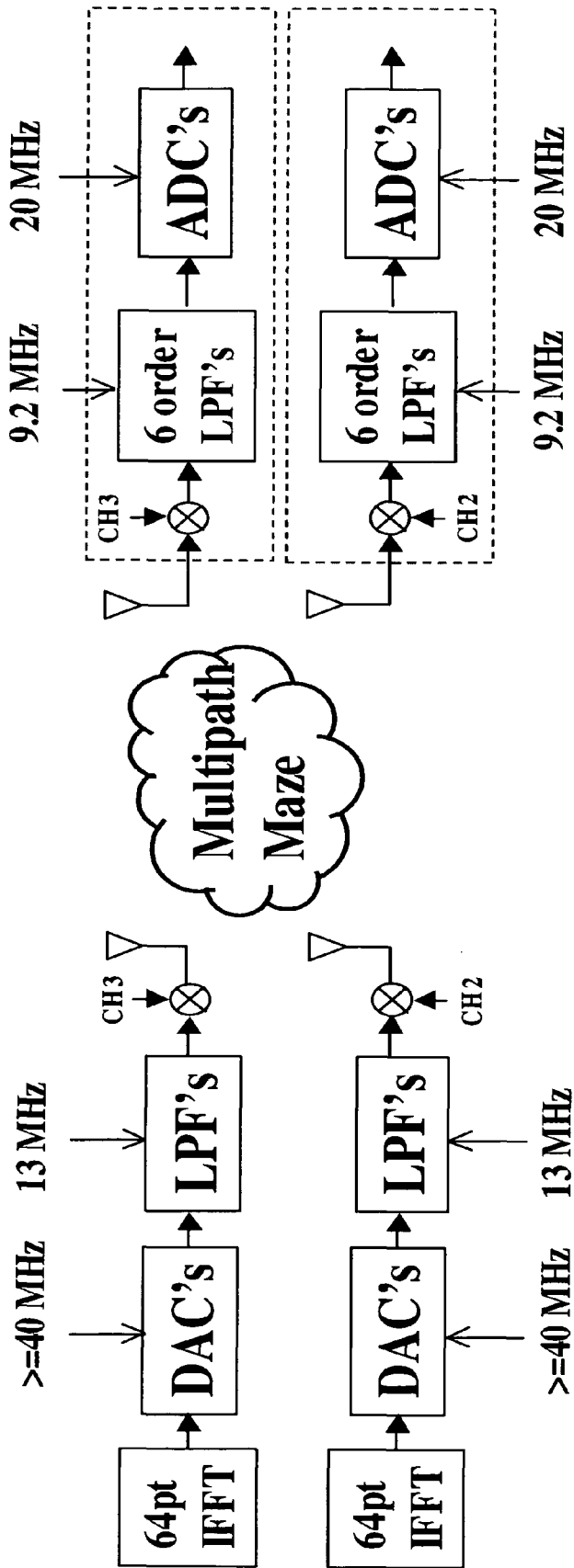


FIGURE 46



Rx Signal Generator

Tx Signal Generator

FIGURE 47

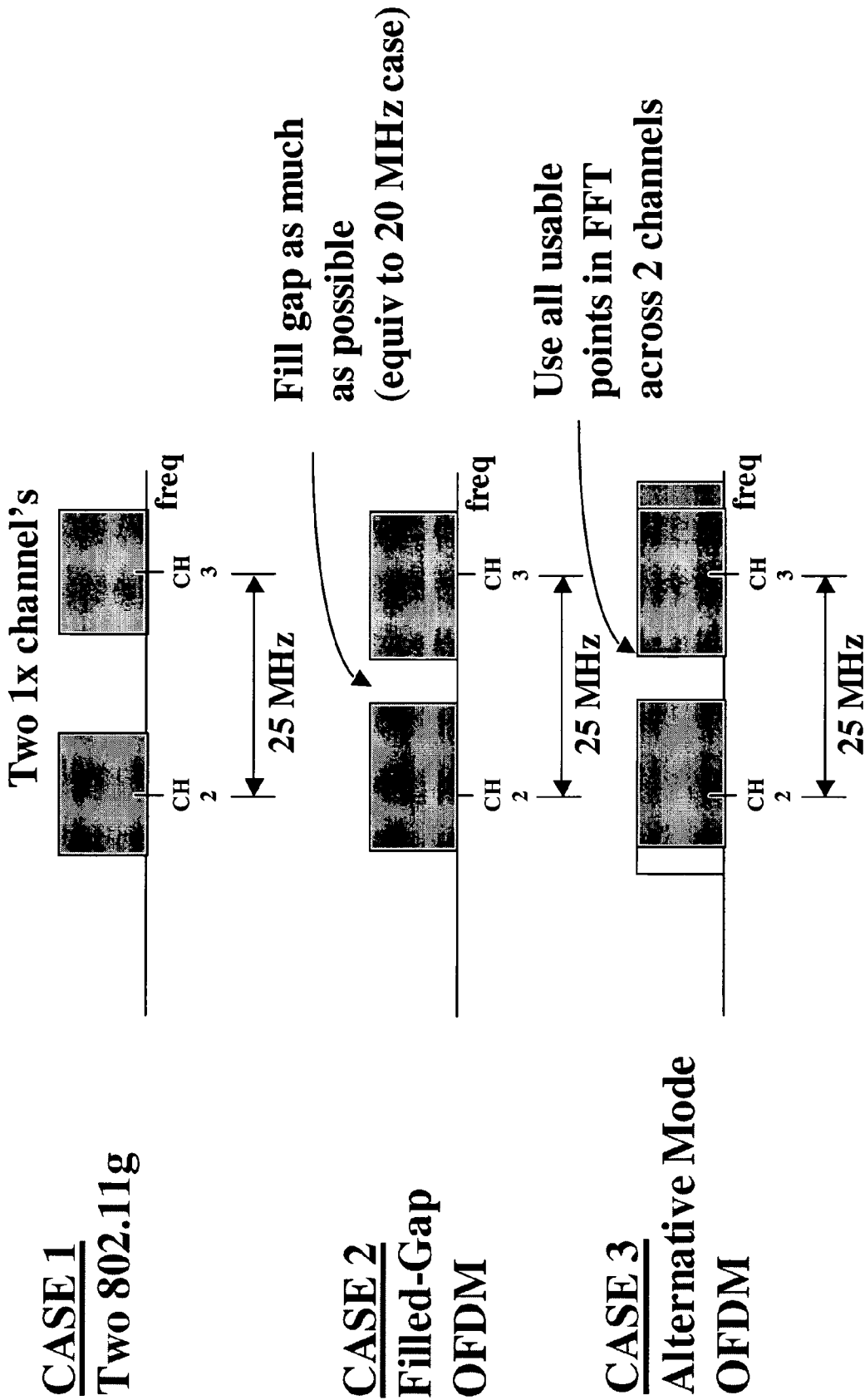


FIGURE 48

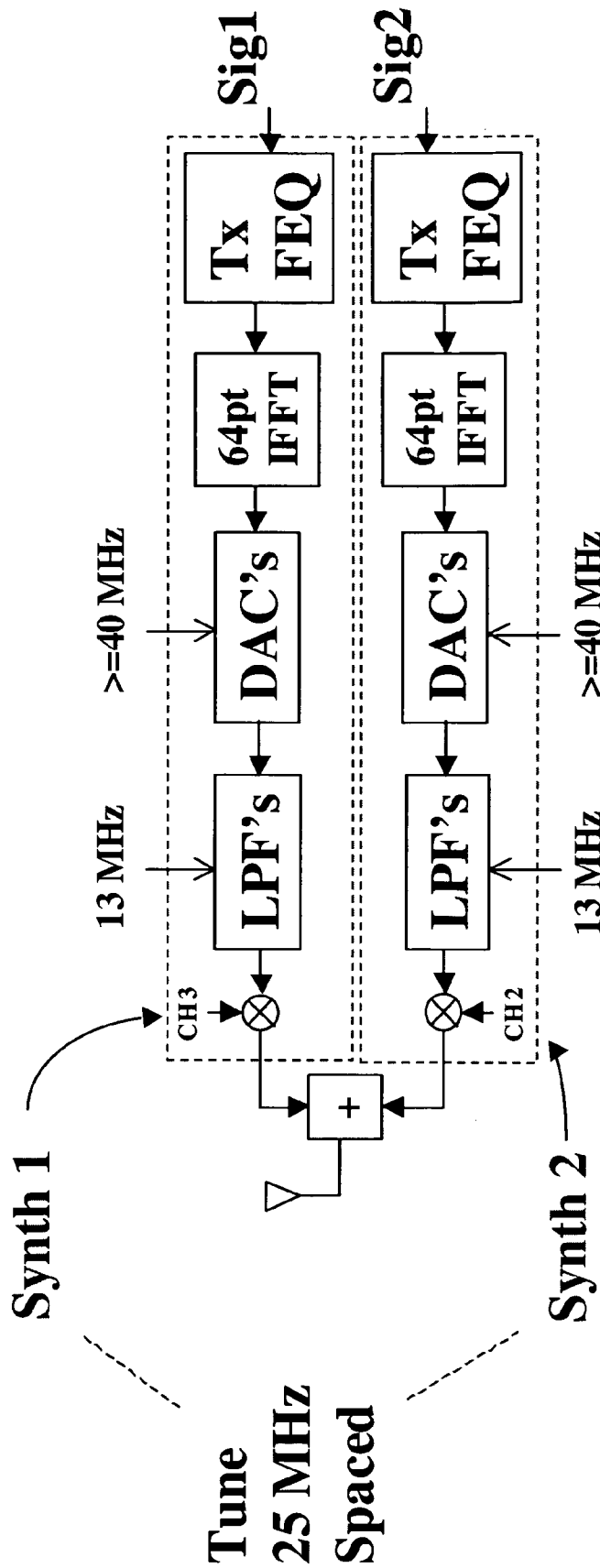


FIGURE 49

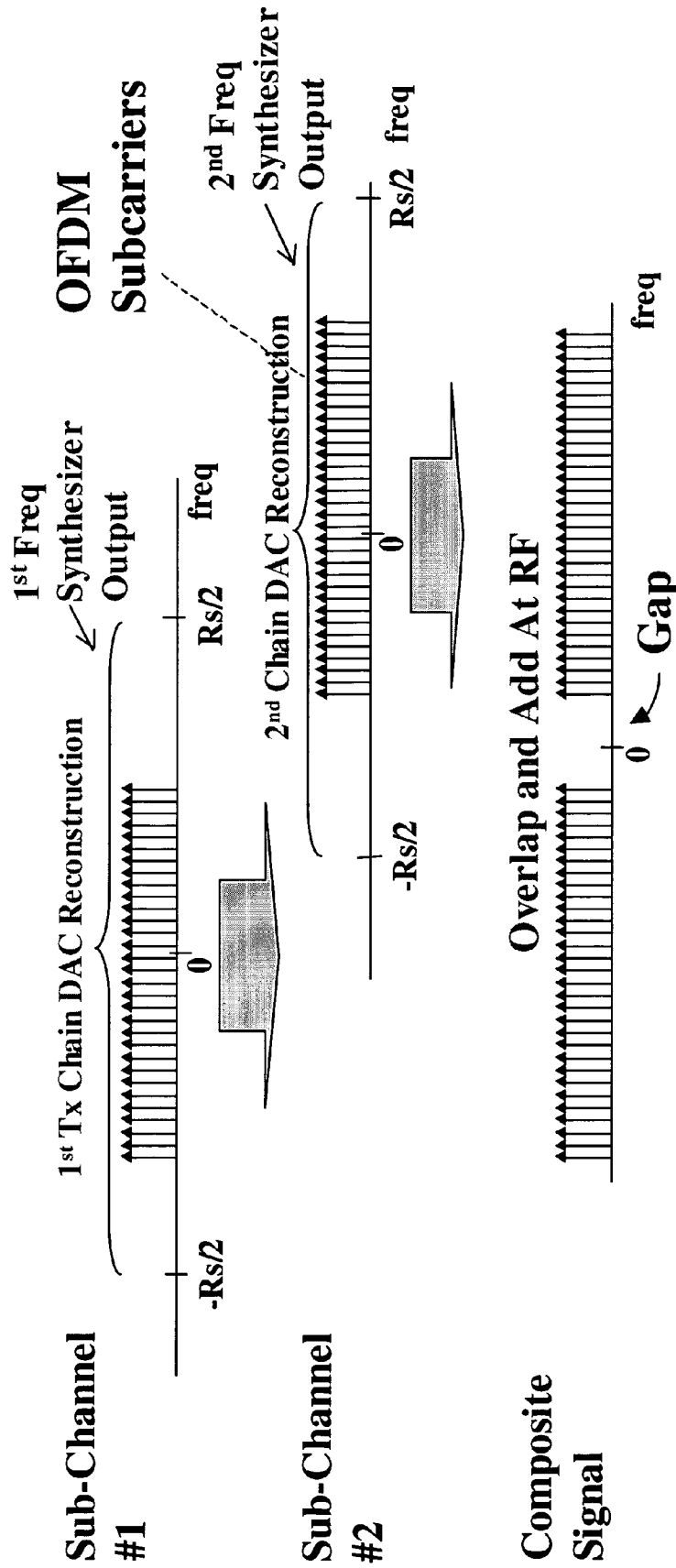


FIGURE 50

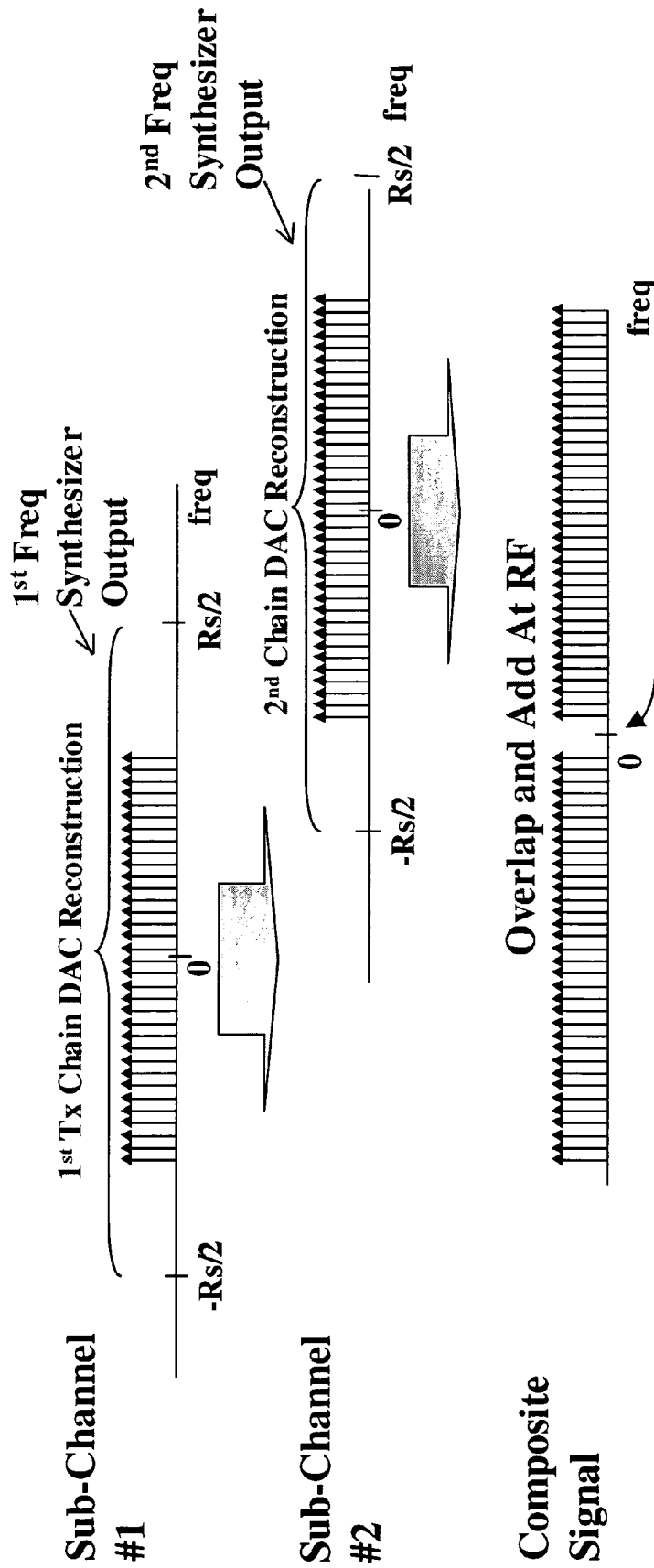


FIGURE 51

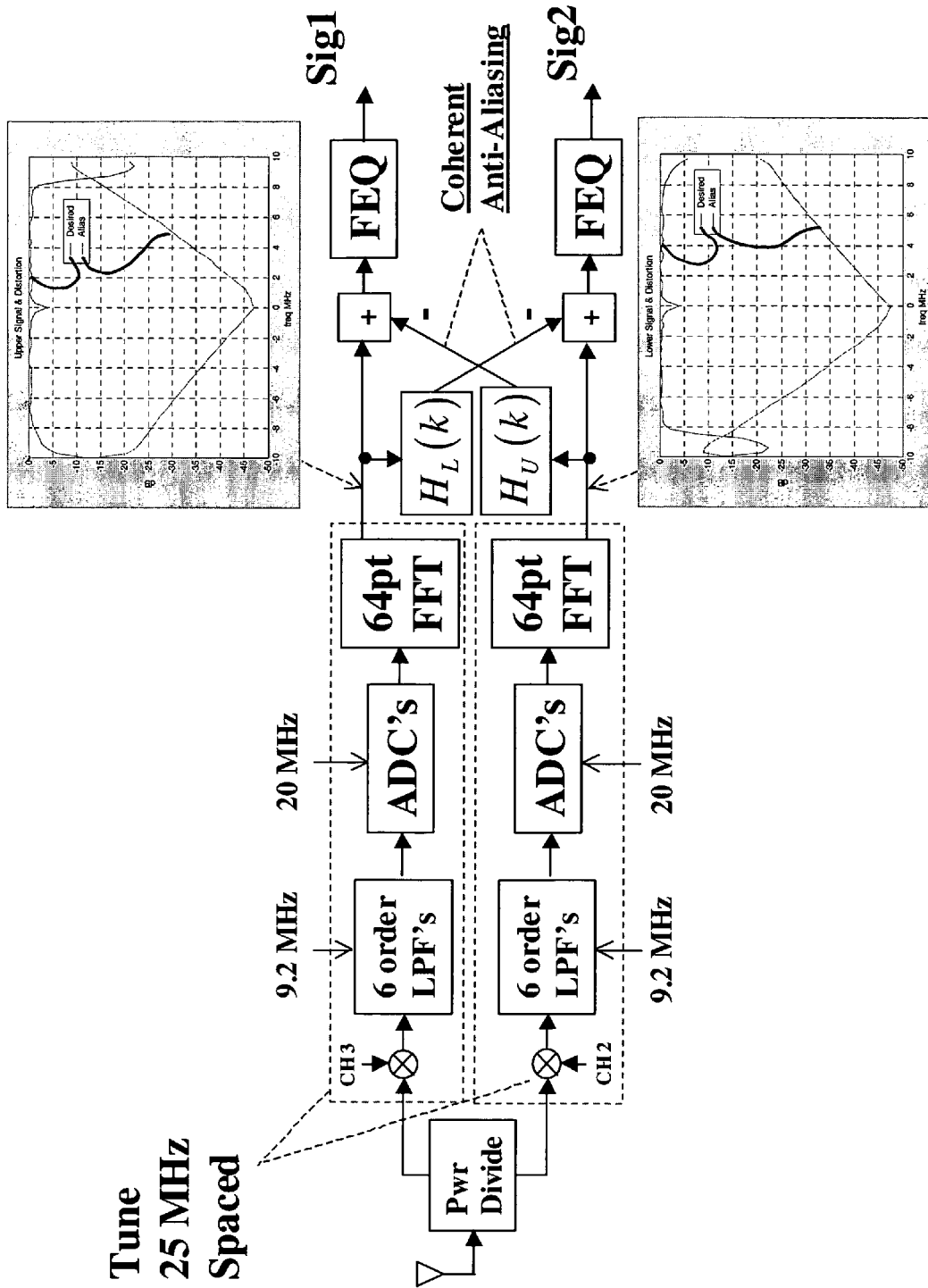
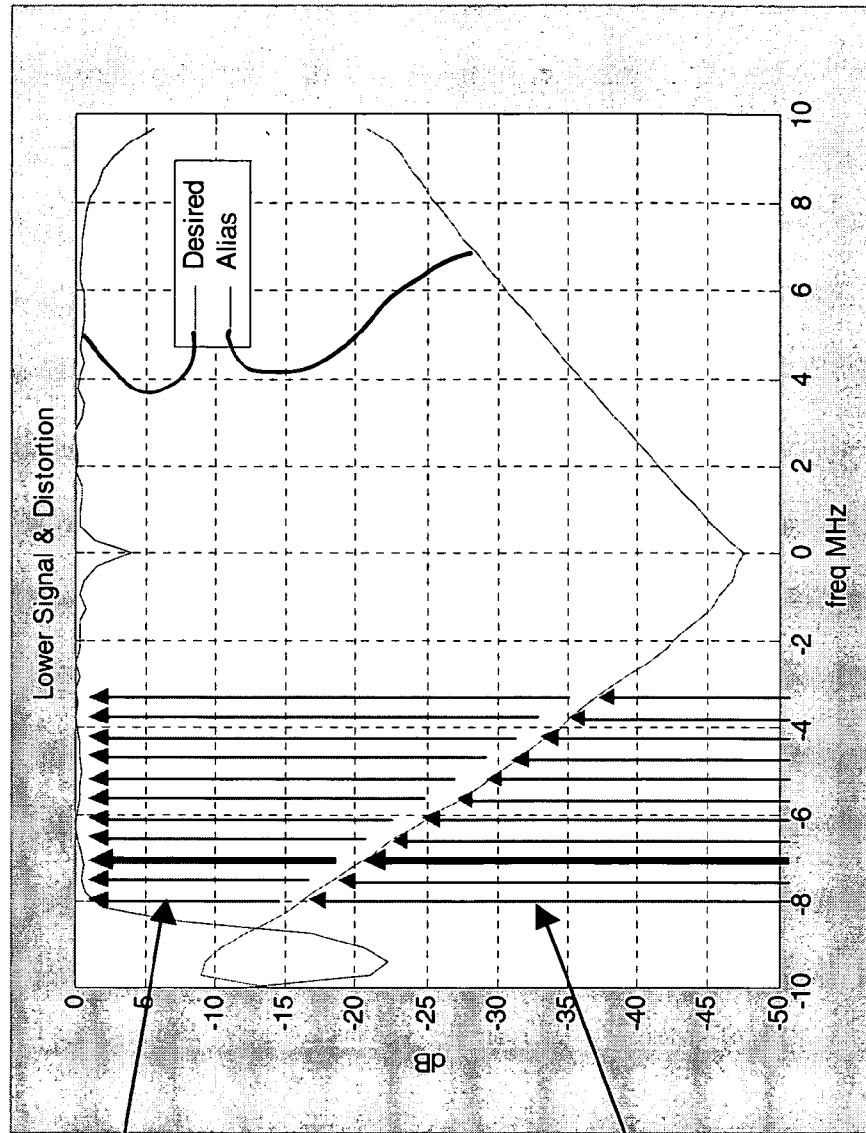


FIGURE 52

Post-ADC



**Desired
Subcarrier
Components**

**Undesired
Alias
Subcarrier
Components**

FIGURE 53

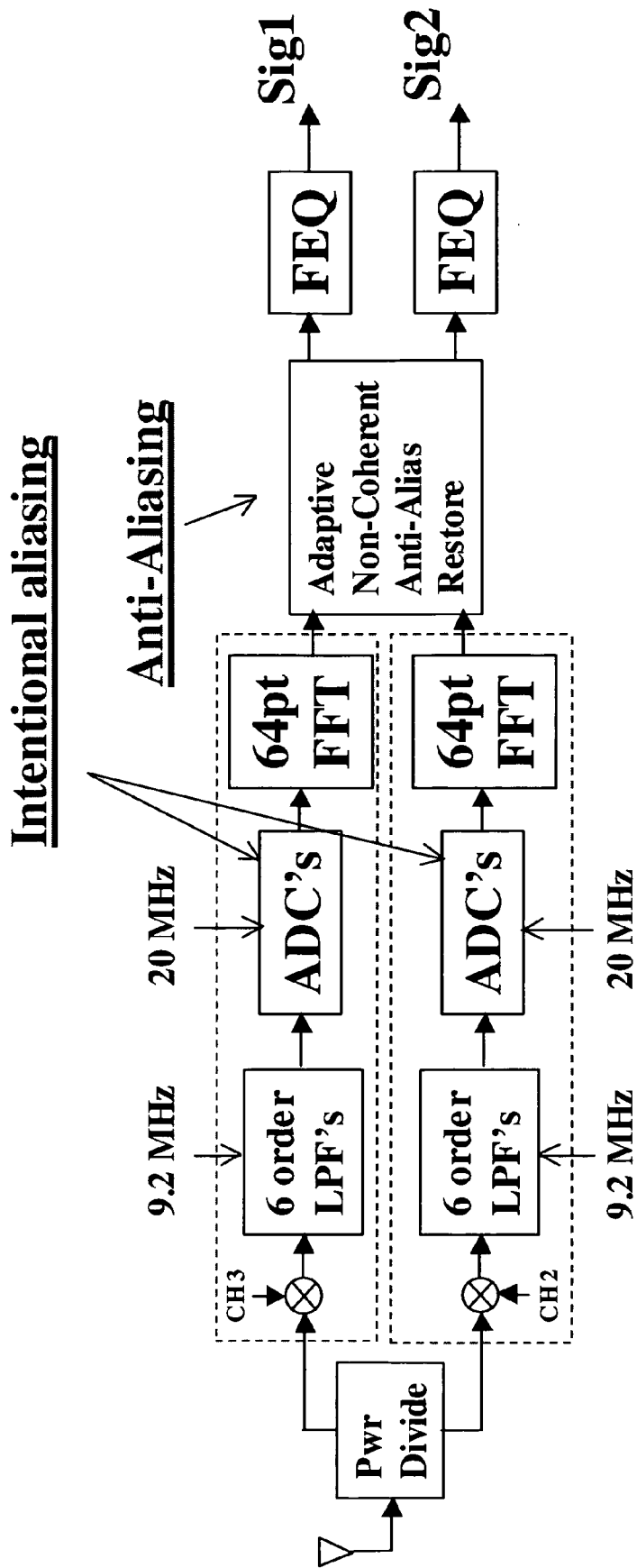


FIGURE 54

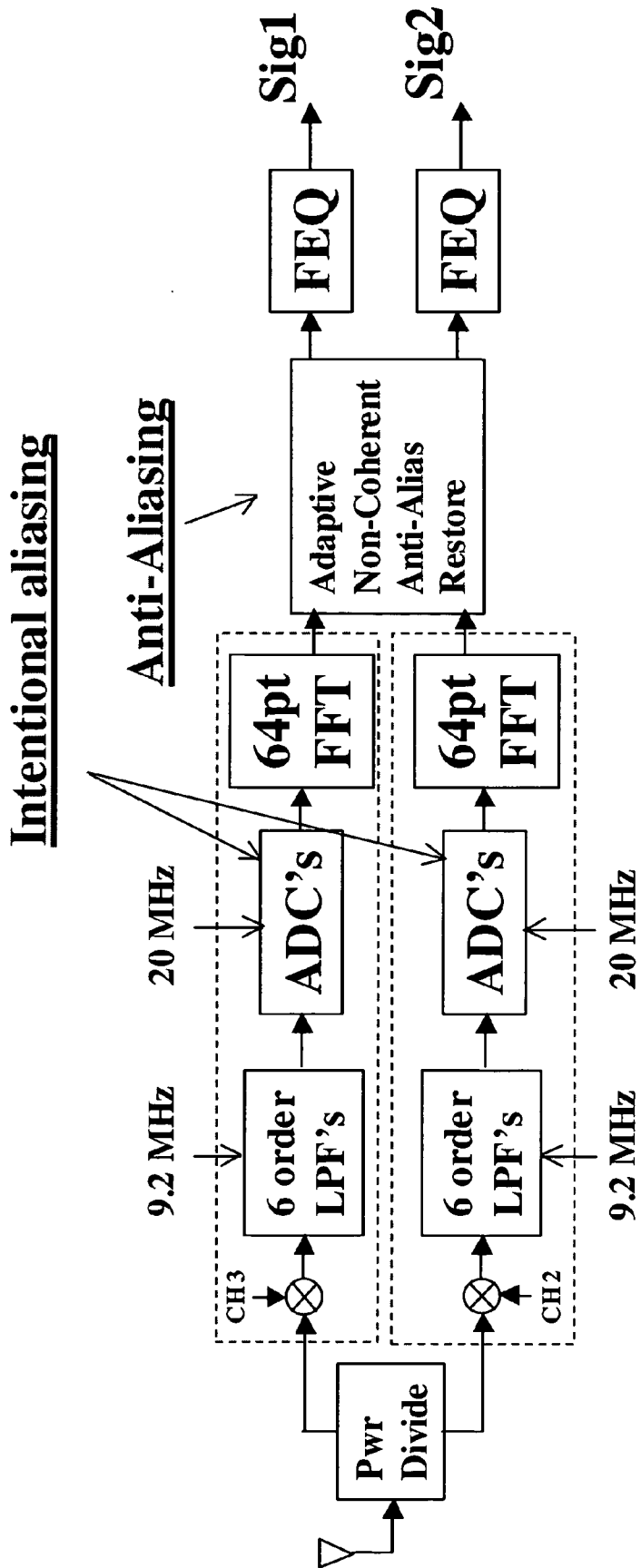


FIGURE 55

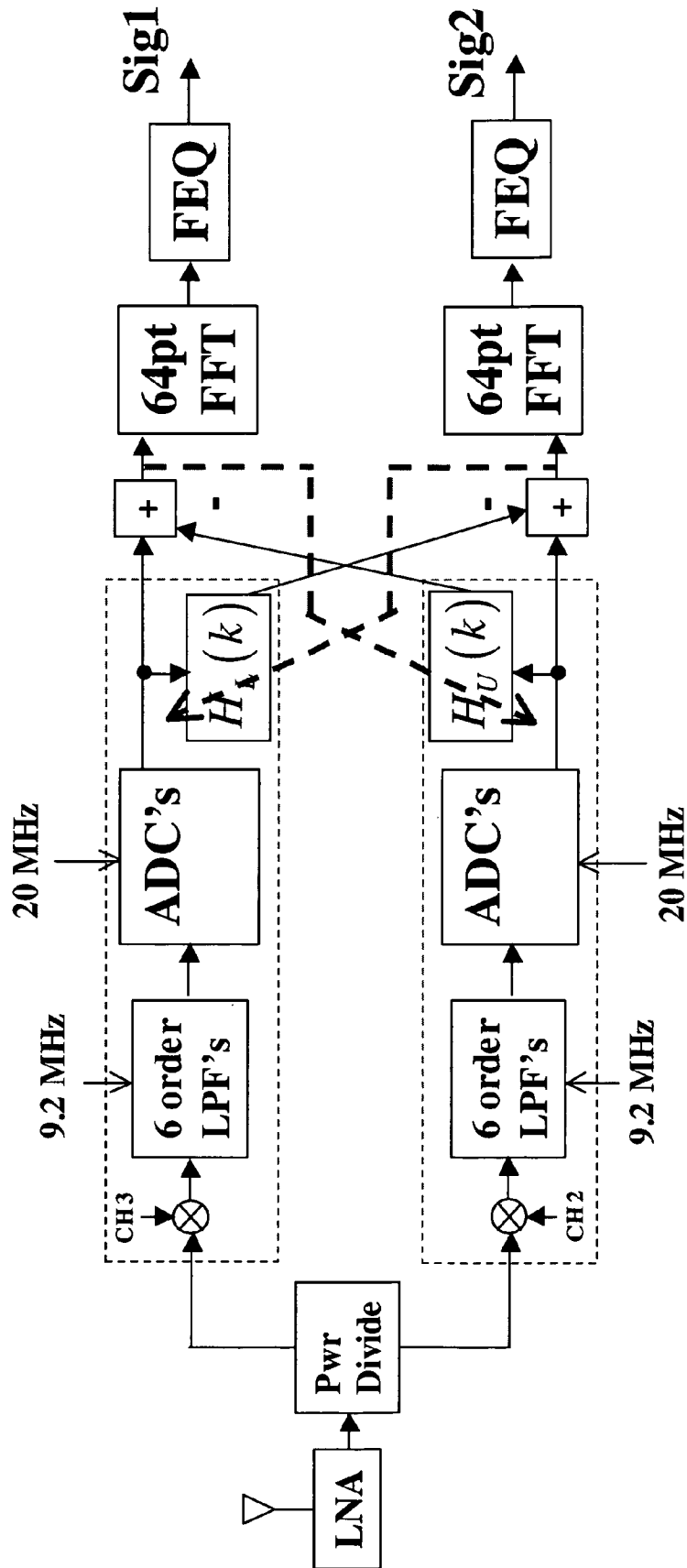


FIGURE 56

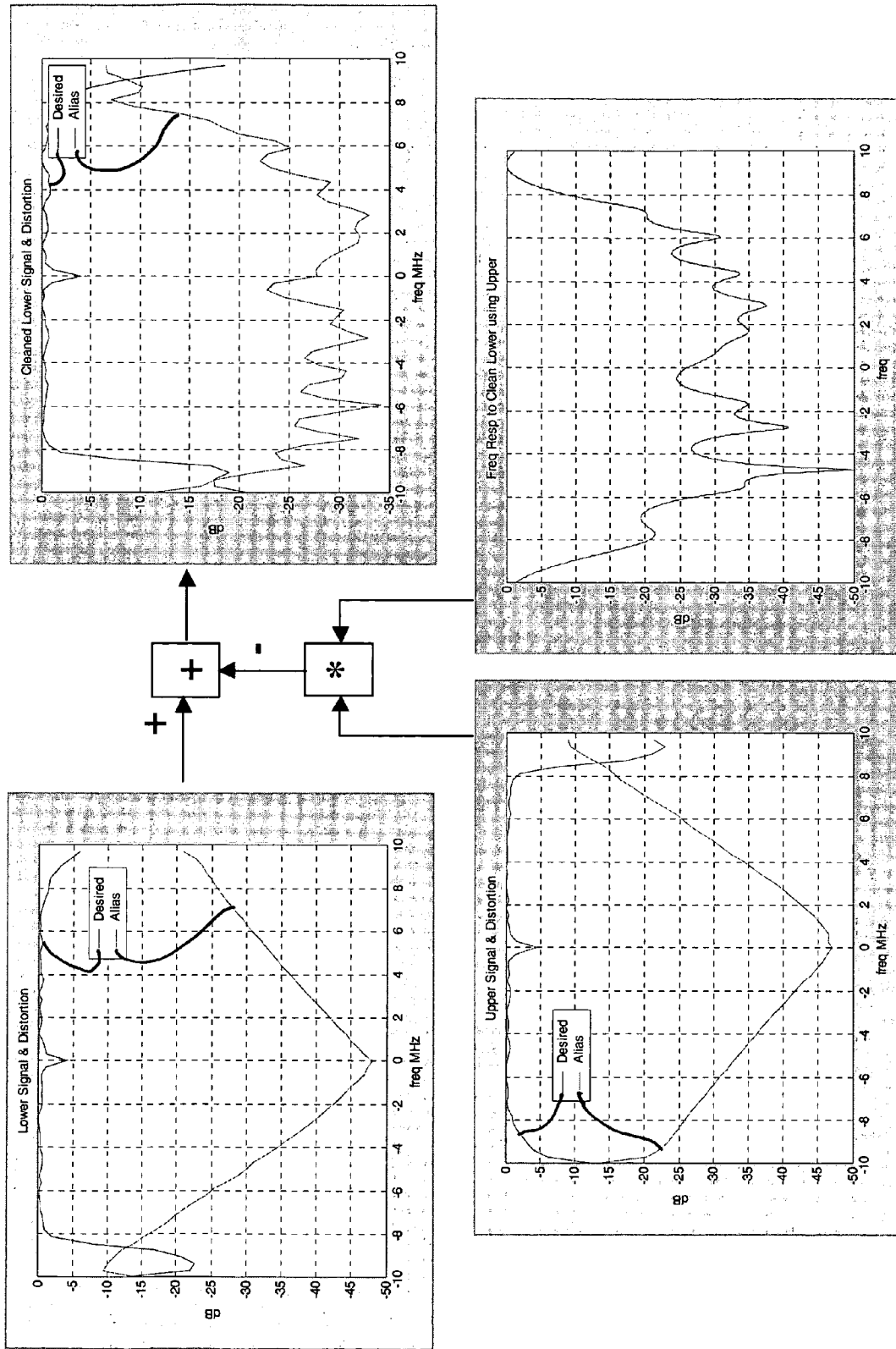


FIGURE 57

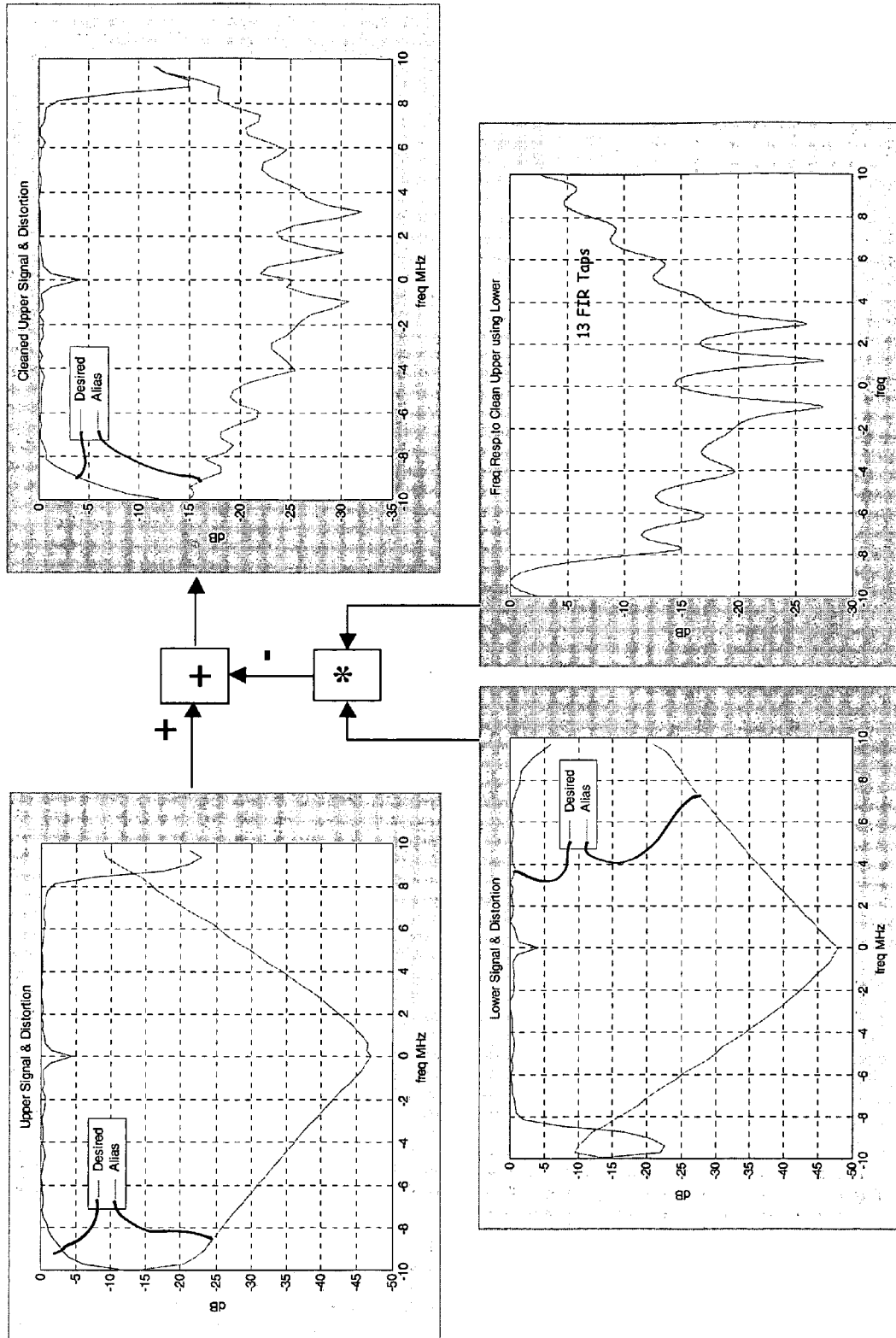


FIGURE 58

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR HIGH DATA RATE MULTI-CHANNEL WLAN ARCHITECTURE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority to Provisional Application No. 60/535,540 filed on Jan. 12, 2004, and entitled "HIGH-DATA-RATE MULTI-CHANNEL ARCHITECTURE," which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to wireless communications, and more particularly to a method and system for high data rate multi-channel wireless communications.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The invention and its various independent aspects, uses and objects are particularly useful and beneficial in the field of wireless communications, including in Wireless Local Area Networks (WLANs). Wireless devices often are deployed in environments that are electrically noisy and not optimal for wireless communications. For example, most homes and work places include many electronic devices resulting in an electronically noisy environment that may interfere with communications, such as microwave ovens, garage door openers, radios, television sets, computer systems, etc. The communication medium between wireless devices may change constantly. Most environments include multiple reflective surfaces and corners, creating multi-path noise. Also, movement of items or devices or the like, such as hands, bodies, jewelry, mouse pointers, etc. or activation of electronic devices, such as cooling fans or the like, affects the overall wireless communication path and potentially degrades wireless communication performance. Organizations, such as IEEE, have drafted and implemented standards to facilitate deployment of and enhance the efficacy of wireless communications systems and components.

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE) 802.11 specification falls under the IEEE 802 family of specifications for Local Area Network (LAN) technologies and is in essence a link layer that uses IEEE 802.2 Logical Link Control (LLC) encapsulation. The IEEE 802.11 specification includes a Media Access Control (MAC) sublayer on top of 802.11a/b/g physical layers (PHY) and represents a family of standards for wireless local area networks (WLAN) in the unlicensed ISM bands of 2.4 and 5 Gigahertz (GHz) bands. The IEEE 802.11b standard specifies a high rate direct sequence spread spectrum (HR/DSSS) with a chip rate of 11 Megahertz (MHz) and defines various data rates in the 2.4 GHz band, including data rates of 1, 2, 5.5 and 11 Megabits per second (Mbps). The IEEE 802.11a standard defines different and higher data rates of 6, 12, 18, 24, 36 and 54 Mbps in the 5 GHz band. It is noted that systems implemented according to the 802.11a and 802.11b standards are incompatible and will not work together. The IEEE 802.11g standard is, in essence, an extension to 802.11b that broadens data rates to 54 Mbps within the 2.4 GHz band using OFDM. Because of backward compatibility, an 802.11b radio card interfaces directly with an 802.11g access point (AP) (and vice versa) at 11 Mbps or lower depending on range.

A radio configured in accordance with IEEE 802.11a or 802.11g standards employs Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing (OFDM) modulation in which a stream of data

is transmitted over multiple small frequency sub-channels. In the OFDM configuration, multiple sub-carrier signals are incorporated within each OFDM symbol. Data is incorporated on each data tone using a selected modulation scheme, such as Binary Phase Shift Keying (BPSK), Quadrature PSK (QPSK), 16 Quadrature Amplitude Modulation (QAM), and/or 64 QAM. Each of the modulation schemes employs a corresponding constellation map with variable constellation points corresponding to a corresponding variable number of bits for achieving the various data rates. For example, BPSK is used for 6 or 9 Mbps, QPSK is used for 12 or 18 Mbps, 16 QAM is used for 24 or 36 Mbps, and 64 QAM is used for 48 or 54 Mbps. The encoding process employs a quadrature generation technique and provides in-phase (I) and quadrature (Q) signals on respective I and Q channels.

The IEEE 802.11a standard employs OFDM using 20 megahertz (MHz) wide channels in the 5 gigahertz (GHz) radio frequency (RF) band. Also, by way of example, wireless standards based on using OFDM with 10 MHz channels include the IEEE 802.11j standard for use in Japan and the DSRC standardization (Dedicated Short Range Communications). DSRC is a communications approach to allowing short range communications between vehicles and the roadside for a variety of purposes, such as electronic toll collection, intersection collision avoidance, transit or emergency vehicle signal priority, electronic parking payments, and commercial vehicle clearance and safety inspections. IEEE 802.11j (or, "11j") and DSRC have both described achieving OFDM with 10 MHz channels by using a clock at one-half the rate the 802.11a OFDM clock, or 10 MHz kernel sampling.

IEEE 802.11n standard has been proposed to provide higher throughput and calls for rates of at least 100 Mbits/second. This performance would be measured at the interface between the 802.11 MAC and higher layers, rather than at the PHY layer, to evaluate the net data rate experienced by the user. The net data rate in WLANs is significantly affected by sources of overhead within the 802.11 protocol, e.g., packet preambles, acknowledgements, contention windows and interframe-spacing. As a result, for example, although the 802.11b standard specifies a peak physical-layer rate of 11 Mbits/s, the typical net peak delivered is 5 to 6 Mbits/s. Also, although the 802.11a and 802.11g standards specify a peak PHY data rate of 54 Mbits/s, the typical net peak delivered is 20 to 24 Mbits/s. Accordingly, the 802.11n high throughput standard represents a four- to five-fold increase in actual throughput over that achievable with 802.11a/g. 802.11n specifies backward compatibility with legacy 802.11a/g deployments.

IEEE 802.11 networks typically consist of four physical components, including a distribution system, access points (APs), wireless media, and mobile stations comprising a basic service set (BSS). The mobile stations of a BSS are computing stations, such as notebook computers, PDAs, mobile telephones and other network devices, e.g., printers, facsimile machines, scanners, copiers, hubs, routers, switches, etc. that communicate with each other across one or more APs, which in turn communicate with each other over a distribution system. The communication between the BSS stations and the APs may form a basic service area (BSA) and occurs over a wireless medium. The communication between the APs and each other and the distribution system may be over a plurality of communications media, including wireless and wired media. The APs essentially perform a bridging function. Further, the distribution system may comprise or be in communication with a plurality of communications systems over a plurality of media. Also, within the realm of 802.11 is an independent BSS wherein mobile stations com-

municate directly with one another. Accordingly, the smallest 802.11 network may consist of two mobile stations communicating with one another. Also, multiple BSSs may be linked together to form extended service sets (ESSs).

In operation, a short training period is typically included at the start of each transmission, including Short Syncs and two Long Syncs (LS) appended at the front end of each transmitted frame. The Long Syncs provide a reference amplitude and phase for each of the active subchannels. The Long Syncs may be averaged together to reduce the noise in the received reference values. After the Long Syncs have been received, each sub-channel received symbol is multiplied by the inverse of the reference amplitude and the conjugate of the reference phase (when expressed as a complex unit vector) for that sub-channel. This removes most of the amplitude and phase distortion that has occurred between the transmitter and the receiver.

Optimum soft-decisions should be Signal-to-Noise Ratio (SNR) weighted. The Long Syncs have been used to generate LLR (log likelihood ratio) weights to correctly weight soft-decisions going into an error-correcting decoder, such as a Viterbi decoder or the like. Given a flat noise floor, the use of LLR weights translates into a signal-power weighting. These LLR weights have been the signal power determined in each sub-channel of the Long Syncs. Using the LLR weights improves soft-decisions and reduces transmission errors.

A first problem is that the received reference values are usually degraded by noise, which is an unavoidable consequence of radio transmission. The reference information provided during the training phase (e.g., in the Long Syncs) is known by the receiver, so that a significant amount of this noise can be determined. A second problem, however, is that the signal amplitude and phase distortion may change over time, from the start of transmission of each frame to the end of the frame, making the initial channel estimate information obsolete and inaccurate towards the end of each frame. Both of these problems increase the probability of error when receiving a frame, due to both signal equalization errors and soft-decision weighting errors.

Legacy radios were designed with several assumptions. The channel was assumed to be relatively stable. The frames were bursty in nature and relatively short, so that it was assumed that the wireless channel did not significantly change over the duration of each frame. The initial channel estimate information determined at the start of each frame was assumed to be sufficiently accurate for that frame. Presently, however, there is a greater emphasis on mobility and/or accuracy. Mobility results in a changing environment that could result in significant changes in the channel during each frame. Even in a stable environment, improved accuracy can improve transmission speed and enable a higher transmission rate with a lower packet error rate (PER). It is desired to improve channel estimation to enable mobile application and/or higher transmission rates.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a way to achieve very high data rate expanded bandwidth (wide band) WLAN operations reusing existing single channel radio designs. The invention provides a dual-channel form of operation for greater flexibility and performance across multiple platforms. Further, the invention provides adaptive anti-aliasing techniques for eliminating aliasing due to adjacent channel waveform effects. The techniques of the invention mesh with existing systems cleanly.

The invention provides the following benefits, among others. One aspect of the invention minimizes required radio redesign by allowing greater use of legacy devices in 802.11 systems. Another aspect of the invention minimizes radio requirements associated with such systems, for example, for two parallel channels only 6th order filters are required as opposed to 10th order. Another aspect of the invention provides maximum radio flexibility, for example, Transmit (Tx)/Receive (Rx) in one or more channels to one or more radios. Another aspect of the invention defines a high data rate mode of operation to mesh cleanly with existing and future IEEE 802.11 systems, for example, to allow operation at both 2.4 GHz with 25 MHz channels and 5.8 GHz with 20 MHz channels.

An embodiment of the present invention is directed to concatenation of two (or more) channels using parallel transceivers at the transmit and/or receive end. Another embodiment of the present invention is directed to transmitting and/or receiving two channels to two different radios, or to a single radio thereby increasing data rate to the single radio. Another embodiment of the present invention is directed to being extensible to multiple channels. Another embodiment of the present invention is directed to an adaptive anti-aliasing function in the receiver. An embodiment of the present invention is directed to creating very high WLAN data rates that may not be supported by IEEE 802.11a/g. For example, the highest data rate for 802.11a/g is 54 Mbps. An exemplary technique may include channel concatenation, where multiple 802.11a/g channels are combined thereby expanding bandwidth and data rate. In general for conventional systems, a new radio must be designed that up-converts or down-converts the wide signal as a unit. An embodiment of the present invention decomposes the signal into separate pieces, up-converting and down-converting the pieces, whereby reuse of existing 802.11a/g radio designs by parallelizing the signals in frequency may be possible without implementing a new transceiver. An embodiment of the present invention provides for extensible channel concatenation, (e.g., one, two, three, . . . channels concatenated) and enables concurrent transmissions to two or more devices, such as radios. Further, an embodiment of the present invention meshes cleanly (friendly) with existing networks, such as 802.11a/g networks.

An exemplary embodiment provides a method and system for achieving very high data rate WLAN operations reusing existing single channel radio designs. A novel technique eliminates aliasing due to adjacent channel waveform. Legacy signals (e.g., one-channel) and wide signals (e.g., multiple-channels) may be arbitrarily interleaved in time (dynamic bandwidth switching) during packet transmission. For an exemplary technique of an embodiment of the present invention, no synthesizer frequency-popping exists when bandwidth switching between packets. Synthesizers may stay tuned to legacy channel centers for most or at all times. Further, synthesizer switches that can take 100 microseconds (μ s) to settle may be avoided. Also, adaptive techniques are provided to mitigate the undesired impact of analog-to-digital converter (ADC) sample-rate aliasing. ADC sample-rate aliasing may occur when a wide signal is received by multiple, parallel receive chains designed to receive a single narrow signal. As described hereinbelow, for example, operations at 5 GHz are considered (e.g., 20 MHz legacy channel centers). In another example, operations at 2.4 GHz are considered (e.g., 25 MHz legacy channel centers).

The IEEE 802.11a/b/g WLAN standards currently exist. The new IEEE 802.11n standard (or variations thereof) is being discussed, developed and introduced. One goal of the

802.11n standard is to increase data rates and data throughput while being “friendly” to or meshing cleanly with existing 802.11 networks. An embodiment of the present invention increases the data rate using channel bonding with OFDM using two or more channels at once. Another aspect of the invention provides a technique for “filling the gap” between two signals with extra OFDM subcarriers, which is extensible to multiple channels. Yet another aspect of the invention provides a non-802.11n friendly alternative mode that provides higher data rates, but is not friendly to 802.11 because the spectral mask would be violated. As described hereinbelow, for example, 20 MHz channels centers with OFDM is described for 802.11a at 5.8 GHz and 25 MHz channels centers is described for 802.11g at 2.4 GHz.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The benefits, features, and advantages of the present invention will become better understood with regard to the following description, and accompanying drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is a chart illustrating World-Wide 5 GHz frequency allocations;

FIG. 2 is a schematic diagram of existing IEEE 802.a/g WLAN with single channel stations;

FIG. 3 is a schematic diagram representing a possible IEEE 802.11n WLAN scenario with legacy 802.11a/g stations;

FIG. 4 is a chart illustrating three cases of frequency spectrums;

FIG. 5 is a chart illustrating three cases of frequency spectrums involving no synthesizer frequency popping;

FIG. 6 is a chart illustrating three cases of frequency spectrums involving an alternative mode of operation not defined in 802.11n;

FIG. 7 is a block diagram illustrating one physical implementation of a dual-chain wideband radio;

FIG. 8 is a block diagram illustrating an alternative single chain wideband radio implementation;

FIG. 9 is a graph representing a dual chain transmitter satisfying a spectral mask;

FIG. 10 is a graph representing a single chain transmitter violating a spectral mask;

FIG. 11 is a diagram illustrating a 6th order low pass filter on the receiver side in a dual chain wideband radio with normal Q factor;

FIG. 12 is a diagram illustrating a 12th order low pass filter on the receiver side in a single chain wideband radio with a double Q factor;

FIG. 13 is a diagram illustrating a switching technique for single and dual chain modes in a bimodal wideband radio receiver;

FIG. 14 is a diagram illustrating spatial multiplexing in embodiment using MIMO technique;

FIG. 15 is a diagram illustrating a dual chain wideband radio receiver with reference to dual channel protocol management;

FIG. 16 is a schematic diagram of a dual-chain wideband transmitter;

FIG. 17 is a schematic diagram illustrating alternative pre-power amplifier summation and post-power amplifier summation in a dual-chain wideband transmitter;

FIG. 18 is a schematic diagram illustrating a post-antenna summation in a dual-chain wideband transmitter;

FIG. 19 is a graphical representation of signal components and processing involving two 802.11a signals with a two-channel transmitter;

FIG. 20 is a graphical representation of the signal components and processing of FIG. 19 with filled-gap OFDM technique;

FIG. 21 is a graphical representation of signal components and alternative processing with filled-gap OFDM with extra subcarriers;

FIG. 22 is a graphical representation of 802.11a subcarrier function associated with FIG. 19;

FIG. 23 is a graphical illustration, respectively, of shaped subcarrier spectrum response and OFDM spectrum response in 802.11a example of FIG. 22;

FIG. 24 illustrates power amplifier PSD distortion associated with operation of 802.11a single channel transmitters;

FIG. 25 is a series of graphs representing power amplifier input and output associated with one side of a wideband radio implementation;

FIG. 26 is a chart illustrating the error vector magnitude (EVM) associated with an exemplary 16 QAM 802.11a/g signal;

FIG. 27 illustrates both a post-power amplifier summation dual-chain wideband radio implementation and a post-antenna summation dual-chain wideband radio implementation;

FIG. 28 is a series of graphs representing power amplifier input and output associated with both sides of the post-power amplifier summation dual-chain wideband radio implementation of FIG. 27;

FIG. 29 is a series of graphs representing power amplifier input and output associated with both sides of the post-power amplifier summation dual-chain wideband radio implementation of FIG. 27 characterized with filled-gap OFDM;

FIG. 30 is a pre-power amplifier summation dual-chain wideband radio implementation;

FIG. 31 is a series of graphs representing power amplifier input and output associated with sides of the pre-power amplifier summation dual-chain wideband radio implementation of FIG. 27;

FIG. 32 is a series of graphs representing power amplifier input and output associated with both sides of the pre-power amplifier summation dual-chain wideband radio implementation of FIG. 27 characterized with filled-gap OFDM;

FIG. 33 is a schematic diagram of a dual-chain wideband transmitter and a dual-chain wideband receiver with signal separator;

FIG. 34 illustrates operation and response of a 6th order Butterworth low pass filter on half of the wideband receiver;

FIG. 35 illustrates operation and response of a 6th order Butterworth low pass filter on both the upper and lower halves of the wideband receiver;

FIG. 36 illustrates upper and lower signal outputs of the dual-chain wideband receiver of FIG. 35 without alias canceling;

FIG. 37 illustrates the EVM and effects of aliasing associated with the upper and lower signals of the wideband receiver of FIG. 35;

FIG. 38 illustrates the effects of subcarriers in upper signal aliasing into the lower signal in a wideband receiver;

FIG. 39 illustrates the desired and undesired subcarrier components in a post-ADC lower signal and distortion in a wideband receiver resulting from aliasing with no frequency offset;

FIG. 40 is a series of graphs representing relationship between upper signal aliases to lower signal on 16 QAM subcarrier;

FIG. 41 illustrates coherent anti-aliasing technique applied to the upper and lower signal components of a dual-chain wideband receiver;

FIG. 42 is a schematic diagram of a dual-chain wideband receiver with frequency correction;

FIG. 43 is a schematic diagram of a dual-chain wideband transmitter with frequency pre-correction;

FIG. 44 is a illustrates a feedback error, anti-aliasing technique applied to the upper and lower signal components of a dual-chain wideband receiver;

FIG. 45 is a illustrates a feedback technique for anti-aliasing in a dual-chain wideband receiver;

FIG. 46 illustrates a special training technique utilizing interleaved subcarriers and acquisition with long sync;

FIG. 47 illustrates fading issues associated with multiple antennae in receivers and transmitters in multi-channel communications;

FIG. 48 is a graphical representation of three cases of a dual channel communication;

FIG. 49 is a schematic diagram of an embodiment of a dual-chain wideband transmitter;

FIG. 50 is a graphical representation of signal components and processing involving two 802.11a signals with a two-channel transmitter given 25 MHz spacings;

FIG. 51 is a graphical representation of the signal components and processing of FIG. 50 with filled-gap OFDM technique characterized by 25 MHz spacing;

FIG. 52 illustrates coherent anti-aliasing technique applied to the upper and lower signal components of a dual-chain wideband receiver characterized by 25 MHz spacing;

FIG. 53 is a graphical representation of the relationship between desired and undesired subcarrier components associated with anti-aliasing;

FIG. 54 is a schematic diagram illustrating an implementation using frequency domain adaptive non-coherent anti-alias restore technique;

FIG. 55 is a schematic diagram illustrating an implementation using time domain adaptive anti-alias restore technique;

FIG. 56 is a schematic diagram illustrating an implementation using feedback for time domain anti-alias technique;

FIG. 57 is a graphical representation of upper and lower signal and distortion and a process for providing a clean lower signal in a 13 tap adaptive filter; and

FIG. 58 is a graphical representation of upper and lower signal and distortion and a process for providing a clean upper signal in a 13 tap adaptive filter.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION THE INVENTION

The following description is presented to enable one of ordinary skill in the art to make and use the present invention as provided within the context of a particular application and its requirements. Various modifications to the preferred embodiment will, however, be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art, and the general principles defined herein may be applied to other embodiments. Therefore, the present invention is not intended to be limited to the particular embodiments shown and described herein, but is to be accorded the widest scope consistent with the principles and novel features herein disclosed.

The present invention provides a way to achieve very high data rate expanded bandwidth (wide band) WLAN operations reusing existing single channel radio designs. The invention provides a dual-channel form of operation for greater flexibility and performance across multiple platforms. Further, the invention provides adaptive anti-aliasing techniques for eliminating aliasing due to adjacent channel waveform effects. The techniques of the invention mesh with existing systems cleanly.

One embodiment of the invention simplifies WLAN radio redesign and opens network access to new systems by allowing greater use of legacy devices in 802.11 systems. The invention also minimizes radio requirements associated with such systems, for example, for two parallel channels only 6th order filters are required as opposed to 10th order or higher. The invention also provides for enhances radio flexibility, for example, enables Transmit (Tx)/Receive (Rx) in one or more channels to one or more radios/stations. Another aspect of the invention provides a high data rate mode of operation to mesh cleanly with existing and future IEEE 802.11 systems, for example, to allow operation at both 2.4 GHz with 25 MHz channels and 5.8 GHz with 20 MHz channels.

IEEE 802.11 specification includes 802.11a/b/g physical layer specifications/standards that operate on ISM bands of 2.4 and 5 Gigahertz (GHz) bands. IEEE 802.11a operates in the 5 GHz band using 20 megahertz (MHz) wide channels, and the 802.11g standard operates in the 2.4 GHz band using 25 megahertz (MHz) wide channels. FIG. 1 is a chart illustrating World-Wide 5 GHz frequency allocations, including those for 802.11a as discussed herein. The invention is not limited to these standards, which are referred to herein as examples of applications for the invention and to facilitate describing the inventive aspects. Other wireless standards, for example, based on OFDM include 802.11j standard for use in Japan and the DSRC standardization (Dedicated Short Range Communications), both of which use 10 MHz channels.

A radio configured in accordance with 802.11a or 802.11g standards employs Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing (OFDM) modulation in which a stream of data is transmitted over multiple small frequency sub-channels. In the OFDM configuration, multiple sub-carrier signals are incorporated within each OFDM symbol. Data is incorporated on each data tone using a selected modulation scheme, such as Binary Phase Shift Keying (BPSK), Quadrature PSK (QPSK), 16 Quadrature Amplitude Modulation (QAM), and/or 64 QAM. Each of the modulation schemes employs a corresponding constellation map with variable constellation points corresponding to a corresponding variable number of bits for achieving the various data rates. For example, BPSK is used for 6 or 9 Mbps, QPSK is used for 12 or 18 Mbps, 16 QAM is used for 24 or 36 Mbps, and 64 QAM is used for 48 or 54 Mbps. The encoding process employs a quadrature generation technique and provides in-phase (I) and quadrature (Q) signals on respective I and Q channels.

IEEE 802.11n or any other standard calling for high data rates of 100 Mbits/second or more require more of a system than do the present standards. The net data rate in WLANs is significantly adversely affected by sources of overhead within the 802.11 protocol, e.g., packet preambles, acknowledgements, contention windows and interframe spacing. The 802.11n high throughput standard represents a four- to five-fold increase in actual throughput over that required by 802.11a/g and requires backward compatibility with legacy 802.11a/g deployments.

IEEE 802.11 networks typically consist of four physical components, including a distribution system, access points (APs), wireless media, and mobile stations comprising a basic service set (BSS). The mobile stations of a BSS are computing stations, such as notebook computers, PDAs, mobile telephones and other network devices, e.g., printers, facsimile machines, scanners, copiers, hubs, routers, switches, etc, that communicate with each other across one or more APs, which in turn communicate with each other over a distribution system. The communication between the BSS stations and the APs may form a basic service area (BSA) and occurs over a wireless medium. The communication between

the APs and each other and the distribution system may be over a plurality of communications media, including wireless and wired media. The APs essentially perform a bridging function. Further, the distribution system may comprise or be in communication with a plurality of communications systems over a plurality of media. Also, within the realm of 802.11 is an independent BSS wherein mobile stations communicate directly with one another. Accordingly, the smallest 802.11 network may consist of two mobile stations communicating with one another. Also, multiple BSSs may be linked together to form extended service sets (ESSs).

FIG. 2 is a schematic diagram of an existing IEEE 802.11g WLAN, referenced generally at 100, having two BSSs, BSS1 102 and BSS2 104, comprised of 802.11a/g type mobile stations or radios 106. As shown in FIG. 1, two separate channels, for instance one each for 802.11a and 802.11g, are involved in the communications system 100. The stations of BSS1 102 communicate via AP 108 and the stations of BSS2 104 communicate via AP 110.

The present invention has many independent aspects, uses and advantages. One embodiment of the invention provides a high data rate multi-channel architecture for WLAN systems. Given the widespread adoption of WLAN technology in home, office, shops, travel, hotel, leisure and so many other areas of life, there has been an increasing effort to meet the demand and squeeze as much efficiency out of the available bandwidth. To this end, organizations such as IEEE have developed and adopted a series of standards to facilitate the adoption and increase the beneficial use of WLAN technologies for the benefit of all. One aspect of this development is the adoption of several competing and complimentary standards, e.g., 802.11a, 802.11b, and 802.11g, with more on the way, e.g., 802.11n. These standards have advantages and disadvantages depending upon particular applications, uses, environments, traffic, etc. As a result, devices associated with the 802.11 family of standards are varied and it has become increasingly critical that newly adopted standards and the use of existing legacy equipment accommodate new and legacy equipment alike. To this end, one aspect of the present invention provides a method and system for achieving the required high data rate of newer standards, e.g., 802.11n, while preserving the utility and access of legacy systems, e.g., 802.11a/g equipment.

FIG. 3 is a schematic diagram representing one exemplary 802.11n WLAN system 300 having legacy 802.11a/g stations 302 operating at channel 2 and 304 operating at channel 3. In addition, system 300 includes a networked device 306, in this case a HDTV audio/video (AV) station (STA), such as a flat panel display for viewing television shows and the like, which includes a dual-chain wideband receiver comprising a first radio or receiver station 308 and a second radio or receiver station 310, respectively operating on channels 2 and 3. Multi-channel AV access point (AP) 312 is a dual-chain wideband transmitter comprising individual radios/transmitters 314 and 316. The AP 312 manages communications with and between the stations 302, 304 and 310 and may permit single channel or multi-channel communication or a combination thereof and may prioritize access to the WLAN depending upon need and set-up, instructions, etc. Processes for accomplishing this and the particular implementation of the components are described in more detail below.

One goal of the 802.11n standard is to increase data rates and data throughput while being “friendly” to or meshing cleanly with existing 802.11 networks. An embodiment of the present invention increases the data rate using channel bonding with OFDM using two or more channels at once. Another aspect of the invention provides a technique for “filling the

gap” between two signals with extra OFDM subcarriers, which is extensible to multiple channels. Yet another aspect of the invention provides a non-802.11n friendly alternative mode that provides higher data rates, but is not friendly to 802.11 because the spectral mask would be violated. As described hereinbelow, for example, 20 MHz channels centers with OFDM is described for 802.11a t 5.8 GHz and 25 MHz channels centers is described for 802.11g at 2.4 GHz.

FIG. 4 is a chart illustrating three exemplary cases of frequency spectrums for discussing the inventive approaches. Case 1 shows two 802.11a channels, CH 2 and CH 3, the center frequencies of which are separated by 20 MHz. Case 2 illustrates the inventive filled-gap OFDM approach and shows the use of additional subcarriers to “fill the gap” between the two single channels 2 and 3 to permit greater information over the bandwidth. Case 3 is an alternative approach whereby additional subcarriers are implemented on the outer boundaries of the channels CH 2 and CH 3.

FIG. 5 is a chart illustrating three cases, similar to those of FIG. 4, of frequency spectrums involving no synthesizer frequency popping. In this case, the radio may dynamically switch to tune to center frequency in wideband operation or to the upper or lower side frequency in legacy systems. In this manner, the invention allows for dynamic switching between wide and narrow filters. On the transmit side, the device could transmit in wideband at the center frequency or tune the synthesizer to one of the narrower signals for legacy system transmission.

Dual-channel (or dual-chain) without gap fill transmits at a rate of 108 Mbps $((96 \text{ sc})/(48 \text{ sc})=2 \times \text{data rate factor}; 2 \text{ times } 48 \text{ data subcarriers (sc)}=96 \text{ data sc})$. In one example, using the OFDM filled-gap technique yields an increase in data rate to 121.5 Mbps $((108 \text{ sc})/(48 \text{ sc})=2.25 \times \text{data rate yielding } 121.5 \text{ Mbps, where } 64(\text{left channel})+64(\text{right channel})-6(\text{left guard})-5(\text{right guard})-4(\text{pilot tones})-5(\text{lost to DC offsets})=108 \text{ data subcarriers})$. This is only one example, for instance the number of slots lost to DC offsets may range from 1 to 5 subcarriers.

The alternative mode is not presently defined in 802.11n, as the interference level will be a little higher than accepted. An advantage to this embodiment is that the alternative mode will still allow fast switching between normal 802.11a and the alternative mode packet using 802.11g-like mechanisms. The use of the additional subcarriers can increase the data rate to 135 Mbps, for example, dual channel with all gaps filled yields a data rate of 135 Mbps $((120 \text{ sc})/(48 \text{ sc})=2.5 \times \text{times } 54 \text{ Mbps}=135 \text{ Mbps}; 64+64-4-4=120 \text{ data subcarriers})$.

An embodiment of the present invention is directed to increasing the data rate even more without increase the analog and mixed signal requirements. This may be accomplished by using a full spectral synthesis capability of the Inverse Fast Fourier Transform/Fast Fourier Transform (IFFT/FFT). All the subcarriers (sc) across two channels for carrying data except four pilot tones and two DC notches at legacy locations may be utilized. This is like the alternative mode filled-gap OFDM presented in the preceding section, where the gaps on the outer edges are also filled. As a result, the guard band on each end is filled with data. This increases Adjacent Channel Interference (ACI) beyond 802.11a levels.

FIG. 6 is a chart illustrating three cases of frequency spectrums involving three channels and includes an alternative mode of operation not presently defined in 802.11n. In this example, channel CH 1 may be reserved for legacy radio stations with legacy AP, e.g., existing 802.11a/g equipment. Channels CH 2 and CH 3 may be reserved for new wideband radio equipment, such as for 802.11n and alternative modes. This arrangement would permit a bi-modal manner of opera-

tion. In one manner, the AP could instruct the legacy equipment to go to “sleep mode” for some period, say 100 milliseconds, during which time operation would be reserved for wideband use, and vice-versa. As shown in the filled-gap OFDM of case 2, the gap is filled between the two “normal” OFDM channels thereby “stacking” the channels to allow greater information in the bandwidth. An increase in the number of subcarriers will lead to an increase in computational/chip requirements. For each subcarrier there is an equalization that must occur (correction of distortion of amplitude and/or phase). Accordingly, extra FEQ (Frequency domain equalizer) taps may be needed, extra soft-decisions may need to be generated, and Viterbi (error correction) decoder may run faster. OFDM is comprised of discrete tones, one aspect of the present invention creates a super OFDM with approximately twice the number of tones. The exact number for 802.11n purposes is not set.

Another aspect of the invention involves the implementation of the invention, for example in either wide single channel (wideband) or two legacy (dual channel or chain) channels. This applies to both the transmit and the receive side. More particularly, the high data rate multi-channel arrangement of the invention may be achieved, for example, by 1) using two existing legacy circuits or radios in parallel (2-64 point FFTs that process two halves of the signal (1-upper and 1-lower)) or 2) by using a single circuit that processes the whole signal (1-128 point FFT).

An embodiment of the present invention is directed to concatenation of two (or more) channels using parallel transceivers at the transmit and/or receive end. Another embodiment of the present invention is directed to transmitting and/or receiving two channels to two different radios, or to a single radio thereby increasing data rate to the single radio. Another embodiment of the present invention is directed to being extensible to multiple channels. Another embodiment of the present invention is directed to an adaptive anti-aliasing function in the receiver. An embodiment of the present invention is directed to creating very high WLAN data rates that may not be supported by IEEE 802.11a/g. For example, the highest data rate for 802.11a/g is 54 Mbps. An exemplary technique may include channel concatenation, where multiple 802.11a/g channels are combined thereby expanding bandwidth and data rate. In general for conventional systems, a new radio must be designed that up-converts or down-converts the wide signal as a unit. An embodiment of the present invention decomposes the signal into separate pieces, up-converting and down-converting the pieces, whereby reuse of existing 802.11a/g radio designs by parallelizing the signals in frequency may be possible without implementing a new transceiver. An embodiment of the present invention provides for extensible channel concatenation, (e.g., one, two, three, . . . channels concatenated) and enables concurrent transmissions to two or more devices, such as radios. Further, an embodiment of the present invention meshes cleanly (friendly) with existing networks, such as 802.11a/g networks.

In design, the radio for a wide signal built from two narrower signals is a wide-channel transceiver (wideband radio) with faster Digital-to-Analog Converters (DAC’s) and Analog-to-Digital Converters (ADC’s) (e.g., 40 MHz wide instead of 20 MHz wide). However, there are problems associated with this implementation. There are cost and power increases for 40 MHz channels. Presently, only 20 MHz channel doubling is practical with current technology. More than two channels becomes very complex. 25 MHz channel doubling at 2.4 GHz is likewise complex, e.g., 50 MHz front-end is more difficult than 40 MHz. More Power Amplifier (PA)

back-off is required to meet the spectral mask, especially at 2.4 GHz. ADCs and DACs must run much faster. Receive filter requirements are very difficult. Filter must be wide and have very sharp skirts to reject adjacent channel interference. There may be synthesizer retuning issues. An embodiment of the present invention is directed to avoiding the 40 MHz transceiver (XCVR) by reusing existing legacy 20 MHz XCVRs.

FIG. 7 is a block diagram illustrating one physical implementation of a dual-chain wideband radio having low pass filters (LPFs), ADCs, and Fast Fourier Transforms (FFTs). This is a “multiple radios in a box” implementation. In this implementation multi-chain radios each with a single bandwidth and multiple FFTs, multiple converters, and multiple analog filters are used. This is a form of “channel bonding” and may use common synthesizer and automatic gain control (AGC) with receiving.

In the alternative, FIG. 8 is a block diagram illustrating an alternative single-chain wideband radio implementation. In this implementation a single radio is used to handle multi-channel capability and involves a single chain with programmable bandwidth (BW) expansion, high speed converters, BW switched filters and large FFT (e.g., 128 point) are required. The example of FIG. 8 includes a wide LPF, a wide ADC, a wide FFT and a demultiplexer (De-mux).

FIG. 9 is a graph representing a dual chain transmitter satisfying a spectral mask and FIG. 10 is a graph representing a single chain transmitter violating a spectral mask.

FIGS. 11 and 12 illustrate Analog Transmit (Tx)/Receive (Rx) filters. FIG. 11 is a diagram illustrating a 6th order low pass filter on the receiver side in a dual-chain wideband radio with normal Q factor. FIG. 12 is a diagram illustrating a 12th order low pass filter, for example, on the receiver side in a single chain wideband radio with a double Q factor representing a relatively steep skirt (“brick wall”). Q factor must meet 802.11a/g spectral mask and adjacent channel interference (ACI) requirements. Single channel receiver doubles Tx/Rx filter Q requirements, where Q refers to how narrow a filter is (higher Q is more narrow with steeper skirts). Dual channel receiver uses single channel filters with normal Q factor.

FIG. 13 is a diagram illustrating a switching technique for single and dual chain modes in a bimodal wideband radio receiver. Synthesizer (and BW) switching issue, it may be desirable to have an 802.11g-like switching operation. Single channel receiver must jump synthesizer frequency when switching between wide and normal packets if tight receive filtering is needed (sensitivity and interference robustness). Dual channel implementation does not jump frequency but requires two synthesizer LO (Local Oscillator) frequencies, though. In this bi-modal implementation, the radio alternates between forms of operation and may assign durations of operation/inoperation allowed for the dual modes.

FIG. 14 is a diagram illustrating spatial multiplexing in embodiment using multiple input multiple output (MIMO) technique. Multi-channel radio architecture may be implemented for spatial multiplexing. Hence, implementing bandwidth expansion using the multi-channel radio architecture makes a system more 11n ready. With the penalty of added expense and power draw. In the top example shown, the bandwidth is doubled with two signals in parallel. In the second example, bottom, two signals are spatially multiplexed and sit on top of each other. This implementation would require the removal of interference between the two signals.

FIG. 15 is a diagram illustrating a dual chain wideband radio receiver with reference to dual channel protocol management. This relates to PEER related concerns, i.e., the

