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(54) **SEMICONDUCTOR INTEGRATED CIRCUIT FOR HIGH FREQUENCY POWER AMPLIFIER, ELECTRONIC COMPONENT FOR HIGH FREQUENCY POWER AMPLIFIER, AND RADIO COMMUNICATION SYSTEM**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

In a radio communication system wherein the detection of output level required for feedback control of output power is carried out by current detection, the stability of control loop and the response to change in request-to-send level are enhanced. An electronic component for high frequency power amplifier carries out the detection of output level, required for feedback control of the output power of a high frequency power amplification circuit, by current detection. The electronic component has an error amplifier. The error amplifier compares an output level detection signal with an output level instruction signal, and generates a signal for controlling the gain of the high frequency power amplification circuit according to the difference between them. For the error amplifier, a low-pass amplification circuit is used. The amplification circuit is provided with between its output terminal and its inverting input terminal with a phase compensation circuit. The phase compensation circuit comprises a resistance element, and another resistance element and a capacitive element in series connected in parallel with the resistance element.

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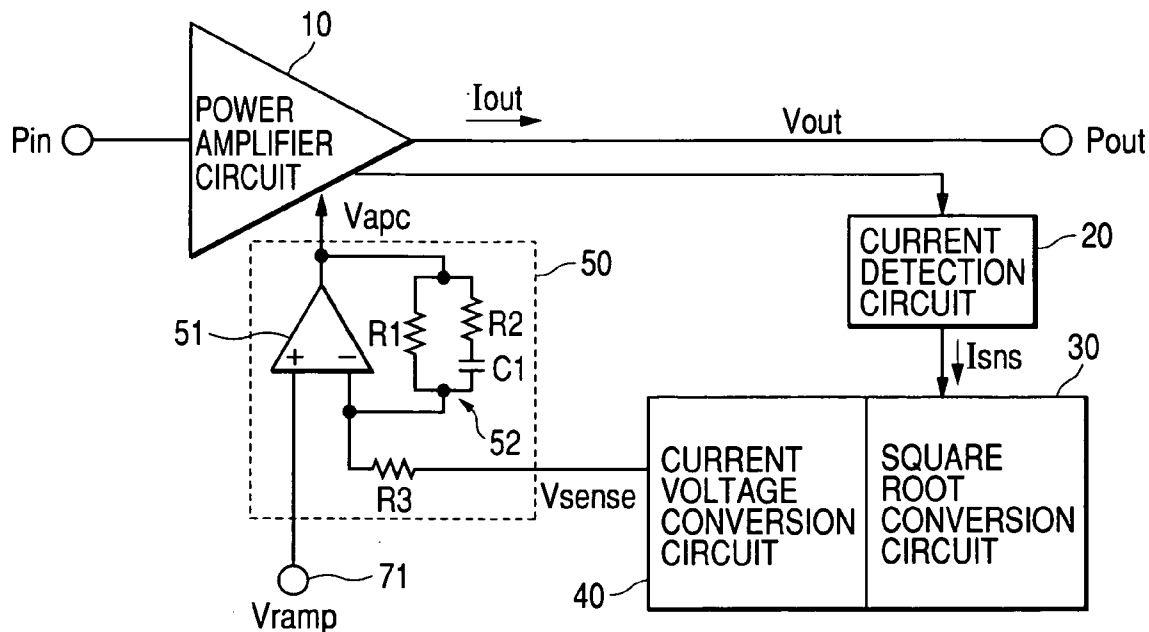


FIG. 1

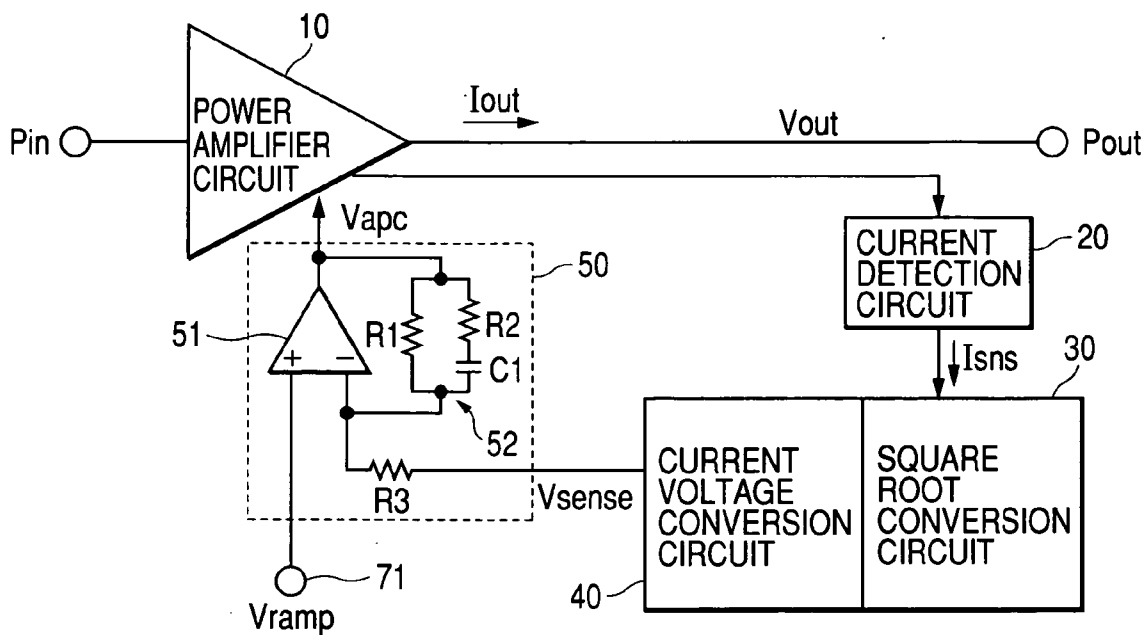
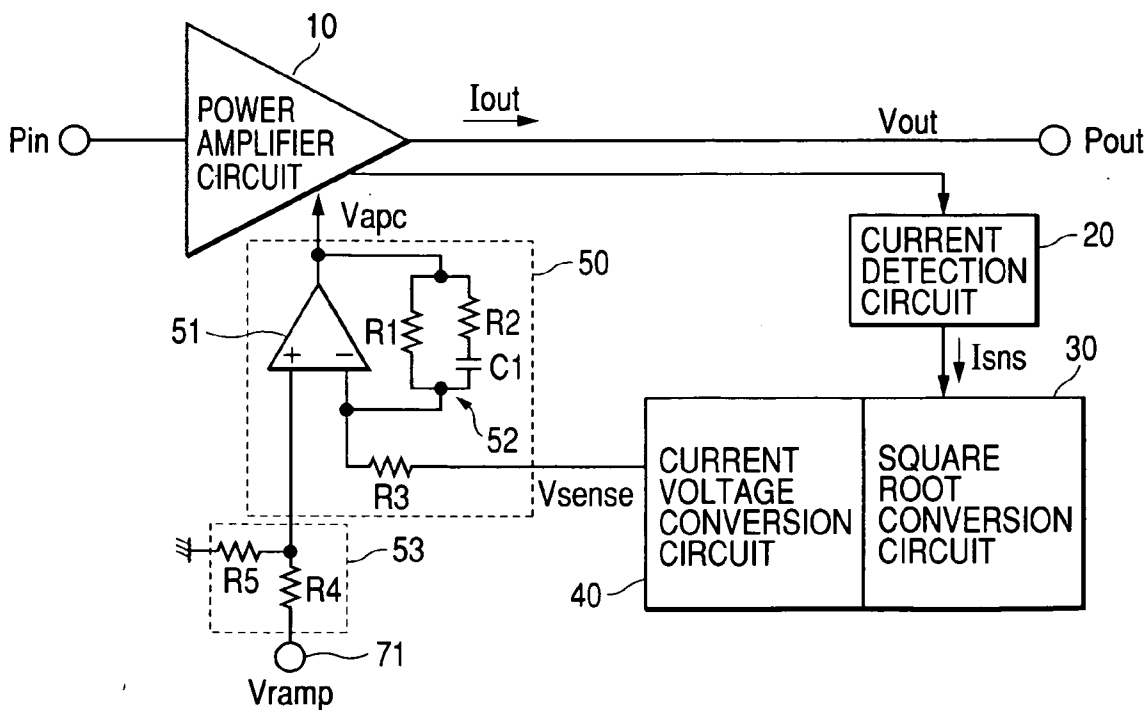
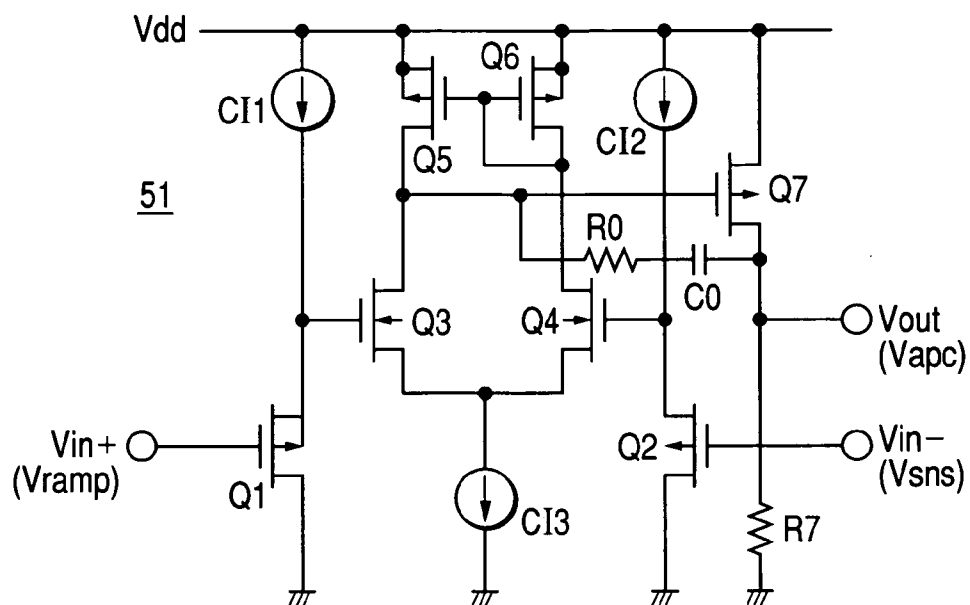


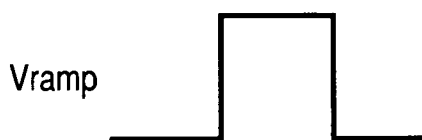
FIG. 2



**FIG. 3**



**FIG. 4(A)**



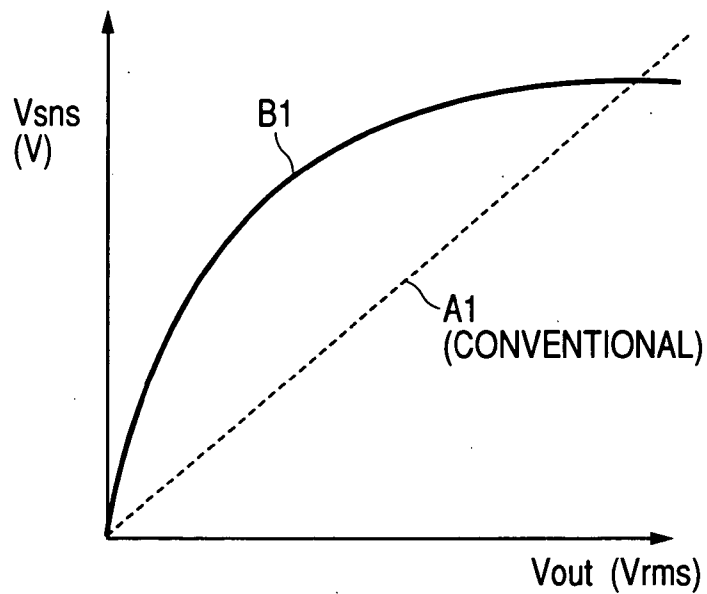
**FIG. 4(B)**



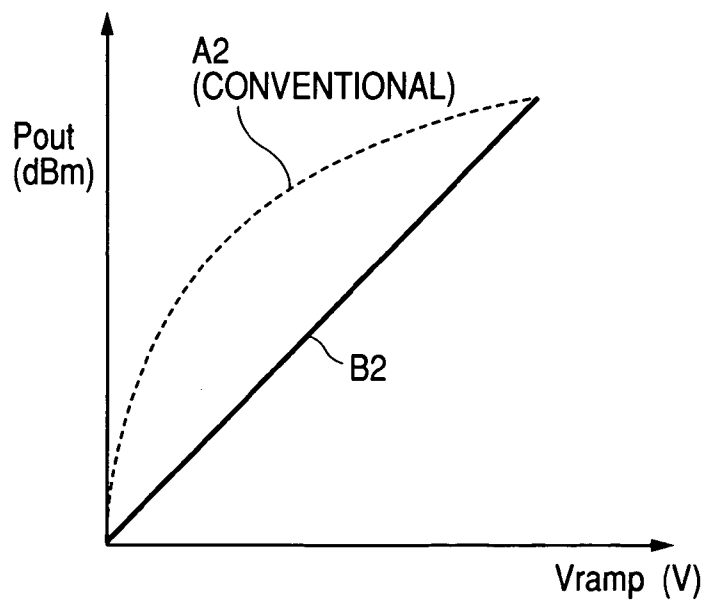
**FIG. 4(C)**



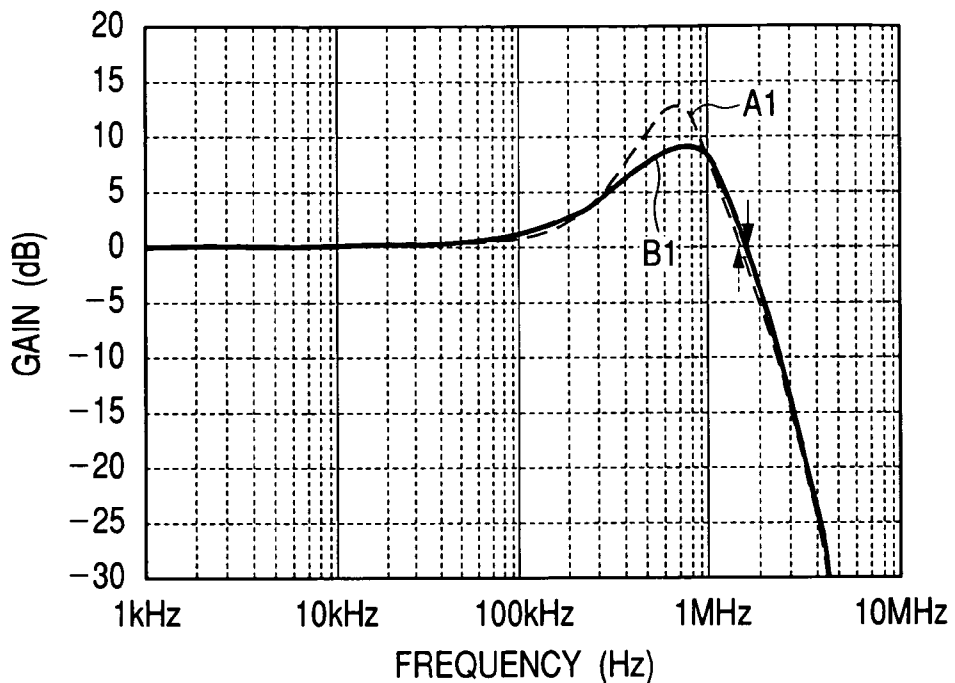
**FIG. 5(A)**



**FIG. 5(B)**



**FIG. 6(A)**



**FIG. 6(B)**

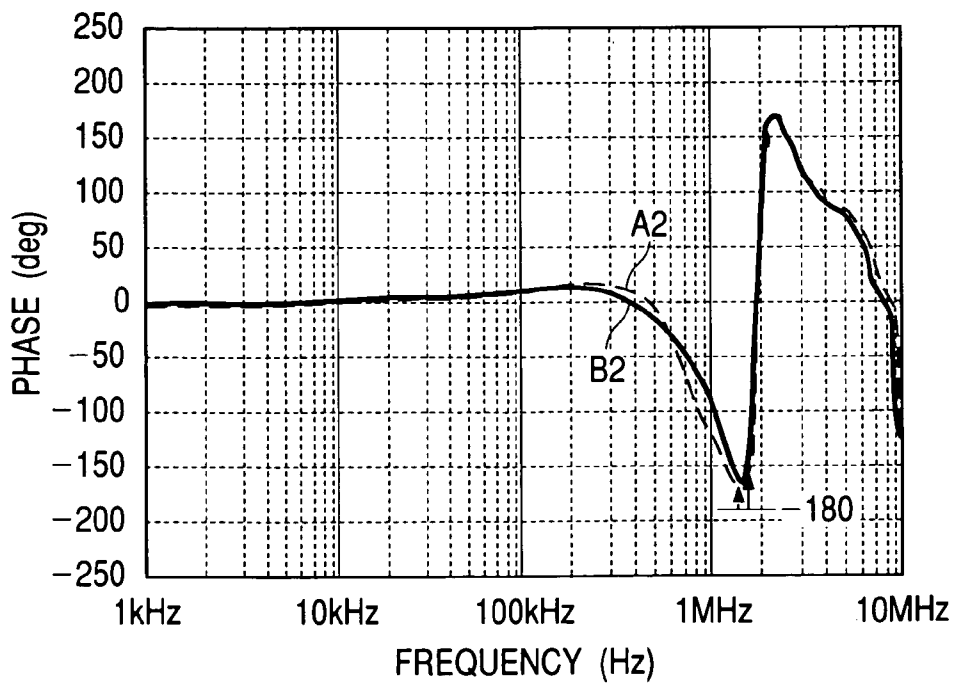


FIG. 7(A)

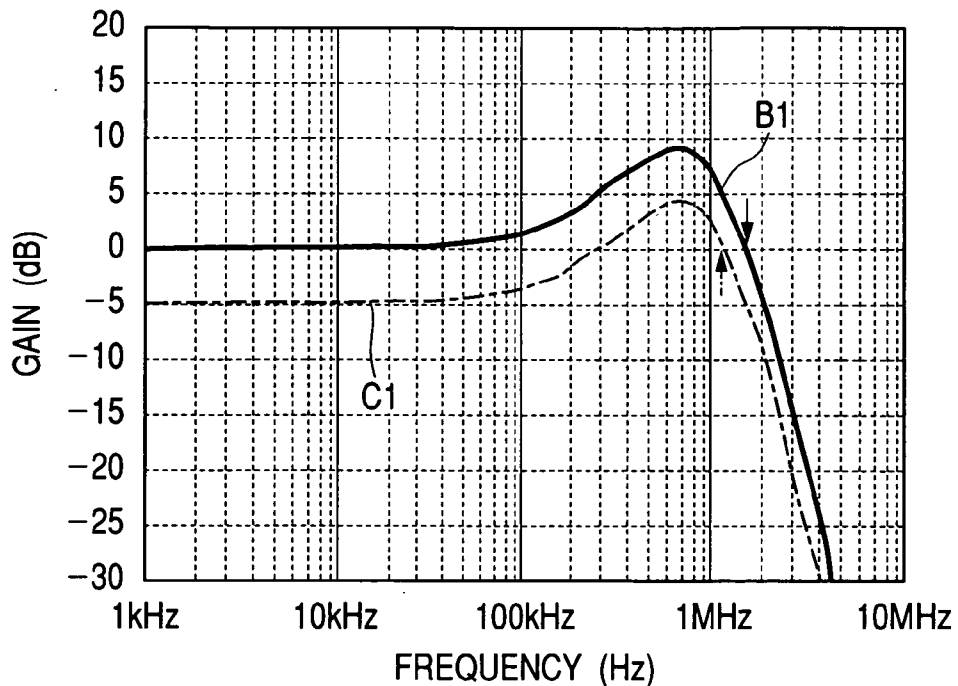
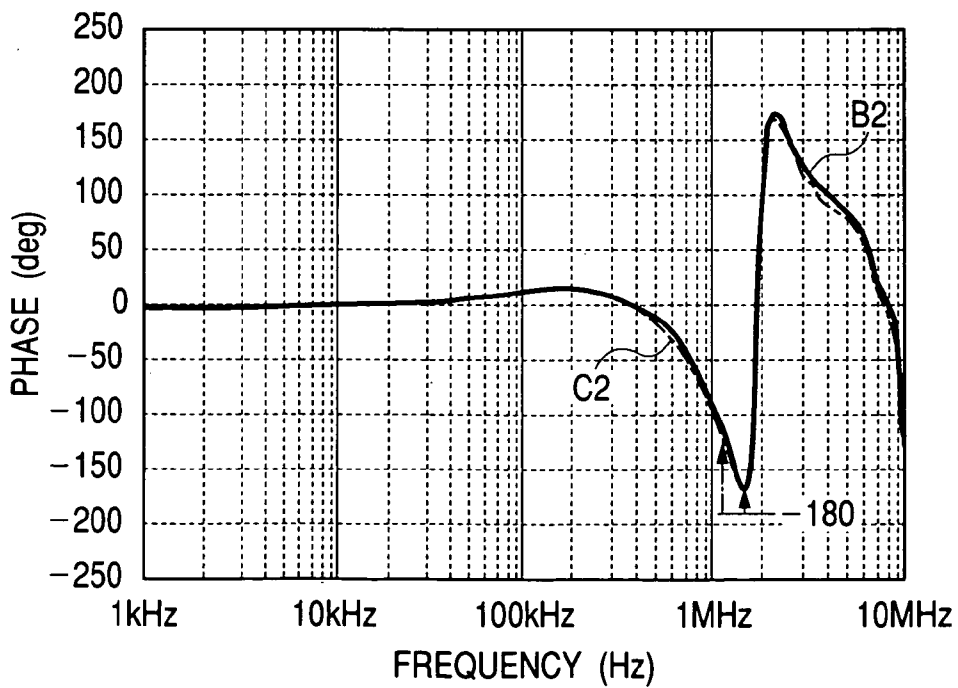
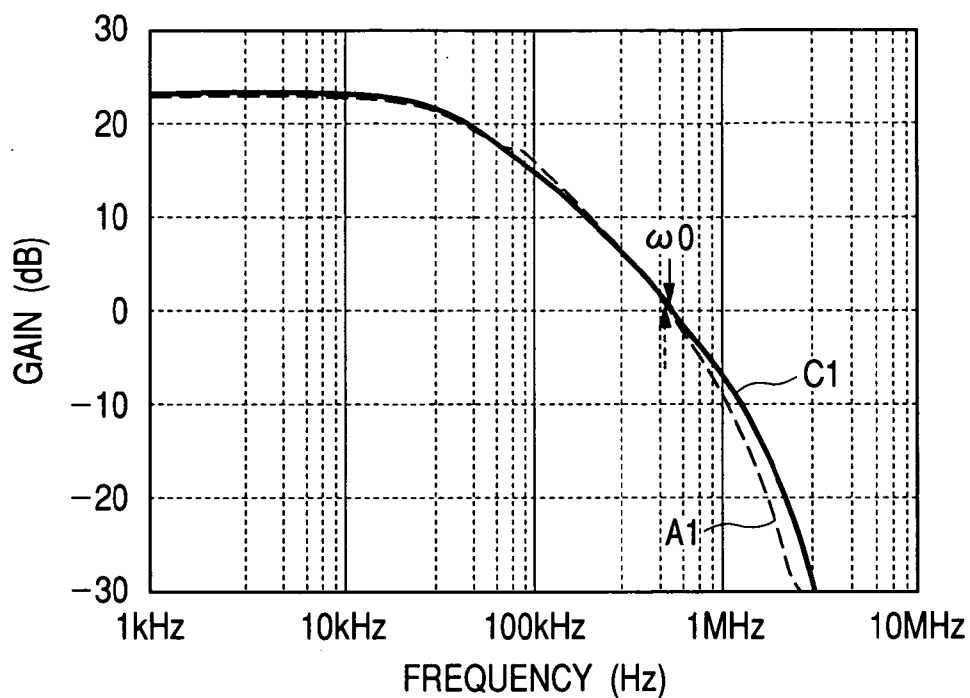


FIG. 7(B)



**FIG. 8(A)**



**FIG. 8(B)**

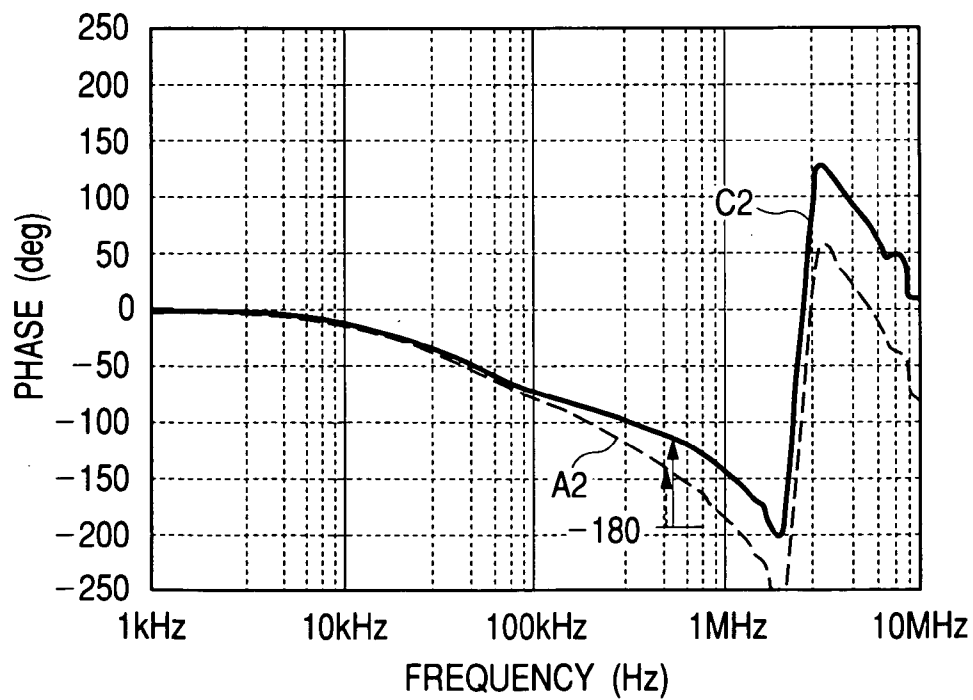






FIG. 10

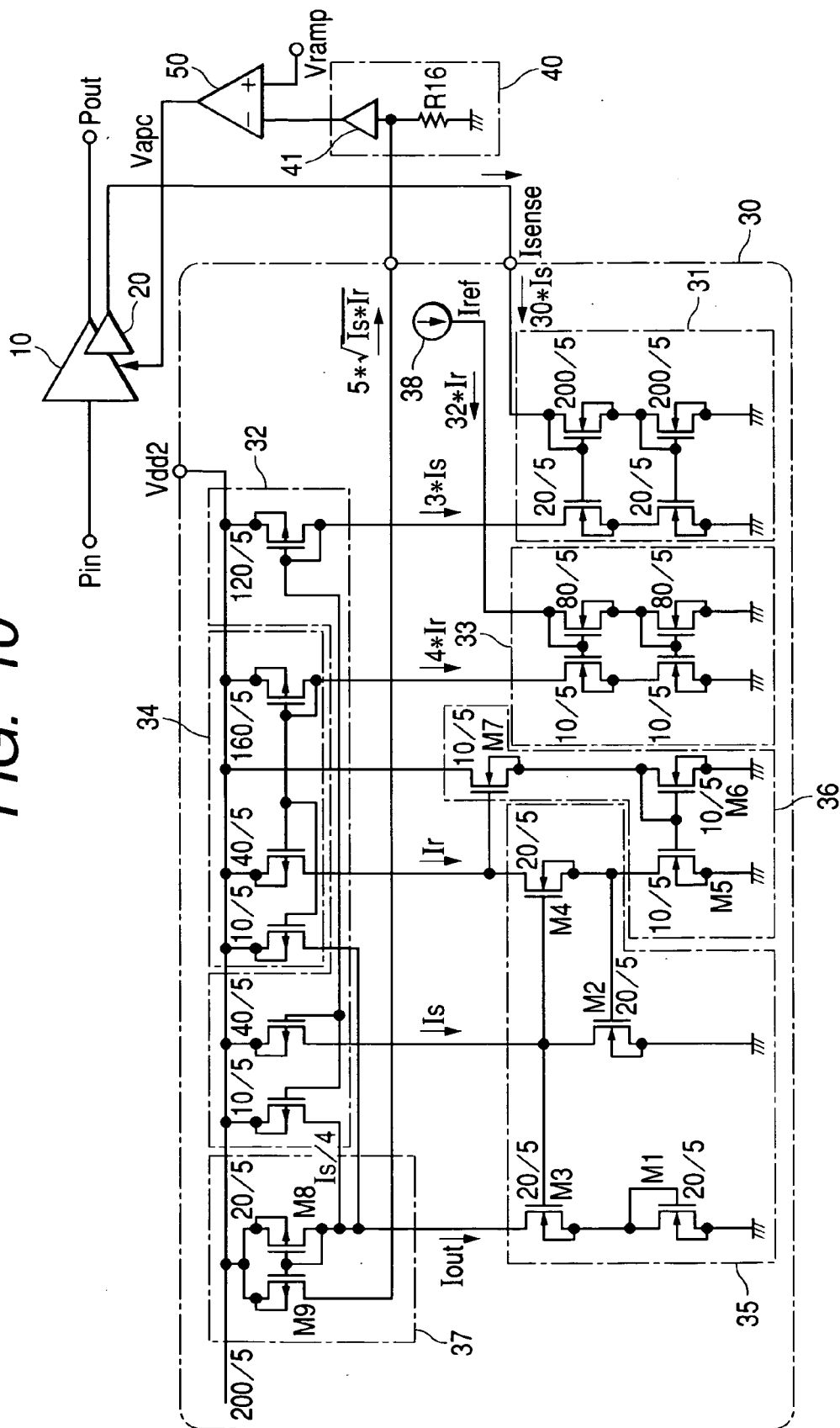


FIG. 11

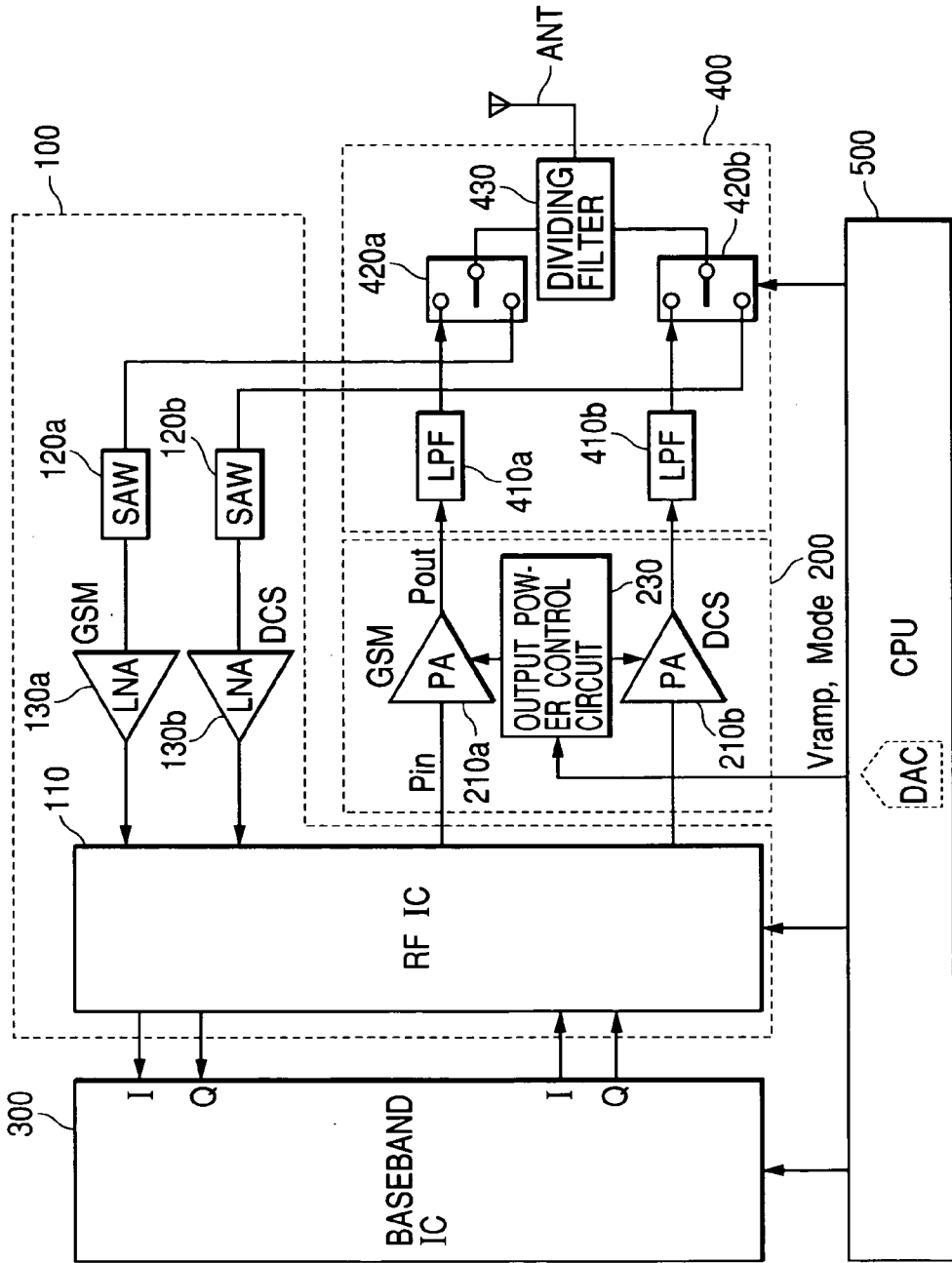


FIG. 12

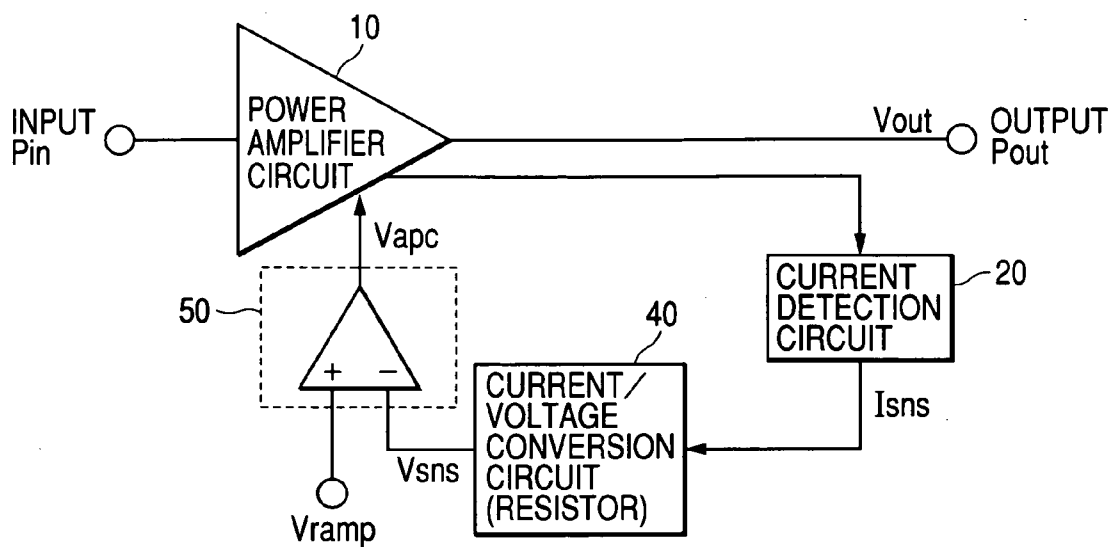
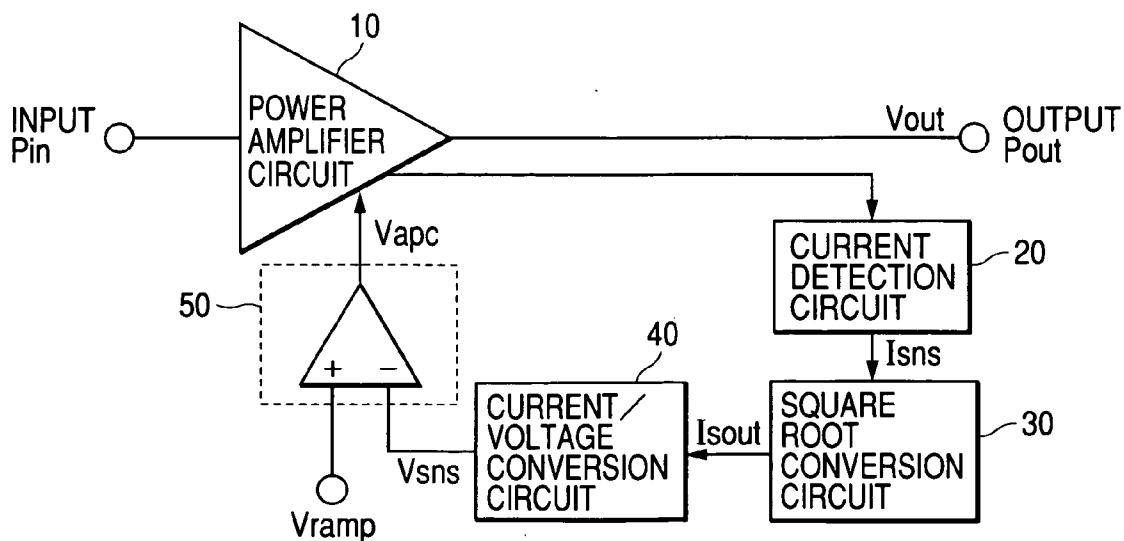


FIG. 13



**SEMICONDUCTOR INTEGRATED CIRCUIT FOR  
HIGH FREQUENCY POWER AMPLIFIER,  
ELECTRONIC COMPONENT FOR HIGH  
FREQUENCY POWER AMPLIFIER, AND RADIO  
COMMUNICATION SYSTEM**

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED  
APPLICATION

[0001] The present application claims priority from Japanese patent application JP 2003-116789 filed on Apr. 22, 2003, the content of which is hereby incorporated by reference into this application.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention relates to a technology effectively applied to a high frequency power amplification circuit which is used in a radio communication system, such as cellular phone, and amplifies and outputs high frequency signals and an electronic component and a radio communication system which incorporate the power amplification circuit. More particularly, the present invention relates to a technology for enhancing the stability of control loops and the response to change in request-to-send level in a radio communication system having a detection circuit which performs the detection of output power, required for feedback control of a high frequency power amplification circuit, by current detection.

[0003] In general, the transmission-side output portion of radio communication equipment (mobile communication equipment), such as cellular phone, incorporates a high frequency power amplification circuit which amplifies modulated signals. Conventional radio communication equipment is provided with an automatic power control circuit (APC circuit). (Refer to Patent Document 1, for example.) This is for controlling the amplification factor of the high frequency power amplification circuit so as to obtain output power corresponding to the level of a request-to-send from a baseband circuit or a control circuit, such as microprocessor. The APC circuit detects the output level of the high frequency power amplification circuit, and compares the detection signal with a request-to-send level (output level instruction signal). Then, the APC circuit generates an output control signal  $V_{apc}$  for feedback-controlling the high frequency power amplification circuit. In general, detection of output level is carried out using a coupler, a detector circuit, or the like. The detector circuit is usually constituted as a semiconductor integrated circuit separated from the high frequency power amplification circuit.

[0004] The coupler is an element which detects the output level through capacitance produced between an output line (microstrip line) formed on a discrete component or an insulating substrate (module substrate) and an electric conductor placed in parallel with it. The coupler is larger in size than elements formed on a semiconductor chip. The details of coupler (directional coupler) is found in, for example, "Foundations and Applications of Microwave circuit" (Sogo-Denshi Publisher, 1997, pp. 191-193).

[0005] Output level detection methods for conventional high frequency power amplification circuits use a large number of semiconductor integrated circuits or electronic components separated from the high frequency power amplification circuit. This makes reduction in module size

difficult. If a coupler is used, reference voltage is sometimes applied to an end of the coupler for the enhancement of detection sensitivity. In this case, reference voltage must be optimally set and voltage and the like must be adjusted in accordance with variation from component to component. This increases a burden on set makers and is a problem. Use of a coupler also poses another problem: a relatively large power loss is produced.

[0006] Consequently, the applicants made an invention related to a radio communication system of current detection type and made an application for it (Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-523757). The radio communication system is provided with transistors for output detection which receive the input signals of transistors for power amplifier for amplifying high frequency signals and pass a current in proportion to the current passed through the transistors for power amplifier. The radio communication system is also provided with current mirror circuits which duplicate the currents in the transistors for output detection. The current duplicated by the current mirror circuits is converted into voltage to obtain a detection signal for output level. The detected output level is compared with the level of a request-to-send, and thus the output level is controlled.

[0007] [Patent Document 1]

[0008] Japanese Patent Prepublication No. 2000-151310

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0009] FIG. 12 schematically illustrates the configuration of the feedback control system of the high frequency power amplification circuit having an output level detection circuit of current detection type, developed by the applicants. In FIG. 12, numeral 10 denotes a power amplification circuit which amplifies a high frequency signal  $P_{in}$ ; numeral 20 denotes a current detection circuit which detects the output level of the power amplification circuit 10 and outputs a current corresponding to the output level; numeral 40 is a current-voltage conversion circuit which converts an output current from the current detection circuit 20 into voltage; a numeral 50 denotes an error amplifier (APC circuit) which compares the output voltage of the current-voltage conversion circuit 40 with an output level instruction signal  $V_{amp}$  supplied from a baseband circuit or a control circuit, such as microprocessor. The feedback control system is so constituted that: a bias voltage corresponding to an input potential difference is generated by the error amplifier 50, and then supplied to the power amplification circuit 10. Thereby, the gain of the power amplification circuit 10 is controlled to control the output power.

[0010] The inventors et al. examined the relation between output level instruction signal  $V_{amp}$  and output power  $P_{out}$  in the high frequency power amplification circuit of current detection type, illustrated in FIG. 12. The examination revealed that the relation was as indicated by broken line A2 in FIG. 5(B). As illustrated in the figure, the control sensitivity is high in a region where the level of request-to-send is low, and the output power  $P_{out}$  is drastically changed by slight change in output level instruction signal  $V_{amp}$ .

[0011] Consequently, the inventors et al. developed a technology to cope with this. The technology is implemented by providing the above current detection circuit 20 with a characteristic wherein its output is nth root-function-

ally changed relative to its input. More specifically, as illustrated in FIG. 13, a square root conversion circuit 30 is placed between the current detection circuit 20 and the current-voltage conversion circuit 40. Thus, change in output power  $P_{out}$  relative to output level instruction signal  $V_{ramp}$  is made substantially linear, as illustrated by solid line B2 in FIG. 5(B). As a result, the control sensitivity in the region where the request-to-send level is low is enhanced.

[0012] The inventors et al. found the following: the high frequency power amplification circuit of current detection type, illustrated in FIG. 12 and FIG. 13, has in itself a lot of points which make a factor responsible for turning the phase as compared with the conventional output level detection type using a coupler. Then, the inventors et al. considered the stability of control loop in the high frequency power amplification circuit of current detection type illustrated in FIG. 12 and FIG. 13.

[0013] As the result of the consideration, the inventors et al. found the following: the high frequency power amplification circuit of current detection type in FIG. 12 and FIG. 13 has no problem for closed loop because of its relatively large phase margin. The closed loop is a loop which goes from the error amplifier 50 through the power amplification circuit 10, the current detection circuit 20, (the square root conversion circuit 30), the current-voltage conversion circuit 40 and back to the error amplifier 50. However, the inventors et al. also found the following: the phase margin of open loop is very small and is not more than  $45^\circ$ . The open loop is a loop which goes from the noninverting input terminal of the error amplifier 50 through the current detection circuit 20, (the square root conversion circuit 30), the current-voltage conversion circuit 40 and back to the inverting input terminal of the error amplifier 50. If an output level instruction signal  $V_{ramp}$  inputted to the noninverting input terminal of the error amplifier 50 changes, the gain of the power amplification circuit 10 is accordingly changed. This change is returned to the inverting input terminal of the error amplifier 50 through the open loop.

[0014] The inventors et al. further found the following: If the phase margin of the open loop is small, a problem arises. If the output level instruction signal  $V_{ramp}$  abruptly changes, as illustrated in (A) of FIG. 4, the detection signal  $V_{sns}$  fed back to the inverting input terminal of the error amplifier 50 develops ringing, as illustrated in (B) in FIG. 4. Thus, the response to change in  $V_{ramp}$  is unfavorable. Moreover, the inventors et al. found the following: degradation in response due to the small phase margin of the open loop is more remarkable in the high frequency power amplification circuit of current detection type, having the square root conversion circuit 30, in FIG. 13 than in the high frequency power amplification circuit of current detection type in FIG. 12.

[0015] An object of the present invention is to provide a high frequency power amplification circuit which, in a radio communication system wherein detection of output level required for the feedback control of the output power of the high frequency power amplification circuit is carried out by current detection, allows the enhancement of the stability of control loop and the response to change in the level of request-to-send, and to provide an electronic component and a radio communication system which incorporate the high frequency power amplification circuit.

[0016] Another object of the present invention is to provide a high frequency power amplification circuit which, in a radio communication system wherein detection of output level required for the feedback control of the output power of the high frequency power amplification circuit is carried out by current detection, is capable of lowering the control sensitivity in a region where the level of request-to-send is low, so that the output level can be controlled with accuracy over the entire control range, and allows the enhancement of the stability of control loop and the response to change in the level of request-to-send, and to provide an electronic component and a radio communication system which incorporate the high frequency power amplification circuit.

[0017] The above and other objects and features of the invention will be apparent from the following description and the accompanying drawings.

[0018] Representative aspects of the present invention disclosed in this application will generally described below:

[0019] An electronic component for high frequency power amplifier carries out detection of the output level required for the feedback control of the output power of a high frequency power amplification circuit by current detection. The electronic component has an error amplifier which compares a detection signal for output level with an output level instruction signal, and generates a signal for controlling the gain of the high frequency power amplification circuit according to the difference between the signals. For the error amplifier, a low-pass amplification circuit is used. In the low-pass amplification circuit, a phase compensation circuit comprising a resistance element, and a resistance element and a capacitive element in series which are connected in parallel with the resistance element is placed between the output terminal and inverting input terminal of a differential amplification circuit.

[0020] The above-mentioned means increases the phase margin of the open loop. The loop goes from the control-side input terminal (noninverting input terminal) of the error amplifier to which the output level instruction signal is inputted to the high frequency power amplification circuit to the current detection circuit to the current-voltage conversion circuit and back to the feedback-side input terminal (inverting input terminal) of the error amplifier. Since the phase margin of the open loop is increased, the response to change in output level instruction signal can be enhanced. At the same time, the stability of the open loop can be enhanced.

[0021] Further preferably, a square root conversion circuit is placed between the current detection circuit and the current-voltage conversion circuit. Provision of the square root conversion circuit lowers the control sensitivity of the high frequency power amplification circuit for output level instruction signals in the region where the level of request-to-send is low. As a result, the output level can be controlled with accuracy over the entire control range. Further, provision of the square root conversion circuit increases an amount of phase turn of the open loop. If this is left intact, the response to change in the level of request-to-send is degraded. However, provision of the phase compensation circuit increases the phase margin of the open loop, and thus the response of the loop to change in output level instruction signal can be enhanced.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0022] **FIG. 1** is a block diagram schematically illustrating the constitution of a first embodiment of the feedback control system of the high frequency power amplification circuit of current detection type to which the present invention is applied.

[0023] **FIG. 2** is a block diagram schematically illustrating the constitution of a second embodiment of the feedback control system of the high frequency power amplification circuit of current detection type to which the present invention is applied.

[0024] **FIG. 3** is a circuit diagram illustrating a concrete example of the differential amplification circuit constituting the error amplifier.

[0025] **FIG. 4** is a waveform chart illustrating the response of detection voltage  $V_{sns}$  to output level instruction signal  $V_{ramp}$  in the feedback control system of the high frequency power amplification circuit in the embodiments of the present invention and in the prior invention.

[0026] **FIG. 5(A)** is a characteristic diagram illustrating the relation between the output voltage  $V_{out}$  and detection voltage  $V_{sns}$  of the power amplifier in the feedback control system of the high frequency power amplification circuit in the embodiments of the present invention and in the prior invention.

[0027] **FIG. 5(B)** is a characteristic diagram illustrating the relation between the output level instruction signal  $V_{ramp}$  and output power  $P_{out}$  in the feedback control system of the high frequency power amplification circuit in the embodiments of the present invention and in the prior invention.

[0028] **FIG. 6(A)** is a graph showing the frequency characteristic of the gain of the output voltage (detection voltage)  $V_{sns}$  of the current-voltage conversion circuit **40** with respect to output level instruction signal  $V_{ramp}$  in the control system in the first embodiment.

[0029] **FIG. 6(B)** is a graph showing the frequency characteristic of the phase of  $V_{sns}$  with respect to  $V_{ramp}$  in the control system in the first embodiment.

[0030] **FIG. 7(A)** is a graph showing the frequency characteristic of the gain of the output voltage (detection voltage)  $V_{sns}$  of the current-voltage conversion circuit **40** with respect to output level instruction signal  $V_{ramp}$  in the control system in the second embodiment.

[0031] **FIG. 7(B)** is a graph showing the frequency characteristic of the phase of  $V_{sns}$  with respect to  $V_{ramp}$  in the control system in the second embodiment.

[0032] **FIG. 8(A)** a graph showing the frequency characteristic of the gain of the closed loop in the control system in the second embodiment.

[0033] **FIG. 8(B)** is a graph showing the frequency characteristic of the phase of the closed loop in the control system in the second embodiment.

[0034] **FIG. 9** is a circuit diagram illustrating a concrete example of the constitution of the high frequency power amplification circuit of current detection type to which the present invention is applied.

[0035] **FIG. 10** is a circuit diagram illustrating an concrete example of the square root conversion circuit in the embodiments.

[0036] **FIG. 11** is a block diagram illustrating the configuration of a system capable of radio communication by two transmission methods, GSM and DCS, to which the present invention is applied.

[0037] **FIG. 12** is a block diagram schematically illustrating the configuration of the feedback control system of the high frequency power amplification circuit of current detection type the applicants previously developed.

[0038] **FIG. 13** is a block diagram schematically illustrating the configuration of the feedback control system of the high frequency power amplification circuit of current detection type having a square root conversion circuit which was studied prior to the present invention.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0039] Referring to the drawings, the preferred embodiments of the present invention will be described below.

[0040] **FIG. 1** schematically illustrates the constitution of the first embodiment of the feedback control system of the high frequency power amplification circuit of current detection type to which the present invention is applied.

[0041] In **FIG. 1**, numeral **10** denotes a power amplification circuit (power amplifier) which amplifies high frequency signal  $P_{in}$ ; numeral **20** denotes a current detection circuit which detects the output level of the power amplification circuit **10** and outputs a current corresponding to it; numeral **30** denotes a square root conversion circuit which converts a current  $I_{sns}$  outputted from the current detection circuit **20** into a current  $I_{out}$  which is the second root (square root) of it; numeral **40** denotes a current-voltage conversion circuit which converts the output current  $I_{out}$  of the square root conversion circuit **30** into detection voltage  $V_{sns}$ ; and numeral **50** denotes an error voltage detection circuit (error amplifier) which compares the output voltage of the current-voltage conversion circuit **40** with an output level instruction signal  $V_{ramp}$  supplied from a baseband circuit or control circuit, such as microprocessor (not shown), and outputs a voltage corresponding to the potential difference between them.

[0042] The output voltage of the error amplifier **50** is supplied as bias voltage  $V_{apc}$  to the power amplification circuit **10**, and the gain of the power amplification circuit **10** is thereby controlled. As described later, the power amplification circuit **10** is formed by connecting amplifying elements, such as MOSFETs (insulated gate field-effect transistors) and bipolar transistors, in a plurality of stages, though they are not shown in **FIG. 1**. The bias voltage  $V_{apc}$  from the error amplifier **50** is applied directly to their control terminals (gate terminals or base terminals). Alternatively, a voltage obtained by dividing the bias voltage  $V_{apc}$  from the error amplifier **50** at an appropriate resistance ratio is applied to these control terminals. Thereby, the gain of the power amplification circuit **10** is controlled to adjust the output power. (Refer to **FIG. 9**.)

[0043] In this embodiment, a low-pass amplification circuit is used for the error amplifier **50**. In the low-pass

amplification circuit, a phase compensation circuit **52** is placed between the output terminal and inverting input terminal of the differential amplification circuit **51**. The phase compensation circuit **52** comprises a resistance element **R1**, and a resistance element **R2** and a capacitive element **C1** in series which are connected in parallel with the resistance element **R1**. The phase compensation circuit **52** is not limited to such a circuit as illustrated in **FIG. 1**, and may be constituted in other ways. An example of such phase compensation circuits is a circuit wherein the resistance element **R2** and the capacitive element **C1** are inversely connected. Another example is a circuit wherein the resistance element **R2** is divided into two and the divided pieces are connected with both ends of the capacitive element **C1**.

[0044] For the resistance elements **R1** and **R2** and the capacitive element **C1** constituting the phase compensation circuit **52**, respective constants are set. The constants are so set that the closed loop will have a primary pole in proximity to 50 to 70 kHz and a secondary pole in proximity to 1 MHz. The closed loop goes from the error amplifier **50** through the power amplification circuit **10**, the current detection circuit **20**, the square root conversion circuit **30**, the current-voltage conversion circuit **40**, and back to the error amplifier **50**. Provision of the resistance element **R2** in series with the capacitive element **C1** provides the frequency characteristic of the control loop with zero point. The angular frequency of this zero point is set to a value slightly lower than the frequencies of the poles of the power amplification circuit **10**. Thereby, the phase margin of the loop is increased. More specifically, the resistance value of the resistance element **R1** is set to 40 to 60 k $\Omega$ , and that of the resistance element **R2** is set to 2 to 5 k $\Omega$ . The capacitance of the capacitive element **C1** is set to 50 to 100 pF.

[0045] For the differential amplification circuit **51**, for example, such a differential amplification circuit as illustrated in **FIG. 3** is used; however, it is not limited to this. The differential amplification circuit in **FIG. 3** comprises an input stage comprising p-channel MOS transistors **Q1** and **Q2** whose drains are grounded and constant current sources **C11** and **C12** connected in series with them; a differential amplification stage comprising n-channel MOS transistors **Q3** and **Q4** to the gates of which the source potential of **Q1** and **Q2** is applied and whose sources are connected together, a source-side constant current source **C13**, and a drain-side active load MOS transistors **Q5** and **Q6**; an output stage comprising a source follower output transistor **Q7** whose gate is connected with the drain of **Q3** and a resistor **R7**; and a phase compensation circuit comprising a resistor **R0** and a capacitor **C0** connected in series between the gate and drain of the output transistor **Q7**.

[0046] This phase compensation circuit is a circuit for preventing oscillation of the differential amplification circuit **51** itself. The resistor **R0** and the capacitor **C0** are elements different from the resistors **R1** and **R2** and the capacitor **C1** in the phase compensation circuit **52**. The resistors **R1** and **R2** and the capacitor **C1** are provided for increasing the phase margin of the open loop and closed loop of feedback control loop.

[0047] **FIG. 2** schematically illustrates the constitution of the second embodiment of the feedback control system of the high frequency power amplification circuit of current detection type to which the present invention is applied. This

embodiment is different from the embodiment in **FIG. 1** in that an attenuator (attenuating means) **53** is provided on the noninverting input terminal side of the error amplifier **50**. Provision of the attenuator **53** reduces the gain of the control system from the viewpoint of output level instruction signal  $V_{ramp}$ .

[0048] The attenuator **53** in this embodiment comprises a resistance element **R4** placed between a control terminal **71** to which output level instruction signal  $V_{ramp}$  is inputted and the noninverting input terminal of the error amplifier **50**; and a resistance element **R5** placed between the node of the resistance element **R4** on the opposite side to the control terminal **71** and a grounding point. Therefore, the attenuator **53** in this embodiment can be considered as resistance type voltage division circuit. For the attenuator **53**, one provided with resistance elements similar to the resistance elements **R4** and **R5** in addition to **R4** and **R5**, or a so-called  $\pi$ -type attenuator may be used.

[0049] The resistance elements **R4** and **R5** constituting the attenuator **53** in this embodiment are set to the same resistance value not more than 100  $\Omega$ , for example, 43  $\Omega$ . There is no special restriction on the input resistor **R3** for the feedback-side inverting input terminal of the error amplifier **50**; however, it is provided with a resistance value of 10 k $\Omega$  or so.

[0050] In **FIG. 5(A)**, the relation between output voltage  $V_{out}$  and the output voltage (detection voltage)  $V_{sns}$  of the current-voltage conversion circuit **40** in the first and second embodiments is indicated by solid line **B1**. In **FIG. 5(B)**, the relation between output level instruction signal  $V_{ramp}$  and output power  $P_{out}$  in the control system in the first and second embodiments is indicated by solid line **B2**.

[0051] Indicated by broken line **A1** in **FIG. 5(A)** is the relation between output voltage  $V_{out}$  and the output voltage  $V_{sns}$  of the current-voltage conversion circuit **40** in the control system illustrated in **FIG. 12**. This control system is not provided with the square root conversion circuit **30** in the first embodiment. Indicated by broken line **A2** in **FIG. 5(B)** is the relation between output level instruction signal  $V_{ramp}$  and output power  $P_{out}$  in the control system illustrated in **FIG. 12**.

[0052] As seen from **FIG. 5(A)**, provision of the square root conversion circuit **30** increases the degree of change in the output voltage  $V_{sns}$  of the current-voltage conversion circuit **40** relative to output level  $V_{out}$  in a region where the level of output power  $P_{out}$  is low. Thus, even if the output power  $P_{out}$  is greatly changed relative to output level instruction signal  $V_{ramp}$  in a region where the request-to-send level is low, no problem arises. That is, the control sensitivity of the high frequency power amplification circuit **10** to output level instruction signals in a region where the request-to-send level is low is reduced. As a result, the output power of the high frequency power amplification circuit **10** can be controlled with accuracy over the entire control range.

[0053] In **FIG. 6(A)**, the frequency characteristic of the gain of the output voltage (detection voltage)  $V_{sns}$  of the current-voltage conversion circuit **40** relative to output level instruction signal  $V_{ramp}$  in the control system in the first embodiment is indicated by solid line **B1**. In **FIG. 6(B)**, the frequency characteristic of the phase of the open loop in the

control system in the first embodiment is indicated by solid line B2. These frequency characteristics were obtained when the following setting was made: the resistance value of the resistance element R1 in the phase compensation circuit 52 of the error amplifier 50 is 10 k $\Omega$ ; that of the resistance element R2 is 47 k $\Omega$ ; that of the resistance element R3 is 2 k $\Omega$ ; and the capacitance of the capacitor C1 is 82 pF.

[0054] Indicated by broken lines A1 and A2 in FIGS. 6(A) and 6(B) are the frequency characteristic of the gain of Vsns relative to Vramp and the frequency characteristic of the phase of open loop. These frequency characteristics are obtained when a circuit consisting only of the capacitor C1 and the resistance element R1 is used for the phase compensation circuit of the error amplifier 50 in the control system in FIG. 12. In FIG. 6(A), the frequency f0 when broken line A1 crosses 0 dB is 1.38 MHz, and the frequency f0 when solid line B1 crosses 0 dB is 1.53 MHz.

[0055] According to simulation, the phase margin (difference between phase delay angle when the gain is 0 dB and -180) in the control system in FIG. 12 at this time was approximately 25°. Meanwhile, in the control system in this embodiment wherein a circuit provided with the resistance element R2 in series with the capacitor C1 in addition to the capacitor C1 and the resistance element R1 was used for the phase compensation circuit 52, the phase margin was approximately 46°.

[0056] It is generally said that when the phase margin of a loop is not more than 45°, the stability of oscillation cannot be ensured. However, application of the first embodiment improves the phase margin of open loop in the feedback control system of the high frequency power amplification circuit using the square root conversion circuit 30, illustrated in FIG. 1. Thus, the stability of oscillation can be ensured. As the result, the following advantage is produced: even if the output level instruction signal Vramp abruptly changes, as illustrated in (A) of FIG. 4, the detection signal Vsns fed back to the inverting input terminal of the error amplifier 50 does not develop ringing unlike in (C) of FIG. 4. Thus, the response of loop to output level instruction signal Vramp is enhanced.

[0057] In FIG. 7(A), the frequency characteristic of the gain of the output voltage (detection voltage) Vsns of the current-voltage conversion circuit 40 relative to output level instruction signal Vramp in the control system in the second embodiment illustrated in FIG. 2 is indicated by alternate long and short dash line C1. In FIG. 7(B), the frequency characteristic of the phase of open loop in the control system in the second embodiment is indicated by alternate long and short dash line C2. These frequency characteristics were obtained when the following setting was made: the resistance value of the resistor R1 in the phase compensation circuit 52 of the error amplifier 50 is 10 k $\Omega$ ; that of the resistor R2 is 47 k $\Omega$ ; that of the resistor R3 is 2 k $\Omega$ ; the capacitance of the capacitor C1 is 82 pF; and the resistance value of the resistors R4 and R5 in the attenuator 53 is 43 k $\Omega$ .

[0058] Indicated by solid lines B1 and B2 in FIGS. 7(A) and 7(B) are the frequency characteristic of the gain of Vsns relative to Vramp in the control system in the first embodiment illustrated in FIG. 1, and the frequency characteristic of the phase of open loop. These are the same characteristics as indicated by solid lines in FIGS. 6(A) and 6(B) in FIG.

7(A), the frequency f0 when solid line C1 crosses 0 dB is 1.16 MHz. The frequency f0 when solid line B1 crosses 0 dB is 1.53 MHz, as mentioned above.

[0059] According to simulation, the phase margin of open loop in the control system in the second embodiment wherein the attenuator 53 is provided on the noninverting input terminal side of the error amplifier 50 was approximately 66°. As mentioned above, the phase margin of open loop in the feedback control system of the frequency power amplification circuit in the first embodiment is 46°. Therefore, provision of the attenuator 53 makes the stability of oscillation more favorable, and further enhances the response of loop to output level instruction signal Vramp.

[0060] In FIG. 8(A), the frequency characteristic of the gain of closed loop in the control system in the second embodiment illustrated in FIG. 2 is indicated by solid line C1. The closed loop goes from the error amplifier 50 through the power amplification circuit 10, the current detection circuit 20, the square root conversion circuit 30, the current-voltage conversion circuit 40, and back to the error amplifier 50. In FIG. 8(B), the frequency characteristic of the phase of closed loop in the control system in the second embodiment is indicated by solid line C2. These frequency characteristics were obtained when the following setting was made: the resistance value of the resistor R1 in the phase compensation circuit 52 of the error amplifier 50 is 10 k $\Omega$ ; that of the resistor R2 is 47 k $\Omega$ ; that of the resistor R3 is 2 k $\Omega$ ; and the capacitance of the capacitor C1 is 82 pF.

[0061] Indicated by broken lines A1 and A2 in FIGS. 8(A) and 8(B) are the frequency characteristic of the gain of Vsns relative to Vramp and the frequency characteristic of the phase of closed loop. These frequency characteristics are obtained when in the control system illustrated in FIG. 12, a circuit consisting only of the capacitor C1 and the resistor R1 is used for the phase compensation circuit 52 of the error amplifier 50. The figures show that the phase margin of closed loop in the control system in the second embodiment is 65° and the stability of oscillation of closed loop is sufficient.

[0062] FIG. 9 illustrates an example of more concrete circuitry than the embodiment in FIG. 2. In FIG. 9, numeral 10 denotes a high frequency amplification circuit portion which amplifies and outputs input high frequency signals Pin. The high frequency amplification circuit 10 comprises three amplification stages in cascade connection.

[0063] More specifically, a high frequency signal Pin inputted is supplied to the gate terminal of a transistor TR1 for power amplifier constituting the first amplification stage through an impedance matching circuit MN1 and a resistor R11. The signal amplified by TR1 is supplied from the drain terminal of TR1 to the gate terminal of a transistor TR2 for power amplifier constituting the second amplification stage through an impedance matching circuit MN2 and a resistor R12.

[0064] Further, the signal amplified by the transistor TR2 is supplied from the drain terminal of TR2 to the gate terminal of a transistor TR3 for power amplifier constituting the third amplification stage through an impedance matching circuit MN3. The signal amplified by TR3 is outputted from the drain terminal of TR2 through an impedance matching circuit MN4.



[0065] Capacitive elements CDC1, CDC2, CDC3, and CDC4 for cutting the direct-current component are placed between the input terminal and the impedance matching circuit MN1, between the amplification stages, and between the impedance matching circuit MN4 and the output terminal. The impedance matching circuits MN1 to MN4 respectively comprise capacitors CP1 to CP6 and transmission lines TL1 to TL7.

[0066] In this embodiment, MOSFET is used for the transistors TR1 to TR3 for power amplifier in the respective amplification stages. However, other transistors may be used. Such transistors include bipolar transistor, GaAsMESFET, hetero-junction bipolar transistor (HBT), and HEMT (High Electron Mobility Transistor).

[0067] The current detection circuit 20 comprises a transistor TR4 for output detection to the gate terminal of which the same signal as the input signal of the transistor TR3 for power amplifier in the final amplification stage of the high frequency amplification circuit 10 is applied through a resistor R13; a transistor TR5 for current mirror connected in series with the transistor TR4 through a resistor R14; and a transistor TR6 connected with the transistor TR5 in current mirror configuration. By setting an appropriate value  $n$  for the size ratio between the transistors TR3 and TR4 (e.g.  $n=10$ ), a current equivalent to  $1/n$  of the collector current of TR3 is passed through the transistors TR4. The current of the transistor TR4 is duplicated onto the transistor TR6 by the current mirror circuit. Thus, the drain current passed through the transistor TR6 is turned into a current  $I_{sns}$  which is correlated with the output power of the transistor TR3 for power amplifier. The size ratio between the transistors TR5 and TR6 for current mirror is set to, for example, 1:1.

[0068] This current  $I_{sns}$  is converted by the square root conversion circuit 30, and the current  $I_{sout}$  obtained by this conversion is passed through a resistor R16 as a means for current-voltage conversion. Thereby, the current is converted into a detection voltage  $V_{sns}$  corresponding to output level. The detection voltage  $V_{sns}$  is supplied to the error amplifier 50, and is compared there with an output level instruction signal  $V_{ramp}$  supplied from a baseband circuit or the like. Then, a voltage  $V_{apc}$  corresponding to the difference between  $V_{sns}$  and  $V_{ramp}$  is outputted from the error amplifier 50.  $V_{apc}$  is divided through the resistors RP1 to RP4, and applied as bias voltage to the gate terminals of the above transistors TR1 and TR2 for power amplifier. Thus, the output power is controlled.

[0069] The gate bias of the transistor TR3 for power amplifier in the final stage is indirectly supplied. This is done by the potential of the connection node between the dividing resistors RP3 and RP4 being transferred to an internal node of the impedance matching circuit MN3 through a resistor R15. Alternatively, the voltage divided through the resistors RP3 and RP4 may be supplied directly to the gate of the transistor TR3 for power amplifier in the final stage through the resistor R15.

[0070] The areas encircled with alternate long and short dash lines and marked with IC1 and IC2 in FIG. 9 indicate that the circuits and elements in the areas are separately formed on respective semiconductor chips. More specifically, the transistor TR3 for power amplifier in the final stage and the transistor TR4 for current detection are formed

together with the resistor R13 on one and the same semiconductor chip. This constitutes a first semiconductor integrated circuit IC1.

[0071] The transistors TR1 and TR2 for power amplifier in the first and second stages are formed on one and the same semiconductor chip. The current detection circuit 20 (excluding the transistor TR4), the square root conversion circuit 30, the current-voltage conversion circuit 40, and the error amplifier 50 are also formed on the same semiconductor chip. This constitutes a second semiconductor integrated circuit IC2. The resistor R2 and the capacitor C1 constituting the error amplifier 50 and the resistor R5 constituting the attenuator 53 are connected as elements external to the second semiconductor integrated circuit IC2. Thus, the frequency characteristic can be adjusted according to the system used.

[0072] With respect to the circuit illustrated in FIG. 9, the discrete components, such as the semiconductor chips IC1 and IC2, the resistors R2 and R5, and the capacitor C1, are mounted on one insulating substrate. Thus, the entire circuit illustrated in FIG. 9 is constituted as a module. With respect to this specification, "module" is defined as follows: printed wiring is formed on the surfaces and in the interior of an insulating substrate, such as a ceramic substrate. A plurality of semiconductor chips and discrete components are mounted on the insulating substrate. Then, these components are jointed together through the above printed wiring or bonding wires so that they will fulfill predetermined roles. Thus, they can be handled as if they were one electronic component. This is referred to as "module."

[0073] In this module, the transmission lines TL1 to TL7 which constitute the impedance matching circuits MN1 to MN4 can be formed by a conductor layer, called microstrip line, formed on the insulating substrate. If the insulating substrate is constituted by laminating a plurality of dielectric layers, the capacitors CP1 to CP6 constituting the impedance matching circuits MN1 to MN4 can be formed as follows: the capacitors CP1 to CP6 can be constituted utilizing capacitors formed between any dielectric layer and the conductor layers formed on the front face and the underside of the dielectric layer.

[0074] FIG. 10 illustrates a concrete example of the square root conversion circuit 30.

[0075] The square root circuit in this embodiment comprises a first current mirror circuit 31 comprising n-channel MOSFETs which proportionally reduces a detection current  $I_{sns}$  outputted from the current detection circuit 20; a second current mirror circuit 32 comprising n-channel MOSFETs which further proportionally reduces the current duplicated by the first current mirror circuit 31; a third current mirror circuit 33 comprising p-channel MOSFETs which proportionally reduces a reference current  $I_{ref}$  from a constant current source 38; a fourth current mirror circuit 34 comprising p-channel MOSFETs which further proportionally reduces the current duplicated by the third current mirror circuit 33; an arithmetic circuit 35 which uses the currents generated by these current mirror circuits to generate a current including a term corresponding to the square root of the detection current  $I_{sns}$ ; a bias circuit 36 which comprises MOSFET M5 which is connected in series with MOSFET M4 constituting the arithmetic circuit 35 and through which the same current as in M4 is passed, MOSFET M6 con-

nected with M5 in current mirror configuration, and MOSFET M7 connected in series with M6, and supplies an operating point for MOSFETs M2 and M4 constituting the arithmetic circuit 35 by the drain voltage of M4 being applied to the gate of MOSFET M7; and a current synthesis circuit 37 which uses currents generated by the current mirror circuits 32 and 34 to subtract a current corresponding to extra terms other than the term of square root from the current containing the term corresponding to square root generated by the arithmetic circuit 35, and outputs a current in proportion to the square root of the detection current  $I_{sns}$ .

[0076] With respect to the individual current mirror circuits 31 to 34, a predetermined value is set for the size ratio (ratio of gate width) of each pair of MOSFETs with their gates connected together. The current mirror circuits 31 to 34 thereby generate proportionally reduced currents. More specifically, the size ratio (ratio of gate width) of each pair of MOSFETs is set to a predetermined value so that the following results will be obtained: a current reduced to  $1/10$  will be generated with respect to the first current mirror circuit 31; currents reduced to  $1/3$  and  $1/12$  will be generated with respect to the second current mirror circuit 32; a current reduced to  $1/8$  will be generated with respect to the third current mirror circuit 33; and currents reduced to  $1/4$  and  $1/16$  will be generated with respect to the fourth current mirror circuit 34.

[0077] The current equivalent to  $1/30$  of the detection current  $I_{sns}$  inputted to the square root conversion circuit 30 is let to be  $I_s$ ; and the current equivalent to  $1/32$  of the reference current  $I_{ref}$  from the constant current source 38 is let to be  $I_r$ . Thus, the currents passed through the destinations of duplication by the first current mirror circuit 31 and the third current mirror circuit 33 are  $3I_s$  and  $4I_r$ , respectively. The currents let to flow to the arithmetic circuit 35 from the destinations of duplication by the second current mirror circuit 32 and the fourth current mirror circuit 34 are  $I_s$  and  $I_r$ , respectively.

[0078] The arithmetic circuit 35 comprises MOSFET M2 wherein the current  $I_s$  supplied from the second current mirror circuit 32 is passed between drain and source; MOSFET M4 to the gate terminal of which the drain voltage of MOSFET M2 is applied and wherein the current  $I_r$  supplied from the fourth current mirror circuit 34 is passed between drain and source; MOSFET M3 to the gate terminal of which the drain voltage of MOSFET M2 is applied and which passes the current of the origin of duplication of the current synthesis circuit 37; and MOSFET M1 connected with the source side of MOSFET M3 in series with M3. With respect to MOSFET M1, the gate and the drain are joined with each other so that MOSFET M1 will act as diode. MOSFETs M1 to M4 are so designed that their size (gate width  $W$  and gate length  $L$ ) is identical. MOSFETs M1 to M4 are simultaneously manufactured by the same process, and thus have the same threshold voltage  $V_{th}$ . Further, the supply voltage  $V_{dd2}$  is so set that MOSFETs M1 to M4 will operate in saturation region.

[0079] Here, the gate-source voltages of MOSFETs M1, M2, M3, and M4 are let to be  $V_{GS1}$ ,  $V_{GS2}$ ,  $V_{GS3}$ , and  $V_{GS4}$ , and their drain-source voltages are let to be  $V_{DS1}$ ,  $V_{DS2}$ ,  $V_{DS3}$ , and  $V_{DS4}$ . Then, the node N1 of the arithmetic circuit 35 is considered. The potential  $V_{n1}$  of the node N1 is determined by  $V_{n1}=V_{GS1}+V_{GS3}$  from the viewpoint

of MOSFETs M1 and M3, and by  $V_{n1}=V_{GS2}+V_{GS4}$  from the viewpoint of MOSFETs M2 and M4. Since both the potentials are equal,  $V_{GS1}+V_{GS3}=V_{GS2}+V_{GS4}$ .

[0080] MOSFETs M1 and M3 are connected in series; therefore, the currents passed through them are equal ( $I_{out}$  in the figure). The current  $I_s$  from the current mirror circuit 32 is passed through MOSFET M2, and the current  $I_r$  from the current mirror circuit 34 is passed through MOSFET M4. Therefore, the above equation is expressed by Equation (1) using an equation representing the drain current characteristics in saturation region of MOSFETs.

$$\frac{2[V_{th}+\sqrt{\{(2/\beta)\cdot(L/W)/(1+\lambda V_{DS})\}}\cdot I_{out}]=V_{th}+\sqrt{\{(2/\beta)\cdot(L/W)\cdot(1+\lambda V_{DS})\}}\cdot I_s+V_{th}+\sqrt{\{(2/\beta)\cdot(L/W)/(1+\lambda V_{DS})\}}\cdot \sqrt{I_r}} \quad (1)$$

[0081] In the above equation, the element size  $L/W$  of the individual MOSFETs M1 to M4 is equal, and  $\lambda \cdot V_{DS}$  is negligibly small relative to the equation (1) because of the element characteristics of MOSFETs. Therefore, the above equation can be rewritten as follow:

$$\sqrt{I_{out}}=(\sqrt{I_s}+\sqrt{I_r})/2 \quad (2)$$

[0082] When this equation is transformed,

$$I_{out}=(I_s+I_r)/4+\sqrt{(I_s\cdot I_r)}/2 \quad (3)$$

[0083] Though an extra term,  $(I_s+I_r)/4$ , is included, the current  $I_{out}$  passed through MOSFET M3 is expressed by the square root of the detection current  $I_s$ , as seen from this equation.

[0084] In addition, the circuit in the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 10 is provided with the current synthesis circuit 37 comprising current mirror MOSFETs M8 and M9 whose gates are connected together. This circuit is so constituted that it will perform the following operation: the circuit outputs as  $I_{out}$  a current obtained by adding the current of  $I_s/4$  supplied from the second current mirror circuit 32 and the current of  $I_r/4$  supplied from the fourth current mirror circuit 34 to the current passed through MOSFET M8 which is the origin of duplication in current mirror operation. MOSFETs M8 and M9 are so designed that their size ratio will be 1:10. Thus, a current whose magnitude is 10 times that of a current smaller by  $(I_s+I_r)/4$  than  $I_{out}$  is passed through MOSFET M9 connected with MOSFET M8 in current mirror configuration.

[0085] It is understood that the current of  $(I_s+I_r)/4$  obtained by addition by the current synthesis circuit 37 corresponds to the first term in Equation (3) above. Therefore, the current passed through MOSFET M9 is 10 times the second term in Equation (3), that is,  $10\cdot(I_s+I_r)/2=5\cdot\sqrt{(I_s\cdot I_r)}$ . The circuit in the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 10 is so constituted that this current will be outputted. Therefore, the output current of this circuit is a current in proportion to the square root of  $I_s$ .

[0086] As mentioned above, the current  $I_s$  is  $1/30$  of the detection current  $I_{sns}$  of the current detection circuit 20. Therefore, the output current of the circuit in FIG. 10 is a current in proportion to the square root of the detection current  $I_{sns}$  of the current detection circuit 20. This current is let to flow to the resistor R16 in the current-voltage conversion circuit 40, and is converted there into voltage. The voltage obtained by this conversion is subjected to impedance conversion, and is supplied to the error amplifier 50.

[0087] Equation (3) does not contain a temperature coefficient, and the output current does not have temperature dependence. Therefore, the operating characteristics of the square root circuit in this embodiment are constant even if the ambient temperature changes, as long as the reference current  $I_{ref}$  is constant. Thus, conversion can be carried out with stability. For the constant current source whose current is constant even if the temperature changes, a constant current circuit wherein temperature compensation is implemented by combining an element having positive temperature characteristics and an element having negative temperature characteristics is known. Such a constant current circuit that does not have temperature dependence is utilized as the current source **38**. Thereby, a suitable reference current  $I_{ref}$  can be generated and supplied to the square root circuit in this embodiment.

[0088] In the circuit in the embodiment in **FIG. 10**, circuits wherein MOSFET pairs each connected in current mirror configuration are vertically stacked in two stages are used as the first current mirror circuit **31** and the third current mirror circuit **33**. This is for reducing the supply voltage dependence of currents generated. Therefore, if highly stable voltage is supplied as the operating voltage  $V_{dd2}$  for the square root conversion circuit **30**, one-stage current mirror circuits similar to the current mirror circuits **32** and **34** on the p-MOS side may be adopted.

[0089] In the embodiment in **FIG. 10**, a current obtained by adding the currents  $I_s/4$  and  $I_r/4$  from the current mirror circuits **32** and **34** to the current outputted from MOSFET **M8** in the current mirror circuit **37** is passed through as the current  $I_{out}$  of the arithmetic circuit **35**. This is for eliminating the extra term of current  $(I_s+I_r)/4$  other than the term of  $\sqrt{I_s \cdot I_r}$  from the output current. Instead of adding the currents  $I_s/4$  and  $I_r/4$  to the current outputted from MOSFET **M8**, another constitution may be adopted. In this case, MOSFETs which are connected with the MOSFETs constituting the current mirror circuits **31** and **32** in current mirror configuration and pass proportionally reduced current are provided. Thus, the current obtained by subtracting the currents  $I_s/4$  and  $I_r/4$  from the current outputted from MOSFET **M9** is passed through the resistor **R16**.

[0090] **FIG. 11** schematically illustrates the configuration of a dual band communication system as an example of a radio communication system to which the present invention is applied. This communication system is capable of radio communication by two transmission methods: GSM (Global System for Mobile Communication) which uses a frequency in the 900-MHz band, and DCS (Digital Cellular System) which uses a frequency in the 1800-MHz band.

[0091] The radio communication system in **FIG. 11** comprises a high frequency module (hereafter, referred to as "RF module") **100**; a module for high frequency power amplifier (hereafter, referred to as "power module") **200**; a baseband circuit **300**; a front end module **400**; and a microprocessor (CPU) **500**. The RF module **100** is formed by mounting on one ceramic substrate a high frequency signal processing circuit (high frequency IC) **110** constituted as a semiconductor integrated circuit having a modulation-demodulation circuit capable of GMSK modulation and demodulation in the GSM and DCS systems; a band pass filter SAW comprising an elastic surface-wave filter which removes unwanted waves from reception signals; a low noise ampli-

fier LNA which amplifies reception signals; and the like. The power module **200** includes a high frequency power amplification circuits (power amplifiers) **10** which drive an antenna ANT as load to carry out transmission; an output power control circuit **230**; and the like. The microprocessor (CPU) **500** is a controller which controls the entire system.

[0092] The baseband circuit **300** is provided with a baseband processing function for generating I- and Q-signals based on transmission data (baseband signal) and processing I- and Q-signals extracted from reception signals. The baseband circuit **300** is constituted as a semiconductor integrated circuit. Hereafter, this is referred to as "baseband IC." The front end module **400** contains filters LPF which suppress noises, such as harmonics, contained in transmission signals outputted from the RF power module **200**; transmission/reception changeover switches **420a** and **420b**; a dividing filter **430**; and the like. The microprocessor (CPU) **500** generates control signals for the high frequency IC **110** and the baseband IC **300** and output level instruction signals  $V_{ramp}$  for the power module **200**.

[0093] The current detection circuit **20**, square root conversion circuit **30** (or logarithmic conversion circuit), current-voltage conversion circuit **40**, and error amplifier **50** in **FIG. 9** are expressed in one block as the output power control circuit **230** in the **FIG. 11**.

[0094] As illustrated in **FIG. 11**, the radio communication system in this embodiment is provided in the power module **200** with a power amplifier **210a** and a power amplifier **210b**. The power amplifier **210a** amplifies transmission signals on 900 MHz which is a frequency band for GSM, and the power amplifier **210b** amplifies transmission signals on 1800 MHz which is a frequency band for DCS. Similarly, the radio communication system is provided in the RF module **100** with a SAW filter **120a** and a low noise amplifier **130a** for GSM and a SAW filter **120b** and a low noise amplifier **130b** for DCS.

[0095] In the high frequency IC **110**, GMSK modulation is carried out, and carrier waves are phase-modulated according to information to be transmitted. The phase-modulated signal is inputted as high frequency signal  $P_{in}$  to the power module **200**, and amplified there. In this embodiment, in addition to the modulation circuit for transmission, the high frequency IC **110** includes a reception system circuit. The reception system circuit comprises a mixer for downconverting reception signals into signals of a lower frequency; a high-gain programmable gain amplifier; and the like. However, the constitution of the high frequency IC **110** is not limited to this. The low noise amplifiers LNA may be built in the high frequency IC **110**.

[0096] The front end module **400** is provided with a low pass filter **410a** for GSM; a low pass filter **410b** for DCS; the changeover switch **420a** for switching between transmission and reception in GSM; the changeover switch **420b** for switching between transmission and reception in DCS; the dividing filter **430** which is connected with the antenna ANT and separates signals for GSM and signals for DCS from reception signals. Signals for controlling switching by the changeover switches **420a** and **420b** are supplied from the CPU **500**. The power module **200** or the front end module **400** is provided with impedance matching circuits though they are not shown in **FIG. 11**. The impedance matching circuits are placed between the output terminals of the power

amplifiers **210a** and **210b** or the transmission output terminals of the power module **200** and the low pass filters **410a** and **410b**, and carry out impedance matching.

[0097] In such a dual band communication system for GSM and DCS as mentioned above, the maximum levels of the output power of the GSM-side power amplifier **210a** and the output power of the DCS-side power amplifier **210b** are defined by technical standards and different from each other. However, the square root conversion circuit **30**, current-voltage conversion circuit (sensing resistor) **40**, and error amplifier **50** can be used in both the two bands. This is done by appropriately setting the size ratio between the transistor TR3 for high frequency power amplifier and the transistor TR4 for output detection in the current detection circuit **20** and the size ratio between the transistors TR5 and TR6 constituting current mirror circuits. A mode control signal Mode which instructs which power amplifier **210a** or **210b** should be operated is supplied from the CPU **500** to the power module **200**.

[0098] Up to this point, the invention made by the inventors has been described based on the embodiments. However, the present invention is not limited to the above embodiments, and may be modified in various ways to the extent that its cope is not departed from, needless to add. Some examples will be taken. In the above embodiments, the square root conversion circuit **30** is provided between the current detection circuit **20** and the current-voltage conversion circuit **40**. Instead of the square root conversion circuit **30**, an nth root conversion circuit (n is an integer not less than 2) or a logarithmic conversion circuit may be provided. Instead of provision of an nth root conversion circuit or a logarithmic conversion circuit, the following constitution may be adopted: the current detection circuit **20** or the current-voltage conversion circuit **40** is provided with such a characteristic that its output is nth root-functionally or logarithmic-functionally changed relative to its input. In the high frequency power amplification circuit in the above embodiments, the power amplifying FETs are connected in three stages. However, such a constitution that they are connected in two stages or four or more stages may be adopted.

[0099] The above description is made mainly with respect to the following case: the invention made by the inventors is applied to a power module constituting a dual mode radio communication system capable of transmission and reception by two communication methods, GSM and DCS. This is the field of utilization in which the present invention has been made. However, the present invention is not limited to this, and may be utilized in other power modules. An example is a power module constituting a radio communication system capable of transmission and reception by any other communication method. Another example is a power module constituting a radio communication system, such as multimode cellular phone and mobile radiophone, capable of transmission and reception by three or more different communication methods, for example, GSM, DCS, and PCS (Personal Communications System).

[0100] Effects produced according to the representative aspects of the present invention will be briefly described below.

[0101] According to the present invention, in a radio communication system which carries out by current detec-

tion the detection of output level required for feedback control of the output power of a high frequency power amplification circuit, the stability of control loop and the response to change in request-to-send level can be enhanced.

[0102] Further, according to the present invention, in a radio communication system which carries out by current detection the detection of output level required for feedback control of the output power of a high frequency power amplification circuit, the control sensitivity is lowered in a region where the request-to-send level is low, and the output level can be controlled with accuracy over the entire control range. Further, the stability of control loop and the response to change in request-to-send level can be enhanced.

1. A semiconductor integrated circuit for high frequency power amplifier comprising a semiconductor chip,

wherein said semiconductor chip includes thereover:

a current detection circuit having a transistor for output detection which receives a signal from a power amplification circuit for amplifying modulated high frequency signals and detects the current of the power amplification circuit;

a current-voltage conversion circuit which converts the detection current of the current detection circuit into voltage;

an error amplification circuit which compares the voltage obtained by conversion by the current-voltage conversion circuit with an output level instruction signal and outputs a signal corresponding to the difference between them; and

a bias generation circuit which supplies bias to said power amplification circuit based on the output of the error amplification circuit, and

wherein said error amplification circuit includes: a differential amplification circuit; a first resistance element; a second resistance element; and a capacitive element, the second resistance element and the capacitive element being connected in series in parallel with the first resistance element, and the first resistance element, the second resistance element, and the capacitive element being connected between the output terminal and inverting input terminal of the differential amplification circuit.

2. The semiconductor integrated circuit for high frequency power amplifier according to claim 1,

wherein said current-voltage conversion circuit is a square root conversion circuit which converts an input current into a current which is the square root of the input current.

3. The semiconductor integrated circuit for high frequency power amplifier according to claim 2,

wherein said square root conversion circuit is a circuit which comprises field-effect transistors, is fed with said detection current and a reference current as input signals, and outputs a current which is the square root of the product of the detection current and the reference current.

4. The semiconductor integrated circuit for high frequency power amplifier according to claim 1,

wherein the noninverting input terminal of said error amplification circuit is provided with an attenuator, and voltage obtained by dividing said output level instruction signal by the attenuator is inputted.

5. The semiconductor integrated circuit for high frequency power amplifier according to claim 1,

wherein said bias generation circuit is a resistance type voltage division circuit comprising a plurality of resistance elements.

6. An electronic component for high frequency power amplifier comprising an insulating substrate,

wherein said insulating substrate includes thereover:

a power amplification circuit which amplifies modulated high frequency signals;

a current detection circuit having a transistor for output detection which receives a signal from the power amplification circuit and detects the current of the power amplification circuit;

a current-voltage conversion circuit which converts the detection current of the current detection circuit into voltage;

an error amplification circuit which compares the voltage obtained by conversion by the current-voltage conversion circuit with an output level instruction signal and outputs a signal corresponding to the difference between them; and

a bias generation circuit which supplies bias to said power amplification circuit based on the output of the error amplification circuit, and

wherein said error amplification circuit includes: a differential amplification circuit; a first resistance element; a second resistance element; and a capacitive element, the second resistance element and the capacitive element being connected in series in parallel with the first resistance element, and the first resistance element, the second resistance element, and the capacitive element being connected between the output terminal and inverting input terminal of the differential amplification circuit.

7. The electronic component for high frequency power amplifier according to claim 6,

wherein said power amplification circuit comprises a plurality of transistors for power amplifier in cascade connection, and said current detection circuit receives the input signal of the transistor for power amplifier in the final stage and outputs a current in proportion to the output current.

8. The electronic component for high frequency power amplifier according to claim 7,

wherein an impedance matching circuit is provided between the input terminal and the transistor for power amplifier in the first stage, between the transistors for power amplifier in the individual stages, and between the transistor for power amplifier in the final stage and the output terminal,

wherein said transistors for power amplifier, said current detection circuit, the current-voltage conversion circuit, and the error amplification circuit are formed over one or more semiconductor chips, and

wherein said impedance matching circuits are formed over an insulating substrate over which said semiconductor chips are mounted.

9. The electronic component for high frequency power amplifier according to claim 6,

wherein said current-voltage conversion circuit is a square root conversion circuit which converts an input current into a current which is the square root of the input current.

10. The electronic component for high frequency power amplifier according to claim 6,

wherein the noninverting input terminal of said error amplification circuit is provided with an attenuator, and voltage obtained by dividing said output level instruction signal by the attenuator is inputted.

11. A radio communication system comprising:

the electronic component for high frequency power amplifier comprising an insulating substrate, wherein said insulating substrate includes thereover: a power amplification circuit which amplifies modulated high frequency signals; a current detection circuit having a transistor for output detection which receives a signal from the power amplification circuit and detects the current of the power amplification circuit; a current-voltage conversion circuit which converts the detection current of the current detection circuit into voltage; an error amplification circuit which compares the voltage obtained by conversion by the current-voltage conversion circuit with an output level instruction signal and outputs a signal corresponding to the difference between them; and a bias generation circuit which supplies bias to said power amplification circuit based on the output of the error amplification circuit, and wherein said error amplification circuit includes: a differential amplification circuit; a first resistance element; a second resistance element; and a capacitive element, the second resistance element and the capacitive element being connected in series in parallel with the first resistance element, and the first resistance element, the second resistance element, and the capacitive element being connected between the output terminal and inverting input terminal of the differential amplification circuit;

a second electronic component comprising a transmission/reception changeover circuit which switches between transmission signal and reception signal;

a third electronic component which modulates a signal to be transmitted and inputs the signal to said electronic component for high frequency power amplifier; and

a semiconductor integrated circuit for control which generates and supplies a control signal to each of said electronic components,

wherein said output level instruction signal is supplied from said semiconductor integrated circuit for control to said electronic component for high frequency power amplifier.

**12.** The radio communication system according to claim 11,

wherein said electronic component for high frequency power amplifier comprises a first power amplification circuit for amplifying signals in a first frequency band and a second power amplification circuit for amplifying signals in a second frequency band, said second electronic component comprises a signal changeover means which switches between signals in the first frequency band and signals in the second frequency band; said third electronic component comprises a circuit for modulating signals in the first frequency band and a circuit for modulating signals in the second frequency band, and at least said current detection circuit, said current-voltage conversion circuit, and said error amplification circuit are provided as circuits common to said first power amplification circuit and said second power amplification circuit.

**13.** The radio communication system according to claim 11,

wherein a changeover signal for controlling the state of said transmission/reception changeover circuit is supplied from said semiconductor integrated circuit for control to said second electronic component, and a signal for controlling the operating state of said first power amplification circuit and said second power amplification circuit in said electronic component for high frequency power amplifier according to said changeover signal is supplied from said semiconductor integrated circuit for control to said electronic component for high frequency power amplifier.

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