LMV225/LMV226/LMV228 RF Power Detector for CDMA and WCDMA

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General Description

N**ational** Semiconductor

The LMV225/LMV226/LMV228 are 30 dB RF power detectors intended for use in CDMA and WCDMA applications. The device has an RF frequency range from 450 MHz to 2 GHz. It provides an accurate temperature and supply compensated output voltage that relates linearly to the RF input power in dBm. The circuit operates with a single supply from 2.7V to 5.5V. The LMV225/LMV226/LMV228 have an integrated filter for low-ripple average power detection of CDMA signals with 30 dB dynamic range. Additional filtering can be applied using a single external capacitor.

The LMV225 has an RF power detection range from -30 dBm to 0 dBm and is ideally suited for direct use in combination with resistive taps. The LMV226/LMV228 have a detection range from -15 dBm to 15 dBm and are intended for use in combination with a directional coupler. The LMV226 is equipped with a buffered output which makes it suitable for GSM, EDGE, GPRS and TDMA applications.

The device is active for Enable = HI, otherwise it is in a low power consumption shutdown mode. During shutdown the output will be LOW. The output voltage ranges from 0.2V to 2V and can be scaled down to meet ADC input range requirements.

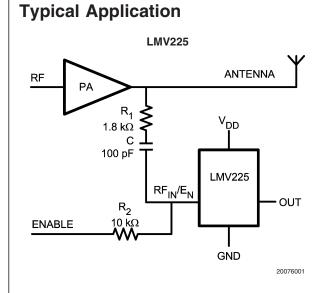
The LMV225/LMV226/LMV228 power detectors are offered in the small 1.0 mm x 1.0 mm X 0.6 mm micro SMD package. The LMV225 and the LMV228 are also offered in the 2.2 mm x 2.5 mm x 0.8 mm LLP package.

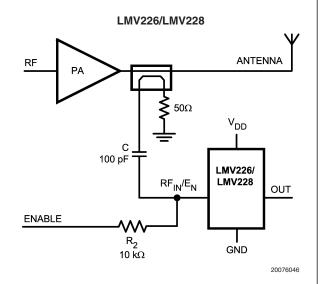
Features

- 30 dB linear in dB power detection range
- Output voltage range 0.2 to 2V
- Logic low shutdown
- Multi-band operation from 450 MHz to 2000 MHz
- Accurate temperature compensation
- Packages:
- micro SMD package 1.0 mm x 1.0 mm x 0.6 mm
- LLP package 2.2 mm x 2.5 mm x 0.8 mm (LMV225 and LMV228)

Applications

- CDMA RF power control
- WCDMA RF power control
- CDMA2000 RF power control
- PA modules





Absolute Maximum Ratings (Note 1)

If Military/Aerospace specified devices are required, please contact the National Semiconductor Sales Office/ Distributors for availability and specifications.

6.0V Max
2000V
200V
–65°C to 150°C

Junction Temperature (Note 3)	150°C Max
Mounting Temperature	
Infrared or convection (20 sec)	235°C

Operating Ratings (Note 1)

Supply Voltage	2.7V to 5.5V
Temperature Range	-40°C to +85°C
RF Frequency Range	450 MHz to 2 GHz

2.7 DC and AC Electrical Characteristics

Unless otherwise specified, all limits are guaranteed to V_{DD} = 2.7V; T_J = 25°C. **Boldface** limits apply at temperature extremes. (Note 4)

Symbol	Parameter	Condition	Condition			Max	Units
I _{DD}	Supply Current	Active Mode: $RF_{IN}/E_N = V_{DD}$ (DC), No RF Input	LMV225		4.8	7 8	
		Power Present	LMV226		4.9	6.2 8	mA
			LMV228		4.9	6.2 8	
		Shutdown: $RF_{IN}/E_N = GND$ RF Input Power Present	(DC), No		0.44	4.5	μA
V _{LOW}	E _N Logic Low Input Level (Note 6)					0.8	V
V _{HIGH}	E _N Logic High Input Level (Note 6)			1.8			V
t _{on} T	Turn-on-Time (Note 9)	No RF Input Power	LMV225		2.1		
		Present, Output Loaded	LMV226		1.2		μs
		with 10 pF	LMV228		1.7		
t _r Rise Time	Rise Time (Note 7)	Step from no Power to 0 dBm Applied, Output Loaded with 10 pF	LMV225		4.5		
		Step from no Power to 15	LMV226		1.8		– μs
		dBm Applied, Output Loaded with 10 pF	LMV228		4.8		
I _{EN}	Current into RF _{IN} /E _N Pin					1	μA
P _{IN}	Input Power Range (Note 5)	LMV225			-30 0		dBm
				-43 -13		dBV	
		LMV226			-15 15		dBn
					-28 2		dBV
		LMV228			-15		dBn
					15		
					-28 2		dB\

2.7 DC and AC Electrical Characteristics (Continued) Unless otherwise specified, all limits are guaranteed to $V_{DD} = 2.7V$; $T_J = 25$ °C. **Boldface** limits apply at temperature extremes. (Note 4)

Symbol	Parameter	Condition		Min	Тур	Max	Units
	Logarithmic Slope (Note 8)	900 MHz	LMV225		44.0		
			LMV226		44.5		7
			LMV228		44.0		7
		1800 MHz	LMV225		39.4		
			LMV226		41.6		
			LMV228		41.9		mV/dB
		1900 MHz	LMV225		38.5		
			LMV226		41.2		7
			LMV228		41.6		
		2000 MHz	LMV225		38.5		7
			LMV226		41.0		-
			LMV228		41.2		
	Logarithmic Intercept (Note 8)	900 MHz	LMV225		-45.5		
			LMV226		-24.5		
			LMV228		-27.2		7
		1800 MHz	LMV225		-46.6		1
			LMV226		-25.1		1
			LMV228		-28.2		
		1900 MHz	LMV225		-46.3		– dBm
			LMV226		-24.9		1
			LMV228		-28.0		1
		2000 MHz	LMV225		-46.7		1
			LMV226		-24.7		1
			LMV228		-28.0		1
/ _{OUT}	Output Voltage	No RF Input Power	LMV225		214	350	
		Present	LMV226		223	350	mV
			LMV228		228	350	1
OUT	Output Current Sourcing/Sinking	LMV226 Only		4.5	5.3		mA
R _{OUT}	Output Impedance	LMV225/LMV228 only, no RF Input Power Present			19.8	29 34	kΩ
'n	Output Referred Noise	RF Input = 1800 MHz, -10 dBm for LMV225 and 5 dBm for LMV226/LMV228, Measured at 10 kHz			700		nV/ √Hz

2.7 DC and AC Electrical Characteristics (Continued)

Unless otherwise specified, all limits are guaranteed to $V_{DD} = 2.7V$; $T_J = 25^{\circ}C$. **Boldface** limits apply at temperature extremes. (Note 4)

Symbol	Parameter	Condition		Min	Тур	Max	Units
	Variation Due to Temperature	900 MHz, RF _{IN} = 0 dBm	LMV225		+0.64		
		Referred to 25°C			-1.07		
		900 MHz, RF _{IN} = 15 dBm	LMV226		+0.05		
		Referred to 25°C			-0.02		
			LMV228		+0.22		
					-0.36		
		1800 MHz, RF _{IN} = 0 dBm	LMV225		+0.09		
		Referred to 25°C			-0.86		
		1800 MHz, RF _{IN} = 15 dBm	LMV226		+0.07		
		Referred to 25°C			-0.10		
			LMV228		+0.29		
					-0.57		dB
		1900 MHz, RF _{IN} = 0 dBm	LMV225		+0		aв
		Referred to 25°C			-0.69		
		1900 MHz, RF _{IN} = 15 dBm	LMV226		+0		
		Referred to 25°C			-0.10		
			LMV228		+0.23		
					-0.64		
		2000 MHz, RF _{IN} = 0 dBm	LMV225		+0		
		Referred to 25°C			-0.86		
		2000 MHz, RF _{IN} = 15 dBm	LMV226		+0		
		Referred to 25°C			-0.29		
			LMV228		+0.27		
					-0.65		

5.0 DC and AC Electrical Characteristics

Unless otherwise specified, all limits are guaranteed to $V_{DD} = 5.0V$; $T_J = 25^{\circ}C$. **Boldface** limits apply at temperature extremes. (Note 4)

Symbol	Parameter	Condition		Min	Тур	Max	Units
I _{DD}	Supply Current	Active Mode: $RF_{IN}/E_N = V_{DD}$ (DC), no RF Input	LMV225		5.3	7.5 9	
		Power Present.	LMV226		5.3	6.8 9	mA
			LMV228		5.4	6.8 9	
		Shutdown: $RF_{IN}/E_N = GND$ RF Input Power Present.	(DC), no		0.32	4.5	μA
V _{LOW}	E _N Logic Low Input Level (Note 6)					0.8	V
V _{HIGH}	E _N Logic High Input Level (Note 6)			1.8			V
t _{on}	Turn-on-Time (Note 9)	No RF Input Power	LMV225		2.1		
		Present, Output Loaded	LMV226		1.0		μs
		with 10 pF	LMV228		1.7		
t _r	Rise Time (Note 7)	Step from no Power to 0 dBm Applied, Output Loaded with 10 pF	LMV225		4.5		
		Step from no Power to 15 dBm Applied, Output	LMV226		1.4		μs
		Loaded with 10 pF	LMV228		4.8		

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5.0 DC and AC Electrical Characteristics (Continued) Unless otherwise specified, all limits are guaranteed to $V_{DD} = 5.0V$; $T_J = 25^{\circ}C$. **Boldface** limits apply at temperature extremes. (Note 4)

Symbol	Parameter	Condition		Min	Тур	Max	Units
EN	Current Into RF _{IN} /E _N Pin					1	μA
⊃ _{IN}	Input Power Range (Note 5)	LMV225		-30		dBm	
				0			
				-43		dBV	
				–13			
		LMV226			-15		dBm
				15			
					-28		dBV
					2		
		LMV228			-15		dBm
					15		
					-28		dBV
	Less vitters is Class (Nata 9)	000 MU-			2		
	Logarithmic Slope (Note 8)	900 MHz	LMV225		44.6		_
			LMV226		44.6		-
			LMV228		44.2		-
		1800 MHz	LMV225		40.6		-
			LMV226		42.2		-
			LMV228		42.4		mV/dl
		1900 MHz	LMV225		39.6		
			LMV226		41.8		4
			LMV228		42.2		4
		2000 MHz	LMV225		39.7		-
			LMV226		41.6		
			LMV228		41.8		
	Logarithmic Intercept (Note 8)	900 MHz	LMV225		-47.0		
			LMV226		-25.0		
			LMV228		-27.7		
		1800 MHz	LMV225		-48.5		
			LMV226		-25.7		
			LMV228		-28.9		dBm
		1900 MHz	LMV225		-48.2		
			LMV226		-25.6		1
			LMV228		-28.7		
		2000 MHz	LMV225		-48.9		
			LMV226		-25.5		
			LMV228		-28.7		
V _{OUT}	Output Voltage	No RF Input Power	LMV225		222	400	
		Present	LMV226		231	400	mV
			LMV228		244	400	
OUT	Output Current Sourcing/Sinking	LMV226 Only		4.5	5.3		mA
R _{out}	Output Impedance	No RF Input Power Pres	ent		23.7	29 31	kΩ
'n	Output Referred Noise	RF Input = 1800 MHz, – LMV225 and 5 dBm for LMV226/LMV228, Mease 10 kHz			700		nV/ √H

5.0 DC and AC Electrical Characteristics (Continued)

Unless otherwise specified, all limits are guaranteed to $V_{DD} = 5.0V$; $T_J = 25^{\circ}C$. **Boldface** limits apply at temperature extremes. (Note 4)

Symbol	Parameter	Condition		Min	Тур	Max	Units
	Variation Due to Temperature	900 MHz, RF _{IN} = 0 dBm	LMV225		+0.89		
		Referred to 25°C			-1.16		
		900 MHz, RF _{IN} = 15 dBm	LMV226		+0.25		
		Referred to 25°C			-0.16		
			LMV228		+0.46		
					-0.62		
		1800 MHz, RF _{IN} = 0 dBm	LMV225		+0.3		
		Referred to 25°C			-0.82		
		1800 MHz, RF _{IN} = 15 dBm	LMV226		+0.21		
		Referred to 25°C			-0.09		
			LMV228		+0.55		
					-0.78		dB
		1900 MHz, RF _{IN} = 0 dBm	LMV225		+0.34		uD
		Referred to 25°C			-0.63		
		1900 MHz, RF _{IN} = 15 dBm	LMV226		+0.21		
		Referred to 25°C			-0.19		
			LMV228		+0.55		
					-0.93		
		2000 MHz RF _{IN} = 0 dBm	LMV225		+0.22		
		Referred to 25°C			-0.75		
		2000 MHz RF _{IN} = 15 dBm	LMV226		+0.25		
		Referred to 25°C			-0.34		
			LMV228		+0.61		
					-0.91		

Note 1: Absolute Maximum Ratings indicate limits beyond which damage to the device may occur. Operating Ratings indicate conditions for which the device is intended to be functional, but specific performance is not guaranteed. For guaranteed specifications and the test conditions, see the Electrical Characteristics. **Note 2:** Human body model: $1.5 \text{ k}\Omega$ in series with 100 pF. Machine model, 0Ω in series with 100 pF.

Note 3: The maximum power dissipation is a function of $T_{J(MAX)}$, θ_{JA} and T_A . The maximum allowable power dissipation at any ambient temperature is $P_D = (T_{J(MAX)} - T_A)/\theta_{JA}$. All numbers apply for packages soldered directly into a PC board

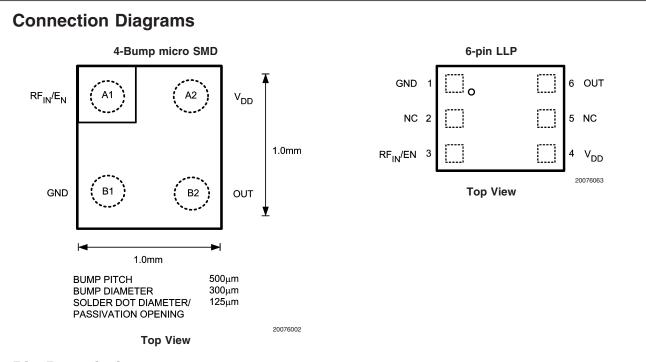
Note 4: Electrical Table values apply only for factory testing conditions at the temperature indicated. Factory testing conditions result in very limited self-heating of the device such that $T_J = T_A$. No guarantee of parametric performance is indicated in the electrical tables under conditions of internal self-heating where $T_J > T_A$. **Note 5:** Power in dBV = dBm + 13 when the impedance is 50 Ω .

Note 6: All limits are guaranteed by design or statistical analysis

Note 7: Typical values represent the most likely parametric norm.

Note 8: Device is set in active mode with a 10 k Ω resistor from V_{DD} to RF_{IN}/E_N. RF signal is applied using a 50 Ω RF signal generator AC coupled to the RF_{IN}/E_N pin using a 100 pF coupling capacitor.

Note 9: Turn-on time is measured by connecting a 10 k Ω resistor to the RF_{IN}/E_N pin. Be aware that in the actual application on the front page, the RC-time constant of resistor R₂ and capacitor C adds an additional delay.



Pin Description

	Pin		Name	Description			
	micro SMD	LLP6]				
Power Supply	A2	4	V _{DD}	Positive Supply Voltage			
	B1	1	GND	Power Ground			
	A1	3	RF _{IN} /E _N	DC voltage determines enable state of the device (HIGH = device active). AC voltage is the RF input signal to the detector (beyond 450 MHz). The RF _{IN} /E _N pin is internally terminated with 50 Ω in series with 45 pF.			
Output	B2	6	Out	Ground referenced detector output voltage (linear in dBm)			

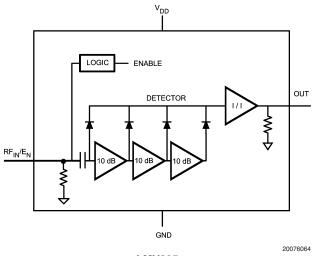
Ordering Information

Package	Part Number	Package Marking	Transport Media	NSC Drawing	Status	
4-Bump micro SMD	LMV225TL	I	250 Units Tape and Reel	TLA04AAA	Released	
	LMV225TLX		3k Units Tape and Reel	TLAU4AAA	neleaseu	
	LMV225SD	A90	2k Units Tape and Reel	SDB06A	Preliminary	
6-pin LLP	LMV225SDX	A90	9k Units Tape and Reel	SDDOOA	Freinfinary	
	LMV226TL	1	250 Units Tape and Reel			
4-Bump micro SMD	LMV226TLX] ' [3k Units Tape and Reel	TLA04AAA	Delegand	
4-bump micro SiviD	LMV228TL	1	250 Units Tape and Reel		Released	
	LMV228TLX		3k Units Tape and Reel		1	
6 pip LLP	LMV228SD	A89	2k Units Tape and Reel	SDB06A	Proliminon	
6-pin LLP	LMV228SDX	A09	9k Units Tape and Reel	SDBUGA	Preliminary	

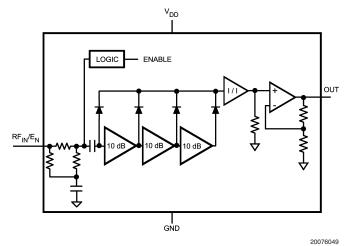
Note: This product is offered both with leaded and lead free bumps.



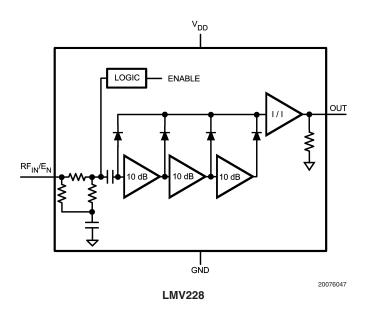
Block Diagrams







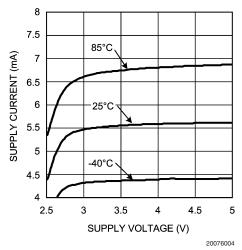




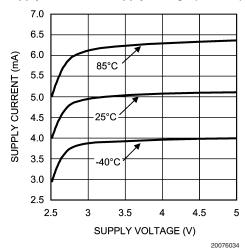
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Typical Performance Characteristics Unless otherwise specified, $V_{DD} = 2.7V$, $T_{J} = 25^{\circ}C$.

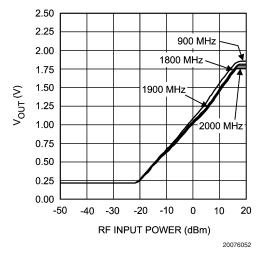
Supply Current vs. Supply Voltage (LMV225)

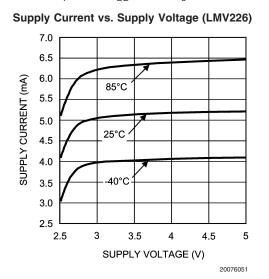


Supply Current vs. Supply Voltage (LMV228)

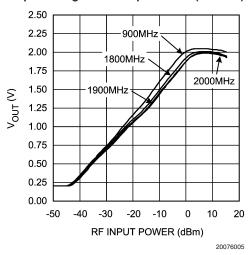


Output Voltage vs. RF Input Power (LMV226)

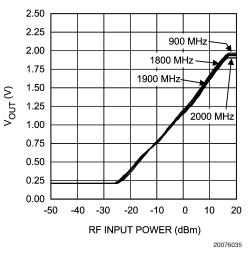


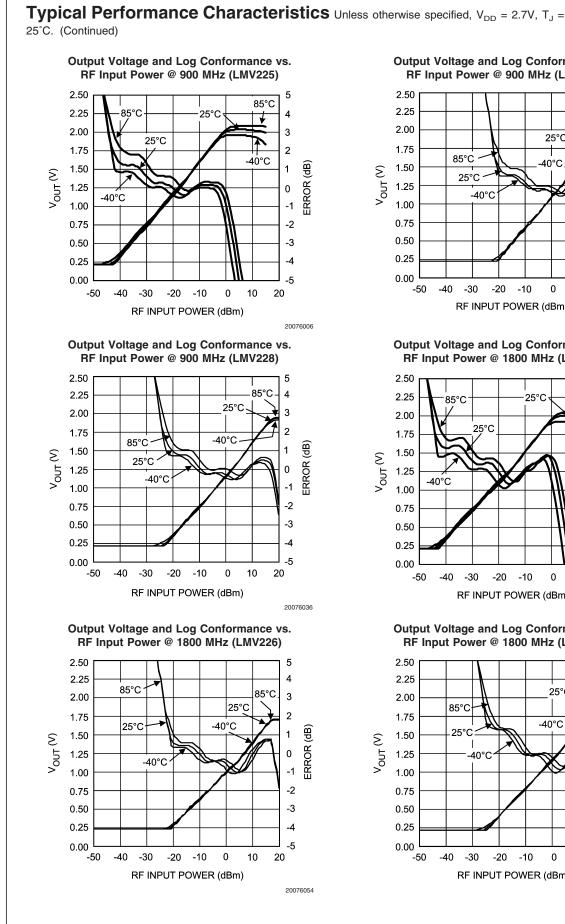


Output Voltage vs. RF Input Power (LMV225)

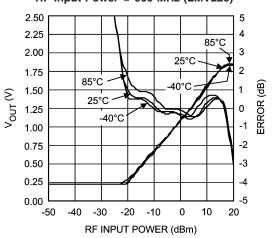






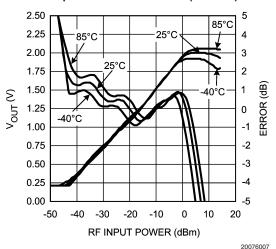


Output Voltage and Log Conformance vs. RF Input Power @ 900 MHz (LMV226)

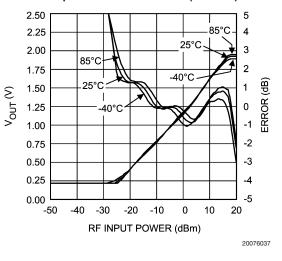


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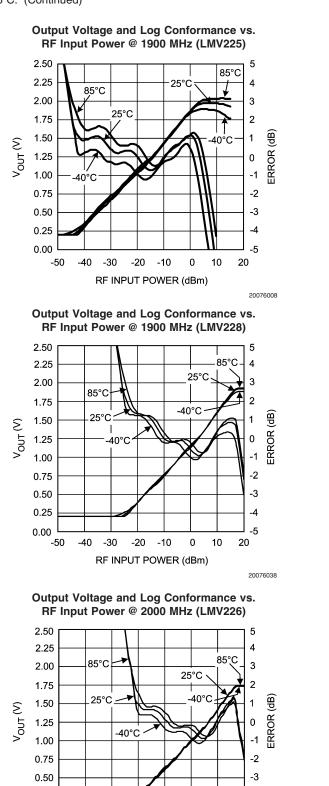
Output Voltage and Log Conformance vs. RF Input Power @ 1800 MHz (LMV225)



Output Voltage and Log Conformance vs. RF Input Power @ 1800 MHz (LMV228)







0.25

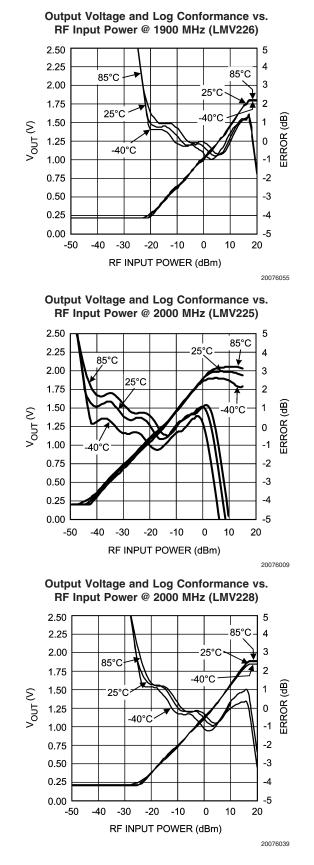
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-50 -40 -30

-20

-10

RF INPUT POWER (dBm)



-4

-5

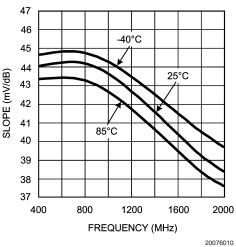
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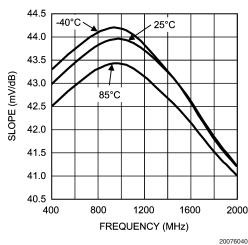
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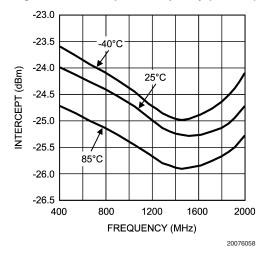
Logarithmic Slope vs. Frequency (LMV225)

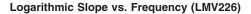


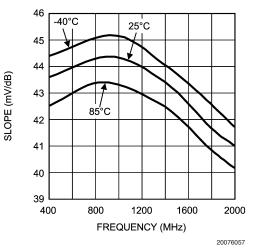
Logarithmic Slope vs. Frequency (LMV228)



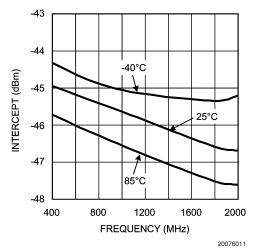
Logarithmic Intercept vs. Frequency (LMV226)



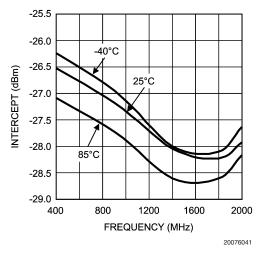




Logarithmic Intercept vs. Frequency (LMV225)



Logarithmic Intercept vs. Frequency (LMV228)



Typical Performance Characteristics Unless otherwise specified, V_{DD} = 2.7V, T_J = Output Variation vs. RF Input Power Normalized to 25°C @ 900 MHz (LMV226)

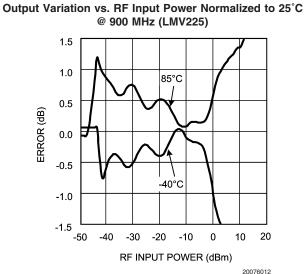
85°C

40°C

0

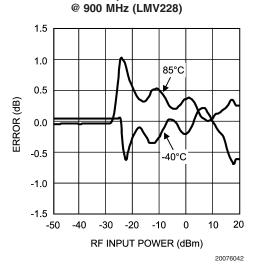
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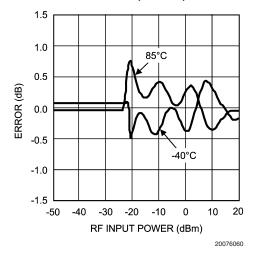


25°C. (Continued)





Output Variation vs. RF Input Power Normalized to 25°C @ 1800 MHz (LMV226)



Output Variation vs. RF Input Power Normalized to 25°C @ 1800 MHz (LMV225)

RF INPUT POWER (dBm)

1.5

1.0

0.5

0.0

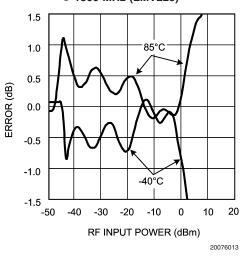
-0.5

-1.0

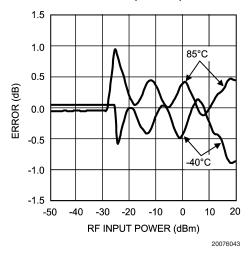
-1.5

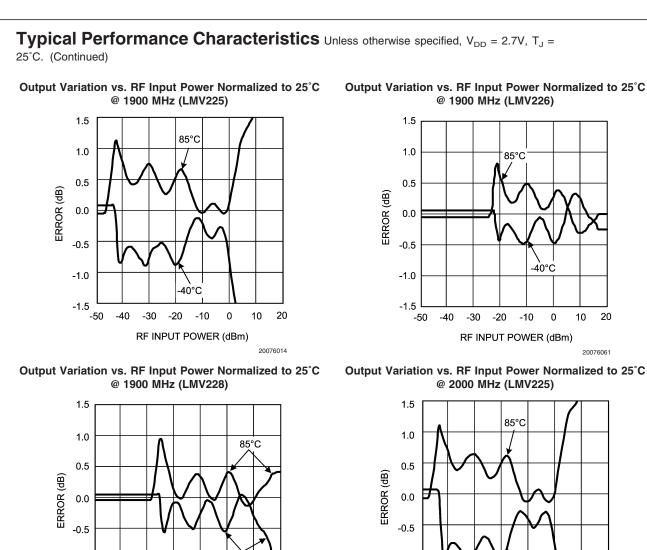
-50 -40 -30 -20 -10

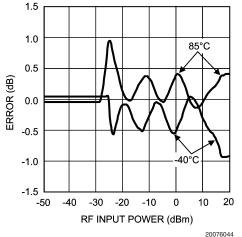
ERROR (dB)



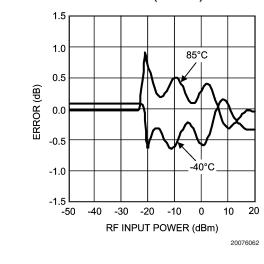
Output Variation vs. RF Input Power Normalized to 25°C @ 1800 MHz (LMV228)







Output Variation vs. RF Input Power Normalized to 25°C @ 2000 MHz (LMV226)



Output Variation vs. RF Input Power Normalized to 25°C @ 2000 MHz (LMV228)

40°C

RF INPUT POWER (dBm)

0

20

20076015

10

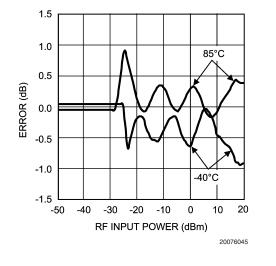
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-1.5

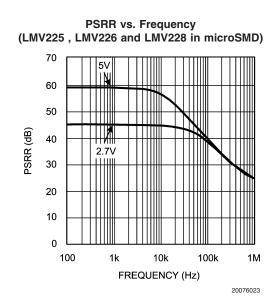
-50

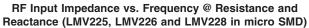
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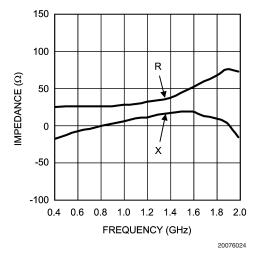
-30 -20 -10

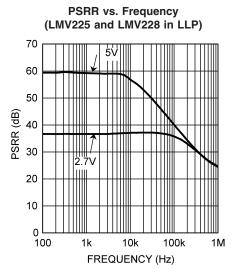


Typical Performance Characteristics Unless otherwise specified, $V_{DD} = 2.7V$, $T_{J} = 25^{\circ}C$. (Continued)

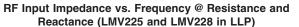


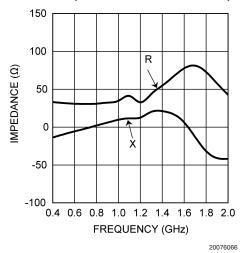












Application Notes

CONFIGURING A TYPICAL APPLICATION

The LMV225/LMV226/LMV228 are power detectors intended for CDMA and WCDMA applications. Power applied at its input translates to a DC voltage on the output through a linear-in-dB response. The LMV225 detector is especially suited for power measurements via a high-resistive tap, while the LMV226/LMV228 are designed to be used in combination with a directional coupler. The LMV226 has an additional output voltage buffer and therefore a low output impedance. The key features of the devices are shown in table 1.

TABLE 1. DEVICE	CHARACTERISTICS
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	Input Range (dBm)	Output Buffer	Application
LMV225	-30 / 0	No	High Resistive Tap
LMV226	–15 / 15	Yes	Directional Coupler
LMV228	–15 / 15	No	Directional Coupler

In order to match the output power range of the power amplifier (PA) with the range of the LMV225's input, the high resistive tap needs to be configured correctly. In case of the LMV226/LMV228 the coupling factor of the directional coupler needs to be chosen correctly.

HIGH RESISTIVE TAP APPLICATION

The constant input impedance of the device enables the realization of a frequency independent input attenuation to adjust the LMV225's range to the range of the PA. Resistor R_1 and the 50 Ω input resistance (R_{IN}) of the device realize this attenuation (*Figure 1*). To minimize insertion loss, resistor R_1 needs to be sufficiently large. The following example demonstrates how to determine the proper value for R_1 .

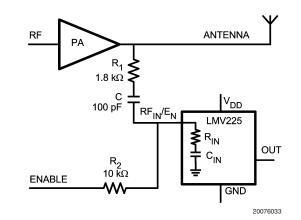


FIGURE 1. Typical LMV225 Application with High Resistive Tap

Suppose the useful output power of the PA ranges up to +31 dBm. As the LMV225 can handle input power levels up to 0 dBm. R₁ should realize a minimum attenuation of 31 - 0 = 31 dB. The attenuation realized by R₁ and the effective input resistance R_{IN} of the detector equals:

$$A_{dB} = 20 \cdot LOG \left[1 + \frac{R_1}{R_{IN}} \right] = 31 dB$$

Solving this expression for R_1 , using that $R_{IN} = 50\Omega$, yields:

$$R_{1} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{A_{dB}}{10^{20}} & 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot R_{IN} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{31}{10^{20}} & 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot 50 = 1724\Omega$$
(2)

In Figure 1, R_{1} is set to 1800Ω resulting in an attenuation of 31.4 dB

DIRECTIONAL COUPLER APPLICATION

The LMV226/LMV228 also has a 50 Ω input resistance. However, its input range differs compared to the LMV225, i.e. -15 dBm to +15 dBm. If a typical attenuation of a directional coupler is 20 dB, the LMV226/LMV228 can be directly connected via the directional coupler to the PA without the need of additional external attenuator (*Figure 2*). Different PA ranges can be configured using couplers with other coupling factors.

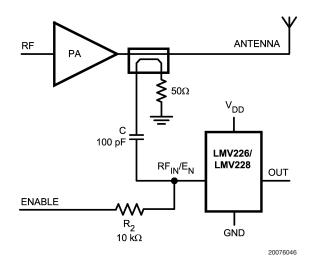


FIGURE 2. Typical LMV226/LMV228 Application with Directional Coupler

SHUTDOWN FUNCTIONALITY

The LMV225/LMV226/LMV228 $\text{RF}_{\text{IN}}/\text{E}_{\text{N}}$ pins have 2 functions combined:

- Enable/Shutdown
- Power input

The capacitor C and the resistor R_2 (*Figure 1* and *Figure 2*) separate the DC shutdown functionality from the AC power measurement. The device is active when Enable = HI, otherwise it is in a low power consumption shutdown mode. During shutdown the output will be LOW.

Capacitor C should be chosen sufficiently large to ensure a corner frequency far below the lowest input frequency to be measured. In case of the LMV225 the corner frequency can be calculated using:

$$= \frac{1}{2 \pi (R_1 + R_{IN})} \frac{C \cdot C_{IN}}{C + C_{IN}}$$

(3)

Where $R_{IN} = 50\Omega$, $C_{IN} = 45 \text{ pF}$ typical.

f

With $R_1 = 1800\Omega$ and C = 100 pF, this results in a corner frequency of 2.8 MHz. This corner frequency is an indicative

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(1)

Application Notes (Continued)

number. The goal is to have a magnitude transfer, which is sufficiently flat in the used frequency range; capacitor C should be chosen significantly larger than capacitor C_{IN} to assure a proper performance of the high resistive tap. Capacitor C shouldn't be chosen excessively large since the RC-time, it introduces in combination with resistor R_2 , adds to the turn-on time of the device.

The LMV226/LMV228 do not use a resistor R_1 like the LMV225. Though a resistor is seen on the coupler side ($R_{\rm COUPLER}$). Therefore a similar equation holds for the LMV226/LMV228 LF corner frequency, where R_1 is replaced with the coupler output impedance ($R_{\rm COUPLER}$).

With $R_{COUPLER}$ = 50 Ω and C = 100 pF, the resulting corner frequency is 50 MHz.

The output voltage is proportional to the logarithm of the input power, often called "linear-in-dB". *Figure 3* shows the typical output voltage versus PA output power of the LMV225 setup as depicted in *Figure 1*.

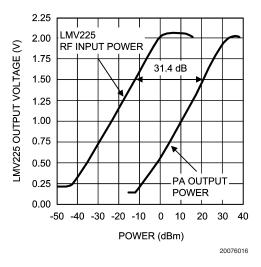


FIGURE 3. Typical power detector response, V_{OUT} vs. PA output Power

OUTPUT RIPPLE DUE TO AM MODULATION

A CDMA modulated carrier wave generally contains some amplitude modulation that might disturb the RF power measurement used for controlling the PA. This section explains the relation between amplitude modulation in the RF signal and the ripple on the output of the LMV225/LMV228. Expressions are provided to estimate this ripple on the output. The ripple can be further reduced by lowpass filtering at the output. This is realized by connecting an capacitor from the output of the LMV225/LMV228 to ground.

Estimating Output Ripple

The CDMA modulated RF input signal of *Figure 3* can be described as:

$$_{\rm IN}(t) = V_{\rm IN} \left[1 + \mu(t) \right] \cos \left(2 \cdot \pi \cdot f \cdot t \right) \tag{4}$$

In which V_{IN} is the amplitude of the carrier frequency and the amplitude modulation $\mu(t)$ can be between -1 and 1.

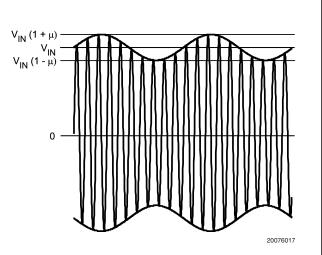


FIGURE 4. AM Modulated RF Signal

The ripple observed at the output of the detector equals the detectors response to the power variation at the input due to AM modulation (*Figure 4*). This signal has a maximum amplitude V_{IN} • (1+µ) and a minimum amplitude V_{IN} • (1-µ), where 1+µ can be maximum 2 and 1-µ can be minimum 0. The amplitude of the ripple can be described with the formula:

$$V_{RIPPLE} = V_{Y} \left[10 \text{ LOG} \left[\frac{V_{IN}^{2} (1 + \mu)^{2}}{2R_{IN}} \right] + 30 \right] - V_{Y} \left[10 \text{ LOG} \left[\frac{V_{IN}^{2} (1 - \mu)^{2}}{2R_{IN}} \right] + 30 \right]$$

$$P_{INMAX} \text{ IN dBm} \qquad P_{INMIN} \text{ IN dBm}$$
(5)

where V_Y is the slope of the detection curve (*Figure 5*) and μ is the modulation index. *Equation (5)* can be reduced to:

$$V_{RIPPLE} = V_{Y} \cdot 20 \ LOG\left[\frac{1+\mu}{1-\mu}\right]$$

Consequently, the ripple is independent of the average input power of the RF input signal and only depends on the logarithmic slope V_Y and the ratio of the maximum and the minimum input signal amplitude.

For CDMA, the ratio of the maximum and the minimum input signal amplitude modulation is typically in the order of 5 to 6 dB, which is equivalent to a modulation index μ of 0.28 to 0.33.

A further understanding of the equation above can be achieved via the knowledge that the output voltage V_{OUT} of the LMV225/LMV228 is linear in dB, or proportional to the input power P_{IN} in dBm. As discussed earlier, CDMA has a modulation in the order of 5 to 6 dB. Since the transfer is linear in dB, the output voltage V_{OUT} will vary linearly over about 5 to 6 dB in the curve (*Figure 5*).

(6)

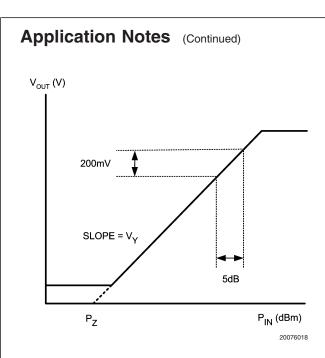


FIGURE 5. VOUT vs. RF Input Power PIN

The output voltage variation ΔV_{OUT} is thus identical for RF input signals that fall within the linear range (in dB) of the detector. In other words, the output variation is independent of the absolute RF input signal:

$$\Delta V_{\rm O} = V_{\rm Y} \cdot \Delta P_{\rm IN} \tag{7}$$

In which V_Yis the slope of the curve. The log-conformance error is usually much smaller than the ripple due to AM modulation. In case of the LMV225/LMV228, V_Y = 40 mV/dB. With ΔP_{IN} = 5 dB for CDMA, ΔV_{OUT} = 200 mV_{PP}. This is valid for all V_{OUT}.

Output Ripple with Additional Filtering

The calculated result above is for an unfiltered configuration. When a low pass filter is used by shunting a capacitor of e.g. $C_{OUT} = 1.5$ nF at the output of the LMV225/LMV228 to ground, this ripple is further attenuated. The cut-off frequency follows from:

$$f_{\rm C} = \frac{1}{2 \pi C_{\rm OUT} R_{\rm O}}$$

With the output resistance of the LMV225/LMV228 $R_{\rm O}$ = 19.8 k Ω typical and $C_{\rm OUT}$ = 1.5 nF, the cut-off frequency equals $f_{\rm C}$ = 5.36 kHz. A 100 kHz AM signal then gets attenuated by 5.36/100 or 25.4 dB. The remaining ripple will be less than 20 mV. With a slope of 40 mV/dB this translates into an error of less than ± 0.5 dB. Since the LMV226 has a low output impedance buffer, a capacitor to reduce the ripple will not be effective.

Output Ripple Measurement

Figure 6 shows the ripple reduction that can be achieved by adding additional capacitance at the output of the LMV225/LMV228. The RF signal of 900 MHz is AM modulated with a 100 kHz sinewave and a modulation index of 0.3. The RF input power is swept while the modulation index remains unchanged. Without the output capacitor the ripple is about 200 mV_{PP}. Connecting a capacitor of 1.5 nF at the output to ground, results in a ripple of 12 mV_{PP}. The attenuation with

a 1.5 nF capacitor is then $20 \cdot \log (200/12) = 24.4$ dB. This is very close to the calculated number of the previous paragraph.

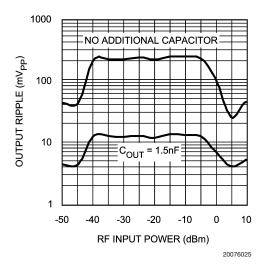


FIGURE 6. Output Ripple vs. RF Input Power

PRINCIPLE OF OPERATION

The logarithmic response of the LMV225/LMV226/LMV228 is implemented by a logarithmic amplifier as shown in *Figure* 7. The logarithmic amplifier consists of a number of cascaded linear gain cells. With these gain cells, a piecewise approximation of the logarithmic function is constructed.

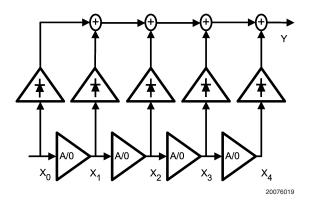


FIGURE 7. Logarithmic Amplifier

Every gain cell has a response according to *Figure 8*. At a certain threshold ($E_{\rm K}$), the gain cell starts to saturate, which means that the gain drops to zero. The output of gain cell 1 is connected to the input of gain cell 2 and so on.

(8)

Application Notes (Continued)

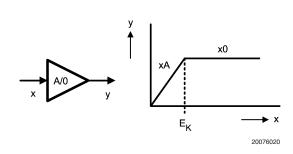


FIGURE 8. Gain Cell

All gain cell outputs are AM-demodulated with a peak detector and summed together. This results in a logarithmic function. The logarithmic range is about:

 $20 \cdot n \cdot \log(A)$

where,

n = number of gain cells

A = gain per gaincell

Figure 9 shows a logarithmic function on a linear scale and the piecewise approximation of the logarithmic function.

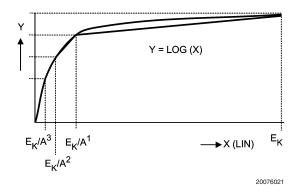


FIGURE 9. Log-Function on Lin Scale

Figure 10 shows a logarithmic function on a logarithmic scale and the piecewise approximation of the logarithmic function.

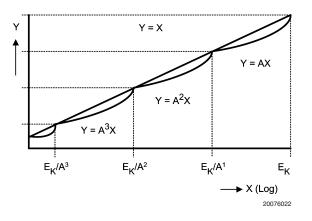


FIGURE 10. Log-Function on Log Scale

The maximum error for this approximation occurs at the geometric mean of a gain section, which is e.g. for the third segment:

$$\sqrt{\frac{\mathsf{E}_{\mathsf{K}}}{\mathsf{A}^2}} \cdot \frac{\mathsf{E}_{\mathsf{K}}}{\mathsf{A}^1} = \frac{\mathsf{E}_{\mathsf{K}}}{\mathsf{A}\sqrt{\mathsf{A}}}$$

(9)

The size of the error increases with distance between the thresholds.

LAYOUT CONSIDERATIONS

For a proper functioning part a good board layout is necessary. Special care should be taken for the series resistance R_1 (*Figure 1*) that determines the attenuation. For high resistor values the parasitic capacitance of the resistor may significantly impact the realized attenuation. The effective attenuation will be lower than intended. To reduce the parasitic capacitance across resistor R_1 , this resistor can be composed of several components in series instead of using a single component.

