

Real-World CMOS RF Transceivers Course

The “CMOS RF Transceivers - Challenges & Solutions” online short-course, held in September 2023, attracted a worldwide participation of 100 analog design engineers and research students from 23 countries, across 5 continents and 19 time-zones, where Prof. Thomas Cho (KAIST) kindly shared his deep understanding of RF circuits and systems design as well as invaluable practical considerations for product design. There was tremendous Q&A participation during the online sessions with additional Q&A on the offline discussion forums.

The countries represented at this intercontinental course were: Japan, China, S. Korea, Singapore, India, Israel, Egypt, Greece, Italy, Austria, Germany, Poland, Sweden, Belgium, Netherlands, Switzerland, Portugal, England, Scotland, Ireland, Canada, USA and Brazil.

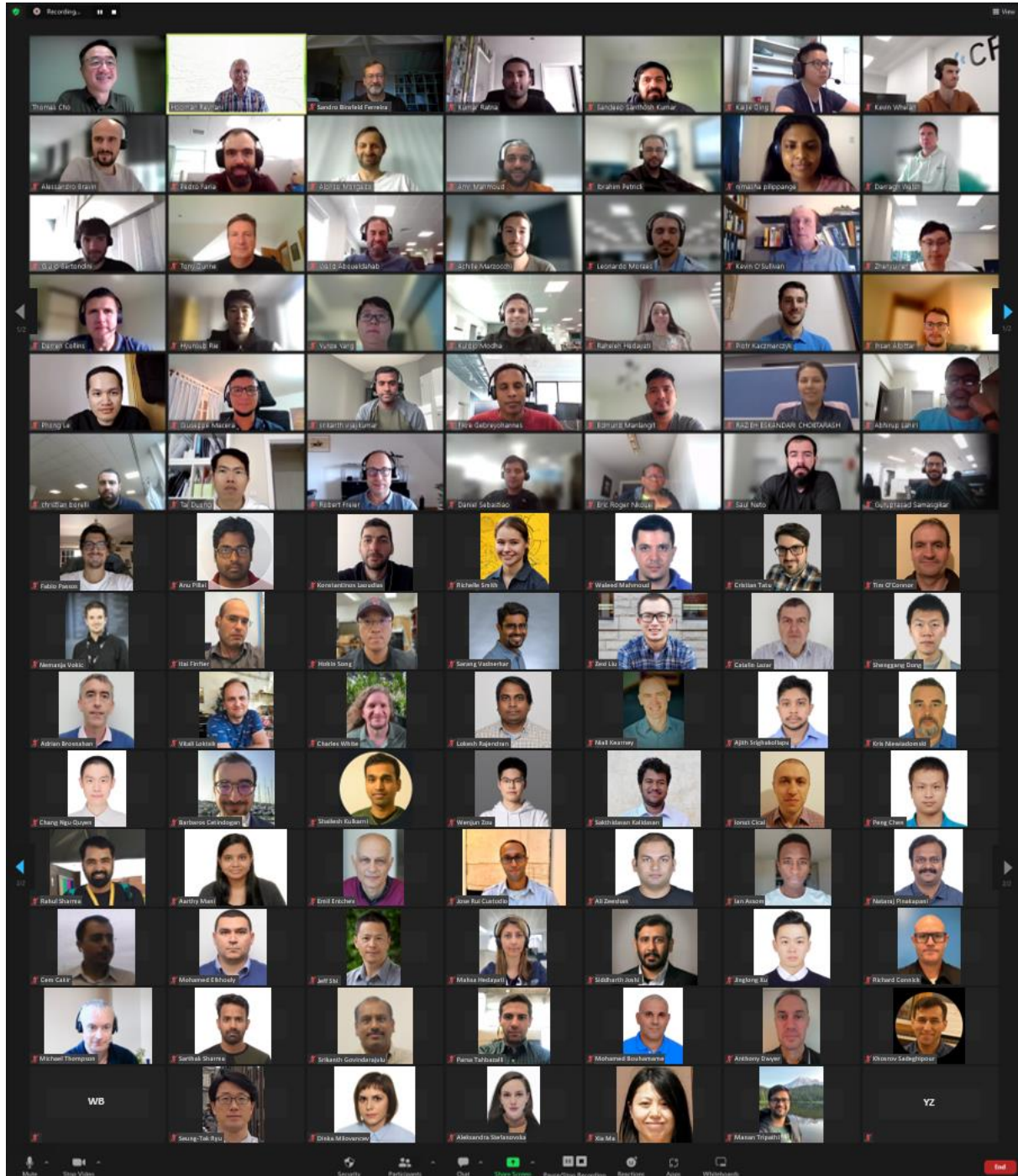
The course provided a comprehensive overview of CMOS RF transceiver design, ranging from relevant signal processing concepts to real-world case studies, identifying the design challenges and the discussion of circuit and system solutions when designing practical CMOS RF transceivers.

The main topics included: Review of basic signal processing concepts; Evolution of CMOS RF transceiver architectures; Transceiver design deep-dive; Rx & Tx key specification, understanding and system performance; Practical design consideration; Multi-band Receiver (Case Study); IoT SoC (Case Study); FR2 Chipset (Case Study); Future challenges.

The screenshot shows a presentation slide titled "CMOS Power Amplifier Architecture". On the left is a circuit diagram of an RF-PA. It features two stacked CMOS differential pairs. The bottom pair is driven by V_{cg1} and has RF inputs RF_{in+} and RF_{in-} . Its output is connected to an Adaptive Biasing (ADB) block, which is controlled by V_{cs2} and V_{cs1} . The ADB block's output is connected to the gates of the top differential pair, which is driven by V_{cg2} and has an output RF_{out} . The top pair is connected to a load network and a PV_{BB} supply. To the right of the diagram are three bullet points: "23dBm transmitting output power", "Configured Two stages" (with sub-bullets: "High voltage gain in a drive stage" and "Required power gain in a power stage"), and "Adaptive biasing (ADB) for PA linearity improvement" (with sub-bullet: "Consisting of an attenuator, a power detector, an operational amplifier"). A fourth bullet point, "Power-cell slicing for PA efficiency improvement", is underlined in blue. A hand-drawn graph shows P_{out} vs P_{in} with a linear region and a saturation region. A small video inset shows Prof. Thomas Cho. The slide number "10" is at the bottom right.

Prof. Thomas Byunghak Cho (KAIST), course presenter, talked about CMOS RF Transceivers at an online course hosted by Hooman Reyhani, Ireland.

Prof. Cho is currently an Invited Professor at the School of Electrical Engineering at the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) in S. Korea. He was previously with Level One (USA) and Wireless Interface (USA). In 2004 he joined Marvell Semiconductor (USA) and in 2012 Samsung Electronics (S. Korea). His technical interests include RF/analog/mixed-signal circuit design for wireless/wireline communication and analog-to-digital interface circuits for sensor applications. Dr. Cho has authored or co-authored over 40 journal articles and conference papers and holds more than 40 patents. He is an IEEE Fellow.



The lecturer, organizer and many of the participants of the **"CMOS RF Transceivers – Challenges & Solutions"** online course, September 2023.

The feedback from the course participants was very positive. One participant wrote, *"High quality in all aspects, from the professor engagement & delivery, to the course material, homework assignments and the overall course organization"*. Another said, *"Case studies build well on the material (from first half of the course) and show the practical considerations and trade-offs when designing for a real application"*. While another commented, *"Sessions being recorded means it can be played back and paused. This enhances the learning outcome for me. It also means that I can catch up if I miss a lecture due to work commitments"*.

For more information about these courses, please visit <https://hoomanreyhani.com/>.

— Hooman Reyhani