Keysight HMMC-1015
DC–50 GHz Variable Attenuator
1GG7-8008

Data Sheet

Features

- Specified frequency range: DC to 26.5 GHz
- $P_{\text{in}}$ (-1 dB): 27 dBm @ 500 MHz
- Return loss: 10 dB
- Minimum attenuation: 2.0 dB
- Maximum attenuation: 30.0 dB
Description

The HMMC-1015 is a monolithic, voltage variable, GaAs IC attenuator that operates from DC to 50 GHz. The distributed topology of the HMMC-1015 minimizes the parasitic effects of its series and shunt FETs, allowing the HMMC-1015 to exhibit a wide dynamic range across its full bandwidth. An on-chip DC reference circuit may be used to maintain optimum VSWR for any attenuation setting or to improve the attenuation versus voltage linearity of the attenuator circuit.

Absolute Maximum Ratings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Parameters/conditions</th>
<th>Minimum</th>
<th>Maximum</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$V_{DC-RF}$</td>
<td>DC voltage to RF ports</td>
<td>-0.6</td>
<td>+1.6</td>
<td>Volts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$V_1$</td>
<td>$V_1$ control voltage</td>
<td>-10.5</td>
<td>+0.5</td>
<td>Volts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$V_2$</td>
<td>$V_2$ control voltage</td>
<td>-10.5</td>
<td>+0.5</td>
<td>Volts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$V_{DC}$</td>
<td>DC in/DC out</td>
<td>-0.6</td>
<td>+1.0</td>
<td>Volts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$P_{in}$</td>
<td>RF input power</td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
<td>dBm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$T_{mina}$</td>
<td>Minimum ambient operating temperature</td>
<td>-55</td>
<td></td>
<td>°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$T_{maxa}$</td>
<td>Maximum ambient operating temperature</td>
<td>+125</td>
<td></td>
<td>°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$T_{stg}$</td>
<td>Storage temperature</td>
<td>-65</td>
<td>+165</td>
<td>°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$T_{max}$</td>
<td>Maximum assembly temperature (for 60 seconds maximum)</td>
<td>+300</td>
<td></td>
<td>°C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Operation in excess of any one of these conditions may result in permanent damage to this device.
DC Specifications/Physical Properties

\((T_A = 25 \degree C)\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Parameters/conditions</th>
<th>Minimum</th>
<th>Typical</th>
<th>Maximum</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(I_{V1})</td>
<td>(V_1) control current, ((V_1 = \text{-10 V}))</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>mA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(I_{V2})</td>
<td>(V_2) control current, ((V_2 = \text{-10 V}))</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>mA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(V_p)</td>
<td>Pinch-off voltage</td>
<td>-6.75</td>
<td>-5.0</td>
<td>-3.75</td>
<td>Volts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electrical Specifications\(^1\)

\((T_A = 25 \degree C, Z_0 = 50 \Omega)\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameters/conditions</th>
<th>Frequency (GHz)</th>
<th>Minimum</th>
<th>Typical</th>
<th>Maximum</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimum attenuation, (</td>
<td>S_{21}</td>
<td>) ((V_1 = 0 \text{ V}, V_2 = \text{-10 V}))</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>dB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>dB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26.5</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>dB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td></td>
<td>dB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Input/output return loss @ minimum attenuation setting, ((V_1 = 0 \text{ V}, V_2 = \text{-10 V}))</td>
<td>(&lt; 26.5)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>dB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(&lt; 50.0)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td>dB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum attenuation (</td>
<td>S_{21}</td>
<td>) ((V_1 = \text{-10 V}, V_2 = 0 \text{ V}))</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>dB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>dB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26.5</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>dB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>35</td>
<td></td>
<td>dB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(P_{-1 \text{dB}}) @ minimum attenuation</td>
<td>300 kHz</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td></td>
<td>dBm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(&gt; 500 \text{ MHz})</td>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
<td>dBm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Input/output return loss @ maximum attention setting, ((V_1 = \text{-0 V}, V_2 = 0 \text{ V}))</td>
<td>(&lt; 26.5)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>dB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(&lt; 50.0)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td>dB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DC power dissipation, ((V_1 = \text{-10.5 V}, V_2 = \text{-10.5 V})) (does not include input signals)</td>
<td></td>
<td>158</td>
<td></td>
<td>mW</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) Attenuation is a positive number; whereas, \(S_{21}\) as measured on a network analyzer would be a negative number.
Applications

The HMMC-1015 is designed to be used as a gain control block in an ALC assembly. Because of its wide dynamic range and return loss performance, the HMMC-1015 may also be used as a broadband pulse modulator or single-pole single-throw, non-reflective switch.

Operation

The attenuation value of the HMMC-1002 is adjusted by applying negative voltage to $V_2$. At any attenuation setting, optimum VSWR is obtained by applying negative voltage to $V_1$. Applying negative voltage ($V_2$) to the gates of the shunt FETs sets the source-to-drain resistance and establishes the attenuation level. Applying negative voltage ($V_1$) to the gates of the series FETs optimizes the input and output match for different attenuation settings. In some applications, a single setting of $V_1$ may provide sufficient input and output match over the desired attenuation range ($V_2$). For any HMMC-1015 the values of $V_1$ may be adjusted so that the device attenuation versus voltage is monotonic for both $V_1$ and $V_2$; however, this will slightly degrade the input and output return loss.

The attenuation and input/output match of the HMMC-1015 may also be controlled using only a single input voltage by utilizing the on-chip DC reference circuit and the driver circuit shown in Figure 4. This circuit optimizes VSWR for any attenuation setting. Because of process variations, the values of $V_{REF}$, $R_{REF}$, and $R_L$ are different for each wafer if optimum performance is required. Typical values for these elements are given. The ratio of the resistors $R_1$ and $R_2$ determines the sensitivity of the attenuation versus voltage performance of the attenuator. For more information on the performance of the HMMC-1015 and the driver circuits previously mentioned, see WPTC’s Application Note, HMMC-1021 Attenuator: Attenuation Control, literature number 5991-3555EN. For more S-parameter information, see WPTC’s Application Note, HMMC-1015 Attenuator: S-Parameters, literature number 5991-3556EN.

Assembly Techniques

GaAs MMICs are ESD sensitive. ESD preventive measures must be employed in all aspects of storage, handling, and assembly.

MMIC ESD precautions, handling considerations, die attach and bonding methods are critical factors in successful GaAs MMIC performance and reliability.

Keysight Technologies, Inc. application note, GaAs MMIC ESD, Die Attach and Bonding Guidelines, literature number 5991-3484EN, provides basic information on these subjects.
Figure 1. Schematic

Figure 2. Bonding pad locations

Figure 3. Assembly diagram

Notes:
1) All dimensions in microns and shown to center of bond pad.
2) DC_in, V_1, DC_out, and V_2 bonding pads are 75 x 75 microns.
3) RF input and output bonding pads are 60 x 70 microns.
4) Chip thickness: 127 ± 15 µm.
Typical Performance

1. Data obtained from on-wafer measurements. T_{chuck} = 25 °C.
Typical Temperature Performance

Figure 7. Attenuation vs. temperature @ minimum attenuation

Figure 8. Attenuation vs. temperature @ maximum attenuation

This data sheet contains a variety of typical and guaranteed performance data. The information supplied should not be interpreted as a complete list of circuit specifications. Customers considering the use of this, or other Keysight GaAs ICs, for their design should obtain the current production specifications from Keysight. In this data sheet the term typical refers to the 50th percentile performance. For additional information contact Keysight MMIC_Helpline@Keysight.com.

1. Data taken with the device mounted in connectorized package
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Published in USA, December 1, 2017
5989-6202EN
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