Table of Content

1 Introduction **1**
- 1.1 Radio and microwave amplification technologies . . . 2
  - 1.1.1 KI-TWPAs . . . 3
- 1.2 Mathematical model of KI-TWPAs . . . 5
- 1.3 Identification of the problem . . . 6
- 1.4 Hypothesis . . . 6
- 1.5 Objectives of the thesis . . . 6
- 1.6 Outline of the thesis . . . 7

2 Theoretical framework **8**
- 2.1 Parametric Amplification . . . 8
- 2.2 Superconductors . . . 10
- 2.3 Transmission Lines . . . 12
  - 2.3.1 Basics . . . 12
  - 2.3.2 Geometries . . . 14
  - 2.3.3 Superconductors instead of conductors . . . 17
  - 2.3.4 Dispersion engineered transmission lines . . . 19
- 2.4 Four-wave-mixing . . . 23
- 2.5 Multiple scales method . . . 24
- 2.6 Summary . . . 25

3 Solution to the non-linear wave equation in four-wave-mixing **27**
- 3.1 Models and zones . . . 27
- 3.2 Solution to each model . . . 28
- 3.3 Pump alone (p case) . . . 29
- 3.4 Target signal and pump ($s-p$ case) . . . 30
- 3.5 Inclusion of the idler signal ($s-p-i$ case) . . . 31
- 3.6 Inclusion of $3\omega_p$ ($s-p-i-3p$ case) . . . 31
- 3.7 Important remarks . . . 32
- 3.8 General considerations . . . 32
- 3.9 Summary . . . 33

4 CPW simulations: zones and models **34**
- 4.1 Design . . . 34
- 4.2 Pump frequency near 2^{nd} stopband . . . 36
- 4.3 Pump frequency near 1^{st} stopband . . . 44

4.4 Conclusions 45

5 Microstrip simulations: a design guide **47**
5.1 Step 1: obtain large $\delta\beta$ 47
5.2 Step 2: suppress $3\omega_p$ with ω_p in zone 3 where the non-linear term is larger than RG term 49
5.3 Gain results 52
5.4 Conclusions 54

6 Artificial-CPW simulations: for future experimental validation of the models **56**
6.1 Pump frequency near 1^{st} stopband 56
6.2 Conclusions 58

Conclusions and future work **64**

Bibliography **65**

A Derivation of models **69**
A.1 Definition of zones (step 1) 69
A.2 Derivation of the amplitude equations 72
A.2.1 Step 2 72
A.2.2 Step 3 72
A.2.3 Step 4 73
A.2.4 Step 5 73