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(54) **POWER AMPLIFIER**

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(71) Applicant: **Mitsubishi Electric Corporation,**
Tokyo (JP)

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(72) Inventor: **Takao HARUNA,** Tokyo (JP)

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(73) Assignee: **Mitsubishi Electric Corporation,**
Tokyo (JP)

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

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A plurality of transmission lines (3b,3c) are connected to a transistor (1) and have different characteristic impedances. A plurality of open stubs (4a,4b) are connected to the plurality of transmission lines (3b,3c) respectively. A length of each open stub (4a,4b) is shorter than a length of each transmission line (3b,3c).

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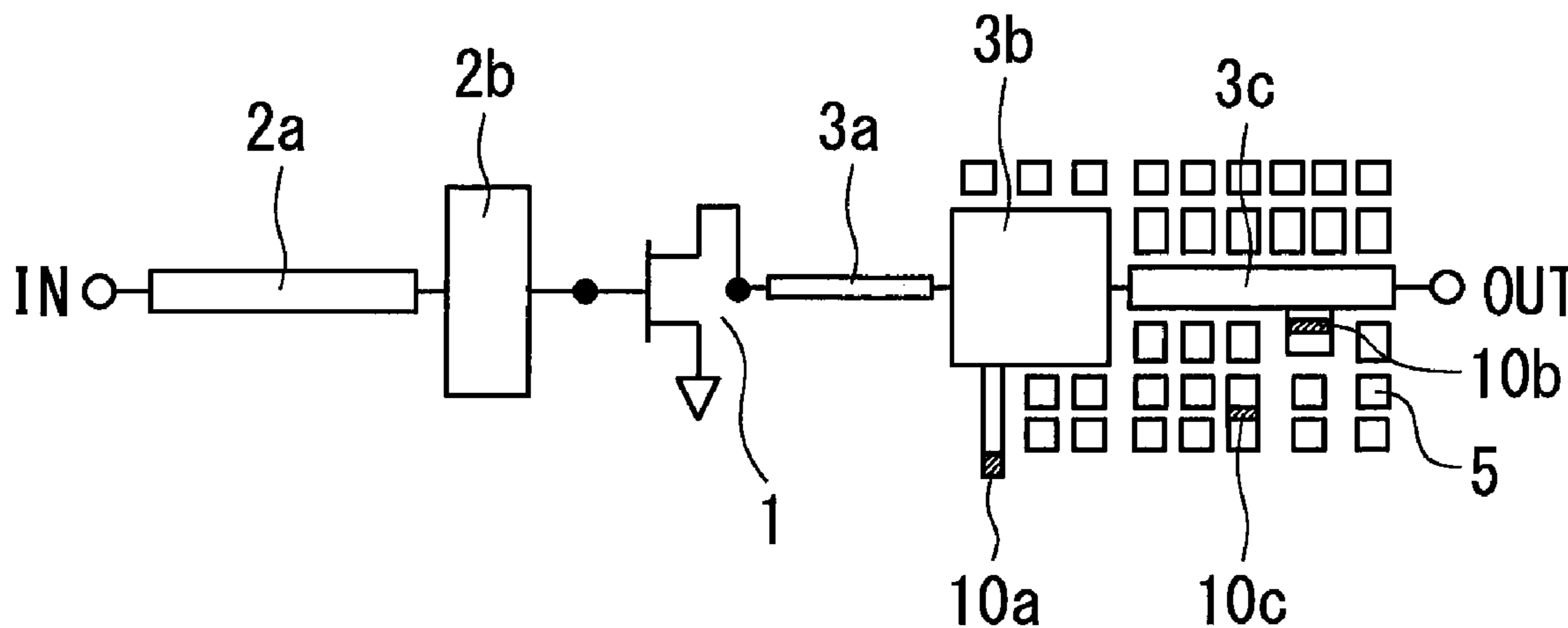


FIG. 1

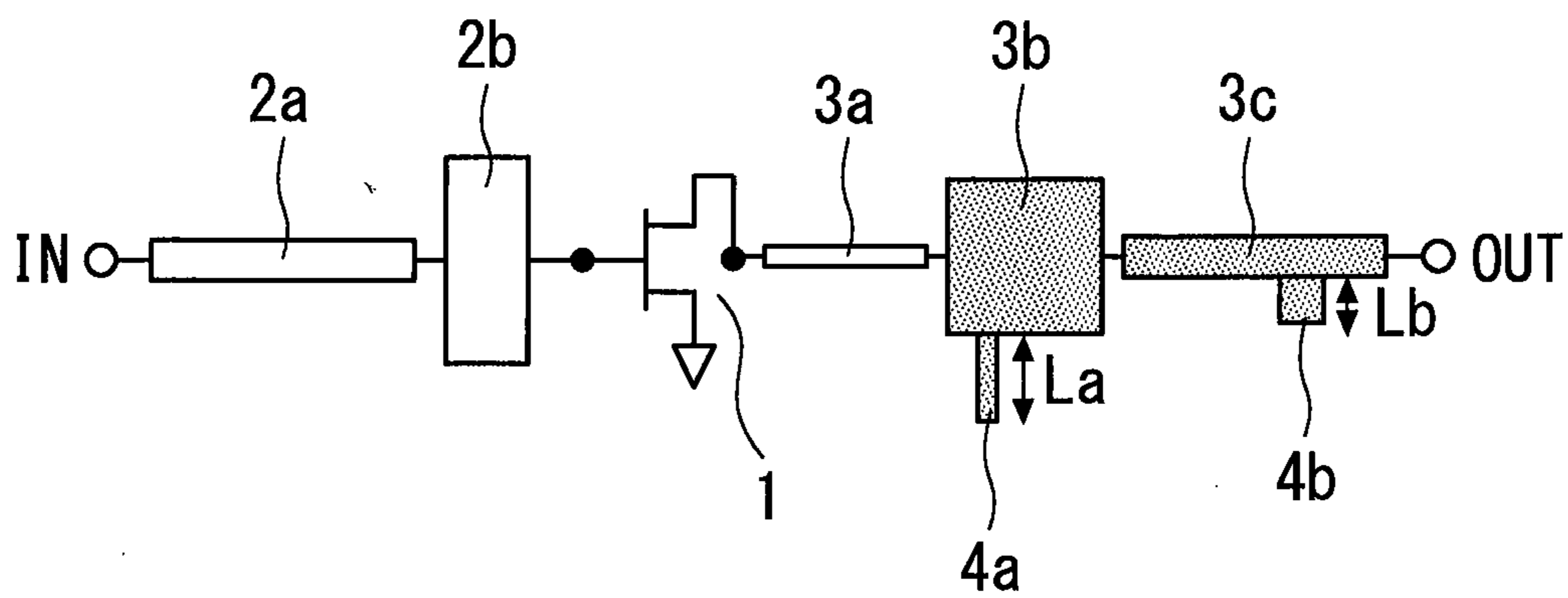


FIG. 2

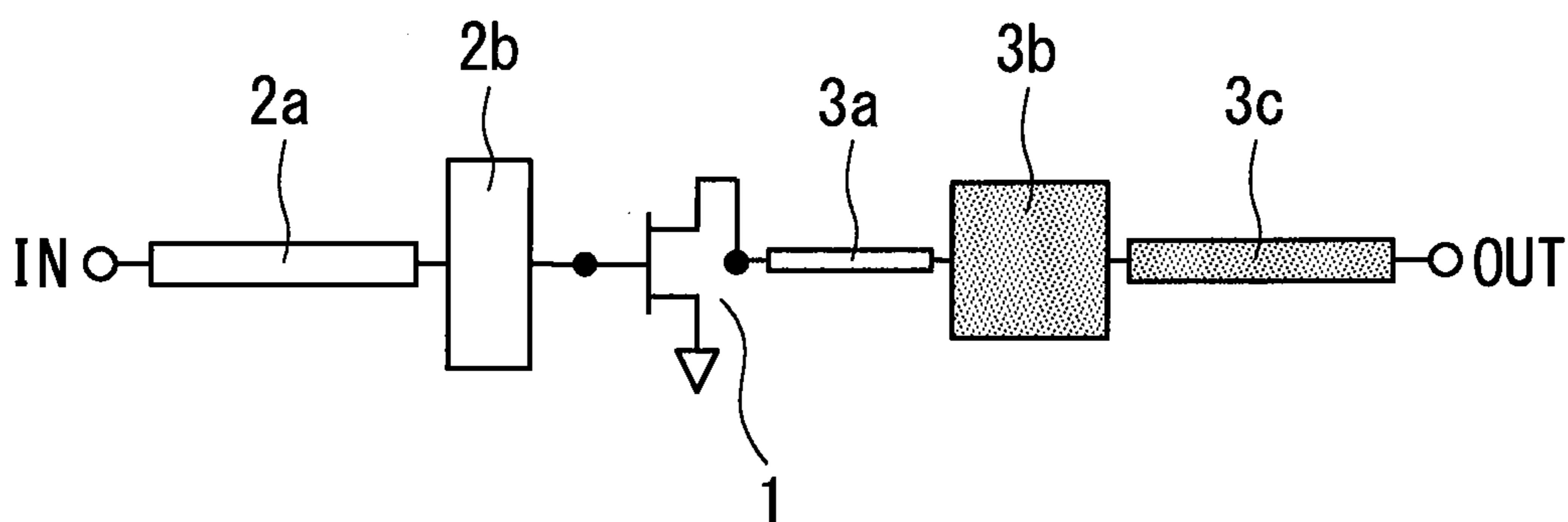
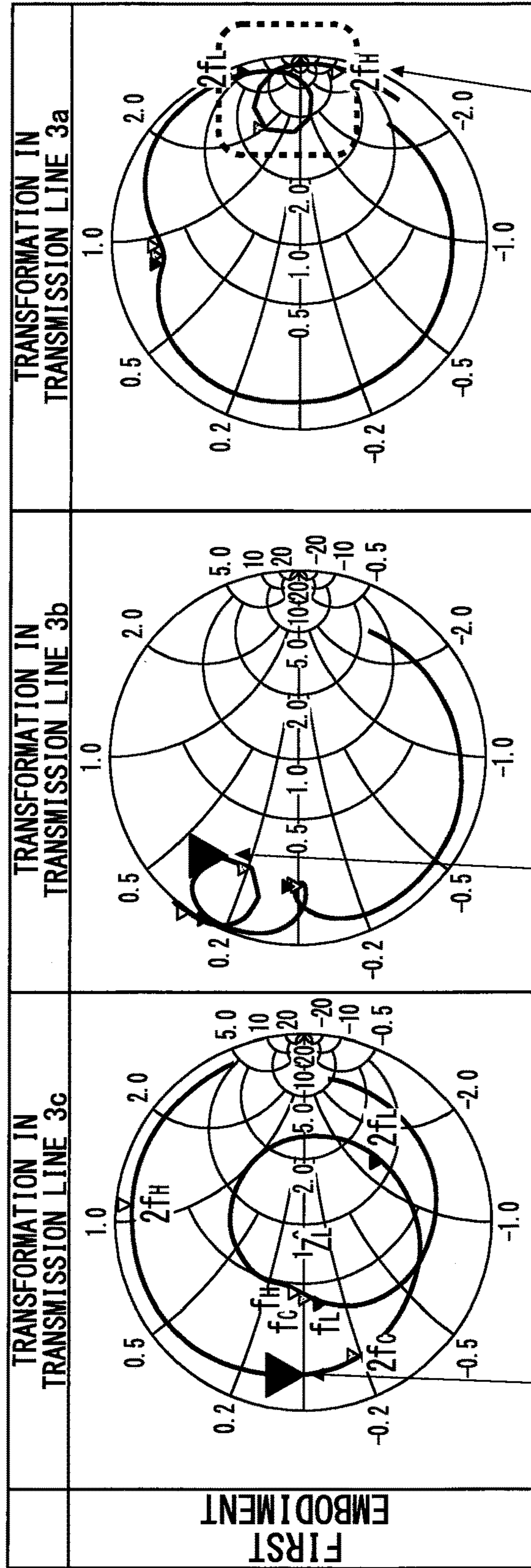


FIG. 3



LENGTH OF OPEN STUB 4b IS $\lambda_{2f_c} / 4 \sim \lambda_{2f_H} / 4$

LENGTH OF OPEN STUB 4a IS $\lambda_{2f_L} / 4 \sim \lambda_{2f_c} / 4$

RESONANCE OCCURS BETWEEN $\lambda_{2f_L} / 4$ AND $\lambda_{2f_H} / 4$

FIG. 4

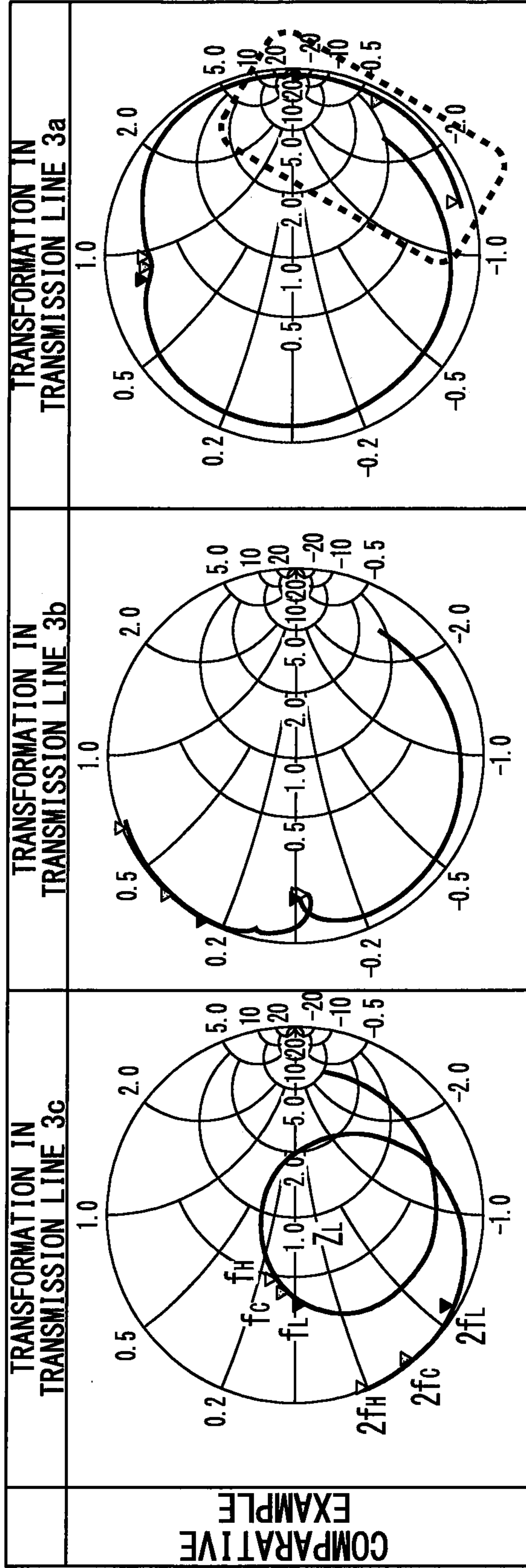


FIG. 5

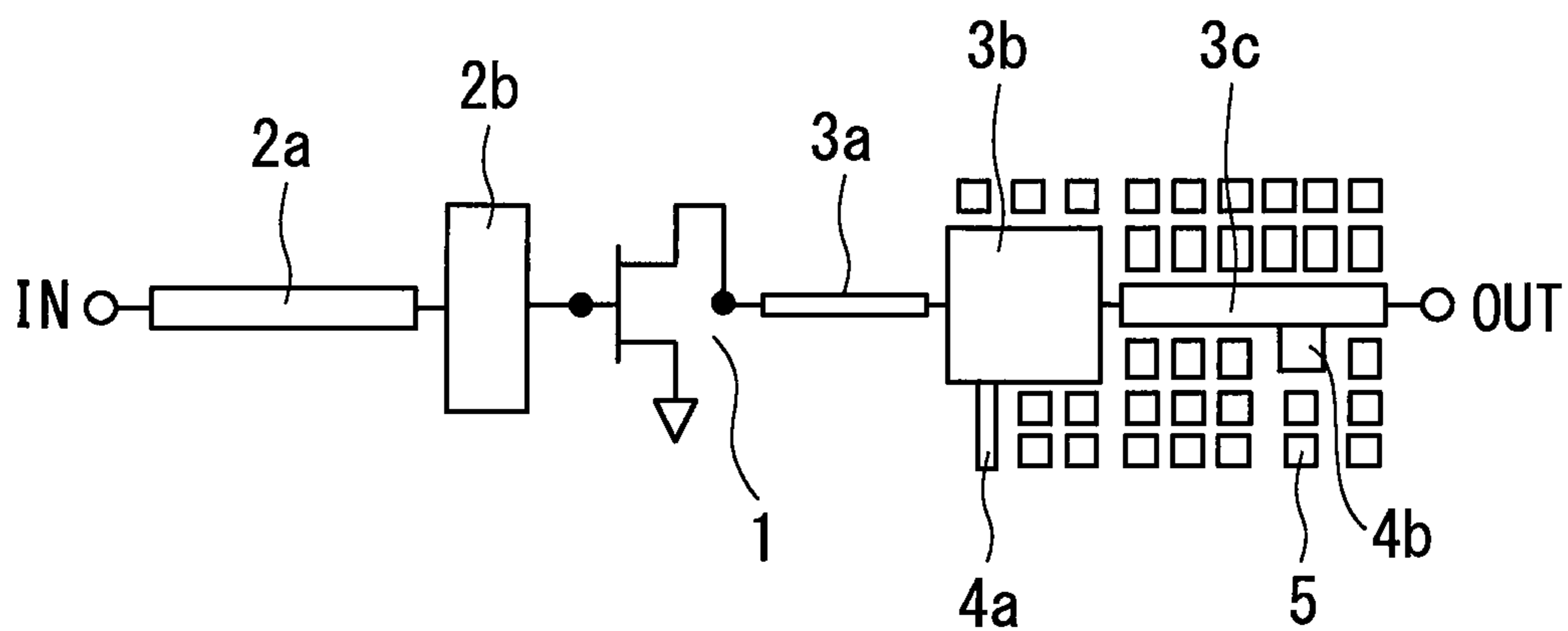


FIG. 6

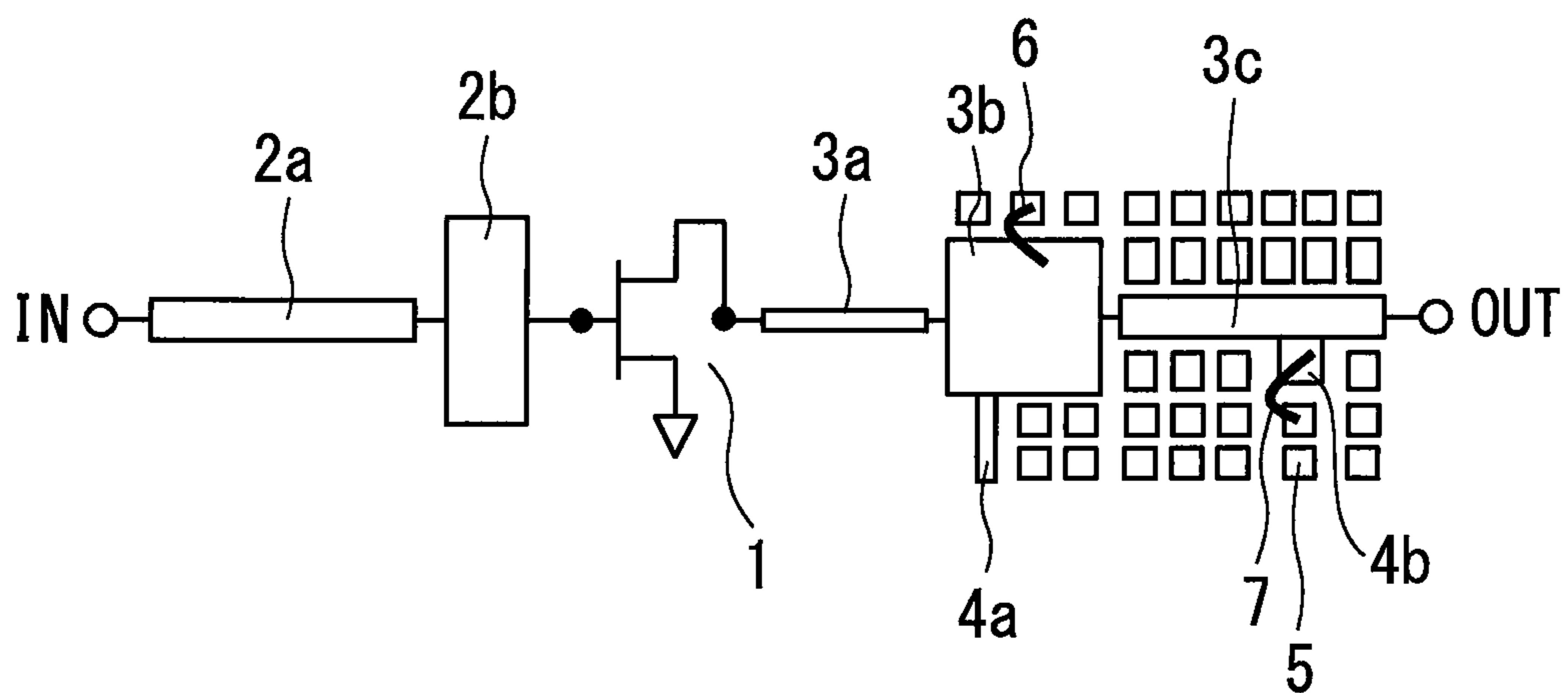


FIG. 7

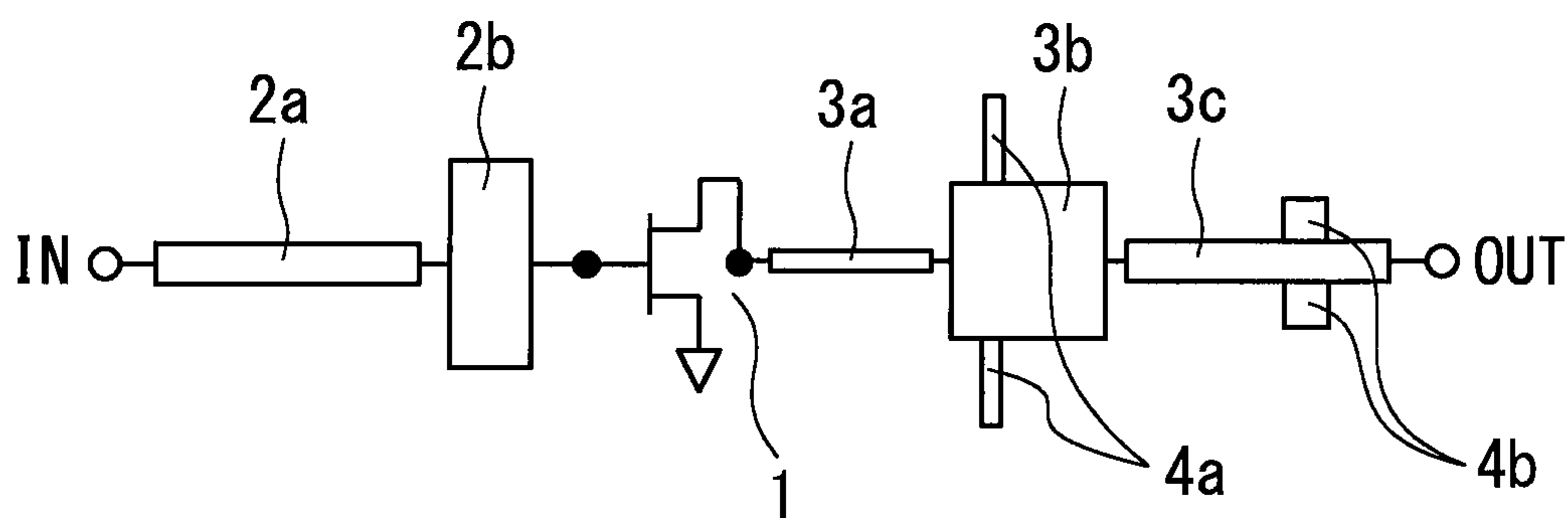


FIG. 8

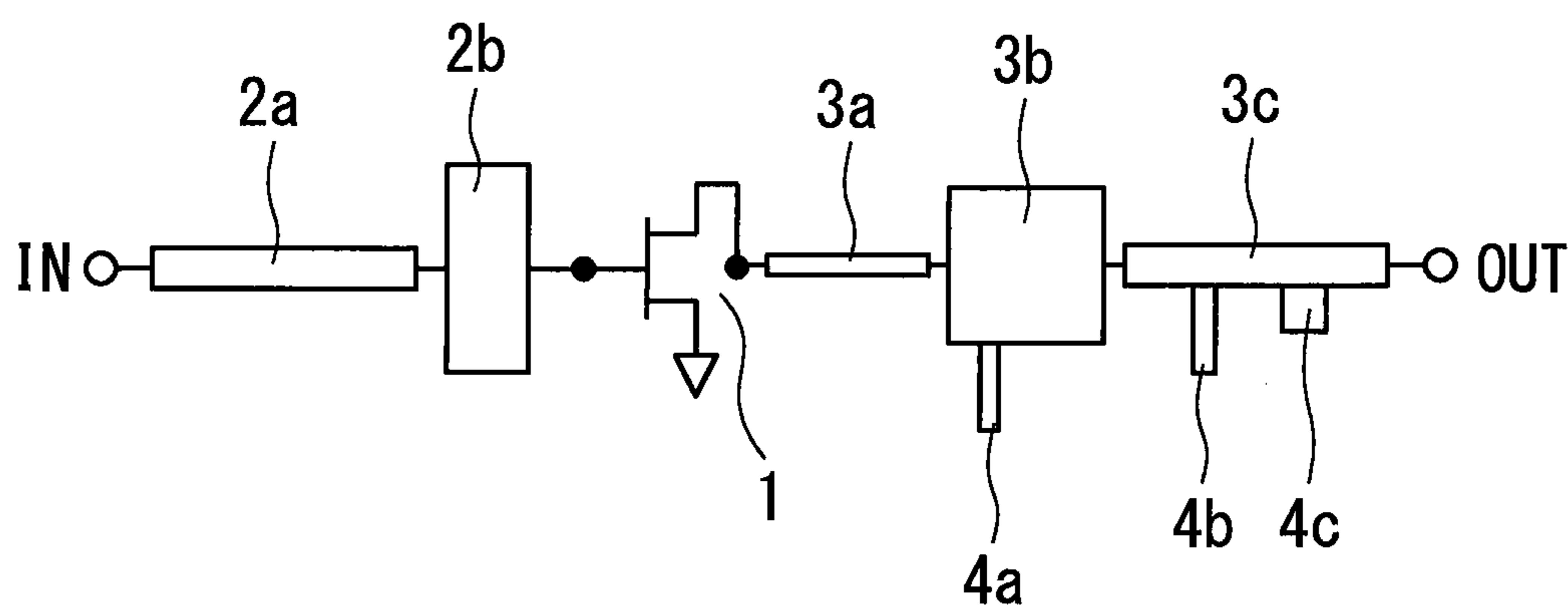


FIG. 9

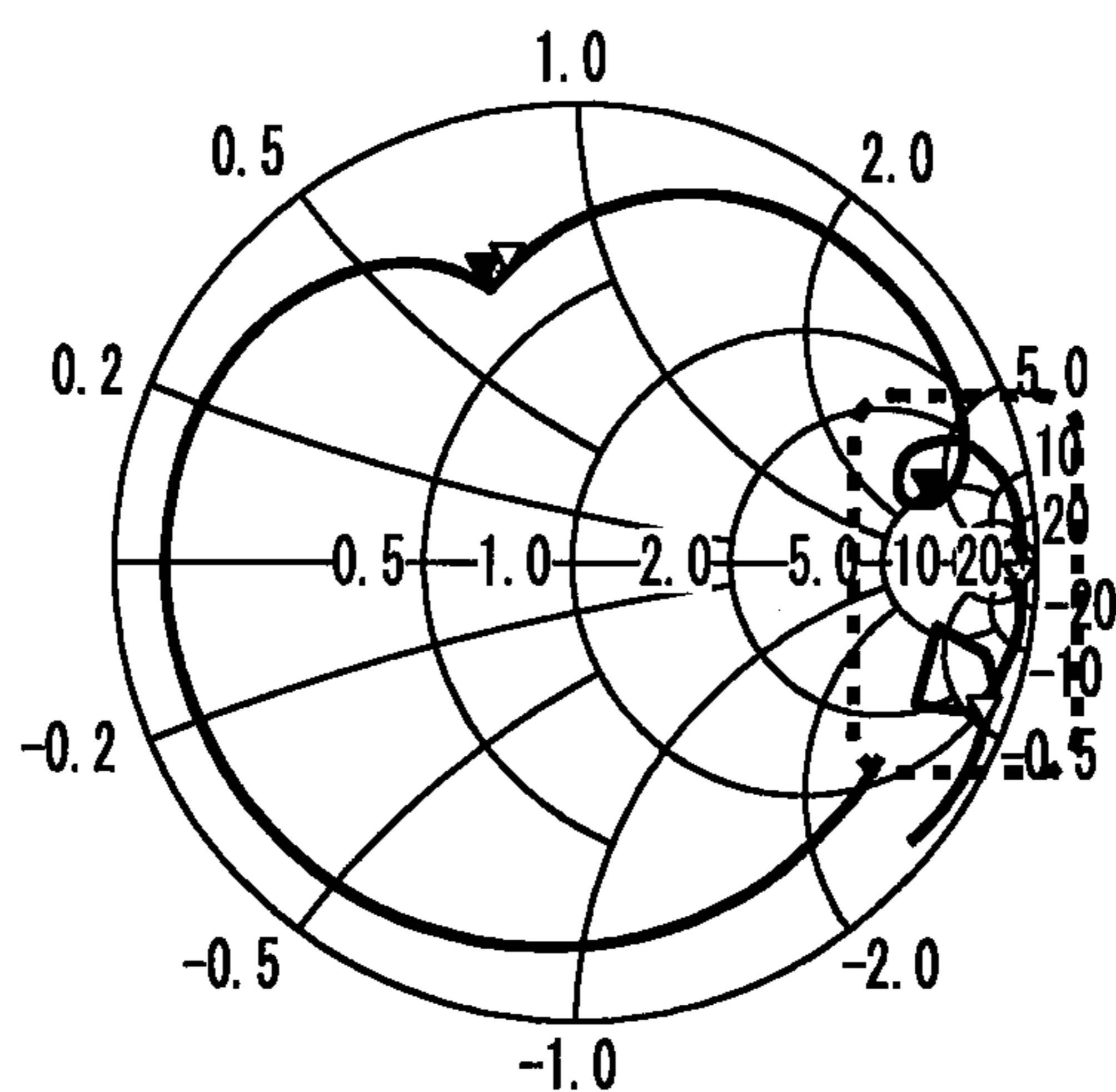


FIG. 10

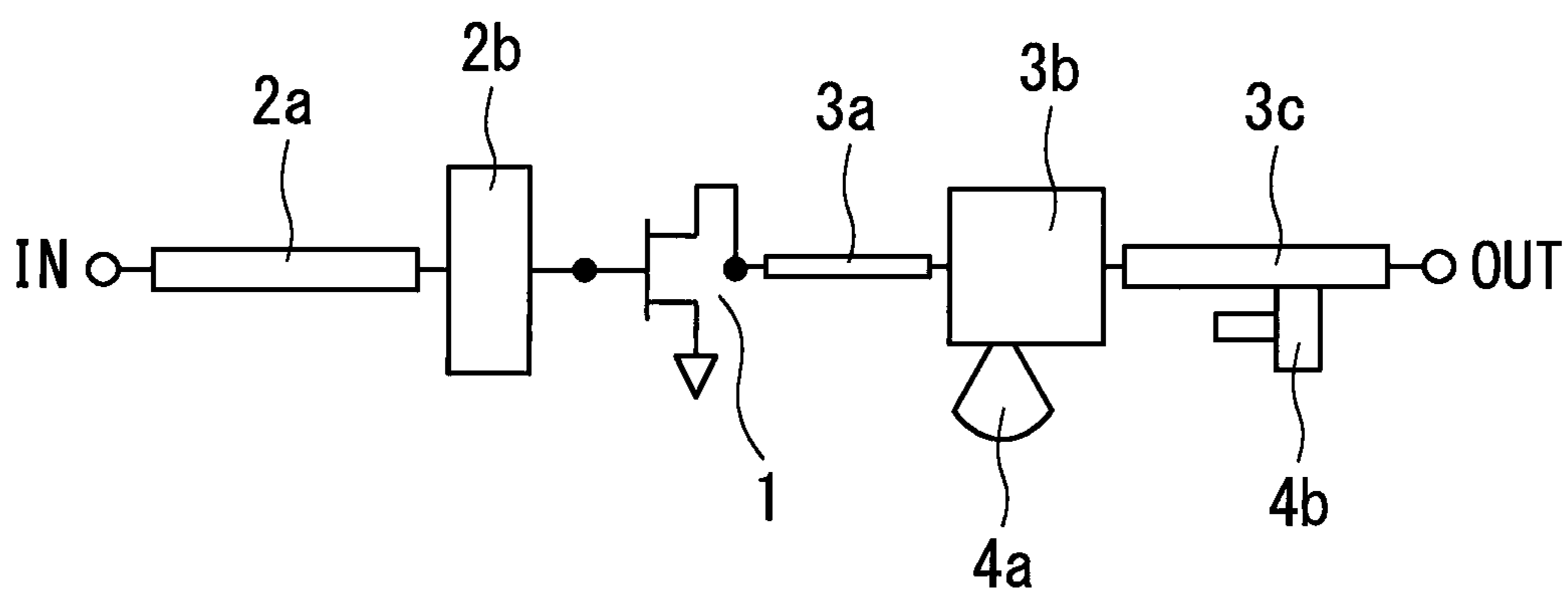


FIG. 11

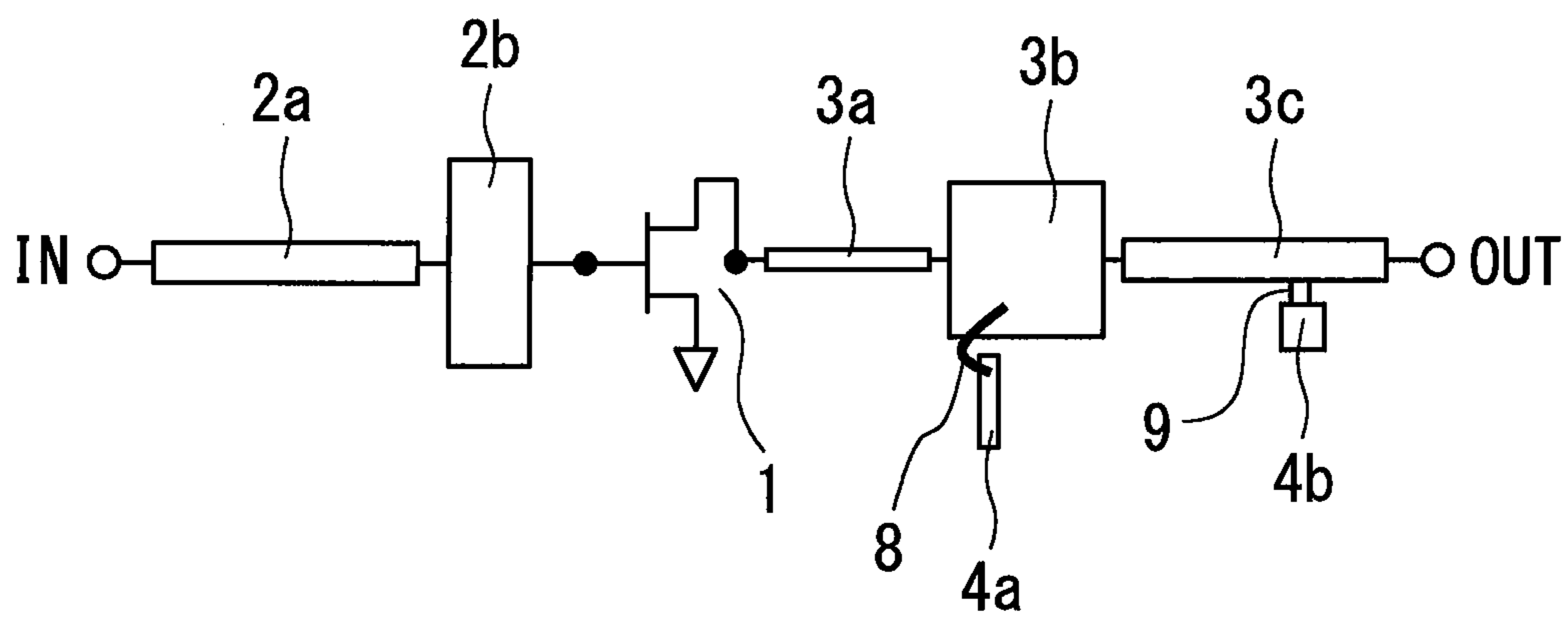


FIG. 12

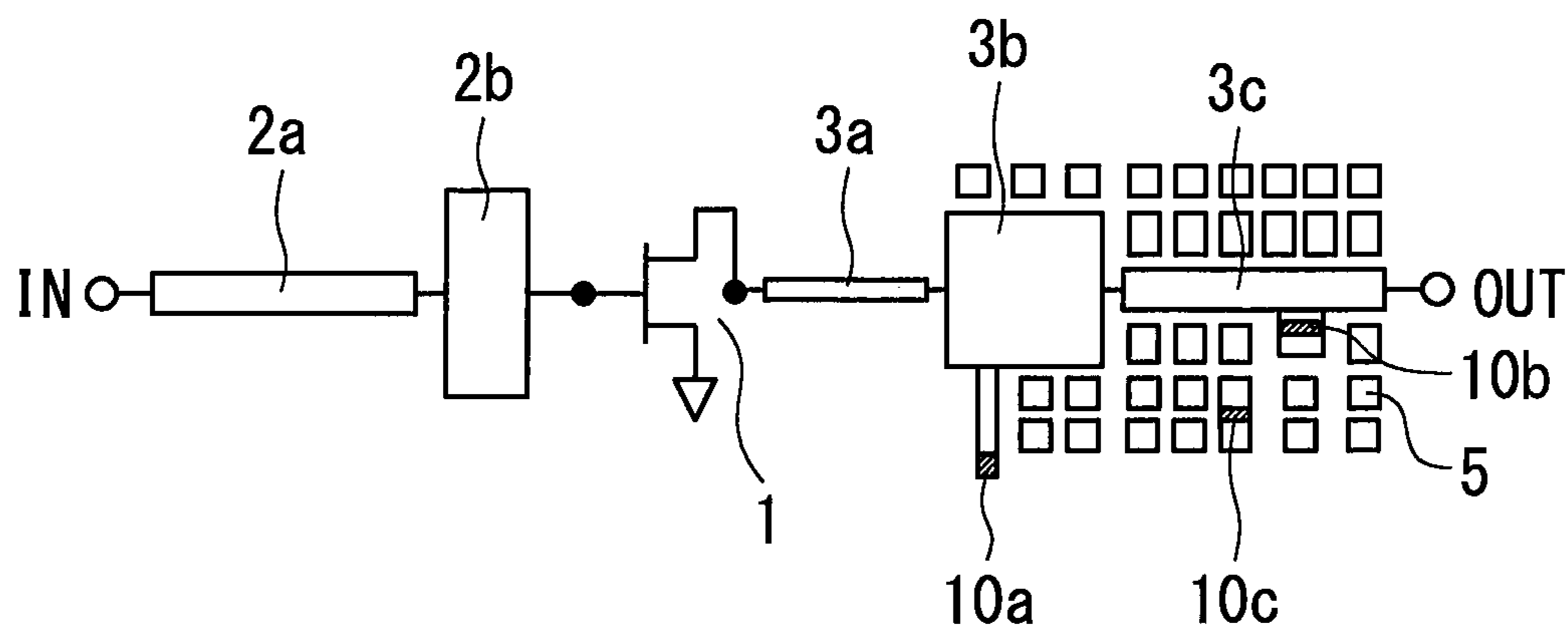
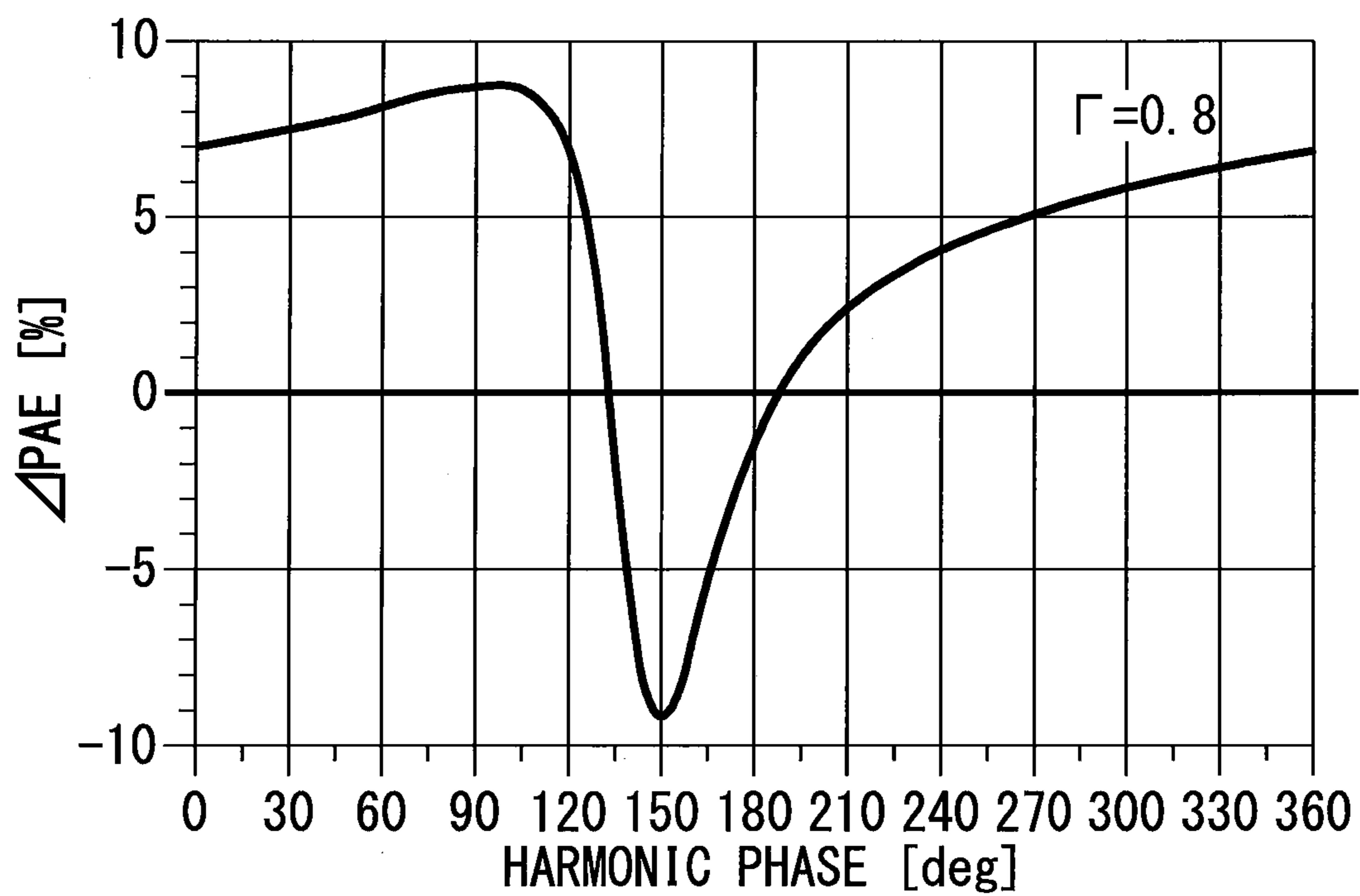


FIG. 13



POWER AMPLIFIER

FIELD

[0001] The present invention relates to a power amplifier.

BACKGROUND

[0002] A high frequency power amplifier is used for a communication device in a microwave band or millimeter wave band, for example, from several MHz to several hundreds of GHz for mobile communication, satellite communication or the like. FIG. 13 is a diagram showing the amount of variation in power-added efficiency (PAE) of a transistor in a conventional power amplifier. Here, the impedance of the second harmonic is fixed at $\Gamma=0.8$, and the harmonic phase is changed from 0 to 360°. It can be seen that the PAE varies by nearly 20% depending on the phase. Therefore, it is important to control the harmonic impedance of the second harmonic, etc. of the power amplifier.

[0003] In a power amplifier, PAE of a transistor is enhanced by using a harmonic circuit for reflecting harmonics. In the harmonic circuit, it is necessary to set odd harmonics such as the third harmonic to open impedance in the case of a class F operation, and also it is necessary to set even harmonics of the second and higher harmonics to open impedance in the case of an inverse class F operation (for example, see PTL 1 to PTL 3). In order to enhance PAE in a broad band, it is necessary to control not only a fundamental wave as an operating frequency of the power amplifier, but also the impedance of harmonics in a broad band. Therefore, a trap circuit or a short circuit has been added (for example, see PTL 4 and PTL 5).

CITATION LIST

Patent Literature

- [0004] [PTL 1] JP 2012-205246 A
- [0005] [PTL 2] JP 2009-159591 A
- [0006] [PTL 3] JP 2001-53510 A
- [0007] [PTL 4] JP 2007-306299 A
- [0008] [PTL 5] JP 2011-035761 A

SUMMARY

Technical Problem

[0009] In the conventional power amplifier, a circuit for controlling harmonics of the power amplifier is added to an output matching circuit for a high efficiency operation. However, in the case of a power amplifier having a broad operating band, an added circuit area increases, which causes an obstacle to miniaturization. Also, a trap circuit which is often used for harmonic control enables a short circuit to be configured in a compact size, but has a problem that a transmission loss is relatively large.

[0010] The present invention has been made to solve the problem as described above, and has an object to obtain a power amplifier that includes a matching circuit having a broad band and a compact size and can operate with high efficiency.

Solution to Problem

[0011] A power amplifier according to the present invention includes: a transistor; a plurality of transmission lines

connected to the transistor and having different characteristic impedances; and a plurality of open stubs connected to the plurality of transmission lines respectively, wherein a length of each open stub is shorter than a length of each transmission line.

Advantageous Effects of Invention

[0012] In the present invention, by providing the open stubs in the plurality of transmission lines respectively, the impedance of harmonics of the power amplifier can be gathered to open. As a result, a high efficiency operation can be performed in a broad band. In addition, only the open stubs are provided, it is unnecessary to provide a trap circuit, a short circuit, or the like. As a result, it is possible to realize a power amplifier that includes a matching circuit having a broad band and a compact size and can operate with high efficiency.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0013] FIG. 1 is a diagram showing a power amplifier according to a first embodiment of the present invention.

[0014] FIG. 2 is a diagram showing a power amplifier according to a comparative example.

[0015] FIG. 3 is a diagram showing an example of impedance transformation of the second harmonic of the power amplifier according to the first embodiment of the present invention.

[0016] FIG. 4 is a diagram showing an example of impedance transformation of the second harmonic of the power amplifier according to the comparative example.

[0017] FIG. 5 is a diagram showing a power amplifier according to a second embodiment of the present invention.

[0018] FIG. 6 is a diagram showing a modification of the power amplifier according to the second embodiment of the present invention.

[0019] FIG. 7 is a diagram showing a power amplifier according to a third embodiment of the present invention.

[0020] FIG. 8 is a diagram showing a power amplifier according to a fourth embodiment of the present invention.

[0021] FIG. 9 is a diagram showing an impedance transformation result of the output matching circuit of the power amplifier according to a fourth embodiment of the present invention.

[0022] FIG. 10 is a diagram showing a power amplifier according to a fifth embodiment of the present invention.

[0023] FIG. 11 is a diagram showing a power amplifier according to a sixth embodiment of the present invention.

[0024] FIG. 12 is a diagram showing a power amplifier according to a seventh embodiment of the present invention.

[0025] FIG. 13 is a diagram showing the amount of variation in power-added efficiency (PAE) of a transistor in a conventional power amplifier.

DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

[0026] A power amplifier according to the embodiments of the present invention will be described with reference to the drawings. The same components will be denoted by the same symbols, and the repeated description thereof may be omitted.

First Embodiment

[0027] FIG. 1 is a diagram showing a power amplifier according to a first embodiment of the present invention.

Transmission lines **2a** and **2b** having different characteristic impedances are connected in series between an input terminal IN and the gate of a transistor **1**. Transmission lines **3a**, **3b**, and **3c** having different characteristic impedances are connected in series between the drain of the transistor **1** and an output terminal OUT. The impedance of the fundamental waves of the power amplifier is matched by the transmission lines **3a**, **3b**, and **3c** so that the transistor **1** operates with high efficiency.

[0028] Open stubs **4a** and **4b** are connected to the transmission lines **3b** and **3c**, respectively. The length L_a of the open stub **4a** is set to $1/4$ of wavelengths from the wavelength λ_{2f_L} on a low frequency band side of the second harmonic to the center frequency λ_{2f_C} of the second harmonic, that is, ranges from $\lambda_{2f_L}/4$ to $\lambda_{2f_C}/4$. The length L_b of the open stub **4b** is set to $1/4$ of wavelengths from the wavelength λ_{2f_H} on a high frequency band side of the second harmonic to the center frequency λ_{2f_C} of the second harmonic, that is, ranges from $\lambda_{2f_H}/4$ to $\lambda_{2f_C}/4$. Since the respective lengths of the open stubs **4a** and **4b** are equal to $1/4$ of the wavelengths of the second harmonic, the lengths are shorter than the length of each of the transmission lines **3a**, **3b**, and **3c** through which the fundamental wave propagates.

[0029] In the case of the inverse class F operation, in order to operate the power amplifier with high efficiency, it is necessary to match even harmonics of the second or higher harmonics of the power amplifier to open impedance. Here, an example in which the second harmonic of the power amplifier is matched with the open impedance will be described, and the operation of the present embodiment will be described in comparison with a comparative example.

[0030] FIG. 2 is a diagram showing a power amplifier according to a comparative example. In the comparative example, the open stubs **4a** and **4b** are not provided. FIG. 3 is a diagram showing an example of impedance transformation of the second harmonic of the power amplifier according to the first embodiment of the present invention. FIG. 4 is a diagram showing an example of impedance transformation of the second harmonic of the power amplifier according to the comparative example. f_L represents a frequency on a low frequency band side of the fundamental wave, f_C represents the center frequency of the fundamental wave, f_H represents a frequency on a high frequency band side of the fundamental wave, $2f_L$ represents a frequency on a low frequency band side of the second harmonic, $2f_C$ represents the center frequency of the second harmonic, and $2f_H$ represents a frequency on a high frequency band side of the second harmonic.

[0031] First, $\lambda/4$ transformation of the fundamental wave of the power amplifier is performed in the transmission line **3c**. At this time, in the present embodiment, the phase is rotated by the open stub **4b** to move the impedance of the second harmonic of the power amplifier. Next, $\lambda/4$ transformation of the fundamental wave of the power amplifier is also performed in the transmission line **3b**. At this time, the impedance of the second harmonic of the power amplifier is moved by the open stub **4a**. Therefore, as shown in FIG. 3, resonance occurs at the impedance of the second harmonic of the power amplifier in the present embodiment. On the other hand, in the comparative example which does not use the open stubs **4a** and **4b**, it is understood that no resonance occurs as shown in FIG. 4.

[0032] The band of the second harmonic can be adjusted by the lengths of the open stubs **4a** and **4b**. Moreover, by

using the transmission lines **3b** and **3c** having different characteristic impedances, an open stub of the second harmonic on a high frequency band side of the power amplifier is provided on a transmission line having a high characteristic impedance, and an open stub of the second harmonic on a low frequency band side is provided on a transmission line having a low characteristic impedance, whereby it is easy to make the above-described resonance without enlarging the open stub.

[0033] Finally, the phase is rotated in the transmission line **3a** to match the fundamental wave of the power amplifier with a desired impedance. At this time, as shown in FIG. 4, in the comparative example, the impedance of the second harmonic of the power amplifier is not gathered to open. On the other hand, as shown in FIG. 3, in the present embodiment, it is found that the impedance of the second harmonic of the power amplifier is gathered to open in a broad band.

[0034] As described above, in the present embodiment, by providing the open stubs **4a** and **4b** in the transmission lines **3b** and **3c**, the impedance of the second harmonic of the power amplifier can be gathered to open. As a result, a transistor **1** can be operated in the inverse F class in a broad band, and a high efficiency operation can be performed in a broad band. In addition, only the open stubs **4a** and **4b** are provided, it is unnecessary to provide a trap circuit, a short circuit, or the like, and a manufacturing method is also facilitated. As a result, it is possible to realize a power amplifier that includes a matching circuit having a broad band and a compact size and can operate with high efficiency.

[0035] In the present embodiment, the open stubs **4a** and **4b** are provided in the transmission lines **3b** and **3c** which are output matching circuits, but open stubs may be provided in the transmission lines **2a** and **2b** which are input matching circuits.

Second Embodiment

[0036] FIG. 5 is a diagram showing a power amplifier according to a second embodiment of the present invention. Ungrounded conductive patterns **5** are arranged around the transmission lines **3b** and **3c** and the open stubs **4a** and **4b**. By arranging a number of conductive patterns **5** to be close to the transmission lines **3b** and **3c** and the open stubs **4a** and **4b**, it is possible to cause more capacitance components to appear. On the other hand, by arranging a small number of conductive patterns **5** to be apart from the transmission lines **3b** and **3c** and the open stubs **4a** and **4b**, it is possible to cause a few capacitance components to appear. Thus, it is possible to enhance the degree of freedom of adjusting the impedance of the second harmonic of the power amplifier. This function is effective particularly at high frequencies. Although the ungrounded conductive pattern **5** has a quadrangular shape, it may have other shapes.

[0037] FIG. 6 is a diagram showing a modification of the power amplifier according to the second embodiment of the present invention. The ungrounded conductive pattern **5** and the transmission line **3b** are connected to each other by a wire **6**. The ungrounded conductive pattern **5** and the open stub **4b** are connected to each other by a wire **7**. Even in this case, the above effect can be obtained. Also in the present embodiment, it is possible to realize a power amplifier that includes a matching circuit having a broad band and a compact size and can operate with high efficiency as in the case of the first embodiment.

Third Embodiment

[0038] FIG. 7 is a diagram showing a power amplifier according to a third embodiment of the present invention. Open stubs **4a** are arranged symmetrically with respect to the center line of the transmission line **3b**. Furthermore, open stubs **4b** are arranged symmetrically with respect to the center line of the transmission line **3c**. This makes it possible to make the impedances in the transmission lines **3a**, **3b**, and **3c** more uniform.

[0039] In particular, in a power amplifier in which transistors are connected in parallel, the transmission line is often thick and branched into plural parts. When the impedance of the transmission line becomes non-uniform in that state, the transistors connected in parallel tend to cause non-uniform operation, which degrades the performance of the power amplifier or causes abnormal operation. In contrast, the uniformity of the impedance is enhanced by arranging the open stubs symmetrically with respect to the center line of the transmission line, so that the above problem hardly occurs. Also in the present embodiment, it is also possible to realize a power amplifier that includes a matching circuit having a broad band and a compact size and can operate with high efficiency as in the case of the first embodiment.

Fourth Embodiment

[0040] FIG. 8 is a diagram showing a power amplifier according to a fourth embodiment of the present invention. Two open stubs **4b** and **4c** having different lengths are connected to the transmission line **3c**. Two open stubs having different lengths may be connected to each transmission line.

[0041] FIG. 9 is a diagram showing an impedance transformation result of the output matching circuit of the power amplifier according to a fourth embodiment of the present invention. It can be seen that resonance also occurs on the high frequency band side of the second harmonic of the power amplifier. As resonance occurs at two places, the high frequency band expands.

[0042] Since the resonant frequency changes according to the length $\lambda_2/4$ of the open stub, the frequency band of the second harmonic of the power amplifier in which resonance occurs can be expanded by increasing the number of open stubs. Therefore, the impedance of the second harmonic of the power amplifier can be gathered to open in a broader band as compared with the first embodiment. Therefore, it is possible to cause the transistor to perform the inverse F class operation in a broad band, and a high-efficiency operation can be performed in a broader band. Also in the present embodiment, the matching circuit can be also miniaturized as in the case of the first embodiment.

Fifth Embodiment

[0043] FIG. 10 is a diagram showing a power amplifier according to a fifth embodiment of the present invention. The open stub **4a** spreads at the tip thereof like a fan. As long as the tip of the open stub can be expanded, the open stub may be tapered, hook-shaped, L-shaped or the like. The open stub **4b** is branched at the tip thereof. By broadening or branching the open stub as described above, it is possible to adjust the frequency band of the second harmonic of the power amplifier in which resonance occurs. Accordingly, as in the case of the fourth embodiment, the impedance of the

second harmonic of the power amplifier can be gathered in a broader band as compared with the first embodiment. Therefore, the transistor can be caused to perform the inverse F class operation in a broad band, and it is possible to obtain a power amplifier having a high efficiency in a broader band. Note that the configuration of the present embodiment may be applied to only some open stubs or all open stubs. Also in the present embodiment, the matching circuit can be miniaturized as in the case of the first embodiment.

Sixth Embodiment

[0044] FIG. 11 is a diagram showing a power amplifier according to a sixth embodiment of the present invention. The open stub **4a** and the transmission line **3b** are connected to each other by a wire **8** narrower than the open stub **4a**. The open stub **4b** and the transmission line **3c** are connected to each other by a wiring pattern **9** narrower than the open stub **4b**.

[0045] In the case of the inverse F class operation, it is necessary to match the second harmonic or even harmonics of the power amplifier to the open impedance. However, in the first to fifth embodiments, the second harmonic of the power amplifier can be taken in a broad band, but the phase of the second harmonic of the power amplifier cannot be sufficiently controlled.

[0046] In contrast, in the present embodiment, the phase of the second harmonic of the power amplifier can be easily controlled by inductor components of the wire **8** and the wiring pattern **9**, so that the second harmonic of the power amplifier can easily be matched with a desired impedance such as an open impedance. Accordingly, a high-efficiency power amplifier which can be caused to ideally perform the inverse F class operation can be obtained. Note that the configuration of the present embodiment may be applied to only some open stubs or all open stubs. A ribbon may be used instead of the wire **8**. Furthermore, by combining the configuration of the present embodiment with the first to fifth embodiments, it is possible to obtain a power amplifier which has a high efficiency in a broad band and can perform the inverse F class operation in a broad band. Also in the present embodiment, the matching circuit can be miniaturized as in the case of the first embodiment.

Seventh Embodiment

[0047] FIG. 12 is a diagram showing a power amplifier according to a seventh embodiment of the present invention. A resistance pattern **10a** is connected to the tip of the open stub **4a**. A resistance pattern **10b** is connected to an intermediate portion of the open stub **4b**. A resistance pattern **10c** is connected between the non-grounded conductive patterns **5**. By positively inserting the resistance patterns in this manner, F of the second harmonic of the power amplifier is smaller than 1, so that the enhancement of PAE of the power amplifier is lowered. However, since the fluctuation of the phase of the second harmonic can be reduced, a broadband power amplifier can be obtained. Furthermore, in the present embodiment, the matching circuit can be miniaturized as in the case of the first embodiment.

REFERENCE SIGNS LIST

[0048] **1** transistor; **3a,3b,3c** transmission line; **4a,4b,4c** open stub; **5** non-grounded conductive pattern; **8** wire (wir-

ing); **9** wiring pattern (wiring); **10a,10b,10c** resistance pattern

- 1.** A power amplifier comprising:
a transistor;
a plurality of transmission lines connected to the transistor and having different characteristic impedances; and
a plurality of open stubs connected to the plurality of transmission lines respectively,
wherein a length of each open stub is shorter than a length of each transmission line.
- 2.** The power amplifier according to claim **1**, further comprising ungrounded conductive patterns arranged around the plurality of transmission lines and the plurality of open stubs.
- 3.** The power amplifier according to claim **1**, wherein the plurality of open stubs are arranged symmetrically with respect to a center line of the plurality of transmission lines.

4. The power amplifier according to claim **1**, wherein at least one of the plurality of open stubs includes at least two open stubs having different lengths.

5. The power amplifier according to claim **1**, wherein the plurality of open stubs includes an open stub having a tip which spreads or is branched.

6. The power amplifier according to claim **1**, further comprising wirings narrower than the open stubs and connecting the open stubs and the transmission lines.

7. The power amplifier according to claim **1**, further comprising resistance patterns connected to tips or intermediate portions of the open stubs.

8. The power amplifier according to claim **2**, further comprising resistance patterns connected between the conductive patterns.

* * * * *