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# Complex Dynamics of the Chua's Circuit System with Adjustable Symmetry and Nonlinearity: Multistability and Simple Circuit Realization

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**Abstract:** Background: Since the invention of Chua's circuit, numerous generalizations based on substitution of the nonlinear function have been reported. One of the generalizations is obtained by replacing the piecewise-linear with the cubic and/or quadratic polynomial. These nonlinearities are used to be implement using analog multipliers which are relatively expensive. In this realization we propose a different approach to synthesize both cubic and quadratic nonlinearities of empirical Chua's circuit. Methods: The idea is to use diodes, Opamps and resistors to derive a PWL approximation of the cubic and quadratic functions. To demonstrate some complex phenomena observed in the system using the fourth order Runge-Kutta numerical integration method with a very small integration step. The bifurcation diagram which is the plot of local maxima of the temporal trace of a system's coordinate as a function of the control parameter also constitutes an excellent tool for the study of dynamic systems. Results: The above mentioned standard nonlinear analysis tools have been exploited and it is found that the system with adjustable symmetry experiences a plethora of symmetric and asymmetric coexisting attractors. A particular feature of the system is related to the simplicity of the corresponding electronic analog circuit (no analog multiplier chip used to implement the cubic and quadratic nonlinearities). Conclusions: It is observed that the proposed Chua's circuit system is more flexible (both symmetric and asymmetric) and displays complex dynamics behaviors of symmetric and asymmetric coexisting attractors. Note that this striking dynamic can be exploited in encryption algorithms.

**Keywords:** Chua's Circuit System, Adjustable Symmetry, Coexisting Bifurcations, Coexisting Attractors, Pspice Circuit Simulations

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## 1. Introduction

Multistability of a dynamical system is usually taken to mean that there are coexisting attractors, each with a basin of attraction that depends crucially on the system's initial values. The coexisting attractors can be stable equilibria, periodic cycles or strange attractors. There are even examples where all the three types of attractors coexist in phase space [1]. This striking dynamics has been previously observed in various dynamical systems including the Chua's circuit [2-9]. Chua's circuit is among the simplest electronic circuits characterized by chaos and many well-known nonlinear dynamic

phenomena [10-16]. It was invented in 1983 by L. O. Chua from the quest to prove that the Lorenz attractor is chaotic in a rigorous mathematical sense [17]. Let us recall that an autonomous circuit made from resistor, capacitor and inductor must satisfy the following conditions to displays chaos: one or more nonlinear elements, one or more locally active resistors, three or more energy-storage elements [17]. Chua's circuit is one of the simplest circuits that meet these criteria; it consist of four standard off-the-shelf linear passive electrical components namely an inductor, a resistor, and two capacitors. In addition to these four elements, Chua's circuit contains a nonlinear element characterized by a nonlinear current voltage

function. Such an element is called the Chua's diode. Note that the nonlinear function of the original Chua's system is a continuous piecewise-linear function [18]. Since the invention of Chua's circuit, numerous generalizations based on substitution of the nonlinear function have been reported [19-25]. One of the generalizations is obtained by replacing the piecewise-linear by the cubic and/or quadratic polynomial [24, 25]. In 1994, Zhong reported an implementation of Chua's circuit with a smooth nonlinearity described by a cubic polynomial [25]. Note that this implementation is based on the utilization of three analog multipliers which are relatively expensive. Yang and coworkers investigated a modified Chua's circuit system with both cubic and quadratic polynomials [24]. They focused on the chaos control by a delayed feedback method. The nonlinear function hyperbolic nonlinearity obtained from an active diode pair can be used to replace the Chua's diode. For instance, Chen and collaborators reported hidden dynamics and multi-stability in an improved third order Chua's circuit [26]. From the results of Chen, Bao and coworkers further investigated the coexistence of multiple attractors in Chua's circuit and a plethora of point attractors, limit cycle attractors and strange attractors were found to coexist in phase space depending solely on the initial system's values [1]. Memristor can also be used to replace the Chua's diode in the original Chua's circuit [27-29]. Cheng et al. reported a memristive bridge-based canonical Chua's circuit by replacing the Chua's diode with a first order memristive bridge diode [29]. They reported the complex nonlinear phenomena of coexisting bifurcations and coexisting attractors though the number of coexisting attractors depend crucially on the symmetry of the system. Symmetry always plays an important role in physical system. This property is found in a variety of system including nonlinear and chaotic systems [30-40]. Symmetric chaotic systems provide the possibility to observe coexisting attractors. Based on the nonlinear part of a symmetric system, the symmetry can be destroyed. A question can then be asked: what is the effect of an asymmetric nonlinearity on the multi-stable behavior of a system in general and on a Chua's system in particular? In other word what are the mechanisms that occur when the Chua's system loses its symmetry property in the multi-stable region? This question is very important since the answer lead to the generalization of multistability in the Chua's system by adjusting its nonlinear part and hence its symmetry property.

In the present paper we investigated the coexisting bifurcations and coexisting attractors in a Chua's system with adjustable symmetry and adjustable nonlinearity. The system is characterized by both cubic and quadratic nonlinear terms. Let us note that the quadratic nonlinearity is used to tune the symmetry of the whole system. A plethora of coexisting symmetric and asymmetric attractors can be found in the system's parameter space. More important, the electronic analog circuit corresponding to the system under investigation is very simple. This is due to the fact that no analog multiplier is used to build the quadratic and the cubic polynomials.

## 2. Methods

### 2.1. Mathematical Formulation

Recently, Zhong investigated the implementation of Chua's circuit with a cubic nonlinearity [25]. The circuit was modeled by:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}_1 = \alpha(x_2 - x_1) - \alpha(ax_1 + cx_1^3) \\ \dot{x}_2 = x_1 - x_2 + x_3 \\ \dot{x}_3 = -\beta x_2 \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

The method of practical implementation used to realize the cubic polynomial is interesting and can also be applied to implement Chua's diodes with almost any smooth nonlinearity. However the main limitation is the presence of analog multipliers in the realization circuit of the cubic polynomial. In this paper we further investigate the dynamics of Chua's system with both quadratic and cubic nonlinearities. The problem can be formulated as follows:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}_1 = \alpha(x_2 - x_1) - \alpha f_b(x_1) \\ \dot{x}_2 = x_1 - x_2 + x_3 \\ \dot{x}_3 = -\beta x_2 \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

Where  $f_b(x_1) = ax_1 + bx_1^2 + cx_1^3$  is a nonlinear polynomial containing cubic and quadratic nonlinearities which are implemented without any analog multiplier. More interesting, multistability in the symmetry boundary is discussed by switching the control parameter  $b$  given that the system is symmetric for  $b = 0$  and becomes asymmetric for  $b \neq 0$ . A plethora of coexisting attractors are found in the systems parameters space. Throughout this work, unless otherwise mentioned, we assumed  $\beta = 6.6$ ;  $a = -1.16$ ;  $c = 0.06$ .  $\alpha$  serves as the main bifurcation control parameter and  $b$  is used to tune the symmetry of the whole system as mention above.

### 2.2. Symmetry of the Model, Fixed Points and Stabilities

From system (2) it is obvious that by switching parameter  $b$  the symmetry of the model under investigation can be modified. Figure 1 is the representation of the nonlinear function  $f_b(x)$  where system's symmetry breaks with the variation of parameter  $b$ . The curve in black is related to the particular case  $b=0$ . For this case the nonlinear function is symmetric and the system is invariant under the coordinate transformation  $(x_1, x_2, x_3) \Leftrightarrow (-x_1, -x_2, -x_3)$  leading to symmetric attractors, but in the general case this condition can only be achieved by switching parameter  $b$  related to the nonlinearity.

The fixed points of the proposed model (2) can be found by solving the following nonlinear system:

$$\begin{cases} \alpha(x_2 - x_1) - \alpha f_b(x_1) = 0 \\ x_1 - x_2 + x_3 = 0 \\ -\beta x_2 = 0 \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

From (3) it is obvious that system (2) has three equilibriums including one zero equilibrium point and two nonzero ones:

$$\begin{aligned} E_0(0,0,0) \\ E_{\pm}(\gamma_i, 0, -\gamma_i) \quad (i=1,2) \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

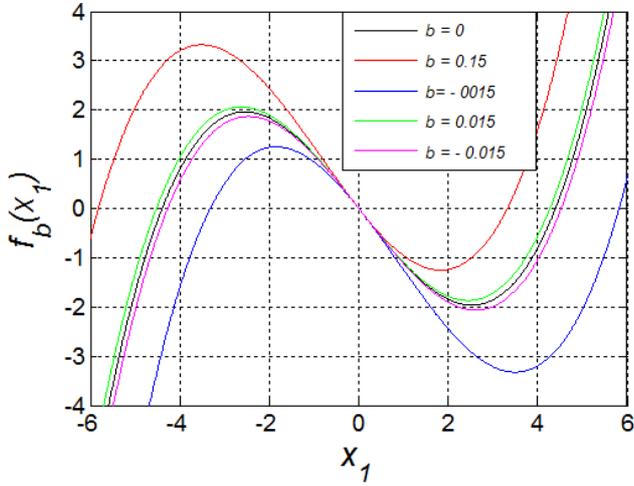


Figure 1. The nonlinear function  $f_b(x_1)$  for various values of the parameter  $k$ . Notice that for  $b=0$  the system displays two symmetric fixe points, but for  $b \neq 0$  the later are no more symmetric.

Where  $\gamma_i$  are the solutions of the following third order equation:  $(a+1)+b\gamma^2+c\gamma^3=0$ . The nonzero equilibrium points  $E_{\pm}$  are symmetrical with respect to the origin  $E_0$  for the particular case  $b=0$ . This symmetry is destroyed when  $b \neq 0$ . The Jacobian matrix at any equilibrium can be calculated as:

$$J = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha(-a-1-2b\mu-3c\mu^2) & \alpha & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & -\beta & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (5)$$

With  $\mu=0$  for the zero fixed point;  $\mu=\gamma_i$  for the non-zero equilibrium points. The Eigen values related to the above matrix can be calculated for the particular case  $b=0$  as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \rightarrow E_0(0,0,0): \quad \lambda_1 &= +1.5307, \\ \lambda_{2,3} &= -0.8654 \pm j1.6433 \\ \rightarrow E_{\pm}(\pm 1.633, 0, \mp 1.633): \lambda_1 &= -2.5464, \\ \lambda_{2,3} &= +0.1001 \pm j1.8652 \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

Given that the real parts of these eigen values are positive and negative, the origin can be classified as unstable saddle point whereas the nonzero fixe points are unstable node-foci. Consequently the system displays self-excited strange attractors with the possibility of multistability in system (3). Similar calculations can be carried out in order to investigate the stability of the equilibrium points systems symmetry breaks ( $b \neq 0$ ).

### 2.3. Numerical Methods

Numerical simulation plays a crucial role in predetermining the system's parameters for its practical realization. To demonstrate the different phenomena observed in the system, the fourth order Runge-Kutta numerical integration method is used with an integration step  $\tau = 2 \times 10^{-3}$ . The solutions are stored after the transient phase is discarded. The main indicator used to demonstrate the phenomenon of multistability is the coexisting bifurcation diagrams. Note these diagrams are obtained by plotting the local maximums of the variable  $x_3$  versus a given control parameter. Phase space trajectory plots are also used to illustrate the symmetric and asymmetric coexistence of attractors.

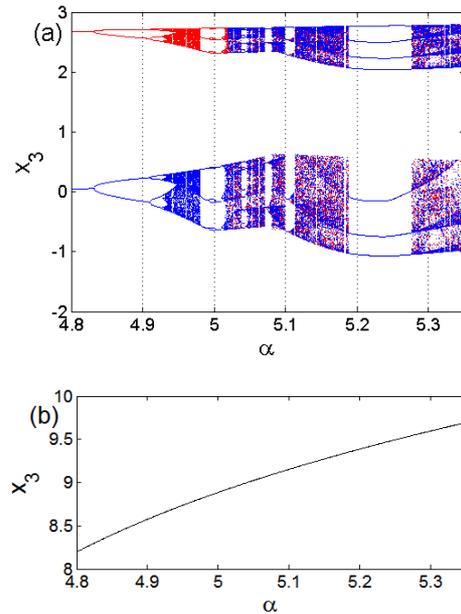


Figure 2. Systems dynamics for  $b=0$ ; illustrating the coexisting bifurcation diagrams obtained by switching parameter  $\alpha$  when  $\beta=6.6$ ;  $a=-1.16$ ;  $c=0.06$  under three different initial conditions (a)  $(\pm 1, 0, 0)$ ; (b)  $(20, 0, 0)$ .

## 3. Results

### 3.1. Coexisting Bifurcations and Coexisting Attractors in the Particular Case ( $b=0$ )

To explore the coexisting behaviors with multistability in system (2) for the particular case  $b=0$ , we fixed  $\beta=6.6$ ;  $a=-1.16$ ;  $c=0.06$  and varied  $\alpha$  in the range  $4.8 < \alpha < 5.35$ . The system is solved under three different initial conditions (a)  $(\pm 1, 0, 0)$ ; (b)  $(20, 0, 0)$  leading to coexisting bifurcations (Figure 2).

From the bifurcations graphs in blue and red colors two different routes coexist where periodic attractors coexist at the same point and chaotic attractors coexist at the same point. These diagrams are obtained from the initial states  $(\pm 1; 0; 0)$ . Under these conditions, it is obvious that the system moves from periodic to chaotic attractors with period doubling bifurcation. A limit cycle is obtained by solving the system

with the initial value (1; 0; 0). The corresponding bifurcation diagram is represented in black color. Various phase portraits are plotted for different values of the parameter  $\alpha$  to illustrate the coexistence of point attractors, limit cycles and chaotic attractors (see Figure 5). Cross sections of the basin of attraction (Figure 3) with  $x_1(0)=0$ ;  $x_2(0)=0$  and  $x_3(0)=0$  corresponding to the coexisting attractors are presented in Figure 5 (d).

To explore the different dynamic behaviors that

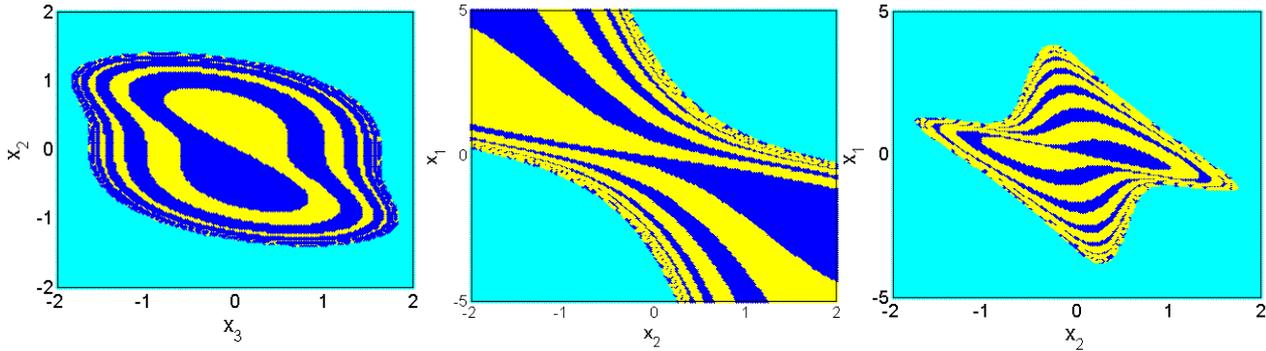


Figure 3. Cross sections of the basin of attraction with  $x_1(0)=0$ ;  $x_2(0)=0$  and  $x_3(0)=0$  corresponding to the coexisting attractors presented in Figure 5. (d).

### 3.2. Coexisting Bifurcations and Coexisting Attractors in the Particular Case ( $b \neq 0$ )

To investigate the multistability of system (2) in the symmetry boundary, We first fixe system's parameters as  $b = 0.015$  (respectively  $b = 0.015$ )  $\beta = 6.6$ ;  $a = -1.16$ ;  $c = 0.06$  and vary the control parameter  $\alpha$  in the range  $4.8 < \alpha < 5.35$ . With these parameters the system is solved with various initial

characterize system (2), we have also plotted the stability diagrams based on the Lyapunov exponent [41, 42]. These diagrams (Figure 4) highlight the different behavior zones according to the degree of stability (given by the maximal exponent of Lyapunov). Thus, Lyapunov exponents are unable to discriminate individual oscillatory phases. These graphs are of capital importance from a practical standpoint in that they give an overall idea of the dynamics under the effect of the parameters of the system.

conditions and coexisting bifurcations illustrated in Figure 6 are achieved. From these diagrams it is obvious that the coexisting attractors are no more symmetric. In light of Figure 6, a period-1 limit cycle can coexist with a period-2 one; a spiral chaotic attractor can coexist with a limit cycle and so on. Beside we have period doubling bifurcation (graph in blue and red colors) leading to different spiral chaotic attractor which are of different volumes. Several periodic windows intersect the chaotic region.

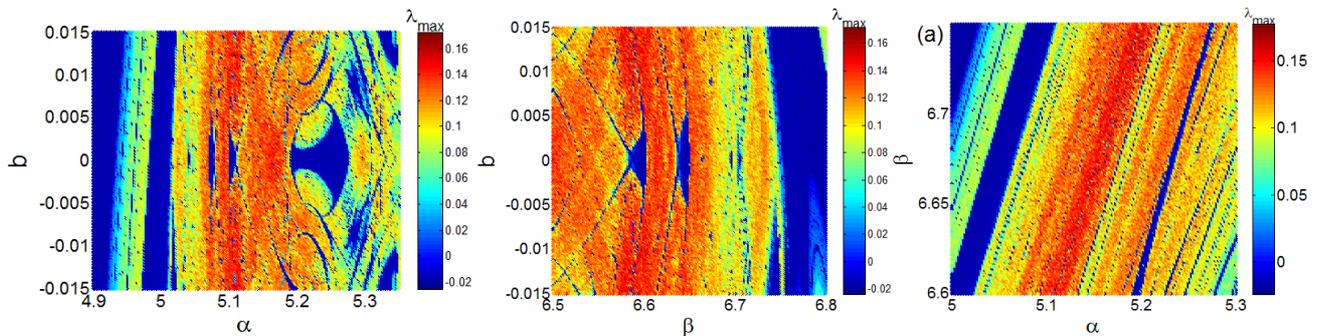
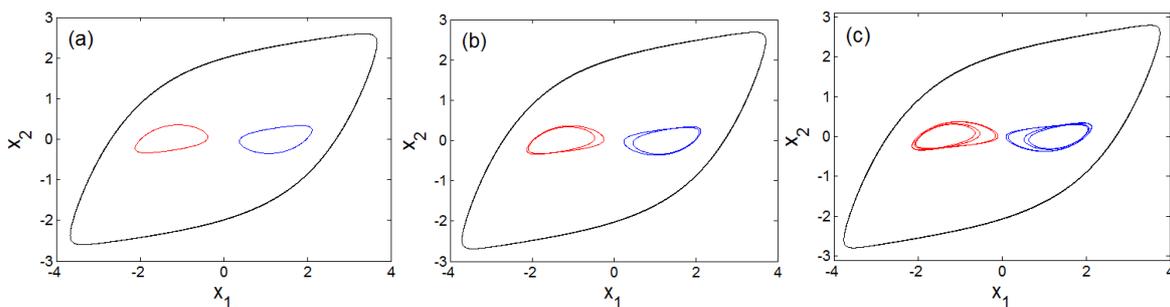


Figure 4. Lyapunov stability diagram in the  $(\alpha, b)$ ,  $(\beta, b)$ ,  $(\alpha, \beta)$  planes illustrating the regions of periodic oscillations ( $\lambda_{max} \leq 0$ ) and the regions of chaotic dynamics ( $\lambda_{max} > 0$ ).



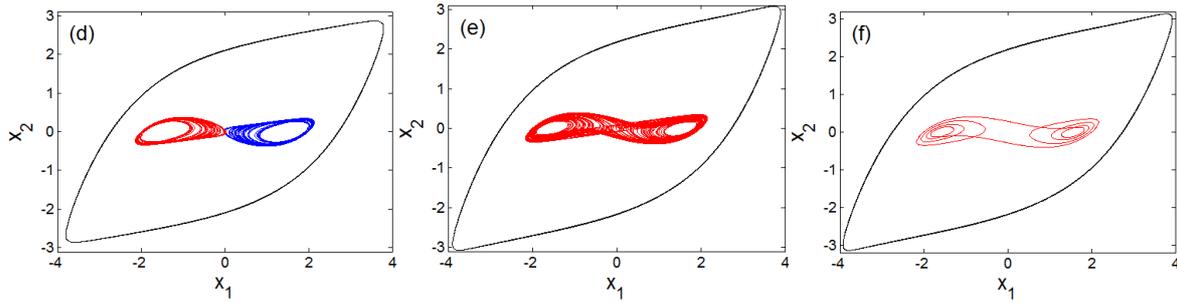


Figure 5. Coexisting attractors in the  $x_1 - x_2$  plane when  $b = 0$ ;  $\beta = 6.6$ ;  $a = -1.16$ ;  $c = 0.06$  (a)  $\alpha = 4.8$ , (b)  $\alpha = 4.85$ , (c)  $\alpha = 4.921$ , (d)  $\alpha = 4.967$ , (e)  $\alpha = 4.915$ , (f)  $\alpha = 5.23$ . Three different initial conditions are used (red–blue)  $(\pm 1, 0, 0)$ ; (black)  $(20, 0, 0)$ .

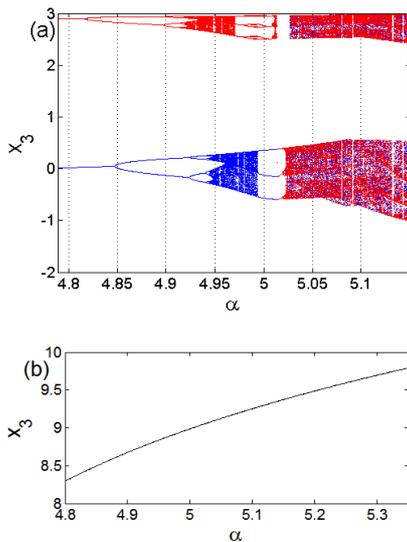


Figure 6. Systems dynamics for  $b = 0.015$ ; illustrating the coexisting bifurcation diagrams obtained by decreasing parameter  $\alpha$  when  $\beta = 6.6$ ;  $a = -1.16$ ;  $c = 0.06$  under three different initial conditions (a)  $(\pm 1, 0, 0)$ ; (b)  $(20, 0, 0)$ .

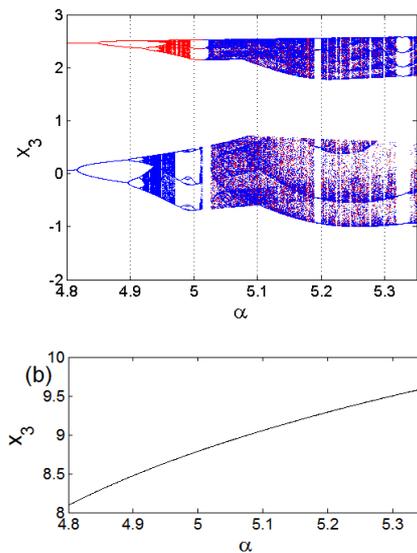
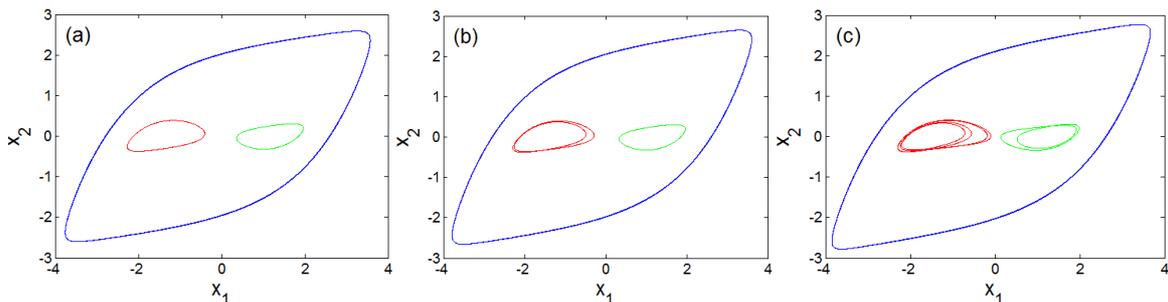


Figure 7. Systems dynamics for  $b = -0.015$ ; illustrating the coexisting bifurcation diagrams obtained by decreasing parameter  $\alpha$  when  $\beta = 6.6$ ;  $a = -1.16$ ;  $c = 0.06$  under three different initial conditions (a)  $(\pm 1, 0, 0)$ ; (b)  $(20, 0, 0)$ .

For this set of parameter system (2) experiences the striking dynamics of coexisting bifurcations (see Figure 8) and thus coexisting attractors (see Figure 9). To the best author's knowledge, multistability in the symmetry boundary has not yet been discussed in Chua's system. Thus this work represents an enriching contribution to the understanding of the nonlinear dynamics of Chua's oscillators. However, this striking phenomenon of disconnected coexisting attractors is also reported in other nonlinear dynamic systems such as Chua's circuit [1-4], lazer system [43], chemical reaction [44], and the radio physical system [45], A special case where infinitely many attractors coexist, also referred to as extreme multistability is discussed by Hens and Wei [46-47].

The multiplicity of attractors represents an additional type of randomness [48]. That is exploited in real applications such as chaos based secret communication, image encryption, and random signal generation as well. However, this type of behavior is not desirable in general, thus the need for control. Detailed analysis on this line is out of the scope of this paper. Also, we suggest the excellent work on control of multistability to interested readers [49].



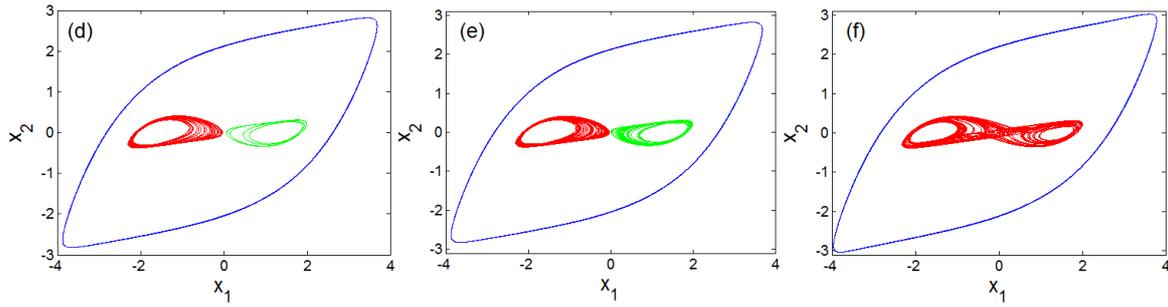


Figure 8. Coexisting attractors in the  $x_1 - x_2$  plane when  $b = 0.015$   $\beta = 6.6$ ;  $a = -1.16$ ;  $c = 0.06$  (a)  $\alpha = 4.8$ , (b)  $\alpha = 4.83$ , (c)  $\alpha = 4.91$ , (d)  $\alpha = 4.937$ , (e)  $\alpha = 4.964$ , (f)  $\alpha = 5.1$ . Three different initial conditions are used (red– green)( $\pm 1, 0, 0$ ); (blue)( $20, 0, 0$ ).

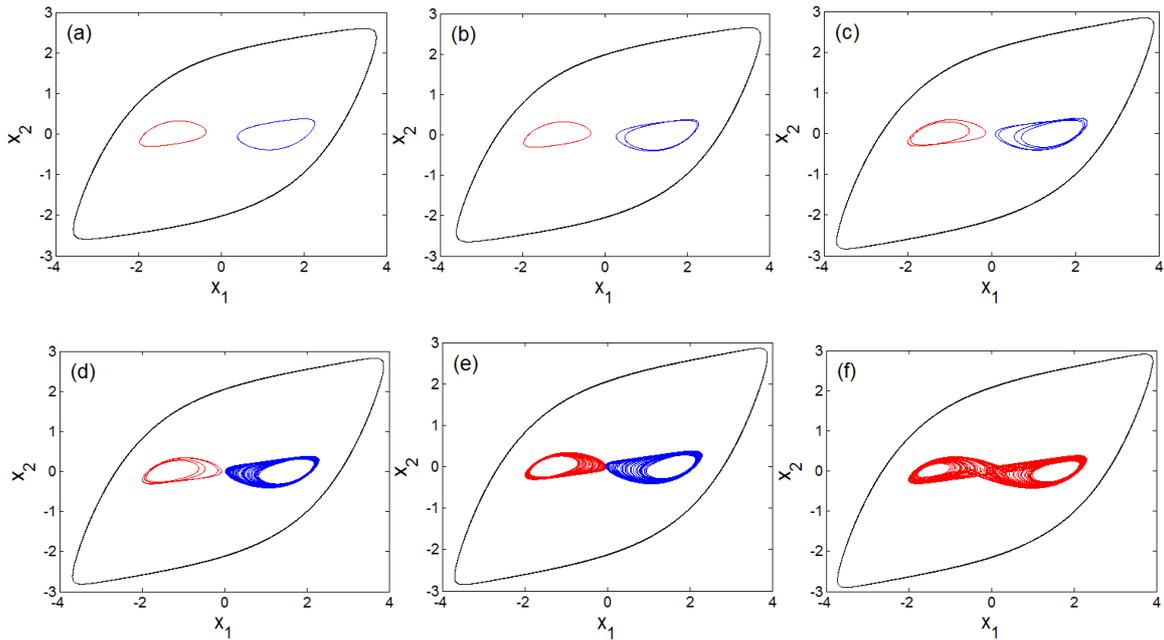


Figure 9. Coexisting attractors in the  $x_1 - x_2$  plane when  $b = -0.015$   $\beta = 6.6$ ;  $a = -1.16$ ;  $c = 0.06$  (a)  $\alpha = 4.8$ , (b)  $\alpha = 4.83$ , (c)  $\alpha = 4.91$ , (d)  $\alpha = 4.937$ , (e)  $\alpha = 4.964$ , (f)  $\alpha = 5.1$ . Three different initial conditions are used (red– blue)( $\pm 1, 0, 0$ ); (black)( $20, 0, 0$ ).

### 3.3. Circuit Design and Spice Simulations

The aim of this section is to design and implement an analog computer for the experimental analysis of system (2). Note that system (2) contains both cubic and quadratic polynomials. These nonlinearities are used to be implemented using analog multipliers which are relatively expensive. In this realization we propose the use of an approach based on piecewise linear (PWL) functions [50-51]. In fact the idea is to use diodes, Operational amplifiers and resistors to derive a PWL approximation of the cubic and quadratic functions (see Figure 10).

A circuit whose output is the square of the input signal is reported in Figure 10; while Figure 11 implements a PWL approximation of a circuit whose output is the cube of the input signal. Their transfer functions are represented in Figure 12 (a) and (b) respectively.

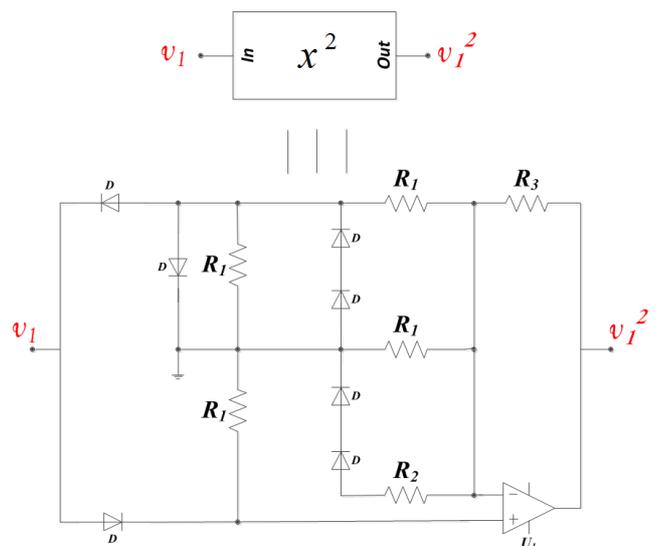


Figure 10. Transfer function of the cube function (a) and the square function (b).

These circuits are more convenient for low cost realization and have been used to the Chua's analog simulator presented in Figure 13 where the state variables  $x_1, x_2$  and  $x_3$  of system (2) are associated with the voltages  $v_1, v_2$  and  $v_3$  across the capacitors  $C_1, C_2$  and  $C_3$  respectively.

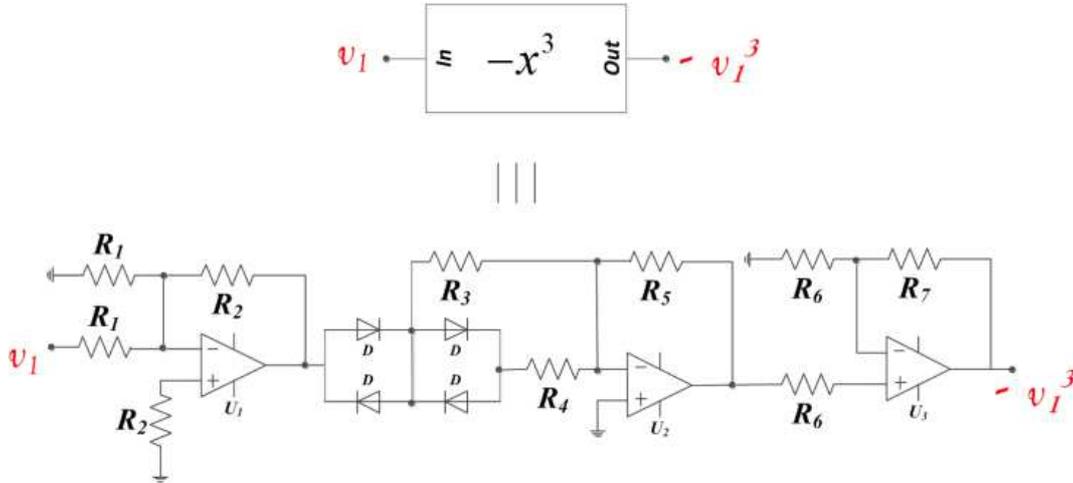


Figure 11. Circuitual implementation of the cube function. Component values are the following:  $R_1 = 200k\Omega$ ;  $R_2 = 100k\Omega$ ;  $R_3 = 12k\Omega$ ;  $R_4 = 2k\Omega$ ;  $R_5 = 15k\Omega$ ;  $R_6 = 10k\Omega$ .

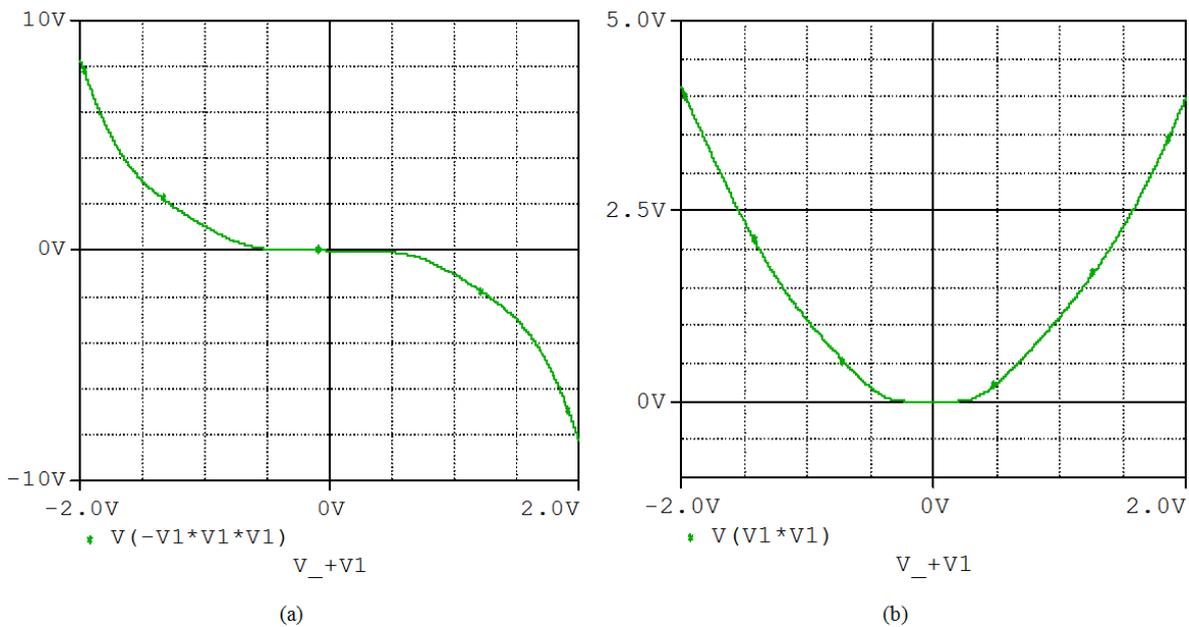
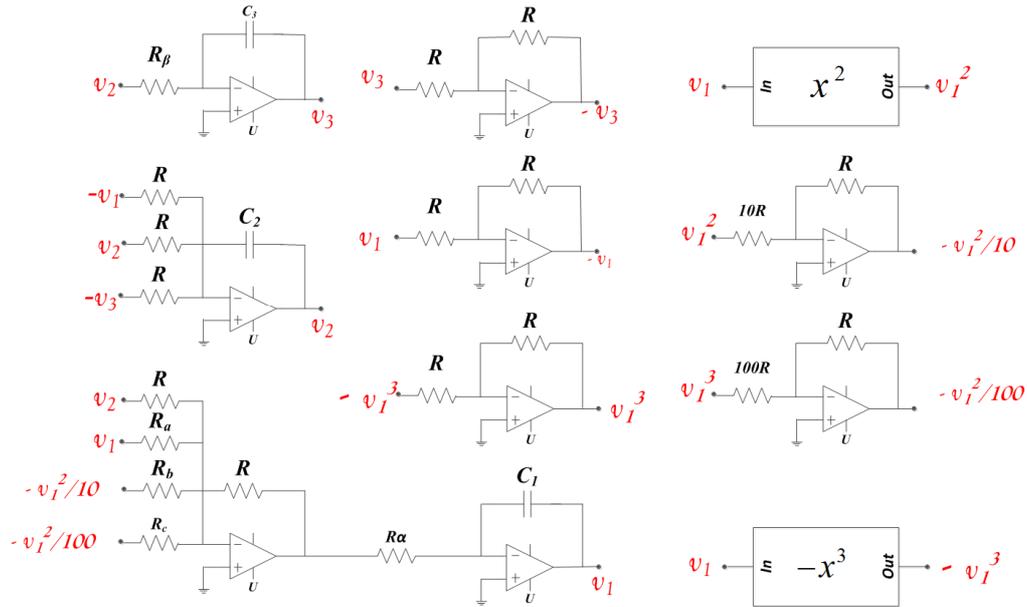


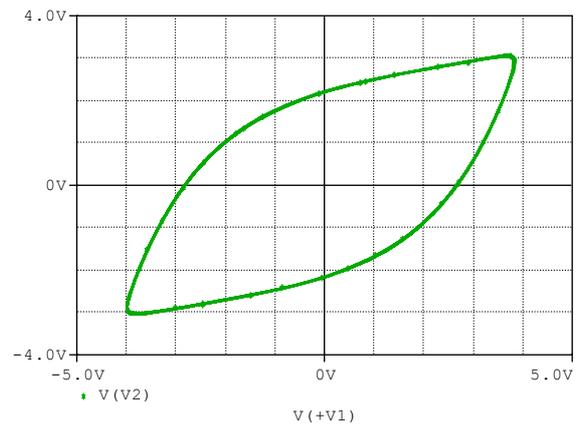
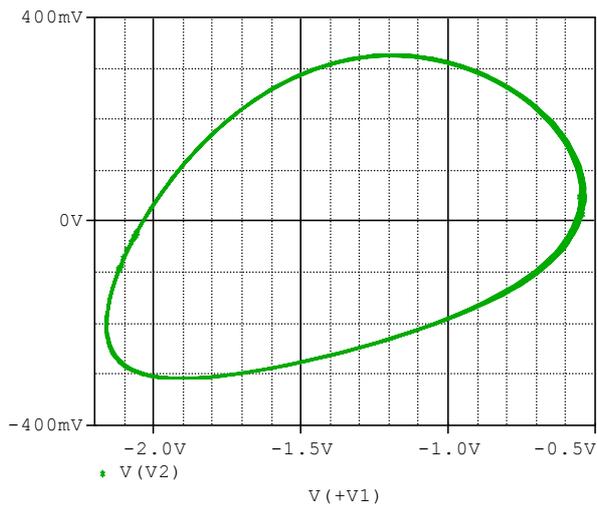
Figure 12. Transfer function of the cube function (a) and the square function (b).

By applying Kirchhoff's laws to the circuit of Figure 13, its nonlinear equations are derived in the following form:

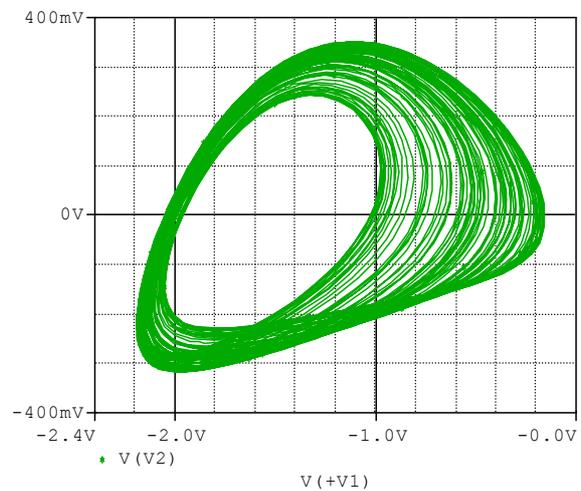
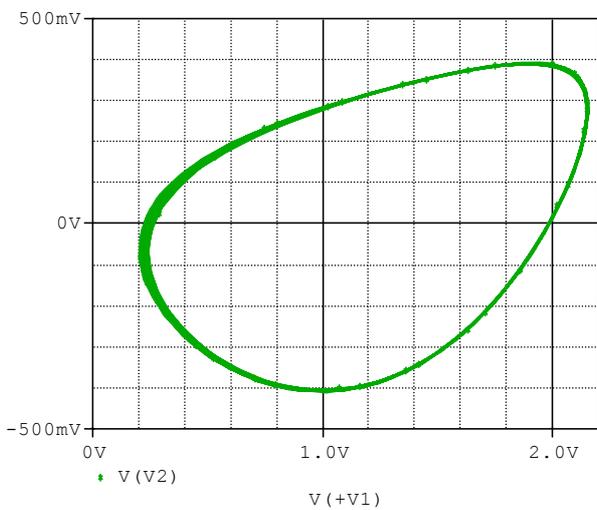
$$\begin{cases} C_1 \frac{dv_1}{dt_e} = \frac{1}{R_\alpha} \left( \frac{1}{R} v_2 - \frac{1}{R} v_1 \right) - \frac{1}{R_\alpha} \left( \frac{1}{R_a} v_1 + \frac{1}{R_b} v_1^2 + \frac{1}{R} v_1^3 \right) \\ C_2 \frac{dv_2}{dt_e} = \frac{1}{R} (v_1 - v_2 + v_3) \\ C_3 \frac{dv_3}{dt_e} = -\frac{1}{R_\beta} v_2 \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

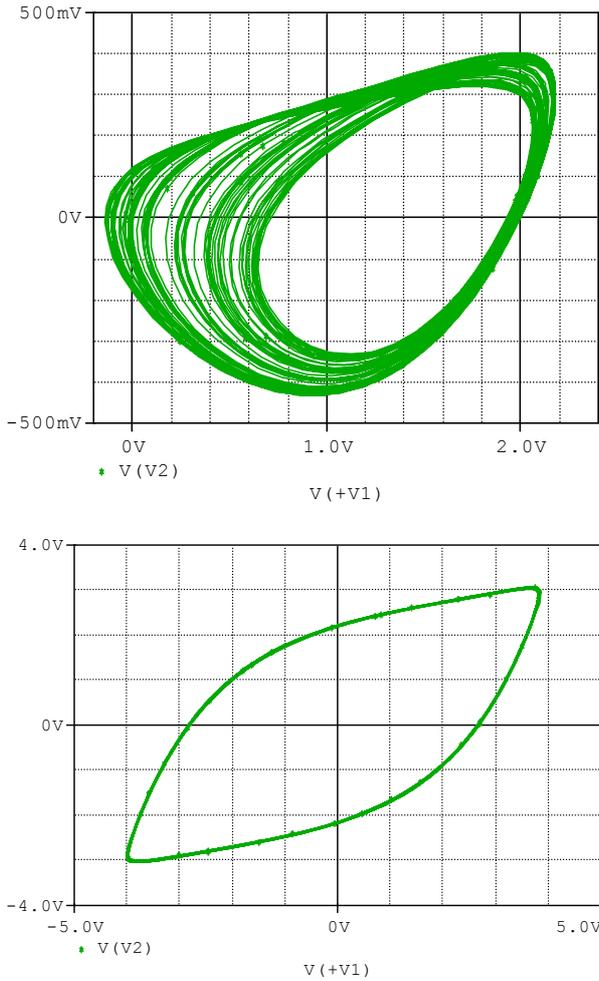


**Figure 13.** Electrical scheme of the analog calculator implementing the chaotic Chua's system with asymmetric nonlinearity. The following Component values have been used to solve the circuit:  $R = 10k\Omega$ ;  $C = 10nF$ ;  $R_\alpha = 2k\Omega$ ;  $R_\beta = 1.52k\Omega$ ;  $R_a = 62.5k\Omega$ ;  $R_b = 66.66k\Omega$ ;  $R_c = 1.66k\Omega$ .



**Figure 14.** PSpice simulation results showing the coexistence of limit cycles for  $R_\alpha = 2.10k\Omega$ ;  $R_\beta = 1.52k\Omega$ ;  $R_a = 62.50k\Omega$ ;  $R_b = 66.66k\Omega$ ;  $R_c = 1.66k\Omega$ : The initial conditions are  $(v_{C1}(0), v_{C2}(0), v_{C3}(0)) = (\pm 2, 0, 0)$  and  $(v_{C1}(0), v_{C2}(0), v_{C3}(0)) = (10, 0, 0)$ .





**Figure 15.** PSpice simulation results showing the coexistence of two chaotic spiral attractors and limit cycles for  $R_\alpha=2.03k\Omega$ ;  $R_\beta=1.52k\Omega$ ;  $R_a=62.50k\Omega$ ;  $R_b=66.66k\Omega$ ;  $R_c=1.66k\Omega$  : The initial conditions are  $(v_{c1}(0), v_{c2}(0), v_{c3}(0)) = (\pm 2, 0, 0)$  and  $(v_{c1}(0), v_{c2}(0), v_{c3}(0)) = (10, 0, 0)$  .

Adopting the following rescale of time and variables:  $t_e = tRC$ ;  $v_i = x_i nV_T$  ( $i = 1, 2, 3$ ) system (7) is identical to system (2) with the following definition of parameters:

$$a = \frac{R}{R_a}; b = \frac{R}{R_b}; c = \frac{R}{R_c}; \alpha = \frac{R}{R_\alpha}; \beta = \frac{R}{R_\beta} \quad (8)$$

With the aim to confirm the theoretical results of section 3, i.e. the multistability in system (2), the circuit of Figure 14 is simulated using Pspice.  $R_\alpha$  is used as the main control resistor and the rest of circuit components are fixed as:  $R_\beta = 1.52k\Omega$ ;  $R_a = 62.50k\Omega$ ;  $R_b = 66.66k\Omega$ ;  $R_c = 1.66k\Omega$  . The agreement between the theoretical results (Figure 5) and Pspice simulations (see Figures 14, 15) shows the feasibility of the suggested chaotic system.

### 4. Conclusion

This paper has investigated the systematic analysis of a Chua's circuit system. The adjustable symmetry of the system

is composed of both cubic and quadratic polynomials which have been implemented using PWL functions instead of analog multipliers. The stability analysis shows that the system has two stable nonzero fixed points. In addition the system is symmetric for the particular case ( $b = 0$ ) . In this case the system displays complex nonlinear phenomena such as the symmetry breaking in which a symmetric pair of attractors coexists and merges into one symmetric attractor through an attractor-merging bifurcation. When  $b \neq 0$  the symmetry breaks down but its complex dynamics of multistability is revealed with the coexistence of limit cycles, chaotic spiral attractors and double scroll chaotic attractors. In contrast to the particular case ( $b = 0$ ) , two asymmetric chaotic spiral attractors coexist and merge into one asymmetric double scroll chaotic attractor. For a kind of coexisting attractors the cross section of the basins of attraction of the various coexisting attractors has been plotted. More importantly, multistability in the symmetry boundary is discussed. Pspice simulation results support the numerical simulations. An experimental exploration of the parameter space of system (2) with application to image encryption deserves further studies.

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