JANOLI International Journal of
Electronics, Computer Science and Engineering (JIJECSE)
(A Peer Review Journal)
journal homepage: www.janolijournals.org/jijecse

Volume 1, Issue 1, 2025 ISSN: XXXX-XXXX

A New CMOS Dynamic Comparator for High-Speed Analog-to-Digital Converters

Ivanenko Liudmyla

Slobidska Street, 83, Chernihiv, Chernihiv Region, 14021

ARTICLE INFO

Article History:
Received December 15, 2024
Revised December 30, 2024
Accepted January 12, 2025
Available online January 25, 2025

Keywords:
CMOS dynamic comparator, analog-to-digital converter (ADC), high-speed circuits, noise immunity, power dissipation, transistor mismatch, circuit area, signal-to-noise ratio, Cadence Virtuoso, differential amplifier.

Correspondence:
E-mail: Ivanenko_ludmila@meta.ua

ABSTRACT

This paper presents a novel CMOS dynamic comparator designed to enhance the performance of high-speed analog-to-digital converters (ADCs). The proposed comparator replaces the traditional back-to-back inverter latch with a dual-input single-output differential amplifier, improving noise immunity, reducing power dissipation, and increasing speed. Five key research questions are explored: noise immunity, power dissipation, speed, circuit area, and robustness against transistor mismatch. The study employs quantitative analysis using Cadence Virtuoso with GPDK 90nm technology to validate the design. Simulation results confirm significant improvements in signal-to-noise ratio, power efficiency, response time, layout compactness, and robustness. The findings suggest that the proposed design advances comparator technology, making it more suitable for high-speed and power-efficient applications. Future work should involve real-world testing and further optimizations to enhance performance.

1. Introduction

This chapter will introduce the new design of the CMOS dynamic comparator, placing emphasis on how it can impact high-speed analog-to-digital converters. Its goal is speed improvement, lesser power dissipation, and stronger noise immunity with respect to current designs. Of course, what is at the heart of it all is replacing the back-to-back inverter in the latch stage with a dual-input single output differential amplifier. The study breaks this into five sub-research questions: the effect on noise immunity, changes in power dissipation, improvement in speed, effect on circuit area, and robustness against transistor mismatch. Using a quantitative methodology, the work considers the relationship between these variables. The article provides a literature review, then progresses to the methodology, presentation of findings, and discussion of the theoretical and practical implications, pointing out the advancements towards the comparator and its more significant aspects in electronic circuit design.

2. Literature Review

This section critically analyzes the existing work on comparator design, organized into the five sub-research questions: noise immunity, power dissipation, speed, circuit area, and robustness against transistor mismatch. This section summarizes what is lacking in the existing research, including inadequate noise reduction and high power dissipation, as well as the ways in which this study overcomes these weaknesses.

This section gives a comprehensive review of the existing literature on comparator designs, which is set within five key sub-research questions: noise immunity, power dissipation, speed, circuit area, and robustness against transistor mismatch. It points out the shortcomings in the existing work,

such as insufficient noise reduction capabilities and excessive power consumption, and discusses how this research aims to fill these gaps. By critically examining these aspects, the study aims to contribute meaningful improvements to the field of comparator design, ensuring that future implementations are not only more efficient but also more reliable in various applications.

2.1 Improvements in Noise Immunity of CMOS Comparators

Early studies concentrated on noise reduction in CMOS comparators through various design modifications, but were often only partially successful in completely eliminating noise. Later studies incorporated differential amplifiers, which further improved noise performance but did not eliminate noise problems entirely. The latest approaches have tried to incorporate sophisticated feedback mechanisms but still fail to achieve complete noise immunity. Hypothesis 1: The proposed dual-input single output differential amplifier design significantly enhances noise immunity compared to conventional designs.

2.2 Power Dissipation Reduction in Comparator Designs

Initial comparator designs emphasized functionality over power efficiency, so the power consumed was high. Mid-term research introduced power-saving techniques, including lower supply voltages and efficient clock management. Some reductions have been achieved; however, they are still very low. Advanced materials and design strategies are explored in current studies, but large power savings have not been attained. Hypothesis 2: The new topology reduces power dissipation better than previously reported comparators.

In the comparator designs in their early stages, the main goal was to focus on high functionality rather than highlighting power efficiency. As a result of this trend, these designs had high levels of power consumption. In the mid-term stage of research, several power-saving techniques were established, such as the use of lower supply voltages and efficient clock management techniques. While these approaches did yield some reductions in power consumption, they also underscored the fact that there was still much room for further improvement. Today, active research is focused on whether it is possible to achieve improved power efficiency with the use of advanced materials and novel design approaches. Yet, even with these initiatives, considerable power consumption reductions are still nowhere in sight. Therefore, Hypothesis 2 is that the newly proposed topology is able to reduce power dissipation more effectively than comparators reported in previous studies.

2.3 Speed Improvements in CMOS Dynamic Comparators

High-speed comparators designed early on typically suffered from poor balance between speed and accuracy. Later work that improved the transistor configuration enhanced speed but sacrificed some other performance measures. More recently, research on new architectures focuses on higher speeds but does not always fully characterize the circuits in a wide variety of situations. Hypothesis 3: The comparator is faster than other configurations.

2.4 Modern Comparators with Circuit Area Efficiency

Early CMOS designs often tended to result in large circuit areas, hence restricting their usability in space-constrained environments. In the later phase, there have been efforts for area minimization through layout optimization and integration of components with a moderate degree of success. Now, it employs miniaturization techniques at times at the expense of other parameters. Hypothesis 4: The proposed design offers less circuit area contribution due to the dual-input single output differential amplifier.

2.5 Robustness Against Transistor Mismatch in Comparator Circuits

Early works on comparator robustness have tackled transistor mismatch through design redundancy, which introduced additional complexity and cost. Intermediate solutions used more advanced matching techniques but were not applicable universally. Current research work explores

adaptive designs for improving robustness, though practical implementation remains difficult. Hypothesis 5: The innovative feedback mechanisms in the proposed design improve robustness against transistor mismatch.

3. Method

This chapter describes the methodology used for a quantitative analysis in the assessment of the proposed comparator design. In this chapter, data collection and analysis are addressed with a view to variables: noise immunity, power dissipation, speed, circuit area, and robustness against transistor mismatch.

4. Data

The data for this research were obtained by simulating the Cadence Virtuoso Analog Design Environment with GPDK 90nm technology. The requirements for the data collection include simulating the DC and transient responses of the designs of the comparator under a 1V DC supply voltage and 250 MHz clock frequency. Sample designs that fulfill the requirements ensure that various operating conditions are considered. The criteria focus on designs that show notable improvements in speed, power, and noise performance over traditional designs.

5. Variables

The independent variable of this experiment is the comparator design configuration, that is, the dual-input single output differential amplifier. Dependent variables include noise immunity (measured as improvements in signal-to-noise ratio), power dissipation (measured in milliwatts), speed (measured by response time and frequency handling), circuit area (measured by layout size), and robustness (measured by tolerance to parameter variations). Classical control variables like temperature and supply voltage stability are used to make sure that the results obtained represent changes due to design changes. Literature from earlier comparator studies is cited to support the measurement methods used.

Results

This section reports the simulation results, thereby validating the hypotheses put forward. The results are presented to demonstrate considerable improvements in noise immunity, power efficiency, speed, compactness of the circuit, and robustness. These improvements are correlated with the new design methodology.

5.1 Increased Noise Suppression through Comparator Design

The above result serves to confirm Hypothesis 1. The differential amplifier of dual inputs and a single output provides a significantly higher noise immunity. Simulation results show the signal-to-noise ratio increased more than in traditional designs; the amplifier clearly filters out noise better. The independent variable in this experiment will be the amplifier configuration; the dependent variable includes the noise immunity, as measured by signal clarity and consistency parameters. This empirical significance is that it suggests that the designed comparator is very efficient in handling the noisy environment based on differential signal processing theories.

5.2 Lower Power Dissipation in Comparator

Because of this, Hypothesis 2 is supported, signifying that the above design has lower power dissipation. Simulations showed that the power consumed is significantly low compared to earlier designs and is due to proper management of current in the dual-input single output differential amplifier. The independent variable is the design of the amplifier while the dependent variable is power dissipation, measured in milliwatts. The empirical meaning gives light to the energy efficiency improvement potential of this design towards high speed applications as aligned with power management theories.

5.3 Outstanding Speed Performance in Novel Comparator Architecture

This finding confirms Hypothesis 3, showing that the comparator designed has better speed performance. Simulations show a considerable reduction in response time and better frequency handling capabilities due to optimized feedback and switching mechanisms. The independent variable is the comparator architecture, and the dependent variable is speed, measured through response time metrics. The empirical significance underscores the design's suitability for high-speed applications, supported by theories on dynamic response optimization.

5.4 Efficient Circuit Area Usage in Comparator Circuit Design

This result confirms Hypothesis 4, which states that the design proposed here indeed minimizes circuit area. Simulations indicate a smaller layout size compared to conventional comparators, due to the integration of the dual-input single output differential amplifier. The independent variable is the amplifier integration, and the dependent variable is circuit area, measured in square micrometers. Empirical significance suggests that this design improves space efficiency, which is in line with theories on compact circuit design.

5.5 Better Resistance to Transistor Mismatch

This result confirms Hypothesis 5: the designed circuit is better immune against transistor mismatch. The simulations yield improved robustness to parameter variations for the new circuit topologies due to the novel feedback structures. The independent variable is feedback design, and the dependent variable is robustness which is measured by stability and consistency of performance metrics. The empirical importance presents the design's reliability in changed conditions due to theories on adaptive circuit design.

6. Conclusion

This confirms that the proposed CMOS dynamic comparator performs better in high-speed analog-to-digital converters based on superior noise immunity, power efficiency, speed, circuit area, and robustness. As such, the development of comparator technology is advanced while offering insights into both practical and theoretical optimization of circuit design. However, the verification of the findings requires real testing and cannot rely on simulation data only. Further studies are required in order to study the implementation of this design in various applications and also in searching for improvements in performance. Addressing these issues will form the basis for continued innovation in high-speed electronic components.

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