

RESEARCH ARTICLE

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AN EFFICIENT LOW POWER DESIGN OF SAR BASED ADC USING DEEP SUBMICRON 45NM CMOS TECHNOLOGY

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Manuscript Info

Abstract

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<i>Key words:-</i> ADC, SAR, CMOS Technology, Low Power, Comparator, Digital-To- Analog Converter, Sample-And- Hold, Etc.	A 4-bit Successive Approximation Register (SAR) logic based Analog to Digital Converter (ADC) is designed using Up-down counter as SAR logic for low power operation. The advancement in CMOS technology is going on day by day. With this advancement, more & more signal processing functions are incorporated in the digital field for low cost, low power consumption and dissipation. The designed CMOS based ADC structures provide optimum results for all three circuit design challenges as speed, area and power. Among various ADC topologies, we opted to implement up-down counter based Successive Approximation Register (SAR) ADC that is one of the best suited for low power. We target a resolution of 4-bit and a power consumption of few mill watts. The SAR ADC is implemented in 45nm CMOS technology with a power supply of 1V.			

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Introduction:-

In the past few years, more and more applications are built with very stringent requirements on power consumption [1]. For electronic systems, such as wireless systems or implantable devices, the power consumption is becoming one of the most critical factors [1]. The stringent requirements on the energy consumption increase the needfor the development of low voltage and low power circuit techniques and system building blocks [2]. Along with thesame, the trend of CMOS technology improvement continues to be driven by the need to integrate more functions within a given silicon area. VLSI fabrication technology is leading to smaller line widths and feature size and hence to higherpacking density [2].

The scaling down of feature size by the various factors leads to improved performance. Hence, it is important to understand the effects of scaling [2].

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Analog-to-Digital Converters (ADCs) translate the analog quantities into digital language, used in information processing, computing, data transmission and control systems [3]. ADCs are key components for the design of power limited systems, in order to keep the power consumption as low as possible [2].

There is a wide variety of different ADC topologies available depending on the requirements of the application [4][8]. SAR ADCs have a decent conversion speed and take small overall chip area in comparison to flash ADCs, which are fast but take up a large area. SAR ADC design also flows well with the use of a serial output port due to the natureofthe conversion method [4] [5].

In a SAR- ADC, a digital-to-analog converter (internal-DAC) tries to calculate the value of each sample of the input analog signal through successive approximations and comparisons. Based on the ADC resolution, after a specific number of cycles, the digital word being stored in the successive-approximation register (SAR) corresponds to the analog sample with a specific quantization error [5]. It basically generates one bit per clock cycle, the merits are the low area needed for the implementation. ADCs of this type have good resolutions and quite wide ranges.

The up-down counter based SAR architecture allows for high-speed, typically low-power ADCs to be packaged insmall form factors for today's high demanding applications. With Microwind EDA Software tool, we have designed 4bit low power SAR ADC with 45 nm technology.

SARADC:-

The SAR-ADC consists of a sample-and-hold (S/H) circuit, a comparator, a digital-to-analog converter (DAC) and logic control unit. These blocks are explained below. The ADC employs a binary-search algorithm that uses the digital logic circuitry to determine the value of each bit in a successive manner based on the outcome of the comparison between the outputs of the S/H circuit and DAC feedback [1][2][3]. When an input signal is applied to the converter, the comparator simply tells whether the input signal is greater or smaller than the DAC output and gives one digital bit at a time starting from the MSB. The SAR stores the produced digital bit and uses the information to alter the DAC output for the next comparison. This operation is repeated until all the bits in the DAC are decided. Figure 1 and 2 illustrates the block diagram and conversion procedure of converter.



Figure 1:- Block diagram for the Successive approximation Register based ADC.

Analog input



Figure 2:- Successive approximation conversion procedure.

Sample and Hold Circuit

The conversion process of a successive approximation ADC begins at the Sample and Hold circuit. Figure 3 shows the Sample and Hold circuit. Mostly, Sample and hold circuit contains a switch and a capacitor. In the tracking mode, while the sampling signal is high and the switch is connected, it tracks down the analog input signal. In hold mode, itholds the value when the sampling signal changes to low [4]. The value of Cstore is dependent on the number of voltage levels to be observed on the output side.



Figure 3:- Physical design of Sample and Hold Circuit.

Comparator

Comparator is the important block of any ADC, It can be said that comparators are fundamental analog to digital converter used to generate one bit of digital data [4] [2]. To optimize the performance of comparator on the basis of high speed, resolution and power dissipation W and L of the used transistors must be taken into consideration. The aspect ratio of this transistor can be calculated by equation given below;

$$IDS = K + \frac{W}{L} \left(VGS - VTH - \frac{VDS}{2} \right) VDS$$

Where, VDD = Supply Voltage, VT = Threshold Voltage, VGS = Gate Sourse Voltage, K and

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$gm = \frac{K}{2} \frac{W}{L} (VGS - VTH)$



Figure 4:- Physical layout High speed comparator.

Up-Down Counter based SAR Logic Design

The architecture of SAR conversional ADC is shown in Figure.5. A successive approximation register sub block is designed to provide an approximate digital code of Vin to the internal DAC [1] [3]. We proposed a design of SAR counter logic by simplest method, an Up-Down counter to control DAC o/p. It works by starting by binary o/p 8(1000), and then by determining whether Vin is larger or smaller than VDD/2, it decrements or increments. The counter o/p and Vin is compared using comparator which gives the value of that count directly. The comparison is performed for the next count, and so on until all count are checked for below or greater than value 8. The conversion would start with SOC signal and cycle finishes after 8 clock cycles, with active low EOC output.



Figure 5:- Physical design of SAR Logic.

Digital To Analog Converter (DAC)

DAC can be implemented using various architectures with varying level of complexity. Each of DAC architecture hasits own merits or demerits. Voltage division methods can be used to convert digital code to analog value. R-2R ladder architecture has two operating modes: current mode R-2R ladder and voltage mode R-2R ladder [10]. In this paper, voltage mode R-2R ladder type DAC is used, shown in figure 6.



Figure 6:- Physical design of R-2R based DAC.

ADC Design:-

After implementing all the subparts of ADC as sample and hold circuit, comparator, Up-Down based SAR structure and DAC. We need to insert them all on the single substrate. The Figure 7 shows the final physical design of 4 bit CMOS SAR ADC



Figure 7:- Physical design Final ADC.

Simulation Result:-

After simulation the output waveforms of sample and hold circuit, comparator, Up-Down based SARstructure and DAC are shown in figures below.



For Comparator, the simulation result of comparator is given in Figure 9, where VRef is input with some delayed clock timing parameters, Vin is random clock between 0.1V to 0.9V and Vbias is a biasing voltage as 0.5 V. When the input Vin goes high above 0.5 V, the output of the buffer changes states. So the relation for output we are getting is, when Vref > Vin then out = '1' and when Vref < Vin, out = '0'.



For the DC analysis, both input and reference voltage are taken as DC voltage source. Input voltage is swept from0Vto 1 V.



For R-2R ladder DAC, designed with 45 nm technology and the input given to this converter is from 0000 to 1111. We have achieve simulation result for all 16 combinations of input for 0100 (B3, B2, B1, B0) and 1000 (B3, B2, B1,B0).



For ADC design simulation, the input Analog Input as a sine waveform.



Figure 12:- Simulation result of SAR Based DAC.

Comparison Performance Of SARA

Specification	[2]	[5]	This Work	
Technology Used	45nm	45nm	45 nm	
Architecture	SAR	SAR	SAR	
Resolution (bits)	4 bits	4 Bits	4 Bits	
Supply Voltage (Volts)	1	1	1	
Power Consumption (mW)	2.7	4	2.20	

Conclusion:-

A physical design of 4-bit successive approximation Register ADC converter suitable for operation at low supply voltage is designed in a standard 45 nm CMOS technology and compared based on the power dissipation. The physical design for various internal parts are designed and combined to form a CMOS based ADC. On the input side, we designed Sample and Hold circuit with input as an analog signal. We have designed a high speed CMOS comparator circuit where the input voltage is swept from 0V to 1 V as Vdd for 45nm technology is 1V. An area efficient DAC architecture based on the R-2R ladder topology is designed. The Results indicate that the physical design achieves 4- bit conversion. Test results indicate that the circuit is well suited for operation at 1 V. The SAR ADC draws a smallamount of power 2.20 mW and physical area of 829.6µm2.

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