TISO ADJUSTABLE FILTER WITH CONTROLLABLE CONTROLLED-GAIN VOLTAGE DIFFERENCING CURRENT CONVEYOR

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The main aim of this paper is to present solution of triple-input single-output (TISO) filter with independently adjustable pole frequency, quality factor, bandwidth and also gain. Filter is universal, operates in current mode and includes only one active element – the so-called Controlled-Gain Voltage Differencing Current Conveyor (CG-VDCC) with two controllable parameters: transconductance (g_m) and gain of output currents (B_X). Implementation of CG-VDCC element in 0.18 μm CMOS technology is also included and this model is used in proposed filter simulations.

Keywords: current mode, SITO filter, universal filter, CG-VDCC

1 INTRODUCTION

There have been many controllable active elements reported in recent works, brief summarization is given in [1]. Some active elements which have two externally controllable (by bias voltage or current) parameters have been already published. Typical examples of active elements with two-parameter control are modifications of the current differencing transconductance amplifier (CDTA) [2], where R_X and g_m control is implemented by DC bias currents [3, 4]. Several active elements, based on transconductance section (OTA) [1, 5] and current conveyor of second generation (CCII) [6, 7], have been also proposed. For example, current conveyor transconductance amplifier (CCTA) [8] also utilizes independent R_X and g_m control in some of its variants, for example [9]. Modification of CCTA in [10] employs current gain control, where current conveyor with adjustable gain from X to Z terminal was used. Controllable current gain in frame of current conveyor [11, 12] seems to be an interesting and valuable advantage [13–21].

Proposed novel active element provides useful controllable features. The so-called CG-VDCC consists of OTA and CCII elements (note that CCTA consists of the same active elements, but in reverse order). Our solution presented in this paper provides electronic control of g_m and of three current gains (each of them independently), therefore four parameters are controllable. As obvious from the presented transistor structure, R_X could also be controlled but it is not required in our case. This approach allows construction of very simple applications with minimum passive elements.

Active elements with more than one controllable parameter are very useful. They usually allow electronic

control of more than one parameter of final filtering solution. In case of filter, it is pole frequency, quality factor, bandwidth and pass-band or stop-band gain [22]. Only one (more complex) active element is sufficient in many cases.

We provided a study of several universal filtering solutions and found following drawbacks concerning mainly lack of electronically controllable features of proposed applications:

- Not all parameters of the filter are adjustable independently and electronically [23],
- Too many active or passive elements are required [24, 25],
- Not all passive elements are grounded or outputs are taken from passive elements and therefore additional buffering is required [26, 27],
- Copies or inversions of input current are required (in case of presented filter, copies are required only for band-stop and all-pass filtering functions) [28],
- Absorption of parasitic input resistance is not possible [27, 29].

This paper is divided to two main parts. The first part deals with explanation of CG-VDCC behavior which is supported by simulations with CMOS model of proposed element. The second part discusses application of CG-VDCC in universal current-mode filter.

2 VOLTAGE DIFFERENCING CURRENT CONVEYOR

CG-VDCC element consists of transconductance section with electronically adjustable transconductance (g_m) and electronically controllable current conveyor of second generation with several outputs with electronically

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Fig. 1. Controlled-Gain Voltage Differencing Current Conveyor (CG-VDCC) with three controllable gains, (a) – basic structure, (b) – schematic symbol

adjustable current gain from X terminal to Z_{B1-3} terminals. The key feature of our solution is that current gains can be controlled mutually independently. Basic structure of CG-VDCC active elements is shown in Fig. 1(a), schematic symbol in Fig. 1(b).

CG-VDCC has two voltage inputs (V_+ and V_-), auxiliary high-impedance port Z (output of OTA section and voltage input of ECCII), one current input (X) and in this particular case three current outputs (Z_{B1-3}) with controllable current gain. Outer behavior of CG-VDCC element is described by the following matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} I_{V+} \\ I_{V-} \\ I_Z \\ V_X \\ I_{ZB1} \\ I_{ZB2} \\ I_{ZB3} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -g_m & g_m & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & B_1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & B_2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & B_3 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} V_+ \\ V_- \\ V_Z \\ I_X \\ V_{ZB1} \\ V_{ZB2} \\ V_{ZB3} \end{bmatrix}. \quad (1)$$

Basic structure from Fig. 1(a) was the starting point for the design of CMOS realization of CG-VDCC shown in Fig. 2 and Fig. 3 showing the block level structure and detailed transistor structure.

Structure has three parts (transconductor, current conveyor of second generation and adjustable current amplifier). The first part is the transconductance amplifier [5] with differential NMOS pair connected to voltage input of CMOS current conveyor. Its transconductance is

controlled by $I_{\text{set_gm}}$. Multiple-Output Current Conveyor section [6] is the second part. It provides three current outputs (to_CA1, to_CA2, to_CA3) that are connected to the third section (only one of them, CA1, is shown in Fig. 3). Intrinsic resistance of X terminal of MO-CCII can be controlled by I_{setRX} , but it is not used in this particular case. The third section, adjustable current amplifier [30], provides independent current gain of output current (by current $I_{\text{setB1-3}}$). One CA section has two outputs (Z_P and Z_N , which means that first output is positive and the second one is negative), but only one of them is usually used in particular solution and therefore final transistor structure could be simplified according to particular requirements. If both outputs are present, their gain is the same, only the phase is inverted. If only one of this output is to be used and it is not decided if it is positive or negative, it is noted as Z_B (B is common sign for current gain).

Fig. 2. Designed CMOS implementation of proposed CG-VDCC active element; block structure

Proposed CMOS model was simulated and analyzed with TSMC LO EPI 0.18 μm technology [31]. Some of important simulation results of CG-VDCC model are included in this paper. Figure 4 shows DC performance of OTA section for three values of control current $I_{\text{set_gm}}$, Figure 5 shows AC performance of OTA section for the same three values of control current and Fig. 6 includes dependence of g_m of OTA on control current.

Second group of graphs covers simulation results of MO-CCII and CA sections (connected together as a second part of a structure depicted in block diagram). Figures 7 and 8 contains DC and AC responses for three particular values of gain control current and Fig. 9 includes dependence of current gain on control current.

DC parameters of CG-VDCC element are as follows: $R_{V+} = R_{V-} > 1 \text{ G}\Omega$, $R_Z = 52 \text{ k}\Omega$, $R_X = 450 \Omega$ ($I_{\text{setRX}} = 150 \mu\text{A}$), $R_{ZP} = R_{ZN} = 58 \text{ k}\Omega$ (when $B = 1$). Transconductance can be controlled from $255 \mu\text{S}$ to $1919 \mu\text{S}$ (by $I_{\text{set_gm}} = 10 \mu\text{A}$ to $150 \mu\text{A}$) and current gain can be controlled from 0.36 to 3.76 (by $I_{\text{setB1-3}}$ from $100 \mu\text{A}$ to $20 \mu\text{A}$).

Fig. 3. Designed CMOS implementation of proposed CG-VDCC active element in a transistor level without CA2 and CA3 sections

Fig. 4. OTA DC performance for selected values of control current, $V_{DD} = -V_{SS} = 1$ V, V_- , X , Z , $Z_{PB1-3} = GND$

Fig. 5. OTA AC performance for selected values of control current, $V_{DD} = -V_{SS} = 1$ V, V_- , X , Z , $Z_{PB1-3} = GND$

3 EXAMPLE OF FILTERING SOLUTION WITH CG-VDCC

Proposed active element is very suitable for design of electronically controllable filters. This section presents ex-

ample of current-mode TISO universal controllable filter with only one CG-VDCC. Its structure is shown in Fig. 10.

Ideal transfer functions (low pass = LP, inverting band pass = iBP, high pass = HP, band stop = BS, all pass =

Fig. 6. Dependence of g_m of OTA on control current, $V_{DD} = -V_{SS} = 1$ V, $V_-, X, Z, Z_{PB1-3} = GND$

Fig. 7. MO-CCII and CA section DC performance for selected values of control current, $V_{DD} = -V_{SS} = 1$ V, $V_+, V_-, Z = GND$

Fig. 8. MO-CCII and CA section AC performance for selected values of control current, $V_{DD} = -V_{SS} = 1$ V, $V_+, V_-, Z = GND$

Fig. 9. Dependence of current gain of MO-CCII and CA section on control current, $V_{DD} = -V_{SS} = 1$ V, $V_+, V_-, Z = GND$

Fig. 10. Structure of TISO universal controllable filter

Fig. 11. Magnitude responses of LP, iBP, HP and BS functions when $B_1 = 1$, $B_2 = -1$, $B_3 = -1$

AP) of this filter are

$$K_{LP}(s) = \frac{I_{OUT}}{I_{IN1}} = \frac{B_1 G_1 g_m}{D(s)},$$

if $I_{IN1} = -I_{IN}$ and $I_{IN2} = I_{IN3} = 0$;

$$K_{iBP}(s) = \frac{I_{OUT}}{I_{IN2}} = \frac{-B_1 s C_1 G_1}{D(s)},$$

if $I_{IN2} = I_{IN}$ and $I_{IN1} = I_{IN3} = 0$;

$$K_{HP}(s) = \frac{I_{OUT}}{I_{IN3}} = \frac{s^2 C_1 C_2 B_1}{D(s)},$$

if $I_{IN3} = -I_{IN}$ and $I_{IN1} = I_{IN2} = 0$;

$$(2) \quad K_{BS}(s) = \frac{I_{OUT}}{I_{IN1} + I_{IN3}} = \frac{s^2 C_1 C_2 B_1 + B_1 G_1 g_m}{D(s)}, \quad (5)$$

$$(3) \quad \text{if } I_{IN1} = -I_{IN} \text{ and } I_{IN3} = I_{IN} \text{ and } I_{IN2} = 0;$$

$$(4) \quad K_{AP} = \frac{I_{OUT}}{I_{IN1} + I_{IN2} + I_{IN3}} = \frac{s^2 C_1 C_2 B_1 - B_1 s C_1 G_1 + B_1 G_1 g_m}{D(s)}, \quad (6)$$

Fig. 12. Magnitude response and phase shift of AP filter when $B_1 = 1$, $B_2 = -1$, $B_3 = -1$

Fig. 13. Gain control: magnitude response of iBP for three different values of gain B_1 when $B_2 = -1$, $B_3 = -1$

Fig. 14. Center frequency control with constant bandwidth: magnitude response of iBP for three values of gain B_2 when $B_1 = 1$, $B_3 = -1$

Fig. 15. Quality factor control: magnitude response of iBP for three different values of gain B_3 when $B_1 = 1$, $B_2 = -1$

Fig. 16. Center frequency control with constant quality factor: Magnitude response of iBP for three different values of $g_m = G_1$ when $B_1 = 1$, $B_2 = -1$, $B_3 = -1$ and $Q = 0.9$

if $I_{IN1} = -I_{IN}$ and $I_{IN3} = I_{IN}$ and $I_{IN2} = I_{IN}$; where denominator is in all cases

$$D(s) = -B_2 G_1 g_m - B_3 s C_1 G_1 + s^2 C_1 C_2. \quad (7)$$

It is obvious that filter is stable only for $B_2 < 0$ and $B_3 < 0$, therefore output Z_{B2} and Z_{B3} has to be negative. It is also obvious that two copies of input current are

required for BS filter (one of them is inverted) and three copies of input current are required for AP filter (one of them has to be also inverted).

Center (pole) frequency and quality factor can be expressed as follows

$$f_0 = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{\frac{-B_2 G_1 g_m}{C_1 C_2}}, \quad (8)$$

$$Q = \frac{1}{B_3} \sqrt{\frac{-B_2 g_m C_2}{G_1 C_1}}. \quad (9)$$

From the previous equations it is obvious that:

- B_1 can be used for control of gain (and phase) of each of filtering functions,
- B_2 can be used for control of center frequency of iBP function with constant bandwidth (BW),
- B_3 can be used for control of quality factor of every filtering function,
- $g_m = G_1$ can be used for control of center frequency while keeping Q constant.

When parasitic resistance of X port (450Ω) is taken into account, parameters of filter and passive components are calculated as follows:

$f_C = 1$ MHz is starting pole frequency for $g_m = 690 \mu\text{S}$ ($I_{\text{set-gm}} = 33 \mu\text{A}$) and $G_1 = 1 \text{ mS}$, $Q = 0.707$ (Butterworth approximation) for $B_3 = -1$, $C_1 = 155 \text{ pF}$, $C_2 = 78 \text{ pF}$. Some of simulation results are summarized in Figs. 11–16. The first figure, Fig. 11 shows overall filter response for starting parameters as mentioned before in case of LP, iBP, HP and BS function, Fig. 12 shows characteristics of AP filter in the same conditions. Figs. 13–16 present possibilities of control in case of iBP response. Figure 13 includes gain control, Fig. 14 shows control of center frequency with constant bandwidth, Fig. 15 control of quality factor with constant center frequency and finally, Fig. 16, tuning of center frequency with constant value of quality factor.

4 CONCLUSION

Presented filtering solution has many advantages thanks to electronic control of four parameters: g_m and of three independent current gains, therefore four parameters are controllable mutually independently as described briefly in Section 3. Filter consists of one active element and three passive elements, but G_1 could be omitted if control of pole frequency independently on quality factor and some of filtering functions is not required. From Figs. 11–16 it is obvious that there are some parasitic influences, for example in case of HP response (Fig. 11), pass-band gain is not unity (0 dB). In this particular case it is caused by R_X of X terminal that acts as current divider with G_1 . Note that this is not a problem, because gain could be fine-tuned by B_1 without affecting any other parameter of the filter. The same method could be used to fine-tune gain in case of quality factor adjustment (Fig. 15). All control processes were presented only on band pass response but tuning is also possible in case of other filtering functions. The main advantages of final filtering solution are

- all parameters of the filter are adjustable independently and electronically,
- not many active and passive elements are required,
- all passive elements are grounded and no output is taken from passive element and therefore additional buffering is not required,
- absorption of parasitic input resistance (R_X) is possible, its expected values have been taken into calculations.

Acknowledgement

This research work was supported by Czech Science Foundation project 14-24186P, Czech Republic, and by projects SIX CZ.1.05/2.1.00/03.0072, EU ECOP EE.2.3.20.0094 and CZ.1.07/2.2.00/28.0062. The support of the project CZ.1.07/2.3.00/20.0007 WICOMT, financed from the operational program Education for competitiveness, is gratefully acknowledged.

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Received 6 January 2014

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