

Current Mode Universal Filter Using Single Current Controlled Differential Difference Current Conveyor Transconductance Amplifier

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Abstract

This research paper contains a new electronically tunable current-mode biquadratic universal filter using a new active building block; current controlled differential difference current conveyor transconductance amplifier (CCDDCCTA). The proposed filter provides the following important and desirable features: (i) One can use only one CCDDCCTA and two capacitors; (ii) One can get low pass (LP), band pass (BP), high pass (HP), notch (NF) and all pass (AP) current responses from the same configuration without any alteration; (iii) Passive components are grounded, which ease the integrated circuit implementation; (iv) Responses are electronically tunable; and (v) Sensitivity is low. Moreover, the non-ideality analysis shows that the parasitic passive components can be compensated for the proposed circuit. The functionality of the design is verified through SPICE simulations using 0.25 μm CMOS TSMC technology process parameters. Simulation result agrees well with the theoretical analysis.

Keywords

Current Mode Analog Filter, Universal Filter, Current Controlled Differential Difference Current Conveyor Transconductance Amplifier (CCDDCCTA), Monte-Carlo Analysis

1. Introduction

Universal biquadratic filters are those which provide all standard filter functions (low pass (LP), band pass (BP),

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high pass (HP), notch (NF) and all pass (AP)), without modifying the circuit topology. The advancement in the field of microelectronics presents current mode active building blocks for design of fast and high performance analog signal processing circuits and systems [1]. The current mode active blocks may process signals in voltage as well as current mode. A number of current mode filters using various analog building blocks (ABB) are available in literature under the classification of multi-input multi-output (MIMO) [2]-[5], single-input multi-output (SIMO) [6]-[11] and multi-input single-output (MISO) [12]-[24]. In addition, a range of current conveyor blocks with inbuilt transconductance amplifier (TA) in monolithic chip, such as current conveyor transconductance amplifier (CCTA) [25], current difference transconductance amplifier (CDTA) [26], current controlled current conveyor transconductance amplifier (CCCCTA) [27], differential voltage current conveyor transconductance amplifier (DVCCTA) [19], differential difference current conveyor transconductance amplifier (DDCCTA) [4], differential voltage current controlled conveyor transconductance amplifier (DVCCCTA) [28] and current controlled differential difference current conveyor transconductance amplifier (CCDDCCTA) [29], have emerged in last few years. Among these, CCDDCCTA is a recently introduced ABB. It is basically composed of current controlled differential difference current conveyor (CCDDCC) [30] followed by a transconductance amplifier (TA) block. It has high input impedance terminals for voltage and high output impedance terminals for currents. It can process both differential and floating inputs. It inherits all the good properties of CCDDCC, CCCCTA and DDCCTA along with electronic tuning of transconductance, which is found to be useful in design of various circuits with lesser number of resistors and integrated circuit implementation.

The study of MISO universal filters [13]-[24] based on current mode ABB reveals that these circuits suffer one or more of the following weakness:

- (a) Use of two or more ABBs [13]-[16] [18] [20]-[24];
- (b) Excessive use of the passive components [15]-[17] [19] [21];
- (c) No grounded passive components [15] [16];
- (d) Requirement of four or more input current signal to get all the responses [15]-[18];
- (e) Requirement of gain of input signal such as $2I_{in}$ or $3I_{in}$ [13]-[15] [20] [23] [24];
- (f) Lack of electronic tunability [15] [16];
- (g) Non-orthogonality of pole frequency and quality factor [13]-[15] [20]-[22] [24].

A new current mode universal filter with a reduced number of passive components has been presented. The proposed filter is a multi-input single-output (MISO) and uses two grounded capacitors and one CCDDCCTA only. The proposed current mode filter circuit can realize high pass (HP), low pass (LP), band pass (BP), notch and all pass (AP) filter responses by selecting appropriate input current without alteration of the topology. It can easily be cascaded, as its output is current and impedance is high. All the features of the proposed filter can be electronically adjusted by biasing currents of the CCDDCCTA. Moreover, the high- Q filter may easily be achieved by using the bias currents of CCDDCCTA. A comparative study of the available active elements based on current mode filters is also presented. PSPICE simulation results verify the theoretical analysis.

2. Circuit Description

The symbol of CCDDCCTA and its implementation using CMOS are shown in **Figure 1** and **Figure 2** respectively.

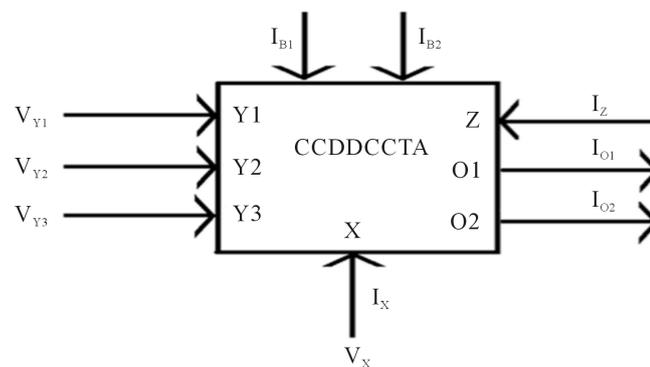


Figure 1. Symbol of CCDDCCTA.

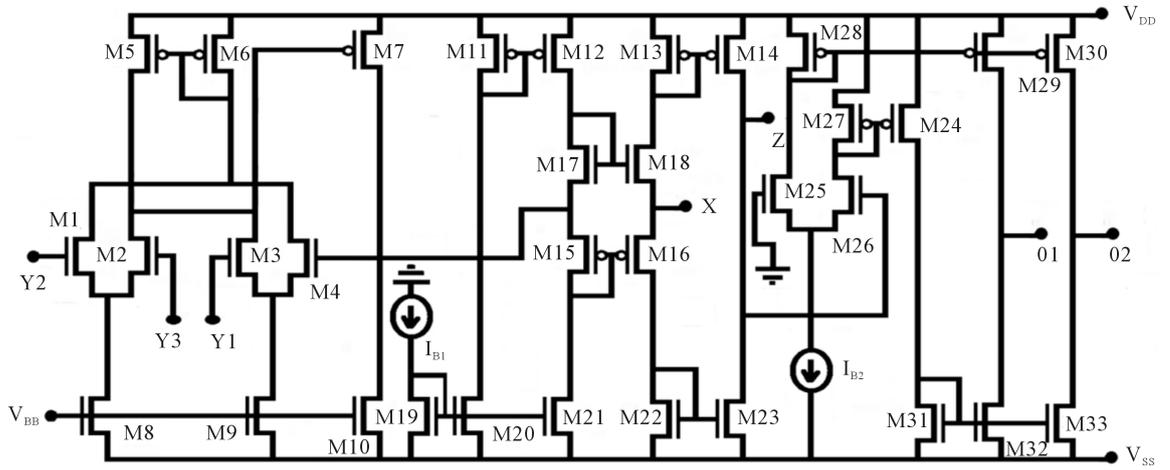


Figure 2. Implementation of CCDDCCTA using CMOS.

The port relationships of the CCDDCCTA can be represented by the following matrix:

$$\begin{bmatrix} I_{Y1} \\ I_{Y2} \\ I_{Y3} \\ V_X \\ I_Z \\ I_{O1} \\ I_{O2} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 & R_x & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -g_{mo} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -g_{mo} & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} V_{Y1} \\ V_{Y2} \\ V_{Y3} \\ I_X \\ V_Z \\ V_{O1} \\ V_{O2} \end{bmatrix} \quad (1)$$

where, the intrinsic resistance (R_x) at X terminal defined as

$$R_x = \frac{1}{g_{m16} + g_{m18}} \quad (2)$$

where,

$$g_{m16} = \sqrt{2\mu C_{ox} \left(\frac{W}{L}\right)_{16} I_{B1}} \quad (3)$$

$$g_{m18} = \sqrt{2\mu C_{ox} \left(\frac{W}{L}\right)_{18} I_{B1}} \quad (4)$$

Similarly, the transconductance (g_{mo}) from Z terminal to O terminal may be expressed as

$$g_{mo} = \sqrt{2\mu C_{ox} \left(\frac{W}{L}\right)_{25,26} I_{B2}} \quad (5)$$

It may be noted that both (R_x) and (g_{mo}) can be electronically varied by bias currents I_{B1} and I_{B2} of CCDDCCTA respectively.

The proposed current mode (CM) filter is shown in **Figure 3** which utilizes two grounded capacitors and one CCDDCCTA only. The routine analysis of circuit gives the output current at single node as:

$$I_{out} = \frac{-g_{mo}I_{in1} - sC_1R_xg_{mo}I_{in2} + (s^2C_1C_2R_x + sC_1 + g_{mo})I_{in3}}{s^2C_1C_2R_x + sC_1 + g_{mo}} \quad (6)$$

The inspection of Equation (6) reveals that the circuit of **Figure 3** will function as a universal filter depending upon combination of inputs (I_{in1} , I_{in2} and I_{in3}) applied at three terminals. The output response (I_{out}) for different combinations of inputs are shown in **Table 1**. It reveals that no component constraint is required for LP and BP response; however for HP, notch and AP responses a simple component matching is required. The circuit is suitable for cascading to another circuit having low input impedance for current input.

The filter parameters, namely natural angular frequency (ω_0), bandwidth (BW) and quality factor (Q_0) are obtained respectively as

$$\omega_0 = \left(\frac{g_{mo}}{C_1 C_2 R_x} \right)^{1/2}, \quad BW = \frac{\omega_0}{Q_0} = \frac{1}{C_2 R_x}, \quad \text{and} \quad Q_0 = \left(\frac{g_{mo} R_x C_2}{C_1} \right)^{1/2} \quad (7)$$

It reveals in **Table 1** and (7) that for LP and BP responses ω_0 and Q_0 can be varied with I_{B2} without disturbing ω_0/Q_0 . The variation of ω_0 without disturbing Q_0 may be achieved by simultaneously varying I_{B1} and I_{B2} , such that the product $g_{mo} R_x$ remains constant and the quotient g_{mo}/R_x varies and vice-versa. Similarly for HP and notch responses ω_0 can be varied independent of Q_0 by keeping the product $g_{mo} R_x$ unity and varying the quotient g_{mo}/R_x using I_{B1} and I_{B2} . It may also be shown from (7) that high value of quality factor (Q_0) can be obtained from the low spread of capacitance (C_1 and C_2) values [31]. If the ratio of C_1 and C_2 are chosen as $g_{mo} R_x = C_2/C_1$, then the spread of components comes out to be $\sqrt{Q_0}$. This feature of the proposed filter allows the realization of high Q_0 with low spread of C_1 and C_2 in comparison to topologies where the spread is Q_0 or Q_0^2 .

The sensitivity of a parameter Y to variation of element X may be defined as

$$S_X^Y = \frac{X}{Y} \frac{dY}{dX} \quad (8)$$

The sensitivity analysis of the proposed circuits for various parameters is evaluated as

$$S_{g_{mo}}^{\omega_0} = \frac{1}{2}, \quad S_{C_1}^{\omega_0} = S_{C_2}^{\omega_0} = S_{R_x}^{\omega_0} = -\frac{1}{2},$$

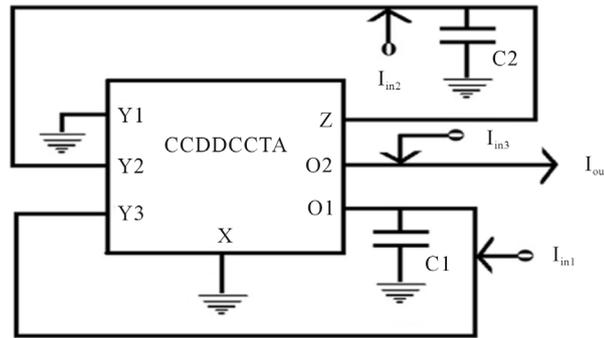


Figure 3. Proposed current mode universal filter.

Table 1. The I_{in1} , I_{in2} and I_{in3} values selection for each filter function response.

Filter response at I_{out} terminal	Input Combinations			Component constraints
	I_{in1}	I_{in2}	I_{in3}	
Low Pass (LP)	1	0	0	-
Band Pass (BP)	0	1	0	-
High Pass (HP)	1	1	1	$R_x = 1/g_{mo}$
Notch	0	1	1	$R_x = 1/g_{mo}$
All Pass (AP)	0	1	1	$R_x = 2/g_{mo}$

$$S_{C_2}^{BW} = S_{R_x}^{BW} = -1 \quad (9)$$

$$S_{g_{mo}}^{Q_0} = S_{C_2}^{Q_0} = S_{R_x}^{Q_0} = \frac{1}{2}, \quad S_{C_1}^{Q_0} = -\frac{1}{2}.$$

It reveals that the sensitivity is low and less than unity in magnitude.

3. Non-Idealities Analysis

The performance of the proposed current mode filter might be deviated from the ideal response due to non-idealities of CCDDCCTA. The first non-ideality comes due to the internal current (α) and voltage (β) transfer of CCDDCCTA and hence modified port relationships with current and voltage transfer non-ideality can be expressed in matrix form as

$$\begin{bmatrix} I_{Y1} \\ I_{Y2} \\ I_{Y3} \\ V_X \\ I_Z \\ I_{O1} \\ I_{O2} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \beta_1 & -\beta_2 & \beta_3 & R_x & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \alpha & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -\gamma g_{mo} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -\gamma g_{mo} & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} V_{Y1} \\ V_{Y2} \\ V_{Y3} \\ I_X \\ V_Z \\ V_{O1} \\ V_{O2} \end{bmatrix} \quad (10)$$

where, voltage tracking error coefficient β_1 , β_2 and β_3 are from Y_1 , Y_2 and Y_3 terminals to X terminal respectively. The current tracking error coefficient α is from X to Z terminal. The current gain coefficient γ is from Z terminal to O terminal. Considering these tracking coefficient, modified output current of the circuit is obtained as:

$$I_{out} = \frac{-\alpha\beta_3\gamma g_{mo} I_{in1} - sC_1 R_x \gamma g_{mo} I_{in2} + (s^2 C_1 C_2 R_x + sC_1 \alpha \beta_2 + \alpha\beta_3 \gamma g_{mo}) I_{in3}}{s^2 C_1 C_2 R_x + sC_1 \alpha \beta_2 + \alpha\beta_3 \gamma g_{mo}} \quad (11)$$

The filter parameters can be expressed as

$$\omega_0 = \sqrt{\frac{\alpha\beta_3\gamma g_{mo}}{C_1 C_2 R_x}}, \quad BW = \frac{\omega_0}{Q_0} = \frac{\alpha\beta_2}{C_2 R_x}, \quad Q_0 = \sqrt{\frac{\beta_3\gamma g_{mo} R_x C_2}{\alpha\beta_2^2 C_1}}. \quad (12)$$

It is noticed that the non-idealities affect the parameters of the filter. The sensitivity analysis of ω_0 , Q_0 and BW results as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} S_{g_{mo}}^{\omega_0} &= S_{\beta_3}^{\omega_0} = S_{\alpha}^{\omega_0} = S_{\gamma}^{\omega_0} = \frac{1}{2}, \quad S_{C_1}^{\omega_0} = S_{C_2}^{\omega_0} = S_{R_x}^{\omega_0} = -\frac{1}{2}, \quad S_{\beta_1}^{\omega_0} = S_{\beta_2}^{\omega_0} = 0, \\ S_{\beta_2}^{BW} &= S_{\alpha}^{BW} = 1, \quad S_{C_2}^{BW} = S_{R_x}^{BW} = -1, \quad S_{g_{mo}}^{BW} = S_{\beta_1}^{BW} = S_{\beta_3}^{BW} = S_{C_1}^{BW} = 0, \\ S_{g_{mo}}^{Q_0} &= S_{C_2}^{Q_0} = S_{R_x}^{Q_0} = S_{\beta_3}^{Q_0} = S_{\gamma}^{Q_0} = \frac{1}{2}, \quad S_{\alpha}^{Q_0} = S_{C_1}^{Q_0} = S_{\beta_2}^{Q_0} = -\frac{1}{2}, \quad S_{\beta_1}^{Q_0} = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

It reveals that with non-ideality; the sensitivity is still low and magnitude is within unity.

The second non-ideality comes due to the parasites of CCDDCCTA comprising of capacitances and resistances connected in parallel at Z , O and Y terminals. The effect of these parasites is very much dependent on the circuit topology. The current mode universal filter with non-ideality is shown in **Figure 4**. The modified capacitances are $C_1' = C_1 \parallel C_{Y3} \parallel C_{O1}$ and $G_2' = C_2 \parallel C_{Y2} \parallel C_Z$ and modified resistances/conductances are $G_1' = 1/(R_{Y2} \parallel R_Z)$ and $G_2' = 1/(R_{Y3} \parallel R_{O1})$. Here, C_{Y2} , C_{Y3} , C_Z and C_{O1} are the parasitic capacitances at Y_2 , Y_3 , Z and $O1$ terminals respectively. Similarly, R_{Y2} , R_{Y3} , R_Z and R_{O1} are parasitic resistances at Y_2 , Y_3 , Z and $O1$ terminals respectively. It is evident that the effect of parasitic capacitances can be compensated by taken the external

capacitances C_1 and C_2 lesser by $(C_{Y3} + C_{O1})$ and $(C_{Y2} + C_Z)$ respectively from their calculated values. The effect of parasitic conductances may also be made insignificant if operating frequency and value of C_1 and C_2 are chosen in such a way that $sC_1 \ll G'_1$ and $sC_2 \ll G'_2$.

4. Simulation Result and Discussion

The current mode universal filter as proposed in **Figure 3** is simulated with PSPICE. The 0.25 μm CMOS TSMC technology process parameters are used for simulation. The aspect ratio of various transistors is stated in **Table 2**. The supply voltages of $\pm 1.25\text{ V}$ and $V_{BB} = -0.8\text{ V}$ are used. To design the filter for a pole frequency of $f_0 = 1.28\text{ MHz}$ and quality factor $Q_0 = 1$, the component values are taken as $C_1 = C_2 = 100\text{ pF}$ and bias current as $I_{B1} = 25\text{ }\mu\text{A}$ and $I_{B2} = 200\text{ }\mu\text{A}$. The input for each filter realization is selected as per **Table 1**. **Figures 5-8** shows the simulated and theoretical low pass, high pass, band pass and notch responses respectively. The value of I_{B1} is set as $12.5\text{ }\mu\text{A}$ and $I_{B2} = 200\text{ }\mu\text{A}$ for the realization of all pass responses as shown in **Figure 9**.

To test the orthogonal variation of f_0 with Q_0 , a band pass filter is chosen. The variation of f_0 with $Q_0 = 1$ is shown in **Figure 10** for different value of bias currents ($I_{B2} = 8 I_{B1}$) as given in **Table 3**. Similarly **Figure 11** shows orthogonal adjustment of Q_0 with $f_0 = 1.28\text{ MHz}$ for different value of I_{B1} and I_{B2} as mentioned in **Table 4**.

It is well known that a little tolerance of the value of the various components occurs during manufacturing and even afterward resulting in deviation of various parameters of filters such as central frequency, quality factor and bandwidth from its designed values. The collection of statistical data due to tolerance of passive components is obtained using Monte-Carlo analysis for band pass filter. As an example, for a $100\text{ pF} \pm 5\%$ capacitor, the actual measured capacitor value to be somewhere between 95 pF and 105 pF . Monte-Carlo runs to cover as

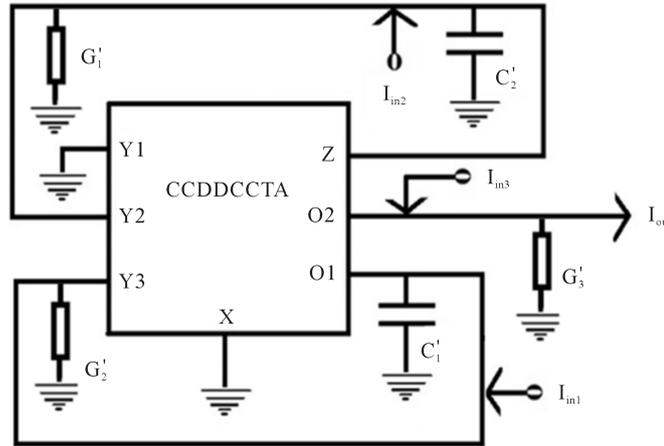


Figure 4. Current mode universal filter with non-ideality.

Table 2. Aspect ratio of various transistors.

Transistors	Aspect Ratio W(μm)/L(μm)
M1-M4	1.0/0.25
M5-M6, M11-M14, M17, M25-M30	5.0/0.25
M7	12.5/0.25
M8-M10, M19-M23, M31-M33	3.0/0.25
M15	8.0/0.25
M16	9.0/0.25
M18	4.5/0.25
M24	4.35/0.25

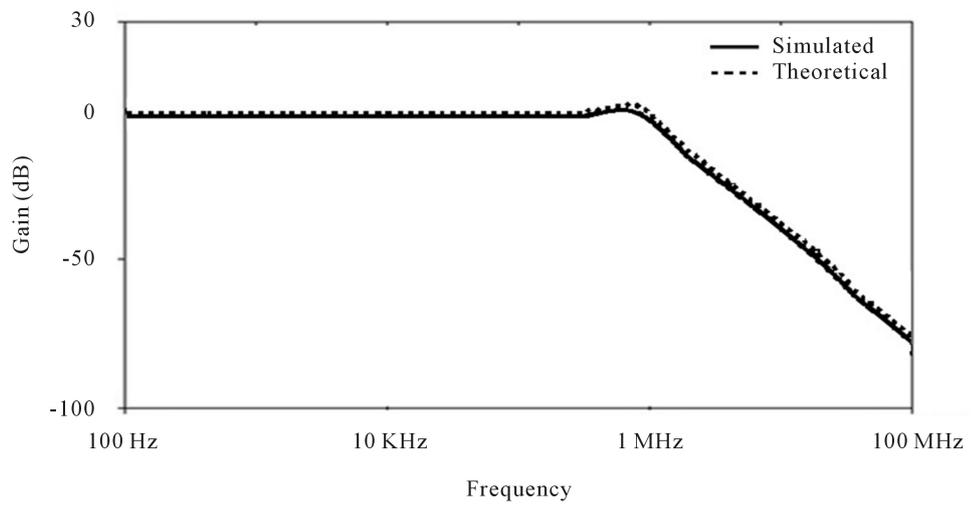


Figure 5. Simulated and theoretical response for low pass filter.

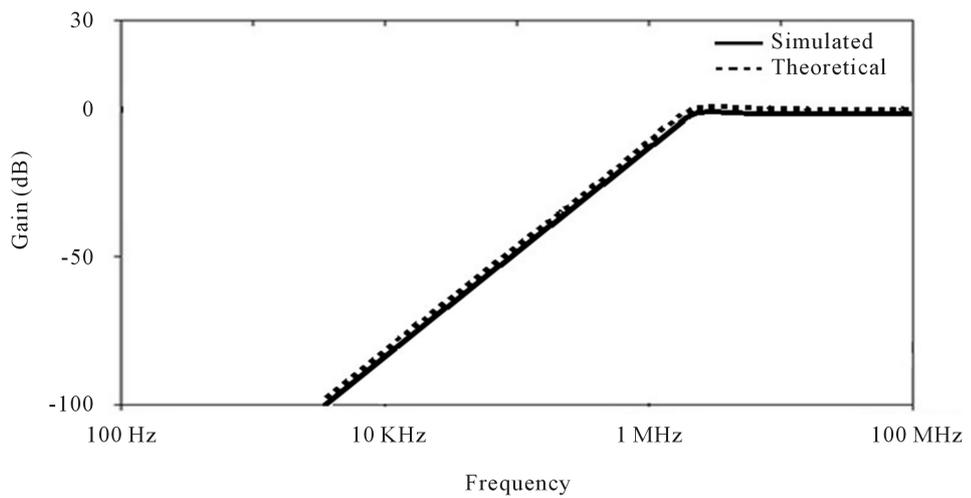


Figure 6. Simulated and theoretical response for high pass filter.

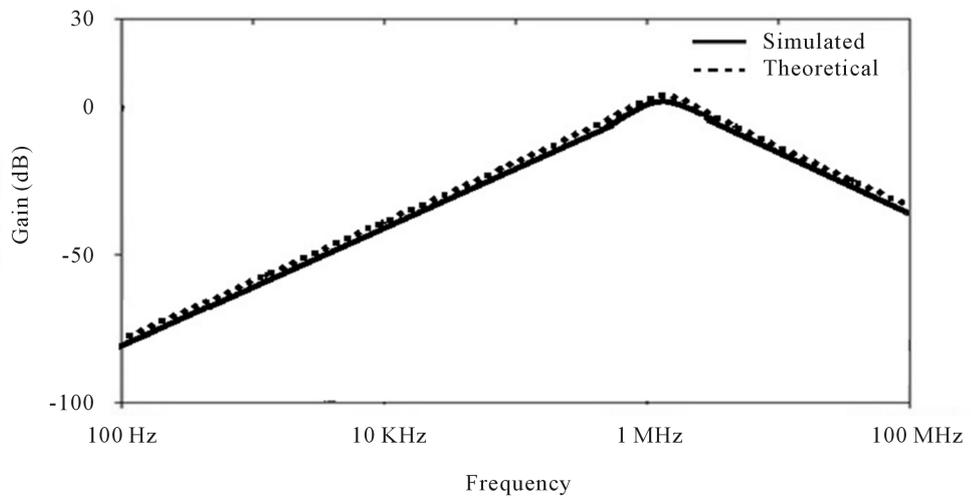


Figure 7. Simulated and theoretical response for band pass filter.

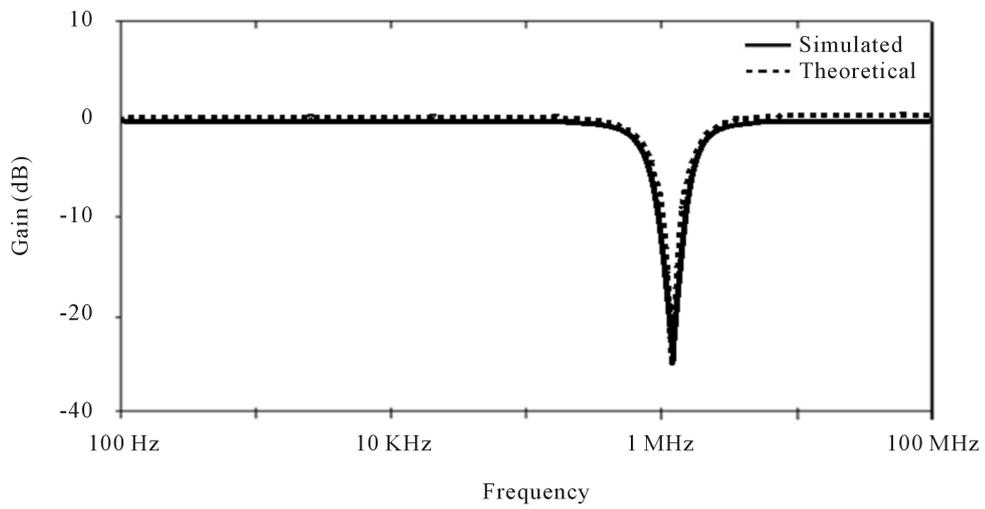


Figure 8. Simulated and theoretical response for notch filter.

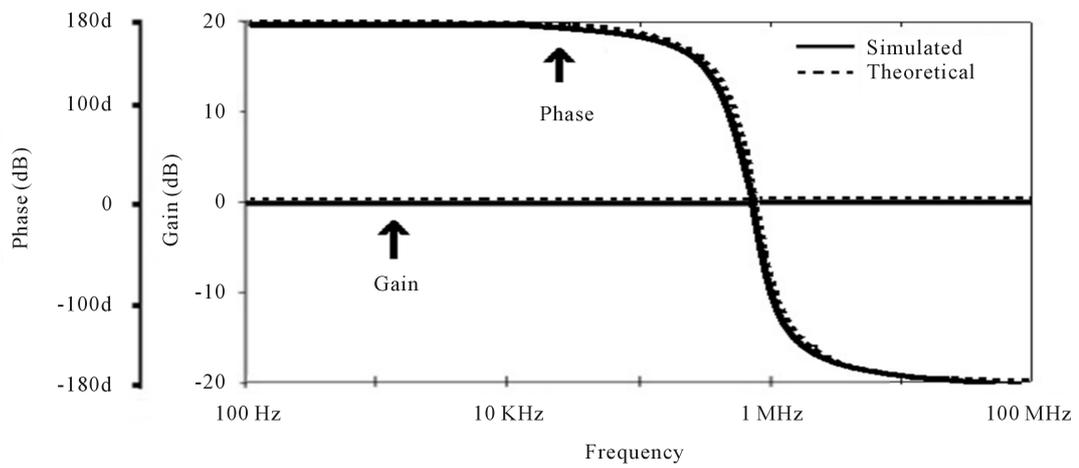


Figure 9. Simulated and theoretical gain and phase response for all pass filter.

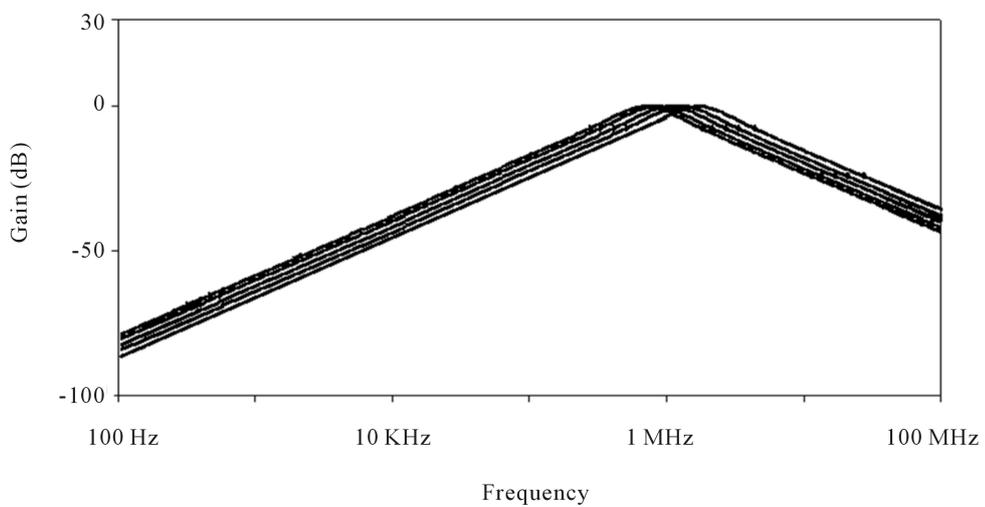


Figure 10. Variation of pole frequency (f_0) for fixed $Q_0 = 1$.

Table 3. Bias current values for orthogonal adjustment of f_0 with Q_0 .

S. No.	Bias Current (μA) [I_{B1}]	Bias Current (μA) [I_{B2}]	Q_0	f_0 (MHz)
1.	15	120	1	1.10
2.	25	200	1	1.28
3.	35	280	1	1.46
4.	45	360	1	1.62
5.	50	400	1	1.68

Table 4. Bias current values for orthogonal adjustment of Q_0 with f_0 .

S. No.	Bias Current (μA) [I_{B1}]	Bias Current (μA) [I_{B2}]	f_0 (MHz)	Q_0
1.	50	120	1.28	0.8
2.	25	200	1.28	1
3.	21.5	240	1.28	1.02
4.	19.5	280	1.28	1.04

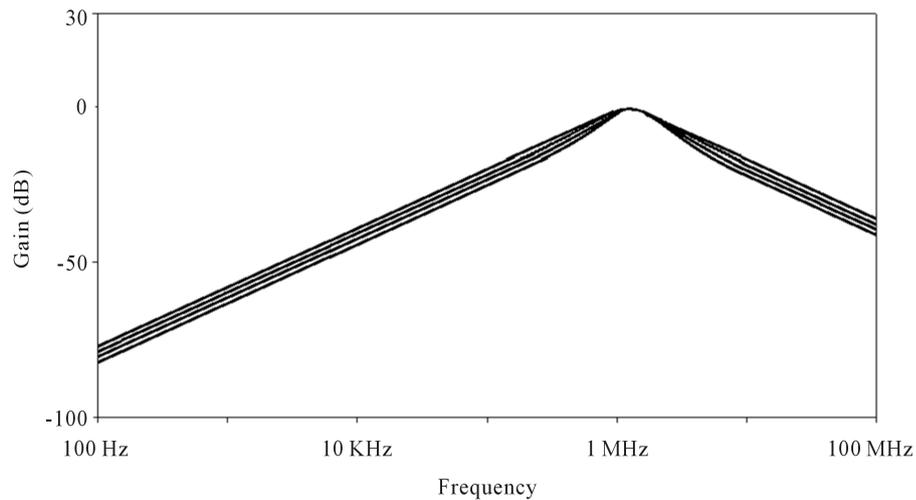


Figure 11. Variation of quality factor (Q_0) for fixed $f_0 = 1.28$ MHz.

many possible values of the component within their tolerance limits. It is performed by taking 5% Gaussian deviation of C_1 and C_2 values for 200 simulation runs for a pole frequency of 1.28 MHz. The result of Monte-Carlo simulation is shown in **Figure 12** and corresponding histogram in **Figure 13**. As per statistical results as shown in **Figure 13**, the minimum and maximum frequency obtained are 1.18 MHz and 1.38 MHz respectively and standard deviation is 42.2 KHz. It reveals that the proposed filter exhibits a reasonable sensitivity performance. The quality of the output response may be judged with the help of percentage total harmonic distortion (%THD). The %THD of the output response for band pass filter with respect to the input is shown in **Figure 14**. It is found that the %THD is well within the tolerance range of 5%.

Comparative study of different available implementation of current mode MISO universal filters is given in **Table 5**. It is evident that most of the circuits suffers from one or more weakness in comparison to the proposed one. However circuits proposed in [17] [19] uses one active building block as that of the proposed one. The circuit of [17] uses excessive number of passive components and is comparable to the proposed one.

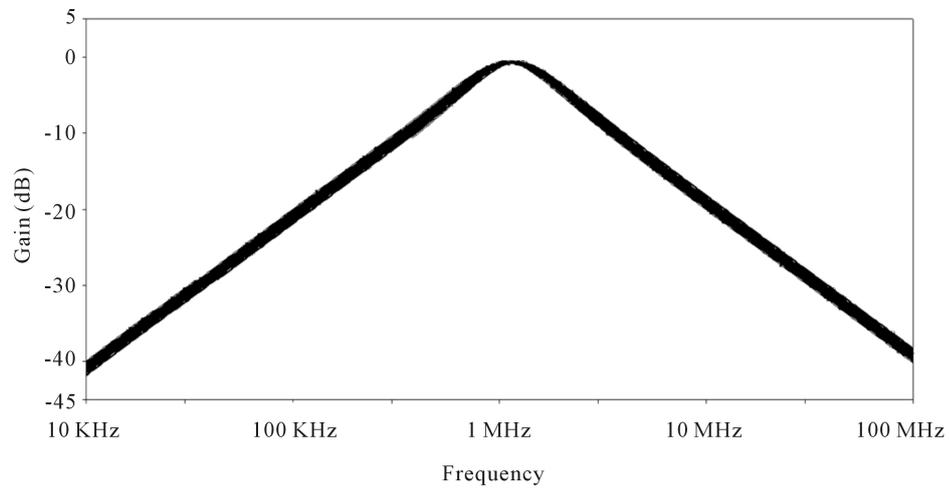


Figure 12. Monte-Carlo 200 simulation runs for BP filter.

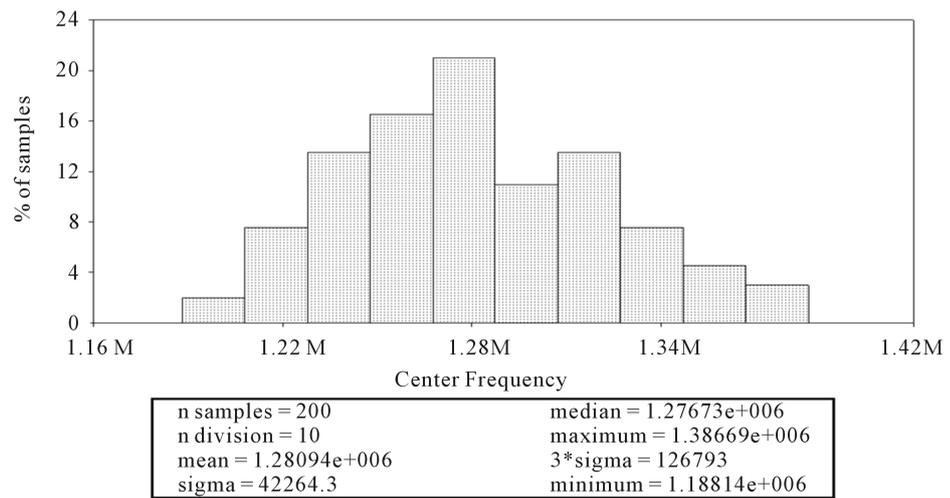


Figure 13. Monte-Carlo histogram for the BP filter.

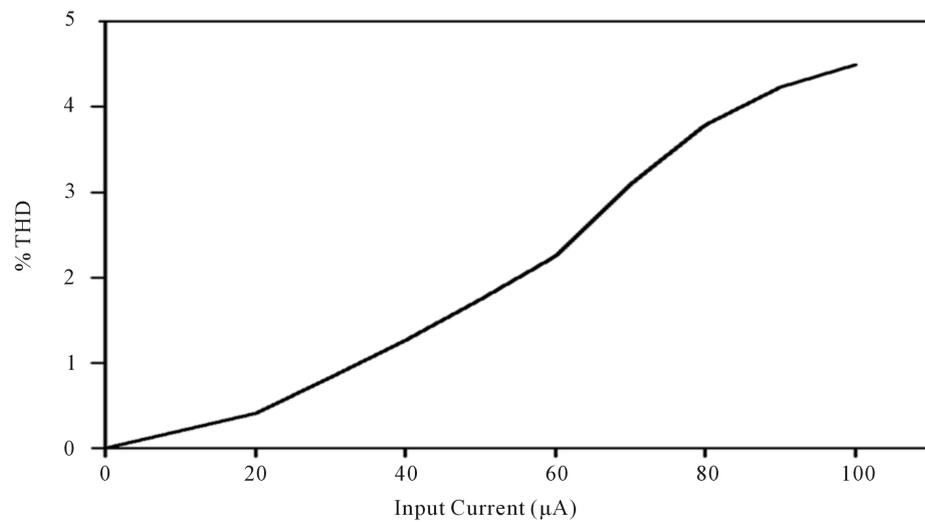


Figure 14. Variation of %THD for band pass output response Vs input signal.

Table 5. Comparative study of the available active element based current mode MISO universal filter.

[Ref.] Year	Configuration	No. of active building block used	No. of passive component	Grounded passive component	Component constraints	Availability of LP, HP, BP, notch and AP response	Is the gain of input signa such as $2I_{in}$ And $3I_{in}$ required to get filter responses	Independent control of		Electronic tunability
								f_0 and BW	f_0 and Q_0	
[13] 2007	3 input	2 CDTA	2	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
[14] 2010	3 input	4 OTA	2	Yes	LP, HP, BP & Notch = No, AP = Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
[15] 2011	5 input	3 CCII	5	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
[16] 2011	5 input	3 ICCI	4	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
[17] 2011	4 input	1 FDCCII	5	Yes	LP, BP = No, HP, Notch & AP = Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
[18] 2011	4 input	2 MO-CCCII	2	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
[19] 2011	3 input	1 DVCCTA	3	Yes	LP, BP, HP = No, Notch & AP = Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
[20] 2011	3 input	2 CCCII	2	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
[21] 2011	3 input	4 CDTA	4	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
[22] 2012	3 input	2 CCCCTA	2	Yes	LP, BP, HP, Notch & AP = Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
[23] 2013	3 input	2 VDTA	2	Yes	LP, BP, HP, Notch & AP = Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
[24] 2013	3 input	2 CCCII	2	Yes	LP, BP, HP, Notch & AP = Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Our work	3 input	1 CCDDCCTA	2	Yes	LP, BP = No, HP, Notch & AP = Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

5. Conclusion

Current mode universal filter using current controlled differential difference current conveyor transconductance amplifier (CCDDCCTA) has been presented that uses two grounded capacitors and one CCDDCCTA only. It can realize high pass, low pass, band pass, notch and all pass responses from the same topology. The filter parameter can be electronically adjustable by bias currents I_{B1} and I_{B2} . **Table 5** shows the comparative study of the available current mode building block based MISO filters. PSPICE simulation results authenticate the theoretical results.

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