

Accepted Manuscript

Regular paper

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PII: S1434-8411(18)30828-8
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aeue.2018.09.034>
Reference: AEUE 52513

To appear in: *International Journal of Electronics and Communications*

Accepted Date: 23 September 2018

Please cite this article as: A.H. Hassan, A. Fouad, H. Mostafa, K.N. Salama, A.M. Soliman, A New Design Methodology for Time-Based Capacitance-to-Digital Converters (T-CDCs), *International Journal of Electronics and Communications* (2018), doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aeue.2018.09.034>

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A New Design Methodology for Time-Based Capacitance-to-Digital Converters (T-CDCs)

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Abstract

This paper introduces a 9-bit time-based capacitance-to-digital converter (T-CDC). This T-CDC adopts a new design methodology for parasitic cancellation with a simple calibration technique. In T-CDCs, the input sensor capacitance is first converted into a delay pulse using a capacitance-to-time converter (CTC) circuit; then this delay signal is converted into a digital code through a time-to-digital converter (TDC) circuit. A prototype of the proposed T-CDC is implemented in UMC 0.13 μm CMOS technology. This T-CDC consumes 8.42 μW and achieves a maximum SNR of 45.14 dB with a conversion time of 1 μs that corresponds to a figure of merit (FoM) of 16.4 fJ/Conv.

Keywords: low-power, CMOS scaling, energy efficient, capacitance-to-digital converter (CDC), time-based, pulse width modulation (PWM), capacitive sensor, pressure sensor, MEMS pressure sensor.

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