

DUAL-MODE MULTIFUNCTION FILTER REALIZED WITH A SINGLE VOLTAGE DIFFERENCING GAIN AMPLIFIER (VDGA)

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Abstract:

This article presents the dual-mode multifunction biquad filter realized employing only a single voltage differencing gain amplifier (VDGA), one resistor and three capacitors. The proposed filter with one input and three outputs can configure as voltage-mode or current-mode filter circuit with the appropriate input injection choice. It can also synthesis the three standard filter functions, which are highpass, bandpass, and lowpass responses without modifying the circuit configuration. Orthogonal adjustment between the natural angular frequency (ω_0) and the quality factor (Q) of the filter is achieved. Detail analysis of non-ideal VDGA effects and circuit component sensitivity are included. The circuit principle is verified by means of simulation results with TSMC 0.35- μm CMOS process parameters.

1 Introduction

In the last decade, with growing interest in the design of analog signal processing and generating circuits, more attention is being paid to the design and synthesis of new electronically controllable active building blocks (ABBs), which are expected to perform better performance than voltage-feedback operational amplifier counterparts. In 2008, a set of modern electronic ABB were reviewed and introduced [1]. Among these, the most discussed ABBs have been contained the so-called voltage differencing unit (VDU), which is formed by the differential-input operational transconductance amplifier (OTA), in order to exhibit electronic tuning property. This results in emergence of numerous VDU-based ABBs, such as voltage differencing transconductance amplifier (VDTA) [2, 3], voltage differencing current conveyor (VDCC) [4], voltage differencing buffered amplifier (VDBA) [5, 6], and voltage differencing inverting buffered amplifier (VDIBA) [7-9].

In 2013, another ABB based on the voltage differencing unit so-called voltage differencing gain amplifier (VDGA) has been introduced to the analog domain [10]. This element is formed by a cascade connecting of the OTA with tunable gain voltage amplifier. When compared to the VDBA counterpart, the voltage buffer in its output section is replaced by the controllable-gain voltage amplifier, which makes VDGA-based circuits more flexible and useful for electronically tunable active circuit parameters. The VDGA devices are not only suitable for current-mode signal processing, but also provide certain important advantages in voltage-mode processing circuits. It has also been observed that the VDGA find widespread applications especially in the areas of analog signal processing and active circuit implementation ranging from amplifiers, universal filters, sinusoidal oscillators and impedance simulator circuits [11-16]. By introducing VDGA in sinusoidal oscillator design, new more profitable topologies are available in literature [11-13]. In [14-16], a number of VDGA-based filter structures has been reported. The filter of [14] employs one VDGA, one floating capacitor and one

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grounded resistor to realize only first-order voltage-mode allpass characteristic with electronically tunable property. Also, the n^{th} -order transfer function synthesizers reported in [15] can realize only lowpass voltage responses. As reported in [16], the authors presented an electronically tunable dual-mode multifunction filter with one input and three output terminals using VDGA, which can perform either voltage-mode filter or current-mode filter from the same configuration. However, it contains two VDGA and three external passive capacitors.

Although there are various configurations to realize universal biquadratic filters employing different contemporary active components developed in the technical literature [17-27], the works of [17-22] operated in the voltage-mode, while the remaining ones in [23-27] operated in the current-mode. Moreover, the filter structures reported in [17-21], [23-26] also require at least two active components for their realizations. Despite the extensive work on analog active filters, there is still a requirement to develop novel filter configurations, which provide more advantages than the existing configurations, for example in terms of implementation and operational flexibility. Consequently, the versatile universal active filter, which can operate in both voltage-mode and current-mode namely dual-mode filter, seems to be more flexible and universality for several communication systems and signal processing applications and solutions. In addition to low power dissipation and manufacturing cost, it is important to keep the active component count at minimum.

Considering this fact, the main objective is to propose the single-input three-output (SITO) multifunction frequency filter realized with a single VDGA as a fundamental active element, and four passive elements. With the appropriate selection of the input signal excitation, the proposed frequency filter can provide either voltage or current signal outputs. The proposed SITO-type configuration provides realizing highpass (HP), bandpass (BP) and lowpass (LP) filters simultaneously without the component matching constraints. The orthogonal adjustment of the natural angular frequency (ω_0) and the quality factor (Q) can be obtained from the structure. The proposed idea is verified by the simulation results with a CMOS 0.35- μm process technology from TSMC.

2 VDGA fundamental

An ideal VDGA has a pair of infinite-impedance input voltages v_p and v_n , two infinite-impedance output currents i_z and i_x , and a zero-impedance output voltage v_w . Hence, the terminal characteristics of the VDGA illustrated symbolically in Figure 1 can be defined by the following matrix expression:

$$\begin{bmatrix} i_p \\ i_n \\ i_z \\ i_x \\ v_w \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ g_{mA} & -g_{mA} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & g_{mB} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \beta & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_p \\ v_n \\ v_z \\ v_x \end{bmatrix} \quad (1)$$

where g_{mA} , g_{mB} and β are the transconductance gains and the voltage gain of the VDGA, respectively.

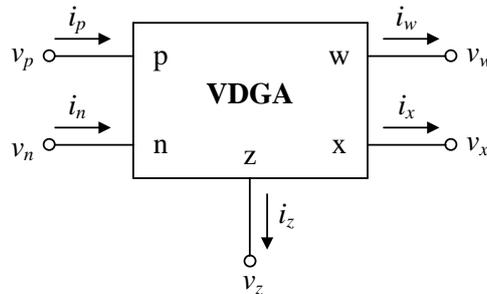


Figure 1. Schematic symbol of the VDGA.

In Figure 2, the possible CMOS implementation of the VDGA consisting of three tunable transconductors (M_{1A} - M_{9A} , M_{1B} - M_{9B} and M_{1C} - M_{9C}) is given, where each of them realizes an independent transconductances

g_{mA} , g_{mB} , and g_{mC} , respectively [10, 11]. In the internal circuit structure of Figure 2, the transistor sizes (W/L in $\mu\text{m}/\mu\text{m}$) are listed in Table 1. The value of g_{mk} ($k = A, B, C$) can be approximately determined by the following relation [28]:

$$g_{mk} = \left(\frac{g_{m1k} g_{m2k}}{g_{m1k} + g_{m2k}} \right) + \left(\frac{g_{m3k} g_{m4k}}{g_{m3k} + g_{m4k}} \right) \quad (2)$$

and

$$g_{mik} = \sqrt{KI_{Bk}} \quad (3)$$

and $K = \frac{\mu C_{ox} W_i}{2L_i}$ ($i = 1, 2, 3, 4$), and I_{Bk} is the external biasing current, μ is the free carrier mobility in the channel, C_{ox} is the gate capacitance per unit area of the gate oxide, W_i and L_i are the channel width and length, of the i -th transistor, respectively.

From Figure 2, the differential input voltage ($v_p - v_n$) is converted into the current i_z at the z-terminal with transconductance gain g_{mA} by the transconductor M_{1A} - M_{9A} or $i_z = g_{mA}(v_p - v_n)$. Also, the transconductor M_{1B} - M_{9B} will convert the corresponding voltage v_z to the output current i_x by the transconductance g_{mB} or $i_x = g_{mB}v_z$. By connecting a pair of independent tunable transconductors M_{1B} - M_{9B} and M_{1C} - M_{9C} , a current-controlled voltage amplifier can be realized with the voltage amplifying action ($v_w = \beta v_z$) or

$$\beta = \frac{v_w}{v_z} = \frac{g_{mB}}{g_{mC}} \quad (4)$$

According to eqs. (2) and (3), the VDGA device has electronic adjusting capability of its important parameters g_{mA} , g_{mB} and g_{mC} by means of external bias currents I_{BA} , I_{BB} and I_{BC} , respectively.

Table 1. Transistor sizes of CMOS VDGA in Figure 2.

Transistors	W/L ($\mu\text{m}/\mu\text{m}$)
$M_{1k} - M_{2k}$	16/0.7
$M_{3k} - M_{4k}$	28/0.7
M_{5k}	7/0/7
$M_{6k} - M_{7k}$	8/0/7
$M_{8k} - M_{9k}$	21/0.7

3 Proposed dual-mode multifunction filter configuration

The proposed dual-mode multifunction filter, based on and using single VDGA is shown in Figure 3. Two grounded capacitors (C_2 and C_3), one floating capacitor (C_1) and one floating resistor (R_1) are employed in the design. The employment of grounded capacitors is particularly advantageous for integration point of view [29]. Although the capacitor C_1 is floating for the voltage-mode operation, it can be realized even in recent integrated circuit technology of a decade ago with a CMOS process, which provides a second poly layer [30]. Also, note that the resistor R_1 can be replaced simply by an electronic resistor using the MOS transistors [31].

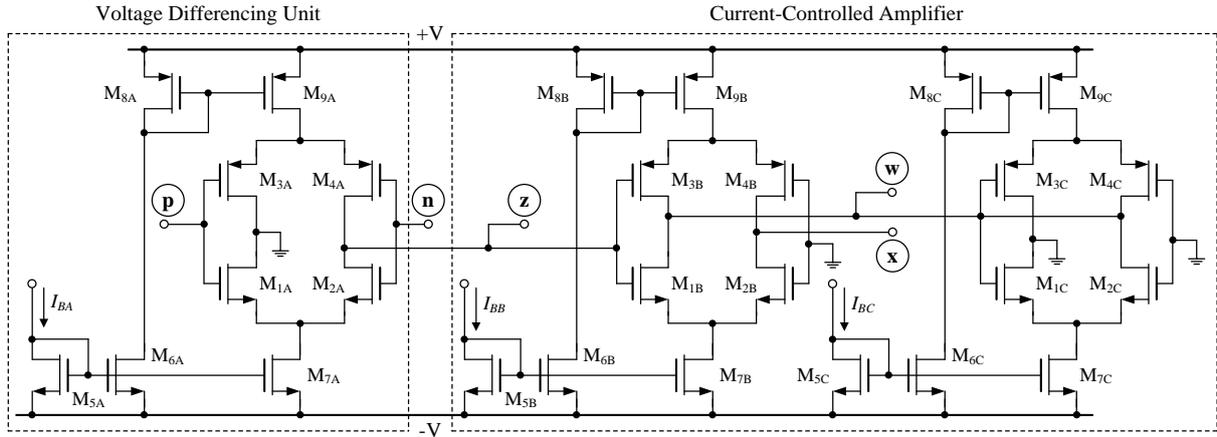


Figure 2. CMOS VDGA used in this work.

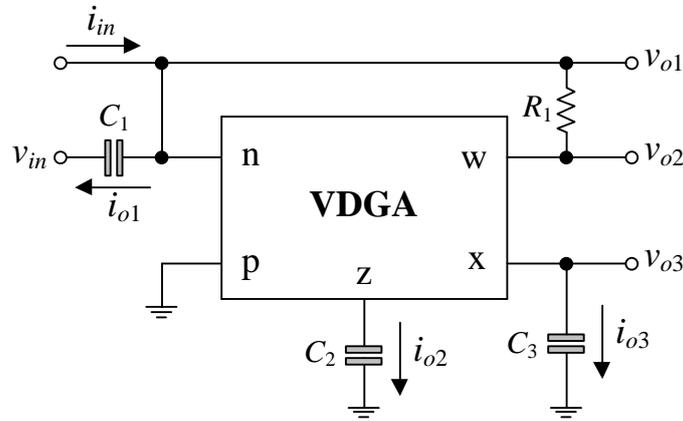


Figure 3. Proposed dual-mode multifunction filter using single VDGA.

3.1 Voltage-mode multifunction filter

Considering the proposed filter configuration given in Figure 3. When the input current is removed ($i_{in} = 0$), the circuit can be considerably performed as a voltage-mode multifunction filter with single input and three output terminals. A routine circuit analysis shows that the three voltage transfer functions realized by the configuration are obtained as:

$$\frac{v_{o1}}{v_{in}} = K_{VHP} \left[\frac{s^2}{D(s)} \right] \quad (5)$$

$$\frac{v_{o2}}{v_{in}} = K_{VBP} \left(\frac{1}{R_1 C_1} \right) \frac{s}{D(s)} \quad (6)$$

and

$$\frac{v_{o3}}{v_{in}} = K_{VLP} \left(\frac{g_{mA} \beta}{R_1 C_1 C_2} \right) \frac{1}{D(s)} \quad (7)$$

where
$$D(s) = s^2 + \left(\frac{1}{R_1 C_1}\right)s + \left(\frac{g_{mA}\beta}{R_1 C_1 C_2}\right) \quad (8)$$

$$K_{VHP} = 1 \quad , \quad K_{VBP} = -\frac{g_{mA}\beta R_1 C_1}{C_2} \quad (9)$$

and
$$K_{VLP} = -\frac{g_{mC}R_1 C_1}{C_3} \quad (10)$$

The above relations express that the HP, BP, and LP voltage filtering responses are available at the terminal v_{o1} , v_{o2} and v_{o3} , with the passband gains K_{VHP} , K_{VBP} and K_{VLP} , respectively. No component-matching choices are imposed. From the eqs. (5)-(8), the natural angular frequency (ω_o), and the quality factor (Q) of the filter are given by, respectively:

$$\omega_o = \sqrt{\frac{g_{mA}\beta}{R_1 C_1 C_2}} \quad (11)$$

and
$$Q = \sqrt{\frac{g_{mA}\beta R_1 C_1}{C_2}} \quad (12)$$

3.2 Current-mode multifunction filter

In case of current-mode filter operation by connecting the input voltage of Figure 3 to ground ($v_{in} = 0$), the three current transfer functions can be readily derived as:

$$\frac{i_{o1}}{i_{in}} = K_{IHP} \left[\frac{s^2}{D(s)} \right] \quad (13)$$

$$\frac{i_{o2}}{i_{in}} = K_{IBP} \frac{\left(\frac{1}{R_1 C_1}\right)s}{D(s)} \quad (14)$$

and
$$\frac{i_{o3}}{i_{in}} = K_{ILP} \frac{\left(\frac{g_{mA}\beta}{R_1 C_1 C_2}\right)}{D(s)} \quad (15)$$

where
$$K_{IHP} = 1 \quad , \quad K_{IBP} = -g_{mA}R_1 \quad (16)$$

and
$$K_{ILP} = -g_{mC}R_1 \quad (17)$$

It can be noted from the eqs. (13)-(15) that the three transfer functions of HP, BP and LP in current-mode across explicitly available current outputs i_{o1} , i_{o2} and i_{o3} , respectively. In all cases, the characteristic parameters ω_o and Q are be the same as that of eqs. (11) and (12).

4 Non-ideal consideration and sensitivity analysis

For the practical consideration, the characteristic of the non-ideal VDGA can be described by the following matrix:

$$\begin{bmatrix} i_p \\ i_n \\ i_z \\ i_x \\ v_w \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \alpha_A g_{mA} & -\alpha_A g_{mA} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \alpha_B g_{mB} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \delta\beta & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_p \\ v_n \\ v_z \\ v_x \end{bmatrix} \quad (18)$$

In the eq. (18), $\alpha_k = 1 - \varepsilon_k$ ($|\varepsilon_k| \ll 1$) and $\delta = 1 - \varepsilon_v$ ($|\varepsilon_v| \ll 1$), where ε_k and ε_v are the tracking errors of the VDGA. Therefore, taking into consideration the non-idealities of the VDGA, the derived expressions for the non-ideal parameters ω_o and Q of the proposed filter in Figure 3 are now given below:

$$\omega_o = \sqrt{\frac{\alpha_A \delta g_{mA} \beta}{R_1 C_1 C_2}} \quad (19)$$

and

$$Q = \sqrt{\frac{\alpha_A \delta g_{mA} \beta R_1 C_1}{C_2}} \quad (20)$$

According to above considerations, the relative sensitivities of the ω_o and Q to individual circuit components are obtained as:

$$S_{\alpha_A}^{\omega_o} = S_{\delta}^{\omega_o} = S_{g_{mA}}^{\omega_o} = S_{\beta}^{\omega_o} = 0.5 \quad (21)$$

$$S_{R_1}^{\omega_o} = S_{C_1}^{\omega_o} = S_{C_2}^{\omega_o} = -0.5 \quad (22)$$

$$S_{\alpha_A}^Q = S_{\delta}^Q = S_{g_{mA}}^Q = S_{\beta}^Q = 0.5 \quad (23)$$

and

$$S_{R_1}^Q = S_{C_1}^Q = -S_{C_2}^Q = 0.5 \quad (24)$$

It can be easily verified that all the relative ω_o and Q sensitivities with respect to various circuit elements are equal to 0.5 in magnitude. Note that, for the absolutely stable circuit, the sensitivity values of all ω_o and Q will be no more than unity.

5 Performance verification

The performance of the proposed single VDGA-based dual-mode multifunction filter in Figure 3 has been verified by PSPICE simulation results. For this purpose, the simulation is based on the use of the CMOS VDGA structure given in Figure 2, where its performance is given in Table 2 [10]. For all simulations, the capacitor values were $C_1 = C_2 = 100$ pF.

In order to design the filter with the following characteristic: $f_o = \omega_o/2\pi \cong 526$ kHz and $Q = 1$, the circuit components were set to be: $g_m = g_{mk} = 0.33$ mA/V ($I_B = I_{Bk} = 30$ μ A) and $R_1 = 3$ k Ω . The theoretical and simulation results of the HP, BP and LP responses for the proposed voltage-mode filter structure are depicted in Figure 4-6, respectively. It is, therefore, appeared that the simulation results are found to be agreed with the theoretical values, and they verify the functionality of the proposed VDGA-based multifunction filter configuration. Also, the total power consumption obtained from the simulation result is approximately 0.916 mW. With the component values given above, the simulated transient waveforms of the BP output voltage

(v_{o2}) with a 100-mV peak sinusoidal input voltage (v_{in}) at the operating frequency of 526 kHz are given in Figure 7.

Table 2. Some important parameters of CMOS VDGA in Figure 2.

Parameter	Value
Technology	TSMC 0.35- μm
Supply voltages	$\pm 1.5\text{ V}$
Power consumption (@ $I_{Bk} = 30\ \mu\text{A}$)	0.747 mW
Terminal p resistance ($f = 1\text{ kHz} \sim 100\text{ MHz}$)	$2\text{ G}\Omega \sim 20\text{ k}\Omega$
Terminal n resistance ($f = 1\text{ kHz} \sim 100\text{ MHz}$)	$2\text{ G}\Omega \sim 20\text{ k}\Omega$
Terminal z resistance ($f = 1\text{ kHz} \sim 100\text{ MHz}$)	$190\text{ M}\Omega \sim 20\text{ k}\Omega$
Terminal x resistance ($f = 1\text{ kHz} \sim 100\text{ MHz}$)	$920\text{ k}\Omega \sim 25\text{ k}\Omega$
Terminal w resistance ($f = 1\text{ kHz} \sim 100\text{ MHz}$)	$\sim 3\text{ k}\Omega$
DC offset voltage from p to z	1.27 mV
DC offset voltage from n to z	1.27 mV
DC offset voltage from z to w	0.96 mV
DC offset current from z to x	$1.56\ \mu\text{A}$
Transconductance bandwidth	160 MHz
Voltage transfer bandwidth	145 MHz

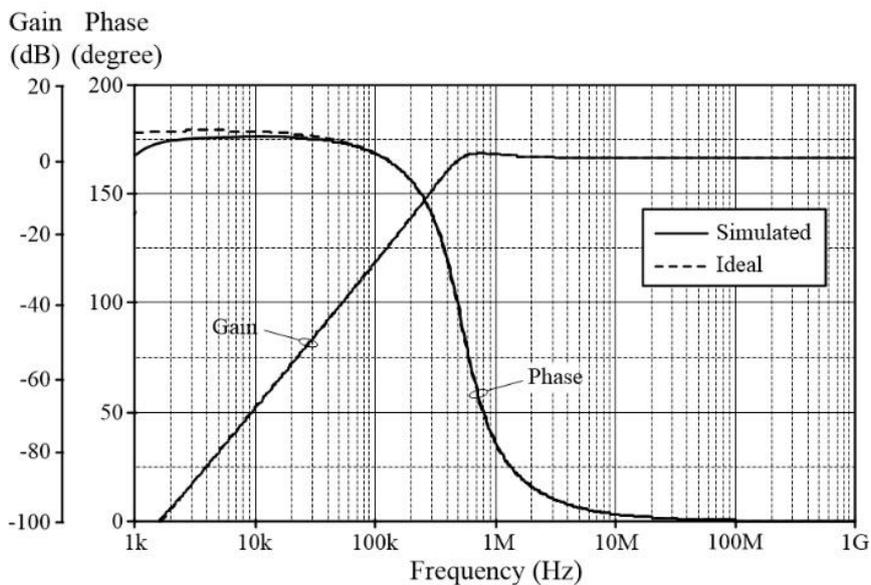


Figure 4. HP frequency characteristics of the proposed voltage-mode filter in Figure 3.

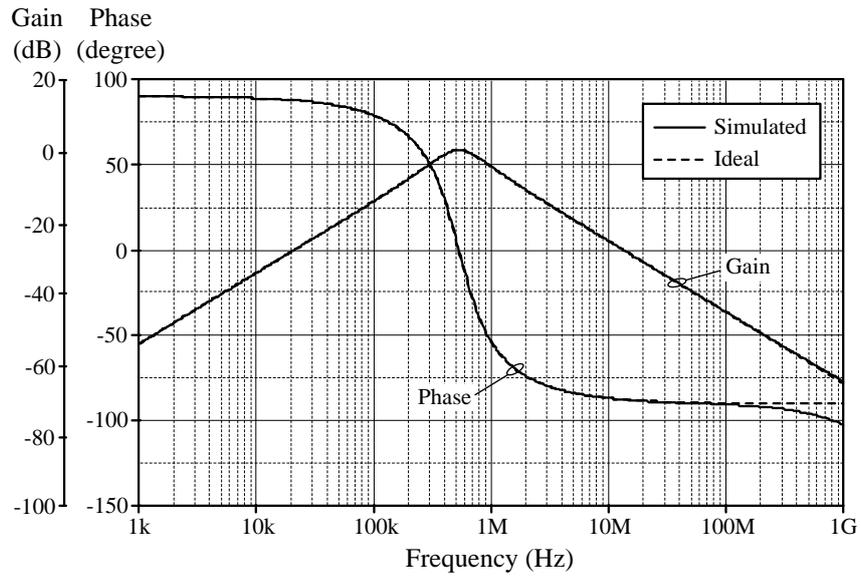


Figure 5. BP frequency characteristics of the proposed voltage-mode filter in Figure 3.

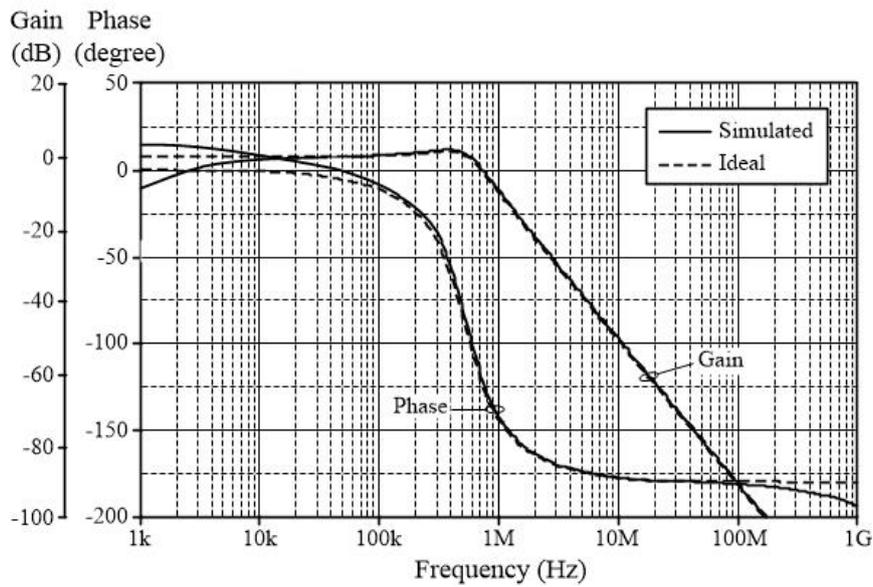


Figure 6. LP frequency characteristics of the proposed voltage-mode filter in Figure 3.

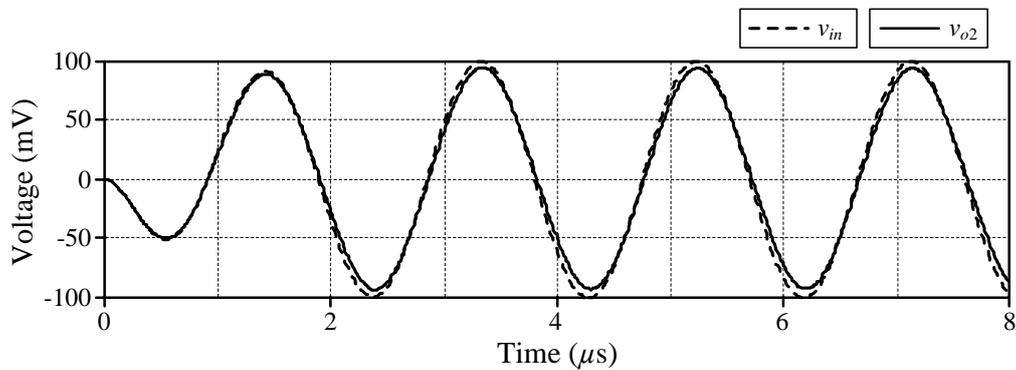


Figure 7. Simulated transient responses of the BP output voltage (v_{o2}).

To observe an adjustment of f_o with Q unchanged, the simulated BP voltage responses for three different values of I_B are shown in Figure 8. The simulation values of the bias currents and their corresponding parameters are given in Table 3. From Table 3, an independent adjustment of the f_o -value for Q constant at unity can be simply achieved by keeping $g_m = 1/R_1$, and changing these values simultaneously. On the other hand, the simulated gain-frequency characteristics for the BP filter with Q -tuning and keeping f_o invariant are shown in Figure 9. To achieve this, the component values for simulating the proposed voltage-mode filter of Figure 3 are listed in Table 4. For given f_o , an orthogonal electronic adjustment of Q is accomplished through setting the $(g_{mA}\beta)/R_1$ value fixed and tuning β only. Figure 9 demonstrates that the BP voltage responses for $Q = 0.5, 1$ and 5 when f_o remains constant at 526 kHz are obtained. As evident from Figure 8 and 9, the characteristics ω_o and Q of the proposed single VDGA-based multifunction filter in Figure 3 can be tuned orthogonally.

Table 3. Simulation settings for orthogonal tuning of f_o without changing Q .

$I_B = I_{Bk}$ (μA)	$g_m = g_{mk}$ ($\mu\text{A}/\text{V}$)	β (g_{mB}/g_{mC})	R_1 ($\text{k}\Omega$)	f_o (kHz)	Q
10	191	1	5.2	304	1
30	330	1	3	526	1
70	505	1	2	803	1

Table 4. Simulation settings for orthogonal tuning of Q without changing f_o .

I_{BA} (μA)	$(g_{mA}\beta)/R_1$	β (g_{mB}/g_{mC})	R_1 ($\text{k}\Omega$)	f_o (kHz)	Q
30	110×10^{-6}	0.5	1.5	526	0.5
30	110×10^{-6}	1	3	526	1
30	110×10^{-6}	5	15	526	5

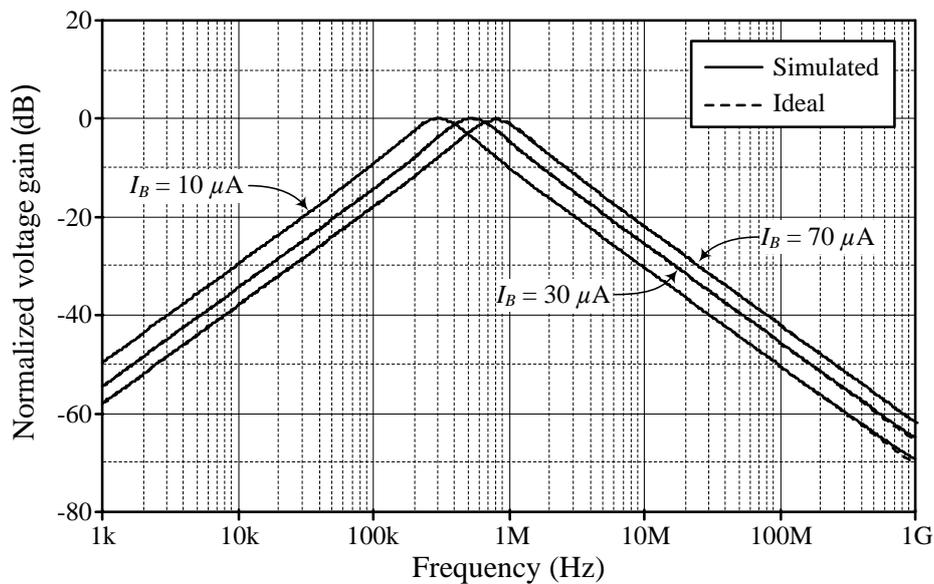


Figure 8. Simulated BP voltage responses with f_o -tuning while keeping Q invariant.

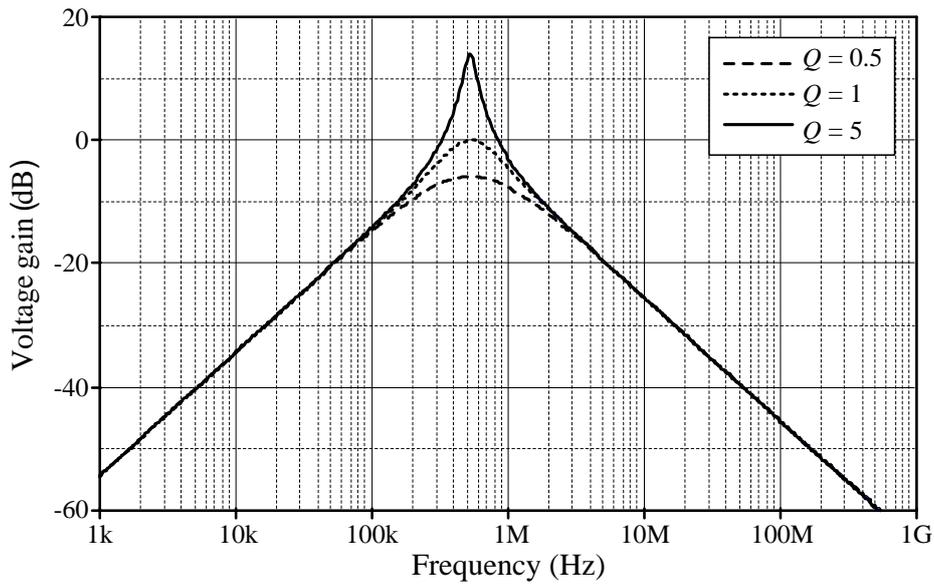


Figure 9. Simulated BP voltage responses with Q -tuning while keeping f_o invariant.

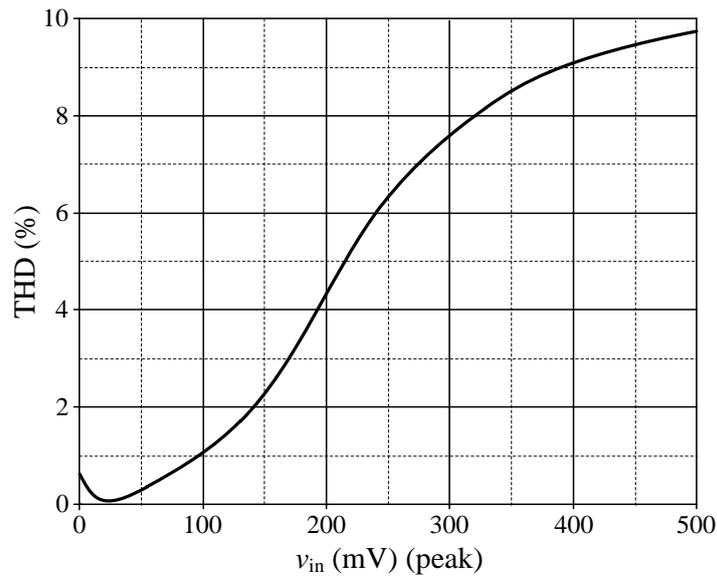


Figure 10. THD variation of the BP output against the input signal amplitude.

To further judge the large signal performance of the proposed voltage-mode filter in Figure 3, the total harmonic distortion (THD) of the BP output has been investigated by injecting a 526-kHz sinusoidal input voltage signal. The THD values on this input signal amplitude at the BP filter are plotted in Figure 10. It can be observed that, for the input current amplitude up to 500 mV (peak), the THD value remains within the level of 10%.

Also, statistical analysis of the proposed circuit has been studied by performing Monte-Carlo simulations. Using Monte-Carlo analysis with 100 runs, the simulation results of BP filter response for 5% Gaussian deviation in the VDGA transconductance values (g_{mk}) are given in Figure 11, where the standard deviation of the f_o was found as 3.10 kHz. An additional simulation for BP gain-frequency response is given in Figure 12 to demonstrate the change in the f_o -value with operating temperature variations. From these plots, it is observed that the f_o -value of the filter is affected by -6.84% to $+4.56\%$ for the temperature discretely swept from 0°C to 100°C in 10°C steps.

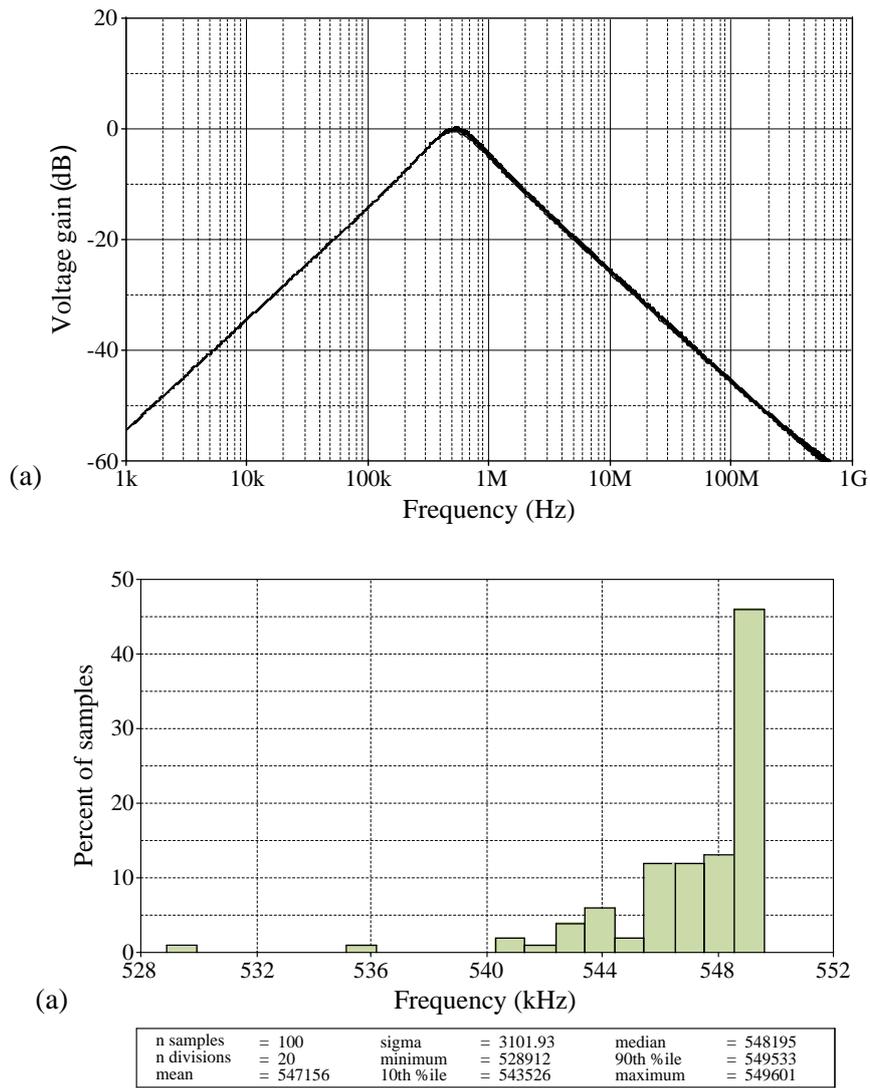


Figure 11. Monte-Carlo analysis results for f_o of BP response. (a) frequency domain (b) derived histogram

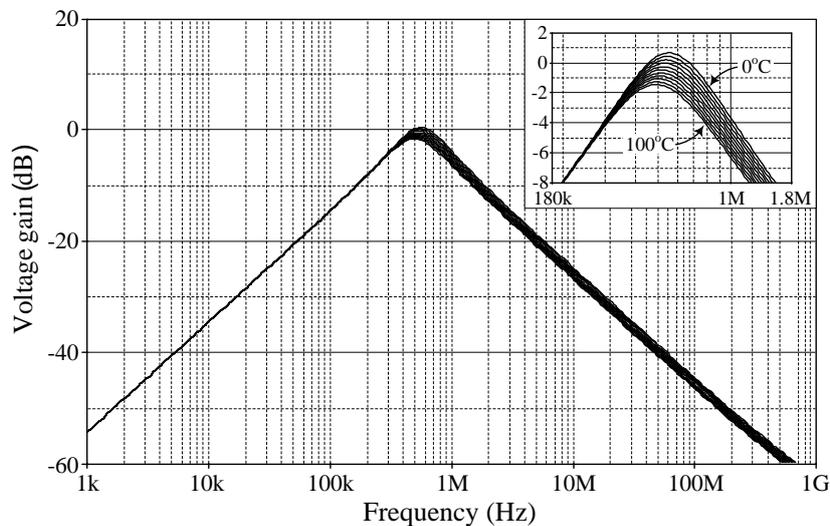


Figure 12. Simulated BP frequency characteristics with different operating temperatures.

Another set of simulations has also been carried out to evaluate the performance of the proposed current-mode multifunction filter. Figure 13 shows the ideal and simulated HP, BP and LP filtering current responses by setting the values of $g_m = g_{mk} = 0.33$ mA/V ($I_B = I_{Bk} = 30$ μ A) and $R_1 = 3$ k Ω . This setting results in the current-mode filter with $f_o = 526$ kHz and $Q = 1$. In addition, the simulated transient response of the BP output current (i_{o2}) is illustrated in Figure 14, where the 526-kHz sinusoidal input current (i_{in}) with amplitude of 80 μ A peak is injected to the filter of Figure 3.

6 Conclusion

In summary, a compact configuration for realizing dual-mode multifunction filter with a single input and triple outputs consisting of the single VDGA active component and four passive components has been described. The circuit can work in either voltage-mode or current-mode filter, and can realize three standard biquadratic filter functions, namely highpass, bandpass and lowpass, simultaneously from the same topology. Its ω_o and Q parameters are orthogonally adjustable. No requirements to define component-matching choices are imposed. Non-ideal consideration and component sensitivity analysis are also discussed in detail. In both operation modes, a good correspondence between theoretical values and those obtained from PSPICE simulation results using TSMC 0.25- μ m CMOS technology has been achieved.

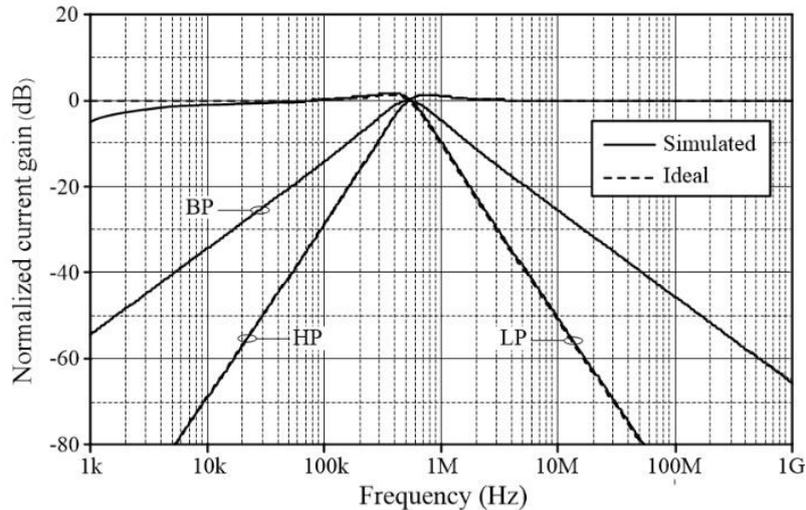


Figure 13. HP, BP and LP frequency characteristics of the proposed current-mode filter in Figure 3.

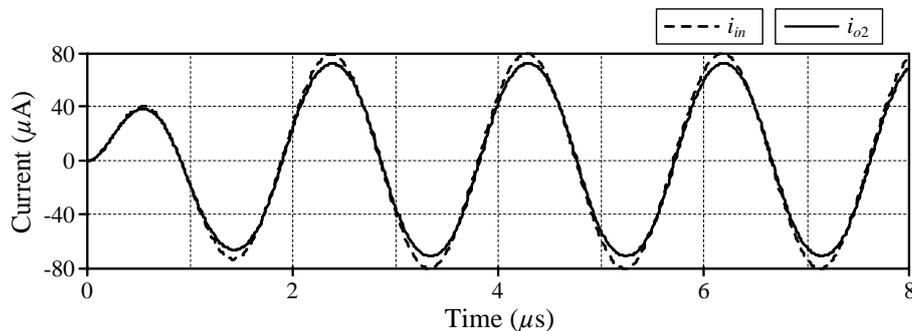


Figure 14. Simulated transient responses of the BP output current (i_{o2}).

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