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INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR THEORETICAL PHYSICS
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FIFTH COLLEGE ON MICROPROCESSORS: TECHNOLOGY AND APPLICATIONS
IN PHYSICS

2 - 27 October 1989

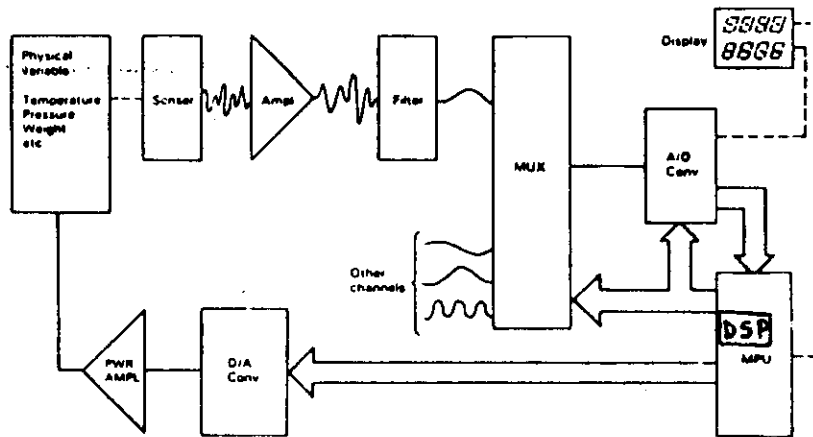
Analog/Digital, Digital/Analog and Voltage to Frequency

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These notes are intended for internal distribution only.

CONVERTERS

TYPICAL ACQUISITION/CONTROL SYSTEM



How to choose a converter - check list.

Before selecting a converter, the following questions have to be answered.

- Which resolution is needed (6, 8, 10, ... bit)?
- Which accuracy is needed?
- Which linearity?
- Which logic level (input, output)?
- Which type of reference voltage, fixed, variable, internal, external?
- Which speed is necessary?
- Which settling time?
- Which power supply stability?
- Which operating temperature range is needed?
- Which is the best performance/cost ratio?

— When and where to use them.

— Internal principle of operation

a) List of different types

b) Description of most common type

— Selection Guide.

— Applications.

Digital to Analog Converter (D/A)

- Signals which may assume any value in a continuous range are called analog signals
- When analog signals must be processed, there is often a great advantage in converting the signal to digital form so that the processing can be done digitally.
- A most effective way of suppressing noise is to transmit the signal digitally. A communication system which operates in this way, i.e. converts the analog signal to digital form and then reconstitutes the analog signal, is called a "pulse-code modulation system"
- The D/A converters are rather simpler than the A/D converters. An A/D converter is frequently used within the structure of D/A converters.
For these reasons we shall consider D/A converters first.

CONVERSION TECHNIQUES

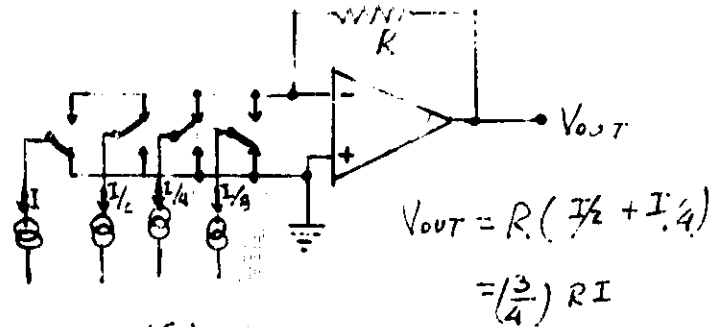
1) D/A Converter

- Weighted Resistor
- R-2R Resistive Ladder
- Current
- Voltage

2) A/D Converter

- Comparator Converter
- Successive approximation converters
- Counter converters
- Voltage to Frequency
- Voltage to Time
- The dual-slope
- Tracking type (used in communication)
- Parallel Ripple
- Variable Threshold
- Synchronous VTF A/D system

Current Steering D/A



$$V_{OUTMAX} = \left(\frac{15}{8}\right)RI$$

$$V_{OUTMAX} = RI \left(2 - \frac{1}{2^{n-1}}\right)$$

THE CIRCUIT PRODUCES AN UNIPOLAR OUTPUT 0 up to V_{OUTMAX}

IF A BIPOLAR OUTPUT IS DESIRED THEN INVERT THE CURRENT REPRESENTING THE M.S.B. (DAC INPUT IN 2'S COMPLEMENT CODE)

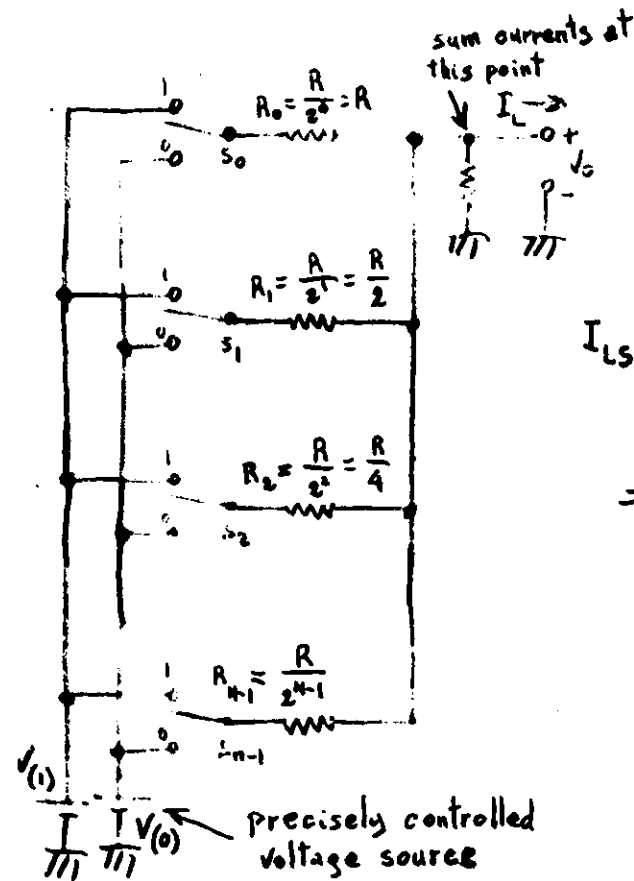
OR

ADD A BIAS CURRENT TO POLARIZE THE OP. AMP. SO THAT AN INPUT OF ALL ZEROS PRODUCES THE FULL SCALE NEGATIVE VOLTAGE OUTPUT.

(DAC INPUT IN OFFSET BINARY CODE)

Example of a circuit converting digital representation to analog form.

THE WEIGHTED-RESISTOR D/A Converter

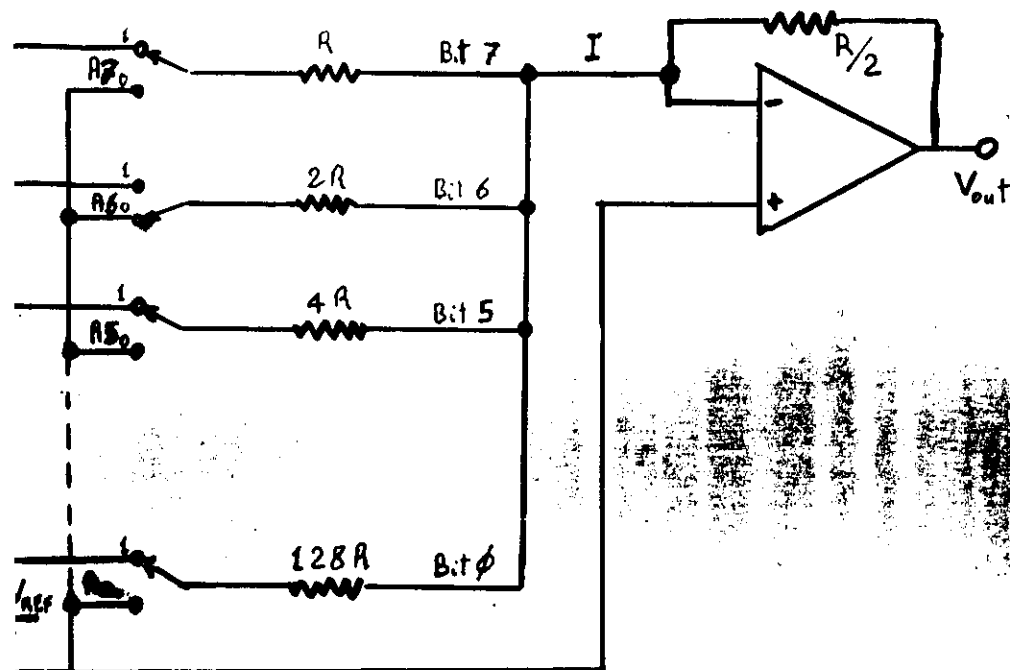


$$I_{LS} = V_R \left(\frac{S_{n-1}}{R_{n-1}} + \frac{S_{n-2}}{R_{n-2}} + \dots + \frac{S_0}{R_0} \right)$$

$$= \frac{V_R}{R} (S_{n-1} 2^{n-1} + S_{n-2} 2^{n-2} + \dots + S_0 2^0)$$

-Let us assume that $V_{(1)} = V_R$, a fixed reference voltage that $V_{(0)} = 0$, that is, all 0 switch positions are grounded and that the load $R_L = 0$ (in which case $V = 0$). Then the output current I_L is readily calculated in terms of the switch positions.

WEIGHTED RESISTOR D/A



$$V_{out} = -V_{REF} \left(\frac{A_7}{2} + \frac{A_6}{4} + \frac{A_5}{8} + \dots + \frac{A_0}{128} \right)$$

Ex. Bit 7 "ON" $V_{out} = -V_{REF} \frac{\frac{R}{2}}{R} = -\frac{V_{REF}}{2}$

Bit 6 "ON" $V_{out} = -V_{REF} \frac{\frac{R}{2}}{2R} = -\frac{V_{REF}}{4}$

ONE DRAWBACK OF THE BINARY WEIGHTED RESISTOR DAC IS THAT THE RANGE OF RESISTOR VALUES IS TOO LARGE.

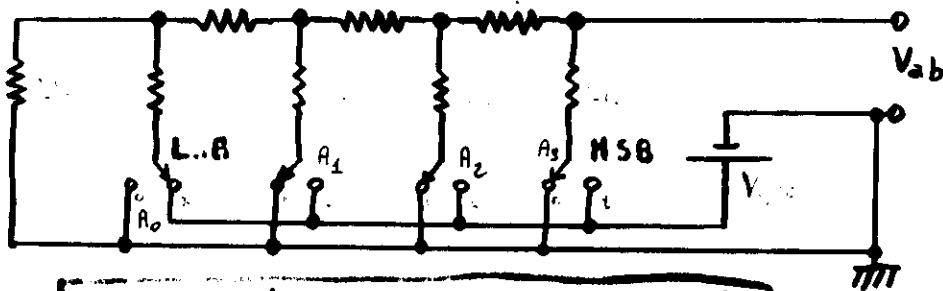
EX. 8 bits

IF $R = 1K$

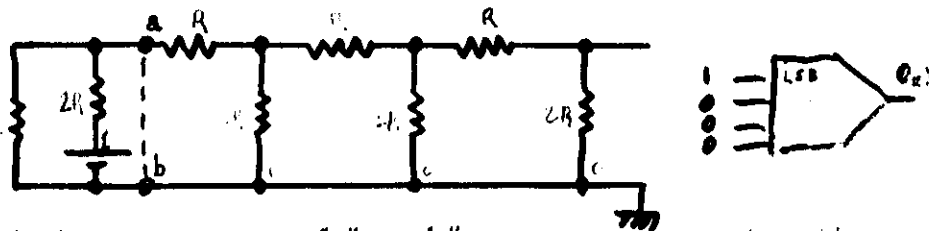
9 DIFFERENT RESISTORS
[5K ... 1.28M]

AND WITH ENOUGH PRECISION!
(DIFFICULT TO MANUFACTURE)

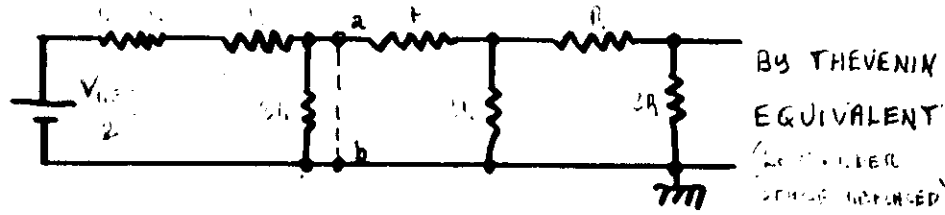
D/A R-2R CONVERTER



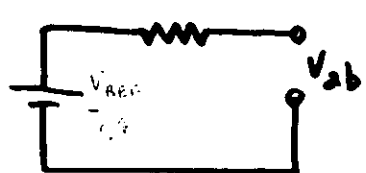
$$V_{ab} = V_{REF} \left(\frac{A_3}{2^1} + \frac{A_2}{2^2} + \frac{A_1}{2^3} + \frac{A_0}{2^4} \right)$$



Between terminals "a" and "b", the open circuit voltage is $\frac{V_{REF}}{2}$ and internal resistance is R



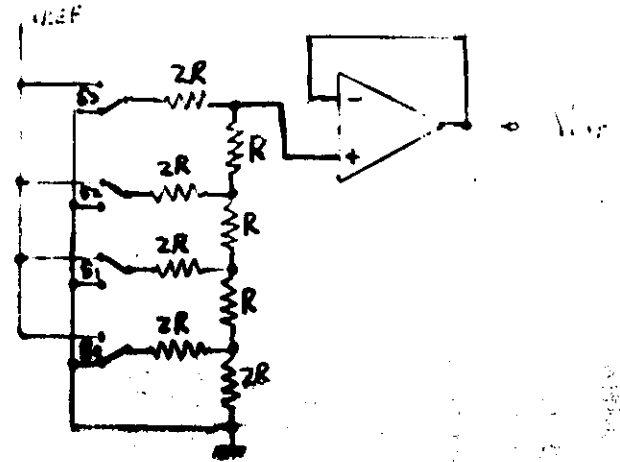
BY THEVENIN EQUIVALENT (RESISTOR VALUE REMAINS)



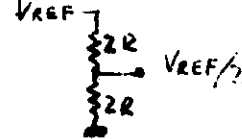
FINAL EQUIVALENT CIRCUIT FOR $A_0=1, A_1=A_2=A_3=0$ EACH SWITCH CONTRIBUTES ITS PROPER RELATIVE BINARY WEIGHT

TO $V_{ab} = V_{REF} \left(\frac{A_3}{2^1} + \frac{A_2}{2^2} + \frac{A_1}{2^3} + \frac{A_0}{2^4} \right) = \frac{V_R}{2}$

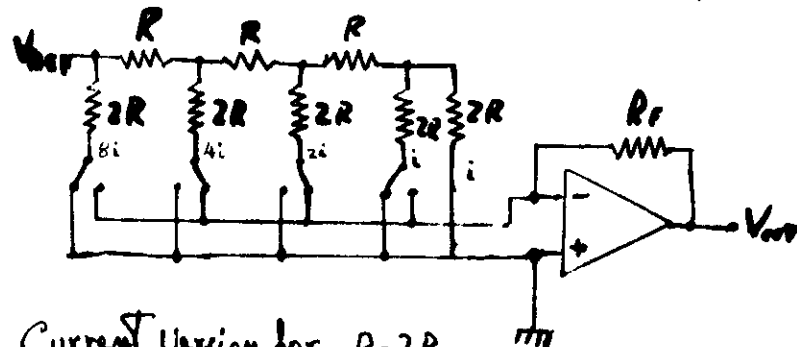
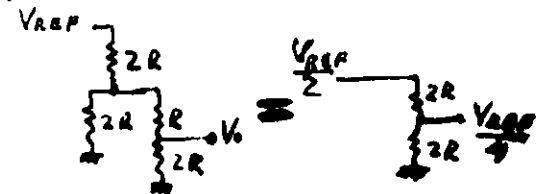
VOLTAGE VERSION



FOR S_0



FOR S_2



Current Version for R-2R Ladder network DAC

If one leg of the ladder is connected to the reference voltage by electronic switch and the remaining are all grounded, a current is produced in the "leg" which "travels" through the ladder and gets divided by a factor of two at each junction. Thus, the contribution of current from that leg at the summing junction is binary weighted in accordance with the number of junctions through which it has passed.

Advantages:

- the impedance seen from the input of the op-amp is constant (equal to R). Hence, bandwidth, etc, do not change with digital setting.
- All resistors are either R or $2R$. Accuracy is not dependent upon the absolute value of R but rather only their differences. ($0.1k\Omega$ to $50k\Omega$)

MAIN DAC SPECIFICATIONS

RESOLUTION: IT SPECIFIES THE NUMBER OF BITS AND THEREFORE THE NUMBER OF OUTPUT VOLTAGES THE CONVERTER CAN SUPPLY.

A CONVERTER WITH TEN INPUT BITS CAN DELIVER 2^{10} OR 1024 DIFFERENT VOLTAGES, AND THE SMALLEST POSSIBLE OUTPUT CHANGE IS $(1/1024)$ OF FULL SCALE OR 0.1% RESOLUTION.

LINEARITY: IN AN IDEAL LINEAR DAC EQUAL INCREMENTS IN THE INPUT'S DIGITAL VALUE SHOULD PRODUCE EQUAL INCREMENTS OF THE ANALOG OUTPUT. IT IS A MEASURE OF DEVIATION OF THE ANALOG OUTPUT TO A STRAIGHT LINE BETWEEN THE MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM OUTPUT VALUES.

MONOTONICITY: IT IMPLIES THAT THE ANALOG OUTPUT INCREASES WHEN THE DIGITAL INPUT INCREASES. IT IS AN IMPORTANT FEATURE FOR DACs USED IN BUILDING ADCs.

ACCURACY: A MEASURE OF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE ^{ACTUAL} OUTPUT VOLTAGE AND THE INTENDED OUTPUT VOLTAGE.

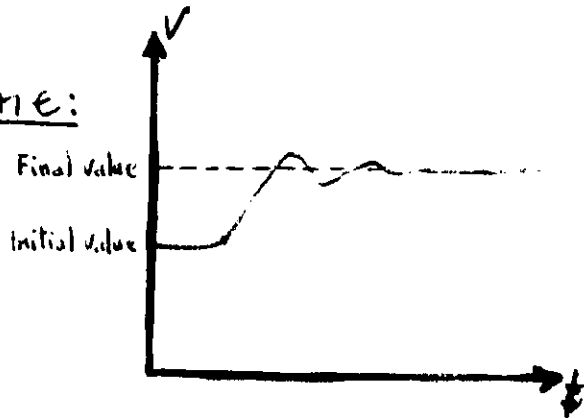
Settling Time:

When the digital input to a converter changes, switches, open and close and abrupt voltage changes appear.

Not only there is a finite time required to reach the new output level, but also an oscillation may occur.

The interval that elapses from the input change to the time when the output has come close enough to its final value is called the settling time. The settling time depends, among other things, on how we define "close enough". Typically a general purpose converter might have a settling time given as "500 ns to 0.2% full scale".

Temperature sensitivity: At any fixed digital input, the analog output will vary with temperature.



Digital-To Analog Converter AD558J

Dacport - Lowcost μ P-compatible 8-Bit DAC

Product Highlights:

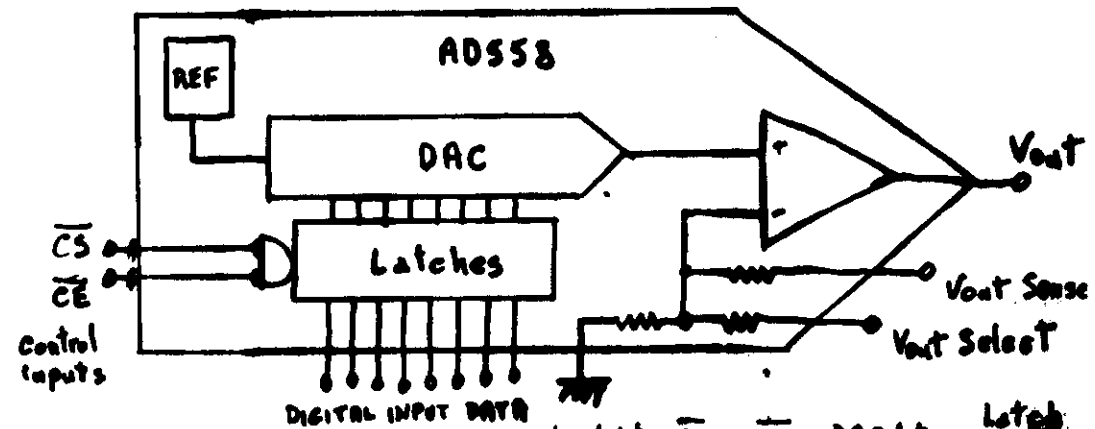
- 8 Bit input register microprocessor compatible.
- The latch may be disabled for direct DAC interfacing.

Power Supply
 $> +4.5V$ to $+16V$

Output to 2.56 Volt or

Output to 10 Volt output ranges by pin-strapping.

- Settling time: 700 nsec to 0.1% full scale
- Accuracy @ 25°C $\pm 1.5LSB$ ($\pm 0.6\%$ max) full scale



The $\overline{CS}$ and $\overline{CE}$ inputs are interchangeable.

x = does not matter

Input data	$\overline{CE}$	$\overline{CS}$	DAC data	Latch Condition
0	0	0	0	Transparent
1	0	0	1	Transparent
0	1	0	0	latching
1	1	0	1	latching
0	1	1	0	latching
1	1	1	1	latching
x	x	x	prev. data	latched
x	x	1	prev. data	latched



**ANALOG
DEVICES**

DACPORT™ Low Cost Complete μP-Compatible 8-Bit DAC

AD558*

FEATURES

- Complete 8-Bit DAC
- Voltage Output — 2 Calibrated Ranges
- Internal Precision Band-Gap Reference
- Single-Supply Operation: +5V to +15V
- Full Microprocessor Interface
- Fast: 1μs Voltage Settling to $\pm 1/2$ LSB
- Low Power: 75mW
- No User Trims
- Guaranteed Monotonic Over Temperature
- All Errors Specified T_{min} to T_{max}
- Small 16-Pin DIP Package
- Single Laser-Wafer-Trimmed Chip for Hybrids
- Low Cost

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

The AD558 DACPORT is a complete voltage-output 8-bit digital-to-analog converter, including output amplifier, full microprocessor interface and precision voltage reference on a single monolithic chip. No external components or trims are required to interface, with full accuracy, an 8-bit data bus to an analog system.

The performance and versatility of the DACPORT is a result of several recently-developed monolithic bipolar technologies. The complete microprocessor interface and control logic is implemented with integrated injection logic (I^2L), an extremely dense and low-power logic structure that is process-compatible with linear bipolar fabrication. The internal precision voltage reference is the patented low-voltage band-gap circuit which permits full-accuracy performance on a single +5V to +15V power supply. Thin-film silicon-chromium resistors provide the stability required for guaranteed monotonic operation over the entire operating temperature range (all grades), while recent advances in laser-wafer-trimming of these thin-film resistors permit absolute calibration at the factory to within ± 1 LSB; thus no user-trims for gain or offset are required. A new circuit design provides voltage settling to $\pm 1/2$ LSB for a full-scale step in 800ns.

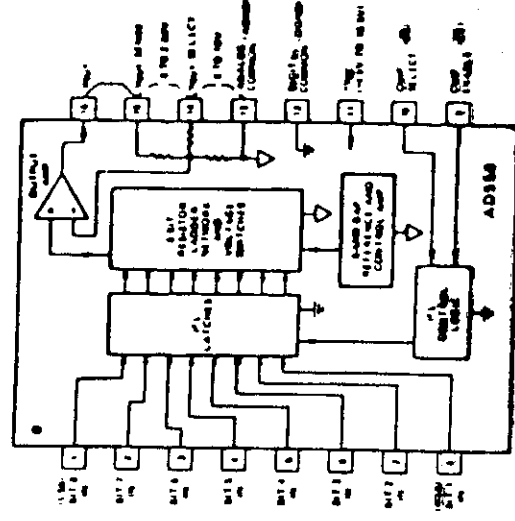
The AD558 is available in four performance grades. The AD558J and K are specified for use over the 0 to +70°C temperature range, while the AD558S and T grades are specified for -55°C to +125°C operation. The hermetically-sealed ceramic package is standard. Processing to MIL-STD-883, Class B is optional on S and T grades.

PRODUCT HIGHLIGHTS

- The 8-bit I^2L input register and fully microprocessor-compatible control logic allow the AD558 to be directly connected to 8- or 16-bit data buses and operated with standard control signals. The latch may be disabled for direct DAC interfacing.

Covered by U.S. Patent Nos. 3,887,863, 3,685,045; Patents Pending. DACPORT is a trademark of Analog Devices, Inc.

AD558 FUNCTIONAL BLOCK DIAGRAM



- The laser-trimmed on-chip SiCr thin-film resistors are calibrated for absolute accuracy and linearity at the factory. Therefore, no user trims are necessary for full rated accuracy over the operating temperature range.
- The inclusion of a precision low-voltage band-gap reference eliminates the need to specify and apply a separate reference source.
- The voltage-switching structure of the AD558 DAC section along with a high-speed output amplifier and laser-trimmed resistors give the user a choice of 0V to +2.56V or 0V to +10V output ranges, selectable by pin-strapping. Circuitry is internally compensated for minimum settling time on both ranges, typically settling to $\pm 1/2$ LSB for a full-scale 2.55 volt step in 800ns.
- The AD558 is designed and specified to operate from a single +4.5V to +16.5V power supply.
- Low digital input currents, 100nA max, minimize bus loading. Input thresholds are TTL/low voltage CMOS compatible over the entire operating V_{CC} range.
- The single-chip, low power I^2L design of the AD558 is inherently more reliable than hybrid multi-chip or conventional single-chip bipolar designs. The AD558S and T grades, which are specified over the -55°C to +125°C temperature range, are available processed to MIL-STD-883, Class B.
- All AD558 grades are available in chip form with guaranteed specifications from +25°C to T_{max} . MIL-STD-883, Class B visual inspection is standard on Analog Devices bipolar chips. Contact the factory for additional chip information.

FEATURES

- Conforms With Bell System μ-255 Companding Law
- Meets D3 Compander Tracking Specifications
- Both Encode and Decode Capability
- Tight Full-Scale Tolerance Eliminates Calibration
- Low Full-Scale Drift Over Temperature
- Extremely Low Noise Contribution
- Multiplying Reference Inputs
- Simplifies PCM System Design
- High Reliability
- Low Power Consumption and Low Cost
- Two Grades Available

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The DAC-86 monolithic COMDAC® D/A Converter provides a 15 segment linear approximation to the Bell System μ-255 companding law. The law is implemented by using three bits to select one of eight binarily-related chords (or segments) and four bits to select one of sixteen linearly-related steps within each chord. A sign bit determines signal polarity, and an encode/decode input determines the mode of operation.

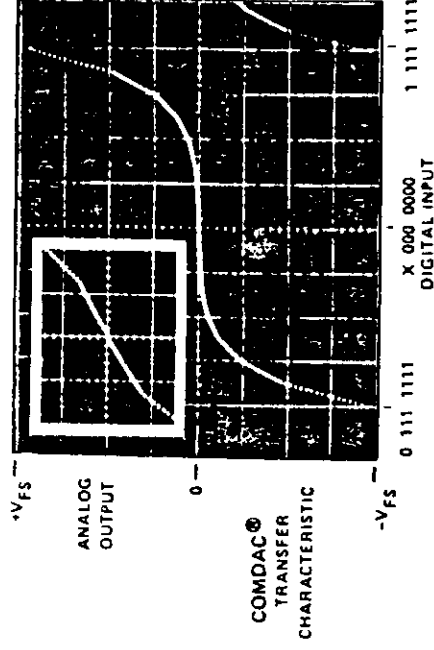
Accuracy is assured by specifying chord end point values, step non-linearity, and monotonicity over the full operating temperature range. Typical applications include PCM carrier systems, digital PBX's intercom systems, and PCM recording. For CCITT "A" Law models, refer to the DAC-89 data sheet.

PIN CONNECTIONS & ORDERING INFORMATION

ENCODE/DECODE SELECT: 1- ENCODE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
SIGN BIT INPUT: 1- POSITIVE 1- NEGATIVE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
MOST SIGNIFICANT CHORD BIT INPUT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
SECOND CHORD BIT INPUT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
LEAST SIGNIFICANT CHORD BIT INPUT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
MOST SIGNIFICANT STEP BIT INPUT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
SECOND STEP BIT INPUT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
THIRD STEP BIT INPUT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
LEAST SIGNIFICANT STEP BIT INPUT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
POSITIVE POWER SUPPLY	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
DECODE OUT: E/D SB = 00	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
DECODE OUT: E/D SB = 01	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
ENCODE OUT: E/D SB = 10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
ENCODE OUT: E/D SB = 11	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
NEGATIVE POWER SUPPLY	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
NEGATIVE REFERENCE INPUT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
POSITIVE REFERENCE INPUT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
LOGIC THRESHOLD CONTROL	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18

18-PIN HERMETIC DUAL-IN-LINE (X-Suffix)

GRADE	TEMP. RANGE	ACCURACY
DAC-86EX	-25°C/+85°C	± 1/2 Step
DAC-86CX	-25°C/+85°C	± 1 Step



BELL μ-255 LAW TRANSFER CHARACTERISTIC

The DAC-86 transfer characteristic is a piecewise linear approximation to the Bell System μ-255 law expressed by:

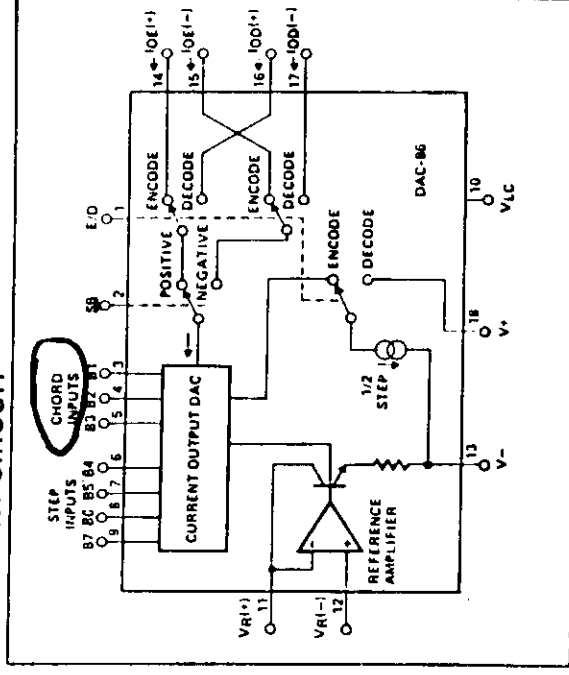
$$Y(x) = \text{sgn}(x) \frac{\ln(1 + \mu |x|)}{\ln(1 + \mu)} - 1 \leq x \leq 1$$

for a normalized coding range of ± 1
where: x = input signal level
Y = output compressed signal level

μ = 255

This law is implemented with a eight chord (or segment) piecewise linear approximation with 16 linear steps in each chord. Dynamic range of 72dB in both polarities is achieved with eight-bit coding.

EQUIVALENT CIRCUIT



14

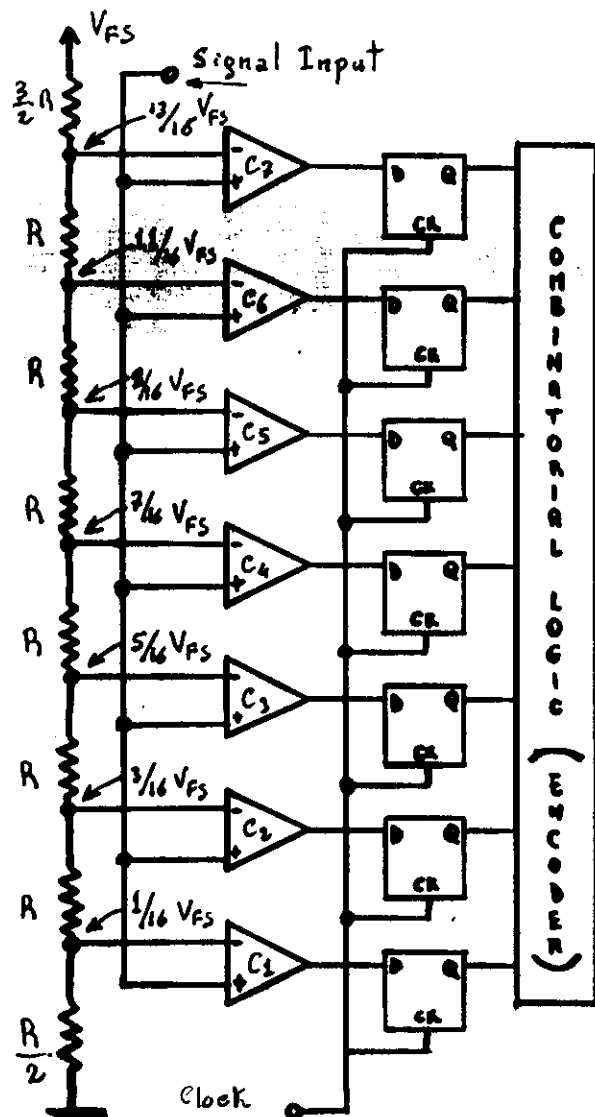
SUPPLY AND DEMAND FOR...

PARALLEL OR "FLASH" A/D

The unknown V_x input voltage is simultaneously compared to seven different reference voltages

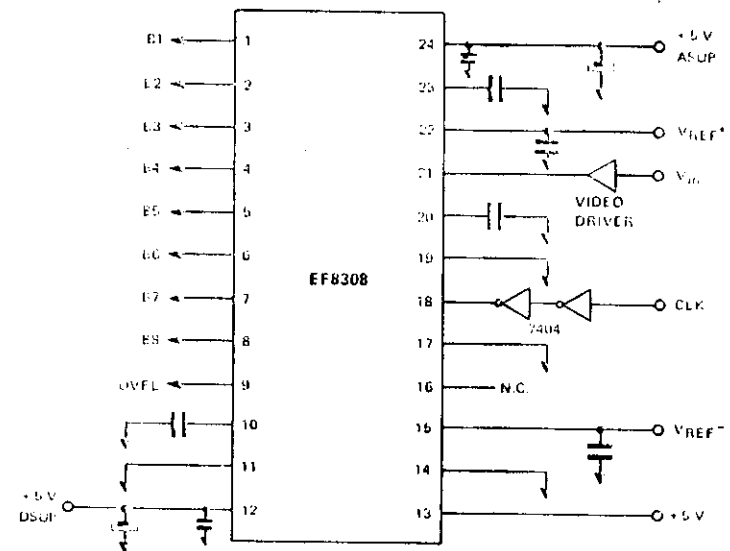
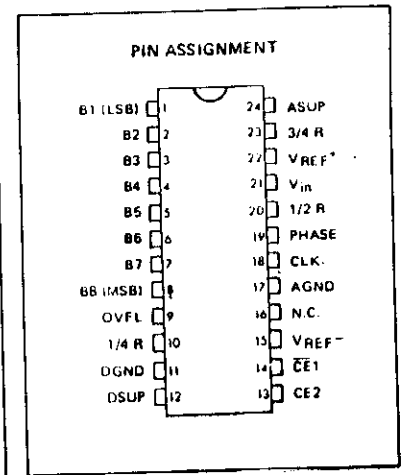
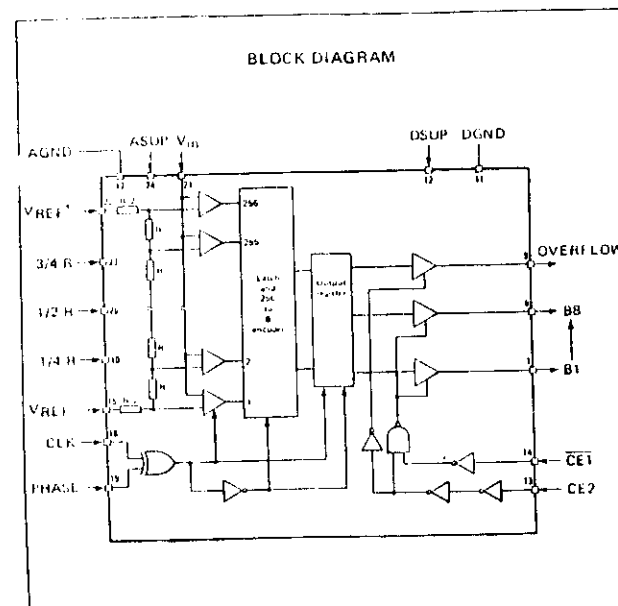
2^{n-1} COMPARATORS are needed for n -bit CONVERTER

CONVERSION RATE $10 \div 100 \text{ MHz}$



Range of analog voltage input at Comparator	Binary Digital output	Analog Voltage Output from D/A
$V_{R7} = 15/16 V_{FS}$	111	$7/8 V_{FS}$
$V_{R6} = 14/16 V_{FS}$	110	$3/4 V_{FS}$
$V_{R5} = 13/16 V_{FS}$	101	$5/8 V_{FS}$
$V_{R4} = 12/16 V_{FS}$	100	$1/2 V_{FS}$
$V_{R3} = 11/16 V_{FS}$	011	$3/8 V_{FS}$
$V_{R2} = 10/16 V_{FS}$	010	$1/4 V_{FS}$
$V_{R1} = 9/16 V_{FS}$	001	$1/8 V_{FS}$
	000	0

Access to resistor "R" ladder to eventually form a non linear conversion law (compression for example)



COESIVE APPROXIMATION A/T CONVERTER

INSTEAD OF 2^N CONVERTERS DO $\log_2(N)$ COMPARISONS.

USES: ONE COMPARATOR
ONE DAC.

ONE SUCCESSIVE APPROXIMATION REGISTER DURING THE CONVERSION THE ANALOG SIGNAL MUST BE STEADY. USUALLY A SAMPLE AND HOLD CIRCUIT IS USED FOR THIS PURPOSE

-FIXED CONVERSION TIME

- REASONABLY FAST, 5-150 H sec for Obj.

(CONTINUED): - along REGISTER

-SET THE MSB OF REGISTER TO ONE

- WAIT FOR THE SETTLING TIME OF THE DAC
PLUS RESPONSE TIME OF COMPARATOR

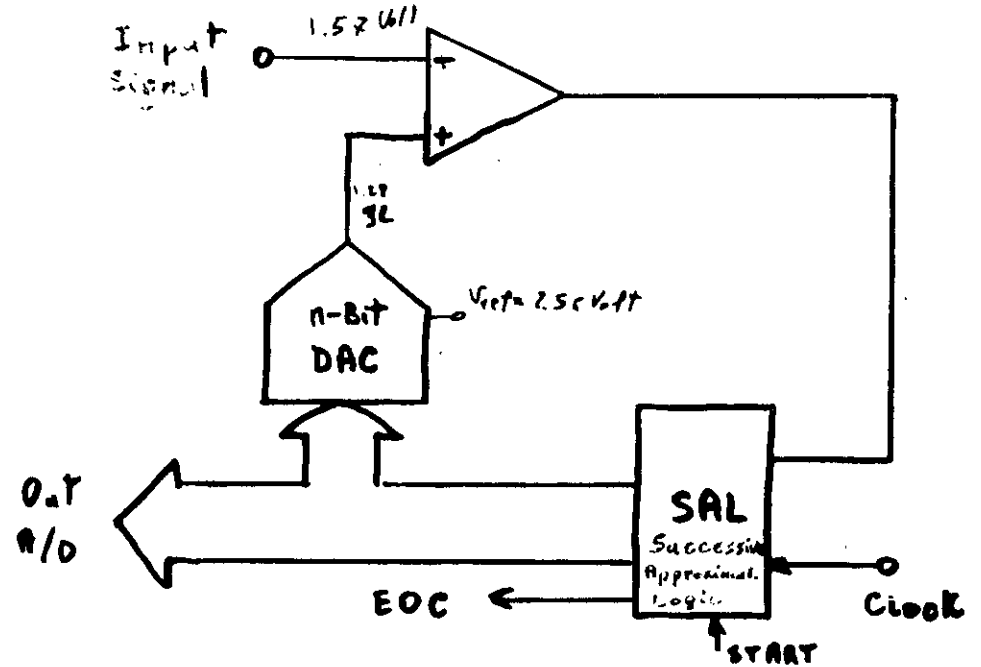
- SET OR RESET MSB ACCORDINGLY

- REPEAT FOR BIT NEXT TO MSB (1, 2, 3) KEEPING VALUE OF MSB.

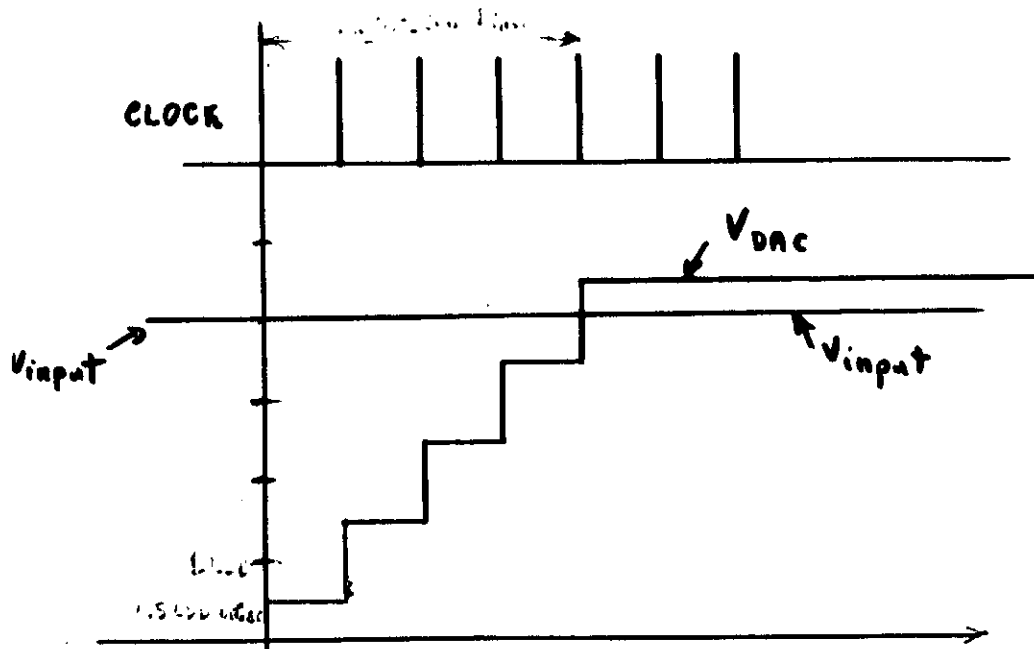
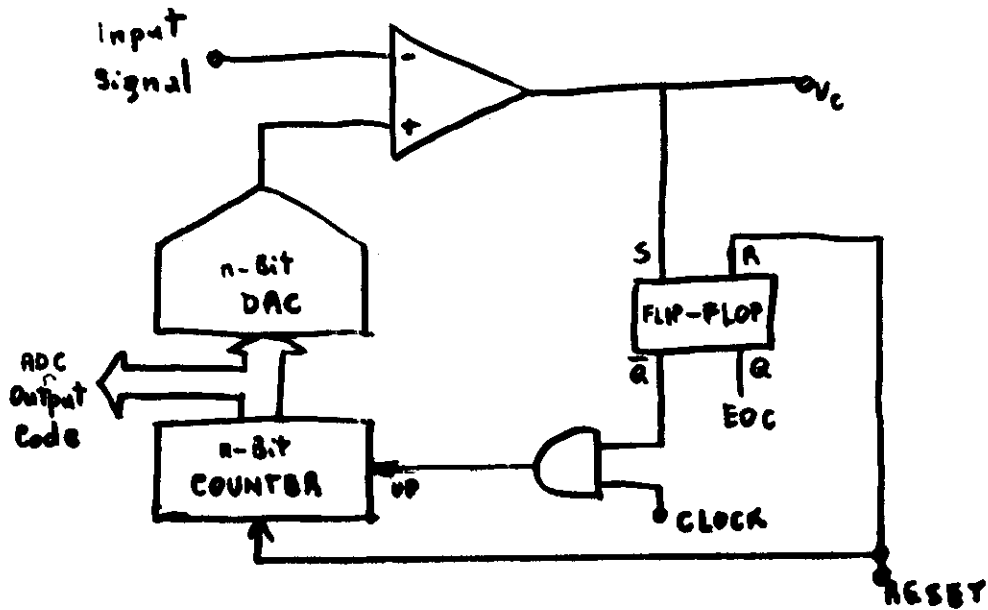
- REPEAT DOWN TO THE LSB TO SUCCESSIVELY APPROXIMATE THE DAC OUTPUT TO THE ANALOG "STEADY" INPUT.

THE INTERNAL DAC (R-2R NETWORK) SHOULD BE MONOTONIC OR WE HAVE MISSING CODES.

SUCCESSIVE APPROXIMATION R/D

[illegible]

COUNTER-RAMP A/D



Conter-ramp A/D

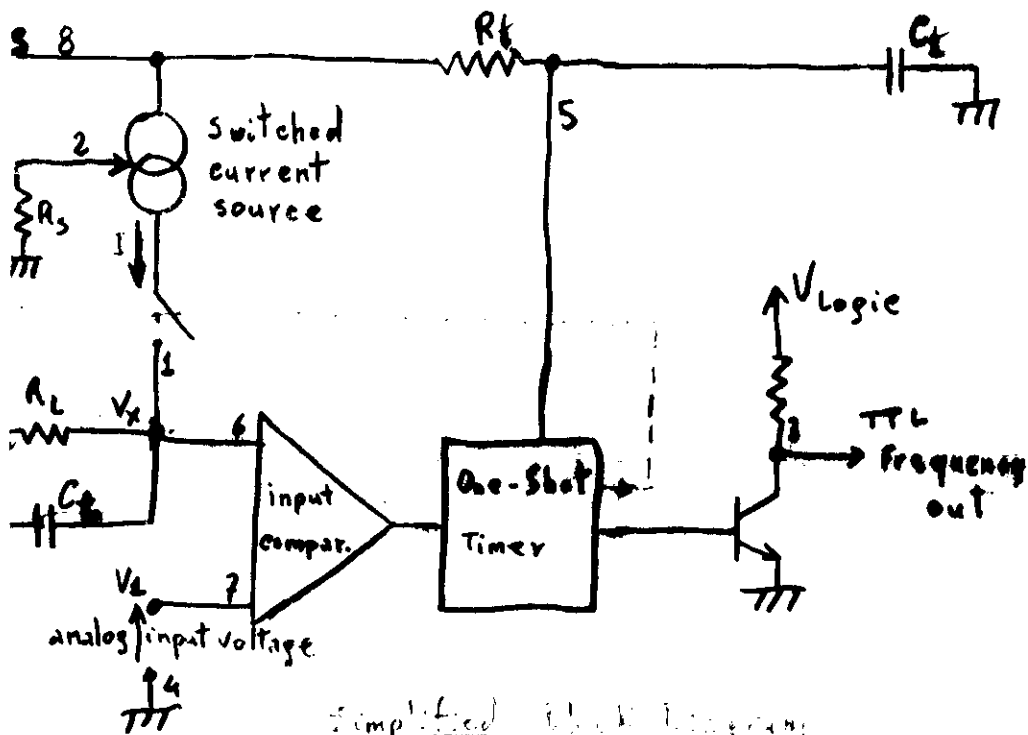
To determine the unknown input voltage V_x , each possible DAC output is sequentially compared to the input voltage.

A/D conversion begins when a pulse resets the counter output to zero. Each successive clock pulse increments the counter until the output of the DAC exceeds the unknown input. At this point the comparator changes state and prevents any further clock pulse from reaching the counter.

Length of the conversion cycle is proportional to the unknown input voltage V_x $T_{max} = 2^n / f_c$

The binary value in the counter represent the smallest DAC value which is larger than the unknown input.

Principles of operation of a simplified Voltage-to-frequency converter



If $V_L > V_X$, the comparator triggers the one-shot timer so timer turns ON both the frequency output transistor and the switched current source for a period $\sim R_T C_T$. Provide a fixed amount of charge $Q = i \cdot t$ into the capacitor C_L . This normally charges V_X up to a higher level than V_L . At the end of timing period the current I turns off.

Capacitor C_L will be gradually discharged by R_L .



A to D, D to A

LM131A/LM131, LM231A/LM231, LM331A/LM331 Precision Voltage-to-Frequency Converters

General Description

The LM131/LM231/LM331 family of voltage-to-frequency converters are ideally suited for use in simple low-cost circuits for analog-to-digital conversion, precision frequency-to-voltage conversion, long-term integration, linear frequency modulation or demodulation, and many other functions. The output when used as a voltage-to-frequency converter is a pulse train at a frequency precisely proportional to the applied input voltage. Thus, it provides all the inherent advantages of the voltage-to-frequency conversion techniques, and is easy to apply in all standard voltage-to-frequency converter applications. Further, the LM131A/LM231A/LM331A attains a new high level of accuracy versus temperature which could only be attained with expensive voltage-to-frequency modules. Additionally, the LM131 is ideally suited for use in digital systems at low power supply voltages and can provide low-cost analog-to-digital conversion in microprocessor-controlled systems. And, the frequency from a battery-powered voltage-to-frequency converter can be easily channeled through a simple photoisolator to provide isolation against high common mode levels.

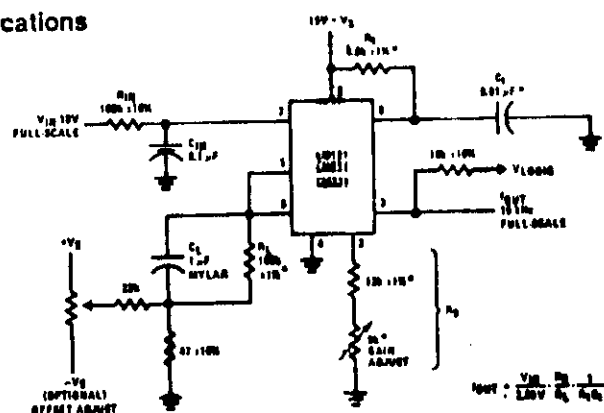
The LM131/LM231/LM331 utilizes a new temperature-compensated band-gap reference circuit, to provide excellent accuracy over the full operating temperature range, at power supplies as low as 4.0V. The precision timer circuit has low bias currents without degrading

the quick response necessary for 100 kHz voltage-to-frequency conversion. And the output is capable of driving 5 TTL loads, or a high voltage output up to 40V, yet is short-circuit-proof against V_{CC} .

Features

- Guaranteed linearity 0.01% max
- Improved performance in existing voltage-to-frequency conversion applications
- Split or single supply operation
- Operates on single 5V supply
- Pulse output compatible with all logic forms
- Excellent temperature stability, $\pm 50 \text{ ppm}/^\circ\text{C}$ max
- Low power dissipation, 18 mW typical at 5V
- Wide dynamic range, 100 dB min at 10 kHz full scale frequency
- Wide range of full scale frequency, 1 Hz to 100 kHz
- Low cost

Typical Applications



*Use stable components with low temperature coefficients. See Typical Applications section.

FIGURE 1. Simple Stand-Alone Voltage-to-Frequency Converter with 0.02% Typical Linearity ($f = 10 \text{ Hz to } 11 \text{ kHz}$)

LM131A/LM131,
LM231A/LM231, LM331A/LM331

SELECTION GUIDE

Consult Customers Data Books:

- TRW
- BURR-BROWN
- ANALOG DEVICES
- DATEL-INTERSIL
- MOTOROLA
- NATIONAL SEMICONDUCTORS
- HARRIS
- SIEMENS
- THOMSON
- RCA
- SONY

D/A Converters:

- 1) General Purpose Low Cost
 - a) Current mode
 - b) Voltage mode
 - c) unipolar or bipolar output
- 2) High Performance (Speed and Accuracy)
 - a) High speed
 - b) High resolution
 - c) Very wide temperature range
- 3) Low Power and Multi-plying
 - a) 2-quadrant multiplying
 - b) High speed multiplying
- 4) Digitally Buffered (DATA-BUS compatible)
- 5) On-chip voltage reference
- 6) Special - Purpose
 - a) PCM Audio Converter

A/D Converters:

- 1) General Purpose
 - a) differential input
 - b) internal or external reference voltage
 - c) DVM converters (Digital Voltmeter)
- 2) High performance (speed and Accuracy)
 - a) High speed
 - b) High resolution
- 3) LOW POWER, CMOS
- 4) BUS COMPATIBLE (3 state-outputs)
- 5) Multi channel

