Actively Simulated Floating Lossless Inductor for Short Range Wireless Communication

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Abstract

This communication describes the resistorless simulation of the floating lossless inductor using three voltage differencing buffered amplifiers (VDBAs) and one grounded capacitor. The circuit employs only a grounded capacitor, and no other extra resistor element is employed. Thus, it is suitable for further communication integrated front-end circuit design in short-range wireless and application. The realized equivalent inductance value of the simulated inductor can be changed electronically via the external biasing currents of the VDBAs. Sufficient simulation results with the PSPICE program are provided to validate the functionality of the realized inductor. In addition to establishing the practical operation of the simulator, the measured test results obtained from hardware implementation using readily available integrated chips (ICs) are also included.
Keywords: Communication circuits and devices, short range wireless communication, near-field communication, inductance simulator, voltage differencing buffered amplifier (VDBA).

1 Introduction

In the last decades, LC filters are an important building block of modern communication electronic architecture [1]. It is also well known that every communication system and wireless application requires one or more filters in their circuit structure. The LC filter in the communication front-end section performs a significant part for controlling the selective frequency band of wireless standard, and eliminating the unwanted frequency band. In addition, discrete inductors find several applications in active filters, LC oscillators and comparators for impedance matching, parasitic cancellation and phase shifters [2]. For short range wireless communication, they are employed to appropriately tune and couple the front-end module and power amplifiers. They are also used to form the impedance matching in the near field communication circuit. However, from the viewpoint of the communication integrated circuit (IC) design, the major restrictions of the use of physical spiral inductors are their bulky structure, and small and non-tuneable inductance values. Therefore, it is highly preferable to simulate floating inductors with modern electronic active building blocks. Over the years, several floating lossless inductance simulator circuits have been designed using different types of active building blocks [6–14]. However, some of the inductance simulator circuits are realized with two kinds of active building blocks [4, 8–10]. The configurations reported in Refs. [5, 7, 11–13] require two active and three passive components for realizing floating lossless inductance simulators. In Refs. [3, 5–8, 10–14], many external passive resistors are employed for their realizations. In addition, in Refs. [3, 5–7, 10, 11] a floating resistor is used, which is not desirable for the IC fabrication. Furthermore, the floating lossless inductor realizations reported in Refs. [3, 5–7, 10–12] do not possess electronic tuning capability.

Recently, the novel reported active building block the so-called voltage differencing buffered amplifier (VDBA) has been proved to be a useful and versatile active element in realizing a class of analogue signal processing circuits and applications [17–20]. In the following sections, we focus our attention on the floating lossless inductor simulation realization based on the VDBAs, designed with a single grounded capacitor. The circuit comprises only three VDBAs and one grounded capacitor without using any external
resistor component. The simulated equivalent inductance value can be regulated electronically through the adjustment of the external bias currents of the VDBAs. A detailed analysis of the VDBA non-ideal parameters and sensitivity performance are investigated. The functionality of the proposed simulator is illustrated by the PSPICE simulation results based on complimentary metal–oxide–semiconductor (CMOS) VDBA implementation using TSMC 0.25-μm CMOS technology process parameters. In addition to confirming the claimed idea, the practical results using commercially available LT1228 IC chips are also incorporated.

2 Proposed Floating Lossless Inductance Simulator

The proposed floating lossless inductance simulator circuit using three VDBAs and one grounded capacitor is shown in Figure 1(a). According to the standard notation, the terminal relations of the VDBA element can be defined as

\[
\begin{bmatrix}
i_p \\
i_n \\
i_z \\
v_w
\end{bmatrix} =
\begin{bmatrix}
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
\alpha g_m & -\alpha g_m & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & \beta & 0
\end{bmatrix}
\begin{bmatrix}
v_p \\
v_n \\
v_z \\
v_w
\end{bmatrix},
\]

where \( g_m \) is an effective small signal transconductance gain of the VDBA. The parameters \( \alpha \) and \( \beta \) are the non-ideal transconductance gain and the non-ideal transfer voltage gain, respectively. In an ideal case, the parameters \( \alpha \) and \( \beta \) are equal to unity. Based on the behaviour relation (1) of the VDBA and an analysis of the circuit in Figure 1(a) with \( g_m = g_{m1} = g_{m2} \) results in the following input impedance

\[
Z_{in} = \frac{v_1 - v_2}{i_1} = \frac{v_2 - v_1}{i_2} = s L_{eq} = s \left( \frac{C}{g_m g_{m3}} \right).
\]

This implies that the proposed circuit simulates a floating lossless inductor with the equivalent inductance value expressed as

\[
L_{eq} = \frac{C}{g_m g_{m3}}.
\]

It is clear that the value of \( L_{eq} \) is feasible by electronic means through the \( g_m g_{m3} \) product, and the equivalent model of this configuration is modelled in Figure 1(b).
3 Non-ideal Analysis and Sensitivity Performance

If the non-ideal transconductance gain $\alpha$ and the non-ideal transfer voltage gain $\beta$ of the VDBA are taken into consideration, then the expressions for the non-ideal $Z_{in}$ of the circuit in Figure 1(a) are obtained as follows

$$Z_{in} = \left. \frac{v_1}{i_1} \right|_{v_2=0} = sL_{eq} = s \left( \frac{C}{\alpha_1 \alpha_3 \beta_1 \beta_3 g_{m1} g_{m3}} \right),$$

(4)

and

$$Z_{in} = \left. \frac{v_2}{i_2} \right|_{v_1=0} = sL_{eq} = s \left( \frac{C}{\alpha_2 \alpha_3 \beta_2 \beta_3 g_{m2} g_{m3}} \right),$$

(5)

The relative sensitivities of $L_{eq}$ regarding active and passive components are found as

$$S_{L_{eq}g_{m1}} = S_{L_{eq}g_{m2}} = S_{L_{eq}g_{m3}} = -1,$$

(6)

$$S_{L_{eq}\alpha_1} = S_{L_{eq}\alpha_2} = S_{L_{eq}\alpha_3} = -1,$$

(7)

$$S_{L_{eq}\beta_1} = S_{L_{eq}\beta_2} = S_{L_{eq}\beta_3} = -1$$

(8)

and

$$S_{L_{eq}C} = 1.$$

(9)

Since the absolute values of all sensitivity coefficients are no more than unity, the circuit exhibits low sensitivity performance.
4 Simulation Results

To reveal the performance of the proposed VDBA-based floating lossless inductance simulator in Figure 1(a), the simulations based on the PSPICE program have been carried out. In the simulations, the CMOS VDBA depicted in Figure 2 [18, 20] was employed using the TSMC 0.25-µm CMOS process model parameters. The bias voltage and the bias current were set as \(+V = -V = 0.75\) V and \(I_A = 50\) µA. The aspect ratios (W/L) of the transistors in Figure 2 are the same as provided in Refs. [18, 20].

The proposed floating lossless inductance simulator in Figure 1(a) was simulated with the following circuit component values: \(g_{m1} = g_{m2} = g_{m3} = 1.58\) mA/V \((I_{B1} = I_{B2} = I_{B3} = 100\) µA) and \(C = 100\) pF. Therefore, the value of an equivalent inductance equal to \(L_{eq} \approx 40\) µH is obtained. Figure 3 shows the simulated transient waveforms for the input voltage \((v_{in} = v_1 - v_2)\) and the input current \((i_{in} = i_1 = -i_2)\) of the simulator with 50 mV (peak) input voltage at 10 MHz. The simulation result shows the phase difference between \(v_{in}\) and \(i_{in}\) of about 89°, which is nearly close to the predicted value equal to 90°.

With the same component values, the simulated frequency responses of the input impedance \((Z_{in})\) of the proposed inductance simulator, which are compared with the predicted responses, are also plotted in Figure 4. From these results, it can be noticed that, for the frequency range between 50 kHz and 30 MHz, the maximum errors in magnitude and phase are found to be approximated as 22% and 15%, respectively. Additionally, the total power consumption of the simulator is measured as 1.13 mW.

In order to further testify the electronic tuning capability of the circuit, the plots of \(|Z_{in}|\) against frequency characteristics are given in Figure 5 for \(g_{m1} = g_{m2} = 1.58\) mA/V and \(C = 100\) pF and three different values of

![Figure 2](image-url)  
**Figure 2** CMOS internal structure of the VDBA used in simulations [18, 20].
Figure 3  Transient response analysis of the proposed lossless inductor in Figure 1(a) for 10-MHz sinusoidal input voltage of 50 mV (peak).

Figure 4  Frequency response analysis of the proposed lossless inductor in Figure 1(a).

g_{m3}, i.e., g_{m3} = 1.12 mA/V, 1.58 mA/V and 2.24 mA/V (I_{B3} = 50 µA, 100 µA and 200 µA). These designed component values are in accordance with the simulated equivalent inductance values of $L_{eq} = 56 \mu H$, 40 µH and 28 µH, respectively. It is clearly demonstrated that, for different values of transconductance $g_{m3}$, the value of $L_{eq}$ can be changed electronically.

5 Experimental Test Results

To affirm the earlier given theoretical predictions, the experimental test results have been also performed through the hardware implementation of the VDBA using the commercially available IC LT1228 [21]. It may be further noted that the LT1228 only based implementation of the VDBA provides the possibility
of tuning $g_m$ with the external bias current $I_B$, namely $g_m = 10I_B$. The printed circuit board (PCB) used in the experimental measurements of the proposed floating lossless inductor is pictured in Figure 6. The symmetrical supply voltages used were $\pm 5$ V. For all real measurements, the element values of the synthetic inductance simulator were set to $g_{m1} = g_{m2} = 1$ mA/V ($I_{B1} = I_{B2} = 100$ µA), and $C = 1$ nF. The measured waveforms of $v_{\text{in}}$ and $i_{\text{in}}$ through the proposed simulator are given in Figure 7 with 200-kHz sine wave input voltage of 50 mV (peak). In this measurement, the transconductance $g_{m3} = 1$ mA/V is chosen to obtain the synthetic inductor with $L_{\text{eq}} = 1$ mH. As expected, it can be recorded from the graphs that the phase of $i_{\text{in}}$ lags that of $v_{\text{in}}$ by $88.1^\circ$, where the theoretical value is equal to $90^\circ$.

Likewise, the measurement data of the impedance-frequency characteristics of the proposed floating lossless inductor for $g_{m3} = 0.5$ mA/V, 1 mA/V,
2 mA/V and 5 mA/V ($I_{B3} = 50~\mu A$, 100 $\mu A$, 200 $\mu A$ and 500 $\mu A$) are respectively given in Figures 8–11. For the given component values using Equation (3), the corresponding equivalent inductance values are obtained as $L_{eq} = 2~mH$, 1 mH, 0.5 mH and 0.2 mH, respectively. It is noticeable that the experimental test results given in Figures 8–11 actualize the practical behaviour of the proposed floating synthetic lossless inductor.

6 Applications to Filter Realization

To demonstrate the behaviour of the proposed floating lossless inductance simulator circuit of Figure 1, the same is employed to replace the passive inductors of the lowpass (LP) and bandpass (BP) filters given in Figures 12(a) and 12(b), respectively. In the circuit realization, the following passive components have been selected as $R_{LP} = R_{BP} = 632~\Omega$ and $C_{LP} = C_{BP} = 100~pF$. Further, an effective inductance of $L_{eq} \cong 40~\mu H$ was implemented with the proposed inductor of Figure 1(a). Its component values are the same as that mentioned in Section 4. In this setting, the important frequency characteristics are obtained as $f_o = \omega_o/2\pi = 1/(L_{eq}C_{LP})^{1/2} = 1/(L_{eq}C_{BP})^{1/2} \cong 2.52$ MHz and $Q = (1/R_{LP})(L_{eq}/C_{LP})^{1/2} = (1/R_{BP})(L_{eq}/C_{BP})^{1/2} = 1$. Figure 13 shows the simulated frequency responses of both filters of Figure 12, compared with that of ideal floating inductors. It can be observed that the simulated values exhibit excellent agreement with theoretical results over a wide range.
Figure 8  Experimental results of the impedance-frequency responses for $g_{m3} = 0.5 \text{ mA/V}$.  
(a) magnitude response and (b) phase response.
Figure 9  Experimental results of the impedance-frequency responses for $g_{m3} = 1$ mA/V.
(a) magnitude response and (b) phase response.
Figure 10  Experimental results of the impedance-frequency responses for $g_{m3} = 2$ mA/V. (a) magnitude response and (b) phase response.
Figure 11  Experimental results of the impedance-frequency responses for $g_{m3} = 5 \text{ mA/V}$.  
(a) magnitude response and (b) phase response.
Figure 12  RLC filter realizations using the proposed inductor in Figure 1. (a) lowpass filter and (b) bandpass filter.

Figure 13  Theoretical and simulated frequency responses of the filters in Figure 12. (a) lowpass filter and (b) bandpass filter.
7 Concluding Remarks

In this work, the floating lossless inductance simulator consisting of three VDBAs and one grounded capacitor is developed. The proposed synthetic lossless inductor provides the following advantages: (i) no employment of any external resistor element, (ii) the use of only grounded capacitor as preferred for integration, (iii) simulated equivalent inductance can be scaled electronically through transconductance gains of the VDBAs and (iv) low active and passive sensitivity indexes. Applications of the proposed floating inductance simulator circuit in the RLC LP and BP filter realizations have also been outlined. A number of PSPICE simulation and experimental test results has been performed to validate the behaviour of the proposed inductance simulator. Therefore, the proposed circuit may be used to the design of highly integrated communication systems, since several filtering functions had to be performed off-ship. In the future, as the number of smart mobile phone and other miniature multimedia device products would have been dramatically increasing, the proposed active inductor circuit is expected to be useful in short range wireless communication and application.
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