

Research Article

Chebyshev Bandpass Filter Using Resonator of Tunable Active Capacitor and Inductor

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Received 13 March 2017; Accepted 24 April 2017; Published 18 May 2017

Academic Editor: Chang-Ho Lee

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A classic second-order coupled-capacitor Chebyshev bandpass filter using resonator of tunable active capacitor and inductor is presented. The low cost and small size of CMOS active components make the bandpass filter (BPF) attractive in fully integrated CMOS applications. The tunable active capacitor is designed to compensate active inductor's resistance for resistive match in the resonator. In many design cases, more than 95% resistive loss is cancelled. Meanwhile, adjusting design parameter of the active component provides BPF tunability in center frequency, pass band, and pass band gain. Designed in 1.8 V 180 nanometer CMOS process, the BPF has a tuning frequency range of 758–864 MHz, a controllable pass band of 7.1–65.9 MHz, a quality factor Q of 12–107, a pass band gain of 6.5–18.1 dB, and a stopband rejection of 38–50 dB.

1. Introduction

The rapid development of complementary metal-of-semiconductor (CMOS) endues the integrated circuit with small size and low cost in both digital and analog applications. A wireless communication system mainly consists of three components: mixer, bandpass filter, and low noise amplifier. The bandpass filter blocks unwanted signals and selects desirable signal matched to different pass band mixers, that is, 1,920–1,980 MHz of WCDMA, 890–960 MHz of GSM, 1,575 MHz of GPS L1 BPF, and 2,400–2,483 MHz of 802.11b/g. Bandpass filter with high Q and good selectivity of center frequency and bandwidth is desirable in today's applications. The LC based passive bandpass filter has been used for several decades; however, when applied to the nanotechnology CMOS integrated circuit it confronts limitations. For example, the degraded performance of CMOS spiral inductor due to its significant resistive loss reduces BPF quality factor and restrains the gain and bandwidth [1, 2]. Inductors are bulky and expensive, significantly increasing the instability of integration and manufacturing cost. Tunable AC achieves in a wide capacitive range from 40 fF to 1 pF [1, 3] and tunable AI achieves in a wide inductive range from

1 nH to 300 nH [4]. Therefore, using AC and AI to produce a small size and low cost BPF with tunable gain, tunable center frequency, and tunable bandwidth is a feasible and cost-effective solution. For this reason, eliminating resistive loss in AI will improve BPF quality factor.

Reducing resistive loss in the Chebyshev bandpass filter has been presented in improvement on pass band gain, bandwidth, and center frequency [1, 2, 5–8]. The tapped-inductor compensates the inductor resistive loss and adds an additional shunt feedback passive inductor to operate in the K-band [2]. The transformer-based passive inductor produces a frequency-dependent negative resistance for resistive loss compensation [8]. It operates at a center frequency of 2,368 MHz and a bandwidth of 60 MHz. But passive inductors make area much larger than active BPFs [5–7]. Inserting a gyrator-C based active inductor in a resonator demonstrates BPF applications at different frequency ranges [6, 7]. However, the BPF operating frequencies and bandwidths are not tunable. In [5] the BPF is designed to compensate frequency-dependent resistive loss for tunable center frequency. However, the complex structure consumes large area and power consumption. In [1] the BPF design incorporates an active capacitor with negative resistance

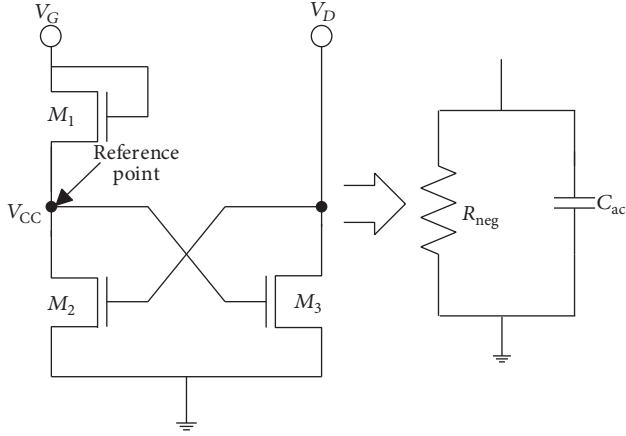


FIGURE 1: The active capacitor and its equivalent circuit.

to offset the resistive loss for large bandwidth. However, its tunability is limited due to mismatch between active capacitor's negative resistance and spiral inductor's positive resistance.

In this paper, a new BPF using tunable active capacitor and inductor is presented. Self-negative resistance of active capacitor is designed to compensate the positive resistance of active inductor, independent of signal frequency within its tunable range. Meanwhile, adjusting design parameters of the active component can control tunability of center frequency, gain, and bandwidth. The paper is organized as follows. Sections 2 and 3 discuss the principle design and operation of active capacitor and active inductor. Section 4 presents a compensation structural resonator using active capacitor and active inductor. This section also unfolds the performance of the BPF using the resonator. Finally, summary of this work and comparison with previous work are presented.

2. Tunable Active Capacitor in BPF

2.1. Large Signal Analysis of AC. The first active capacitor (AC) with negative resistance was demonstrated in [3]. The paper [1] adopted this AC structure and designed it in 0.18 μm CMOS technology. In this section we extend the AC design principle to make it tunable and compensate resistive loss of the resonator in BPF. The active capacitor and its equivalent circuit are shown in Figure 1. The AC is designed by the cross-coupled pair of M_2 and M_3 and the resistive load M_1 . I_{M_2} is controlled by V_D . V_{CC} is determined by I_{M_2} and V_G and I_{M_3} is controlled by V_{CC} . In our design principle, we keep $V_{CC} > V_D - V_t$ to make M_2 in saturation and keep $V_D > V_{CC} - V_t$ to make M_3 in saturation. So, $V_D - V_t < V_{CC} < V_D + V_t$.

2.2. Small Signal Analysis of AC. The AC small signal model and its equivalent circuit are depicted in Figure 2. V_G is almost the sum of V_{CC} and V_D as V_t is small and $I_{M_1} = I_{M_2}$, which expresses the relationship between V_{CC} and V_{in} . An easier way to analyze the small signal model is to set $V_{CC} = \rho V_{in}$ and ρ is controlled by transistor parameters.

We continue to analyze the small signal model shown in Figure 2.

$$V_{gs_1} = V_{g_1} - V_{s_1} = V_{ds_1} = -V_{CC}. \quad (1)$$

Therefore,

$$-g_{m_1} V_{gs_1} = -g_{m_1} (-V_{CC}) = g_{m_1} V_{CC}. \quad (2)$$

So, the current source $g_{m_1} V_{gs_1}$ can be flipped to opposite direction without changing the symbol. Also, $V_{gs_2} = V_{gs_3} = V_{CC}$. The admittance from the input port is determined by I_{in}/V_{in} .

$$\begin{aligned} I_{i_1} &= (V_{in} - V_{CC}) s C_{gd_2} + (V_{in} - V_{CC}) s C_{gd_3} \\ &= (V_{in} - V_{CC}) s (C_{gd_2} + C_{gd_3}), \end{aligned}$$

$$I_{i_2} = V_{in} s C_{gs_2} + g_{m_3} V_{in}, \quad (3)$$

$$\begin{aligned} I_{in} &= I_{i_1} + I_{i_2} \\ &= (V_{in} - V_{CC}) s (C_{gd_2} + C_{gd_3}) + V_{in} (s C_{gs_2} + g_{m_3}). \end{aligned}$$

V_{CC} is the reference voltage shown in Figure 1. The branch currents I_{o_1} and I_{o_2} are

$$I_{o_1} = V_{CC} g_{m_1} + V_{CC} s C_{gs_1},$$

$$I_{o_2} = V_{CC} g_{m_2} + V_{CC} s C_{gs_3},$$

$$I_{out} = I_{o_1} + I_{o_2} \quad (4)$$

$$= V_{CC} (g_{m_1} + g_{m_2}) + V_{CC} (s C_{gs_1} + s C_{gs_3})$$

$$= V_{CC} (g_{m_1} + g_{m_2} + s C_{gs_1} + s C_{gs_3}).$$

At the reference point,

$$I_{i_1} = I_{out}. \quad (5)$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} (V_{in} - V_{CC}) s (C_{gd_2} + C_{gd_3}) \\ = V_{CC} (g_{m_1} + g_{m_2} + s C_{gs_1} + s C_{gs_3}). \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

So,

$$\begin{aligned} Y_{in} &= \frac{I_{in}}{V_{in}} \\ &= (\rho g_{m_1} + \rho g_{m_2} + g_{m_3}) + s (\rho C_{gs_1} + C_{gs_2} + \rho C_{gs_3}) \quad (7) \\ &= G_{ac} + s C_{ac} = \frac{1}{R_{neg}} + s C_{ac}. \end{aligned}$$

From (7) expressing the negative resistance is controlled by the transconductance g_{m_1} , transconductance g_{m_2} , and transconductance g_{m_3} and the capacitance is determined by the gate-to-source capacitance of NMOS transistors. Adjusting these parameters will produce different negative resistance and capacitance values, which can be used to compensate the resistive loss of inductor.

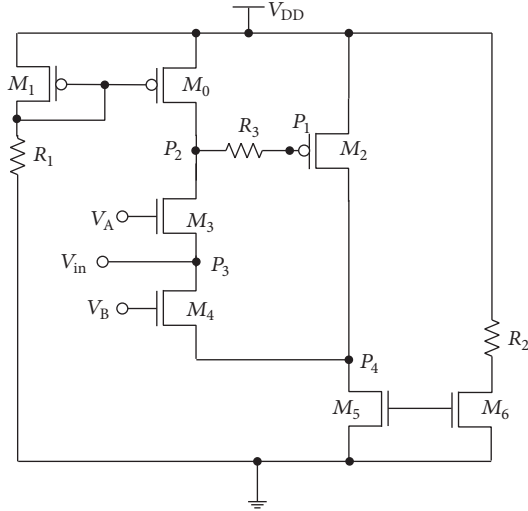


FIGURE 6: The active inductor.

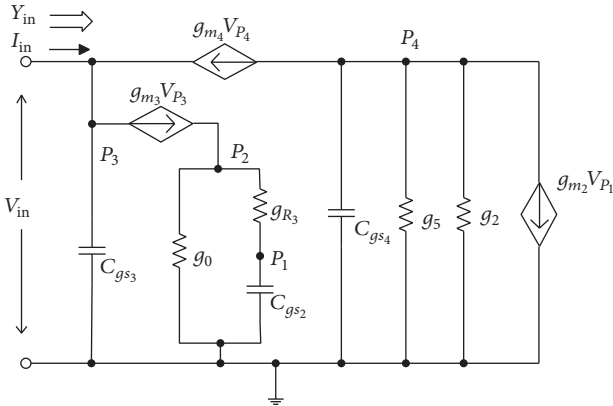


FIGURE 7: The small signal modal of active inductor.

tunable active inductor [4]. Figure 7 shows its small signal model.

In Figure 5, G_{m_1} and G_{m_2} are the transconductance. G_1 and G_2 are the total conductance at nodes B and A, respectively. So, $1/G_1$ is the sum of the output impedance of G_{m_1} and the input impedance of G_{m_2} . Similarly, $1/G_2$ is the sum of the output impedance of G_{m_2} and the input impedance of G_{m_1} . C_1 and C_2 are the total capacitance at nodes B and A, respectively.

At node A,

$$-G_{m_1} V_A + V_B (sC_1 + G_1) = 0. \quad (8)$$

At node B,

$$-G_{m_2} V_B + V_A (sC_2 + G_2) - I_A = 0. \quad (9)$$

From node A, the input impedance equals

$$Y_{\text{in}} = \frac{I_A}{V_A} = G_2 + sC_2 + \frac{1}{s(C_1/G_{m_1}G_{m_2}) + G_1/G_{m_1}G_{m_2}}. \quad (10)$$

Compared with the simplified model of RLC circuit,

$$\begin{aligned} R_p &= \frac{1}{G_2}, \\ C_p &= C_2, \\ L_{\text{equ}} &= \frac{C_1}{G_{m_1} G_{m_2}}, \\ R_s &= \frac{G_1}{G_{m_1} G_{m_2}}. \end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

3.2. Signal Analysis of AI. Two pairs of current mirrors (M_0, M_1) and (M_5, M_6) are used in Figure 6. Both gate voltages of M_0 and M_5 are controllable by tuning R_1, R_2, M_1 , and M_6 , which controls current of M_0 and M_5 . M_2, M_3 , and M_4 control small signal parameters like $g_{m_2}, g_{m_3}, g_{m_4}, C_{gs_2}$, and C_{gs_4} .

For the small signal model of the proposed active inductor, the input impedance equals

$$Y_{\text{in}} = \frac{I_{\text{in}}}{V_{\text{in}}} = C_{gs_3}s + g_{m_3} + \frac{g_{m_2}g_{m_3}g_{m_4}g_{R_3}}{(C_{gs_4}s + g_{m_4} + g_2 + g_5) [(g_0C_{gs_2} + g_{R_3}C_{gs_2})s + g_{R_3}g_0]}, \quad (12)$$

$$Y_{\text{in}} = C_{g_{s_3}} s + g_{m_3} + Y_{\text{ins}}. \quad (13)$$

Y_{ins} is extracted from (13):

$$Y_{\text{ins}} = \frac{g_{m_2} g_{m_3} g_{m_4} g_{R_3}}{(C_{g_{s_4}} s + g_{m_4} + g_2 + g_5) [(g_0 C_{g_{s_2}} + g_{R_3} C_{g_{s_2}}) s + g_{R_3} g_0]}. \quad (14)$$

Assume $g_7 = g_2 + g_5$.

$$Z_{\text{ins}} = \frac{1}{Y_{\text{ins}}} = \frac{C_{gs_4} C_{gs_2} (g_0 + g_{R_3}) s^2 + [g_0 g_{R_3} C_{gs_4} + (g_{m_4} + g_7) (g_0 + g_{R_3}) C_{gs_2}] s + (g_{m_4} + g_7) g_0 g_{R_3}}{g_{m_2} g_{m_3} g_{m_4} g_{R_3}}, \quad (15)$$

$$Z_{\text{ins}}(j\omega) = R_s + j\omega L_{\text{equ}}.$$

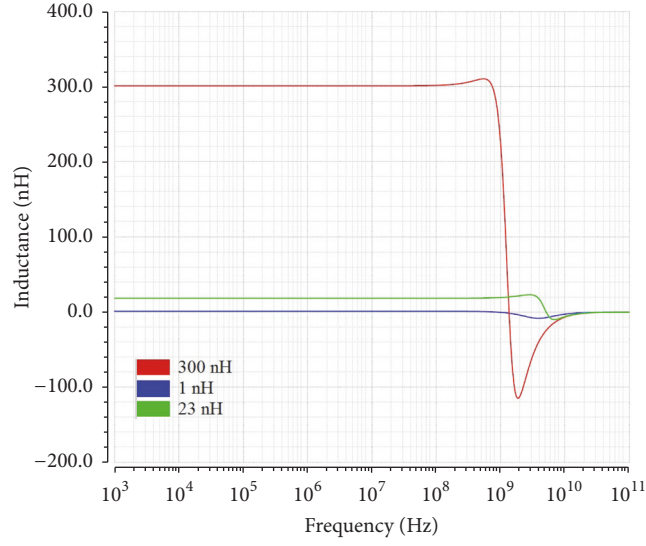


FIGURE 8: Inductance of tunable AI.

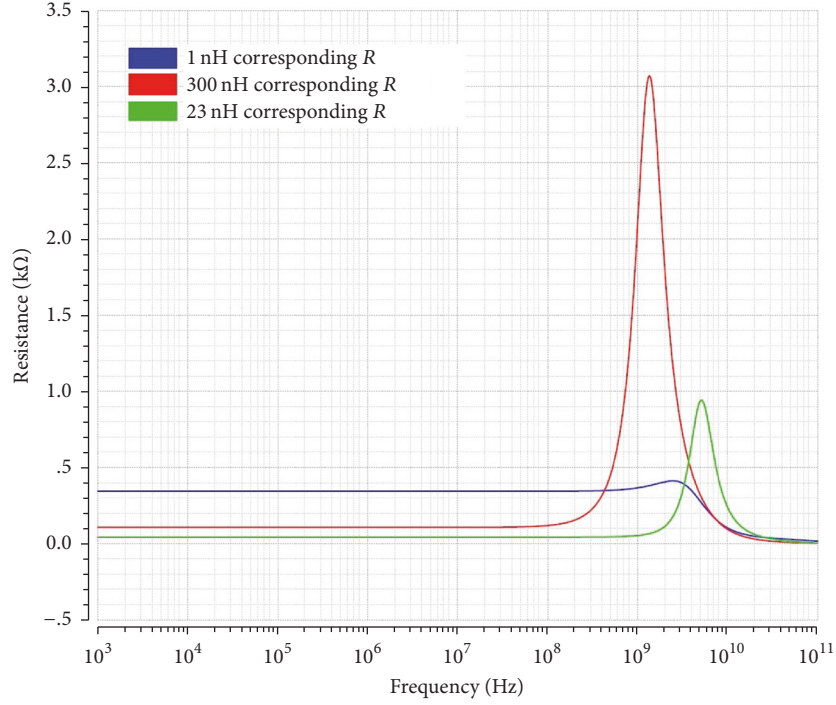


FIGURE 9: Resistance of tunable AI.

So,

$$R_s = \frac{(g_{m_4} + g_7)g_0g_{R_3} - C_{gs_4}C_{gs_2}(g_0 + g_{R_3})\omega^2}{g_{m_2}g_{m_3}g_{m_4}g_{R_3}}, \quad (16)$$

$$L_{\text{equ}} = \frac{(g_{m_4} + g_7)(g_0 + g_{R_3})C_{gs_2} + g_0g_{R_3}C_{gs_4}}{g_{m_2}g_{m_3}g_{m_4}g_{R_3}}.$$

Compared with the simplified model in Figure 5, it is shown that $R_p = 1/g_{m_3}$ and $C_p = C_{gs_3}$.

From the above analysis, L_{equ} and R_s are functions of g_{m_2} , g_{m_3} , g_{m_4} , g_0 , g_7 , g_{R_3} , C_{gs_2} , and C_{gs_4} . Both are controllable by changing the large signal bias conditions as discussed in this section.

3.3. AI Simulations. Figures 8 and 9 show inductance and resistance values by tuning the DC bias voltage. The inductance varies from 1 to 300 nH and resistance varies from 43 to 344 Ω . As shown in the plot, the highest inductive frequency range is achieved at 5,156 MHz with a peak inductance of

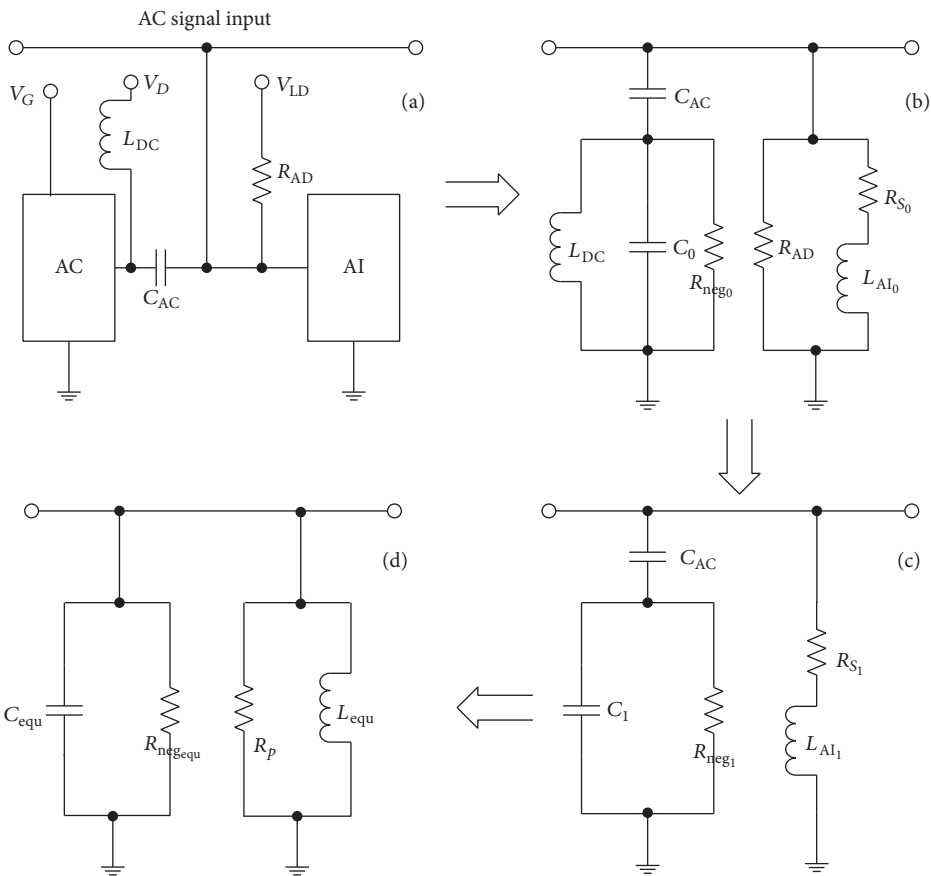


FIGURE 11: Equivalent circuits of the resonator.

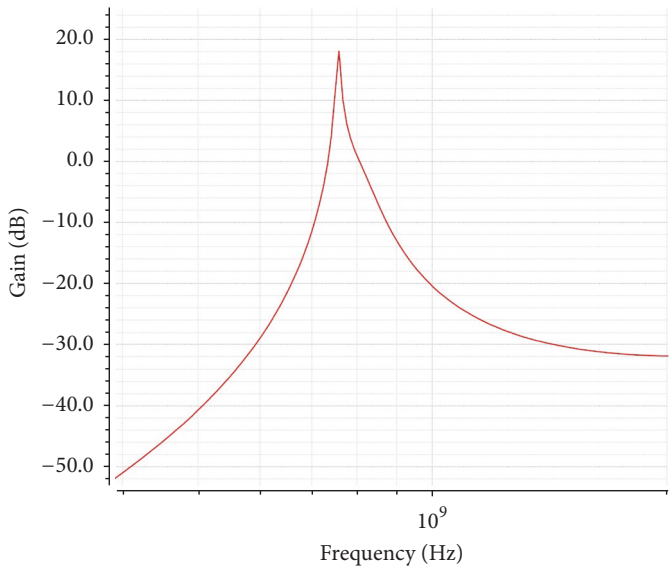


FIGURE 12: BPF performance.

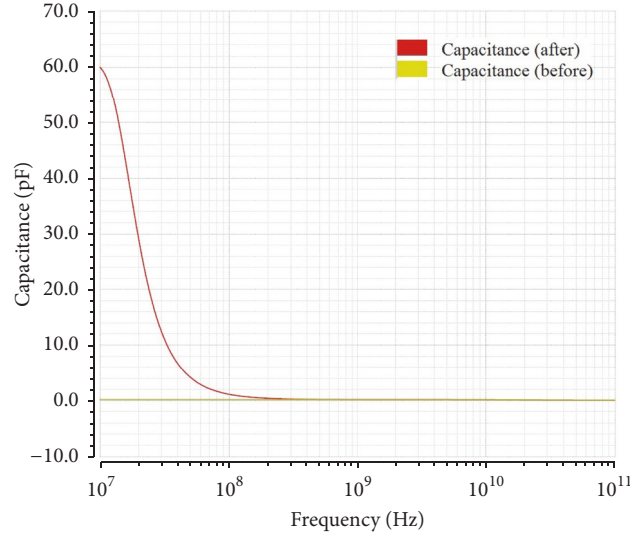


FIGURE 13: Capacitance versus frequency (before and after using L_{DC} and C_{AC}).

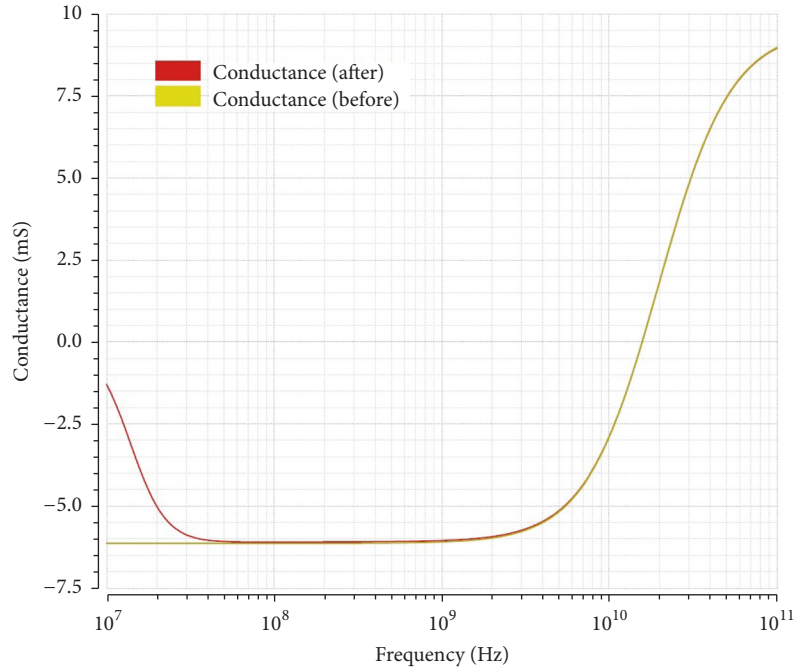


FIGURE 14: Conductance versus frequency (before and after using L_{DC} and C_{AC}).

In order to find a match between the negative resistance and the positive resistance, L_{AI_1} in series with R_{S_1} is changed to R_p in parallel with L_{equ} where Q is quality factor of the active inductor.

$$R_p = (1 + Q^2) R_{S_1}, \quad (19)$$

$$L_{equ} = \left(1 + \frac{1}{Q^2}\right) L_{AI_1}, \quad (20)$$

$$\omega_0 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{L_{equ} C_{equ}}}, \quad (21)$$

$$R_{neg_{equ}} = R_p. \quad (22)$$

4.2. Performance Evaluation. The active inductor in this application provides a relative fixed value of inductance and resistance. By adjusting the bias voltage V_G , a tunable

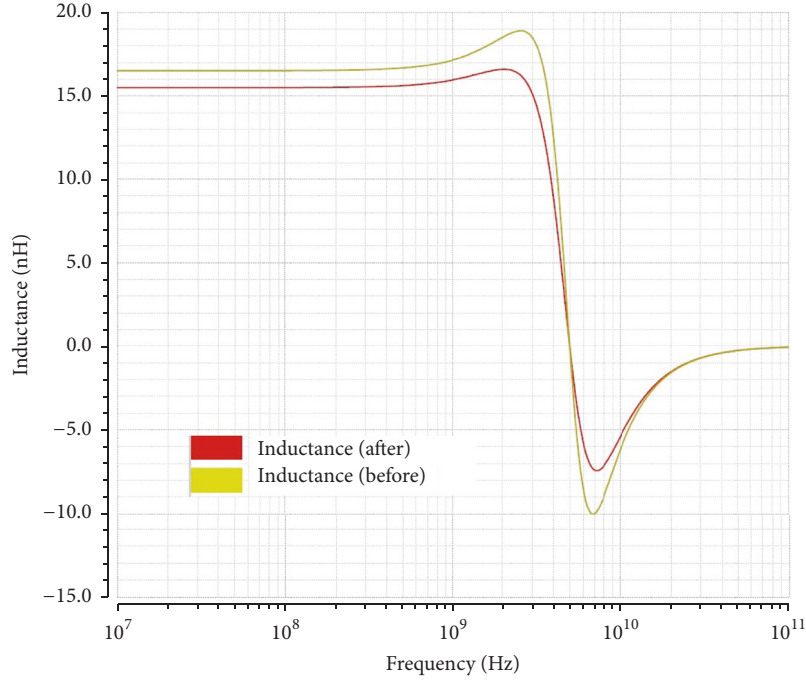
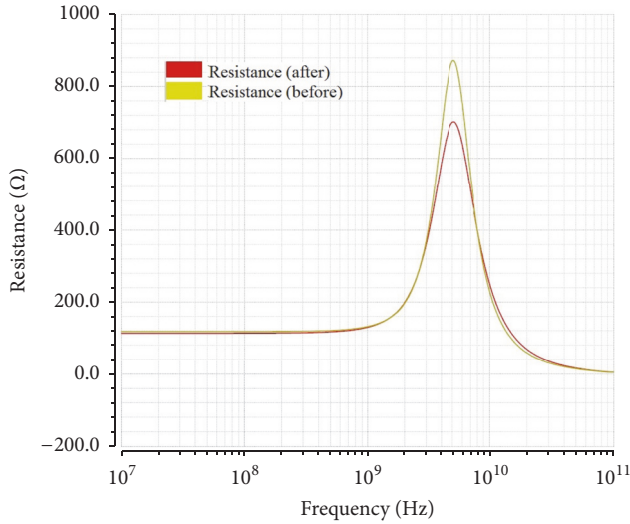
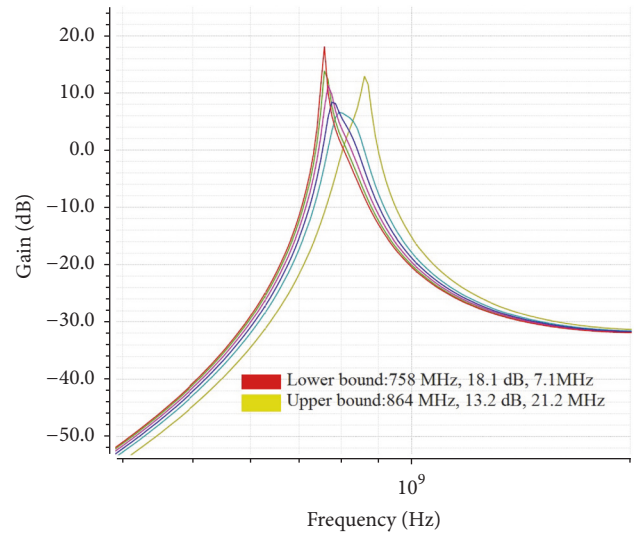
FIGURE 15: Inductance versus frequency (before and after using R_{AD}).FIGURE 16: Resistance versus frequency (before and after using R_{AD}).

FIGURE 17: Tunable BPF gain versus signal freq.

capacitance of the active capacitor is obtained, which makes this BPF tunable. Figure 17 displays the BPF tunability for the center frequency [758 MHz, 864 MHz], the 3 dB bandwidth [7.1 MHz, 65.9 MHz], the gain [6.5 dB, 18.1 dB], the stopband rejection [38 dB, 50 dB], and the quality factor [12, 107].

It is observed from Figure 17 that when V_G is decreased (from the lower bound to the upper bound), the gain is decreased, and the 3 dB bandwidth is increased. At the center frequency of 758 MHz (red plot), the resistance loss of the active inductor is nearly cancelled by the negative resistance of the active capacitor, leading to an ideal resonator in the circuit.

Table 1 presents detailed analysis of six BPF center frequency cases (758 MHz, 770 MHz, 778 MHz, 800 MHz, 844 MHz, and 864 MHz) in Figure 17. In the active inductor column, L_{AI} , R_{S_i} , and Q_{AI} are the BPF design values; L_{equ} and R_p are the analysis values calculated from (19) and (20). In the active capacitor column, $R_{neg_{equ}}$ and C_{equ} are the BPF design values. Applying the L_{equ} and C_{equ} values, the theoretical center frequency f_0 is then calculated from (21). The BPF column presents quality factor, pass band gain, and bandwidth. By comparing the theoretical f_0 and the measured f_0 the error percentage Δf_0 is about 1%. By

TABLE I: Tunable BPF performance.

6 Tunable BPF cases	Active inductor				Active capacitor		Theoretical f_0 (MHz)	Practical f_0 (MHz)	Δf_0 (MHz)		ΔR (%)	BPF	
	L_{Al_1} (nH)	R_{S_1} (Ω)	Q_{Al}	L_{equ} (nH)	R_p (Ω)	$R_{neg_{equ}}$ (Ω)			Δf_0 (% error)	Δf_0 (MHz)		Gain (dB)	BW (MHz)
Case 1 ($f_0 = 758.58$ MHz)	15.78	121.64	0.618	57.05	168.17	-164.72	766.13	758.58	7.56 (0.99%)	3.45 (2.1%)	107	18.1	7.1
Case 2 ($f_0 = 770.31$ MHz)	15.79	121.94	0.627	55.98	169.85	-166.67	778.71	770.31	8.40 (1.1%)	3.17 (1.9%)	39	11.31	19.98
Case 3 ($f_0 = 778.48$ MHz)	15.80	122.15	0.633	55.28	171.03	-168.30	788.31	778.48	9.82 (1.2%)	2.74 (1.6%)	22	8.54	34.83
Case 4 ($f_0 = 800.45$ MHz)	15.81	122.74	0.648	53.48	174.27	-170.42	806.40	800.45	5.95 (0.74%)	3.85 (2.2%)	12	6.55	65.34
Case 5 ($f_0 = 844.63$ MHz)	15.85	123.97	0.678	50.28	181.01	-173.11	839.47	844.63	5.16 (0.61%)	7.90 (4.4%)	14	7.59	59.37
Case 6 ($f_0 = 864.30$ MHz)	15.86	124.54	0.692	49.02	184.10	-176.32	857.57	864.30	6.74 (0.79%)	7.78 (4.2%)	41	13.24	21.24

TABLE 2: The previously reported several works by using the same structure of classic Chebyshev bandpass filter.

	[1]	[2]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]	This work
Technology process	CMOS 0.18 μm	CMOS 0.18 μm	BJT BFP420	BJT BFR92A	BJT BFR92A	CMOS 0.18 μm	CMOS 0.18 μm
Active component	Active capacitor	—	Active inductor	Active inductor	Active inductor	—	Active capacitor/inductor
Order	2	2	3	2	1	3	2
Center frequency (MHz)	5300	23500	1950	2100	600	2368	758
BW (MHz)	1700	4000	10	15	300	60	7.1
Pass band gain (dB)	0.77	1.65	−8	0	0.1	1.8	18.1
Stopband rejection (dB)	36.8	15.2	—	—	—	30	50
Power (mW)	2.2	4.2	4	—	120	8.8	25.5
Quality factor	3	6	195	140	2	40	107
Tunability							
Center freq. (MHz)	—	—	1800~2050	—	—	—	758~864
Gain (dB)	—	—	−8	—	—	—	6.5~18.1
BW (MHz)	—	—	10	—	—	—	7.1~65.9
Quality factor	—	—	180~205	—	—	—	12~107

comparing the analysis value R_p and the design value $R_{\text{neg}_{\text{equ}}}$ the error percentage ΔR is less than 5%, which shows that the resistive loss of active inductor is almost cancelled by negative resistance of active capacitor.

Table 2 summarizes this and past work of classic Chebyshev bandpass filter. As shown in this table, the pass band gain, stopband rejection, and quality factor of the tunable BPF are much higher than those of most of the other works.

5. Conclusion

In this paper, a classic Chebyshev BPF adopting active capacitor and active inductor for tunability, low cost, and smaller size is presented. The tunability of BPF center frequency and pass band is achieved by controlling the active capacitance, which is tunable by adjusting the DC bias voltage. The negative resistance of active capacitor compensates 95% above the resistive loss of active inductor in the tunable center frequency range. A pass band gain of 18.1 dB and stopband rejection of 50 dB are obtained at the center frequency 758 MHz. The BPF achieves a high quality factor Q of 12~107 and a high stopband rejection of 38~50 dB.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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