High Resolution Radiation Hardened DAC in CMOS-SOI Featuring a Return-to-Zero Matrix

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Outline

- Design
  - Description
  - Radiation Hardening
  - Digital Part
  - Analog Part
  - Return-to-Zero feature
  - Results

- Flow
  - Analog Flow
  - Digital Flow
  - Top Design Flow

- Conclusions and next steps
24-bit Digital-to-Analog Converter
DAC24
Specifications

24-bit sigma-delta current steering DAC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specification</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resolution</td>
<td>24 bit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specified bandwidth</td>
<td>0.1mHz-50kHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effective resolution</td>
<td>&gt;18bit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dynamic Range</td>
<td>&gt; 108dB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signal-to-Noise Ratio</td>
<td>&gt; 108 dB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sampling rate</td>
<td>Up to 310 kSps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monotonicity</td>
<td>Full code range</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power dissipation</td>
<td>62 mW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LET for SEL immunity</td>
<td>≥ 70 MeV/mg/cm²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEU immunity</td>
<td>Protection of critical memory cells</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SET immunity</td>
<td>Protection of the digital part</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TID tolerance</td>
<td>≥100 krad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temperature range (functional)</td>
<td>-55 °C &lt; T &lt; 125 °C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temperature range (full performance)</td>
<td>0 °C &lt; T &lt; 50 °C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Timeline evolution

**Cut 1.0**
- DAC2401A
- First release
- STM H9CMOS 130nm techno

**Cut 2.0**
- DAC2401B (AMICSA 2012)
- STM H9CMOS 130nm techno
- Modified input interface

**Cut 3.0**
- DAC2401C (AMICSA 2016)
- ATMX150RHA
- Simplified input interface (compatible with ADC2401)
- Single clock architecture
- Configuration through pins
- Embedded IP version
- RTZ analog feature to improve 3\textsuperscript{rd} harmonic distortion

- **Low freq. noise, 0V input**
- **Low freq. noise, DC input**
- **Sine 100Hz -10dBFS FFT**
DAC highlights

**Features**
- 24-bit resolution
- Multi-bit $\Sigma\Delta$ modulator topology
- Single clock domain
- Very low frequency operation
- Return-to-Zero output stage operation
- Differential current steering output
- $\Sigma\Delta$ modulator bypass mode
- Simple synchronous serial input interface
- Selectable oversampling ratios allow sampling rates up to 310kSa/s
- Analog bandwidth from DC to 50kHz
- 1.8V digital power supply
- 3.3V analog power supply and I/Os
- Embedded or external voltage reference
- Radiation hardened against SEE and TID

**Applications**
- High resolution actuator drive
- High accuracy calibration
- Servo loop control
Digital part

**Modulator design**
- 3rd order feed-forward $\Sigma\Delta$ modulator
- 5-bit quantizer
- Selectable sampling frequency via control over OSR ($x32$, $x64$, $x128$, $x256$)
- Idle Tone avoidance by introduction of dither

**Dynamic Element Matching (DEM)**
- The output element mismatch error is minimized by the use of a DEM algorithm.
- Data Weighted Averaging (DWA) as an efficient DEM algorithm.
- Algorithm's objective → achieve an equal use of elements in long-term by rotating the output elements (current sources) in a cyclic fashion.
- DWA uses only one index, which is updated with the addition of the input every clock cycle.
Bandgap cell provides an accurate reference voltage (1.25V) with a low temperature coefficient.

First order RC filter reduces any noise from the bandgap block.

Low noise Op-Amp along with M1 and current setting resistor (Rref or Rext) implements the reference current source for generating the reference current Iref.

IRef can be set by selecting the internal resistor RRef or connecting an external resistor Rext.

Differential elementary current sources built around the regulated cascode topology.

Use of PMOS transistors for lower flicker noise (1/f)
Radiation hardening: analog part

- Deep Trench Isolation (DTI) option cuts away the parasitic structures between PMOS and NMOS that may trigger SEL
- All NMOS transistors are of enclosed layout type (ELT) which greatly improve analog degradation due to TID effects (overconsumption due to severe leakage currents at edge formed parasitic channels)
- Relaxed layout rules
- Decoupling capacitors to eliminate SET in all critical points
- Simulation of SET
- Simulation in 21 corners and MC

- Radiation induced charges are trapped in the oxides or at Si interface.
- Overconsumption due to severe leakage currents at edge formed parasitic channels may lead to total loss of circuit functionality.
Radiation hardening: digital part

- **Technology level**
  - Atmel AT58K85 0.15 μm is a rad-hard proven technology.

- **Library level**
  - Oversized and robust standard cells were used (including latches and flip-flops).

- **Digital design level**
  - Global insertion of TMR logic in FSMs and counters
  - Synchronous reset
RTZ output stage

- **Return-to-Zero functionality to improve linearity**


*Figure 4.1: RTZ CS architecture*
RTZ implementation
Layout

CS matrix 1 CS matrix 2

Interface (level translators, phase generator and clock trees)

Analog part

Digital part

4240 μm
Transient simulation

32 current sources descending (inverting output)

1.5MHz clock

Test data
Analog/Digital/Top Design Flow for DAC24
Mixed signal developments

- Radiation tolerant mixed-signal ASIC development for the space industry – AO7794
  - Development of a flow and a library
  - ASIC development via re-use
  - SEC & TCV for production
  - Flow

- Atmel ATMX150RHA technology
  - 150nm CMOS SOI, 5 metal, 1 poly
  - Supplies: 1.8V logic with 3.3V analog and I/Os
  - Extensive device and cell library
  - Rad-hard proven logic
  - Front to back design flow fully supported by the PDK
  - Fully SPICE modeled and characterized devices for analog design included: bipolar transistor, MIM capacitors, 70A oxide FETs,…
  - Low noise performance as demonstrated by circuit simulations
  - Full and direct support by the Atmel team on the PDK and design environment
Analog flow

- **Architecture & Target specifications**

- **Schematic Capture**
  - Virtuoso Schematic Editor L

- **PVT Simulation**
  - Spectre

- **Layout**
  - Virtuoso Layout XL

- **LVS/DRC/ARC**
  - Assura V4.12.017 (OA 6.1.5)

- **Post layout simulation**
  - Spectre

- **Parasitic Extraction**
  - Cadence RCX

**Devices**
- NMOS: nfetox3_ring
- PMOS: pfetox3

**PDK**
- at77000pdkref/REL_2.3_A_at77000_aero_REL_2.2_A

**PDK Device models**

**AERO Design Rules**

**Cadence Virtuoso IC**
- V6.1.5.500-10

**Custom design flow**

**Cell A**

**Cell B**

**Analog top schematic**

**Analog top Simulation**
- Spectre

**Analog top Layout**
- Virtuoso Layout XL

**LVS/DRC/ARC**
- Assura
Digital flow (1/4)

Verified RTL
  VHDL
  Synthesis
    Design Compiler
  DFT insertion
    Design Compiler
  Post-Synthesis Verification
    Modelsim
  Static Timing Analysis
    Primetime
  Formality Check
    VHDL vs Verilog

Netlist - SDC

Chip floorplanning and Routing of Special Nets
  Encounter

Netlist Import
  Encounter

Standard cells and spare cells placement

Clock Tree synthesis (CTS)

Routing

Physical verification (Geometry/DRC/LVS)

Timing verification

Manual Corrections

GDSII – Netlist - SDC

Post-Layout Verification

Static Timing Analysis

Formality Check
  VHDL vs final netlist
**Digital flow (2/4)**

- **Input to the flow**
  - Verified RTL in a set of testcases selected to cover different OSR values, dithering, bypass and reset modes.

- **Synthesis - translate RTL to gate-level netlist:**
  - Design Compiler K-2015.06
  - ATMX150RHA-max+mil+nldm library
  - Master clock: 10MHz, 50% duty cycle

- **DFT insertion** – scan chain inserted in the design

- **Post-Synthesis Verification**
  - Same set of tests is run, in order to ensure the correct functionality of the design (netlist/sdc after DFT insertion are used)

- **Static Timing Analysis**
  - verify the timing parameters of the design using Primetime
Digital flow (3/4)

- **Formality Check**
  - Compare VHDL files with the netlist (both before and after DFT insertion) for ensure functional equivalence.

- **Physical Implementation**
  - Inputs:
    - Verilog netlist after synthesis and DFT insertion
    - LEF files of the digital core standard cells
    - LIB files providing timing and power parameters for the cells
    - SDC file for the timing constraints generated at synthesis step
    - DEF file providing information on the floorplan, IO pins and power lines.
  - Routing of special nets (power supplies)
  - Placement of the cells
  - Placement of spare cells
  - Clock tree synthesis (CTS)
  - Routing of the design
Physical Implementation (continue)

- Filler insertion
- Geometry and connectivity verification
- Timing verification
- Extraction of GDS/netlist to be imported to Virtuoso for chip integration
- Manual corrections to prevent DRC violations in Virtuoso (same are not appeared as issues in Encounter).

Post-layout Verification

- Same set of tests is run, in order to ensure the correct functionality of the final design (netlist/sdc after place&route are used)

Static Timing Analysis

- verify the timing parameters of the design using Primetime

Formality Check

- Compare VHDL files with the netlist (after place&route) for ensure functional equivalence.
Top Design flow

GDSII from digital

I/O physical views

Analog physical views cds.lib

Format Converter

Top Chip layout

Top level Simulations

Chip finishing (scribe line, logo, etc.)

Fillers insertion

Physical Verification (DRC/LVS/ARC)

Final GDSII

Performed by Atmel
Conclusions and next steps

- First samples expected end of June 2016
- Preparation for the validation phase based on the validation plan
- Evaluation of the design improvements with respect to the RTZ feature.
- Dissemination about the AO7794 library and flow
- Enrichment of the library (fast ADCs, etc)

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Questions?