



US006806762B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Stair et al.(10) **Patent No.:** US 6,806,762 B2
(45) **Date of Patent:** Oct. 19, 2004(54) **CIRCUIT AND METHOD TO FACILITATE THRESHOLD VOLTAGE EXTRACTION AND FACILITATE OPERATION OF A CAPACITOR MULTIPLIER**(75) Inventors: **Richard Kane Stair**, Richardson, TX (US); **Gabriel A. Rincon-Mora**, Atlanta, GA (US)(73) Assignee: **Texas Instruments Incorporated**, Dallas, TX (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: 09/977,609

(22) Filed: Oct. 15, 2001

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2003/0071675 A1 Apr. 17, 2003

(51) Int. Cl. 7 G05F 1/10

(52) U.S. Cl. 327/538; 327/356; 307/110;
323/313(58) **Field of Search** 327/538, 539-541,
327/543, 545, 546, 77, 78, 552, 536, 337,
390, 589; 307/109, 110, 35; 363/59-61;
323/312-317(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

- 3,911,296 A * 10/1975 Davis 327/552
5,095,223 A * 3/1992 Thomas 307/110
5,672,960 A * 9/1997 Maresi et al. 323/313
5,952,874 A 9/1999 Maresi et al. 327/541
6,084,475 A 7/2000 Rincon-Mora 330/255

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

X. Zhou, et al.; "Threshold Voltage Definition and Extraction for Deep-Submicron MOSFET's", *Solid-State Electronics*, Revised Oct. 17, 2000, p. 1-3.

A. Ortiz-Conde, et al.; "A New Approach to Extract the Threshold Voltage of MOSFET's", *IEEE Transactions on Electron Devices*, vol. 44, No. 9, Sep. 1997, p. 1523-1528.

G. Alfonso Rincon-Mora; "Active Capacitor Multiplier in Miller-Compensated Circuits", *IEEE*, 1999, p. 1-15.C. Galup-Montoro, et al.; "MOSFET Threshold Extraction from Voltage-Only Measurements", *Electronics Letters*, vol. 30, No. 17, Aug. 18, 1994, p. 1458-1459.N. Maresi, et al.; "MOSFET Threshold Extraction Circuit", *Electronics Letters*, vol. 31, No. 17, Aug. 17, 1995, p. 1434-1435.J. Ramirez-Angulo, et al.; "Low-Voltage CMOS Op-Amp with Rail-to-Rail Input and Output Signal Swing for Continuous-Time Signal Processing Using Multiple-Input Floating-Gate Transistors", *IEEE Transactions on Circuits and Systems*, vol. 48, No. 1, Jan. 2001, p. 111-116.J. Ramirez-Angulo, et al.; "MITE Circuits: The Continuous-Time Counterpart to Switched-Capacitor Circuits", *IEEE Transactions on Circuits and Systems*, vol. 48, No. 1, Jan. 2001, p. 45-55.L. Dobrescu, et al.; "Threshold Voltage Extraction Methods for MOS Transistors", *IEEE*, 2000, p. 371-374."Slew Rate Control of LVDS Circuits", *Application Report*, Texas Instruments Incorporated, Mar. 1999, p. 1-12.

* cited by examiner

Primary Examiner—Minh Nguyen

(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm—W. Daniel Swayze, Jr.; W. James Brady; Frederick J. Telecky, Jr.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A system and method to extract a threshold voltage for a MOSFET include first and second stages, which include inputs that receive functionally related input currents, are connected to each other. The first stage includes a second input that is coupled to a corresponding input of the second stage through part of a voltage divider. Another part of the voltage divider is coupled between an internal gate node and the input of the second stage that receives the respective input current. The input of the second stage that receives the respective input current also provides an output voltage substantially equal to the threshold voltage for one or both of the MOSFETs.

33 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets



