

**A Novel Readout Front-End Circuit Topology for
Flexible Biopotential Signal Acquisition System**

一種適用於靈活采集生物電信號的新型前端電路結構

by

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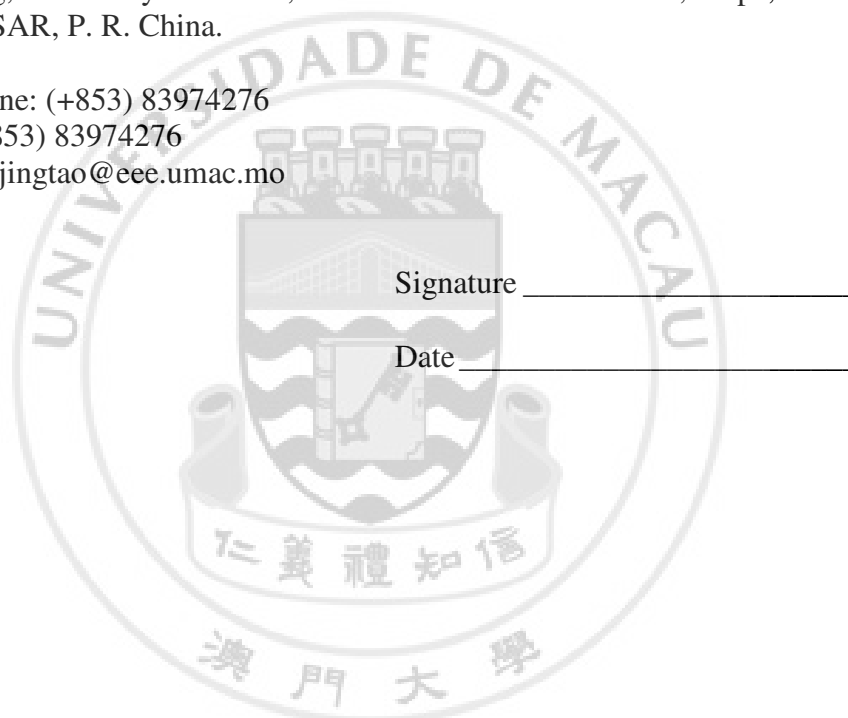
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Abstract

A NOVEL READOUT FRONT-END CIRCUIT TOPOLOGY
FOR FLEXIBLE BIOPOTENTIAL SIGNAL ACQUISITION
SYSTEM

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Information of extracted biopotential signals such as ECG, EEG and EMG is widely used for medical treatment purpose and health care applications. There is an increasing demand for flexible/portable biopotential signal acquisition systems which can be not only applied for long time medical monitoring, but also extended to home health care, sports and entertainment applications. The key to this kind of systems is the analog readout front-end. The analog readout front-end extracts the biosignals directly from human body and defines the extracted signal quality.

The most critical and power consuming building block of the readout front-end circuit is the biopotential amplifier. Biopotential amplifier emerges several design challenges due to the complex environment of human body and different applications. In general, biopotential amplifier should have high CMRR to reject strong common mode interference from mains and low noise in order to acquire the extremely weak signals.

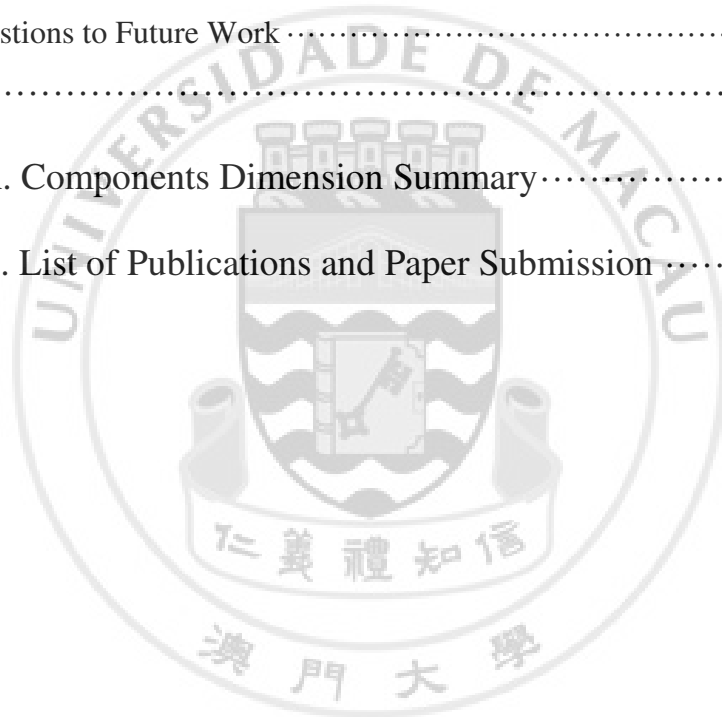
This thesis proposes a novel flexible analog readout front-end circuit topology oriented to flexible and portable biopotential signal acquisition systems. The essential contribution of this work is the new chopped current mode instrumentation amplifier (CMIA) based on second generation current conveyor while involving power supply current sensing technique. The new CMIA gains very low noise performance by using chopper modulation technique. At the same time, high CMRR, low power consumption and other advantages are achieved by the aid of the current mode topology and current sensing technique realized by the new designed low transconductance current mirrors.

Two complete analog readout front-ends are implemented and simulated using the proposed chopped CMIA with two advanced low pass filters (LPFs): general purpose readout front-end using 100-Hz 5th-order G_m -C LPF and portable EEG readout front-end using 40-Hz source-follower-based LPF. The simulation results show that the designed circuits meet the basic requirements of the long time portable biopotential acquisition application and are ready for connecting to next stages, e.g. ADC and DSP.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	Introduction and Literature Review	1
1.1	Flexible Biopotential Signal Acquisition System	1
1.2	Biopotential Signals	3
1.2.1	Electrocardiogram (ECG)	3
1.2.2	Electroencephalogram (EEG)	4
1.2.3	Electromyogram (EMG)	5
1.3	Biopotential Electrodes	5
1.4	Biopotential Signal Amplifier	7
1.4.1	Instrumentation Amplifier (IA)	7
1.4.2	State-of-the-Art in Instrumentation Amplifier (IA) Design	8
1.5	Proposed Readout Front-End	11
1.6	Summary	12
2.	Chopped Current Mode Instrumentation Amplifier (CMIA)	14
2.1	Chopper Modulation Technique	14
2.1.1	Chopper Modulation Principle	14
2.1.2	Noise Analysis of Chopper Modulation Technique	15
2.1.3	Signal Distortion in Chopper Modulated Amplifier	17
2.1.4	Chopper Implementation	17
2.2	Current Mode Instrumentation Amplifier (CMIA)	18
2.2.1	CMIA Circuit Topology	18
2.2.2	CMRR Analysis	20
2.3	Circuit Implementation	24
2.3.1	Op Amp	24
2.3.2	Current Mirrors	25
2.3.3	Chopped CMIA Schematic	26
2.4	Summary	26
3.	Low Pass Filter (LPF)	28
3.1	100-Hz 5 th -Order G_m -C LPF	28
3.1.1	Circuit Topology	28
3.1.2	Low Transconductance OTA	30
3.2	40-Hz 4 th -Order Source-Follower-Based (SFB) LPF	31
3.3	Summary	33
4.	Simulation Results	34

4.1 Chopped CMIA.....	34
4.1.1 Op Amp	34
4.1.2 Chopped CMIA	35
4.2 100-Hz General Purpose Biopotential Signal Readout Front-End	39
4.3 28- μ W 40-Hz EEG Readout Front-End.....	43
4.4 Summary	46
5. Conclusions.....	48
5.1 Summary	48
5.2 Achievements.....	49
5.3 Suggestions to Future Work	50
References	51
Appendix A. Components Dimension Summary.....	56
Appendix B. List of Publications and Paper Submission	58



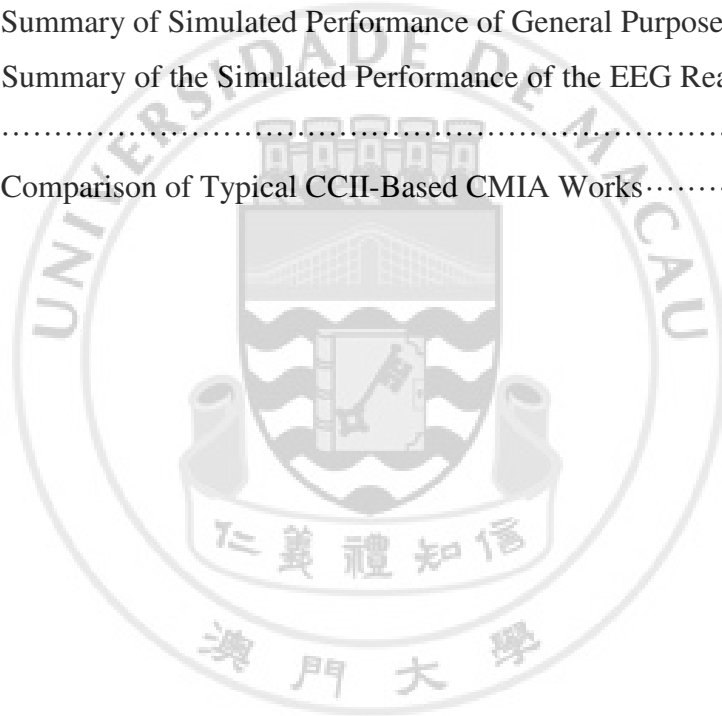
LIST OF FIGURES

Fig. 1.1 Flexible biopotential acquisition system.	2
Fig. 1.2 Typical ECG wave.	4
Fig. 1.3 Summary of EEG signals.	4
Fig. 1.4 EMG measurement setup.	5
Fig. 1.5 Typical EMG wave with its frequency characteristic.	5
Fig. 1.6 Equivalent circuit model of the electrode.	6
Fig. 1.7 Conventional three-op amp IA.	8
Fig. 1.8 Switched-capacitor amplifier. (a) Schematic, (b) sampling mode, (c) amplification mode.	9
Fig. 1.9 Simplified schematic of current balancing IA.	9
Fig. 1.10 Proposed analog readout front-end.	13
Fig. 2.1 Principle of chopper modulation technique.	14
Fig. 2.2 Structure of chopper.	15
Fig. 2.3 (a) Complementary switches to reduce charge injection, (b) Simulated on-resistance of the complementary switch.	18
Fig. 2.4 Second generation current conveyor based CMIA topology.	19
Fig. 2.5 CMRR vs. differential mode gain mismatching.	23
Fig. 2.6 CMRR vs. common mode gain mismatching.	23
Fig. 2.7 CMRR vs. differential mode gain mismatching (using ideal op amps).	24
Fig. 2.8 Schematic of the Op Amp.	24
Fig. 2.9 Schematics of current mirrors. (a) CM ₁ . (b) CM ₂	25
Fig. 2.10 Complete schematic of the chopped CMIA.	27
Fig. 3.1 Circuit topology of the 5 th -order G _m -C LPF.	28
Fig. 3.2 Equivalent circuit of the 5 th -order G _m -C LPF.	29
Fig. 3.3 Schematic of the low transconductance tunable OTA.	30
Fig. 3.4 Schematics of (a) basic SFB LFP and (b) small signal equivalent circuit at low frequency bandwidth.	31
Fig. 3.5 Schematic of the 40-Hz 4 th -order SFB LPF with gain-compensated NSF.	32

Fig. 3.6 Small signal half equivalent circuit of the gain-compensated NSF.....	32
Fig. 4.1 Frequency response of op amp.....	34
Fig. 4.2 Frequency response of the CMIA.....	35
Fig. 4.3 Harmonic distortion of the CMIA with a 75 Hz 5m V_{p-p} input.....	36
Fig. 4.4 Transient response of the chopped CMIA. (a) 75 Hz 5m V_{p-p} input, (b) modulated input signal @ 1 KHz, (c) amplified modulated signal, (d) demodulated output signal.....	37
Fig. 4.5 Input referred noise voltage density of the CMIA with and without chopper.....	38
Fig. 4.6 CMRR of the chopped CMIA.....	38
Fig. 4.7 Frequency response of the 100-Hz 5 th -order G_m -C LPF.....	39
Fig. 4.8 Harmonic distortion with a 10 Hz 50m V_{p-p} input of G_m -C LPF.....	40
Fig. 4.9 Transient response of the general purpose front-end to a 10 Hz 5m V_{p-p} input.....	41
Fig. 4.10 Harmonic distortion of the general purpose front-end to a 10 Hz 5m V_{p-p} input.....	41
Fig. 4.11 Frequency response of the general purpose front-end.....	41
Fig. 4.12 CMRR of the general purpose front-end.....	42
Fig. 4.13 Output noise voltage density of the general purpose front-end.....	42
Fig. 4.14 Harmonic distortion of the SFB LPF to an 8 Hz 50m V_{p-p} input.....	43
Fig. 4.15 Frequency response of the SFB LPF.....	43
Fig. 4.16 Transient response of the EEG front-end with an 8 Hz 5m V_{p-p} input.....	44
Fig. 4.17 Harmonic distortion of the EEG front-end with an 8 Hz 5m V_{p-p} input.....	44
Fig. 4.18 Frequency response of the EEG readout front-end.....	45
Fig. 4.19 CMRR of the EEG readout front-end.....	45
Fig. 4.20 Output referred noise voltage density of the EEG readout front-end with a 10 V/V Gain.....	46

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.1 Performance Summary of Typical CMIA Works.....	10
Table 1.2 Performance Summary of Typical Chopper Amplifier Works	11
Table 1.3 Comparisons of the Three-Op Amp IA, SCIA and CMIA	12
Table 1.4 Design Requirements of the Readout Front-End.....	13
Table 4.1 Summary of simulated performance of op amp.....	35
Table 4.2 Summary of Simulated Performance of Chopped CMIA.....	39
Table 4.3 Summary of Simulated Performance of General Purpose Font-End...	42
Table 4.4 Summary of the Simulated Performance of the EEG Readout Front-End	46
Table 4.5 Comparison of Typical CCII-Based CMIA Works.....	47



LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

Abbreviations

ADC Analog to Digital Convertor

CBIA Current Balancing Instrumentation Amplifier

CCII Second Generation Current Conveyor

CMIA Current Mode Instrumentation Amplifier

CMRR Common Mode Rejection Ratio

DR Dynamic Range

DSP Digital Signal Processor

ECG Electrocardiogram

EEG Electroencephalogram

EMG Electromyogram

GBW Gain Bandwidth Product

Gm-C LPF Transconductance-Capacitor Low Pass Filter

HPF High Pass Filter

IA Instrumentation Amplifier

LPF Low Pass Filter

MOSFET Metal Oxide Semiconductor Field Effect Transistor

NMOS N-Channel Metal Oxide Semiconductor

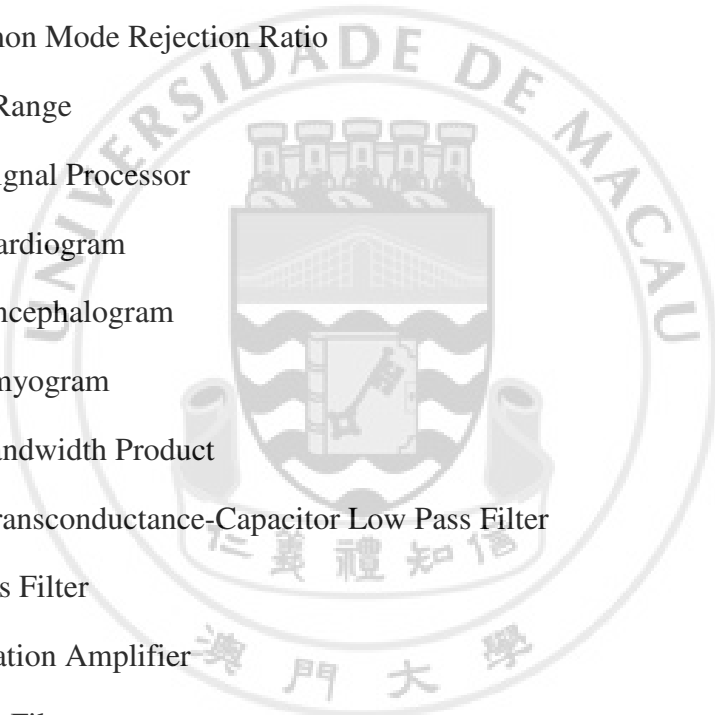
NSF NMOS Source Follower

OTA Operational Transconductance Amplifier

PMOS P-Channel Metal Oxide Semiconductor

PSD Power Spectral Density

SCIA Switched-capacitor Instrumentation Amplifier



SFB LPF Source Follower Based Low Pass Filter

THD Total Harmonic Distortion

Symbols

A_c Common mode gain of op amp

A_d Differential mode gain of op amp

f_{3dB} 3 dB low cutoff frequency of amplifier

f_c Corner frequency of amplifier

$f_{c, 1/f}$ Corner frequency of 1/f noise

f_{chop} Chopping frequency of chopper

f_{cutoff} Low cutoff frequency of LPF

G_c Common mode gain

G_d Differential mode gain

G_{cc} Common mode gain to common mode input only

G_{cd} Common mode gain to differential mode input only

G_{dc} Differential mode gain to common mode input only

G_{dd} Differential mode gain to differential mode input only

g_m Transconductance of MOSFET

I_D Drain current of a transistor

n Operating value of substrate factor of the number 1.5

$R_{on, eq}$ Equivalent resistance of CMOS complementary switch

S_0 Thermal noise level of an amplifier

S_{in} Double-sided input referred noise power spectral density of amplifier

$S_{in, 1/f}$ 1/f noise component of S_{in}

$S_{in, thermal}$ Thermal noise component of S_{in}

U_T Thermal voltage at room temperature

V_{Cik} Chopping clock voltage

V_{hc} Half-cell potential

v_n Output Noise Voltage of Amplifier

v_{off} Offset Voltage of Amplifier

V_{THN} Threshold voltage of NMOS transistor

V_{THP} Threshold voltage of PMOS transistor



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