



A Novel 1V- 0.95ppm/°C Curvature-Compensated CMOS Bandgap Reference

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Abstract—This paper proposes a novel CMOS bandgap reference (BGR) with high-order curvature compensation. Basic concept behind this new curvature compensation was to utilize the nonlinear dependence of the base current on temperature to generate a nonlinear voltage and use it to compensate for the higher order term. The mechanism of the proposed curvature-compensation technique is analyzed thoroughly and the corresponding BGR circuit was implemented in standard CMOS 0.18 μm technology. The Simulation results show that the proposed BGR achieves 0.95 ppm/°C over the temperature range of −30°C to 130°C at 1 V supply voltage. It is suitable for low-power applications requiring references with high precision.

Keywords—Low voltage bandgap reference, curvature compensation, temperature coefficient.

I. INTRODUCTION

PRECISION bandgap voltage references are critical building blocks for a variety of analogue and mixed signal electronic devices such as data converters, PWM controllers, oscillators, operational amplifiers, linear regulators and PLLs [4]. Undoubtedly the reference voltage accuracy plays a significant part in determining the performance of all subsequent circuits, which depend on an accurate and stable reference. For example, high precision ADCs, which are widely used in instrumentation and measurement systems, require a high precision voltage reference if the large number of bits in modern processing systems are to have any significance. Temperature dependent drift of the reference voltage is undoubtedly one of the key issues in BGR design. In order to achieve high-precision low-voltage CMOS reference, several curvature compensation techniques have been developed [3]–[14]. In most bandgap topologies the voltage of a diode connected bipolar transistor is chosen to be the main element with well-characterized, temperature-dependent characteristics as shown in Fig. 1. In this case, the base-emitter voltage is related characteristics to the bandgap energy and is to be used as part of the compensation method [4].

In this paper, the design of a low voltage bandgap reference is discussed. To compensate for the curvature of the output voltage with respect to temperature, Non-linear characteristic h_{FE} in bipolar transistor and base current and resistance added to the base are used. Section II gives a brief description for the low voltage bandgap reference. In Section III, a novel low voltage BGR is proposed and analyzed. In Section IV, the simulation results and in Section V, a comparison between this work and previous works are presented. At last, Section V is the conclusion.

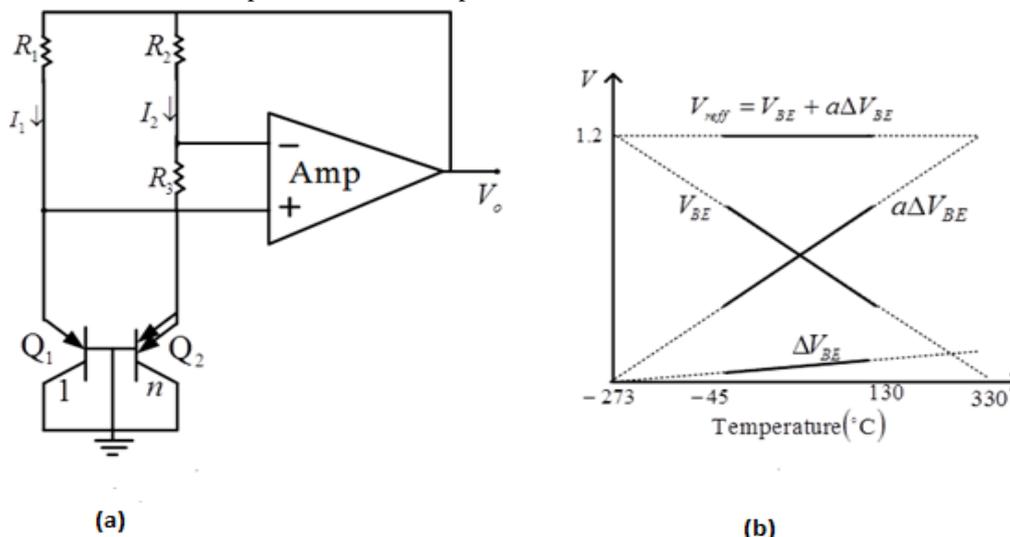


Fig. 1: An example of Bandgap Reference [1].

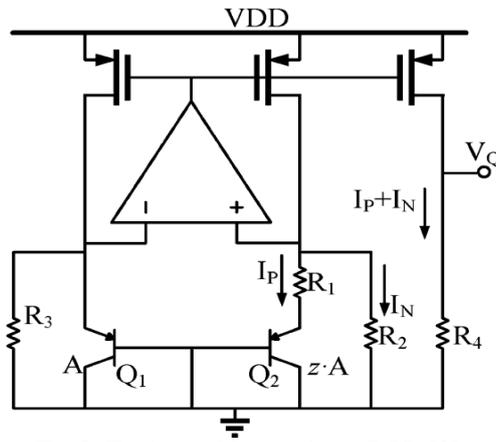


Fig.2: Traditional low-voltage BGR [3].

II. TRADITIONAL LOW-VOLTAGE BANDGAP REFERENCE

Traditional low-voltage BGR is a bipolar transistor (BJT)BGR (Fig. 2) [3], whose positive first-order coefficient is created by the difference in base-emitter voltage, ΔV_{BE} of two BJTs loaded proportional current density and whose negative first-order coefficient is created by V_{BE} . Most of low-voltage BGRs [3], [4], [11],[12] use BJT BGR as a core element, as shown in Fig. 2. The two voltages, ΔV_{BE} and V_{BE} , are converted to two currents, I_P and I_N , by dividing resistors, R_1 and R_2 . The reference voltage V_Q is generated by the sum of I_P and I_N , multiplied by the output resistor R_4 . V_Q is given by:

$$V_Q = R_4 (I_P + I_N) = \frac{R_4}{R_2} V_{BE} + \frac{R_4}{R_1} \frac{kT}{q} \ln z \quad (1)$$

where z is the ratio of emitter area of Q_2 to Q_1 , V_{BE} is the base-emitter voltage and is given by:

$$V_{BE}(T) = V_{G0} \left(1 - \frac{T}{T_r} \right) - cT^2 + \frac{T}{T_r} V_{BE}(T_r) - (\eta - m) \frac{kT}{q} \ln \left(\frac{T}{T_r} \right) \quad (2)$$

where T_r is specified reference temperature, T is absolute temperature, $\eta = 4 - \delta$, δ is the order of temperature dependence of carrier mobility, m is the order of temperature dependence of collector current, V_{G0} is the bandgap voltage in absolute temperature. Parameter $\min(2)$ is equal to 1, since I_C is Proportional to Absolute Temperature (PTAT). resistances of R_1 and R_2 are scaled to eliminate the first order terms [3]. The temperature behavior of V_Q is shown in Fig. 3.

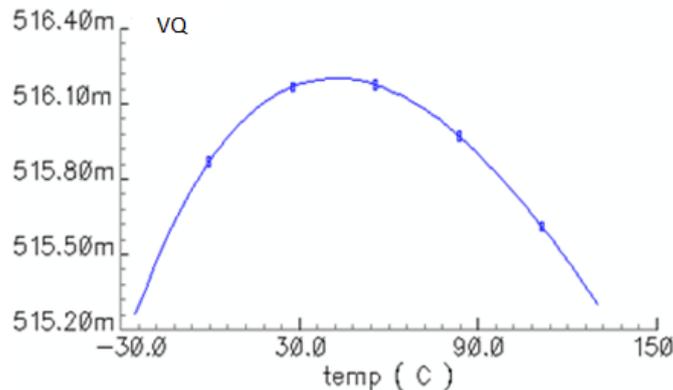


Fig.3: The temperature behavior of V_Q

III. PROPOSED LOW-VOLTAGE BANDGAP REFERENCE

The architecture of the proposed current mode BGR with new curvature compensation technique is illustrated in Fig.4. Basic concept behind this new curvature compensation was to utilize the nonlinear dependence of the base current on temperature to generate a nonlinear voltage and use it to compensate for the higher order term of (2). We can write:

$$I_B(T) = \frac{I_C(T)}{h_{FE}(T)} = \frac{\frac{kT}{q} \ln N}{R_1 (h_0 + h_1 T + h_2 T^2 + h_3 T^3)} \quad (3)$$

$$I_B(T) = I_{B0} + I_{B1} T + I_{B2} T^2 + I_{B3} T^3 \quad (4)$$

$$R_{Comp}(T) = R_0 [1 + TC_1 (T - T_r) + TC_2 (T - T_r)^2] \quad (5)$$

$$V_B = R_{Comp}(T) \cdot I_B(T) \quad (6)$$

$$V_B = R_{Comp0}(V_{B0} + V_{B1}T + V_{B2}T^2 + V_{B3}T^3) \quad (7)$$

Where $V_{B1} < 0, V_{B2} > 0, V_{B3} < 0$

$$V_{ref} = R_O \left(\frac{V_{EB1} + V_B}{R_2} + \frac{\frac{kT}{q} \ln N + V_B}{R_1} \right) \quad (8)$$

We find that V_B and V_{BE} have opposite second-order and third-order temperature coefficient from above discussion. It is obvious that by adding (2), (7) by appropriate weight in (8), the second order temperature coefficient can be eliminated and the third-order temperature coefficient can be partly canceled simultaneously.

The OP-AMP, is key element. We must ensure that it work in linear amplification state over the whole range of temperature. From Fig. 4, it is obvious that the common-mode input voltage of OP is equal to V_{BE} which varies from about 800 mV to 300 mV at temperature -30°C to 130°C . The circuit need to work with the supply voltage as low as 1 V. If a folded cascode amp with PMOS differential input is used, the common-mode input voltage of OP must be lower than $V_{DD} - V_{SG,PMOS} - V_{OD}$ and if NMOS input stage is used, the common-mode input voltage of OP must be higher than $V_{GS,NMOS} + V_{OD}$. Unfortunately, the common-mode input voltage of OP, does not match with V_{BE} at the temperature range of -30°C to 130°C at 1 V supply voltage. For this reason, we have to use Rail to Rail OP-AMP as shown in Fig. 5[1],[9]. For this OP-AMP the common-mode input voltage, is GND to V_{DD} .

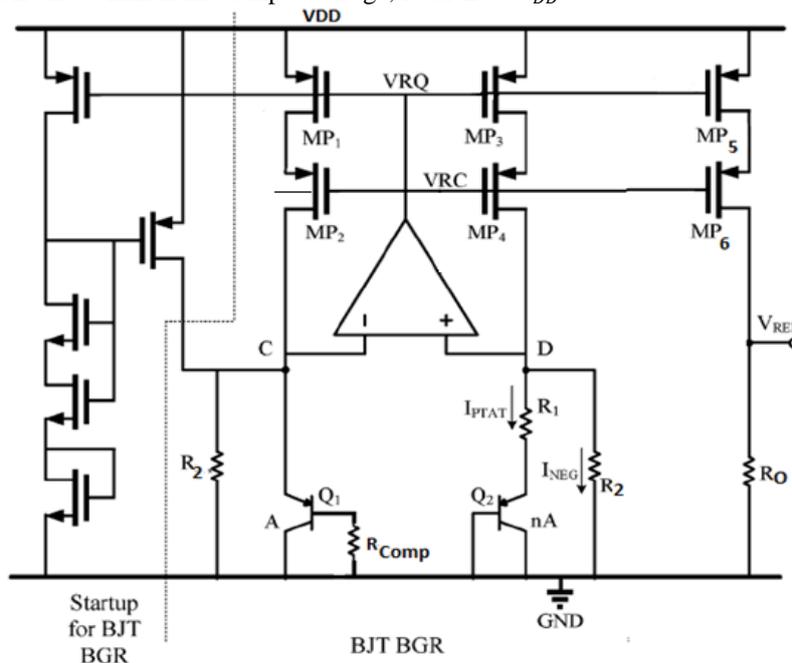


Fig.4: Proposed low voltage BandgapReferene.

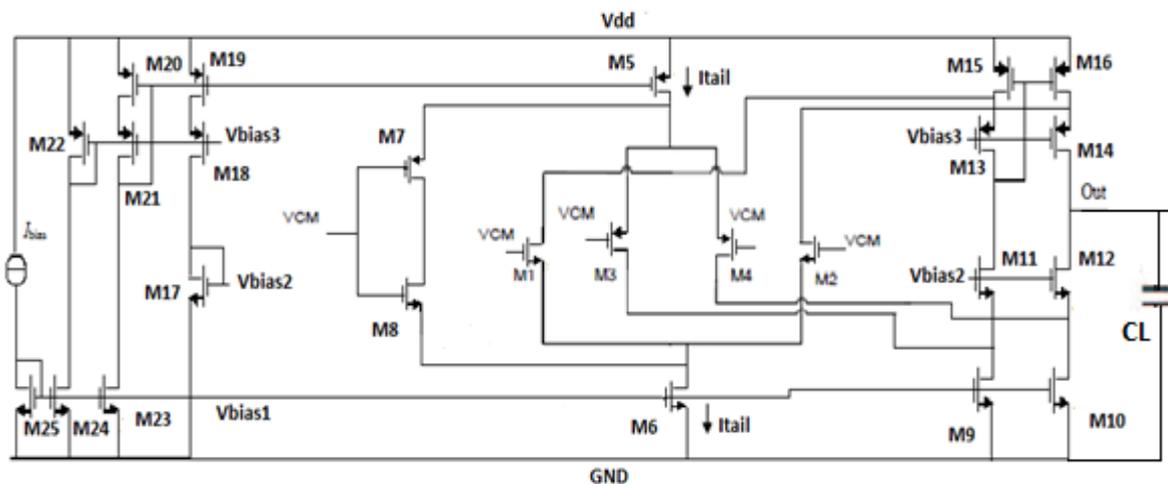


Fig.5: Used Rail to Rail OP-AMP

IV. SIMULATION RESULTS

The simulation result for output voltage in proposed low voltage BandgapReferene, is illustrated in Fig.6. The Simulation results show that the proposed BGR achieves very stable output over the temperature range of -30°C to 130°C at 1 V supply voltage. The total curvature is about 0.07mV which is equivalent to 0.95 ppm/ $^\circ\text{C}$. It is suitable for

low-power applications requiring references with high precision. Variation of output reference voltage respect to supply voltage, is illustrated in Fig.7. This result also shows the variation of about 0.03mV over the variation of supply voltage from 1V to 2V.

More details of the designed circuit and comparison with other work is also shown in Table 1.

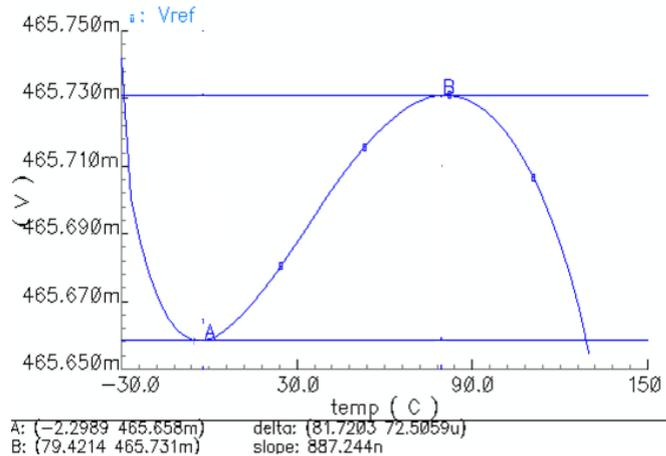


Fig.6: simulation result for output voltage in proposed BGR

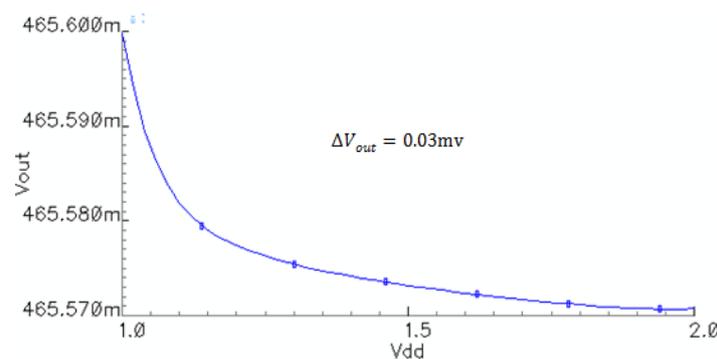


Fig.7: Variation of output reference voltage respect to supply voltage

Table I. Comparison of This Work With Previous Works

References	Technology	Supply voltage (V)	Temp. Coefficient (ppm/°C)	Temperature Range (°C)	Supply Current (μA)	Year Reported
[3]	0.18μm CMOS	1.2	4.9	-40 to 120	36	2014
[4]	0.35μm CMOS	2.5	3.9	-15 to 150	38	2012
[5]	0.18μm CMOS	1.5	2.7	-55 to 125	11.2	2014
[6]	0.18μm CMOS	1.2	2.3	-10 to 110	5	2015
[7]	0.18μm CMOS	1.2	4.2	-40 to 120	-	2015
[8]	0.18μm CMOS	1.3	4.1	-55 to 125	4.3	2015
This Work	0.18μm CMOS	1	0.95	-30 to 130	42	2016

V. COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS WORKS

A comparison between this work and prior art design is shown in Table I. From Table I, it is very clear that the proposed circuit has a better temperature coefficient than all other state of the art bandgap reference over a wide temperature range. In addition to low temperature coefficient, this BGR can provide a stable output over a range of supply voltage from 1 to 2 V.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

A low voltage CMOS bandgap reference with novel curvature compensation scheme has been presented. The output reference voltage is 465 mV. Higher order temperature compensation is achieved by utilizing the temperature dependence

of the base current in a BJT. The temperature coefficient of proposed circuit is only 0.95 ppm/°C with temperature ranging from -30°C to 130°C. The variation of the BGR output is less than 0.03mV when the supply voltage varies from 1 V to 2V due to its immunity from the supply voltage variation, achieved by the modified rail to rail OP-AMP.

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