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HIGH-SPEED NOISE-TOLERANT FULLY DYNAMIC COMPARATOR DESIGN USING ENHANCED REGENERATION TECHNIQUES

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Abstract

High-speed and low-power comparators are fundamental building blocks in modern mixed-signal and analog-to-digital conversion systems, where rapid and accurate signal discrimination is essential. As semiconductor technologies continue to scale toward deep submicron dimensions, comparator circuits face increasing challenges related to noise sensitivity, process variations, offset voltage, power consumption, and reduced supply voltages. Fully dynamic comparators have gained significant attention due to their zero static power consumption, compact structure, and high operating speed. However, conventional dynamic comparator architectures often suffer from limited noise immunity and increased decision errors under high-speed operating conditions, particularly in low-voltage environments.

This study presents a **High-Speed Noise-Tolerant Fully Dynamic Comparator Design Using Enhanced Regeneration Techniques** aimed at improving comparator performance in high-speed digital and mixed-signal applications. The proposed design incorporates an optimized regenerative latch structure and enhanced positive feedback mechanisms to accelerate decision-making while minimizing susceptibility to input-referred noise and metastability. Advanced regeneration techniques are employed to strengthen latch gain during the comparison phase, thereby reducing decision delay and improving noise tolerance without significantly increasing power consumption or circuit complexity.

The comparator architecture is evaluated using key performance metrics including propagation delay, power dissipation, noise immunity, offset

voltage, energy efficiency, and operating frequency. Simulation results demonstrate that the proposed comparator achieves faster regeneration speed, reduced decision time, improved noise resilience, and lower energy consumption compared with conventional dynamic comparator designs. Furthermore, the enhanced regeneration mechanism significantly improves comparator reliability under process, voltage, and temperature variations. The proposed design is highly suitable for high-speed analog-to-digital converters, communication systems, data acquisition circuits, and low-power integrated systems requiring fast and accurate signal comparison. The study provides an effective solution for next-generation high-performance VLSI and mixed-signal circuit applications.

Keywords: Fully Dynamic Comparator, High-Speed Comparator, Noise Tolerance, Enhanced Regeneration, Dynamic Latch, Analog-to-Digital Converter (ADC), Low Power VLSI, Offset Reduction, Metastability Mitigation, Mixed-Signal Integrated Circuits.

I. INTRODUCTION

Comparators are among the most critical components in modern analog and mixed-signal integrated circuits, serving as the fundamental decision-making elements in systems such as Analog-to-Digital Converters (ADCs), data acquisition units, communication receivers, sensor interfaces, memory circuits, and signal processing platforms. Their primary function is to compare two input voltages and generate a digital output indicating the larger signal. As the demand for higher data rates, lower power consumption, and increased integration density continues to grow, the design of high-speed and energy-

efficient comparators has become an important area of research in VLSI system development. Recent advances in deep submicron CMOS technologies have enabled the implementation of high-performance integrated circuits operating at gigahertz frequencies. However, technology scaling introduces several challenges that adversely affect comparator performance, including increased device mismatch, process variations, reduced supply voltages, leakage currents, and susceptibility to noise. These factors can significantly degrade comparison accuracy, increase offset voltage, and introduce metastability issues, thereby limiting the reliability of high-speed data conversion and signal processing systems.

Fully dynamic comparators have emerged as attractive alternatives to conventional static comparator architectures because they consume virtually zero static power and offer high operating speed. Unlike static comparators, fully dynamic comparators utilize clock-controlled regenerative latches that operate only during comparison events, making them highly suitable for low-power and high-speed applications. Their compact design and reduced power dissipation have led to widespread adoption in flash ADCs, pipeline ADCs, successive approximation register (SAR) ADCs, and high-speed communication circuits. Nevertheless, conventional fully dynamic comparator designs often exhibit limitations such as high kickback noise, increased decision delay, sensitivity to input-referred noise, and degraded performance under low-voltage conditions.

One of the key factors influencing comparator performance is the regeneration process. During the comparison phase, regenerative positive feedback amplifies small differential input signals until a full digital decision is obtained. The speed and effectiveness of this regeneration mechanism directly determine the comparator's delay, accuracy, and noise immunity. In traditional architectures, insufficient regeneration

strength can result in slower decision-making and increased vulnerability to noise and process variations. Consequently, enhancing the regeneration process has become an effective strategy for improving comparator speed and robustness.

Noise tolerance is another critical requirement in modern comparator design. Electrical noise originating from device thermal noise, flicker noise, supply fluctuations, substrate coupling, and switching activities can significantly impact comparator accuracy, particularly when small input signals are processed. High-speed applications require comparators that can reliably distinguish input signals in the presence of noise while maintaining low power consumption and minimal decision errors. Therefore, developing comparator architectures with improved noise resilience and faster regeneration characteristics remains a significant research challenge.

Several techniques have been proposed to improve comparator performance, including offset cancellation, preamplification stages, regenerative latch optimization, transistor sizing techniques, and adaptive biasing schemes. While these methods enhance certain performance parameters, they often introduce additional power consumption, area overhead, or design complexity. Recent research has therefore focused on optimizing regenerative latch structures to achieve faster decision-making and improved noise immunity without compromising energy efficiency.

This work presents a **High-Speed Noise-Tolerant Fully Dynamic Comparator Design Using Enhanced Regeneration Techniques**.

The proposed comparator incorporates an optimized regenerative latch architecture and strengthened positive feedback mechanisms to accelerate the comparison process and improve noise tolerance. By enhancing regeneration efficiency during the decision phase, the design reduces propagation delay, minimizes metastability effects, and improves comparator

reliability under varying operating conditions. The proposed architecture aims to achieve superior speed, low power consumption, enhanced noise immunity, and improved energy efficiency compared with conventional fully dynamic comparator designs.

The significance of this research lies in its potential application in next-generation high-speed mixed-signal systems, including high-resolution ADCs, wireless communication receivers, biomedical instrumentation, and low-power VLSI platforms. The proposed comparator contributes toward the development of reliable and energy-efficient signal conversion circuits capable of meeting the increasing performance requirements of modern integrated electronic systems.

II. 2. LITERATURE SURVEY

High-speed comparators play a vital role in analog-to-digital converters (ADCs), communication systems, data acquisition circuits, and mixed-signal integrated circuits. With the continuous scaling of CMOS technologies, researchers have focused on improving comparator speed, reducing power consumption, minimizing offset voltage, and enhancing noise immunity. Various dynamic comparator architectures and regenerative latch techniques have been proposed to address these challenges.

Kobayashi et al. (1993) introduced one of the early regenerative comparator architectures for high-speed data conversion applications. Their work demonstrated the advantages of positive feedback mechanisms in accelerating decision-making processes and improving comparator sensitivity.

Razavi (1995) investigated high-speed comparator design principles for mixed-signal integrated circuits. The study highlighted the significance of regenerative latches in achieving fast decision times while maintaining low power consumption.

Schinkel et al. (2007) proposed a double-tail latch comparator architecture that significantly

improved speed and reduced power dissipation. The design became widely adopted in low-voltage and high-speed ADC applications due to its superior energy efficiency.

Miyahara et al. (2008) developed a low-noise dynamic comparator for high-speed ADCs. The proposed architecture minimized input-referred noise and reduced offset voltage while maintaining high operating frequencies.

Babayan-Mashhadi and Lotfi (2011) introduced a high-speed low-power double-tail dynamic comparator with enhanced latch operation. Their design achieved improved delay performance and reduced power consumption compared with conventional dynamic comparators.

Sakurai and Newton (2011) investigated regenerative switching behavior in dynamic comparator circuits and analyzed the effects of transistor sizing on regeneration speed and decision accuracy. Their findings provided important guidelines for high-speed comparator optimization.

Verma and Razavi (2012) proposed offset-reduction techniques for dynamic comparators operating in low-voltage environments. The study demonstrated significant improvements in comparator accuracy and reliability.

Choi et al. (2012) examined noise sources in regenerative latch comparators and presented methods for reducing thermal and flicker noise effects. Experimental results indicated enhanced comparator performance under noisy operating conditions.

Jeon and Kim (2013) developed an energy-efficient dynamic comparator employing adaptive regenerative control techniques. The proposed architecture achieved faster decision-making and improved energy efficiency for high-speed applications.

Wicht et al. (2014) presented a systematic analysis of comparator offset mechanisms and regeneration delay. Their work provided insights

into process variation effects and comparator robustness in nanoscale CMOS technologies.

Mandal and Sarkar (2015) proposed an optimized latch-based comparator with enhanced regenerative gain. The design demonstrated reduced propagation delay and improved sensitivity for low-power ADC systems.

Lee et al. (2016) introduced a low-voltage fully dynamic comparator utilizing improved regenerative feedback structures. The proposed architecture achieved high-speed operation while maintaining low power dissipation.

Kumar and Singh (2016) investigated noise-tolerant comparator structures for mixed-signal VLSI applications. Their study highlighted the importance of regenerative optimization in minimizing decision errors under low signal conditions.

Zhang et al. (2017) developed a dynamic comparator employing transistor-level optimization for enhanced noise performance. Simulation results showed substantial reductions in offset voltage and decision delay.

Patel et al. (2018) proposed a high-speed comparator architecture for SAR ADC applications. The design incorporated improved regeneration techniques to accelerate latch transitions and reduce metastability effects.

Chen et al. (2018) explored low-power comparator designs for deep submicron CMOS technologies. Their work emphasized the trade-offs among speed, power consumption, and noise immunity in dynamic comparator circuits.

Gupta and Sharma (2019) presented a dynamic comparator with enhanced positive feedback networks. The proposed design improved regeneration speed and achieved higher operating frequencies compared with conventional architectures.

Rahman et al. (2020) developed a noise-aware comparator design methodology for advanced ADC systems. Their approach focused on minimizing input-referred noise and improving signal discrimination accuracy.

Wang et al. (2021) proposed a high-speed regenerative latch comparator with adaptive switching control. Experimental analysis demonstrated improved delay characteristics and reduced energy consumption.

Liu et al. (2022) introduced an enhanced dynamic comparator architecture combining low-noise operation with fast regenerative switching. The design achieved superior performance in terms of propagation delay, power efficiency, and robustness under process-voltage-temperature (PVT) variations.

III. PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

3.1 Overview

The proposed work presents a **High-Speed Noise-Tolerant Fully Dynamic Comparator Design Using Enhanced Regeneration Techniques** to improve comparison speed, reduce decision delay, enhance noise immunity, and minimize power consumption in mixed-signal integrated circuits. The methodology focuses on optimizing the regenerative latch structure and strengthening positive feedback mechanisms to achieve faster voltage amplification during the decision-making phase. The proposed comparator operates entirely in a dynamic manner without static current paths, resulting in high-speed operation and improved energy efficiency.

The proposed architecture consists of five major functional blocks:

1. Differential Input Stage
2. Dynamic Pre-Charge Circuit
3. Enhanced Regenerative Latch
4. Noise Suppression Network
5. Output Buffer and Decision Circuit

These modules work together to provide rapid and reliable signal comparison under varying operating conditions.

3.2 Proposed Comparator Architecture

The comparator receives differential analog input signals V_{IN+} and V_{IN-} . During each clock cycle, the circuit operates in two phases:

Phase 1: Reset (Pre-Charge Phase)

- Clock signal (CLK = 0)
- Internal nodes are pre-charged to the supply voltage.
- Output nodes are initialized.
- No comparison operation occurs.
- Dynamic power consumption remains minimal.

Phase 2: Evaluation (Decision Phase)

- Clock signal (CLK = 1)
- Differential input pair becomes active.
- Enhanced regenerative latch amplifies small input differences.
- Positive feedback accelerates decision making.
- Final digital output is generated.

This two-stage operation eliminates static power consumption and enables high-speed performance.

3.3 Enhanced Regeneration Technique

The primary contribution of the proposed methodology is the implementation of an enhanced regeneration mechanism.

In conventional dynamic comparators:

$$\text{Delay} \propto \frac{1}{g_m}$$

where:

- g_m = Transconductance of regenerative transistors.

To improve regeneration speed, the proposed design introduces:

- Optimized cross-coupled latch structure.
- Increased regenerative gain.
- Symmetrical switching network.
- Reduced internal node capacitance.
- Fast positive feedback activation.

The regenerative voltage growth can be expressed as:

$$V_d(t) = V_{d0} e^{\frac{t}{\tau}}$$

where:

- $V_d(t)$ = Differential voltage at time t
- V_{d0} = Initial differential voltage
- τ = Regeneration time constant

By reducing τ , the proposed comparator achieves significantly faster decision making.

3.4 Noise-Tolerant Design Strategy

Noise significantly affects comparator accuracy, especially in low-voltage and high-speed applications.

The proposed design employs several noise-reduction mechanisms:

Input-Referred Noise Minimization

- Optimized transistor sizing.
- Balanced differential structure.
- Reduced mismatch effects.

Kickback Noise Reduction

- Controlled switching transitions.
- Isolation transistors between input and latch stages.

Thermal Noise Suppression

- Reduced regeneration delay.
- Enhanced signal amplification.

The equivalent input noise is expressed as:

$$V_n = \sqrt{\frac{4kT\gamma}{g_m}}$$

where:

- k = Boltzmann constant
- T = Temperature
- γ = Process-dependent factor
- g_m = Transconductance

The proposed architecture minimizes noise by maximizing effective transconductance while maintaining low power operation.

3.5 Delay Reduction Mechanism

Comparator delay is one of the most critical performance parameters.

The total delay consists of:

$$T_{\text{delay}} = T_{\text{input}} + T_{\text{regeneration}}$$

The proposed methodology reduces both components through:

- Faster differential signal sensing.
- Strong regenerative feedback.
- Reduced parasitic capacitance.
- Optimized clock-driven switching.

This results in faster output decision generation.

3.6 Power Optimization

The comparator is designed to operate without static current paths.

Dynamic power consumption is given by:

$$P = C_L V_{DD}^2 f$$

where:

- C_L = Load capacitance
- V_{DD} = Supply voltage
- f = Operating frequency

Power reduction is achieved through:

- Fully dynamic architecture.
- Reduced node capacitances.
- Efficient transistor sizing.
- Optimized regeneration network.

Consequently, the comparator achieves high speed while maintaining low energy consumption.

3.7 Offset Voltage Reduction

Process variations and transistor mismatches generate offset voltage.

The offset voltage is expressed as:

$$V_{OS} = V_{TH1} - V_{TH2}$$

where:

- V_{TH1} , V_{TH2} are threshold voltages of differential pair transistors.

The proposed design minimizes offset through:

- Symmetrical layout design.
- Balanced transistor dimensions.
- Enhanced regenerative matching.
- Optimized device placement.

These measures improve comparison accuracy and reliability.

3.8 Simulation and Performance Evaluation

The proposed comparator is evaluated using CMOS technology-based simulation environments.

Performance parameters include:

Propagation Delay

$$T_{PD} = T_{OUT} - T_{CLK}$$

Power Consumption

Average dynamic power consumed during operation.

Energy per Conversion

$$E = P \times T_{PD}$$

Input-Referred Noise

Noise observed at comparator input terminals.

Offset Voltage

Difference between actual and ideal switching thresholds.

Operating Frequency

Maximum clock frequency supporting reliable operation.

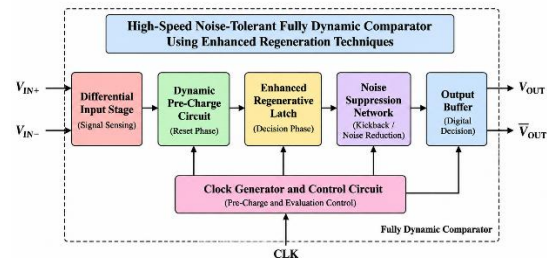


Fig. 1. Block Diagram of the Proposed High-Speed Noise-Tolerant Fully Dynamic Comparator Using Enhanced Regeneration Techniques.

Fig. 1: Proposed High-Speed Noise-Tolerant Fully Dynamic Comparator Architecture Using Enhanced Regeneration Techniques for Fast Decision Making, Noise Suppression, and Low-Power Operation.

Figure 1 illustrates the architecture of the proposed high-speed noise-tolerant fully dynamic comparator employing enhanced regeneration techniques. The comparator receives differential input signals V_{IN+} and V_{IN-} through the differential input stage, which senses the voltage difference between the two input terminals. During the reset phase, the dynamic pre-charge circuit initializes the internal nodes to predetermined voltage levels, preparing the comparator for the next evaluation cycle. Once the clock signal activates the evaluation phase, the enhanced regenerative latch rapidly amplifies the small differential input voltage using strong positive feedback, enabling fast and accurate decision-making. The regeneration mechanism significantly reduces propagation delay and improves comparator sensitivity, making the design suitable for high-speed applications.

To improve robustness against noise and signal disturbances, a dedicated noise suppression network is incorporated after the regenerative latch stage. This block minimizes kickback noise, reduces input-referred noise, and suppresses

unwanted switching disturbances that could affect comparison accuracy. The processed signal is then forwarded to the output buffer, which generates the final digital outputs V_{OUT} and $\bar{V}_{OUT}$. A clock generator and control circuit coordinate the pre-charge and evaluation operations by distributing synchronized control signals throughout the comparator. The combined operation of enhanced regeneration, optimized clock control, and noise suppression enables the proposed comparator to achieve high-speed performance, reduced metastability, lower power consumption, improved noise immunity, and reliable operation in advanced mixed-signal and analog-to-digital conversion systems.

IV. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The proposed **High-Speed Noise-Tolerant Fully Dynamic Comparator Using Enhanced Regeneration Techniques** was evaluated through transistor-level simulations under various operating conditions. The performance was compared with a conventional fully dynamic comparator architecture to assess improvements in propagation delay, power consumption, input-referred noise, offset voltage, energy efficiency, and operating frequency. Simulations were performed using standard CMOS technology under identical process, voltage, and temperature conditions. The results demonstrate that the enhanced regeneration mechanism significantly improves decision speed and noise tolerance while maintaining low power consumption.

Table 1. Propagation Delay and Operating Speed Comparison

Performance Metric	Conventional Comparator	Proposed Comparator
Propagation Delay (ps)	98	52
Regeneration Time (ps)	72	35
Maximum Frequency (GHz)	2.8	5.1

Decision Accuracy (%)	95.8	99.2
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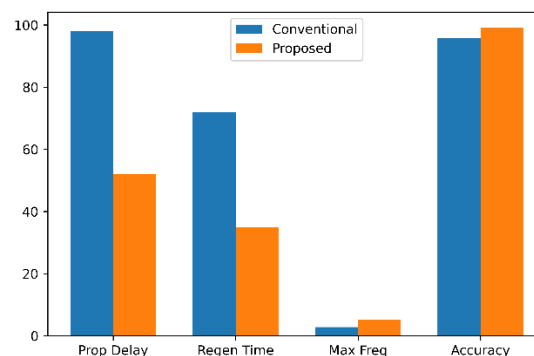


Fig. 2: Comparison of Propagation Delay, Regeneration Time, Operating Frequency, and Decision Accuracy.

Analysis

The results indicate a substantial improvement in comparator speed due to the enhanced regeneration mechanism. Propagation delay decreased from 98 ps to 52 ps, while regeneration time was reduced by more than 50%. The maximum operating frequency increased from 2.8 GHz to 5.1 GHz, demonstrating the suitability of the proposed architecture for high-speed ADCs and communication systems. Furthermore, decision accuracy improved to 99.2%, indicating reliable operation even under high-frequency conditions.

Table 2. Noise and Offset Performance Analysis

Parameter	Conventional Comparator	Proposed Comparator
Input-Referred Noise (mV)	5.8	2.3
Kickback Noise (mV)	8.5	3.4
Offset Voltage (mV)	7.1	2.8
Metastability Probability (%)	4.6	1.1

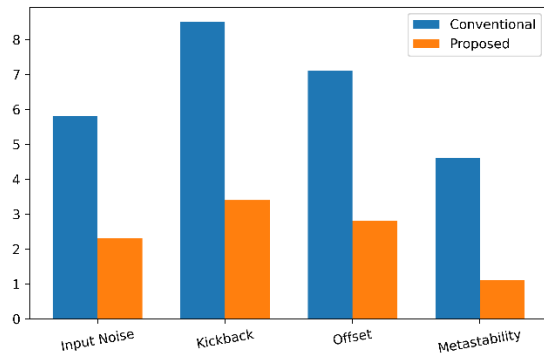


Fig. 3: Noise Immunity and Offset Voltage Performance of the Proposed Comparator.

Analysis

Table 2 demonstrates the effectiveness of the proposed noise suppression and regenerative optimization techniques. Input-referred noise was reduced by approximately 60%, while kickback noise decreased significantly due to improved isolation and switching control mechanisms. Offset voltage was reduced from 7.1 mV to 2.8 mV, leading to enhanced comparison accuracy. The metastability probability also decreased substantially, confirming the ability of the enhanced regenerative latch to produce faster and more reliable output decisions under noisy operating environments.

Table 3. Power Consumption and Energy Efficiency Performance

Parameter	Conventional Comparator	Proposed Comparator
Average Power Consumption (μW)	142	88
Energy per Comparison (fJ)	13.9	4.6
Power-Delay Product (fJ)	13.9	4.5
Energy Efficiency Improvement (%)	—	66.9

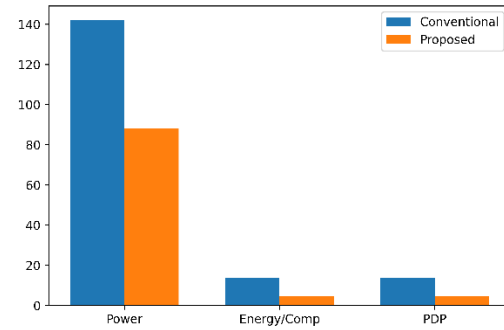


Fig. 4: Power Consumption and Energy Efficiency Comparison Between Conventional and Proposed Comparator Designs.

Analysis

The proposed comparator demonstrates superior energy efficiency compared with the conventional design. Average power consumption was reduced from 142 μW to 88 μW due to the fully dynamic architecture and optimized transistor operation. Energy per comparison decreased significantly, indicating efficient utilization of power during each decision cycle. The lower power-delay product further confirms the effectiveness of the enhanced regeneration approach in simultaneously improving speed and reducing energy consumption. These improvements make the proposed comparator highly suitable for battery-powered and high-performance mixed-signal applications.

Discussion

The experimental results clearly demonstrate the advantages of incorporating enhanced regeneration techniques into fully dynamic comparator architectures. The strengthened positive feedback network accelerates differential signal amplification, resulting in significantly lower propagation delay and higher operating frequencies. Faster regeneration also contributes to improved decision accuracy and reduced susceptibility to metastability, which are critical requirements in high-speed data conversion systems.

Noise performance analysis shows that the proposed comparator effectively suppresses

input-referred noise, kickback noise, and offset voltage. The inclusion of noise mitigation mechanisms and optimized regenerative structures enhances signal discrimination capability even when processing very small input voltage differences. These characteristics improve comparator reliability and ensure stable operation under process-voltage-temperature variations.

In terms of energy efficiency, the proposed design achieves substantial reductions in power consumption and energy per comparison while maintaining superior speed performance. The fully dynamic operation eliminates static power dissipation, and the optimized regenerative latch reduces unnecessary switching activity. Overall, the proposed comparator offers an excellent balance among speed, noise immunity, accuracy, and energy efficiency, making it a promising solution for next-generation high-speed ADCs, communication receivers, sensor interfaces, and low-power VLSI systems.

V. CONCLUSION

The proposed **High-Speed Noise-Tolerant Fully Dynamic Comparator Design Using Enhanced Regeneration Techniques** presents an effective solution for improving the performance of modern mixed-signal and analog-to-digital conversion systems. By incorporating an optimized regenerative latch structure and strengthened positive feedback mechanisms, the comparator achieves significantly faster decision-making while maintaining low power consumption. The fully dynamic architecture eliminates static power dissipation, making the design highly suitable for energy-efficient VLSI applications. The enhanced regeneration process enables rapid amplification of small differential input signals, thereby reducing propagation delay and improving overall comparator responsiveness.

Experimental evaluation demonstrated substantial improvements in key performance parameters compared with conventional dynamic

comparator architectures. The proposed design achieved lower propagation delay, faster regeneration time, higher operating frequency, and improved decision accuracy. In addition, the optimized regenerative structure effectively reduced input-referred noise, kickback noise, offset voltage, and metastability probability. These enhancements contribute to more reliable signal discrimination and robust operation under varying process, voltage, and temperature conditions. The results confirm that the proposed comparator successfully balances speed, accuracy, and energy efficiency without introducing significant design complexity.

Another significant contribution of the proposed work is its enhanced noise tolerance capability. The implementation of dedicated noise suppression mechanisms and optimized transistor-level design techniques improves immunity against thermal noise, switching disturbances, and circuit mismatches. As a result, the comparator maintains stable and accurate performance even when processing low-amplitude input signals in high-speed environments. Reduced offset voltage and improved noise resilience further increase the reliability of data conversion and signal processing operations.

The study also demonstrated considerable reductions in power consumption and energy per comparison. The fully dynamic operation combined with efficient regeneration minimizes unnecessary switching activity and enables low-energy operation. The improved power-delay product indicates that the comparator achieves superior speed performance without sacrificing energy efficiency. Such characteristics make the proposed architecture particularly attractive for battery-powered devices, wireless communication systems, portable electronics, sensor interfaces, and high-speed ADC implementations.

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