

On the Design of Stable, High Performance Sigma Delta Modulators

M.A.Sc. Thesis Defence

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1. Introduction
2. Stability and Performance
3. Similar Work
4. Optimization
5. Examples
6. Conclusion

Introduction



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Ideally, the goals of the method are to:

- Model the nonlinear system accurately in a way that allows analysis of existing designs.
- Reduce dependence on simulation.
- Provide a way to design guaranteed stable sigma delta modulators in a way that minimizes conservatism.

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The use of a filter to push quantization noise out of the signal band by wrapping the quantizer in a feedback loop.

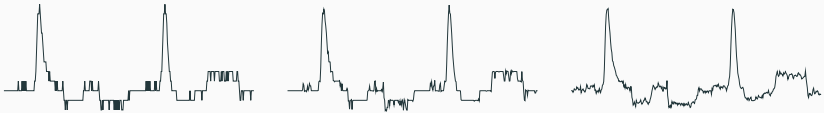


Figure 1: An example EEG signal [1] digitized to 5 bits with naïve quantization (left), 10 times oversampled quantization (middle), and first-order sigma delta modulation (right).

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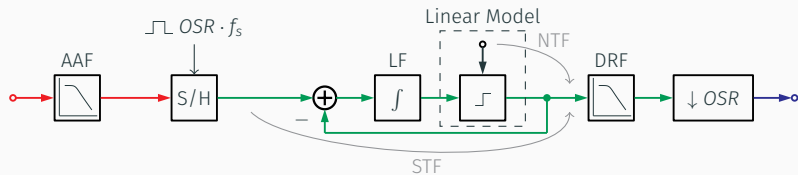


Figure 2: A simplified block diagram of a discrete-time sigma delta A/D converter.

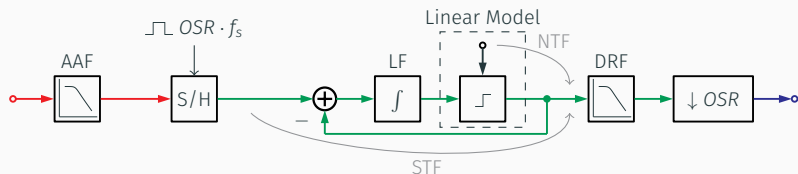


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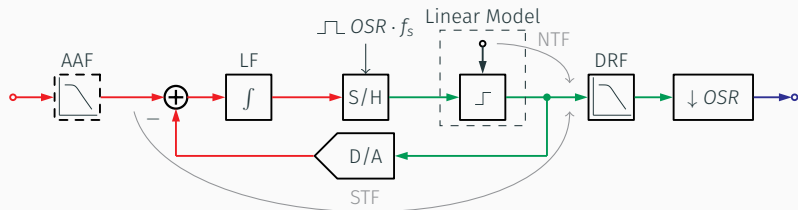


Figure 3: A simplified block diagram of a continuous-time sigma delta A/D converter.

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The design process often relies on extensive simulation to confirm that stability is likely during normal operation and the circuit may include complicated instability detection and recovery mechanisms [4, 5, 6, 7].

Stability and Performance

\mathcal{H}_∞ Stability Criterion

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- Generally conservative for 2nd order loops, approximately correct for 3rd order, and inadequate for higher order [9].
- Common in existing design tools [3, Appx. B].
- Easy to apply as a control optimization problem.
- No straightforward relationship between maximum stable input and the Lee criterion value.

Root Locus Stability Criterion

The describing function of the nonlinear quantizer is a variable gain dependent on quantizer input amplitude. A modulator loop is stable if the root locus remains in the stable region of the complex plane when sweeping through valid quantizer gains.

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The \mathcal{H}_2 stability criterion predicts stability for a class of norm-bounded input signals r if the squared 2-norm (power gain) of the NTF is less than a value calculated by placing assumptions on the statistical distribution of the quantizer input signal u .

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 - Addition of weighting filters to the NTF channel, then use \mathcal{H}_{∞} control techniques.
 - Apply the Generalized KYP lemma which provides a link between a finite-frequency inequality and a set of LMIs.

Similar Work

Table 1: A comparison of some recent work on sigma delta modulator design as a control optimization problem.

Ref.	Optimized norms	NTF Type	Performance goal	Stability criteria
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This	$\mathcal{H}_\infty, \mathcal{H}_2, \ell_1$	IIR	GKYP	\mathcal{H}_∞ , root locus, \mathcal{H}_2, ℓ_1

¹ Only the zeros of the IIR filter are optimized.

Optimization

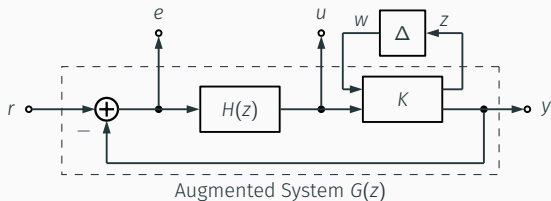


Figure 4: The augmented system model with channels of interest extracted.

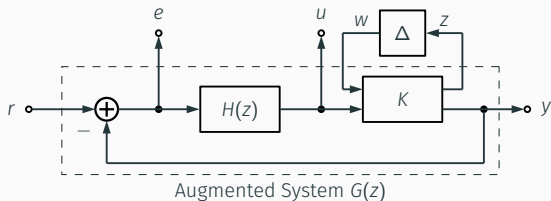


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$$G : \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x} \\ z \\ e \\ u \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A_H - k_{22}B_H C_H & -k_{21}B_H & B_H \\ \hline k_{12}C_H & k_{11} & 0 \\ -k_{22}C_H & -k_{21} & 1 \\ C_H & 0 & 0 \\ k_{22}C_H & k_{21} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ w \\ r \end{bmatrix}$$

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- The \star -norm LMI has a non-convex scalar term.

The authors in [18] showed how to manipulate the GKYP LMI by assuming the augmented system is in CCF so that there is only one occurrence of the non-convex term in a form like:

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- Use of rank-constrained LMI solver.
- Applying Shor's relaxation to linearize the problem.
- Performing an iterative method [24].

Examples

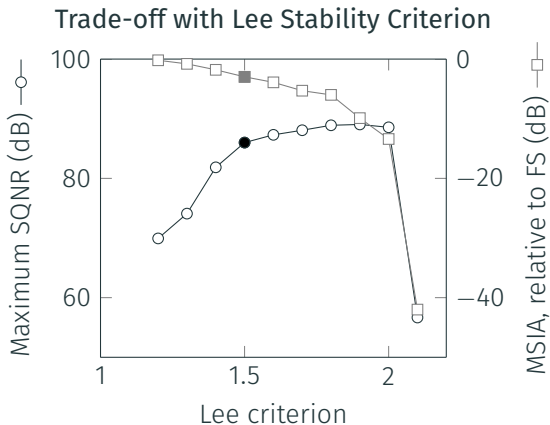


Figure 5: The performance (maximum simulated SQNR) and stability (simulated MSIA) achieved with the \mathcal{H}_∞ modulator design for different Lee criterion goals.

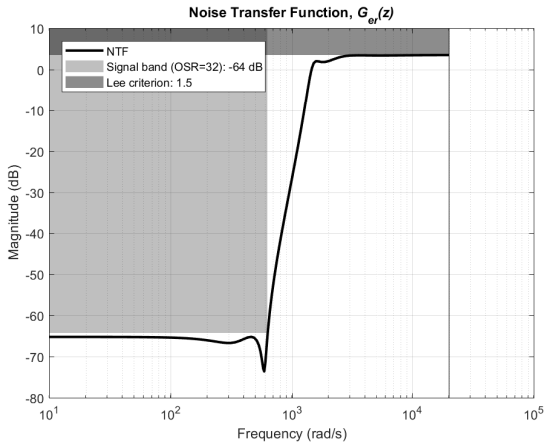


Figure 6: The noise transfer function generated with the \mathcal{H}_∞ stability criterion and associated optimization targets.

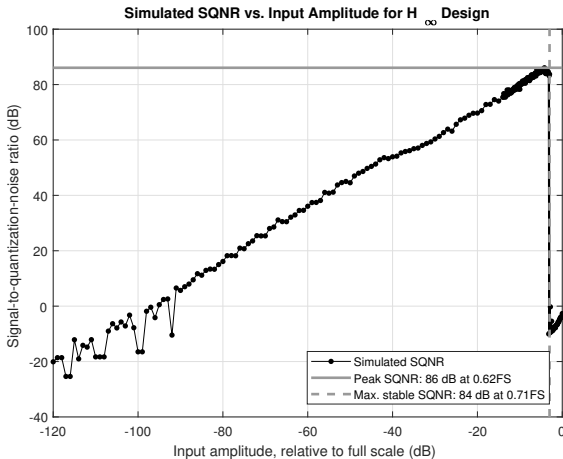


Figure 7: Simulation data for the modulator generated with the \mathcal{H}_∞ stability criterion.

Trade-off with Root Locus Stability Criterion

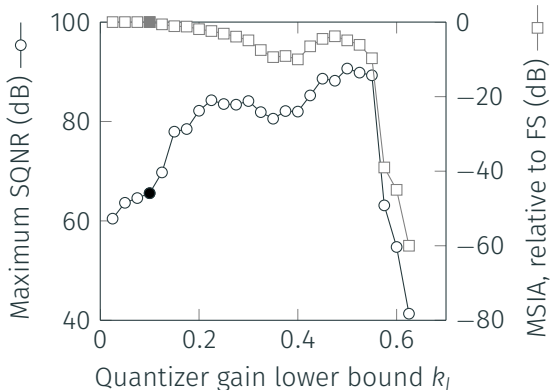


Figure 8: The performance (maximum simulated SQNR) and stability (simulated MSIA) achieved with the root locus modulator design for different quantizer gain robustness goals.

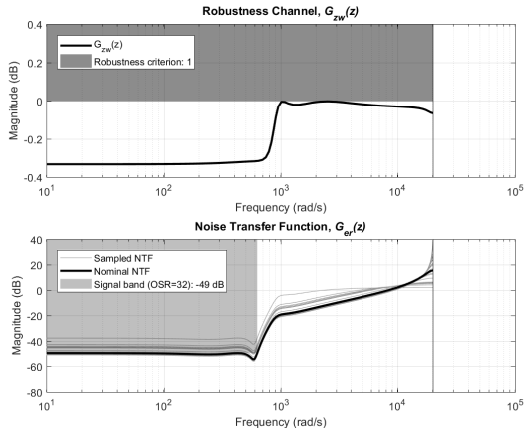


Figure 9: The noise transfer function generated with the root locus stability criterion and associated optimization targets.

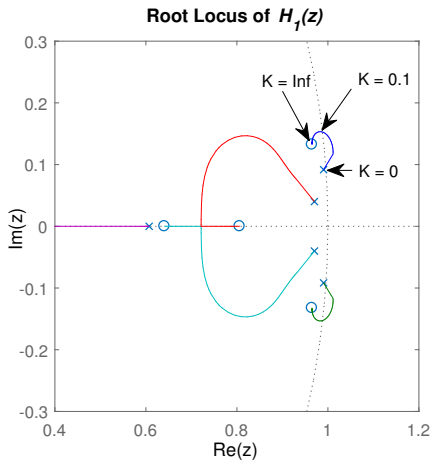


Figure 10: The root locus for the design produced when $[k_l, k_h] = [0.1, \infty)$.

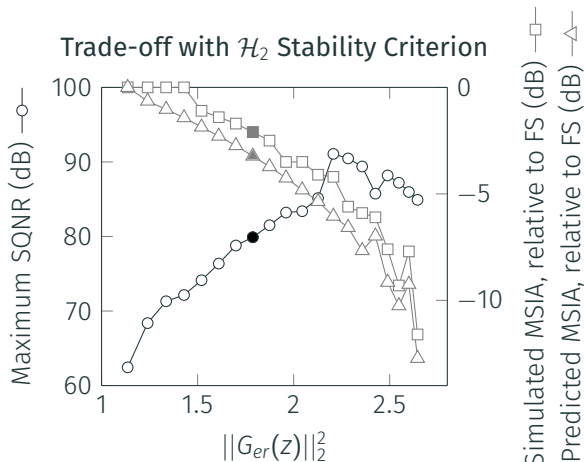


Figure 11: The performance (maximum simulated SQNR) and stability achieved with the modulator design for \mathcal{H}_2 norm goals.

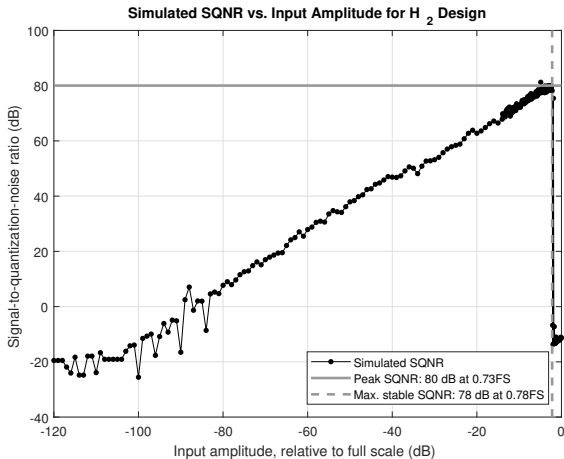


Figure 12: Simulation data for the modulator generated with the \mathcal{H}_2 stability criterion.

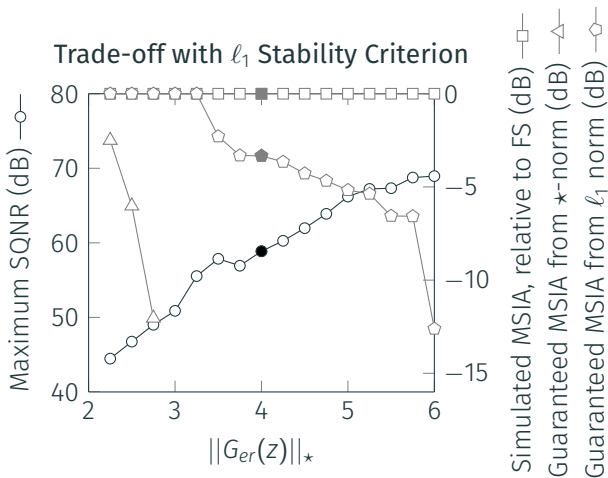


Figure 13: The performance (maximum simulated SQNR) and stability achieved with the modulator design for \star -norm goals.

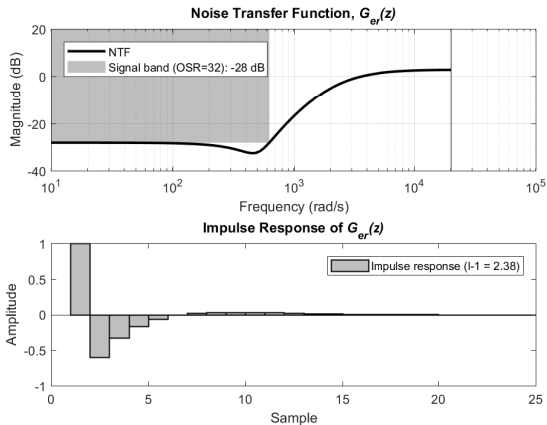


Figure 14: The noise transfer function generated with the l_1 stability criterion and associated optimization targets.

Table 2: The performance and stability observations from simulations done on modulators designed using each stability criterion.

Type	Peak SQNR	MSIA (pred.)	MSIA (sim.)	LRIA
DSToolbox	87 dB	N/A	0.76 FS	-96 dB
\mathcal{H}_∞	86 dB at 0.62 FS	N/A	0.71 FS	-91 dB
Root locus	66 dB	N/A	1 FS	-52 dB
\mathcal{H}_2	78 dB at 0.73 FS	0.69 FS	0.78 FS	-84 dB
l_1	59 dB	0.68 FS	1 FS	-41 dB

Conclusion

- Development of an algorithm that unites sigma delta modulator design using \mathcal{H}_∞ , \mathcal{H}_2 , and ℓ_1 stability criteria with the GKYP performance goal supporting both FIR and IIR filters.

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- Extending the LMI system from [18] to be compatible with other channels of the augmented system.
- Modelling the quantizer gain as an uncertainty and using optimization to enforce stability for a range of quantizer gains.
- Presenting a proof-of-concept of using this work to directly design continuous-time loop filters.

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- Convergence is dependent on choice of optimization parameters and initial conditions.
- It can be difficult to avoid pole-zero cancellations with high order designs.





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- Find better optimization targets for continuous-time modulator design.





Questions?





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Modelling Uncertain Quantizer Gain

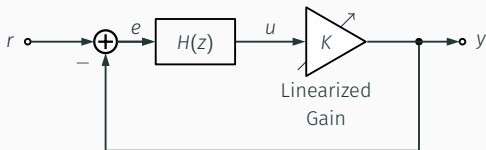


Figure 15: The sigma delta loop with the quantizer represented as an uncertain gain.

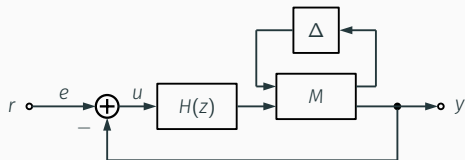


Figure 16: The linearized block diagram with the quantizer replaced by a multiplicative uncertainty extracted via LFT.

Iterative Convexification Procedure

- Find feasible initial condition a_0 .
- Separate out non-convex term:

$$\begin{bmatrix} aa^T & a \\ a^T & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} (a_0 + a_1)(a_0 + a_1)^T - a_1a_1^T & a_0 + a_1 \\ (a_0 + a_1)^T & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} (a_0a_0^T + a_0a_1^T + a_1a_0^T & a_0 + a_1 \\ (a_0 + a_1)^T & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Using known a_0 , solve the non-convex problem in a_1 .
- Repeat process until termination criteria met.

$$a = a_0 + a_1$$

Convergence

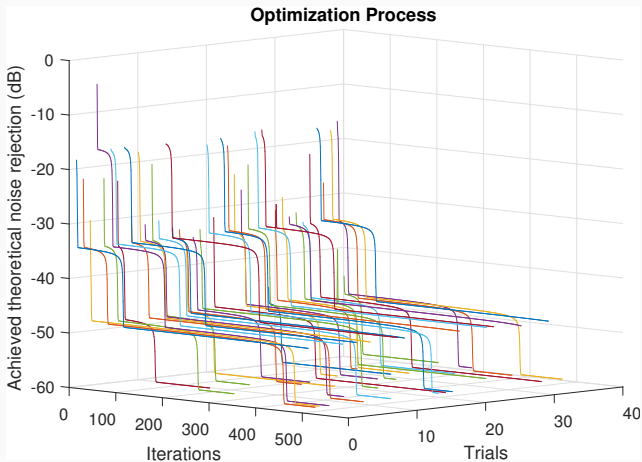


Figure 17: An example of the dependence of the iterative optimization scheme on initial conditions.