



CZECH TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY IN PRAGUE

Faculty of Electrical Engineering

Department of Measurement

Methods of Identification and Correction of Test Signal Imperfections used for Testing ADC Dynamic Parameters

Extended Dissertation Thesis

PhD Programme Electrical Engineering and Informatics

Branch of study Measurement Technology

Supervisor: Vladimír Haasz
Author: David Slepčka

Prague, 2010

Reports on Sensors and Instrumentation

Volume 3

David Slepíčka

**Methods of Identification and Correction
of Test Signal Imperfections used for Testing
ADC Dynamic Parameters**

Shaker Verlag
Aachen 2010

Bibliographic information published by the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek

The Deutsche Nationalbibliothek lists this publication in the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie; detailed bibliographic data are available in the Internet at <http://dnb.d-nb.de>.

Copyright Shaker Verlag 2010

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publishers.

Printed in Germany.

ISBN 978-3-8322-7739-0

ISSN 1868-5056

Shaker Verlag GmbH • P.O. BOX 101818 • D-52018 Aachen

Phone: 0049/2407/9596-0 • Telefax: 0049/2407/9596-9

Internet: www.shaker.de • e-mail: info@shaker.de

Acknowledgement

I would like to thank to Prof. Ing. Vladimír Haasz, CSc. and Assoc. Prof. Ing. Jan Holub, PhD. for expert proof of this thesis and worth remarks.

Summary

In the field of analog-to-digital converter (ADC) testing many types of test signals are applied for the evaluation of ADC dynamic parameters. The research introduced in this thesis is focused on the standardized and most common test signal—sine wave. Several possible imperfections of this signal are analyzed and, if necessary, their correction or an alternative method described. In addition, test systems of several European laboratories are compared because of the portability of results of ADC testing. For this purpose a new transportable high-stable reference ADC device was designed and the first prototype made.

Resumé

V oblasti testování analogově číslicových převodníků (AČP) se pro vyhodnocení dynamických parametrů AČP používá mnoho druhů testovacích signálů. Výzkum popsáný v této práci se zaměřuje na standardní a nejběžnější testovací signál – sinusovku. Je zde analyzováno několik možných nedokonalostí tohoto signálu a v případě nutnosti je popsán způsob korekce nebo alternativní metoda testování. Navíc jsou zde kvůli přenositelnosti výsledků testování AČP porovány testovací systémy několika evropských laboratoří. Za tímto účelem byl navržen a vyhotoven prototyp přenosného vysoko stabilního referenčního AČP.

Zusammenfassung

Beim Testen von Analog-Digital-Umsetzer (ADU) werden viele verschiedene Testsignale zur Bewertung der dynamischen Parameter der ADU eingesetzt. Die Forschung, welche in dieser Arbeit beschrieben ist, konzentriert sich auf das standardisierte und am meisten verwendete Signal – die Sinuskurve. Dabei wurden mehrere mögliche Imperfektionen dieses Signals analysiert und, wenn nötig, die Möglichkeiten zur Korrektur oder alternative Methoden beschrieben. Zur Sicherstellung der Übertragbarkeit der Ergebnisse wurden diese mit mehreren Testsystemen einiger europäischen Labors verglichen und dafür ein neuer tragbarer hochstabilen Referenz-ADU entworfen sowie ein erster Prototyp realisiert.

Contents

1	Introduction	9
1.1	State of the art	11
1.2	Aim of the thesis	12
2	Symbols and common terms	13
2.1	Symbols and acronyms	13
2.2	Common terms	16
3	Comparative measurements	23
3.1	Method application	24
3.2	Results	25
3.3	Summary	28
4	Estimation of signal parameters	29
4.1	Cosine windows	29
4.2	Frequency estimation	30
4.2.1	Proposed algorithm	30
4.2.2	Simulation results	31
4.3	Phase estimation	36
4.4	Frequency spectrum averaging	38
4.4.1	Bias and variance	38
4.4.2	The choice of number of samples and number of averages	41
4.5	Summary	42
5	Uncertainty analysis	43
5.1	DFT modules and phases	43
5.2	RMS values	48
5.3	ADC parameters	52
5.4	Summary	54
6	Particular ADC and test signal parameters	55
6.1	Instabilities	55
6.1.1	Instability detection	55
6.1.2	Influence of instabilities on the ENOB	59
6.1.3	Instability correction	60
6.2	ADC hysteresis	65
6.2.1	Estimation of ADC hysteresis	65
6.2.2	Simulation results	68

6.3	Noise floor	69
6.3.1	Noise floors	69
6.3.2	Recognition of strong spectral components	72
6.3.3	Examples	73
6.4	Summary	74
7	Frequency spectrum correction	75
7.1	Nonlinear band-pass filter	77
7.1.1	Proposed approach	77
7.1.2	Measurement results	79
7.2	Two simple filters	86
7.2.1	Proposed approach	86
7.2.2	Uncertainty analysis	90
7.2.3	Measurement results	92
7.3	Summary	99
8	Dual tone ADC testing	101
8.1	ADC nonlinearity and dual tone	101
8.2	Simulation results	105
8.3	Measurement results	105
8.4	Summary	109
9	Conclusion	111
Bibliography		113
A	ADC test software	119
A.1	Introduction to the <i>ADCanalyzer</i>	119
A.2	Input data source	122
A.2.1	Simulation	122
A.2.2	File	123
A.2.3	RS-232	124
A.3	Data processing	124
A.3.1	Noise analysis	124
A.3.2	Single tone	124
A.3.3	Dual tone	132
A.4	Summary	134
B	AD Transfer Standard 2	135
B.1	Input module with an AD converter	136
B.2	Control and data transfer part	137
B.2.1	FPGA	137
B.2.2	Microprocessor	139
B.2.3	Supplementary modules	141
B.3	Power supply	142
B.3.1	Chargers	142
B.3.2	Stabilizers	142
B.4	User software	143
B.4.1	Main window	143
B.4.2	Preferences window	144
B.5	Summary	146
B.6	Internal designs	146