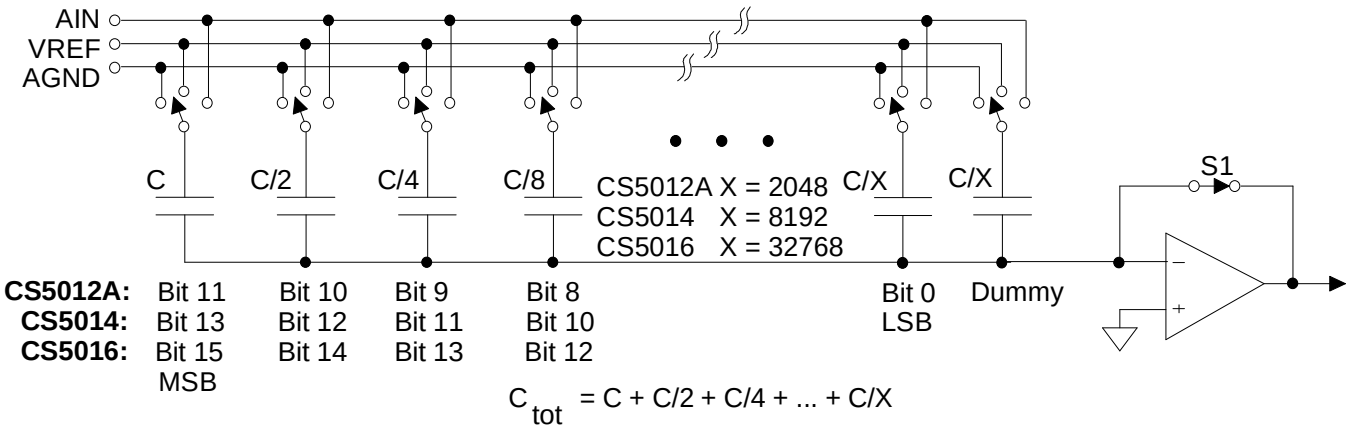

Figure 1. Charge Redistribution DAC

THEORY OF OPERATION

The CS5012A/14/16 family utilize a successive approximation conversion technique. The analog input is successively compared to the output of a D/A converter controlled by the conversion algorithm. Successive approximation begins by comparing the analog input to the DAC output which is set to half-scale (MSB on, all other bits off). If the input is found to be below half-scale, the MSB is reset to zero and the input is compared to one-quarter scale (next MSB on, all others off). If the input were above half-scale, the MSB would remain high and the next comparison would be at three-quarters of full scale. This procedure continues until all bits have been exercised.

A unique charge redistribution architecture is used to implement the successive approximation algorithm. Instead of the traditional resistor network, the DAC is an array of binary-weighted capacitors. All capacitors in the array share a common node at the comparator's input. Their other terminals are capable of being connected to AIN, AGND, or VREF (Figure 1). When the device is not calibrating or converting, all capacitors are tied to AIN forming C_{tot}. Switch S1 is closed and the charge on the array, Q_{in}, tracks the input signal V_{in} (Figure 2a).

When the conversion command is issued, switch S1 opens as shown in Figure 2b. This traps charge Q_{in} on the comparator side of the capacitor array and creates a floating node at the comparator's input. The conversion algorithm operates on this fixed charge, and the signal at the analog input pin is ignored. In effect, the entire DAC capacitor array serves as analog memory

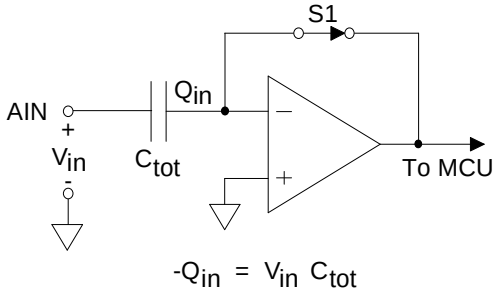

Figure 2a. Tracking Mode

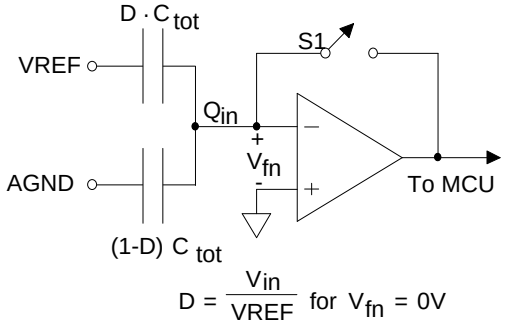

Figure 2b. Convert Mode

during conversion much like a hold capacitor in a sample/hold amplifier.

The conversion consists of manipulating the free plates of the capacitor array to VREF and AGND to form a capacitive divider. Since the charge at the floating node remains fixed, the voltage at that point depends on the proportion of capacitance tied to VREF versus AGND. The successive-approximation algorithm is used to find the proportion of capacitance, termed D in Figure 2b, which when connected to the reference will drive the voltage at the floating node (V_{fn}) to zero. That binary fraction of capacitance represents the converter's digital output.

This charge redistribution architecture easily supports bipolar input ranges. If half the capacitor array (the MSB capacitor) is tied to VREF rather than AIN in the track mode, the input range is doubled and is offset half-scale. The magnitude of the reference voltage thus defines both positive and negative full-scale (-VREF to +VREF), and the digital code is an offset binary representation of the input.

Calibration

The ability of the CS5012A/14/16 to convert accurately clearly depends on the accuracy of their comparator and DAC. The CS5012A/14/16 utilize an "auto-zeroing" scheme to null errors introduced by the comparator. All offsets are stored on the capacitor array while in the track mode and are effectively subtracted from the input signal when a conversion is initiated. Auto-zeroing enhances power supply rejection at frequencies well below the conversion rate.

To achieve complete accuracy from the DAC, the CS5012A/14/16 use a novel self-calibration scheme. Each bit capacitor, shown in Figure 1, actually consists of several capacitors which can be manipulated to adjust the overall bit weight. An on-chip microcontroller adjusts the subarrays to precisely ratio the bits. Each bit is adjusted to just balance the sum of all less significant bits plus one dummy LSB (for example, 16C = 8C + 4C + 2C + C + C). Calibration resolution for the array is a small fraction of an LSB resulting in nearly ideal differential and integral linearity.

DIGITAL CIRCUIT CONNECTIONS

The CS5012A/14/16 can be applied in a wide variety of master clock, sampling, and calibration conditions which directly affect the devices' conversion time and throughput. The devices also feature on-chip 3-state output buffers and a complete interface for connecting to 8-bit and 16-bit digital systems. Output data is also available in serial format.

Master Clock

The CS5012A/14/16 operate from a master clock (CLKIN) which can be externally supplied or internally generated. The internal oscillator is activated by externally tying the CLKIN input low. Alternatively, the CS5012A/14/16 can be synchronized to the external system by driving the CLKIN pin with a TTL or CMOS clock signal.

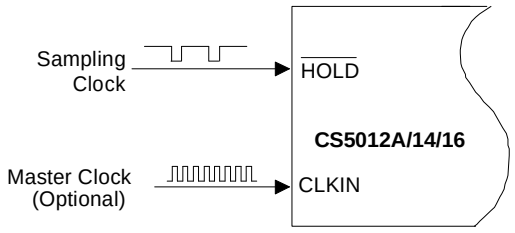

Figure 3a. Asynchronous Sampling

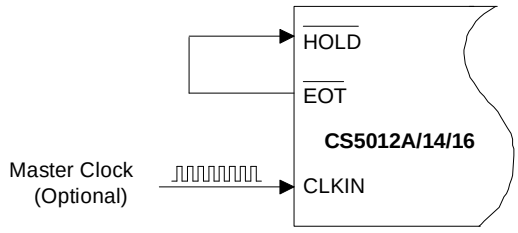

Figure 3b. Synchronous Sampling