

A Monolithic GaAs Decision Circuit for Gbit/s PCM Transmission Systems

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A new monolithically integrated GaAs decision circuit has been fabricated in order to satisfy speed requirements of a 840 Mbit/s coaxial cable PCM transmission system. The circuit is of SSI complexity (about 60 integrated components) and utilizes normally-on type MESFETs with 0.75- μ m gate length, exhibiting a cutoff-frequency $f_{\text{sub T}} = 20$ GHz. The main features of the circuit performance are: high clock frequency capability (up to 3 GHz), 100-ps rise- and fall-times, high dynamic sensitivity (65 mV peak-to-peak over a 1 GHz bandwidth), and moderate power consumption (350 mW typically). The described IC is able to drive low impedance transmission lines (output signal 600 mV/50 Ω) and can be used for multilevel signal regeneration in the 1-2 Gbit/s range.

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