

# National Institute Of Technology Goa Assignment Of VLSI Circuit Design

TOPIC: PMOS INVERTER

**Submitted To:**

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**Aim:** The aim of this experiment PMOS Inverter analysis, salient feature transfer characteristics, delay and power dissipation computation

**Tools Used:** Cadence Software

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## INTRODUCITON

The PMOS inverter is a fundamental building block in digital logic circuits, working as a switching element in complementary MOS (CMOS) logic. The PMOS transistor conducts when the gate voltage is sufficiently lower than the source, offering distinct characteristics compared to NMOS transistors. In this lab report we will be focusing on the transfer characteristics, propagation delay, and power dissipation of the PMOS inverter using Cadence simulation software. The performance metrics such as propagation delay and power consumption were calculated using standard equations, with simulations conducted at a supply voltage of  $V_{dd} = 1.8\text{ V}$  and threshold voltage  $V_{th} = -0.4\text{ V}$ .

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## PMOS

### 1. Transfer Characteristics:

For a PMOS transistor, the drain current  $I_{D1\_DID}$  in the saturation region is:

$$I_D = \frac{1}{2} \mu_p C_{ox} \frac{W}{L} (V_{SG} - |V_{th}|)^2 \quad \text{for } V_{SG} > |V_{th}| \text{ and } V_{SD} > V_{SG} - |V_{th}|$$

where:

- $V_{sg}$  is the source-gate voltage.
- $|V_{th}|$  is the magnitude of the threshold voltage.

### 2. Output Characteristics:

In the saturation region, the output characteristics for the PMOS transistor are:

$$I_D = \mu_n C_{ox} \frac{W}{L} \left[ (V_{GS} - V_{th}) V_{DS} - \frac{V_{DS}^2}{2} \right] \quad \text{for } V_{DS} < V_{GS} - V_{th}$$

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## PRINCIPLE OF OPERATION

The PMOS inverter operates based on the voltage-controlled conduction of the PMOS transistor. When the input voltage  $V_{in}$  is high (close to  $V_{DD}$ ), the gate-source voltage  $V_{SG}$  is low, turning the PMOS transistor off. Consequently, the output voltage  $V_{out}$  is pulled down to ground through the load resistor  $R_L$ , resulting in a low output state. Conversely, when  $V_{in}$  is low (near  $0\text{ V}$ ),  $V_{SG}$  becomes sufficiently negative to turn the PMOS transistor on. This allows current to flow from  $V_{DD}$  to the output, pulling  $V_{out}$  up towards  $V_{DD}$ , resulting in a high output state. The transition between high and low states occurs around the threshold voltage  $V_{th}$  of the PMOS transistor, ensuring proper switching behavior in digital circuits.

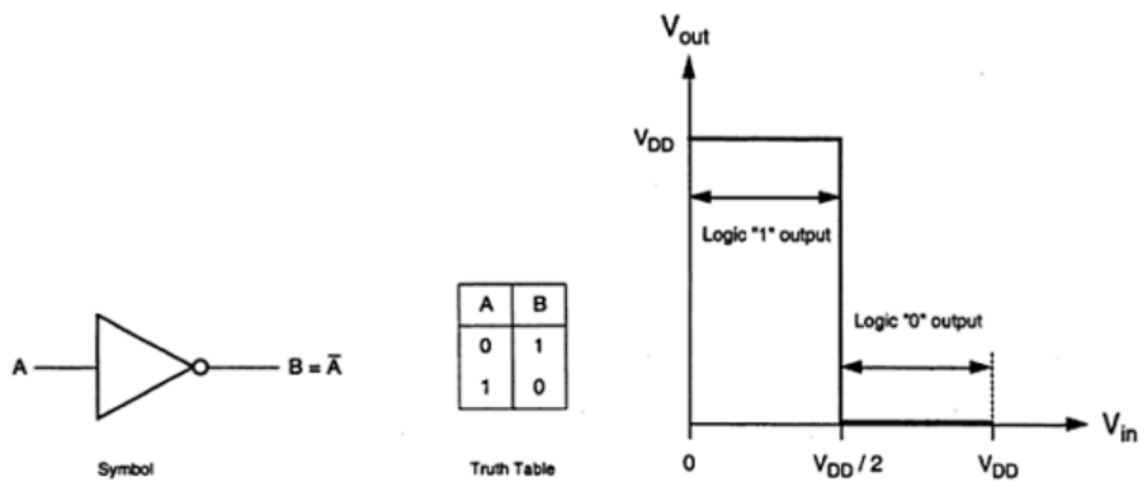


Fig: Ideal Inverter symbol and truth table (src:electronics.com)

## CIRCUIT DESIGN

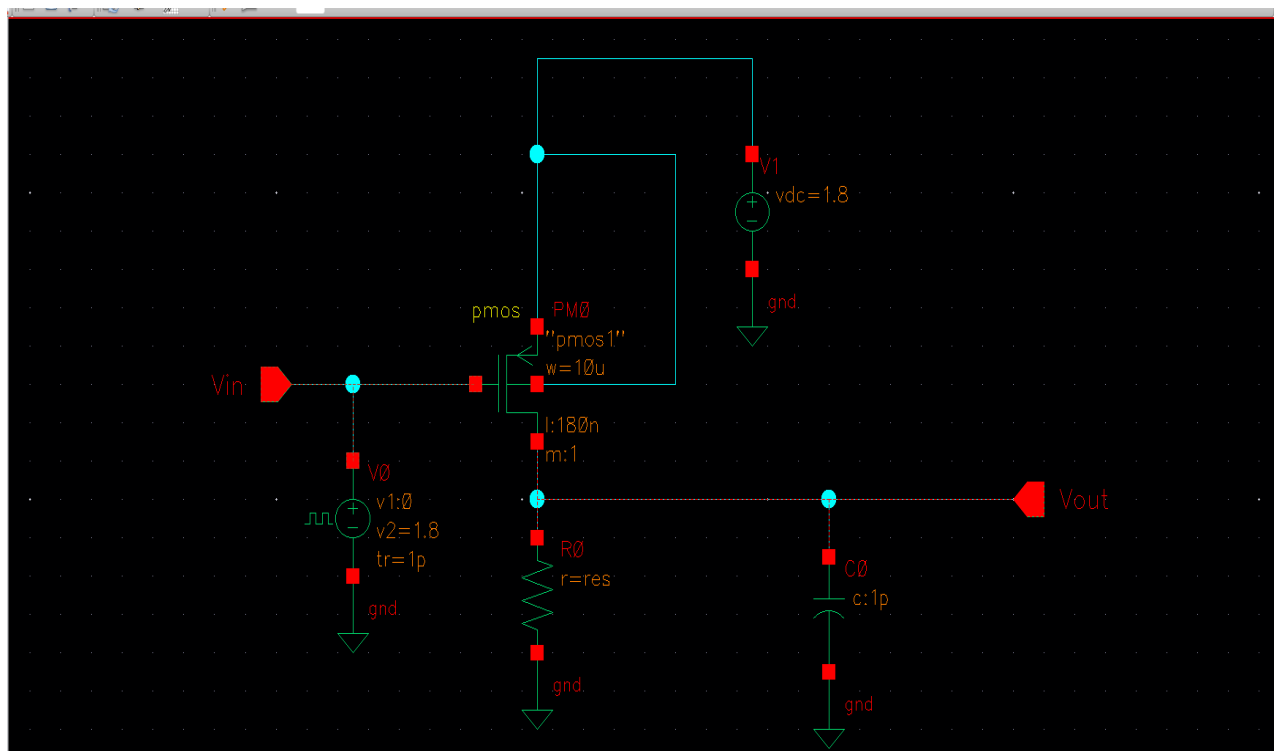


Fig: Circuit Diagram PMOS Inverter

## ❖ Transfer Characteristics



Fig: Parametric Analysis  $V_{in}$  vs  $V_{out}$  for different values of load resistance (NMOS)

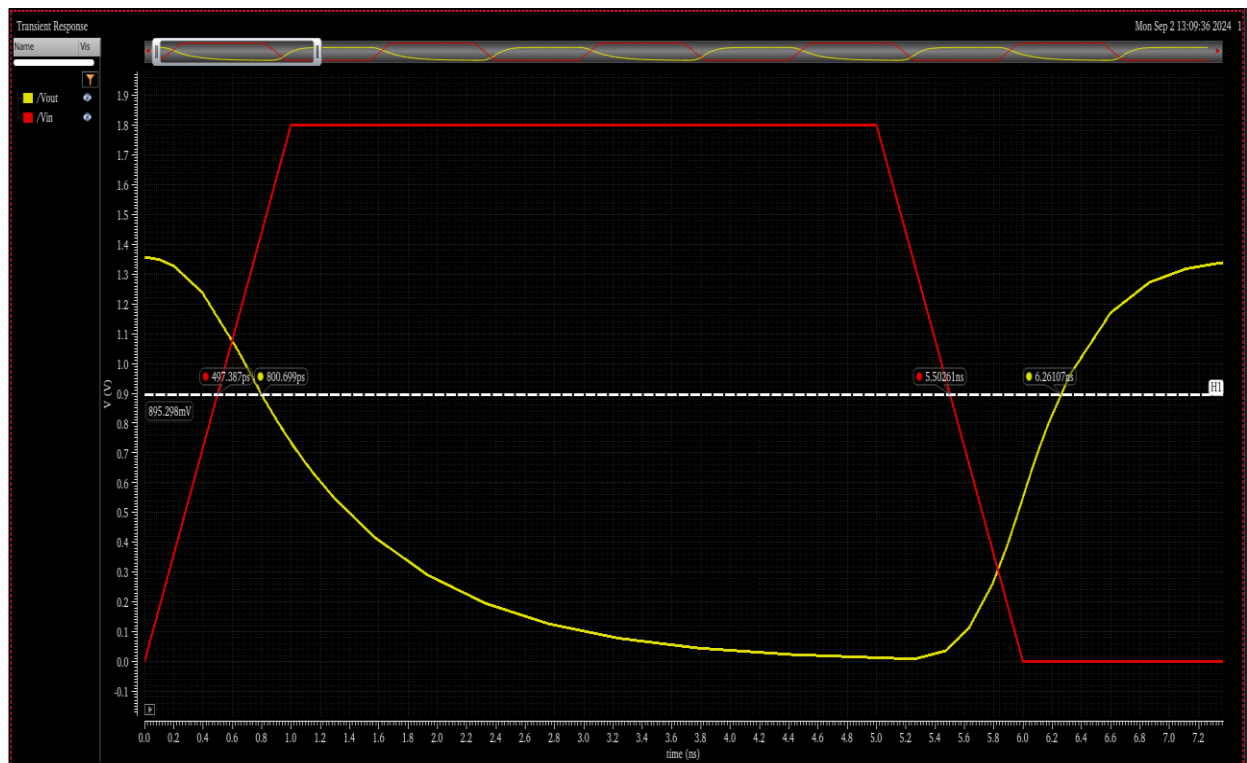


Fig: Transient response

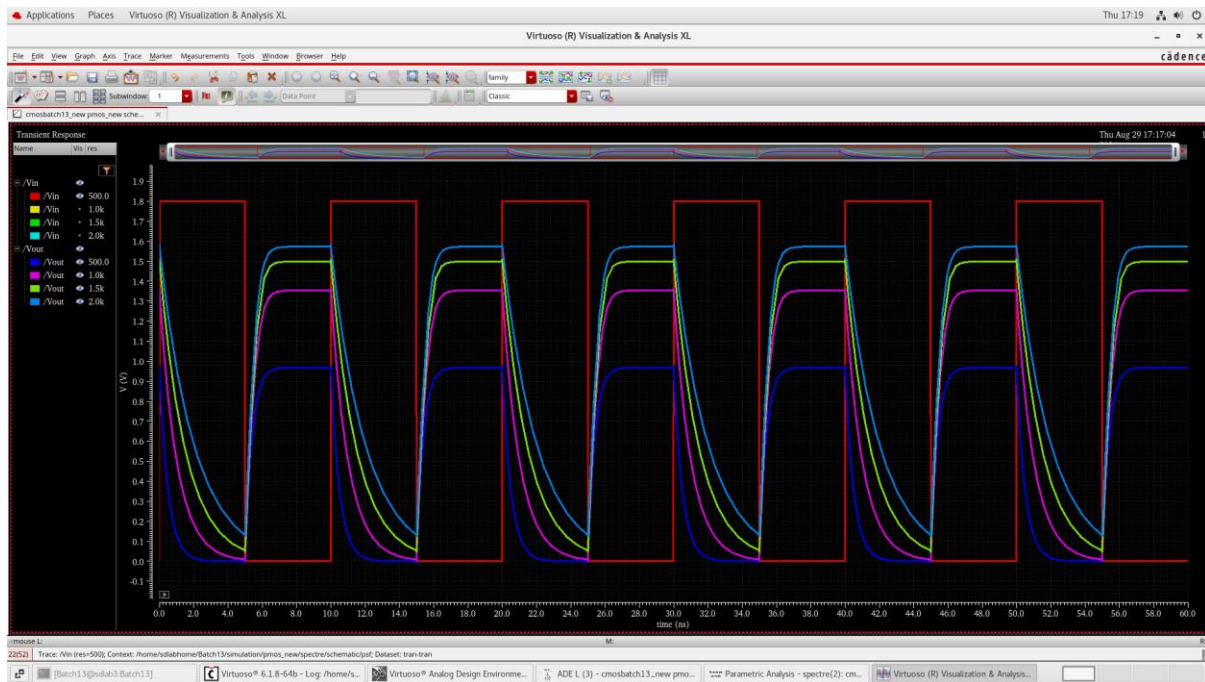


Fig: Circuit response for multiple values of resistance

## PROCEDURE

### 1. Setup in Cadence:

1. Open Cadence Virtuoso and create a new schematic for the PMOS inverter circuits.
2. Add an PMOS transistor and a DC voltage source for VGS and VDS.
3. Connect the drain of the PMOS transistor to the output node
4. Attach a load resistor  $R_L = 10k\Omega$  between Vout and ground
5. Connect a load capacitance  $C_L = 10pF$  at the output node to model the capacitive load
6. Connect the measurement probes to record the drain current Id and the gate voltage Vgs or Vsg.

### 2. Simulation of Transfer Characteristics:

1. Set Vds to a constant value (e.g., 0 to 1.8V).
2. Measure and record the corresponding Vout values to plot the transfer characteristics
3. Run the simulation and plot Id versus Vgs to obtain the transfer characteristics.

### 3. Simulation of Propagation Delay:

1. Apply a input to Vin and perform transient analysis.
2. Measure the time taken for Vout to transition from 50% of its initial value to 50% of its final value

### 4. Power Dissipation calculation:

1. Calculate dynamic power dissipation using the specified frequency  $f = 387.7 \text{ MHz}$

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## OBSERVATIONS

### 1. Transfer Characteristics:

- The  $V_{out}$  remains high (close to  $V_{DD}$ ) when  $V_{in}$  is low (near 0V), indicating the PMOS transistor is conducting.
- As  $V_{in}$  increases,  $V_{out}$  begins to decrease, reflecting the PMOS transistor transitioning towards the cutoff region.
- A sharp transition in  $V_{out}$  occurs around the threshold voltage  $V_{th} = -0.4V$ , demonstrating effective switching behavior.

### 2. Propagation Delay:

- The propagation delay  $t_{pt\_ptp}$  was measured at the 50% transition point of the input and output voltages.
- Rise time ( $t_{pLH}$ ) and fall time ( $t_{pHL}$ ) were consistent with theoretical predictions, each contributing approximately 3.47 ns to the total delay.
- The total propagation delay  $t_p$  was calculated to be approximately 6.94 ns.

### 3. Power Dissipation:

- Dynamic power dissipation was calculated without considering leakage currents.
- At a switching frequency of 387.7 MHz, the dynamic power dissipation was determined to be approximately 1.25 mW.
- The power dissipation is directly proportional to the load capacitance  $C_L$  and the switching frequency  $f$ .

### 4. Overall Performance:

- The PMOS inverter exhibited a sharp and well-defined transition in the transfer characteristics, essential for reliable digital logic operations.
- The propagation delay was minimal, indicating the inverter's suitability for high-speed applications.
- Power dissipation remained within acceptable limits for low-power digital circuits.

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## RESULTS

### 1. Transfer Characteristics

The transfer characteristics plot ( $V_{out}$  vs  $V_{in}$ ) reveals the following:

- **Low Input Voltage ( $V_{in} < V_{th}$ ):**
  - PMOS transistor is on.
  - $V_{out}$  is high, close to  $V_{DD} = 1.8V$
- **High Input Voltage ( $V_{in} > V_{th}$ ):**
  - PMOS transistor is off.
  - $V_{out}$  is low, approaching 0V.
- **Transition Region:**
  - Sharp change in  $V_{out}$  occurs around  $V_{th} = -0.4V$

## 2. Propagation Delay Calculation

### Circuit Parameters:

- Resistor (R): 500 ohms
- Capacitor (C): 1 pF

### Calculations:

#### Rising Edge (PLH):

- 50% of Vout: 0.9V
- Time: 0.8 ns
- 50% of Vin: 0.9V
- Time: 0.497 ns
- $T_{pLH} = (0.8 - 0.497) \text{ ns} = 0.303 \text{ ns}$

#### Falling Edge (PHL):

- 50% of Vout: 0.9V
- Time: 6.261 ns
- 50% of Vin: 0.9V
- Time: 5.5026 ns
- $T_{pLH} = (6.261 - 5.5026) \text{ ns} = 0.7584 \text{ ns}$

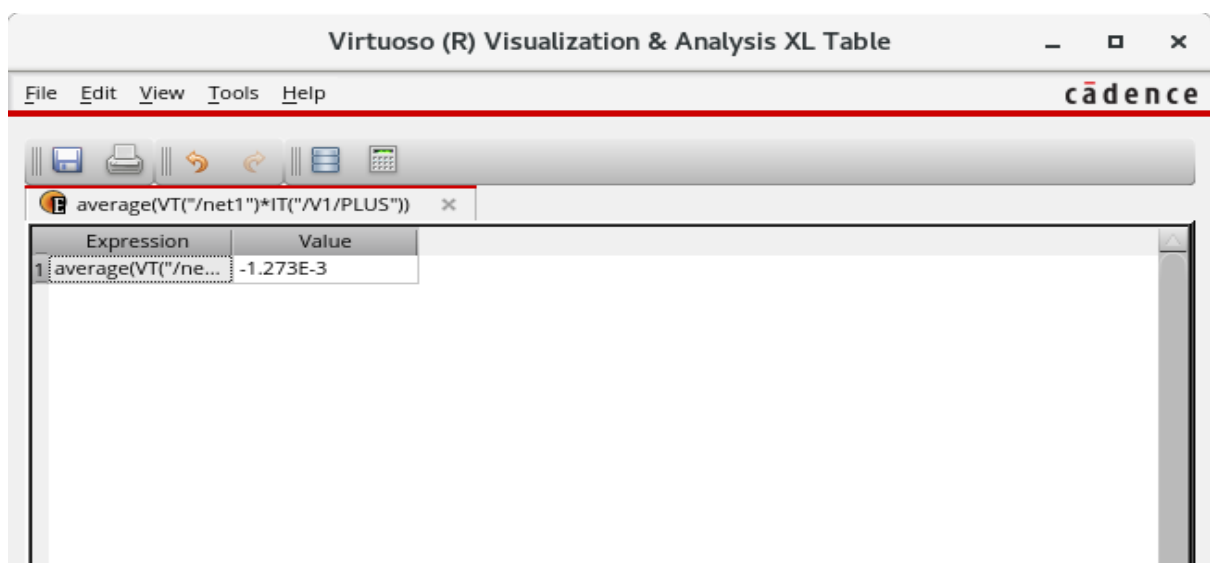
### Propagation Delay (tp):

- $t_p = (T_{pLH} + T_{pHL}) / 2 = (0.303 + 0.7584) \text{ ns} / 2 = 0.5307 \text{ ns}$

### Result:

The propagation delay ( $t_p$ ) of the circuit is **0.5307 nanoseconds**.

## 3. Power Dissipation Calculation





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## CONCLUSION

The following observations were made: Transfer Characteristics:

The  $V_{out}$  remains high (close to  $V_{DD}$ ) when  $V_{in}$  is low (near 0V), indicating the PMOS transistor is conducting. As  $V_{in}$  increases,  $V_{out}$  begins to decrease, reflecting the PMOS transistor transitioning towards the cutoff region.

A sharp transition in  $V_{out}$  occurs around the threshold voltage  $V_{th} = -0.4V$ , demonstrating effective switching behavior.

Propagation Delay: The propagation delay  $t_p$  was measured at the 50% transition point of the input and output voltages.

Rise time ( $t_{pLH}$ ) and fall time ( $t_{pHL}$ ) were consistent with theoretical predictions, each contributing approximately 0.75807 ns to the total delay.

The total propagation delay  $t_p$  was calculated to be approximately 0.5307 ns.

Power Dissipation: Power dissipation was calculated. At a switching frequency of 387.7 MHz, the dynamic power dissipation was determined to be approximately 1.27 mW. The power dissipation is directly proportional to the load capacitance  $C_L$  and the switching frequency  $f$ .

Overall Performance: The PMOS inverter exhibited a sharp and well-defined transition in the transfer characteristics, essential for reliable digital logic operations. The propagation delay was minimal, indicating the inverter's suitability for high-speed applications. Power dissipation remained within acceptable limits for low-power digital circuits.

## REFERENCES

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