

Date of publication xxxx 00, 0000, date of current version xxxx 00, 0000.

Digital Object Identifier 10.1109/ACCESS.2024.0429000

Generative AI for Analog/RF Integrated Circuit Design and Netlist Synthesis: Evolving Methodologies and Emerging Applications

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ABSTRACT Electronic Design Automation (EDA) in analog Integrated Circuits (ICs) continues to be a critical research area, yet its widespread adoption significantly lags behind its digital counterpart due to inherent complexities. This extended systematic review updates recent contributions in the last five years, specifically highlighting cutting-edge methods that address persistent domain-specific challenges such as data scarcity, efficient topology exploration, robust parameter optimization considering process-voltage-temperature (PVT) variations, and accurate layout parasitic management. Our primary objective is to equip researchers new to this rapidly evolving domain with a comprehensive collection of references, a refined understanding of current challenges, and practical application guidelines. We provide an in-depth methodological review of state-of-the-art machine learning (ML) and generative AI approaches—including Graph Neural Networks (GNNs), Large Language Models (LLMs), and Variational Autoencoders (VAEs)—which are increasingly applied across various analog circuit design tasks, from topology synthesis to parameter sizing and validation. Notably, this survey expands on previous works by integrating discussions on newer, comprehensive frameworks like FALCON and MenTeR, which introduce end-to-end design, multi-agent workflows, and advanced layout-aware optimization. To the best of the authors' knowledge, this is the second review after [1] to comprehensively explore these latest applications of generative AI models in analog IC circuit design, charting their evolution and impact. We conclude by identifying key future research directions, emphasizing few-shot learning, multi-modal AI, and advanced multi-agent systems to further simplify human-tool interaction and guide design space exploration for industrial-scale analog ICs.

INDEX TERMS Analog integrated circuits (ICs), electronic design automation (EDA), generative artificial intelligence (GenAI), graph neural networks (GNNs), large language models (LLMs), machine learning (ML), netlist synthesis, parameter optimization, layout-aware sizing, topology synthesis, variational autoencoders (VAEs).

I. INTRODUCTION

THE escalating complexity and diverse performance requirements of modern analog systems underpin advancements in crucial technologies such as generative AI, 5G/6G communication, and quantum computing. "analog genie" These demands necessitate full-flow automation to effectively manage the intricate trade-offs between numerous performance parameters, a task where traditional manual approaches are notoriously time-consuming and heavily reliant on scarce expert knowledge. While digital design automation has witnessed extensive development and widespread adop-

tion across both industry and academia, the automation of analog IC design continues to face significant challenges.

Researchers have made concerted efforts to automate various stages of the analog design flow "genAI paper". Conventionally, the process is segmented into three primary areas at the circuit level: topology selection, circuit sizing, and layout generation, often with complex feedback loops, as clearly shown in Fig. 1. Although remarkable progress has been achieved in layout generation tools, such as MAGICAL and ALIGN, and in certain aspects of digital IC design with generative AI, the development of scalable and robust solu-

tions for analog circuit sizing and comprehensive topology design remains a formidable challenge. Furthermore, a truly practical automation flow at each stage must inherently account for the interdependencies across design stages^{5,6,7 from genAI paper}; for instance, the initial selection of a topology must proactively consider potential layout parasitics and their subsequent impact on performance metrics.

The fundamental challenge arises from the intricate design complexities of analog ICs. Unlike digital ICs that can be universally and hierarchically abstracted into Boolean logic representations and easily described with high-level hardware description languages (e.g., Verilog and VHDL) or programming languages (e.g., C), analog ICs remain intractable to such abstraction due to their lack of systematic hierarchical representation and the heuristic and knowledge-intensive nature of their design process [1]. This makes automating analog IC design using programming languages similar to those for digital ICs extremely difficult. As such, domain experts have followed a longstanding manual flow to design analog ICs. This process involves a number of time-consuming stages, such as selecting/creating an existing (new) circuit topology (i.e., defining the connections between devices), optimizing device parameters based on the topology to achieve desired performance, and designing the physical layout of the optimized circuit for manufacturing. Importantly, the topology generation stage is the foundation and most creative part of the analog IC design process, posing a formidable and perennial challenge to design automation. Addressing it is the key to accelerating the development of analog ICs.

In response to these challenges, machine learning (ML) has emerged as a promising solution. Learning-based methods, which leverage simulation data for training, offer more efficient design space exploration. ML techniques can be applied individually or in combination to facilitate decision-making, function approximation, and black-box optimization. Recent breakthroughs in generative AI, a subset of ML, have presented transformative opportunities to expedite these conventional design flows. Models such as Graph Neural Networks (GNNs) have shown significant advantages for handling graph-structured circuit data, while Variational Autoencoders (VAEs) are being explored to learn underlying data distributions for tasks like topology optimization. Furthermore, Large Language Models (LLMs), traditionally used for natural language processing, have demonstrated remarkable adaptability to large-scale design problems, including layout automation, optimization, and topology generation.

Despite these advances, many prior studies on ML-driven analog circuit design have often focused on isolated sub-tasks or simple, homogeneous circuits, overlooking the complexities of real-world heterogeneous systems. "AI Circuit, The persistent lack of comprehensive, generic, and diverse datasets with robust metrics has been a major impediment to thoroughly evaluating and improving ML algorithms in the analog domain. Moreover, many early generative AI approaches for topology generation were limited in scale, producing single types of small or conventional ICs, or suffered

from ambiguous representations. This has encouraged the recent works to try bridging these gaps by proposing more holistic frameworks that integrate multiple design stages, leverage multi-agent systems, and incorporate layout-aware optimization to better reflect practical design scenarios. "AI Circuit, FALCON, MenTeR "ADO-LLM", "Analog-GENIE", "AMP-AGENT"

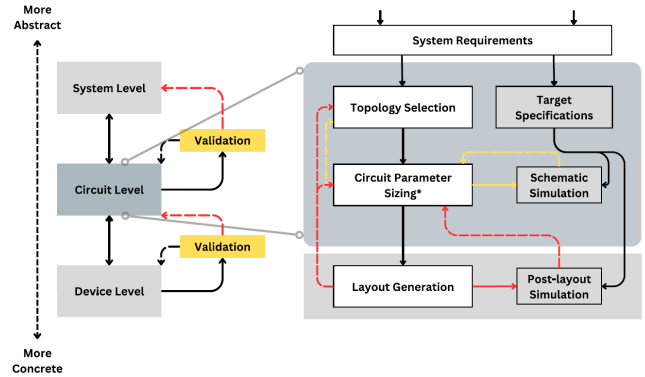


FIGURE 1. Analog design automation flow, focusing on circuit-level automation. Dashed lines indicate dependencies between design stages.

This paper aims to bridge these gaps by providing an updated and expanded systematic review of generative AI applications in analog IC design. We particularly focus on recent developments that push the boundaries of automation across the entire design pipeline, addressing shortcomings such as data scarcity, limited scalability, and inadequate layout awareness. Specifically, this review will integrate analysis of groundbreaking new frameworks like:

- **AnalogGenie:** A generative engine focused on the automatic discovery of diverse, large, and unseen analog circuit topologies using a scalable sequence-based graph representation and an augmented dataset.
- **AnalogCoder:** The first training-free LLM agent that designs analog circuits through Python code generation, employing feedback-enhanced flows and a circuit tool library.
- **SPICEPilot:** A framework leveraging LLMs to generate Python-based SPICE code, addressing data scarcity by automating dataset creation and providing standardized benchmarking.
- **AnalogXpert:** An LLM-based agent for subcircuit-level SPICE code generation that incorporates circuit design expertise through a proofreading strategy for iterative error correction.
- **MenTeR:** A fully-automated multi-agent workflow for end-to-end RF/Analog circuit netlist design, emphasizing specification understanding, collaborative optimization, and test bench validation through Chain-of-Stage reasoning and Diagram-Aware RAG.
- **FALCON:** A unified ML framework enabling fully automated, specification-driven analog circuit synthesis through performance-driven topology selection, GNN-

based parameter inference, and layout-constrained optimization, validated with industrial-grade simulations.

- **AICircuit:** A multi-level dataset and benchmark that facilitates the development and evaluation of ML algorithms for both homogeneous and heterogeneous analog and RF circuit designs.
- **AMSNet:** A netlist dataset for Analog and Mixed-Signal (AMS) circuits, which consists of 734 topologies and has been utilized for LLM-based AMS circuit auto-design and netlist generation.
- **AnalogCoderPro:** A training-free, end-to-end multi-modal LLM framework that unifies topology generation and device sizing. It advances AnalogCoder by incorporating a multimodal diagnosis-and-repair feedback loop that uses simulation logs and waveform images for autonomous error correction.

These frameworks represent significant strides toward achieving holistic, human-competitive, and even superhuman capabilities in analog IC design.

The main contributions of this paper are as follows:

- **Comprehensive Survey of Recent Advancements:** Examine and compare recent advancements in generative AI for analog circuit design, with a particular focus on evolving techniques that address topology exploration, scalable parameter sizing, robust PVT variations, and realistic layout parasitics.
- **Methodological Review of State-of-the-Art Techniques:** Provide a methodological review of state-of-the-art generative AI techniques applied in analog circuit design automation, including Graph Neural Networks (GNNs), Large Language Models (LLMs), and Variational Autoencoders (VAEs), showcasing their latest applications and interconnections.
- **Analysis of Novel Comprehensive Frameworks:** Integrate and analyze new, comprehensive frameworks such as FALCON, MenTeR, AnalogGenie, AnalogCoder, SPICEPilot, and AnalogXpert, which were not thoroughly covered in previous surveys, providing insights into their unique contributions and synergistic potential.
- **Practical Resource Compilation:** Collect and synthesize abundant resources, open-source codes, and application guidelines to serve as a practical reference for researchers new to or advancing within the field of analog circuit automation.

The remainder of this paper is structured as follows: section II summarizes and compares previous review papers in terms of their automation scope and the ML techniques covered, highlighting the gaps addressed by this work. section III introduces fundamental IC design challenges and outlines how these challenges shape the automation task for generative AI. section IV provides the fundamentals of generative AI relevant to recent research, including detailed discussions on GNNs, LLMs, and VAEs. section V comprehensively compares significant research works, focusing on their method-

ologies, key problems they attempt to solve, and their contributions to the evolving landscape of analog design automation. Finally, section VI outlines future research directions and challenges for large-scale industrial adoption, including discussions on multi-agent systems and multi-modal AI.

II. RELATED WORKS AND SURVEY LANDSCAPE

The rapid evolution of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and foundation models has spurred numerous systematic reviews aimed at capturing the state-of-the-art in Electronic Design Automation (EDA) "To add all previous survey papers".

This section summarizes the scope of previous survey papers and highlights the critical gaps that this work addresses, particularly concerning the application of generative AI to the complex domain of analog integrated circuits (ICs).

A. TAXONOMY OF PRIOR AI FOR EDA SURVEYS

Existing reviews on AI for EDA can generally be categorized into two major types based on the AI paradigm they cover "A survey of circuit foundation models":

1) Supervised Predictive AI Techniques

This category represents the mainstream of earlier AI for EDA solutions "circuit foundation model, generative AI for analog IC", focusing on supervised predictive models tailored for specific tasks, such as early prediction of design quality metrics (e.g., timing, area, power). These works have been extensively studied and covered in earlier surveys "put all previous surveys". However, they often fall short in addressing the unique challenges of analog IC design, which requires more than just predictive accuracy. The need for creativity in topology generation and the handling of continuous parameter spaces are aspects that these surveys do not fully explore.

2) Foundation AI Techniques (Circuit Foundation Models - CFMs)

This emerging trend focuses on models characterized by pre-training on large datasets followed by fine-tuning for specific applications, enhancing generalization and generative capabilities "put survey of circuit foundation models here". The concept of Circuit Foundation Models (CFMs) encompasses two primary approaches: encoder-based and decoder-based models. Encoder-based models, such as Graph Neural Networks (GNNs), are adept at learning representations from graph-structured data, making them suitable for tasks like topology classification and parameter prediction. Decoder-based models, including Variational Autoencoders (VAEs) and Large Language Models (LLMs), excel in generating new designs by learning the underlying distribution of existing circuits.

Most recent surveys on second type CFMs have primarily focused on decoder-based models, specifically Large Language Models (LLMs) for EDA "search of relevant papers in the survey paper". This focus reflects the immense generative potential demonstrated by LLMs in areas like Hardware De-

scription Language (HDL) code generation, verification, and debugging "search of relevant papers in the survey paper".

B. COMPARISON OF COVERAGE AND GAPS

A direct comparison reveals that existing surveys often suffer from limitations in scope, depth of analog coverage, or model inclusivity "pick relevant papers from previous surveys".

TABLE 1. Comparison of Survey Focus and Gaps

Survey	ML/AI Techniques	Gaps Addressed
Traditional Analog Surveys	Bayesian Optimization (BO), Evolutionary Algorithms (EA), Deep Neural Networks (DNNs), Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs)	Lack coverage of generative AI (LLMs, VAEs) and end-to-end integration; often overlook post-layout effects
LLM-EDA	Decoder LLMs	Lacks encoders (GNNs); digital bias; limited analog focus
Recent Perspectives	Encoder/Decoder LLMs	Missing latest GenAI & multi-agent analog applications

Specific Gaps in Previous Literature:

1) Model Inclusivity:

The majority of LLM-focused surveys covered only decoder-based LLMs. This survey, in contrast, incorporates both encoder-based GNNs (used for generalized circuit representation learning and predictive tasks like design quality evaluation) and decoder-based LLMs (used for generative tasks) into a unified CFM framework.

2) Analog Depth:

While analog design is briefly mentioned in some LLM surveys, they lack the depth required to address critical analog-specific challenges. Older analog-focused reviews often relied on manual feature extraction or overlooked post-layout performance, leading to performance mismatch issues. The need for joint optimization of sizing and layout to mitigate misleading results is critical.

3) Emerging Frameworks and Methodologies:

Previous surveys published prior to 2024 missed the analysis of ground-breaking generative and optimization frameworks essential for holistic analog design automation. This includes:

- **End-to-End Automation:** Comprehensive systems that integrate topology selection, sizing, and layout awareness were not widely covered. This survey introduces FALCON, a unified ML framework that achieves layout-constrained optimization validated against industrial-grade simulations.
- **Multi-Agent and Feedback Systems:** The latest advancements involve intricate collaborative LLM agents. This work incorporates MenTeR, a multi-agent workflow for RF/Analog netlist design emphasizing speci-

fication understanding and Chain-of-Stage (CoS) reasoning, and AnalogXpert, which uses a proofreading strategy based on human experience for iterative error correction.

- **Data Scarcity Solutions:** The systematic creation of large-scale, open-source datasets is vital. This review covers initiatives like AICircuit (for homogeneous and heterogeneous circuits), Masala-CHAI (a multimodal LLM-powered framework that generates large-scale SPICE netlists directly from circuit schematics, enabling automated dataset creation and benchmarking), and SPICEPilot (LLM-generated SPICE datasets).

By incorporating over 130 relevant works, spanning both predictive (encoder-based) and generative (decoder-based) methodologies, this survey provides a comprehensive collection of resources and application guidelines for researchers targeting industrial-scale analog IC design challenges.

Please don't use the $\{eqnarray\}$ equation environment. Use $\{align\}$ or $\{IEEEeqnarray\}$ instead. The $\{eqnarray\}$ environment leaves unsightly spaces around relation symbols.

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The word "data" is plural, not singular. The subscript for the permeability of vacuum μ_0 is zero, not a lowercase letter "o." The term for residual magnetization is "remanence"; the adjective is "remanent"; do not write "remnance" or "remnant." Use the word "micrometer" instead of "micron." A graph within a graph is an "inset," not an "insert." The word "alternatively" is preferred to the word "alternately" (unless you really mean something that alternates). Use the word "whereas" instead of "while" (unless you are referring to simultaneous events). Do not use the word "essentially" to mean "approximately" or "effectively." Do not use the word

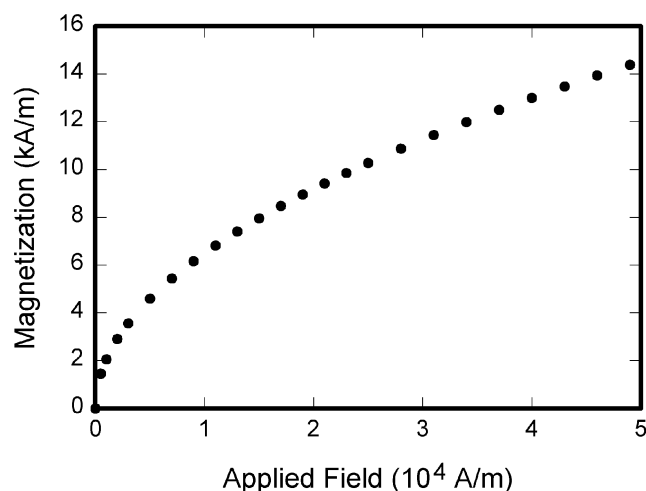


FIGURE 2. Magnetization as a function of applied field. It is good practice to explain the significance of the figure in the caption.

“issue” as a euphemism for “problem.” When compositions are not specified, separate chemical symbols by en-dashes; for example, “NiMn” indicates the intermetallic compound $\text{Ni}_{0.5}\text{Mn}_{0.5}$ whereas “Ni–Mn” indicates an alloy of some composition $\text{Ni}_x\text{Mn}_{1-x}$.

Be aware of the different meanings of the homophones “affect” (usually a verb) and “effect” (usually a noun), “complement” and “compliment,” “discreet” and “discrete,” “principal” (e.g., “principal investigator”) and “principle” (e.g., “principle of measurement”). Do not confuse “imply” and “infer.”

Prefixes such as “non,” “sub,” “micro,” “multi,” and “ultra” are not independent words; they should be joined to the words they modify, usually without a hyphen. There is no period after the “et” in the Latin abbreviation “*et al.*” (it is also italicized). The abbreviation “i.e.,” means “that is,” and the abbreviation “e.g.,” means “for example” (these abbreviations are not italicized).

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3) Author photos

Author photographs should be included with the author biographies located at the end of the article underneath References.

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TABLE 2. Units for Magnetic Properties

Symbol	Quantity	Conversion from Gaussian and CGS EMU to SI ^a
Φ	magnetic flux	1 Mx $\rightarrow 10^{-8}$ Wb = 10^{-8} V·s
B	magnetic flux density, magnetic induction	1 G $\rightarrow 10^{-4}$ T = 10^{-4} Wb/m ²
H	magnetic field strength	1 Oe $\rightarrow 10^3/(4\pi)$ A/m
m	magnetic moment	1 erg/G = 1 emu $\rightarrow 10^{-3}$ A·m ² = 10^{-3} J/T
M	magnetization	1 erg/(G·cm ³) = 1 emu/cm ³ $\rightarrow 10^3$ A/m
$4\pi M$	magnetization	1 G $\rightarrow 10^3/(4\pi)$ A/m
σ	specific magnetization	1 erg/(G·g) = 1 emu/g $\rightarrow 1$ A·m ² /kg
j	magnetic dipole moment	1 erg/G = 1 emu $\rightarrow 4\pi \times 10^{-10}$ Wb·m
J	magnetic polarization	1 erg/(G·cm ³) = 1 emu/cm ³ $\rightarrow 4\pi \times 10^{-4}$ T
χ, κ	susceptibility	1 $\rightarrow 4\pi$
χ_ρ	mass susceptibility	1 cm ³ /g $\rightarrow 4\pi \times 10^{-3}$ m ³ /kg
μ	permeability	1 $\rightarrow 4\pi \times 10^{-7}$ H/m $= 4\pi \times 10^{-7}$ Wb/(A·m)
μ_r	relative permeability	$\mu \rightarrow \mu_r$
w, W	energy density	1 erg/cm ³ $\rightarrow 10^{-1}$ J/m ³
N, D	demagnetizing factor	1 $\rightarrow 1/(4\pi)$

Vertical lines are optional in tables. Statements that serve as captions for the entire table do not need footnote letters.

^aGaussian units are the same as cg emu for magnetostatics; Mx = maxwell, G = gauss, Oe = oersted; Wb = weber, V = volt, s = second, T = tesla, m = meter, A = ampere, J = joule, kg = kilogram, H = henry.

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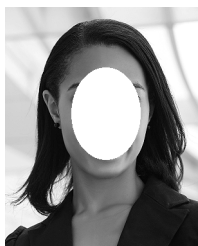


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