

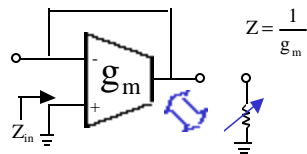
Operational Transconductance – C (OTA-C) and Current-Mode Filter Structures

- OTA-C Filter Topologies
- What is current-mode and how is related to Transconductance mode ?
- Current-Mode Filters
- How to use a conventional OTA as a filter by adding capacitances at the internal nodes.

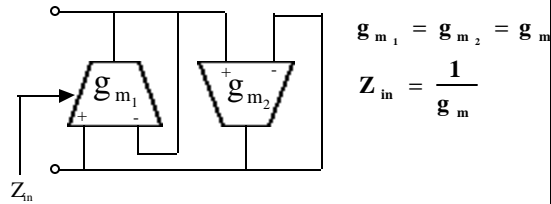


Edgar Sánchez-Sinencio

Controlled Impedance Elements



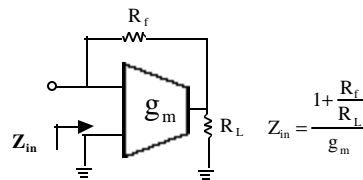
(a) Single-ended voltage variable resistor (VVR).



(b) Floating VVR

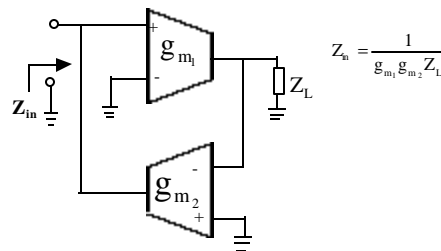
$$g_{m_1} = g_{m_2} = g_m$$

$$Z_{in} = \frac{1}{g_m}$$



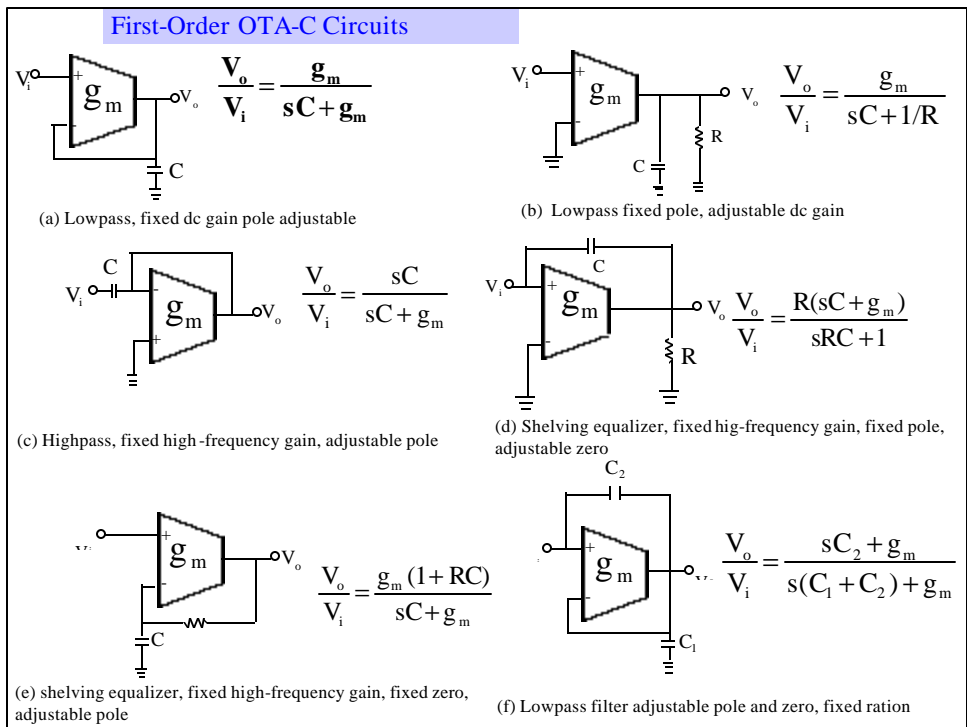
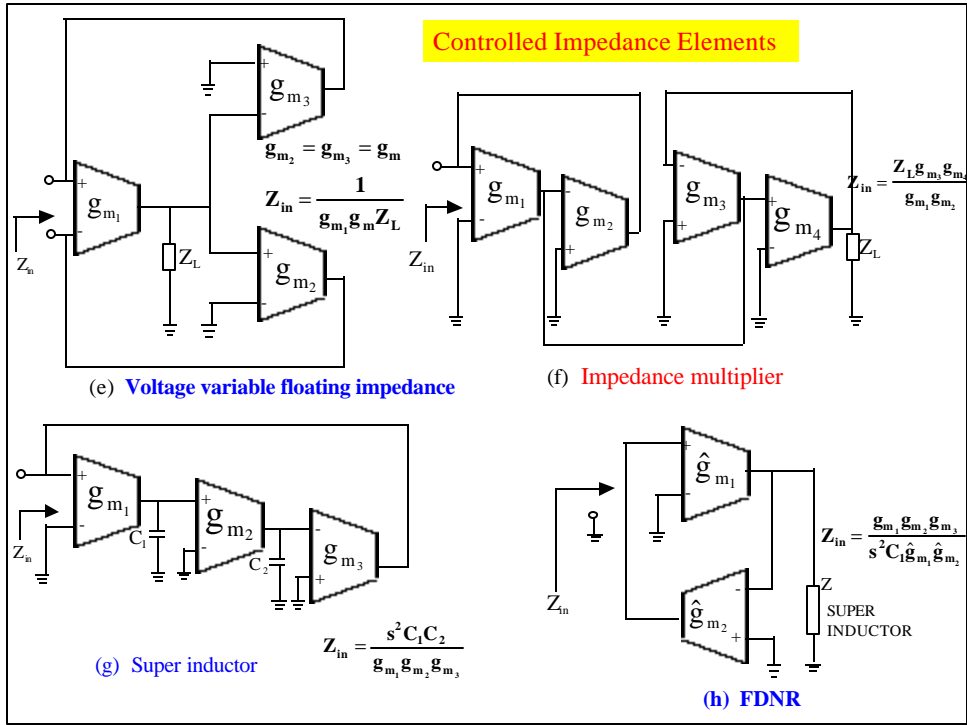
(c) Scaled VVR

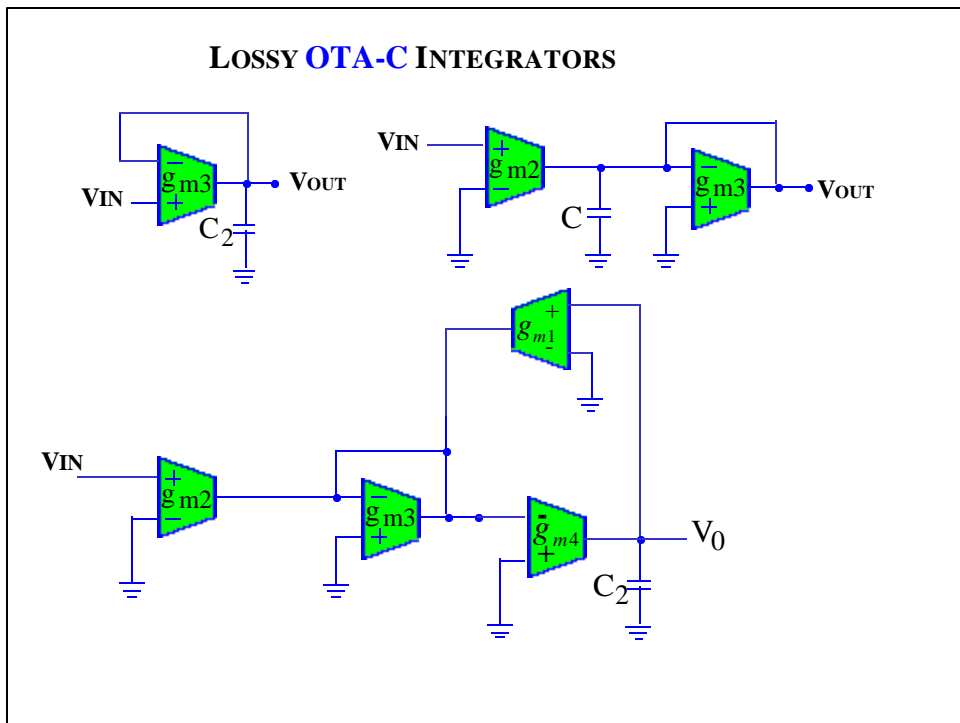
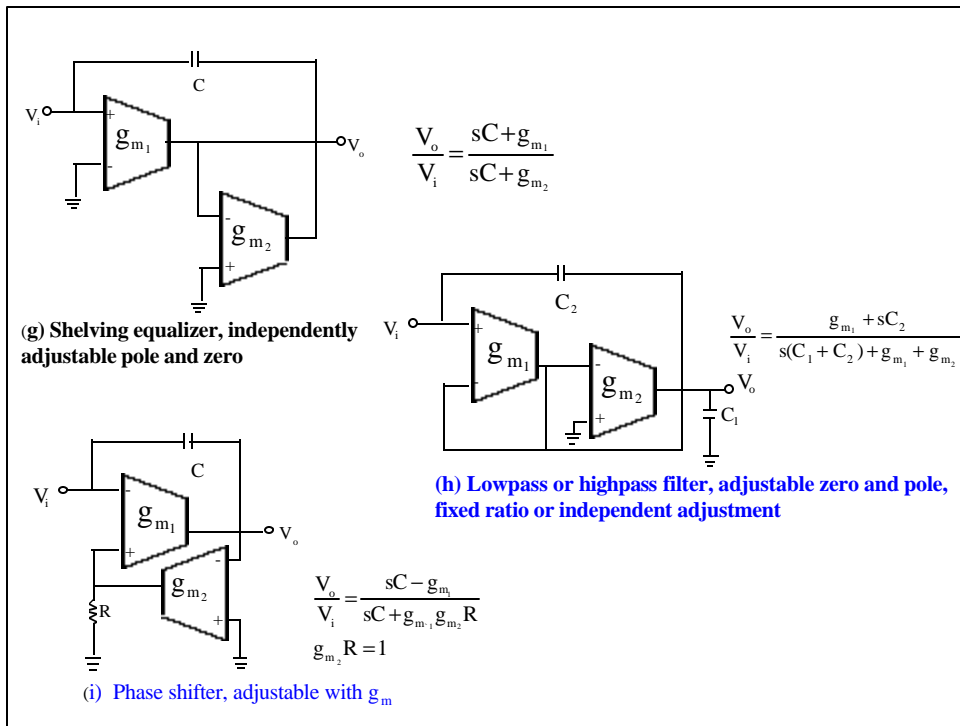
$$Z_{in} = \frac{1 + \frac{R_f}{R_L}}{g_m}$$

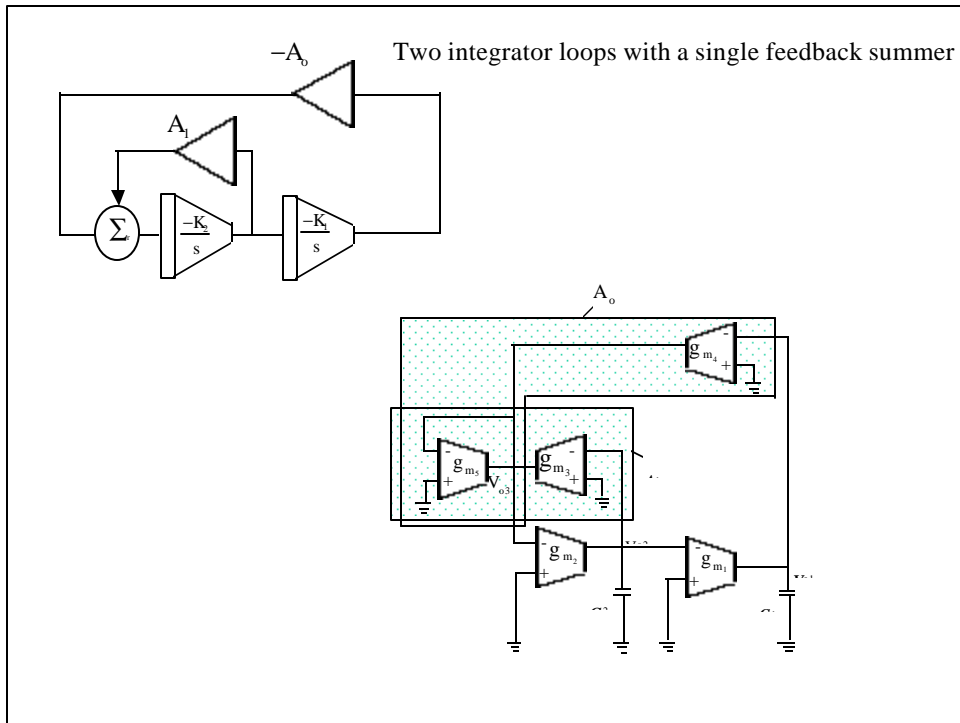
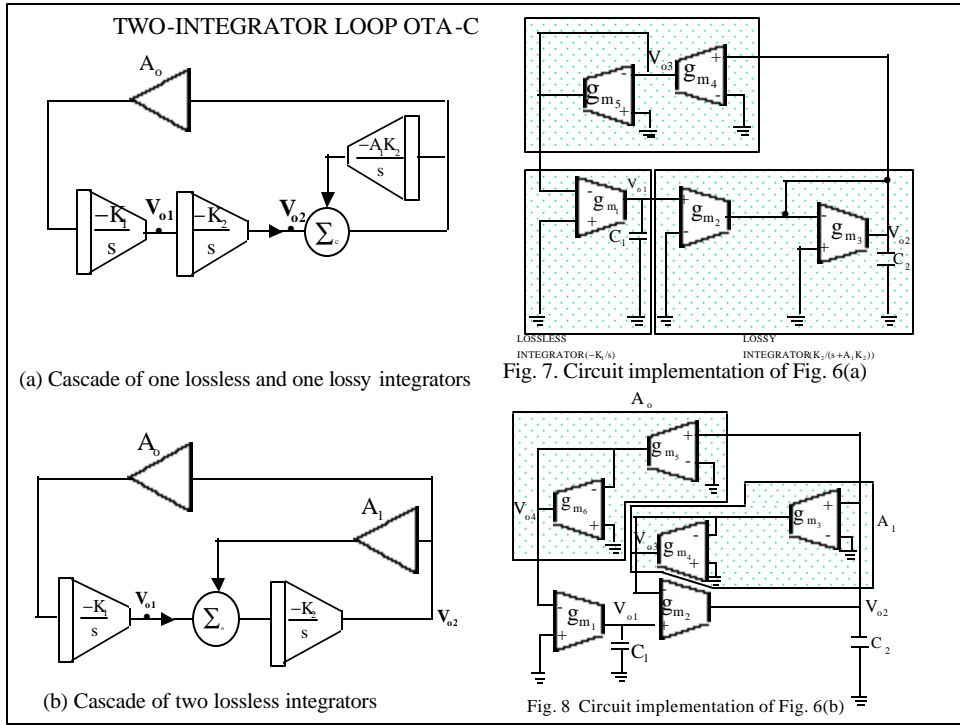


(d) Voltage variable impedance inverter

$$Z_{in} = \frac{1}{g_{m_1} g_{m_2} Z_L}$$

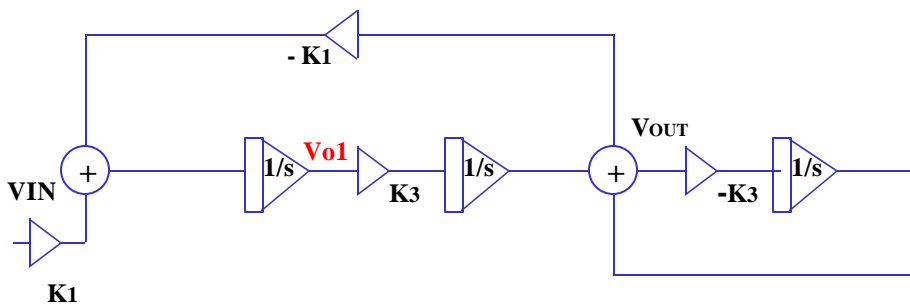
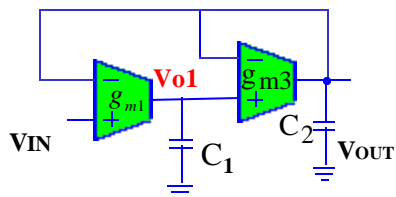




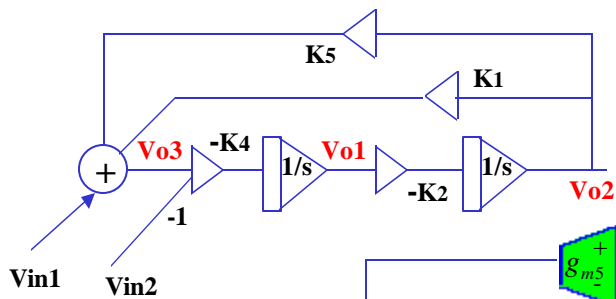


OTA-C Two Integrator Loop Filters

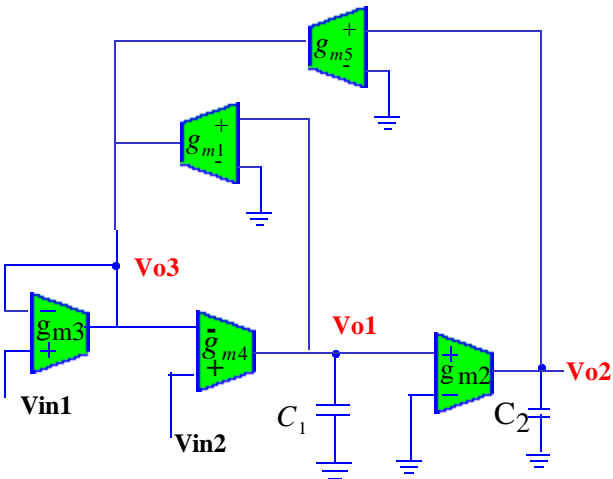
Two OTAs Filter



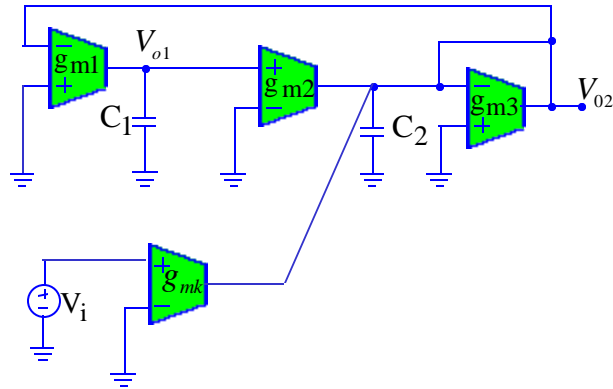
KHN Two-integrator Loop with OTA-C Implementation.



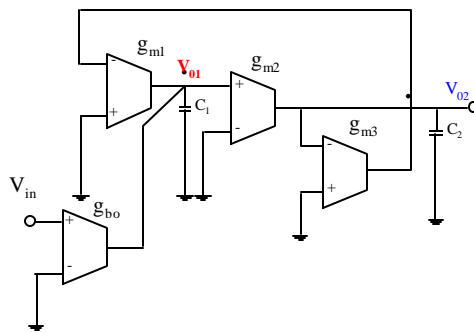
Where
 $K5 = gm5/gm3$
 $K1 = gm1/gm3$
 $K4 = gm4/C1$
 $K2 = gm2/C2$



OTA-C Biquadratic Filter based on a Two-integrator Loop



INTERNAL VOLTAGE SCALING



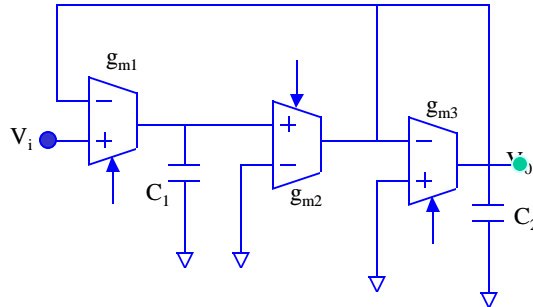
Assume the voltage V_{o1} needs to be scaled by a factor “a” without changing the other node voltages:

1. The impedance at the node under consideration must be increased by “a”. In this case C_1 becomes C_1/a .
2. Multiply all the transconductances leaving that node by the factor “a”. In this case g_{m2} becomes ag_{m2} ,

Real example - Low Pass/Low Frequency Filter

FILTER TOPOLOGY with $g_m = 11.8nA/V$

DESIGN EQNS



- Bulk driven OTAs used due to higher input range
- V_i can be applied to the input of OTA 1 because the input parasitic capacitance does not affect the performance.

$$\left(\frac{V_o}{V_i}\right) = \frac{w_0^2}{s^2 + \frac{w_0}{Q}s + w_0^2}$$

$$w_0 = \sqrt{\frac{g_{m1}g_{m2}}{C_1C_2}} = \frac{g_m}{C}$$

$$Q = \frac{1}{g_{m3}} \sqrt{g_{m1}g_{m2}} \frac{C_2}{C_1}$$

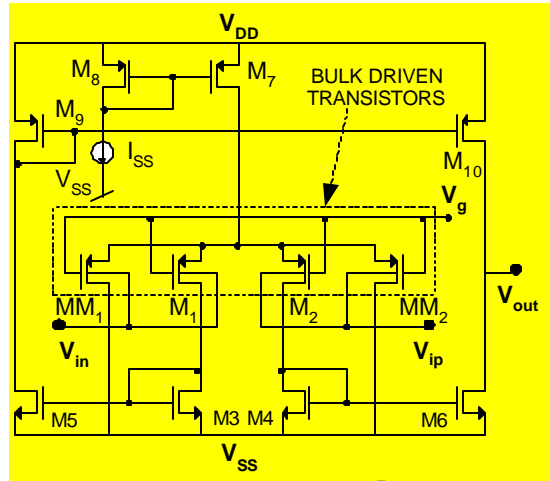
$$Q = \frac{g_m}{g_{m3}}$$

$$g_{m1} = g_{m2} = g_m$$

$$C_1 = C_2 = C$$

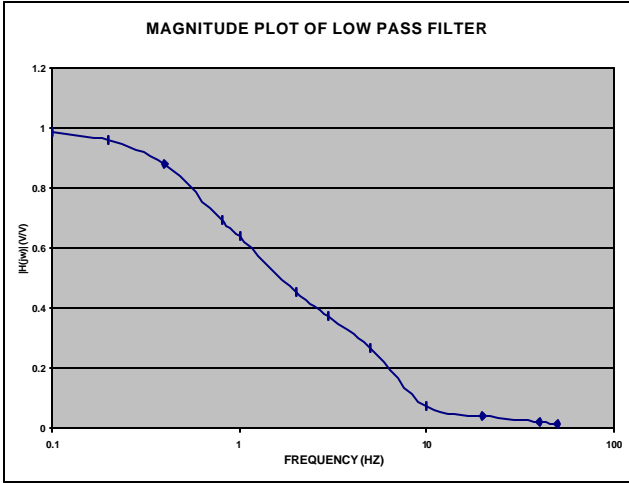
Reference.- A. Veeravalli, E. Sanchez-Sinencio and J. Silva-Martinez, "Transconductance Amplifiers with Very Small Transconductance: A Comparative Design Approach" to appear in J. of Solid-State Circuits

Bulk-Driven OTA used in the filter



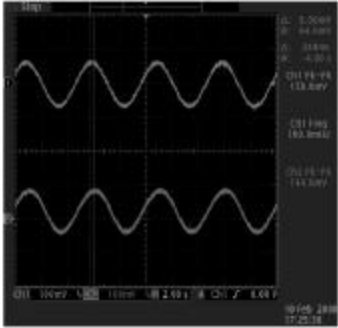
$$SNR = 20 \log \left(\frac{V_{in_rms}}{V_{n_rms}} \right) = 20 \log \left[\left(\frac{\frac{G_m}{K_p} \sqrt{32HD_3}}{\sqrt{\frac{2K_F}{C_{ox}^2} \ln \left(\frac{f_2}{f_1} \right)}} \right) \left(\frac{L^{1.5}W^{0.5}}{\alpha} \right) \right]$$

MEASURED RESULTS

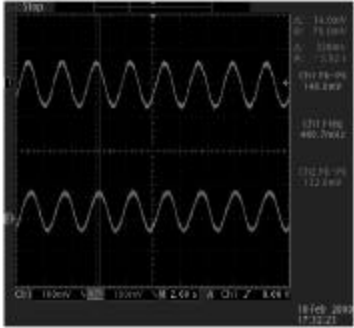


- $f_{3dB} \sim 0.7$ Hz with $C_L = 2.7$ nF
- $g_m = 2\pi C_L f_{3dB} \sim 11.8$ nA/V

EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS 1.2 micron technology

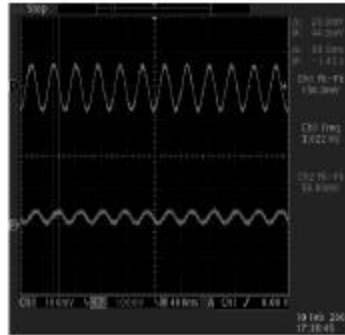


Input Ch1 150mVpp @ 0.2 Hz
Output Ch2 144mVpp

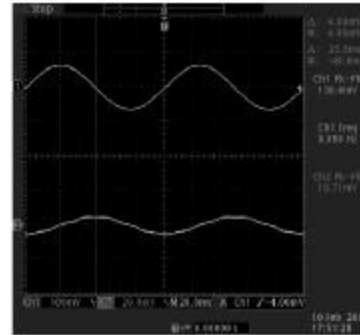


Input Ch1 150mVpp @ 0.4 Hz
Output Ch2 132mVpp

WAVEFORMS...



Input Ch1 150mVpp @ 3 Hz
Output Ch2 56mVpp



Input Ch1 150mVpp @ 10 Hz
Output Ch2 11mVpp

Summary of Experimental results

PARAMETER	VALUE
Filter order	2
-3dB Bandwidth (Hz)	0.3
HD_3 @ $V_{in}=150mVpp$ (dB)	-45
Total input noise (μV_{rms})	15.6
SNR (dB) @ $HD_3 = -45dB$	70.5
Power consumption (μW)	8.18
Power supply (V)	± 1.35
Total filter area (mm^2)	0.06

• $HD_2 \sim -33dBm \sim 2.2\%$

• **FULLY CURRENT-MODE**

Input Signal: Current

Output Signal: Current

Basic Building Blocks are:

Inverting Integrators

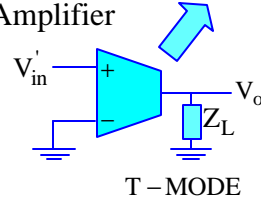
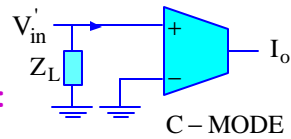
Inverting (Current Amplifiers)

Primitive Circuit Implementations:

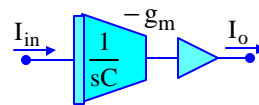
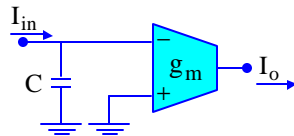
Single Transistor Inverting Amplifier

Simple Current Mirror

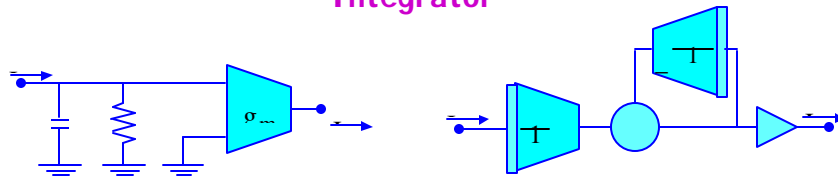
Capacitor



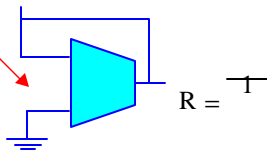
Current-Mode Implementation using OTA's



Integrator

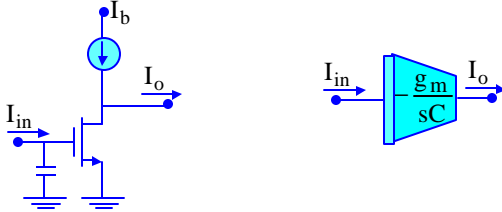


Self Loop Integrator

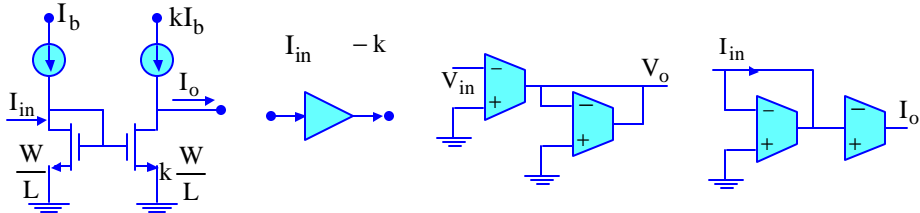


In order to fully obtain the benefits of current-mode techniques simpler circuits with reduced parasitics are desirable.

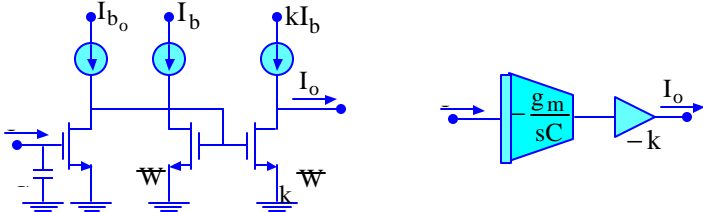
Primitive CM Circuits



Inverting Integrator

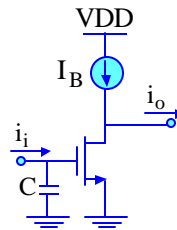


Amplifier (Multiplier by a constant)

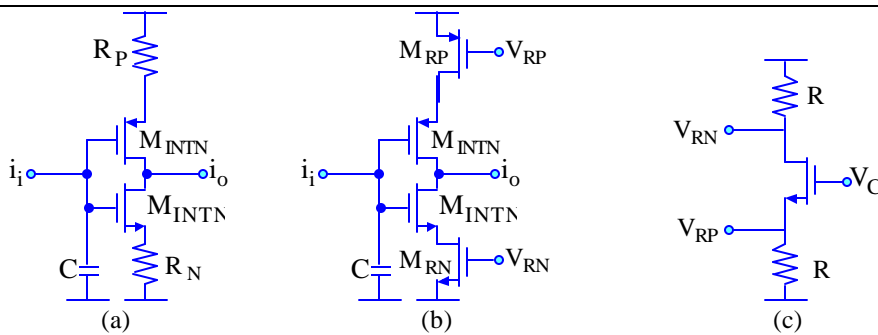
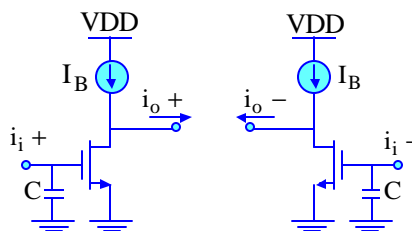


Non-Inverting Integrator

3.3V Power supply
 High frequency
 Low area
 Suitable for digital process
 Good PSR
 Poor linearity, efficiency (1% THD $\Rightarrow \eta < 4\%$)
 Poor voltage gain



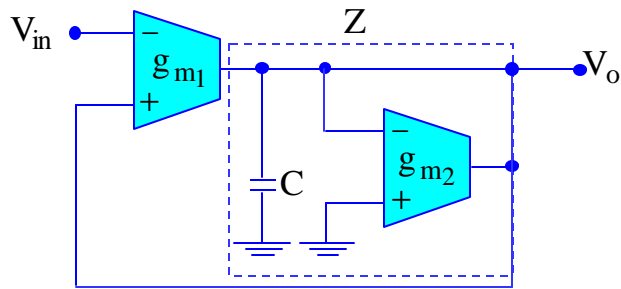
Low power supply (3.3V)
 High frequency
 Low area
 Suitable for digital process
 Very good PSR
 Good Linearity (differential)
 Excellent efficiency ($\approx 100\%$)
 Poor common mode rejection



(a) Tunable CMOS class AB integrator (b) Transistor Implementation with M_{rn} and M_{rp} operating in triode region (c) Bias implementation (diffusion or poly resistors).

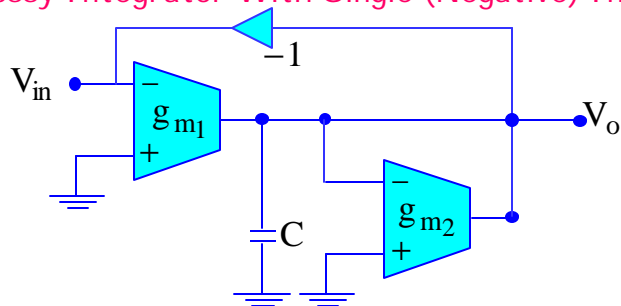
Linearity sufficient
 Very high efficiency ($> 100\%$) \Rightarrow AB, low power
 Very high frequency
 Small area
 Low Power Supply
 Linearity dep. on process variations
 PSR poor

Lossy Integrator With Positive Feedback

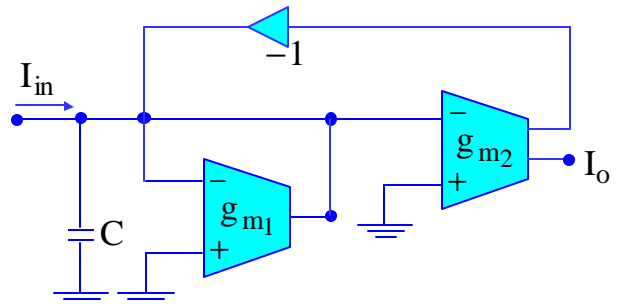


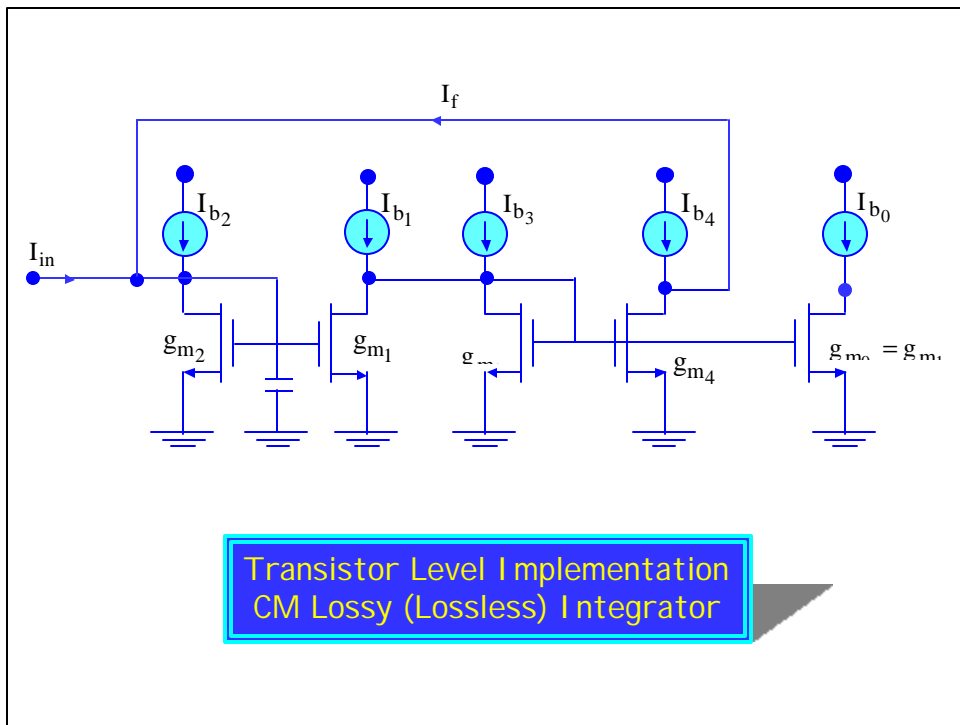
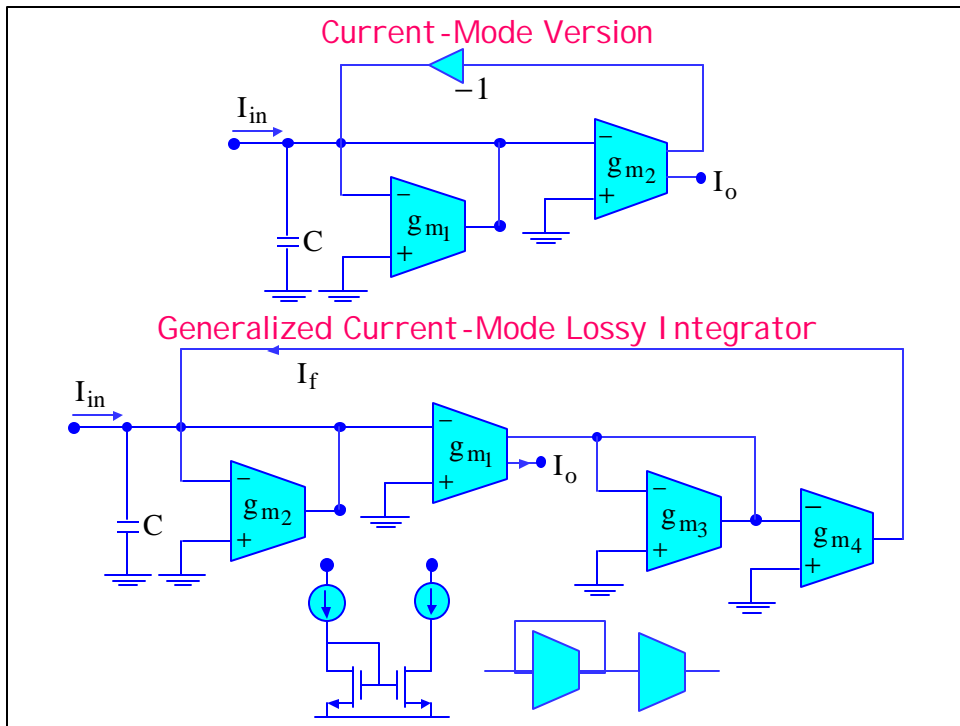
$$\frac{V_o}{V_{in}} = \frac{-g_{m1}Z}{1-g_{m1}Z} = -\frac{g_{m1}}{sC_2 + (g_{m2} - g_{m1})}$$

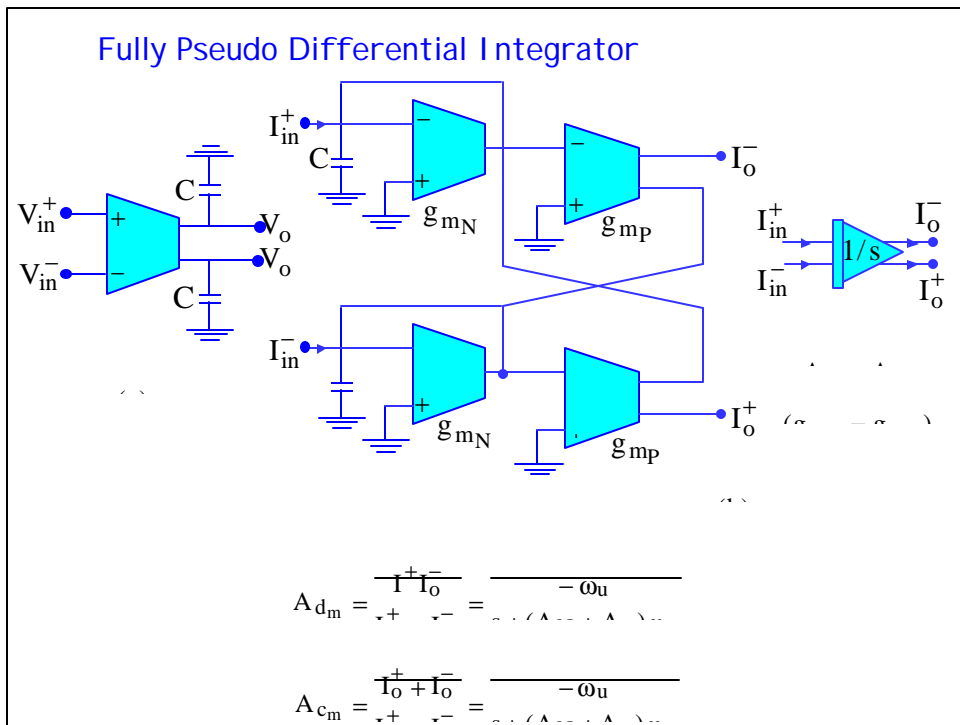
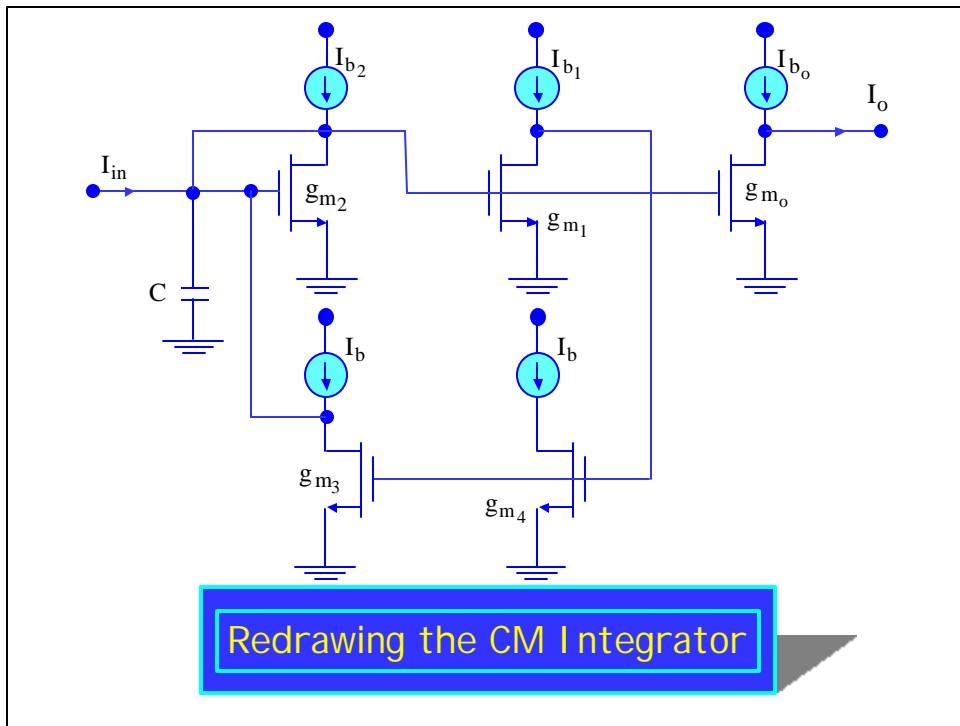
OTA-C Lossy Integrator With Single (Negative) Input OTA's



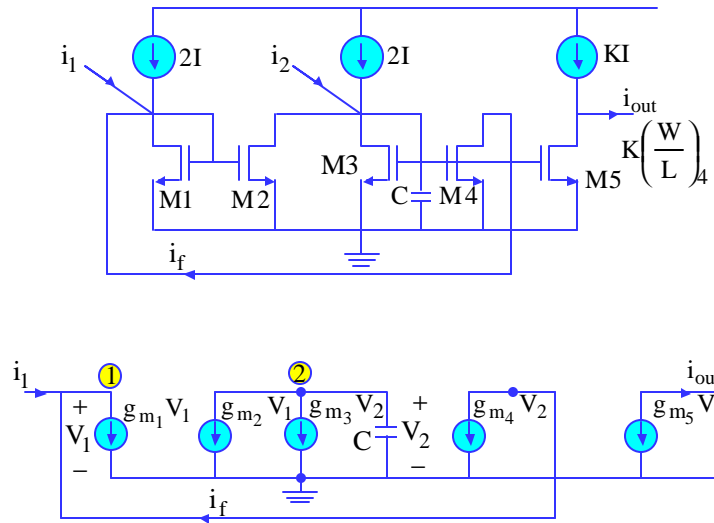
Current-Mode Version







Continuous - Time Current-Mode Integrator
Based On Current-Mirrors.



$$i_f = \frac{i_1 \frac{g_{m2}}{g_{m1}} - i_2}{g_{m1}(g_{m3} + sC) - g_{m2}g_{m4}} \cdot g_{m1}g_{m4}$$

$$i_f = g_{m1}g_{m4} \frac{i_1 \frac{g_{m2}}{g_{m1}} - i_2}{g_{m1}g_{m3} - g_{m2}g_{m4} + g_{m1}sC}$$

a) Lossless Integrator

$$g_{m1} = g_{m2} \quad \text{and} \quad g_{m3} = g_{m4}$$

$$i_f = \frac{g_{m4}}{g_{m1}} (i_1 - i_2)$$

$$i_{out} = K \frac{g_{m4}}{g_{m1}} (i_1 - i_2)$$

b) Lossy Integrator

$$g_{m1}g_{m3} > g_{m2}g_{m4} \quad , \quad g_{m1} = kg_{m2} \quad , \quad g_{m3} = kg_{m4}$$

$$i_f = \frac{k}{k^2 - 1} \frac{ki_1 - i_2}{1 + \frac{sC}{g_{m4}} \frac{k^2 - 1}{k}} \quad , \quad k > 1$$

i.e. $k = 2$

$$i_f = \frac{2}{3} \frac{2i_1 - i_2}{1 + \frac{sC}{g_{m4}} \frac{3}{2}}$$

If the parasitic capacitances and the output conductances are considered, then

$$i_f = \frac{-k_1(s - z_1)i_1}{(s + p_1)(s + p_2)} - \frac{k_2(s + z_2)}{(s + p_1)(s + p_2)}$$

Where

$$k_1 = g_o / C_1 \quad , \quad k_2 = g_m / C_2$$

$$p_1 = 4g_o / C_2 \quad , \quad p_2 = g_m / C_1$$

$$z_1 = \frac{g_m g_m}{C_2 g_o} \quad , \quad z_2 = \frac{g_m + g_o}{C_1}$$

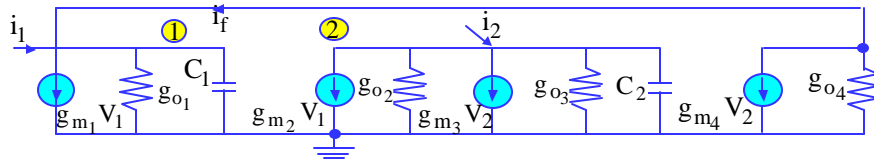
All transistors are equal, and C_1 and C_2 are the lumped nodal capacitances associated with nodes 1 and 2. Note that p_1 moves from the origin to

$$p_1 \rightarrow \frac{\omega_o}{\alpha} = \frac{\frac{g_{m3}}{C_2}}{\frac{g_m}{g_m}} = \frac{g_{m3} 4g_o}{g_m C_2}$$

And

$$Q = - \frac{g_{m1} C_2}{C_1}$$

Let's consider the input and output impedance,



$$z_{in} = \frac{V_1}{i_1} \bigg|_{i_2=0} = \frac{g_{m_3} + g_{o_2} + g_{o_3} + sC_2}{-g_{m_4}g_{m_2} + (g_{m_1} + g_{o_1} + g_{o_4} + sC_1)(g_{m_3} + g_{o_2} + g_{o_3} + sC_2)}$$

$$z_{in} = \frac{V_1}{i_1} \bigg|_{i_2=0} \cong \frac{g_{m_3}(1 + sC_2/g_{m_3})}{-g_{m_4}g_{m_2} + g_{m_1}g_{m_3} + s(C_2g_{m_1} + C_1g_{m_3}) + s^2C_1C_2}$$

a) Lossless Integrator

$$z_{in}(0) \cong \frac{g_{m_3}}{-g_{m_4}g_{m_2} + g_{m_1}g_{m_3}} \bigg|_{\substack{g_{m_1}=g_{m_2} \\ g_{m_3}=g_{m_4}}} \rightarrow \infty$$

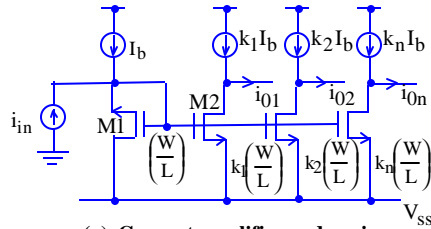
b) Lossy Integrator

$$z_{in}(0) \cong \frac{k^2}{2} \tau, \quad k > 0$$

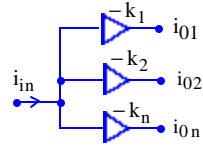
$$z_o(0) \cong \tau$$

Current-Mode: Single and Double-Ended

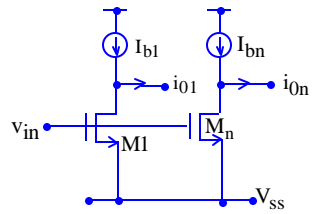
Basic Cell



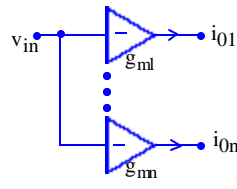
(a) Current amplifier and copies



(b) Representation

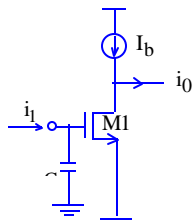


(c) Transconductance amplifier



(d)

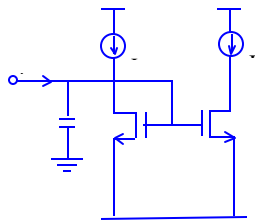
Current-Mode Integrators Single-Ended



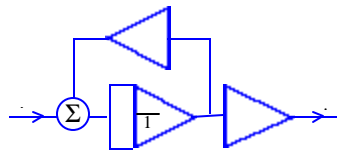
(a) Lossless Integrator



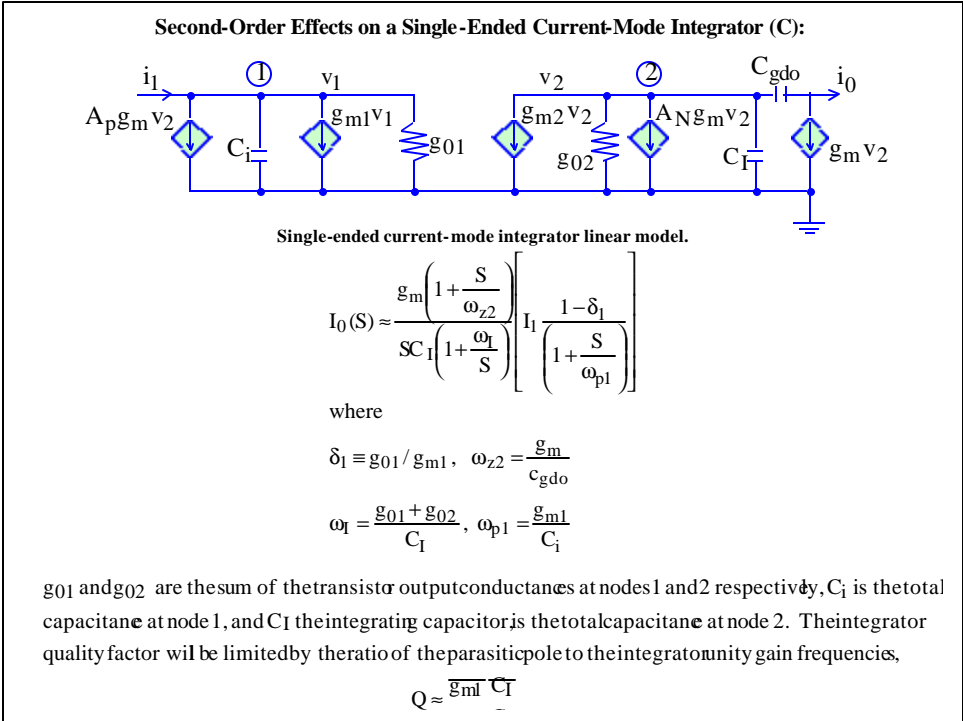
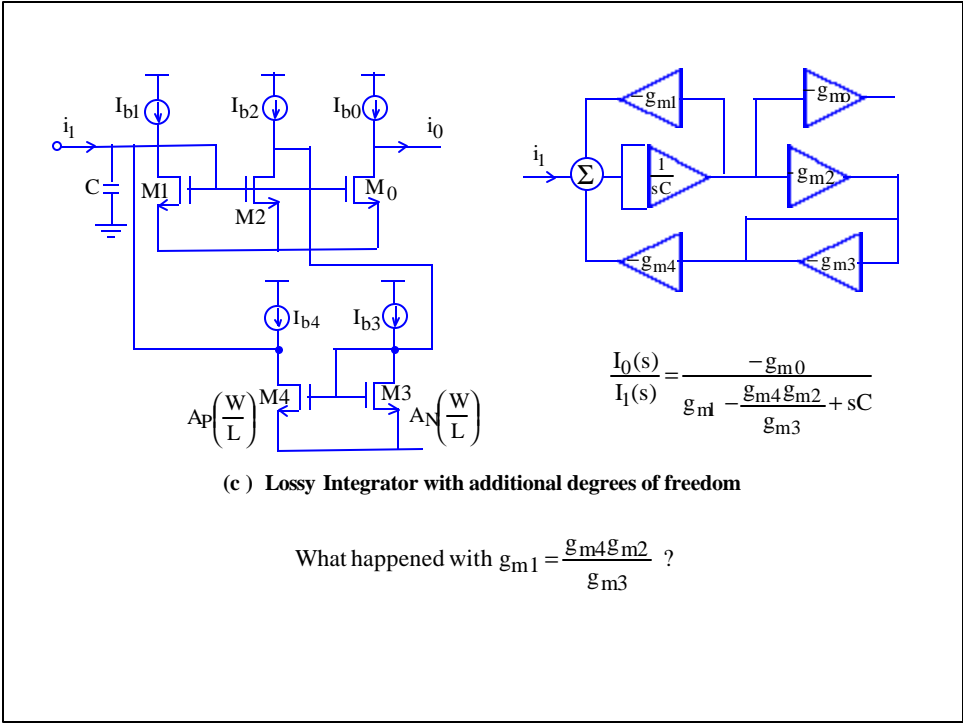
$$\frac{I_0(s)}{I_1(s)} = -\frac{g_{m1}}{sC}$$



(b) Lossy Integrator



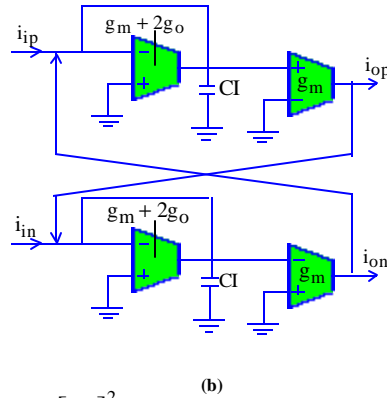
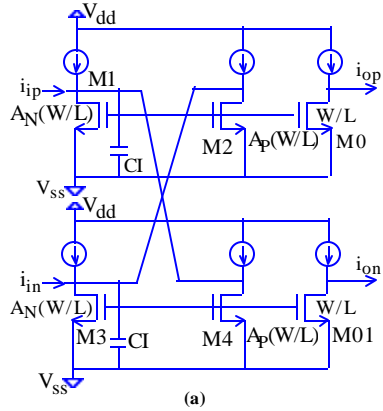
$$\frac{I_0(s)}{I_1(s)} = \frac{-g_{m2}}{1 + \frac{g_{m1}}{sC}}$$



Improved Balanced Integrators (Double-Ended)

Using the previous single-ended integrator, a double-ended integrator is obtained:

Version 1



$$A_{cm1} = \frac{i_{op} + i_{on}}{i_{ip} + i_{in}} = \frac{-g_m}{sC_I + (A_N + A_P)(g_m + 2g_o)}$$

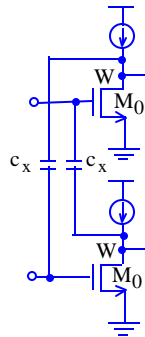
$$A_{dm1} = \frac{i_{op} - i_{on}}{i_{ip} - i_{in}} = \frac{g_m}{sC_I + (A_N - A_P)(g_m + 2g_o)}$$

$$IM_3 \approx \frac{3}{32} \left[\frac{i_{od}}{2I_b} \right]^2$$

and that the harmonic distortion can be approximated by

$$THD_3 \approx \frac{1}{32} \left[\frac{i_{od}}{2I_b} \right]^2$$

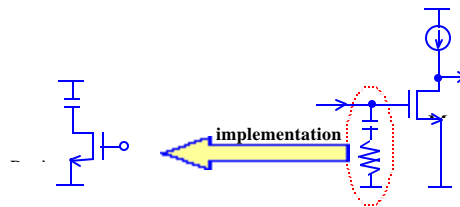
Frequency Compensation



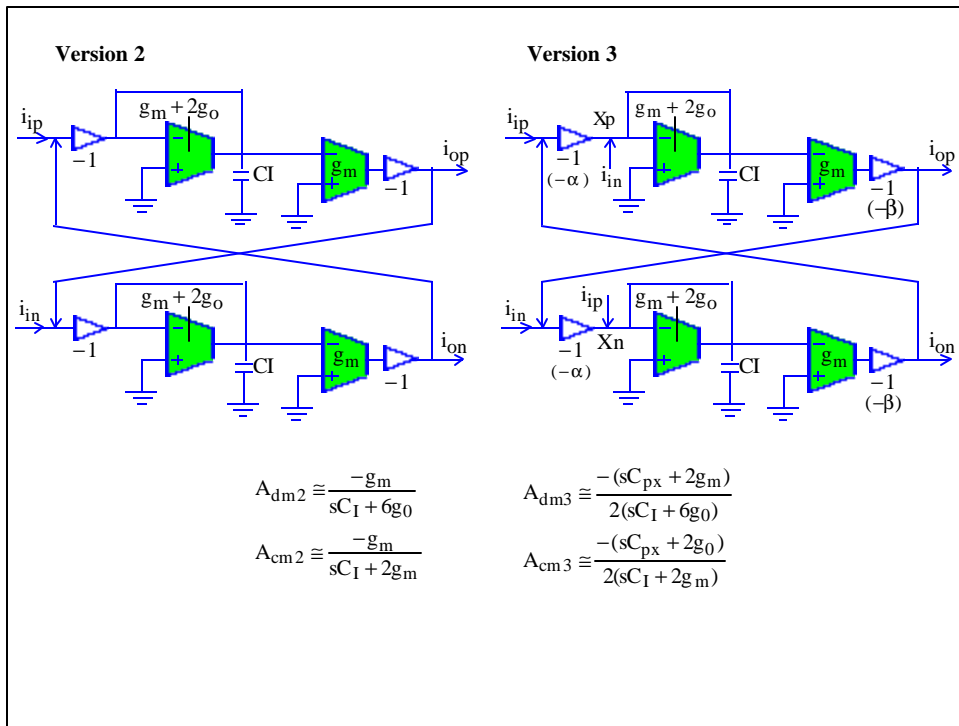
(a)

(b)

Gate-drain capacitance cancellation. (a) circuit. (b) capacitor implementation.



Passive phase compensation of current integrators.



A Comparative Table

	Case 1	Case 2	Case 3
$A_{dm}(0)$	$\frac{g_m}{2g_o}$	$\frac{g_m}{6g_o}$	$\frac{g_m}{6g_o}$
$A_{cm}(0)$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{g_o}{2g_m}$
$CMRR(0)$	$\frac{g_m}{g_o}$	$\frac{g_m}{3g_o}$	$\frac{g_m^2}{g_o^2}$
$CMRR(\infty)$			

Improved Sensitivity

$$A_{dm} \equiv \frac{-(sC_{px} + (\alpha\beta + \beta)g_m)}{sC_1 + 6g_0 + (1 - \varepsilon - \alpha\beta)g_m}$$
$$A_{dm}(0) = \frac{\alpha\beta + \beta}{6g_0 / g_m + (1 - \varepsilon - \alpha\beta)}$$

What are the values of α and β ?

$$\alpha\beta < 1$$

say $\beta = 9$ and $\alpha = 0.1$

Can you suggest a better common-mode circuit?

Reference:

X. Quan, S. Embabi and E. Sánchez-Sinencio, "Improved Fully Balanced Current-Mirror Integrator", *Electronic Letters*, vol. 34, No. 1, pp. 1-3, January 1998.

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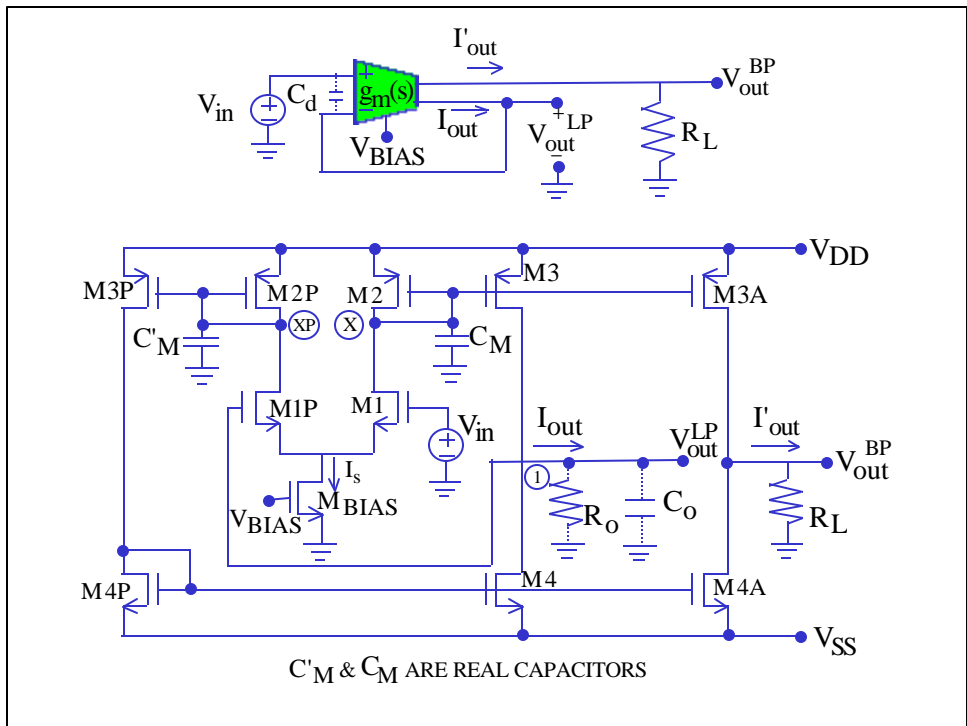
**How can you use a conventional OTA
as a filter?**

**How high can the ω_0 or the $\omega_0 Q$ of
a second-order filter be obtained?**

**Can we reach the limits of the
technology?**

**How can we use OTA multiple
outputs?**

Reference: J. Ramírez-Angulo, E. Sánchez-Sinencio and M. Howe, "Large foQ Second-Order Filters Using Multiple Outputs OTAS", *Trans. Circuits and Systems II*, vol. 41, No. 9, pp. 587-592, September 1994.



The corresponding transfer functions are:

$$H_{LP}(s) = \frac{V_{out}^{LP}(s)}{V_{inp}(s)} = \frac{\omega_0^2}{s^2 + \frac{\omega_0}{Q}s + \omega_0^2}$$

$$H_{BP}(s) = \frac{V_{out}^{BP}(s)}{V_{inp}(s)} = \frac{K_{BP} \frac{\omega_0}{Q} s}{s^2 + \frac{\omega_0}{Q}s + \omega_0^2}$$

Where

$$\omega_0 = \sqrt{\frac{g_{m1} g_{m2}}{C_0 C_m}} \quad Q = \sqrt{\frac{C_m g_{m1}}{C_0 g_{m2}}}$$

And

For $\omega/\omega_p \ll 1$ and $g_m(s) \cong g_{m0}^{-s/\omega_p}$

$$\omega_p = \frac{g_{m2}}{C_m}$$

$$GB = A_{vo} BW = g_{m1} R_0 \frac{1}{R_0 C_0} = \frac{g_{m1}}{C_0}$$

Where $R_0 = 1/(g_{03} + g_{04})$

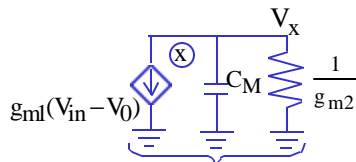
$$\omega_0 = \sqrt{\frac{g_{m0}^0}{C_0} \omega_p} = \sqrt{GB \omega_p}$$

$$Q = \sqrt{\frac{g_{m0}^0}{C_0 \omega_p}} = \sqrt{\frac{GB}{\omega_p}}$$

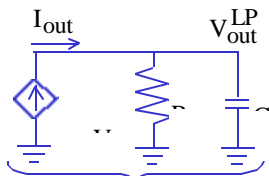
$$K_{BP} = g_m^0 R_L$$

$$f_0 Q = GB / 2\pi$$

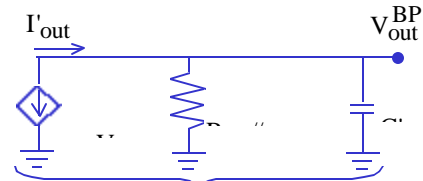
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Lossy Integrator



Integrator and First Output



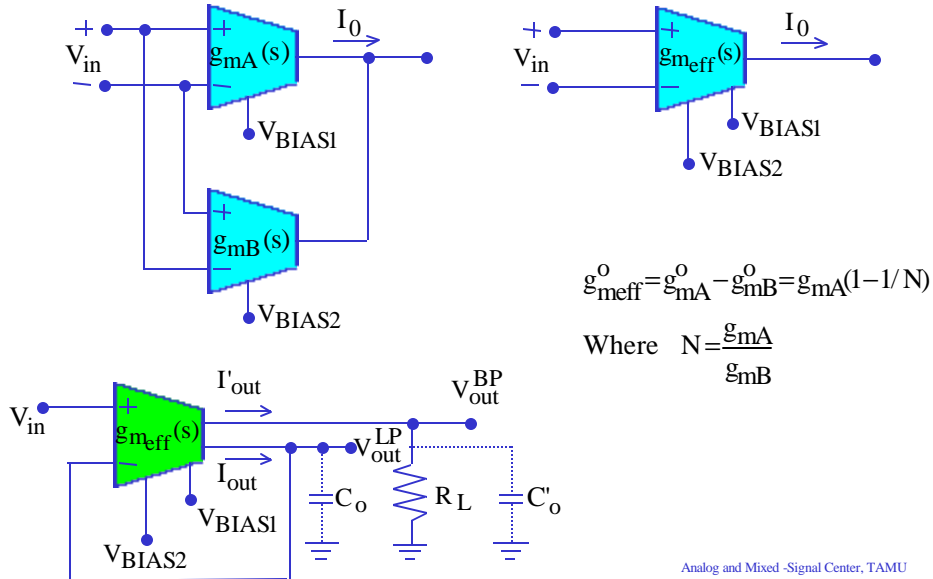
Second Output

$$GB = \frac{g_{m1}}{C_{0PAR}} = \frac{\mu_n C_{ox} \frac{W_1}{L_1} (V_{GS1} - V_T)}{2 C_{ov} (W_{I,1})} \cong \frac{\mu_n (V_{GS1} - V_T)^2}{L_1^2} \cdot \frac{3}{2}$$

i.e., $2\mu\text{m}$ technology $f_0 Q \sim 2\text{GHz}$

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How can we obtain Q and f_0 independently tuned?
A possible solution is shown next.



Summary of the Results

$$\omega_0 = \sqrt{\frac{g_{mA}}{C_o}} \omega_{pA} \sqrt{1 - \frac{1}{N^2}}$$

$$Q = \frac{1}{\frac{\omega_{pA}}{\omega_0} \left[1 + \frac{1}{N} - \frac{1}{N+1} \right] - \frac{\omega_0}{2\omega_{pH}} \left[1 - \frac{1}{N} \right]}$$

DEPENDENCE OF Q AND f_0 WITH N .

N	f_0 /MHz	Q
∞	16.45	56.66
15	16.41	40.90
7.0	16.28	27.72
3.0	15.50	13.83

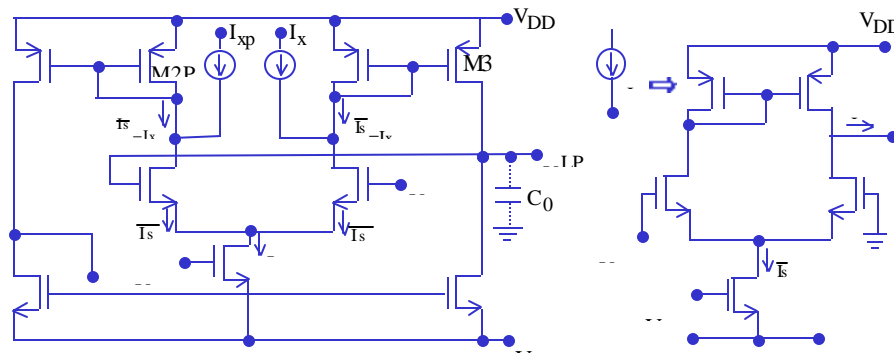
$C_m = 20\text{pF}$, $C_o = 1\text{pF}$, $g_{mA} = 85\mu\text{A/V}$, $f_{pH} = 75\text{MHz}$ and $f_{pA} = 2\text{MHz}$

Where ω_{pH} is the high frequency pole of mirror M4, M4P.

Implementations of g_{meff} :

- Two equal OTAs with different bias to satisfy the $N = g_{mA} / g_{mB}$ or different (W/L)s.
- One OTA: To inject a current I_x to the drains of the differential pair. This yields different currents through the load transistor M2 and M2P. Consequently, we can have independent Q tuning.

The actual implementation is discussed next.



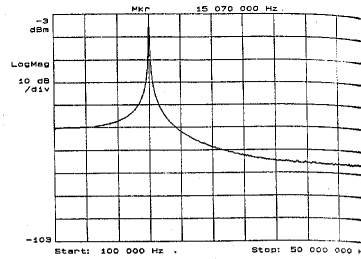
$$g_{m1} = \sqrt{2\mu_n C_{ox} \frac{W_1 I_s}{L_1}}$$

$$g_{m2} = \sqrt{2\mu_p C_{ox} \frac{W_2 (I_s - I_x)}{L_2}}$$

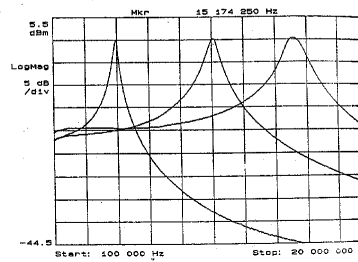
Recall

$$\omega_0^2 = \frac{g_{m1} g_{m2}}{C_0 C_m} \quad \& \quad Q^2 = \frac{C_m}{C_0} \frac{g_{m1}}{g_{m2}}$$

Experimental Results



Experimental frequency response of low pass filter tuned for $f_0 =$ MHz, $Q = 200$.



Experimental low pass response showing variable f_0 .

Appendix: Derivation of Expressions

$$N = \frac{g_{m_A}^0}{g_{m_B}^0} = \frac{\omega_{p_A}}{\omega_{p_B}}$$

$$\omega_0 = \sqrt{\frac{g_{m_A}}{C_0}} \omega_{p_A} \sqrt{\left(1 - \frac{1}{N^2}\right)}$$

$$\tan^{-1} x = \frac{\pi}{2} - \tan^{-1} \frac{1}{x}$$

$$\tan^{-1} x = x - \frac{x^3}{3} + \frac{x^5}{5} - \frac{x^7}{7} + \dots$$

$$\Phi(\omega) = \frac{\omega_{p_A}}{\omega} \left[1 + \frac{1}{N} - \frac{1}{N+1} \right] - \frac{\omega}{2\omega_{PH}} \left[1 - \frac{1}{N} \right]$$

$$Q = \frac{1}{\frac{\omega_{p_A}}{\omega_0} \left[1 + \frac{1}{N} - \frac{1}{N+1} \right] - \frac{\omega_0}{2\omega_{PH}} \left[1 - \frac{1}{N} \right]}$$

$$Q(N \rightarrow \infty) = \frac{1}{\frac{\omega_{p_A}}{\omega_0} - \frac{\omega_0}{2\omega_{PH}}}$$

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