# EE 330 Lecture 34

Layout of Current Mirrors

Common-Centroid Layouts

High Gain Amplifiers

Cascode Amplifiers

## Fall 2024 Exam Schedule

Exam 1 Friday Sept 27 Exam 2 Friday October 25 Exam 3 Friday Nov 22

Final Exam Monday Dec 16 12:00 - 2:00 PM

#### Review From Previous Lecture



#### Basic Amplifier Application Gain Table

**Can use these equations only when small signal circuit is EXACTLY like that shown !!**

#### (when stages are unilateral or not unilateral) Formalization of cascade circuit analysis working from load to input:



R<sub>ink</sub> includes effects of all loading Must recalculate if any change in loading Analysis systematic and rather simple

$$
\frac{\mathbf{v}_{\text{OUT}}}{\mathbf{v}_{\text{IN}}} = \frac{\mathbf{v}_{1}}{\mathbf{v}_{\text{IN}}} \frac{\mathbf{v}_{2}}{\mathbf{v}_{1}} \frac{\mathbf{v}_{3}}{\mathbf{v}_{2}} \frac{\mathbf{v}_{\text{OUT}}}{\mathbf{v}_{3}}
$$

This was the approach used in analyzing the previous cascaded amplifier

Review From Previous Lecture

## Current Sources/Mirrors

Will show circuit in red behaves as a current source



R and  $Q_0$  simply generate voltage  $V_{xx}$  in previous circuit But sensitivity of I<sub>1</sub> is much smaller than using voltage source for generating V<sub>xx</sub>

#### Summary of Missing Material from Lecture 33

Start Here:



#### **npn Current Mirror**

**If the base currents are neglected**



- **Output current linearly dependent on I in**
- **Small-signal and large-signal relationships the same since linear**
- **Serves as a current amplifier**
- **Widely used circuit**

#### **But Iin must be positive !**





Amplifies both positive and negative currents (provided i<sub>IN</sub>>-I<sub>BS</sub> )

E0

**Current amplifiers are easy to build !!**

**Current gain can be accurately controlled with appropriate layout !!**



$$
I_{\text{out}} = ?
$$



**n-channel Current Mirror**



- Current mirror gain can be accurately controlled !
- Layout is important to get accurate gain (for both MOS and BJT)

#### n-channel current mirror current amplifier



#### **Amplifies both positive and negative currents**



multiple sourcing and sinking current outputs



m and k may be different Often M=1

## Current Sources/Mirrors Summary



- Current mirror gain can be accurately controlled !
- Layout is important to get accurate gain (for both MOS and BJT)

#### Summary of Missing Material from Lecture 33

End Here:



**Gate area after fabrication depicted**

## Layout of Current Mirrors

**Example with M = 2**



**Better Layout**

## Layout of Current Mirrors

**Example with M = 2**



And both magnitude and direction of gradient effects are a random variable which will vary across a die

Denotes Geometric Centroid



Geometric Centroids of Channel

Two Transistors:



Two Transistors each with two parts:



Common Centroid for Ideally Matched Devices

Two Transistors each with two parts:



Common Centroid for Matched Devices

Two Transistors each with two parts:



Common Centroid for Ratioed Devices

$$
M = \frac{W_2}{W_1} \frac{L_1}{L_2} = 2
$$

Two Transistors with different effective widths:





Threshold voltage dependent upon position

 $V_{TH}(x,y)$ 

- ‒ Significant changes in threshold voltage can occur due to gradient effects
- ‒ This can seriously degrade matching in matching-critical circuits

- reasonably accurately modeled with an "equivalent" threshold voltage
- For linear gradient,  $\mathsf{V}_{\mathsf{THEQ}}\mathsf{=}\mathsf{V}_{\mathsf{TH}}(\mathsf{X}_{\mathsf{C}},\mathsf{Y}_{\mathsf{C}})$

 $(X_C, Y_C)$ 

## Layout of Current Mirrors



**Even Better Layout**

$$
M = \left[\frac{W_2}{W_1} \frac{L_1}{L_2}\right]
$$

$$
M = \left[ \frac{2W_1 + 4\Delta W}{W_1 + 2\Delta W} \bullet \frac{L_1 + 2\Delta L}{L_1 + 2\Delta L} \right] = 2
$$

$$
M = \left[ \frac{2W_1 + 4\Delta W}{W_1 + 2\Delta W} \bullet \frac{L_1 + 2\Delta L}{L_1 + 2\Delta L} \right] = 2
$$

- **This is termed a common-centroid layout**
- **Linear gradient mismatch eliminated with common-centroid layout !**

## Common-Centroid Layouts



- Individual transistors often decomposed into parallel multiple unary devices connected in parallel
- Common-Centroid layout approach widely used to minimize (ideally cancel) gradient effects in matching-critical circuits
- Applications extend well beyond current mirrors
- More than 2 devices can share a common centroid



If  $I_0$  is practically generated (it can be), now have available a large number of accurate current sources or sinks that can be used for biasing and for other purposes on chip !

#### Will now return to discussion of high gain amplifiers





#### Why are we interested in high-gain amplifiers?

• High gain amplifiers typically have some very undesirable properties

Nonlinear, gain highly dependent upon process variations and temperature, frequency response poor, noisy, ….

• So we can build feedback amplifiers !!



How can we build the current source? What is the small-signal model of an actual current source?



Biasing circuit uses same  $V_{CC}$  as amplifier and no other independent sources



- Bias circuitry requires only a single independent dc voltage source, resistor, and BJT !
- Incremental overhead is only one transistor,  $Q_B$

Biasing Circuit



How can we build the current source?

What is the small-signal model of an actual current source?



- Very practical methods for biasing the BJTs (or MOSFETs) can be used
- Current Mirrors often used for generating sourcing and sinking currents
- Can think of biasing transistors with  $V_{XX}$  and  $V_{YY}$  in these current sources

**Small-signal Model of BJT Current Sinks and Sources** 



**Small-signal Model of BJT Current Sinks and Sources** 



**Small-signal model of all other BJT Sinks and Sources introduced so far are the same**

**Small-signal Model of MOS Current Sinks and Sources** 



**Small-signal model of all other MOS Sinks and Sources introduced thus far are the same**





- **Nonideal current source decreased the gain by a factor of 2**
- **But the voltage gain is still quite large (-4000)**

#### High-gain amplifier **Can the gain be made even larger? Discuss**

#### **The Cascode Configuration**





#### **The Cascode Amplifier (consider npn BJT version)**





- **Actually a cascade of a CE stage followed by a CB stage but usually viewed as a "single-stage" structure**
- **Cascode structure is widely used**

#### Basic Amplifier Structures



- 1. Common Emitter/Common Source
- 2. Common Collector/Common Drain
- 3. Common Base/Common Gate
- 4. Common Emitter with  $\mathsf{R}_{\mathsf{E}}$ / Common Source with  $\mathsf{R}_{\mathsf{S}}$
- 5. Cascode (actually CE:CB or CS:CD cascade)
- 6. Darlington (special CE:CE or CS:CS cascade)

The first 4 are most popular





## Cascode Configuration

**Discuss**



 $({\tt g}_{\sf \pi2}$ +g $_{\tt 01})$ VCC 02 π2 01 02 π2  $\left[\frac{\rm g_{m1}(g_{02}+g_{m2})}{\rm g_{02}(g_{\pi2}+g_{01})}\right]\!\cong\!-\!\left[\frac{\rm g_{m1}g_{m2}}{\rm g_{02}g_{\pi2}}\right]$ 02  $(9$ 01<sup>+</sup>9π2 $)\quad$   $\begin{array}{|c|} \[-1mm] \[-1mm] \scriptstyle{\frown} \end{array}$   $9$ <sub>02</sub>9 $_{\pi}$ 2 0CC 01<sup>-</sup>902<sup>-</sup>9π2 <sup>-9</sup>m2 | l 9m2  $9$   $2$  (  $9$   $0$   $1$   $9$   $1$   $9$   $1$   $9$   $0$   $2$   $9$  $90^\circ$ C $=$ 9<sub>01</sub>+9<sub>02</sub>+9<sub>π2</sub>+9<sub>m2</sub> | | 9  $\begin{bmatrix} 902(801+84) \end{bmatrix}$   $\begin{bmatrix} 9028 \end{bmatrix}$  $\left[\frac{302(301.9) \times 10^{-14} \text{ J}}{901+902+9\pi^2} \right] \approx \left[\frac{302312}{9\pi^2}\right]$  $q_{0CC} = \left[\frac{g_{02}(g_{01} + g_{01})}{g_{02}(g_{01} + g_{02} + g_{01})}\right] = \left[\frac{g_{02}g_{\pi2}}{g_{02}g_{\pi2}}\right]$ <br>  $q_{\pi CC} = g_{\pi1}$ <br>  $q_{\pi CC} = g_{\pi1}$ 

## Cascode Configuration





• **Voltage gain is a factor of β larger than that of the CE amplifier with current source load**

• **Output impedance is a factor of β larger than that of the CE amplifier** 



**This gain is very large and only requires two transistors!**

**What happens to the gain if a transistor-level current source is used for IB?**

## Cascode Configuration



## Cascode Configuration



## High-gain amplifier comparisons



**This is a dramatic reduction in gain compared to what the ideal current source biasing provided** 

Cascode Configuration





**But recall**

$$
A_{VCC} \cong -\left[\frac{g_{m1}}{g_{01}}\right]\beta
$$

**Thus**

$$
A_V \approx -\left[\frac{g_{m1}}{g_{01}}\right]
$$
  

$$
A_V \approx -\left[\frac{I_{CQ}}{I_{CQ}}\right]_{V_{AF}} = -\left[\frac{V_{AF}}{V_t}\right] \approx -8000
$$

- This is still a factor of 2 better than that of the CE amplifier with transistor current  $\textbf{source} \mid_{\text{A}_{\text{MCF}}}\text{=} |\frac{\texttt{G}\text{m1}}{\text{A}}$ VCE 01 Avec  $\cong -\frac{g_1}{g_2}$  $\left(A_{\text{VCE}} \cong -\left[\frac{g_{\text{m1}}}{2g_{01}}\right]\right)$
- **It only requires one additional transistor**
- **But its not nearly as good as the gain the cascode circuit seemed to provide**

### Cascode Configuration Comparisons



**In particular, one with a higher output impedance?**

## Better current sources

#### Need a higher output impedance than  $g_0$



**Can a current source be built with the cascode circuit ?**

### Cascode current sources









#### Cascode current sources



#### Cascode current sources



**For the BJT cascode current sources**

$$
g_{0CC} = \left[\frac{g_{02}(g_{01} + g_{\pi 2})}{g_{01} + g_{02} + g_{\pi 2} + g_{\pi 2}}\right] \approx \left[\frac{g_{02}g_{\pi 2}}{g_{\pi 2}}\right] = \frac{g_{01}}{\beta}
$$



## Cascode Configuration





## Cascode Configuration





$$
A_V \approx -\left[\frac{g_{m1}}{\frac{g_{01}}{g_{1}} + g_{0CC}}\right] \approx -\left[\frac{g_{m1}}{\frac{g_{01}}{g_{1}} + \frac{g_{03}}{g_{3}}}\right]
$$
\n
$$
1 \text{ if } \beta_1 = \beta_3 = \beta
$$
\n
$$
A_V = -\left[\frac{g_{m1}}{g_{01}}\right] \frac{\beta}{2}
$$
\n
$$
v_{\text{OUT}} \qquad A_V = -\left[8000\right] \frac{100}{2} \approx -400,000
$$

- **This gain is very large and is a factor of 2 below that obtained with an ideal current source biasing**
- **Although the factor of 2 is not desired, the performance of this circuit is still very good**
- **This factor of 2 gain reduction is that same as was observed for the CE amplifier when a transistor-level current source was used**
- Biasing voltages V<sub>zz</sub> and V<sub>SS</sub> are critical so seldom **used single-ended but good biasing strategies exist for differential operation**



#### High Gain Amplifiers Seldom Used Open Loop







If  $A_v$ =-400,000 and  $V_{IN}$  increases by 1mV, what would happen at the output?

 $|V_{\text{OUT}}|$  would increase by 400,000 x 1mV=-400V

#### **The Cascode Amplifier (consider n-ch MOS version)**



$$
A_{VCC} \cong -\left[\frac{g_{m1}g_{m2}}{g_{01}g_{02}}\right]
$$

$$
g_{0CC} \cong \left[\frac{g_{01}g_{02}}{g_{m2}}\right]
$$

**Discuss**

**Same issues for biasing with current source as for BJT case**

With cascode current source for I<sub>B</sub>, gain **only drops by a factor of 2 from value with ideal current source**

#### **The Cascode Amplifier (consider n-ch MOS version)**



 $VCC \cong \begin{array}{c} -1 & \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \end{array}$ 

 $A_{VCC} \cong -\left[\frac{g_{m1}g}{g}\right]$ 

m19m2

<u>əm 19</u><br>9019



## Current Source Summary (BJT)

**Basic Cascode**















## Current Source Summary (MOS) **Basic Cascode**



#### **High Gain Amplifier Comparisons ( n-ch MOS)**



## High Gain Amplifier Comparisons (BJT)



m1

 $v_{\scriptscriptstyle\text{IN}}$ 

V

 $V_{SS}$ 

m1

 $-\left[\frac{\textsf{g}_{\textsf{m1}}}{\textsf{g}_{\textsf{01}}}\right]$ 

 $A_{V} = -\left| \frac{\mathsf{g}_{m1}}{\mathsf{g}_{m2}} \right| \underline{\beta}$ 

01

g<sub>01</sub> |2

 $\lceil$  a<sub>m 1</sub> $\rceil$ 

01

g

V

A $v \equiv -\frac{g}{g}$ 

- Single-ended high-gain amplifiers inherently difficult to bias (because of the high gain)
- Biasing becomes practical when used in differential applications
- These structures are widely used but usually with differential inputs



## Stay Safe and Stay Healthy !

## End of Lecture 34