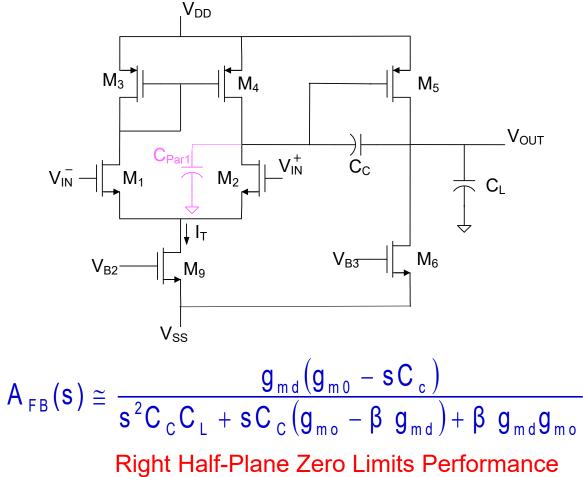
EE 435

Lecture 19

- Determination of Loop Gain
- Other methods of gain enhancement
- Linearity of Transfer Characteristics

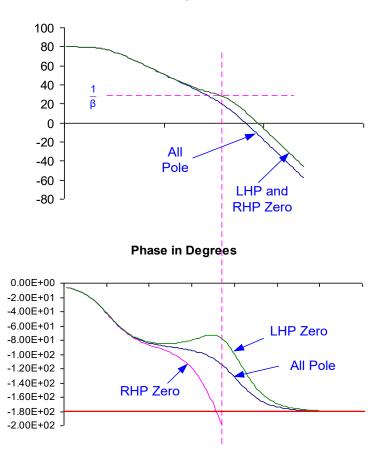
Review from last lecture Basic Two-Stage Op Amp



- Why does the RHP zero limit performance?
- Can anything be done about this problem ?
- Why is this not 3rd order since there are 3 caps ?

Review from last lecture Why does the RHP zero limit performance ?

Gain Magnitude in dB

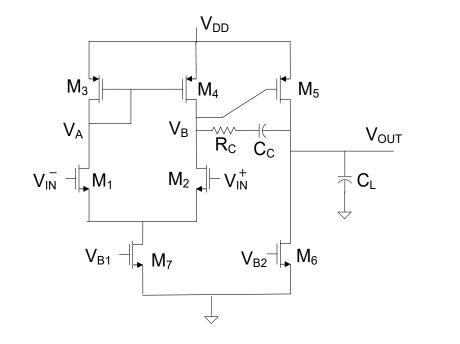


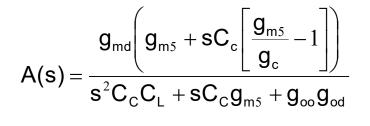
p₁=1, p₂=1000, z_x={none,250,-250}

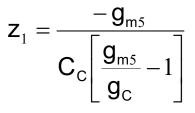
In this example:

- accumulate phase shift and slow gain drop with RHP zeros
- loose phase shift and slow gain drop with LHP zeros
- effects are dramatic

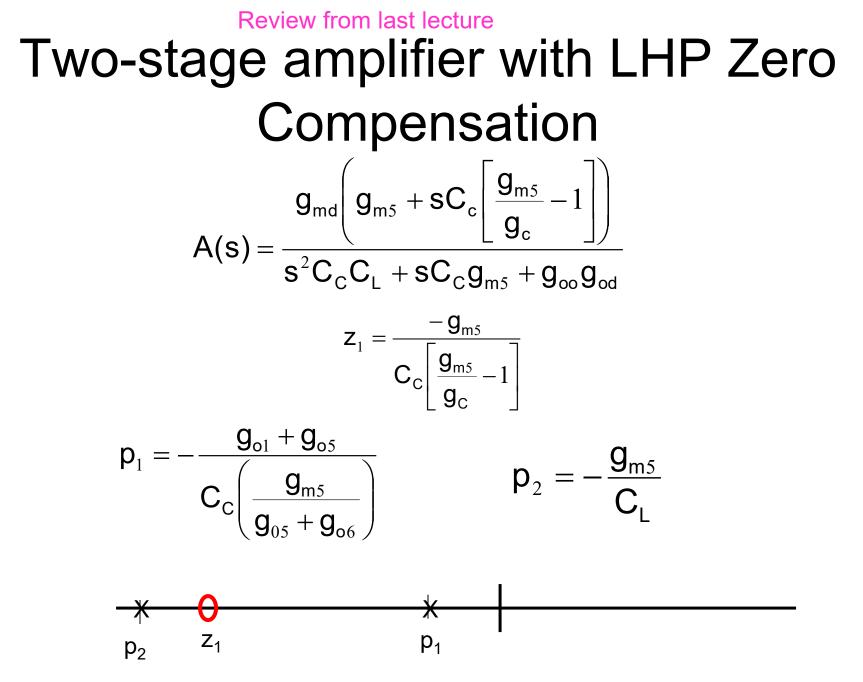
Two-stage amplifier with LHP Zero Compensation





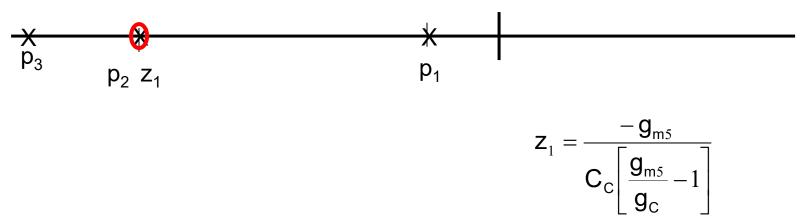


 z_1 location can be programmed by R_C If $g_c > g_{m5}$, z_1 in RHP and if $g_c < g_{m5}$, z_1 in LHP R_C has almost no effect on p_1 and p_2



where should z_1 be placed?

Two-stage amplifier with LHP Zero Compensation

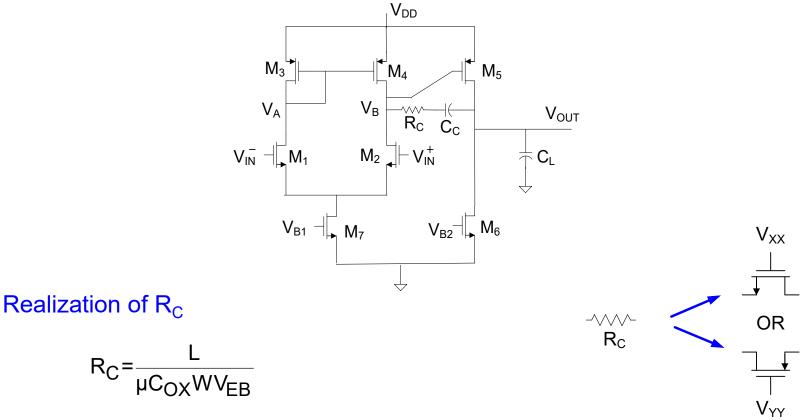


Analytical formulation for compensation requirements not easy to obtain (must consider at least 3rd –order poles and both T(s) and poles not mathematically tractable)

 $C_{\rm C}$ often chosen to meet phase margin (or settling/overshoot) requirements after all other degrees of freedom used with computer simulation from magnitude and phase plots

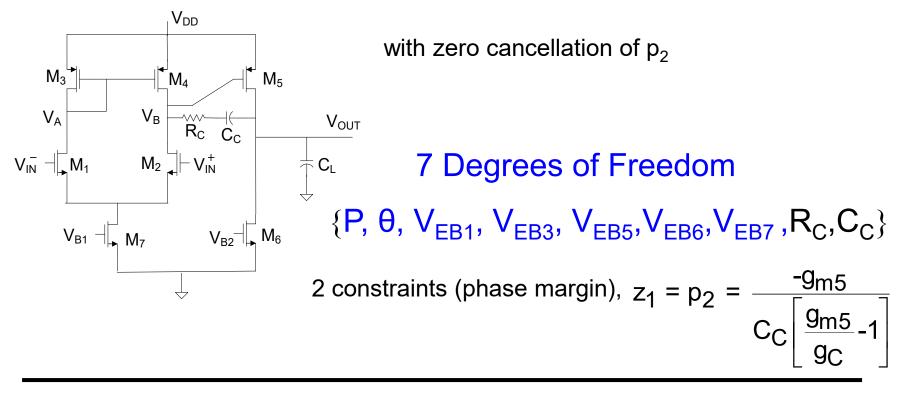
Review from last lecture

Basic Two-Stage Op Amp with LHP zero



Transistors in triode region Very little current will flow through transistors (and no dc current) V_{DD} or GND often used for V_{XX} or V_{YY} V_{BQ} well-established since it determines I_{Q5} Using an actual resistor not a good idea (will not track gm5 over process and temp) Review from last lecture

Basic Two-Stage Op Amp with LHP zero

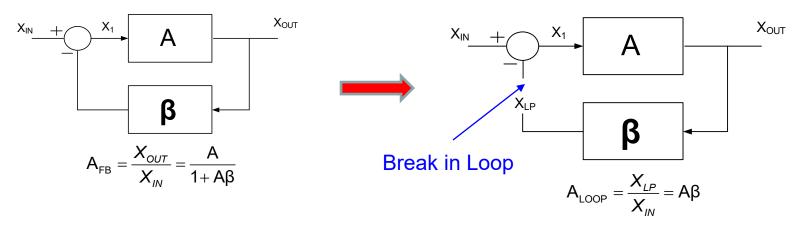


Design Flow:

- 1. Ignore R_c and design as if RHP zero is present
- 2. Pick R_c to cancel p₂
- 3. Adjust p_1 (i.e. change/reduce C_C) to achieve desired phase margin (or preferably desired closed-loop performance for desired β)

Two-Stage Amplifiers

Loop Gain Analysis

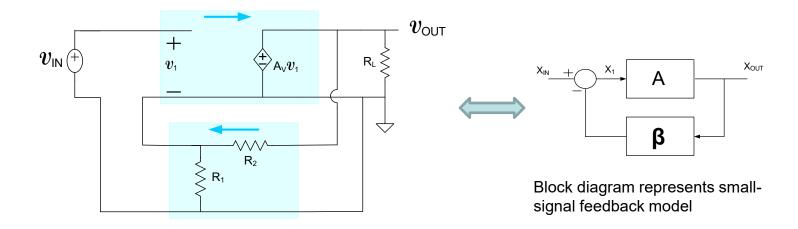


- Loop Gain
 - Loading of A and β networks
 - Breaking the Loop (with appropriate terminations)
 - Biasing of Loop
 - Simulation of Loop Gain
- Open-loop gain simulations
 - Systematic Offset
 - Embedding in closed loop

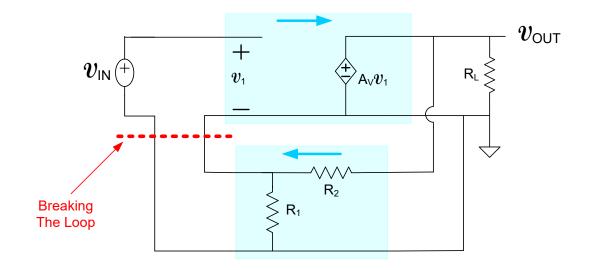
Loop Gain is a Critical Concept for Compensation of Feedback Amplifiers when Using Phase Margin Criteria (If you must!)

- Sometimes it is not obvious where the actual loop gain is at in a feedback circuit
- The A amplifier often causes some loading of the β amplifier and the β amplifier often causes some loading of the A amplifier
- Often try to "break the loop" to simulate or even calculate the loop gain or the gains A and β
- If the loop is not broken correctly or the correct loading effects on both the A amplifier and β amplifier are not included, errors in calculating loop gain can be substantial and conclusions about compensation can be with significant error

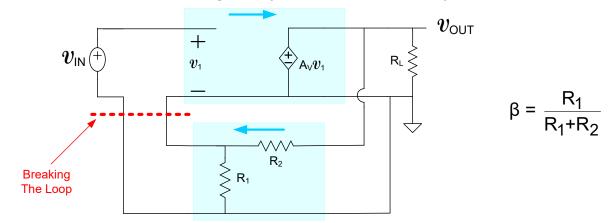
(for voltage-series feedback configuration)



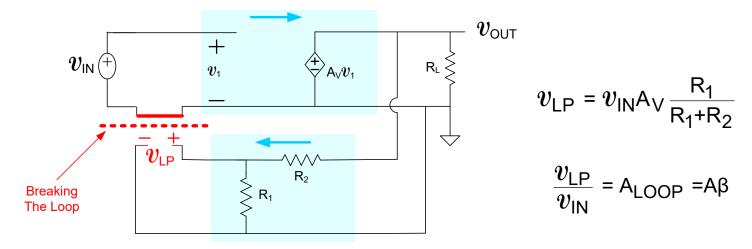
The loop is often broken on the circuit schematic to determine the loop gain



Breaking the loop to obtain the loop gain (Ideal A amplifier)

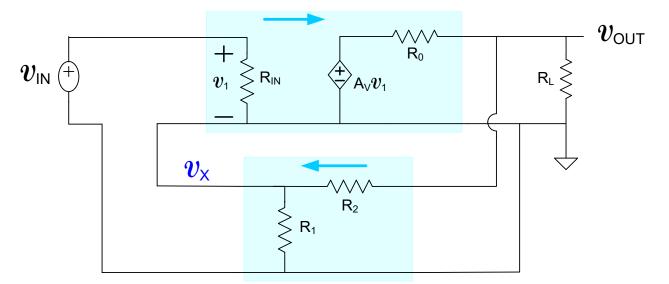


Note terminations where the loop is broken – open and short



Block diagram represents small-signal feedback model

But what if the amplifier is not ideal?



For the feedback amplifier:

$$v_{OUT}(G_{O}+G_{L}+G_{2})=v_{X}G_{2}+A_{V}v_{1}G_{O}$$

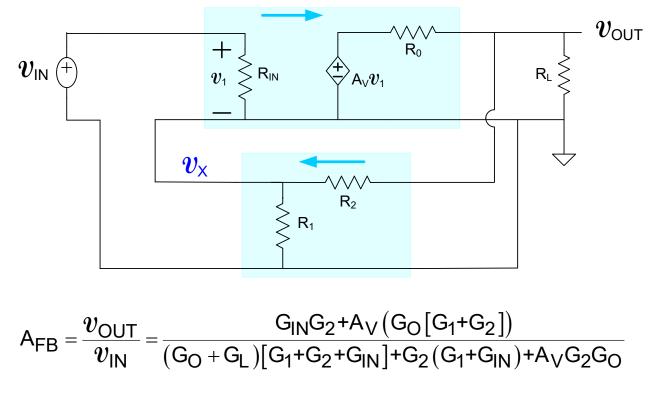
 $v_{X}(G_{1}+G_{2}+G_{IN})=v_{OUT}G_{2}+v_{IN}G_{IN}$
 $v_{IN}=v_{1}+v_{X}$

Solving, we obtain

$$A_{FB} = \frac{v_{OUT}}{v_{IN}} = \frac{G_{IN}G_2 + A_V(G_O[G_1 + G_2])}{(G_O + G_L)[G_1 + G_2 + G_{IN}] + G_2(G_1 + G_{IN}) + A_VG_2G_O}$$

What is the Loop Gain ? Needed to obtain the Phase Margin !

But what if the amplifier is not ideal?



What is the Loop Gain? Needed to obtain the Phase Margin!

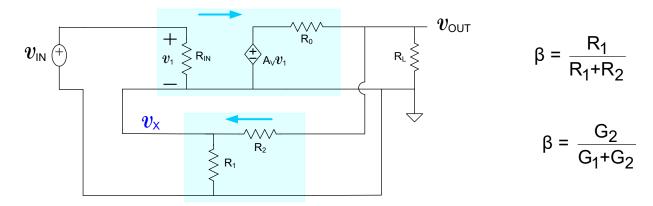
Remember:

$$A_{FB} = \frac{F_1(s)}{1 + A\beta}$$

Characteristic Polynomial Determined by $D(s) = 1 + A\beta$

Whatever is added to "1" in the denominator is the loop gain

But what if the amplifier is not ideal?



$$\mathsf{A}_{\mathsf{FB}} = \frac{v_{\mathsf{OUT}}}{v_{\mathsf{IN}}} = \frac{\mathsf{G}_{\mathsf{IN}}\mathsf{G}_2 + \mathsf{A}_{\mathsf{V}}(\mathsf{G}_{\mathsf{O}}[\mathsf{G}_1 + \mathsf{G}_2])}{(\mathsf{G}_{\mathsf{O}} + \mathsf{G}_{\mathsf{L}})[\mathsf{G}_1 + \mathsf{G}_2 + \mathsf{G}_{\mathsf{IN}}] + \mathsf{G}_2(\mathsf{G}_1 + \mathsf{G}_{\mathsf{IN}}) + \mathsf{A}_{\mathsf{V}}\mathsf{G}_2\mathsf{G}_{\mathsf{O}}}$$

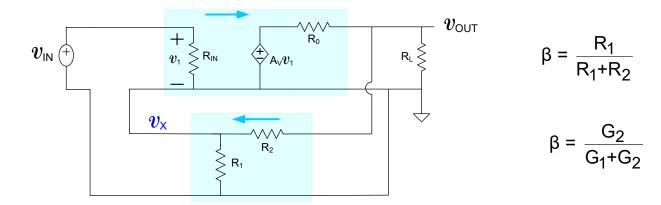
Can be rewritten as

$$A_{FB} = \frac{\frac{G_{IN}G_2}{(G_O + G_L)[G_1 + G_2 + G_{IN}] + G_2(G_1 + G_{IN})} + A_V \left(\frac{G_O[G_1 + G_2]}{(G_O + G_L)[G_1 + G_2 + G_{IN}] + G_2(G_1 + G_{IN})}}{1 + A_V \left[\frac{G_2G_O}{(G_O + G_L)[G_1 + G_2 + G_{IN}] + G_2(G_1 + G_{IN})}\right]}$$

The Loop Gain is

$$A_{LOOP} = A_{V} \left[\frac{G_{2}G_{0}}{(G_{0} + G_{L})[G_{1} + G_{2} + G_{IN}] + G_{2}(G_{1} + G_{IN})} \right]$$

But what if the amplifier is not ideal?



The Loop Gain is
$$A_{LOOP} = A_V \left[\frac{G_2 G_0}{(G_0 + G_L)[G_1 + G_2 + G_{IN}] + G_2(G_1 + G_{IN})} \right]$$

This can be rewritten as

$$A_{LOOP} = \left(A_{V}\left[\frac{G_{O}(G_{1}+G_{2})}{(G_{O}+G_{L})[G_{1}+G_{2}+G_{IN}]+G_{2}(G_{1}+G_{IN})}\right]\right)\left[\frac{G_{2}}{G_{1}+G_{2}}\right]$$

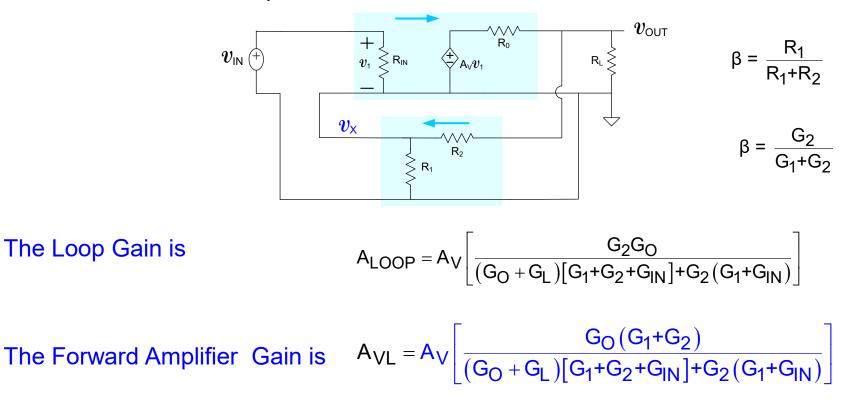
This is of the form

$$A_{LOOP} = (A_{VL}) \left[\frac{G_2}{G_1 + G_2} \right]$$

where A_{VL} is the open loop gain including loading of the load and β network !

$$A_{VL} = A_{V} \left[\frac{G_{O}(G_{1}+G_{2})}{(G_{O}+G_{L})[G_{1}+G_{2}+G_{IN}]+G_{2}(G_{1}+G_{IN})} \right]$$

But what if the amplifier is not ideal?



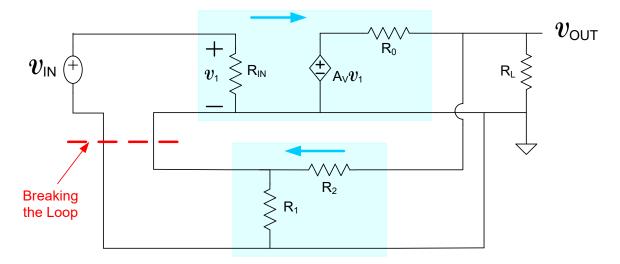
Note that A_{VL} is affected by both its own input and output impedance and that of the β network

This is a really "messy" expression

Any "breaking" of the loop that does not result in this expression for A_{VL} will result in some errors though they may be small

(for voltage-series feedback configuration)

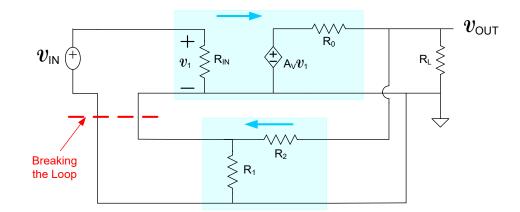
But what if the amplifier is not ideal?

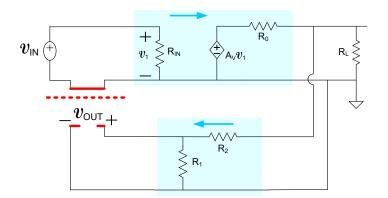


- Most authors talk about breaking the loop to determine the loop gain $A\beta$
- In many if not most applications, breaking the loop will alter the loading of either the A amplifier or the β amplifier or both
- Should break the loop in such a way that the loading effects of A and β are approximately included
- Consequently, breaking the loop will often alter the actual loop gain a little
- Q-point must not be altered when breaking the loop (for analysis with simulator)
- In most structures, broken loop only gives an approximation to actual loop gain
- Sometimes challenging to break loop in appropriate way

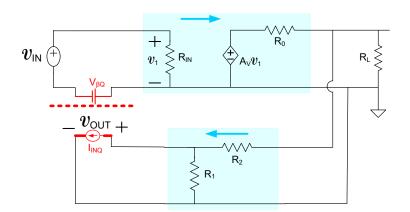
(for voltage-series feedback configuration)

But what if the amplifier is not ideal?





Standard Small-Signal Loop Gain Circuit

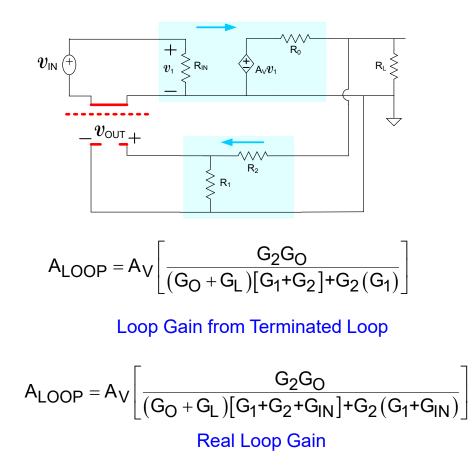


Standard Loop Gain Circuit including Biasing

(terminations shown in ss circuit are what is needed in the actual amplifier)

(for voltage-series feedback configuration)

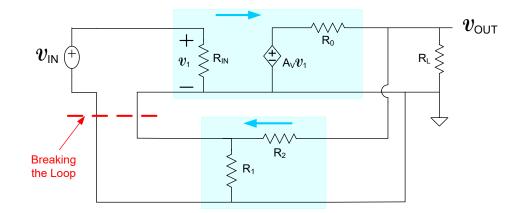
But what if the amplifier is not ideal?

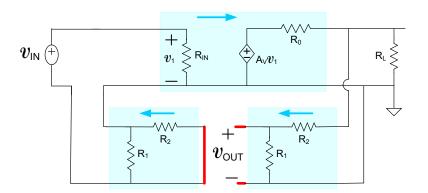


Breaking loop even with this termination will result in some error in ALOOP

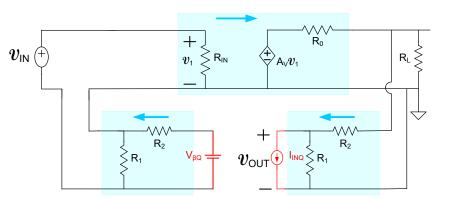
(for voltage-series feedback configuration)

But what if the amplifier is not ideal?





Better Standard Small-Signal Loop Gain Circuit

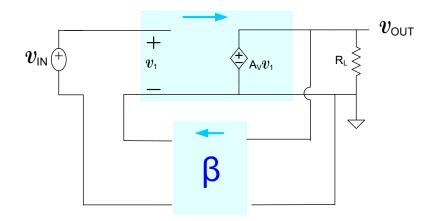


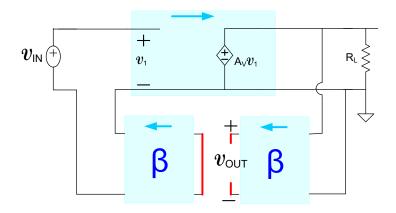
Better Loop Gain Circuit including Biasing

(terminations shown in ss circuit are what is needed in the actual amplifier)

Loop Gain - $A\beta$ for four basic amplifier types

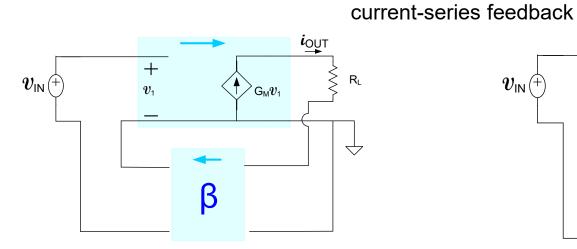
voltage-series feedback

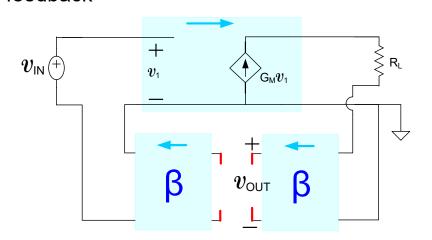




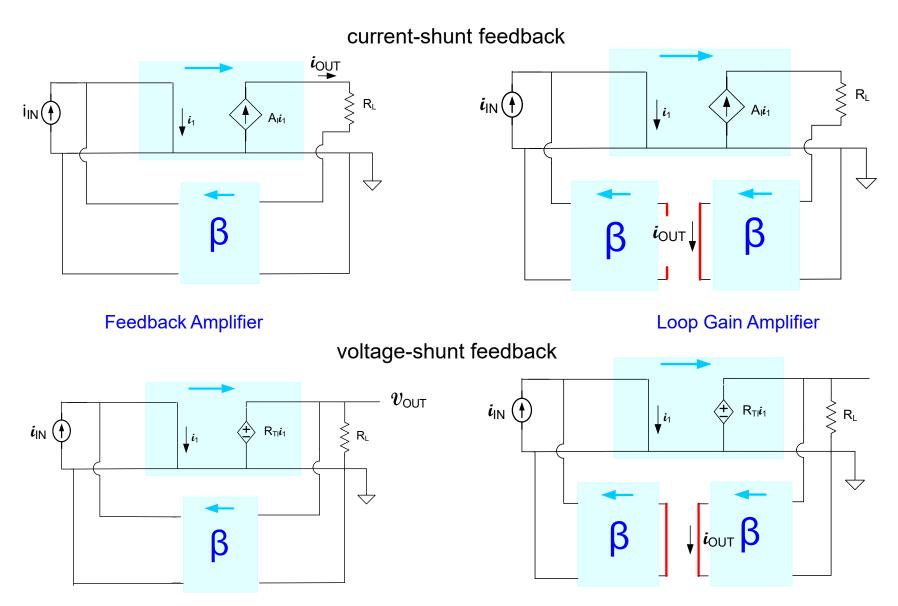
Feedback Amplifier



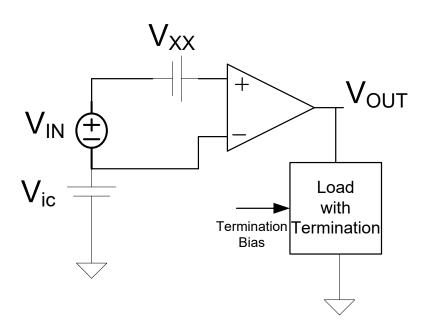




Loop Gain - $A\beta$ for four basic amplifier types



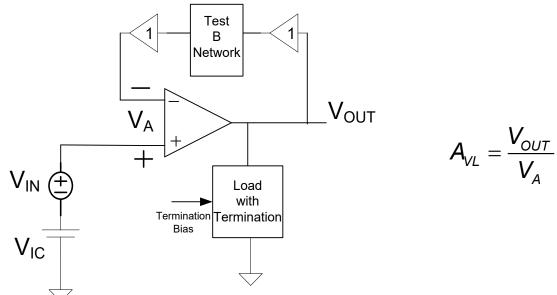
Open-loop gain simulations



- Must first adjust V_{XX} to trim out any systematic offset
- Always verify all devices are operating in the desired region of operation
- If an ac input is applied to $V_{\text{IN}},$ no information about linearity or signal swing will be obtained
- If any changes in amplifier circuit are made, V_{XX} must be trimmed again
- Include any loading including loading of beta network (with proper termination)

Open-loop gain simulations

(with a closed-loop test bench)

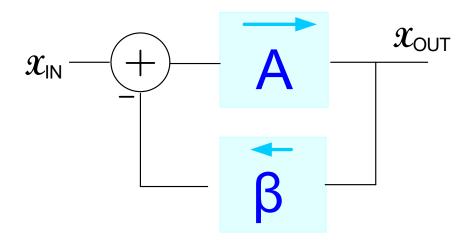


- Stabilizes the effect of the systematic offset voltage
- Test β network may not be related to actual β at all
- Loading of actual β network included in "Load with Termination"
- Input and output buffers eliminate any loading effects of the test β network
- A_V must be calculated from measurements of V_{OUT} and V_A
- Test β network must be chosen so overall network is stable

Why not just use actual β network for test β network?

Actual β network may even be unstable before compensation is complete

Feedback simulations



Why not just simulate the frequency response of the actual feedback amplifier and look at the magnitude of the gain to see if that is what we want ?

Isn't that what we really want anyway?

If the amplifier is overly underdamped or oscillatory, won't that show up anyway?

Remember, the small-signal analysis will have the same magnitude response for minimum-phase and non-minimum phase systems !

Tools for Helping with Amplifier Compensation



Numerous tools but generally require analytical models



Based upon testbenches using actual circuit schematics (though behavioral descriptions can be included)

STB (in Spectre)

The Spectre STB analysis provides a way to simulate continuous time loop gain, phase margin and gain margin without breaking the feedback loop.

In the stability analysis you are required to choose a probe from which the loop gain measurements are taken. The probes, described below, can be found in the analogLib library.

Many sources on line discussing STB analysis. (One youtube video is listed below (without assessment of either validity or quality)

https://youtu.be/L8wJhENPZNc

Other Methods of Gain Enhancement

Methods used so far:

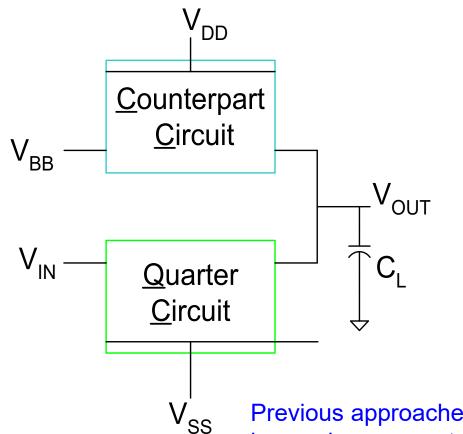
Increasing the output impedance of the amplifier cascode, folded cascode, regulated cascode

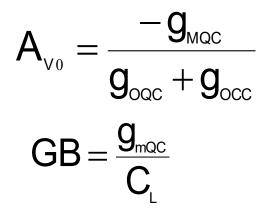
Increasing the transconductance (current mirror op amp) but it didn't really help because the output conductance increased proportionally

Cascading gives a multiplicative gain effect (thousands of architectures but compensation is essential) practically limited to a two-level cascade because of too much phase accumulation **Recall**:

Other Methods of Gain Enhancement

Recall:





Two Strategies:

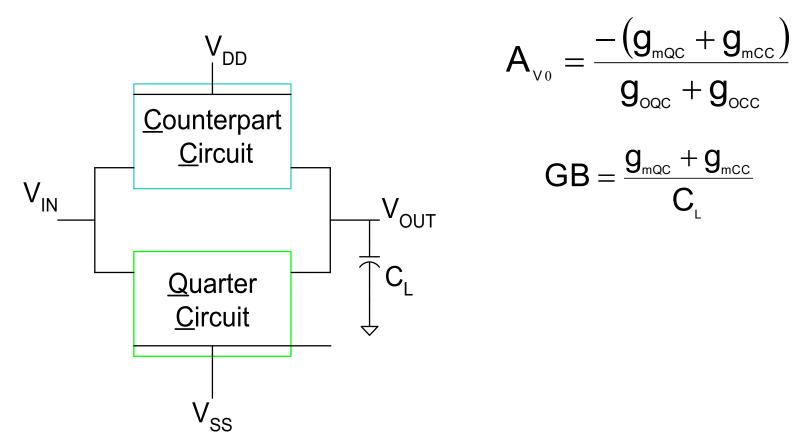
1. Decrease denominator of A_{V0}

2. Increase numerator of A_{V0}

Previous approaches focused on decreasing denominator or increasing numerator with current mirror

Consider now increasing numerator with excitation

Other Methods of Gain Enhancement

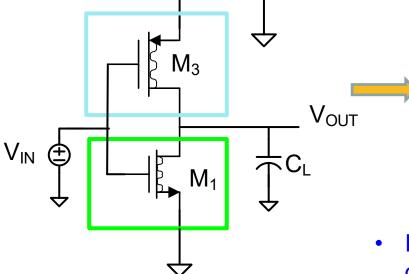


Consider now increasing numerator by changing the excitation

g_{meq} Enhancement with Driven Counterpart Circuit

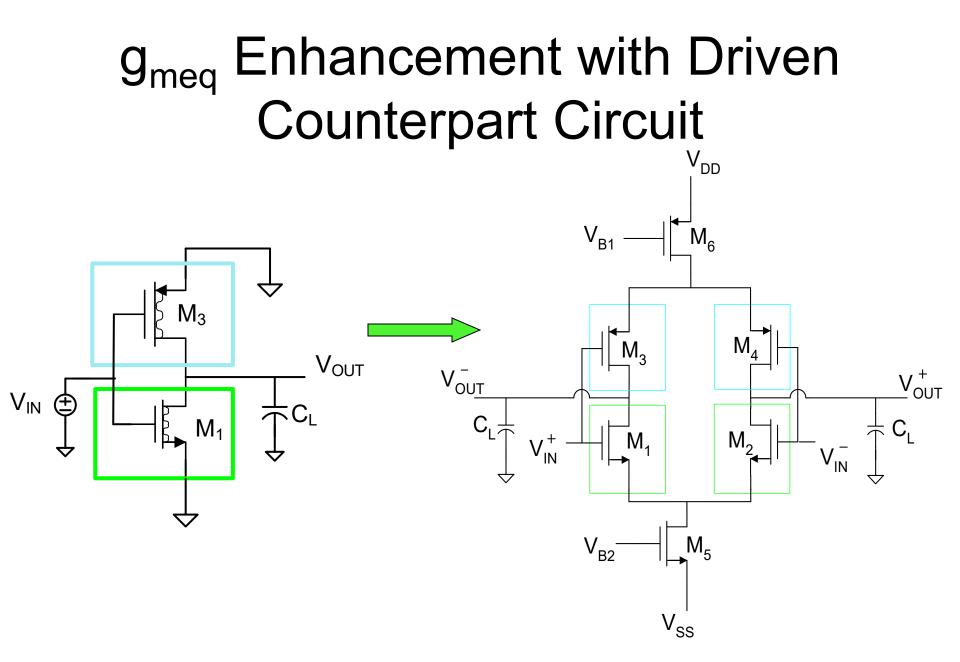
Recall:





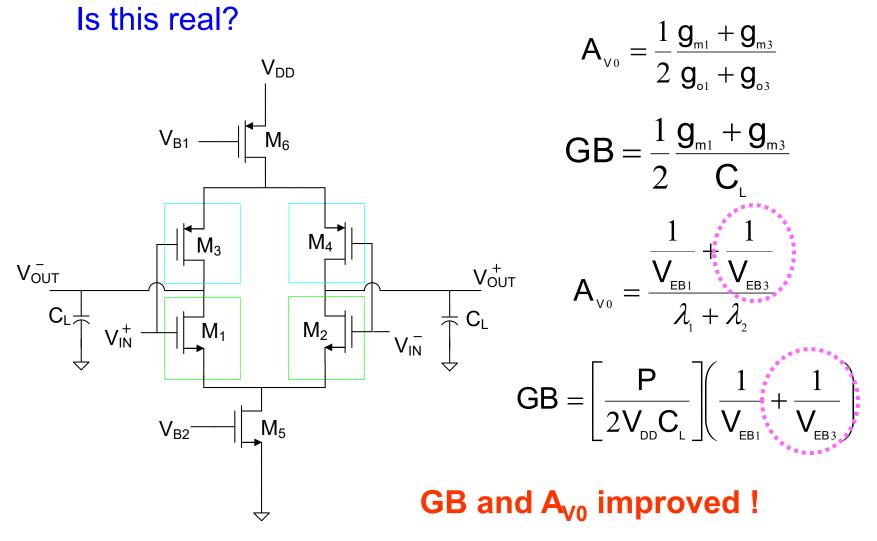
$A_{v_0} =$	$\frac{\mathbf{g}_{m1} + \mathbf{g}_{m3}}{\mathbf{g}_{o1} + \mathbf{g}_{o3}}$
GB =	$=\frac{\mathbf{g}_{m1}+\mathbf{g}_{m3}}{\mathbf{C}_{L}}$

- In the small-signal parameter domain, both gain and GB appear to be enhancement
- Is this real?



Needs CMFB Circuit to V_{B1} or V_{B2}

g_{meq} Enhancement with Driven Counterpart Circuit



Other Methods of Gain Enhancement

Increasing the output impedance of the amplifier cascode, folded cascode, regulated cascode

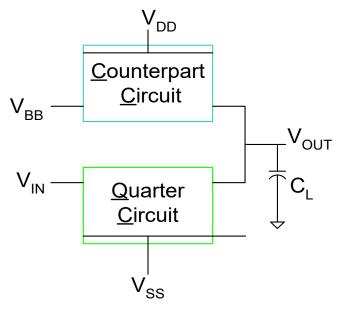
Increasing the transconductance (current mirror op amp) but it didn't really help because the output conductance increased proportionally

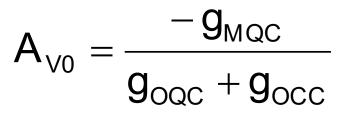


Driving the counterpart circuit does offer some improvements in gain

Cascading gives a multiplicative gain effect (thousands of architectures but compensation is essential) practically limited to a two-level cascade because of too much phase accumulation **Recall:**

Other Methods of Gain Enhancement





Two Strategies:

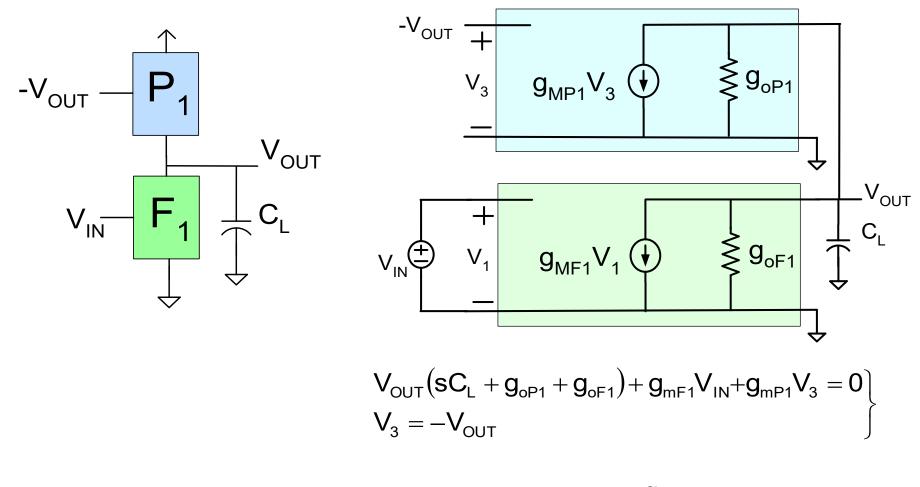
- 1. Decrease denominator of A_{V0}
- 2. Increase numerator of A_{V0}

Consider again decreasing the denominator

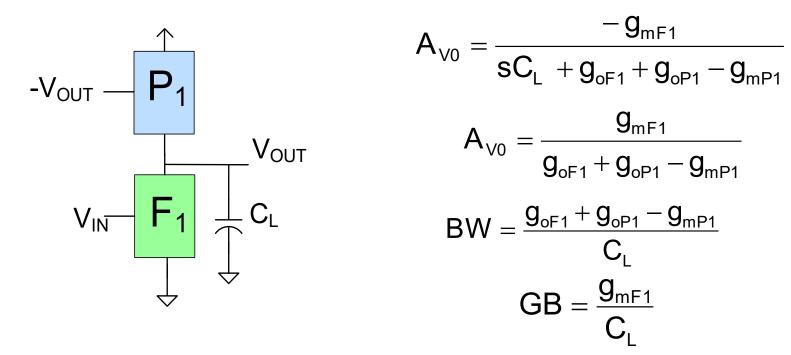
$$A_{vo} = \frac{-g_{MQC}}{g_{OQC} + g_{OCC} - g_{OX}}$$

Is it possible to come up with circuits that will provide a subtraction of conductance in the denominator ?

Other Methods of Gain Enhancement



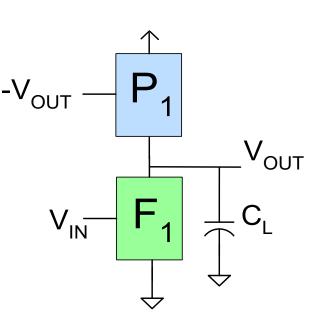
$$A_{V}(s) = \frac{-g_{MQC}}{sC_{L} + g_{OQC} + g_{OCC} - g_{MCC}} \qquad A_{V}(s) = \frac{-g_{mF1}}{sC_{L} + g_{oF1} + g_{oP1} - g_{mP1}}$$



The gain can be made arbitrarily large by selecting g_{mP1} appropriately

The GB does not degrade !

But if not careful, maybe g_{mP1} will get too large!



$$A_{V0} = \frac{-g_{mF1}}{sC_{L} + g_{oF1} + g_{oP1} - g_{mP1}}$$
$$A_{V0} = \frac{g_{mF1}}{g_{oF1} + g_{oP1} - g_{mP1}}$$
$$BW = \frac{g_{oF1} + g_{oP1} - g_{mP1}}{C_{L}}$$
$$GB = \frac{g_{mF1}}{C_{L}}$$

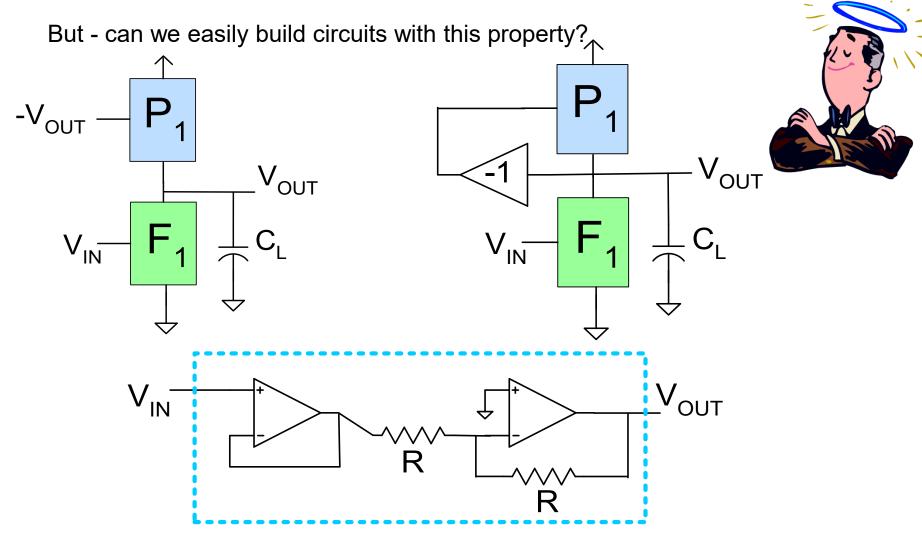


The gain can be made arbitrarily large by selecting g_{mP1} appropriately

The GB does not degrade !

This circuit has a positive feedback loop ($V_{INP1}:V_{OUT}:-V_{OUT}$)

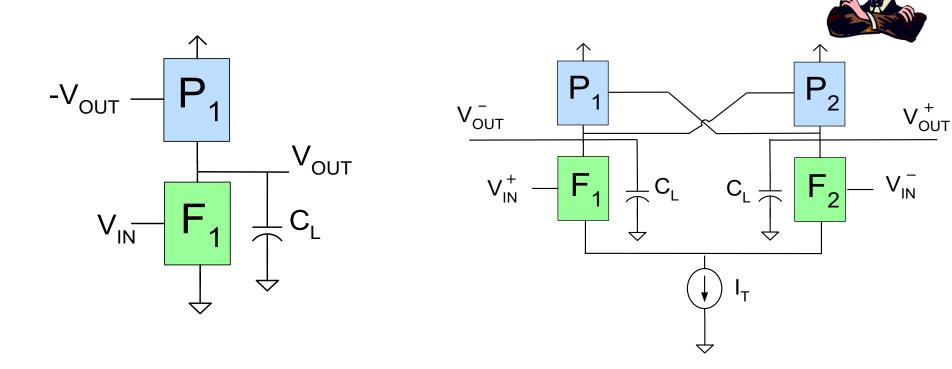
But - can we easily build circuits with this property?



But – the inverting amplifier may be more difficult to build than the op amp itself!

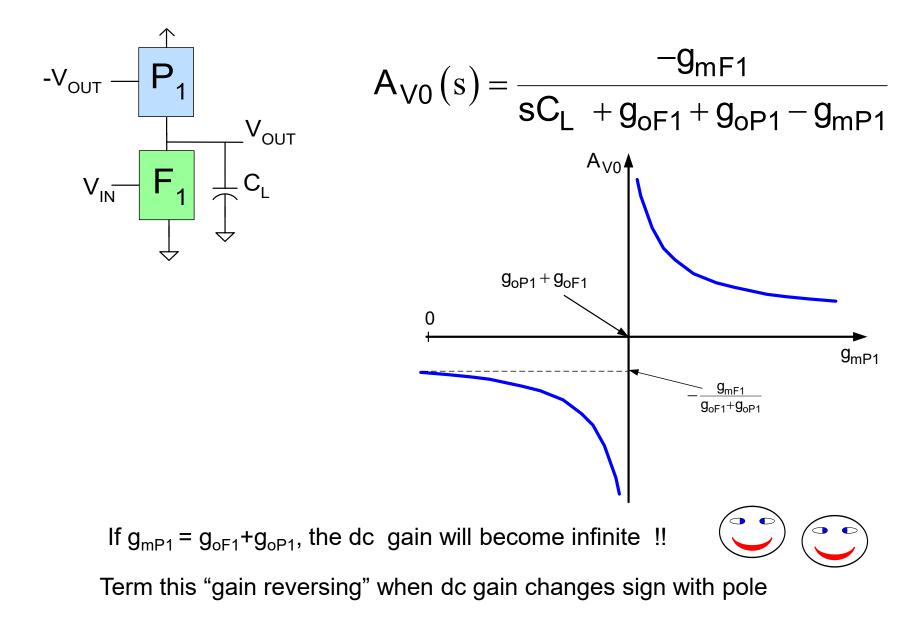
Do we need 2 op amps, one with an output buffer to drive the R resistors?

But - can we easily build circuits with this property?



But – the inverting amplifier may be more difficult to build than the op amp itself!

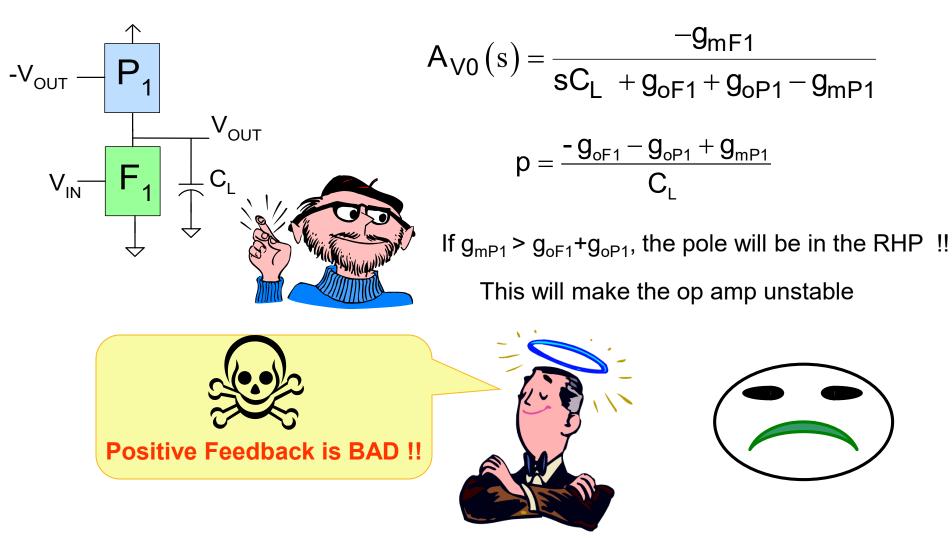
YES – simply by cross-coupling the outputs in a fully differential structure





Stay Safe and Stay Healthy !

End of Lecture 19



This is the major reason most have avoided using the structure !

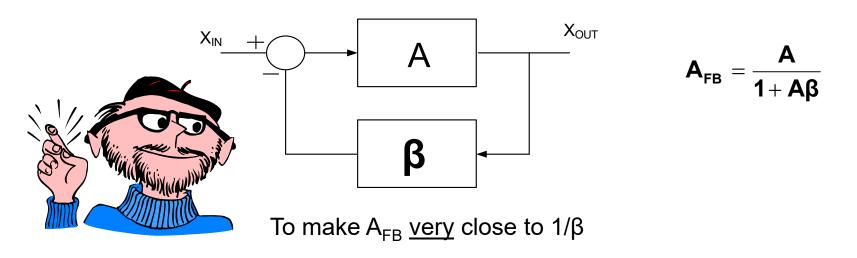


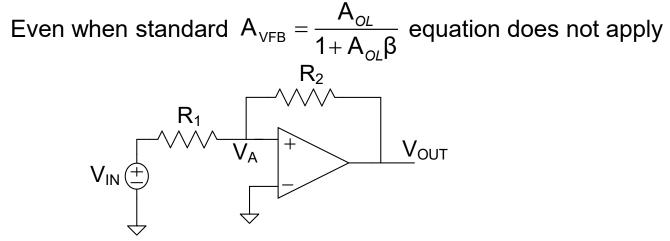
This is the major reason most have avoided using the structure !



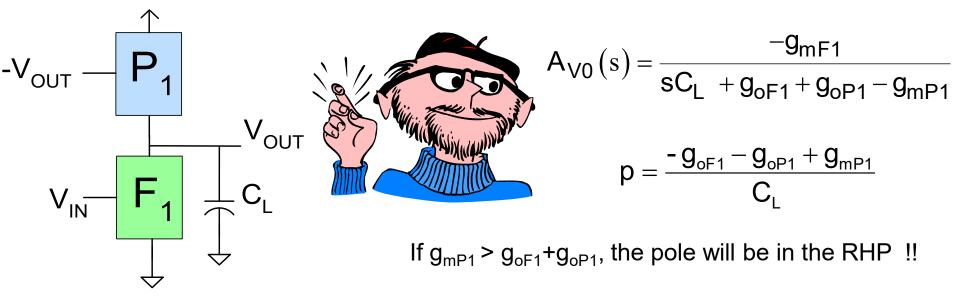
But is Positive Feedback really bad?

Remember – Why do we want a large Op Amp Gain Anyway?





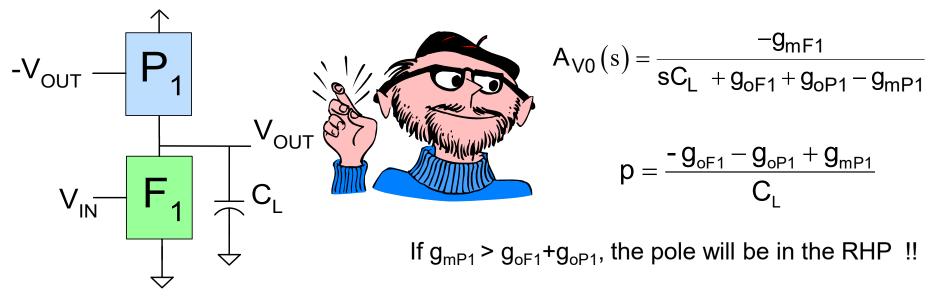
Want A_{OL} large to make V_A very close to 0 so A_{VFB} very close to $-R_2/R_1$



It can be shown that the feedback amplifier is usually stable even if the open-loop Op amp is unstable

The feedback performance can actually be enhanced if the open-loop amplifier is unstable

Research has been ongoing recently using this approach and it shows considerable promise for gain enhancement in low voltage processes



It can be shown that the feedback amplifier is usually stable even if the open-loop Op amp is unstable **How?**

Recall: The numerator of A_{V0} does not change signs when the constant term in the denominator transitions from positive to negative with this approach

For Op Amp

$$A_{V0}(s) = \frac{V_{O}}{V^{+} - V^{-}} \qquad A_{V0}(s) = \begin{cases} \frac{A_{V0}\tilde{p}_{1}}{(s + \tilde{p}_{1})} & \text{for } \tilde{p}_{1} > 0 \\ \frac{-A_{V0}\tilde{p}_{1}}{(s + \tilde{p}_{1})} & \text{for } \tilde{p}_{1} < 0 \end{cases} \qquad \text{where } A_{V0} > 0$$

 $-V_{OUT} - P_{1}$ $V_{OUT} - V_{OUT}$ $V_{IN} - F_{1} - C_{L}$ $V_{OUT} - F_{1} - C_{L}$ How? $A_{V0}(s) = \begin{cases} \frac{A_{V0}\tilde{p}_{1}}{(s + \tilde{p}_{1})} & \text{for } \tilde{p}_{1} > 0 \\ \frac{-A_{V0}\tilde{p}_{1}}{(s + \tilde{p}_{1})} & \text{for } \tilde{p}_{1} < 0 \end{cases}$ It can be shown that the feedback amplifier $A_{FB}(s) = \begin{cases} \frac{A_{V0}\tilde{p}_1}{s + \tilde{p}_1(1 + \beta A_{V0})} & \text{for } \tilde{p}_1 > 0\\ \frac{-A_{V0}\tilde{p}_1}{s + \tilde{p}_1(1 - \beta A_{V0})} & \text{for } \tilde{p}_1 < 0 \end{cases}$ where $A_{v_0} > 0$ $\left[-\tilde{p}_{1}(1+\beta A_{V0}) = p_{1}(1+\beta A_{V0})\right]$ for $p_1 < 0$

$$p_{FB} = \begin{cases} -\tilde{p}_1 (1 - \beta A_{V0}) = p_1 (1 - \beta A_{V0}) & \text{for } p_1 > 0 \\ -\tilde{p}_1 (1 - \beta A_{V0}) = p_1 (1 - \beta A_{V0}) & \text{for } p_1 > 0 \end{cases}$$



Stay Safe and Stay Healthy !

End of Lecture 19