EE 435

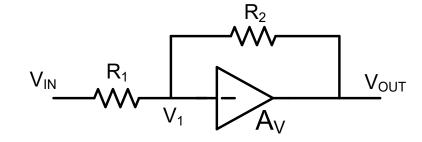
Lecture 3

Design Space Exploration

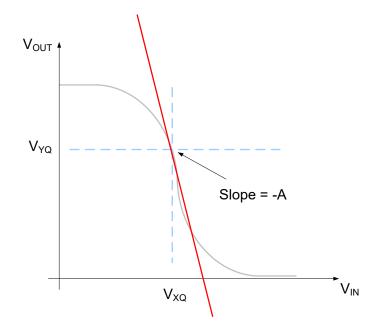
with applications to single-stage amplifier design

Systematic Strategies for Designing and Analyzing Op Amps

Single-ended Op Amp Inverting Amplifier



$$V_{O} = (-A)(V_{1}-V_{XQ})+V_{YQ}$$
$$V_{1} = \frac{R_{1}}{R_{1}+R_{2}}V_{O}+\frac{R_{2}}{R_{1}+R_{2}}V_{IN}$$

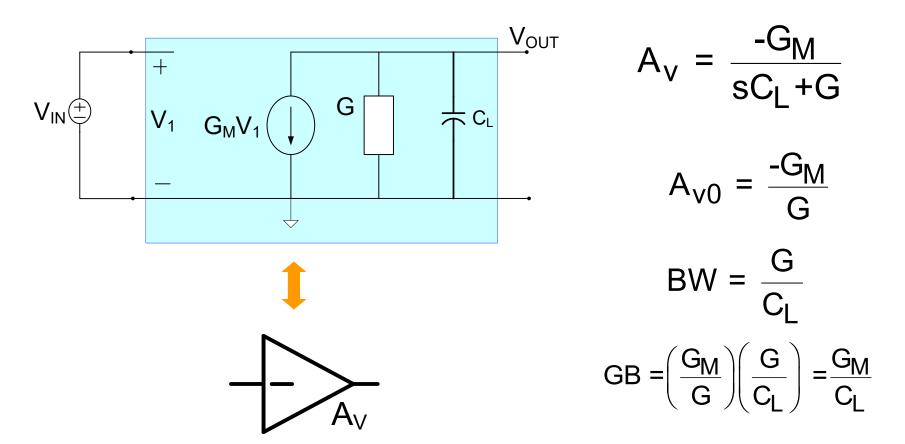


Summary:

$$V_{O} = -\frac{R_{2}}{R_{1}}V_{iss} + V_{XQ} + \frac{R_{2}}{R_{1}}(V_{XQ} - V_{inQ})$$

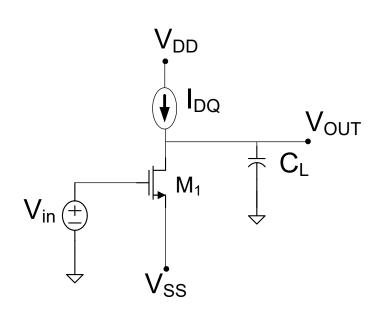
What type of circuits have the transfer characteristic shown?

Review from last lecture: Single-stage single-input low-gain op amp (unilateral with infinite input impedance and one capacitor)



GB and Avo are two of the most important parameters in an op amp

Review from last lecture: How do we design an amplifier with a given architecture in general or this architecture in particular?



What is the design space?

Generally V_{SS} , V_{DD} , C_L (and possibly V_{OUTQ}) will be fixed Must determine { W_1 , L_1 , I_{DQ} and V_{INO} } Thus there are 4 design variables

But W_1 and L_1 appear as a ratio in almost all performance characteristics of interest

and I_{DQ} is related to V_{INQ} , W_1 and L_1 (this is a constraint)

Thus the design space generally has only two independent variables or two degrees of freedom $[w_{1,1}]$

Thus design or "synthesis" with this architecture involves exploring the two-dimensional design

space

Review from last lecture: How do we design an amplifier with a given architecture ?

- 1. Determine the design space
- 2. Identify the constraints

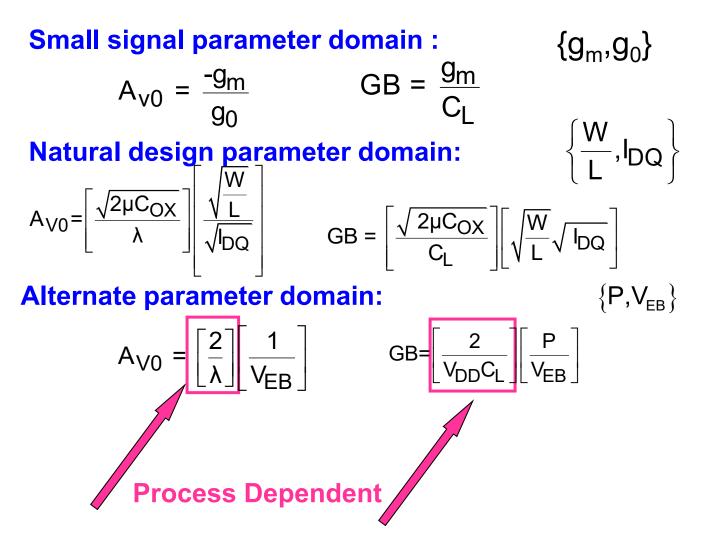
3. Determine the entire set of unknown variables and the Degrees of Freedom

4. Determine an appropriate parameter domain

5. Explore the resultant design space with the identified number of Degrees of Freedom

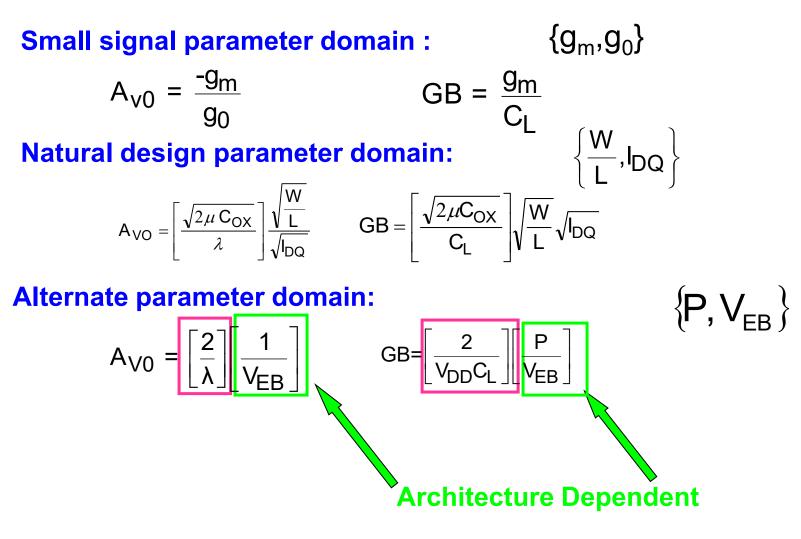
Parameter Domains for Characterizing Amplifier Performance

Degrees of Freedom: 2



Parameter Domains for Characterizing Amplifier Performance

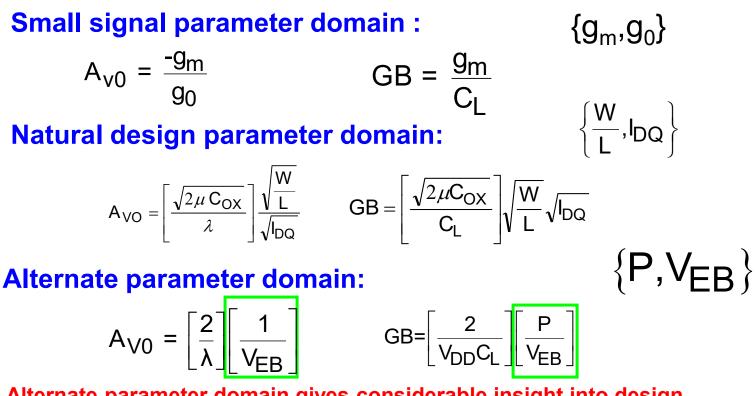
Degrees of Freedom: 2



9

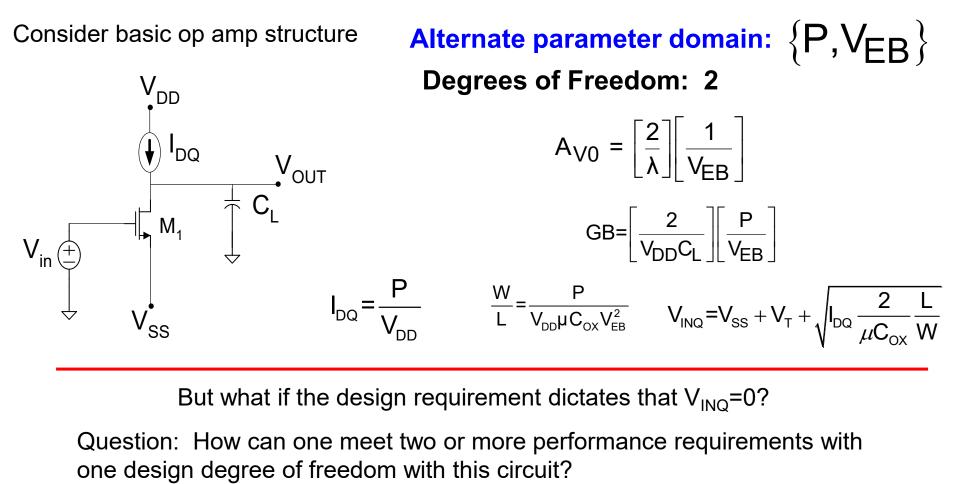
Parameter Domains for Characterizing Amplifier Performance

Degrees of Freedom: 2



- Alternate parameter domain gives considerable insight into design
- Easy to map from alternate parameter domain to natural parameter domain
- Alternate parameter domain provides modest parameter decoupling
- $A_{V0} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\lambda}{2} \end{bmatrix}$ and $GB \begin{bmatrix} \frac{V_{DD}C_L}{2} \end{bmatrix}$ figures of merit for comparing architectures

Design With the Basic Amplifier Structure



one design degree of freedom with this circuit?

Degrees of Freedom: 1

Luck or Can't

How do we design an amplifier with a given architecture ?

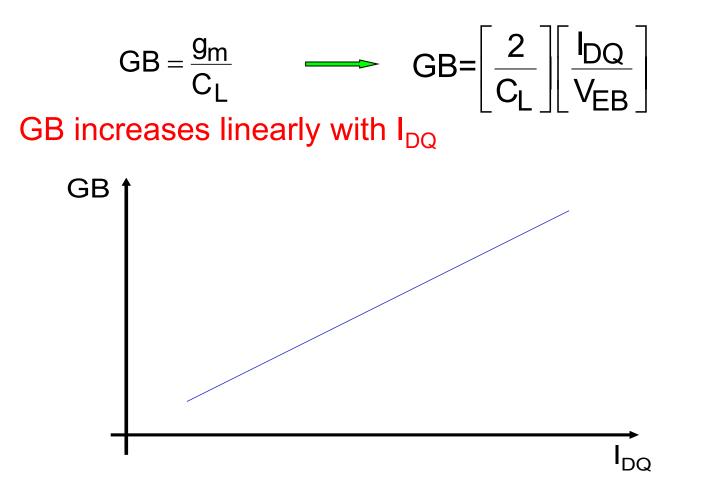
- 1. Determine the design space
- 2. Identify the constraints

3. Determine the entire set of unknown variables and the Degrees of Freedom

4. Determine an appropriate parameter domain

5. Explore the resultant design space with the identified number of Degrees of Freedom

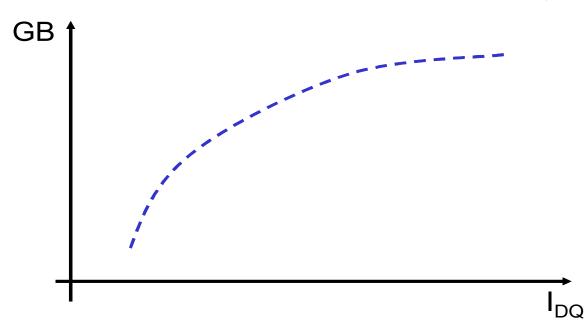
Question: How does the GB of the single-stage amplifier common-source amplifier change with bias current?



Question: How does the GB of the single-stage amplifier change with bias current?

$$GB = \left[\frac{\sqrt{2\mu C_{OX}}}{C_{L}}\right] \left[\sqrt{\frac{W}{L}}\sqrt{I_{DQ}}\right]$$

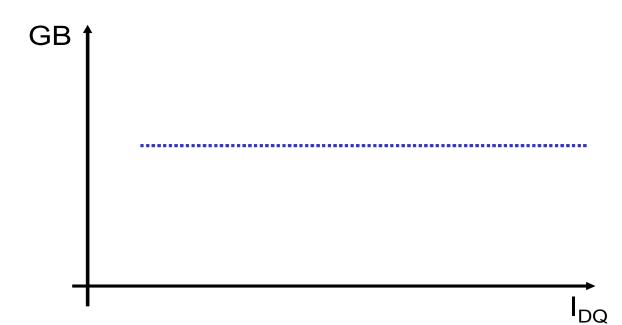
GB increases with the square root of I_{DQ}



Question: How does the GB of the single-stage amplifier change with bias current?

$$\mathsf{GB} = \left[\frac{2}{\mathsf{V}_{\mathsf{DD}}\mathsf{C}_{\mathsf{L}}}\right] \left[\frac{\mathsf{P}}{\mathsf{V}_{\mathsf{EB}}}\right]$$

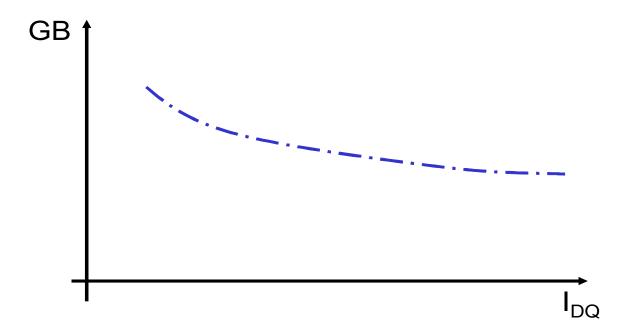
GB independent of I_{DQ}



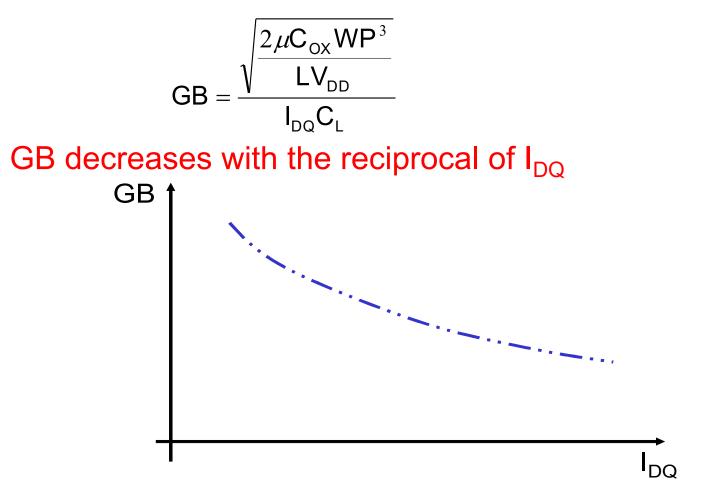
Question: How does the GB of the single-stage amplifier change with bias current?

$$GB = \frac{1}{\sqrt{I_{DQ}}} \frac{P}{C_L} \sqrt{\frac{2\mu C_{OX}W}{L}}$$

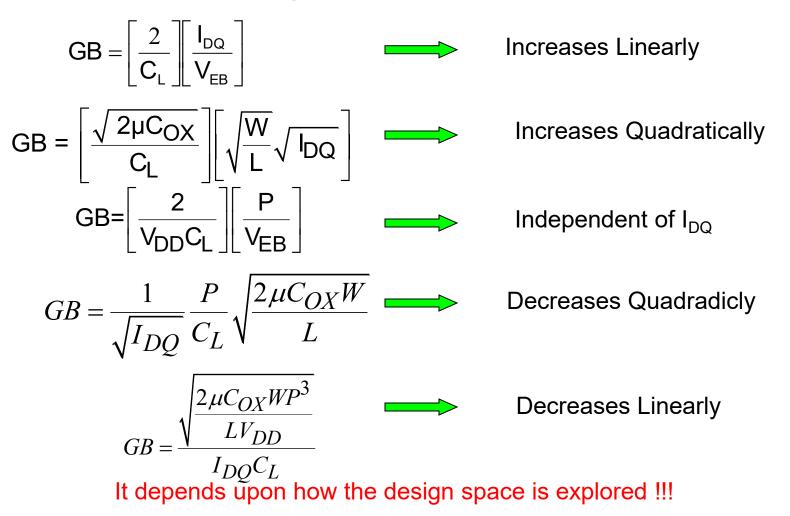
GB decreases with the reciprocal of the square root of I_{DQ}

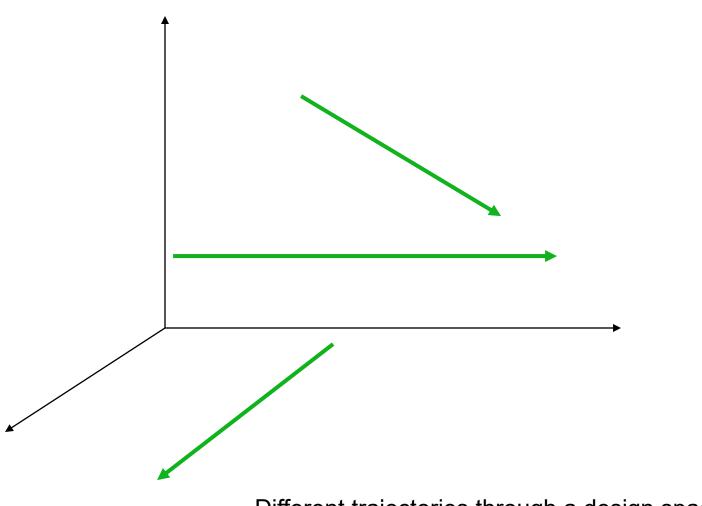


Question: How does the GB of the single-stage amplifier change with bias current?



Question: How does the GB of the single-stage amplifier change with bias current?





Different trajectories through a design space 19

Issue becomes more involved for amplifiers or circuits with more than one transistor

Choice of design parameters can have major impact on insight into design

Size of parameter domain should agree with the number of degrees of freedom

Affects of any parameter on performance whether it be in the identified parameter domain or not is strongly dependent on how design space is explored

Small signal and natural parameter domains give little insight into design or performance

Question: How does the A_{V0} of the single-stage amplifier change with V_{EB} ?

$$A_{V0} = \left[\frac{2}{\lambda}\right] \left[\frac{1}{V_{EB}}\right]$$

 A_{V0} decreases with the reciprocal of V_{EB}

Even though there are 2 degrees of freedom, the dependence of A_{V0} on V_{EB} is unambiguous

Question: How does the A_{V0} of the single-stage amplifier change with P?

 A_{V0} is independent of P if V_{EB} is fixed

Even though there are 2 degrees of freedom, the dependence of A_{V0} on P is unambiguous provided A_{V0} is fixed

Question: How does the GB of the single-stage amplifier change with P?

$$\mathsf{GB} = \left[\frac{2}{\mathsf{V}_{\mathsf{DD}}\mathsf{C}_{\mathsf{L}}}\right] \left[\frac{\mathsf{P}}{\mathsf{V}_{\mathsf{EB}}}\right]$$

GB increases linearly with P?

This is essentially the same question of how GB varies with $I_{\rm DQ}$ Answer depends on how $V_{\rm EB}$ changes

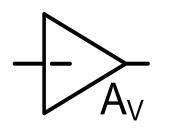
GB increases linearly with P provided the A_{V0} is fixed ?

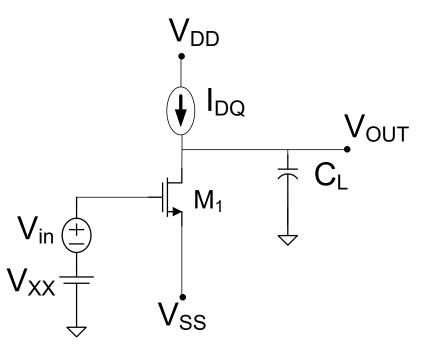
This answer is unambiguous since fixing A_{V0} fixes V_{EB}

Often in situations where the dc gain requirements are fixed and this necessitates a very unfavorable tradeoff between GB and power in this structure since P is a critical "resource" in most applications !

Single-Stage Low-Gain Op Amps

Single-ended input

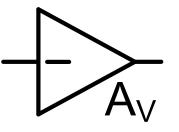




Basic single-stage op amp

Single-Stage Low-Gain Op Amps

Single-ended input



Observations:

- This circuit often known as a common source amplifier
- Gain in the 30dB to 45dB range
- Inherently a transconductance amplifier since output impedance is high
- Voltage gain is ratio of transconductance gain to output conductance
- Critical to know degrees of freedom in design and know how to systematically explore design space
- Alternative parameter domain much more useful for design than smallsignal domain or natural domain
- Performance of differential circuits will be obtained by inspection from those of the single-ended structures

Review

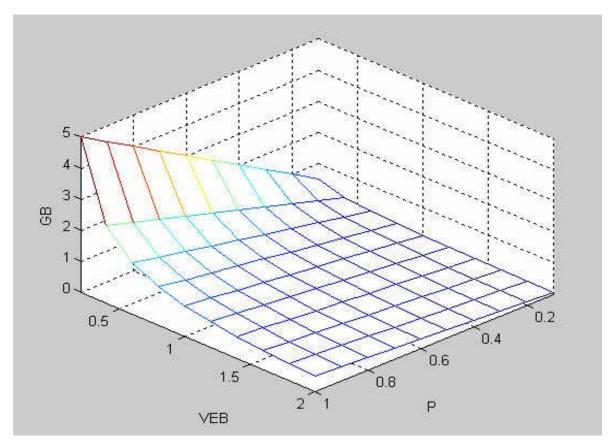
- Multiple parameter domains can be used to characterize and explore a design space
- Performance characteristics of interest take on many different forms depending upon how design space is characterized
- Critical to identify the real number of degrees of freedom in design space (mathematical degrees of freedom minus the number of constraints)
- Performance characteristics often can be expressed as product of a process dependent term and an architecture dependent term
 - Facilitates comparison of different architectures
- Choice of characterization parameters can make a major difference on how hard it is to explore a design space

Review

- Design space is often a highdimensional system with many local extrema (minimums or maximums)
- Be careful about drawing conclusions about how any parameter individually affects system performance because its affect will depend upon how the design space is explored

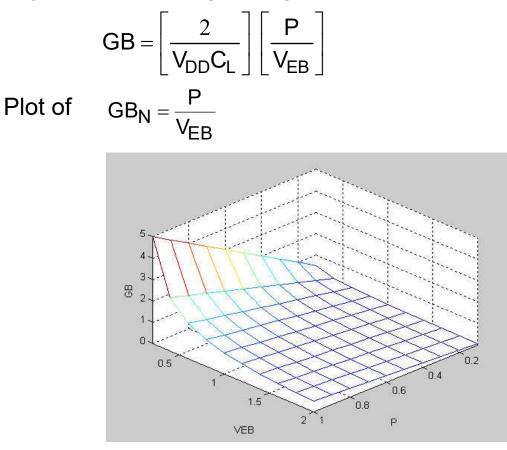
Design Space for Single-Stage Op Amp

$$GB = \left[\frac{2}{V_{DD}C_{L}}\right] \left[\frac{P}{V_{EB}}\right]$$
Plot of $GB_{N} = \frac{P}{V_{EB}}$



Can we say that GB increases linearly with P?

Design Space for Single-Stage Op Amp



Can we say that GB increases linearly with P?

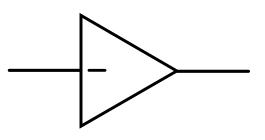
Can we say that GB increases linearly with P if A_V is fixed?

Where we are at: Basic Op Amp Design

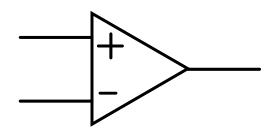
- Fundamental Amplifier Design Issues
- Single-Stage Low Gain Op Amps
 - Single-Stage High Gain Op Amps
 - Two-Stage Op Amp
 - Other Basic Gain Enhancement Approaches

Where we are at: Single-Stage Low-Gain Op Amps

Single-ended input







(Symbol does not distinguish between different amplifier types)

Differential Input Low Gain Op Amps

Will Next Show That :

• Differential input op amps can be readily obtained from single-ended op amps

 Performance characteristics of differential op amps can be directly determined from those of the single-ended counterparts

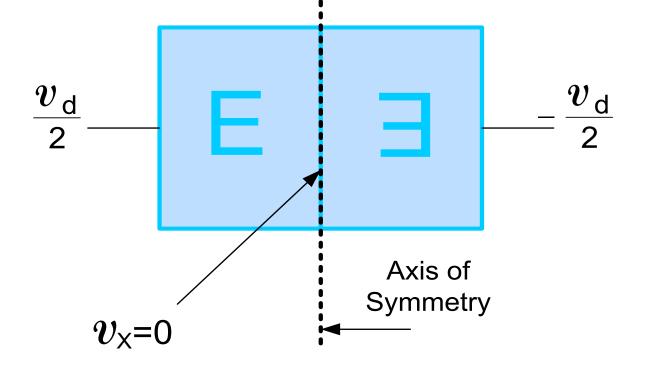
Systematic strategies for designing and analyzing op amps

- Analytical expressions for even simple op amps can become very complicated if brute force analysis techniques are used
- Considerable insight into both performance and design can be obtained from a systematic strategy for design and analysis of op amps
- Most authors present operational amplifiers from an "appear and analyze" approach

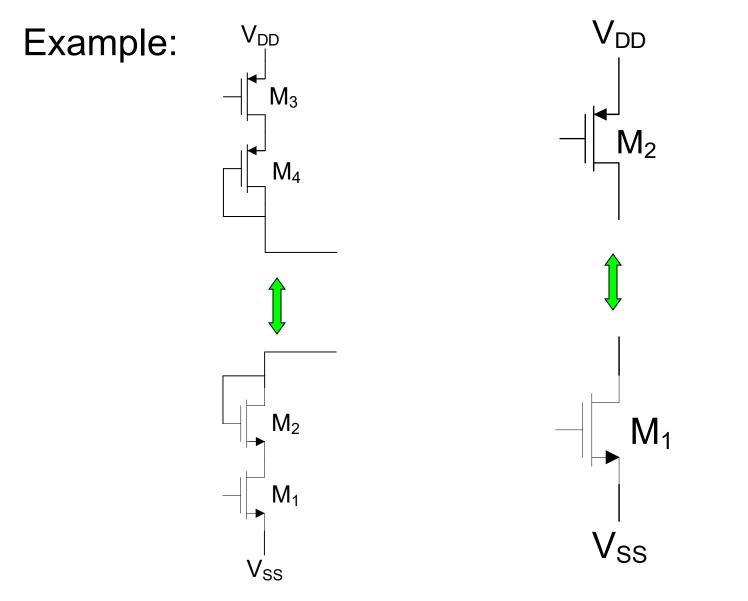
A systematic strategy for designing and analyzing op amps will now be developed

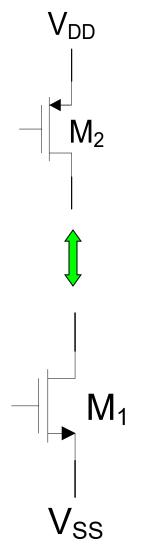
Symmetric Networks

Theorem: If a linear network is symmetric, then for all differential symmetric excitations, the small signal voltage is zero at all points on the axis of symmetry.



Definition: The counterpart network of a network is obtained by replacing all n-channel devices with p-channel devices, replacing all p-channel devices with n-channel devices, replacing V_{SS} biases with V_{DD} biases, and replacing all V_{DD} biases with V_{SS} biases.



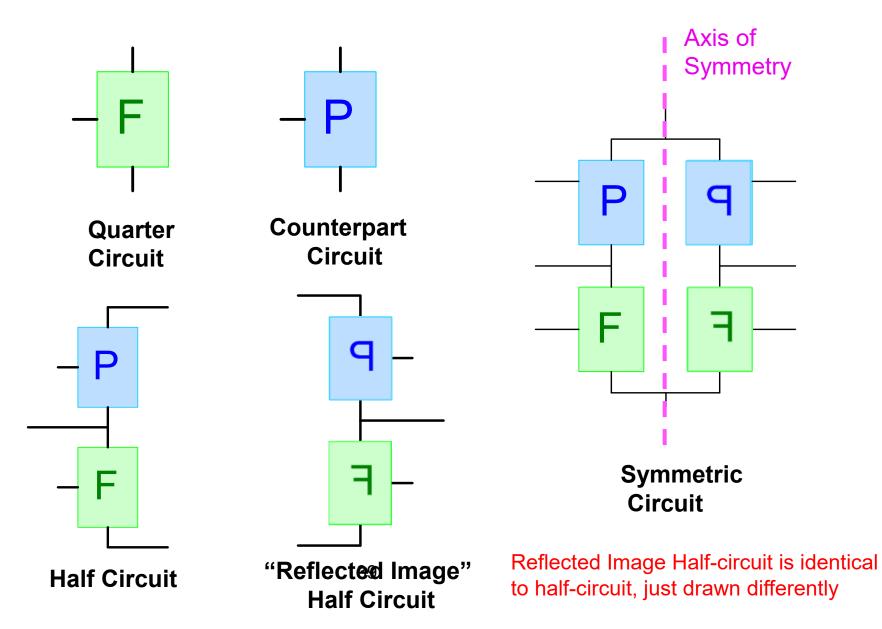


the counterpart network is unique

the counterpart of the counterpart is the original network

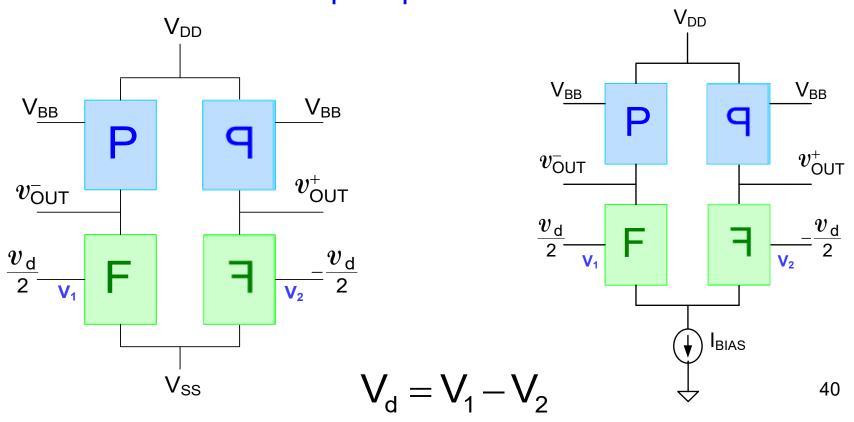
Theorem: The parametric expressions for all small-signal characteristics¹, such as voltage gain, output impedance, and transconductance of a network and its counterpart network are the same.

Terminology and Notation

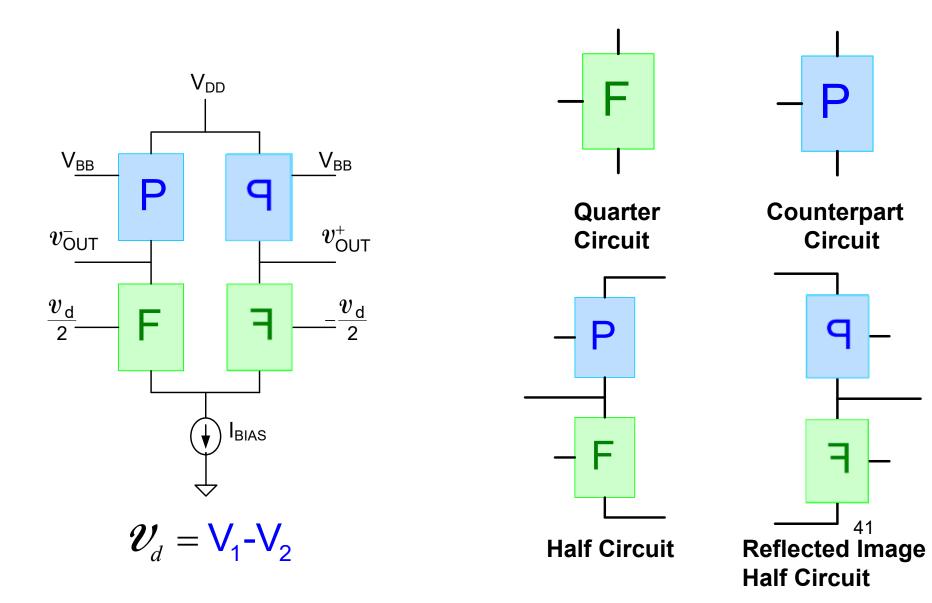


Synthesis of fully-differential op amps from symmetric networks and counterpart networks

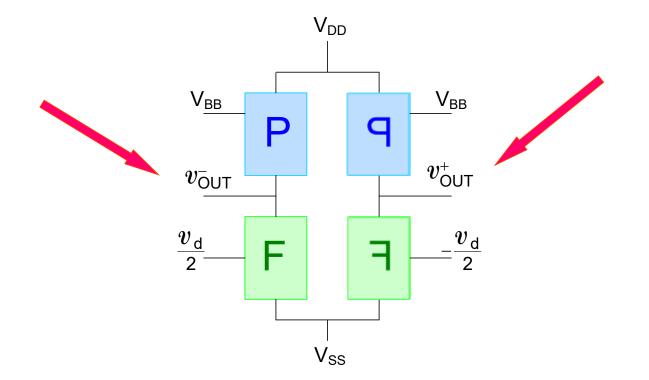
Theorem: If F is any network with a single input and P is its counterpart network, then the following circuits are fully differential circuits --- "op amps".



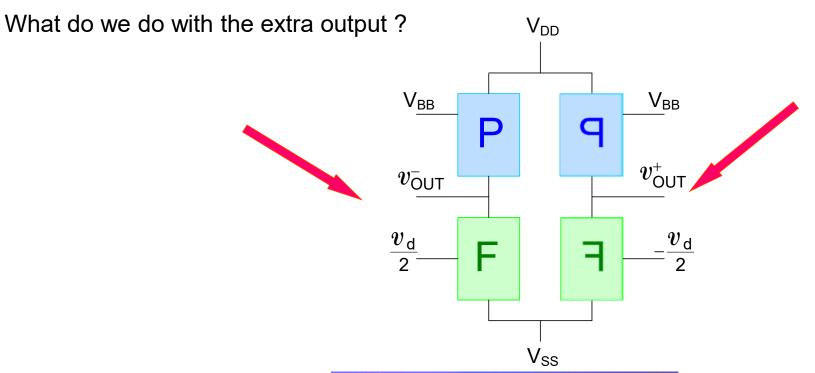
Synthesis of fully-differential op amps from symmetric networks and counterpart networks



Synthesis of fully-differential op amps from symmetric networks and counterpart networks



What do we do with the extra output ?

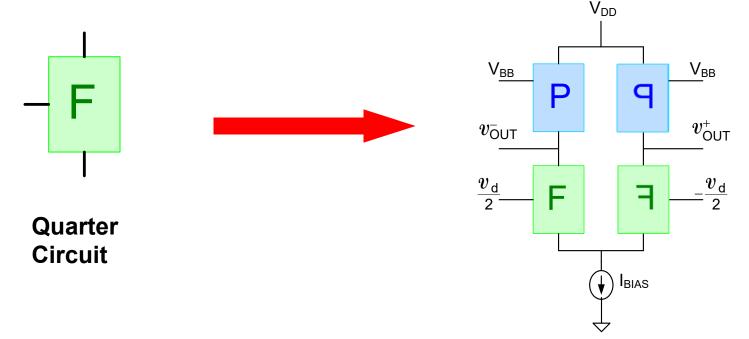


Use it or ignore it !!



Synthesis of fully-differential op amps from symmetric networks and counterpart networks

A fully differential op amp can be derived from any quarter circuit by combining it with its counterpart to obtain a half-circuit, combining two half-circuits to form a differential symmetric circuit and then biasing the symmetric differential circuit with a current source on the axis of symmetry.



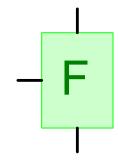
Further, most of the properties of the operational amplifier can be obtained by inspection, from those of the quarter circuit.

Synthesis of fully-differential op amps from symmetric networks and counterpart networks

A fully differential op amp can be derived from any quarter circuit by combining it with its counterpart to obtain a half-circuit, combining two half-circuits to form a differential symmetric circuit and then biasing the symmetric differential circuit with a current source on the axis of symmetry.

Further, most of the properties of the operational amplifier can be obtained by inspection, from those of the quarter circuit.

Implications: Much Op Amp design can be reduced to designing much simpler quarter-circuits where it is much easier to get insight into circuit performance



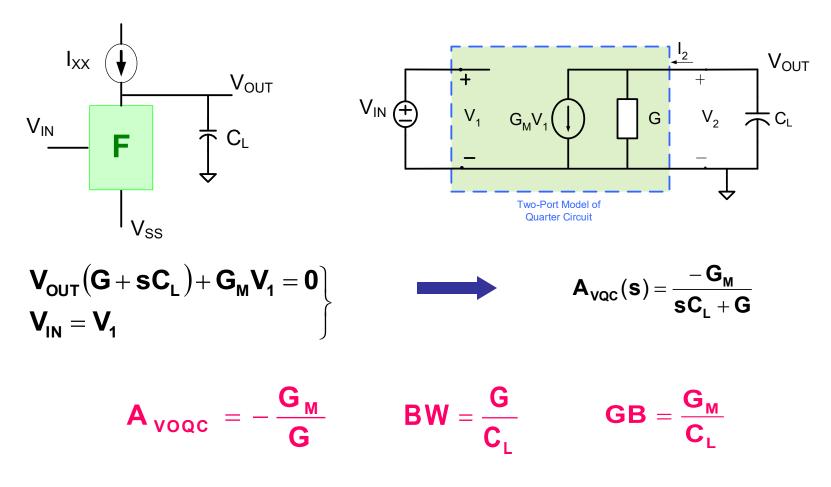
Quarter Circuit

Fully Differential Single-Stage Amplifier

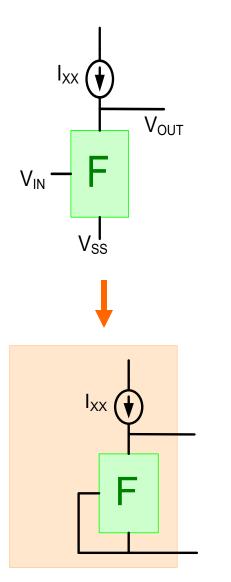
- General Differential Analysis
 - 5T Op Amp from simple quarter circuit
 - Biasing with CMFB circuit
 - Common-mode and differential-mode analysis
 - Common Mode Gain
 - Overall Transfer Characteristics
 - Design of 5T Op Amp
 - Slew Rate

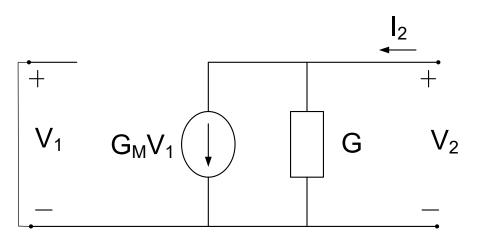
Characterization of Quarter Circuit

If the input impedance is infinite and circuit is unilateral, the two-port network only has two characterizing parameters : G_M and G

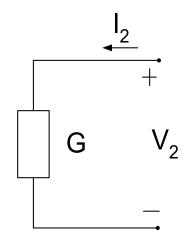


Characterization of Quarter Circuit (or Counterpart Circuit) with input port terminated in small-signal short circuit

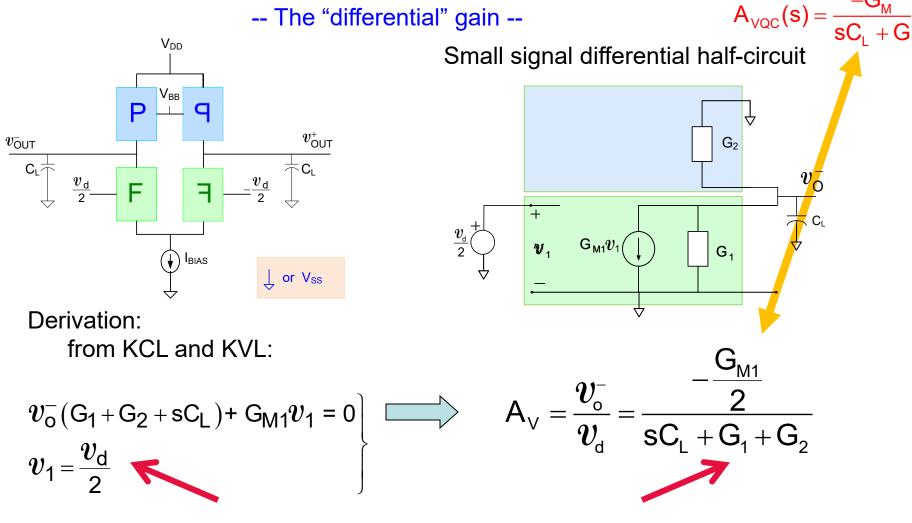




If the input port of a two-port has an ac short, then the two-port reduces to a oneport characterized by the conductance G

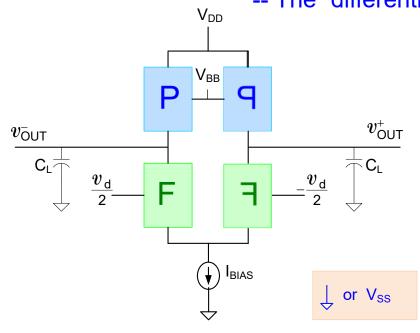


48

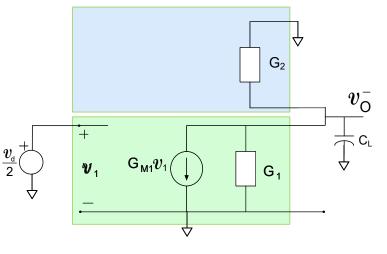


Note: Factor of 2 reduction of differential gain since only half of the differential input is applied to the halfcircuit

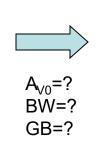
Note: More reduction of gain since denominator increases



Small signal differential half-circuit

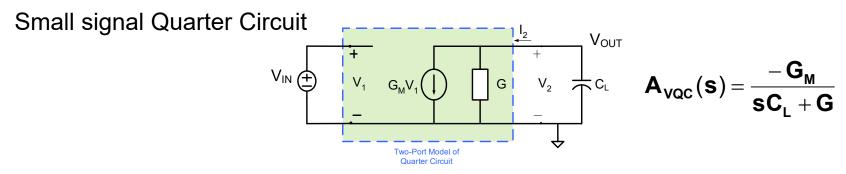


$$A_{V} = \frac{v_{o}^{-}}{v_{d}} = \frac{-\frac{G_{M1}}{2}}{sC_{L} + G_{1} + G_{2}}$$

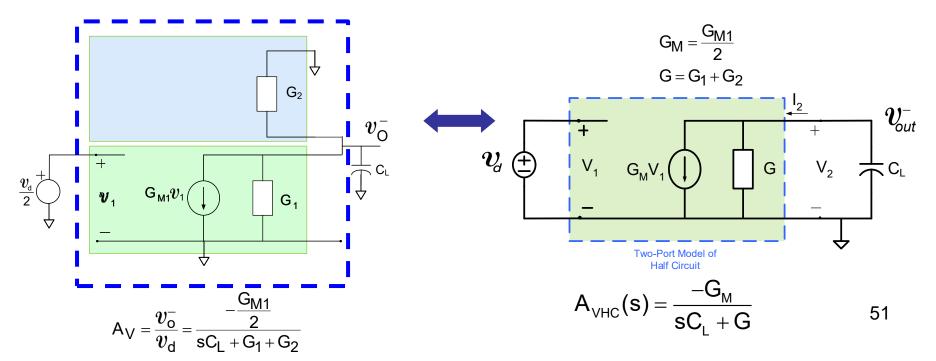


$$A_{VO} = \frac{-G_{M1}}{2(G_1 + G_2)}$$
$$BW = \frac{G_1 + G_2}{C_L}$$
$$GB = \frac{G_{M1}}{2C_1}$$

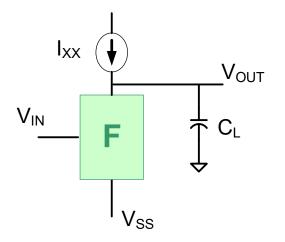
-- The "differential" gain --

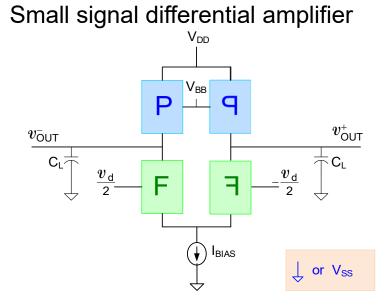


Small signal differential half-circuit (repeated from last slide)



Small signal Quarter Circuit



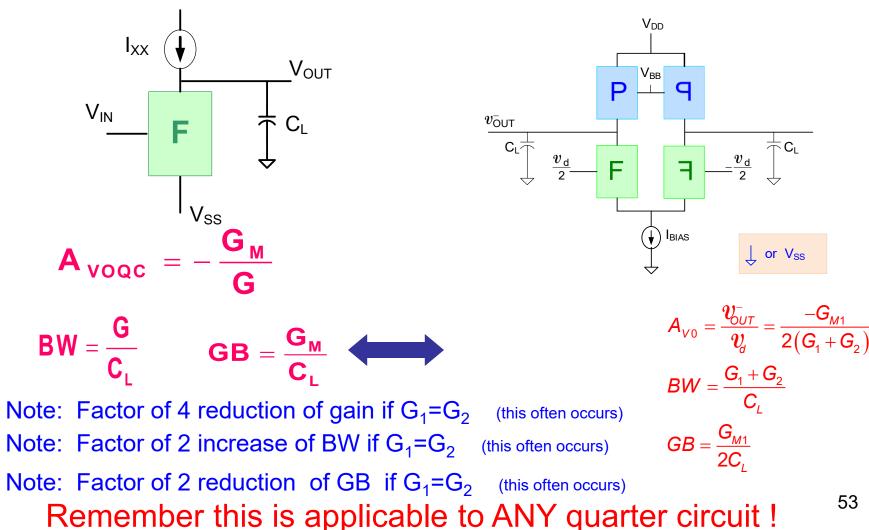


-- The "differential" gain --

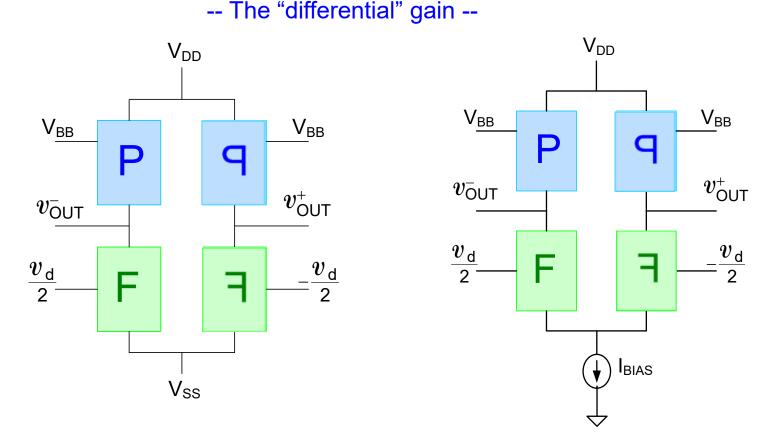
Small signal Quarter Circuit

Small signal differential amplifier

53



Comparison of Tail Voltage and Tail Current Source Structures

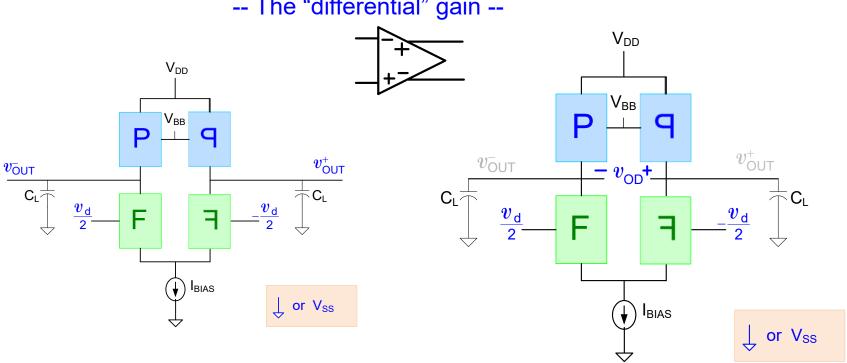


Small signal half-circuits are identical so differential voltage gains, BW, and GB are all the same

Biasing Issues for Differential Amplifier

- Tail voltage bias not suitable for large common-mode (CM) input range but does offer good output swing
- Tail current bias provides good CM input range but at the expense of a modest reduction in output signal swing

Differential Output Amplifiers



Single-Ended Outputs

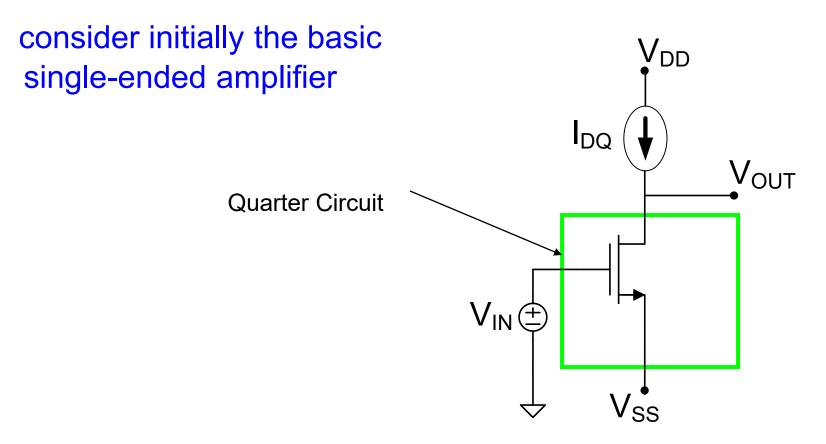
Differential Output

Theorem: For a symmetric circuit with symmetric outputs and differential excitations:

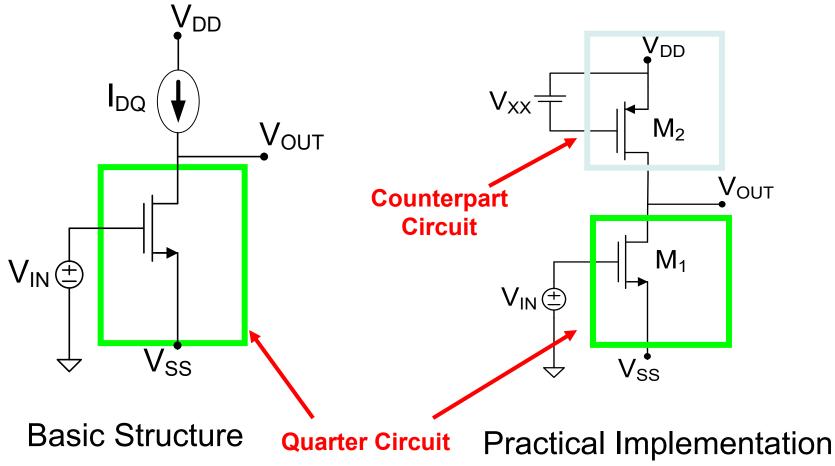
- Differential Voltage Gain Double that of Single-Ended Structure
- BW is the same
- GB Doubles for the Differential Output Structure

- Fully Differential Single-Stage Amplifier
 - General Differential Analysis
- 5T Op Amp from simple quarter circuit
 - Biasing with CMFB circuit
 - Common-mode and differential-mode analysis
 - Common Mode Gain
 - Overall Transfer Characteristics
 - Design of 5T Op Amp
 - Slew Rate

Applications of Quarter-Circuit Concept to Op Amp Design

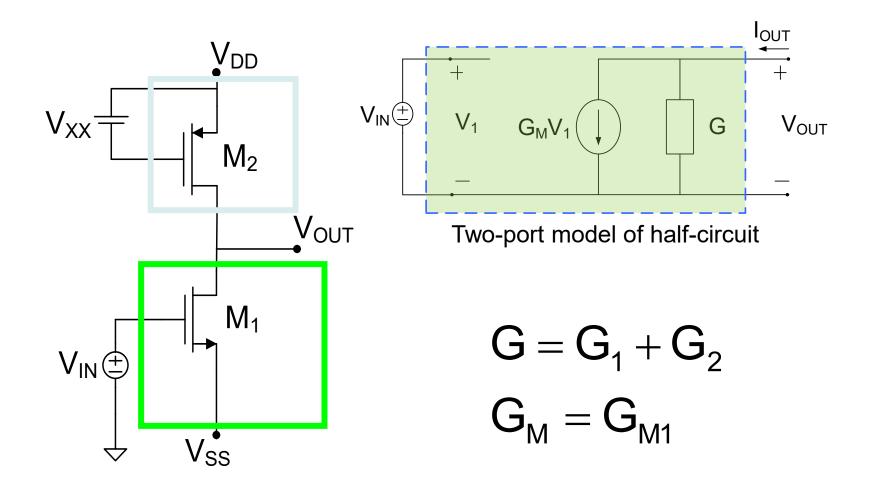


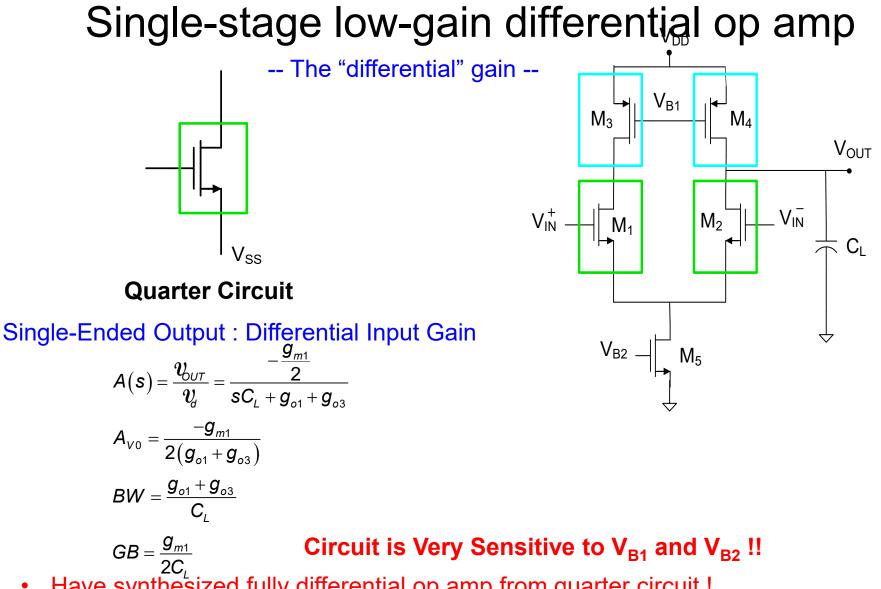
Single-stage single-input lowgain op amp



59

Small signal model of half-circuit





- Have synthesized fully differential op amp from quarter circuit !
- Have obtained analysis of fully differential op amp directly from quarter circuit !

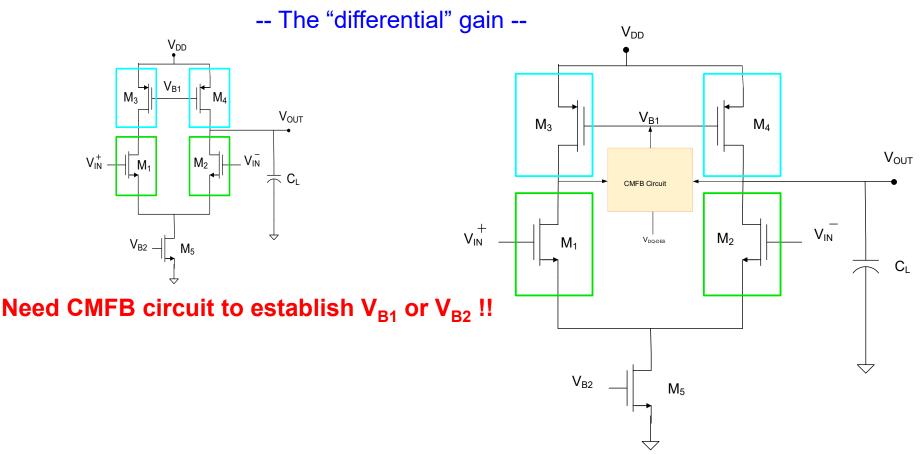
61

- Still need to determine what happens if input is not differential !
- Have almost obtained op amp characteristics by inspection from quarter circuit !!

• Fully Differential Single-Stage Amplifier

- General Differential Analysis
- 5T Op Amp from simple quarter circuit
- Biasing with CMFB circuit
 - Common-mode and differential-mode analysis
 - Common Mode Gain
 - Overall Transfer Characteristics
 - Design of 5T Op Amp
 - Slew Rate

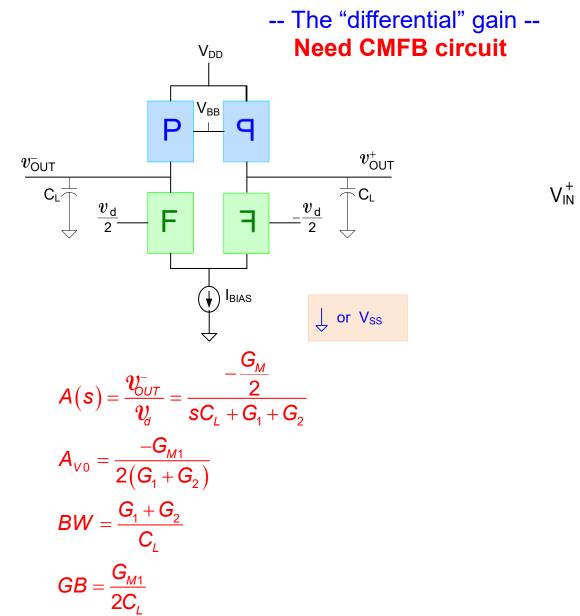
Single-stage low-gain differential op amp

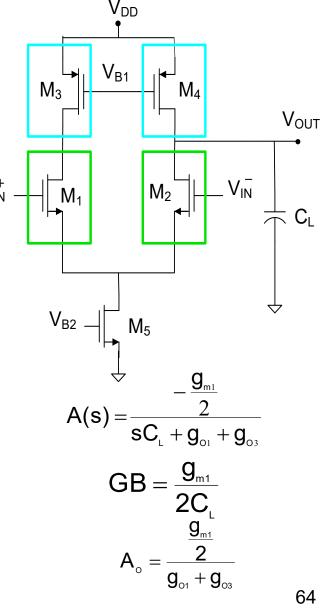


- CMFB circuit determines average value of the drain voltages
- Compares the average to the desired quiescent drain voltages
- Established a feedback signal V_{B1} to set the right Q-point
- Shown for V_{B1} but could alternately be applied to V_{B2}

Details about CMFB circuits will be discussed later

Single-stage low-gain differential op amp





Have obtained differential gain of 5T Op Amp by inspection from quarter circuit

• Fully Differential Single-Stage Amplifier

- General Differential Analysis
- 5T Op Amp from simple quarter circuit
- Biasing with CMFB circuit
- Common-mode and differential-mode analysis
 - Common Mode Gain
 - Overall Transfer Characteristics
 - Design of 5T Op Amp
 - Slew Rate



Stay Safe and Stay Healthy !

End of Lecture 3