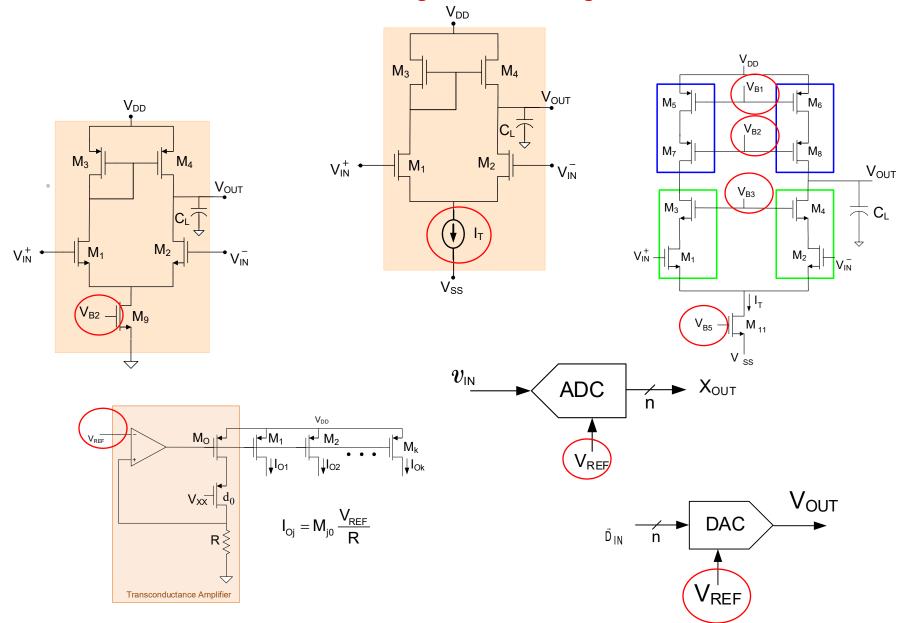
# EE 435 Lecture 42

## Noise in Analog Circuits Dynamic Range

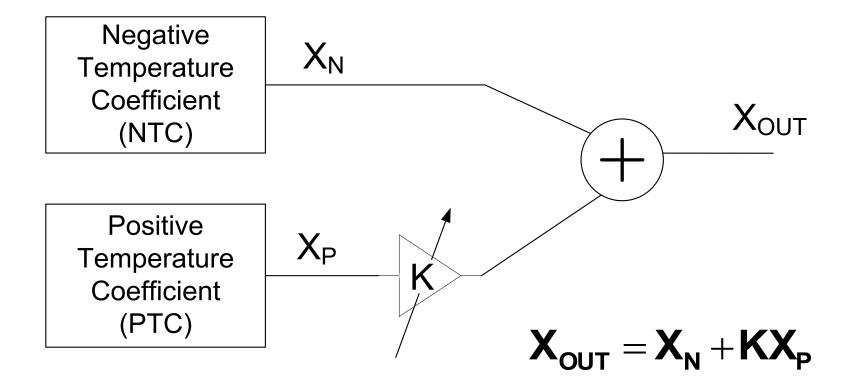
# Bias Voltages/Currents and References

How are these voltages and currents generated?



Review from Last Lecture

## Standard Approach to Building Voltage References



Pick K so that at some temperature  $T_0$ ,

$$\frac{\partial (\mathbf{X}_{\mathsf{N}} + \mathbf{K} \mathbf{X}_{\mathsf{P}})}{\partial \mathbf{T}} \bigg|_{\mathbf{T} = \mathbf{T}_{\mathsf{0}}} = \mathbf{0}$$



#### Bandgap Voltage References

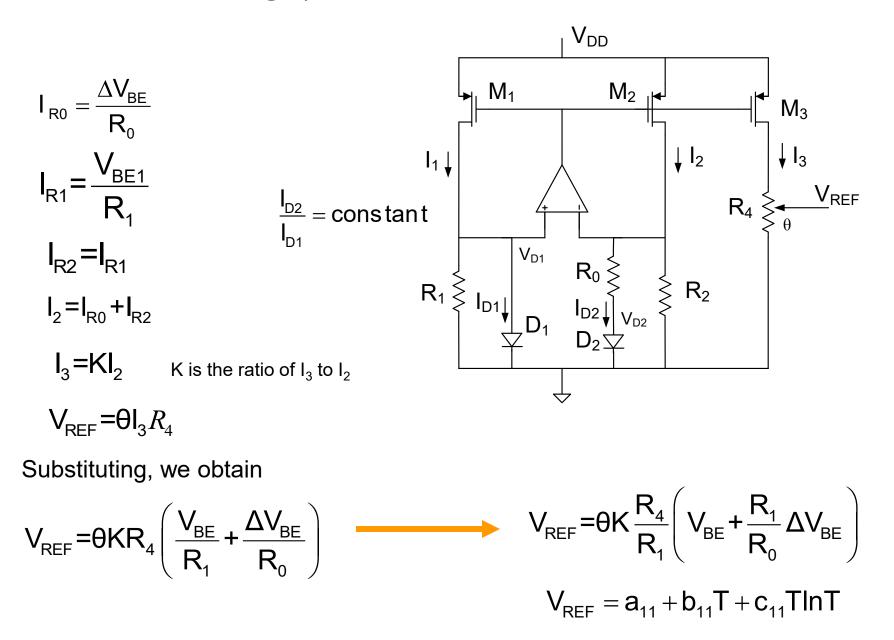
Consider two BJTs (or diodes)



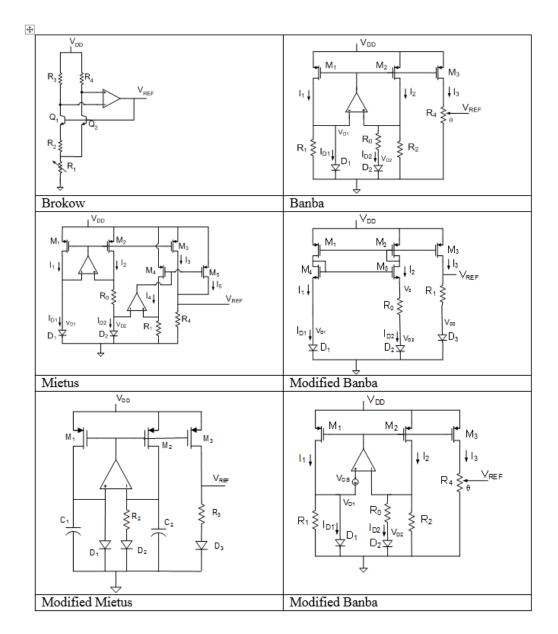
#### Key observation about diodes and diode-connected BJTs

- 1. If ratio of currents in two devices is constant,  $\Delta V_{BE}$  is PTAT independent of the temperature dependence of the currents and temperature sensitivity is small
- 2. VBE has a negative temperature coefficient for a wide range of temperature dependent or temperature independent currents and temperature sensitivity is much larger than that of  $\Delta V_{BE}$

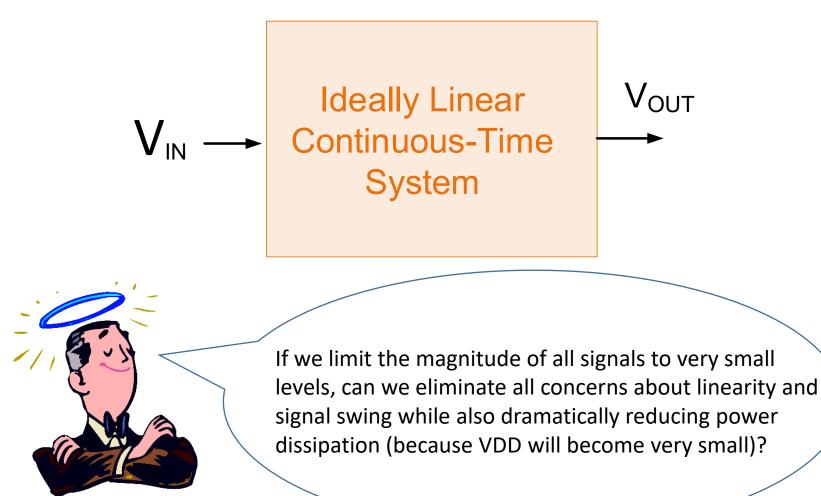
# Bamba Bandgap Reference



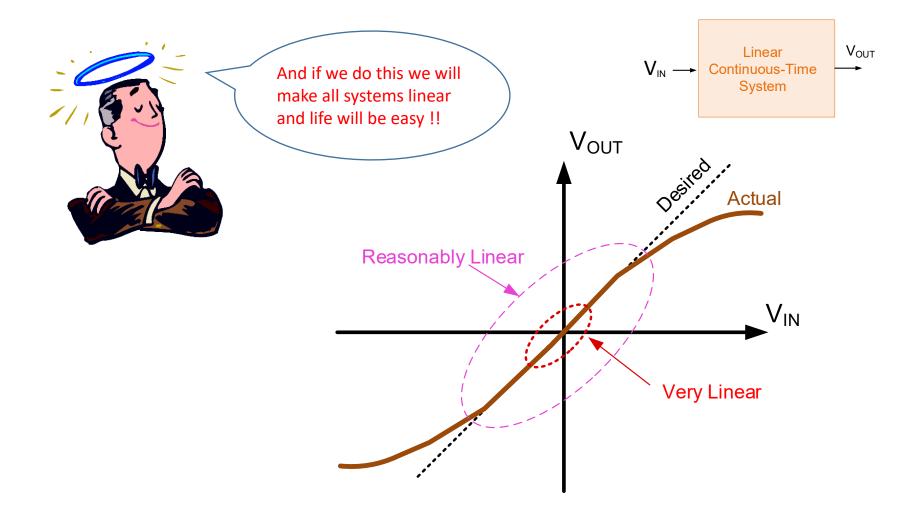
#### Review from Last Lecture



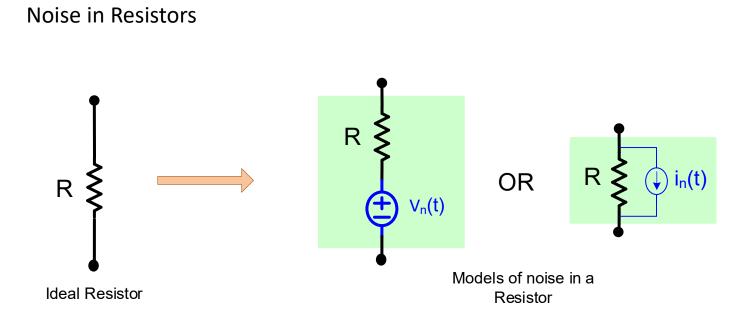
### Signal to Noise Ratios (SNR) and Signal to Noise and Distortion (SNDR), Signal Swing, and Linearity



# Signal to Noise Ratios (SNR) and Signal to Noise and Distortion (SNDR), Signal Swing, and Linearity

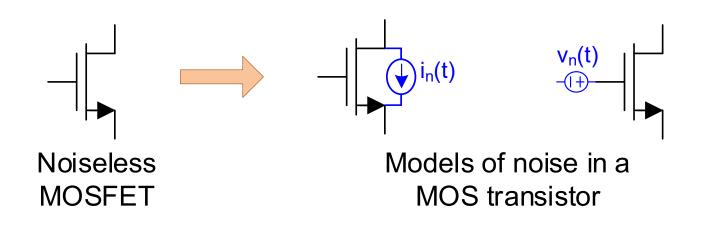


Device noise is a random time-domain signal that characterizes movement of electrons in devices



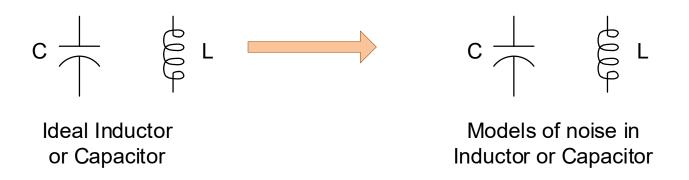
Either model can be used Noise Analysis will give same results for either model Device noise is a random time-domain signal that characterizes movement of electrons in devices

Noise in MOS Transistors



Either model can be used Noise Analysis will give same results for either model Device noise is a random time-domain signal that characterizes movement of electrons in devices

Noise in Capacitors and Inductors (ideal)



Capacitors and Inductors (ideal) are noiseless !

### Typical noise waveform for a resistor

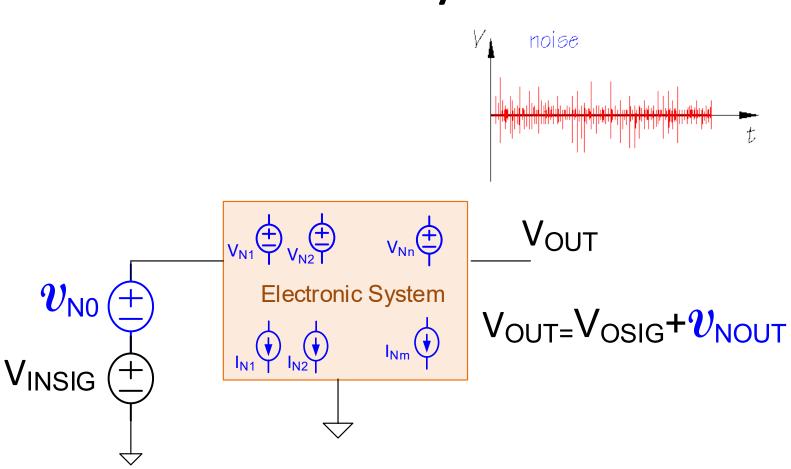


Noise sources in electronic devices are time-domain sources and can be modeled with independent voltage and current sources

Noise sources have a polarity though the statistical characteristics are independent of how the polarity is assigned

Noise is often quantified by the corresponding RMS value of the noise voltage or current at a node or branch in a circuit

# Noise in a System

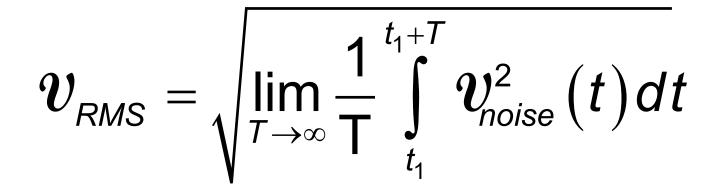


- Often many noises sources present
- One can be corrupting the input and others are internal to the system
- Noises sources often sufficiently small that superposition can be applied to determine the combined effects of all noise sources on  $v_{\rm NOUT}$

# Characterization of a Noise Signal



Noise naturally characterized by its RMS value



#### Noise sources in electronic circuits

Resistors, Transistors, and Diodes all have one or more internal noise sources



Capacitors and Inductors are noiseless

The presence of noise sources in devices is the only reason that input signals in ideally linear systems are not made arbitrarily small to reduce effects of nonlinearity to arbitrarily small levels

The concept of "Dynamic Range" is used to characterize how small of input signals can be **practically** used in electronic systems

To achieve acceptable linearity in a system, the designer should provide just enough "dynamic range" to satisfy the requirements of an application. Any extra dynamic range will invariably come at the expense of increased design efforts, cost, complexity, and power dissipation

From Wikipedia:

"Dynamic range is the ratio of a specified maximum level of a parameter (e.g. quantity), such as power, current, voltage, or frequency, to the minimum detectable value of that parameter " (from a couple of years ago)

"Dynamic range is the ratio between the largest and smallest values that a certain quantity can assume." (April 30, 2023)

- The maximum level of such a quantity is strongly dependent upon the distortion acceptable in a particular application
- This value may be dependent upon frequency
- The minimum detectable value of a quantity may be dependent upon application Some authors interpret the minimum detectable value to be the RMS value of the quantity when the input signal is zero
- The use of a single value for the DR for a system without knowing the specific applications is of questionable use



From Allen and Holberg:

"whereas noise imposes a lower limit on the range of signal amplitudes that can be meaningfully processed by a circuit, linearity often imposes the upper limit. The difference between them is the dynamic range"

From Gregorian and Temes: (in the context of op amp circuits)

"Due to the limited linear range of the op-amp, there is a maximum input signal amplitude,  $V_{in,max}$  which the device can handle without generating an excessive amount of nonlinear distortion. ..... Due to spurious signals (noise, clock feedthrough, low-level distortion such as crossover distortion, etc.) there is also a minimum input signal  $V_{in,min}$  which still does now drown in noise and distortion. The dynamic range of the op amp is then defined as  $20\log_{10} \left( \frac{V_{in,max}}{V_{in,min}} \right)$  measured in decibels."

Numerous definitions for DR include some "qualitative" terms in the definition making it difficult to identify a universally accepted definition of the DR though the concept is useful



Numerous definitions for DR include some "qualitative" terms in the definition making it difficult to identify a universally accepted definition of the DR though the concept is useful

SNDR is a metric that is rigorously defined that captures some of the DR properties

Though the concept of DR is often not discussed rigorously and though there are various definitions of DR, Dynamic Range should be the primary driver of signal swing, power dissipation, and architecture selection in analog circuit design !



- ★ Though the concept of DR is often not discussed rigorously and though there are various definitions of DR, Dynamic Range should be the primary driver of signal swing, power dissipation, and architecture selection in analog circuit design !
  - To achieve acceptable linearity in a system, the designer should provide just enough "dynamic range" to satisfy the requirements of an application. Any extra DR will invariably come at the expense of increased design efforts, cost, complexity, and power dissipation
    - So if DR is such an important characteristic, how should it be defined and why is it often ignored?



#### So if DR is such an important characteristic, how should it be defined and why is it often ignored? Our definition of DR

Assume the maximum acceptable distortion level of an output signal is specified

 $\mathsf{DR} = \frac{\mathsf{Output} \ \ \mathsf{Signal} \ \mathsf{at} \ \mathsf{Maximum} \ \mathsf{Acceptable} \ \ \mathsf{Distortion}}{\mathsf{Output} \ \mathsf{Noise} \ \mathsf{Over} \ \mathsf{Weighted} \ \mathsf{Freqency} \ \mathsf{Band}}$ 

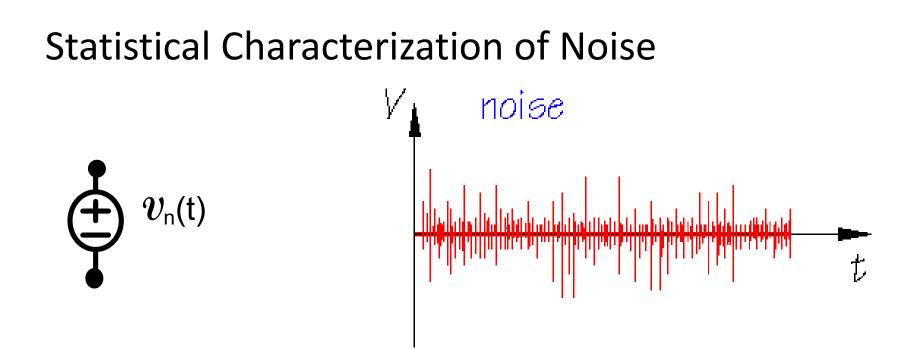
#### Use of DR in design

1. Specify the minimum acceptable ratio of the output signal at acceptable distortion to the input noise over the weighted frequency band of interest

2. Calculate DR by above definition

3. Reduce signal swing and/or increase noise (relax noise restrictions) to optimally meet DR requirements

4. Highly application dependent as it should be !!



If  $\mathcal{V}_n(t_1)$  is a sample of  $\mathcal{V}_n(t)$ , then  $\mathcal{V}_n(t_1)$  is a random variable

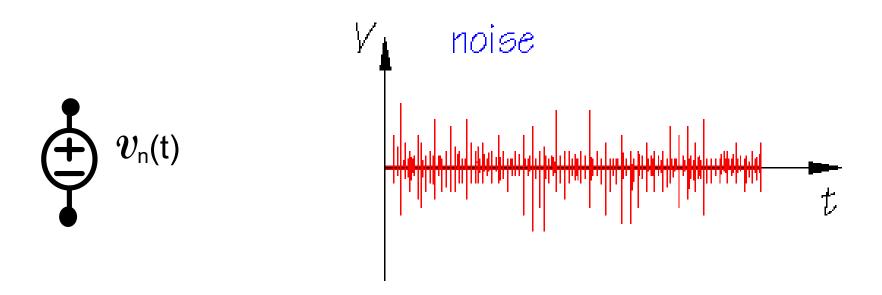
For almost all noise sources, the distribution of  $\mathcal{V}_n(t_1)$  is zero mean and often Gaussian

For many noise sources, if  $v_n(t_1)$  and  $v_n(t_2)$  are two distinct samples with  $t_1 \neq t_2$ , these random variables are identically distributed and uncorrelated (iid)

Noise (voltage) is also characterized by how it is distributed throughout the frequency spectrum by its power spectral density, S, or voltage spectral density  $S_v$ 

Noise is characterized by both S and the amplitude distribution function

#### Statistical Characterization of Noise



The RMS noise voltage in the frequency band  $[f_1, f_2]$  is given by the expression

$$\mathcal{U}_{RMS}\left(f_{1},f_{2}\right)=\sqrt{\left(\int\limits_{f_{1}}^{f_{2}}\mathcal{S}df\right)}$$

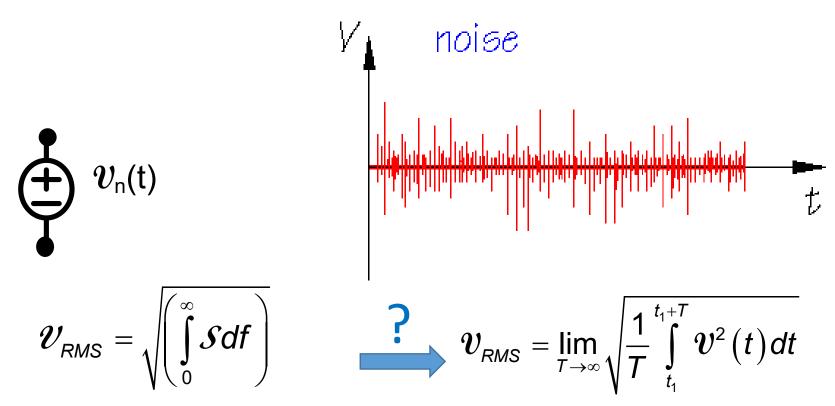
$$S = S_V^2$$

(if characterizing noise current  $S = S_1^2$ )

And the total RMS noise voltage is given by the expression

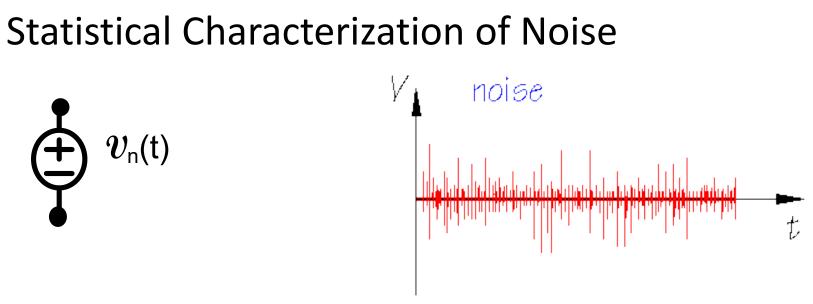
$$\mathcal{U}_{RMS} = \sqrt{\left(\int_{0}^{\infty} \mathcal{S} df\right)}$$

#### **Statistical Characterization of Noise**



#### Parseval's Theorem

$$\sqrt{\int_{f=0}^{\infty} \mathrm{Sdf}} = \sqrt{\lim_{T \to \infty} \frac{1}{T} \int_{t_1}^{t_1 + T} \mathcal{V}^2(t) dt}$$

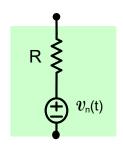


If the spectrum is flat, then the noise is termed "white" noise

White noise can have an amplitude distribution that is Gaussian or non-Gaussian

For a resistor, the noise spectrum is white (over a very wide frequency range), the amplitude distribution is Gaussian, and any two distinct samples are iid.

(iid: independent (uncorrelated) and identically distributed)



$$S = 4kTR$$
 ( $V^2$  / Hz or  $V^2$  sec)



Often for audio <u>filters</u>, the DR is often defined to be the ratio at the output between that due to a signal at 1% THD to the RMS noise voltage with the actual output noise spectrum multiplied by that of a C-Message bandpass filter

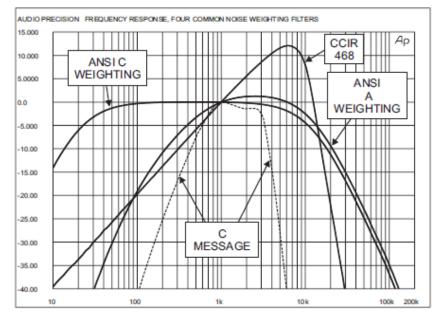


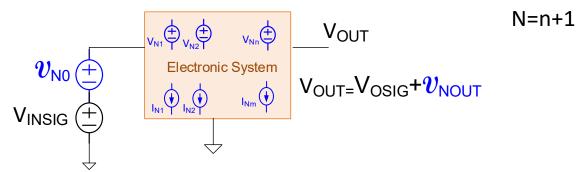
Figure 5. Weighting filter responses, actual measurements. Note that ANSI and C weighting filters are undefined above 20 kHz.

This definition, though widely used, is useful only if it is relevant for a specific (audio) application

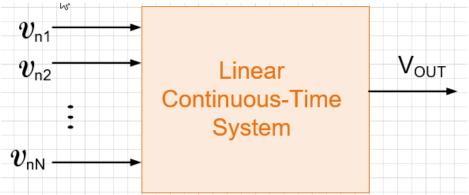
From "Audio Measurement Handbook" by Bob Metzlar

## Analysis of Noise in Analog Circuits

Consider an analog circuit with N noise voltage sources (can be easily modified to include both noise voltage and current sources)



The noise sources can be represented by the block diagram shown below

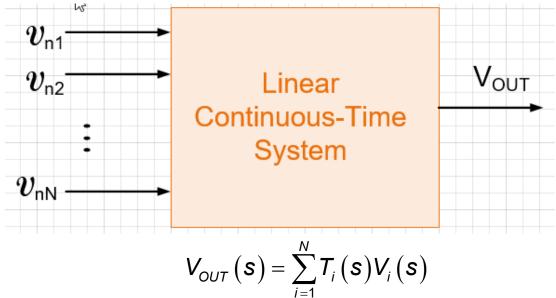


Assume  $T_k(s)$  is the transfer function from the kth source to the output

By superposition

$$V_{OUT}(s) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} T_i(s) V_i(s)$$

#### Analysis of Noise in Analog Circuits

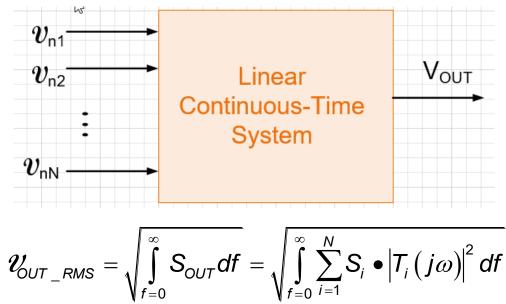


If the noise sources are uncorrelated with spectral density  $S_1$ , ...  $S_N$ , the spectral density and the RMS noise voltage at the output are given by the equations:

$$S_{OUT} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} S_i \bullet \left| T_i \left( j \omega \right) \right|^2$$

$$\mathcal{U}_{OUT\_RMS} = \sqrt{\int_{f=0}^{\infty} S_{OUT} df} = \sqrt{\int_{f=0}^{\infty} \sum_{i=1}^{N} S_i \bullet \left| T_i \left( j \omega \right) \right|^2 df}$$

## Analysis of Noise in Analog Circuits



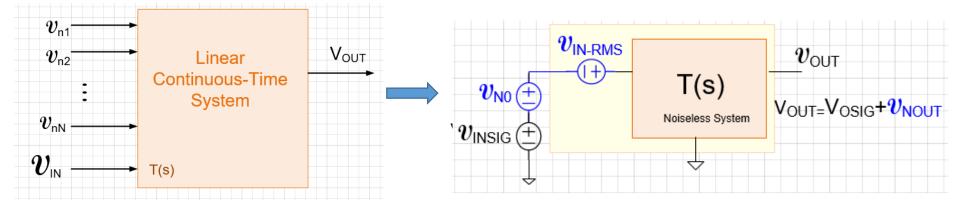
A noise analysis in the frequency domain can be easily run in Spectre to obtain the RMS noise voltage at the output

This can be referred back to the input by dividing by the gain from the input to the output to determine the input-referred SNR (see next page)

There is now a time-domain noise analysis capability in Cadence so actual time-domain noise analysis is possible

 $m{v}_{_{
m NO}}$  usually not part of the analog circuit so it affects system but not the analog circuit

## Input-Referred Noise in Analog Circuits



$$\mathcal{U}_{OUT\_RMS} = \sqrt{\int_{f=0}^{\infty} S_{OUT} df} = \sqrt{\int_{f=0}^{\infty} \sum_{i=1}^{N} S_i \bullet \left| T_i \left( j\omega \right) \right|^2 df}$$

Let T(s) be the transfer function from the input to the output. (usually T(s) will be distinct from each of the noise transfer functions).

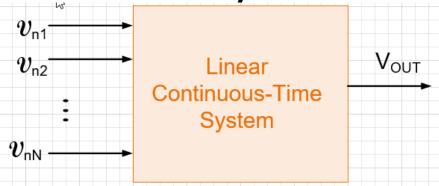
The input-referred noise spectral density is given by the expression

$$S_{IN} = \frac{S_{OUT}}{\left| T \left( j \omega \right)^2 \right|}$$

The input-referred RMS voltage is thus given by

$$\mathcal{U}_{IN\_RMS} = \sqrt{\int_{f=0}^{\infty} \frac{S_{OUT}}{\left|T\left(j\omega\right)\right|^{2}} df} = \sqrt{\int_{f=0}^{\infty} \sum_{i=1}^{N} S_{i} \cdot \frac{\left|T_{i}\left(j\omega\right)\right|^{2}}{\left|T\left(j\omega\right)\right|^{2}} df$$

# Relationship between frequency domain and time domain noise analysis



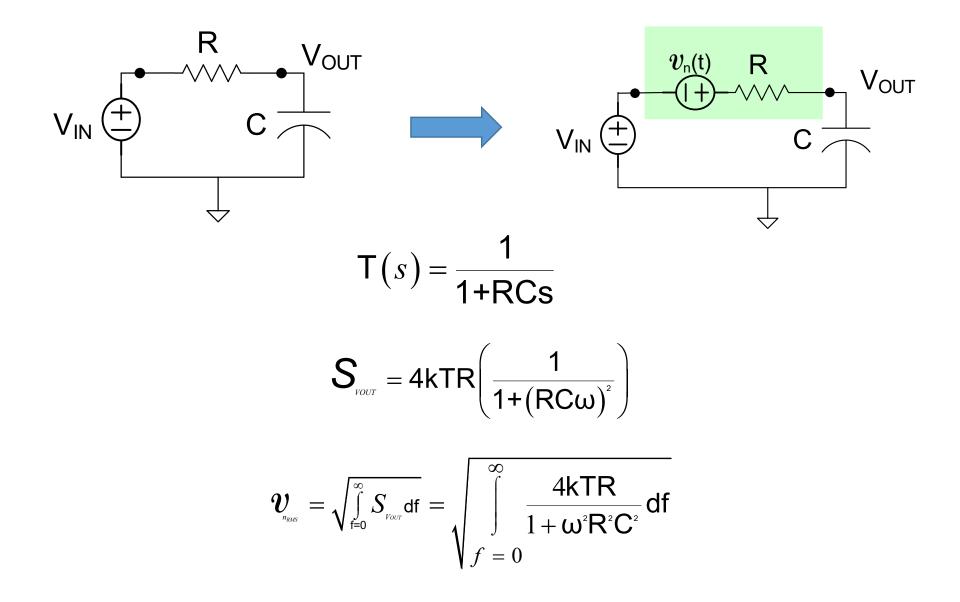
$$\mathcal{V}_{OUT\_RMS} = \sqrt{\int_{f=0}^{\infty} S_{OUT} df} = \sqrt{\int_{f=0}^{\infty} \sum_{i=1}^{N} S_i \bullet \left| T_i \left( j \omega \right) \right|^2 df}$$

$$V_{\text{RMS_OUT}} = E\left(\sqrt{\lim_{T \to \infty} \left(\frac{1}{T}\int_{0}^{T} V_{OUT}^{2}(t)dt\right)}\right) \simeq \sqrt{\lim_{T \to \infty} \left(\frac{1}{T}\int_{0}^{T} V_{OUT}^{2}(t)dt\right)}$$

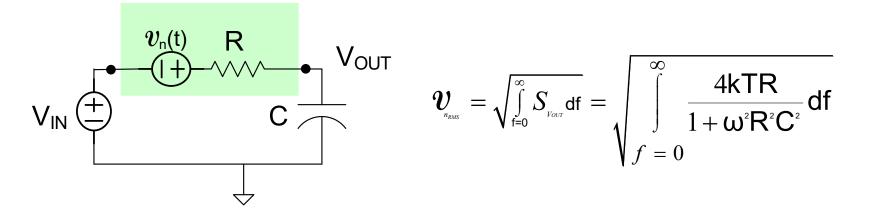
Parseval's Theorem

$$\mathsf{V}_{\mathsf{RMS}\_\mathsf{OUT}} = \mathcal{V}_{\mathsf{OUT}\_\mathsf{RMS}}$$

Example: Noise in First-Order RC Network



#### Example: Noise in First-Order RC Network

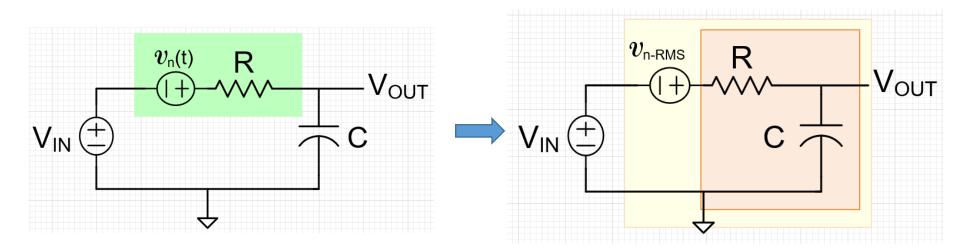


From a standard change of variable with a trig identity, it follows that

$$\mathcal{V}_{n_{RMS}} = \sqrt{\int_{f=0}^{\infty} S_{V_{OUT}} df} = \sqrt{\frac{kT}{C}}$$

- Note the continuous-time noise voltage has an RMS value that is independent of R
- The noise contributed by the resistor is dependent only upon the capacitor value C
- This is often referred to at kT/C noise and it can be decreased at a given T only by increasing C

#### Example: Noise in First-Order RC Network



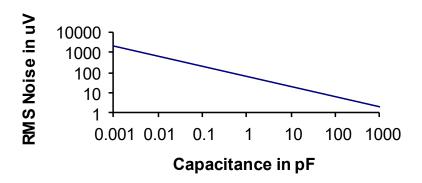
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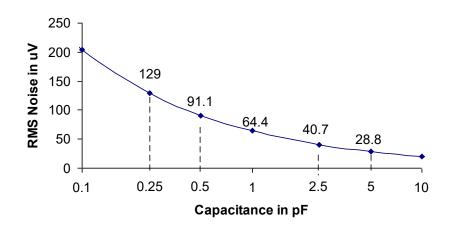
- Note the continuous-time noise voltage has an RMS value that is independent of R
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## Noise Associated with Capacitors

"kT/C" Noise at T=300K

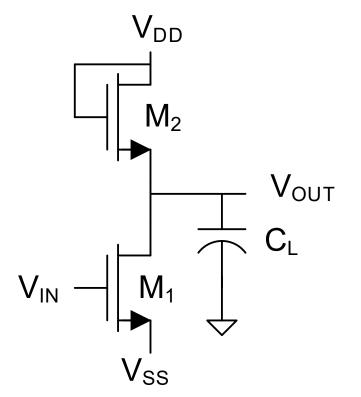






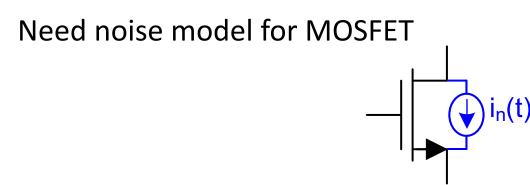
#### Example: Noise in Simple Common-Source Amplifier

Determine the RMS noise voltage in the output in the frequency band from dc to 1MHz (neglect C<sub>L</sub>)

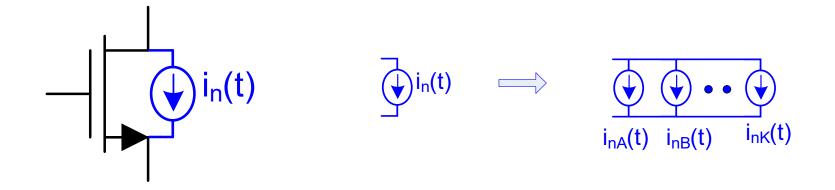


 $=\frac{v_{0UT}}{v_{N}}\simeq-\frac{g_{m1}}{q_{m2}}$ 

Will determine the noise voltage at the output and the corresponding inputreferred noise voltage



#### Example: Noise Model for MOSFET

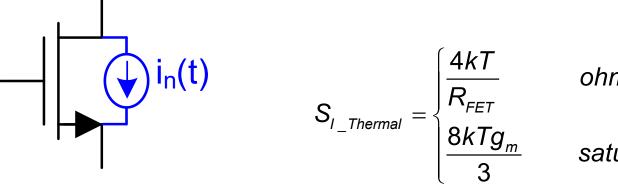


- i<sub>n</sub>(t,T) is comprised of several uncorrelated noise sources
- Since uncorrelated, they can be added in the RMS sense
- Spectral densities thus are simply additive
- Two most important are usually due to thermal noise and 1/f noise

In this lecture, will consider only thermal noise in MOSFET

#### Example: Noise Model for MOSFET

Thermal Noise in MOSFET



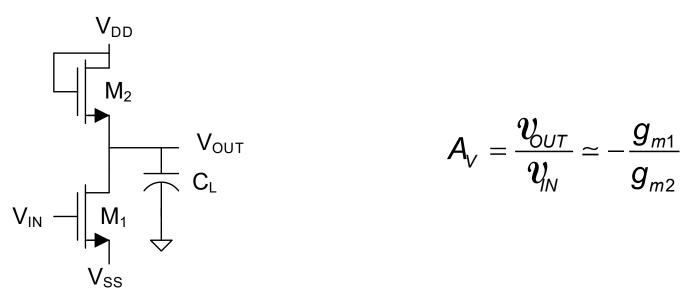
ohmic region

saturation region

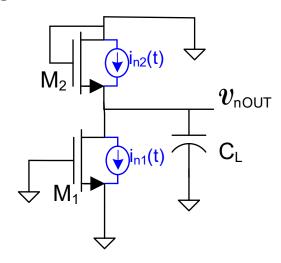
- Power Spectral Density is Flat
- White Noise
- Highly T dependent

8kT/3=1.1x10<sup>-20</sup> V•A•sec at T=300K

Determine the RMS noise voltage in the output in the frequency band from dc to 1MHz (neglect C<sub>L</sub>)

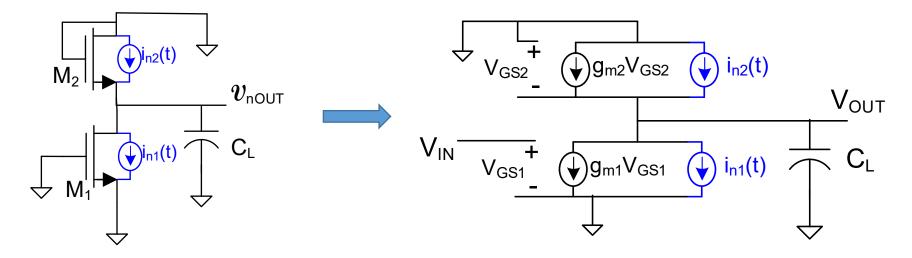


Small-signal noise model for thermal noise



$$S_{n1} = \frac{8kTg_{m1}}{3}$$
$$S_{n2} = \frac{8kTg_{m2}}{3}$$

Determine the RMS noise voltage in the output in the frequency band from dc to 1MHz (neglect C<sub>L</sub>)



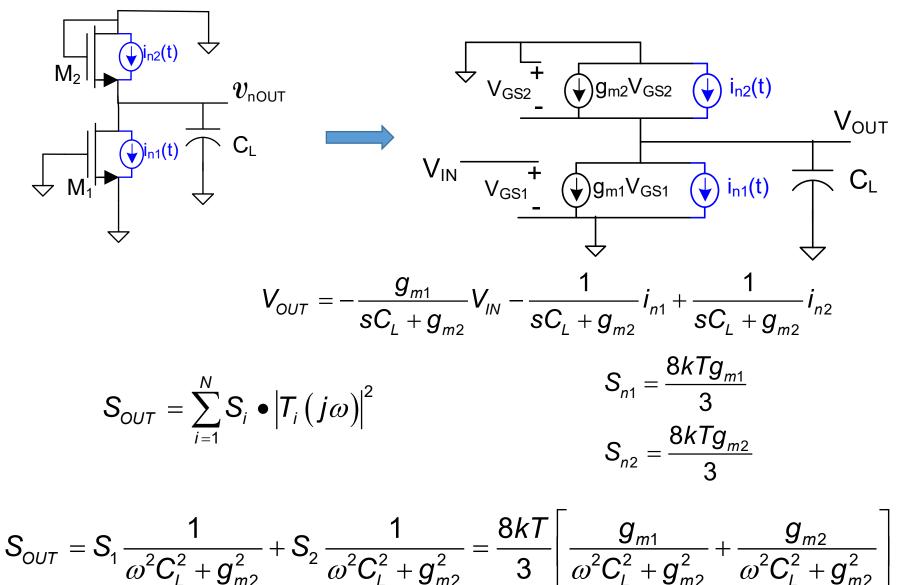
From KCL:

$$SC_LV_{OUT} + i_{n1} + g_{m1}V_{IN} = i_{n2} + g_{m2}(-V_{OUT})$$

It thus follows that:

$$V_{OUT} = -\frac{g_{m1}}{sC_L + g_{m2}} V_{IN} - \frac{1}{sC_L + g_{m2}} i_{n1} + \frac{1}{sC_L + g_{m2}} i_{n2}$$

Determine the RMS noise voltage in the output in the frequency band from dc to 1MHz (neglect C<sub>L</sub>)



Determine the RMS noise voltage in the output in the frequency band from dc to 1MHz (neglect  $C_L$ )

$$\int_{M_2} \int_{M_2} \int_{N_0} v_{nOUT} \qquad \longrightarrow \qquad S_{OUT} = \frac{8kT}{3} \left[ \frac{g_{m1}}{\omega^2 C_L^2 + g_{m2}^2} + \frac{g_{m2}}{\omega^2 C_L^2 + g_{m2}^2} \right]$$

$$\int_{M_1} \int_{M_1} \int_{C_L} v_{OUT\_RMS} = \sqrt{\int_{f=0}^{\infty} S_{OUT} df} = \sqrt{\int_{f=0}^{\infty} \sum_{i=1}^{N} S_i \cdot |T_i(j\omega)|^2 df}$$

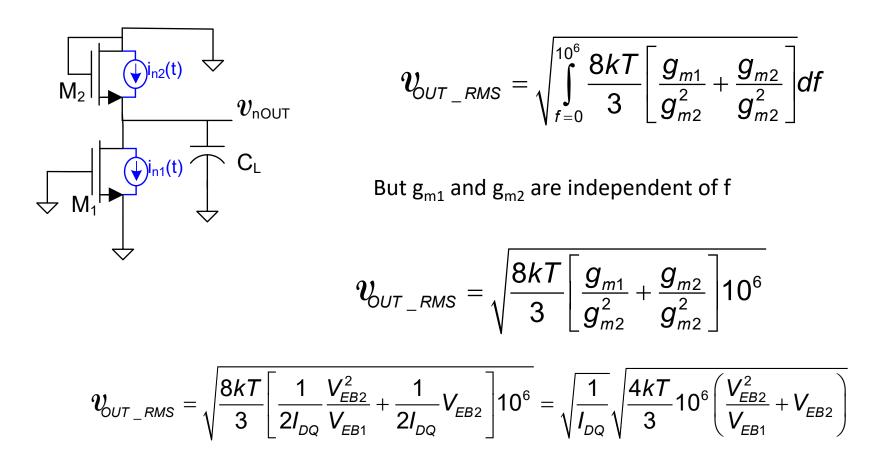
$$\int_{M_1} \int_{M_1} \int_{M_1} \int_{M_1} \int_{M_2} \int_{$$

$$v_{OUT\_RMS} = \sqrt{\int_{f=0}^{10^{\circ}} \frac{8kT}{3}} \left[ \frac{g_{m1}}{\omega^2 C_L^2 + g_{m2}^2} + \frac{g_{m2}}{\omega^2 C_L^2 + g_{m2}^2} \right] df$$

Neglecting  $C_L$ , we obtain

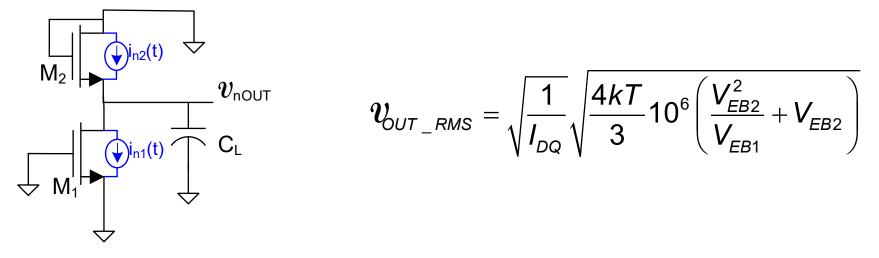
$$v_{OUT\_RMS} = \sqrt{\int_{f=0}^{10^6} \frac{8kT}{3} \left[ \frac{g_{m1}}{g_{m2}^2} + \frac{g_{m2}}{g_{m2}^2} \right]} df$$

Determine the RMS noise voltage in the output in the frequency band from dc to 1MHz (neglect C<sub>L</sub>)



Note that noise voltage decreases with sqrt  $I_{DQ}$  if  $V_{EB}$  values are fixed But at the design stage, the designer has control of both  $I_{DQ}$  and  $V_{EB}$  values

Determine the RMS noise voltage in the output in the frequency band from dc to 1MHz (neglect C<sub>L</sub>)



Consider Case 1:  $V_{EB1}=V_{EB2}=0.5V$ , T=300K,  $I_{DQ}=1uA$ 

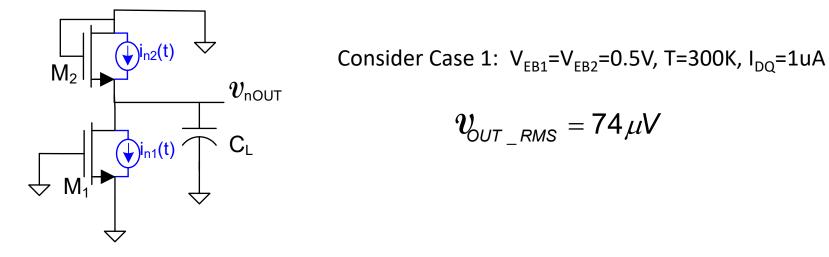
$$\mathcal{V}_{OUT\_RMS} = 74 \,\mu V$$

Consider Case 2:  $V_{EB1}=V_{EB2}=0.5V$ , T=300K,  $I_{DQ}=1mA$ 

$$v_{OUT\_RMS} = 2.3 \mu V$$

- Note noise strongly dependent upon biasing conditions !
- Including C<sub>L</sub> would not have complicated analysis very much and for large C<sub>L</sub>, it will actually attenuate noise

Determine the RMS noise voltage in the output in the frequency band from dc to 1MHz (neglect C<sub>L</sub>)



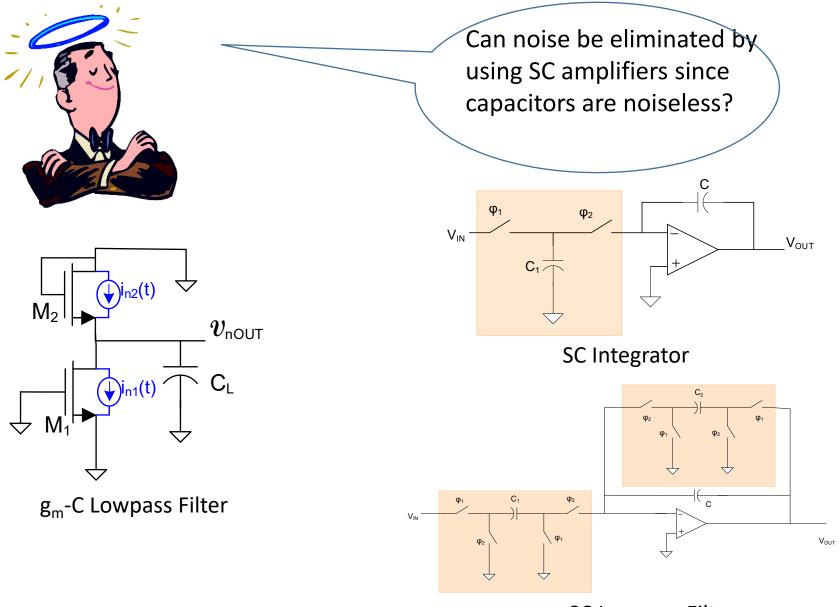
SNR can be easily calculated at a given signal level

Dynamic Range can be calculated at an acceptable distortion level

1/f noise may increase output noise voltage

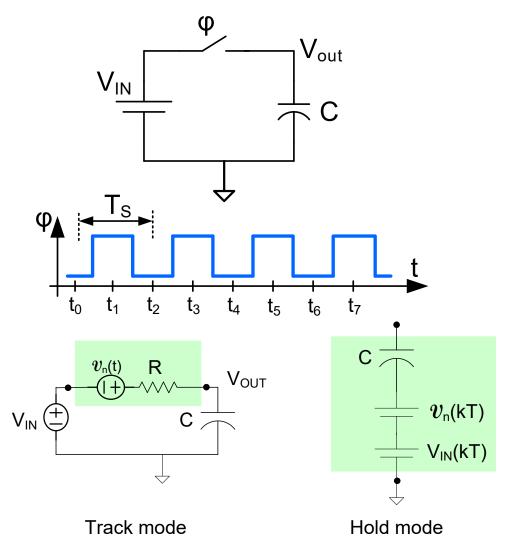
Input referred noise voltage can be calculated by dividing by gain

C<sub>L</sub> effects can easily be added (see equation above)

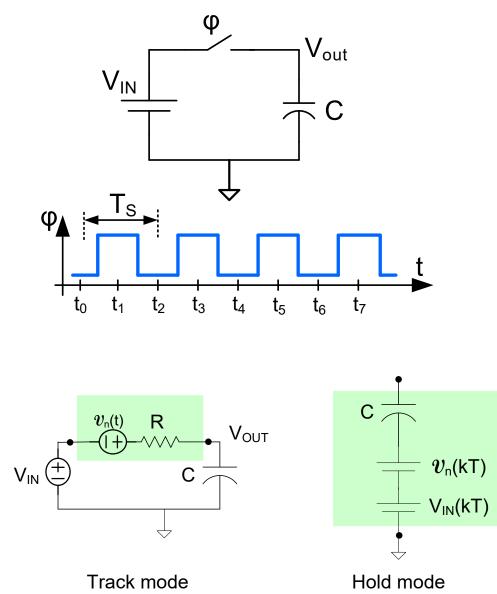


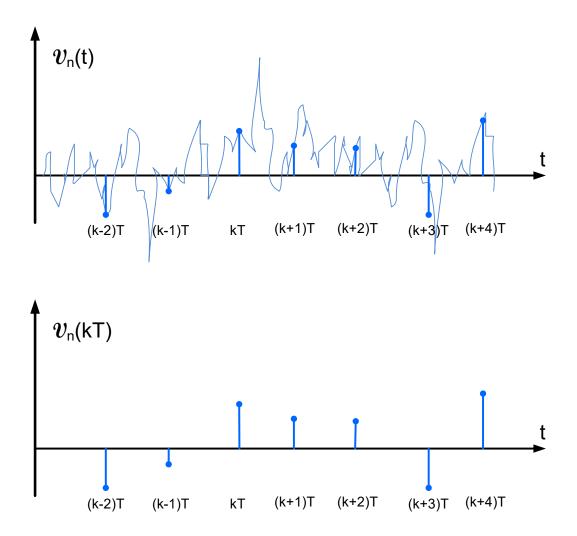
SC Lowpass Filter

Both SC filter structures have a SC sampler



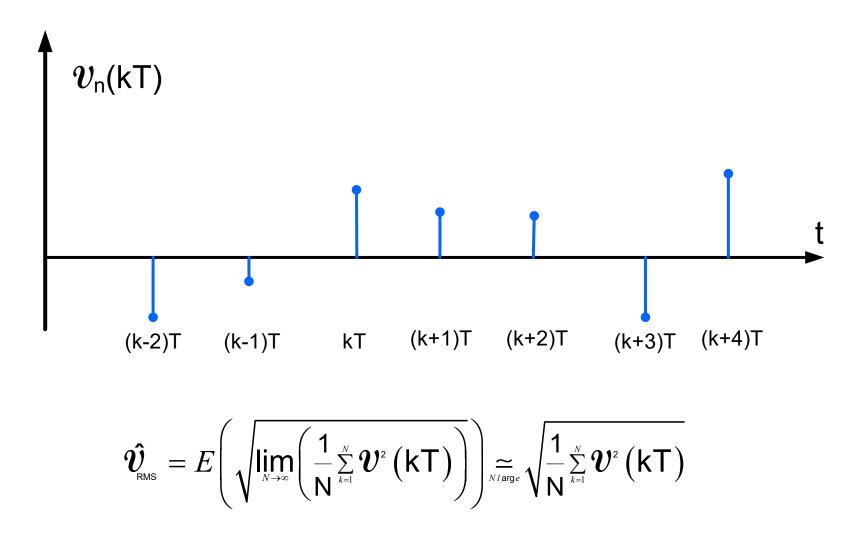
Resistor present during track mode !





 $v_{n}$ (kT) is a discrete-time sequence obtained by sampling a continuous-time noise waveform

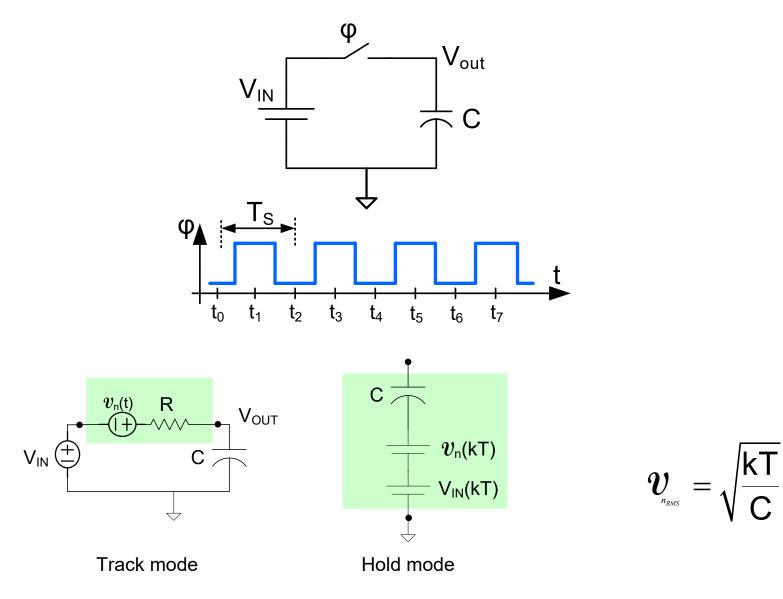
Characterization of a noise sequence

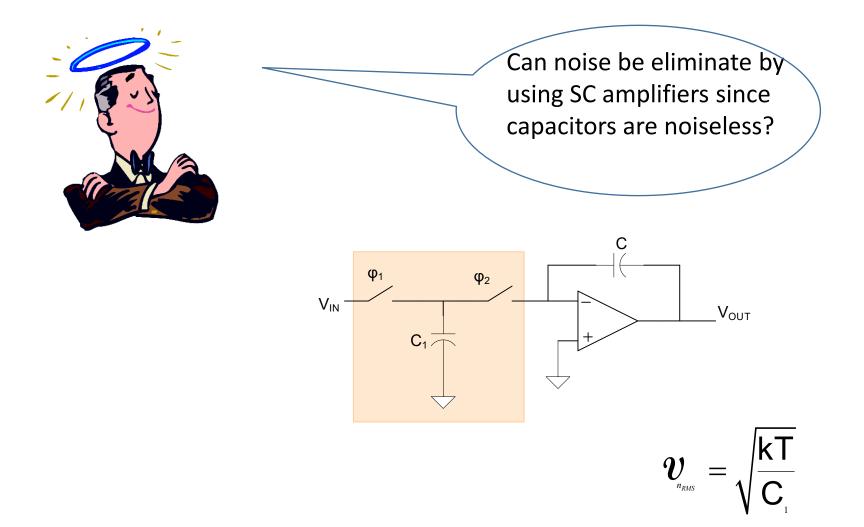


**Theorem** If v(t) is a continuous-time zero-mean noise source and  $\langle v(kT) \rangle$  is a sampled version of v(t) sampled at times T, 2T, .... then the RMS value of the continuous-time waveform is the same as that of the sampled version of the waveform. This can be expressed as  $v_{\rm RMS} = \hat{v}_{\rm RMS}$ 

**Theorem** If v(t) is a continuous-time zero-mean noise signal and  $\langle v(kT) \rangle$  is a sampled version of v(t) sampled at times T, 2T, .... then the standard deviation of the random variable v(kT), denoted as  $\sigma_v$ 

satisfies the expression 
$$\sigma_{_{\hat{v}}} = v_{_{\mathrm{RMS}}} = v_{_{\mathrm{RMS}}}$$



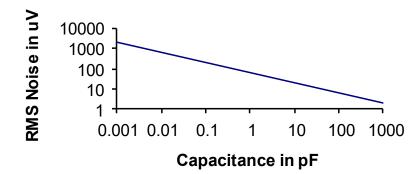


Even though capacitors are noiseless, the RMS noise voltage due to the switch will be dependent upon C independent of the size of the switch !!

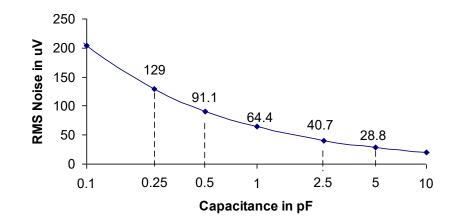
And the operational amplifier will have internal devices that also contribute device noise and this op amp noise may dominate the SC noise

### Noise Associated with Capacitors

"kT/C" Noise at T=300K



"kT/C" Noise at T=300K





## Stay Safe and Stay Healthy !

# End of Lecture 42