# EE 508 Lecture 28

### **Integrator Design**

### **Current-Mode Integrators**

s-domain to z-domain mappings

#### Review from last time

#### How can the performance of an integrator be characterized and how can integrators be compared?

Express  $A_{V}(j\omega)$  as

$$A_V(j\omega) = \frac{\pm 1}{R(\omega) + jX(\omega)}$$

where  $R(\omega)$  and  $X(\omega)$  are real and represent the real and imaginary parts of the denominator respectively Phase =  $-\tan^{-1}\left(\frac{X(\omega)}{R(\omega)}\right)$ 

Ideally  $R(\omega)=0$ 

Definition: The Integrator Q factor is the ratio of the imaginary part of the denominator to the real part of the denominator

$$Q_{INT} = \left(\frac{X(\omega)}{R(\omega)}\right)$$

Typically most interested in Q<sub>INT</sub> at the nominal unity gain frequency of the integrator

Review from last time

### What are the integrator Q factors for other

integrators that have been considered?



Review from last time

#### Improving Integrator Performance:

- 1. Compensate Integrator
- 2. Use better integrators
- 3. Use phase-lead and phase/lag pairs
- These methods all provide some improvements in integrator performance
- But both magnitude and phase of an integrator are important so focusing only on integrator Q factor only may only improve performance to a certain level
- In higher-order integrator-based filters, the linearity in 1/ $\omega$  of the integrator gain is also important. The integrator magnitude and Q factor at  $\omega_0$  ignore the frequency nonlinearity that may occur in the 1/ $\omega$  dependence
- There is little in the literature on improving the performance of integrated integrators within a basic class. At high frequencies where the active device performance degrades, particularly in finer-feature processes, there may be some benefits that can be derived from architectural modifications along the line of those discussed in this lecture



Selected Current Mode, Transresistance Mode, and Transconductance Mode Integrators



#### Basic Concepts of Benefits of Current-Mode Filters:

- Large voltage swings difficult to maintain in integrated processes because of linearity concerns
- Large voltage swings slow a circuit down because of time required to charge capacitors
- Voltage swings can be very small when currents change
- Current swings are not inherently limited in integrated circuits (only voltage swings)
- With low voltage swings, current-mode circuits should dissipate little power



#### Concept of Current-Mode Filters is Somewhat Recent:

Key paper that generated interest in current-mode filters (ISCAS 1989):

**Switched currents**-a new technique for analog sampled-data signal processing JB Hughes, NC Bird, IC Macbeth - ... International Symposium on ..., 1989 - ieeexplore.ieee.org A technique called'switched currents,'for analog sampled-data signal processing in the current domain, is introduced. A family of modules that are capable of various computational and memory functions is described. The modules are well suited to system building as ...  $\therefore$  99 Cited by 358 Related articles All 3 versions

#### Oct 20 2020

This paper is one of the most significant contributions that has ever come from ISCAS

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#### Advanced Search for "current-mode" and "filters"



Histogram for 2-year intervals Most recent is 2019-2019



- Steady growth in research in the area since 1990 and publication rate is growing with time !!
- And growth is MUCH bigger outside of IEEE (e.g. Scholar)

# Current-Mode Filters The Conventional Wisdom:



#### Proc. IEE Dec 2006:

#### **1** Introduction

Fully differential current-mode third-order Butterworth VHF G<sub>m</sub>-C filter in 0.18 µlm CMOS

Hwang, Y.-S.; Chen, J.-J.; Lai, J.-H.; Sheu, P.-W.; Dept. of Electron. Eng., Nat. Taipei Univ. of Technol., Taiwan

This paper appears in: Circuits, Devices and Systems, IEE Proceeding Issue Date: Dec. 2006 Volume: 153 Issue:6 On page(s): 552 - 558

Current-mode circuits have been proven to offer advantages over their voltage-mode counterparts [1, 2]. They possess wider bandwidth, greater linearity and wider dynamic range. Since the dynamic range of the analogue circuits using low-voltage power supplies will be low, this problem can be solved by employing current-mode operation.



#### Proc. SICE-ICASE, Oct. 2006

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

It is well known that current-mode circuits have been receiving significant attention owing to its advantage over the voltage-mode counterpart, particularly for higher frequency of operation and simpler filtering structure [1].

Biquadratic Filter with two inputs and three outputs Using Multiple-Output FTFNs

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Hirunporm, J.; Pukkalanun, T.; Tangsrirat, W.; Fac. of Eng., King Mongkut's Inst. of Technol., Bangkok

This paper appears in: SICE-ICASE, 2006. International Joint Conference Issue Date: 18-21 Oct. 2006 On page(s): 5691 - 5694

# The Conventional Wisdom:





#### JSC April 1998:

"... current-mode functions exhibit higher frequency potential, simpler architectures, and lower supply voltage capabilities than their voltage mode counterparts."





#### CAS June 1992

"Current-mode signal processing is a very attractive approach due to the simplicity in implementing operations such as ... and the potential to operate at higher signal bandwidths than their voltage mode analogues" ... "Some voltage-mode filter architectures using transconductance

amplifiers and capacitors (TAC) have the drawback that ..."

### The Conventional Wisdom:

#### ISCAS 1993:



"In this paper we propose a fully balanced high frequency currentmode integrator for low voltage high frequency filters. Our use of the term current mode comes from the use of current amplifiers as the basic building block for signal processing circuits. This fully differential integrator offers significant improvement even over recently introduced circuit with respect to accuracy, high frequency response, linearity and power supply requirements. Furthermore, it is well suited to standard digital based CMOS processes."

#### <u>3V high-frequency current-mode filters</u>

Smith, S.L.; Sanchez-Sinencio, E.; <u>Circuits and Systems, 1993., ISCAS '93, 1993 IEEE</u> <u>International Symposium on</u> Digital Object Identifier: <u>10.1109/ISCAS.1993.394009</u> Publication Year: 1993, Page(s): 1459 - 1462 vol.2

### The Conventional Wisdom:

Two key publications where benefits of the current-mode circuits are often referenced:



#### All current-mode frequency selective circuits

<u>GW Roberts</u>, AS Sedra - Electronics Letters, 1989 - ieeexplore.ieee.org Proposes an entirely new method for performing analogue signal filtering. **All** circuits are based upon current amplifiers but derived from well-known voltage amplifier circuits. These circuits possess the same sensitivity properties as their voltage amplifier counterparts ...  $\therefore$   $\Im$   $\Im$  Cited by 493 Related articles All 8 versions

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"To make greatest use of the available transistor bandwidth  $f_T$ , and operate at low voltage supply levels, it has become apparent that analogue signal processing can greatly benefit from processing current signals rather than voltage signals. Besides this, it is well known by electronic circuit designers that the mathematical operations of adding, subtracting or multiplying signals represented by currents are simpler to perform than when they are represented by voltages. This also means that the resulting circuits are simpler and require less silicon area."

### The Conventional Wisdom:

Two key publications where benefits of the current-mode circuits are often referenced:

#### Recent developments in current conveyors and current-mode circuits

B Wilson - IEE Proceedings G (Circuits, Devices and Systems), 1990 - IET

... The **current conveyor**: history and progress', IEEE international symposium on circuits and systems, 1989, Portland, USA, 3, p. 1567–1570. 7): Toumazou, C., Lidgey, FJ, Cheung, PYK: **Current**-mode analogue signal processing circuits — a review of **recent developments**', IEEE ... ☆ ワワ Cited by 735 Related articles All 4 versions

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"The **use** of current rather than voltage as the active parameter can result in higher usable gain, accuracy and bandwidth due to reduced voltage excursion at sensitive nodes. A current-mode approach is not just restricted to current processing, but also offers certain important advantages when interfaced to voltage-mode circuits."

## The Conventional Wisdom:

- Current-Mode circuits operate at higherfrequencies than voltage-mode counterparts
- Current-Mode circuits operate at lower supply voltages and lower power levels than voltagemode counterparts
- Current-Mode circuits are simpler than voltage-mode counterparts
- Current-Mode circuits offer better linearity than voltage-mode counterparts

This represents four really significant benefits of current-mode circuits!

Active RC



- Summing inputs really easy to obtain
- Loss is easy to add
- Same component count as voltage-mode integrators
- Some argue that since only interested in currents, can operate at lower voltages

**Current-Mode Inverting Amplifier** 





#### OTA-C



Noninverting

Inverting

- Summing inputs really easy to obtain
- Loss is easy to add
- Same component count as voltage-mode integrators
- Many argue that since only interested in currents, can operate at lower voltages and higher frequencies





Inverting

Noninverting

- Summing inputs really easy to obtain
- Loss is easy to add
- Same component count as voltage-mode integrators
- Many argue that since only interested in currents, can operate at lower voltages and higher frequencies

Switched-C



Inverting

- Noninverting input easy to obtain
- Summing inputs really easy to obtain
- Loss is easy to add
- Stray insensitive structures readily available
- Less component count than voltage-mode integrators because summing input requires no additional inputs
- SC current-mode integrators have not received much attention in the literature (likely because few have observed the equivalence noted above)



The other basic types of voltage-mode integrators also have current-mode counterparts

- Switched-resistor
- MOSFET-C
- "Other"

# Current-Mode Two Integrator Loop



- Straightforward implementation of the two-integrator loop
- Simple structure

# Current-Mode Two Integrator An Observation: LOOp







# **Current-Mode Two Integrator Loop**

An Observation:



This circuit is identical to another one with two voltage-mode integrators and a voltage-mode amplifier !



#### Current Mode, Voltage Mode, or Free Mode? A Few Sage Suggestions

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Yet, to the author's knowl-

edge, no *rigorous* definition of a current-mode circuit can be found in the literature. Since the term has been so widely employed, this should strike us as rather surprising.

This ambiguity can be attributed to a casual, and often inappropriate, appeal to the term in publications, at times with insufficient regard for foundations developed decades ago, referencing instead recent and closely similar work. Its colloquial application implies the use of *currents as signals*, invariably with a tacit claim to a degree of *novelty*, announcing a *different*, and in some (unstated and unclear) way, *advantageous* implementation of a function formerly realized using other techniques.

What is a current-mode circuit or a current-mode device?

Some authors say a current-mode circuit processes signals in the current domain

Is the resistor a current-mode device?



# Observation

- Many papers have appeared that tout the performance advantages of current-mode circuits
- In all of the current-mode papers that this instructor has seen, no attempt is made to provide a quantitative comparison of the key performance features of current-mode circuits with voltage-mode counterparts
- All justifications of the advantages of the currentmode circuits this instructor has seen are based upon qualitative statements

# **Observations** (cont.)

- It appears easy to get papers published that have the term "current-mode" in the title
- Over 1700 papers have been published in IEEE forums alone !
- Some of the "current-mode" filters published perform better than other "voltage-mode" filters that have been published
- We are still waiting for even one author to quantitatively show that current-mode filters offer even one of the claimed four advantages over their voltage-mode counterparts

Will return to a discussion of Current-Mode filters later

# Switched-Current Filters

Basic idea introduced by Hughes and Bird at ISCAS 1989

**Switched currents**-a new technique for analog sampled-data signal processing JB Hughes, NC Bird... - Circuits and Systems, 1989 ..., 2002 - ieeexplore.ieee.org NTRODUCTION The enormous complexity available in state-of-the-art CMOS processing has made possible the integration of complete systems, including both digital and analog signal processing functions, within the same chip Through the last decade, the **switched** capacitor technique ... <u>Cited by 151</u> - <u>Related articles</u>

Technique introduced directly in the z-domain

### Switched-Current Filters

Basic idea introduced by Hughes and Bird at ISCAS 1989



If  $\Phi_1$  is a periodic signal and if  $I_{IN}$  is also appropriately clocked, the input/output currents of this circuit can be represented with the difference equation

 $I_{_{OUT}}(nT) = AI_{_{IN}}(nT-T)$ 

This switched mirror becomes a delay element

"Gain" A is that of a current mirror

A can be accurately controlled

Circuit is small and very fast

Concept can be extended to implement arbitrary difference equation

Difference equation characterizes filter H(z)

Need only current mirrors and switches

Truly a "current-mode" circuit

### Switched-Current Filters

Basic idea introduced by Hughes and Bird at ISCAS 1989

 $V_{DD}$ 

 $I_{_{OUT}}(nT) = AI_{_{IN}}(nT-T)$ 

Cp is parasitic gate capacitance on  $\rm M_{2}$ 

Very low power dissipation

Potential to operate at very low voltages

Potential for accuracy of a SC circuit at both low and high frequencies but without the Op Amp and large C ratios

Neither capacitor or resistor values needed to do filtering!

A completely new approach to designing filters that offers potential for overcoming most of the problems plaguing filter designers for decades !

Before developing Switch-Current concept, need to review background information in s to z domain transformations



For a given T(s) would like to obtain a function H(z) or for a given H(z) would like to obtain a T(s) that <u>preserves</u> the magnitude and phase response

Mathematically, would like to obtain the relationship:

$$T(s)|_{s=j\omega} = H(z)|_{z=e^{j\omega T}}$$



want: 
$$T(s)|_{s=j\omega} = H(z)|_{z=e^{j\omega T}}$$

equivalently, want:

$$T(s) = H(z)|_{z=e^{sT}}$$

But if this were to happen, T(s) would not be a rational fraction in s with real coeff.

Thus, it is impossible to obtain this mapping between T(s) and H(z)



goal:  $T(s) = H(z)|_{z=e^{sT}}$ 

If can't achieve this goal, would like to map imaginary axis to unit circle and map stable filters to stable filters

consider:  $Z = e^{sT}$ Case 1:  $z = e^{sT} \cong \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{i!} (sT)^i$  $z = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{i!} (sT)^i \cong 1 + sT$  $S = \frac{Z - 1}{T}$ 

Termed the Forward Euler transformation



$$s = \frac{z - 1}{T}$$
 Forward Euler transformation

- Doesn't map imaginary axis in s-plane to unit circle in z-plane
- Doesn't guarantee stable filter will map to stable filter
- But mapping may give stable filter with good frequency response



consider:

 $z = e^{sT}$ 

Case 2:

$$z = e^{sT} = \frac{1}{e^{-sT}} = \frac{1}{\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{i!} (-sT)^i} \cong \frac{1}{1-sT}$$
$$z \cong \frac{1}{1-sT}$$

$$s = \left(\frac{1}{T}\right)\frac{z-1}{z}$$

Termed the Backward Euler transformation



$$s = \left(\frac{1}{T}\right)\frac{z-1}{z}$$
 Backward Euler transformation

- Doesn't map imaginary axis in s-plane to unit circle in z-plane
- Does guarantee stable filter will map to stable filter



consider:

 $z = e^{sT}$ 

Case 3:  $z = e^{sT} = \frac{e^{s\frac{T}{2}}}{e^{-s\frac{T}{2}}} = \frac{\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{i!} \left(s\frac{T}{2}\right)^{i}}{\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{i!} \left(-s\frac{T}{2}\right)^{i}} \cong \frac{1+s\frac{T}{2}}{1-s\frac{T}{2}}$ 

solving for s, obtain

$$s = \frac{2}{T} \cdot \frac{z \cdot 1}{z + 1}$$
 Termed the Bilinear z transformation





- Maps imaginary axis in s-plane to unit circle in z-plane (preserves shape, distorts frequency axis)
- Does guarantee stable filter will map to stable filter
- Bilinear z transformation is widely used



consider:

$$z = e^{sT}$$

#### **Three Popular Transformations**





- Transformations of standard approximations in s-domain are the corresponding transformations in the z-domain
- Transformations are not unique
- Transformations cause warping of the imaginary axis and may cause change in basic shape
- Transformations do not necessarily guarantee stability
- These transformations preserve order

### z-domain integrators



 $H(z) = \begin{cases} \frac{\int I_0}{z - 1} \\ \frac{I_0 T z}{z - 1} \\ \frac{T I_0}{2} \left(\frac{z + 1}{z - 1}\right) \end{cases}$ 



**Three Popular Transformations** 

 $S = \frac{z - 1}{T}$ Forward Euler  $S = \frac{1 - z^{-1}}{Tz^{-1}}$   $S = \frac{z - 1}{Tz}$ Backward Euler  $S = \frac{1 - z^{-1}}{T}$   $S = \frac{1 - z^{-1}}{T}$ Bilinear z transform  $S = \frac{2}{T} \cdot \frac{1 - z^{-1}}{1 + z^{-1}}$ 

#### Corresponding difference equations:

$$V_{OUT}(nT+T) = TI_{0}V_{IN}(nT) + V_{OUT}(nT)$$
$$V_{OUT}(nT+T) = I_{0}TV_{IN}(nT+T) + V_{OUT}(nT)$$
$$V_{OUT}(nT+T) = \frac{TI_{0}}{2}(V_{IN}(nT+T) + V_{IN}(nT)) + V_{OUT}(nT)$$

Forward Euler Backward Euler Bilinear z

Backward Euler

**Forward Euler** 

Bilinear z

### z-domain lossy integrators



#### Corresponding difference equations:

$$\begin{split} V_{\text{OUT}}\left(nT+T\right) &= \mathsf{TI}_{0}\mathsf{V}_{\text{IN}}\left(nT\right) + \left[1-\alpha T\right]\mathsf{V}_{\text{OUT}}\left(nT\right) & \text{Forward Euler} \\ \left(1+\alpha T\right)\mathsf{V}_{\text{OUT}}\left(nT+T\right) &= \mathsf{I}_{0}\mathsf{T}\mathsf{V}_{\text{IN}}\left(nT+T\right) + \mathsf{V}_{\text{OUT}}\left(nT\right) & \text{Backward Euler} \\ \left(1+\frac{\alpha T}{2}\right)\mathsf{V}_{\text{OUT}}\left(nT+T\right) &= \frac{\mathsf{TI}_{0}}{2}\left(\mathsf{V}_{\text{IN}}\left(nT+T\right) + \mathsf{V}_{\text{IN}}\left(nT\right)\right) + \left[1-\frac{\alpha T}{2}\right]\mathsf{V}_{\text{OUT}}\left(nT\right) & \text{Bilinear } z \end{split}$$

### z-domain lossy integrators



Corresponding difference equations:

$$\begin{split} V_{\text{OUT}}\left(nT+T\right) &= GV_{\text{IN}}\left(nT\right) + HV_{\text{OUT}}\left(nT\right) & \text{Forward Euler} \\ HV_{\text{OUT}}\left(nT+T\right) &= GV_{\text{IN}}\left(nT+T\right) + V_{\text{OUT}}\left(nT\right) & \text{Backward Euler} \\ V_{\text{OUT}}\left(nT+T\right) &= G\left(V_{\text{IN}}\left(nT+T\right) + V_{\text{IN}}\left(nT\right)\right) + HV_{\text{OUT}}\left(nT\right) & \text{Bilinear z} \end{split}$$



# Stay Safe and Stay Healthy !

# End of Lecture 28