

Generation of Continuous-Time Two Integrator Loop OTA Filter Structures

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Abstract—Generation of two integer loop filter structures using operational Transconductance Amplifiers (OTA's) and Capacitors (TAC) is presented. A direct block diagram approach is employed to generate the TAC filter structures. The basic filter building blocks consist of a lossless integrator, lossy integrators and three types of summers. They are implemented using OTA's as the active components. The resulting TAC second-order filter structures, some previously reported and other new structures, are orderly generated. It is shown that the selection of the best structure depends upon the particular application or design specifications. The generated TAC biquadratic structures are very suitable for monolithic filters since typically only OTA's and two capacitors are needed. A TAC filter structure homologous to the conventional KHN op amp filter structure is presented. Programmability of ω_p , Q_p and voltage gain is considered.

I. INTRODUCTION

RECENTLY, several research groups have been searching for different alternatives to design continuous-time active filters [1]–[10] by making the time constant voltage- or current-dependent. In this paper, we further discuss filter structures using operational transconductance amplifiers (OTA's) as the active components in continuous-time active filters [19]–[23]. Moreover, the transconductance gain g_m of the OTA is used as a design parameter in the same way as the R's are used in conventional active-RC filters. Many existing drawbacks in commercial OTAs [11]–[15] are overcome by a CMOS OTA [16]–[18] structure capable of handling larger input voltage differences. Thus the main advantages in using g_m as a design parameter are that: i) g_m can be varied or programmed by an external controlling current or voltage; this flexibility permits the designer to meet a variety of design specifications, and ii) a good input voltage swing is possible for CMOS OTA's.

Let us introduce the basic operations of the OTA circuits. The OTA ideally is a DVCCS with infinite output impedance and zero-input currents. Fig. 1 shows a summer operation circuit. The output voltage is given by

$$V_o = \sum_{i=1}^n I_{oi} Z_L = \sum_{i=1}^n g_{mi} (V_{ia} - V_{ib}) Z_L \quad (1)$$

Equation (1) involves three types of summers. The first summer occurs at the input terminals of the OTA. This

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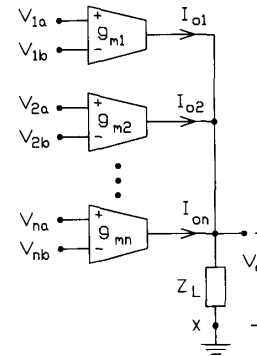
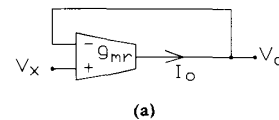
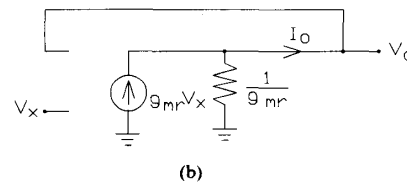


Fig. 1. A summer operation.



(a)



(b)

Fig. 2. Equivalent resistor. (a) Circuit. (b) Small signal circuit.

summer denominated Σ_o is the difference between the input signals V_{ia} and V_{ib} . The second summer occurs when the load is a capacitor C (i.e., $Z_L = 1/sC$), the summation of the currents I_{oi} is integrated and transformed into a voltage. This summer is denoted as Σ_C . The third summer occurs when the load is an equivalent resistor (i.e., $Z_L = 1/g_{mr}$). This summer is named Σ_r . The equivalent resistor [15] is shown in Fig. 2(a). Note from Fig. 2(b) that assuming an ideal OTA, analysis yields

$$V_o = \frac{g_{mr} V_x}{g_{mr}} = V_x. \quad (2)$$

This implies that a unity weight factor¹ is obtained be-

¹For the injection of signal V_x it is assumed an ideal voltage source.

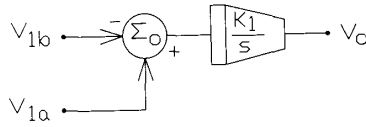


Fig. 3. Lossless integrator; block diagram representation.

tween the input signal V_x and the output V_o . Furthermore, for the particular case when $V_x = 0$, the equivalent grounded resistor yields

$$R_{eq} = \frac{V_o}{-I_o} \Big|_{V_x=0} = \frac{1}{g_{mr}}. \quad (3)$$

Another basic circuit, the lossy integrator, will be discussed in the next section. This consists, in general, of either a lossless integrator with a feedback signal at the input of the lossless integrator, or a lossless integrator with an equivalent resistor load implemented with an additional OTA.

It should be expected from the three types of summers and different lossy integrators that a variety of two integrator loop filter structures can be generated. The same comment applies to the implementation of zeros since the number and type of summers available will determine the flexibility of the structure.

II. INTEGRATOR AND SUMMER STRUCTURES

To facilitate an orderly generation of two integrator loops we will introduce a block diagram representation of the basic operations, that is, for the three types of summers and the lossy integrators.

A basic OTA lossless integrator consists of an OTA and one capacitor. For instance consider Fig. 1 with only the OTA 1 and the load is a capacitor of value C . Observe that this integrator can be differential, positive, or negative by choosing or grounding the appropriate terminals. Note that the integrators discussed in this paper have a high output impedance. This fact is emphasized by the truncated triangle representing the integrator in Fig. 3, where $K_1 = g_{m1}/C$.

The transfer function, in general, of a lossy integrator (first-order low-pass filter) is

$$H(s) = \frac{V_o(s)}{V_{in}(s)} = \frac{K_2}{s + K_2 A_1} \quad (4)$$

where $K_2 A_1$ is the 3-dB cutoff frequency, ω_{3dB} , and $1/A_1$ is the low-frequency gain. Let us discuss, initially, the integrators from the point of view of block diagrams. The lossy integrator structures with high output impedance consist basically of a lossless equivalent integrator K_2/s with a local feedback component $A_1 K_2/s$ and present two summers Σ_o and Σ_c . This is illustrated in Fig. 4(a). The other lossy integrator type is shown in Fig. 4(b). It consists of a global feedback component A_1 . Note that the feedback signal and the input are algebraically added through a summer Σ_o . Next, we discuss the OTA lossy integrator implementations. Fig. 5(a) shows the implementation of a

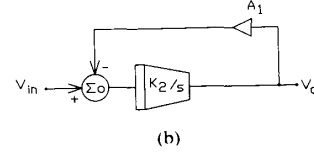
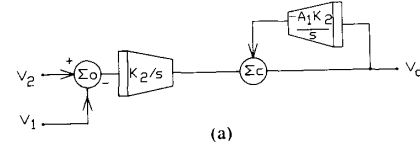
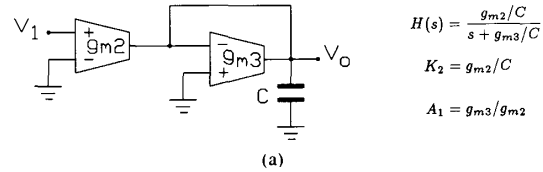


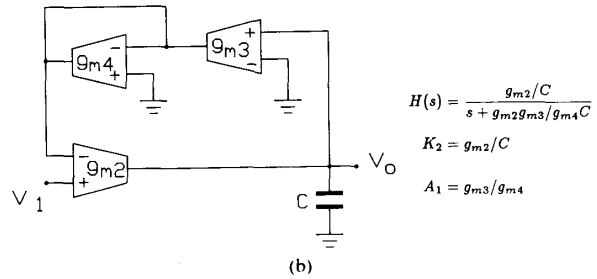
Fig. 4. Lossy integrator block diagrams; (a) Self-loop feedback component, (b) Lossless integrator plus a feedback component.



$$H(s) = \frac{g_{m2}/C}{s + g_{m3}/C}$$

$$K_2 = g_{m2}/C$$

$$A_1 = g_{m3}/g_{m2}$$



$$H(s) = \frac{g_{m2}/C}{s + g_{m2}g_{m3}/g_{m4}C}$$

$$K_2 = g_{m2}/C$$

$$A_1 = g_{m3}/g_{m4}$$

Fig. 5. Lossy integrator implementations. (a) Lossless integrator with a self-loop feedback component (b) Lossless integrator with variable feedback component.

lossy integrator that can be represented by Fig. 4(b). The $g_{m3} - g_{m4}$ combination for the particular case when $A_1 = 1$ can be simply replaced by a short circuit.

III. TWO INTEGRATOR LOOP TAC STRUCTURES

The two initiator loop structures consist of a lossless integrator and a lossy integrator. Using the two block diagram representations of the lossy integrator of Fig. 4, we can obtain the corresponding fundamental two integrator loops of Fig. 6(a) and 6(b). The characteristic equation is identical for both structures and is given by

$$D(s) = s^2 + K_2 A_1 s + K_1 K_2 A_0 \quad (5)$$

where

$$K_2 A_1 = \frac{\omega_p}{Q_p} \quad \text{and} \quad K_1 K_2 A_0 = \omega_p^2$$

thus ω_p and Q_p , the pole frequency and the pole quality factor, respectively, become

$$\omega_p = [K_1 K_2 A_0]^{1/2} \quad (6)$$

$$Q_p = \frac{1}{A_1} [K_1 A_0 / K_2]^{1/2}. \quad (7)$$

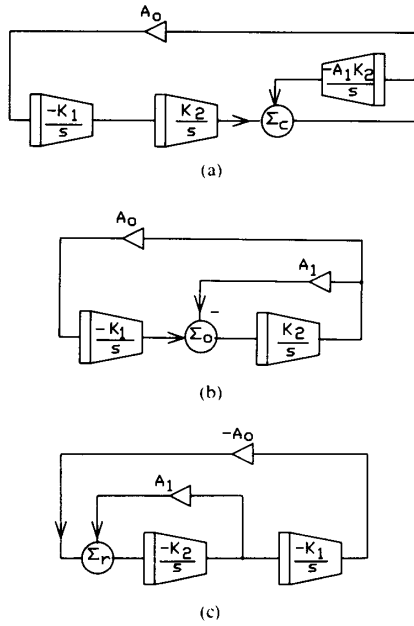


Fig. 6. Two integrator loops. (a) Cascade of one lossless and one lossy integrators. (b) Cascade of two lossless integrators. (c) Two integrator loops with a single feedback summer.

From (6) and (7) it can be observed that ω_p and Q_p can be independently controlled, if K_1 , K_2 , A_0 , and A_1 can be adjusted independently. Another feasible two integrator loop can be obtained by transposing the block diagram of Fig. 6(b) which is shown in Fig. 6(c). The characteristic equation is ideally given again by (5). However, observe that in Fig. 6(b) the output of the second integrator is feedback to the input of each integrator through Σ_o summers while in Fig. 6(c) the output of each integrator is feedback to the input of one integrator through a Σ_r summer. The main differences between these structures will be in the summer types and their corresponding injection points for the implementation of transmission zeros. For the following analysis, only the dead network of these filters will be considered whereas methods of controlling zeros will be discussed in Section IV.

Let us now consider the circuit implementations of structures of Fig. 6. The circuit derived from the block diagram structure of Fig. 6(a) is shown in Fig. 7. One particular case of this structure is when $A_0 = 1$, this implies that the combination of OTA's 4 and 5 can be replaced by a short circuit. The circuit implementation of the block diagram of Fig. 6(b), is shown in Fig. 8. There are three interesting cases for this structure: i) The general case $A_0 \neq 1$, $A_1 \neq 1$; ii) $A_0 = 1$, $A_1 \neq 1$; and iii) $A_0 = A_1 = 1$. Recall² that when the scaling factors A_0 or A_1 become one, they can simply be replaced by a short circuit. The circuit implementation of Fig 6(c) is shown in Fig. 9, it contains three available signal nodes, five OTA's and one weighted

² $A_0 \neq 1$, $A_1 = 1$ is another case, however these features are very similar to Topology 2 of Fig. 7 and involves more OTA's.

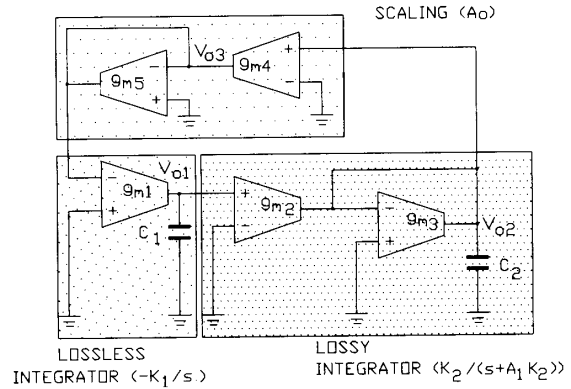


Fig. 7. Circuit implementation of Fig. 6(a).

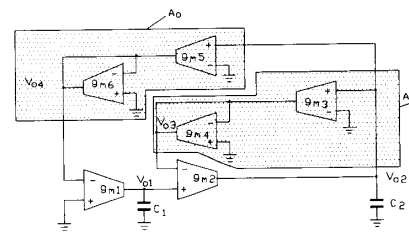


Fig. 8. Circuit implementation of Fig. 6(b).

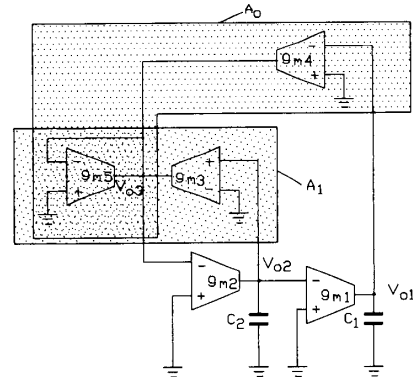


Fig. 9. Circuit implementation of Fig. 6(c).

TABLE I
 ω_p, Q_p EXPRESSIONS FOR LOOP STRUCTURES OF FIGS. 7, 8 AND 9

Topology	A_0	A_1	ω_p^2	Q_p	ω_p/Q_p
1. Fig. 7	$\frac{g_{m4}}{g_{m5}}$	$\frac{g_{m3}}{g_{m2}}$	$\frac{g_{m1} g_{m2} g_{m4}}{C_1 C_2 g_{m5}}$	$\frac{1}{g_{m3}} \left[\frac{g_{m1} g_{m2} g_{m4} C_2}{g_{m5} C_1} \right]^{\frac{1}{2}}$	$\frac{g_{m2}}{C_2}$
2. Fig. 7	1	$\frac{g_{m3}}{g_{m2}}$	$\frac{g_{m1} g_{m2}}{C_1 C_2}$	$\frac{1}{g_{m3}} \left[\frac{g_{m1} g_{m2} C_2}{C_1} \right]^{\frac{1}{2}}$	$\frac{g_{m2}}{C_2}$
3. Fig. 8	$\frac{g_{m4}}{g_{m5}}$	$\frac{g_{m3}}{g_{m2}}$	$\frac{g_{m1} g_{m2} g_{m4}}{C_1 C_2 g_{m5}}$	$\frac{g_{m4}}{g_{m3}} \left[\frac{g_{m1} C_2 g_{m4}}{g_{m5} C_1 g_{m2}} \right]^{\frac{1}{2}}$	$\frac{g_{m2} g_{m4}}{C_2 g_{m5}}$
4. Fig. 8	1	$\frac{g_{m3}}{g_{m2}}$	$\frac{g_{m1} g_{m2}}{C_1 C_2}$	$\frac{g_{m4}}{g_{m3}} \left[\frac{g_{m1} C_2}{g_{m5} C_1} \right]^{\frac{1}{2}}$	$\frac{g_{m2} g_{m4}}{C_2 g_{m5}}$
5. Fig. 8	1	1	$\frac{g_{m1} g_{m2}}{C_1 C_2}$	$\left[\frac{g_{m1} C_2}{g_{m5} C_1} \right]^{\frac{1}{2}}$	$\frac{g_{m2}}{C_2}$
6. Fig. 9	$\frac{g_{m4}}{g_{m5}}$	$\frac{g_{m3}}{g_{m2}}$	$\frac{g_{m1} g_{m2} g_{m4}}{C_1 C_2 g_{m5}}$	$\frac{g_{m4}}{g_{m3}} \left[\frac{g_{m1} C_2 g_{m4}}{g_{m5} C_1 g_{m2}} \right]^{\frac{1}{2}}$	$\frac{g_{m2} g_{m4}}{C_2 g_{m5}}$

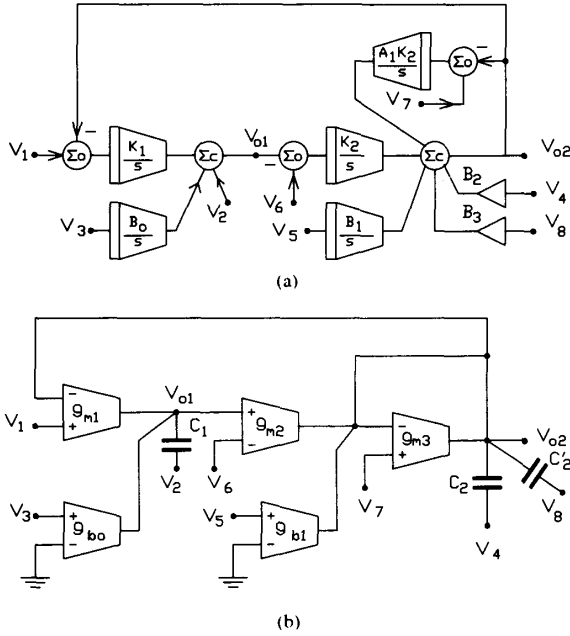


Fig. 10. Filter from Fig. 7. (a) Block diagram. (b) Circuit implementation.

summer. It will be shown later that the outputs of this structure have very desirable properties. Table I shows the mathematical expressions for ω_p and Q_p for all the derived structures. Note that for these topologies, except for topology 5, the ω_p and the ω_p/Q_p factor can be independently tuned. Observe that these six structures of Figs. 7–9 represent general families of the two integrator loop OTA filter structures. They can be used as the basis to implement general biquadratic filter structures.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRANSMISSION ZEROS

Transmission zeros are obtained by injecting weighted signals into the dead networks (Figs. 7–9). There are two methods of feeding in a signal source without destroying the just established system poles of the dead network:

- 1) by lifting completely (or partially) any ground connection off ground and connecting it to an input voltage;
- 2) by feeding an additional current (in our case generated by an OTA) into an impedance node.

To demonstrate the implementation of transmission zeros we will consider in detail three general biquadratic filters.

a) The first second-order filter (Filter A) uses the dead network of Fig. 7 (Topology 2 of Table I) with $A_0 = 1$ and has eight different input signals. The block diagram of the filter is shown in Fig. 10(a) and its corresponding circuit implementation is illustrated in Fig. 10(b). Note that the capacitor C_2 is ungrounded and split into two capacitors C'_2 and C''_2 , and two signal V_4 and V_8 are connected to the

ungrounded capacitor terminals.³ This additional capacitor and input path allows one to obtain a low-pass notch. This technique is only illustrated in this structure, but it can be used with any of the other dead networks discussed before. The output⁴ V_{o2} is given by

$$V_{o2} = \frac{1}{D_1(s)} \{ K_1K_2V_1 + sK_2V_2 + B_0K_2V_3 + s^2B_2V_4 + sB_1V_5 - sK_2V_6 + sA_1K_2V_7 + s^2B_3V_8 \} \quad (8)$$

where

$$D_1(s) = s^2 + A_1K_2s + K_1K_2 \quad (9)$$

with $K_1 = g_{m1}/C_1$, $B_0 = g_{b0}/C_1$, $K_2 = g_{m2}/(C_2 + C'_2)$, $B_1 = g_{b1}/(C_2 + C'_2)$, $A_1K_2 = g_{m3}/(C_2 + C'_2)$, $B_2 = C'_2/(C_2 + C_2)$, and $B_3 = C_2/(C_2 + C'_2)$. Observe that B_0 and B_1 can change their sign by simply interchanging the corresponding OTA input terminals. One particular case is obtained when $g_{m1} = g_{m2} = g_m$, ω_p can be adjusted linearly with g_m , i.e., $\omega_p = g_m/\sqrt{C_1(C_2 + C'_2)}$. Although Q_p also changes with g_m , if used in a second-order bandpass filter, the bandwidth BW becomes independent of g_m , i.e., $BW = g_{m3}/(C_2 + C'_2)$. The implementation of B_2 and B_3 is easily appreciated for the case of making all the inputs zero, except $V_8 = V_1 = V_{in}$, the corresponding transfer function yields

$$H(s) = \frac{V_{o2}}{V_{in}} = \frac{s^2 + \frac{g_{m1}g_{m2}}{C_1C_2}}{s^2 + s\frac{g_{m3}}{(C_2 + C'_2)} + \frac{g_{m1}g_{m2}}{C_1(C_2 + C'_2)}} \cdot \frac{C_2}{C'_2 + C_2} \quad (10)$$

Equation (10) represents a low-pass notch filter. If the $j\omega$ zeros need not be independently controlled by a transconductance, this circuit could be chosen by the designer.

b) Next we describe a topology (Filter B) with a reduced number of OTA's based on Fig. 8 (Topology 5 of Table I) with $A_0 = A_1 = 1$. Fig. 11(a) and (b) shows the block diagram and its corresponding circuit implementation, respectively. The output V_{o2} yields

$$V_{o2} = \frac{1}{D_2(s)} \{ K_1K_2V_1 + sK_2V_2 + B_0K_2V_3 + s^2V_4 + sB_1V_5 \} \quad (11)$$

where

$$D_2(s) = s^2 + K_2s + K_1K_2 \quad (12)$$

with $K_1 = g_{m1}/C_1$, $K_2 = g_{m2}/C_2$, $B_0 = g_{b0}/C_1$, and $B_1 = g_{b1}/C_2$.

c) The Filter C is based on Fig. 9 (Topology 6 of Table I) and is illustrated in Fig. 12. The block diagram shows 10 input signals. It has 8 OTA's. The output signal V_{o2} is

³This case corresponds to partially lifting the capacitor C_2 off ground.
⁴The output V_{o2} is chosen as the output of the lossy integrator.

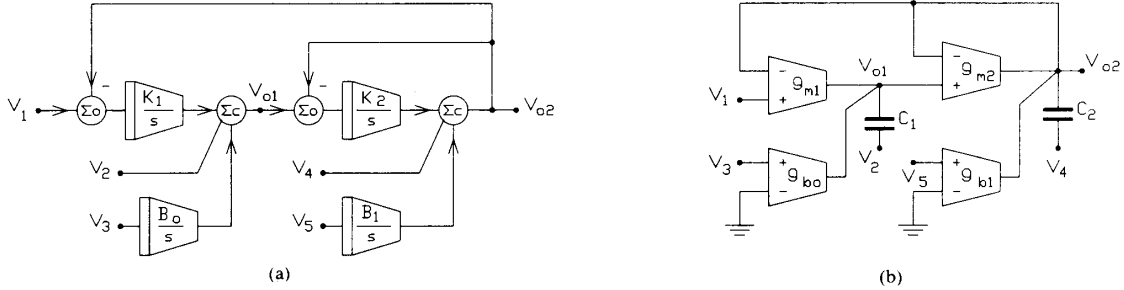


Fig. 11. Filter B, from Fig. 8 (with $A_0 = A_1 = 1$). (a) Block diagram representation. (b) Circuit implementation.

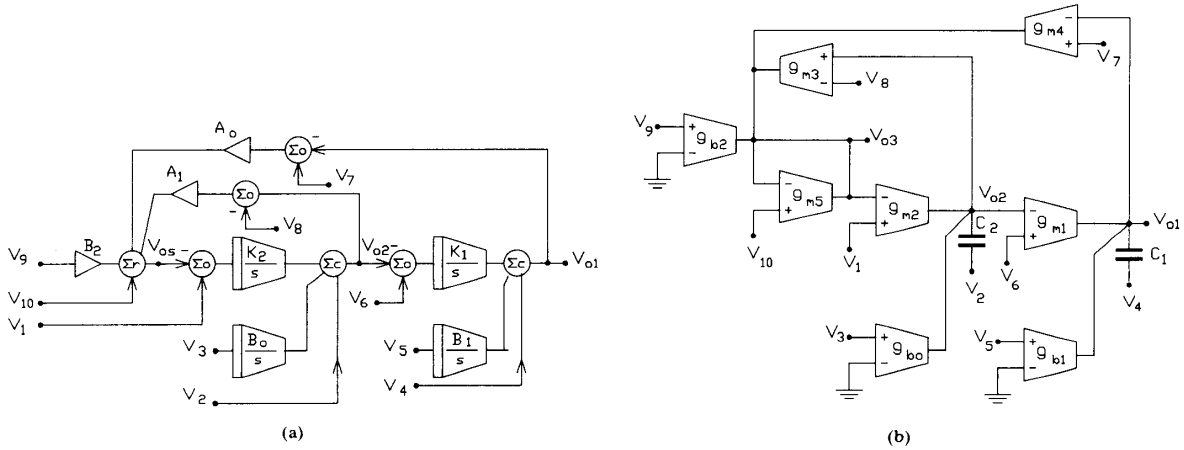


Fig. 12. Filter C, from Fig. 9. (a) Block diagram representation. (b) Circuit implementation.

given by

$$V_{o2} = \frac{1}{D_6(s)} \{ sK_2V_1 + s^2V_2 + sB_0V_3 + sK_2A_0V_4 + B_1A_0K_2V_5 + K_1K_2A_0V_6 - sA_0K_2V_7 + sA_1K_2V_8 - sB_2K_2V_9 - sK_2V_{10} \} \quad (13)$$

where

$$D_6(s) = s^2 + sK_2A_1 + A_0K_1K_2. \quad (14)$$

Here K_1 , K_2 , and B_1 , are the same as in Filter B plus, $B_0 = g_{b0}/C_2$, $B_2 = g_{b2}/g_{m5}$, $A_0 = g_{m4}/g_{m5}$, and $A_1 = g_{m3}/g_{m5}$.

Observations on the Structures

The selection of a particular filter structure depends on a specific application. Next we discuss several particular practical cases.

i) Suppose a fixed low Q_p is required and ω_p as well as the zero locations need to be variable. In the case the Filter B of Fig. 11 with 4 OTA's, is very adequate when $V_1 = V_2 = 0$ and $V_3 = V_4 = V_5 = V_{in}$, the corresponding transfer

function becomes

$$H(s) = \frac{V_{o2}}{V_{in}} = \frac{s^2 + \frac{g_{b1}}{C_2}s + \frac{g_{bo}g_{m2}}{C_1C_2}}{s^2 + \frac{g_{m2}}{C_2}s + \frac{g_{m1}g_{m2}}{C_1C_2}}. \quad (15)$$

Note that g_{b1} can also be implemented with a negative sign of the allpass case. A simple design approach is the following: make $g_{m1} = g_{m2} = g_m$, then for a given Q_p , ω_p and assuming C_1 is known we obtain $C_2 = C_1Q_p^2$ and $g_m = C_1Q_p\omega_p$. For the particular cases of LP, BP, HP and (all pass); all the inputs are zero except V_3 , V_5 , V_4 and (V_3 , V_4 , and V_5), respectively. The design equation for the zeros become

LP $g_{bo} = H_{LP}Q_p\omega_pC_1 \quad (16a)$

BP $g_{b1} = H_{BP}Q_p\omega_pC_1 \quad (16b)$

HP $H_{HP} = 1 \quad (16c)$

AP $g_{b1} = -g_{m2}, g_{bo} = g_{m1} \quad (16d)$

where $H_{LP} = H(0)$, $H_{BP} = H(\omega_p)$, and $H_{HP} = H(\infty)$. Direct analysis of this filter topology shows that the output signals V_1 and V_{o2} , at ω_p differ by Q_p . This is not so critical for low Q_p values. A serious voltage swing problem could be faced for high Q_p values, this is discussed in Section V. Furthermore, a large desired Q_p cannot be obtained due to

the nonideal input and output impedances of the OTA's; this will also be demonstrated in Section V.

ii) Now assume the previous design specifications but Q_p is required to be variable. A solution can be obtained using the structure of Fig. 10 (Filter A), when $V_4 = V_8 = V_3 = V_5 = V_{in}$ and $V_1 = V_2 = V_6 = V_7 = 0$. The resulting transfer function becomes

$$H(s) = \frac{s^2 + s \frac{g_{b1}}{(C_2 + C_2')} + \frac{g_{bo}g_{ms}}{C_1(C_2' + C_2)}}{s^2 + s \frac{g_{m3}}{(C_2 + C_2')} + \frac{g_{m1}g_{m2}}{C_1(C_2 + C_2')}}. \quad (17a)$$

Note that $C_2 + C_2'$ can be substituted by a single capacitor, C_2 . Furthermore, assuming C_1 and C_2 are known, then the following expressions are obtained:

$$g_{m1}g_{m2} = C_1C_2\omega_p^2 \quad (17b)$$

$$g_{m3} = \frac{C_2\omega_p}{Q_p}. \quad (17c)$$

The maximum voltage swing can be adjusted, depending on the transfer function type. For instance, for the following cases we have

$$\text{LP: } g_{m2} = g_{m2} = C_2\omega_p/Q_p \quad (17d)$$

$$g_{bo} = g_{m1}H_{LP} \quad (17e)$$

$$g_{m1} = \omega_p Q_p C_1 \quad (17f)$$

$$\text{BP: } C_1 = C_2 = C \quad (17g)$$

$$g_{m1} = g_{m2} = g_m = C\omega_p \quad (17h)$$

$$g_{m3} = C\omega_p/Q_p \quad (17i)$$

$$g_{b1} = g_m H_{BP}/Q_p \quad (17j)$$

$$\text{HP: } H_{HP} = 1 \quad (17k)$$

$$g_{m2} = g_{m3} = C_2\omega_p/Q_p \quad (17l)$$

$$g_{m1} = C_1\omega_p Q_p \quad (17m)$$

where H_{LP} , H_{BP} , and H_{HP} are defined as before.

iii) A filter with three simultaneous outputs is required; these outputs must be high-pass, bandpass, and low-pass types. The structure of Fig. 12 (Filter C) can implement the desired outputs. This is satisfied when all inputs except V_9 are zero. Then the transfer function yields

$$H_3(s) = \frac{V_{o3}}{V_9} = \frac{\frac{g_{b2}}{s^2} s^2}{s^2 + \frac{g_{m2}g_{m3}}{C_2g_{m5}}s + \frac{g_{m4}g_{m1}g_{m2}}{g_{m5}C_1C_2}} \quad (18a)$$

$$H_2(s) = \frac{V_{o2}}{V_9} = \frac{-\frac{g_{bs}g_{m2}}{g_{m5}C_2} s}{s^2 + \frac{g_{m2}g_{m2}}{C_2g_{m5}} + \frac{g_{m4}g_{m1}g_{m2}}{g_{m5}C_1C_2}} \quad (18b)$$

$$H_1(s) = \frac{V_{o1}}{V_9} = \frac{\frac{g_{b2}}{s^2} \frac{g_{m1}g_{m2}}{C_1C_2}}{s^2 + \frac{g_{m2}g_{m3}}{C_2g_{m5}}s + \frac{g_{m4}g_{m1}g_{m2}}{g_{m5}C_1C_2}} \quad (18c)$$

A set of simple design equations follows. Given ω_p , Q_p , $H_3(\infty)$, $H_2(\omega_p)$, and $H_1(0)$ we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{g_{b2}}{g_{m5}} &= H_3(\infty) \\ \frac{g_{m2}}{C_2} &= \frac{\omega_p H_2(\omega_p)}{H_3(\infty) Q_p} \\ \frac{g_{m1}}{C_1} &= \frac{\omega_p Q_p H_1(0)}{H_2(\omega_p)} \\ \frac{g_{m4}}{g_{m5}} &= \frac{H_3(\infty)}{H_1(0)} \\ \frac{g_{m3}}{g_{m5}} &= \frac{H_3(\infty)}{H_2(\omega_p)}. \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

Furthermore, observe that the input is not fed through the ungrounded capacitor, which is an additional positive property. That is, a high-pass output does not require the input to be fed through a capacitor. This structure is the homologous to the popular KHN state variable op amp structure.

By selecting the proper inputs and/or outputs of the different structures, many options that satisfy a variety of requirements can be obtained. In some applications the design requirements need to equalize the maximum voltage swing at the OTA outputs to improve the dynamic range. Some structures such as the one shown in Fig. 12 for one particular input allow to adjust the maximum voltage swing at the output of each OTA. However, in some cases the equalization of voltage swings can not be accomplished, this problem is addressed next.

V. MAXIMUM VOLTAGE SWING CONSIDERATIONS

Let us consider for illustration purposes the structure of Fig. 10(a) with only one nonzero input $V_{in} = V_6$. The corresponding transfer functions become

$$H_1(s) = \frac{V_{o1}}{V_6} = \frac{K_1 K_2}{s^2 + sA_1 K_2 + K_1 K_2} \quad (20)$$

and

$$H_2(s) = \frac{V_{o2}}{V_6} = \frac{-sK_2}{s^2 + sA_1 K_2 + K_1 K_2}. \quad (21)$$

Furthermore for $Q_p > 1$, the maximum magnitudes of the transfer functions occur at $\omega = \omega_p$,

$$|H_1(j\omega_p)| = \frac{K_1 K_2}{\omega_p A_1 K_2} = Q_p \quad (22)$$

and

$$|H_2(j\omega_p)| = \frac{K_2}{A_1 K_2} = \frac{K_2}{\omega_p} Q_p. \quad (23)$$

These maximum magnitudes are equated to Q_p if $K_1 = K_2 = \omega_p$. Equations (22) and (23) for $V_6 = 1$ V show that for practical cases $V_{o1}(\omega_p) = Q_p$ volts, and $V_{o2}(\omega_p) \leq Q_p$ volts,

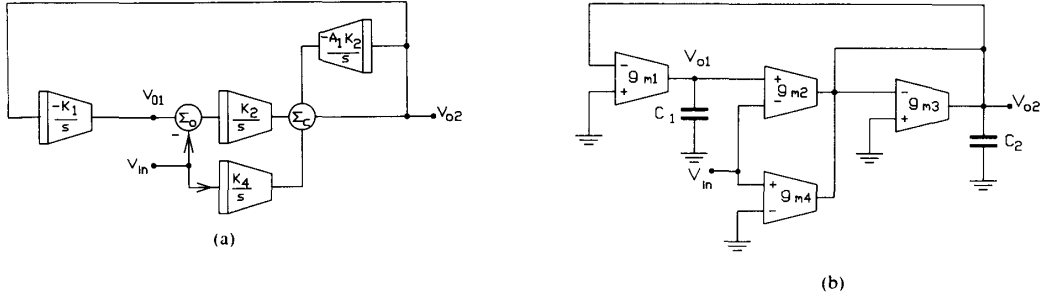


Fig. 13. Signal nodes voltage equalization. (a) Block diagram representation, (b) A circuit implementation.

this is not a desirable feature for the dynamic range of the filter, especially for high Q_p 's. This problem can be compensated by the inclusion input signal attenuation, as done by the additional integrating path in Fig. 13(a). The signal injection becomes proportional to $M = (K_2 - K_4)/K_2$. The modified transfer functions and maximum magnitudes can be obtained by multiplying (20) through (23) by the factor M . In particular, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} H_1(s) &= \frac{K_1(K_2 - K_4)}{s^2 + sA_1K_2 + K_1K_2} \\ &= M \frac{K_1K_2}{s^2 + sA_1K_2 + K_1K_2} \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

$$\begin{aligned} H_2(s) &= \frac{-s(K_2 - K_4)}{s^2 + sA_1K_2 + K_1K_2} \\ &= M \frac{-sK_2}{s^2 + sA_1K_2 + K_1K_2} \end{aligned} \quad (25)$$

and

$$|H_1(j\omega_p)| = MQ_p, |H_2(j\omega_p)| = M \frac{K_2}{\omega_p} Q_p. \quad (26)$$

Observe that for the original filter the maximum gain of $H_2(s)$ was fixed and equal to Q_p . However, the modified filter can be designed for any Q_p and still have $|H_1(j\omega_p)| = |H_2(j\omega_p)| = G < Q_p$, where G is an arbitrary practical value. Let $K_4 = mK_2$, and $M = 1 - m$. Then, given G , ω_p , and Q_p , the design equations using (7) and (26) yield

$$\begin{aligned} K_1 &= K_2 \\ A_1 &= 1/Q_p \\ m &= 1 - \frac{G}{Q_p} \\ m &= 1 - \frac{G}{Q_p} \\ K_4 &= mK_2. \end{aligned} \quad (27)$$

One possible implementation of Fig. 13(a) is shown in Fig. 13(b).

Remarks on Nonidealities of OTA Filters

The nonideal characteristics of the OTA will limit the performance of the filter structures discussed before. Some of the factors limiting the performance of the OTA filters are the finite input and output impedances and the excess phase of the CMOS OTA. The finite output resistance will affect mainly the lossless integrators at low frequency, the input and output capacitances will affect especially the performance of the summer Σ_r at high frequency. The summer Σ_o will cause several distortion for large input voltage differences at the input of the OTA. In general, a Σ_C summer has better dynamic range than a Σ_r summer. The excess phase becomes more critical when the number of OTA's increase in the two-integrator loop.

To illustrate the effects of the OTA non-idealities on the filter's frequency performance, assume that each OTA⁵ has a differential input impedance $Z_{di} = 1/sC_{di}$, and differential output impedances modeled as the parallel combination of R_{oi} and C_{oi} . Let us consider the structure of Fig. 8 with $A_0 = A_1 = 1$, and the input signal fed at the + terminal of OTA 1. If the output is taken as V_{o2} , the ideal transfer function is

$$\begin{aligned} H_I(s) &= \frac{V_{o2}}{V_i} = \frac{\frac{g_{m1}g_{m2}}{C_1C_2}}{s^2 + \frac{g_{m2}}{C_2}s + \frac{g_{m1}g_{m2}}{C_1C_2}} \\ &= \frac{\omega_p^2}{s^2 + \frac{\omega_p}{Q_p}s + \omega_p^2}. \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

After the input and output impedance of the two OTA's are considered, (28) yields

$$H_r(s) = H_\infty \frac{s^2 + \frac{\omega_z}{Q_z}s + \omega_z^2}{s^2 + \frac{\omega_{pr}}{Q_{pr}}s + \omega_{pr}^2} \quad (29)$$

⁵The characterization of the input and output impedances of the OTA is based on an OTA of the type described in [17], [23].

where

$$H_\infty = \frac{\frac{C_{d1}}{C_2} \left(1 + \frac{C_{o1}}{1} + \frac{C_{d2}}{C_1} \right)}{1 + \frac{C_{o1} + C_{d2}}{C_1} + \frac{C_{o2} + C_{d1} + C_{d2}}{C_2} + \left(\frac{C_{o1} + C_{d2}}{C_1} \right) \left(\frac{C_{o2} + C_{d1}}{C_2} \right) + \frac{C_{o1}C_{d2}}{C_1C_2}} \tag{30}$$

$$\omega_{pr} = \omega_p \sqrt{\frac{1 + \frac{1}{A_{v1}} \left(1 + \frac{1}{A_{v2}} \right)}{1 + \frac{C_{o1} + C_{d2}}{C_1} + \frac{C_{o2} + C_{d1} + C_{d2}}{C_2} + \left(\frac{C_{o2} + C_{d1}}{C_2} \right) + \frac{C_{o1}C_{d2}}{C_1C_2}}} \tag{31}$$

$$Q_{pr} = Q_p \frac{\sqrt{1 + \frac{C_{o1} + C_{d2}}{C_1} + \frac{C_{o2} + C_{d1} + C_{d2}}{C_2} + \left(\frac{C_{o1} + C_{d2}}{C_1} \right) \left(\frac{C_{o2} + C_{d1}}{C_2} \right) + \frac{C_{o1}C_{d2}}{C_1C_2}} \cdot \sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{A_{v1}} \left(1 + \frac{1}{A_{v2}} \right)}}{1 + \frac{C_{o1}}{C_1} \left(1 + \frac{1}{A_{v2}} \right) + \frac{1}{A_{v2}} \left(1 + \frac{C_{d2}}{C_1} \right) + Q_p^2 \left\{ \frac{C_{d2}}{C_2} \left(1 + \frac{1}{A_{v1}} \right) + \frac{1}{A_{v1}} \left(1 + \frac{C_{o2} + C_{d1}}{C_2} \right) \right\}} \tag{32}$$

$$\omega_z = \omega_p \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \frac{C_{o1} + C_{d2}}{C_1}}} \sqrt{\frac{1}{\frac{C_{d1}}{C_2}}} \tag{33}$$

$$Q_z = \frac{1}{Q_p} \frac{1}{\frac{1}{A_{v1}} + \frac{C_{d2}}{C_{o2}}} \sqrt{\frac{1 + \frac{C_{o1} + C_{d2}}{C_1}}{\frac{C_{d1}}{C_2}}} \tag{34}$$

and

$$A_{vi} = g_{mi}R_{oi}, \quad i = 1, 2.$$

Note that for an ideal filter all the capacitor ratios in (30) to (34) become zero. It can also be observed that the real transfer function $H_r(s)$ differs from the ideal in several aspects. The actual low-frequency gain

$$\left(H_\infty \frac{\omega_z^2}{\omega_{pr}^2} = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{A_{v1}} \left(1 + \frac{1}{A_{v2}} \right)} \right)$$

can be about -0.09 dB, for typical values of $A_{v1} = A_{v2} = 100$, instead of the ideal 0 dB. Furthermore the high-frequency response is not zero, the minimum gain is given by (30) which can be roughly approximated to C_{d1}/C_2 . We have simulated this structure with SPICE⁶ for an ideal $Q_p = 10$ and different f_p by fixing the transconductance values and selecting C_1 and C_2 accordingly. Table II shows the Q_p and f_p deviations and Table III shows the parasitic zero characteristics. The analytical expressions (29)–(34) compare well with the SPICE results.⁷ These results are also included in Tables II and III. Major discrepancies on

TABLE II
COMPARISON BETWEEN SPICE AND THE ANALYTICAL EQUATIONS (29)–(32) WHERE $\%Q_{pr} = 100 \times Q_{pr} - Q_p/Q_p$, AND $\%f_{pr} = 100 \times f_{pr} - f_p/f_p$

f_p (Hz)	ANALYTICAL		SPICE	
	$\% Q_{pr}$	$\% f_{pr}$	$\% Q_r$	$\% f_{pr}$
10^2	-47.6	0.455	-47.4	0.242
10^3	-47.6	0.433	-47.4	0.220
10^4	-47.7	0.211	-47.4	-0.00
10^5	-48.7	-1.94	-47.3	-2.00
10^6	-56.0	-18.0	-47.2	-18.1
10^7	-75.5	-61.6	-57.9	-61.2

TABLE III
COMPARISON BETWEEN SPICE AND THE ANALYTIC EQUATIONS (33)–(34) FOR THE PARASITIC ZERO CHARACTERISTIC

f_p (Hz)	ANALYTICAL		SPICE	
	Q_z	f_z (MHz)	Q_z	f_z (MHz)
10^2	152.	0.153	704	0.155
10^3	48.0	0.485	196	0.493
10^4	15.2	1.53	59.4	1.56
10^5	4.91	4.74	20.2	4.82
10^6	1.84	12.6	6.67	12.9
10^7	1.15	20.2	3.49	21.2

⁶The OTA used is described in [23].

⁷We used $g_{m1} = 56.1 \mu\text{mhos}$, $g_{m2} = 5.61 \mu\text{mhos}$, $C_{d1} = C_{d2} = 38 \text{ fF}$, $R_{o1} = 1.9 \text{ M}\Omega$, $R_{o2} = 19 \text{ M}\Omega$, $C_{o1} = 365 \text{ fF}$ and $C_{o2} = 36.5 \text{ fF}$ to model the OTA.

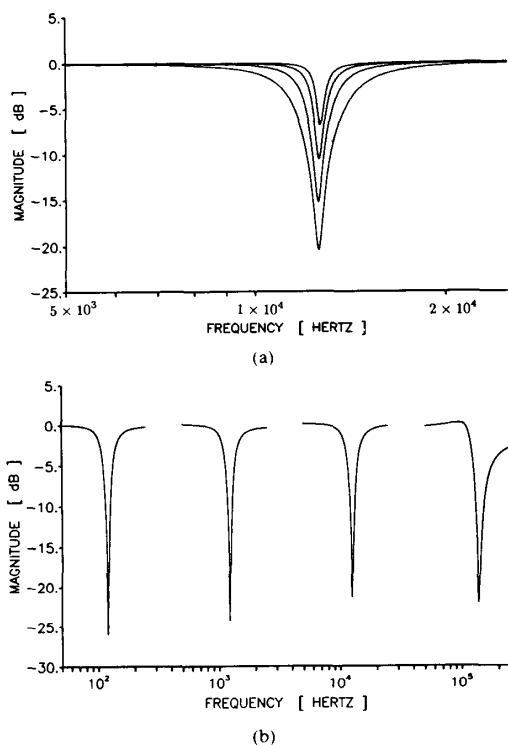


Fig. 14. Notch filter experimental results. (a) Fixed $f_p = 12.7$ kHz and variable $Q_p = \{4, 8, 16, 32\}$. Notch filter experimental results; (b) Fixed $Q_p = 4$ and variable $f_p = \{120, 1.22 \text{ K}, 12.52 \text{ K}, 136 \text{ Kz}\}$ Hz.

the SPICE results and the analytical results occurred at frequencies higher than 1 MHz where the g_m 's become frequency-dependent. This dependence could be modeled, but the resulting analytical expressions might be very awkward. The parasitic zero characteristics are well predicted by the hand calculations. These hand calculations could be improved, at the expense of obtaining large complex expressions, by involving more nonidealities of the OTA, i.e., frequency dependent common mode rejection ratio. Thus the minimal values of C_1 and C_2 in comparison with the parasitic capacitances must be determined to minimize the frequency response deviations. In a similar way, whenever it was possible, the A_{v1} and A_{v2} must be determined to reduce deviations. For example, if $A_{v1} = 1000$ and $Q_p = 10$, then $\%Q_{pr}$ becomes about 9 percent instead of nearly 48 percent, as shown in Table II. For this filter it should be concluded that small $\%Q_r$ can only be obtained for small Q_p 's and/or very large A_{v1} .

VI. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

Three breadboard filter examples are provided in this section to show the programmability features of these filters. Commercial OTA LM 3080 type and polyester capacitors $C_1 = C_2 = 31.8$ nF are used for the three examples.

i) Notch Filter: This filter was implemented using the structure of Fig. 10. The experimental results for variable Q_p and fixed f_p are shown in Fig. 14. The pole frequency

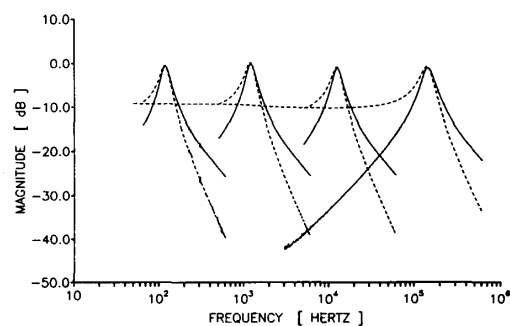


Fig. 15. Maximum amplitude equalization; plots for variable f_p and fixed $Q_p = 8$.

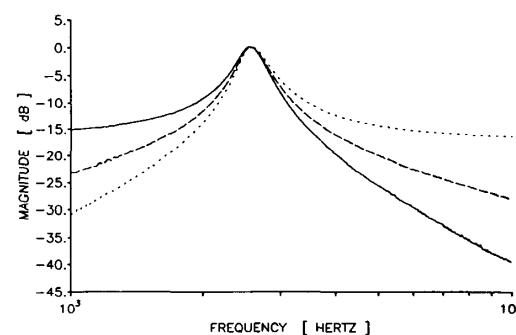


Fig. 16. Low pass, bandpass, and high-pass outputs of a KHN OTA filter, from Fig. 12 with $V_g = V_{in}$.

$f_p = 12.7$ kHz was determined with the bias currents of the OTA's 1 and 2, i.e., $I_{BIAS_1} = I_{BIAS_2} = 100$ μ A. The Q_p values were varied via the OTA 3, for $Q_p = \{4, 8, 16, 32\}$ which correspond to $I_{BIAS_3} = \{25, 12.5, 6.25, 3.12\}$ μ A and the notch attenuation = $\{19.11, 14.11, 9.55, 5.9\}$ dB. The noise flow was below 58 dB (100-Hz bandwidth). Fig. 14(b) shows the experimental results for constant $Q_p = 4$ and variable f_p . The summarized results follow:

$f_p = f_z$	(Hz)	120	1.22 K	12.52 K
Attenuation	dB	29.6	24.5	21.4

For $f_z = 136$ kHz the corresponding pole frequency, f_p , and attenuation were 95.8 kHz and 22.2 dB, respectively.

ii) Bandpass Filter: The structure of Fig. 13 was used to implement a bandpass filter. Fig. 15 shows the experimental results for variable ω_p and fixed $Q_p = 8$. The two OTA outputs (bandpass and low pass) were scaled to have the same peak value, this is also shown in Fig. 15 with the solid and broken lines. The noise level was below 45 dB for a 100-Hz bandwidth. The f_p 's obtained were $\{117, 1.21 \text{ K}, 12.7 \text{ K}, 142 \text{ K}\}$ Hz and the corresponding peak values were $\{-0.05, -0.4, -1.8\}$ dB. The small deviations of f_p and the peak values are due to the nonidealities of the integrators.

iii) KHN OTA Structure: The structure of Fig. 12 was breadboarded with all the input zero except $V_g = V_{in}$. Using the design equations (19) for an equal maximum voltage

gain of 0 dB the experimental results of Fig. 16 were obtained. The ω_p and Q_p are 25.5 kHz and 8, respectively. Fig. 16 also shows simultaneously the three available outputs of the filter. The noise floor was below 58 dB for 100-Hz bandwidth.

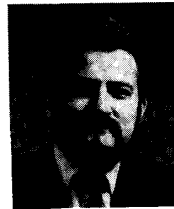
VII. CONCLUSIONS

A generation of two integrator loop OTA filters has been presented. The advantages and some practical limitations of these filters have been discussed. Further research on practical frequency limitations on the OTA-C structures here generated is needed. It was indicated that the selection of a particular filter structure of a function of the design specifications. The TAC structures containing only C's and OTA's are very appropriate for IC implementations. Furthermore, fully differential OTA filter structures can be relatively easy to obtain from many of the single ended structures here generated. The generated structures like any other continuous time, require an automatic tuning system to control the voltage dependent time constant. The OTA-C filter structures here discussed, together with flexible and practical CMOS OTA can be a good combination for the realization of practical monolithic continuous-time filters, particularly at high frequencies [21]–[23].

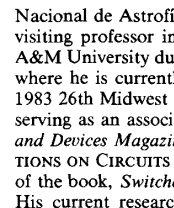
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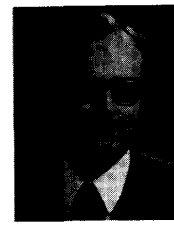


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