

## Lab 3.1.A: Putting opamps to ‘gainful’ use [Negative Feedback]

All question material is in blue. Please put your answers in black color font.

Note on symbols for Gain:

In earlier labs we used the symbol  $G$  to denote the open-loop gain of an opamp. For the LM741  $G \sim 10^6$  (effectively infinite as approximated in most equations).

As discussed in class, the opamp working in open-loop mode is not very useful. Our objective is to design and build an opamp circuit with a finite gain – we will call this gain  $G_f$  i.e. the gain with feedback in place.  $G_f$  is a finite number whose value is specified by design

### Part A: Simple Negative Feedback

#### A.1) Simple negative feedback to set finite voltage gain $G_f$

##### A.1.1 non-inverting negative feedback

In the pre-lab session, the following scheme of negative feedback was discussed to arrange a circuit with gain  $G_f = \frac{1}{x}$ :

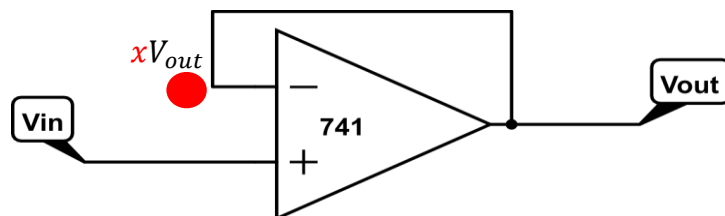


Fig 1: Basic scheme for opamp negative feedback, preserving the sign of  $V_{in}$

##### A.1.1.1) Design

[2]

Arrange a resistor divider to feedback a fraction  $xV_{out}$  of the output voltage  $V_{out}$  back to the  $V_-$  input of the opamp.

Work out the design equations to calculate values of the resistor divider for  $G_f = +10$  in your circuit design. Justify the choice of particular resistor values you use. Write all steps of the design equation [here](#): Use ‘Insert equation’ in MS-Word or Libre-Office to format your equations correctly including subscripts. A prototype equation is provided below, which you may copy-paste and reuse. One equation per line looks good!

$$V_{out} = G(V_+ - V_-)$$

$$x = \frac{1}{G} = \frac{1}{10}$$

$$\text{Closed loop gain, } G = 1 + \frac{R_1}{R_2}$$

$$\text{Therefore, } \frac{R_1}{R_2} = 9$$

A decent choice of  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  that satisfies the above relation would be  $6.8\text{k}\Omega$  and  $750\Omega$  respectively.

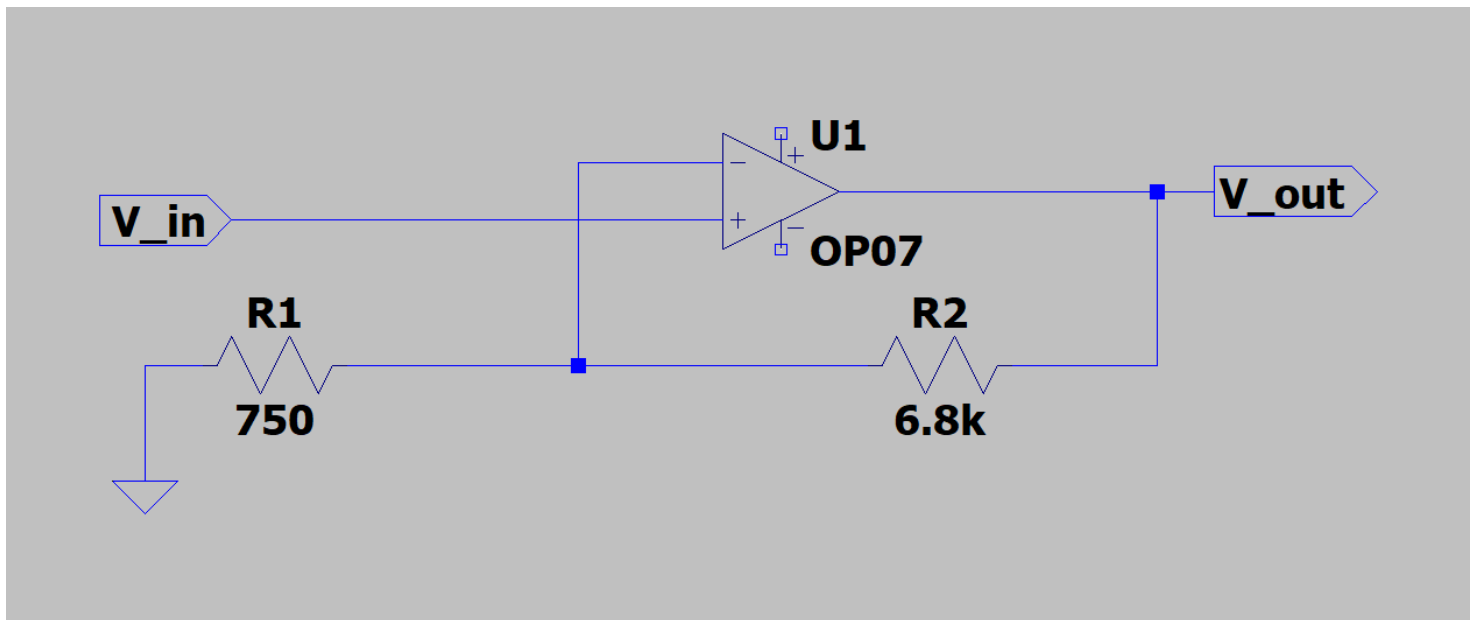
### A.1.1.2) LTSpice simulation

Draw your circuit diagram in LTSpice.

[2]

For clarity, only put your negative feedback opamp circuit design here (not full design with FG)

You may use the standard opamp available in LTSpice OP07 as a stand-in replacement for LM741

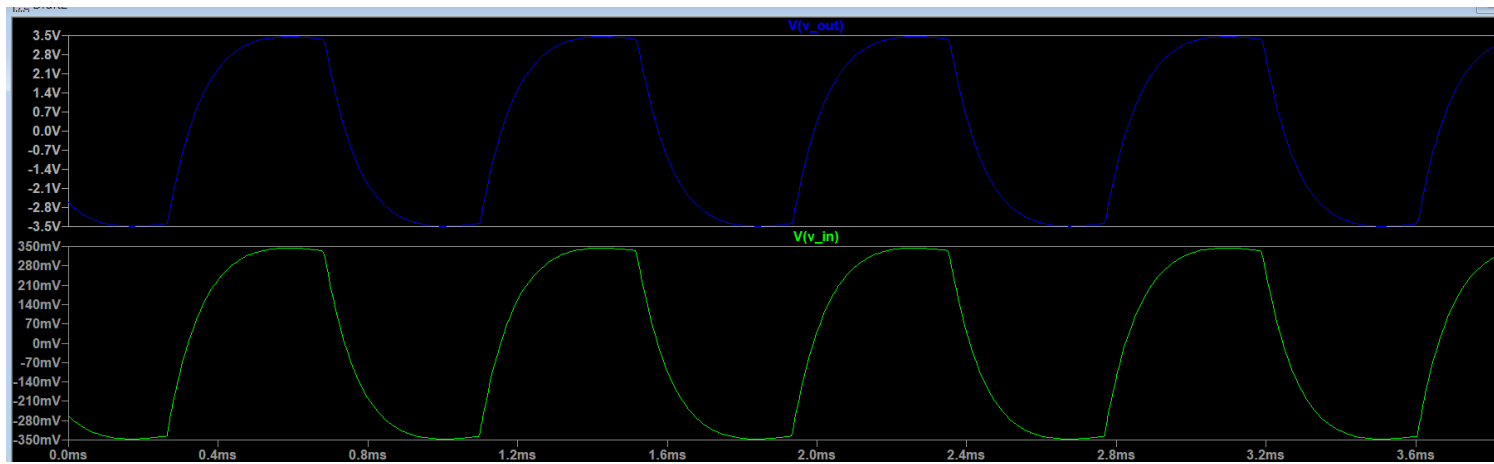
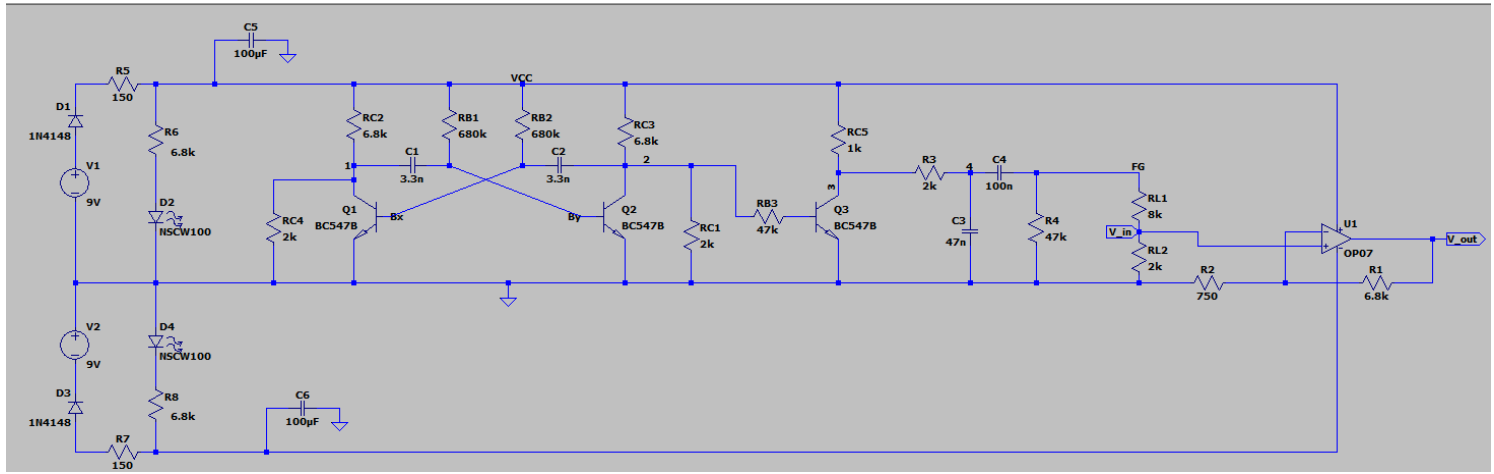


Run the simulation in LTSpice and put below a plot of your simulated  $V_{in} \rightarrow V_{out}$  signals. Now obviously you need to include the FG simulation for this step.

Remember to put large value electrolytic ( $100\mu\text{F}/47\mu\text{F}/22\mu\text{F}/10\mu\text{F}$ ) power supply bypass capacitors for both FG and opamp power rails. Note that you will be running the opamp with  $\approx \pm 8\text{V}$   $V_{CC}$  rail voltage as setup in Lab 2. From the simulation determine a suitable amplitude of  $V_{in}$  such that  $V_{out}$  does not hit the opamp saturation voltage limits when you test the circuit experimentally in the next step. Objective of your simulation: Verify the gain and phase difference (if any) in the transfer function  $V_{in} \rightarrow V_{out}$

To check the phase difference, you must display both  $V_{in}$  and  $V_{out}$  with individual scaling on Y-axis: First plot just  $V_{in}$  using the voltage probe tool. Then, select the Output window and choose “Add Plot Pane” option from the “Plot Settings” drop-down control. Next, plot  $V_{out}$  as the second voltage using the voltage probe tool

[2]

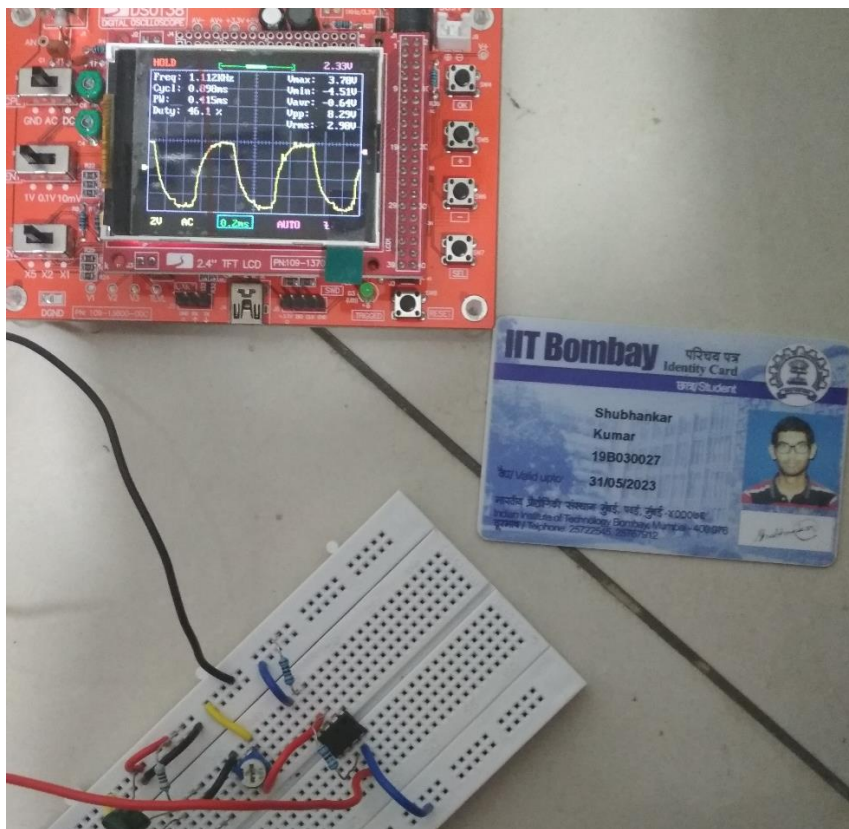


## A.2) Circuit demo: Non-inverting amplifier with $V_{out} = +10V_{in}$

[6]

Build the opamp circuit as designed and simulated in the above steps on your breadboard. Drive the input  $V_{in}$  with the FG used in earlier labs. Set the FG output amplitude as chosen in the simulation.

Put a photo of your working setup here, clearly labelling  $V_{in}$  and  $V_{out}$ . With a single channel DSO measurement, it is not possible to measure the phase difference in experiment (at least at this stage, maybe later?!)

 $V_{in}$  $V_{out}$

### A.3) Negative feedback, inverting the sign of $V_{in}$

By a rearrangement of node connections in Fig 1 it is possible to apply a negative sign to the gain:

$$V_{out} = -G_f V_{in}.$$

This is called an ‘inverting’ configuration since  $V_{out}$  is out of phase with respect to  $V_{in}$  by  $180^\circ$

Keep in mind that for negative feedback, by definition a fraction of  $V_{out}$  must be applied to the  $V_-$  terminal of the opamp. However, you are free to cleverly connect  $V_{in}$  to either  $V_+$  or  $V_-$

Work out your circuit design and component values for implementing the experimental relation

$V_{out} = -10 \times V_{in}$  : the absolute value of the  $G_f$  is the same, but now there is a negative sign!

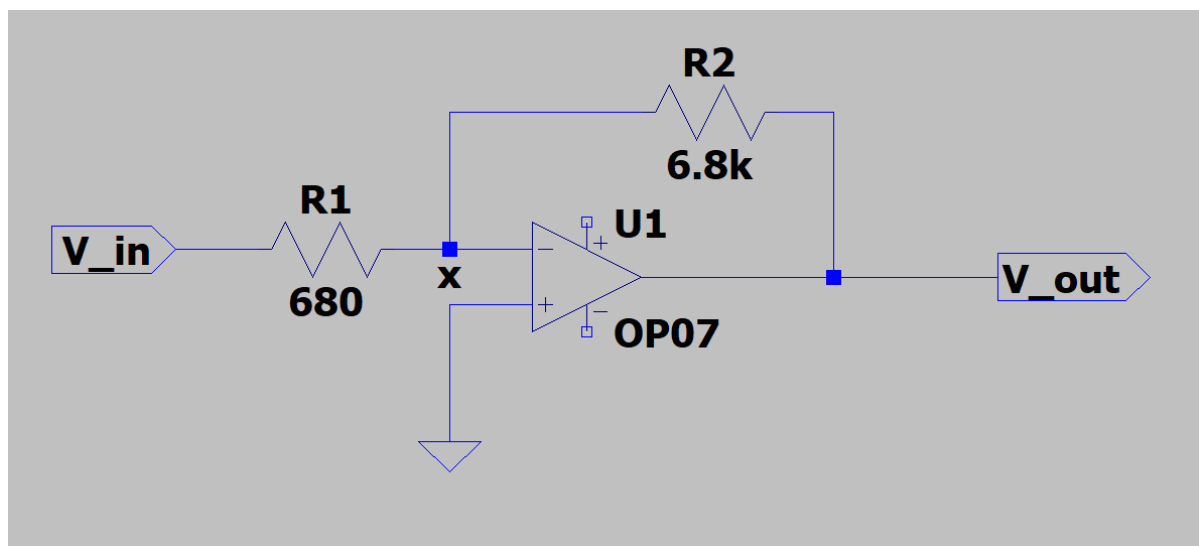
#### A.3.1)

[4]

Circuit design: 2 marks

Equations: 1 marks

LTSpice simulation: 1 marks

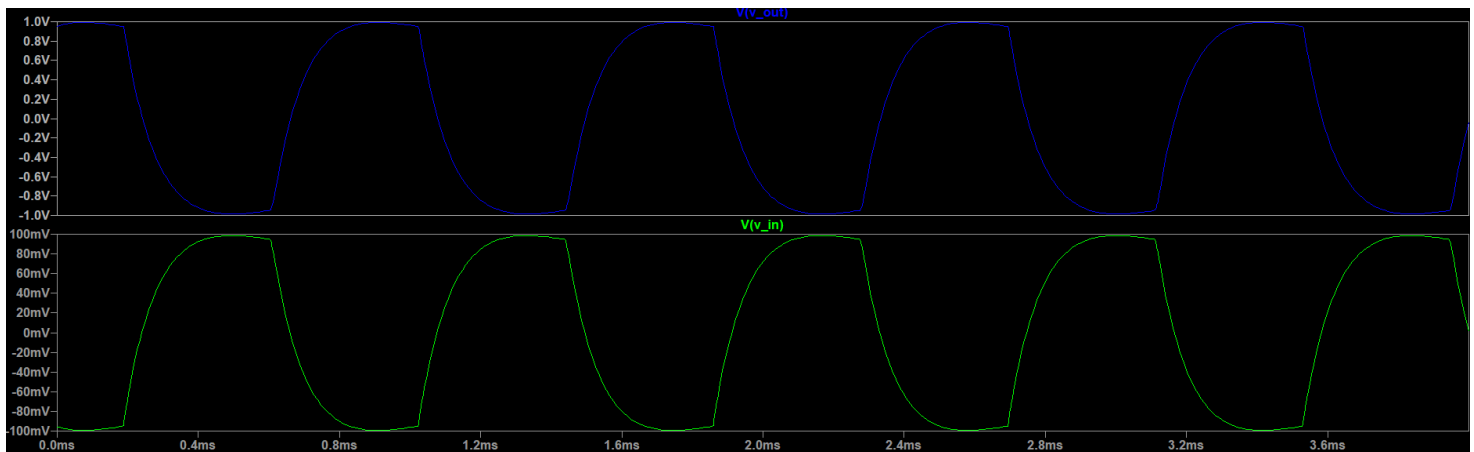
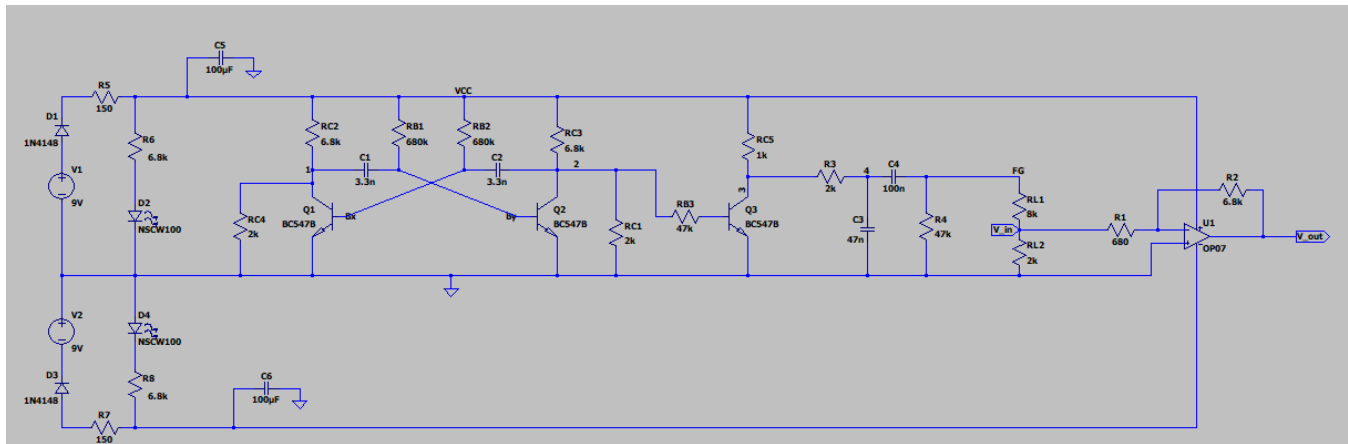


Applying KCL at node x,

$$\frac{V_{in} - 0}{R1} = \frac{0 - V_{out}}{R2}$$

$$\text{Therefore, } \frac{V_{out}}{V_{in}} = -\frac{R2}{R1}$$

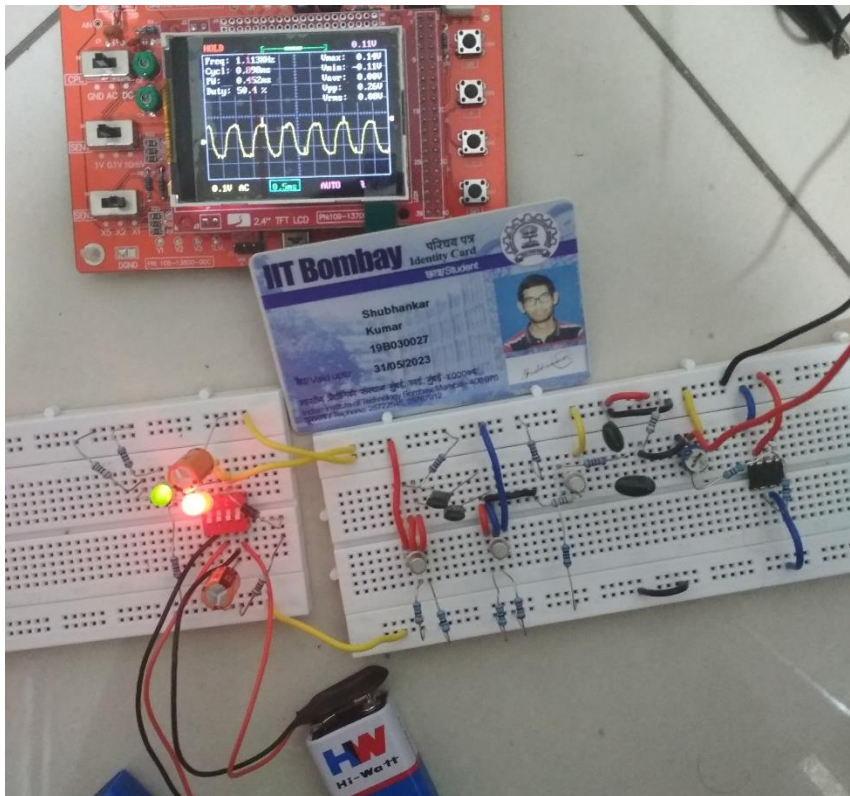
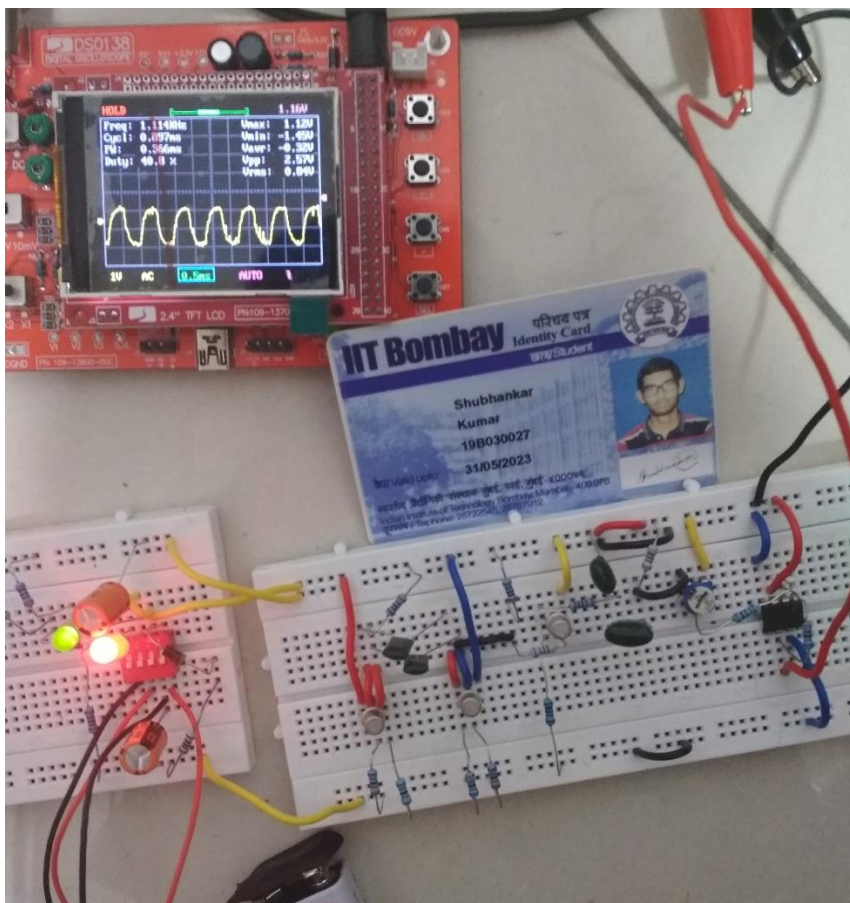
If we want the gain to be -10, then  $R1$  and  $R2$  can be taken as  $680\Omega$  and  $6.8k\Omega$  respectively.



### A.3.2) Circuit demo of inverting amplification: $V_{out} = -10 \times V_{in}$ [3]

Build the circuit for inverting amplifier as per A.3.1 and put photos of your working setup.



 $V_{in}$  $V_{out}$

**A.3.3)** With only a single channel measurement on the DSO, how can you tell that the amplifier is inverting the sign of  $V_{in}$ ? It IS possible! [3]

(Check the input amplitude  $V_{in}$  being sent from your FG to opamp, and look ahead to question A.4 for a hint)

One way to identify this is the fact that  $V_+$  will almost be equal to  $V_-$  in this case. Hence if we connect the black probe to  $V_+$  (ground), the reading should be  $\sim 0V$  when the red probe is connected to  $V_-$ . Also, since  $V_-$  is approx.  $0V$  and that the feedback is negative, the output voltage will be negative wrt  $V_-$ , therefore inverted wrt to  $V_{in}$ .

Another way is to use an “asymmetric” input such as a square wave, say between 0 and 9V. Then the output voltage will range between 0 and a negative number. This will confirm that the output is inverted wrt the input.

## A.4) Input impedances?

**1)** What is the input impedance of the straightforward “non-inverting” configuration of A.1.1, when  $V_{out} = +G_f V_{in}$ ? [2]

Explain your answer with calculation steps & logical reasoning of the flow of current into/out of various nodes (you can check this in your LTSpice simulation)

The input impedance in this case is generally very high

We have the relation,  $Z_{in} = \left(1 + \frac{G_0}{G_f}\right) Z_0$ , where  $G_f$  is the closed loop gain,  $G_0$  is the open loop gain and  $Z_0$  is the input impedance without any feedback.

In this case,  $Z_{in} = V_{in}/I$ . Now since  $I$  is extremely small,  $Z_{in}$  will be very large. Almost all the current passing through  $R_1$  will go to  $R_2$ .

**2)** What is the input impedance of the “inverting” configuration of A.1.2, when  $V_{out} = -G_f V_{in}$ ? [2]

Explain your answer with calculation steps & logical reasoning of the flow of current into/out of various nodes (you can check this in your LTSpice simulation)

In order that the circuit can operate correctly, the difference between the inverting and non-inverting inputs must be very small - the gain of the op amp is very high and therefore for a small output voltage, the difference between the two inputs is small.

This means that inverting input must be at virtually the same potential as the non-inverting one, i.e. at ground. As a result the input impedance of this op amp circuit is equal to the resistor  $R_2$  (the input resistance).