

# COVID-19 Return to Campus

## Slide for use in Semester 2 classes



Protect yourself and others from getting sick



Stay home if you  
feel unwell



Wash your hands  
with soap



Cough into  
your elbow



Avoid  
contact



Use and dispose  
of tissues



Stay 1.5m from  
other people  
where possible



Wipe down  
any equipment  
before use



Avoid crowding  
around entryways before  
and after classes



Follow lift etiquette  
and use stairs  
where possible

[qut.edu.au/coronavirus](https://qut.edu.au/coronavirus)

- Go to ***Return to campus resources and posters*** at [COVID-19: Information for staff](#)
- Contact your HSE Partners Amanda Burns or Matt Mackay for local area support and advice

# **School of Electrical Engineering and Robotics**

## **EGB348 Electronics**

### **Operational Amplifier Circuits**

**Jasmine Banks (2020)**

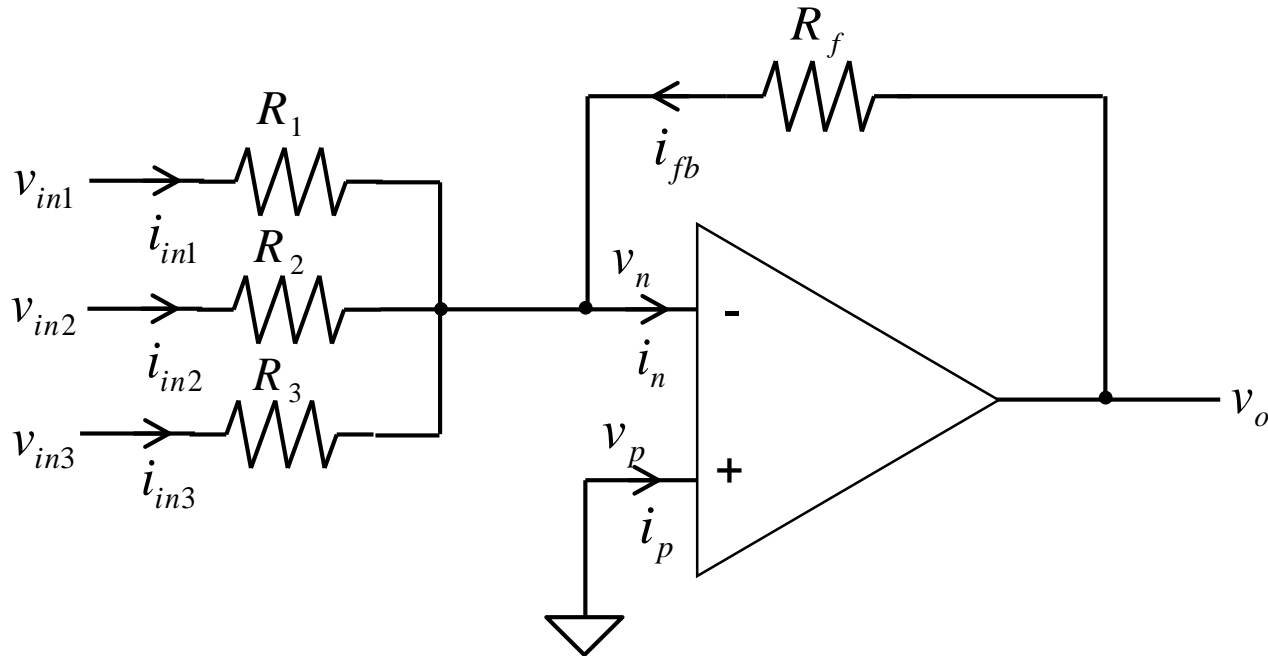
**Recommended Readings:**

**Hambley: Chapter 14, Horowitz and Hill: Chapter 4**

# Op Amp Circuits

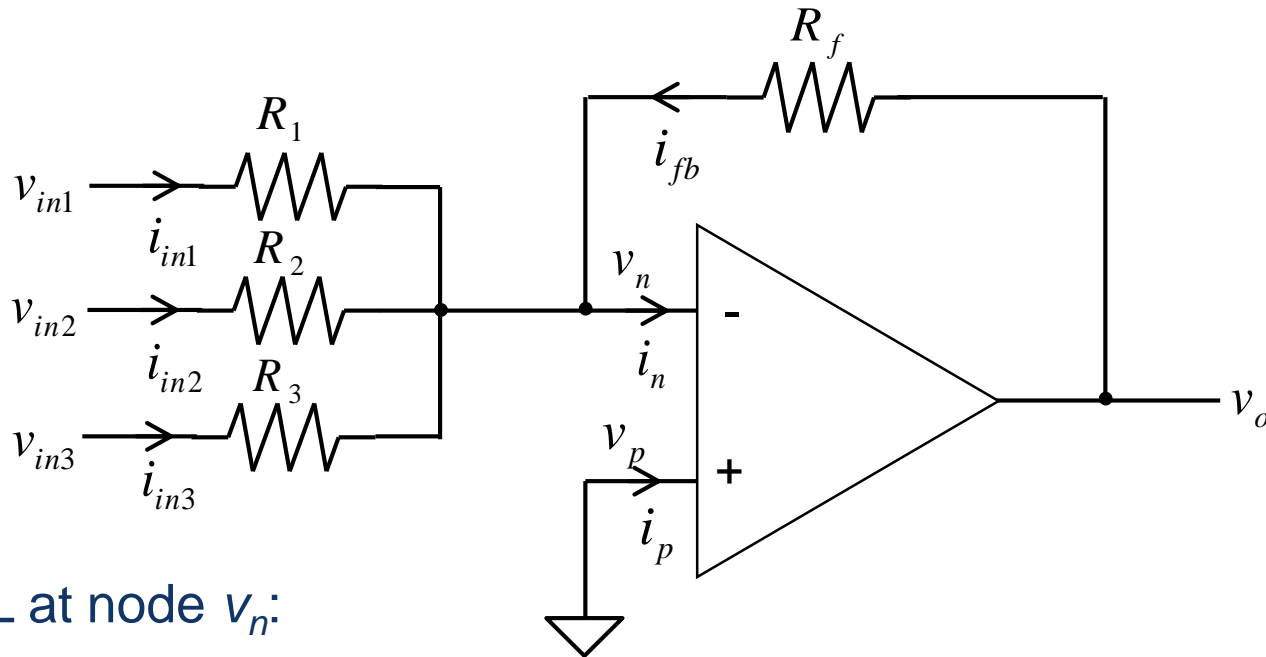
- Op Amp Negative Feedback Circuits:
  - Summing and difference amps
  - Integrator and differentiator
  - Instrumentation amp
  - Precision half wave rectifier
  
- Op Amp Positive feedback circuits:
  - Schmitt Trigger
  - Square wave generator (Astable Multivibrator)
  - Pulse generator (Monostable Multivibrator)

# Summing Amplifier



- Golden Rule I :  $v_n = v_p = 0$
- Golden Rule II :  $i_n = i_p = 0$

# Summing Amplifier



- KCL at node  $v_n$ :

$$v_o = - \left( \frac{R_f}{R_1} v_{in1} + \frac{R_f}{R_2} v_{in2} + \frac{R_f}{R_3} v_{in3} \right)$$

output is a weighted sum of inputs

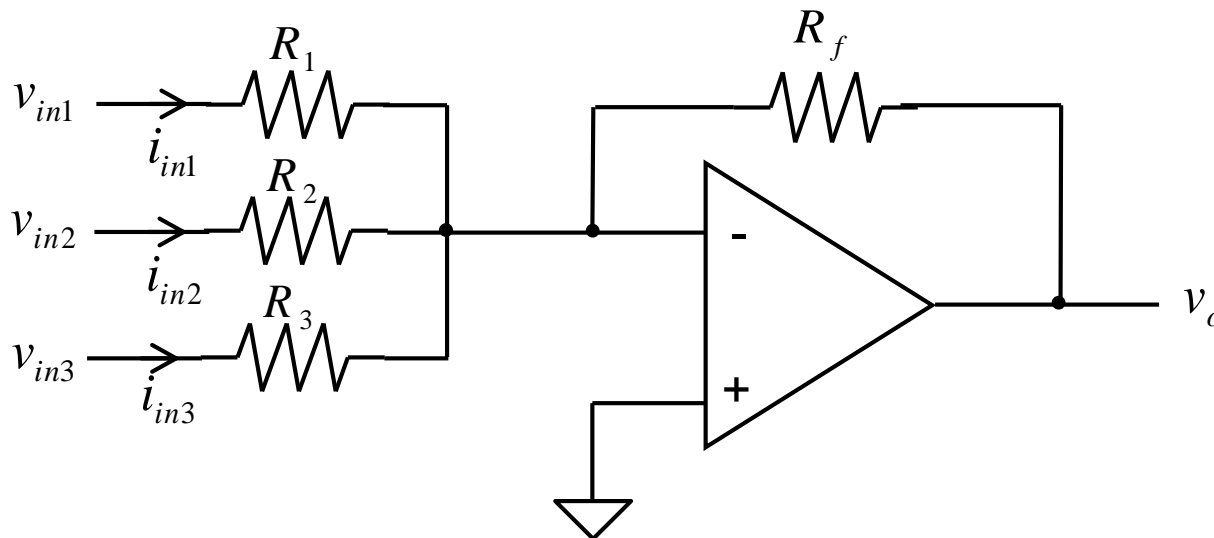
# Summing Amplifier

## Example 1

- Design a 3 bit digital to analogue converter using a summing amplifier. Use  $R_f = 10\text{k}\Omega$ .

3 bit binary number: 

b2	b1	b0
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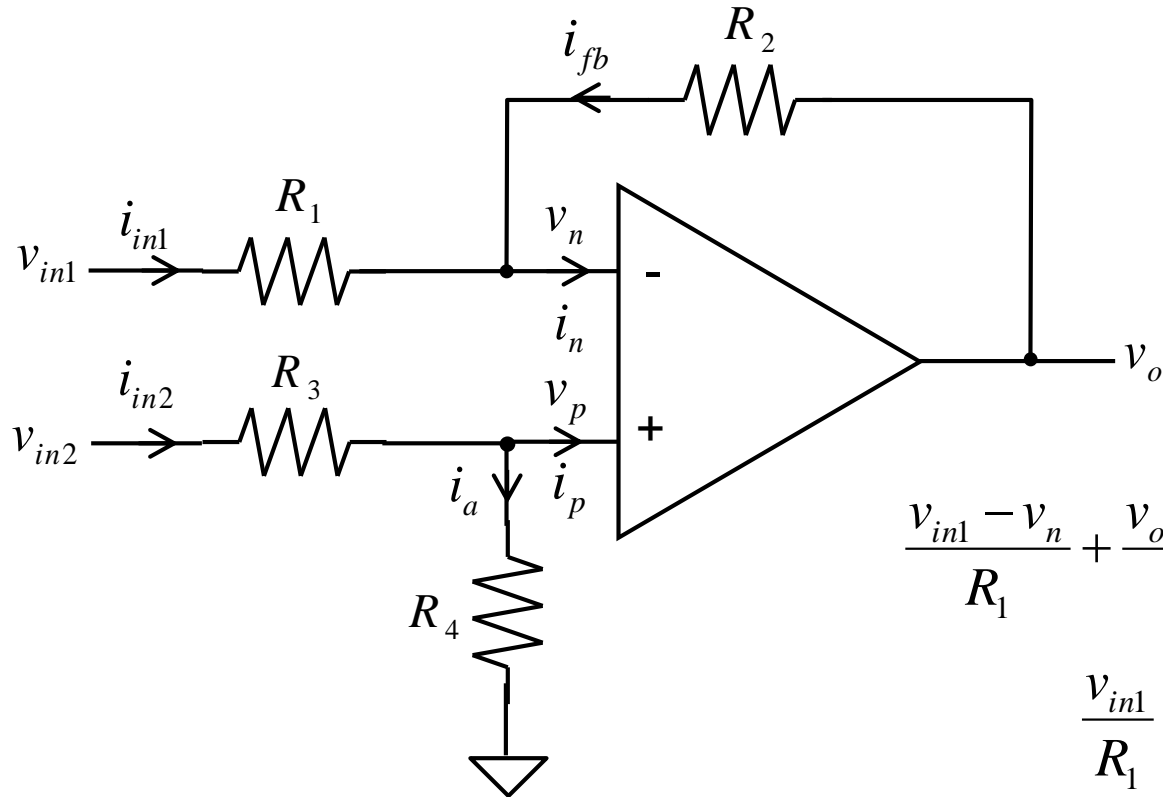
# Summing Amplifier

## Example 1

- We would like:
- We have 
$$v_o = -\left(\frac{R_f}{R_1} v_{in1} + \frac{R_f}{R_2} v_{in2} + \frac{R_f}{R_3} v_{in3}\right) \quad , \text{ with } R_f = 10\text{k}\Omega$$

# Difference Amplifier

- Amplify the difference between two inputs



- For an ideal op amp:

$$i_n = i_p = 0$$

- Node  $v_n$ :  $i_{in1} + i_{fb} = 0$

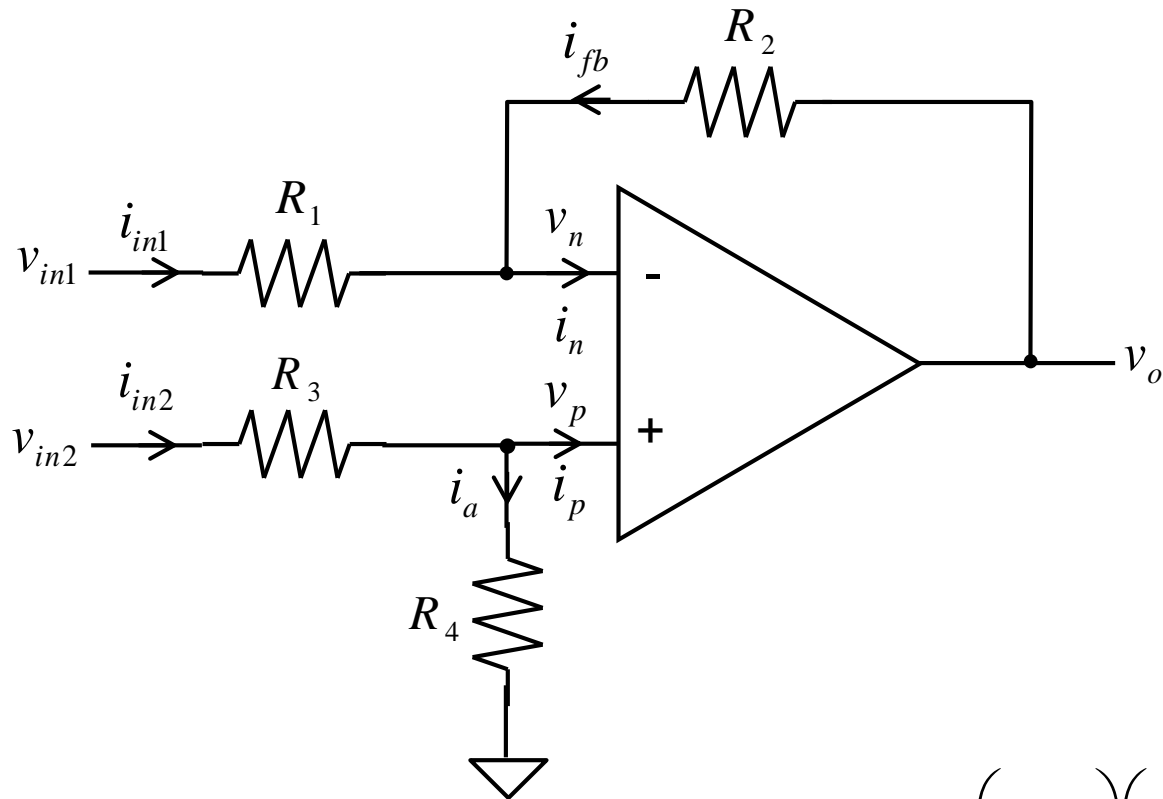
$$\frac{v_{in1} - v_n}{R_1} + \frac{v_o - v_n}{R_2} = 0$$

$$\frac{v_{in1}}{R_1} + \frac{v_o}{R_2} = v_n \left( \frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} \right)$$

$$\left( \frac{v_{in1}}{R_1} + \frac{v_o}{R_2} \right) \left( \frac{R_1 + R_2}{R_1 R_2} \right) = v_n \quad \dots(1)$$



# Difference Amplifier



- Node  $v_p$ :  $i_{in2} = i_a$

$$\frac{v_{in2} - v_p}{R_3} = \frac{v_p}{R_4}$$

$$\frac{v_{in2}}{R_3} = v_p \left( \frac{1}{R_3} + \frac{1}{R_4} \right)$$

$$\left( \frac{v_{in2}}{R_3} \right) \left( \frac{R_3 + R_4}{R_3 R_4} \right) = v_p \quad \dots(2)$$

# Difference Amplifier

- Golden Rule I:  $v_n = v_p$
- Combining (1) and (2):

$$\left( \frac{v_{in1}}{R_1} + \frac{v_o}{R_2} \right) \left( \frac{R_1 R_2}{R_1 + R_2} \right) = \frac{v_{in2}}{R_3} \left( \frac{R_3 R_4}{R_3 + R_4} \right)$$

$$v_o \left( \frac{R_1}{R_1 + R_2} \right) = v_{in2} \left( \frac{R_4}{R_3 + R_4} \right) - v_{in1} \left( \frac{R_2}{R_1 + R_2} \right)$$

$$v_o = v_{in2} \left( \frac{R_4}{R_1} \right) \left( \frac{R_1 + R_2}{R_3 + R_4} \right) - v_{in1} \left( \frac{R_2}{R_1} \right)$$

## Difference Amplifier

$$v_o = v_{in2} \left( \frac{R_4}{R_1} \right) \left( \frac{R_2}{R_4} \right) \left( \frac{R_1/R_2 + 1}{R_3/R_4 + 1} \right) - v_{in1} \left( \frac{R_2}{R_1} \right)$$

$$v_o = v_{in2} \left( \frac{R_2}{R_1} \right) \left( \frac{R_1/R_2 + 1}{R_3/R_4 + 1} \right) - v_{in1} \left( \frac{R_2}{R_1} \right)$$

$$v_o = \left( \frac{R_2}{R_1} \right) \left( \underbrace{v_{in2} \left( \frac{R_1/R_2 + 1}{R_3/R_4 + 1} \right)}_{=1} - v_{in1} \right)$$

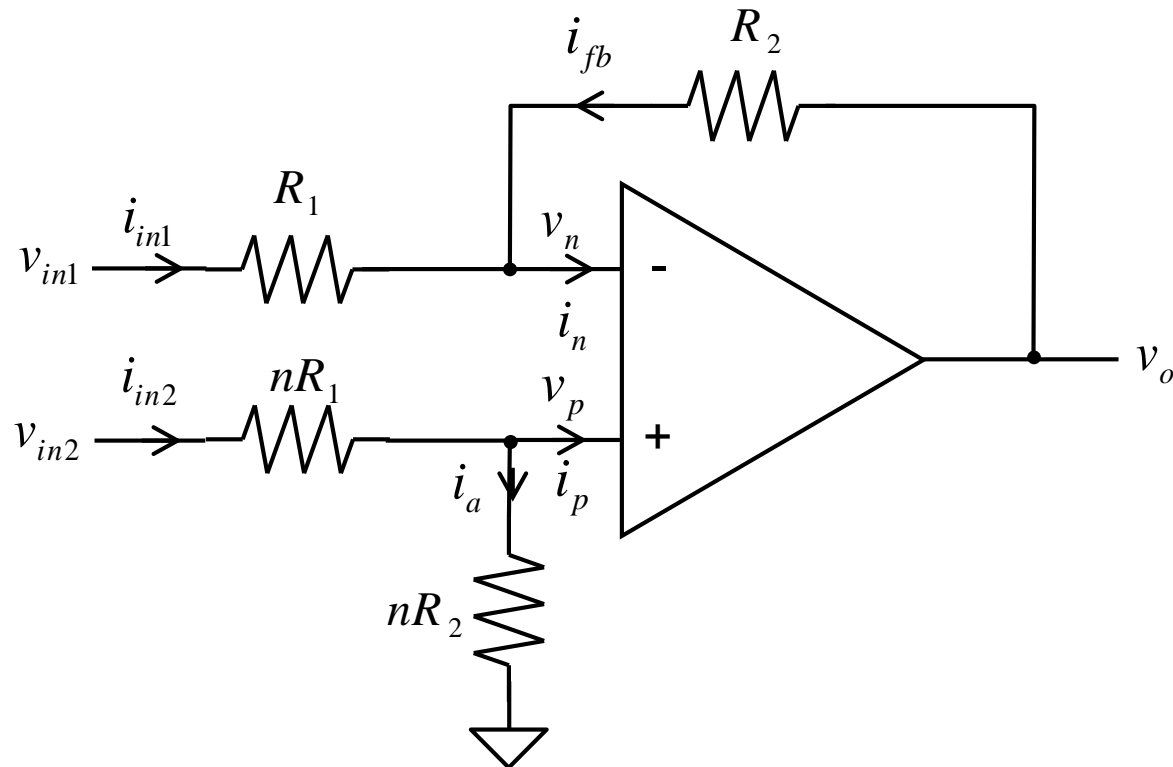
- We need:

$$\frac{R_1}{R_2} = \frac{R_3}{R_4} \quad \text{or} \quad \begin{aligned} R_1 &= nR_3 \\ R_2 &= nR_4 \end{aligned}$$

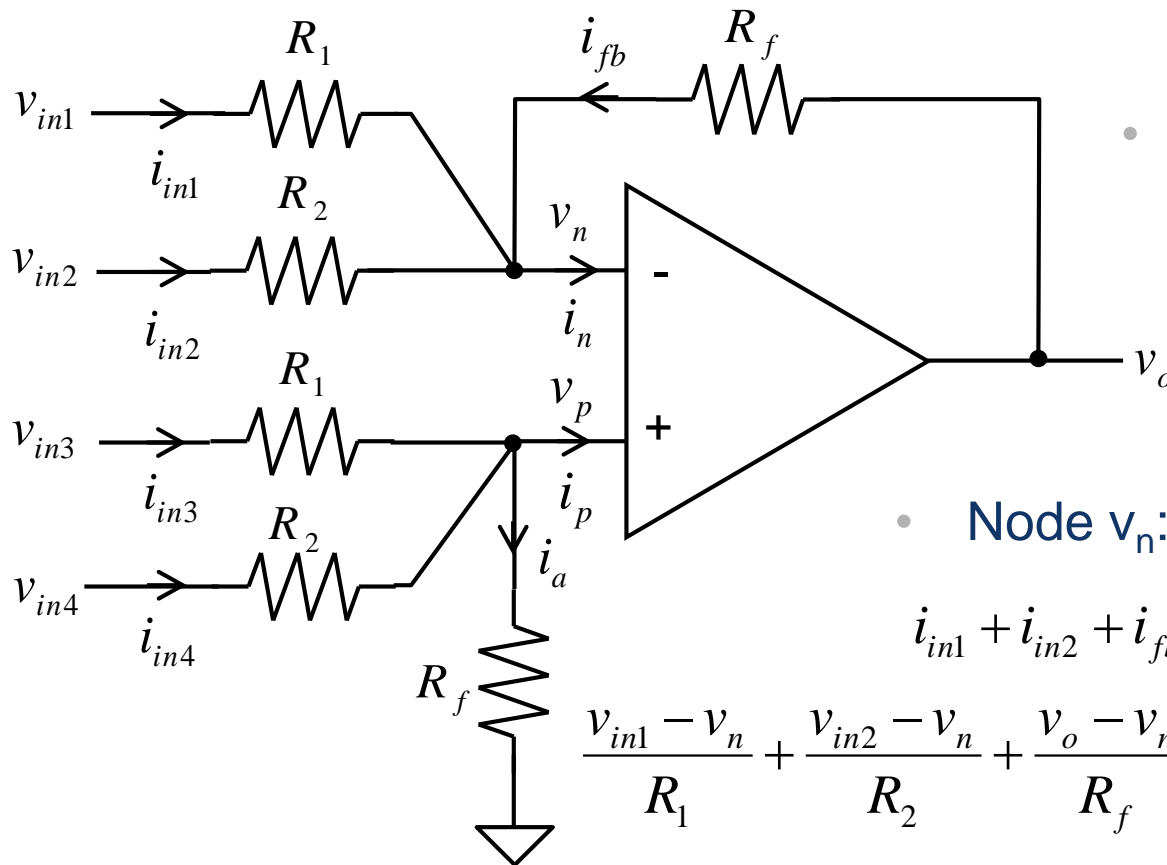
# Difference Amplifier

- Then we have:

$$v_o = \left( \frac{R_2}{R_1} \right) (v_{in2} - v_{in1})$$



# Summing Difference Amplifier



- Ideal op amp:

$$i_n = i_p = 0$$

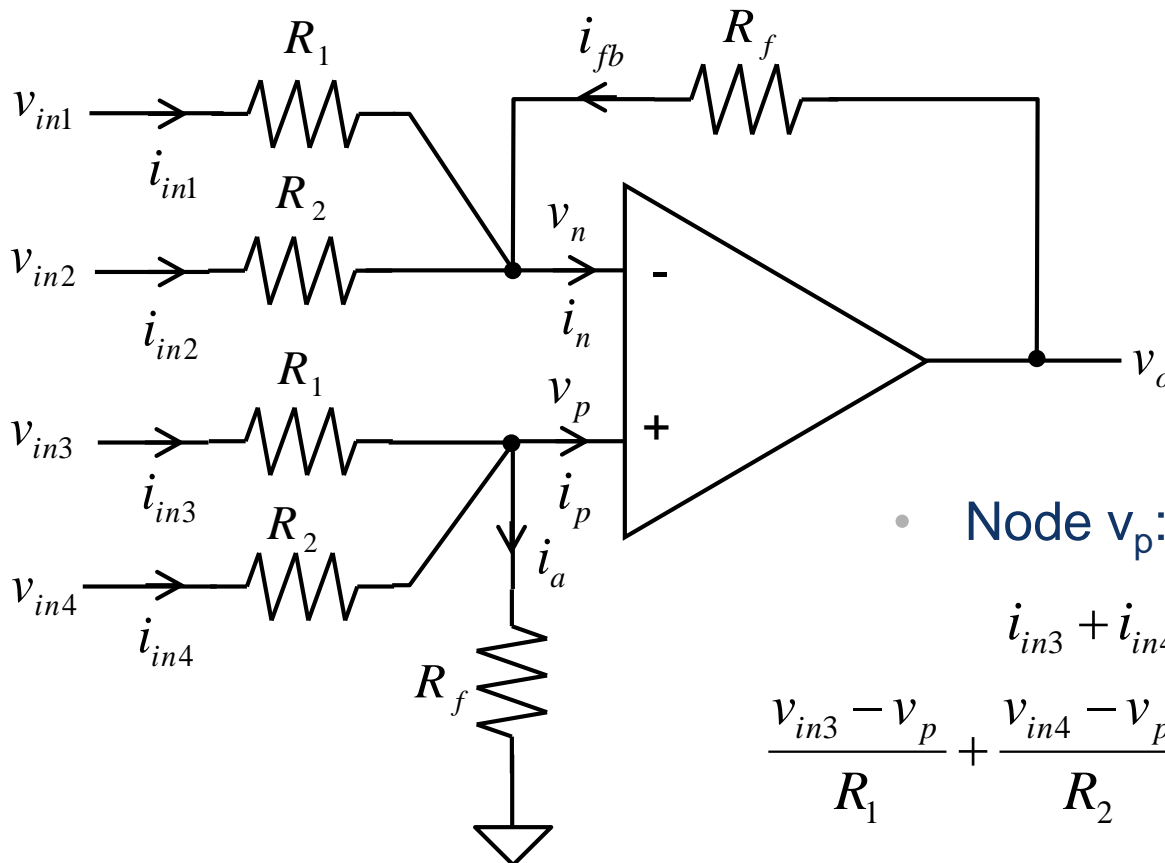
- Node  $v_n$ :

$$i_{in1} + i_{in2} + i_{fb} = 0$$

$$\frac{v_{in1} - v_n}{R_1} + \frac{v_{in2} - v_n}{R_2} + \frac{v_o - v_n}{R_f} = 0$$

$$\frac{v_{in1}}{R_1} + \frac{v_{in2}}{R_2} + \frac{v_o}{R_f} = v_n \left( \frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} + \frac{1}{R_f} \right) \quad \dots(3)$$

# Summing Difference Amplifier



• Node  $v_p$ :

$$i_{in3} + i_{in4} = i_a$$

$$\frac{v_{in3} - v_p}{R_1} + \frac{v_{in4} - v_p}{R_2} = \frac{v_p}{R_f}$$

$$\frac{v_{in3}}{R_1} + \frac{v_{in4}}{R_2} = v_p \left( \frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} + \frac{1}{R_f} \right) \dots(4)$$

# Summing Difference Amplifier

- Golden Rule I:  $v_n = v_p$
- Combining (1) and (2):

$$\frac{v_{in1}}{R_1} + \frac{v_{in2}}{R_2} + \frac{v_o}{R_f} = \frac{v_{in3}}{R_1} + \frac{v_{in4}}{R_2}$$

$$\frac{v_o}{R_f} = \frac{1}{R_1} (v_{in3} - v_{in1}) + \frac{1}{R_2} (v_{in4} - v_{in2})$$

$$v_o = \frac{R_f}{R_1} (v_{in3} - v_{in1}) + \frac{R_f}{R_2} (v_{in4} - v_{in2})$$

# Summing Difference Amplifier

## Example 2:

- Using  $R_f = 100\text{k}\Omega$ , design a summing difference amp circuit to produce an output:

$$v_o = 20(v_{in3} - v_{in1}) - 10v_{in2}$$

- The above can be expressed as:

$$v_o = 20(v_{in3} - v_{in1}) - 10(v_{in2} - 0)$$

- Compare this with the output for the summing difference amp:

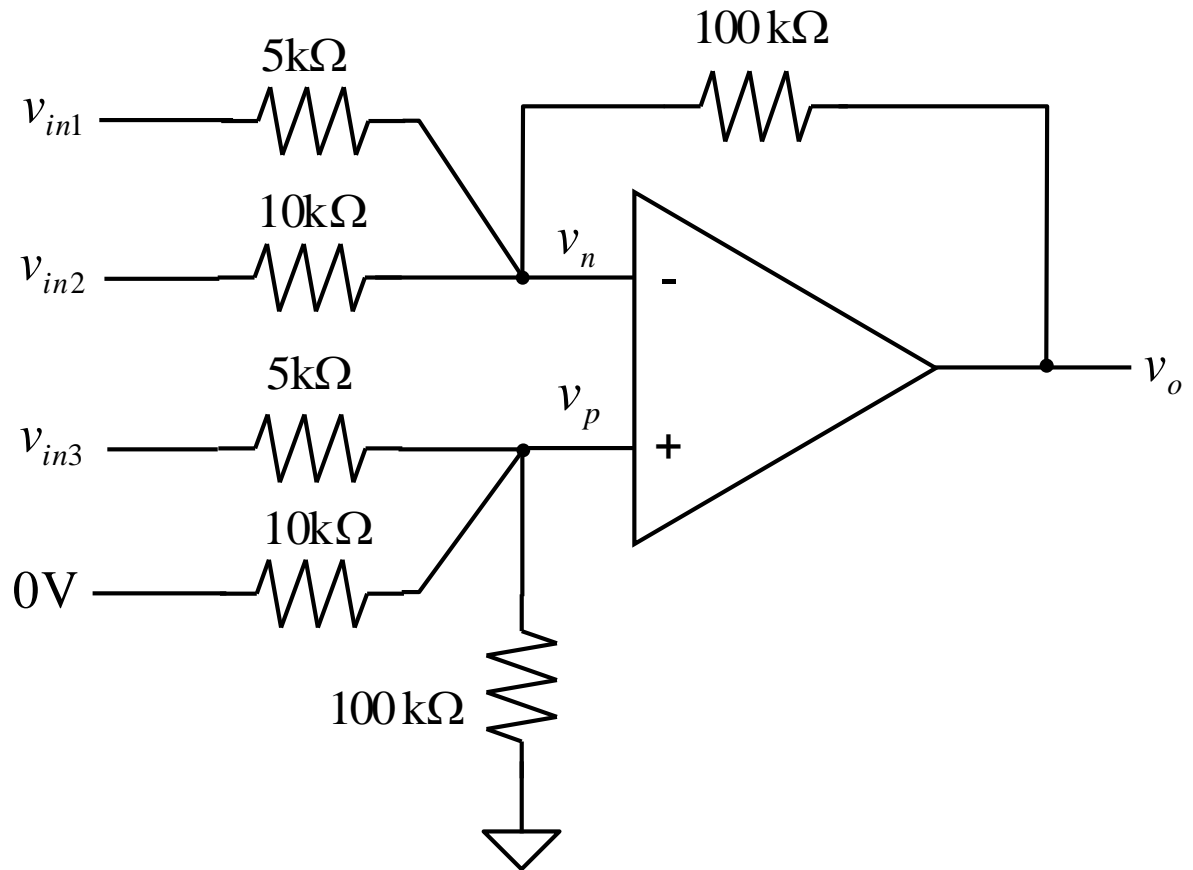
$$v_o = \frac{R_f}{R_1}(v_{in3} - v_{in1}) + \frac{R_f}{R_2}(v_{in4} - v_{in2})$$



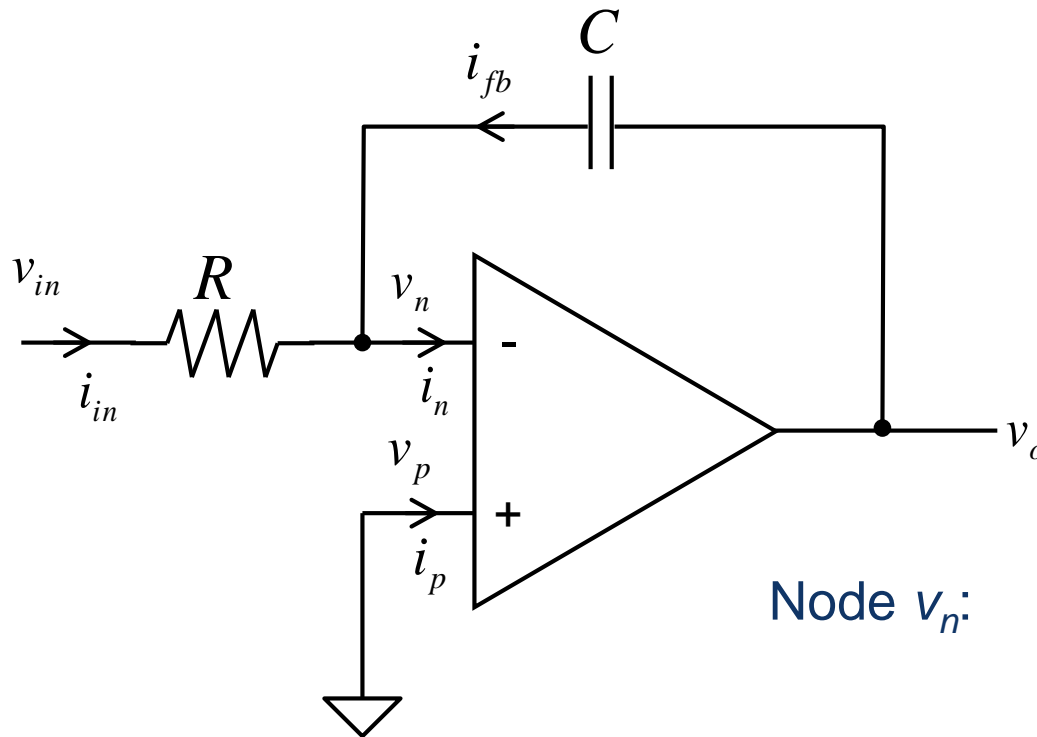
# Summing Difference Amplifier

## Example 2:

We need:



# Integrator



$$i_{in} = \frac{v_{in}}{R}$$

$$i_{fb} = C \frac{dv_o}{dt}$$

Node  $v_n$ :

$$\frac{v_{in}}{R} + C \frac{dv_o}{dt} = 0$$

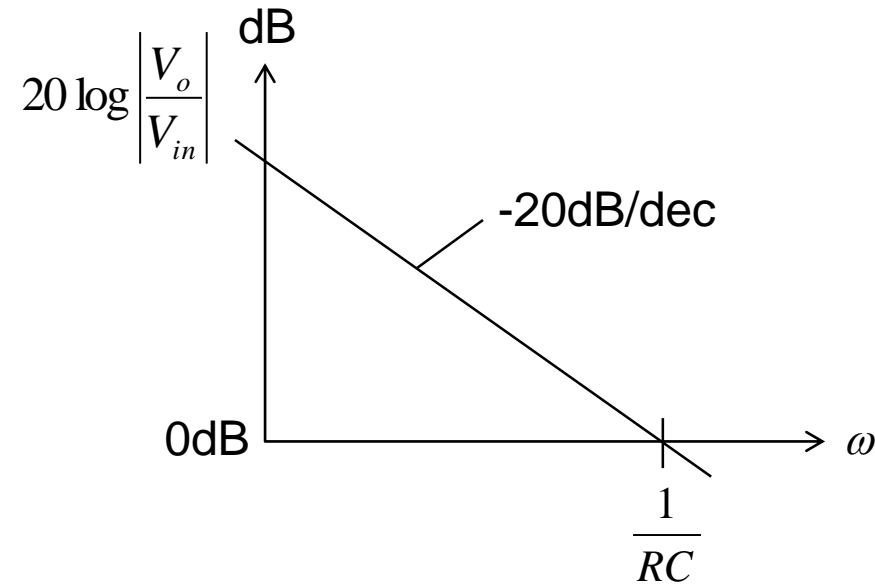
$$dv_o = -\frac{1}{RC} v_{in} dt$$

$$v_o = -\frac{1}{RC} \int v_{in}(t) dt$$

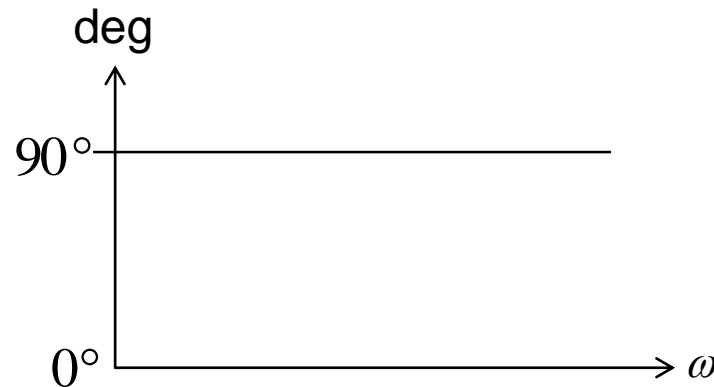
# Integrator

- Frequency response:

Magnitude:



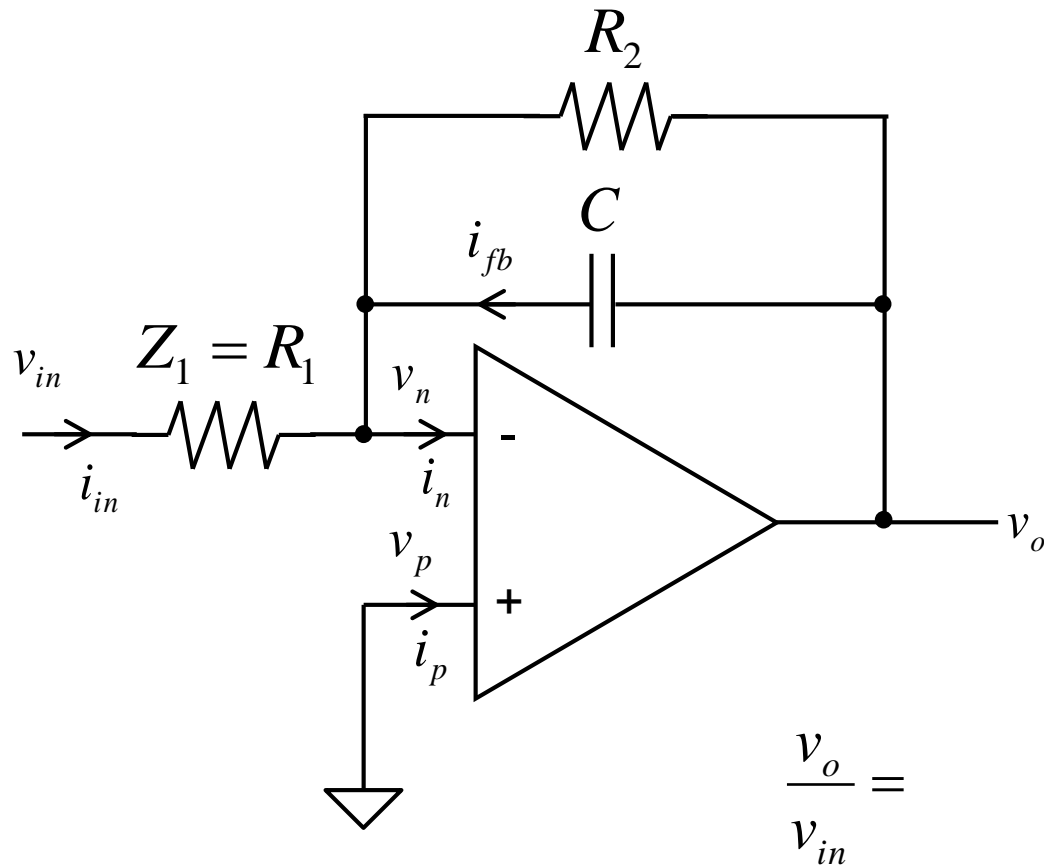
Phase:



# Integrator

- Problem with this integrator circuit:
  - No feedback at DC
  - High gain at low frequencies
  - Add a resistor which introduces a pole that limits the gain at low frequencies.

# Integrator

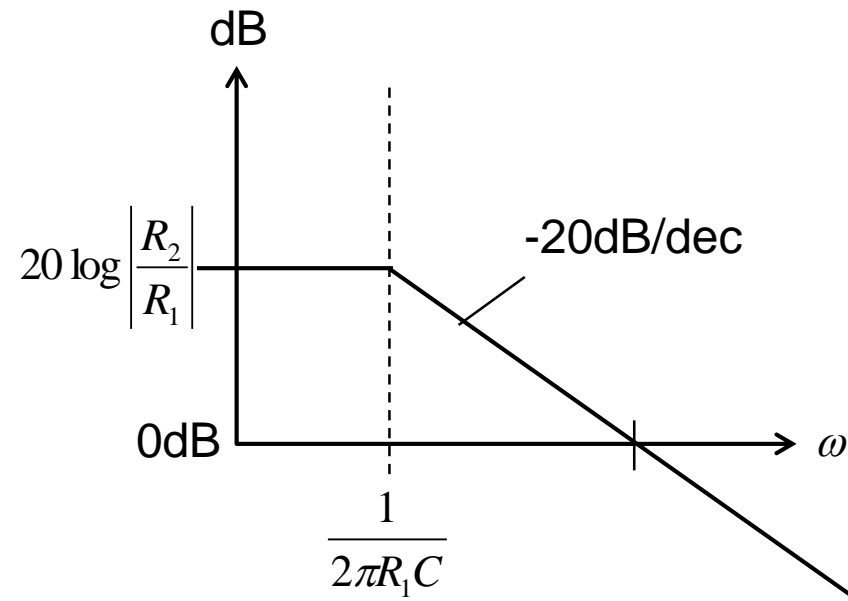


# Integrator

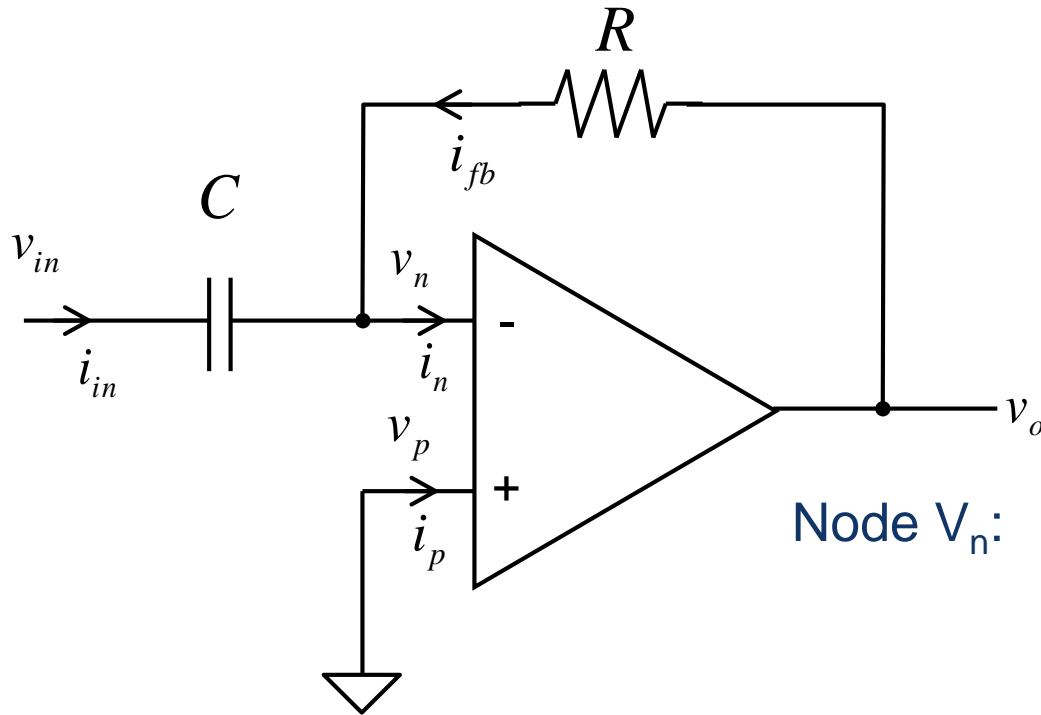
- Frequency response:

Magnitude:

$$20 \log \left| \frac{V_o}{V_{in}} \right|$$



# Differentiator



$$i_{in} = C \frac{dv_{in}}{dt}$$

$$i_{fb} = \frac{v_o}{R}$$

Node  $V_n$ :

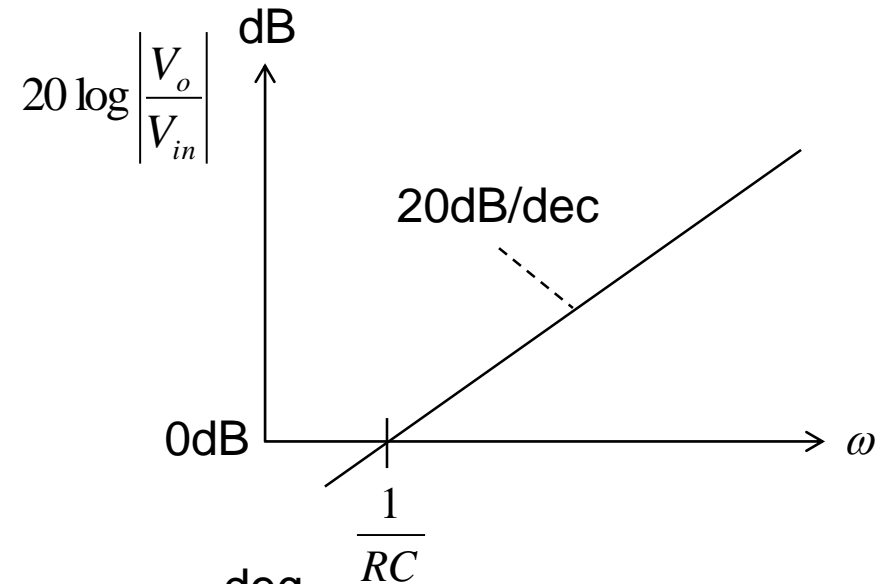
$$C \frac{dv_{in}}{dt} + \frac{v_o}{R} = 0$$

$$v_o = -CR \frac{dv_{in}}{dt}$$

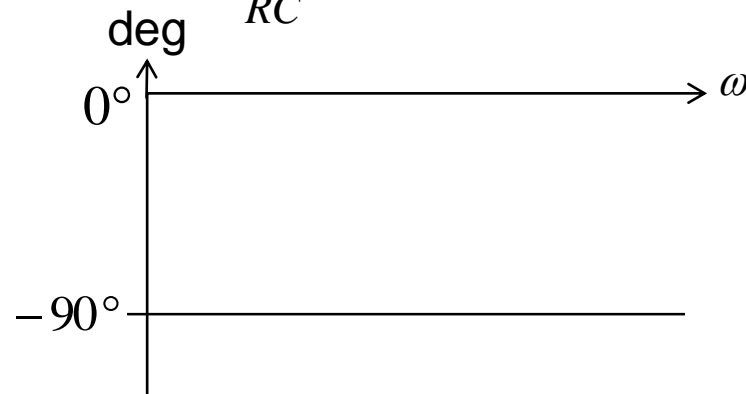
# Differentiator

- Frequency response:

Magnitude:



Phase:

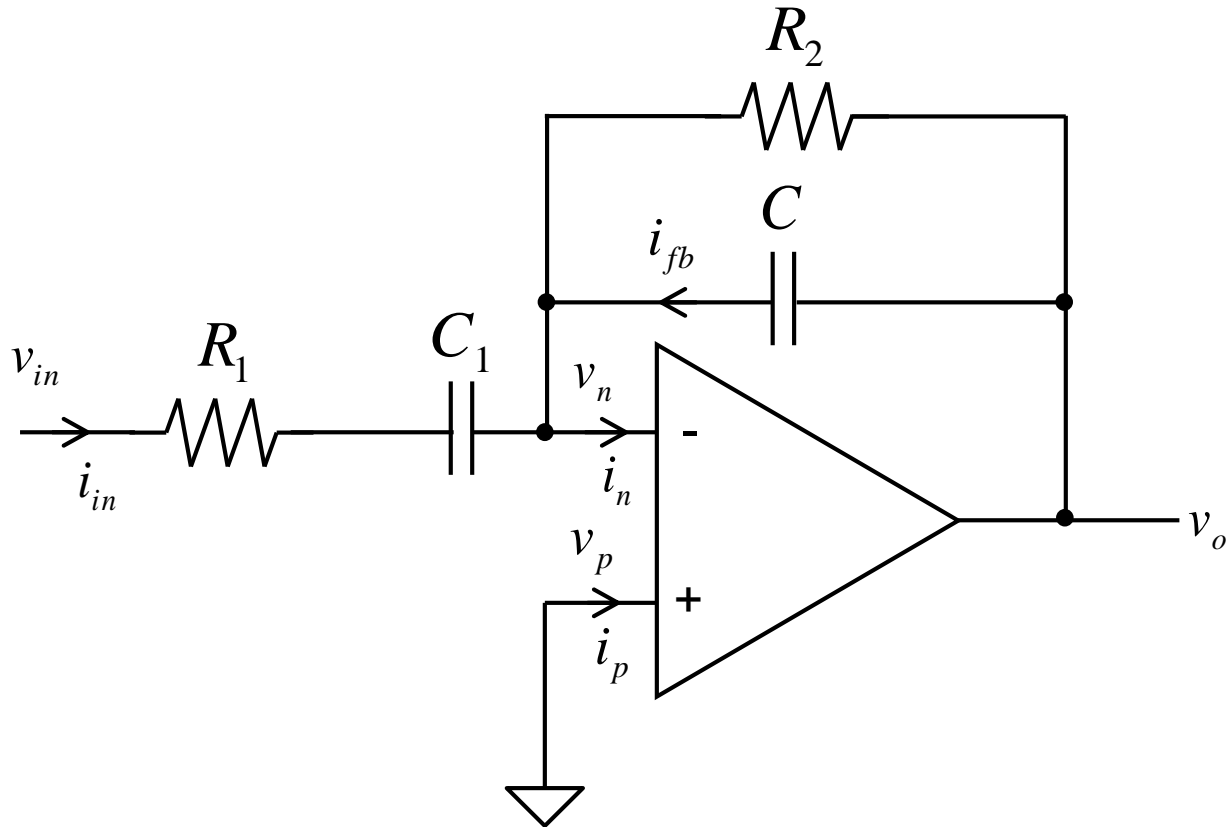




## Differentiator

- Problem with instability at high frequencies.
- Add two poles to roll off the gain

# Differentiator

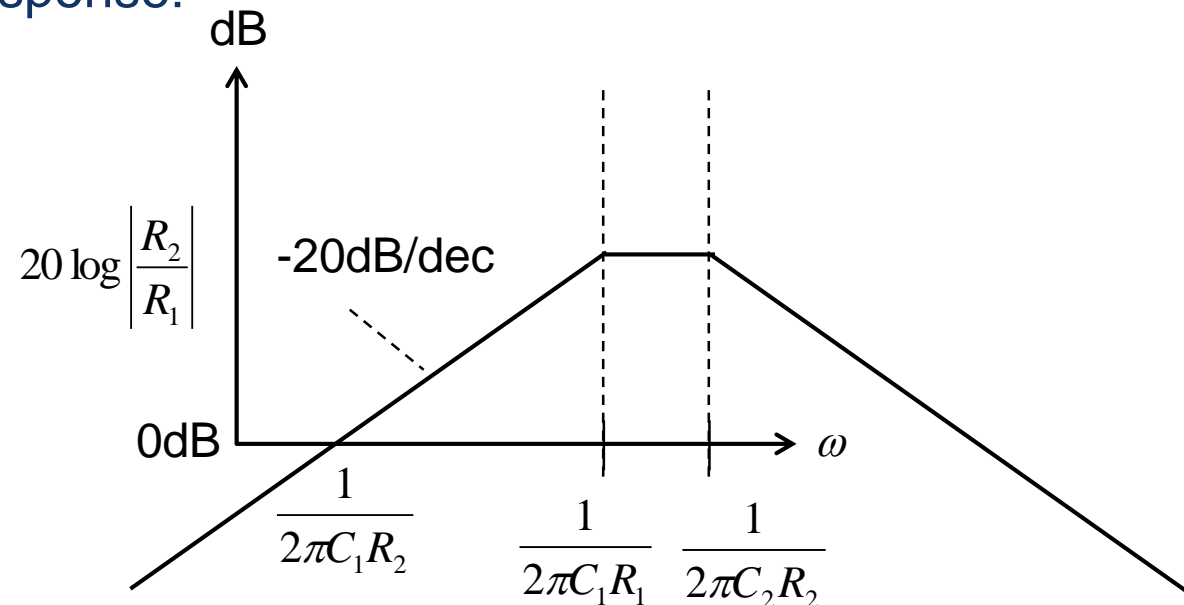


# Differentiator

- Frequency response:

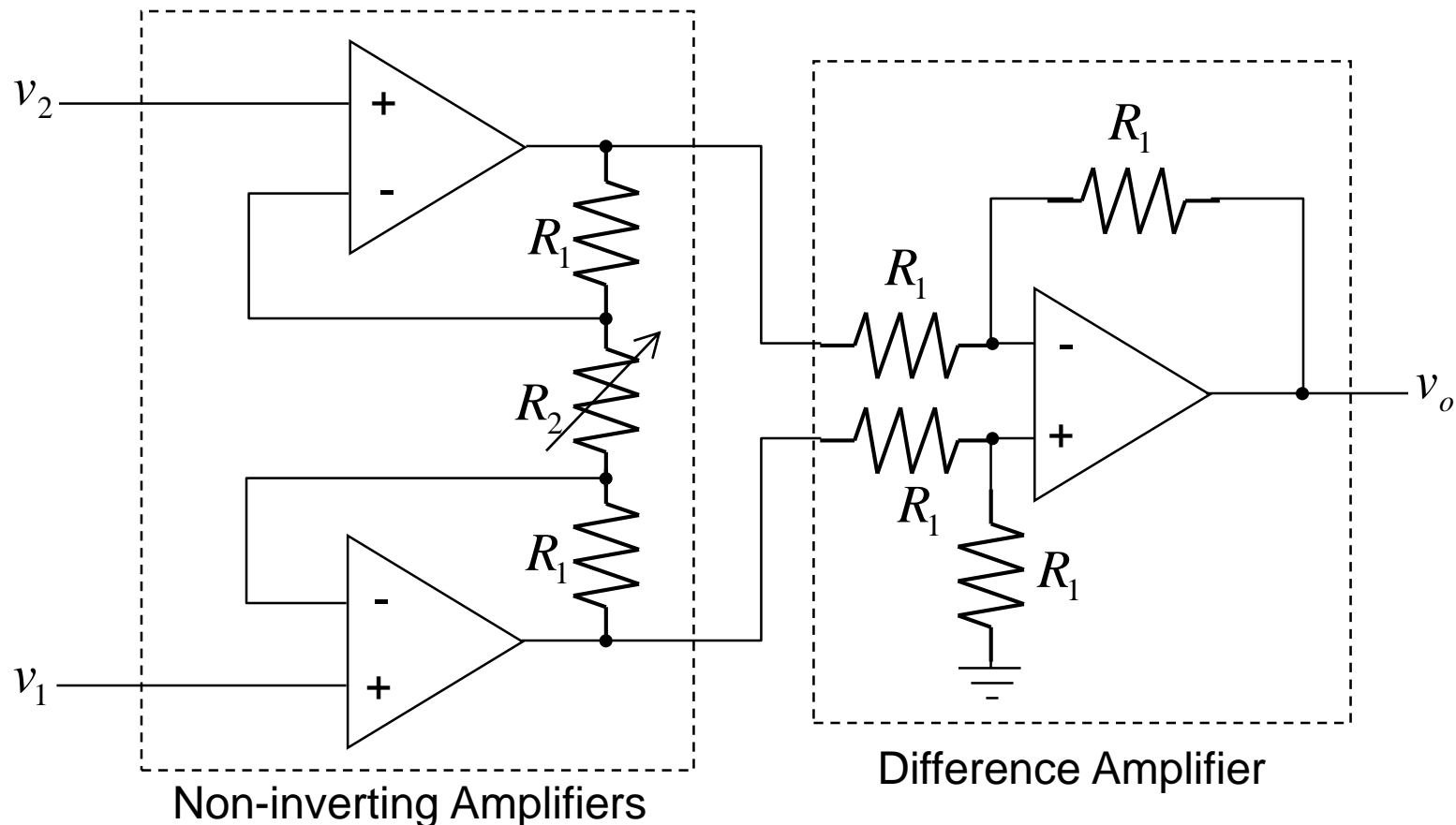
Magnitude:

$$20 \log \left| \frac{V_o}{V_{in}} \right|$$

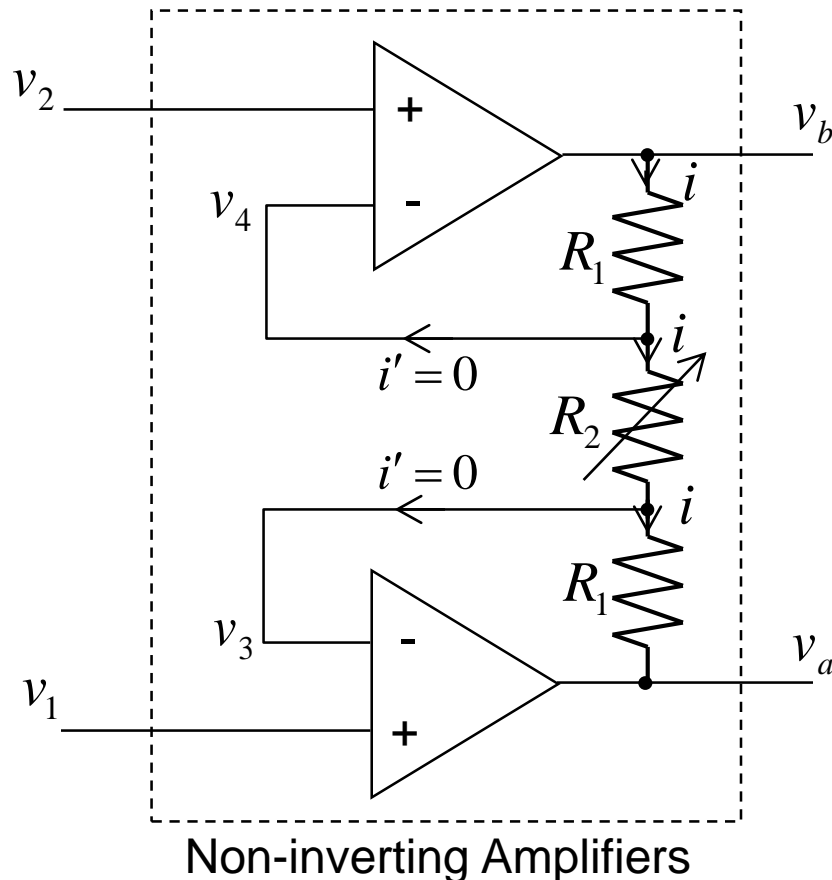


# Instrumentation Amplifier

- This is a differential input amplifier system with very high input impedances.



# Instrumentation Amplifier



- Non inverting amplifier:

$$v_b - iR_1 - iR_2 - iR_1 = v_a$$

$$v_b - v_a = i(2R_1 + R_2)$$

- due to virtual short:

$$v_4 = v_2; \quad v_3 = v_1$$

$$i = (v_2 - v_1) / R_2$$

- Therefore:

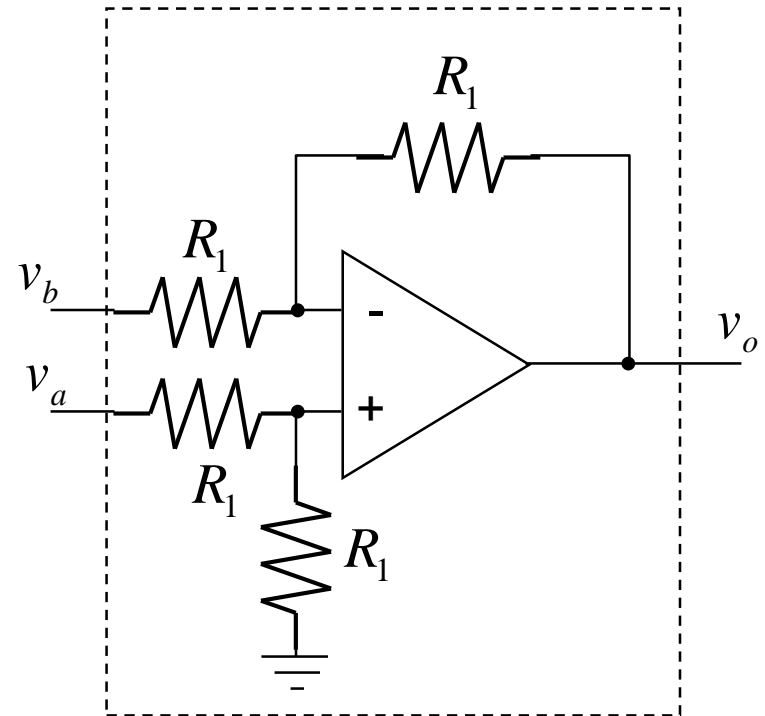
$$v_b - v_a = (v_2 - v_1) \left( \frac{2R_1}{R_2} + 1 \right)$$

# Instrumentation Amplifier

- Difference Amplifier:

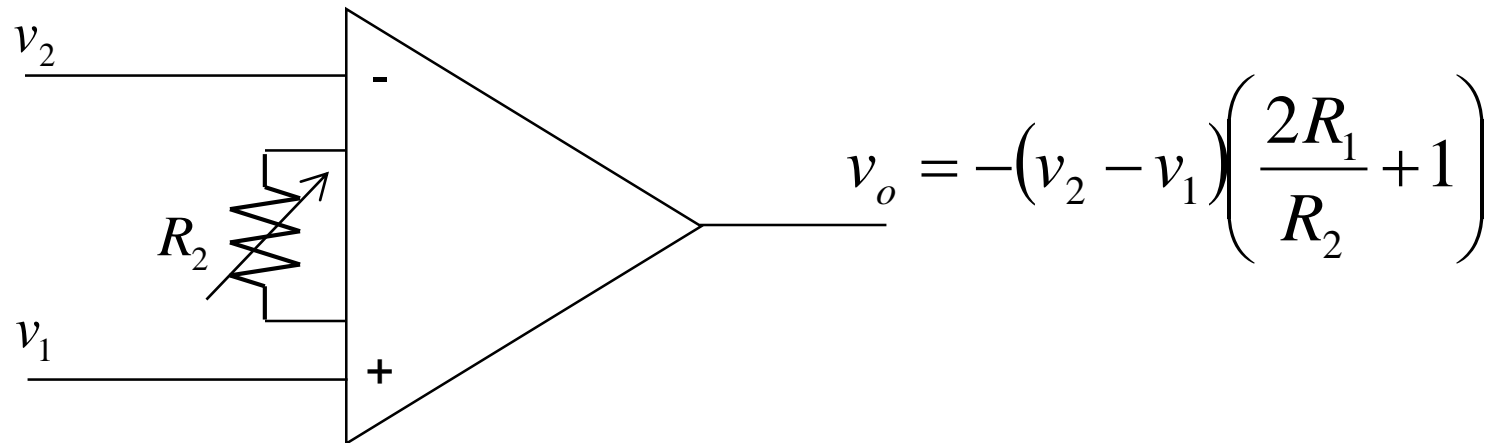
$$v_o = -(v_b - v_a)$$

$$v_o = -(v_2 - v_1) \left( \frac{2R_1}{R_2} + 1 \right)$$



Difference Amplifier

# Instrumentation Amplifier



# Instrumentation Amplifier

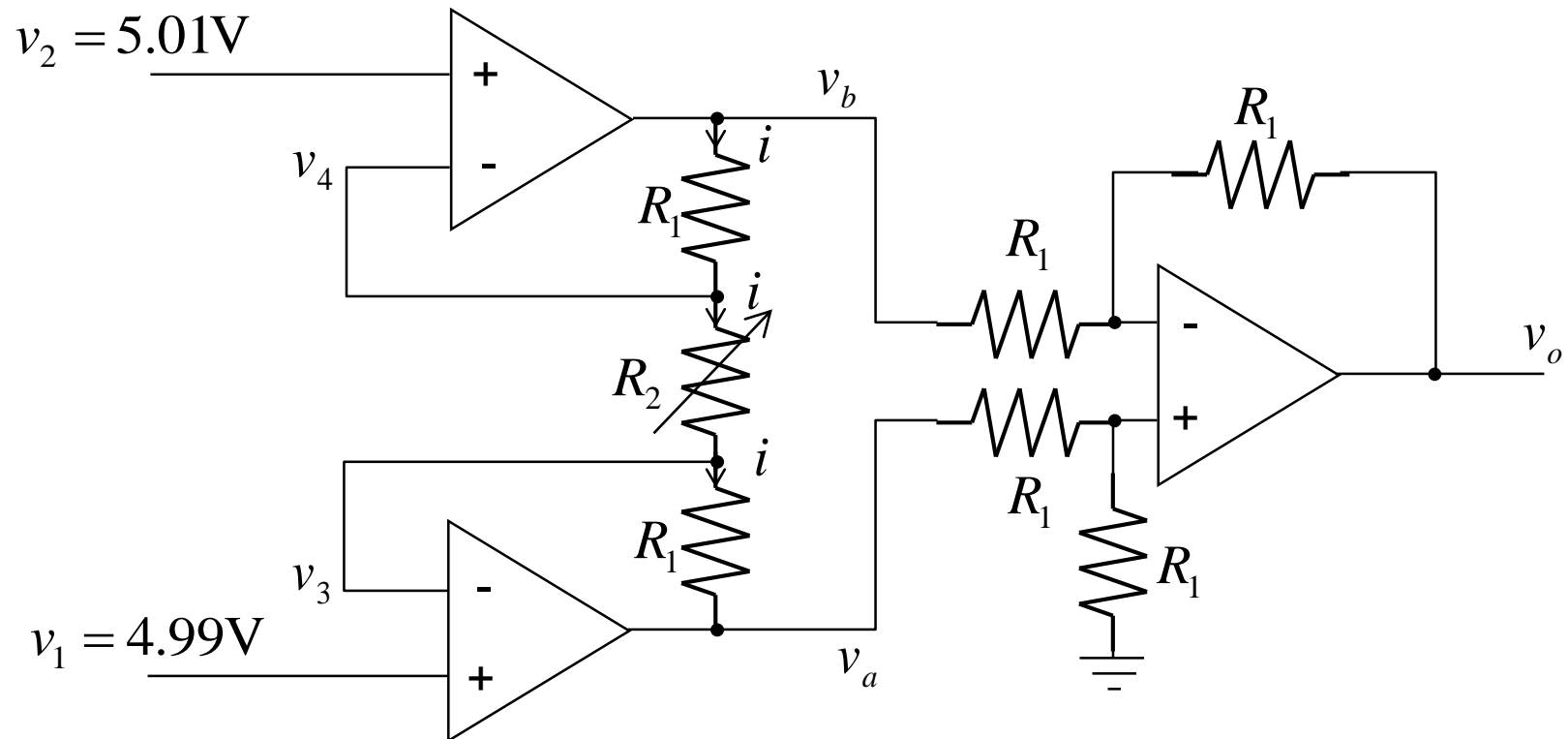
## Example 3:

- Voltages  $v_2=5.01\text{V}$  and  $v_1=4.99\text{V}$  are input to an instrumentation amp. What are the values of  $v_b$ ,  $v_a$ ,  $i$  and  $v_o$  when  $R_1 = 30\text{k}\Omega$  and  $R_2 = 2.7\text{k}\Omega$ ?



# Instrumentation Amplifier

## Example 3:

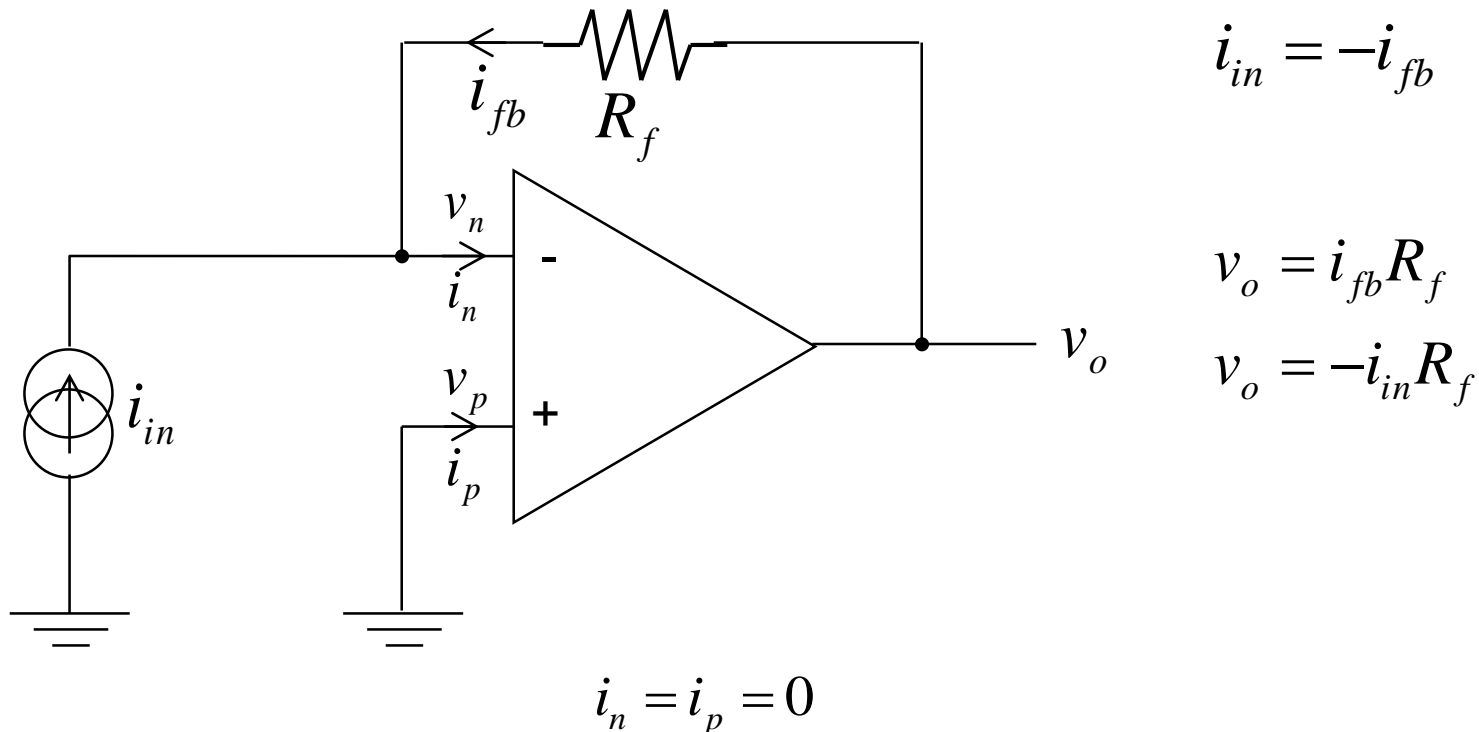


# Instrumentation Amplifier

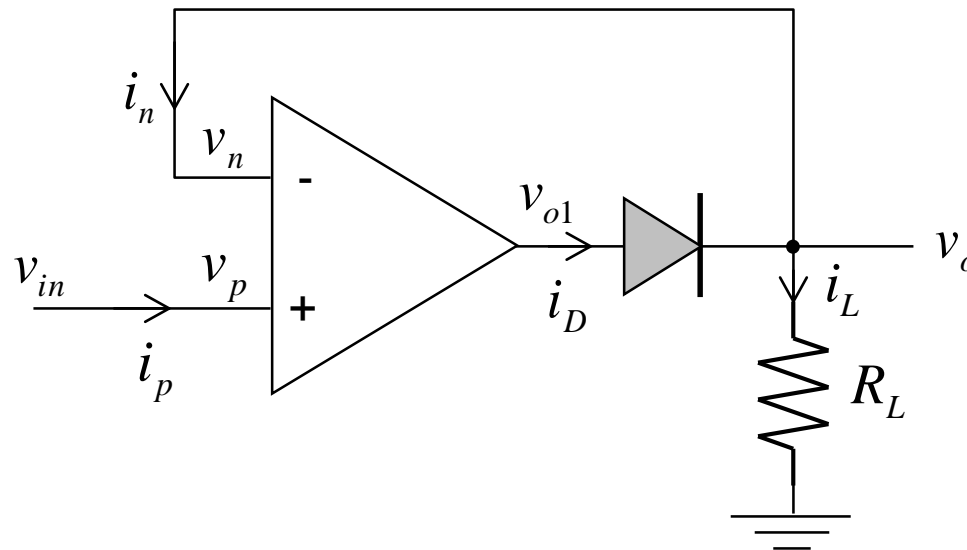
Example 3:

# Current to Voltage Converter

- In some situations, the output of a device is a current, for example a photodiode or photodetector.
- We may need to convert this current to voltage.

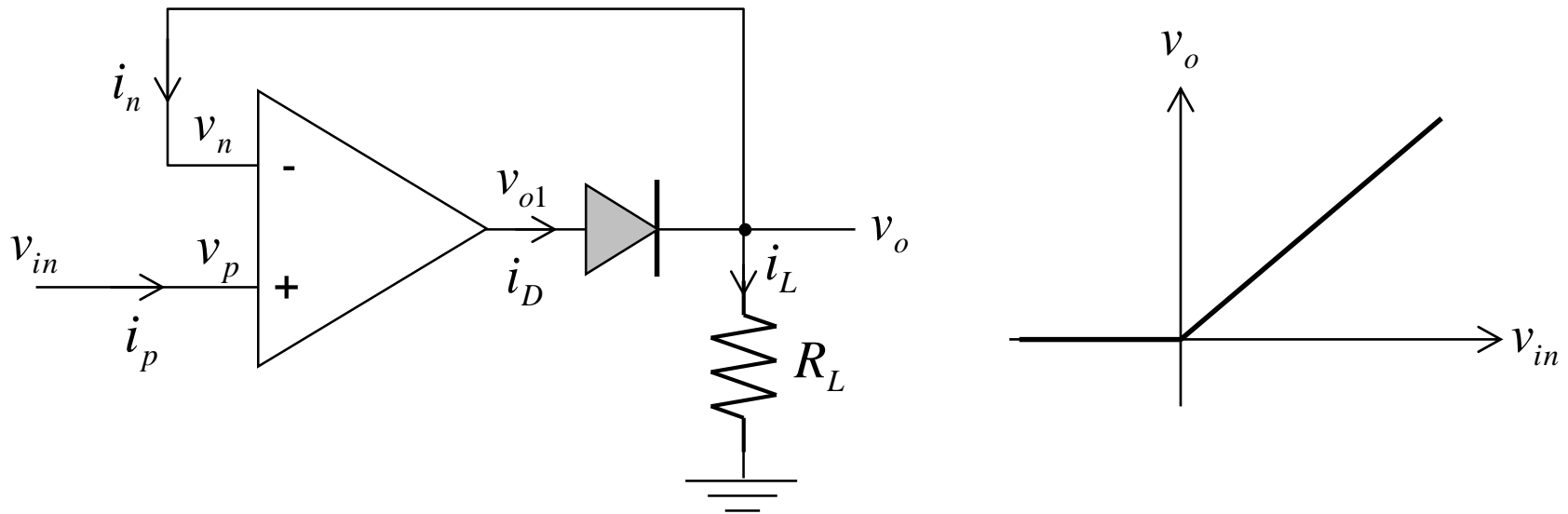


# Precision Half Wave Rectifier



- For  $v_{in} > 0$ , the circuit behaves as a voltage follower, and  $v_o = v_{in}$ .
- The load current  $i_L$  is positive, and  $i_D = i_L$ .

## Precision Half Wave Rectifier



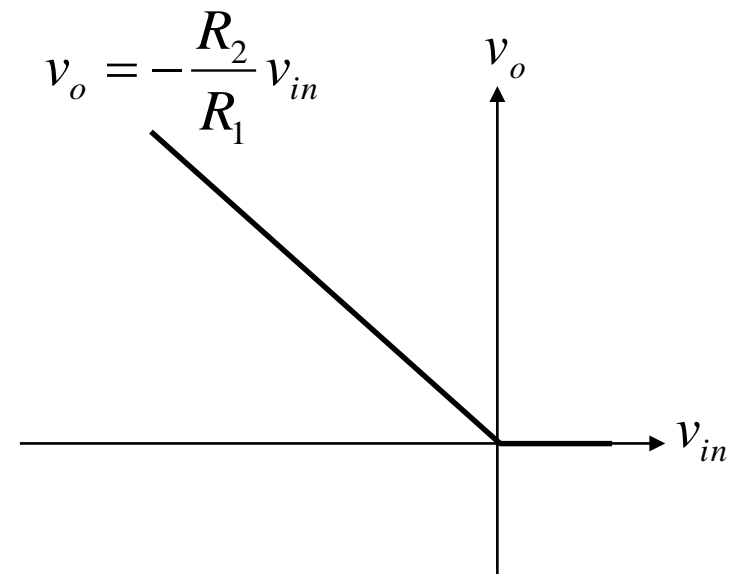
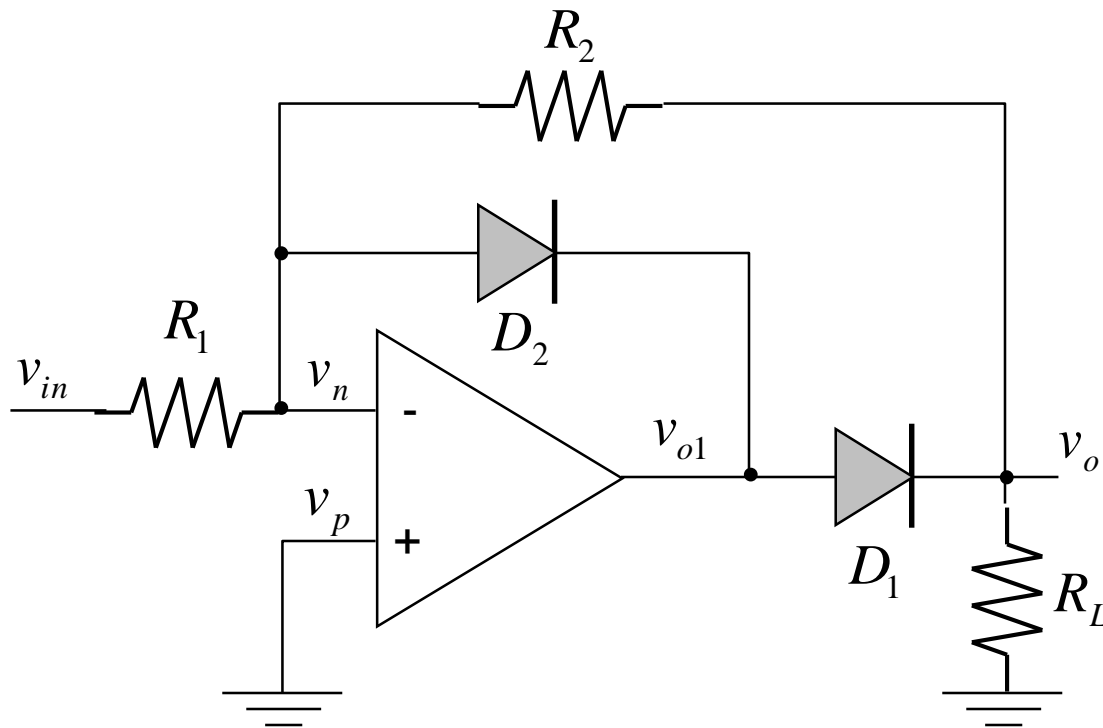
- For  $v_{in} < 0$ ,  $v_o$  starts to go -ve, producing -ve  $i_L$  and  $i_D$ .
- However,  $i_D$  cannot go -ve due to the diode.
- The diode cuts off and the feedback loop is broken,  $v_o = 0$ .

## Precision Half Wave Rectifier

- Provides accurate rectification for very small input voltages and is sometimes called a *superdiode*.
- Problem for large negative input voltages
  - large voltage difference at op amp input, not a problem if the op amp has in-built protection.
  - $v_{o1}$  is saturated at the negative supply. This is not harmful to the op amp, but internal circuits take time to recover from saturation, slowing down response time.

# Non Saturating Precision Half Wave Rectifier

- The saturation problem can be solved with the circuit below.



## Non Saturating Precision Half Wave Rectifier

- When  $v_{in}$  is positive,  $v_{o1}$  is driven negative.  $D_2$  is switched on and  $v_{o1}$  becomes  $-V_D$ .  $D_1$  is reverse biased.  $v_p$  is at virtual ground, and  $v_o = 0V$ .
- When  $v_{in}$  is negative,  $v_{o1}$  is driven positive and  $D_2$  is switched off.  $D_1$  is switched on and the feedback loop goes through  $D_1$  and  $R_2$ . The circuit behaves like an inverting amplifier with gain  $-R_2/R_1$ .



# Non Saturating Precision Half Wave Rectifier

## Example 4:

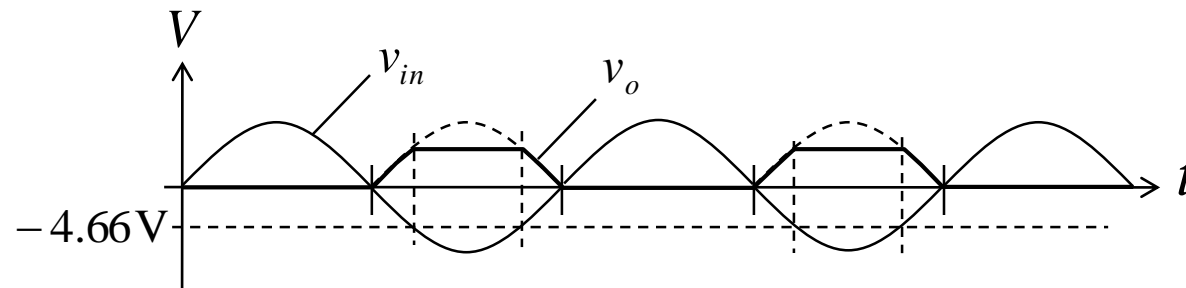
- Suppose the diodes have on-voltages of  $0.6\text{V}$ , the power supply of the op amp is  $\pm 15\text{V}$ ,  $R_1 = 22\text{k}\Omega$  and  $R_2 = 68\text{k}\Omega$ . What are the values of  $v_o$  and  $v_{o1}$  when  $v_{in} = 2\text{V}$ , and  $-2\text{V}$ ? Estimate the most negative input voltage for which the circuit will operate properly.

# Non Saturating Precision Half Wave Rectifier

Example 4:

# Non Saturating Precision Half Wave Rectifier

## Example 4:

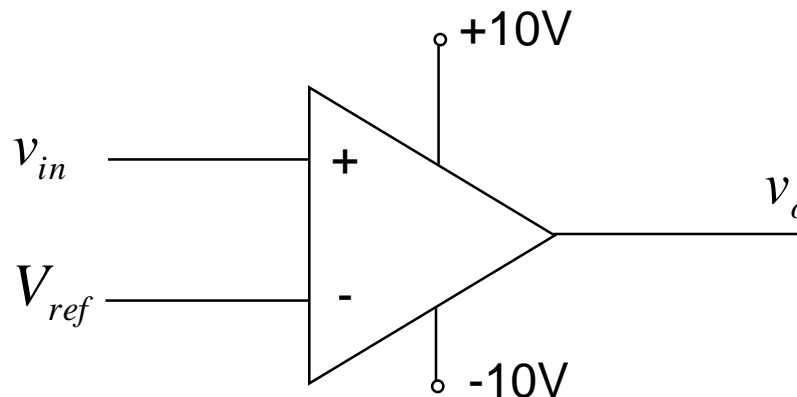


## **Circuits Using Positive Feedback**

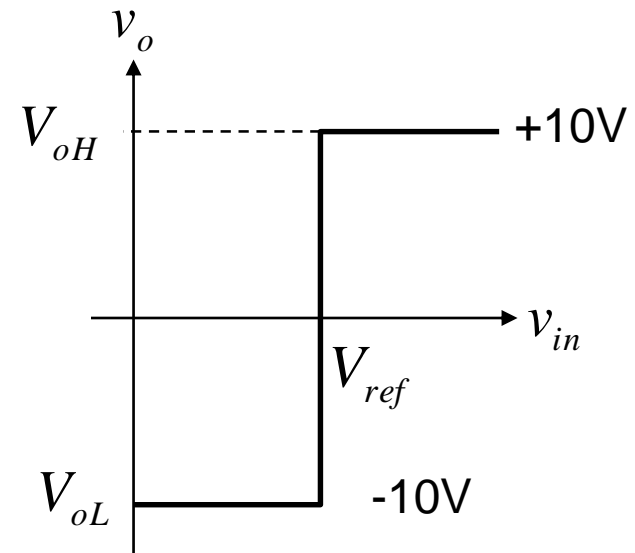
- All circuits up until now have used negative feedback.
- Positive feedback can be used to perform some useful non-linear functions, including:
  - Schmitt trigger
  - Square wave generator (Astable multivibrator)
  - Pulse generator (Monostable multivibrator)

# Comparator

- Compares a voltage to a known reference level,  $V_{ref}$ .
- Output
  - logic 1 when  $v_{in} > V_{ref}$
  - logic 0 when  $v_{in} < V_{ref}$

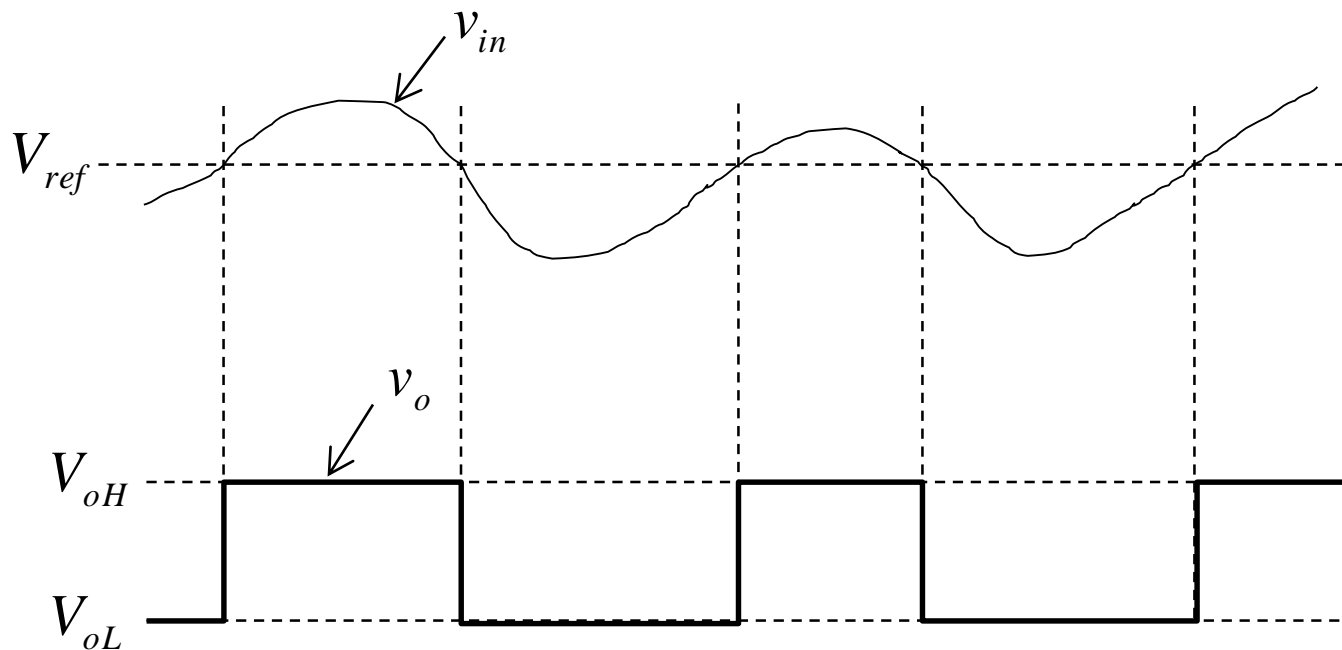


$$v_o = A_{v0}(v_p - v_n)$$



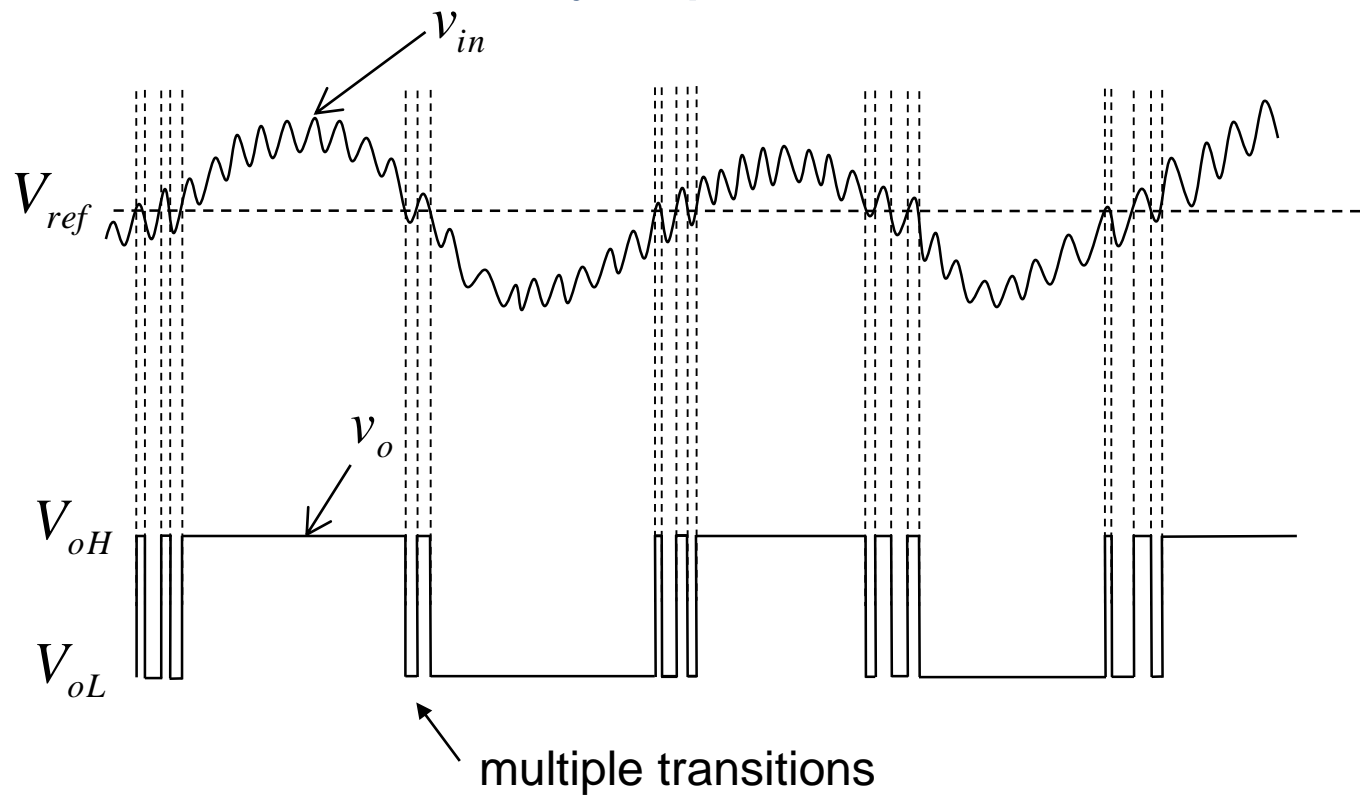
# Comparator

- Example input/output waveforms:



# Comparator

- Problem for noisy input:



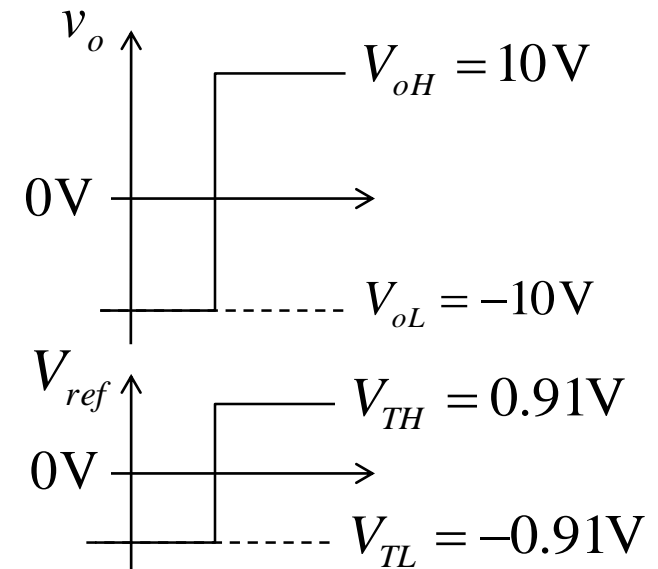
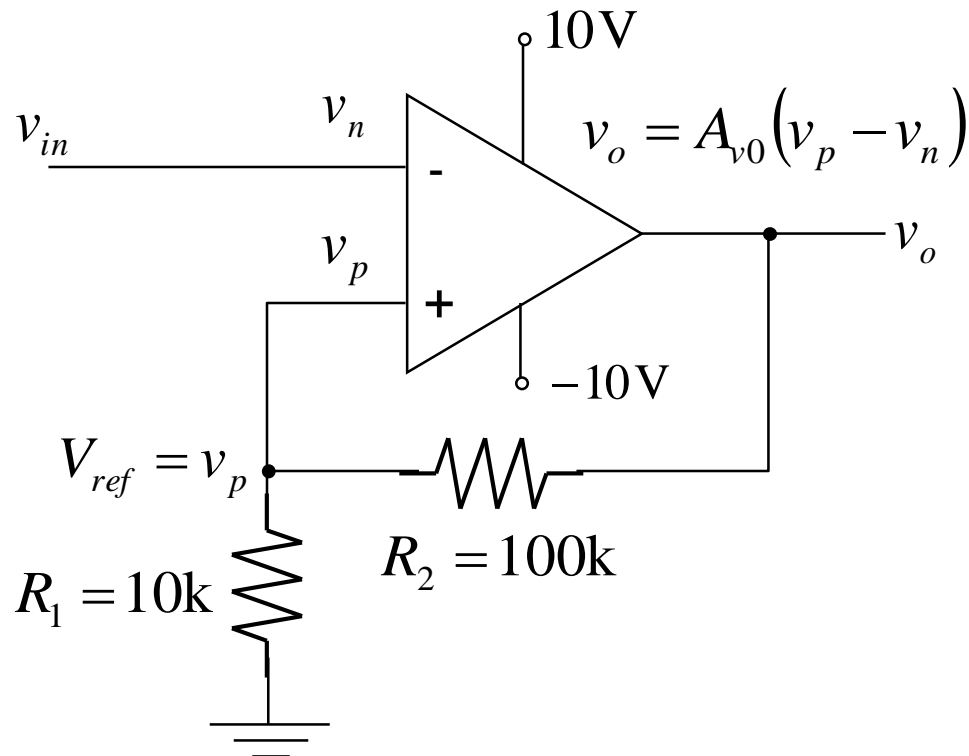
# Schmitt Trigger

- The Schmitt trigger is like a comparator with two reference trigger levels.
- Positive feedback is used – note that the virtual short condition does not apply



# Schmitt Trigger

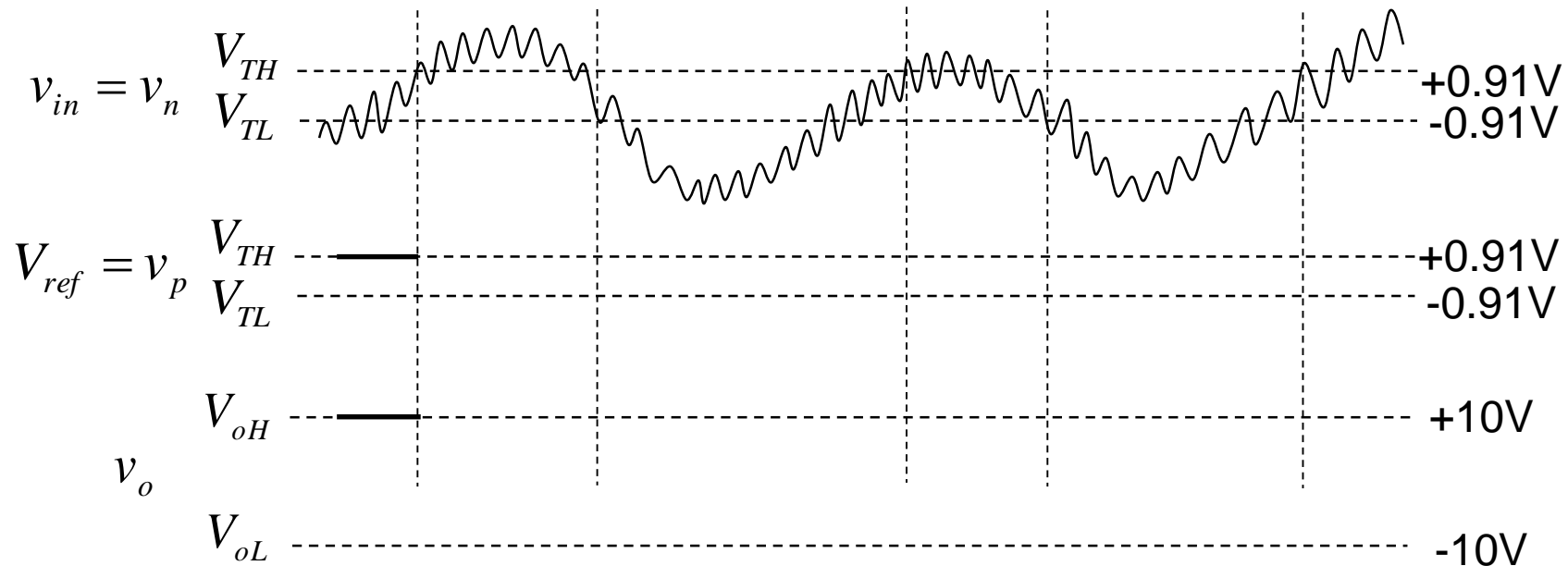
- The reference voltage  $v_{ref}$  depends on the output  $v_o$ .



$$V_{ref} = v_o \frac{R_1}{R_1 + R_2}$$

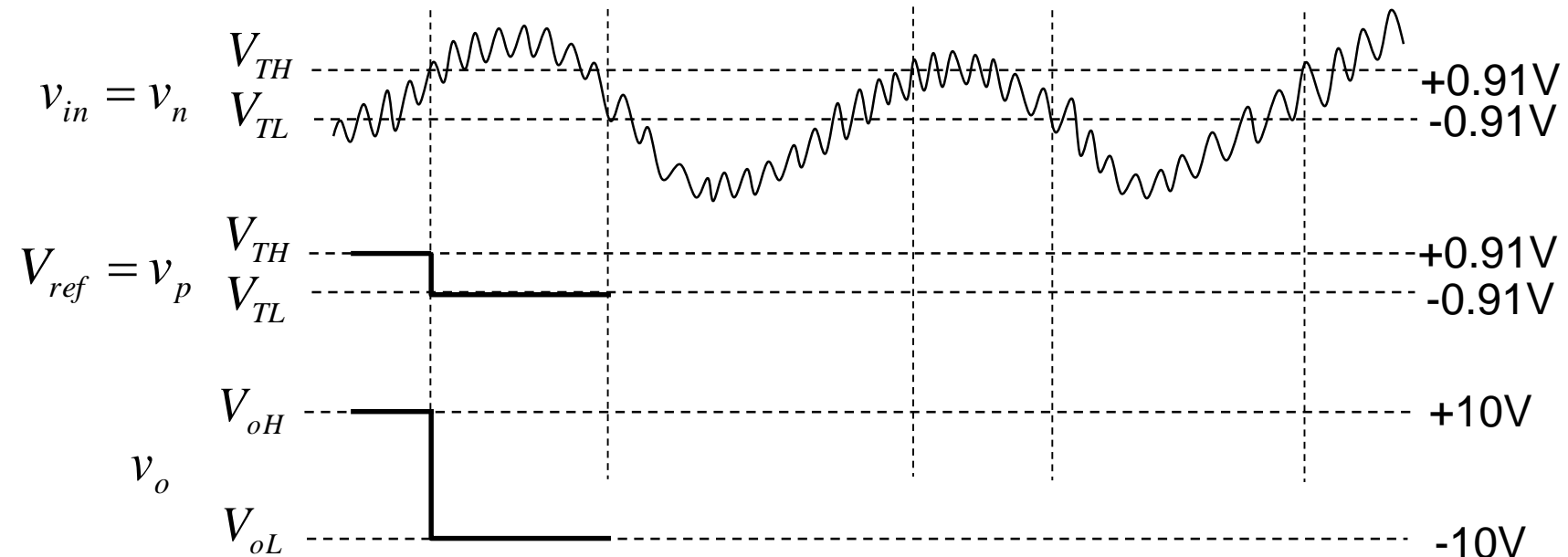
# Schmitt Trigger

- Consider the case where  $v_{in} < V_{TH}$ .
- $v_o$  is driven to  $v_{oH}$
- $V_{ref}$  is calculated from: 
$$V_{ref} = V_{oH} \frac{R_1}{R_1 + R_2}$$



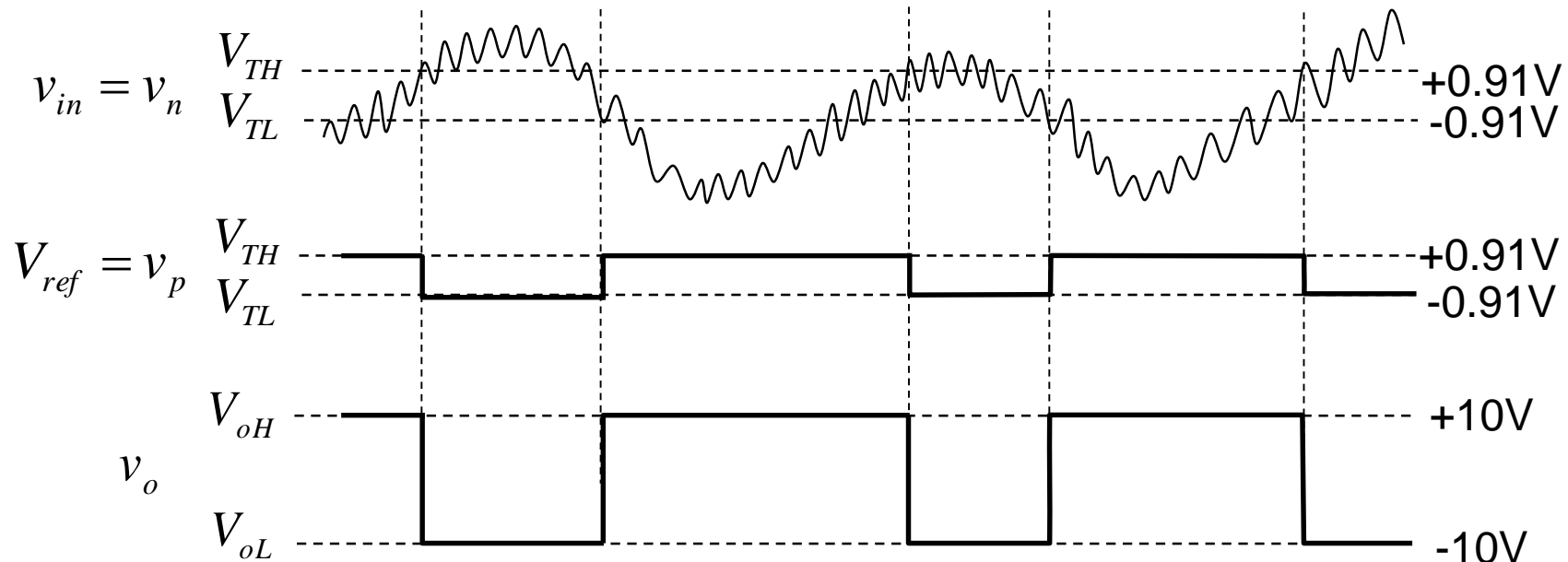
# Schmitt Trigger

- When  $v_{in}$  increases and crosses  $V_{TH}$ , the output is driven low to  $V_{oL}$ .
- $V_{ref}$  therefore becomes: 
$$V_{ref} = V_{TL} = V_{oL} \frac{R_1}{R_1 + R_2}$$
- while  $v_{in}$  remains higher than  $V_{ref}$ , the output will stay at  $V_{oL}$ .



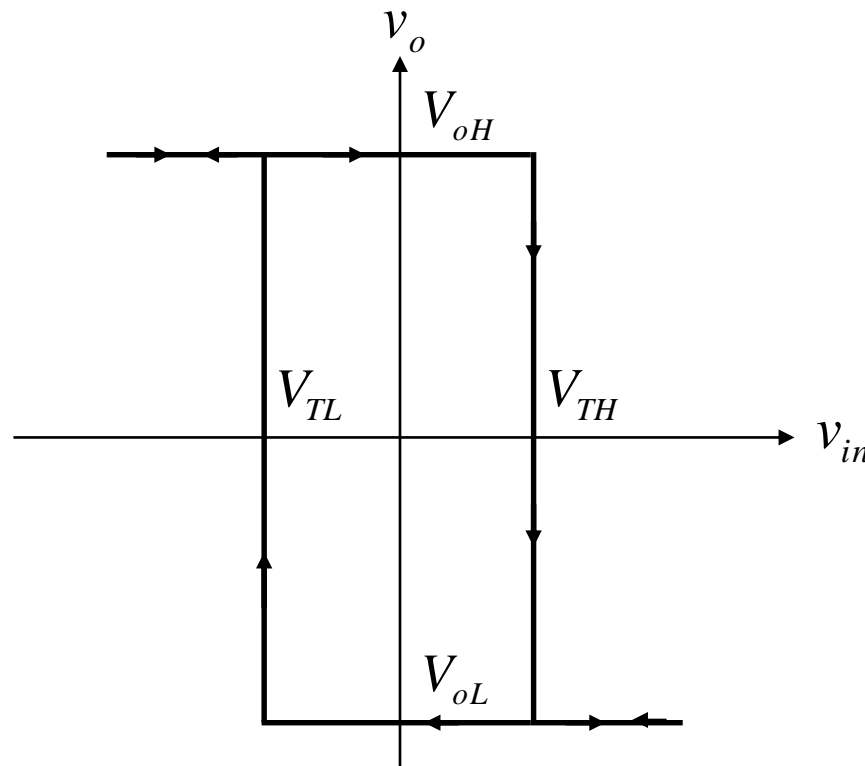
# Schmitt Trigger

- When  $v_{in}$  decreases and crosses  $V_{TL}$ , the output is driven high to  $v_{oH}$ .
- $V_{ref}$  therefore becomes: 
$$V_{ref} = V_{TH} = V_{oH} \frac{R_1}{R_1 + R_2}$$
- while  $v_{in}$  remains lower than  $V_{ref}$ , the output will stay at  $V_{oH}$ .



# Schmitt Trigger

- The Schmitt trigger is said to exhibit *hysteresis*.
- Voltage transfer characteristic:

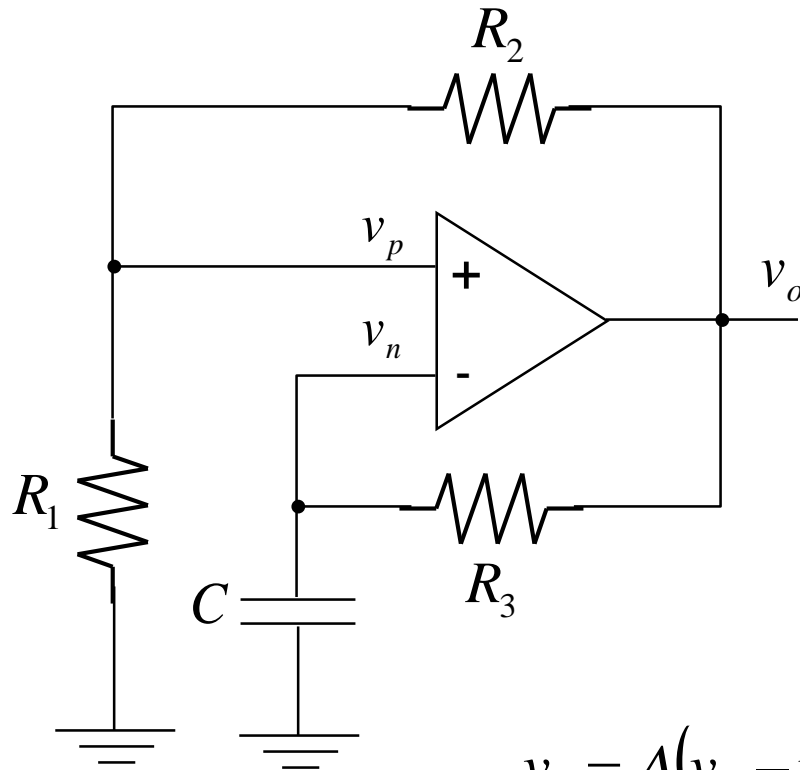


# Multivibrator Circuits

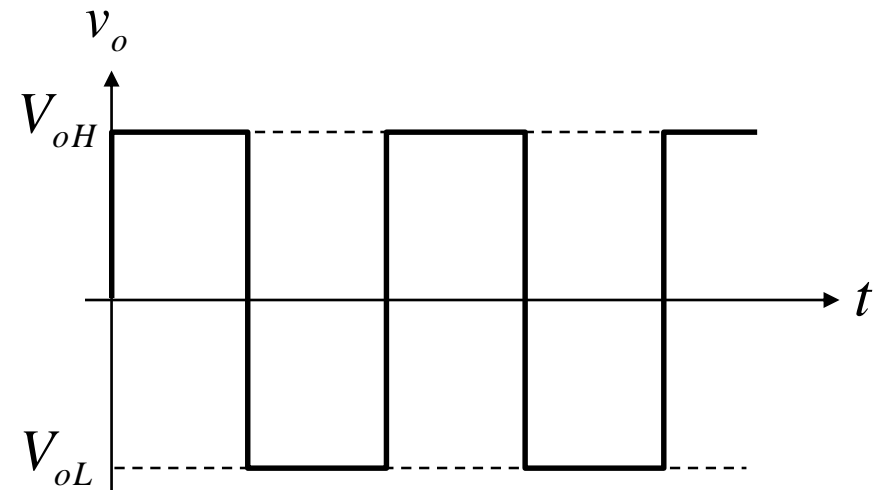
- **Astable Multivibrator:** Circuit oscillates between two unstable states.
- **Monostable Multivibrator:** Circuit has one stable state, and one unstable state. An input signal can cause the circuit to change into the unstable state for a short period of time.
- **Bistable Multivibrator:** Circuit has two stable states. Input signals can cause the circuit to change state. Examples are latches and flip-flops.

# Square Wave Generator (Astable Multivibrator)

- Output oscillates between two states,  $v_{oH}$  and  $v_{oL}$ .



$$v_o = A(v_p - v_n)$$

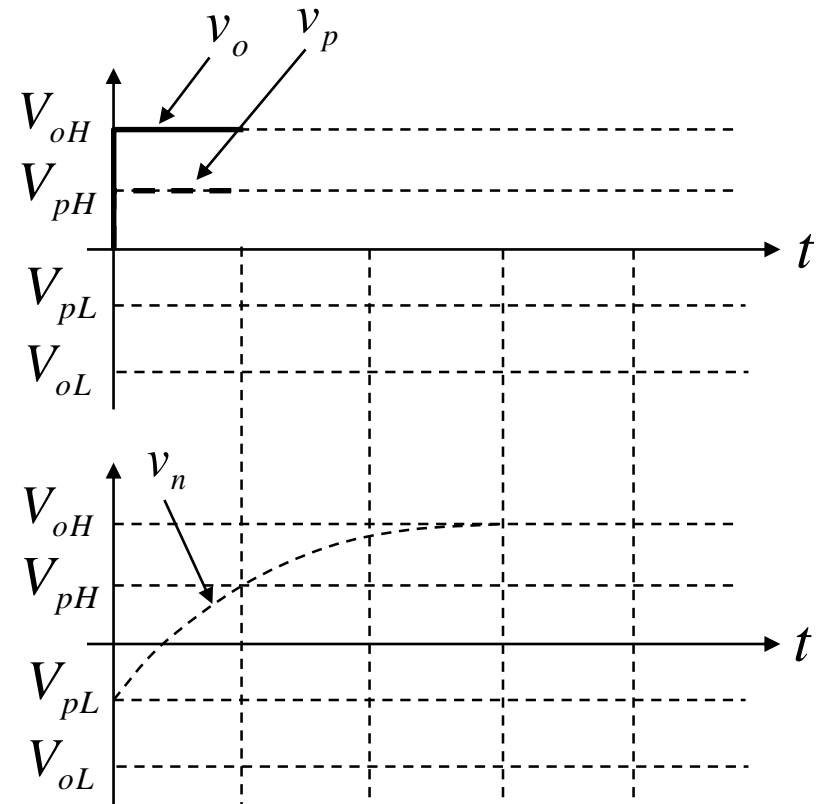


# Square Wave Generator

- Assume the output has just switched to  $V_{oH}$ .
- $v_p$  therefore becomes:

$$v_p = V_{pH} = V_{oH} \frac{R_1}{R_1 + R_2}$$

- C charges towards  $V_{oH}$  through  $R_3$ , with time constant  $\tau = R_3C$





## Square Wave Generator

- General equation for voltage across a capacitor:

$$v_c(t) = V_{final} + (V_{initial} - V_{final})e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}}$$

- Therefore the equation for capacitor charge is:

$$v_n = V_{oH} + (V_{pL} - V_{oH})e^{-\frac{t}{R_3C}}$$

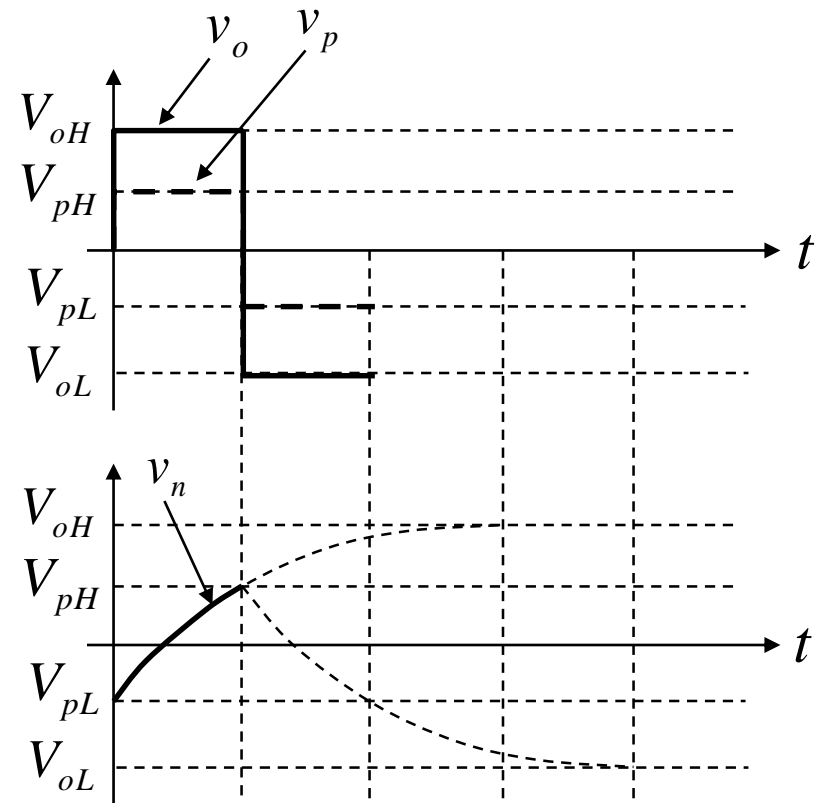
$$v_n = V_{oH} + \left( \frac{V_{oL}R_1}{R_1 + R_2} - V_{oH} \right) e^{-\frac{t}{R_3C}}$$

# Square Wave Generator

- When  $v_n$  crosses  $V_{pH}$ , output driven negative and  $v_o = V_{oL}$ .
- $v_p$  therefore becomes:

$$V_p = V_{pL} = V_{oL} \frac{R_1}{R_1 + R_2}$$

- C discharges towards  $V_{oL}$  through  $R_3$ , with time constant  $\tau = R_3C$



# Square Wave Generator

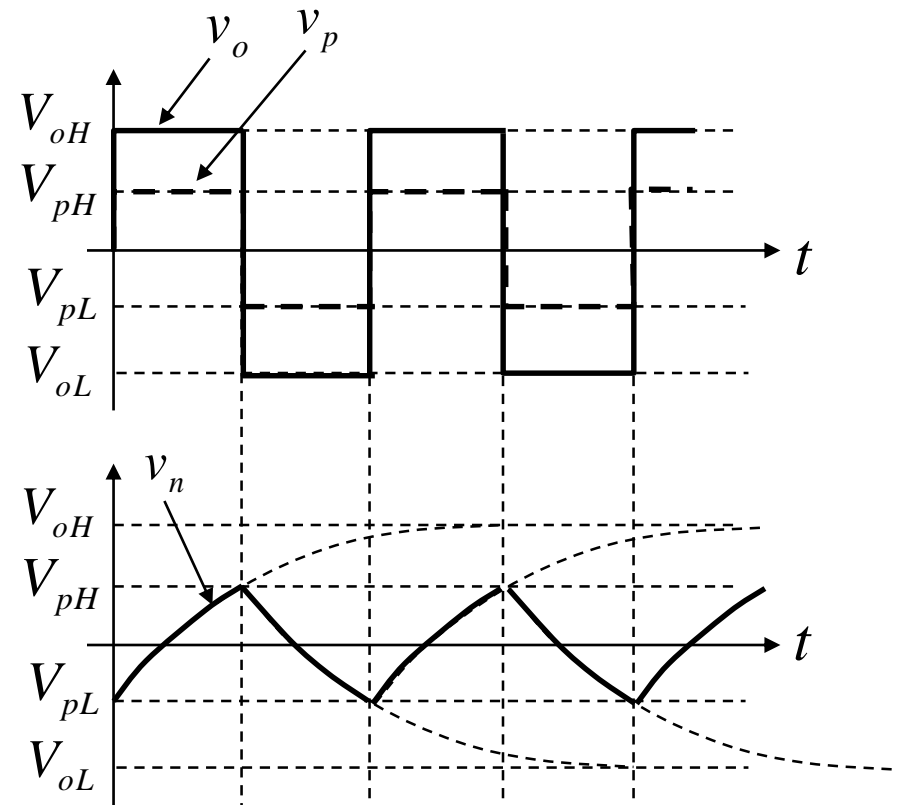
- Equation for capacitor discharge:

$$v_n = V_{oL} + (V_{pH} - V_{oL}) e^{-\frac{t}{R_3 C}}$$

$$v_n = V_{oL} + \left( \frac{V_{oH} R_1}{R_1 + R_2} - V_{oH} \right) e^{-\frac{t}{R_3 C}}$$

# Square Wave Generator

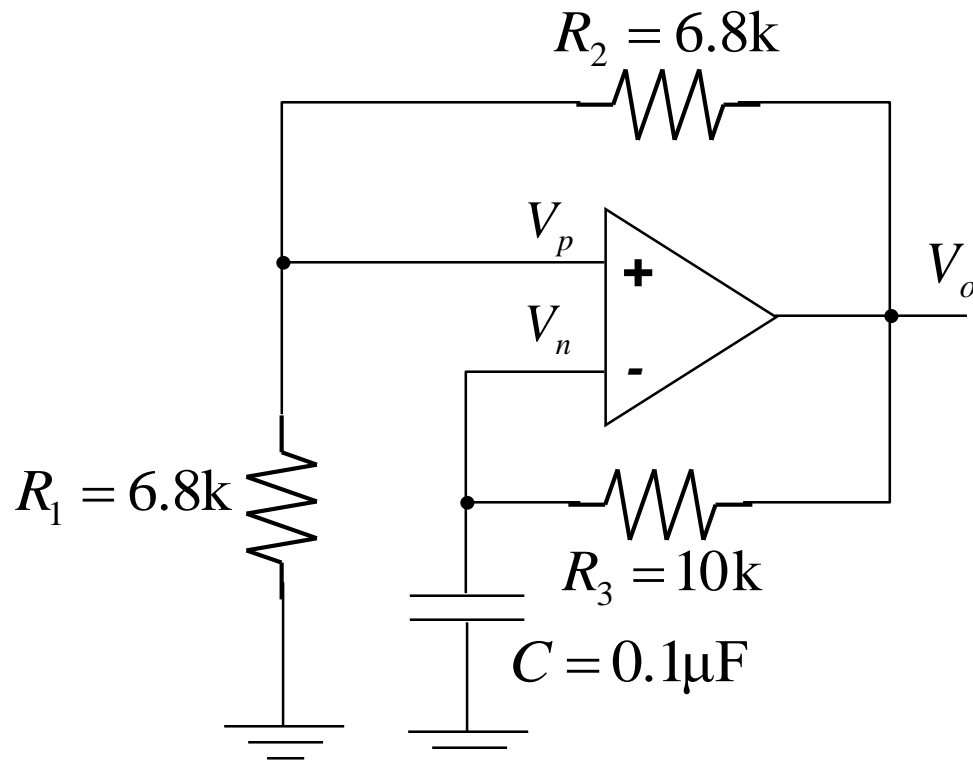
- When  $v_n$  crosses  $V_{pL}$ , output driven positive and  $v_o = V_{oH}$ .
- The cycle repeats resulting in a square wave  $v_o$ .



# Square Wave Generator

## Example 5:

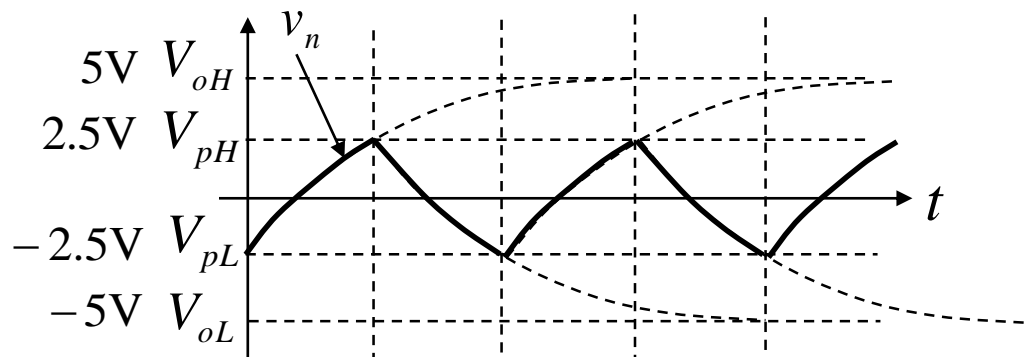
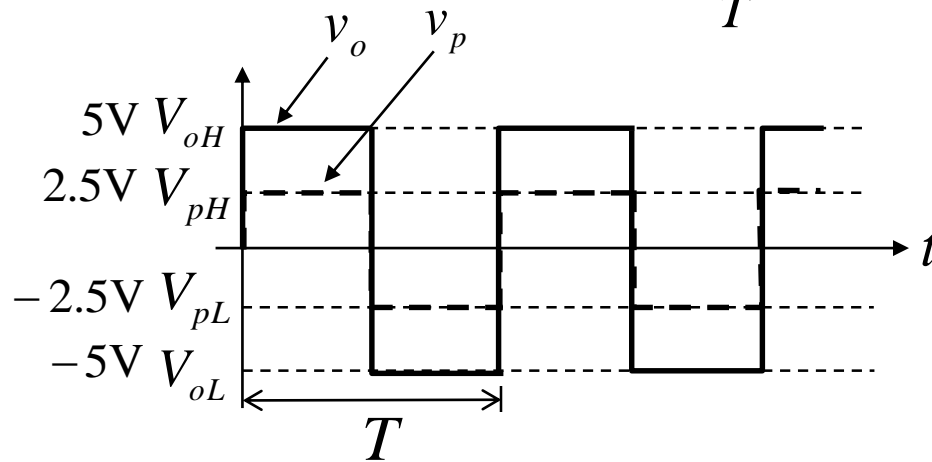
- What is the frequency of oscillation if  $V_{oH}=5V$ ,  $V_{oL}= -5V$ ,  $R_1 = R_2 = 6.8k\Omega$ ,  $R_3 = 10k\Omega$  and  $C=0.1\mu F$ ?



# Square Wave Generator

## Example 5:

$$f = \frac{1}{T}$$



# Square Wave Generator

## Example 5:

- Capacitor charge/discharge equation:

$$v_c(t) = V_{final} + (V_{initial} - V_{final})e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}}$$

- Therefore, when the capacitor is charging:
- When  $v_n$  reaches  $V_{pH}$ :

# Square Wave Generator

Example 5:

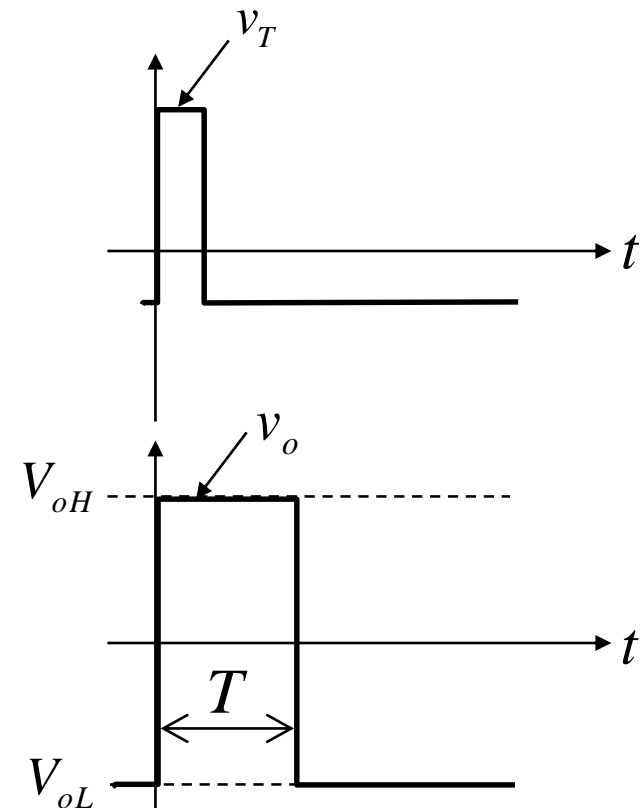
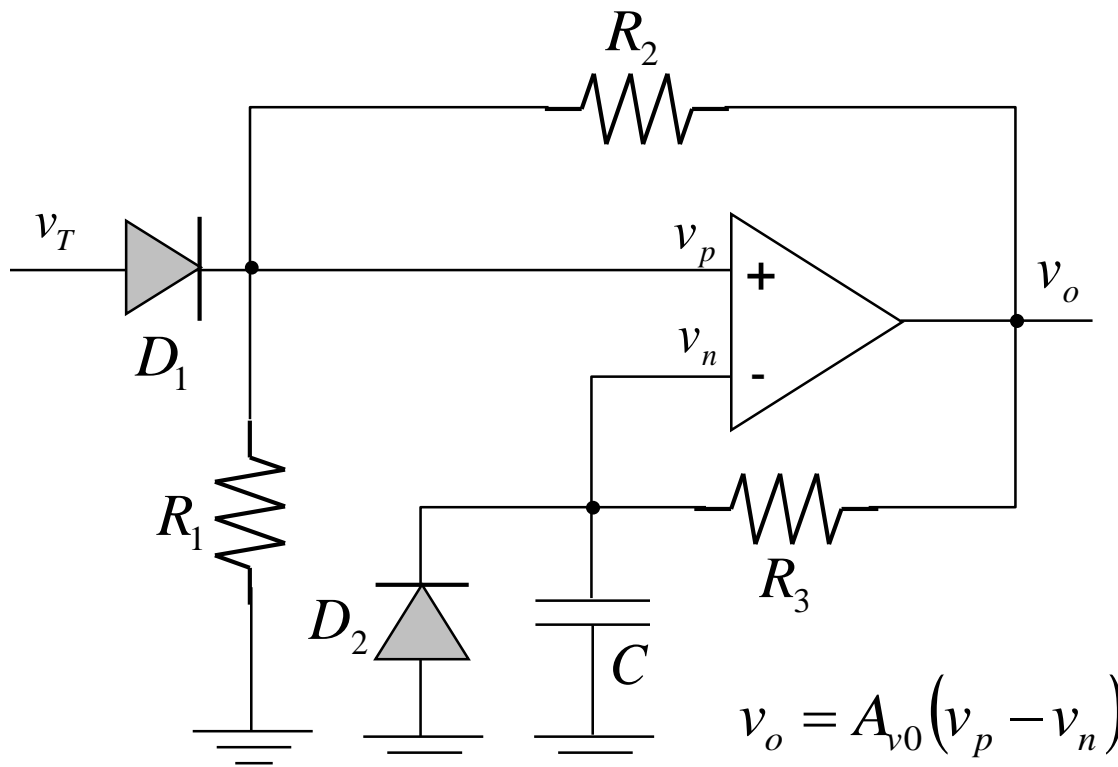


# Square Wave Generator

Example 5:

# Pulse Generator (Monostable Multivibrator)

- Has one stable state.
- A single pulse of known duration is generated when a trigger signal is applied.

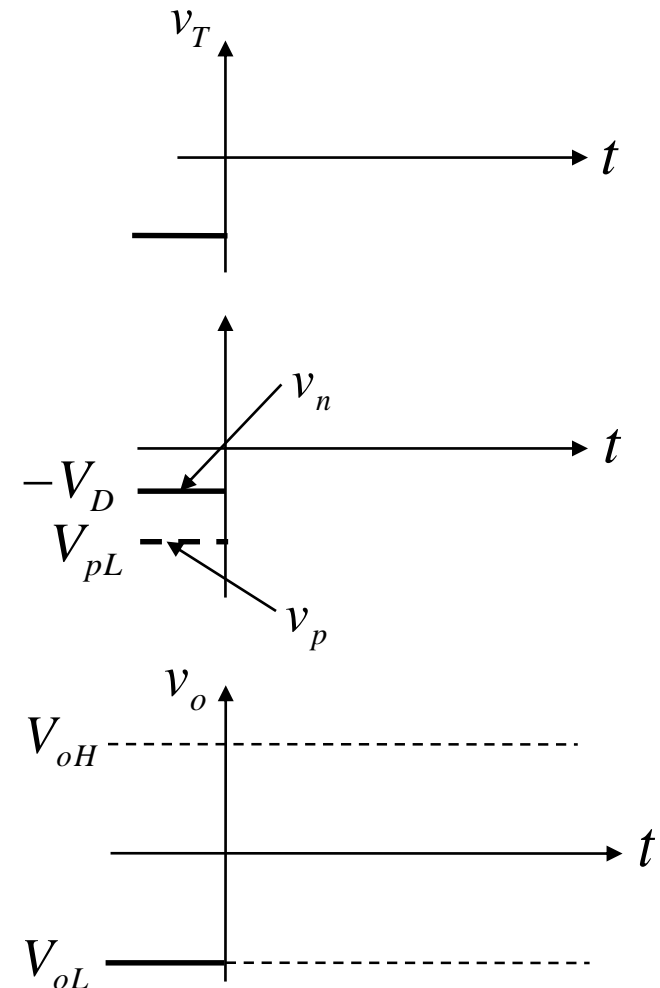


# Pulse Generator

- The circuit rests in its quiescent state with  $v_o = V_{oL}$ .
- Voltage  $v_p$  is given by:

$$v_p = V_{pL} = V_{oL} \frac{R_1}{R_1 + R_2}$$

- While  $v_T$  remains less than  $V_{pL} + V_D$ , diode  $D_1$  remains cut off.
- C discharges to  $V_{oL}$  until diode  $D_2$  turns on, clamping  $v_n$  at  $-V_D$ .

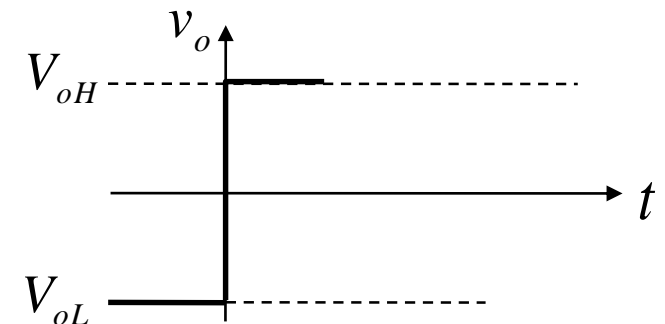
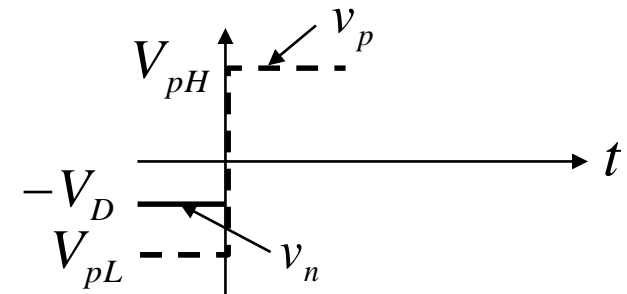
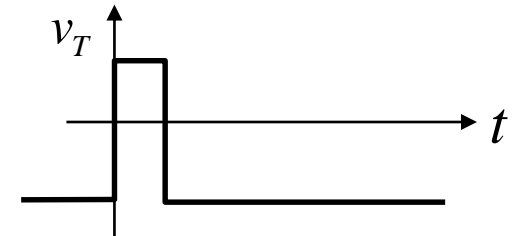


# Pulse Generator

- A positive pulse is applied to  $v_T$ .
- Diode  $D_1$  turns on, momentarily pulling node  $v_p$  greater than node  $v_n$ .
- This drives  $v_o$  positive to  $V_{oH}$ .
- Voltage at node  $v_p$  then becomes:

$$v_p = V_{pH} = V_{oH} \frac{R_1}{R_1 + R_2}$$

and diode  $D_1$  then cuts off.

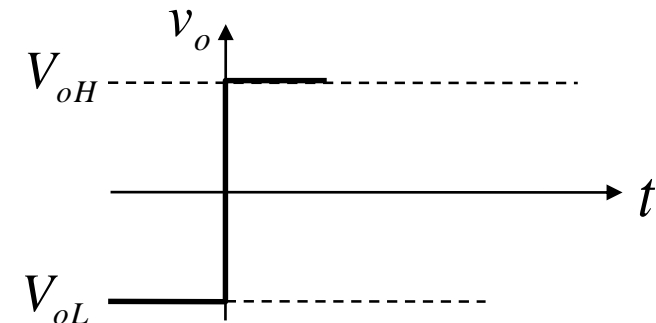
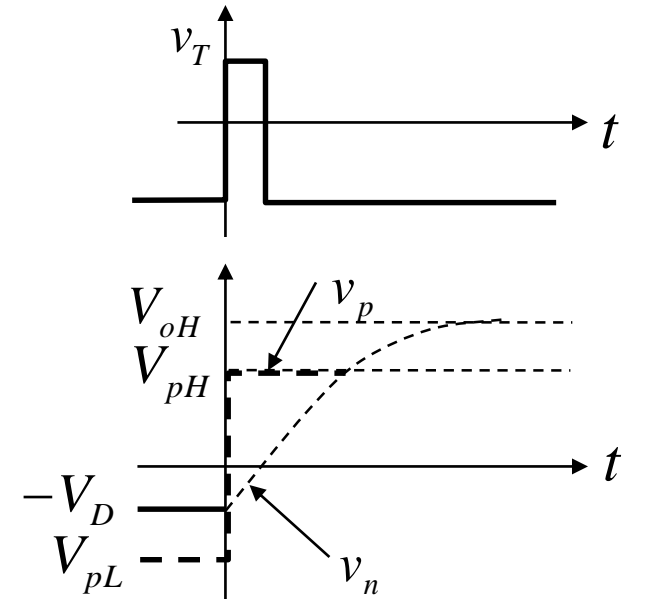


# Pulse Generator

- Capacitor voltage  $v_n$  then charges through  $R_3$  toward  $v_{oH}$ :

$$v_c(t) = V_{final} + (V_{initial} - V_{final})e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}}$$

$$v_n(t) = V_{oH} + (-V_D - V_{oH})e^{-\frac{t}{R_3C}}$$



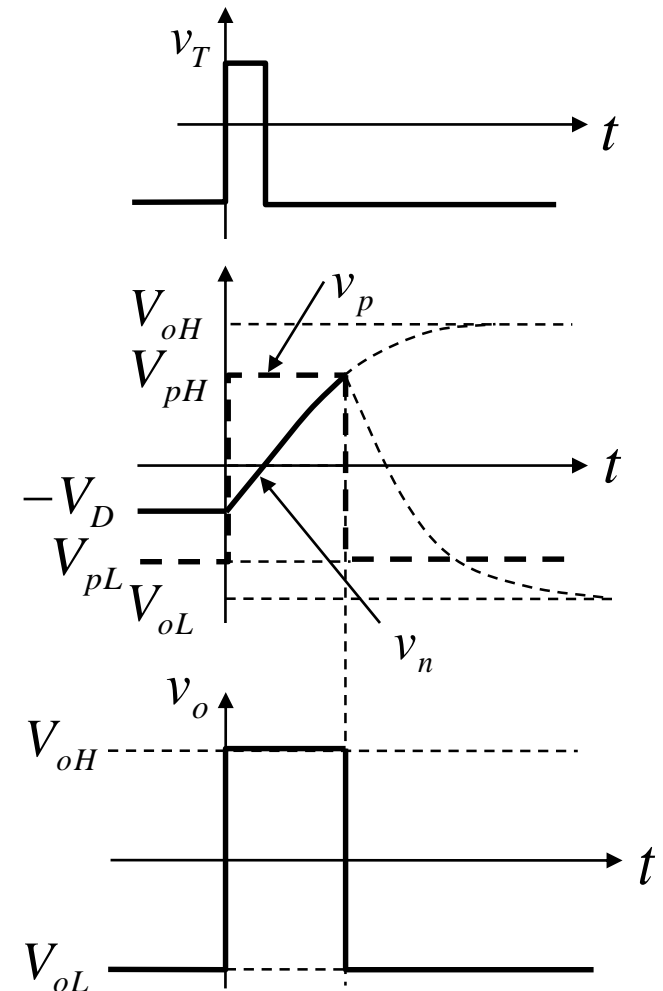
# Pulse Generator

- When  $v_n$  crosses  $v_p$ , the output is driven negative to  $V_{oL}$ .
- Voltage  $v_p$  then becomes:  

$$v_p = V_{pL} = V_{oL} \frac{R_1}{R_1 + R_2}$$
- Capacitor C discharges through  $R_3$  toward  $V_{oL}$ :

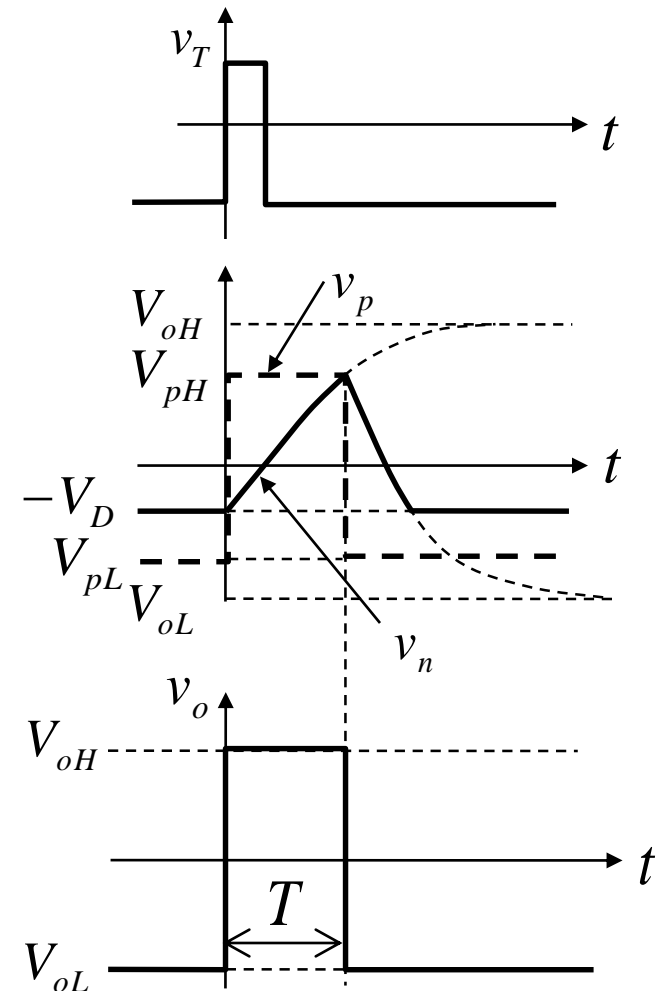
$$v_c(t) = V_{final} + (V_{initial} - V_{final})e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}}$$

$$v_n(t) = V_{oL} + (V_{oH} - V_{oL})e^{-\frac{t}{R_3C}}$$



# Pulse Generator

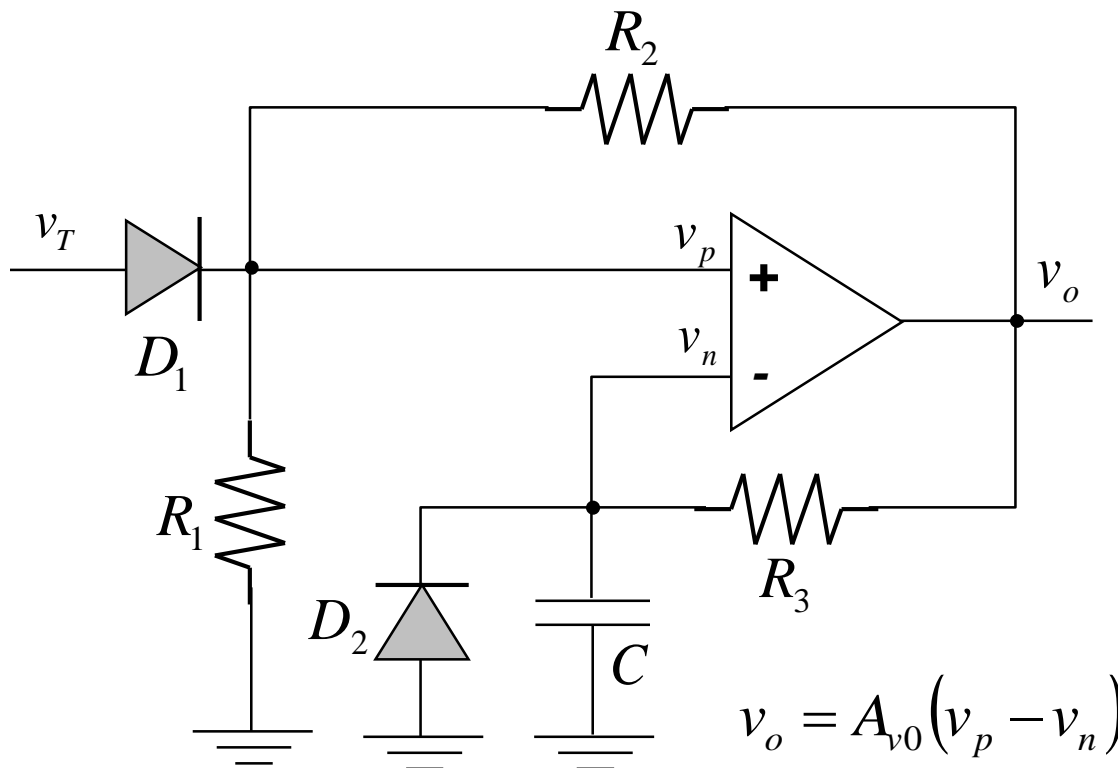
- C discharges to  $V_{oL}$  until diode  $D_2$  turns on, clamping  $v_n$  at  $-V_D$ .
- The output  $v_o$  will remain at  $V_{oL}$  until another trigger pulse is applied.



# Pulse Generator

## Example 6:

- What is the width of the pulse if  $V_{oH} = 5V$ ,  $V_{oL} = -5V$ ,  $V_D = 0.7V$ ,  $R_1 = 22k\Omega$ ,  $R_2 = 18k\Omega$ ,  $R_3 = 10k\Omega$  and  $C = 0.2\mu F$ ?

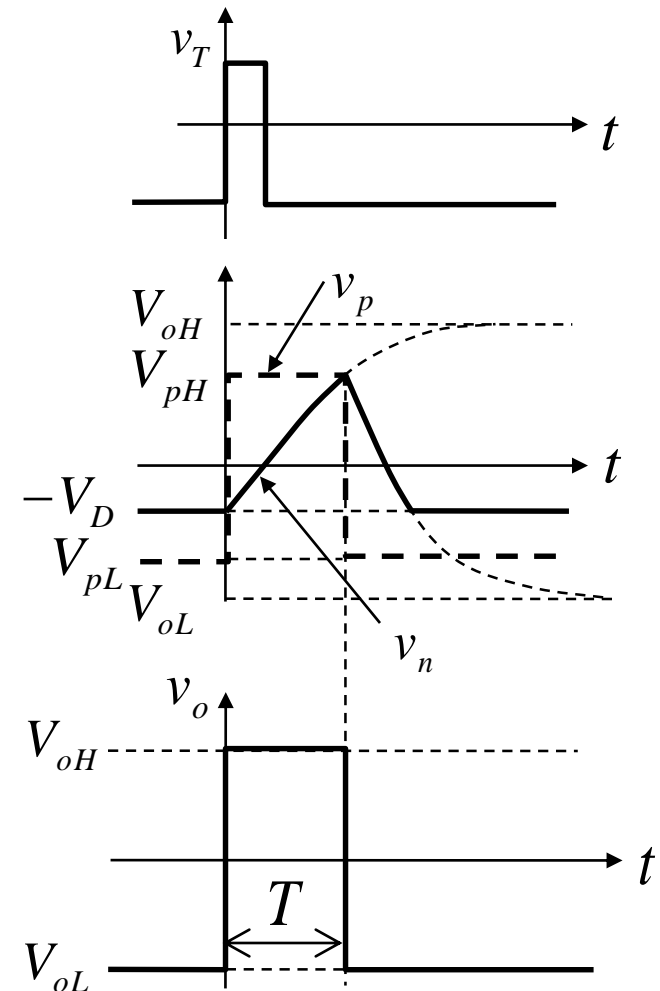




# Pulse Generator

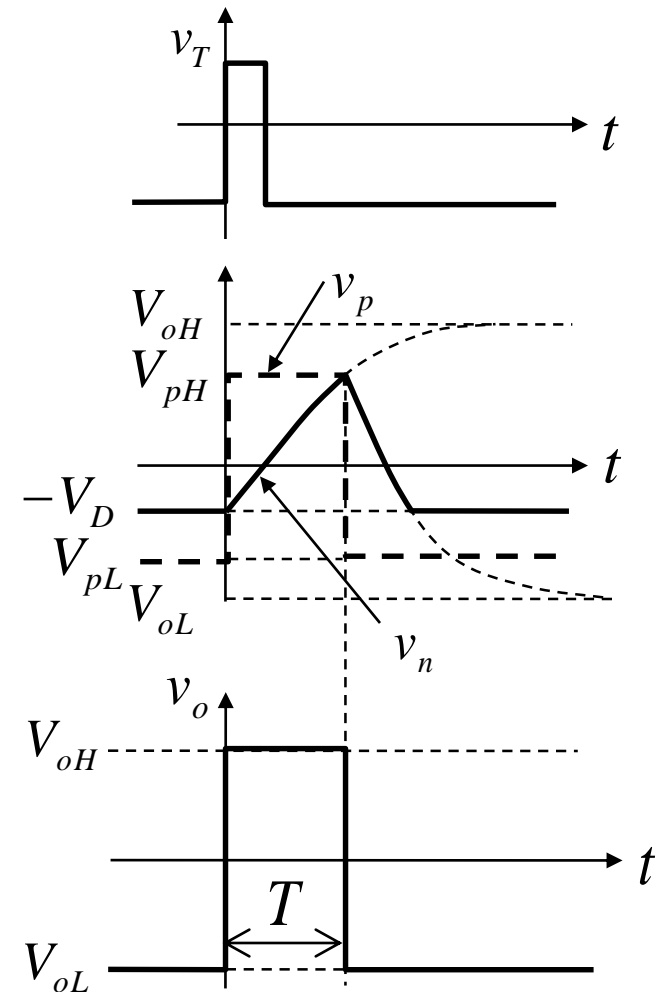
## Example 6:

- Capacitor charge:



# Pulse Generator

## Example 6:



# Pulse Generator

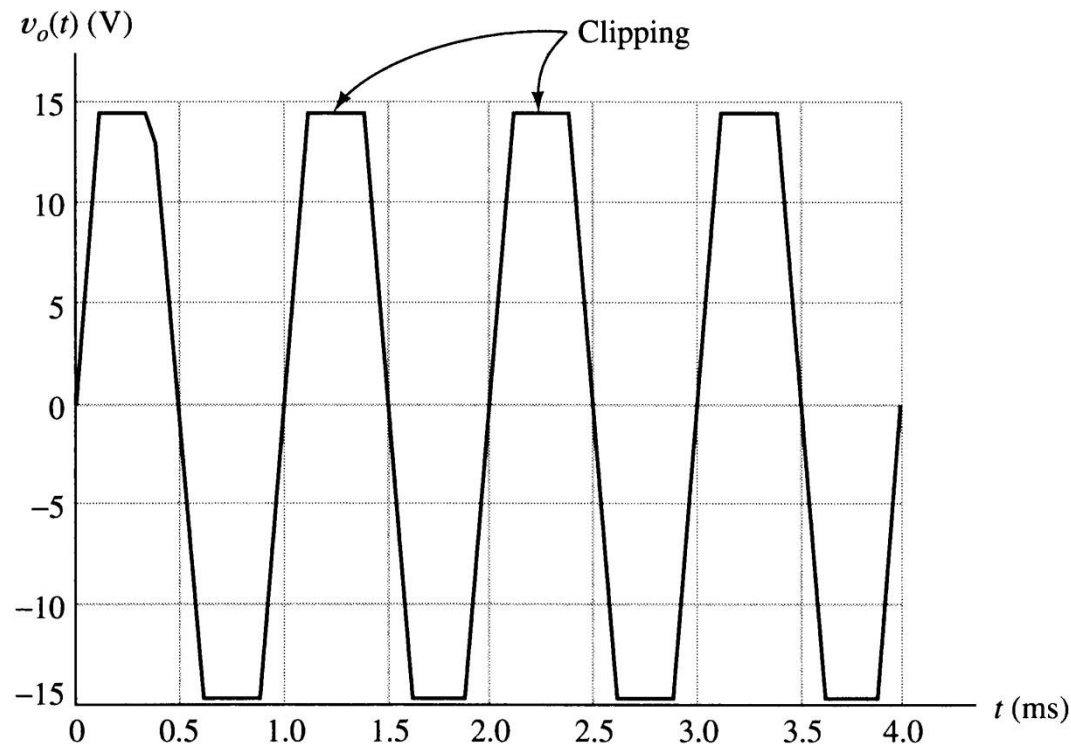
Example 6:

## Op Amp Limitations

- Output voltage swing
- Slew rate
- Input bias currents and offset voltages

## Output Voltage Swing

- Range of output voltage depends on the type of op amp, and the power supply voltages.
- Eg, if power supply voltages are  $\pm 15\text{V}$ :

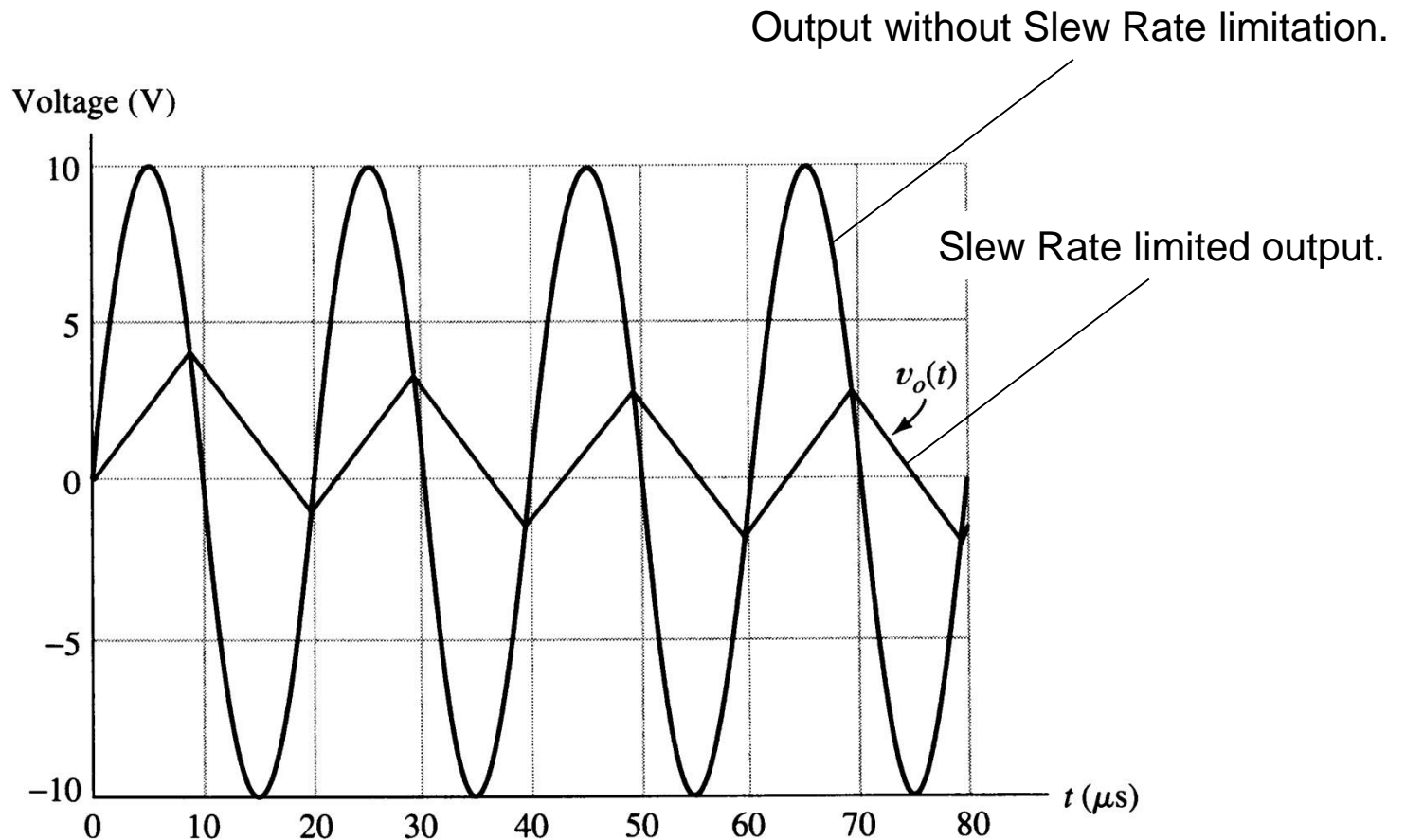


## Slew Rate

- Rate of change of the output voltage is limited.
- The slew rate (SR) is the maximum rate that the output of the op amp can change from most positive to most negative.
- Limits the maximum amplitude of signal that can be amplified without distortion.
- Typical values:

$$0.1\text{V}/\mu\text{s} \leq \text{SR} \leq 10\text{V}/\mu\text{s}$$

# Slew Rate



## Slew Rate

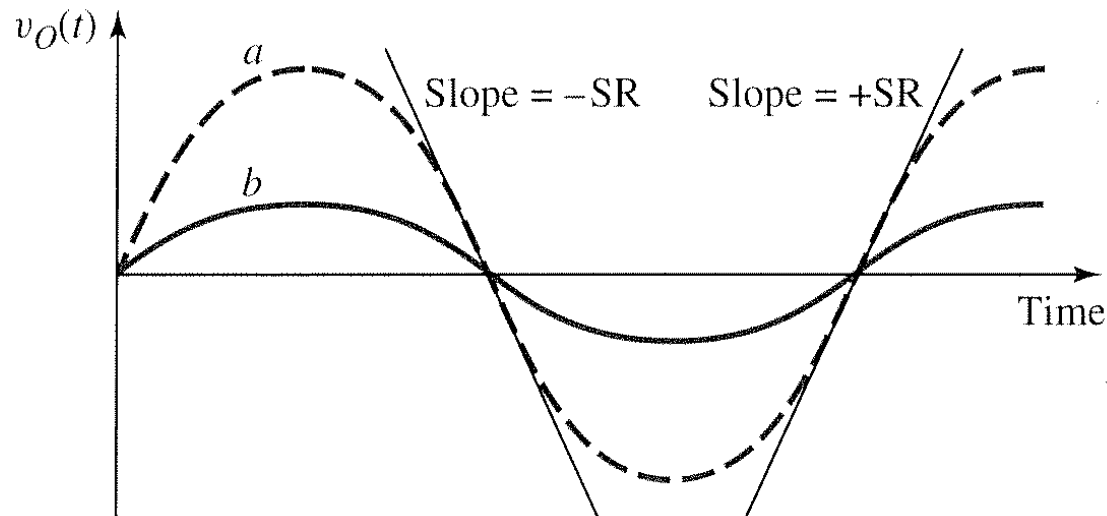
- The **Full Power Bandwidth** ( $f_{FP}$ ) is the frequency at which the op amp becomes slew rate limited.
- The Full Power Bandwidth is the maximum frequency at which the op amp can produce undistorted output with maximum amplitude.

$$f_{FP} = \frac{SR}{2\pi V_{O(\max)}}$$



## Slew Rate

- The Full Power Bandwidth can be considerably less than the small signal bandwidth.
- Small signals will be unaffected by slew rate as the rate of change is less than large signals.



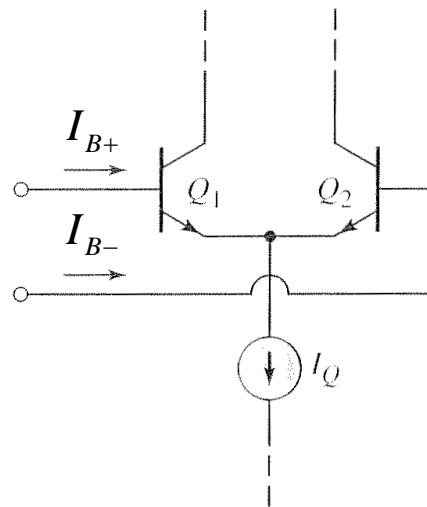
## Slew Rate

### Example

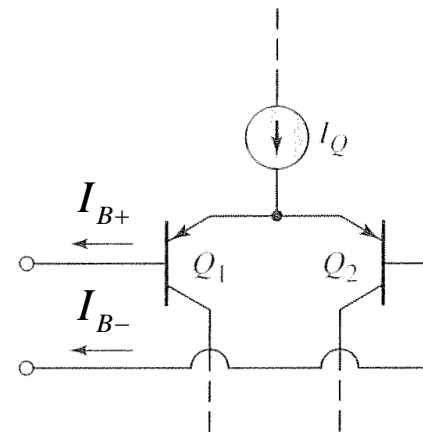
- An amplifier has a gain bandwidth product of  $f_T = 1\text{MHz}$ , and closed loop gain of 10. The slew rate is  $0.63\text{V}/\mu\text{s}$ , and the desired peak output voltage is  $10\text{V}$ . Find the small signal bandwidth and the Full Power Bandwidth.

# Offset Voltages and Currents

- Non-zero input currents:
  - $I_{B+}$  is the DC current flowing into the non-inverting input.
  - $I_{B-}$  is the DC current flowing into the inverting input.



(a) *npn*



(b) *pnp*

## Offset Voltages and Currents

- Average of the input DC currents is called the ***bias current***.

$$I_B = \frac{I_{B+} + I_{B-}}{2}$$

Typical

*30nA for the 741 op amp*

## Offset Voltages and Currents

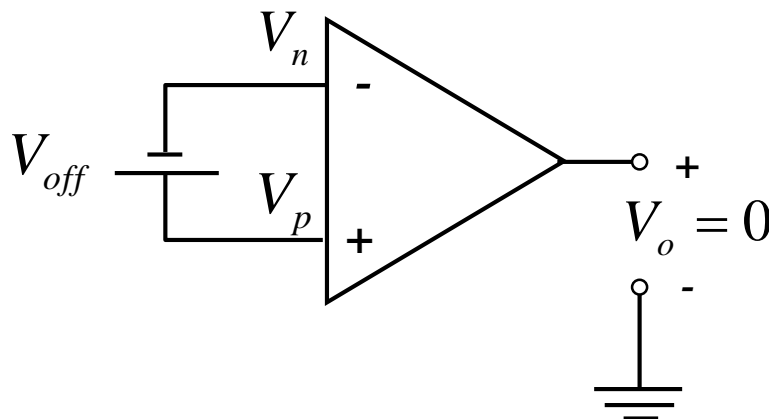
- If the input stage of the op amp is symmetrical, the bias currents will be equal.
- In practice, the DC currents are not equal, and the difference is called the **offset current**.

$$I_{off} = |I_{B+} - I_{B-}|$$

- typically about 20-50 % of the bias current.

## Offset Voltages and Currents

- The output voltage might be non-zero for zero input voltage. The op amp behaves as if a small DC offset voltage  $V_{off}$  is in series with one of the input terminals.
- The **offset voltage** is defined as the input differential voltage that must be applied to the open loop op amp to produce a zero output voltage.

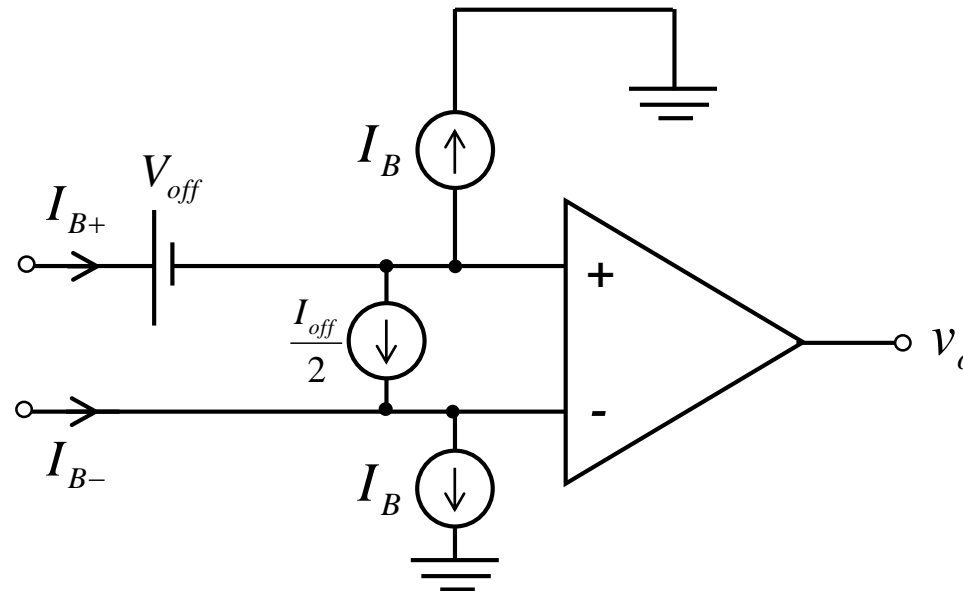


Typically

$$V_{off} \approx \pm 1\text{mV to } \pm 5\text{mV}$$

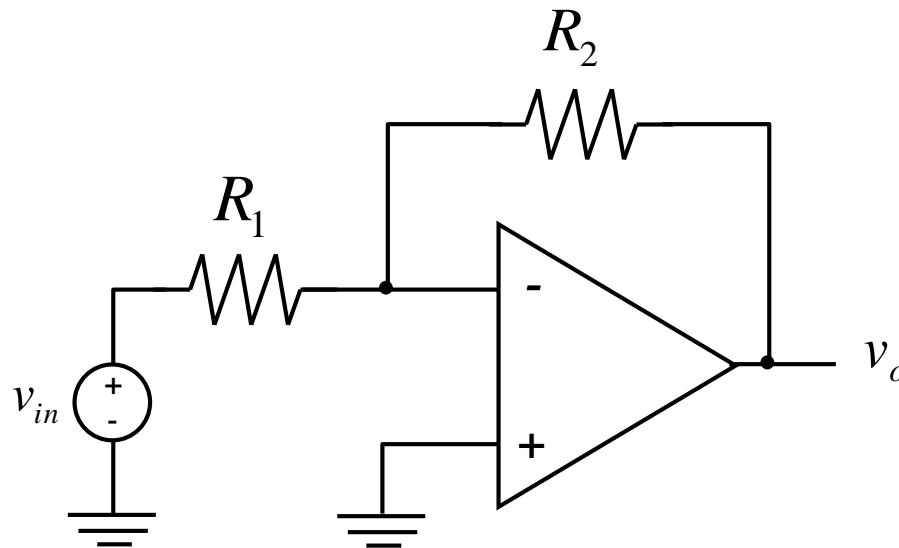
# Offset Voltages and Currents

- bias current, offset current and offset voltage can be modelled as shown below:



# Effect of Offset Voltages and Currents

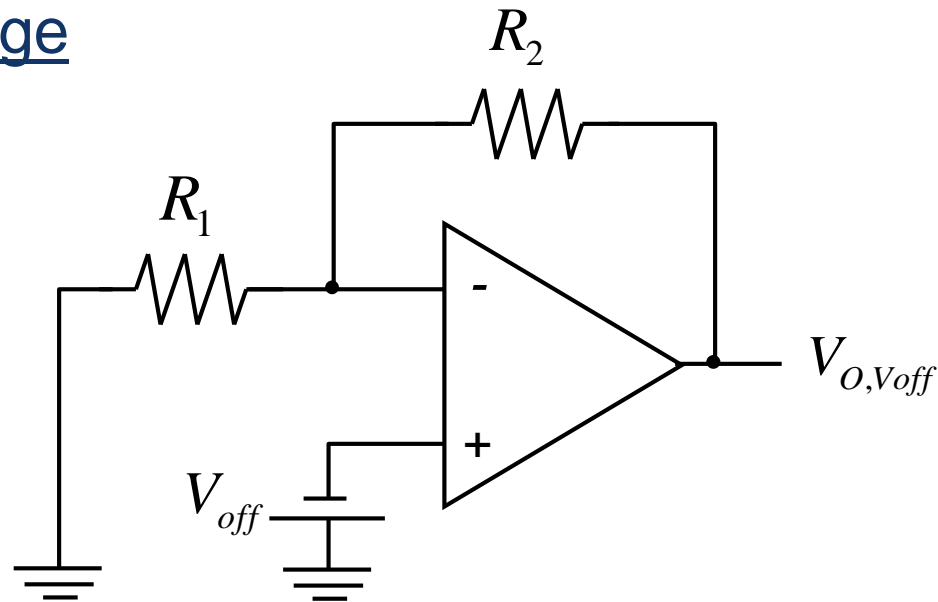
- For the the inverting amp below, determine offset voltage at the output due all DC offset sources:





# Effect of Offset Voltages and Currents

## Offset Voltage

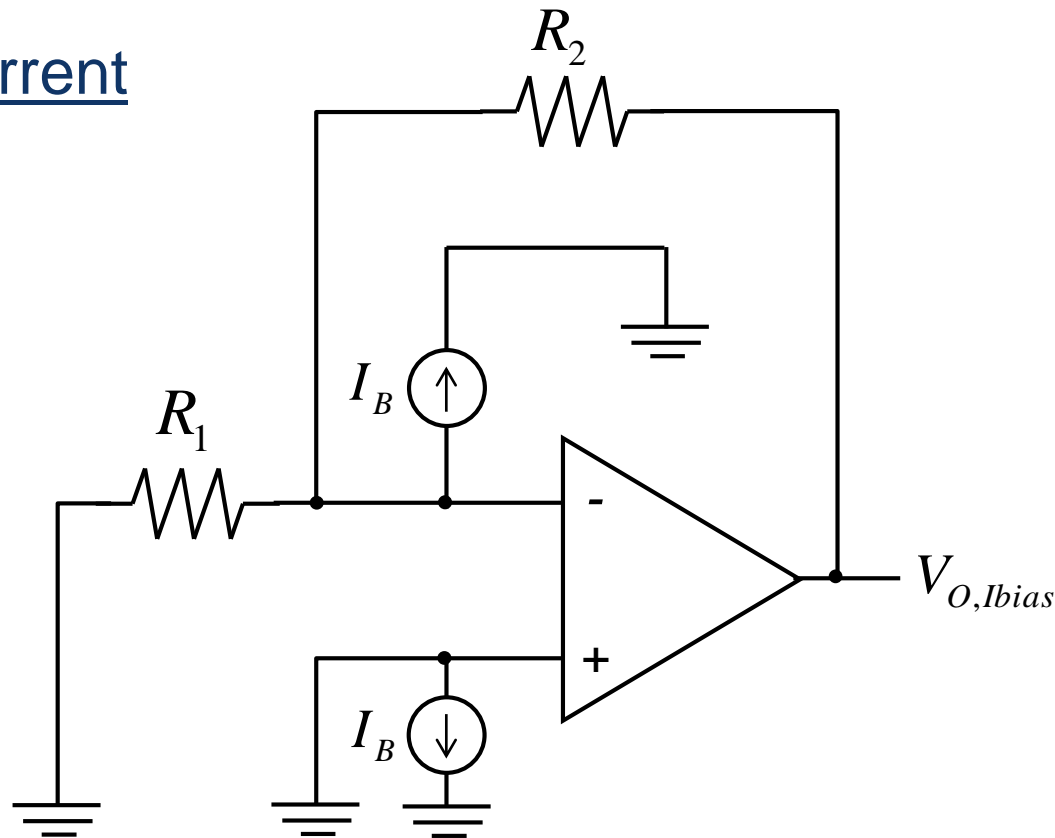


- Output offset voltage due to  $V_{off}$  :

$$V_{O,V_{off}} = -\left(1 + \frac{R_2}{R_1}\right)V_{off}$$

# Effect of Offset Voltages and Currents

## Bias Current



$$V_{O,Ibias} = R_2 I_B$$

# Effect of Offset Voltages and Currents

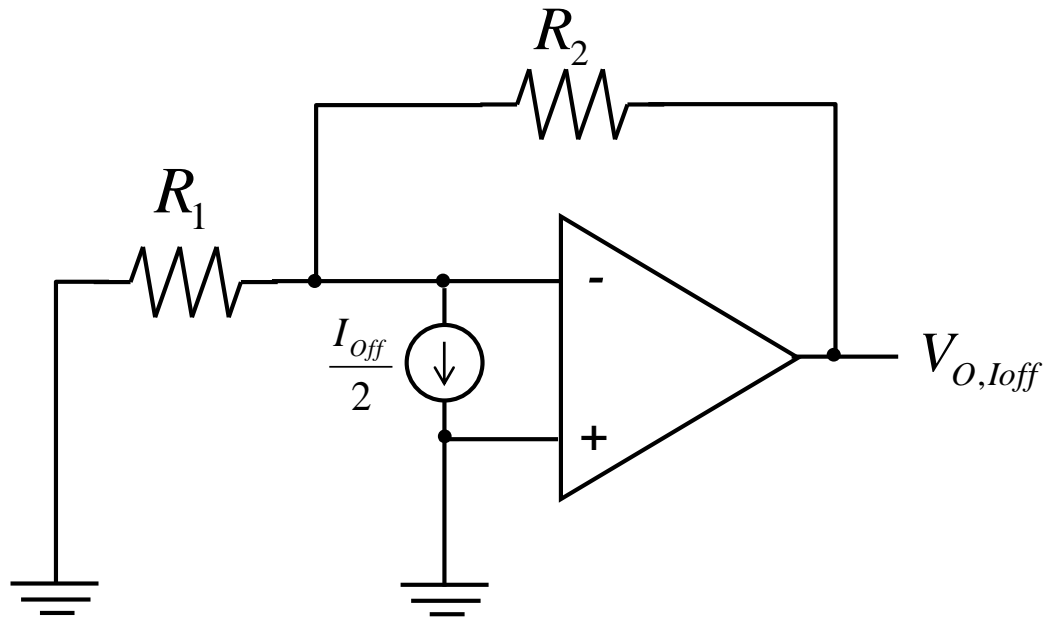
## Bias Current

$$V_{in,Ibias} = I_B (R_1 // R_2) = I_B \frac{R_1 R_2}{R_1 + R_2}$$

$$V_{o,Ibias} = V_{in,Ibias} \left( 1 + \frac{R_2}{R_1} \right) = I_B \frac{R_1 R_2}{R_1 + R_2} \left( \frac{R_1 + R_2}{R_1} \right) = R_2 I_B$$

# Effect of Offset Voltages and Currents

## Offset Current



$$V_{O,loff} = \frac{R_2 I_{off}}{2}$$

## Effect of Offset Voltages and Currents

- Using the principle of superposition, the DC output voltage is the sum of all sources acting individually:

$$V_{O(off)} = V_{O,Voff} + V_{O,Ibias} + V_{O,Ioff}$$

# Effect of Offset Voltages and Currents

## Example

- For a given op amp, the maximum bias current, offset current and input offset voltage are: 100nA,  $\pm 40$ nA, and  $\pm 2$ mV respectively. Find the worst case DC output of an inverting amp if  $R_1 = 10\text{k}\Omega$ ,  $R_2 = 100\text{k}\Omega$ , and  $v_{in} = 0$ .

$$V_{O,V_{off}(\max)} = -\left(1 + \frac{R_2}{R_1}\right)V_{off} =$$

$$V_{O,V_{off}(\min)} = -\left(1 + \frac{R_2}{R_1}\right)V_{off} =$$

# Effect of Offset Voltages and Currents

## Example

$$V_{O,Ibias(max)} = R_2 I_B =$$

$$V_{O,Ibias(min)} = R_2 I_B =$$

$$V_{O,Ioff(max)} = \frac{R_2 I_{off}}{2} =$$

$$V_{O,Ioff(min)} = \frac{R_2 I_{off}}{2} =$$

# Effect of Offset Voltages and Currents

## Example

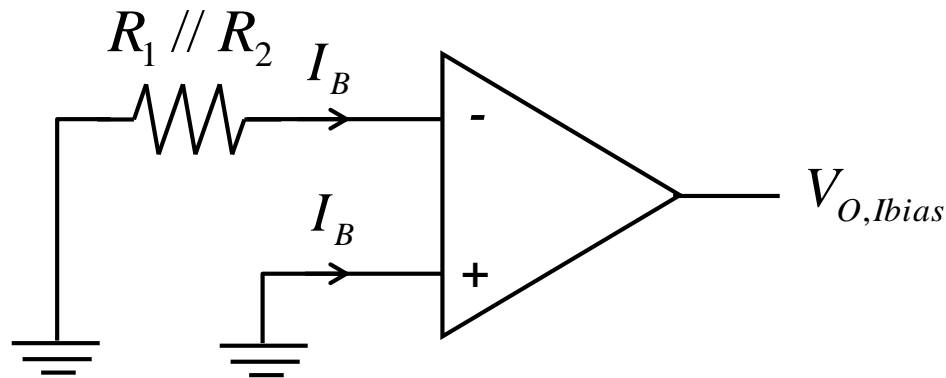
$$V_{O\_Off(max)} =$$

$$V_{O\_Off(min)} =$$

- Output voltage offset ranges from -24mv to 34mV.



## Reducing the Effect of Bias Current



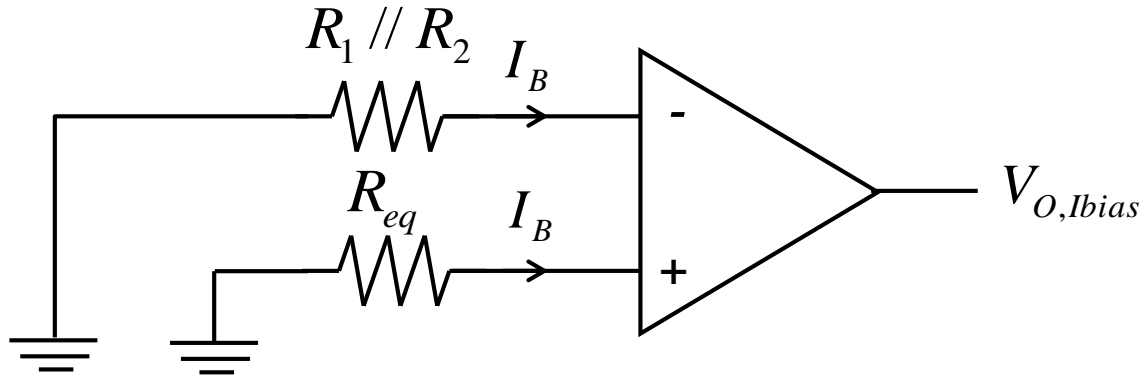
- Additional input offset voltage due to bias current:

$$V_{in,Ibias} = I_B (R_1 // R_2)$$

# Reducing the Effect of Bias Current

## Reducing Effect of Input Bias Current

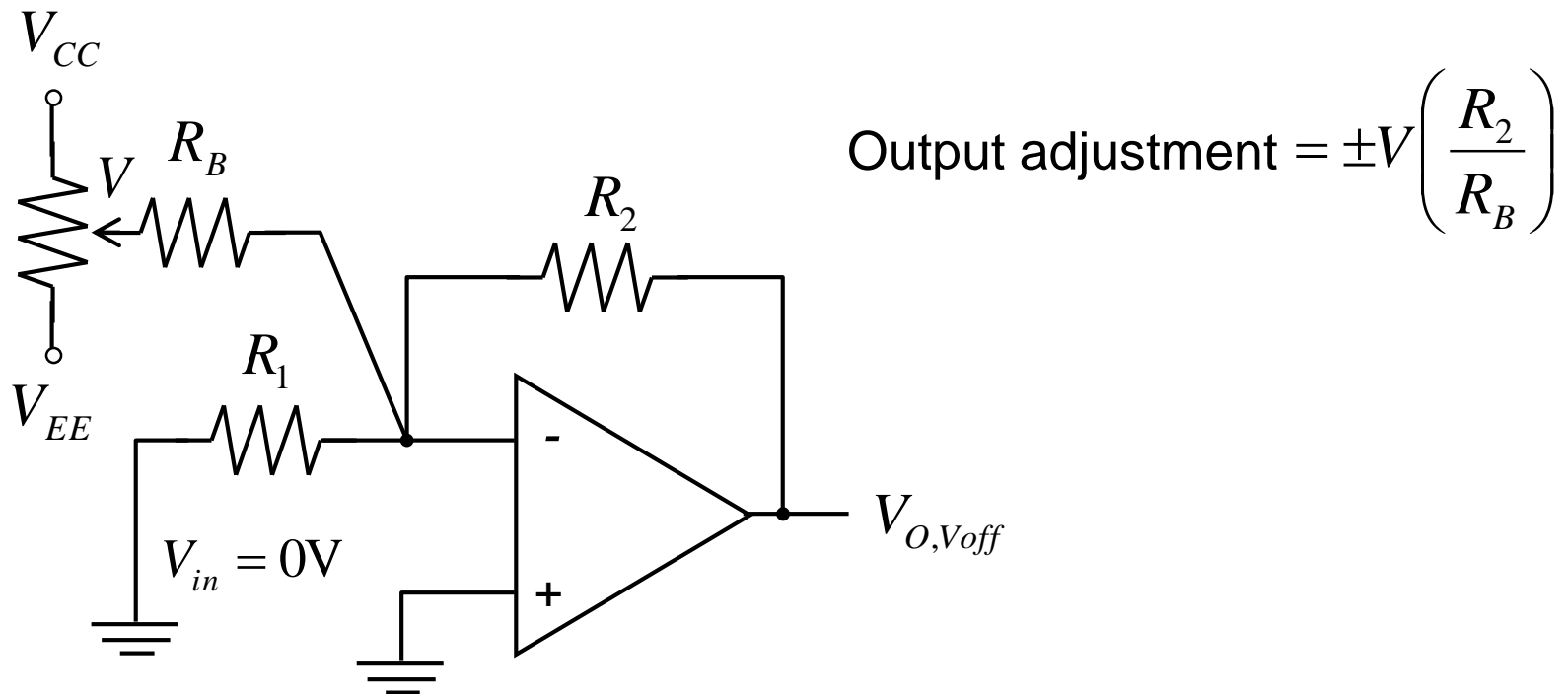
- Design the circuit so that the resistances looking out of the op amp inputs are equal to each other:



$$R_{eq} = R_1 // R_2$$

# Compensating for Offset Voltage

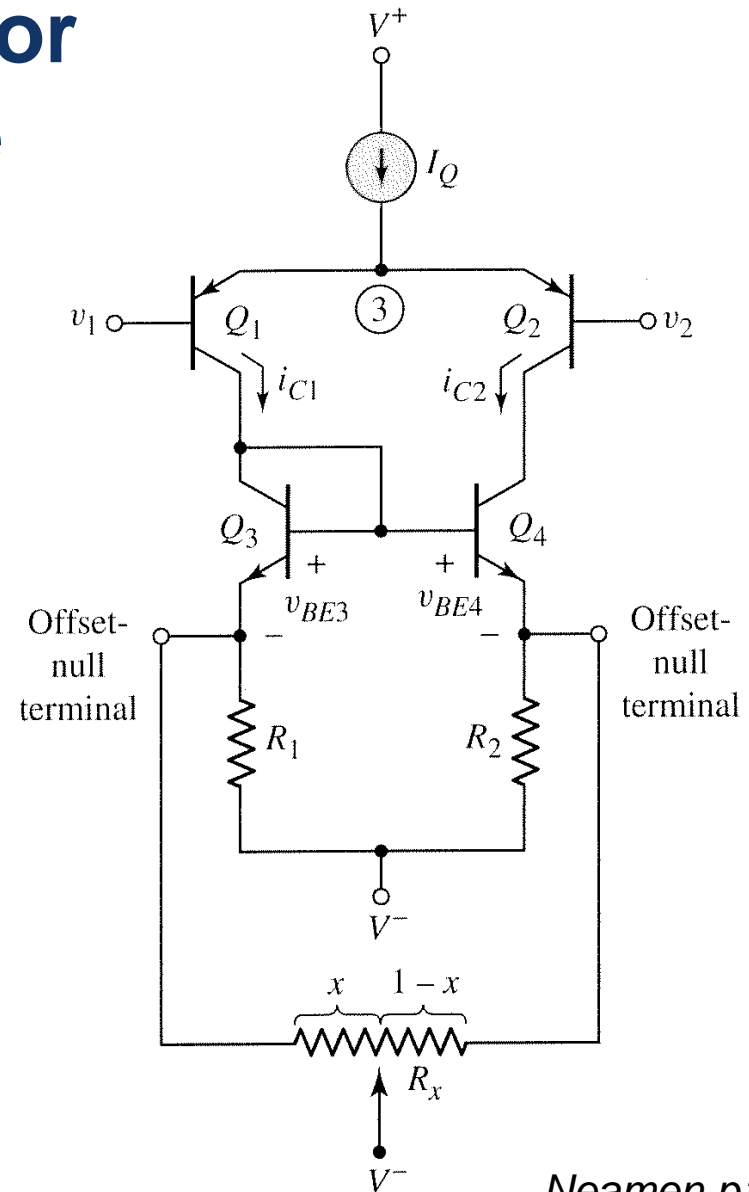
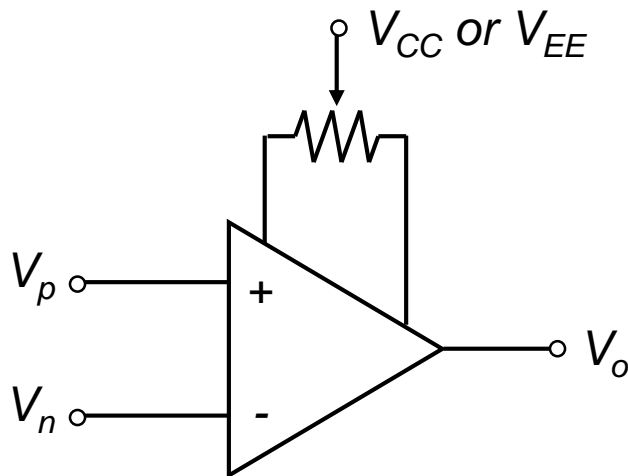
- Can adjust the output offset voltage to zero using a potentiometer:



- Set  $V_{in}$  to 0V and adjust the potentiometer until  $V_{O,Voff} = 0$  .

# Compensating for Offset Voltage

- Can also use the offset null terminals of the op amp:



# Compensating for Offset Voltage

- If the potentiometer is centred, then equal resistances are connected to each branch of the input diff-amp stage.
- If the potentiometer is off-centre, then unequal resistance is connected to each branch.
- This introduces an asymmetry in the circuit, and therefore an offset voltage. This offset voltage can be adjusted to compensate for the input offset voltage of the circuit.