

Electronic Circuits

# ELEC 301

Mini-Project 3

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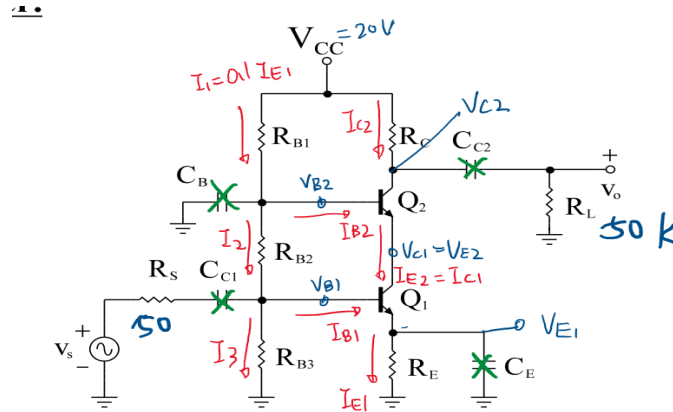
2020-11-20

## Part 1 The Cascode Amplifier

### A. DC Operating Points

According to the SPICE model of 2N3904 in *Circuitmaker*, the  $\beta$  of 2N3904 is **300**.

The required parameters of the cascode amplifier are marked below:



**Figure 1.** The Cascode Amplifier with the needed parameters.

To find  $R_{B1}$ ,  $R_{B2}$  and  $R_{B3}$ , the  $1/4^{\text{th}}$  rule is applied:

$$V_{B2} = (1/2) * V_{cc} + 0.7 = 0.50 * 20 + 0.7 = 10.7 \text{ V}$$

$$V_{B1} = (1/4) * V_{cc} + 0.7 = 0.25 * 20 + 0.7 = 5.7 \text{ V}$$

$$V_{C2} = (3/4) * V_{cc} = 0.75 * 20 = 15 \text{ V}$$

$$V_{C1} = V_{E2} = (1/2) * V_{cc} = 0.5 * 20 = 10 \text{ V}$$

$$V_{E1} = (1/4) * V_{cc} = 0.25 * 20 = 5 \text{ V}$$

For the circuit in **Figure 1**, the  $R_C$  is  $R_{\text{out}}$  which is  $2.5 \text{ k}\Omega \pm 250\Omega$ . To convert it to standard resistor value,  **$R_C = 2.4 \text{ k}\Omega$**  is used. The currents are calculated:

$$I_{C2} = (V_{cc} - V_{C2}) / R_C = (20 - 15) / 2.4\text{k} = 2.083 \text{ mA}$$

$$I_{B2} = I_{C2} / \beta = 2.083 / 300 = 6.944 \text{ }\mu\text{A}$$

$$I_{C1} = I_{E2} = I_{C2} + I_{B2} = 2.083 \text{ mA} + 6.944 \text{ }\mu\text{A} = 2.090 \text{ mA}$$

$$I_{B1} = I_{C1} / \beta = 2.090 / 300 = 6.966 \text{ }\mu\text{A}$$

$$I_{E1} = I_{C1} + I_{B1} = 2.090 \text{ mA} + 6.966 \text{ }\mu\text{A} = 2.097 \text{ mA}$$

$$I_1 = I_{E1} / \beta^{0.5} = 2.097 / 17.32 = 0.1211 \text{ mA}$$

$$I_2 = I_1 - I_{B2} = 0.1211 \text{ mA} - 6.944 \text{ }\mu\text{A} = 0.1141 \text{ mA}$$

$$I_3 = I_2 - I_{B1} = 0.1141 \text{ mA} - 6.966 \text{ }\mu\text{A} = 0.1072 \text{ mA}$$

The  $g_m$  can be obtained by divided  $I_C$  by  $V_T$ :  $g_{m1} = 0.0836 \text{ S}$ , and  $g_{m2} = 0.08332 \text{ S}$ . Then,  $r_{\pi}$  can be obtained by divided  $\beta$  by  $g_m$ :  $r_{\pi1} = 3.589 \text{ k}\Omega \rightarrow 3.6 \text{ k}\Omega$  (standard), and  $r_{\pi2} = 3.6 \text{ k}\Omega \rightarrow 3.6 \text{ k}\Omega$  (standard).

The values of the resistors are calculated based on these currents and converted to the standard values:

$$R_{B1} = (V_{cc} - V_{B2}) / I_1 = (20 - 10.7) / 0.1211 \text{ mA} = 76.815 \text{ k}\Omega \rightarrow \boxed{75 \text{ k}\Omega}$$

$$R_{B2} = (V_{B2} - V_{B1}) / I_2 = (10.7 - 5.7) / 0.1141 \text{ mA} = 43.811 \text{ k}\Omega \rightarrow \boxed{43 \text{ k}\Omega}$$

$$R_{B3} = V_{B1} / I_3 = 5.7 / 0.1072 \text{ mA} = 53.191 \text{ k}\Omega \rightarrow \boxed{51 \text{ k}\Omega}$$

$$R_C = (V_{cc} - V_{c2}) / I_{c2} = (20 - 15) / 2.083 \text{ mA} = 2.4 \text{ k}\Omega \rightarrow \boxed{2.4 \text{ k}\Omega}$$

$$R_E = V_{E1} / I_{E1} = 5 / 2.097 \text{ mA} = 2.384 \text{ k}\Omega \rightarrow \boxed{2.4 \text{ k}\Omega}$$

$C_B$  is a large capacitance so at low frequency it is shorted, and  $R_{BB} = R_{B2} // R_{B3}$ . According to the formulas in ELEC301 Cascode Note <sup>[1]</sup>, the low frequency poles are calculated:

$$\omega_{Lp}^{CC1} = [C_{C1} * (R_S + R_{B2} // R_{B3} // ((r_{\pi1} + (1 + \beta) * R_E)))]^{-1} = [C_{C1} * 22.653 \text{ k}\Omega]^{-1}$$

$$\omega_{Lp}^{CE} = [C_E * R_E // ((r_{\pi1} + R_{B2} // R_{B3} // R_S) / (1 + \beta))]^{-1} = [C_E * 12.065 \Omega]^{-1}$$

$$\omega_{Lp}^{CC2} = [C_{C2} * (R_L + R_C)]^{-1} = [C_{C2} * 52.4 \text{ k}\Omega]^{-1}$$

There is one zero that is not at 0.  $\omega_{Lz} = 1 / (R_E * C_E)$ . From above, the resistance seen by the  $C_E$  is the smallest so that the dominant low-frequency pole is located at  $[C_E * 12.065 \Omega]^{-1}$ . The resistance seen by  $C_{C1}$  and  $C_{C2}$  are enormous compared to the  $C_E$ , thus these poles are too far away from the dominant pole, so they are negligible to calculate the  $\omega_{L3dB}$  which is given:  $\omega_{L3dB} = 500 \text{ Hz} = 500 * 2\pi = 3141.59 \text{ rad/s}$ .

$$\omega_{L3dB} = 3141.59 \text{ rad/s} = \sqrt{[C_E * 12.065 \Omega]^{-2} - 2 * (2400 * C_E)^{-2}} \rightarrow \boxed{C_E = 26.382 \mu\text{F}}$$

Then coupling capacitors  $C_{C1}$  and  $C_{C2}$  are picked to be the same value with  $C_E$ . The designed circuit and the measured DC operating points are shown below:

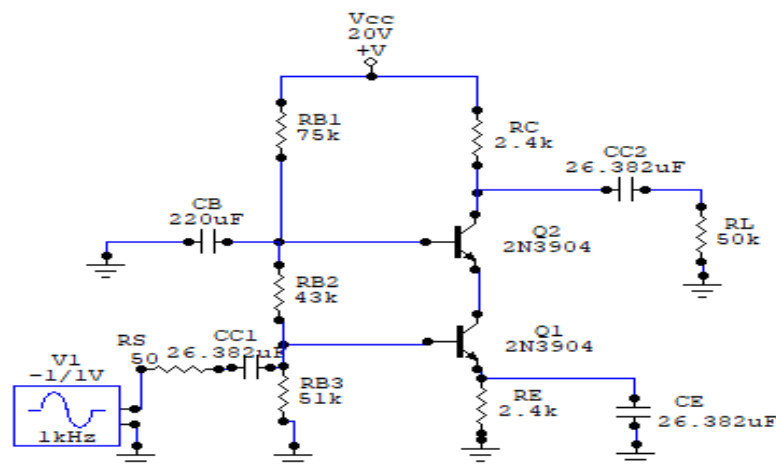


Figure 2. The Cascode Amplifier with the designed values.

**Table 1.** The measurements of DC operating points.

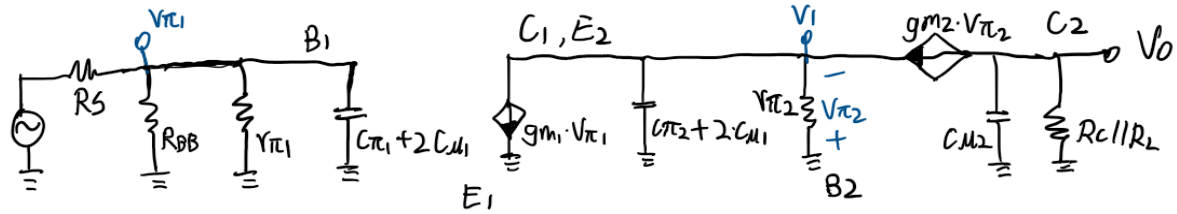
	$I_C$ (mA)	$I_B$ ( $\mu$ A)	$I_E$ (mA)	$V_C$ (V)	$V_B$ (V)	$V_E$ (V)
Q1	1.878	14.44	1.893	9.542	5.200	4.537
Q2	1.864	14.23	1.878	15.530	10.20	9.542

### B. The Locations of the $\omega_{L3dB}$ and $\omega_{H3dB}$

As shown in A, for the low-frequency capacitors,  $\omega_{Lp}^{CC1} = [C_{C1} * 22.653 \text{ k}\Omega]^{-1} = 1.673 \text{ rad/s}$  ;  $\omega_{Lp}^{CE} = [C_E * 12.065 \Omega]^{-1} = 3141.701 \text{ rad/s}$  ;  $\omega_{Lp}^{CC2} = [C_{C2} * 52.4 \text{ k}\Omega]^{-1} = 0.723 \text{ rad/s}$ . The low-frequency zero is  $\omega_{Lz} = 1/(2.4\text{k} * C_E) = 15.794 \text{ rad/s}$ . The  $\omega_{L3dB}$  is then obtained:

$$\omega_{L3dB} = \sqrt{\omega_{Lp1}^2 + \omega_{Lp2}^2 + \omega_{Lp3}^2 - 2 * \omega_{Lpz}^2} = 3.142 \text{ k rad/s} = \boxed{500.0048 \text{ Hz}}$$

To find the  $\omega_{H3dB}$ , the circuit is converted to the small-signal model, and the Miller Theorem is applied. The miller gain is found by  $V_1/V_{\pi 1} = -1$ . The small-signal  $C_{\pi}$  and  $C_{\mu}$  can be calculated using the formula from MP2 [2] and the SPICE model parameters.  $C_{\pi 1} = 42.44 \text{ pF}$ ,  $C_{\pi 2} = 42.33 \text{ pF}$ ;  $C_{\mu 1} = 1.86 \text{ pF}$ ,  $C_{\mu 2} = 1.75 \text{ pF}$ . The converted circuit is below ( $R_{BB} = R_{B2}/R_{B3}$ ):



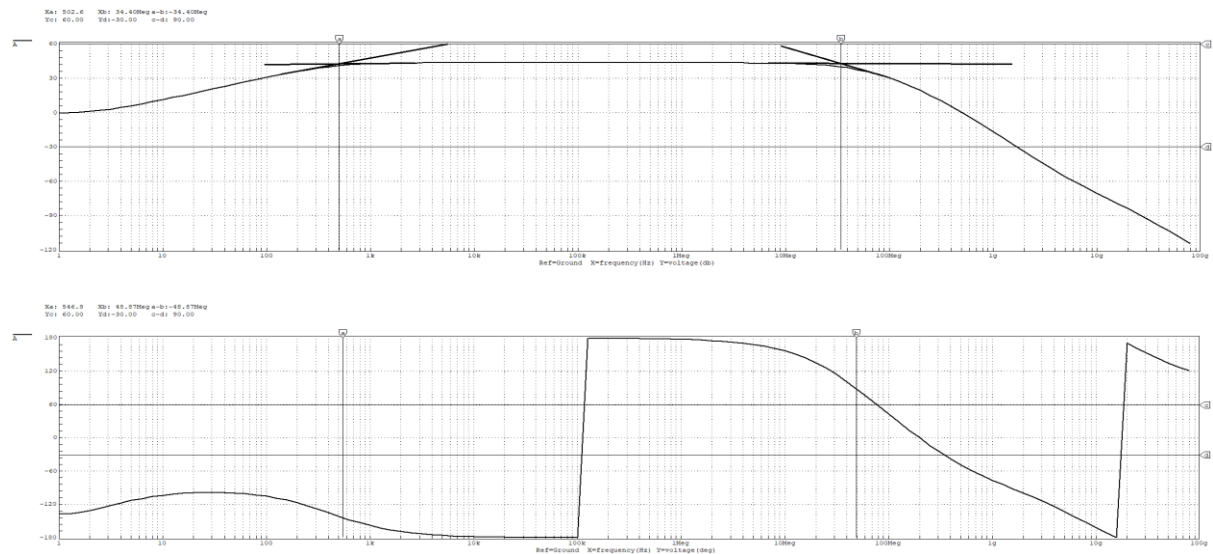
**Figure 3.** The small-signal model after the Miller Theorem is applied.

$$\tau_1 = (R_S || R_{BB} || r_{\pi 1}) * (C_{\pi 1} + 2C_{\mu 1}) = 2.271 \text{ ns}$$

$$\tau_2 = (r_{\pi 2} / 301) * (C_{\pi 2} + 2C_{\mu 1}) = 0.551 \text{ ns}$$

$$\tau_3 = (R_C || R_L) * C_{\mu 2} = 4.008 \text{ ns}$$

The  $\omega_{H3dB}$  can be calculated by  $(\tau_1^2 + \tau_2^2 + \tau_3^2)^{-1/2} = 215.554 \text{ Mrad/s} = \boxed{34.307 \text{ MHz}}$

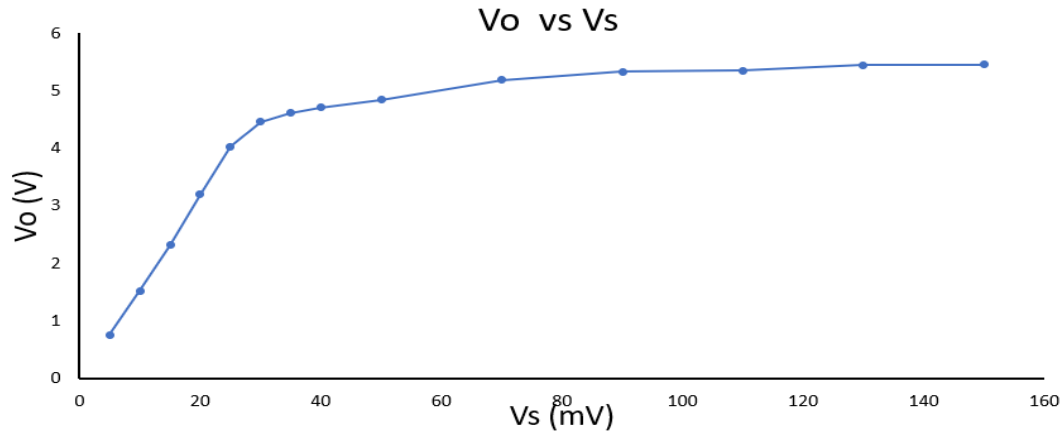


**Figure 4.** The Bode and Phasor plot of the circuit.

As shown in **Figure 4**, the measured  $\omega_{L3dB}$  is **510.7 Hz** and the  $\omega_{H3dB}$  is **38.88 MHz**. The deviation of  $\omega_{L3dB}$  is 1.96%, and the deviation of  $\omega_{H3dB}$  is 11.8%. The model can be described as acceptable since the errors are not significant.

### C. Various Amplitude of the Input Signal

From **Figure 4**, the mid-band bandwidth is from 510 Hz to 39 MHz. Therefore, **50 kHz** is chosen for the generator. The oscilloscope is used to measure the output signal. The diagram that represents the relationship between  $V_s$  and  $V_o$  is below:



**Figure 5.** The relationship between  $V_o$  and  $V_s$  under 50 kHz.

As shown in **Figure 5**, in the linear region (the amplitude of  $V_s = 5 \text{ mV} - 50 \text{ mV}$ ), the gain  $A_v = \mathbf{155.322}$ , which is greater than the requirement: minimum  $A_v = 50$ .

### D. The Input and Output Impedance

To measure the input impedance, the  $50 \Omega$  resistor is removed, and the probe of the Oscilloscope is located at the right node of  $C_{C1}$ . The frequency is set to be 10 kHz, and the amplitude of the voltage is 20 mV. To ensure the input impedance meets the requirement ( $Z_{in} > 5 \text{ k}\Omega$ ), a  **$30 \Omega$  resistor is connected to the emitter** of Q1. The peak to peak voltage and peak to peak current are measured respectively:  $V_{in} = 0.02 \text{ V}$  ;  $I_{in} = 3.834 \mu\text{A}$ . The measured input impedance is equal to  $Z_{in} = V_{in} / I_{in} = \mathbf{5217 \Omega}$ .

For the output impedance, the input generator is shorted, and the RL is removed. Another identical generator is connected to the load terminals with a small resistor ( $1 \mu\Omega$ ) in series to measure the current. The circuit is below:

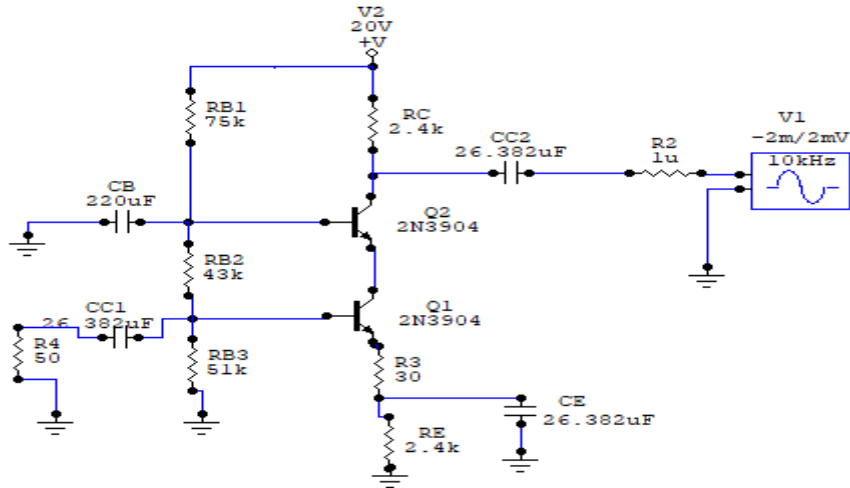


Figure 6. The circuit to calculate the output impedance.

The probe of the Oscilloscope is located at the right node of  $R_2$  with the same frequency and the amplitude of the voltage in **Figure 2**. The peak to peak voltage and peak to peak current are measured respectively:  $V_{out} = 0.04V$  ;  $I_{out} = 16.65 \mu A$ . The measured output impedance is equal to  $Z_{out} = V_{out} / I_{out} = \boxed{2.402 \text{ k}\Omega}$ , which is  $\pm 250\Omega$  around  $2.5 \text{ k}\Omega$ , so it is reasonable.

## Part 2 Cascaded Amplifiers – The CB followed by CC

### A. Design the Circuit

The common-base/common-collector repeater is converted to the small-signal model at mid-band frequency. All low-f capacitors are shorted, and all high-f capacitors are opened.

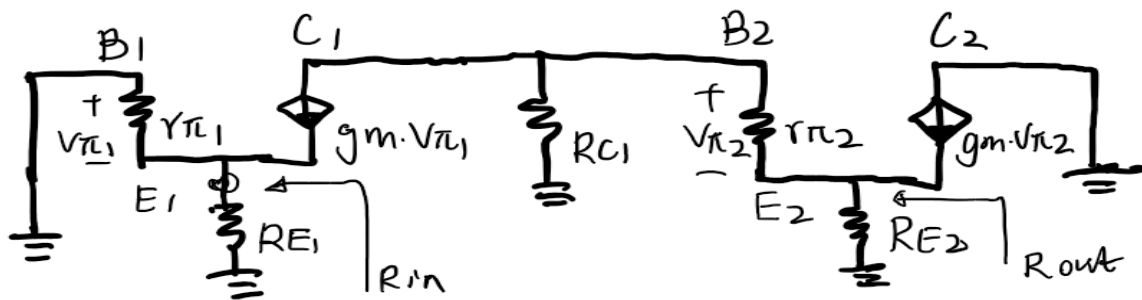


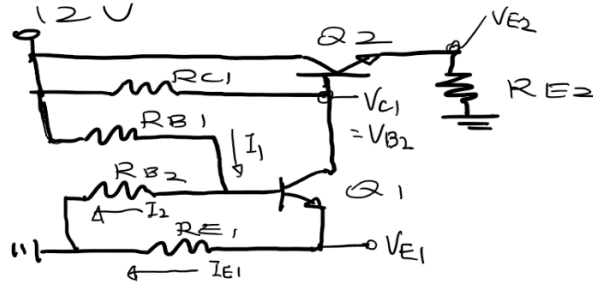
Figure 7. The small-signal model of the repeater at mid-band.

$$R_{in} = r_{\pi 1} / (1 + \beta) \parallel R_{E1} = \beta * V_T / [(1 + \beta) * I_{C1}] \parallel R_{E1} = \alpha * V_T / I_{C1} \parallel R_{E1} = V_T / I_{E1} \parallel V_{E1} / I_{E1}$$

$$R_{in} = (V_T * V_{E1} / I_{E1}^2) / ((V_T + V_{E1}) / I_{E1}), \text{ since } V_T \text{ is so small that } V_{E1} / (V_T + V_{E1}) \approx 1$$

$$R_{in} = 50 \Omega \approx V_T / I_{E1} = 25 \text{ mV} / I_{E1} \rightarrow I_{E1} = 0.5 \text{ mA}$$

To find the resistance of each resistor, the circuit is converted to DC circuit, and the 1/3<sup>rd</sup> rule is applied:



**Figure 8.** The DC circuit of the repeater.

According to the 1.3<sup>rd</sup> rule,  $V_{E1} = V_{cc}/3 = 4 \text{ V}$ ;  $V_{B1} = V_{E1} + 0.7 = 4.7 \text{ V}$ ;  $V_{B2} = V_{C1} = (2/3)*V_{cc} = 8 \text{ V}$ ;  $V_{E2} = V_{C1} - 0.7 \text{ V} = 7.3 \text{ V}$ ;  $I_1 = 0.1*I_{E1} = 0.05 \text{ mA}$ ;  $I_{B1} = I_{E1}/(1+\beta) = 1.66 \mu\text{A}$ ;  $I_2 = I_1 - I_{B1} = 0.05 \text{ mA} - 1.66 \mu\text{A} = 0.04834 \text{ mA}$ ;

The resistances can be calculated:

$$R_{B1} = (12 - 4.7) / 0.05 \text{ mA} = \boxed{146 \text{ k}\Omega}$$

$$R_{B2} = 4.7 / 0.04834 \text{ mA} = \boxed{97.228 \text{ k}\Omega}$$

$$R_{E1} = 4 / 0.5 \text{ mA} = \boxed{8 \text{ k}\Omega}$$

From **Figure 7**,  $R_{out} = [(R_{C1} + r_{\pi 2})/(1+\beta)] \parallel R_{E2} = 50\Omega$ . The  $R_{E2}$ ,  $I_{E2}$  and  $R_{C1}$  are obtained (Process is in **Appendix**).

$$\boxed{R_{E2} = 7.0 \text{ k}\Omega}$$

$$I_{E2} = 1.074 \text{ mA}$$

$$\boxed{R_{C1} = 8.00 \text{ k}\Omega}$$

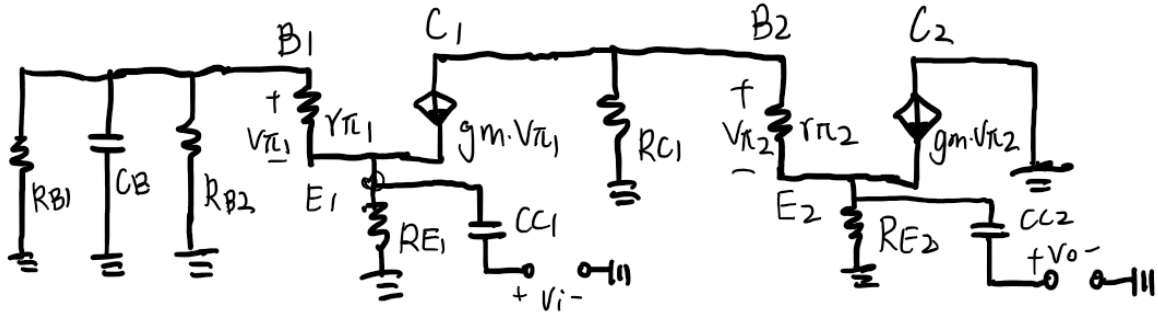
$$r_{\pi 1} = 15.05 \text{ k}\Omega$$

$$r_{\pi 2} = 7.1 \text{ k}\Omega$$

$$g_{m1} = 0.02$$

$$g_{m2} = 0.042$$

In order to find the capacitance, the circuit under the low frequency is below:



**Figure 9.** The repeater circuit under the low frequency.

Since all the three capacitors are low-frequency capacitors, the short-circuit test is applied (See process in **Appendix**). The resistance seen by  $C_{C1}$  and  $C_{C2}$  are  $48.69 \Omega$  and  $49.80 \Omega$  respectively (approximated to  $38.4 \Omega$ ), and  $11964.64 \Omega$  for  $C_B$ . Therefore,  $C_{C1}$  and  $C_{C2}$  contributes the dominant pole. Assume  $C_{C1}$  and  $C_{C2}$  have the same capacitance, the value is calculated:

$$(1000\text{Hz} * 2\pi)^2 = (1/C_{C1} * 48.69)^2 + (1/C_{C1} * 49.80)^2 \rightarrow \boxed{C_{C1} = C_{C2} = 4.59 \mu\text{F}}$$

The location of the low-frequency pole can be calculated:

$$\omega = 1/(49.1 * 4.59\mu\text{F}) = 4442.88 \text{ rad/s}$$

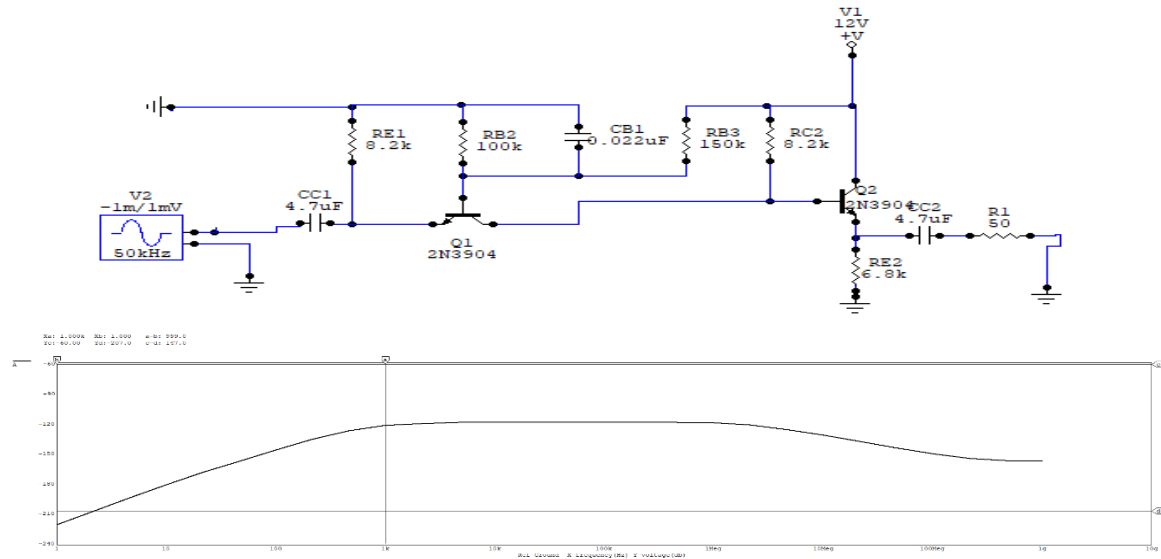
Since the pole of  $C_B$  dose not contribute to the dominant pole, the location is at least one decade below the dominant pole. To make  $C_B$  is as small as possible, set  $\omega_{CB}$  is one decade below the dominant. Thus,  $\omega_{CB} = 444.288 \text{ rad/s} = (11964.64\Omega * C_B)^{-1} \rightarrow \boxed{C_B = 0.19 \mu\text{F}}$ .

## B. Wire up the Circuit and Measure the min band voltage gain

The calculated values of the resistors and the capacitors are replaced by the standard resistor and capacitor values.

**Table 2.** The calculated and standard values of the resistors and the capacitors

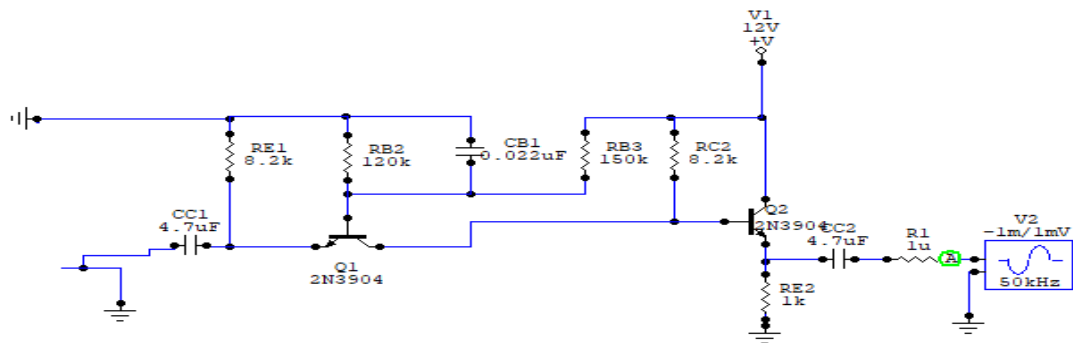
	$R_{B1}$ , k $\Omega$	$R_{B2}$ , k $\Omega$	$R_{E1}$ , k $\Omega$	$R_{E2}$ , k $\Omega$	$R_{C1}$ , k $\Omega$	$C_{C1}$ , $\mu$ F	$C_{C2}$ , $\mu$ F	$C_B$ , $\mu$ F
Calculated	146	97.228	8.0	7.0	8.00	4.59	4.59	0.19
Standard	150	100	8.2	6.8	8.2	4.7	4.7	0.18



**Figure 10.** The designed circuit and the Bode plot.

To make sure the  $\omega_{L3dB}$  is around 1000 Hz, the original  $C_B$  is replaced by **0.022  $\mu$ F**.

The same method in **Part I.D** is used to measure the input and out impedance. To make both input and output impedance is  $50 \pm 5\Omega$ , the  $R_{B2}$  is replace by **120 k $\Omega$** , and the  $R_{E2}$  is replaced by **1.0 k $\Omega$** .



**Figure 11.** The adjusted designed circuit.

The amplitude of voltage is 1mV. The  $Z_{in}$  and  $Z_{out}$  are calculated by divided the voltage by current,  **$Z_{in} = 50.57 \Omega$** , and  **$Z_{out} = 54.66 \Omega$** . Both are in  $50 \pm 5\Omega$ .

To measure the mid band voltage gain, the probe of the oscilloscope is used to apply the transient analysis. The ou which is 144.5 mV. The input terminal is connected to a -1mV/+1mV generator. Therefore,  $A_M$  is calculated:

$$A_M = V_o / V_s = 148 \text{ mV} / 1 \text{ mV} = \mathbf{144.5}$$



### C. Adjust the low frequency capacitors

After two impedances of  $50\ \Omega$  are connected to the input and the output respectively, the Bode and Phasor plots are obtained:

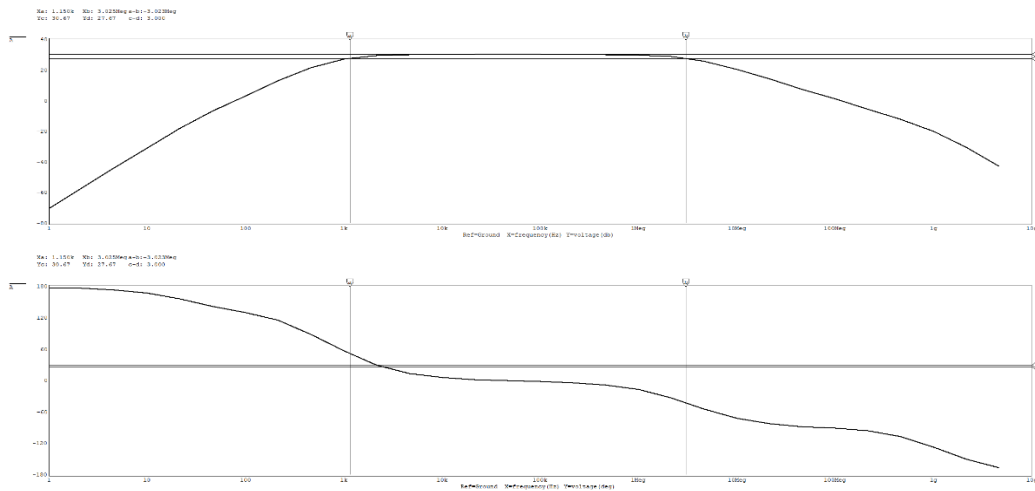


Figure 12. The Bode and Phasor plots of the circuit.

As shown in **Figure 12**, the low-frequency cut-in point is 1.015 kHz, and the high-frequency cut-off point is 3.025 MHz. To meet the specification (low-frequency cut-in  $< 1000$  Hz), the capacitor  $C_B$  is adjusted to  **$0.033\ \mu\text{F}$** . The new low-frequency cut-in point is about  **$936.5\ \text{Hz}$** , which meets the requirement.

## Part 3 The Differential Amplifier

### A. Wire up the Circuit

The differential amplifier includes a current mirror, a  $\pm 15\text{V}$  power supply, 2N3904 transistors and  $10\ \text{k}\Omega$  collector resistor to make the  $I_{E1} = I_{E2} \approx 1\ \text{mA}$ . The wired-up circuit is below:

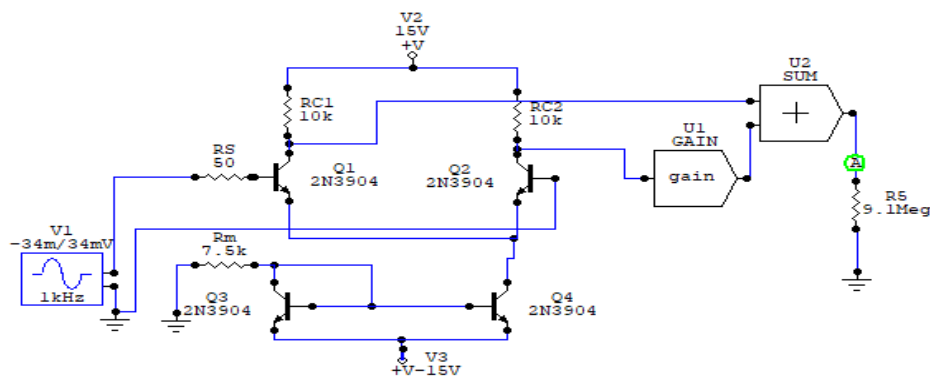
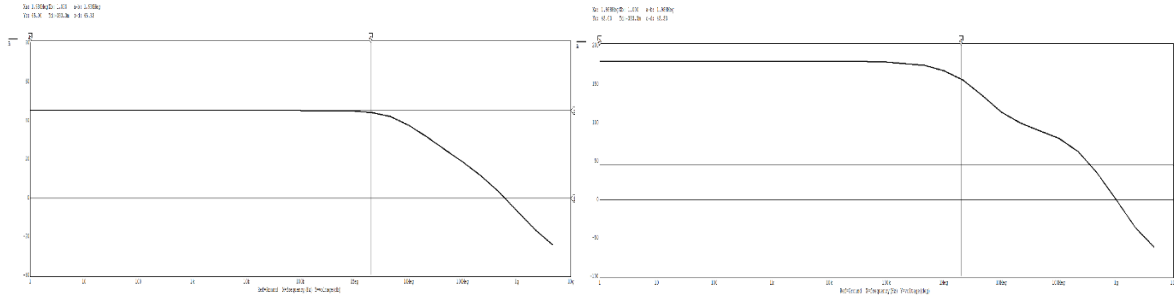


Figure 13. The circuit of the differential amplifier.

Since both  $I_{E1}$  and  $I_{E2}$  are 1 mA, the  $I_O$  is 2mA, and the  $I_{REF}$  is 2 mA. Therefore, a  $7.5\ \text{k}\Omega$  resistor  $R_m$  is connected in the mirror. To simplify the calculation, the load is chosen very big ( $9.1\ \text{M}\Omega$ ) compare to other resistors. Therefore,  $R_L$  can be treat as open in the following calculation.

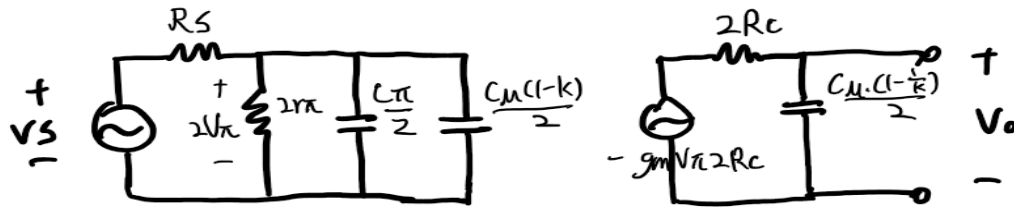


**Figure 14.** The Bode (left) and the Phasor (right) plots of the differential amplifier.

As shown in **Figure 14**, the  $\omega_{H3dB} = \boxed{4.430 \text{ MHz}}$ . To get the differential gain, the one of the mid-band frequencies, 1 kHz is chosen. The amplitude of the input voltage is set to 10 mV. The oscilloscope is used to measure the output voltage (the amplitude is 3.534 V). The gain  $|A_M| = V_o / V_s = 3.534 \text{ V} / 0.01 \text{ V} = \boxed{353.4}$ .

### B. Calculate the differential gain and $f_{H3dB}$

The  $g_m$  and the miller gain are calculated from the small-signal model (see **Appendix**),  $g_m = 0.0399 \text{ S}$ , and  $k = -398.671$ . The  $C_\pi$  and  $C_\mu$  are calculated by the formula in MP2 [2],  $C_\pi = 24.96 \text{ pF}$ , and  $C_\mu = 1.85 \text{ pF}$ . After the Miller theorem is applied, the circuit is below:



**Figure 15.** The circuit after applying the Miller theorem

The method in ELEC301 ch14 note [3] is used to calculate the  $\omega_{HP}$ . (See **Appendix** for the process)

$$\tau_{HP1} = 1.905 \cdot 10^{-8} \text{ s}$$

$$\tau_{HP2} = 1.855 \cdot 10^{-8} \text{ s}$$

$$\omega_{H3dB} = 37616890.7519 \text{ rad/s} = \boxed{5.987 \text{ MHz}}$$

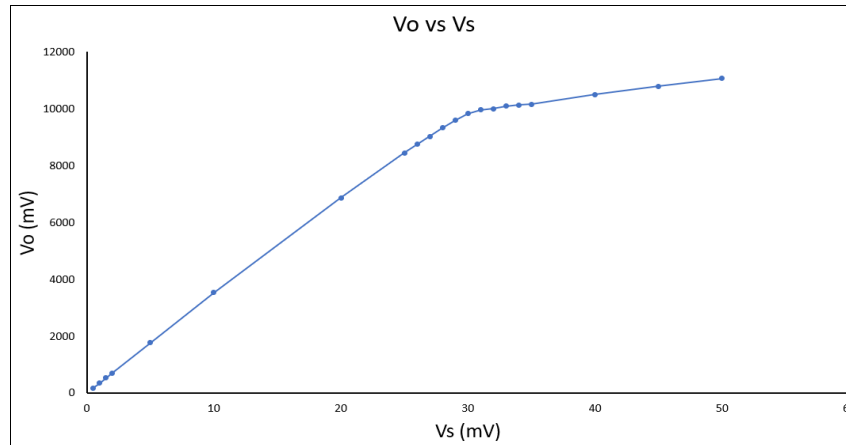
To get the  $|A_M|$ ,  $V_o = -g_m \cdot V_\pi \cdot 2 \cdot R_C$  and  $V_\pi = 0.5 \cdot 2 \cdot r_\pi \cdot V_s / (R_S + 2 \cdot r_\pi)$ . Putting  $V_\pi$  into  $V_o$ , the  $|A_M|$  is obtained (see **Appendix** for process):

$$\boxed{|A_M| = 397.677}$$

The measured and calculated  $\omega_{H3dB}$  are 4.430 MHz and 5.986 MHz respectively. The estimation is not very accurate. The deviation may be caused by the Miller transformation. On the other hand, the measured gain is 353.4 which is comparable to the calculated gain (397.677). Therefore, the estimation of the mid-band gain can be described as accurate.

### C. Various the Input Signal

From **Figure 14**, the mid-band bandwidth is from 1 Hz to 4.487 MHz. Therefore, **1 kHz** is chosen for the generator. The oscilloscope is used to measure the output signal. The diagram that represents the relationship between  $V_s$  and  $V_o$  is below:



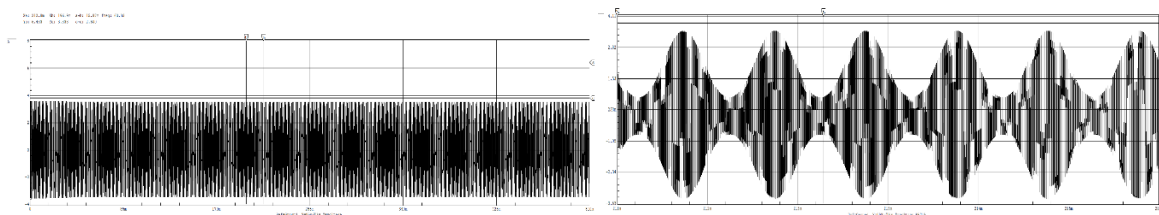
**Figure 16.** The relationship between  $V_s$  and  $V_o$

As shown in **Figure 16**, the  $V_o(V_s)$  is linear until the  $V_s$  is 30 mV. Therefore, the maximum input signal for which the output is linear is  **$V_s = 30$  mV**.

## Part 4 The AM Modulator

### A. The Differential Output

The circuit is wired up as required with a 50mVp, 1kHz generator and a 9.1 M $\Omega$  load. The output signal is measured using the oscilloscope.



**Figure 17.** The plot of  $V_o$  vs  $V_s$

The left plot is the output signal from 0s to 0.5s. Then right graph is the zoomed in plot to show the pattern clearer. As shown in the figure, the output signal is sinusoid.

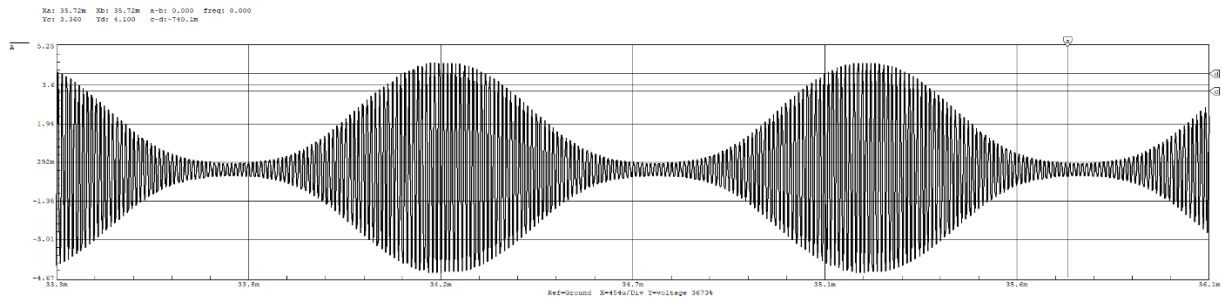
### B. Various the Input Signal

When the amplitude of the input signal is 10 mV, the peak of the output signal is 2.415 V. When the peak of the input signal is 100 mV, the peak of the output signal is 4.561 V. The input signal then is varied between 10 mV and 100 mV. The amplitude of the output signal rises with the increase of the amplitude of the input signal. The data of different input and output signals are recorded.

**Table 3.** The amplitude of the input and out signal

In (mV)	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
Out (V)	2.415	2.683	3.033	3.300	3.567	3.933	4.167	4.502	4.489	4.488

When measuring these points, the first distorted output signal appears at  $V_{in} = 90$  mV. Thus, the maximum undistorted input signal is between 80 mV and 90 mV. After measuring the input signal from 80 mV to 90 mV, it is observed that **84 mV** is largest input signal that results in an undistorted output signal.

**Figure 17.** The zoomed plot of  $V_o$  vs  $V_s$  at  $V_i = 84$  mV, 1kHz

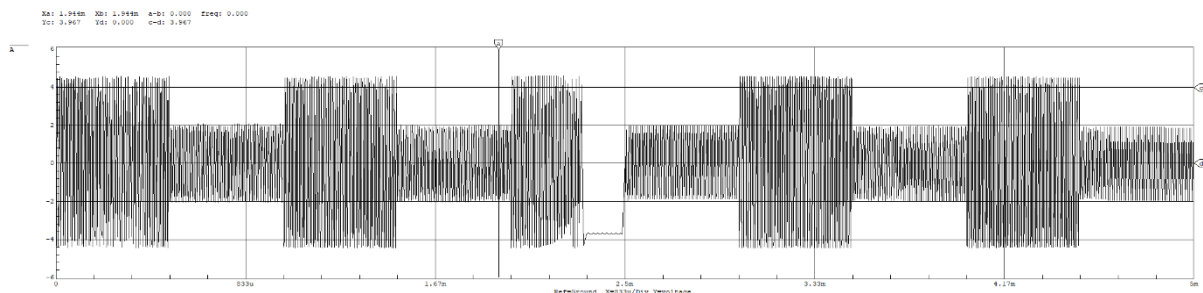
### C. Square-Wave Input Signal

The generator is set to be square-wave input with the amplitude of  $V_i = 50$  mV and 1 kHz. The amplitude of output signal is 3.335 V. The input signal then is varied between 10 mV and 100 mV. It is observed that as the amplitude of the input signal increases, the amplitude of the output sign rises. The corresponding amplitudes of the output signals are recorded.

**Table 4.** The amplitude of the input and out signal

In (mV)	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
Out (V)	2.19	2.575	2.866	3.05	3.335	3.9	4.167	4.17	4.17	3.967

After measuring multiple times, it is found that when the amplitude of the input signal is 80 mV, the output signal starts to distort. Therefore, the maximum input signal that results in an undistorted output signal is around **78 mV**.

**Figure 18.** The distorted output signal when input = 80 mV.

### **How the AM Modulator works**

In the small-signal model, the collector of a BJT is connected to a voltage-controlled-current source. The input voltage plays a significant role in this system. When the input voltage is sinusoid, the current is also sinusoid. There are two generators in the circuit. The high-frequency one is called carrier <sup>[4]</sup>, and the low-frequency one is called input. The current goes through the load depends on both generators. Therefore, when the two different input voltage are multiplied (convolution) by each other, the amplitude of the output signal is modulated.

### **Conclusion**

In Mini-Project 3, the fundamental knowledge of Amplifier is used to design a cascode amplifier and a cascaded amplifier (the common-base followed by the common-collector) that meet the given specification. The  $1/4^{\text{th}}$  rule,  $1/3^{\text{rd}}$  rule and the small-signal model are used to determine the resistors and the capacitors. The cut-in and cut-off frequencies of the cascode amplifier are found using transient analyses, and the input and output impedances are measured using the oscilloscope. In addition, a differential amplifier is designed using 2N3904 transistor and a current mirror. The mid-band gain and the high cut-off frequency are calculated and measured. The relationship between the  $V_o$  and  $V_s$  is investigated. It is found that the output is linear before the saturation point. Finally, the AM modulator is studied. The relationship between the amplitude of the output signal and the input signal is observed under the sinusoid input signal and square-wave input signal respectively. It is found that the output signal has a positive relation with the input signal. Moreover, when the input voltage exceeds the saturation point, the output signal will be distorted. The basic principle of the AM modulator is investigated and explained. In summary, this mini project provides the advanced knowledge of amplifiers, and visualizes the basic principle of AM modulator. This knowledge will be useful in the future career.

## Reference

- [1] ELEC 301 Cascode Amplifier Notes
- [2] The Mini-Project 2. Author: Ruyi Zhou (myself)
- [3] ELEC 301 Chapter 14 Notes
- [4] Wikipedia: AM Modulation: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amplitude\\_modulation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amplitude_modulation)

## Appendix

Part II :

$$R_{C1} = \frac{V_{CC} - V_{C1}}{I_{C1} + I_{B2}} = \frac{12 - 8}{\frac{0.5 \text{mA} \cdot 300}{301} + I_{B2}}$$

$$I_{B2} = I_{E2} \cdot \frac{1}{(\beta + 1)} = \frac{7.3}{301 \cdot R_{E2}}$$

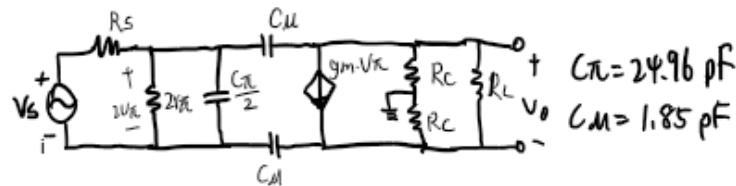
$$r_{\pi 2} = \frac{300 \cdot V_T}{I_{C2}} \quad r_{\pi 1} = \frac{300 \cdot V_T}{I_{C1}} = 15 \text{ k}\Omega$$

$$R_{out} = 50 = \frac{r_{\pi 2} + R_{C1}}{1 + \beta} \parallel R_{E2}$$

By HP-Prime :  $R_{E2} = 7 \text{ k}\Omega$ ,  $R_{C1} = 8 \text{ k}\Omega$ ,  $r_{\pi 2} = 7.1 \text{ k}\Omega$   
 $g_{m1} = \beta / r_{\pi 1} = 0.02$ ,  $g_{m2} = \beta / r_{\pi 2} = 0.042$

Time constant :  $\tau_{c_{CB}}^{sc} = C_B \times [R_{B1} \parallel R_{B2} \parallel r_{\pi 1}] = C_B \times 11964.64 \mu\text{s}$   
 $\tau_{c_{C1}}^{sc} = C_{C1} \times \left[ \frac{r_{\pi 1}}{(1 + \beta)} \parallel R_{E1} \right] = C_{C1} \times 48.69 \mu\text{s}$   
 $\tau_{c_{C2}}^{sc} = C_{C2} \times \left[ \frac{R_{C1} + r_{\pi 2}}{(1 + \beta)} \parallel R_{E2} \right] = C_{C2} \times 49.80 \mu\text{s}$

Part III. b :



$$g_m = \frac{I_C}{V_T} = \frac{2 \cdot I_B}{V_T} = \frac{(300/301) \cdot 1 \text{mA}}{25 \text{mA}} = 0.03995$$

$$\text{miller gain } k = \frac{V_O}{2V_{\pi}} = \frac{1}{2r_{\pi}} \cdot -g_m \cdot V_{\pi} \cdot 2R_C = -399$$

$$r_{\pi} = \beta / g_m = 7.518 \text{ k}\Omega$$

$$\tau_{HP1} = \left( \frac{C_{\pi}}{2} + \frac{C_M}{2} (1 - k) \right) (2r_{\pi} \parallel R_S) = 1.905 \times 10^{-8} \text{ s}$$

$$\tau_{HP2} = \frac{C_M}{2} \cdot (1 - k) \cdot 2R_C = 1.855 \times 10^{-8} \text{ s}$$

$$\omega_{H3dB} = \left( \tau_{HP1}^2 + \tau_{HP2}^2 \right)^{-1/2} = 37616890.7519 \text{ rad/s}$$

$$= \boxed{5.987 \text{ MHz}}$$

$$A_m = \frac{V_O}{V_S} = \frac{1}{V_S} \cdot -g_m V_{\pi} \cdot 2R_C \quad \& \quad V_{\pi} = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{2r_{\pi}}{R_S + 2r_{\pi}} \cdot V_S$$

$$\therefore |A_m| = \left| \frac{-g_m \cdot r_{\pi} \cdot V_S \cdot 2R_C}{V_S \cdot (R_S + 2r_{\pi})} \right| = 397.677$$