

Analog IC Design

Lecture 11 Differential Amplifier

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Outline

- ☐ Recapping previous key results
- Single-ended (SE) vs differential operation
- Pseudo differential amplifier
 - Common-mode (CM) and differential analysis
- Differential amplifier (differential pair)
 - Common-mode (CM) and differential analysis
- Effect of mismatch in load and input pair
 - Common-mode rejection ratio (CMRR)
- Frequency response of differential amplifier
- Common-mode (CM) and differential analysis

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MOSFET in Saturation

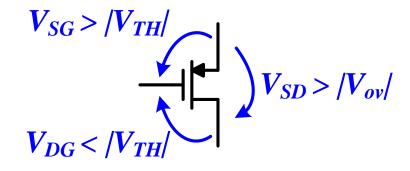
☐ The channel is pinched off if the difference between the gate and drain voltages is not sufficient to create an inversion layer

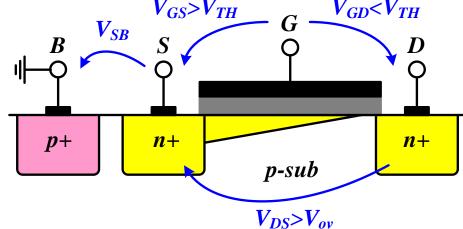
$$V_{GD} \leq V_{TH}$$
 or $V_{DS} \geq V_{ov}$

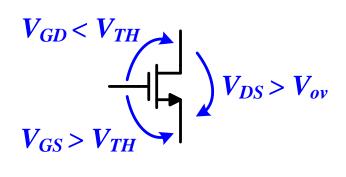
Square-law (long channel MOS)

$$I_D = \frac{\mu_n C_{ox}}{2} \frac{W}{L} \cdot V_{ov}^2 (1 + \lambda V_{DS})$$

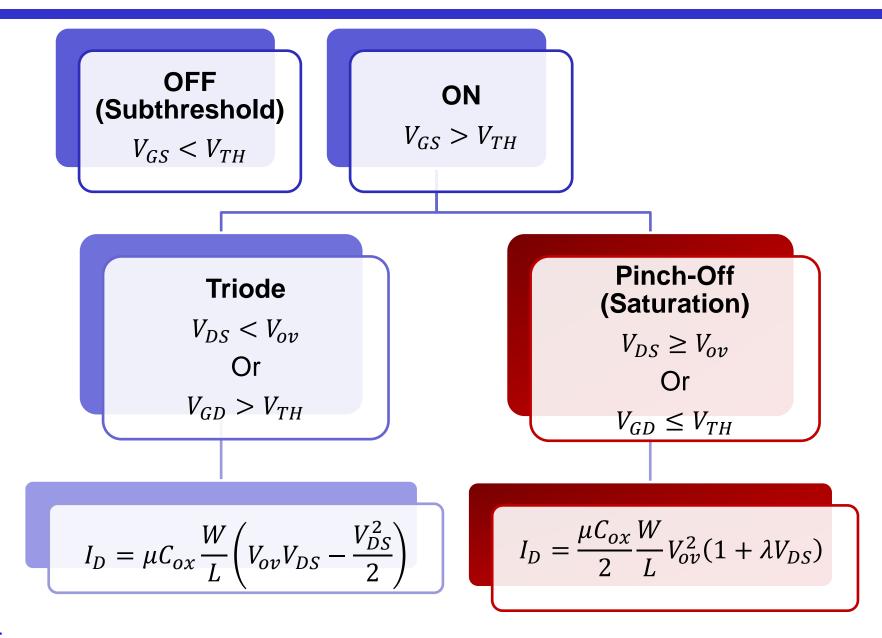
$$V_{SB} \uparrow \Rightarrow V_{TH} \uparrow$$







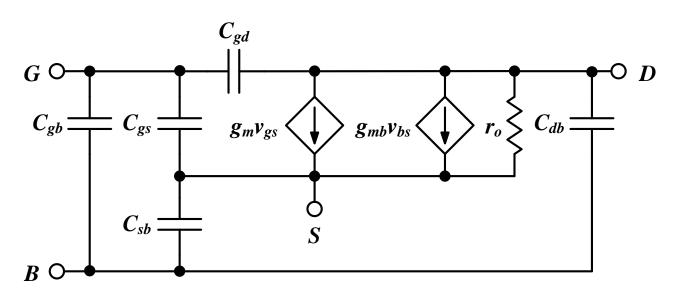
Regions of Operation Summary



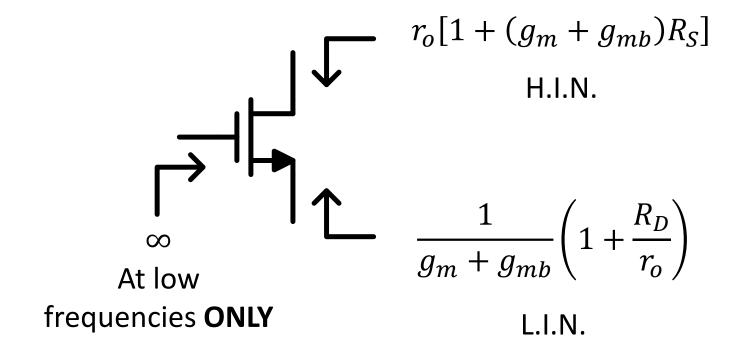
High Frequency Small Signal Model

$$g_m = \frac{\partial I_D}{\partial V_{GS}} = \mu C_{ox} \frac{W}{L} V_{ov} = \sqrt{\mu C_{ox} \frac{W}{L} \cdot 2I_D} = \frac{2I_D}{V_{ov}}$$
$$g_{mb} = \eta g_m \qquad \qquad \eta \approx 0.1 - 0.25$$

$$r_{o} = \frac{1}{\partial I_{D}/\partial V_{DS}} = \frac{V_{A}}{I_{D}} = \frac{1}{\lambda I_{D}}$$
 $V_{A} \propto L \leftrightarrow \lambda \propto \frac{1}{L}$ $V_{DS} \uparrow V_{A} \uparrow$ $C_{gb} \approx 0$ $C_{gs} \gg C_{gd}$ $C_{sb} > C_{db}$



Rin/out Shortcuts Summary



Summary of Basic Topologies

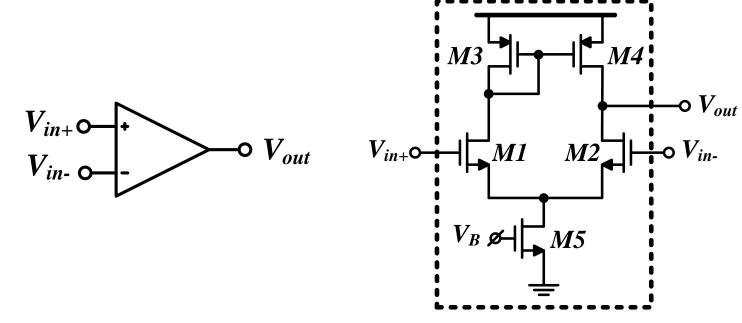
	CS	CG	CD (SF)
	R_D $v_{in} \circ V_{out}$ R_S	R_D v_{out} R_S	R_D $v_{in} \circ V_{out}$ R_S
	Voltage & current amplifier	Voltage amplifier Current buffer	Voltage buffer Current amplifier
Rin	∞	$R_S \frac{1}{g_m + g_{mb}} \left(1 + \frac{R_D}{r_o}\right)$	∞
Rout	$R_D r_o [1 + (g_m + g_{mb}) R_S]$	$R_D r_o$	$R_S \frac{1}{g_m + g_{mb}} \left(1 + \frac{R_D}{r_o}\right)$
Gm	$\frac{-g_m}{1+(g_m+g_{mb})R_S}$	$g_m + g_{mb}$	$\frac{g_m}{1+R_D/r_o}$

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- ☐ Frequency response of differential amplifier
 - Common-mode (CM) and differential analysis

Have You Seen a Diff Amp Before?

- ☐ An op-amp is simply a high gain differential amplifier
 - The gain can be increased by using cascodes and multi-stage amplification
- The diff amp is a key block in many analog and RF circuits
 - DEEP understanding of diff amp is ESSENTIAL



Single-Ended (SE) vs Differential

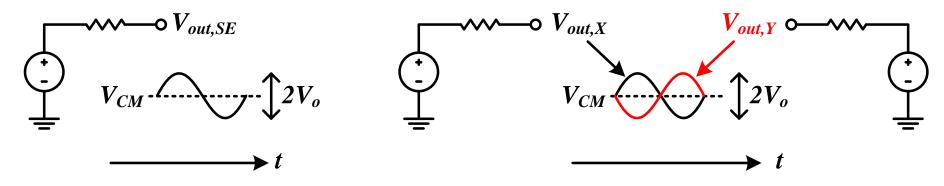
☐ SE: measured with respect to a fixed potential (usually the ground)

$$V_{out,SE} = V_o \sin \omega t + V_{CM}$$

- Single-ended peak-to-peak swing is $2V_o$
- □ Diff: measured between two nodes that have <u>equal and opposite</u> signals around a common-mode (CM) level

$$\begin{aligned} V_{out,diff} &= V_X - V_Y \\ &= (V_o \sin \omega t + V_{CM}) - (-V_o \sin \omega t + V_{CM}) \\ &= 2V_o \sin \omega t \end{aligned}$$

• Differential peak-to-peak swing is $4V_o$



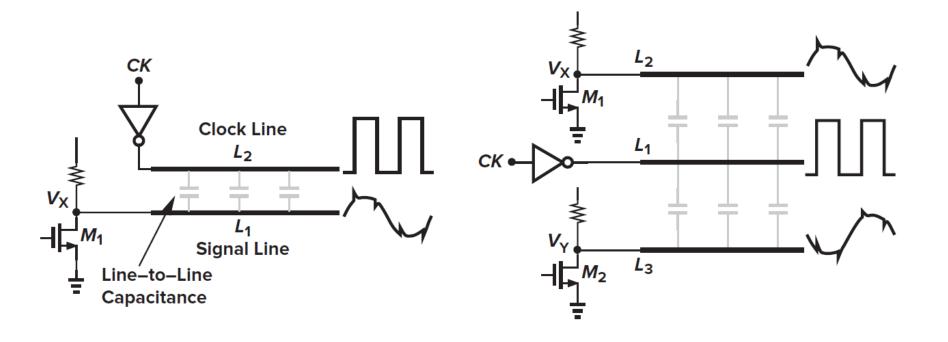
Why Differential?

$$V_{out,SE} = V_o \sin \omega t + V_{CM} + V_{CMnoise}$$

$$V_{out,diff} = V_X - V_Y$$

$$= (V_o \sin \omega t + V_{CM} + V_{CMnoise}) - (-V_o \sin \omega t + V_{CM} + V_{CMnoise})$$

$$= 2V_o \sin \omega t$$



11: Differential Amplifier [Razavi, 2017] 12

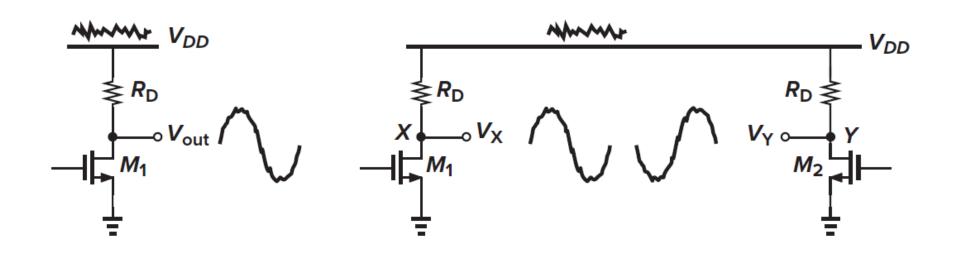
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$$= 2V_o \sin \omega t$$



11: Differential Amplifier [Razavi, 2017] 13

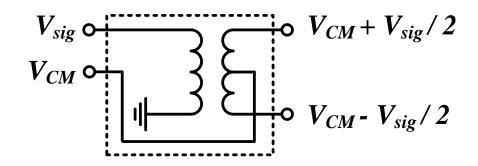
Why Differential?

- Pros
 - Common-mode (CM) noise rejection
 - Simpler biasing (no need for bypass or coupling capacitors)
 - Larger maximum signal swing
 - Higher linearity
- Cons
 - Doubling the area
 - Doubling the power consumption
- The advantages of differential operation by far outweigh the disadvantages
- Differential operation has become the de facto choice in today's high-performance analog and mixed-signal circuits

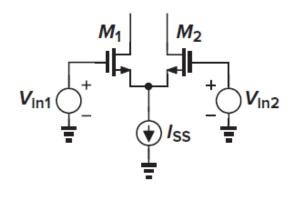
SE ↔ Differential

- ☐ A center-tapped transformer can be used for SE to differential conversion and vice versa.
 - Used frequently in simulation testbenches.
 - Also known as balanced-to-unbalanced conversion (balun).
 - Differential → balanced
 - Single-ended → unbalanced
- There are other circuits that can be used to achieve this goal.

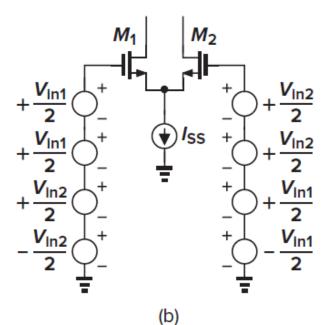
$$V_{sig} \circ +V_{sig}/2$$



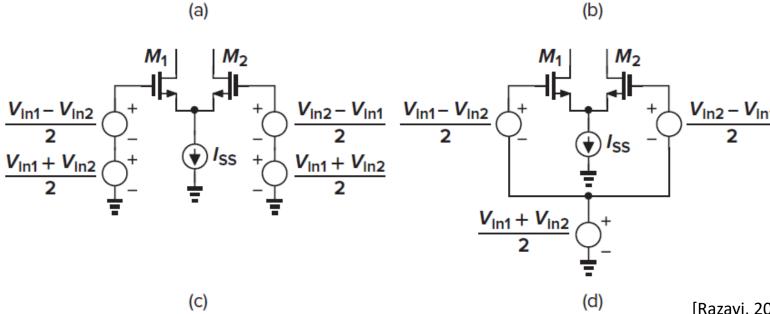
Diff Amp with Arbitrary Inputs



11: Differential Amplifier



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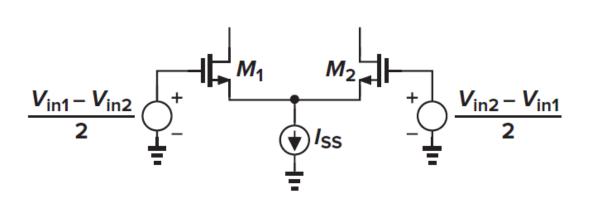
[Razavi, 2017]

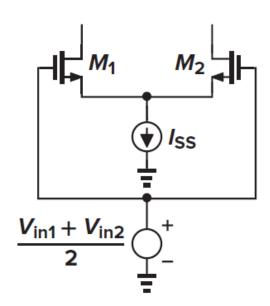
Separate CM and Diff by Superposition

$$v_{id} = v_{in1} - v_{in2}$$

$$v_{id1} = \frac{v_{id}}{2}$$
 and $v_{id2} = -\frac{v_{id}}{2}$

$$v_{iCM} = \frac{v_{in1} + v_{in2}}{2}$$





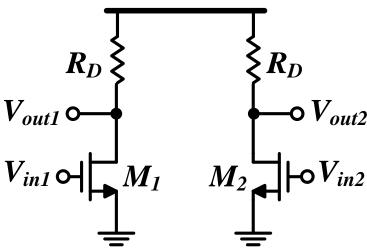
11: Differential Amplifier [Razavi, 2017]

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"Pseudo" Diff Amp

- A. Small signal analysis
 - 1. Diff small signal analysis
 - 2. CM small signal analysis
- B. Large signal analysis
 - 1. Diff large signal analysis
 - 2. CM large signal analysis

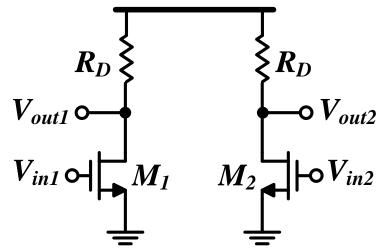


$$\square v_{in1} = \frac{v_{id}}{2}$$

and
$$v_{in2} = -rac{v_{id}}{2}$$

$$v_{out2} = -g_m R_D \left(-\frac{v_{id}}{2} \right)$$

$$\Box A_{vd} = \frac{v_{od}}{v_{id}} = -g_m R_D = \frac{v_{out1}}{v_{in1}} = \frac{v_{out2}}{v_{in2}} = A_{v,SE}$$

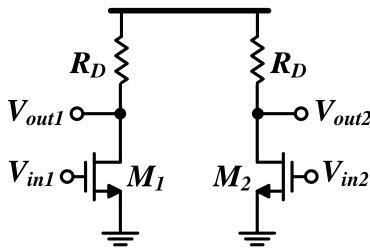


A2. CM Small Signal Analysis

$$\square v_{oCM} = \frac{v_{out1} + v_{out2}}{2} = -g_m R_D(v_{iCM})$$

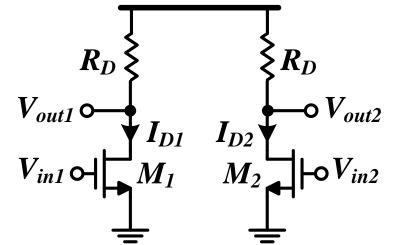
$$\Box A_{vCM} = \frac{v_{oCM}}{v_{iCM}} = -g_m R_D = A_{vd} \rightarrow A_{vd} / A_{vCM} = 1$$

- ☐ The output CM level is sensitive to the input CM level
- ☐ CM input is not "completely" rejected



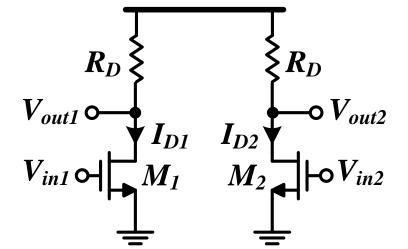
B1. Diff Large Signal Analysis

- ☐ Assume large differential signal is applied
- ☐ The two sides act as two independent CS amplifiers
- \square Ex: $V_{in1} \uparrow and V_{in2} \downarrow$
 - M2 will turn OFF: $I_{D2} = 0$
 - I_{D1} will increase following square law (expansive characteristics)
 - Eventually M1 goes out of saturation and I_{D1} saturates at $\frac{V_{DD}}{R_D}$



B2. CM Large Signal Analysis

- ☐ The two sides act as two independent CS amplifiers
- The transistors are biased by the input CM level
- ☐ The OP point is sensitive to the input CM level
- \square Ex: $V_{iCM} \uparrow = V_{in1} \uparrow = V_{in2} \uparrow$
 - I_{D1} and I_{D2} will increase following square law
 - Eventually M1 and M2 go out of saturation and $I_{D1,2} \approx \frac{V_{DD}}{R_D}$

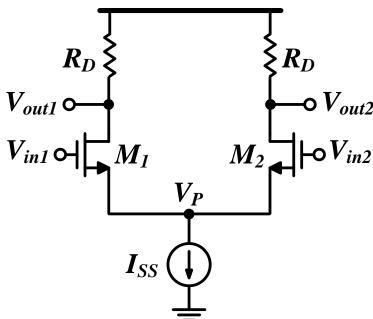


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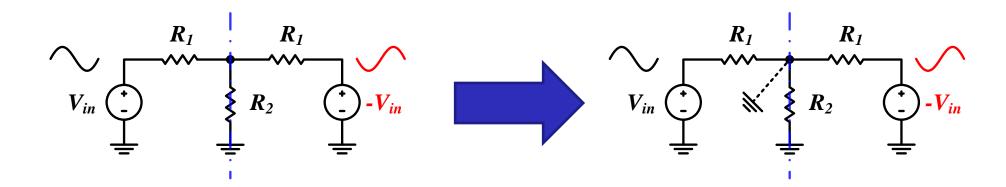
"True" Diff Amp (Diff Pair)

- A. Small signal analysis
 - 1. Diff small signal analysis
 - 2. CM small signal analysis
- B. Large signal analysis
 - 1. Diff large signal analysis
 - 2. CM large signal analysis



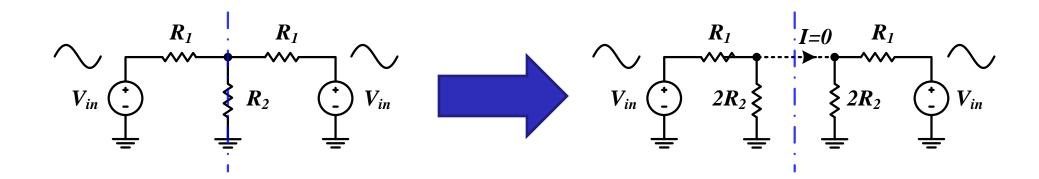
Half-Circuit Principle (Differential Input)

- ☐ If a circuit is **perfectly symmetric**, the analysis can be greatly simplified by dividing it into two half-circuits.
- If the input to a symmetric circuit is DIFFERNTIAL
 - Any point ON THE AXIS OF SYMMETRY can be treated as a <u>virtual ground</u>.
- The circuit is divided into two identical half-circuits.

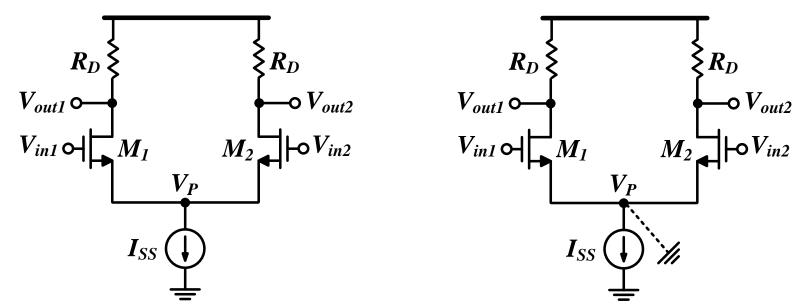


Half-Circuit Principle (CM Input)

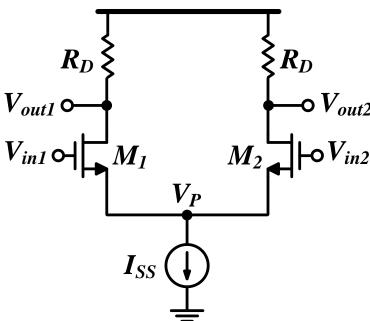
- ☐ If a circuit is **perfectly symmetric**, the analysis can be greatly simplified by dividing it into two half-circuits.
- If the input to a symmetric circuit is CM
 - Any wire CROSSING THE AXIS OF SYMMETRY can be treated as <u>open-circuit</u>.
- The circuit is divided into two identical half-circuits.



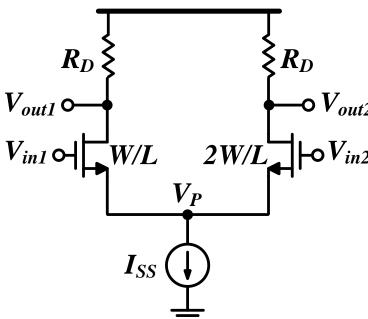
- METHOD #1: Half-Circuit Principle (exploit symmetry)
- $\Box v_{in1} = -v_{in2} = v_{id}/2$: V_P acts as virtual ground \rightarrow same as pseudo
- $\square v_{od} = v_{out1} v_{out2} = -g_m R_D(v_{id})$



- ☐ METHOD #2: Super-position (H.W.)
- \square For v_{in1} to v_{out1} : CS (M1) degenerated by M2
- \square For v_{in1} to v_{out2} : CD (M1) + CG (M2)
- $oldsymbol{\square}$ Similarly for v_{in2}
- Same result as half-circuit principle
- Lengthy analysis! (but may be necessary if not symmetric)

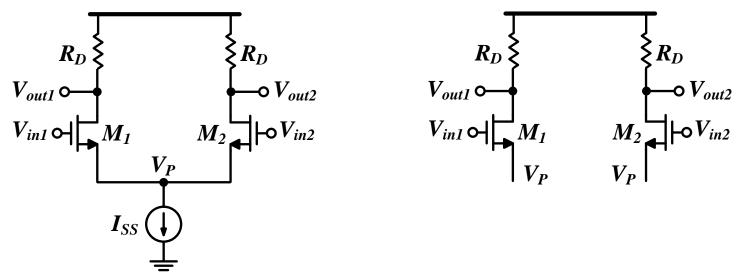


☐ Half-circuit principle does not work in this case



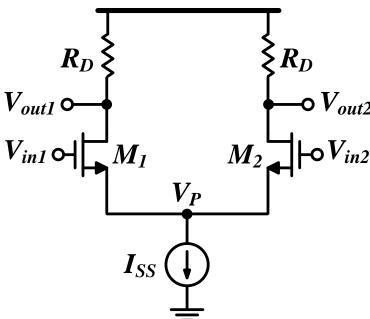
A2. CM Small Signal Analysis

- METHOD #1: Half-Circuit Principle (exploit symmetry)
- $\Box v_{out1} = 0$ and $v_{out2} = 0$
- $\square \quad v_{oCM} = \frac{v_{out1} + v_{out2}}{2} = 0$
- $\Box A_{vCM} = \frac{v_{oCM}}{v_{iCM}} = 0 = A_{v,half-circuit} \rightarrow A_{vd}/A_{vCM} \rightarrow \infty$
- ☐ The CM output is NOT sensitive to the CM input
- ☐ CM input is "completely" rejected (compare with pseudo diff amp)



A2. CM Small Signal Analysis

- ☐ METHOD #2: Super-position (H.W.)
- \square For v_{in1} to v_{out1} : CS (M1) degenerated by M2
- \square For v_{in1} to v_{out2} : CD (M1) + CG (M2)
- lacksquare Similarly for v_{in2}
- Same result as half-circuit principle
- Lengthy analysis! (but may be necessary if not symmetric)

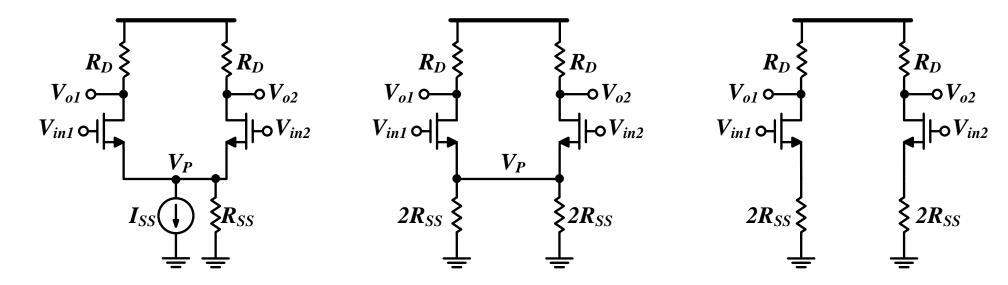


A2. CM Small Signal Analysis ($R_{SS} \neq \infty$)

■ METHOD #1: Half-Circuit Principle (exploit symmetry)

$$\square A_{vCM} = \frac{v_{oCM}}{v_{iCM}} = \frac{-g_m R_D}{1 + 2(g_m + g_{mb})R_{SS}} = A_{v,half-circuit}$$

- $\Box A_{vd}/A_{vCM} \approx 2(g_m + g_{mb})R_{SS} \gg 1$
- ☐ CM input is "partially" rejected (compare with pseudo diff amp)

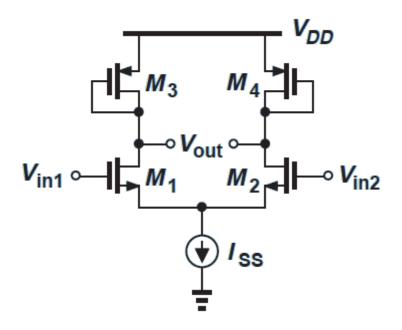


Recapping Small Signal Analysis

	Pseudo Diff Amp	Diff Pair (w/ ideal CS)	Diff Pair (w/ R _{SS})
A_{vd}	$-g_m R_D$	$-g_m R_D$	$-g_m R_D$
A_{vCM}	$-g_mR_D$	0	$\frac{-g_m R_D}{1 + 2(g_m + g_{mb})R_{SS}} < 1$
A_{vd}/A_{vCM}	1	∞	$2(g_m + g_{mb})R_{SS} $ $\gg 1$

Quiz

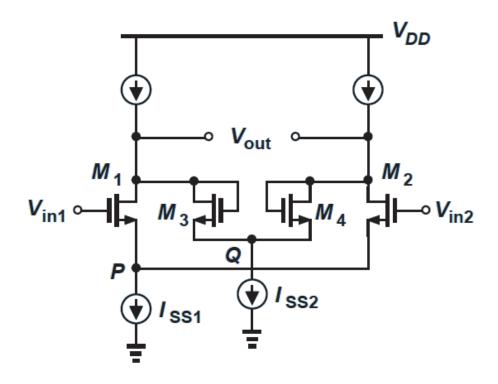
 \square Assume symmetry and $g_m r_o \gg 1$. Calculate A_{vd} .



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Quiz

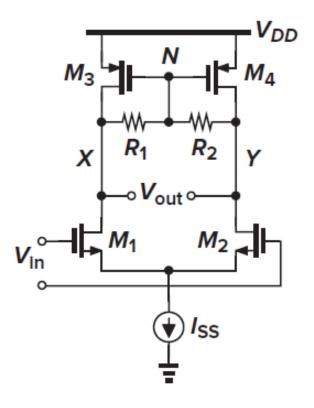
 \square Assume symmetry and $g_m r_o \gg 1$. Calculate A_{vd} .



11: Differential Amplifier [Razavi, 2014] 36

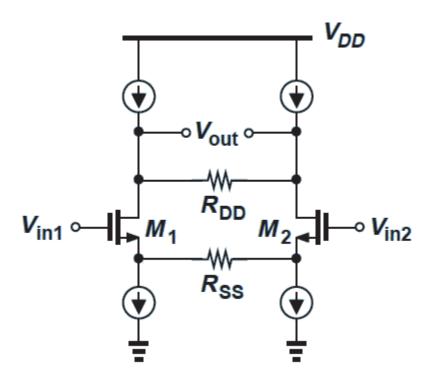
Quiz

 \blacksquare Assume symmetry and neglect channel length modulation (CLM). Calculate A_{vd} .



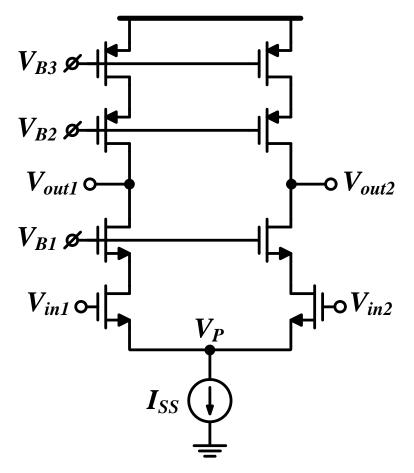
Quiz

 \blacksquare Assume symmetry and assume $g_{m1}R_{SS}\gg 1$. Neglect CLM and body effect. Calculate A_{vd} .

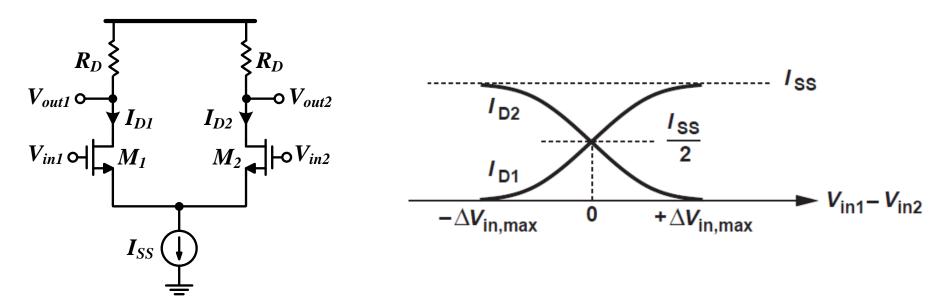


Quiz

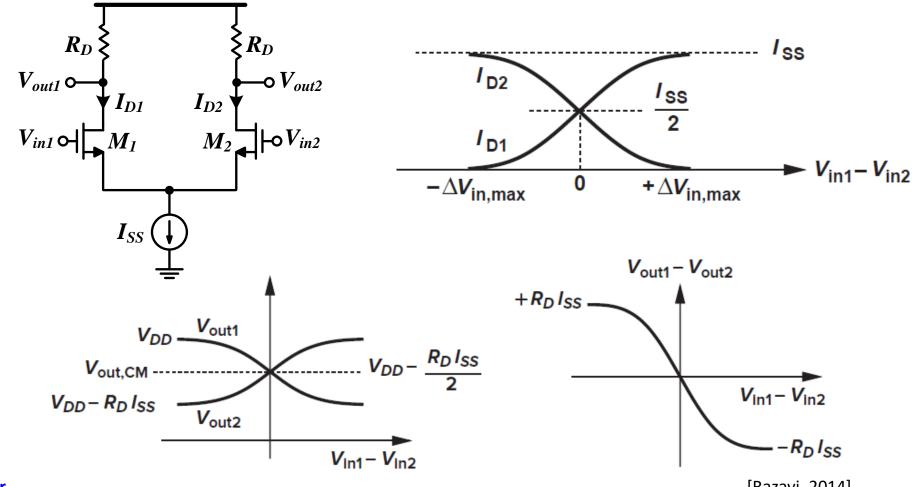
Assume symmetry, neglect body effect, and assume all transistors have the same g_m and r_o . Calculate A_{vd} .



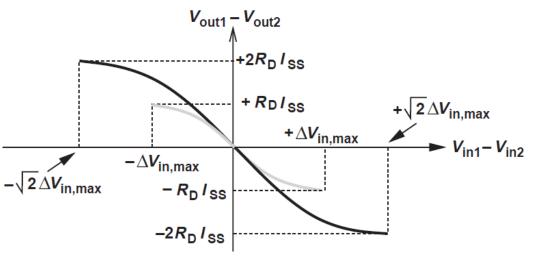
- ☐ The large signal differential input voltage steers the tail current from one side to another
 - Current-steering
- \Box Current fully steered at $V_{id} \approx \Delta V_{in,max} \approx \sqrt{2} V_{ov,eq}$ (why?)
- The current has compressive characteristics (compare to pseudo diff amplifier)
- \Box The slope at $V_{id} = 0$ is equal to ...?



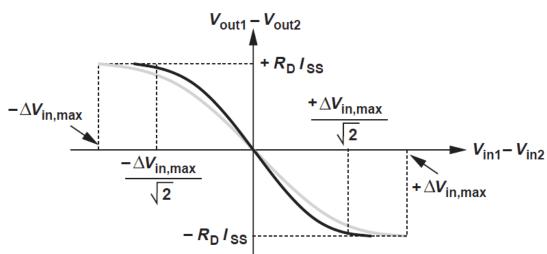
- \square Maximum differential peak-to-peak output = $2I_{SS}R_D$
- \Box The slope at $V_{id} = 0$ is equal to ...?



If tail current is doubled



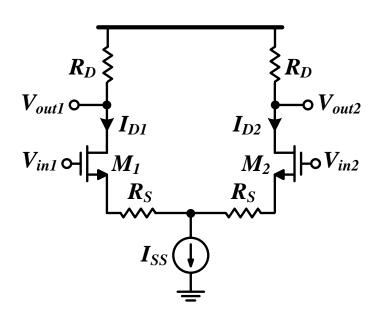
If aspect ratio is doubled

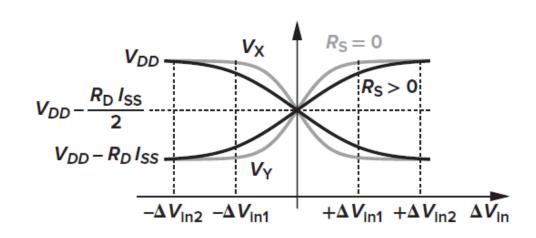


- ☐ The linear range can be increased by
 - Increasing $V_{ov,eq}$ (decreasing W)
 - Degeneration

$$\Delta V_{in2} = \Delta V_{in1} + I_{SS}R_{S}$$

Linearity improved, but gain and headroom reduced





Analytical large signal solution for $I_{D1,2}$ can be derived by solving two equations:

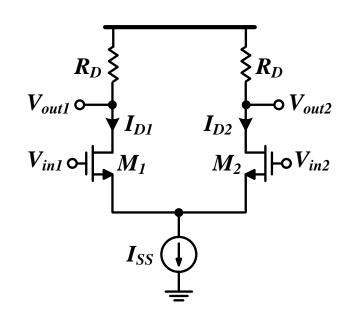
$$V_{in1} - V_{in2} = V_{GS1} - V_{GS2}$$

 $I_{D1} + I_{D2} = I_{SS}$

☐ Substituting with square law and solving (see [Sedra, 2015]):

$$I_{D1} = \frac{I_{SS}}{2} + \frac{I_{SS}}{V_{ov,eq}} \frac{V_{id}}{2} \sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{V_{id}/2}{V_{ov,eq}}\right)^2}$$

$$I_{D2} = \frac{I_{SS}}{2} - \frac{I_{SS}}{V_{ov,eq}} \frac{V_{id}}{2} \sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{V_{id}/2}{V_{ov,eq}}\right)^2}$$



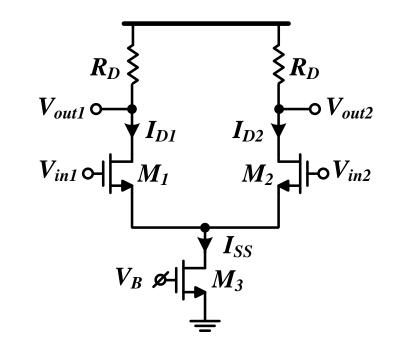
B2. CM Large Signal Analysis

- The CM input $(V_{iCM} = V_{in1} = V_{in2})$ does not affect the bias point of M1,2 $(I_{D1,2})$ and the CM output level
 - Bias point is defined by the tail current source
 - No need for coupling capacitors between diff stages!
 - Compare to pseudo diff amplifier
- But all transistors must be in saturation
- \square M3 in sat:

$$V_{iCM} \ge V_{TH1} + V_{ov1} + V_{ov3}$$

 \square M1,2 in sat:

$$V_{iCM} \le V_{DD} - \frac{I_{SS}}{2}R_D + V_{TH1}$$

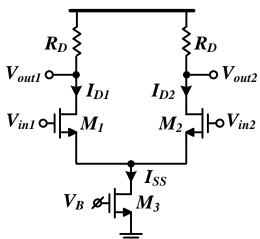


Max Allowable Signal Swing

- \square Max output is V_{DD} : $V_{out,max} = V_{DD}$
- \Box Min output is set by keeping M1,2 in sat: $V_{out,min} = V_{iCM} V_{TH1}$
- Max peak-to-peak differential output swing

$$= 2 \times (V_{out,max} - V_{out,min}) = 2 \times (V_{DD} - (V_{iCM} - V_{TH1}))$$

- If V_{iCM} is set to its min value: $V_{iCM} = V_{TH1} + V_{ov1} + V_{ov3}$ = $2 \times (V_{DD} - V_{ov1} - V_{ov3})$
- Deduced intuitively noting that M1 and M3 are vertically stacked
- \Box For SE amp: Max peak-to-peak output swing = $(V_{DD} V_{ov1})$



Outline

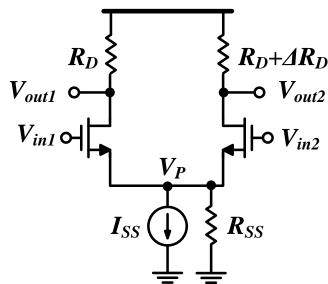
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- Effect of mismatch in load and input pair
 - Common-mode rejection ratio (CMRR)
- Frequency response of differential amplifier
 - Common-mode (CM) and differential analysis

Effect of Mismatch (in Load)

- Most dangerous effect: CM to diff conversion
- ☐ Example #1: Mismatch in load resistance
 - If $\Delta R_D/r_o \ll 1$ then we can apply half-circuit principle at V_P

$$A_{vCM2d} = \frac{v_{od}}{v_{iCM}} = \frac{v_{out1} - v_{out2}}{v_{iCM}} = -\left(\frac{g_m R_D}{1 + 2g_m R_{SS}} - \frac{g_m (R_D + \Delta R_D)}{1 + 2g_m R_{SS}}\right)$$

$$= \frac{g_m \Delta R_D}{1 + 2g_m R_{SS}} \approx \frac{\Delta R_D}{2R_{SS}}$$



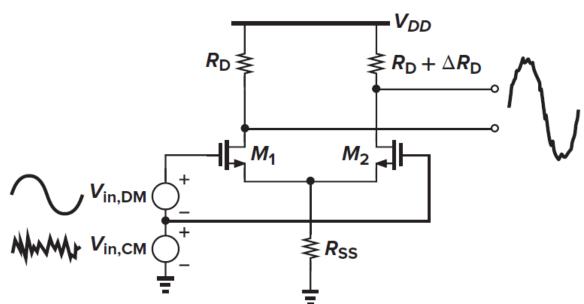
Effect of Mismatch (in Load)

Most dangerous effect: CM to diff conversion

$$A_{vCM2d} \approx \frac{\Delta R_D}{2R_{SS}}$$

Common-mode rejection ratio (CMRR) (@low frequency!)

$$CMRR = \frac{A_{vd}}{A_{vCM2d}} \approx 2g_m R_{SS} \frac{R_D}{\Delta R_D}$$

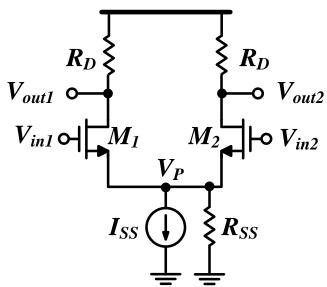


Effect of Mismatch (in Input Pair)

- ☐ Most dangerous effect: CM to diff conversion
- $oxedsymbol{\square}$ Example #2: Mismatch in input pair: $g_{m2}=g_{m1}+\Delta g_m$
 - Half-circuit cannot be used → use superposition

$$A_{vCM2d} = \frac{v_{od}}{v_{iCM}} = \frac{v_{out1} - v_{out2}}{v_{iCM}} = \frac{g_{m1}R_D}{1 + g_{m1}\left(\frac{1}{g_{m2}}||R_{SS}\right)} + \frac{g_{m2}R_D}{1 + g_{m2}\left(\frac{1}{g_{m1}}||R_{SS}\right)}$$

$$= \frac{\Delta g_m R_D}{1 + (g_{m1} + g_{m2})R_{SS}} \approx \frac{\Delta g_m R_D}{2g_{m1,2}R_{SS}}$$



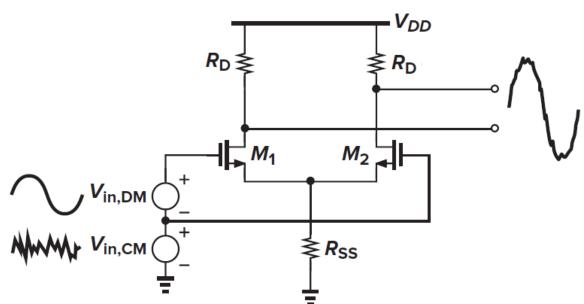
Effect of Mismatch (in Input Pair)

Most dangerous effect: CM to diff conversion

$$A_{vCM2d} pprox rac{\Delta g_m R_D}{1 + 2g_{m1,2}R_{SS}} pprox rac{\Delta g_m R_D}{2g_{m1,2}R_{SS}}$$

□ Common-mode rejection ratio (CMRR) (@low frequency!)

$$CMRR = \frac{A_{vd}}{A_{vCM2d}} \approx (1 + 2g_{m1,2}R_{SS}) \frac{g_{m1,2}}{\Delta g_m} \approx 2g_{m1,2}R_{SS} \frac{g_{m1,2}}{\Delta g_m}$$

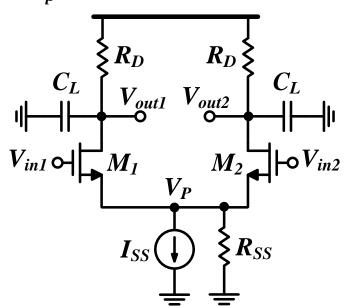


Outline

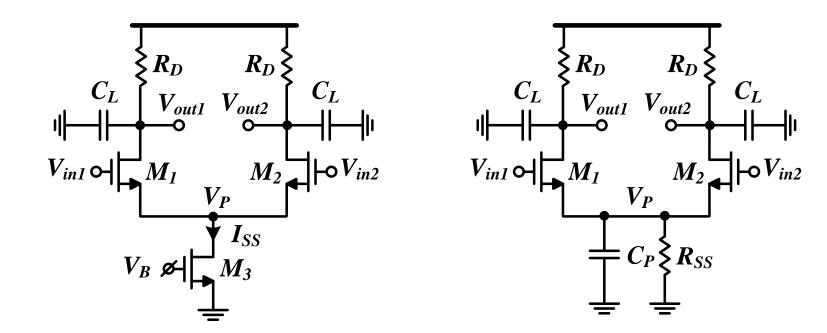
- ☐ Recapping previous key results
- ☐ Single-ended (SE) vs differential operation
- Pseudo differential amplifier
 - Common-mode (CM) and differential analysis
- Differential amplifier (differential pair)
 - Common-mode (CM) and differential analysis
- Effect of mismatch in load and input pair
 - Common-mode rejection ratio (CMRR)
- Frequency response of differential amplifier
 - Common-mode (CM) and differential analysis

Diff Frequency Response

- ☐ The frequency response of the diff amp is itself the frequency response of the half-circuit
 - V_P is virtual ground
- Note that the number of poles/zeros in the diff amp is the same as the number of poles/zeros in the half-circuit
 - The two halves are added, not multiplied
 - Ex: $A(s) = \frac{A_o/2}{1 + \frac{s}{\omega_p}} + \frac{A_o/2}{1 + \frac{s}{\omega_p}} = \frac{A_o}{1 + \frac{s}{\omega_p}}$ (what if there is mismatch?)



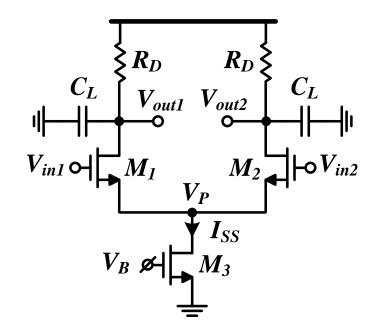
- \Box C_P degrades tail current source impedance at high frequency
- $\Box \quad C_P \approx C_{db3} + C_{gd3} + C_{sb1} + C_{sb2}$
- Trade-off between headroom and CMRR
 - M1-M3 are made wide to decrease V_{ov} → More g_m and more headroom
 - But C_P increases, and degrades CMRR
 - C_P resembles the bypass capacitor used in discrete CS amplifier

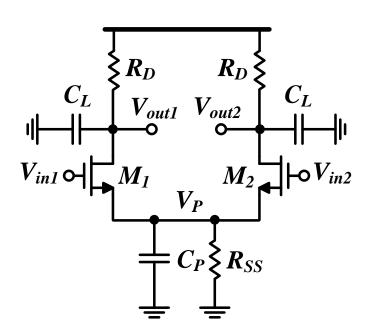


Mismatch in input pair (M1 and M2)

@Low frequency:
$$A_{vCM2d} \approx \frac{\Delta g_m R_D}{1 + (g_{m1} + g_{m2})R_{SS}}$$

@High frequency:
$$A_{vCM2d} \approx \frac{\Delta g_m \left(R_D || \frac{1}{sC_L}\right)}{1 + (g_{m1} + g_{m2}) \left(R_{SS} || \frac{1}{sC_P}\right)}$$

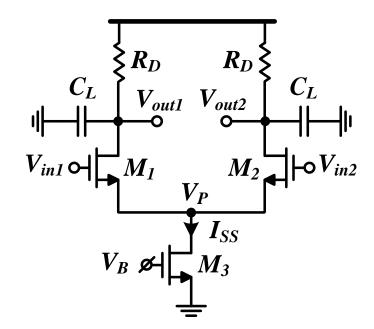


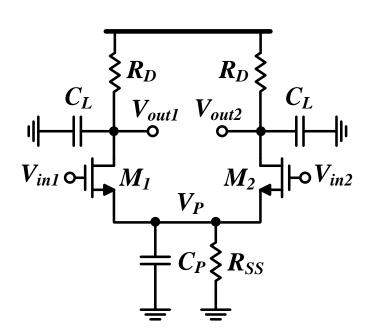


Mismatch in input pair (M1 and M2)

@Low frequency:
$$CMRR = \frac{A_{vd}}{A_{vCM2d}} \approx (1 + 2g_{m1,2}R_{SS}) \frac{g_{m1,2}}{\Delta g_m}$$

@Low frequency:
$$CMRR = \frac{A_{vd}}{A_{vCM2d}} \approx \left(1 + 2g_{m1,2}R_{SS}\right)\frac{g_{m1,2}}{\Delta g_m}$$
 @High frequency: $CMRR = \frac{A_{vd}(s)}{A_{vCM2d}(s)} \approx \left[1 + 2g_{m1,2}\left(R_{SS}||\frac{1}{sC_P}\right)\right]\frac{g_{m1,2}}{\Delta g_m}$

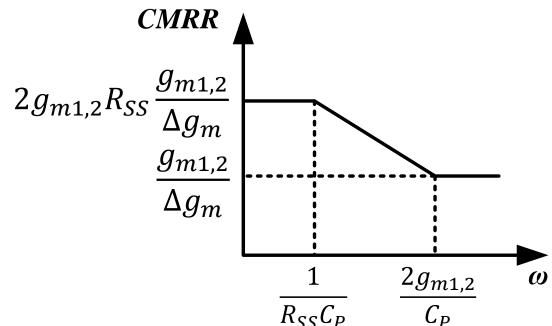




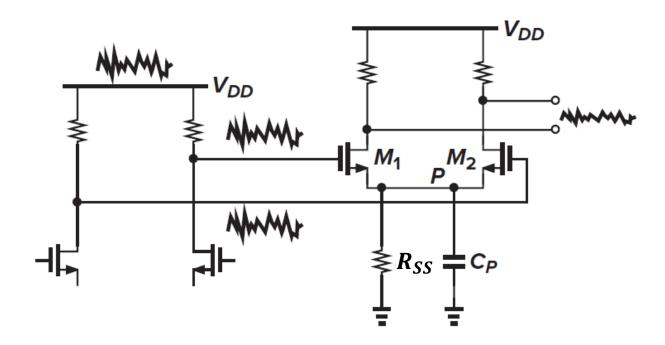
Mismatch in input pair (M1 and M2)

$$CMRR = \frac{A_{vd}(s)}{A_{vCM2d}(s)} \approx \left[1 + 2g_{m1,2} \left(R_{SS} || \frac{1}{sC_P}\right)\right] \frac{g_{m1,2}}{\Delta g_m}$$

$$\approx \frac{1 + s \frac{C_P}{2g_{m1,2}}}{1 + sR_{SS}C_P} \cdot 2g_{m1,2}R_{SS} \frac{g_{m1,2}}{\Delta g_m}$$



- ☐ High frequency supply noise is a very serious issue
- $oldsymbol{\square}$ Again: There is a trade-off between headroom (and g_m) and CMRR
 - More serious for low supply voltage



Thank you!

References

- ☐ A. Sedra and K. Smith, "Microelectronic Circuits," 7th ed., Oxford University Press, 2015
- ☐ B. Razavi, "Fundamentals of Microelectronics," 2nd ed., Wiley, 2014
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- ☐ T. C. Carusone, D. Johns, and K. W. Martin, "Analog Integrated Circuit Design," 2nd ed., Wiley, 2012