



Figure 1: Sallen-Key Low-Pass Filter

Proof. Sallen-Key Low-Pass Filter Transfer Function

Writing KCL equation at node V_a yields:

$$\frac{V_i - V_a}{R_1} + \frac{V_b - V_a}{R_2} + \frac{V_o - V_a}{Z_{C1}} = 0 \quad (1)$$

Writing voltage division equation at node V_b at non-inverting terminal yields:

$$V_b = V_a \cdot \frac{Z_{C2}}{R_2 + Z_{C2}} \quad (2)$$

Writing voltage division equation at node V_b at inverting terminal yields:

$$V_b = V_o \cdot \frac{R_3}{R_3 + R_4} \quad (3)$$

Using equations 2, 3 and solving for V_a gives:

$$V_a = V_o \cdot \frac{R_3}{R_3 + R_4} \cdot \frac{R_2 + Z_{C2}}{Z_{C2}} \quad (4)$$

Inserting V_a 's equivalent in Eq. 4 and V_b 's equivalent in Eq. 3 to Eq. 1

results:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{V_i}{R_1} - \frac{V_o}{R_1} \cdot \frac{R_3}{R_3 + R_4} \cdot \frac{R_2 + Z_{C2}}{Z_{C2}} + \frac{V_o}{R_2} \cdot \frac{R_3}{R_3 + R_4} - \\ \frac{V_o}{R_2} \cdot \frac{R_3}{R_3 + R_4} \cdot \frac{R_2 + Z_{C2}}{Z_{C2}} + \frac{V_o}{Z_{C1}} - \frac{V_o}{Z_{C1}} \cdot \frac{R_3}{R_3 + R_4} \cdot \\ \frac{R_2 + Z_{C2}}{Z_{C2}} = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

Solving Eq. 5 for $\frac{V_o}{V_i}$ yields:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{V_o}{V_i} = 1 / [\frac{R_3}{R_3 + R_4} \cdot (\frac{R_2 + Z_{C2}}{Z_{C2}} - \frac{R_1}{R_2} + \frac{R_1 \cdot (R_2 + Z_{C2})}{R_2 \cdot Z_{C2}} - \\ \frac{R_1 \cdot (R_3 + R_4)}{R_3 \cdot Z_{C1}} + \frac{R_1 \cdot (R_2 + Z_{C2})}{Z_{C1} \cdot Z_{C2}})] \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

Then substituting $Z = \frac{1}{j\omega C}$ in to the Eq. 6, simplyfing it, and rewriting it in the $\frac{V_o}{V_i} = 1 / [\frac{R_3}{R_3 + R_4} \cdot (w^2 \cdot (...) + jw \cdot (...) + 1)]$ form results:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{V_o}{V_i} = 1 / [\frac{R_3}{R_3 + R_4} \cdot (w^2 \cdot (-R_1 R_2 C_1 C_2) + jw \cdot \\ (R_1 C_1 \frac{-R_4}{R_3} + C_2(R_1 + R_2)) + 1)] \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

Let $K = \frac{R_3 + R_4}{R_3}$, using the equality $j = \sqrt{-1}$, and $w = 2\pi f$ Eq. 7 can be written as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{V_o}{V_i} = K \cdot 1 / [(j2\pi f \sqrt{R_1 R_2 C_1 C_2})^2 + j2\pi f \\ (R_1 C_1 \frac{-R_4}{R_3} + C_2(R_1 + R_2)) + 1] \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

And define f_0 as $\frac{1}{2\pi \sqrt{R_1 R_2 C_1 C_2}}$. And rewriting Eq. 8 as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{V_o}{V_i} = K \cdot 1 / [(\frac{jf}{1/(2\pi \sqrt{R_1 R_2 C_1 C_2})})^2 + j2\pi f \\ (R_1 C_1 \frac{-R_4}{R_3} + C_2(R_1 + R_2)) + 1] \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

In Eq. 9 inserting f_0 to the squared term and multiplying the $j2\pi f$ term in the denominator with $\frac{f_0}{f_0}$ (2π are cancelled) gives:

$$\frac{V_o}{V_i} = K \cdot 1 / [(\frac{jf}{f_0})^2 + \frac{jf}{f_0} (\frac{1}{\sqrt{R_1 R_2 C_1 C_2}} (R_1 C_1 \frac{-R_4}{R_3} + C_2(R_1 + R_2))) + 1] \quad (10)$$

Observing that $1 - K = \frac{-R_4}{R_3}$ then Eq. 10 can be written as:

$$\frac{V_o}{V_i} = K \cdot 1 / [(\frac{jf}{f_0})^2 + \frac{jf}{f_0} (\frac{1}{\frac{\sqrt{R_1 R_2 C_1 C_2}}{(1-K)R_1 C_1 + C_2(R_1 + R_2)}}) + 1] \quad (11)$$

And let $Q = \frac{\sqrt{R_1 R_2 C_1 C_2}}{(1-K)R_1 C_1 + C_2(R_1 + R_2)}$. Which is the quality factor of the filter.
Then Eq. 11 can be written as follows:

$$\frac{V_o}{V_i} = K \cdot \frac{1}{(\frac{jf}{f_0})^2 + \frac{jf}{f_0} \frac{1}{Q} + 1} \quad (12)$$

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