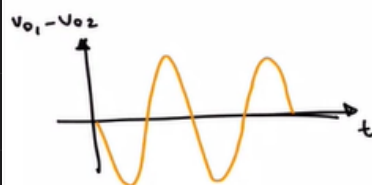
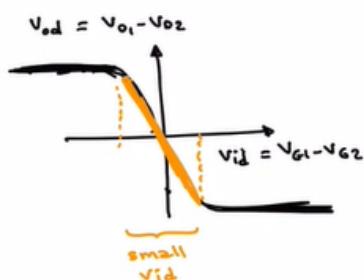
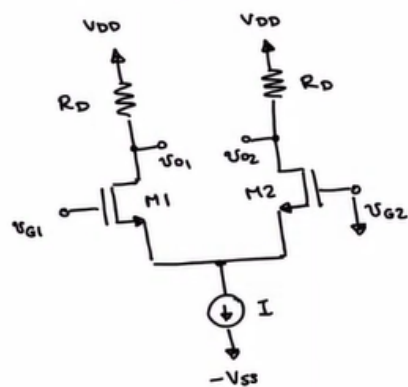


MOSFET Differential Pair: Qualitative Analysis



* Case 1: Common-Mode Signal ($v_{G1} = v_{G2} = v_{cm}$)

Assume M1, M2 matched

$$- i_{D1} = i_{D2} = \frac{I}{2}$$

$$- v_s = v_{cm} - v_{G1}$$

$$- v_{O1} = v_{O2} = V_{DD} - \frac{I}{2} R_D \Rightarrow v_{O1} - v_{O2} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \Delta_{cm} = 0$$

* Case 2: Large Differential Signal (e.g. $v_{G2} = 0$ and $|v_{G1}| \gg 0$)

(a) $v_{G1} \gg 0$

$$- i_{D1} = I, i_{D2} = 0$$

$$- v_{O1} = V_{DD} - I R_D, v_{O2} = V_{DD}$$

(b) $v_{G1} \ll 0$

$$- i_{D1} = 0, i_{D2} = I$$

$$- v_{O1} = V_{DD}, v_{O2} = V_{DD} - I R_D$$

* Case 3: Small Differential Signal (e.g. $v_{G2} = 0$)

- Small increase in $v_{G1} \Rightarrow$ small increase in i_{D1} ($i_{D1} = \frac{I}{2} + \Delta I = \frac{I}{2} + i_{d1}$)

- Since $i_{D1} + i_{D2} = I \Rightarrow$ small decrease in i_{D2} ($i_{D2} = \frac{I}{2} - \Delta I = \frac{I}{2} - i_{d2}$)

$$- \Delta v_{id} \Rightarrow \Delta I \Rightarrow \Delta v_o$$

$$v_{O1} = V_{DD} - \frac{I}{2} R_D - i_{d1} R_D$$

$$v_{O2} = V_{DD} - \frac{I}{2} R_D + i_{d2} R_D$$

$$\Delta v_o = v_{O1} - v_{O2} = - i_{d1} R_D - i_{d2} R_D$$

$$v_{O1} - v_{O2} = - 2 i_d R_D$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{differential amplifier}$$

What value of v_{id} cause the entire I to be steered towards one branch? (e.g. M1)

This happens when v_{GS1} reaches a value corresponding to $i_{D1} = I$ and $v_{GS2} = V_t \Rightarrow v_s = -V_t$ (since $v_{G2} = 0$)

$$i_{D1} = I = \frac{1}{2} (\mu_n C_{ox}) \left(\frac{W}{L} \right) (v_{GS1} - V_t)^2$$

$$\Rightarrow v_{GS1} = V_t + \sqrt{\frac{2I}{\mu_n C_{ox} W/L}} = V_t + \sqrt{2} V_{ov}$$

(where V_{ov} = overdrive voltage corresponding to a current of $I/2$)

$$v_{id,max} = v_{GS1} + v_s = V_t + \sqrt{2} V_{ov} - V_t = \sqrt{2} V_{ov}$$

Condition for M1, M2 to remain in saturation
For larger v_{id} , all the current is steered towards one branch.

$$\text{Small differential signal: } v_{id} \leq \sqrt{2} V_{ov}$$