

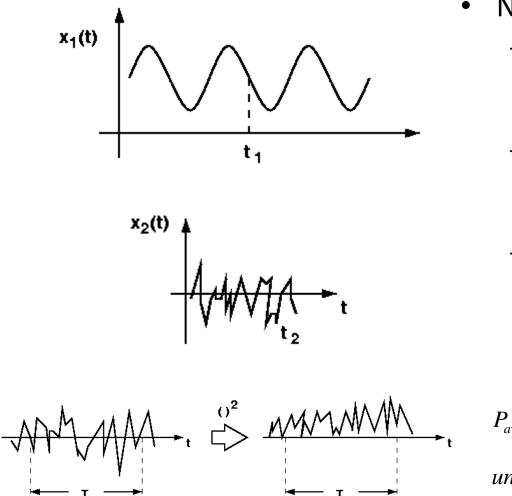
Noise

Outline

1. Statistical Characteristics of Noise

- 2. Types of Noise
- 3. Representation of Noise in Circuits
- 4. Noise in Single-Stage Amplifiers
- 5. Noise in Differential Pairs

Statistical Behavior of Noise



- Noise is a random process.
 - The value of noise can not be predicted at any time even if the past values are known.
 - Observe the noise for a long time and using the measured results to construct a "statistical model".
 - In many cases, the average power of noise is predictable.

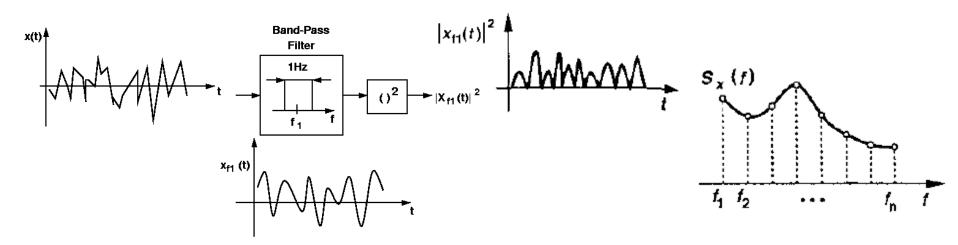
$$P_{av} = \lim_{T \to \infty} \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} \frac{v^2(t)}{R_L} dt = \lim_{T \to \infty} \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} x^2(t) dt$$

unit: (V²) in stead of (W)

Normalize the area under waveform to T

Noise Spectrum

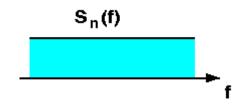
• The concept of noise power becomes more versatile if defined with regard to the *frequency content of noise – Power spectral density (PSD)*



- The PSD, S_x(f), of a noise waveform x(t) is defined as the average power carried by x(t) in a one-Hertz bandwidth around f, expressed in V²/Hz.
- The square root of $S_x(f)$ expressed in V / \sqrt{Hz} .
- Input noise = $3n V / \sqrt{H_z}$ at 100Mhz means average power in a 1Hz bandwidth at 100Mhz = $(3e-9)^2V^2$.

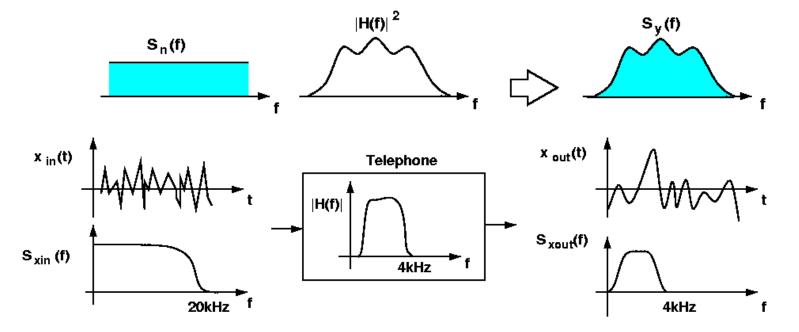
Spectral Shaping

White noise – the PSD displays the same value at all frequencies.



 If a signal with spectrum S_x(f) is applied to a linear time-invariant system with transfer function H(s), then the output spectrum is given by

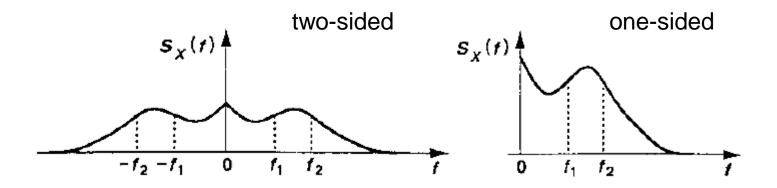
 $S_{Y}(f) = S_{X}(f) |H(f)|^{2}$ where $H(f) = H(s = j2\pi f)$



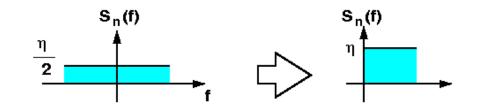
Analog IC Analysis and Design

Noise Spectra

• Since $S_x(f)$ is an even function of f for real x(t).



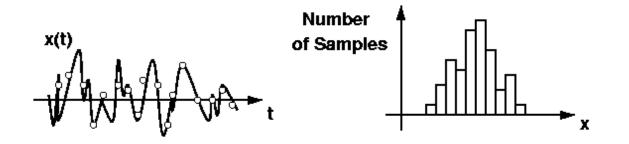
• The negative frequency part of the spectrum is folded around the vertical axis and added to the positive frequency part.



$$P_{f1,f2} = \int_{-f2}^{-f1} S_X(f) df + \int_{f1}^{f2} S_X(f) df = 2 \int_{f1}^{f2} S_X(f) df$$

Amplitude Distribution

- Distribution of amplitude *Probability density function (PDF)*.
- The distribution of x(t) is defined as
 - $p_x(x)dx = probability of x < X < x + dx, X$ is the measured value of x(t)



- Gaussian (Normal) Distribution
 - The *central limit theorem* states that if many independent random process with arbitrary PDFs are added, the PDF of the sum approaches a *Gaussian distribution*.

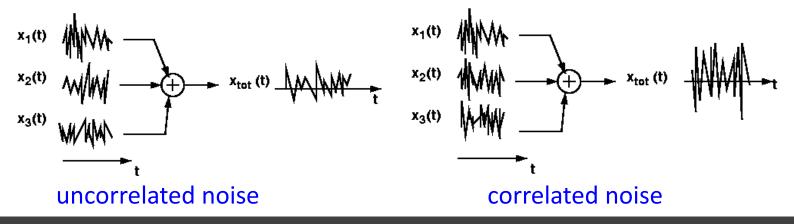
- The Gaussian PDF is defined as
$$p_X(f) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp \frac{-(x-m)^2}{2\sigma^2}$$

Correlated and Uncorrelated Sources

- For deterministic voltages and currents, use the superposition principle.
- In noise analysis, the average noise power is of interest.

$$\begin{split} P_{av} &= \lim_{T \to \infty} \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} \left[x_1(t) + x_2(t) \right]^2 dt \\ &= \lim_{T \to \infty} \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} x_1^2(t) dt + \lim_{T \to \infty} \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} x_2^2(t) dt + \lim_{T \to \infty} \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} 2x_1(t) x_2(t) dt \\ &= P_{av1} + P_{av2} + \lim_{T \to \infty} \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} 2x_1(t) x_2(t) dt \end{split}$$

- P_{av1} and P_{av2} denote the average power of $x_1(t)$ and $x_2(t)$.
- The third term is the "correlation" between $x_1(t)$ and $x_2(t)$.
- If generated by independent devices, the correlation = 0.



Analog IC Analysis and Design

Outline

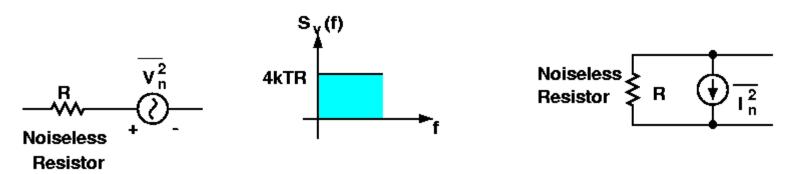
- 1. Statistical Characteristics of Noise
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Types of Noise

- Device electronics
 - Thermal noise
 - Flicker noise
- Environmental noise
 - Supply
 - Ground
 - Substrate

Thermal Noise

- Thermal noise (white noise)
 - Resistor thermal noise the random motion of electrons in a conductor introduces fluctuations in the voltage measured across the conductor even if the average current is zero.
 - The spectrum of thermal noise is proportional to the absolute temperature.



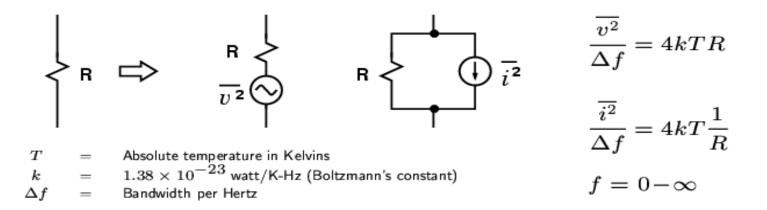
 $S_{v}(f) = 4kTR (V^{2}/\text{Hz}) \quad f \ge 0, \quad \overline{V_{n}^{2}} = 4kTR \times 1Hz (V^{2}), \quad k = 1.38 \times 10^{-23} (J/K)$ Boltzmann constant

- Example : a 50 Ω resistor at T = 300° K exhibits 8.28 x 10⁻¹⁹ V²/Hz of thermal noise, or $0.91 nV/\sqrt{Hz}$
- The thermal noise of a resistor can be represented by a parallel current source as well. $\overline{I_n^2} = 4kT/R$ (A²/Hz)

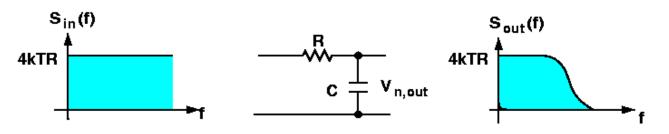
Thermal Noise

- The thermal noise is white. In reality, $S_{\nu}(f)$ is flat for up to roughly 100 THz, dropping at higher frequencies.
- The polarity used for the voltage source is unimportant.

Thermal Noise



Noise Spectrum Shaping : LP Filter



• Modeling the noise of *R* by a series voltage source V_R . The transfer function from V_R to V_{out} $\frac{V_{out}}{V_{out}}(s) = \frac{1}{1}$

$$\frac{V_{out}}{V_R}(s) = \frac{1}{1 + sRC}$$

- We have $S_{out}(f) = S_R(f) \left| \frac{V_{out}}{V_R} (j\omega) \right|^2 = 4kTR \frac{1}{4\pi^2 R^2 C^2 f^2 + 1}$
- The total noise power at the output

$$P_{n,out} = \int_0^\infty \frac{4kTR}{4\pi^2 R^2 C^2 f^2 + 1} df = \frac{2kT}{\pi C} \tan^{-1} u \Big|_{u=0}^{u=\infty} = \frac{kT}{C} (V^2) \quad \text{for} \quad \int \frac{dx}{x^2 + 1} = \tan^{-1} x$$

- Example : for a 1 pF capacitor, the total noise voltage is equal to 64.3 $\mu V_{rms.}$
- The total noise at the output of the circuit is independent of the value R.
- Low temperature operation can decrease noise in analog circuits. The mobility of charge carriers in MOS devices also increase at low temperatures.

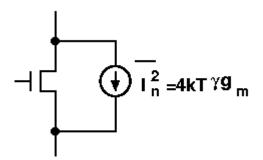
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Thermal Noise in MOSFET

 For long-channel MOS devices operating in saturation region, the channel noise can be modeled by

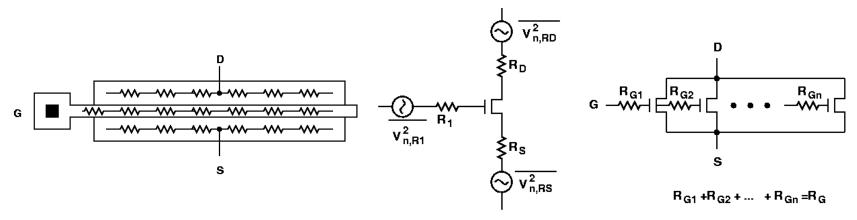
$$I_n^2 = 4kT\gamma g_m$$

 The coefficient γ is derived to be equal to 2/3 for long channel transistors and may need to be replaced by a larger value for submicron MOSFETs. (ex. 2.5 for 0.25-um MOS devices)

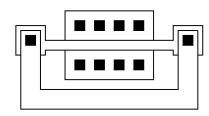


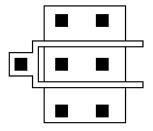
Thermal Noise in MOSFET

- The ohmic sections of a MOSFET also contribute thermal noise.
- For a relatively wide transistor, the gate distributed resistance may become noticeable.



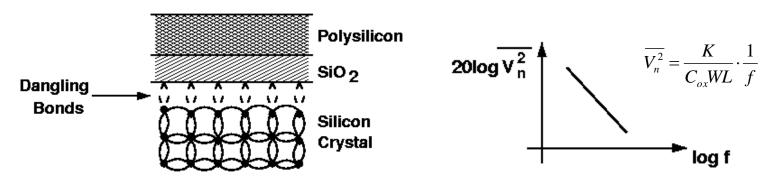
- A lumped resistor R_1 represents the distributed gate resistance. $R_1 = R_G / 3$
- Reduction of gate resistance by adding contacts to both sides or folding.





Flicker Noise

- Since the silicon crystal reaches an end at the interface, many dangling bonds appear, give rise to extra energy states.
- As carriers move to the interface, some are randomly trapped and later released by such energy states, introducing "flicker" noise in the drain current.



• The flicker noise is modeled as a voltage source series with the gate :

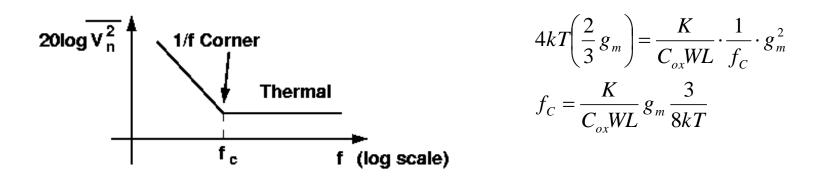
$$\overline{V_n^2} = \frac{K}{C_{ox}WL} \cdot \frac{1}{f}, \quad WL\uparrow, \quad f\uparrow, \quad \overline{V_n^2} \downarrow$$

- Where K is a process-dependent constant on the order of 10^{-25} V² F.
- Our notation assumes a bandwidth of 1 Hz.
- The trap-and-release phenomenon occurs at low frequencies more often. (1/f noise)
- PMOS devices exhibits less 1/f noise than NMOS.

Analog IC Analysis and Design

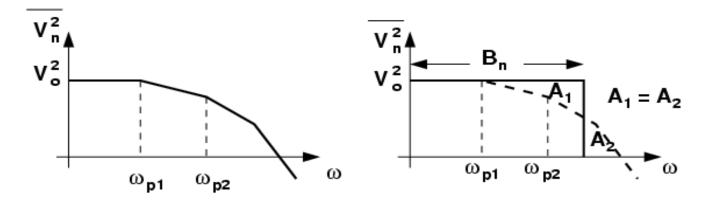
Flicker Noise Corner Frequency

- As *f* approaches DC, noise becomes indistinguishable from thermal drift or aging of devices.
- Corner frequency : the intersection point serves as a measure of what part of the band is mostly corrupted by flicker noise.



- *f_c* generally depends on device dimensions and bias current. However, for a given *L*, the dependence is relatively weak.
- The 1/f noise corner is relatively constant, falling in the vicinity of 500 kHz to 1 MHz for submicron transistors.

Noise Bandwidth



• Noise bandwidth B_n : allows a fair comparison of circuits that exhibit the same low-frequency noise V_0^2 , but different high-frequency transfer functions.

$$\overline{V_{n,out,tot}^2} = \int_0^\infty \overline{V_{n,out}^2} df, \qquad V_0^2 \bullet B_n = \int_0^\infty \overline{V_{n,out}^2} df, B_n \equiv \text{Noise Bandwidth}$$

• The total noise must be evaluated by calculating the total area under the spectral density, for a single-pole filter

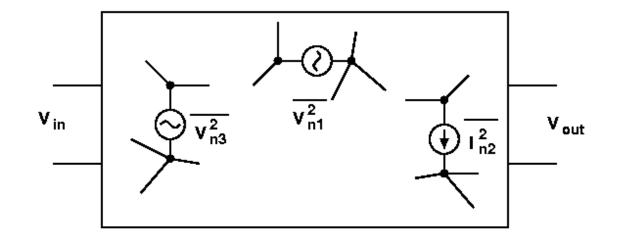
$$H(s) = (1 + s / \omega_0)^{-1}, B_n = \int_0^\infty \left| H(j2\pi f) \right|^2 df = \int_0^\infty \left[1 + \left(\frac{f}{f_0}\right)^2 \right]^{-1} df = \frac{\pi}{2} f_0$$

Outline

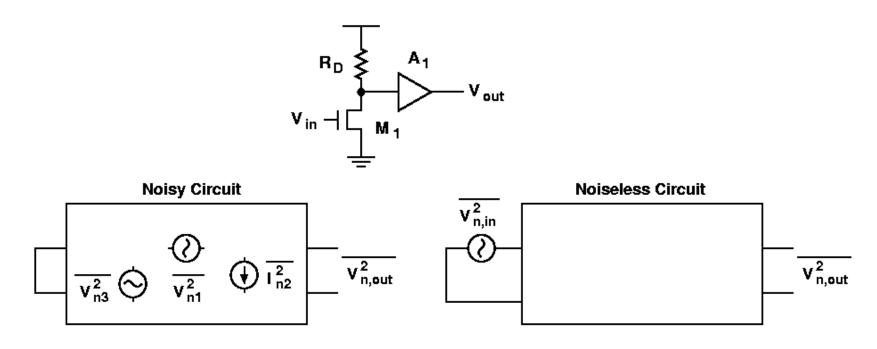
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Representation of Noise in Circuits

• Set the input to zero and calculate the total noise at the output due to various sources of noise in the circuit.

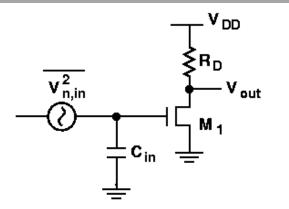


Representation of Noise in Circuits

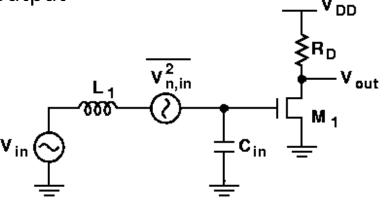


- A₁ amplifies the noise and signal also at the output.
- Input referred noise : to represent the effect of all noise sources in the circuit by a single source, $\overline{V_{n,in}^2}$.
 - If the voltage gain is A_{ν} , then we must have $V_{n,out}^2 = A_{\nu}^2 V_{n,in}^2$
 - Indicating how much the input signal is corrupted by the circuit's noise.

Noise Analysis of CS Gain Stage



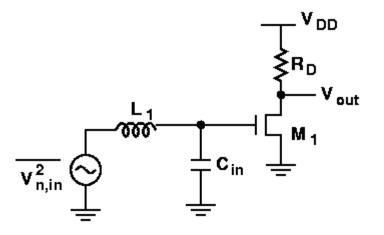
 The preceding stage is modeled by a Thevenin equivalent with inductive output



Neglect the flicker noise

$$\overline{V_{n,out}^{2}} = (4kT\gamma g_{m}R_{D}^{2} + 4kTR_{D}), \quad A_{v} = g_{m}R_{D}$$
$$\overline{V_{n,in}^{2}} = \frac{(4kT\gamma g_{m}R_{D}^{2} + 4kTR_{D})}{(g_{m}R_{D})^{2}} = \frac{4kT\gamma}{g_{m}} + \frac{4kT}{g_{m}^{2}R_{D}}$$

• The effect of $\overline{V_{n,in}^2}$ vanishes as L₁ approaches infinity \rightarrow *incorrect*.

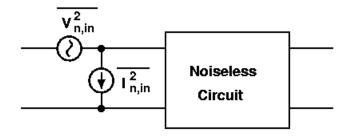


 With a finite input impedance, modeling the input referred noise by merely a voltage source, the output noise vanishes as the source impedance becomes large.

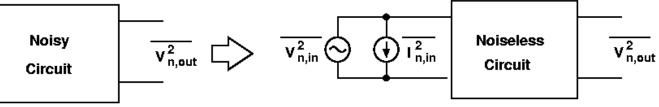
Analog IC Analysis and Design

Representation of Noise by V/I Sources

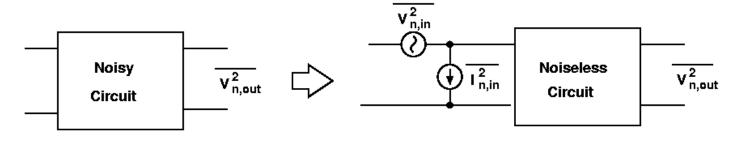
• Consider two extreme cases : zero and infinite source impedances.



• If the source impedance is zero, $\overline{I_{n,in}^2}$ flows through $\overline{V_{n,in}^2}$ and has no effect on the output.



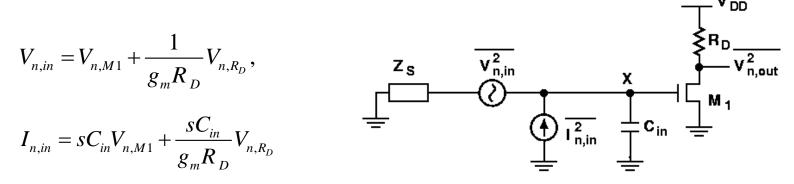
• If the input is open, then $\overline{V_{n,in}^2}$ has no effect and the $\overline{V_{n,out}^2}$ is due to only $\overline{I_{n,in}^2}$



Analog IC Analysis and Design

CS Stage Simulated by a Source Imp.

• Assuming Z_s is noiseless for simplicity.



- The two sources $\overline{V_{n,in}^2}$ and $\overline{I_{n,in}^2}$ are in general *correlated simply* because they may represent the same noise mechanisms in the circuit.
- $V_{n,M1}$ and $V_{n,RD}$ appear in both $\overline{V_{n,in}^2}$ and $\overline{I_{n,in}^2}$
- $V_{n,X}$ is independent of Z_s and C_{in} .

$$V_{n,X} = V_{n,in} \frac{\frac{1}{sC_{in}}}{\frac{1}{sC_{in}} + Z_S} + I_{n,in} \frac{\frac{Z_S}{sC_{in}}}{\frac{1}{sC_{in}} + Z_S} = \frac{V_{n,in} + I_{n,in}Z_S}{sZ_SC_{in} + 1} = V_{n,M1} + \frac{1}{g_m R_D} V_{n,R_D}$$
$$\overline{V_{n,out}^2} = g_m^2 R_D^2 \overline{V_{n,X}^2} = 4kT \left(\frac{2}{3}g_m + \frac{1}{R_D}\right) R_D^2$$

Analog IC Analysis and Design

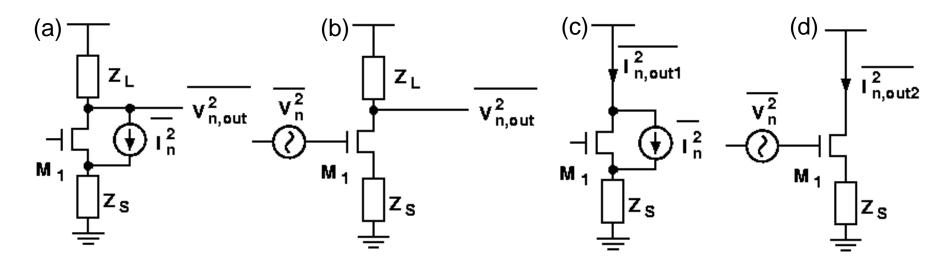
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Noise in Single Stage Amplifier

- $\frac{I_n^2}{g_m^2}$ The circuits in (a) and (b) are equivalent at low frequencies if $\overline{V_n^2}$ =
- Since the circuits have equal output impedance, we simply examine the output short-circuit currents
- The output noise current of the circuit (c) is $I_{n,out1} = \frac{I_n}{Z_s(g_m + 1/r_o) + 1}$
- The output noise current of the circuit (d) is $I_{n,out2} = \frac{g_m V_n}{Z_s (g_m + 1/r_o) + 1}$

$$I_{n,out2} = I_{n,out1}, \quad V_n = I_n / g_m$$

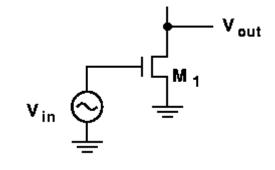


Common Source Stage

• The input-referred noise voltage per unit bandwidth of CS

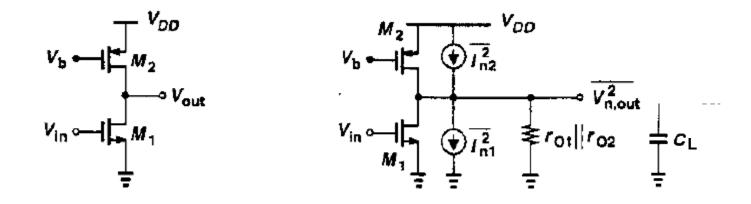
$$\overline{V_{n,in}^2} = 4kT\left(\frac{2}{3g_m} + \frac{1}{g_m^2 R_D}\right) + \frac{K}{C_{ox}WL}\frac{1}{f}$$

- To reduce the input-referred noise voltage
 - The g_m of M_1 must be maximized if the transistor is to amplify a voltage signal applied to its gate.



- − If g_{m1} ↑ → I_D ↑ → greater power dissipation and limited voltage swings.
- − If g_{m1} ↑ → W/L ↑ → larger input and output capacitance.
- The transconductance of M_1 must be minimized if the transistor operates as a current source.
- Noise contributed by R_D decreases as R_D increases.
 - Limiting the voltage headroom and lowering the speed.
- The noise voltage due to R_D at the output proportional to $(R_D)^{0.5}$
- The voltage gain of the circuit is proportional to R_D .
- Trade-off between noise, power dissipation, voltage headroom, and speed.

SNR of CS Stage



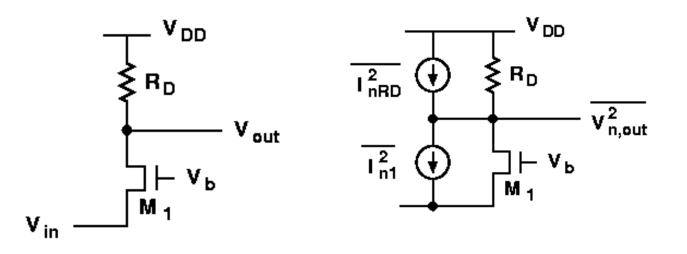
$$\overline{V_{n,out}^2} = 4kT \frac{2}{3} (g_{m1} + g_{m2}) (r_{O1} \parallel r_{O2})^2 = \overline{V_{n,in}^2} (g_{m1})^2 (r_{O1} \parallel r_{O2})^2, \ \overline{V_{n,in}^2} = 4kT \frac{2}{3} \frac{(g_{m1} + g_{m2})}{(g_{m1})^2}$$

$$\overline{V_{n,out,tot}^2} = \int_0^\infty 4kT \frac{2}{3} (g_{m1} + g_{m2}) (r_{O1} \parallel r_{O2})^2 \frac{df}{1 + (r_{O1} \parallel r_{O2})^2 C_L^2 (2\pi f)^2} = \frac{2}{3} (g_{m1} + g_{m2}) (r_{O1} \parallel r_{O2}) \frac{kT}{C_L}$$

$$SNR_{out} = \left[\frac{g_{m1}(r_{O1} || r_{O2})V_m}{\sqrt{2}}\right]^2 \frac{1}{(2/3)(g_{m1} + g_{m2})(r_{O1} || r_{O2})(kT/C_L)} = \frac{3C_L}{4kT} \frac{g_{m1}^2(r_{O1} || r_{O2})}{g_{m1} + g_{m2}}V_m^2$$

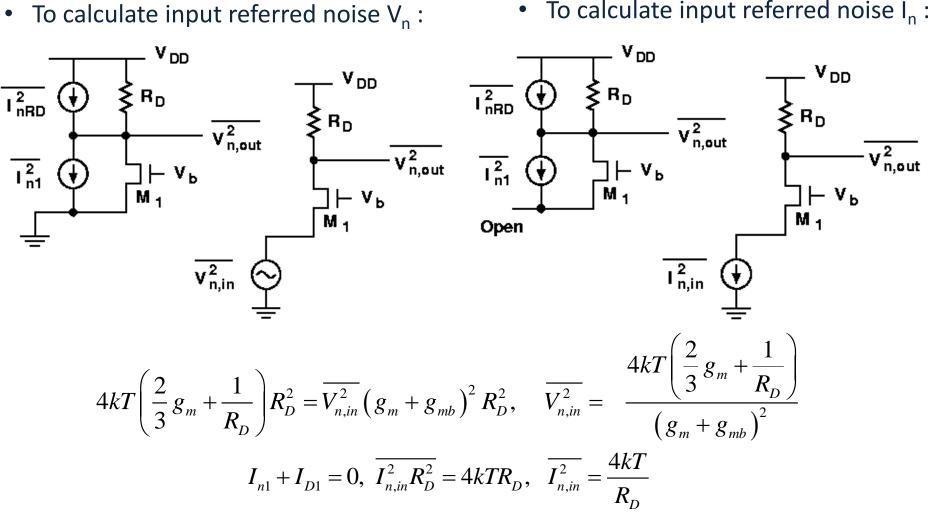
- $C_L \uparrow$ bandwidth \downarrow SNR \uparrow
- $g_{m1} \uparrow g_{m2} \downarrow V_m \uparrow SNR \uparrow$ (V_m: amplitude of sinusoid input)

Common-Gate Stage



- Neglect channel length modulation effect. Represent the thermal noise of M₁ and R_D by two current sources.
- Due to low input impedance of CG, the input-referred noise current is not negligible at low frequencies
- They directly refer the noise current produced by the load to the input (current-gain = 1).

Input-referred Noise of CG



They directly refer the noise current produced by the load to the input (I-gain = 1).

Noise Contributed by Current Source

- The drain noise current of M_2 directly adds to the input referred noise current of I_{n2}^2 .
- For low noise performance, $g_{m2} \downarrow^{n2}$, $g_{m2} = \frac{2I_{D2}}{(V_{GS2} V_{TH2})}$
- For a given bias current, this requires a high voltage of V_b and limiting the voltage swing at the output node.
- For input-referred noise voltage, short the input to ground

$$\overline{V_{n,out}^2} = 4kT \frac{2}{3} (g_{m1} + g_{m3})(r_{O1} || r_{O3})^2 = \overline{V_{n,in}^2} (g_{m1} + g_{mb1})^2 (r_{O1} || r_{O3})^2$$
$$\overline{V_{n,in}^2} = 4kT \frac{2}{3} \frac{(g_{m1} + g_{m3})}{(g_{m1} + g_{mb1})^2} \propto g_{m3}$$

• For input-referred noise current, open the input

$$\overline{V_{n,out}^2} = (\overline{I_{n2}^2} + \overline{I_{n3}^2})R_{out}^2 = \overline{I_{n,in}^2}R_{out}^2, \quad \overline{I_{n,in}^2} = (\overline{I_{n2}^2} + \overline{I_{n3}^2}) = 4kT\frac{2}{3}(g_{m2} + g_{m3}) \quad \propto \quad g_{m2}, \ g_{m3}$$

Vin

 $\overline{I_{n2}^2}$

.V_{DD}

Noise Contributed by 1/f Noise

- Consider Flicker noise
 - Each 1/f noise is modeled by a voltage source in series with the gate of the corresponding transistor.
- Let K_N and K_P denote the flicker noise coefficient of NMOS and PMOS devices. When the input shorted to ground, we have

$$\overline{V_{n,out}^2} = \frac{1}{C_{ox}f} \left[\frac{g_{m1}^2 K_N}{(WL)_1} + \frac{g_{m3}^2 K_P}{(WL)_3} \right] (r_{o1} \parallel r_{o3})^2 \quad \text{Thus} \quad \overline{V_{n,in}^2} = \frac{1}{C_{ox}f} \left[\frac{g_{m1}^2 K_N}{(WL)_1} + \frac{g_{m3}^2 K_P}{(WL)_3} \right] \frac{1}{(g_{m1} + g_{mb1})^2}$$

• With the input open

$$\overline{V_{n,out}^{2}} = \frac{1}{C_{ox}f} \left[\frac{g_{m2}^{2}K_{N}}{(WL)_{2}} + \frac{g_{m3}^{2}K_{P}}{(WL)_{3}} \right] R_{out}^{2} \quad \text{yielding} \quad \overline{I_{n,in}^{2}} = \frac{1}{C_{ox}f} \left[\frac{g_{m2}^{2}K_{N}}{(WL)_{2}} + \frac{g_{m3}^{2}K_{P}}{(WL)_{3}} \right]$$



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$$V_{n3}^{2} \downarrow V_{DD}$$

$$M_{3} \downarrow V_{n,out}$$

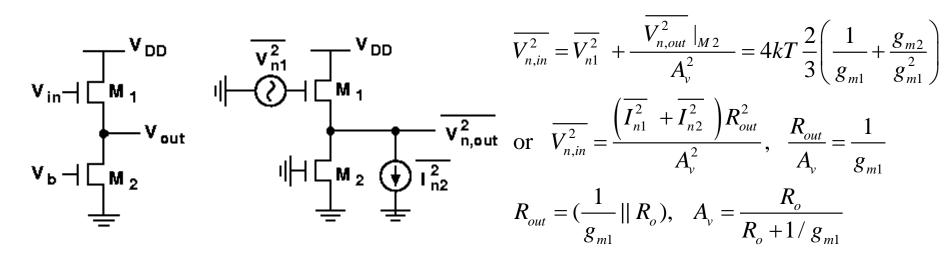
$$V_{in} \downarrow M_{1} \bigoplus V_{n1}^{2}$$

$$M_{2} \downarrow \bigoplus V_{n2}^{2}$$

$$= \bigvee V_{n2}^{2}$$

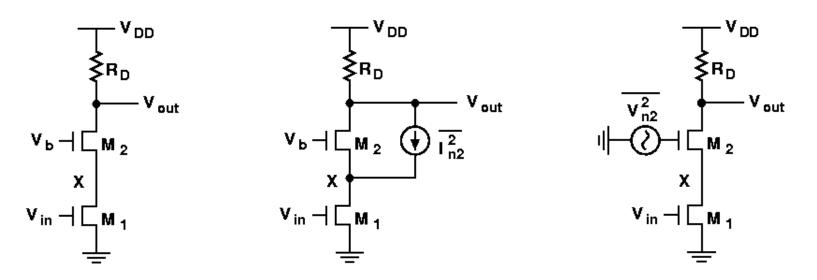
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Source Followers



- *M*₂ serves as the bias current source .
- Since the input impedance of the circuit is quite high, even at relatively high frequencies, the input-referred noise current can usually be neglected for moderate driving source impedances.
- Since source followers add noise to the input signal while providing a voltage gain less than unity, they are usually avoided in low-noise amplification.

Cascode Stage



• Consider the noise current of M_1 and R_D . At low frequencies, the noise currents of M_1 and R_D flow through R_D

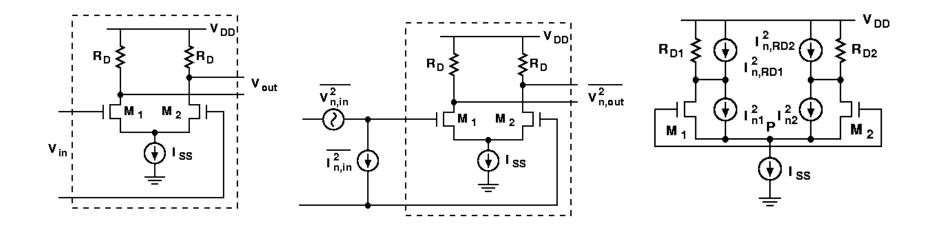
$$\overline{V_{n,in}^2}\Big|_{M1,RD} = 4kT\left(\frac{2}{3g_{m1}} + \frac{1}{g_{m1}^2R_D}\right)$$

• Consider the noise current of M_2 , (CS +Source degeneration)

$$\frac{V_{n,out}}{V_{n2}} \approx \frac{-R_D}{1/sC_X + 1/g_{m2}}$$

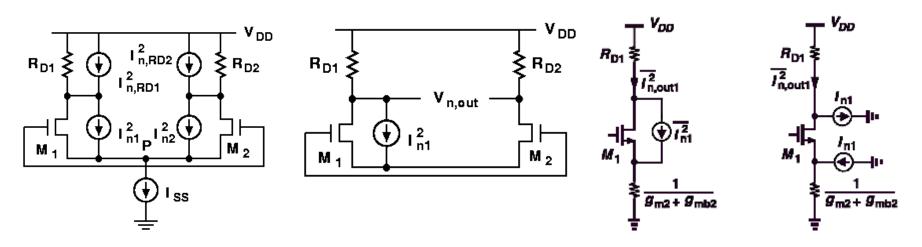
• The input referred noise of a cascode stage may rise considerably at high freq.

Noise in Differential Pairs



- For low frequency operation, the magnitude of $\overline{I_{n,in}^2}$ is typically negligible.
- To calculate the thermal component of $\overline{V_{n,in}^2}$, short input
 - Since $\overline{I_{n1}^2}$ and $\overline{I_{n2}^2}$ are uncorrelated, node *P* can not be considered a virtual ground.

Input Referred Noise of DP



• Decomposing I_{n1} into two (correlated) current sources and calculating their effect at the output. $I_{n1} = I_{n1} = I_{n1} = I_{n1}$

$$V_{n,out} \Big|_{\rm M1} = \frac{I_{n1}}{2} R_{D1} + \frac{I_{n1}}{2} R_{D2}$$

- If $R_{D1} = R_{D2} = R_D$ $\overline{V_{n,out}^2}\Big|_{M1} = \overline{I_{n1}^2}R_D^2$, $\overline{V_{n,out}^2}\Big|_{M2} = \overline{I_{n2}^2}R_D^2$, $\overline{V_{n,out}^2}\Big|_{M1,M2} = \left(\overline{I_{n1}^2} + \overline{I_{n2}^2}\right)R_D^2$
- Taking into account the noise of $R_{D1} = R_{D2}$

$$\overline{V_{n,out}^2} = \left(\overline{I_{n1}^2}R_D^2 + \overline{I_{n2}^2}R_D^2\right) + 2(4kTR_D) = 8kT\left(\frac{2}{3}g_mR_D^2 + R_D\right)$$

• Dividing the result by the square of the differential gain:

$$\overline{V_{n,in}^2}(CS) = 4kT\left(\frac{2}{3g_m} + \frac{1}{g_m^2 R_D}\right)$$

Input-Referred Noise of DP

 Placing the voltage sources given by K/(C_{ox}WL) in series with each gate

$$\overline{V_{n,in}^2} = 8kT\left(\frac{2}{3g_m} + \frac{1}{g_m^2 R_D}\right) + \frac{2K}{C_{ox}WL}\frac{1}{f}$$

• The noise of tail current modulates the transconductance of each device

$$\Delta I_{D1} - \Delta I_{D2} = g_m \Delta V_{in} = \sqrt{2\mu_n C_{ox} \frac{W}{L} \left(\frac{I_{SS} + I_n}{2}\right)} \Delta V_{in}$$

• In essence, the noise modulates the transconductance of each device

$$\Delta I_{D1} - \Delta I_{D2} \approx \sqrt{2\mu_n C_{ox}} \frac{W}{L} \cdot \frac{I_{SS}}{2} \left(1 + \frac{I_n}{2I_{SS}}\right) \Delta V_{in} = g_{m0} \left(1 + \frac{I_n}{2I_{SS}}\right) \Delta V_{in}$$

 g_{m0} : g_m of noiseless circuit

The effect is nonetheless usually negligible.

$$\overline{V_{n,in}^2}(CS) = 4kT\left(\frac{2}{3g_m} + \frac{1}{g_m^2 R_D}\right) + \frac{K}{C_{ox}WL}\frac{1}{f}$$

