EE4280 Lecture 8:
Charge-Pump Phase-Locked Loops

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Issues with Type-I Phase-Locked Loop

- **Strict trade-offs between response time, stability, steady-state ripple & jitter, and steady-state phase error**

- **Limited acquisition range**

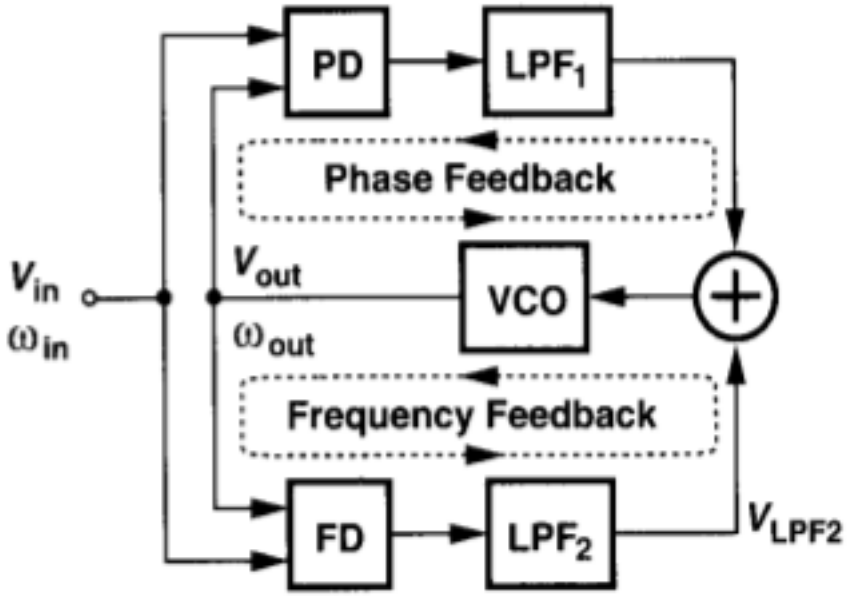
• The initial frequency of VCO can be very far from the input frequency

• The acquisition range is on the order of ω_{LPF}

→ Difference between win and ω_{out} has to be less than ω_{LPF}

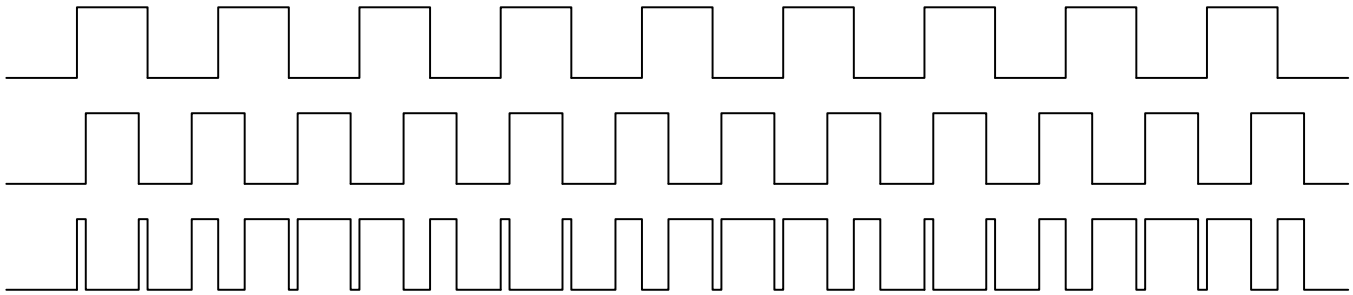
→ Trade-offs further tightened

• Possible solution:



Two Inputs with Different Frequencies

- **An XOR cannot detect frequency error**



- **Output pulses varies periodically**
  - At beat frequency (the frequency difference of the two)

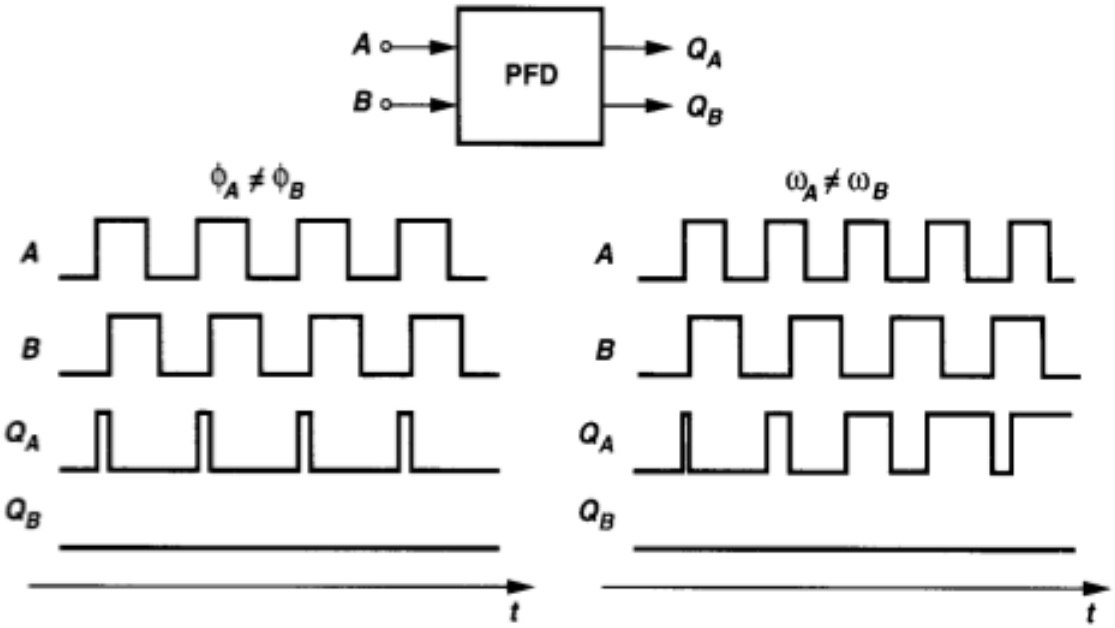
→ The larger the difference, the faster the output pulse width changes

→ The LPF output stays constant and does not change due to the change of phase difference

→ XOR (phase detector) does not detect frequency difference

Phase Frequency Detector

- **Sequential logic of 3 states that responds to input edges**



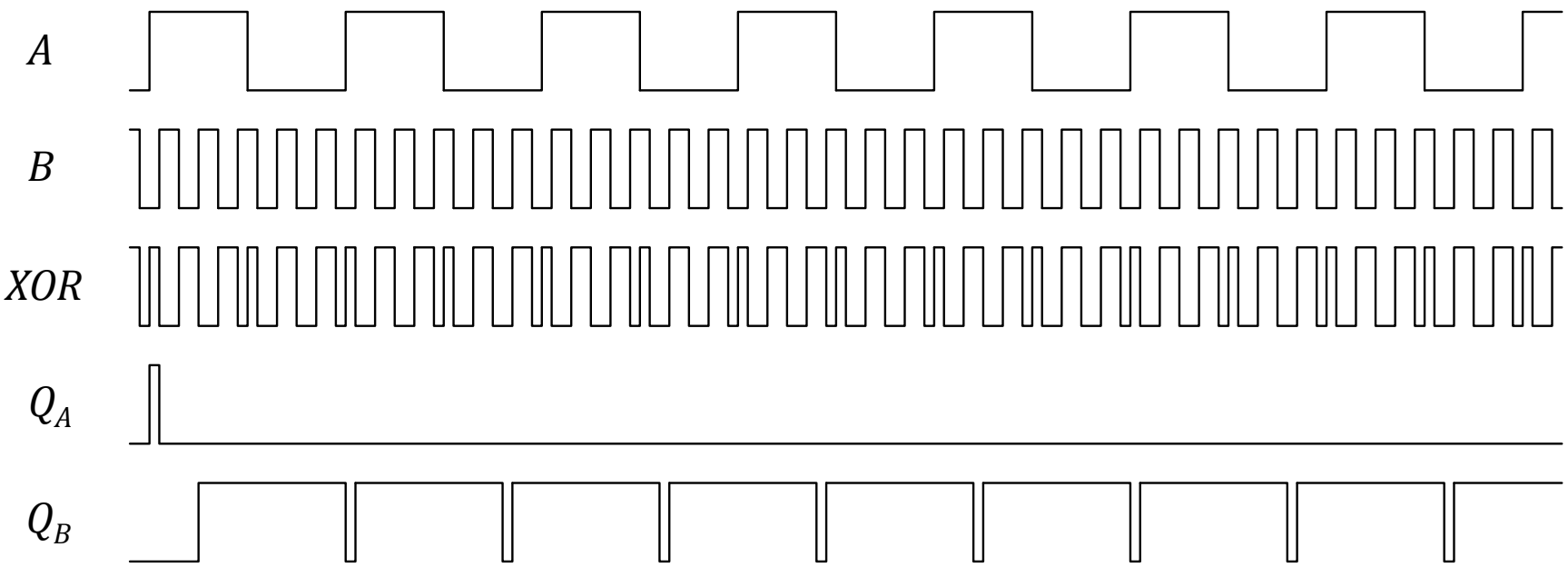
- Reset state: Q_A=Q_B=0 initially
- Q_A responds to rising edge of input A

→ does not reset until rising edge of input B

→ Two outputs indicate fast and slow in either phase or frequency

PFD – in Case with Large Frequency Difference

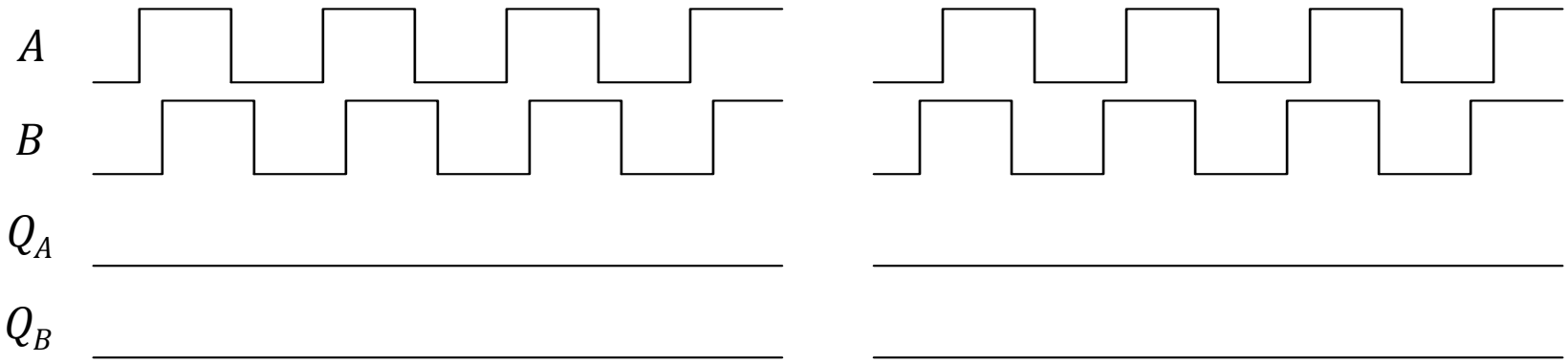
- **For larger frequency difference**



The Transfer Function of PFD

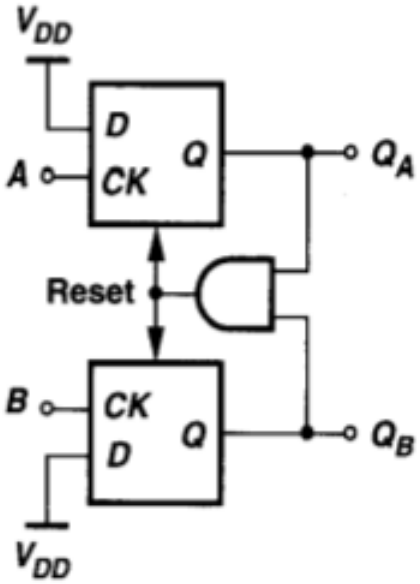
- **Consider two outputs of the same frequency**

in case where A leads B **in case where B leads A**



Implementation Example

- **Using resettable flip-flops**

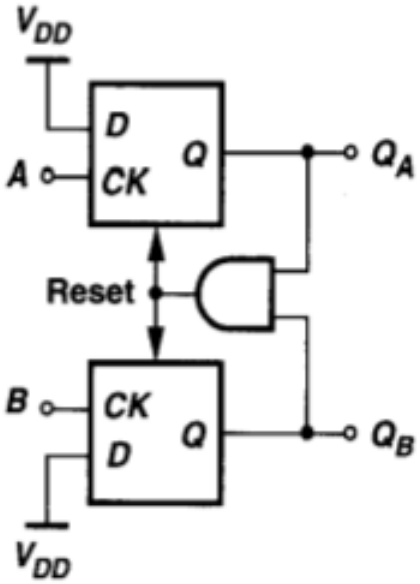


- **QA and QB are simultaneously high for a short period of time**

→ Reset pulse

Implementation Example

- **Using resettable flip-flops → implemented using SR latch?**



The Problem of Using SR Latch for Resettable FF

- For two clocks with close phases

The Problem of Using SR Latch for Resettable FF

- **For two clocks with close phases**

→ We want the outputs to stay low in this case

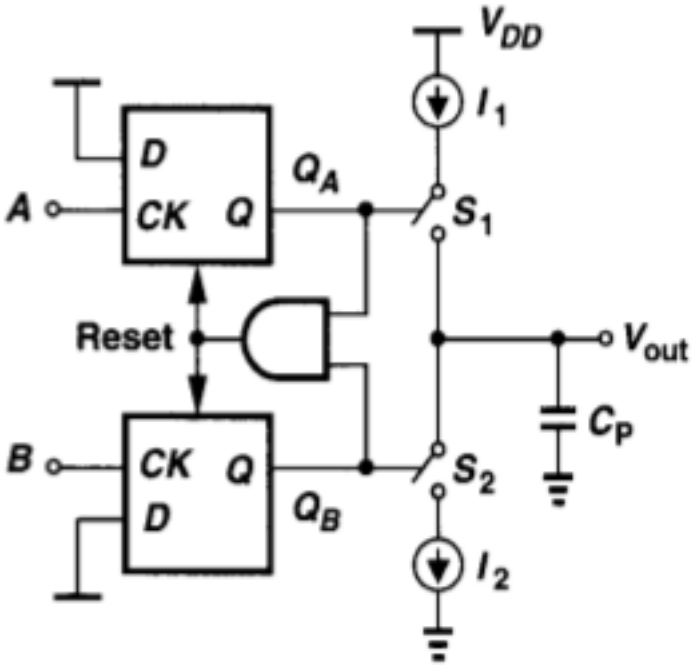
- **How many numbers of stage delay is the reset pulse?**

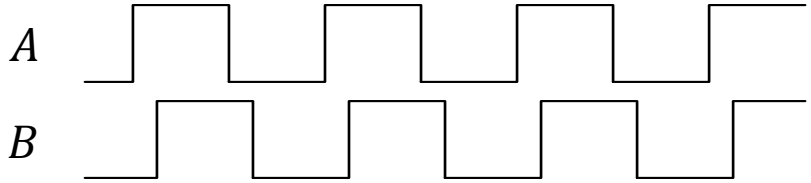
To Take the PFD's Outputs to VCO

- **A simple way**

Charge Pump

- I_1 and I_2 are nominally identical
- In case where A leads B

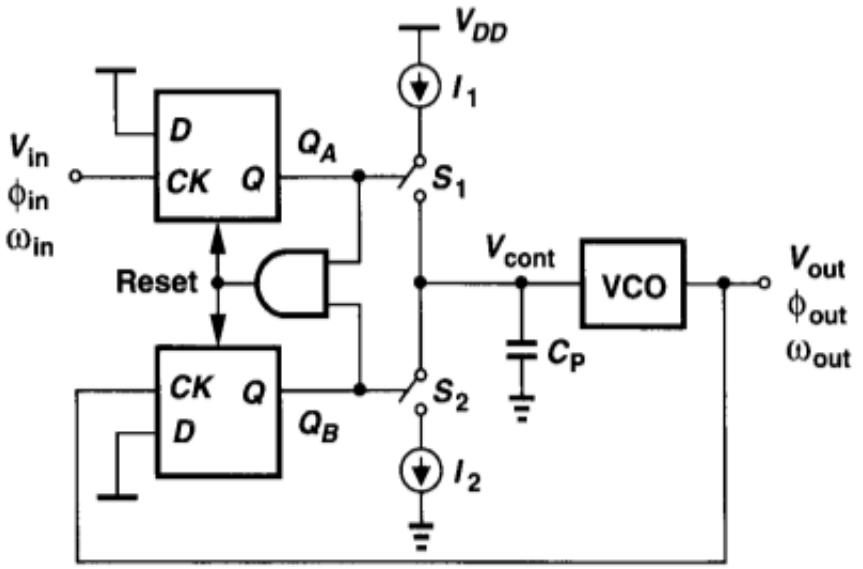


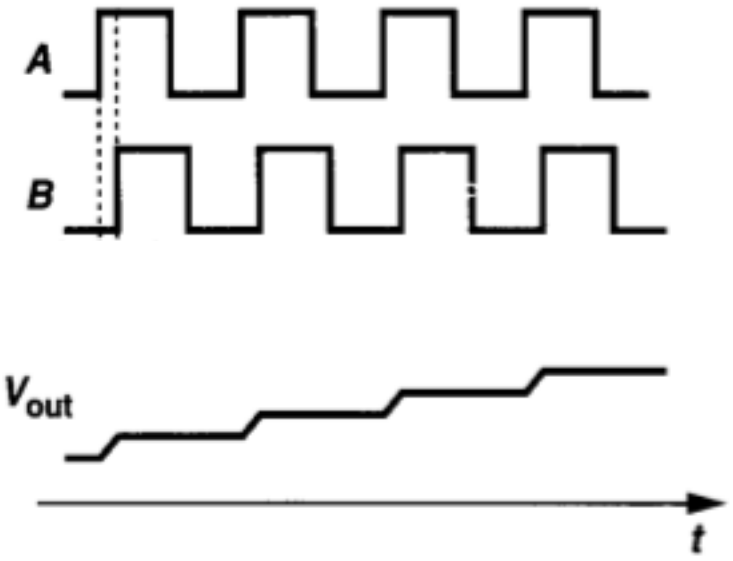


- The slope of V_{out}
- Effect of the reset pulses that appear in both Q_A and Q_B

Dynamics of Charge-Pump Phase-Locked Loops

- When the system is just turned on, ω_{out} and ω_{in} may be very different
- As ω_{out} approaches ω_{in}
- Transfer function of PFD+CP
  In case if $\Delta\phi_{in}$ doubles





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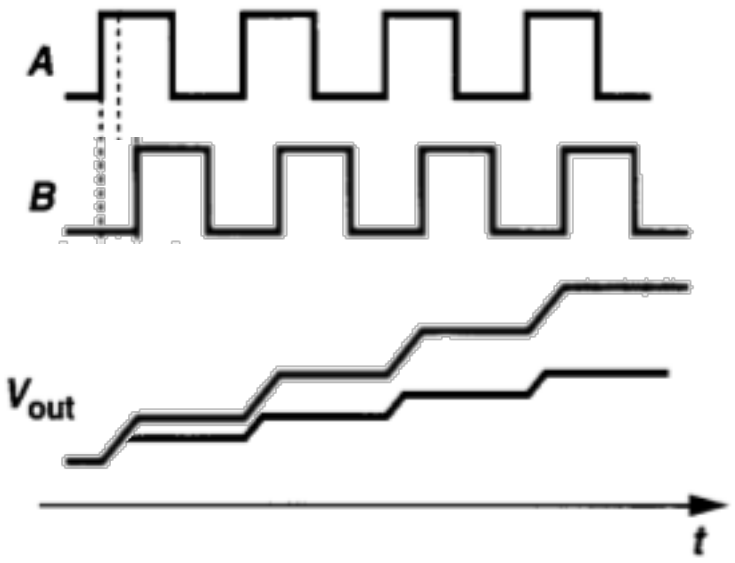
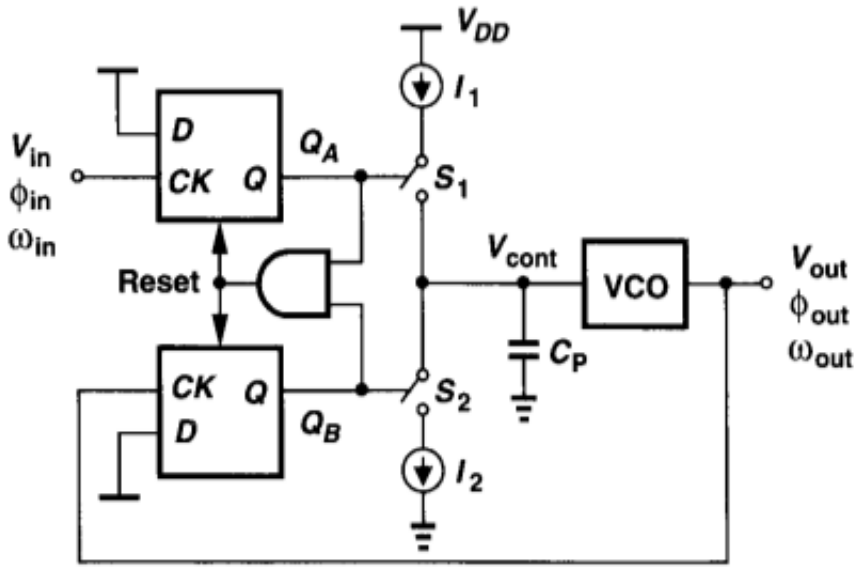
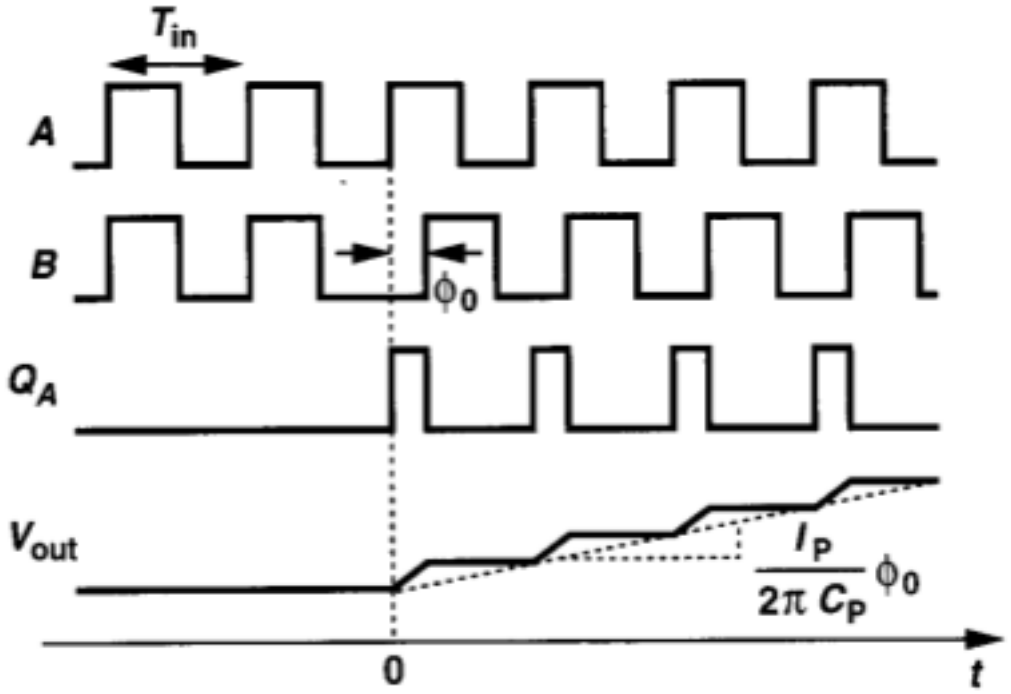




➔ Strictly speaking: not a linear system

Transfer Function of PFD+CP (I)

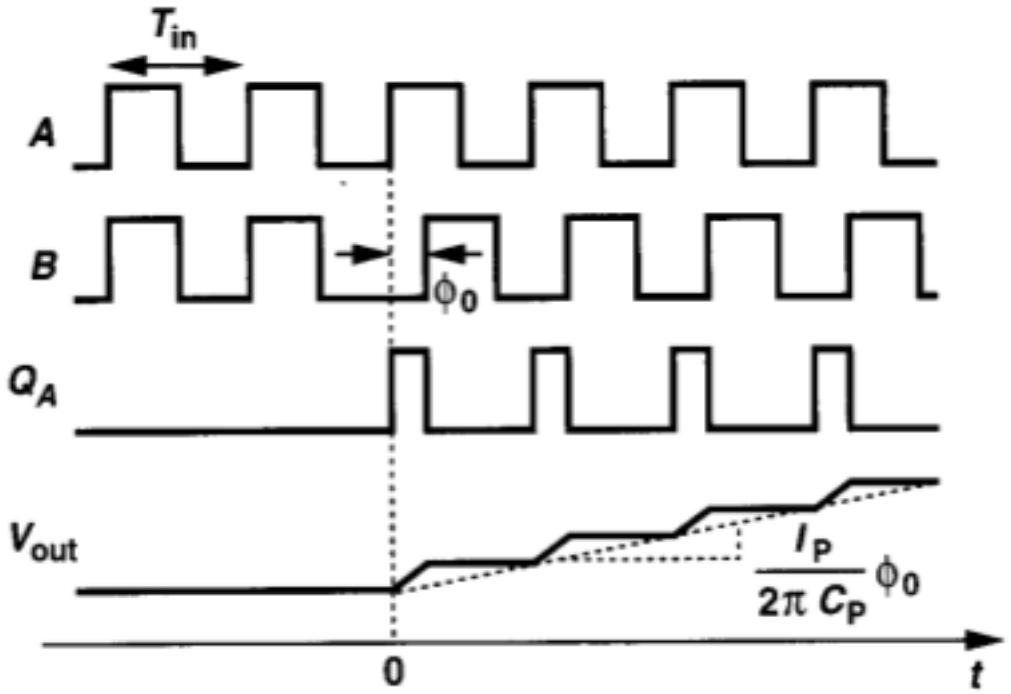
- With a phase step at input



Transfer Function of PFD+CP (II)

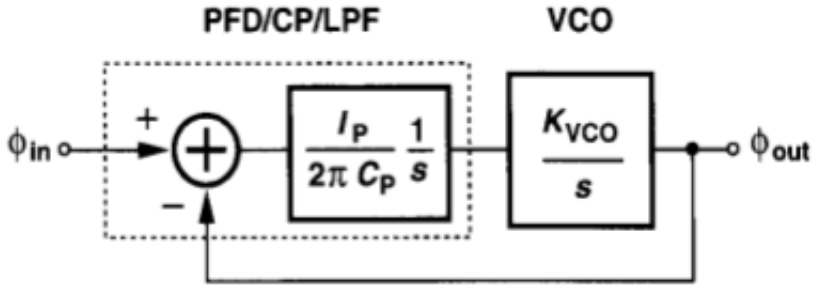
- Average output current with $\Delta\phi_{in}$

➔ The current flows into a capacitor, establishing V_{out}



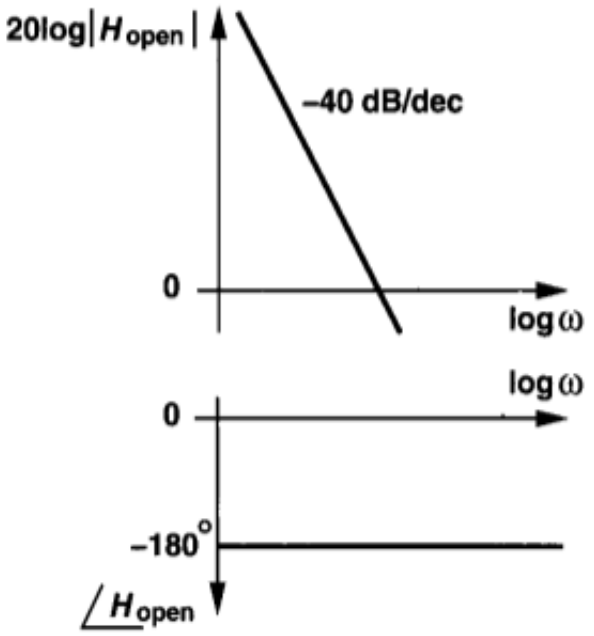
Loop Dynamics (I)

- **Linear model of the PLL → to derive the response from ϕ_{in} to ϕ_{out}**



- **Open-loop transfer function** (from phase → voltage → voltage → phase)

$$\frac{\Phi_{out}}{\Phi_{in}}(s)|_{open} = \frac{I_P}{2\pi C_P}\frac{K_{VCO}}{s^2}$$



- Two poles at origin → type-II PLL

- **Closed-loop transfer function**

$$H(s) = \frac{\frac{I_P K_{VCO}}{2\pi C_P}}{s^2 + \frac{I_P K_{VCO}}{2\pi C_P}}$$

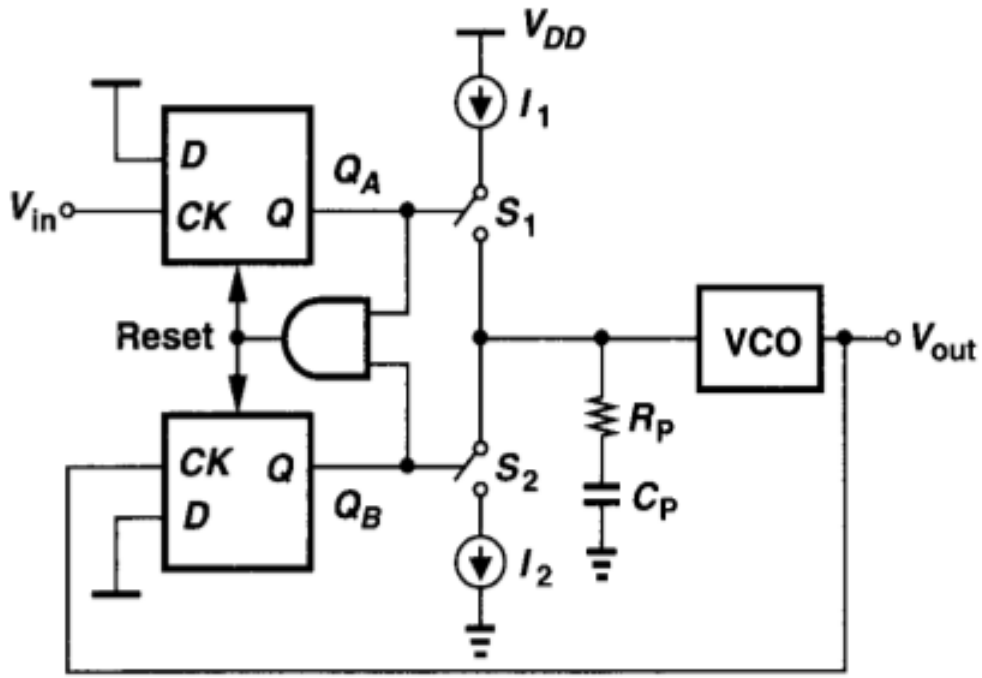
To Stabilize the Loop

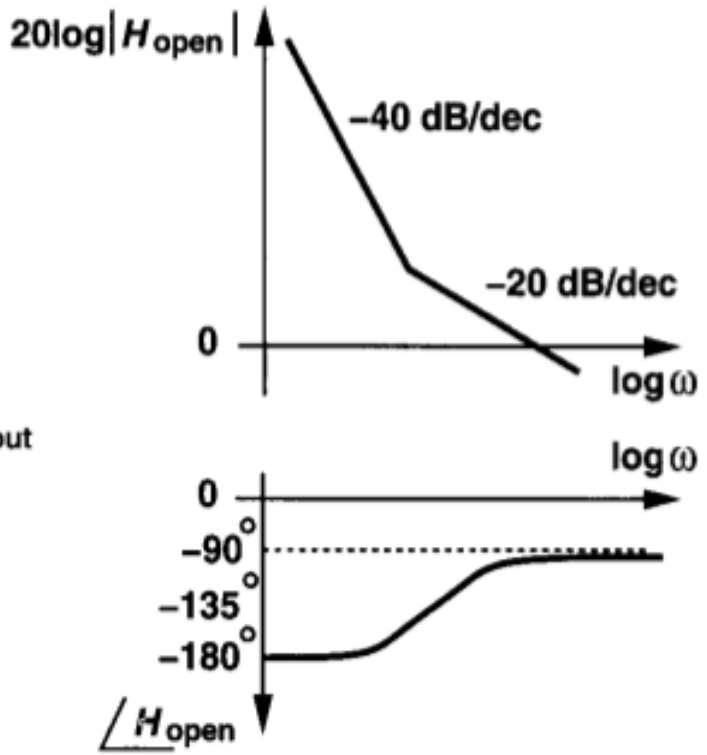
- **We need certain phase margin at ω_u**

→ A left-plane zero by inserting a resistor

→ The charge pump sees R in series with C

$$\frac{\Phi_{out}}{\Phi_{in}}(s)|_{\text{open}} = \frac{I_P}{2\pi}\left(R_P + \frac{1}{C_P s}\right)\frac{K_{VCO}}{s}$$

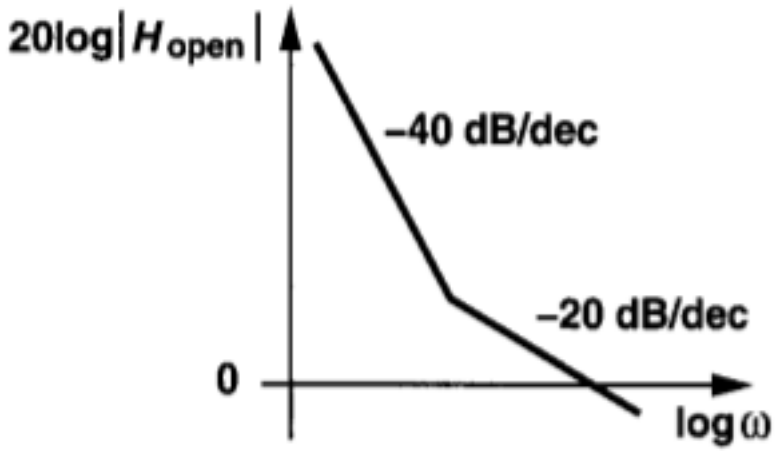




Loop Dynamics (II)

- **Closed-loop transfer function**

$$H(s) = \frac{\frac{I_P K_{VCO}}{2\pi C_P}(R_P C_P s + 1)}{s^2 + \frac{I_P}{2\pi} K_{VCO} R_P s + \frac{I_P}{2\pi C_P} K_{VCO}}$$



- Low-frequency gain of unity

→ Output tracks the input phase well if input phase varies slowly

→ For input phase step, output phase eventually catches up

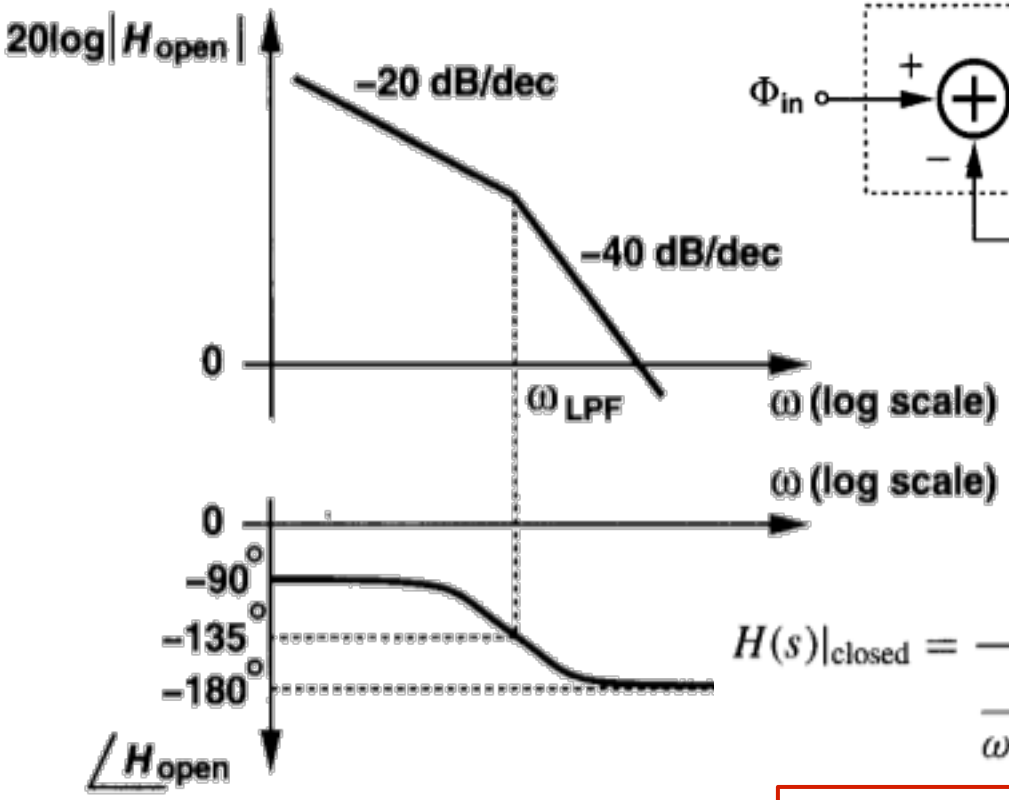
→ The same applies to frequency as well

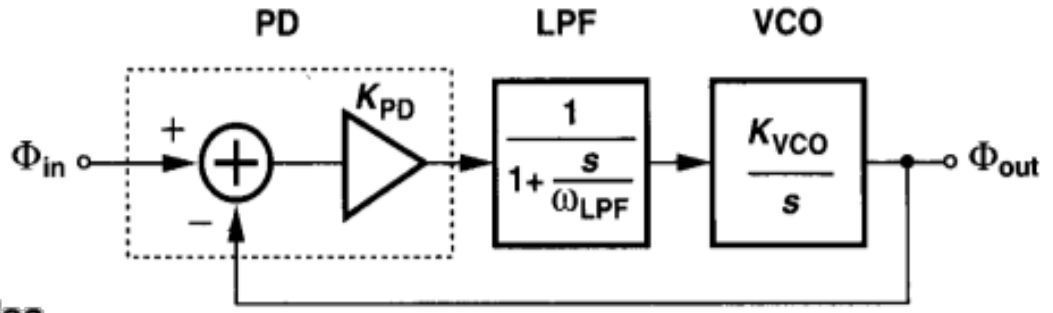
- **Second-order system** $\omega_n = \sqrt{\frac{I_P K_{VCO}}{2\pi C_P}} \quad \zeta = \frac{R_P}{2}\sqrt{\frac{I_P C_P K_{VCO}}{2\pi}}.$

- To stabilize the system by increasing the damping factor
- To speed up the loop response

Loop Dynamics of Basic PLL

- From Bode plot of open-loop transfer function





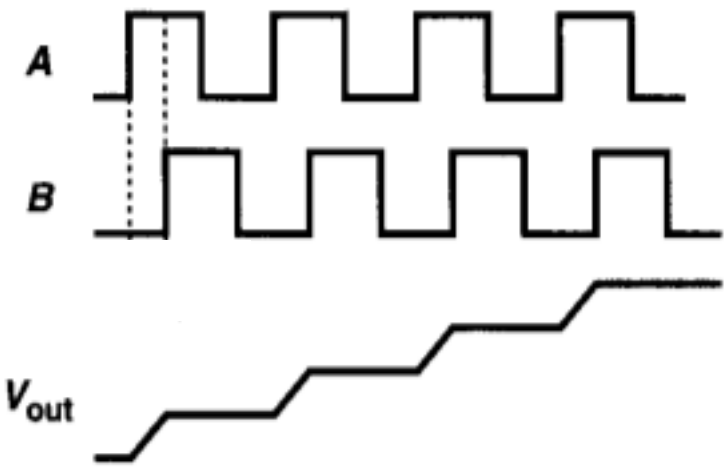
$$H(s)|_{\text{open}} = K_{PD} \cdot \frac{1}{1+\frac{s}{\omega_{LPF}}} \cdot \frac{K_{VCO}}{s}$$

$$H(s)|_{\text{closed}} = \frac{K_{PD}K_{VCO}}{\frac{s^2}{\omega_{LPF}} + s + K_{PD}K_{VCO}} = \frac{\omega_n^2}{s^2 + 2\zeta\omega_n s + \omega_n^2}$$

$$\omega_n = \sqrt{\omega_{LPF}K_{PD}K_{VCO}} \qquad \zeta = \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\frac{\omega_{LPF}}{K_{PD}K_{VCO}}}.$$

The Third-Order Capacitor

- Transient in V_{ctrl} with series R+C



- Add a capacitor C_2 in parallel with R+C to smooth V_{ctrl}

$$H(s)|_{open}$$

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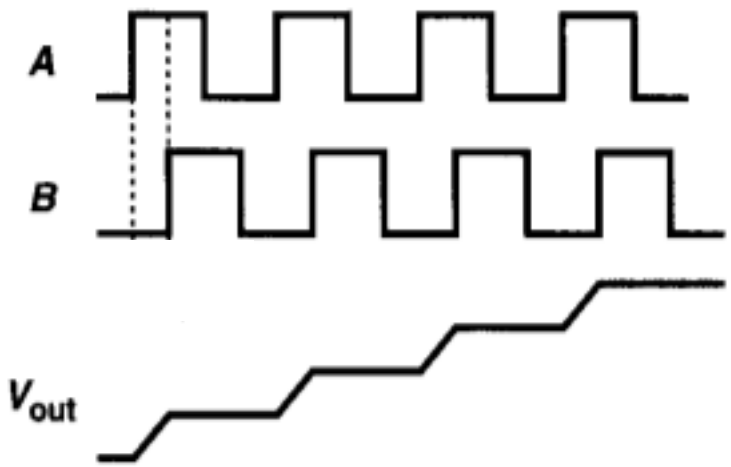
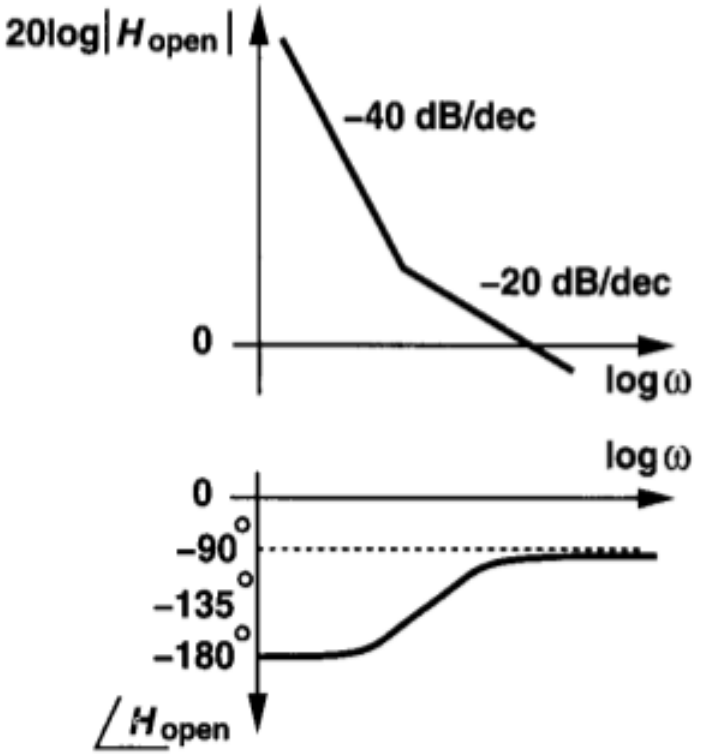




- Add a capacitor C_2 in parallel with R+C to smooth V_{ctrl}

$$H(s)|_{open}$$

Discrete-Time Nature of Phase-Locked Loops (I)

- **Continuous-time and linear approximation**
  - Yield reasonably accurate results when input frequency/phase varies slowly (compared to the reference frequency)
  - For example, with the operating frequency of 1 GHz and the input frequency varying with 1 MHz

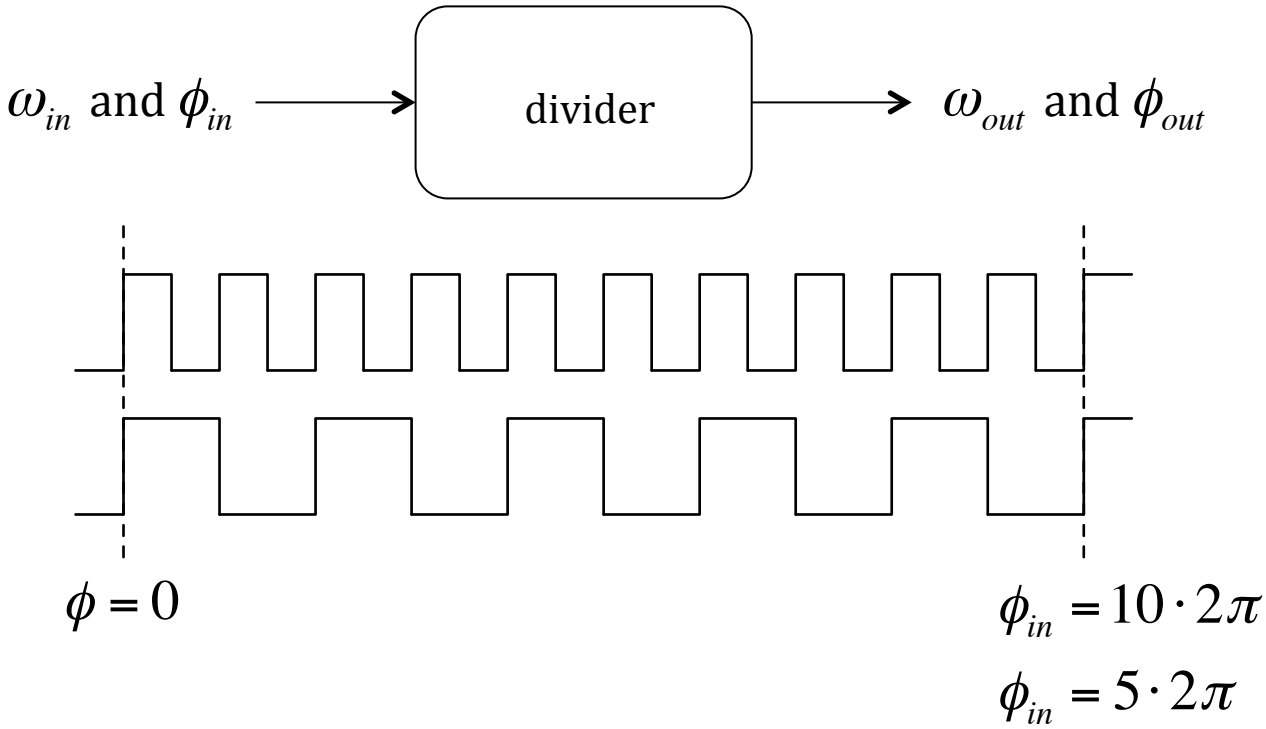
→ Very dense sampling → close to continuous-time operation

Discrete-Time Nature of Phase-Locked Loops (II)

- **When the frequency (that the signal frequency/phase is varying at) becomes comparable to the reference frequency**
  - For example, if $\omega_m = 0.25\omega_{REF}$

- **Nonlinear operation**
- **Sampling delay results in additional phase shift → degrade stability**
- **Typically ω_n is kept to be 1/20~1/10 ω_{REF}**

Frequency Divider



- **Usually implemented using digital circuits**
- **Both frequency and phase are divided by N**

With Frequency Divider in the Loop

- **Input frequency can be different from output frequency**

With Frequency Divider in the Loop

- **Input frequency can be different from output frequency**

- **The transfer function:**

$$\frac{\phi_{out}}{\phi_{in}} = \frac{\frac{I_{CP}}{2\pi}\left(R+\frac{1}{sC_P}\right)K_{VCO}}{1+\frac{I_{CP}}{2\pi}\left(R+\frac{1}{sC_P}\right)\frac{K_{VCO}}{M}} = \frac{\frac{I_{CP}K_{VCO}}{2\pi C_P}\left(1+sRC_P\right)}{s^2+\frac{I_{CP}K_{VCO}}{2\pi M}Rs+\frac{I_{CP}K_{VCO}}{2\pi C_P M}}$$

$$\omega_n = \sqrt{\frac{I_{CP}K_{VCO}}{2\pi M}} \text{ and } \zeta = \frac{R}{2}\sqrt{\frac{I_{CP}C_P K_{VCO}}{2\pi M}}$$

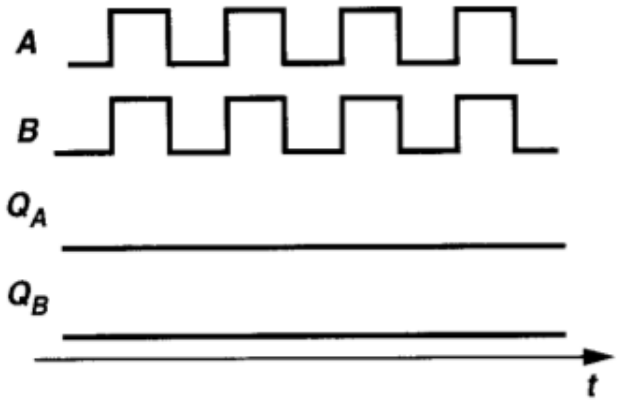
- **Can be used for frequency synthesis**

→ Frequency adjustment set by reference

Nonidealities in Phase-Locked Loops (I)

- **Design considerations of PFD+CP**

1) Reset pulse width: in case with no pulse or very narrow pulse



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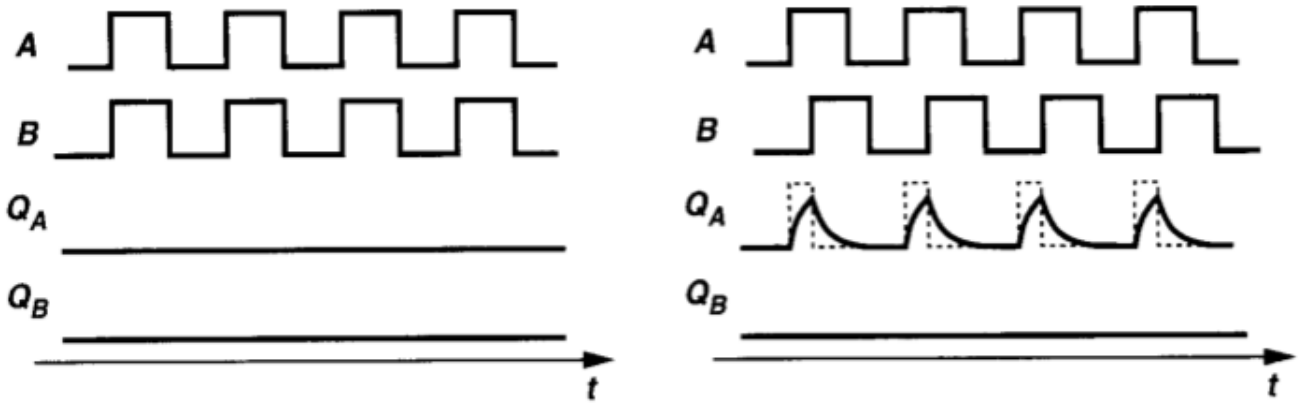

→ CP switches may not even get turned on

→ CP current may not settle in the short duration

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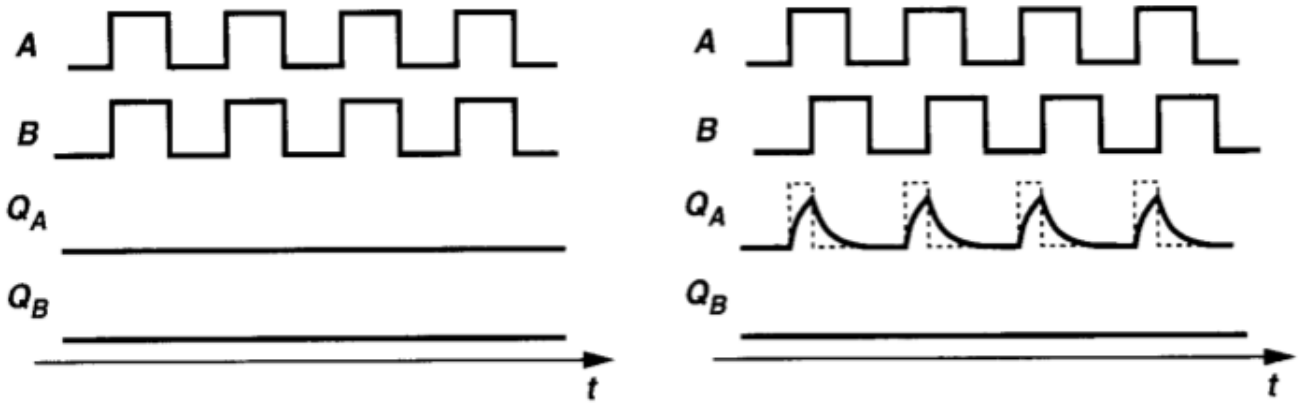

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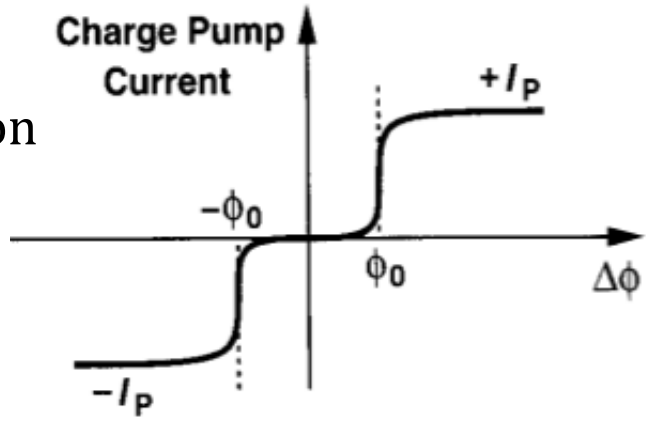
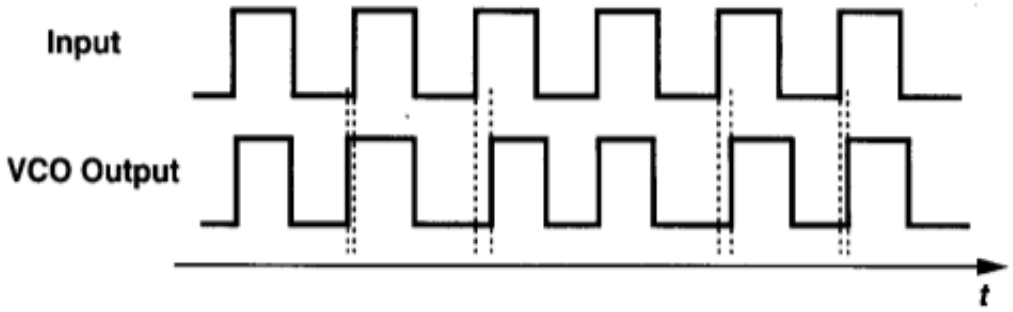
→ For very small phase error,
PFD+CP fail to produce proportional outputs



Nonidealities in Phase-Locked Loops (II)

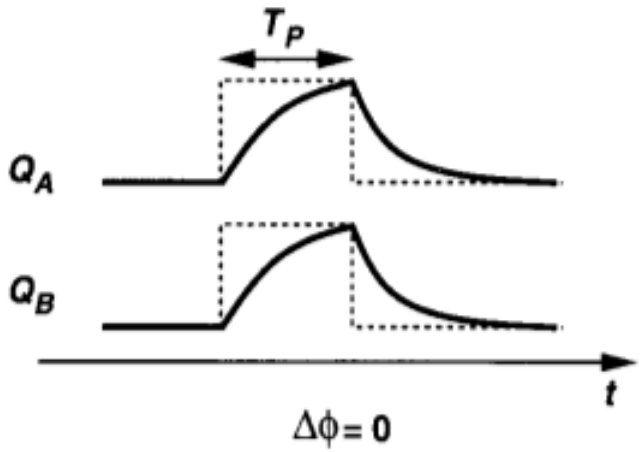
- **Effect of dead zone**

→ negative feedback is broken with small phase error



- **Sufficiently wide reset pulse allows PFD+CP to settle**

→ Ready for small phase error



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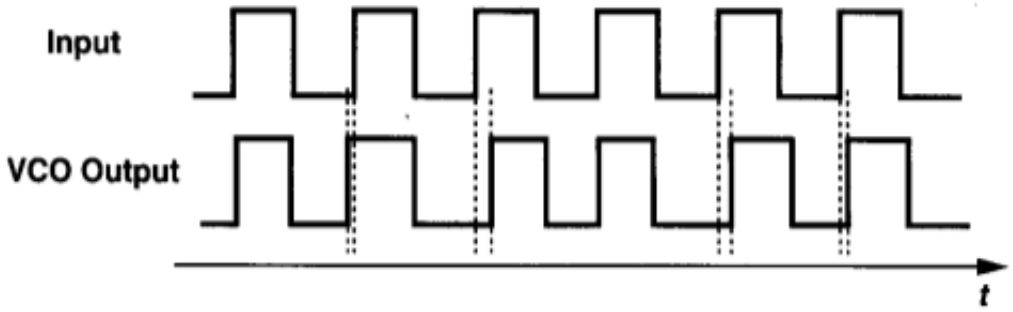

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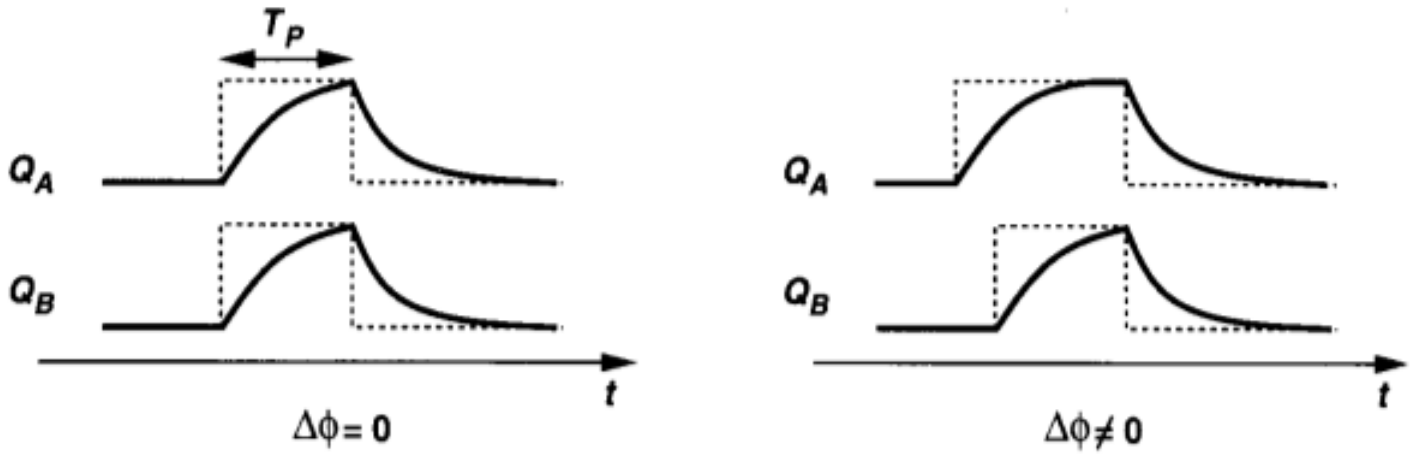
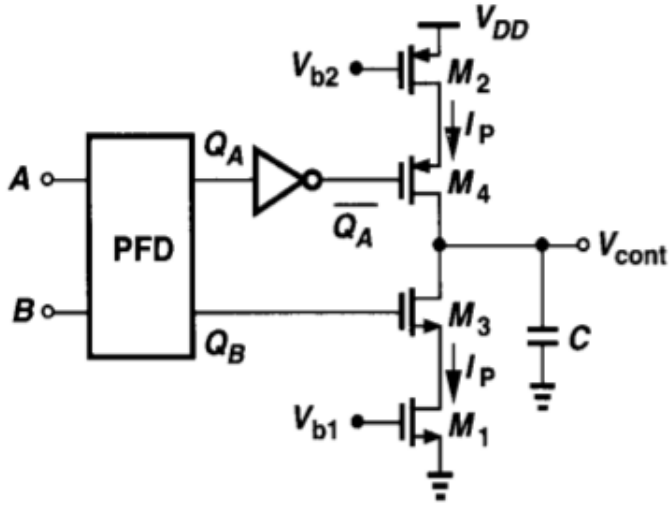


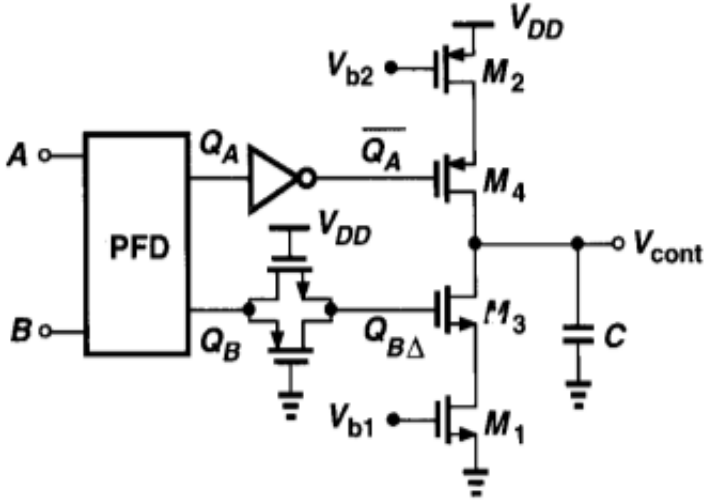
Nonidealities in Phase-Locked Loops (III)

- **Design considerations of PFD+CP**

2) Skew in Q_A and Q_B pulses

- As the upper part of circuit is usually implemented using PMOS



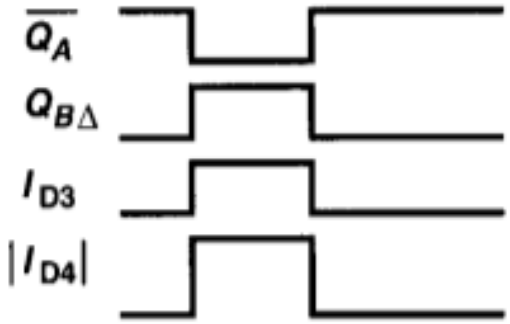


Nonidealities in Phase-Locked Loops (IV)

- **Design considerations of PFD+CP**

3) Mismatch between up and down currents

- Even with perfect pulse alignment, for example, if $I_{up}>I_{down}$



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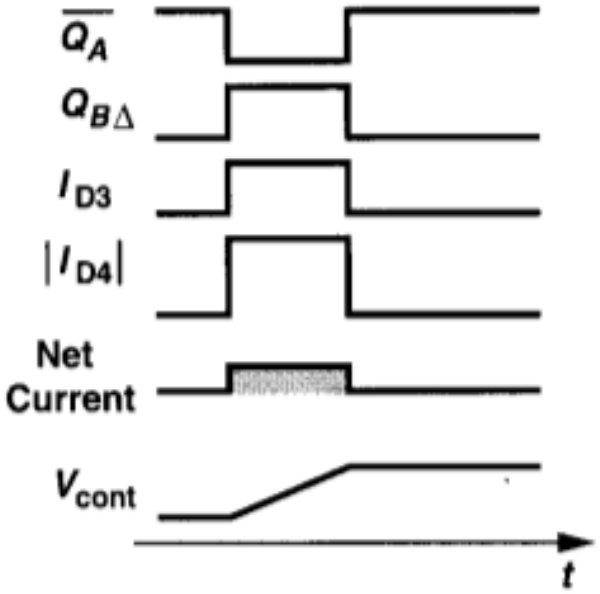

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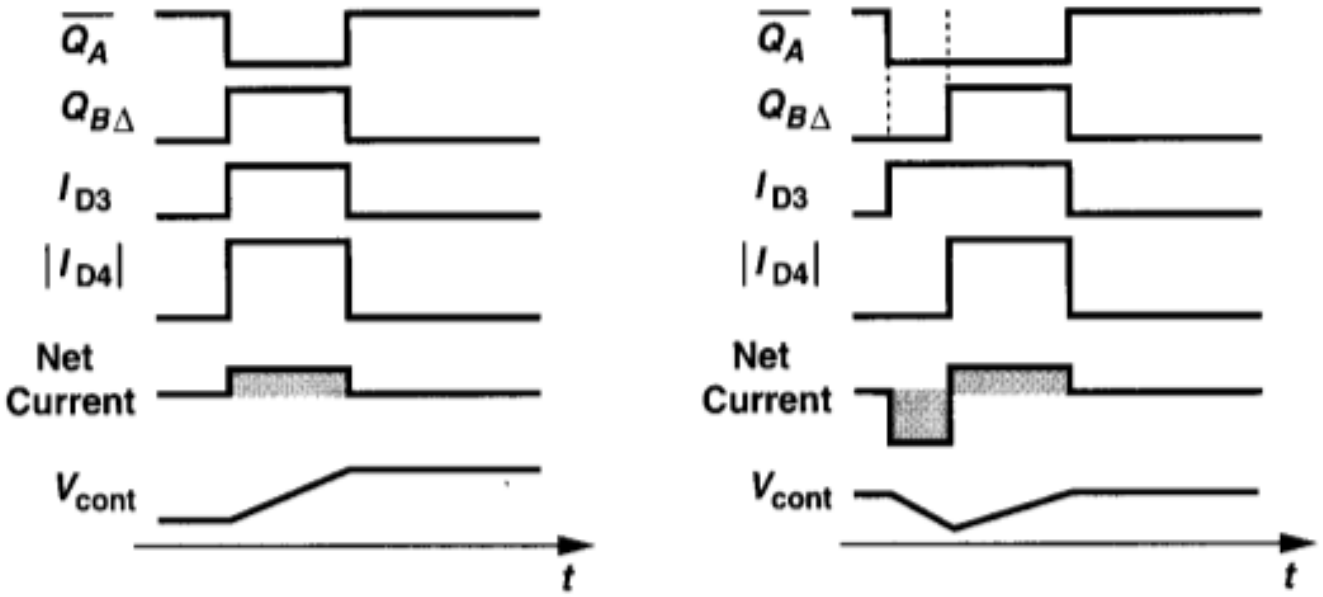
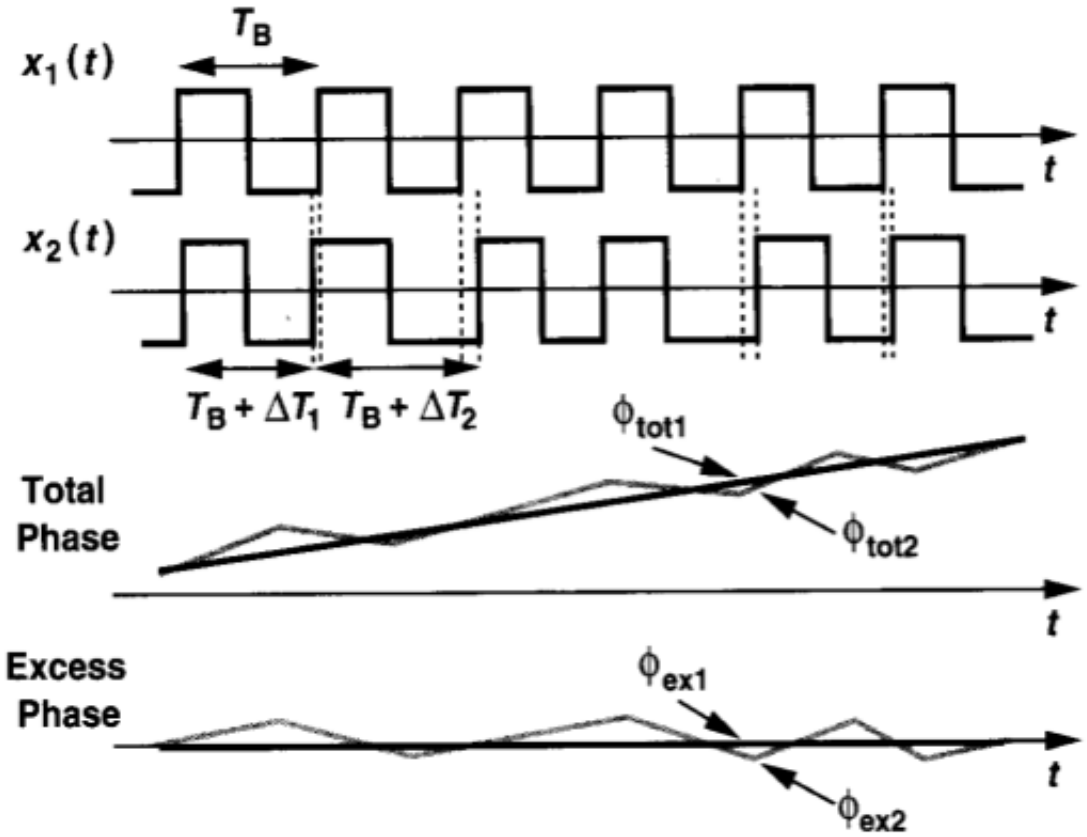


- Resulting in static phase error and V_{ctrl} ripple
- Difficult to maintain perfect match between I_{up} and I_{down} due to r_o of transistors → worse for advanced technology

Phase Noise and Jitter in Phase-Locked Loops (I)

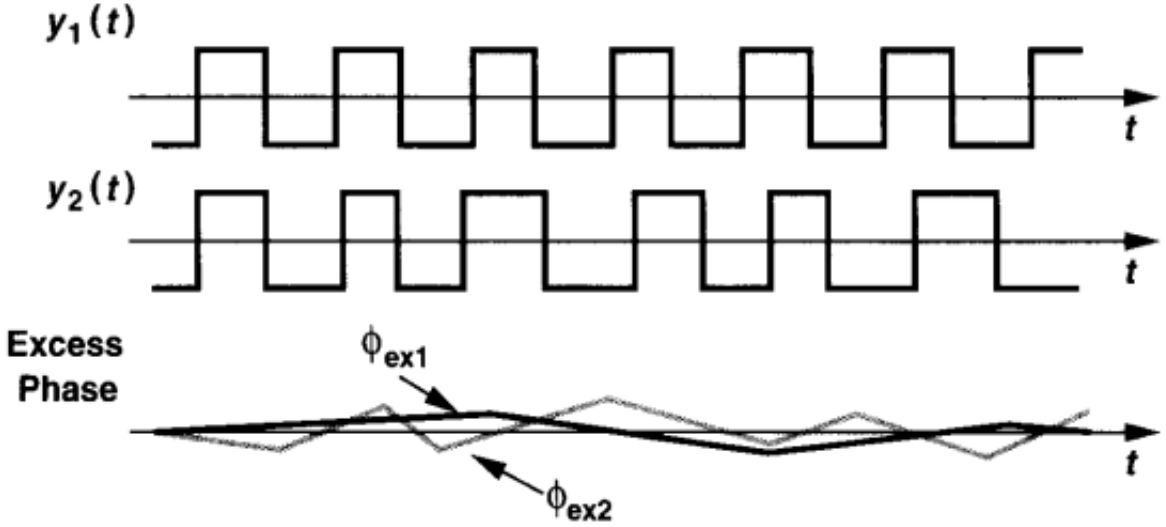
- **Total phase of a clean clock vs. a jittery clock**



- **Different ways to characterize and quantify jitter**
  - Cycle jitter, cycle-to-cycle jitter, long-term or absolute jitter

Phase Noise and Jitter in Phase-Locked Loops (II)

- **The rate at which the phase varies**



- **Two sources of jitter that are of most interest**

  - Jitter of the reference input

$$\frac{\Phi_{out}}{\Phi_{in}}(s) = \frac{\frac{I_P K_{VCO}}{2\pi C_P}(R_P C_P s + 1)}{s^2 + \frac{I_P}{2\pi} K_{VCO} R_P s + \frac{I_P}{2\pi C_P} K_{VCO}}$$

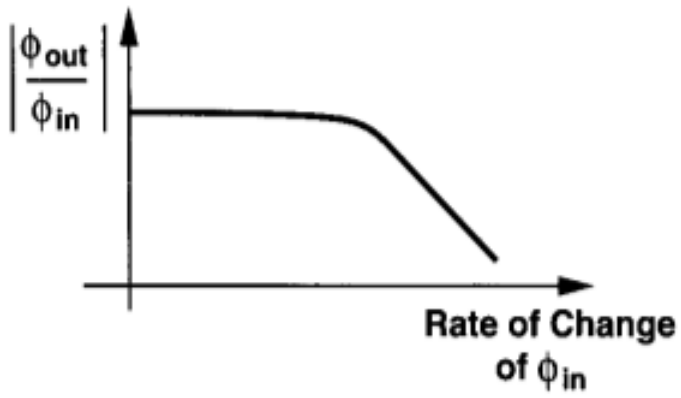
  - Jitter generated from the VCO

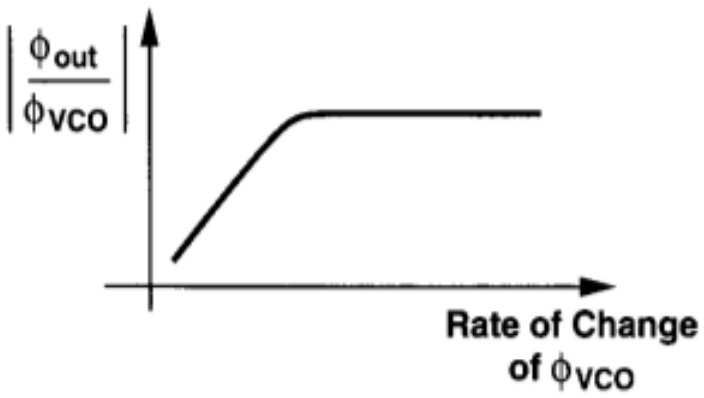
Phase Noise and Jitter in Phase-Locked Loops (III)

- **Jitter from VCO**

$$\frac{\Phi_{out}}{\Phi_{in}}(s) = \frac{\frac{I_P K_{VCO}}{2\pi C_P}(R_P C_P s + 1)}{s^2 + \frac{I_P}{2\pi} K_{VCO} R_P s + \frac{I_P}{2\pi C_P} K_{VCO}}$$

$$\frac{\Phi_{out}}{\Phi_{VCO}}(s) = \frac{s^2}{s^2 + 2\zeta\omega_n s + \omega_n^2}$$





- **Trade-off between noise contributions from different sources**