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Laboratory 8

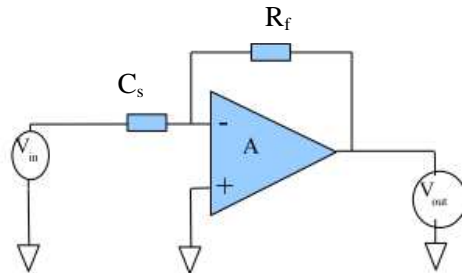
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Relaxation Oscillators

This lab consists of three modules. We will see how parasitic effects can occasionally be used to a designer's advantage

Part A: Capacitor connected at Input

Fig 1: C_s at source



Consider the circuit of Fig 1. Notice the difference from standard inverting feedback amplifier: the *source* resistor has been replaced by a capacitor C_s .

Q1: Calculate the *time-domain* response of V_{out} to V_{in} as in Part A. The time-domain response requires you to apply the golden rules of opamp design *and* the current-voltage relationship for a capacitor $I = C \frac{dV}{dt}$ followed by some algebra.

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Q2: Choose suitable values of the passive components R_s, C_f such that the time constant of your design is 1 ms.

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Q3: Build the circuit of Fig 2 and drive it with a *square* V_{in} of amplitude 2V peak-to-peak. Note that C_s is in the signal path, so the type of capacitor used is important. Choose wisely! Draw a diagram of your observations here and verify that your calculations of Q1 above are correct.

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Part B: Comparator

Recall the simple comparator (with hysteresis) circuit using positive feedback we studied earlier in Lab 2. The function of a comparator is to feedback a fraction of V_{out} to the (+) input so that when V_{in} exceeds a threshold set by the feedback fraction R_f^+/R^+ , the output switches to $-V_{sat}$ and when V_{in} falls below threshold, output switches to $+V_{sat}$

Use your memory/logic and draw the diagram of a simple comparator circuit here:

Fig 2: Simple comparator with positive feedback. Set the reference voltage for comparison to $V_{sat} * (R^+/R_f^+ + R^+)$. You may choose $R_f^+ = R^+$

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Q1: For $V_{in} = 0$, predict the values of V_{out} in your circuit:

a) What is V_{out} at $t=0$ immediately when the circuit is turned on?

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b) For an *ideal* power supply that turns on $+/-V_{cc}$ as a step function, what is V_{out} in the very short time \sim microseconds after the circuit is turned on?

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c) What is V_{out} in steady state after the circuit has been on for a few seconds:

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d) What determines the steady state value of V_{out} in question c) ?

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Q2: Connect up the circuit you have designed in Fig 2 and *demonstrate* the validity of your predictions

Use this space to record your DSO observations of V_{out} in detail.

Note that $V_{in} = 0$ for a), b), c)

Your observations for (b) may differ from prediction because the power supply is *not* ideal. Observe the voltage $+/-V_{cc}$ supplied by the power supply to the circuit at $t=0$ on the DSO to validate your prediction.

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Part C: Relaxation oscillator

Use your observations and conclusions from Parts A and B to make a circuit with one opamp that demonstrates the following behavior:

1. It's V_{out} oscillates between two fixed values (for example $+V_{sat}$ and $-V_{sat}$)
2. It has no external V_{in} applied
3. The oscillation time period is 1 ms

Hint: You will need to combine the concepts of Parts A and B

Draw your circuit design here. Calculate and mark the value of the components required.

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This type of oscillator is called a 'Relaxation Oscillator'. Build your circuit and demonstrate its operation

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