Texas A&M University
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

ECEN 474 – (Analog) VLSI Circuit Design

Fall 2012

Exam #2

Instructor: Sam Palermo

- Please write your name in the space provided below
- Please verify that there are **5** pages (1 blank) in your exam
- You may use one double-sided page of notes and equations for the exam
- Good Luck!

Problem	Score	Max Score
1		30
2		30
3		40
Total		**100**

Name: SAM PALERMO

UIN: ____________________

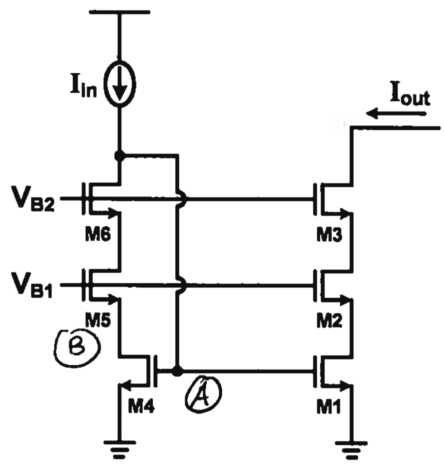
Problem 1 (30 points)

For the following current source obtain the following:

a) Give an expression for the output resistance. You can assume that all transistors are operating in saturation and that you can neglect body effect.

b) Give an expression for the compliance voltage at the output necessary to keep all transistors in saturation.

c) Assume that all of the same transistors have the same V_{DSAT} value and that V_{Tn}=0.7V. What is the maximum V_{DSAT} voltage possible, while all of the transistors are still in saturation?



a. $r_o \cong r_{o3} g_{m3} r_{o2} g_{m2} r_{o1}$

b. Compliance Voltage:

$$V_{out} \geq V_{DSAT1} + V_{DSAT2} + V_{DSAT3}$$

c. Node (A) $= V_T + V_{DSAT}$

Node (B) $=$ (A) $- 2V_{DSAT} = V_T + V_{DSAT} - 2V_{DSAT} = V_T - V_{DSAT}$

$$V_B \geq V_{DSAT}$$

$$V_T - V_{DSAT} \geq V_{DSAT}$$

$$V_{DSAT} \leq \frac{V_T}{2} = \frac{0.7V}{2} = 0.35V$$

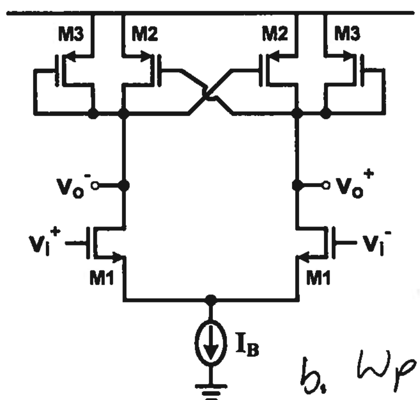
$$\boxed{V_{DSAT} \leq 0.35V}$$

Problem 2 (30 points)

For the fully differential amplifier below obtain the following:

a) Give an expression for the differential gain, $A_{vd}=(v_o^+ - v_o^-)/(v_i^+ - v_i^-)$. **Do NOT neglect the transistors' r_o.** Assume all transistors are operating in saturation and that you can neglect body effect.

b) Give an expression for the dominant pole of the amplifier. This expression should include all the appropriate transistor capacitances and include the Miller effect when appropriate.



a. $$A_{vd} = \frac{g_{m1}}{g_{m3} - g_{m2} + g_{o1} + g_{o2} + g_{o3}}$$

b. $$\omega_p = \frac{g_{m3} - g_{m2} + g_{o1} + g_{o2} + g_{o3}}{C_{DB1} + C_{DG1} + C_{DB2} + C_{GS2} + 4C_{GD2} + C_{DB3} + C_{GS3}}$$

Note neglecting Miller in C_{GD1} because $1-(A_{DG}) = 1-\left(-\frac{1}{A_{vd}}\right)$, this is generally very small

Need to include Miller in $C_{GD2} = C_{DG2}$ total is $4C_{GD}$ w/miller

If we consider $v_o^+ \Rightarrow C_{DGR}(1-(-1)) = 2C_{DGR}$, $C_{GLDL}(1-(-1)) = 2C_{GLDL}$

c) Now simplify the differential gain expression by letting the transistors' $r_o=\infty$. Assume that $\mu_n=4\mu_p$ and that the transistors have the following transistor sizes:

M1 Size = W/L

M2 Size = α*W/L

M3 Size = (1-α)*W/L

What should α be to achieve a differential gain of 4?

$$A_{vd} = \frac{g_{m1}}{g_{m3} - g_{m2}}$$

$$A_{vd} = \frac{\sqrt{\mu_n C_{ox}\frac{W}{L}2\left(\frac{I_B}{2}\right)}}{\sqrt{\mu_p C_{ox}(1-\alpha)\frac{W}{L}2\left(\frac{I_B}{2}\right)(1-\alpha)} - \sqrt{\mu_p C_{ox}\alpha\frac{W}{L}2\left(\frac{I_B}{2}\right)\alpha}}$$

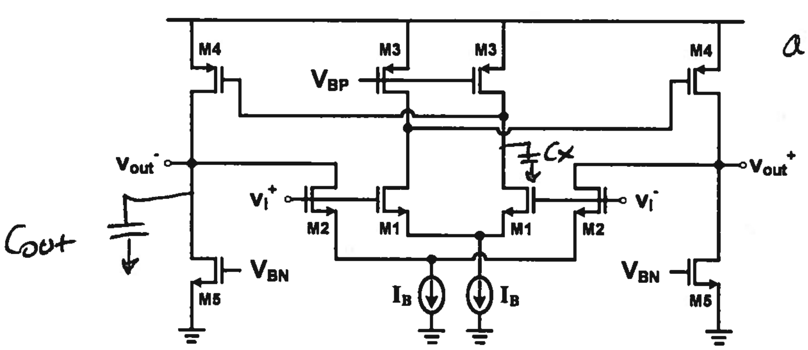
$$= \sqrt{\frac{\mu_n}{\mu_p}}\left(\frac{1}{1-\alpha-\alpha}\right) = \frac{2}{1-2\alpha} = 4$$

$$1-2\alpha = \frac{1}{2} \Rightarrow \boxed{\alpha = \frac{1}{4}}$$

Problem 3 (40 points)

d) For the amplifier below, assume all transistors are operating in saturation and that you can neglect body effect. Obtain expressions for the following:

a) Small-signal transconductance.
b) Output resistance.
c) DC gain.
d) The amplifier's two poles. Note, it's OK here to state this as a function of an effective capacitance at a certain node, but make sure to appropriately label the nodes.
e) Output referred noise current power spectral density. Consider only thermal noise and include all important noise sources.
f) Input referred noise voltage power spectral density. Consider only thermal noise and include all important noise sources.



a. $$\frac{g_{m1} g_{m4}}{g_{o1}+g_{o3}} + g_{m2}$$

b. $$R_{out} = \frac{1}{g_{o2}+g_{o4}+g_{o5}}$$

c. $$A_V = G_m R_{out} = \frac{\frac{g_{m1} g_{m4}}{g_{o1}+g_{o3}} + g_{m2}}{g_{o2}+g_{o4}+g_{o5}}$$

d. $$\omega_{p1} = \frac{g_{o2}+g_{o4}+g_{o5}}{C_{out}}, \quad \omega_{p2} = \frac{g_{o1}+g_{o3}}{C_x}$$

e. $$\frac{i_{o,n}^2}{\Delta f} = \left(i_{o1}^2 + i_{o2}^2 + i_{o3}^2 + i_{o4}^2 + i_{o5}^2\right)2 =$$

$$\frac{16}{3}kT\left(g_{m1}\left(\frac{1}{g_{o1}+g_{o3}}\right)^2 g_{m4}^2 + g_{m2} + g_{m3}\left(\frac{1}{g_{o1}+g_{o3}}\right)^2 g_{m4}^2 + g_{m4} + g_{m5}\right)$$

f. $$\frac{v_{i,n}^2}{\Delta f} = \frac{i_{o,n}^2}{\Delta f}\left(\frac{1}{G_m}\right)^2$$

Scratch Paper