



# ELEC 301 - OC/SC time constants method

L09 - Sep 23

Instructor: Edmond Cretu





# Last time

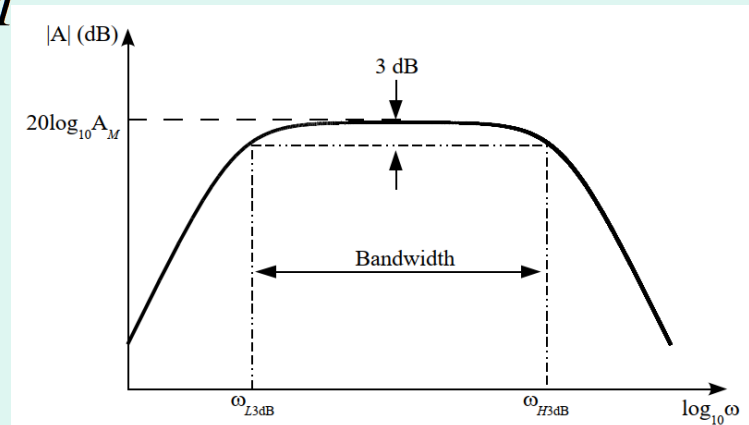
- Split the transfer function of a band-pass circuit into LF, MF, HF bands  $T(s) = A_M F_L(s) F_H(s)$
- Effects of negative feedback on  $\omega_L$ ,  $\omega_H$

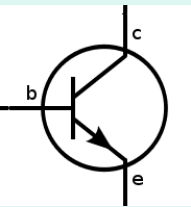
$$F_L(s) = \frac{(s + \omega_{Lz1}) \dots (s + \omega_{LzN})}{(s + \omega_{Lp1}) \dots (s + \omega_{LpN})}, |F_L(j\omega)| \xrightarrow{\omega \rightarrow \infty} 1$$

$$F_H(s) = \frac{\left(1 + \frac{s}{\omega_{Hz1}}\right) \dots \left(1 + \frac{s}{\omega_{Hzm}}\right)}{\left(1 + \frac{s}{\omega_{Hp1}}\right) \dots \left(1 + \frac{s}{\omega_{HpM}}\right)}, m < M$$

$$\begin{cases} \omega_{H,CL} = \omega_H (1 + A_0 F_0) \\ \omega_{L,CL} = \frac{\omega_L}{1 + A_0 F_0} \end{cases}$$

$$|F_H(j\omega)| \xrightarrow{\omega \rightarrow \infty} 0, |F_H(j\omega)| \xrightarrow{\omega \rightarrow 0} 1$$

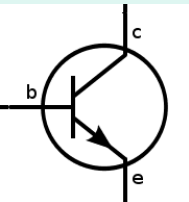




# Bandwidth estimation

- Standard recipe:
  - 1 Derive  $T(s)$
  - 2 Set  $s=j\omega$
  - 3 Find  $|T(j\omega)|$
  - 4 Set the magnitude lower by -3dB of the “midband” value
  - 5 Solve for  $\omega_{L3dB}$ ,  $\omega_{H3dB}$
- Difficulties:
  - difficult computation by hand
  - we desire design insight - which components set the BW limits  $\Rightarrow$  approximative tech., but with insight

$$|T(j\omega_{L3dB})| = \frac{A_M}{\sqrt{2}}, |T(j\omega_{H3dB})| = \frac{A_M}{\sqrt{2}}$$



# Approximate (conservative) BW estimation

- LF case:

$$\frac{\omega_{L3dB}}{\omega_{Lz/p}} \gg 1 \Rightarrow a_n \left( \frac{\omega_{L3dB}}{\omega_{Lz/p}} \right)^n + a_{n-1} \left( \frac{\omega_{L3dB}}{\omega_{Lz/p}} \right)^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 \left( \frac{\omega_{L3dB}}{\omega_{Lz/p}} \right) + a_0 \approx a_n \left( \frac{\omega_{L3dB}}{\omega_{Lz/p}} \right)^n + a_{n-1} \left( \frac{\omega_{L3dB}}{\omega_{Lz/p}} \right)^{n-1}$$

$$\omega_{L3dB}^2 \approx \sum_{i=1}^N \omega_{Lp_i}^2 - 2 \sum_{j=1}^N \omega_{Lz_j}^2$$

- HF case:

$$\frac{\omega_{H3dB}}{\omega_{Hz/p}} \ll 1 \Rightarrow a_n \left( \frac{\omega_{H3dB}}{\omega_{Hz/p}} \right)^n + a_{n-1} \left( \frac{\omega_{H3dB}}{\omega_{Hz/p}} \right)^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 \left( \frac{\omega_{H3dB}}{\omega_{Hz/p}} \right) + a_0 \approx a_1 \left( \frac{\omega_{H3dB}}{\omega_{Hz/p}} \right) + a_0$$

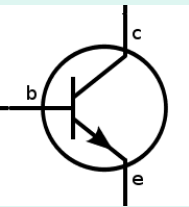
$$\frac{1}{\omega_{H3dB}^2} \approx \sum_{i=1}^M \frac{1}{\omega_{Hp_i}^2} - 2 \sum_{j=1}^m \frac{1}{\omega_{Hz_j}^2} \quad \tau_{H3dB}^2 = \sum_{i=1}^M \tau_{Hp_i}^2 - 2 \sum_{j=1}^m \tau_{Hz_j}^2$$





# Method of OC and SC time constants

- OC=open-circuit, SC=short-circuit
- How to estimate the cut-off frequencies when the locations of poles and zeros are not known
- The approximation is reasonably accurate provided that the next nearest poles, on either side, are at least two octaves (4x) away, or better a decade (10x) away
- Design aspects: OCT and SCT, unlike typical circuit simulations, can identify which elements are responsible for BW limitations



SC time ct. - the cut-off frequency  $\omega_{L3dB}$

- Focus on  $F_L(s)$

$$F_L(s) = \frac{(s + \omega_{Lz1}) \cdots (s + \omega_{Lzn})}{(s + \omega_{Lp1}) \cdots (s + \omega_{LpN})}$$

$$F_L(s) = \frac{s^n + a_1 s^{n-1} + \cdots + a_n}{s^N + b_1 s^{N-1} + \cdots + b_N}$$

$$b_1 = \omega_{Lp1} + \omega_{Lp2} + \cdots + \omega_{LpN} = \frac{1}{\tau_{C_1}^{sc}} + \frac{1}{\tau_{C_2}^{sc}} + \cdots + \frac{1}{\tau_{C_N}^{sc}} = \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{1}{C_i R_{is}}$$

Here  $\tau^{sc}$  are the “short-circuit” time constants- each  $R_{is}$  is the resistance seen by the i-th low frequency capacitor,  $C_i$ , with all other LF capacitors replaced by short-circuits  
 - All HF capacitors are treated as open circuits

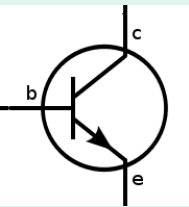


## Finding the cut-off frequency $\omega_{L3dB}$ (2)

- If one of the pole frequencies (or one of the  $1/\tau^{sc}$  terms) is greater than any of the other pole (or other  $1/\tau^{sc}$ ) or zero frequencies by a factor of 4x (10x is better), then the  $F_L(s)$  can be approximated for frequencies above those of other poles and zeros, as:

$$F_L(s) = \frac{s^n + a_1 s^{n-1} + \dots + a_n}{s^N + b_1 s^{N-1} + \dots + b_N} \approx \frac{s^n}{s^N + b_1 s^{N-1}} = \frac{s}{s + b_1}$$

$$\omega_{L3dB} \approx b_1 = \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{1}{C_i R_{is}}$$



OC time ct. - the cut-off frequency  $\omega_{3\text{dBH}}$

- Focus on  $F_H(s)$

$$F_H(s) = \frac{\left(1 + \frac{s}{\omega_{Hz1}}\right) \cdots \left(1 + \frac{s}{\omega_{Hzm}}\right)}{\left(1 + \frac{s}{\omega_{Hp1}}\right) \cdots \left(1 + \frac{s}{\omega_{HpM}}\right)}$$

$$F_H(s) = \frac{1 + c_1 s + \cdots + c_m s^m}{1 + d_1 s + \cdots + d_M s^M}$$

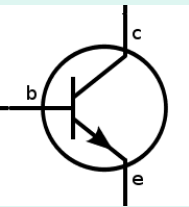
$$d_1 = \frac{1}{\omega_{Hp1}} + \frac{1}{\omega_{Hp2}} + \cdots + \frac{1}{\omega_{HpM}} = \tau_{C_1}^{oc} + \tau_{C_2}^{oc} + \cdots + \tau_{C_M}^{oc} = \sum_{i=1}^M C_i R_{io}$$

Here,  $\tau^{oc}$  are “**open-circuit**” **time constants** - each  $R_{io}$  is the resistance seen by the  $i$ -th HF capacitor, with all other HF capacitors replaced by open-circuits



- All of the LF capacitors are treated as short-circuits





## Finding the cut-off frequency $\omega_{3\text{dBH}}$ (2)

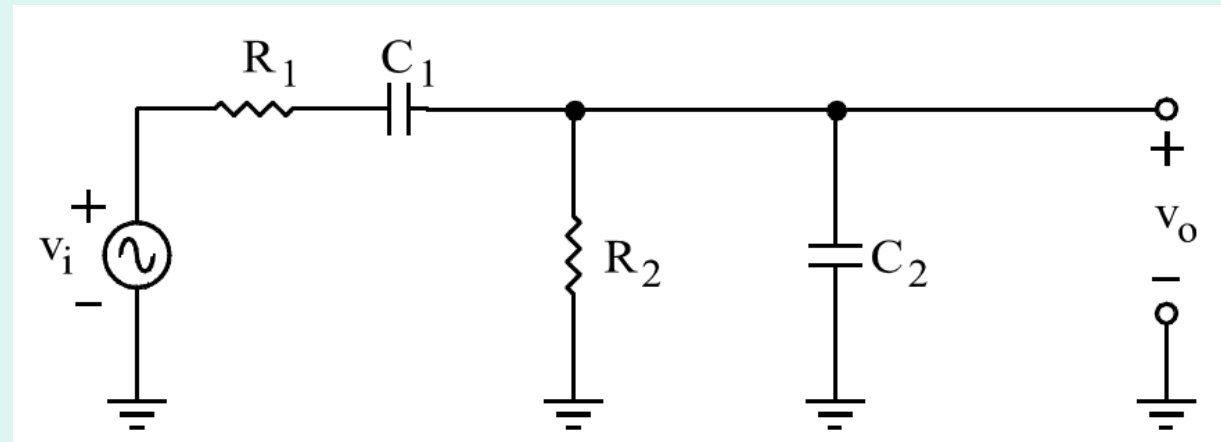
- If one of the pole frequencies (or  $1/\tau^{\text{oc}}$  terms) is smaller than any of the other pole (or other  $1/\tau^{\text{oc}}$ ) or zeros frequencies (by 4x, or better by 10x), then, for frequencies below those of the other poles and zeros, we can approximate  $F_H(s)$  as:

$$F_H(s) = \frac{1 + c_1 s + \dots + c_m s^m}{1 + d_1 s + \dots + d_M s^M} \approx \frac{1}{1 + d_1 s}$$

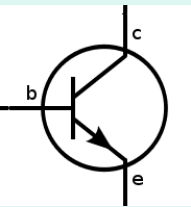
$$\omega_{H\ 3\text{dB}} \approx \frac{1}{d_1} = \frac{1}{\sum_{i=1}^M C_i R_{io}}$$



# Remarks

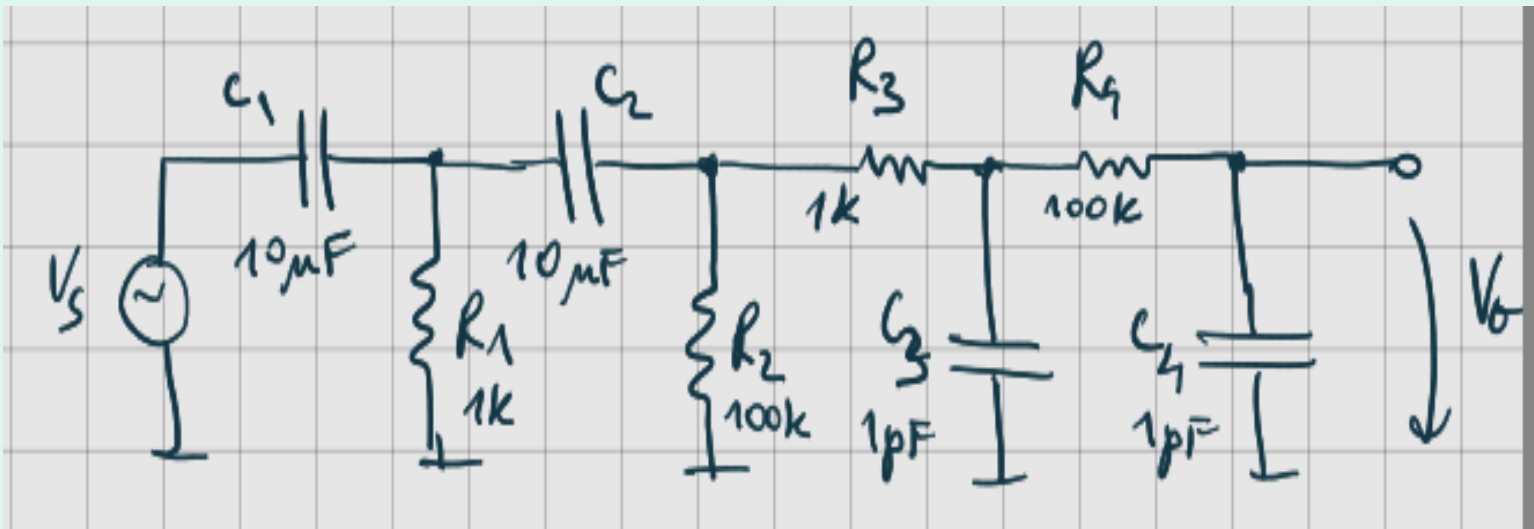


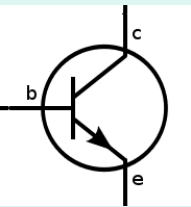
- For the initial circuit:
  - $\tau_{p1} = C_1 R_+$  is the time ct. for  $C_1$  with  $C_2$  open-circuited
  - $\tau_{p2} = C_2 R_{//}$  is the time ct. for  $C_2$  with  $C_1$  short-circuited
- The OC/SC time constants method can be extended to provide further estimations for all poles of a transfer function, provided that the next nearest poles, on either side, are at least two octaves away



# Example

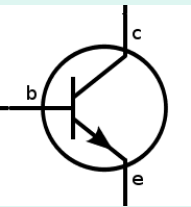
- Use SC and OC time constants method to estimate the cut-off frequencies of the following circuit:





## L09 Q01 - LF behavior

- Which capacitor limits the LF behavior?
  - A. C1
  - B. C2
  - C. C3
  - D. C4



## L09 Q02 - HF behavior

- Which capacitor limits the HF behavior?
  - A. C1
  - B. C2
  - C. C3
  - D. C4

