

Current Processing Current Tunable Universal Biquad Filter Employing Two CCTAs and Two Grounded Capacitors

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ABSTRACT

This paper presents a current processing current-tunable universal biquad filter employing two current conveyor transconductance amplifiers (CCTAs) as active element and two grounded capacitors as passive element. It realizes all the five standard filtering responses such as low pass (LP), band pass (BP), high pass (HP), band reject (BR) and all pass (AP) through appropriate selection of applied current inputs. Proposed circuit does not require minus input current signal and double input current signal to realize different filtering responses. It also does not require component matching condition to realize any filtering responses. Moreover, the circuit offers the advantage of orthogonal electronic tunability of pole-frequency and quality factor. The circuit exhibits low active and passive sensitivities. The circuit performance is verified through P-SPICE simulation software.

Keywords: Biquad; Current-Mode; Universal Filter; CCTA

1. Introduction

The applications, advantages and realizations of high performance continuous-time (CT) current-mode (also called current processing) active filters have been receiving considerable attention, since the last few decades [1,2]. Thus, a number of papers deal with the design of biquad current-mode (CM) filter in the literature [3-27] using different current-mode active elements. However, all of them are realized either in the form of the single-input multiple-output (SIMO) or multiple-input single output (MISO) category. SIMO filters [3-13] simultaneously realize different filtering functions (in general three or more) at different outputs, without changing the connection of the input signal. On the other hand MISO filters [15-27] can realize multifunction filtering responses at single output terminal by altering the way in which multi-input signals are connected. Moreover, the MISO configuration in comparison with SIMO configuration may lead to a reduction in number of active elements for circuit realization and hence, seems to be more suitable than that of SIMO configuration to realize all the standard biquad filter functions. However, one critical issue

with CT filters is the RC time constant variation problem due to process tolerance, the environmental effects of temperature drift, humidity and aging of the components [14]. As a consequence, the performance of the filter circuit differs from the nominal design. The continuous-time filter approach typically compensates for this problem with the tunable filter, by electronically varying the time constant. So there is a growing interest towards designing of electronically tunable filters to compensate for deviation in the circuit due to process tolerance, parasitic, temperature drift and component aging. During the last one decade and recent past, several electronically tunable MISO type current-mode active filters have been proposed in the literature [15-27], using different current-mode active elements such as second generation current controlled current conveyor (CCCII) [15-21], current differencing transconductance amplifier (CDTA) [22], current follower transconductance amplifier (CFTA) [23], voltage differencing transconductance amplifier (VDTA) [24], current controlled transconductance amplifier (CC-TA) [25] and current controlled current conveyor transconductance amplifier (CCCCTA) [26,27] etc.

Each MISO current-mode filter based on CCCII re-

ported in [15-21] uses two [15-17] or more [18-20] CCC-IIs and two grounded capacitors but all of them [15-20] require minus input current signal(s) [15-20] and/or component matching conditions [18,20] to realize at least one filter function. Thus, they need one or more active component to obtain minus input current signal/matching condition. The single CCCII-based current-mode filter [21] with three input single output uses two grounded capacitors and one resistor. However, it still needs minus input current signal(s) to realize BP, BR and AP filter functions. Few more three input single output current-mode filters based on two active elements in the form of CDTA [22], CFTA [23], VDTA [24] and CCTA [25] are also proposed in the literature. Each circuit [22-25] consists of two grounded capacitors and realizes all the standard filtering functions but they also require minus input current signal(s) [22-24] or/and double input current signal(s) [22-25] to realize at least one filter function. Other novel circuits based on two CCCCTAs [26,27] each having two grounded capacitors can also be used as three input single output tunable current-mode filter but they still require minus input current signal [26] or matching conditions [27] to realize AP response.

In this paper, a current processing current-tunable universal biquad filter is proposed which consists of two current conveyor trans-conductance amplifiers (CCTAs) and two grounded capacitors. It can realize LP, BP, HP, BR and AP in the current form at high impedance output through appropriate selection of the input signals, without any matching conditions. Moreover, the proposed circuit realizes all the filtering responses without requiring any minus input current signal and double input current signal. Also, the circuit offers the advantage of electronic tunability of pole-frequency independent of quality factor. The circuit exhibits low active and passive sensitivities. The circuit is simulated through P-SPICE simulation.

2. CCTA and Proposed Biquad Filter

The CCTA [13,25] is a combination of second generation current conveyor (CCII) and operation transconductance amplifier (OTA). The block diagram of the CCTA is shown in **Figure 1**. It consists of two input terminals (X , Y). Port X is low input impedance terminal while port Y is the high input impedance terminal. Port $\pm Z$ and port $\pm O$ are the high output impedance terminals. The input-output current-voltage relationship between different terminals of the CCTA can be described by the following equations.

$$I_Y = 0, V_X = V_Y, I_{\pm Z} = \pm I_X, I_{\pm O} = \pm g_m V_Z \quad (1)$$

where g_m is the trans-conductance of CCTA and depends upon the biasing current I_s of the CCTA. The MOS implementation of CCTA is proposed in **Figure 2**. For a

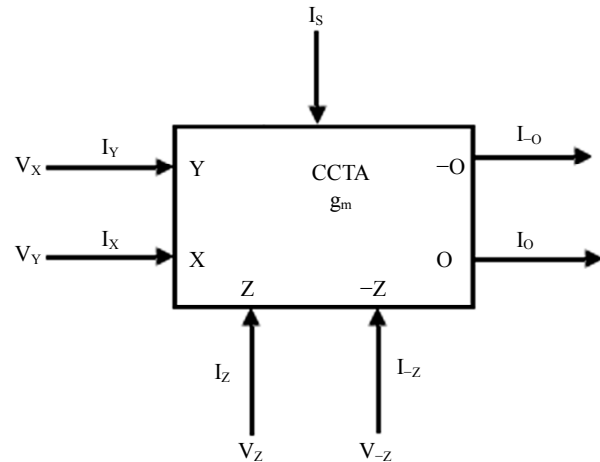


Figure 1. CCTA symbol.

MOS CCTA, the g_m can be expressed as

$$g_m = \sqrt{\beta_n I_s} \quad (2)$$

Where β_n is given by

$$\beta_n = \mu_n C_{OX} \frac{W}{L} \quad (3)$$

where μ_n , C_{OX} and W/L are the electron mobility, gate oxide capacitance per unit area and transistor aspect ratio of M13 and M14 NMOS, respectively.

The proposed current-processing universal filter with three inputs (I_1 , I_2 and I_3) and single output (I_{out}) is shown in **Figure 3**. The circuit employs only two CCTAs and two grounded capacitors. A routine analysis of the circuit in **Figure 3** yields the following current output expression.

$$I_{out} = \frac{-(s^2 C_1 C_2 I_1 - s C_2 g_{m2} I_2 + g_{m1} g_{m2} I_3)}{D(s)} \quad (4)$$

Where

$$D(s) = s^2 C_1 C_2 + s C_2 g_{m2} + g_{m1} g_{m2} \quad (5)$$

It is evident from (4) that various biquad filtering responses in current form can be obtained at current output (I_{out}) through appropriate selection of input currents.

- 1) Inverted HP response at I_{out} , with $I_1 = I_{in}$, and $I_2 = I_3 = 0$.
- 2) Inverted LP response at I_{out} , with $I_3 = I_{in}$, $I_1 = I_2 = 0$.
- 3) Non-inverted BP response at I_{out} , with $I_2 = I_{in}$, and $I_1 = I_3 = 0$.
- 4) Inverted BR response at I_{out} , with $I_1 = I_3 = I_{in}$, and $I_2 = 0$.
- 5) Inverted AP response at I_{out} , with $I_1 = I_2 = I_3 = I_{in}$, thus, the circuit is capable of realizing all the standard filtering responses in current form from the same configuration. Moreover, there is no requirement of minus-

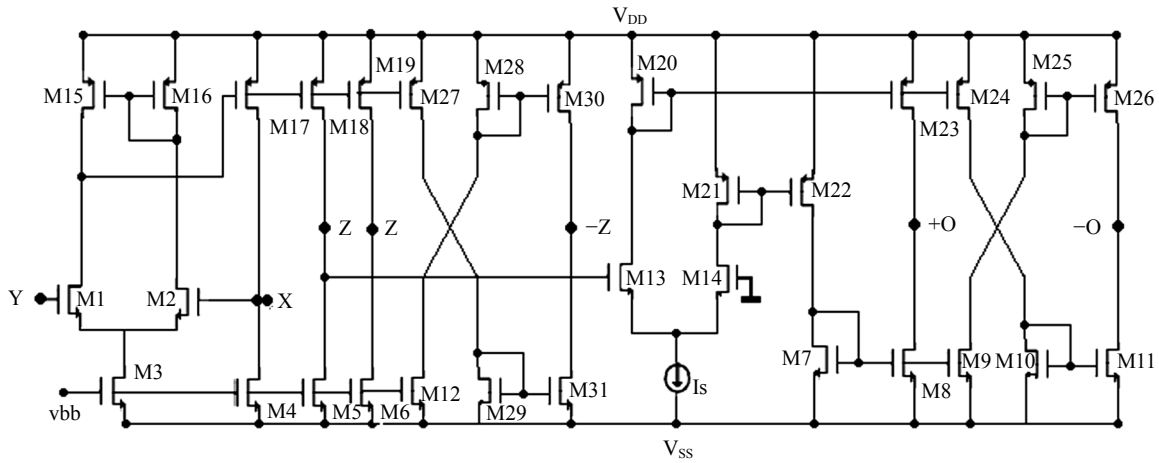


Figure 2. CMOS implementation of CCTA.

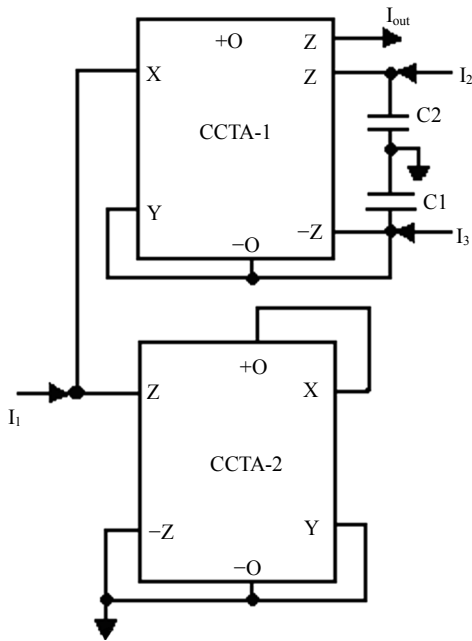


Figure 3. Proposed universal current-processing biquad filter.

type input current signal(s) and double input current signal(s) to realize all the responses in the design. Moreover, the proposed circuit also realizes all filtering responses without any component matching condition. The filter parameters such as pole frequency (ω_0) and quality factor (Q_0) can be formulated as

$$\omega_0 = \sqrt{\frac{g_{m1}g_{m2}}{C_1C_2}} = \sqrt{\frac{\beta_n \sqrt{I_{S1}I_{S2}}}{C_1C_2}} \quad (6)$$

$$Q_0 = \sqrt{\frac{g_{m1}C_1}{g_{m2}C_2}} = \sqrt{\frac{C_1}{C_2} \frac{I_{S1}}{I_{S2}}} \quad (7)$$

From (6) and (7), it can be noted that the pole frequency can be adjusted by I_{S1} and I_{S2} without affecting

the quality factor by keeping the ratio of I_{S1} and I_{S2} as constant. Similarly, Q_0 can also be adjusted by I_{S1} and I_{S2} without affecting the pole frequency by keeping the product of I_{S1} and I_{S2} as constant. In addition, bandwidth (BW) of the system can be expressed by

$$BW = \frac{\omega_0}{Q_0} = \frac{g_{m2}}{C_1} = \frac{\sqrt{\beta_n I_{S2}}}{C_1} \quad (8)$$

It can also be noted that ω_0 and Q_0 of the filter can be simultaneously controlled independent of the BW through I_{S1} .

3. Non-Ideal Aspects

A non-ideal CCTA, implemented with the transistors is characterized by finite voltage, current and trans-conductance tracking errors occurred due to the mismatching in the transistors. Therefore, taking the non-idealities of the CCTA into account, the relationship of the terminals voltage and current of the i^{th} CCTA described by (1) can be modified by (9) which is as follows

$$\begin{aligned} I_{Yi} &= 0, V_{Xi} = \beta_i V_{Yi}, I_{Zi} = \alpha_{pi} I_{Xi}, \\ I_{-Zi} &= -\alpha_{ni} I_{Xi}, I_{\pm Oi} = \pm \gamma_i g_{mi} V_{Zi} \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

Where α_{pi} , α_{ni} , β_i and γ_i are the tracking errors of i^{th} CCTA ($i^{\text{th}} = 1, 2$) and practically deviated from unity. Taking the non-idealities of CCTA given in (9) into consideration and re-analyzing the circuit of **Figure 3**, the current response of the proposed circuit of **Figure 3** are changed to

$$I_{out} = \frac{-(s^2 C_1 C_2 I_1 - \beta_1 s C_2 g_{m2} I_2 + \gamma_1 \beta_1 g_{m1} g_{m2} I_3)}{D(s)} \quad (10)$$

Where

$$D(s) = s^2 C_1 C_2 + \beta_1 \alpha_{n1} s C_2 g_{m2} + \beta_1 \alpha_{p1} \gamma_1 g_{m1} g_{m2} \quad (11)$$

With involved non-idealities, ω_0 , Q_0 and BW are modified to

$$\omega_0 = \sqrt{\frac{\beta_1 \alpha_{p1} \gamma_1 g_{m1} g_{m2}}{C_1 C_2}} \quad (12)$$

$$BW = \frac{\beta_1 \alpha_{n1} g_{m2}}{C_1} \quad (13)$$

$$Q_0 = \frac{1}{\alpha_{n1}} \sqrt{\frac{\alpha_{p1} \gamma_1 g_{m1} C_1}{\beta_1 g_{m2} C_2}} \quad (14)$$

This shows that ω_0 and Q for the ideal current-mode filter are slightly affected by non-ideal tracking errors. Sensitivity analysis of the proposed filter with respect to active and passive elements yields

$$S_{C_1, C_2}^{\omega_0} = -\frac{1}{2}, S_{\beta_1, \alpha_{p1}, \gamma_1, g_{m1}, g_{m2}}^{\omega_0} = \frac{1}{2} \quad (15)$$

$$S_{\alpha_{n1}, \alpha_{p2}, \alpha_{n2}, \gamma_2, \beta_2}^{\omega_0} = 0 \quad (16)$$

$$S_{C_2, g_{m2}, \beta_1}^{Q_0} = -\frac{1}{2}, S_{\gamma_1, \alpha_{p1}, C_1, g_{m1}}^{Q_0} = \frac{1}{2} \quad (17)$$

$$S_{\alpha_{n1}}^{Q_0} = -1, S_{\alpha_{p2}, \alpha_{n2}, \gamma_2, \beta_2}^{Q_0} = 0 \quad (18)$$

From above results, it can be found that all the active and passive sensitivity are within “unity” in magnitude and hence, proposed circuit ensures a good sensitivity performance.

4. Simulation Results

To verify the theoretical analysis of the proposed current-processing filter circuit of **Figure 3**, PSPICE simulation has been used. In simulation, the CCTA was realized using CMOS implementation as shown in **Figure 2**. The MOS transistors were simulated using 0.35 μm MOS process parameters from TSMC (the model parameters are given in **Table 1**). The supply voltages were $V_{DD} = -V_{SS} = 1.75$ V and $V_{bb} = -0.55$ V. The dimensions of M13 and M14 NMOS were determined as $W = 14$ μm and $L = 2$ μm while the dimensions of all remaining NMOS were determined as $W = 10$ μm and $L = 2$ μm . In PMOS transistors, the dimensions were $W = 10$ μm and $L = 1$ μm . The circuit was designed with $I_{S1} = I_{S2} = 100$

μA , and $C_1 = C_2 = 26$ pF. **Figure 4** shows the simulated current gain and phase responses of BP, LP, HP, BR and AP for the proposed current-mode filter. The simulation results show the simulated pole frequency as 2.04 MHz that agree quite well with the theoretical analysis. **Figures 5** and **6** shows the responses of BP and BR functions, respectively, where I_{S1} and I_{S2} were equally set and changed for several values, by keeping its ratio to be constant for constant Q_0 ($= 1$). From **Figures 5** and **6**, it can be seen that pole frequency can be electronically tuned by the bias currents (I_{S1} and I_{S2}) without affecting quality factor. Similarly, Q_0 tunability independent of pole frequency is shown in **Figures 7** and **8** which display the BP and BR responses, respectively, for different sets of value of I_{S1} and I_{S2} with their product to be maintained as constant. The time domain response of current-mode HP output is shown in **Figure 9**. It was observed that 120 μA peak to peak input current sinusoidal signal levels having frequency 40 MHz are possible without significant distortions.

5. Conclusion

In this paper, a new current processing current tunable universal biquad filter employing two CCTAs and two grounded capacitors is proposed. The proposed filter offers the following advantages: 1) employment of only two active elements; 2) ability of realizing all current-mode standard filtering functions; 3) employment of minimum number of grounded capacitors (only two) to realize any biquad filtering function; 4) low sensitivity figures; 5) electronically orthogonal tunability of ω_0 and Q ; 6) availability of explicit current output (*i.e.* high impedance output node) without requiring any additional active elements; 7) no requirement of components matching conditions to get all filtering responses; 8) no requirements of inverting-type input current signal(s) and double input current signal(s) to realize the filtering response(s) in the design, all of which are not available simultaneously in any of the previously reported current-controlled current-mode biquad filter of [15-27]. With above mentioned features, it is very suitable to realize the proposed circuit in monolithic chip to use in battery powered, portable

Table 1. The SPICE model parameters of MOSFET for level 3, 0.35 μm CMOS process from TSMC.

NMOS	LEVEL = 3 TOX = 7.9E - 9 NSUB = 1E17 GAMMA = 0.5827871 PHI = 0.7 VTO = 0.5445549 DELTA = 0 UO = 436.256147 ETA = 0 THETA = 0.1749684 KP = 2.055786E - 4 VMAX = 8.309444E4 KAPPA = 0.2574081 RSH = 0.0559398 NFS = 1E12 TPG = 1 XJ = 3E - 7 LD = 3.162278E - 11 WD = 7.046724E - 8 CGDO = 2.82E - 10 CGSO = 2.82E - 10 CGBO = 1E - 10 CJ = 1E-3 PB = 0.9758533 MJ = 0.3448504 CJSW = 3.777852E-10 MJSW = 0.3508721
PMOS	LEVEL = 3 TOX = 7.9E - 9 NSUB = 1E17 GAMMA = 0.4083894 PHI = 0.7 VTO = -0.7140674 DELTA = 0 UO = 212.2319801 ETA = 9.999762E - 4 THETA = 0.2020774 KP = 6.733755E - 5 VMAX = 1.181551E5 KAPPA = 1.5 RSH = 30.0712458 NFS = 1E12 TPG = -1 XJ = 2E - 7 LD = 5.000001E-13 WD = 1.249872E - 7 CGDO = 3.09E - 10 CGSO = 3.09E - 10 CGBO = 1E - 10 CJ = 1.419508E - 3 PB = 0.8152753 MJ = 0.5 CJSW = 4.813504E - 10 MJSW = 0.5

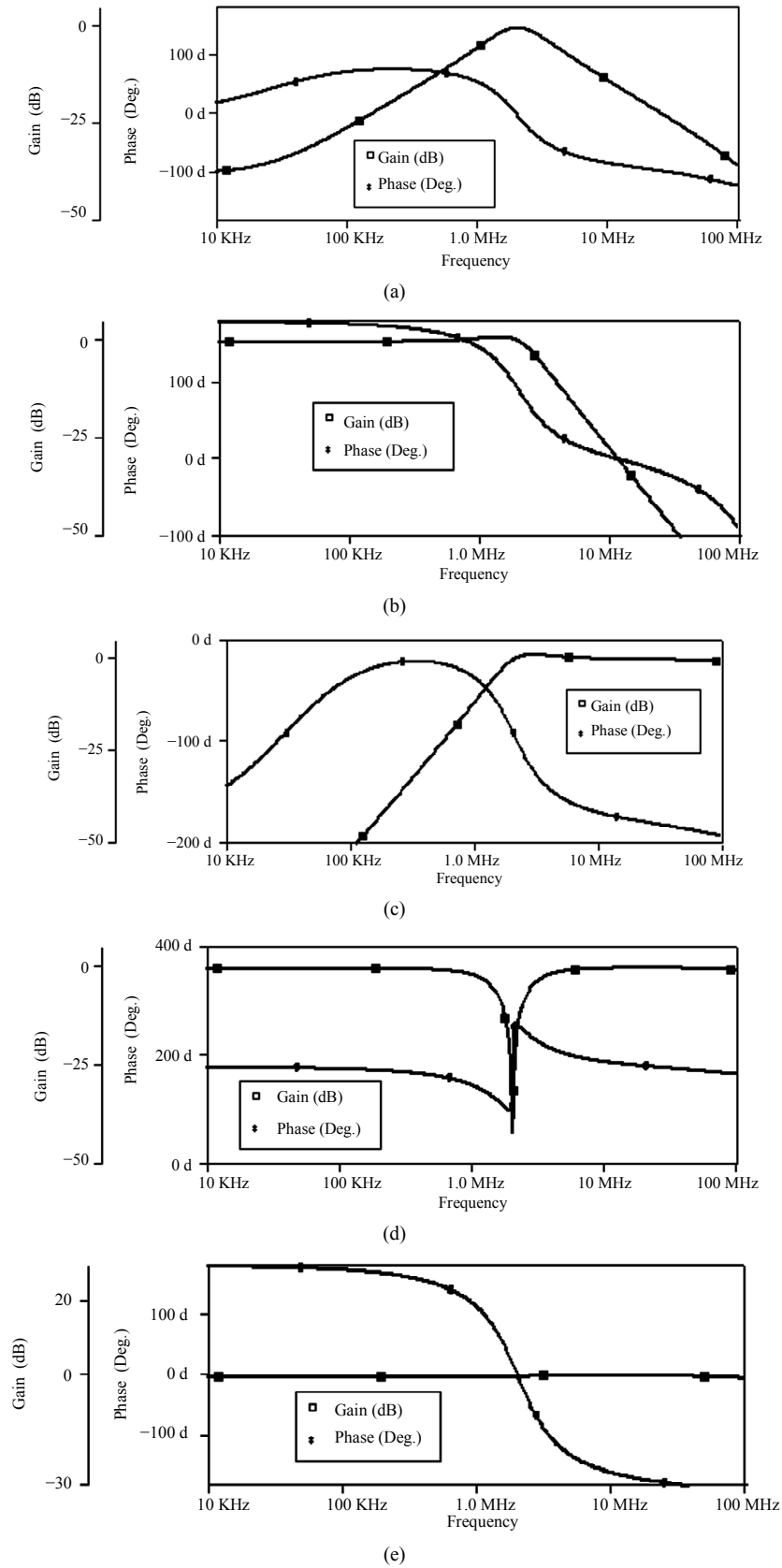


Figure 4. Current gain and phase responses of the (a) BP, (b) LP (c) HP (d) BR (e) AP for the proposed biquad filter in Figure 3.

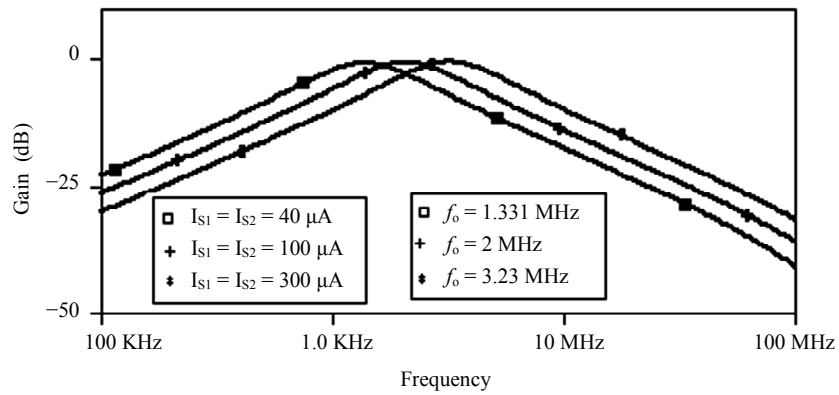


Figure 5. BP responses for different value of $I_{S1} = I_{S2}$ to show the electronic tunability of pole frequency.

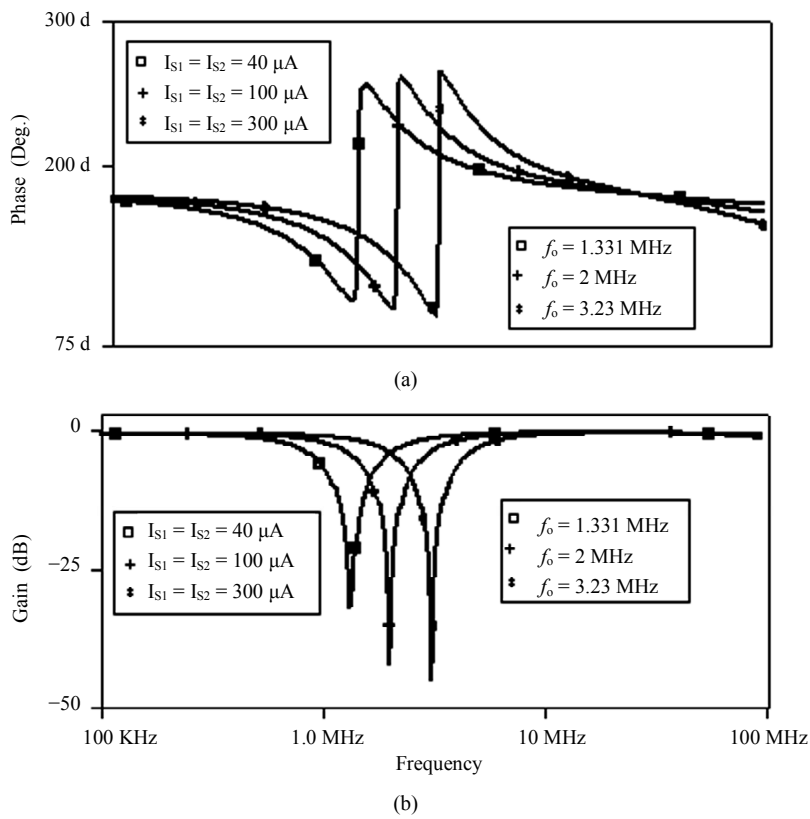


Figure 6. BR responses (a) Gain (b) Phase, for different value of $I_{S1} = I_{S2}$ to show the electronic tunability of pole frequency.

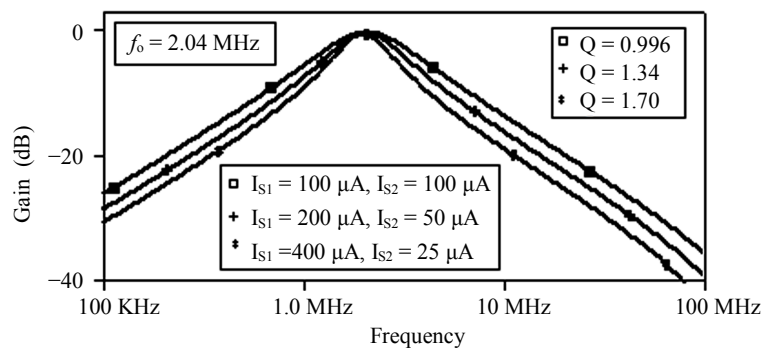


Figure 7. BP responses for different value of I_{S1} and I_{S2} to show the electronic tunability of quality factor.

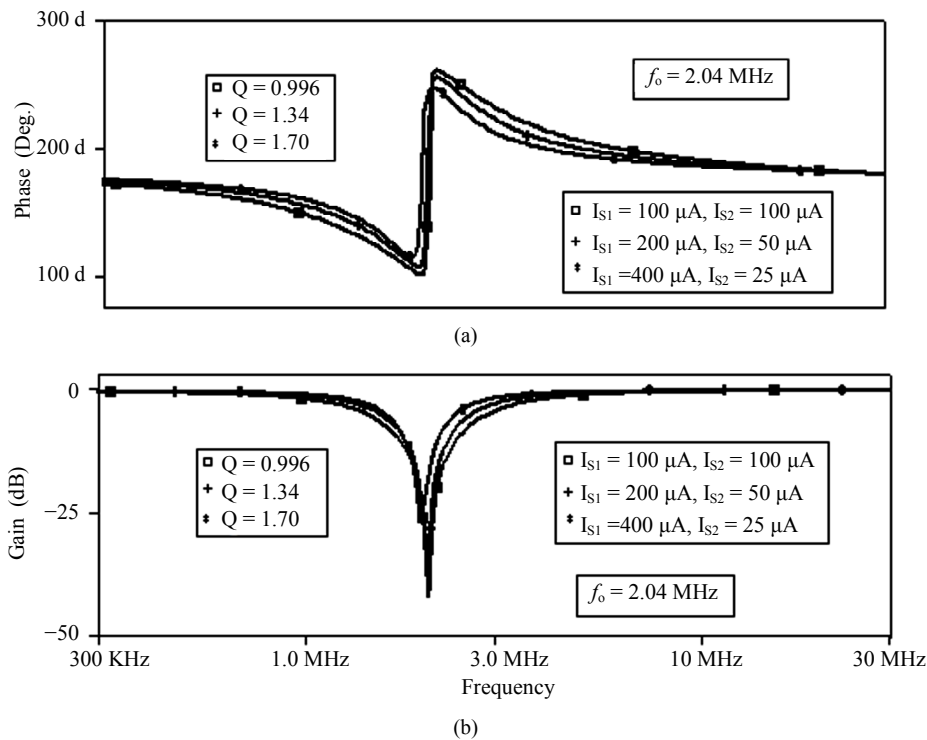


Figure 8. BR responses (a) gain (b) phase, for different value of I_{S1} and I_{S2} to show the electronic tunability of quality factor.

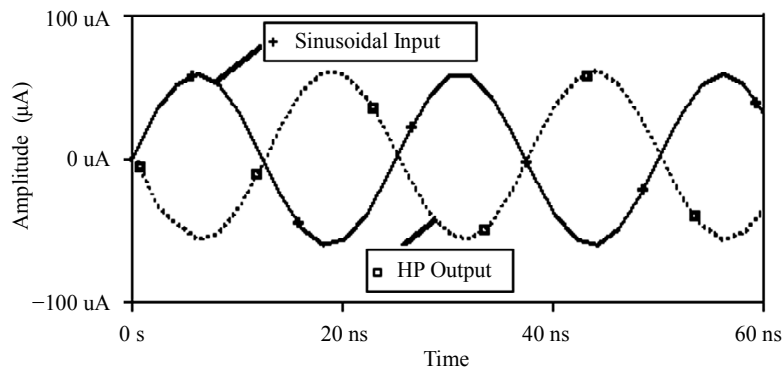


Figure 9. The time domain input waveform and corresponding response at HP current output.

electronic equipments such as wireless communication system devices.

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