

# VDTA Based Electronically Tunable Voltage-Mode and Trans-Admittance Biquad Filter

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## Abstract

In this paper, a biquad filter configuration based on two voltage differencing transconductance amplifiers (VDTAs) as newly active elements and only two capacitors as passive elements is proposed which can realize voltage-mode low pass (LP), band pass (BP), high pass (HP), band reject (BR) and all pass (AP) filtering responses using three voltage inputs. Simultaneously, the same configuration can also be used to obtain LP, BP and HP filtering responses in transadmittance-mode. The proposed biquad is capable of providing electronic control of quality factor independent of pole frequency through single transconductance parameter (biasing current). It also offers the advantage of low active and passive sensitivity. To support the theoretical analysis, the PSPICE simulation of the proposed circuit is done using 0.18  $\mu\text{m}$  CMOS technology from TSMC.

## Keywords

VDTA, Biquad Filter, Voltage-Mode, Trans-Admittance-Mode

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## 1. Introduction

In the last few decades, current-mode active elements have been preferred over voltage-mode active elements in the designing of high performance continuous time analog filters [1] due to their several salient features such as inherently wider bandwidth, greater linearity, wider dynamic range, simple circuitry and low power consumptions. Consequently, several current-mode active elements such as second generation current conveyor (CCII),

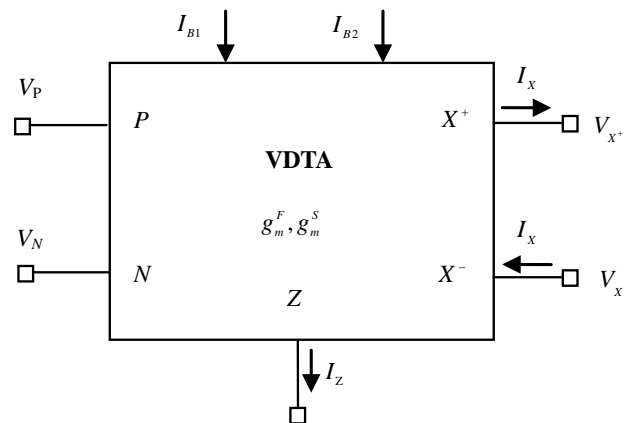
differential difference current conveyor (DDCCII), current differencing buffer amplifier (CDBA), operational transconductance amplifier (OTA), current controlled current conveyor (CCCI), current differencing transconductance amplifier (CDTA), current controlled current differencing transconductance amplifier (CCCDTA), current controlled current conveyor transconductance amplifier (CCCCTA), voltage differencing transconductance amplifier (VDTA) etc. and their applications in filters design are introduced in the literature [2]-[26]. Among them VDTA is latest one. It has the advantage of its electronic tuning ability through two transconductance parameters; hence it does not need a resistor in practical applications. Subsequently, the VDTA based circuits realizations occupy less chip area. This device can be operated in both current- and voltage-modes, providing flexibility to the circuit designers [25].

Literature survey shows that quite a number of VDTA based biquad filter either as single-input multi-output (SIMO) and/or as multi-input single-output (MISO) types have been reported in the available literature till date [19]-[26]. But as far as the topic of this paper is concerned, the filter circuits operated in either voltage-mode or trans-admittance-mode or in both modes simultaneously, using VDTAs, are of interest. The reported voltage-mode filter based on VDTA [22]-[24] uses only single VDTA and three (two capacitors and one resistors) [22] or two passive elements (only two capacitors) [23] [24]. Two of the circuits [22] [23] can realize all the standard filtering functions (LP, BP, HP, BR and AP) by the use of three inputs and single-output. However, both circuits are not able to provide orthogonal electronic tunability of pole frequency and quality factor. Moreover, the circuit [22] requires inverting type voltage input to realize AP filtering function. Third of the circuit [24] can realize only three filtering functions (LP, BP and HP) by the use of two inputs and two outputs. The single-input five-output biquad filter reported in Ref. [25] employs two VDTAs, two grounded capacitors, two grounded resistors and realizes all the five standard filtering functions, simultaneously, in voltage-mode only with feature of orthogonal electronic tunability of pole frequency and quality factor. Another valuable filter circuit with single-input multi-output [26] consists of two VDTAs, two capacitors and realizes only two filtering functions (LP, BP) in voltage-mode and three filtering functions (BP, LP and BR) in trans-admittance-mode, simultaneously.

Considering the above facts, a new biquad filter configuration is proposed in this paper. The proposed configuration can realize BP, HP, LP, RN, and AP responses in voltage-mode as three-input single-output structure and LP, BP, HP responses in trans-admittance-mode as single-input three-output structure. The configuration comprises of only two VDTAs, two capacitors as active and passive elements, respectively and does not require 1) external resistor(s), and 2) minus and/or double type voltage input signal(s) to realize any filtering response. Moreover, it has less active and passive sensitivity.

## 2. Description of VDTA and Proposed Filter Configuration

Voltage differencing transconductance amplifiers is relatively new active element [24] [25] whose symbolic diagram is shown in **Figure 1** where  $P$ ,  $N$  are two high impedance input terminals and  $Z$ ,  $Z_c$ ,  $X^+$ ,  $X^-$  are the high impedance output terminals. The differential voltage across high impedance input terminals  $P$  and  $N$  ( $V_P - V_N$ ) is transferred to a current at high impedance output terminals  $Z$  and  $Z_c$  ( $I_Z$  and  $I_{Zc}$ ) by transconductance parameters ( $g_m^F$ ) of VDTA. Further voltage across auxiliary  $Z$  terminal is also transferred to a current at terminals  $X^+$  and



**Figure 1.** Symbolic diagram of VDTA.

$X^-$  ( $I_{X^+}$  and  $I_{X^-}$ ) by other transconductance parameters ( $g_m^S$ ) of VDTA. The  $g_m^F$  and  $g_m^S$  are the transconductance parameters of first and second stage of VDTA respectively, whose value are controlled by biasing currents  $I_B^F$  and  $I_B^S$  of VDTA, respectively. The relationship of input output terminals of VDTA can be described by the following matrix equation.

$$\begin{bmatrix} I_Z, I_{Zc} \\ I_{X^+} \\ I_{X^-} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} g_m^F & -g_m^S & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & g_m^S \\ 0 & 0 & -g_m^S \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} V_P \\ V_N \\ V_Z \end{bmatrix} \quad (1)$$

The CMOS realization of VDTA is also shown in **Figure 2** which consists of two Arbel-Goldminz transconductance [25]. For the CMOS implementation of VDTA as shown in **Figure 2**,  $g_m^F$  and  $g_m^S$  can be approximately expressed by the following equations [25].

$$g_m^F \cong \left( \frac{g_1 g_2}{g_1 + g_2} \right) + \left( \frac{g_3 g_4}{g_3 + g_4} \right) \quad (2)$$

and

$$g_m^S \cong \left( \frac{g_5 g_6}{g_5 + g_6} \right) + \left( \frac{g_7 g_8}{g_7 + g_8} \right) \quad (3)$$

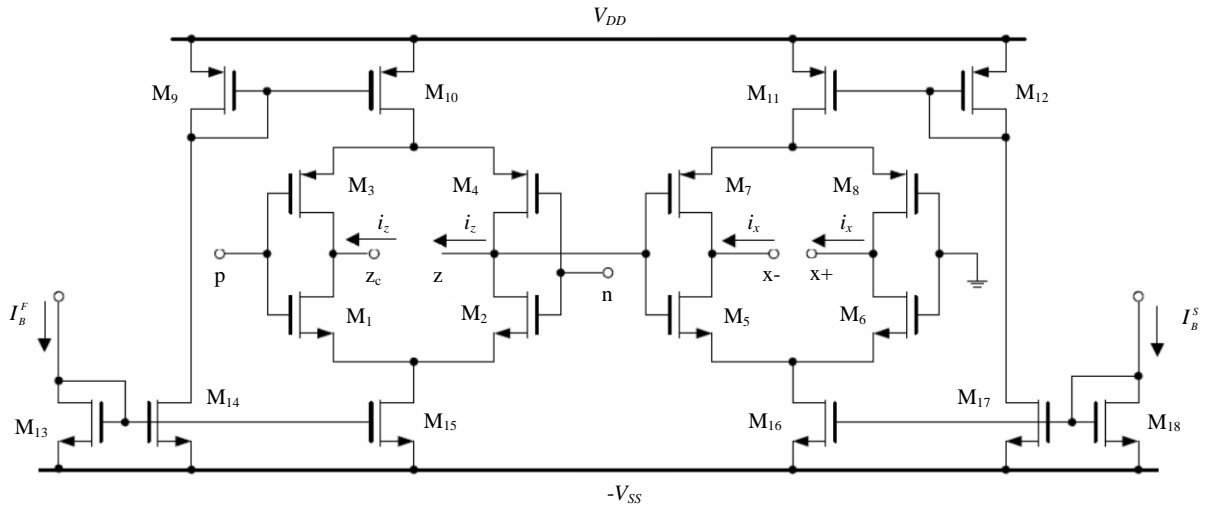
where  $g_i = \sqrt{I_{Bi} \mu C_{OX} \frac{W_i}{L_i}}$  is transconductance gain of  $i^{\text{th}}$  transistor ( $i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8$ ).  $I_{Bi}$ ,  $W_i$ ,  $L_i$  are the bias current, effective channel width and length of  $i^{\text{th}}$  MOS transistor, respectively.  $\mu$  is the effective carrier mobility and  $C_{OX}$  is the gate oxide capacitance per unit area of the MOS transistors.

The proposed biquad filter configuration is shown in **Figure 3**, which employs two VDTAs and two capacitors with one is permanently grounded. The analysis of the circuit of **Figure 3** for three applied voltage inputs  $V_1$ ,  $V_2$  and  $V_3$ , will give the following expression for the voltage output at  $V_0$

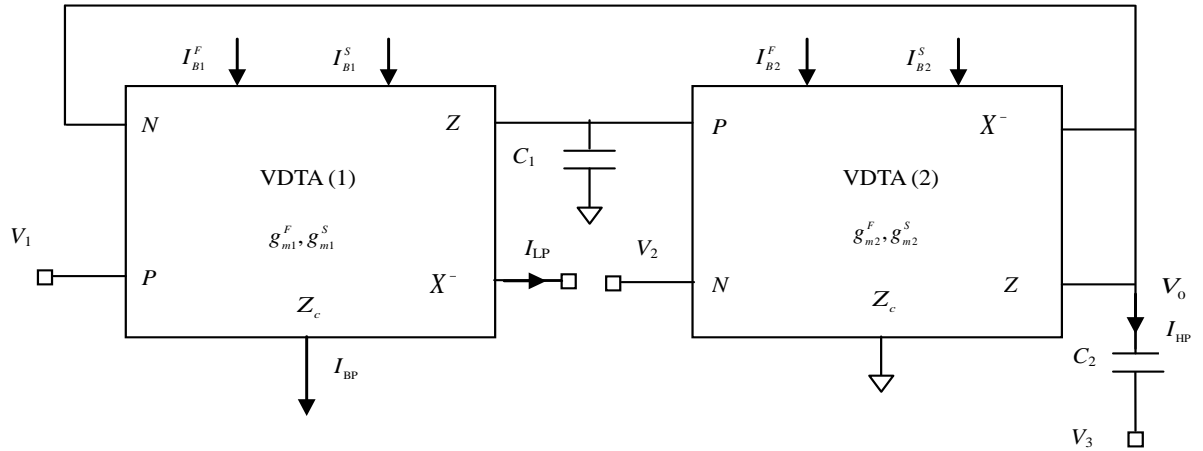
$$V_0 = \frac{V_3 s^2 C_1 C_2 - V_2 s C_1 g_m^F g_m^S + V_1 g_m^F g_m^S}{D(s)} \quad (4)$$

where

$$D(s) = s^2 C_1 C_2 + s C_1 g_m^S g_m^F + g_m^F g_m^S \quad (5)$$



**Figure 2.** CMOS implementation of VDTA.



**Figure 3.** The proposed biquad filter configuration based on VDTA.

Here  $g_{m1}^F$ ,  $g_{m1}^S$  are transconductance gains of first and second stage of VDTA (1) respectively and  $g_{m2}^S$ ,  $g_{m2}^F$  are transconductance gains of first and second stage of VDTA (2), respectively. It is evident from Equation (4) that various biquad filtering responses in voltage-mode can be obtained at  $V_0$  through appropriate selection of input voltage signals ( $V_1$ ,  $V_2$ , and  $V_3$ ).

- 1) If  $V_1 = V_{in}$  and  $V_2 = V_3 = 0$ , the filter configuration provides LP response.
- 2) If  $V_2 = V_{in}$  and  $V_1 = V_3 = 0$ , the filter configuration provides BP response.
- 3) If  $V_3 = V_{in}$  and  $V_1 = V_2 = 0$ , the filter configuration provides HP response.
- 4) If  $V_1 = V_3 = V_{in}$ ,  $V_2 = 0$ , the filter configuration provides BR response.
- 5) If  $V_{in1} = V_{in2} = V_{in3} = V_{in}$  and  $g_{m2}^S = g_{m2}^F$ , the filter configuration provides AP responses.

It can be concluded from above operational description that the proposed filter configuration in **Figure 3** is capable of realizing all the five standard filtering responses in voltage-mode without requiring minus-type and/or double input voltage signal(s). However, AP realization requires matching condition.

In addition to above voltage mode filtering responses, the same configuration can also be used to realize LP, BP, HP transadmittance mode responses across  $I_{LP}$ ,  $I_{BP}$  and  $I_{HP}$ , respectively, by applying only one voltage input  $V_2$  ( $V_{in}$ ) and remaining voltage inputs set to zero ( $V_1 = V_3 = 0$ ). In this case transadmittance mode transfer function can be derived as

$$\frac{I_{BP}}{V_{in}} = \frac{sC_1 g_{m1}^F g_{m2}^F}{D(s)} \quad (6)$$

$$\frac{I_{LP}}{V_{in}} = \frac{g_{m1}^F g_{m1}^S g_{m2}^F}{D(s)} \quad (7)$$

$$\frac{I_{HP}}{V_{in}} = \frac{s^2 C_1 C_2 g_{m2}^F}{D(s)}. \quad (8)$$

The filter characteristic parameters like pole-frequency ( $\omega_0$ ), quality-factor ( $Q_0$ ), and band-width ( $\omega_0/Q_0$ ) for the proposed filter configuration can be expressed

$$\omega_0 = \sqrt{\frac{g_{m1}^F g_{m2}^F}{C_1 C_2}} \quad (9)$$

$$Q_0 = \frac{1}{g_{m2}^S} \sqrt{\frac{g_{m1}^F g_{m2}^F C_2}{C_1}} \quad (10)$$

$$BW = \frac{\omega_0}{Q_0} = \frac{g_{m2}^S}{C_2}. \quad (11)$$

If  $g_{m1}^F = g_{m2}^F = g_m^F$  and  $C_1 = C_2 = C$ , then Equation (11) becomes

$$\omega_0 = \frac{g_m^F}{C}, \quad \text{BW} = \frac{\omega_0}{Q_0} = \frac{g_{m2}^S}{C}$$

and

$$Q_0 = \frac{g_m^F}{g_{m2}^S}. \quad (12)$$

It is clear from Equation (10) and Equation (11) that filter parameter  $Q_0$  can be widely varied electronically by varying  $g_{m2}^S$  independent of  $\omega_0$ . Similarly,  $\omega_0$  and BW are electronically orthogonal tunable.

### 3. Non Ideal and Sensitivity Analysis

For non ideal characteristics of the VDTA, the port relations of currents and voltages in Equation (1) can be changed as follow.

$$\begin{bmatrix} I_Z, I_{Zc} \\ I_{X^+} \\ I_{X^-} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \beta_j^F g_{mj}^F & -\beta_j^F g_{mj}^F & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \beta_j^F g_{mj}^F \\ 0 & 0 & -\beta_j^F g_{mj}^F \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} V_P \\ V_N \\ V_Z \end{bmatrix} \quad (13)$$

where  $\beta_j^F$  and  $\beta_j^S$  represents the voltage tracking errors for first and second stages of  $j^{\text{th}}$  VDTA respectively, where  $j = 1, 2$ . If we re-analysed the proposed circuit in **Figure 3** using Equation (13), the filter parameters  $\omega_0$ ,  $Q_0$ , and BW are changed to

$$\omega_0 = \sqrt{\frac{\beta_1^F g_{m1}^F \beta_2^F g_{m2}^F g_{m1}^S}{C_1 C_2}}, \quad \text{BW} = \frac{\omega_0}{Q_0} = \frac{\beta_2^S g_{m2}^S}{C_2}, \quad \text{and} \quad Q_0 = \frac{1}{\beta_2^S g_{m2}^S} \sqrt{\frac{\beta_1^F g_{m1}^F \beta_2^F g_{m1}^S C_2}{C_1}}. \quad (14)$$

The active and passive relative sensitivities of  $\omega_0$  and  $Q_0$  for the proposed filter are calculated as

$$S_{g_{m1}^F}^{\omega_0} = S_{g_{m1}^S}^{\omega_0} = S_{\beta_1^F}^{\omega_0} = S_{\beta_2^F}^{\omega_0} = \frac{1}{2}, \quad S_{C_2}^{\omega_0} = S_{C_1}^{\omega_0} = -\frac{1}{2}, \quad S_{g_{m2}^S}^{\omega_0} = S_{\beta_1^S}^{\omega_0} = S_{\beta_2^S}^{\omega_0} = 0 \quad (15)$$

$$S_{g_{m1}^F}^{Q_0} = S_{g_{m1}^S}^{Q_0} = S_{\beta_1^F}^{Q_0} = S_{\beta_2^F}^{Q_0} = \frac{1}{2}, \quad S_{C_2}^{Q_0} = -S_{C_1}^{Q_0} = \frac{1}{2}, \quad S_{g_{m2}^S}^{Q_0} = S_{\beta_1^S}^{Q_0} = S_{\beta_2^S}^{Q_0} = 0 \quad (16)$$

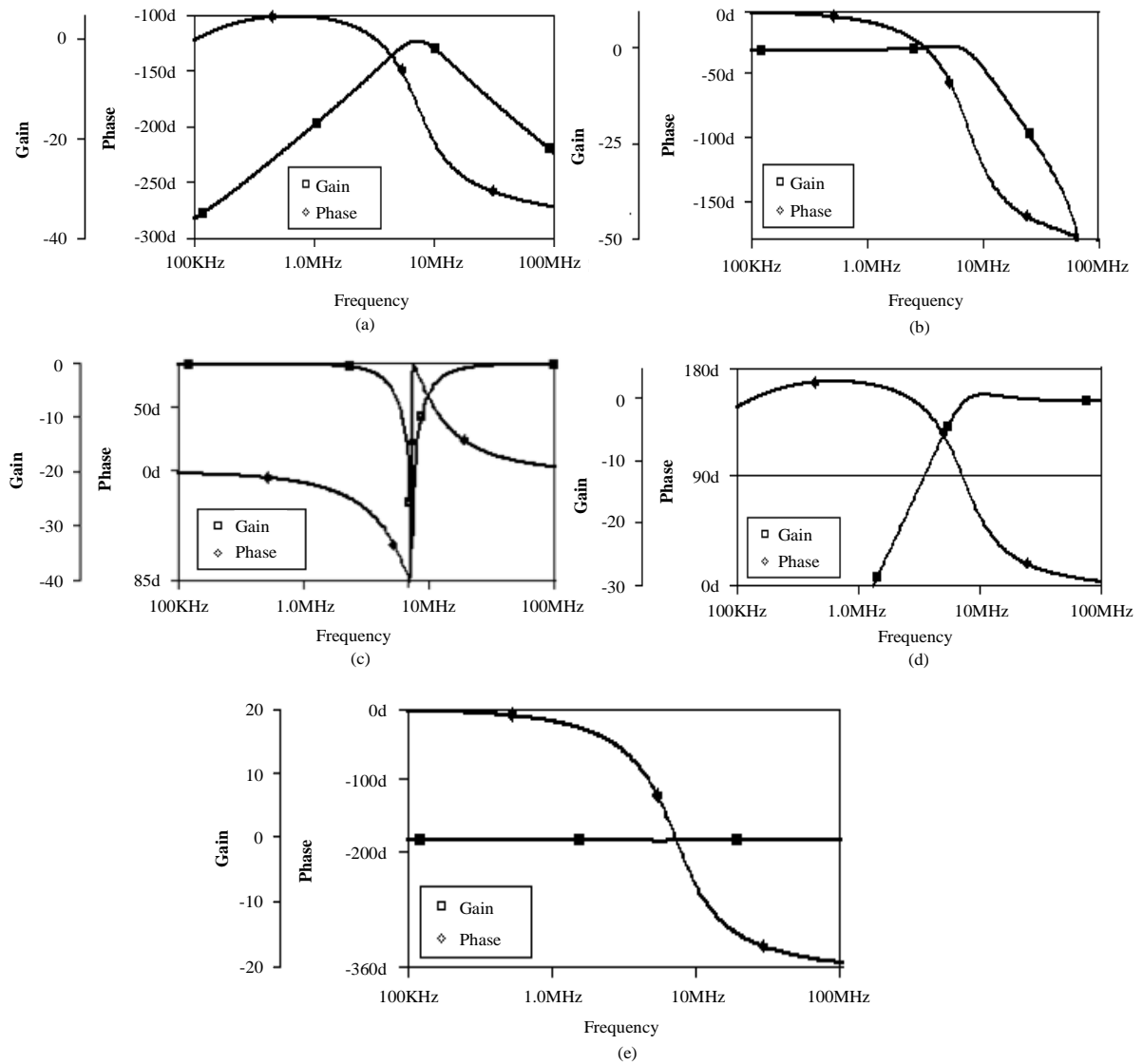
and

$$S_{g_{m2}^S}^{Q_0} = S_{\beta_2^S}^{Q_0} = -1. \quad (17)$$

From Equation (15)-(17), it is clear that the proposed circuit possess low active and passive sensitivities, less than or equal to unity in magnitude.

### 4. Simulation Results

In this section the performance of the proposed biquad filter configuration of **Figure 3** was examined using PSPICE simulations. Simulation was performed based on CMOS structure of VDTA as shown in **Figure 2**, with transistor model of 0.18  $\mu\text{m}$  MOSFET from TSMC [27]. Aspect ratio of each MOS transistors is given in Table 1. To design the proposed biquad filter for obtaining  $f_o = \omega_0/2\pi = 7.7$  MHz and  $Q_0 = 1$ , the active and passive components were selected as  $C_1 = C_2 = 10$  pF,  $V_{DD} = -V_{SS} = 2$  V,  $I_{B1}^F = I_{B1}^S = I_{B2}^F = I_{B2}^S = 50$   $\mu\text{A}$ , ( $g_{m1}^F = g_{m2}^F = g_{m1}^S = g_{m2}^S = 484$   $\mu\text{A}$ ). **Figure 4** shows the voltage-mode gain and phase responses of LP, BP, HP, BR and AP. **Figure 5** shows the transadmittance gain of LP, BP and HP filtering responses. The simulation result shows the simulated pole frequency as 7.49 MHz which is fairly closed to the designed value of 7.7 MHz. The total power dissipation for the circuit is 2.71 mW. **Figure 6** shows the electronic tunability feature of  $Q_0$  independent of  $\omega_0$  for the proposed filter by performing the simulation of various voltage-mode BP responses at



**Figure 4.** Simulated gain and phase response of the proposed voltage-mode filter: (a) Band-pass; (b) Low-pass; (c) Band-reject; (d) High-pass; and (e) All-pass.

different values of  $I_{B2}^S = 5 \mu\text{A}, 20 \mu\text{A}, 60 \mu\text{A}, 100 \mu\text{A}$  by keeping other currents as constant of  $50 \mu\text{A}$ . The corresponding quality factor at constant pole frequency of  $7.49$  were found as  $Q_0 = 3.14, 1.58, 0.909, 0.707$  which prove the electronic tunability feature of  $Q_0$  independent of  $\omega_0$  for the proposed filter. Now, the noise effect for the proposed filter is considered by showing the voltage-mode BP output noise spectral density in **Figure 7**. It indicates that noise spectral density is quite small and it attains a maximum value equal to  $14 \text{ nV/Hz}^{1/2}$ . Further, Monte-Carlo analysis is also performed to perceive the effect of capacitive deviations on the performance of proposed circuit. The voltage-mode BP response has been simulated with 10% Gaussian deviation in  $C_1 = C_2 = 10 \text{ pF}$ . The simulation was done simultaneously for 100 runs. The corresponding result is shown in **Figure 8**. From this result, the standard deviation is measured as  $292.42 \text{ kHz}$ , which demonstrates that the circuit is reasonable sensitive towards capacitive passive components. For 5% Gaussian deviation, the sensitivity is  $145.35 \text{ kHz}$ . Lastly, the time domain behaviour of the proposed filter in **Figure 3** was also investigated by applying a sinusoidal input voltage having peak to peak amplitude of  $300 \text{ mV}$  at a signal frequency of  $200 \text{ kHz}$ . **Figure 9** shows the time domain sinusoidal voltage input ( $V_1 = V_{in}$ ) and corresponding LP voltage output signal. From **Figure 9**, it was observed that  $300 \text{ mV}$  peak to peak sinusoidal input voltage signal of frequency  $200 \text{ kHz}$  is acceptable without significant distortions.

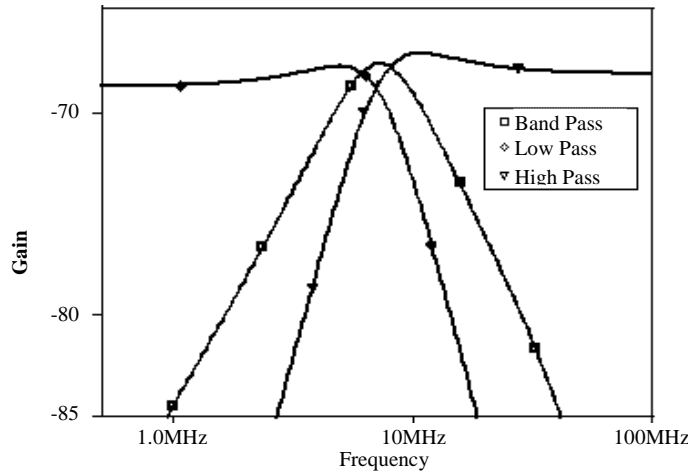


Figure 5. Transadmittance mode filter responses.

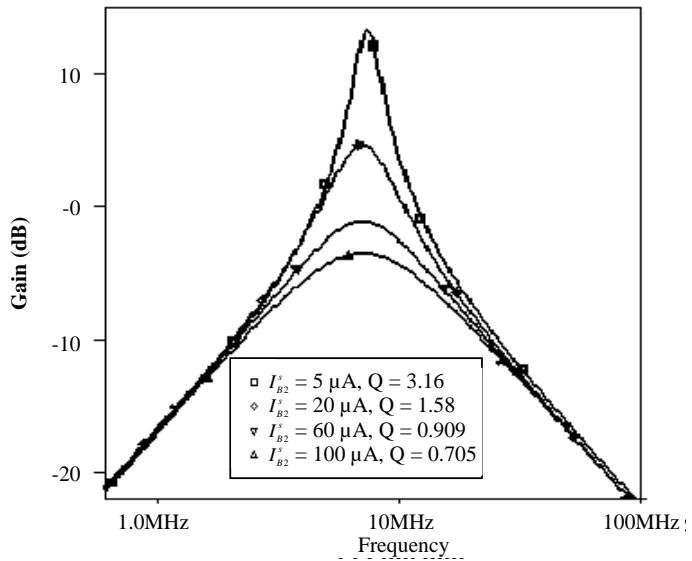


Figure 6. Band pass responses for different values of  $I_{B2}^s$ .

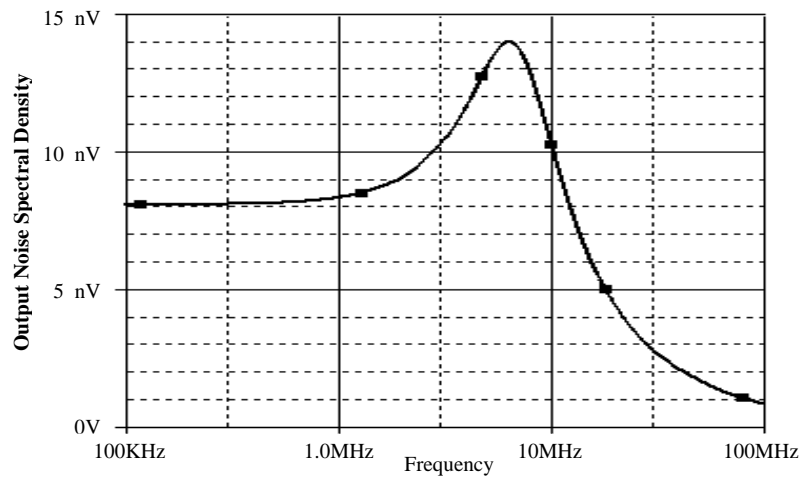


Figure 7. Output noise spectral density of the BP response of the proposed voltage mode circuit.

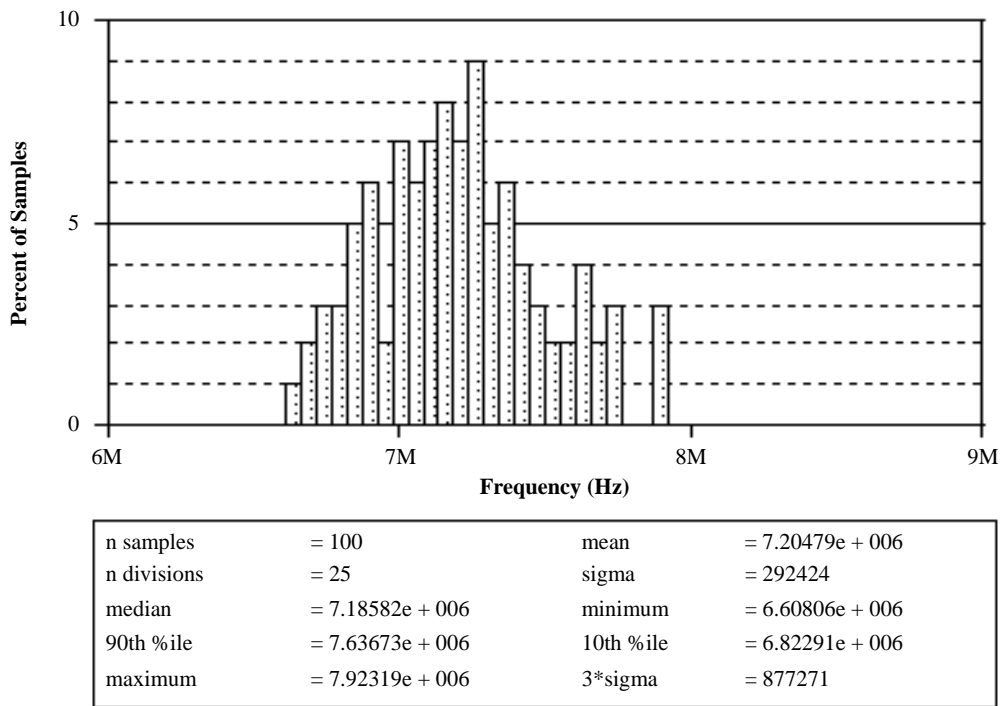


Figure 8. Monte-Carlo analysis for the voltage-mode BP response with 10% deviation in capacitor values.

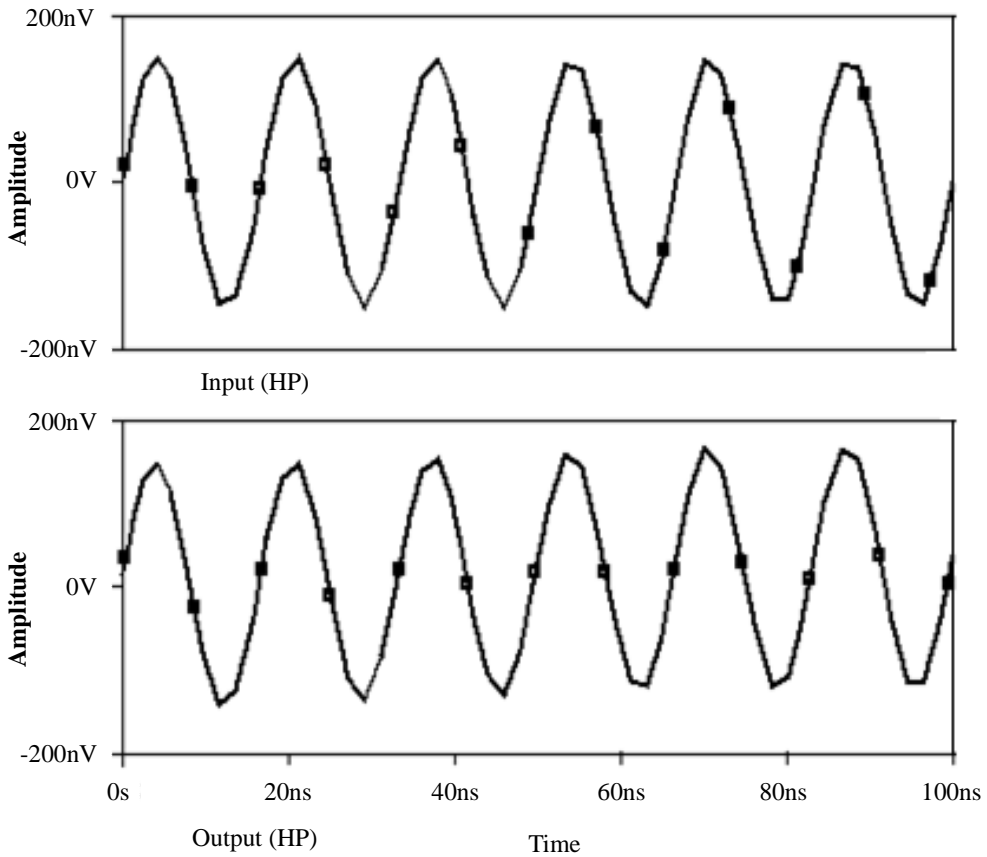


Figure 9. Time-domain results of LP response for transient analysis.



## 5. Conclusions

This paper has presented a biquad filter configuration based on VDTAs which employs two VDTAs and two capacitors and offers the following attractive features:

- 1) Capable of realizing LP, BP, HP, BR, and AP filtering responses in voltage-mode and LP, BP, and HP filtering responses in trans-admittance-mode from the same configuration.
- 2) No employment of resistor(s), hence suited for integration.
- 3) The circuit is canonical by the way of using only two capacitors.
- 4) No need of minus type and/or double type input voltage signal to realize any filtering response, hence make the circuit simpler.
- 5)  $Q_0$  control of independent of  $\omega_0$  through single transconductance parameter (biasing current), hence suited for practical applications.
- 6) Low active and passive sensitivity performance.
- 7) Low power consumptions.

With above mentioned features and exhaustive simulation results, it is very suitable to implement the proposed filter circuit in monolithic chip for use in modern microelectronic system applications, such as controls, voice and data communications.

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