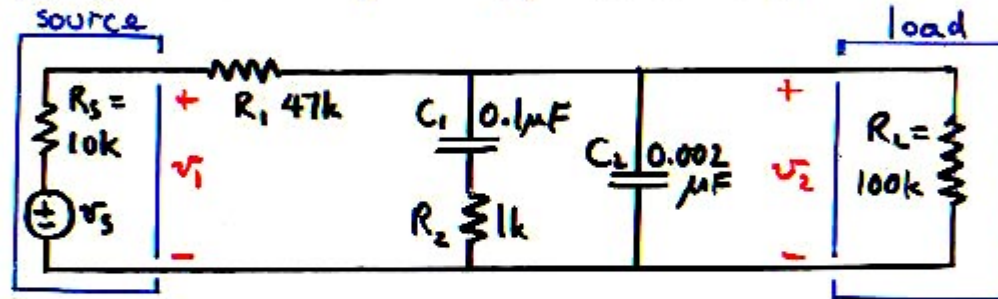


## 4. AN IMPROVED FORMULA FOR QUADRATIC ROOTS

The Conventional Formula suffers from two congenital defects

### Example

Analyze the following circuit for the gain response  $v_2/v_1$ , using the given values to justify appropriate analytic approximations:



Express the result in the factored pole-zero form

$$\frac{v_2}{v_1} \equiv A = A_0 \frac{\prod (1+s/\omega_x)}{\prod (1+s/\omega_y)}$$

Sketch  $|A|$  and  $\angle A$  showing the straight-line asymptotes, and label salient features with both analytic expressions and numerical values.

$$A = \frac{\frac{\left(\frac{R_L}{1+sC_2R_L}\right)\left(R_2 + \frac{1}{sC_1}\right)}{\frac{R_L}{1+sC_2R_L} + R_2 + \frac{1}{sC_1}}}{\frac{\left(\frac{R_L}{1+sC_2R_L}\right)\left(R_2 + \frac{1}{sC_1}\right)}{\frac{R_L}{1+sC_2R_L} + R_2 + \frac{1}{sC_1}} + R_1}$$

a lot ↓ of algebra

$$= \frac{R_L + sC_1R_2R_L}{[R_1 + R_L] + s[C_1(R_1R_2 + R_LR_2 + R_1R_L) + C_2R_1R_L] + s^2[C_1C_2R_1R_2R_L]}$$

This is a high-entropy expression. To lower the entropy, write the polynomials in  $s$  with a leading term of unity:

$$A = \frac{R_L}{R_1 + R_L} \frac{1 + sC_1 R_2}{1 + s \left[ C_1 \left( \frac{R_1 R_2 + R_L R_2 + R_1 R_L}{R_1 + R_L} \right) + C_2 \left( \frac{R_1 R_L}{R_1 + R_L} \right) \right] + s^2 \left[ C_1 C_2 \left( \frac{R_1 R_2 R_L}{R_1 + R_L} \right) \right]}$$

Now, recognize series/  
parallel resistance  
combinations:

$$\downarrow$$

$$(R_2 + R_1 \parallel R_L)$$

$$\downarrow$$

$$(R_1 \parallel R_L)$$

$$\downarrow$$

$$R_2 (R_1 \parallel R_L)$$

$$A = \frac{R_L}{R_1 + R_L} \frac{1 + sC_1 R_2}{1 + s \left[ C_1 \left( \frac{R_1 R_2 + R_L R_2 + R_1 R_L}{R_1 + R_L} \right) + C_2 \left( \frac{R_1 R_L}{R_1 + R_L} \right) \right] + s^2 \left[ C_1 C_2 \left( \frac{R_1 R_2 R_L}{R_1 + R_L} \right) \right]}$$

Now, recognize series/  
parallel resistance  
combinations:

$$\downarrow$$

$$(R_2 + R_1 \parallel R_L)$$

$$\downarrow$$

$$(R_1 \parallel R_L)$$

$$\downarrow$$

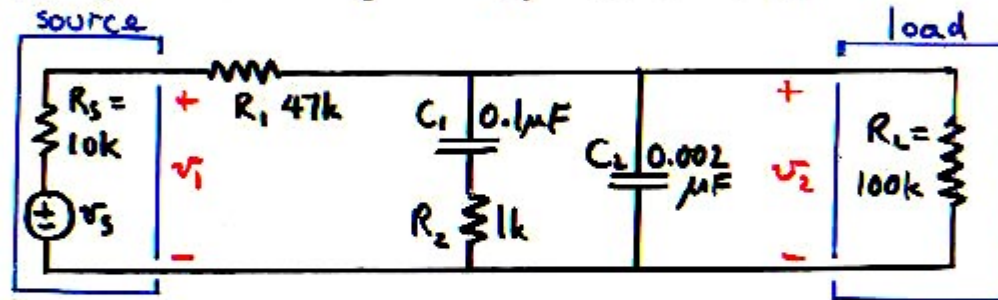
$$R_2 (R_1 \parallel R_L)$$

The same result, including the series/parallel resistance grouping, could have been obtained with less algebra by elimination, first, of one of the loops of the original circuit.

Circuit with  $R_1$  and  $R_L$  absorbed into a Thevenin equivalent:

### Example

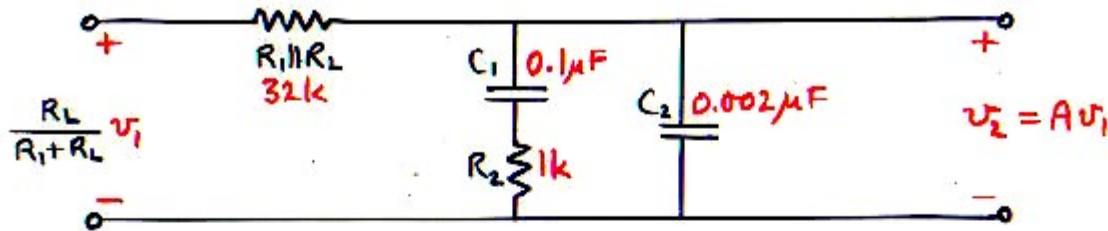
Analyze the following circuit for the gain response  $v_2/v_1$ , using the given values to justify appropriate analytic approximations:



Express the result in the factored pole-zero form

$$\frac{v_2}{v_1} \equiv A = A_0 \frac{\prod (1+s/\omega_x)}{\prod (1+s/\omega_y)}$$

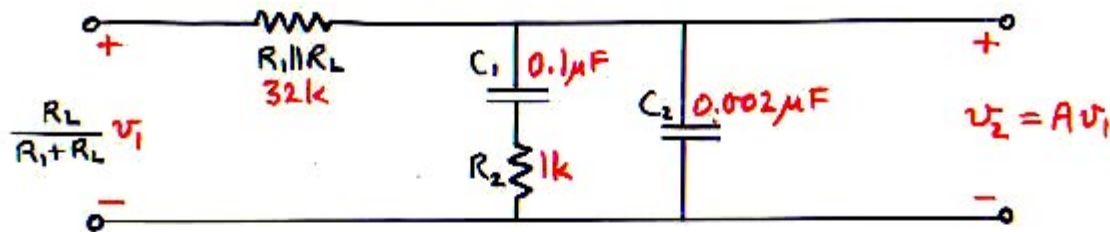
Sketch  $|A|$  and  $\angle A$  showing the straight-line asymptotes, and label salient features with both analytic expressions and numerical values.



$$A = \frac{\frac{\frac{1}{sC_2} \left( R_2 + \frac{1}{sC_1} \right)}{R_2 + \frac{1}{s} \left( \frac{1}{C_1} + \frac{1}{C_2} \right)} \cdot \frac{R_L}{R_1 + R_L}}{\frac{\frac{1}{sC_2} \left( R_2 + \frac{1}{sC_1} \right)}{R_2 + \frac{1}{s} \left( \frac{1}{C_1} + \frac{1}{C_2} \right)} + R_1 || R_L}$$

less ↓ algebra

$$= \frac{R_L}{R_1 + R_L} \cdot \frac{1 + sC_1R_2}{1 + s[C_1(R_2 + R_1 || R_L) + C_2(R_1 || R_L)] + s^2[C_1C_2R_2(R_1 || R_L)]}$$



$$A = \frac{\frac{\frac{1}{sC_2} \left( R_2 + \frac{1}{sC_1} \right)}{R_2 + \frac{1}{s} \left( \frac{1}{C_1} + \frac{1}{C_2} \right)} \cdot \frac{R_L}{R_1 + R_L}}{\frac{\frac{1}{sC_2} \left( R_2 + \frac{1}{sC_1} \right)}{R_2 + \frac{1}{s} \left( \frac{1}{C_1} + \frac{1}{C_2} \right)} + R_1 || R_L}$$

less ↓ algebra

$$= \frac{R_L}{R_1 + R_L} \cdot \frac{1 + sC_1R_2}{1 + s[C_1(R_2 + R_1 || R_L) + \cancel{C_2(R_1 || R_L)}] + s^2[C_1C_2R_2(R_1 || R_L)]}$$

Use of numerical values to justify analytic approximation



Generalization: Use of Numerical Values to Justify Analytic Approximations

Use numbers to justify leaving out a term, but continue the analysis with the symbols.

This way, the analysis result can be used for design, because the numbers can be changed so that the answer has the desired value. (The approximation must be checked to ensure that it is not invalidated by the new numbers.)

**You can't lose by trying!**

$$A = \frac{R_L}{R_1 + R_L} \frac{1 + sC_1R_2}{1 + s[C_1(R_2 + (R_1 \parallel R_L))] + s^2[C_1C_2R_2(R_1 \parallel R_L)]}$$

$$= A_0 \frac{(1 + \frac{s}{\omega_2})}{(1 + \frac{s}{\omega_1})(1 + \frac{s}{\omega_3})}$$

where

$$\frac{1}{\omega_{1,3}} = \frac{C_1(R_2 + R_1 \parallel R_L) \pm \sqrt{C_1^2(R_2 + R_1 \parallel R_L)^2 - 4C_1C_2R_2(R_1 \parallel R_L)}}{2}$$

$3.3 \times 10^{-3}$        $10 \times 10^{-6}$        $0.026 \times 10^{-6}$

This is useless for design, and in any case is inaccurate numerically.

## Improved formulas for quadratic roots

$$\begin{aligned}ax^2 + bx + c &= a \left( x^2 + \frac{b}{a}x + \frac{c}{a} \right) \\ &= a(x - x_1)(x - x_2)\end{aligned}$$

$$x_{1,2} = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

High entropy

Disadvantages of the conventional form

1. Complicated algebraic expressions in terms of element values:

$$\frac{1}{w_{i,3}} = \frac{C_1(R_2 + R_1 \| R_L) \pm \sqrt{C_1^2(R_2 + R_1 \| R_L)^2 - 4C_1C_2R_2(R_1 \| R_L)}}{2}$$

2. Computationally inaccurate when  $4ac \ll b^2$ :

$$\frac{1}{w_{i,3}} = 10^{-3} \frac{3.3 \pm \sqrt{3.3^2 - 0.026}}{2}$$

↑  
small difference of large numbers, for one root

**These are congenital defects!**

Better method:

$$x_2 = \frac{-b - \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a} = -\frac{b}{a} \left[ \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 - 4Q^2} \right] = -\frac{b}{a} F$$

where

$$F \equiv \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 - 4Q^2}, \quad Q^2 \equiv \frac{ac}{b^2}$$


$$\begin{aligned} x_1 &= \frac{-b + \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a} = -\frac{b}{a} \left[ \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 - 4Q^2} \right] \\ &= -\frac{b}{a} \frac{\left[ \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 - 4Q^2} \right] \left[ \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 - 4Q^2} \right]}{\left[ \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 - 4Q^2} \right]} = -\frac{b}{a} \frac{\frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{4}(1 - 4Q^2)}{F} \\ &= -\frac{b}{a} \frac{Q^2}{F} = -\frac{c}{b} \frac{1}{F} \end{aligned}$$

Better method:

$$x_2 = \frac{-b - \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a} = -\frac{b}{a} \left[ \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 - 4Q^2} \right] = -\frac{b}{a} F$$

where

$$F \equiv \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 - 4Q^2}, \quad Q^2 \equiv \frac{ac}{b^2}$$

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 &= \frac{-b + \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a} = -\frac{b}{a} \left[ \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 - 4Q^2} \right] \\ &= -\frac{b}{a} \frac{\left[ \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 - 4Q^2} \right] \left[ \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 - 4Q^2} \right]}{\left[ \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 - 4Q^2} \right]} = -\frac{b}{a} \frac{\frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{4}(1 - 4Q^2)}{F} \\ &= -\frac{b}{a} \frac{Q^2}{F} = -\frac{c}{b} \frac{1}{F} \end{aligned}$$


Crucial step: Large numbers are subtracted exactly,  
leaving the small difference in analytic form.

Hence, both roots can be computed with equal accuracy:

$$x_1 = -\frac{c}{b} \frac{1}{F} \quad x_2 = -\frac{b}{a} F$$

Rewrite the two roots:

$$x_1 = \frac{-b + \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

$$x_2 = \frac{-b - \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

$x_2$  is acceptable for all values;  $x_1$  is unacceptable for  $4ac \ll b^2$ .

Rewrite  $x_2$ :

$$x_2 = -\frac{b}{a} \left[ \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 - \frac{4ac}{b^2}} \right]$$

Now, instead of using the formula for  $x_1$  directly, use the property of the quadratic that  $x_1 x_2 = \frac{c}{a}$ :

$$x_1 = \frac{c}{a} \frac{1}{x_2} = -\frac{c}{a} \frac{a}{b} \frac{1}{\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 - \frac{4ac}{b^2}}}$$

Thus, the improved formulas for the quadratic roots are:

$$x_1 = -\frac{c}{b} \frac{1}{\left[ \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 - \frac{4ac}{b^2}} \right]}$$

$$x_2 = -\frac{b}{a} \left[ \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 - \frac{4ac}{b^2}} \right]$$

Rewrite the two roots:

$$x_1 = \frac{-b + \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

$$x_2 = \frac{-b - \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

$x_2$  is acceptable for all values;  $x_1$  is unacceptable for  $4ac \ll b^2$ .

Rewrite  $x_2$ :

$$x_2 = -\frac{b}{a} \left[ \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 - \frac{4ac}{b^2}} \right]$$

Now, instead of using the formula for  $x_1$  directly, use the property of the quadratic that  $x_1 x_2 = \frac{c}{a}$ :

$$x_1 = \frac{c}{a} \frac{1}{x_2} = -\frac{c}{a} \frac{a}{b} \frac{1}{\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 - \frac{4ac}{b^2}}}$$

Thus, the improved formulas for the quadratic roots are:

$$x_1 = -\frac{c}{b} \frac{1}{\left[ \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 - \frac{4ac}{b^2}} \right]}$$

$$x_2 = -\frac{b}{a} \left[ \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 - \frac{4ac}{b^2}} \right]$$

$$\begin{aligned} ax^2 + bx + c &= a \left( x^2 + \frac{b}{a}x + \frac{c}{a} \right) \\ &= a(x - x_1)(x - x_2) \end{aligned}$$

$x_1 x_2 = \frac{c}{a}$

Rewrite the two roots:

$$x_1 = \frac{-b + \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

$$x_2 = \frac{-b - \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

$x_2$  is acceptable for all values;  $x_1$  is unacceptable for  $4ac \ll b^2$ .

Rewrite  $x_2$ :

$$x_2 = -\frac{b}{a} \left[ \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 - \frac{4ac}{b^2}} \right]$$

Now, instead of using the formula for  $x_1$  directly, use the property of the quadratic that  $x_1 x_2 = \frac{c}{a}$ :

$$x_1 = \frac{c}{a} \frac{1}{x_2} = -\frac{c}{a} \frac{a}{b} \frac{1}{\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 - \frac{4ac}{b^2}}}$$

Thus, the improved formulas for the quadratic roots are:

$$x_1 = -\frac{c}{b} \frac{1}{\left[ \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 - \frac{4ac}{b^2}} \right]}$$

$$x_2 = -\frac{b}{a} \left[ \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 - \frac{4ac}{b^2}} \right]$$



$$\begin{aligned} ax^2 + bx + c &= a \left( x^2 + \frac{b}{a}x + \frac{c}{a} \right) \\ &= a(x - x_1)(x - x_2) \end{aligned}$$

More elegant form:

$$x_1 = -\frac{c}{b} \frac{1}{F} \quad \frac{x_1}{x_2} = \frac{Q^2}{F^2} \quad x_2 = -\frac{b}{a} F$$

where

$$F \equiv \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 - 4Q^2} \quad \text{in which} \quad Q^2 \equiv \frac{ac}{b^2}$$

$$ax^2 + bx + c = a \left( x^2 + \frac{b}{a}x + \frac{c}{a} \right)$$

$$= a(x - x_1)(x - x_2)$$

root ratio

More elegant form:

$$x_1 = -\frac{c}{b} \frac{1}{F} \quad \frac{x_1}{x_2} = \frac{Q^2}{F^2} \quad x_2 = -\frac{b}{a} F$$

simple ratios of the original quadratic coefficients

where

$$F \equiv \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 - 4Q^2} \quad \text{in which} \quad Q^2 \equiv \frac{ac}{b^2}$$

$$ax^2 + bx + c = a \left( x^2 + \frac{b}{a}x + \frac{c}{a} \right)$$

$$= a(x - x_1)(x - x_2)$$

root ratio

More elegant form:

$$x_1 = -\frac{c}{b} \frac{1}{F} \quad \frac{x_1}{x_2} = \frac{Q^2}{F^2} \quad x_2 = -\frac{b}{a} F$$

simple ratios of the original quadratic coefficients

where

$$F \equiv \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 - 4Q^2} \quad \text{in which} \quad Q^2 \equiv \frac{ac}{b^2}$$

This is exact for all values.

If  $Q > 0.5$ ,  $F$  is complex  $\Rightarrow$  complex roots

If  $Q < 0.5$ ,  $F$  is real  $\Rightarrow$  real roots

If  $Q \ll 0.5$ ,  $F \approx 1$

Note how simple the analytic roots, and therefore the quadratic factorization, become if  $F \approx 1$ .

$$ax^2 + bx + c = a \left( x^2 + \frac{b}{a}x + \frac{c}{a} \right)$$

$$= a(x - x_1)(x - x_2)$$

root ratio

More elegant form:

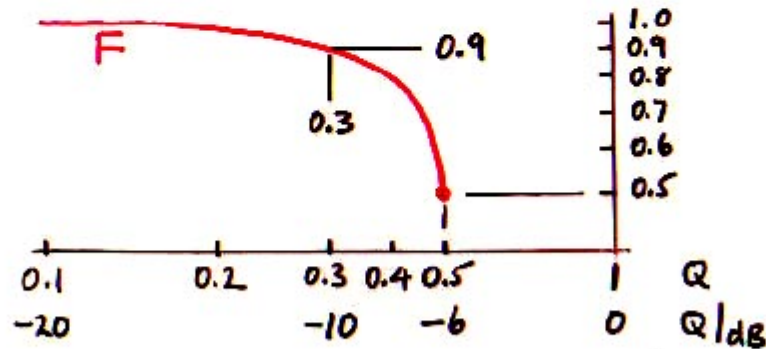
$$x_1 = -\frac{c}{b} \frac{1}{F} \quad \frac{x_1}{x_2} = \frac{Q^2}{F^2} \quad x_2 = -\frac{b}{a} F$$

simple ratios of the original quadratic coefficients

where

$$F \equiv \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 - 4Q^2} \quad \text{in which } Q^2 \equiv \frac{ac}{b^2}$$

$F \rightarrow 1$  very rapidly as  $Q$  drops below 0.5:



$F \approx 1$  with 10% error for  $Q \leq 0.3$

**Remember this graph!**

## One more time!

$$\begin{aligned}ax^2 + bx + c &= a \left( x^2 + \frac{b}{a}x + \frac{c}{a} \right) \\ &= a(x - x_1)(x - x_2)\end{aligned}$$

**Bad!**

$$x_{1,2} = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

**Good!**

$$x_1 = -\frac{c}{b} \frac{1}{\left[ \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 - \frac{4ac}{b^2}} \right]} \quad x_2 = -\frac{b}{a} \left[ \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 - \frac{4ac}{b^2}} \right]$$

## One more time!

$$\begin{aligned}ax^2 + bx + c &= a \left( x^2 + \frac{b}{a}x + \frac{c}{a} \right) \\ &= a(x - x_1)(x - x_2)\end{aligned}$$

**Bad!**

$$x_{1,2} = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

**Good!**

$$x_1 = -\frac{c}{b} \frac{1}{\left[ \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 - \frac{4ac}{b^2}} \right]} \quad x_2 = -\frac{b}{a} \left[ \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 - \frac{4ac}{b^2}} \right]$$

**Further information:**

**TT DVD Ch 3**

**Paper**

**SCIENTIFIC  
AMERICAN**  
**BOOK CLUB**

P.O. Box 6301  
Camp Hill, PA 17012-6301

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

[www.sciambookclub.com](http://www.sciambookclub.com)

July 2005

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
BOOK CLUB  
ASSOCIATES

## Math in action!

Apply mathematical tools to real-world problems...  
*see inside for details.*

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

**IMPORTANT: Dated Materials Enclosed**



**SCIENTIFIC  
AMERICAN**  
**BOOK CLUB**

P.O. Box 6301  
Camp Hill, PA 17012-6301

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

[www.sciambookclub.com](http://www.sciambookclub.com)

July 2005

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
BOOK CLUB  
ASSOCIATES

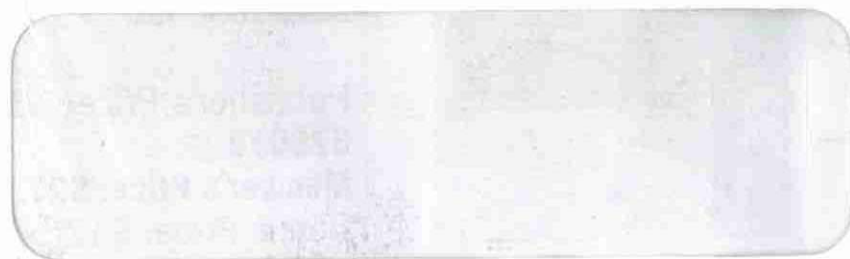
## Math in action!

Apply mathematical tools to real-world problems...

*see inside for details.*

$$x_1 = -\frac{b}{a} \left[ \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 - \frac{4ac}{b^2}} \right]$$
$$x_2 = -\frac{c}{b} / \left[ \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 - \frac{4ac}{b^2}} \right]$$

**IMPORTANT: Dated Materials Enclosed**





General result:

$$\begin{aligned}ax^2 + bx + c &= a\left(x^2 + \frac{b}{a}x + \frac{c}{a}\right) \\ &= a(x - x_1)(x - x_2) \\ &= a\left(x + \frac{c}{b} \frac{1}{F}\right)\left(x + \frac{b}{a} F\right)\end{aligned}$$

where

$$F \equiv \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{1 - \frac{4ac}{b^2}}$$

$$x_1 = -\frac{c}{b} \frac{1}{F}$$

$$x_2 = -\frac{b}{a} F$$

General result:

$$ax^2 + bx + c = a\left(x^2 + \frac{b}{a}x + \frac{c}{a}\right)$$

$$= a(x - x_1)(x - x_2)$$

$$= a\left(x + \frac{c}{b} \frac{1}{F}\right)\left(x + \frac{b}{a} F\right) \approx a\left(x + \frac{c}{b}\right)\left(x + \frac{b}{a}\right)$$

Good approximation  
for real roots,  $Q \equiv \sqrt{\frac{ac}{b^2}} \leq 0.5$ :  
 $F \approx 1$

where

$$F \equiv \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{1 - \frac{4ac}{b^2}}$$

$$x_1 = -\frac{c}{b} \frac{1}{F} \approx -\frac{c}{b}$$

$$x_2 = -\frac{b}{a} F \approx -\frac{b}{a}$$

Alternative format:

$$\begin{aligned}ax^2 + bx + c &= c \left(1 + \frac{b}{c}x + \frac{a}{c}x^2\right) \\ &= c \left(1 - \frac{x}{x_1}\right) \left(1 - \frac{x}{x_2}\right) \\ &= c \left(1 + \frac{b}{c}Fx\right) \left(1 + \frac{a}{b} \frac{1}{F}x\right)\end{aligned}$$

where

$$F \equiv \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 - 4Q^2}$$

$$Q^2 \equiv \frac{ac}{b^2}$$

Alternative format:

$$\begin{aligned}ax^2 + bx + c &= c \left( 1 + \frac{b}{c}x + \frac{a}{c}x^2 \right) \\ &= c \left( 1 - \frac{x}{x_1} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{x}{x_2} \right) \\ &= c \left( 1 + \frac{b}{c}Fx \right) \left( 1 + \frac{a}{b} \frac{1}{F}x \right)\end{aligned}$$

where

$$F \equiv \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 - 4Q^2}$$

$$Q^2 \equiv \frac{ac}{b^2}$$

Redefine coefficients:

$$\begin{aligned}1 + a_1x + a_2x^2 &= \left( 1 - \frac{x}{x_1} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{x}{x_2} \right) \\ &= \left( 1 + a_1Fx \right) \left( 1 + \frac{a_2}{a_1} \frac{1}{F}x \right)\end{aligned}$$

where

$$F \equiv \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 - 4Q^2}$$

$$Q^2 \equiv \frac{a_2}{a_1^2}$$

Alternative format:

$$ax^2 + bx + c = c \left( 1 + \frac{b}{c}x + \frac{a}{c}x^2 \right)$$

$$= c \left( 1 - \frac{x}{x_1} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{x}{x_2} \right)$$

$$= c \left( 1 + \frac{b}{c}Fx \right) \left( 1 + \frac{a}{b} \frac{1}{F}x \right) \stackrel{F=1}{\approx} c \left( 1 + \frac{b}{c}x \right) \left( 1 + \frac{a}{b}x \right)$$

Good approximation  
for real roots,  $Q \leq 0.5$ :  
 $F \approx 1$

where

$$F \equiv \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 - 4Q^2}$$

$$Q^2 \equiv \frac{ac}{b^2}$$

Redefine coefficients:

$$1 + a_1x + a_2x^2 = \left( 1 - \frac{x}{x_1} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{x}{x_2} \right)$$

$$= \left( 1 + a_1Fx \right) \left( 1 + \frac{a_2}{a_1} \frac{1}{F}x \right) \stackrel{F=1}{\approx} \left( 1 + a_1x \right) \left( 1 + \frac{a_2}{a_1}x \right)$$

where

$$F \equiv \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 - 4Q^2}$$

$$Q^2 \equiv \frac{a_2}{a_1^2}$$

Generalization: Improved Formulas for Roots of a Quadratic

$$F \equiv \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{1 - 4Q^2}$$

$$Q^2 \equiv \frac{ac}{b^2}$$

$$Q^2 \equiv \frac{a_2}{a_1^2}$$

$$ax^2 + bx + c = a(x - x_1)(x - x_2)$$

$$1 + a_1x + a_2x^2 = \left(1 - \frac{x}{x_1}\right)\left(1 - \frac{x}{x_2}\right)$$

$$x_1 = -\frac{c}{b} \frac{1}{F}$$

$$x_1 = -\frac{1}{a_1 F}$$

$$x_2 = -\frac{b}{a} F$$

$$\frac{x_1}{x_2} = \frac{Q^2}{F^2}$$

$$x_2 = -\frac{a_1}{a_2} F$$

$$ax^2 + bx + c = a\left(x + \frac{c}{b} \frac{1}{F}\right)\left(x + \frac{b}{a} F\right)$$

$$1 + a_1x + a_2x^2 = \left(1 + a_1 F x\right)\left(1 + \frac{a_2}{a_1} \frac{1}{F} x\right)$$

For real roots,  $Q \leq 0.5$  and  $F \approx 1$ :

$$x_1 \approx -\frac{c}{b}$$

$$x_1 \approx -\frac{1}{a_1}$$

$$x_2 \approx -\frac{b}{a}$$

$$\frac{x_1}{x_2} \approx Q^2$$

$$x_2 \approx -\frac{a_1}{a_2}$$

$$ax^2 + bx + c \approx a\left(x + \frac{c}{b}\right)\left(x + \frac{b}{a}\right)$$

$$1 + a_1x + a_2x^2 \approx (1 + a_1x)\left(1 + \frac{a_2}{a_1}x\right)$$

① ↑  
② ↑  
③ ↑

③/② ↑  
②/① ↑

① ↑  
② ↑  
③ ↑

②/① ↑  
③/② ↑

## Advantages over the conventional formulas

1. Both roots can be computed with equal accuracy (avoids small difference of large numbers).
2. For real roots, to a very good approximation, there is no  $\sqrt{\quad}$  anywhere in the results, and each root is a simple ratio of coefficients of the original quadratic.

Useful format of quadratic  $1 + a_1 s + a_2 s^2$

Define:  $Q \equiv \frac{\sqrt{a_2}}{a_1}$

If  $Q > 0.5$  ( $F$  complex), roots are complex.  
Leave in quadratic form:

$$1 + a_1 s + a_2 s^2 = 1 + \frac{a_1}{\sqrt{a_2}} (\sqrt{a_2} s) + (\sqrt{a_2} s)^2$$

$\frac{1}{Q}$   $\swarrow$   $\nwarrow$  normalized frequency

If  $Q < 0.5$  ( $F \approx 1$ ), roots are real.

Factor into two real roots:  $\swarrow$  real corner frequencies

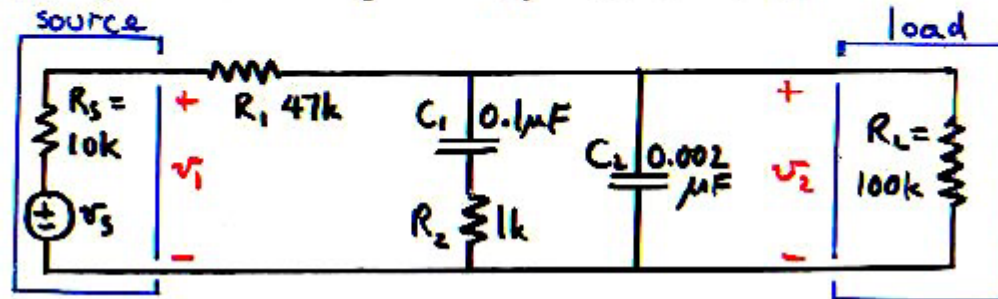
$$1 + a_1 s + a_2 s^2 \approx (1 + a_1 s) \left(1 + \frac{a_2}{a_1} s\right)$$
$$= \left[1 + \frac{a_1}{\sqrt{a_2}} (\sqrt{a_2} s)\right] \left[1 + \frac{\sqrt{a_2}}{a_1} (\sqrt{a_2} s)\right]$$

$\frac{1}{Q}$   $\swarrow$   $Q$   $\swarrow$  normalized frequency



## Return to the circuit example:

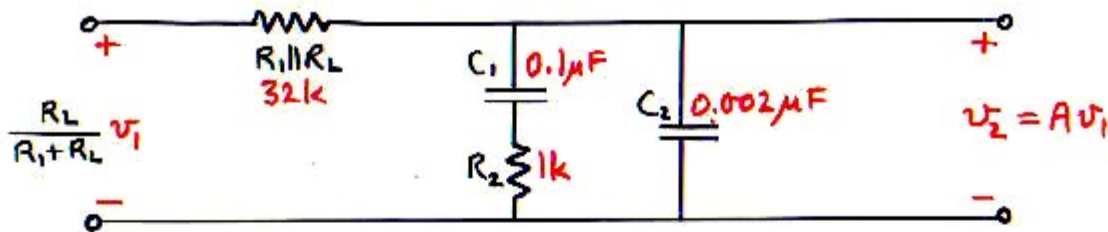
Analyze the following circuit for the gain response  $v_2/v_1$ , using the given values to justify appropriate analytic approximations:



Express the result in the factored pole-zero form

$$\frac{v_2}{v_1} \equiv A = A_0 \frac{\prod (1+s/\omega_x)}{\prod (1+s/\omega_y)}$$

Sketch  $|A|$  and  $\angle A$  showing the straight-line asymptotes, and label salient features with both analytic expressions and numerical values.



$$A = \frac{\frac{\frac{1}{sC_2} \left( R_2 + \frac{1}{sC_1} \right)}{R_2 + \frac{1}{s} \left( \frac{1}{C_1} + \frac{1}{C_2} \right)} \cdot \frac{R_L}{R_1 + R_L}}{\frac{\frac{1}{sC_2} \left( R_2 + \frac{1}{sC_1} \right)}{R_2 + \frac{1}{s} \left( \frac{1}{C_1} + \frac{1}{C_2} \right)} + R_1 || R_L}$$

less ↓ algebra

$$= \frac{R_L}{R_1 + R_L} \cdot \frac{1 + sC_1R_2}{1 + s[C_1(R_2 + R_1 || R_L) + \cancel{C_2(R_1 || R_L)}] + s^2[C_1C_2R_2(R_1 || R_L)]}$$

Use of numerical values to justify analytic approximation

Find, both analytically and numerically, the  $Q$  and hence the roots  $\omega_1$  and  $\omega_3$  of the quadratic:

$$1 + C_1 [R_2 + R_1 \parallel R_L] s + [C_1 C_2 R_2 (R_1 \parallel R_L)] s^2$$

where  $C_1 = 0.1 \mu\text{F}$ ,  $C_2 = 0.002 \mu\text{F}$ ,  $R_1 = 47\text{k}$ ,  $R_2 = 1\text{k}$ ,  $R_L = 100\text{k}$ .  
Express the analytic results in terms of series/parallel element combinations, and express the numerical results in Hz or kHz.

Find, both analytically and numerically, the  $Q$  and hence the roots  $\omega_1$  and  $\omega_3$  of the quadratic:

$$1 + \underbrace{C_1 [R_2 + R_1 \parallel R_L]}_{a_1} s + \underbrace{[C_1 C_2 R_2 (R_1 \parallel R_L)]}_{a_2} s^2$$

where  $C_1 = 0.1 \mu\text{F}$ ,  $C_2 = 0.002 \mu\text{F}$ ,  $R_1 = 47\text{k}$ ,  $R_2 = 1\text{k}$ ,  $R_L = 100\text{k}$ .  
Express the analytic results in terms of series/parallel element combinations, and express the numerical results in Hz or kHz.

$$Q^2 = \frac{a_2}{a_1^2} = \frac{C_1 C_2 R_2 (R_1 \parallel R_L)}{C_1^2 (R_2 + R_1 \parallel R_L)^2} = \frac{C_2}{C_1} \frac{R_2 \parallel R_1 \parallel R_L}{R_2 + R_1 \parallel R_L} \approx \frac{C_2}{C_1} \frac{R_2}{R_1 \parallel R_L} = \frac{1}{50} \frac{1}{47 \parallel 100} = \frac{1}{1,600}$$

Hence,  $F \equiv \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 - 4Q^2} \approx 1$ , so the roots are real: ( $F = 0.9994$ )  $Q = \frac{1}{40} \ll 0.5$

$$\omega_1 = \frac{1}{a_1} = \frac{1}{C_1 (R_2 + R_1 \parallel R_L)} \quad f_1 = \frac{159}{0.1 (1 + \frac{47 \parallel 100}{32})} \text{ Hz} = 48 \text{ Hz}$$

$$\omega_3 = \frac{a_1}{a_2} = \frac{C_1 (R_2 + R_1 \parallel R_L)}{C_1 C_2 R_2 (R_1 \parallel R_L)} = \frac{1}{C_2 (R_2 \parallel R_1 \parallel R_L)} \quad f_3 = \frac{159}{0.002 (\frac{1 \parallel 32}{0.97})} \text{ Hz} = 82 \text{ kHz}$$

Hence

$$A \approx \frac{R_L}{R_L + R_1} \frac{1 + sC_1R_2}{[1 + C_1(R_2 + R_1 \parallel R_L)s][1 + C_2(R_1 \parallel R_2 \parallel R_L)s]}$$
$$= A_0 \frac{(1 + \frac{s}{\omega_2})}{(1 + \frac{s}{\omega_1})(1 + \frac{s}{\omega_3})}$$

where

$$A_0 \equiv \frac{R_L}{R_L + R_1}$$

$$\omega_1 \equiv \frac{1}{C_1(R_2 + R_1 \parallel R_L)}$$

$$\omega_2 \equiv \frac{1}{C_1 R_2}$$

$$\omega_3 \equiv \frac{1}{C_2(R_1 \parallel R_2 \parallel R_L)}$$

Hence

$$A \approx \frac{R_L}{R_L + R_1} \frac{1 + sC_1R_L}{[1 + C_1(R_2 + R_1 \parallel R_L)s][1 + C_2(R_1 \parallel R_2 \parallel R_L)s]}$$
$$= A_0 \frac{(1 + \frac{s}{\omega_2})}{(1 + \frac{s}{\omega_1})(1 + \frac{s}{\omega_3})}$$

where

$$A_0 \equiv \frac{R_L}{R_L + R_1} = \frac{100}{100 + 47} = 0.68 \Rightarrow -3.4 \text{ dB}$$

$$\omega_1 \equiv \frac{1}{C_1(R_2 + R_1 \parallel R_L)} \quad f_1 = \frac{159}{0.1(1 + \frac{47 \parallel 100}{32})} = 48 \text{ Hz}$$

$$\omega_2 \equiv \frac{1}{C_1R_L} \quad f_2 = \frac{159}{0.1 \times 1} = 1.6 \text{ kHz}$$

$$\omega_3 \equiv \frac{1}{C_2(R_1 \parallel R_2 \parallel R_L)} \quad f_3 = \frac{159}{0.002(47 \parallel 100)} = 82 \text{ kHz}$$

The conventional quadratic formula for the two poles  $w_1$  and  $w_3$  is much higher entropy (gives much less useful information) than does the modified formula.

Conventional:

$$\frac{1}{w_{1,3}} = \frac{C_1(R_2 + R_1 \parallel R_L) \pm \sqrt{C_1^2(R_2 + R_1 \parallel R_L)^2 - 4C_1C_2R_2(R_1 \parallel R_L)}}{2}$$

Modified:

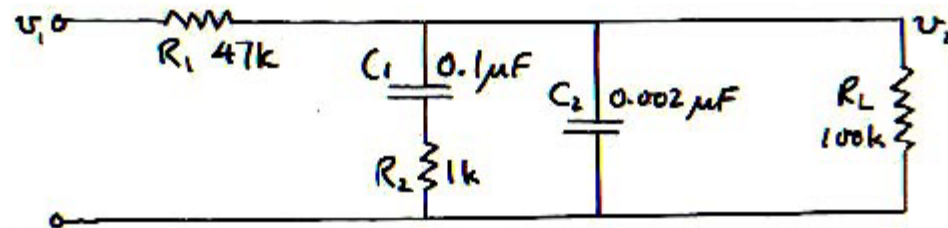
$$w_1 = \frac{1}{C_1(R_2 + R_1 \parallel R_L)} \quad w_3 = \frac{1}{C_2(R_1 \parallel R_2 \parallel R_L)}$$

Note, in particular, (when the two roots are real and well-separated) that the modified formula is much lower entropy and not only gives both roots with equal numerical accuracy, but also exposes the fact that  $C_1$  affects only  $w_1$  and  $C_2$  affects only  $w_3$  — which is useful information for design purposes.

# A still better solution:

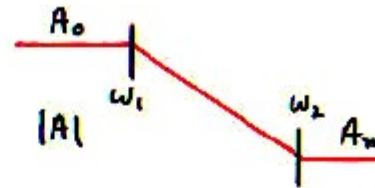
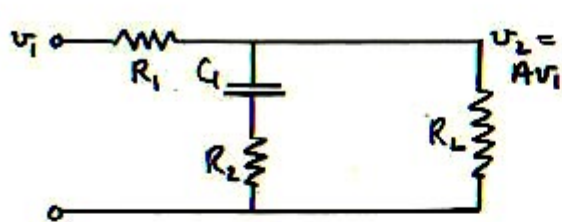
## Apply the mental frequency sweep

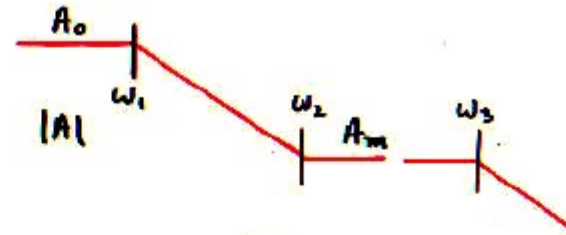
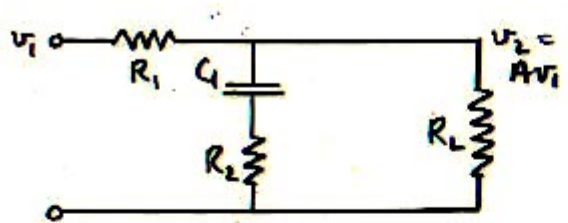
Look at the original circuit and consider response as frequency increases:



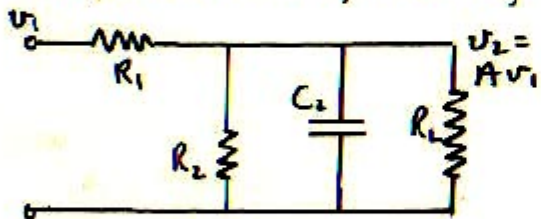
At low frequencies, both capacitances are open, so have flat response. As frequency increases, the reactance of  $C_1$ , the larger capacitance, comes down causing a pole. When the reactance of  $C_1$  drops below  $R_2$ , the response flattens causing a zero. However, at this frequency the reactance of  $C_2$  is still 50 times higher than  $R_2$ , so  $C_2$  has negligible effect.





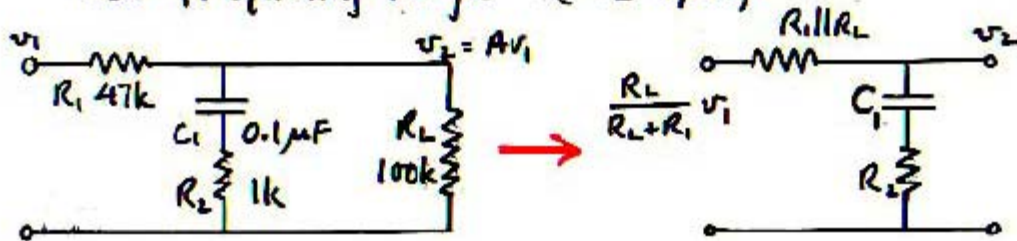


At still higher frequencies, the reactance of  $C_2$  drops below  $R_2$ , causing a second pole



Hence, the solution can be obtained in two parts, each containing only one reactance (one pole).

Low-frequency range ( $C_2$  open)



$$A = \frac{R_L}{R_L + R_1} \frac{R_2 + \frac{1}{sC_1}}{R_2 + \frac{1}{sC_1} + R_1 || R_L} = A_0 \frac{1 + \frac{s}{\omega_2}}{1 + \frac{s}{\omega_1}} = A_m \frac{1 + \frac{\omega_2}{s}}{1 + \frac{\omega_1}{s}}$$

where

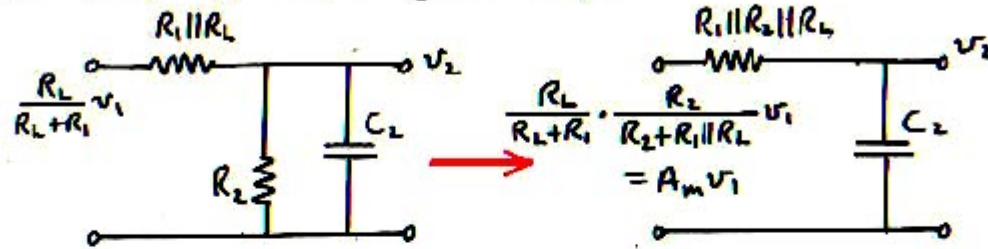
$$A_0 \equiv \frac{R_L}{R_L + R_1} = \frac{100}{100 + 47} = 0.68 \Rightarrow -3.4 \text{ dB}$$

$$\omega_1 \equiv \frac{1}{C_1 (R_2 + R_1 || R_L)} \quad f_1 = \frac{159}{0.1 \left( 1 + \frac{47 || 100}{32} \right)} = 48 \text{ Hz}$$

$$\omega_2 \equiv \frac{1}{C_1 R_2} \quad f_2 = \frac{159}{0.1 \times 1} = 1.6 \text{ kHz}$$

$$A_m \equiv A_0 \frac{\omega_1}{\omega_2} = \frac{R_L}{R_L + R_1} \cdot \frac{R_2}{R_2 + R_1 || R_L} = 0.68 \frac{0.048}{1.6} = 0.02 \Rightarrow -34 \text{ dB}$$

High-frequency range ( $C_1$  short)

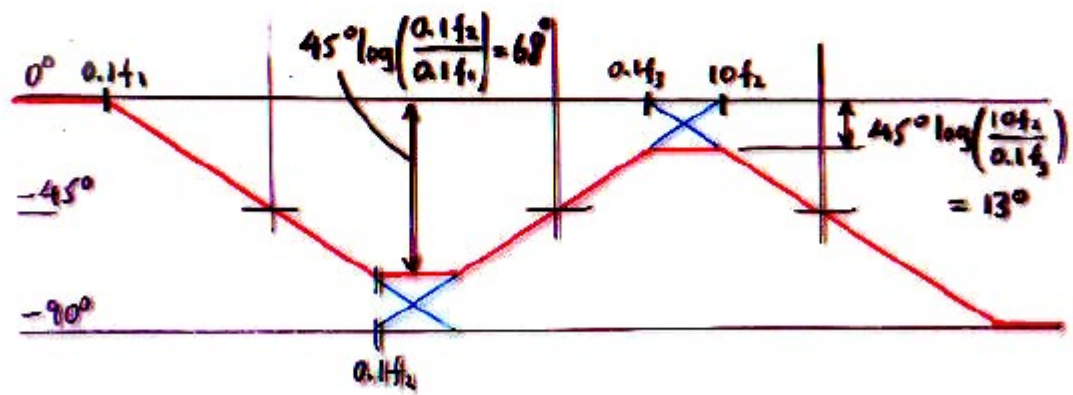
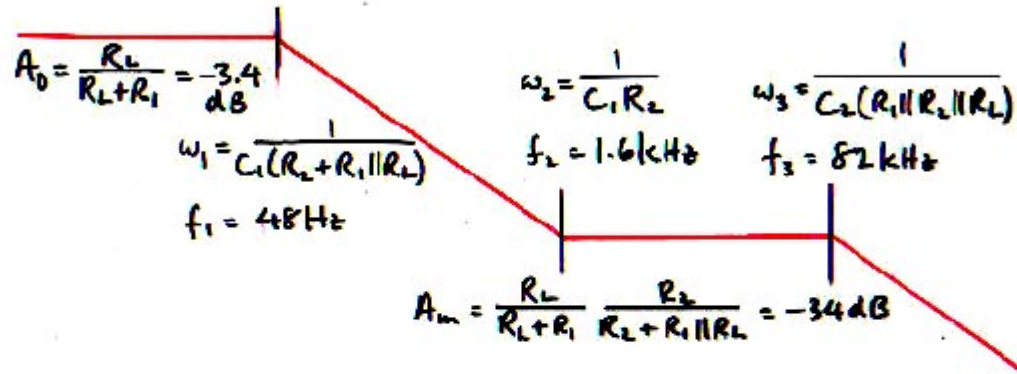


$$A = A_m \frac{1}{1 + \frac{s}{\omega_3}} \quad \text{where} \quad \omega_3 \equiv \frac{1}{C_2(R_1 \parallel R_L \parallel R_L)}$$

$$f_3 = \frac{159}{0.002(47 \parallel 1 \parallel 100)} = 82 \text{ kHz}$$

Hence, overall response is

$$A = A_0 \frac{\left(1 + \frac{s}{\omega_2}\right)}{\left(1 + \frac{s}{\omega_1}\right)\left(1 + \frac{s}{\omega_3}\right)} = A_m \frac{\left(1 + \frac{\omega_2}{s}\right)}{\left(1 + \frac{\omega_1}{s}\right)\left(1 + \frac{s}{\omega_3}\right)}$$



$$= A_0 \frac{(1 + \frac{s}{\omega_2})}{(1 + \frac{s}{\omega_1})(1 + \frac{s}{\omega_3})}$$

where

$$\frac{1}{\omega_{123}} = \frac{C_1 (R_2 + R_1 \parallel R_L) \pm \sqrt{C_1^2 (R_2 + R_1 \parallel R_L)^2 - 4 C_1 C_2 R_2 (R_1 \parallel R_L)}}{2}$$

$3.3 \times 10^{-3}$                        $10 \times 10^{-6}$                        $0.026 \times 10^{-6}$   
 ↓                                      ↓                                      ↓

This is useless for design, and in any case is inaccurate numerically.

## Generalization: Presentation of Results

Sketch magnitude and phase by straight-line asymptotes, and label salient features (flat gains, corner frequencies,  $Q$ 's, etc.) with both analytic expressions and numerical values.

This is a compact summary so that both the analytic and numerical results can be interpreted at a glance, which is especially useful for reports, design reviews, etc. so that managers can easily and quickly see and understand the results obtained by others.

For design, the element values that must be changed to give different numerical results can easily be seen.