

MOS AK

## Noise in RF Circuits and RF Noise Device Characterization

Date 20.4.2007

Peter Baumgartner



Never stop thinking

# RF Circuit Noise Characterization : Outline

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## ■ Overview:

- Typical wireless architectures
- Importance of noise for wireless communication
- Semiconductor Noise Sources

## ■ Noise in Linear Amplifiers

- Noise Figure, Noise Temperature, Noise Measure
- NF Measurement
- Noise of Two-Ports
- Characterization of 4 Noise Parameters
- MOS model/characterization examples
- LNA Example

## ■ Noise in Mixer Circuits

- Mixer Introduction
- Cyclostationary Noise
- Gilbert Mixer

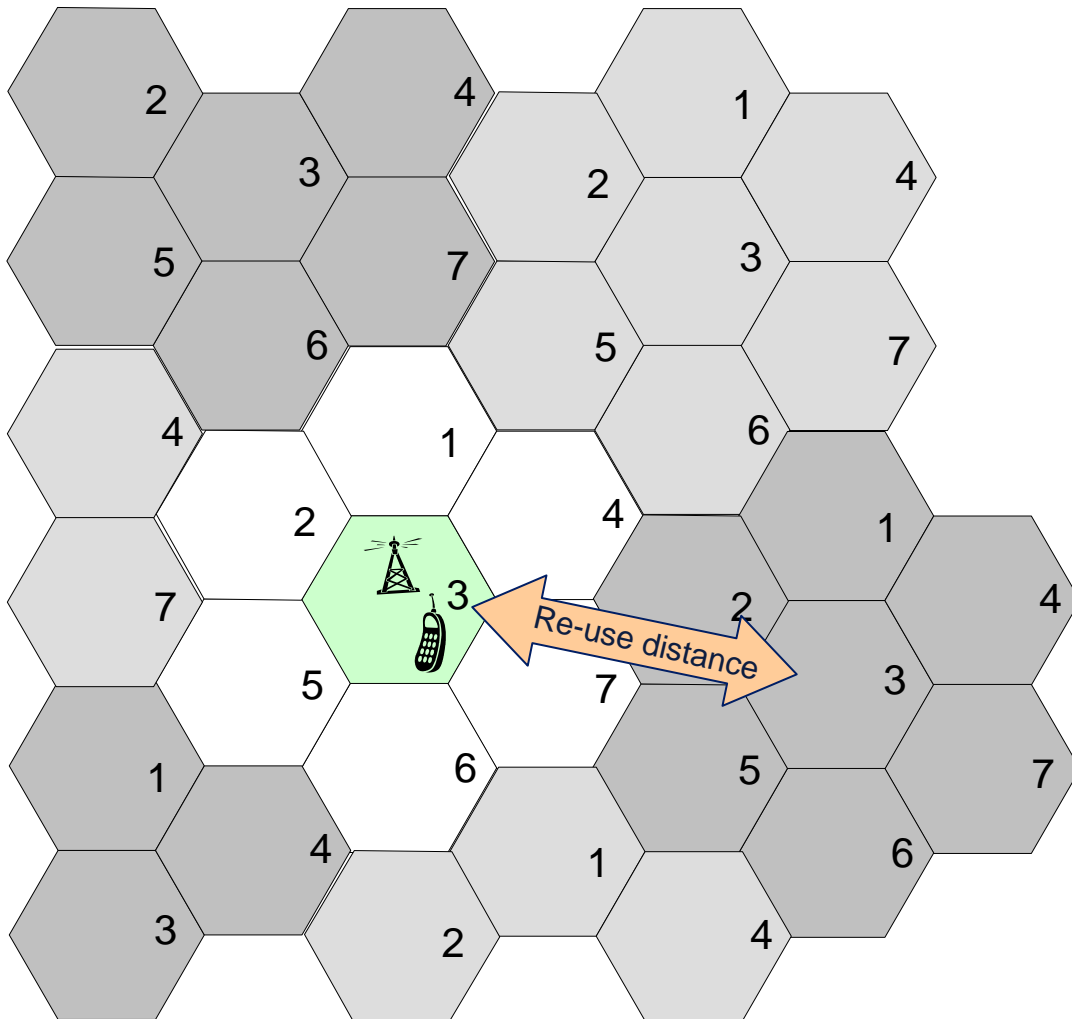
## ■ Noise in Oscillators

- Basics and Requirements
- Hajimiri and Leeson Theory
- Typical VCO Circuit
- Characterization

## Acknowledgment:

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# Cellular System



## Cellular Structure

$$B_{Cell} = B / N_C$$

$$B_{UserChannel} = B_{Cell} / (N_{User} / N_{User\_per\_Channel})$$

B: Bandwidth of standard  
(e.g. 2X35MHz for GSM-900)

# Channel Capacity in the Presence of Noise

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Shannon (Communication in the Presence of Noise 1948):

$$C = B \cdot \log_2(1 + S / N)$$

$$C = B \cdot \log_2\left(1 + \frac{P_0 B}{S_N B}\right)$$

C: Channel Capacity (bit/s)

B: Bandwidth of channel

S/N: Signal to Noise

$P_0$ : Signal Spectral Density

$S_N$ : Noise Spectral Density

⇒ Noise has direct impact on:

Channel capacity

Transmit Power (battery power)

Channel Bandwidth

Number of users per Bandwidth

Number of necessary Basestations

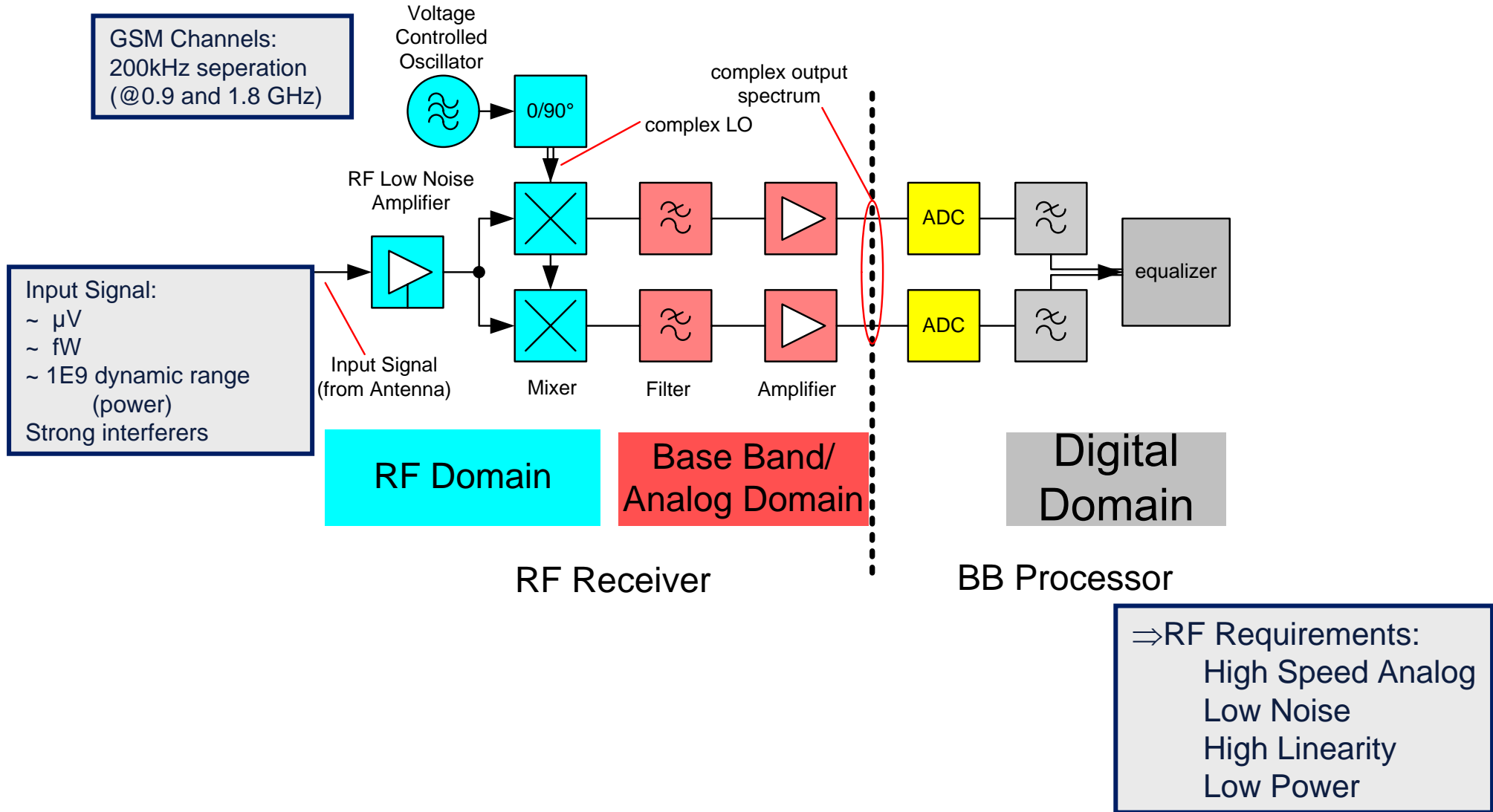
Maximum cell size

Increased Noise

⇒ Increased Cost



# Typical RF Receiver Architecture and some Requirements



# Some Noise Basics

Noisy Signal is composed of ideal signal and additive noise

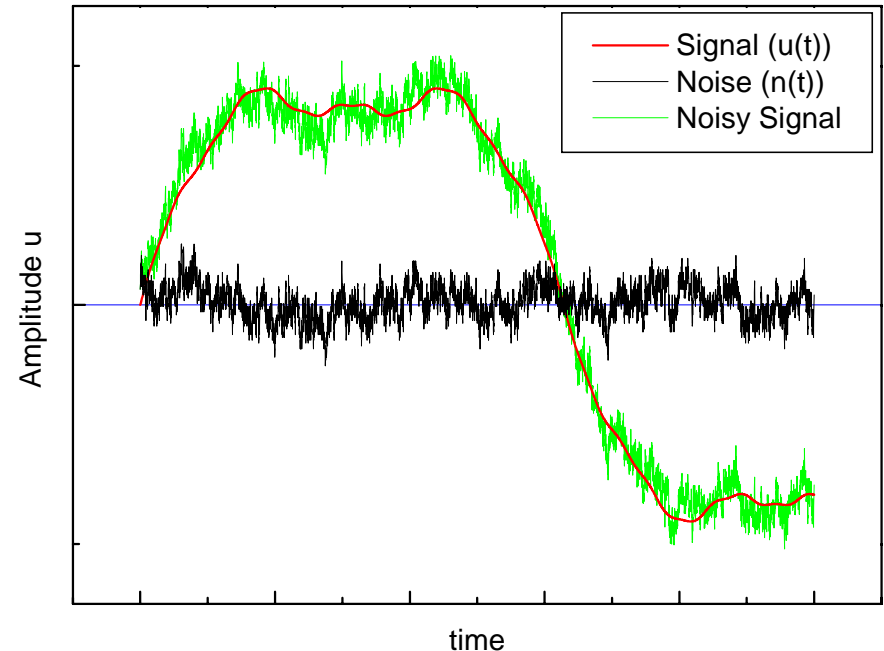
$$u_n(t) = u(t) + n(t)$$

Time average of noise is zero

$$\langle n(t) \rangle = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2T} \int_{-T}^T n(t) dt = 0$$

Mean square of noise

$$\langle n(t)^2 \rangle = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2T} \int_{-T}^T n(t)^2 dt$$



Noise is assumed to be small perturbation of signal

⇒ Noise propagation in circuit can be described by linear small signal analysis

But Signal can be large

⇒ Time varying noise sources or noise propagation (Cyclostationary Noise)

# Some Noise Basics

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Correlation function between different noise sources

$$\rho_{12}(\tau) = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2T} \int_{-T}^T n_1(t) \cdot n_2(t + \tau) dt$$

Autocorrelation of one noise source

$$\rho(\tau) = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2T} \int_{-T}^T n(t) \cdot n(t + \tau) dt$$

Fourier Transform of Autocorrelation



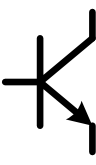
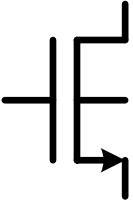
=> Spectral Power Density of Noise (Wiener-Khinchin Theorem)

$$S(f) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \rho(\tau) \cdot \exp(-2\pi i f \tau) d\tau$$

Mean square is equivalent to total noise power

$$\int_0^{\infty} S(f) df = \langle n^2 \rangle$$

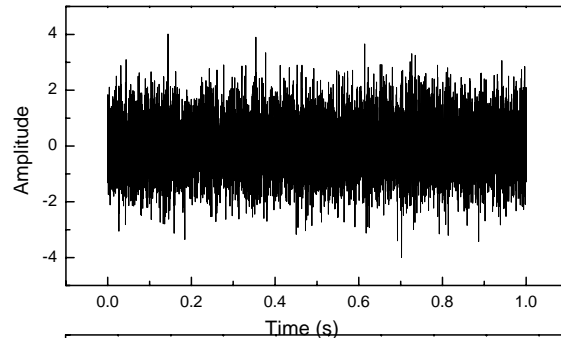
# Typical Noise Sources in Devices

				
Thermal Noise $S(f) = kT$	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shot Noise $S(f) = 2e \cdot I$		✓	✓	✓
Flicker Noise $S(f) \propto \frac{I^\alpha}{f^\beta}$	✓	✓	✓	✓

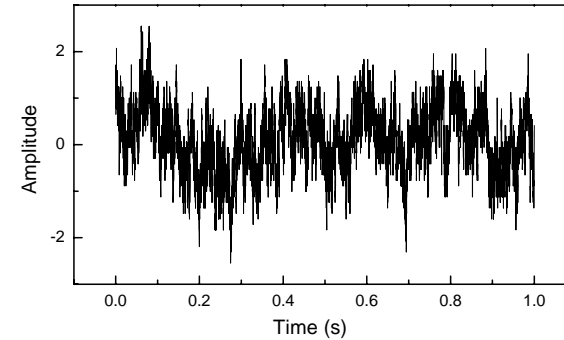
# Noise, Autocorrelation, Frequency and Time Domain

Transient

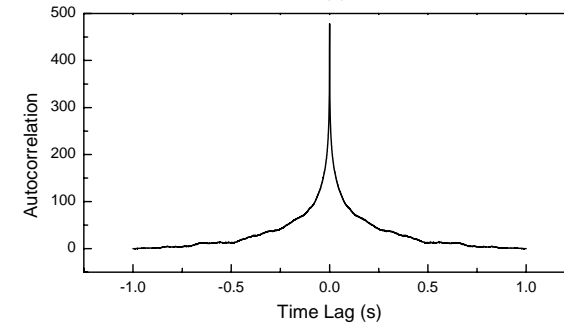
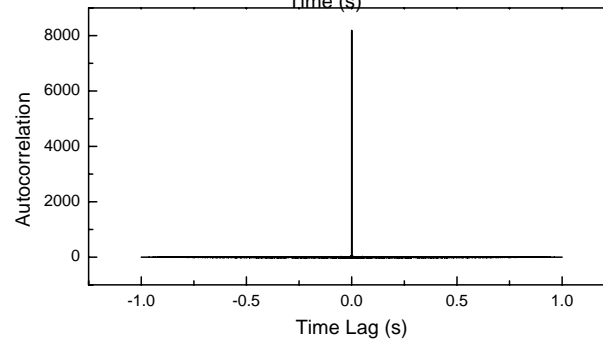
## White Noise



## Flicker Noise

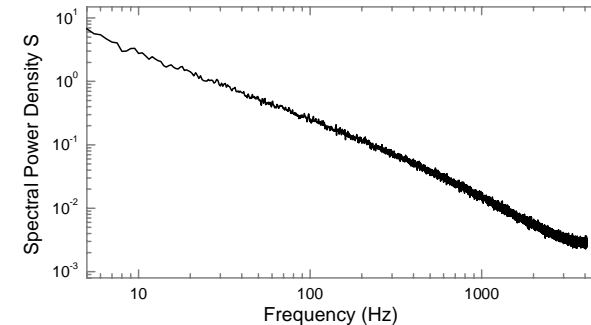
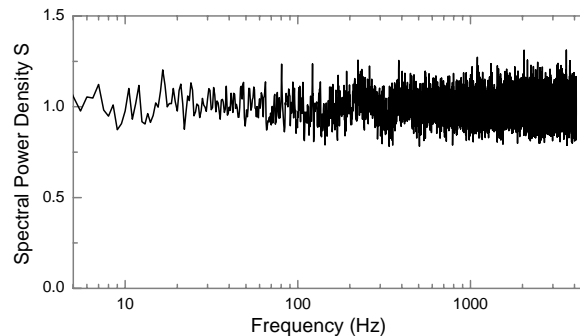


Autocorrelation



Spectral Power Density

= Fourier Transform of Autocorrelation (Wiener Khinchin theorem)



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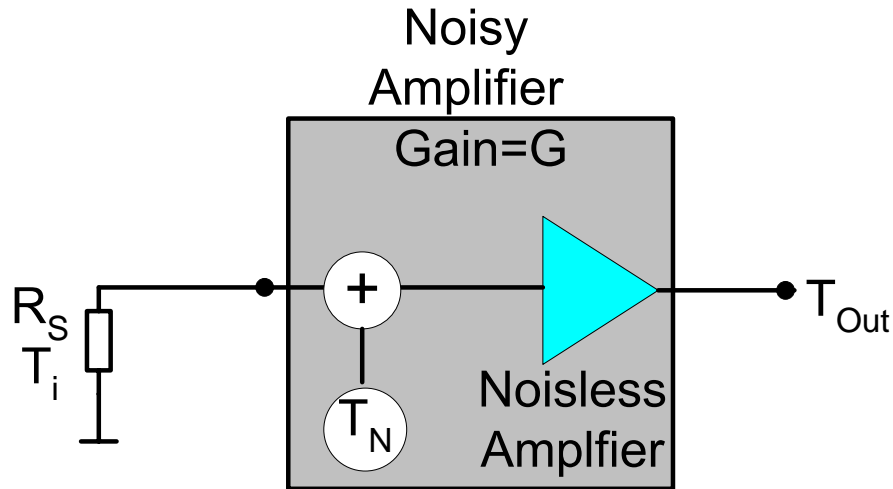
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# Matched Amplifiers (e.g.50Ohm): Noise Temperature



Thermal Noise:

$$N = k \cdot T \cdot B$$

Standard for  $T_i$

$$T_i = 290K \Rightarrow kT = 4 \cdot 10^{-21} J / s$$

Output Noise Temperature

$$T_{Out} = G \cdot (T_i + T_N)$$

## Matched Amplifiers (e.g.50Ohm): Noise Figure

$$F = \frac{(S/N)_i}{(S/N)_o} = \frac{N_o}{(S_o/S_i)N_i} = \frac{N_o}{G \cdot N_i}$$

$$N = k \cdot T \cdot B$$

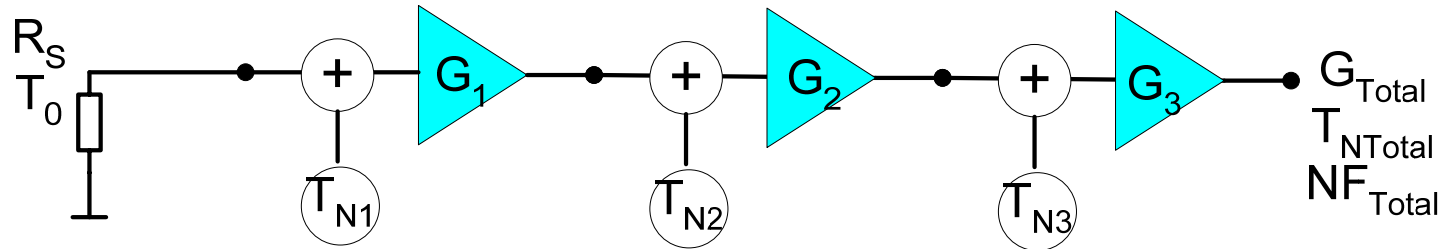
$$F = \frac{N_o}{G \cdot N_i} = \frac{T_o}{G \cdot T_i} = \frac{G \cdot (T_i + T_N)}{G \cdot T_i} = 1 + \frac{T_N}{T_i}$$

$$T_i = 290K$$

F	NF
1.0	0.0
1.1	0.4
1.3	1.0
2.0	3.0
10.0	10.0

$$NF = 10 \cdot \log_{10}(F)$$

# Cascade of Amplifiers



$$G_{Tot} = G_1 \cdot G_2 \cdot G_3 \dots$$

$$F = 1 + T_N / T_i$$

$$T_{NTotal} = T_{N1} + T_{N2} / G_1 + T_{N3} / (G_1 \cdot G_2) \dots$$

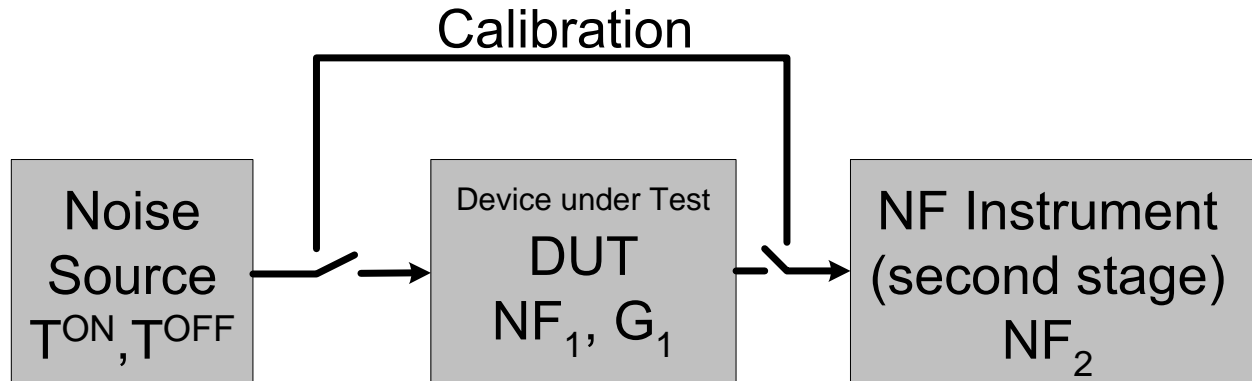
$$T_N = (F - 1) \cdot T_i$$

$$F_{Total} = F_1 + \frac{F_2 - 1}{G_1} + \frac{F_3 - 1}{G_1 \cdot G_2} \dots$$

Formula of Friis

First Amplifier: Low noise figure  
& high gain preferred

# Noise Characterization: Y-Factor Method



Noise Source: Two Noise Levels

$$T_S^{OFF} \quad T_S^{ON}$$

Excess Noise Ratio

$$ENR = (T_S^{ON} - T_S^{OFF}) / T_0$$

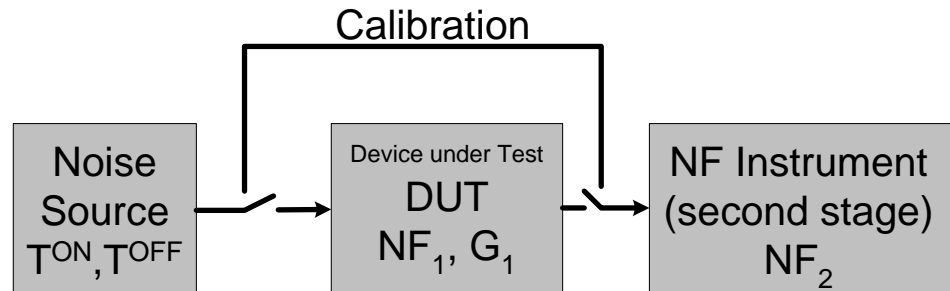
Y-Factor

$$Y = N^{ON} / N^{OFF} = (T_S^{ON} + T_{Meas}) / (T_S^{OFF} + T_{Meas})$$

Measured Noise

$$T_{Meas} = (T_S^{ON} - Y \cdot T_S^{OFF}) / (Y - 1)$$

# Noise Characterization: Y-Factor Method



Calibration:

$$Y_2 = N_2^{ON} / N_2^{OFF}$$

$$T_2 = (T_s^{ON} - Y_2 \cdot T_s^{OFF}) / (Y_2 - 1)$$

Measurement  
with DUT:

$$Y_{12} = N_{12}^{ON} / N_{12}^{OFF}$$

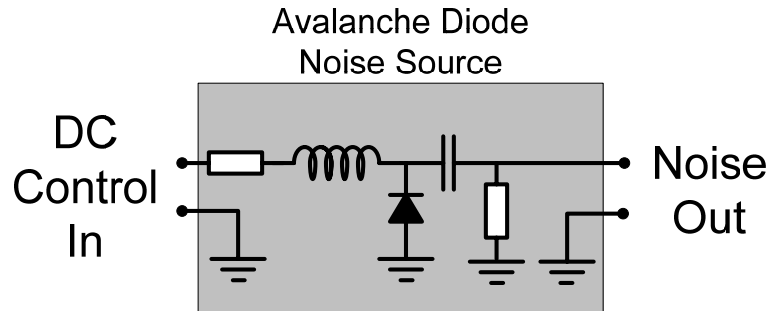
$$T_{12} = (T_s^{ON} - Y_{12} \cdot T_s^{OFF}) / (Y_{12} - 1)$$

second stage  
correction

$$G_1 = (N_{12}^{ON} - N_{12}^{OFF}) / (N_2^{ON} - N_2^{OFF})$$

$$T_1 = T_{12} - T_2 / G_1$$

# Avalanche Diode Noise Source



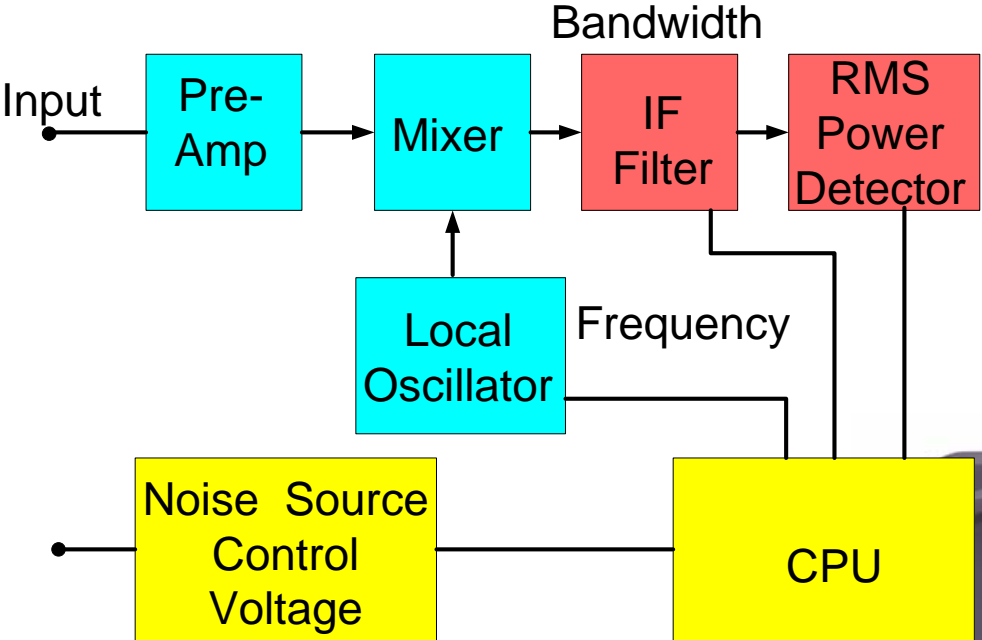
$$ENR = (T_S^{ON} - T_S^{OFF}) / T_0$$

Standard ENR values:  
5.2dB, 15.2dB

- ⇒ Diode in avalanche break down for high noise temperature
- ⇒ High noise temperature of Diode (e.g. 300kK)
- ⇒ Attenuator to reduce impedance difference  $T^{ON}$  vs.  $T^{OFF}$
- ⇒ Fast switch between on/off
- ⇒ Calibration with thermal noise source



# Noise Figure Analyzer

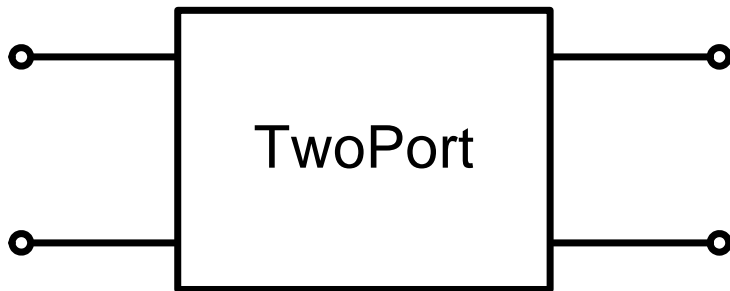


Tuned Superhet Receiver:  
Oscillator sets measurement frequency  
IF Filter sets measurement bandwidth



Input Noise Source Ctrl.

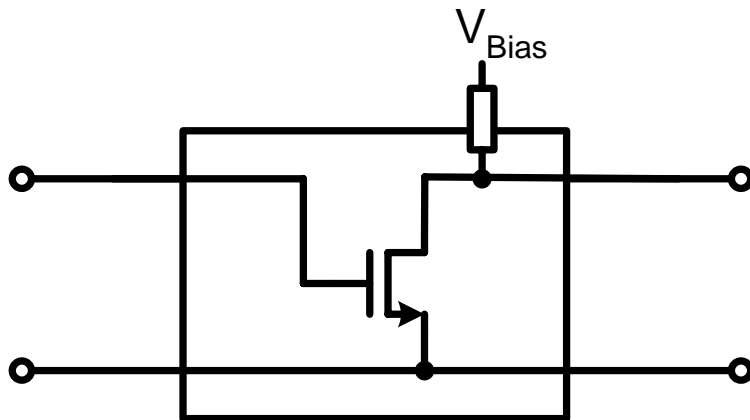
# General Impedance: Linear Two Ports



Two-port: "Black box" with 2 RF ports  
(= 4 Terminals)

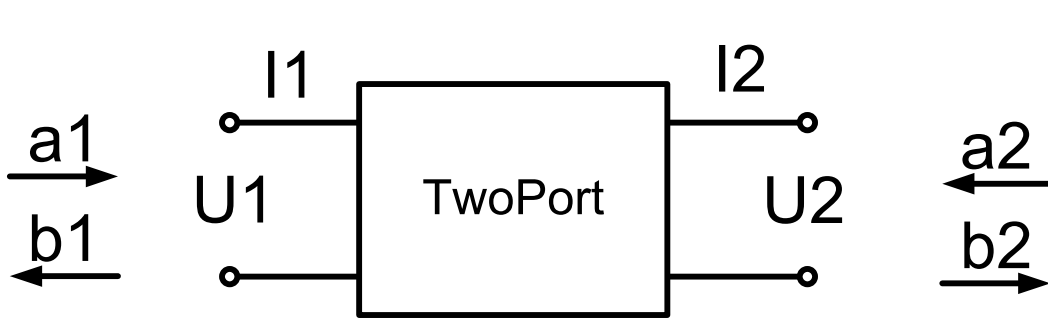
Noise=small signal => linear 2-ports

Non RF connections (e.g. biasing, supply)  
are not considered



Example for In and Out ports of a  
transistor amplifier

## Two Port Basics



a,b: Amplitudes  
of incoming  
and refl. waves

$$b = \frac{U_{Ref l}}{\sqrt{Z_0}}$$

$$a = \frac{U_{In}}{\sqrt{Z_0}}$$

Common Y,Z,A,S – Parameter representation of two-ports

$$Y \quad \begin{bmatrix} I_1 \\ I_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} Y_{11} & Y_{12} \\ Y_{21} & Y_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} U_1 \\ U_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$Z \quad \begin{bmatrix} U_1 \\ U_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} Z_{11} & Z_{12} \\ Z_{21} & Z_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I_1 \\ I_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

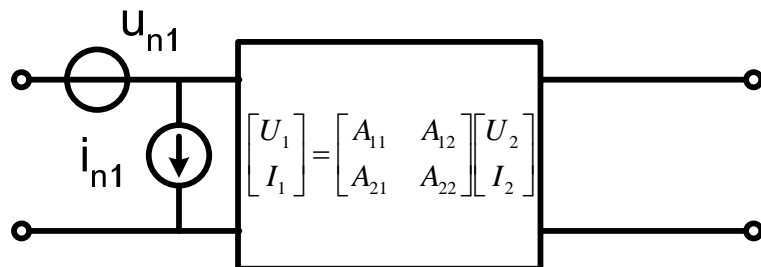
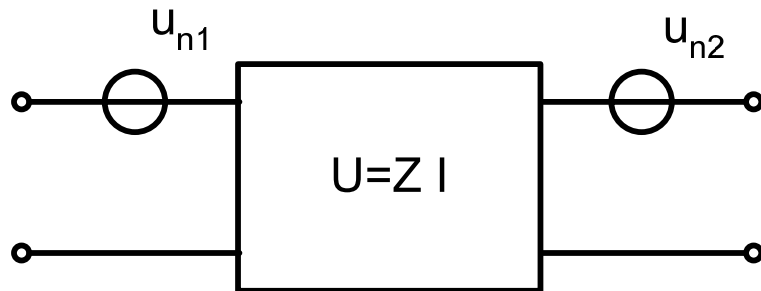
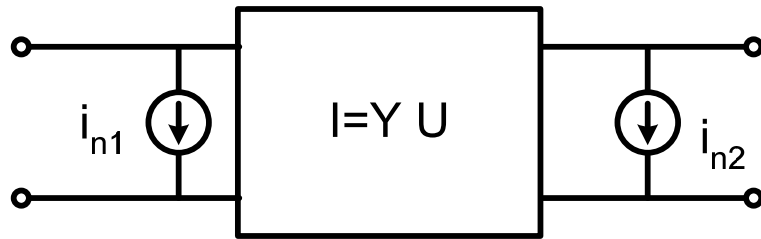
$$S \quad \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} S_{11} & S_{12} \\ S_{21} & S_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A \quad \begin{bmatrix} U_1 \\ I_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} U_2 \\ I_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

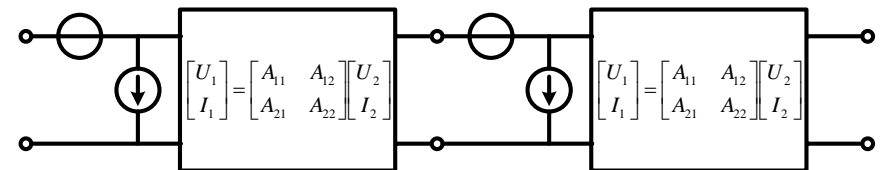
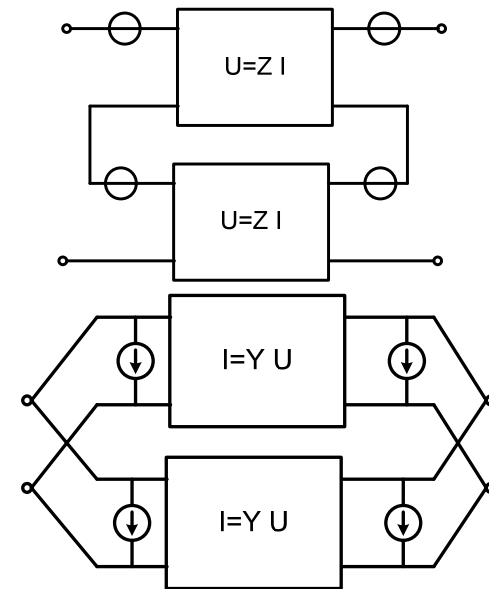
Transistor: Two-port parameters are a function of bias and frequency

# Two Port Basics

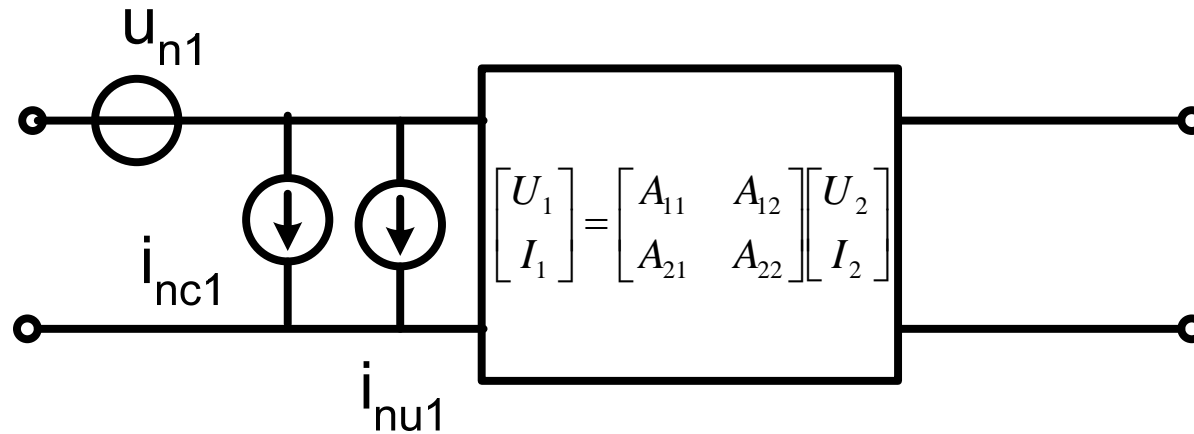
Two noise sources are necessary  
 Convenient: Add noise sources for  
 dependent quantities



## Combination of two-ports



# Noise in Two Ports: Correlation of Noise Sources



Noise sources can be partially correlated

$i_{nc1} = Y_C \cdot u_{n1} \Rightarrow$  Two-port has 4 Noise Parameters

Uncorrelated part

$u_{n1} \quad i_{nu1}$

# Noise in Two Ports: Correlation Matrices

General approach with correlation matrices:

$$C_Z = \frac{1}{2B} \begin{bmatrix} \overline{u_{n1} \cdot u_{n1}^*} & \overline{u_{n1} \cdot u_{n2}^*} \\ \overline{u_{n2} \cdot u_{n1}^*} & \overline{u_{n2} \cdot u_{n2}^*} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$C_Y = \frac{1}{2B} \begin{bmatrix} \overline{i_{n1} \cdot i_{n1}^*} & \overline{i_{n1} \cdot i_{n2}^*} \\ \overline{i_{n2} \cdot i_{n1}^*} & \overline{i_{n2} \cdot i_{n2}^*} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$C_A = \frac{1}{2B} \begin{bmatrix} \overline{u_{n1} \cdot u_{n1}^*} & \overline{u_{n1} \cdot i_{n1}^*} \\ \overline{i_{n1} \cdot u_{n1}^*} & \overline{i_{n1} \cdot i_{n2}^*} \end{bmatrix}$$

Hermitian 2X2 Matrix:

4 Parameters:

-2 real diagonal elements

=> Strength of noise source

-1 complex off diagonal element

=> Correlation of noise sources

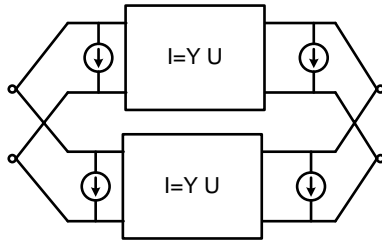
Passive two-ports:

$$C_Z = 2 \cdot k \cdot T \cdot \text{Re}\{Z\}$$

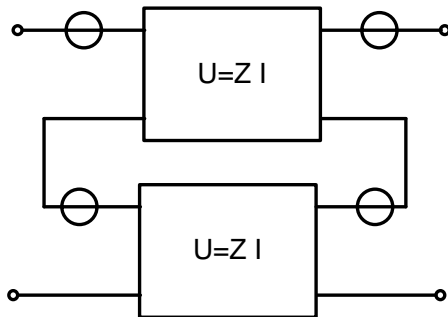
$$C_Y = 2 \cdot k \cdot T \cdot \text{Re}\{Y\}$$

# Noise in Two Ports: Combining Two Ports and Correlation Matrices

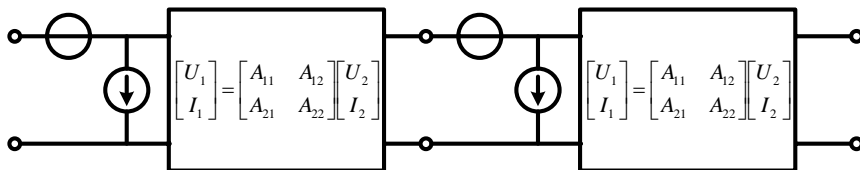
## Combination of two-ports



$$C_Y = C_{Y1} + C_{Y2}$$



$$C_Z = C_{Z1} + C_{Z2}$$



$$C_A = C_{A1} + A_1 \cdot C_{Z2} \cdot A_1^t$$

# Noise in Two Ports: Transforming Correlation Matrices

Correlation matrices can be transformed between different representations by matrix transforms

$$C' = T \cdot C \cdot T^+$$

Transformation  
Matrices T:

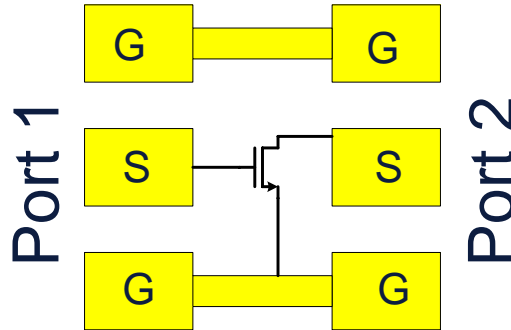
		From (C)		
		Y	Z	A
To (C')	Y	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} Y_{11} & Y_{12} \\ Y_{21} & Y_{22} \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} -Y_{11} & 1 \\ -Y_{21} & 0 \end{bmatrix}$
	Z	$\begin{bmatrix} Z_{11} & Z_{12} \\ Z_{21} & Z_{22} \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -Z_{11} \\ 0 & -Z_{21} \end{bmatrix}$
	A	$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & A_{12} \\ 1 & A_{22} \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -A_{11} \\ 0 & -A_{21} \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

# Noise Deembedding with Correlation Matrices

Measurement



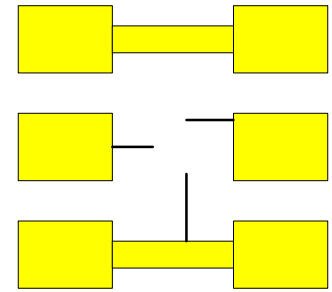
Device Teststructure



S-Param.

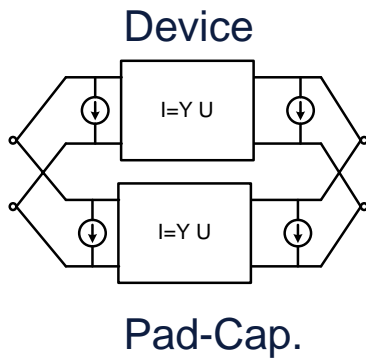
C Noiseparam.

Open Deemb.



S-Param.

Deembedding Steps



$$S \Rightarrow Y$$

$$C \Rightarrow C_Y$$

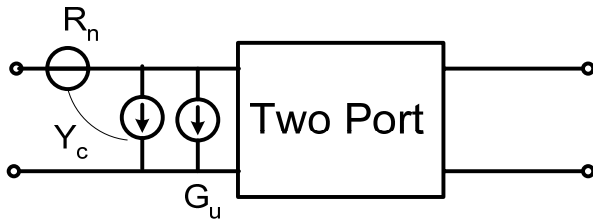
$$S_{Open} \Rightarrow Y_{Open}$$

$$C_{Y-Open} = 2kT \cdot \text{Re}\{Y_{Open}\}$$

$$Y_{Deemb} = Y - Y_{Open}$$

$$C_{Y-Deemb} = C_Y - C_{Y-Open}$$

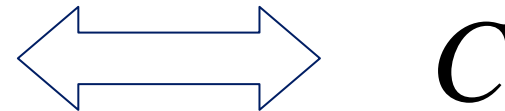
# How to Measure the Noise Correlation Matrix?



4 Noise Par.

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{u_n^2} &= 4 \cdot kT \cdot R_n \cdot B \\ \overline{i_n^2} &= 4 \cdot kT \cdot G_u \cdot B \\ i_{nc} &= Y_c \cdot u_n \end{aligned}$$

Correlation Matrix



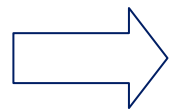
**C**

Equivalent

Noise figure  $F$  is a function of source impedance  $Y_s$

$$Y_s = G_s + j \cdot B_s \quad \overline{i_s^2} = 4 \cdot kT \cdot G_s \cdot B$$

$$F = 1 + \frac{\overline{i_n^2} + |Y_c + Y_s| \cdot \overline{u_n^2}}{\overline{i_s^2}}$$



$$F = F_{\min} + \frac{R_n}{G_s} \left[ (G_s - G_{\text{Opt}})^2 + (B_s - B_{\text{Opt}})^2 \right]$$

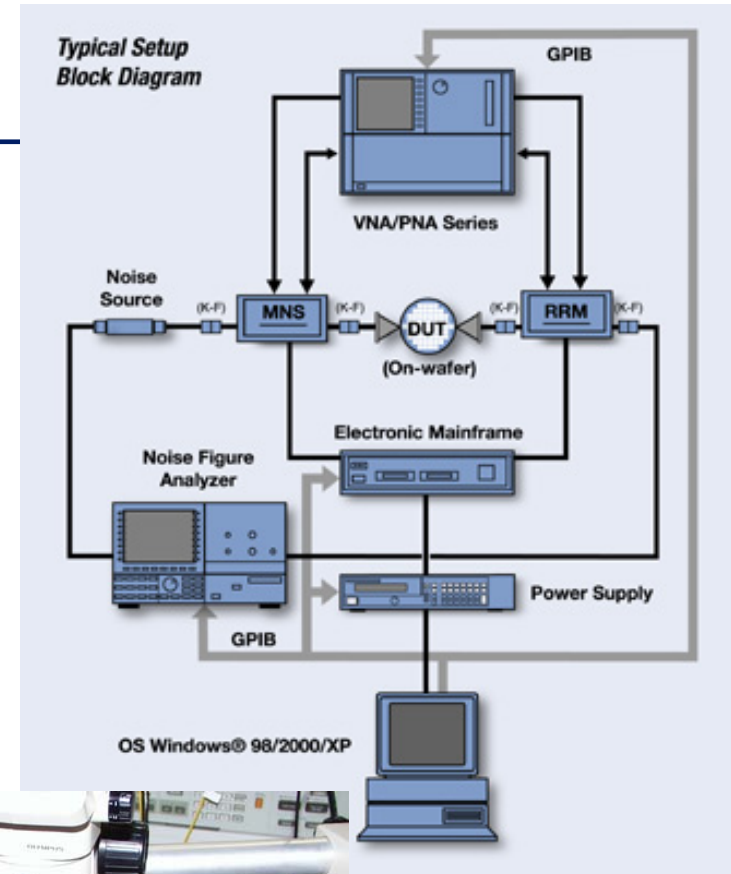
Again 4 equivalent noise parameters:

$$F_{\min} \quad R_n \quad Y_{S-\text{Opt}} = G_{\text{Opt}} + j \cdot B_{\text{Opt}}$$

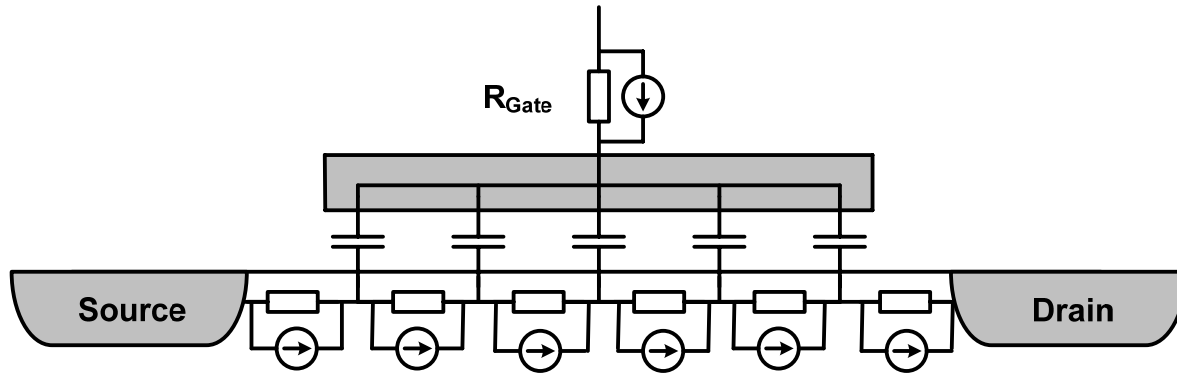
# Noise Parameter Test System

$$F = F_{\min} + \frac{R_n}{G_s} \left[ \left( G_s - G_{Opt} \right)^2 + \left( B_s - B_{Opt} \right)^2 \right]$$

- MNS (mismatch noise source):  
Tuner for source impedance variation
- Basic procedure:  
Measure  $F @ Y_{1,2,3,4}$   
Fit  $F(Y)$  to estimate  
 $F_{\min}, R_n, G_{opt}, B_{opt}$



# Noise Sources in the MOS Transistor



- Local noise sources related to channel resistance
- Additional noise sources: parasitic resistances (e.g.  $R_{Gate}$ )

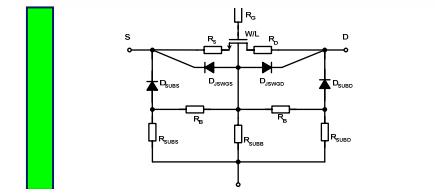
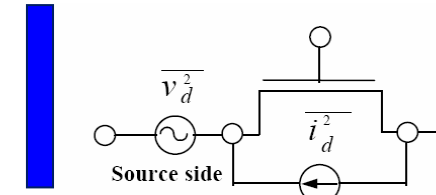
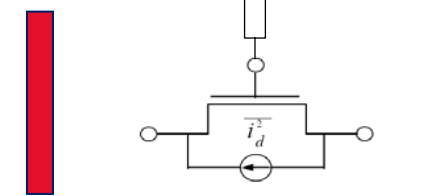
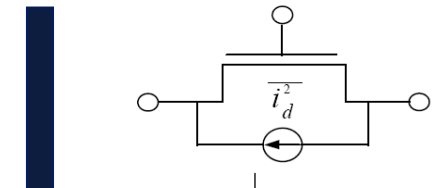
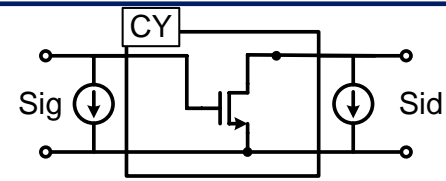
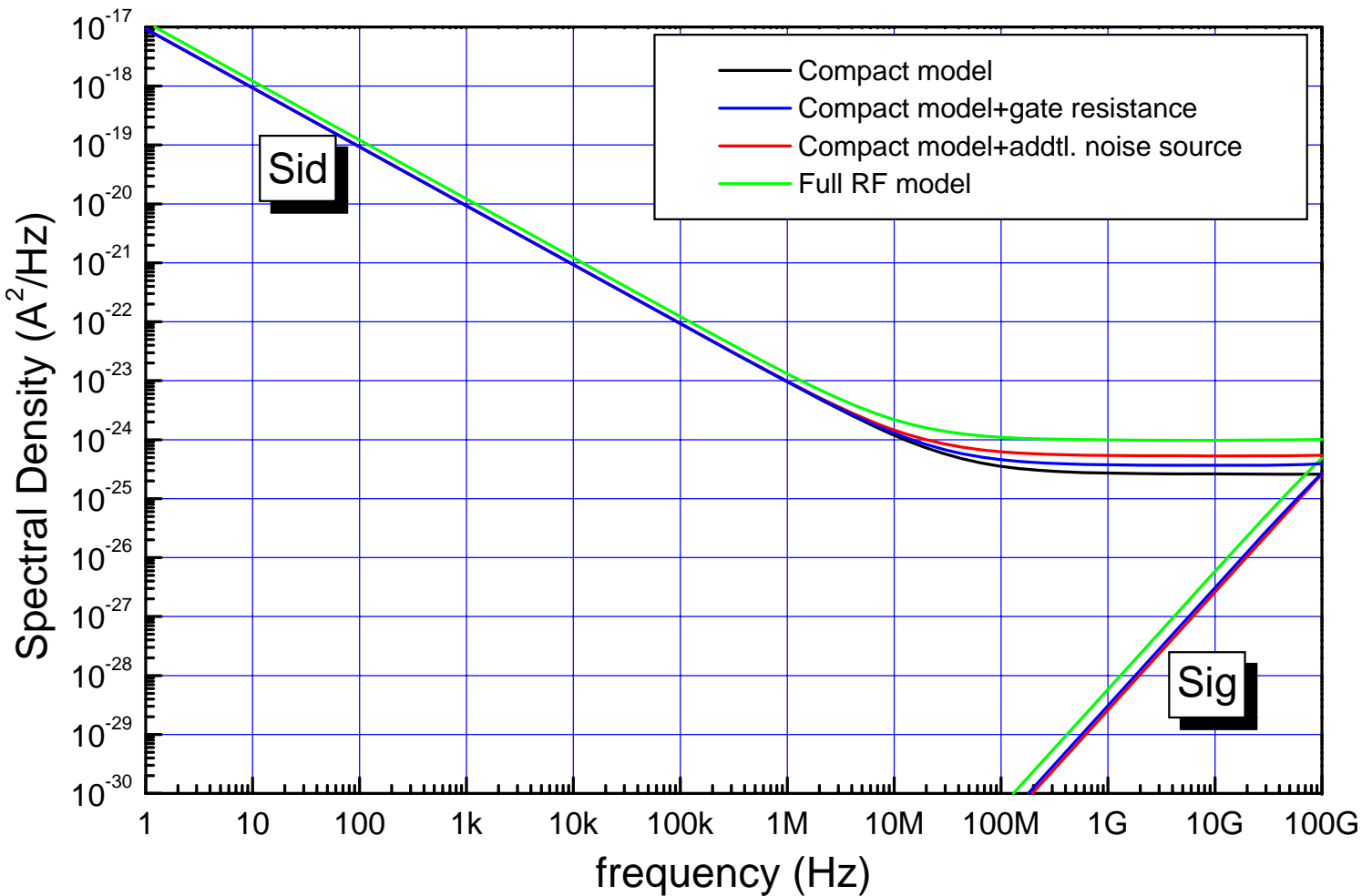
- Transfer of local channel noise sources to terminal noise: Klaassen-Prins equation

Thermal Channel Noise: 
$$S_{id} = i_d^2 = 4 \cdot k_B \cdot T \cdot g_m \cdot \gamma \sim \frac{W}{L}$$

Induced Gate Noise: 
$$S_{ig} = i_g^2 = 4 \cdot k_B \cdot T \cdot \frac{\omega^2 \cdot C_{gs}^2}{5 \cdot g_m} \cdot \delta \sim W \cdot L^3$$

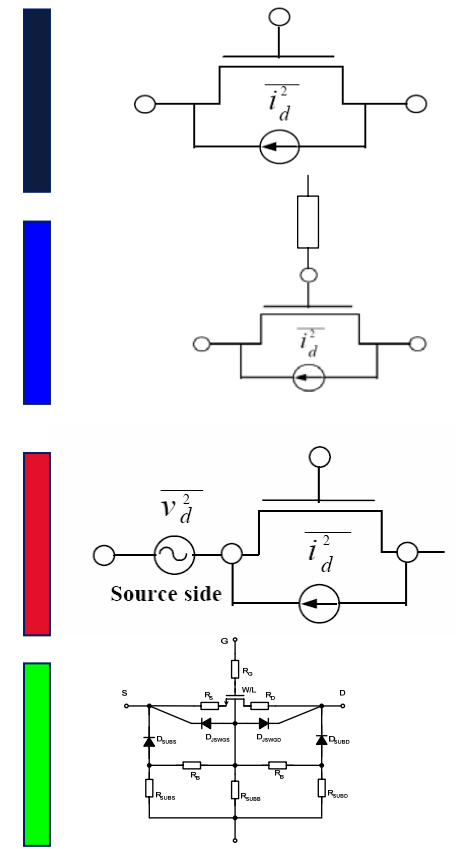
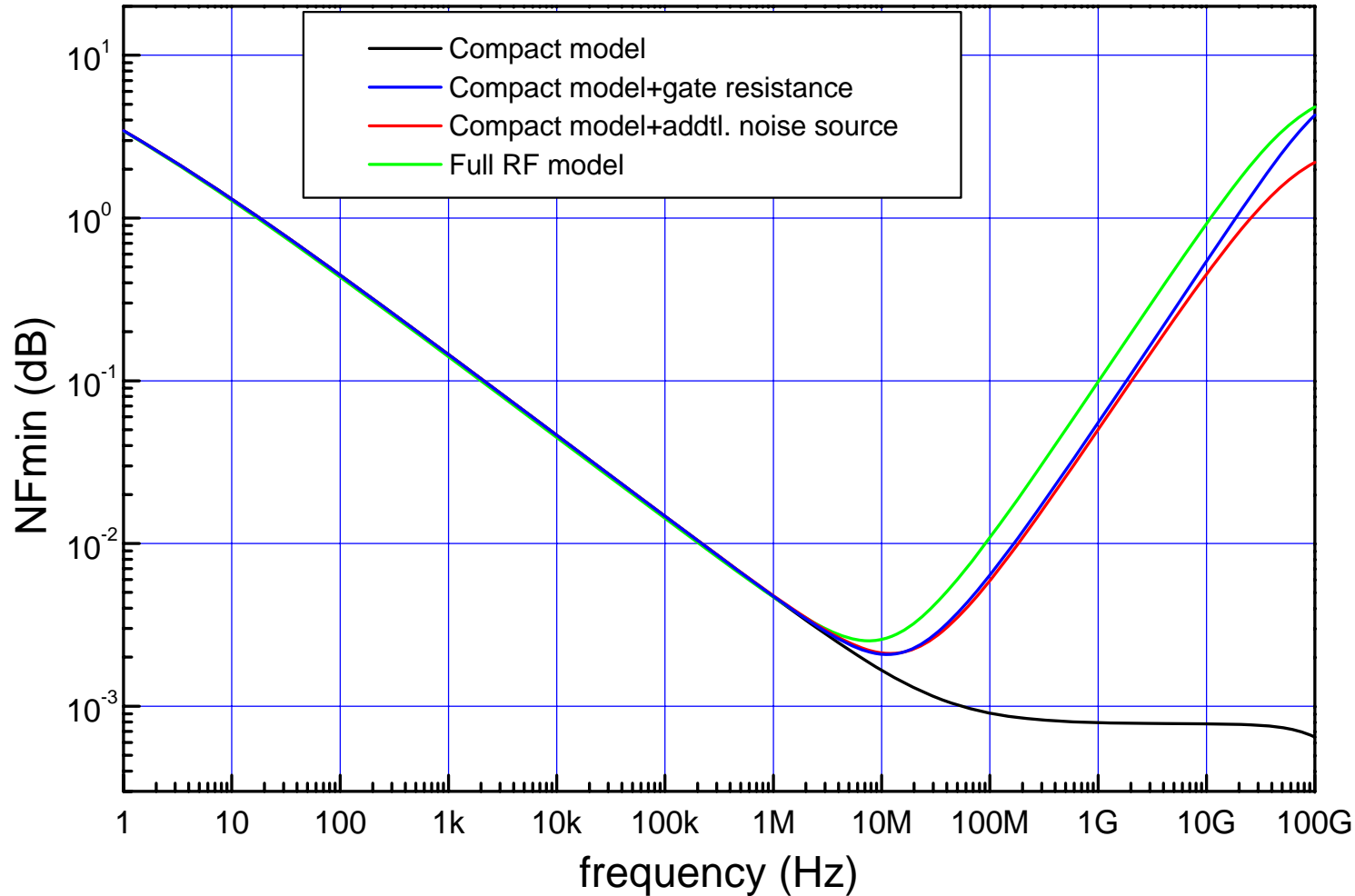
Correlation Coefficient: 
$$c = \frac{i_g \cdot i_d^*}{\sqrt{i_g^2 \cdot i_d^2}} = i \cdot 0.395$$

# Gate and Drain Noise Spectral Density for different model topologies (130nm Technology) in BSIM4.3

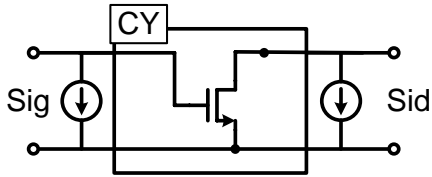


Full RF model (shown subcircuit is only an example)

# Noise Figure for different model topologies (130nm Technology)

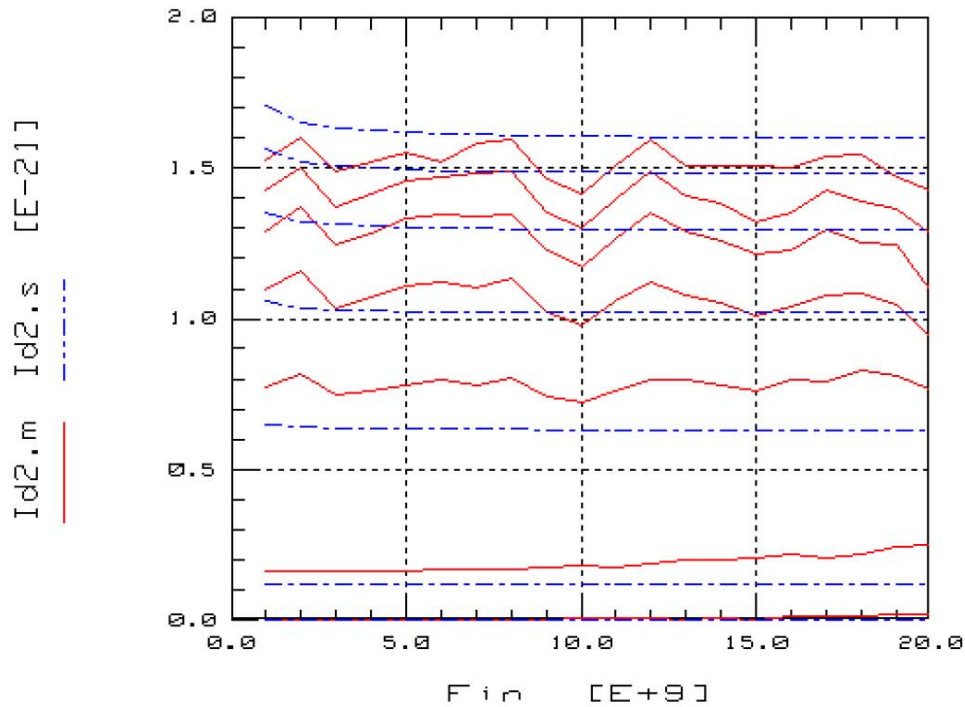


# RF Transistor Characterization / Model Examples (400nm IO Device)

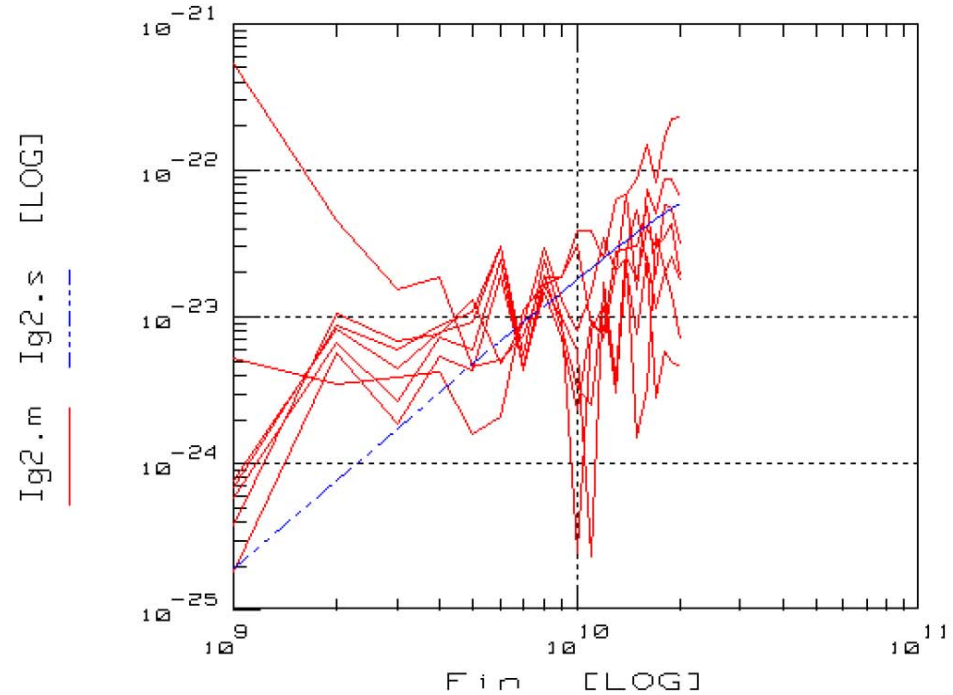


Characterization vs.  
Model

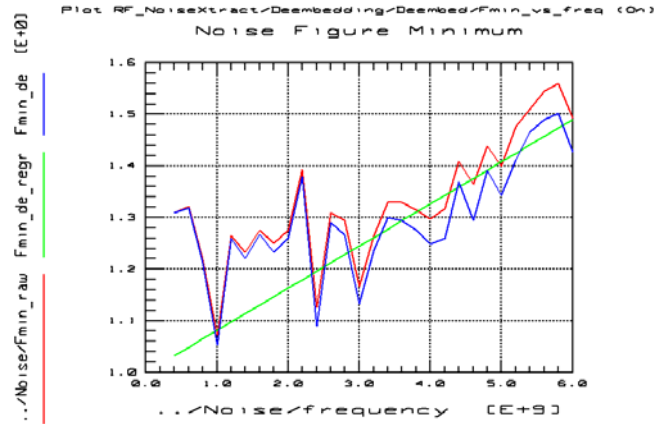
drain noise current ( $A^2/Hz$ )



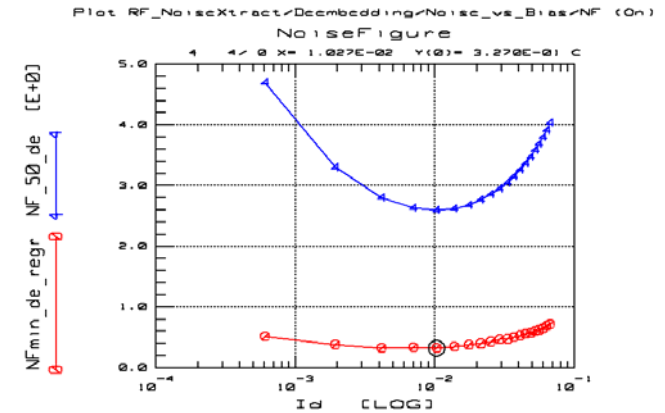
gate noise current ( $A^2/Hz$ )



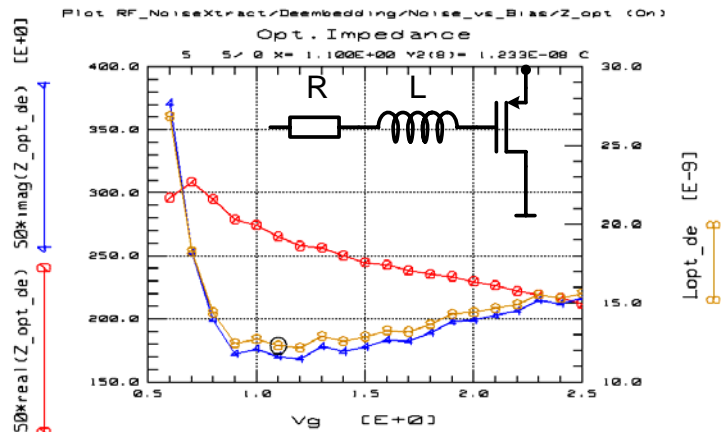
# RF Transistor Characterization / Model Examples (250nm Node)



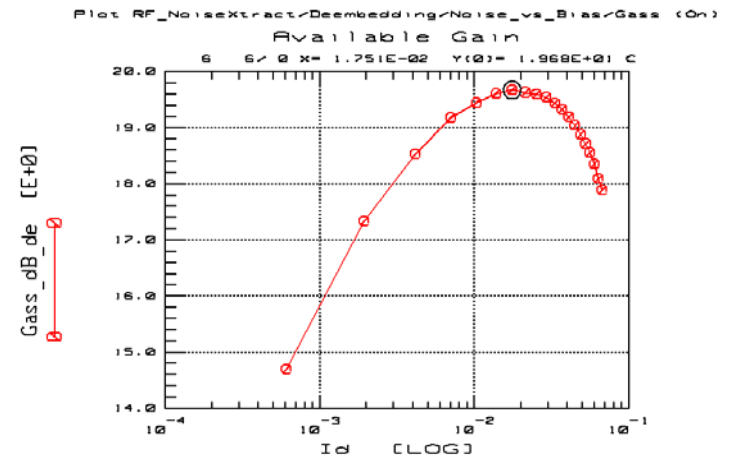
$F_{min}$  vs. frequency  
red: raw data, blue: deembedded data



$NF_{50}$  &  $NF_{min}$  vs. drain current

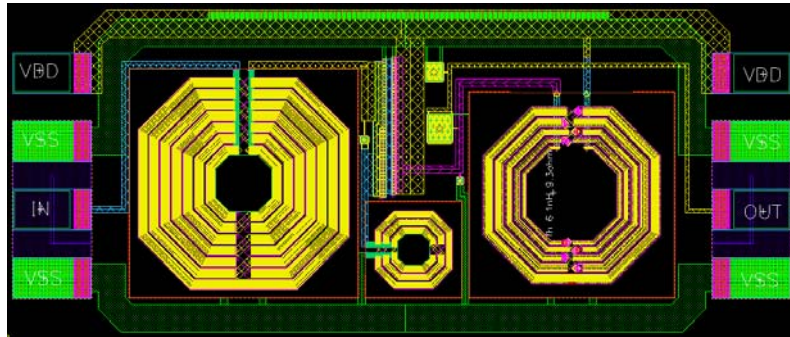


Optimum Impedance vs. gate voltage



Associated Gain  $G_{ass}$  vs. drain current

# Design Example: Narrowband LNA with Inductors



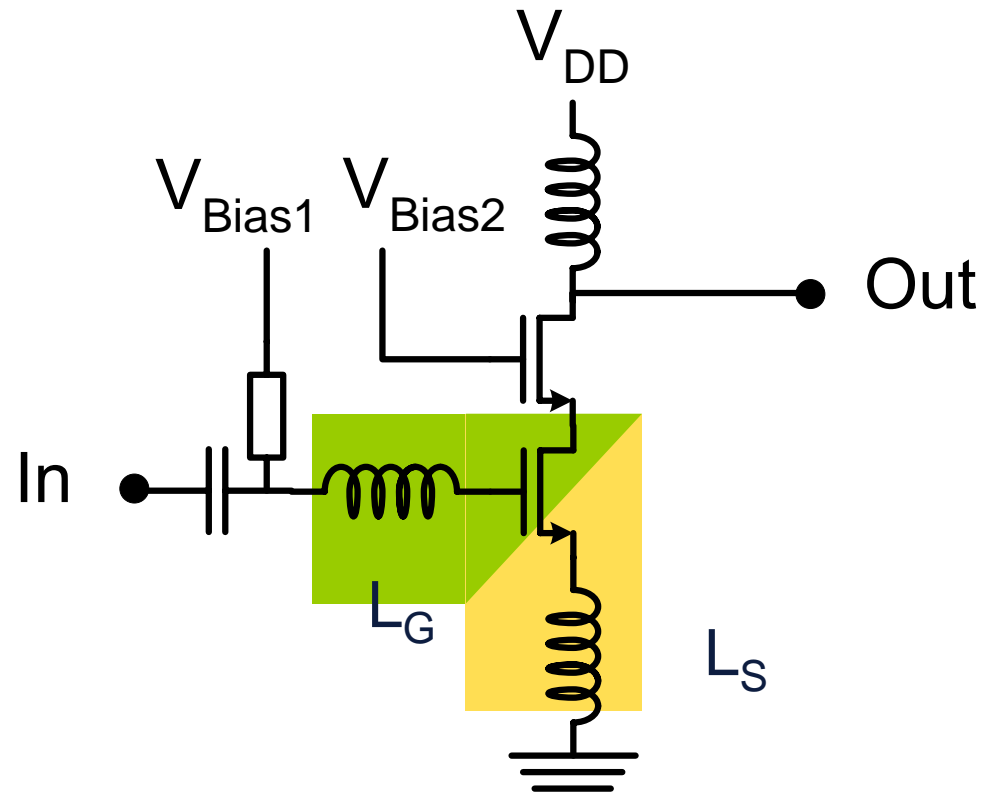
Mos Transistor:

$$I_D / I_G = \omega_T / (j\omega) \quad \text{Transit frequency: } \omega_T$$

$$V_{In} = I_{In} \cdot \frac{\omega_T}{j\omega} \cdot j\omega L_s + I_{In} \cdot \frac{1}{j\omega C_{gs}} + I_{In} \cdot j\omega L_G$$

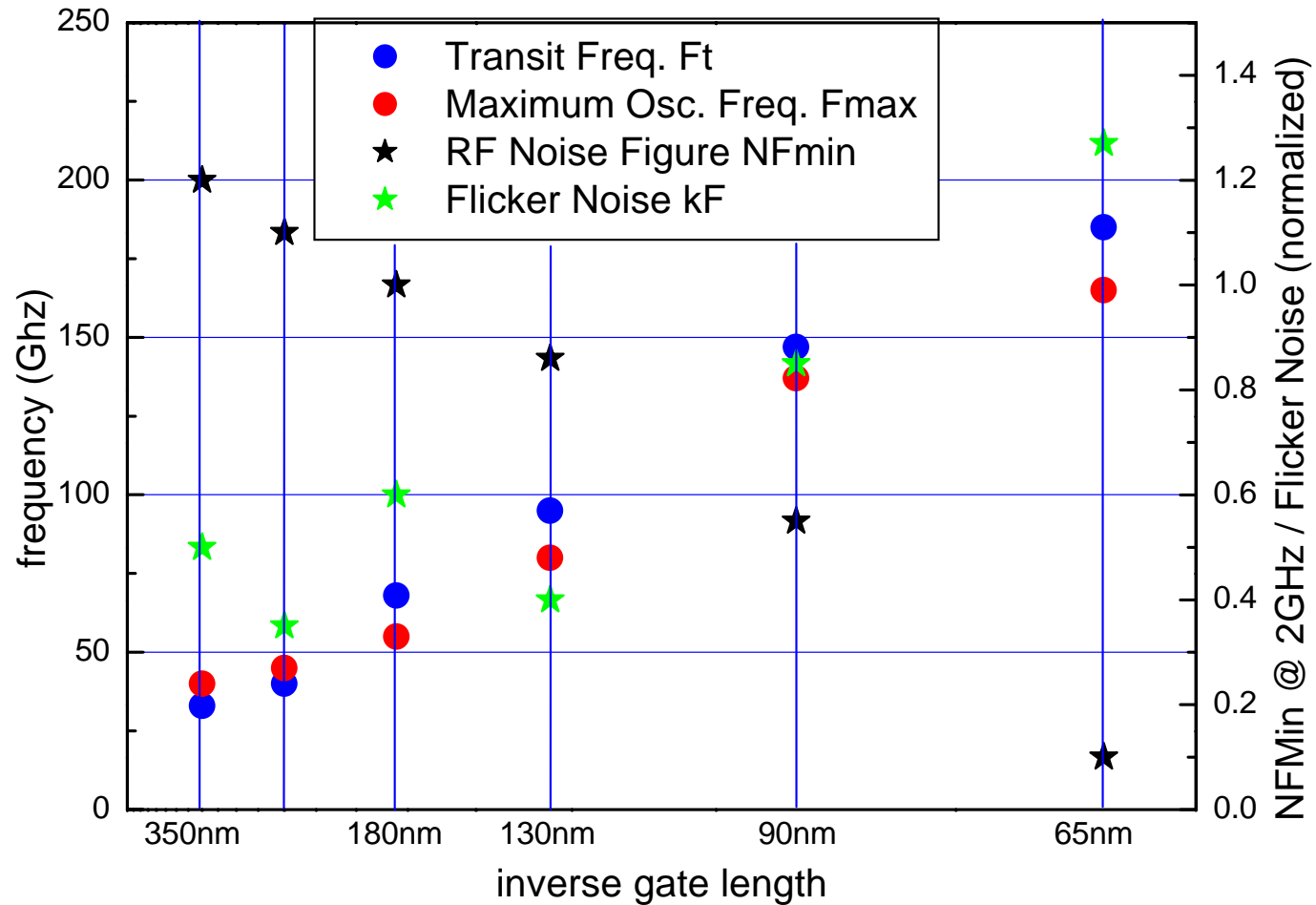
$$Z_{In} = \omega_T \cdot L_S + \frac{1}{j\omega C_{gs}} + j\omega L_G$$

real part                      img. part



Problem: Resistance of inductors (especially for on chip conductors)

# Technology Trend: RF Performance and Flicker Noise



# Summary Noise in Linear Amplifiers

---

- Noise measurement is a narrowband power measurement.
- Test system is basically a tunable low noise receiver.
- Four noise parameters are necessary to model noise sources of a two port, many representations are used (and are equivalent).
- Tuning of source impedance is necessary to characterize all noise parameters.

# RF Circuit Noise Characterization : Outline

---

## ■ Overview:

- Typical wireless architectures
- Importance of noise for wireless communication
- Semiconductor Noise Sources

## ■ Noise in Linear Amplifiers

- Noise Figure, Noise Temperature, Noise Measure
- NF Measurement
- Noise of Two-Ports
- Characterization of 4 Noise Parameters
- LNA Example

## ■ Noise in Mixer Circuits

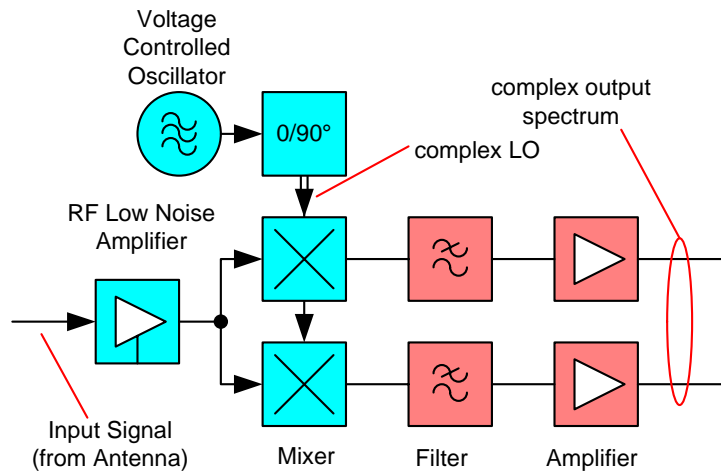
- Mixer Introduction
- Cyclostationary Noise
- Gilbert Mixer

## ■ Noise in Oscillators

- Basics and Requirements
- Hajimiri and Leeson Theory
- Typical VCO Circuit
- Characterization

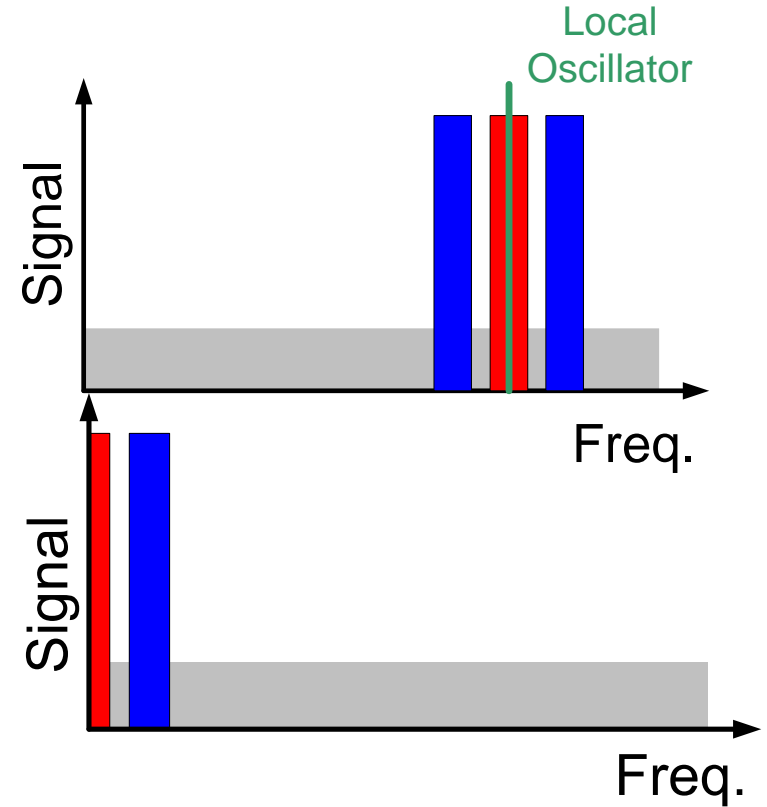
# Mixer Basics: Why is Frequency Conversion Necessary

Homodyne (Zero IF) receiver:  
Direct down conversion to Base Band frequency



RF Domain

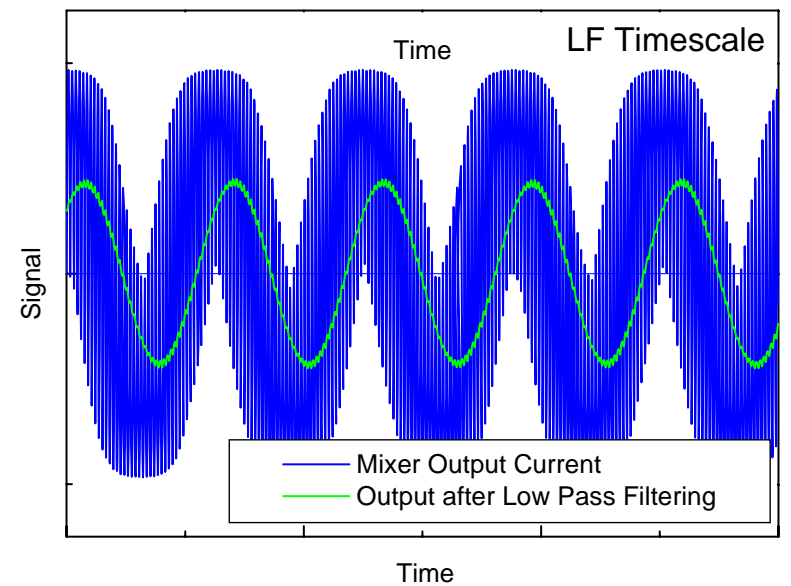
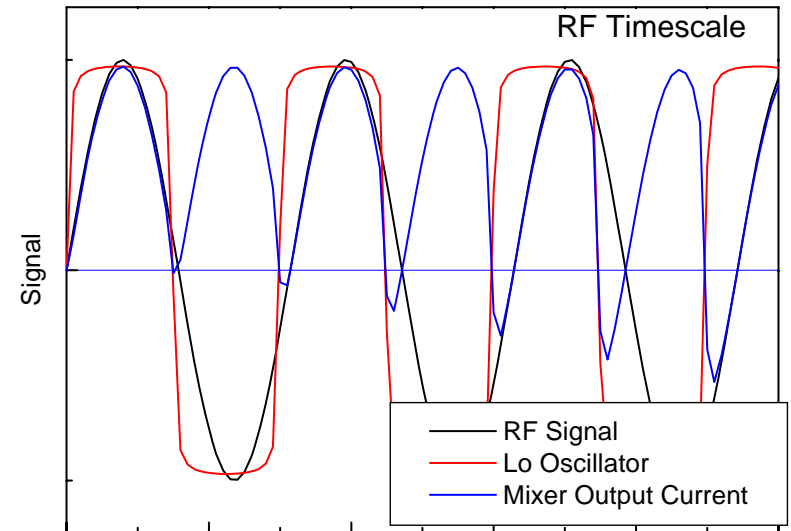
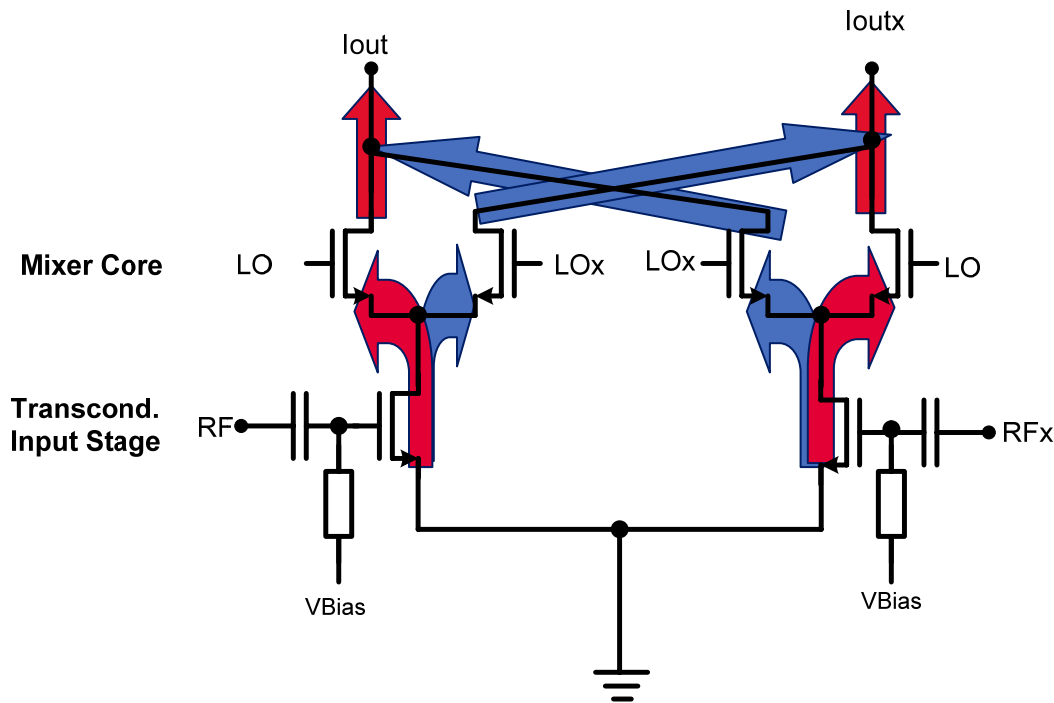
Base Band/  
Analog Domain



- Filtering signal in RF domain difficult:  $Q = F / \Delta F$
- Changing LO-Freq. easier than changing filter freq.
- AD/DA at RF difficult (high power)

# Typical Mixer Circuit

## Double Balanced Gilbert Mixer



# Noise Contributors in Gilbert Mixer

LO:High  
LOx:Low

LO:Low  
LOx:High

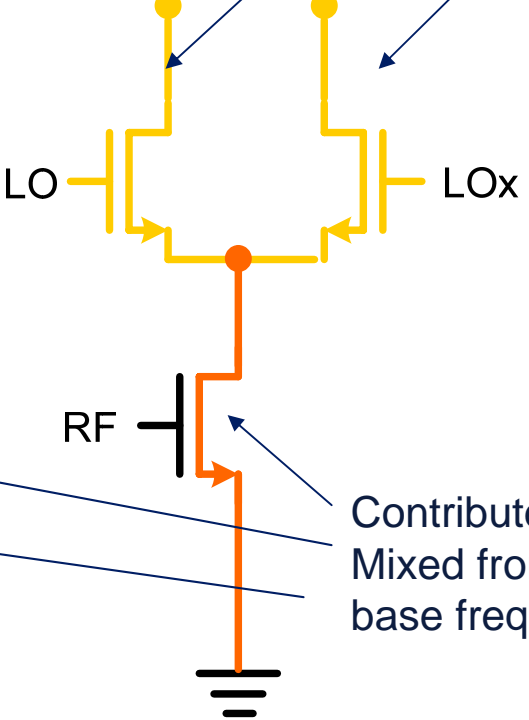
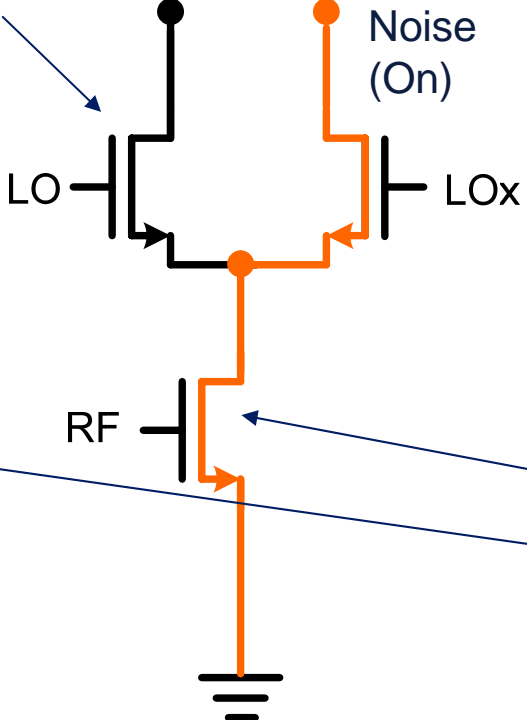
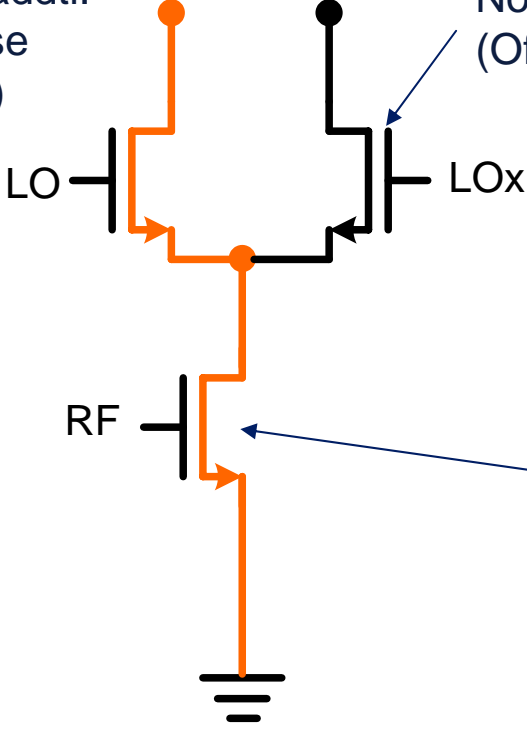
Transition

Additional Noise  
without Freq.  
Conversion

No addtl.  
Noise  
(On)

No addtl.  
Noise  
(Off)

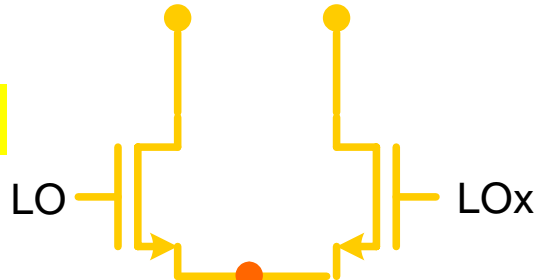
No addtl.  
Noise  
(On)



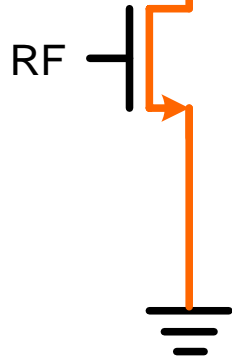
Contributes noise:  
Mixed from RF to  
base freq.

# Noise Contributors in Gilbert Mixer: Frequency and Time

Mixing Transistors



Transconductance Transistor

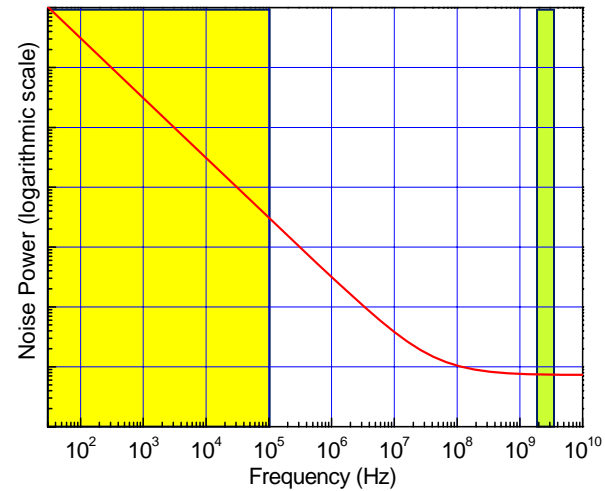


Mixing Transistors:

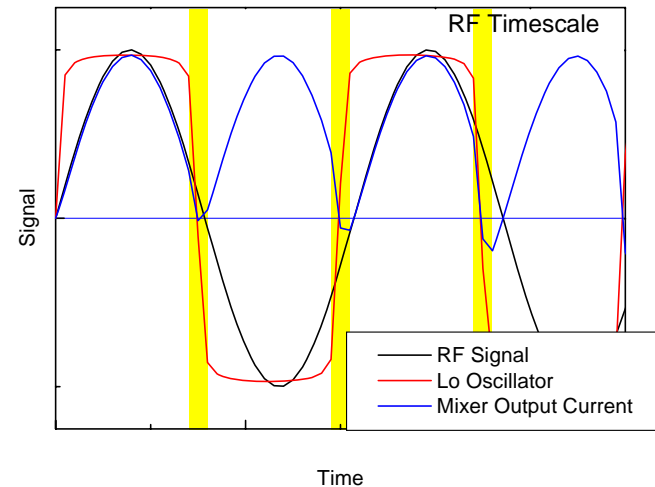
- Large noise levels (flicker noise)
- Short noise duration (transition time)

⇒ Cyclostationary noise!

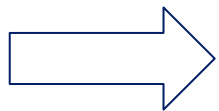
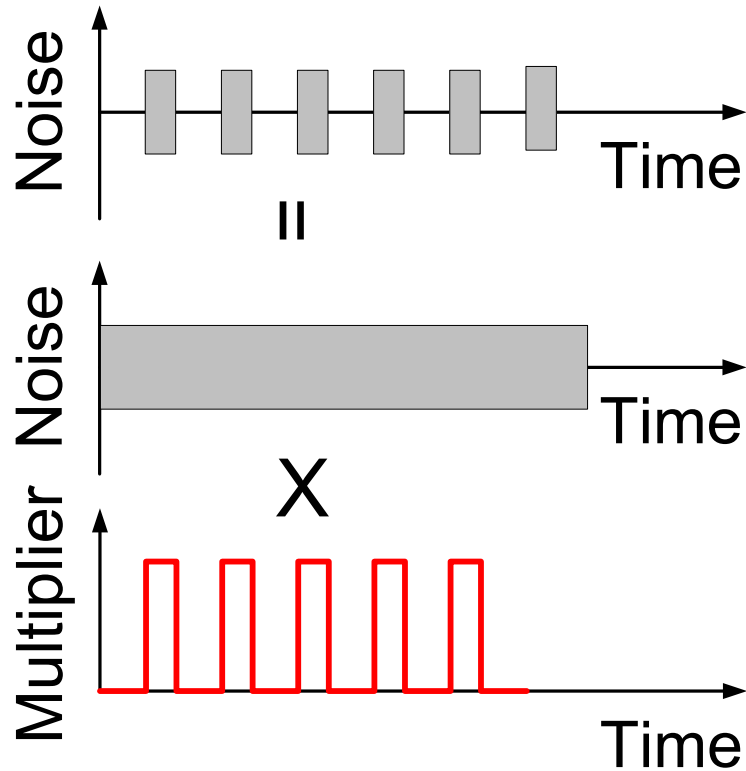
## Noise Spectrum of CMOS Transistor



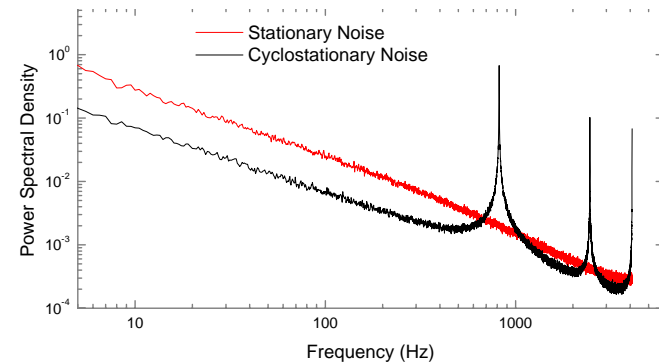
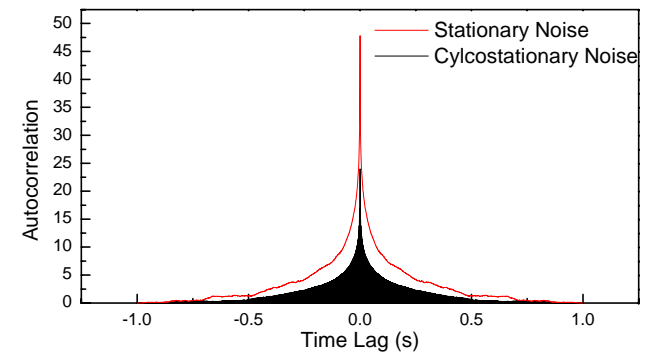
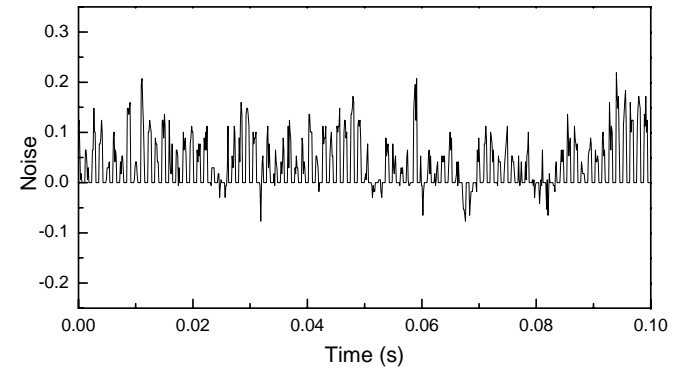
## Transient Signals of Mixer



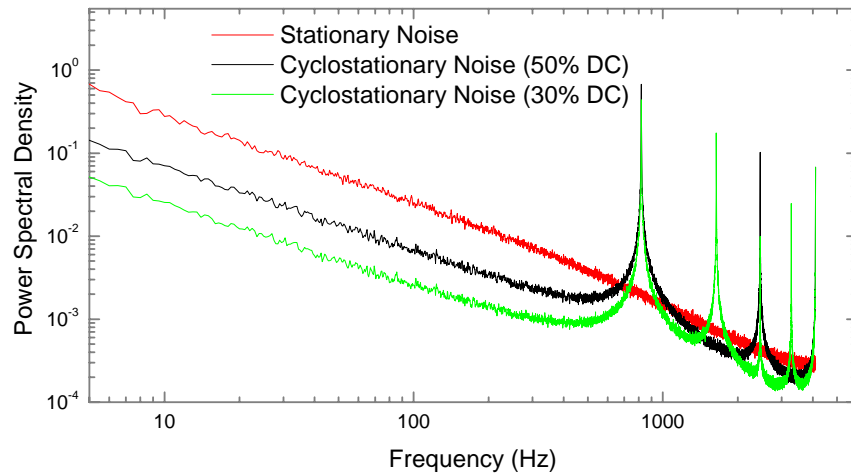
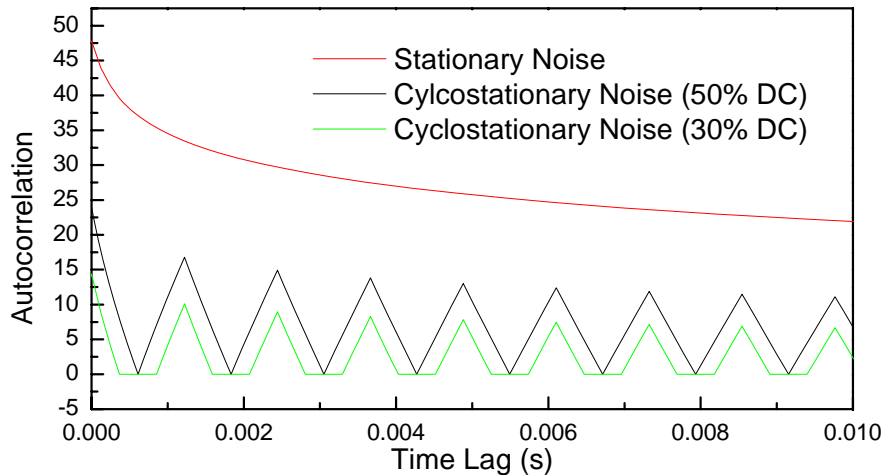
# Cyclostationary Noise



Convolution in frequency domain  
Part of noise power is shifted to  
multiples of switch frequency



# Cyclostationary Noise: On/Off Duty Cycle



Reduced duty cycle  
(=faster switching of mixer)

⇒ Overall noise power decreases

⇒ Larger percentage is mixed to  
higher frequencies

But: small devices, which are  
necessary for fast switching have  
higher flicker noise!

# How to Optimize Noise of Gilbert Mixer: Darabi/Abidi Model

## Model:

Variation of Duty cycle is responsible for output noise:

$$\langle I_{Out}^2 \rangle \propto I_{tail}^2 \cdot \langle DutyCNoise^2 \rangle$$

Duty cycle variation depends on LO slew rate

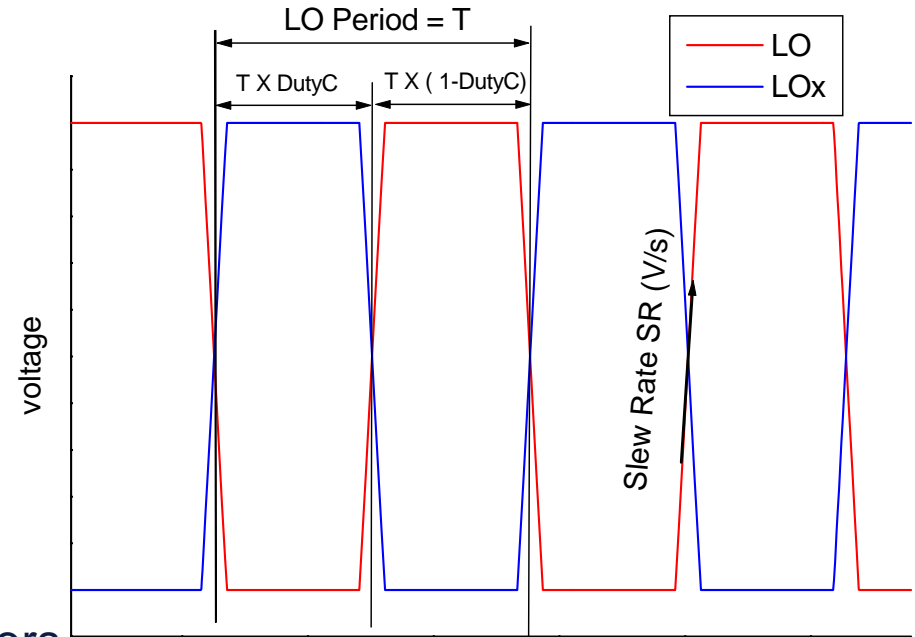
$$SR = \frac{I_{buffer}}{C_{ox} \times W \times L + C_{Par}}$$

And threshold voltage variation of switch transistors

$$DutyCNoise = \frac{VDiffNoise}{SR \times T}$$

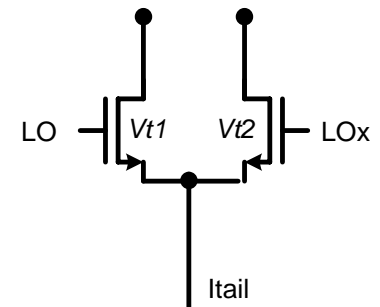
$$\langle VDiffNoise^2 \rangle = \langle Vt1^2 \rangle + \langle Vt2^2 \rangle = \frac{KF}{\mu_{eff} \cdot Cox^2 \cdot W \cdot L \cdot F}$$

$$\Rightarrow \langle I_{Out}^2 \rangle \propto \frac{(C_{Ox} \cdot W \cdot L + C_{Par})^2}{C_{Ox} \cdot W \cdot L \cdot I_{Buffer}^2 \cdot T^2}$$



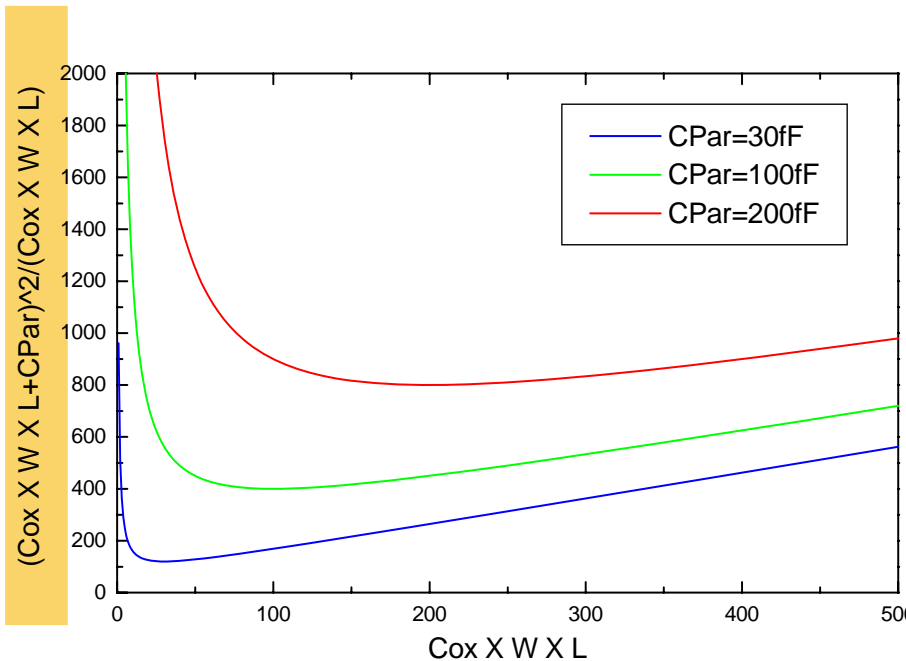
KF: Flicker Noise Parameter

time



# How to Optimize Noise of Gilbert Mixer: Darabi/ Abidi Model

$$\langle I_{Out}^2 \rangle \propto \frac{(C_{Ox} \cdot W \cdot L + C_{Par})^2}{C_{Ox} \cdot W \cdot L \cdot I_{Buffer}^2 \cdot T^2}$$



## Some results:

- To optimize stationary noise:  
Increase transistor size
- To optimize cyclostationary mixer noise:  
Reduce transistor size (till parasitics appear)
- Minimize parasitics
- Noise scales with  $F^2 = 1/T^2$   
=> Advantage for superhet:  
First mixer to intermediate frequency (IF)  
Second mixer to baseband frequency  
Tradeoff: Complexity, power consumption, size
- Maximize gate drive current  
Tradeoff: power consumption

# RF Circuit Noise Characterization : Outline

---

## ■ Overview:

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- Semiconductor Noise Sources

## ■ Noise in Linear Amplifiers

- Noise Figure, Noise Temperature, Noise Measure
- NF Measurement
- Noise of Two-Ports
- Characterization of 4 Noise Parameters
- LNA Example

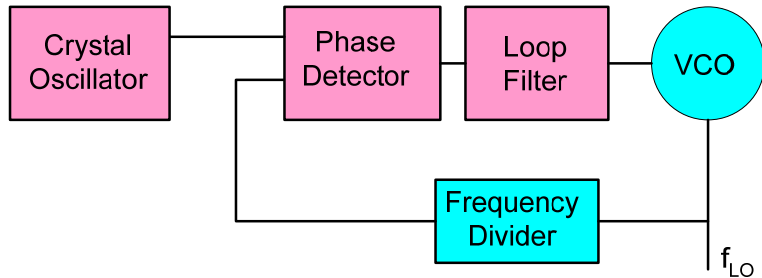
## ■ Noise in Mixer Circuits

- Mixer Introduction
- Cyclostationary Noise
- Gilbert Mixer

## ■ Noise in Oscillators

- Basics and Requirements
- Hajimiri and Leeson Theory
- Typical VCO Circuit
- Characterization

# Frequency Generation for Local Oscillator



## Requirements:

- Frequency Stability:

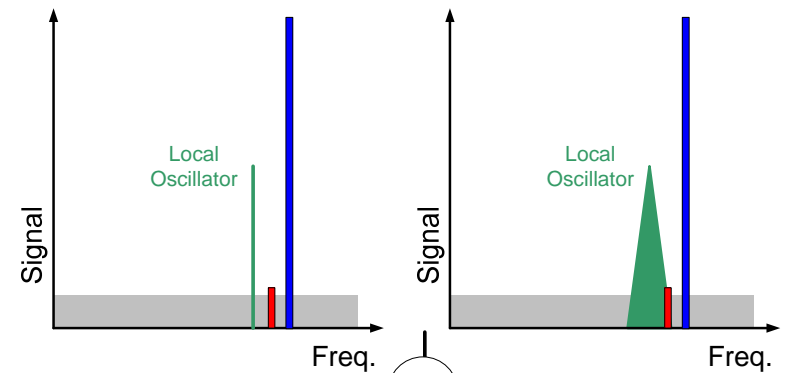
Crystal Oscillator

- Low Phase Noise:

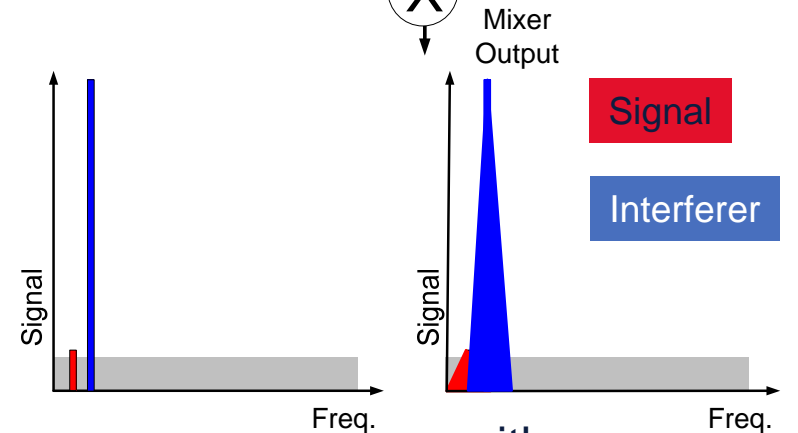
VCO (far off carrier)

Loop Filter, Divider, Phase Detector (near carrier)

## Reciprocal Mixing



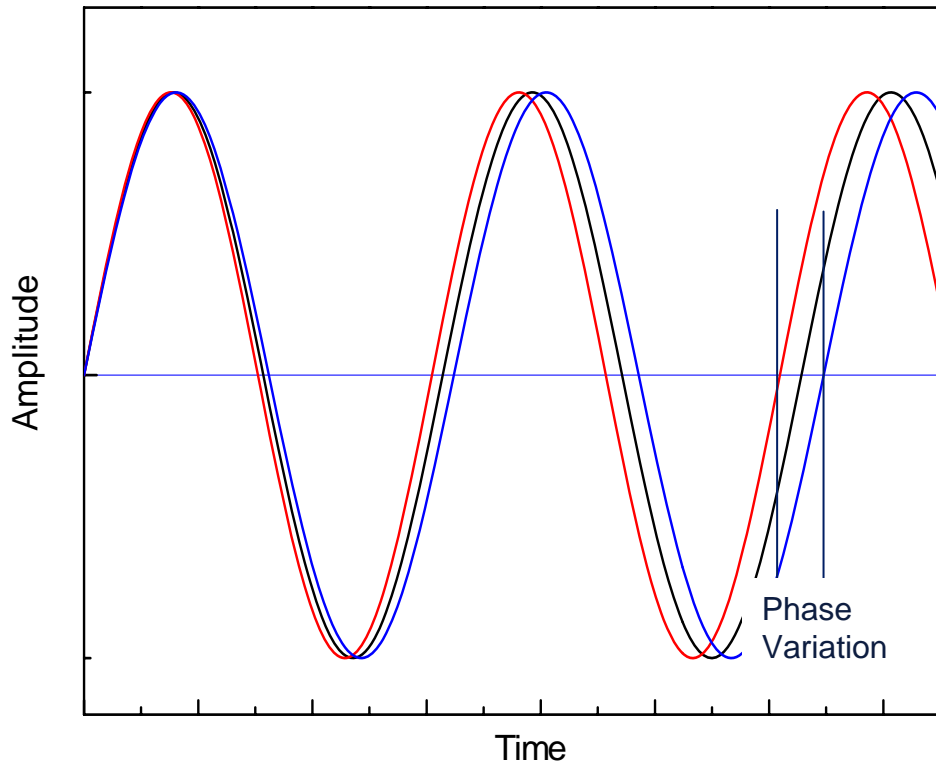
X



without  
LO Phase Noise

with  
LO Phase Noise

# Phase Noise Basics



$$A(t) = A_0 \cdot (1 + \Delta A(t)) \cdot f(\omega_0 \cdot t + \varphi(t))$$

AM Noise

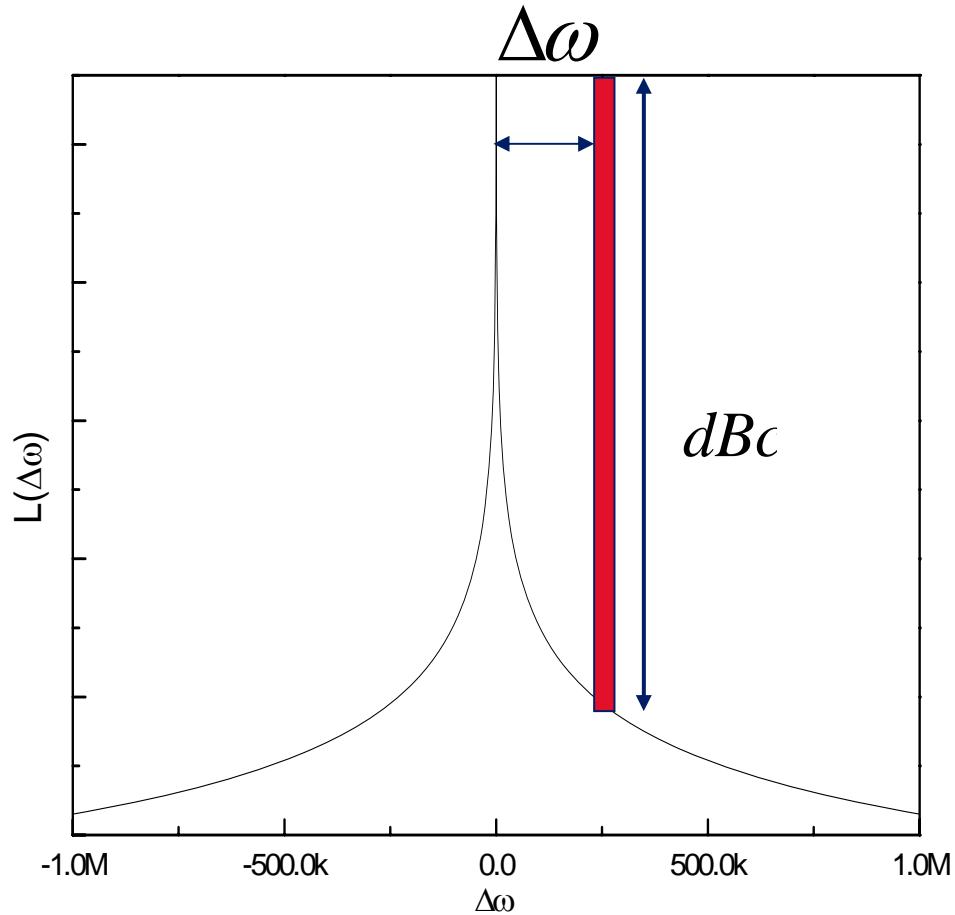
Phase Noise

Phase Noise is equivalent to frequency Noise

$$\Delta\omega(t) = \frac{\partial\varphi(t)}{\partial t}$$

AM-Noise typically unimportant (e.g. Gilbert Mixer works at LO=LOx) and can be reduced with an amplitude regulation

# Phase Noise Basics

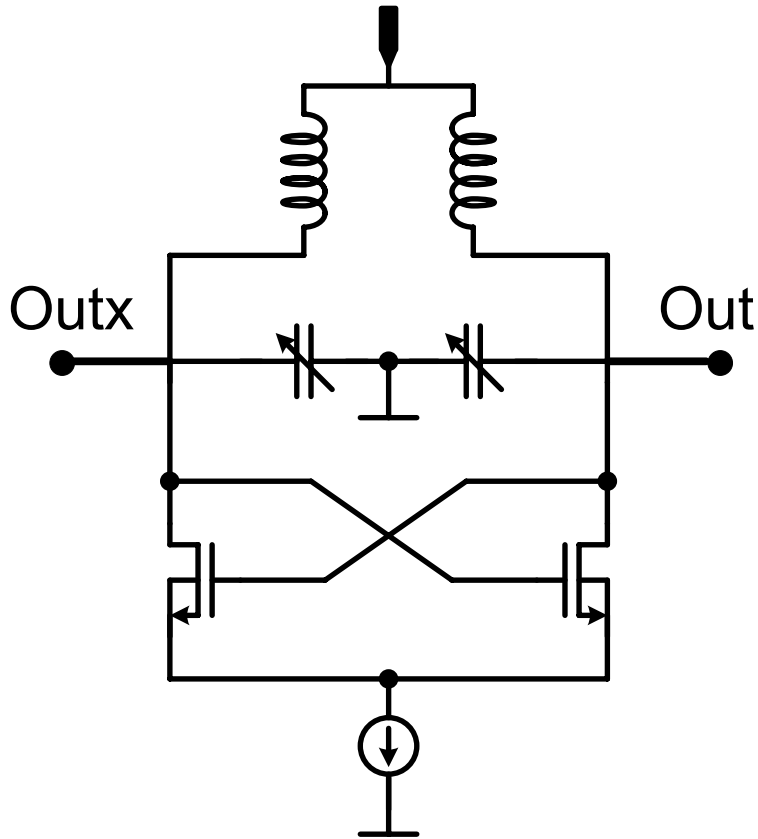


Phase noise is characterized by spectral power density:

$$L(\Delta\omega) = \frac{P_{SingleSideband}(\omega_0 + \Delta\omega, 1Hz)}{P_{Carrier}}$$

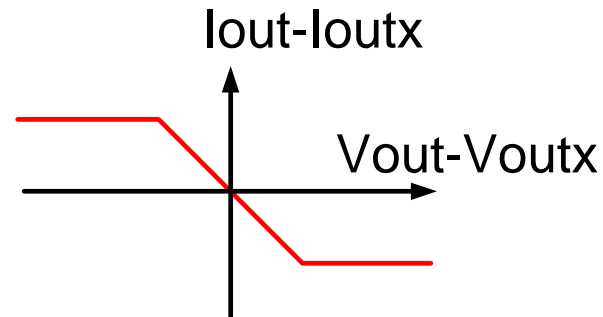
Unit used for phase noise:  
dBc/Hz (dB relativ to carrier)

# LC Oscillators for Good Phase Noise Performance



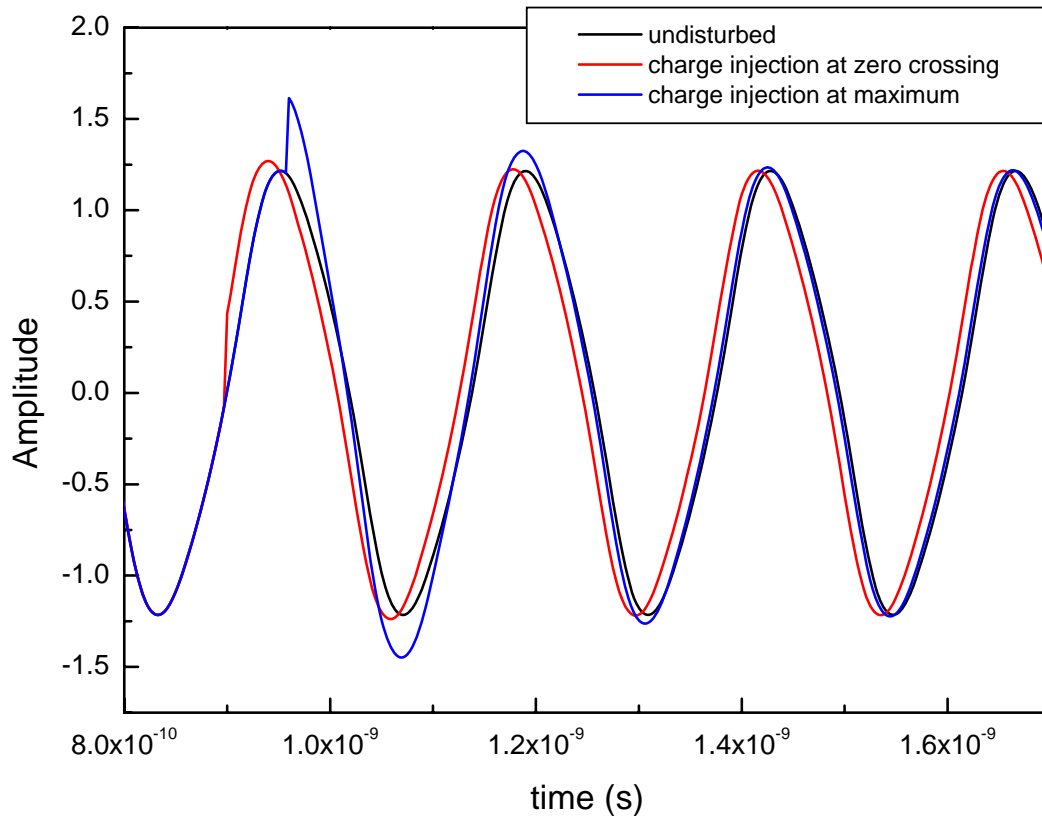
Typical VCO Circuit:

- LC tank  $\omega = \frac{1}{\sqrt{LC}}$
- Tuning with varactor
- Differential circuit
- Cross coupled transistors:  
Negative resistance around  $V_{out} = V_{outx}$   
to compensate LC tank losses



# Phase Noise: Hajimiri Model

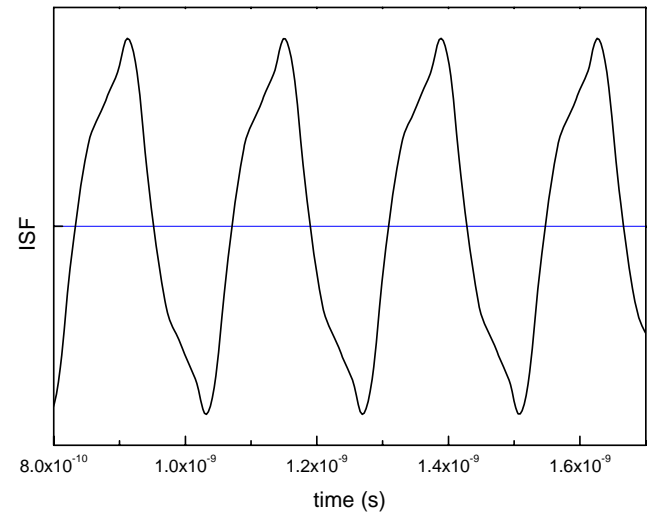
## Phase Noise Response to Noise Current depends on Injection Time



## Impulse Sensitivity Function:

$$\varphi(t) = \frac{1}{q_{\max}} \int_{-\infty}^t ISF(\tau) \cdot i_n(\tau) \cdot d\tau$$

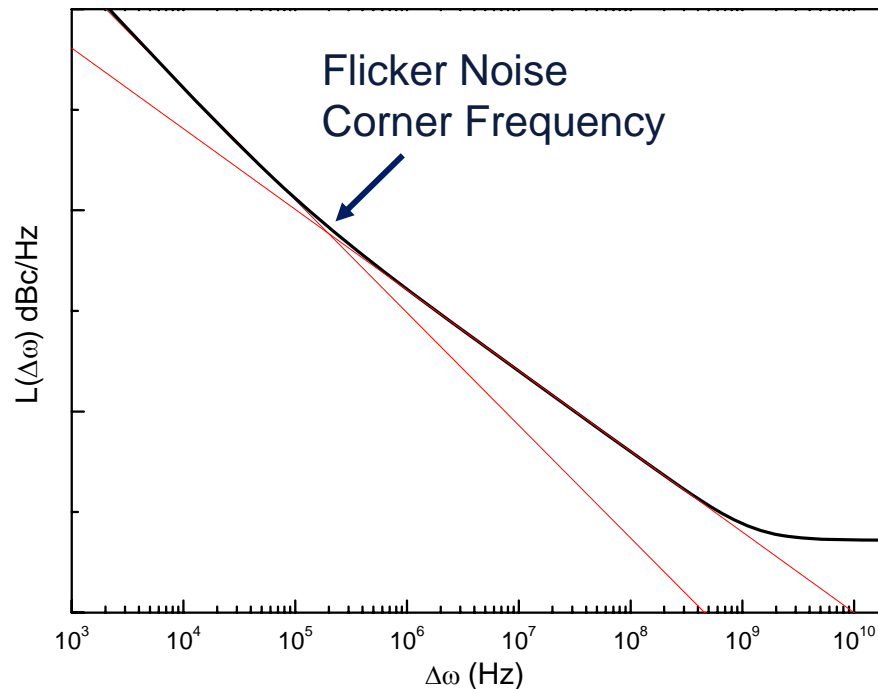
$q_{\max}$ : maximum charge on capacitor



# Phase Noise: Leeson's Heuristic Model

## Leeson's Heuristic Formula (1966)

$$L(\Delta\omega) = 10 \cdot \log \left[ \frac{2 \cdot F \cdot k \cdot T}{P_{Carrier}} \cdot \left( 1 + \left( \frac{\omega_0}{2 \cdot Q \cdot \Delta\omega} \right)^2 \right) \cdot \left( 1 + \frac{\Delta\omega_{1/f^3}}{|\Delta\omega|} \right) \right]$$



Oscillator Optimization:

Q



$P_{Carrier}$



# Literature

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