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Reynaldo Huaccho Salazar for the M. S. in Electrical Engineering

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Title DESIGN OF HIGH-INPUT IMPEDANCE, WIDE-BAND TRANSISTORIZED AMPLIFIERS

Abstract approved (Major professor)

Conventional bi-polar transistors are inherently low input impedance devices. Transistor amplifiers have been designed which will present high input impedance, but the frequency response is limited to low frequencies, hundreds of kilocycles.

This thesis investigates both field effect transistors and positive feedback as applied to high input impedance wide band amplifier design. The field effect transistor, in the source-follower configuration, is shown to offer high input impedance, wide-band amplification, and low output impedance. Positive feedback is shown to increase considerably the input impedance without any danger of self-oscillations.

The generalized theory is presented using a model amplifier consisting of an input stage containing the field effect transistor, followed by two transistor stages. All the necessary criteria
are derived from this model.

An experimental amplifier was built and tested in the laboratory to check the validity of the theoretical analysis. The input impedance of this amplifier measured 20.7 MΩ of resistance shunted by 1.7 pf. of capacitance; the band-width extended from about 30 cps to about 10 Mc.
DESIGN OF HIGH-INPUT IMPEDANCE, WIDE-BAND TRANSISTORIZED AMPLIFIERS

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REYNALDO HUACCHO SALAZAR

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In Charge of Major

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Head of Electrical Engineering Department

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DESIGN OF HIGH-INPUT IMPEDANCE, WIDE-BAND TRANSISTORIZED AMPLIFIERS

I. INTRODUCTION

High input impedance is a very desirable amplifier characteristic in many applications. The conventional transistor, despite all its glamorous appeal, has proved to be ill-fitted for high input impedance amplifiers. Designers have devised ways and means of getting around this inherent transistor shortcoming, however, the results, as successful as they are, fall somewhat short of the achievements using vacuum tubes.

Wide band amplification and high input impedance are two conflicting characteristics in conventional transistors. Amplifiers can be designed which will attain one characteristic or the other, but not both simultaneously.

The advent of the Field Effect Transistor, usually abbreviated FET, has opened new vistas in high input impedance amplifier design.

In this thesis, the FET together with positive feedback is used in the development of a high input impedance wide band amplifier. It is shown that the FET facilitates the achievement of high input impedance without conflicting with wide band amplification. The earlier sections of this thesis contain the necessary
theory regarding both the FET and positive feedback; the last section describes an experimental amplifier which was built and tested in the laboratory. The input impedance of the experimental amplifier measured 20.7 megohms of resistance shunted by approximately 1.7 picofarads of capacitance, and the band width extended from about 30 cps. to about 10 Mc.
II. THE FIELD EFFECT TRANSISTOR AS A HIGH INPUT IMPEDANCE DEVICE

INSIDE THE FIELD EFFECT TRANSISTOR

It would be profitable to briefly mention the physics and structure of the field effect transistor (FET).

Figure 1 shows a simplified representation of a field effect transistor (FET). It consists of a P-type bar of silicon with two N-type regions situated on opposite sides of the bar.

Assuming a carrier density $P \gg N$, the conductivity of the P-type bar can be expressed as $G_0 = \frac{(q \mu) (PWT)}{L}$ (II-1)

where: $q$ = charge of electron
$\mu$ = electron mobility
$P$ = hole density
$W$ = width of the bar
$T$ = thickness of the bar
$L$ = length of the bar

Equation (II-1) shows that the conductivity can be varied by varying almost any parameter of Equation (II-1). However, practical limitations reduce the possibilities to either varying $P$, the hole density, or $T$, the thickness. In the case of the Field
Effect Transistor, as will be presently shown, the conductivity is modulated (or varied) by varying the conductive thickness.

![Diagram](image-url)

**Figure 1.** Elementary form of a FET.

The gate-source voltage indicated in Figure 1 effectively reverse-biases the P-N junction. Under this condition, a "space charge" region, also known as a depletion region, is created between the P and the N regions from which all free charge carriers have been removed. The width of the depletion regions is a function of both the impurity concentration and the junction potential.

Figure 2 shows that portions of Figure 1 consisting of the N-type regions and the P-type channel in between; it also depicts
the depletion regions created by the reverse bias. The width of the depletion region is increased by increasing the reverse-biasing voltage, and vice-versa. Thus, it is easily seen that the P-type channel width (available for conduction) is inversely proportional to the reverse-biasing voltage. Going back to Equation (II-1), then, it can be concluded that the conductivity of the P-type channel is inversely proportional to the reverse biasing voltage. This is the principle underlying the operation of the field effect transistor, the name being derived from the "field" on the channel conductance.

Since a reverse bias between the gate and source is necessary for proper FET operation, the impedance presented by this P-N junction will be high. Therefore, the FET is inherently a high input impedance device.

The advantages offered by the FET over the conventional
bi-polar transistor can be summarized as follows (1, p. 69):

a. High input impedance.

b. Less sensitive to radiation damage, since the FET does not depend on minority carriers for its operation.

c. Low noise, for the same reason as in b.

THE FIELD EFFECT TRANSISTOR AS AN ACTIVE DEVICE

Figure 3 shows the symbol representing a FET; the device is biased for "common source" operation. There are also other configurations similar to vacuum tubes or transistors. Figure 4 shows the volt-ampere output characteristics for a typical FET.

The curves of Figure 4 depict two distinct regions; the one
Figure 4. Volt-ampere output characteristics for TIX881 field effect transistor.
corresponding to low drain-source voltages is similar to the vacuum
tube triode characteristics, and that corresponding to high voltages
is similar to the vacuum tube pentode characteristics. The dotted
line of Figure 4 indicates the separation between these two regions,
and is normally called the "pinch-off" voltage \( V_p \).

**FIELD EFFECT TRANSISTOR EQUIVALENT CIRCUIT**

Analysis of circuits containing FETs can better be accom-
plished by dealing with an equivalent circuit. Figure 5 shows a
FET equivalent circuit proposed by Texas Instruments Co. (8,
p. 26). This equivalent circuit represents by lumped elements
the physics and characteristics of the FET. Referring back to
Figures 1 and 2, the branches \( R_3 C_3 \) and \( R_4 C_4 \) represent the
depletion regions between the gate and the source, and between
the gate and the drain. \( C_3 \) and \( C_4 \) represent the depletion layer
 capacitance, whereas \( R_3 \) and \( R_4 \) account for the reverse leakage
current through the depletion region. Resistances \( R_1 \) and \( R_2 \)
represent the ohmic contact and bulk resistance from the gate to
the source and to the drain respectively; likewise \( R_6 \) and \( R_5 \)
represent the bulk resistance and ohmic contacts at the drain and
source terminals respectively. \( r_D \) is the differential P-type
channel resistance in the pinch-off region, see above. The current
generator represents the control of the gate-source voltage on the
Figure 5. Field Effect Transistor equivalent circuit.
drain current, the controlling voltage being that across the capacitor \( C_3 \) (depletion region capacitance). There exists large differences among the magnitude of the resistances shown in the equivalent circuit, the order being as follows

\[
R_3, R_4 \gg r_D \gg R_1, R_2, R_5, R_6
\]

and approximately

\[
R_3, R_4 \approx \text{several megohms} \\
R_1 + R_5 \approx \text{hundreds of ohms} \\
R_2 + R_6 \approx \text{hundreds of ohms}
\]

The equivalent circuit of Figure 5 has been found to be a good representation of the FET from d-c to around 100 Mc (8, p. 6). Although this equivalent circuit is quite complete, it is very complex and unyielding for analysis. Figure 6 shows another equivalent circuit frequently found in current literature, and which is much simpler. Because of the large difference among the magnitude of the resistances shown in Figure 5, it would be justifiable to eliminate resistances \( R_1, R_2, R_6 \) and \( R_5 \). To further show that the circuit of Figure 6 is a simplification of Figure 5, notice the following relations

\[
g_o = \frac{1}{r_D} \\
g_{gs} = \frac{1}{R_3}
\]
Figure 6. Simplified Field Effect Transistor equivalent circuit.

\[
C_{gd} = C_4
\]

\[
C_{gs} = C_3
\]

\[
g_m = g'_m \quad (\text{since } R_1 \text{ is negligible})
\]

\[
e_{gs} = E'_1
\]

also, \( R_4 \) has been completely dropped out. The circuit of Figure 6 is a good approximation for most practical applications. However, for the purposes of this thesis it will be necessary to include \( R_4' \), since this resistance enters into the complete characterization of the input impedance. Therefore, the circuit of Figure 7 is the one which will be used in all succeeding work.
Figure 7. Simplified Field Effect Transistor equivalent circuit to be used in this thesis.

All the above presentation considered a P-channel FET. There is a counterpart N-channel type field effect transistor. In fact this type of FET was used in the experimental work of this thesis. The symbolic representation of the N-channel FET is shown in Figure 8.
III. THE SOURCE-FOLLOWER CONFIGURATION

Of the many possible configurations offered by the FET, the source follower configuration provides the highest input impedance. Besides, this configuration as will be presently shown, also offers the advantages of wide band width and low output impedance. These are all desirable characteristics in the design of high input impedance wide band amplifiers.

VOLTAGE AMPLIFICATION

Figure 8 shows a practical source follower circuit. In this circuit it is assumed that both $C_1$ and $C_2$ are very large, such that the impedances presented by these capacitors are negligible for all frequencies of interest. Using the FET equivalent circuit derived earlier, it is now possible to draw an equivalent a-c circuit for the source follower; this is shown in Figure 9. In order to simplify the analysis, the circuit of Figure 9 can be redrawn as shown in Figure 10. Notice that (in Figure 9) node (A) is effectively connected to ground. The branch $R_4C_4$ has been placed at the input for purposes which will be evident later on.
Figure 8. The source follower configuration.

Since here it is desired to investigate the amplification provided by the source follower, voltage amplification will be defined as

$$A_v = \frac{e_o}{e_1}$$

This truly describes the potentialities of the source follower alone independent of signal source output resistance.

Now, writing the nodal equation for node (B) of Figure 10

$$i_g = (i_K + i_D + i_L) - g_m e_g$$  \hspace{1cm} (III-1)
Figure 9. Source follower equivalent circuit.

Figure 10. Source follower equivalent circuit rearranged.
but \( i_g = (e_1 - e_o) Y_{3G} \) \hspace{1cm} (III-2)

\[
i_K + i_D + i_L = e_o Y_K + e_o Y_D + e_o Y_L = e_o (Y_K + Y_D + Y_L)
\]
calling \( Y_{eq} = Y_K + Y_D + Y_L \) \hspace{1cm} (III-3)

\[
i_K + i_D + i_L = e_o Y_{eq}
\]
also \( e_g = e_1 - e_o \) \hspace{1cm} (III-5)

Substituting (III-2), (III-4), and (III-5) in (III-1)

\[
(e_1 - e_o) Y_{3G} = e_o Y_{eq} - g_m (e_1 - e_o)
\]
from which it is easily found,

\[
A_v = \frac{e_o}{e_1} = \frac{1}{Y_{eq}} \frac{1}{1 + \frac{g_{eq}}{g_m + Y_{3G}}}
\]

In general, the load \( Z_L (Y_L) \) can be assumed to consist of a resistance \( R_L (G_L) \) shunted by a capacitance \( C_L \). Now, by substituting the expressions for \( Y_{eq} \) and \( Y_{3G} \) from Equation (III-3) and Figure 10 respectively into Equation (III-6) it is obtained, in Laplace transform notation

\[
A_v = \frac{1}{(G_K + G_D + G_L) + sC_L} \frac{1}{1 + \frac{g_m + G_{eq} + G_3}{g_m + G_G + G_3} + sC_3}
\]
Normally,

\[ g_m > G_G + G_L \]

\[ (G_K + G_L) > G_D \]

So that Equation (II-7) reduces to,

\[
A_v = \frac{1}{G_K + G_L} + s
\]

\[
1 \frac{C_L}{C_3} \frac{G_K + G_L}{\frac{g_m}{C_3} + s}
\]

At low frequencies, Equation III-8 reduces to

\[
A_v = \frac{1}{G_K + G_L} + s
\]

For large values of \( g_m \) (5000 micromhos or better) such that

\[ g_m > (G_K + G_L) \]

the voltage amplification becomes

\[ A_v \approx 1 \]

To analyze the frequency response of \( A_v \), the voltage amplification, assume \( C_L \approx C_3 \). Further assume that near unity amplification is desired; Equation III-10 must hold. Under these conditions, the relation between the corner frequencies of
of Equation (III-8) is

\[
\frac{G_K + G_L}{C_L} \ll \frac{g_m}{C_3} \tag{III-12}
\]

which indicates that the frequency response of the source follower voltage amplification is determined by \( G_K \), \( G_L \), and \( C_L \). For an example assume \( G_K + G_L = 5 \times 10^{-4} \) mhos and \( C_L = 10 \text{ pf} \); this gives a corner frequency of approximately 10 Mc. This result shows that the source follower is suitable for wide band amplification.

**INPUT IMPEDANCE**

Figure 11 is essentially the circuit of Figure 10, repeated for convenience and also to indicate the symbols to be used in determining the input impedance.

From Figure 11 it is easily seen that the input impedance \( Z_{in} \), is simply the parallel combination of \( Z_4 \) and \( Z_1 \). That is

\[
Z_{in} = \frac{Z_1 Z_4}{Z_1 + Z_4} \tag{III-13}
\]

The impedance \( Z_4 \) can be traced back to the equivalent circuit of the FET. See Figure 9, page 15. As indicated previously, \( R_4 \) represents the leakage current of the reverse biased junction and is several megohms in value. Therefore, at low frequencies \( Z_4 \) is in the megohms region.
Figure 11. Source follower equivalent circuit.

On the other hand, the impedance $Z_1$ represents the input impedance to the source follower portion which is responsible for the voltage amplification. This impedance is, then

$$Z_1 = \frac{e_1}{i_1} = \frac{e_1}{i_g} \quad \text{(III-14)}$$

From Figure 11

$$i_g = \frac{e_1 - e_o}{Z_{3G}} \quad \text{(III-15)}$$

But, from Equation (III-6)

$$e_o = A_v e_1 \quad \text{(III-16)}$$
Substituting Equation (III-16) in Equation (III-15) and solving for \( \frac{e_1}{i_1} \)

\[
Z_1 = \frac{e_1}{i_1} = \frac{Z_{3G}}{1 - A_v}
\]  

(III-17)

In this expression \( Z_{3G} \) represents, at low frequencies, the parallel combination of \( R_3 \) and \( R_G \). See Figure 11. \( R_3 \) is similar to \( R_4 \), mentioned earlier, and is several megohms in resistance. \( R_G \) is the complementary resistance needed to properly bias the gate-to-source junction; it also prevents the gate from floating. \( R_G \) can be made high in resistance, several megohms. Therefore, the impedance \( Z_{3G} \), at low frequencies can be made quite high.

In previous discussion it was pointed out that \( A_v \) is less than unity, but under certain circumstances can be made quite close to unity (see page 17).

From the above argument, and considering Equation (III-17), one concludes that:

a. \( Z_1 \) is larger than \( Z_{3G} \), since the quantity \((1 - A_v)\) is always less than unity, the closer \( A_v \) is to unity the larger the value of \( Z_1 \).

b. Since \( Z_{3G} \) is in the megohms range, \( Z_1 \) will also be in the megohm region.
Substituting $Z_1$ and $Z_4$ from Equation (III-17) and Figure 11 respectively into Equation (III-13), and converting everything to admittances, it is found

$$Y_{\text{in}} = Y_4 + (1 - A_v) Y_{3G}$$

(III-18)

or substituting the components of $Y_4$ and $Y_{3G}$ and simplifying (in Laplace transform notation)

$$Y_{\text{in}} = \left[\frac{(1 - A_v)}{R_{3G}} + \frac{1}{R_4}\right] + \left[(1 - A_v) C_3 + C_4\right] s$$

(III-19)

For low frequencies, the input impedance is, from Equation (III-19)

$$Z_{\text{in}} = \frac{R_4 R_{3G}}{(1 - A_v) R_4 + R_{3G}} = \frac{R_{3G}}{R_4 + \frac{(1 - A_v)}{R_{3G}}}$$

(III-20)

and will be of the order of several megohms besides it is larger than the parallel combination of $R_4$ and $R_{3G}$, since the factor $(1 - A_v)$ is less than unity.

Because of capacitors $C_3$ and $C_4$, the input admittance will increase for increasing frequencies. See Equation (III-19). Therefore, the input impedance will decrease for increasing frequencies; at very high frequencies the input impedance will be determined almost exclusively by capacitors $C_3$ and $C_4$. 
From the above it can be seen that the source follower configuration does improve the input impedance; resistor $R_{3G}$ is increased by the factor $(1-A_v)^{-1}$ which is larger than unity, and capacitor $C_3$ is decreased by the factor $(1-A_v)$ which is less than unity.

In Part IV it will be shown that positive feedback can be advantageously used to neutralize the detrimental effect of capacitances $C_3$ and $C_4$ on the input impedance.

**OUTPUT IMPEDANCE**

The output impedance will necessarily involve the signal source impedance. In order to facilitate the analysis, turn back to Figure 10 (p. 15) and notice that it is possible to substitute a Thevenin equivalent for the circuit to the left of point (1)-(1). The modified circuit appears in Figure 12.

The output impedance will be found following the definition

$$Z_o = \frac{\text{Open-circuit output voltage}}{\text{Short-circuit output current}} = \frac{e_{osc}}{i_{osc}} \quad (\text{III-21})$$

To find $i_{osc}$, simply consider the output being short circuited. Under these conditions

$$i_{osc} = g_m e + g_{sc} \quad (\text{III-22})$$
Figure 12. Modified equivalent circuit for the source follower.
but \[ e_g = e_{1\text{sc}} \]

\[ i_{g_{\text{sc}}} = e_{g} Y_{3G} = e_{1\text{sc}} Y_{3G} \]

then

\[ i_{\text{osc}} = e_{1\text{sc}} \left( g_m + Y_{3G} \right) \quad \text{(III-23)} \]

From Figure 12

\[ e_{1\text{sc}} = \frac{Z_{3G}}{Z_{4S} + Z_{3G}} e_{\text{th}} \]

and

\[ i_{\text{osc}} = \frac{Z_{3G}}{Z_{4S} + Z_{3G}} (g_m + Y_{3G}) e_{\text{th}} \quad \text{(III-24)} \]

The open-circuit output voltage can be found as

\[ e_{\text{ooc}} = e_{1\text{ooc}} \frac{A'}{A_{\text{v}}} \quad \text{(III-25)} \]

Where \( A'_{\text{v}} \) is similar to \( A_{\text{v}} \) of Equation (III-6) except for having \( Z_L = \infty \), that is the load is not connected. Again, from Figure 12

\[ e_{1\text{ooc}} = \frac{Z_{1\prime}}{Z_{4S} + Z_{1\prime}} e_{\text{th}} \quad \text{(III-26)} \]

where once more \( Z_{1\prime} \) is similar to \( Z_{1} \) of Equation (III-17), except for having \( A'_{\text{v}} \) instead of \( A_{\text{v}} \) in the expression. Substituting (III-26) in (III-25)

\[ e_{\text{ooc}} = \frac{Z_{1\prime}}{Z_{4S} + Z_{1\prime}} A'_{\text{v}} e_{\text{th}} \quad \text{(III-27)} \]
Now, substituting from Equation (III-6)

\[ A'_v = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{y_{eq}}{g_m + 3G}} \]  

(III-28)

and from Equation (III-17)

\[ Z'_1 = \frac{Z}{(1 - A'_v)} \]

where \( y_{eq} \) again indicates \( Z_L = \infty \) or \( Y_L = 0 \), Equation (III-27) reduces to

\[ e_{oc} = \frac{\frac{Z_{3G}(g_m + Y_{3G})}{Y_{eq}(Z_{4S} + Z_{3G}) + Z_{3G}(g_m + Y_{3G})}}{e_{th}} \]  

(III-29)

Finally, substituting Equations (III-29) and (III-24) into Equation (III-21), and simplifying

\[ Z_o = \frac{1}{y_{eq} + \frac{Z_{3G}}{Z_{4S} + Z_{3G}} (g_m + Y_{3G})} \]

or

\[ Z_o = \frac{1}{(Y_K + Y_D) + \frac{Z_{3G}}{Z_{4S} + Z_{3G}} (g_m + Y_{3G})} \]

(III-31)

The effect of the signal source resistance, \( R_s \), on the output impedance is indicated by \( Z_{4S} \), which is the parallel combination of \( Z_4 \) and \( R_s \). For lower values of \( R_s \) such that
\[ Z_{4S} \ll Z_{3G} \]

Equation (III-31) simply becomes

\[ Z_0 = \frac{1}{Y_K + Y_D + g_m + Y_{3G}} \quad (III-32) \]

which if it is further assumed that

\[ g_m > Y_K + Y_D + Y_{3G} \]

reduces to

\[ Z_0 \approx \frac{1}{g_m} \quad (III-33) \]

This again points out the necessity of obtaining FETs with large \( g_m \) in order to obtain low output impedance.

From Equation (III-31) it is observed that the output impedance will increase for increasing values of signal source resistance, \( R_s \). For the case, although very unlikely,

\[ R_s \gg Z_4 \]

Equation (III-31) reduces to

\[ Z_0 = \frac{1}{(Y_K + Y_D) + \frac{Z_{3G}}{Z_4 + Z_{3G}} (g_m + Y_{3G})} \quad (III-34) \]

This is the maximum value that the output impedance may acquire.
The above discussion has shown that the source follower indeed provides a low output impedance. It has been further shown that although this output impedance is a function of the signal source resistance, $R_s$, it does have a maximum limit as indicated by Equation (III-34).
IV. POSITIVE FEEDBACK AND HIGH INPUT IMPEDANCE

It has already been mentioned that although the source follower possesses desirable characteristics for the design of high-input impedance wide band amplifiers, the capacitance in shunt at the input is certainly detrimental for high input impedance at higher frequencies. In this section it will be shown that positive feedback can be used to advantage in order to minimize (ideally eliminate) the effects of this shunt capacitance; it will be further shown that positive feedback can be used to obtain even higher impedances -- higher shunt resistive component at the input. Another aspect to be considered is the amplifier stability, being that positive feedback is used; it will be shown that by proper design, good stability can be assured.

To proceed with the presentation, it will be assumed that the source follower discussed previously is followed by two stages of amplification, each stage providing $180^\circ$ of phase shift, or a total of $360^\circ$ of phase shift for all frequencies of interest; thus, the output voltage will be in phase with the input voltage and positive feedback is now feasible. These two additional stages serve the purpose of isolating the signal to be fed back, besides they provide amplification to compensate for the less than unity
voltage amplification obtained from the source follower; the overall gain is assumed greater than unity. Figure 13 shows a block diagram of the composite amplifier being described here.

![Block Diagram of Amplifier](image)

**Figure 13.** Three stage amplifier.

To simplify the diagram of Figure 13, all three stages of amplification can be combined into one, as is indicated in Figure 14. Further, the positive feedback is applied through a parallel \( R_f C_f \) circuit as shown in Figure 14.

From previous discussion (see Equation III-19) it is known that the input impedance of the source follower consists of a resistance and capacitance in parallel. This is indicated as an admittance \( Y_{SF} \) in Figure 13. For convenience in future analysis this admittance \( Y_{SF} \) will be decomposed into three parts as is shown in Figure 14. The signal source impedance is for
Figure 14. Amplifier with positive feedback.

convenience represented by an admittance $Y_S$.

**INCREASING THE INPUT IMPEDANCE WITH POSITIVE FEEDBACK**

The input impedance to be determined corresponds to that seen to the right of point (1)-(1) in Figure 14. For convenience it will be better to deal with admittances.

By adding the currents at the input node the total input admittance, denoted $Y_{in}$, can be found as follows:
\[ i_s = i_i - i_f \quad (IV-1) \]

but
\[ i_i = e_i Y_{SF} \quad (IV-2) \]
\[ i_f = (e - e_i) Y_f \quad (IV-3) \]

then,
\[ i_s = e_i Y_{SF} - e_o Y_f + e_i Y_f \]

since
\[ e_o = A e_i \]
\[ i_s = e_i (Y_{SF} - AY_f + Y_f) \]

Finally,
\[ Y_{in} = \frac{i_s}{e_i} = Y_{SF} - Y_f (A-1) \quad (IV-4) \]

Substituting for \( Y_{SF} \) and \( Y_f \) from Figure 14
\[ Y_{in} = Y_1 + [Y_2 + Y_C - Y_{R_f} (A-1) - Y_{C_f} (A-1)] \quad (IV-5) \]

Since the voltage amplification was assumed to be larger than unity, the quantity \( (A-1) \) will be positive. Therefore, every term appearing inside the brackets in Equation (IV-5) is positive; this simply is an algebraic sumation of conductances and capacitive susceptances. Now, for any given value of \( A \), it is always possible to choose \( R_f \) and \( C_f \) such that
\[ Y_2 = Y_{R_f} (A-1) \quad (IV-6) \]
\[ Y_C = Y_{C_f} (A-1) \quad (IV-7) \]
For these values of $R_t$ and $C_t$, such that Equations (IV-6) and (IV-7) hold, the quantity in brackets in Equation (IV-5) vanishes and the input admittance simply reduces to

$$Y_{in} = Y_1$$  \hspace{1cm} (IV-8)

where, it should be remembered, $Y_1$ is a pure conductance.

Thus, it is shown that the appropriate application of positive feedback theoretically eliminates the effects of the input shunt capacitance; what is more, it allows elimination of part of the input shunt resistance. The net result is that the input admittance can be made pure conductance and arbitrarily small; or equivalently the input impedance can be made very high and theoretically free from the shunt capacitance.

**VOLTAGE AMPLIFICATION AND STABILITY CONSIDERATIONS**

The amplifier voltage amplification denoted by "$A$" in Figure 14 can be shown to be unaffected by the positive feedback. In the following derivation this amplification, "$A$", will be considered to remain constant and greater than unity for all frequencies of interests.

The voltage amplification to be dealt with here is that one accounting for the transformation of $e_s$ into $e_o$; this will certainly
involve all the parameters of Figure 14, and obviously the feedback comes into play. The voltage amplification to be desired then, is

\[ A_f = \frac{e_o}{e_s} \quad (IV-9) \]

Again, by adding the currents at the input node,

\[ i_s = i_1 - i_f \]

\[ (e_s - e_1) Y_s = e_i Y_{SF} - (e_o - e_1) Y_f \quad (IV-10) \]

but

\[ e_i = \frac{e_o}{A} \quad (IV-11) \]

then

\[ e_s Y_s - e_o \frac{Y_s}{A} = \frac{e_o}{A} (Y_{SF} + Y_f) - e_o Y_f \]

After simplification this becomes

\[ A_f = \frac{e_o}{e_s} = \frac{Y_s A}{Y_s + Y_{SF} - Y_f (A-1)} \quad (IV-12) \]

Observing this expression, and remembering feedback theory, it can be concluded that for the case when

\[ Y_f (A-1) = (Y_s + Y_{SF}) \quad (IV-13) \]

The denominator vanishes, and \( A_f \) becomes infinite. This corresponds to the unstable state, and oscillations will occur.

Nyquist's criterion could also be applied here in the form that
for stable operation, the relation

\[ Y_f (A-1) < (Y_s + Y_{SF}) \]  \hspace{1cm} (IV-14)

should hold for all frequencies.

The above discussion of stability was very generalized. To take into account other requirements that the amplifier must meet simultaneously, substitute \( Y_{SF} \) and \( Y_f \) from Figure 14 (page 30)

\[ A_f = \frac{Y_s A}{Y_s + Y_1 + \left[ Y_2 + Y_C + Y_{R_f} (A-1) - Y_{C_f} (A-1) \right]} \]  \hspace{1cm} (IV-15)

The quantity in brackets is the same as the one encountered in relation with the input impedance, see Equation (IV-5), page 31, and as mentioned before, this quantity should be made equal to zero in order to achieve high input impedance.

It follows then, that if the amplifier is designed for high input impedance, with (ideally) no shunt capacitance, the voltage amplification simply reduces to

\[ A_f = \frac{Y_s A}{Y_s + Y_1} \]  \hspace{1cm} (IV-16)

In this expression all the parameters are positive quantities, and therefore there is no danger of oscillations.

It would be of interest to compare the amplification with feedback, as given by Equation (IV-16), and the similar
amplification in the absence of feedback. This latter amplification can be found from Figure 14, as

\[ A_T = \frac{Y_S}{Y_S + Y_{SF}} \quad A \]  \hspace{1cm} (IV-17)

Since \( Y_{SF} > Y_1 \), the amplification with feedback is larger than the one without feedback.

In conclusion, the use of positive feedback for increasing the input impedance and eliminating the shunt input capacitance simultaneously yields a very stable amplifier.
V. AN EXPERIMENTAL HIGH INPUT IMPEDANCE WIDE BAND TRANSISTORIZED AMPLIFIER

This section is devoted to the description and discussion of an amplifier which was breadboarded and tested in the laboratory. This amplifier was assembled more to test the validity of the theory and criteria presented in previous sections than to demonstrate the practical aspects of amplifier design. It would be appropriate to mention at the onset that the components used, and this is especially true of the transistors used, are the ones immediately available rather than the choice of a sound judgement. The design was essentially made around the available FET, which happened to be an experimental unit made by Texas Instruments.

The amplifier built consists of three stages; a source follower input stage followed by two transistor (conventional transistors) stages. No theoretical discussion will be attempted for this particular amplifier since it would be essentially a repetition of the generalized theory presented earlier. However, use of the equations previously derived will be made whenever the occasion arises.

THE INPUT STAGE

Figure 15 shows a diagram of the source follower used
as the input stage, along with the value of each component. The FET used was a TI x 881, an experimental unit made by Texas Instruments. The drain source output characteristics are shown in Figure 4, page 7.

![DIAGRAM](image)

**Figure 15.** The source-follower input stage.

From the curves in this figure one can approximately compute (see FET equivalent circuit, page 12).

\[
\begin{align*}
\Delta e_D &= \Delta i_D \\
E_{g-s} &= -0.4 \text{ V}
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
r_D &= \frac{\Delta e_D}{\Delta i_D} \\
E_{g-s} &= -0.4 \text{ V}
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
g_m &= \frac{\Delta i_D}{\Delta e} \\
E_{D-s} &= 10 \text{ V}
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\Delta E &= \frac{3}{0.03 \times 0.03} = 100 \text{ K ohms (V-1)}
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\Delta E &= \frac{0.16 \times 10^{-3}}{0.2} = 800 \mu\text{mhos (V-2)}
\end{align*}
\]
From the characteristics of Figure 4 it is seen that for linear operations this FET should have a drain-source bias of over 10 volts. This voltage serves no vital functional purpose, and being rather high makes this FET rather incompatible for use with conventional transistors which usually are operated at low voltages. Notice that the source follower of Figure 15 requires a d-c supply of 20 volts, which is rather high for transistor circuits. Thus, in the interest of better compatibility with conventional transistors it would be desirable to have FETs with low pinch off voltage (refer to page 8).

Computation of the input impedance and voltage amplification requires a knowledge of the load, $Z_L$. In this case the load was the input impedance of the next stage, and it would be better to briefly discuss the following stage before performing any computations.

**THE SECOND AND THIRD STAGES**

It should be remembered that the purpose of the second and third stages is to isolate the signal to be feedback, and to provide amplification such that the overall amplification of the whole amplifier is larger than one.

These amplifying stages have to be designed for wide band
amplification, to be compatible with the ultimate goal. Furthermore, since the voltage amplification of the first stage is a function of the load, these amplifying stages must present a relatively high input impedance; that is high with respect to $R_K$ of Figure 10 (page 15) as can be deduced from Equations (III-3) and (III-6). The two requirements mentioned here are nicely met by a common-emitter amplifier with emitter degeneration. The two stages were designed identically the same and are as shown in Figure 16.

$$E_{CC} = +20 \text{ V}.$$

![Figure 16. Second and third amplifier stages.](image-url)
The four zener diodes shown in the diagram were necessary to make the transistors compatible with 20 d-c supply required by the FET. The transistors used were Fairchild's 2N709; these transistors are switching transistors, but were the only high frequency transistors available. The disadvantage of the 2N709 is the low collector-emitter breakdown voltage -- in the neighborhood of three to four volts. The variable inductor shown was used for series peaking in order to improve the frequency response. The low frequency $\beta'$s were measured at

$$\beta_1 = 60 \quad (V-3)$$

$$\beta_2 = 160 \quad (V-4)$$

**VOLTAGE AMPLIFICATION FREQUENCY RESPONSE**

Figure 17 shows a complete diagram of the experimental amplifier built and tested.

The voltage amplification provided by the amplifier is

$$A = \frac{e_0}{e_1} \quad (V-5)$$

This voltage ratio is independent of whether the feedback branch is connected or not; it is also independent of the signal source resistance, $R_s$. Figure 18 shows a graph of the voltage amplification vs. frequency. If the minus three db's points are
Figure 17. Complete diagram of the experimental amplifier.
taken as the limits, then the amplifier has a band width extending from 30 cps to about 10 Mc. Figure 18 also shows the voltage amplification frequency response for the source follower. This voltage amplification was measured in the circuit of Figure 17 as

\[ A_{SF} = \frac{e_{oSF}}{e_1} \]  

(V-6)

It can be seen from Figure 18 that the bandwidth is limited by the two transistorized stages rather than by the source follower; this simply suggests that if a better amplifying stage could be obtained the overall response would be better. The measured overall voltage gain was found to be

\[ A = 4.58 \]  

(V-7)

As it will be shown further on, it is not necessary to have this much voltage gain. Therefore, one immediate solution to improving the frequency response would be trading gain for bandwidth.

When computing the theoretical voltage amplification of the source follower, notice that the input impedance of the second stage, at low frequencies and disregarding the base biasing network is

\[ Z_{in} = \beta_1 R_{E1} = (60)(190) = 11.4 \, \text{K}\Omega \]

Taking the base biasing network into account

\[ Z_{in} = 7.1 \, \text{K}\Omega \]  

(V-8)
Figure 18. Voltage amplification frequency response.
By substituting this value and the values given by Equations (V-1) and (V-2), and the values shown in Figure 17 into Equation (III-6) it is possible to evaluate the source follower voltage amplification at low frequencies. Assuming $R_G \ll R_3$ in Figure 12, the approximate value is

$$A_{SF} = 0.58$$

(V-9)

which agrees reasonably well with the measured value (Figure 18) of

$$A_{SF} = 0.56$$

(V-10)

INPUT IMPEDANCE MEASURING TECHNIQUE

The measurement of the input impedance requires special care, because high impedances are involved. The technique here used can be better described by referring to Figure 19 where the amplifier (between points (1)-(1) to (2)-(2) in Figure 17) has been divided into an input impedance $Z_{in}$ and an ideal amplifier (infinite input impedance) with a voltage amplification "A". This representation is valid whether the feedback is present or not, the only difference being $Z_{in}$.

Since the voltage amplification "A" is known for all frequencies of interest from the graph of Figure 18, it is possible to
Figure 19. Circuit arrangement for measuring the input impedance.

determine \( e_1 \) in Figure 19 by simply measuring \( e_o \). This procedure enables taking the measurement across a relatively low impedance as is the output of the amplifier; therefore, the input impedance of the measuring instrument introduces very negligible error, which would not be true if \( e_1 \) were measured directly.

Determining \( Z_{in} \) effectively reduces to determining \( R_{in} \) and \( C_{in} \). This can be done as follows. For the voltage divider consisting of \( R_S \) and \( Z_{in} \) one can write

\[
e_1 = \frac{Z_{in}}{R_S + Z_{in}} e_S
\]

Using Laplace transformation

\[
Z_{in} = \frac{R_{in}}{R_{in} + \frac{1}{sC_{in}}} = \frac{R_{in}}{R_{in}} \frac{1}{sC_{in}} s + 1
\]
Substituting this into Equation (V-11) and simplifying, the following ratio is found

$$
\frac{e_1}{e_S} = \frac{1}{\frac{R_S}{1} + \frac{C_{in}}{s + \frac{R_S R_{in}}{R_S + R_{in}}}}
$$

(V-13)

For sinusoidal voltages, this can easily be shown to become

$$
\frac{e_1}{e_S} = \frac{1}{\frac{R_S}{1} + \frac{C_{in}}{j \omega + \frac{R_S R_{in}}{R_S + R_{in}}}}
$$

(V-14)

From either Equation (V-13) or (V-14) it is seen that at low frequencies (below the corner frequency), the ratio simply becomes

$$
\frac{e_1}{e_S} = \frac{1}{\frac{R_S}{1} + \frac{C_{in}}{R_S + R_{in}}} = \frac{R_{in}}{R_S + R_{in}}
$$

(V-15)

or solving for $R_{in}$

$$
R_{in} = \frac{R_S}{\frac{e_S}{e_1} - 1}
$$

(V-16)

At low frequencies $e_S$ and $e_1$ are in phase and by
measuring their magnitudes and knowing the value of \( R_S \) it is easy to compute the value of \( R_{in} \).

The quantity of Equation (V-14) is complex and can be fully characterized by a magnitude and an angle. However, it is also possible to deal only with the magnitudes, thus

\[
\begin{align*}
|e_1| &= \frac{1}{R_S C_{in}} \\
|e_S| &= \left| jW + \frac{1}{R_S \frac{R_{in}}{R_S + R_{in}} C_{in}} \right|
\end{align*}
\]  

(V-17)

By simply measuring the magnitude of \( e_1 \) and \( e_S \) for different frequencies it is possible to obtain a plot of the magnitude of Equation (V-17) with frequency. This yields a graph similar to the Bode diagram. In this diagram one could easily recognize the corner frequency at which the magnitude has dropped to 0.707 of its magnitude at lower frequencies. From Equation (V-17) it is also seen that at the corner frequency, \( W_0 \),

\[
W_0 = \frac{1}{R_S \frac{R_{in}}{R_S + R_{in}} C_{in}} 
\]  

(V-18)

from which

\[
C_{in} = \frac{1}{R_S \frac{R_{in}}{R_S + R_{in}} W_0} 
\]  

(V-19)
This expression gives the input capacitance function of the corner frequency, $W_0$, and the parallel combination of $R_S$ and $R_{in}$.

**INPUT IMPEDANCE FREQUENCY CHARACTERISTICS**

Figure 20 shows curves corresponding to Equation (V-17) determined experimentally; this includes both for the amplifier without feedback and with feedback. There are also additional curves for the case of different values of capacitance, $C_f$ in Figure 17, used in the feedback circuit. These curves, it should be emphasized, do not represent in themselves $Z_{in}$ vs. frequency; however they do contain a qualitative indication of $Z_{in}$. As mentioned above, and since the same value of $R_S$ was used throughout, their curves, at the lower frequencies, are closely associated to $R_{in}$ (see Equation V-16), and the corner frequency is associated with $C_{in}$ (see Equation V-19). From these curves, qualitatively, the higher the value of $R_{in}$ the greater the magnitude of these curves at the low frequencies, and the lower $C_{in}$ the higher the corner frequency.

For the case of no feedback, from the corresponding curve of Figure 20 and Equations (V-17) and (V-19), it was
Figure 20. $\log \left| \frac{e_1}{e_s} \right|$ vs frequency.

Qualitative indication of amplifier input impedance variation with frequency.
Similarly when feedback was applied the following results were obtained (see corresponding curves in Figure 20).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$R_f$</th>
<th>$C_f$</th>
<th>$R_{in}$</th>
<th>$C_{in}$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22 MΩ</td>
<td>0 pf.</td>
<td>20.7 MΩ</td>
<td>9.36 pf.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 MΩ</td>
<td>2 pf.</td>
<td>20.7 MΩ</td>
<td>3.83 pf.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 MΩ</td>
<td>2.5 pf.</td>
<td>20.7 MΩ</td>
<td>1.7 pf.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the above results the improvement in input impedance is quite evident.

Although only one value of resistance was used in the feedback branch, three different values of capacitance, $C_f$, were used. The curves of Figure 20 depict the influence of this $C_f$ on the input impedance vs. frequency. For $C_f = 2$ pf, the curve shows a flat portion and then decays gradually at higher frequencies as would be expected of circuits containing $R$ and $C$ in parallel. The curve corresponding to $C_f = 2.5 \pm 0.25$ pf, however, shows a little hump at around the corner frequency. This response is associated with overcompensation, that is the value of $C_f$ is larger than required, or referring to Equation (IV-7) it is such
that

\[ Y_C \left( A-1 \right) > Y_C \]  

(V-25)

The value of the input resistance with positive feedback applied, \( R_{in-f} \), can also be found theoretically. This requires a knowledge of the voltage gain, \( A \), the feedback resistance, \( R_f \), and the input resistance without feedback, \( R_{in} \). From earlier discussion it should be remembered that the positive feedback essentially produces a negative resistance in shunt with \( R_{in} \).

The value of this negative resistance is, from Equation (IV-6),

\[
- \frac{R_f}{A-1} = - \frac{22 \times 10^6}{4.58-1} = -6.15 \text{ M\Omega} 
\]

(V-26)

When this negative resistance is combined in parallel with \( R_{in} \) there results

\[
R_{in-f} = \left( \frac{4.8 \times 10^6}{4.8 \times 10^6 - 6.15 \times 10^6} \right) (-6.15 \times 10^6) = 21.8 \text{ M\Omega} 
\]

(V-27)

which would be the value of the input resistance with positive feedback. This theoretical result compares quite well with the measured value of 20.7 M\Omega.

By reversing the above process it would be possible to estimate the required value of \( R_f \) for any predetermined value of input resistance. Thus, positive feedback provides a flexible
and easy way of obtaining any desired input resistance.

Theoretically, as it was mentioned earlier, the input capacitance, \( C_{\text{in}} \), could be completely eliminated. In practice this is not quite true; there is always some stray capacitance present. Positive feedback, nevertheless, as demonstrated by the experimental results, is of definite help in minimizing this input capacitance. The amplifier tested was simply assembled in a bread-board, and no extra special care was given to proper component layout. In any amplifier constructed properly, it can confidently be stated that the input capacitance can be reduced to fractions of one picofarad.

Going back to Equation (IV-6), which essentially represents the resistance to be subtracted from the input resistance,

\[
\frac{R_2}{R_f} = \frac{1}{(A-1)}
\]

solving for \( R_f \)

\[
R_f' = R_2 (A-1)
\]

For high input impedance \( R_2 \) will be in the megaohm region, and \( R_f \) will be \((A-1)\) times higher. For high values of voltage amplification Equation (V-29) could give rather impractically high values of \( R_f' \). From this consideration, it would be better to have low values of voltage amplification. Since the only requirement is
for the voltage amplification to be larger than unity, values be-
tween two and three seem to be adequate.
VI. CONCLUSION

In this thesis it has been shown that the Field Effect Transistor, FET, is inherently a high input impedance device. It was further shown that the FET used in the source-follower configuration provides high input impedance, wideband voltage amplification, and low output impedance. These were found to be desirable characteristics in the development of high input impedance wideband amplifiers. Next, the theory of positive feedback as applied to high input impedance amplifiers was presented; it was shown that this type of feedback can be advantageously used for increasing the input impedance. Under proper design, it was found, the possibility of oscillations can be completely eliminated. Positive feedback was also shown to have no effect on the voltage amplification of the amplifier itself; however, when the signal source internal resistance is considered in the overall amplification, positive feedback was found to keep the overall amplification higher because of the increased amplifier input impedance.

The experimental amplifier, built and tested in the laboratory, was found to have a bandwidth of from 30 cps to around 10 Mc if the minus three db points are taken as the limits. The
input impedance obtained is indicated in the following table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>No Feedback</th>
<th>With Feedback</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$R_{in}$</td>
<td>4.8 MΩ</td>
<td>30.7 MΩ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$C_{in}$</td>
<td>12.6 pf.</td>
<td>1.7 pf</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SOME CLOSING REMARKS**

It was the aim of this thesis to develop the necessary criteria for the design of high input impedance wide band amplifiers; this much has been successfully accomplished. However, there still remains two other important areas to be investigated before the above described experimental amplifier can be confidently used, and these areas are: stability with temperature variations, and the noise level.

As already pointed out, the experimental amplifier was assembled using whatever component was available and no special regard was given to temperature stability or noise level. For the case of conventional transistors, there are well established criteria for the design of highly stable low noise amplifiers. These criteria could undoubtedly be applied to the amplifier described in this thesis, assuming there is a flexible choice of components. As for the input stage containing the FET this much can be stated: First, the FET inherently has a lower noise level
than conventional transistors (see page 6); and second, the temperature variations are similar to that of conventional transistors suggesting that similar criteria could be applied.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


