

A second-order low-pass filter can be described by [1]  $H(j\omega) = H_{0LP}H_{LP}(j\omega)$ , where  $H_{0LP}$  is a constant, and

$$H_{LP}(j\omega) = \frac{1}{1 - (\omega/\omega_0)^2 + (j\omega/\omega_0)/Q}.$$
 (1)

For a "*KRC*" or "Sallen-Key" low-pass second-order filter (shown in the figure) [1], the gain block (which determines  $H_{0LP}$ ) is a non-inverting Op Amp amplifier circuit with gain

$$K = H_{0LP} = 1 + \frac{R_B}{R_A}.$$
 (2)

To derive the complete transfer function, we use

$$V_o = K \frac{1}{R_2 C_2 s + 1} V_1 \,. \tag{3}$$

Writing KCL at node  $V_1$  and eliminating  $V_1$ , we get

$$H(s) = \frac{V_o(s)}{V_i(s)} = \frac{K}{R_1 C_1 R_2 C_2 s^2 + \left[(1 - K)R_1 C_1 + R_1 C_2 + R_2 C_2\right]s + 1}.$$
(4)

Comparing with Eq. 1, we can write

$$\omega_0 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{R_1 C_1 R_2 C_2}},\tag{5}$$

$$Q = \frac{1}{(1-K)\sqrt{R_1C_1/R_2C_2} + \sqrt{R_1C_2/R_2C_1} + \sqrt{R_2C_2/R_1C_1}}.$$
(6)

Note that K (the low-frequency gain) and Q (which determines the shape of  $H(j\omega)$ ) depend on component ratios while  $\omega_0$  depends on the actual values of the components.

For  $R_1 = R_2 = R$  and  $C_1 = C_2 = C$ , the above equations simplify to

$$H_{0LP} = K, \ \omega_0 = \frac{1}{RC}, \ Q = \frac{1}{3-K}.$$
 (7)

## Exercise Set

- 1. Plot the magnitude frequency response (log-log plot) and verify the circuit functionality. In particular, verify the value of K and the asymtotic behaviour of  $H(j\omega)$ , viz., a drop of -40 dB/decade at high frequencies.
- 2. Change component values, keeping their ratios the same, and observe how  $H(j\omega)$  is affected.
- 3. Increase  $C_1$  by a factor of 2, and observe its effect on  $H(j\omega)$ .
- 4. Change  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  such that their product remains constant, but their ratio is different. For example, (i)  $C_1 = 10 \text{ nF}$ ,  $C_2 = 10 \text{ nF}$ , (ii)  $C_1 = 5 \text{ nF}$ ,  $C_2 = 20 \text{ nF}$ , (iii)  $C_1 = 8 \text{ nF}$ ,  $C_2 = 12.5 \text{ nF}$ . Observe its effect on  $H(j\omega)$ .

## References

- S. Franco, Design with Operation Amplifiers and Analog Integrated Circuits, McGraw-Hill, 1998.
- 2. J. Millman and A. Grabel, *Microelectronics*, McGraw-Hill, 1988.