

Contents

Chapter 1 - Introduction to SPICE 1

1.1. Fast Start 2

Example 1. Uncompensated voltage divider 2

1.2. dc Analysis 6

Example 1. Diode characteristics 6

Example 2. *nnp-pnp* transistor amplifier 10

Example 3. dc characteristics of bipolar transistor 15

1.3. ac analysis 17

Example 1. Series resonant circuit 17

1.4. Transient Analysis 20

Example 1. Simple *RC* circuit 21

Example 2. Voltage quadrupler circuit 22

1.5. Subcircuits 24

Example 1. Ring oscillator 24

1.6. Device models and Monte Carlo analysis 26

Example 1. Low-pass 8th order Chebyshev filter 27

1.7. References 31

Chapter 2 - Solving Problems with SPICE 32

2.1. Introduction 32

2.2. Solid-State Electronics 32

Example 1. Carrier mobility as a function of impurity doping 33

Example 2. Resistivity of silicon as a function of impurity concentration 34

Example 3. Intrinsic carrier concentration in silicon as a function of temperature 36

Example 4. Fermi potentials in silicon as a function of impurity concentrations and temperature 37

2.3. Diodes 38

Example 1. Diode temperature characteristics 38

Example 2. Voltage stabilization with the Zener diode 39

Example 3. Simple power supply 41

Example 4. Full wave rectifier circuit 43

Example 5. Full bridge rectifier circuit 45

Example 6. dc-dc converter 47

Example 7. Waveform shaping circuit 48

Example 8. Clamping circuit 49

2.4. Field-Effect Transistors 50

Example 1. Comparison of level 1 and level 2 MOS models 50

Example 2. Effect of substrate biasing on MOS transistor characteristics 52

Example 3. Biasing a MOS transistor 53

Example 4. Biasing a junction FET transistor 55

2.5. Bipolar Junction Transistors 56

Example 1. Bipolar transistor collector characteristics 56

Example 2. Bipolar transistor transfer characteristics 57

Example 3. Simple biasing of a bipolar transistor 58

Example 4. Improved biasing for the bipolar transistor 59

Example 5. Bipolar transistor as a simple switch 60

Example 6. Bipolar transistor switch with Schottky diode clamping 61

Example 7. Improved bipolar transistor switch with Schottky diode clamping 62

2.6. Introduction to Digital Electronics 64

Example 1. Diode OR and AND gates 64

Example 2. DTL NAND gate 65

2.7. MOS Logic 66

Example 1. NMOS inverter using two identical transistors 66

Example 2. Comparison of NMOS inverters 68

2.8. CMOS Logic 70

Example 1. Chain of CMOS inverters 70

Example 2. dc transfer characteristics of CMOS inverter 72

Example 3. CMOS NAND gate 72

2.9. Memories 74

Example 1. CMOS static memory cell with sense amplifier 74

Example 2. Domino dynamic gate 76

2.10. Bipolar Transistor Logic 78

Example 1. Schottky TTL NAND gate 78

Example 2. ECL OR gate 79

2.11. Analog Systems 80

Example 1. Simple first-order circuits 80

Example 2. Low-pass 5-th order Chebyshev ladder filter 82

2.12. Operational Amplifiers 83

Example 1. Inverting and noninverting amplifiers 83

Example 2. Transfer characteristics of a nonideal operational amplifier 84

Example 3. Frequency characteristics of a nonideal operational amplifier 87

Example 4. Second-order low-pass filter 90

- Example 5. Second-order band-pass filter 91
- Example 6. High-precision diode circuit 93
- Example 7. Astable multivibrator 94
- Example 8. Piecewise linear transfer function 95
- Example 9. Magnitude limiting circuit 97

2.13. Small-Signal Models 99

- Example 1. Small-signal model of common-emitter configuration 99
- Example 2. Small-signal model of common-collector configuration 100
- Example 3. Small-signal model of common-base configuration 101
- Example 4. Small-signal model of a MOS amplifier 102

2.14. Single Stage Amplifiers 103

- Example 1. Emitter follower 103
- Example 2. Distortion analysis in the common-source amplifier 104
- Example 3. Load line for the common-source amplifier 105
- Example 4. Single-stage bipolar transistor amplifier 106
- Example 5. Transient response of a single-stage bipolar transistor amplifier 107
- Example 6. Single-stage CG MOS transistor amplifier 109

2.15. Multistage Amplifiers 110

- Example 1. Differential amplifier 110
- Example 2. Opamp prototype with MOS transistors 111
- Example 3. Class AB amplifier 112
- Example 4. Power amplifier 113

2.16. Analog Integrated Circuits 115

- Example 1. NMOS current mirror with gain of 100 115
- Example 2. Temperature characteristics of Widlar current source 116
- Example 3. Comparison of simple and cascode current mirrors 117
- Example 4. High-gain differential amplifier 118

2.17. Frequency Response 119

- Example 1. Frequency response of a given transfer function 119
- Example 2. Frequency response of second-order low-pass transfer function 121
- Example 3. Transient response of second order low-pass filter 122
- Example 4. Transient Response of a second order band-pass Chebyshev filter 123
- Example 5. Frequency response of a common-emitter amplifier 124

2.18. Feedback, Stability and Oscillators 125

- Example 1. Stability of an uncompensated operational amplifier 125
- Example 2. Phase-lead compensation of an amplifier 127
- Example 3. Wien-bridge oscillator 129

Chapter 3 - Introduction to Numerical Analysis of Electronic Circuits 130

3.1. Matrix Formation for Nodal Analysis 131

- 3.1.1. Resistors 132
- 3.1.2. Independent current sources 132
- 3.1.3. Voltage-controlled current sources 133
- 3.1.4. Example with the standard **Y** matrix approach 133
- 3.1.5. Independent voltage sources 134
- 3.1.6. Current-controlled current sources 134
- 3.1.7. Voltage-controlled voltage sources 135
- 3.1.8. Current-controlled voltage sources 135
- 3.1.9. Example with the modified **Y** matrix approach 136
- 3.1.10. Capacitors and inductors 137

3.2. dc Analysis 137

3.3. ac Analysis 139

3.4. Transient Analysis 140

3.5. Writing Your Own Code for dc Analysis 142

- 3.5.1. Resistive ladder-type circuit 142
- 3.5.2. Nonlinear circuit with resistor and diode 144
- 3.5.3. Bipolar transistor biasing 146
- 3.5.4. MOS transistor biasing without substrate effect 147
- 3.5.5. MOS transistor biasing with substrate effect 148

3.6. Writing Your Own Code for ac Analysis 149

- 3.6.1. Frequency response using the SPICE type of algorithm 149
- 3.6.2. Frequency response of *LC* ladder circuit 151

3.7. Writing Your Own Code for Transient Analysis 152

- 3.7.1. Transient response of the resonant circuit 153
- 3.7.2. Transient response of *RC* circuit 154

Chapter 4 - Declarations and Command Statements 155

*** - Comment Line 156**

; - Comment in a Statement 156

.AC- ac Analysis 157

.CONTROL - Beginning of the Control Script 157

.DC - dc Sweep Analysis 158

.DISTO - Distortion Analysis 159

.END - End of the Circuit Definition 160

.ENDC - End of the Control Script 160

.ENDS - End of the Subcircuit Declaration 161

.EXTERNAL - External Port 161

.FOUR - Fourier Analysis 161
.FUNC - Function Definition 162
.IC - Initial Bias-Point Condition 163
.INC- Include File 163
.LIB- Include Data From a Library 163
.LOADBIAS- Load Bias-Point File 164
.MC - Monte Carlo Analysis 164
.MODEL - Model Declaration 165
.NODESET - Set Node Parameters 168
.NOISE - Noise Analysis 168
.OP - Operating Point Statement 169
.OPTIONS - Option statement 169
.PARAM - Parameter Statement 172
.PLOT - Plot Statement 173
.PRINT - Print Table 174
.PROBE - Save Data for the Probe Program 175
.SAVE - Save Data for Nutmeg Program 176
.SAVEBIAS - Save Bias Point Data 176
.SENS - Sensitivity Analysis 177
.STEP - Parametric Analysis 178
.SUBCKT - Subcircuit Definition 179
.TEMP - Temperature Statement 180
.TEXT - Text Parameter Definition 180
.TF - Transfer Function 181
.TRAN - Transient Analysis 181
.WATCH - Watch Analysis Results 182
.WCASE - Worst Case Analysis 182
.WIDTH - Width Statement 183

Chapter 5 - Circuit Elements 184

B - Nonlinear Dependent Source 185

B - GaAs FET 189

1. GaAs FET model 189
2. Model parameters 189

C - Capacitor 192

1. Model parameters 193

D - Diode 194

1. Diode model 194
2. Model parameters 194

E - Voltage-Controlled Voltage Source 196

1. Function used in PSPICE 197

F - Current-Controlled Current Source 198

G - Voltage-Controlled Current Source 199

H - Current-Controlled Voltage Source 200***I - Independent Current Source 201***

1. Pulse waveforms 202
2. Sine waves 203
3. Exponential waveforms 204
4. Piecewise linear waveforms 205
5. FM waveforms 206

J - JFET 207

1. JFET models 207
2. Model parameters 208

K - Mutual Coupling 209

1. Core model 210
2. Model parameters 210

L - Inductor 211***M - MOS Transistor 212***

1. MOS transistor models 213
2. Parameters of MOS transistor models 213

O - Lossy Transmission Lines (LTRA) 218

1. LTRA model 218
2. Model parameters 218

Q - Bipolar Transistor 220

1. Bipolar transistor models 220
2. Parameters of bipolar transistor model (modified Gummel-Poon model) 220

R - Resistor 224

1. Resistor model 225
2. Model parameters 225

S - Voltage Controlled Switch 225

1. SW model 226
2. SW model parameters 226
3. VSWITCH model 226
4. VSWITCH model parameters 226

T - Transmission Lines 227

1. TRN model 228
2. Model parameters 228

U - Uniform Distributed RC Lines (URC) 229

1. URC model 229
2. Model parameters 229

V - Independent Voltage Source 230

1. Pulse waveforms 231
2. Sine waves 232
3. Exponential waveforms 233
4. Piecewise linear waveforms 234
5. FM waveforms 235

W - Current-Controlled Switch 236

1. CSW model 236
2. Model parameters 236

X - Subcircuit Calls 238

Z - MESFET 238

1. MESFET models 239
2. Model parameters 239

Chapter 6 - Models of Semiconductor Devices 238

B - GaAs FET 239

1. Model parameters 239
2. Equivalent diagram 242
3. Model equations 242

D - Diode 246

1. Model parameters 246
2. Equivalent diagram 247
3. Model equations 247

J - JFET 250

1. Model parameters 250
2. Equivalent diagram 251
3. Model equations 251

M - MOS Transistor 254

1. Parameters of MOS transistor models 254
2. Equivalent diagrams 259
3. Model equations for level 1 (Shichman-Hodges) 260
4. Model equations for level 2 (Meyer) 265
5. Model equations for level 3 (Dang model) 268
6. Model equations for level 4 (BISIM1 model) 270

Q - Bipolar Transistor 273

1. Parameters of bipolar transistor model 273
2. Equivalent diagram 275
3. Model equations 276

Z - MESFET 282

1. Model parameters 282

2. Equivalent diagram 283
3. Model equations 283

Preface

Computerized Circuit Analysis Using SPICE Programs was written to assist in teaching application of computer-aids to the circuit design process. Although it is primarily intended for students of electronics, the introductory material is also suitable for basic circuits courses. The in-depth discussion of the capability of SPICE and its semiconductor device models will also be highly useful to graduate students involved in analog and digital VLSI design.

Chapter 1 provides an overview and introduction to SPICE that facilitate a "quick start" with SPICE circuit simulation. The first chapter covers the basic SPICE language and analysis capabilities. Chapter 2 follows with an extensive set of examples that explore the wide range of analysis modes available in SPICE. The sections in Chapter 2 are keyed to follow the chapter sequence in the text Microelectronic Circuit Design by Jaeger. Chapter 3 presents a brief overview of some of the numerical analysis methods used internally in SPICE programs including the modified nodal analysis formulation as well as techniques for iterative problem solution that can be used on calculators or personal computers.

A unique feature of this text is its documentation of the similarities and differences among the most widely used implementations of SPICE: SPICE2, SPICE3 and PSPICE. Chapters 4 and 5 detail the Declarations, Command Statements and Circuit Element descriptions as well as their limitations as found in the various versions of SPICE. Because of this material, our book should be a valuable reference source for even the most experienced SPICE user.

In order to effectively apply the wide range of semiconductor models that are found in SPICE, one must understand both the model equations and the details of the multitude of user-specified parameters for each model. Chapter 6 documents the model equations and parameter sets for the most commonly employed models of the semiconductor devices and again provides important reference material for SPICE users at all levels.

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