

Lucas M. Faulkenberry

AN INTRODUCTION TO OPERATIONAL AMPLIFIERS WITH LINEAR IC APPLICATIONS



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WITH LINEAR IC APPLICATIONS

SECOND EDITION

Lucas M. Faulkenberry
TEXAS STATE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE



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PREFACE

The second edition of this textbook is designed to introduce the student of electronics to operational amplifier operation, parameters, parameter measurement, and basic operational amplifier circuitry in a clear and easily understandable way. In addition, some special purpose linear circuits and amplifiers are presented. All material is presented with a minimum of mathematics consistent with reasonable accuracy. Practical considerations for component calculation and circuit set-up are emphasized throughout the text and laboratories, and important calculations are illustrated by worked examples.

The book is intended as a text for a one-semester course in operational amplifier theory and applications in community colleges, technical institutes, and two- and four-year technology programs. It is also intended for the working electronic technician who needs more information about operational amplifiers.

Each chapter consists of an introduction, objectives, text material and examples, a brief summary, self-test questions, and a laboratory. The laboratories are constructed to use commonly available test equipment that most schools have. The operational amplifiers specified are in widespread use. No special, hard to obtain components or supplies are required. Laboratory experiments are included from which instructors will select those parts of a laboratory exercise of greatest benefit for their particular classes.

Chapters 8, 10, and 11 are new in the second edition. Chapter 8 presents several types of active filters with an absolute minimum of mathematics. The student will, however, be able to construct high performance active filters on completing the chapter. Chapter 10 presents linear and switching power supply voltage regulators.

Both general principles and IC regulators are included. Chapter 11 introduces some special purpose IC amplifiers including comparators and some comparator applications, current differencing amplifiers, instrumentation amplifiers, and isolation amplifiers. 555 timers are also covered in Chapter 11. The rest of the changes in the book are things the author wishes he had done the first time. These primarily include clearer explanations and more examples.

The author does not feel that the sequencing of the chapters is sacred and expects an instructor to sequence the chapters in a manner that suits that instructor's course, as the author did. Some teachers prefer moving from Chapter 1 to Chapter 5 and the latter portion of the text, returning to the earlier chapters (2, 3, and 4) later. The text is intended to function well in this fashion.

The coverage of the book is as follows: Chapter 1 introduces the operational amplifier, its operation, and the basic amplifier configurations. Chapter 2 discusses negative feedback more generally, introduces some sources of error resulting from nonideal amplifiers, and explains external offset compensation. Chapter 3 covers bias current, CMRR, and their measurement, error due to temperature, and chop-stabilization. Chapter 4 covers frequency response, methods of phase compensation, and slew rate. Chapter 5 covers summing circuits. Chapter 6 covers integrators and differentiators. Chapter 7 presents logarithmic circuits and Chapter 8 active filters. Chapter 9 is a collection of circuits that illustrate common operational amplifier applications. Chapters 10 and 11 are on voltage regulators and special purpose linear ICs, respectively. Chapter 12 discusses noise and grounding. Appendix A is a differential amplifier review, and Appendix B is a discussion of the 741 internal operation. Appendix C is a collection of specifications. Appendixes D, E, and F are derivations too long for the text material. Appendix G is the answers to the self-test questions. A glossary of symbols and terms is included at the end of the book.

The student will need a basic understanding of transistors and algebra to use this text successfully. Chapter 7 uses some elementary differentiation and integration, but this small amount of calculus can be presented during the course, or read around.

My thanks to all who have provided guidance and support in the preparation of this text, especially to the curious and interested students whose questions forced the author to find simple and *clear* explanations.

Luces M. Faulkenberry

CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1 THE BASIC OP-AMP	1
1-1 What is an Op-Amp?	1
1-2 Terminals of an Operational Amplifier	5
1-3 Some Specifications	5
1-4 Summing-Point Restraints	7
1-5 Voltage Follower	7
1-6 Noninverting Amplifier	8
1-7 Inverting Amplifier	11
1-8 Differential Input Amplifier	13
1-9 Differential Output Amplifier (Balanced)	16
Summary	17
Self-Test Questions	18
Laboratory Exercise	18
CHAPTER 2 NEGATIVE FEEDBACK AND EXTERNAL OFFSET COMPENSATION	24
2-1 Effect of Negative Feedback on Gain	24
2-2 Effect of Negative Feedback on Output Resistance	26
2-3 Effect of Negative Feedback on Input Resistance	28

2-4 Nonideal Noninverting Amplifier	30
2-5 Nonideal Inverting Amplifier	32
2-6 External Offset Compensation	35
Summary	38
Self-Test Questions	40
Laboratory Exercise	40
CHAPTER 3 BIAS CURRENT, CMRR, TEMPERATURE DRIFT, AND CHOPPER STABILIZATION	44
3-1 Bias Current and Measurement	44
3-2 Common-Mode Rejection Ratio (CMRR)	46
3-3 Measuring CMRR	50
3-4 Temperature-Sensitive Parameters	52
3-5 Errors Caused by $\Delta V_{os}/\Delta T$ and $\Delta I_{os}/\Delta T$	52
3-6 Chopper Stabilization	55
3-7 Varactor Diode Carrier Op-Amp	57
3-8 Current-to-Voltage Converters	58
Summary	59
Self-Test Questions	60
Laboratory Exercise	61
CHAPTER 4 FREQUENCY-RELATED CHARACTERISTICS	64
4-1 Frequency Response	64
4-2 Decibel Review	67
4-3 Roll-Off Rate	70
4-4 Multistage Roll-Off Rate	71
1. Phase Response	75
2. Frequency Response with Feedback	75
3. Gain-Bandwidth Product	78
4. Oscillation	79
5. Stability Criteria	82
6. Phase Margin	85
7. Slew Rate	85
4-5 Lag-Phase Compensation	87
4-6 Other Methods of Phase Compensation	93
1. Miller-Effect Compensation	93
2. Input-Stage Compensation	94

3. Feedforward Compensation	94
4. Brute-Force Compensation	94
5. Equalizing Input Capacitance	97
4-7 RC Selection Note	97
4-8 Stabilizing Capacitive Loads	98
Summary	99
Self-Test Questions	100
Laboratory Exercise	101
CHAPTER 5 SUMMING CIRCUITS	105
5-1 Inverting Adder	105
5-2 Scaling Adder	106
5-3 Adder-Subtractor	109
5-4 Direct Adder	113
5-5 Simultaneous Equation Solution	114
5-6 Proportional Control	118
5-7 Signal Mixer	121
Summary	123
Self-Test Questions	123
Laboratory Exercise	124
CHAPTER 6 INTEGRATORS AND DIFFERENTIATORS	129
6-1 Integrator	129
6-2 Practical Integrator Considerations	132
6-3 Integrator Frequency Response	134
6-4 Bounding	136
6-5 Summing Integrator	138
6-6 Augmenting Integrator	138
6-7 Differential Integrator	139
6-8 Three-Mode Integrator	140
6-9 Double Integrator	142
6-10 Differentiator	143
6-11 Differentiator Stabilization	144
6-12 Compensated Differentiator as a Filter	146
6-13 Some Differentiator Waveforms	147
6-14 Summing Differentiator	151
6-15 Augmenting Differentiator	151

6-16 Difference Differentiator	152
6-17 Solving a Differential Equation	152
Summary	156
Self-Test Questions	158
Laboratory Exercise	158
CHAPTER 7 LOGARITHMIC CIRCUITS	162
7-1 The Logarithm Circuit	162
7-2 A More Sophisticated Log Circuit	167
7-3 Antilog Amplifier	168
7-4 Multiplying Circuit	169
7-5 Divider Circuit	171
7-6 Log-Ratio Circuit	173
7-7 Function Synthesizer	174
7-8 Signal Compression	177
Summary	177
Self-Test Questions	179
Laboratory Exercise	180
CHAPTER 8 ACTIVE FILTERS	183
8-1 Basic Filter Definitions	183
1. Advantages of Active Filters	185
2. Limitations of Chapter 8	185
8-2 Poles and Transition Region Response	186
8-3 Types of Filter Response	187
1. Butterworth	187
2. Chebyshev	187
3. Bessel	190
4. Other Responses	191
5. Some Definitions	191
6. Components	193
8-4 Some Types of Active Filters	194
1. Sallen and Key (VCVS)	194
2. Multiple Feedback	195
3. State Variable	195
4. Biquadratic (Biquad)	198

8-5 Component Calculation Procedures and Examples	199
1. Sallen and Key Equal Component Low-Pass Filter	199
2. Sallen and Key Equal Component Second-Order High-Pass Filter	202
3. Multiple-Feedback Band-Pass Filter	203
4. State-Variable Filters	206
5. Biquad Band-Pass Filter	212
8-6 Cascading Filters	214
1. Cascading for Higher Order Responses	214
8-7 Gyration	224
1. Calculation of Gyration Components	225
Summary	226
Active Filter Reference List	226
Self-Test Questions	227
Laboratory Exercise	228
CHAPTER 9 CIRCUIT SELECTION	234
9-1 Peak Detector	234
9-2 Peak-to-Peak Detector	236
9-3 Zero-Crossing Detector	236
9-4 Phase Detector	237
9-5 Sample and Hold	238
9-6 Precision Rectifier	241
9-7 Output Current Boosters	243
9-8 Current Sources	244
9-9 Voltage Supplies	246
9-10 Staircase Generator	247
9-11 Signal Sources	250
1. Wien-Bridge Oscillator	250
2. Square-Wave Generator	253
3. Triangle-Wave Generator	255
4. Linear Ramp Generator	257
5. Voltage-Controlled Oscillator (VCO)	260
Summary	263
Self-Test Questions	264
Laboratory Exercise	264

CHAPTER 10 VOLTAGE REGULATOR INTEGRATED CIRCUITS	267
10-1 Voltage Regulators	267
1. Types of Regulators	267
2. Series-Pass Linear Voltage Regulators	270
3. Constant Current Limiting	276
4. Foldback Current Limiting	277
10-2 IC Linear Voltage Regulators	281
1. LM 105/LM 205/LM 305	282
2. LM 309	290
3. Fairchild Semiconductors μ A 723	295
10-3 Switching Regulators	304
1. Calculation of Switching Dissipation	305
2. Basic Switching Supply Configurations	307
3. Fairchild μ A 78S40 Switching Power Supply Control	312
4. Free-Running Switching Regulator	323
10-4 Motorola MC 3420 Switchmode Regulator	326
1. More Inverter Configurations	327
2. MC 3420 Operation	329
Summary	337
Self-Test Questions	337
Laboratory Exercise	338
CHAPTER 11 SOME SPECIAL PURPOSE ICs	345
11-1 Comparators	345
1. Comparator Operation	346
2. Schmitt Trigger and Window Comparator	347
3. Automatic Testing	353
4. Digital-to-Analog Conversion	354
5. Analog-to-Digital Converters	360
6. Analog Switches	365
7. Switched Capacitors	367
11-2 Current Mode Amplifiers	371
1. MC 3401	371
2. Basic Current Mode Amplifier Circuits	373
11-3 555 Timers	377
1. 555 Timer Circuit	379

2. 555 Astable	379
3. 555 Monostable	381
4. 555 Timer PWM Switching Power Supply with Current Limiting	382
11-4 Instrumentation Amplifiers	388
1. Instrumentation Amplifier Circuits	390
2. Input Guarding	393
3. National Semiconductor LH 0036 Instrumentation Amplifier	395
11-5 Isolation Amplifiers	398
1. Operation	399
Summary	399
Self-Test Questions	402
Laboratory	403
CHAPTER 12 NOISE	409
12-1 Johnson Noise (Thermal Noise)	409
12-2 Shot Noise	410
12-3 Flicker Noise (1/f Noise)	412
12-4 Signal-to-Noise Ratio	412
12-5 Noise Figure	412
12-6 Interference	414
12-7 Grounding	414
Summary	415
Self-Test Questions	415
Laboratory Exercise	416
APPENDIX A DIFFERENTIAL AMPLIFIERS	420
A-1 Differential Amplifier Review	420
A-2 Common-Mode Gain	424
A-3 Offset Voltage	424
APPENDIX B μA 741 OPERATION	427
APPENDIX C INTEGRATED CIRCUIT AND OPERATIONAL AMPLIFIER SPECIFICATIONS	430
<input type="checkbox"/> Fairchild μ A 741	431
<input type="checkbox"/> Texas Instruments TL 080/081/082/084	439
<input type="checkbox"/> Fairchild μ A 791	445
<input type="checkbox"/> National Semiconductor LH 0036	450

<input type="checkbox"/> National Semiconductor LM 311	457
<input type="checkbox"/> Motorola MC 3401	462
<input type="checkbox"/> National Semiconductor LM 105/205/305A	466
<input type="checkbox"/> National Semiconductor LM 309	471
<input type="checkbox"/> Fairchild μ A 723	474
<input type="checkbox"/> Fairchild μ A 78S40	481
<input type="checkbox"/> Motorola MC 3420/3520	484
<input type="checkbox"/> National Semiconductor AH 0120/130/140/150/160	492
<input type="checkbox"/> National Semiconductor LM 555	497
APPENDIX D DERIVATION OF EQUATION 4-1 THE FREQUENCY DEPENDENT OPEN LOOP GAIN	503
APPENDIX E DERIVATION OF EQUATION FOR R_c OF LAG- COMPENSATION CIRCUIT	507
APPENDIX F DERIVATION OF $\Delta V_{out}/\Delta V_{in}$, $\Delta V_{out}/\Delta I_o$, AND STEP- UP SWITCHING SUPPLY FREQUENCY EFFICIENCY	510
APPENDIX G ANSWERS TO SELF-TEST QUESTIONS	514
SYMBOLS GLOSSARY	519
GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED IN TEXT	521
INDEX	527

THE BASIC OP-AMP

To use operational amplifiers (op-amps), we must know what they are. This chapter discusses construction, characteristics, and some important specifications of op-amps. The major amplifier configurations using op-amps are also discussed.

OBJECTIVES

After completing the study of this chapter and the self-test questions, the student should be able to:

1. List and state the operation of the major parts of an op-amp.
2. State the name and purpose of the op-amp terminals.
3. State the name and definition of the following op-amp specs: A_{ol} , V_{os} , I_B , I_{os} , R_{in} , R_{out} .
4. Calculate the components of the feedback loop for a given closed loop gain and draw from memory a voltage follower, noninverting amplifier, inverting amplifier, and differential input amplifier.
5. Given the feedback components, calculate the closed loop gain for the circuits listed in objective 4.
6. Perform the laboratory for Chapter 1.

1-1 WHAT IS AN OP-AMP?

An operational amplifier is a modular, multistage amplifier with a differential input that approximates most of the characteristics of the mythical “ideal amplifier.” The properties associated with an ideal amplifier are:

1. Infinite voltage gain ($A_v \rightarrow \infty$).
2. Infinite input impedance ($Z_{in} \rightarrow \infty$).
3. Zero output impedance ($Z_{out} \rightarrow 0$).
4. Output voltage $V_{out} = 0$ when input voltages $V_1 = V_2$.
5. Infinite bandwidth (no delay of the signal through the amplifier).

In practice, none of these properties can be achieved, but they can be approximated closely enough for many applications. For example, if feedback is used to limit the amplifier circuit gain to 10, an amplifier gain (without feedback) of 1000 is close enough to infinity for practical purposes.

The first stage of an operational amplifier is a differential amplifier. The differential amplifier provides a high gain to difference signals (i.e., $V_2 - V_1$ in Figures

2 THE BASIC OP-AMP

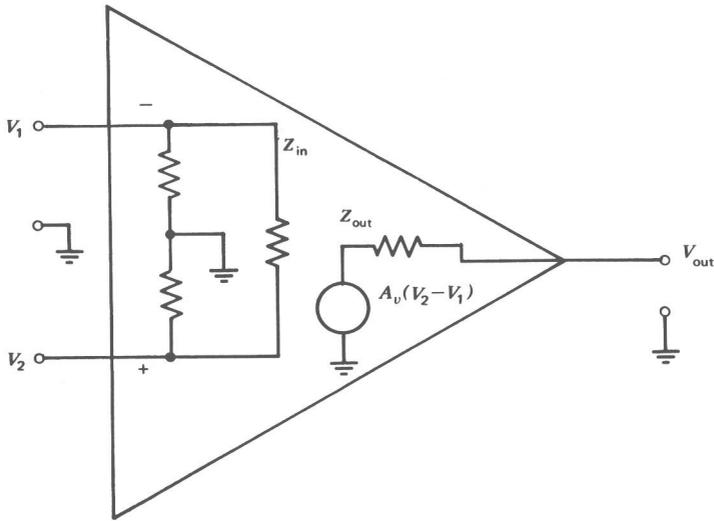


FIGURE 1.1 Amplifier representation.

1.1 and 1.2) and a low gain to signals applied to both inputs simultaneously (common-mode signals).¹

The differential amplifier also provides a high impedance to any input signal applied to it. The input stage of an operational amplifier is the most critical since that is where input impedance is set and the common-mode response and offset voltages are minimized.²

One or more intermediate stages follow the input stage, as shown in Figure 1.3, to shift the quiescent voltage level to zero at the output and provide both voltage and current gain. The added voltage gain is needed for a high overall voltage gain, and the current gain is needed to supply drive current to the output stage without loading the input stage. Both single-ended and differential configurations are used for the intermediate amplification stages.

The output stage must supply a low output impedance and enough current to drive the expected load. It should also have a high enough input impedance that it does not load the last intermediate amplification stage. The output stage is usually an emitter follower or a complementary configuration.

Figure 1.4 is a schematic of a simple operational amplifier. There are a few things we should note about the input circuit. The emitter resistors of Q_1 and Q_2 increase the input impedance of the input stage. The collector currents in the input

¹ Common-mode signals are those of the same phase and amplitude applied to both inputs simultaneously.

² Offset voltages are small, undesired signals internally generated by the amplifier that cause some output voltage with zero volts applied to both inputs. They are caused by imperfect matching of the emitter-base voltages of the input transistors.