ISSN (Online) : 2278-1021
ISSN (Print) : 2319-5940

International Journal of Advanced Research in Computer and Communication Engineering
Vol. 3, Issue 3, March 2014

Noise Analysis of Common-Emitter Amplifier using Stochastic Differential Equation

Dushyant Kumar Shukla[1], Dr.Munish Vashishtha[2]

Department of Electronics Engineering, YMCA University of Science & Tech, Faridabad[1,2]

Abstract: In this paper, we analyse the effect of noise in a common-emitter amplifier working at high frequencies. Extrinsic noise is analyzed using time domain method employing techniques from stochastic calculus. Stochastic differential equations are used to obtain autocorrelation functions of the output noise voltage and other solution statistics like mean and variance. The analysis leads to important design implications for improved noise characteristics of the common-emitter amplifier.

Keywords: common-emitter amplifier, noise, stochastic differential equation, mean and variance.

I. INTRODUCTION

The common-emitter amplifier is the most widely used in analog circuit design. In this paper, we shall concentrate on the noise analysis of a common-emitter amplifier. We analyze the effect of the noise signal on the output voltage. Noise can enter the circuit via various paths such as the noise from within the amplifier (intrinsic) and the noise signal which is fed externally (extrinsic).

Circuit noise analysis is traditionally done in frequency domain. The approach is effective in cases where the circuit is linear and time invariant. But the approach is not applicable for the extrinsic noise because the system may not be either linear or time invariant due to the switching nature of the signal picked [2]. In this paper we do analysis of extrinsic noise for the common-emitter amplifier as shown in Fig.1.

For the stochastic model being used in this paper, the external noise is assumed to be a white Gaussian noise process. Although the assumption of a white Gaussian noise is an idealization, it may be justified because of the existence of many random input effects. According to the Central Limit Theorem, when the uncertainty is due to additive effects of many random factors, the probability distribution of such random variables is Gaussian. It may be difficult to isolate and model each factor that produces uncertainty in the circuit analysis. Therefore, the noise sources are assumed to be white with a flat power spectral density(PSD).

In this method, we shall follow a time domain approach based on solving a SDE. The method of SDEs in circuit noise analysis was used in [3] from a circuit simulation point of view. Their approach is based on linearization of SDEs about its simulated deterministic trajectory. In this paper we will use a different approach from which analytical solution to the SDE will be obtained.

The analytical solution will take into account the circuit time varying nature and it will be shown that the noise becomes significant at high input signal frequencies. The main aim of our analysis is to observe the effect of noise present in the input signal on the output of the common-emitter amplifier.

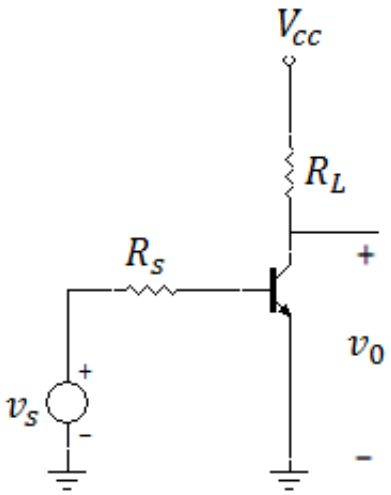

Fig.1. Common-Emitter Amplifier

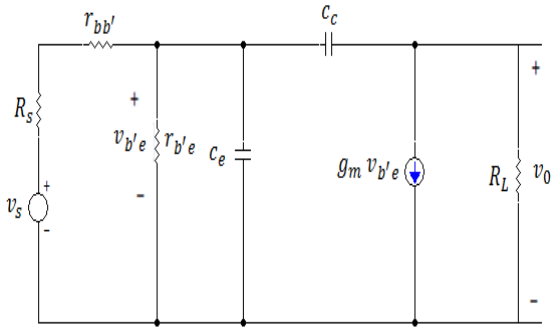

Fig.2. High-Frequency Equivalent Circuit

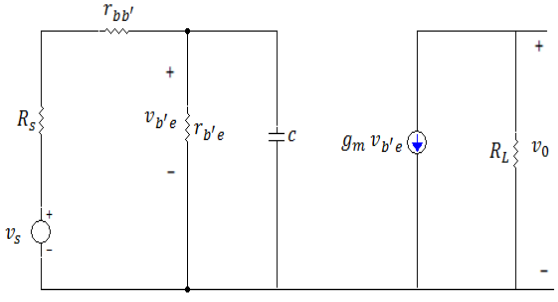

Fig.3. Simplified High-Frequency Equivalent Circuit

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II. ANALYSIS OF NOISE VIA SDEs

Consider a common-emitter amplifier as shown in Fig.1 whose high-frequency equivalent is shown in Fig.2. Using Miller's theorem, we can transfer c_c into input side by $c_c(1+g_mR_L)$ and into output side by $c_c\,(1+g_mR_L)/g_mR_L$, resultant circuit is still rather complicated because of two independent time constants of the circuit, one associated with the input circuit and one associated with the output. In a practical situation the output time constant is negligible in comparison with the input time constant, and may be ignored. Let us therefore delete the output capacitance $c_c\,(1+g_mR_L)/g_mR_L$, so the simplified circuit is shown in Fig. 3. Henceforth, we analyze the circuit using SDEs. From the circuit in Fig. 3,

$$\frac{v_s(t)-v_{b'e}(t)}{R_s'}=\frac{v_{b'e}(t)}{r_{b'e}}+c\frac{dv_{b'e}(t)}{dt} \quad (1)$$

where $c=c_e+c_c(1+g_mR_L)$ & $R_s'=R_s+r_{bb'}$. Using some straightforward simplification (1) can be written as

$$\frac{dv_{b'e}(t)}{dt}+kv_{b'e}(t)=\frac{v_s(t)}{cR_s'} \quad (2)$$

where $k=\frac{1}{c}\left(\frac{1}{R_s'}+\frac{1}{r_{b'e}}\right)$ and

$$v_0(t)=-g_mR_Lv_{b'e}(t) \quad (3)$$

Considering $v_s(t)=\sigma n(t)$, where $n(t)$ represents Gaussian noise process and σ^2 is the magnitude of PSD of input noise process. Substituting $v_s(t)=\sigma n(t)$ in (2), we obtain

$$\frac{dv_{b'e}(t)}{dt}+kv_{b'e}(t)=\frac{\sigma n(t)}{cR_s'} \quad (4)$$

First, we multiply both side of (4) with dt, then take expectation both sides. Since the continuous-time white noise process is a generalised function, the solution is rewritten by the replacement $n(t)dt=dW(t)$, where $W(t)$ is Wiener motion process, a continuous, but not differentiable process [4].

$$dE\left[v_{b'e}(t)\right]+kE\left[v_{b'e}(t)\right]dt\ \frac{E[\sigma dW(t)]}{cR_s'} \quad (5)$$

Using the fact that $E[\sigma dW(t)]=0$, (5) results in the following:

$$\frac{dE[v_{b'e}(t)]}{dt}+kE[v_{b'e}(t)]=0 \quad (6)$$

The solution of (6) is found out to be

$$E\left[v_{b'e}(t)\right]=c_1e^{-kt} \quad (7)$$

where c_1 is a constant whose value depends on the initial circuit conditions. From (3) and (7) we get the mean of the output

$$E[v_0(t)]=-g_mR_L\,E\left[v_{b'e}(t)\right]$$

so $$E[v_0(t)]=-g_mR_Lc_1e^{-kt} \quad (8)$$

Next we find the autocorrelation function which will lead us to finding the variance. For the pedagogical reasons, the autocorrelation function is obtained considering initial conditions zero. Rewriting equation (2)

$$\frac{dv_{b'e}(t)}{dt}+kv_{b'e}(t)=\frac{v_s(t)}{cR_s'} \quad (9)$$

Next, we consider (9) at time $t=t_1$ with initial conditions $R_{v_{b'e},v_{b'e}}(0,t_2)=E\left[v_{b'e}(t_1)v_{b'e}(t_2)\right]|_{t_1=0}=0$.

Multiplying both sides of (9) with $v_{b'e}(t_2)$ and then taking the expectation, we obtain

$$\frac{dR_{v_{b'e},v_{b'e}}(t_1,t_2)}{dt_1}+kR_{v_{b'e},v_{b'e}}(t_1,t_2)=\frac{R_{v_s,v_{b'e}}(t_1,t_2)}{cR_s'} \quad (10)$$

Again, we consider (9) at time $t=t_2$ with initial conditions $R_{v_s,v_{b'e}}(t_1,0)=E[v_s(t_1)v_{b'e}(t_2)]|_{t_2=0}=0$. Multiplying both sides of (9) with $v_s(t_1)$ and then taking the expectation, we obtain

$$\frac{dR_{v_s,v_{b'e}}(t_1,t_2)}{dt_2}+kR_{v_s,v_{b'e}}(t_1,t_2)=\frac{R_{v_s,v_s}(t_1,t_2)}{cR_s'} \quad (11)$$

Knowing that $R_{v_s,v_s}(t_1,t_2)=\sigma^2\delta(t_1-t_2)$, we find the solution of (11) as

$$R_{v_s,v_{b'e}}(t_1,t_2)=\frac{\sigma^2}{cR_s'}e^{k(t_1-t_2)} \quad (12)$$

Substituting the value of $R_{v_s,v_{b'e}}(t_1,t_2)$ from (12) in (10) and taking the limit of t_1 from 0 to $\min(t_1,t_2)$, we obtain the solution of (10) as

$$R_{v_{b'e},v_{b'e}}(t_1,t_2)=\frac{\sigma^2}{2k(cR_s')^2}\left(e^{-k(t_1-t_2)}-e^{-k(t_1+t_2)}\right) \quad (13)$$

For $t_1=t_2=t$ in (13) we obtain the second moment of $v_{b'e}(t)$ as $E\left[{v_{b'e}}^2(t)\right]$

$$E\left[{v_{b'e}}^2(t)\right]=\frac{\sigma^2}{2k(cR_s')^2}(1-e^{-2kt}) \quad (14)$$

From (3) and (14) we obtain the second moment of output as $E[{v_0}^2(t)]$ (which is variance in this case)

$$E[{v_0}^2(t)]=(g_mR_L)^2E\left[{v_{b'e}}^2(t)\right]$$

so $$E[{v_0}^2(t)]=\frac{(g_mR_L)^2\sigma^2}{2k(cR_s')^2}(1-e^{-2kt}) \quad (15)$$

III. SIMULATION RESULTS

For the simulation of the result obtain above, we use the following values for the circuit parameters $R_L=10^4\Omega$, $R_s=5\times10^3\Omega$, $r_{bb'}=100\Omega$, $r_{b'e}=1.5\times10^3\Omega$, $c_e=2pF$ $c_c=0.8pF$, $\sigma=0.25$, $g_m=40mA/V$.

The variation of mean with time is shown in Fig. 4, when initial conditions are nonzero, ($v_{b'e}(0)=0.01V$). If initial conditions are zero the mean is zero all the time. The variation of variance with time is shown in Fig. 5. Initially the variance increases linearly with time then become constant.

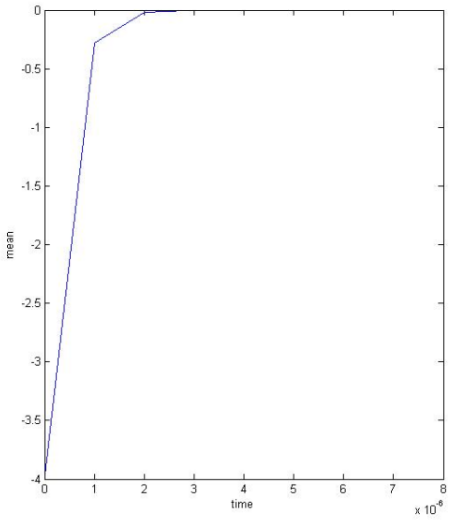

Fig.4. Variation of mean with time

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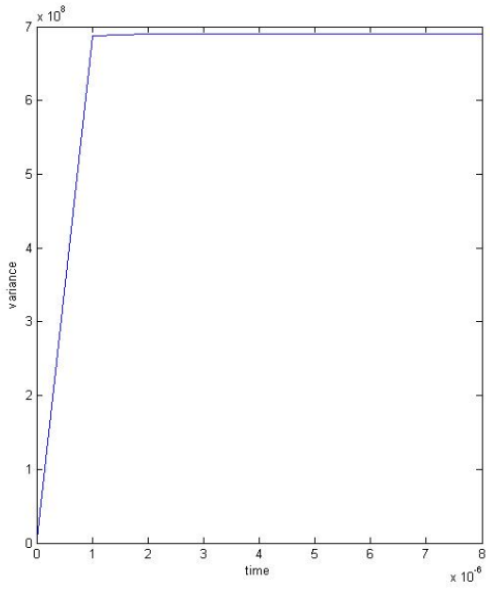

Fig.5. Variation of variance with time

IV. CONCLUSIONS

Noise in common-emitter amplifier is analyzed using stochastic differential equation. Extrinsic noise is characterized by solving a SDE analytically in time domain. The solution for various solution statistics like mean and variance is obtained which can be used for design process. Suitable design methods which involve changing of device parameters are suggested to aid noise reduction and hence design the amplifier with reduced noise characteristics.

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