

**MITOPENCOURSEWARE**  
MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

**6.776**

***High Speed Communication Circuits***

***Lecture 10***

***Noise Modeling in Amplifiers***

**Michael Perrott**

**Massachusetts Institute of Technology**

**March 8, 2005**

**Copyright © 2005 by Michael H. Perrott**

# Notation for Mean, Variance, and Correlation

---

- Consider random variables  $x$  and  $y$  with probability density functions  $f_x(x)$  and  $f_y(y)$  and joint probability function  $f_{xy}(x,y)$

- Expected value (mean) of  $x$  is

$$\bar{x} = E(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f_x(x) dx$$

- Note: we will often abuse notation and denote  $\bar{x}$  as a random variable (i.e., noise) rather than its mean
- The variance of  $x$  (assuming it has zero mean) is

$$\overline{x^2} = E(x^* x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^* x f_x(x) dx$$

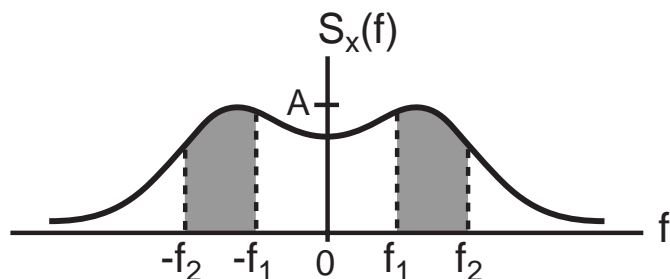
- A useful statistic is

$$\overline{xy} = E(xy) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} xy f_{xy}(x, y) dx dy$$

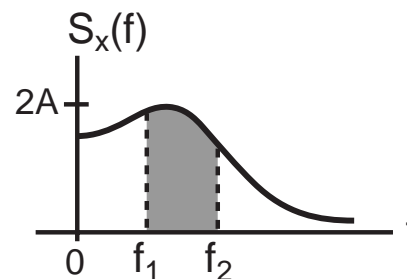
- If the above is zero,  $x$  and  $y$  are said to be uncorrelated

# Relationship Between Variance and Spectral Density

Two-Sided Spectrum



One-Sided Spectrum



- **Two-sided spectrum**

$$\overline{x^2} = \int_{-f_2}^{-f_1} S_x(f) df + \int_{f_1}^{f_2} S_x(f) df$$

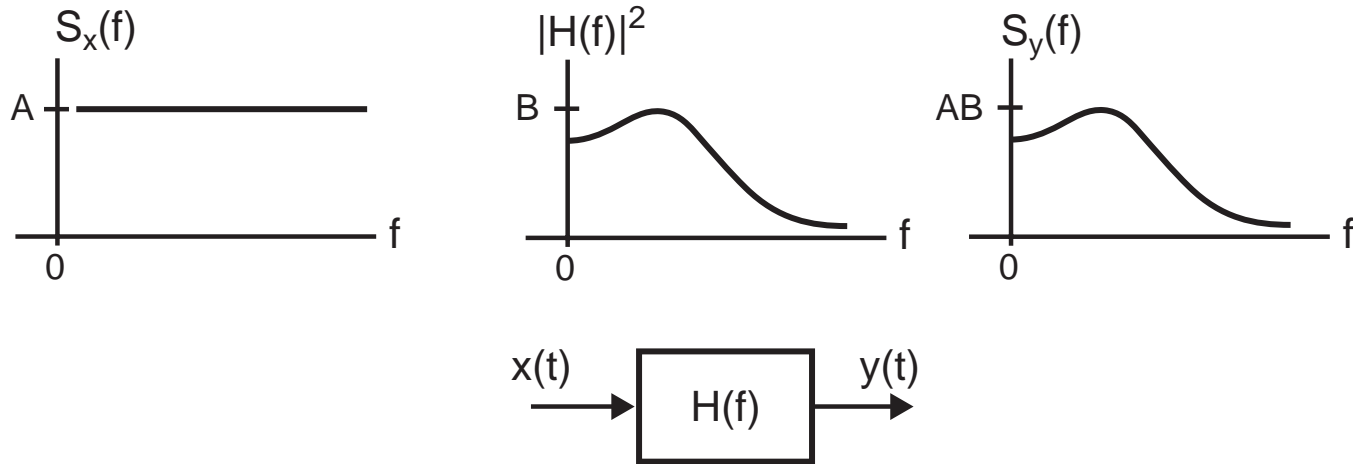
- **Since spectrum is symmetric**  $\Rightarrow \overline{x^2} = 2 \int_{f_1}^{f_2} S_x(f) df$

- **One-sided spectrum defined over positive frequencies**

- **Magnitude defined as twice that of its corresponding two-sided spectrum**

- **In the next few lectures, we assume a one-sided spectrum for all noise analysis**

# The Impact of Filtering on Spectral Density



- For the random signal passing through a linear, time-invariant system with transfer function  $H(f)$

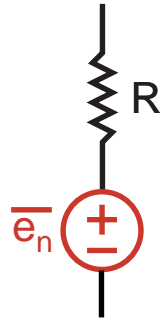
$$S_y(f) = |H(f)|^2 S_x(f)$$

- We see that if  $x(t)$  is amplified by gain  $A$ , we have

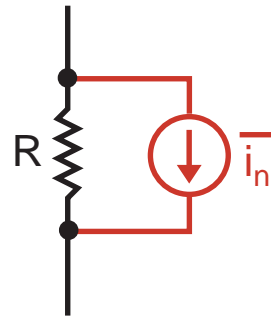
$$S_y(f) = A^2 S_x(f) \Rightarrow \overline{y^2} = A^2 \overline{x^2}$$

# Noise in Resistors

- Can be described in terms of either voltage or current



$$\overline{e_n^2} = 4kTR\Delta f$$



$$\overline{i_n^2} = 4kT\frac{1}{R}\Delta f$$

- $k$  is Boltzmann's constant

$$k = 1.38 \times 10^{-23} \text{ J/K}$$

- $T$  is temperature (in Kelvins)

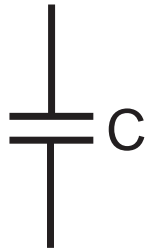
- Usually assume room temperature of 27 degrees Celsius

$$\Rightarrow T = 300K$$

# Noise In Inductors and Capacitors

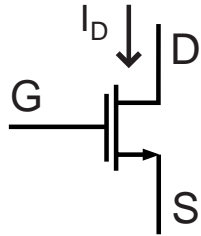
---

- Ideal capacitors and inductors have no noise!



- In practice, however, they will have parasitic resistance
  - Induces noise
  - Parameterized by adding resistances in parallel/series with inductor/capacitor
    - Include parasitic resistor noise sources

# Noise in CMOS Transistors (Assumed in Saturation)



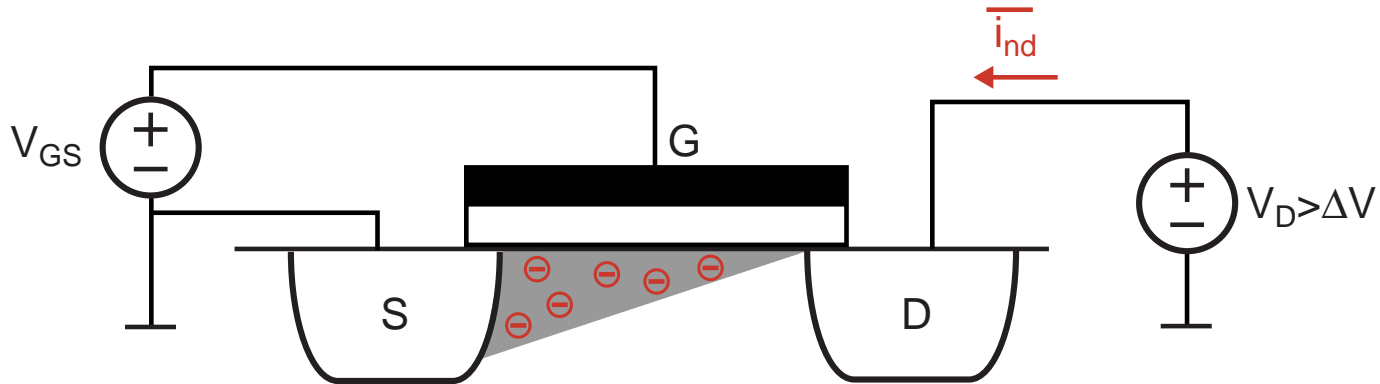
## Transistor Noise Sources

Drain Noise (Thermal and 1/f)

Gate Noise (Induced and Routing Parasitic)

- **Modeling of noise in transistors must include several noise sources**
  - **Drain noise**
    - Thermal and 1/f – influenced by transistor size and bias
  - **Gate noise**
    - Induced from channel – influenced by transistor size and bias
    - Caused by routing resistance to gate (including resistance of polysilicon gate)
      - Can be made negligible with proper layout such as fingering of devices

# Drain Noise – Thermal (Assume Device in Saturation)

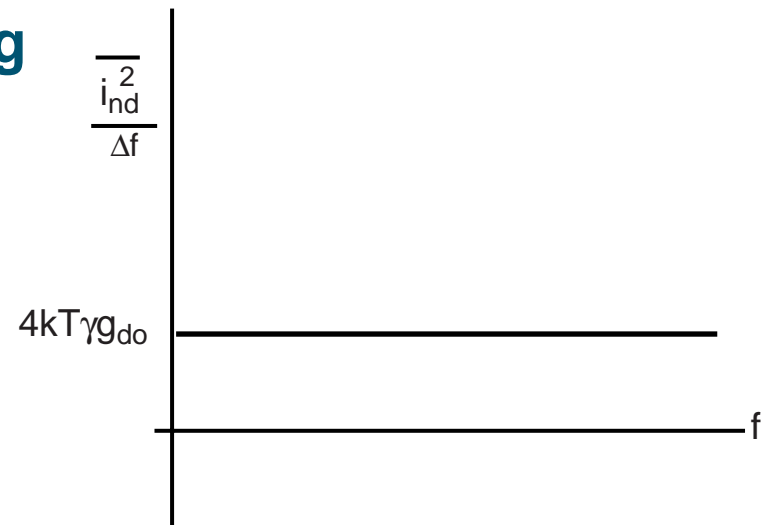


- Thermally agitated carriers in the channel cause a randomly varying current

$$\overline{i_{nd}^2} \Big|_{th} = 4kT\gamma g_{do}\Delta f$$

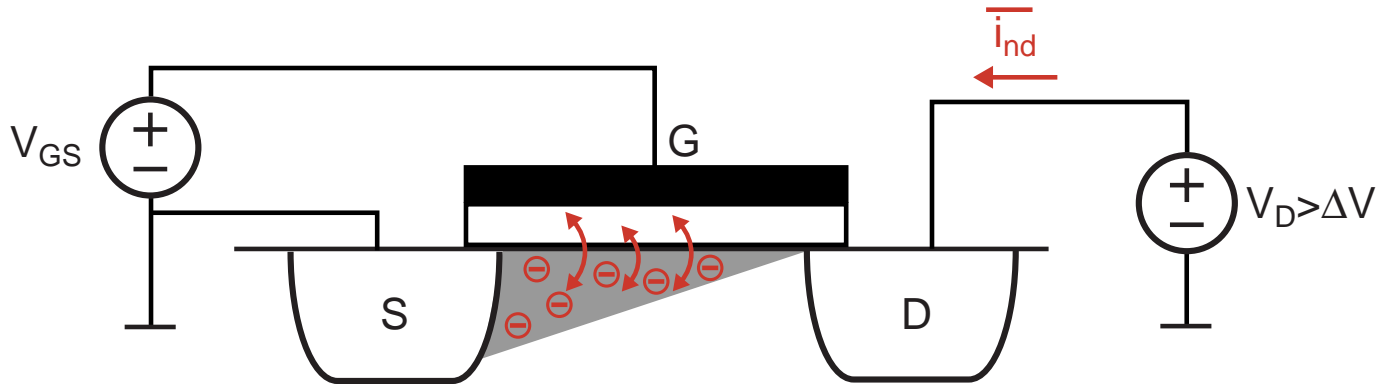
- $\gamma$  is called excess noise factor
  - = 2/3 in long channel
  - = 2 to 3 (or higher!) in short channel NMOS (less in PMOS)

- $g_{do}$  will be discussed shortly (Note:  $g_{do} = g_m/\alpha$ )





# Drain Noise – 1/f (Assume Device in Saturation)

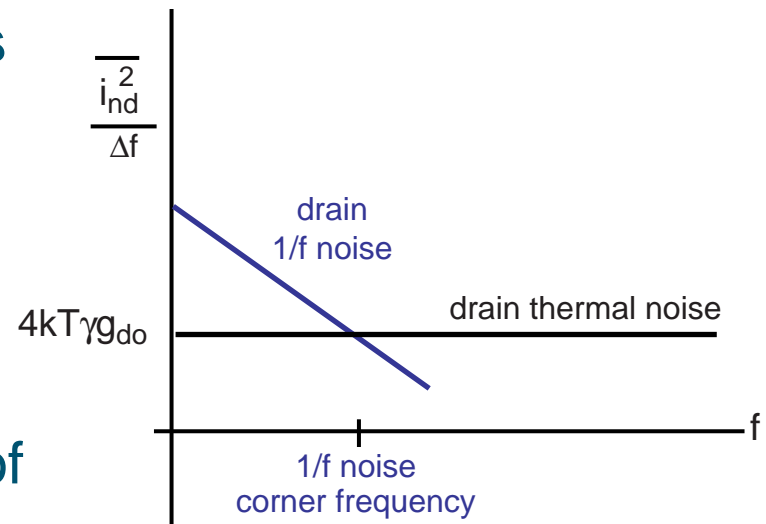


- **Traps at channel/oxide interface randomly capture/release carriers**

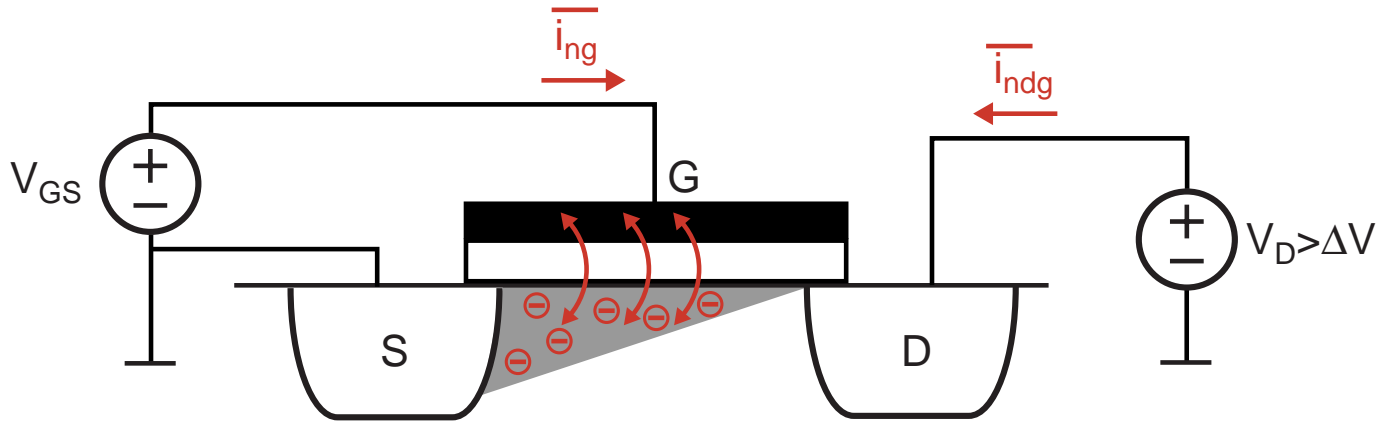
$$\overline{i_{nd}^2} \Big|_{1/f} = \frac{K_f}{f^n} \Delta f \approx \frac{K}{f} \frac{g_m^2}{W L C_{ox}^2} \Delta f$$

- Parameterized by  $K_f$  and  $n$ 
  - Provided by fab (note  $n \approx 1$ )
  - Currently:  $K_f$  of PMOS  $\ll$   $K_f$  of NMOS due to buried channel

- **To minimize: want large area (high WL)**



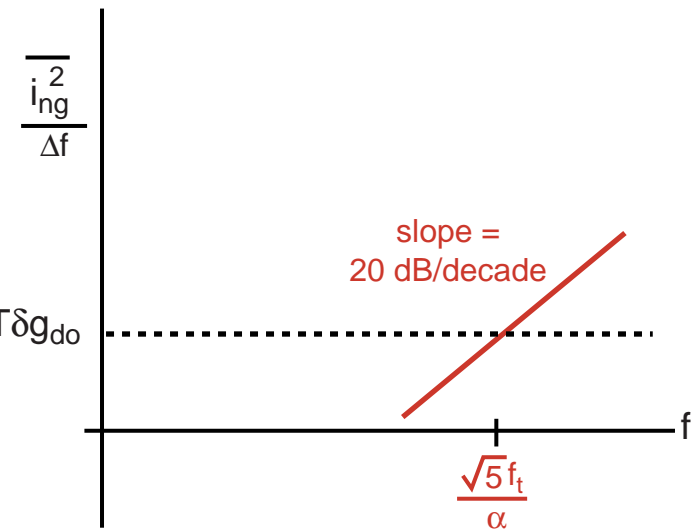
# Induced Gate Noise (Assume Device in Saturation)



- **Fluctuating channel potential couples capacitively into the gate terminal, causing a noise gate current**

$$\overline{i_{ng}^2} = 4kT\delta g_{do} \left( \frac{2\pi f}{\sqrt{5}/\alpha(g_m/C_{gs})} \right)^2 \Delta f$$

- **$\delta$  is gate noise coefficient**
  - Typically assumed to be  $2\gamma$
- **Correlated to drain noise!**



(Note:  $\alpha = g_m/g_{do}$ )  
MIT OCW

## ***Useful References on MOSFET Noise***

---

### **■ Thermal Noise**

- B. Wang et. al., “MOSFET Thermal Noise Modeling for Analog Integrated Circuits”, JSSC, July 1994**

### **■ Gate Noise**

- Jung-Suk Goo, “High Frequency Noise in CMOS Low Noise Amplifiers”, PhD Thesis, Stanford University, August 2001**
  - <http://www-tcad.stanford.edu/tcad/pubs/theses/goo.pdf>**
- Jung-Suk Goo et. al., “The Equivalence of van der Ziel and BSIM4 Models in Modeling the Induced Gate Noise of MOSFETS”, IEDM 2000, 35.2.1-35.2.4**
- Todd Sepke, “Investigation of Noise Sources in Scaled CMOS Field-Effect Transistors”, MS Thesis, MIT, June 2002**

## Drain-Source Conductance: $g_{do}$

- $g_{do}$  is defined as channel resistance with  $V_{ds}=0$ 
  - Transistor in triode, so that

$$I_d = \mu_n C_{ox} \frac{W}{L} \left( (V_{gs} - V_T) V_{ds} - \frac{V_{ds}^2}{2} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow g_{do} = \left. \frac{dI_d}{dV_{ds}} \right|_{V_{ds}=0} = \mu_n C_{ox} \frac{W}{L} (V_{gs} - V_T)$$

- Equals  $g_m$  for long channel devices
- Key parameters for  $0.18\mu$  NMOS devices

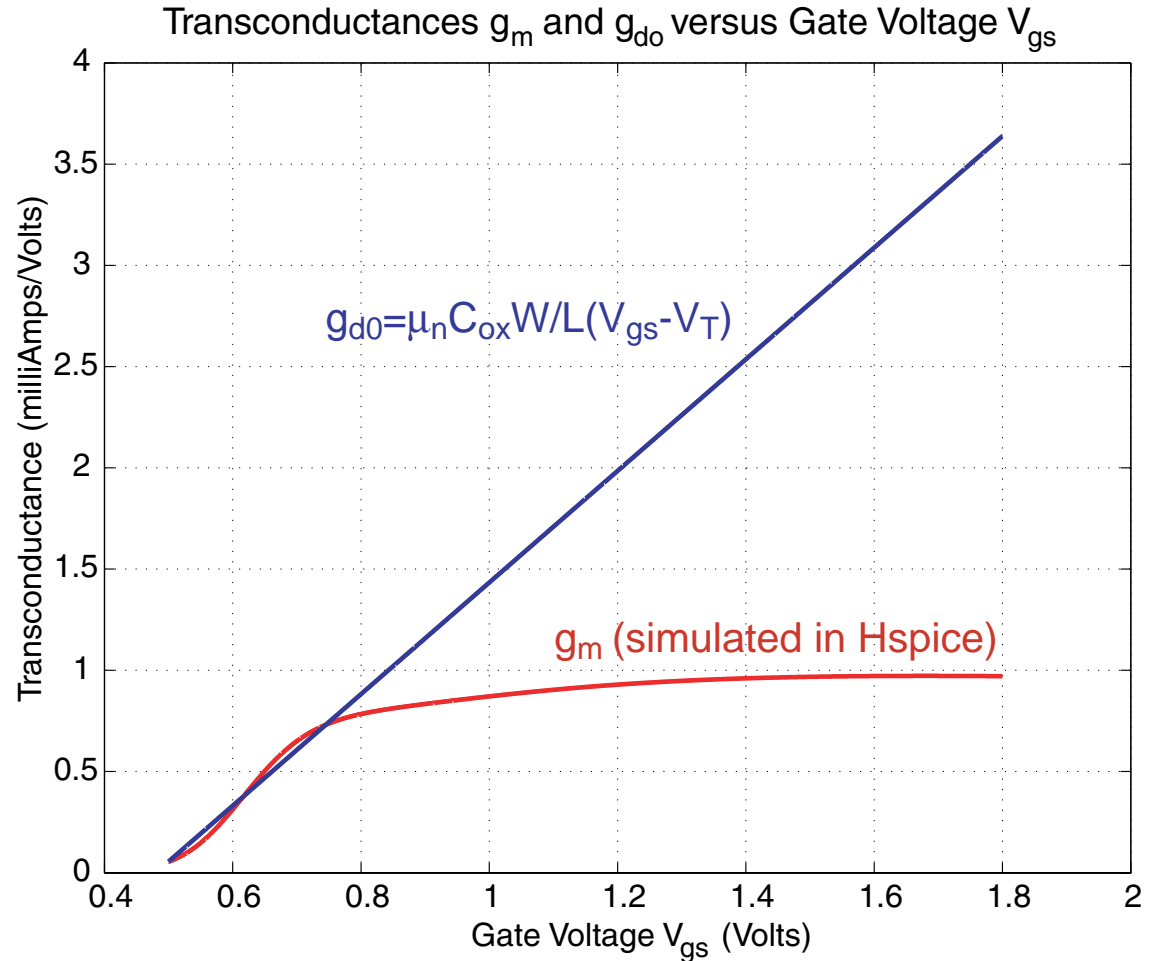
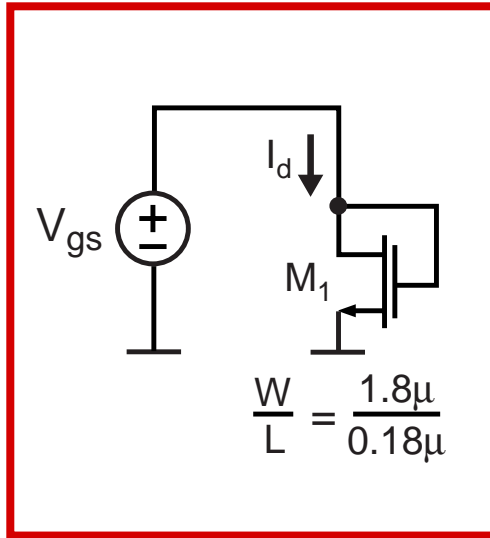
$$\mu_n = 327.4 \text{ cm}^2 / (\text{V} \cdot \text{s})$$

$$t_{ox} = 4.1 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m} \quad \epsilon_o = 3.9(8.85 \times 10^{-12}) \text{ F/m}$$

$$\Rightarrow \mu_n C_{ox} = \mu_n \frac{\epsilon_o}{t_{ox}} = 275.6 \times 10^{-6} \text{ F}/(\text{V} \cdot \text{s})$$

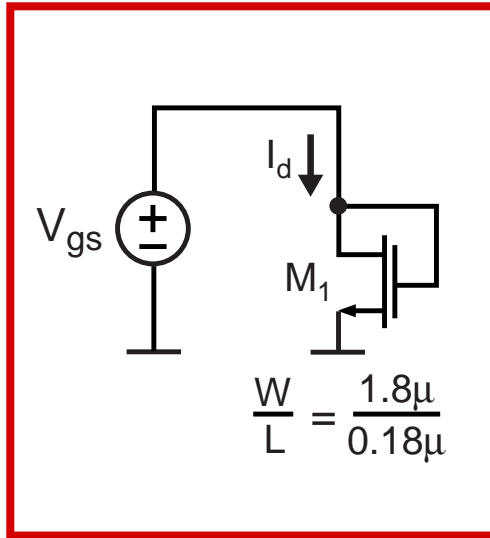
$$V_T = 0.48 \text{ V}$$

# Plot of $g_m$ and $g_{d0}$ versus $V_{gs}$ for $0.18\mu$ NMOS Device

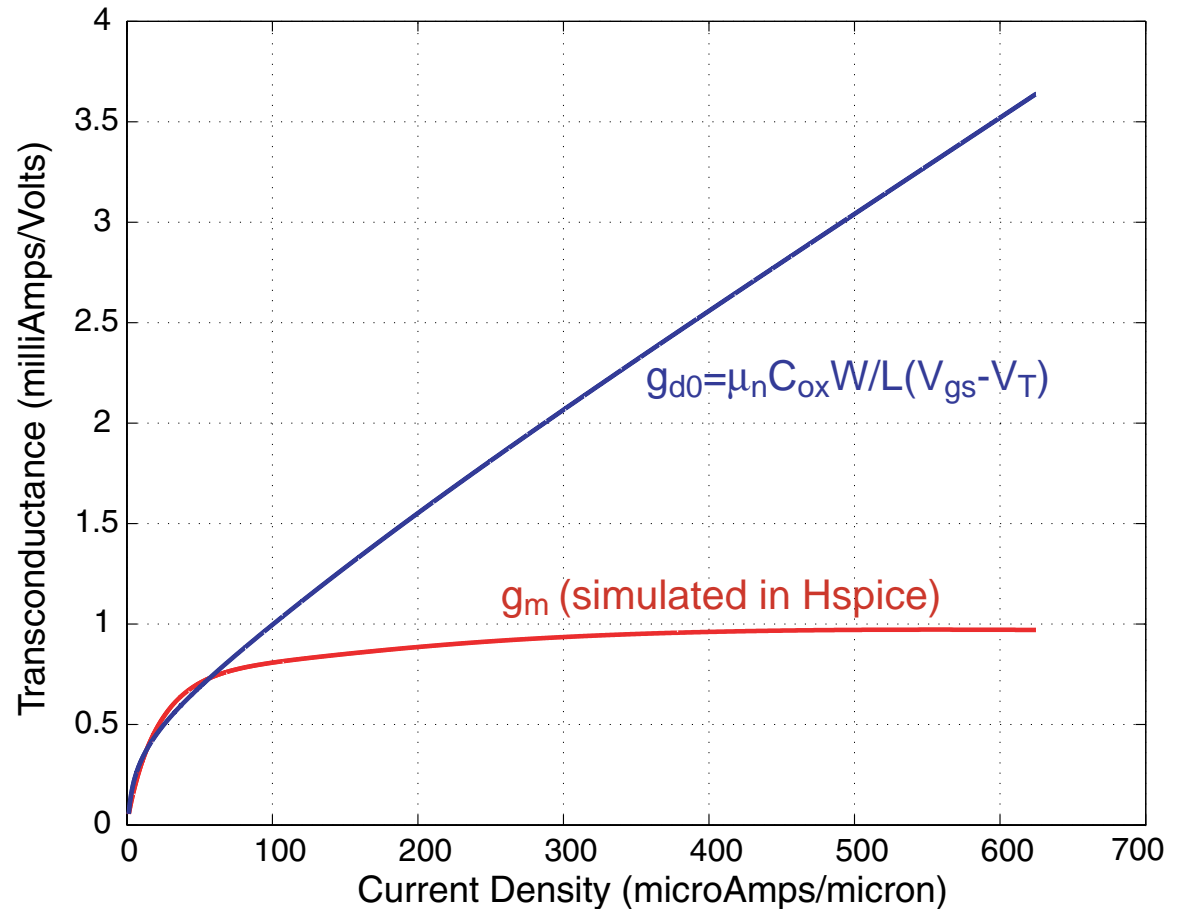


■ For  $V_{gs}$  bias voltages around 1.2 V:  $\alpha = \frac{g_m}{g_{d0}} \approx \frac{1}{2}$

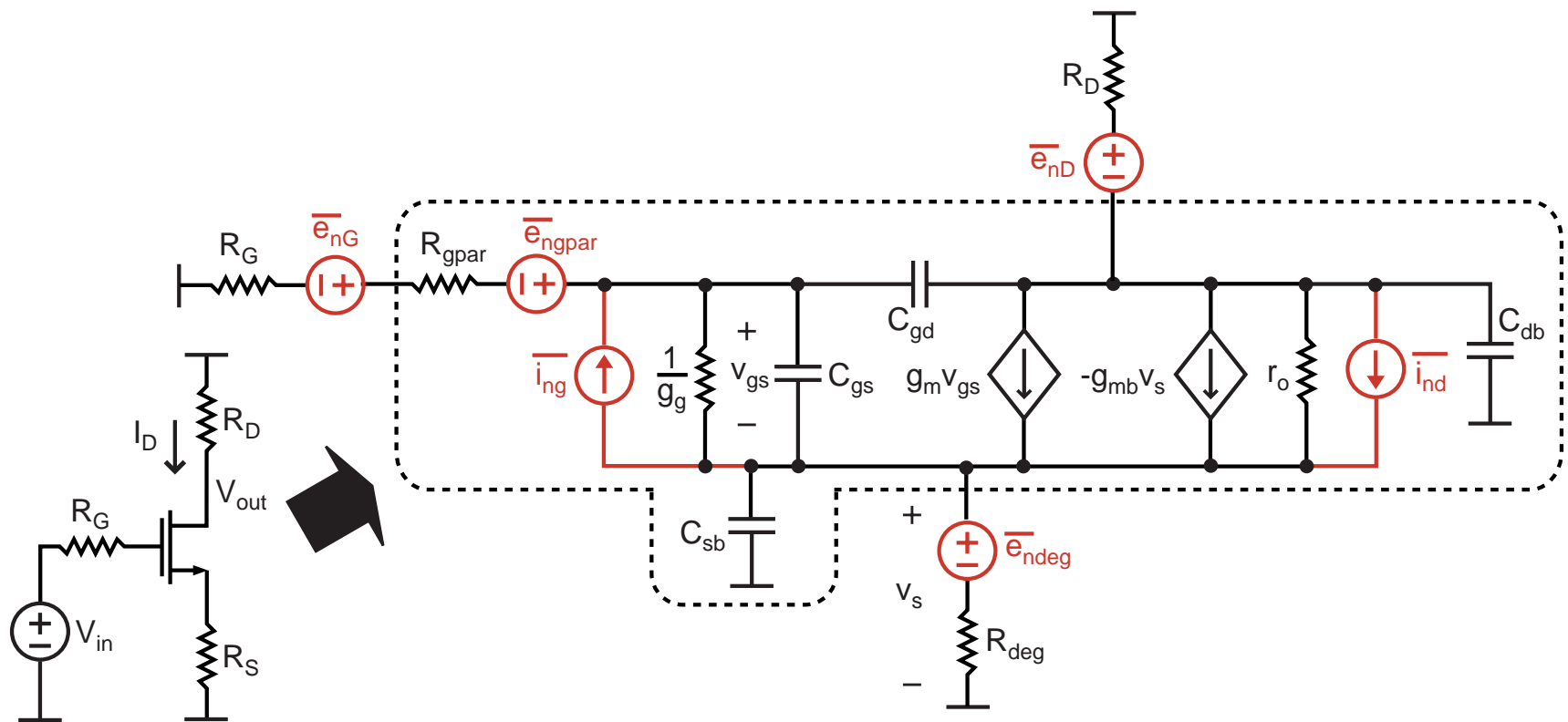
# Plot of $g_m$ and $g_{d0}$ versus $I_{dens}$ for $0.18\mu$ NMOS Device



Transconductances  $g_m$  and  $g_{d0}$  versus Current Density



# Noise Sources in a CMOS Amplifier



$\overline{e_{nG}}$ ,  $\overline{e_{nD}}$ ,  $\overline{e_{ndeg}}$  : noise sources of external resistors

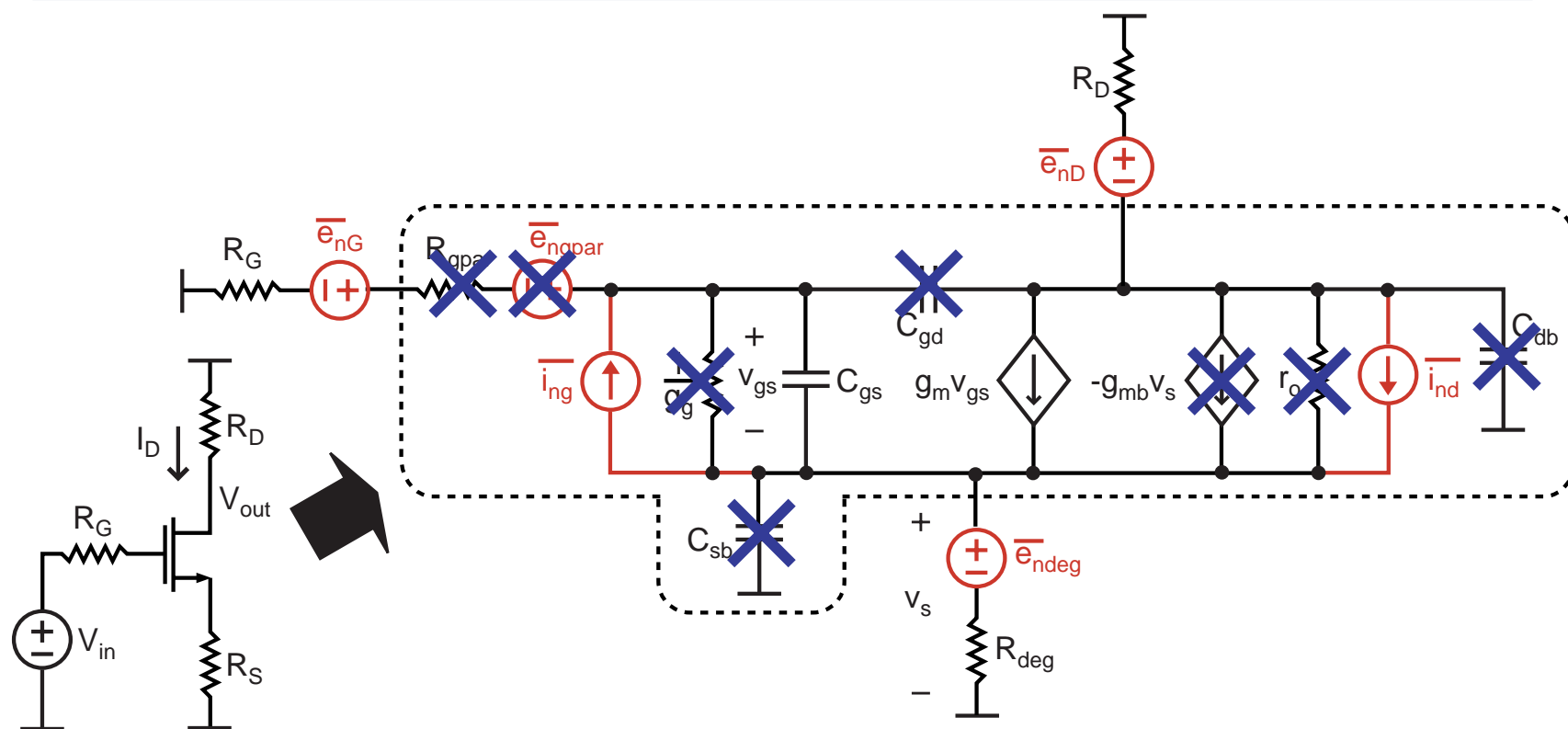
$R_{gpar}$ ,  $\overline{e_{ngpar}}$  : parasitic gate resistance and its noise

$\overline{i_{ng}}$  : induced gate noise,

$g_g$  : caused by distributed nature of channel  $\left( g_g = \frac{\omega^2 C_{gs}^2}{5g_{d0}} \right)$

$\overline{i_{nd}}$  : drain noise (thermal and 1/f)

# Remove Model Components for Simplicity



$R_{gpar}$ ,  $\overline{e_{ngpar}}$  : can make negligible with proper layout

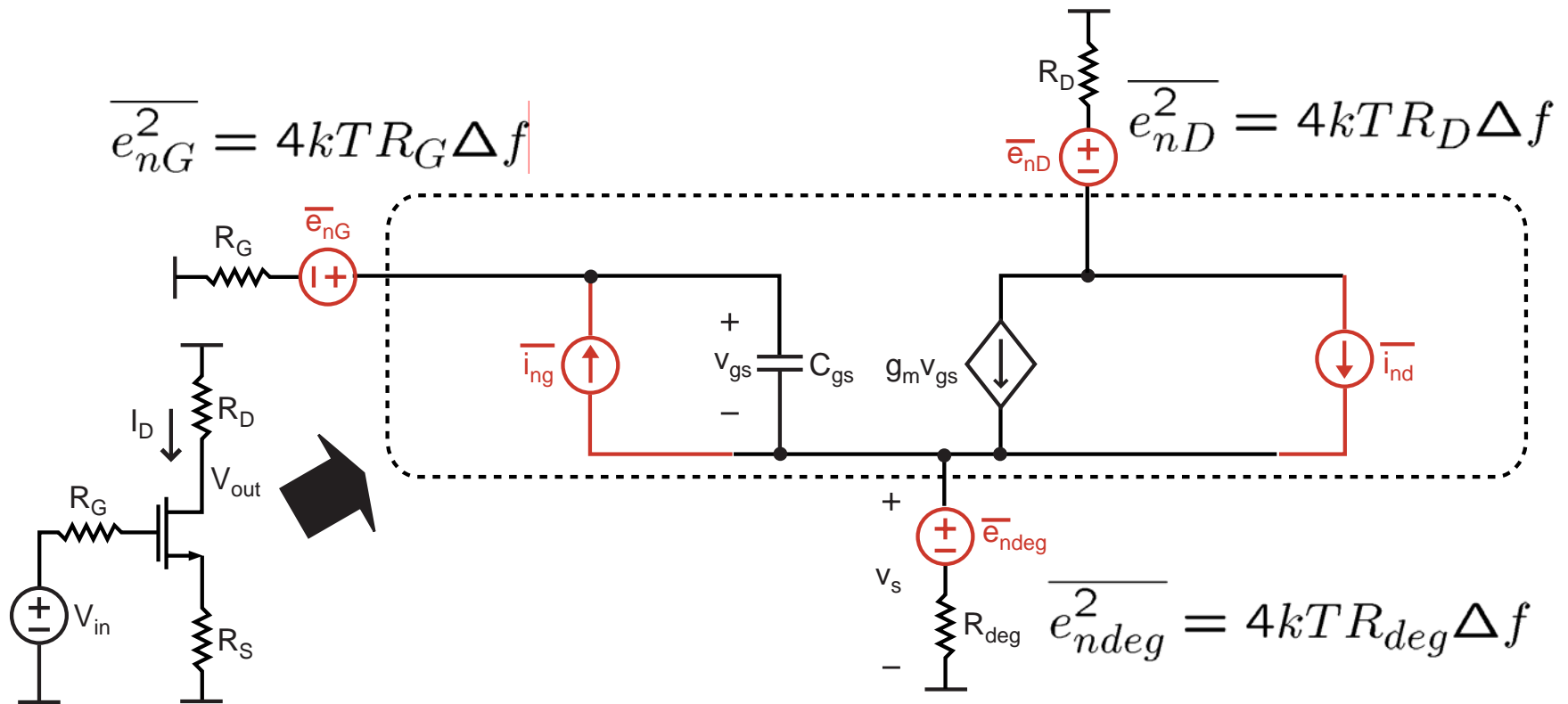
$g_g$  : assume to be negligible (for  $w \ll w_t$ )

$C_{sb}$ ,  $C_{gd}$ ,  $C_{db}$ ,  $g_{mb}$  : too painful to include for calculations

$r_o$  : impact is minor since  $R_D$  is small (for high bandwidth)



# Key Noise Sources for Noise Analysis



- **Transistor gate noise**

$$\overline{i_{ng}^2} = 4kT\delta g_g\Delta f,$$

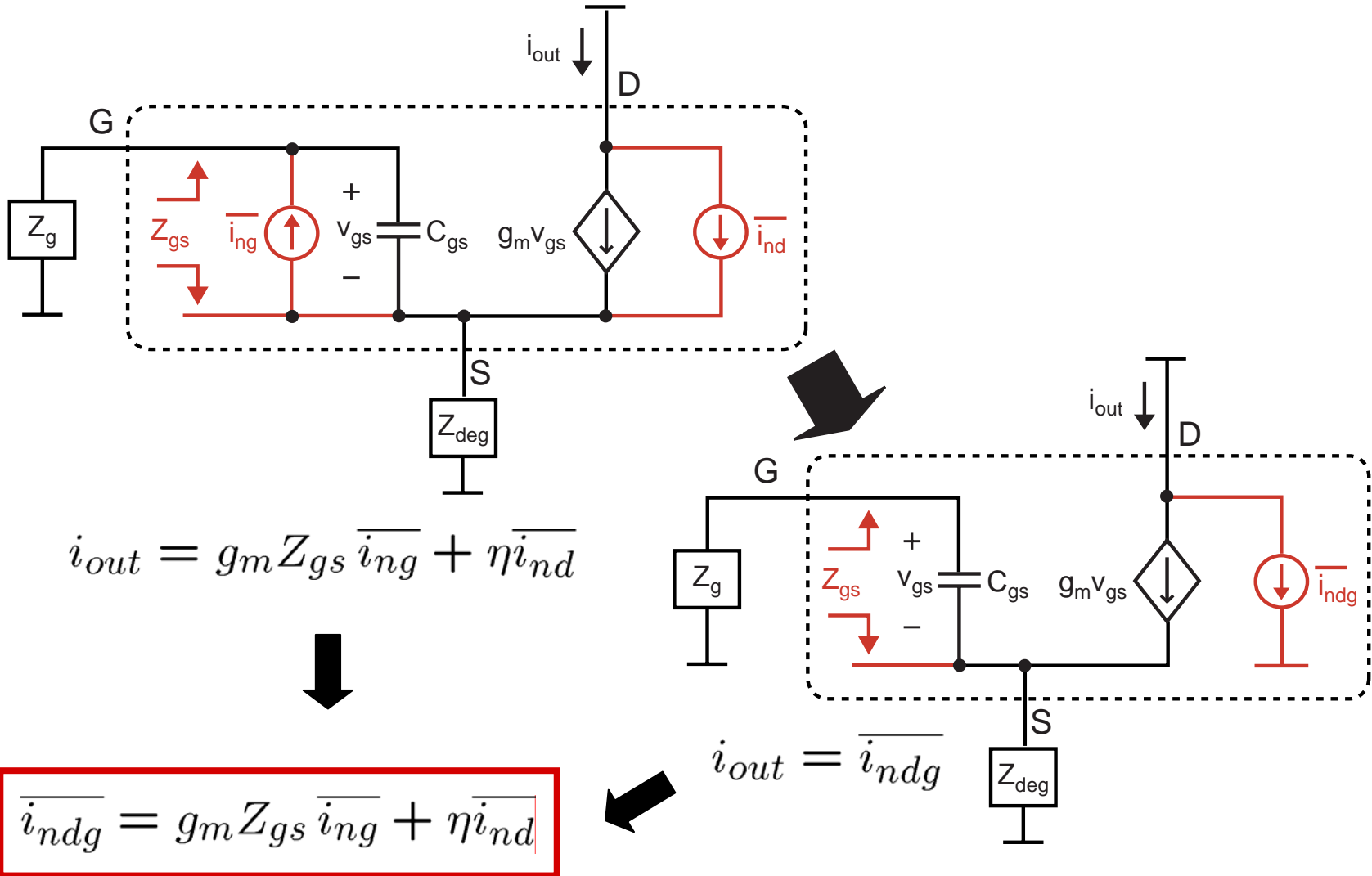
where  $g_g = \frac{\omega^2 C_{gs}^2}{5g_{d0}}$

- **Transistor drain noise**

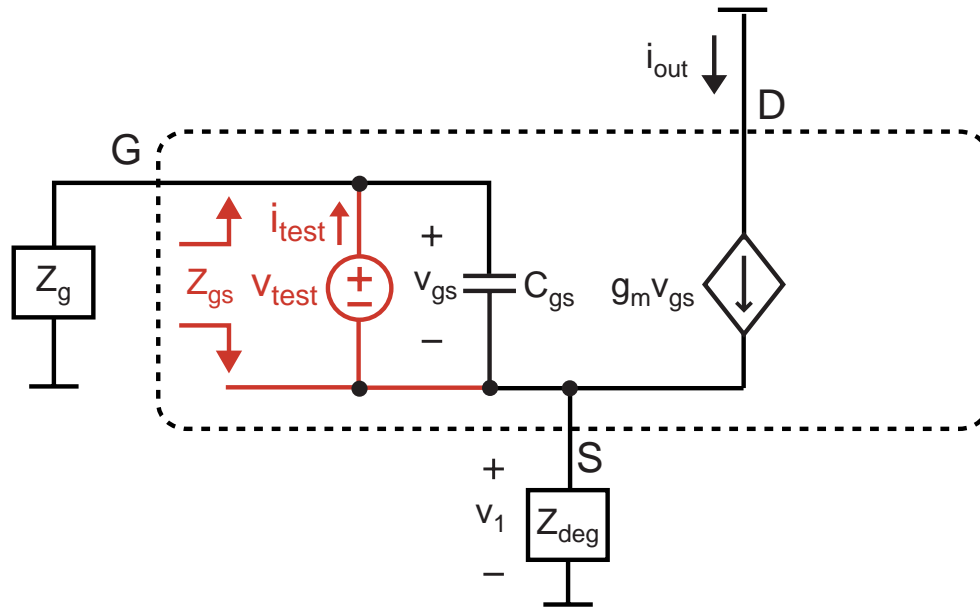
$$\overline{i_{nd}^2} = \underbrace{4kT\gamma g_{d0}\Delta f}_{\text{Thermal noise}} + \underbrace{\frac{K_f}{f^n}\Delta f}_{\text{1/f noise}}$$



# Calculation of Equivalent Output Noise for Each Case



# Calculation of $Z_{gs}$



- Write KCL equations

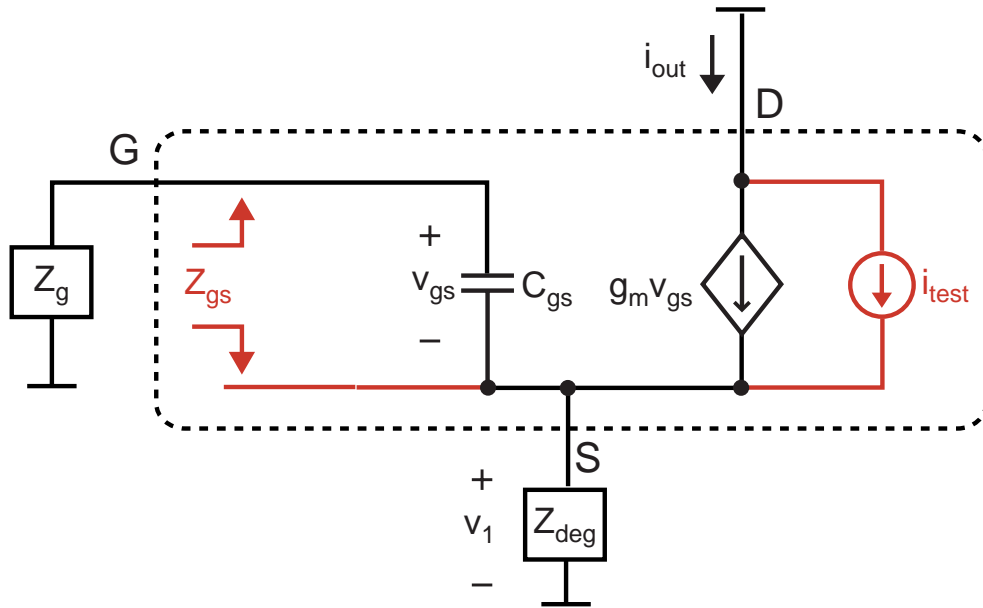
$$(1) \quad -i_{test} + \frac{v_{test}}{1/(sC_{gs})} + g_m v_{test} = \frac{v_1}{Z_{deg}}$$

$$(2) \quad \frac{v_{test} + v_1}{Z_g} + \frac{v_1}{Z_{deg}} = g_m v_{test}$$

- After much algebra:

$$Z_{gs} = \frac{v_{test}}{i_{test}} = \frac{1}{sC_{gs}} \parallel \frac{Z_{deg} + Z_g}{1 + g_m Z_{deg}}$$

# Calculation of $\eta$



- Determine  $V_{gs}$  to find  $i_{out}$  in terms of  $i_{test}$

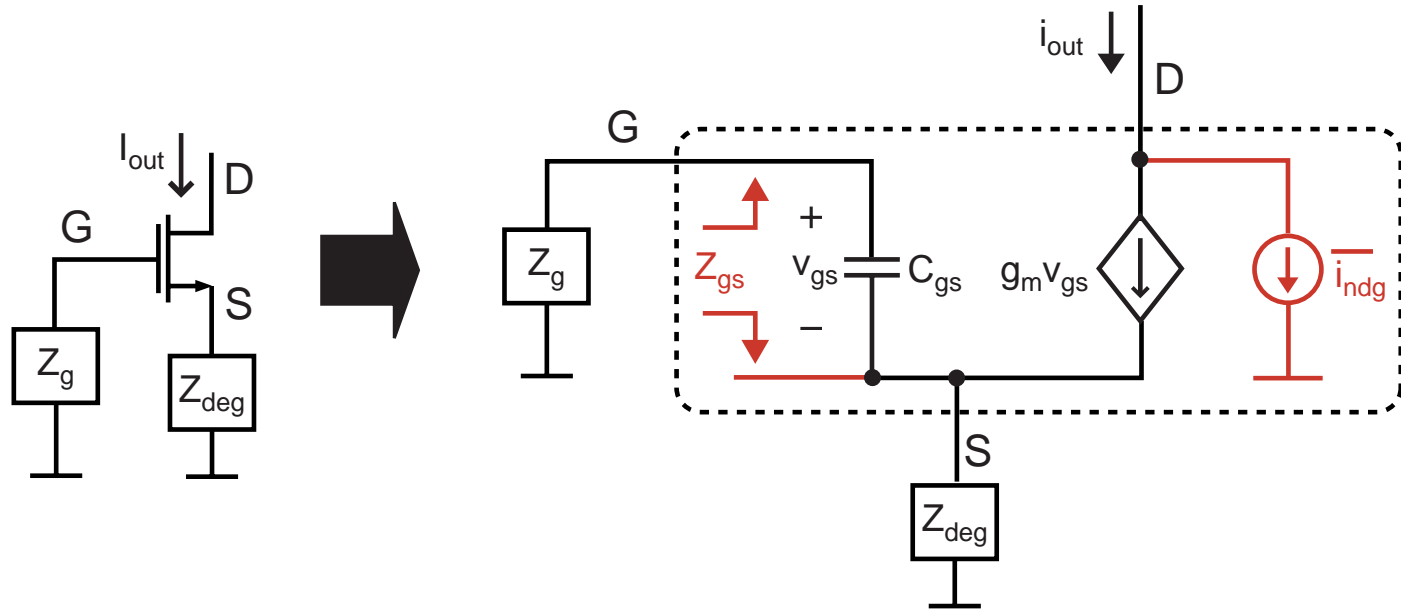
$$(1) i_{out} = i_{test} + g_m v_{gs} \quad (2) v_{gs} = -v_1 \frac{1/(sC_{gs})}{1/(sC_{gs}) + Z_g}$$

$$(3) v_1 = i_{out} \left( Z_{deg} \parallel \left( \frac{1}{sC_{gs}} + Z_g \right) \right)$$

- After much algebra:

$$\eta = \frac{i_{out}}{i_{test}} = 1 - \left( \frac{g_m Z_{deg}}{Z_{deg} + Z_g} \right) Z_{gs}$$

# Calculation of Output Current Noise Variance (Power)



$$i_{out} = \overline{i_{ndg}} = \eta \overline{i_{nd}} + g_m Z_{gs} \overline{i_{ng}}$$

- To find noise variance:

$$\overline{i_{ndg}^2} = \overline{i_{ndg}^* i_{ndg}} = \overline{(\eta^* i_{nd}^* + g_m Z_{gs}^* i_{ng}^*)(\eta i_{nd} + g_m Z_{gs} i_{ng})}$$

# Variance (i.e., Power) Calc. for Output Current Noise

## ■ Noise variance calculation

$$\begin{aligned}
 \overline{i_{ndg}^2} &= |\eta|^2 \overline{i_{nd} i_{nd}^*} + \overline{i_{nd}^* i_{ng} g_m \eta^* Z_{gs}} + \overline{i_{nd} i_{ng}^*} (g_m \eta Z_{gs})^* + \overline{i_{ng} i_{ng}^*} |g_m Z_{gs}|^2 \\
 &= |\eta|^2 \overline{i_{nd}^2} + 2 \operatorname{Re} \{ \overline{i_{nd}^* i_{ng} g_m \eta^* Z_{gs}} \} + \overline{i_{ng}^2} |g_m Z_{gs}|^2 \\
 &= |\eta|^2 \overline{i_{nd}^2} + 2 \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{\overline{i_{nd}^* i_{ng}}}{\sqrt{\overline{i_{nd}^2} \overline{i_{ng}^2}}} \sqrt{\overline{i_{nd}^2} \overline{i_{ng}^2}} g_m \eta^* Z_{gs} \right\} + \overline{i_{ng}^2} |g_m Z_{gs}|^2
 \end{aligned}$$

## ■ Define correlation coefficient $c$ between $i_{ng}$ and $i_{nd}$

$$c = \frac{\overline{i_{nd}^* i_{ng}}}{\sqrt{\overline{i_{nd}^2} \overline{i_{ng}^2}}} \Rightarrow \overline{i_{ndg}^2} = |\eta|^2 \overline{i_{nd}^2} + 2 \operatorname{Re} \left\{ c \sqrt{\overline{i_{nd}^2} \overline{i_{ng}^2}} g_m \eta^* Z_{gs} \right\} + \overline{i_{ng}^2} |g_m Z_{gs}|^2$$

$$\overline{i_{ndg}^2} = \overline{i_{nd}^2} \left( |\eta|^2 + 2 \operatorname{Re} \left\{ c \sqrt{\frac{\overline{i_{ng}^2}}{\overline{i_{nd}^2}}} g_m \eta^* Z_{gs} \right\} + \frac{\overline{i_{ng}^2}}{\overline{i_{nd}^2}} g_m^2 |Z_{gs}|^2 \right)$$

# Parameterized Expression for Output Noise Variance

- Key equation from last slide

$$\overline{i_{ndg}^2} = \overline{i_{nd}^2} \left( |\eta|^2 + 2 \operatorname{Re} \left\{ c \sqrt{\frac{\overline{i_{ng}^2}}{\overline{i_{nd}^2}}} g_m \eta^* Z_{gs} \right\} + \frac{\overline{i_{ng}^2}}{\overline{i_{nd}^2}} g_m^2 |Z_{gs}|^2 \right)$$

- Solve for noise ratio

$$\sqrt{\frac{\overline{i_{ng}^2}}{\overline{i_{nd}^2}}} g_m = g_m \sqrt{\frac{4kT\delta(\omega C_{gs})^2 / (5g_{do})}{4kT\gamma g_{do}}} = \frac{g_m}{g_{do}} \sqrt{\frac{\delta}{5\gamma}} (\omega C_{gs})$$

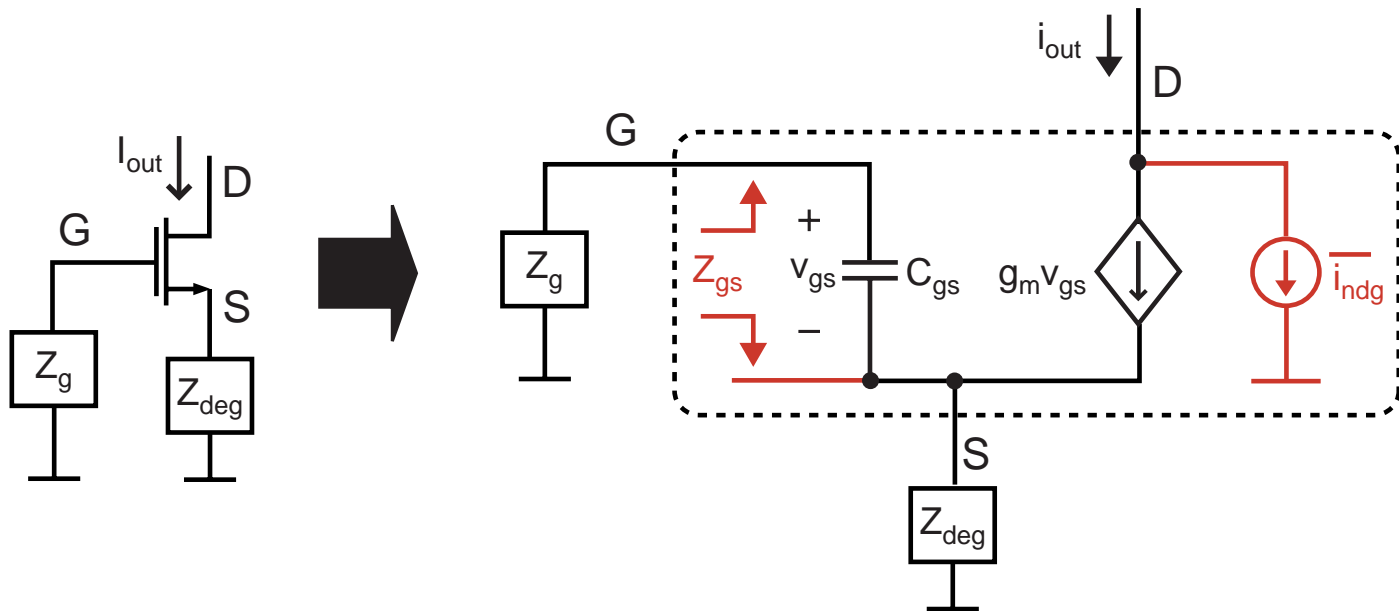
- Define parameters  $Z_{gsw}$  and  $\chi_d$

$$Z_{gsw} = \omega C_{gs} Z_{gs}, \quad \chi_d = \frac{g_m}{g_{do}} \sqrt{\frac{\delta}{5\gamma}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \overline{i_{ndg}^2} = \overline{i_{nd}^2} \left( |\eta|^2 + 2 \operatorname{Re} \{ c \chi_d \eta^* Z_{gsw} \} + \chi_d^2 |Z_{gsw}|^2 \right)$$



# Small Signal Model for Noise Calculations

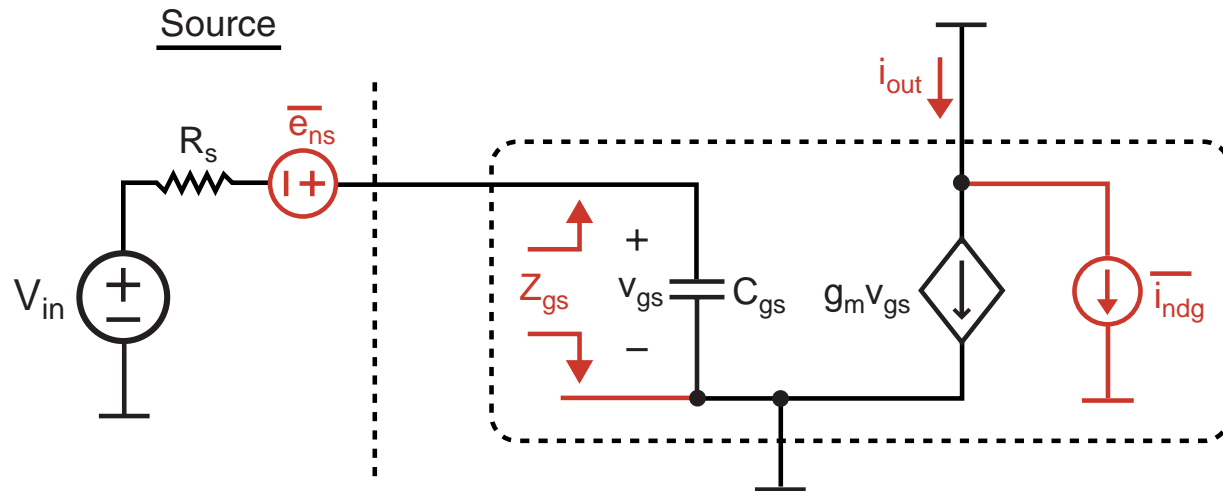


$$\frac{\overline{i_{ndg}^2}}{\Delta f} = \frac{\overline{i_{nd}^2}}{\Delta f} \left( |\eta|^2 + 2 \operatorname{Re} \{ c \chi_d \eta^* Z_{gsw} \} + \chi_d^2 |Z_{gsw}|^2 \right)$$

where:  $\frac{\overline{i_{nd}^2}}{\Delta f} = 4kT\gamma g_{do}$ ,  $\chi_d = \frac{g_m}{g_{do}} \sqrt{\frac{\delta}{5\gamma}}$ ,  $Z_{gsw} = wC_{gs}Z_{gs}$

$$Z_{gs} = \frac{1}{sC_{gs}} \parallel \frac{Z_{deg} + Z_g}{1 + g_m Z_{deg}} \quad \eta = 1 - \left( \frac{g_m Z_{deg}}{Z_{deg} + Z_g} \right) Z_{gs}$$

## Example: Output Current Noise with $Z_s = R_s$ , $Z_{deg} = 0$



- Step 1: Determine key noise parameters
  - For  $0.18\mu$  CMOS, we will assume the following

$$c = -j0.55, \quad \gamma = 3, \quad \delta = 2\gamma = 6, \quad \frac{g_m}{g_{do}} = \frac{1}{2} \Rightarrow \chi_d = 0.32$$

- Step 2: calculate  $\eta$  and  $Z_{gsw}$

$$\eta = 1, \quad Z_{gsw} = \omega C_{gs} \left( R_s \parallel \frac{1}{j\omega C_{gs}} \right) = \frac{\omega C_{gs} R_s}{1 + j\omega C_{gs} R_s}$$

## Calculation of Output Current Noise (continued)

- Step 3: Plug values into the previously derived expression

$$\frac{\overline{i_{ndg}^2}}{\Delta f} = \frac{\overline{i_{nd}^2}}{\Delta f} \left( \frac{1 + 2 \operatorname{Re} \{-j|c|\chi_d Z_{gsw}\} + \chi_d^2 |Z_{gsw}|^2}{\text{Drain Noise Multiplying Factor}} \right)$$

Drain Noise Multiplying Factor

$$Z_{gsw} = wC_{gs} \left( R_s \parallel \frac{1}{jwC_{gs}} \right) = \frac{wC_{gs}R_s}{1 + jwC_{gs}R_s}$$

- For  $w \ll 1/(R_s C_{gs})$ :

$$Z_{gsw} \approx wC_{gs}R_s \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{\overline{i_{ndg}^2}}{\Delta f} \approx \frac{\overline{i_{nd}^2}}{\Delta f} \left( 1 + \chi_d^2 (wC_{gs}R_s)^2 \right)$$

Gate noise contribution

## Calculation of Output Current Noise (continued)

- Step 3: Plug values into the previously derived expression

$$\frac{\overline{i_{ndg}^2}}{\Delta f} = \frac{\overline{i_{nd}^2}}{\Delta f} \left( \frac{1 + 2 \operatorname{Re} \{-j|c|\chi_d Z_{gsw}\} + \chi_d^2 |Z_{gsw}|^2}{\text{Drain Noise Multiplying Factor}} \right)$$

Drain Noise Multiplying Factor

$$Z_{gsw} = wC_{gs} \left( R_s \parallel \frac{1}{jwC_{gs}} \right) = \frac{wC_{gs}R_s}{1 + jwC_{gs}R_s}$$

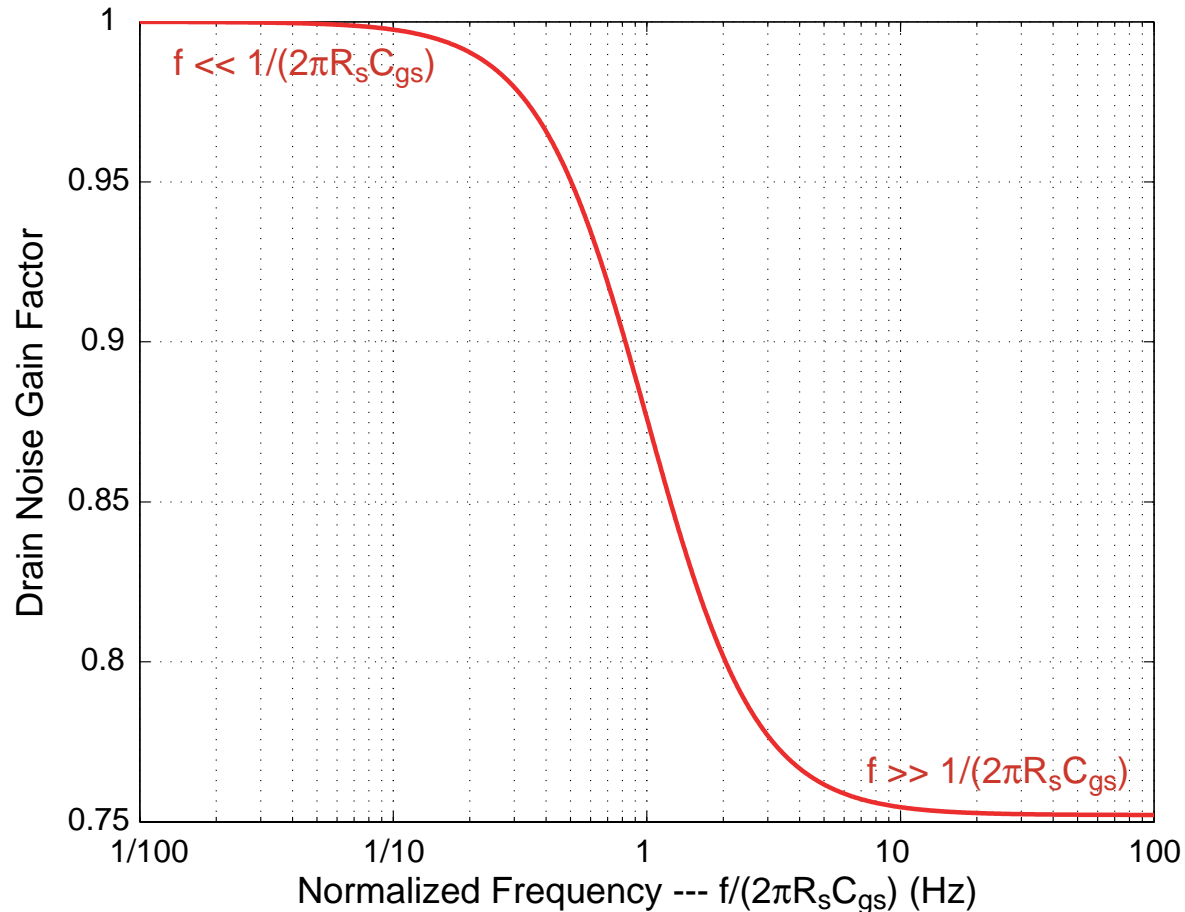
- For  $w \gg 1/(R_s C_{gs})$ :

$$Z_{gsw} \approx 1/j \Rightarrow \frac{\overline{i_{ndg}^2}}{\Delta f} = \frac{\overline{i_{nd}^2}}{\Delta f} \left( \frac{1 - 2|c|\chi_d + \chi_d^2}{\text{Gate noise contribution}} \right)$$

Gate noise contribution

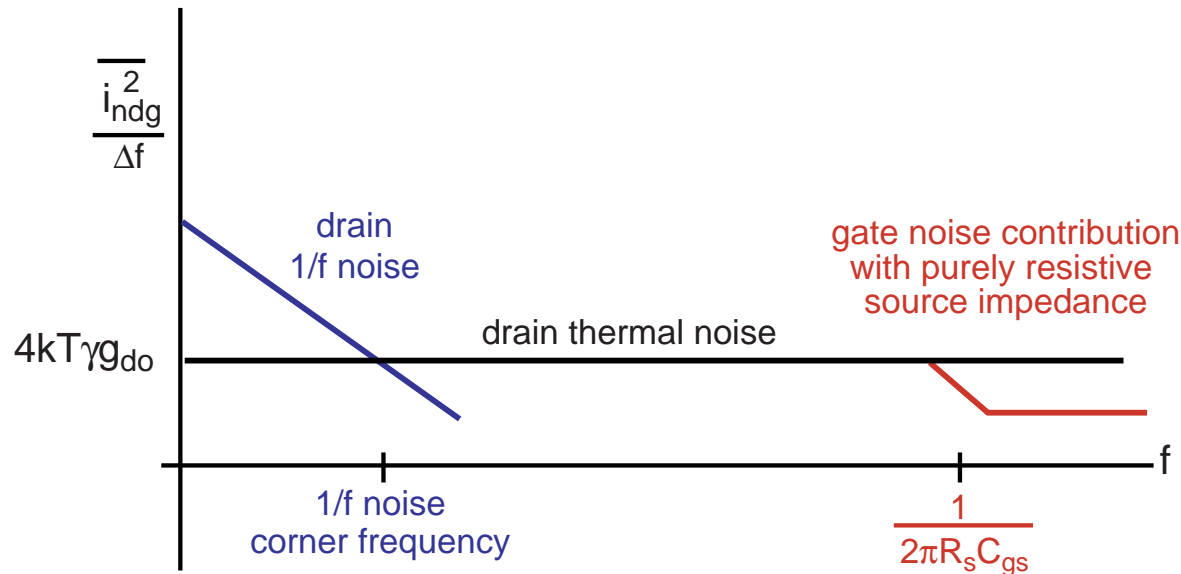
# Plot of Drain Noise Multiplying Factor (0.18 $\mu$ NMOS)

Drain Noise Multiplying Factor Versus Frequency for 0.18 $\mu$  NMOS Device



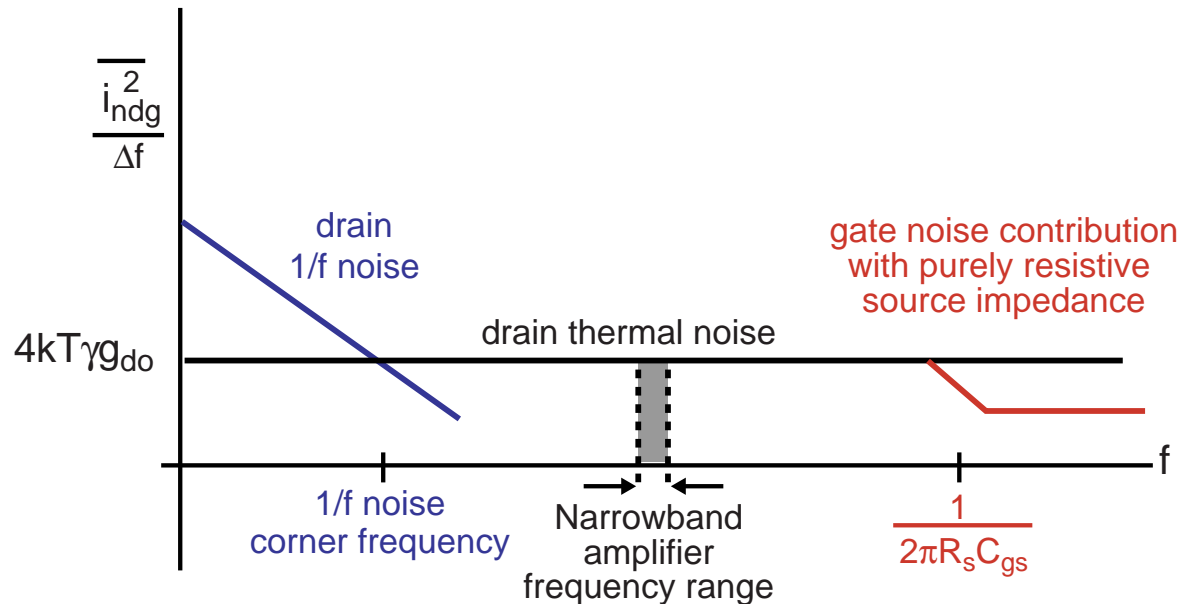
- **Conclusion: gate noise has little effect on common source amp when source impedance is purely resistive!**

# Broadband Amplifier Design Considerations for Noise



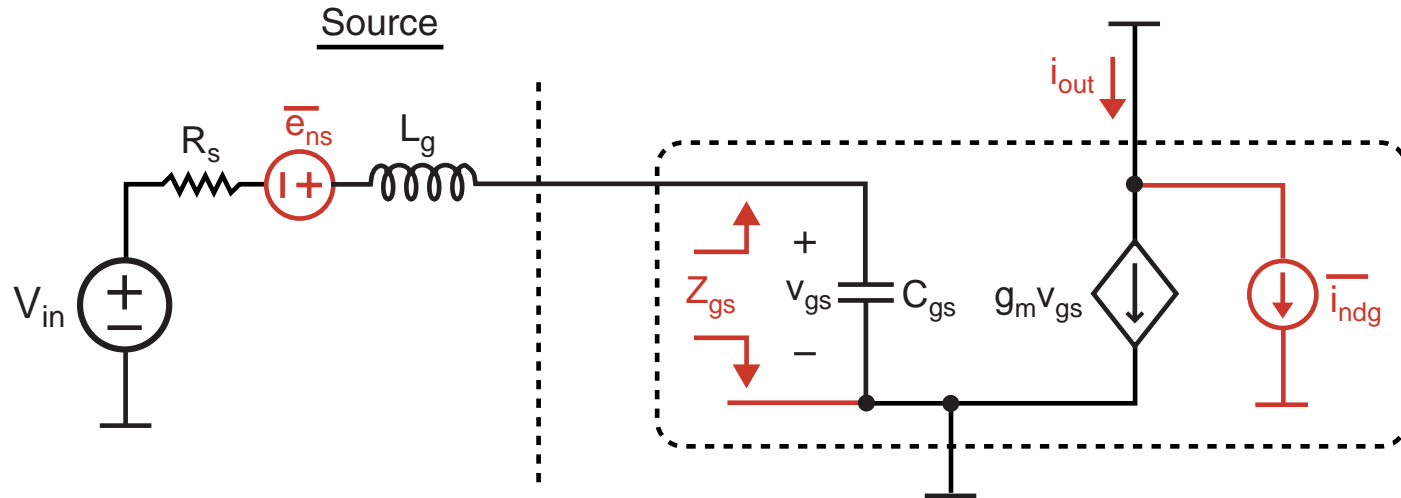
- Drain thermal noise is the chief issue of concern when designing amplifiers with  $> 1$  GHz bandwidth
  - $1/f$  noise corner is usually less than 1 MHz
  - Gate noise contribution only has influence at high frequencies
- Noise performance specification is usually given in terms of input referred voltage noise

# Narrowband Amplifier Noise Requirements



- Here we focus on a narrowband of operation
  - Don't care about noise outside that band since it will be filtered out
- Gate noise is a significant issue here
  - Using reactive elements in the source dramatically impacts the influence of gate noise
- Specification usually given in terms of Noise Figure

# The Impact of Gate Noise with $Z_s = R_s + sL_g$



- Step 1: Determine key noise parameters
  - For  $0.18\mu$  CMOS, again assume the following

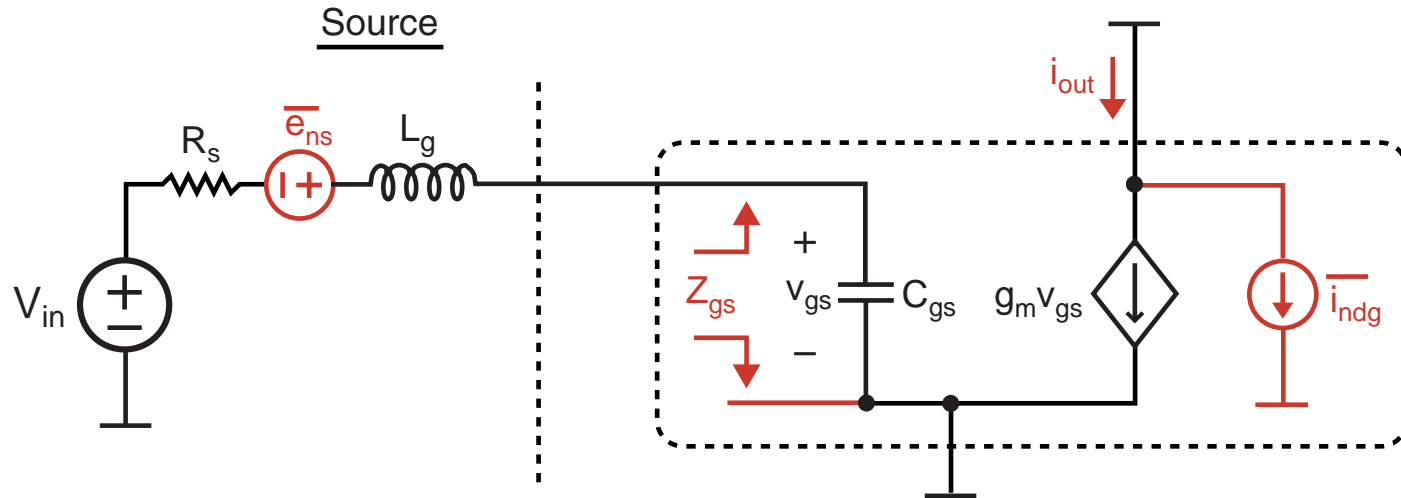
$$c = -j0.55, \quad \gamma = 3, \quad \delta = 2\gamma = 6, \quad \frac{g_m}{g_{do}} = \frac{1}{2} \Rightarrow \chi_d = 0.32$$

- Step 2: Note that  $\eta = 1$ , calculate  $Z_{gsw}$

$$Z_{gsw} = \omega C_{gs} \left( (R_s + j\omega L_g) \parallel \frac{1}{j\omega C_{gs}} \right) = \frac{\omega C_{gs} (R_s + j\omega L_g)}{1 - \omega^2 L_g C_{gs} + j\omega C_{gs} R_s}$$



# Evaluate $Z_{gsw}$ At Resonance



- Set  $L_g$  such that it resonates with  $C_{gs}$  at the center frequency ( $\omega_o$ ) of the narrow band of interest

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{L_g C_{gs}}} = \omega_o \quad \text{Note: } Q = \frac{1}{\omega_o C_{gs} R_s} = \frac{\omega_o L_g}{R_s}$$

- Calculate  $Z_{gsw}$  at frequency  $\omega_o$

$$Z_{gsw} = \frac{\omega_o C_{gs} (R_s + j\omega_o L_g)}{1 - \omega_o^2 L_g C_{gs} + j\omega_o C_{gs} R_s} = \omega_o C_{gs} (Q^2 R_s - j\sqrt{L_g / C_{gs}}) = \boxed{Q - j}$$

## The Impact of Gate Noise with $Z_s = R_s + sL_g$ (Cont.)

- Key noise expression derived earlier

$$\frac{\overline{i_{ndg}^2}}{\Delta f} = \frac{\overline{i_{nd}^2}}{\Delta f} \left( 1 + 2 \operatorname{Re} \{ -j|c|\chi_d Z_{gsw} \} + \chi_d^2 |Z_{gsw}|^2 \right)$$

- Substitute in for  $Z_{gsw}$

$$2 \operatorname{Re} \{ -j|c|\chi_d Z_{gsw} \} = 2 \operatorname{Re} \{ -j|c|\chi_d (Q - j) \} = -2|c|\chi_d$$

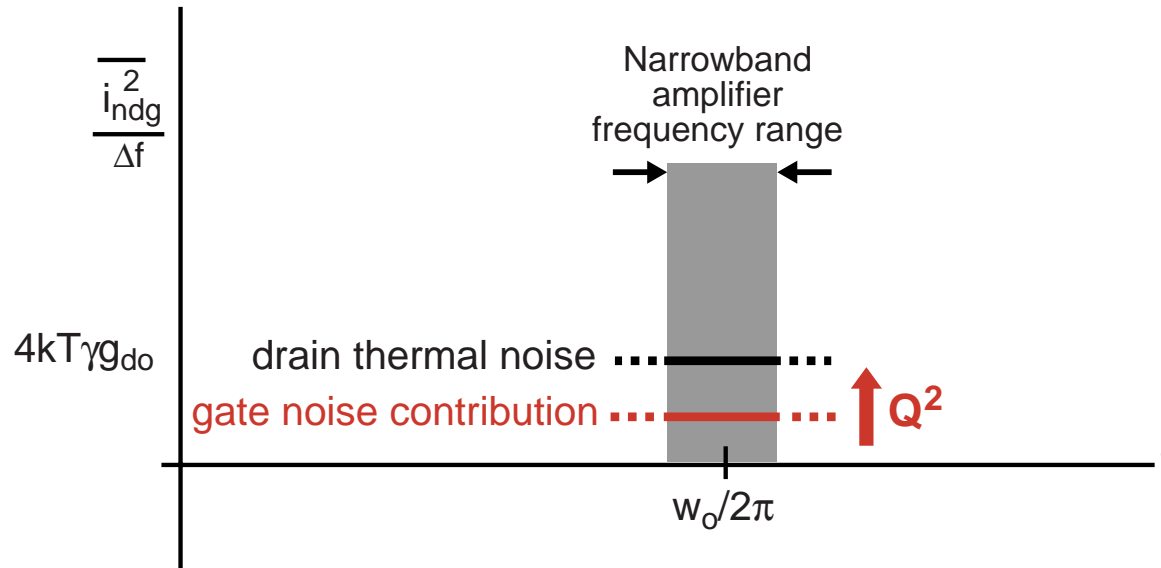
$$\chi_d^2 |Z_{gsw}|^2 = \chi_d^2 |Q - j|^2 = \chi_d^2 (Q^2 + 1)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\overline{i_{ndg}^2}}{\Delta f} = \frac{\overline{i_{nd}^2}}{\Delta f} \left( 1 - 2|c|\chi_d + \chi_d^2 (Q^2 + 1) \right)$$

**Gate noise contribution**

- Gate noise contribution is a function of Q!
  - Rises monotonically with Q

# At What Value of Q Does Gate Noise Exceed Drain Noise?



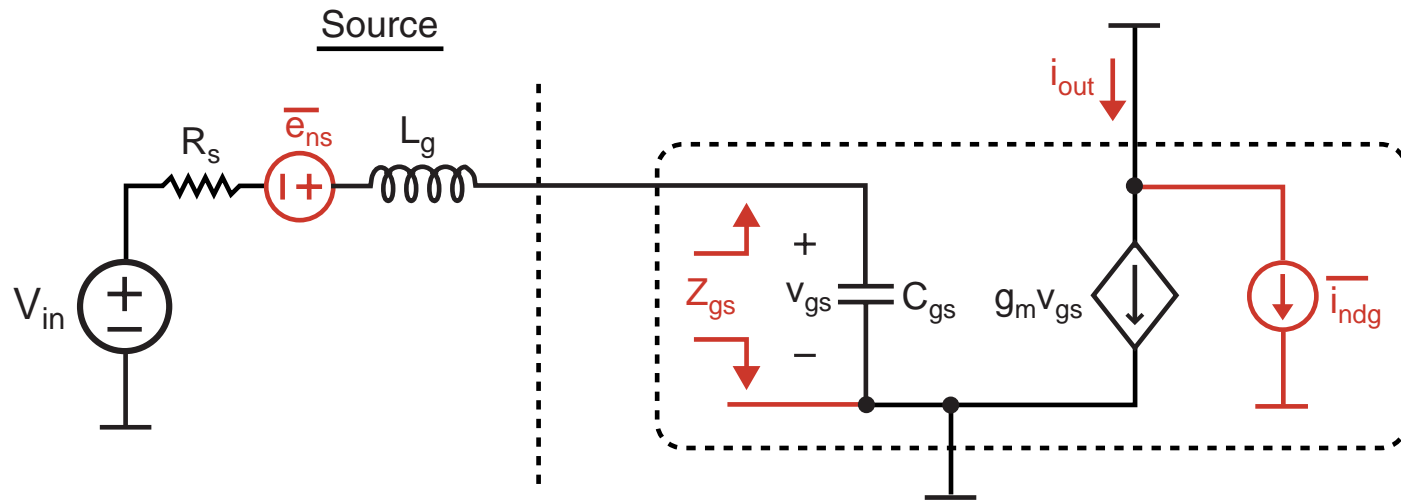
- Determine crossover point for Q value

$$\frac{\overline{i_{ndg}^2}}{\Delta f} = \frac{\overline{i_{nd}^2}}{\Delta f} \left( 1 - 2|c|\chi_d + \chi_d^2(Q^2 + 1) \right) = \frac{\overline{i_{nd}^2}}{\Delta f} 1$$

$$\Rightarrow Q = \sqrt{1/\chi_d^2 - 1 + 2|c|/\chi_d} \quad (= 3.5 \text{ for } 0.18\mu \text{ specs})$$

- Critical Q value for crossover is primarily set by process

# Calculation of the Signal Spectrum at the Output



- First calculate relationship between  $v_{in}$  and  $i_{out}$

$$i_{out,sig} = g_m v_{gs} = g_m \frac{1}{1 - \omega^2 L_g C_{gs} + j\omega R_s C_{gs}} V_{in}$$

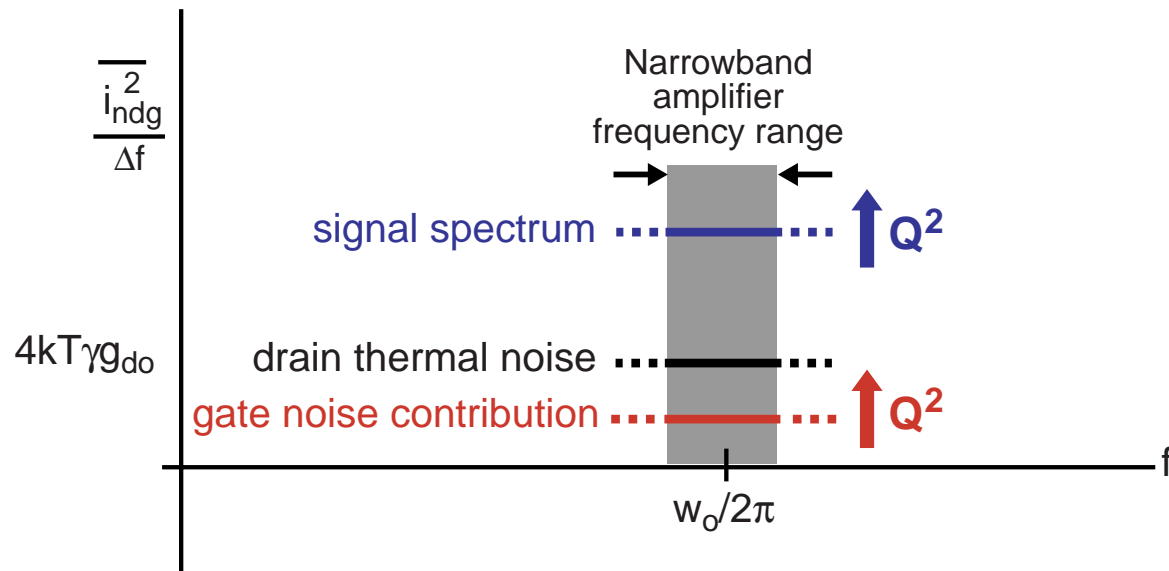
- At resonance:

$$i_{out,sig} = g_m v_{gs} = g_m \frac{1}{j\omega_o R_s C_{gs}} v_{in} = g_m (-jQ) v_{in}$$

- Spectral density of signal at output at resonant frequency

$$S_{iout,sig}(f) = |g_m (-jQ)|^2 S_{in}(f) = \boxed{(g_m Q)^2 S_{in}(f)}$$

# Impact of Q on SNR (Ignoring $R_s$ Noise)

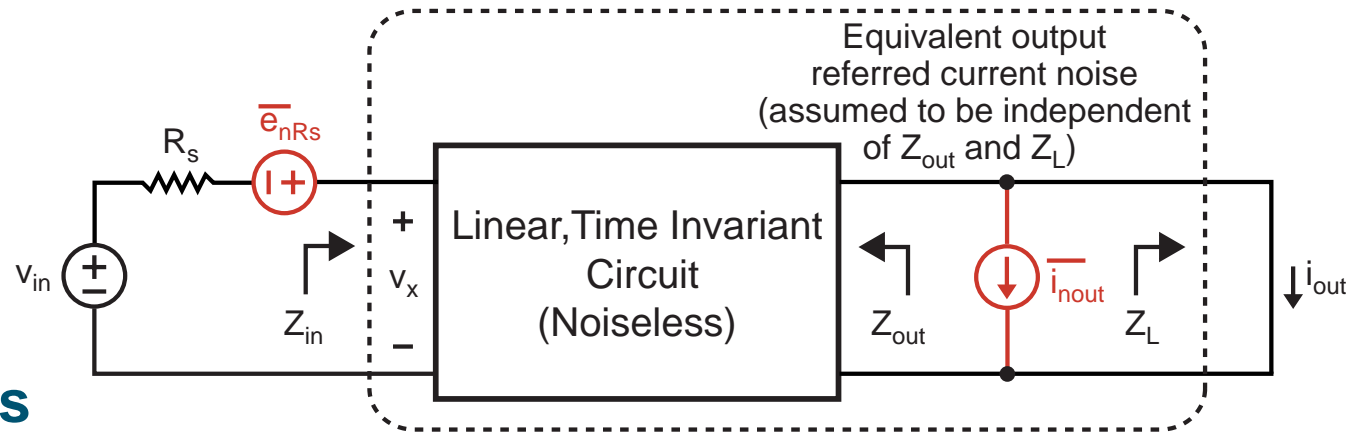


- **SNR (assume constant spectra, ignore noise from  $R_s$ ):**

$$SNR_{out} = \frac{S_{iout,sig}(f)}{S_{iout,noise}(f)} \approx \frac{(g_m Q)^2 S_{in}(f)}{i_{ndg}^2 / \Delta f}$$

- **For small Q such that gate noise < drain noise**
  - $SNR_{out}$  improves dramatically as Q is increased
- **For large Q such that gate noise > drain noise**
  - $SNR_{out}$  improves very little as Q is increased

# Noise Factor and Noise Figure



## ■ Definitions

$$\text{Noise Factor} = F = \frac{SNR_{in}}{SNR_{out}}$$

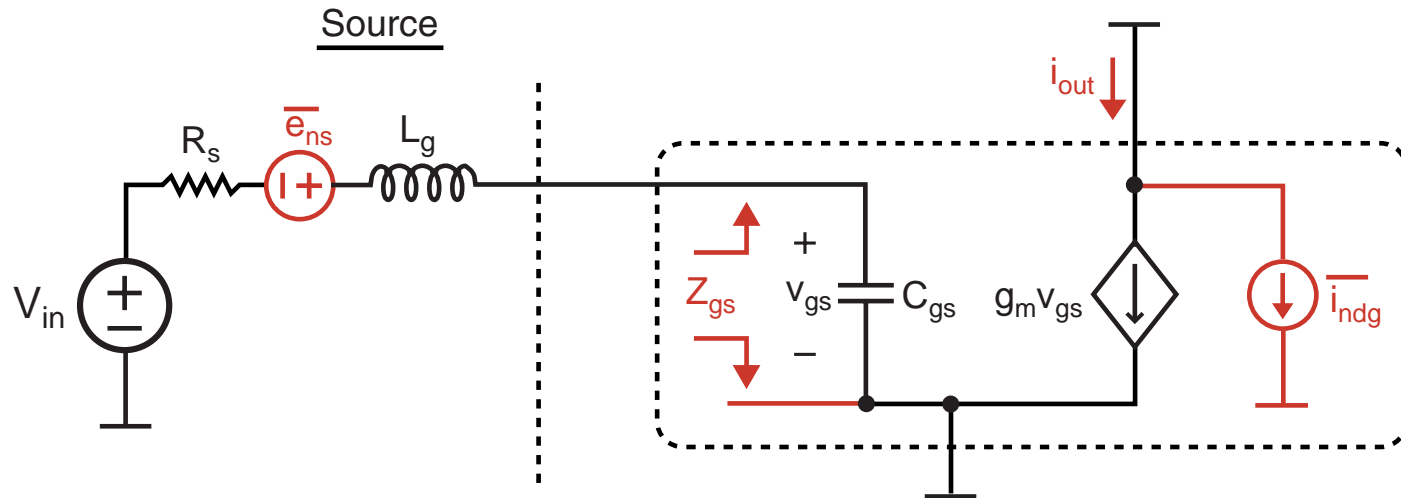
$$\text{Noise Figure} = 10 \log(\text{Noise Factor})$$

## ■ Calculation of $SNR_{in}$ and $SNR_{out}$

$$SNR_{in} = \frac{|\alpha|^2 v_{in}^2}{|\alpha|^2 e_{nRs}^2} = \frac{v_{in}^2}{e_{nRs}^2} \quad \text{where } \alpha = \frac{Z_{in}}{R_s + Z_{in}}$$

$$SNR_{out} = \frac{|\alpha|^2 |G_m|^2 v_{in}^2}{|\alpha|^2 |G_m|^2 e_{nRs}^2 + i_{nout}^2} \quad \text{where } G_m = \frac{i_{out}}{v_x}$$

# Calculate Noise Factor (Part 1)



- First calculate  $SNR_{out}$  (must include  $R_s$  noise for this)

- $R_s$  noise calculation (same as for  $V_{in}$ )

$$i_{out,R_s} = g_m(-jQ) \overline{e_{ns}} \Rightarrow S_{i_{out,R_s}}(f) = (g_m Q)^2 4kT R_s$$

- $SNR_{out}$ :

$$\Rightarrow SNR_{out} = \frac{(g_m Q)^2 S_{in}(f)}{i_{ndg}^2 / \Delta f + (g_m Q)^2 4kT R_s}$$

- Then calculate  $SNR_{in}$ :

$$SNR_{in} = \frac{S_{in}(f)}{e_{ns}^2 / \Delta f} = \frac{S_{in}(f)}{4kT R_s}$$

## Calculate Noise Factor (Part 2)

$$SNR_{out} = \frac{|g_m Q|^2 S_{in}(f)}{\overline{i_{ndg}^2}/\Delta f + (g_m Q)^2 4kTR_s} \quad SNR_{in} = \frac{S_{in}(f)}{e_{ns}^2/\Delta f} = \frac{S_{in}(f)}{4kTR_s}$$

- **Noise Factor calculation:**

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Noise Factor} &= \frac{SNR_{in}}{SNR_{out}} = \frac{\overline{i_{ndg}^2}/\Delta f + |g_m Q|^2 4kTR_s}{(g_m Q)^2 4kTR_s} \\ &= 1 + \frac{\overline{i_{ndg}^2}/\Delta f}{(g_m Q)^2 4kTR_s} \end{aligned}$$

- **From previous analysis**

$$\overline{i_{ndg}^2}/\Delta f = 4kT\gamma g_{do} \left( 1 - 2|c|\chi_d + (Q^2 + 1)\chi_d^2 \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Noise Factor} = 1 + \frac{\gamma g_{do} \left( 1 - 2|c|\chi_d + (Q^2 + 1)\chi_d^2 \right)}{(g_m Q)^2 R_s}$$



## Calculate Noise Factor (Part 3)

$$\text{Noise Factor} = 1 + \frac{\gamma g_{do} (1 - 2|c|\chi_d + (Q^2 + 1)\chi_d^2)}{(g_m Q)^2 R_s}$$

- **Modify denominator using expressions for Q and  $w_t$**

$$Q = \frac{1}{w_o R_s C_{gs}}, \quad w_t \approx \frac{g_m}{C_{gs}}$$

$$\Rightarrow (g_m Q)^2 R_s = g_m^2 Q \frac{R_s}{w_o R_s C_{gs}} = g_m Q \frac{g_m}{C_{gs}} \frac{1}{w_o} = g_m Q \frac{w_t}{w_o}$$

- **Resulting expression for noise factor:**

$$\text{Noise Factor} = 1 + \underbrace{\left( \frac{w_o}{w_t} \right) \gamma \left( \frac{g_{do}}{g_m} \right) \frac{1}{Q} (1 - 2|c|\chi_d + (Q^2 + 1)\chi_d^2)}_{\text{Noise Factor scaling coefficient}}$$

- **Noise factor primarily depends on Q,  $w_o/w_t$ , and process specs**

## Minimum Noise Factor

---

$$\text{Noise Factor} = 1 + \left(\frac{w_o}{w_t}\right) \gamma \left(\frac{g_{do}}{g_m}\right) \frac{1}{Q} \left(1 - 2|c|\chi_d + (Q^2 + 1)\chi_d^2\right)$$

---

**Noise Factor scaling coefficient**

- We see that the noise factor will be minimized for some value of Q
  - Could solve analytically by differentiating with respect to Q and solving for peak value (i.e. where deriv. = 0)
- In Tom Lee's book (pp 272-277), the minimum noise factor for the MOS common source amplifier (i.e. no degeneration) is found to be:

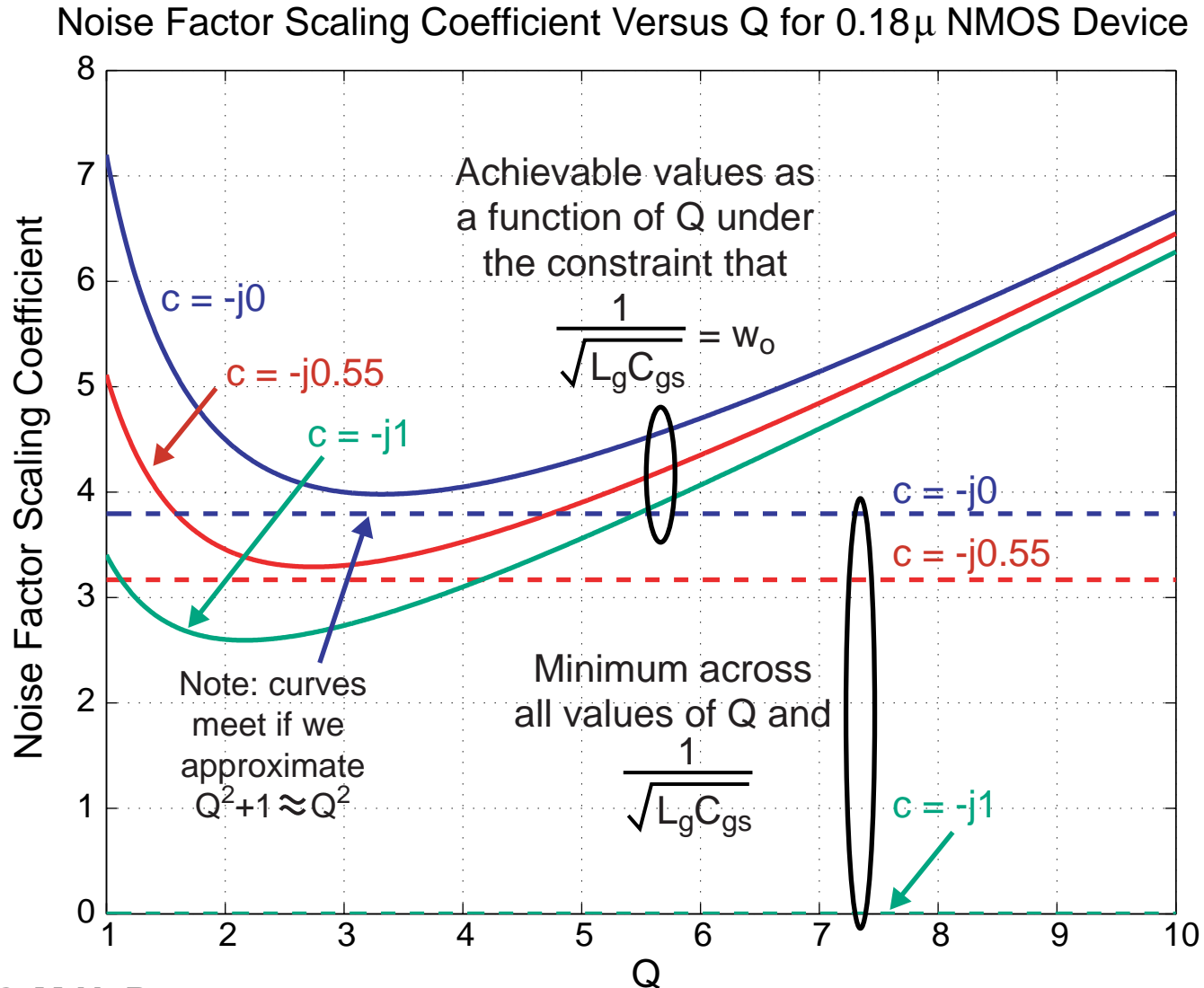
$$\text{Min Noise Factor} = 1 + \left(\frac{w_o}{w_t}\right) \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}} \sqrt{\gamma \delta (1 - |c|^2)}$$

---

**Noise Factor scaling coefficient**

- How do these compare?

# Plot of Minimum Noise Factor and Noise Factor Vs. Q



# *Achieving Minimum Noise Factor*

---

- **For common source amplifier without degeneration**
  - Minimum noise factor can only be achieved at resonance if gate noise is uncorrelated to drain noise (i.e., if  $c = 0$ ) – we'll see this next lecture
  - We typically must operate slightly away from resonance in practice to achieve minimum noise factor since  $c$  will be nonzero
- **How do we determine the optimum source impedance to minimize noise figure in classical analysis?**
  - Next lecture!