

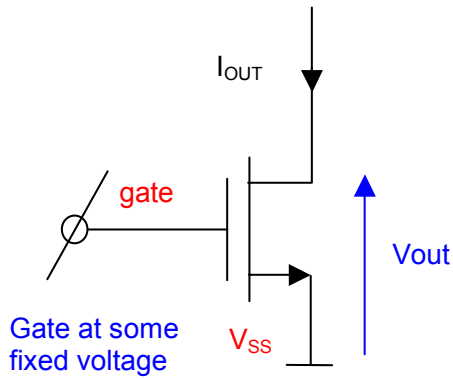
**MOS Current Sinks & Mirrors**

As with the BJT circuits in order to realise high voltage gains we require a high RL so that effectively the MOS FET gain will be  $-gm r_{ds}$ . Realistically if we use an active load using another device we will end up with two  $r_{ds}$ 's in parallel giving a voltage gain of:-

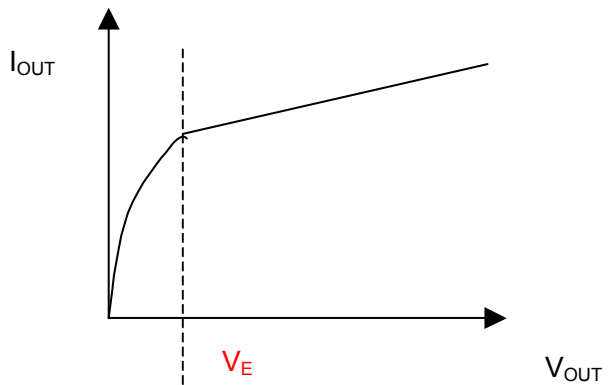
$$A_v = -gm \frac{r_{ds}}{2} \text{ Or in terms of conductance where } r_{ds} = \frac{1}{g_o} \quad AV = -gm(2g_o)$$

**Current Sink (N-type)**

For saturation in constant current region



$$V_{GS} = (V_G - V_{SS})$$

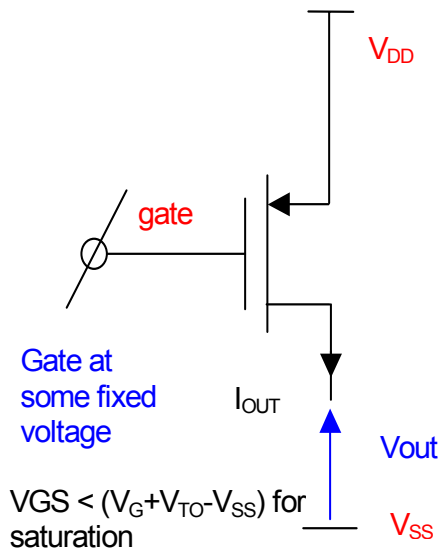


$$V_{DS} > V_E$$

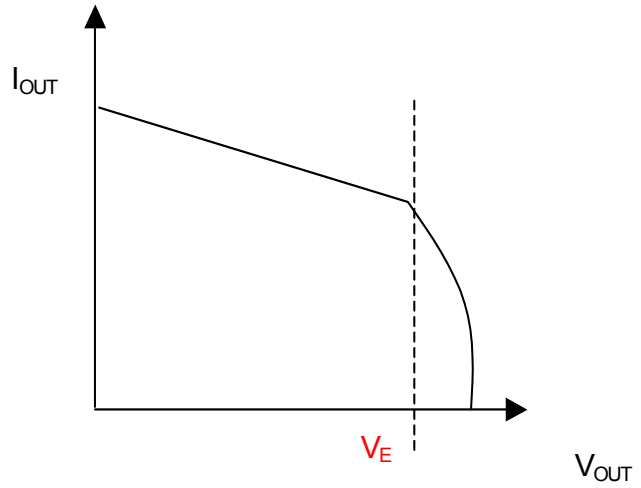
$$V_E = (V_G - V_{SS})$$

$$r_{OUT} = \frac{1}{\lambda \cdot I_{DS}} \approx \frac{1}{g_o} \approx r_{ds}$$

**Current Source (P-type)**



For saturation in constant current region

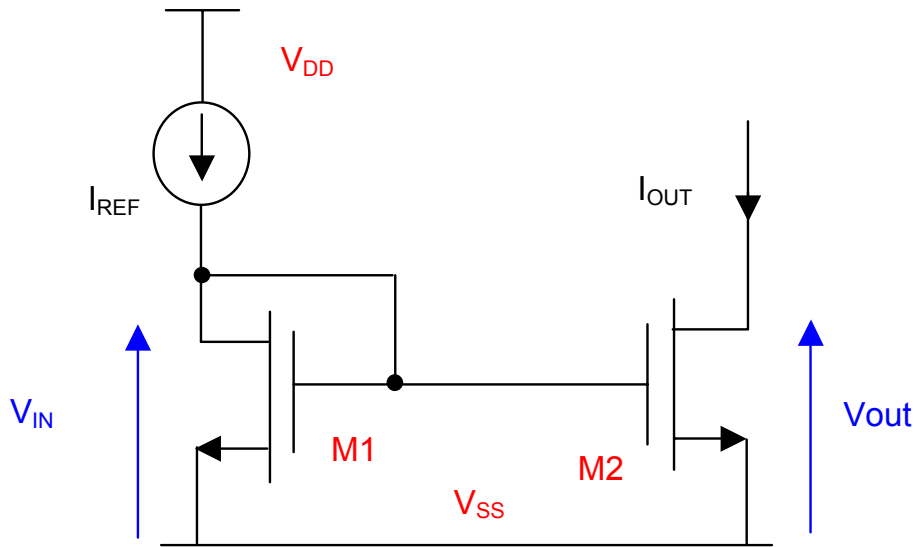


$$V_{DS} > V_E$$

$$V_E = (V_G + V_{TO} - V_{SS})$$

$$r_{OUT} = \frac{1}{\lambda \cdot I_{DS}} \approx \frac{1}{g_o} \approx r_{ds}$$

Simple current Mirror



Advantage is that the circuit is simple with a high output swing but the disadvantage is the low output impedance.

$$V_{IN(MIN)} = V_{DSAT} + V_T$$

$$V_{OMIN} = V_{DSAT}$$

$$R_{IN} \approx \frac{1}{gm_1}$$

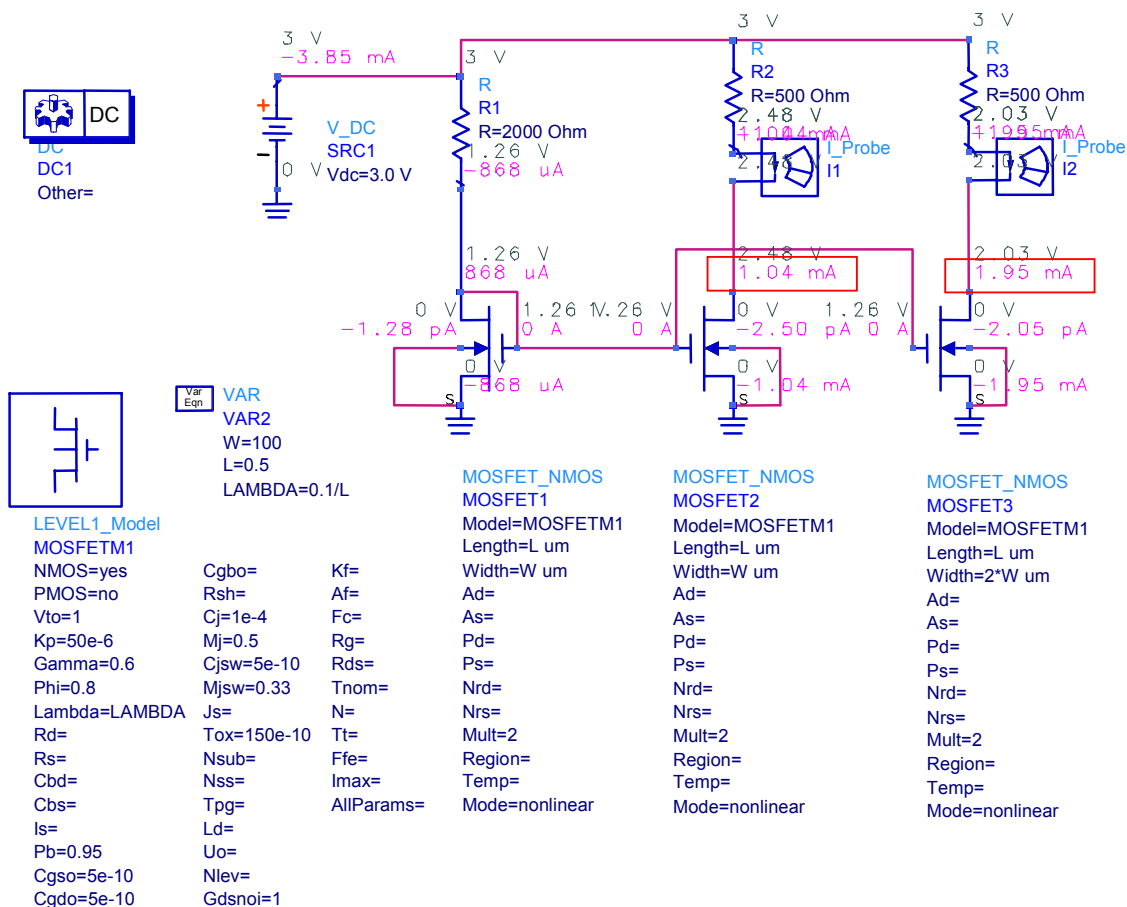
$$R_{OUT} = \frac{1}{go_2} = r_{ds2}$$

$$\frac{I_{OUT}}{I_{REF}} = \frac{\left(\frac{W_2}{L_2}\right)}{\left(\frac{W_1}{L_1}\right)}$$

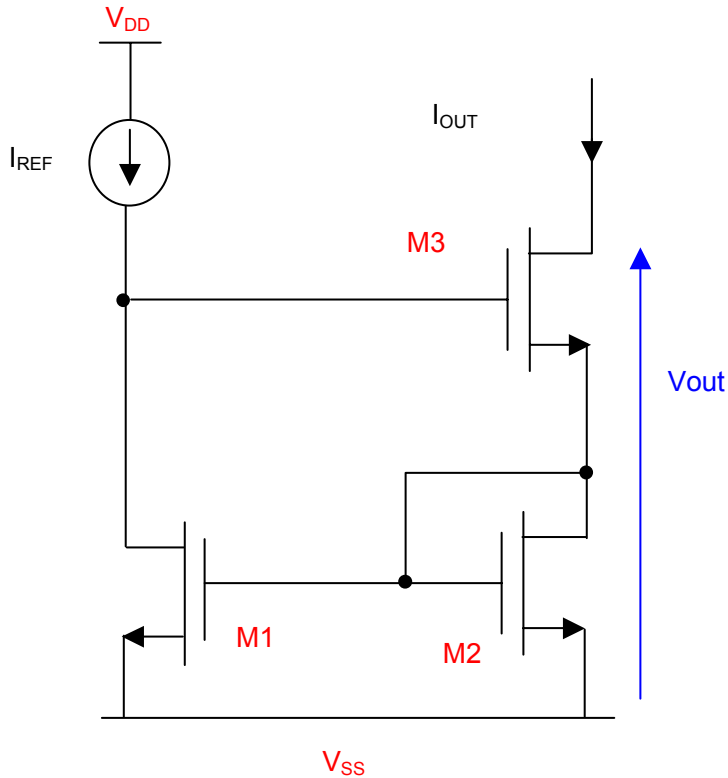
It is apparent that varying the W/L allows different current sink values for example the next circuit is designed to give a current sinks of 1mA and 2mA. For the design calculation the first MOS device can be considered as a diode – therefore the current set resistor will be (3-0.7)/1mA. The third device has double the width of the first two devices and therefore sinks double the current.



The circuit below shows the ADS simulation of two current sinks with different W/L ratio's resulting in different sink currents.



Wilson Current Mirror



$$V_{OUT(MIN)} = 2V_{DSAT} + V_T$$

$$r_{out} \approx \frac{g_{m3}}{g_{ds3} \cdot g_{ds1}} \approx g_{m3} \cdot (r_{ds3} // r_{ds1})$$

This circuit has high output resistance but suffers from  $V_{ds}$  mismatch between M1 & M2.

$$V_{DS1} = 2(V_{DSAT} + V_T) \text{ while } V_{DS2} = V_{DSAT} + V_T$$

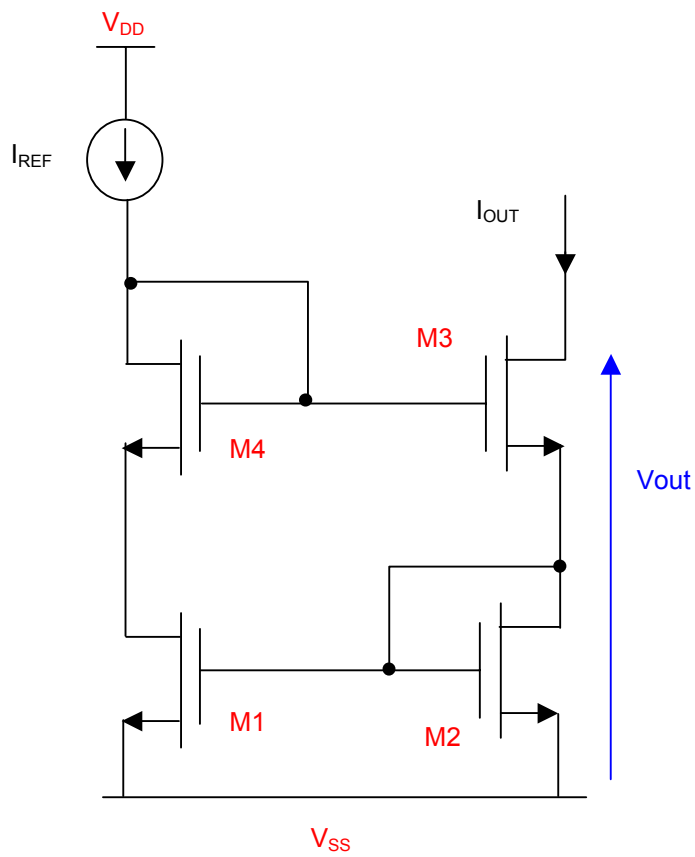
If  $v_{gs1} = v_{gs2}$  the two drain voltages will be on the same  $V_{ds}$  vs  $I_{ds}$  curve (for a given  $v_{gs}$ ) but in different positions. As  $1/\lambda$  is finite then the  $V_{ds}$  vs  $I_{ds}$  curve will not be flat but will have a slope therefore each VDS will have a different value of  $I_{DS}$ , so for this current mirror  $I_{IN} \neq I_{OUT}$ .

### Improved Wilson Current Mirror

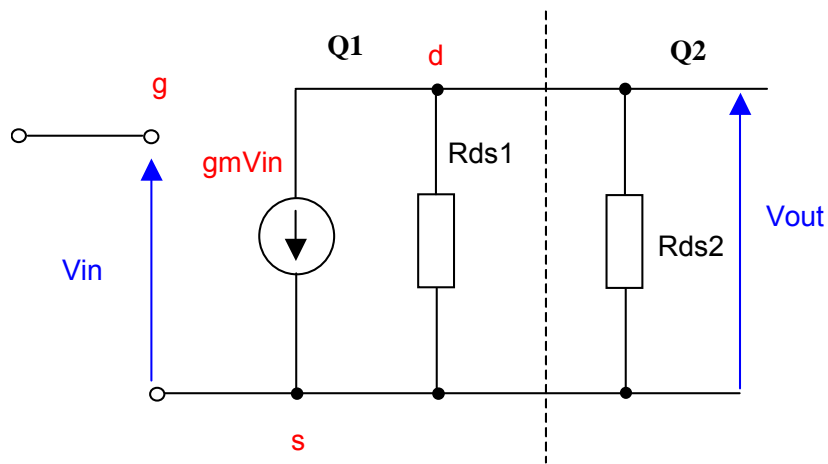
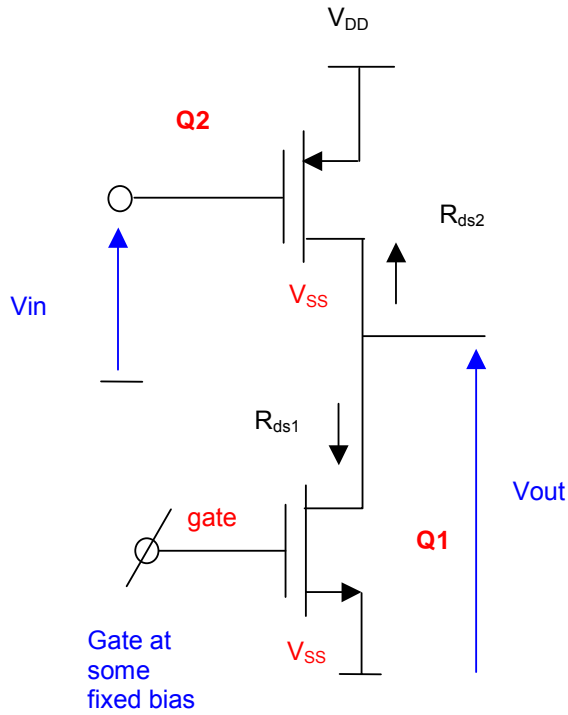
We can greatly reduce this mis-match by adding another transistor to the Wilson current mirror, making

$$V_{DS1} = V_{DS2} = V_{DSAT} + V_T$$

The value of  $r_{out}$  is the same.

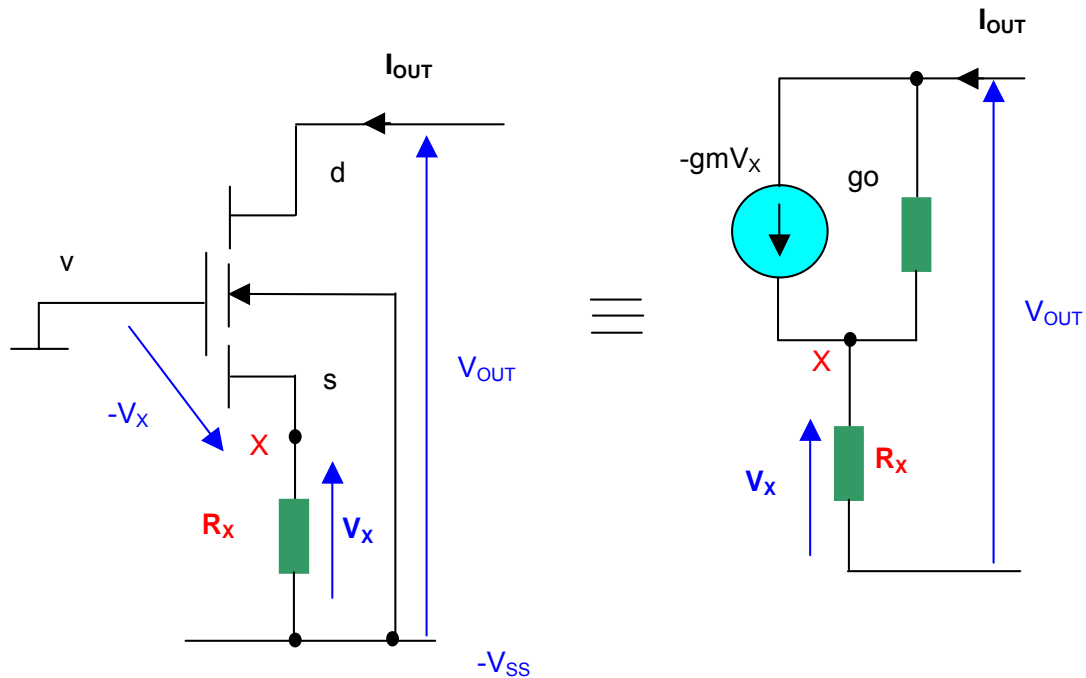


We would like a high resistance load to connect to our amplifier in order to obtain high voltage gain. Adding a current source will do this ie



$$\frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN}} = -gm_1(r_{ds1} // r_{ds2}) = -gm_1(g_{o1} + g_{o2})$$

The increase of the output resistance is limited to  $1/r_{ds}$  but this can be increased by adding a resistor to the source as shown below:



If we assume to start that the source is grounded then the voltage gain  $A =$

$$A = gmR_{ds}$$

$$V_o = A.V_x$$

$$V_o = A.I_o.R_x$$

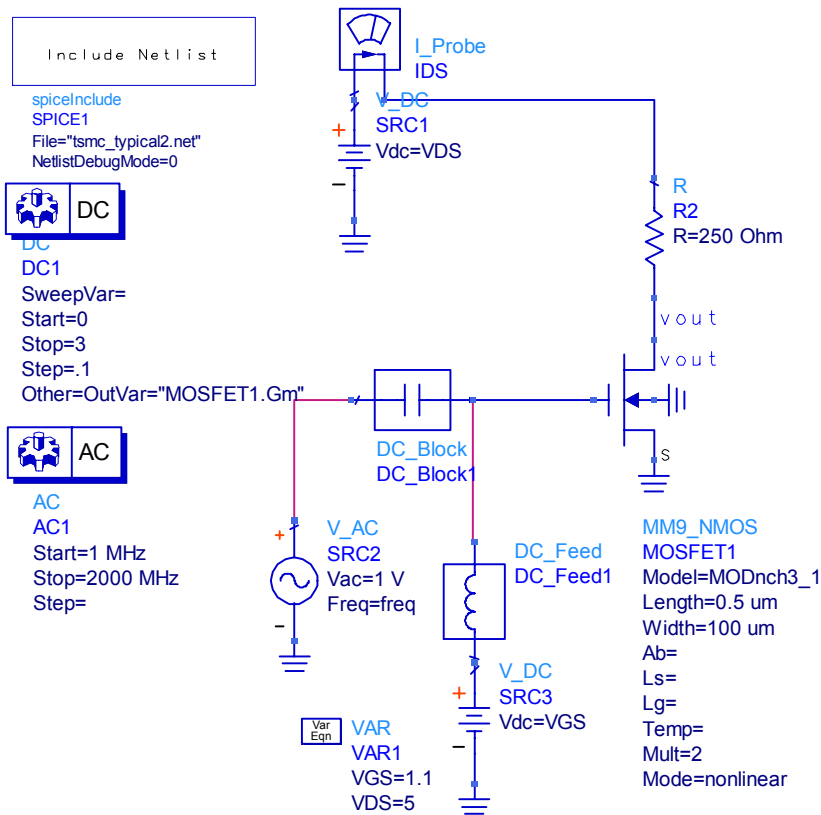
$$R_{OUT} = \frac{V_o}{I_o} = A.R_x = gmR_{ds}.R_x$$

The next circuit shows the advantages of active loads on the available gain of the circuit. Ideally for high frequency op-amps etc we require the highest gain possible. The circuit runs off a 5V rail and is loaded with a resistor. If we assume a bias current of 10mA and also assume that  $V_{ds} = 2.5V$  then this will set the bias load resistor and also the gain.

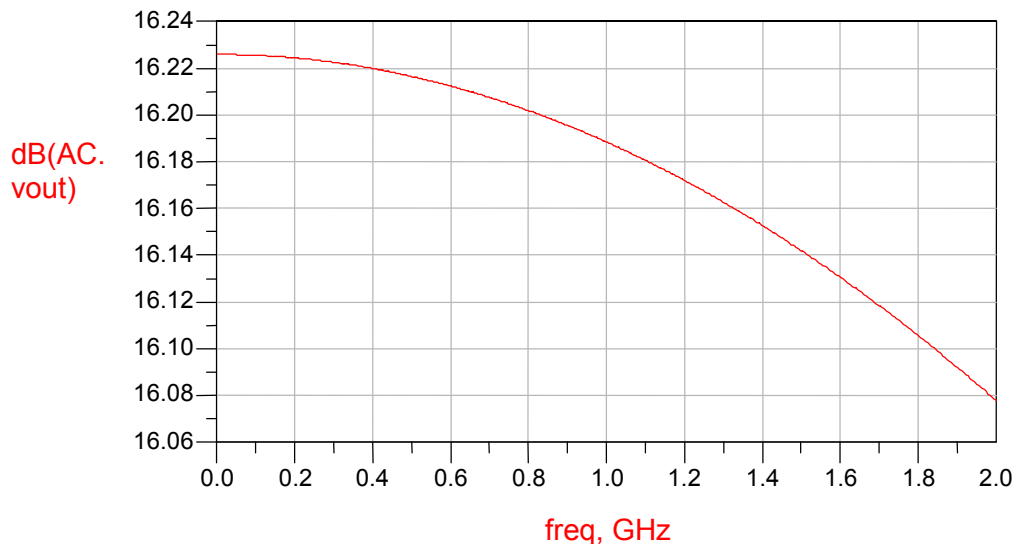
$$R_{LOAD} = \frac{V_{SS} - V_{DS}}{I_{DS}} = \frac{5 - 2.5}{10 \times 10^{-3}} = 250\Omega$$

$A_v$  then =  $-gmR_{LOAD} = -0.027 * 250 = 6.75$  in dB =  $20 * \text{Log}(7.75) = 16.6\text{dB}$   
The circuit was confirmed using an ADS simulation





The gate source voltage (Vgs) is set to 1.1 to give ~ 10mA of drain current. The resulting plot shows the gain agrees with the theory at 16dB.



DC.IDS.i	DC.vout	Gm
9.950mA	2.512 V	0.030



If we wanted higher gain – say double to 32dB we would require a larger drain load resistor ie

$$A_{V(dB)} = 20\text{LOG}(A_V) \quad \therefore A_V = 10^{\left(\frac{A_{V(dB)}}{20}\right)} \quad A_V = 10^{\left(\frac{32}{20}\right)} = 39.8$$

The load resistor required to give this gain =

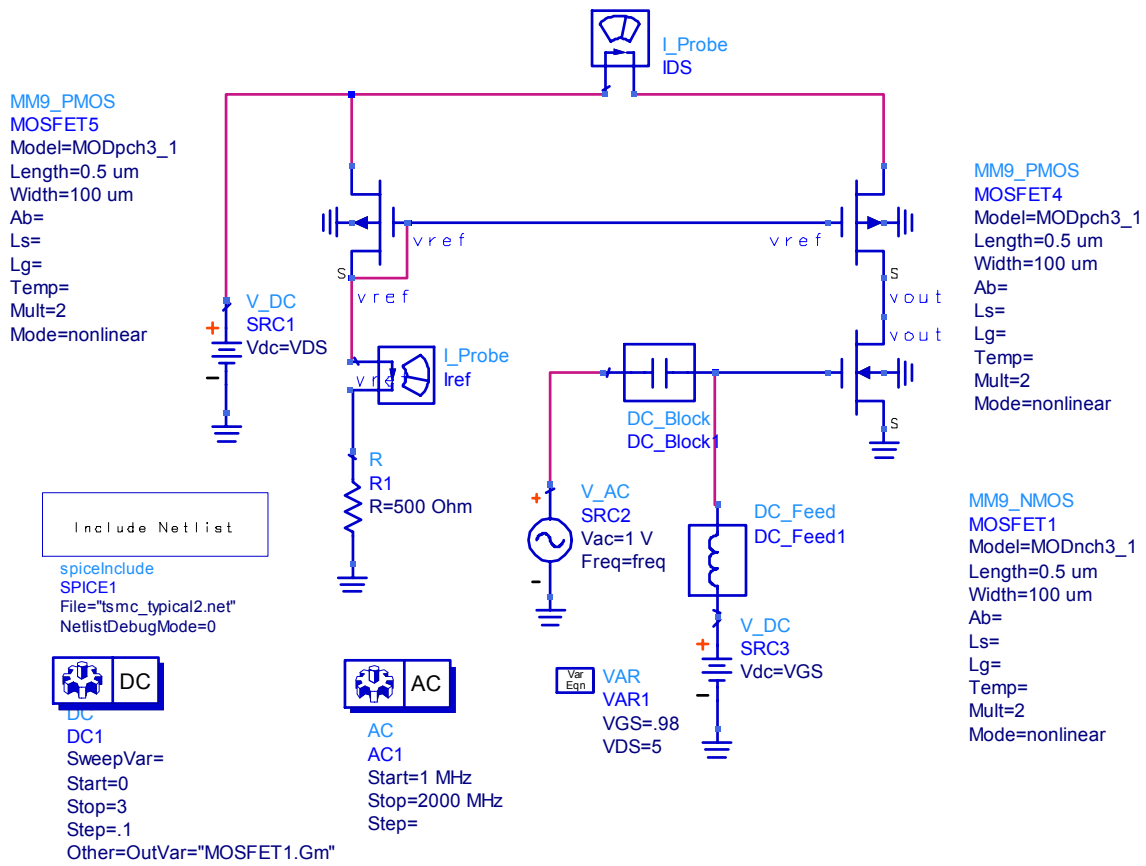
$$A_V = gmR_{LOAD} \quad R_{LOAD} = \frac{39.8}{0.027} = 1\text{K}47\Omega$$

**BUT** in order to main the original bias on the device we will now require a larger supply voltage ie

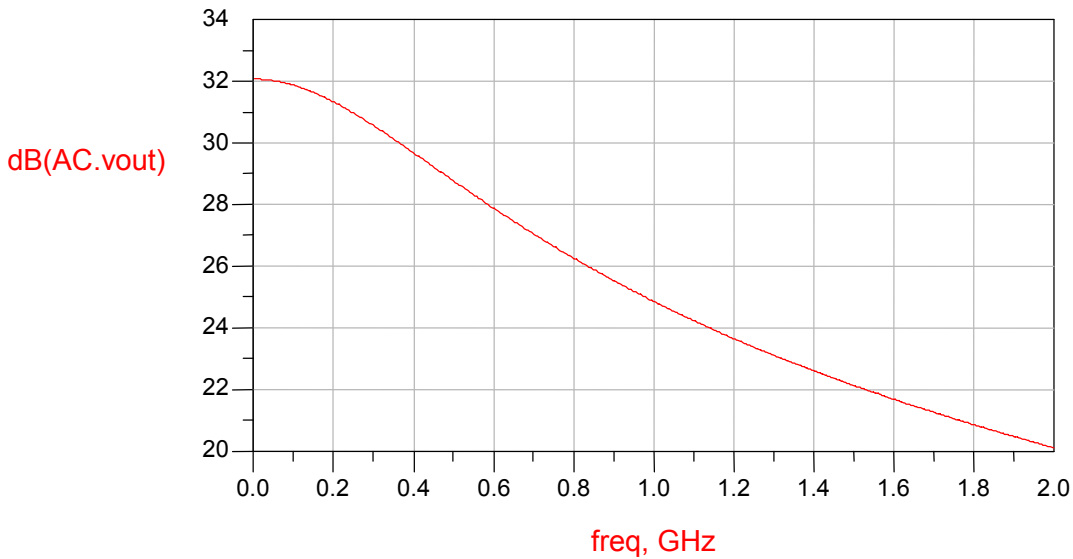
$$V_{LOAD} = R_{LOAD} \cdot I_{DS} = 1470 * 10 \times 10^{-3} = 14.7\text{V}$$

$$V_{SS} = V_{LOAD} + V_{DS} = 14.7 + 2.5 \approx 17\text{V}$$

Clearly this is inconvenient and is also wasteful in power dissipation. The solution is to use an active load. The following circuit has been modified to include a P-MOS current mirror on the N-MOS device drain to present a high  $R_{ds}$  to the N-type device.



The resulting plot of the CS stage with active P-MOS enhancement load.



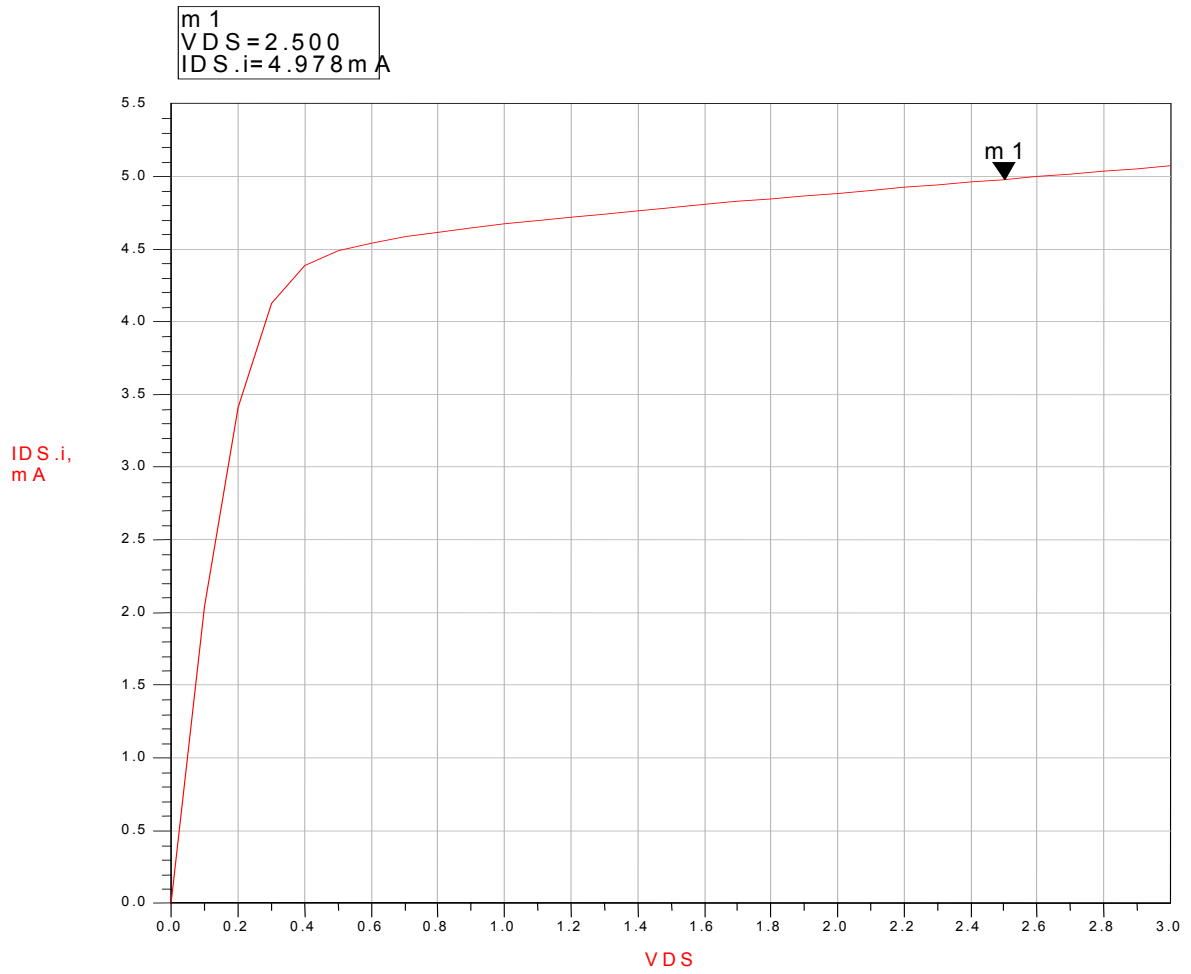
DC.IDS.i	DC.vout	Gm	DC.Iref.i	DC.vref
7.522mA	2.534 V	0.027	6.481mA	3.240 V

The only snag with this circuit is that it is difficult to hand calculate the correct bias conditions as they are interactive. Variation in the bias in the current mirror will effect it's resistance and hence the voltage applied to the CS drain and the voltage gain.

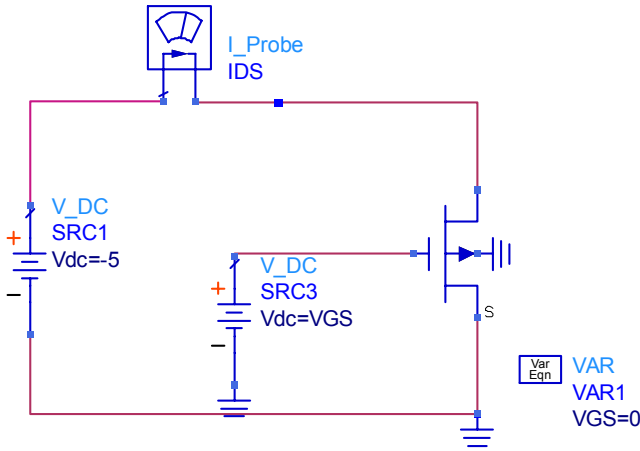
The reference P-Type device is acting as a resistor because the gate and source are connected together which, on a P-type enhancement device is below the threshold voltage and the device is working in it's cut-off region.

We will now go through step by step designing the CS amplifier for a 5mA bias.

The first stage is to determine the bias gate voltage required to bias the CS stage with 5mA. To do this we need to simulate the output trace with VDS and obtain the following trace with an applied gate voltage of 0.915V.



We now need to determine what gate voltage to apply to the P-MOS current source active load also to give 5mA with a VDS of 2.5V.



MOSFET\_PMOS  
MOSFET3  
Model=MODpch3\_1  
Length=0.5 um  
Width=100 um  
Ad=  
As=  
Pd=  
Ps=  
Nrd=  
Nrs=  
Mult=2  
Region=  
Temp=  
Mode=nonlinear

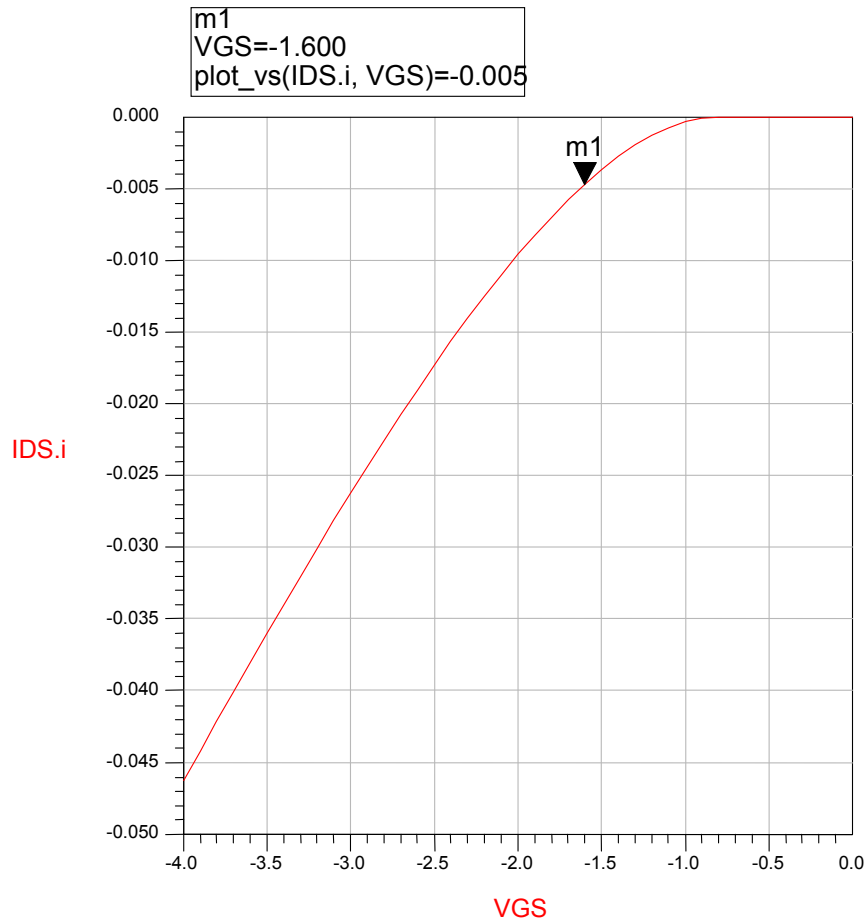


DC  
DC1  
SweepVar="VGS"  
Start=0  
Stop=-4  
Step=-.1  
Other=OutVar="MOSFET1.Gm"

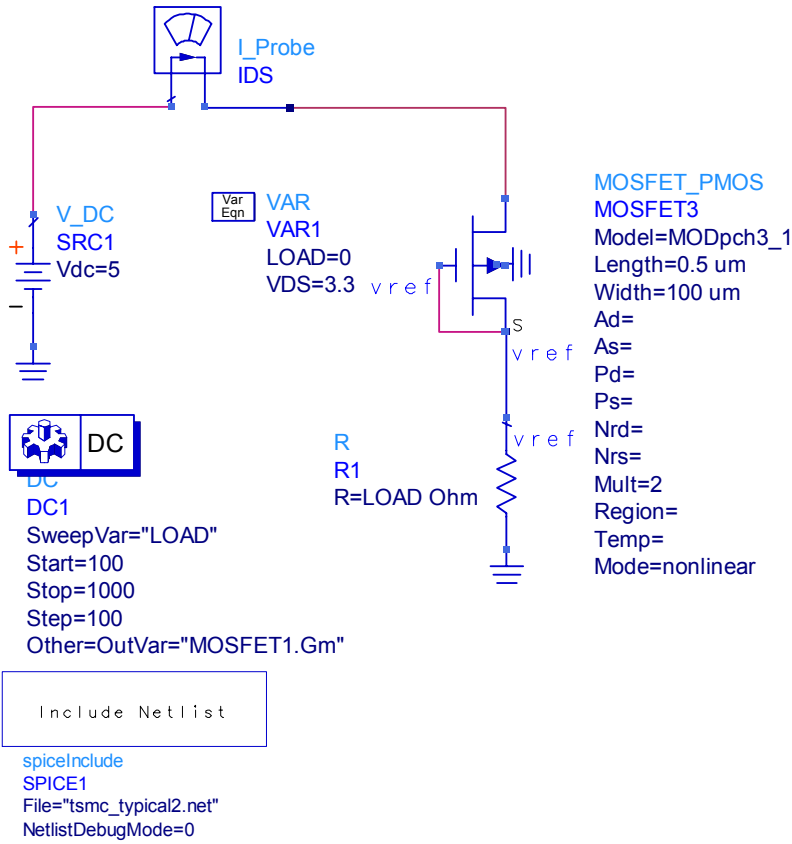
Include Netlist

spiceInclude  
SPICE1  
File="tsmc\_typical2.net"  
NetlistDebugMode=0

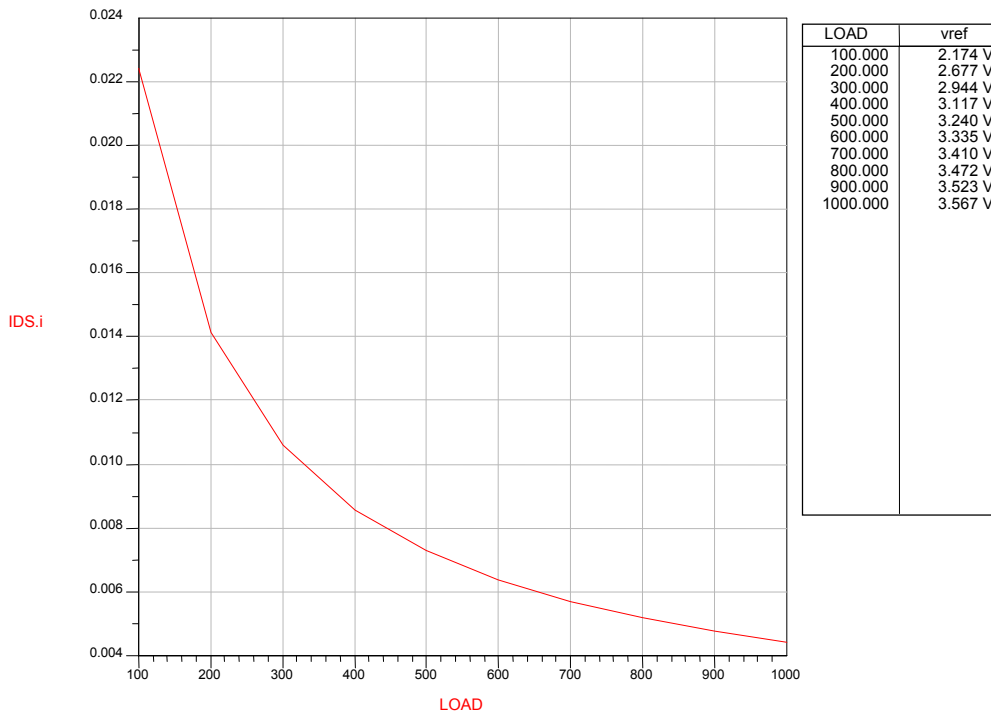
The resulting plot shows the voltage to get 5mA Ids is -1.6V. Therefore Vref applied to the gate needs to be 5-1.6 = 3.4V.



Finally we need to simulate the P-MOS device with gate-source 0V and a load resistor connected ie



**Resulting simulation result.**

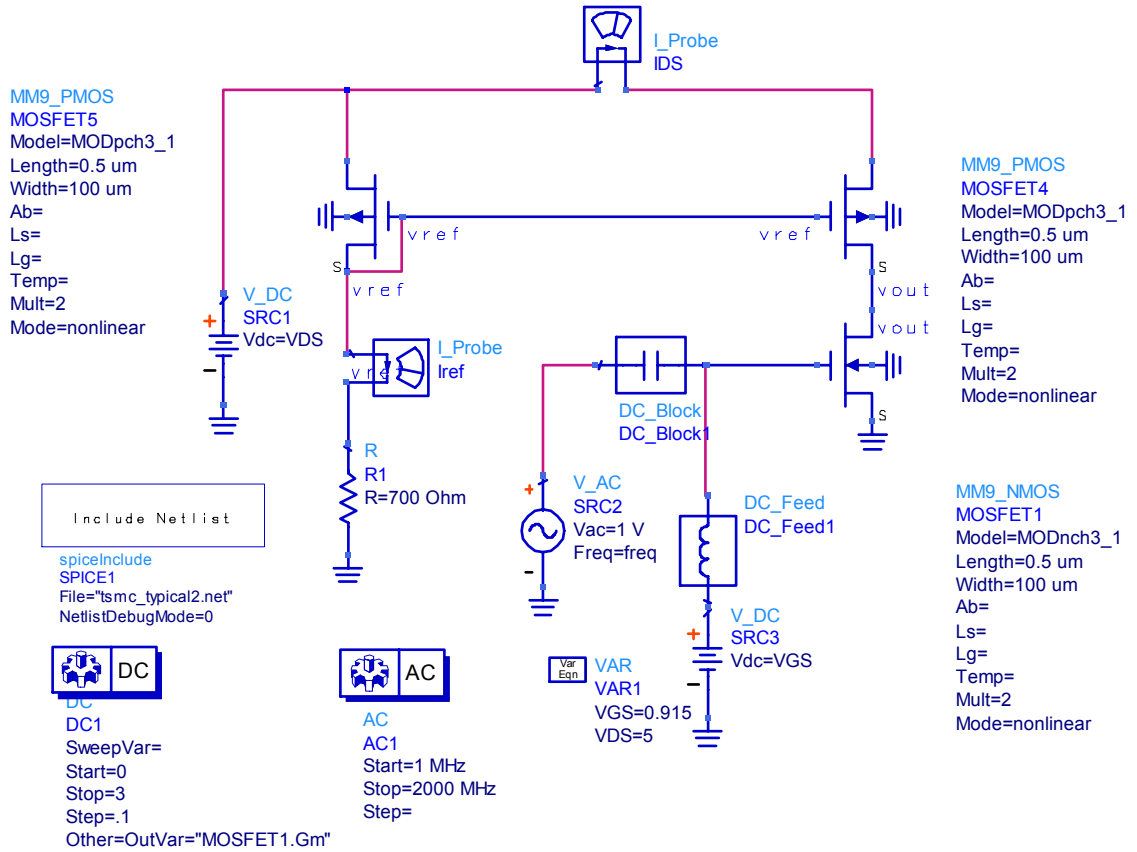




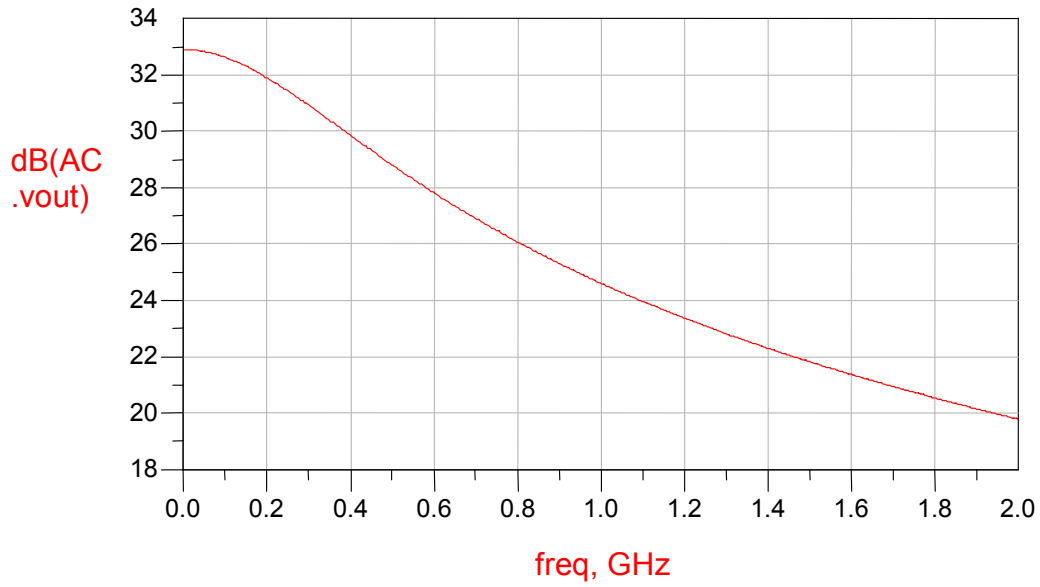


We can see that to achieve a gate voltage of 3.4V we set the load resistor to 700ohms

Putting all these blocks together we can simulate the complete amplifier now set with a bias current through the CS stage of 5mA.



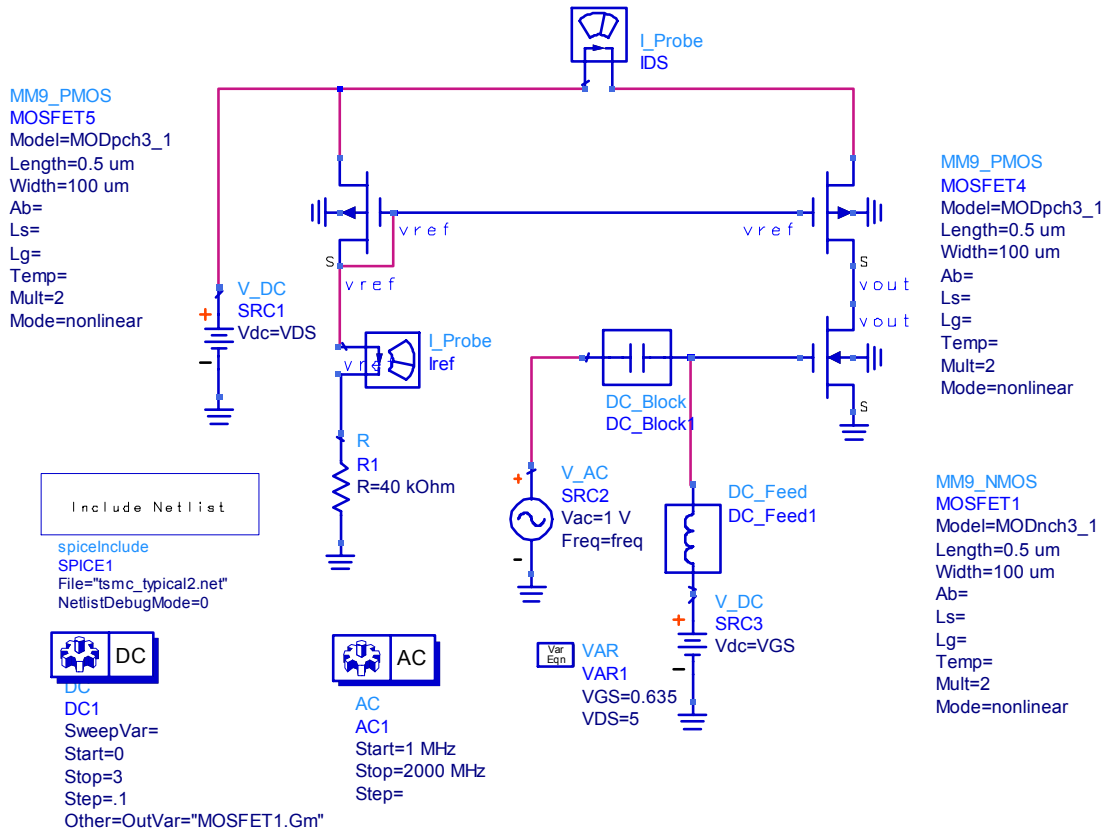
Resulting final plot of the amplifier voltage gain and bias points showing the Vref at 3.4V and the VDS on the CS stage at 2.5V as required.

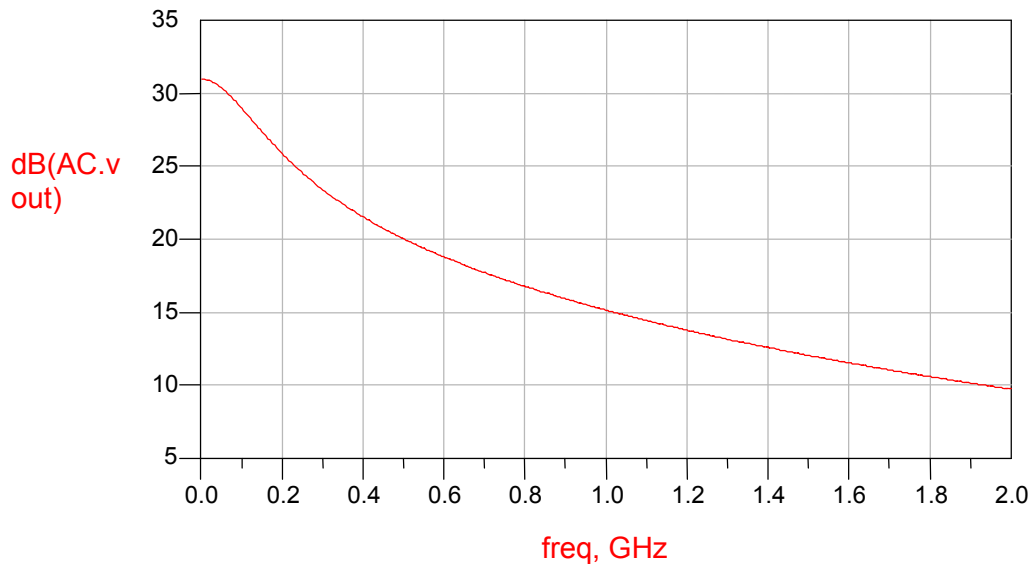


DC.IDS.i	DC.vout	Gm	DC.Iref.i	DC.vref
5.937mA	2.512 V	0.025	4.872mA	3.410 V



Finally the circuit has been re-designed for a bias current of 1mA – NOTE the very large Load resistor required:





DC.IDS.i	DC.vout	Gm	DC.Iref.i	DC.vref
1.085mA	2.550 V	0.007	104.5uA	4.180 V

In Summary the use of an active P-MOS load allows for a high gain circuit by presenting a high load resistor to the CS stage ie  $R_{ds}$  in parallel with the CS stage  $R_{ds}$ , but sourcing the required current. A resistor can be used, but for high gains a large resistor is required resulting in a large supply rail if using high bias currents.

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