
A Fully Integrated 0.5-7Hz CMOS Bandpass Amplifier.

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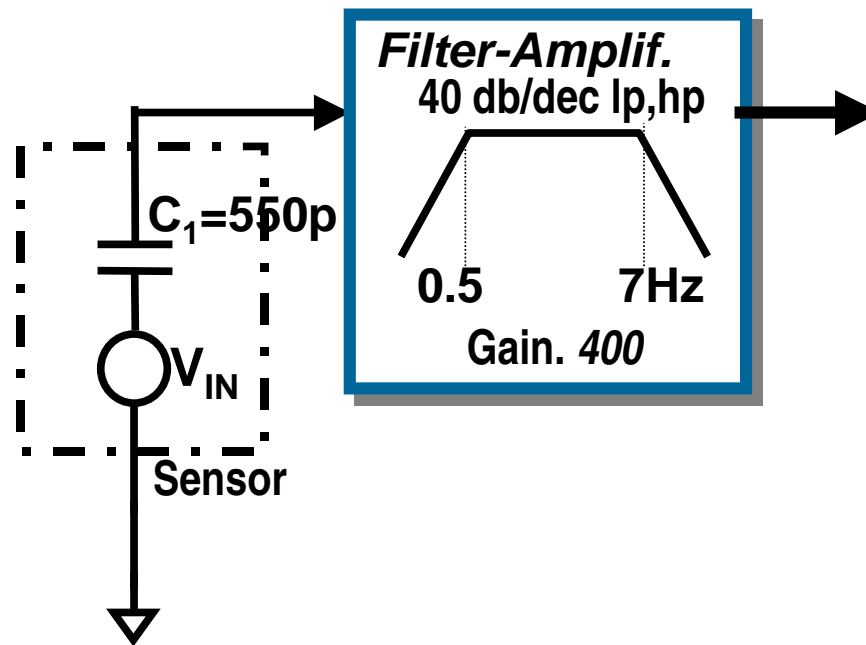
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Case of study: Signal conditioning circuit for a piezoelectric accelerometer which is part of a rate adaptive pacemaker.

Objective:

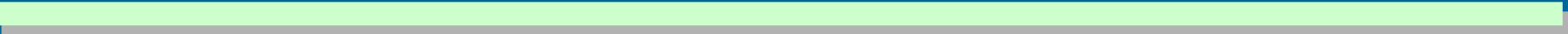
- 1st - To realize the complete system with minimum external elements.
- 2^o - To reduce as much as possible the size, area, and noise.

**First stage of the signal chain:
2nd order bandpass amplifier.**



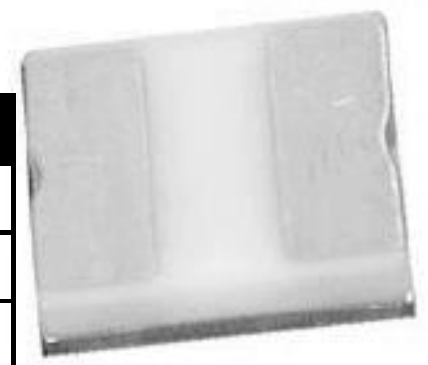
Contents: A Fully Integrated 0.5-7Hz CMOS Bandpass Amplifier.

- **Circuit specifications, analysis and difficulties.**
 - **Series-Parallel OTAs with very low transconductance and extended linear range.**
 - **Bandpass-amplifier architecture and measurements.**
 - **Conclusions.**

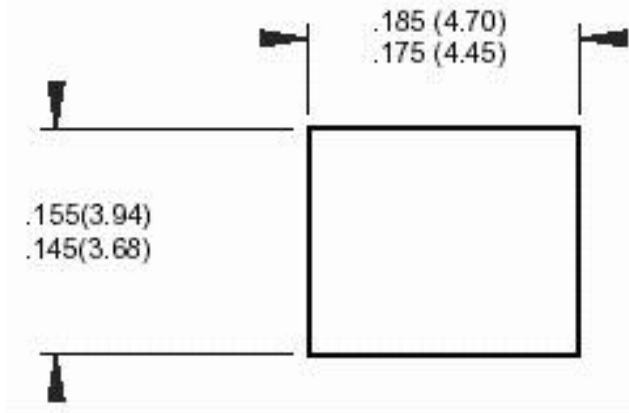
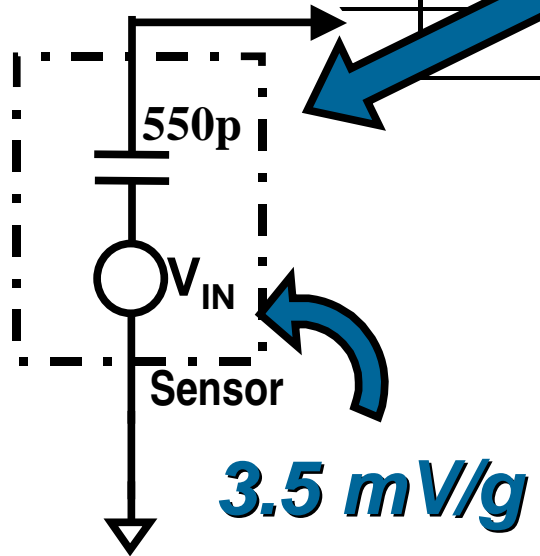


Circuit Specifications

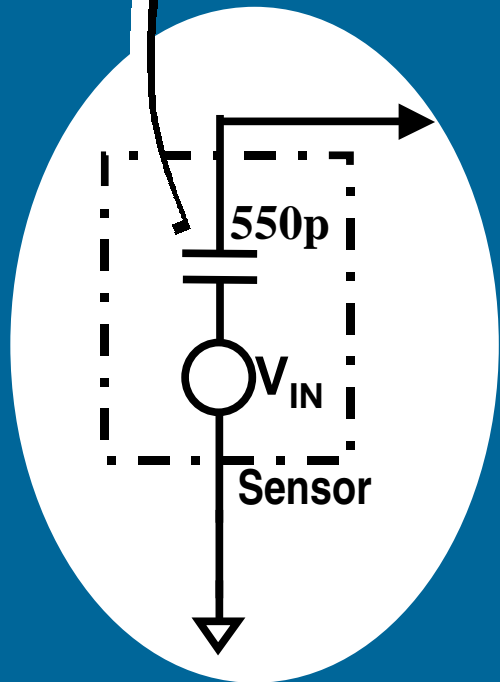
Specifications: Sensor.



Specs.	Min.	Typ.	Max.
Charge Sensitivity [pC/g]	1.4	1.9	2.4
Capacitance		550 pF	
Transverse Response			5%
Resistance (25°C)	10GΩ		
Resistance	100MΩ		
Mechanical		9kHz	



580M Ω at 0.5Hz!

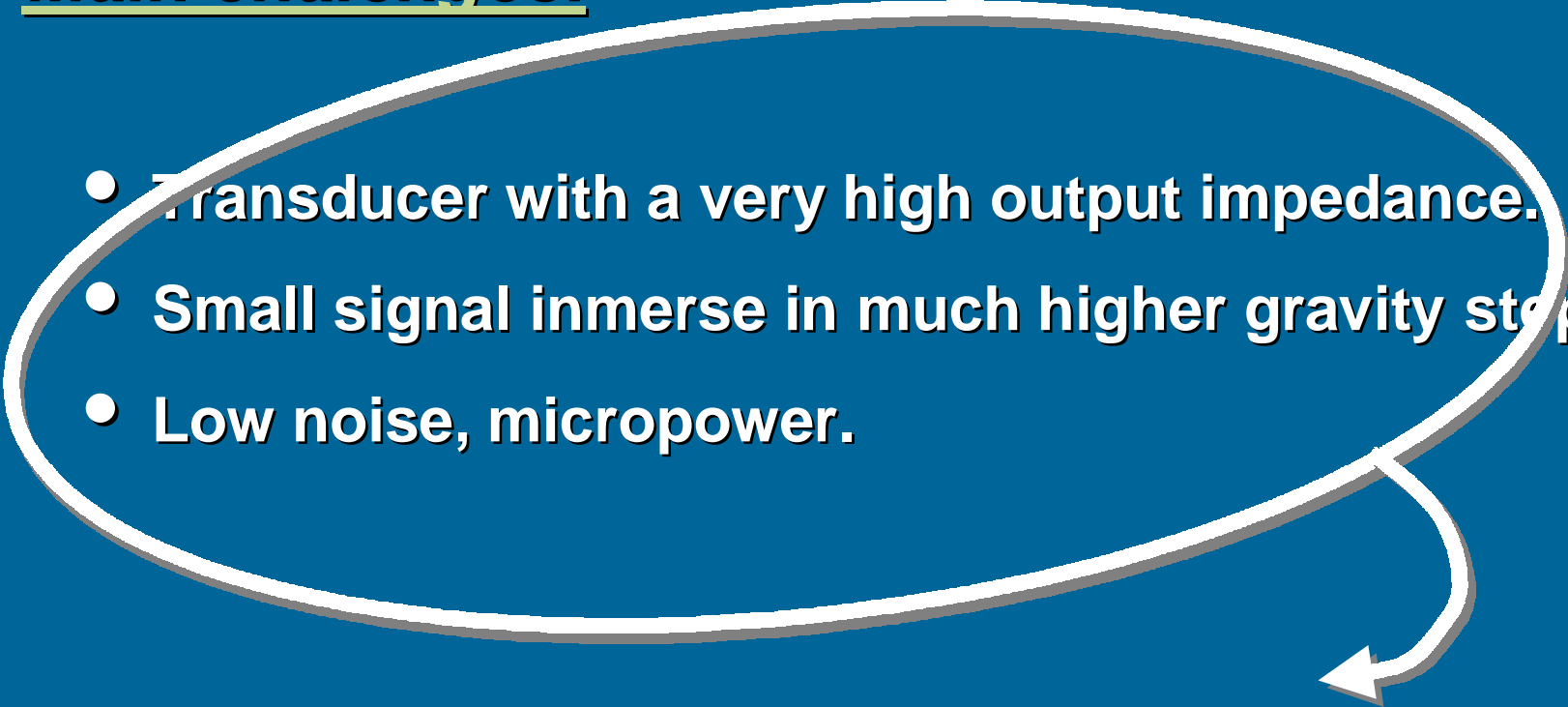


***Some kind of virtual ground
or DC bias is required!***

Specifications: System.

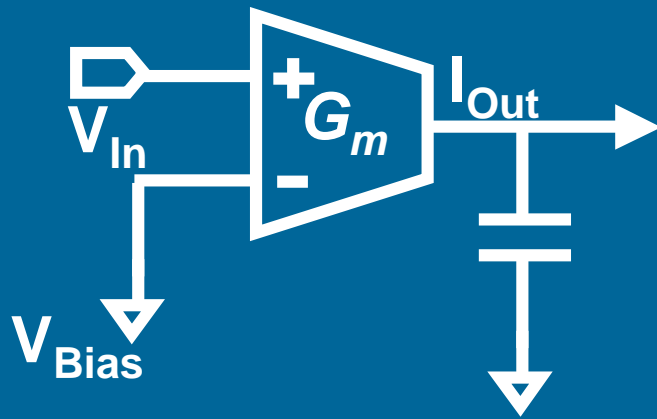
Specification	Range
Supply Voltage	2.8 - 2.0 V
Accelerations range	0.007 - 0.34 g_{peak}
Input Voltage Range	(24 μV_{peak} - 1.2 mV_{peak}) \pm 3.5mV gravity step
Current Consumption	< 2μA
Frequency Response.	Bandpass 0.5-7Hz, 40 dB/dec
Input Noise.	< 12μV_{rms}
Input Offset.	< 13μV
Gain.	400
Others	No external elements (i.e. R, C)
	Relaxed tolerance in transfer function

Main challenges:

- Transducer with a very high output impedance.
 - Small signal immersed in much higher gravity steps.
 - Low noise, micropower.
- 

- Sub-Hz filter without the aid of external resistors or capacitors.
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Selected Circuit Technique: G_m -C continuous-time.

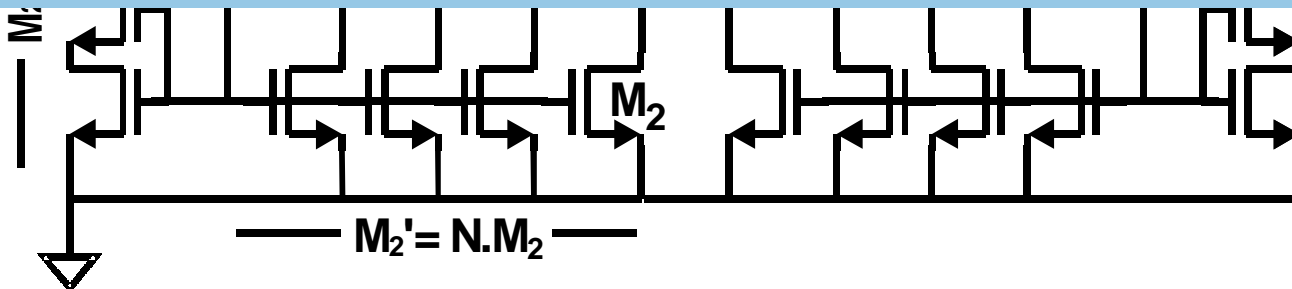


Extremely low transconductors or large capacitors are required for low frequency filters.

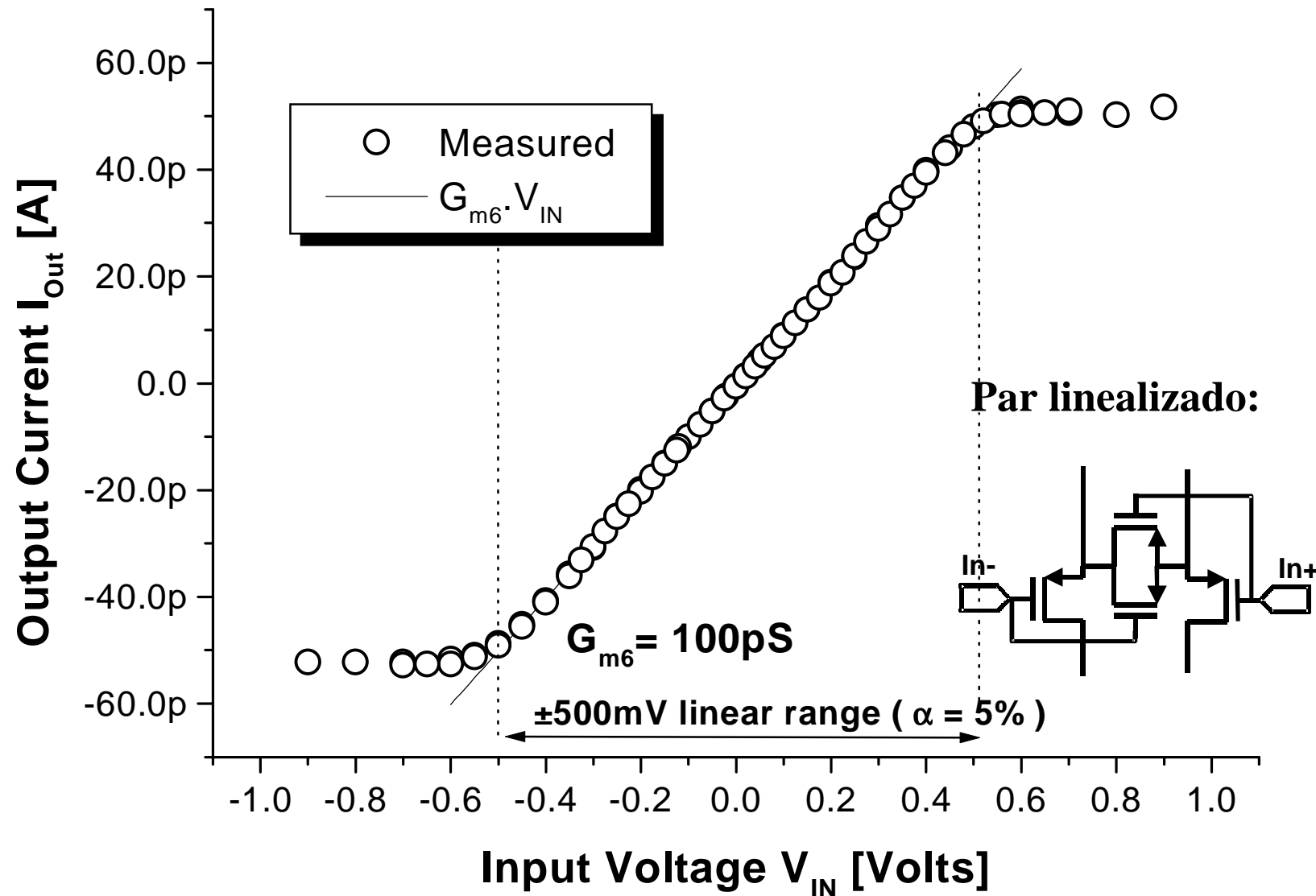
Series-Parallel division OTAs:

OTAs: Basic Series-Parallel OTA.

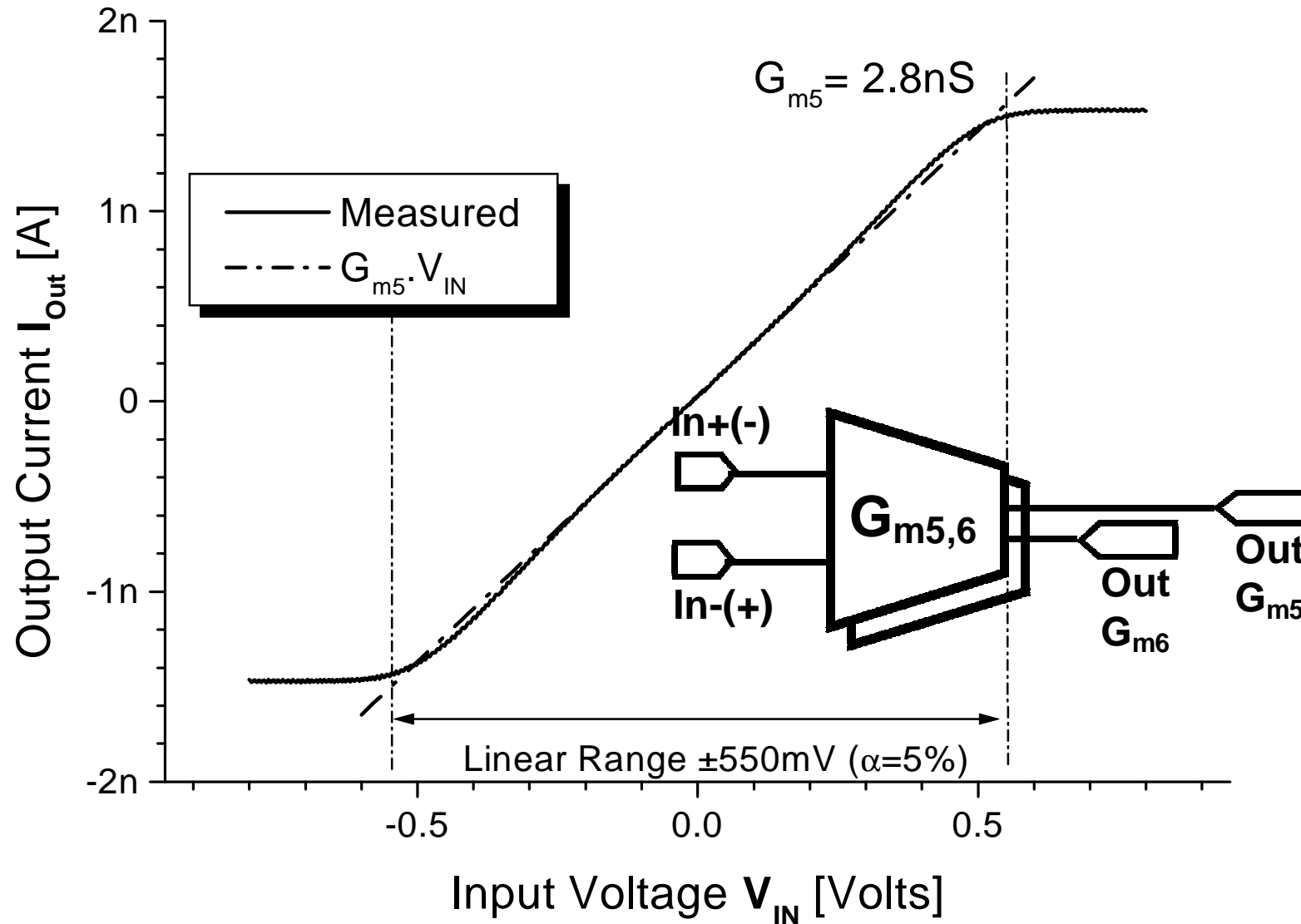
- Very simple circuit \Rightarrow less area, power consumption.
- Do not introduce much excess noise or offset.
- Easy to reuse layout.
- Fabricated and tested OTAs up to 35nS (30G Ω) and 1V linear range.



OTAs: Example $G_{m6} = 100\text{pS}$ ($10\text{G}\Omega$)



OTAs: Example $G_{m5} = 2.58\text{nS}$ ($380\text{M}\Omega$)

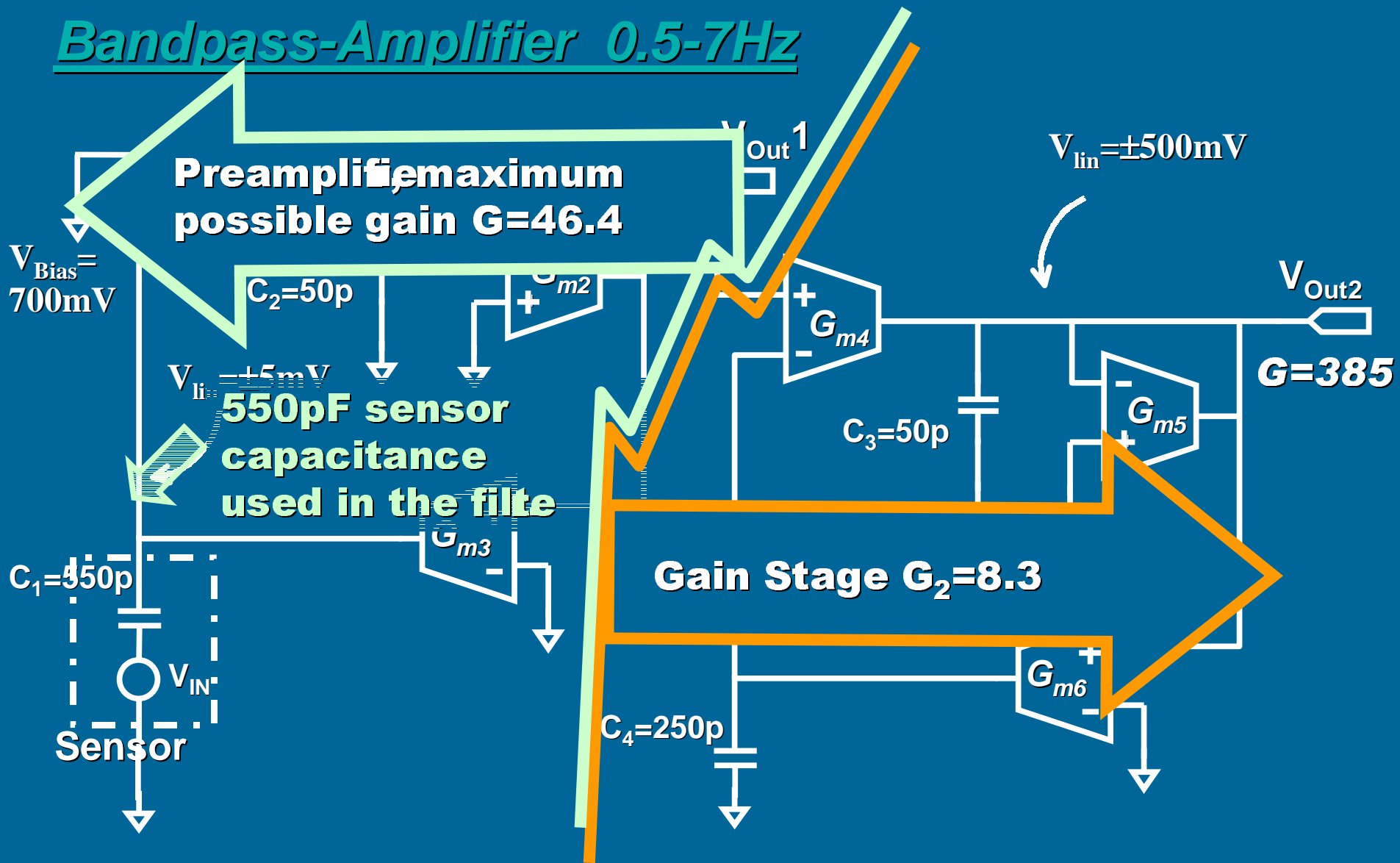


OTAs: Measured/estimated characteristics.

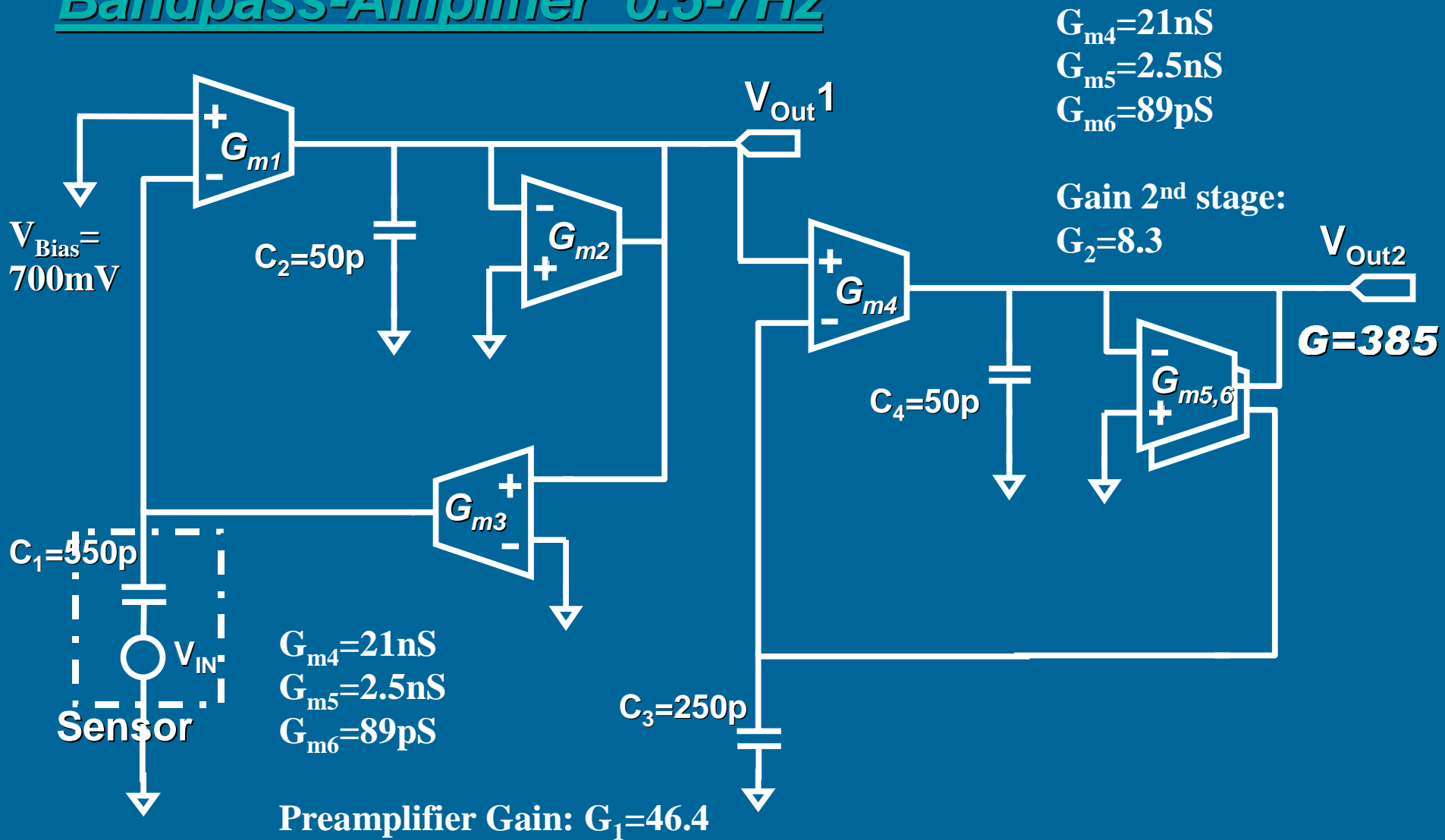
OTA	Transc. ^[a]	Linearity V_{Lin} [mV]	Input noise. $[\mu V_{rms}]$ ^[a]	Input Offset σ_{Voff} [mV]	Current Cons.[nA]	Area [mm ²]
G_{m1}	110(110)nS	60	5 (4)	1.1	14	.019
G_{m2}	2.35(2.58)nS	150	42	4.4	43	.040
G_{m3}	35(33)pS	150	163(130)	2.1	42	.092
G_{m4}	21nS	150			47	.051
G_{m5}	2.4(2.8)nS	500		9.1	44	.18
G_{m6}	89(100)pS	500		6.8		

0.5-7Hz Filter-Amplifier

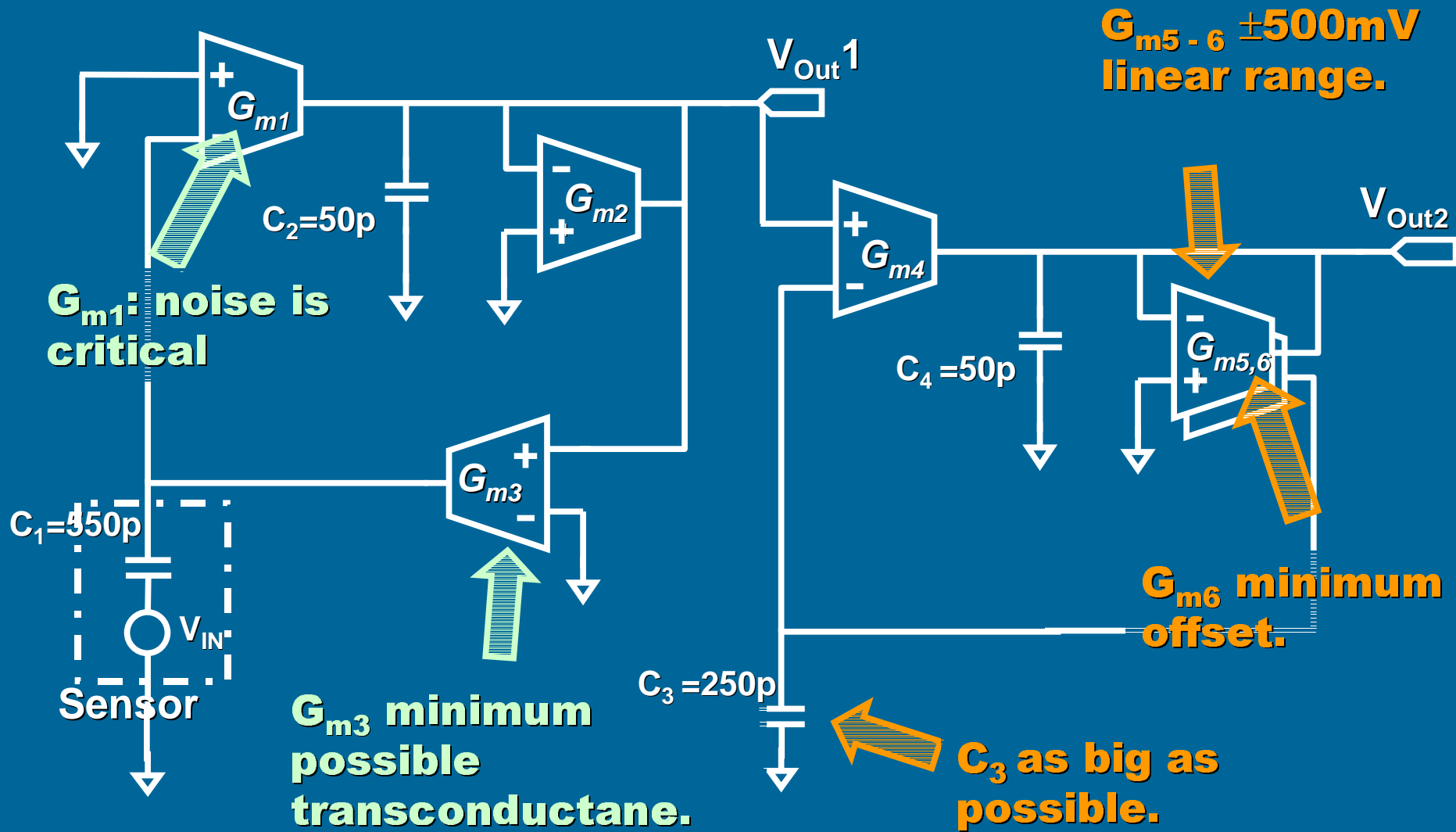
Bandpass-Amplifier 0.5-7Hz



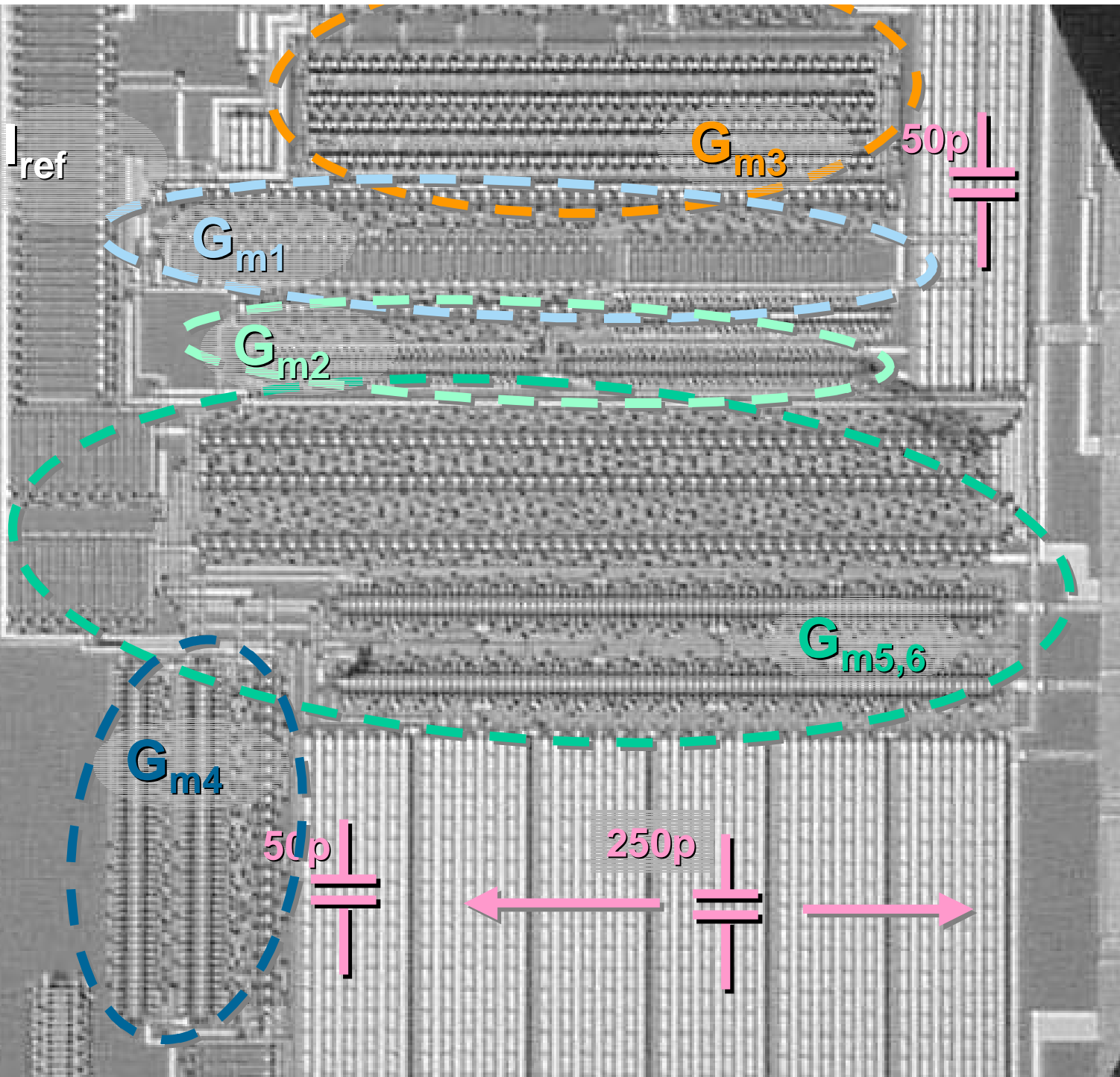
Bandpass-Amplifier 0.5-7Hz



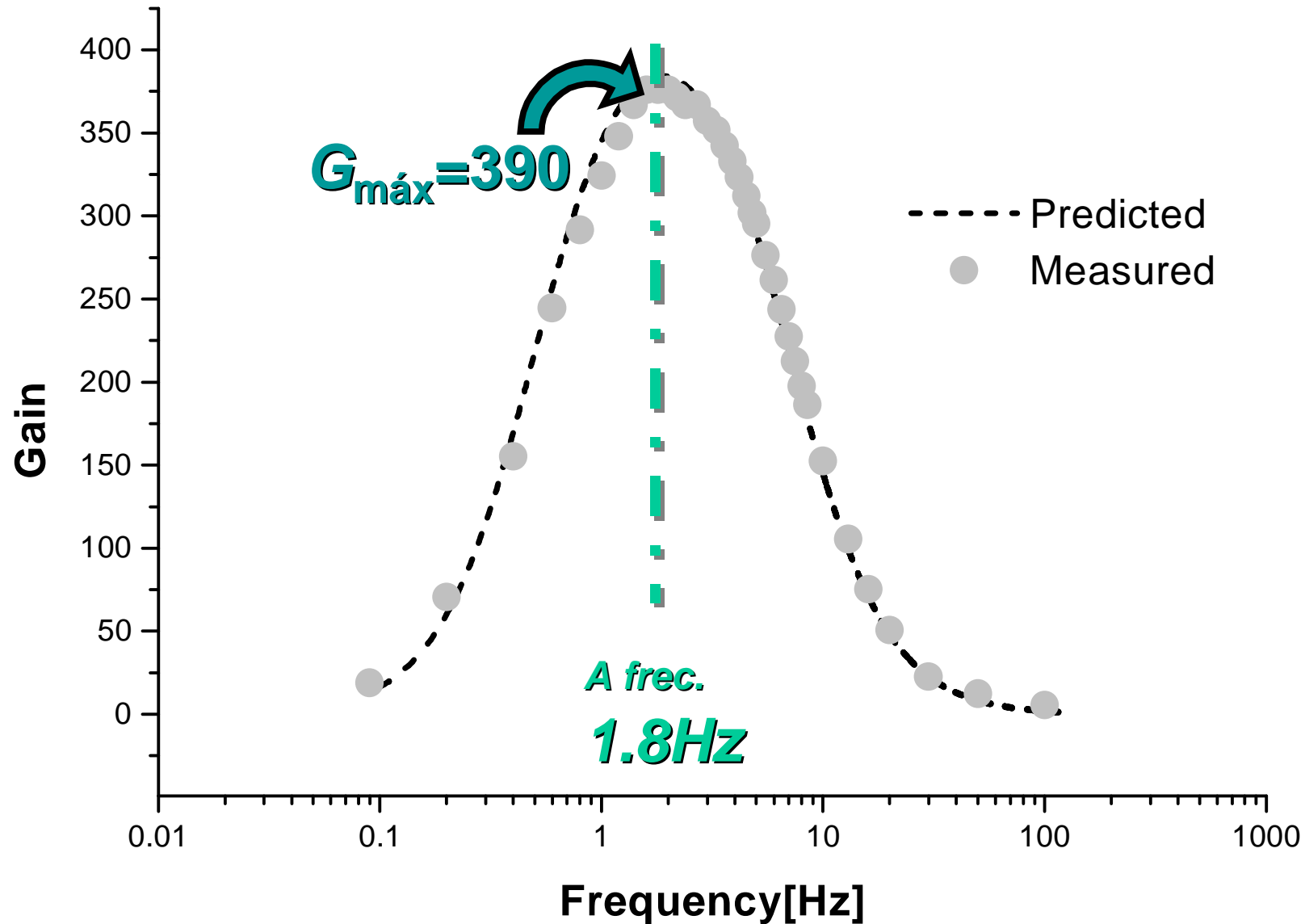
Bandpass-Amplifier 0.5-7Hz : Critical aspects.



Buffers.

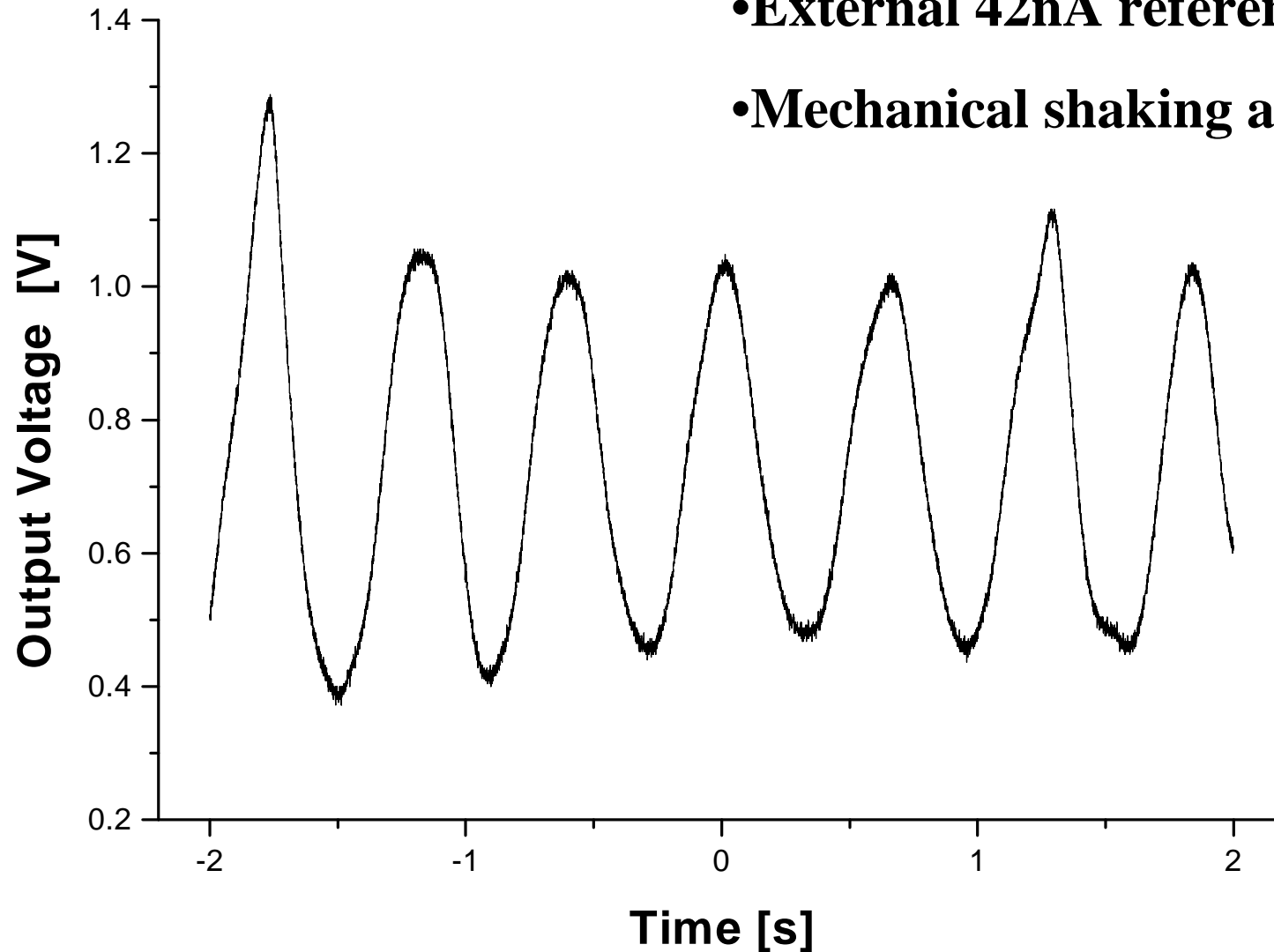


Bandpass Measurements: Gain - Frequency.



Measurements: Qualitative response w/sensor.

- External 42nA reference current
- Mechanical shaking at approx. 2Hz



Filter-Amplifier Measurements: Characteristics.

Specificatio	Measured Value.
Pass-band frequency	40db/dec 0.5-7Hz
Gain	390
Input noise	$2.1\mu\text{V}_{\text{rms}}$
Supply voltage	2.0 - 2.8 V
Current Consumption	230nA
Area	0.78mm^2
Input Offset	$18\mu\text{V}$

Conclusions:

Series-parallel Division OTAs:

- Excellent trade-off solution regarding linearity, noise, occupied area, power consumption.

Filter Design:

- 0.5-7Hz, 40db/Dec, Gain 400, bandpass filter has been presented.
- Remarkable low power consumption, and input noise.

**No external elements
have been employed!**