I am sure everyone has had truly remarkable experiences that range from the sublime to the grotesque. These experiences may have occurred at home, in the work place, and even while on vacation. In my case when I developed the practical design procedure for an operational amplifier summer it was a significant life-changing experience. Like most I really didn't know that I was even having "an experience" until I communicated that experience to someone who was seriously more knowledgeable about operational amplifiers than I. That someone was my professor, Dr. Gene H. Hostetter. He encouraged me to create a report to document the design procedure I had discovered. Dr. Hostetter told me that in the twenty years he had been teaching this subject he had not seen such a design procedure. That original report, dated September 12, 1980, is shown below.

While I was working on my Master's Degree in Electrical Engineering one of my professors, Dr. Clem J. Savant, Jr., encouraged me to submit my operational amplifier report to the IEEE Region 6 Student Paper contest held at California State University, Northridge, on September 16, 1982. He and my parents accompanied me to the University campus and watched me present my report to the Region 6 judges. My participation in this contest is shown after the September 12, 1980, report. Incidentally, I placed first and won an HP programmable calculator. I attended WESCON that year at the Anaheim Convention Center in Anaheim, California, with Dr. Savant and presented my report to the WESCON judges. I placed third nationally. Sometime later Dr. Savant began preparing his manuscript for his next Electrical Engineering book and asked me for permission to include my operational amplifier report in that book. The relevant pages in that book that contain my report are shown after my Region 6 participation award.



The desired output voltage,  $V_o$ , can be expressed as follows:  $R_F$  is the proportionality constant for the inverting inputs and K is the proportionality constant for the noninverting inputs for relating a required Eq.  $1$  ${\tt v}_{_{\rm O}}\,=\, {\tt x}_{_{\rm I}}{\tt v}_{_{\rm I}}\,+\, {\tt x}_{_{\rm 2}}{\tt v}_{_{\rm 2}}\,\,\stackrel{***}{\tt +}\, {\tt x}_{_{\rm n}}{\tt v}_{_{\rm n}}\,\,\stackrel{--}{\tt v}_{_{\rm I}}{\tt v}_{_{\rm a}}\,\,\stackrel{--}{\tt v}_{_{\rm 2}}{\tt v}_{_{\rm b}}\,\,\stackrel{--}{\tt -}\, {\tt v}_{_{\rm m}}{\tt v}_{_{\rm m}}$ gain to its input resistor. where  $x_1$  through  $x_n$  and  $Y_1$  through  $Y_n$  are the desired gains of the respective To minimize dc bias current offset the noninverting and inverting input input voltages. Let us now define several variables. terminals must "see" the same input resistance. This constraint, in general form, may be expressed as follows:  $x = \sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i$  $Eq. 2$  $\mathsf{R}_1\| \mathsf{R}_2\| \!\cdots\! \| \mathsf{R}_n\| \mathsf{R}_\mathsf{x} = \mathsf{r}_1\| \mathsf{r}_2\| \!\cdots\! \| \mathsf{r}_m\| \mathsf{R}_\mathsf{y}\| \mathsf{R}_\mathsf{F}.$ Eq.  $8$ Substituting in Eqs. 6 and 7,  $\mathsf{Y} = \sum_{\mathsf{j}=1}^{\mathsf{m}} \mathsf{Y}_{\mathsf{j}}$ Eq.  $3$ Eq. 9  $\frac{K}{1 + \frac{R_F}{R_A}} = R_A || R_F$  $Eq. 4$  $Z = X - Y - 1$ Rearranging, where  $x_{\frac{1}{2}}$  is a gain to the noninverting input and  $Y_{\frac{1}{2}}$  is a gain to the inverting  $\frac{R_A K}{R_A + R_F} = \frac{R_A R_F}{R_A + R_F}$ input of the operational amplifier.  $Eq. 10$ The value of the resistors connected to the noninverting input as well as Eq. 11 those connected to the inverting input are inversely proportional to the  $K = R_F$ required gain of the respective input voltages. That is, a particular input Since Eqs. 1 and 5 are both equal to  $V_o$ , it follows that requiring substantial gain as opposed to one that requires little gain would require a smaller input resistance. From operational amplifier theory when  $R_i = \frac{K}{X_i} = \frac{R_F}{X_i}$  $Eq. 12$ the gain of the operational amplifier, G, is very large the output voltage may be written in terms of the resistors connected to the operational amplifier:  $r_j = \frac{R_F}{Y_j}$ Eq. 13  $\text{v}_{\text{o}} = (1 + \frac{\text{R}_{\text{F}}}{\text{R}_{\text{A}}} (\text{R}_{1}\|\text{R}_{2}\|\cdots\|\text{R}_{\text{n}}\|\text{R}_{\text{x}}) (\frac{\text{v}_{1}}{\text{R}_{1}} + \frac{\text{v}_{2}}{\text{R}_{2}} \leftrightarrow + \frac{\text{v}_{\text{n}}}{\text{R}_{\text{n}}} ) - \text{R}_{\text{F}} (\frac{\text{v}_{\text{a}}}{\text{r}_{1}} + \frac{\text{v}_{\text{b}}}{\text{r}_{2}} \leftrightarrow + \frac{\text{v}_{\text{m}}}{\text{r}_{\text{m}}})$  $Eq. 5$ 8, it may be rewritten as follows: Eq.  $6$ where  $\mathsf{R}_{\mathsf{A}} = \left. \mathsf{r}_{1} \right\| \left. \mathsf{r}_{2} \right\| \cdots \left\| \mathsf{r}_{\mathsf{m}} \right\| \left. \mathsf{R}_{\mathsf{y}}.$  $Eq. 14$  $\frac{1}{\frac{1}{R_x} + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{1}{R_i}} = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{R_F} + \frac{1}{R_y} + \sum_{i=1}^{m} \frac{1}{r_i}}$ Let  $K = (1 + \frac{R_F}{R_A}) (R_1 || R_2 || \cdots || R_n || R_x)$ . Eq.  $7$  $-2 -3-$ These results may now be summarized: when  $Z>0$  then or  $\frac{1}{R_x}$  +  $\sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{1}{i}$  =  $\frac{1}{R_f}$  +  $\frac{1}{R_y}$  +  $\sum_{j=1}^{m} \frac{1}{j}$ .  $Eq. 15$  $R_x = \infty \; , \; R_y = \frac{R_F}{Z} \; , \; R_i = \frac{R_F}{x_i} \; , \; r_j = \frac{R_F}{v_j} \; .$ Eq.  $24$ Substituting in Eqs. 12 and 13,  $\frac{1}{R_x} + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{x_i}{R_F} \ = \ \frac{1}{R_F} + \frac{1}{R_y} + \sum_{j=1}^{m} \frac{v_j}{R_F}$ <u>Case 2</u>:  $R_y = \infty$ , Eq. 18 now becomes:  $Eq. 16$ Eq. 25  $\frac{1}{R_F} + \frac{1}{R_F}X = \frac{1}{R_F} + \frac{1}{R_F}Y$ .  $Eq. 17$ Rearranging,  $\frac{1}{R_x} = - \frac{1}{R_F} X + \frac{1}{R_F} Y + \frac{1}{R_F} ,$  $Eq. 26$ Substituting in Eqs. 2 and 3, Eq. 18  $\frac{1}{R_x} + \frac{1}{R_F} X = \frac{1}{R_F} + \frac{1}{R_y} + \frac{1}{R_F} Y$ .  $\frac{1}{R_x} = -\frac{1}{R_F} (x - y - 1),$ Eq.  $27$ Depending upon the presence of  $R_\chi$  or  $R_\gamma$  there are three design possibilities:  $\frac{1}{R_x} = - \frac{1}{R_F} (z),$ Eq. 28 when  $R_x = \infty$  , when  $R_y = \infty$  , when  $R_x = R_y = \infty$ .  $R_x = \frac{R_F}{-Z}$ ,  $z < 0$ .  $Eq. 29$ Case 1:  $R_x = \infty$ , Eq. 18 now becomes: Eq. 19 These results may now be summarized: when  $z<0$  then  $\frac{1}{R_F}$  x =  $\frac{1}{R_F}$  +  $\frac{1}{R_y}$  +  $\frac{1}{R_F}$  Y.  $R_y = \infty \; , \; R_x = \frac{R_F}{-Z} \; , \; R_{\bar{1}} = \frac{R_F}{x_{\bar{1}}} \; , \; \; r_{\bar{J}} = \frac{R_F}{Y_{\bar{J}}} \; .$ Rearranging,  $\frac{1}{R_y} = \frac{1}{R_F} \chi \hspace{3mm} - \hspace{3mm} \frac{1}{R_F} \gamma \hspace{3mm} - \hspace{3mm} \frac{1}{R_F} \hspace{3mm},$  $Eq. 20$ <u>Case 3</u>:  $R_x = R_y = \infty$ , Eq. 18 now becomes:  $\frac{1}{R_y} = \frac{1}{R_F} (x - y - 1),$ Eq.  $21$  $Eq. 30$  $\frac{1}{R_F}$  x =  $\frac{1}{R_F}$  +  $\frac{1}{R_F}$  Y. Eq.  $22$  $\frac{1}{R_y} = \frac{1}{R_F} (z),$ Rearranging,  $R_y = \frac{R_F}{2}$ ,  $z > 0$ . Eq. 23 Eq.  $31$  $0 = \frac{1}{R_F} X - \frac{1}{R_F} Y - \frac{1}{R_F}$ ,  $-5-$ 







