



Transfer Functions of Switching Converters

Fast Analytical Techniques at Work with Small-Signal Analysis

Hi everyone, my name is Christophe Basso and I am releasing a new [book](#) on small-signal modeling published in June 2021. I have derived the control-to-output transfer functions of many converters, starting from simple dc-dc cells (buck, buck-boost or boost) to isolated versions like flyback or forward converters operated in voltage mode (VM), current mode (CM), quasi-resonance (QR), constant on-time (COT), constant off-time (FOT) with various operating modes like continuous conduction (CCM) or discontinuous conduction (DCM) and borderline conduction (BCM or CrM) for power-factor-corrected converters for instance. Many simulation hours mainly in SIMPLIS® using the free demonstration version Elements. Over the proposed 120+ files, some require the full professional version to operate (such as the PFCs or UC384x-based circuit for instance) the rest are 100% operating on [Elements](#) which is an excellent news. You have a [tutorial](#) I built on Elements. All application circuits come with an automated calculation window in which you enter the wanted design goals extracted from the power stage response and the program calculates the compensation elements for you. The values are available in the netlist and easily accessed from the development environment. If you are a power supply designer, you can't miss these ready-made templates for your engineering job. Enjoy these files and let me know what you think of these examples. Thank you – Christophe Basso, May 2020.

<https://www.simplistechnologies.com/product/elements>

The screenshot shows the SIMPLIS Technologies website. The top navigation bar includes the SIMPLIS logo, a search bar, and links for CONTACT, ABOUT, and LOG IN. Below the navigation bar are tabs for PRODUCTS, SALES, SUPPORT, NEWS, and TRAINING. The main content area is titled 'SIMMetrix/SIMPLIS Elements' and contains the following text:

Home

SIMMetrix/SIMPLIS Elements

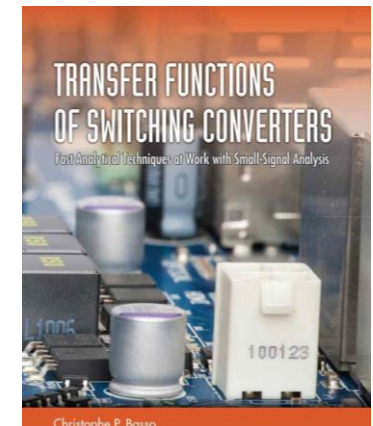
SIMMetrix/SIMPLIS Elements is a free-to-download version of our software that offers full schematic capture and waveform viewing / analysis capability along with a host of documentation and training materials designed to help users get up-to-speed quickly with SIMMetrix/SIMPLIS' simulation capabilities.

The latest version of SIMMetrix/SIMPLIS Elements is **v8.30h**, released on May 4th, 2020.

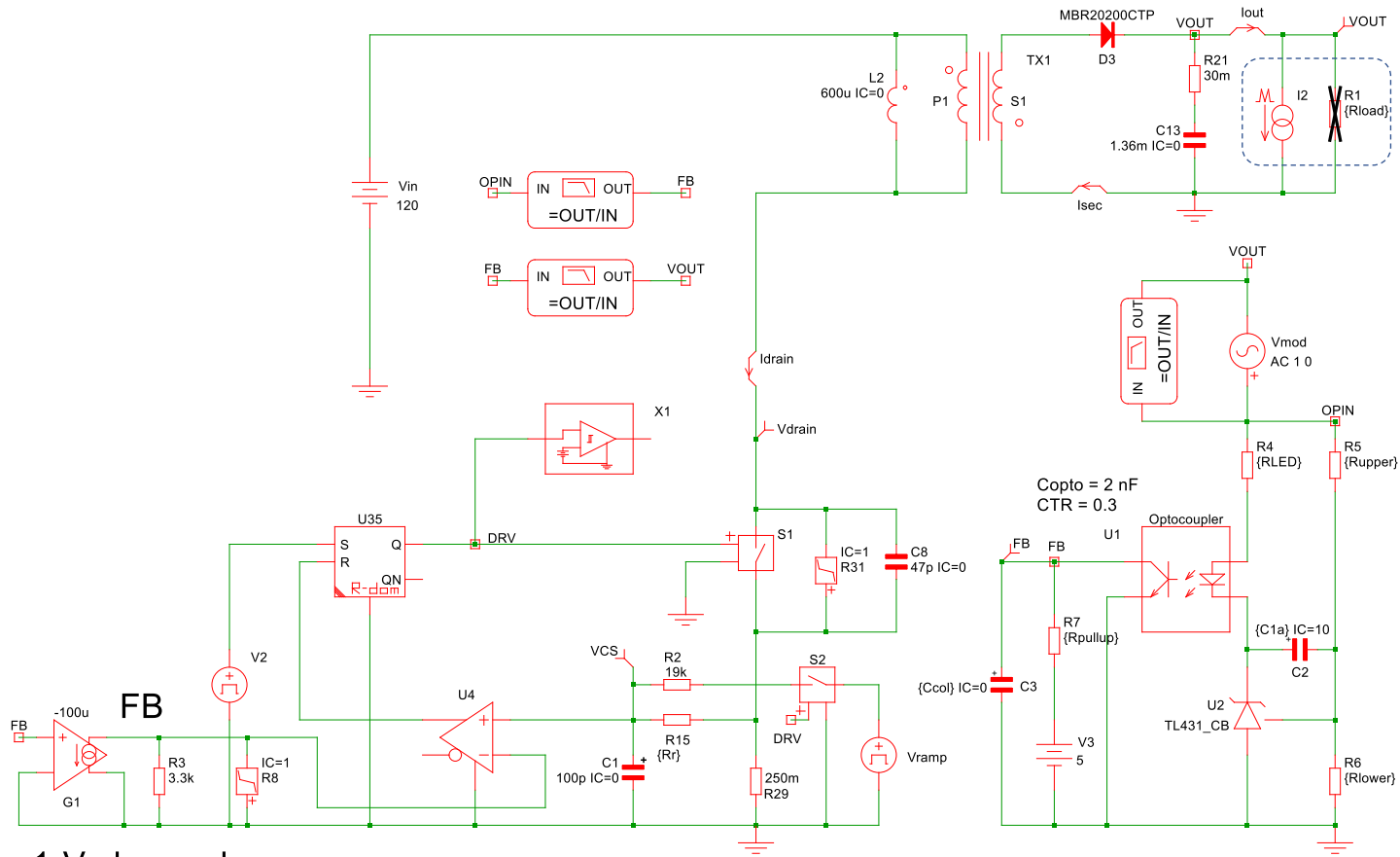
[SIMMetrix/SIMPLIS Elements Installer \(~102MB\)](#) [DOWNLOAD](#)

Elements is a free version of the program with no license or copying restrictions. Virtually all features are enabled but a circuit size limit applies. The limits for the Elements versions are generous enough for them to be used for real work and we are happy for users to do so.

The power supplies templates ZIP is [here](#) and the compensators ZIP is available [here](#).



The Template – it is a ready-to-simulate circuit. Load it, press F9 and there you go:



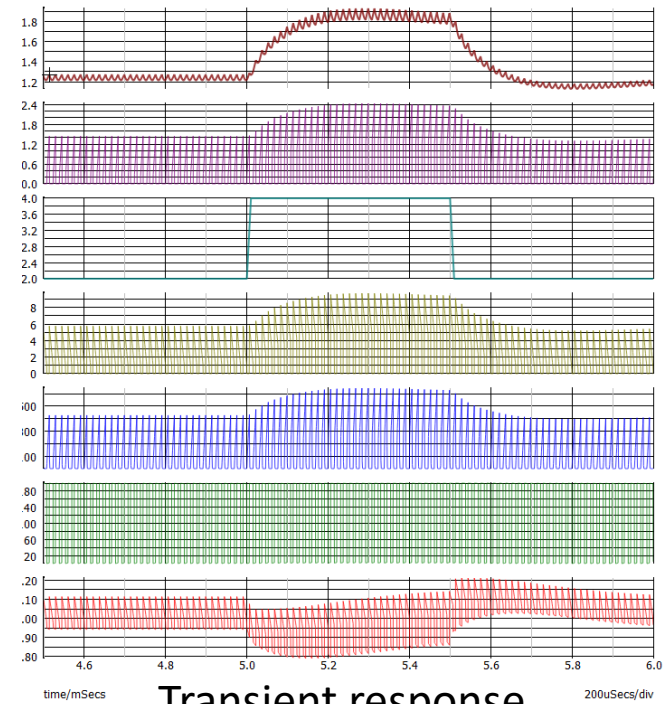
1-V clamped divide-by-3 block

This is a fixed-frequency current-mode-controlled flyback converter delivering 19 V 3 A from a 120-V source. Enable the 6-ohm load for ac analysis and disable the PWL source (right-click after selection) to see the transient response. Check Simulator>Edit Netlist (after preprocess) to see the calculated component values.

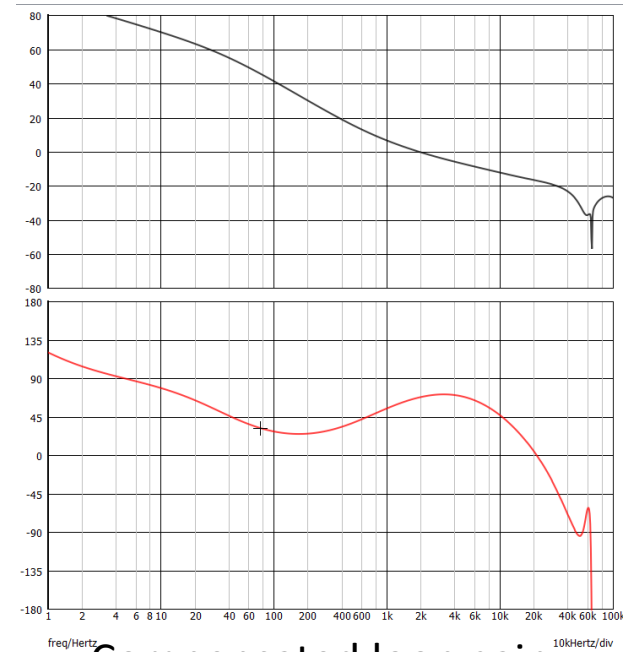
This is a typical converter for an ac-dc notebook adapter.

- Christophe Basso - Transfer Functions of Switching Converters -

Enable or disable with a right-click.

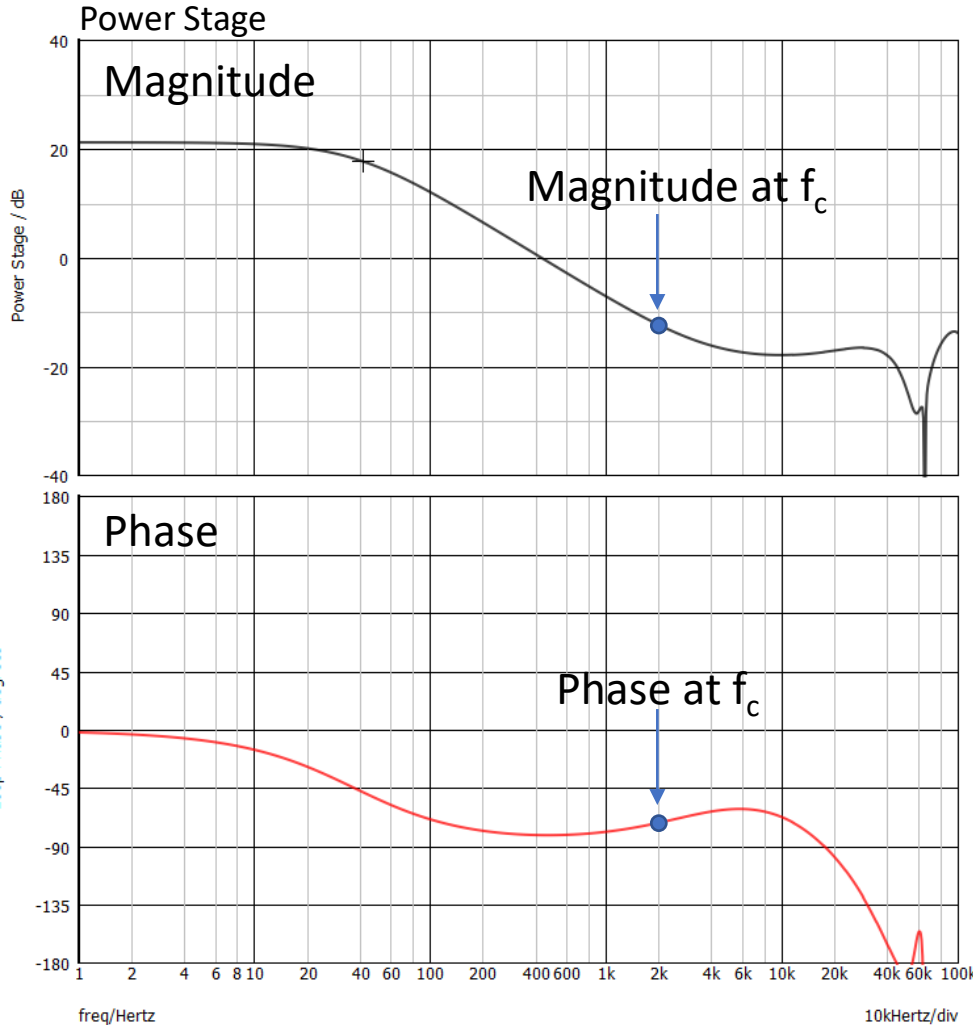


Transient response



Compensated loop gain

The Compensation – display the power stage response at the selected operating point and extract parameters

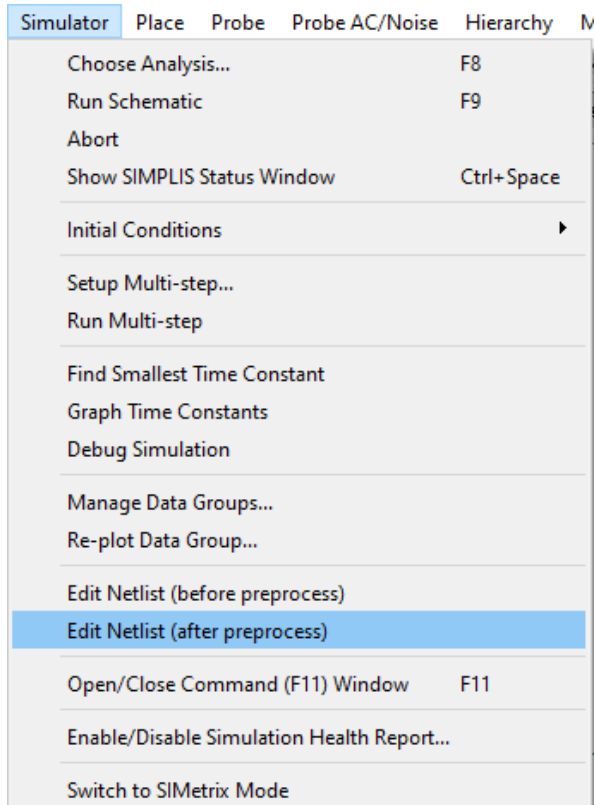


Extract data at the selected crossover frequency.
Here, it is 2 kHz with a 60° phase margin as a goal.

```

*
.VAR Vin=120
.VAR Vout=19
.VAR Lp=600u
.VAR Ri=250m
.VAR N=250m
.VAR Rload=6
.VAR Ts=15u * please update clock and ramp generators *
*
.VAR D=Vout/(Vout+N*Vin) * duty ratio calculation *
.VAR mc1=0.818/(1-D) * recommended compensation value for a Q of 1 *
.VAR Sn={{(Vin/Lp)*Ri}}
.VAR Sramp={2.5/Ts} * 2.5 V over Ts - check your IC specs *
.VAR mc=1.5 * set this value for ramp comp *
.VAR Se={{(mc-1)*Sn}}
.VAR Rr={{(Se/Sramp)*19k+1m}}
.VAR fRHPZ={{(1-D)^2*Rload/(D*Lp*N^2)}}/(2*pi)}
.VAR fcMAX=0.3*fRHPZ
*
* Enter values extracted from the plant Bode plot
*
.VAR Gfc=-13 * magnitude at crossover *
.VAR PS=-80 * phase lag at crossover *
*
* Enter Design Goals Information Here *
*
.VAR fc=2k * targetted crossover *
.VAR PM=60 * choose phase margin at crossover *
*
* Enter the Values for Vout and Bridge Bias Current *
*
.VAR Vout=19
.VAR Ibias=250u
.VAR Vref1=2.5
.VAR Rlower=Vref1/Ibias
.VAR Rupper=(Vout-Vref1)/Ibias
*
* Optocoupler specifications *
*
.GLOBALVAR Rpullup=20k * check with the selected control chip *
.GLOBALVAR Fopto=6k
.GLOBALVAR Copto=1/(2*pi*Fopto*Rpullup)
.GLOBALVAR CTR=0.33
*
.VAR VL=0.2
.VAR VCEsat=0.3
.VAR Vdd=5
    
```

The Compensation – find all calculated values in the Edit Netlist submenu

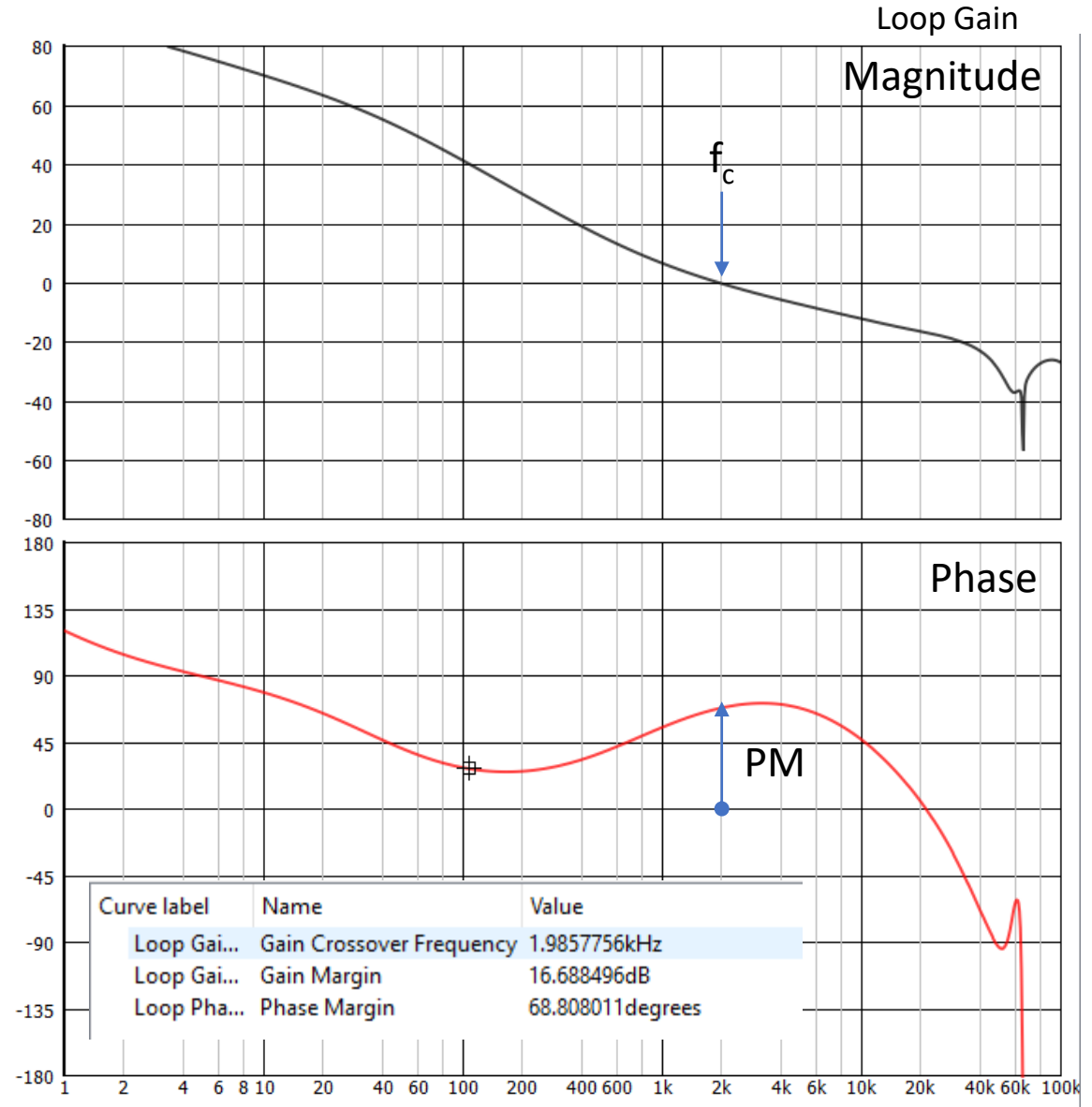


```

12 *
13 * Rupper = 66000
14 * Rlower = 10000
15 * C2 = 1.44819154804453e-09
16 * C1 = 3.31268645711794e-09
17 * Boost = 50
18 * Fz = 727.940468532405
19 * Fp = 5494.95483890924
20 * Sn = 50000
21 * Se = 25000
22 * D = 0.387755102040816
23 * Mc = {mc1}
24 * Rramp = 2850.001
25 * Rmax = 24995.7446808511
26 * FRHPZ = 24616.8762677045
27 * FcMAX = 7385.06288031136
28 *

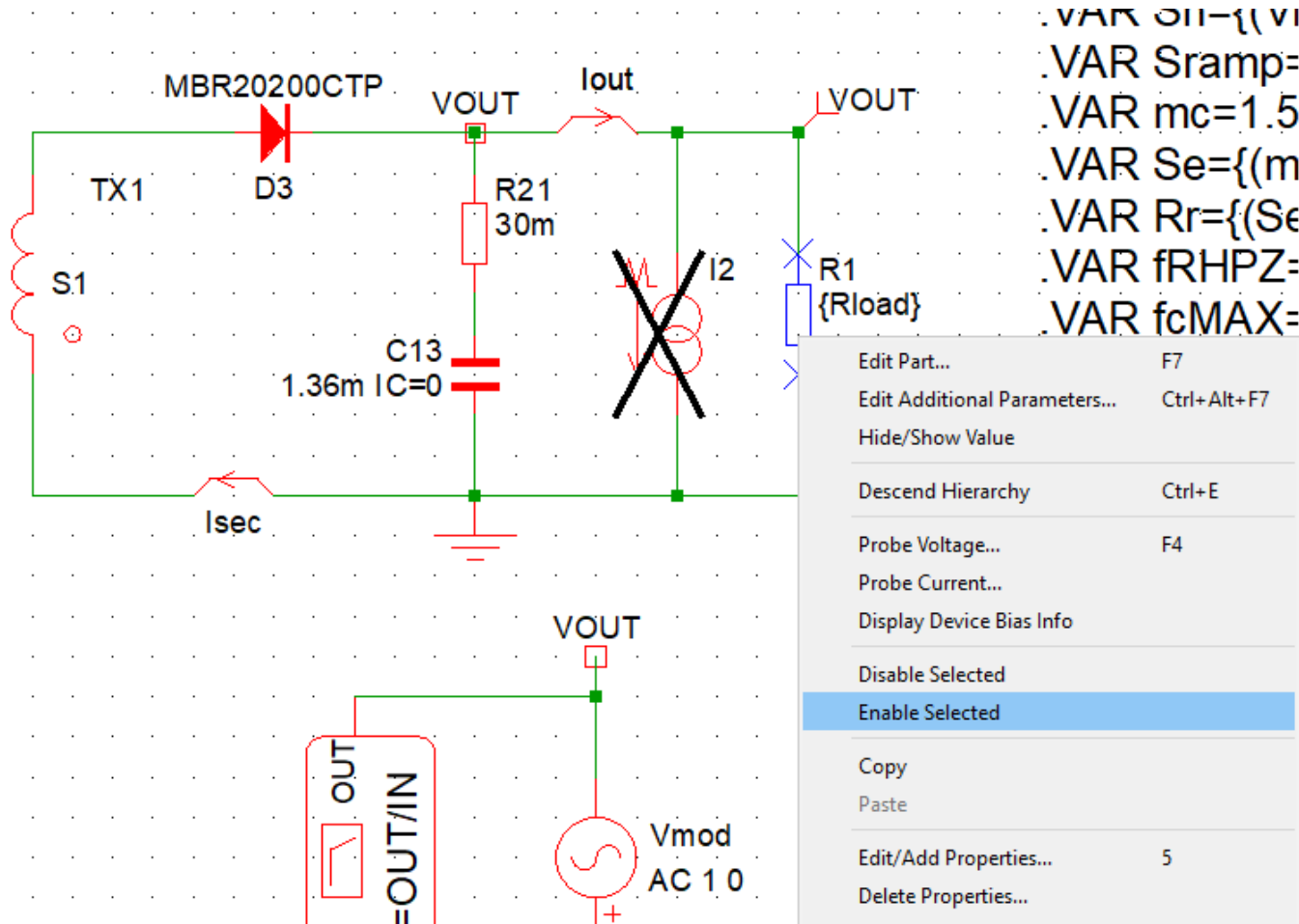
```

In current-mode control, S_n is the on-slope inductor current – it sometimes needs to be scaled by the transformer turns ratio 1:N in isolated buck-derived structures – m_c is defined as $m_c = S_e/S_n + 1$ as per R. Ridley notation in his thesis and S_e is the external or artificial ramp used for slope compensation. $m_c = 1$ implies no compensation ($S_e = 0$), $m_c = 1.5$ means a 50% compensation.



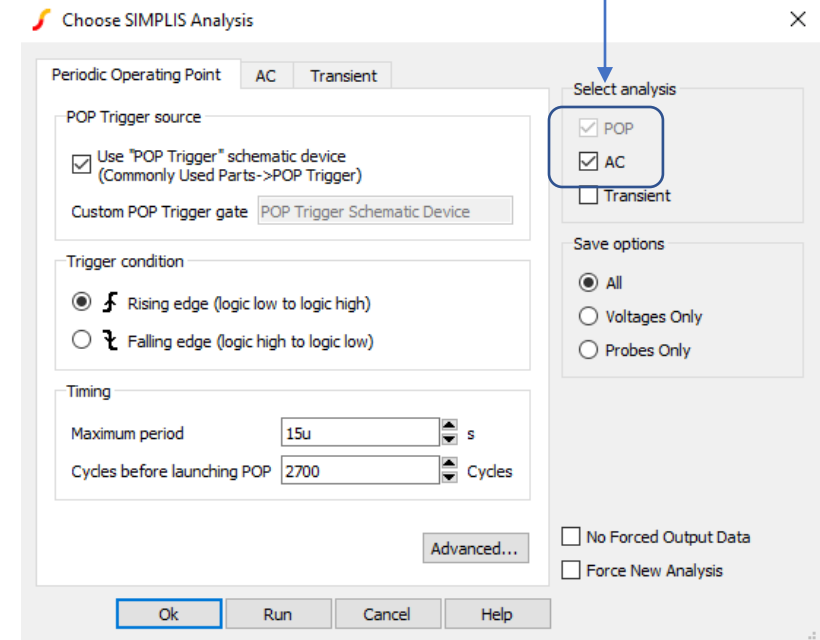
Compensated loop gain

The Template – change the load from a fixed resistance to a current source for the step load response

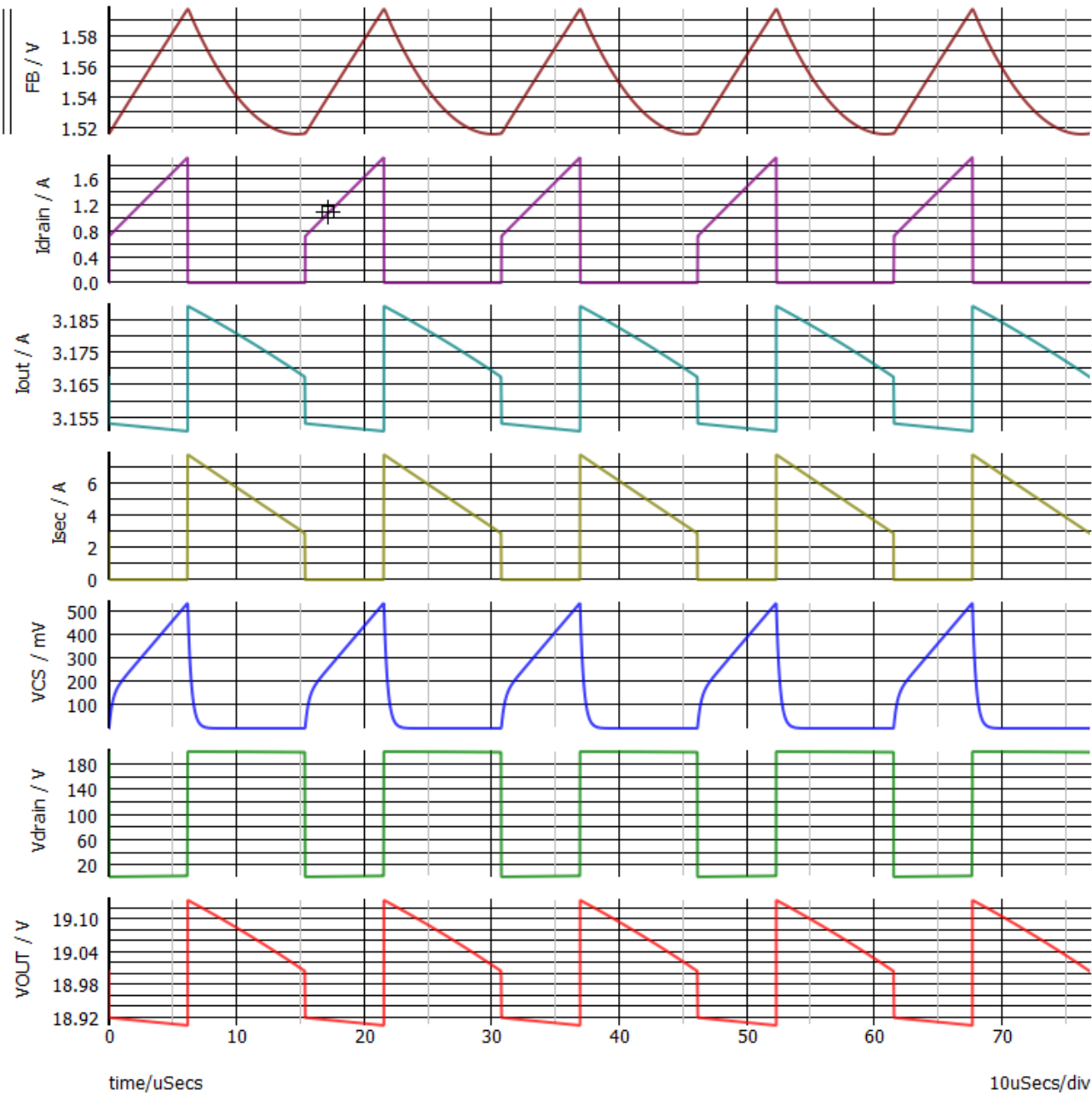


```
.VAR S1I={{ V1
.VAR Sramp=
.VAR mc=1.5
.VAR Se={{(m
.VAR Rr={{(Se
.VAR fRHPZ=
.VAR fcMAX=
```

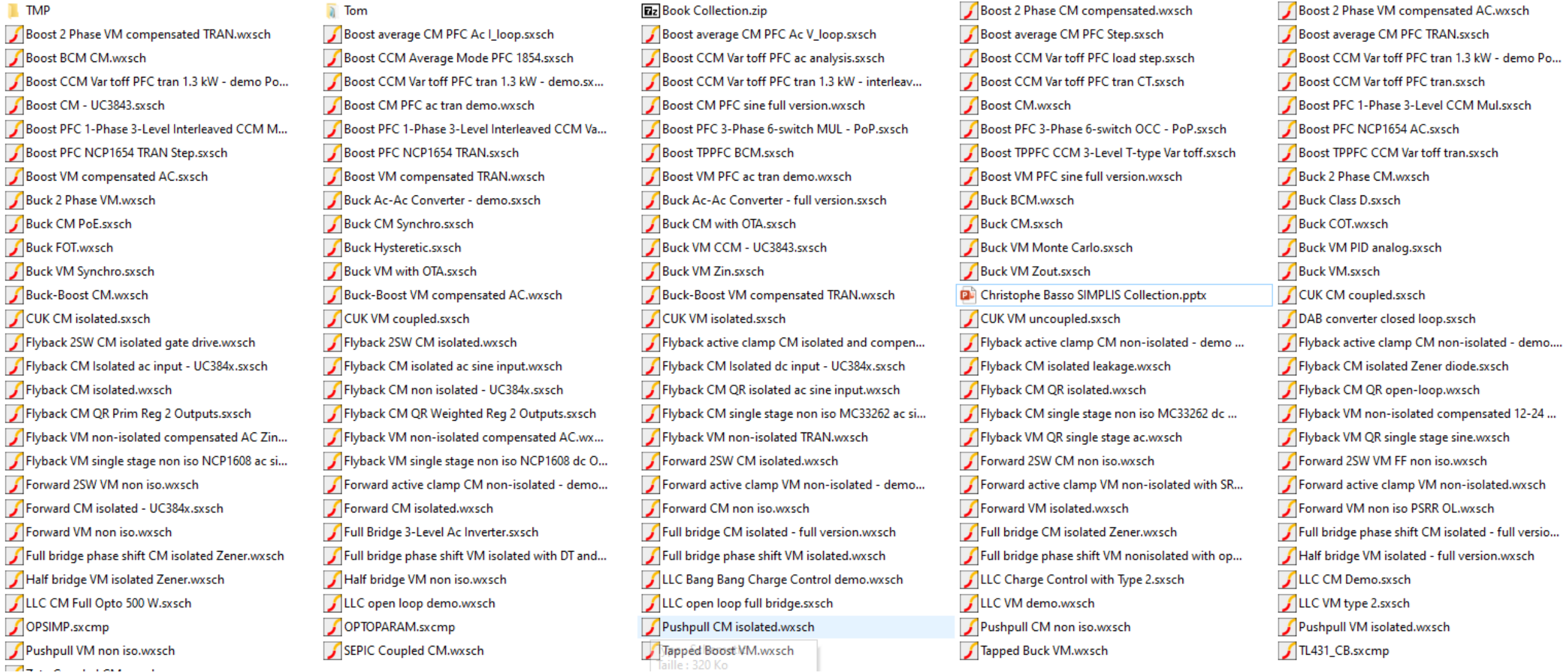
1. Right click on the resistance
2. Enable it - *Enable Selected*
3. Right click on the current source
4. Disable it – *Disable Selected*
5. Press F8
6. Choose ac analysis



- ❑ *Step load*: disable the loading resistance, press F8 then check transient
- ❑ *Ac sweep or steady-state*: disable the current source, press F8 then check ac analysis. The POP delivers the ac response and the operating waveforms.



SIMPLIS® starts the ac analysis when the so-called periodic operating point or POP is found. The engine finds the exact point at which the converter is in a stable operating point also called steady-state operation. In this mode, the average current in any capacitor is extremely small (0 A in theory) while the average voltage across any inductor is also an extremely small value (0 V in theory). It happens that SIMPLIS® cannot find its POP and you have to help him converge. It can happen if you have selected a wrong target for a crossover frequency, a too aggressive phase margin or the converter can simply not be stabilized. Check the computed elements in the netlist to make sure there are no negative values. This is generally a sign of a wrong goal set for instance or a bad position of the double zeroes in the type 3 compensator. Running a transient analysis with a load resistance usually helps identify what is wrong.



You have 130+ ready-to-simulate switching converters to play with and many of them work with the free demo!
 April 2024