Some Amplifier Circuits for Discrete Photodetectors

Prof. Guido Piai^{1*}

¹ OST-Ostschweizer Fachhochschule, Werdenbergstrasse 4, 9471 Buchs (SG) * Prof. G. Piai, head of the institute ESA for electronics, sensors and actors, +41 58 2573391, guido.piai@ost.ch

Photodetectors are the key element of many sensors and have the task of converting optical information into readable electrical information. The electronic amplifier, at least the first stage, is the second essential element of such a sensor, without which the photodetector cannot work. Although technological progress offers more and more integrated solutions, discrete solutions are still relevant for research and development, especially at low cost. We summarise some results from projects that cannot be mentioned in detail for reasons of confidentiality.

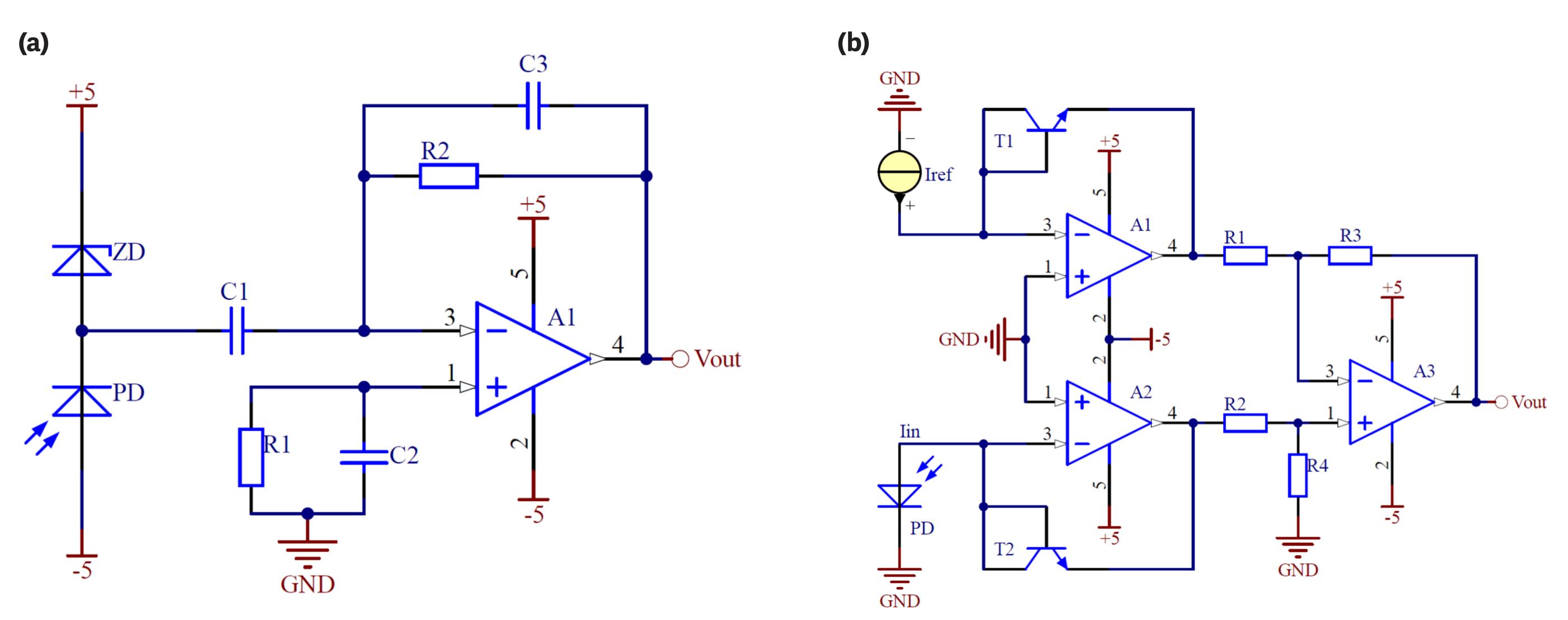


Figure 1: (a) amplifier with ac coupling (b) logarithmic amplifier



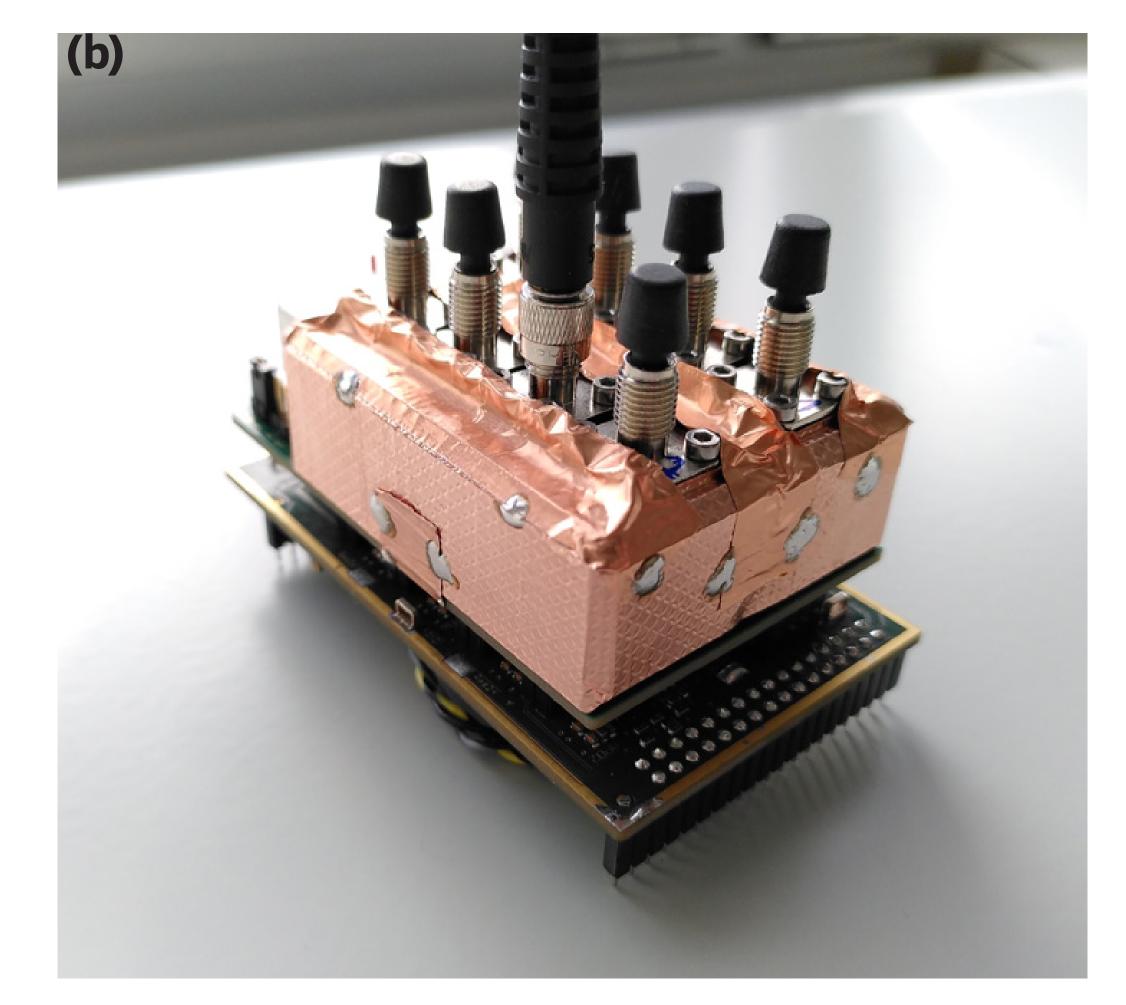


Figure 2: a) test field with VLC luminaries b) 8-channel APD module with logarithmic amplifiers