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# EECS 16A Touchscreen 3

**\*\*Insert your names here\*\***

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# Announcements

- Buffer labs will be **11/8-11/12**
  - You can make up **one** missed lab from the Touch Module, if needed (unless you have received approval to make-up multiple labs)
  - Fill out the sign-up form (linked at the end of the lab notebook) if you plan to attend a buffer section

# Announcements

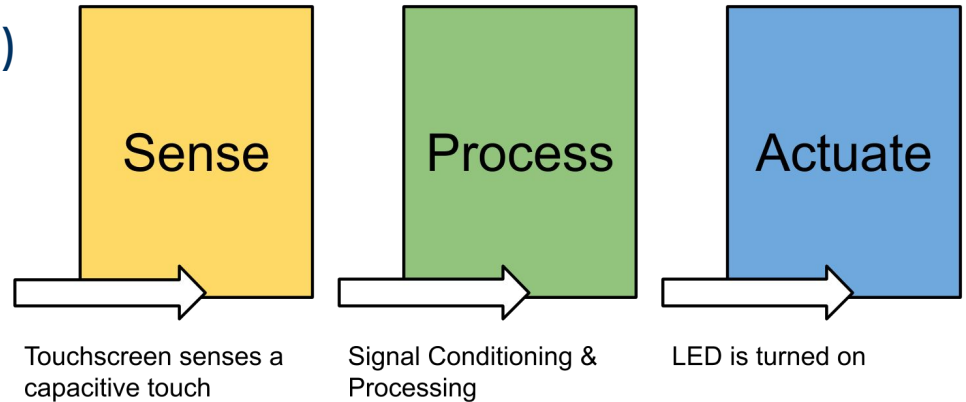
- Optional Touch Labs!
  - In-Person (11/8, 11/9): Integrator + Soldering + Op Amp configurations
  - Might add another section on 11/12 if there's significant interest and students can't make the other times
- Fill out the sign-up form (linked at the end of the lab notebook) if you plan to attend an optional lab section
- See upcoming Piazza post for more details on Touch Buffer and the Optional Touch Lab

# Capacitive Touchscreens



# Electronic Systems

- Most systems perform 3 tasks:
- Sense (Physical to Electrical)
- Process (Signal Conditioning)
- Actuate (Electrical to Physical)

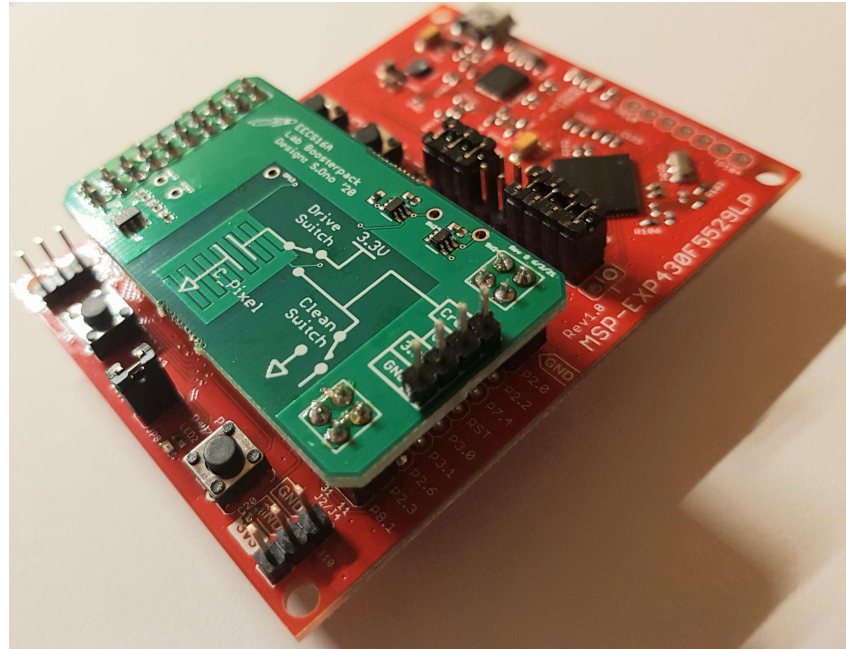
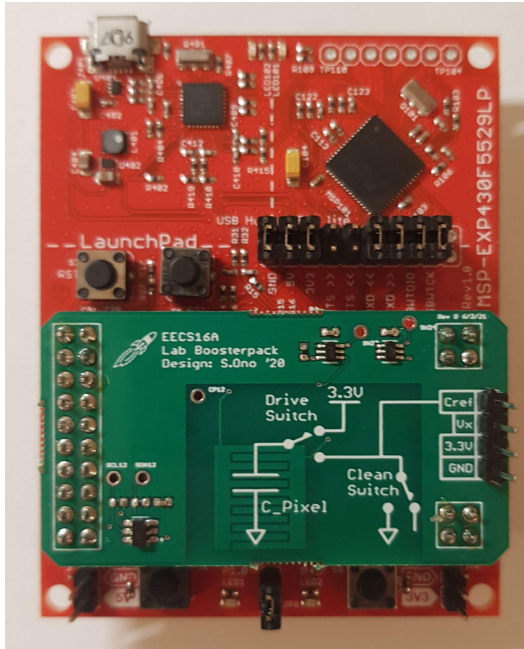


# Goals: Touch 3

- Understand charge-sharing circuit for a capacitive touch sensor
- Understand comparators
- Build a functioning Touch Pixel

# New Tools

Introducing: EECS16A Lab Boosterpack



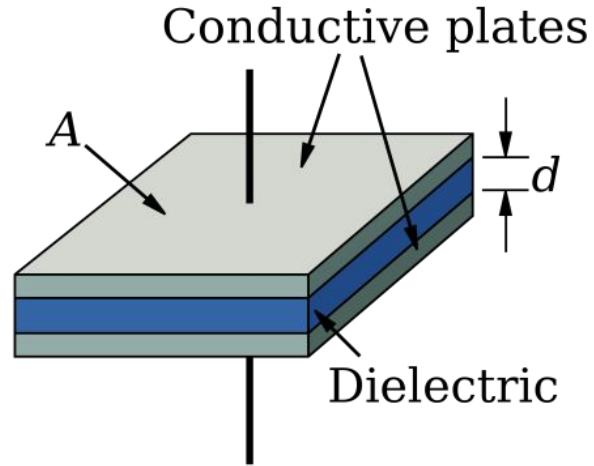
# Capacitive Touchscreen

- Exploits capacitive properties of finger/body
- Touching the screen changes the capacitance
- No moving parts
- Multi-touch is possible
- More sensitive

**How to measure capacitance?**



# Capacitance and the touchpad



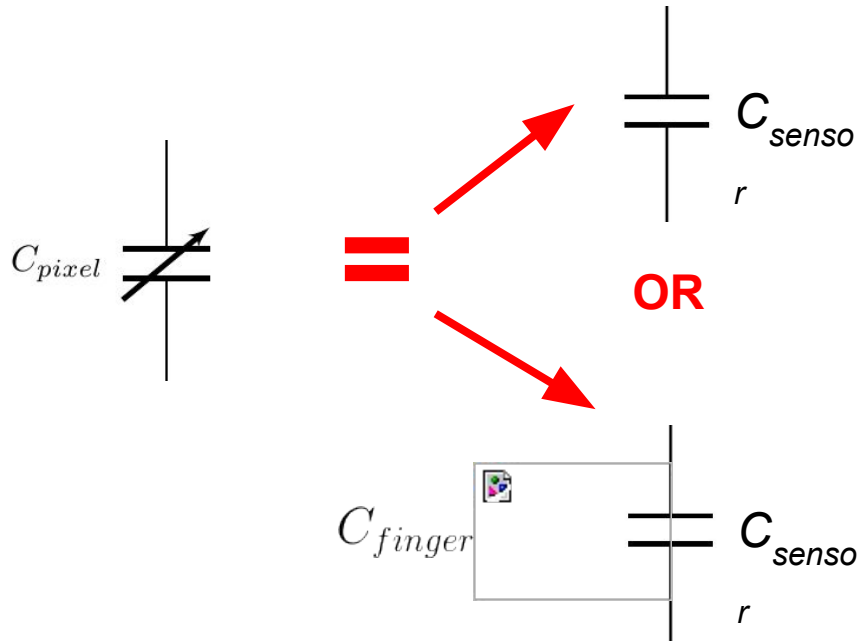
# Capacitive Touch Sensor

Capacitive touch sensor consists of two parts:

- **C<sub>pixel</sub>**: Screen + finger = unknown capacitance
- **C<sub>ref</sub>**: In parallel with known capacitance

Let's try to figure out a way to detect this increase in capacitance!

# Measuring Capacitance



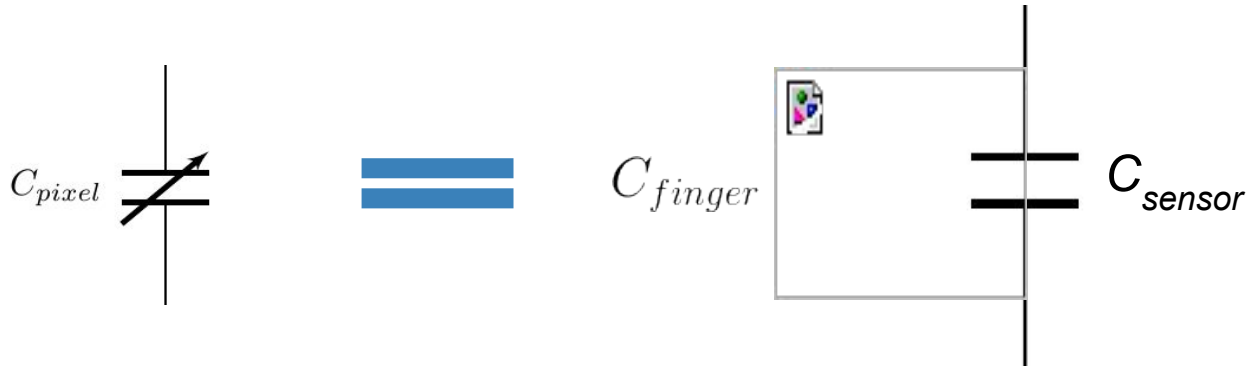
**$C_{pixel}$  is a variable value – may contain our finger or not**

- Model finger as another capacitor in parallel with our capacitive touch sensor
- How does the capacitance of what we're charging change?

# Poll Time!

When you touch the screen, what will happen to  $C_{pixel}$ ?

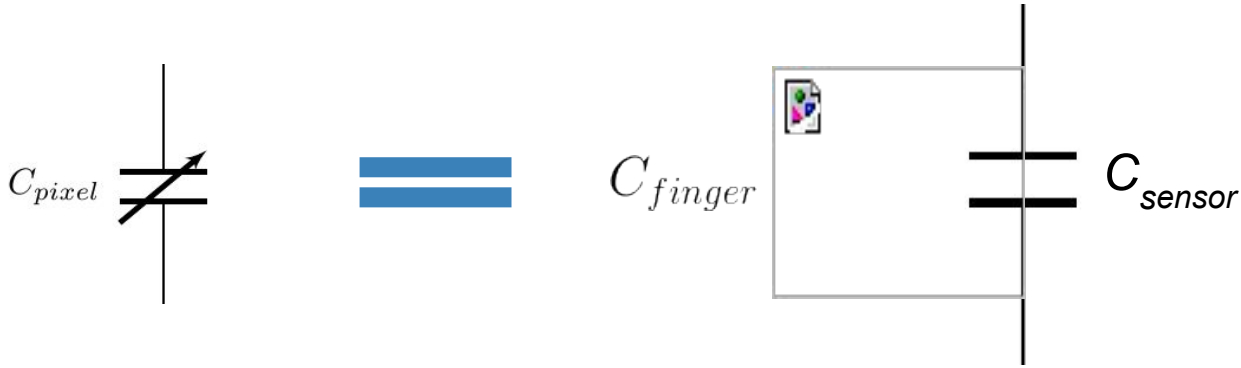
- (A) Increase
- (B) Decrease



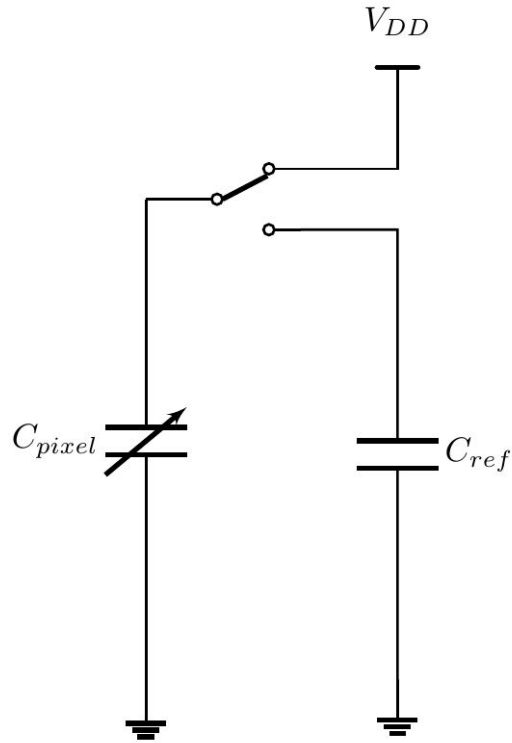
# Poll Time! (Continued...)

When you touch the screen, what will happen to  $C_{pixel}$ ?

- (A) Increase
- (B) Decrease

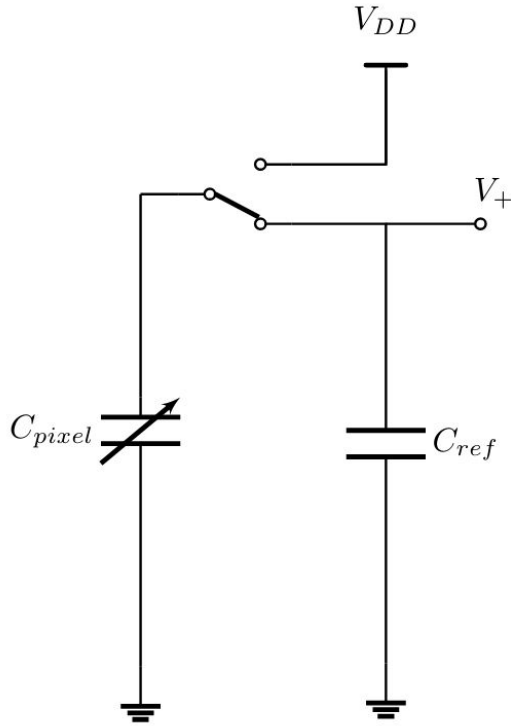


# Measuring Capacitance



Start by charging  
our touch sensor  
capacitor

# Measuring Capacitance



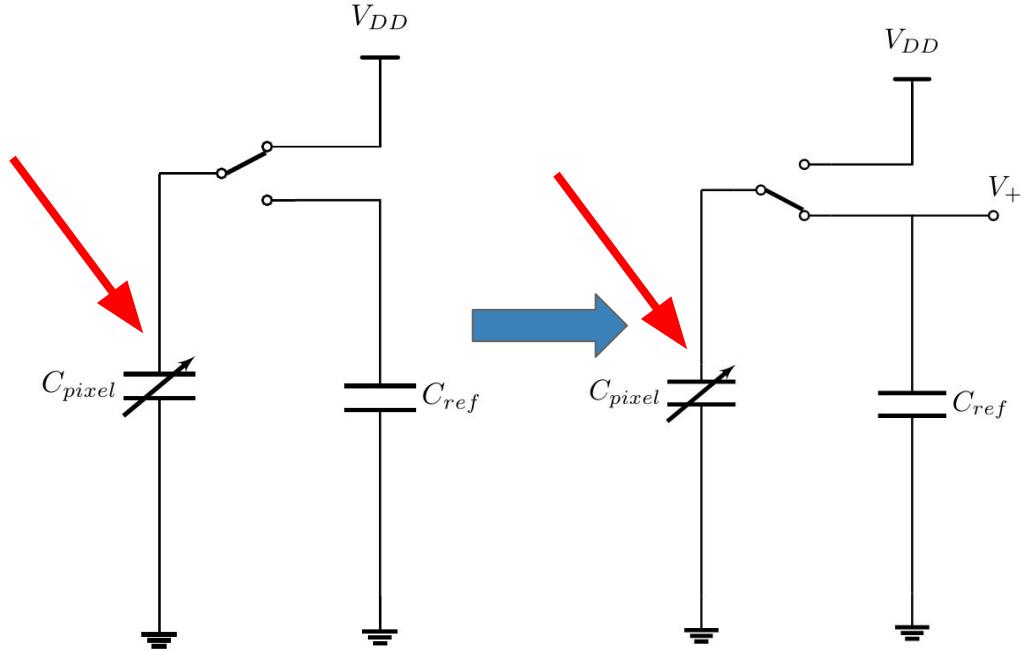
Charge-sharing  
invariant:  $Q = CV$

- $Q$  remains constant
- What happens to capacitors in parallel?

# Poll Time!

When the charge is shared across  $C_{pixel}$  and  $C_{ref}$ , what will happen to the voltage at the positive plate of  $C_{pixel}$ ?

- (A) Increase
- (B) Decrease

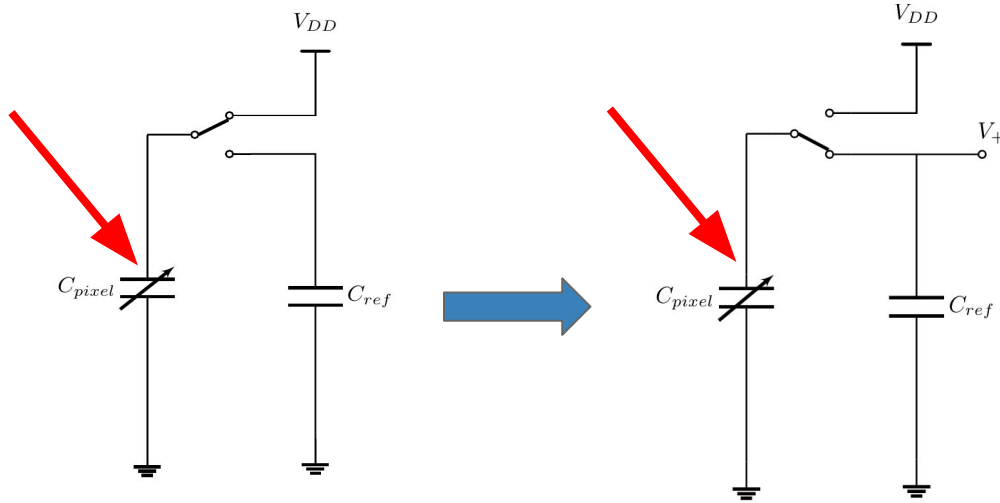




# Poll Time! (cont.)

When the charge is shared across  $C_{pixel}$  and  $C_{ref}$ , what will happen to the voltage at the positive plate of  $C_{pixel}$ ?

- (A) Increase
- (B) Decrease



**Charge is conserved:**

$$C_{pixel} \times V_{DD} = (C_{pixel} + C_{ref}) \times (V_+)$$

$$V_+ = \frac{C_{pixel} \times V_{DD}}{C_{pixel} + C_{ref}}$$

$$V_+ < V_{DD}$$

**Voltage =  $V_{DD}$**

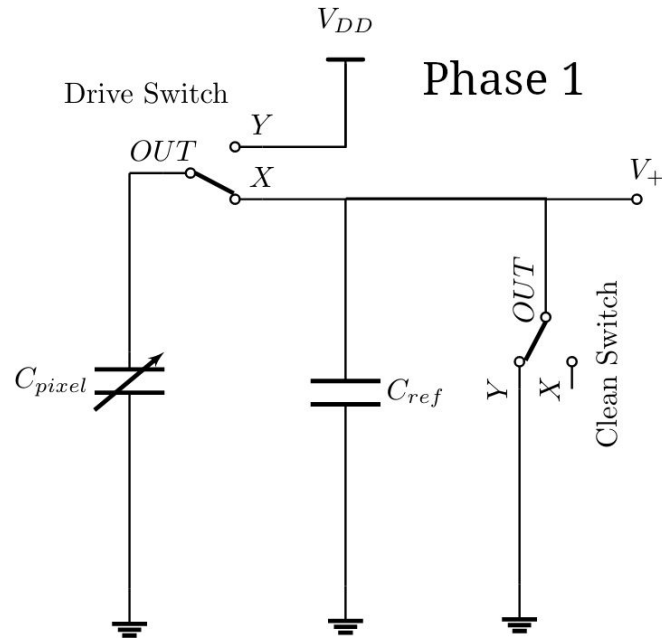
$$Q = C_{pixel} * V_{DD}$$

**Voltage =  $V_+$**

$$Q = (V_+)(C_{pixel}) + (V_+)(C_{ref})$$

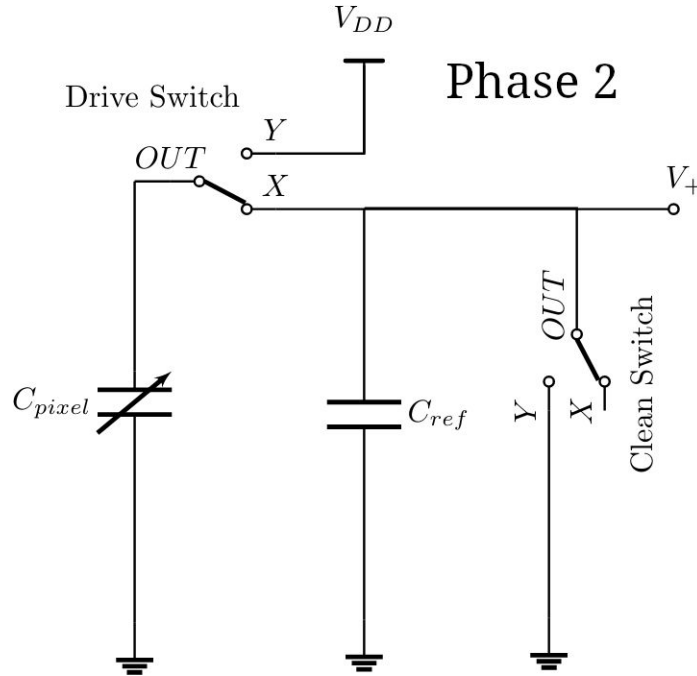
# Measuring Capacitance: Full Cycle

1. Connect capacitors to ground to discharge fully



# Measuring Capacitance: Full Cycle

2. Disconnect clean switch from ground to enable charge storing

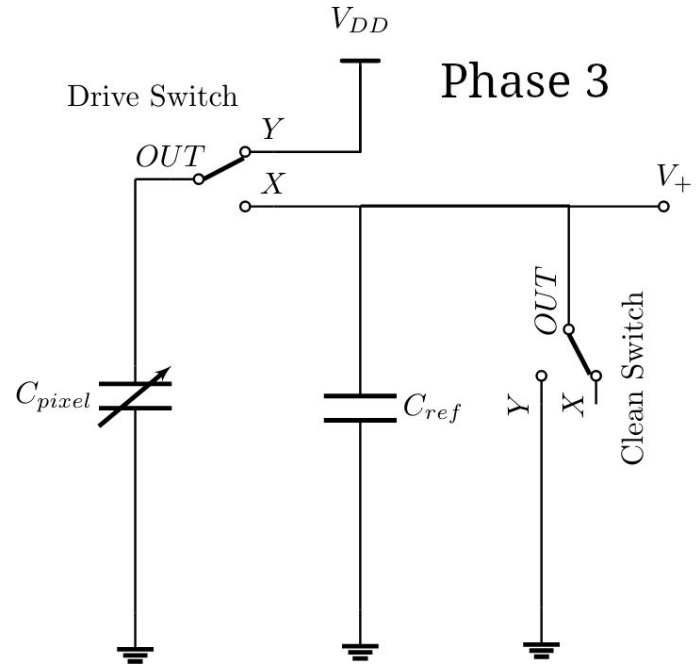


# Measuring Capacitance: Full Cycle

## 3. Charge touchscreen ( + finger? )

Applying this equation:  $Q = CV$

$$Q_{Phase3} = C_{pixel} \times V_{DD}$$



# Measuring Capacitance: Full Cycle

## 4. Share charge between $C_{pixel}$ and $C_{ref}$

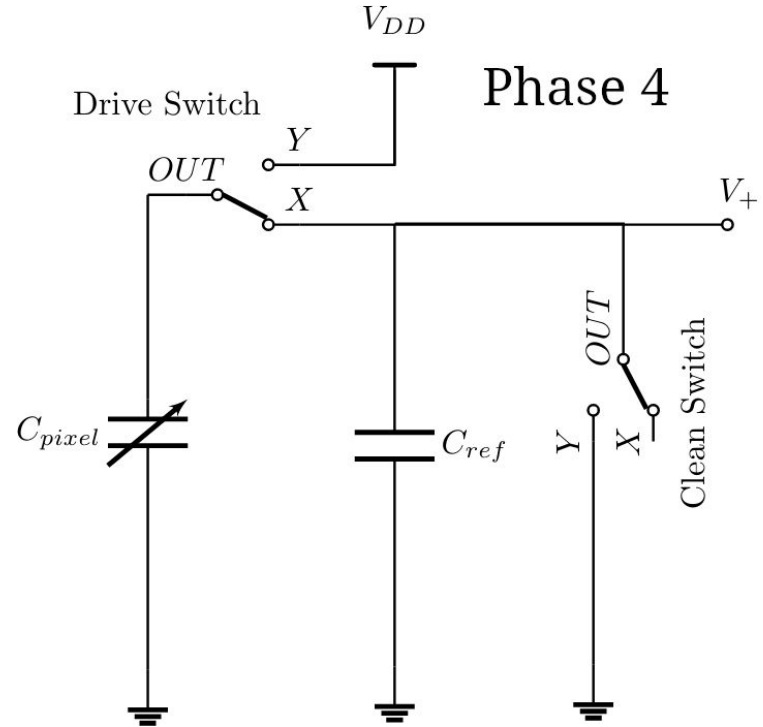
Charge is conserved between phases

$$Q_{Phase3} = Q_{Phase4} = C_{pixel} \times V_{DD}$$

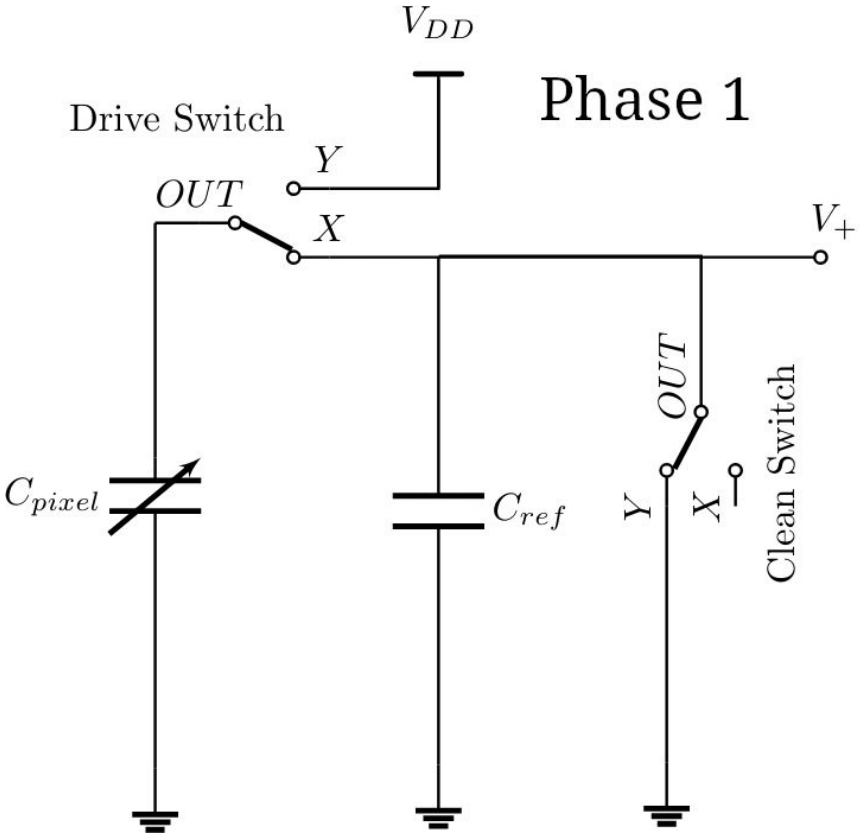
$$Q_{Phase4} = (V_+) \times (C_{pixel} + C_{ref})$$

$$(V_+) \times (C_{pixel} + C_{ref}) = C_{pixel} \times V_{DD}$$

$$V_+ = \frac{C_{pixel} \times V_{DD}}{C_{pixel} + C_{ref}}$$



# Measuring Capacitance: Full Cycle



# Process Comparator

Compares input voltage at positive terminal to a reference voltage at negative terminal (think “>” symbol)

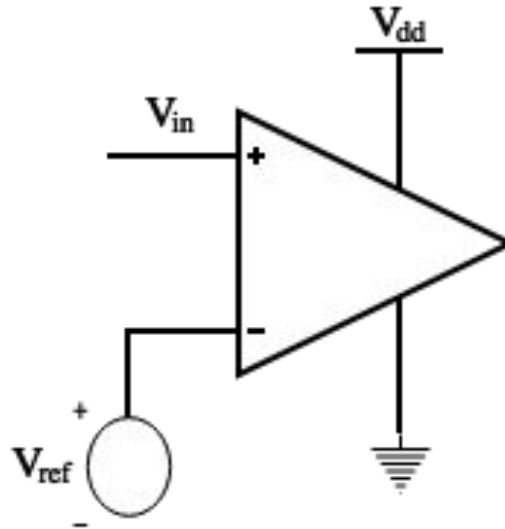
Essentially does:

if  $V_{in} > V_{ref}$ :

    return  $V_{dd}$

else:

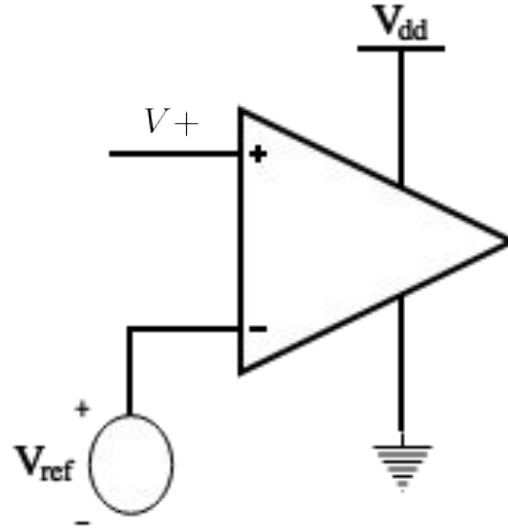
    return  $GND = 0V$



# Process Comparator

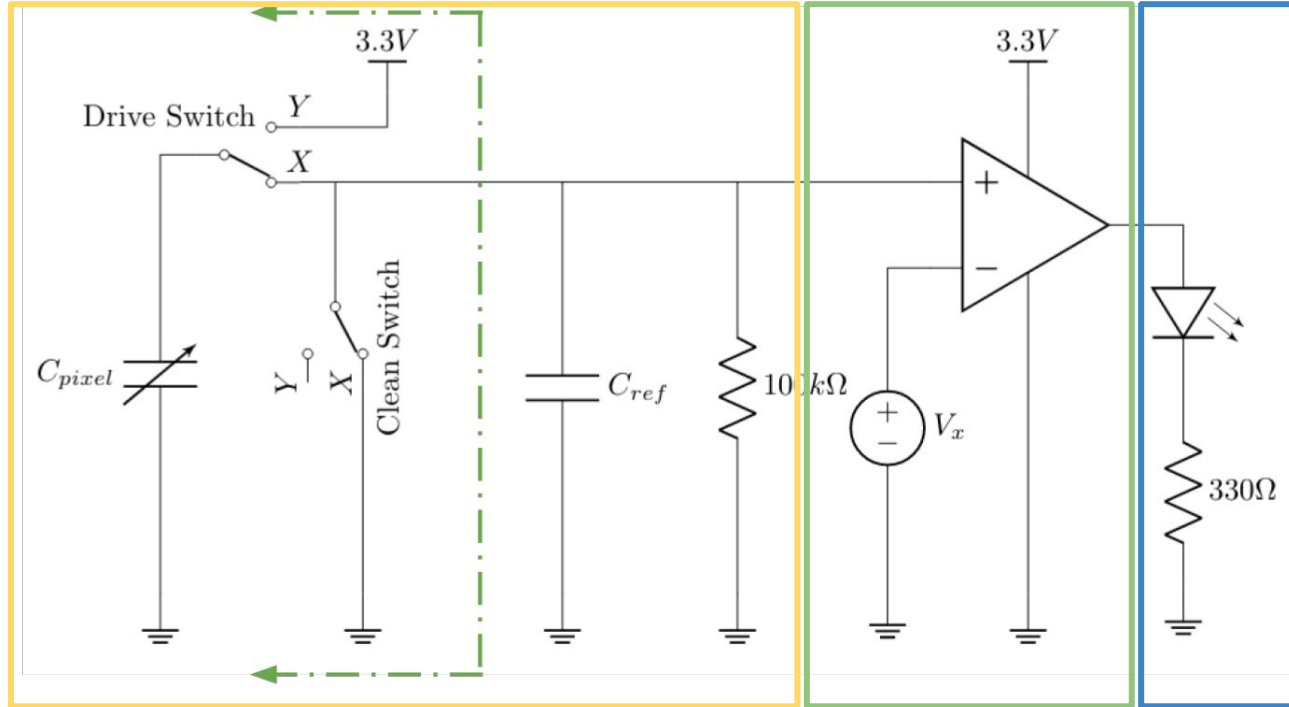
Voltage we are measuring:  $V_+ = \frac{C_{pixel} \times V_{DD}}{C_{pixel} + C_{ref}}$

- In touch and no-touch cases, the voltage at  $V_+$  will be different
- Want to use the process comparator to distinguish between touch and no-touch voltages
- Desired comparator output:
  - Touch:  $V_{DD}$
  - No-touch:  $0V$

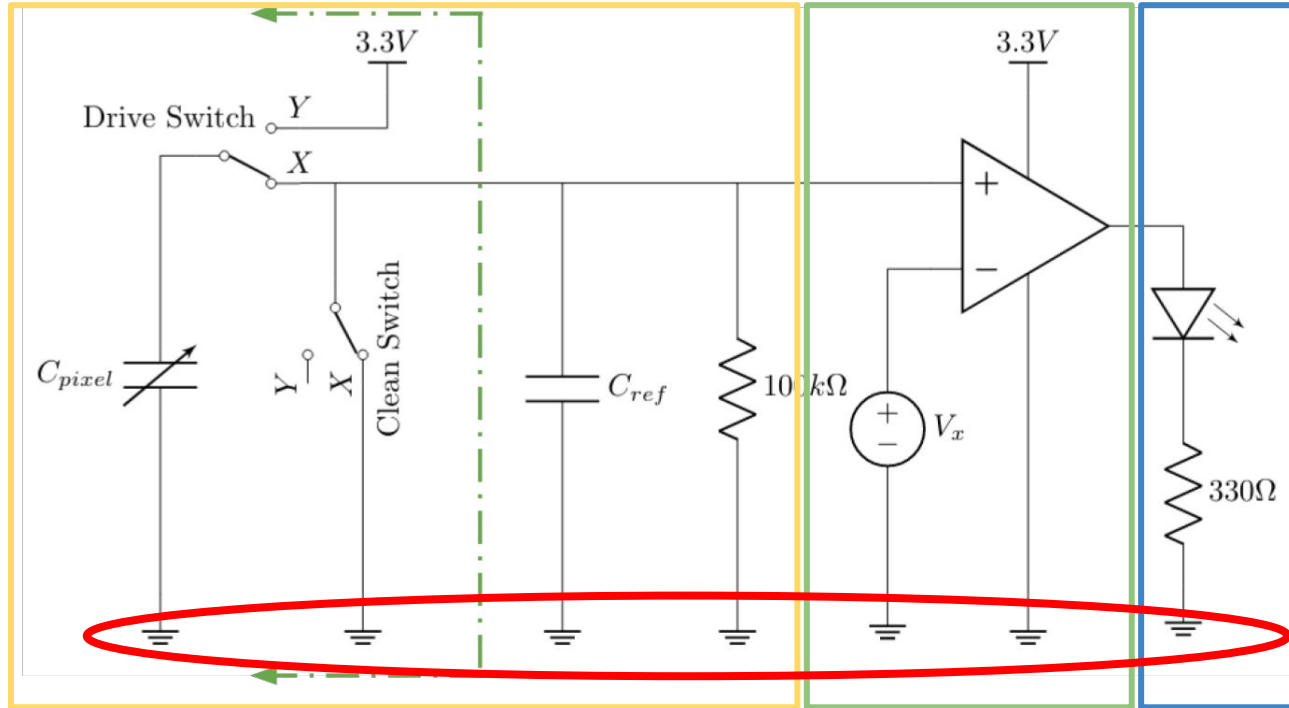




# Full Circuit - Sense Process Actuate

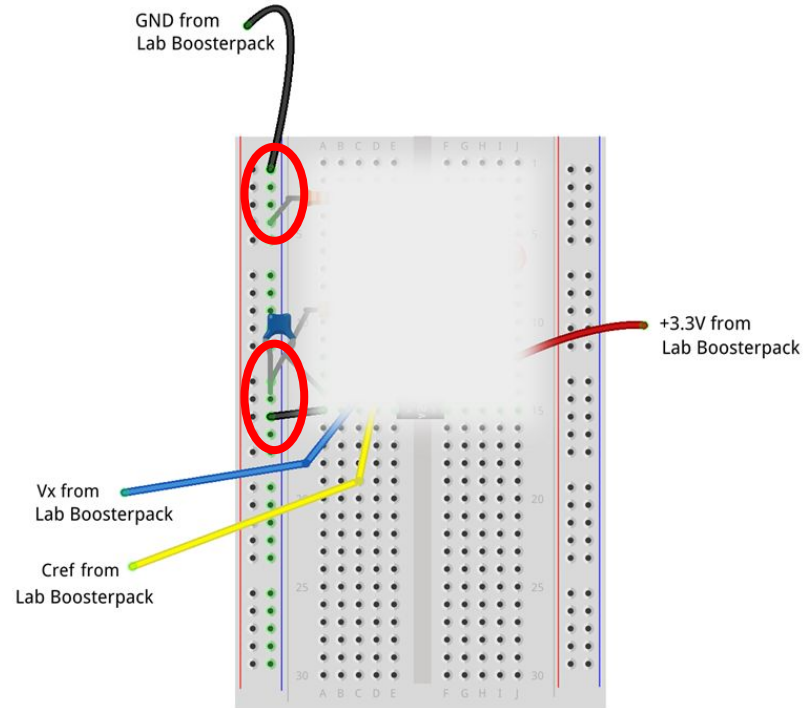


# Full Circuit - Sense Process Actuate



**Note: these are all the same node! They are all connected to the breadboard ground rail.**

# Full Circuit - Sense Process Actuate



fritzing

**Note: All ground connections are the same node!**

# Notes

- **Unplug MSP before moving circuit components**
- Op Amp goes across middle of breadboard
- **Read op-amp pin diagram carefully**
- Make sure your circuit is grounded and has a common ground
- **Initial charge sharing diagrams are theoretical; don't start building right away**

