ECE2280 FUNDAMENTALS OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING 1

Introduction to Bipolar Junction Transistors (BJTs)
A transistor has three terminals— the base, the collector, and the emitter. The current flow from the collector to the emitter (through the transistor) is controlled by the current flow from the base to the emitter. A small base current can control a much larger collector current.

Bipolar junction transistors (BJTs) consist of three layers of doped silicon. The NPN transistor has a thin layer of P-doped silicon sandwiched between two layers of N-doped silicon. Each P-N junction can act like a diode. In fact, this is a fairly good way to check a transistor with an ohmmeter (set to the diode setting).

The base-emitter junction always acts like a diode, but because the base is very thin, it makes the other junction act like a controlled valve (details to come later).

Symbols and conventions

Very High Level Overview of how a transistor works:

• A small amount of base current controls a large emitter (collector) current

 $\frac{3}{2}$ $\frac{3}{2}$

Analogy:

- Think of the transistor as an "electronic" tap able to control a large flow of electrons *(from collector to emitter)* with only a small variation in the "handle" *(base)*
- Water Tap Analogy: (water spigot)
	- \rightarrow Large amounts of H₂O controlled by very small movement of the tap

Cathode

Summary of BJT Current-Voltage Relationships in the Active Mode:

$$
\begin{aligned}\ni_c &= I_S e^{v_{BE}/V_T} \qquad \text{(n=1 always for BIT)} \text{ {Ebers-Moll equation}} \\
i_B &= \frac{i_C}{\beta} = \left(\frac{I_S}{\beta}\right) e^{v_{BE}/V_T} \\
i_E &= \frac{i_C}{\alpha} = \left(\frac{I_S}{\alpha}\right) e^{v_{BE}/V_T}\n\end{aligned}
$$

Note: For the *pnp* transistor, replace v_{BE} with v_{EB}

$$
I_C = \alpha I_E = \beta I_B \qquad I_E = (\beta + 1)I_B \qquad \beta = \frac{\alpha}{1 - \alpha} \qquad \alpha = \frac{\beta}{\beta + 1}
$$

V_T=thermal voltage \approx ~25mV at room temperature

Temperature dependencies

 v_{BE} = 0.7 V (decreases about 2.1 mV / °C) at constant I_C : $\Delta V_{BE} = \frac{-2.1 \cdot mV}{\text{degC}}$ at constant V_{BE} : I_C increases by 8% per °C (10x per 30°C)

Method for solving DC voltages and currents of a BJT circuit:

1). Start by assuming transistor is in active mode

Either use given values for base-emitter voltage, or use

 $V_{BE} = 0.7V$ (npn)

$$
V_{EB} = 0.7V (pnp)
$$

- 2). Solve for the BJT node voltages and currents
	- Voltages: sometimes can read off directly, otherwise use loop equation
	- Once you have one current, you can get the other two from the active mode equations
- 3). Check to see if the solution is consistent!

$$
V_C \ge V_B > V_E
$$
 \nnpn active \nmore explicitly: $V_{CB} \ge 0$, $V_{BE} \ge 0.7V$

 $V_E > V_B \ge V_C$ pnp active more explicitly: $V_{CB} \ge 0$, $V_{EB} \ge 0.7V$

4). If the solution is consistent, stop \rightarrow you are done

If not, the transistor is either in saturation or cutoff

- \rightarrow go to 2) however active mode equations **do not** apply!
- \rightarrow Now use: saturation: $v_{BE} \approx 0.7V$ and $v_{CE} \approx 0.3V$ for npn
	- $(V_{\text{ER}} \approx 0.7V$ and $V_{\text{EC}} \approx 0.3V$ for pnp)

cutoff: set all currents to

approximately 0:

 $i_C = 0$ $i_E = 0$ $i_B = 0$

• With both diodes forward biased, the collector-to-emitter voltage, v_{CE} , saturates toward a constant value

Saturation

NPN ACTIVE AND ON when:

 $V_{BE} \geq V_{BEon}$ (*V_{BEon}* \cong 0.4*V*) $V_C \geq V_B > V_E$ and $V_{CE} > 0.3V$

PNP ACTIVE AND ON when:

 $V_{EB} \geq V_{EBon}$ $V_E > V_B \geq V_C$ and $V_{EC} > 0.3V$

Example 29:

Find V_E and I_c for each circuit. Assume that $|V_{BE}| = 0.7V$ and $\beta = 40$. Both transistors are being operated in the active mode.

Temperature Effects:

NPN Transistor Characteristic

Bias BJT in the ACTIVE region

Goals:

- Stable I_c for any temperature. (Does not go into saturation region similar to triode region for MosFet)
- Not dependant on the value of β .
- Not dependant on V_{BE} .

• $\beta R_E > R_{BB}$
A couple of other bias schemes

OR Use Current Mirror:

ECE2280 FUNDAMENTALS OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING 5
 Current source bias: We could make the bias current very stable if we had a current source

If we can make current sources (drains), then...

Current mirrors A way to make a current source (drain)

AFE 9

configuration). I could make a positive source if I used PNP transistors.

But, the transistors must be identical, and at the same temperature, like in an IC.

$$
i_c = \frac{I_c}{V_T} v_{be}
$$
 $g_m = \frac{I_c}{V_T}$

 $V_{BE} + V_{be}$ ^{*V*}

 $(V_{BE} + V_{be})$

 $\frac{B E + V_{be}}{V_T}$

 $\frac{v_{BE}}{V}$

 $\frac{BE}{V}$

Transconductance

Dynamic forward resistance of BE junction

Input Resistance:

- a. Input resistance looking in to base (in terms of
- i_b) from base to emitter

From above:
$$
i_c = I_c + i_c = I_c + \frac{I_c}{V_T} v_{be}
$$

$$
i_B = \frac{i_C}{\beta} = \frac{I_c}{\beta} + \frac{I_c}{\beta V_T} v_{be}
$$

\n
$$
i_B = I_B + i_b
$$

\n
$$
i_b = \frac{I_c}{\beta V_T} v_{be} = \frac{I_B}{V_T} v_{be}
$$

\nif β large($\alpha \approx 1$): good approximation is $r_e \approx \frac{1}{g_m}$

 v_{BE}

 $r_{\pi} = (\beta + 1)r_e$

Summary of ac parameters:

$$
g_m = \frac{I_c}{V_T}
$$

\n
$$
r_a = \frac{V_T}{I_B} = \frac{\beta}{g_m}
$$

\n
$$
i_c = g_m V_{be}
$$

\n
$$
\frac{V_c}{V_{be}} = -g_m R_c
$$

\n
$$
\frac{V_c}{V_{be}} = -g_m R_c
$$

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 V_{BE} ^{*V*}_{*V*_{*T*} *(V*_{*V*})^{*V*}_{*V*}} *s e e T be T BE* ν Same concept as that of the MOSFET.

Hybrid-π model is used for the BJT: • T-model – uses r_e instead of r_π

Early Voltage

- The I_C vs. V_{CE} curves in the active region have a finite slope to them due to this i_C dependence on V_{CB}
- · Early showed that these slopes all converge to one negative voltage point

The actual equation:

$$
i_c = I_s e^{\frac{v_{be}}{V_T}} \left(1 + \frac{v_{ce}}{V_A} \right)
$$

This means that the output resistance between the collector and emitter is not infinite!

1). Determine dc operating point, specifically I_C

(Set ac sources to 0!!)

Note: Use method for analyzing BJT circuits at DC

- 2). Calculate small-signal parameters: g_m , r_{π} , and/or r_e
- 3). Set dc sources to 0
- 4). Replace the transistor with one of the equivalent small-signal models
- 5). Analyze the circuit as usual \rightarrow linear circuit analysis

Example

Circuit:

 β =100, V_{BB}=3V, R_C=3k R_B =100k, V_{CC}=10V

Assume $V_{BE} = 0.7V$

 \mathcal{R}_B

 I_{C}

 V_C

Assume active

Find the voltage gain, v_0/v_i

1). DC analysis: Redraw circuit with just dc part: set v_i to 0

$$
g_m = \frac{I_C}{V_T} = \frac{2.3}{25} = 92 \text{ mA} / V
$$
\n
$$
r_e = \frac{V_T}{I_E} = \frac{25}{(2.3/0.99)} = 10.8 \Omega
$$
\n
$$
r_{\pi} = \frac{\beta}{g_m} = \frac{100}{92} = 1.09 k \Omega
$$

3). And 4). Set dc sources to 0 and replace transistor with equivalent model Model: $100k$

Resistance-Reflection Rule Between Base and Emitter:

 $\overline{\overline{\text{GND}}}$

Example: Assume the transistors below have a finite β and an infinite Early voltage.

 \bullet Write an expression for the input resistance R_{in} in the circuit shown below. Your expression should include *only* real resistances (R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , or a subset of these) and possibly β , r_{e1} or $r_{\pi 1}$, and r_{e2} or $r_{\pi 2}$. (Assume both transistors have the same β .) Circle your answer. *Hint: Use Resistance-Reflection rule*

Vin $r_{\pi 1}$ $_3 + |R_4| \frac{r_{\pi 2}}{R_{11}} | (\beta + 1) = R_{eq1}$ $R_3 + R_4 \left| \frac{r_{\pi 2}}{2} \right| \left| (\beta + 1) \right| = R$ 1 $\left[R_3 + \left(R_4 \left\| \frac{r_{\pi 2}}{\beta + 1} \right\| \right) \right] (\beta + 1) =$ V_1

2 Stage ⇒**Common-Emitter/Common-Collector**

ECE2280 FUNDAMENTALS OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING 14

Common collector (CC)

The circuits shown are typical arrangements. Note that V_{EE} is often 0 V (ground). The equations below are for these circuits, adapt them as necessary to fit your actual circuit.

Voltage gain about 1. Good for current gain, or to match a high impedance source to a low impedance load.

The small-signal emitter resistance is right in the emitter of the transistor (where the arrow is).

Recall that the emitter resistor looks β times as big from the base's point-of-view. That's also true for signals

Input impedance: $R_i = R_{B1} || R_{B2} || \beta (r_e + R_E || R_L)$

The opposite effect also works, resistors at the base look β times smaller from the emitter's point-of-view.

Output impedance: $R_0 = R_E || r_e + R_B1 || R_B2 || R_S$

Low frequency corner frequencies

$$
f_{\text{CL1}} = \frac{1}{2 \cdot \pi \left(R_{\text{S}} + R_{\text{i}}\right) \cdot \text{C}_{\text{in}}} \qquad f_{\text{CL2}} = \frac{1}{2 \cdot \pi \left(R_{\text{L}} + R_{\text{o}}\right) \cdot \text{C}_{\text{out}}}
$$

From the signal analysis, the only thing between the base signal and the output signal is r_e. To find the output, just use the voltage divider equation. \mathbf{H}

Voltage gain:
$$
A_v = \frac{v_o}{v_b} = \frac{R_E ||R_E}{r_e + R_E ||R_E} \approx 1
$$

OR: $\frac{v_o}{v_s} = \frac{R_i}{R_S + R_i} \frac{R_E ||R_E}{r_e + R_E ||R_E}$

You could think of the ouput as simply 0.7V DC less than the input, which doesn't make the AC signal any less. Of course this doesn't account for the $r_{\rm e}$ effects.

$$
\text{Current gain: A}_{i} = \frac{i_{o}}{i_{i}} = \frac{R_{E} \parallel R_{L}}{r_{e} + R_{E} \parallel R_{L}} = \frac{R_{i}}{R_{L}} = A_{v} \frac{R_{i}}{R_{L}} = \frac{R_{i}}{R_{I}}
$$

Common emitter (CE)

Now let's add a resistor in the collector (R_C) . Nearly the same current that flows through R_E flows through R_C .

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ECE2280 FUNDAMENTALS OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING 16

Current gain: $A_i = A_v \frac{R_i}{R_i}$

Another low frequency corner frequency:

$$
f_{\text{CL3}} = \frac{1}{2 \cdot \pi \cdot \text{C}_{\text{E}}} \left\langle \frac{1}{r_{\text{e}}} + \frac{1}{R_{\text{E}}} \right\rangle
$$

Because re is so small, this will usually dominate, even when C_E is big.

distortion because re varies with i_C

Use $|V_{BE}|$ =0.7, β =100, V_T =25mV (Vs is an ac source), ignore r_o .

Will this circuit work as an amplifier? Why or why not?

ECE2280 FUNDAMENTALS OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING 18 **Example:**

 $V2 = 0.1$ in sin(ωt) and β can vary from 20 to 200. The circuit shown below is suppose to amplify but does not. You expect the output at Vo to amplify V2. When you are testing the circuit, you find that it does not amplify. Explain why it does not and what exact resistor can be changed to allow it to amplify. Il is not an ideal current source and can have a voltage drop across it.

Use [Van]=0.7, β =20, V₁=25mV (Vs is an ac source), ignore r_0 .

This small-signal model circuit is drawn below. The original circuit is also shown below. It was found

through a DC analysis that I_{C1} =50 μ and I_{C2} =25 μ .

(a) Find the ac parameters

$$
r_{z1}(3 \text{ points}) = \frac{D}{96} = \frac{20}{3} = 10K
$$

- b. r_{x2}(3 points)= $\frac{p_{\text{grav}}}{p_{\text{grav}}} = \frac{30}{1} \text{m} = \frac{30 \text{m}}{30 \text{m}}$
c. gm₁(3 points)= $\frac{r_{\text{c}}}{r_{\text{c}}}} = \frac{50 \mu}{35 \mu} = \frac{30 \text{m}}{1 \text{m}}$
d. gm₂(3 points)₌ $\frac{r_{\text{c}}}{r_{\text{c}}}} = \frac{25 \mu}{35 \text{m}} = \frac{1}{100}$
-
- (b) Find that input resistance, R_{in}. (Ignore the AC input source Vs, include the 100 ohm) (12 points)
- (c) Find the output resistance, R_e (Ignore the load resistor of 1k to the right of arrow) (6 points)
- (d) Find the overall gain, Vo/Vs. (25 points)

