Electronic Circuits

Prof. Nizamettin AYDIN
naydin@yildiz.edu.tr
http://www.yildiz.edu.tr/~naydin

Dr. Gökhan Bilgin
gokhanb@ce.yildiz.edu.tr

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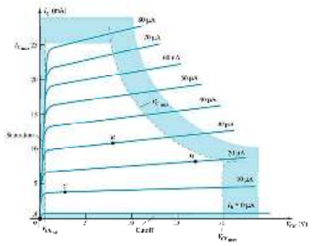
Biasing

Biasing: The DC voltages applied to a transistor in order to turn it on so that it can amplify the AC signal.

Operating Point

The DC input establishes an operating or *quiescent point* called the ***Q-point***.



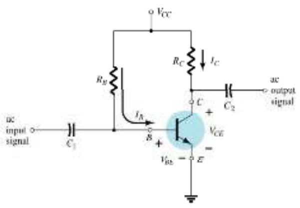
The Three States of Operation

- **Active or Linear Region Operation**
  Base–Emitter junction is forward biased
  Base–Collector junction is reverse biased
- **Cutoff Region Operation**
  Base–Emitter junction is reverse biased
- **Saturation Region Operation**
  Base–Emitter junction is forward biased
  Base–Collector junction is forward biased

DC Biasing Circuits

- Fixed-bias circuit
- Emitter-stabilized bias circuit
- Collector-emitter loop
- Voltage divider bias circuit
- DC bias with voltage feedback

Fixed Bias



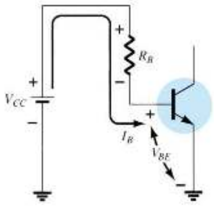
The Base-Emitter Loop

From Kirchhoff's voltage law:

$+V_{CC} - I_B R_B - V_{BE} = 0$

Solving for base current:

$$I_B = \frac{V_{CC} - V_{BE}}{R_B}$$



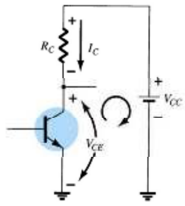
Collector-Emitter Loop

Collector current:

$$I_C = \beta I_B$$

From Kirchhoff's voltage law:

$$V_{CE} = V_{CC} - I_C R_C$$



Saturation

When the transistor is operating in saturation, current through the transistor is at its *maximum* possible value.

$$I_{Csat} = \frac{V_{CC}}{R_C}$$

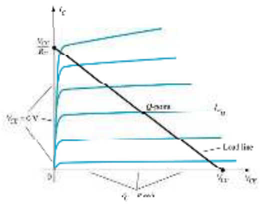
$$V_{CE} \cong 0\,V$$

Load Line Analysis

The end points of the load line are:

I_{Csat}
- $I_C = V_{CC} / R_C$
- $V_{CE} = 0\,V$

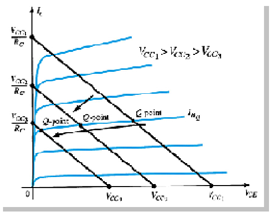
$V_{CEcutoff}$
- $V_{CE} = V_{CC}$
- $I_C = 0\,mA$



The *Q*-point is the operating point:

- where the value of R_B sets the value of I_B
- that sets the values of V_{CE} and I_C

Circuit Values Affect the Q-Point



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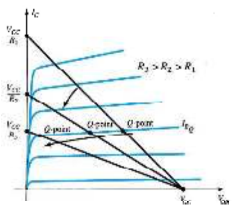
Circuit Values Affect the Q-Point



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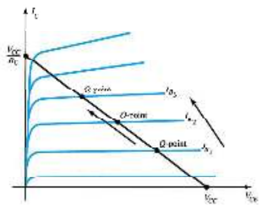
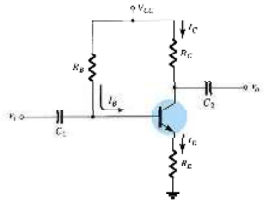
Circuit Values Affect the Q-Point



Emitter-Stabilized Bias Circuit

Adding a resistor (R_E) to the emitter circuit stabilizes the bias circuit.



Base-Emitter Loop

From Kirchhoff's voltage law:

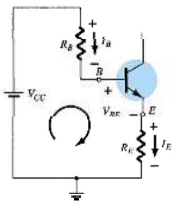
$$+V_{CC} - I_E R_E - V_{BE} - I_E R_E = 0$$

Since $I_E = (\beta + 1)I_B$:

$$V_{CC} - I_B R_B - (\beta + 1) I_B R_E = 0$$

Solving for I_B:

$$I_B = \frac{V_{CC} - V_{BE}}{R_B + (\beta + 1) R_E}$$



Collector-Emitter Loop

From Kirchhoff's voltage law:

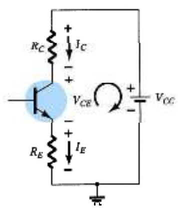
$$I_E R_E + V_{CE} + I_C R_C - V_{CC} = 0$$

Since $I_E \cong I_C$:

$$V_{CE} = V_{CC} - I_C (R_C + R_E)$$

Also:

$$V_E = I_E R_E$$
$$V_C = V_{CE} + V_E = V_{CC} - I_C R_C$$
$$V_B = V_{CC} - I_R R_B = V_{BE} + V_E$$

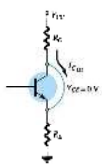


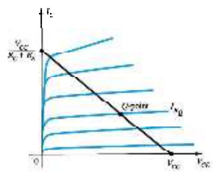
Improved Biased Stability

Stability refers to a circuit condition in which the currents and voltages will remain fairly constant over a wide range of temperatures and transistor Beta (β) values.

Adding RE to the emitter improves the stability of a transistor.

Saturation Level





The endpoints can be determined from the load line.

$V_{CEcutoff}$:

$$V_{CE} = V_{CC}$$
$$I_C = 0\,mA$$

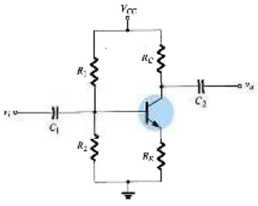
I_{Csat}:

$$V_{CE} = 0\,V$$
$$I_C = \frac{V_{CC}}{R_C + R_E}$$

Voltage Divider Bias

This is a very stable bias circuit.

The currents and voltages are nearly independent of any variations in β.



Approximate Analysis

Where $I_B << I_1$ and $I_1 \cong I_2$:

$$V_B = \frac{R_2 V_{CC}}{R_1 + R_2}$$

Where $\beta R_E > 10R_2$:

$$I_E = \frac{V_E}{R_E}$$

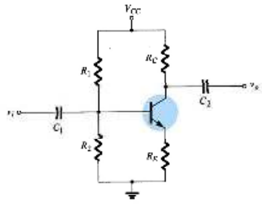
$$V_E = V_B - V_{BE}$$

From Kirchhoff's voltage law:

$$V_{CE} = V_{CC} - I_C R_C - I_E R_E$$

$$I_E \cong I_C$$

$$V_{CE} = V_{CC} - I_C (R_C + R_E)$$



Voltage Divider Bias Analysis

Transistor Saturation Level

$$I_{Csat} = I_{Cmax} = \frac{V_{CC}}{R_C + R_E}$$

Load Line Analysis

Cutoff:

$$V_{CE} = V_{CC}$$

$$I_C = 0mA$$

Saturation:

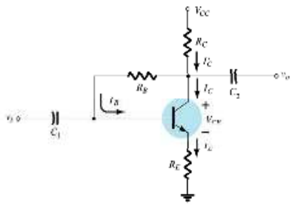
$$I_C = \frac{V_{CC}}{R_C + R_E}$$

$$V_{CE} = 0V$$

DC Bias with Voltage Feedback

Another way to improve the stability of a bias circuit is to add a feedback path from collector to base.

In this bias circuit the Q-point is only slightly dependent on the transistor beta, β.



Base-Emitter Loop

From Kirchhoff's voltage law:

$$V_{CC} - I'_C R_C - I_B R_B - V_{BE} - I_E R_E = 0$$

Where $I_B << I_C$:

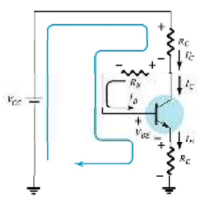
$$I'_C = I_C + I_B \cong I_C$$

Knowing $I_C = \beta I_B$ and $I_E \cong I_C$, the loop equation becomes:

$$V_{CC} - \beta I_B R_C - I_B R_B - V_{BE} - \beta I_B R_E = 0$$

Solving for I_B:

$$I_B = \frac{V_{CC} - V_{BE}}{R_B + \beta (R_C + R_E)}$$



Collector-Emitter Loop

Applying Kirchoff's voltage law:

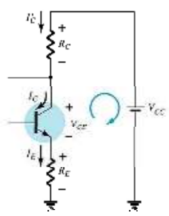
$$I_E + V_{CE} + I'_C R_C - V_{CC} = 0$$

Since $I'_C \cong I_C$ and $I_C = \beta I_B$:

$$I_C(R_C + R_E) + V_{CE} - V_{CC} = 0$$

Solving for V_{CE}:

$$V_{CE} = V_{CC} - I_C(R_C + R_E)$$



Base-Emitter Bias Analysis

Transistor Saturation Level

$$I_{Csat} = I_{Cmax} = \frac{V_{CC}}{R_C + R_E}$$

Load Line Analysis

Cutoff:

$V_{CE} = V_{CC}$

$I_C = 0\,\text{mA}$

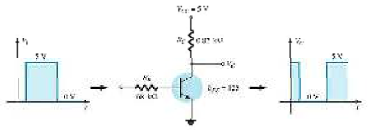
Saturation:

$$I_C = \frac{V_{CC}}{R_C + R_E}$$

$V_{CE} = 0\,\text{V}$

Transistor Switching Networks

Transistors with only the DC source applied can be used as electronic switches.



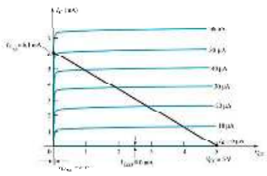
Switching Circuit Calculations

Saturation current:

$$I_{Csat} = \frac{V_{CC}}{R_C}$$

To ensure saturation:

$$I_B > \frac{I_{Csat}}{\beta_{dc}}$$



Emitter-collector resistance at saturation and cutoff:

$$R_{sat} = \frac{V_{CEsat}}{I_{Csat}}$$

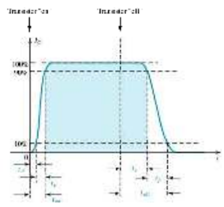
$$R_{cutoff} = \frac{V_{CC}}{I_{CEO}}$$

Switching Time

Transistor switching times:

$t_{on} = t_r + t_d$

$t_{off} = t_s + t_f$



Troubleshooting Hints

- **Approximate voltages**
  - $V_{BE} \cong .7$ **V for silicon transistors**
  - $V_{CE} \cong$ **25% to 75% of** V_{CC}
- **Test for opens and shorts with an ohmmeter.**
- **Test the solder joints.**
- **Test the transistor with a transistor tester or a curve tracer.**
- **Note that the load or the next stage affects the transistor operation.**

PNP Transistors

The analysis for *pnp* transistor biasing circuits is the same as that for *npn* transistor circuits. The only difference is that the currents are flowing in the opposite direction.