

## Current mirror problems

For the simple current mirror shown below, show that

$$\frac{I_o}{I_r} = \frac{1}{1 + 2/\beta} = 1 - \frac{2}{\beta + 2}$$

where  $\beta = I_C/I_B$ .

Assume identical transistors.

### Solution

Transistors are identical, so

$$I_{C1} = I_{C2} = I_C \quad (\text{as } V_{BE1} = V_{BE2})$$

$$I_{B1} = I_{B2} = I_B$$

KCL at A

$$I_r = I_{B1} + I_{B2} + I_{C1}$$

$$I_r = 2I_B + I_o$$

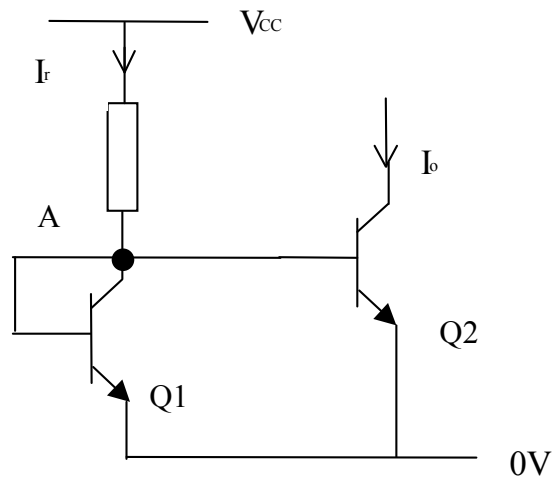
$$\text{Now } I_B = \frac{I_C}{\beta} = \frac{I_o}{\beta}$$

$$\text{Therefore: } I_r = \frac{2I_o}{\beta} + I_o = I_o \left( \frac{2}{\beta} + 1 \right)$$

$$\frac{I_o}{I_r} = \frac{1}{1 + 2/\beta}$$

$$\text{Now: } 1 - \frac{2}{\beta + 2} = \frac{\beta + 2 - 2}{\beta + 2} = \frac{1}{1 + \beta/2}$$

$$\underline{\underline{\frac{I_o}{I_r} = 1 - \frac{2}{\beta + 2}}}$$



Similarly show that for the current mirror below,

For the circuit shown, show that

$$\frac{I_o}{I_r} = 1 - \frac{2}{\beta(\beta+2)+2}$$

**Solution**

KCL at A

$$I_{E3} = I_o + I_{B3}$$

Now

$$I_{E3} = I_o + \frac{I_o}{\beta}$$

$$I_{E3} = \frac{\beta+1}{\beta} I_o \quad (1)$$

Also

$$\begin{aligned} I_{E3} &= I_C + 2I_B \\ &= \frac{\beta+2}{\beta} I_C \quad (2) \end{aligned}$$

Equate 1 and 2 to get

$$I_C = \frac{\beta+1}{\beta+2} I_o \quad (3)$$

$$I_r = I_C + \frac{I_o}{\beta}$$

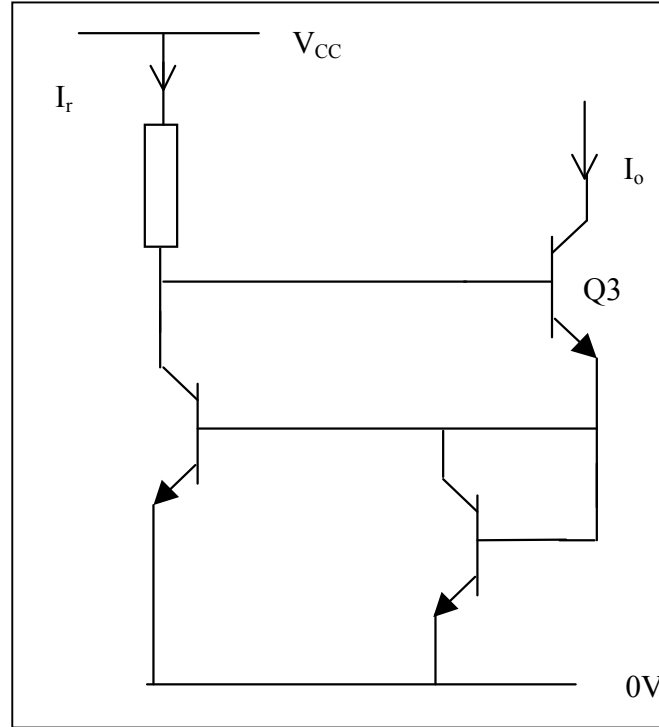
$$\text{Sub. (3) gives } I_r = \frac{\beta+1}{\beta+2} I_o + \frac{I_o}{\beta}$$

$$I_r = \frac{\beta+1}{\beta+2} I_o + \frac{I_o}{\beta} = I_o \left[ \frac{\beta+1}{\beta+2} + \frac{1}{\beta} \right]$$

$$I_r = I_o \left[ \frac{\beta(\beta+1) + \beta + 2}{\beta(\beta+2)} \right], \quad \frac{I_o}{I_r} = \left[ \frac{\beta(\beta+2)}{\beta^2 + \beta + \beta + 2} \right]$$

$$\frac{I_o}{I_r} = \left[ \frac{\beta(\beta+2)}{\beta^2 + 2\beta + 2} \right], \quad \frac{I_o}{I_r} = \left[ \frac{\beta(\beta+2)}{\beta(\beta+2)+2} \right]$$

$$\text{Hence } \frac{I_o}{I_r} = 1 - \frac{2}{\beta(\beta+2)+2}$$



Calculate the percentage change in  $I_o/I_r$  for each circuit if  $\beta$  varies from 5 to 100. Hence show that the second circuit is approximately six times superior to the first in maintaining  $I_o$  constant.