ELEC 351 Reflection – 12sp

Comparing my experience with ELEC 350 and ELEC 320 from last semester to this semester’s ELEC 351, I had some interesting thoughts. As ELEC 350 and 351 are both called Electronics, originally I thought they should be very similar in content and should be equally difficult. However, I found both difficult level and content are far more similarity in ELEC 320 than in 350. There is some advantages but also some drawbacks. I’m going to split that into two parts both lecture-wise and lab-wise to talk about both benefits and things could be improved.

# Lectures

Compared with Prof. Kelley’s ELEC 350, 351 missed a lot of detailed explanation and derivation of the formulas. Instead, I found more abstract concepts or I would call “Engineering Thinking” in the lectures, which are very similar to ELEC 320. I have to admit that I really gained a better ways of approach the problems. But I found myself lacking the actually detailed knowledge of solving them. I had the similar feeling in ELEC 320, which pushed me to read more material outside the class (They are very hard to understand even with the instructions given in the classes). Based on this observation and experience, I would like to suggest put more detail explanation of basic concept in the lectures, such as the sample problems lectures that we had at the end of semester. This will really help us to read the book and understand the big concept.

# Labs

After taking Prof. Kelley’s 350 labs last semester, I was really happy about that there would be no intense lab report in 351. But very soon, I found myself spend more time in 351 labs than in 350. Most of labs are not very clear about what exactly we need to do. They are kind of loose from the lectures. We were trying what we know but the stuff we need in class are very limited. It is very easily get disappointed and discouraged by how bad we are doing on the labs. On the other hand, I do feel these kind of designing labs can be very much fun if we know more detailed knowledge. For example, as the multistage amplifier, if we had learned and walked through the gain, input, output impedance of CE, CC in lectures, we could have felt much more comfortable with designing the circuit.

After all, this class is fun and may need some improvement on the explaining detailed information. Thank you for considering my thoughts.