

ECE 230L - LAB 4

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERIZATION AND PARAMETER EXTRACTION OF METAL-OXIDE-SEMICONDUCTOR FIELD-EFFECT TRANSISTORS (MOSFET)

Note: Lab this week includes a pre-lab. This pre-lab is to be completed before your scheduled lab section. A link to the pre-lab can be found in the Laboratory Schedule tab of the class page on Sakai.

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1 Objectives of this Laboratory

The objectives of this laboratory session are as follows:

- to measure the NMOSFET drain-current characteristics $I_D(V_{GS}, V_{DS})$ using LabVIEW,
- to extract the NMOSFET SPICE model parameters, and
- to evaluate the limitations of the electrical measurements and the simulation

2 Electrical Characterization of the MOSFET

The circuit used to measure the drain-current characteristics of the NMOSFET is shown in Figure 1, below.

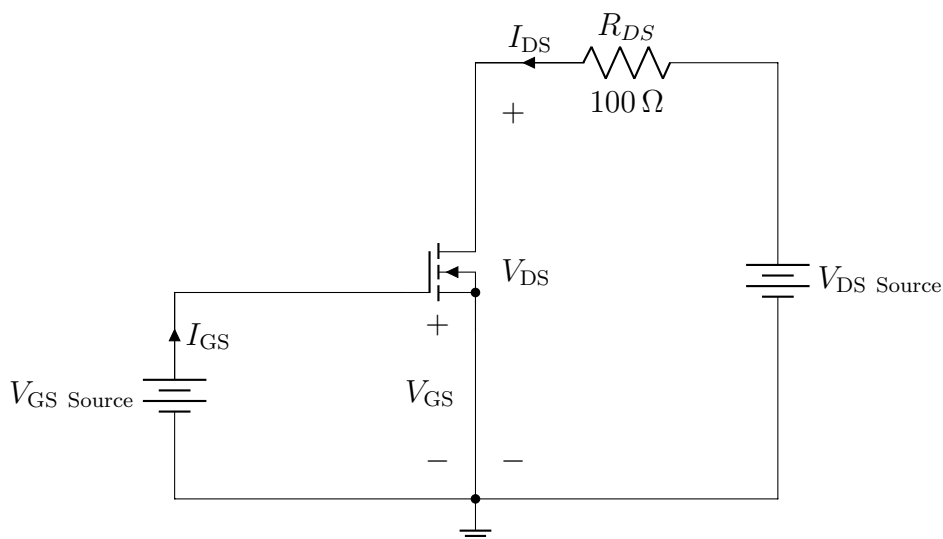


Figure 1: Circuit used to characterize an NMOSFET

Use LabVIEW on your laboratory workstation to obtain the drain-current characteristics $I_D(V_{DS}, V_{GS})$ of the BS170 silicon n-channel MOS field-effect transistor. In the MOSFET characterization under static conditions, the static gate current is zero and, consequently, there are no concerns about the difference between the gate-to-source voltage set in LabVIEW and the actual gate-to-source voltage. To obtain the NMOSFET characteristics, carry out the following steps:

1. Obtain a BS170 NMOSFET and a $100\ \Omega$ resistor from the parts bins,
2. Build a circuit using the E3631A Power Supply's 6 V source (for V_{DS}) and 25 V source (for V_{GS}), and the 33440 Digital Multimeter used as an ammeter. Be sure to correctly identify the NMOSFET gate, drain, and source terminals using the manufacturer's data sheet.
3. Turn on the Power Supply and Multimeter connected as an ammeter.

4. Run the LabVIEW Virtual Instrument (VI) program called `doubleloop.vi`. Set the inner-voltage (V_{DS} , Source) loop to run from 0 to 6.0 V with 50 steps, and the outer-voltage (V_{GS} , Source) to run from 2.0 to 3.0 V with 5 steps, to obtain a smooth I_D vs V_{DS} of the BS170 NMOSFET.
5. Save your output data. Check your output data with your TA to ensure that the characterizations are representative of BS170 NMOSFETs. If they are not it may be necessary to characterize at least 2 or 3 NMOSFETs. The output file is a list of numbers stepped through and measured by LabVIEW in obtaining the drain-current $I_D(V_{DS}, V_{GS})$ characteristics.
6. Repeat the above experiment for the same inner and outer loops and steps size, but this time, once to measure V_{DS} vs. $V_{DS \text{ Source}}$ and once to measure V_{GS} vs. $V_{GS \text{ Source}}$ using `doubleloop.vi`.
7. Remove the R_{DS} resistor from the circuit, as shown below. Notice that the V_{DS} applied at the source is now the same as the V_{DS} across the MOSFET:

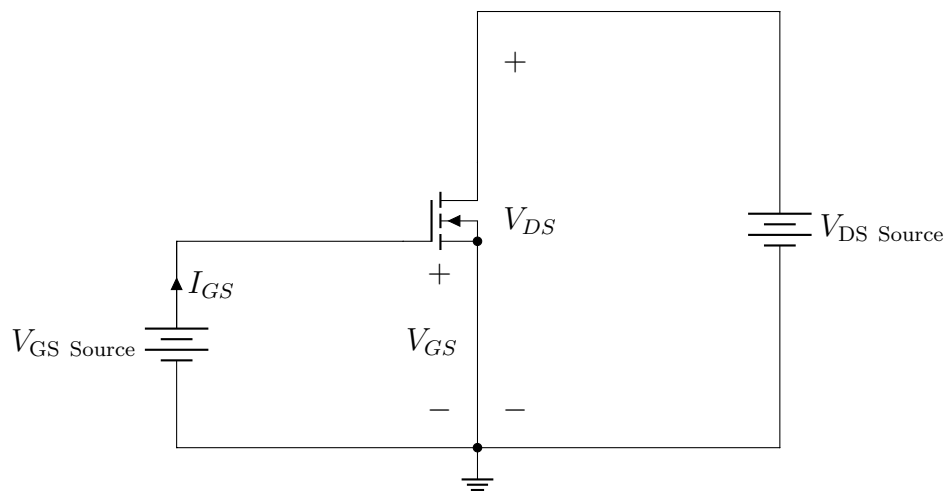


Figure 2: NMOSFET Circuit without a resistor

8. Use `singleloop.vi` to measure I_D for V_{GS} ranging from 0 to 6.0 V, with a fixed 3 V value for V_{DS} . This will require changing the the $V_{GS \text{ Source}}$ over to the 6 V output on the E3631A Power Supply, and connecting the $V_{DS \text{ Source}}$ to the E3611A DC Power Supply.

At this point, you should have 4 saved Excel files:

- $I_D(V_{DS \text{ Source}}, V_{GS})$
- $V_{DS}(V_{DS \text{ Source}}, V_{GS})$
- $V_{GS}(V_{DS \text{ Source}}, V_{GS})$
- $I_D(V_{GS}, V_{DS} = 3.0 \text{ V})$

3 Exploration

The purpose of this exploration is to build a wireless signal transmitter using the knowledge of LEDs and Field-Effect Transistors you have gained in lab. The ultimate goal of this exploration is to build a simple electronic system that transmits music from a portable music player (e.g. MP3 player, CD player, radio), through a wireless channel using light. To do so, you will build a circuit that takes the electrical signal and changes the brightness of an LED with the sound of the music. A given receiver circuit using a phototransistor will take this light signal and convert it into sound. Your lab TA will provide a receiver for testing your circuit. You can also build your own receiver using the circuit in Figure 4.

3.1 Music Transmitter

Equipment:

- 100 Ω resistors (x5)
- IR LED (Light Emitting Diode) (x1)
- Red LED (Light Emitting Diode) (x1)
- BS170 MOSFET (x1)
- 50 k Ω Potentiometer (x1)
- 47 nF Capacitor (x1)
- Wire with headphone plug (x1)
- Battery snap for 9V battery (x1)
- 9 V battery (x1)

Procedure:

1. Build the circuit shown in Figure 3. From your knowledge of MOSFETs, LEDs, and current-limiting resistors from this lab and previous labs, determine in which order these 3 circuit elements (i.e. a BS170 MOSFET, a Red LED, and 100 Ω resistor) should be connected to produce an LED whose brightness varies with the amplitude of the input music signal or function generator time-varying signal that will be attached to the 1/8" mini headphone jack. Think about how the BS170 MOSFET should be oriented (Drain and Source pins) in order to be properly biased to turn on when a voltage at the Gate is applied.
2. Once you have devised a circuit topology for the 3 unknown elements in the above circuit, test the circuit using a red LED.
3. If you are using a portable music player, such as an iPod, first listen to it through headphones and make sure it is producing loud and clear music or speech. (If you are using a function generator as the signal source, set it to produce a small signal output in the audible 20 Hz to 20 kHz range.)

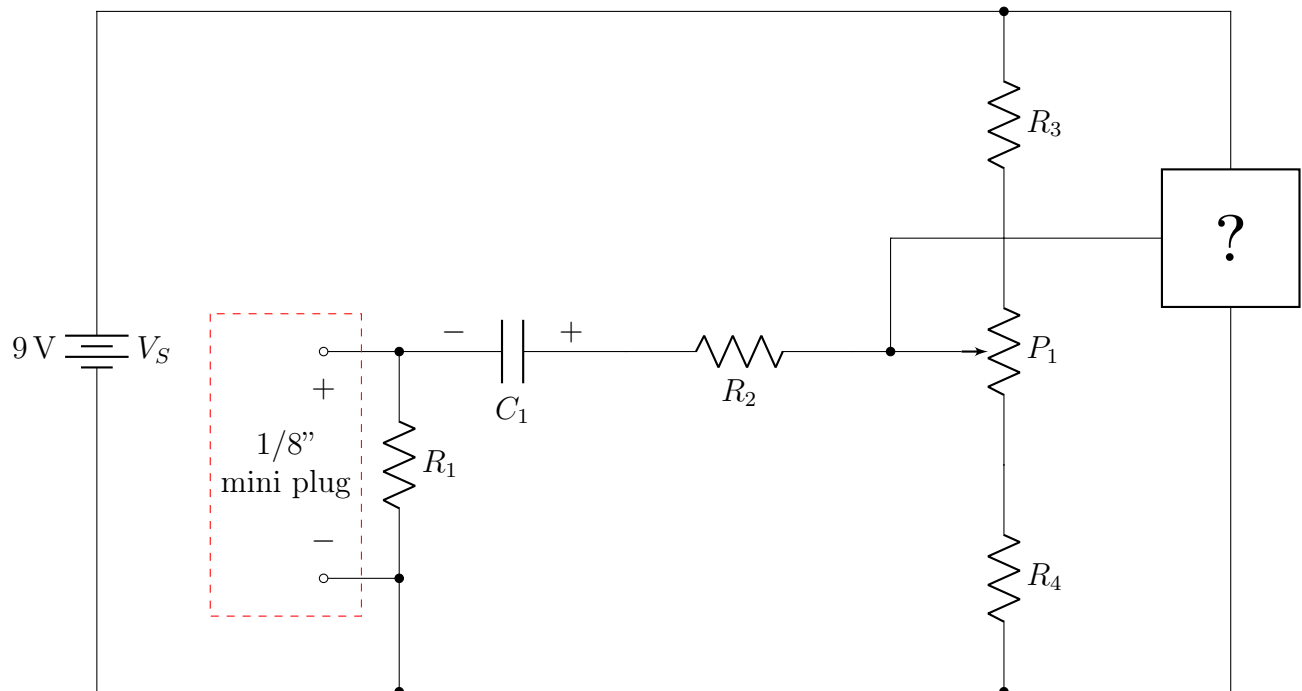


Figure 3: Music Transmitter Circuit with Mystery Load Elements

4. Plug the headphone jack into your device (or attach it carefully to the function generator with alligator clips) to produce the signal that will serve as the circuit input.
5. Attach the wires from the headphone jack to your circuit where the 1/8" mini plug is indicated in the figure.
6. Turn up the volume on your music player (or the amplitude of the function generator). Rotate the stem of the potentiometer on the transmitter circuit. The red LED should be on.
7. If the LED is not on, your circuit may not be designed or wired properly. Immediately disconnect one of the battery snap leads from the breadboard of the transmitter. Troubleshoot your circuit as necessary by checking all connections with an oscilloscope or multimeter.
8. Once the circuit is working and the LED lights up, replace the red LED with an infrared LED. Now it is time to wirelessly transmit your optical signal and convert it back into sound.

3.2 Music Receiver

Equipment:

- 10 μF capacitors (x3)
- Phototransistor (x1)
- LM 386 op-amp (x1)
- 24 $\text{k}\Omega$ resistor (x1)
- Speaker (x1)

Procedure:

1. Build the receiver circuit outlined in Figure 4. Keep in mind that the IR LED from the transmitter you just built will need to be positioned about 1/2" from the phototransistor in this receiver circuit.

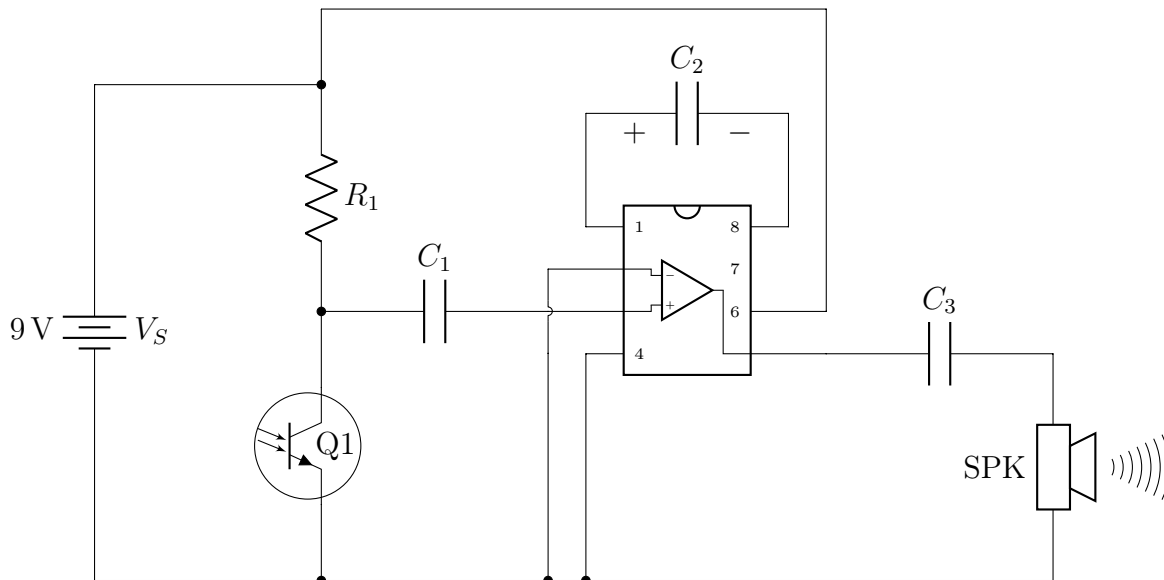


Figure 4: Music Receiver Circuit

2. To test the receiver circuit, use a standard TV remote control, if there is one in lab. Most TV remotes emit IR light to signal the control box. With the receiver circuit you just built, you can “hear” a TV remote control signal by converting it from IR at the remote to an audible signal at your receiver’s speaker. Aim a TV remote at the phototransistor on your receiver circuit and listen for the signal. Different remotes will have different signal patterns.
3. To improve the quality of your receiver circuit, add a capacitor between ground and power (this will act as a current reservoir, for the op-amp when it rails). Also note that the receiver draws more current than the transmitter so using the HP power supply may also improve quality.

3.3 Wireless Transmission and Reception

1. Position the infrared LED from your working transmitter circuit such that it is pointing at and is about 1/2" from the phototransistor of the music receiver that you just built.
2. You should hear music coming out of the speaker in the receiver. If you do not hear any sound from the speaker, you will need to troubleshoot your IR music transmitter-receiver system.
3. Once the wireless transmitter and receiver are working together, you can test the limits of your system by increasing or decreasing the signal volume with the volume control on your music device (or function generator), by adjusting the potentiometer in your transmitter circuit, and by varying the distance of the IR LED from the phototransistor. Audio quality may be limited by the quality of the speaker being used—some tones may be diminished or altered. You can also interrupt the signal with your hand by preventing IR light to transmit between transmitter and receiver. The presence of external light sources may also affect the sound quality. Lastly, the IR LED is not the only LED that will transmit light that the receiver picks up. You can use a colored LED to do the same job, although it may not do as good a job as the IR light does in sending a wireless signal to the phototransistor.
4. Your TA also has a pre-built receiver circuit. Ask your lab TA to check your transmitter with this circuit before leaving lab.

Record all of the circuits built and testing done for this Exploration in your laboratory notebook. Be sure to clean-up your laboratory bench and turn off all equipment before leaving.

4 Questions

1. Give the definitions of the parameters K_N and the transconductance g_m^{sat} of the NMOSFET. Comment on their dependence on other NMOSFET parameters and bias voltages.
2. Give the definition of the NMOSFET channel-length-modulation parameter λ_N . Describe how it is extracted from the drain-current characteristics $I_D(V_{\text{DS}}, V_{\text{GS}})$.
3. Plot the dependence of the drain current $I_{D.N}$ on the drain-to-source bias voltage $V_{\text{DS}.N}$ for different values of the gate-to-source bias voltage V_{GS} on a linear-linear plot. Show all circuit diagrams used to measure this data. Don't forget that what was measured in lab was $I_D(V_{\text{DS Source}}, V_{\text{GS}})$ and $V_{\text{DS}}(V_{\text{DS Source}}, V_{\text{GS}})$. In order to plot $I_D(V_{\text{DS}}, V_{\text{GS}})$, you will need to do a substitution.
4. Plot the dependence of $\sqrt{I_{D.N}}$ on the gate-to-source bias voltage $V_{\text{GS}.N}$ in the 0 to 6 V range for a fixed value of the drain-to-source bias voltage $V_{\text{DS}.N}$ equal to 3 V. Show all circuit diagrams used to measure this data.
5. From the above plots, obtain the values of K_N , $V_{T.N}$, and λ_N . Include any additional plots or calculations used to obtain these parameters. Note that the parameter extraction slides on Sakai give two methods for finding K_N . For any values where multiple different data sets can be used, remember to take several measurements and average the results. In a table, compare your extracted values with those listed in the manufacturer's data sheet.
6. What are the major sources of error in the values of the extracted parameters? How can these errors be effectively reduced?

Note: During the next lab period, you will simulate MOSFET behavior electronically and compare your MOSFET parameters to those of your colleagues and to manufacturer specifications. Before the next lab period, use the online survey tool that will be made available to you to post your MOSFET's K_N , $V_{T.N}$, and λ_N values. These posted results will be used by you and others during the next lab period.

Table 1: ECE 230L Laboratory 4 Grading Rubric

Criteria	Points Possible
Raw Lab Data	15
Circuit Diagram	3
$V_{DS \text{ source}}$ vs I_{DS} , V_{GS} plot	3
V_{DS} vs $V_{DS \text{ source}}$ and V_{GS} vs $V_{DS \text{ source}}$ plots	6
I_{DS} vs V_{GS} plot for $V_{DS} = 3V$	3
Question 1	10
Question 2	10
Question 3	10
Question 4	10
Question 5	15
Parameter extraction	10
% errors	5
Question 6	10
Exploration	10
Circuit Diagrams	5
Reasoning behind “mystery elements” order	5
Quality of thought/analysis	10
Total	100