EEE 51: Second Semester 2017 - 2018

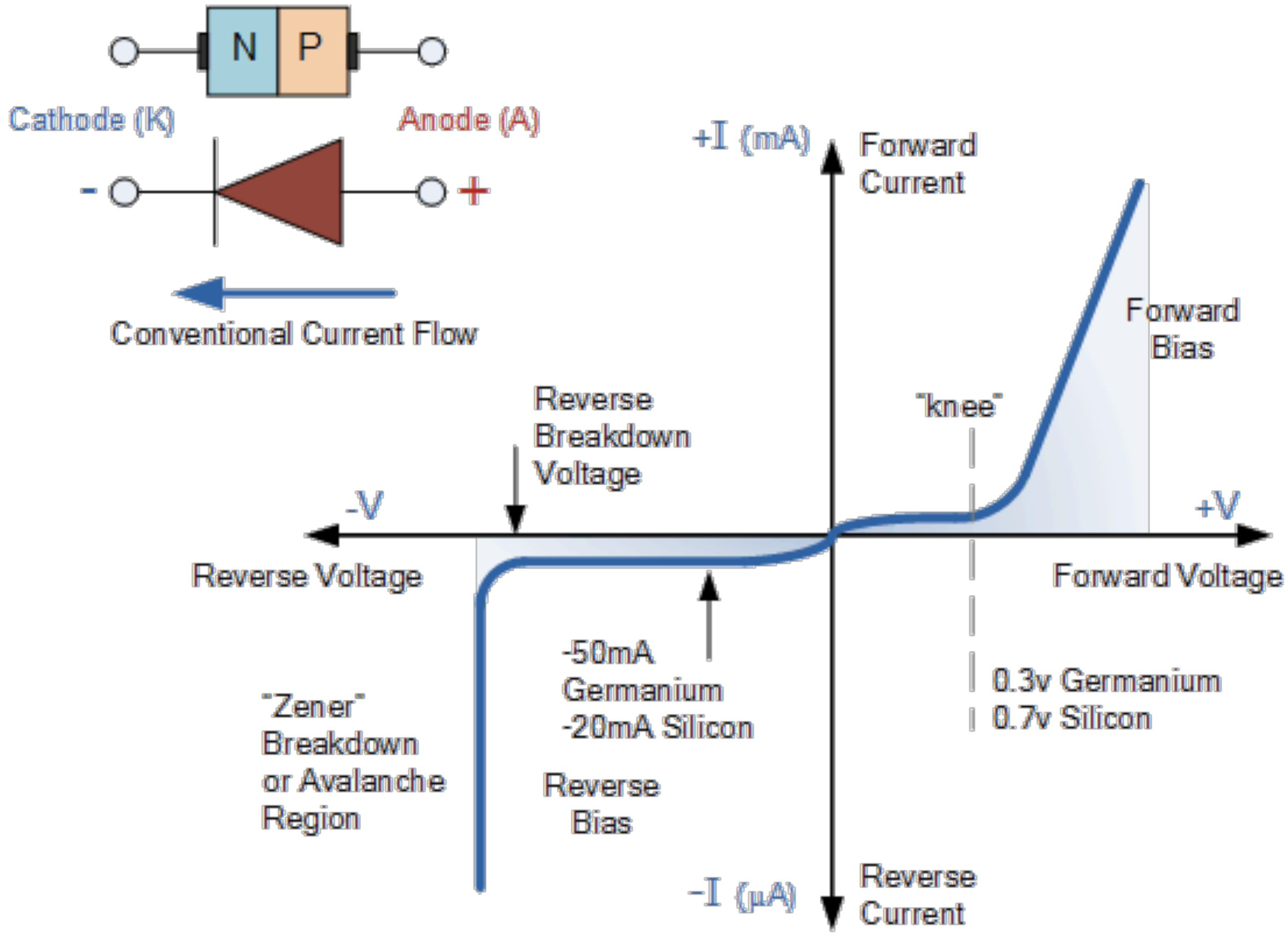
Lecture 7

Current Mirrors

Today

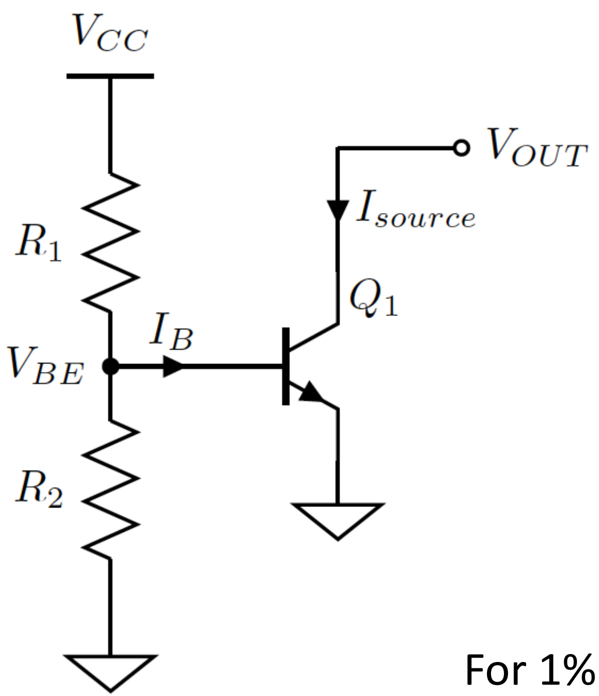
- Current Mirrors

Practical Diode Characteristics



A Simple BJT Current Source

- Provide V_{BE} using a voltage divider



Example: what if we need 1mA?

$$V_{BE} = V_T \ln \frac{I_C}{I_S} = V_T \ln \frac{1\text{mA}}{2\times 10^{-16}\text{A}} = 0.7603\text{V}$$

Small changes in V_{BE}:

$$V_{BE} = 0.7703\text{V} \Rightarrow I_C = 1.5\text{mA}$$

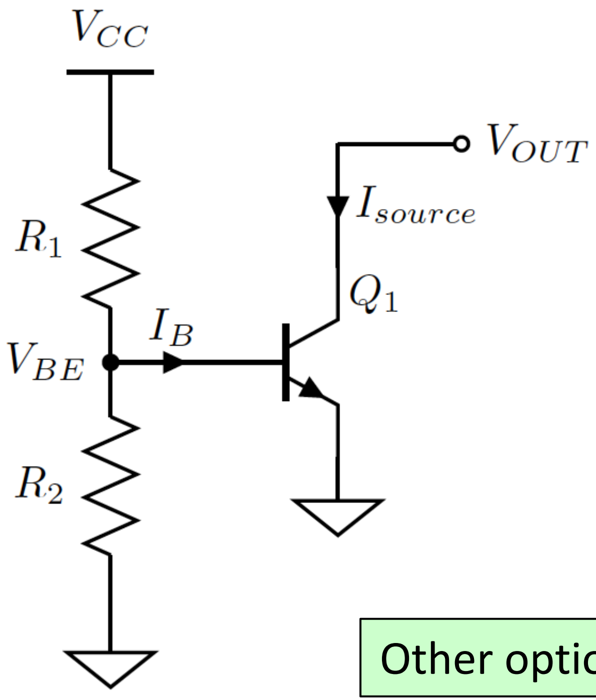
Also, for V_{CC} = 5V and β = 200:

$$R_1 = 10\text{k}\Omega \Rightarrow R_2 = 1.8146\text{k}\Omega$$

For 1% error in I_C, ΔV_{BE} = 260μV $\Rightarrow$ $\beta = 200$ +/- 9

A Simple BJT Current Source

- Provide V_{BE} using a voltage divider



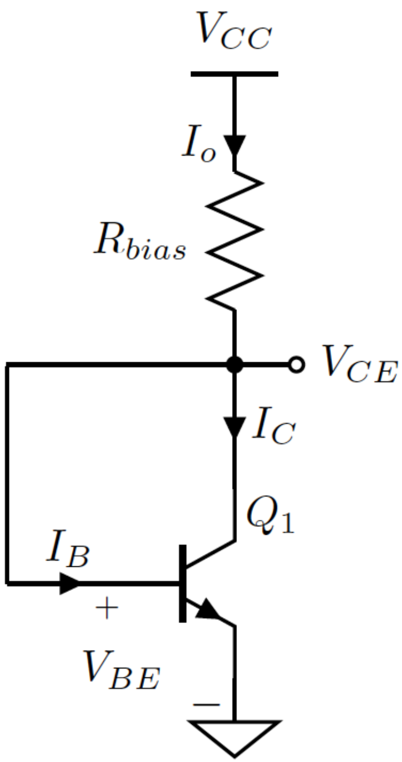
Main issues:

1. Need very precise resistor values
2. Need good β control

Expensive
(if possible at all)

Other options in generating V_{BE}?

The Diode-Connected Transistor (1)



Use R_{bias} to apply a current I_o into the BJT:

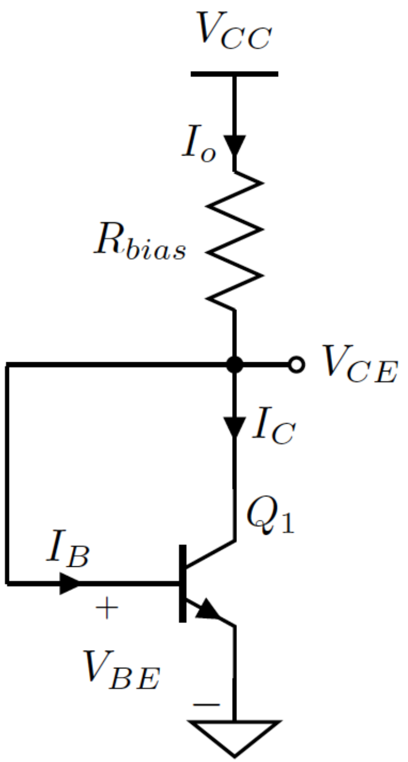
$$I_o = I_C + I_B = I_C \cdot \left(1 + \frac{1}{\beta}\right)$$

Solving for $V_{CE} = V_{BE}$ (assuming $V_A \rightarrow \infty$) :

$$V_{BE} = V_T \ln\left(\frac{I_C}{I_S}\right) = V_T \ln\left(\frac{I_o}{I_S} \cdot \frac{\beta}{\beta + 1}\right)$$

How do we generate I_o?

The Diode-Connected Transistor (2)



KVL at base loop:

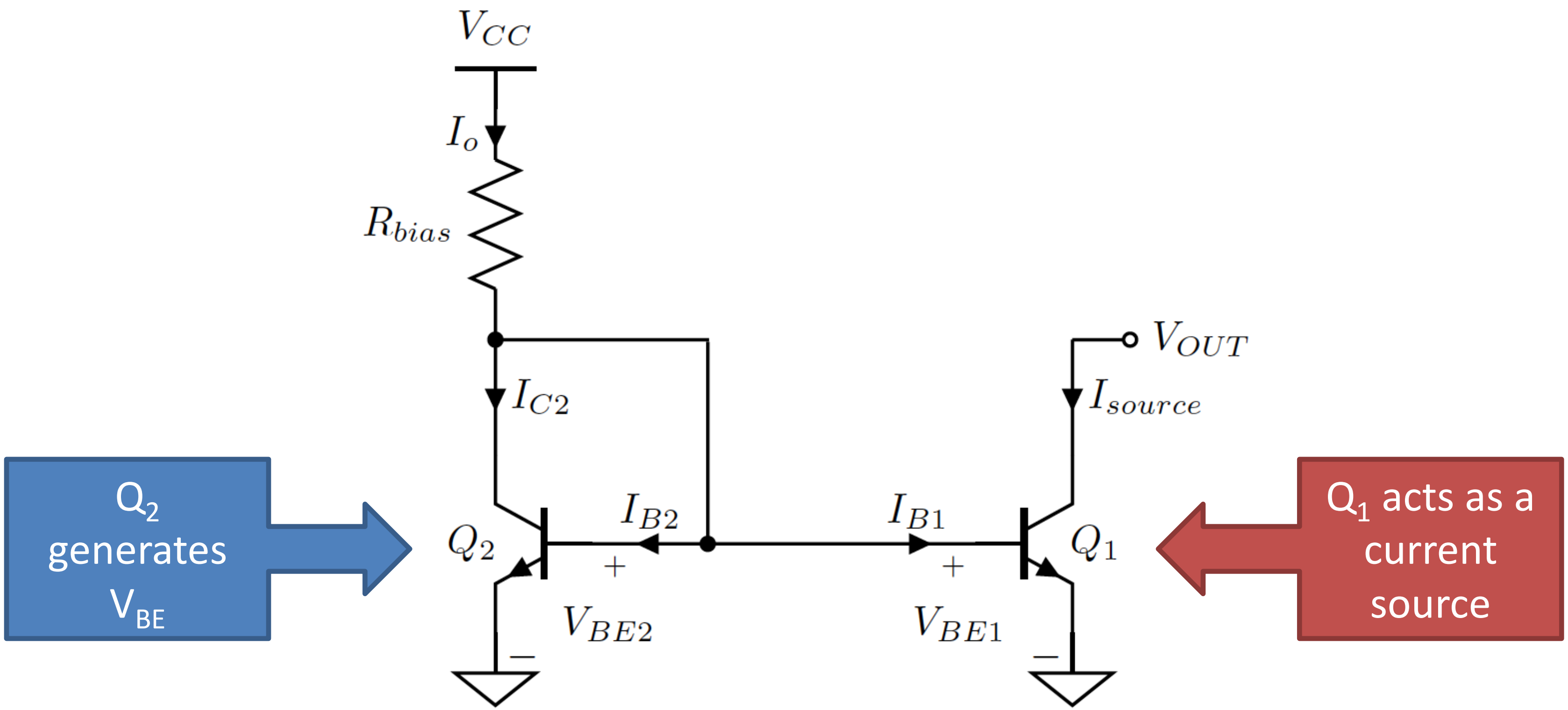
$$V_{CC} - I_o R_{bias} - V_{BE} = 0$$

Thus,

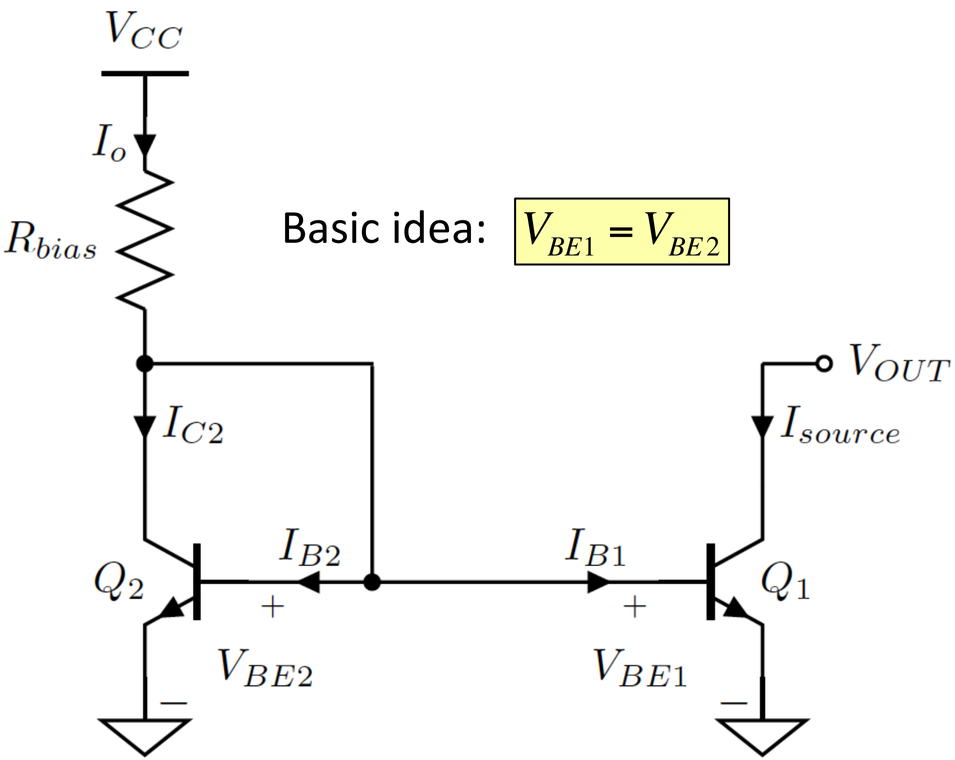
$$\boxed{R_{bias} = \frac{V_{CC} - V_{BE}}{I_o} = \frac{V_{CC} - V_{BE}}{I_S \cdot e^{\frac{V_{BE}}{V_T}} \cdot \left(1 + \frac{1}{\beta}\right)}}$$

We can pick a resistor to generate V_{BE}

A Simple BJT Current Mirror (1)



A Simple BJT Current Mirror (2)



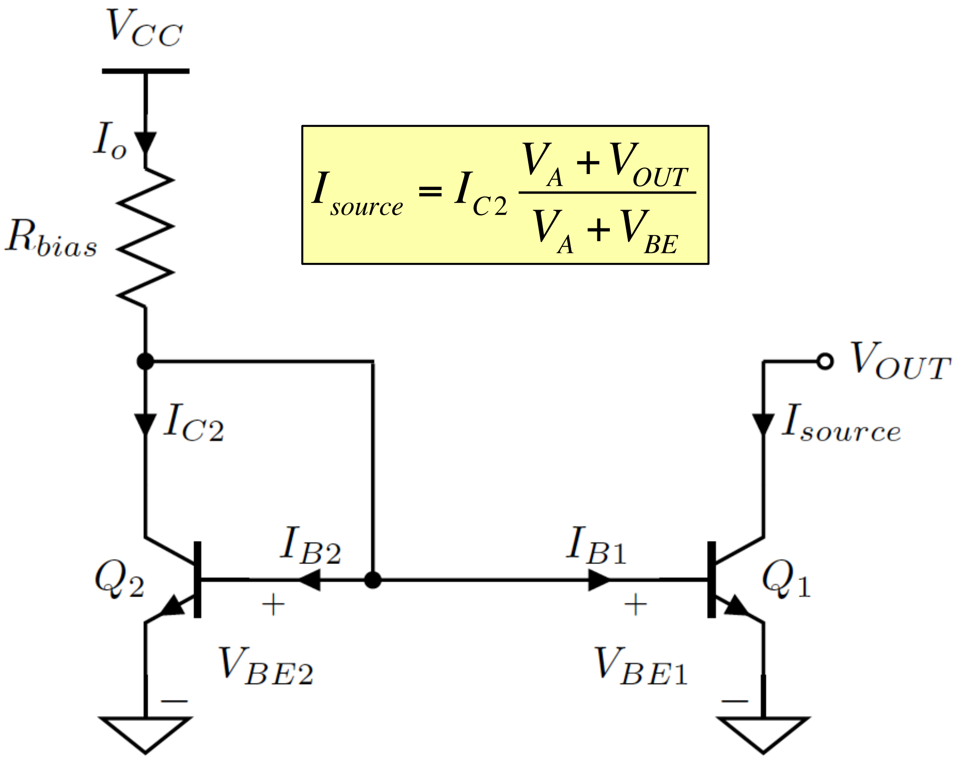
Basic idea: $\boxed{V_{BE1} = V_{BE2}}$

Recall: $$V_{BE} = V_T \ln\left(\frac{I_C}{I_S\left(1+\frac{V_{CE}}{V_A}\right)}\right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \quad \frac{I_{C1}}{\left(1+\frac{V_{CE1}}{V_A}\right)} = \frac{I_{C2}}{\left(1+\frac{V_{CE2}}{V_A}\right)}$$

$$\boxed{I_{source} = I_{C2}\frac{\left(1+\frac{V_{CE1}}{V_A}\right)}{\left(1+\frac{V_{CE2}}{V_A}\right)} = I_{C2}\frac{V_A + V_{OUT}}{V_A + V_{BE}}}$$

A Simple BJT Current Mirror (3)



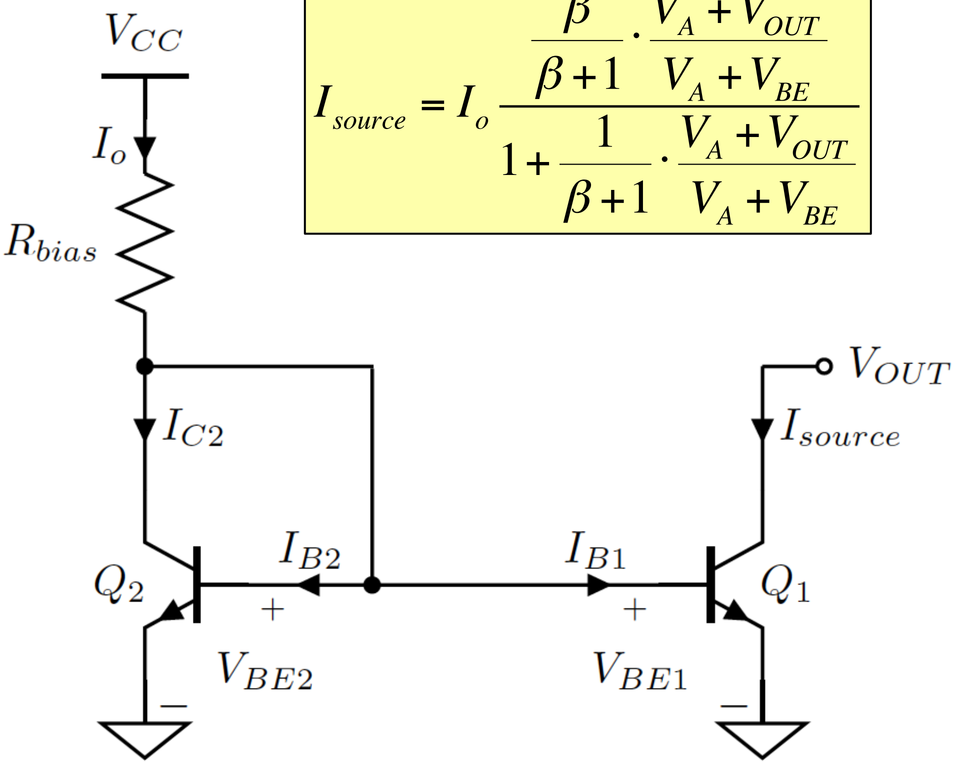
$$I_{source} = I_{C2}\frac{V_A + V_{OUT}}{V_A + V_{BE}}$$

$$I_{C2} = I_o - I_{B1} - I_{B2} = I_o - \frac{I_{source}}{\beta} - \frac{I_{C2}}{\beta}$$

$$= \frac{\beta}{\beta+1} I_o - \frac{I_{source}}{\beta+1}$$

$$I_{source} = I_o \frac{\frac{\beta}{\beta+1}\cdot\frac{V_A+V_{OUT}}{V_A+V_{BE}}}{1+\frac{1}{\beta+1}\cdot\frac{V_A+V_{OUT}}{V_A+V_{BE}}}$$

A Simple BJT Current Mirror (4)



$$I_{source} = I_o \frac{\frac{\beta}{\beta+1} \cdot \frac{V_A + V_{OUT}}{V_A + V_{BE}}}{1 + \frac{1}{\beta+1} \cdot \frac{V_A + V_{OUT}}{V_A + V_{BE}}}$$

Assume $V_A \rightarrow \infty$

$$I_{source} \approx I_o \frac{\frac{\beta}{\beta+1}}{1 + \frac{1}{\beta+1}} = \frac{I_o}{1 + \frac{2}{\beta}}$$

Assume $V_A \rightarrow \infty$ and $\beta \rightarrow \infty$

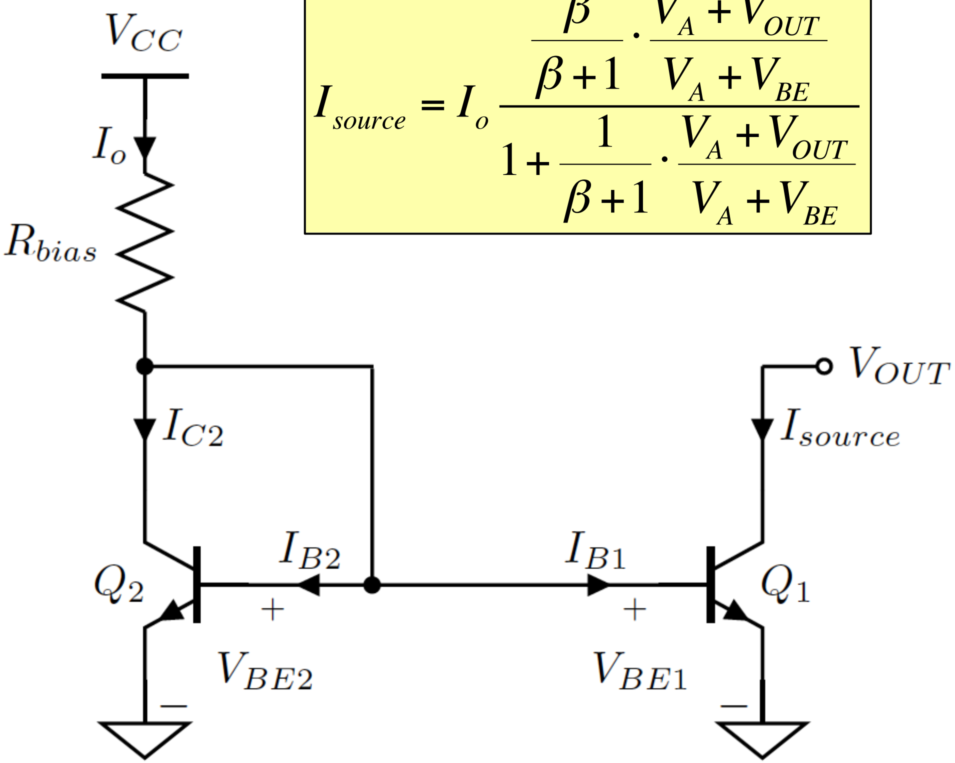
$$I_{source} \approx I_o$$

Mirror!

Mirroring Error:

1. Due to the base currents
2. Due to V_{CE} "mismatch"

A Simple BJT Current Mirror (4)



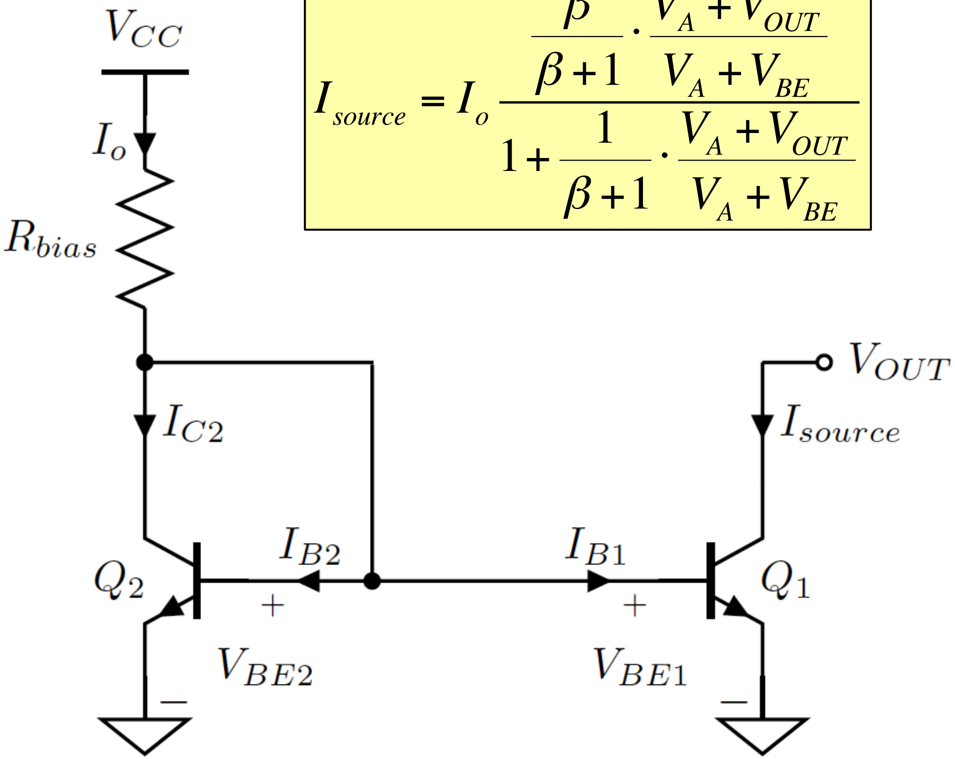
$$I_{source} = I_o \frac{\frac{\beta}{\beta+1} \cdot \frac{V_A + V_{OUT}}{V_A + V_{BE}}}{1 + \frac{1}{\beta+1} \cdot \frac{V_A + V_{OUT}}{V_A + V_{BE}}}$$

What about R_{bias}?

$$R_{bias} = \frac{V_{CC} - V_{BE}}{I_o}$$

R is **linearly** related to I_o and I_{source} (not exponentially!)

A Simple BJT Current Mirror (5)



$$I_{source} = I_o \frac{\frac{\beta}{\beta+1} \cdot \frac{V_A + V_{OUT}}{V_A + V_{BE}}}{1 + \frac{1}{\beta+1} \cdot \frac{V_A + V_{OUT}}{V_A + V_{BE}}}$$

Assume $V_A \rightarrow \infty$

$$I_{source} \approx \frac{I_o}{1 + \frac{2}{\beta}}$$

Again, what if we need 1mA?

- We can tolerate β as low as 99 and still get only 1% error!

Next Meeting

- Biasing Amplifiers Using Current Sources
- Differential Circuits