

Basic Electronics Solutions

DI01000051 – Winter 2024

Semester 1 Study Material

Detailed Solutions and Explanations

Question 1(a) [3 marks]

Define Active and Passive Components with example.

Solution

Table 1: Active vs Passive Components

Component Type	Definition	Power	Examples
Active Components	Components that can amplify signals and control current flow	Can provide power gain	Transistor, Diode, IC
Passive Components	Components that cannot amplify signals	Cannot provide power gain	Resistor, Capacitor, Inductor

- **Active components:** Control and amplify electrical signals using external power
- **Passive components:** Store or dissipate energy without amplification

Mnemonic

“Active Amplifies, Passive Preserves”

Question 1(b) [4 marks]

Explain construction and working of LDR.

Solution

Construction:

- Serpentine track of cadmium sulfide on ceramic substrate
- Metal electrodes at both ends for connections
- Protective coating prevents moisture damage

Working Principle:

Light ↓

CdS Track ← Resistance decreases
\text{as it decreases }
LDR

Terminal Terminal

- Light intensity ↑: Resistance ↓ (conducts more)
- Darkness: Resistance ↑ (conducts less)
- Applications: Street lights, automatic cameras

Mnemonic

“Light Low Resistance”

Question 1(c) [7 marks]

Define Capacitance and explain Aluminum Electrolytic wet type capacitor.

Solution

Capacitance Definition: Ability to store electrical charge. $C = Q/V$ (Farads)
Aluminum Electrolytic Capacitor:

Positive Terminal

Al Foil ← Anode
Oxide ← Dielectric
Electro ← Cathode
Al Foil ← Negative

Negative Terminal

Construction:

- **Anode:** Aluminum foil with oxide layer
- **Dielectric:** Thin aluminum oxide film
- **Cathode:** Liquid electrolyte with aluminum foil
- **Polarity:** Must be connected correctly

Features:

- **High capacitance values** ($1\mu F$ to $10,000\mu F$)
- **Polarized** - has positive and negative terminals
- **Applications:** Power supply filtering, coupling

Mnemonic

“Aluminum Always Amplifies”

Question 1(c OR) [7 marks]

Explain the color band coding method of Resistor. Write color band of $32 \Omega \pm 10\%$ resistance.

Solution

Color Code Table:

Color	Digit	Multiplier	Tolerance
Black	0	1	-
Brown	1	10	$\pm 1\%$
Red	2	100	$\pm 2\%$
Orange	3	1K	-
Yellow	4	10K	-
Green	5	100K	$\pm 0.5\%$
Blue	6	1M	$\pm 0.25\%$
Violet	7	10M	$\pm 0.1\%$
Gray	8	100M	$\pm 0.05\%$
White	9	1G	-
Silver	-	0.01	$\pm 10\%$
Gold	-	0.1	$\pm 5\%$

For $32 \Omega \pm 10\%$:

Orange Red Gold Silver
3 2 0.1 $\pm 10\%$
↓ ↓ ↓ ↓
1st 2nd Mult Tol

Calculation: $3 \times 2 \times 0.1 = 3.2 \times 10 = 32 \Omega$

Mnemonic

“Big Boys Race Our Young Girls But Violet Generally Wins”

Question 2(a) [3 marks]

Define following terms: 1) Rectifier 2) Ripple factor 3) Filter

Solution

	Term	Definition
Rectifier	Circuit that converts AC to pulsating DC	
Ripple Factor	Ratio of AC component to DC component in output	
Filter	Circuit that smooths pulsating DC to pure DC	

- **Rectifier:** Uses diodes to allow current in one direction
- **Ripple factor:** Lower value means better filtering
- **Filter:** Uses capacitors/inductors to reduce ripples

Mnemonic

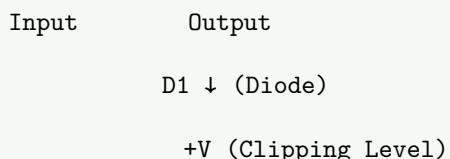
“Rectify Ripples, Filter Fixes”

Question 2(b) [4 marks]

Draw and explain positive clipper circuit with waveform.

Solution

Circuit Diagram:



Working:

- When $V_{in} > +V$: Diode conducts, output = $+V$
- When $V_{in} < +V$: Diode off, output follows input
- Result: Clips positive peaks above $+V$ level

Waveform:



Applications: Signal limiting, protection circuits

Mnemonic

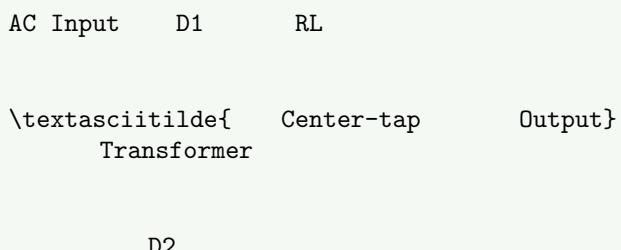
“Positive Peaks Prevented”

Question 2(c) [7 marks]

Explain working of full wave rectifier with two diodes.

Solution

Circuit Diagram:



Working:

- Positive half-cycle: D1 conducts, D2 off
- Negative half-cycle: D2 conducts, D1 off
- Both diodes work alternately
- Output frequency = $2 \times$ input frequency

Key Parameters:

Parameter	Value
Peak Inverse Voltage	2Vm
Efficiency	81.2%
Ripple Factor	0.48
Form Factor	1.11

Advantages:

- Better efficiency than half-wave
- Lower ripple content
- Higher transformer utilization

Mnemonic

“Two Diodes, Two Halves”

Question 2(a OR) [3 marks]

Define rectifier and write its applications.

Solution

Definition: Electronic circuit that converts alternating current (AC) into direct current (DC) using diodes.

Applications:

Application	Use
Power Supplies	DC voltage for electronic circuits
Battery Chargers	Converting AC mains to DC
DC Motors	Providing DC for motor drives
Electronic Devices	Laptops, phones, LED drivers

- Primary function: AC to DC conversion
- Essential component: In all electronic devices

Mnemonic

“Rectify AC, Deliver DC”

Question 2(b OR) [4 marks]

Explain working of Pi() type capacitor filter.

Solution

Circuit Diagram:

Input C1 L C2 Output
 || UUU ||

Ground

Working:

- **C1:** Filters initial ripples from rectifier
- **Inductor L:** Opposes current changes, smooths further
- **C2:** Final filtering for smooth DC output
- **Combined effect:** Excellent ripple reduction

Characteristics:

	Parameter	Value
Ripple Factor	Very low (< 0.01)	
Regulation	Good	
Cost	Higher due to inductor	
Applications	High-quality power supplies	

Advantages:

- **Excellent filtering performance**
- **Low ripple content**
- **Good voltage regulation**

Mnemonic

“Pi Provides Perfect”

Question 2(c OR) [7 marks]

Compare half wave and full wave bridge rectifier.

Solution

Comparison Table:

	Parameter	Half Wave	Full Wave Bridge
Diodes Required	1	4	
Transformer	Simple	No center-tap needed	
Efficiency	40.6%	81.2%	
Ripple Factor	1.21	0.48	
PIV	V _m	V _m	
Output Frequency	f	2f	
Transformer Utilization	28.7%	81.2%	

Cost

Low

Moderate

Circuit Diagrams:

Half Wave:

AC D1 → Output

RL

Full Wave Bridge:

AC D1 Output
 RL

AC D2

Key Differences:

- **Full wave:** Better efficiency and lower ripple
- **Half wave:** Simpler but poor performance
- **Bridge:** No center-tap transformer required

Mnemonic

“Half Wastes, Full Works”

Question 3(a) [3 marks]

Draw the symbols of following: 1) Zener diode 2) LED 3) Varactor diode

Solution

Electronic Symbols:

Zener Diode: LED: Varactor Diode:
Z →

Symbol Details:

	Component	Symbol Feature
Zener Diode		Normal diode with Z-shaped cathode
LED		Diode with arrows showing light emission
Varactor Diode		Diode with parallel lines (variable capacitor)

- **Zener:** Z indicates zener characteristics
- **LED:** Arrows show light output direction
- **Varactor:** Lines represent variable capacitance

Mnemonic

“Zener Zigs, LED Lights, Varactor Varies”

Question 3(b) [4 marks]

Explain construction and working of LED.

Solution

Construction:

Light Output ↑

Wire Bond

P-N Junction

Cathode Anode

LED Chip

Materials:

- P-type: Boron-doped semiconductor
- N-type: Phosphorus-doped semiconductor
- Common materials: GaAs, GaP, GaN

Working Principle:

- Forward bias: Electrons recombine with holes
- Energy release: In form of photons (light)
- Color: Depends on semiconductor material and bandgap
- Efficiency: High light output with low power

Applications:

- Indicators: Status lights, displays
- Lighting: LED bulbs, strips
- Electronics: Seven-segment displays

Mnemonic

“Light Emitting, Energy Efficient”

Question 3(c) [7 marks]

Explain working characteristics of Zener diode.

Solution

V-I Characteristics:

Forward

If
→ V

V_Z

Reverse

I_Z

Zener
Region

Key Regions:

Region	Characteristics
Forward Bias	Normal diode operation (0.7V)
Reverse Bias	Small leakage current

Zener Region	Constant voltage (V_z)
Breakdown	Sharp voltage breakdown

Important Parameters:

- **Zener Voltage (V_z)**: Breakdown voltage
- **Zener Current (I_z)**: Current in breakdown region
- **Maximum Power**: $V_z \times I_z(\max)$
- **Temperature coefficient**: Voltage variation with temperature

Applications:

- **Voltage regulation**: Maintains constant output
- **Reference voltage**: Precise voltage source
- **Overshoot protection**: Protects circuits

Advantages:

- **Sharp breakdown**: Well-defined voltage
- **Low dynamic resistance**: Good regulation
- **Wide range**: Available in many voltages

Mnemonic

“Zener Zones Zero variation”

Question 3(a OR) [3 marks]

Enlist the applications of varactor diode.

Solution

Applications Table:

	Application	Function
Voltage Controlled Oscillators		Frequency tuning with voltage
Automatic Frequency Control		Maintains oscillator frequency
Electronic Tuning		Radio/TV channel selection
Phase Locked Loops		Frequency synchronization
Frequency Multipliers		Harmonic generation
Parametric Amplifiers		Low-noise amplification

Key Features:

- **Voltage variable**: Capacitance changes with reverse voltage
- **No mechanical parts**: Electronic tuning only
- **Fast response**: Quick frequency changes

Mnemonic

“Voltage Varies Capacitance”

Question 3(b OR) [4 marks]

Explain working of photo diode.

Solution

Construction & Symbol:

Light ↓ ↓ ↓

P-type ← Anode
 ← P-N Junction
 N-type ← Cathode

Cathode Anode

Working Principle:

- **Light absorption:** Creates electron-hole pairs
- **Reverse bias:** Widens depletion region
- **Photocurrent:** Proportional to light intensity
- **Fast response:** Quick detection capability

Characteristics:

Parameter	Description
Dark Current	Current without light
Photocurrent	Current proportional to light
Responsivity	Current per unit light power
Response Time	Speed of detection

Applications:

- **Light sensors:** Automatic lighting systems
- **Optical communication:** Fiber optic receivers
- **Safety systems:** Smoke detectors
- **Solar panels:** Light to electrical energy

Mnemonic

“Photo Produces Proportional current”

Question 3(c OR) [7 marks]

Explain Zener diode as a voltage regulator.

Solution

Voltage Regulator Circuit:

$$V_{in} - V_{out} = V_z$$

$Z \downarrow$ (Zener)

Ground

Working Principle:

- Zener operates in breakdown region
- Output voltage remains constant at V_z
- Series resistor R_s limits current
- Load changes don't affect output voltage

Design Equations:

Parameter	Formula
Series Resistance	$R_s = (V_{in} - V_z) / I_z$
Load Current	$I_L = V_z / R_L$
Zener Current	$I_z = I_s - I_L$
Power Dissipation	$P_z = V_z \times I_z$

Regulation Characteristics:

- **Line regulation:** Output change with input variation
- **Load regulation:** Output change with load variation
- **Efficiency:** Generally low due to Zener power loss

Advantages:

- **Simple circuit:** Few components required
- **Good regulation:** Stable output voltage
- **Fast response:** Quick voltage correction

Limitations:

- **Poor efficiency:** Power wasted in Zener
- **Limited current:** Cannot supply high currents
- **Temperature sensitivity:** Voltage varies with temperature

Applications:

- **Reference voltage:** Precise voltage source
- **Simple regulators:** Low current applications
- **Protection circuits:** Overvoltage protection

Mnemonic

“Zener Zones provide Zero variation”

Question 4(a) [3 marks]

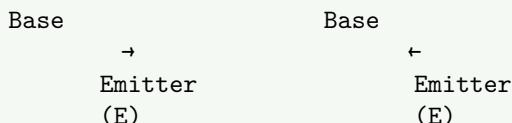
Draw the symbol and construction of PNP and NPN transistor with proper notation.

Solution

Transistor Symbols:

NPN Transistor: PNP Transistor:

Collector (C) Collector (C)



Construction Diagrams:

NPN Structure: PNP Structure:

Collector
N-type

P-type Base N-type Base

N-type
Emitter

Collector
P-type

P-type Base N-type Base

P-type
Emitter

Terminal Identification:

- **Emitter:** Heavily doped, arrow shows current direction
- **Base:** Thin, lightly doped middle region
- **Collector:** Moderately doped, collects charge carriers

Current Direction:

- **NPN:** Arrow points outward (emitter to base)
- **PNP:** Arrow points inward (base to emitter)

Mnemonic

“NPN: Not Pointing iN, PNP: Pointing iN Please”

Question 4(b) [4 marks]

Draw and Explain characteristics of CE amplifier.

Solution

CE Amplifier Circuit:

V_{CC}

R_C

V_{out}

C ← Collector

B ← Base Vin

E ← Emitter

R_E

Ground

Input Characteristics (I_B vs V_{BE}):

I_B
(mA)

→ V_{BE} (V)
0 0.7

Output Characteristics (I_C vs V_{CE}):

I_C I_B = 40μA

(mA)

I_B = 30μA

I_B = 20μA

I_B = 10μA
→ V_{CE} (V)
0 5 10

Key Features:

Parameter	CE Configuration
Current Gain	= I _C /I _B (high)
Voltage Gain	High
Power Gain	Very high
Input Impedance	Medium
Output Impedance	High
Phase Shift	180°

Regions of Operation:

- **Cut-off:** Both junctions reverse biased
- **Active:** BE forward, BC reverse biased
- **Saturation:** Both junctions forward biased

Mnemonic

“Common Emitter, Current Enlarged”

Question 4(c) [7 marks]

Derive relation between current gains , and .

Solution

Current Gain Definitions:

Gain	Configuration	Formula
(Alpha)	Common Base	= IC/IE
(Beta)	Common Emitter	= IC/IB
(Gamma)	Common Collector	= IE/IB

Derivation:

Step 1: Basic Current Relation $IE = IB + IC \dots$ (Kirchhoff's Current Law)

Step 2: Express IC in terms of $IE = IC/IE$ Therefore: $IC = \times IE \dots (1)$

Step 3: Substitute in current equation $IE = IB + \times IE$ $IE - \times IE = IB$ $IE(1 -) = IB$ $IE = IB/(1 -) \dots (2)$

Step 4: Find $= IC/IB$ From (1): $IC = \times IE$ From (2): $IE = IB/(1 -)$ Therefore: $IC = \times IB/(1 -)$

Step 5: Final relation for $= IC/IB = /(1 -) \dots (3)$

Step 6: Express in terms of From equation (3): $(1 -) = - = + = (1 +)$ Therefore: $= /(1 +) \dots (4)$

Step 7: Find $= IE/IB$ From (2): $= 1/(1 -)$ Substituting from (4): $= 1/(1 - /(1 +)) = (1 +)/(1 + -) = 1 + \dots (5)$

Final Relations:

Relation	Formula
in terms of	$= /(1 -)$
in terms of	$= /(1 +)$
in terms of	$= 1 +$
Verification	$+ \times =$

Typical Values:

- 0.98 to 0.995
- 50 to 200
- 51 to 201

Mnemonic

“Alpha Beta Gamma, Always Better Gains”

Question 4(a OR) [3 marks]

Define Active, Saturation and Cut-off region for transistor amplifier.

Solution

Operating Regions:

Region	Base-Emitter	Base-Collector	Characteristics
Active	Forward Biased	Reverse Biased	Amplification region
Saturation	Forward Biased	Forward Biased	Switch ON state
Cut-off	Reverse Biased	Reverse Biased	Switch OFF state

Detailed Description:

Active Region:

- **Normal amplification mode**
- $IC = \times IB$ relationship holds
- **Linear operation** for small signals

Saturation Region:

- **Both junctions forward biased**
- **Maximum collector current flows**
- **VCE 0.2V** (very low)
- **Used in switching applications**

Cut-off Region:

- **No base current ($IB = 0$)**
- **No collector current ($IC = 0$)**
- Transistor acts like open switch

Mnemonic

“Active Amplifies, Saturated Switches, Cut-off Cuts”

Question 4(b OR) [4 marks]

Explain working of Transistor as an amplifier.

Solution

Amplifier Circuit:

V_{CC}
 R_c
 V_{out} (amplified)
 C ← NPN Transistor
 V_{in} B
 E
 R_e
 Ground

Working Principle:

- **Small input signal applied to base-emitter**
- **Input resistance is low (few kΩ)**
- **Small base current controls large collector current**
- **Output taken from collector-emitter**
- **Current amplification: $IC = \times IB$**

Amplification Process:

Parameter	Input	Output
Signal Level Current	Small μA range	Large mA range

Voltage	mV range	V range
Power	μW range	mW range

Key Features:

- **Current gain:** (50-200 typical)
- **Voltage gain:** Depends on load resistance
- **Power gain:** Product of current and voltage gains
- **Phase inversion:** 180° in CE configuration

Applications:

- **Audio amplifiers:** Music systems
- **RF amplifiers:** Radio transmitters
- **Op-amp stages:** Integrated circuits

Mnemonic

“Tiny signal Triggers Tremendous output”

Question 4(c OR) [7 marks]

Compare CB, CC, and CE amplifier configuration.

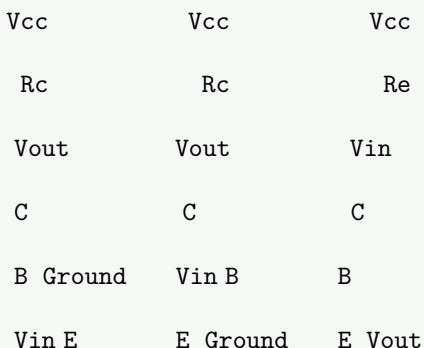
Solution

Comprehensive Comparison:

Parameter	Common Base (CB)	Common Emitter (CE)	Common Collector (CC)
Input Terminal	Emitter	Base	Base
Output Terminal	Collector	Collector	Emitter
Common Terminal	Base	Emitter	Collector
Current Gain	< 1	$\gg 1$	$= (1 + \beta)$
Voltage Gain	High	High	$< 1 (\beta)$
Power Gain	Medium	Very High	Medium
Input Resistance	Very Low ($20-50\Omega$)	Medium ($1-5k\Omega$)	Very High ($100k\Omega$)
Output Resistance	Very High ($1M\Omega$)	High ($50k\Omega$)	Low (25Ω)
Phase Shift	0°	180°	0°
Frequency Response	Excellent	Good	Good
Applications	RF Amplifiers	Audio Amplifiers	Buffer, Impedance Matching

Circuit Diagrams:

Common Base:



Key Characteristics:

Common Base (CB):

- High frequency performance
- No current gain but high voltage gain
- Input-output isolation excellent
- Used in: RF amplifiers, high-frequency circuits

Common Emitter (CE):

- Most popular configuration
- High current and voltage gain
- Good compromise of all parameters
- Used in: Audio amplifiers, general amplification

Common Collector (CC):

- Unity voltage gain (voltage follower)
- High current gain
- Impedance transformation (high to low)
- Used in: Buffer amplifiers, impedance matching

Selection Criteria:

	Application	Best Configuration	Reason
High Frequency	CB		Excellent frequency response
General Amplification	CE		High power gain
Buffer/Isolation	CC		High input, low output impedance
Power Amplifiers	CE		Maximum power gain

Mnemonic

"CB for Communication, CE for Common use, CC for Coupling"

Question 5(a) [3 marks]

Draw the pin diagram of IC 555.

Solution

IC 555 Pin Diagram:

IC 555			
1	Ground	8	Vcc
2	Trigger	7	Discharge
3	Output	6	Threshold
4	Reset	5	Control Voltage

DIP-8 Package

Pin Functions:

	Pin	Name	Function
1	Ground	0V reference	
2	Trigger	Start timing cycle	
3	Output	Timer output	
4	Reset	Master reset (active low)	
5	Control	Voltage reference control	
6	Threshold	Stop timing cycle	
7	Discharge	Timing capacitor discharge	
8	Vcc	Power supply (+5V to +18V)	

Key Points:

- Dual-in-line 8-pin package
- Power supply: 5V to 18V DC
- Output current: Up to 200mA
- Reset pin: Normally connected to Vcc

Mnemonic

“Great Timer, Great Pins”

Question 5(b) [4 marks]

List out Features of 555 Timer IC.

Solution

Key Features:

Feature	Specification
Supply Voltage	5V to 18V
Output Current	200mA source/sink
Temperature Range	0°C to 70°C
Timing Range	μs to hours
Accuracy	±1% typical
Modes	Monostable, Astable, Bistable

Technical Features:

- CMOS/TTL compatible output levels
- High current output capability
- Wide supply voltage range
- Temperature stable operation

Functional Features:

- Three operating modes available
- External timing components
- Reset capability for control
- Low power consumption design

Advantages:

- Versatile timer for multiple applications
- Easy to use with minimal external components
- Reliable operation in various conditions

Mnemonic

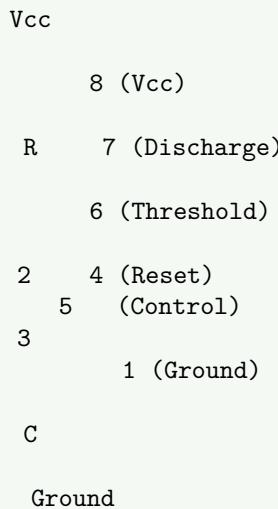
“Fantastic Features, Flexible Functions”

Question 5(c) [7 marks]

Explain Mono stable multivibrator using 555 timer IC.

Solution

Monostable Circuit:



Working Principle:

Stable State:

- Output **LOW** (approximately 0V)
- Capacitor **discharged** through pin 7
- Threshold voltage below $V_{CC}/3$

Triggered State:

- Negative pulse applied to trigger (pin 2)
- Output goes **HIGH** immediately
- Discharge transistor turns OFF
- Capacitor starts charging through R

Timing Period:

- Duration: $T = 1.1 \times R \times C$
- Output remains **HIGH** for calculated time
- Automatic return to stable state

Return to Stable:

- Capacitor voltage reaches $2V_{CC}/3$
- Threshold triggered (pin 6)
- Output returns to LOW
- Discharge begins again

Key Characteristics:

Parameter	Description
Pulse Width	$T = 1.1 \times R \times C$
Trigger Level	$V_{CC}/3$
Threshold Level	$2V_{CC}/3$
Output High	$\sim V_{CC} - 1.5V$
Output Low	$\sim 0.1V$

Applications:

- Pulse generation: Fixed width pulses
- Time delays: Switch-on delays
- Missing pulse detection: Watchdog timers
- Debouncing circuits: Switch contact cleaning

Design Example: For $T = 1\text{ms}$: If $C = 0.1\mu\text{F}$, then $R = 9.1\text{k}\Omega$

Mnemonic

“Mono means One pulse Only”

Question 5(a OR) [3 marks]

List out applications of IC 555.

Solution

Timer Applications:

	Category	Applications
Timing Circuits		Delay timers, Pulse generators
Oscillators		Clock generators, Frequency dividers
Control Circuits		PWM controllers, Motor speed control
Detection		Missing pulse detectors, Burglar alarms
Communication		Tone generators, Frequency shift keying
Automotive		Turn signal flashers, Windshield wipers

Mode-wise Applications:

Monostable Mode:

- Time delays in circuits
- Pulse width generation
- Debouncing switches

Astable Mode:

- LED flashers and blinkers
- Clock signals generation
- Tone generation for buzzers

Bistable Mode:

- Flip-flop circuits
- Memory elements
- Latch circuits

Common Projects:

- Electronic dice using LEDs
- Traffic light controllers
- Digital clocks and timers

Mnemonic

“Timer for Tremendous Tasks”

Question 5(b OR) [4 marks]

Draw and explain the internal block diagram of IC 555.

Solution

Internal Block Diagram:

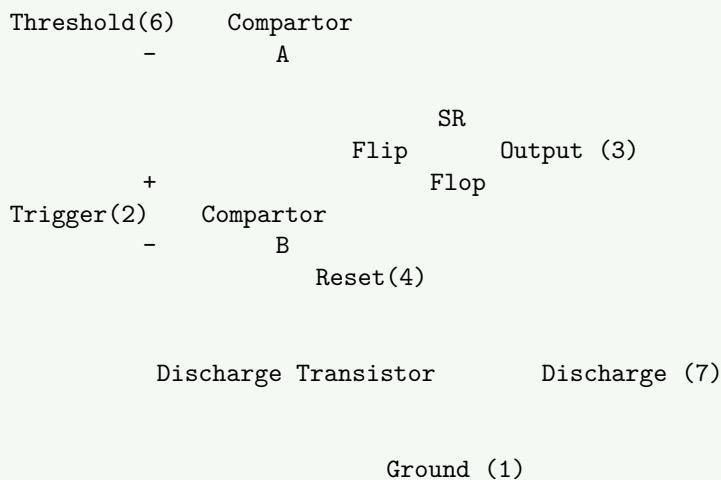
Vcc (8)

Voltage Divider 5V
5kΩ Control (5)

10V
5kΩ

10V
5kΩ

+



Block Functions:

	Block	Function
Voltage Divider		Creates $V_{CC}/3$ and $2V_{CC}/3$ references
Comparator A		Compares threshold with $2V_{CC}/3$
Comparator B		Compares trigger with $V_{CC}/3$
SR Flip-Flop		Controls output state
Discharge Transistor		Discharges timing capacitor
Output Buffer		Provides high current output

Working:

- Comparators set and reset flip-flop
 - Output buffer amplifies flip-flop output
 - Discharge transistor controlled by flip-flop
 - Reference voltages set trigger levels

Mnemonic

“Internal Intelligence, Integrated Implementation”

Question 5(c OR) [7 marks]

Explain astable multivibrator using 555 timer IC.

Solution

Astable Circuit:

Vcc

	8	(Vcc)
	4	(Reset)
R1	7	(Discharge)
	6	(Threshold)
R2		
	5	(Control)
2		
	3	(Output)
	1	(Ground)

6

Ground

Working Principle:

Charging Phase:

- Capacitor charges through $R_1 + R_2$
- Output **HIGH** during charging
- Charging time: $T_1 = 0.693(R_1 + R_2)C$
- Voltage rises from $V_{cc}/3$ to $2V_{cc}/3$

Discharging Phase:

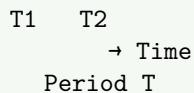
- Capacitor discharges through R_2 only
- Output **LOW** during discharging
- Discharging time: $T_2 = 0.693 \times R_2 \times C$
- Voltage falls from $2V_{cc}/3$ to $V_{cc}/3$

Frequency Calculations:

	Parameter	Formula
Time HIGH	$T_1 = 0.693(R_1 + R_2)C$	
Time LOW	$T_2 = 0.693 \times R_2 \times C$	
Total Period	$T = T_1 + T_2 = 0.693(R_1 + 2R_2)C$	
Frequency	$f = 1.44/[(R_1 + 2R_2)C]$	
Duty Cycle	$D = (R_1 + R_2)/(R_1 + 2R_2) \times 100\%$	

Waveforms:

V_{out}



Design Example:

For $f = 1\text{kHz}$, $D = 60\%$:

- Choose $C = 0.1\mu\text{F}$
- Calculate $R_1 = 7.2\text{k}\Omega$, $R_2 = 3.6\text{k}\Omega$

Key Features:

- Continuous oscillation without external trigger
- Frequency adjustable by R and C values
- Duty cycle always $> 50\%$ in basic circuit
- Stable operation over wide temperature range

Applications:

- LED flashers and blinkers
- Clock generators for digital circuits
- Tone generators for alarms
- PWM signal generation

Modifications for 50% Duty Cycle:

- Add diode in parallel with R_2
- Separate paths for charge and discharge
- Equal charge/discharge times possible

Mnemonic

“Astable Always Alternates Automatically”