

# PH3204: Electronics Laboratory

## Experiment 02: Study of characteristics of an n-p-n bipolar junction transistor (BJT)

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### Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Theory</b>	<b>2</b>
1.1	Bipolar Junction Transistor (BJT) . . . . .	2
1.2	Common Emitter (CE) Configuration . . . . .	2
<b>2</b>	<b>CE Input Characteristics</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>CE Output Characteristics</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Sources of Error</b>	<b>6</b>

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# 1 Theory

## 1.1 Bipolar Junction Transistor (BJT)

A **Bipolar Junction Transistor (BJT)** is a three-terminal device having wide applications in the construction of amplifiers, gates, oscillators, etc. A BJT comprises three doped semiconductor regions, namely **emitter, base, and collector**. There are two p-n junctions in a transistor, one between the emitter and base and the other between the base and collector. The emitter is heavily doped, the base is lightly doped, and the collector is moderately doped. The emitter-base junction is forward-biased, and the base-collector junction is reverse-biased.

The BJT is classified into two types based on the majority charge carriers in the three regions, namely **n-p-n transistor** and **p-n-p transistor**.

- **n-p-n Transistor:** In an n-p-n transistor, the emitter and collector are doped with n-type impurities while the base is doped with p-type impurities.
- **p-n-p Transistor:** In a p-n-p transistor, the emitter and collector are doped with p-type impurities while the base is doped with n-type impurities.

Since, there are three terminals in a transistor, there exists three possible of operations, where one of the three terminals is common to both Input and Output. These modes are **Common Emitter(CE) Configuration**, **Common Base(CB) Configuration**, and **Common Collector(CC) Configuration**. Out of these three, the Common Emitter Configuration is the most widely used one.

In this experiment, we shall study the Input and Output Characteristics of an n-p-n BJT in the Common Emitter Configuration.

## 1.2 Common Emitter (CE) Configuration

Due to its high current, voltage and power gain, the Common Emitter Configuration is the most widely used configuration. The input is applied between the base and emitter, while the output is taken between the collector and emitter. The emitter is common to both input and output. The input characteristics of a CE configuration is the plot of the input current  $I_B$  versus the input voltage  $V_{BE}$ , and the output characteristics is the plot of the output current  $I_C$  versus the output voltage  $V_{CE}$ .

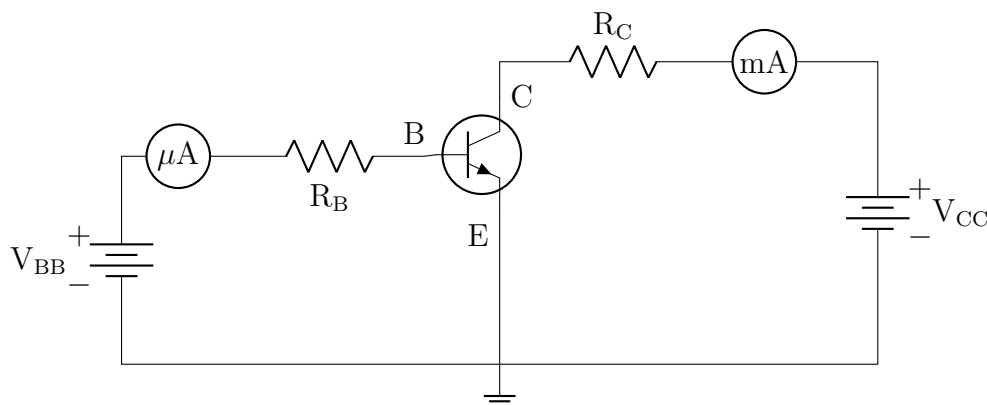


Figure 1: Circuit diagram of a n-p-n BJT in CE Configuration

## 2 CE Input Characteristics

We shall study the input characteristics of the CE configuration of the transistor. We vary the input voltage and measure the variation of  $I_B$  v/s  $V_{BE}$ , keeping the collector-emitter voltage ( $V_{CE}$ ) constant. We have carried out the experiment for  $I_B = 2V$  and  $I_B = 3V$ . The data obtained has been tabulated below.

$V_{BB}(V)$	$V_{BE}(V)$	$I_B(\mu A)$	$V_{CC}(V)$	$V_{CE}(V)$	$I_C(\mu A)$
0.01	0.01	0	1.98	2	0
0.1	0.11	0	1.98	2	0
0.2	0.21	0	1.98	2	0
0.3	0.31	0	1.98	2	0
0.4	0.41	0	1.98	2	0
0.5	0.51	0	1.98	2	52
0.6	0.6	7	2.11	2	1094
0.7	0.65	45	2.03	2	7.2
0.8	0.664	110	2.07	2	17.7
0.9	0.68	195	2.19	2	32.8
1.0	0.692	257	2.25	2	43.8
1.1	0.701	279	2.49	2	48.1
1.2	0.701	443	2.88	2	79.5

Table 1: Table for Input characteristics for  $V_{BE} = 2V$

$V_{BB}(V)$	$V_{BE}(V)$	$I_B(\mu A)$	$V_{CC}(V)$	$V_{CE}(V)$	$I_C(\mu A)$
0.01	0.01	0	2.99	3	0
0.1	0.11	0	2.99	3	0
0.2	0.21	0	2.99	3	0
0.3	0.31	0	2.99	3	0
0.4	0.4	0	2.99	3	0
0.5	0.5	0	2.99	3	0
0.6	0.6	8	2.99	3	1.3
0.7	0.641	51	3.09	3	8.1
0.8	0.663	127	3.13	3	21
0.9	0.672	197	3.21	3	33.5
1.0	0.674	286	3.22	3	50.8
1.1	0.68	369	3.21	3	68.5
1.2	0.696	455	3.21	3	86.1

Table 2: Table for Input characteristics for  $V_{BE} = 3V$

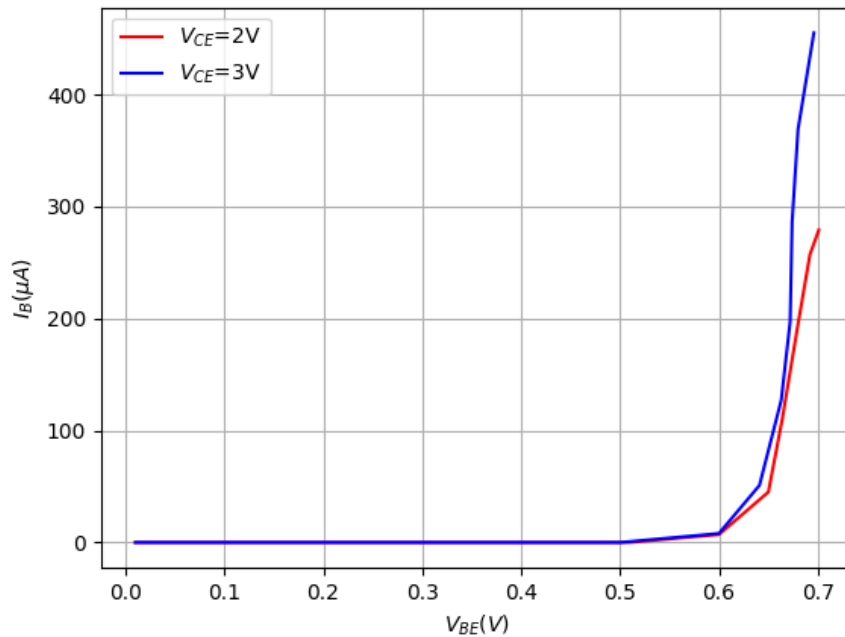


Figure 2: Input characteristics of BJT for  $V_{CE} = 2V$  and  $V_{CE} = 3V$

Note that, although, it was expected that the curve for  $V_{CE} = 2V$  to be towards left of the curve corresponding to  $V_{CE} = 3V$ , it is not so. This may be due to some error in the experiment.

### 3 CE Output Characteristics

We shall now study the output characteristics of a n-p-n transistor in CE configuration. We shall study the variation of  $I_C$  v/s  $V_{CE}$ , keeping the base current  $I_B$  constant. We have carried out the experiment for  $I_B = 10\mu A$  and  $I_B = 20\mu A$  and  $I_B = 30\mu A$ . The data obtained has been tabulated below.

$I_B$ ( $\mu A$ )	VCC (V)	VCE (V)	$I_C$ (mA)
10	0.2	43	195
10	0.3	43	254
10	0.4	64	357
10	0.5	66	458
10	0.6	69	524
10	0.7	82	623
10	0.8	106	670
10	0.9	105	731
10	1.0	115	834
10	1.2	115	1018
10	1.5	189	1231
10	1.8	249	1430

IB ( $\mu\text{A}$ )	VCC (V)	VCE (V)	IC (mA)
10	2.0	359	1472
10	2.5	861	1473
10	3.0	1400	1470

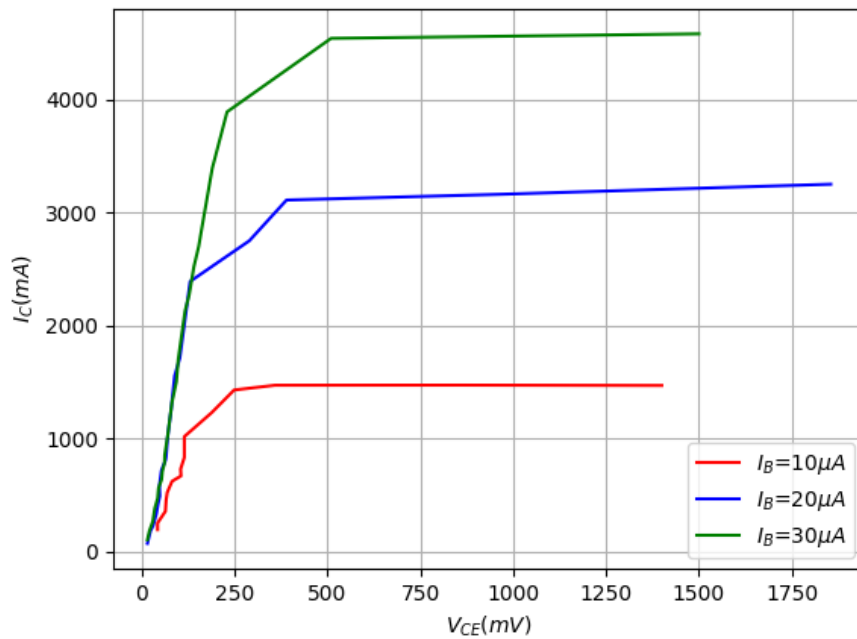
Table 3: Table for Output characteristics for  $I_B = 10\mu\text{A}$ 

IB ( $\mu\text{A}$ )	VCC (V)	VCE (V)	IC (mA)
20	0.1	15.6	73
20	0.2	23.8	184
20	0.3	30.9	229
20	0.4	39.7	336
20	0.5	44.2	422
20	0.6	49.0	493
20	0.7	47.9	582
20	0.8	53.4	720
20	0.9	64.4	810
20	1.0	65.9	840
20	1.2	70.1	1018
20	1.4	79.2	1250
20	1.6	83.5	1386
20	1.8	89.0	1555
20	2.0	102.8	1713
20	2.5	130.6	2390
20	3.0	290.0	2750
20	3.5	390.0	3110
20	4.0	957.0	3160
20	5.0	1855.0	3250
20	6.0	2790.0	3300
20	7.0	3830.0	3430

Table 4: Table for Output characteristics for  $I_B = 20\mu\text{A}$ 

IB ( $\mu\text{A}$ )	VCC (V)	VCE (V)	IC (mA)
30	0.1	15.6	105
30	0.2	20.9	183
30	0.3	30.0	267
30	0.4	35.5	385
30	0.5	43.2	472
30	0.6	45.5	563
30	0.7	53.8	638
30	0.8	55.8	710
30	0.9	61.6	785
30	1.0	62.2	856
30	1.2	70.2	1026
30	1.5	81.9	1324

$I_B$ ( $\mu A$ )	VCC (V)	VCE (V)	$I_C$ (mA)
30	1.8	93.6	1503
30	2.0	98.6	1700
30	2.2	117.0	2130
30	2.4	127.9	2270
30	2.6	140.7	2520
30	2.8	153.7	2700
30	3.0	160.4	2830
30	3.5	190.1	3390
30	4.0	230.0	3890
30	5.0	510.0	4540
30	6.0	1500.0	4580
30	7.0	2460.0	4750

Table 5: Table for Output characteristics for  $I_B = 30\mu A$ Figure 3: Output characteristics of BJT for  $I_B = 10\mu A$ ,  $20\mu A$  and  $30\mu A$ 

As expected, we observe from the graph that the output current  $I_C$  increases with the increase in the collector-emitter voltage  $V_{CE}$  for a constant base current  $I_B$ .

## 4 Conclusion

## 5 Sources of Error