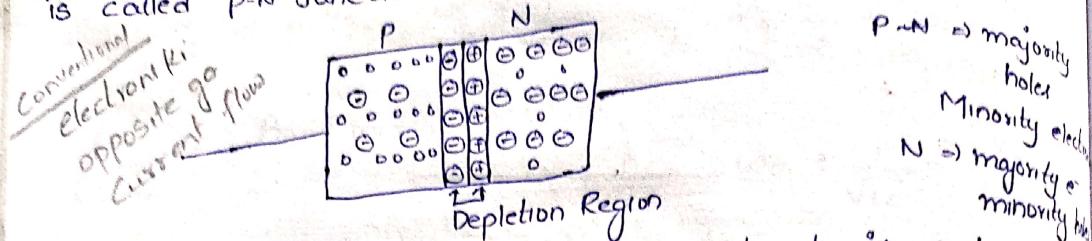


## Anode Cathode unit-4 Diodes & Transistors

P-N Junction Diode: (unidirectional current flow one junction) when a p-type Semiconductor is suitably joined with n-type Semiconductor a thin layer formed at contact surface is called P-N Junction.



The above figure the left side material is p-type Semiconductor it has high concentration of holes & right side material is n-type Semiconductor it has high concentration of free electrons.

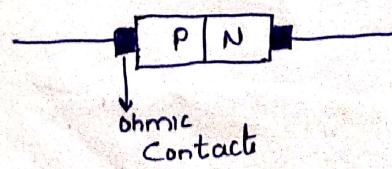
p-type: pentavalent Impurities

p-type: trivalent

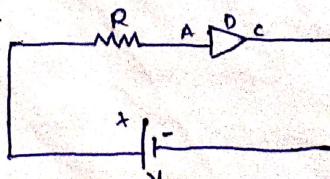
At this junction there is a tendency for free electrons to diffuse over to p-side, this process is known as diffusion. Due to this diffusion the free electrons in n-region is combined with holes and hence positive ions (positive charge) built on N-side and negative ions built on p-side.

when a sufficient number of positive ions and negative ions are formed on both sides of the junction no further diffusion is prevented because of immovable ions created potential drop across p-n junction. This p-n junction is called depletion region or barrier potential barrier. (Voltage)

→ The potential barrier of Ge is 0.2V  
→ The potential barrier of Si (silicon) is 0.7V

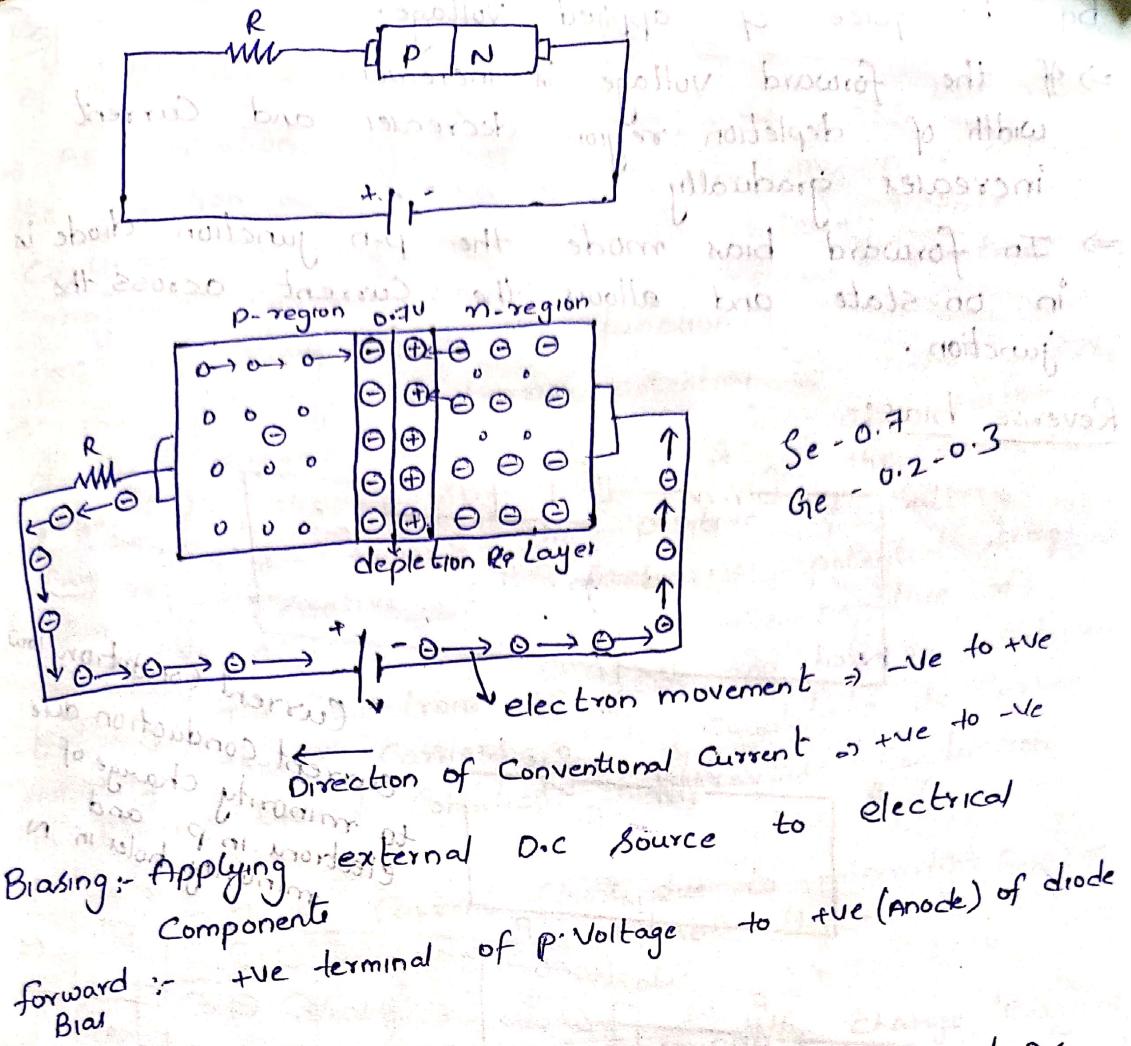


Forward Bias



electron movement  
Current Conduction  
electrons move to p region





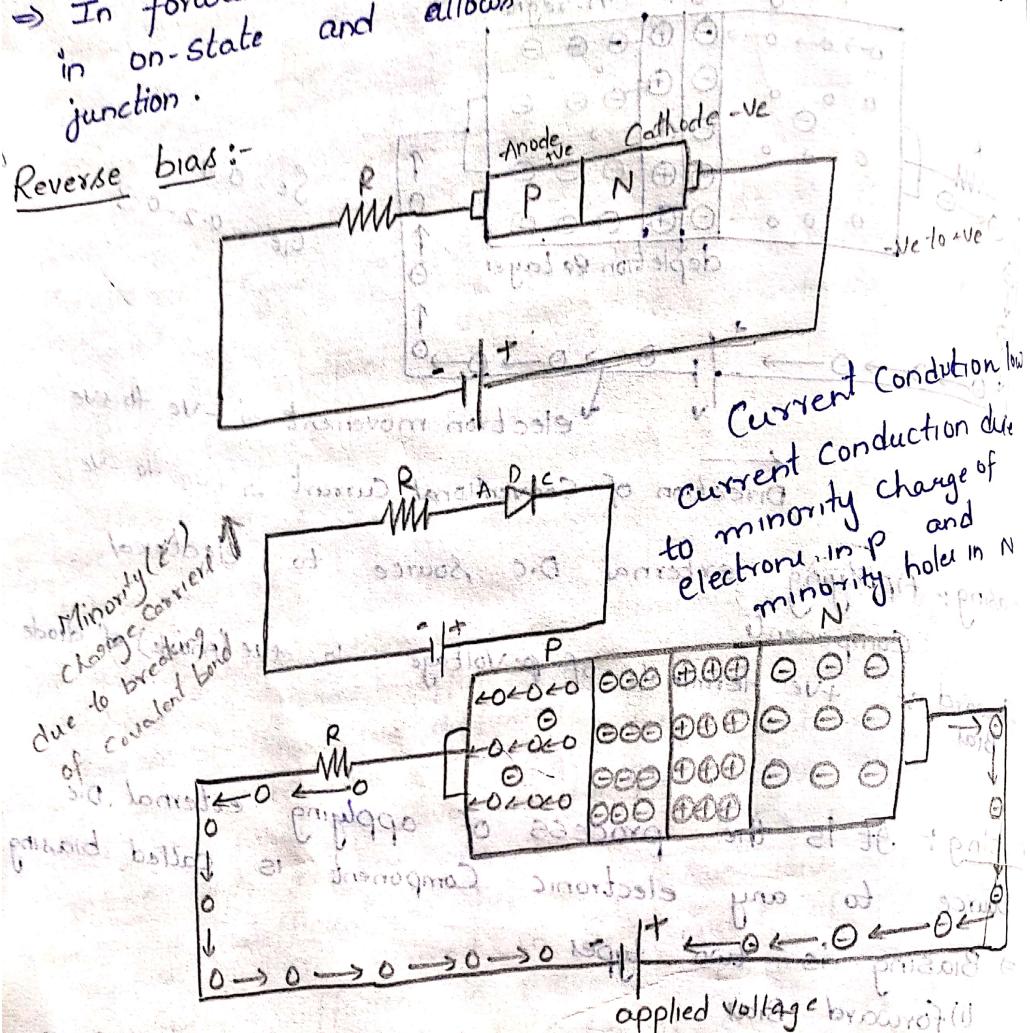
Biassing: It is the process of applying external D.C source to any electronic component.

⇒ Biassing is two types

- (i) Forward Bias
  - (ii) Reverse Bias
- Forward Bias: When +ve terminal of the voltage source is connected to p-region of diode and negative terminal of battery or voltage source is connected to n-region of diode. Hence the diode is set to be in forward bias mode. This voltage facilitates the movement of majority carriers across the junction.
- ⇒ The forward voltage is less than the applied forward voltage. There is no barrier potential in the diode. In the diode, conduction starts more than the barrier potential then the conduction starts in the diode due to flow of electrons from n-region to p-region and holes move towards from p-region to n-region.

- by the force of applied voltage:
- ⇒ If the forward voltage is increased (applied voltage) width of depletion region decreases and current increases gradually.
  - ⇒ In forward bias mode the p-n junction diode is in on-state and allows the current across the junction.

Reverse bias :-



When the p-n junction is reverse biased the negative terminal attracts the holes in the p-region, away from the junction. The positive terminal attracts the free electrons in the n-region, away from the junction. No charge carrier is able to cross the junction. As electrons and holes both move away from the junction, the depletion region widens. This creates more positive ions and hence more positive ions and hence more positive charge in the n-region and more negative charge in the p-region. This is because the applied voltage helps the barrier potential.

Key point :- Reverse biasing increases the width of the depletion region.

- As depletion region widens, barrier potential across the junction also increases, however, this process cannot continue for long time. In the steady state, majority current ceases as holes and electrons stop moving away from the junction.
- The polarities of barrier potential are same as that of the applied voltage. Due to increased barrier potential, the positive side drags the electrons from P-region towards the positive side of battery. Similarly, negative side of barrier potential drags the holes from N-region towards the negative side of battery. The electrons on P-side and holes on N-side are minority charge carriers, by which reverse conduction in reverse biased condition takes place.

Reverse current flows due to minority charge carriers which are small in number. Hence reverse current is always very small.

Key point :- the generation of minority charge carriers depends on their temperature and the applied reverse bias voltage. Thus the reverse current depends on the temperature but not on the reverse voltage applied.

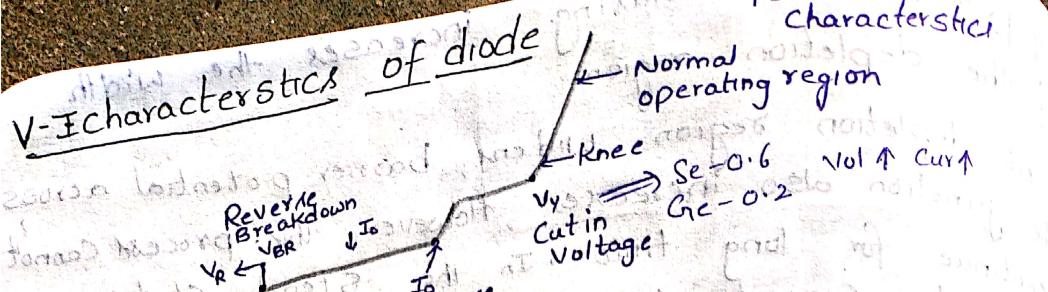
for a constant temperature, the reverse current is almost constant though reverse voltage is increased upto a certain limit. Hence it is called reverse loops.

Saturation current and denoted as  $I_s$ . It is very small.

Key point :- Reverse saturation current is for germanium of the order of few microamperes and for silicon p-n junction diodes and few nanoamperes.

The dynamic resistance is most important in practice whether the junction is forward or reverse biased.

Ion - Recombination of Ions & holes



$\Rightarrow$  Initial forward current is small as long as the bias voltage is less than the barrier potential. At a certain voltage close to barrier potential, current increases rapidly. The voltage at which diode current starts increasing rapidly is called Cut-in Voltage. It is denoted by  $V_c$ . Below this voltage, current is less than 1% of maximum rated value of diode current. The cut-in voltage for germanium is about 0.2V, while for silicon it is 0.6V.

$\Rightarrow$  It is important to note that the diodes are not operated in the breakdown condition. The voltage at which breakdown occurs is called Reverse breakdown voltage denoted as  $V_{BR}$ .

Key point: Reverse current can be practically neglected.

$\Rightarrow$  The reverse biasing produces a voltage drop across the diode denoted as  $V_{RE}$  which is almost equal to applied reverse voltage.

Breakdown in Reverse Biased  
Though the reverse saturation current is not dependent on the applied reverse voltage, if reverse voltage is increased beyond particular value, large reverse current can flow damaging the diode. This is called reverse breakdown of a diode. Such a reverse breakdown of a diode can take place due to:

1. Avalanche effect  $\Rightarrow$  Minority carrier velocity  $\uparrow$ , electron free path  $\downarrow$ , kinetic energy  $\uparrow$
2. Zener effect

Breakdown to operate Zener diode we need  
reverse voltage, electric field, electrons, filling, carrier multiplication.

### Breakdown due to the Avalanche effect:-

though reverse current is not dependent on reverse voltage, if reverse voltage is increased at a particular value, velocity of minority carriers increases due to the kinetic energy associated with the minority carriers with the atoms. The collisions make the electrons to break the covalent bonds. These electrons are available as minority carriers and get accelerated due to high reverse voltage. They again collide with another atom to generate more minority carriers. This is called carrier multiplication. Finally, large number of minority carriers move across the junction, breaking the p-n junction. These large number of minority carriers give rise to a very high reverse current. This effect is called avalanche effect and the mechanism of destroying the junction is called reverse breakdown of a p-n junction. The voltage at which the breakdown of a p-n junction occurs is called Reverse breakdown voltage. The series resistance must be used to avoid breakdown condition limiting the reverse current.

### Breakdown due to the Zener effect

The breakdown of a p-n junction may occur so because of one more effect called zener effect. When a p-n junction is heavily doped the depletion region is very narrow. So under reverse bias conditions, the electric field across the depletion layer is very intense. Electric field is Voltage per distance and due to narrow depletion region and high reverse voltage, it is intense. Such an intense field is enough to pull the electrons out of the valence bands of the stable atoms. So this is not due to the collision of carriers with atoms. Such a creation of free electrons is called zener effect which is different than the avalanche effect. These minority carriers constitute very large current and its mechanism is called zener breakdown.



### Key point :

The normal p-n junction diode is practically operated in reverse breakdown region though not operated in reverse biased condition. The breakdown effects are not required to be considered for p-n junction diodes. These effects are required to be considered for special diodes such as zener diode as such diodes are always operated in Reverse breakdown condition.

### Why to avoid Reverse breakdown

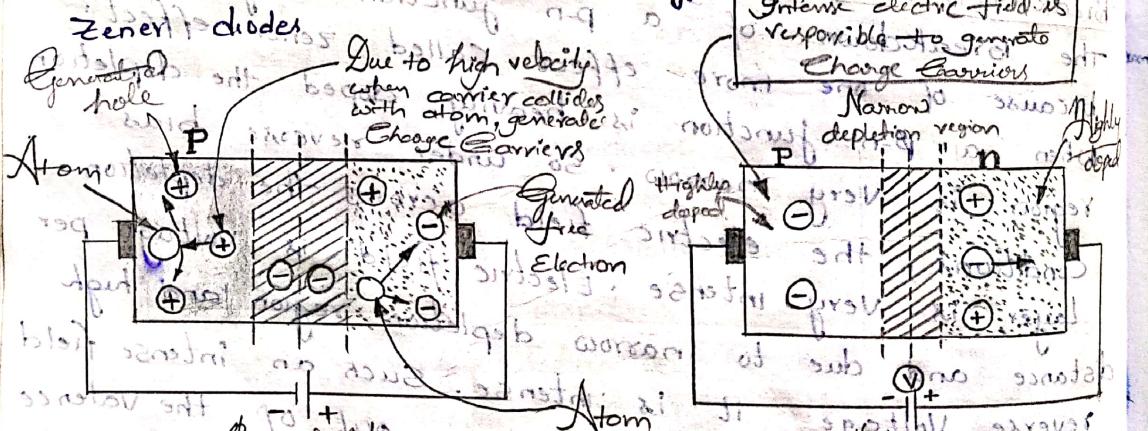
⇒ Large Reverse Voltage appears across the diode and large Current flows through the diode in reverse breakdown condition.

⇒ So large power gets dissipated which appears in the form of heat at the junction.

⇒ This increases junction temperature beyond the safe limits and this may damage the diode permanently.

So Reverse breakdown must be avoided for conventional diodes.

Some special diodes are manufactured to be operated in the reverse breakdown region and are called Zener diodes.

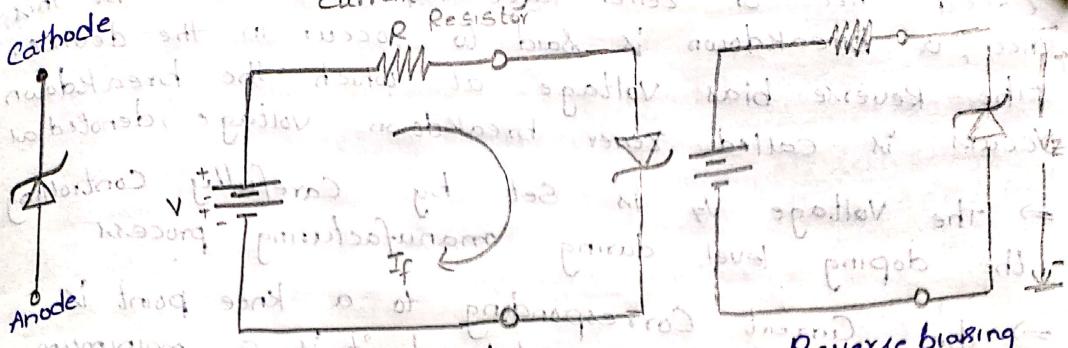


Intrinsic electric field is responsible to generate Charge Carriers

Narrow depletion region

a) Avalanche breakdown      b) Zener effect      Reverse Voltage  
Zener diode specially operated in Reverse Biased condition. Semiconductors  
The Zener diode is a Silicon p-n junction diode which is generally operated in Reverse breakdown region. The Zener diode are fabricated with precise breakdown voltages by controlling the doping level during manufacturing. The Zener diode have breakdown voltage range from 200V to 2000V.

In 1934 a physical Cari Zener investigated the breakdown phenomenon in the p-n junction diode.



Symbol forward biasing Reverse biasing

→ the D.C voltage can be applied to the Zener diode so as to make it forward biased or reverse biased. practically zener diodes are operated in Reverse biased mode.

Characteristics of Zener diode

In the forward biased conditions, in similar rectifier diode and the zener diode operates in similar fashion. But the zener diode is designated to be operated in the reverse biased condition. In Reverse biased conditions, the diode carriers reverse saturation current until the reverse breakdown voltage is reached. When the reverse breakdown voltage is exceeded, reverse breakdown current increases rapidly, but the voltage across it remains almost constant such that the current through it is almost constant in the breakdown region for a rectifier diode. The normal operating region for a rectifier diode and a Zener diode

⇒ The breakdown characteristics for a Zener diode is significantly important, as it is an operating region for the diode. When the reverse voltage applied to a Zener diode is increased, initially the current through it is very small, of the order of few mA or less. This is the reverse leakage current of the diode, denoted by  $I_0$ . At a certain reverse voltage current through Zener diode increases rapidly. The change from a low value to large value of current is very sharp and well defined. Such a sharp change in the reverse characteristics is

Called knee or zener knee of the curve. At this knee, a breakdown is said to occur in the device. The reverse bias voltage at which the breakdown occurs is called zener breakdown voltage denoted by  $V_z$ .

⇒ The voltage  $V_z$  is set by carefully controlling the doping level during manufacturing process.

⇒ The current corresponding to a knee point is called zener knee current and it is a minimum current  $I_{zmin}$  must carry to operate in reverse breakdown region. It is denoted by  $I_{zk}$  or  $I_{zmin}$ .

⇒ From the bottom of the knee, the zener breakdown voltage remains almost constant through it increases slightly as the zener current  $I_z$  increases.

⇒ The current at which the nominal zener breakdown voltage is specified is called zener test current denoted by  $I_{ztest}$ .

⇒ This value and corresponding zener voltage  $V_z$  are specified on a data sheet of a zener diode. Every zener diode has a capacity to carry current. As current increases, the power dissipation  $P_z = V_z I_z$  increases. If this dissipation increases beyond certain value the diode may be damaged.

⇒ The maximum current a zener diode can carry is called zener maximum current and is denoted by  $I_{zm}$ .

⇒ In practical circuits, to limit the zener current

b/w  $I_{zmin}$  and  $I_{zm}$ , a current limiting resistor is used in series with the zener diode.

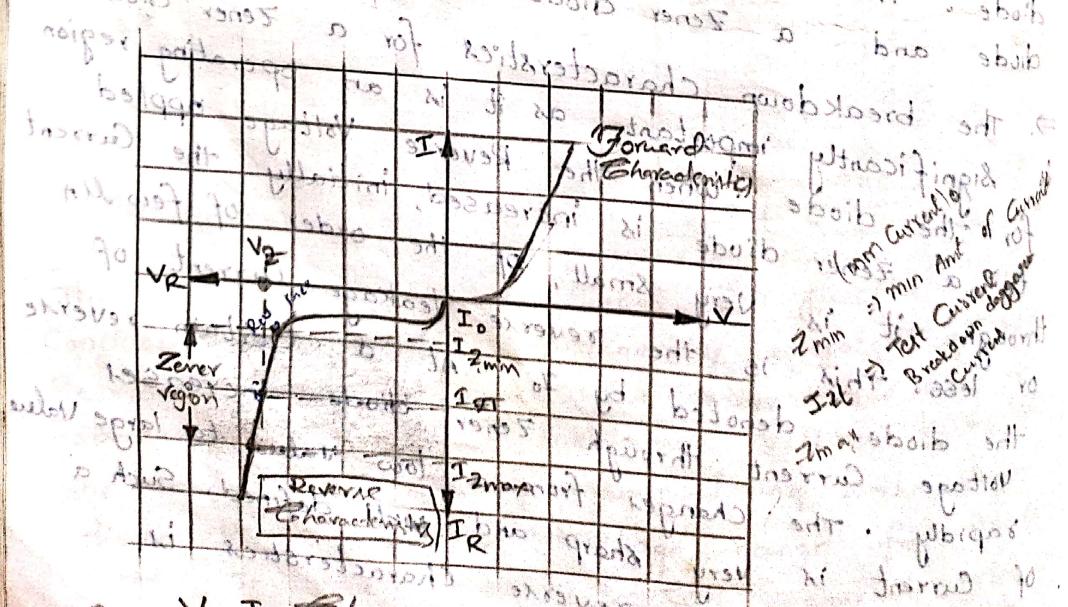


Fig. V-I Characteristics of zener diode

Transfer of resistance from low resistance to high resistance  
Junction Transistor :- Current flow in Bi-directional way  
 Junction Transistor :- Current Controlled device  
 In 1951, William invented the first junction transistor  
 a Semiconductor that can be used to amplify electronic signals  
 such as radio and television signals. It is essential  
 ingredient of every electronic circuit, from the  
 simplest amplifier or oscillator to the most elaborate  
 digital computer. Thus a proper understanding of  
 transistor is very important.  
 Before transistor was achieved by using  
 vacuum tubes as an amplifier. Now a days  
 vacuum tubes are replaced by transistors  
 because of following advantages of transistors

- ⇒ Low operating voltage
  - ⇒ Higher efficiency
  - ⇒ Small size and ruggedness and
  - ⇒ Does not require any filament power.
- Transistor operating Region  
 in Active Region
- |                    |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|                    | $F.B$              | $R.B$              |
| $V_{BE}$ to $-V_E$ | $V_{CE}$ to $-V_E$ | $V_{CE}$ to $+V_C$ |
- Transistor is a three terminal device : Base, Emitter and Collector, can be operated in three configurations Common base, Common emitter and Common collector. According to Configuration it can be used for amplification. The input signal of sharp small amplitude is applied at the base to get the magnified output signal at the collector. Thus provides an amplification of the signal. The amplification in the transistor is achieved by passing input current signal from a region of low resistance to a region of high resistance. The concept of transfer of resistance has given the name (Transistor). In transistor, the output current is controlled or, the Input current and hence it is a Current Controlled device. There are two types of transistors unipolar and bipolar junction transistor. In unipolar transistor the current conduction is only due to one type of carrier, majority carriers. The

Current conduction in bipolar transistor is because of both the types of charge carriers holes and electrons. Hence this is called Bipolar Junction transistor hereafter referred as a.

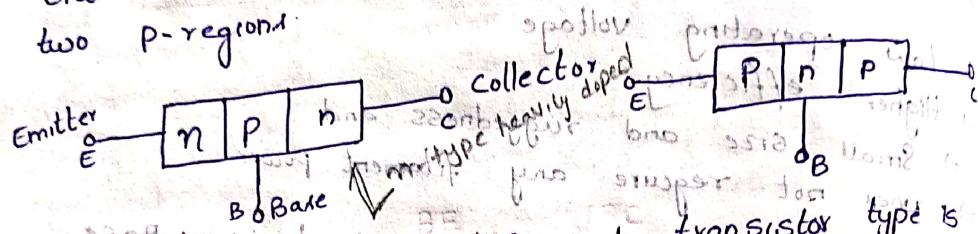
They are two types:

1) n-p-n type

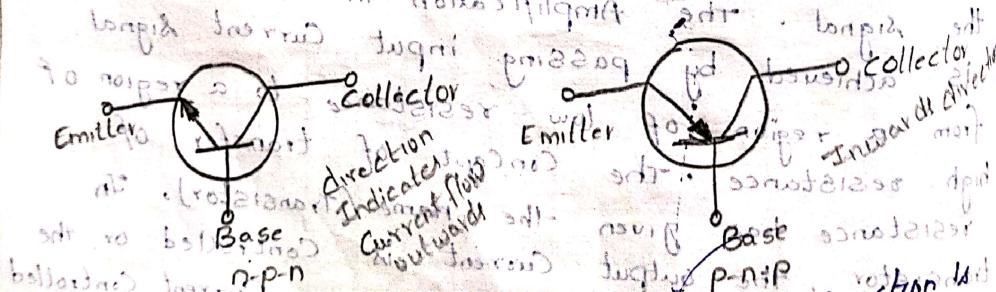
2) p-n-p type

Structure of Bipolar junction Transistor:

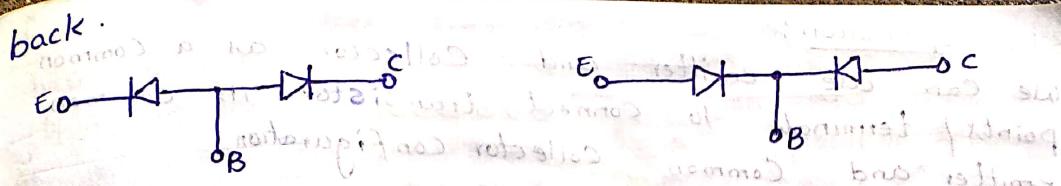
Structure of Bipolar junction Transistor is formed by sandwiching when a transistor is between two n-regions. It is a single p-region between two n-regions. The p-n-p type is an n-p-n type transistor. The p-n-p type transistor has a single n-region between two p-regions.



⇒ The middle region of each transistor type is called the base of the transistor. The remaining two regions are very thin and lightly doped. The remaining two regions are called emitter and collector. The emitter and collector are heavily doped. But the doping level of collector is slightly greater than that of base. The collector is slightly greater than that of base. The collector region-area is slightly more than that of emitter with respect to base.



A transistor has two p-n junctions. One junction is between the emitter and the base and is called the emitter-base junction or simply the emitter junction. The other junction is between the base and the collector and is called the collector-base junction. Simply collector junction is. Thus transistor is like two pn junction diode connected back to back.



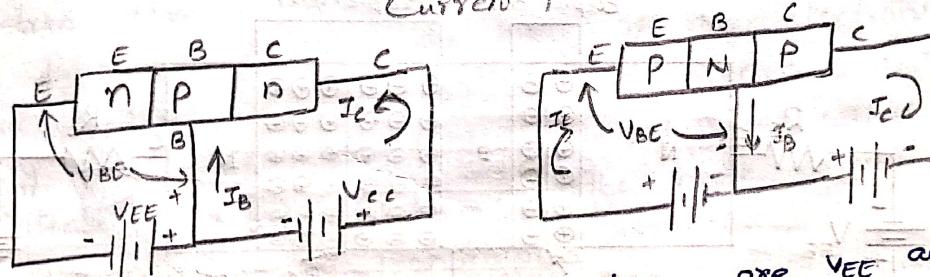
### Biased Transistor

In order to operate transistor properly as an amplifier, it is necessary to correctly the two p-n junction with external voltages. Depending upon external bias voltage polarities used, the transistor works in one of the three regions:

- 1) Active region
- 2) cut-off region
- 3) saturation region

Region	Emitter base function	Collector base function
Active	forward biased	Reverse biased
Cut-off	Reverse biased	Reverse biased
Saturation	forward biased	Forward biased

⇒ To bias the transistor in its active region, the emitter base junction is forward biased while the collector - base junction is reverse biased. Current flow is opposite to electron movement.



The externally applied bias voltages are  $V_{EE}$  and  $V_{CC}$ . The operation of the n-p-n is the same for the p-n-p, except that the roles of the electrons and holes, the biasing voltages polarities and the current directions are all reversed. Note that in both cases, the base-emitter ( $J_E$ ) junction is forward biased and the collector-base junction ( $J_C$ ) is reverse biased.

With these biasing conditions, what happens inside the transistor is:

- Revere Bias → Reverse Bias
- Forward Bias → Forward Bias

Junction Emitter	Junction collector	Cutoff Region (OFF)
Revere Bias	Forward Bias	Saturated Region (ON)
Forward Bias	Revere Bias	Active Region (Amplifier)

F.B → R.B  
R.B → F.B  
R.B → R.B  
F.B → F.B

weak signal → high signal (strengthens)

BJT Operation :-

We can use emitter and collector as a common points / terminals to connect transistor in common emitter and common collector configuration.

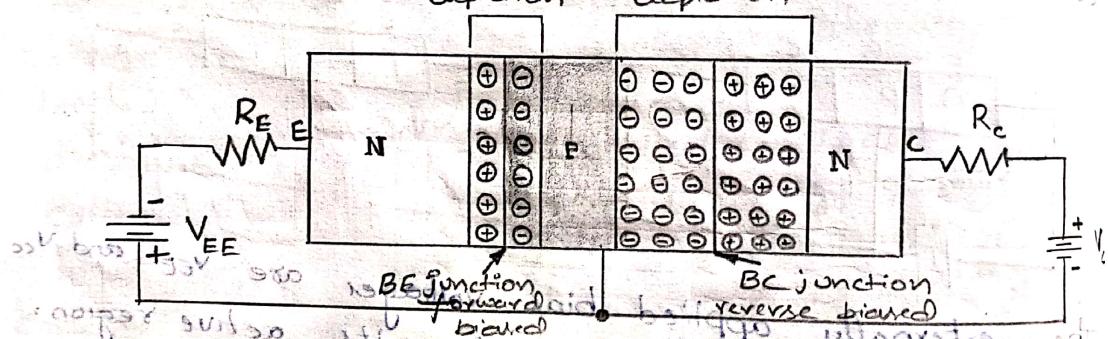
- 1) Common base Configuration  $\rightarrow$  Input  $I_B$  output  $I_C$  collector  $I_C$  apply current source.
- 2) Common emitter Configuration  $\Rightarrow$  current gain  $\beta$  voltage gain  $-g_m$ .
- 3) Common Collector Configuration  $\Rightarrow$  current gain  $\beta$  voltage gain  $-g_m$ .

Key point :-

Regardless of circuit configuration, the base-emitter junction is always forward biased while the collector-base junction is always reverse biased, to operate transistor in active region.

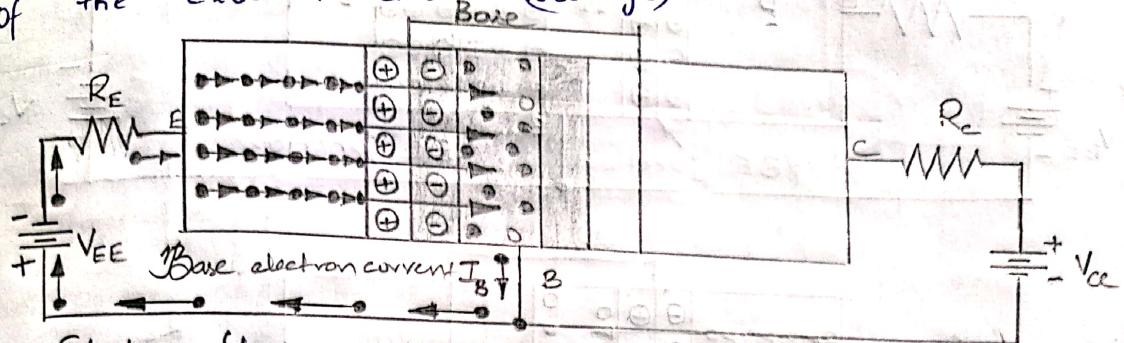
Operation of NPN Transistor :-

Let us consider the NPN transistor. The base-to-emitter junction is forward biased by the DC source  $V_{EE}$ . Thus the depletion region at this junction is reduced. The collector-to-base junction is reverse biased, increasing depletion region at collector-to-base junction.

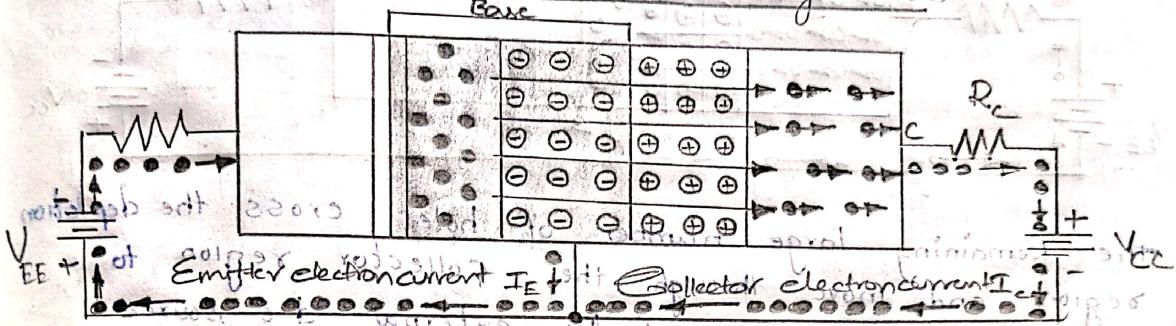


The forward biased EB junction causes the electrons in the n-type emitter to flow towards the p-type base. This constitutes the emitter current  $I_E$ . As these electrons flow through the p-type base, they combine with holes in the p-region. We know that the base region is very thin and lightly doped. The light doping means that the free electrons have a long life time in the base region. The very thin base region means that the free electrons have only a short distance to go to reach the collector. For these two very few of the electrons injected into the base

from the emitter recombine with holes to constitute base current,  $I_B$  and the remaining large number of electrons cross the base region and move through the collector region to the positive terminal of the external d.c (storage) source.



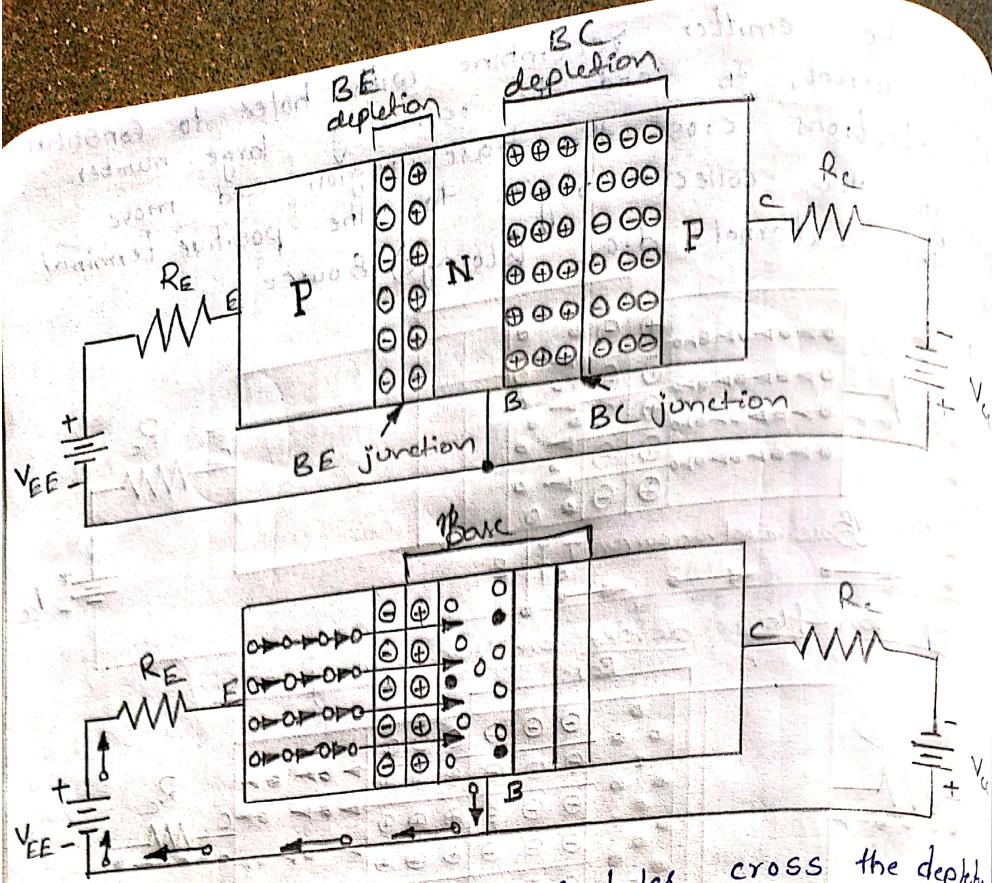
Electron flow across emitter-base junction



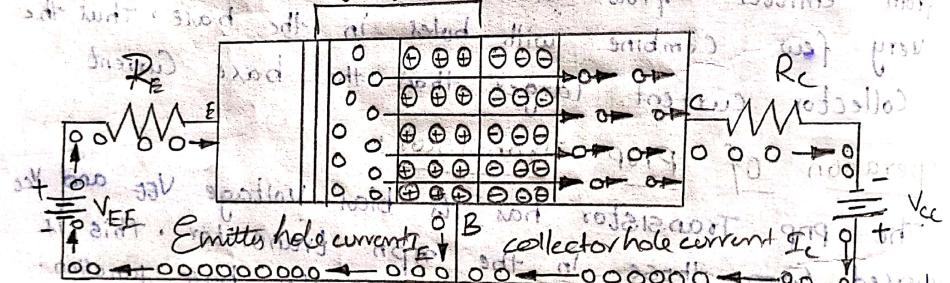
Electron flow across base-collector junction thus the this constitutes collector current  $I_C$ , thus the electron flow constitutes the dominant current in an npn transistor. Since, the most of the electrons from emitter flow in the collector circuit and very few combine with holes in the base. Thus the collector current larger than the base current.

### Operation of PNP Transistor:

The PNP Transistor has its bias voltage  $V_{EE}$  and  $V_{CC}$  reversed from those in the NPN transistor. This is necessary to forward bias the emitter-base junction and reverse bias for collector-base junction. The forward biased EB junction causes the holes in the p-type emitter to flow towards the base. These holes constitute the emitter current  $I_E$ . As these holes flow through the n-type base they tend to combine with electrons in n-region. The base is very thin and lightly doped, very few of the holes escape injected into the base from the emitter recombine with electrons to constitute base current  $I_B$ .



the remaining large number of holes cross the depletion region and move through the collector region to the negative terminal of the external d.c. source the negative terminal of the external d.c. source the collector current  $I_C$ . Thus the hole current constitutes the dominant current in a PNP transistor.



Highly doped emitter ensures that the emitter current consists almost entirely of holes in a PNP transistor and almost entirely of electrons in an NPN transistor. Such a situation is desired since the current which results from electrons or from holes crossing the emitter junction from the emitter does not contribute carriers which can diffuse back to the emitter. Reach the collector.

Transistor Voltages and Currents is sent with help of collector  
the Common emitter configuration is widely used amongst three transistor configurations. The main reason for the wide spread use of this circuit arrangement is that the CE configuration is the only configuration which provides both voltage gain as well as current gain greater than unity. In case of CB configuration current gain is less than unity and in case of CC configuration voltage gain is less than unity.

The power gain is a product of voltage gain and current gain. CE configuration provides voltage gain nearly equal to voltage gain provided by CB configuration and current gain nearly equal to current gain provided by CC configuration. Thus the power gain provided by the CE amplifier is much greater than the power gain provided by the other two configurations and is controlled mainly by the other two configurations and current gain in CB and current gain in CC.

Current (voltage gain in CC and current gain in CB are less than unity)

In a common emitter circuit, the ratio of output resistance to input resistance is small (say, range from 10 $\Omega$  to 100 $\Omega$ ). This makes the configuration non-ideal.

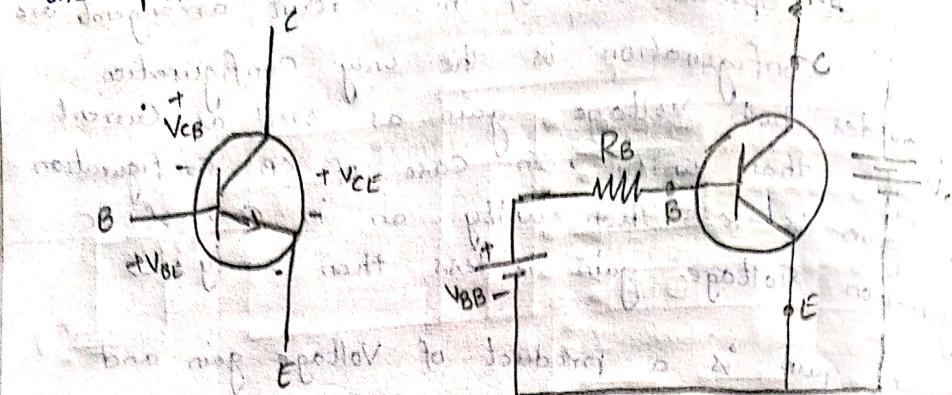
for coupling b/w various transistor stages. However, in other connections, the ratio of output resistance to input resistance is very large and hence coupling becomes highly inefficient due to large mismatch of

Note :- Maximum power is transferred from stage 1 to stage 2 when output resistance of stage 1 is equal to the input resistance of stage 2.

Transistor Voltages  
The terminal voltages and its polarities for an n-p-n transistor. The voltage between base and emitter is denoted as  $v_{BE}$ . For n-p-n transistor, the base is biased positive with respect to the emitter because for n-p-n transistor, the collector is biased positive with respect to the emitter.

The voltage b/w the collector and the voltage b/w the

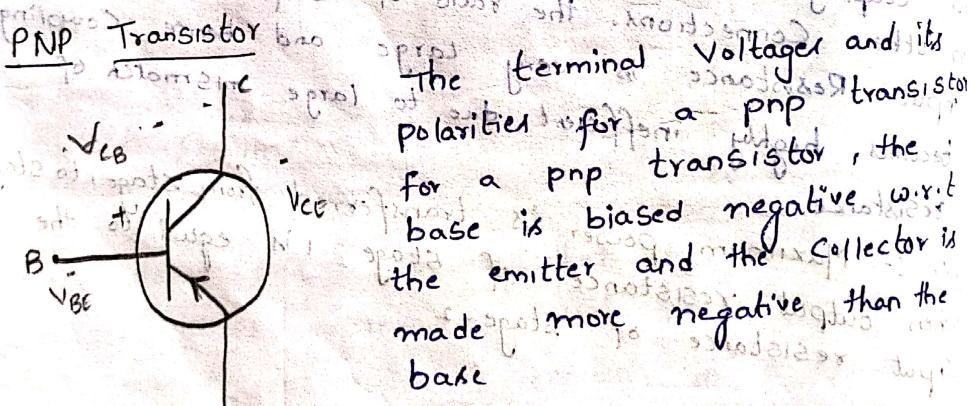
Collector and the base is denoted as  $V_{CB}$ . Since Collector is positive with respect to base and emitter, the polarities



npn transistor having connections for npn trans

voltage source

$\Rightarrow$  the npn transistor with voltage source connection  
The voltage sources are connected to the transistor with series resistors. These resistors are called current limiting resistors. The base supply voltage  $V_{BB}$  is connected via resistor  $R_B$  and the collector supply voltage  $V_{CC}$  is connected via resistor  $R_C$ . The negative terminals of both the supply voltages are connected to emitter terminal of the transistor. To make CB junction reverse biased, the supply voltage  $V_{CC}$  is always much larger than supply voltage  $V_{BB}$ .



The terminal voltages and its polarities for a pnp transistor, the base is biased negative with respect to emitter and the collector is made more negative than the base.

Current Amplification factors Alpha ( $\alpha$ ) and Beta ( $\beta$ )

In transistor, the emitter current  $I_E$  is always equal to the sum of base and collector currents  $I_B$  and  $I_C$  respectively. This is true for both types of transistors. Hence

$$I_E = I_B + I_C$$



$\alpha_{dc}$  is defined as the ratio of the collector current resulting from carrier injection to the total emitter current. Current gain  $g_t$  is the ratio of collector current to collector current resulting from base current. Hence  $\alpha_{dc} = \frac{I_c}{I_E}$ . Since  $I_c < I_E$ , the value of  $\alpha_{dc}$  is always less than unity.  $g_t$  ranges from 0.95 to 0.995. It represents the current gain in the CB configuration.

$\Rightarrow \beta_{dc}$  :  $g_t$  is defined as the ratio of the collector current to the base current.

$$\beta_{dc} = \beta = \frac{I_c}{I_B}$$

Relation b/w  $\alpha$  &  $\beta$

$$W.K.T \quad \beta = \frac{I_c}{I_B}$$

$$I_E = I_B + I_c$$

$$I_E = I_c + I_B \quad i.e. \quad I_B = I_E - I_c$$

$$\text{Dividing numerator and denominator of R.H.S of eq by } (I_E) \quad \beta = \frac{I_c / I_E}{I_E / I_E - I_c / I_E}$$

$$\text{Dividing numerator and denominator of R.H.S of eq by } (I_E) \quad \beta = \frac{\alpha}{1 - \alpha}$$

$$\alpha = \frac{I_c}{I_E}$$

$$\alpha = \frac{I_c}{I_B + I_c} \quad I_E = I_B + I_c$$

$$\alpha = \frac{I_c / I_B}{I_B / I_B + I_c / I_B} \quad \text{Dividing numerator & denominator with } I_B$$

$$\alpha = \frac{\beta}{1 + \beta}$$

$$\beta = \frac{I_c}{I_B}$$

$$\alpha = \frac{I_c}{I_E}$$

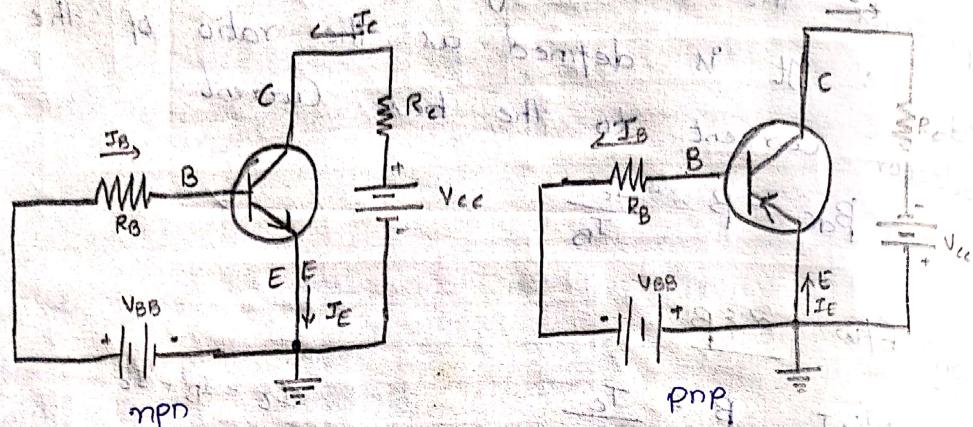
$$\beta = \frac{I_c}{I_B}$$

To understand more detail



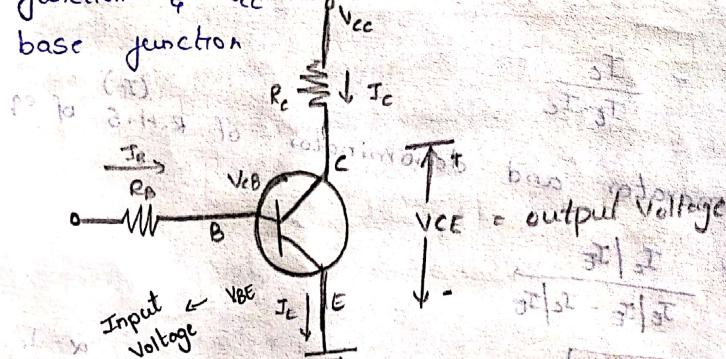
## Common emitter Characteristics

In this Configuration input is applied between base & emitter and output is taken from collector and emitter. Here emitter of the transistor is common to both input and output Circuits and hence the name Common emitter Configuration. Common emitter Configuration for both n-p-n and p-n-p transistors.

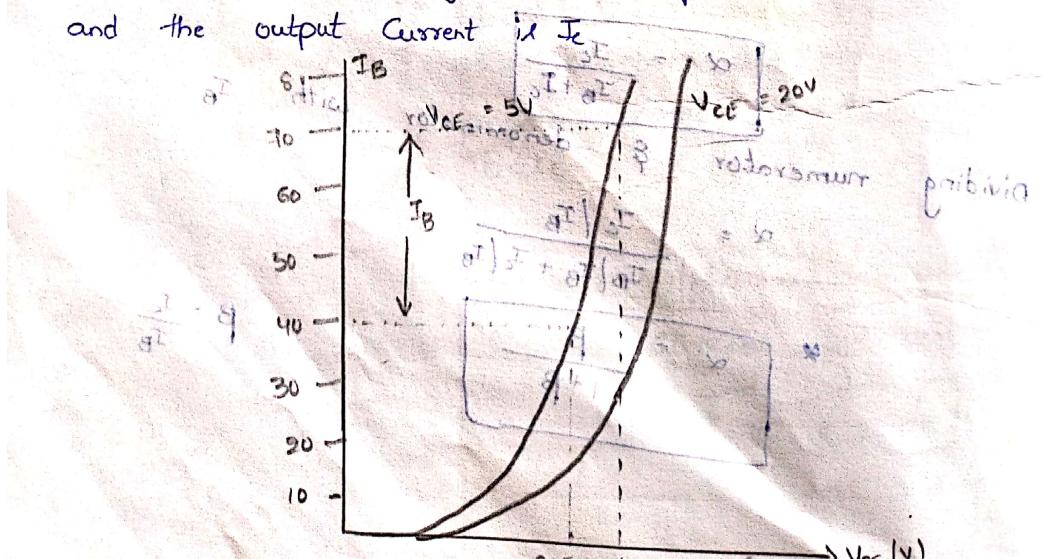


The bias voltage  $V_{BB}$  forward biases the base-emitter junction &  $V_{CC}$  is used to reverse bias the collector-base junction.

Show the Input Voltage and Output Voltage & Currents for the Common-emitter Configuration



$\Rightarrow$  The input voltage in the CE Configuration is the base-emitter voltage and the output voltage is the collector-emitter voltage. The input current is  $I_B$  and the output current is  $I_C$ .



Input Characteristics of Transistor

Input characteristic output Current Controlled by Input Current.  
 It is the Curve b/w Input Current  $I_B$  (base current) and input voltage  $V_{BE}$  (Base-emitter Voltage) at constant collector-emitter Voltage,  $V_{CE}$ . The base current is taken along y-axis and base emitter voltage  $V_{BE}$  is taken along x-axis. The Input characteristic of a typical transistor in Common-emitter Configuration.

⇒ As the Input to a transistor in the CE configuration is b/w the base to emitter junction, the CE input characteristic resembles of a family of forward biased diode curve.

⇒ After the Cut-in Voltage the base current ( $I_B$ ) increases rapidly with small increase in base-emitter voltage ( $V_{BE}$ ). It means that dynamic input resistance is small in CE configuration. It is the ratio of change in base-emitter voltage ( $\Delta V_{BE}$ ) to the resulting change in base current ( $\Delta I_B$ ) at constant collector-emitter voltage  $V_{CE}$ .

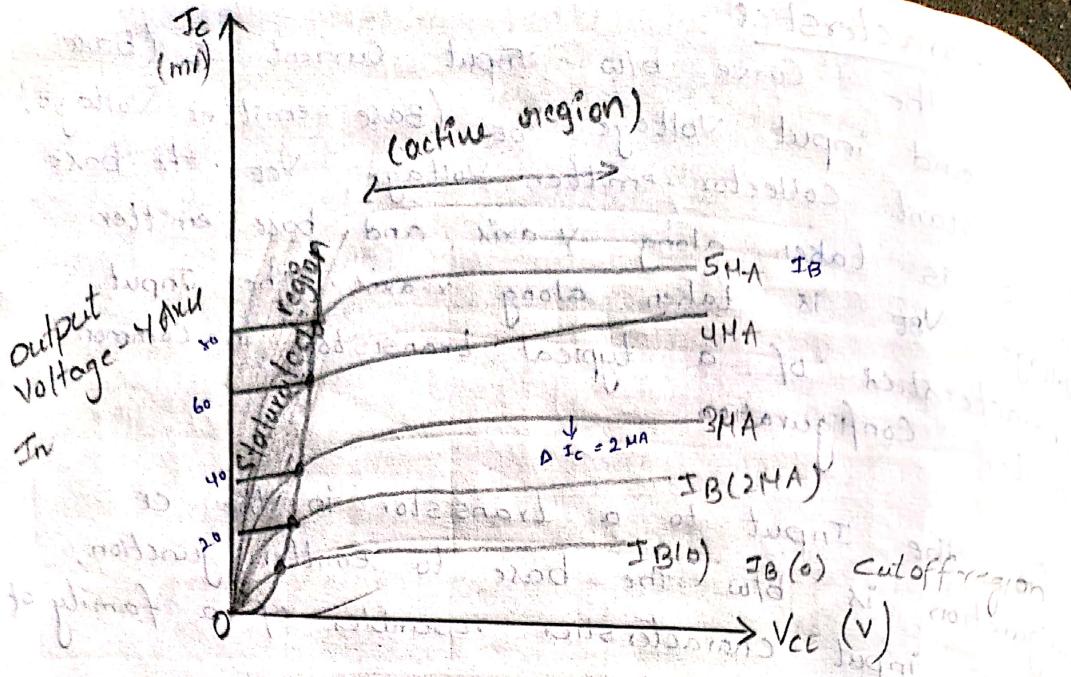
$$\text{Ratio } \frac{\Delta I_B}{\Delta V_{BE}} = r_i = \text{dynamic resistance}$$

⇒ For a fixed value of  $V_{BE}$ ,  $r_i$  results in  $V_{CE}$  increased. A larger value of  $V_{CE}$  is increased at collector-base P-n junction due to large reverse bias at collector-base P-n junction and reduced the depletion region and recombination in the base region, reducing the base current  $I_B$ .

B) Output characteristic

i) This characteristic shows other relation b/w the collector current  $I_C$  and collector-emitter voltage  $V_{CE}$  for various fixed values of  $I_B$ . This characteristic is often called collector characteristic. A typical family of output characteristics for an n-p-n transistor in CE configuration is shown below.





2) The value of  $\beta_{dc}$  of the transistor can be found at any point on the characteristic by taking the ratio of  $I_c$  and  $I_b$  at that point i.e.  $\beta_{dc} = \frac{I_c}{I_b}$ . This is known as DC beta for the transistor for a fixed value of  $V_{ce}$ . If we take the ratio of small changes in  $I_c$  to small changes in  $I_b$ ,  $\Delta I_b$  we get AC beta;

$$\beta_{dc} = \frac{\Delta I_c}{\Delta I_b} \quad | \quad \Delta V_{ce} = 0$$

3) From the output characteristic we can see that change in collector-emitter voltage ( $\Delta V_{ce}$ ) causes little change in the collector current for constant base current  $I_b$ . Thus the output dynamic resistance is high in CE configuration.

4) The output characteristic of common emitter configuration consists of three regions: Active, Saturation and Cut-off.

Active region: The region where the curves are approximately horizontal is the active region of the CE configuration. In the active region, the collector junction is reverse biased. As  $V_{ce}$  increases, reverse bias increases. This causes depletion region to spread more in base than collector, reducing the chance of recombination.

in the base. This increases the value of  $\alpha_{dc}$ . This early effect causes collector current to rise more sharply with increasing  $V_{CE}$  in the linear region of output characteristics of CE transistor.

From Kirchoff's Current Law (KCL)

We have  $I_E = I_C + I_B$

Sub value of  $I_E$  in eq. eq

$$I_C = \alpha(I_C + I_B) + I_{CO}$$

$$I_C(1-\alpha) = \alpha I_B + I_{CO}$$

$$I_C = \frac{\alpha I_B}{1-\alpha} + \frac{I_{CO}}{1-\alpha}$$

$$\beta = \frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha}$$

$$I_C = \beta I_B + (1+\beta) I_{CO}$$

usually  $I_B > I_{CO}$  and hence  $I_C = \beta I_B$  in the Active region.

Saturation region:- If  $V_{CE}$  is reduced to a small value, such as 0.2V, then collector base junction becomes forward biased. Since the emitter base junction is already forward biased by 0.7V. The input junction in bced configuration is biased to operate transistor in active region. Thus, input characteristics of CE configuration is similar to forward characteristics of P-n junction diode, when both the junctions are forward biased, the transistor operated in the saturation region. The saturation value on the output characteristics is indicated by  $V_{CE}$  designated  $V_{CE}$ , usually ranges between 0.1V to 0.3V.

2) cut-off region : when the input base current is made equal to zero, the collector current is the reverse leakage current  $I_{CEO}$ . The region below  $I_B = 0$  is the cut-off region of operation for the transistor. In this region, both the junctions of the transistor are reverse biased.

$$I_B = 0$$

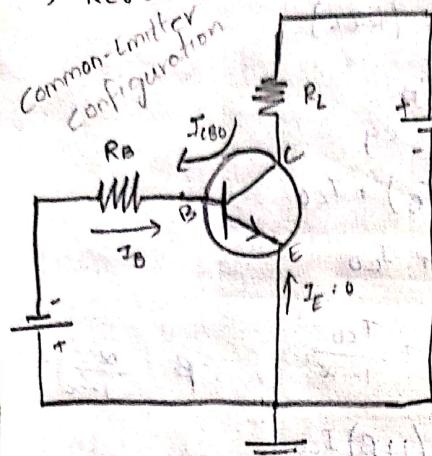
$$I_C = I_E$$

$$I_C = (1+\beta) I_{CO} = \frac{I_{CO}}{1-\alpha} = I_{CEO}$$



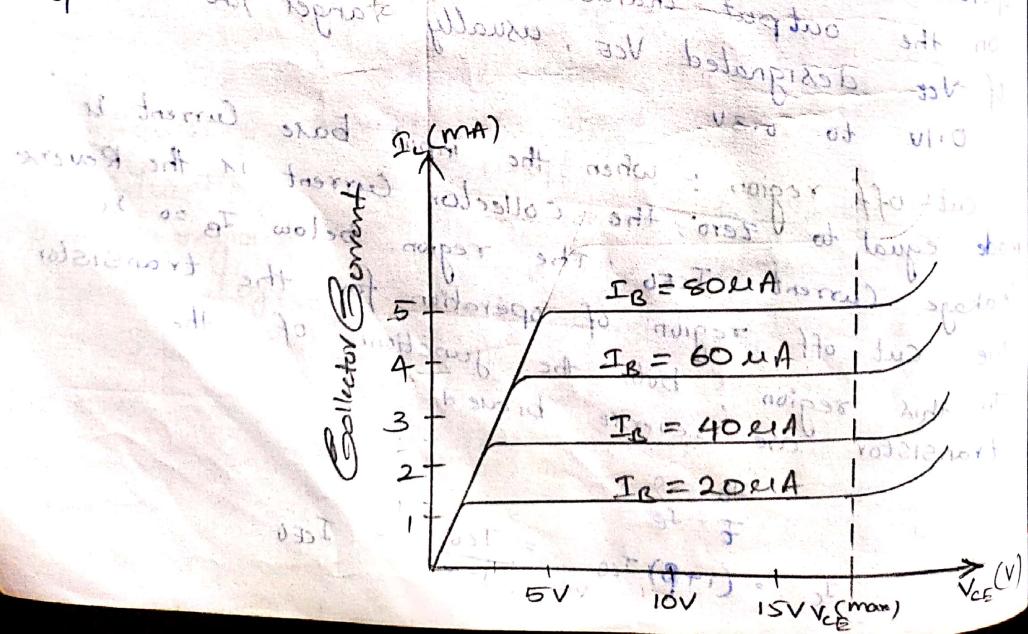
The actual collector current with collector junction reverse biased and base open-circuited is designated by the symbol  $I_{CEO}$ .

### 8) Reverse Collector Saturation Current:



The collector current in a physical transistor when the emitter current is zero is designated by the symbol  $I_{CBO}$ . The  $|I_{CBO}|$  is larger than  $I_{CO}$  since it also constitutes leakage current around the junction and across the surface. Another reason why  $I_{CBO}$  exceeds  $I_{CO}$  is that new carriers may be generated by collision in the collector junction transition region leading to avalanche multiplication of current & eventual breakdown. The  $I_{CBO}$  is a temperature positive. It approximately doubles for every  $10^{\circ}\text{C}$  increase in temperature for both Ge and Si.

9) In the active region, the collector base junction is reverse biased for every transistor there is a limit on the maximum value for this reverse bias voltage. If this limit is exceeded then breakdown occurs in the transistor. This effect is commonly known as punch-through effect. So to avoid damage to the transistor, the maximum collector emitter voltage rating  $V_{CE}$  should never be exceeded for safe operation of the transistor.



# Field effect Transistors

## Background

The field effect Transistor abbreviated as FET is another semiconductor device like a BJT which can be used as an amplifier or switch, like BJT, FET is also a three terminal device however, the principle of operation of FET is completely different from that of BJT.

The three terminals of FET are named as Drain(D), Source(S) and gate(G). Out of these three terminals, gate terminal acts as a controlling terminal.

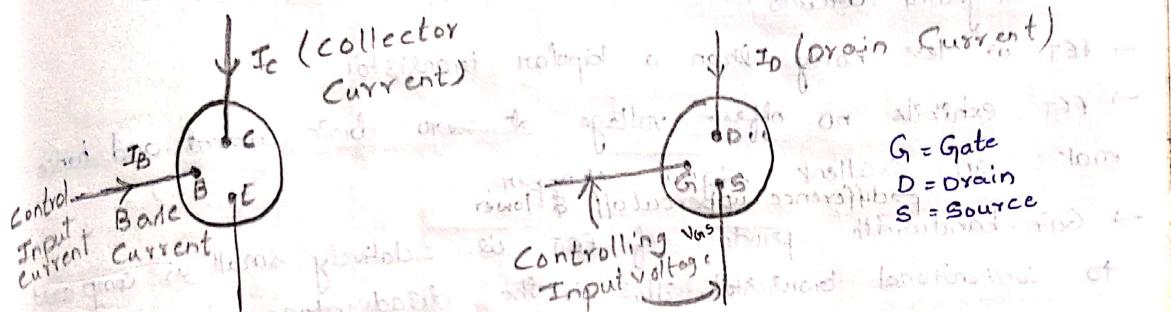


Fig 7.1 Controlling element for BJT & FET

FET: Voltage Controlled Device

Input voltage controls output current in Control Chetundhi

As shown in the fig. 7.1, in BJT the output current,  $I_C$  is controlled by the base current  $I_B$ . Hence BJT is a current controlled device. On the other hand, in FET, the voltage applied between gate and source ( $V_{GS}$ ) controls the drain current  $I_D$ . Therefore, FET is a voltage controlled device. The name "Field Effect" is derived from the fact that the output current flow is controlled by an electric field set up in the device by an externally applied voltage between gate and source terminals.

FET: Unipolar device

We know that in BJT, the current is carried by both electrons and holes, and hence the name "bipolar" junction transistor. However in FET, current is carried by only one type of charge particles, either electrons or holes. Hence FET is called unipolar device.

FET : Other important features

- Like BJT, the parameters of FET are also temperature dependent.
- In FET, as temperature increases drain resistance also increases, reducing the drain current. Thus unlike BJT, thermal stability does not occur with FET, thus we can say that FET is more temperature stable as compared to the BJT.
- FET has very high input impedance. Typically, it is in the range of one to several megohms. Because FETs have higher input impedance than BJTs they are preferred in amplifiers where high input impedance is required.
- FETs require less space than for BJTs, hence they are preferred in integrated circuits.
- FET is less noisy than a bipolar transistor.
- FET exhibits no offset voltage at zero drain current, and hence makes an excellent signal chopper.
- Gain-bandwidth product of FET is relatively small as compared to conventional transistor. This is the disadvantage of the FET.

FET: Different Types and Application Areas

The FETs are categorized as:

- Junction field Effect Transistors (JFETs),
- Metal Semiconductor field Effect Transistors (MESFETs)
- Metal Oxide Semiconductor field Effect Transistor (MOSFETs)

The JFETs and MESFETs are further classified into two types: n-channel JFET/MESFET and p-channel JFET/MESFET and MOSFETs are further classified into two types as, depletion MOSFET and enhancement MOSFET. The fig 7.2 shows the different types of FETs.

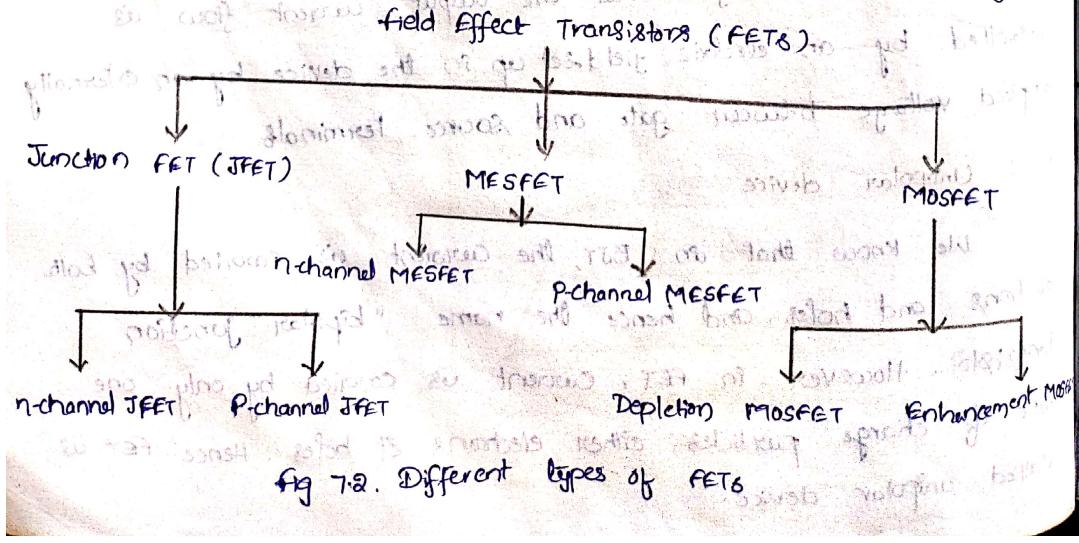


fig 7.2. Different types of FETs

## Construction of n-channel JFET and Symbol

The fig 7.3 shows structure and symbol of n-channel JFET. A small bar of extrinsic semiconductor material, n type is taken and at its two ends, two ohmic contacts are made which are the drain and source terminals of FET. Heavily doped electrodes of p type material form p-n junctions on each side of the bar. The thin region between the two p gates is called the channel. Since this channel is in the n-type bar, the FET is known as n-channel JFET.

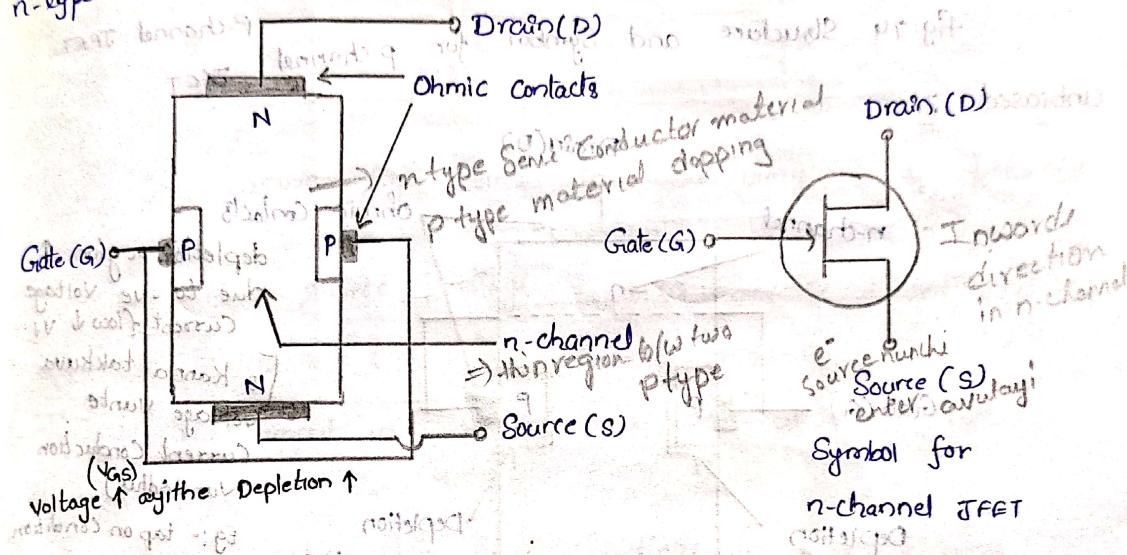


fig 7.3 Structure and Symbol for n-channel JFET

The electrons enter the channel through the terminal called 'source' and leave through the terminal called 'drain'. The terminals taken out from heavily doped electrodes of p type material are called 'gates'. Usually these electrodes are connected together and only one terminal is taken out, which is called 'gate', as shown in the fig 7.3.

Construction of p-channel JFET and Symbol

The device could be made of p-type bar with two n type gates as shown in the fig 7.4. Then this will be p-channel JFET. The principle of working of n-channel JFET and p-channel JFET is similar, the only difference being that in n-channel JFET the current is carried by electrons while in p-channel JFET, it is carried by holes.

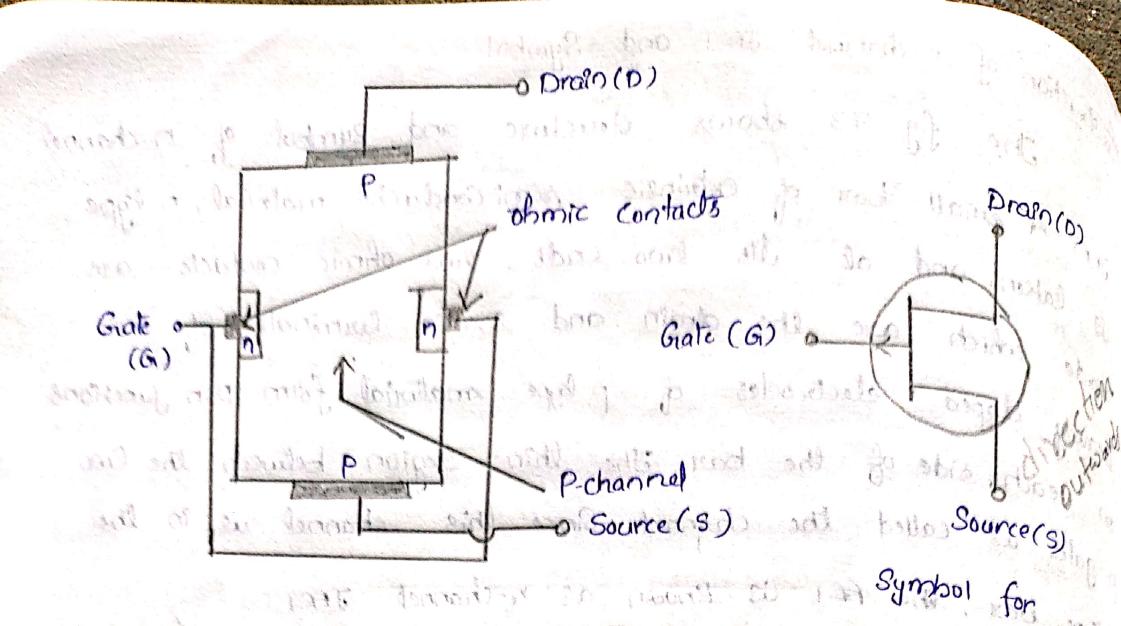


fig 74 Structure and Symbol for p-channel JFET

Unbiased JFET

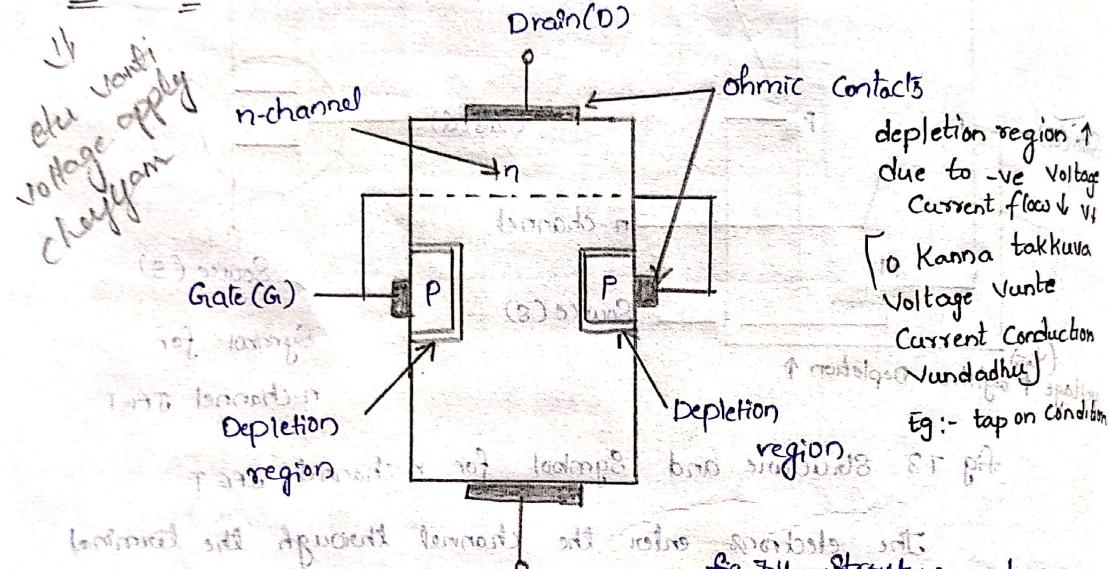
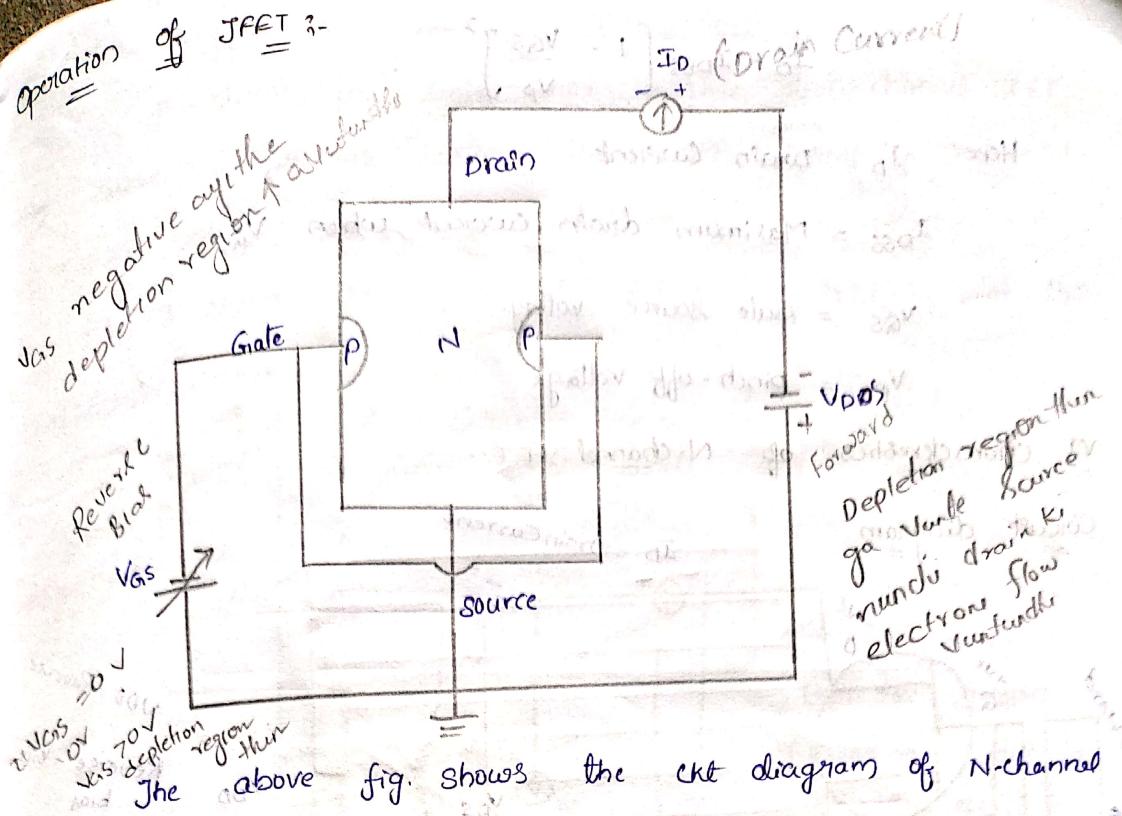


fig 74 Structure and symbol

fig 75 Junction field effect Transistor  
In the absence of any applied voltage, JFET has gate channel junctions under unbiased conditions. The result is a depletion region at each junction, as shown in fig 75.

This represents same depletion region of a diode under no bias conditions. Recall also that depletion region is that region which does not have any free carriers and therefore is unable to support conduction through the region.

These regions are present for depletion JFET because the gate biased negative from the drain and source regions. At other regions of behavior in forward and reverse direction, the effect will decrease in the JFET.



FET.

The Gate-source voltage  $V_{GS}$  is reverse biased and drain source voltage ( $V_{DS}$ ) is forward bias i.e., the input is reverse bias and it offers high resistance to negative voltage.

When reverse Gate-source voltage is kept constant. The drain current varies with output voltage ( $V_{DS}$ ).

When reverse  $V_{GS}$  increases, the channel width decreases consequently the drain current decreases.

i.e. The output drain current is controlled by output voltage.

As the reverse  $V_{GS}$  increases to a particular voltage, then the channel width is zero and drain current is also zero. This particular reverse voltage is known as "pinch off voltage". It is denoted by  $V_p$ .

From the above explanation it is clear that the drain current through N-channel is dependent upon the electric field extends with channel and provides the effect of decreasing in conduction to FET. Hence the name field effect transistor is given to its device.

$$I_D = I_{DSS} \left[ 1 - \frac{V_{GS}}{V_p} \right]^2$$

Here  $I_D$  = Drain Current

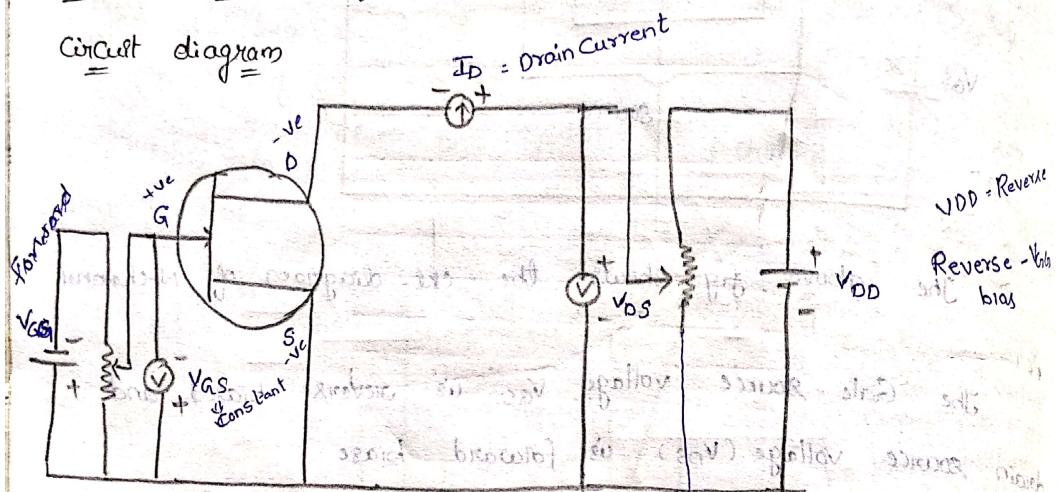
$I_{DSS}$  = Maximum drain current when  $V_{GS}$

$V_{GS}$  = Gate source voltage

$V_p$  = pinch-off voltage

VI characteristics of N-channel JFET:

Circuit diagram



The above fig. shows the ckt diagram of N-channel JFET.

JFET, this ckt consists of two d.c sources  $V_{GG}$  and  $V_{DD}$ . with forward biasing the drain source and  $V_{DD}$  reverse biasing the gate source and  $V_{GG}$ .

$V_{GG}$  source reverse biasing the gate source and  $V_{DD}$  forward biasing the drain source.

The two rheostats are used to varying input and output voltages.

A graph between output voltage  $V_{DS}$  and output current  $I_D$  at a constant input voltage  $V_{GS}$  is called Output characteristics of Drain characteristics.

Keeping the  $V_{GS}$  at a constant values. the drain source voltage ( $V_{DS}$ ) is varies. in small steps and note the drain current  $I_D$  values.

A graph drawn between  $V_{DS}$  &  $I_D$  at different fixed values of  $V_{GS}$ . The graph & table is shown in below.

### V-I characteristics for n-channel JFET

It shows the drain characteristics of n-channel JFET. The curves represent between the drain current  $I_D$  and drain to source voltage  $V_{DS}$  for the different  $V_{GS}$  values.

Fig. 7.9 shows the experimental setup required to plot the characteristics.

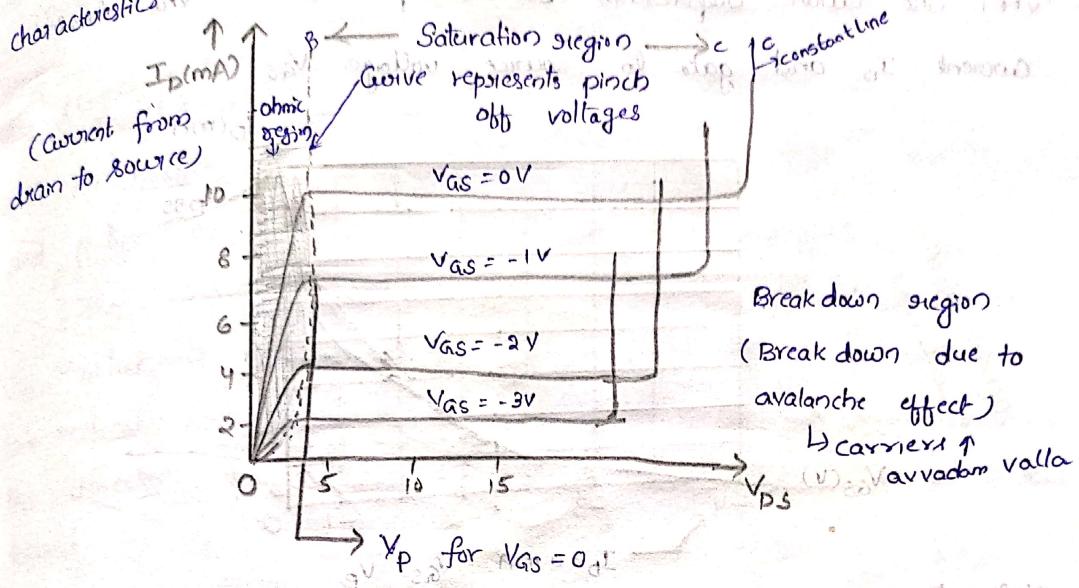


Fig. 7.8 Drain V-I characteristics of n-channel JFET

For various values of  $V_{DS}$ , the  $I_D$  is linearly increases with  $V_{DS}$ .

i.e., the FET behaves like ordinary resistor (i.e.) obeys the ohm's law and hence this region is called "ohmic region", the point A is called.

As  $V_{DS}$  further increases, the  $I_D$  is non linearly increases upto a point B, after that  $I_D$  remains constant and independent on  $V_{DS}$ .

The drain source voltage at which current remains constant above which voltage of  $V_{DS}$  is called Pinch-off voltage.

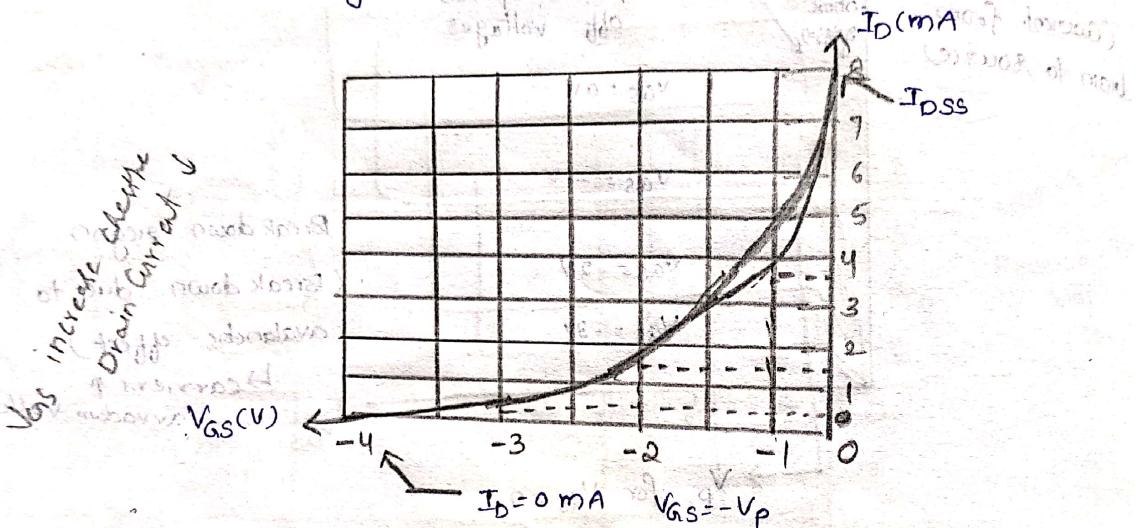
The region 'Bc' is called active region or pinch-off region or saturation region.

If  $V_{DS}$  is increased beyond this point C, the FET enters into breakdown region then voltage corresponding to point 'C' is known as "Avalanche breakdown".

In the above graph,  $I_{DSS}$  is the maximum drain current when gate is short circuited. When  $V_{GS} = 0V$  the drain to source current is zero.

Transfer characteristics of n-channel JFET

Fig 7.12 shows the transfer characteristics of n-channel JFET. The curve represents relationship between the drain current  $I_D$  and gate to source voltage  $V_{GS}$ .

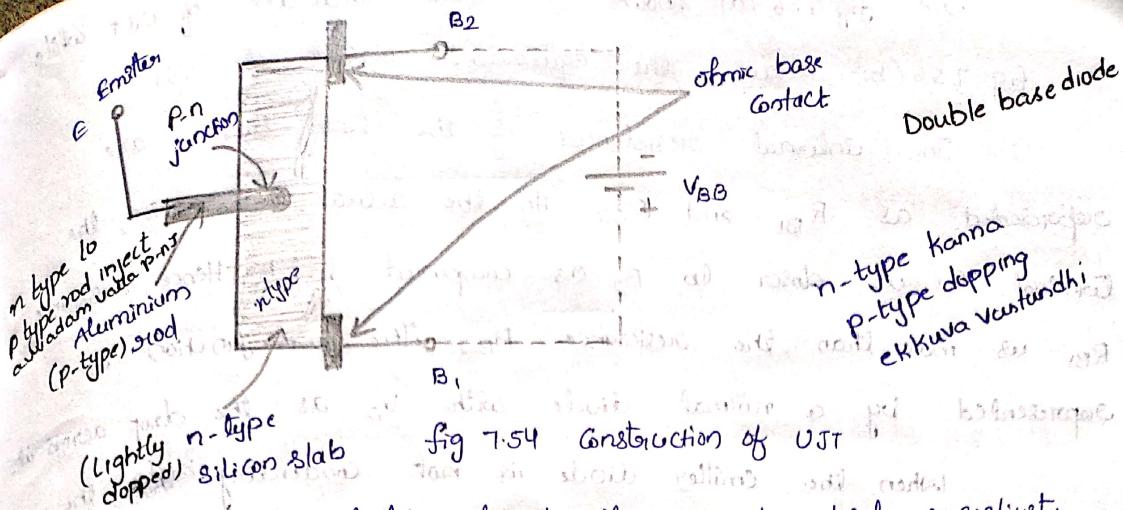


### Unijunction Transistor (UJT)

A unijunction transistor (UJT) is a device which does not belong to thyristor family but is used to trigger other devices.

It is three terminal device having two layers. It consists of a slab of lightly doped n-type silicon material. The two base contacts are attached to both the ends of this n-type surface. These are denoted as  $B_1$  and  $B_2$  respectively. A p-type material is used to form a p-n junction at the boundary of aluminium rod and n-type silicon slab. The third terminal called emitter ( $E$ ) is taken out from this p-type material. The n-type is lightly doped while p-type is heavily doped. The basic construction is shown in fig 7.54.

The UJT has built-in base region of  $n^+$  type of p-doped silicon and  $n^+$  type of n-doped silicon.



As n-type is lightly doped, it provides high resistivity  
and p-type as heavily doped, provides low resistivity.

The symbolic representation of UJT is shown in fig 7.55.  
The emitter is shown by an arrow which is at an angle to  
the vertical line representing n-type material. This arrow indicates  
the direction of flow of conventional current when UJT is forward  
biased.

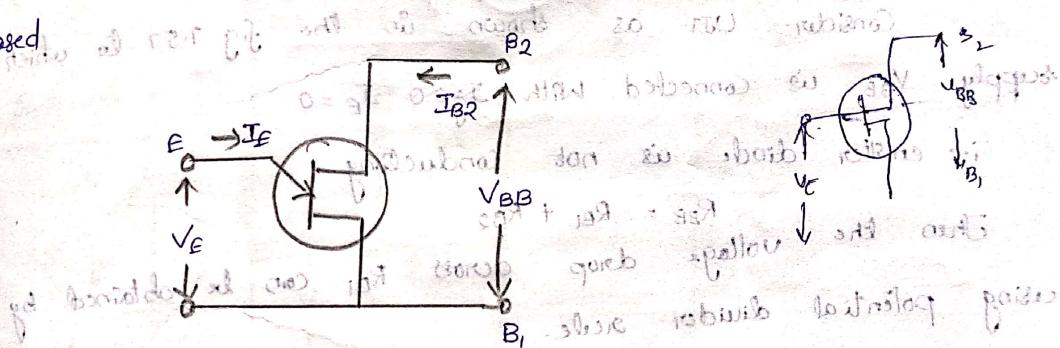
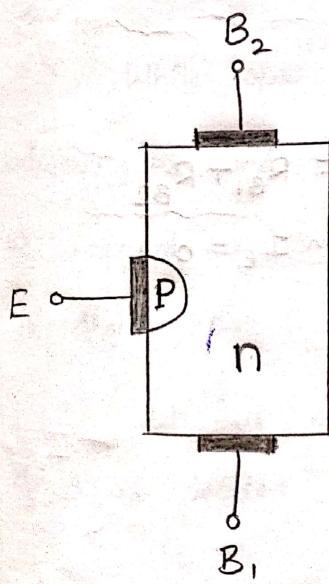
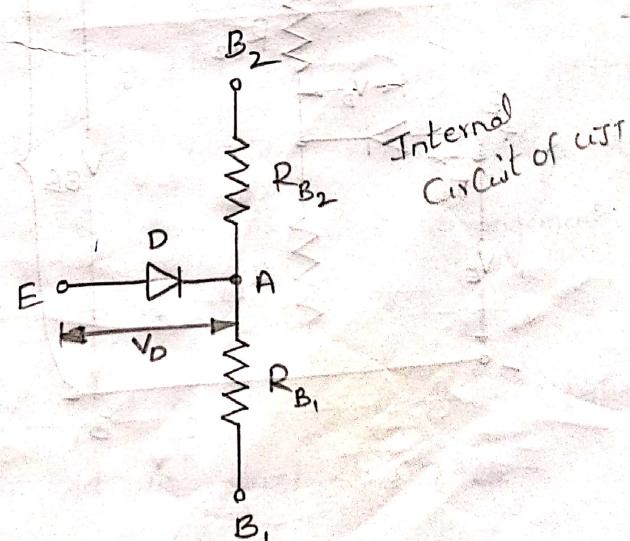


fig 7.55 Symbol of UJT

Equivalent circuit of UJT :- (diode conduct avvakopoth)



a) Structure



b) Equivalent circuit

The fig 7.56 (a) shows the basic structure of UJT while the fig 7.56 (b) shows the equivalent circuit of UJT.

The internal resistances of the two bases are represented as  $R_{B1}$  and  $R_{B2}$ . In the actual construction, the terminal E is closer to  $B_2$  as compared to  $B_1$ . Hence resistance  $R_{B1}$  is more than the resistance  $R_{B2}$ . The p-n junction is represented by a normal diode with  $V_D$  as the drop across it. When the emitter diode is not conducting then the resistance between the two bases  $B_1$  and  $B_2$  is called interbase resistance denoted as  $R_{BB}$ .

$$\therefore R_{BB} = R_{B1} + R_{B2}$$

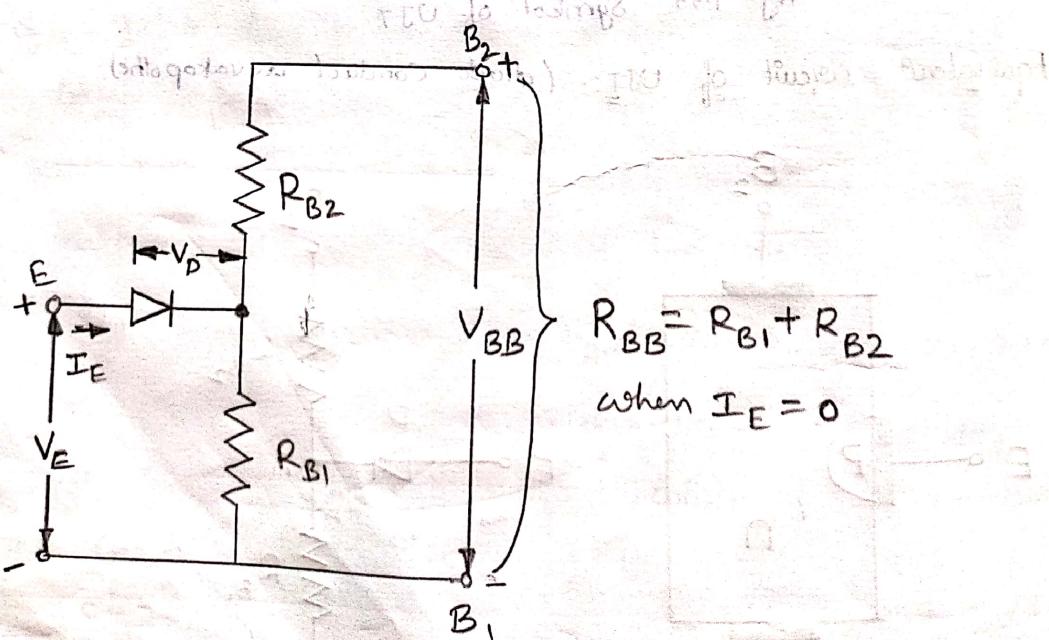
Its value ranges between  $4K\Omega$  and  $12K\Omega$ .

Intrinsic Stand off Ratio ( $\eta$ ) diode conduct at the

Consider UJT as shown in the fig 7.57 to which supply  $V_{BB}$  is connected. With  $I_E = 0$  i.e. emitter diode is not conducting

$$R_{BB} = R_{B1} + R_{B2}$$

Thus the voltage drop across  $R_{B1}$  can be obtained by using potential divider rule.



$$V_{RBI} = \frac{R_{B1} V_{BB}}{R_{B1} + R_{B2}} \rightarrow \text{Total applied voltage}$$

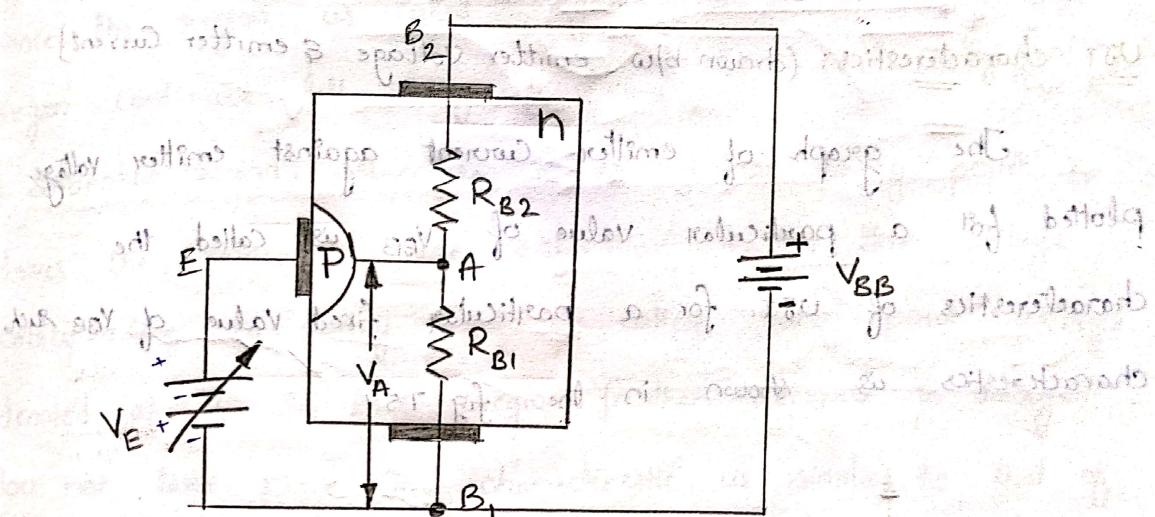
$$= \eta V_{BB} \text{ when } I_E = 0$$

where  $\eta = \text{Intrinsic stand off ratio} = \frac{R_{B1}}{R_{B1} + R_{B2}} \Big|_{I_E = 0}$

$$\eta = \frac{R_{B1}}{R_{B1} + R_{B2}} \Big|_{I_E = 0}$$

The typical range of  $\eta$  is from 0.5 to 0.8. The voltage  $V_{RBI}$  is called intrinsic stand off voltage because it keeps the emitter diode reverse biased for all the emitter voltage less than  $V_{RBI}$ .

Principle of operation.



While operating an UJT, the supply  $V_{BB}$  is applied between  $B_2$  and  $B_1$ , while the Variable emitter voltage  $V_E$  is applied across the emitter terminals. This arrangement is shown in fig 7.58.

Let us see the effect of change in  $V_E$ . The potential of A is decided by  $\eta$  and is equal to  $\eta V_{BB}$ .

$V_E$  = Applied Voltage  
 $V_A$  = Voltage at point A

Case 1:-  $V_E < V_A$   
As long as  $V_E$  is less than  $V_A$ , the p-n junction is reverse biased. Hence emitter current  $I_E$  will not flow. Thus UJT is said to be OFF.

$$V_p = V_A + V_D$$
$$V_p = V_0 + V_{RB1}$$
$$V_D = \text{Voltage drop across the diode}$$

Case 2:  $V_E > V_p$

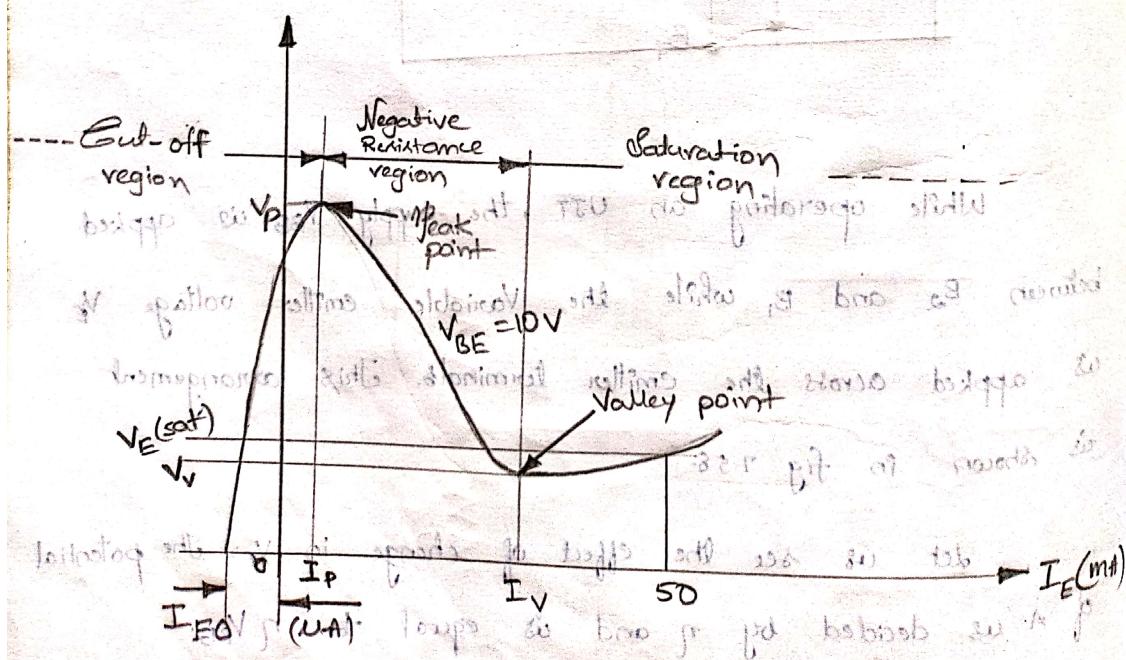
The diode drop  $V_D$  is generally between 0.3 to 0.7V. Hence we can write.

$$V_p = V_A + V_D = \eta V_{BB} + V_D$$

When  $V_E$  becomes equal to or greater than  $V_p$  the p-n junction becomes forward biased and current  $I_F$  flows. The UJT is said to be ON.

UJT characteristics: (drawn b/w emitter voltage & emitter current)

The graph of emitter current against emitter voltage plotted for a particular value of  $V_{BB}$  is called the characteristics of UJT. for a particular fixed value of  $V_{BB}$  such characteristics is shown in the fig 7.59.



The characteristics of can be divided into three main regions which are,

1. Cut-off region: The emitter voltage  $V_E$  is less than  $V_p$ .  
 $V_{JT(off\ condition)} = I_E \rightarrow 0$   
and the p-n junction is reverse biased. A small amount of reverse saturation current  $I_{EO}$  flows through the device, which is negligibly small of the order of  $\mu A$ . This condition remains till the peak point.

2. Negative resistance region: When the emitter voltage  $V_E$  becomes equal to  $V_p$  the p-n junction becomes forward biased and  $I_E$  starts flowing. The voltage across the device decreases in this region, though the current through the device increases. Hence the region is called negative resistance region. This region continues till Valley point. (peak point - valley point region)

3. Saturation region: Increase in  $I_E$  further Valley point  $V_V$  drives the device in the saturation region. The voltage corresponding to valley point is called valley point voltage denoted as  $V_V$ . In this region, further decrease in voltage does not take place. The characteristic is similar to that of a semiconductor diode, in this region.

The active region, i.e., negative resistance region, the holes which are large in number on P-side, get injected into N-side. This cause increase in free electrons on the N-type slab. This increases the conductivity i.e., decreases the resistivity. Hence the resistance  $R_B$  decreases in this region.

As the  $V_{BB}$  increases, the potential  $V_p$  corresponding to peak point will increase. decrease ayi mali Increase ayi curve ait  
(Valley point nanchi increase akutundhi)  
Akkada vunde current Valley Current

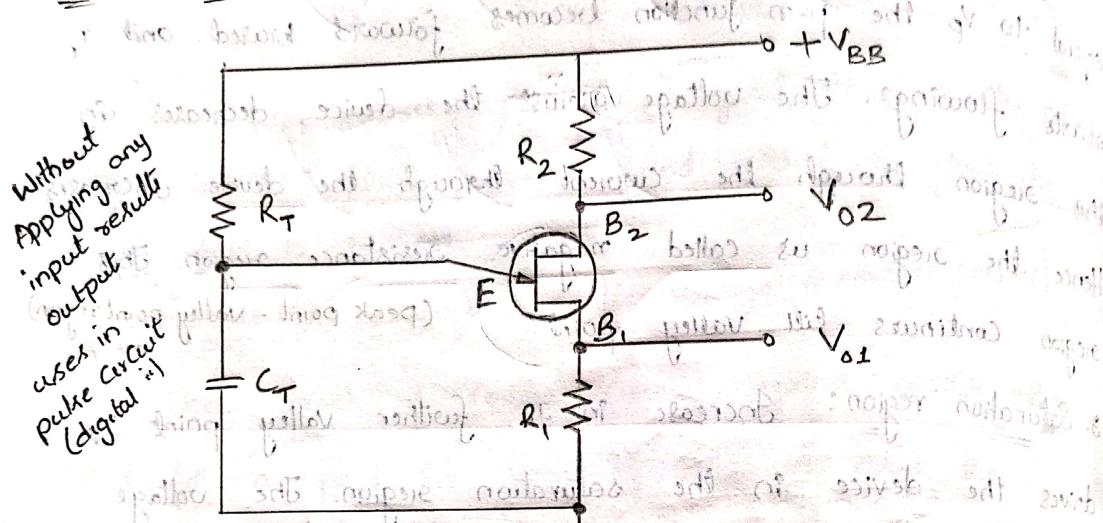
$I \uparrow V \uparrow$



## Applications

The UJT is mainly used in the triggering of other devices such as SCR. It is also used in the sawtooth wave generators and some timing circuits. The most popular application of UJT is as a relaxation oscillator to obtain short pulses for triggering of SCR's. Let us discuss UJT relaxation oscillator in detail.

### UJT Relaxation Oscillator (generated the frequency)



### UJT relaxation oscillator

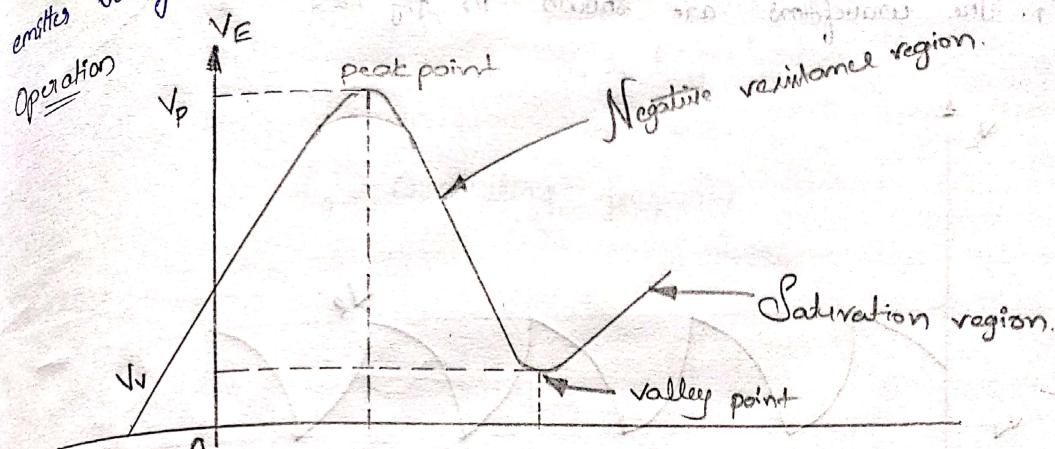
The pulse signal required to drive the digital circuits can be obtained from a single stage oscillator circuit using a particular device like unijunction transistor. Such a oscillator which uses UJT is called UJT relaxation oscillator.

The basic circuit of UJT oscillator is shown in the fig 7.60.

The circuit contains  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  as biasing resistances which are selected such that they are lower than interbase resistances  $R_{B1}$  and  $R_{B2}$ . The resistance  $R_T$  and the capacitance  $C_T$  decide the oscillating rate. The value of  $R_T$  is so selected that the operating point of UJT remains in the negative resistance region. The UJT characteristics and the negative resistance region

Current may be the Voltage Negative Region

of the characteristics are shown in fig 7.61. The characteristics of UJT shows the variation between  $V_E$  and  $I_E$ , where  $V_E$  is emitter voltage and  $I_E$  is emitter current.



UJT Characteristics

Capacitor  $C_T$  gets charged through the resistance  $R_I$  towards supply voltage  $V_{BB}$ . As long as the capacitor voltage is less than peak voltage  $V_p$ , the emitter appears as an open circuit.

$$V_p = \eta V_{BB} + V_0 \quad \rightarrow \textcircled{1}$$

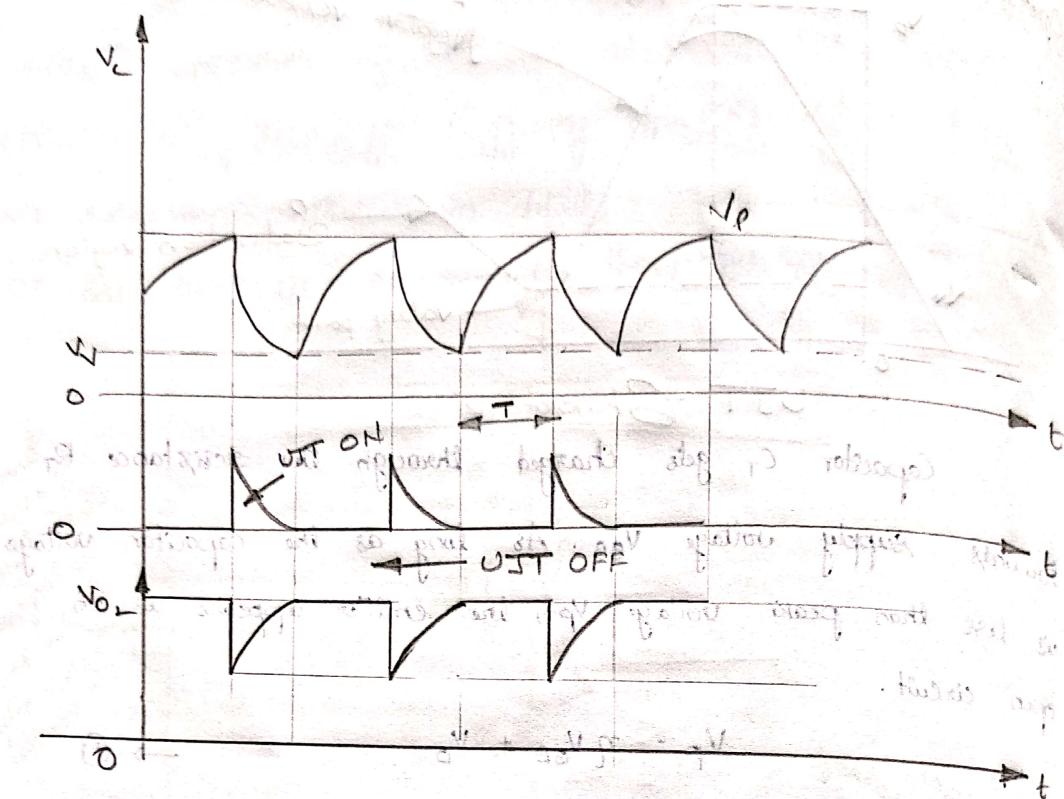
peak voltage is discharge voltage of UJT  
where  $\eta$  = stand off ratio of UJT  
 $V_0$  = cut-in voltage of diode start

When the capacitor voltage  $V_c$  exceeds the voltage  $V_p$ , the UJT fires. The capacitor starts discharging through  $R_i + R_B$ , where  $R_B$  [internal base] resistance. As  $R_B$  is assumed negligible and hence capacitor discharges through  $R_i$ .

Due to the design of  $R_i$ , this discharge is very fast, and it produces a pulse across  $R_i$ . When capacitor voltage falls below  $V_v$  i.e.  $V_c = V_E = V_v$ , the UJT gets turned off. charging time constant The capacitor starts charging again.

$$R_i T = -1 = f$$

The discharge time of the pulse is controlled by the time constant  $C_T R_1$  while the charging time constant is controlled by  $R_1 C_T$ . The waveforms are shown in fig 7.62



### Waveforms of UJT relaxation oscillator

There is voltage drop across  $R_2$  and voltage rise across  $R_1$ , when UJT fires.

The charging equation of the capacitor is given by

$$V_C(t) = V_V + V_{BB} \left[ 1 - e^{-t/(R_T C_T)} \right]$$

But

$$V_C(t) = V_p \text{ at } t = T$$

$$V_p = V_V + V_{BB} \left[ 1 - e^{-T/(R_T C_T)} \right]$$

using this equation we get a working time ratio

$$\eta = \frac{V_{BB} + V_0}{V_V + V_{BB}} = \frac{V_V + V_{BB} \left[ 1 - e^{-T/(R_T C_T)} \right]}{V_V + V_{BB}}$$

Neglecting  $V_p$  and  $V_V$  to get approximate relation for  $T$

$$\eta = 1 - e^{-T/(R_T C_T)}$$

$$T = R_T C_T \ln \left[ \frac{1}{1-n} \right]$$

$$f_0 = \frac{1}{T} = \frac{1}{R_T C_T \ln \left[ \frac{1}{1-n} \right]}$$

$f_0$  = Oscillating frequency