SECTION 2: BIPOLAR JUNCTION TRANSISTORS

ECE 322 – Electronics I

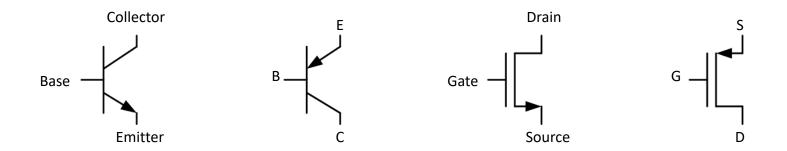


Transistors

- So far, we have only dealt with *two-terminal* Electrical components
- We now look at *transistors*
 - Three-terminal components
 - Third terminal makes for very useful, though more complicated, device

Semiconductor devices

- Typically silicon, Si
- Differently doped (N-type/P-type) Si at each terminal of the device

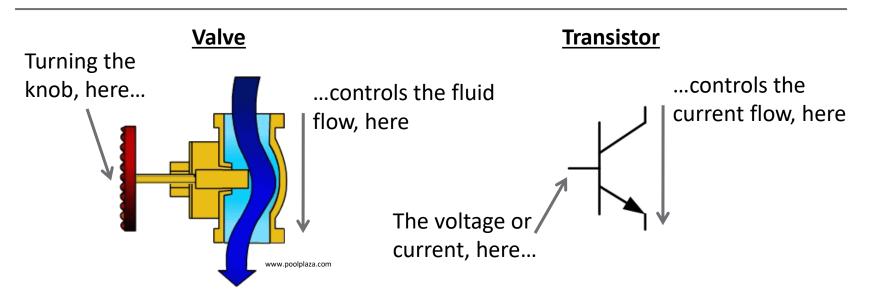


Transistors

Three terminals:

 Current or voltage (possibly small) at one terminal controls current (possibly large) flowing between the other two terminals

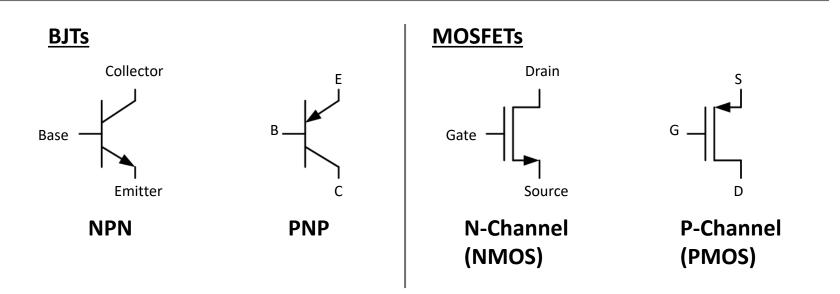
Analogous to valves:



Useful as switches or amplifiers

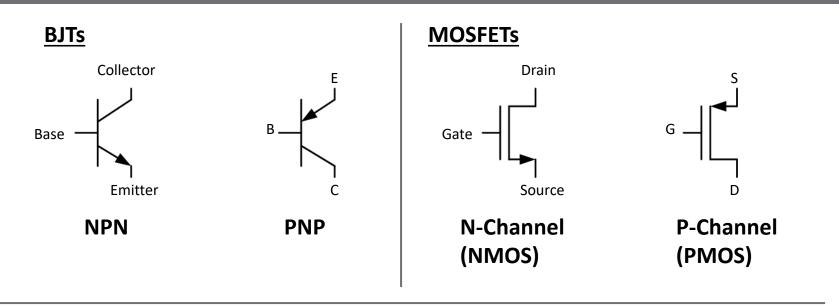
Types of Transistors

- Two primary classes of transistors:
 - **Bipolar Junction Transistors** BJTs
 - Metal-Oxide-Semiconductor Field-Effect Transistors MOSFETs



Types of Transistors

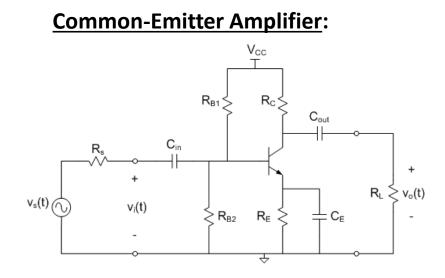
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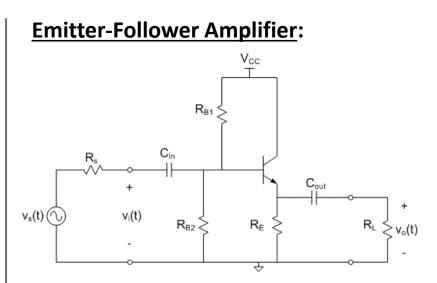
- Difference between NPN/PNP and NMOS/PMOS is the type of semiconductor (N-type/P-type) used at each terminal
- We will learn about both BJTs and MOSFETs:
 - Sections 2, 3: BJTs
 - Sections 4, 5: MOSFETs

Transistor Amplifier Circuits – Preview

 Over the next two sections, you will learn to analyze and design circuits like the following



- High voltage gain
- An amplifier



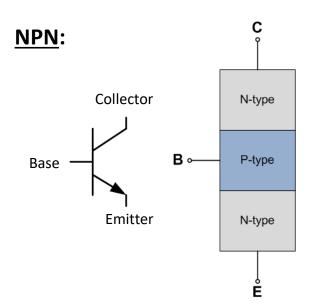
Near unity gain

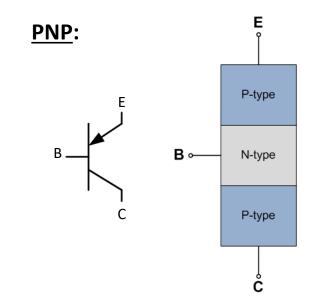
A buffer

8 BJT Fundamentals

Bipolar Junction Transistors

- 9
- We have seen that diodes are constructed as PN-junctions
 BJTs are essentially two back-to-back PN-junctions
- Two types: NPN and PNP

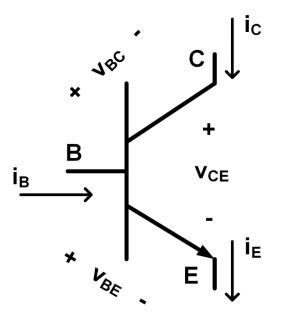




- □ Symbol mnemonics:
 - *NPN*: Not Pointing iN
 - **PNP**: Point iN Please

Terminal Voltages and Currents

- 10
- Terminal voltages and currents named as shown
- □ First letter in subscript is the assumed higher-potential terminal
 □ E.g., v_{CE} > 0 if v_C > v_E
- Currents positive in direction shown, e.g.,
 - Positive collector current flows into the collector
 - Positive emitter current flows out of the emitter
- Lower-case v or i with upper-case subscript denotes both DC and AC signal components



Kirchhoff's Laws

 KVL and KCL apply to a transistor, just as they do to any electrical network

□ KVL

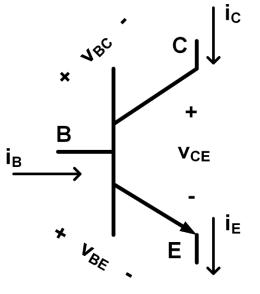
Voltages around the transistor sum to zero:

$$v_{BE} - v_{BC} - v_{CE} = 0$$

□ KCL

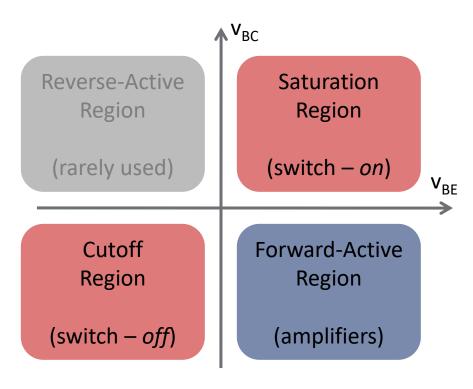
Transistor terminal currents sum to zero:

$$i_B + i_C - i_E = 0$$



BJT Operating Regions

Four operating regions Defined by polarities of the junction voltages



Forward active region

- $\bullet v_{BC} < 0$
- $\square v_{BE} > 0$
- Linear region *amplifiers*

Saturation region

- **D** $v_{BC} > 0$
- **D** $v_{BE} > 0$
- C-E looks like a *closed switch*

Cutoff region

- $\square v_{BC} < 0$
- **D** $v_{BE} < 0$
- C-E looks like an open switch

BJT Operating Regions

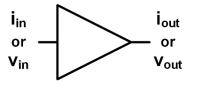
- 13
- Transistors used in electronic circuits fall into one of two categories:

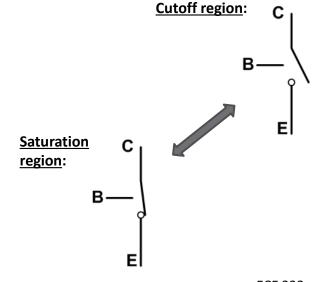
Linear amplifier

- Forward active region
- Transistor provides *linear gain*
- Voltage or current gain
- Greater than or less than unity
- Type/value of gain depends on surrounding circuitry

Non-linear switch

- Open or closed switch between collector and emitter
- Cutoff (open) and saturation (closed) regions
- Switching large currents, e.g., controlling a fan
- Digital logic

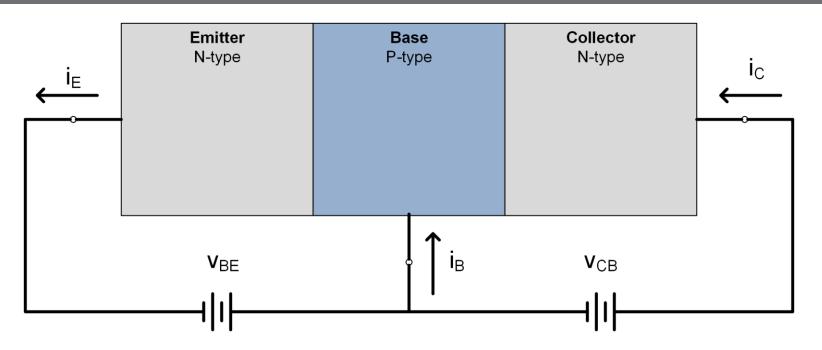






Forward Active Region

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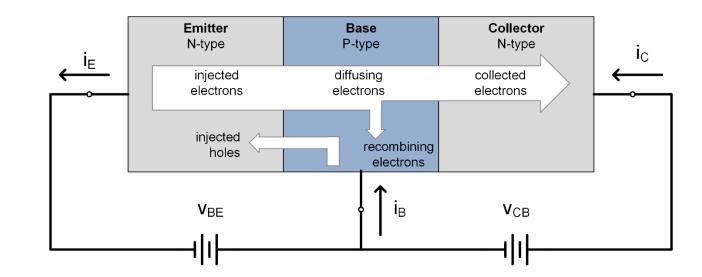
□ B-E junction forward biased

D Forward-biased P-N junction – current, i_E , will flow

Reverse-biased C-B junction

Depletion region surrounding junction

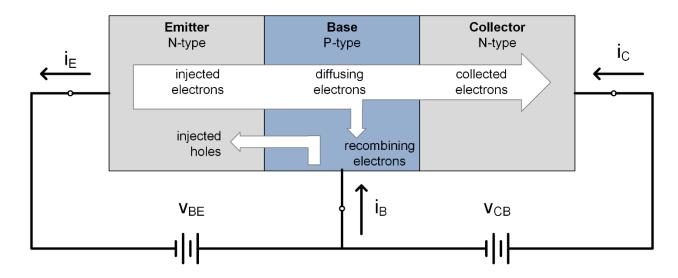
Forward Active Region – Emitter Current



- □ Two components of emitter current, i_E :
 - Electrons injected (emitted) from the emitter into the base
 - Large emitter is heavily-doped large electron concentration
 - Holes injected from the base into the emitter
 - Small base is lightly-doped small hole concentration

Forward Active Region – Collector Current

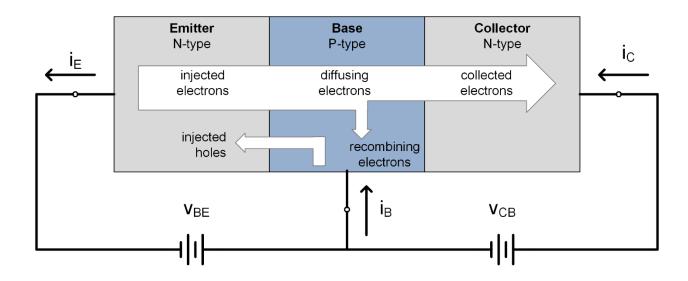




- □ Electrons minority carriers injected from emitter into the base
 - Concentration gradient across base
 - Highest at emitter junction
 - Zero at the C-B depletion region
- Electrons *diffuse* from emitter to collector
 - Swept across C-B depletion region to be *collected* at the collector
 - This is *collector current*, *i*_C

Forward Active Region – Base Current





- \Box Two components of base current, i_B
 - Holes injected from the base into the emitter
 Holes recombining with diffusing electrons
- Both are small, due to lightly-doped base
 Base current is relatively small

Collector Current

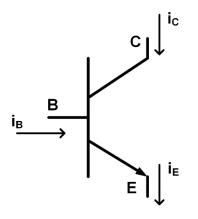
Collector current has an exponential dependence on base-emitter voltage:

 $i_C = I_S e^{\frac{v_{BE}}{V_{th}}}$

where:

I_s is the transistor's *saturation* or *scale current V_{th}* = ^{kT}/_a is the *thermal voltage*

- \Box Saturation current, I_s
 - Scales with emitter area
 - Strongly depends on temperature



Base Current

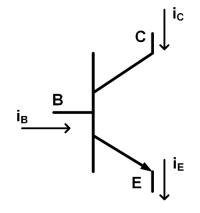
- Base current also has an exponential dependence on v_{BE}
- Much smaller than collector current
 - Base is lightly-doped
 - Hole currents are small
- Can express base current in terms of collector current:

$$i_B = \frac{i_C}{\beta} = \frac{1}{\beta} I_s e^{\frac{v_{BE}}{V_{th}}}$$



$$\beta = \frac{i_C}{i_B}$$

Typical β values: 50...200



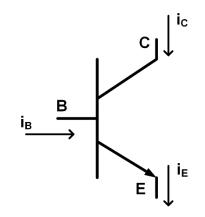
Emitter Current

□ Applying KCL gives the *emitter current*:

$$i_E = i_C + i_B = i_C + \frac{1}{\beta}i_C$$

$$i_E = \frac{\beta + 1}{\beta}i_C = \frac{\beta + 1}{\beta}I_S e^{\frac{v_{BE}}{V_{th}}}$$

$$i_E = \frac{1}{\alpha}i_C$$



 \Box α is the *common-base current gain:*

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

D Typical α values: 0.98...0.998

BJT Current-Voltage Relationships

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- □ A few key points:
- Base current is very small compared to collector and emitter currents

$$i_B \ll i_E$$
, $i_B \ll i_C$

Collector current and emitter current are approximately equal

$$i_C \approx i_E$$

□ Small changes in i_B yield large changes in i_C

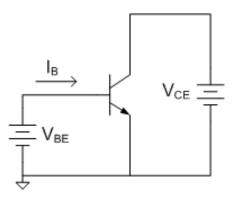
$$i_C = \beta i_B$$

- \Box *i*_C is exponentially dependent on v_{BE}
 - Small changes in v_{BE} yield large changes in i_C
 - A potential (transconductance) amplifier
- Collector current is independent of collector voltage (v_{CE})

Plotting I-V Characteristics

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- BJTs are three-terminal devices
- Plot two different I-V characteristics:
 - Input I-V characteristic
 - Output I-V characteristic

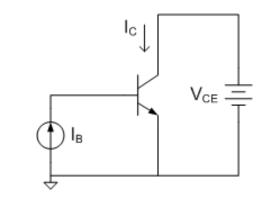
Input I-V Characteristic:



Single curve:

• i_B (or i_C) as a function of v_{BE}

Output I-V Characteristic:



- □ Family of curves:
 - i_C as a function of v_{CE} parameterized by i_B (or v_{BE})

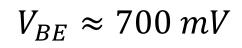
Input I-V Characteristic

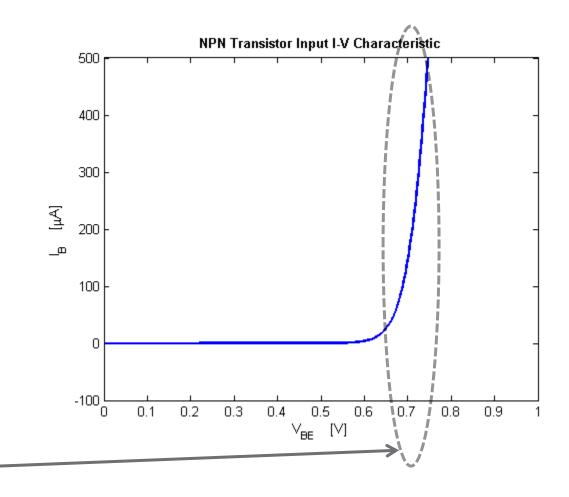
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Governed by a
 form of the
 Shockley
 equation:

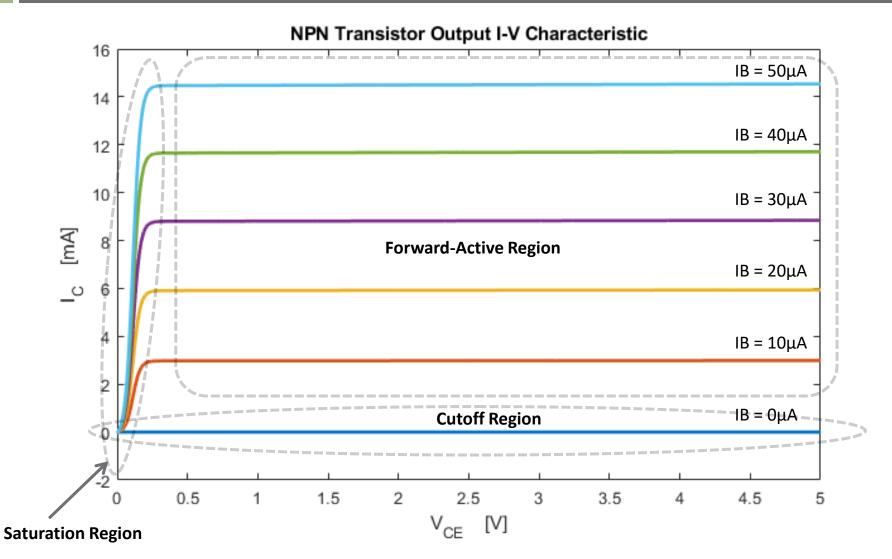
$$i_B = \frac{1}{\beta} I_S e^{\frac{v_{BE}}{V_{th}}}$$

In the forwardactive region:





BJT Output I-V Characteristic



Active Region I-V Relationships – Summary

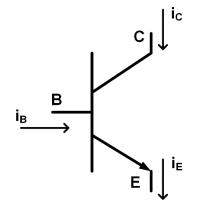
$$\Box \quad i_C = I_S e^{\frac{v_{BE}}{V_{th}}}$$

$$\Box \quad i_B = \frac{i_C}{\beta} = \frac{1}{\beta} I_S e^{\frac{v_{BE}}{V_{th}}}$$

$$\Box \quad i_E = \frac{1}{\alpha} i_C = \frac{1}{\alpha} I_S e^{\frac{v_{BE}}{V_{th}}}$$

$$\square \quad \beta = \frac{i_C}{i_B}, \quad \alpha = \frac{i_C}{i_E}$$

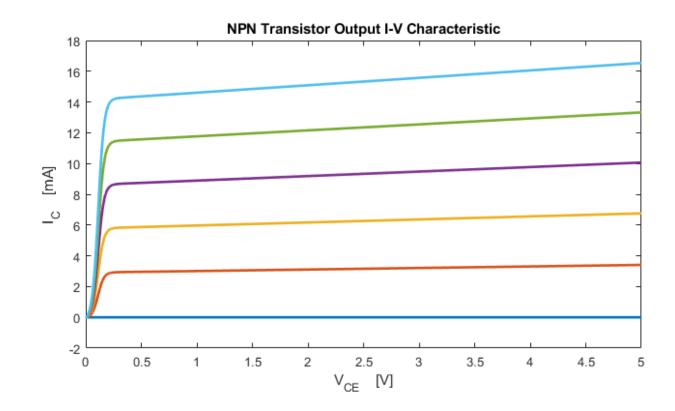
$$\Box \quad \beta = \frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha'}, \quad \alpha = \frac{\beta}{\beta+1}$$



 Our simple qualitative description and models for the BJT so far yield the I-V curves on the previous page

D Collector current, i_c , is independent of v_{CE}

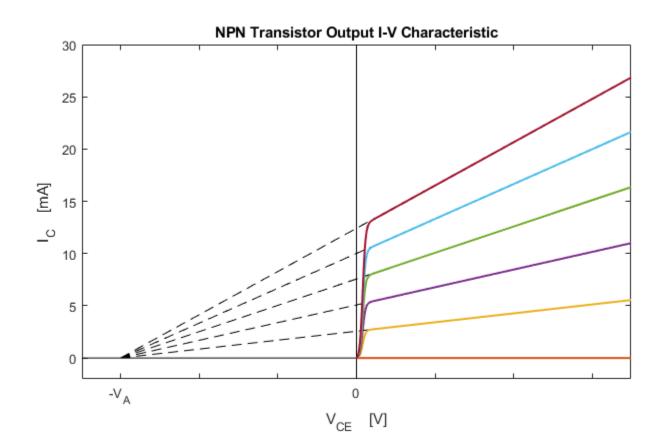
□ Really, we observe something like this:



- \square As v_{CE} increases:
 - C-B junction gets more reverse-biased
 - C-B depletion region increases
 - **D** Effective base width shrinks
- Saturation current, I_s , is inversely proportional to base width
- As base width shrinks:
 - Saturation current increases
 - **\Box** Collector current, i_C , increases

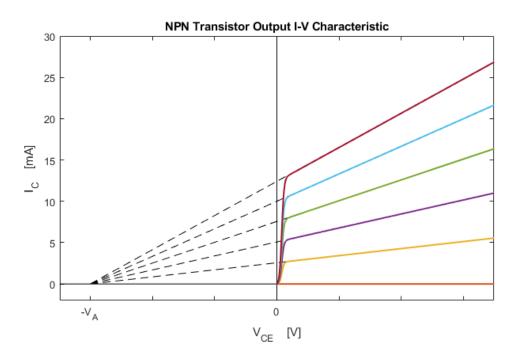
This is known as the *Early effect* or *base-width modulation*

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- Extrapolations of the forward-active regions of the I-V curves intersect at a single point on the V_{CE} axis
 The *Early voltage*, V_A



We can adjust our collector-current model to account for the Early effect:

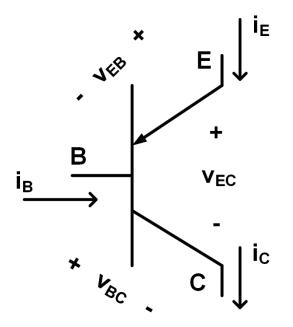
$$i_C = I_s e^{\frac{v_{BE}}{V_{th}}} \left(1 + \frac{v_{CE}}{V_A}\right)$$



³¹ PNP Transistors

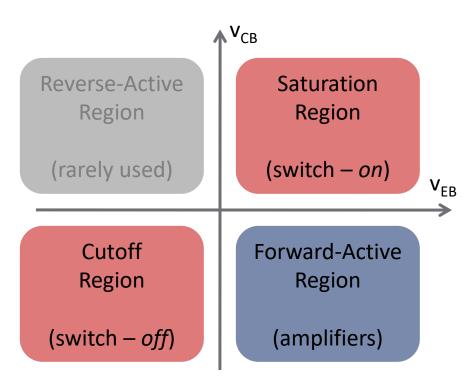
PNP Transistors

- Our focus has been on NPN transistors
- With the necessary adjustments, all descriptions and models apply equally to PNP transistors
- A PNP biased in the forwardactive region:
 - E-B junction forward-biased
 - $v_{EB} > 0$
 - C-B junction reverse-biased
 - $v_{BC} > 0$



BJT Operating Regions – PNP

- Junction voltages change signs for PNPs
 - $\bullet v_{BC} \rightarrow v_{CB}$
 - $\bullet \ v_{BE} \to v_{EB}$



Forward active region

- $\bullet v_{CB} < 0$
- $\square v_{EB} > 0$
- Linear region *amplifiers*

Saturation region

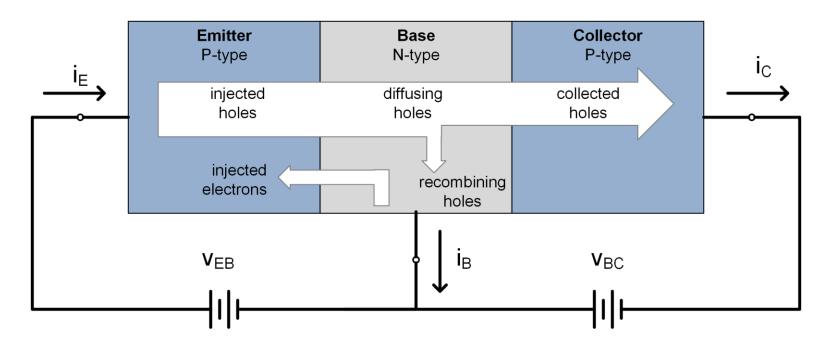
- **D** $v_{CB} > 0$
- $\square v_{EB} > 0$
- E-C looks like a *closed switch*

Cutoff region

- $\square v_{CB} < 0$
- $\square v_{EB} < 0$
- E-C looks like an open switch

PNP Transistors

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- NPN current primarily due to diffusion of *minority carriers electrons* across the base region
- Same is true in PNP transistors, but now the minority carriers are *holes*





Equivalent Circuit Models

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- We have seen that BJTs have an exponential current-voltage relationship
 - Small inputs, v_{BE}, can produce large outputs, i_C
 BJTs are useful as *amplifiers*
- Our goal is the analysis and design of *transistor amplifier circuits*
- To do so, we first need *equivalent circuit models* for the transistors

BJT Amplifier Circuits

Two functional pieces of a BJT amplifier:

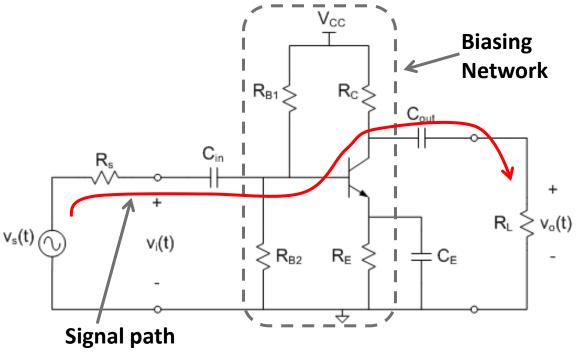
Bias network

- Sets the DC operating point of the transistor
- Ensures the BJT remains in the forward-active region

Signal path

Sets the gain of the amplifier circuit

Significant
 overlap
 between the
 two parts



Equivalent Circuit Models

We use two types of equivalent-circuit transistor models:

Large-signal model

- Models the transistor's behavior to DC signals
- Used to determine the transistor's DC operating point

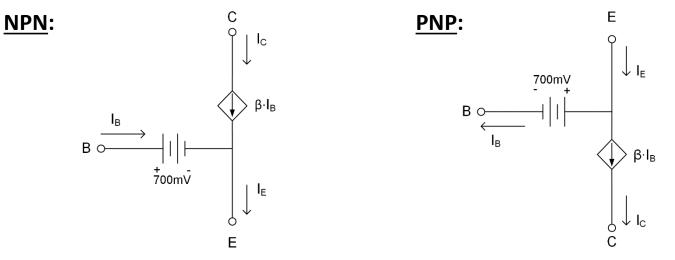
Small-signal model

- Models the behavior in response to small signals (w.r.t V_{th})
- Describes the response to the AC signals to be amplified
- Properties of the small-signal model determined by the DC operating point

³⁹ Large-Signal Models

Large-Signal Model – Forward-Active

- 40
- Large-signal behavior in the forward-active region modeled by the following circuits:

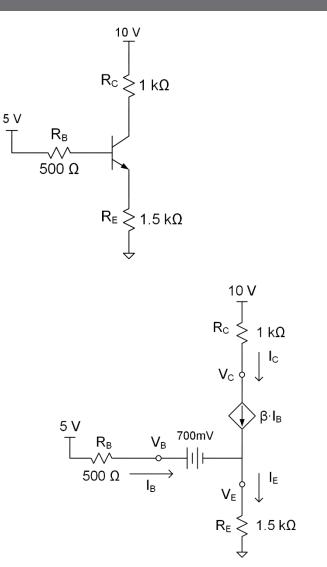


- Replace the transistor with the appropriate model to determine the DC operating point (Q-point)
- Forward-active-region bias assumed

If incorrect, model will say otherwise

Note the use of upper-case I/V, and subscripts for DC signals

- Determine the DC operating point (i.e., all terminal voltages and currents) for the following transistor
 - **\square** Assume $\beta = 100$
- First, replace transistor with its large-signal equivalent-circuit model



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Apply KVL around the B-E loop:

$$5 V - I_B R_B - 700 mV - I_E R_E = 0$$

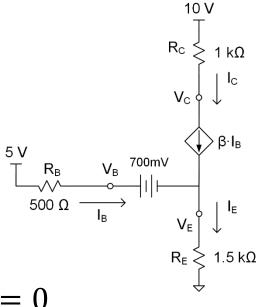
 Express emitter current in terms of base current

$$I_E = (\beta + 1)I_B$$

5 V - I_B R_B - 700 mV - I_B (\beta + 1)R_E =

Solve for base current

$$I_{B}[R_{B} + (\beta + 1)R_{E}] = 4.3 V$$
$$I_{B} = \frac{4.3 V}{[R_{B} + (\beta + 1)R_{E}]}$$



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The base current is $I_B = \frac{4.3 V}{[R_B + (\beta + 1)R_E]}$ $I_B = \frac{4.3 V}{500\Omega + 101 \cdot 1.5 k\Omega} = 28.29 \mu A$ $\int_{V_C}^{5V} \frac{R_B}{\sqrt{2}} \frac{V_B}{\sqrt{2}} \frac{V_B}{\sqrt{2}}$

 \Box Calculate I_C and I_E from I_B

$$I_C = \beta I_B = 100 \cdot 28.29 \ \mu A = 2.829 \ m A$$
$$I_E = (\beta + 1)I_B = 101 \cdot 28.29 \ \mu A = 2.857 \ m A$$

$$I_B = 28.29 \ \mu A$$
, $I_C = 2.829 \ mA$, $I_E = 2.857 \ mA$

| I_E

 $R_{F} \geq 1.5 k\Omega$

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- Use terminal currents to calculate terminal voltages

$$V_B = 5 V - I_B R_B$$
$$V_B = 5 V - 28.29 \ \mu A \cdot 500 \ \Omega$$
$$V_B = 4.986 \ V$$

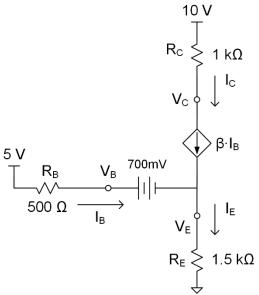
Collector voltage

$$V_{C} = 10 V - I_{C}R_{C} = 10 V - 2.829 mA \cdot 1 k\Omega$$
$$V_{C} = 7.171 V$$

Emitter voltage

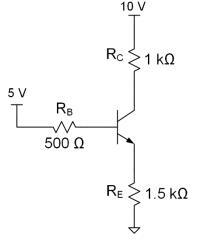
$$V_E = I_E R_E = 2.857 \ mA \cdot 1.5 \ k\Omega$$
$$V_E = 4.286 \ V$$

K. Webb



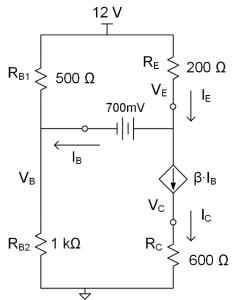
- 45
- We now know the complete DC operating point for the transistor
 - All voltages and currents

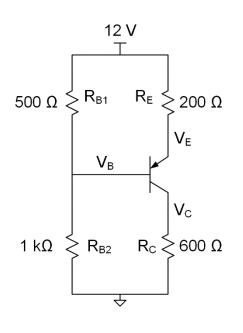
$$\begin{split} I_B &= 28.29 \; \mu A & V_B &= 4.986 \, V \\ I_C &= 2.829 \; m A & V_C &= 7.171 \, V \\ I_E &= 2.857 \; m A & V_E &= 4.286 \, V \end{split}$$



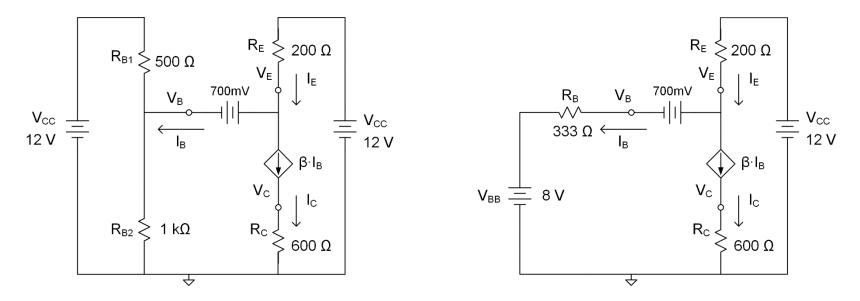
- Use of this model assumed forward-active region operation verify
 V_B > V_E, V_{BE} > 0
 V_C > V_B, V_{BC} < 0
 - Transistor is biased in the forward active region

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- Next, find the DC operating point of the following PNP transistor
- Again, begin by replacing the transistor with its large-signal equivalent circuit:





 We can simplify the circuit by replacing the base bias circuit with its Thevenin equivalent



$$V_{BB} = V_{CC} \frac{R_{B2}}{R_{B1} + R_{B2}} = 12 V \frac{1 k\Omega}{500 \Omega + 1 k\Omega} = 8 V$$

$$R_B = \frac{R_{B1}R_{B2}}{R_{B1} + R_{B2}} = \frac{500\ \Omega \cdot 1\ k\Omega}{500\ \Omega + 1\ k\Omega} = 333.3\ \Omega$$

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□ Apply KVL around the B-E loop:

$$V_{BB} + I_B R_B + 700 \ mV + I_E R_E - V_{CC} = 0$$

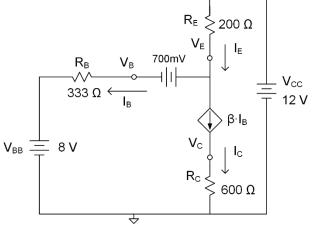
 Express emitter current in terms of base current

$$I_{E} = (\beta + 1)I_{B}$$

$$V_{BB} + I_{B}R_{B} + 700 \ mV + I_{B}(\beta + 1)R_{E} - V_{CC} =$$

Solve for base current

$$I_B[R_B + (\beta + 1)R_E] = V_{CC} - V_{BB} - 700 \ mV$$
$$I_B = \frac{V_{CC} - V_{BB} - 700 \ mV}{[R_B + (\beta + 1)R_E]}$$

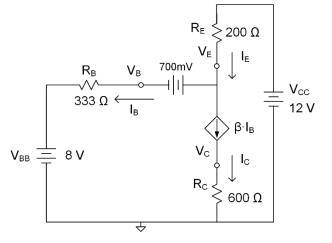


0

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□ The base current is

$$I_B = \frac{V_{CC} - V_{BB} - 700 \ mV}{[R_B + (\beta + 1)R_E]}$$
$$I_B = \frac{3.3 \ V}{333\Omega + 101 \cdot 200 \ \Omega} = 160.7 \ \mu A$$



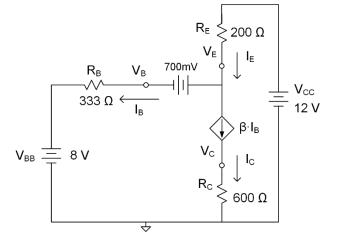
 \Box Calculate I_C and I_E from I_B

$$I_C = \beta I_B = 100 \cdot 160.7 \ \mu A = 16.07 \ m A$$
$$I_E = (\beta + 1)I_B = 101 \cdot 160.7 \ \mu A = 16.23 \ m A$$
$$I_B = 160.7 \ \mu A, \ I_C = 16.07 \ m A, \ I_E = 16.23 \ m A$$

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Base voltage

$$V_B = V_{BB} + I_B R_B$$
$$V_B = 8 V + 160.7 \ \mu A \cdot 333 \ \Omega$$
$$V_B = 8.054 \ V$$



Collector voltage

$$V_C = I_C R_C = 16.07 \ mA \cdot 600 \ \Omega$$

 $V_C = 6.429 \ V$

Emitter voltage

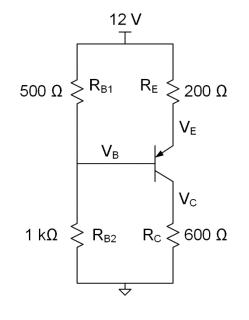
$$V_E = V_{CC} - I_E R_E = 12 V - 16.23 mA \cdot 200 \Omega$$
$$V_E = 8.754 V$$

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The DC operating point:

$$I_B = 160.7 \ \mu A \qquad V_B = 8.054 \ V \\ I_C = 16.07 \ m A \qquad V_C = 6.429 \ V \\ I_E = 16.23 \ m A \qquad V_E = 8.754 \ V$$

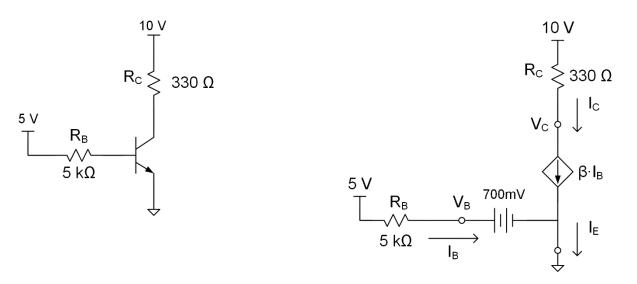


Terminal voltages confirm that the transistor is biased in the forward active region:

■
$$V_B < V_E, V_{EB} > 0$$

■ $V_C < V_B, V_{CB} < 0$

Next, find the DC operating point for the following circuit



Here, the emitter is grounded, so base current is given by

$$I_{B} = \frac{5 V - 700 mV}{R_{B}} = \frac{4.3 V}{5 k\Omega}$$
$$I_{B} = 860 \mu A$$

 \Box Use β to get collector and emitter currents:

$$I_C = \beta I_B = 100 \cdot 860 \ \mu A = 86 \ m A$$

$$I_E = (\beta + 1)I_B = 101 \cdot 860 \ \mu A = 86.9 \ m A$$

Base and emitter voltages are known:

$$V_E = 0 V$$
$$V_B = 700 mV$$

The collector voltage:

$$V_C = 10 V - I_C R_C = 10 V - 86 mA \cdot 330 \Omega$$
$$V_C = -18.4 V (!)$$

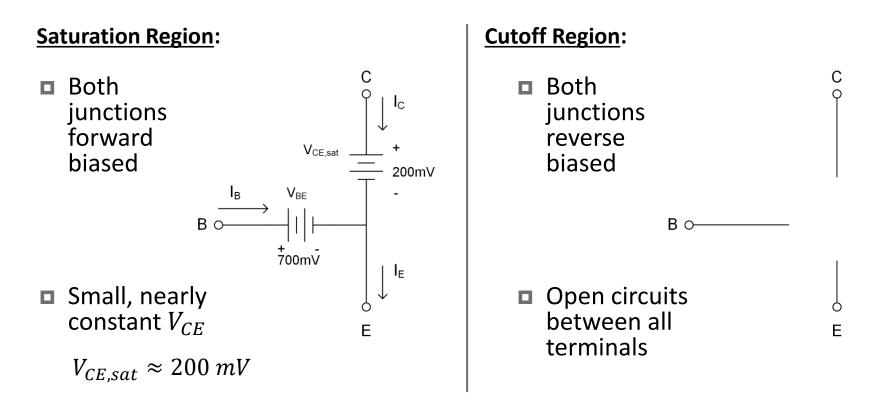
B-C junction is not reverse biased

Transistor is not in the forward active region - saturated

- Inappropriate large-signal model used
- Need to use a model for the saturation region

Saturation/Cutoff Region Models

- 54
- Transistors used as *switches* operate alternately in the *saturation* (closed) and *cutoff* (open) regions
- Equivalent circuit models:



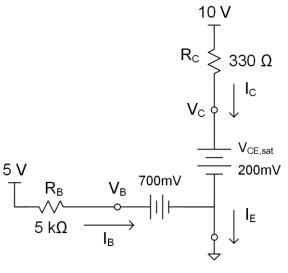
- 55
- Returning to our example, now use the transistor model for saturation
- Base current does not change:

$$I_B = \frac{4.3 V}{5 k\Omega} = 860 \ \mu A$$

But, collector current is now:

$$I_{C} = \frac{10 V - V_{CE,sat}}{R_{C}} = \frac{9.8 V}{330 \Omega}$$
$$I_{C} = 29.7 mA$$

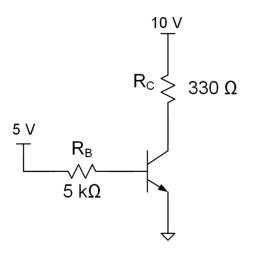
Much less than would be predicted by β β does not apply in the saturation region



The transistor is in the saturation region
 Looks like a *closed switch* between collector and emitter

Operating point:

$$\begin{split} I_B &= 860 \; \mu A & V_B &= 700 \; mV \\ I_C &= 29.7 \; mA & V_C &= 200 \; mV \\ I_E &= 30.6 \; mA & V_E &= 0 \; V \end{split}$$



Large-Signal Models – Early Effect

- 57
- We have seen that, due to **base-width modulation**, or the **Early effect**, I_C is dependent on V_{CE}
- We can modify the large-signal model to account for this
- Add output resistance, r_o

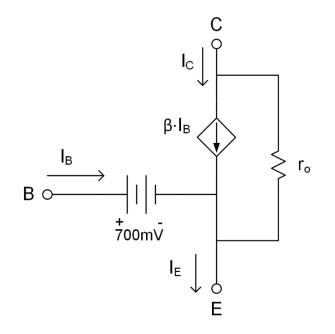
$$r_o = \frac{V_A}{I'_C}$$

where

- V_A is the Early voltage
- I'_C is the collector current with the Early effect neglected

$$I_C' = I_s e^{\frac{V_{BE}}{V_{th}}}$$

No longer an ideal current source



58 Small-Signal Models

BJT – Small-Signal Models

- Large-signal model allows us to determine the *DC operating point* DC terminal voltages and currents
- Remember, our objective is to *amplify small signals*
 - Want to know how a transistor circuit responds to small AC signals
 - Need a small-signal model

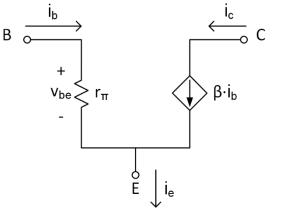
Small-signal behavior is defined by the DC operating point

- Values of small-signal model parameters determined by the DC operating point
- DC bias applied to the transistor serves to put the transistor in a state where it will behave as an amplifier
- We will look at two small-signal models:
 - **D** Hybrid- π model
 - T model

Hybrid- π Model – β

- Two variations of the hybrid-π model
 First one uses a *CCCS*
- Same collector current relationship as in large-signal model:

$$i_c = \beta i_b$$



□ Base input resistance, r_{π} , set by the DC collector current:

$$r_{\pi} = \frac{\beta V_{th}}{I_C}$$

- Note that we now use *small-signal notation*
 - Lower-case *i* and *v* and lower-case subscripts
 - These denote AC signals

Hybrid- π Model – g_m

- Second hybrid- π model uses a VCCS
- Transconductance parameter sets collector current as a function of v_{be}

$$i_C = g_m v_{be}$$

\Box Transconductance, g_m

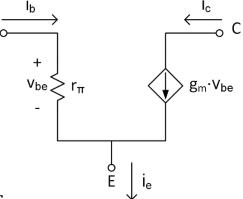
- **D** Voltage one place, v_{be} , causes current somewhere else, i_c
- Determined by DC collector current

$$g_m = \frac{I_C}{V_{th}} = \frac{I_C q}{kT} \approx \frac{I_C}{26 \ mV}$$

 $\Box g_m$ is related to β :

$$g_m = \frac{i_c}{v_{be}} = \frac{i_c}{i_b r_\pi} = \frac{\beta}{r_\pi}$$

□ Note that, while g_m and r_π are dependent on bias, β is not □ β is a device property



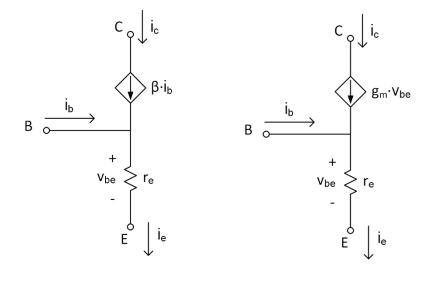
T-Model

- An alternative to the hybrid-π model is the T-model
 Simplifies the analysis of some circuits
 Again, either with a CCCS, using β, or a VCCS, using g_m
- \Box Here, the resistance is the emitter resistance, r_e

$$r_e = \frac{V_{th}}{I_E} = \frac{\alpha}{g_m} \approx \frac{1}{g_m}$$

 \Box Note the relationship to r_{π}

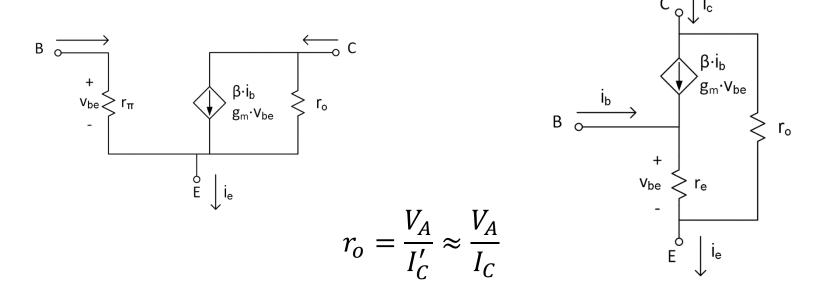
$$r_e = \frac{\alpha}{g_m} = \frac{\beta}{\beta + 1} \cdot \frac{1}{g_m}$$
$$r_e = \frac{1}{\beta + 1} \cdot \frac{\beta}{g_m} = \frac{r_\pi}{\beta + 1}$$



The same resistance referred to one terminal or the other

Small-Signal Models – Early Effect

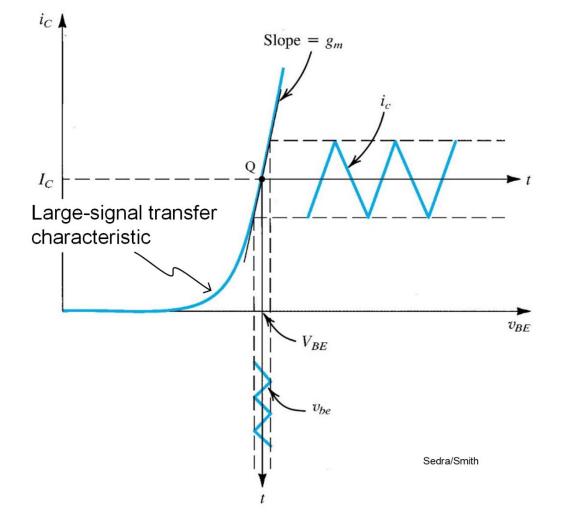
- 63
- We have seen that we can add output resistance to the large-signal model to model the Early effect
 - Can do the same for the small-signal model
 - Will rarely, if ever, do this for the large signal model, but often will for the small-signal model



BJT – Small-Signal Models

Large-signal transfer characteristic

- Set of all possible Qpoints
- Very nonlinear
- As an amplifier, a transistor is operated *near its Q-point*
 - Closer to linear
 - Small signal model describes behavior here
 - Valid for small signal excursions about the Q-point



Using the BJT Models

- In the next section of the course, we will look at the analysis and design of transistor amplifiers
 - Bias network and DC operating point
 - Signal-path
- Much more detail in the next section, but our general procedure will be:
 - Large-signal analysis
 - DC operating point
 - Small-signal model parameters
 - Small-signal analysis
 - Circuit gain