

# Analog Circuits

## Day-6

# BJT Amplifiers

## Introduction

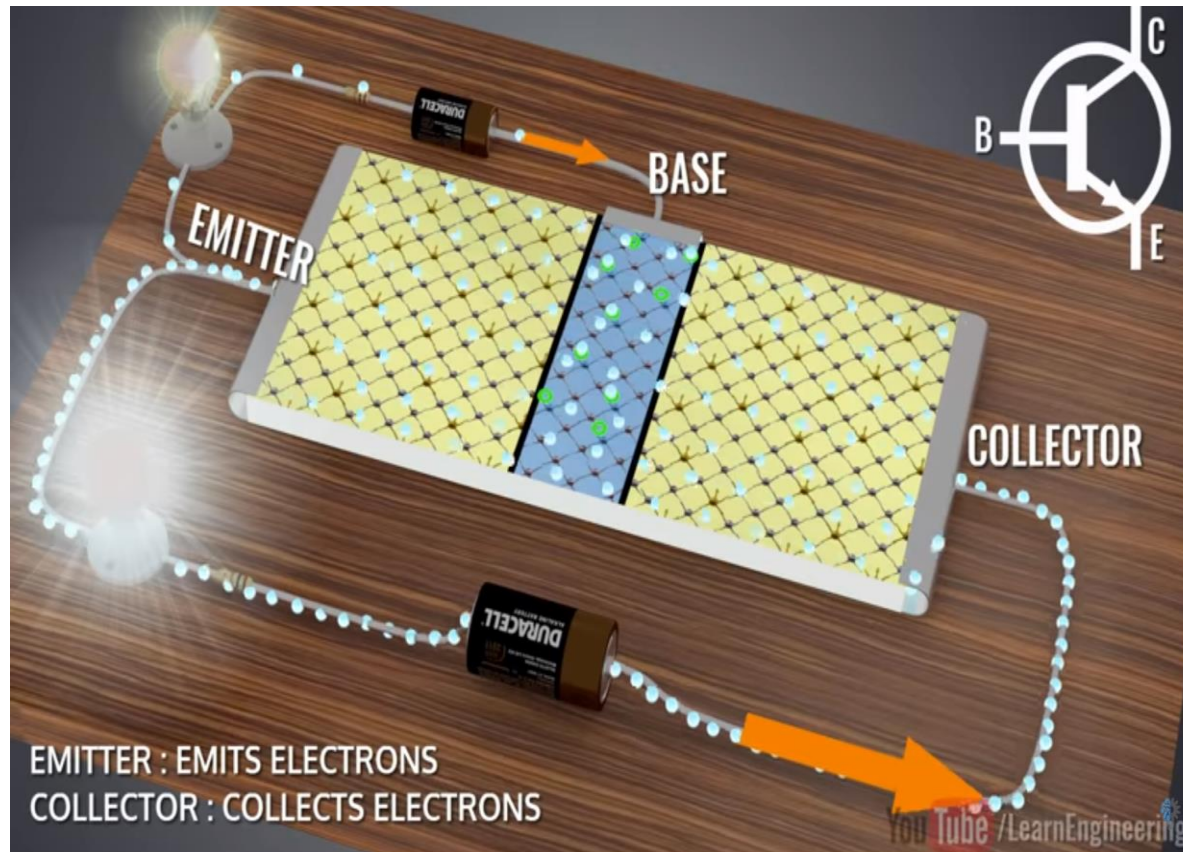
- In this unit we learn about AC response of transistors using different transistor models.
- In AC analysis we have to decide whether to use small signal or large signal technique. In this unit we will use small signal as input.
- Large signal amplifiers are power amplifiers.

### Operating Point in Small Signal Analysis:

- In small signal analysis, as the input signal variation is small, the output signal variation is also limited and hence swing in Q-point is also limited.

Small signal is defined as the signal having magnitude sufficiently small to keep transistor in active region.

## Transistor as an Amplifier



To use transistor as an amplifier it must be in the active region.

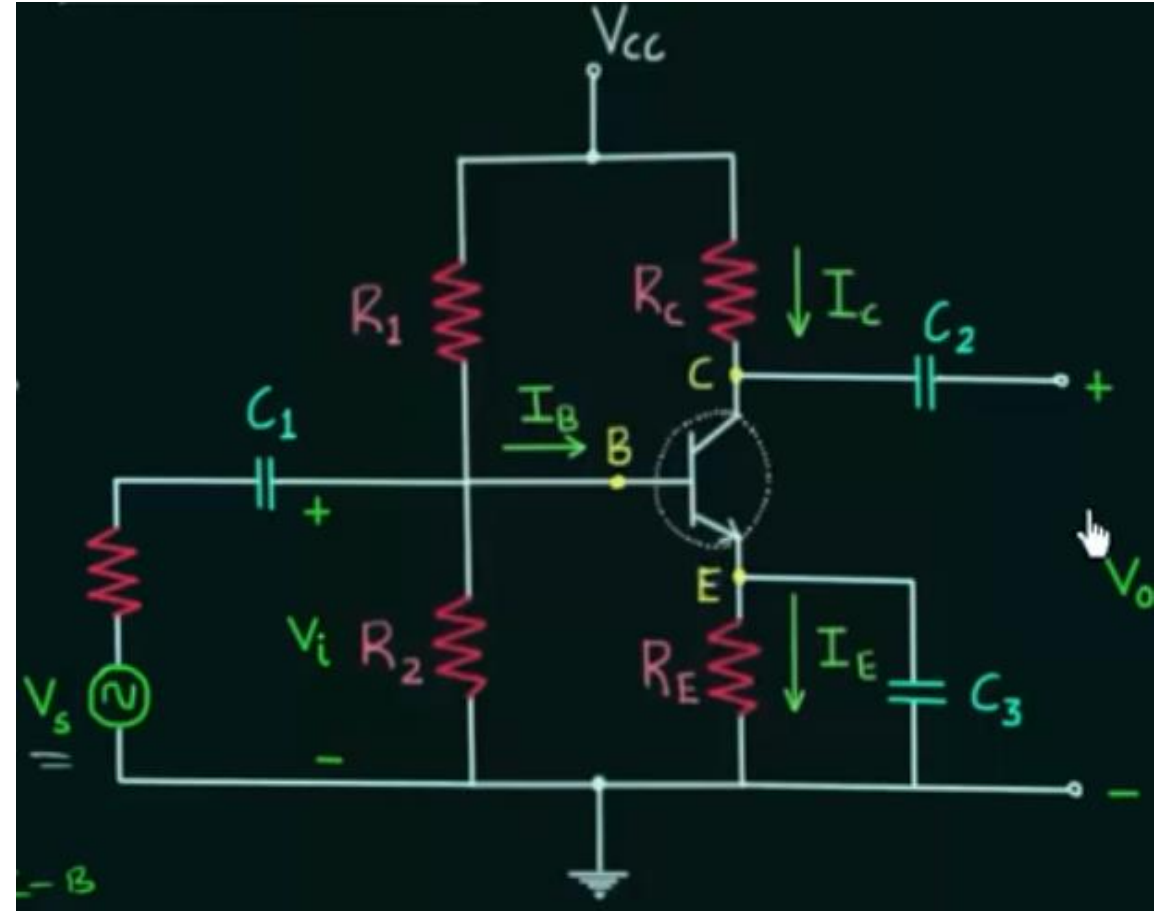
We know that  $X_c = 1/2 * \pi * f * c$

For AC input  $f \neq 0$  (f not equal to zero)

$X_c = 1/\text{large value} = 0$  (approximately)

Hence for AC input the capacitors are short circuited.

- $C_1, C_2$  are coupling capacitors because those are the capacitors which are coupling the input to the amplifier and output to the load respectively.



## Why to use coupling capacitors?

In order to prevent the DC from previous stage to interfere with the  $V_{cc}$  and hence the operating point will remain constant.

$C_3$  is bypass capacitor because it bypasses the AC signal as  $R_E$  offers some resistance.

To find out AC response we need to do 2 things

- 1) Obtain AC equivalent circuit.
- 2) Replace the transistor with equivalent circuit.

## Equivalent circuit for AC analysis:

### STEP-1

Short circuit the DC sources.

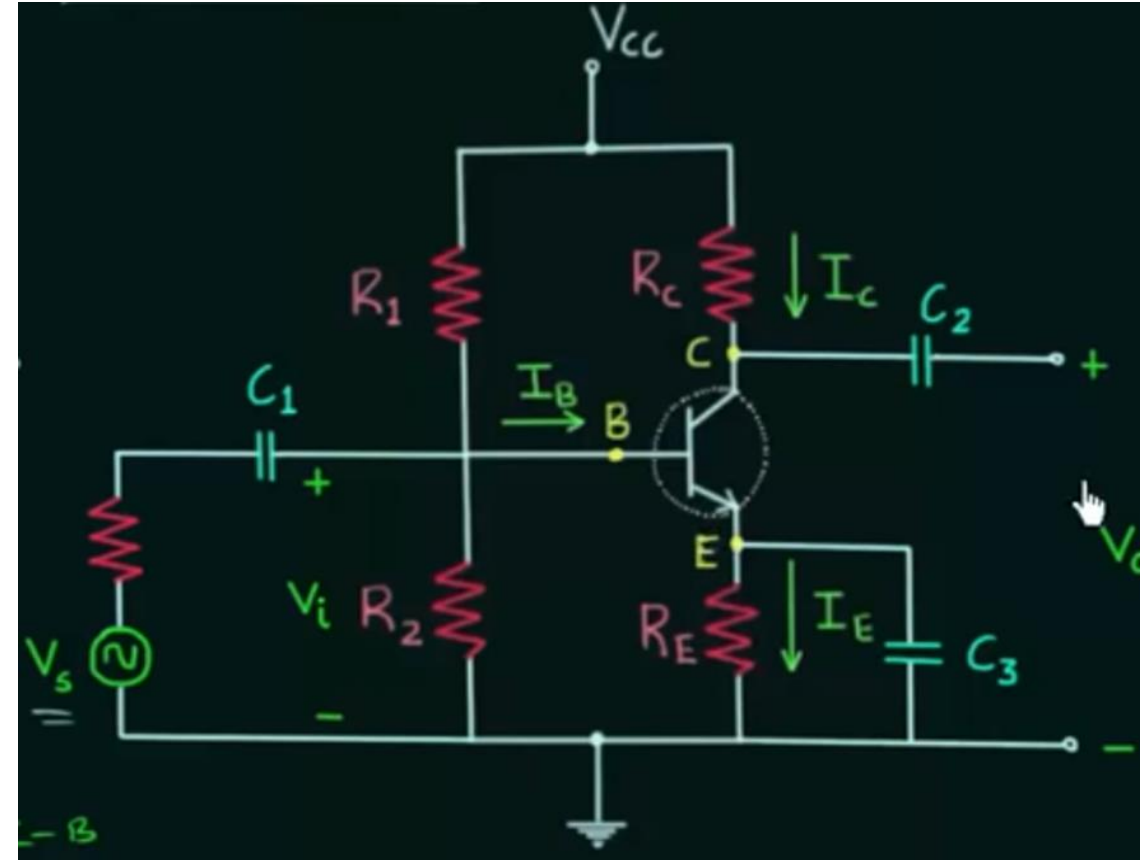
In the figure we have 1 DC source (ie)  $V_{CC}$  and the potential of ground is 0v.

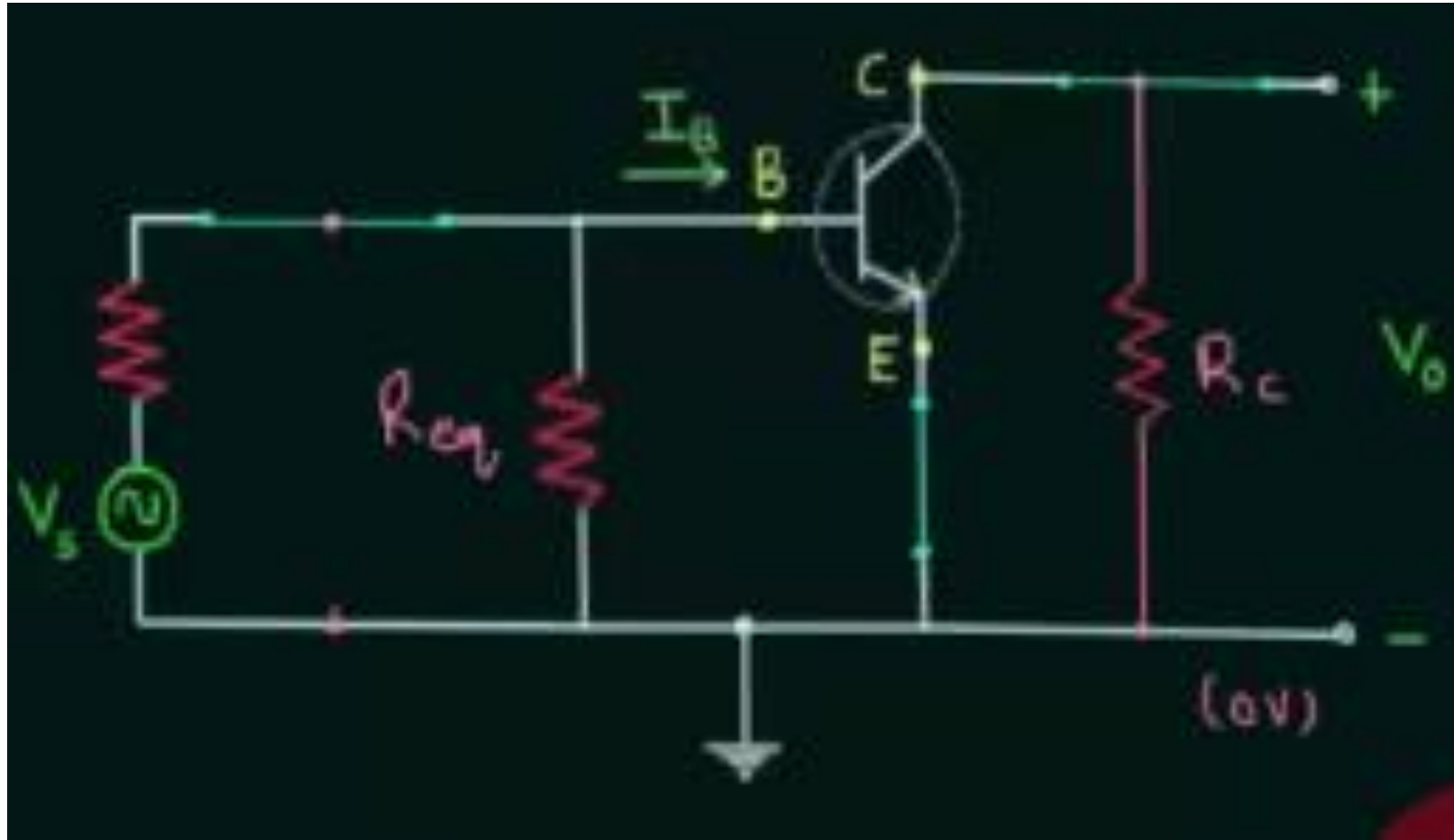
### STEP-2

Short all the capacitors  $C_1, C_2$  and  $C_3$

### STEP-3

Redraw the network removing all the elements which are short circuited in STEP-1 and STEP-2.





## Problems

1) If the emitter resistance in a common-emitter voltage amplifier is not bypassed, it will

GATE-2014

- A) Reduces voltage gain and input impedance
- B) Reduces voltage gain and increase the input impedance
- C) Increases voltage gain and reduces the input impedance
- D) Increases both voltage gain and the input impedance

**Solution: B**

Reduces voltage gain and increases input impedance due to feedback.



## The equivalent model of transistor:

Equivalent model is the combination of circuit elements properly chosen to best represent the actual behaviour of the device under specific Operating Point.

We need equivalent models to use these network theorems in order to find out different network parameters like in case of P-N diode.

There are three equivalent models of transistors. They are

- 1) Hybrid model (for low frequencies)
- 2)  $r_e$ -model (for low and high frequencies)
- 3) Hybrid  $\pi$ -model (for low and high frequencies)

All the three models are used for small signal analysis.

## **Hybrid model**

It is also known as h-parameters model

- 1) It is widely used before the popularity of  $\pi$ -model.
- 2) Parameters are defined in general terms for any operating point conditions.

In hybrid model we have to calculate h-parameters and using them we will draw the equivalent circuit.

- These parameters have mixed dimensions hence these are known as hybrid parameters.

## **Need for Hybrid parameters:**

Before transistors, vacuum tubes are used to design circuits. We have four parameters in small signal amplifiers. All these are obtained only by z-parameters or by y-parameters in case of vacuum tubes. In case of transistors there was problem determining z-parameters, so a new set of parameters called as hybrid parameters are introduced.

Port 1 current is  $I_1$

Potential difference across port-1 is  $V_1$

Port 2 current is  $I_2$

Potential difference across port-2 is  $V_2$

Total current or voltage value = ac value + dc value

We can define parameters by taking any 2 parameters out of 4 as dependent and rest 2 as independent.

Let  $V_1$  and  $I_2$  be dependent quantities.

$I_1$  and  $V_2$  are independent quantities.

Say  $V_1$  and  $I_2$  are functions of  $I_1$  and  $V_2$

$V_1 = f_1(I_1, V_2)$ ;  $I_2 = f_2(I_1, V_2)$



$$v_1 = h_{11} * i_1 + h_{12} * v_2 \text{-----(1)}$$

$$i_2 = h_{21} * i_1 + h_{22} * v_2 \text{-----(2)}$$

These equations are applicable to all 3 transistor configurations(CC,CB,CE)

If we substitute  $v_2=0$  in Eq-1 and Eq-2, then

$h_{11} = v_1 / i_1$  ; where  $h_{11}$  is input impedance when output is short circuited

Hence  $h_{11}$  can be represented as  $h_i$

$h_{21} = i_2 / i_1$  ; where  $h_{21}$  is forward current gain when the output is short circuited

Hence  $h_{21}$  can be represented as  $h_f$

If we substitute  $i_1=0$  in Eq-1 and Eq-2, then

$h_{12}=v_1/v_2$  ; where  $h_{12}$  is reverse voltage gain when input is open circuited

Hence  $h_{12}$  can be represented as  $h_r$

$h_{22}= i_2/v_2$  ; where  $h_{22}$  is admittance with input open circuited

Hence  $h_{22}$  can be represented as  $h_o$

### Nomenclature of h-parameters for various transistor configurations

We can add 'e' or 'b' or 'c' as second suffix to all h-parameters for CE, CB and CC configurations respectively

**Example:** For CE, the h-parameters are

$$h_i \rightarrow h_{ie} \quad h_f \rightarrow h_{fe} \quad h_r \rightarrow h_{re} \quad h_o \rightarrow h_{oe}$$

To draw equivalent circuit for Eq-1 and Eq-2

Let us consider Eq-1,

$$v_1 = h_{11} * i_1 + h_{12} * v_2$$

Unit of each term in the equation is volts. Hence by applying KVL we can obtain equivalent circuit,

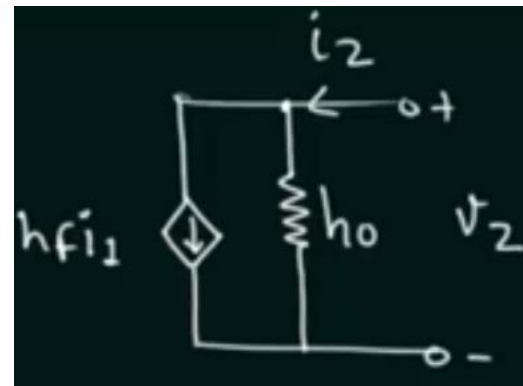
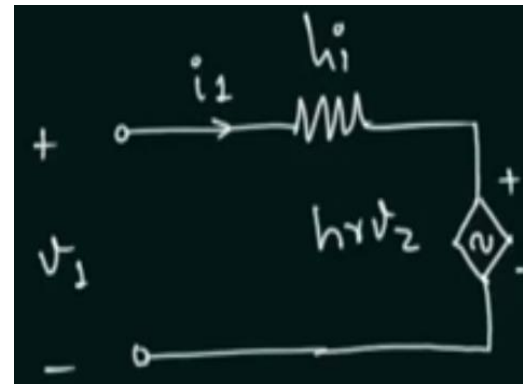
$$v_1 = h_i * i_1 + h_r * v_2$$

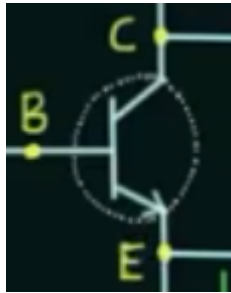
Let us consider Eq-2,

$$i_2 = h_{21} * i_1 + h_{22} * v_2$$

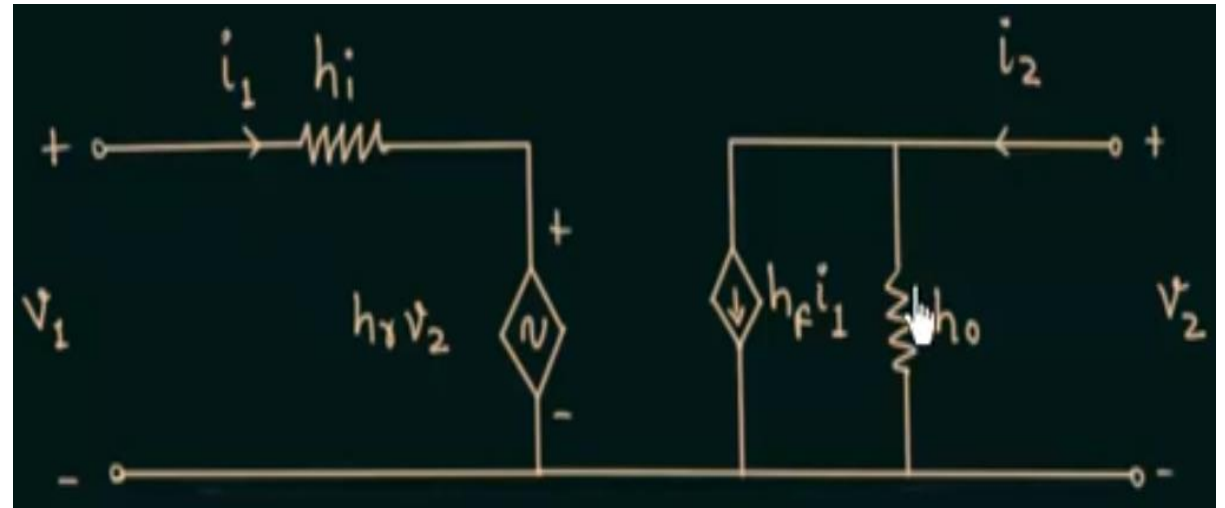
Use KCL to obtain equivalent circuit,

$$i_2 = h_f * i_1 + h_o * v_2$$





==

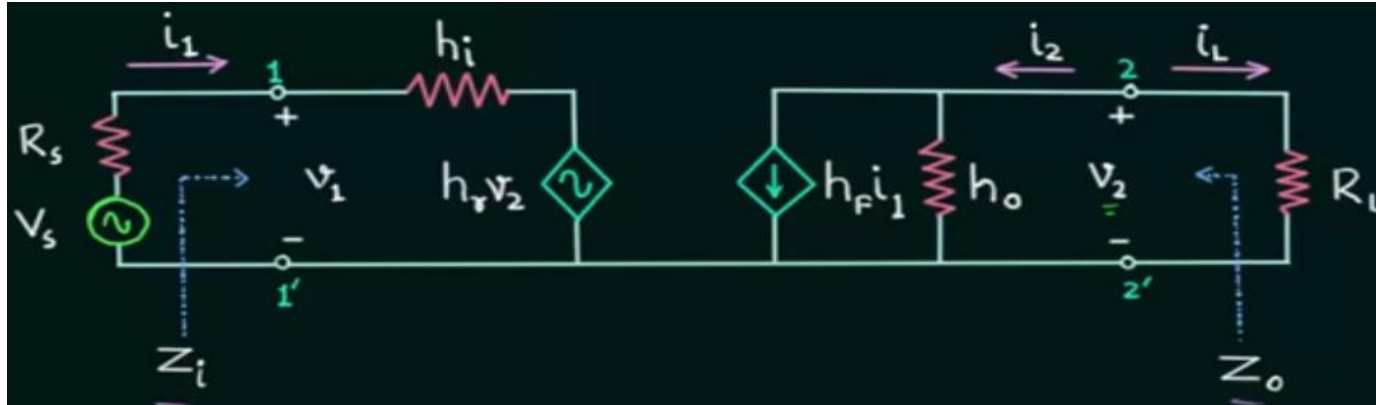


**Note:** Whenever we have the transistor in the circuit and you have to perform AC analysis then the conventional transistor symbol is replaced by equivalent model. If we want to make the equivalent model according to transistor configuration, another subscript will be added.

Let CE be the transistor,  $h_i \rightarrow h_{ie}$ ;  $h_f \rightarrow h_{fe}$ ;  $h_r \rightarrow h_{re}$ ;  $h_o \rightarrow h_{oe}$



## Analysis of transistor amplifier using h-parameter



In the equivalent circuit of the transistor, introduce source voltage  $V_s$  and resistance  $R_s$  on the input side.

On the output side, introduce a load resistance  $R_L$  and  $i_L$  is current through load resistance.

$Z_o$ -output impedance;  $Z_i$ -input impedance

## Expression for current gain:

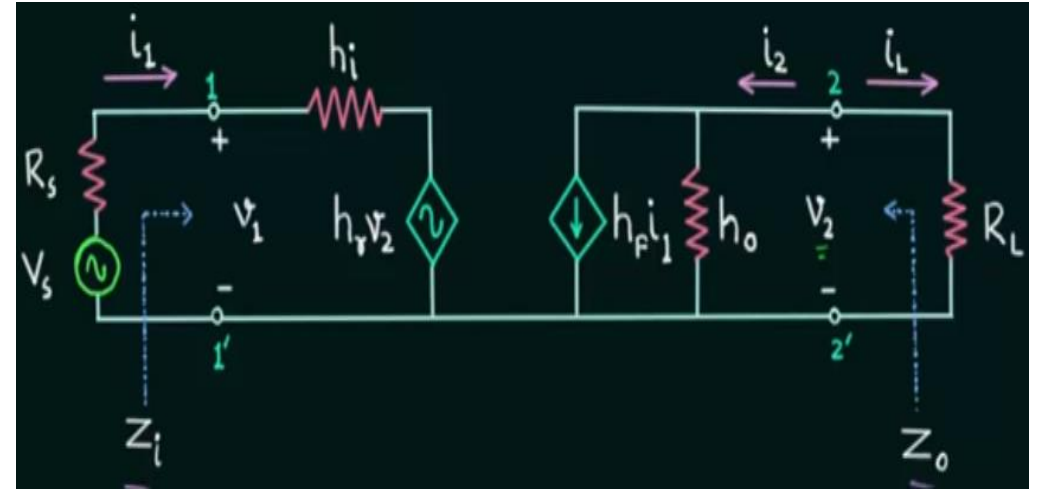
Current gain is defined as the ratio of output current to input current. It is denoted by

$$A_i \quad A_i = i_L / i_1$$

$$i_L = -i_2 \text{ (from above figure)}$$

Voltage drop across  $R_L$  is  $V_2$

$$V_2 = i_L * R_L = -i_2 * R_L$$



Consider the equation from equivalent model of transistor

$$i_2 = h_f * i_1 + h_o * v_2 \rightarrow h_f * i_1 + h_o * (-i_2 * R_L)$$

By solving the above equation we get,  $i_2 / i_1 = h_f / (1 + h_o * R_L)$

Therefore,  $A_i = i_L / i_1 = -h_f / (1 + h_o * R_L)$

This is true for all transistor configurations.

## Expression for Input impedance:

Input impedance is defined as the impedance seen from terminals 1 and 1<sup>1</sup>

According to ohms law,  $V_1 = i_1 * Z_i$

$$Z_i = \frac{V_1}{i_1}$$

Consider Eq-1,  $v_1 = h_i * i_1 + h_r * v_2 = h_i * i_1 + h_r * (-i_2 * R_L)$

By solving we get  $Z_i = \frac{v_1}{i_1} = h_i + A_i * h_r * R_L$

By substituting  $A_i$  value we will get  $Z_i = h_i - \left( \frac{h_r * h_f * R_L}{1 + h_o R_L} \right)$

## Expression for Voltage gain:

It is defined as the ratio of output voltage to input voltage. It is represented by  $A_v$ .

$$A_v = V_o/V_i = V_2/V_1 = (-i_2 * R_L)/V_1 \quad (\text{since } V_2 = -i_2 * R_L)$$

Multiply and divide by  $i_1$  on R.H.S

$$A_v = \left( \frac{-i_2 * R_L}{V_1} \right) * (i_1/i_1)$$
$$= \left( \frac{-i_2}{i_1} \right) * \left( \frac{i_1 * R_L}{V_1} \right) = A_i * \left( \frac{R_L}{Z_i} \right)$$

Where  $Z_i = h_i - \left( \frac{h_r * h_f * R_L}{1 + h_o * R_L} \right)$  and  $A_i = -h_f / (1 + h_o * R_L)$

Finally,  $A_v = \left( \frac{-h_f * R_L}{h_i + \Delta h * R_L} \right)$  Where  $\Delta h = h_i * h_o - h_r * h_f$

## Expression for Output Impedance:

To calculate  $Z_o$  we need to short input source  $V_s$  and open output terminal i.e.

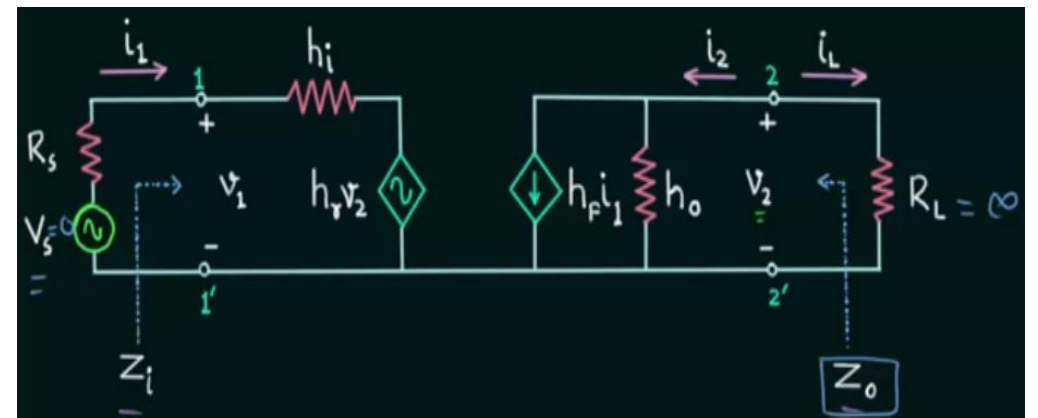
$$R_L = \infty \text{ and } V_s = 0$$

$Z_o = \frac{v_2}{i_2}$ ; Substitute  $i_2$  value from h-parameter equation then we will get one equation

$$Z_o = \frac{v_2}{h_f \cdot i_1 + h_o \cdot v_2} \text{ ----- (1)}$$

Now apply KVL in input loop to get 2<sup>nd</sup> equation

$$-i_1 \cdot R_s - i_1 \cdot h_i - h_r \cdot v_2 = 0$$



$$i_1 = \frac{-h_r v_2}{R_s + h_i} \text{-----(2)}$$

Substitute Eq-(2) in Eq-(1)

$$Z_o = \frac{R_s + h_i}{\Delta h + h_o R_s}$$

### Overall voltage gain:

It is defined as ratio of output voltage to source voltage

$$A_{vs} = \frac{V_2}{V_s}$$

Multiply and divide it by  $v_1$

$$A_{vs} = \frac{V_2}{V_s} * \frac{V_1}{V_1}$$

$$A_v = \frac{V_2}{V_1} = \left( \frac{-h_f * R_L}{h_i + \Delta h * R_L} \right)$$



Therefore,  $A_{vs} = A_v * \frac{V_1}{V_s} \text{-----(3)}$

From the above loop

$$V_1/V_s = \frac{Z_i}{R_s + Z_i} \text{-----(4)}$$

Therefore,  $A_{vs} = A_v \left( \frac{Z_i}{R_s + Z_i} \right)$

If  $V_s$  is ideal  $\implies R_s = 0$

Therefore,  $A_{vs} = A_v$

## Overall current gain:

It is defined as the ratio of output current to the current delivered by the source. It is denoted by  $A_{is}$ .

$$A_{is} = \frac{i_l}{i_1} * \frac{i_2}{i_s} = A_i * \frac{i_1}{i_s}$$

Convert voltage source at the input into current source.

Now, use current divider rule,

$$i_1 = \frac{i_s * R_s}{R_s + Z_i} \implies \frac{i_1}{i_s} = \frac{R_s}{R_s + Z_i} \text{----- (5)}$$

Therefore,  $A_{is} = A_i * \left( \frac{R_s}{R_s + Z_i} \right)$

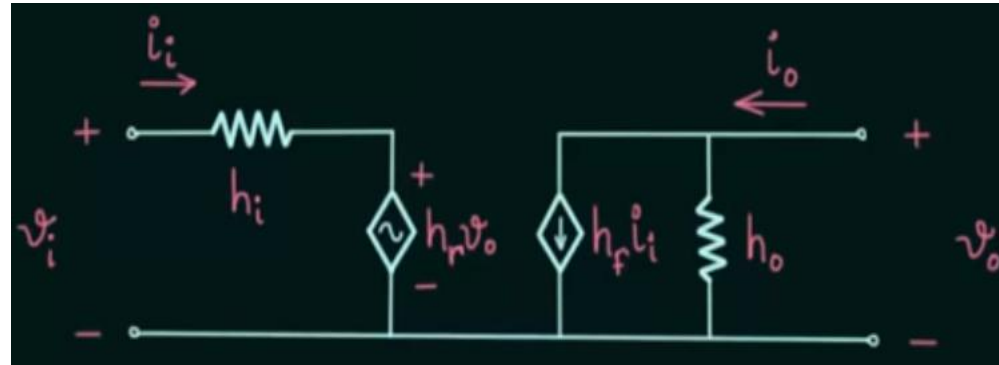
In case of ideal current source,  $R_s = \infty$

Therefore,  $A_{is} = A_i$



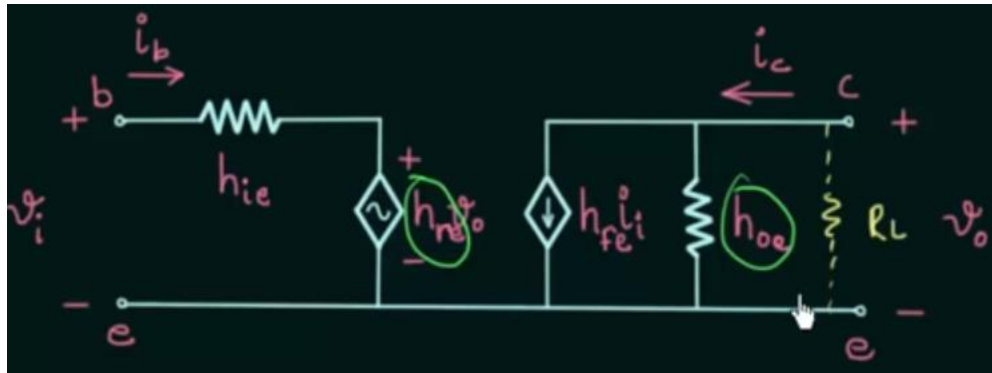
## Approximate hybrid equivalent model of transistor:

Lets consider CE transistor

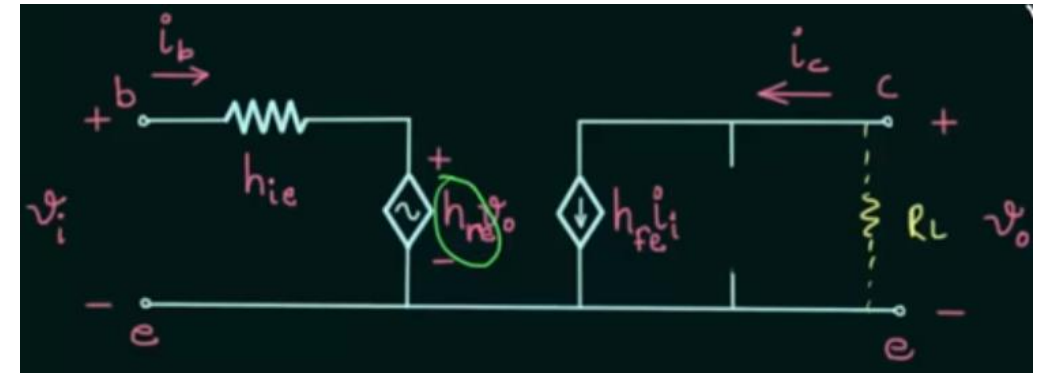


For CE and CB the magnitude of  $h_r$  and  $h_o$  are such that the results obtained for the parameters like input Z, Output Z, voltage gain and current gain are slightly effected, if not included in the circuit. Hence we can remove it from the circuit.

$h_{oe}$  is output admittance and  $\frac{1}{h_{oe}}$  is output impedance which is very large compared to the load resistance  $R_L$ . Hence we can neglect the output impedance as no chance of flowing current through it.



$\Rightarrow$

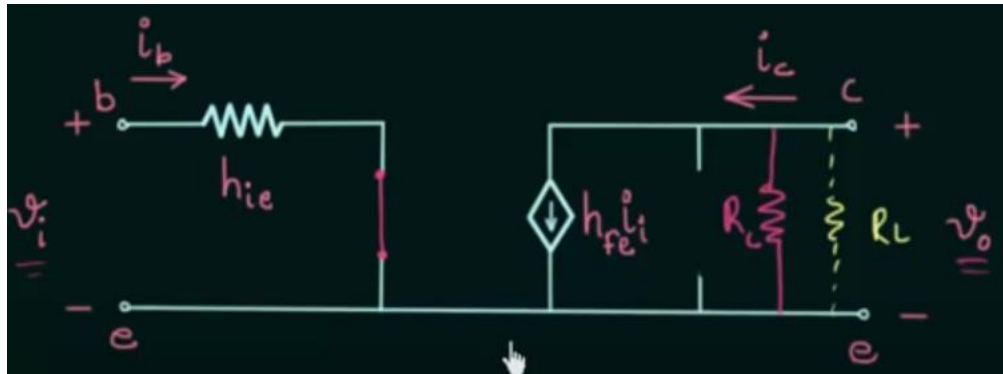


If transistor is connected in fixed bias configuration then there is one more resistance connected in parallel to  $R_L$  which is  $R_C$  then also  $\frac{1}{h_{oe}}$  is greater than equivalent resistance so we can neglect in that case too.

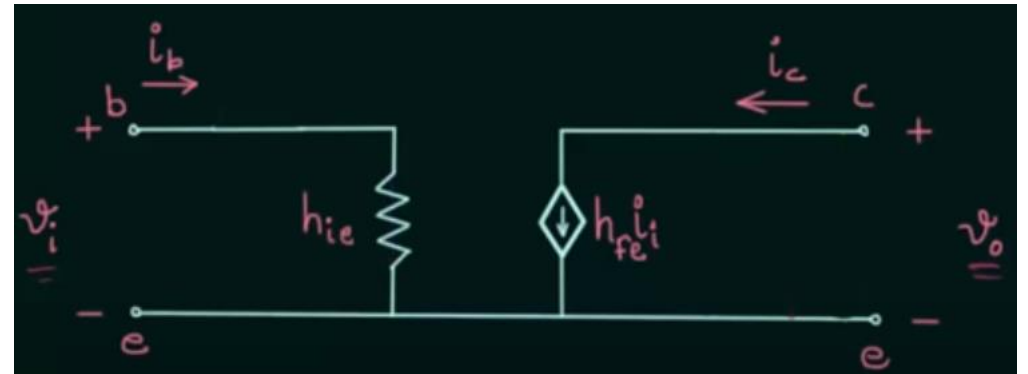
$$h_r = \frac{V_i}{V_o} = 0 \text{ (approx.)} \quad (\text{Since when transistor acts as an amplifier } V_o > V_i)$$

Therefore,  $h_{re} V_o = 0$  So we can replace this branch with an short circuit.

Final Equivalent Circuit:



$\Rightarrow$



### Conversion of h-parameters:

The need for the conversion is, generally the transistor manufacturer provides the h-parameters of transistors in CE model because its mostly used.

Conversion requires following formulae:

For CE  $\rightarrow$  CB

$$h_{ib} = \frac{h_{ie}}{1+h_{fe}} ; \quad h_{rb} = \frac{h_{ie} * h_{oe}}{1+h_{fe}} - h_{re} ; \quad h_{fb} = \frac{-h_{fe}}{1+h_{fe}} ; \quad h_{ob} = \frac{h_{oe}}{1+h_{fe}}$$

For CE  $\rightarrow$  CC

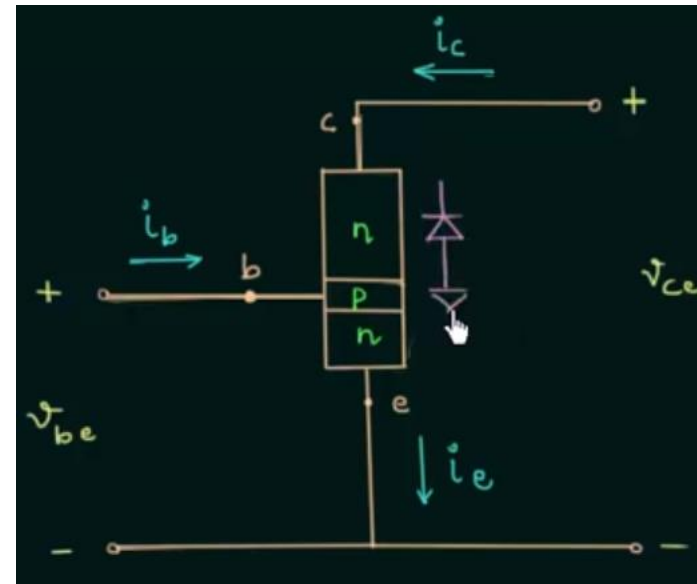
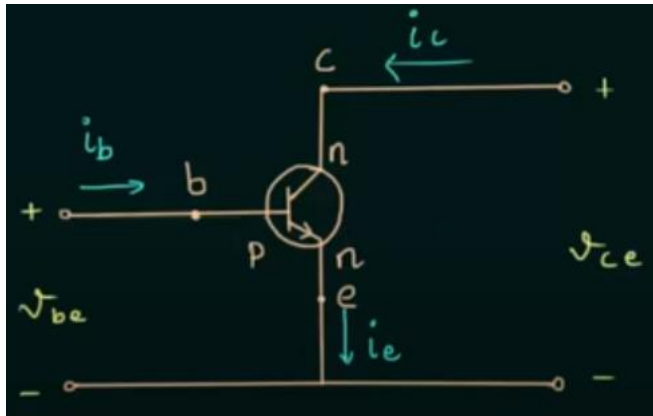
$$h_{ic} = h_{ie} ; \quad h_{rc} = 1 - h_{re} ; \quad h_{fc} = -(1 + h_{fe}) ; \quad h_{oc} = h_{oe}$$

For CB  $\rightarrow$  CC

$$h_{ie} = \frac{h_{ib}}{1+h_{fb}} ; \quad h_{re} = \frac{h_{ib} * h_{ob}}{1+h_{fb}} - h_{rb} ; \quad h_{fe} = \frac{-h_{fe}}{1+h_{fb}} ; \quad h_{oe} = \frac{h_{ob}}{1+h_{fb}}$$

# $r_e$ Transistor model

Lets find out  $r_e$  model for CE transistor



- Modify the above circuit by placing a dependent current source in the collector branch and the emitter branch will have forward biased diode.
- We have dependent current source because current  $i_c = \beta * i_b + (\beta + 1) * I_{CBO}$

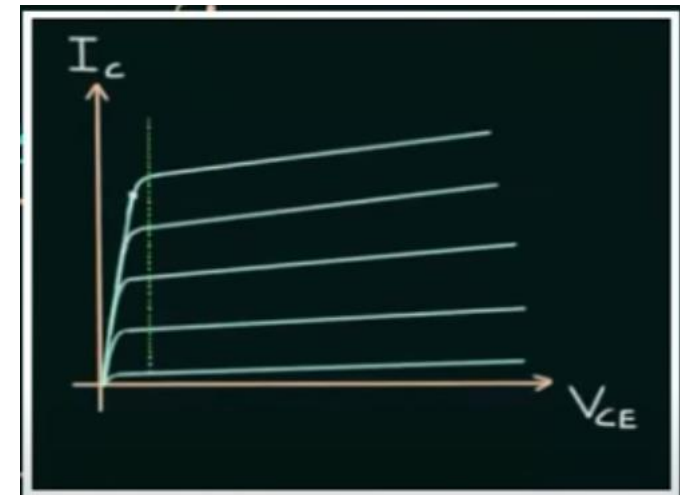
Here we neglected the reverse saturation current as it is very small.

From the output characteristics of CE transistor, we find that the output resistance is

very large because resistance  $(r_o) = \frac{1}{\text{slope}}$

(Since slope = 0 (approx.))

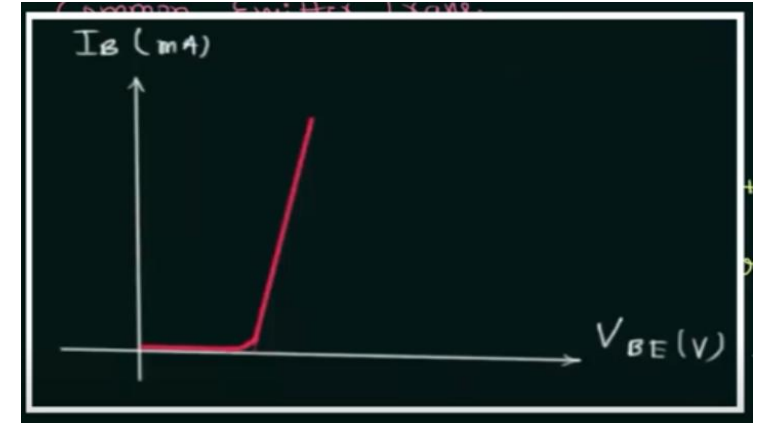
$$r_o = \infty$$



In the collector branch place a forward biased diode because the input characteristics of CE transistor is similar to the input characteristics of a forward biased diode.

There are three types of diode resistances:

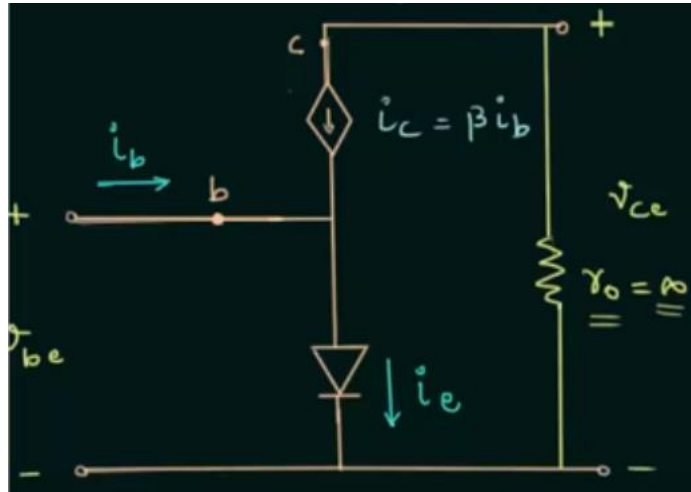
- i) DC resistance
- ii) AC resistance (dynamic resistance)
- iii) Average AC resistance



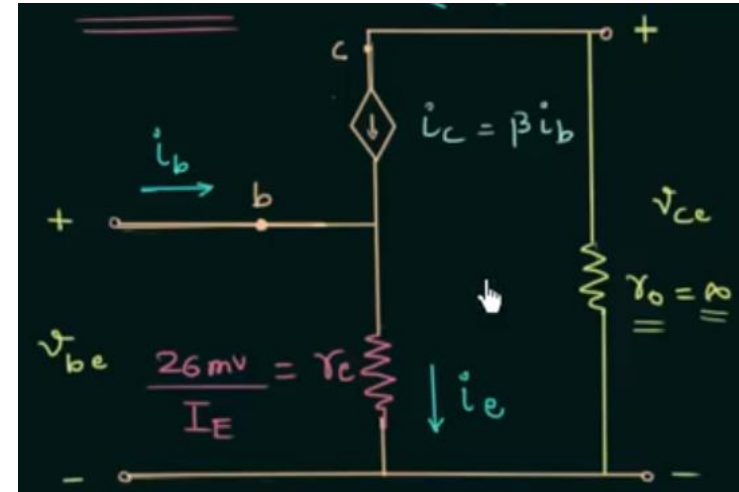
For AC analysis we will consider second type of diode resistance which is represented

as  $r_d$ . Where  $r_d = \frac{\Delta V_{BE}}{\Delta I_B}$

Now again replace diode by dynamic resistance  $r_e$  ( $r_e = r_d$ ) where  $i_e$  is the current flows through it.

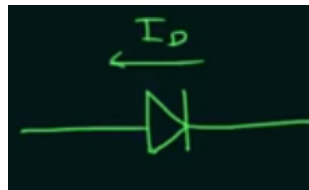


≡



## Calculating $r_e$ :

Consider a PN junction diode



Where  $I_D$  is diode current and  $I_S$  be the reverse saturation current.

From diode current equation we know that  $I_D = I_S \left( e^{\frac{V_D}{nV_T}} - 1 \right)$



Differentiate with respect to  $V_D$

$$\frac{dI_D}{dV_D} = I_S * \frac{d}{dV_D} (e^{\frac{V_D}{\eta V_T}} - 1)$$

For high diode currents  $\eta=1$

And  $\frac{dI_D}{dV_D} = \frac{1}{r_d}$ ; Substituting these values and by the above equation we will get

$$\frac{1}{r_d} = \frac{I_S (e^{\frac{V_D}{V_T}})}{V_T} = \frac{I_D + I_S}{V_T} = \frac{I_D}{V_T}$$

Therefore,  $r_d = \frac{VT}{ID} = \frac{26mV}{ID}$  (Since at room temperature  $V_T=26mV$ )

$$r_e = \frac{26mV}{I_E}$$

$r_e$  model for CE transistor further modification:

CE is mostly used because amplification is large in this configuration.

But in the above circuit for CE model input and output sides are not properly separated.

We know that  $i_e = i_b + i_c$

Substitute  $i_c = \beta i_b$  then we will get  $i_e = i_b(1 + \beta)$

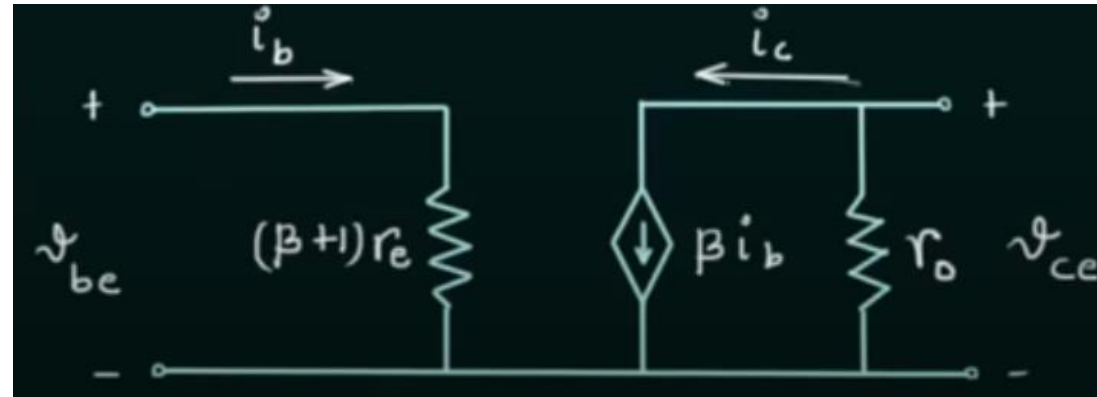
Find drop across resistance  $r_e$

Drop across  $r_e = r_e * i_e = r_e * i_b(1 + \beta)$

To separate input and output circuit we will take  $r_e$  and  $(1 + \beta)$  together and  $i_b$  is the current flowing through the resistance  $r_e(1 + \beta)$

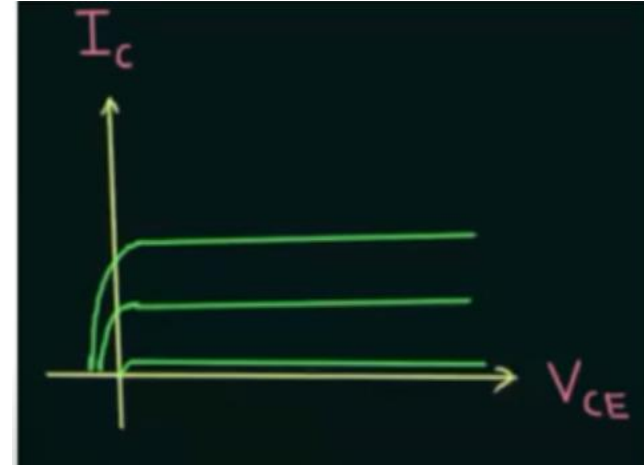
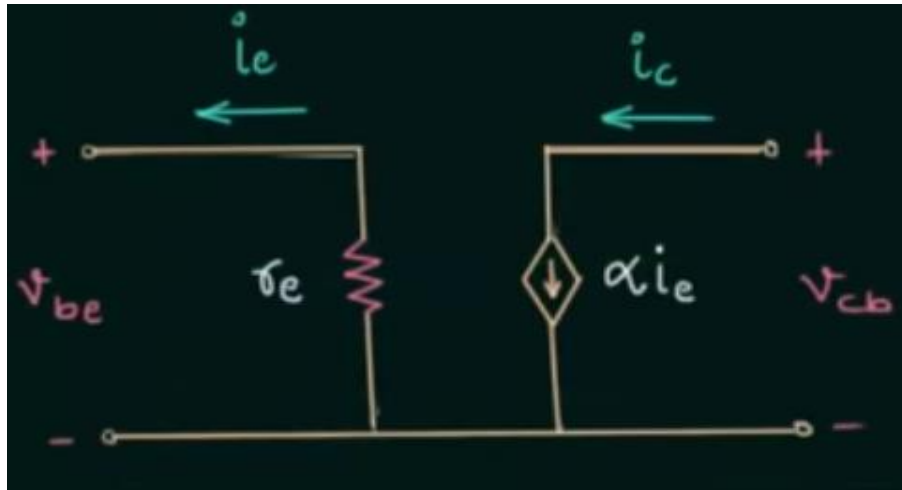
And at the output side we have a dependent current source and a resistor  $r_o$

Therefore the final equivalent  $r_e$  model for CE configuration is



And we can further simplify it by placing  $\beta$  in place of  $(1 + \beta)$

$r_e$  model for Common Base Transistor:



In this CB, the output characteristics have 0 slope

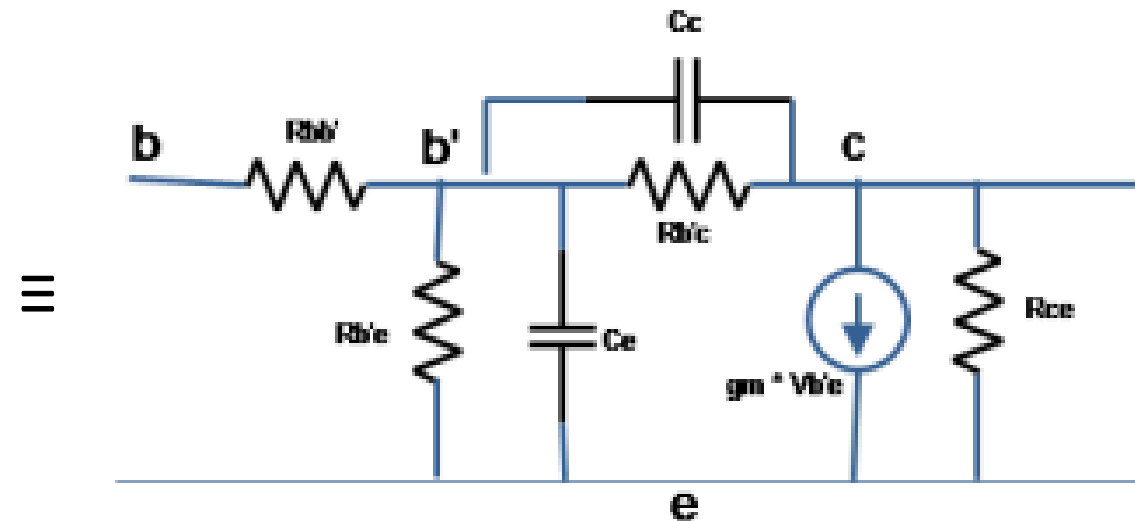
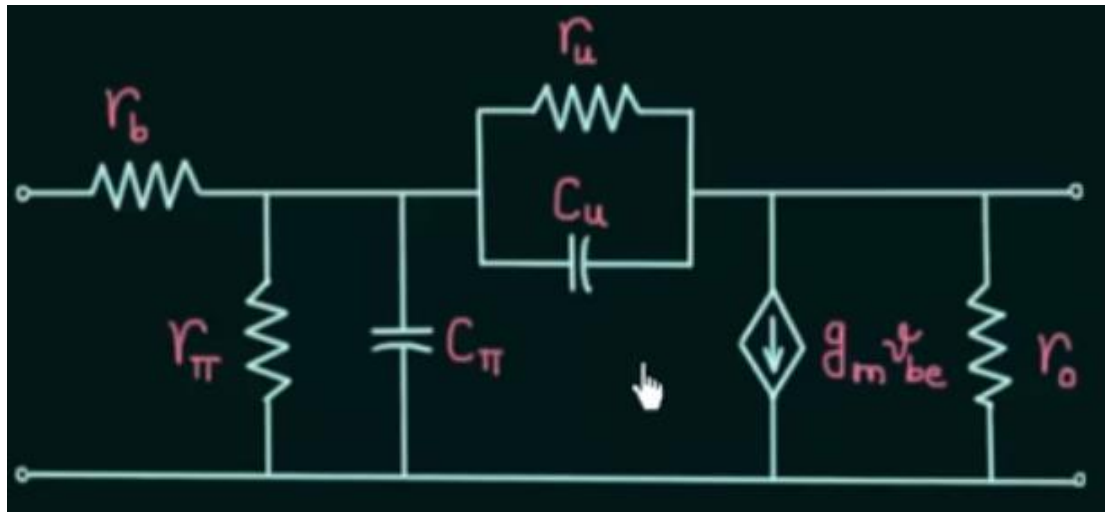
$$r_o = \frac{1}{\text{slope}} = \frac{1}{0} = \infty$$

So we neglected the output resistance in  $r_e$  model of CB transistor.

## Hybrid- $\pi$ model

- Widely used because we can use it for high frequency small signals and we can also use it for low frequency small signals.
- At low frequencies it is assumed that transistor responds instantaneously to changes in the input voltage or current.
- If frequency of the input is high (MHz) and the amplitude of the input signal is changing the Transistor amplifier will not be able to respond. It is because; the carriers from the emitter side will have to be injected into the collector side. These take definite amount of time to travel from Emitter to Base, however small it may be.

- But if the input signal is varying at much higher speed than the actual time taken by the carriers to respond, then the Transistor amplifier will not respond instantaneously. Thus, the junction capacitances of the transistor, puts a limit to the highest frequency signal which the transistor can handle.



At high frequencies, parameters like junction capacitances come into picture.

$C_u$  – This is the capacitor which represent Early effect and it is of few Pico Farads.

$C_{\pi}$  - Diffusion capacitance that represent minority carrier storage in base region and its value lies between 1PF to 2PF.

$r_b$  – This is very small value which represents the resistance due to base connection and other resistances like base spreading resistance is also included. As it is small we can replace it by a short circuit.

$r_{\pi}$  - input resistance between base and emitter terminal.

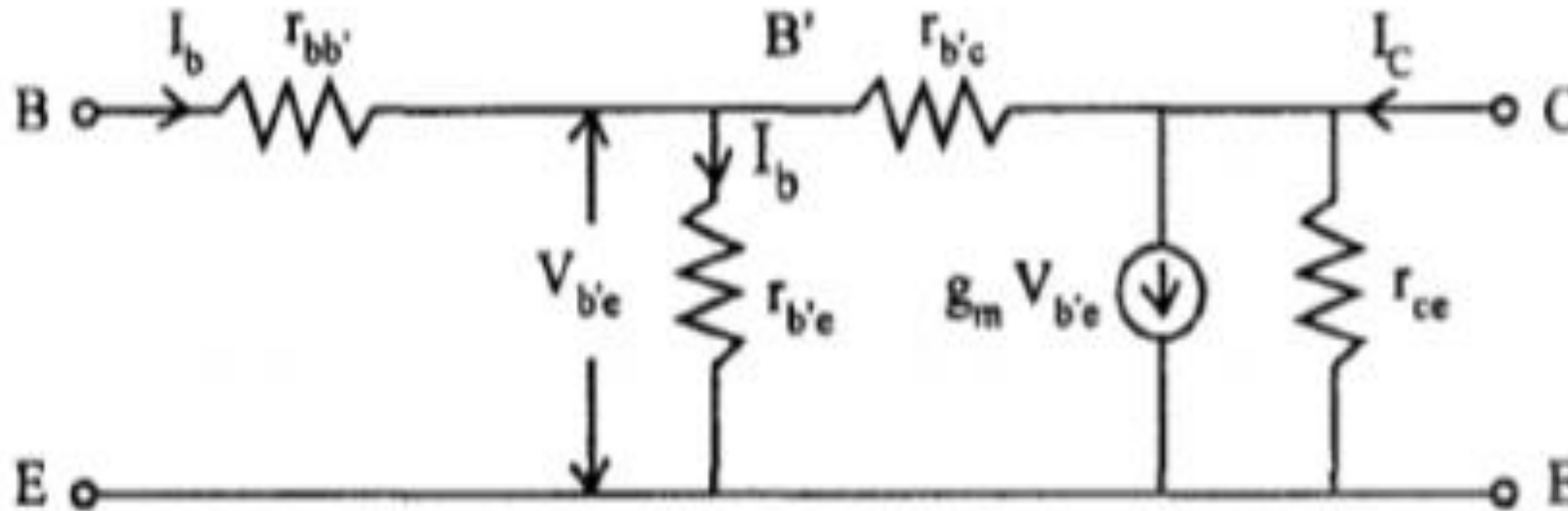
$$\text{where } r_{\pi} = \beta r_e$$

$r_u$  - resistance between base and collector terminal. It is very large, hence replace it with open circuit.

## Parameter calculations at low frequencies:

### Input Conductance ( $g_{b'e}$ ):

At low frequencies, capacitive reactance will be very large and can be considered as Open circuit. So in the hybrid- $\pi$  equivalent circuit which is valid at low frequencies, all the capacitances can be neglected. B' = internal node in base.





$$I_C = g_m \cdot V_{b'e}; \quad V_{b'e} = I_b \cdot r_{b'e}$$

$$I_C = g_m \cdot I_b \cdot r_{b'e}$$

$$h_{fe} = \left. \frac{I_C}{I_B} \right|_{V_{CE}} = g_m \cdot r_{b'e}$$

$$\boxed{r_{b'e} = \frac{h_{fe}}{g_m}}$$

$$g_m = \frac{|I_C|}{V_T}$$

$$r_{b'e} = \frac{h_{fe} \cdot V_T}{|I_C|}$$

$$g_{b'e} = \boxed{\frac{|I_C|}{h_{fe} V_T}} \quad \text{or} \quad \boxed{\frac{g_m}{h_{fe}}}$$

## Base Spreading Resistance ( $r_b$ or $r_{bb'}$ ):

The input resistance with the output shorted is  $h_{ie}$ . If output is shorted, i.e., Collector and Emitter are joined;  $r_{b'e}$  is in parallel with  $r_{b'c}$ .

$$h_{ie} = r_{bb'} + r_{b'e}$$

$$r_{bb'} = h_{ie} - r_{b'e}$$

$$h_{ie} = r_{bb'} + r_{b'e}$$

$$r_{b'e} = \frac{h_{fe} \cdot V_T}{|I_C|}$$

$$h_{ie} = r_{bb'} + \frac{h_{fe} \cdot V_T}{|I_C|}$$

## Output Conductance ( $g_{ce}$ )

This is the conductance with input open circuited. In h-parameters it is represented as

$h_{oe}$ . For  $I_b = 0$ , we have,

$$I_C = \frac{V_{ce}}{r_{ce}} + \frac{V_{ce}}{r_{b'c} + r_{b'e}} + g_m V_{b'e}$$

$$h_{re} = \frac{V_{b'e}}{V_{ce}} \quad \therefore \quad V_{b'e} = h_{re} \cdot V_{ce}$$

$$I_C = \frac{V_{ce}}{r_{ce}} + \frac{V_{ce}}{r_{b'c} + r_{b'e}} + g_m \cdot h_{re} \cdot V_{ce}$$

$$h_{oe} = \frac{1}{r_{ce}} + \frac{1}{r_{b'c}} + g_m \cdot h_{re}$$
$$= g_{ce} + g_{b'c} + g_m h_{re}$$

$$g_{b'c} = \frac{g_m}{h_{fe}}$$

$$g_m = g_{b'e} \cdot h_{fe}$$

$$h_{re} = \frac{r_{b'e}}{r_{b'e} + r_{b'c}} \approx \frac{r_{b'e}}{r_{b'c}} = \frac{g_{b'c}}{g_{b'e}}$$

$$h_{oe} = g_{ce} + g_{b'c} + g_{b'e} h_{fe} \cdot \frac{g_{b'c}}{g_{b'e}}$$

$$g_{ce} = h_{oe} - (1 + h_{fe}) \cdot g_{b'c}$$

$$h_{fe} \gg 1, 1 + h_{fe} \approx h_{fe}$$

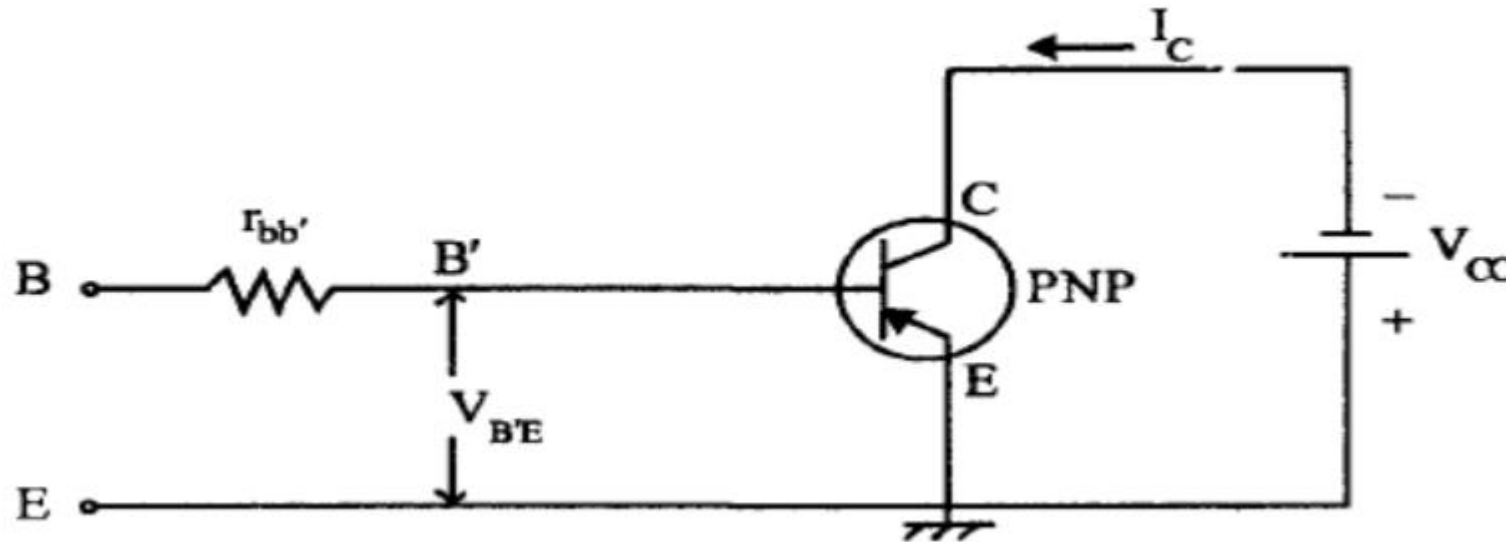
$$\mathbf{g_{ce} = h_{oe} - h_{fe} \cdot g_{b'c}}$$

$$g_{b'c} = h_{re} \cdot g_{b'e}$$

$$g_{ce} = h_{oe} - h_{fe} \cdot h_{re} \cdot g_{b'e}$$

Validity of hybrid- $\pi$  model The high frequency hybrid Pi or Giacoletto model of BJT is valid for frequencies less than the unit gain frequency.

## Trans-conductance or Mutual Conductance ( $g_m$ ):



The transconductance is the ratio of change in the collector current due to small changes in the voltage  $V_{BE}$  across the emitter junction. It is given as

$$g_m = \left. \frac{\partial I_c}{\partial V_{B'E}} \right|_{V_{CE}} \text{-----(1)}$$

We know that, the collector current in active region is given as

$$I_C = I_{C0} - \alpha_0 \cdot I_E$$

$$\partial I_c = \alpha \partial I_e \quad \because I_{C0} = \text{Constant}$$

Substitute  $\partial I_c$  in Eq-(1) we get,

$$g_m = 0 - \alpha_0 \frac{\partial I_E}{\partial V_{b'e}}$$

$$V_{b'e} = V_E$$

The emitter diode resistance,  $r_e$  is given as

$$r_e = \frac{\partial V_E}{\partial I_E}$$

$$\frac{1}{r_e} = \frac{\partial I_E}{\partial V_E}$$

Substituting  $r_e$  in place of  $\partial I_e / \partial V_E$  we get,

$$g_m = \frac{\alpha}{r_e} \quad \dots (3)$$

The emitter diode is a forward biased diode and its dynamic resistance is given as

$$r_e = \frac{V_T}{I_E} \quad \dots (4)$$

where  $V_T$  is the "volt equivalent of temperature", defined by

$$V_T = \frac{kT}{q}$$

where  $k$  is the Boltzmann constant in joules per degree kelvin ( $1.38 \times 10^{-23} \text{ J/}^\circ\text{K}$ ) is the electronic charge ( $1.6 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C}$ ).

Substituting value of  $r_e$  in equation (3) we get,

$$g_m = \frac{\alpha I_E}{V_T} = \frac{\alpha I_E q}{kT}$$



For pnp transistor  $I_c$  is negative. For an npn transistor  $I_c$  is positive, but the foregoing analysis (with  $V_E = +V_{BE}$ ) leads to  $g_m = (I_c - I_{CO}) / V_T$ .

Hence, for either type of transistor,  $g_m$  is positive.

$$\therefore g_m = \frac{I_c - I_{CO}}{V_T} \quad \because I_c \gg I_{CO} \quad \dots (5)$$

Substituting value of  $V_T$  in equation (5) we get

$$\begin{aligned} g_m &= \frac{I_c q}{k T} = \frac{I_c \times 1.6 \times 10^{-19}}{1.38 \times 10^{-23} T} \\ &= \frac{11600 I_c}{T} \quad \dots (6) \end{aligned}$$

From equation (6) we can say that transconductance  $g_m$  is directly proportional to collector current and inversely proportional to temperature.

At room temperature, 300 °K

$$\begin{aligned} g_m &= \frac{1160 I_c}{300} = \frac{I_c}{26 \times 10^{-3}} \\ &= \frac{I_c \text{ [mA]}}{26} \quad \dots (7) \end{aligned}$$

## Problems

1) A good transconductance amplifier should have

(A) high input resistance and low output resistance

GATE(2017)

(B) low input resistance and high output resistance

(C) high input and output resistances

(D) low input and output resistances

Solution: (C )

For a transconductance amplifier, input and output resistance is high.

Reason: The transconductance amplifier is also known as Voltage Controlled Current Source. An amplifier is VC when input resistance is high, and an amplifier is CS when output resistance is high.

2) A bipolar transistor is operating in the active region with a collector current of 1mA. Assuming that the  $\beta$  of the transistor is 100 and the thermal voltage( $V_T$ ) is 25mV, the transconductance ( $g_m$ ) and the input resistance ( $r_{\pi}$ ) of the transistor in the common emitter configuration, are

GATE(2004)

A)  $g_m = 25 \text{mA/V}$  and  $r_{\pi} = 15.625 \text{K}\Omega$

B)  $g_m = 40 \text{mA/V}$  and  $r_{\pi} = 4.0 \text{K}\Omega$

C)  $g_m = 25 \text{mA/V}$  and  $r_{\pi} = 2.5 \text{K}\Omega$

D)  $g_m = 40 \text{mA/V}$  and  $r_{\pi} = 2.5 \text{K}\Omega$

Solution:

Given,

$$I_c = 1 \text{mA}; \beta = 100; V_T = 25 \text{mV}$$

We know that  $g_m = \frac{I_c}{V_T} = \frac{1}{25} = \frac{40 \text{mA}}{\text{V}}$

$$\beta = g_m r_{\pi} \rightarrow r_{\pi} = \frac{\beta}{g_m} = \frac{100}{40 \times 10^{-3}} = 2.5 \text{k}\Omega$$

3) A BJT is biased in forward active mode. Assume  $V_{BE} = 0.7 \text{ V}$ ,  $\frac{KT}{q} = 25\text{mV}$  and reverse saturation current  $I_s = 10^{(-3)} \text{ A}$ . The transconductance of the BJT (in mA/V) is \_\_\_\_

A) 1.425A/V

B) 5784mA/V

GATE(2014)

C) 5790mA/V

D) 2675mA/V

Solution: (B)

Given,

$$V_{BE} = 0.7\text{V}; \quad V_T = \frac{KT}{q} = 25\text{mV}; \quad I_s = 10^{(-3)} \text{ A}$$

We know that,  $I_C = I_s \left( e^{\frac{V_{BE}}{V_T}} - 1 \right)$  where  $\eta = 1$  when diode current is high

By substituting we will get  $I_C = 144.6\text{mA}$

$$\text{Therefore, } g_m = \frac{I_C}{V_T} = \frac{144.6\text{mA}}{25\text{mV}} = 5784\text{mA/V}$$

4) The input impedance( $Z_i$ ) and the output impedance( $Z_o$ ) of an ideal transconductance amplifier is \_\_\_\_\_

GATE(2006)

A)  $Z_i = 0, Z_o = 0$

B)  $Z_i = 0, Z_o = \infty$

C)  $Z_i = \infty, Z_o = 0$

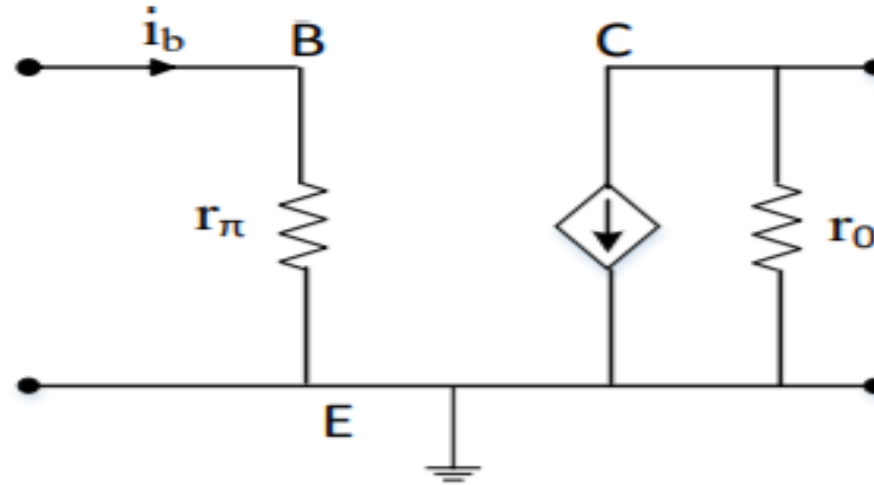
D)  $Z_i = \infty, Z_o = \infty$

Solution:

For Transconductance amplifier  $Z_i = \infty, Z_o = \infty$

5) The current  $i_b$  through base of a silicon npn transistor is  $1+0.1 \cos (1000\pi t)$  ma. At 300K, the  $r_\pi$  in the small signal model of the transistor is

GATE-2012



(a)  $250\Omega$

(b)  $27.5\Omega$

(c)  $25\Omega$

(d)  $22.5\Omega$

Solution: (C).

Current  $i_b$  through the base of a silicon npn transistor is  $1+0.1 \cos (10000 \pi t)$  ma

$$r_\pi = \beta \cdot r_e = \beta V_T / I_E \cong \beta V_T / \beta i_b = V_T / i_b$$

$$V_T = 25\text{mV}, i_b = 1\text{mA}$$

$$r_\pi = 25 \Omega$$

6) The current gain of a BJT is

GATE-2002

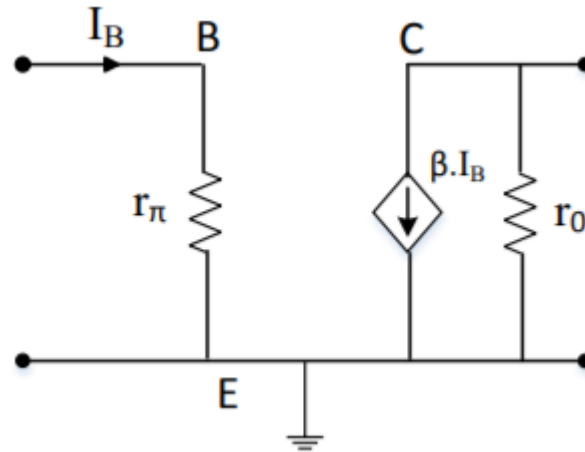
(a)  $g_m r_o$

(b)  $g_m / r_o$

(c)  $g_m r_\pi$

(d)  $g_m / r_\pi$

Solution:



$$g_m = I_C / V_T = \beta I_B / I_B r_\pi \Rightarrow gm = \beta / r_\pi$$

so  $\beta = g_m r_\pi$