



**BAYELSA STATE POLYTECHNIC ALEIBIRI  
P.M.B 168 EKEREMOR**

**ELECTRONICS 1  
PRACTICAL MANUAL**

**COURSE CODE: EEC 124**

**DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL ELECTRONICS  
ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY.**

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## Experiment 1:

# P-N JUNCTION SEMICONDUCTOR DIODE CHARACTERISTICS

### Objectives:

- To study the effects of forward and reverse biasing on both the silicon and germanium junction diodes.
- To plot the static characteristics of silicon and germanium junction diodes from experimental results.
- To determine d.c and dynamic resistances of p-n junction diode.

## INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION

### Static Characteristics

The current-voltage relationship of the p-n junction diode is represented analytically by Equation (1) and graphically by Fig.1

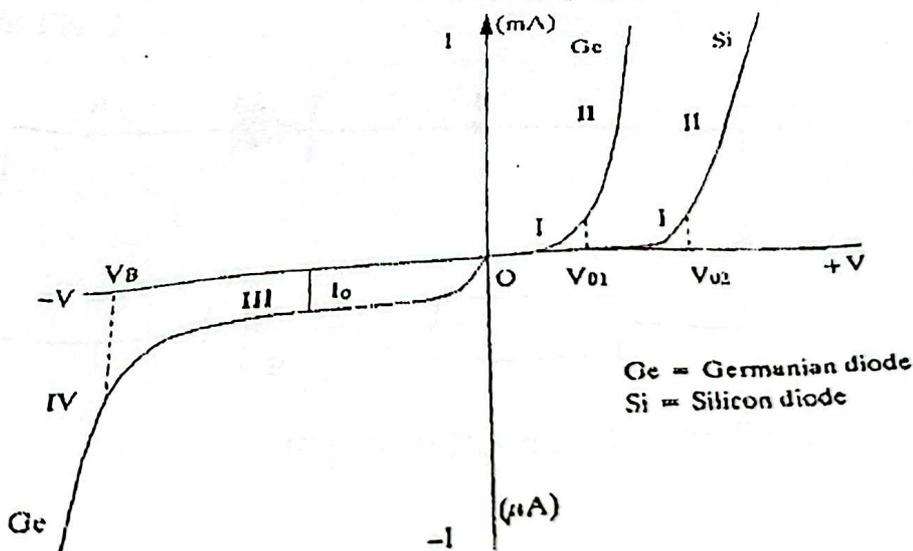


Fig. 1: Static Characteristics of p-n junction diode

The equation is given by:  $I = I_0 \exp V - I$

Fig. 1 - Graph of  $\ln I$  vs  $V$  (approx)

- Slope of the line =  $\frac{1}{nV_T}$

(where  $V_T = \frac{kT}{q}$ )

- Change in the current  $I$  (volts)

Temperature constant ( $k = 1.38 \times 10^{-23}$  J/K)

Thermal voltage ( $V_T = \frac{kT}{q}$ ) (where  $T$  is temperature in Kelvin)

In experiment, we shall observe how  $V$  relates to  $I$  practically. Will the result be the exponential relationship between  $V$  and  $I$ ? We are yet to see!

Below are typical static characteristic curves for silicon and germanium pn diodes. It is a plot of diode current  $I$  versus applied voltage  $V$  across the diode in both forward and reverse-biased voltages.

It is said to be forward-biased if the positive terminal of a d.c.m.f source, is connected to the anode (A) of the diode and the negative terminal to its cathode (K). If we have the same d.c source  $E$  connected to the diode with its terminals interchanged, then we have a reverse-biased diode. These connections are shown in Fig. 2.

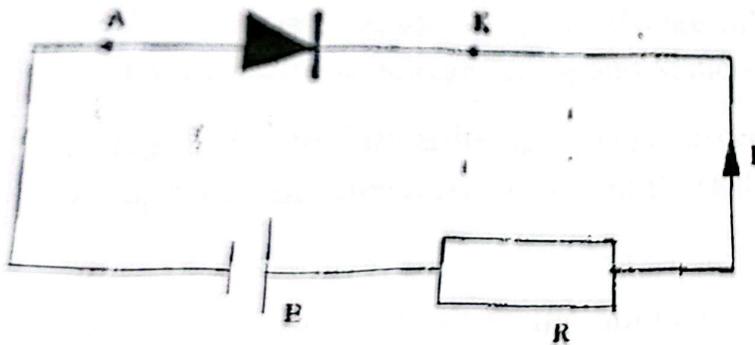


Fig. 2(a): Reverse -biased diode

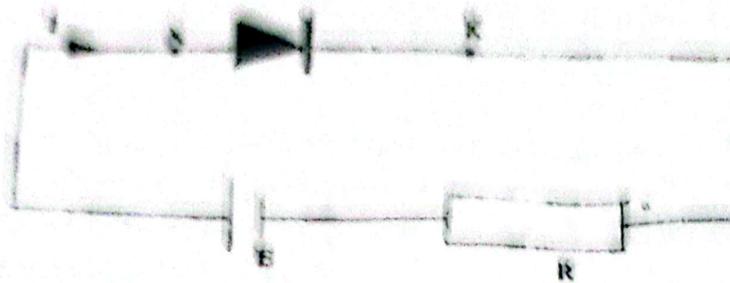


Fig. 2(b): Forward -biased diode

**N.B. Resistor R is included in the circuit for current limiting purpose (so that excessive current does not flow in the diode).**

The static characteristic curve shown in Fig. 1 can be divided into four regions, namely: I, II, III and IV. For any diode, regions I and II together constitute what is known as the forward-biased range. Regions III and IV together constitute the reverse-biased range.

In region I, very low current flows in the diode for small applied voltages ( $V$ ) less than  $V_{01}$ . ( $V_{01} = 0.3$  Volts for Ge diode) and  $V_{02}$  ( $V_{02} = 0.7$  Volts for Si diode).  $V_{01}$  and  $V_{02}$  are called the turn-on or offset for forward-biased voltage for Ge and Si diodes respectively.

In region II, the forward-bias voltages exceed the turn-on values of  $V_{01}$  and  $V_{02}$ , and considerable current flows in the diodes.

**Caution:** There is a limit to the amount of current which can flow safely through a diode. Beyond this limit, the diode will overheat and be destroyed! Therefore, TAKE CARE!

*this experiment, we shall therefore observe very carefully the current flow as the applied voltage exceeds the turn-on voltage  $V_{01}$  or as the case may be.*

*Region III, reverse-bias voltages up to the breakdown voltage  $V_B$ , producing a fairly constant saturation current  $I_0$ . Have a look at*

Fig. 1 since light.  $I_0$  is in the order of micro-amperes for Ge diode and nano-amperes ( $1\text{nA} = 0.001\mu\text{A}$ ) for Si diode at a fixed room temperature ( $25^\circ\text{C}$ ).

In region IV, when a critical value of reverse-bias voltage  $V_B$  is exceeded a relatively large reverse current flows. In this experiment, we shall be able to determine  $I_0$  and  $V_B$  for our diodes after plotting our own graph similar to Fig. 1

### 14.3 MATERIALS REQUIRED

#### 14.3.1 Components

- \* Potentiometer Linear  $2\text{K}\Omega$
- \* Resistor,  $100\Omega$ ,  $2\text{W}$
- \* Silicon diode, IN 4148 or equivalent
- \* Germanium diode IN34A

**N.B.** A point-contact germanium diode like OA 90 is not suitable because it is not a plane p-n junction diode.

#### 14.3.2 Equipment

- \* 0.5V voltmeter, d.c
- \* 0-50V voltmeter d.c
- \* 0-10mA ammeter, d.c
- \* 0-100A ammeter, d.c
- \* Stabilized Power supply unit 0-60V

**JRE**

#### A) Forward Biasing

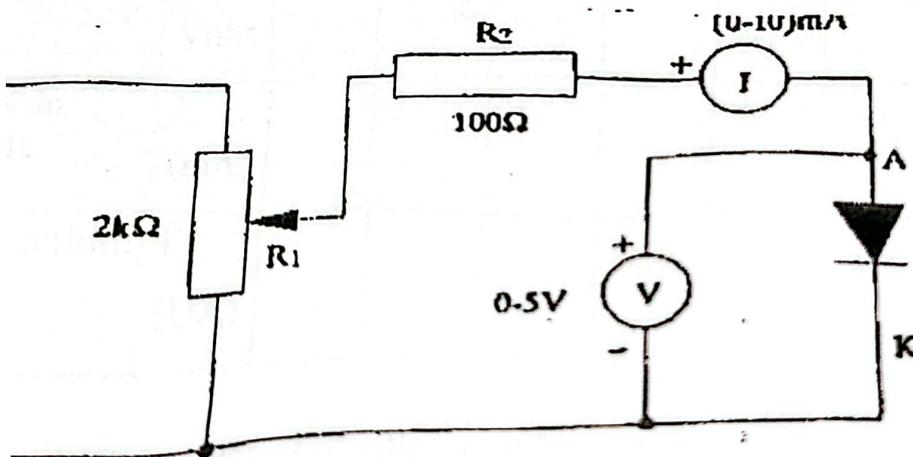
- ) Set up the circuit shown in Fig. 5 for the silicon diode and switch on the power supply set at 5V.  
Turn the potentiometer R1 gradually so that the applied voltage, V (measured by the 0-5V voltmeter) varies gradually in steps of 0.1V, starting from zero volt and stopping at a maximum of 0.8V. Measure the corresponding current I for each value of

applied voltage, and record your readings as shown in Table 1 below.

- (iii) Repeat steps (i) and (ii) for the germanium diode, except that the maximum applied voltage should not exceed 0.5V. Record your results as shown also in Table 1.
- (iv) Switch off the power supply

### (B) Reverse biasing

- (v) Set up the circuit shown in Fig. 6 for the silicon diode.
- (vi) Switch on the power supply and set it to read 50V.
- (vii) Measure the current (using the 0-100mA ammeter) as you gradually turn the potentiometer R1 to produce varying reverse applied voltage in steps of -2V, starting from zero volt to -10 volts and subsequently in steps of -5V up to -30V, as shown in Table 2.
- (viii) Repeat steps (v) to (vii) for the germanium diode.



Forward-biasing mode of the diode

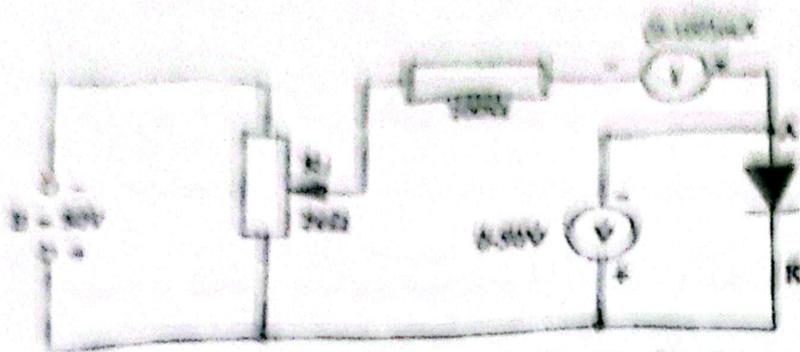


Fig. 6 Reverse-biasing mode of the diode

**N.B.** Only negative voltages and currents are implied in this step. The change in connection to the terminals of the micro-ammeter and voltmeter make the readings appear positive (see Table 2).

**ANALYSIS**

Forward characteristics of silicon and germanium diodes.

Type	V, Volts	0	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.8
Silicon diode	I (mA)									
Germanium diode	I (UA)									

Reverse characteristics of silicon and germanium diodes.

V, Volts	0	-2	-4	-6	-8	-10	-15	-20	-25	-30
I (nA)										

Germanium 1 diode	(UA)								

1. Record your results as shown in Table 1 and 2 above.
2. Plot separately the graphs of current (I) versus voltage (V) for the silicon and germanium diodes for both conditions using the results in Table 1 and Table 2.
3. Determine and record the turn-on voltages,  $V_{01}$  and  $V_{02}$  for the silicon and germanium diodes respectively for the forward-bias condition from the graphs obtained in step 2.
4. Determine and record the saturation current ( $I_0$ ) and breakdown voltage  $V_B$  for both silicon and germanium diodes, (for the reverse-biased condition) from the graphs obtained in step 2.
5. For the silicon diode in forward-bias condition, determine the dc and dynamic resistances when (i)  $V = 0.5$  volts and (ii)  $V = 0.7$  volt.

6. Repeat step 5 for the germanium diode when (i)  $V = 0.2$  volt and (ii)  $V = 0.4$  volt.

7. For the germanium diode, under reverse-bias condition determine the reverse dc resistance when (i)  $V = -5V$  and (ii)  $V = -20V$ .

#### 14.6 QUESTIONS

(a) Do the static characteristic curves plotted in step 2 resemble in shape those shown in Fig. 1? Explain briefly the differences, if any.

(b) What difference do you notice in values between the dynamic resistances for a germanium diode under forward-bias and reverse-bias conditions?

Hint: In answering this question you may use your results in steps 6 and 7

- (c) DO the turn-on voltages determined for silicon and germanium diode in step 3 agree with the expected results? Explain the differences, if any.

## Experiment 2:

### Determination of the time Constant of a Capacitor

#### OBJECTIVES

1. To determine the charging and discharging pattern of a capacitor.
2. To determine the current and voltage between its plates.
3. To determine the charging and discharging curves of a capacitor

#### MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Variable d.c power supply
- 1 no 100 k $\Omega$  resistor
- 1 no 0.001 microfarad capacitor
- 1 no SPST switch
- 2 no multimeters

#### INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION

In Fig. 1 capacitor which has no charge can be charged by connecting it to a source of constant voltage,  $V_0$ . The current flowing to the capacitor and the potential between its plates can be measured by the meters.

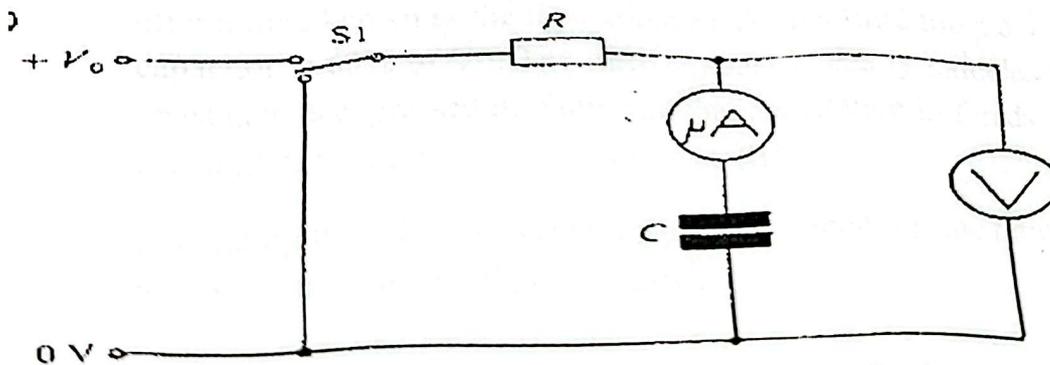


Fig.1. Circuit diagram for charging and discharging a capacitor.

When the switch is first closed the voltage at one end of  $R_1$  is  $V_0$ . The other end is at 0v. The current through the resistor is  $I=V_0/R$ .

Current flows to the capacitor and a p.d begins to develop between its plates. As soon as this starts to happen the p.d across the resistor begins to fall. The current flowing to the capacitor becomes less and less. The current is decreasing, as the rate of charging decreases. The p.d between the plates of the capacitor rises less and less rapidly. Fig. 2 shows how the p.d varies with time. At the beginning, the curve rises steeply, for the maximum current is flowing into the capacitor. Towards the end, when the p.d has risen almost as high as  $V_0$ , the charging current is very small. The curve is almost horizontal.

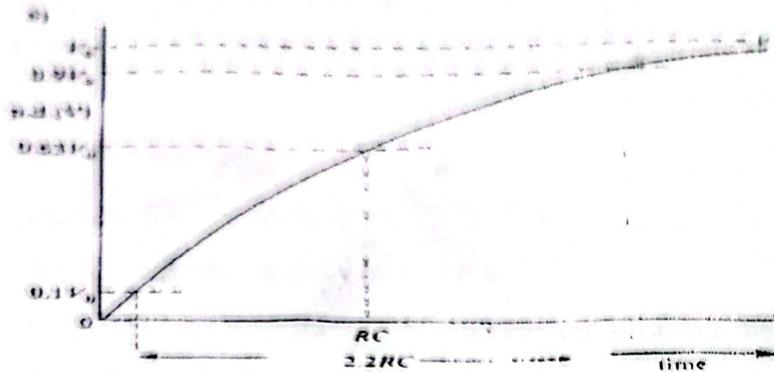


Fig. 2. Charging a capacitor graph of p.d with time.

This curve has a special shape that can be described by a mathematical formula, but the mathematics is difficult. However, we can locate two points on the curve very easily. The first is the starting point, when the p.d is zero and time is zero. The second point occurs after a time known as the time constant. At this time the p.d across the capacitor is 63% of  $V_0$ . The time constant is easily calculated. If the resistance is expressed in ohms and the capacitance in farads, the time constant,  $t$ , in seconds is given by:  $t = RC$

For example, with a  $100\text{k}\Omega$  and a  $0.001\mu\text{F}$  capacitor, the time constant is as shown in fig. 3 below as  $2.2RC$ .

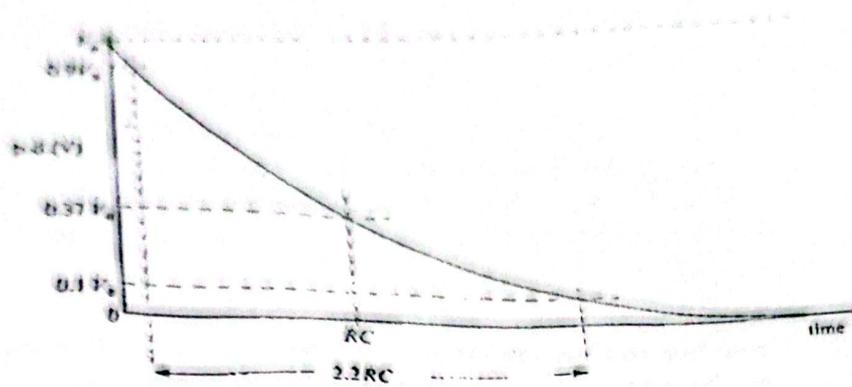


Fig. 3. Graph of p.d against time for a discharging capacitor

#### 9.4 PROCEDURE

1. Connect the circuit as shown in fig. 1
2. Adjust the power supply to a 9v d.c
3. Switch the S1 position to ON position and observe the current and voltage reading.
4. Repeat the same in 3 above but with the switch to "off" position.

#### 9.5 QUESTIONS

1. Calculate the value of "t" given the formula  $t = RC$
  
2. Plot the graphs of the charging and discharging pattern of the capacitor.

2. Replace the 100kΩ resistor with a 100kΩ resistor and plot the graphs of the charging and discharging pattern of the capacitor.



The graph shows the charging and discharging characteristics of the capacitor. The x-axis represents time (t) and the y-axis represents voltage (V). The charging curve starts at the origin (0,0) and rises exponentially towards a steady-state value. The discharging curve starts at the steady-state value and decays exponentially towards zero. The time constant (τ) is the time taken for the voltage to reach approximately 63% of its maximum value during charging, or to decay to approximately 37% of its maximum value during discharging.

Report: It contains the following sections: 1. Aim: To study the charging and discharging characteristics of the capacitor. 2. Theory: It discusses the basic principles of capacitor charging and discharging, including the time constant (τ) and its dependence on the resistance (R) and capacitance (C). 3. Apparatus: It lists the components used in the experiment, such as a DC source, a resistor, a capacitor, and a voltmeter. 4. Procedure: It describes the steps followed during the experiment to measure the charging and discharging curves. 5. Results: It presents the observed data points and the corresponding graphs. 6. Discussion: It analyzes the results, comparing the experimental curves with the theoretical predictions and determining the time constant (τ).

### Experiment 3:

## ZENER DIODE CHARACTERISTICS

### OBJECTIVE

To determine the characteristics of a zener diode

### PRELIMINARY INFORMATION

#### Characteristics of a Zener Diode

A zener diode is one of the existing two-terminal devices having a single p-n junction. In a zener diode the p-type material and the n-type material are heavily doped. This heavy doping, if properly controlled during manufacture results in a pre-determined reverse breakdown voltage, called the zener voltage,  $V_z$ . Zener diodes have been designed to deliver zener voltages from 1 to several hundred volts.

The symbol of a zener diode is shown in Fig.1 and a typical graph of its current versus voltage characteristics (i.e. zener diode characteristics) is shown in Fig. 2. The symbol may or may not be shown with the circle.

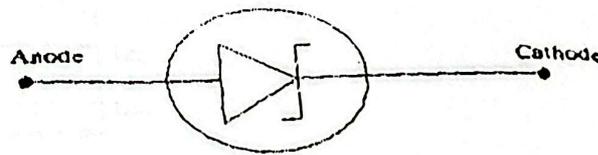


Fig. 1: Symbol of a Zener diode

The zener diode characteristic curve has three distinct regions: namely, regions I, II and III. Region I shows the forward characteristic curve and is obtained when the zener diode is forward-biased. Knowledge of the forward characteristic is of little interest to us because the zener diode is most often used in electronic circuits only under the reverse-biased condition.

Regions II and III together represent the reverse characteristic. Region II alone covers the leakage current portion and it extends from

the origin to the knee of the curve. Region III extends from approximately the knee to and beyond the  $I_{max}$  level, as shown in Fig. 2. Region III is commonly known as the 'zener breakdown region'.

In region II, the leakage current  $I_0$  referred to earlier is not constant in value. Conventionally the value of the leakage current  $I_0$  is normally specified by giving its value at a point about 80% of the zener voltage,  $V_Z$  (i.e.  $0.8 V_Z$ ). When the reverse voltage on the diode is increased from zero, an avalanche takes place at the knee of the curve, and the current increases rapidly with only a very small change in voltage. An external resistance  $R_s$  (see Fig. 3) is normally required in practice to limit this current to the maximum permissible value denoted by  $I_{Z,max}$ . The zener voltage  $V_Z$  is that voltage which exists across the terminals of the diode when the current  $I_{ZT}$  is approximately equal to the mid-point of its linear range, as shown in Fig. 2. In this experiment we shall bias the zener diode in both the forward and reverse directions, obtain readings and plot the zener diode characteristic curve discussed so far.

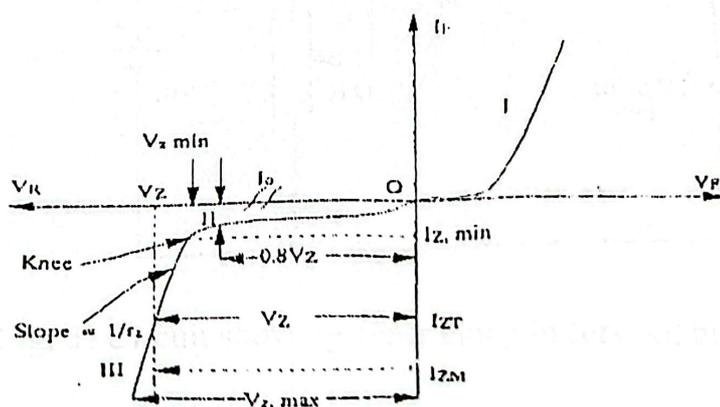


Fig. 2.Zener diode characteristic curve

## MATERIALS REQUIRED

### Components

- \* (Linear) Potentiometer, 2 kilo ohms
- \* Resistor  $470\Omega$  (2W rated)
- \* Zener diode, BZY 488, 6.8V, 500mW at  $25^\circ\text{C}$ .

N.B. Any other zener diode of different breakdown voltage  $V_Z$  may also be used.

### 12.3.2 Equipment

- \* Power supply, d.c., variable.
- \* Electronic voltmeter.
- \* 0-10v, dc voltmeter
- \* 0-5, mA meter, d.c
- \* 0-10, mA meter, d.c.
- \* 0-30, mA meter, d.c (2Nos)
- \* 0-50, mA meter d.c
- \* Connection Leads or wires.

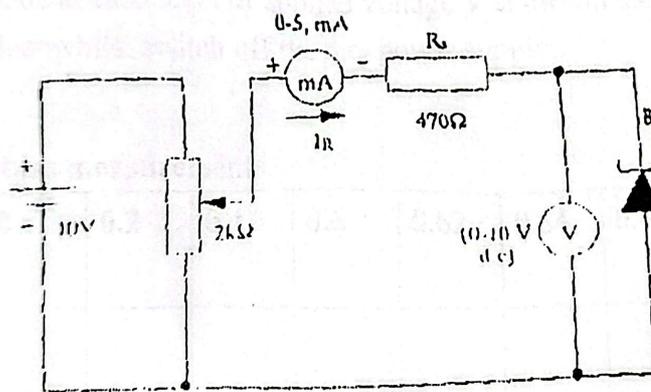
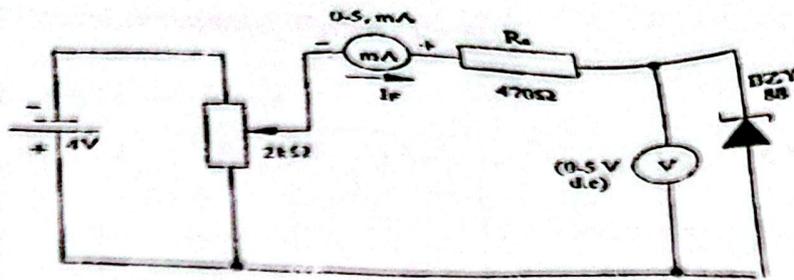


Fig. 3: Circuit showing zener diode in forward biasing condition.

### PROCEDURE

#### (A) Forward bias

- (i) Connect the circuit of Fig. 12.3, keeping the power supply at 4v and the range of the voltmeter at 5v, max.
- (ii) Measure and record in Table 12.1, the forward current  $I_F$  in the diode at each level of applied voltage  $V_F$  shown in the table.
- (iii) Switch off the d.c power supply.



4: Circuit showing zener diode in reverse-biasing condition.

the bias

- (iv) Connect the circuit of Fig.12.4, keeping the power supply and those of the milliammeter, compared with the connection of Fig. 12.3.
- (v) Measure and record in Table 12.2, the reverse current  $I_r$  in the diode at each level of applied voltage  $V$  shown in the table.
- (vi) Meanwhile, switch off the d.c. power supply

**TABLE ANALYSIS**

**TABLE 1: Forward-bias measurements**

$V_f$ (Volts)	0	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.62	0.64	0.65	0.66	0.67
$I_f$ (mA)									
$R_{df}$ (ohms)									

N.B. Forward resistance,  $R_F = \frac{V_F}{I_F}$  (ohms)

Table 2: Reverse-bias measurements

$V_F$ (Volts)	1	2	3	4	5	6	6.5	6.6	6.7	6.8	6.9
$I_R$ (mA)											
$R_r$ ohms											

N.B. Reverse resistance of the zener diode,  $V_R = \frac{V_R}{I_R}$  (ohms)

- Using the results in Table 1, sketch the forward volt-ampere characteristic curve.

- Using the results in table 1, sketch the reverse volt-ampere characteristic curve.

3. Determine from the reverse characteristic curve obtained in step 2 above the approximate values of the following parameters:  $I_0$ ,  $V_{zmin}$ ,  $I_{zM}$  and  $I_{ZF}$ .

### QUESTIONS

- (a) Do the forward and reverse characteristic curves obtained in steps 1 and 2 agree with the sketch shown in Fig. 2? If not, explain any difference(s)?
- (b) Explain the reason for the changing values of  $R_F$  and  $R_Z$  obtained from Table 1 and Table 2 respectively.
- (c) What portion of a zener – diode characteristic is most useful for voltage regulator applications? Why?
- (d) Given that the power and voltage ratings of the zener diode BZY 88 are  $P = 500\text{mW}$  and  $V_Z = 6.8\text{V}$  respectively, determine the maximum permissible current through the diode.

## Experiment 4:

### ZENER DIODE AS A VOLTAGE REGULATOR

#### OBJECTIVE

To investigate how the zener diode is used as a voltage regulator.

#### INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION

The application of the zener diode as a voltage regulator is our concern in this experiment. In a voltage regulator, the voltage across the load,  $V_L$  is kept at a constant value over a range of varying load currents  $I_L$ . Fig.1 shows a voltage regulator circuit using a Zener diode. In this circuit, the zener diode is in the reverse-biased mode.

In Fig. 1, the voltage across the load is the fixed voltage  $V_L = V_Z$  because the Zener diode is connected in parallel with the load,  $R_L$ .

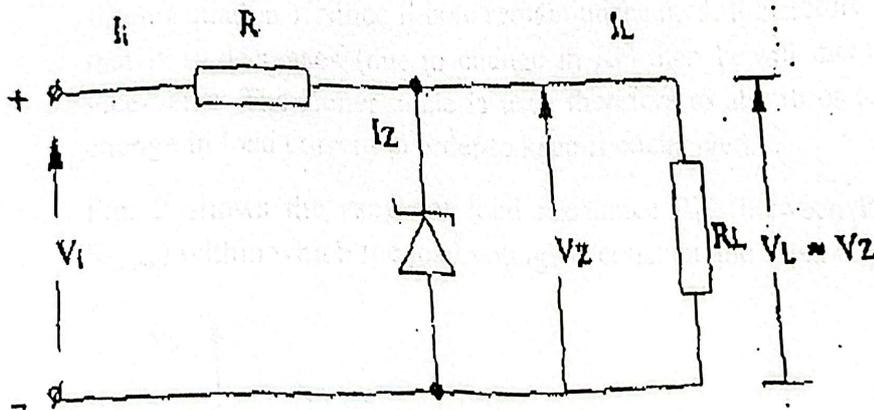


Fig. 1: Voltage regulator circuit using a Zener diode

In this circuit the input current  $I_i$  is the sum of  $I_Z$  and  $I_L$ ,

$$\text{i.e } I_i = I_Z + I_L \dots\dots\dots(1)$$

and the input voltage is related to the load voltage,  $V_Z$  by the expression

$$V_i = I_i R + V_Z \dots\dots\dots(2)$$

There are two situations to consider under any of which the circuit in Fig. 1 operates as a voltage regulator:

- (i) When  $V_i$  is fixed and  $R_L$  varies and
- (ii) When  $V_i$  varies and  $R_L$  is fixed.

#### Fixed $V_i$ , Variable $R_L$

Here, we expect that if  $R_L$  varies over a range of values (between  $R_{Lmin}$  and  $R_{Lmax}$ ) then  $I_L$  will also consequently vary over a range of values (between  $I_{Lmax}$  and  $I_{Lmin}$ ) without changing  $I_i$  and ensuring at the same time that  $V_L = V_Z$  (i.e. without causing the load voltage to change).

It should be noted from Equation 1 that  $I_i = I_{Lmax}$ , when  $I_x = 0$ . Similarly,  $I_{Lmin} = I_i - I_{zmax}$ , where  $I_{zmax}$  is the maximum permissible current through the zener diode.

From Equation 1, since  $I_i$  is to remain unchanged, it therefore follows that if  $I_L$  decreases (due to change in  $R_L$ ) then  $I_z$  will increase and vice-versa. The Zener diode is used therefore to absorb or to supply change in load current in order to keep  $I_i$  unchanged.

Fig. 2 shows the range of load resistance  $R_L$ , (between  $R_{Lmin}$  and  $R_{Lmax}$ ) within which the load voltage is constant and fixed at  $V_Z$ .

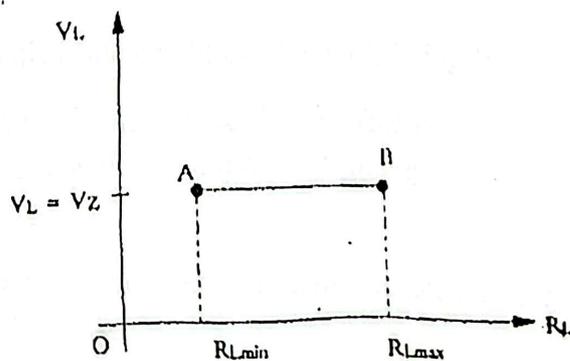


Fig. 10.2 Range of load resistances,  $R_L$ .

#### Fixed $R_L$ , Variable $V_i$

In this case since  $R_L$  is fixed, therefore  $I_L$  is fixed, only  $V_i$  varies. From equation 11.2 we see that an increase in  $V_i$  causes  $I_i$  to rise since

$V_L$  remains unchanged. The Zener diode absorbs the rise in  $I_L$ . Likewise, a decrease in  $V_i$  causes  $I_L$  to decrease. The Zener diode current,  $I_Z$  decreases by the amount that  $I_L$  decreases to maintain the load current  $I_L$  at a fixed value.

In this case (from Equation 1)  $I_{Lmin} = I_L$ , and  $I_{Lmax} = I_L + I_{Zmax}$ . Fig. 10.3 shows the range of values of  $V_i$  that will maintain  $V_L = V_Z$ .

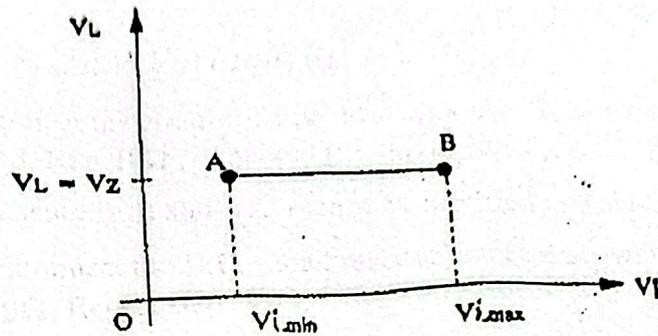


Fig. 10.3. Range of values  $V_i$

As before, we can write the following expressions without proofs:

$$V_{i,min} = \frac{(R + R_L)V_Z}{R_L}$$

This is the condition at point X in Fig 10.3.

Also,  $V_{i,max} = I_{Lmax} R + V_Z$  This is the condition at point Y in Fig. 10.3.

In this experiment we shall examine also the range of  $V_i$  that maintains  $V_L = V_Z$

### 10.3 MATERIAL REQUIRED

- \* Linear potentiometer, 2k $\Omega$
- \* Resistor, 1 k $\Omega$  (1w), (2Nos)

Resistor,  $100\Omega$  (2w)

Zener diode BZY 88, 6.8V, 500mW at  $25^{\circ}\text{C}$  or any other type, preferably with  $V_z < 10\text{v}$ .

- Power supply, dc, variable unit.
- Electronic voltmeter:(0-10)V dc voltmeter
- (0-20)mA (dc) meter
- (0-30) mA (dc) meters (2 Nos)

## PROCEDURE

### (A) Fixed $V_i$ Variable $R_L$

- (i) Connect the circuit of Fig. 11.4 with  $V_i = 20\text{V}$  fixed and load,  $R_L = 1\text{k}\Omega$  connected (by linking A to X).
  - (ii) Measure  $I_z$ ,  $I_L$  and  $V_L$ , record as specified in Table 10.1.
  - (iii) Disconnect the  $1\text{k}\Omega$  - load resistor and replace with  $R_L = 470\Omega$ . Repeat step  
(ii)
  - (iv) Disconnect the  $470\Omega$  - load resistor and replace with  $R_L = 100\Omega$ . Repeat step  
(ii).
- NB: Use (0-50) mA meter to measure  $I_L$  in this case.
- (v) Meanwhile, switch off the dc power supply. Do not disconnect the whole circuit of Fig. 10.4. Replace only the (0-50) mA meter with the (0-10) mA meter.

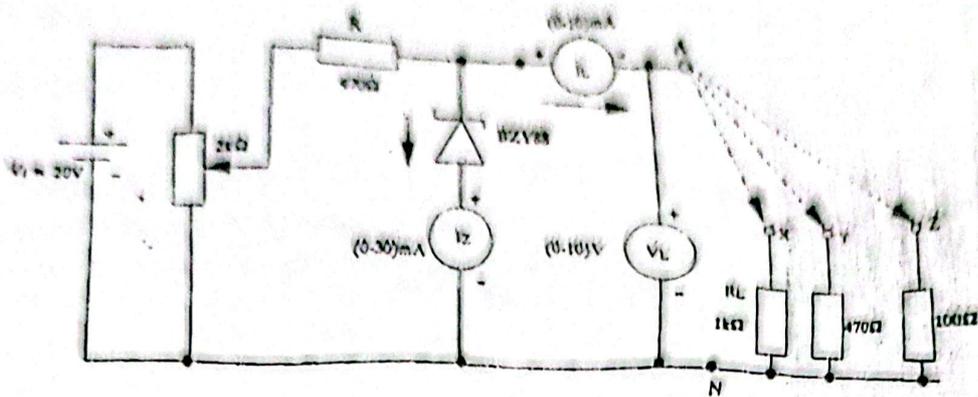


Fig. 10.4: Voltage regulator circuit using zener diode.

**(B) Fixed  $R_L$  Variable  $V_i$**

- (i) Connect the same circuit shown in Fig. 11.4 with  $R_L = 1k\Omega$
- (ii) set the dc power supply initially to  $V_i = 10v$ .
- (iii) Measure and record  $I_z$ ,  $I_L$  and  $V_z$  as specified in Table 11.2
- (iv) Slowly increase  $V_i$  in steps of 1V until  $V_i = 20v$ , and repeat step (iii).

**Result**

Table 1: Zener diode regulator with different loads. Fixed  $V_i = 20v$  variable  $R_L$ .

	$R_L = 1k\Omega$	$R_L = 470\Omega$	$R_L = 100\Omega$
$I_L$ , mA			
$I_z$ , mA			
$I_i = (I_L + I_z)$ mA			
$V_L$ (Volts)			

$V_Z$ (Volts)	6.8	6.8	6.8
$V_i$ (Volts)	20	20	20

N.B. If the Zener diode BZY 88 is not used in this experiment, then write down the voltage rating of the zener diode you used ( instead of the 6.8V).

Table 2: Zener -- regulator with  $V_i$  variable, fixed  $R_L = 1k\Omega$ , variable  $V_i$ .

$V_i$ (Volts)	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
$I_z$ , mA											
$I_L$ , mA											
$V_L$ , (Volts)											
$V_Z$ , (Volts)	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8

### 10.5 QUESTIONS

- Using Equation 3, determine the minimum value of load resistance  $R_L$ , min suitable for this experiment if  $V_i = 20V$ ,  $V_Z = 6.8v$  and  $R = 470\Omega$ .
- How would you use your result in (i) to justify why  $V_i = 6.8v$  when the  $100\Omega$  - load was used (as recorded in Table 10.1)?
- Determine from Table 2 the range of values of  $V_i$  for which  $V_L$  differs from  $V_Z$  by 0.1v.

(ii) (i) Determine from Table 2 the least or the value of  $V_i$  when  $V_i$  begins to be equal to  $V_z$ . Report this value of  $V_i$  as  $V_{i,min}$  (as illustrated in Fig. 3)? If yes, why?

(iii) Is it possible to determine  $V_{i,max}$  in this experiment? If not, why?

(e) Given that the manufacturer's specification of the Zener diode (BZY 88) used in this experiment are as follows:  $P = 500\text{mW}$  and  $V_z = 6.8\text{V}$ , determine the maximum permissible current through the diode.

## EXPERIMENT 5:

### STATIC CHARACTERISTICS OF A NPN TRANSISTOR IN COMMON-EMITTER CONFIGURATION

#### OBJECTIVE

To investigate the output, input and current gain static characteristics of a NPN transistor in common-emitter (CE) configuration.

#### 5.1 INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION

Every bipolar junction transistor (NPN or PNP type) has a base (B), an emitter (E) and a collector (C) as its electrodes. However, when the NPN transistor is connected such that the emitter is common to both the base-emitter input side and the collector-emitter output side, as shown in Fig. 5.1 then the transistor is said to be in common-emitter configuration.

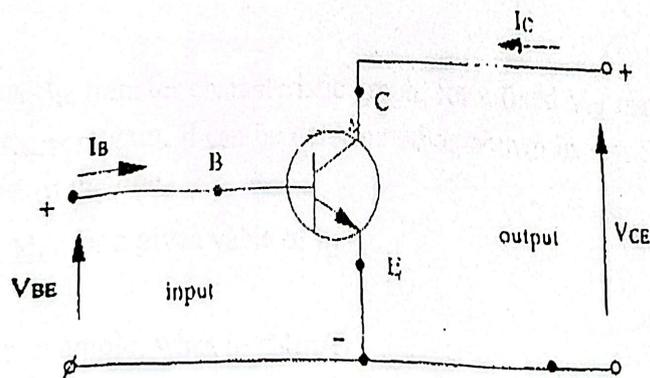


Fig. 5.1: Symbol of an NPN transistor in CE configuration

As expected of all bipolar junction transistor circuits in CE configuration the (base-emitter) side is forward-biased and the output (collector-emitter) side is reverse-biased. In particular for the NPN transistor in common-emitter connection (in the active region) the base-emitter junction is forward-biased, while the collector junction is reverse biased as shown in Fig. 5.2.

The transistor in common-emitter configuration, its input (base) and output (collector) characteristics are plots of the output current ( $I_C$ ) versus output voltage ( $V_{CE}$ ) for a range of fixed values of input current ( $I_B$ ) as shown in Fig. 5.3(a)

i.e  $I_C = f_1(V_{CE})$ , for constant values of  $I_B$

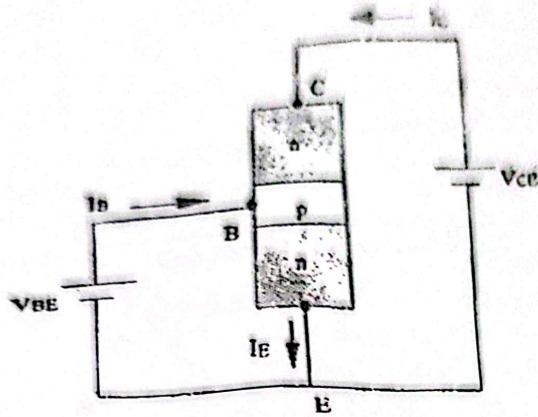


Fig. 5.2: Notation of an NPN transistor in CE.

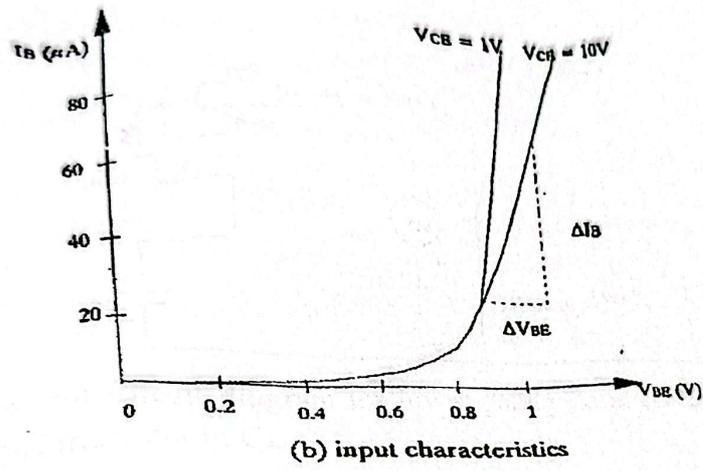
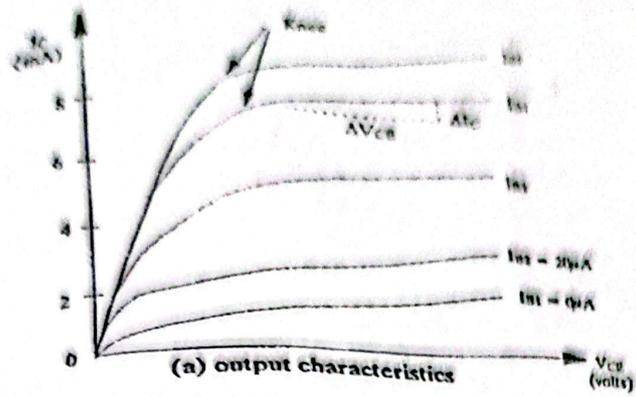
From the transfer characteristic graph, for a fixed  $V_{CE}$  (say,  $V_{CE} = 4V$ ) the current gain,  $\beta$  can be determined as shown in Fig. 5.3(c), as the slope of the line,

$$\beta = \frac{\Delta I_C}{\Delta I_B} \text{ for a given value of } I_C$$

(for example, when  $I_C = 4mA$ )

$$\beta = \frac{\Delta I_C}{\Delta I_B}$$

for a given value of  $V_{CE}$   
(for example, when  $V_{CE} = 8 \text{ V}$ )



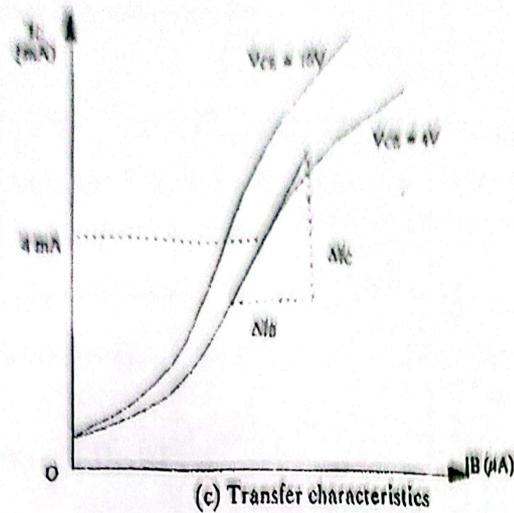


Fig. 13.3: Characteristic curves of an NPN transistor in the CE configuration:

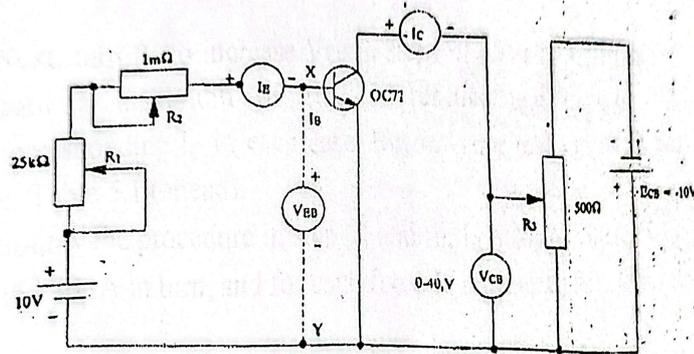


Fig. 5.4 Circuit diagram for investigating static characteristics of an NPN transistor in CE

In this experiment, we shall obtain readings that will enable us plot the output, input and transfer characteristic curves, the types shown in Fig. 5.3, and determine there from output impedance, input impedance and current gain of a transistor in CE configuration.

It should be noted that if a PNP transistor were used the battery polarities would be reverse.

## MATERIALS REQUIRED

- \* power supply unit, d.c variable, 0-100, VA, meter (d.c)
- \* 0-30, mA meter (d.c)
- \* 0-30, V voltmeter d.c
- \* 0-5v, dec voltmeter
- \* Connection leads

### 13.4 PROCEDURE

#### 13.4.1 Output Characteristics

- (i) Connect the circuit of Fig. 5.4, and turn  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  appropriately to set  $I_B = 0 \mu A$

initially.

- (ii) Next, turn  $R_3$  to increase  $V_{ce}$  in steps of 1V, starting from 0V until a maximum of 10V is reached and measure the corresponding  $I_C$  in each case. Record your readings as shown in Table 5.1 (ahead).
- (iii) Follow the procedure in step (i) and set  $I_B = 20 \mu A, 40 \mu A, 60 \mu A$  and  $80 \mu A$  in turn, and for each fixed  $I_B$  repeat step (ii).

#### Transfer characteristics

- (iv) Using the same circuit connection of Fig. 5.4, set and keep  $V_{CE} = 2V$  initially.
- (v) Vary  $I_B$  continuously in steps of  $20 \mu A$ , after starting from  $0 \mu A$  until a maximum of  $80 \mu A$  is reached and measure the corresponding  $I_C$  in mA). Record your readings as shown in Table 5.2.
- (vi) Next, set  $V_{CE} = 8V$  and repeat step (v).

### Input Characteristics

N.B. Briefly have a look at Fig. 5.3(b) to remind you that we wouldn't need to measure

$I_C$  (but  $V_{CE}$ ) in the next stage of our experiment.

- (vii) Disconnect the  $I_C$  measuring meter from the circuit of Fig. 5.4, and link up the gap by using a connection lead. Connect a 0-5, V dc voltmeter between terminals X and Y to measure ( $V_{BE}$ ).
- (viii) Set  $V_{CE} = 1V$  initially
- (ix) Turn  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  carefully to vary  $V_{BE}$  in steps of 0.1V starting from 0V until a maximum of 0.7V (or 1V, if possible) is reached and measure the corresponding value of  $I_B$ . record your measurements as shown in Table 5.3
- (x) Next, set  $V_{CE} = 10V$  and repeat step (ix)

### RESULT ANALYSIS

Table 1: Measurement on output characteristics.

$I_B$ , ( $\mu A$ )	0	20	40	60	80
$V_{CE}$ , (V)					
0					
1					
1					
2					
...					
...					
10					

Table 2: Measurements on Transfer characteristics

$V_{CE} = 2V$	$I_B, \mu A$	0	20	40	60	80
$V_{CE} = 10V$	$I_C, mA$					

Table 3: Measurements on input characteristics

$V_{CE} = 1V$	$V_{BE}, V$	0	0.1	...	...	...	0.7	80
$V_{CE} = 1V$	$I_B, \mu A$							
$V_{CE} = 10V$	$I_B, \mu A$							

**Result Analysis**

- Using the results in table 1, plot the output characteristic curves.
- Using the results in Table .2, plot the transfer characteristics curves
- Using the results in Table 3, plot the input characteristic curves
- Determine the output impedance  $R_o$  of the transistor in CE for  $I_B = 20\mu A$  and  $I_B = 80\mu A$ , using your plot in step 1 (N.F see Fig. 5.3(a) for a hint on how to determine  $R_o$ )
- Using your plot in step 2, determine the current gain for  $V_{CE} = 1V$ , when  $I_C = 5mA$

6. Use your plot in step 3 to determine the input impedance  $R_i$  for  $V_{CE} = 2V$ , when  $I_B = 20\mu A$ .

### QUESTIONS

Do your characteristic curves in steps 1 - 3 agree with the sketches shown in Fig. 5.3? Explain briefly the differences you notice, if any.

Explain briefly how the transistor characteristic curve in Fig. 5.3(c) could be obtained by using the output characteristic curves of Fig. 13.3(a) for a fixed value of  $V_{ce}$ .

Compute the value of  $\beta$  from one end of the curve to the other?

Explain briefly what change(s) you would expect in the circuit of Fig. 5.4 if a PNP transistor were used?

Using the characteristic curves in steps 1 and 3, find the value of  $I_c$  corresponding to

$$V_{BE} = +600\text{mV} \text{ and } V_{CE} = +5V.$$