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Transistor Operation



With the external sources, \mathbf{V}_{EE} and \mathbf{V}_{CC} , connected as shown:

- The emitter-base junction is forward biased
- The base-collector junction is reverse biased



Currents in a Transistor

Emitter current is the sum of the collector and base currents:

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 $I_E = I_C + I_B$

The collector current is comprised of two currents:







Common-Base Amplifier



Operating Regions

• Active – Operating range of the amplifier.

• **Cutoff** – The amplifier is basically off. There is voltage, but little current.

• Saturation – The amplifier is full on. There is current, but little voltage.

 $V_{CB}(V)$



C

MC

ac

In reality: α is between 0.9 and 0.998

Alpha (α) in the AC mode:





- The emitter is common to both input (base-emitter) and output (collector-emitter).
- The input is on the base and the output is on the collector.



Common-Emitter Amplifier Currents



Ideal Currents

$$I_E = I_C + I_B \qquad I_C = \alpha I_E$$

Actual Currents $I_C = \alpha I_E + I_{CBO}$ where I_{CBO} = minority collector current

I_{CBO} is usually so small that it can be ignored, except in high power transistors and in high temperature environments.

• When $I_B = 0 \mu A$ the transistor is in cutoff, but there is some minority current flowing called I_{CEO} .

In AC mode:
$$I_{CEO} = \frac{I_{CBO}}{1-\alpha}\Big|_{I_B=0\,\mu A}$$

Common-Emitter Amplifier Currents





 β represents the amplification factor of a transistor. (β is sometimes referred to as h_{fe} , used in transistor modeling term a calculations) In DC mode: B In AC mode:











NEXT LECTURE

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