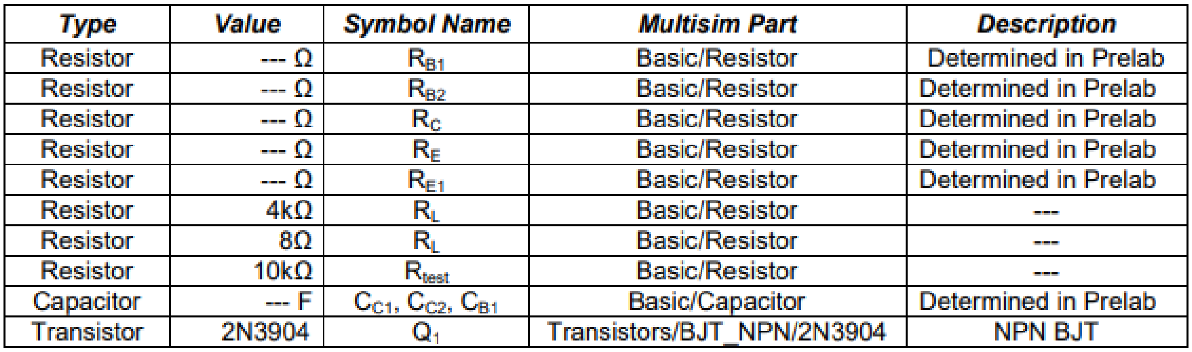
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, DC

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING
ECE 2115: ENGINEERING ELECTRONICS LABORATORY

Experiment #7:
Designing and Measuring a Common-Emitter Amplifier

COMPONENTS



Type	***Value***	***Symbol Name***	***Multisim Part***	***Description***
Resistor	--- Ω	R_{B1}	Basic/Resistor	Determined in Prelab
Resistor	--- Ω	R_{B2}	Basic/Resistor	Determined in Prelab
Resistor	--- Ω	R_C	Basic/Resistor	Determined in Prelab
Resistor	--- Ω	R_E	Basic/Resistor	Determined in Prelab
Resistor	--- Ω	R_{E1}	Basic/Resistor	Determined in Prelab
Resistor	4kΩ	R_L	Basic/Resistor	---
Resistor	8Ω	R_L	Basic/Resistor	---
Resistor	10kΩ	R_{test}	Basic/Resistor	---
Capacitor	--- F	C_{C1}, C_{C2}, C_{B1}	Basic/Capacitor	Determined in Prelab
Transistor	2N3904	Q_1	Transistors/BJT_NPN/2N3904	NPN BJT

Table 1 – Component List

OBJECTIVES

- To design a common-emitter amplifier to meet a set of specifications
- To simulate the designed common-emitter amplifier
- To build the designed common-emitter amplifier
- Measure voltage gain (A_V) with and without load in laboratory
- Measure R_{in}, R_{out} with and without load in laboratory

PRELAB

Part I – Generate Equipment List

1. Read through the lab manual and generate an equipment list.

Part II – Common-Emitter Amplifier Design

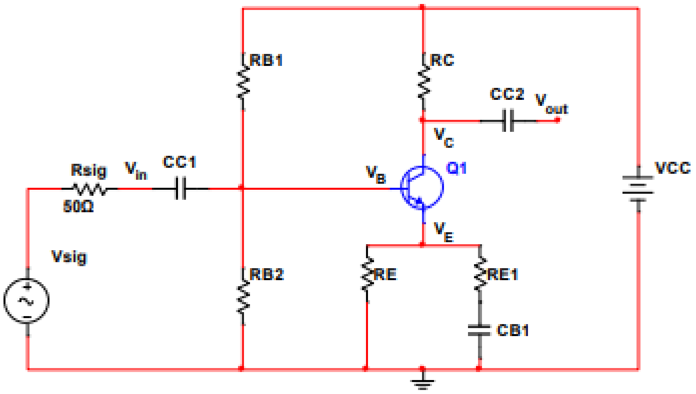


Figure P.1 – Common-Emitter Amplifier with Emitter Degeneration Parallel Resistor

1. **Read** the tutorial “**Designing a Common-Emitter Amplifier**” for help completing this prelab.

2. **Design** a **common-emitter amplifier** using a 2N3904 NPN BJT to meet the following specifications (hand in all calculations):
   - · Quiescent Current (I_{CQ}) = 1mA
   - · V_{CC} = 20V
   - · A_{Vo} (unloaded) = -100 V/V
   - · R_{in} = 4kΩ
   - · R_L = 4kΩ
   - · V_{in} = 10mV @ 10kHz
3. **Determine** the voltage gain (**A_V**) with load.
4. **Determine** the output impedance (**R_{out}**) **without the load**.
5. **Determine** the output impedance (**R_{out}**) **with the load**.

Part III – Common-Emitter Amplifier Simulation

1. **Build** the amplifier you have designed in Multisim. Use 50Ω for R_{sig}.
2. **Run** a **DC Operating Point Analysis** to determine the DC bias voltages and currents in the circuit.
   a. **Show** the DC **voltages** and DC **currents** at every node.
   b. **Verify** that the simulated DC values approximate your calculations.
3. **Run** a **Transient Analysis** to show five cycles of V_{in} (**not** V_{sig}) and V_{out}. Ensure that both voltages are plotted with their own y-axis as done in the previous lab.
   a. Place labels at the peaks of V_{in} and V_{out} making sure to mark this at the **same point in time**.
   b. **Determine** the small signal voltage gain of the amplifier (**A_V**) **with** and **without** the load. **Verify** that it approximates your calculations.
   c. **R_{in}** (AC) = V_{in} / I_{in}. **Plot** and **measure** the input current **I_{in}** to determine **R_{in}** (AC).
   d. **R_{out}** (AC) = V_{out} / I_{out}. **Plot** and **measure** the output current **I_{out}** to determine **R_{out}** (AC).
   e. **Increase** V_{in} until V_{out} is distorted (looks like a clipped sine wave). For the maximum value of V_{in}, what is V_{out}? Does it match the calculated max voltage swing from the IV curve for the 2N3904 transistor?

LAB

Part I – Bias Point Verification (DC Measurements)

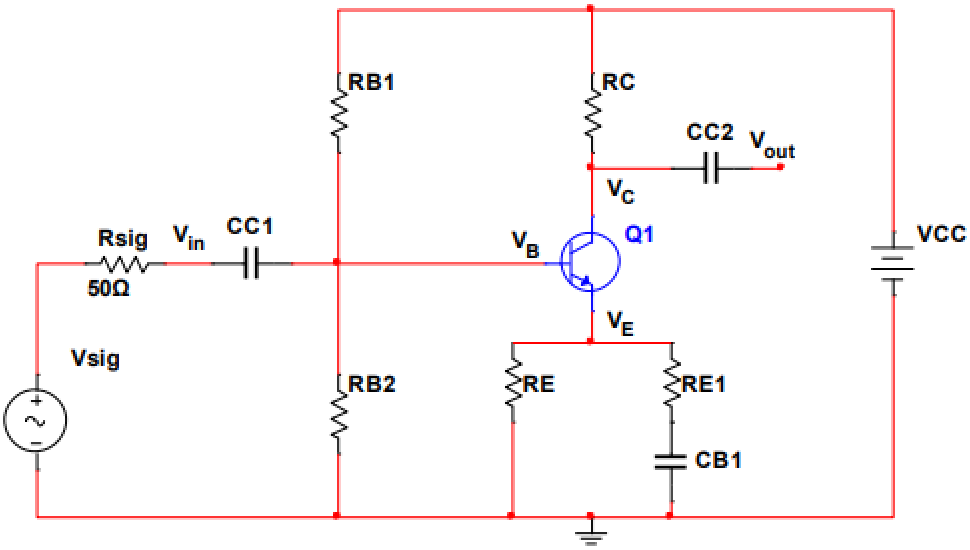


Figure 1.1 – Common-Emitter Amplifier with Emitter Degeneration Parallel Resistor

1. **Before building** the circuit in **Figure 1.1**, **measure** the exact resistances of **all** resistors using the DMM. **Record** these values.
2. **Build** the circuit in **Figure 1.1** using transistor 2N3904 and the resistor values found in the prelab.
3. **Before** attaching the function generator (Wavegen), oscilloscope, or the load:
    a. **Measure** V_B, V_E, and V_C using the DMM.
    b. From the measured voltages, **calculate** V_{BE}, V_{CE}, V_{CB}, I_B, I_E, I_C, and **β**.
4. **Place** all hand **calculated**, **simulated**, and **measured** values for I_B, I_E, I_C, V_B, V_E, V_C, V_{BE}, V_{CE}, V_{CB}, and β in a single table for analysis in your lab report.

Part II – Common-Emitter Amplifier Verification (Small-Signal Measurements)

1. **Apply** the 10mV, 10kHz input signal using the function generator (Wavegen) with **no load** attached.

   Note: *The 10mV (20mV$_{PP}$) set on the function generator (Wavegen) is "v_{sig}," NOT "v_{in}"* and the output impedance of the function generator (Wavegen) is 50Ω (R_{sig}).

2. **Use** CH-1 of the oscilloscope to measure **v_{in}**.
   a. You **CANNOT** use autoset. Determine the proper period for the 10kHz signal.
   b. **Ensure** CH-1 is set for **Peak to Peak to get the gain. Remember,**

$$\frac{Max\ Output}{Max\ Input} = \frac{V_{peak\ to\ peak\ output}}{V_{peak\ to\ peak\ input}}$$

   c. For If you are experiencing any noise, add a shunt capacitor
   d. **Include** relevant measurements such as **V_{max}** on the waveform.

3. **Use** CH-2 of the oscilloscope to measure **v_{out}**.
   a. You **CANNOT** use autoset. Determine the proper period for the 10kHz signal.
   b. **Ensure** CH-2 is set for **Peak to Peak to get the gain.**
   c. If you are experiencing any noise, add a shunt capacitor
   d. **Include** relevant measurements such as **V_{max}** on the waveform.

4. **Determine A_{Vo}** from the measured **v_{out}**, **v_{in}**.

5. **Measure R_{in}** = V_{in} / I_{in}.
   a. Because the scope can only measure voltage (not current), we use the following technique to determine **R_{in}**:
      i. You have previously recorded **v_{in}**.
      ii. **Attach** a 10kΩ resistor between the function generator (Wavegen) and your amplifier's input. Measure the voltage across it.

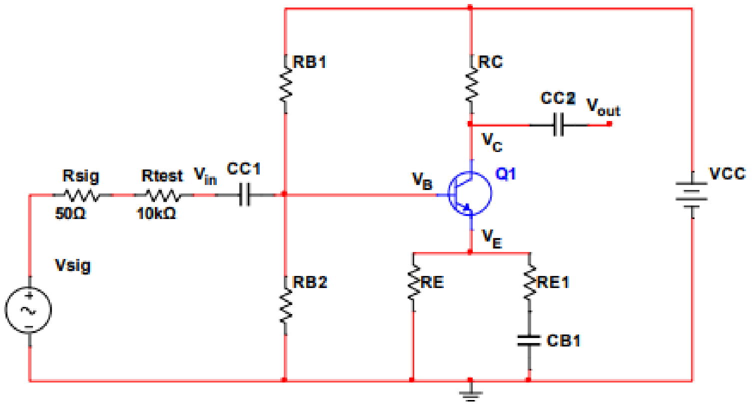


Figure 2.1 – Circuit with Inserted 10kΩ R_{test}

      iii. **Use** Ohm's law to **calculate** the **current through** the 10kΩ resistor (**I_{in}**). iv. Since the 10kΩ is in series with your amplifier, I_{in} is the same with or without the 10kΩ resistor.
      v. **Calculate R_{in} = v_{in} / I_{in}** (use the value for v_{in} recorded **before** the 10kΩ resistor).

6. **Increase** v_{in} until **v_{out} saturates** (clips). **Record** the value of v_{in} where saturation occurs.
7. **Attach** the 4kΩ load resistor and **measure** v_{out} (across the 4kΩ load). **Determine A_V (loaded)**.
8. **Attach** an 8Ω load resistor and **measure** v_{out} (across the 8Ω load). **Determine A_V (8Ω load)**.
   a. **Calculate** the **current** (**I_{out}**) through this resistor.
9. **Attach** a load resistor that is the same size as **R_C** and **measure** v_{out} (across the load). **Determine A_V (R_C Ω load)**.
10. **Calculate R_{out}(unloaded) = v_{out} / I_{out}**.
    a. **Use** the value of **v_{out}** recorded when there was no load attached.
    b. **Use** the value of **I_{out}** calculated when there was an 8Ω load attached.

POST-LAB ANALYSIS

1. **Include** all hand calculations in the final lab report.
2. For each part of the lab, **create tables** to compare your hand **calculated** data, **simulated** data, and **measured** data. If there are waveforms, include the waveforms from your prelab in your lab report to accurately compare them to the waveforms captured in lab.
3. **Calculate** percent error between hand **calculations**, **simulations**, and **measurements**.
4. **What** is the maximum output voltage swing of your amplifier?
    a. Did it **match** your calculations?
5. Is the **input impedance** (**R_{in}**) of a common-emitter amplifier high or low? **Explain**.
6. Is the **output impedance** (**R_{out}**) of a common-emitter amplifier high or low? **Explain**.
7. **When** the amplifier is attached a **load comparable to R_C**, **what effect** does it have on the **gain**?
8. **When** the amplifier is attached a **small load**, **what effect** does it have on the **gain**? **Explain why** this occurs.
    a. **What conclusion** can you draw about the type of load that a common-emitter amplifier can handle and still maintain gain?