

# FUNDAMENTAL ELECTRONIC CIRCUITS

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**C2 – Transistor amplifiers. DC biasing.**

# Contents

- Transistor amplifiers - intro
- MOSFET dc biasing
- BJT dc biasing

## ➤ Operating regions for transistors

- Two extreme regions, **passive**:

- **cutoff (off)**

$I_O = 0; V_O > 0$ ; ideal switch in **off** state

- **extreme conduction (exc)**

$I_O = I_{Oex}; V_O = 0$ ; ideal switch in **on** state

$V_{CT} < V_{Thn}$  or  $V_{CT} > V_{CTex}$  - **switching transistor**

- An intermediate region, **active**:

active forward region (**a<sub>F</sub>**)

$V_{Thn} < V_{CT} < V_{CTex}$  - **permanent conduction (amplifier)**

**completed**

➤ To begin with

What signal (voltage/current, AC/DC) is used at the input of a transistor amplifier?

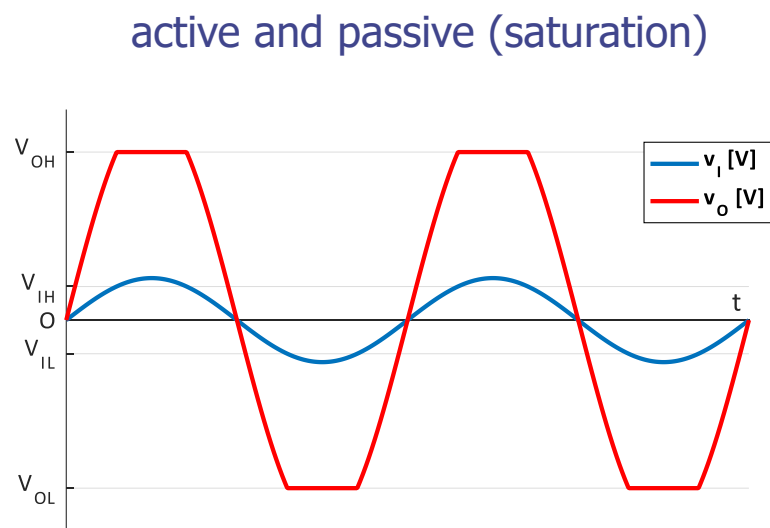
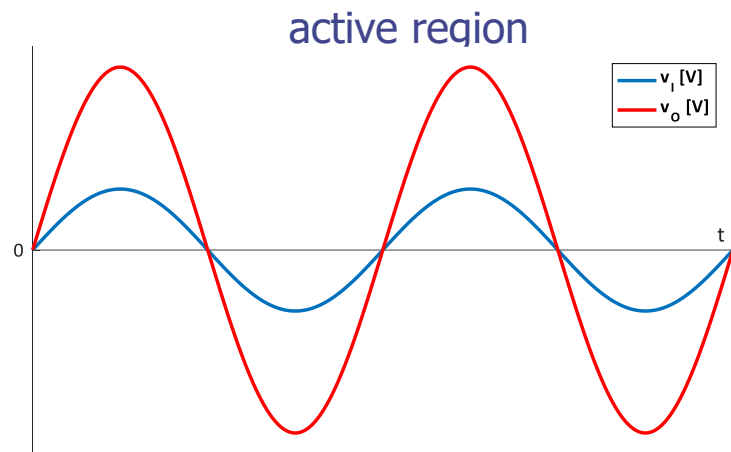
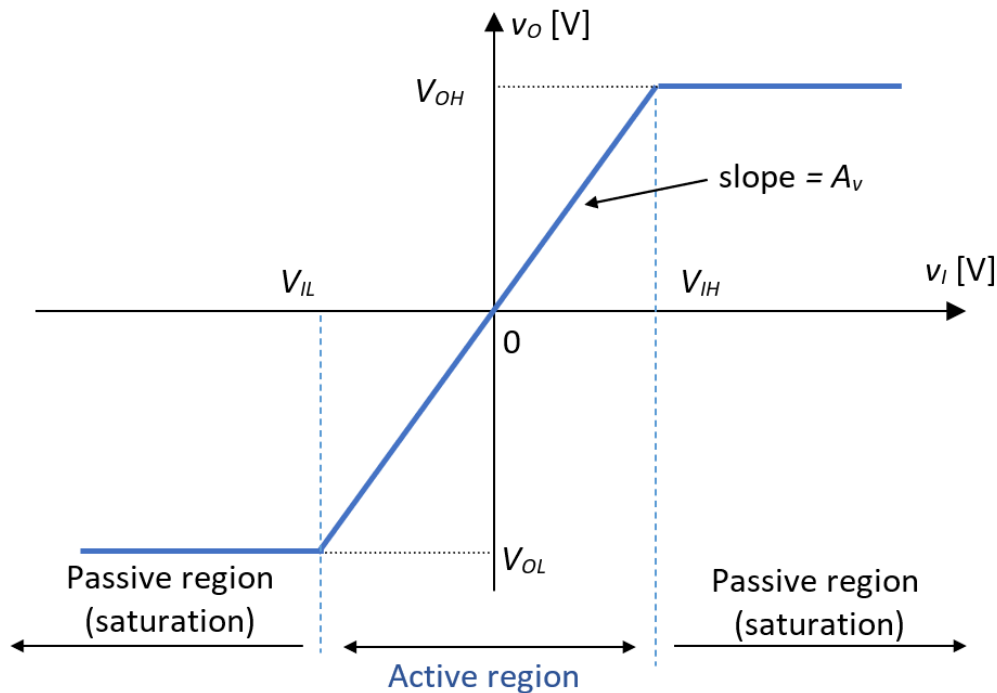
Is the output signal bigger/smaller? Same phase or inverted?

How many transistors in a basic transistor amplifier?

Who determines the gain of the amplifier?

How do we make sure the transistor stays in  $a_F$ ?

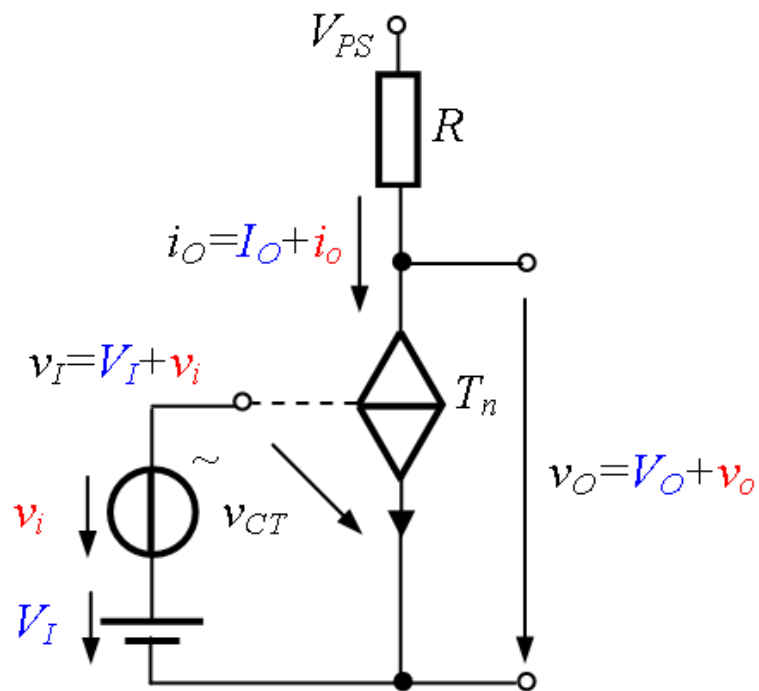
### ➤ OpAmp – revisited



Input signal – low enough for the OpAmp to operate in the linear, active region

## ➤ Transistors as amplifiers – concept circuit

In ( $a_F$ ), the transistor operates **around** a dc **operating point** (aka bias point, quiescent point), denoted  **$Q(V_O; I_O)$**



### DC signals

$V_{PS}$  – dc supply

$V_I$  – dc component of the input

$V_O$  – dc output voltage,  $I_O$  – dc output current

$Q(V_O; I_O)$  is computed/determined by  $V_{PS}$  and  $V_I$

### AC signals

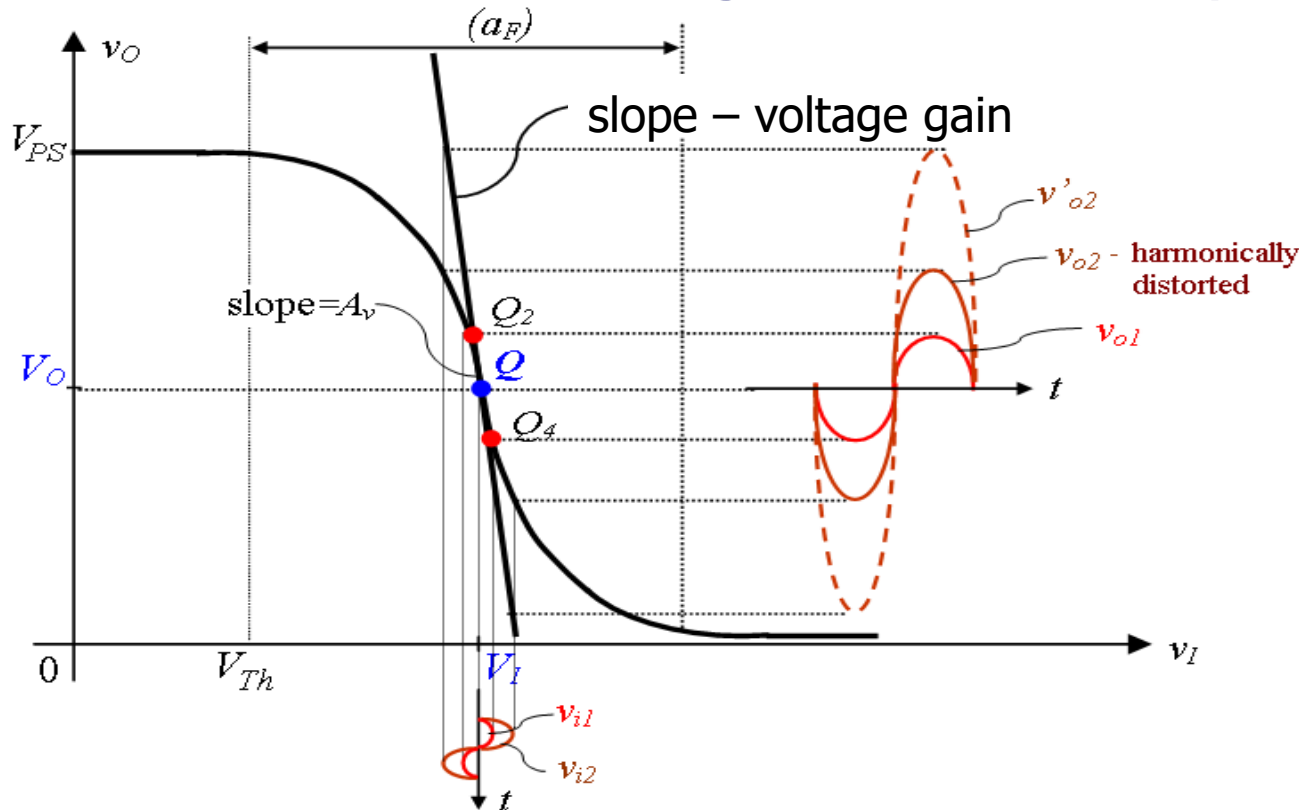
$v_i$  – ac input voltage (to be amplified)

$v_o$  – ac output voltage (amplified voltage)

$i_o$  – ac output current

The ac (variable) signal is superimposed on the dc components.

## ➤ VTC of an inverting transistor amplifier circuit



$$\text{Voltage gain: } A_v = \frac{v_O}{v_i}$$

The **middle region** of the VTC can be approximated as linear.

Input signal – small enough to be inside the linear region.

**Small signal:** operation of the amplifier in the **narrow linear region around  $Q$**

**To use the transistor as an amplifier:**

- the transistor - biased as close as possible to the middle of the active region
- the instantaneous (mobile) operating point - in the active region
- the input variable signal - small (linear region around  $Q$ )

To bias  $\equiv$  to provide appropriate dc current and/or voltage

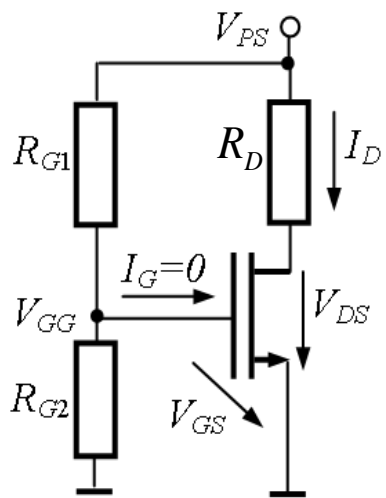
 **$Q$  – operating point**

- stable and predictable
- independent of transistor parameters

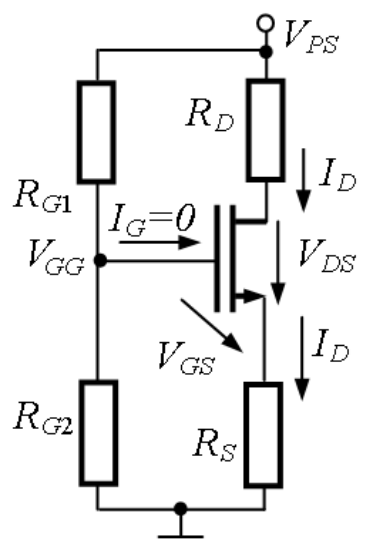
Methods for setting  $Q$  in the middle of the active region?



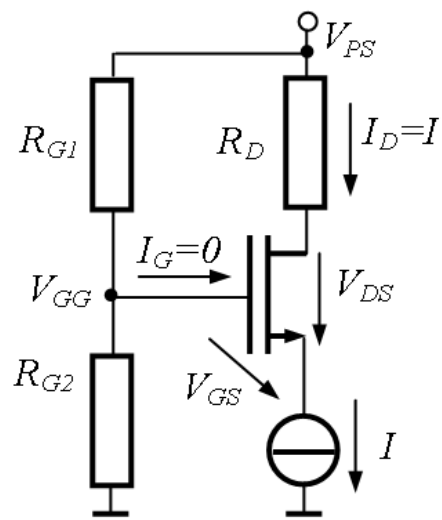
➤ MOSFET dc biasing - methods



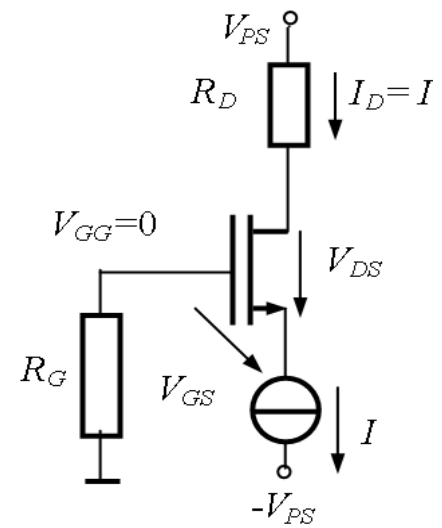
3 resistors  
single supply



4 resistors  
single supply

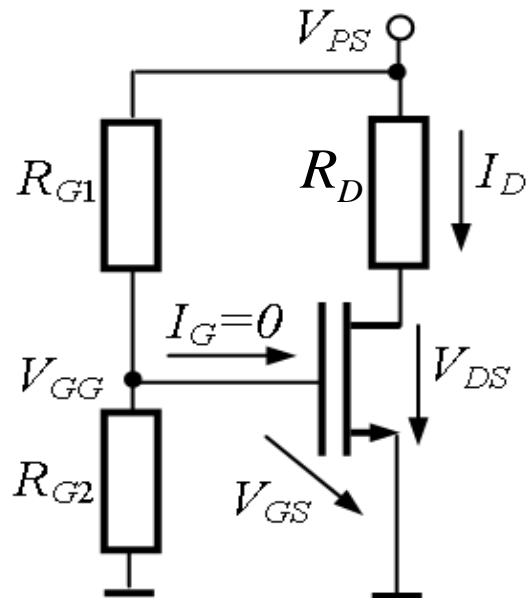


current source  
single supply



current source  
differential supply

➤ 3 resistors, single supply



$$V_{GG} = V_{GS} = \frac{R_{G2}}{R_{G1} + R_{G2}} V_{PS}$$

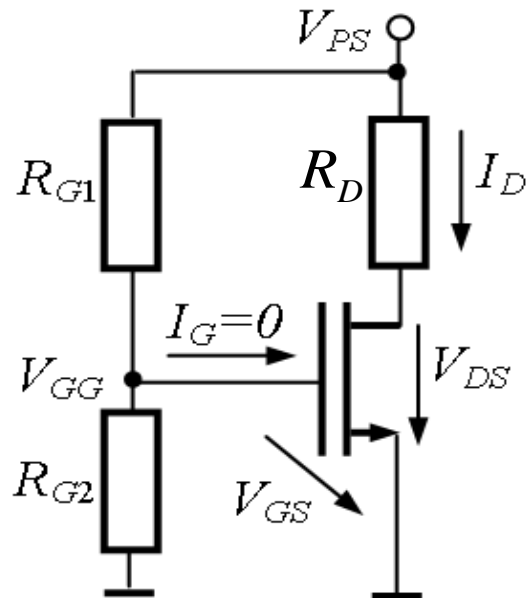
$$I_D = \beta (V_{GS} - V_{Th})^2$$

$$V_{DS} = V_{PS} - I_D R_D$$

$$Q(V_{DS}; I_{DS}) = ?$$

- ☺ very simple
- ☹  $I_D$  depends on the transistor parameters,  $\beta$  and  $V_{Th}$
- ☹ cannot assure the stability of  $Q$

➤ 3 resistors, single supply - example



$$R_{G1} = 7.6 \text{ M}\Omega$$

$$R_{G2} = 2.4 \text{ M}\Omega$$

$$R_D = 29.1 \text{ K}\Omega$$

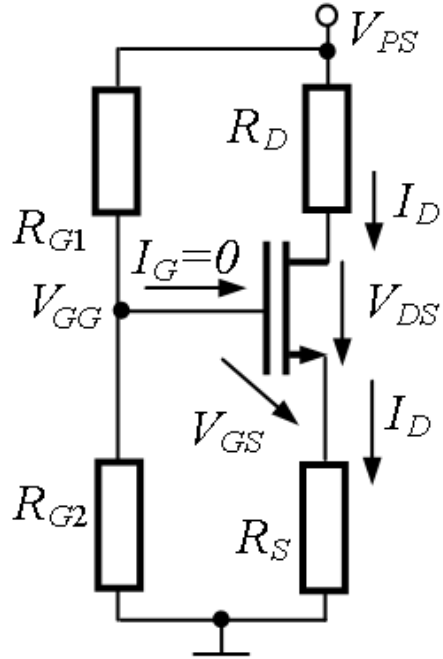
$$V_{PS} = 5 \text{ V}$$

$$V_{Th} = 0.8 \text{ V}$$

$$\beta = 500 \mu\text{A}/\text{V}^2$$

$$Q(V_{DS}; I_{DS}) = Q(2.67 \text{ V}; 80 \mu\text{A})$$

## ➤ 4 resistors, single supply



$$Q(V_{DS}; I_{DS}) = ?$$

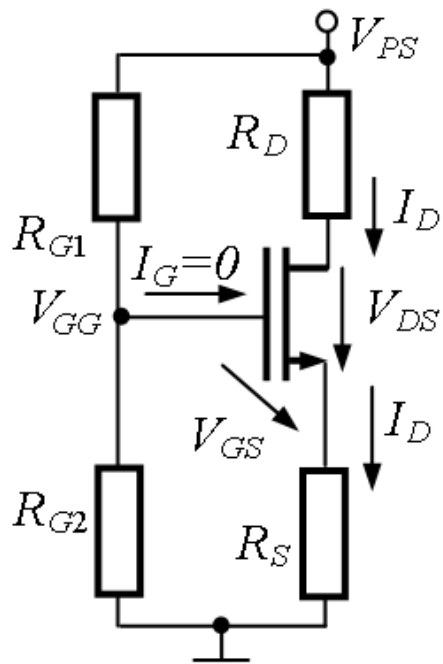
$$V_{GG} = \frac{R_{G2}}{R_{G1} + R_{G2}} V_{PS}$$

$$\begin{cases} V_{GS} = V_{GG} - I_D R_S \\ I_D = \beta(V_{GS} - V_{Th})^2 \end{cases}$$

$$V_{DS} = V_{PS} - I_D(R_D + R_S)$$

- 2 unknowns,  $V_{GS}$  and  $I_D$
- 2<sup>nd</sup> order system of equations
- select suitable value for  $I_D$  so that T -  $a_F$

➤ 4 resistors, single supply



$$V_{GG} = \frac{R_{G2}}{R_{G1} + R_{G2}} V_{PS}$$

$$\begin{cases} V_{GS} = V_{GG} - I_D R_S \\ I_D = \beta(V_{GS} - V_{Th})^2 \end{cases}$$

$$V_{DS} = V_{PS} - I_D(R_D + R_S)$$

$Q(V_{DS}; I_{DS}) = ?$

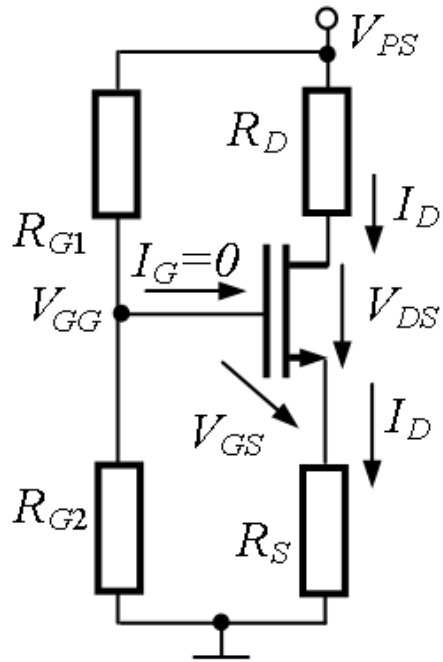
-  $V_{GS}$  also depends on  $I_D$

$I_D \uparrow, R_S I_D \uparrow, V_{GS} \downarrow, I_D \downarrow$  - negative feedback due to  $R_S$

☺  $Q$  – more stable when certain parameters change

☹ increased computational complexity

➤ 4 resistors, single supply – example 1



$$R_{G1} = 3 \text{ M}\Omega$$

$$R_{G2} = 1 \text{ M}\Omega$$

$$R_D = 3 \text{ K}\Omega$$

$$R_S = 1 \text{ K}\Omega \quad V_{PS} = 20 \text{ V}$$

$$V_{Th} = 2 \text{ V}$$

$$\beta = 0.5 \text{ mA/V}^2$$

$$V_{GS} = V_{GG} - I_D R_S$$

$$I_D = \beta (V_{GS} - V_{Th})^2$$

$$V_{GG} = \frac{R_{G2}}{R_{G1} + R_{G2}} V_{PS} = 5 \text{ V}$$

$$I_D^2 - 8I_D + 9 = 0 \quad I_{D1} = 6.65 \text{ mA}; \quad I_{D2} = 1.35 \text{ mA}$$

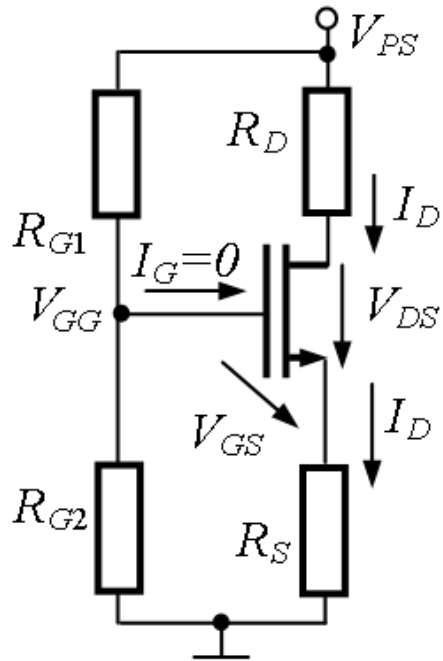
$I_{D1}$  is not suitable; results in  $V_{GS} < 0$

$$V_{DS} = V_{PS} - I_D (R_D + R_S) = 14.6 \text{ V}$$

$$I_D = I_{D2} = 1.35 \text{ mA}$$

$$Q(V_{DS}; I_{DS}) = Q(14.6 \text{ V}; 1.35 \text{ mA})$$

## ➤ 4 resistors, single supply – example 2



$$V_{PS} = 20 \text{ V}$$

$$V_{Th} = 2 \text{ V}$$

$$\beta = 0.5 \text{ mA/V}^2$$

Size the resistors so that  $I_D = 1 \text{ mA}$ .

Usually,  $V_{DS} \approx V_{RD} \approx V_{RS} \approx 1/3 * V_{PS}$

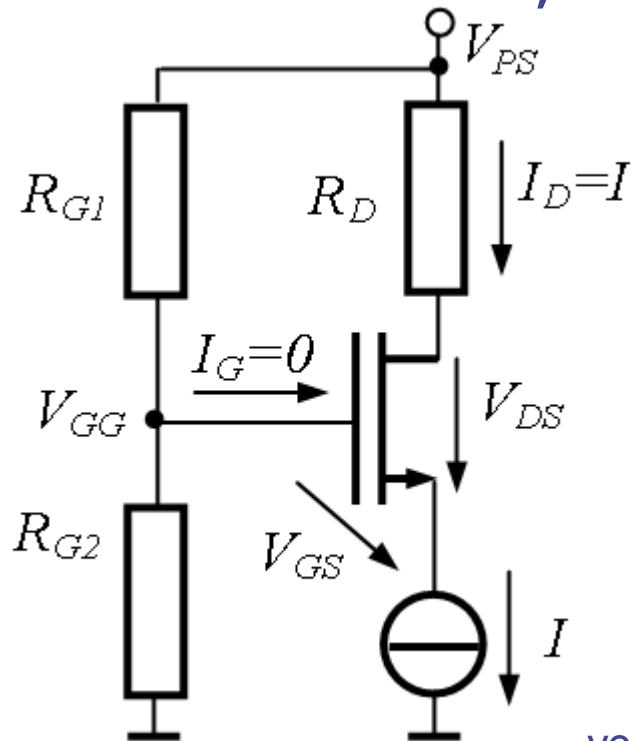
$$V_{RS} \approx 1/3 * V_{PS} \approx 7 \text{ V}$$

$$R_S = 7 \text{ K}\Omega; R_D = 6 \text{ K}\Omega$$

$$V_{GG} = V_{GS} + V_S = 4 + 7 = 11 \text{ V}$$

$$R_{G1} = 180 \text{ K}\Omega; R_{G2} = 220 \text{ K}\Omega$$

➤ Current source, single supply



$$Q(V_{DS}; I_{DS}) = ?$$

$$I_D = I$$

$$V_{GG} = \frac{R_{G2}}{R_{G1} + R_{G2}} V_{PS}$$

$$V_{PS} = R_D I + V_{DS} - V_{GS} + V_{GG}$$

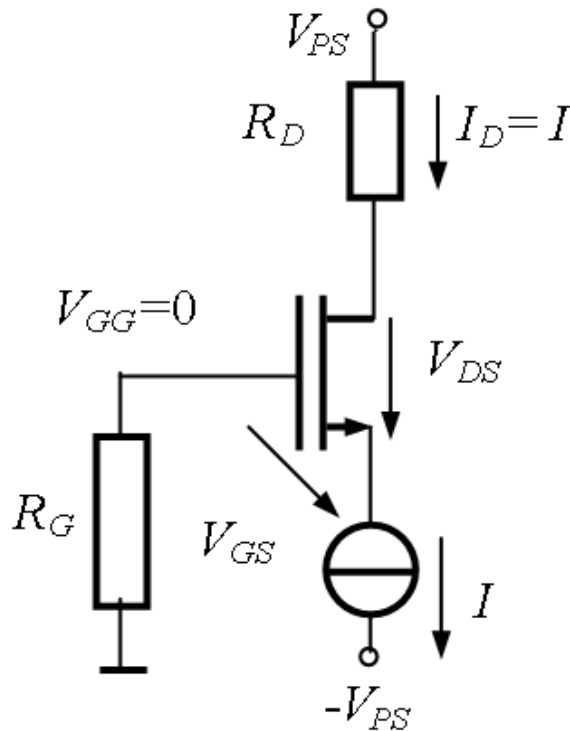
$$V_{DS} = V_{PS} - R_D I + V_{GS} - V_{GG}$$

- voltage drop across the current source:  $V_{GG} - V_{GS}$
- used in integrated circuits

☺  $I_D$  does not depend on the transistor parameters,  $\beta$  and  $V_{Th}$



➤ Current source, differential supply



$$I_D = I$$

$$V_{PS} = R_D I + V_{DS} - V_{GS} + V_{GG}$$

$$V_{GG} = 0$$

$$V_{DS} = V_{PS} - R_D I + V_{GS}$$

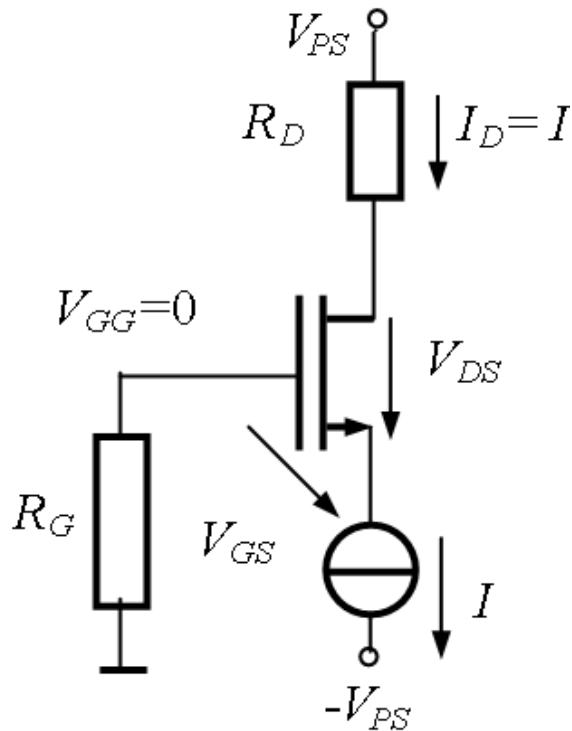
$$V_{GS} = V_{Th} + \sqrt{\frac{I_D}{\beta}} \quad \beta = \frac{k W}{2 L}$$

$$Q(V_{DS}; I_{DS}) = ?$$

- voltage drop across the current source:  $V_{PS} - V_{GS}$
- used in integrated circuits

☺  $I_D$  does not depend on the transistor parameters,  $\beta$  and  $V_{Th}$

➤ Current source, differential supply - **example**



$$\pm V_{PS} = \pm 12V$$

$$R_G = 500 \text{ K}\Omega, R_D = 4.7 \text{ K}\Omega, I = 1.6 \text{ mA}$$

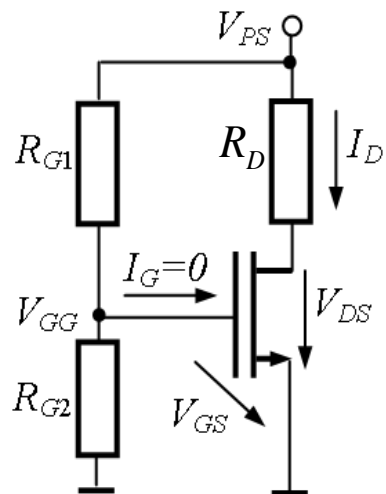
$$k = 0.1 \frac{\text{mA}}{\text{V}^2}, W/L = 2, V_{Th} = 0.5 \text{ V}$$

$$Q(V_{DS}; I_{DS}) = ?$$

Voltage drop across the current source?

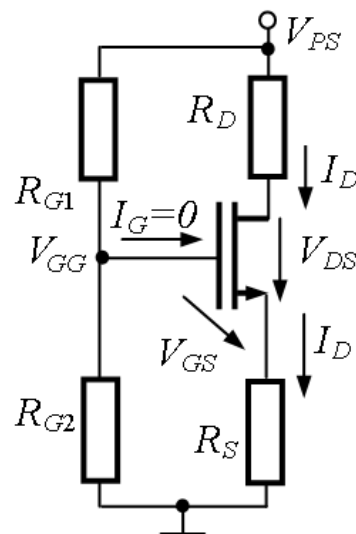
DC potentials in the three terminals of  $T$ ?

➤ MOSFET dc biasing – methods summary



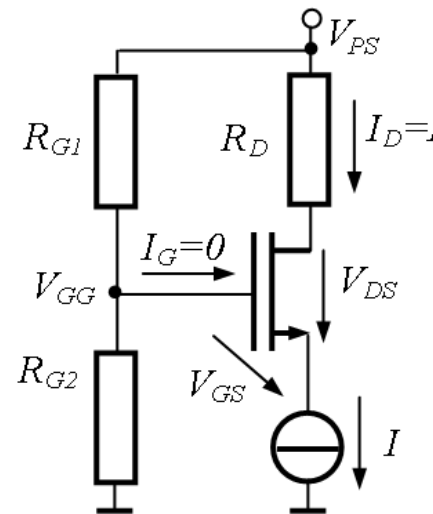
3 resistors  
single supply

- ☺ very simple
- ☹  $I_D = f(\beta, V_{Th})$
- ☹  $Q$  – not stable



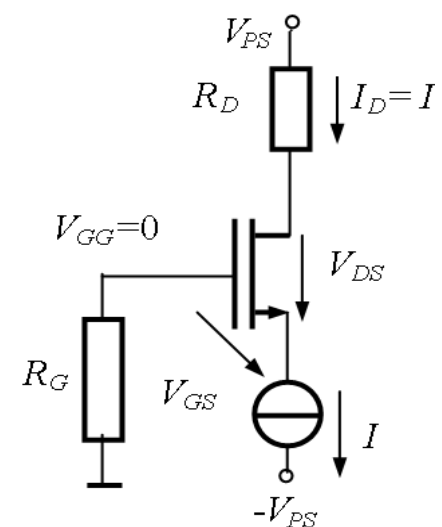
4 resistors  
single supply

- ☺  $Q$  – more stable
- ☹ complex calculus



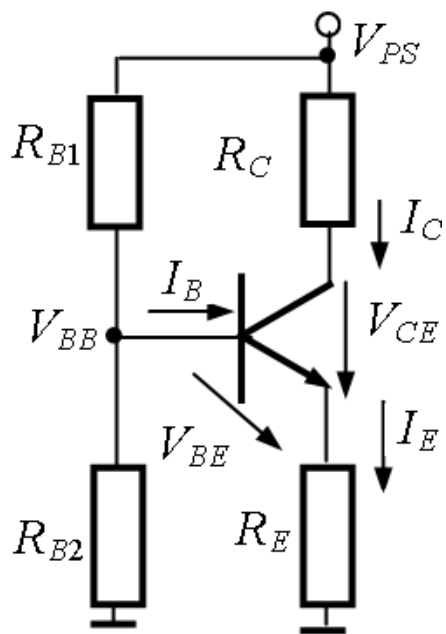
current source  
single supply

- ☺  $I_D$  – independent of  $\beta$  and  $V_{Th}$
- ☹ need current source

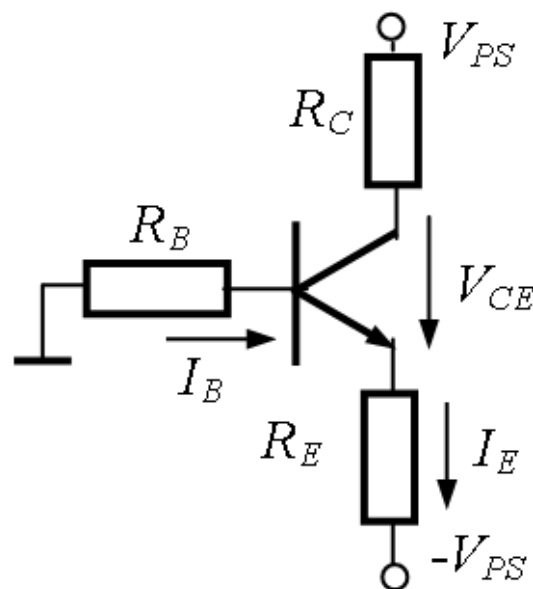


current source  
differential supply

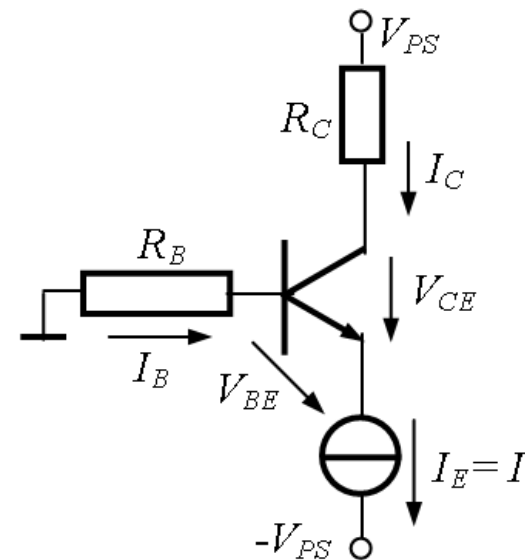
➤ BJT dc biasing – methods



4 resistors  
single supply

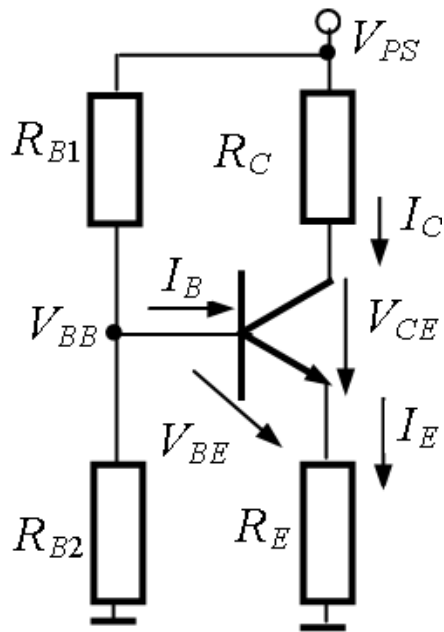


3 resistors  
differential supply



current source  
differential supply

➤ 4 resistors, single supply



$$I_C = \beta I_B$$

$$I_E = I_C + I_B = (\beta + 1)I_B = \frac{\beta + 1}{\beta} I_C$$

$$I_E \approx I_C$$

✓ Approximate calculation:

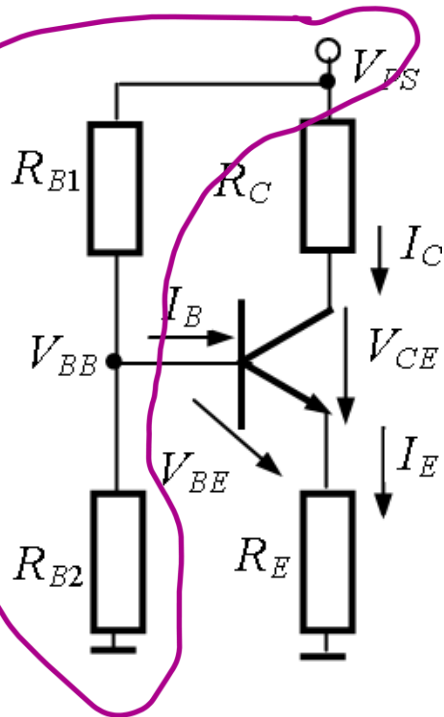
- neglect  $I_B$

- assume  $R_{B1}, R_{B2}$  – voltage divider

✓ Precise calculation – make use of  $I_B$

$$Q(V_{CE}; I_C) = ?$$

➤ 4 resistors, single supply – approximate calculation



$$Q(V_{CE}; I_C) = ?$$

Assume  $I_B \ll I_{R_{B1}, R_{B2}}$

$$V_{BB} = \frac{R_{B2}}{R_{B1} + R_{B2}} V_{PS}$$

$$I_C \approx I_E = \frac{V_{BB} - V_{BE}}{R_E}$$

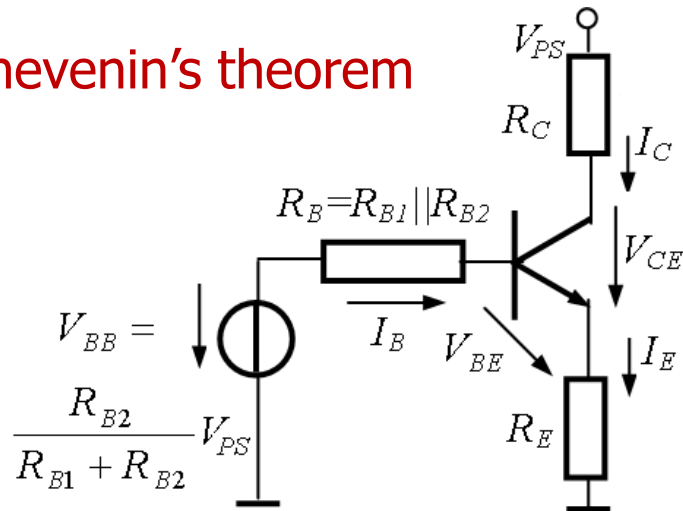
$$V_{CE} = V_{PS} - I_C R_C - I_E R_E \approx V_{PS} - I_C (R_C + R_E)$$

$I_C \uparrow, I_E \uparrow, R_E I_E \uparrow, V_{BE} \downarrow, I_C \downarrow$  - negative feedback due to  $R_E$

☺  $Q$  - stable

➤ 4 resistors, single supply – precise calculation

Thevenin's theorem



$$V_{BB} = R_B I_B + V_{BE} + R_E I_E$$

$$I_B = \frac{I_E}{\beta + 1}$$

$$V_{BB} - V_{BE} = \frac{R_B I_E}{\beta + 1} + R_E I_E$$

$$I_E = \frac{V_{BB} - V_{BE}}{R_E + R_B / (\beta + 1)}$$

$$Q(V_{CE}; I_C) = ?$$

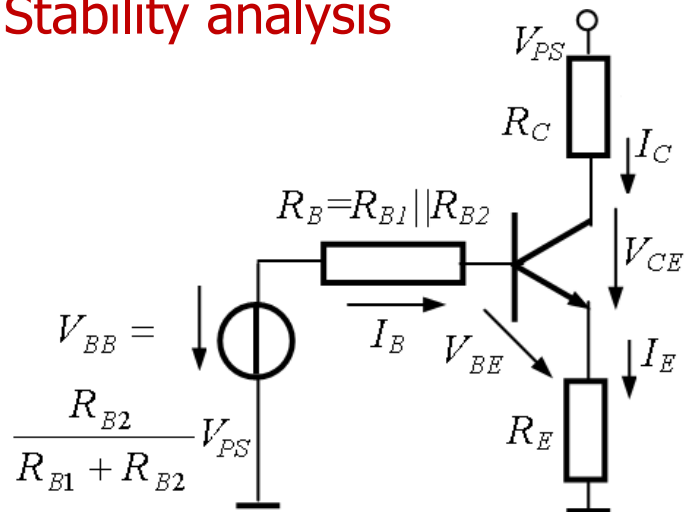
$$I_C = I_E + I_B \approx I_E$$

$$V_{CE} = V_{PS} - I_C R_C - I_E R_E$$

$$V_{CE} \approx V_{PS} - I_C (R_C + R_E)$$

➤ 4 resistors, single supply – precise calculation

Stability analysis



$$I_E = \frac{V_{BB} - V_{BE}}{R_E + R_B / (\beta + 1)}$$



To have  $I_E$  - insensitive to  $\beta$  variations

$$R_E \gg \frac{R_B}{(\beta + 1)} \quad R_E > 10 \frac{R_B}{\beta}$$

- $R_{B1}, R_{B2}$  - small values for  $Q$  – independent on  $\beta$
- $R_{B1}, R_{B2}$  - high values for high input resistance of the voltage amplifier

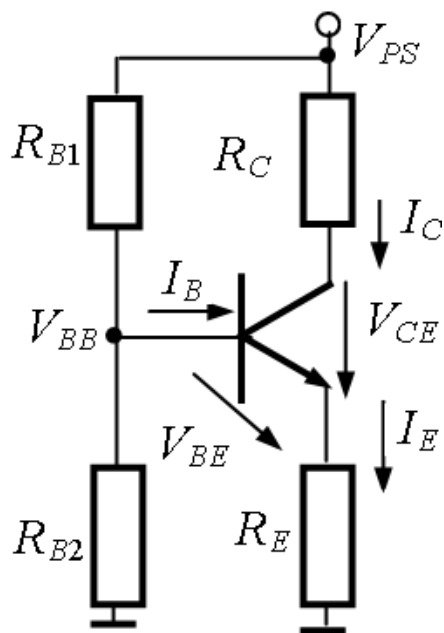
To have  $I_E$  - insensitive to temperature variations due to  $V_{BE}$

$$V_{BB} \gg 0.1V$$

a  $\Delta V_{BE}$  of 0.1 V can be neglected compared to  $V_{BB} = 3...5$  V



➤ 4 resistors, single supply – example 1



$V_{PS} = 15 \text{ V}; R_{B1} = 10 \text{ K}\Omega; R_{B2} = 4.7 \text{ K}\Omega;$   
 $R_E = 1.5 \text{ K}\Omega; R_C = 1.8 \text{ K}\Omega; \beta = 150$

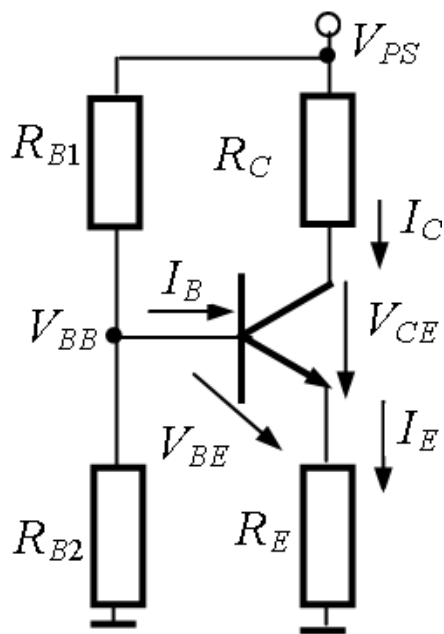
Approximate calculation

$I_C = ?$	$I_C = 2.73 \text{ mA}$
$V_{CE} = ?$	$V_{CE} = 6 \text{ V}$
$V_C = ?$	$V_C = 10.1 \text{ V}$
$V_E = ?$	$V_E = 4.1 \text{ V}$

Precise calculation

$I_C = ?$	$I_C = 2.7 \text{ mA}$
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➤ 4 resistors, single supply – example 2



Size the resistors so that  $T$  is biased in  $a_F$  @  $I_C = 2\text{mA}$ , for  $V_{PS} = 12\text{V}$ ,  $\beta = 100$

Usually  $V_{BB} = \frac{1}{3}V_{PS} = \frac{1}{3} \cdot 12 = 4\text{V}$

$$R_E = \frac{V_{BB} - V_{BE}}{I_E} = \frac{(1/3) \cdot 12 - 0.7}{2} = 1.65\text{K}\Omega$$

$$V_{BB} = \frac{R_{B2}}{R_{B1} + R_{B2}} V_{PS} = \frac{1}{3} V_{PS} \quad R_{B1} = 2R_{B2}$$

$$R_E > 10 \frac{R_B}{\beta} \quad \frac{R_{B1}R_{B2}}{R_{B1} + R_{B2}} < 10R_E \quad R_{B2} < 24.75\text{K}\Omega$$

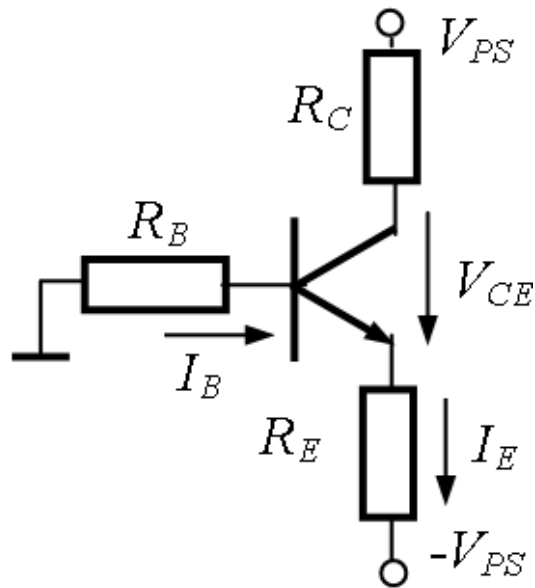
Choose  $R_{B2} = 22\text{K}\Omega$ ;  $R_{B1} = 44\text{K}\Omega$

Verification (precise calculation):

$$I_E = \frac{V_{BB} - V_{BE}}{R_E + R_B/(\beta + 1)} = 1.84\text{mA}$$

Adjust  $R_E = 1.5\text{K}\Omega$  so that  $I_E = 2\text{mA}$

➤ 3 resistors, differential supply



$$R_B I_B + V_{BE} + R_E I_E - V_{PS} = 0$$

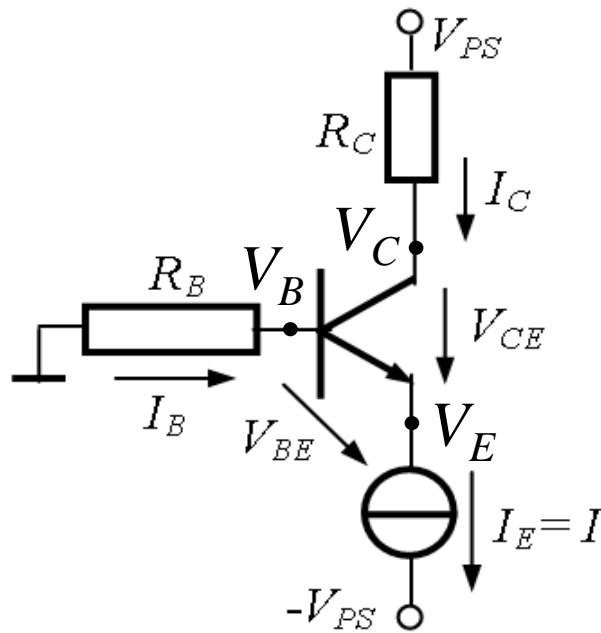
$$I_B = I_E / (\beta + 1)$$

$$I_E = \frac{0 - V_{BE} - (-V_{PS})}{R_E + R_B / (\beta + 1)} = \frac{V_{PS} - V_{BE}}{R_E + R_B / (\beta + 1)}$$

$$V_{CE} = 2V_{PS} - R_C I_C - R_E I_E$$

$$Q(V_{CE}; I_C) = ?$$

➤ Current source, differential supply



$$I_E = I; I_C \approx I_E; I_B = \frac{I_C}{\beta}$$

$$V_C = V_{PS} - R_C I_C$$

$$V_B = 0 - R_B I_B = -R_B I_B$$

$$V_E = V_B - V_{BE} = V_B - 0.7V$$

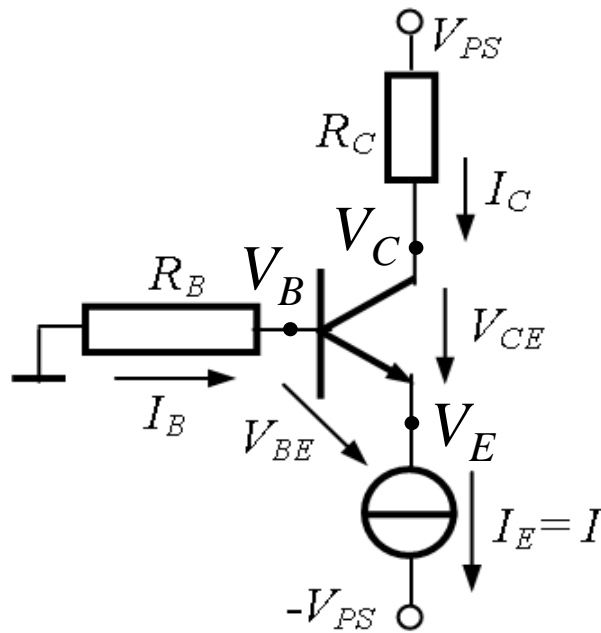
$$V_{CE} = V_C - V_E$$

Voltage across the current source:

$$V_E - (-V_{PS}) = V_E + V_{PS}$$

$$Q(V_{CE}; I_C) = ?$$

➤ Current source, differential supply - **example**



$\pm V_{PS} = \pm 9 \text{ V}; R_B = 180 \text{ K}\Omega;$

$R_C = 3.3 \text{ K}\Omega; \beta = 100; I = 2 \text{ mA}$

$I_C = ? \quad V_C = ? \quad V_B = ? \quad V_E = ?$

$V_{CE} = ?$

Voltage across the current source = ?

# Summary

- Transistor amplifiers - intro
- MOSFET dc biasing
- BJT dc biasing

Next week: MOSFET basic amplifiers.