#### Lecture 9

#### **OUTLINE**

- BJT Amplifiers (2)
  - Common-base topology
    - CB core
    - CB stage with source resistance
    - Impact of base resistance

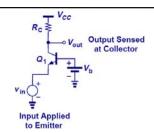
Reading: Chapter 5.3.2

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## Common Base (CB) Amplifier



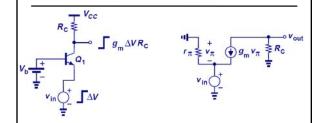
 In common base topology, where the base terminal is biased with a fixed voltage, emitter is fed with a signal, and collector is the output.

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#### **CB** Core



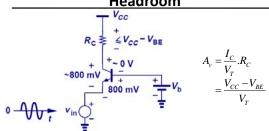
• The voltage gain of CB stage is  $g_m R_C$ , which is identical to that of CE stage in magnitude and opposite in phase.

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# Tradeoff between Gain and Headroom



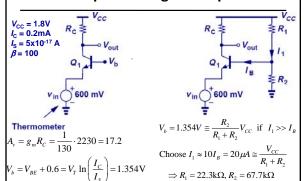
• To maintain the transistor out of saturation, the maximum voltage drop across  $R_{C}$  cannot exceed  $V_{CC^{-}}$   $V_{BE}.$ 

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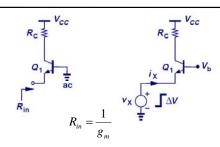
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## Simple CB Stage Example



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## Input Impedance of CB



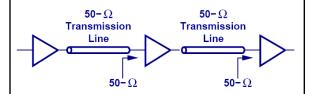
• The input impedance of CB stage is much smaller than that of the CE stage.

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## **Practical Application of CB Stage**



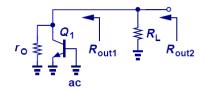
- To avoid "reflections", need impedance matching.
- CB stage's low input impedance can be used to create a match with 50  $\Omega$ .

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#### **Output Impedance of CB Stage**



$$R_{out} = r_O \parallel R_L$$

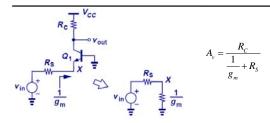
• The output impedance of CB stage is similar to that of CE stage.

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### **CB Stage with Source Resistance**

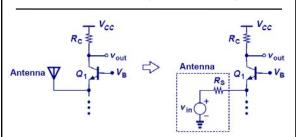


- With an inclusion of a source resistor, the input signal is attenuated before it reaches the emitter of the amplifier; therefore, we see a lower voltage gain.
- This is similar to CE stage emitter degeneration; only the phase is reversed.
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## **Practical Example of CB Stage**

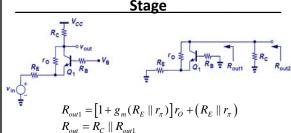


· An antenna usually has low output impedance; therefore, a correspondingly low input impedance is required for the following stage.

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## **Realistic Output Impedance of CB**



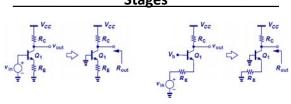
• The output impedance of CB stage is equal to R<sub>C</sub> in parallel with the impedance looking down into the collector.

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## **Output Impedance of CE and CB Stages**



The output impedances of CE, CB stages are the same if both circuits are under the same condition. This is because when calculating output impedance, the input port is grounded, which renders the same circuit for both CE and CB stages.

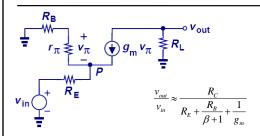
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EE105 Fall 2007 2





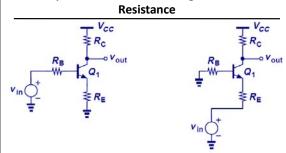
With an addition of base resistance, the voltage gain degrades.

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#### **Comparison of CE and CB Stages with Base** Resistance



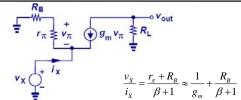
 The voltage gain of CB amplifier with base resistance is exactly the same as that of CE stage with base resistance and emitter degeneration, except for a negative sign.

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#### Input Impedance of CB Stage with Base Resistance



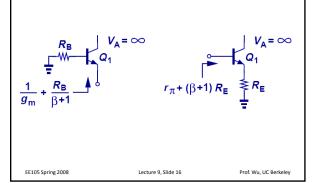
The input impedance of CB with base resistance is equal to  $1/g_m$  plus  $R_B$  divided by ( $\beta$ +1). This is in contrast to degenerated CE stage, in which the resistance in series with the emitter is multiplied by  $(\beta+1)$  when seen from the base.

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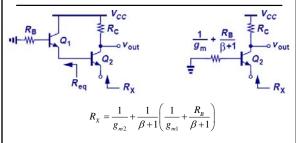
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## Input Impedance Seen at Emitter and Base



## **Input Impedance Example**



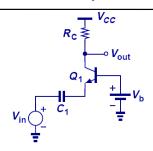
• To find the R<sub>x</sub>, we have to first find R<sub>eq</sub>, treat it as the base resistance of  $Q_2$  and divide it by  $(\beta+1)$ .

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## **Bad Bias Technique for CB Stage**



• Unfortunately, no emitter current can flow.

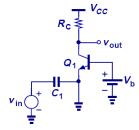
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#### Still No Good



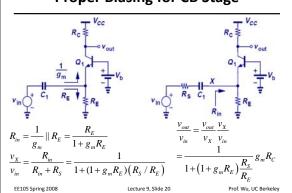
 The input signal is shorted to ground. The circuit still does not amplify.

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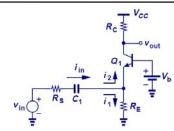
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## **Proper Biasing for CB Stage**



### Reduction of Input Impedance Due to R<sub>E</sub>



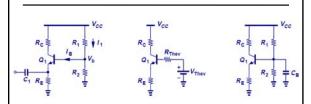
• The reduction of input impedance due to  $R_E$  is bad because it shunts part of the input current to ground instead of to  $Q_1$  (and  $R_C$ ).

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## Creation of V<sub>b</sub>



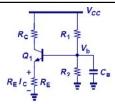
- Resistive divider lowers the gain.
- To remedy this problem, a capacitor is inserted from base to ground to short out the resistor divider at the frequency of interest.

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## **Example of CB Stage with Bias**



- For the circuit shown above,  $R_E >> 1/g_m$ .
- R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are chosen so that V<sub>b</sub> is at the appropriate value and the current that flows thru the divider is much larger than the have current
- $\bullet$  Capacitors are chosen to be small compared to  $1/g_{\rm m}$  at the required frequency.

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