

# Semiconductor Electronics Q & A

Session 6e for Electronics and  
Telecommunications  
A Fairfield University E-Course  
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# Module: Semiconductor Electronics

(in two parts)

- Text: “Electronics,” Harry Kybett, Wiley, 1986, ISBN 0-471-00916-4
- References:
  - [Electronics Tutorial](#) (Thanks to Alex Pounds)
  - [Electronics Tutorial](#) (Thanks to Mark Sokos)
- 5 - Semiconductors, Diodes and Bipolar Transistors
  - 5 on-line sessions plus one lab
- 6 - FETs, SCRs, Other Devices and Amplifiers
  - 5 on-line sessions plus one lab
- Mastery Test part 3 follows this Module

# Section 6: FETs, SCRs, Other Devices and Operational Amplifiers

- **OBJECTIVES:** This section reviews additional important semiconductor devices and their applications. The Operational Amplifier is also studied.

# Section 6 Schedule:

Session 6a	01/15	Field Effect Transistors	Kybett pp 70 – 77, pp 201-209
Session 6b	01/20	Transistors as a switch	Kybett pp 78 –107
Session 6c	01/22	SCR's, Triacs and UJT's	Notes
Session 6d	01/27	Class A, B, and C Amplifiers	Notes
Session 6e (no class Monday)	01/29	Q & A	
Session 6f (Lab - 02/08, Sat.)	02/05	Operational Amplifiers	Kybett pp 209-215
Session 6g (Quiz 6 due 02/23)	02/10	Review for Quiz 6 (no class 2/17 or 2/19)	
Session 6h	02/24	Discuss Quiz 6	
<b>Session 6i</b>	<b>02/26</b>	<b>Review for MT3</b>	
MT3	03/01	MT3 Exam	
Session 6j	03/10	Discuss MT3	

# Topics

- Semiconductors and Doping
- Diodes and Applications
- Bipolar Transistors
- Transistor Amplifiers

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- Field Effect Transistors
- Transistors as a switch
- Other Devices
- Class A, B, and C amplifiers
- Operational Amplifiers

Part 5

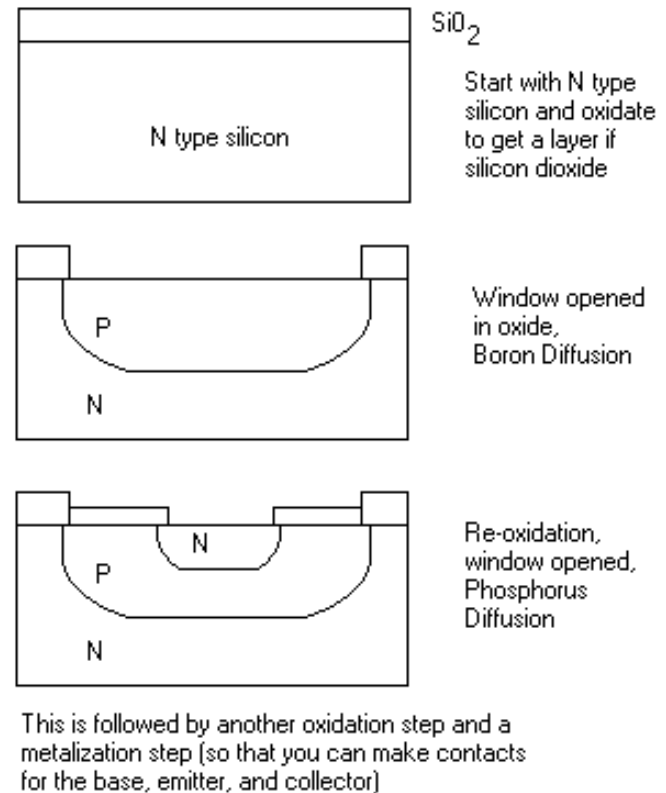
Part 6

# Semiconductor Review

- Pure semiconductors (Si, Ge, GaAs) are crystals
  - Elemental semiconductors are in group 4 of the periodic chart
  - Outer 4 electrons are trapped in covalent bonds
  - High resistivity when pure
- Doping
  - N-Type formed by diffusing group 5 impurities
  - P-Type formed by diffusing group 3 impurities
  - More impurities; Less resistivity
  - “Majority” carriers (electrons or holes) determines “Type” (equal carriers combine to cancel each other)
- PN junctions used to create electronic devices (diodes, transistors, etc.)

# PN Junction Review

- Diffusion creates junctions just below the surface
- A diode is formed as one PN junction
  - Depletion region forms when reverse biased
- A bi-polar transistor is two pn junctions separated by a very narrow “base” region



# Diodes

- Diodes are electronic one-way valves
  - Current can flow from anode to cathode
  - Current is blocked in the reverse direction (depletion region)



Current flows from A to B  
but not from B to A.

- Forward voltage drop
  - Silicon  $V_f = 0.7$  volts
  - Germanium  $V_f = 0.3$  volts
  - Schottky  $V_f = 0.1$  volts
  - GaAs (LED)  $V_f = 2$  volts
- Peak Inverse Voltage (PIV, PRV, Zener)
- These are non-linear devices ( no superposition )



# Diode Analysis Review

- First determine if the diode is:
  - Forward biased: conducting with a small voltage drop
  - Reverse biased: an open switch
  - In reverse breakdown (PIV): conducting with a large voltage drop (The Zener voltage)
- Replace the diode with a simple equivalent and then analyze the circuit (Ohm and Kirchoff)
- Check power dissipation in each component to avoid overheating

# Bipolar Transistor Review

- Transistors have three leads: base, emitter and collector
- Testing via ohm meter
  - Two diodes back to back: test each separately for impedance ratio
  - Check collector to emitter for high impedance (leakage)
- Beta ( $\beta$ ): Current gain  $\beta = I_C/I_B$ , as long as no “saturation” ( $V_{CE} > 0.2\text{v}$ )
  - Transistor “action”
  - Carriers injected into “depletion region” (very thin base region)
- NPN and PNP: currents and voltages reversed
- Analyze Base current ( $I_B$ ) flow as a diode
- Collector current:  $I_C = I_B * \beta$
- Collector voltage:  $V_C = V_{\text{batt}} - I_C * R_C$

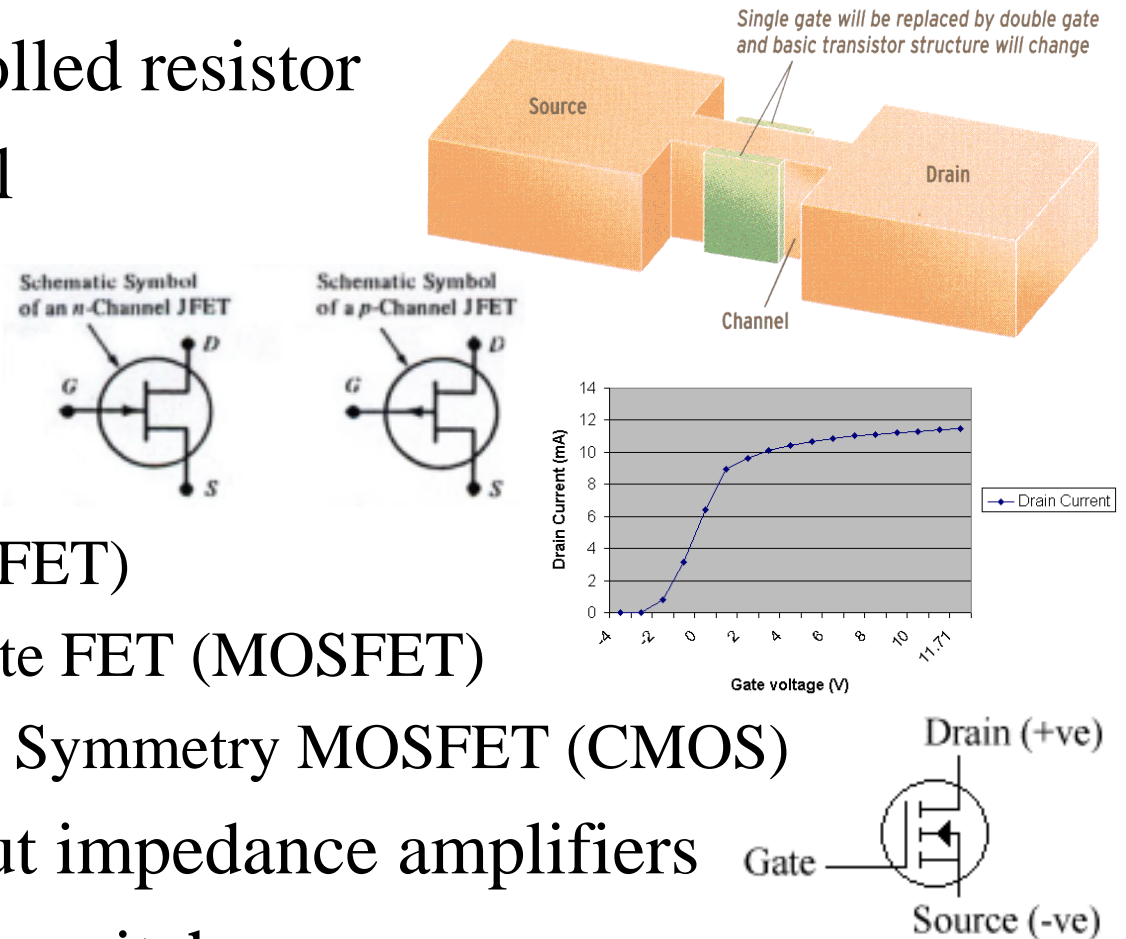


# Transistor Review (2)

- Amplifier Configurations
  - Common Emitter (voltage gain)
  - Common Collector (buffer, low output impedance)
  - Common Base  
(only used in some high frequency applications)
- Non-Linear Operation
  - Saturation: Transistor is fully on ( $V_{ce} = 0.2$ , low  $\beta$ )
  - Cutoff: Transistor is off ( $V_{be} < 0.5$ ,  $I_c = 0$ )

# FET Summary

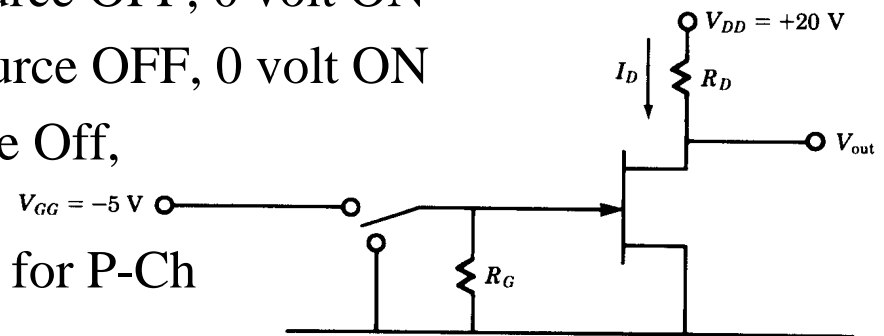
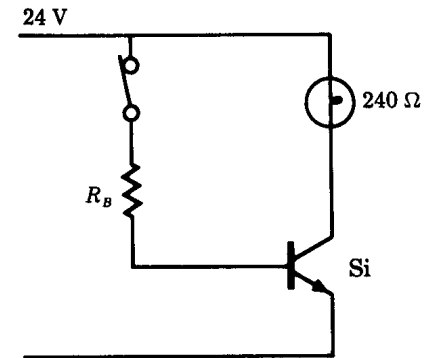
- A voltage-controlled resistor
- Channel material
  - N-channel FET
  - P-channel FET
- FET types
  - Junction FET (JFET)
  - Metal Oxide Gate FET (MOSFET)
  - Complementary Symmetry MOSFET (CMOS)
- Simple high input impedance amplifiers
- Very effective as switches



# Transistor Switch Summary

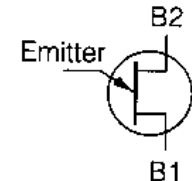
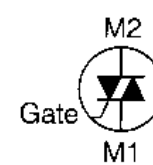
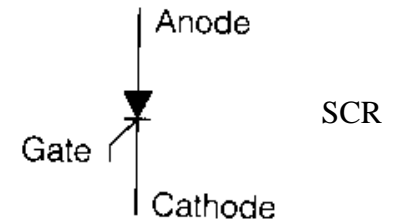
- Can be either Bipolar or FET
- They operate fully in saturation or cutoff
  - Cutoff: no current
  - Saturation:  $V_{ce} < 0.2 \text{ v}$
- Bipolar: Current controlled switch
  - NPN: +0.7 volt base-emitter ON
  - PNP: -0.7 volt base-emitter ON
- FET: Voltage controlled switch
  - N-Ch JFET: -5 volt gate-source OFF, 0 volt ON
  - P-Ch JFET: +5 volt gate-source OFF, 0 volt ON
  - MOSFET: 0 volt gate-source Off,  
5 volt gate-source ON

Positive for N-Ch, Negative for P-Ch



# Other Devices

- SCR: Half wave current controlled triggered switch
  - 4 layers, normally off, triggered on
  - Reverse bias turns it off
- Triac: Full wave triggered switch
  - Effectively two SCR's in parallel (reverse polarity)
- Diac (and neon bulb): 2-terminal Avalanche device
  - Normally high impedance,
  - Low impedance triggered by threshold voltage
  - Reverse bias turns it off
- UJT: 3-terminal voltage controlled avalanche/recovery (action is between the emitter and base1)



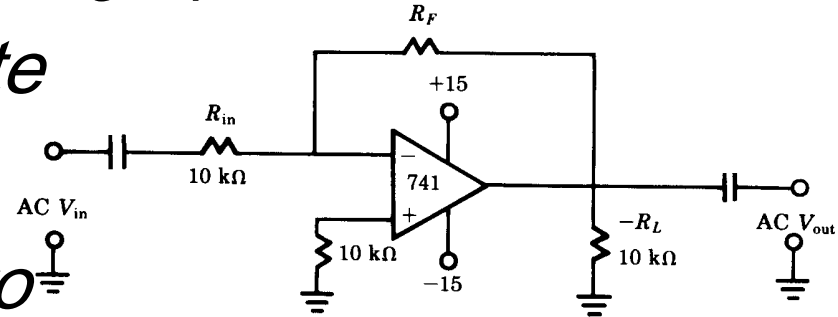
Neon tube

# Amplifier Summary

<b>Class</b>	<b>Duty Cycle</b>	<b>Efficiency</b>	<b>Application</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>A</b>	100%	Low	Linear small signal	Transistor always on
<b>B (AB)</b>	50%	~ 50%	Linear power	Each transistor conducts half the time
<b>C</b>	< 50%	~ 80%	RF Power	Transistor conducts for short pulse; Resonant circuit produces sine wave
<b>D</b>	High speed switching	~ 85%	DC power supplies and Low frequency linear power	Not in Mastery Test

# Op-Amp Summary

- *Gain - infinite (for all practical purposes)*
  - $A_f = -R_f/R_{in}$  using the inverting input and feedback
- *Input impedance - infinite*
- *Differential input*
- *Output impedance - zero*  
*(short circuit protected)*
- *Bandwidth - high*
  - *Slew Rate: sets bandwidth*
- *Voltage out - zero*  
*(when voltages into each input are equal)*





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Session 6j	03/10	Discuss MT3	