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# **Diodes & Transistors**

## **ECE 401 Senior Design I**

### **Week #3**

Please visit Bison Academy for corresponding lecture notes,  
homework sets, and videos  
[www.BisonAcademy.com](http://www.BisonAcademy.com)

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## Introduction

In ECE 401, you can choose from a dozen different circuits to build.

Regardless of which one you select, your overall design:

- Must operate at 5VDC
- Must have LEDs operating at 10mA +/- 2mA
- Must have one NPN and one PNP transistor (or more), capable of driving a 100mA load
- Must have at least one IC (PIC18F2620, MCP602 op-amp, 555 timer)

This lecture covers:

- Analysis and design of LED circuits,
  - Analysis and design of NPN and PNP electronic switches,
  - Analysis and design of a comparator, and
  - Analysis and design of 555 timers
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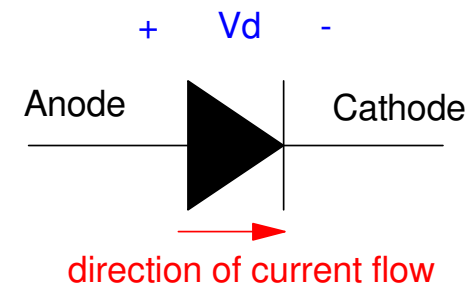
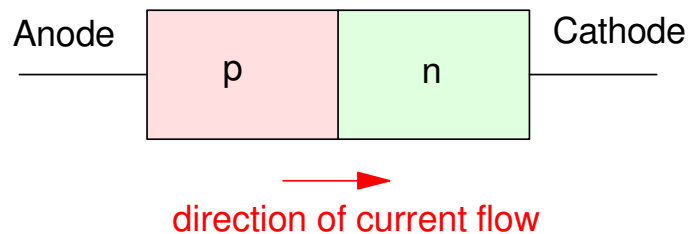
# Diodes

- Covered in ECE 320 Electronics I.

Diodes act as valves:

- Current allow current to flow from the anode to the cathode,
- Current block current from flowing the other way.

Because of this, the symbol for a diode looks like an arrow: this arrow serves as a reminder for which way the current can flow.



Symbol for a diode: Diodes only allow current to flow from the anode to the cathode

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# Diode VI Characteristics

Diodes are nonlinear devices

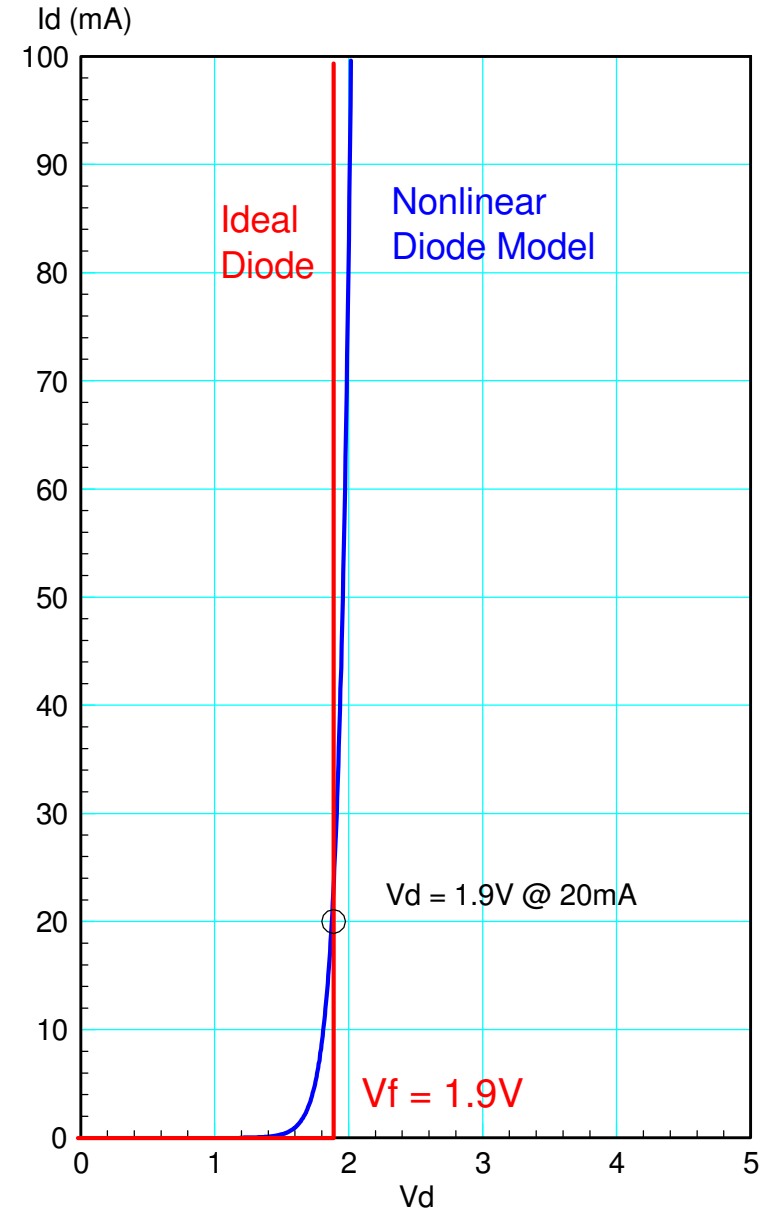
- This makes analysis of diode circuits difficult

Ideal Diode

- Simplified model of a diode
- $I_d = 0$  when  $V_d < V_f$
- $V_d = V_f$  when  $I_d > 0$

Not perfect, but usually good enough

- Use CircuitLab to get better answers



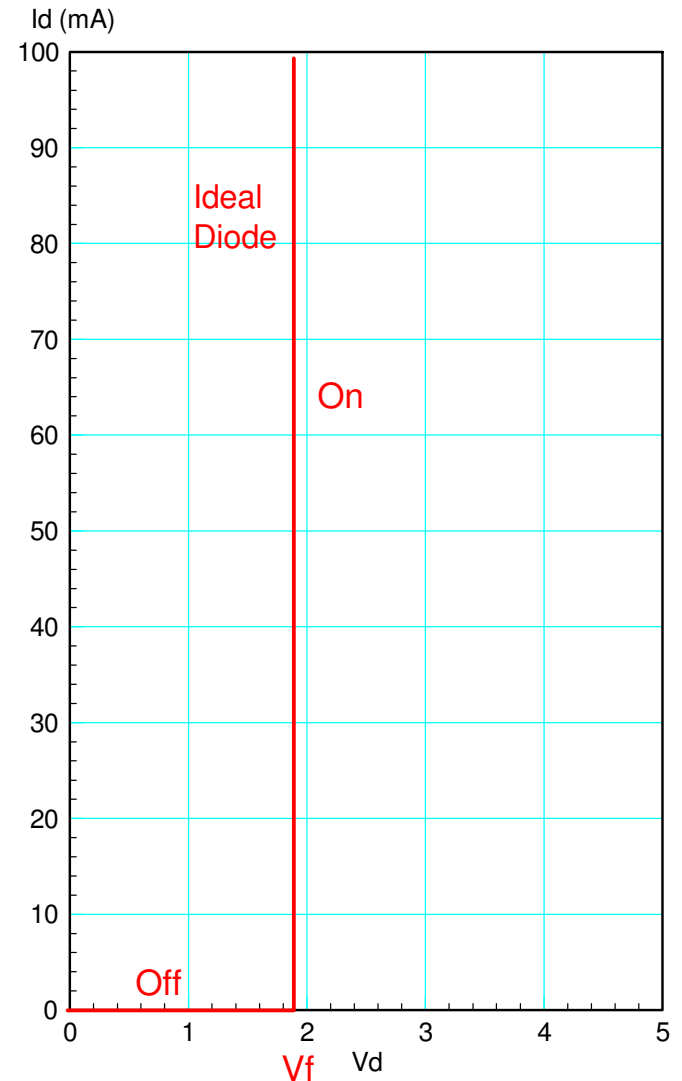
# Ideal Diode Model

$V_f$  acts like a turn-on voltage:

- Diode turns on if you apply more than  $V_f$
- Diode turns off if you apply less than  $V_f$

$V_f$  depends upon the diode

- Germanium:  $V_f = 0.3V$
- Silicon:  $V_f = 0.7V$
- Red LED:  $V_f = 1.9V$
- Yellow LED:  $V_f = 2.0V$
- Green LED:  $V_f = 2.0V$



## Diode Circuit Analysis:

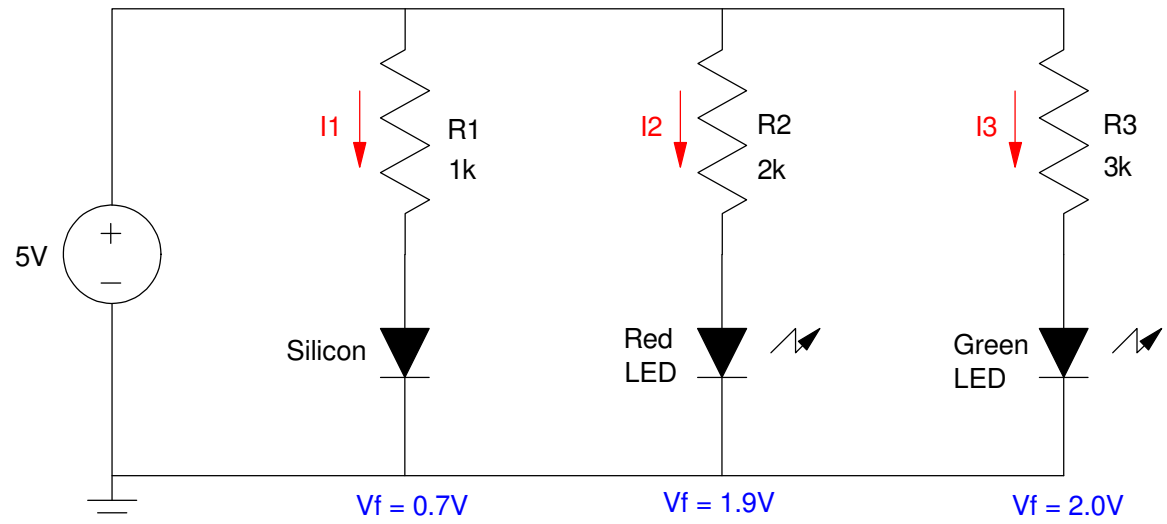
- Determine which diodes are on and off
  - Not always that easy
- Replace with the ideal diode model
- Determine voltages and currents

Calculations:

$$I_1 = \left( \frac{5V - 0.7V}{1k} \right) = 4.3mA$$

$$I_2 = \left( \frac{5V - 1.9V}{2k} \right) = 1.55mA$$

$$I_3 = \left( \frac{5V - 2.0V}{3k} \right) = 1.00mA$$



## Diode Circuit Design:

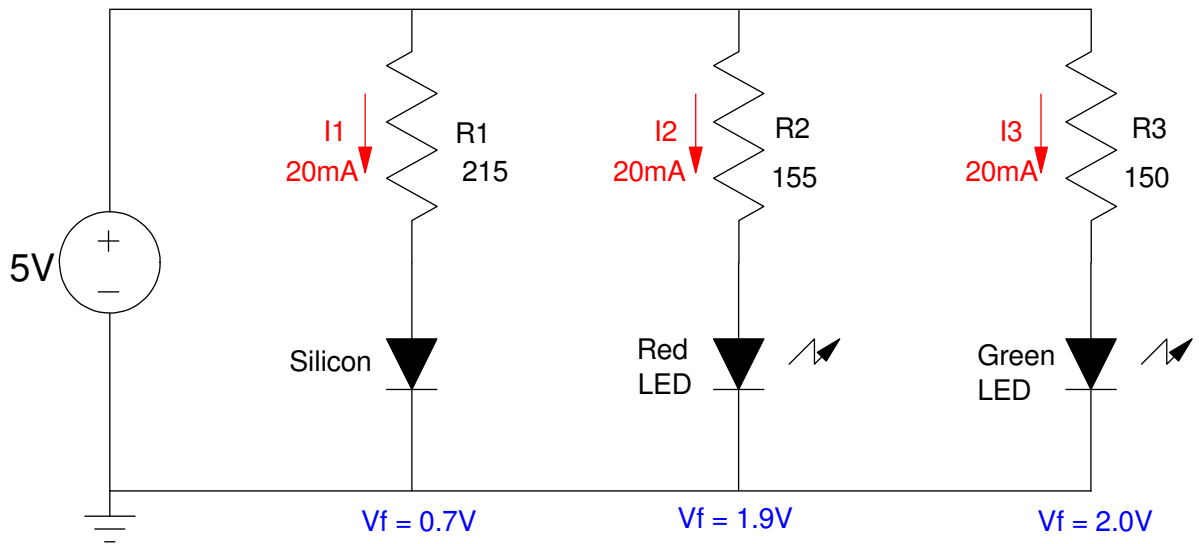
- Pick the current desired
  - Light is proportional to current
- Calculate the resistance needed

Example: Set  $I_d = 20\text{mA}$

$$R_1 = \left( \frac{5\text{V} - 0.7\text{V}}{20\text{mA}} \right) = 215\Omega$$

$$R_2 = \left( \frac{5\text{V} - 1.9\text{V}}{20\text{mA}} \right) = 155\Omega$$

$$R_3 = \left( \frac{5\text{V} - 2.0\text{V}}{20\text{mA}} \right) = 150\Omega$$



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## Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs)

LEDs are nothing more than diodes - except that they produce light proportional to the current flowing through them. As diodes, they can be approximated with an ideal-diode model:

- $I_d = 0$  if  $V_d < V_f$
- $V_d = V_f$  if  $I_d > 0$

The on-voltage ( $V_f$ ) depends upon the diode and is usually specified in the diode's data sheets:

LED	$V_f$	mcd	Wavelength	Cost	Digikey PN
Red	1.9V @ 20mA	30mcd @ 20mA	645nm	\$0.13	732-5016-ND
Yellow	2.0V @ 20mA	450mcd @ 20mA	592nm	\$0.18	732-5018-ND
Green	2.1V @ 20mA	140mcd @ 20mA	572nm	\$0.21	732-5017-ND

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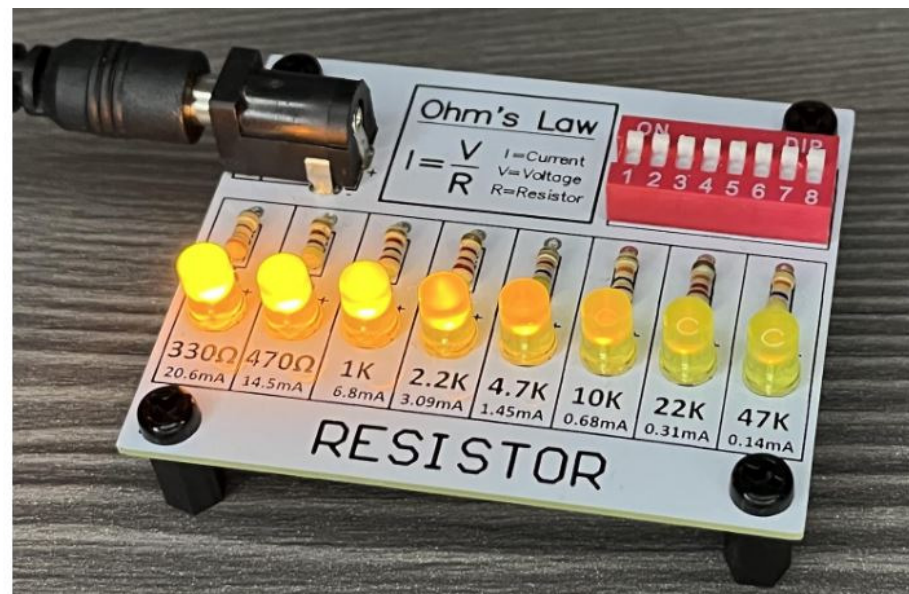
With LEDs, brightness is proportional to current

Assuming a 9V source (the kit assume you're using a 9V battery). the current and brightness of the first diode (330 Ohms) is:

$$I = \left( \frac{9V - 2.0V}{330\Omega} \right) = 21.21mA$$

The brightness is then proportional to this current where 20mA = 450mcd:

$$\left( \frac{21.21mA}{20mA} \right) 450mcd = 477.2mcd$$



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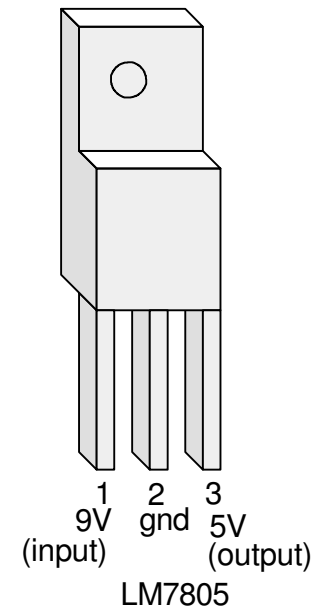
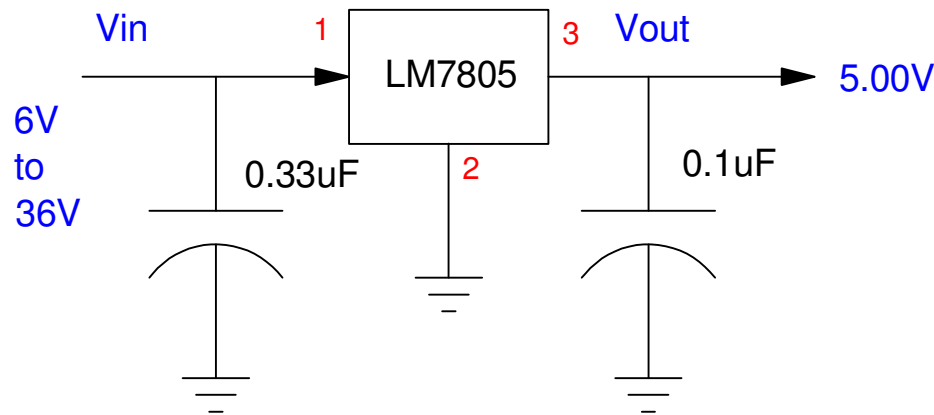
# Voltage Regulation

In ECE 401,

- Power to your PCB comes from a 9V battery, while
- Your components on your PCB operate off of 5VDC.

Solution: Use a LM7805 regulator

- Pro: Simple circuit
- Con: Efficiency = 55% @ 9V



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# Reverse Polarity Protection & Overcurrent Protection

Another requirement for your PCB in ECE 401 is to add

- Reverse polarity protection
  - connecting 9V to your PCB backwards will not fry your PCB
- Overcurrent protection
  - if your circuit draws too much current, a fuse blows.

There are several ways to do this.

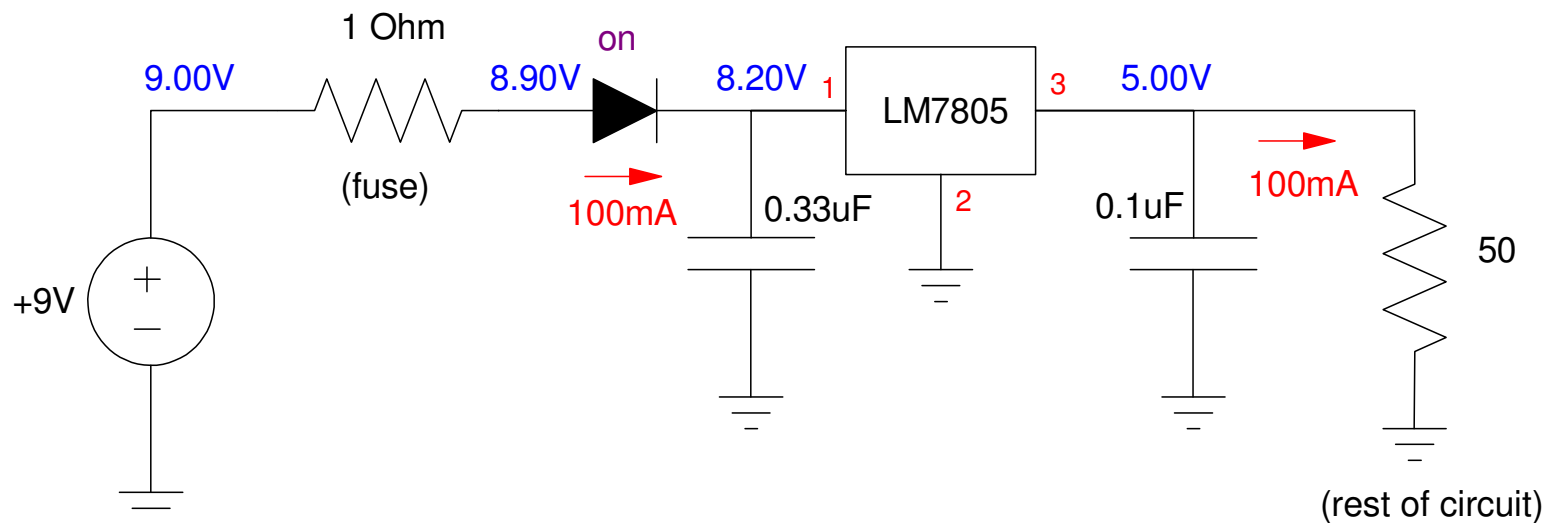
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## Method #1: Diode + Fuse.

- Diodes do not allow current to flow backwards
  - Blocks current if the 9V battery is inserted backwards
- Fuse blows if the load is too much
  - 1 Ohm resistor replaces the fuse for ECE 401 (2 cents)

Problem:

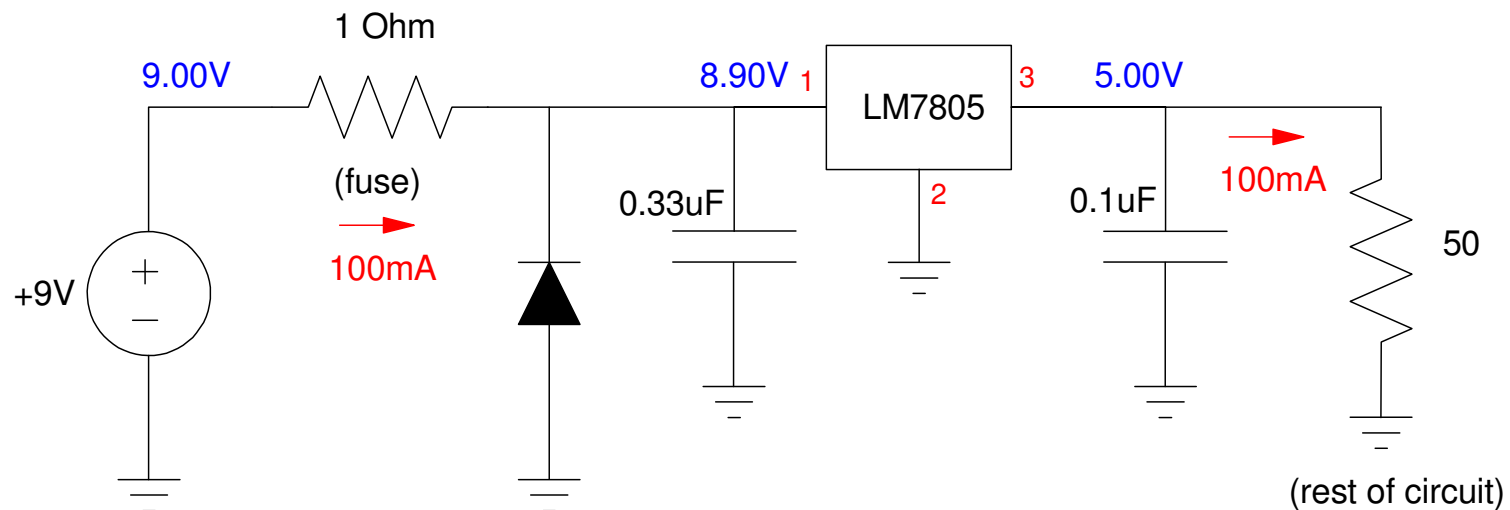
- Drops 0.7V through the diode



## Method #2: Fuse + Diode.

Add a reverse biased diode to ground

- If the 9V battery is connected correctly, the diode remains off.
- If the 9V battery is reversed,
  - The diode turns on, limiting the voltage to the LM7805 to  $-0.7\text{V}$ ,
  - The current through the fuse becomes large (9A), blowing the fuse.



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# BJT Transistors

## Bipolar Junction Transistors

- Electronic switches (you can turn a device on and off using 0V & 5V),
- Which amplify current (1mA can turn on and off a device which draws 100mA)

The current amplification and the maximum current a given BJT transistor can handle depends upon which transistor you're using.

Spec	3904 NPN	3906 PNP
Current Gain (min)	100	100
Max Current	200mA	200mA
V <sub>be</sub>   (on)	0.7V	0.7V
V <sub>ce</sub>   (sat)	0.2V	0.2V
Cost (ea)	\$0.11	\$0.11

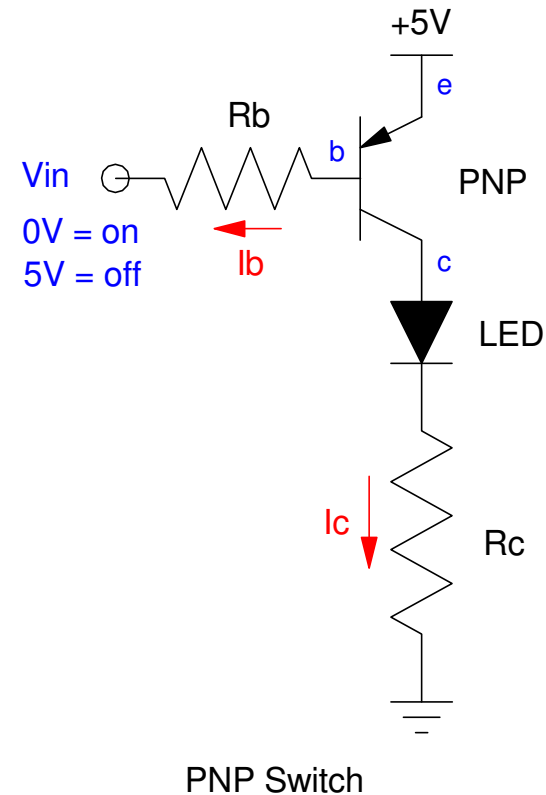
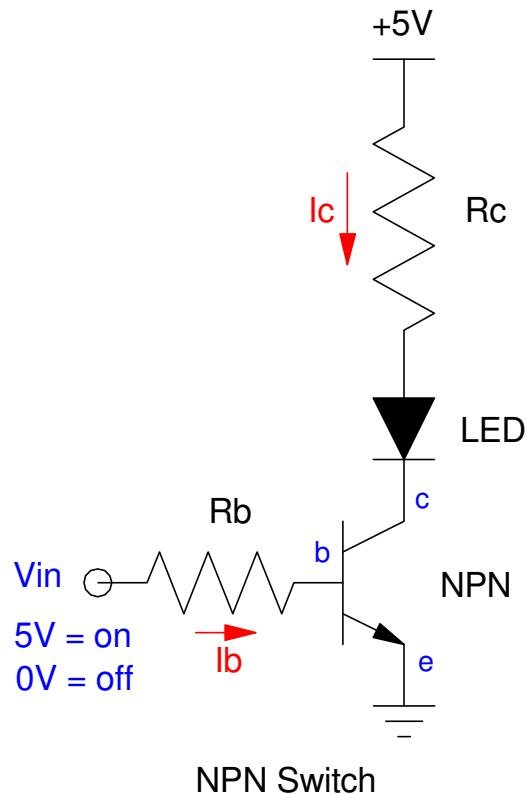
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# NPN and PNP Transistors

Two types of BJT transistors exist:

- PNP: an electronic switch which connects your device to +5V, or
- NPN: an electronic switch which connects your device to ground.

The basic circuit for each of these are as follows:



## Diode from Base to Emitter

The arrow going between the base and the emitter is all important:

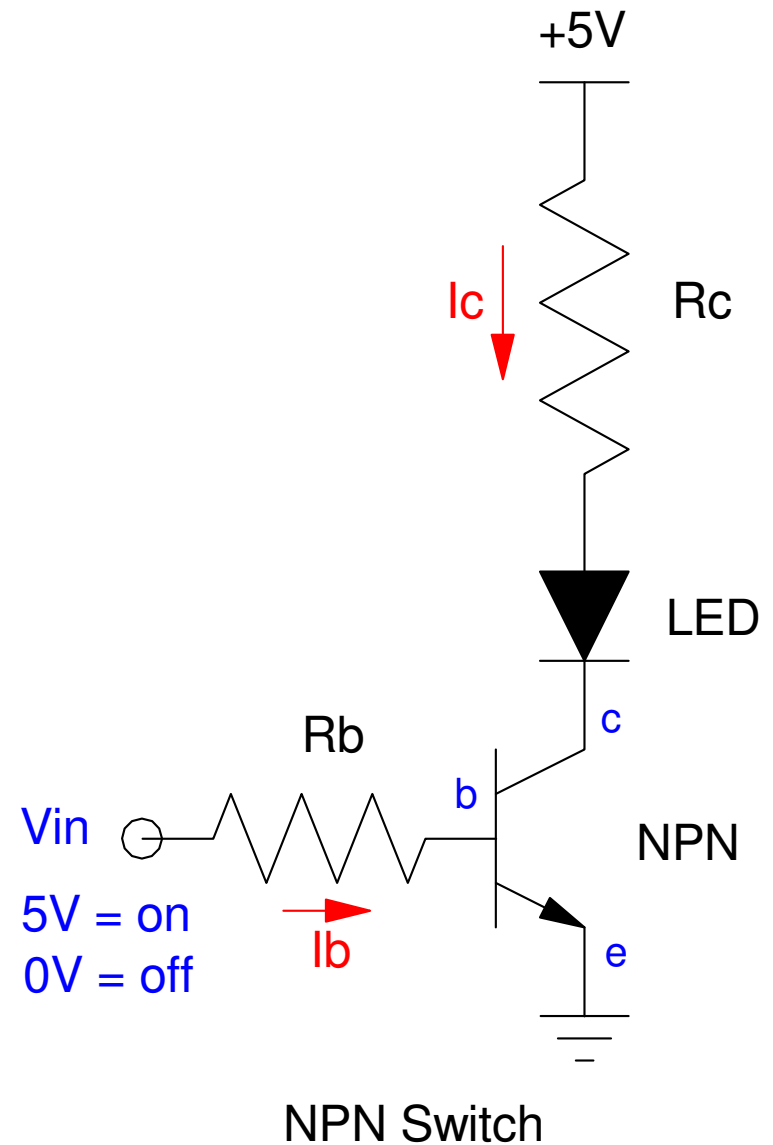
- It represents a diode (a pn junction)
- It tells you the direction current flows
- The base current controls the collector current

$I_b$  limits the collector current

$$I_c = \beta I_b = 100 I_b$$

It does this by dumping voltage

- Whatever it takes to set  $I_c$





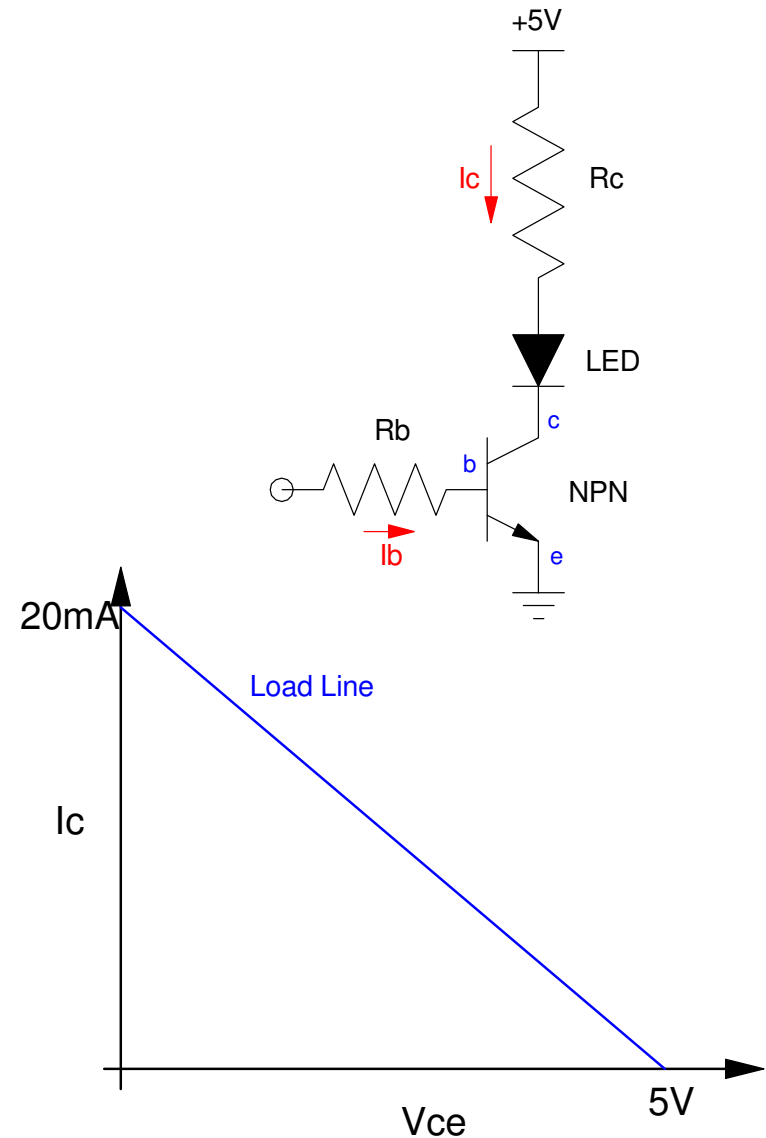
## Load Lines

A good way to see how a transistor switch operates

- When  $I_c = 0\text{mA}$ ,  $V_{ce} = 5\text{V}$ 
  - the x-axis intercept
- When  $V_{ce} = 0\text{V}$ ,  $I_c = 20\text{mA}$ 
  - the y-axis intercept

The line connecting these two points is called *the load line*.

Any solution has to be on the load line somewhere.



## Off State:

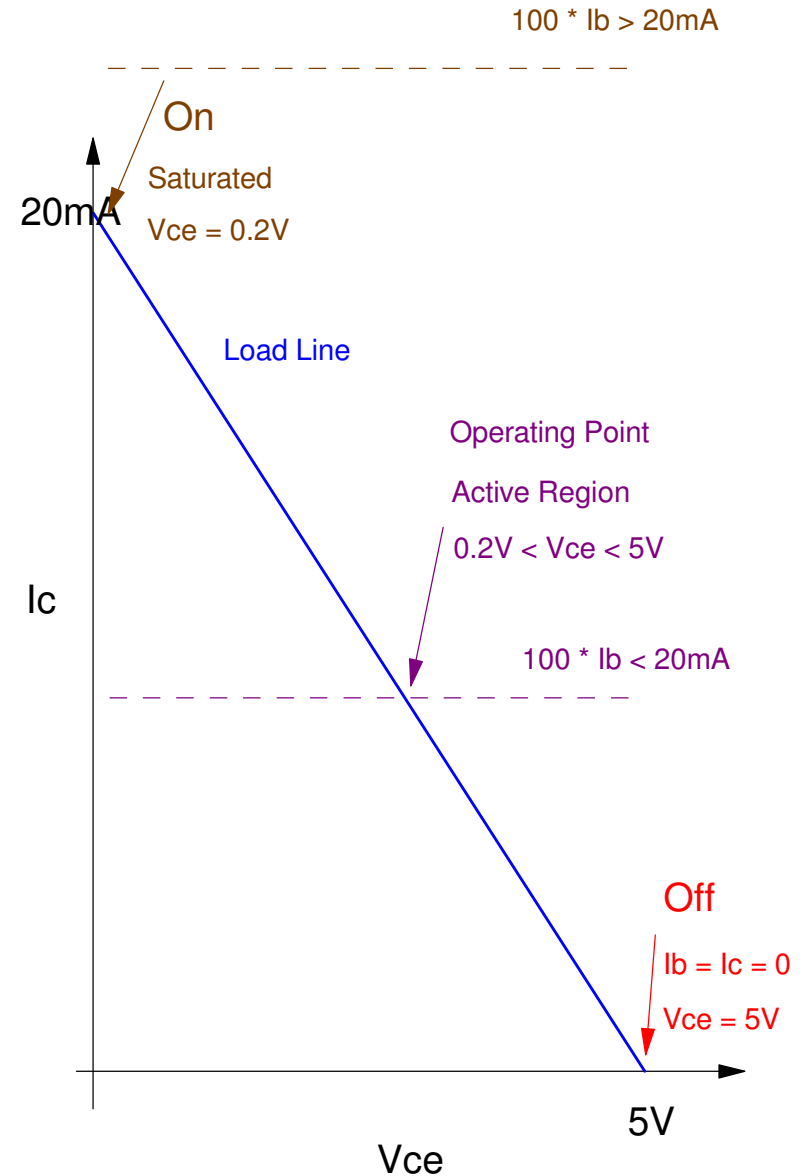
- $I_b = 0$
- $I_c = 100 \cdot I_b = 0$
- $V_{ce} = 5V$

## Active Region

- $0mA < I_b < 20mA$
- $5V > V_{ce} > 0.2V$
- $I_c = 100 \cdot I_b$

## On State

- Saturated Region
- $100 \cdot I_b > 20mA$
- $V_{ce} = 0.2V$



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## On & Off State

You want to operate in the ON and OFF state

### Off State

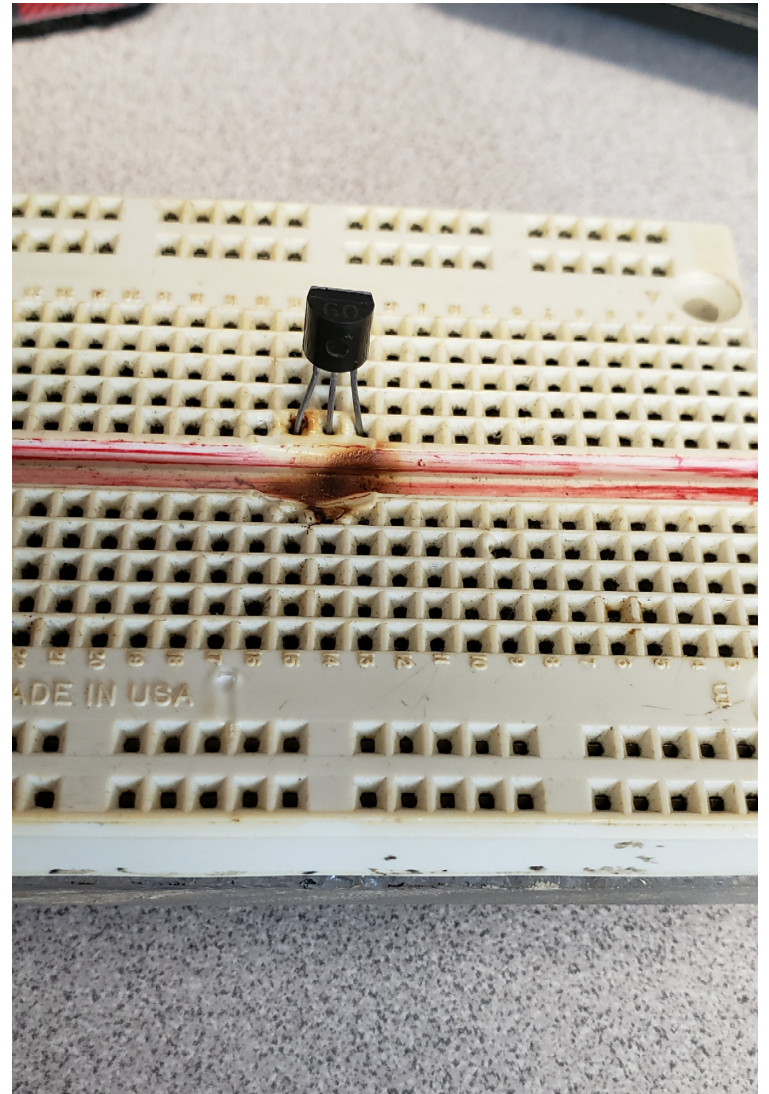
- $I = 0$
- $P = V * I = 0$

### On State

- $V = 0.2V$  (almost zero)
- $I = 20mA$
- $P = 4mW$  (almost zero)

### Active Region

- $P = V * I$
- The transistor gets hot
- You start to melt your breadboard



# Analysis of Transistor Switches:

- Same equations for PNP and NPN

## Off State

- Easy:  $I_b = I_c = 0$

## On State:

$$V_{ce} = 200mV$$

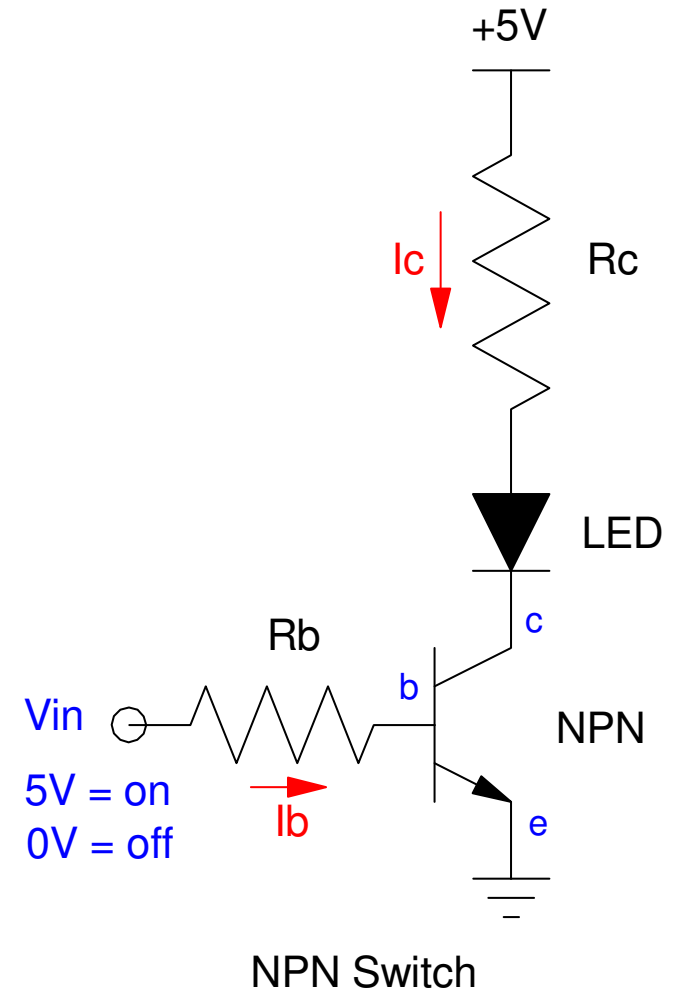
$$I_c = \left( \frac{5V - V_f - V_{ce}}{R_c} \right)$$

$$I_b = \left( \frac{5V - 0.7V}{R_b} \right)$$

## Check that you're saturated:

$$\beta I_b > I_c$$

$$I_b > \left( \frac{I_c}{100} \right)$$

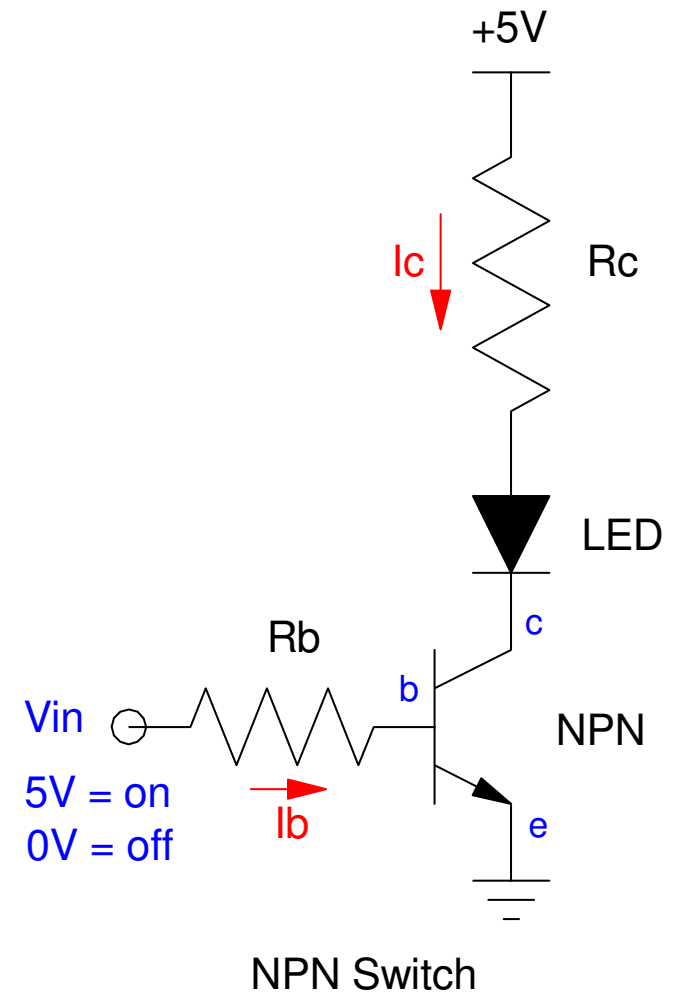


## Design of Transistor Switches:

- Pick  $R_c$  to set the desired current
- Pick  $R_b$  to saturate the transistor
  - $I_b > I_c/100$

For example, design a circuit

- To turn on and off a red LED
- At 20mA when on,
- Using a 0V/5V input capable of driving at most 5mA.



## Solution:

First pick  $R_c$  to set the current to 20mA

$$R_c = \left( \frac{5V - 1.9V - 0.2V}{20mA} \right) = 145\Omega$$

Next, pick  $I_b$  so that the transistor is saturated

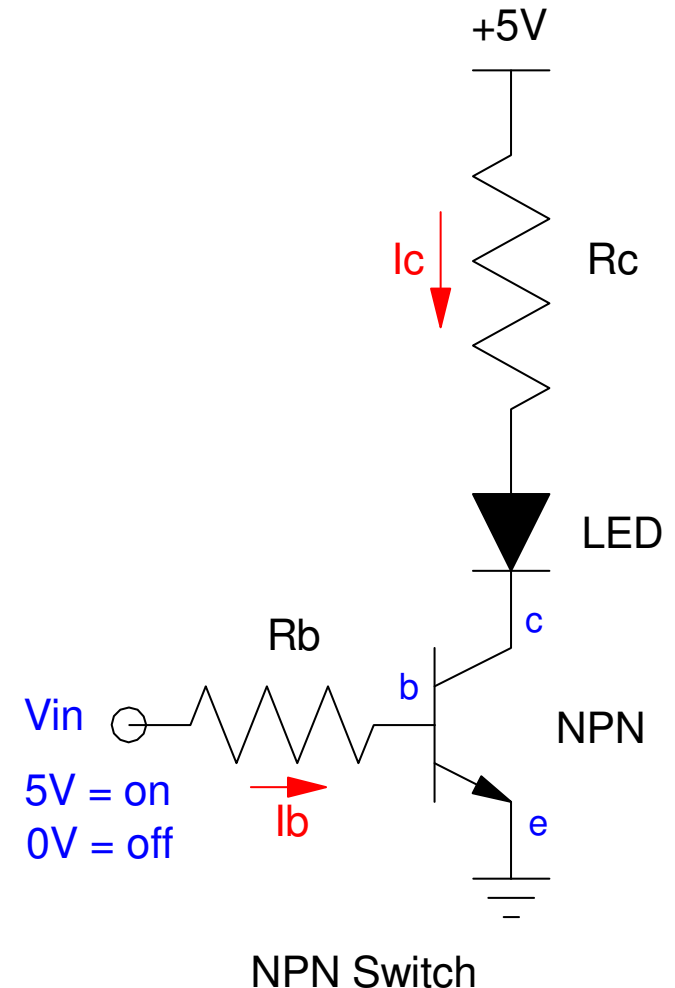
$$I_b > \left( \frac{I_c}{100} \right) = 0.2mA$$

Let  $I_b = 1mA$

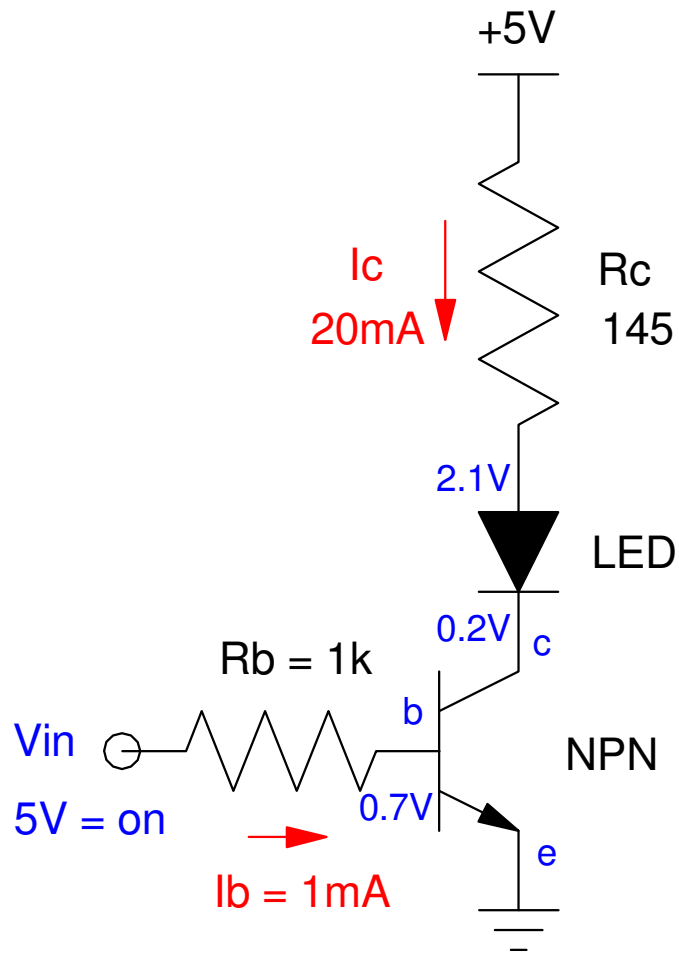
$$R_b = \left( \frac{5V - 0.7V}{1mA} \right) = 4.3k\Omega$$

Same equations for a PNP switch

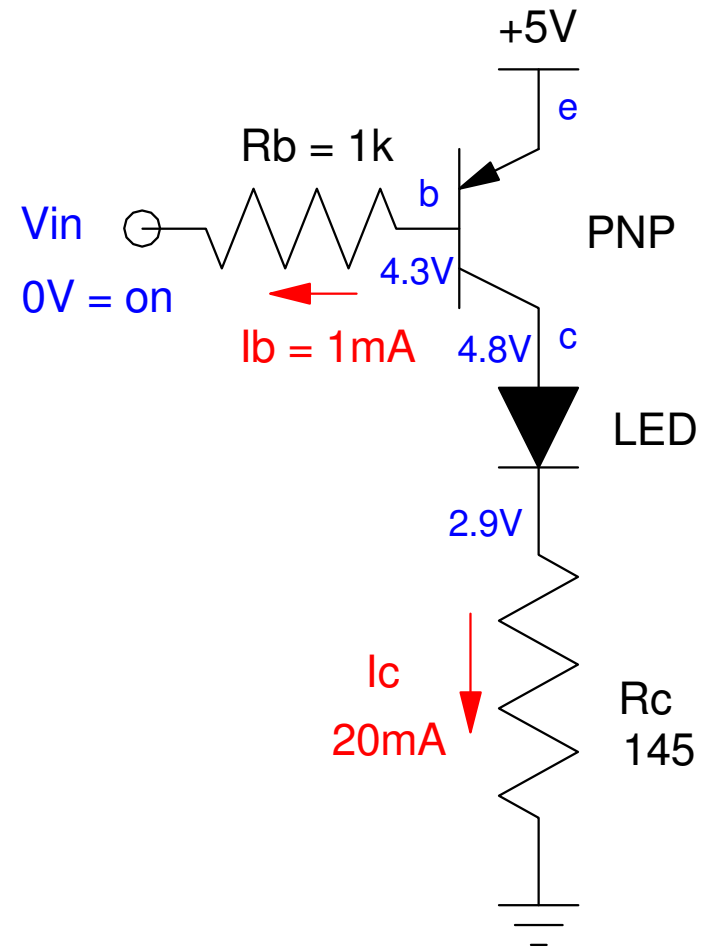
Resulting Circuit



# NPN & PNP Switch



NPN Switch



PNP Switch

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## Homework #3:

Design a circuit for your ECE 401 Senior Design project.

- Must operate off of 5VDC
- Must include at least one integrated circuit
- Must include at least one LED with  $I_d = 100\text{mA} \pm 10\text{mA}$
- Must include at least one NPN and one PNP transistor

Update your OneNote document to include

- Your circuit schematics
- Calculations for R's and C's
- Calculations for voltages you expect to see.

Note: If you're using a microprocessor,  
Assume the output pins are either 0V or 5V

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