

## Discrete Transistor Voltage Regulator

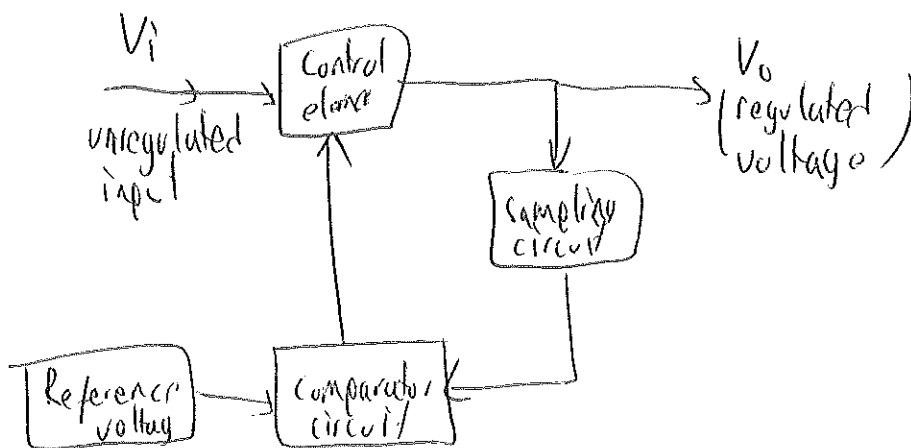
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There are two types of voltage regulators using transistors

- Series voltage regulators
- Shunt voltage regulators

Each of these circuits provide an output DC voltage that is regulated or maintained at a set value even if the input voltage varies or if the load connected to the input changes

Series regulator circuit block diagram



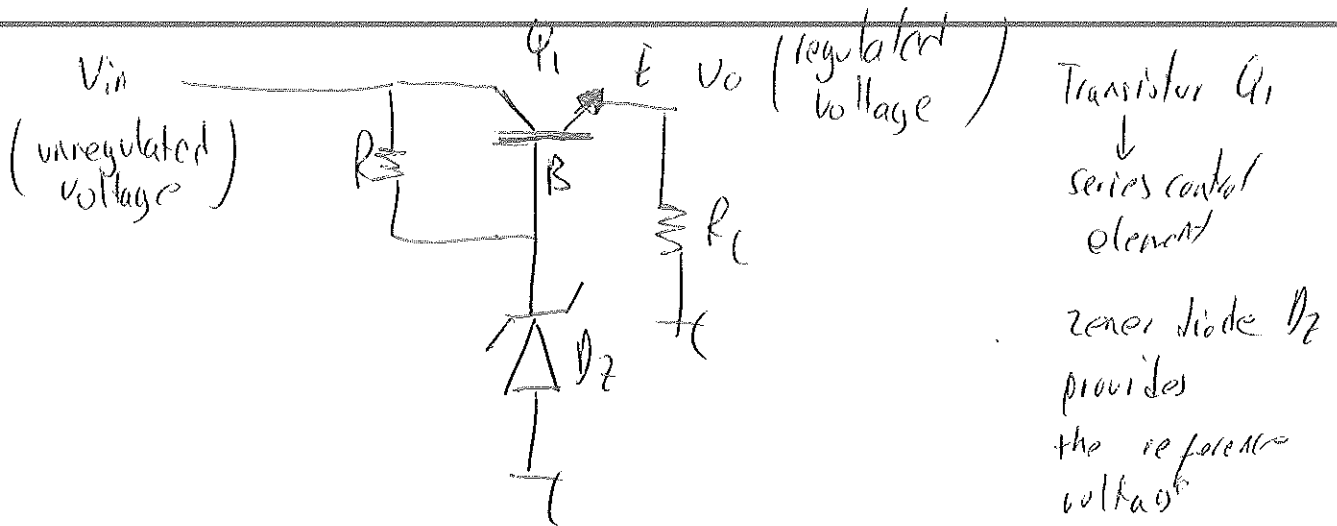
- The series element controls the amount of the input voltage that gets to the output
- The output voltage is sampled by a circuit that provides a feedback voltage to be compared to a reference value (voltage)

(a) If the output increases, the comparator provides a control signal to cause series control element to decrease the amount of output voltage

(b) If the output voltage decrease, the opposite operation happens.

# Series Regulator Circuit

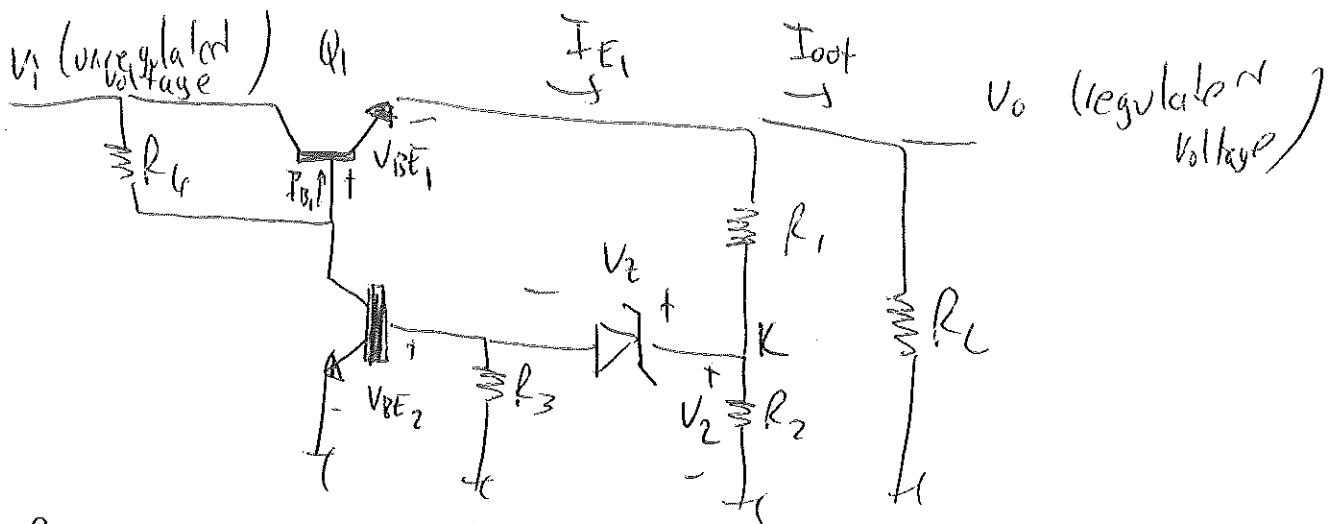
(2)



(a) If  $V_o \downarrow$ ,  $V_{BE} \uparrow$  and  $Q_1$  conducts more current and hence  $V_o \uparrow$  and it is kept constant by this operation

(b) If  $V_o \uparrow$ ,  $V_{BE} \downarrow$  and  $Q_1$  conducts less current and hence  $V_o$  again  $\downarrow$  and it is kept constant

## Improved series regulator



$R_1, R_2$  acts as sampling circuit

$D_Z \rightarrow$  provides reference voltage  $V_Z$

$Q_2 \rightarrow$  controls base current to transistor  $Q_1$  in order to vary the current passed by transistor  $Q_1$  to maintain output voltage constant

(3)

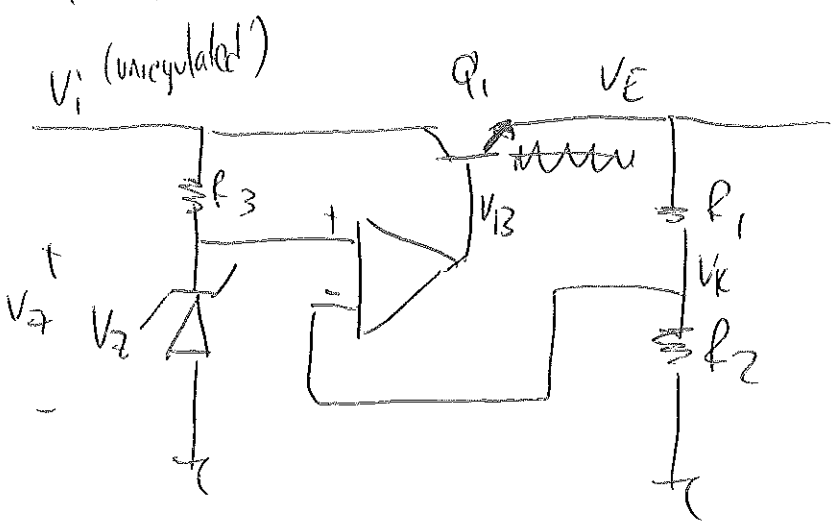
if  $V_o$  increase

if  $V_o \uparrow$ ,  $V_k = \frac{V_o}{R_1 + R_2} \uparrow$ ,  $V_{BE_2} = V_2 - V_k \uparrow$ ,  $Q_2$  conduct more

current, if  $Q_2$  conducts more less current goes to base of  $Q_1$  hence  $I_{B_1} \downarrow$ , if  $I_{B_1} \downarrow$   $I_{C_1} \downarrow$  and hence  $I_{E_1} \downarrow$ , hence  $V_o$  decreases at the at it is regulated.

if  $V_o$  decreases the opposite operation is observed

### Opamp series regulator



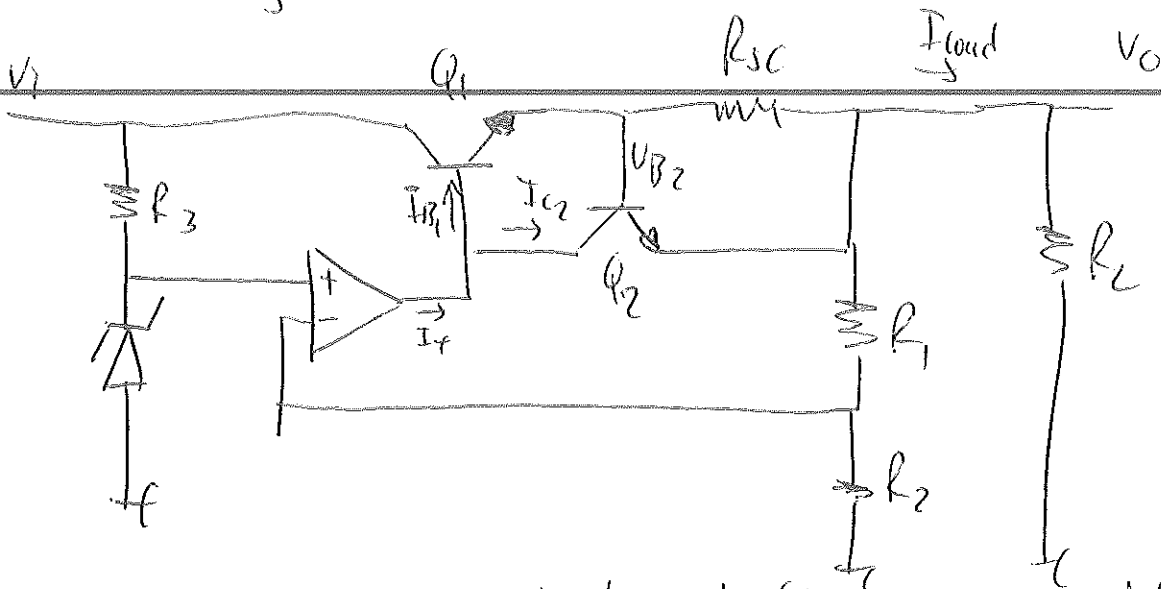
$V_2 \rightarrow$  provides refer. voltage  
 $R_1, R_2 \rightarrow$  provides feedback voltage  $V_o$  from output  
 as  $V_k = \frac{R_2}{R_1 + R_2} V_o$

if  $V_o \uparrow \Rightarrow V_k \uparrow$ , if  $V_k \uparrow$   $V_2 - V_k \downarrow$   
 and as gain of opamp is constant  $V_B \downarrow$  as  $V_2 - V_k \downarrow$   
 if  $V_B \downarrow$   $V_B - V_E \downarrow$  thus  $Q_1$  conducts less current  
 hence  $V_o \downarrow$  as the result

# Current limiting circuit

+  $V_{sc}$  -

(4)



- Short-circuit or overload protection is provided by this circuit

- As  $I_{load} \uparrow$   $V_0 \uparrow$   $V_{sc} \uparrow$  ( $R_{sc}$  short circuit sensing resistor)

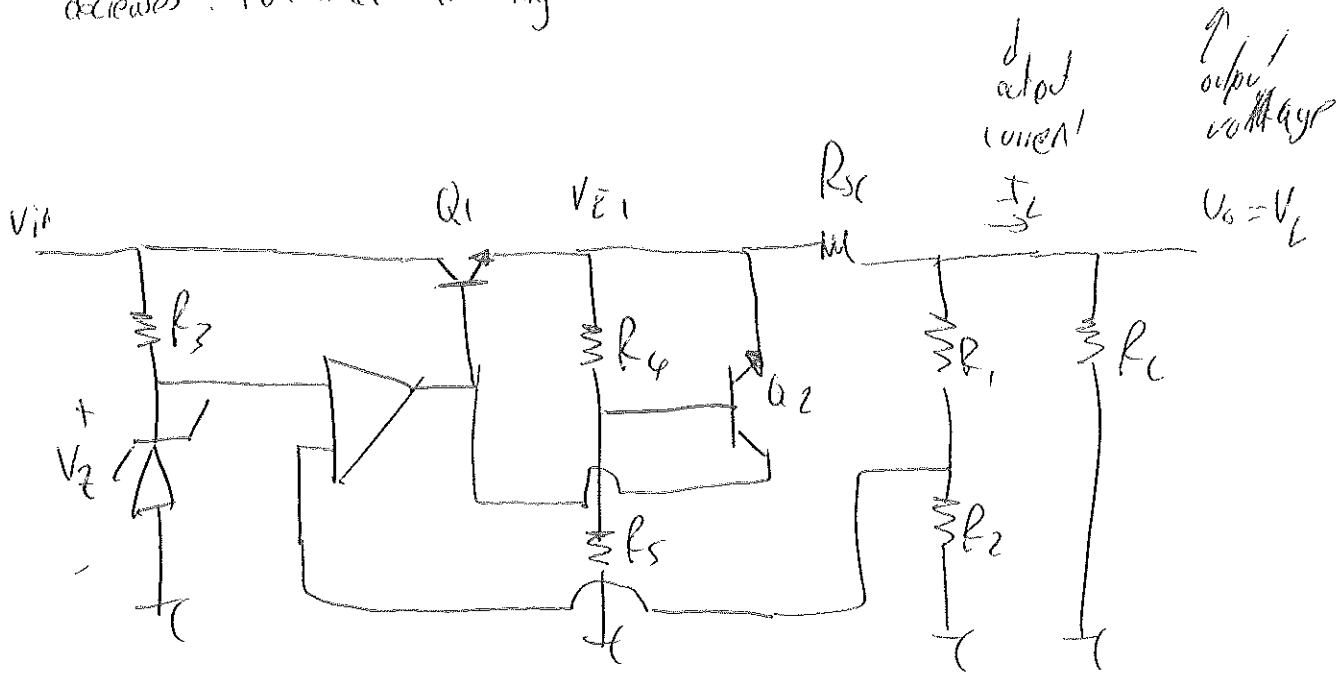
as  $V_{sc} \uparrow$   $V_{B2} \uparrow$  it will drive  $Q_2$  on.

If  $Q_2$  becomes on  $I_{C2}$  increases and  $I_{B1} \downarrow$  as the result since  $I_E = I_{C2} + I_{B1}$  constant if  $I_{B1} \downarrow$   $Q_1$  conducts less thus  $V_{B2} \downarrow$   $V_{sc} \downarrow$   $I_{load} \downarrow$   $V_0 \downarrow$  at its is regulated

- These actions over  $R_{sc}$  and  $Q_2$  provides limiting of the maximum load current  $I_{load}$

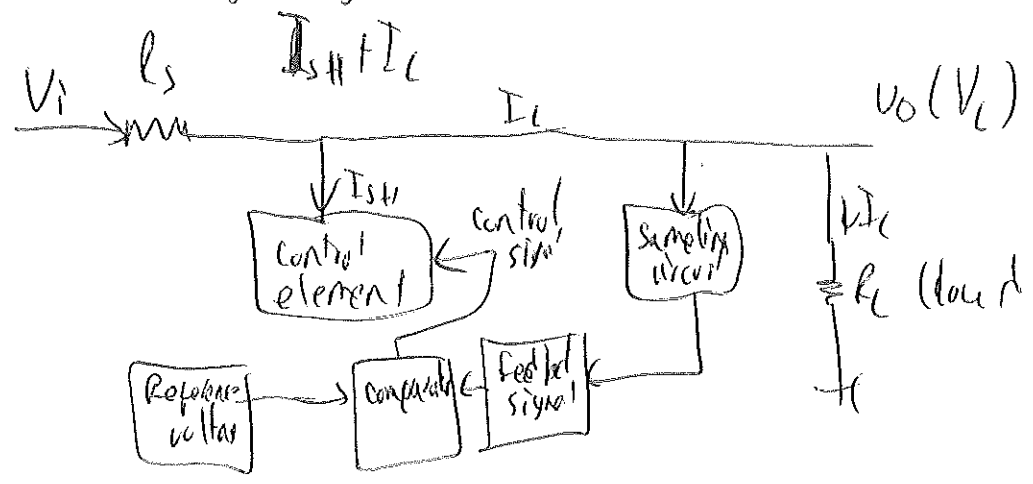
Foldback limiting:

aim: When current exceeds a limiting value, the load voltage decreases. Foldback limiting circuit reduces both  $I_L$  and  $V_o$



- $R_4, R_5 \rightarrow$  act as voltage divider senses the voltage at  $V_{E1}$
- When  $I_L$  increases to maximum value, the voltage over  $R_{sc}$  becomes large enough to drive  $Q_2$  on; when  $Q_2$  is on  $V_{E1}$  this time decreases and this operation limits  $I_L$
- if  $R_L \downarrow$   $V_o \downarrow$  the voltage driving  $Q_2$  on becomes less and  $I_L$  drops as result.

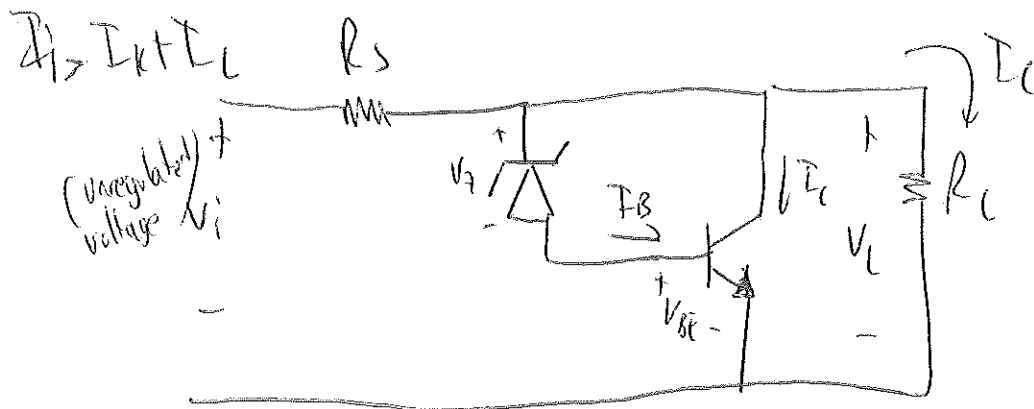
Shunt Voltage regulator: Block diagram is below



- Provides regulation by moving  $I_{SH}$  (Shunt current) away from load

- Initially  $V_i$  provides current to load
- Some current  $I_{SH}$  is pulled away by the control element to maintain regulated output voltage across load.
- If  $V_o$  changes due to a change in  $R_L$ , sampling circuit feedback signal to comparator, which results with a control signal to vary the amount of current shunted away from the load.
- As output tries to get larger, the sampling circuit provides a feedback signal to comparator circuit, which then provides a control signal to draw increased shunt current, providing less load current keeping regulated voltage from rising

### Basic Transistor Shunt Regulator



$R_s \rightarrow$  drops  $V_i$  depending of value of  $R_L$

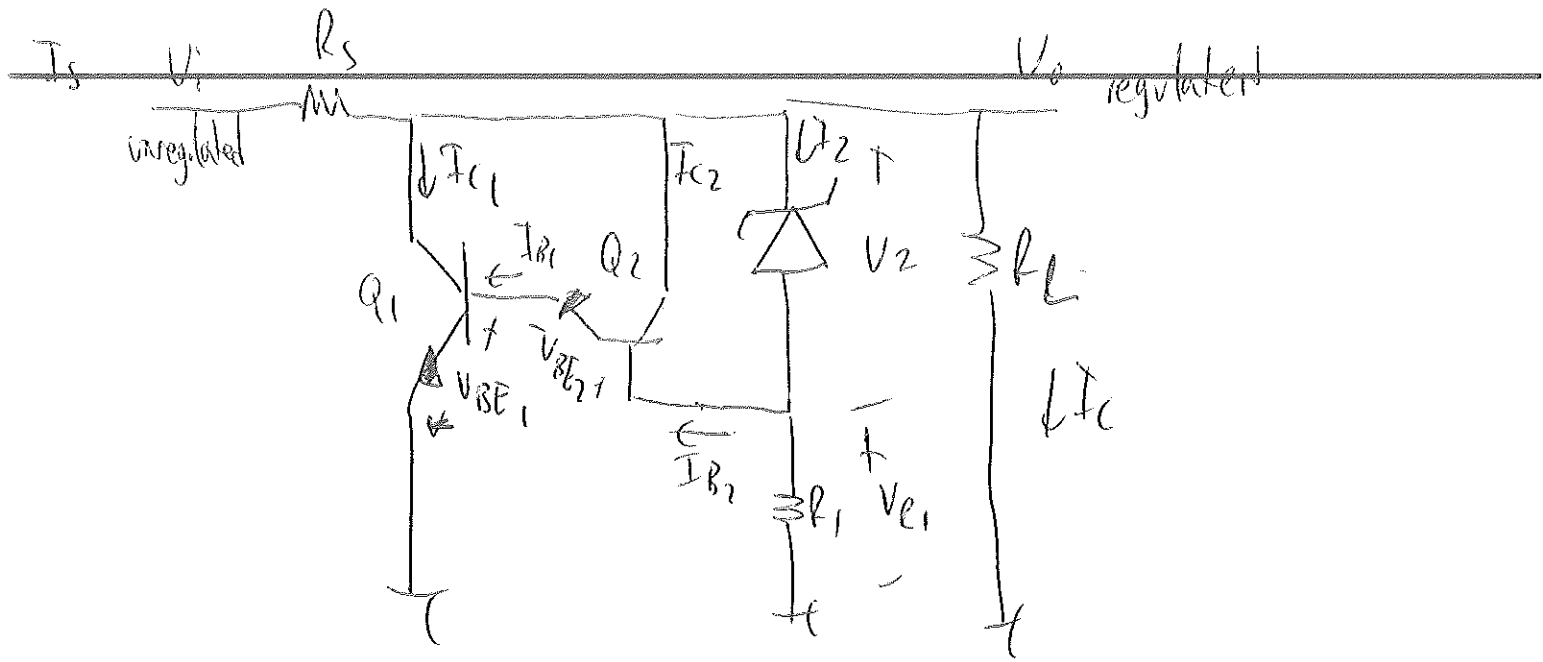
$$V_{in} = V_{out} + I_{CS} R_s$$

$$V_o = V_z + V_{BE}$$

if  $R_L \downarrow \rightarrow I_{B3}$  of  $Q_1$  decreases initially  $V_{BE}$  decreases  $V_o = V_z + V_{BE}$   $V_{BE}$  decrease hence  $I_B$  decreases  $I_C = \beta I_B$   $I_C$  also decrease if  $I_C$  decrease  $I_i$  increase increasingly  $I_C$  once again and  $V_o$  is regulated (increased to same level)

# Improved Shunt Regulator

(7)



$$V_o = V_c = V_z \pm V_{BE2} + V_{BE1}$$

$$I_s = I_{c1} + I_{c2} + I_z$$

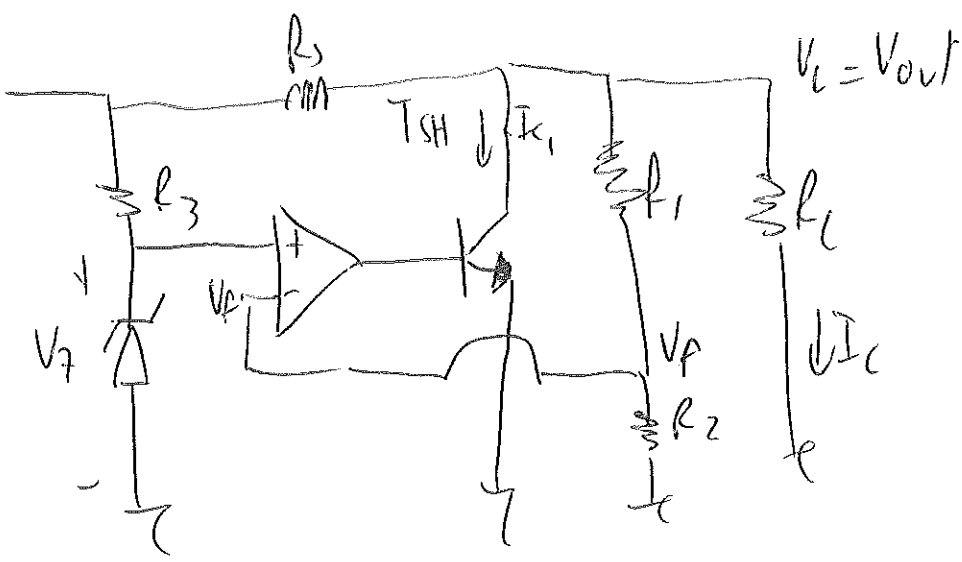
$V_z \rightarrow$  provides  $V_{ref}$

As  $V_o$  changes  $I_{c1}$  varies (as  $I_c$  also changes)

$I_{B1} = I_{E2}$  changes changing  $I_{B2}$  changing  $I_{B2}$  changes

$V_{R1}$  and  $V_o$  is kept regulated.

# Shunt Voltage Regulator using op-amp



$V_z \rightarrow$  zener voltage  
 $V_f \rightarrow$  feedback voltage

$V_z$  and  $V_f$  are compared and  $I_{SH}$  is adjusted by this comparison

$R_s \rightarrow$  is used to control voltage drop over itself to regulate  $V_c$