

Circuits and Electronic Laboratory

Experiment #6

Purpose of Experiment

In this experiment, we will see how diodes work. Learn more about AC/DC and rectifiers.

General Information

Alternating current (AC) is an electric current that periodically reverses direction, in contrast to direct current (DC) which flows only in one direction. Alternating current is the form in which electric power is delivered to businesses and residences. It is the form of electrical energy that consumers typically use when they plug kitchen appliances, televisions, fans, and electric lamps into a wall socket. A common source of DC power is a battery cell in a flashlight. The abbreviations AC and DC are often used to mean simply alternating and direct, as when they modify current or voltage.

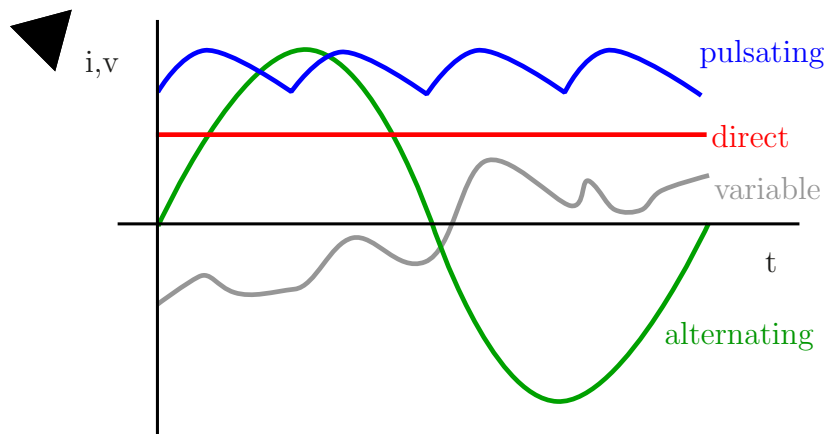


Figure 1: Types of Current Sources

A diode is an electronic component that allows one directional current flow only. Using this property a lot of useful applications such as rectifiers, clippers/clappers, voltage multipliers, etc. can be realized.

Rectifiers are AC-DC converters. They provide a time-varying but unidirectional current at their output. Capacitors are generally used with rectifiers to filter their time-varying output and obtain a smooth signal instead.

Part List

- $R_1 = 12K$
- $D_1 = 4.7V$ Zener Diode for circuit 1
- D_1 is 1N4001 Diode for circuit 2

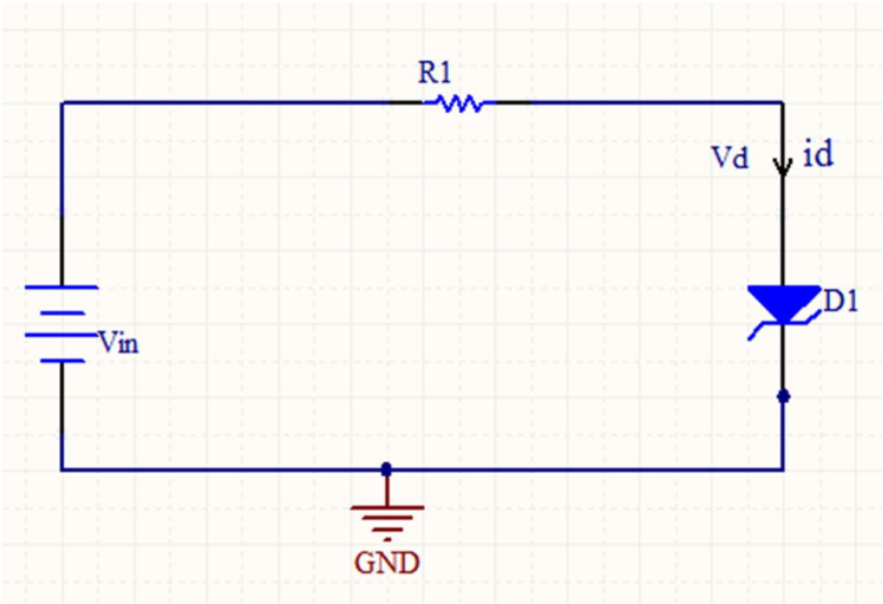
Preparations Before Experiment

- Simulate the circuit given in Figure 1 and make a few copies of the circuit in the same sheet for different values in Table 1.
- Take a note on a piece of paper for the calculated part of Table 1 or you can take these notes on the simulation sheet too.
- Plot the characteristic curve of the Zener diode according to your calculated values in Table 1.
- Simulate the circuit given in Figure 2 with and without a capacitor and observe the output signal. What effect does the capacitor have on the circuit?

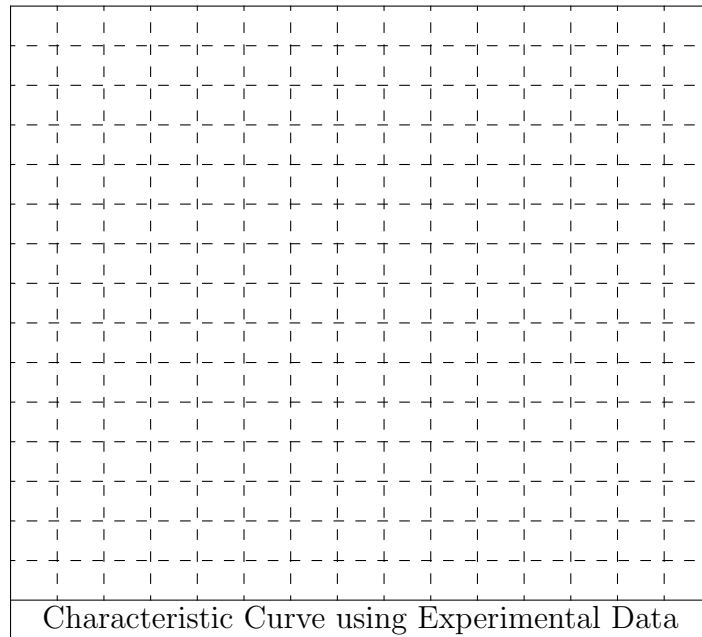
Section 1

- Construct the circuit depicted in Figure 1 on the board. Be aware that the diode in the circuit is a Zener diode.
- Vary V_{in} according to the values in the first row of Table 1 and record the voltage across the diode and the current passing through the diode on Table 1 on the measured row.
- Using the data in the 2nd and the 3rd rows of table 1, plot the characteristic curve of the Zener diode.

Figure 2: Circuit 1



$V_{in}(V)$	-6	-5.5	-5	-4.5	-4	-3.5	0	0.6	0.65	0.7	0.75	0.8	0.85	0.9
$V_d(V)$ Cal- culated														
$I_d(A)$ Cal- culated														
$V_d(V)$ Measured														
$I_d(A)$ Mea- sured														
Table 1														



Section 2

- Construct the circuit given in Figure 2 without connecting the capacitor. Use a function generator to supply source voltage.
- Use a scope to observe the voltage signal on V_1 (with respect to the ground) and V_2 (with respect to the ground); connect V_1 to the 1st channel and V_2 to the 2nd channel of the scope. Choose the same volts/div value for both channels. Record volts/div and time/div values. Plot the observed graph.
- Connect C_1 to the circuit and repeat step 2.
- Calculate the effective value of V_1 . $V_{eff} = \dots\dots\dots$

Figure 3: Half-Wave Rectifier

