

## *Chapter 2*

# Diode Fundamentals

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# Outline

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- ❖ Introduction
- ❖ The Ideal Diode
- ❖ The real diode
- ❖ Diode Analyses (the diode models)
- ❖ Special Types of *p–n Junction Semiconductor* Diodes
- ❖ Applications of Diode

# Recap of previous lecture

## Recall-Lecture 2

- Introduction to Electronics
- Atomic structure of Group IV materials particularly on Silicon
- Intrinsic carrier concentration,  $n_i$

$$n_i = B T^{3/2} e^{\left(\frac{-E_g}{2kT}\right)}$$

## Recall-Lecture 2

- Extrinsic semiconductor
  - N-type – doped with materials from Group V
    - **Majority carriers = electron**
  - P-type – doped with materials from Group III
    - **Majority carriers = holes**
- concentration of carriers in doped semiconductors
  - $n_o p_o = n i^2$

# Diffusion Current

- The basic diffusion process
  - Flow of particles **from** a region of **high**-concentration to a region of **low**-concentration.
  - The movement of the particles will then generate the diffusion current

# Drift and Diffusion Currents

- **Current**

Generated by the movement of charged particles (negatively charged electrons and positively charged holes).

- **Carriers**

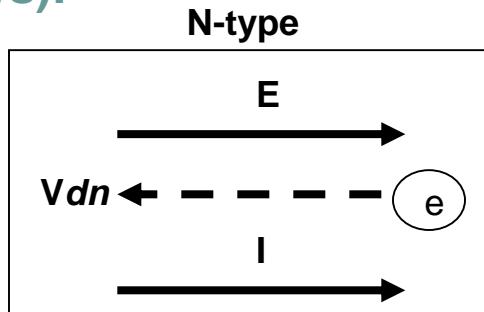
The charged electrons and holes are referred to as **carriers**

- The two basic processes which cause electrons and holes move in a semiconductor:

- **Drift** - the movement caused by electric field.
- **Diffusion** - the flow caused by variations in the concentration.

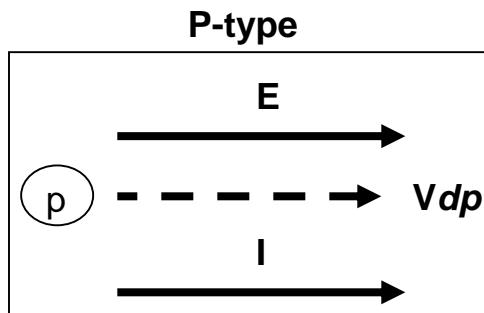
# Drift Currents

- **Drift Current Density (n-type semiconductor)**
  - An electric field  $E$  applied to n-type semiconductor with a large number of free electrons.
    - Produces a force on the electrons in the opposite direction, because of the electrons' negative charge.
    - The electrons acquire a drift velocity,  $V_{dn}$  (in cm/s):



# Drift Currents

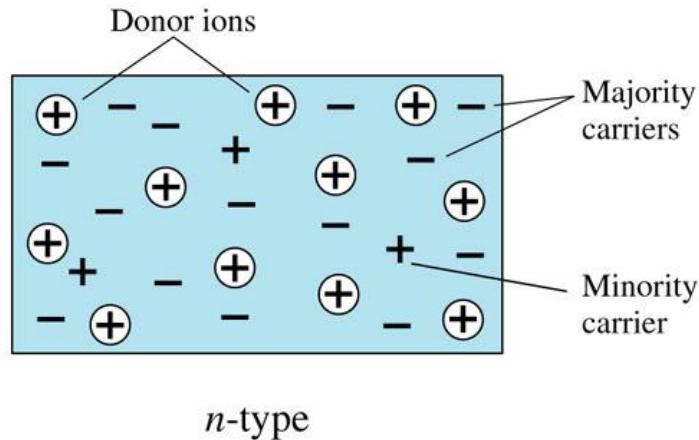
- **Drift Current Density** (p-type semiconductor)
  - An electric field  $E$  applied to p-type semiconductor with a large number of holes.
    - Produces a force on the holes in the same direction, because of the positive charge on the holes.
    - The holes acquire a drift velocity,  $V_{dp}$ (in cm/s):



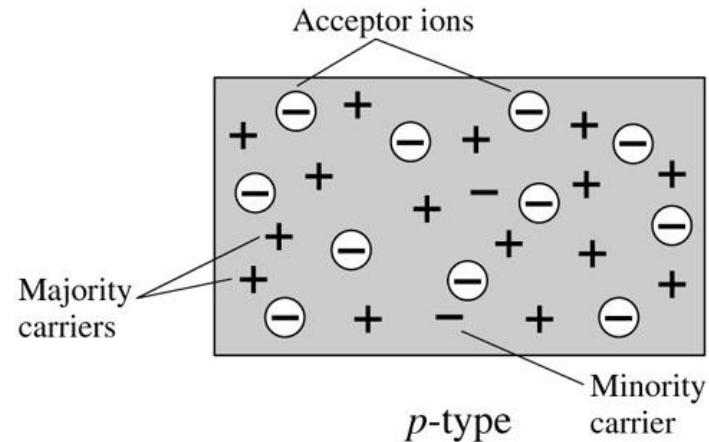
# The pn Junction

# n-type versus p-type

- In n-type - the electrons are the majority carriers and holes are the minority carriers.
- In p-type - the holes are called the majority carriers and electrons are the minority carriers.

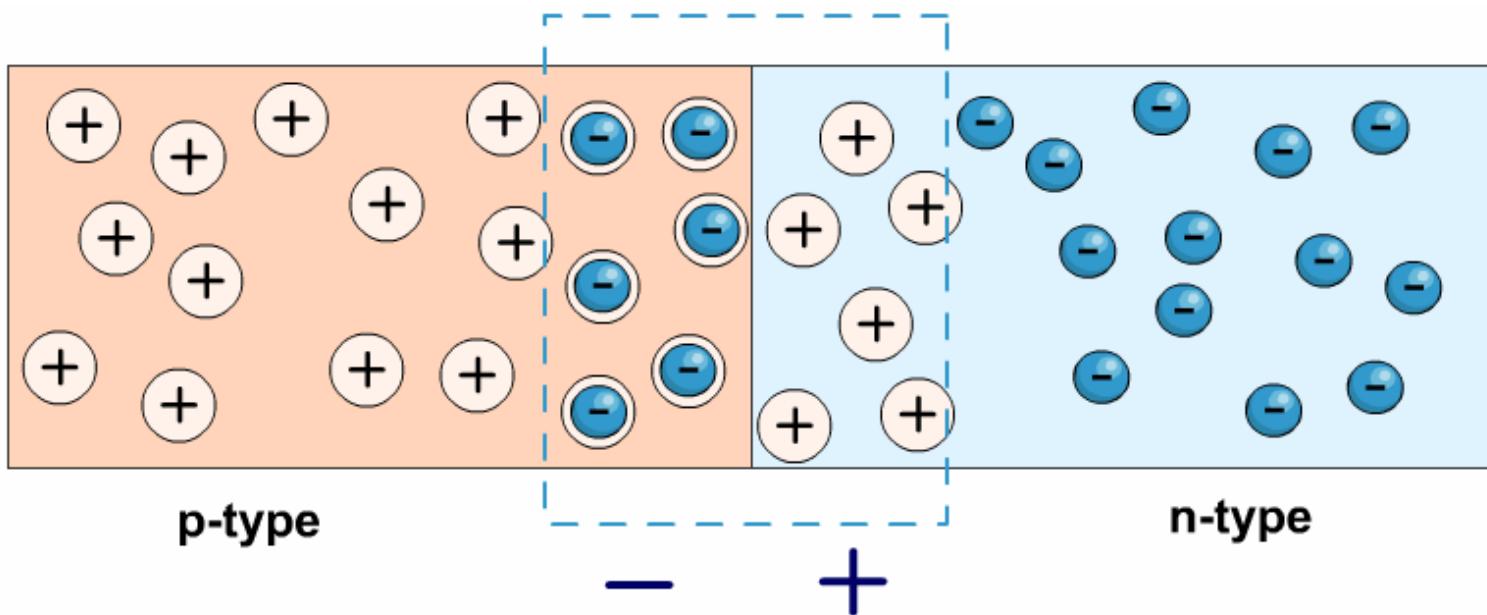


(a)



(b)

# Recap of previous lecture

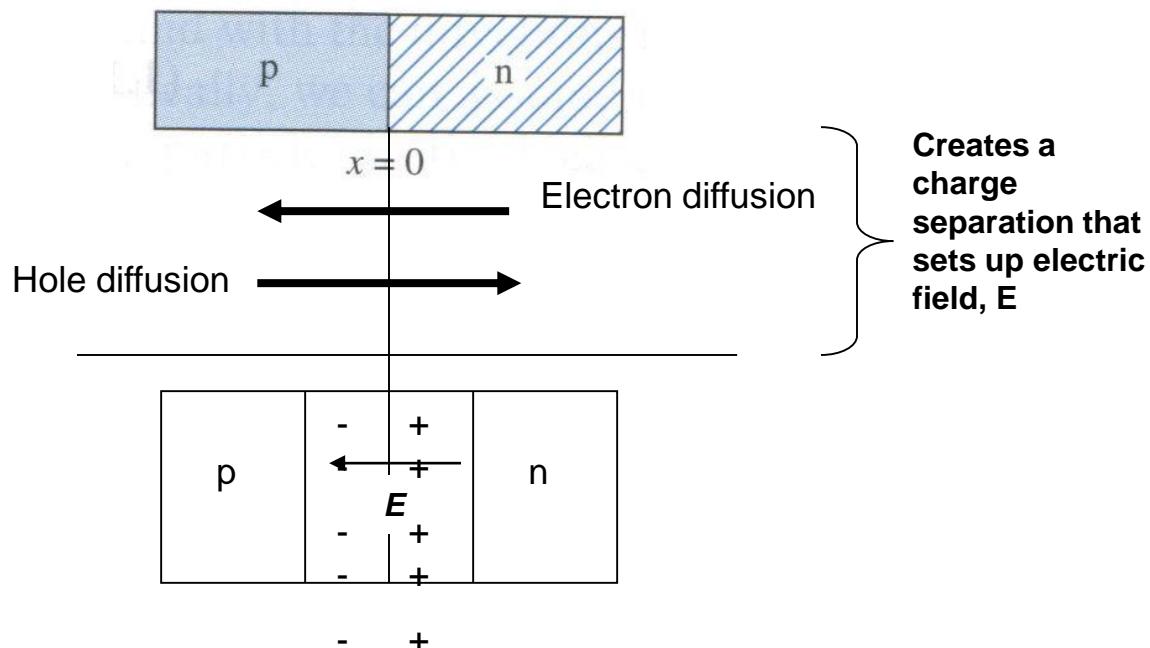


- Semiconductors n-type and p-type are brought together
- Electrons and holes migrate across the junction
- The depletion layer is formed
- A p.d. is set up across the depletion layer

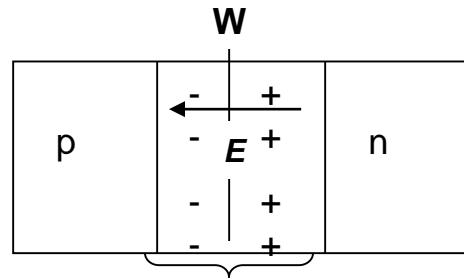


# The Equilibrium pn Junction

- Join n-type and p-type doped Silicon (or Germanium) to form a **p-n junction**.



The Electric field will create a force that will stop the diffusion of carriers → reaches thermal equilibrium condition



Known as space charge region/depletion region.

**Potential difference across the depletion region is called the built-in potential barrier, or built-in voltage:**

$$V_{bi} = \frac{kT}{e} \ln\left(\frac{N_a N_d}{n_i^2}\right) = V_T \ln\left(\frac{N_a N_d}{n_i^2}\right)$$

$$V_T = kT/e$$

$k$  = Boltzmann's constant

$T$  = absolute temperature

$e$  = the magnitude of the electronic charge = 1 eV

$N_a$  = the net acceptor concentration in the p-region

$N_d$  = the net donor concentration in the n-region

$V_T$  = thermal voltage, [ $V_T = kT / e$ ] it is approximately **0.026 V** at temp,  **$T = 300 K$**

# The Equilibrium pn Junction

## Example 1

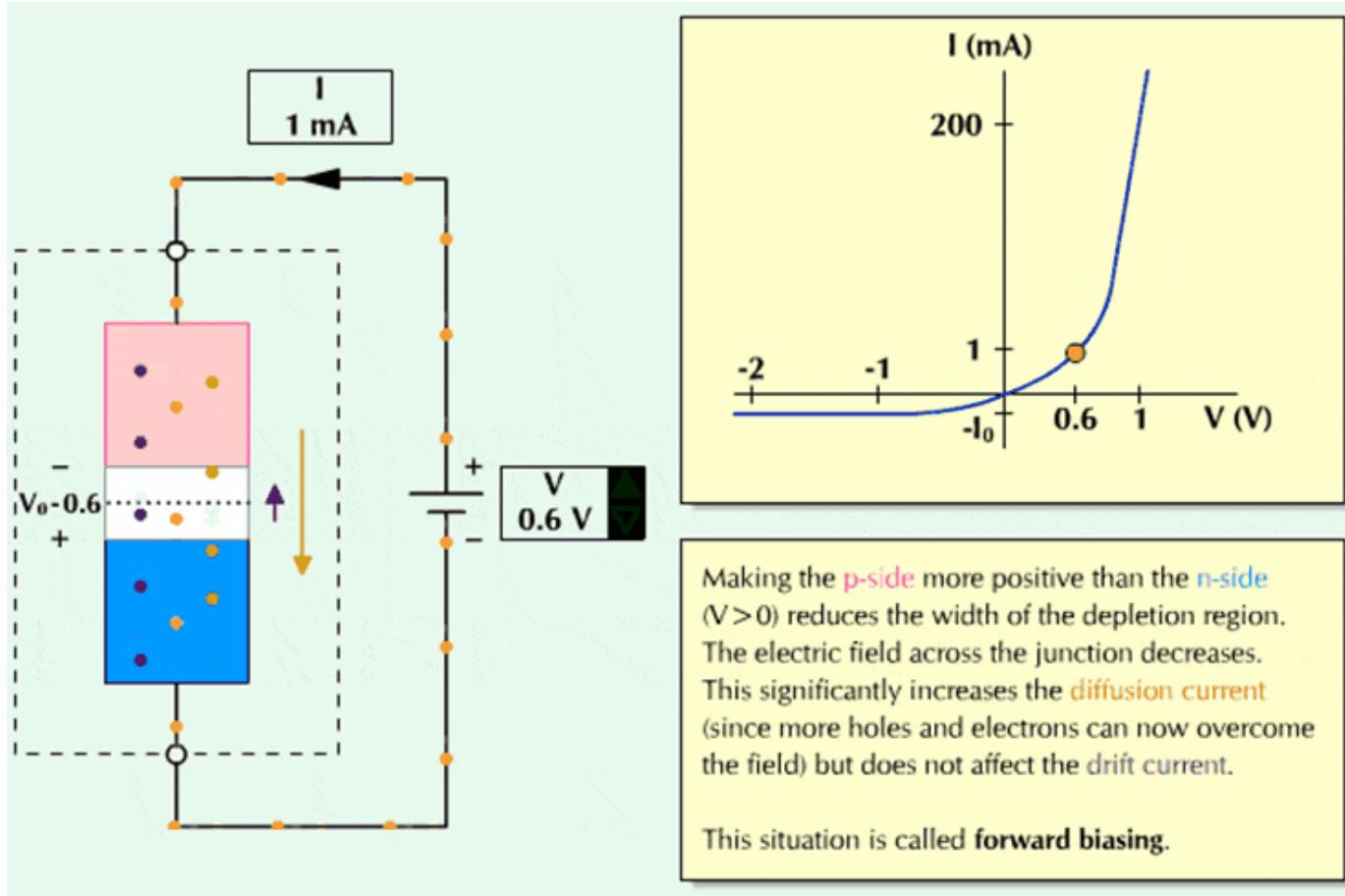
Calculate the built-in potential barrier of a pn junction.

Consider a silicon pn junction at  $T = 300$  K, doped  $N_a = 10^{16}$  cm $^{-3}$  in the p-region,  $N_d = 10^{17}$  cm $^{-3}$  in the n-region and  $n_i = 1.5 \times 10^{10}$  cm $^{-3}$ .

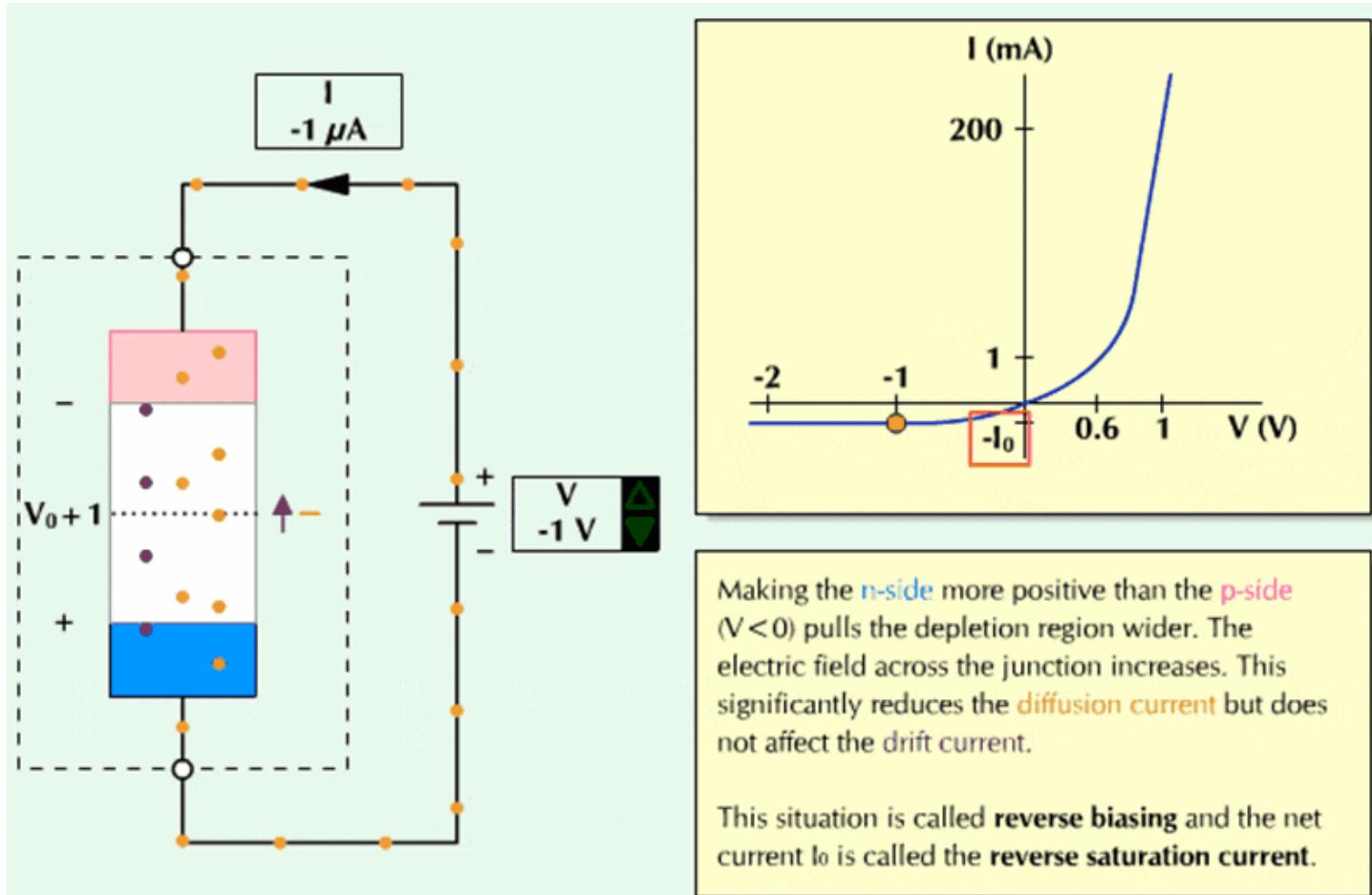
## Solution

$$V_{bi} = V_T \ln\left(\frac{N_a N_d}{n_i^2}\right) = (0.026) \ln\left[\frac{(10^{16})(10^{17})}{(1.5 \times 10^{10})^2}\right] = 0.757 \text{ V}$$

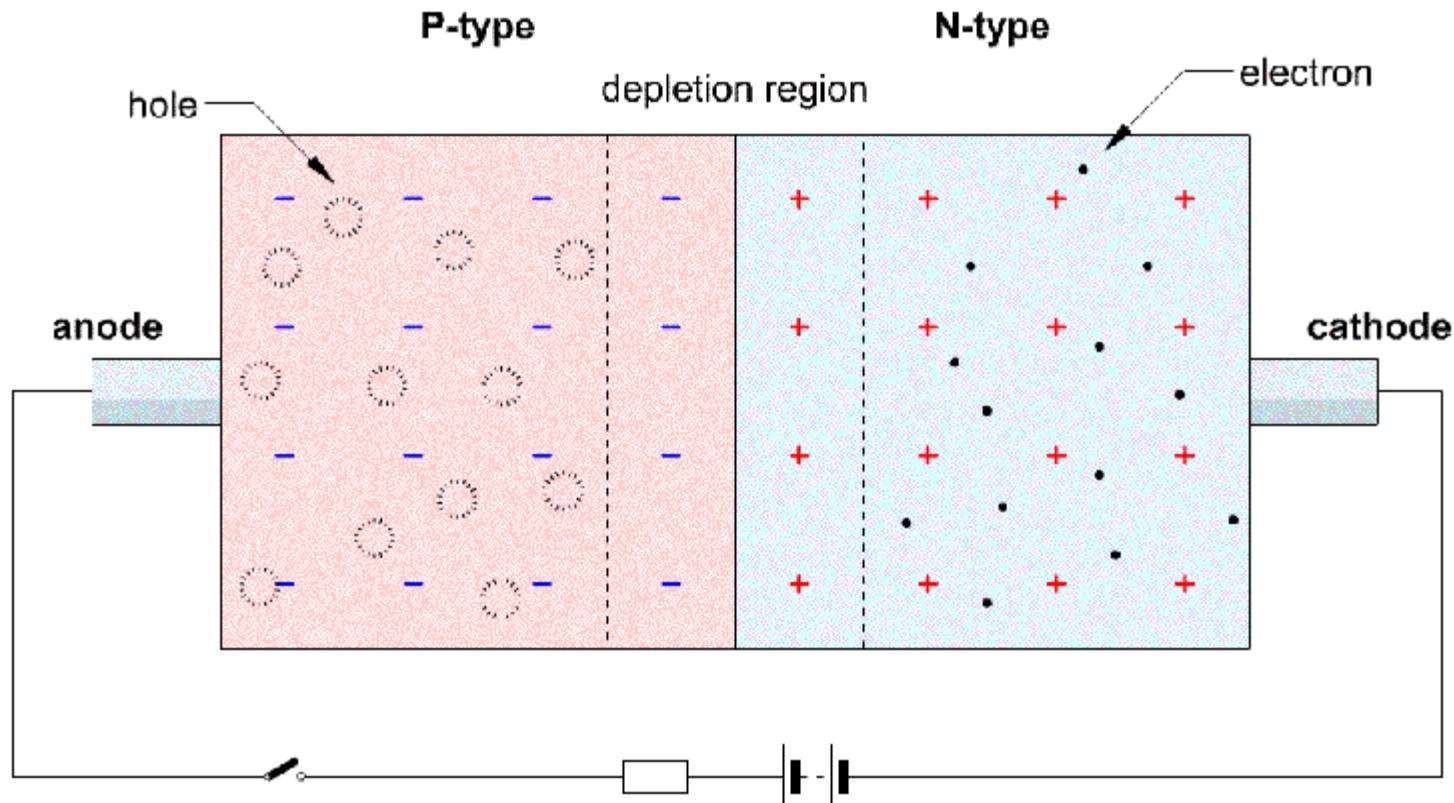
# Forward Bias & Reverse Bias Diode Working Animation



# Forward Bias & Reverse Bias Diode Working Animation



# Forward Bias & Reverse Bias Diode Working Animation



[Iontano pantofola video animation diode Asino R Eleggibilità](#)  
[Visit](#)

- Example 2

Consider a silicon pn junction at T = 400K, doped with concentrations of  $N_d = 10^{18} \text{ cm}^{-3}$  in n-region and  $N_a = 10^{19} \text{ cm}^{-3}$  in p-region. Calculate the built-in voltage  $V_{bi}$  of the pn junction, given Given B and Eg for silicon are  $5.23 \times 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-3} \text{ K}^{-3/2}$  and 1.1 eV respectively

$$V_{bi} = \frac{kT}{e} \ln\left(\frac{N_a N_d}{n_i^2}\right) = V_T \ln\left(\frac{N_a N_d}{n_i^2}\right)$$

# ANSWER

- Calculation of  $V_T = kT / e = 86 \times 10^{-6} (400) / 1\text{eV} = 0.0344 \text{ V}$
- Calculation of  $n_i = BT^{3/2} \exp(-Eg / 2kT)$   
 $= 5.23 \times 10^{15} (400)^{3/2} \exp -1.1 / 2 (86 \times 10^{-6}) (400)$   
 $= 4.76 \times 10^{12} \text{ cm}^{-3}$
- Calculation of  $V_{bi} = V_T \ln \left( N_a N_d / n_i^2 \right)$   
 $= 0.0344 \ln 10^{18} (10^{19}) / (4.76 \times 10^{12})^2$   
 $= \underline{0.922 \text{ V}}$

Which of the following statements is false?

- a). When atoms are packed closely together to form a crystal, the allowable energy levels broaden into bands of energy.
- b). Between adjacent energy bands are gaps or forbidden regions where there are no allowable energy levels
- c). The presence of electrons in the conduction band is crucial to the conduction process.
- d). At 0 K, the electrons in the valence band are free to move under an applied electric field

Consider the following statement – electrons from the valence band are easily promoted to the acceptor level leaving behind holes that are very effective in carrying charge.- Which type of semiconductor is the above statement referring to?

- a). P-type semiconductor
- b). N-type semiconductor
- c). P-N junction
- d). None of the above

A hole in a semiconductor is defined  
as.....

- A.A free electron
- B.The incomplete part of an electron pair bonds
- C.A free proton
- D.A free neutron

During the formation of a P-N junction the n side of the junction contains a net positive charge. Similarly in the p material, there will be a region close to the junction that is depleted of holes and contains a net negative charge. These charges are due to :

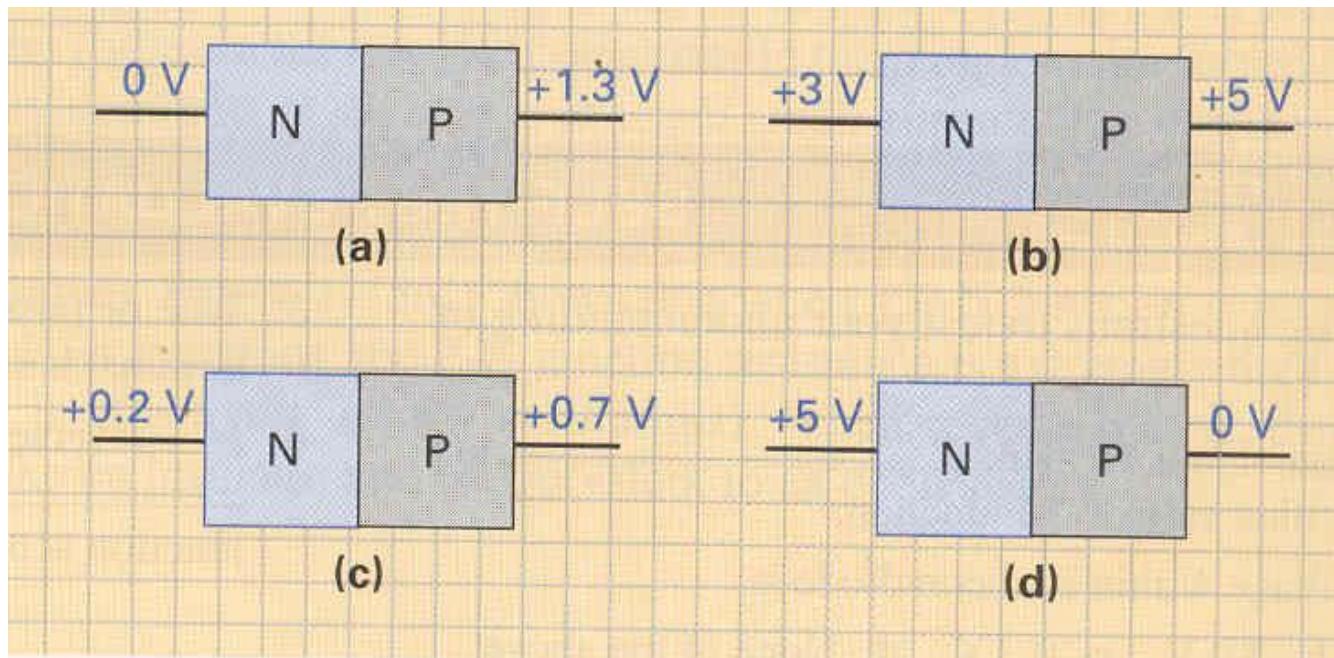
- a). The diffusion current
- b). The drift current
- c). bound charges associated with donor and acceptor atoms
- d). doping in the semiconductor

A semiconductor material has a \_\_\_\_\_ temperature coefficient of resistance, which means that as temperature increases its resistance

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- a)Positive, increase
- b)Positive, decrease
- c)Negative, increase
- d)Negative, decrease

Which of the silicon P-N junctions in the figure below are forward biased and which are reverse biased? Write the answer in the space provided



Under open circuit conditions, the movement of charge carriers in a semiconductor as a result of differences in concentration gives rise to a current called

- a). Diffusion current
- b). Drift current
- c). Drift velocity
- d). Saturation current

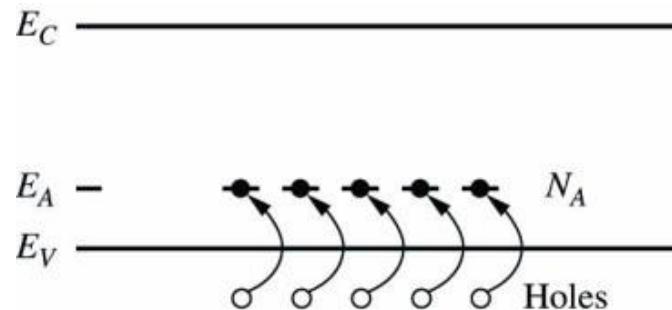
Which of the following is false? For a reverse biased P-N junction

- A.The electric field within the junction increases
- B.The barrier potential increases
- C.The only contribution to current flow are thermally generated minority carriers
- D.The width of the space charged region decreases

Zener breakdown occurs when

- a. The electric field in the depletion layer increases to the point where it can break covalent bonds and generate electron-hole pairs
- b. The minority carriers that cross the depletion region under the influence of the electric field gain sufficient kinetic energy to be able to break bonds and generate electron hole pairs.
- c. When the voltage drop across a fully conducting diode exceeds 0.7 V
- d. Non of the above

The diagram in figure 1 shows the energy band model for a p-type doped semiconductor. Which of the following statements is false?

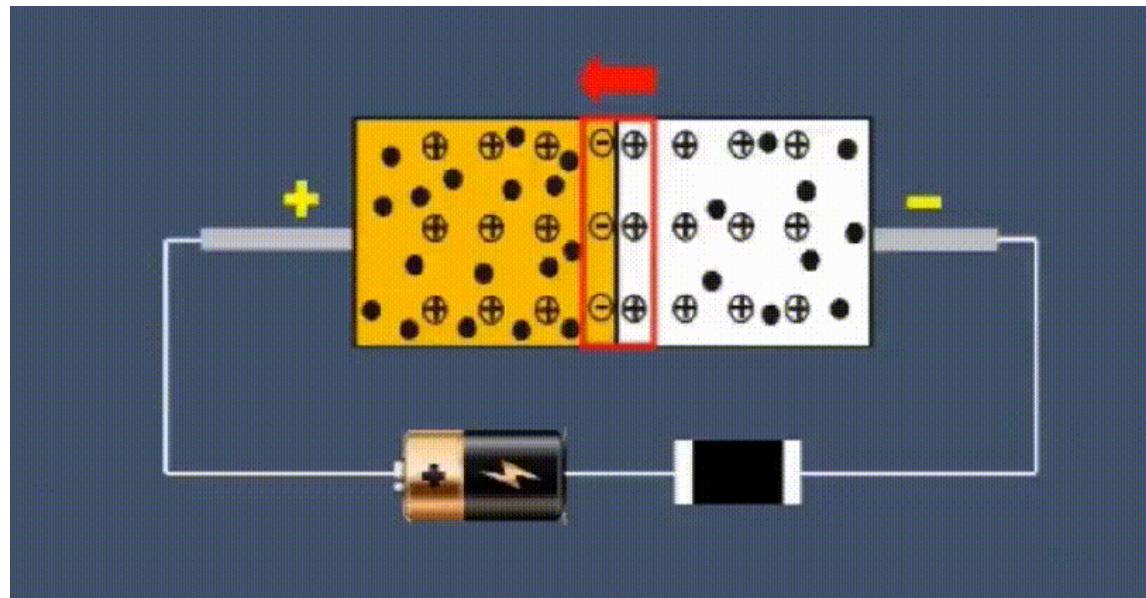


- a) At 0 K an electron participating in a covalent bond is in a lower energy state in the valence band.
- b) The acceptor atoms have unfilled covalent bonds with energy state  $E_A$ .
- c) Movement of electrons to acceptor sites, complete covalent bond pairs, and create holes.
- d) Movement of electrons to acceptor sites, break covalent bond pairs, and create holes.

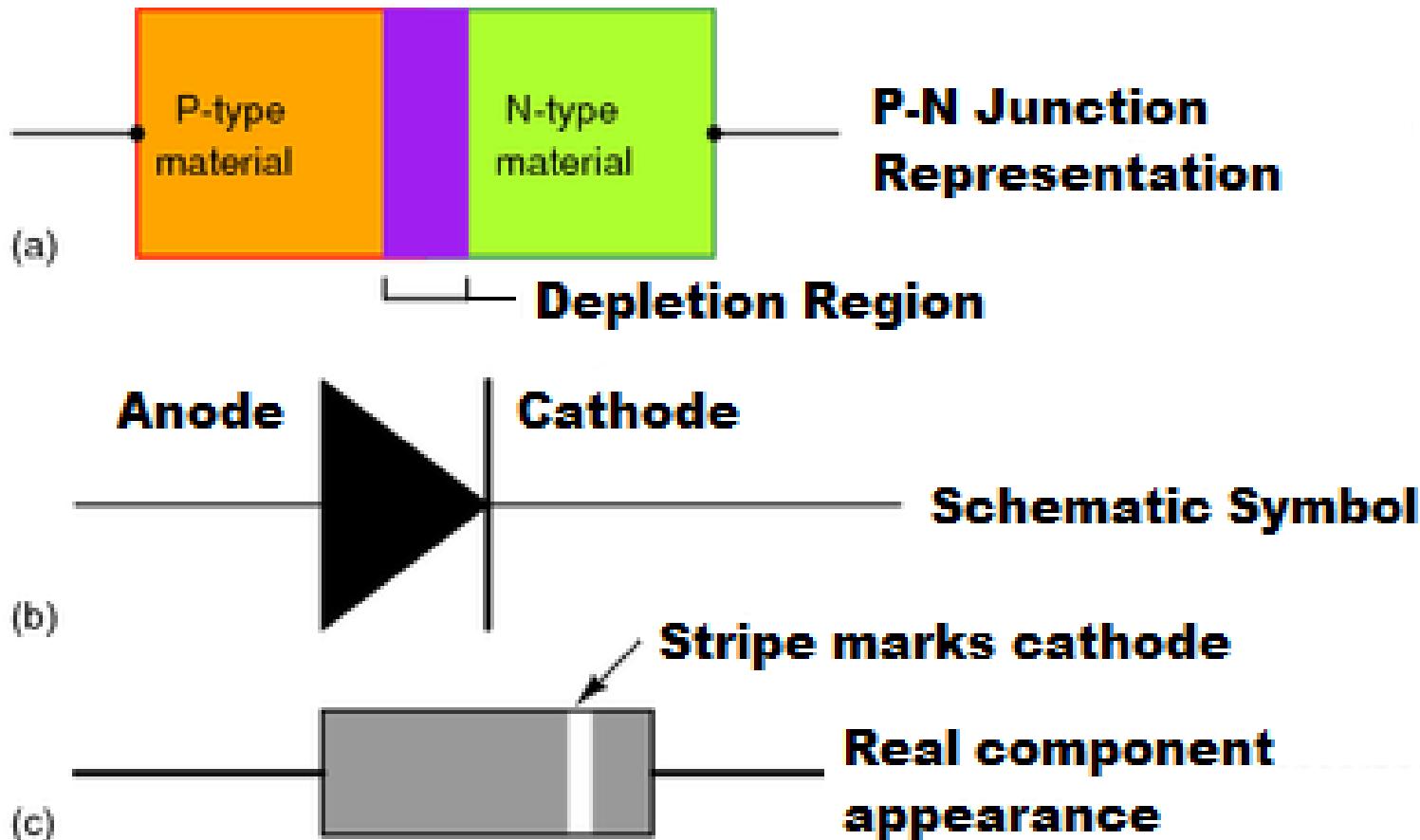
# INTRODUCTION TO THE DIODE

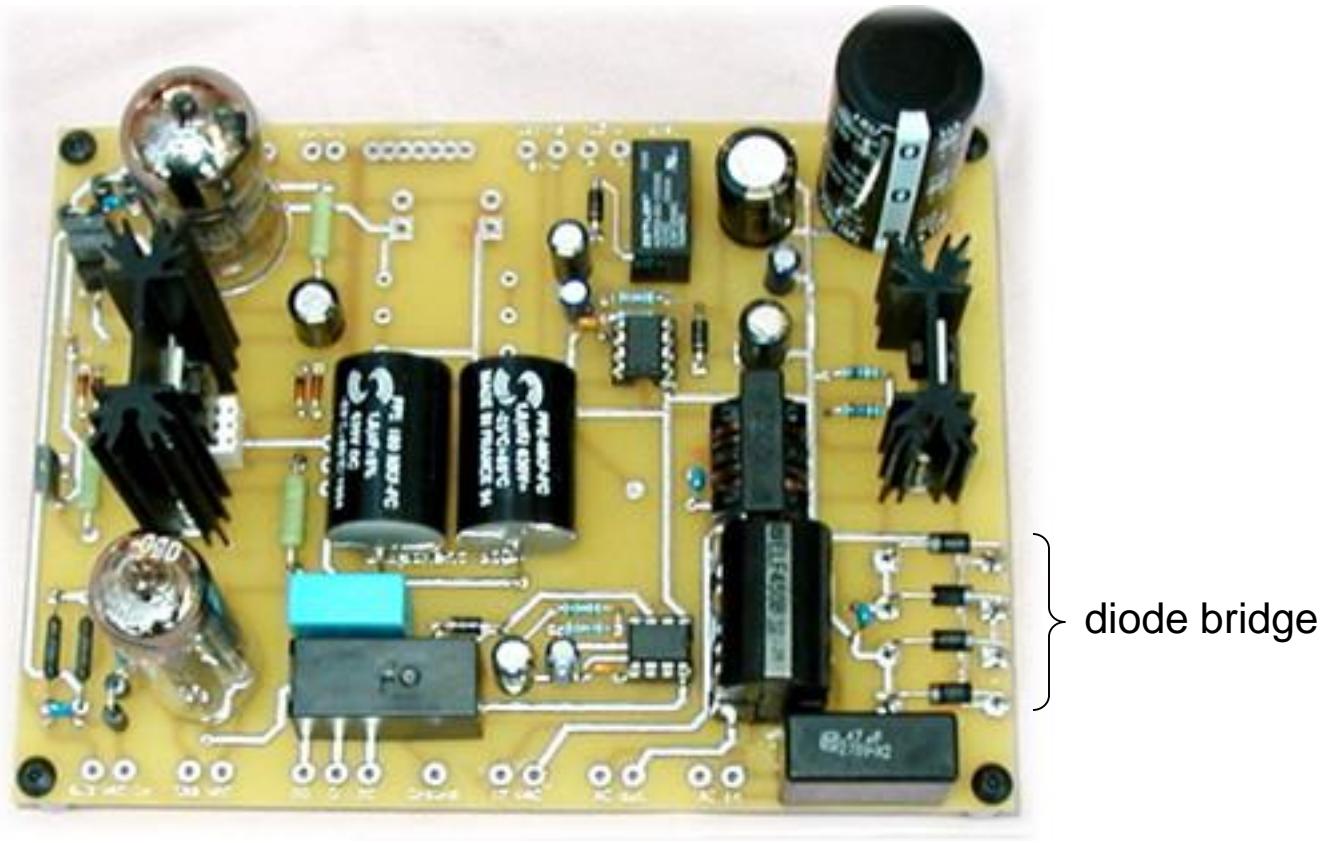
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The main function of a diode is to control the *direction* that current can flow in a circuit. It's sort of like a backflow preventor (or one-way valve) used in plumbing which only lets water flow in a single direction. In electronics we refer to this direction as the *forward direction*. Current that attempts to flow in the reverse direction is blocked.



# The Physical Structure





diode bridge

# Characteristics

- Conducting in one direction and not in the other is the I-V characteristic of the diode.
- The arrowlike circuit symbol shows the direction of conducting current.
- Forward biasing voltage makes it turn on.
- Reverse biasing voltage makes it turn off.



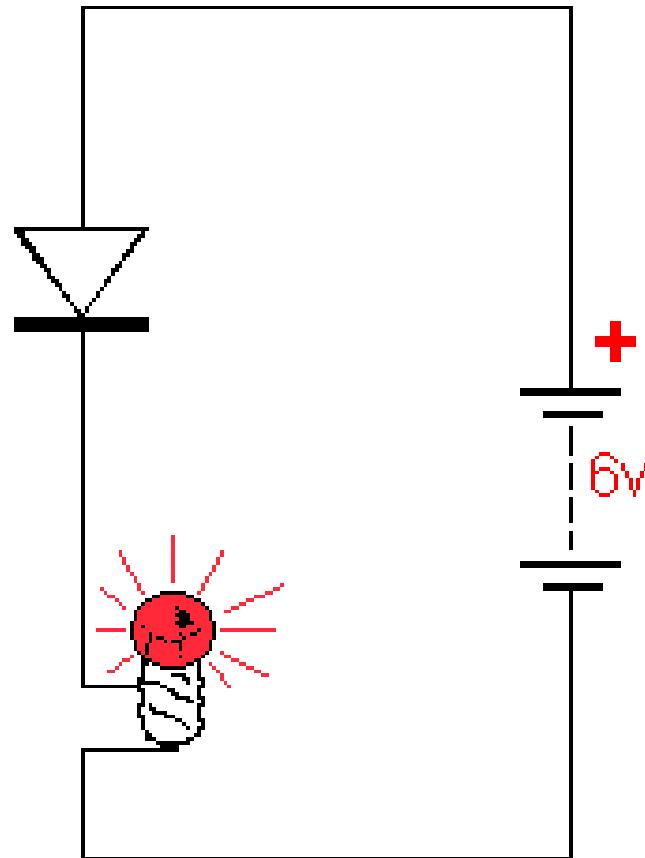


Diode symbol

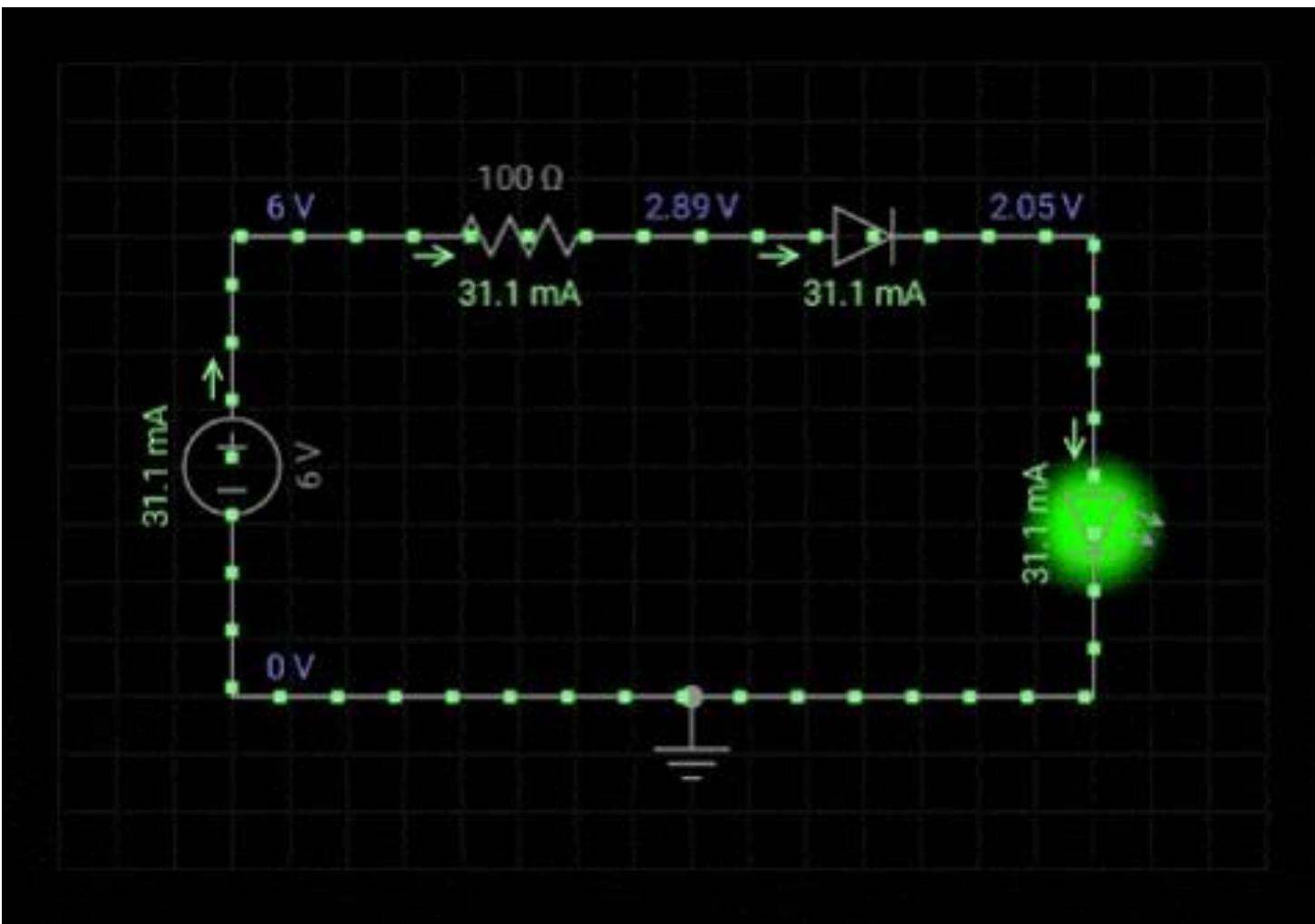


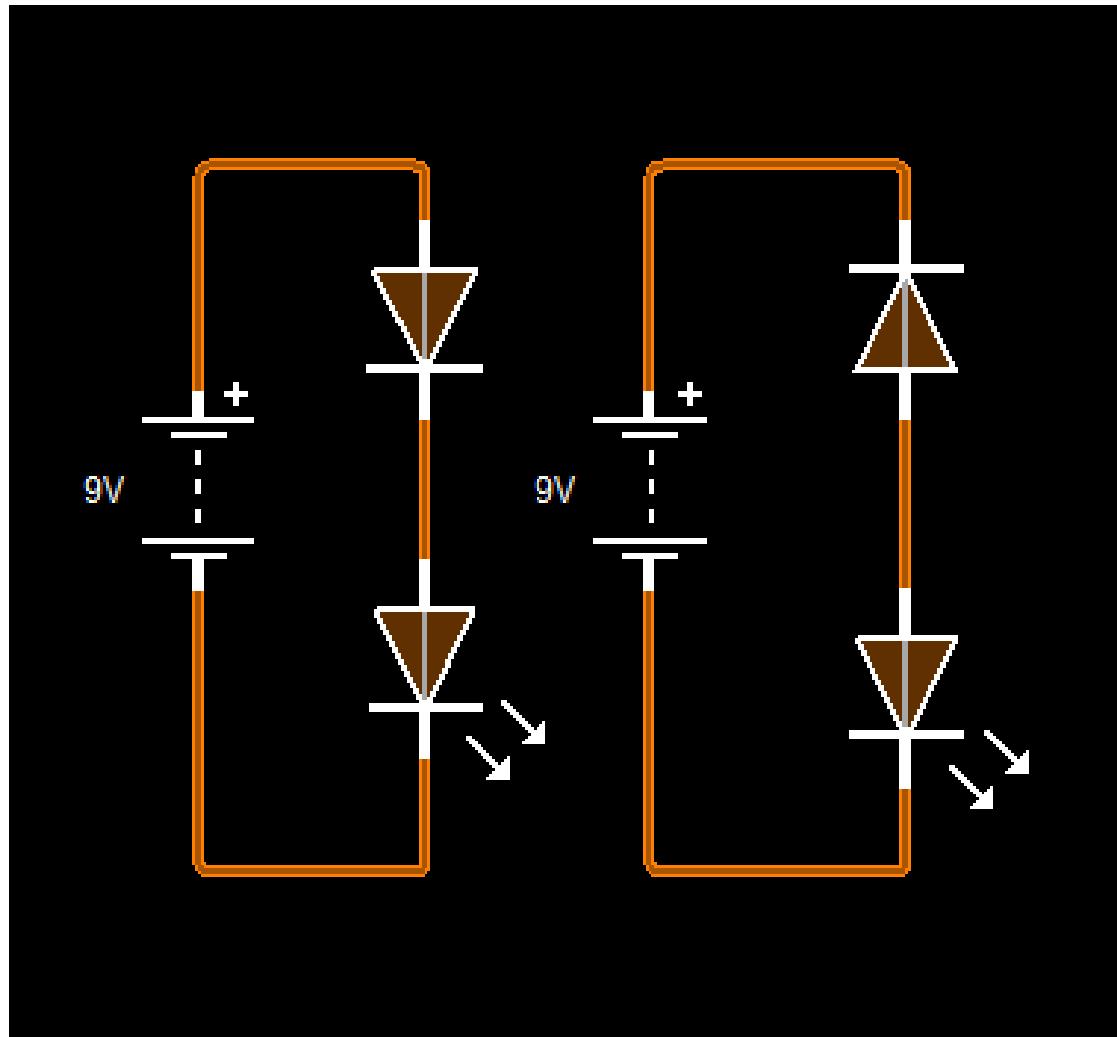
Actual symbol

**REALPARS**



**How a diode works**

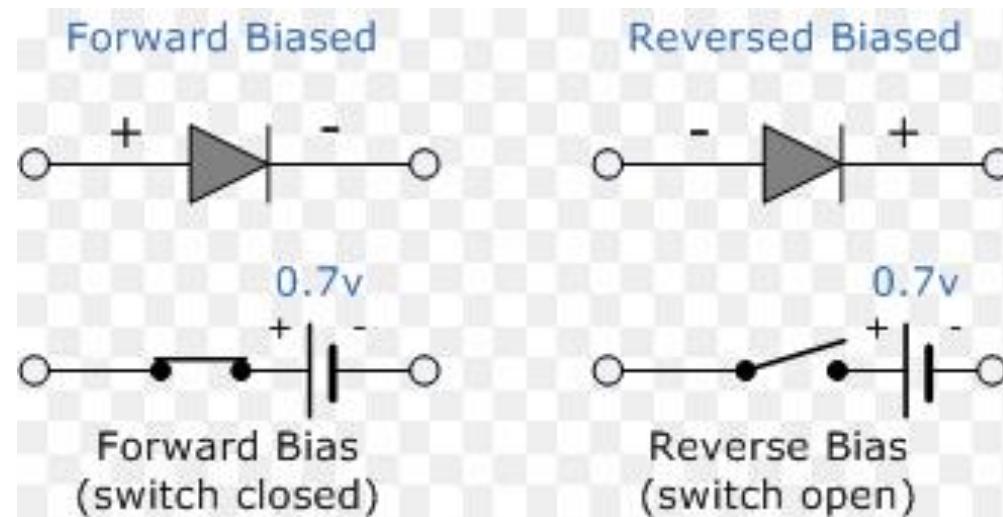




# THE IDEAL DIODE

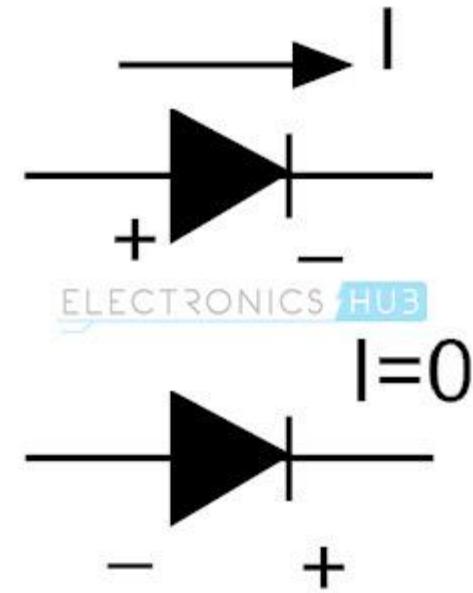
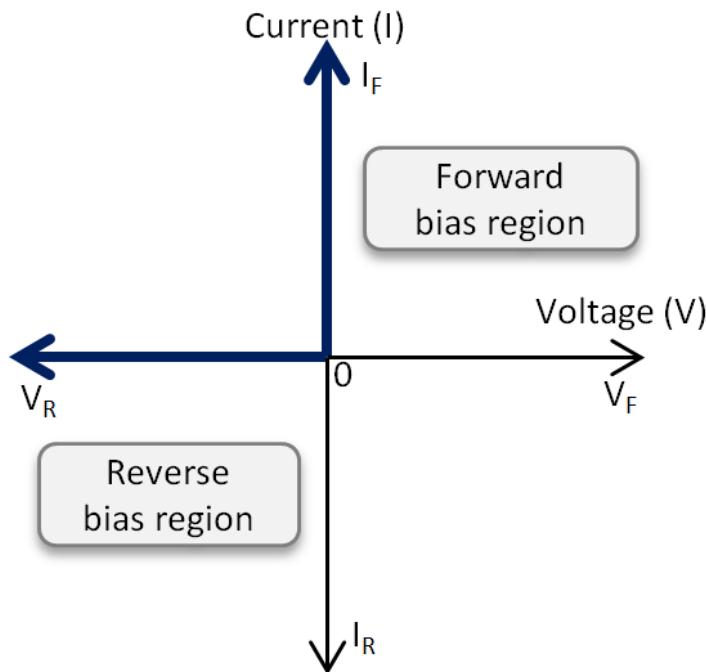
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It is important to understand that there is no such thing (at least yet) as a perfect diode. A theoretical perfect diode is referred to as an *ideal* diode. In an ideal diode current flowing in the reverse direction would react the same as an open circuit (open switch) and no current would pass.



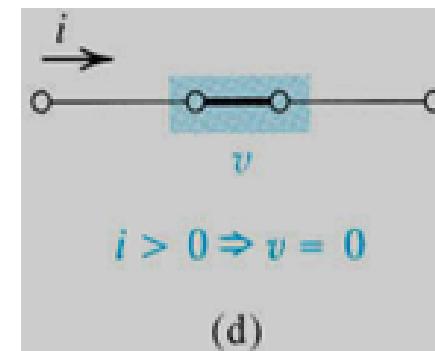
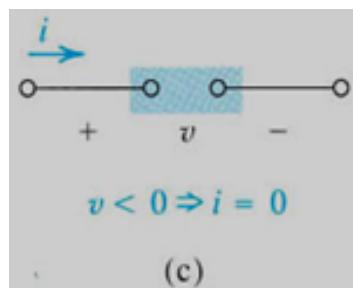
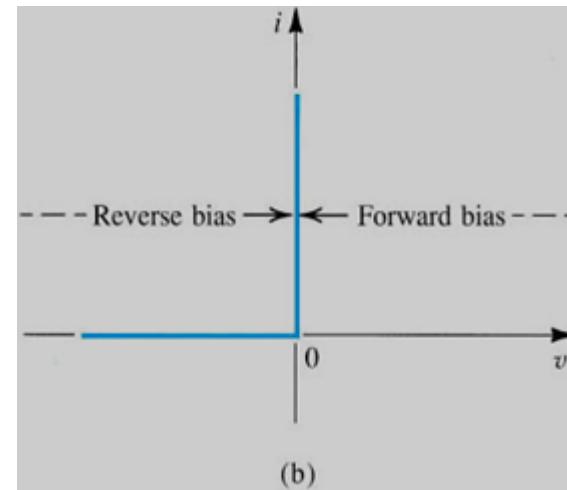
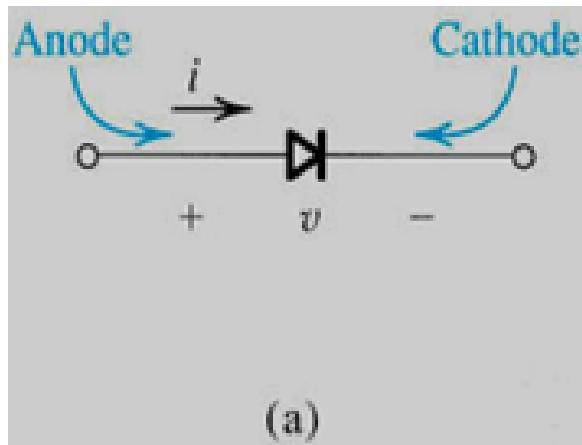
# THE IDEAL DIODE

In order to understand the essence of diode function (diode behavior), we begin with a “fictitious” element, the ideal diode. The ideal diode may be considered the most fundamental non-linear element. It is a two-terminal device having the circuit symbol

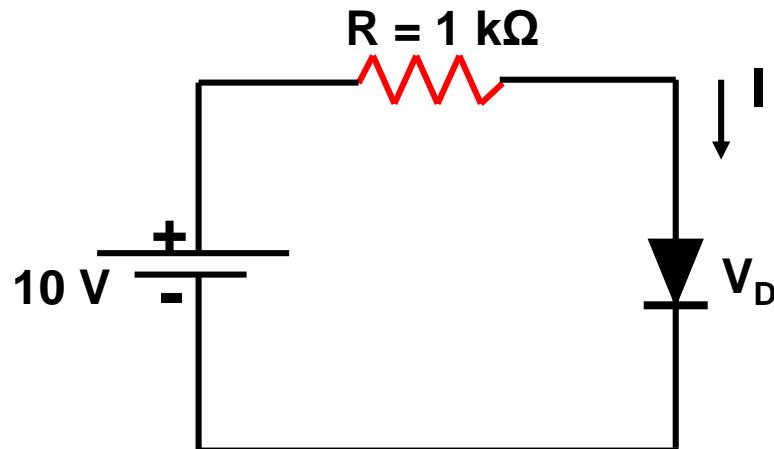


### 3.1 The ideal Diode

#### Current-Voltage characteristic



Assume both diodes are ideal

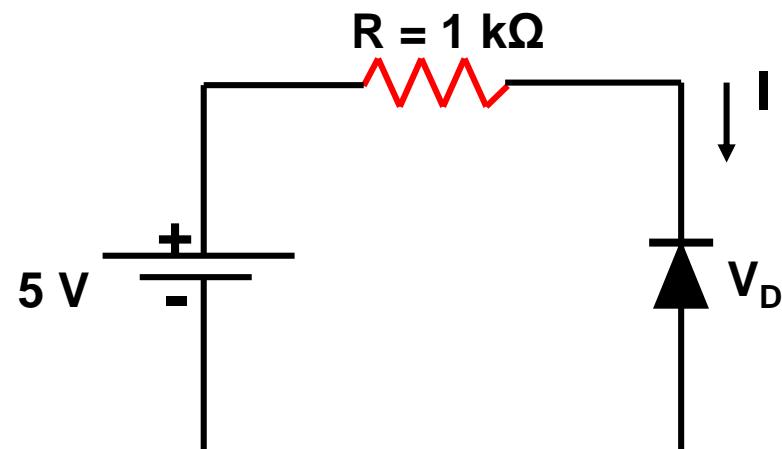


diode is turned ON

Writing a loop equation  
yields:

$$10 - 0 = IR$$

$$I = \frac{10}{R} = \frac{10}{1} = 10mA$$



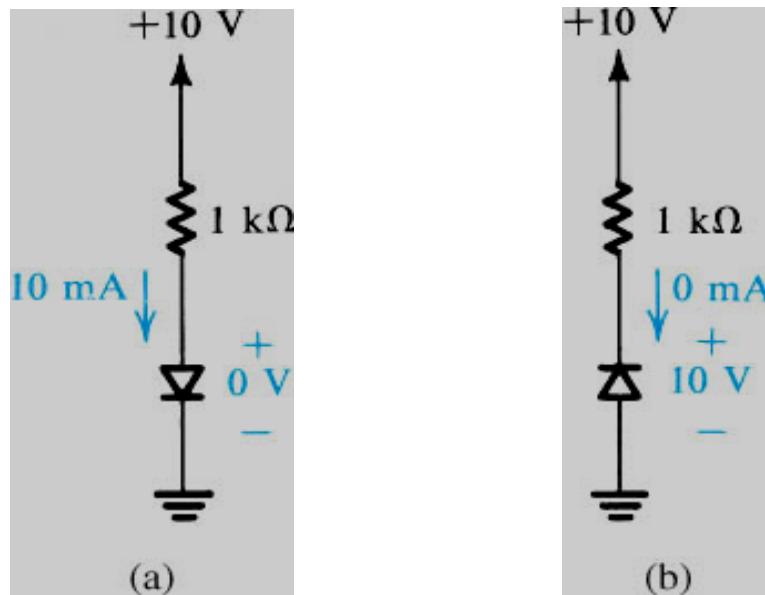
diode is turned off

Writing a loop equation  
yields:

$$V_D = 5 V$$

### 3.1 The ideal Diode

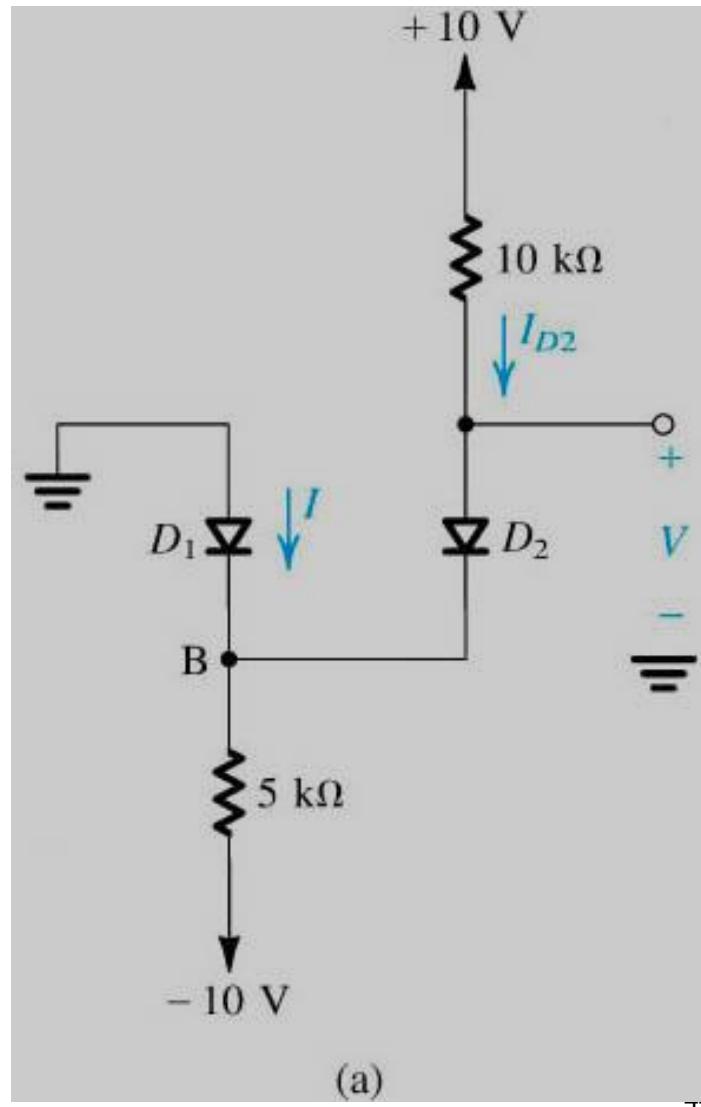
#### Current-Voltage characteristic



**Figure 3.2** The two modes of operation of ideal diodes and the use of an external circuit to limit the forward current **(a)** and the reverse voltage **(b)**.

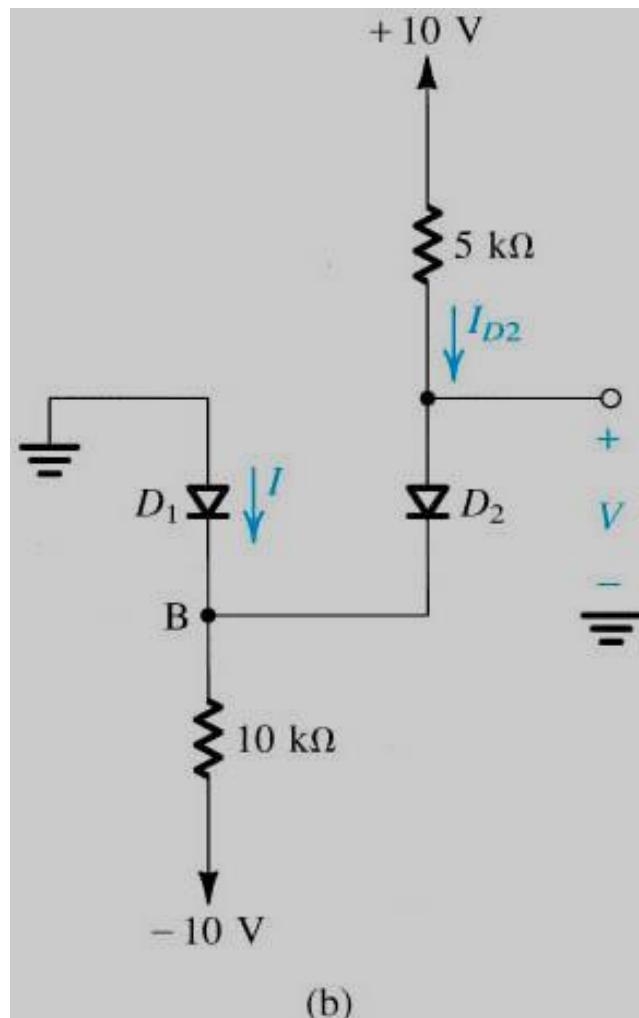
**EXAMPLE 2**

Assume the diodes in figure a and b are ideal. Find  $I$  and  $V$ .

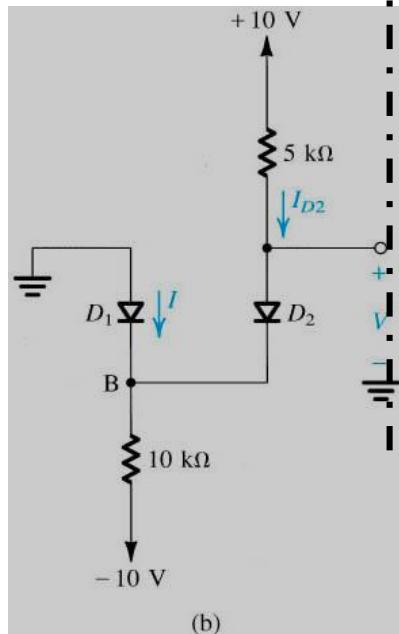
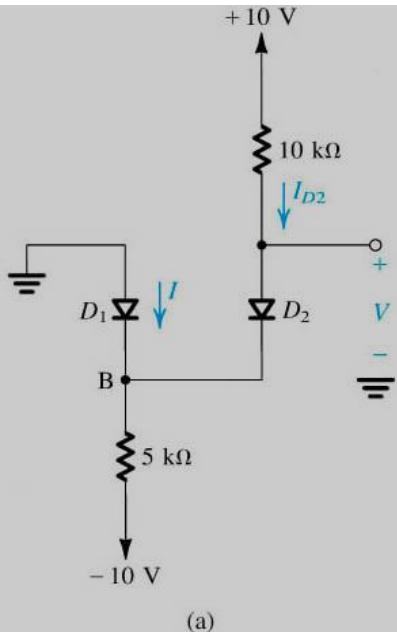


### EXAMPLE 3

Assume the diodes in figure a and b are ideal. Find  $I$  and  $V$ .



## EXAMPLES



Assume the diodes in figure a and b are ideal. Find  $I$  and  $V$ .

Sol) We don't know whether none, one, or both diodes are conducting.

***Make a plausible assumption, proceed with the analysis, and then check whether we end up with a consistent solution !***

(a) Assume that both diodes are conducting.

$$V_B = 0, V = 0 \quad I_{D2} = \frac{10 - 0}{10} = 1 \text{ mA}$$

$$\text{Writing a node equation at B, } I + I_{D2} = \frac{V_B - (-10)}{5}$$

$$I + 1 = \frac{0 - (-10)}{5}, \quad I = 1 \text{ mA, } V = 0 \text{ V}$$

(b) Assume that both diodes are conducting.

$$V_B = 0, V = 0 \quad I_{D2} = \frac{10 - 0}{5} = 2 \text{ mA}$$

$$\text{Writing a node equation at B, } I + I_{D2} = \frac{V_B - (-10)}{10}$$

$$I + 2 = \frac{0 - (-10)}{10}, \quad I = -1 \text{ mA} \quad \text{Impossible !!}$$

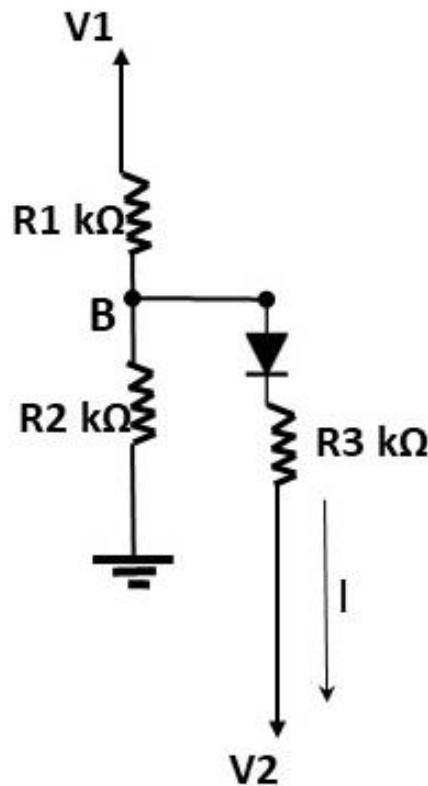
Assume that  $D_1$  is off, and  $D_2$  is on.

$$I_{D2} = \frac{10 - (-10)}{15} = 1.33 \text{ mA}$$

$$V_B = -10 + 10 \times 1.33 = +3.3 \text{ V}$$

$$I = 0, \quad V = 3.3 \text{ V}$$

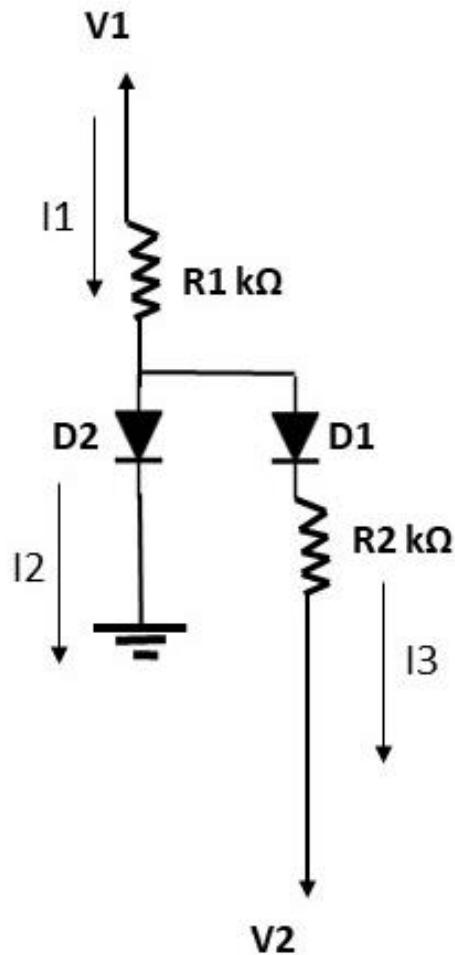
# Quiz 1



The circuit in the figure, has  $V_1 = 20\text{ V}$ ,  $V_2 = -10\text{ V}$ ,  $R_1 = 20\text{ k}\Omega$ ,  $R_2 = 20\text{ k}\Omega$  and  $R_3 = 20\text{ k}\Omega$  determine the voltage at node B,

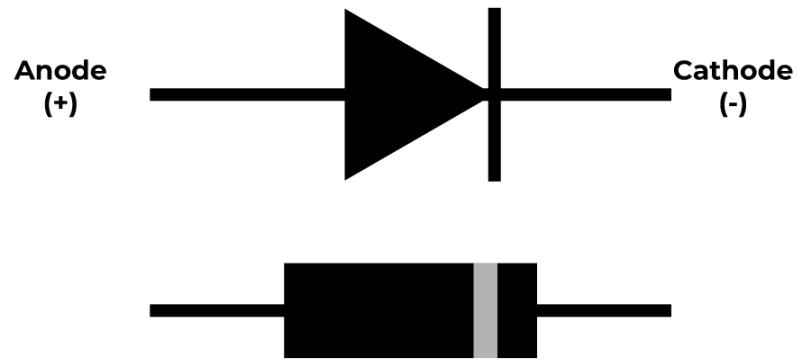
Assume the diodes are ideal

# Quiz 2



Referring to the circuit shown. If the diodes  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  are ideal, find the value of the current  $I_2$ . Take  $V_1 = 15 \text{ V}$ ,  $V_2 = -10 \text{ V}$ ,  $R_1 = 5 \text{ k}\Omega$ ,  $R_2 = 10 \text{ k}\Omega$

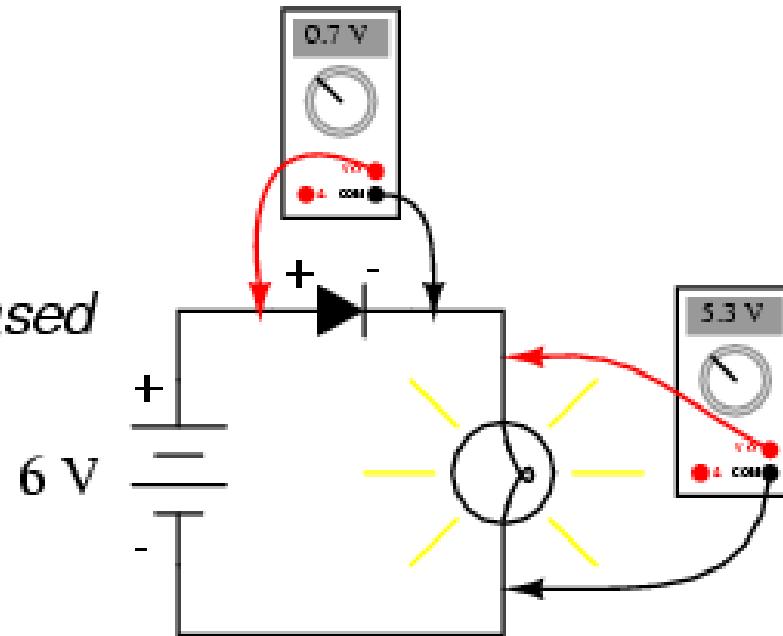
if the diode  $D_2$  is reverse biased, what would be the value of the current  $I_3$



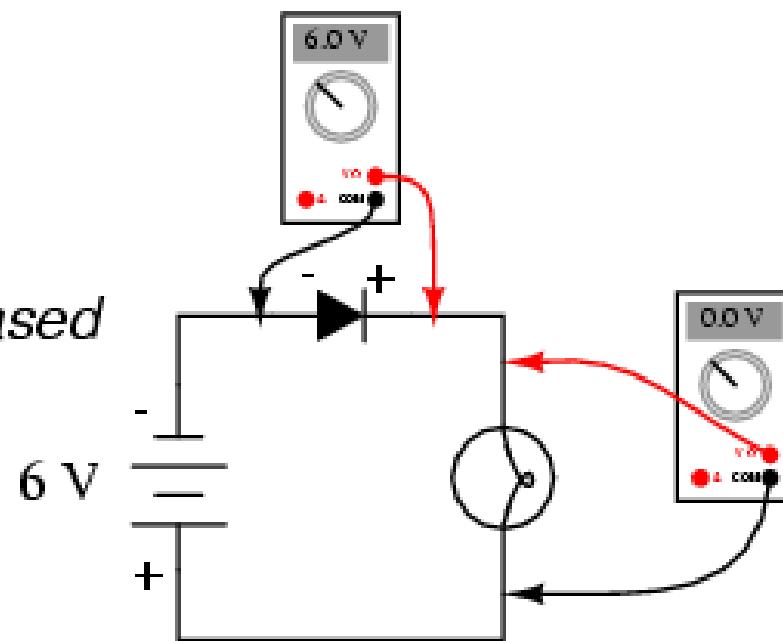
# THE REAL DIODE



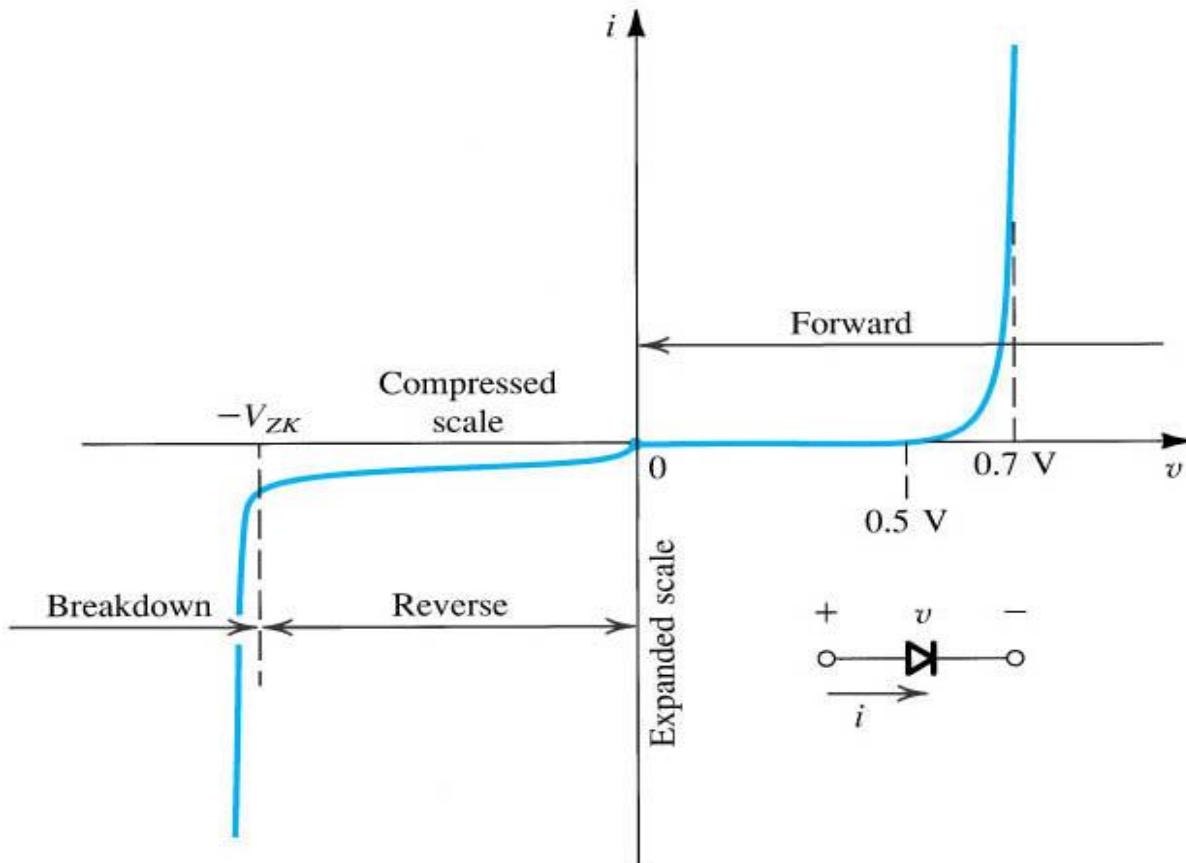
*Forward-biased*



*Reverse-biased*



# I-V Characteristics

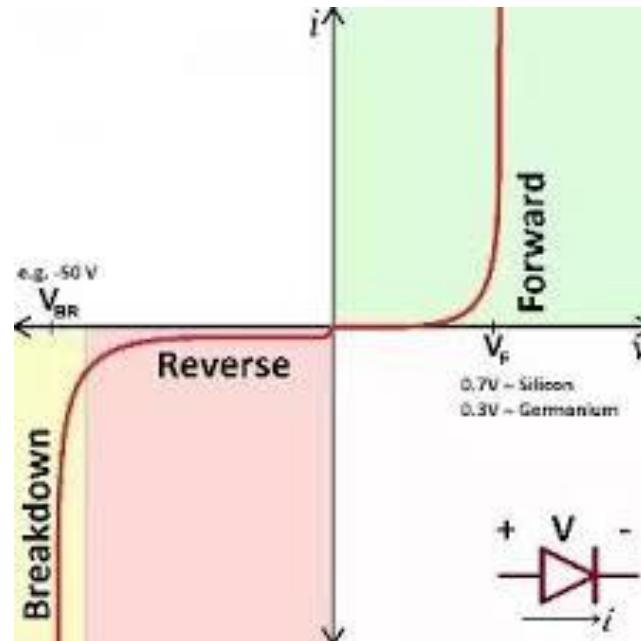


The diode  $i-v$  relationship with some scales expanded and others compressed in order to reveal details

# I-V Characteristic Curve

## Terminal Characteristic of Junction Diodes

- The Forward-Bias Region, determined by  $v > 0$
- The Reverse-Bias Region, determined by  $-V_{ZK} < v < 0$
- The Breakdown Region, determined by  $v < -V_{ZK}$



# The *pn* Junction Under Forward-Bias Conditions

I-V characteristic equation:

$$i = I_s(e^{\frac{v}{nV_T}} - 1)$$

*v*

- Exponential relationship, nonlinear.
- $I_s$  is called saturation current, strongly depends on temperature.
- $n = 1$  or 2, in general  $n = 1$
- $V_T$  is thermal voltage.

$$V_T \equiv \frac{kT}{q}$$

where  $k$  is the [Boltzmann constant](#),  $T$  is the absolute temperature of the p–n junction, and  $q$  is the magnitude of charge of an [electron](#) (the [elementary charge](#))

# Ideal Current-Voltage Relationship

- So, the current  $i_D$  is

$$i_D = I_S \left[ e^{\left( \frac{v_D}{nV_T} \right)} - 1 \right]$$

$I_S$  = the reverse-bias saturation current (for silicon  
 $10^{-15}$  to  $10^{-13}$  A)

$V_T$  = the thermal voltage (0.026 V at room temperature)

$n$  = the emission coefficient ( $1 \leq n \leq 2$ )

# Ideal Current-Voltage Relationship

## Example

Determine the current in a pn junction diode.

Consider a pn junction at  $T = 300$  K in which  $I_S = 10^{-14}$  A and  $n = 1$ .

Find the diode current for  $v_D = +0.70$  V and  $v_D = -0.70$  V.

**Solution:** For  $v_D = +0.70$  V, the pn junction is forward-biased and we find

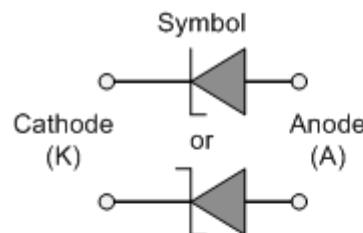
$$i_D = I_S \left[ e^{\left(\frac{v_D}{V_T}\right)} - 1 \right] = (10^{-14}) \left[ e^{\left(\frac{+0.70}{0.026}\right)} - 1 \right] \Rightarrow 4.93 \text{ mA}$$

For  $v_D = -0.70$  V, the pn junction is reverse-biased and we find

$$i_D = I_S \left[ e^{\left(\frac{v_D}{V_T}\right)} - 1 \right] = (10^{-14}) \left[ e^{\left(\frac{-0.70}{0.026}\right)} - 1 \right] \cong -10^{-14} \text{ A} \quad \xleftarrow{\text{Very small current}}$$

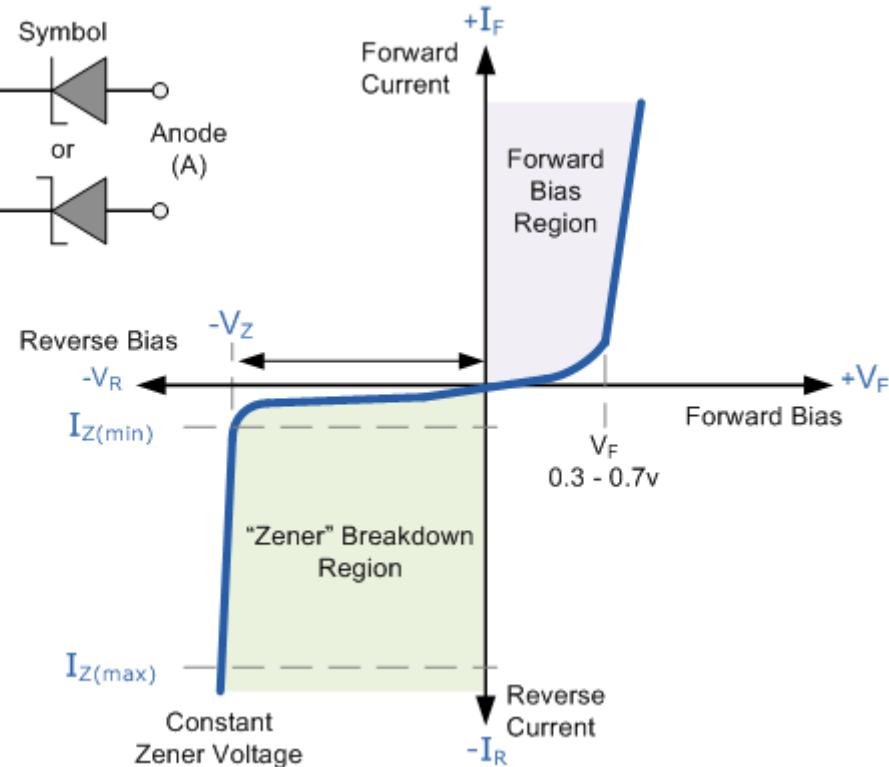
For appreciable current in the forward direction,  
( $i \gg I_s$ )

$$i = I_S \left( e^{\frac{V}{nV_T}} \right)$$



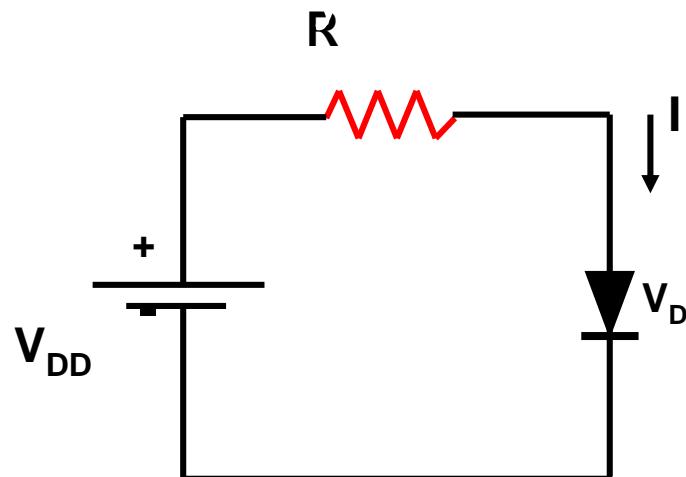
This relationship can be expressed alternatively in the logarithmic form

$$v = nV_T \ln\left(\frac{i}{I_S}\right)$$



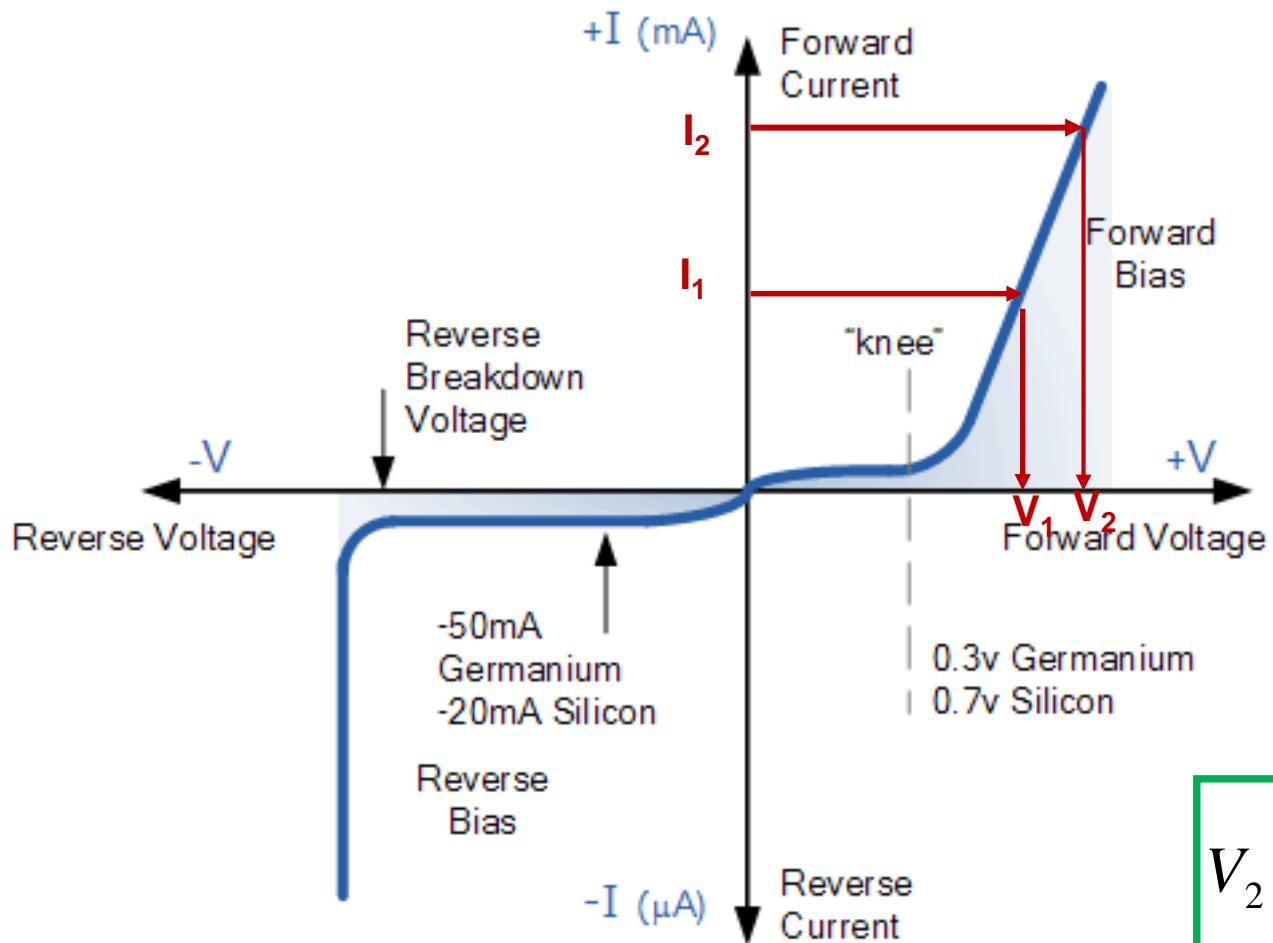
# Example

Determine the current  $I_D$  and the diode voltage  $V_D$  for the circuit in Figure 5. With  $V = 5 \text{ V}$  and  $R = 1 \text{ k}\Omega$ .



$$i = I_S \left( e^{\frac{V}{nV_T}} \right)$$

Assuming  $V_1$  at  $I_1$  and  $V_2$  at  $I_2$  then:



$$I_1 = I_S \left( e^{\frac{V_1}{nV_T}} \right)$$

$$I_2 = I_S \left( e^{\frac{V_2}{nV_T}} \right)$$

$$\frac{I_2}{I_1} = \frac{e^{\frac{V_2}{nV_T}}}{e^{\frac{V_1}{nV_T}}} = e^{\frac{(V_2 - V_1)}{nV_T}}$$

$$V_2 - V_1 = nV_T \ln \frac{I_2}{I_1}$$

$$V_2 - V_1 = 2.3nV_T \log_{10} \frac{I_2}{I_1}$$

## The *pn* Junction Under Forward-Bias Conditions

$$V_2 - V_1 = 2.3nV_T \log_{10} \frac{I_2}{I_1}$$

Let  $I_1 = 1$  mA, and  $I_2 = 10$  mA

$$V_2 - V_1 = 2.3nV_T \log_{10} \frac{10}{1} \equiv 2.3nV_T$$

*Thus, for a decade (factor of 10) change in current, the diode voltage drop changes by  $2.3nV_T$  which is approximately 60mv (for  $n=1$ ) or 120mv (for  $n=2$ ).*

# The *pn* Junction Under Forward-Bias Conditions

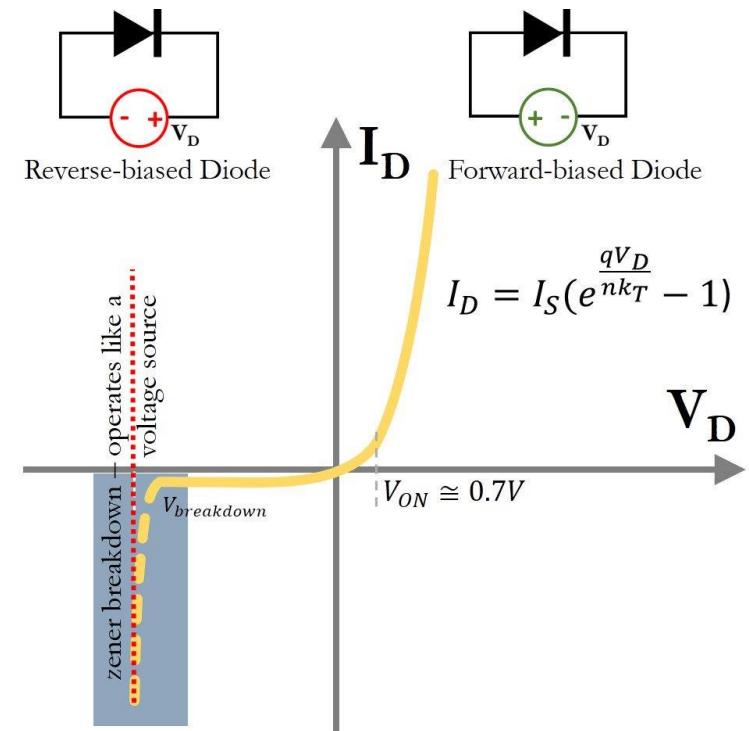
- **Turn-on voltage**

A conduction diode has approximately a constant voltage drop across it.  
It's called turn-on voltage.

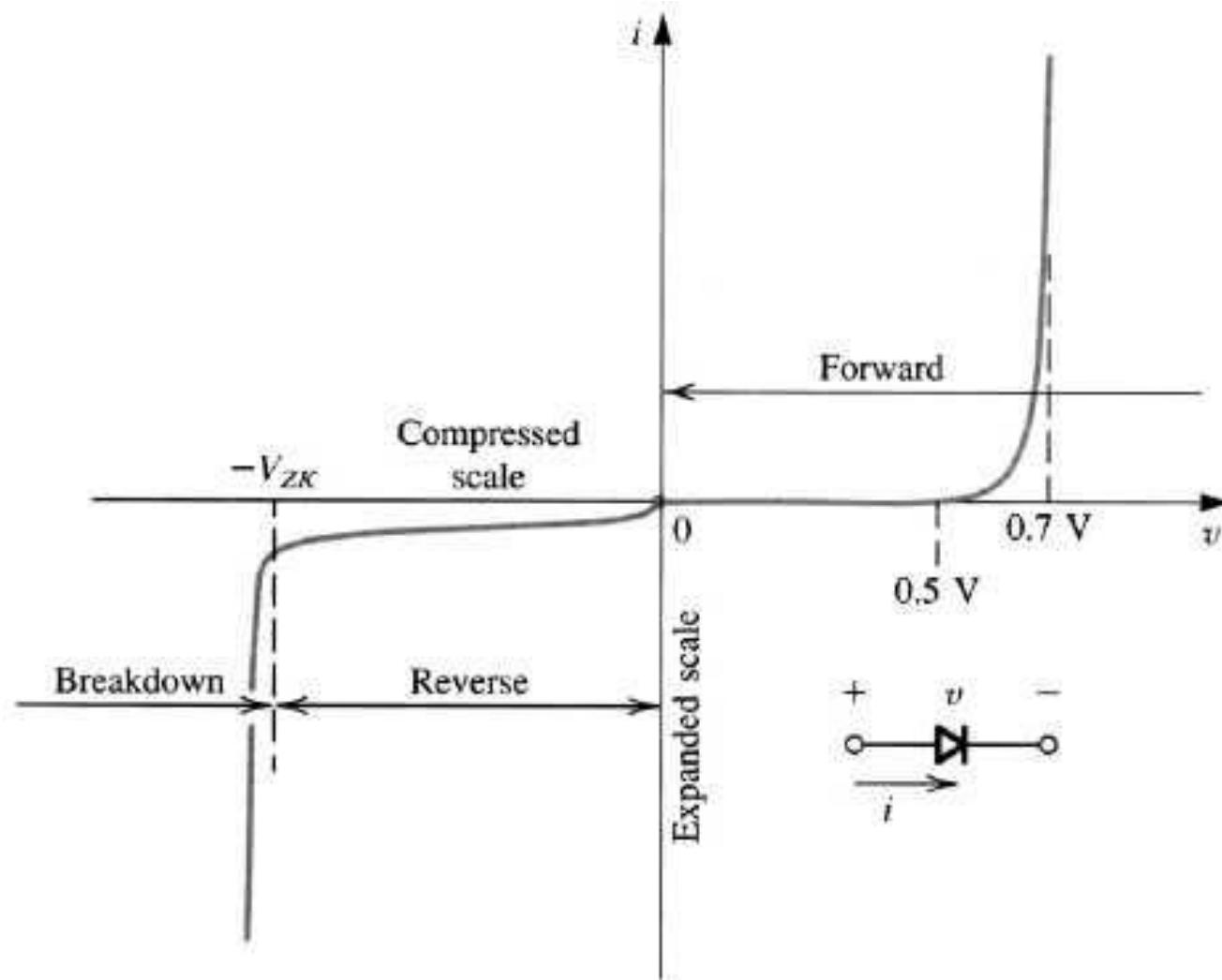
$$V_{D(on)} = 0.7V \quad \text{For silicon}$$

$$V_{D(on)} = 0.25V \quad \text{For germanium}$$

Diodes with different current rating will exhibit the turn-on voltage at different currents.



# The experimental I-V characteristic of a Si diode



The diode  $i$ - $v$  relationship with some scales expanded and others compressed in order to reveal details.

# Diode Analyses: The Diode Models

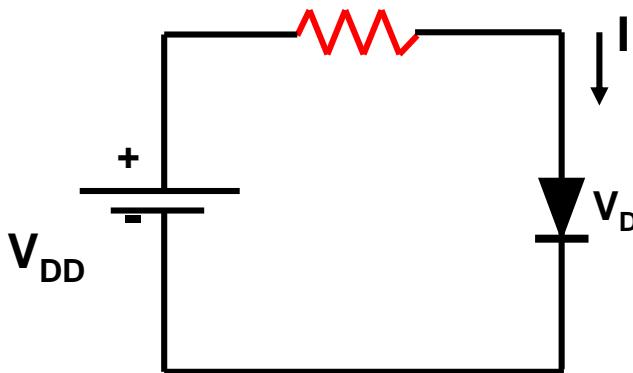
## Circuit Model

- a) Piece wise linear model
- b) The constant-voltage-drop model
- c) Iterative analysis

# Example

Determine the current  $I_D$  and the diode voltage  $V_D$  for the circuit in Figure 5. With  $V = 5 \text{ V}$  and  $R = 1 \text{ k}\Omega$ . Assume that the diode has a current of 1 mA at a voltage of 0.7 V, and that its voltage drop changes by 0.1 V for every decade change in current.

$\mathbf{R}$



$$V_{DD} = I_D R + V_D$$

voltage drop changes by 0.1 V for  
every decade change in current.  
 $\equiv 2.3 nV_T = 0.1 \text{ V}$

$$V_2 - V_1 = 2.3nV_T \log_{10} \frac{I_2}{I_1}$$

$$I_D = \frac{(V_{DD} - V_D)}{R}$$

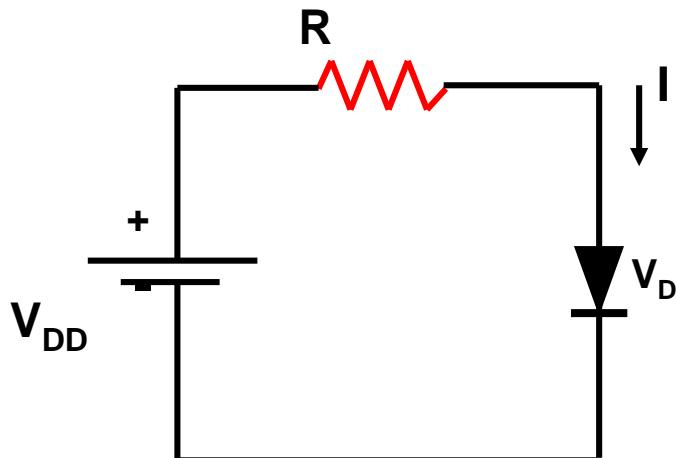
$$V_2 = V_1 + 0.1 \log_{10} \frac{I_2}{I_1}$$

# First iteration

Determine the current  $I_D$  and the diode voltage  $V_D$  for the circuit in Figure 5. With  $V = 5 \text{ V}$  and  $R = 1 \text{ k}\Omega$ . Assume that the diode has a current of 1 mA at a voltage of 0.7 V, and that its voltage drop changes by 0.1 V for every decade change in current.

To begin the iteration we assume that  $V_D = 0.7 \text{ V}$  and use the equation below to determine the current.

$$I_1 = 1 \text{ mA}, V_1 = 0.7 \text{ V}$$



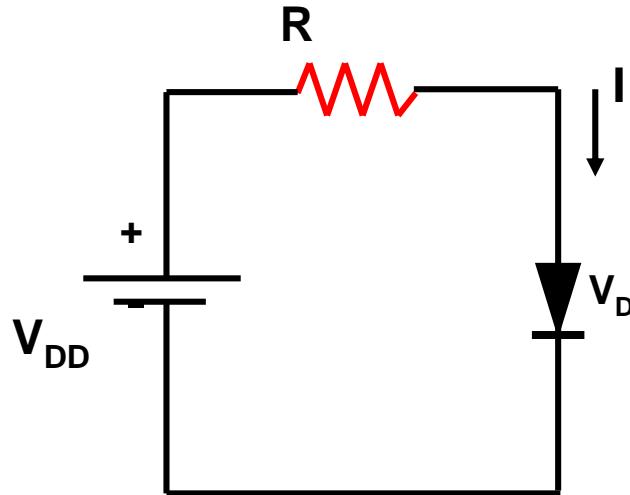
$$I_D = \frac{(V_{DD} - V_D)}{R} = \frac{(5 - 0.7)}{1k\Omega} = 4.3mA \equiv I_2$$

We then use the diode equation shown below to obtain a better estimate for  $V_D$

$$V_2 = V_1 + 0.1 \log_{10} \frac{I_2}{I_1}$$

Substituting  $V_1 = 0.7 \text{ V}$ ,  $I_1 = 1 \text{ mA}$ , and  $I_2 = 4.3 \text{ mA}$  results in  $V_2 = 0.763$ . Thus the results of the first iteration are  $I_D = 4.3 \text{ mA}$  and  $V_D = 0.763 \text{ V}$

# Second Iteration



Thus the results of the first iteration are  $I_D = 4.3$  mA and  $V_D = 0.763$  V. the second iteration proceeds in a similar manner: But this time  $I_1 = 4.3$  mA and  $V_1 = 0.763$  V.

$$I_D = \frac{(V_{DD} - V_D)}{R} = \frac{(5 - 0.763)}{1k\Omega} = 4.237mA$$

$$V_2 = 0.763 + 0.1\log_{10} \frac{4.237}{4.3} = 0.762$$

Thus, the second iteration yields  $I_D = 4.237$  mA and  $V_D = 0.762$  V. Since these values are not much different from the values obtained after the first iteration, no further iterations are necessary, and the solution is  $I_D = 4.237$  mA and  $V_D = 0.762$  V.

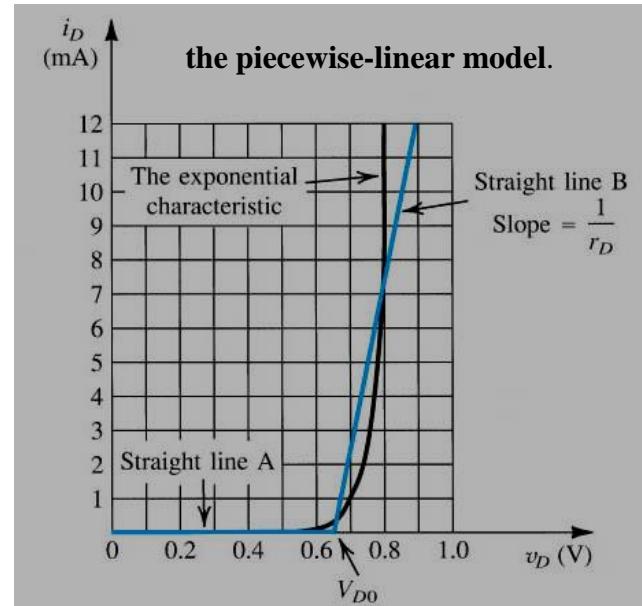
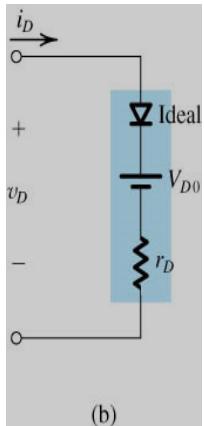
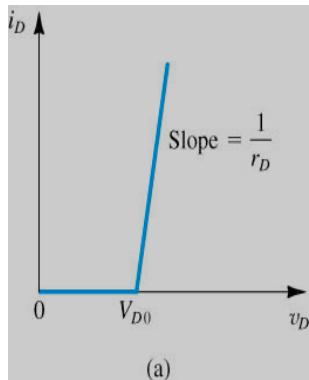
### 3.3.4 The need for Rapid Analysis

- \* *In design process*, rapid circuit analysis is necessary, not in the final conformation process.
- \* In the final conformation process, SPICE is the best choice.

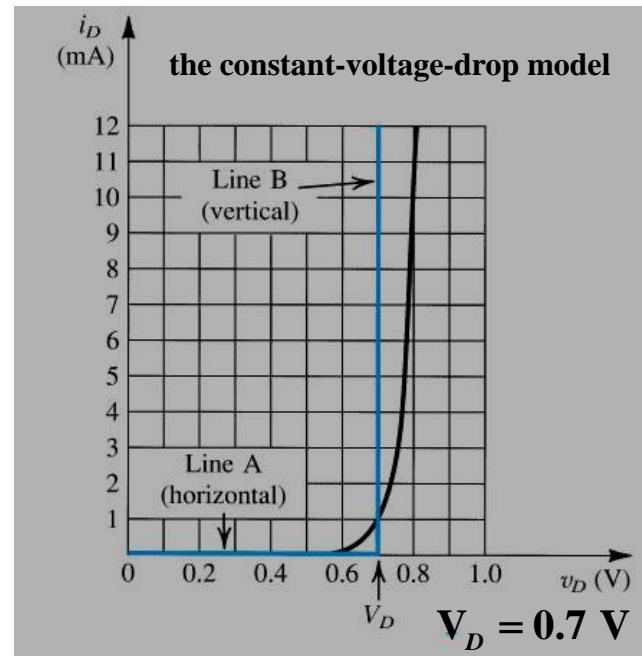
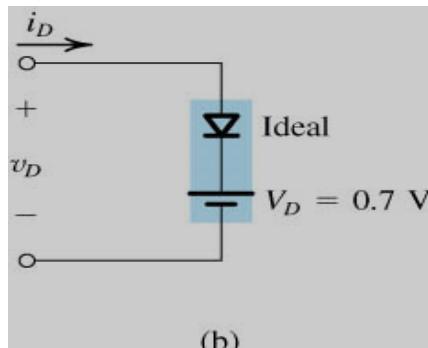
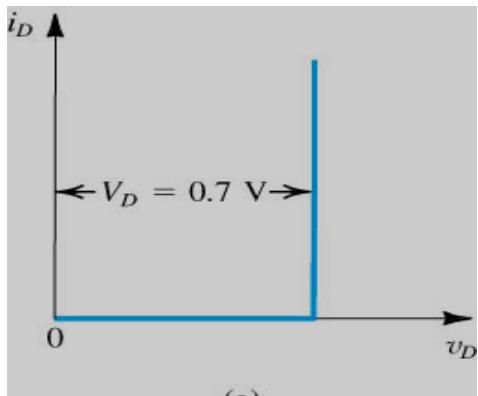
### 3.3.5 The Piecewise-Linear model

$$i_D = 0, \quad v_D \leq V_{D0}$$

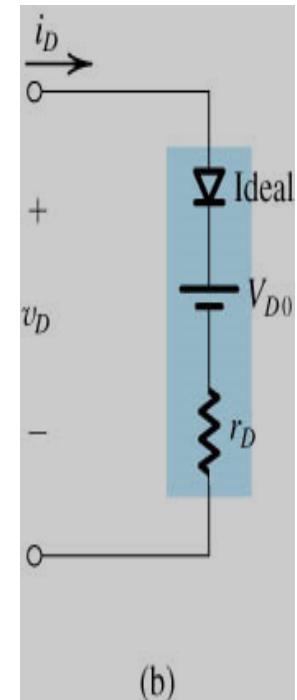
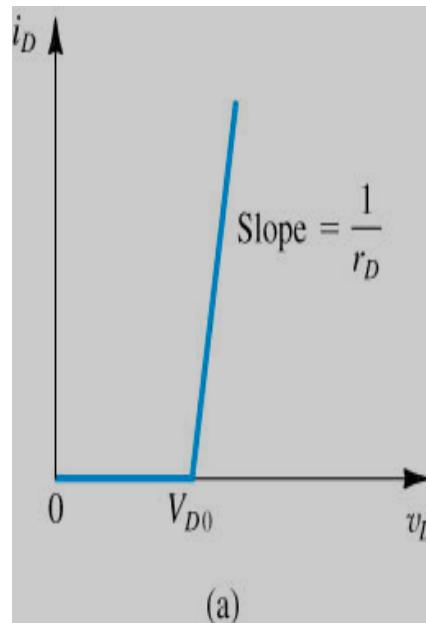
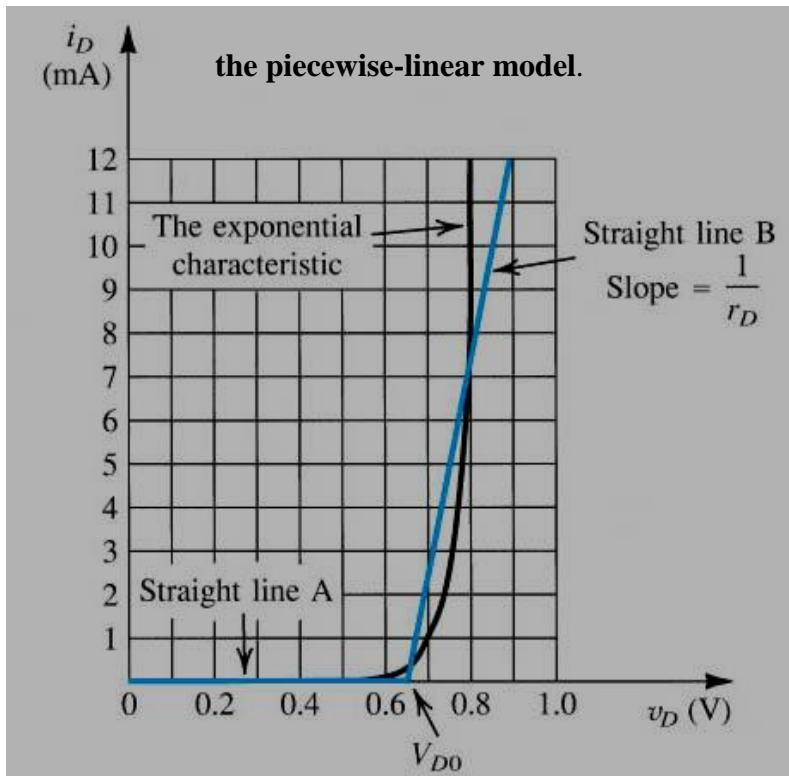
$$i_D = (v_D - V_{D0})/r_D, \quad v_D \geq V_{D0} \quad (3.8)$$



### 3.3.6 The Constant-Voltage-Drop model



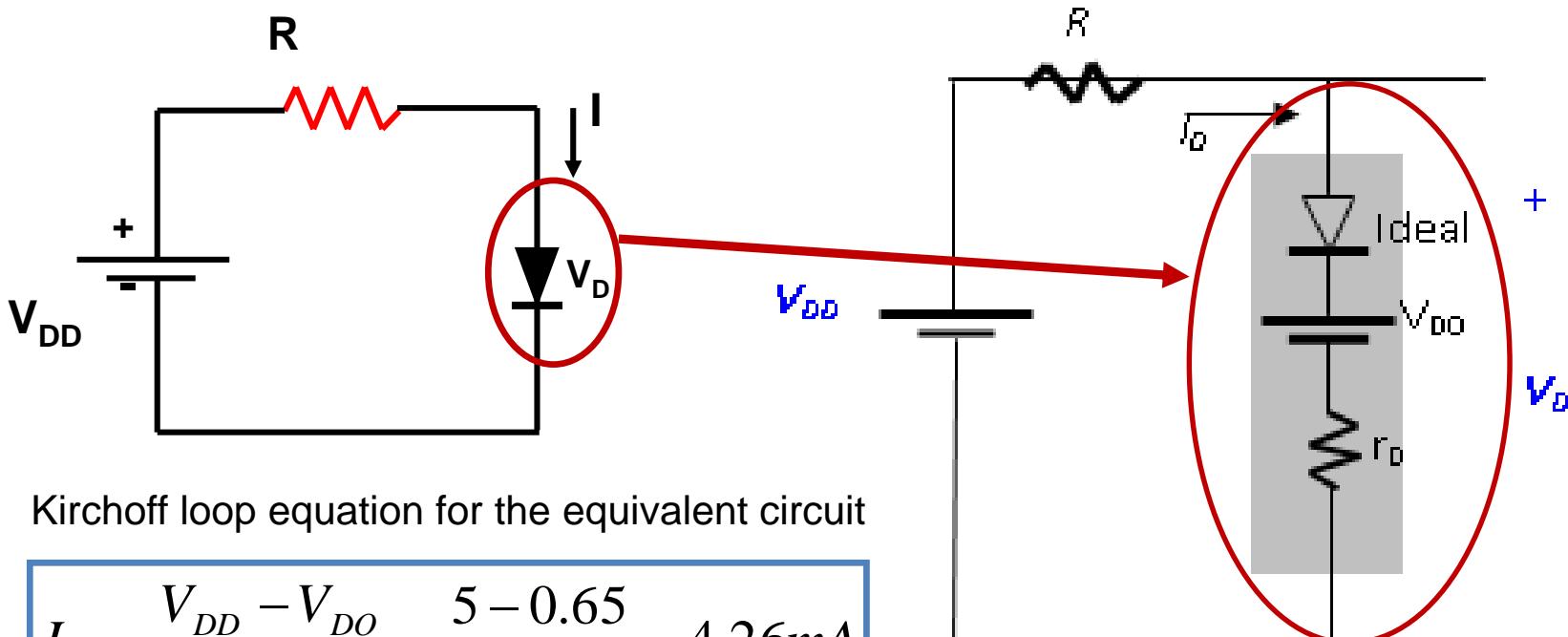
# Piecewise linear model



Where  $V_{D0}$  is the intercept of line B on the voltage axis and  $r_D$  is the inverse of the slope of line B. For the particular example shown,  $V_{D0} = 0.65$  V and  $r_D = 20 \Omega$ .

# Example 2

Repeat the problem solved earlier with iterative analysis, utilizing the piecewise-linear model. (Take  $V_{DO} = 0.65$  V and  $r_D = 20 \Omega$ )



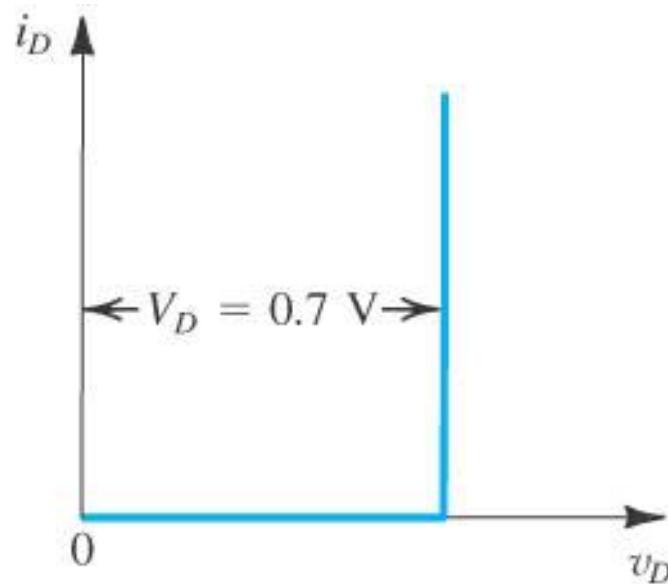
Kirchoff loop equation for the equivalent circuit

$$I_D = \frac{V_{DD} - V_{DO}}{R + r_D} = \frac{5 - 0.65}{1 + 0.02} = 4.26mA$$

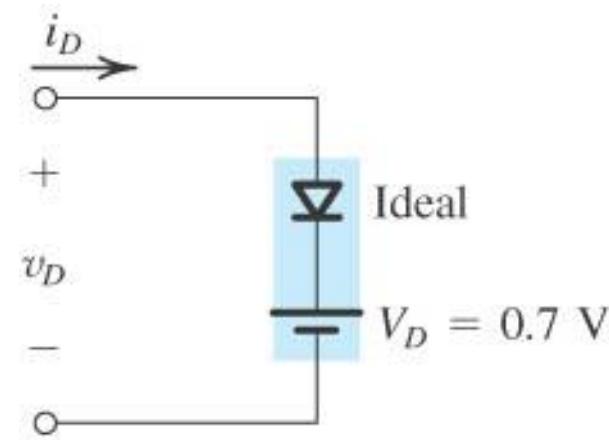
The diode voltage can now be:

$$V_D = V_{DO} + I_D r_D = 0.65 + 4.26 \times 0.02 = 0.735V$$

# The Constant-Voltage-Drop Model



(a)

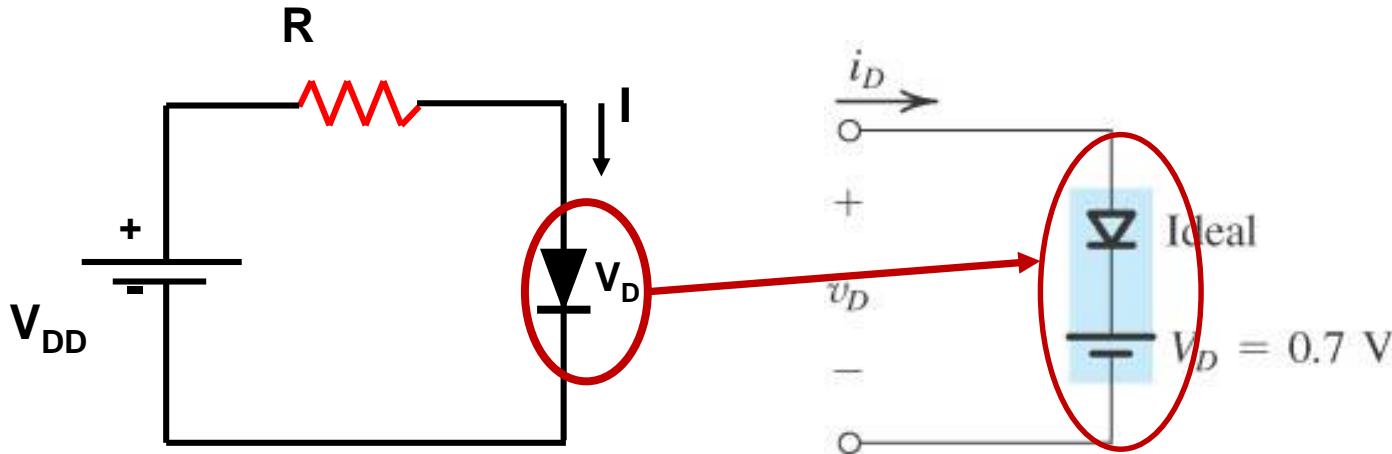


(b)

The constant-voltage-drop model of the diode forward characteristics and its equivalent-circuit representation.

# Example 3

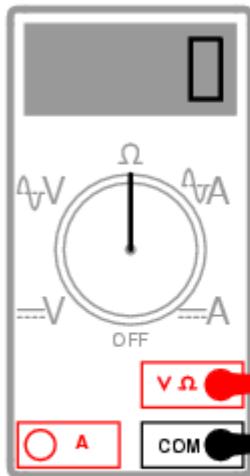
Determine the current  $I_D$  and the diode voltage  $V_D$  for the circuit in Figure 5. With  $V = 5 \text{ V}$  and  $R = 1 \text{ k}\Omega$ .



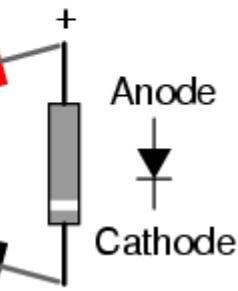
Let's solve the same problem using the constant-drop-voltage model.  
We obtain;

$$I_D = \frac{V_{DD} - 0.7}{R} = \frac{5 - 0.7}{1} = 4.3mA$$

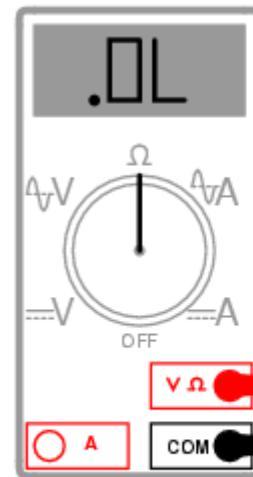
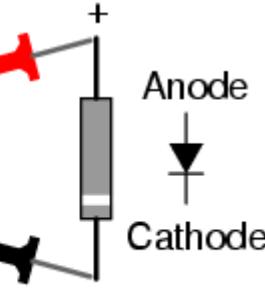
# Testing a diode



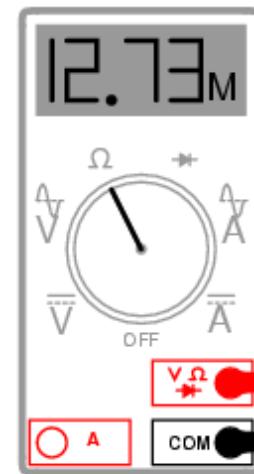
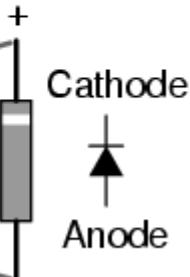
Diode is forward-biased by ohmmeter -- shows 0 ohms of resistance.



Diode is forward-biased by meter -- shows a forward voltage drop of 0.548 volts.



Diode is reverse-biased by ohmmeter -- shows infinite resistance.

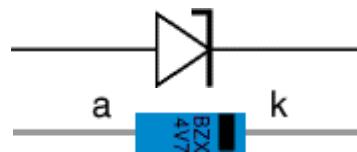
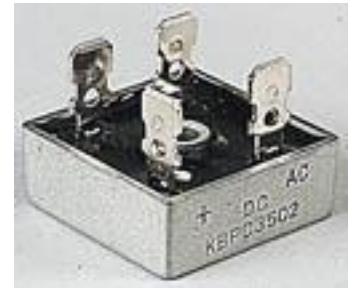


Test voltage too low to forward-bias the diode, so the meter registers a high resistance figure.



# Types of diodes

- **Rectifier diodes**
- Designed to carry high current necessary in power supplies.
- **Signal diodes**
- Optimized for speed, they are used in low current and switching applications.
- **Zener diode**
- Designed to conduct in the reverse direction with a precise breakdown voltage, they are used in power supply regulation.



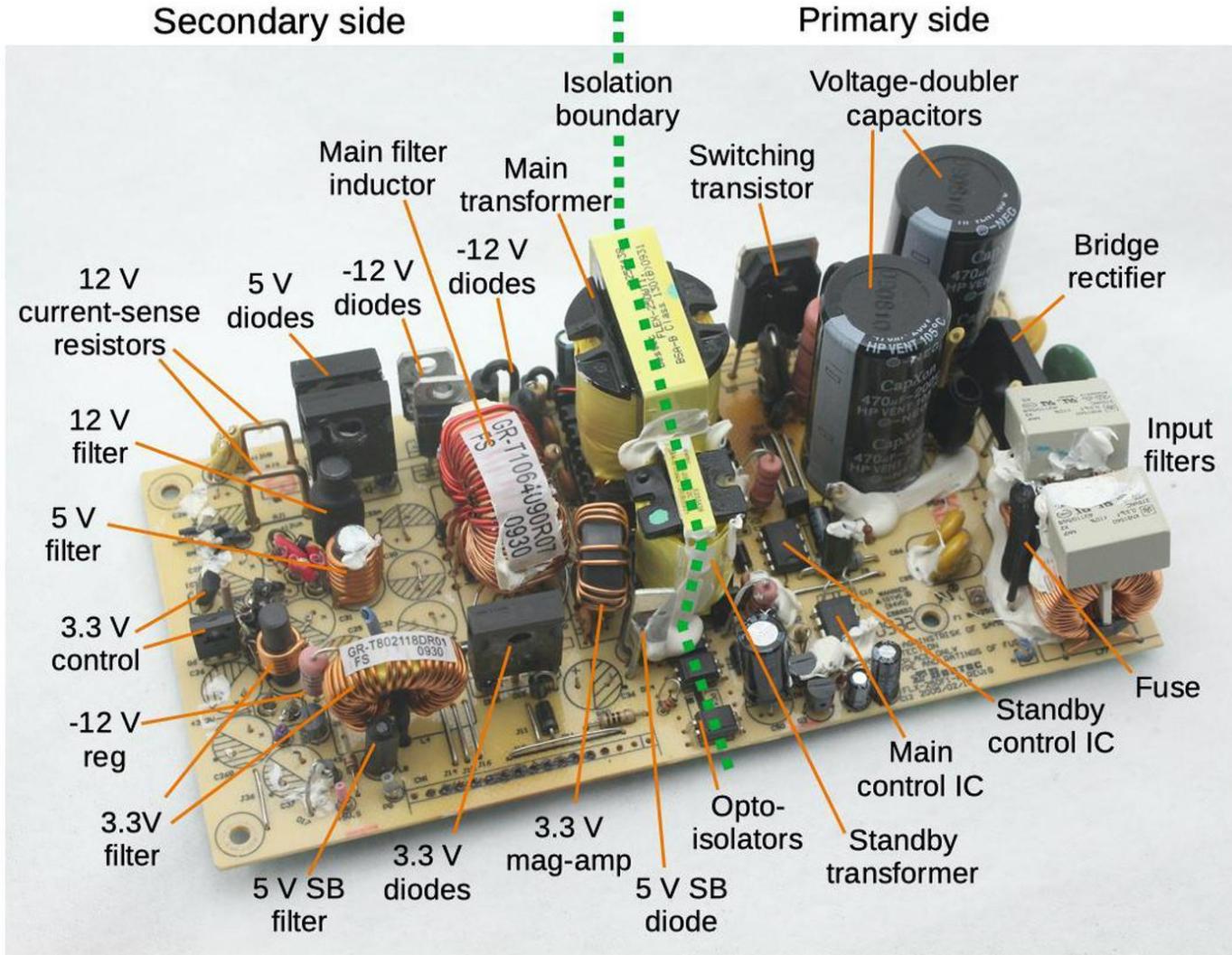
*Zener diode*

Anode



Cathode

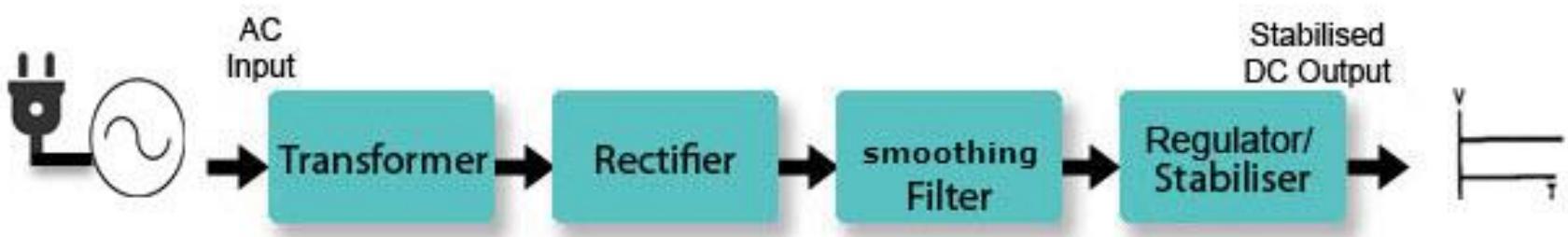
# A simple application of the diode



# DC Power Supply Unit



# Rectification: converting AC to DC

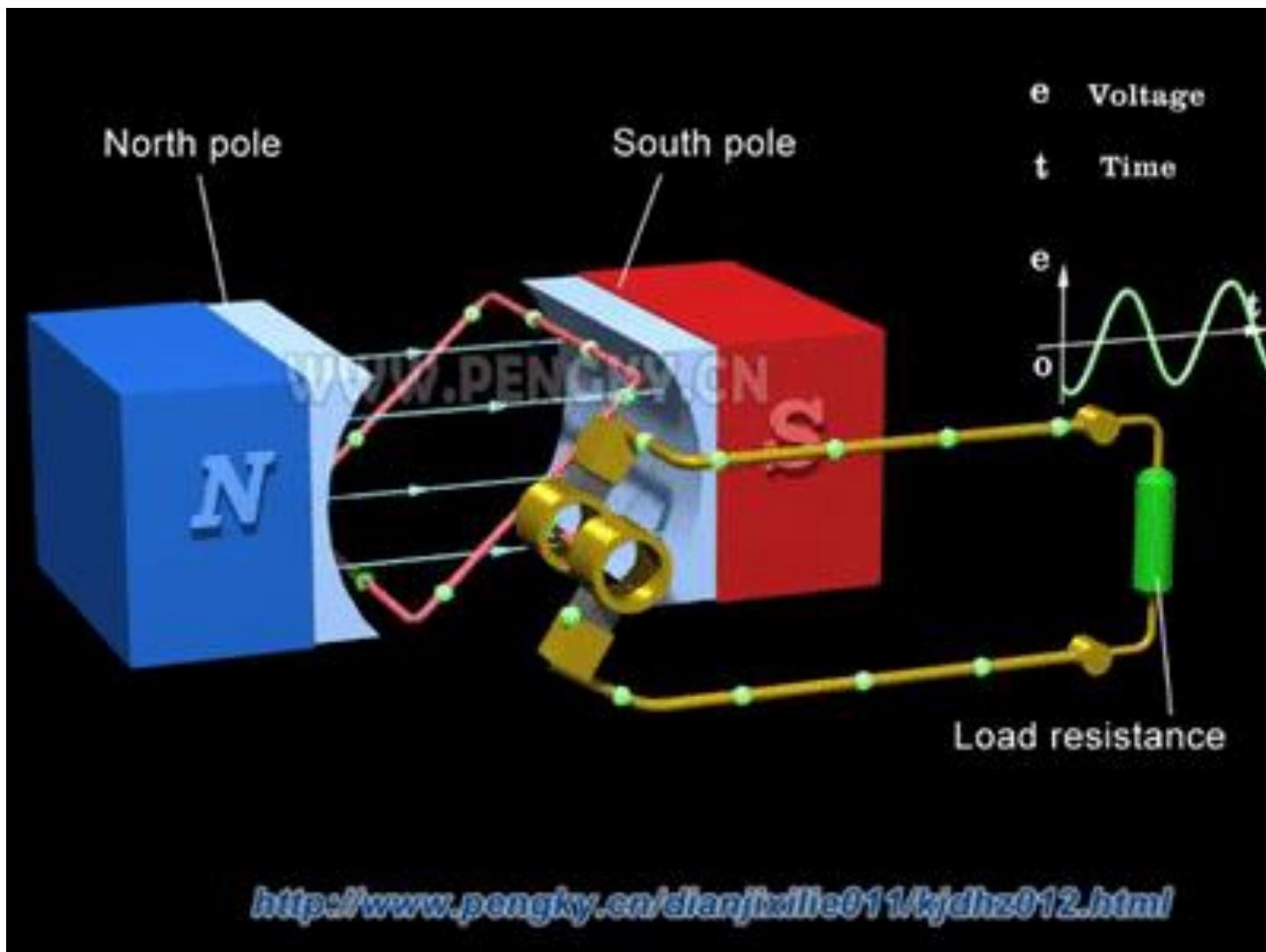


Power Supply Block Diagram

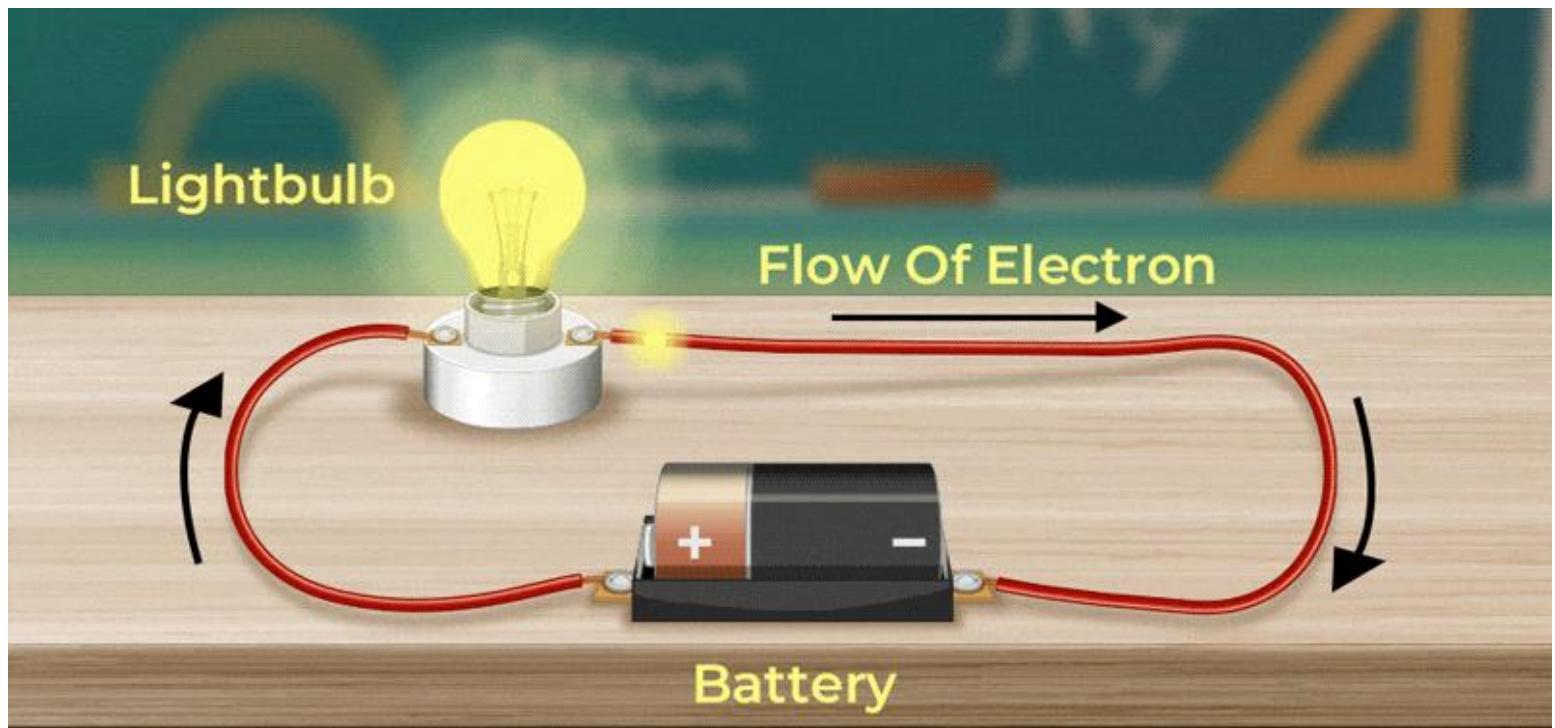
# Getting DC back out of AC

- AC provides a means for us to **distribute** electrical power, but most devices actually **want** DC
  - bulbs, toasters, heaters, fans don't care: plug straight in
  - sophisticated devices care because they have **diodes** and **transistors** that require a certain **polarity**
    - rather than oscillating polarity derived from AC
    - this is why battery orientation matters in most electronics
- Use diodes to “rectify” AC signal
- Simplest (half-wave) rectifier uses one diode:

# Alternating Current



# Direct Current



# Direct current and alternating current

## Direct Current (DC)

Unidirectional flow of charge

- Battery
- Dynamo
- Rectification from Alternating Current (AC)

Usually has a constant value

Used for low voltages

## Alternating Current (AC)

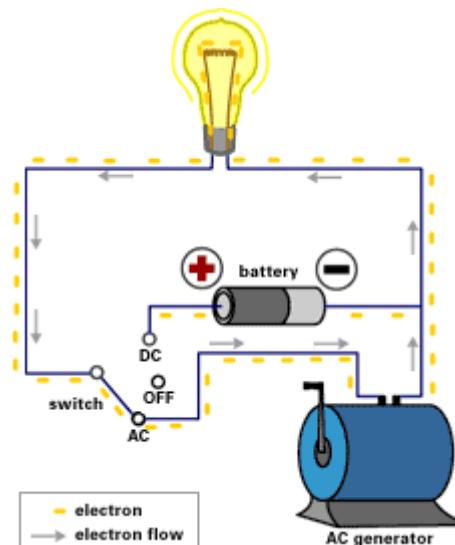
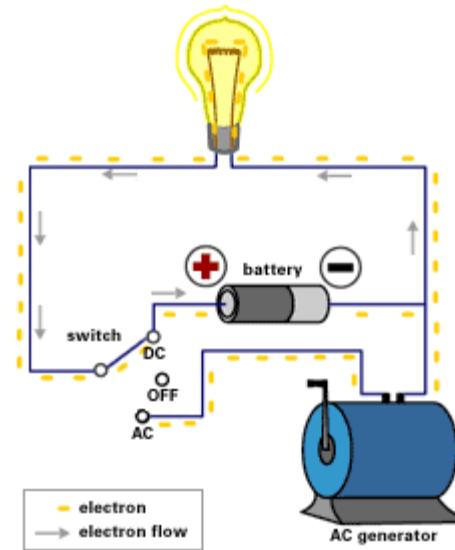
Electric flow of charge that changes cyclic

- Alternators
- Houses

Usually is a sine wave

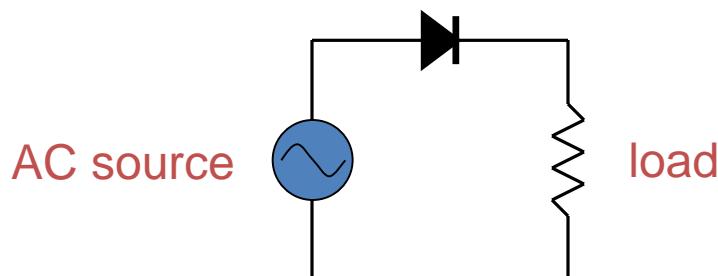
High voltages

$$V_{RMS} = \frac{V}{\sqrt{2}}$$

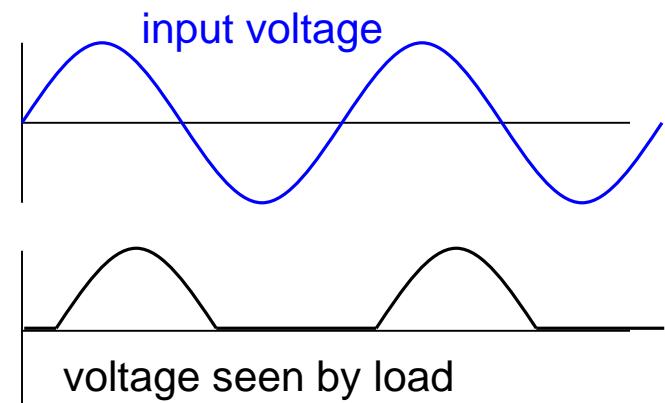


# Getting DC back out of AC

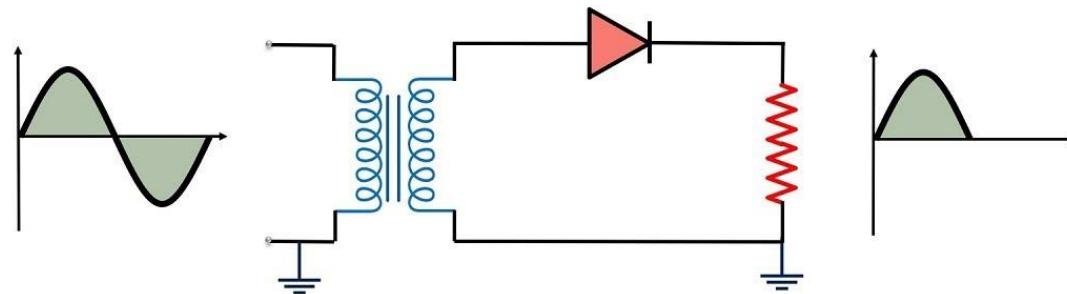
- Use diodes to “rectify” AC signal
- Simplest (half-wave) rectifier uses one diode:



diode only conducts  
when input voltage is positive

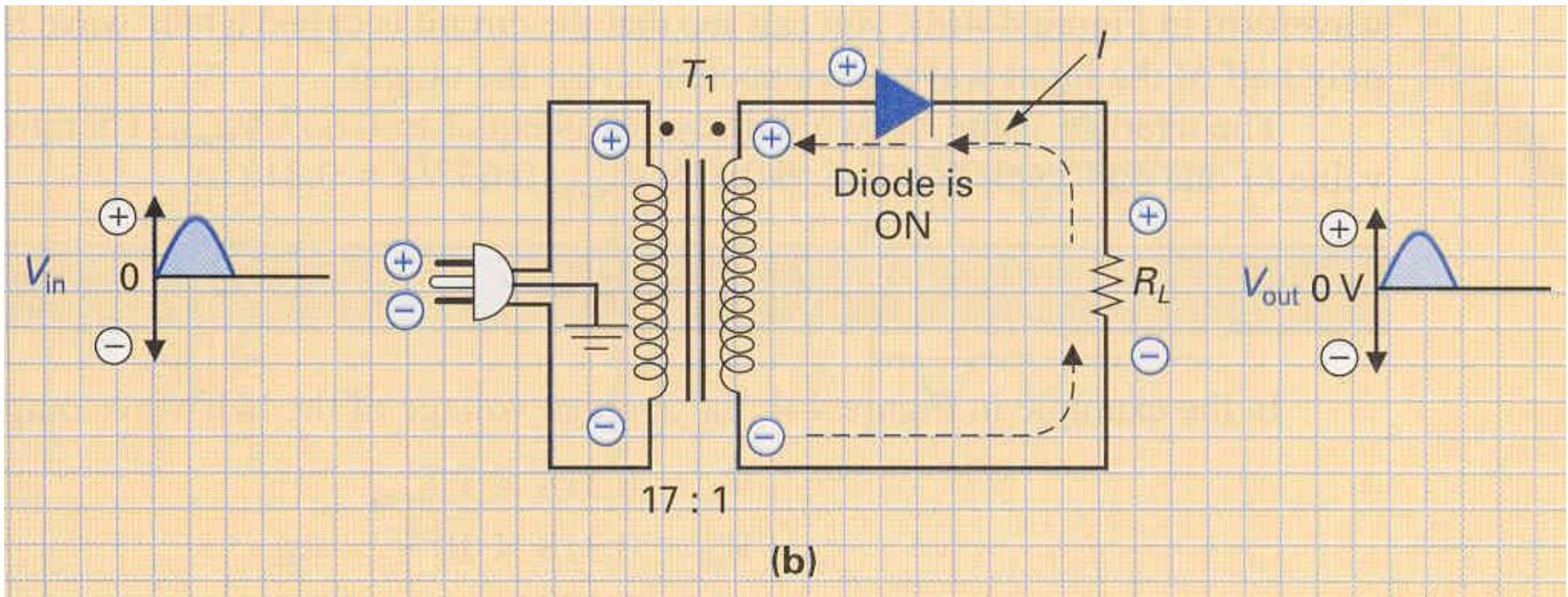


# What is a Half Wave Rectifier?



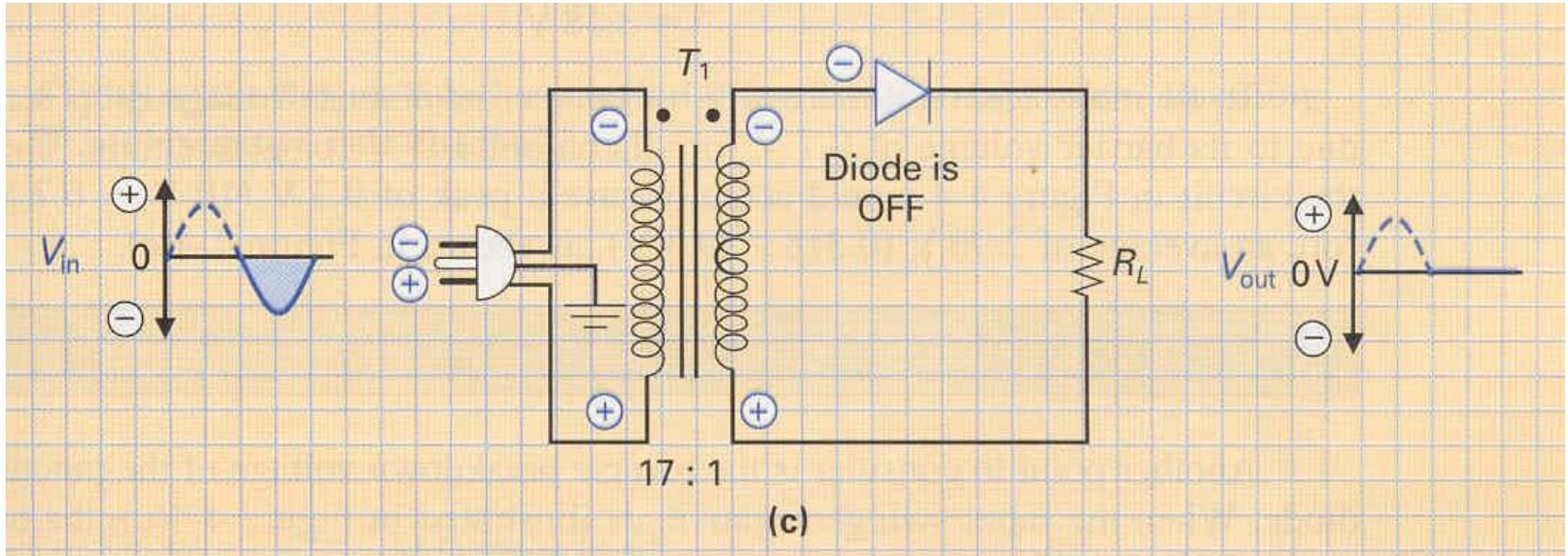
Circuit Globe

# Half-wave rectifier

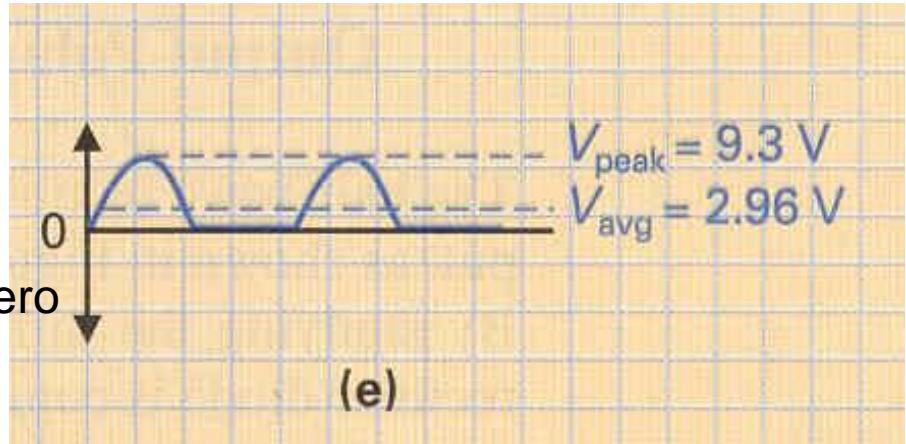


When the sinusoidal input voltage goes positive, the diode is forward-biased and conducts current to the load resistor

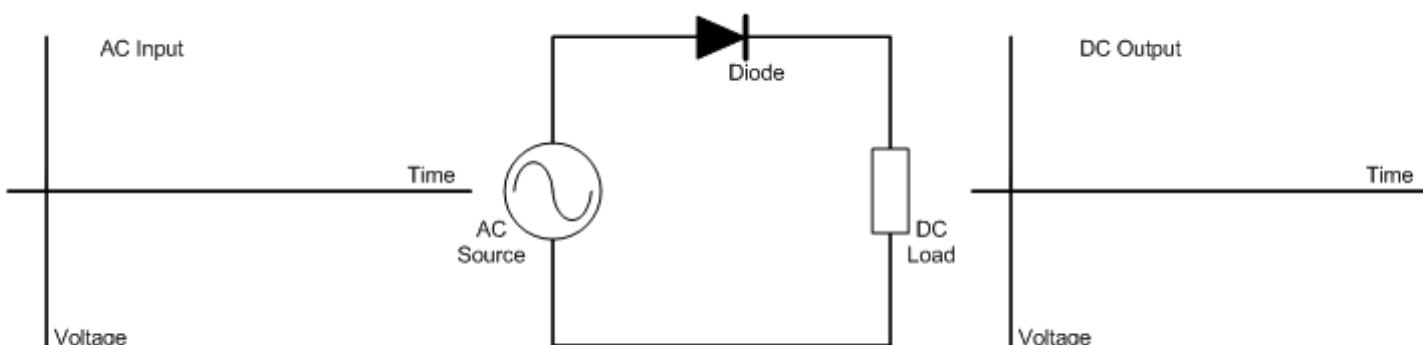
# Half-Wave Rectifier



When the input voltage goes negative during the second half of its cycle, the diode is reverse-biased. There is no current, so the voltage across the load resistor is zero



# Half-Wave Rectifier

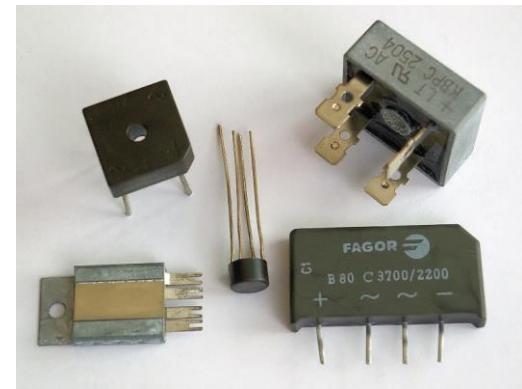
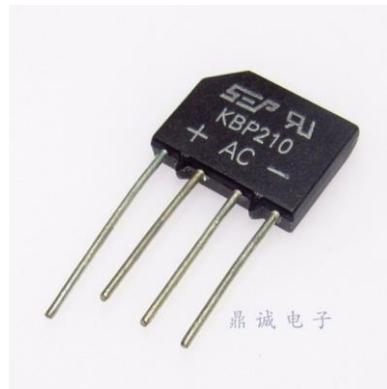
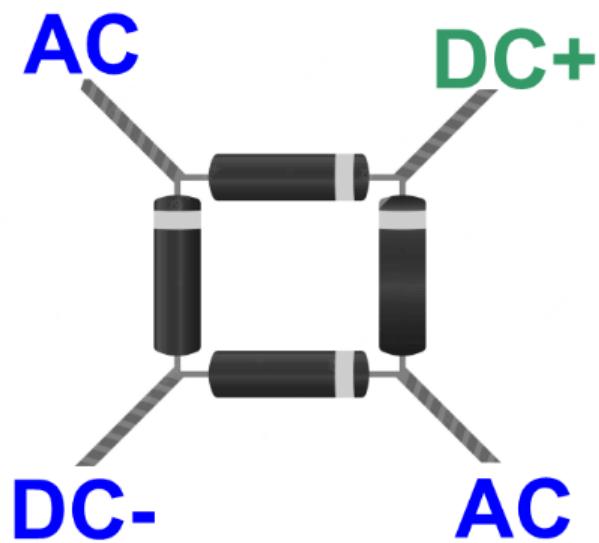
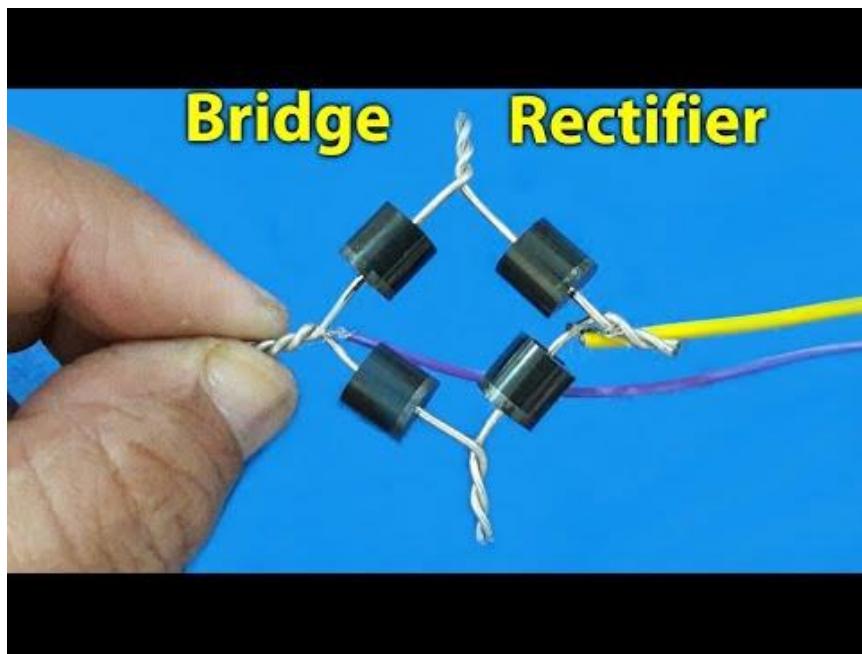


# Precautions

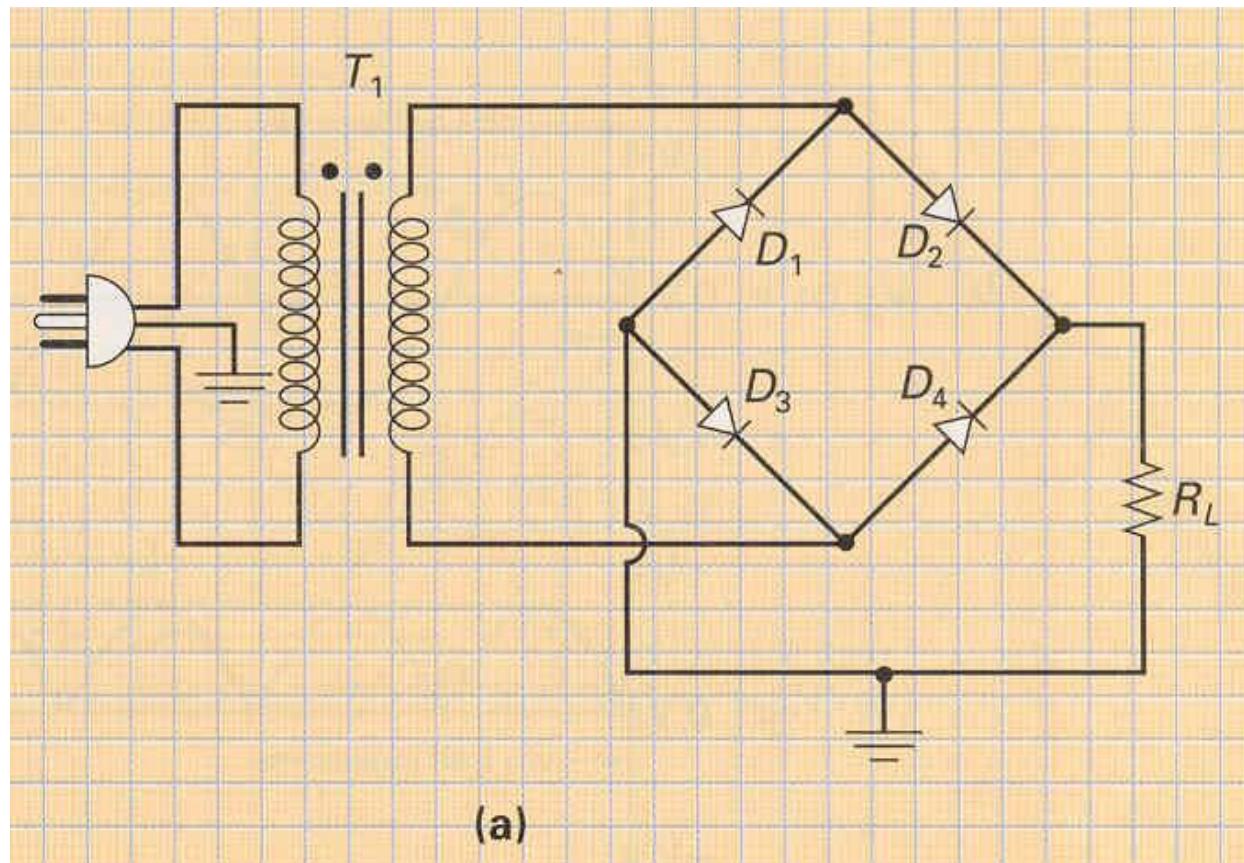
- In selecting diodes for rectifier design, two important parameters must be specified: the current handling capability required of the diode, determined by the largest current the diode is expected to conduct,
- The peak inverse voltage (PIV) that the diode must be able to withstand without breakdown, determined by the largest reverse voltage that is expected to appear across the diode.
- It is usually prudent, however to select a diode that has a reverse breakdown voltage at least 50 % greater than the expected PIV.

# Doing Better: Full-wave Diode Bridge

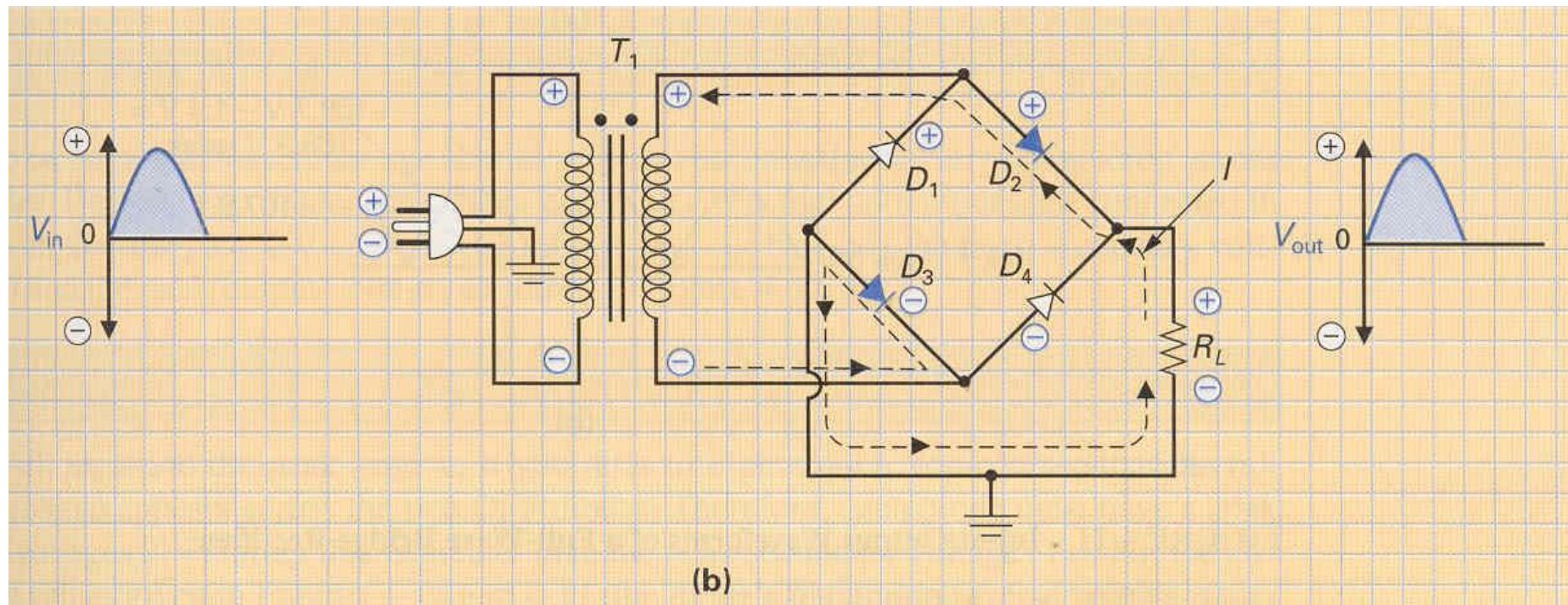
- The diode in the rectifying circuit simply prevented the negative swing of voltage from conducting
  - but this wastes half the available cycle
  - also very irregular (bumpy): far from a “good” DC source
- By using **four** diodes, you can recover the negative swing:



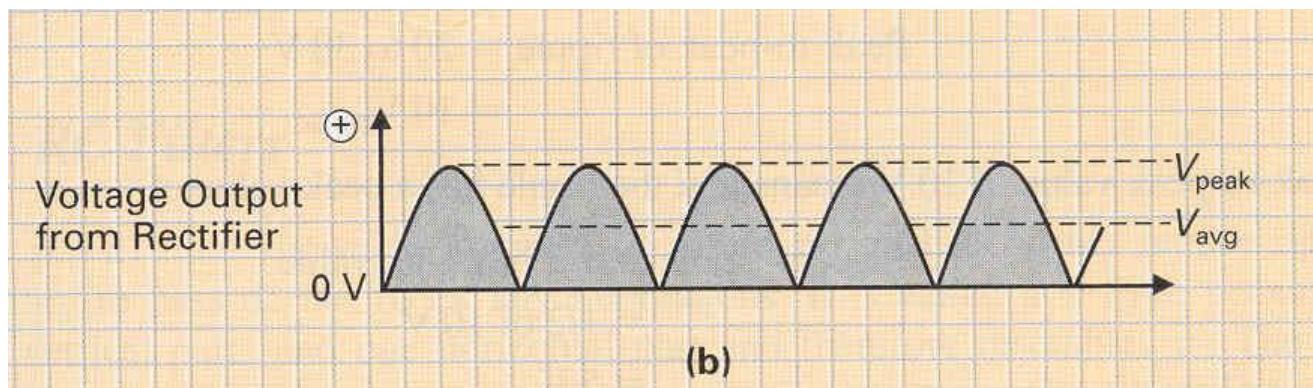
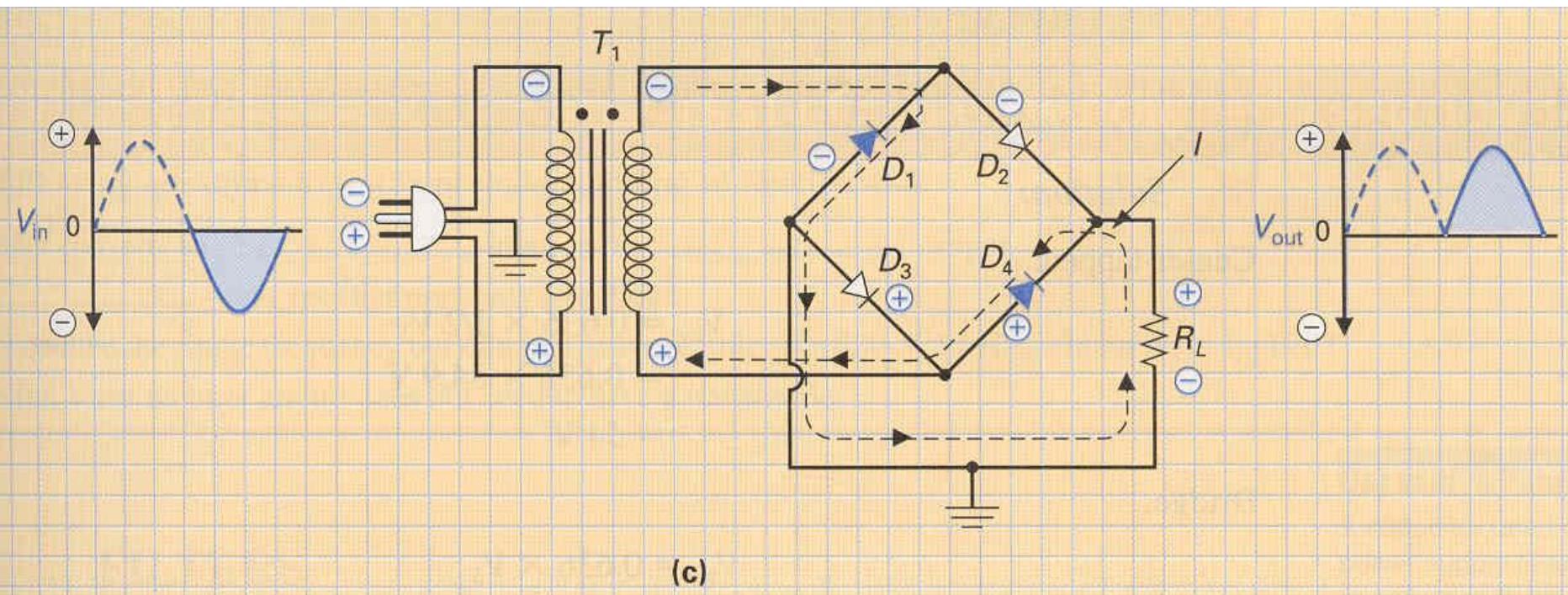
# Bridge (Full wave rectifier)



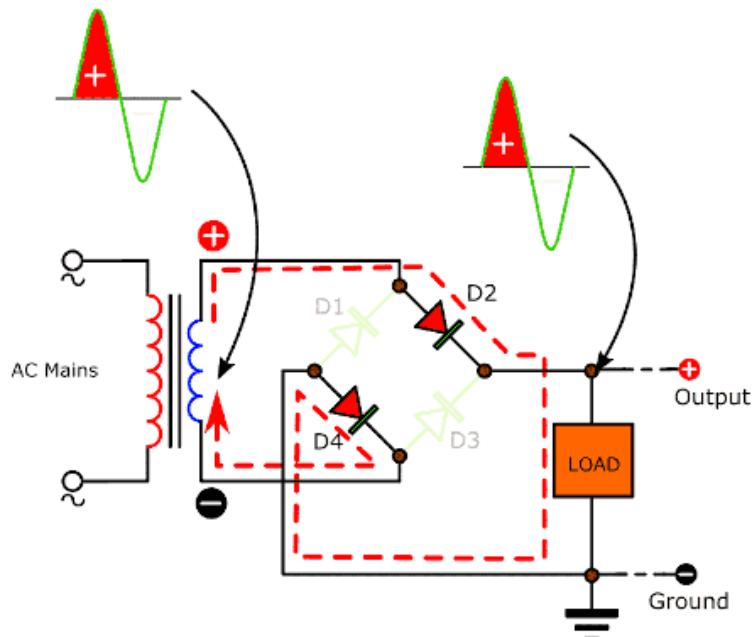
# Bridge (Full wave rectifier)



# Bridge (Full wave rectifier)

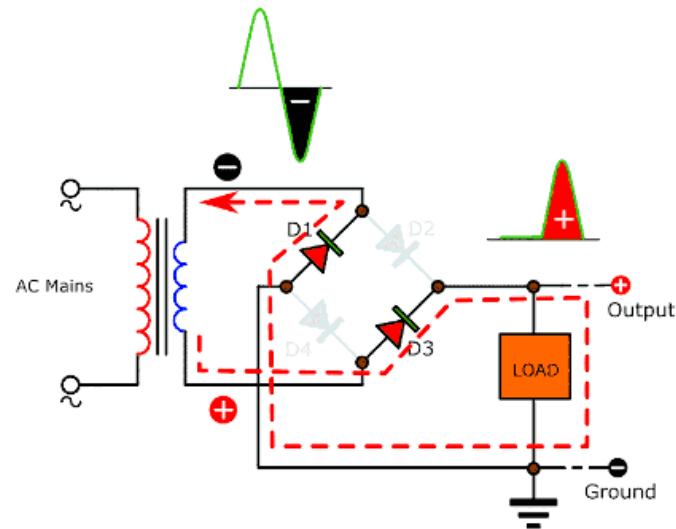


# FULL WAVE BRIDGE RECTIFIER



ElecCircuit.com

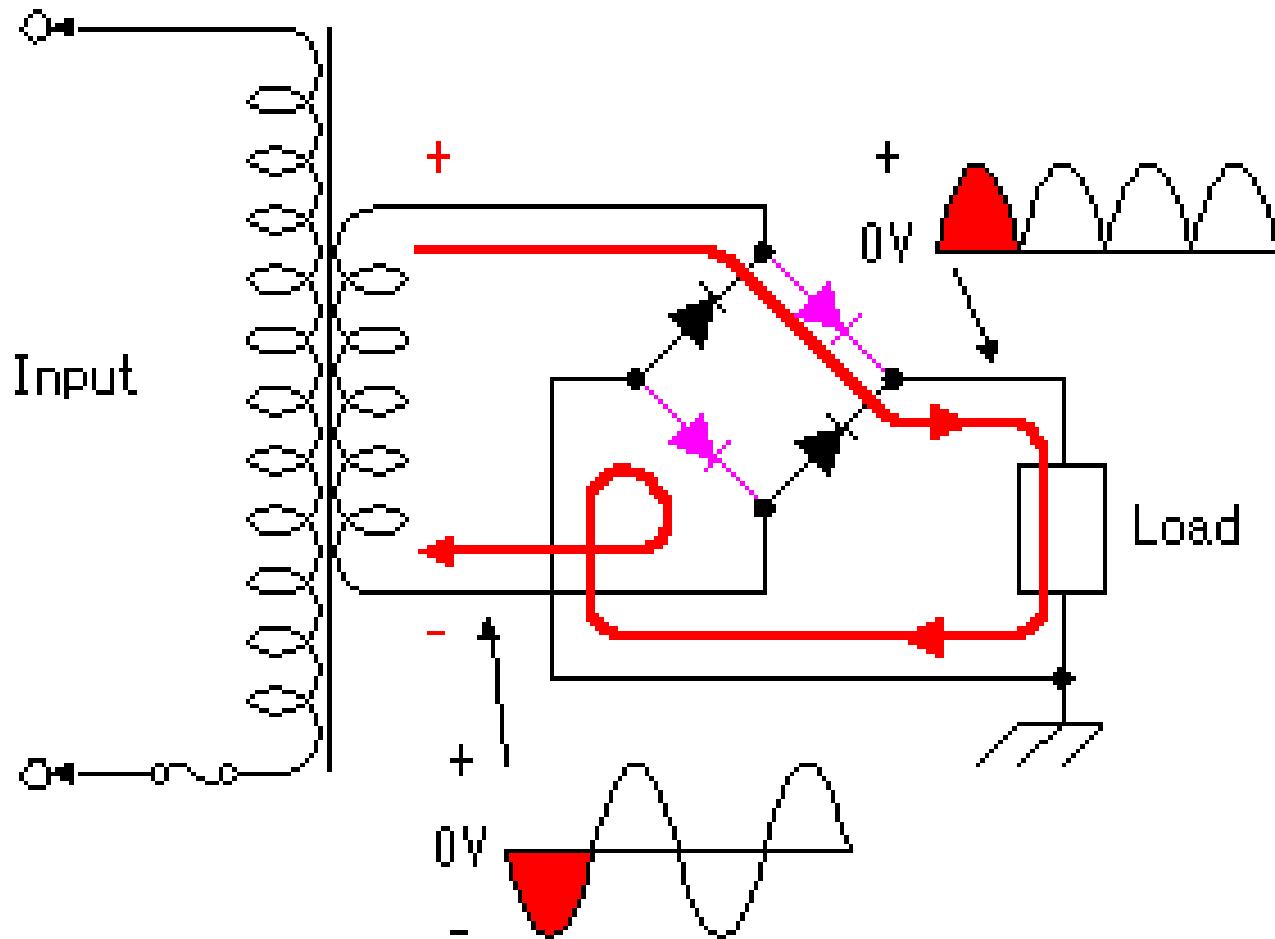
The working of bridge diodes with positive voltage



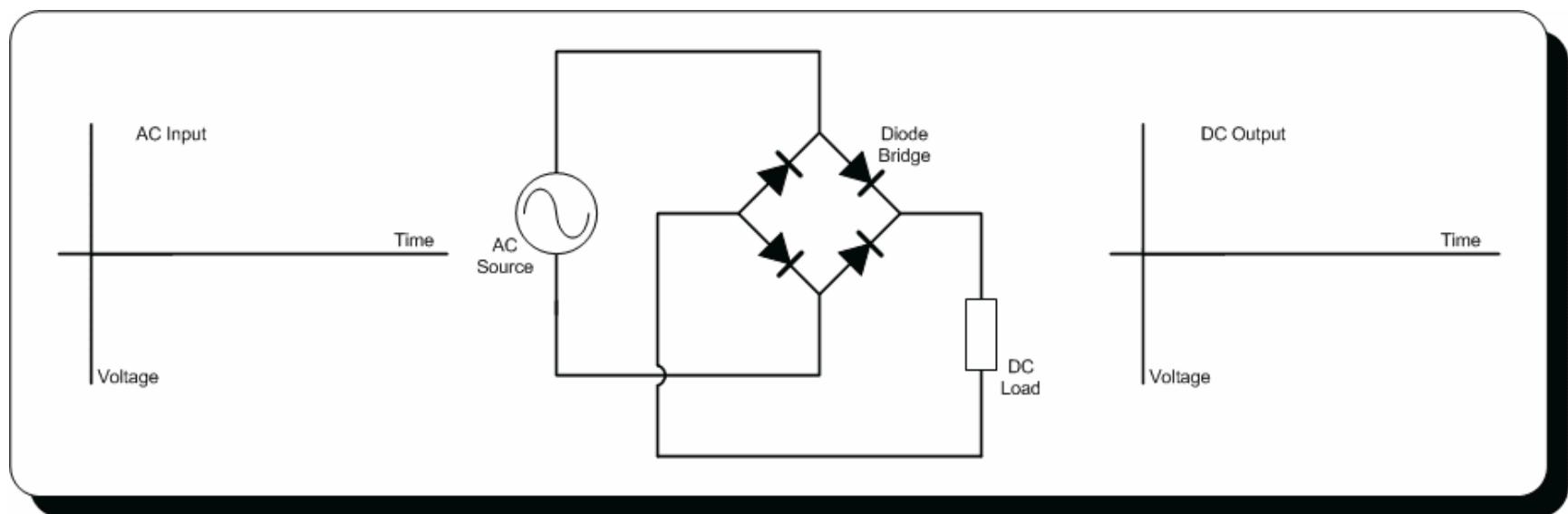
ElecCircuit.com

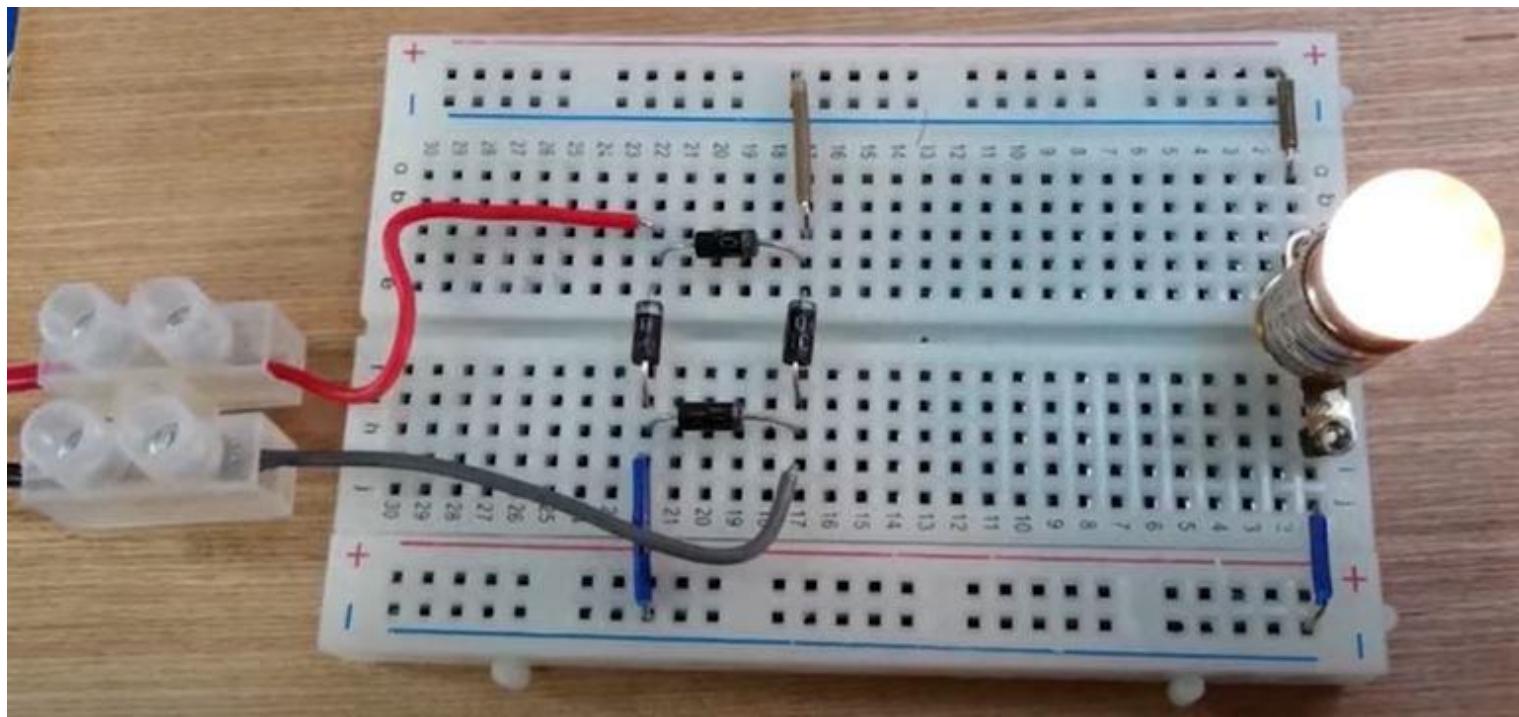
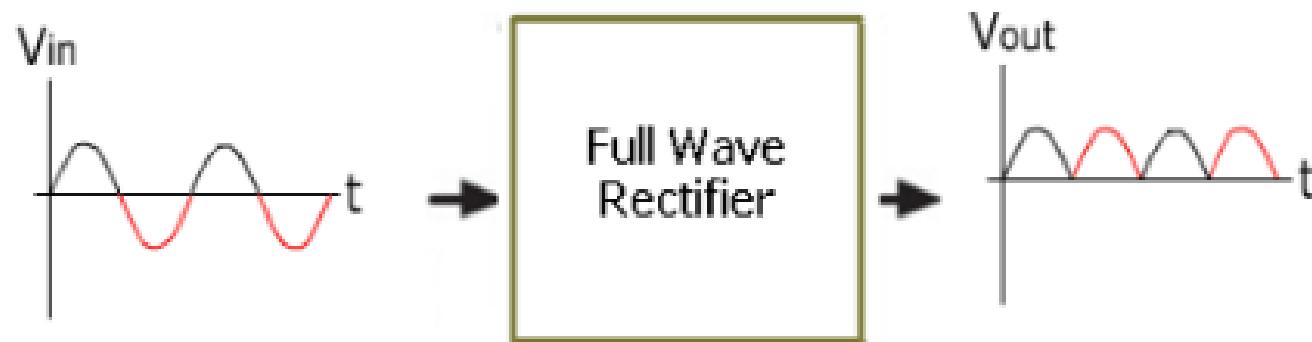
The working of bridge diodes with negative voltage

# FULL WAVE BRIDGE RECTIFIER



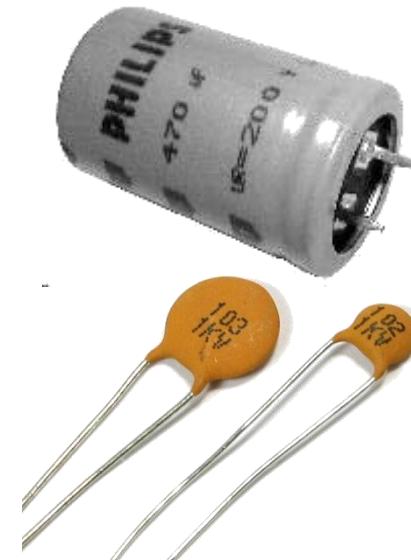
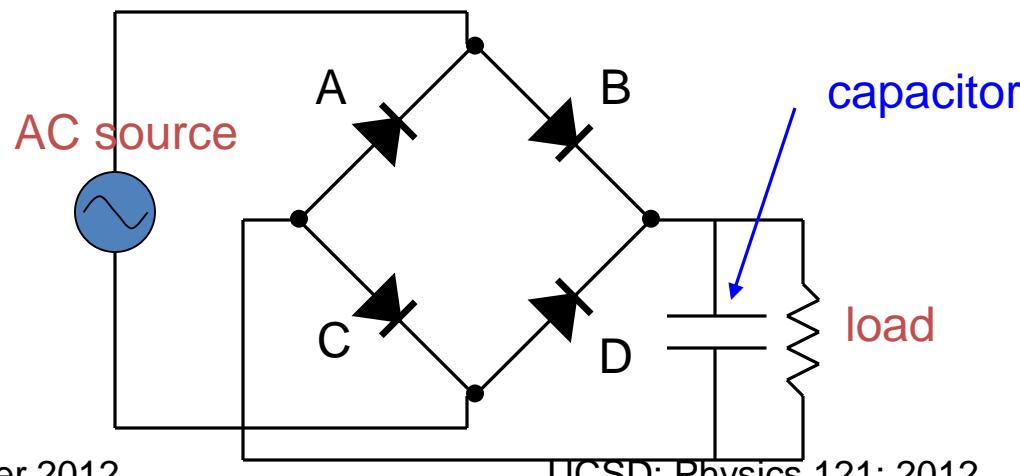
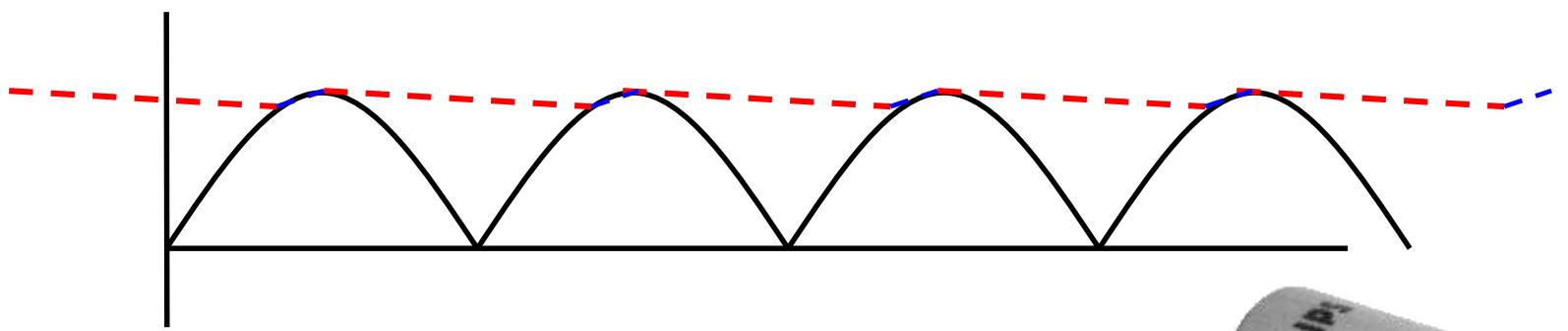
# FULL WAVE BRIDGE RECTIFIER

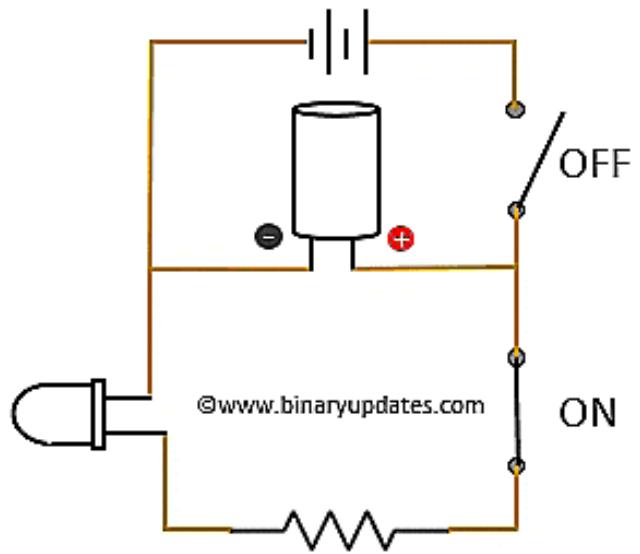




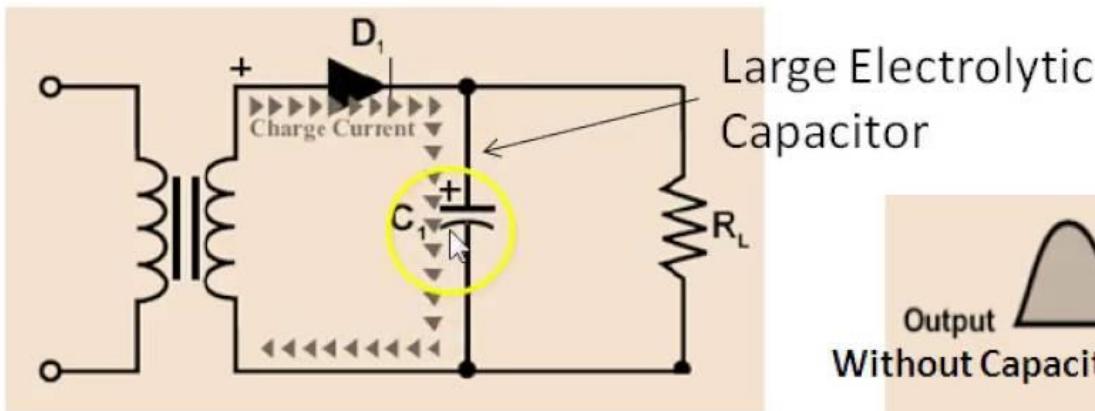
# Smoothing out the Bumps

- Still a bumpy ride, but we can smooth this out with a **capacitor**
  - capacitors have capacity for storing charge
  - acts like a **reservoir** to supply current during low spots
  - voltage regulator smoothes out remaining ripple

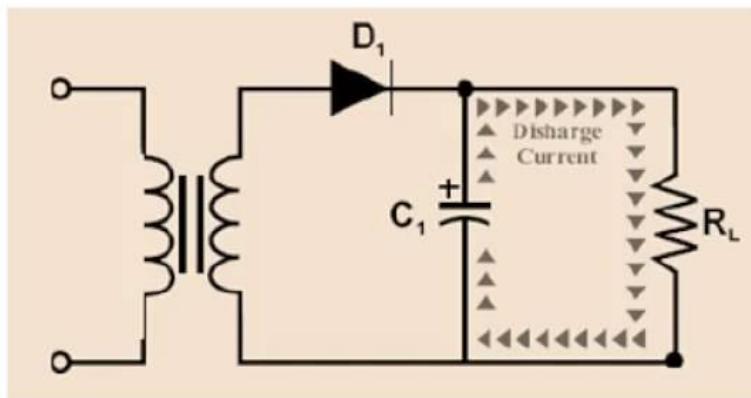




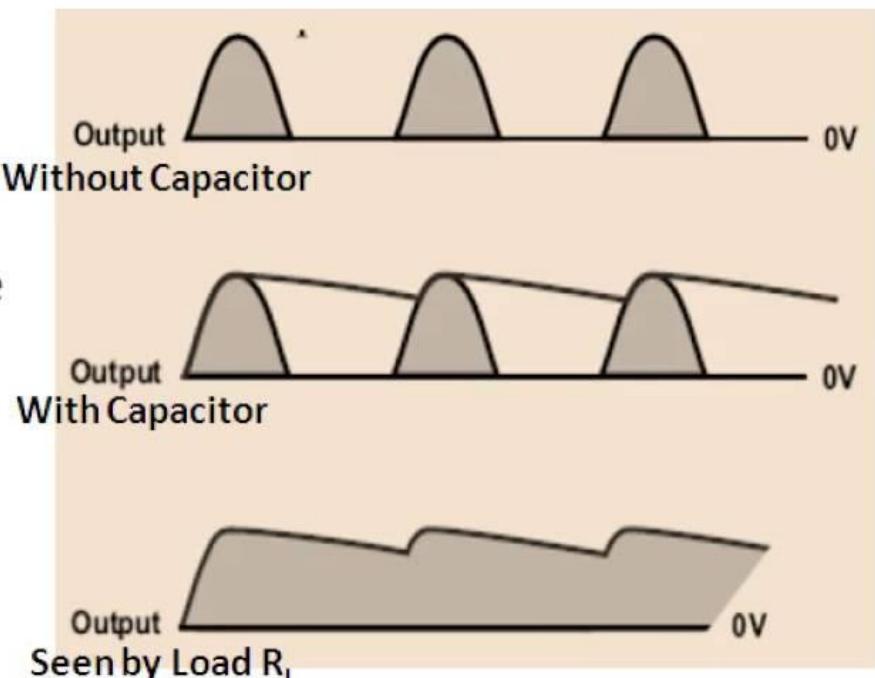
# Half-wave rectifier with capacitor input filter



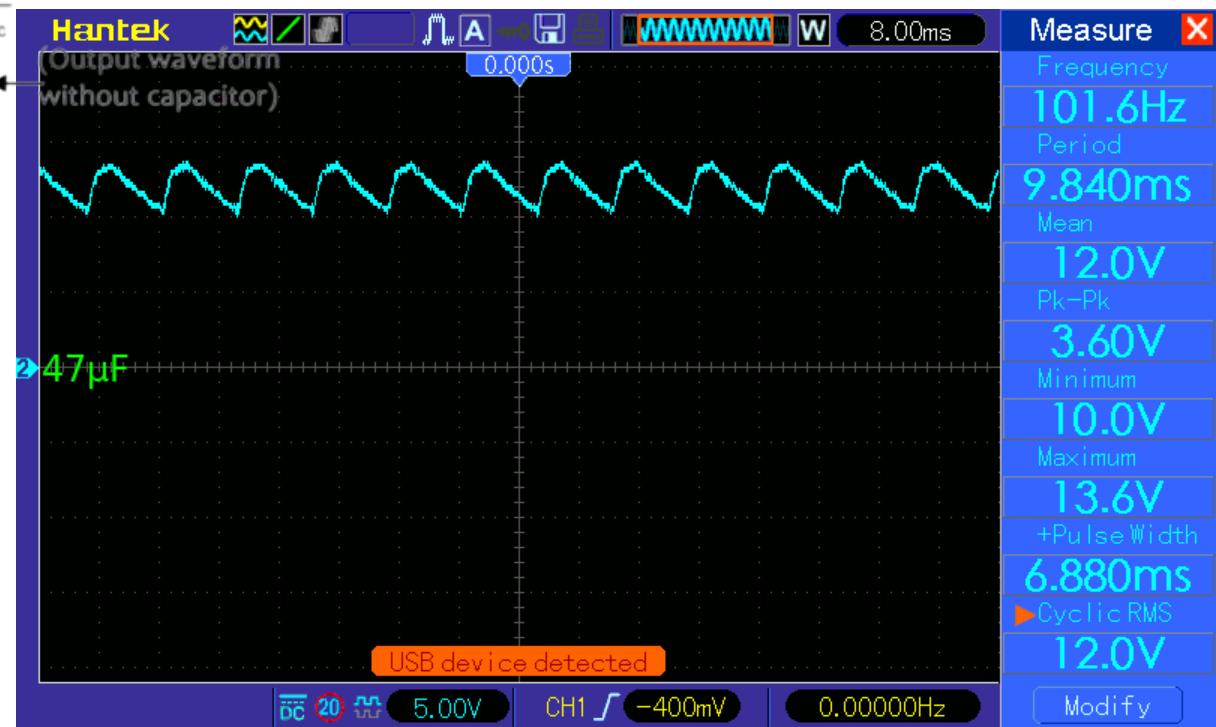
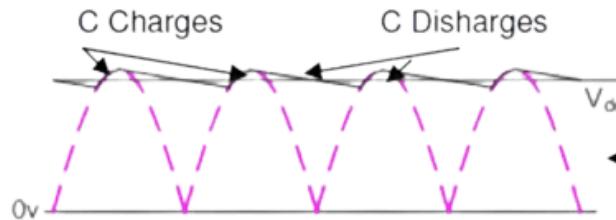
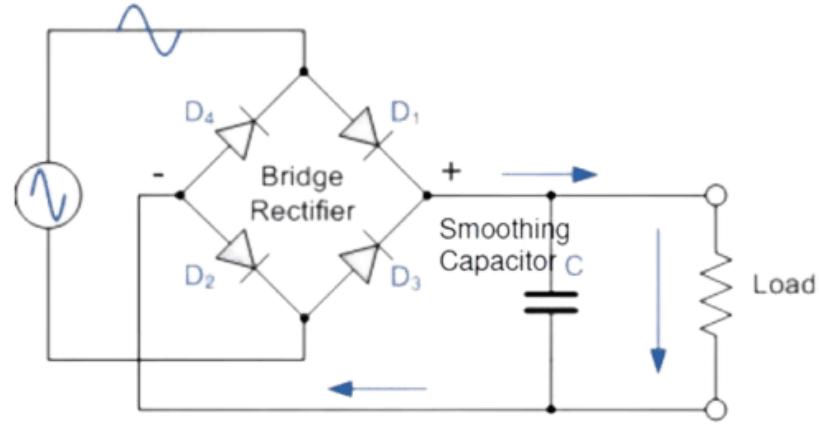
Half Wave Rectifier : Positive Half Cycle



Half Wave Rectifier : Negative Half Cycle



$$V \approx V$$



This difference is  
 $= V_{pp}$

Smoothing  
Capacitor

swagatam innovations

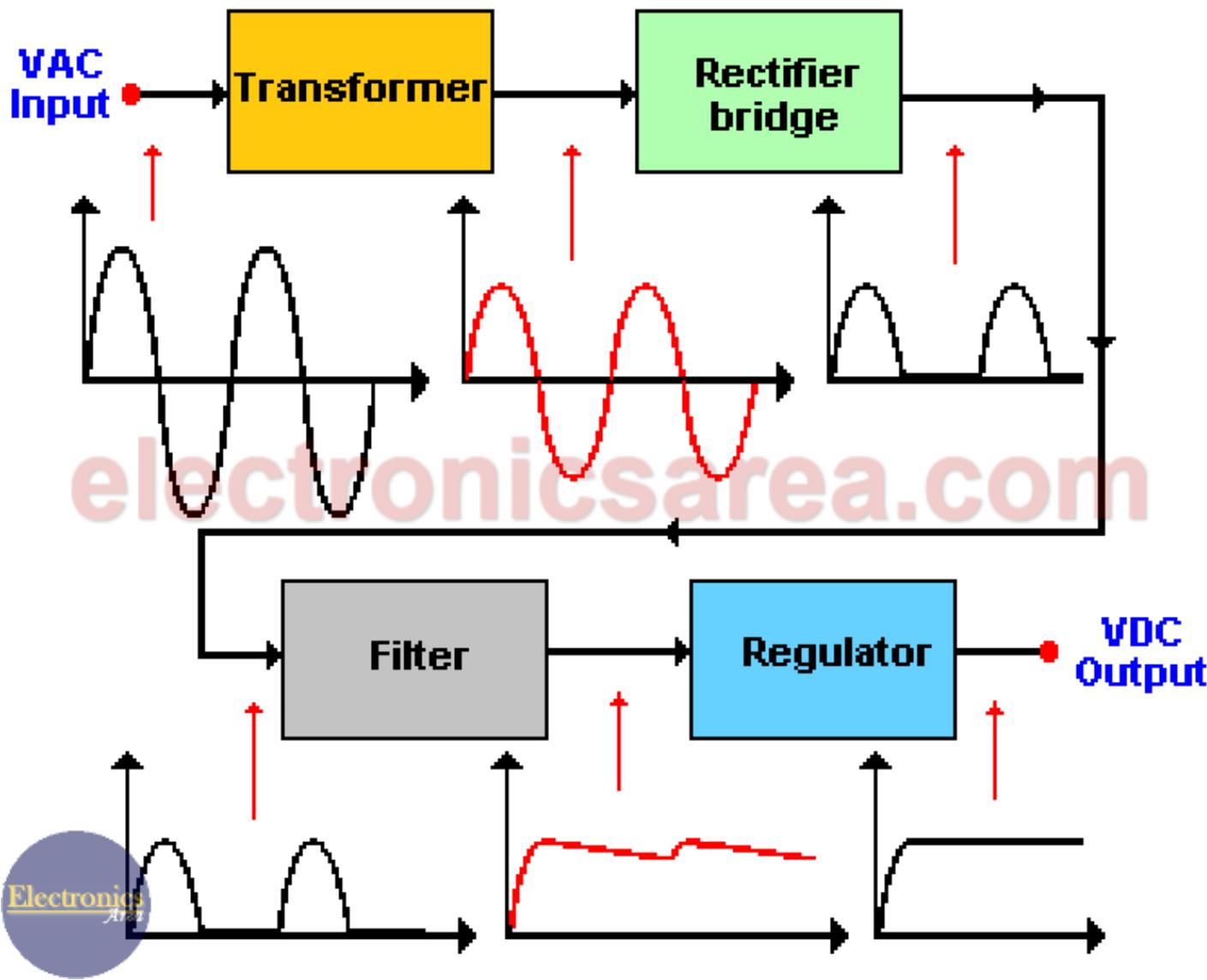
Waveform after rectification  
and Smoothing through a Capacitor

## Full Wave Bridge Rectifier

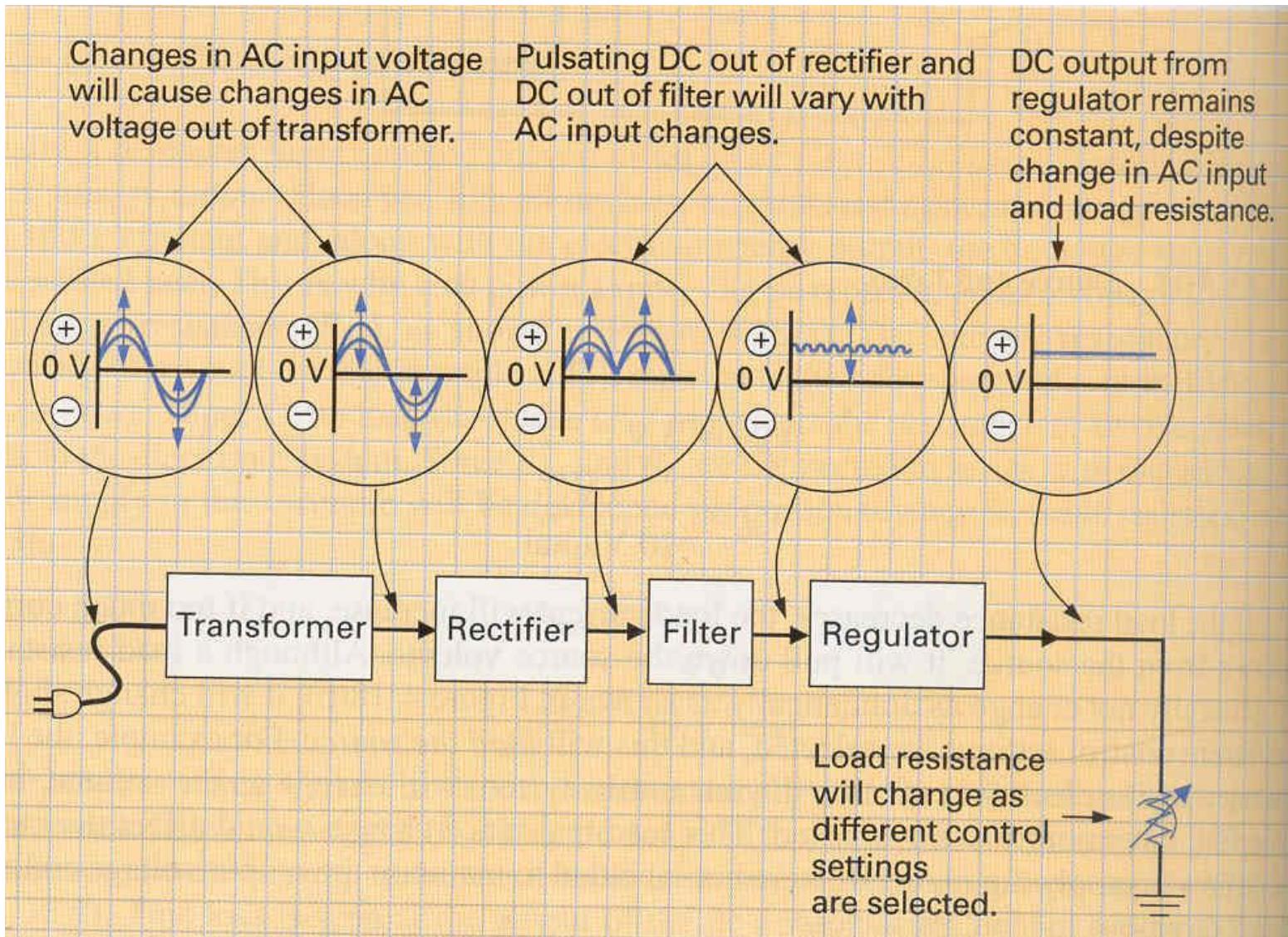


# SCIENCE PROJECT

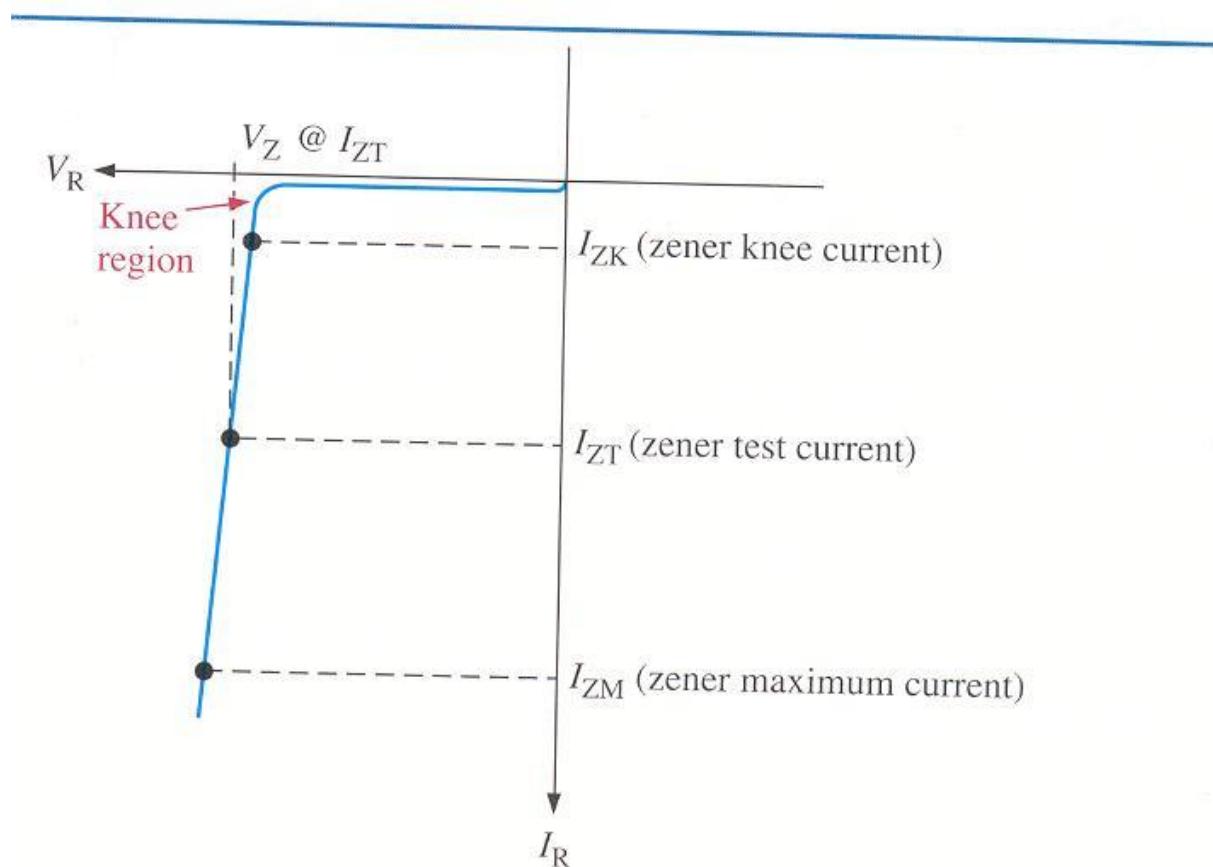




# The need for voltage regulators



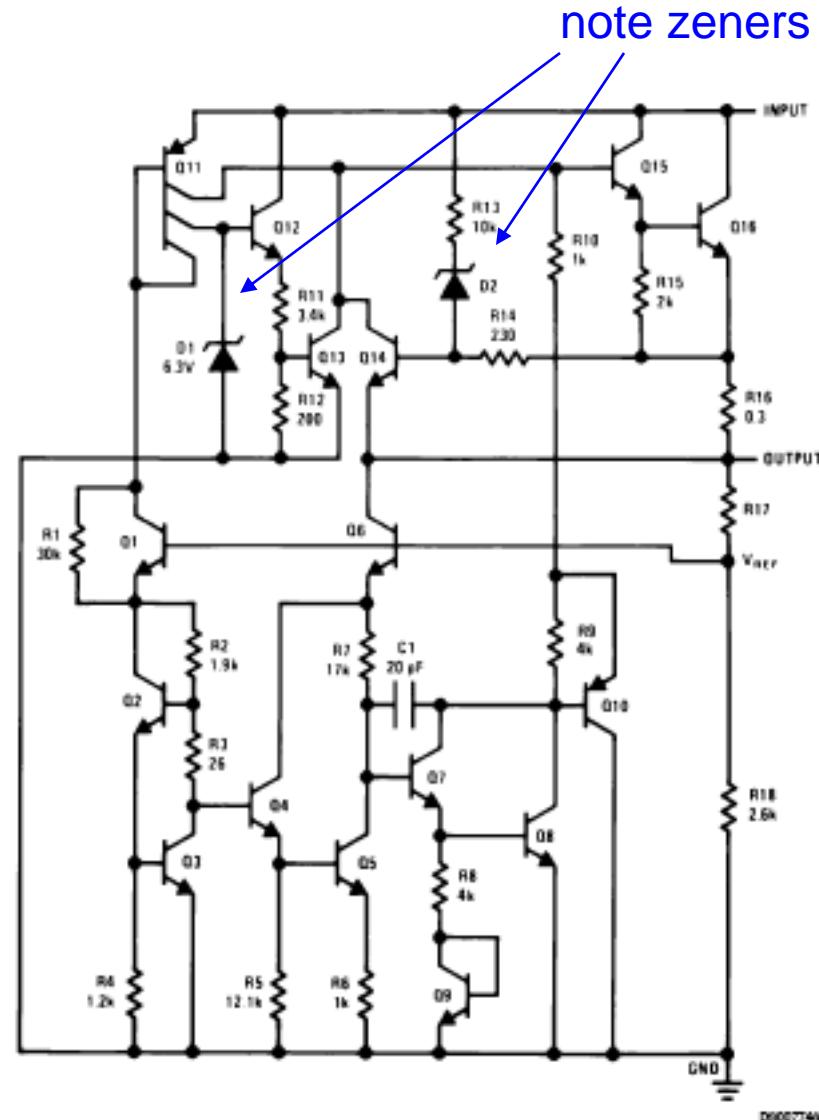
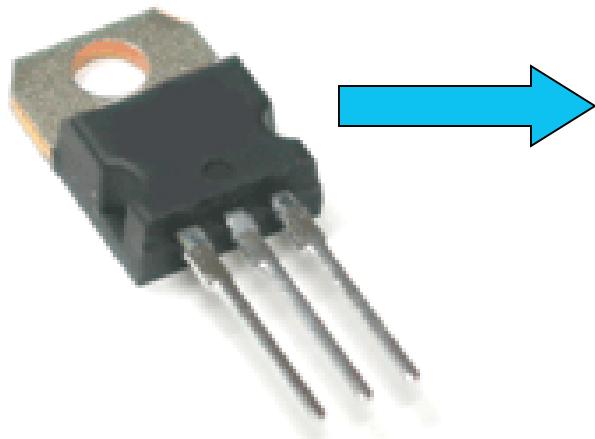
# Zener diode (I-V characteristics)



Zener diodes can be used for voltage regulation in non critical applications.

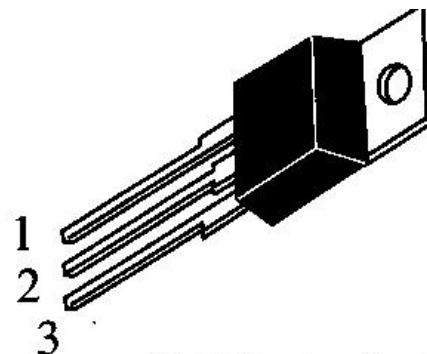
# Voltage Regulator IC

- Can trim down ripply voltage to precise, rock-steady value
- Now things get complicated!
  - We are now in the realm of integrated circuits (ICs)
- ICs are whole circuits in small packages
- ICs contain resistors, capacitors, diodes, transistors, etc.



# IC regulators

Type number	Output voltage
7805	+5.0 V
7806	+6.0 V
7808	+8.0 V
7809	+9.0 V
7812	+12.0 V
7815	+15.0 V



(All 3 plastic types)

Pin 1. Input

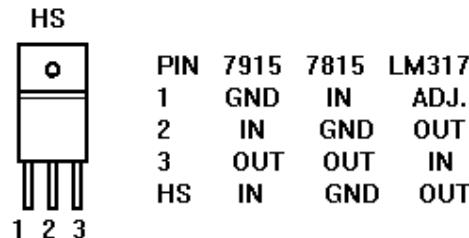
2. Ground

3. Output

(Heatsink surface connected to

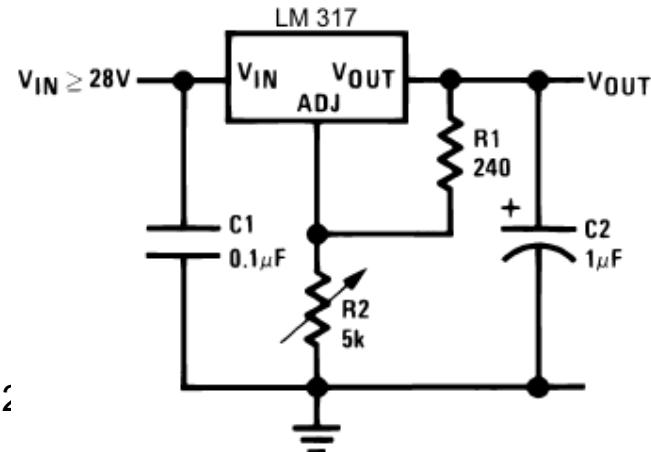
# Voltage Regulators

- The most common voltage regulators are the **LM78XX** (+ voltages) and **LM79XX** (– voltages)
  - XX represents the voltage
    - 7815 is +15; 7915 is –15; 7805 is +5, etc
  - typically needs input > 3 volts above output (reg.) voltage

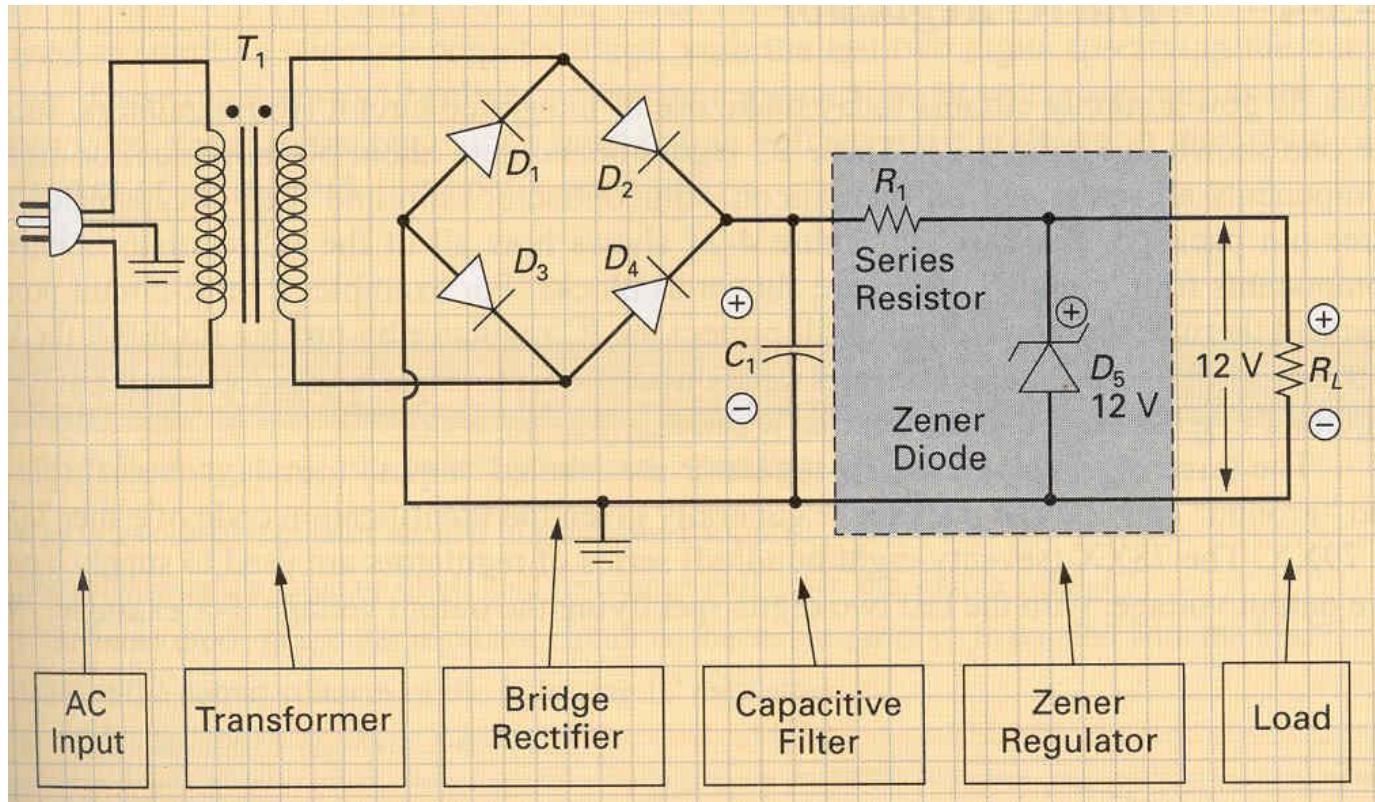


beware that housing is not always ground

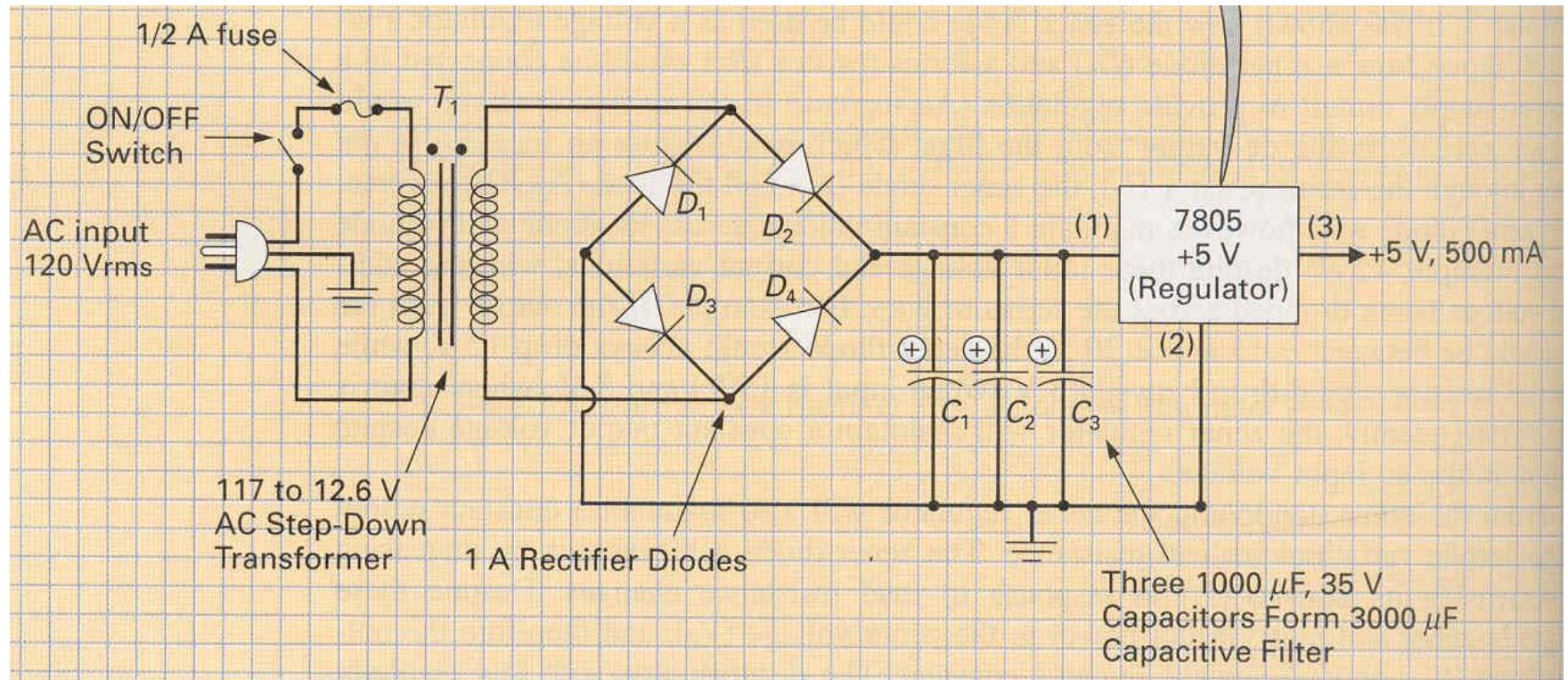
- A versatile regulator is the **LM317** (+) or **LM337** (–)
  - 1.2–37 V output
  - $V_{out} = 1.25(1+R_2/R_1) + I_{adj}R_2$
  - Up to 1.5 A
  - picture at right can go to 25 V
  - [datasheetcatalog.com](http://datasheetcatalog.com) for details



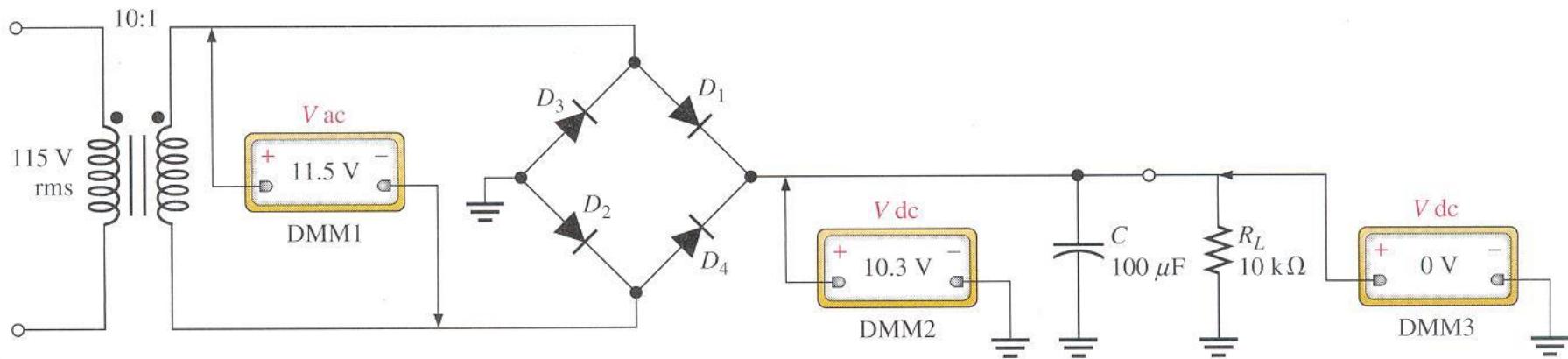
# Zener regulator



# IC regulator



# Question



What could be wrong with this circuit ?

## Review

