Project : **Zener Diode Tester using Op-Amp**

Name: Vansh Vaghela
Enrollment Number: 230130111137
Institute: Government Engineering College, Gandhinagar
Subject: Analog Circuit Design

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1. Objective:

To design, simulate, and analyze a Zener diode tester circuit using the LM741 operational amplifier as a comparator. The purpose is to identify the breakdown voltage of a Zener diode and visually indicate its status using an LED.

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2. Components Used:

Component	Value/Model	Quantity	Description
Zener Diode	1N4733A (5.1V)	1	Provides stable reference voltage of 5.1V in reverse bias.
Op-Amp	LM741	1	Acts as a comparator.
Resistor	1kΩ	3	Used for current limiting and voltage division.
Resistor	330Ω	1	Used in series with LED to limit current.
Potentiometer	1kΩ	1	Used to vary the input voltage at the inverting terminal.
LED	Red	1	Indicates whether the Zener diode is conducting.
Power Supply	12V DC	1	Provides necessary power to the circuit.

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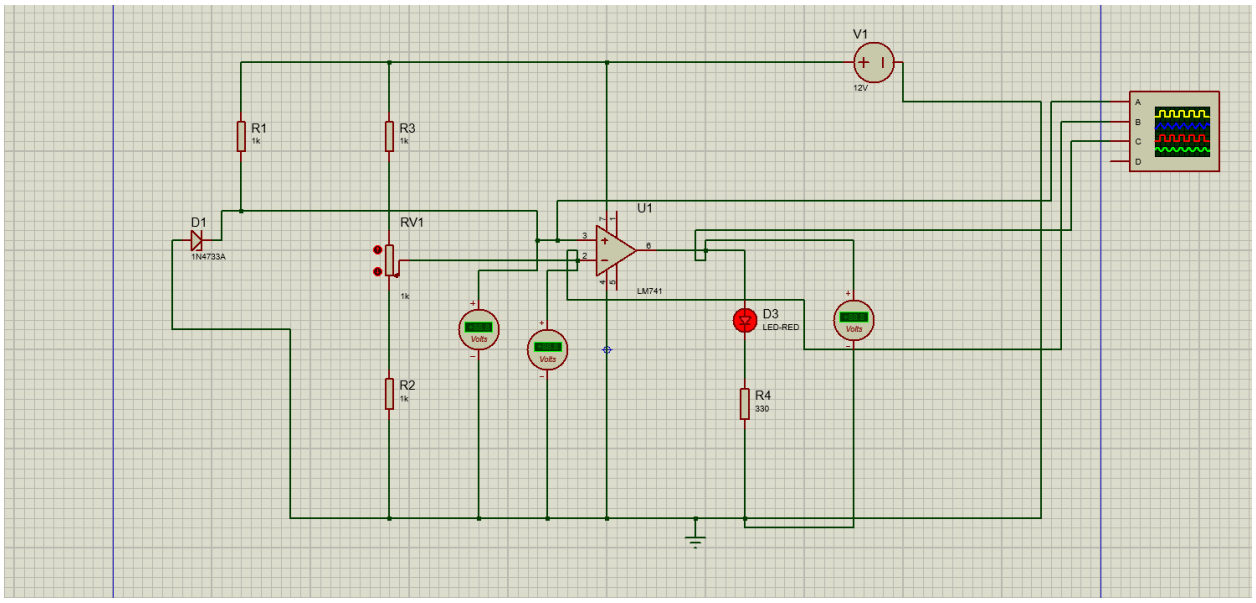
3. Circuit Diagram:



LINK-
https://drive.google.com/file/d/17hUvKsxiCaZJrs70Yhgb6Tc4fQ2AnfWu/view?usp=sharing

4. Working Principle:

This circuit is based on the principle of voltage comparison. A Zener diode is connected in reverse bias to maintain a constant reference voltage of 5.1V (its breakdown voltage). The LM741 Op-Amp is configured as a comparator:

- **Non-Inverting Input (+):** Connected to the node after the Zener diode, thus receiving a stable 5.1V.
- **Inverting Input (−):** Connected to a variable voltage through a potentiometer.

The Op-Amp compares these two voltages:

- If V− < V+, the output of the Op-Amp is HIGH (~12V), and the LED turns ON.
- If V− > V+, the output goes LOW, and the LED turns OFF.

This behavior visually confirms whether the input voltage surpasses the Zener breakdown threshold.

5. Simulation Steps (Using Proteus):

1. Open Proteus and create a new project workspace.
2. Select components from the library:
    - **Zener Diode:** 1N4733A
    - **Op-Amp:** LM741
    - **Resistor:** (1kΩ and 330Ω)
    - **Potentiometer:** 1kΩ
    - **LED-RED**
    - **Battery/VSOURCE:** 12V DC
3. Connect the circuit as per the simulation diagram:
    - Place the Zener diode in reverse bias.
    - Connect the Op-Amp inputs as described above.
    - Attach the LED and series resistor at the output.
4. Run the simulation.
5. Slowly vary the potentiometer to change the inverting input voltage.
6. Monitor LED behavior:
    - If LED is ON: V− < 5.1V (Zener regulates)
    - If LED is OFF: V− > 5.1V (Zener no longer regulates)

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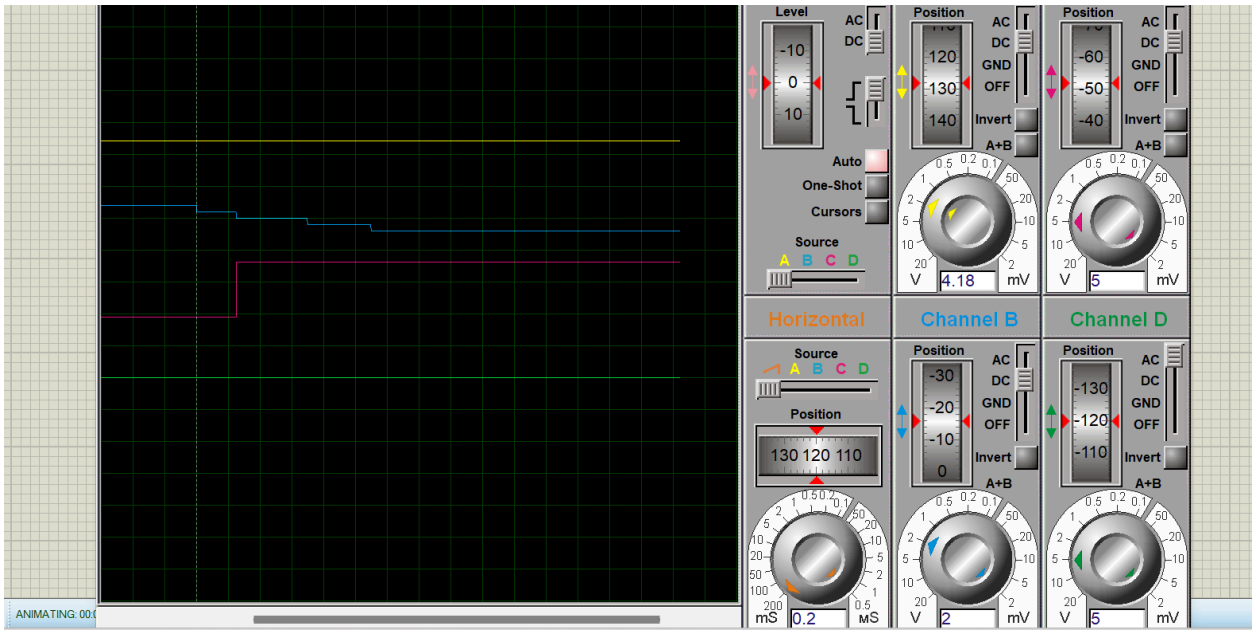
6. Observations (with Oscilloscope):

Time (ms)	V− (Channel C)	V+ (Zener)	Op-Amp Output (Ch A)	LED Status
0.0–0.5	< 5.1V	≈ 5.1V	HIGH (~12V)	ON

~0.6	≈ 5.1V	≈ 5.1V	Transition	Switching
>0.6	> 5.1V	≈ 5.1V	LOW (~0V)	OFF

The oscilloscope reveals a sharp switching point as V− crosses 5.1V, validating the comparator operation.



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7. Conclusion:

The designed circuit successfully tests the breakdown voltage of a Zener diode using an Op-Amp comparator configuration. The Zener diode 1N4733A maintains a stable reference voltage of approximately 5.1V. The LED output provides an intuitive and visual way to verify the diode's breakdown behavior.

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8. Applications:

- Laboratory testing of Zener diodes
- Reference voltage generation in analog circuits
- Voltage level sensing and detection systems
- Over-voltage protection and monitoring units

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9. Precautions:

- Ensure the Zener diode is connected in reverse bias; forward bias will not produce breakdown behavior.
- Use a current-limiting resistor to avoid overcurrent through the diode.
- Avoid exceeding the Zener diode's power rating to prevent damage.
- Double-check Op-Amp pin configurations before powering the circuit.

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10. Future Scope:

- Extend the design to include digital display of measured Zener voltage.
- Integrate a microcontroller to automate the test process.
- Modify the circuit for testing different types of diodes.
- Use precision Op-Amps for enhanced accuracy in critical applications.