# 4. Types of Diode Breakdown, Diode Approximations

13 September 2023 10:50

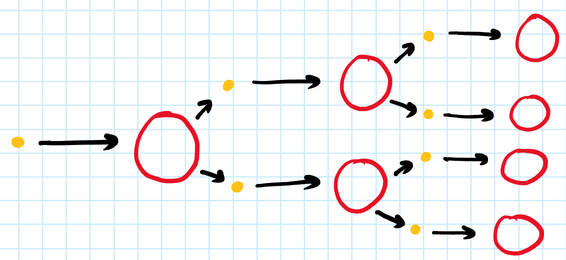
## TYPES OF DIODE BREAKDOWN

### Avalanche breakdown

Under reverse bias,

Voltage increases ⟶ Depletion region widens ⟶ Accumulation of more immobile ions ⟶ Electric field is generated ⟶ Kinetic energy is provided to charge carriers ⟶ Collision with other atomic structures ⟶ Releases more charge carriers; covalent bonds broken, electron-hole generating

- Happens due to impact ionisation / avalanche multiplication

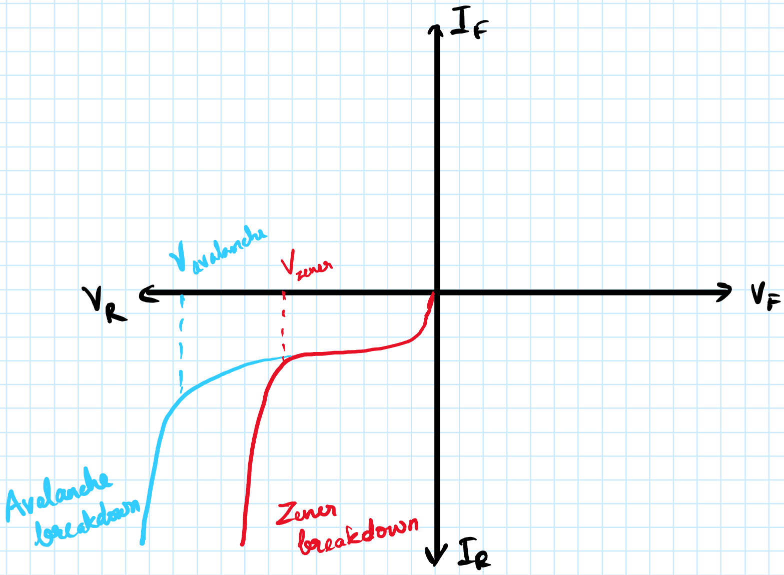


- Motion of these charge carriers creates a sudden jump in current, often damaging the diode itself

### Zener Breakdown

- Occurs in Zener diode ⟶ Both p and n heavily doped
- Due to more charge carriers, depletion region is narrower in normal state
- Smaller reverse bias voltage ⟶ stronger electric field ⟶ more charge carriers liberated

↓
breakdown occurs for a lower voltage




## Diode Approximations / Equivalent Diagrams

Mathematical method to approximate non-linear behaviour of real diodes

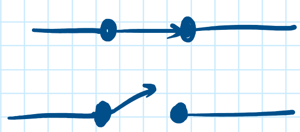
three types

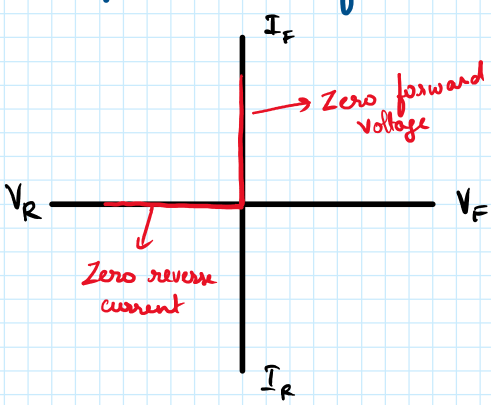
- First Approximation (Ideal Diode Characteristics)
- Second Approximation (Simplified Diode Characteristics)
- Third Approximation (Linear Piece-wise Diode Characteristics)

### First Approximation (Ideal Diode Characteristics)

FORWARD BIAS: Closed switch, no voltage drop

REVERSE BIAS: Open switch, infinite resistance

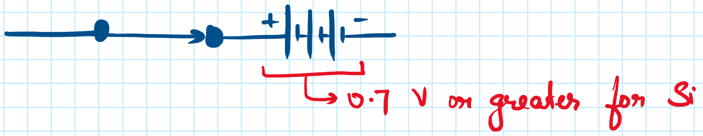




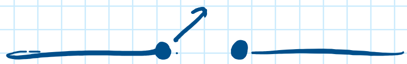

### Second Approximation (Simplified Diode Characteristics)

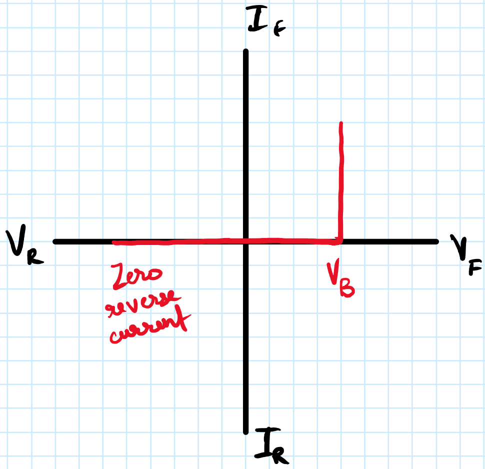
## Second Approximation (Simplified Diode Characteristics)

FORWARD BIAS: In series with a battery to turn on, specific knee voltage is given




REVERSE BIAS: Open switch



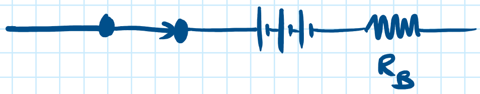



## Third Approximation (Linear Piece-wise Diode Characteristics)

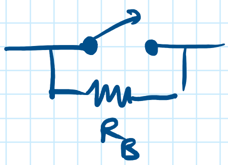
FORWARD: Includes knee voltage as well as voltage across bulk resistance $R_B$

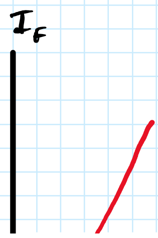
Voltage drop $V_D$

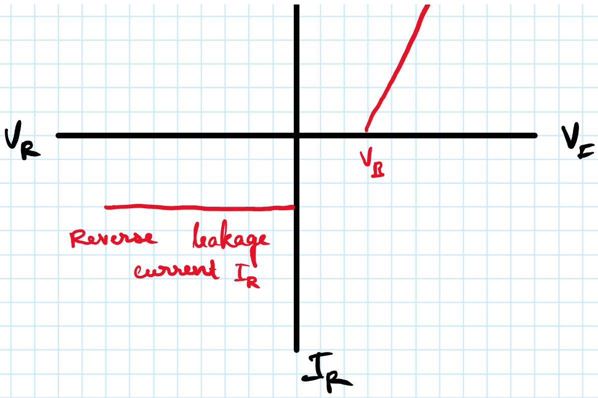
$$\boxed{V_D = \underbrace{0.7\,V}_{\text{knee voltage}} + \underbrace{(I_D)(R_B)}_{\text{voltage across bulk resistance}}}$$




REVERSE: Open switch with $R_B$ in parallel

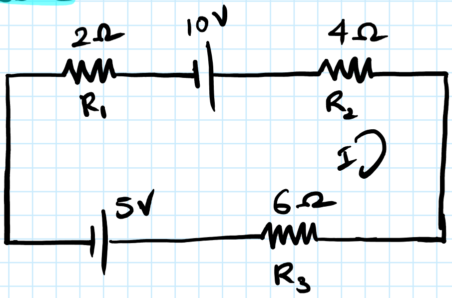





## PROBLEMS

(1)




REVISE

Soln: Using KVL,

$$10 - 4I - 6I - 5 - 2I = 0$$

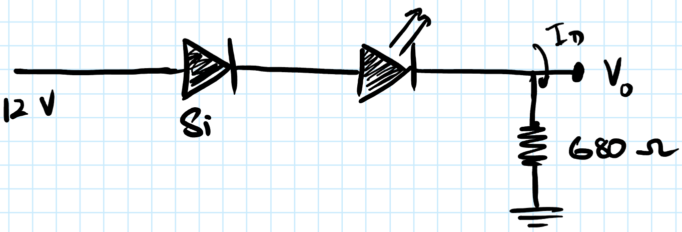
$$5 - 12I$$

(2) A Si diode and Ge diode are connected in series with a 2kΩ resistor. If each diode has an internal resistance of 5 Ω, find the diode current for both piece-wise linear circuit and simplified circuit if applied voltage is

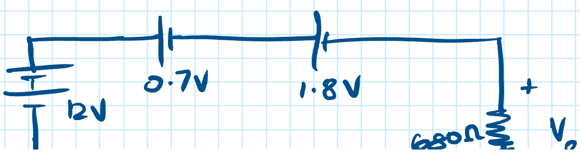
(a) $V_D = 1\ V$

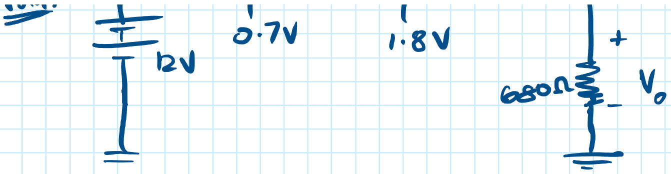
(b) $V = 5\ V$

(3) Determine $V_o$, $I_D$ for given series diode circuit. Assume LED voltage as 1.8 V




Soln:

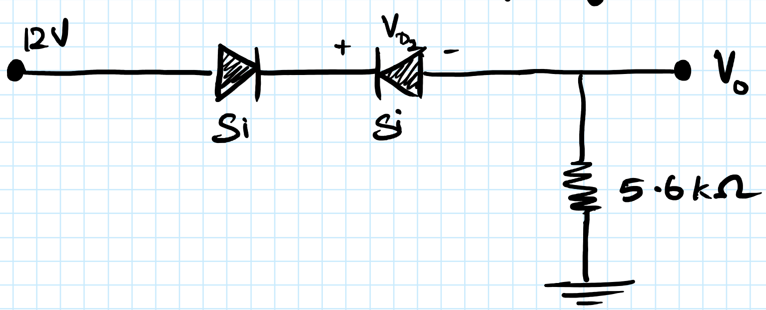




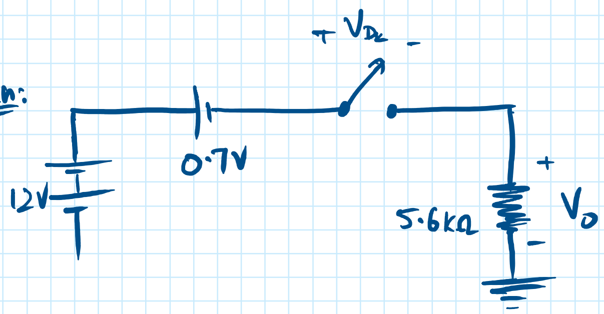

$$V_o = 12 - 0.7 - 1.8$$
$$= \underline{\underline{9.5\,V}}$$

$$9.5 - 680 I_D = 0$$
$$I_D = \frac{-9.5}{-680}$$
$$= \underline{\underline{0.013\ A}}$$

(4) Determine $I_D$, $V_{D_2}$ & $V_o$ for given circuit

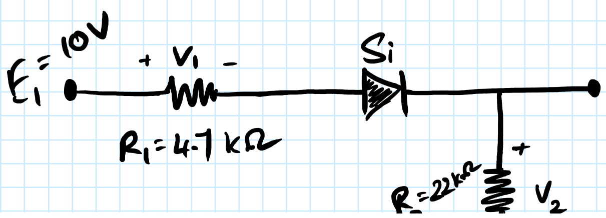



Soln:

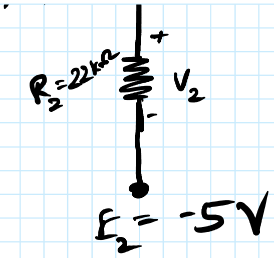



$$I_D = 0$$
$$V_o = 5.6\,k\Omega \times I_D$$
$$V_o = 0$$

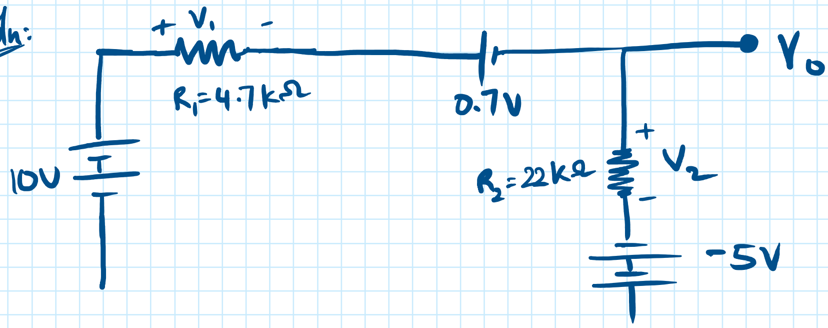
(5) Determine $V_1, V_2, V_o, I$ in the given circuit



$R_1 = 4.7\,k\Omega$




Soln:




Using KVL,

$$10 - 4.7kI - 0.7 - 22kI + 5 = 0$$

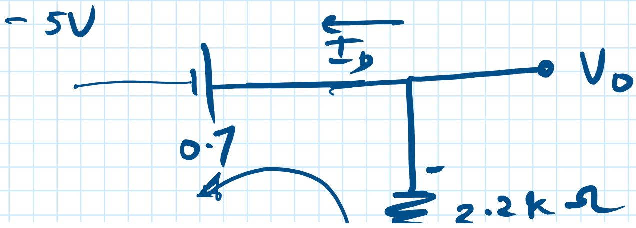
$$14.3 - 26.7kI = 0$$

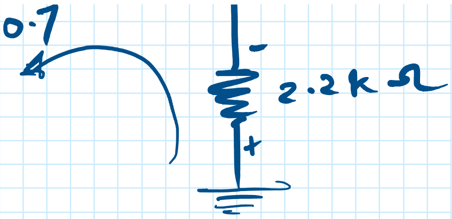
$$I = \frac{-14.3}{-26.7 \times 10^3} = 5.35 \times 10^{-4}\,A$$

$$V_1 = IR_1$$
$$= 5.35 \times 10^{-4} \times 4.7 \times 10^3$$
$$= 2.51V$$

$$V_2 = IR_2$$
$$= 5.35 \times 10^{-4} \times 22 \times 10^3$$
$$= 11.77V$$

$$-5 + V_2 - V_o = 0$$






$$-2.2kI - 0.7 + 5 = 0$$

$$I = \frac{-4.3}{-2.2\times10^{3}} = \underline{\underline{1.95 \times 10^{3}\ A}}$$

$$V_0 = I(2.2k)$$

$$= \underline{\underline{4.3\ V}}$$