Lecture3: Diode (1)

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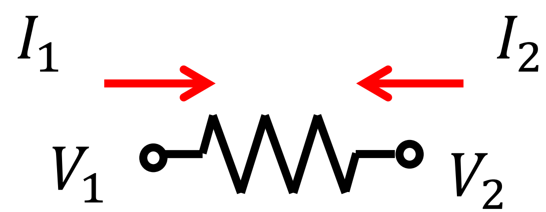
Two-terminal element

- Terminal quantities
  - Two terminal voltages
  - Two terminal currents

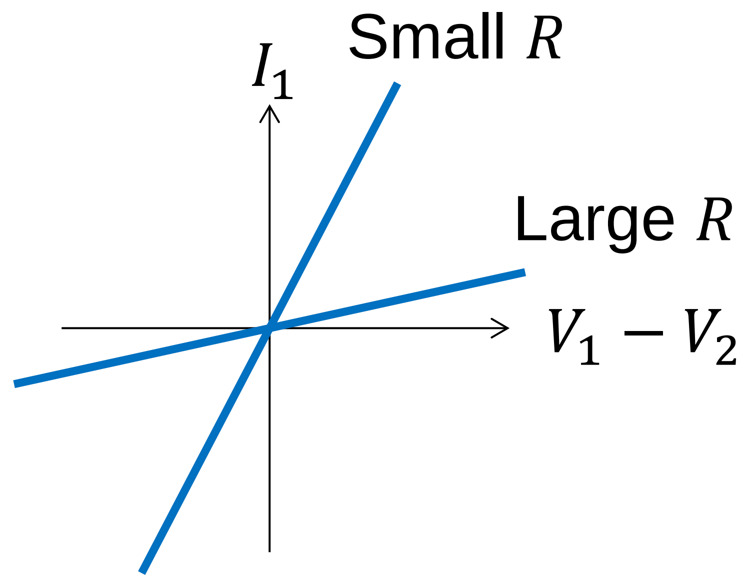


- Number of independent quantities
  - Note that $I_1 + I_2 = 0$.
  - Note that a common change in V_1 and V_2 does not make a difference.
  - Therefore, I_1 and $V_1 - V_2$ can be regarded as independent variables.

- Each two-terminal elements has its own relation between I_1 and $V_1 - V_2$.

Current vs. voltage

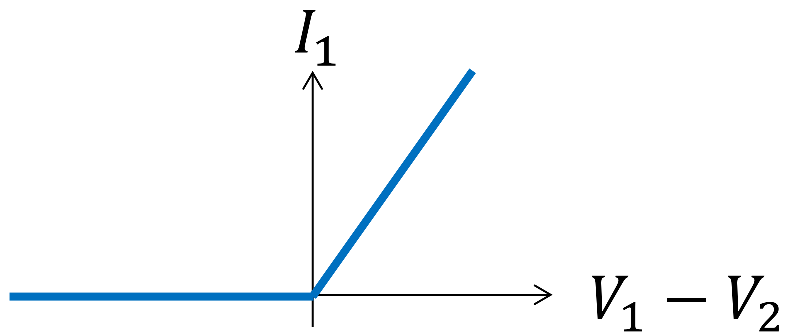
- Sources
  - Voltage source: $V_1 - V_2 = \boldsymbol{V_{source}}$
  - Current source: $I_1 = -I_2 = \boldsymbol{I_{source}}$



- R, L, C
  - Resistor: $I_1 = \frac{V_1 - V_2}{\boldsymbol{R}}$
  - Capacitor: $I_1 = \boldsymbol{C} \frac{d(V_1 - V_2)}{dt}$
  - Inductor: $V_1 - V_2 = \boldsymbol{L} \frac{dI_1}{dt}$
  - They are linear. (When you scale the voltage, the current is scaled with the same factor.)

Nonlinearity?

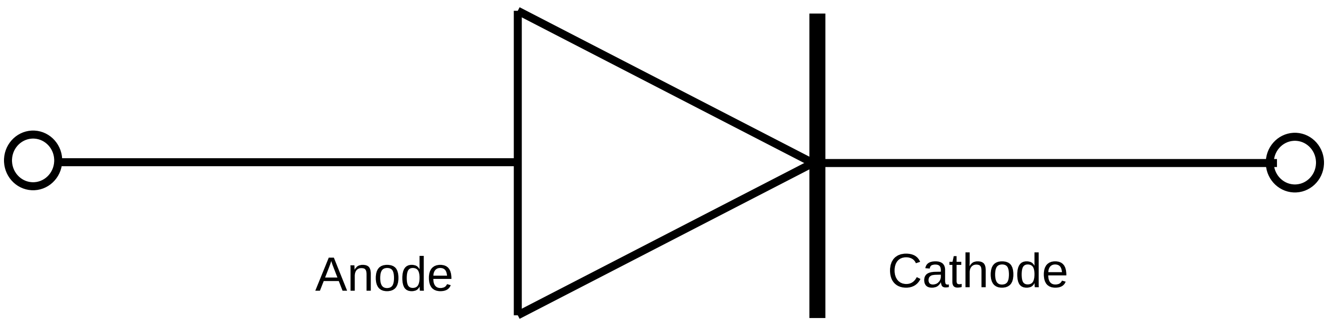
- Consider a toggle light switch.
- Assume a circuit element.



  - For a negative voltage, it’s electrically open.
  - For a positive voltage, it’s resistive.
  - Is there such a circuit element? Yes!

Diode

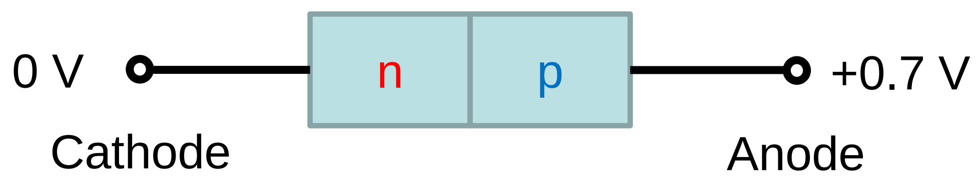
- In 1919, the term *diode* was coined from the Greek roots *di* (from *δί*), meaning 'two', and *ode* (from *ὁδός*), meaning 'path'. (Taken from Wikipedia)
  - Its symbol



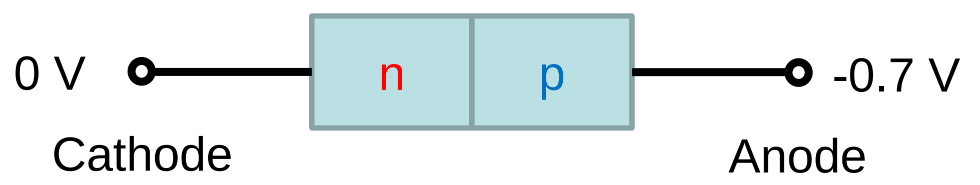
  - Current ➔ : Allowed
  - Current 🡐 : Not allowed

Forward/reverse

- Forward bias
  - The voltage at the anode is higher than the cathode voltage.

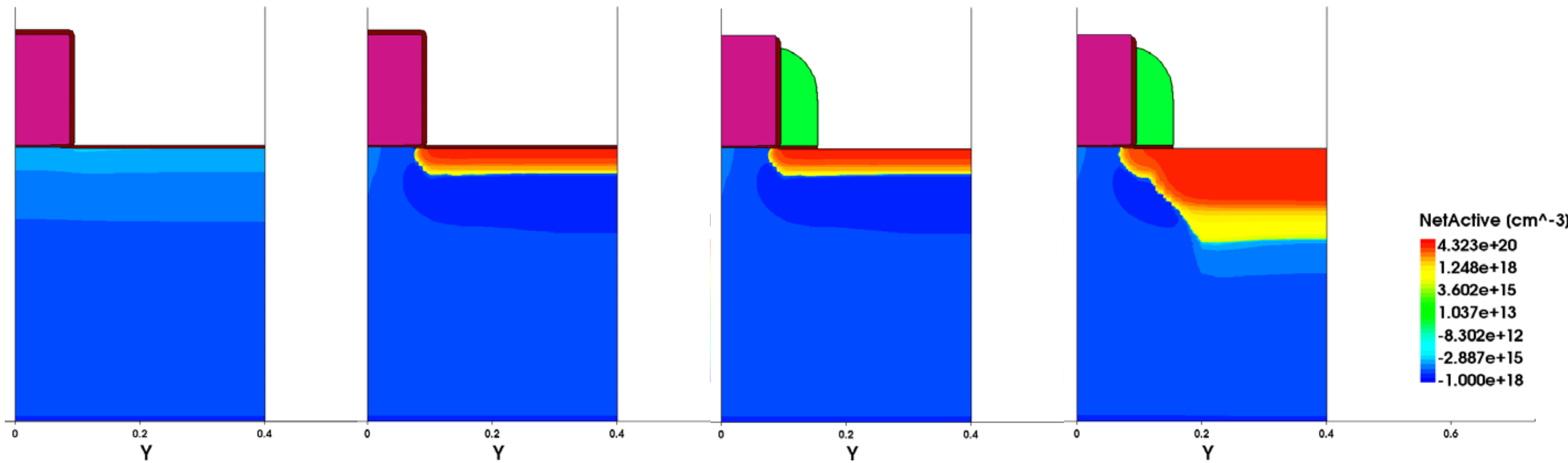


- Reverse bias
  - The voltage at the anode is lower than the cathode voltage.



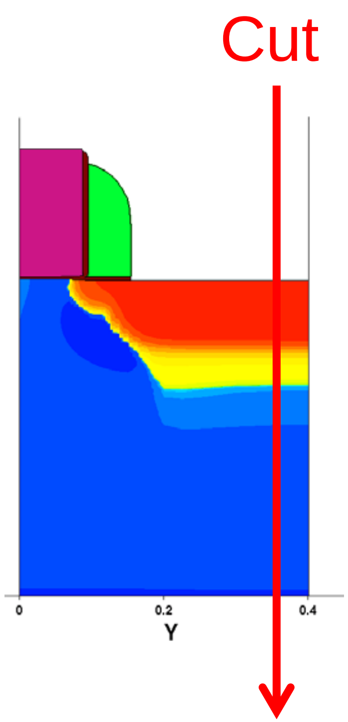
Fabrication

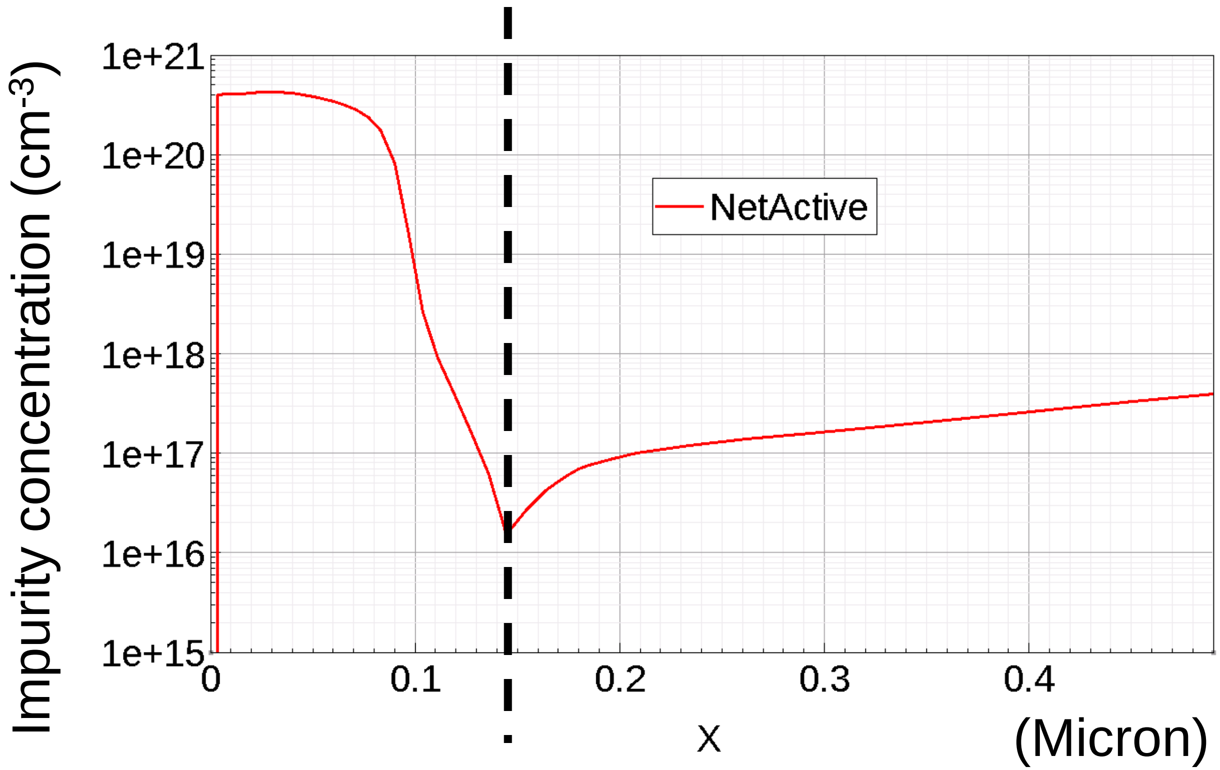
- PN junction
  - Results of the process simulation are shown.
  - Red: Silicon region with Arsenic ions
  - Blue: Silicon region with Boron ions



Vertical doping profile

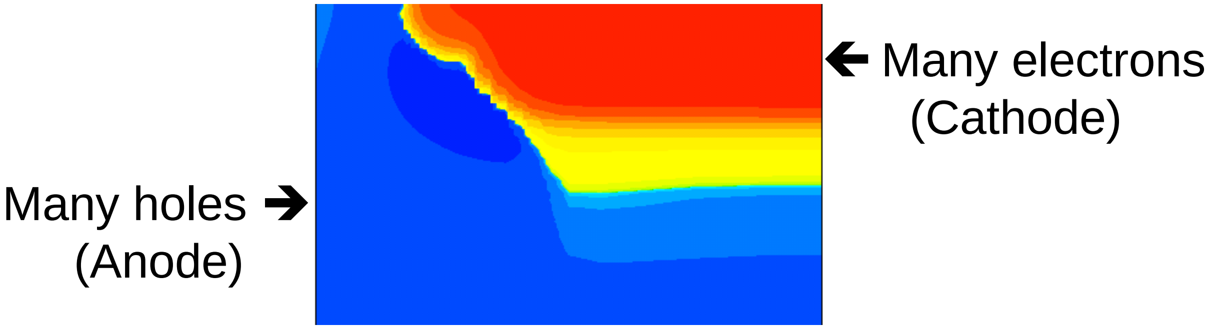
- Active dopant





Equilibrium (1)

- When the applied voltage is zero, no current occurs.
  - Many electrons in the “red” region. (Doped with Arsenic ions. “n-type”)
  - Many holes in the “blue” region. (Doped with Boron ions. “p-type”)
  - Due to the diffusion mechanism, they tend to spread over.
  - Then, we will have the net current! (It’s not possible.)



Equilibrium (2)

- An electric field is built. (Built-in field)
  - It pushes the electrons back to the n-type region.
  - It pushes the holes back to the p-type region.
  - Direction of the electric field?
  - At equilibrium, drift (due to the electric field) and diffusion (due to the density difference) are exactly matched.