

EEE-2103: Electronic Devices and Circuits

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Zener Diode Voltage Regulators

Regulator circuit with no load:

Zener diode application = dc voltage regulator

Reference voltage source →

supplies very low current to output

R_S limits Zener diode current

$$I_Z = \frac{V_S - V_Z}{R_S}$$

$$I_Z > \approx I_{ZK} \text{ and } I_L \ll I_Z$$

Loaded regulator:

Zener diode regulator supplies load current I_L

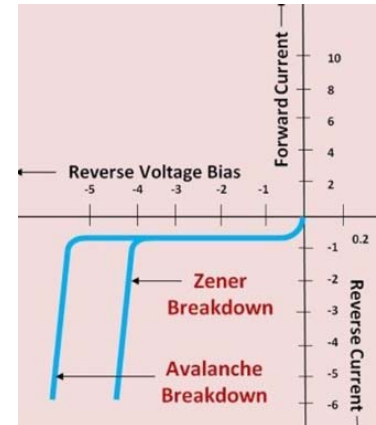
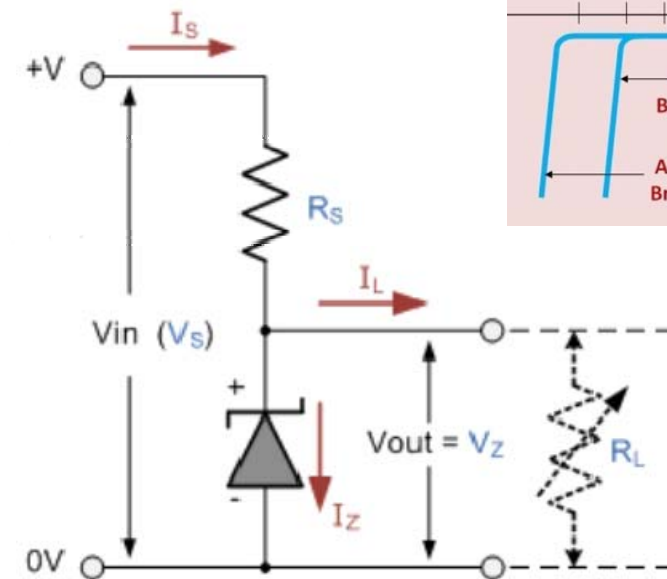
$$I_S = I_L + I_Z$$

$I_Z > \approx I_{Z(min)}$ to keep diode in reverse breakdown

$$I_S < I_{Z(max)}$$

Circuit current equation →

$$I_Z + I_L = \frac{V_S - V_Z}{R_S}$$



Zener Diode Voltage Regulators

Problem-12:

A 9 V reference source is to use a series-connected Zener diode and resistor connected to a 30 V supply. Select suitable components, and calculate the circuit current when the supply voltage drops to 27 V. Assume that a 9.1 V Zener diode has knee current of 20 mA.

Assume, $I_Z \approx I_{ZK} = 20 \text{ mA}$

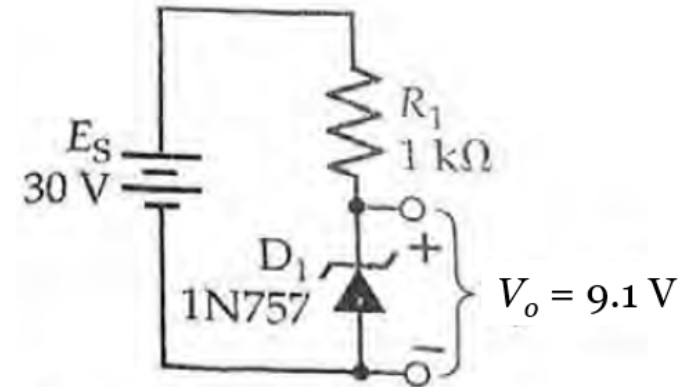
When $E_S = 30 \text{ V}$

$$R_1 = (E_S - V_Z) / I_Z = (30 - 9.1) / 20 \times 10^{-3} = 1.05 \text{ k}\Omega \approx 1 \text{ k}\Omega$$

$$P_{R1} = I_1^2 R_1 = (20 \times 10^{-3})^2 \times 1 \times 10^3 = 0.4 \text{ W}$$

When $E_S = 27 \text{ V}$

$$I_Z = (E_S - V_Z) / R_1 = (27 - 9.1) / 1 \times 10^3 = 17.9 \text{ mA}$$



Zener Diode Voltage Regulators

Problem-13:

Design a 6 V dc reference source to operate a 16 V supply as shown in Fig. 13. The circuit is to use a low-power Zener diode and is to produce the maximum possible load current. Calculate the maximum load current that can be taken from the circuit. Assume that for the Zener diode $V_Z = 6.2$ V, $I_{Z(min)} = 5$ mA and $P_D = 400$ mW.

$$I_{Z(max)} = P_D / V_Z = 400 \times 10^{-3} / 6.2 = 64.5 \text{ mA}$$

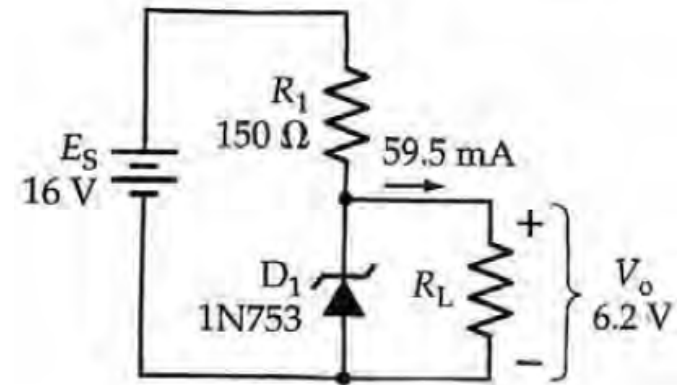
$$I_{L(max)} + I_{Z(min)} = 64.5 \text{ mA}$$

$$R_1 = (E_S - V_Z) / I_{Z(max)} = (16 - 6.2) / 64.5 \times 10^{-3} \\ = 152 \Omega \text{ (use } 150 \Omega \text{ standard value)}$$

$$P_{R1} = I_1^2 R_1 = (64.5 \times 10^{-3})^2 \times 150 = 0.62 \text{ W}$$

Select $I_{Z(min)} = 5$ mA

$$I_{L(max)} = I_{Z(max)} - I_{Z(min)} = 64.5 \times 10^{-3} - 5 \times 10^{-3} = 59.5 \text{ mA}$$



Zener Diode Voltage Regulators

Regulator performance:

Performance parameters →

- 1) source and load effects
- 2) line and load regulations
- 3) ripple rejection ratio = ratio of output to input ripple amplitude

ac equivalent circuit →

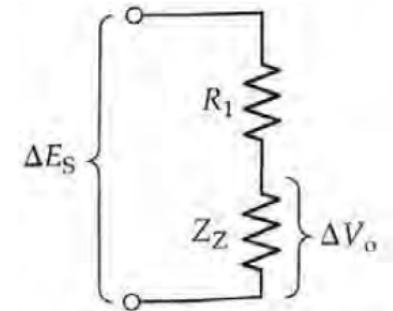
replace Zener diode with its dynamic impedance Z_Z
simple voltage divider circuit

1) Source effect

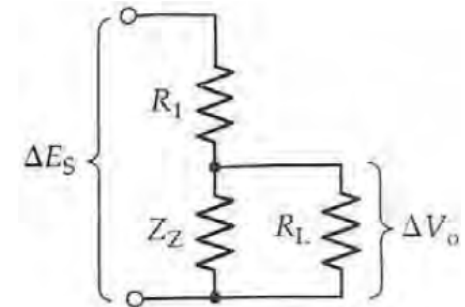
When E_S changes by ΔE_S →

$$\text{without load, } \Delta V_o = \frac{\Delta E_S \times Z_Z}{R_1 + Z_Z}$$

$$\text{with load, } \Delta V_o = \frac{\Delta E_S \times (Z_Z \parallel R_L)}{R_1 + (Z_Z \parallel R_L)}$$



(a) Regulator without a load



(b) Regulator with a load

Zener Diode Voltage Regulators

Regulator performance:

2) Load effect

Assuming $R_S = 0$, from regulator Thevenin equivalent circuit

$$R_o = R_1 \parallel Z_Z$$

$$\Delta V_o = \Delta I_L (R_1 \parallel Z_Z)$$

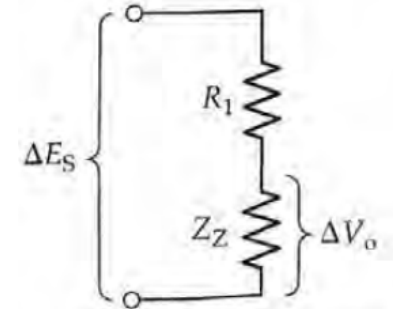
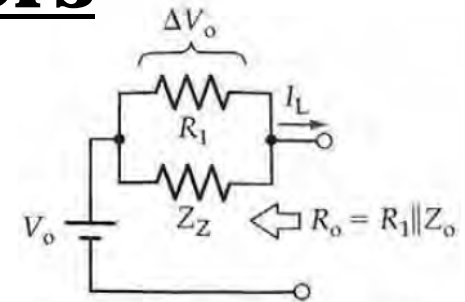
3) Ripple rejection ration

$$\text{without load, } \frac{V_{ro}}{V_{ri}} = \frac{Z_Z}{R_1 + Z_Z}$$

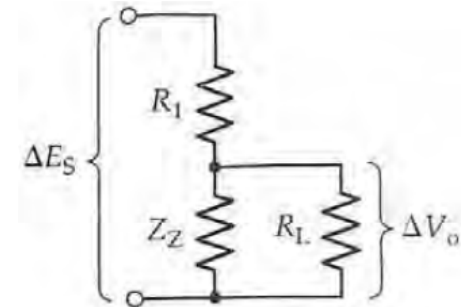
$$\text{with load, } \frac{V_{ro}}{V_{ri}} = \frac{Z_Z \parallel R_L}{R_1 + (Z_Z \parallel R_L)}$$

V_{ro} = output ripple amplitude

V_{ri} = input ripple amplitude



(a) Regulator without a load



(b) Regulator with a load

Zener Diode Voltage Regulators

Problem-14:

Calculate line regulation, load regulation, and ripple rejection ratio for the voltage regulator in Fig. 14. Assume that dynamic resistance of the diode is $Z_Z = 7\ \Omega$ and there is 10% change in the voltage source.

Source effect:

$$\Delta E_S = 10\% \text{ of } E_S = 16 \times 10 / 100 = 1.6\text{ V}$$

$$R_L = V_o / I_L = 6.2 / 59.5 \times 10^{-3} = 104\ \Omega$$

$$\Delta V_o = \frac{\Delta E_S \times (Z_Z \parallel R_L)}{R_1 + (Z_Z \parallel R_L)} = \frac{1.6 \times (7 \parallel 104)}{150 + (7 \parallel 104)} = 67\text{ mV}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Line regulation} &= (\Delta V_o \text{ for } 10\% \text{ change in } E_S) \times 100\% / V_o \\ &= 67 \times 10^{-3} \times 100 / 6.2 = 1.08\% \end{aligned}$$

Load effect:

$$\Delta V_o = \Delta I_L (Z_Z \parallel R_1) = 59.5 \times 10^{-3} \times (7 \parallel 150) = 398\text{ mV}$$

$$\text{Load regulation} = (\Delta V_o \text{ for } \Delta I_{L(max)}) \times 100\% / V_o = 398 \times 10^{-3} \times 100 / 6.2 = 6.4\%$$

$$\text{Ripple rejection, } \frac{V_{ro}}{V_{ri}} = \frac{Z_Z \parallel R_L}{R_1 + (Z_Z \parallel R_L)} = \frac{7 \parallel 104}{150 + (7 \parallel 104)} = 4.19 \times 10^{-2}$$

