

---

# Lecture3: Diode circuits

Sung-Min Hong ([smhong@gist.ac.kr](mailto:smhong@gist.ac.kr))

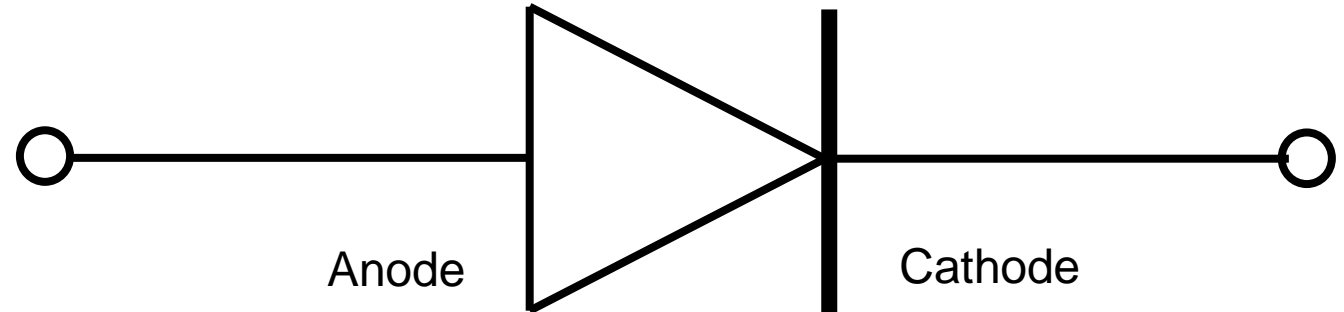
Semiconductor Device Simulation Lab.  
School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science  
Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology

# Review

---

- Diode

- Its symbol



- Forward/reverse operation
- How to fabricate it: PN junction

- IV characteristics of a diode

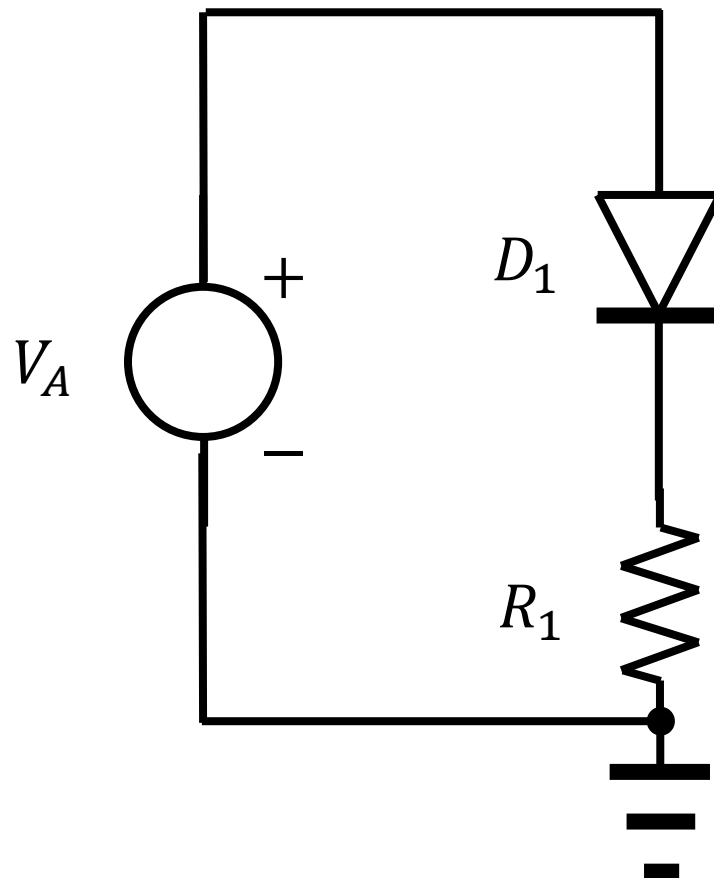
$$I_D = I_S \left( \exp \frac{V_D}{V_T} - 1 \right)$$

- Forward bias:  $I_D \approx I_S \exp \frac{V_D}{V_T}$
- Reverse bias:  $I_D \approx -I_S \approx 0$

# General solution (1)

---

- Analyze the following circuit. (A diode-resistor combination)
  - Calculation of node voltages and terminal currents



# General solution (2)

- Identify the nodes and apply the KCL.

- Two nodes are found.

$$I_V + I_D = 0$$

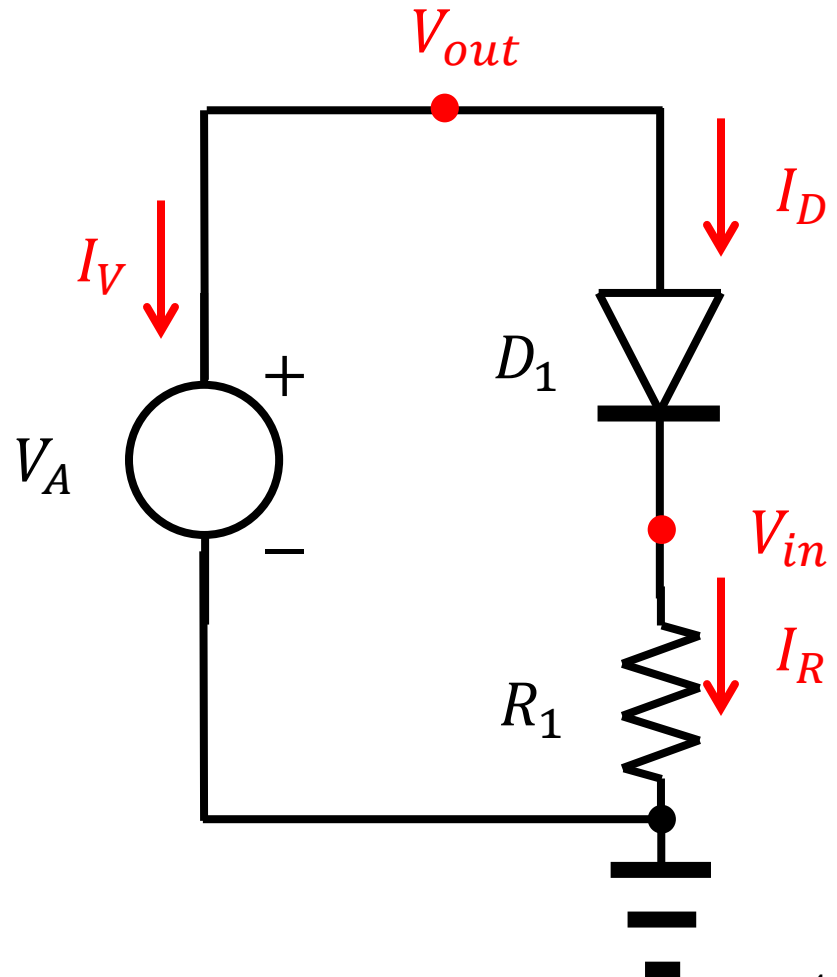
$$-I_D + I_R = 0$$

- Equations for terminal IVs

$$V_{in} = V_A$$

$$I_D = I_S \left( \exp \left( \frac{V_{in} - V_{out}}{V_T} \right) - 1 \right)$$

$$I_R = \frac{V_{out}}{R_1}$$



# General solution (3)

---

- Solve the set of equations.

- After simple manipulation, it is easily found that

$$-I_S \left( \exp \left( \frac{V_A - V_{out}}{V_T} \right) - 1 \right) + \frac{V_{out}}{R_1} = 0$$

- An nonlinear equation for  $V_{out}$  is obtained.
- The solution,  $V_{out}$ , can be visualized by drawing the following two curves.

$$y = I_S \left( \exp \left( \frac{V_A - x}{V_T} \right) - 1 \right)$$
$$y = \frac{x}{R_1}$$

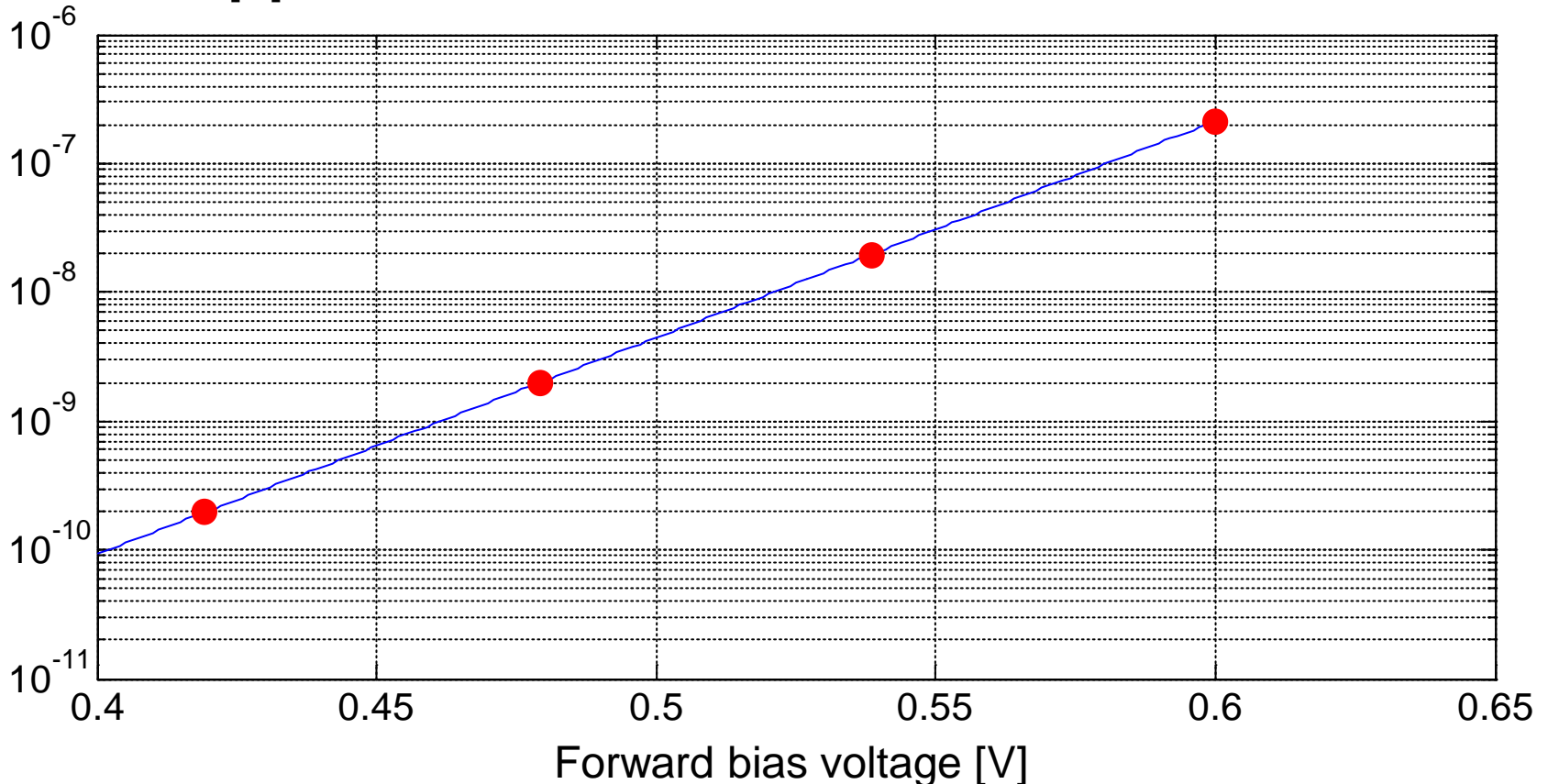
- The  $x$  coordinate of the intersecting point is  $V_{out}$ .
- Of course, a general solver for the nonlinear equation is desirable.
- Simulation Program with Integrated Circuit Emphasis

# Important observation

---

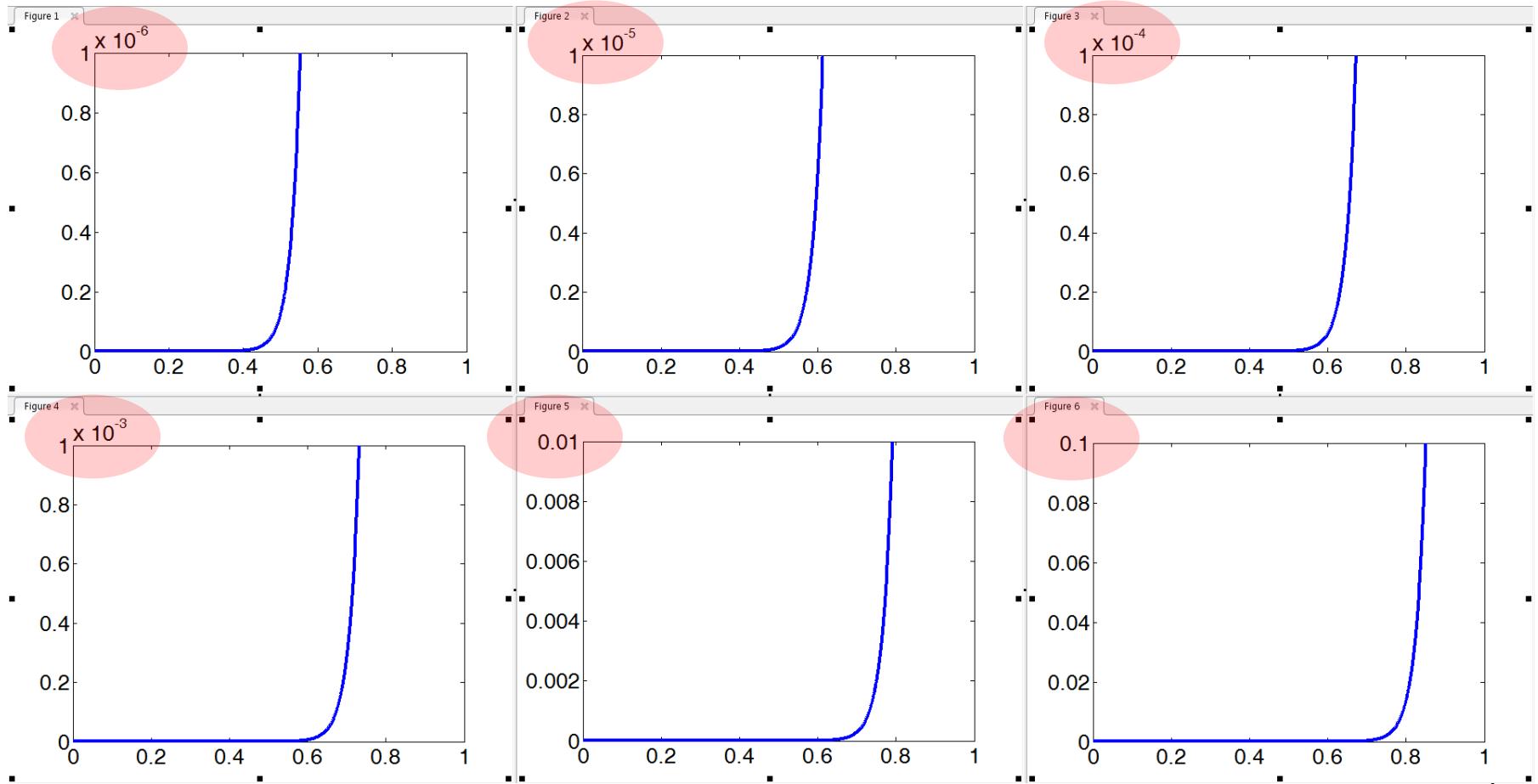
- In order to obtain 10x large current,
  - We must apply only 60 mV additionally. (300K)

Diode current [A]



# IV curves

- A diode with  $I_S = 5 \times 10^{-16} \text{ A}$  (Only different  $y$  scales)
  - How do they look like?



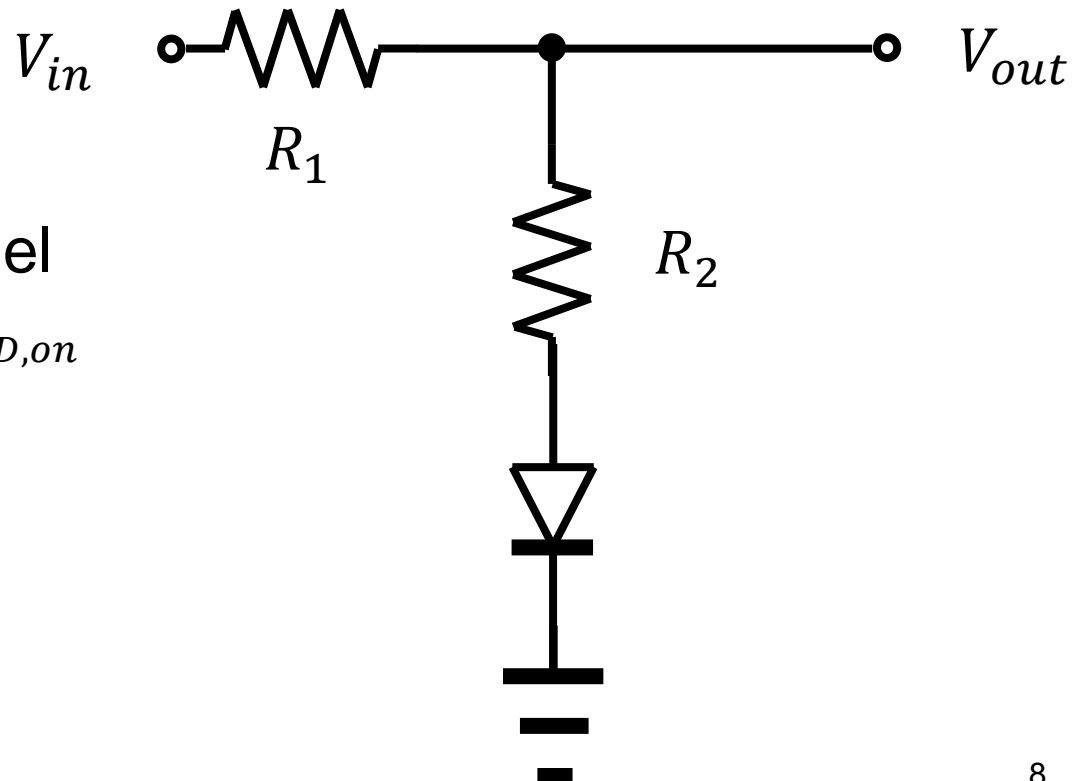
# PN junction as a diode

---

- Exponential model

$$I_D = I_s \left( \exp \frac{V_D}{V_T} - 1 \right)$$

- Constant-voltage model
  - An “offset” voltage of  $V_{D,on}$

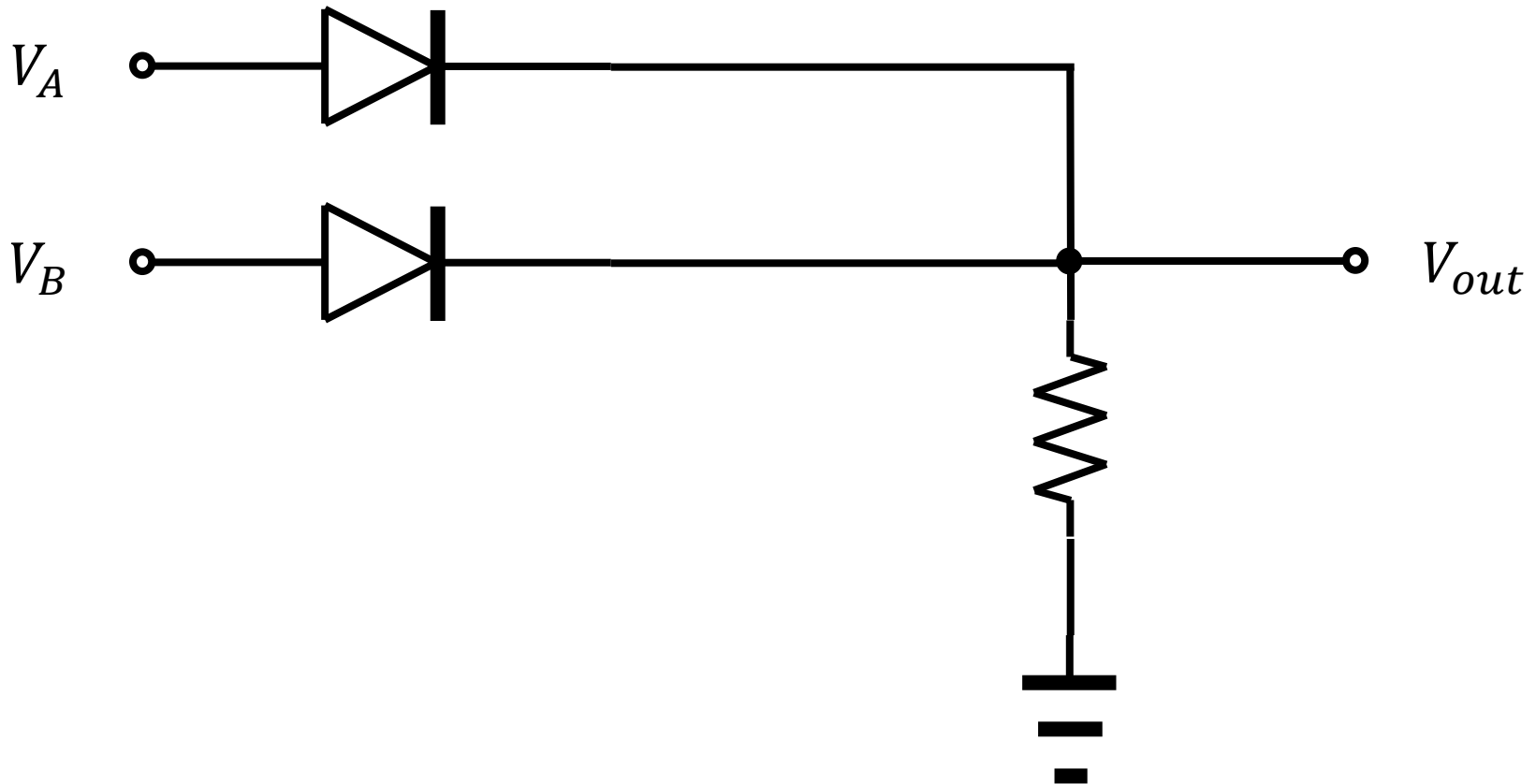




# Example 3.6 (Razavi)

---

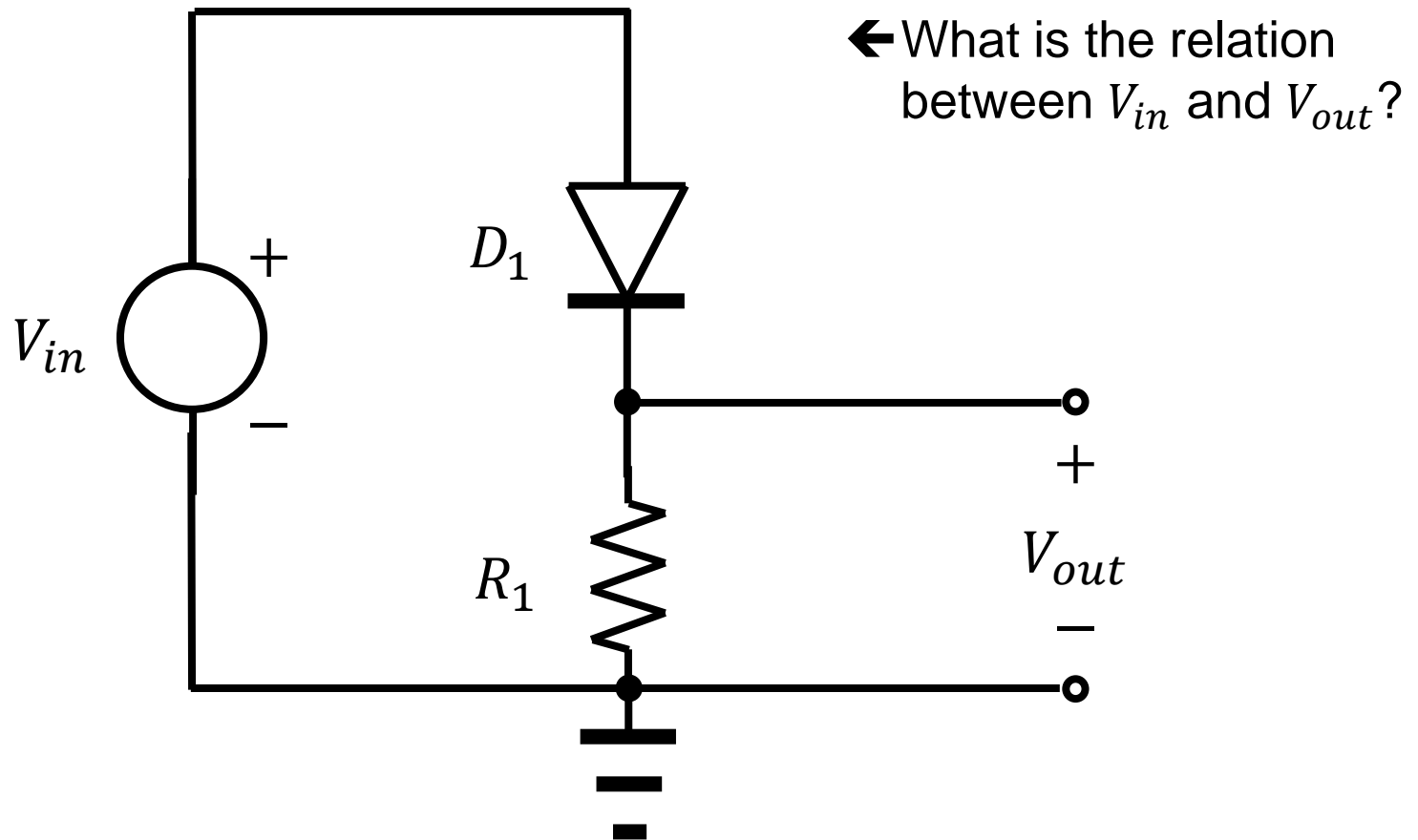
- An OR gate



# Rectifier

---

- Revisiting our first example



# Homework#2 (1)

---

- Due: 09:00, March 19
- Update your program.
  - Read the input file.
  - Print out the names of voltage sources, current sources, resistors, capacitors, and inductors.
  - Print out the name of each node.
  - For each node, print out a list of the connected elements and their terminal names.
  - An example of the input file is uploaded in our GitHub repository.

# Homework#2 (2)

---

- Calculate the current in the circuit.
  - Obtain the numerical value for the following parameters.

$$V_A = 2 \text{ V}$$

$$I_S = 5 \times 10^{-16} \text{ A}$$

$$V_T = \frac{k_B T}{q}$$

$$R_1 = 1 \text{ k}\Omega$$

- Show the calculation method.

