EEE 3571 Electronic Engineering I

Lecture 1:

Analog Electronics Semiconductor Diodes

Dr. Daliso Banda

daliso.banda@unza.zm

Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering, School of Engineering, University of Zambia

Course Requirements

✓ It is an OBLIGATION for all students taking this course to attend all lectures and lab sessions.

Prerequisite

✓EEE 2019

Simulation Software: Multisim

Time Allocation

hours/week
hours/week
/o
5%
%

✓1 Final Exam (3 hours) **60%**

Course Outline

Analog Electronics:

□ Review of semiconductors, Diode and transistor fundamentals. PN junction and bipolar junction transistor theories. Zener and avalanche effects.

□ Transistor small signal models; hybrid parameters.

The Transistor as an Amplifier:

□ Common base (CB), common emitter (CE), and common collector (CC) configuration.

DC biasing, cut-off, saturation, load lines, signal swing. Voltage and current amplification factors, input and output impedance, Cascading.

Operational Amplifiers:

Basic characteristics; input and output impedance, open loop gain.

- □ The ideal operational amplifier, differential amplifier. Effects of drift, and offset error voltages and currents.
- □ Applications: voltage and current follower, inverting and non-inverting, addition and subtraction, analog integration and differentiation, comparator, regulator.

Wave Generation & Shaping:

□ Diode clipping and clamping, regenerative comparator (Schmitt trigger). Square and triangular wave generators. Astable, bistable and multistable vibrators.

References

Our main reference text books in this course are:

- 1. Neil S., Electronics: A Systems Approach, 4th edition, 2009, Pearson Education Limited, ISBN 978-0-273-71918-2.
- 2. Boylestad R. L., Nashelsky L., Electronic Devices and Circuit Theory, 11th Ed, 2013, Prentice-Hall, ISBN 978-0-13-262226-4.
- 3. Smith R. J., Dorf R. C., Circuits Devices and Systems, 5th Ed., 2004, John Wiley, ISBN ISBN 9971-51-172-X.
- 4. Class Notes: Dr Brilliant Habeenzu

However, feel free to use some additional text which you might find relevant to our course.

Learning Objectives

At the end of a series of lectures on semiconductor diodes, you ought to:

- 1. Know the general characteristics of three important semiconductor materials: Si, Ge, GaAs.
- 2. Understand conduction using electron and hole theory.
- 3. Be able to describe the difference between n and p type materials.
- 4. Know basic operation and characteristics of a diode in no-bias, forward-bias, and reverse-bias regions.
- 5. Be able to calculate the dc, ac, and average ac resistance of a diode from the characteristics.
- 6. Understand the impact of an equivalent circuit, ideal or practical.
- 7. Be familiar with the operation and characteristics of a Zener diode and light-emitting diode.

1.1 Introduction

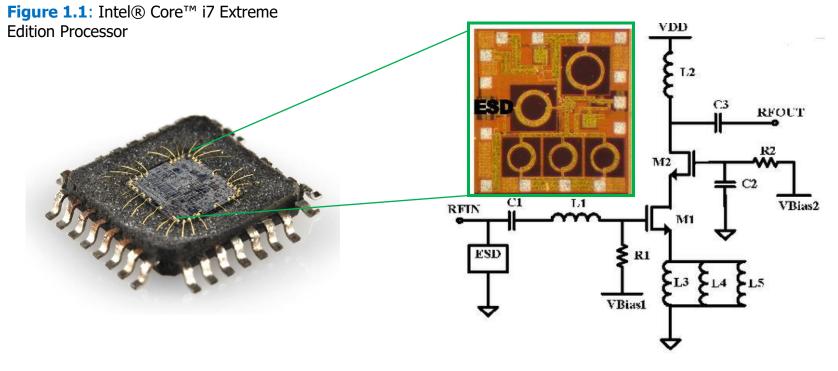
- □In the field of electronic engineering, engineers design and test circuits that use the electromagnetic properties of electrical components such as resistors, capacitors, inductors, diodes and transistors to achieve a particular functionality.
- □One of the noteworthy things in the field of electronics is how little the fundamental principles change over time.
- □New gadgets which are incredibly smaller but with remarkable speeds of operation surface everyday as a consequence of advancements in technology.
- □However, the majority of all the devices in use were invented decades ago and design techniques dating back to the 1930s are still in use.
- Recent technological advancements include chiefly, improvements in construction techniques, general characteristics and application techniques as opposed to development of new elements and fundamentally new designs.
- □The miniaturization that has occurred in contemporary electronic systems has culminated into complete systems appearing on wafers thousands of times smaller than a single element of earlier networks.

1.1 Introduction Cont'd



□Today, the Intel[®] Core[™] i7 Extreme Edition Processor shown in Figure 1.1 has 731 million transistors.

This is made possible via integrated circuit (IC) technology.

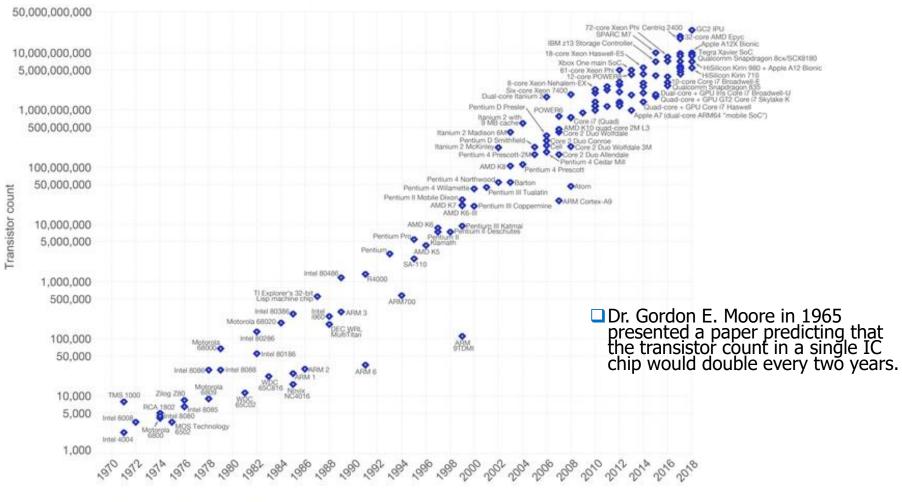


1.1 Introduction Cont'd

Moore's Law – The number of transistors on integrated circuit chips (1971-2018)

Our World in Data

Moore's law describes the empirical regularity that the number of transistors on integrated circuits doubles approximately every two years. This advancement is important as other aspects of technological progress – such as processing speed or the price of electronic products – are linked to Moore's law.



Data source: Wikipedia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transistor_count)

The data visualization is available at OurWorldinData.org. There you find more visualizations and research on this topic.

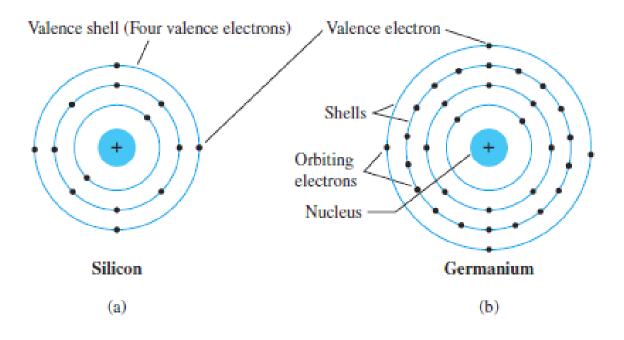
Licensed under CC-BY-SA by the author Max Roser.

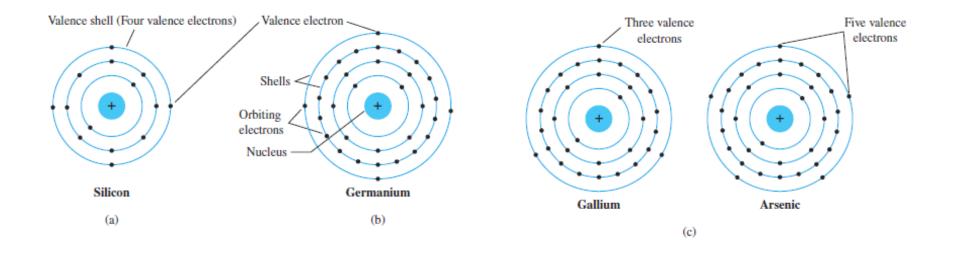
1.2 Semiconductor Materials

- □The construction of every discrete solid-state (hard crystal structure) electronic device or integrated circuits (ICs) begins with a semiconductor material of the highest quality.
- Semiconductors are a special class of elements having conductivity between that of a good conductor and that of an insulator.
- Semiconductors are classified as either single-crystal or compound.
- Single-crystal semiconductors include: germanium (Ge) and silicon (Si), which have a repetitive crystal structure.
- Compound semiconductors include: gallium arsenide (GaAs), cadmium sulfide (CdS), gallium nitride (GaN), and gallium arsenide phosphide (GaAsP), which are constructed from two or more semiconductor materials of different atomic structures.
- □ The three semiconductors used most frequently in the construction of electronic devices are Ge, Si, and GaAs.

□To fully appreciate why Si, Ge and GaAs are semiconductors of choice for the electronic industry, let us review their atomic structures.

Recall that the fundamental components of an atom are the electron, proton, and neutron, see Bohr model for the three materials in the Figure below.





Notice that Si and Ge have four valence electrons, that is, they are tetravalent.Vividly, Ga is trivalent and As is pentavalent.

Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering, School of Engineering, University of Zambia

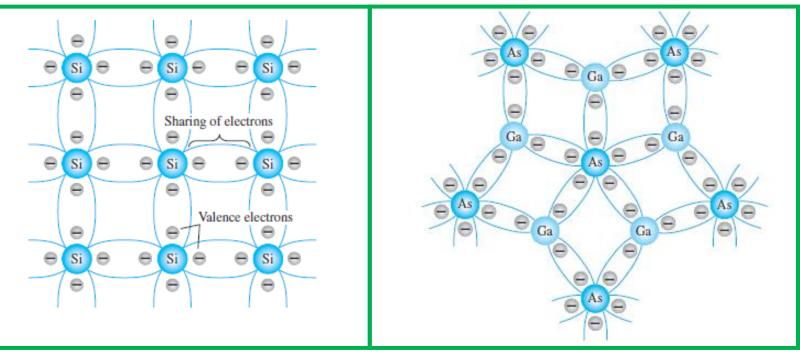


Figure 1.3: Covalent bonding of the Si atoms; and of the GaAs crystal.

- ☐ In pure Si or Ge crystal, four valence electrons of one atom form covalent bonds with four neighboring atoms.
- □Similarly, in GaAs compound the sharing of electrons is between two different atoms to form covalent bonds.

Much as a covalent bond is a stronger bond between valence electrons, it breaks whenever these electrons absorb sufficient kinetic energy from external natural causes.

- Thus, an electron is in a "free" state when it has separated from a fixed lattice structure and is very sensitive to any applied electric fields such as established by voltage sources.
- □The free electrons in a material due to external causes are referred to as intrinsic carriers. Table 1.1 compares the number of intrinsic carriers per cubic centimeter for Ge, Si, and GaAs; and Table 1.2 their relative mobility.

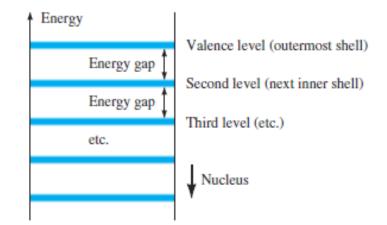
TABLE 1.1 Intrinsic Carriers n _i		TABL Relative Mobil	
emiconductor	Intrinsic Carriers (per cubic centimeter)	Semiconductor	$\mu_n (\mathrm{cm}^2/\mathrm{V}\cdot\mathrm{s})$
GaAs Si Ge	1.7×10^{6} 1.5×10^{10} 2.5×10^{13}	Si Ge GaAs	1500 3900 8500

Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering, School of Engineering, University of Zambia

- □ The term intrinsic is applied to any semiconductor material that has been carefully refined to reduce the number of impurities to a very low level-essentially as pure as can be available through modern technology.
- □As the temperature rises, an increasing number of valence electrons absorb sufficient thermal energy to break the covalent bond and to contribute to the number of free carriers.
- Thus, semiconductor materials have a negative temperature coefficient.

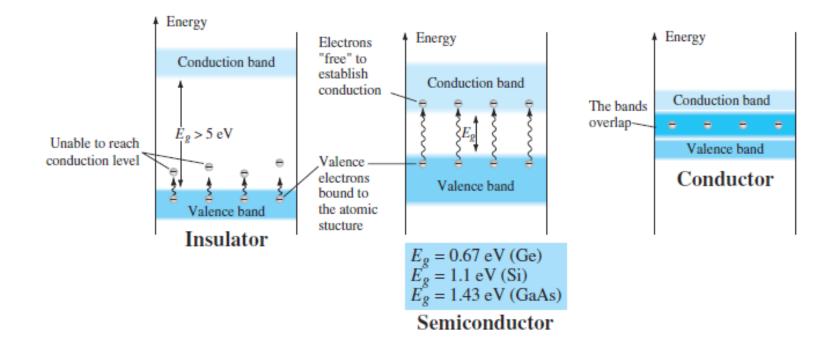
1.4 Energy Levels

- □ Within the atomic structure of each isolated atom there are specific energy levels associated with each shell and orbiting electron.
- Discrete levels in isolated atomic structures
- In general, the further an electron is from the nucleus, the higher is the energy state, and any electron that has left its parent atom has a higher energy state than any electron in the atomic structure.



1.4 Energy Levels Cont'd

Expansion of fixed valence levels into bands result from the interaction of atoms brought closer together in a crystal lattice.



1.4 Energy Levels Cont'd

- The previous Figure clearly reveals that there is an energy gap between the valence and conduction bands which a valence electron must overcome to become a free carrier.
- □Notice that in Figure 1.4 a new unit of measurement of energy, electron volts (eV), has been introduced, i.e.,

$$W(energy) = QV$$
 [1.1]

1.2

 \Box Where V is voltage or potential difference, Q is charge.

□Thus, given the charge of one electron and a p.d of 1V this yields an energy level of 1eV, i.e.,

$$W(\text{energy}) = QV = (1.6 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C})(1 \text{ V}) = 1.6 \times 10^{-19} \text{ J}$$

□Thus,

$$1\,eV = 1.6 \times 10^{-19}\,J$$

1.5 *n*-TYPE and *p*-TYPE Materials

- ✓ Since Si is the most often used substrate material in the construction of solid-state electronic devices, we thus base our discussion on it.
- \checkmark Notice that this can easily be extended to Ge and GaAs too.
- Recall that the characteristics of an intrinsic semiconductor material can be altered by addition of specific impurity atoms through process known as doping.
- ✓ Thus, a semiconductor material that has been subjected to the doping process is called an extrinsic material.

n-Type Material

- ✓ Formed by addition of pentavalent impurity elements, from Group V of the periodic table, such as antimony, arsenic, and phosphorous to a Si base or substrate, see Figure 1.5.
- ✓ Diffused pentavalent impurities are called donor atoms.

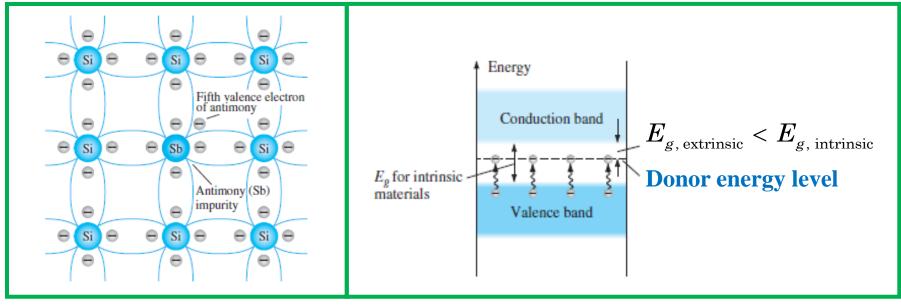


Figure 1.5: Antimony impurity in *n*-type material.

Figure 1.6: Effect of donor impurities on the energy band structure.

✓ At r.t.p (room temperature) in an intrinsic Si material there is about one free electron for every 10^{12} atoms.

✓ Thus, for a dosage level of 1 in 10 million, i.e., $10^{12}/10^7 = 10^5$, the carrier concentration has increased by a ratio of 100,000:1.

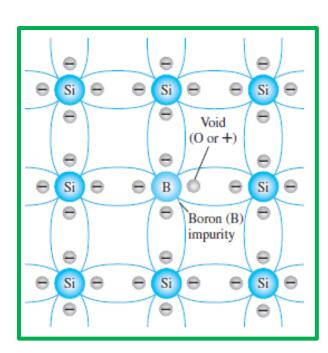


Figure 1.7: Boron impurity in *p*-type material.

p-Type Material

- ✓ Formed by doping an intrinsic (pure) Ge or Si crystal with trivalent atoms.
- ✓ Elements from Group III of the periodic table most frequently used are boron, gallium and, indium.
- The resulting vacancy of an electron is called a hole represented by a circle or a plus sign.
- ✓ Since the holes will readily accept a free electron, thus,
- ✓ The diffused trivalent impurities are called acceptor atoms.

Electron versus Hole Flow

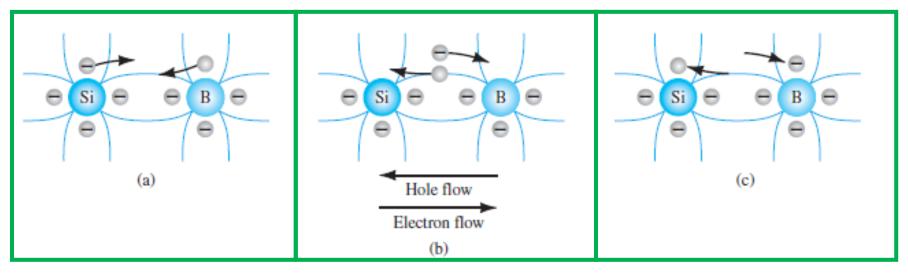


Figure 1.8: Electron versus hole flow.

- ☐ If a valence electron acquires sufficient kinetic energy to break its covalent bond and fills the void created by a hole, then a hole appears in the covalent bond that released the electron.
- □Thus, we will be using the conventional flow of electrons and holes as shown above.

Majority and Minority Carriers

- ✓ In an *n*-type material the number of electrons still outweighs the number of holes (resulting from electrons which have entered the conduction band).
- ✓ Thus, in an *n*-type material the electron is called the majority carrier and the hole the minority carrier.

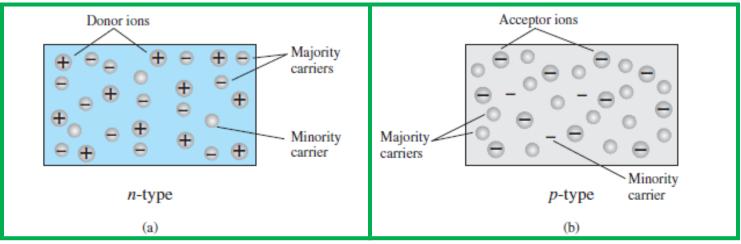


Figure 1.9: (a) *n*-type material; (b) *p*-type material.

✓ Similarly, in a *p*-type material the hole is the majority carrier and the electron is the minority carrier.

1.6 Semiconductor Diode (p-n Junction)

✓ A p-n junction is a boundary or interface between two types of semiconductor materials, p-type and n-type, inside a single crystal of semiconductor.

No Applied Bias (V = 0 V)

✓ At the junction; the interface of the p and n-type, electrons and the holes in the region will combine, resulting in a lack of free carries in this region as shown in Figure 1.10a.

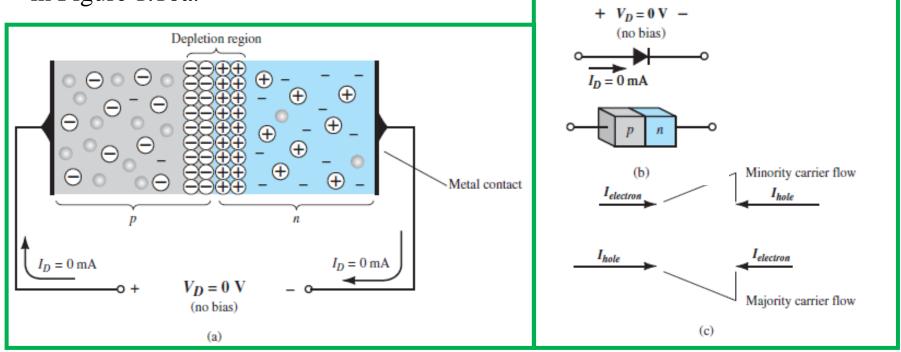


Figure 1.10: (a) internal distribution of charge; (b) diode symbol; (c) demo that net carrier flow is zero.

✓ The region of uncovered positive and negative ions is called the depletion region due to the "depletion" of free carriers in the region. See Figure 1.10a in the previous slide.

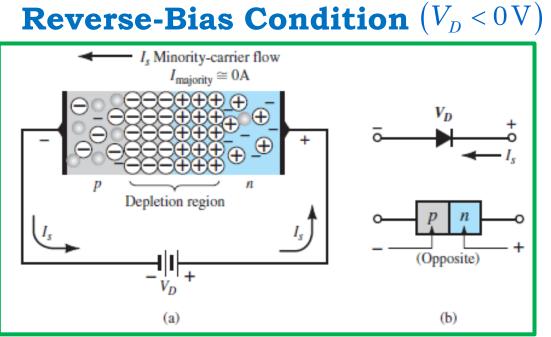


Figure 1.11: (a) internal distribution of charge under reverse-bias; (b) reverse-bias polarity & reverse saturation current direction.

- An external voltage is applied across the *p*-*n* junction in opposite polarity of the *p*- and *n*-type materials.
- **The depletion region widens.**
- □ The electrons in the *n*-type material are attracted by the positive terminal of the voltage source.
- **The holes in the** *p***-type material are attracted toward the negative terminal of the voltage source.**

✓ The current that exists under reverse and forward-bias conditions is called the reverse saturation current and is represented by I_{c}

Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering, School of Engineering, University of Zambia



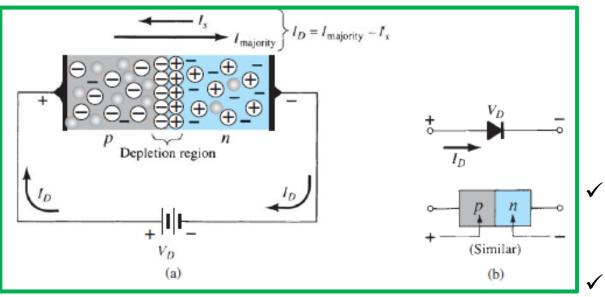


Figure 1.12: (a) internal distribution of charge under reverse-bias; (b) Forward-bias polarity & resulting current direction.

- Applying a forward-bias potential will "pressure" electrons in the *n*-type material and holes in the *p*type material to recombine with the ions near the boundary.
- This reduces the width of the depletion region as shown in Figure 1.12.
 - The electrons and holes have sufficient energy to cross the *p-n* junction (provided high enough voltage is applied)

✓ From solid-state physics the general characteristics of a semiconductor diode are defined by the Shockley's equation, for the forward and reverse-bias regions.

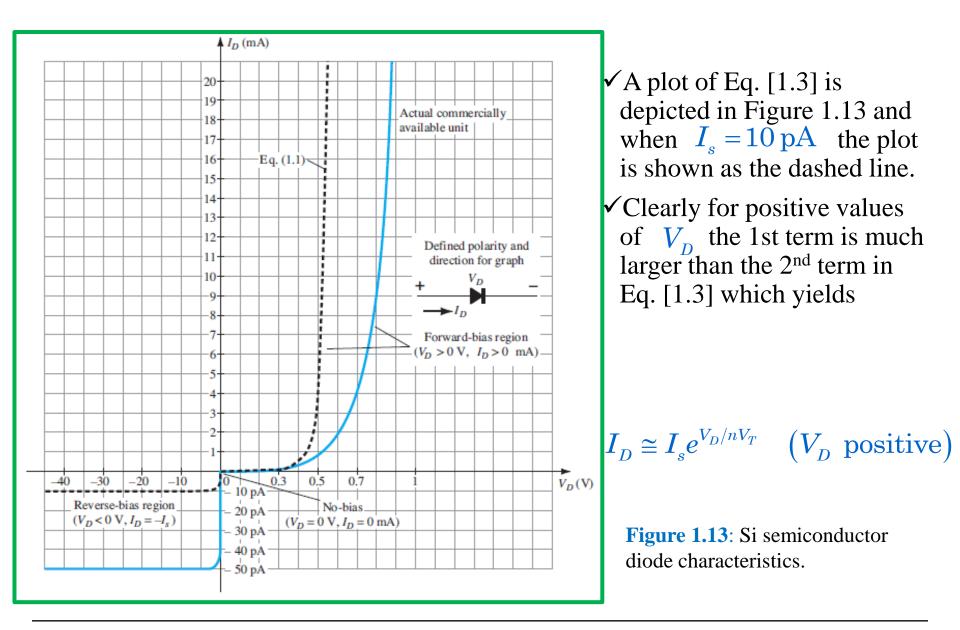
$$I_{D} = I_{s} \left(e^{V_{D}/nV_{T}} - 1 \right)$$
 [1.3]

✓ Where; I_s is the reverse saturation current; V_D is the applied forward-bias voltage across the diode; *n* is an ideality factor with values between 1 and 2; V_T is the thermal voltage determined by

$$V_{_T}=rac{kT_{_K}}{q}$$

[1.4]

✓ Where; *k* is the Boltzmann's constant = 1.38×10^{-23} J/K; *T_K* is the absolute temperature in kelvins = $273 + \text{Temp in }^{\circ}\text{C}$; *q* is the magnitude of electronic charge = 1.6×10^{-19} C.



Example 1.1 Semiconductor Diodes

- ✓ At a temperature of $27 \,^{\circ}$ C (common temperature for components in an enclosed operating system), determine the thermal voltage V_T . [Solution]:
- ✓ Substituting into Eq. [1.4] yields,

$$T = 273 + T_{\circ_{\rm C}} = 273 + 27 = 300 \,\,{\rm K} \,;$$

$$\Rightarrow V_T = \frac{kT_K}{q} = \frac{(1.38 \times 10^{-23} \,\,{\rm J/K})(300 \,\,{\rm K})}{1.6 \times 10^{-19} \,\,{\rm C}} \,;$$

$$\therefore V_T = 25.875 \,\,{\rm mV} \cong 26 \,\,{\rm mV}$$

1.6 Semiconductor Diode Cont'd Breakdown Region

- ✓ With increase in reverse bias, the depletion layer widens and this stops the flow of majority carrier current to almost zero.
- Beyond this voltage, the reverse saturation current (minority carrier current) takes over and is generated in two forms:
 - (1) Zener Breakdown
 - (2) Avalanche Breakdown:

(1) Zener Breakdown:

❑ As the applied electric field in the depletion region gets so strong that it breaks bonds and creates electron/hole pairs which constitute a large current with a negligible increase in the junction voltage.

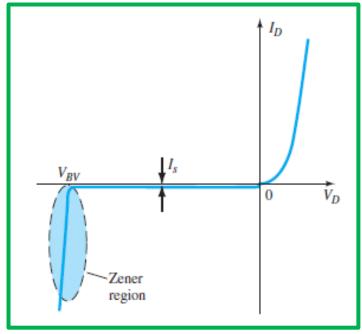


Figure 1.14: Breakdown region.

- □ The maximum reverse voltage that won't take a diode into the Zener region is called the **peak inverse voltage (PIV)** or **peak reverse voltage (PRV)**.
- □ The voltage that causes a diode to enter the Zener region of operation is called the Zener voltage (V_Z) or breakdown voltage (V_{BV}) .

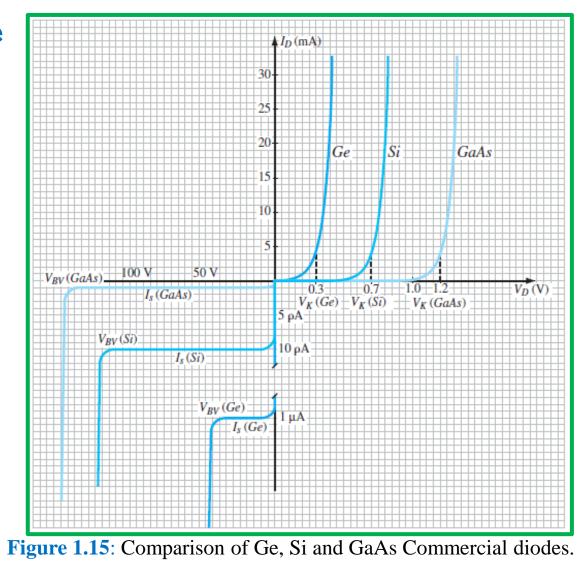
(2)Avalanche Breakdown:

- □As the reverse bias voltage across the diode increases, the velocity of the minority carriers increases such that their kinetic energy $\left(W_{\kappa} = \frac{1}{2}mv^2\right)$ will be sufficient to release additional carriers through collisions with stable atoms.
- □This aids the ionization process to the point where a high **avalanche current** is established and the **avalanche breakdown** region determined.
- Thus, the diode breaks down and the reverse saturation current increases dramatically whilst the voltage (V_{BV}) across the junction remains constant.
- Doping and breakdown: Zener breakdown happens in heavily doped while avalanche breakdown happens in lightly doped semiconductors; both occur but one dominate the other.

Forward Bias Voltage

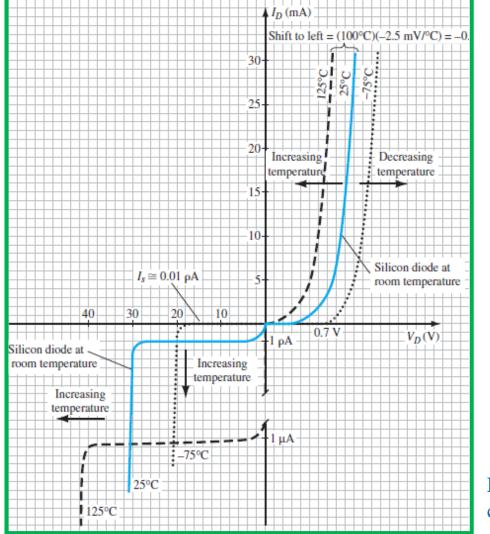
The point at which the diode changes from nobias condition to forwardbias condition occurs when the electrons and holes are given sufficient energy to cross the *p-n* junction. This energy comes from the external voltage applied across the diode.

TABLE 1.3Knee Voltages VK			
Semiconductor	$V_K(\mathbf{V})$		
Ge	0.3		
Si	0.7		
GaAs	1.2		



Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering, School of Engineering, University of Zambia





As temperature increases it adds energy to the diode.

- ☐ It reduces the required forward bias voltage for forward-bias conduction.
- ☐ It increases the amount of reverse current in the reverse-bias condition.
- □ It increases maximum reverse bias avalanche voltage.

Germanium diodes are more sensitive to temperature variations than silicon or gallium arsenide diodes.

Figure 1.16: Variation in Si diode characteristics with temp. change.

Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering, School of Engineering, University of Zambia

1.7 Ideal Versus Practical Diode

- □ The semiconductor diode behaves in a manner similar to mechanical switch in that it can control whether current will flow between its two terminals.
- □ The semiconductor diode is different from a mechanical switch in the sense that when the switch is closed it will only permit current to flow in one direction.

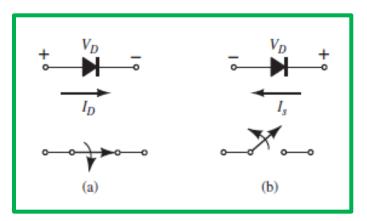


Figure 1.17: Ideal semiconductor diode: (a) forwardbiased; (b) reverse-biased.

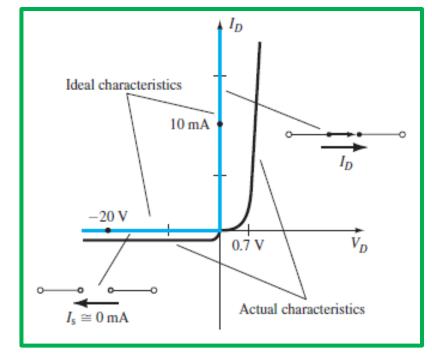


Figure 1.18: Ideal versus actual semiconductor characteristics.

1.8 Resistance Levels

Semiconductors react differently to DC and AC currents.

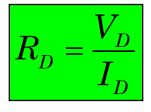
There are three types of resistance:

- **DC** (static) resistance
- □ AC (dynamic) resistance
- □ Average AC resistance

1.8 Resistance Levels Cont'd

DC (Static) Resistance

Given For a specific applied DC voltage V_D , the diode has a specific current I_D , and a specific resistance R_D .



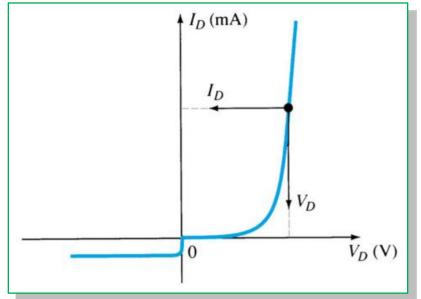


Figure 1.19: Determining the dc resistance of a diode at a particular operating point

1.8 Resistance Levels Cont'd

AC (Dynamic) Resistance

✓ In the forward bias region

 $r_d' = \frac{26 \text{ mV}}{I_D} + r_B$

- **The resistance depends on the amount of current** (I_D) in the diode.
- ❑ The voltage across the diode is fairly constant (26 mV for 25°C).
- **Γ** r_B ranges from a typical 0.1 Ω for high power devices to 2 Ω for low power, general purpose diodes. In some cases r_B can be ignored.

In the reverse bias region:

Diode characteristic
Tangent line

$$\Delta I_d$$

 Q -point
(dc operation)
 I
 I
 ΔV_d

Figure 1.20: Defining the dynamic or ac resistance.

$$r_{d}' = \infty$$

The resistance is effectively infinite. The diode acts like an open. (there is a caveat)

1.8 Resistance Levels Cont'd

Average AC Resistance

$$r_{av} = rac{\Delta V_d}{\Delta I_d} \mid_{\text{pt. to pt.}}$$

AC resistance can be calculated using the current and voltage values for two points on the diode characteristic curve.

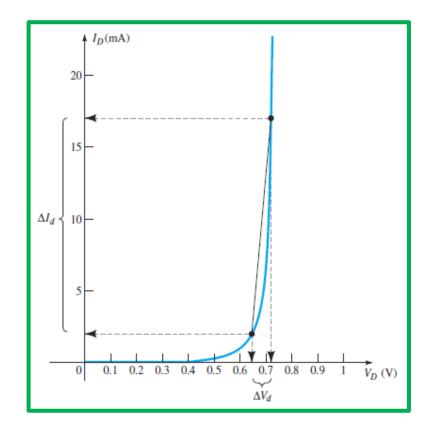
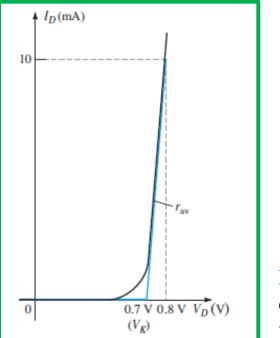


Figure 1.21: Determining the average ac resistance between indicated limits.

1.9 Diode Equivalent Circuit

An equivalent circuit is a combination of elements properly chosen to best represent the actual terminal characteristics of a device or system in a particular operating region.



Piecewise-Linear Equivalent Circuit

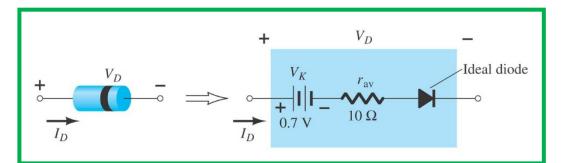


Figure 1.23: Components of the piecewise-linear equivalent circuit.

Figure 1.22: Defining the piecewise-linear equivalent circuit using straight-line segments to approximate the characteristic curve.

1.9 Diode Equivalent Circuit Cont'd

Simplified Equivalent Circuit

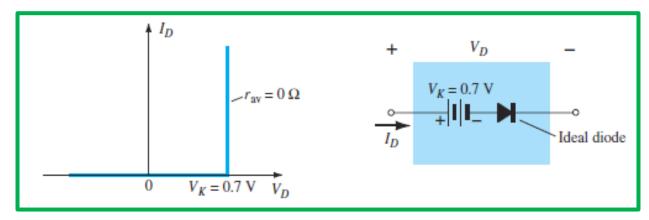


Figure 1.24: Simplified equivalent circuit for a Si diode.

Ideal Equivalent Circuit

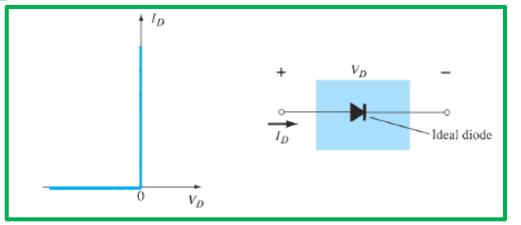


Figure 1.25: Ideal equivalent circuit for a diode and its characteristics.

Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering, School of Engineering, University of Zambia

1.10 Transition and Diffusion Capacitance

Diode Capacitance

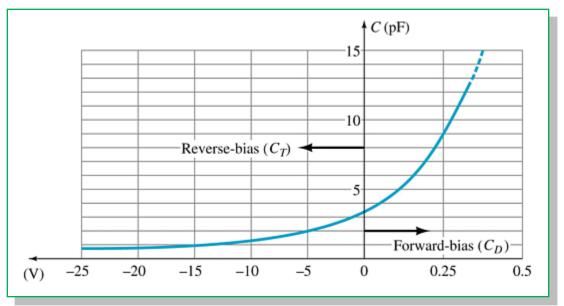
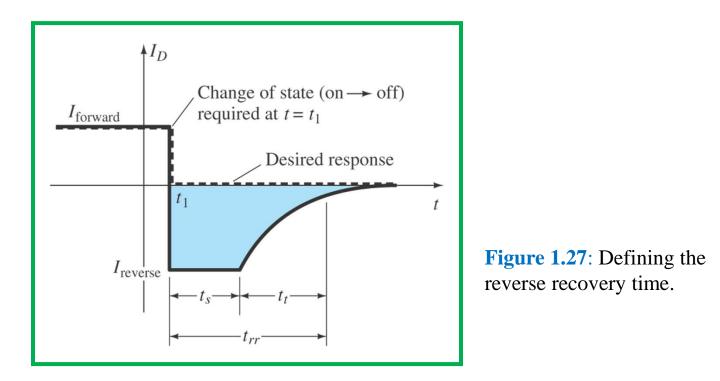


Figure 1.26: Transition and diffusion capacitance versus applied bias for **Si** diode

- □ In reverse bias, the depletion layer is very large. The diode's strong positive and negative polarities create capacitance, C_T. The amount of capacitance depends on the reverse voltage applied.
- □ In forward bias storage capacitance or diffusion capacitance (C_D) exists as the diode voltage increases.

1.11 Reverse Recovery Time

Reverse recovery time is the time required for a diode to stop conducting once it is switched from forward bias to reverse bias.



1.12 Diode Specification Sheets

- ✓ Data about a diode is presented uniformly for many different diodes. This makes cross-matching of diodes for replacement or design easier.
 - **1.** Forward Voltage (V_F) at a specified current and temperature
 - 2. Maximum forward current (I_F) at a specified temperature
 - 3. Reverse saturation current (I_R) at a specified voltage and temperature
 - 4. Reverse voltage rating, PIV or PRV or V(BR), at a specified temperature
 - 5. Maximum power dissipation at a specified temperature
 - 6. Capacitance levels
 - 7. Reverse recovery time, t_{rr}
 - 8. Operating temperature range

1.13 Semiconductor Diode Notation

Diode Symbol and Packaging

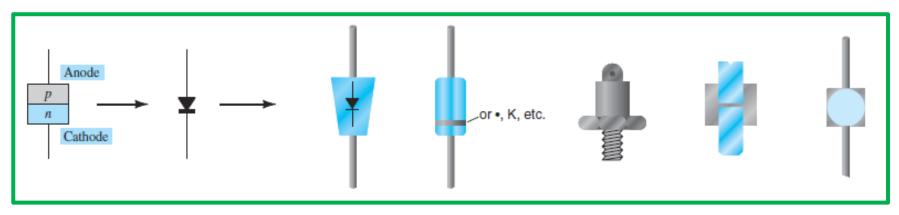


Figure 1.28: Semiconductor diode notation.

The anode is abbreviated A The cathode is abbreviated K



Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering, School of Engineering, University of Zambia

1.14 Diode Testing

Diode Checking Function

Many digital multimeters have a diode checking function. The diode should be tested out of circuit.

A normal diode exhibits its forward voltage:

- **Gallium** arsenide \cong 1.2 V
- $\Box Silicon diode \cong 0.7 V$
- **Germanium diode** \cong 0.3 V

Microwave oven fix example:

Forward voltage much higher why?

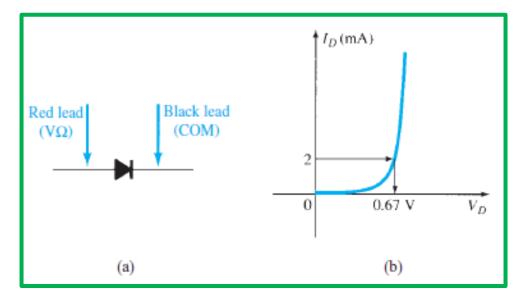


Figure 1.29: Checking a diode in the forward-bias state.

1.14 Diode Testing Cont'd

Ohmmeter Testing

An ohmmeter set on a low Ohms scale can be used to test a diode. The diode should be tested out of circuit.

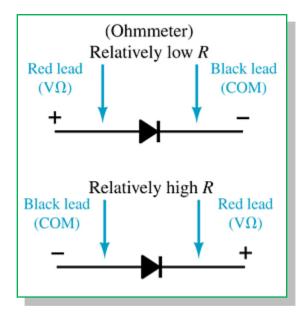


Figure 1.30: Checking a diode with an ohmmeter.

1.14 Diode Testing Cont'd

Curve Tracer

A curve tracer displays the characteristic curve of a diode in the test circuit. This curve can be compared to the specifications of the diode from a data sheet.

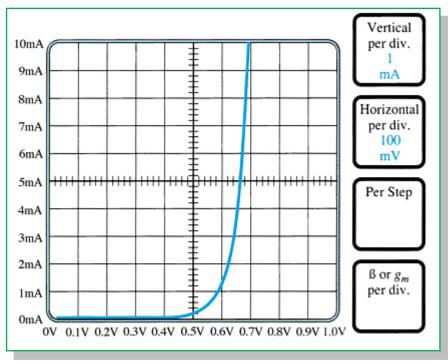


Figure 1.31: Curve tracer response to IN4007 silicon diode.

1.15 Zener Diodes

A Zener is a diode operated in reverse bias at the Zener voltage (V_Z) .

Common Zener voltages are between 1.8 V and 200 V

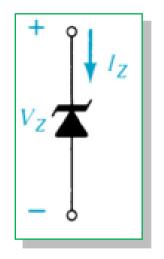
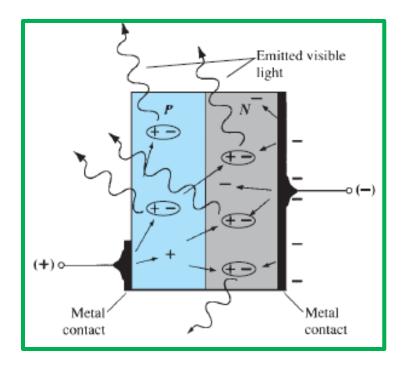


Figure 1.32: Zener diode circuit symbol.



1.16 Light-Emitting Diodes (LED)

- An LED emits photons when it is forward biased.
- **These can be in the infrared or visible spectrum.**
- The forward bias voltage is usually in the range of 2 V to 3 V.

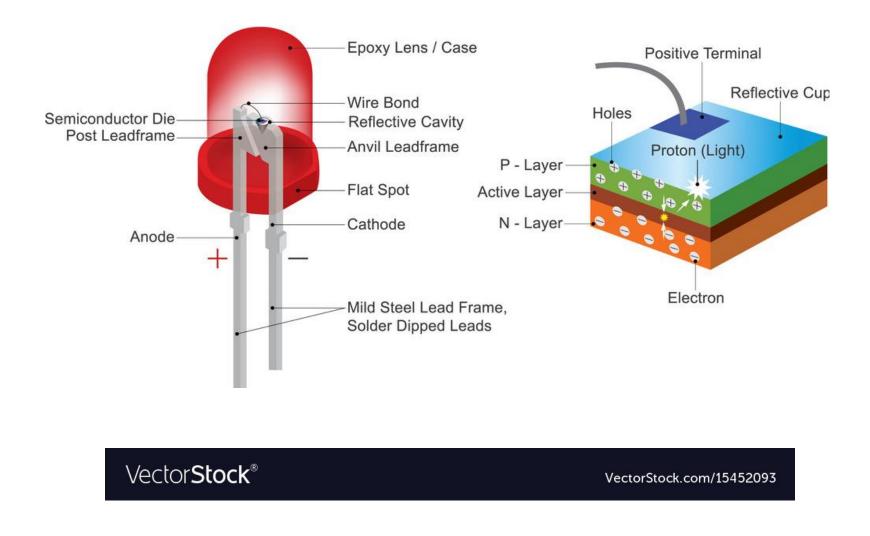


+	77	-
I_D	V _D	-

TABLE 1.9 Light-Emitting Diodes				
Color	Construction	Typical Forward Voltage (V)		
Amber	AlInGaP	2.1		
Blue	GaN	5.0		
Green	GaP	2.2		
Orange	GaAsP	2.0		
Red	GaAsP	1.8		
White	GaN	4.1		
Yellow	AlInGaP	2.1		



1.16 Light-Emitting Diodes (LED)



Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering, School of Engineering, University of Zambia

1.17 Diode Arrays

Diode Arrays

Multiple diodes can be packaged together in an integrated circuit (IC).



A variety of combinations exist.

Common Anode	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
Common Cathode	

End of Lecture 1

Thank you for your attention!