

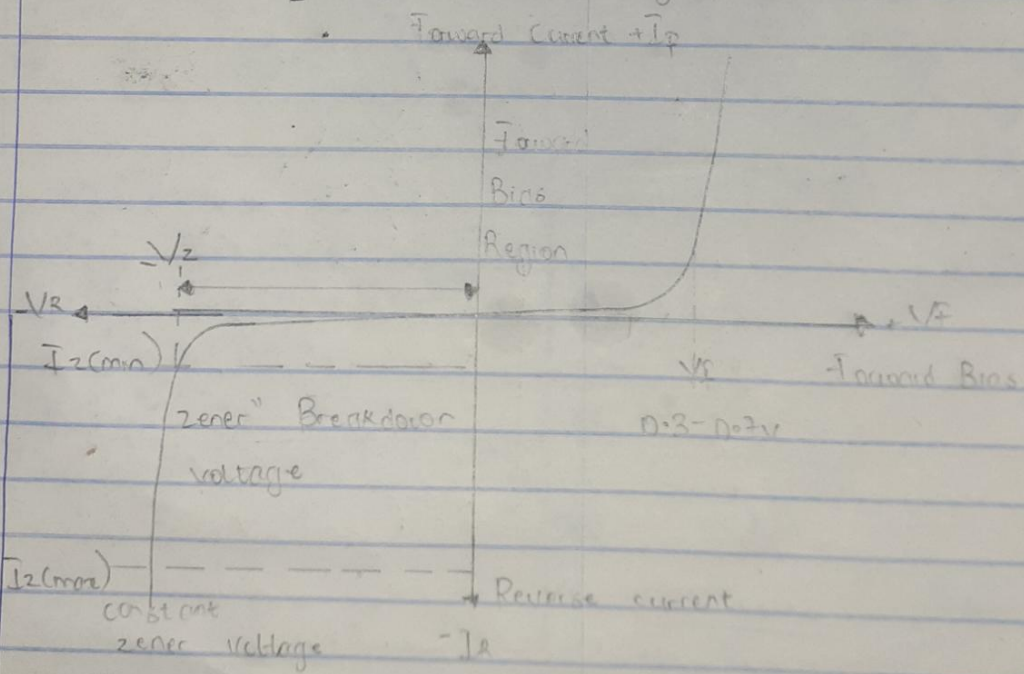
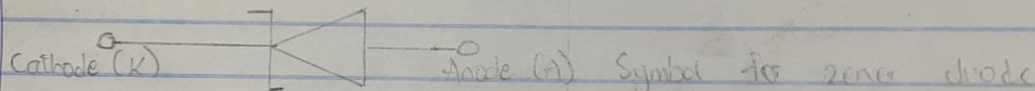
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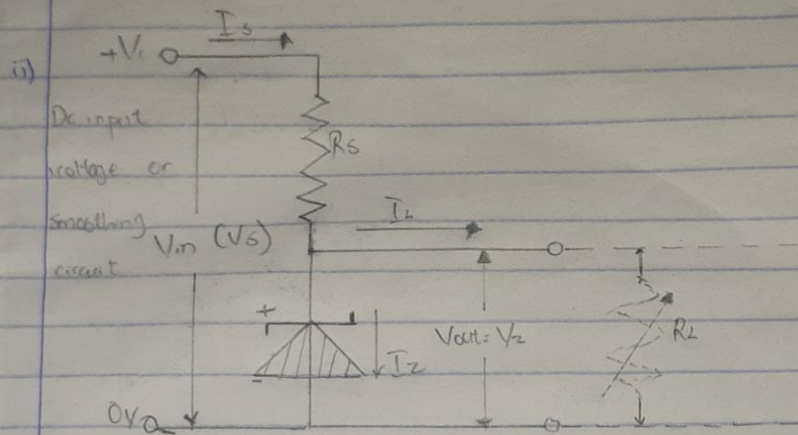
Department: Petroleum Engineering

1. The Zener

The Zener diode or Breakdown Diode are basically the same as the standard PN junction diode but are specially designed to have a low pre-determined Reverse Breakdown Voltage that takes advantage of high reverse voltage. The Zener diode is a signal diode consisting of a silicon PN junction. When biased in the forward direction, it behaves like a normal signal diode but when in reverse direction, the diode breakdown voltage is reached at a point where a process called Avalanche Breakdown occurs.



ii) The Zener Diode I-V Characteristics



The Circuit Diagram for Zener diode

2 $P_z = 5W$ maximum current = $500mA$ $V_s = 20V$

The minimum value of the series resistor $R_s = ?$

Recall: maximum current = $\frac{\text{watts}}{\text{voltage}} = \frac{P_z}{V_z}$

$$I_z = \frac{P_z}{V_z} = \frac{5W}{10V} = 500mA$$

$$i) R_s = \frac{V_s - V_z}{I_z} = \frac{20 - 10}{500mA} = \frac{10 \times 1000}{500} = 20\Omega$$

ii) The current across the diode at full load of 500Ω

$$I_L = \frac{V_z}{R_L} = \frac{10V}{500\Omega} = 20mA$$

The zener current at full load

$$I_z = I_s - I_L$$

$$= 500mA - 20mA$$

$$= 480mA$$