



ZENER DIODE I-V CHARACTERISTICS.

$$\text{Power} = 5W$$

$$\text{Current} = 500mA$$

$$20V_{max}$$

To convert V_{max} to V_{dc}

$$V_{dc} = \frac{2V_{max}}{\pi}$$

$$V_s = \frac{2 \times 20}{\pi} = 12.74 \text{ VDC}$$

$$P = IV$$

$$V_Z = \frac{P_Z}{I_Z} = \frac{5}{500 \times 10^{-3}} = 10V$$

Recall that $V_Z + V_R = V_s$

$$V_R = V_s - V_Z$$

$$12.74 - 10 = 2.74V$$

$$\therefore V = IR$$

$$R = \frac{V}{I} = \frac{2.74}{500 \times 10^{-3}} = 5.48$$

Since its connection series and same current flow

$$I_s = I_Z + I_L$$

$$I_Z = I_s - I_L = \frac{V_Z}{R} = \frac{10V}{500\Omega} = 0.02$$

$$I_Z = 500mA - 20mA = 480mA$$

The Zener diode behaves just like a normal general-purpose diode consisting of a silicon p-n junction and when biased in the forward direction, that is anode positive with respect to its cathode, it behaves just like a normal signal diode passing the rated current.

However, unlike a conventional diode that blocks any flow of current through itself when reverse biased, that is the cathode becomes more positive than the anode, as soon as past the reverse voltage reaches a predetermined value, the Zener diode begins to conduct in the reverse direction.