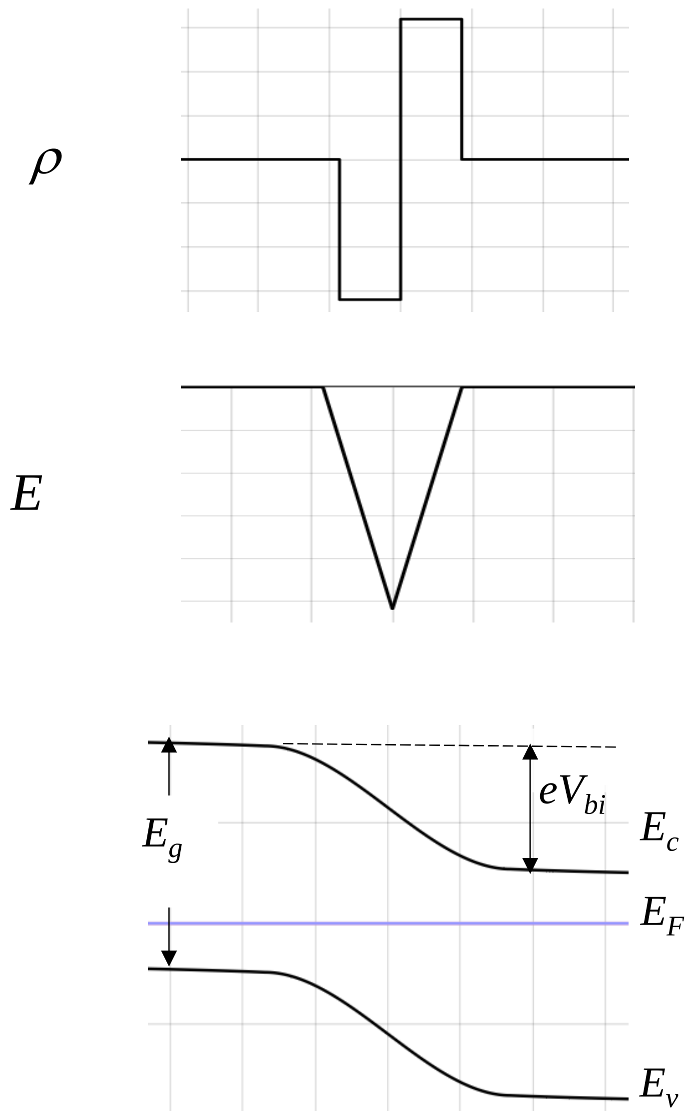
Biased pn - Junctions

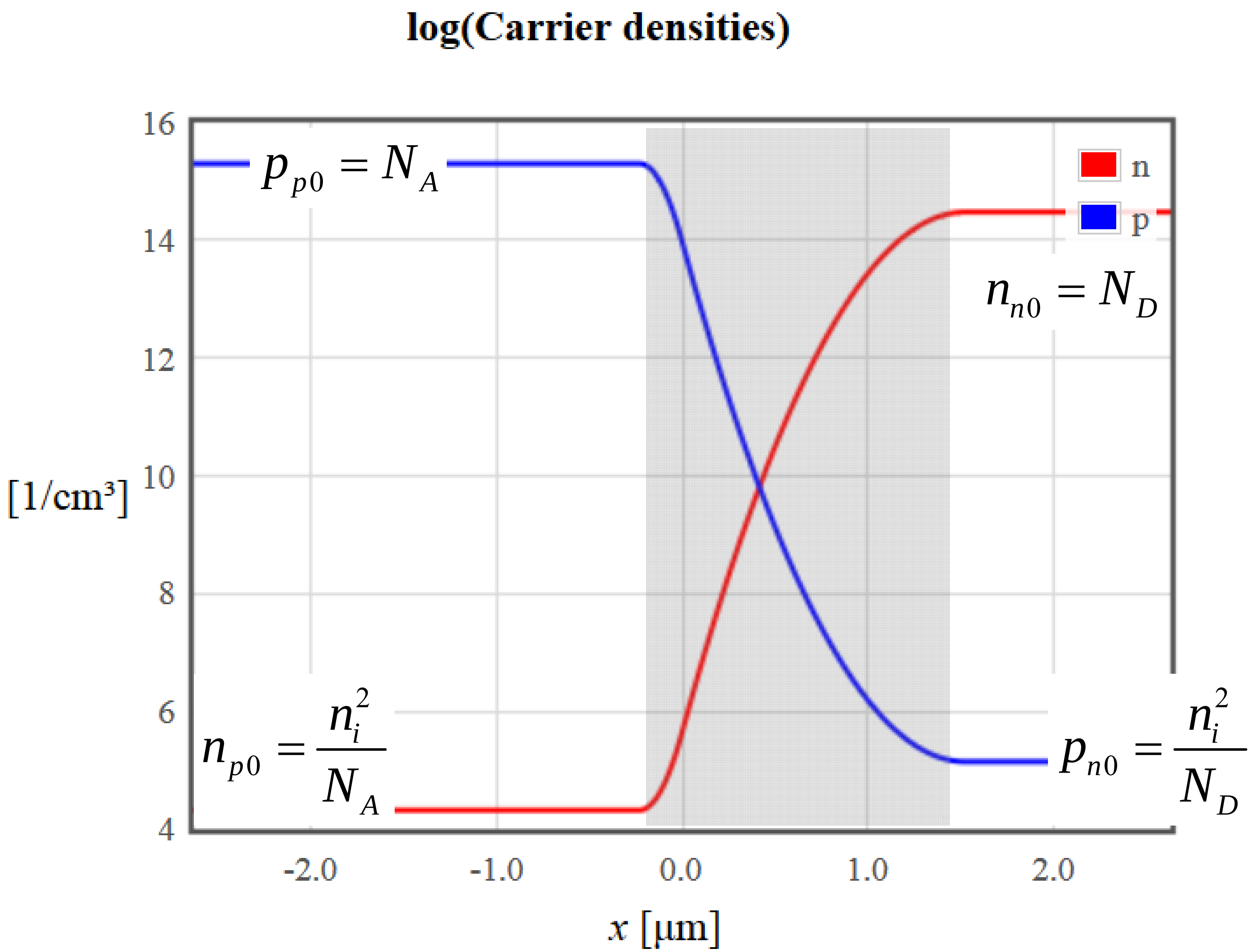
abrupt pn junction



$$eV_{bi} = k_B T \ln\left(\frac{N_D N_A}{n_i^2}\right)$$

http://lampx.tugraz.at/~hadley/psd/L6/abrupt.html

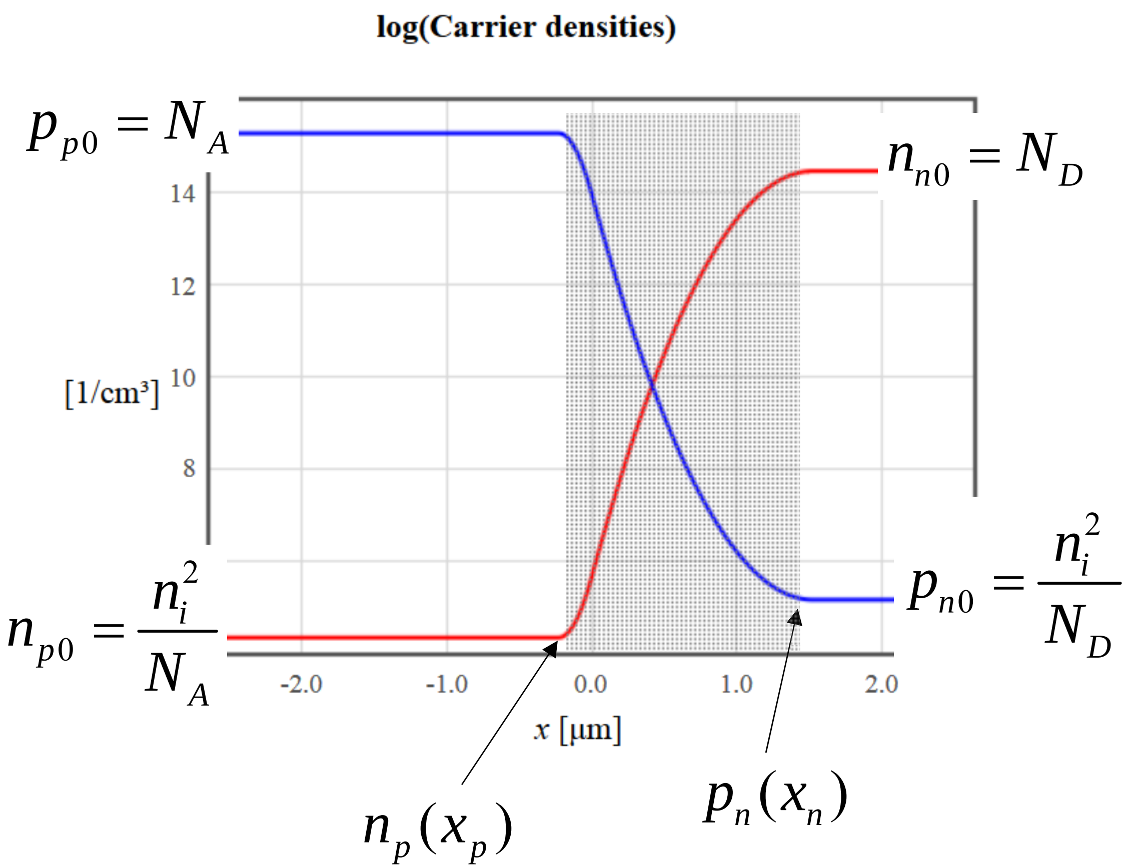
Equilibrium concentrations, V = 0



$$n_{p0} p_{p0} = n_{n0} p_{n0} = n_i^2$$

Bias voltage, $V = 0$

$$eV_{bi} = k_B T \ln\left(\frac{N_D N_A}{n_i^2}\right) = k_B T \ln\left(\frac{N_D}{n_{p0}}\right) = k_B T \ln\left(\frac{N_A}{p_{n0}}\right)$$



$$n_{p0} p_{p0} = n_{n0} p_{n0} = n_i^2$$

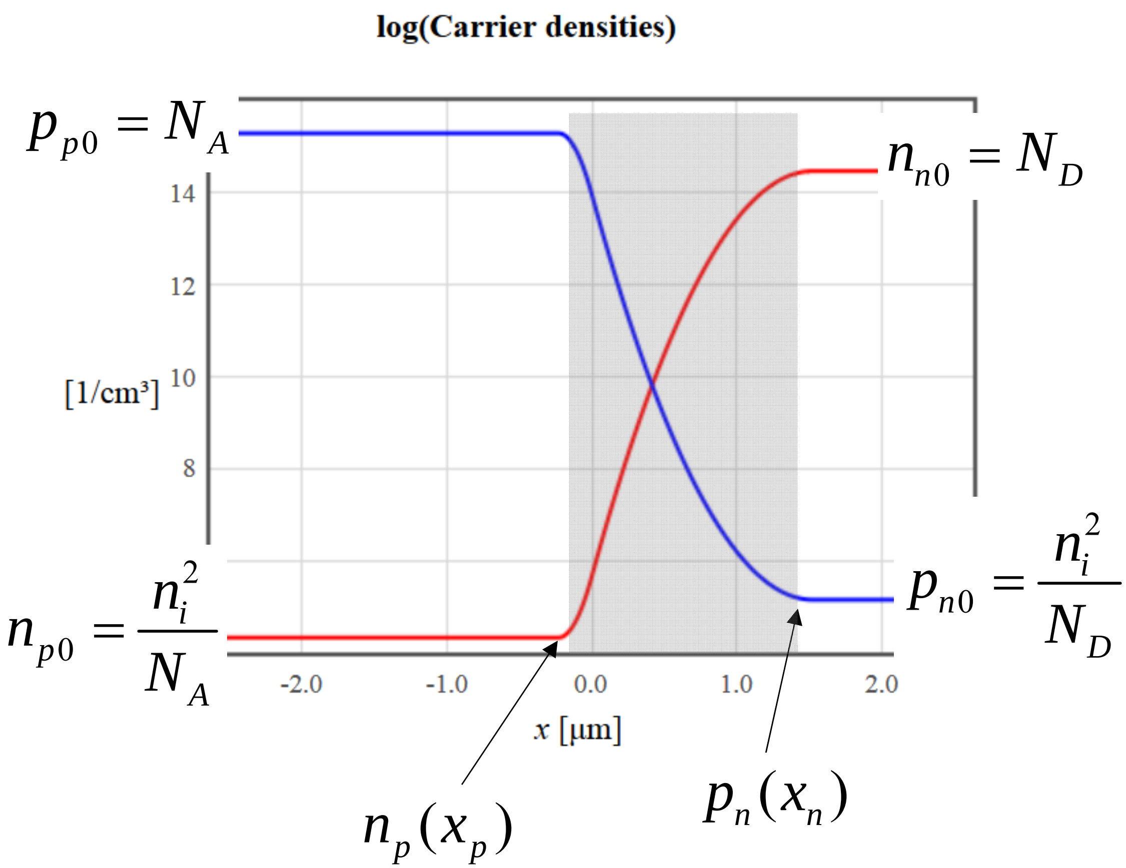
$V = 0$

$$n_{p0} = N_D \exp\left(\frac{-eV_{bi}}{k_B T}\right)$$

$$p_{n0} = N_A \exp\left(\frac{-eV_{bi}}{k_B T}\right)$$

Bias voltage, $V \neq 0$

$$eV_{bi} = k_B T \ln\left(\frac{N_D N_A}{n_i^2}\right) = k_B T \ln\left(\frac{N_D}{n_{p0}}\right) = k_B T \ln\left(\frac{N_A}{p_{n0}}\right)$$



$$n_{p0} p_{p0} = n_{n0} p_{n0} = n_i^2$$

$V = 0$

$$n_{p0} = N_D \exp\left(\frac{-eV_{bi}}{k_B T}\right)$$

$$p_{n0} = N_A \exp\left(\frac{-eV_{bi}}{k_B T}\right)$$

$V \neq 0$

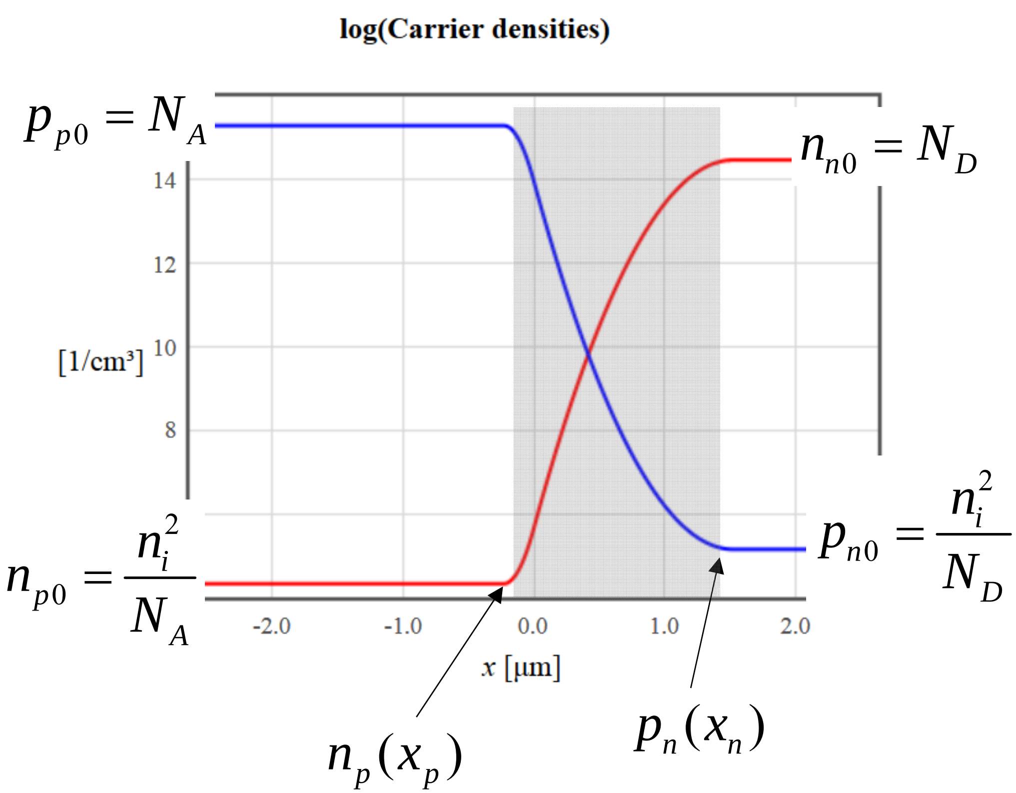
$$n_p(x_p) = N_D \exp\left(\frac{-e(V_{bi} - V)}{k_B T}\right)$$

$$p_n(x_n) = N_A \exp\left(\frac{-e(V_{bi} - V)}{k_B T}\right)$$

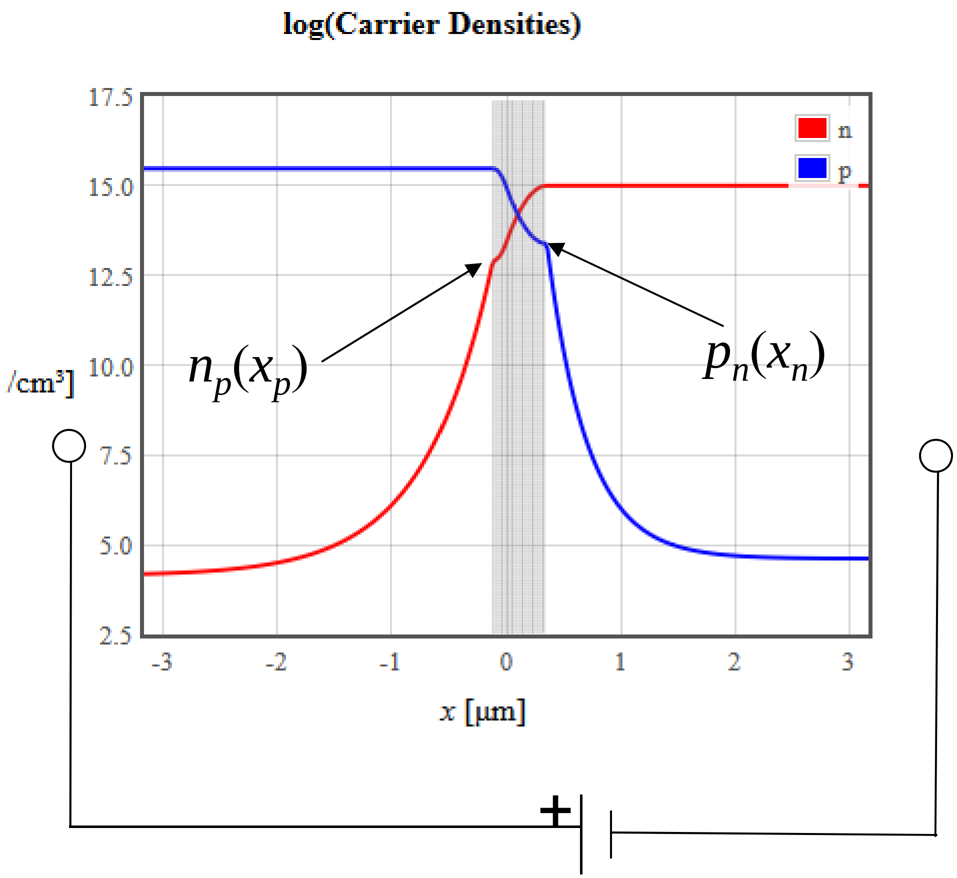
Bias voltage, $V \neq 0$

$$n_p(x_p) = N_D \exp\left(\frac{-e(V_{bi} - V)}{k_B T}\right) = n_{p0} \exp\left(\frac{eV}{k_B T}\right)$$

$$p_n(x_n) = N_A \exp\left(\frac{-e(V_{bi} - V)}{k_B T}\right) = p_{n0} \exp\left(\frac{eV}{k_B T}\right)$$



Forward bias, V > 0



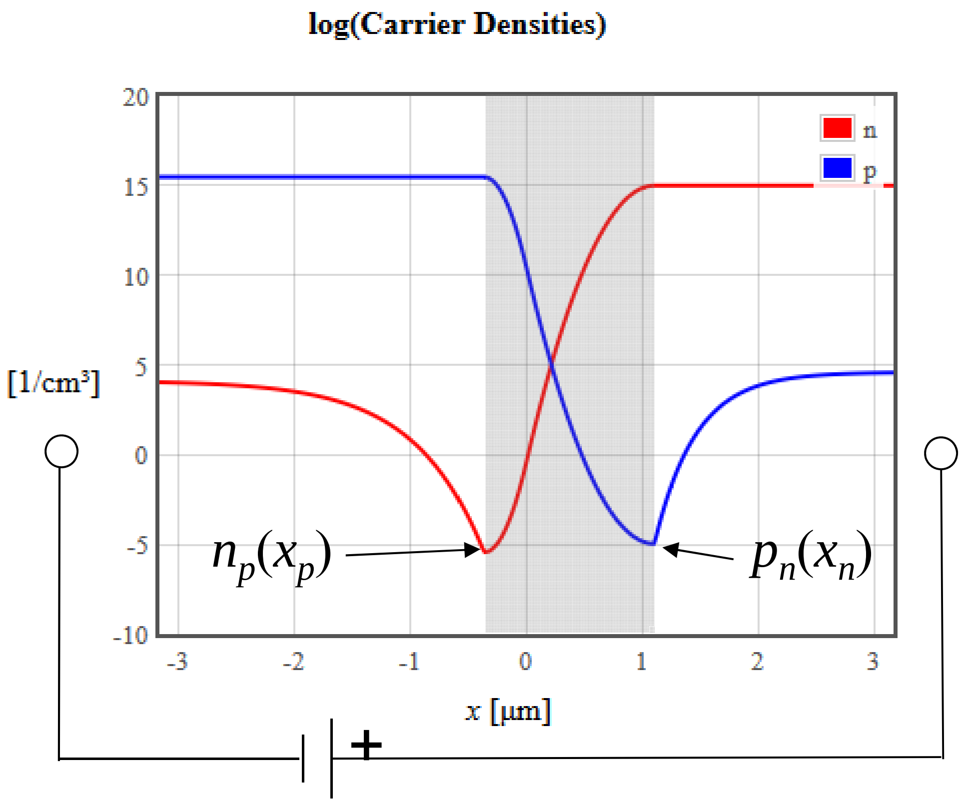
Electrons and holes are driven towards the junction.
The depletion region becomes narrower

$$n_p(x_p) = n_{p0} \exp\left(\frac{eV}{k_B T}\right)$$

$$p_n(x_n) = p_{n0} \exp\left(\frac{eV}{k_B T}\right)$$

Minority electrons are injected into the p-region
Minority holes are injected into the n-region

Reverse bias, V < 0



Electrons and holes are driven away from the junction.
The depletion region becomes wider

$$n_p(x_p) = n_{p0} \exp\left(\frac{eV}{k_B T}\right)$$

$$p_n(x_n) = p_{n0} \exp\left(\frac{eV}{k_B T}\right)$$

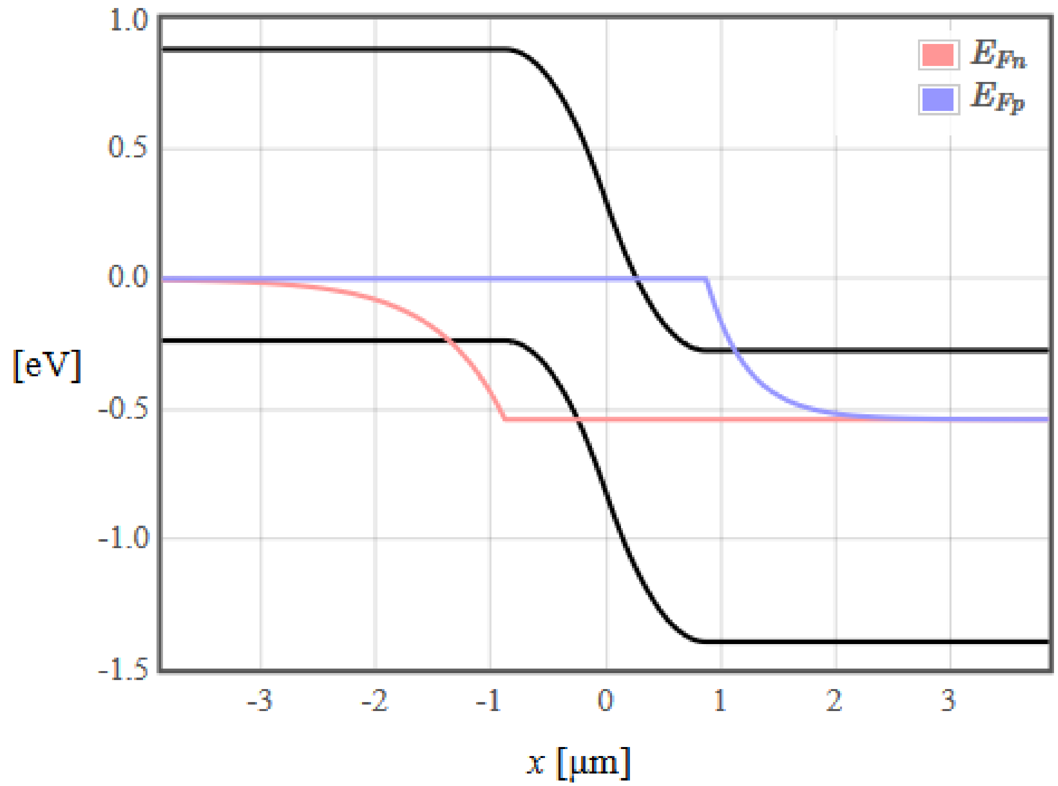
Minority electrons are extracted from the p-region by the electric field
Minority holes are extracted from the n-region by the electric field

Quasi Fermi level

When the charge carriers are not in equilibrium the Fermi energy can be different for electrons and holes.

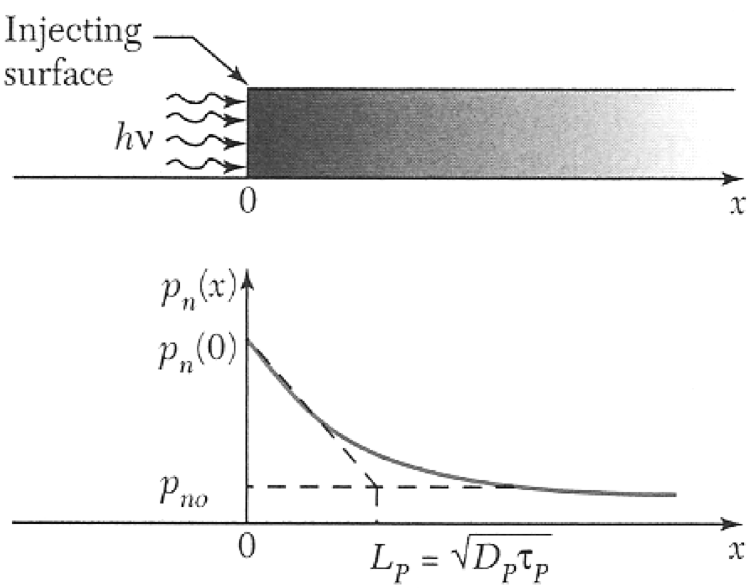
$$n = N_c \exp\left(\frac{E_{Fn} - E_c}{k_B T}\right)$$

$$p = N_v \exp\left(\frac{E_v - E_{Fp}}{k_B T}\right)$$



Review of Diffusion

n-type



$$D_p \frac{\partial^2 p_n}{\partial x^2} = \frac{p_n - p_{n0}}{\tau_p}$$

recombination time

$$p_n(x) = p_{n0} + \left(p_n(0) - p_{n0} \right) \exp\left(\frac{-x}{L_p} \right)$$

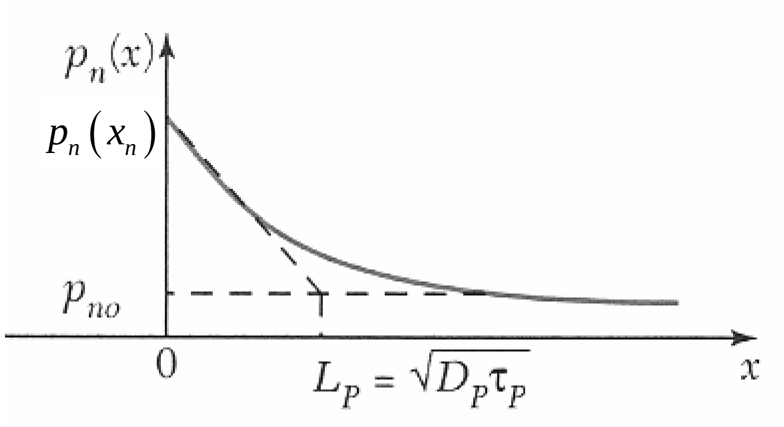
$$L_p = \sqrt{D_p \tau_p}$$

diffusion length

Injection only occurs at the surface. There the minority carrier density is $p_n(0)$.

Diffusion current

n-type



$$p_n(x) = p_{n0} + \left(p_n(x_n) - p_{n0}\right)\exp\left(\frac{-x}{L_p}\right)$$

$$J_{diff,p} = -eD_p \frac{dp}{dx}$$

$$J_{diff,p} = -eD_p \frac{dp}{dx} = \left(p_n(x_n) - p_{n0}\right)\frac{eD_p}{L_p}\exp\left(\frac{-x}{L_p}\right)$$

At the edge of the depletion region:

$$J_{diff,p} = -eD_p \frac{dp}{dx} = \left(p_n(x_n) - p_{n0}\right)\frac{eD_p}{L_p}$$

Diffusion current

$$J_{diff,p} = \left(p_n(x_n) - p_{n0} \right) \frac{eD_p}{L_p}$$

$$p_n(x_n) = p_{p0} \exp\left(-\frac{e\left(V_{bi} - V\right)}{k_B T} \right)$$

$$J_{diff,p} = \left(p_{p0} \exp\left(-\frac{e\left(V_{bi} - V\right)}{k_B T} \right) - p_{n0} \right) \frac{eD_p}{L_p}$$

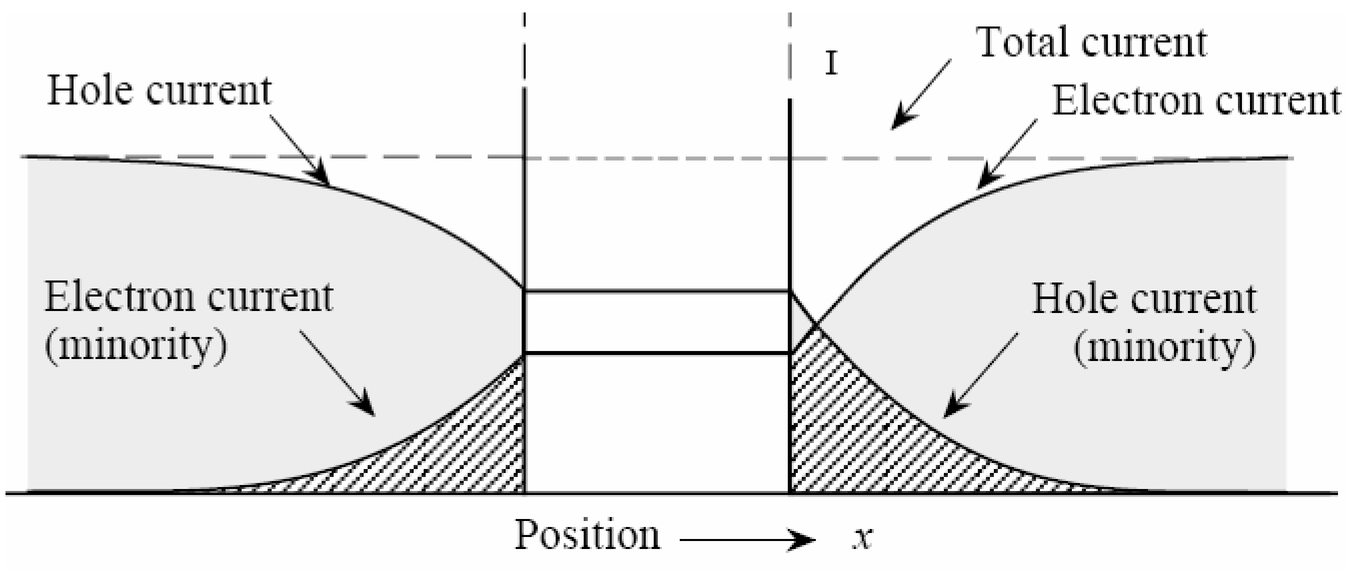
$$p_{p0} = p_{n0} \exp\left(\frac{eV_{bi}}{k_B T} \right)$$

$$J_{diff,p} = p_{n0} \frac{eD_p}{L_p} \left(\exp\left(\frac{eV}{k_B T} \right) - 1 \right)$$

Diffusion current

$$J_{diff,p} = \frac{p_{n0} e D_p}{L_p}\left(\exp\left(\frac{eV}{k_B T}\right) - 1\right)$$

$$J_{diff,n} = \frac{n_{p0} e D_n}{L_n}\left(\exp\left(\frac{eV}{k_B T}\right) - 1\right)$$

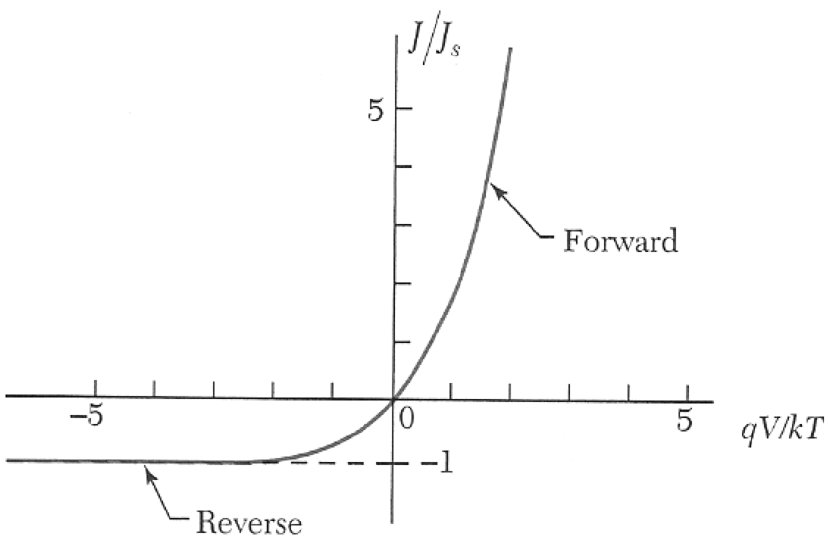


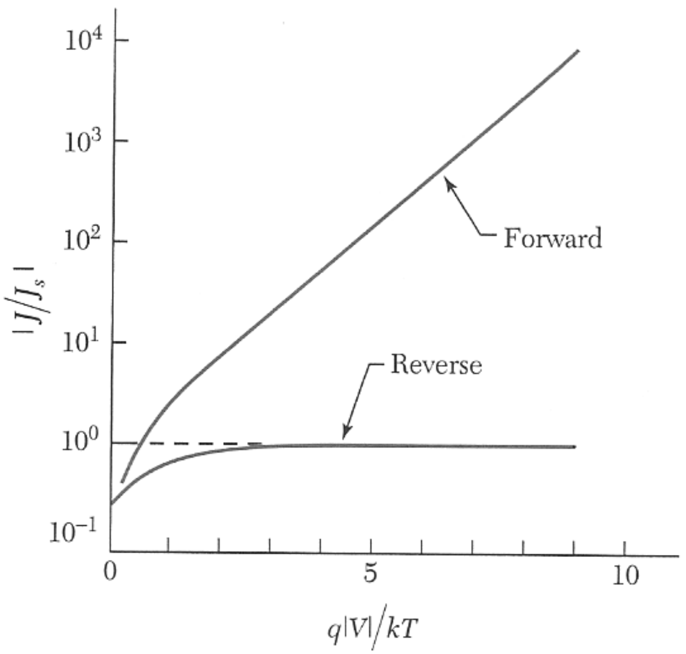
Diode current

$$I = eA\left(\frac{p_{n0}D_p}{L_p} + \frac{n_{p0}D_n}{L_n}\right)\left(\exp\left(\frac{eV}{k_BT}\right) - 1\right) = I_s\left(\exp\left(\frac{eV}{k_BT}\right) - 1\right)$$

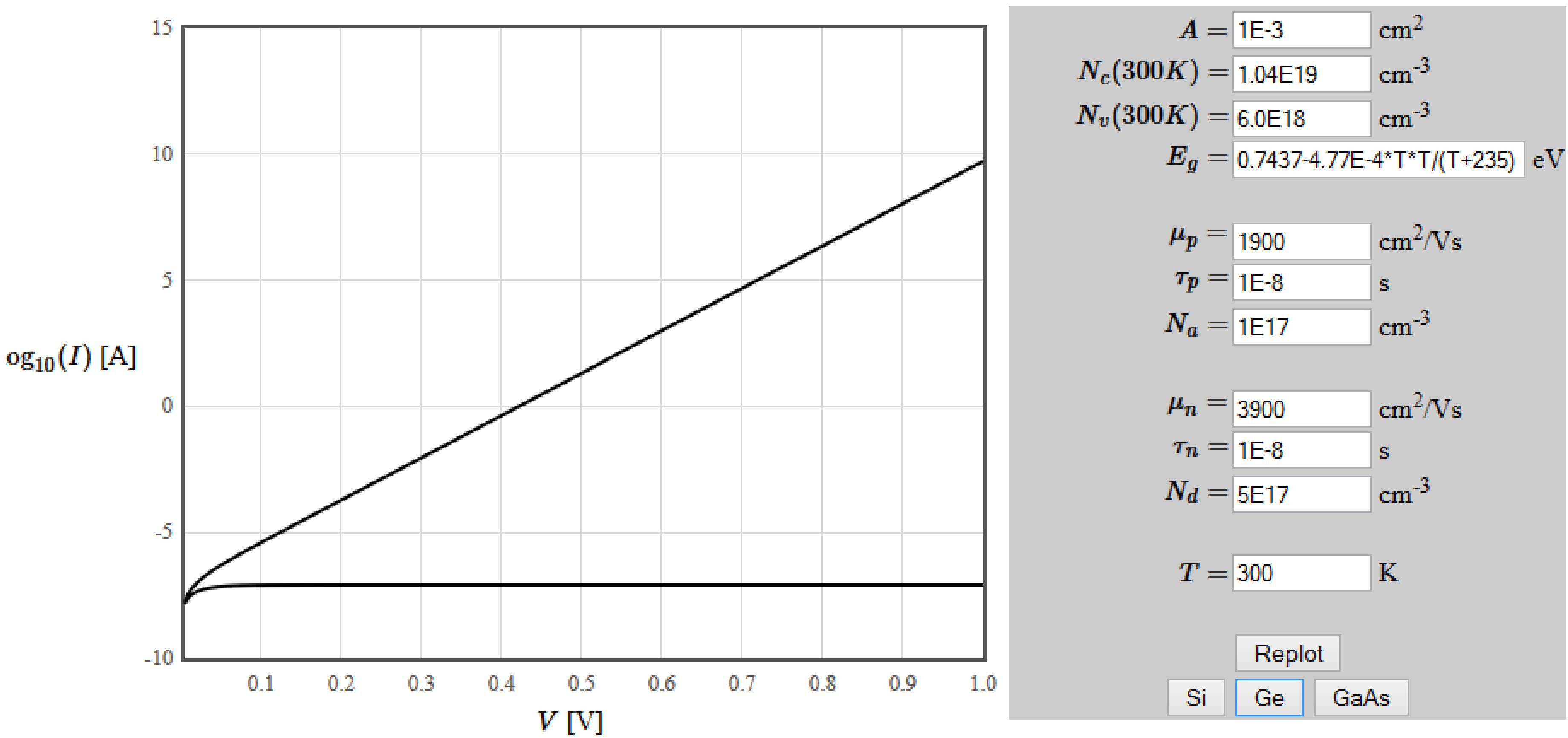
Area

Saturation current





Diode I-V charateristics



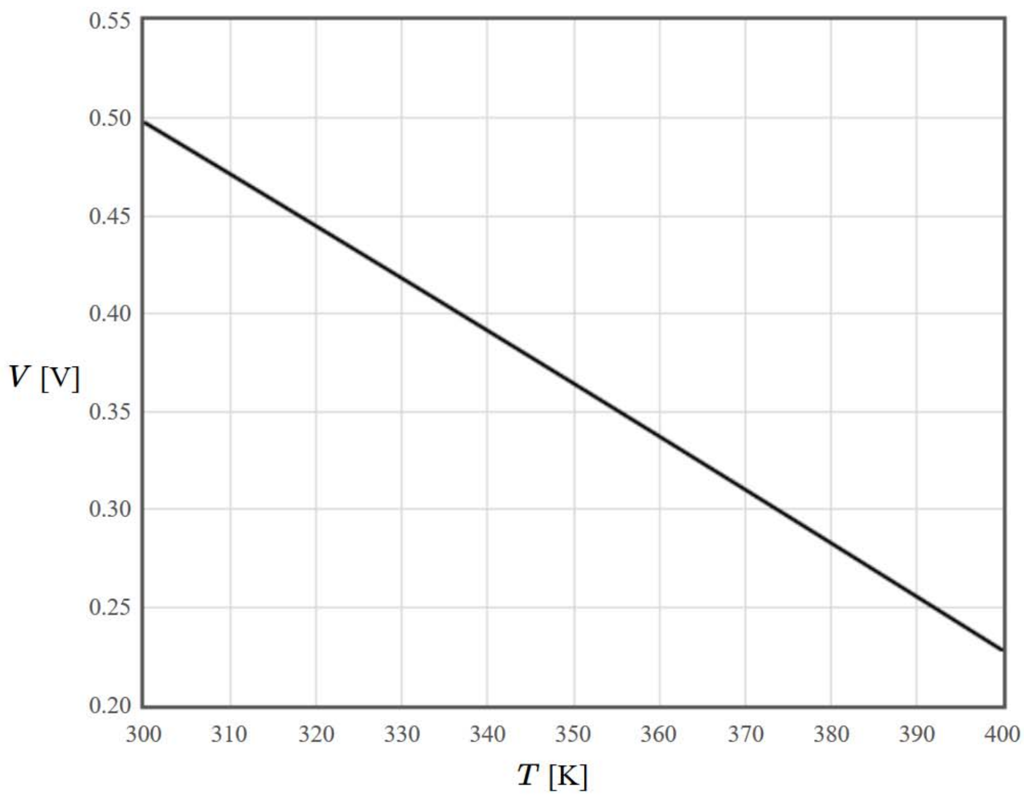
http://lamp.tu-graz.ac.at/~hadley/psd/L6/pnIV.php

Thermometer

$$I_S = Aen_i^2\left(\frac{D_p}{L_pN_d} + \frac{D_n}{L_nN_a}\right)$$

$$n_i = \sqrt{N_c\left(\frac{T}{300}\right)^{3/2} N_v\left(\frac{T}{300}\right)^{3/2}} \exp\left(\frac{-E_g}{2k_BT}\right)$$

$$D_n = \frac{\mu_n k_B T}{e}$$



$A =$	1E-3	cm^2
$N_c(300K) =$	2.78E19	cm^{-3}
$N_v(300K) =$	9.84E18	cm^{-3}
$E_g =$	1.166-4.73E-4*T*T/(T+636)	eV
$\mu_p =$	480	cm^2/Vs
$\tau_p =$	1E-8	s
$N_a =$	1E17	cm^{-3}
$\mu_n =$	1350	cm^2/Vs
$\tau_n =$	1E-8	s
$N_d =$	5E17	cm^{-3}
$T_{start} =$	300	K
$T_{stop} =$	400	K
$I =$	1E-6	A

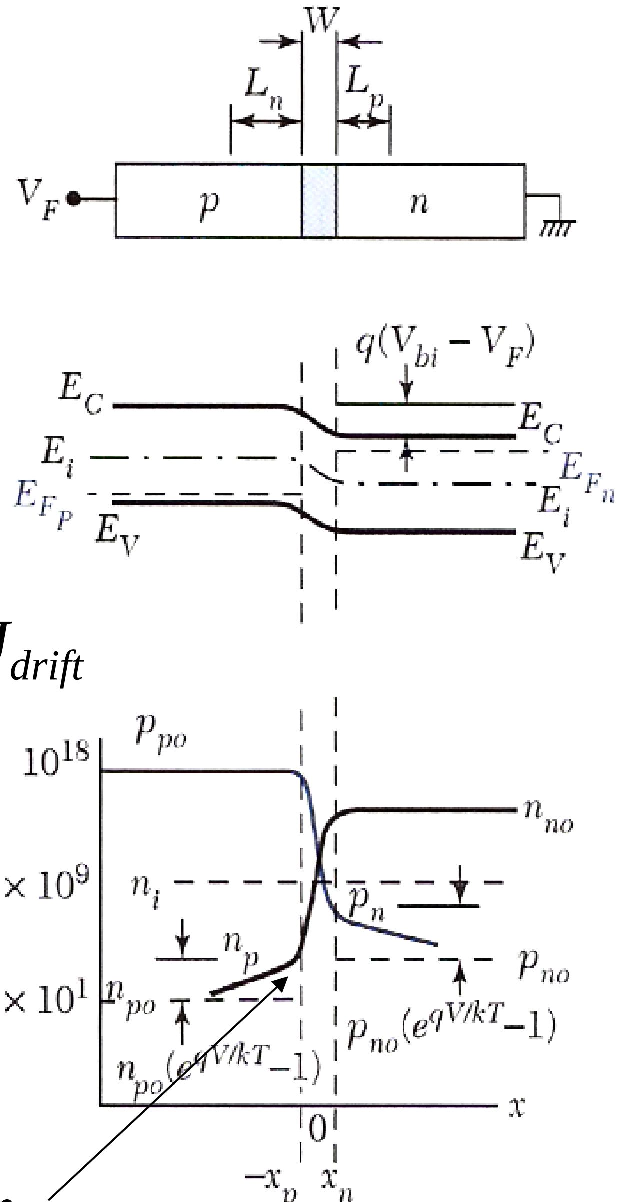
Replot

Si Ge GaAs

$$n_p(x_p) = n_{p0} \exp\left(\frac{eV}{k_B T}\right)$$

$$p_n(x_n) = p_{n0} \exp\left(\frac{eV}{k_B T}\right)$$

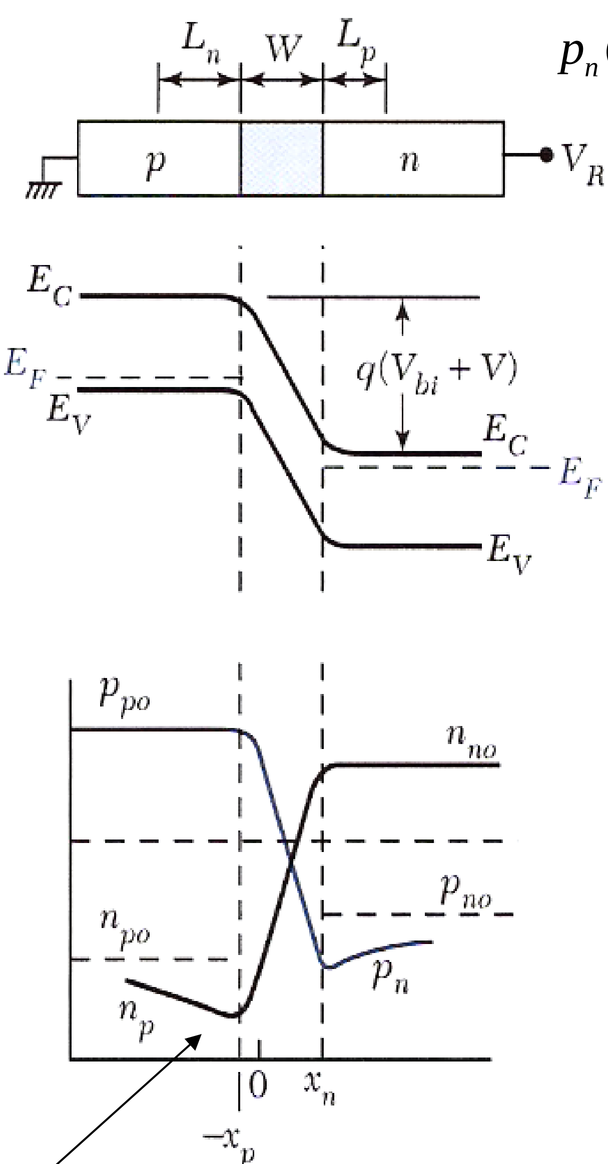
Forward



$J_{diff} > J_{drift}$

Injection

Reverse

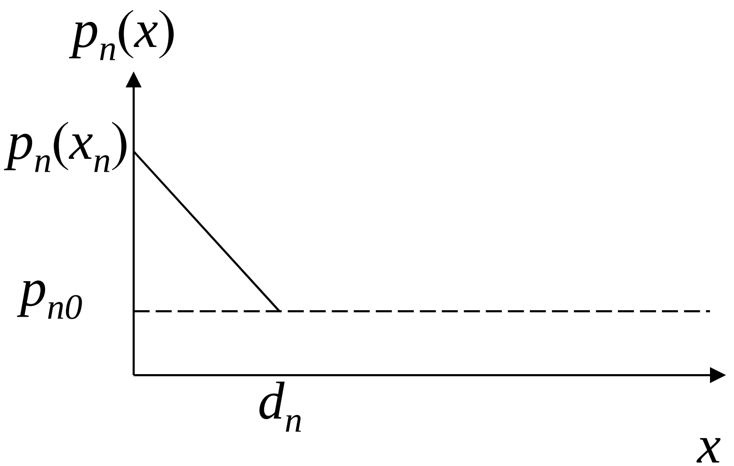


$J_{diff} < J_{drift}$

Extraction

Short diode

n-type



$d_n << L_p$

Metal contact is much closer to the depletion region than the diffusion length

$$J_{diff,p} = -eD_p \frac{dp}{dx}$$

$$J_{diff,p} = -eD_p \frac{dp}{dx} = \frac{eD_p}{d_n}\left(p_n(x_n) - p_{n0} \right)$$

Diffusion current

$$J_{diff,p} = \left(p_n(x_n) - p_{n0}\right)\frac{eD_p}{d_n}$$

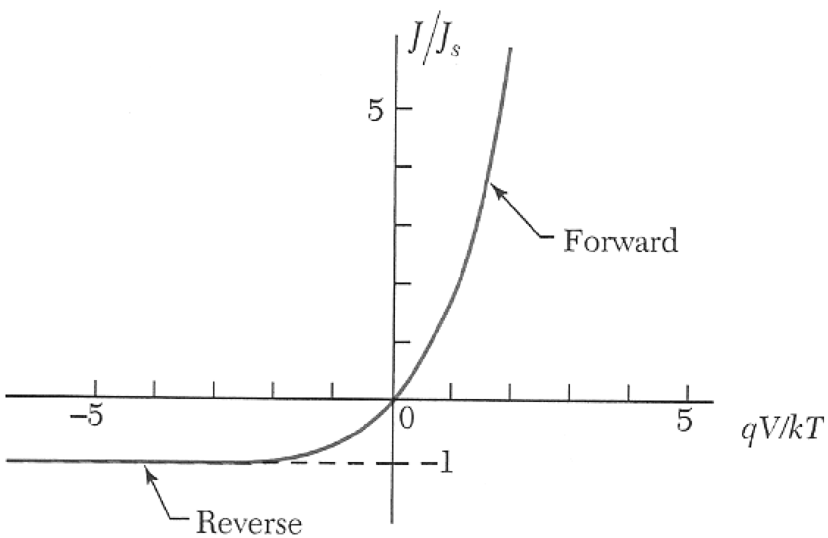
$$J_{diff,p} = \left(p_{n0}\exp\left(\frac{e(V)}{k_B T}\right) - p_{n0}\right)\frac{eD_p}{d_n}$$

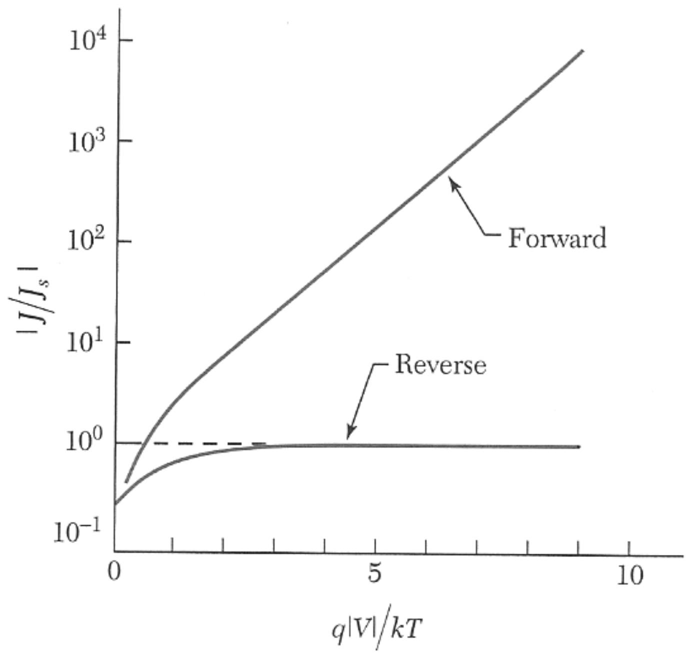
$$J_{diff,p} = \frac{p_{n0}eD_p}{d_n}\left(\exp\left(\frac{eV}{k_B T}\right) - 1\right)$$

Short diode current

$$I = eA\left(\frac{p_{n0}D_p}{d_n}+\frac{n_{p0}D_n}{d_p}\right)\left(\exp\left(\frac{eV}{k_BT}\right)-1\right)=I_s\left(\exp\left(\frac{eV}{k_BT}\right)-1\right)$$

Area



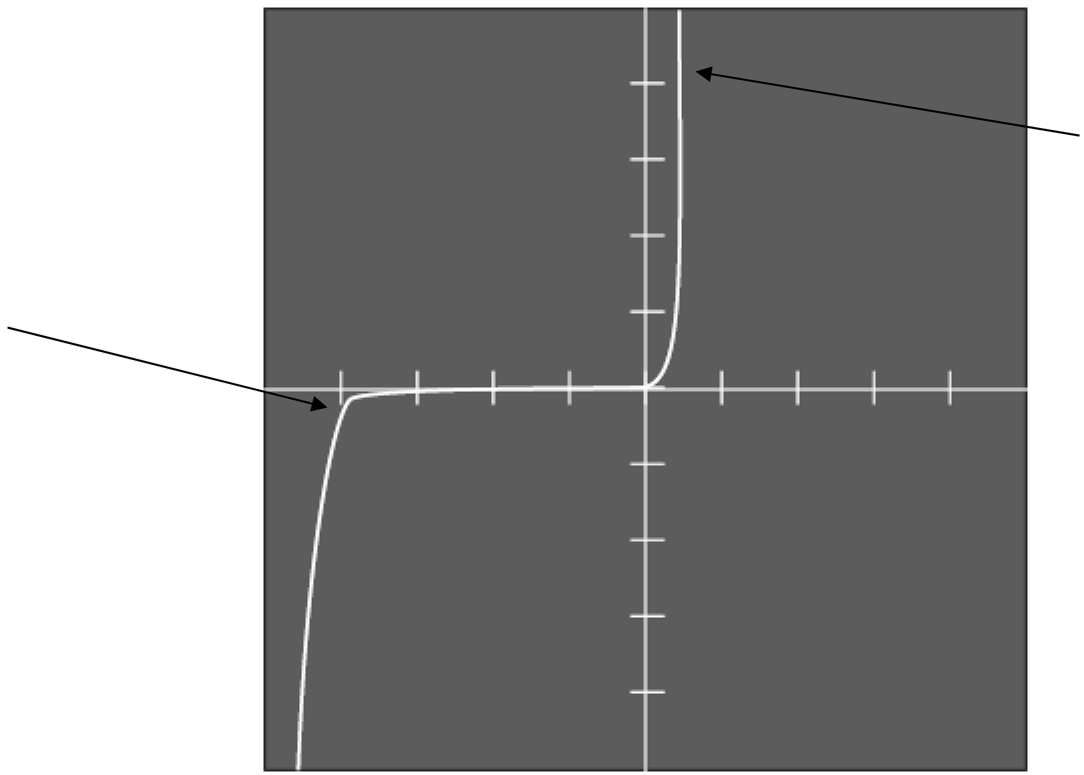


Real diodes

$$I = I_s\left(\exp\left(\frac{eV}{nk_BT}\right)-1\right)$$

n = nonideality factor

$n = 1$ for an ideal diode



Real diodes

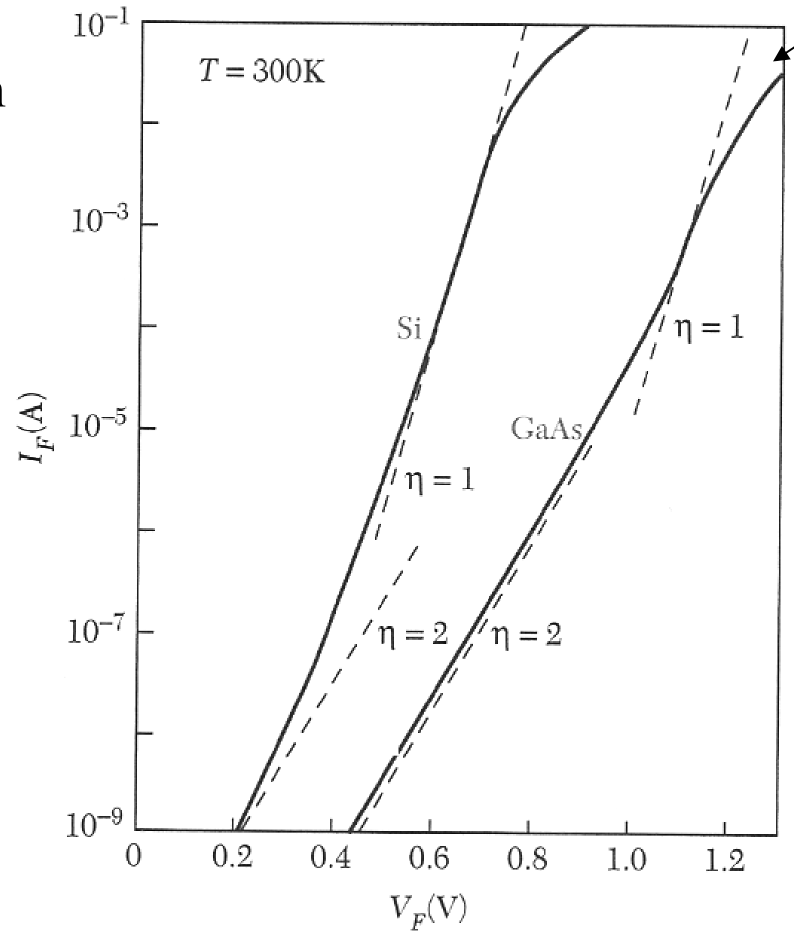
$$I = I_s\left(\exp\left(\frac{eV}{nk_BT}\right)-1\right)$$

There is constant generation/recombination of electron hole pairs.

In forward bias there is an extra current from recombination.

In reverse bias there is an extra current from generation.

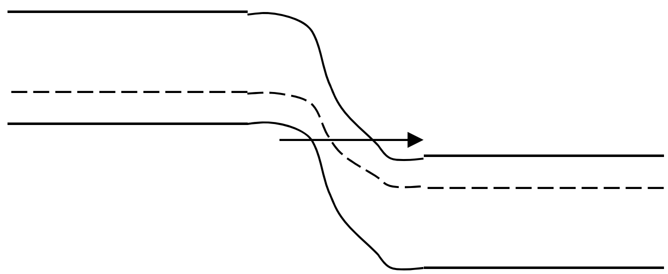
Low bias: recombination dominates, $n = 2$

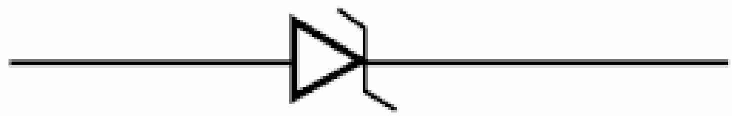


Very high bias: series resistance

High bias: ideal behavior, $n = 1$

Zener tunneling



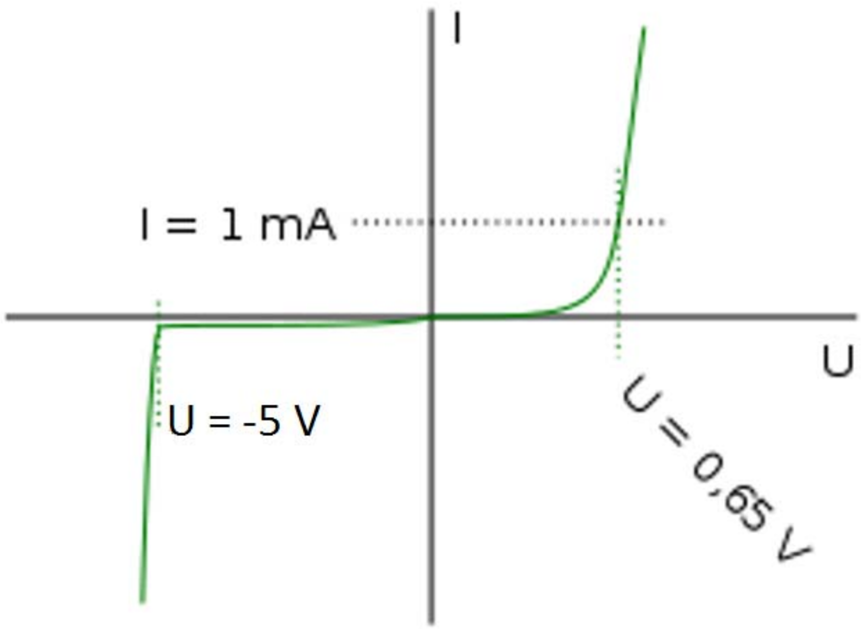


(Zener diode)

Electrons tunnel from valence band to conduction band

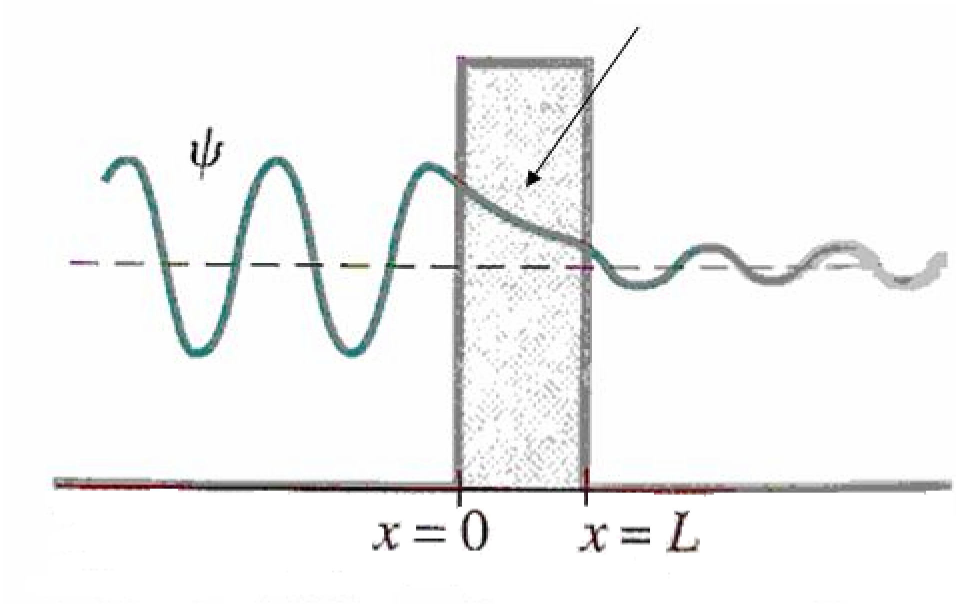
Occurs at high doping

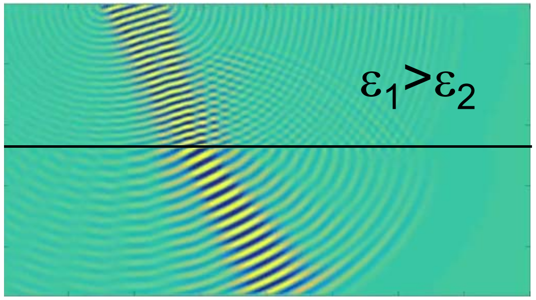
$|V_{zener}| < 5.6$ V



Tunneling

wave decays exponentially in the
classically forbidden region





Tunneling is a wave phenomena. Tunneling and total internal reflection are used in a beam splitter.

Zener tunneling

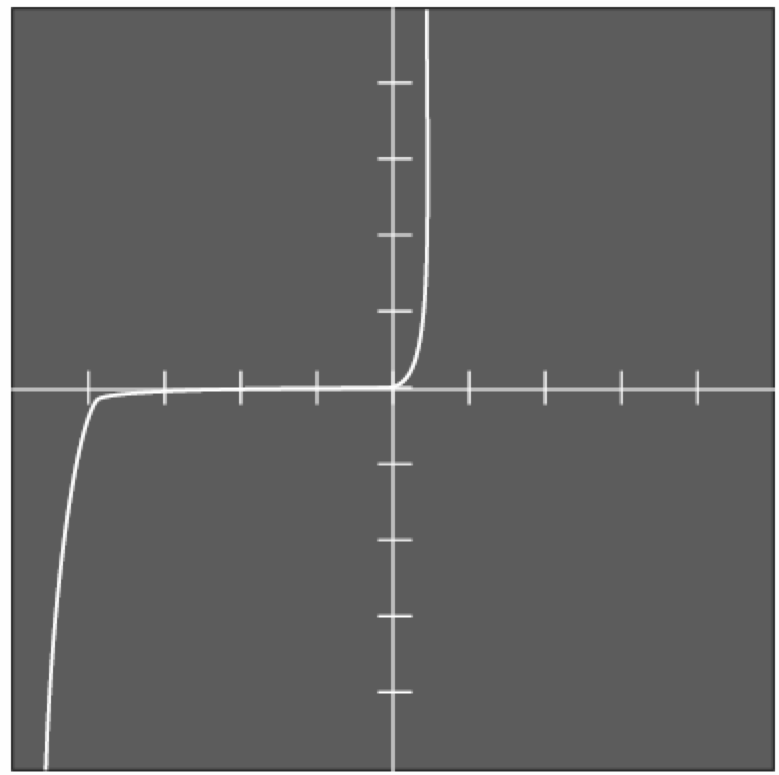
Breakdown voltage is typically much lower than the breakdown voltage of an avalanche diode and can be tuned by adjusting the width of the depletion layer.

Used to provide a reference voltage.

Avalanche breakdown

Impact ionization causes an avalanche of current

Occurs at low doping



Vertical: 5 mA/div
Horizontal: 5 V/div

Avalanche breakdown