

Physics 4700 Experiment 3 Diodes

A sine wave has no voltage offset, i.e. the average of $V_0 \sin \omega t$ is 0. The sine wave from the signal generator might have a voltage offset which should be set to zero for the experiments below. Similarly the trigular wave from the generator might have an offset which should be zeroed.

1) Measure and graph the current through a diode vs. the voltage applied across it for both forward and reserve biasing voltage. Use a DC power supply, zener diode, resistor(s) and multimeter. The forward current in the diode should not exceed 300 mA.

2) Build a clipping circuit that limits the voltage swing from -0.6 V to 5.6 V. Use a 1 k Ω input resistor. Derive the 5 V reference from a 5 V source (power supply). Apply a 1 kHz sine wave. Vary the amplitude of the input voltage and capture pictures of the input and output waveforms (3 pictures, 2 waveforms/picture, with time stamp). Repeat for a triangular input waveform.

3) Build a full wave rectifier. Capture a picture of the input and output waveforms (2 waveforms/picture, with time stamp). Modify the circuit so that the output voltage approximates DC. Use your signal generator for the voltage source. Use a transformer to couple the input voltage to your circuit. A transformer has a small serial resistor, resulting in large current flow from the signal generator which could distort the sine wave. You might need to add a resistor ($\sim 1\text{K}\Omega$) in series between the signal geneator and the transformer. If the output waveform is small, swap the input/output of the transnsformer. The lecture note contains an example of the circuit. Almost every electronics book contains example circuit, e.g. Simpson (P187 and P857, experiment 10) and Hayes and Horwitz Student Manual (P76).

Ripple factor may be defined as the ratio of the RMS of the ripple voltage to the absolute value of the dc component of the output voltage. Measure the ripple factor of your circuit and compare it to that expected for an ideal circuit.

4) The following circuit is called a voltage doubler. Build it and find out why it has earned this name. Pick $RC \gg$ the period of the input voltage V_1 . The output is across C_1 . Capture a picture of the input and output waveforms, with time stamp. How could you make a voltage quadrupler? Show the circuit diagram and explain how it works.

