

CH14 – SEMICONDUCTORS

Question 14.1:

In an n-type silicon, which of the following statement is true:

- (a) Electrons are majority carriers and trivalent atoms are the dopants.
- (b) Electrons are minority carriers and pentavalent atoms are the dopants.
- (c) Holes are minority carriers and pentavalent atoms are the dopants.
- (d) Holes are majority carriers and trivalent atoms are the dopants.

Answer

The correct statement is (c).

In an n-type silicon, the electrons are the majority carriers, while the holes are the minority carriers. An n-type semiconductor is obtained when pentavalent atoms, such as phosphorus, are doped in silicon atoms.

Question 14.2:

Which of the statements given in Exercise 14.1 is true for p-type semiconductors.

Answer

The correct statement is (d).

In a p-type semiconductor, the holes are the majority carriers, while the electrons are the minority carriers. A p-type semiconductor is obtained when trivalent atoms, such as aluminium, are doped in silicon atoms.

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Question 14.3:

Carbon, silicon and germanium have four valence electrons each. These are characterised by valence and conduction bands separated by energy band gap respectively equal to $(E_g)_C$, $(E_g)_{Si}$ and $(E_g)_{Ge}$. Which of the following statements is true?

- (a) $(E_g)_{Si} < (E_g)_{Ge} < (E_g)_C$
- (b) $(E_g)_C < (E_g)_{Ge} > (E_g)_{Si}$
- (c) $(E_g)_C > (E_g)_{Si} > (E_g)_{Ge}$
- (d) $(E_g)_C = (E_g)_{Si} = (E_g)_{Ge}$

Answer

The correct statement is (c).

Of the three given elements, the energy band gap of carbon is the maximum and that of germanium is the least.

The energy band gap of these elements are related as: $(E_g)_C > (E_g)_{Si} > (E_g)_{Ge}$

Question 14.4:

In an unbiased p-n junction, holes diffuse from the p-region to n-region because

- (a)** free electrons in the n-region attract them.
- (b)** they move across the junction by the potential difference.
- (c)** hole concentration in p-region is more as compared to n-region.
- (d)** All the above.

Answer

The correct statement is **(c)**.

The diffusion of charge carriers across a junction takes place from the region of higher concentration to the region of lower concentration. In this case, the p-region has greater concentration of holes than the n-region. Hence, in an unbiased p-n junction, holes diffuse from the p-region to the n-region.

Question 14.5:

When a forward bias is applied to a p-n junction, it

- (a)** raises the potential barrier.
- (b)** reduces the majority carrier current to zero.
- (c)** lowers the potential barrier.
- (d)** None of the above.

Answer

The correct statement is **(c)**.

When a forward bias is applied to a p-n junction, it lowers the value of potential barrier.

In the case of a forward bias, the potential barrier opposes the applied voltage. Hence, the potential barrier across the junction gets reduced.

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Question 14.6:

For transistor action, which of the following statements are correct:

- (a)** Base, emitter and collector regions should have similar size and doping concentrations.
- (b)** The base region must be very thin and lightly doped.
- (c)** The emitter junction is forward biased and collector junction is reverse biased.
- (d)** Both the emitter junction as well as the collector junction are forward biased.

Answer

The correct statement is **(b), (c)**.

For a transistor action, the junction must be lightly doped so that the base region is very thin. Also, the emitter junction must be forward-biased and collector junction should be reverse-biased.

Question 14.7:

For a transistor amplifier, the voltage gain

- (a)** remains constant for all frequencies.
- (b)** is high at high and low frequencies and constant in the middle frequency range.
- (c)** is low at high and low frequencies and constant at mid frequencies.
- (d)** None of the above.

Answer

The correct statement is **(c)**.

The voltage gain of a transistor amplifier is constant at mid frequency range only. It is low at high and low frequencies.

Question 14.8:

In half-wave rectification, what is the output frequency if the input frequency is 50 Hz.

What is the output frequency of a full-wave rectifier for the same input frequency.

Answer

Input frequency = 50 Hz

For a half-wave rectifier, the output frequency is equal to the input frequency.



∴ Output frequency = 50 Hz

For a full-wave rectifier, the output frequency is twice the input frequency.

∴ Output frequency = $2 \times 50 = 100$ Hz

Question 14.9:

For a CE-transistor amplifier, the audio signal voltage across the collected resistance of 2 kΩ is 2 V. Suppose the current amplification factor of the transistor is 100, find the input signal voltage and base current, if the base resistance is 1 kΩ.

Answer

Collector resistance, $R_C = 2 \text{ k}\Omega = 2000 \Omega$

Audio signal voltage across the collector resistance, $V = 2 \text{ V}$

Current amplification factor of the transistor, $\beta = 100$

Base resistance, $R_B = 1 \text{ k}\Omega = 1000 \Omega$

Input signal voltage = V_i

Base current = I_B

We have the amplification relation as:

$$\text{Voltage amplification} = \frac{V}{V_i} = \beta \frac{R_C}{R_B}$$

$$V_i = \frac{V}{\beta R_C}$$

$$= \frac{2 \times 1000}{100 \times 2000} = 0.01 \text{ V}$$

Therefore, the input signal voltage of the amplifier is 0.01 V.

Base resistance is given by the relation:

$$R_B = \frac{V_i}{I_B}$$

$$= \frac{0.01}{1000} = 10 \times 10 \text{ fA}$$

Therefore, the base current of the amplifier is 10 μA .

Question 14.10:

Two amplifiers are connected one after the other in series (cascaded). The first amplifier has a voltage gain of 10 and the second has a voltage gain of 20. If the input signal is 0.01 volt, calculate the output ac signal.

Answer

Voltage gain of the first amplifier, $V_1 = 10$

Voltage gain of the second amplifier, $V_2 = 20$

Input signal voltage, $V_i = 0.01 \text{ V}$

Output AC signal voltage = V_o

The total voltage gain of a two-stage cascaded amplifier is given by the product of voltage gains of both the stages, i.e.,

$$V = V_1 \times V_2$$

$$= 10 \times 20 = 200$$

We have the relation:

$$V = \frac{V_o}{V_i}$$

$$V_o = V \times V_i$$

$$= 200 \times 0.01 = 2 \text{ V}$$

Therefore, the output AC signal of the given amplifier is 2 V.

Question 14.11:

A p-n photodiode is fabricated from a semiconductor with band gap of 2.8 eV. Can it detect a wavelength of 6000 nm?

Answer

Energy band gap of the given photodiode, $E_g = 2.8$ eV

Wavelength, $\lambda = 6000$ nm = 6000×10^{-9} m

The energy of a signal is given by the relation:

$$E = \frac{hc}{\lambda}$$

Where,

h = Planck's constant

= 6.626×10^{-34} Js

c = Speed of light

= 3×10^8 m/s

$$E = \frac{6.626 \times 10^{-34} \times 3 \times 10^8}{6000 \times 10^{-9}}$$

$$= 3.313 \times 10^{-20}$$

But 1.6×10^{-19} J = 1 eV

$$\therefore E = 3.313 \times 10^{-20}$$

$$= \frac{3.313 \times 10^{-20}}{1.6 \times 10^{-19}} = 0.207$$

The energy of a signal of wavelength 6000 nm is 0.207 eV, which is less than 2.8 eV – the energy band gap of a photodiode. Hence, the photodiode cannot detect the signal.



Question 14.12:

The number of silicon atoms per m^3 is 5×10^{28} . This is doped simultaneously with 5×10^{22} atoms per m^3 of Arsenic and 5×10^{20} per m^3 atoms of Indium. Calculate the number of electrons and holes. Given that $n_i = 1.5 \times 10^{16} m^{-3}$. Is the material n-type or p-type?

Answer

Number of silicon atoms, $N = 5 \times 10^{28}$ atoms/m³

Number of arsenic atoms, $n_{As} = 5 \times 10^{22}$ atoms/m³

Number of indium atoms, $n_{In} = 5 \times 10^{20}$ atoms/m³

Number of thermally-generated electrons, $n_i = 1.5 \times 10^{16}$ electrons/m³

Number of electrons, $n_e = 5 \times 10^{22} - 1.5 \times 10^{16} \approx 4.99 \times 10^{22}$

Number of holes = n_h

In thermal equilibrium, the concentrations of electrons and holes in a semiconductor are related as:

$$n_e n_h = n_i^2$$

$$\therefore n_h = \frac{n_i^2}{n_e}$$

$$= \frac{(1.5 \times 10^{16})^2}{4.99 \times 10^{22}} \approx 4.51 \times 10^9$$

Therefore, the number of electrons is approximately 4.99×10^{22} and the number of holes is about 4.51×10^9 . Since the number of electrons is more than the number of holes, the material is an n-type semiconductor.

Question 14.13:

In an intrinsic semiconductor the energy gap E_g is 1.2 eV. Its hole mobility is much smaller than electron mobility and independent of temperature. What is the ratio between conductivity at 600K and that at 300K? Assume that the temperature dependence of intrinsic carrier concentration n_i is given by

$$n_i = n_0 \exp\left[-\frac{E_g}{2k_B T}\right]$$

where n_0 is a constant.

Answer

Energy gap of the given intrinsic semiconductor, $E_g = 1.2$ eV

The temperature dependence of the intrinsic carrier-concentration is written as:

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Question 14.14:

In a p-n junction diode, the current I can be expressed as

$$I = I_0 \exp\left(\frac{eV}{2k_B T} - 1\right)$$

where I_0 is called the reverse saturation current, V is the voltage across the diode and is positive for forward bias and negative for reverse bias, and I is the current through the diode, k_B is the Boltzmann constant (8.6×10^{-5} eV/K) and T is the absolute temperature.

If for a given diode $I_0 = 5 \times 10^{-12}$ A and $T = 300$ K, then

- (a) What will be the forward current at a forward voltage of 0.6 V?
- (b) What will be the increase in the current if the voltage across the diode is increased to 0.7 V?
- (c) What is the dynamic resistance?
- (d) What will be the current if reverse bias voltage changes from 1 V to 2 V?

Answer

In a p-n junction diode, the expression for current is given as:

$$I = I_0 \exp\left(\frac{eV}{2k_B T} - 1\right)$$

Where,

I_0 = Reverse saturation current = 5×10^{-12} A

T = Absolute temperature = 300 K

k_B = Boltzmann constant = 8.6×10^{-5} eV/K = 1.376×10^{-23} J K $^{-1}$

V = Voltage across the diode

(a) Forward voltage, $V = 0.6$ V

$$= 5 \times 10^{-12} \left[\exp\left(\frac{1.6 \times 10^{-19} \times 0.6}{1.376 \times 10^{-23} \times 300}\right) - 1 \right]$$

∴ Current, I

$$= 5 \times 10^{-12} \times \exp[22.36] = 0.0256 \text{ A}$$

Therefore, the forward current is about 0.0256 A.

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(b) For forward voltage, $V = 0.7$ V, we can write:

$$I' = 5 \times 10^{-12} \left[\exp \left(\frac{1.6 \times 10^{-19} \times 0.7}{1.376 \times 10^{-23} \times 300} - 1 \right) \right]$$

$$= 5 \times 10^{-12} \times \exp[26.25] = 1.257 \text{ A}$$

Hence, the increase in current, $\Delta I = I' - I$

$$= 1.257 - 0.0256 = 1.23 \text{ A}$$

$$= \frac{\text{Change in voltage}}{\text{Change in current}}$$

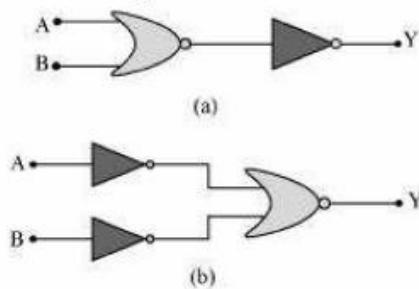
(c) Dynamic resistance

$$= \frac{0.7 - 0.6}{1.23} = \frac{0.1}{1.23} = 0.081 \Omega$$

(d) If the reverse bias voltage changes from 1 V to 2 V, then the current (I) will almost remain equal to I_0 in both cases. Therefore, the dynamic resistance in the reverse bias will be infinite.

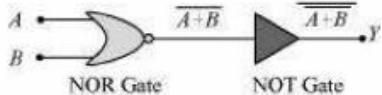
Question 14.15:

You are given the two circuits as shown in Fig. 14.44. Show that circuit (a) acts as OR gate while the circuit (b) acts as AND gate.



Answer

(a) A and B are the inputs and Y is the output of the given circuit. The left half of the given figure acts as the NOR Gate, while the right half acts as the NOT Gate. This is shown in the following figure.



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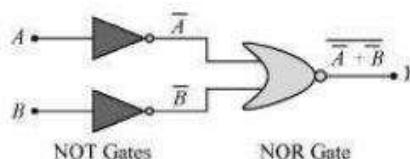
Hence, the output of the NOR Gate = $\overline{A + B}$

This will be the input for the NOT Gate. Its output will be $\overline{\overline{A + B}} = A + B$

$$\therefore Y = A + B$$

Hence, this circuit functions as an OR Gate.

(b) A and B are the inputs and Y is the output of the given circuit. It can be observed from the following figure that the inputs of the right half NOR Gate are the outputs of the two NOT Gates.



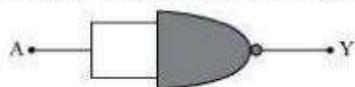
Hence, the output of the given circuit can be written as:

$$Y = \overline{\bar{A} + \bar{B}} = \overline{\bar{A}} \cdot \overline{\bar{B}} = A \cdot B$$

Hence, this circuit functions as an AND Gate.

Question 14.16:

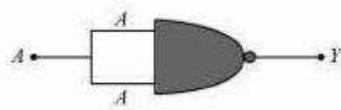
Write the truth table for a NAND gate connected as given in Fig. 14.45.



Hence identify the exact logic operation carried out by this circuit.

Answer

A acts as the two inputs of the NAND gate and Y is the output, as shown in the following figure.



NAND Gate

Hence, the output can be written as:

$$Y = \overline{A \cdot A} = \overline{A} + \overline{A} = \overline{A} \quad \dots (i)$$

The truth table for equation (i) can be drawn as:

A	Y ($= \overline{A}$)
0	1
1	0

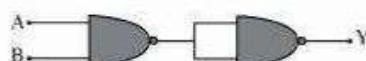
This circuit functions as a NOT gate. The symbol for this logic circuit is shown as:



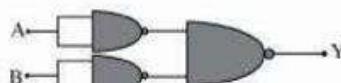
NOT Gate

Question 14.17:

You are given two circuits as shown in Fig. 14.46, which consist of NAND gates. Identify the logic operation carried out by the two circuits.



(a)

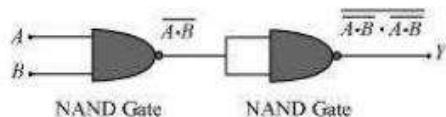


(b)

Answer

In both the given circuits, A and B are the inputs and Y is the output.

(a) The output of the left NAND gate will be $\overline{A \cdot B}$, as shown in the following figure.

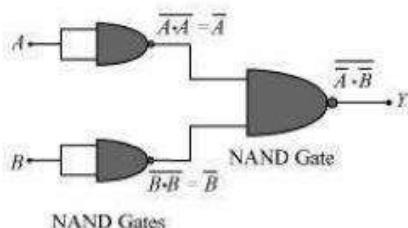


Hence, the output of the combination of the two NAND gates is given as:

$$Y = \overline{(\overline{A} \cdot \overline{B})} \cdot \overline{(\overline{A} \cdot \overline{B})} = \overline{\overline{AB}} + \overline{\overline{AB}} = AB$$

Hence, this circuit functions as an AND gate.

(b) \overline{A} is the output of the upper left of the NAND gate and \overline{B} is the output of the lower half of the NAND gate, as shown in the following figure.



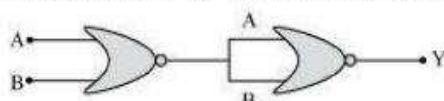
Hence, the output of the combination of the NAND gates will be given as:

$$Y = \overline{A} \cdot \overline{B} = \overline{\overline{A}} + \overline{\overline{B}} = A + B$$

Hence, this circuit functions as an OR gate.

Question 14.18:

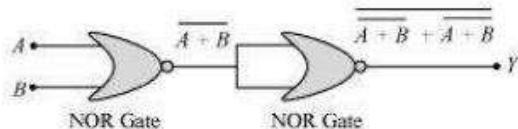
Write the truth table for circuit given in Fig. 14.47 below consisting of NOR gates and identify the logic operation (OR, AND, NOT) which this circuit is performing.



(Hint: A = 0, B = 1 then A and B inputs of second NOR gate will be 0 and hence Y=1. Similarly work out the values of Y for other combinations of A and B. Compare with the truth table of OR, AND, NOT gates and find the correct one.)

Answer

A and B are the inputs of the given circuit. The output of the first NOR gate is $\overline{A + B}$. It can be observed from the following figure that the inputs of the second NOR gate become the output of the first one.



Hence, the output of the combination is given as:

$$\begin{aligned} Y &= \overline{A + B} + \overline{A + B} = \overline{A \cdot B} + \overline{A \cdot B} \\ &= \overline{A \cdot B} = \overline{A} + \overline{B} = A + B \end{aligned}$$

The truth table for this operation is given as:

A	B	$Y (=A + B)$
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	1

This is the truth table of an OR gate. Hence, this circuit functions as an OR gate.

Question 14.19:

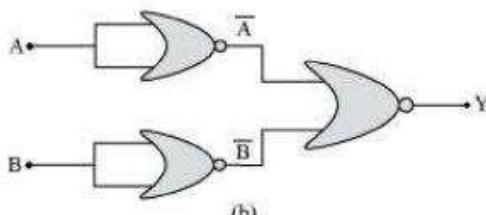
Write the truth table for the circuits given in Fig. 14.48 consisting of NOR gates only.

Identify the logic operations (OR, AND, NOT) performed by the two circuits.

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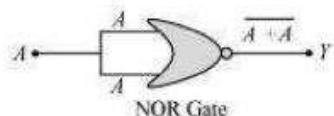
(a)



(b)

Answer

(a) A acts as the two inputs of the NOR gate and Y is the output, as shown in the following figure. Hence, the output of the circuit is $\overline{A + A}$.



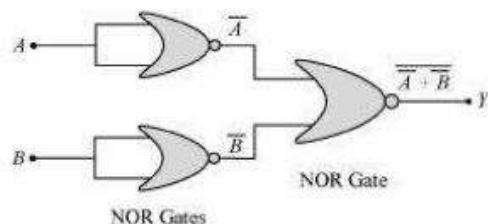
$$\text{Output, } Y = \overline{A + A} = \overline{A}$$

The truth table for the same is given as:

A	$Y (= \overline{A})$
0	1
1	0

This is the truth table of a NOT gate. Hence, this circuit functions as a NOT gate.

(b) A and B are the inputs and Y is the output of the given circuit. By using the result obtained in solution (a), we can infer that the outputs of the first two NOR gates are \overline{A} and \overline{B} , as shown in the following figure.



\bar{A} and \bar{B} are the inputs for the last NOR gate. Hence, the output for the circuit can be written as:

$$Y = \overline{\bar{A} + \bar{B}} = \bar{\bar{A}} \cdot \bar{\bar{B}} = A \cdot B$$

The truth table for the same can be written as:

A	B	Y (=A \square B)
0	0	0
0	1	0
1	0	0
1	1	1

This is the truth table of an AND gate. Hence, this circuit functions as an AND gate.

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