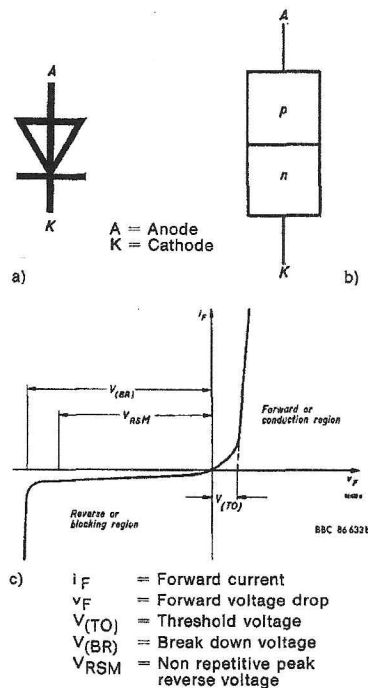
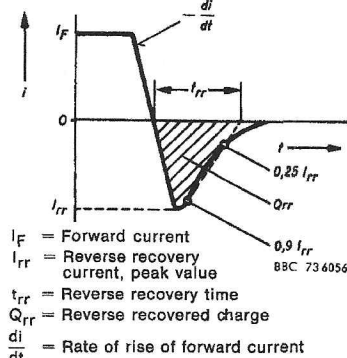


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## Rectifier-Diodes



**Figure 1: Diode**  
a) Symbol, switch sign  
b) schematical constitution  
c)  $V_F - i_F$  characteristic



**Figure 2: Current wave form during commutation of the diode from conduction state to the blocking state. (DIN 41 781 page 10)**

Diodes are electric devices which conduct current in one direction i.e. offer a low resistance, while blocking i.e. offering a high resistance, in the reverse direction. Silicon, proving especially efficient in the higher power range, is preferably employed for the production of semiconductor diodes.

Fig. 1 c shows the characteristic of a semiconductor diode in forward and reverse direction.

In the standard range (type code DS..) the reverse voltage must not exceed even temporarily the non repetitive reverse voltage  $V_{RSM}$ .

**Avalanche diodes** of the DSA range may temporarily be exposed to voltages of the order of the break down voltage  $V_{(BR)}$ .

**Standard-type diodes** are as a rule employed in circuits with line voltage supply (50-60 Hz). For use at higher frequencies (nearly up to 1000 Hz) the dynamical properties during turn-on and turn-off should be taken into consideration.

**Fast recovery diodes** of the DSD range have good dynamical properties. The criterion of the "quickness" of a diode is the reverse recovery time  $t_{rr}$  indicated as time interval between the turn-off of the forward current and the instant a certain value of the reverse voltage is reached (see Fig. 2).

On changing over from the conducting to the non-conducting state the charge carrier quantity stored in the junction give rise to an excessive inverse current, the so-called recovery reverse current  $i_{rr}$ , immediately after passage of the current through zero. After the reverse recovery time has elapsed the reverse current is interrupted and finally decays to the steady state value of the inverse current. This phenomenon is known as hole storage effect and the integration of the current-time-area in reverse direction eventually gives the reverse recovered charge  $Q_{rr}$ .

Fast diodes featuring lower  $Q_{rr}$  and  $t_{rr}$  values than standard-type diodes, their reverse power losses is lower, which again results in a higher efficiency.

### Type code of Brown Boveri diodes

Example: DS A I 35-14 A

DS	_____	Silicon diode (standard)
A	_____	Avalanche type
D	_____	Fast recovery type
I	_____	Inverse polarity (cathode stud mounted)
35	_____	Current rating in ampere
-14	_____	Voltage class (14 $\approx$ 1400 V)
A	_____	Modification

### Glossary of terms and symbols

Terms and symbols largely correspond to the international recommendations ( )

$V_{RRM}$  = Repetitive peak reverse voltage, instantaneous value  
 $I_{FRMS}$  = Maximum permissible forward current, RMS value  
 $I_{FAVM}$  = Mean forward current, 40 to 1000 Hz of one halfsine wave at  $\vartheta_{amb} = 45^\circ \text{C}$ , convection cooling and  $R_{thJA}$ , resp.  $\vartheta_{case} = 100^\circ \text{C}$  and  $R_{thJC}$   
 $I_{FSM}$  = Peak one cycle surge forward current, 10 ms, starting temperature  $\vartheta_{(VJ)max}$   
 $\int i^2 dt$  =  $I^2 t$  for fusing  
 $I_R$  = Maximum reverse current at  $\vartheta_{(VJ)max}$  and  $V_{RRM}$

$v_F$  = Forward voltage drop, maximum value at rated  $i_F$   
 $P_{RSM}$  = Maximum reverse power surge for avalanche diodes at  $\vartheta_{(VJ)max}$  and 10  $\mu\text{s}$  pulse width  
 $\vartheta_{(VJ)}$  = Virtual junction temperature  
 $\vartheta_{(VJ)max}$  = Maximum junction temperature  
 $\vartheta_{amb}$  = Ambient temperature  
 $\vartheta_{case}$  = Case temperature  
 $R_{thJC}$  = Thermal resistance junction to case  
 $R_{thJA}$  = Thermal resistance junction to ambient  
 $t_{rr}$  = Reverse recovery time at  $25^\circ \text{C}$   
 $Q_{rr}$  = Reverse recovered charge at  $25^\circ \text{C}$