

Figure 7-1. Circuit for measuring load curve.

The current in the external circuit is equal to the generated current minus the diode forward current for the corresponding voltage. This diode current is, for us, a leakage current as it is opposite to the flow of useful current. At short circuit, the diode current approaches zero; it rises with the voltage, at first slowly and then more rapidly. This explains the curved load curve. If we could keep the diode current

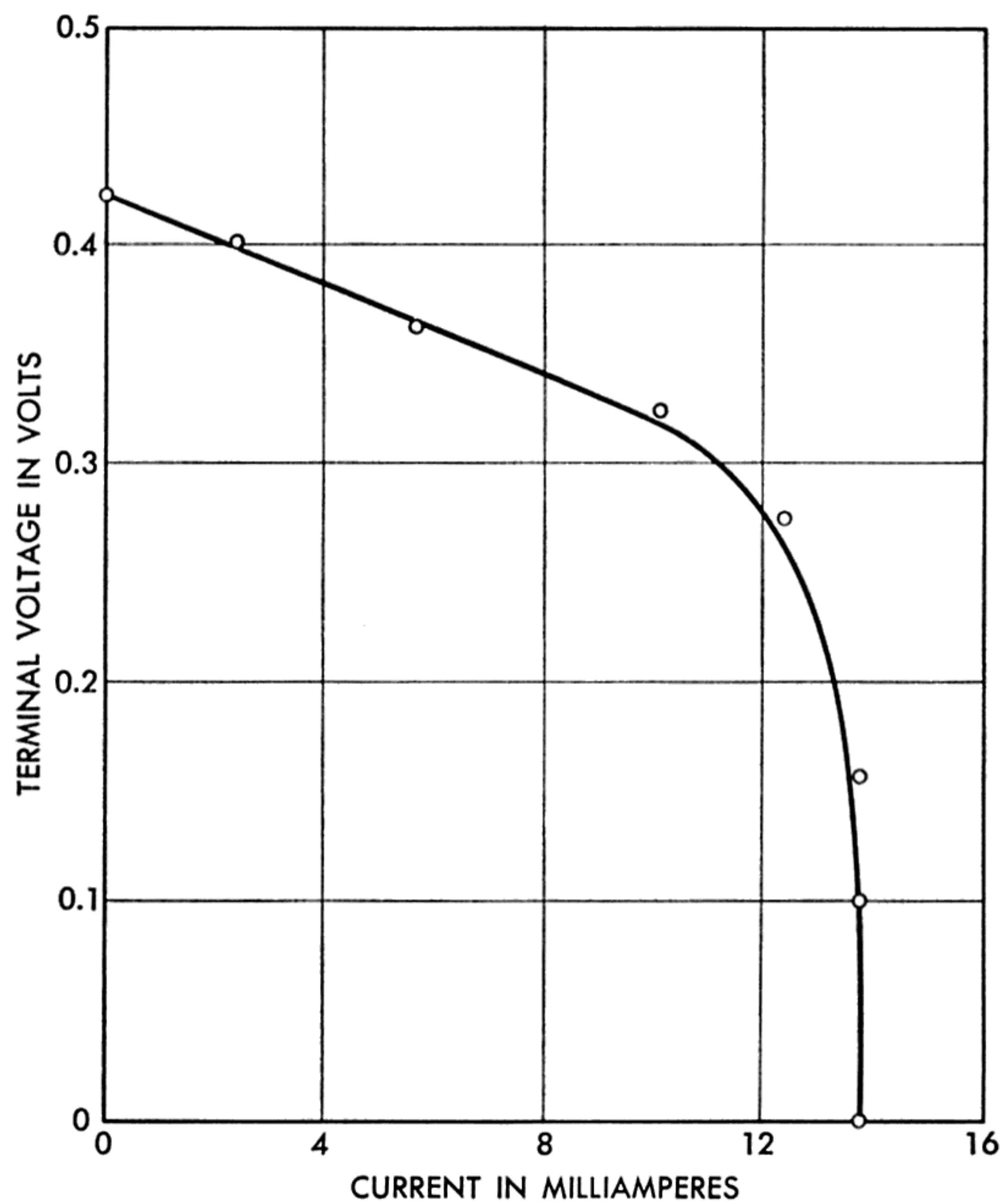


Figure 7-2. Load curve for typical cell made by simplified process. Measurements made in full sun on December 15, 1961.