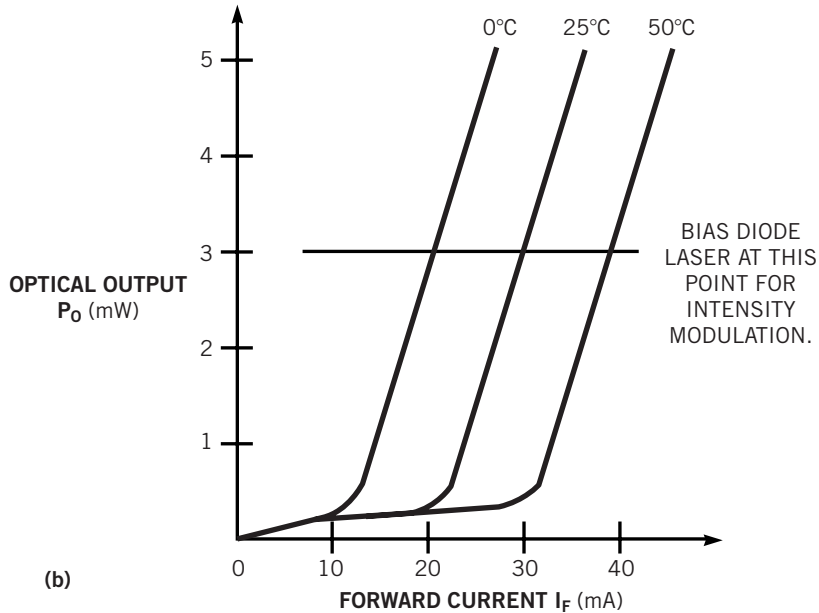


(a)



(b)

Unlike relatively linear LEDs, laser diodes do not produce an output until their drive currents exceed a threshold value (a). A laser diode's threshold and output power are very sensitive to temperature; thus, the diode requires a stabilization circuit (b) (adapted from Reference A).