



## Physics 2. Electrical and Electronic Circuits

# Introduction. Resistors

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# Objectives

The main objectives of today's lecture are:

- Review the basic concepts of **conductivity**
- Review the concept of **electric current**
- Study **resistance and resistors**

# Atoms (1)

An **atom** is a basic unit of matter that consist of nucleus surrounded by a cloud of negatively charged electrons.

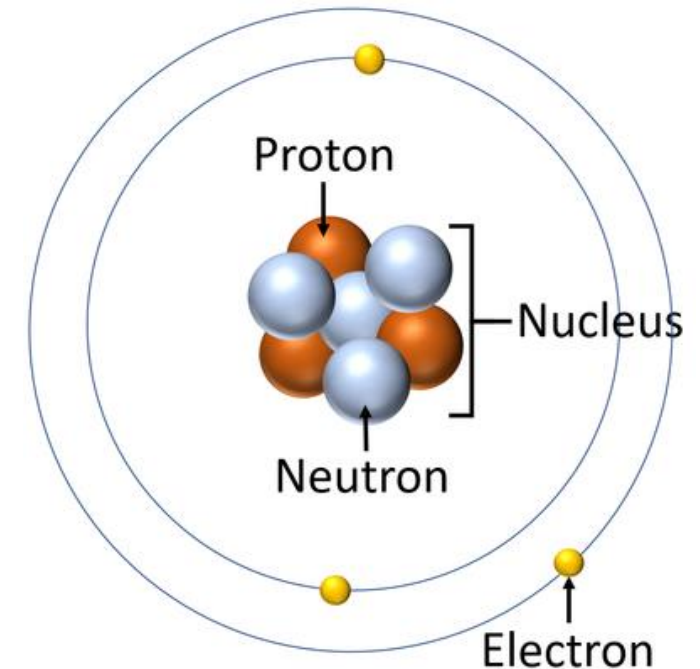
The atomic nucleus contains a mix of

- **positively** charged **protons** and
- electrically **neutral neutrons**.

Orbiting the nucleus are the **negatively** charged **electrons**.

Some facts about atoms:

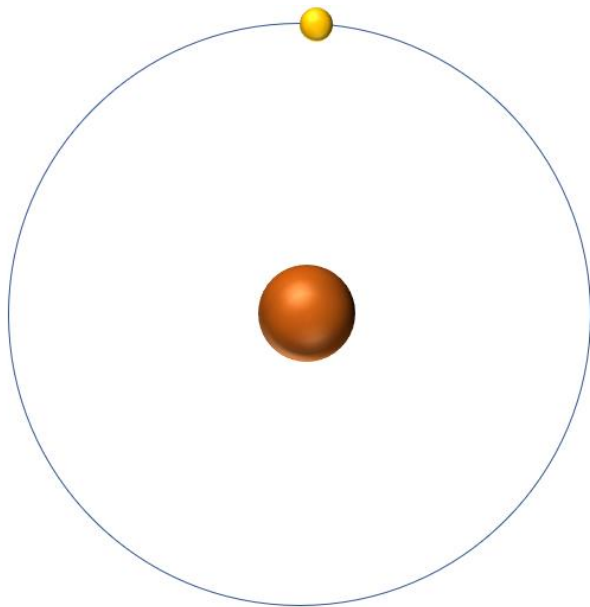
- The number of electrons is always equal to the number of protons
- Their number depends on the element
- Typical atom size is 0.1-0.5 nm, while the nucleus' size is typically 5 orders smaller than that.



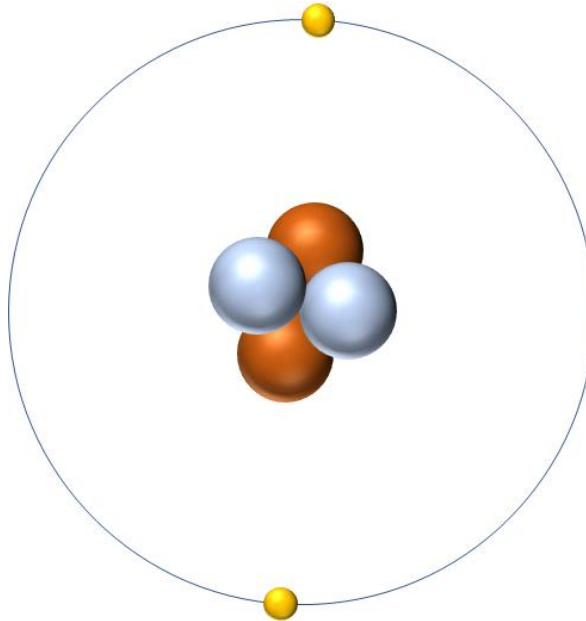
[Image credit: Key stage wiki](#)

# Atoms (2)

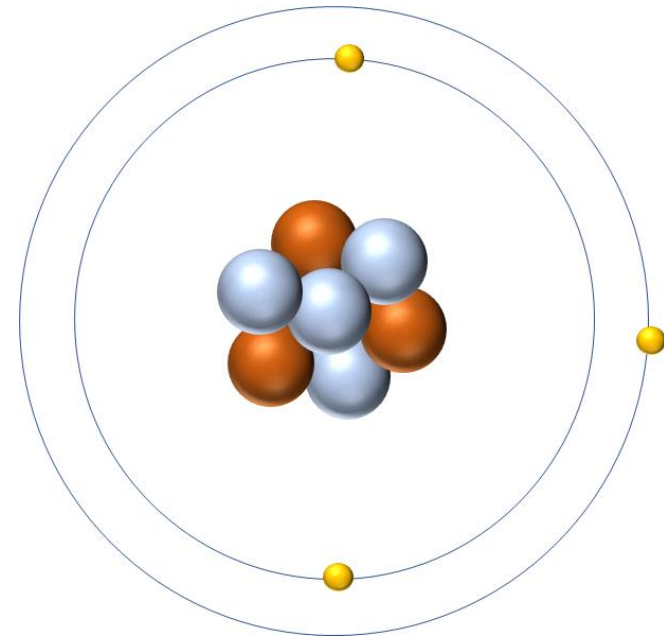
The simplest atom is that of **Hydrogen** (1 proton, 1 electron, no neutrons), followed by Helium (2-2-2), Lithium (3-3-4) and so on and so forth.



H (Hydrogen)



He (Helium)



Li (Lithium)

Diagrams of different atoms

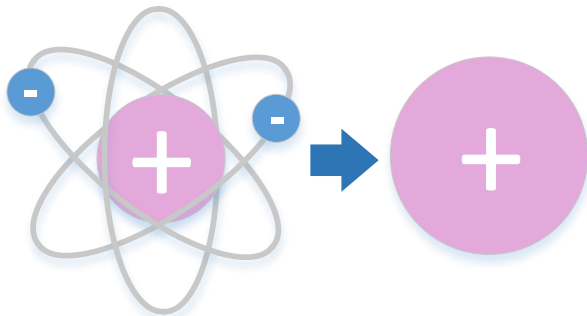
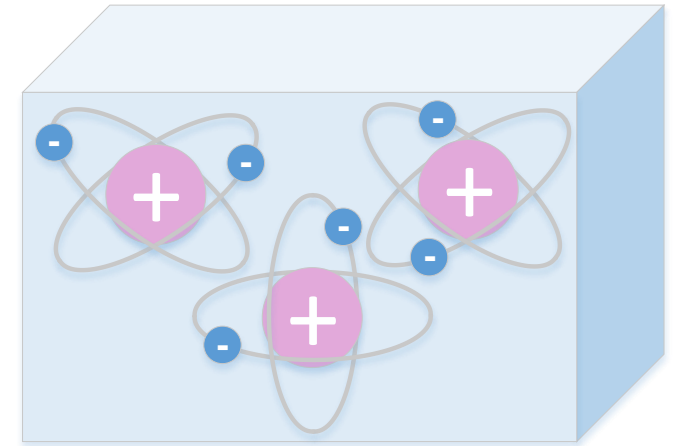
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# Electric Charge (1)

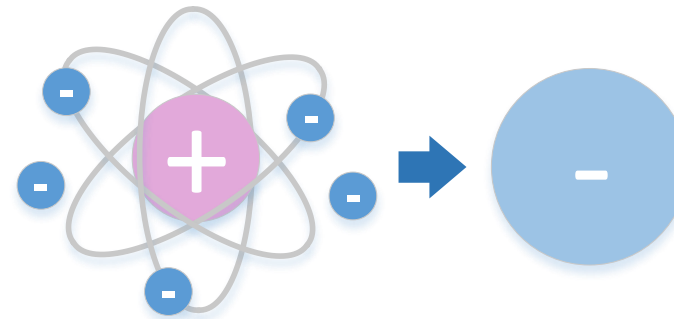
Assume you have a bulk of some material that contains many atoms ( $6 \times 10^{23}$  per mole).

Atoms that have either a deficit or a surplus of electrons are called **ions**.

- If there is an excess of positive ions in a bulk of material, its **net charge**  $Q$  will be positive, and vice versa.
- Electric charge is measured in coulomb [C].



Positive ion



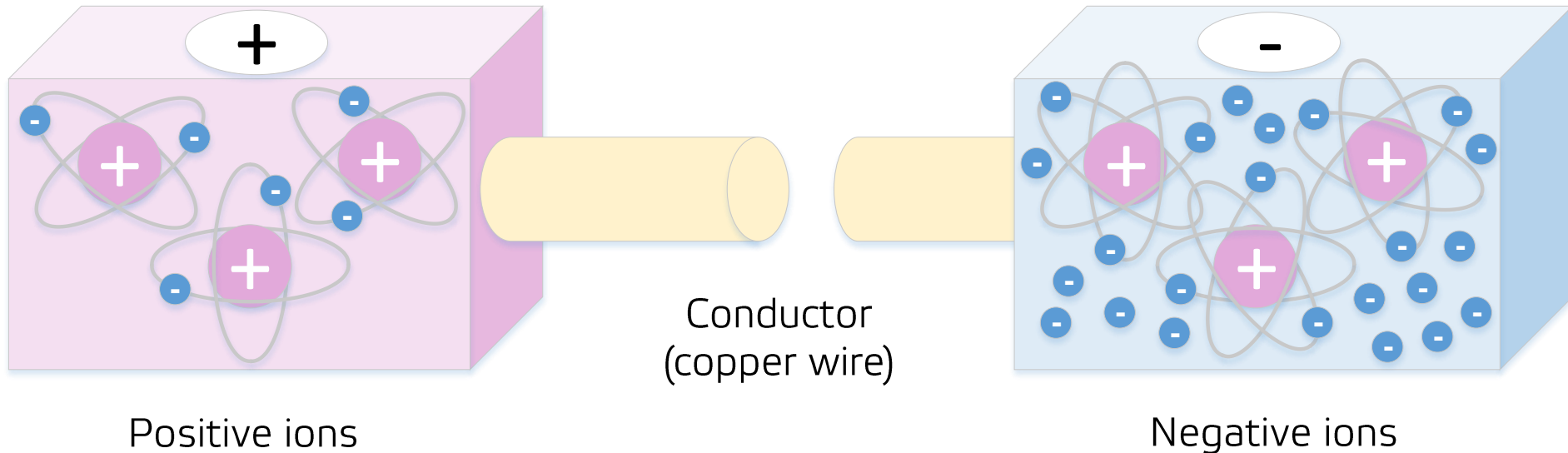
Negative ion



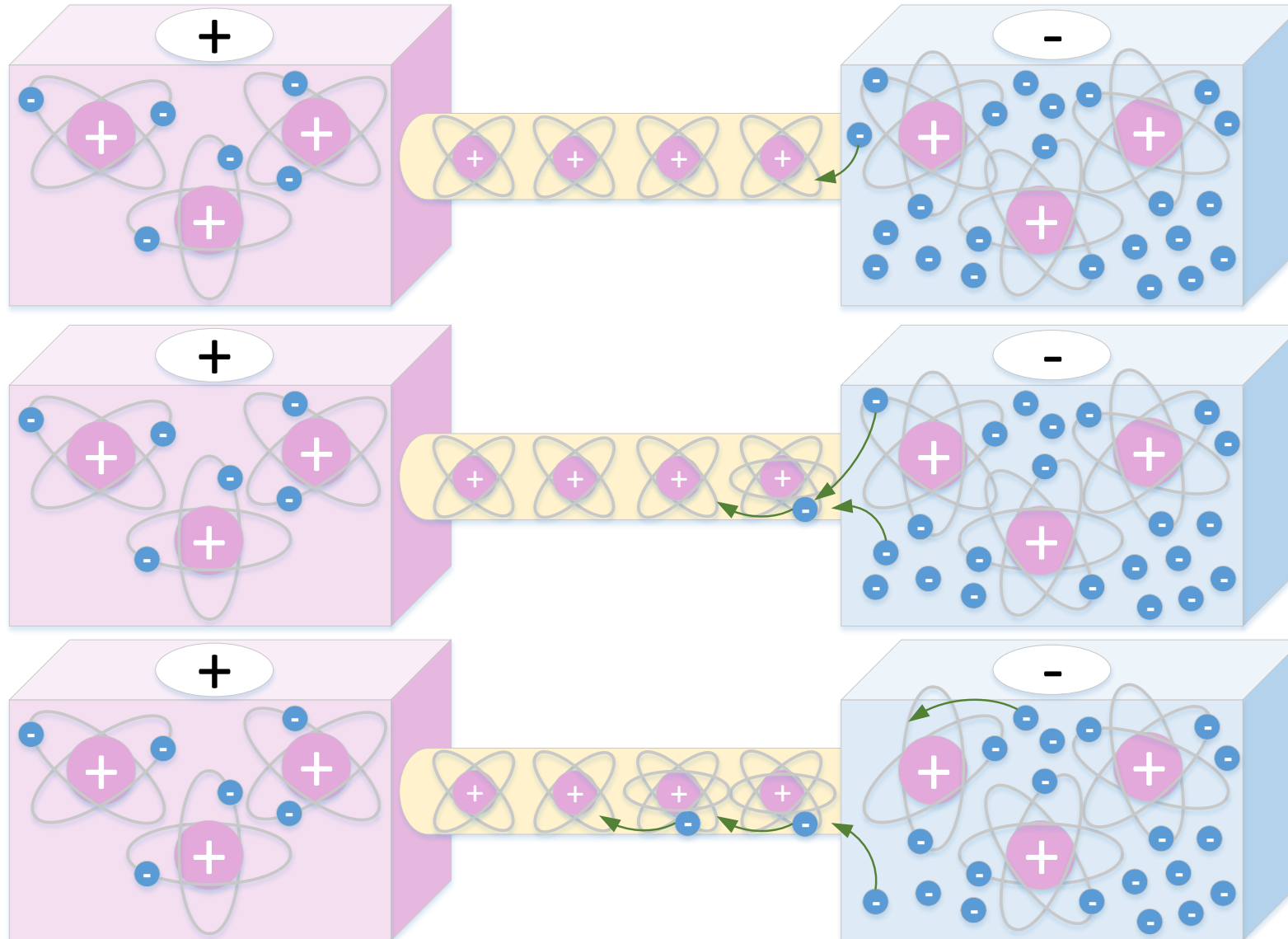
# Electric Charge (2)

Particles of the same (like) charge repel each other, while particles of **opposite (unlike) charge attract each other**.

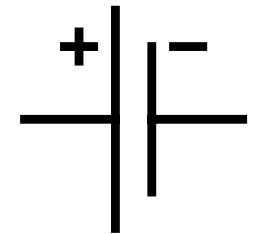
Assume you have 2 pieces of some material with positive and negative net charges, and you connect them with a conductive wire.



# Electric Charge (3)



There is a difference  
in charge levels  
(**electric potential**)!



# Electric Current (1)

Electric **charge can be carried** by subatomic particles, typically – by **moving electrons**.  
The stream of such charged particles is called by **electric current** (think water current).

More precisely,

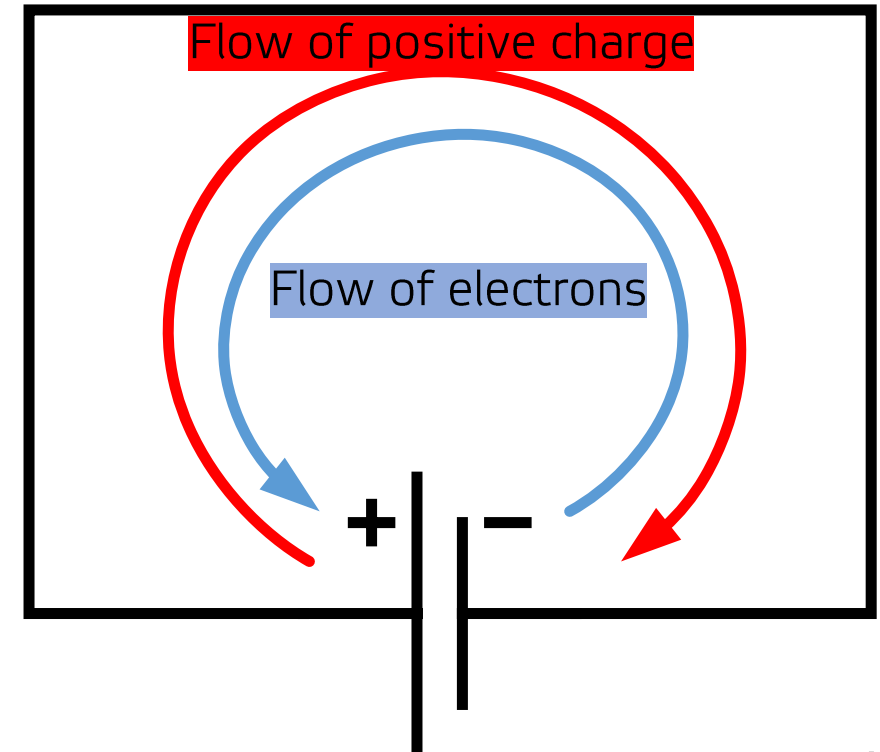
- **Electric current** is the rate of flow of electric charge  $Q$  in a region over time  $t$ :  $I = \frac{Q}{t}$
- Notation:  $I$
- Unit: Ampere [ A ] (*coulomb per sec*)



# Electric Current (2)

In metals, which are typically used as a conductive material, the positively charged nuclei are held in a fixed position, while the negatively charged electrons can move freely about and carry the charge.

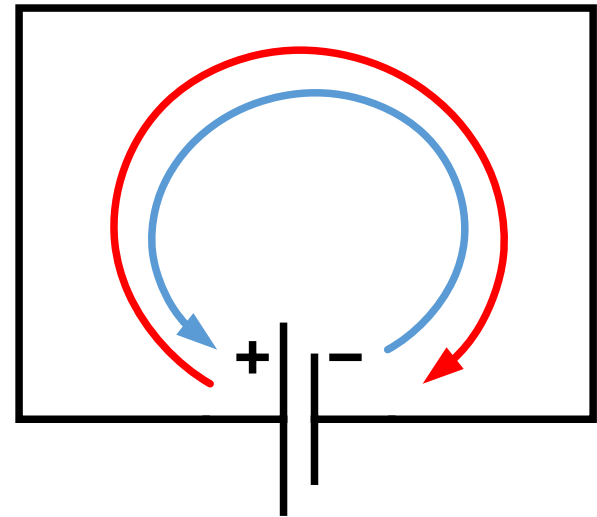
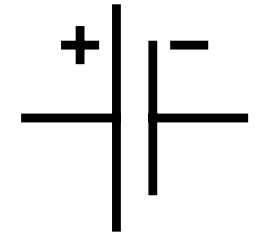
- A flow of positive charges gives the **same electric current**, and has the same effect in a circuit, as an equal flow of negative charges in the opposite direction.



# Electric Voltage

**Electric voltage** is the **difference** in electric potential between two points.

- Notation:  $V$
- Unit: Volt [ V ]
- The voltage between two points is a short name for the **electrical driving force** (electromotive force: emf) that could determine an electric current between those points.



# Electrical Resistivity (1)

The **electric resistivity** and its inverse, **electrical conductivity**, is a fundamental property of a material that quantifies how **strongly it resists** or conducts electric current.

Various materials have different resistivity and conductivity (shown here for 20 °C).

Material	Resistivity, $\rho$	Conductivity
Silver	$1.59 \times 10^{-8}$	$6.30 \times 10^7$
Copper	$1.68 \times 10^{-8}$	$5.96 \times 10^7$
Gold	$2.44 \times 10^{-8}$	$4.11 \times 10^7$
Calcium	$3.36 \times 10^{-8}$	$2.98 \times 10^7$
Carbon (graphite)	$3.10 \times 10^{-3}$	$3.3 \times 10^2$
Sea water	$2.00 \times 10^{-1}$	5
Diamond	$10^{12}$	$10^{-12}$
Rubber	$10^{13}$	$10^{-13}$
PET	$10^{21}$	$10^{-21}$
Teflon	$10^{24}$	$10^{-24}$

# Electrical Resistance

The **electric resistance** of an electrical element measures its **opposition** to the passage of an electric current.

- Notation:  $R$
- Unit: Ohm [ $\Omega$ ]
- The reciprocal quantity is **electrical conductance** (the ease with which an electric current passes).
- Electrical resistance is a function of conductor's volumetric properties:

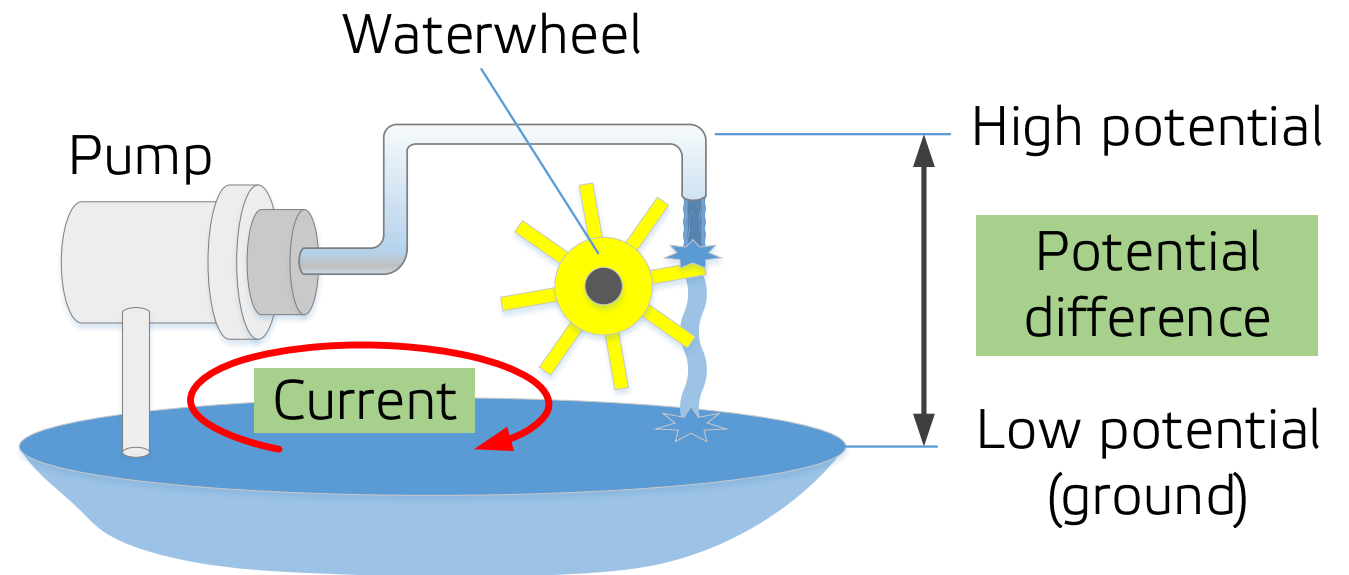
$$R = \rho \frac{l}{A}$$

where  $\rho$  is electrical conductivity,  $l$  is the length of conductor and  $A$  is its cross-sectional area.

# Electricity and Mechanics (1)

A simple analogy for an electric circuit is **water flowing** in a closed circuit of pipework, driven by a mechanical pump. This can be called a **water circuit**.

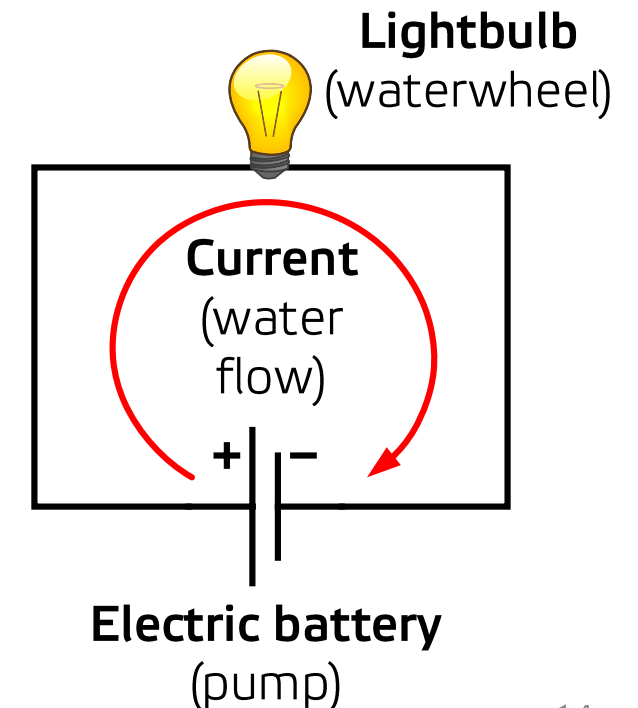
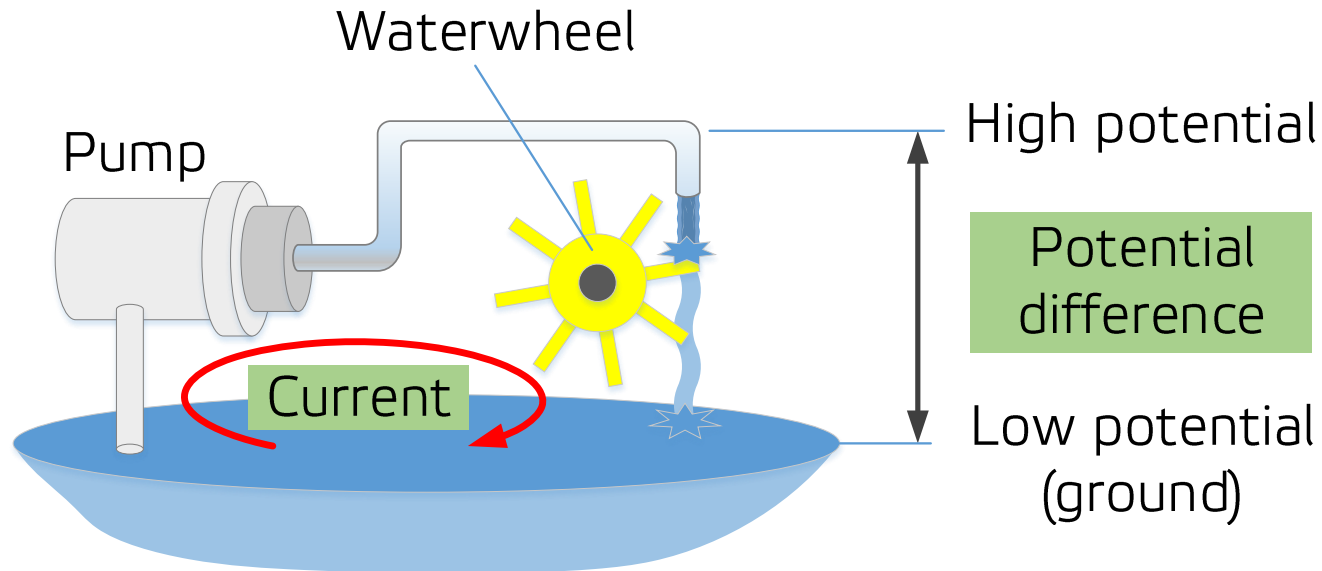
- **Potential difference** between two points corresponds to the water pressure difference between two points.



# Electricity and Mechanics (2)

If there is a water pressure difference between two points, then

- the water flow (created by the pump) from the will be able to **do work**, such as spinning the waterwheel.
- In a similar way, work can be done by the electric current driven by the potential difference due to an electric battery.

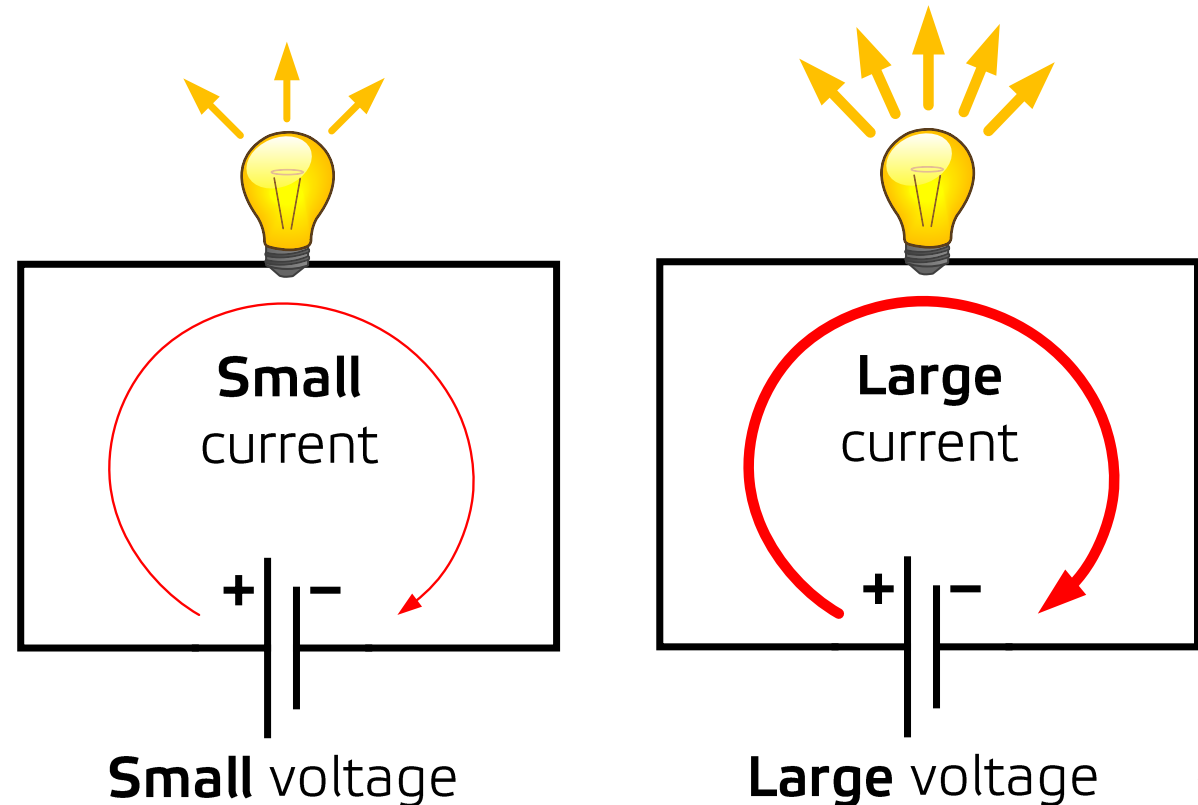




# Electric Circuits (1)

When you arrange electrical components forming the network in such a way that it has a closed loop, giving a return path for the current, this network is called **an electrical circuit**.

- Researchers discovered that **increasing the voltage** in a simple circuit shown here resulted in **increased current**.

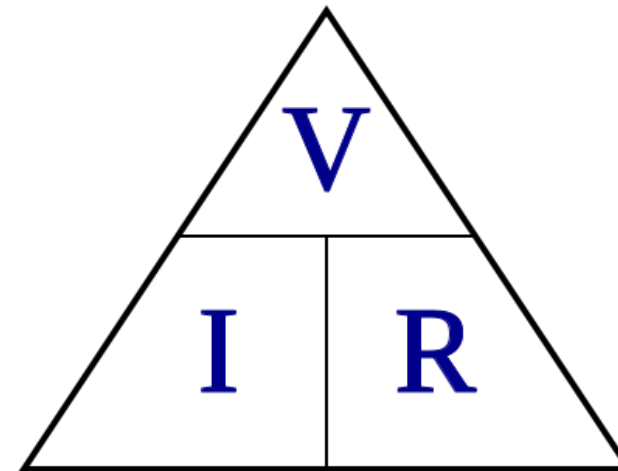


# Ohm's Law (1)

This observation forms one of the most fundamental laws of electricity, the Ohm's law:

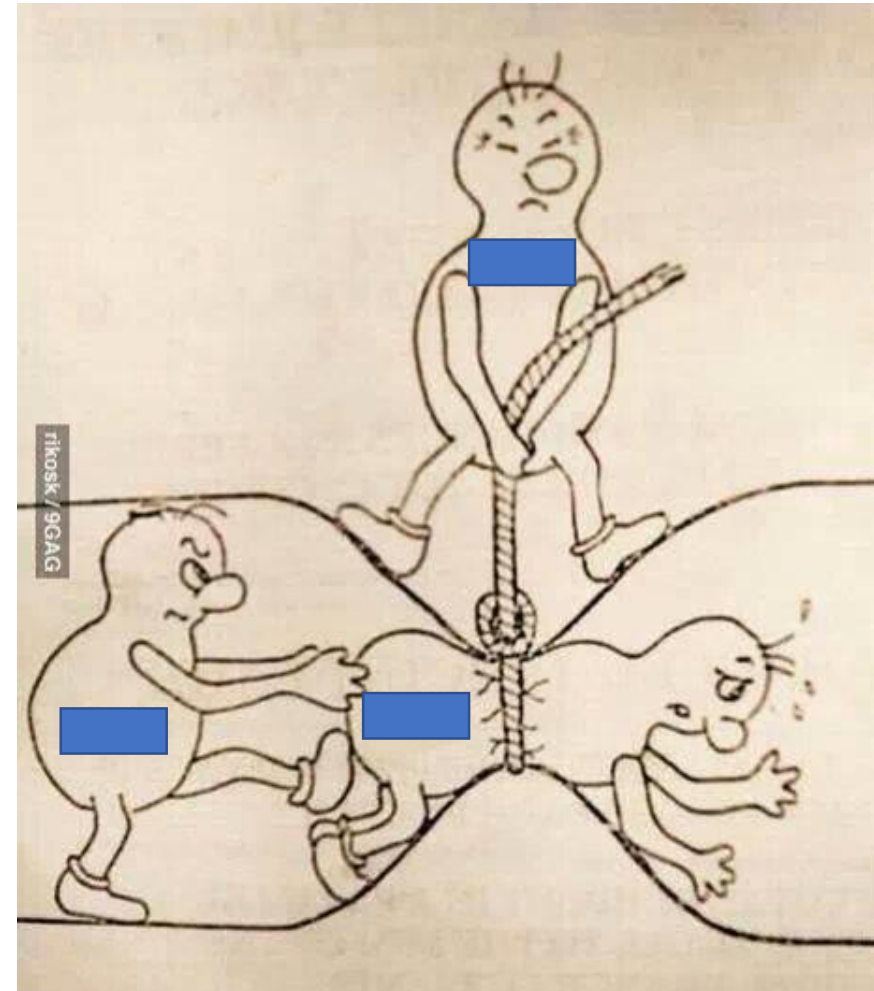
- Current through a conductor between two points is directly proportional to the voltage across the two points, and inversely proportional to the resistance between them.

$$\text{Current}(I) = \frac{\text{Voltage}(V)}{\text{Resistance}(R)}$$



# Ohm's Law (2)

**Quiz:** whose names is covered by the blocks  
(electronics-related, of course ☺)?



# Electric Power

**Electric power** is the rate at which electrical energy is transferred by an electric circuit.

- Notation:  $P$
- Unit: Watt [ W ]

$$\text{Power}(P) = \text{Voltage}(V) \times \text{Current}(I)$$

- **Q1:** What is the formula for electric power if you substitute the expression for voltage and current derived from the Ohm's law into the equation above?
- **Q2:** Recall the expression of mechanical power. What are the analogies between the 2 worlds?

# Resistors

# Resistors

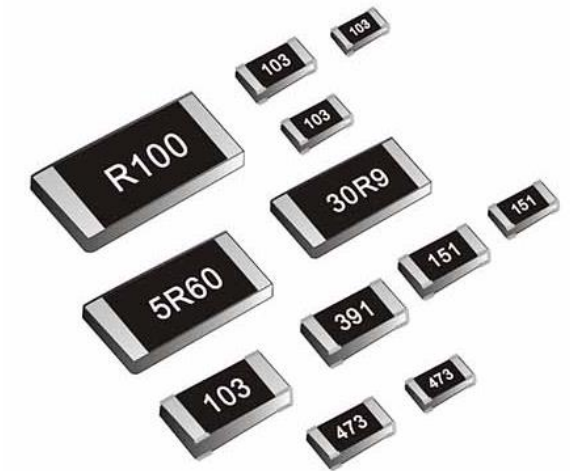
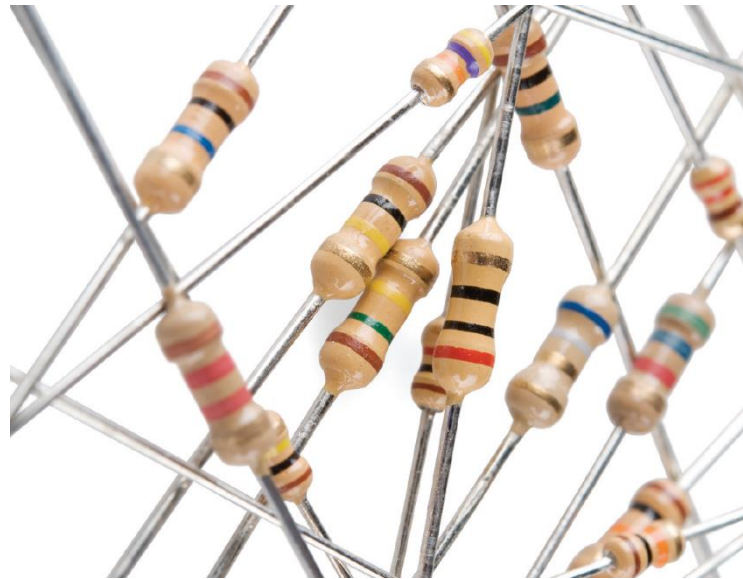
A **resistor** is a two-terminal electrical component that implements electrical resistance as a circuit element.

Resistors are common elements of electrical networks and electronic circuits and are ubiquitous in electronic equipment.

- Q: Why do we need resistors?



Electronic symbol



Axial-lead vs. SMD resistors



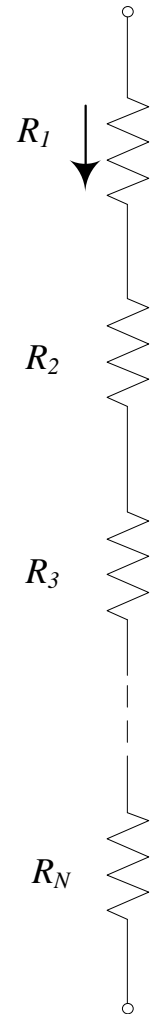
# Resistors : Series

The equivalent resistance  $R_{EQ}$  of all the resistors in series can be found as

$$R_{EQ} = \sum_{n=1}^N R_n$$

- Thus, for instance, for 3 resistors connected in series to the voltage supply  $V_{\text{supply}}$ , the electrical current is

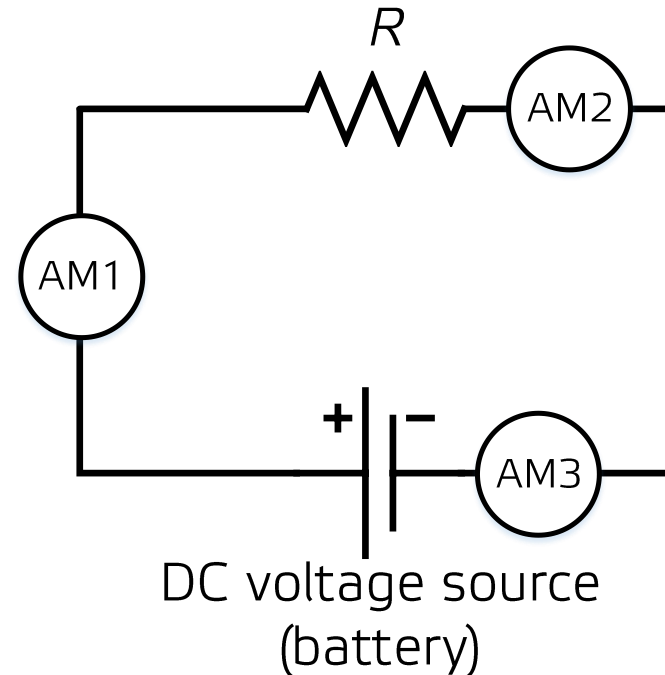
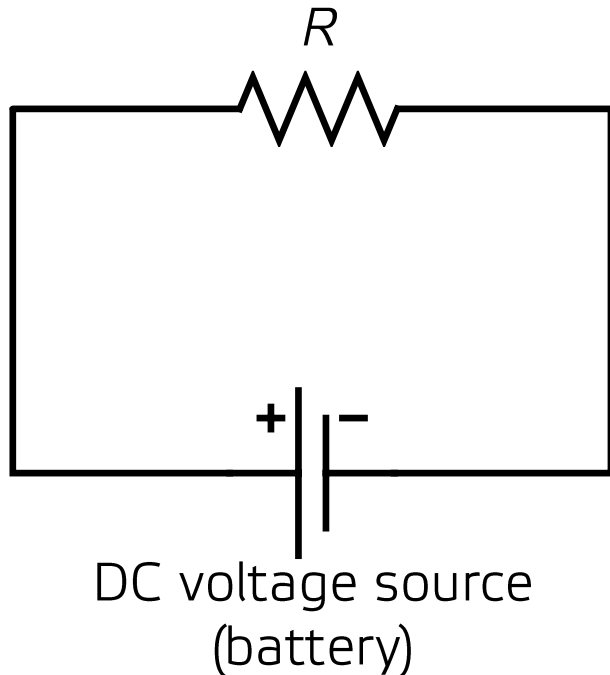
$$i = \frac{V_{\text{supply}}}{R_1 + R_2 + R_3} = \frac{V_{\text{supply}}}{R_{EQ}}$$



# Electric Circuits (2)

**Direct current** (DC) is a continuous current that flows only in **one direction**.

In a circuit where the elements are placed in **series**, the electrical **current** (measured by ammeters AM1, AM2, AM3 and so on) would be **the same**.

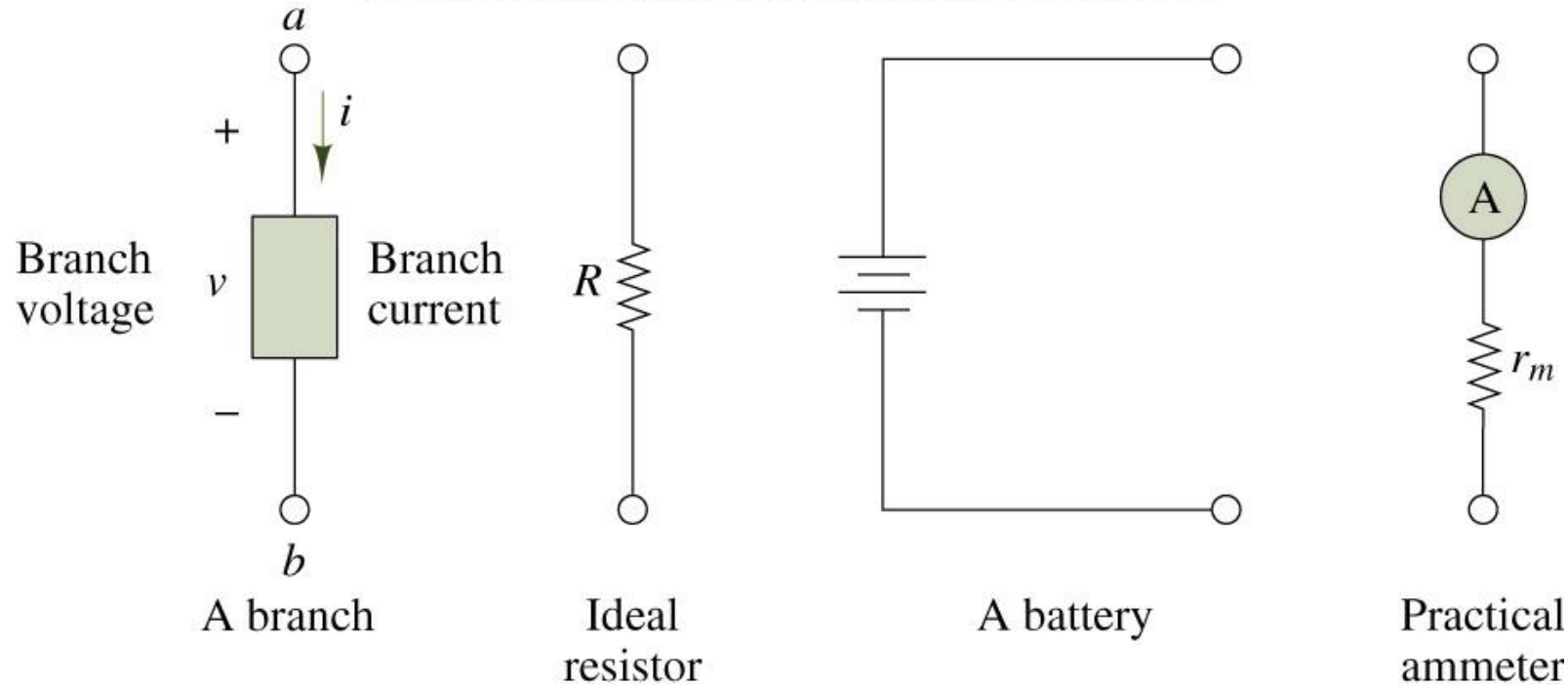


$$I_1 = I_2 = I_3 = \dots$$

# Electric Circuits : Branch

A **branch** is any portion of a circuit with **two terminals** connected to it.

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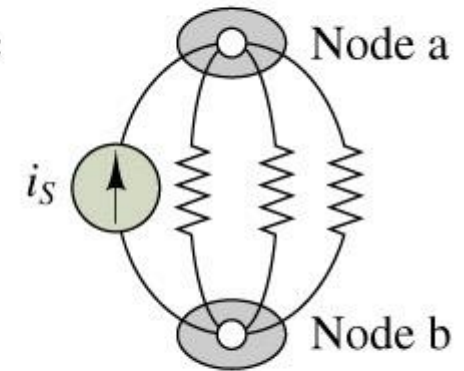
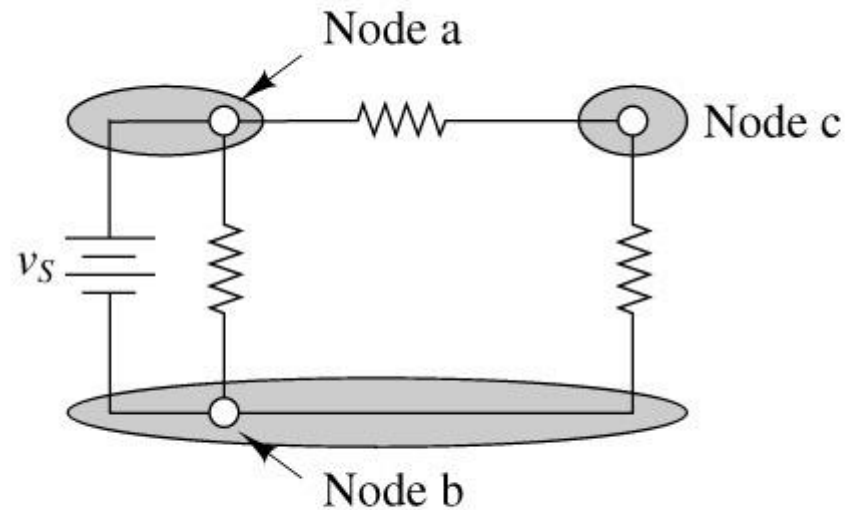
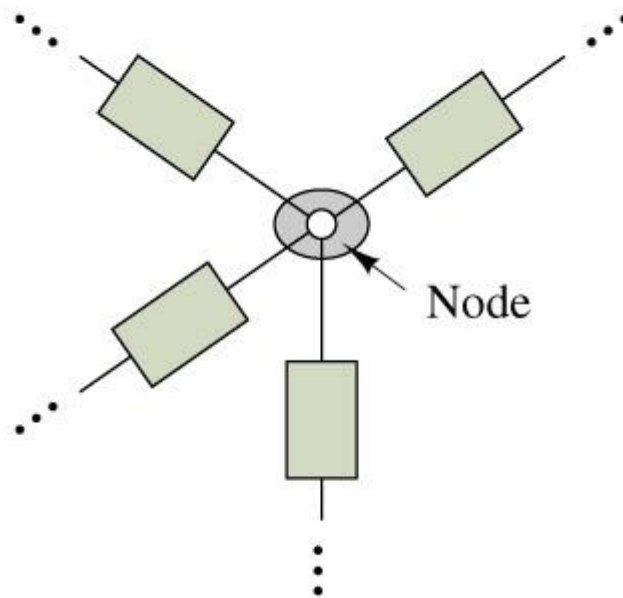


Examples of circuit branches

# Electric Circuits : Node

- A **node** is a junction of two or more branches.

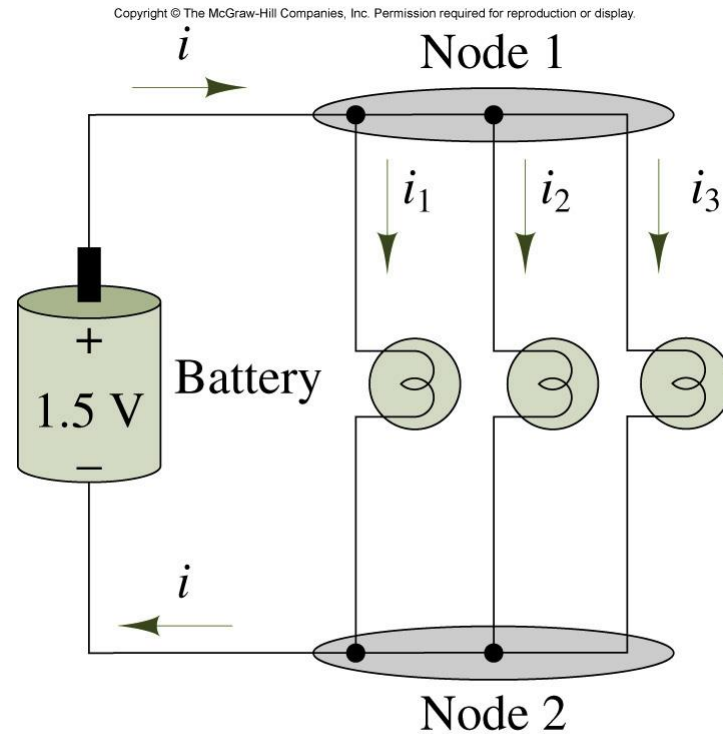
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Examples of nodes in practical circuits

# Kirchhoff's Current Law

**KCL:** The **sum of the currents** at a node must **equal zero**.



$$\sum_{n=1}^N i_n = 0$$

Illustration of KCL at  
node 1:  $-i + i_1 + i_2 + i_3 = 0$

# KCL : Example

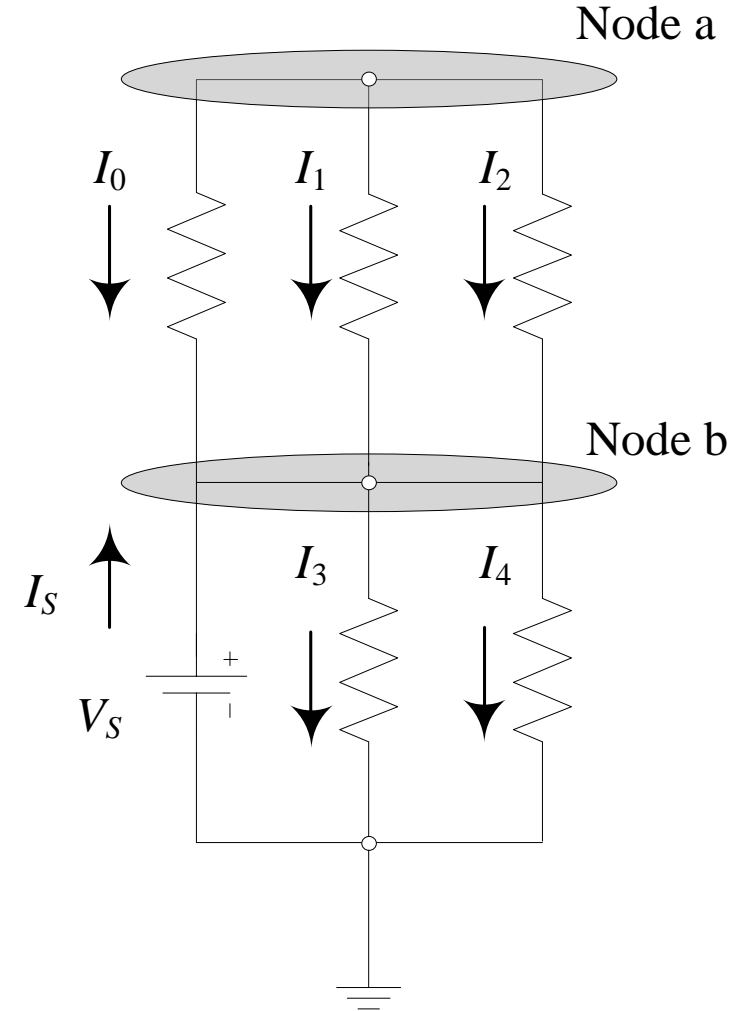
- Find missing currents in the circuit on the right.

- Known Quantities:

$$\begin{array}{ll} I_S = 5 \text{ A}; & I_1 = 2 \text{ A}; \\ I_2 = -3 \text{ A}; & I_3 = 1.5 \text{ A}. \end{array}$$

- Find:

$$I_0 \text{ and } I_4$$







**Thank you for your attention!**

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