
	MECH 10 - Lab 07 Parallel Circuits	 <i>Real Skills Real Jobs</i>
Name: Cayce Beames Date: September 30, 2019 Professor Steven Gillette		

### Abstract

In this lab, I used 4 resistors, a breadboard and a DC power supply to simulate workloads in three parallel different parallel circuits. Using Ohm's and Kirchhoff's laws, I calculated voltage, current, and resistance values as well as % error rates between calculated and measured within the circuits.

Because I missed this lab in-class, I substituted resources from my home lab including an 830 connection-point breadboard, a UNI-T UTP3315TFL-II regulated DC power supply and a UNI-T UT89XD digital multimeter.

### Learning Objectives

- Build parallel circuits as per a schematic diagram
- Measure electrical values using a digital voltmeter
- Use Ohm's Law to validate field measurements
- Use Kirchhoff's Current Law to calculate total circuit current
- Use a data table and schematic diagrams to capture field measurements

### Notes:

1. Take all voltage measurements relative to ground (unless otherwise stated)
2. Record relevant measurements and calculation results in data tables
3. **Record all expected resistor values on the circuit schematics**
4. Use all available precision in calculations, round off answers to 3 significant figures

### Materials

Quantity	Description
1	DC Power Supply
1	Digital multimeter (DMM)
1	Breadboard
	<b>Circuit 1, 2 &amp; 3</b>
1ea	R1 - 750 $\Omega$ resistor, R2 - 1k $\Omega$ resistor, R3 - 2k $\Omega$ resistor, R4 - 2.7k $\Omega$ resistor.

### Procedure – Parallel Circuits

#### Circuit 1

1. Selected resistors for circuit 1, 2 and 3 according to the materials chart above.  
**Recorded** the resistor values for each circuit on the schematic diagram.
2. Built Circuit 1 ***without the voltage source connected*** (i.e. left the circuit power supply leads disconnected)

3. **Total Resistance (expected)** - *Calculated and recorded  $R_{Texp}$* , the total circuit resistance using expected resistor values and one of the  $R_{equiv}$  formulas.

	Expected Resistor Value ( $\Omega$ )	Conductance (g)	Expected Equivalent Resistance ( $\Omega$ )
R1	750.00E+00	1.33E-03	545.45E+00
R2	2.00E+03	500.00E-06	
$V_{source}$	10.00E+00		

4. **Total Resistance (measured)** – *Measured and recorded  $R_{Tmeas}$*  and compared the measured value to the expected value using the % Error formula.

Expected Equivalent Resistance ( $\Omega$ )	Measured Equivalent Resistance	% Error
545.45E+00	542.0	-0.63%

5. Set the power supply to  $10V \pm 0.2V$ . Recorded this value as  $V_{Source}$  to three significant figures.
6. **Circuit Currents (expected)** *Calculated and recorded* total circuit current ( $I_{Total}$ ), branch 1 and 2 currents ( $I_{R1}$ , &  $I_{R2}$ ) – using Ohm's Law, the supply voltage ( $V_S$ ), and resistor expected values.

	Expected Current (Amp)
$I_{R1}$	13.33E-03
$I_{R2}$	5.00E-03
$I_T$	18.33E-03

7. Used Kirchhoff's Current Law to show that total circuit current equals the sum of the branch currents.  $I_{R1} + I_{R2} = I_{Total}$

$$I_T = 13.33mA + 5mA$$

$$= \boxed{18.33mA}$$

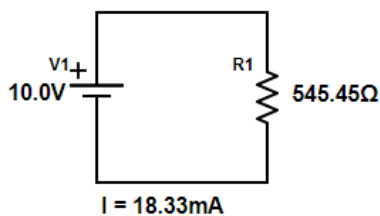
8. **Circuit Currents (measured)** *Measured and recorded* total circuit current ( $I_{Total}$ ), branch 1 and 2 currents ( $I_{R1}$ , &  $I_{R2}$ ).

Measured Current (Amp)
13.51E-03
4.86E-03
18.37E-03

9. *Compared expected and measured* circuit currents using the percent error formula.

	Expected Current (Amp)	Measured Current (Amp)	% Error
$I_{R1}$	13.33E-03	13.51E-03	1.32%
$I_{R2}$	5.00E-03	4.86E-03	-2.80%
$I_T$	18.33E-03	18.37E-03	0.20%

10. Drew a circuit reduction diagram showing total equivalent resistance and total circuit current.



## Circuit 2

11. Built circuit 2.  
12. Calculated and recorded expected total resistance.

	Expected Resistor Value ( $\Omega$ )	Conductance (g)	Expected Equivalent Resistance ( $\Omega$ )
R1	750.00E+00	1.33E-03	352.94E+00
R2	2.00E+03	500.00E-06	
R3	1.00E+03	1.00E-03	
$V_{\text{source}}$	10.00E+00		

13. Measured and recorded total resistance.

Measured Equivalent Resistance
351.1

14. Compared measured with expected.

Expected Equivalent Resistance ( $\Omega$ )	Measured Equivalent Resistance	% Error
352.94E+00	351.1	-0.52%

15. Calculated and recorded expected total and branch currents.

	Expected Current (Amp)
$I_{R1}$	13.33E-03
$I_{R2}$	5.00E-03
$I_{R3}$	10.00E-03
$I_T$	28.33E-03

16. Measured and recorded total current.

Measured Current (Amp)
28.35E-03

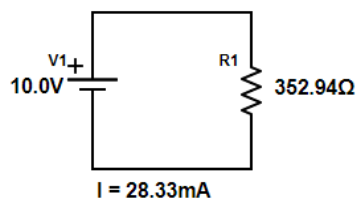
17. Compared measured and expected total currents using the percent error formula.

Expected Current (Amp)	Measured Current (Amp)	% Error
28.33E-03	28.35E-03	0.06%

18. Used Kirchhoff's Current Law to prove that expected total current equals the sum of the expected branch currents.  $I_{R1} + I_{R2} + I_{R3} = I_{Total}$

$$I_T = 13.33\text{mA} + 5\text{mA} + 10\text{mA} \\ = \boxed{28.33\text{mA}}$$

19. Drew a circuit reduction schematic for Circuit 2



### Circuit 3

20. Built circuit 3.

21. Calculated and recorded expected total resistance.

	Expected Resistor Value ( $\Omega$ )	Conductance (g)	Expected Equivalent Resistance ( $\Omega$ )
R1	750.00E+00	1.33E-03	312.14E+00
R2	2.00E+03	500.00E-06	
R3	1.00E+03	1.00E-03	
R4	2.70E+03	370.37E-06	
V <sub>source</sub>	10.00E+00		

22. Measured and recorded total resistance.

Measured Equivalent Resistance
310.4

23. Compared measured with expected.

Expected Equivalent Resistance ( $\Omega$ )	Measured Equivalent Resistance	% Error
312.14E+00	310.4	-0.56%

24. Calculated and recorded expected total and branch currents.

	Expected Current (Amp)
I <sub>R1</sub>	13.33E-03
I <sub>R2</sub>	5.00E-03
I <sub>R3</sub>	10.00E-03
I <sub>R4</sub>	3.70E-03
I <sub>T</sub>	32.03E-03

25. Measured and recorded total current.

Measured Current (Amp)
32.02E-03

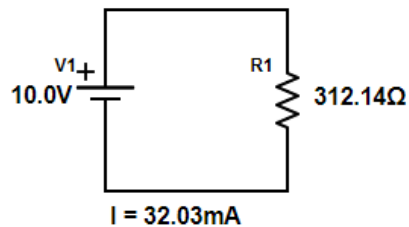
26. Compared measured and expected total currents using the percent error formula.

Expected Current (Amp)	Measured Current (Amp)	% Error
32.04E-03	32.02E-03	-0.05%

27. Used Kirchhoff's Current Law to prove that expected total current equals the sum of the expected branch currents.  $I_{R1} + I_{R2} + I_{R3} + I_{R4} = I_{Total}$

$$I_T = 13.33\text{mA} + 5\text{mA} + 10\text{mA} + 3.7\text{mA} \\ = \boxed{32.03\text{mA}}$$

28. Drew a circuit reduction schematic for Circuit 3.



## Formulas

$$E = IR, I = \frac{E}{R}, R = \frac{E}{I}$$

**Where;**

**E** = voltage (Volts)

**I** = current (Amperes)

**R** = circuit resistance (Ohms)

$$\% \text{Error} = \frac{\text{measured} - \text{expected}}{\text{expected}} \times 100\%$$

**Where;**

**%Error** = % change between measured and expected values

**measured** = a value taken from direct measurement

**expected** = a value taken from component or process specifications

## Parallel Resistance – Conductance Method

$$R_{\text{equiv}} = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} + \frac{1}{R_3} + \frac{1}{R_n}}$$

**Where;**

**R<sub>equiv</sub>** = circuit total resistance

**R** = resistance

**1/R** = conductance in mho's

## Parallel Resistance – Product over Sum Method

$$R_{\text{equiv}} = \frac{R_1 \times R_2}{R_1 + R_2}$$

**Note; Product Over Sum may only be used when there are only 2 parallel loads.**

## Parallel Resistance – Equal Value Resistance

$$R_{\text{equiv}} = \frac{R_{\text{all}}}{n}$$

**Note; Equal Value Resistance may only be used when there are identical resistance paths through *n* parallel loads.**

## Critical Thinking

1. What are the primary characteristics of a parallel circuit?

A parallel circuit includes components connected between the same set of common connectivity points. In this case, the applied voltage will be equal across all parallel components. Additionally, there is more than one continuous path for current to flow where the current in these paths are inversely proportional to the resistance of the path.

2. Describe two ways to find the total circuit current for a parallel circuit?

Kirchhoff's Current Law states that the total circuit current is equal to the sum of the currents in the branches. According to Ohm's Law, the total current is directly proportional to the source voltage and inversely proportional to the total equivalent resistance.

3. Calculate the Circuit 3 total circuit resistance if all the resistors were changed to 10K  $\Omega$ ? Show your work.

$$R_T = \frac{R_{\text{all}}}{N}$$

$$R_T = \frac{10K\Omega}{4}$$

$$\boxed{R_T = 2.5K\Omega}$$

4. Calculate the Circuit 3 total circuit resistance if two resistors are  $10K\Omega$  and two resistors are  $5K\Omega$  ? Show your work.

$$R_T = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{10K\Omega} + \frac{1}{10K\Omega} + \frac{1}{5K\Omega} + \frac{1}{5K\Omega}}$$

$$R_T = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{10K\Omega} + \frac{1}{10K\Omega} + \frac{2}{10K\Omega} + \frac{2}{10K\Omega}}$$

$$R_T = \frac{1}{\frac{6}{10K\Omega}}$$

$$R_T = \frac{1}{1} \cdot \frac{10K\Omega}{6}$$

$$R_T = \frac{10K\Omega}{6}$$

$$\boxed{R_T = 1.667K\Omega}$$



## Appendix A –Lab Notes

SIERRA COLLEGE	MECH 10 - Lab 07 Parallel Circuits	Mechatronics Real Skills Real Jobs
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### Learning Objectives

- Build parallel circuits as per a schematic diagram
- Measure electrical values using a digital voltmeter
- Use Ohm's Law to validate field measurements
- Use Kirchhoff's Current Law to calculate total circuit current
- Use a data table and schematic diagrams to capture field measurements

### Notes:

1. Take all voltage measurements relative to ground (unless otherwise stated)
2. Record relevant measurements and calculation results in data tables
3. **Record all expected resistor values on the circuit schematics**
4. Use all available precision in calculations, round off answers to 3 significant figures

### Materials

Quantity	Description
1	Global Specialties Circuit Trainer
1	Digital multimeter (DMM)
	<b>Circuit 1, 2 &amp; 3</b>
1	R1, R2, R3, R4 – choose any four resistors between 750 and 4.7K $\Omega$ , each of different value

### Procedure – Parallel Circuits

#### Circuit 1

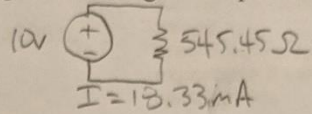
1. Select resistors for circuit 1, 2 and 3 according to the materials chart above. **Record** the resistor values for each circuit on the schematic diagram.
2. Build Circuit 1 **without the voltage source connected** (i.e. leave the circuit power supply leads disconnected)
3. **Total Resistance (expected)** - Calculate and record  $R_{Texp}$ , the total circuit resistance using expected resistor values and one of the  $R_{equiv}$  formulas.
4. **Total Resistance (measured)** – Measure and record  $R_{Tmeas}$  and compare the measured value to the expected value using the % Error formula.
5. Set the trainer power supply to 10V  $\pm$  0.2V. Record this value as  $V_{Source}$  to three significant figures.
6. **Circuit Currents (expected)** Calculate and record total circuit current ( $I_{Total}$ ), branch 1 and 2 currents ( $I_{R1}$ , &  $I_{R2}$ ) – using Ohm's Law, the supply voltage ( $V_s$ ), and resistor expected values.
7. Use Kirchhoff's Current Law to show that total circuit current equals the sum of the branch currents.  $I_{R1} + I_{R2} = I_{Total}$

$$I_T = 13.33 \text{ mA} + 5 \text{ mA}$$

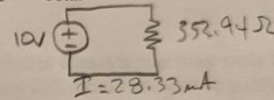
$$= 18.33 \text{ mA}$$

8. **Circuit Currents (measured)** Measure and record total circuit current ( $I_{Total}$ ), branch 1 and 2 currents ( $I_{R1}$ , &  $I_{R2}$ ).
9. Compare expected and measured circuit currents using the percent error formula.
10. Draw a circuit reduction diagram showing total equivalent resistance and total circuit current.

#### Circuit 2

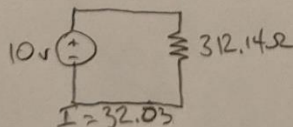


11. Build circuit 2.
12. Calculate and record expected total resistance.
13. Measure and record total resistance.
14. Compare measured with expected.
15. Calculate and record expected total and branch currents.
16. Measure and record total current.
17. Compare measured and expected total currents using the percent error formula.
18. Use Kirchhoff's Current Law to prove that expected total current equals the sum of the expected branch currents.  $I_{R1} + I_{R2} + I_{R3} = I_{Total}$   
 $13.33mA + 5mA + 10mA = 28.33mA$
19. Draw a circuit reduction schematic for Circuit 2



#### Circuit 3

20. Build circuit 3.
21. Calculate and record expected total resistance.
22. Measure and record total resistance.
23. Compare measured with expected.
24. Calculate and record expected total and branch currents.
25. Measure and record total current.
26. Compare measured and expected total currents using the percent error formula.
27. Use Kirchhoff's Current Law to prove that expected total current equals the sum of the expected branch currents.  $I_{R1} + I_{R2} + I_{R3} + I_{R4} = I_{Total}$   
 $13.33mA + 5mA + 10mA + 3.7mA = 32.03mA$
28. Draw a circuit reduction schematic for Circuit 3.





## Parallel Circuits

A parallel circuit has two or more current paths with equal voltage distribution across all parallel connected loads. The current that travels down each path is controlled by the branch resistance with the total current flow equal to the sum of the branches. Total circuit current is found by adding individual branch currents (see Circuit 2), or by calculating equivalent circuit resistance for the parallel combination of loads.

$$I_T = V_S / R_{\text{equiv}} = I_{B1} + I_{B2} + I_{Bn+1}$$

Where;

$I_T$  = total circuit current  
 $V_S$  = source voltage  
 $R_{\text{equiv}}$  = circuit equivalent resistance  
 $I_{B1}$  = branch 1 current  
 $I_{B2}$  = branch 2 current  
 $I_{Bn+1}$  = branch n current

## Kirchoff's Current Law

The amount of current entering a circuit node must be equal to current leaving that circuit node.

In a parallel circuit, Kirchoff's Law dictates that the total circuit current must be equal to the sum of the branch currents. A simple Ohm's Law analysis of a parallel circuit provides insight into parallel resistance.

## Branch Currents

Using Circuit 1 as a reference, assume that R1 is a 100 Ohm resistor, and R2 is a 500 Ohm resistor. The branch currents are;

$$I_{B1} = 10V / 100 \Omega = 100mA$$

$$I_{B2} = 10V / 500 \Omega = 20mA$$

$$I_T = I_1 + I_2 = 120mA$$

The branch current is inversely proportional resistance. In other words, branch current is voltage divided by branch resistance. Having resistance in the denominator of the fraction makes it "inversely proportional."

## Equivalent Resistance

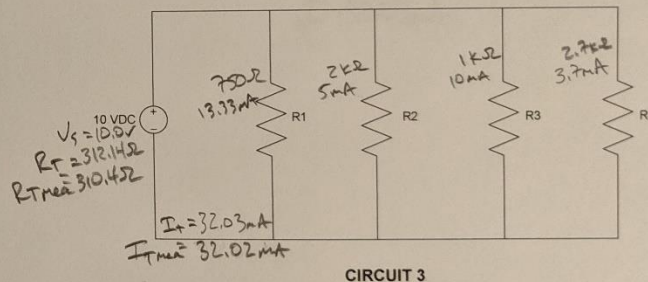
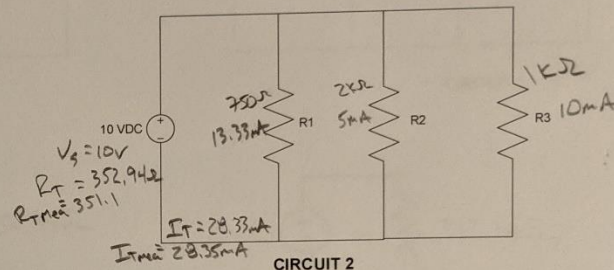
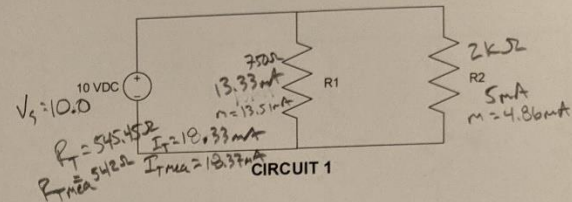
From the previous example, total circuit equivalent resistance must equal;

$$R_T = V_S / I_T = 10.0V / 120mA = 83.3 \Omega$$

Note that this circuit equivalent resistance is less than the lowest value resistor in the parallel circuit. This behavior is not like series resistance where resistance values simply add. The inverse relationship resistance plays in branch currents requires special treatment when calculating total circuit resistance.

One way of looking at the equivalent resistance formula is that equivalent resistance equals the inverse of the sum of the conductance (or 1 divided by the sum of the conductance). Resistance and conductance are inverse of each other. The sum of circuit load conductance is shown in the denominator of the  $R_{\text{equiv}}$  equation as inverted resistance.

$$R_{\text{equiv}} = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} + \frac{1}{R_n}}$$



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MECH 10 – FUNDAMENTALS OF ELECTRONICS

LAB 07 – PARALLEL CIRCUITS

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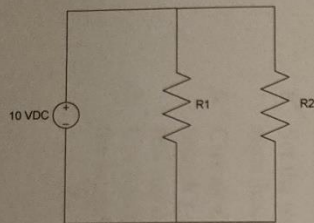
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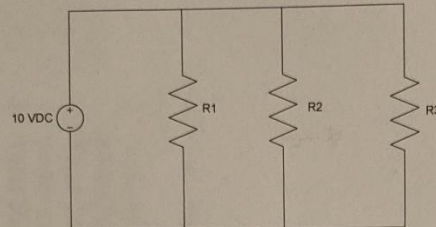
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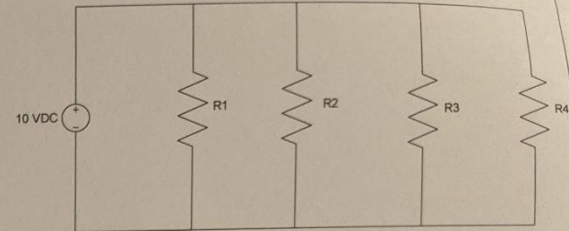
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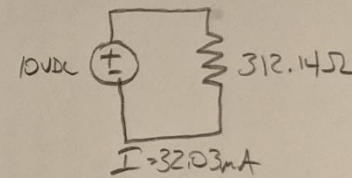
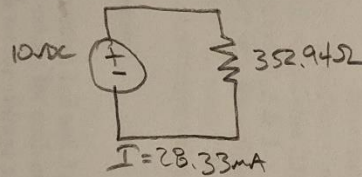
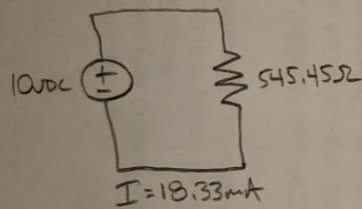
CIRCUIT 1





CIRCUIT 2



CIRCUIT 3



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		LAB 07 – PARALLEL CIRCUITS CIRCUIT REDUCTION WORKSHEET		
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**Grading Criteria**

		<b>Points Possible</b>	<b>Points Earned</b>
<b>Documentation</b>	Abstract, introduction, experiment, data results, conclusions, attachments, clarity, spelling, grammar	<b>10</b>	
<b>Circuit 1</b>	Measured and expected total resistance values recorded and compared	<b>5</b>	
	Expected and measured branch and total currents recorded in data table with percent error; circuit reduction diagram complete & accurate	<b>5</b>	
<b>Circuit 2</b>	Measured and expected total resistance values recorded and compared;	<b>5</b>	
	Expected and measured total current compared; expected branch currents recorded in data table; circuit reduction diagram complete & accurate	<b>5</b>	
<b>Circuit 3</b>	Measured and expected total resistance values recorded and compared;	<b>5</b>	
	Expected and measured total current compared; expected branch currents recorded in data table; circuit reduction diagram complete & accurate	<b>5</b>	
<b>Conclusions</b>	Questions answered completely & accurately. State conclusions drawn and lessons learned from the lab	<b>10</b>	
<b>On-time submittal</b>	Lab report is submitted in accordance with the assignment due date as posted on Canvas	<b>5</b>	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	

**Lab Report Format**

**Abstract** - a summary and high-level overview of the lab and its results

**Introduction** - State the objectives of the laboratory and list the equipment required

**Experiment** - Describe the procedure used to carry out the lab

**Data Results** - list data taken in table or graphical format where appropriate

**Conclusion** - State the conclusions drawn and lessons learned from the laboratory activities. Answer any questions found within the lab procedure.

**Attachments** – grading criteria, verification signatures, circuit diagrams, lab procedures & notes