

Circuit Lab

Practice #1—Introduction, Circuits, Basic Terms, Ohm's Law

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Ground Rules

- The narration will not read all bullets, but the slides are available in the dropbox.
- This is provided to augment and not replace your team's coaching, so always go with your own coaches advice or training first
- National Science Olympiad rules, clarifications, and FAQs take precedence, so always go with what is on the official website www.soinc.org
- Each student is responsible for their own learning of this topic, so be prepared to learn more using other resources including the internet
- Follow all safety rules and use low voltage (12VDC or less) for hands on activities, we are developing a full guide of safety rules to be put in the drop box
- Put any questions in the comments section and be respectful and helpful to others.
- Always come prepared to practices with completed homework and all your questions
- Listen, participate, and always follow your coaches



Your Binder is Your



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Lifeline

- A good binder is like having an open book test
- Use your binder in all studying, practices, and at tournaments
- Always build your own binder in case something happens to your partner's
- First page should be the rules, so you can find them quickly
- Always have easy to read tables for constants, materials, and equations
- Organize into sections that work for you and your teammate with tabs for easy finding
- Focus on the things you have to look up or don't understand
- Include other tests with keys and work shown
- When you have two or more pictures of the same thing, include ALL of them (often Event Supervisors will get diagrams and samples from the internet)
- When you solve a difficult problem, show all your work and put that in the binder to help remind you how you solved that difficult problem
- Keep the binder small enough to be useful, but big enough to be comprehensive
- Test your skills at finding things in the binder each practice so that it takes no more than 10 seconds to find anything
- Make sure you can read it (good fonts)
- Use sheet protectors when possible

Agenda

- **Introduction and Rules**
- **Basics of Electricity**
- **Circuit Lab (B) Practical**
- **Homework**



Who am I?

- Mr. Russ Burleson, Electrical Engineer and member of the National Science Olympiad Physics Committee. I have been an event supervisor (Invitational, Regional, State, and National) and a coach (Division B).
- Engineer at Northrop Grumman with experience in several different types of engineering from making radars to making soap.
- Masters in Electrical Engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright Patterson AFB
- Bachelors in Electrical Engineering from LSU in Baton Rouge, Louisiana (favorite team)
- I have three kids. Bobby was in Science Olympiad for Magsig Middle (OH) school.
- Get input from several people, but always work with your coach first



Circuit Lab (B) Rules and Scoring



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- Allowed to use notes and/or calculators
 - Scoring is 50-75% for Theoretical Portion (Test) and 25-50% for Practical (Lab) Portion
 - Historical perspective of the discoveries of electricity and the key people involved
 - Properties of electrical charge, sources/hazards of static electricity, Coulomb's Law and capacitance
 - Direct current(DC) characteristics, sources, uses, simple circuit diagrams, DC hazards
 - Alternating current(AC) characteristics, sources, uses, AC hazards
 - Concepts and units of current, voltage, resistance, power and energy and using Ohm's law
 - Magnetic poles/fields, electromagnets, transformers, motors/generators, right-hand rule for torque
 - Electrical controls devices including 3 way light switch circuit
 - Simple measurements, constructions, and configurations of a circuit and individual components
 - Basic characteristics and operation of a light emitting diode (LED)
 - Simple circuit analysis using Kirchhoff's Voltage & Current Laws
 - Basic digital logic and digital logic operations
 - Time constant of a RC circuit
 - Electrical characteristics of a silicon PN junction
 - Basics and application of Operational Amplifiers (OpAmps)
- *Underlined bullets are Division C only



Circuit Lab (B) Practice



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Recommendations

- Recommend practicing at least once a week with studying between practices. Most practices would be approximately 1 to 1.5 hours.
 - 15 minutes—Grading homework.
 - 30 minutes—Learning Lesson of the Day
 - 15 minutes—In Practice quick test on Lesson of the Day
 - 25 minutes—Practical testing
 - 5 minutes—Sending out homework
- If YOU miss a Practice, YOU are responsible to get the notes and homework to be ready for the next Practice.



Resources

- Every file in this drop box.
- Text books especially those focused on electricity and magnetism
- Wikipedia pages are great places to start your investigation, but you will need more
- Khan academy, Hyper Science, Bozeman Science, and electronics tutorials have some great resources and videos
- Just find the resource that works best for you, sometimes a different way of explaining a topic just makes sense
- Remember that www.soinc.org is the official website and the rules/clarifications there are the official rules
- www.scioly.org is an alumni run website that has lots of great resources and old tests, but it is NOT official. Everything there is just opinion.
 - Do not get caught up into arguments online

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F_vLWkkOETI
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0YOGiTNgGhE>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NXMgvrS8Gr8>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZRLXDiiUv8Q>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Y4JSp5U82I>
<https://ibphysicsnotes.wordpress.com/topic5/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mc979OhitAg>
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electricity>
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magnetism>
<http://www.bozemanscience.com/>
<https://www.electronics-tutorials.ws/>
<http://hyperphysics.phy-astr.gsu.edu/hbase/emcon.html#emcon>



Things to consider

Winners prepare

- No one knows this material naturally, those that prepare the best will do better.
- Study and do homework before practice, use practice for asking questions
- Plan on doing work on this a few times a week in addition to practice

Winners work together

- Be a good partner
- Work off each other strengths
- Practice together

Event Supervisors are volunteers

- They have given up their time to prepare for the competition, run the event, score, etc.
- Some are more experienced than others
- Some know the rules more than others
- Be respectful and work with them
- Always listen to instructions and read the test before you ask your questions
- Different Event Supervisors ask the same question differently



Arguing an Illegal Question



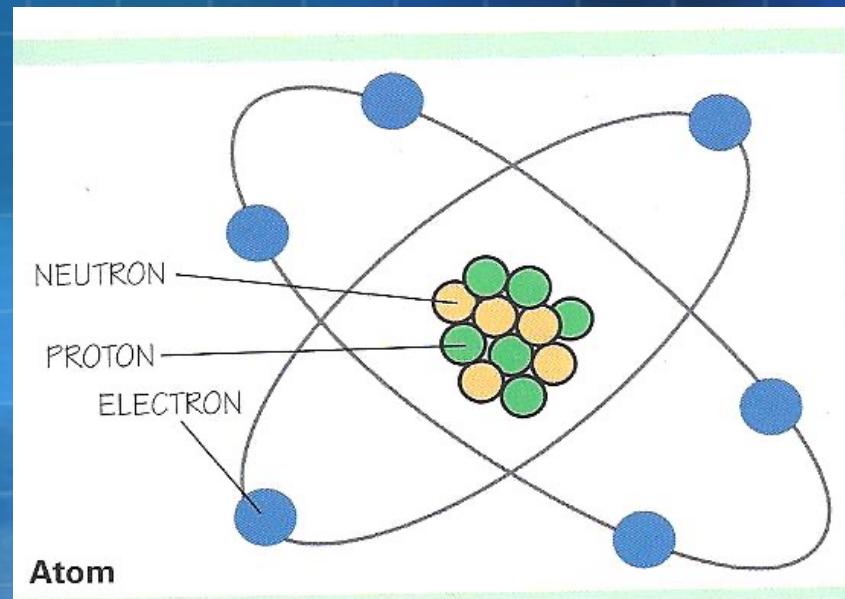
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- ➊ **Always make sure you read the question again to ensure it really is illegal.**
 - ➌ **Event supervisor might have old rules, but double check your rules first.**
- ➋ **Ask for how to implement the question within the rules.**
 - ➌ Remove the illegal items like capacitors/inductors/LEDs/etc.
 - ➌ Operate it as DC instead of AC.
- ➌ **Reference the specific rule, normally in section 3.d**
- ➌ **Semiconductors include diodes, LEDs, transistors, OpAmps, and integrated circuits. LEDs, Diodes and OpAmps are now allowed in certain circumstances.**
- ➌ **AC circuit theory includes frequency analysis, two or three phase power, capacitor/inductor reactance. But they can sometimes be made legal by switching to a DC system.**
- ➌ **AC devices include transformers, rectifiers, others. Most will not work with DC.**
- ➌ **Several items are only available for Division C and not for B**



Basics of Electricity

- Atoms
- Protons
- Neutrons
- Electrons
- Electrical current



Famous Electric Scientist

Thales of Miletus



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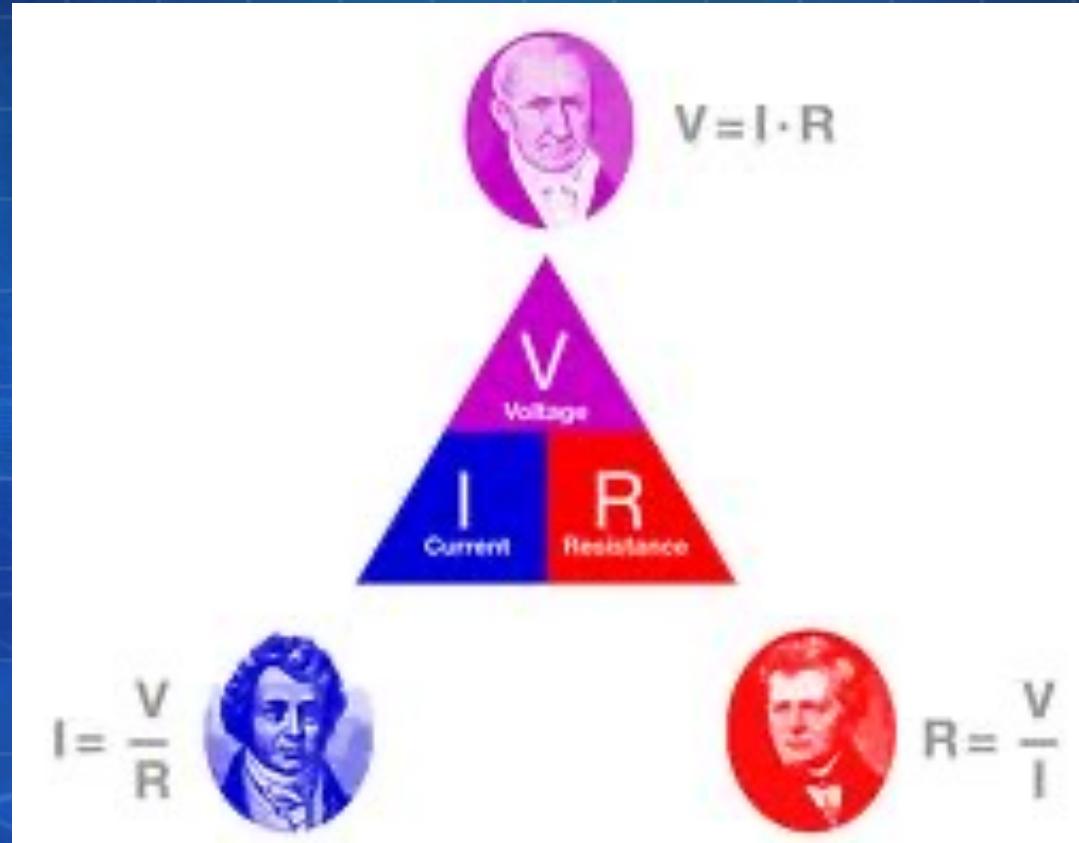
Nikola Tesla



Emperor Palpatine



The Big Three—Volta, Ampere, and Ohm



Important Terms

- Volt (V)—unit of electric potential or how much strength the charge is “pushed”
 - Batteries are 1.5-24 V
 - Home electricity 110-220 V
 - Lightning can be millions of volts
 - Also called Potential Difference
 - Is the force behind the electrons

- Ampere (A)—unit of electric current or how many electrons go past a given point in a second.
 - Also called an “Amp”
 - Amperage can heat up a wire and too much can melt a wire or start a fire. That is why we have breakers and fuses.



Important Terms

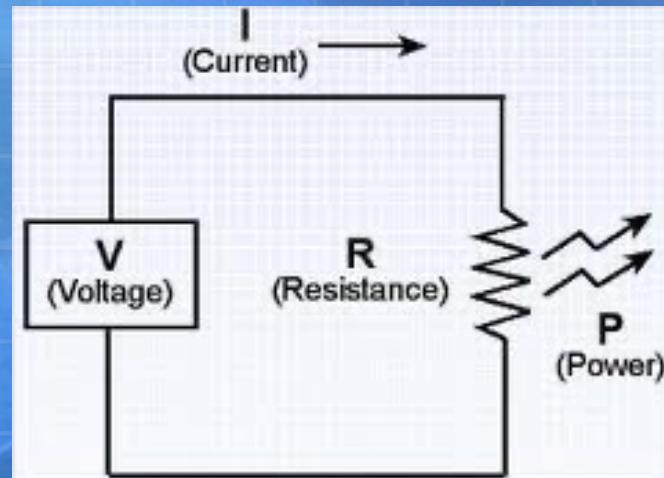
- **Direct Current (DC)** is an electric current of constant direction.
 - All batteries are DC
 - Most electronics need DC, so you have special transformers and rectifiers to convert house AC voltage to DC.
 - Most of the problems in Circuit Lab are DC.
- **Alternating Current (AC)** is electric current that regularly reverses direction.
 - House electricity and power lines are AC
 - AC is even more dangerous than DC
 - AC has less power loss to heat during transmission so it is used for generation and transmission
 - AC is transmitted at very high voltages and stepped down using a transformer for home usage (normally around 220V AC in the US)



Important Terms

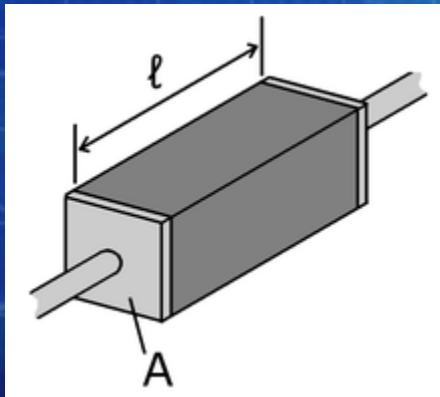
- Resistance is the opposition against the free transfer of electrons in a conductor.
 - Copper, Silver, and other conductors have low resistance
 - Glass, wood, rubber, plastic, and other insulators have high resistance.
 - Transfer (or current) is usually due to some force like the EMF from the Voltage of a battery

- Ohms (Ω)—unit of electric resistance which is equal to the ratio of voltage to amperage.



Resistance (Ω)

- Many resistors and conductors have a uniform cross section with a uniform flow of electric current, and are made of one material. In this case, the electrical resistivity ρ (Greek: rho) is defined as:



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

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

- Resistance increases
 - Longer lengths
 - Less area/smaller cross section
 - Higher temperature
 - Less conductive material
- Resistance decreases
 - Shorter lengths
 - Larger area/cross section
 - Lower temperature
 - More conductive material

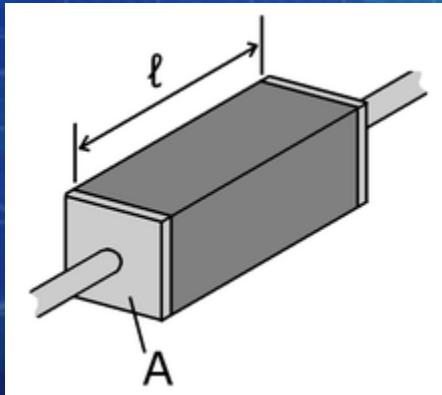


Resistance of Common Materials



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- Always have tables of resistivity, ρ units are $\Omega \cdot m$
- Superconductors = 0 $\Omega \cdot m$
- Metals/Conductors $\sim 10^{-8} \Omega \cdot m$
- Semiconductors (variable upon doping)
- Insulators $\sim 10^{16} \Omega \cdot m$
- Superinsulators $\sim \infty \Omega \cdot m$



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

Top Common Conductors

- Silver $\rho = 1.59 \times 10^{-8} \Omega \cdot m$
- Copper $\rho = 1.68 \times 10^{-8} \Omega \cdot m$
- Gold $\rho = 2.44 \times 10^{-8} \Omega \cdot m$
- Aluminum $\rho = 2.65 \times 10^{-8} \Omega \cdot m$

Top Common Semiconductors

- GaAs $\rho = 1 \times 10^{-3}$ to $1 \times 10^8 \Omega \cdot m$
- Germanium $\rho = 4.6 \times 10^{-1} \Omega \cdot m$
- Silicon $\rho = 6.4 \times 10^2 \Omega \cdot m$

Top Common Insulators

- Deionized water, Glass, Diamond, Hard Rubber, Air, and Dry Wood
- Fused Quartz $\rho = 7.5 \times 10^{17} \Omega \cdot m$
- PET $\rho = 1 \times 10^{21} \Omega \cdot m$
- Teflon $\rho = 1 \times 10^{23}$ to $1 \times 10^{25} \Omega \cdot m$

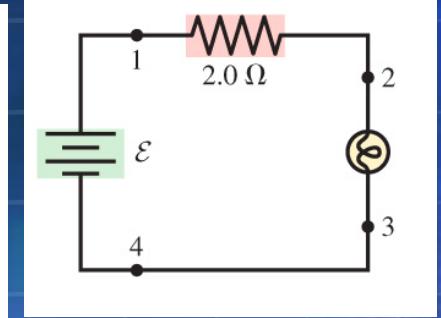
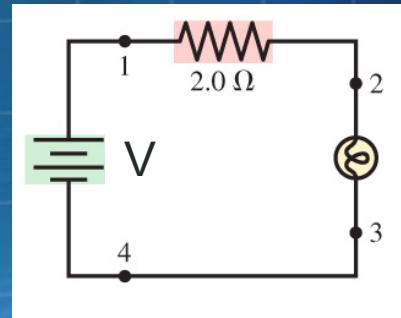


Physics Teachers versus Engineers



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- Physicists and Engineers look at circuit problems differently and sometimes put focus on different areas
- Both are right, but you should be prepared because you don't know who writes your test
- Always look at lots of different sample tests to get a flavor for all the ways a question may be asked
- The diagrams to the right are equivalent, one uses a Voltage Source and one an Electromotor Force source (EMF)—same thing



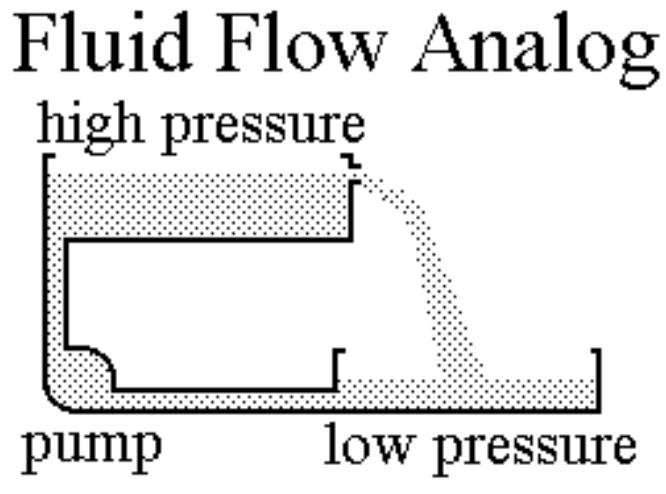
- Conventional current (which is what is mainly used) flows from the positive terminal of a battery or EMF source and would be clockwise in the diagrams above
 - This is the direction of positive charges, but not electrons which flow the opposite way
- Physicsts often prefer to use “Real Current” which flows the opposite direction to match electron flow (counter clockwise or out of negative to positive)



How it compares to water flowing



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Pressure is like voltage



Flow is like amperage



Resistance is how difficult it is for the water to flow



The pump is the voltage source, like a battery



Practical

- ➊ Requires several batteries of differing types and voltages
- ➋ Identify the parts of a battery and set up a circuit with a switch
 - ➌ Remember each circuit is powered by a battery where the current can flow from the + (**positive**) side to the – (**negative**) side.
 - ➍ Any break in the circuit is an **Open Circuit** and no current flows
 - ➎ Any circuit without resistance is a **Short Circuit** and it is dangerous

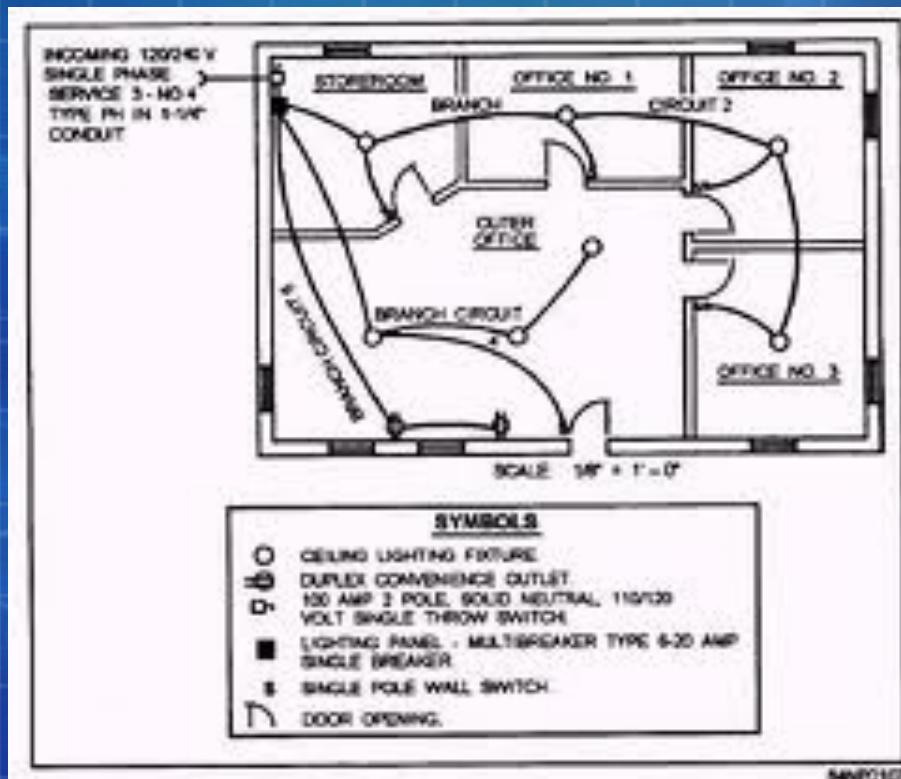


Homework #1 Make a wiring diagram of one room in the house



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- Draw a floor plan of a room and show the circuits
- Draw a circuit for a flashlight.





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Homework #2

Homework Generator

- The Homework generator is a simple Excel spreadsheet which creates random problem sheets to allow you to practice.
- Each tab represents a different level of difficulty or different topic
 - Level 1 VIR is for simple Voltage (V), Current (I), and Resistance (R) problems with a series circuit
- The answers are either provided at the bottom of the sheet or on the back of the sheet
- New random values are created each time you hit the F9 key, reload a sheet, or print a sheet.
- Recommend that you do a new sheet if you miss any problems on a sheet to ensure you understand the materials
- After you get 100% on a sheet, time yourself to improve how quickly you can answer an entire sheet, but redo it if you miss anything (accuracy is more important than speed)
- New Versions of the sheet will be distributed with new problems (i.e. OpAmps and Diodes are next)

