

ECE 159 Lecture Notes

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Fundamentals of Electric Circuits, Winter 2024

ECE 159

1 Basic Concepts

1.1 Basic Definitions

Definiton 1.1.1 (Voltage). The difference of the electric potential between two points in a circuit.

$$V \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \int_C \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{l} \quad (1)$$

Definiton 1.1.2 (Current). Rate of change of charge at a particular point in the circuit.

$$I \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{dq}{dt} \quad (2)$$

Definiton 1.1.3 (Power). The rate of change of energy for an element in the circuit. Power is the product of voltage and current.

Definiton 1.1.4 (Resistors). A circuit element that restricts the flow of charge.

Definiton 1.1.5 (Ideal Sources). A circuit element that provides a set voltage or current regardless of what it is connected to.

Definiton 1.1.6 (Dependent Sources). A circuit element that provides a voltage or current to the circuit depending on another voltage or current in the circuit.

Definiton 1.1.7 (Passive Sign Convention). If a positive current flows out of the positive side of a voltage, that element is **delivering** power. Otherwise, it is **absorbing** power. All resistors absorb power.

1.2 High School Review

Electric Field \mathbf{E} is created when charges are separated. It leads to a potential difference.

Worked done by Electric Field Force due to the field is:

$$\mathbf{F} = q\mathbf{E} \quad (3)$$

, such that it moves charges and do work.

Capacitor Energy stored in capacity is:

$$U_E = \frac{1}{2}CV^2 \quad (4)$$

1.3 Voltage and Current

Energy Density The energy [J/m³] in a dielectric material is:

$$u_E = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_r \epsilon_0 E^2 \quad (5)$$

where:

$$\begin{aligned} \epsilon_0 &= \text{Permittivity of free space} \\ \epsilon_r &= \text{Relative Permittivity} \end{aligned}$$

Magnetic field **B** is created when charges move.

An electromotive force (emf) can be induced when the magnetic flux through a loop is changing with time. Induced emf does the same thing as the potential difference of a battery.

Induced EMF An inductor can store energy in a “magnetic form”

$$U_B = \frac{1}{2} L i^2 \quad (6)$$

Energy Density

$$u_B = \frac{1}{2\mu_r\mu_0} B^2 \quad (7)$$

1.3 Voltage and Current

Now instead of dealing with electric and magnetic vector fields, we can use the scalar quantities of voltage and current:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Voltage} &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Difference in Electric Potential} \\ \Delta V &= V_A - V_B \\ &= \int_B^A \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{l} \\ &= \frac{\Delta W}{q} \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

Electromotive Force (emf) / Voltage Work is performed by the electric field to move a charge from one point to another. The work done per unit charge is the voltage.

$$\text{Voltage} = \frac{\Delta W}{q} \quad (9)$$

1.4 Power and Energy

Power To relate power to voltage and current, we can use the following equation:

$$P \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{dW}{dt} = \frac{dW}{dq} \cdot \frac{dq}{dt} = V \cdot I \quad (10)$$

Sign If $P = V \cdot I > 0$, the element is delivering power. If $P = V \cdot I < 0$, the element is absorbing power.

Energy the energy absorbed or supplied by an element from time t_0 to time t_1 is:

$$W = \int_{t_0}^{t_1} P(t) dt \quad (11)$$

1.5 Circuit Elements

Active Elements Active elements are sources of energy. They can deliver power to the circuit. While passive elements are elements that can only absorb power.

Ideal Sources Ideal sources are sources that provide a set voltage or current regardless of what it is connected to. We often assume that sources are ideal.

Independent Sources Independent sources are sources that provide a set voltage or current regardless of what it is connected to.

Dependent Sources Dependent sources are sources that provide a voltage or current to the circuit depending on another voltage or current in the circuit.

Resistor A resistor is a circuit element that restricts the flow of charge. The voltage across a resistor is proportional to the current through it.

1.6 Resistance

Ohm's Law Ohm's Law states that the current through a resistor is proportional to the voltage across it.

$$V = IR \quad (12)$$

1.7 Node, Branch, and Loop

Resistivity The resistance of a material is proportional to the length of the material and inversely proportional to the cross-sectional area of the material.

$$R = \rho \frac{l}{A} \quad (13)$$

Short and Open Circuits A short circuit is a circuit with no resistance, while an open circuit is a circuit with infinite resistance.

Conductance The reciprocal of resistance is conductance. The unit of conductance is mho (ohm spelled backwards), \mathcal{U} .

$$G = \frac{1}{R} \quad (14)$$

Power in Resistors The power dissipated in a resistor is given by:

$$P = I^2 R = \frac{V^2}{R} \quad (15)$$

Resistors in Series If resistors are placed in series with each other, their current must be the same. The equivalent resistance of resistors in series is the sum of the resistances.

$$R_{\text{eq}} = R_1 + R_2 + \cdots + R_n \quad (16)$$

Resistors in Parallel If resistors are placed in parallel with each other, their voltage must be the same. The equivalent resistance of resistors in parallel is the reciprocal of the sum of the reciprocals of the resistances.

$$\frac{1}{R_{\text{eq}}} = \frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} + \cdots + \frac{1}{R_n} \quad (17)$$

Comination of Series and Parallel Resistors To find the equivalent resistance of a combination of series and parallel resistors, first find the equivalent resistance of the resistors in series, then find the equivalent resistance of the resistors in parallel.

1.7 Node, Branch, and Loop

Three important ideas in electric circuit analysis are:

1. **Branch:** A branch is an element in an electric circuit, such as a source or a resistor.
2. **Node:** A point of connection of two or more branches within an electric circuit.
3. **Loop:** Any closed path in an electric circuit. To form a loop, one must start and end at the same point and never pass through the same node twice.

2 DC Circuits