

IEEE's Hands on Practical Electronics (HOPE)

Week 2: Voltage, Current, Resistance

Definitions:

Voltage: Difference of electrical potential between two points of an electrical circuit

Current: Flow (movement) of electric charge

Resistance: The resistor provides opposition to the current. The energy the electrons have are changed to heat

Floating: Having unknown voltage

Electron: The negative charge carrier particle

Hole: The "positive" charge carrier particle. (It is literally an absence of an electron, not an elementary particle with a positive charge, hence why we call it a hole)

Units:

Voltage (V) is measured in volts (V)

Current (I) is measured in amps (A)

Resistance (R) is measured in ohms (Ω)

Putting it all Together

Battery **provides electrical potential energy** to the charges so that they can travel through the circuit

The charges **flow** through the circuit doing work

The resistor limits the amount of current by **opposing the flow of current**

Using the Multimeter:

To measure voltage:

- Turn on multimeter by turning dial to "20V"

- Touch one of the probes to the first point in the circuit to measure

- Touch the other probe to a point across the circuit element

To measure current:

- Turn dial to 20mA

- OPEN** the current circuit

- Complete the circuit with the two probes of the multimeter

To measure resistance:

- Turn dial to 2K

- Touch the 2 probes of the multimeter to the two ends of the resistor

Things to remember and know:

Never leave anything floating. It is a serious design flaw. Having floating voltages means you cannot predict the behavior of a circuit, which is the worst thing to have from an engineering standpoint.