

# 電磁學 (一) Electromagnetics (I)

## 11. 電流與電壓

### Electric Current and Electric Voltage

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In this lecture, we will learn about the basic concepts of electric current driven by a voltage.

- 11.1 Electric Current 電流
- 11.2 Convection Current 真空電流 ( 對流電流 )
- 11.3 Conduction Current 導體電流
- 11.4 Basic Circuit Laws 基本電路定律
- 11.5 Review 單元回顧

**電流與電壓**

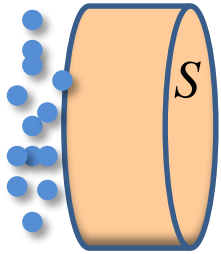
**Electric Current and Electric Voltage**

**11.1 電流**

**Electric Current**

# Electric Current – flow of charges

**Electric Current** =  
amount **charges** crossing  
an area **per unit time**



$\vec{u}$  : velocity of charges

$$I = \frac{dq}{dt} = \int_s \vec{J} \cdot d\vec{s}$$

(SI unit: Ampere  $\equiv$  C/sec) down a wire effectively.

Define **Volume Current Density**,

$$\vec{J} = \rho_v \vec{u} \quad (\text{SI' unit: A/m}^2)$$

where  $\rho_v$  is the volume charge density.

$$dI = \vec{J} \cdot d\vec{s} \Rightarrow I = \int_s \vec{J} \cdot d\vec{s}$$

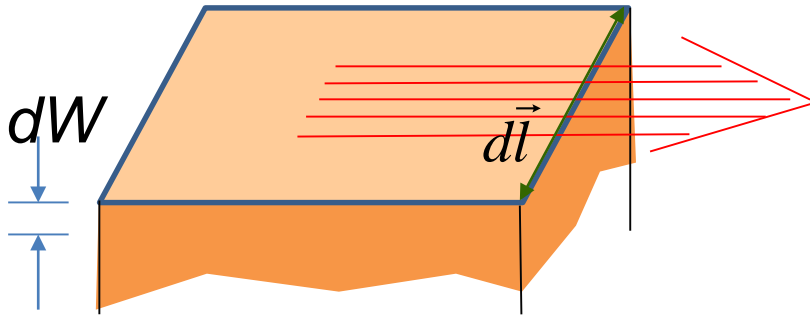
\* Dot product: Only the charges flowing **along the normal direction of** the cross sectional area will move

# Surface Current Density

In a **perfect** conductor, the volume charge density  $\rho_v \rightarrow \infty$ .  
Thus, the volume current density  $J = \rho_v u \rightarrow \infty$

There exists a finite **surface current density** in the limit

$$\vec{J}_s = \lim_{dW \rightarrow 0} \vec{J} \times dW \quad (\text{SI unit: A/m})$$

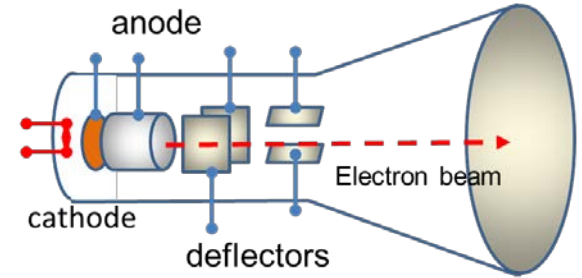


The total current on the surface is the line integration along the transverse direction.

$$I = \int_S \vec{J}_s \cdot d\vec{l}$$

# Types of Current

1. **Convection current:** resulting from motion of charged particles in vacuum. The charge density can **modify the potential** that drives the particles.



2. **Conduction current:** resulting from motion of electrons and/or holes in a **neutral** material

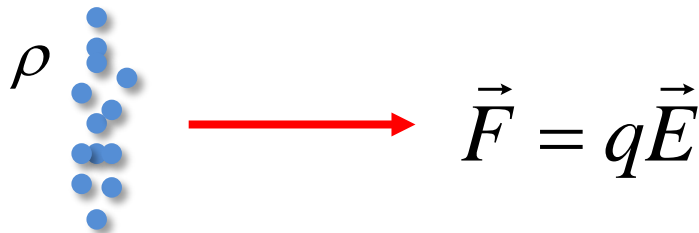


3. **Electrolytic current:** resulting from migration of positive and/or negative **ions** in an aqueous environment.



# Joule's Law

Consider a group of charges pulled by an electric field



$\vec{u}$  : velocity of charges

The differential power in the current is

$$dP = d(\vec{F} \cdot \vec{u}) = \underbrace{(\vec{E} dq)}_{\vec{F} = q\vec{E}} \cdot \vec{u} = \underbrace{(\vec{E} \rho dv)}_{dq = \rho dv} \cdot \vec{u} = \vec{E} \cdot \underbrace{(\rho \vec{u} dv)}_{\vec{J} = \rho \vec{u}} = \vec{E} \cdot \vec{J} dv$$

$$\Rightarrow P = \int_V \vec{E} \cdot \vec{J} dv \quad (\text{Joule's Law})$$

where  $\vec{E} \cdot \vec{J}$  is a **volume power density** in Watt/m<sup>3</sup>

# 11.1 電流

## Electric Current

- The electric current is defined as the amount of charges crossing a cross sectional area per unit time.
- A convection current flows in vacuum, a conduction current flows in a conductor, and an electrolytic current flows in electrolyte.
- The power carried in a current under an electric field is governed by the Joule's law

$$P = \int_V \vec{E} \cdot \vec{J} dV$$



# 電流與電壓

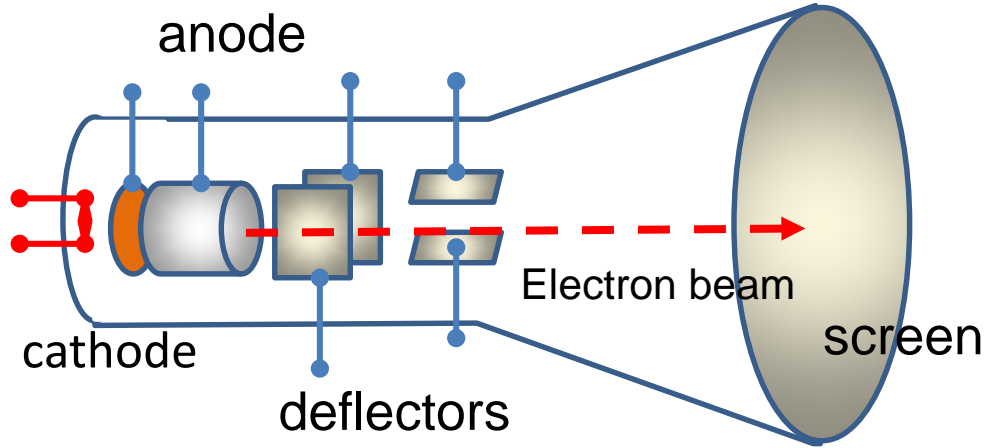
## Electric Current and Electric Voltage

### 11.2 真空電流（對流電流）

### Convection Current

# Convection Current

(charged particle moving in vacuum)



cathode Ray Tube (CRT)



cavity of a microwave  
electron gun

A moving charge experiences the externally applied voltage + the electric potential from adjacent charges.

**E.g. Convection current across a parallel-plate accelerator. Find  $J$  as a function of  $V_0$**

Electron kinetic energy = potential energy

$$\frac{1}{2} \underset{\text{electron mass}}{m} \underset{\text{electron speed}}{u}^2 = eV \Rightarrow u = \sqrt{\frac{2eV}{m}}$$

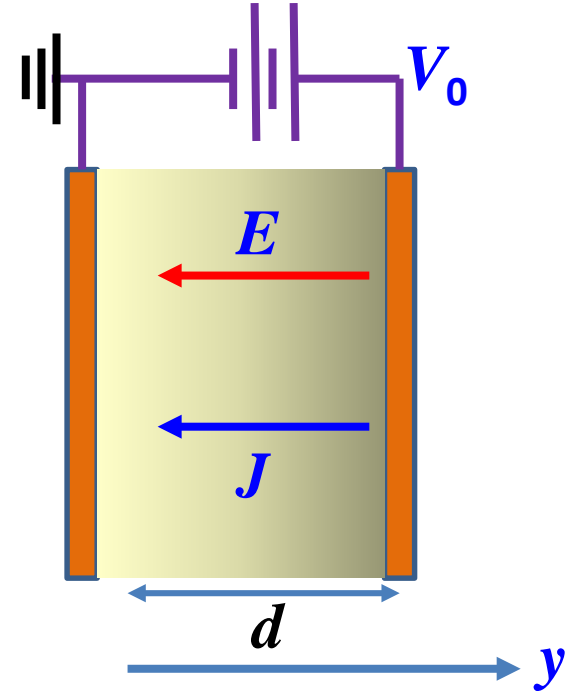
electron mass

electron speed

At a steady state, the current density is

$$\vec{J} \equiv Nq\vec{u} = \rho(y)\vec{u}(y) = \text{const.}$$

The charge density is  $\Rightarrow \rho(y) = -J \sqrt{\frac{m}{2eV(y)}}$



From Poisson's equation  $\nabla^2 V = -\frac{\rho}{\epsilon_0}$ ,  $\Rightarrow \frac{d^2 V}{dy^2} = \frac{J}{\epsilon_0} \sqrt{\frac{m}{2e}} V^{-1/2}$   
 Use the Math trick:

$$\frac{d}{dy} \left( \frac{dV}{dy} \right)^2 = 2 \frac{dV}{dy} \left( \frac{d^2 V}{dy^2} \right) \text{ to write } d \left( \frac{dV}{dy} \right)^2 = 2 \frac{J}{\epsilon_0} \sqrt{\frac{m}{2e}} V^{-1/2} dV$$

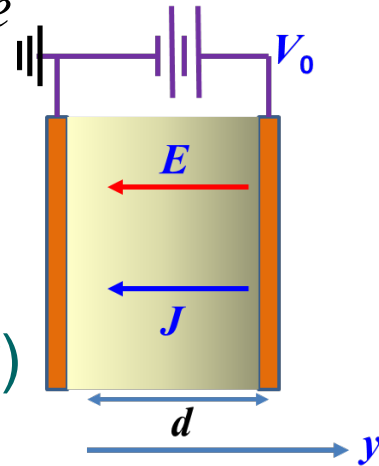
Boundary conditions:

I. at  $y = 0$ ,  $V = 0$  and  $\frac{dV}{dy} = 0$  II. at  $y = d$ ,  $V = V_0$

$$\Rightarrow J = \frac{4\epsilon_0}{9d^2} \sqrt{\frac{2e}{m}} V_0^{3/2} \propto V^{3/2}$$

Space-charge limited emission

(Child-Langmuir's law)



Ohm's law is **not** valid for a **convection current** in vacuum, because charge-in-vacuum is **not neutral** and can modify the local **potential**.

# 11.2 真空電流（對流電流）

## Convection Current

- A convection current flows in vacuum.
- The electric potential seen by a charge is modified by adjacent charges.
- At the steady state, the I-V curve of a vacuum diode follows the expression

$$J = \frac{4\epsilon_0}{9d^2} \sqrt{\frac{2e}{m}} V_0^{3/2} \propto V^{3/2}$$

**電流與電壓**

**Electric Current and Electric Voltage**

**11.3 導體電流**

**Conduction Current**

# Mobility

From Newton's mechanics,  $F = ma$ , one would expect acceleration of a charge,  $a$ , under an electric field or

$$\frac{d\vec{u}}{dt} = \vec{a} \propto \vec{E}$$

But, in fact, in a conductor,  $\vec{u} \propto \vec{E}$  is observed. In a conductor, **collisions** make an electron move at an **average speed** under an electric field

$$\boxed{\vec{u} = -\mu_e \vec{E}}, \quad (\text{m/s})$$

where  $\mu_e$  ( $\text{m}^2/\text{V} \cdot \text{s}$ ) is the **mobility** of an electron.

E.g.  $\mu_{e,Al} = 1.4 \times 10^{-4}$ ,  $\mu_{e,Cu} = 3.2 \times 10^{-3}$ ,  $\mu_{e,Ag} = 5.2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m}^2/\text{V} \cdot \text{s}$

# Conductivity

The volume current density becomes **linearly** proportional to the electric field.

$$\vec{J} = \rho \vec{u} = -\rho \mu_e \vec{E} = \sigma \vec{E}$$

where the proportional factor  $\sigma$  is called **conductivity** in Siemens/m and  $1/\sigma$  is called **resistivity**.

In a **semiconductor**, there are **two** types of charges, **electron** (–) and **hole** (+). The total conductivity becomes

$$\sigma = \underbrace{-\rho_e \mu_e}_{\text{Electron conductivity}} + \underbrace{\rho_h \mu_h}_{\text{hole conductivity}}$$

(conductivity of a semiconductor)

Electron conductivity

hole conductivity

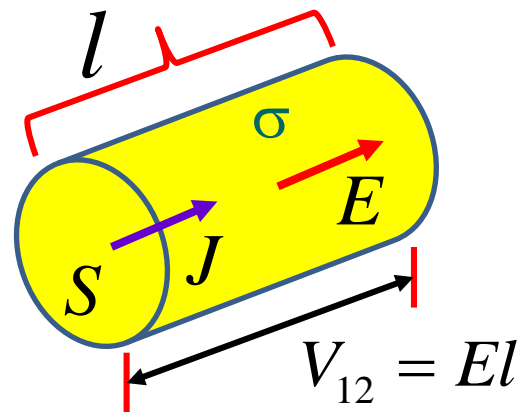


# Ohm's Law

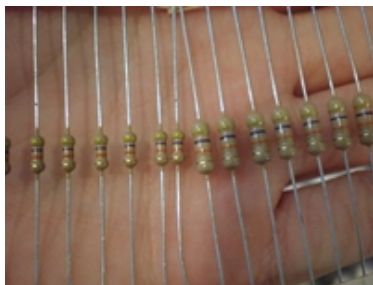
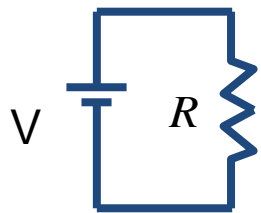
(for conduction materials with collisions or  $J = \sigma E$ )

$$\left. \begin{aligned} I &= JS = \sigma ES \\ V_{12} &= El \end{aligned} \right\} \frac{V_{12}}{I} = \frac{l}{\sigma S} = R$$

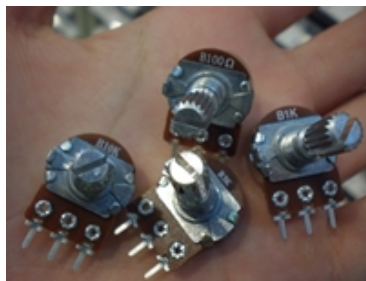
or  $V = IR$  (Ohm's Law)



$R$  is **resistance** in ohm,  $\Omega$ ;  $G = 1/R$  is **conductance** in mho



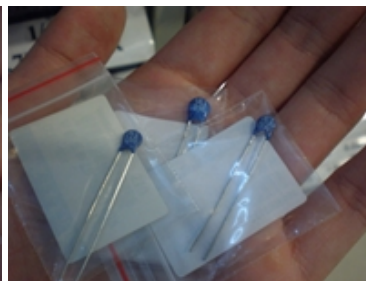
一般電阻



可變電阻



光敏電阻



熱敏電阻

## Ohmic Loss

Recall the Joule's law  $P = \int_V \vec{E} \cdot \vec{J} dv$

In a circuit,  $dv = dl ds$

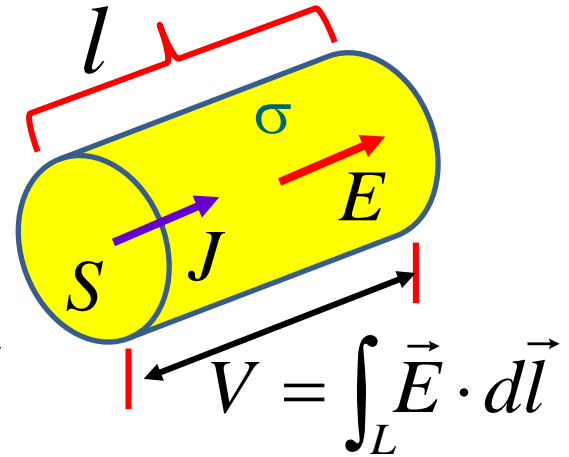
$$P = \int_V \vec{E} \cdot \vec{J} dv = \underbrace{\int_L \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l}}_V \underbrace{\int_S \vec{J} \cdot d\vec{s}}_I = V \times I$$

Use the Ohm's law  $V = IR$  to write

$$P = I \times V = I^2 R = \frac{V^2}{R}$$

This is the so-called **Ohmic loss** in a circuit.

Ohmic loss usually dissipates as **heat**.



resistive heating  
(stove)

# 11.3 導體電流

## Conduction Current

- In a conductor (ohmic material), the speed of electrons is linearly proportional to the driving electric field due to collisions of electrons with the material matrix.

$$\vec{u} = -\mu_e \vec{E}$$

- In an ohmic material, the current is linearly proportional to the driving voltage or  $V = IR$ , where  $R$  is the resistance.
- In an ohmic material, collisions induces power loss, described by  $P = I^2 R = V^2 / R$

# 電流與電壓

## Electric Current and Electric Voltage

### 11.4 基本電路定律

#### Basic Circuit Laws

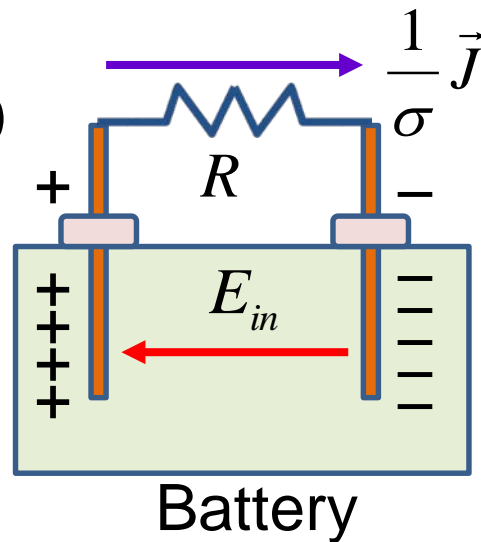
# Electromotive Force

For a conservative force,

$$\nabla \times \vec{E} = 0 \Rightarrow \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l} = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad \oint \frac{1}{\sigma} \vec{J} \cdot d\vec{l} = 0$$

A conservative force can't support a current in a circuit loop.

An *electromotive force* from a generator has to be supplied to a circuit with a current.



Add a term of non-conservative force  $f$  to the right side

$$\boxed{\nabla \times \vec{E} = \vec{f}} \Rightarrow \oint \frac{1}{\sigma} \vec{J} \cdot d\vec{l} = V_{em} = RI$$

where  $V_{em}$  is called the **electromotive force**

# Kirchhoff's Voltage Law

*voltage rises = voltage drops, around a closed-loop circuit*

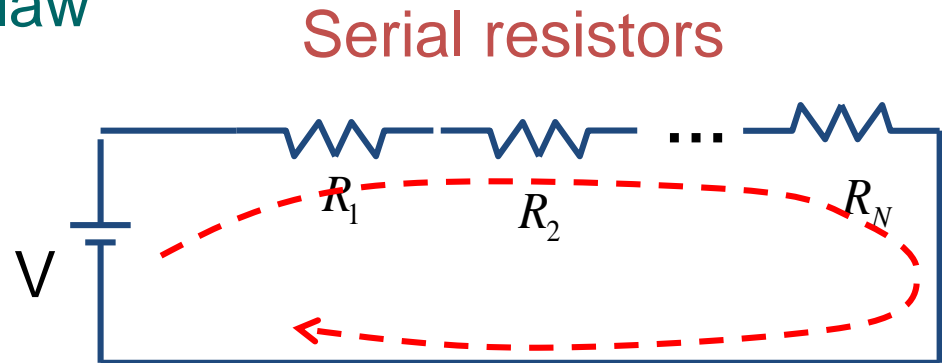
$$\sum_j V_{em_j} = \sum_k R_k I_k$$

A consequence of energy conservation

Apply the Kirchhoff's voltage law  
to write

$$V = R_{total} I = R_1 I + R_2 I \dots + R_N I$$

$$\Rightarrow R_{total} = R_1 + R_2 \dots + R_N$$



# Equation of Continuity

## From **charge conservation**

In a **close** volume, positive (negative) time-rate change of charges = current flowing outward (inward).

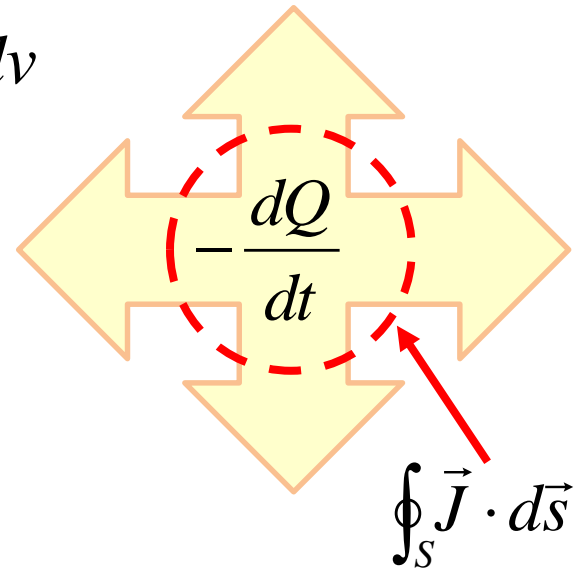
$$\oint_S \vec{J} \cdot d\vec{s} = -\frac{dQ}{dt} = -\frac{d}{dt} \int_V \rho dv$$

Apply the divergence theorem to obtain

$$\int_V \nabla \cdot \vec{J} dv = -\int_V \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} dv$$

Equation of Continuity

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{J} + \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = 0$$



# Kirchhoff's Current Law

**Charge conservation:** In equilibrium, no charge is generated or annihilated at a node of a **neutral** conductor.

*The algebraic sum of all the currents flowing out of a circuit node is zero*

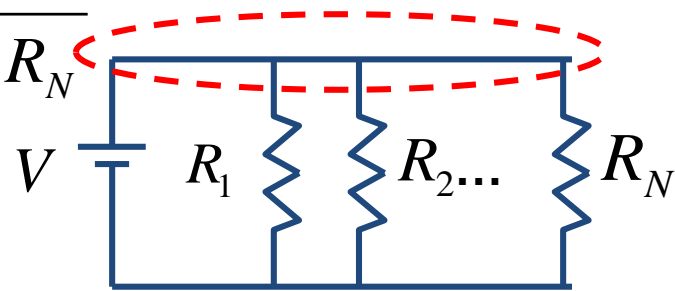
$$\nabla \cdot \vec{J} + \cancel{\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t}}^0 = 0 \Rightarrow \oint_S \vec{J} \cdot d\vec{s} = 0 \Rightarrow \sum_j I_j = 0$$

Kirchhoff's current law gives the total current

$$\frac{V}{R_{total}} = \frac{V}{R_1} + \frac{V}{R_2} \dots + \frac{V}{R_N} \Rightarrow \frac{1}{R_{total}} = \frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} \dots + \frac{1}{R_N}$$

**Parallel resistors**

or  $G_{total} = G_1 + G_2 \dots G_N$  (conductance)





# 11.4 基本電路定律

## Basic Circuit Laws

- The electromotive force in a battery or a generator drives a current in a circuit loop.
- Energy conservation requires the voltage rise equal to the voltage drop in a circuit loop (Kirchhoff's voltage law).
- From charge conservation, one derives the equation of continuity.

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{J} + \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = 0$$

- Charge conservation requires that, in equilibrium, the total current flowing out a circuit node is zero (Kirchhoff's current law).

**電流與電壓**

**Electric Current and Electric Voltage**

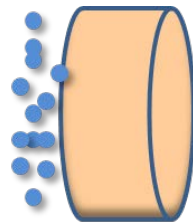
**11.5 單元回顧 Review**

# 單元回顧

1. The **Volume Current Density** is defined as

$$\vec{J} = \rho_v \vec{u} \quad (\text{SI unit: A/m}^2)$$

where  $\rho_v$  is the volume charge density.



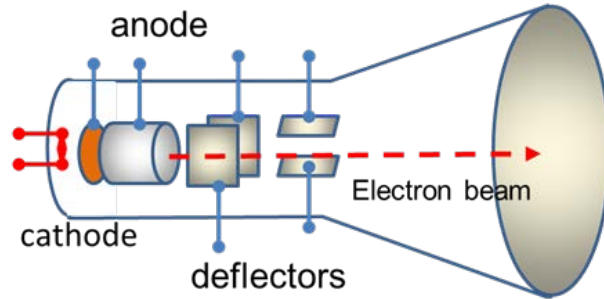
$\vec{u}$  : velocity of charges

2. An electric current is then the amount of charges crossing an area per unit time:

$$dI = \vec{J} \cdot d\vec{s} \Rightarrow I = \int_S \vec{J} \cdot d\vec{s}$$

# 單元回顧

3. A convection current is a flow of charges in vacuum. The space charge field modifies the electric potential seen by the charges.



4. A conduction current is a flow of charges in a neutral material. The collisions of the charges with the material matrix makes the charge propagate with a constant speed, giving rise to the Ohm's law:  $V = IR$ .

# 單元回顧

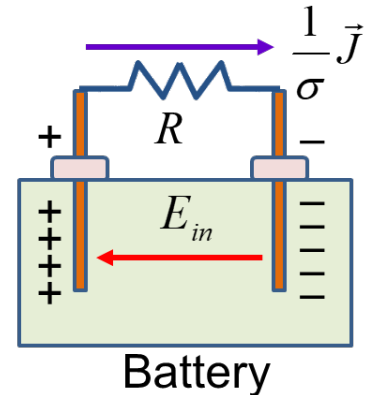
5. Collision of charges in a conducting material results in power loss, called the Ohmic loss, given by

$$\underbrace{P = I \times V}_{\text{Joule's law}} = I^2 R = \frac{V^2}{R}$$



6. The electromotive force of a battery or a generator,  $V_{em}$ , drives a current in a circuit loop.

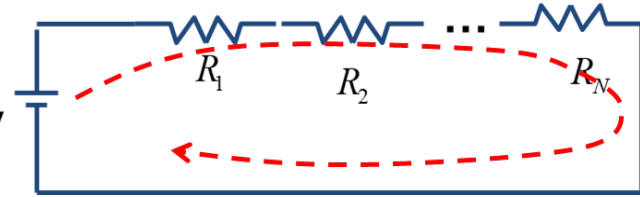
$$\nabla \times \vec{E} = \vec{f} \Rightarrow \oint_{\sigma} \frac{1}{\sigma} \vec{J} \cdot d\vec{l} = V_{em} = RI$$



# 單元回顧

7. Based on energy conservation, the Kirchhoff's voltage law states

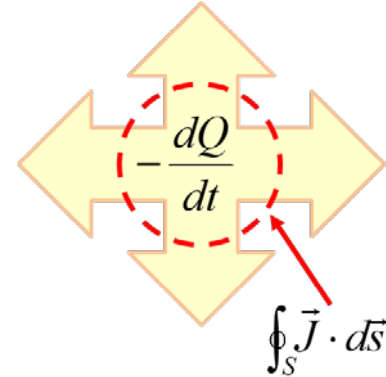
$$\sum_j V_{em_j} = \sum_k R_k I_k$$



*voltage rises = voltage drops, around a closed-loop circuit*

8. The equation of continuity is a consequence of charge conservation **in a close volume**, given by

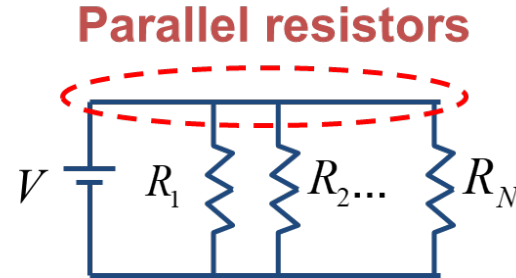
$$\nabla \cdot \vec{J} + \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = 0$$



# 單元回顧

9. Based on charge conservation in a neutral volume, the Kirchhoff's current law states

$$\sum_j I_j = 0$$



*In equilibrium, the algebraic sum of all the currents flowing out of a circuit node is zero.*

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION**