

# Today's Outline

## 1. Fundamentals

- Energy
- Voltage
- Power

# Electric Potential Energy

**Electric Potential Energy** = the **work** required to move a particle from a point A to a point B in the presence of **electric forces** *without any change in kinetic energy*

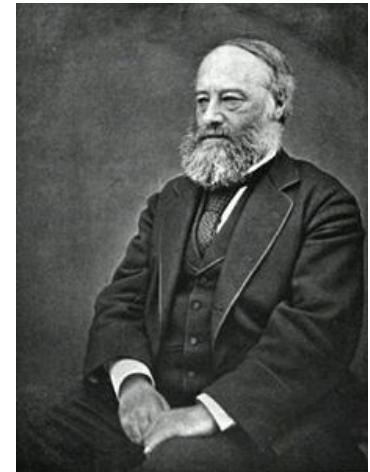
– SI unit is the Joule (abbreviated J)

$$1 \text{ J} = 1 \text{ N m} = 1 \text{ kg m}^2/\text{s}^2$$

– potential energy variables are usually given the symbol  $U$

– work variables are usually given the symbol  $W$

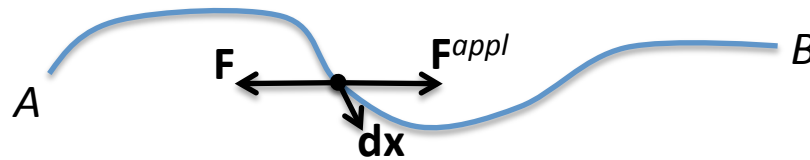
$$U_{AB} = W_{AB} = \int_A^B \mathbf{F}^{appl} \cdot d\mathbf{x} = - \int_A^B \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{x}$$



James Prescott Joule  
(1818 –1889)

# Potential Energy Example

In the example below, we need to apply a force  $\mathbf{F}^{appl}$  to push the particle from A to B against the force  $\mathbf{F}$ . As we move the particle from A to B, we perform a work  $W_{AB}$  which is equal to the increase in the potential energy  $U_{AB}$  of the particle.



$$U_{AB} = W_{AB} = \int_A^B \mathbf{F}^{applied} \cdot d\mathbf{x} = - \int_A^B \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{x} > 0$$

What would happen if the direction of the force  $\mathbf{F}$  was reversed?

# Electric Potential (Voltage)

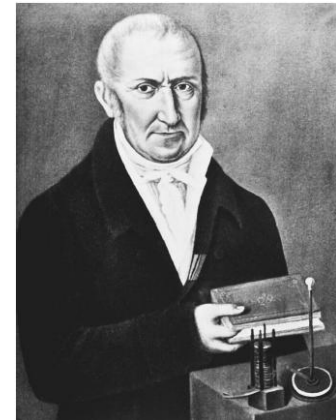
**Electric Potential** = work *per unit charge* to move a particle in an electric field from a point A to a point B, *without any change in kinetic energy*

- also called “voltage”
- voltage variables are usually given the symbol  $V$
- SI unit is the Volt (abbreviated V)

$$1 \text{ V} = 1 \text{ J} / \text{C}$$

- the definition can be written:

$$V_{AB} = \frac{W_{AB}}{Q} \quad \rightarrow \quad W_{AB} = QV_{AB}$$



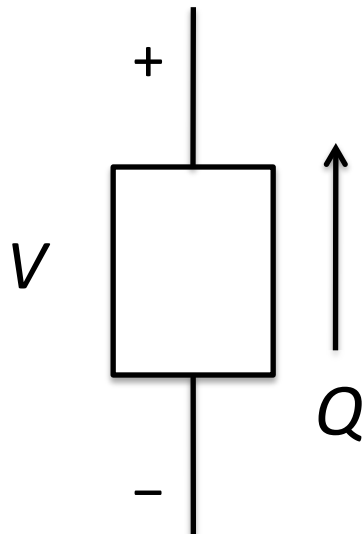
Alessandro Volta  
(1745-1827)

# Voltage

In circuits, we often define voltage variables across circuit elements:

“−” terminal identifies the initial point A

“+” terminal identifies the final point B



Passing a charge  $Q$  from “−” to “+” requires work:

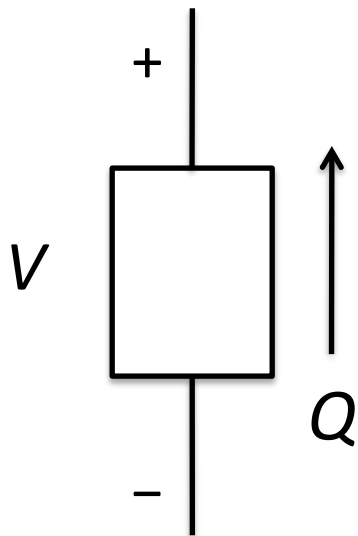
$$W = QV$$

The increase in potential energy of the charge  $Q$  as it is passed from “−” to “+” is:

$$U = W = QV$$

# Voltage

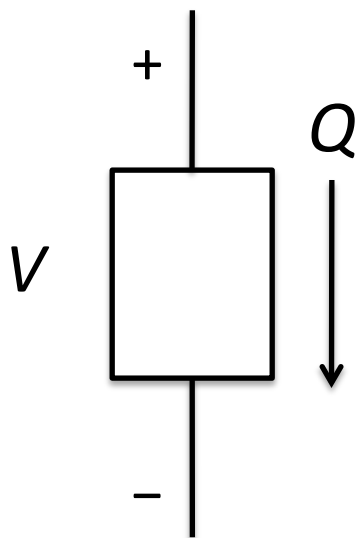
The voltage variable  $V$  can be positive or negative; the meaning of the sign is easily understood in terms of potential energy.



$V$	$Q$	$U=W=QV$
+	+	+ potential energy of the charge is increased, circuit element <b>delivers</b> energy to the charge
-	+	- potential energy of the charge is decreased, circuit element <b>absorbs</b> energy from the charge

# Voltage

When the direction of charge movement is reversed, from “+” to “–”, we reverse the flow of energy (similar to rolling downhill versus rolling uphill).



$V$	$Q$	$U=W=-QV$
+	+	– potential energy of the charge is decreased, circuit element <b>absorbs</b> energy from the charge
–	+	+ potential energy of the charge is increased, circuit element <b>delivers</b> energy to the charge

Important: Both the **definition** and **value** of variables  $V$  and  $Q$  are required to determine the physical situation.

# Power

**Power** = rate of change in energy, *per unit time*

– power is usually given the symbol  $P$

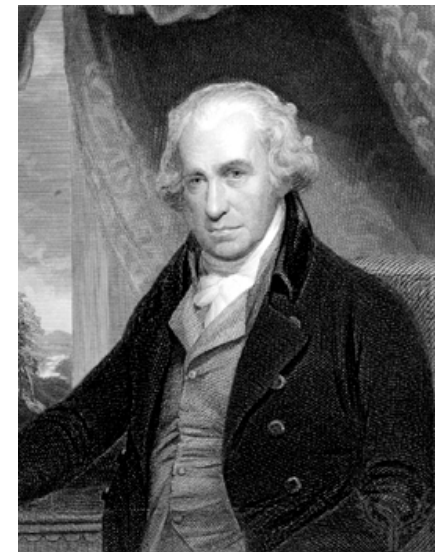
– SI unit is the Watt (abbreviated W)

$$1 \text{ W} = 1 \text{ J} / \text{s}$$

– the definition can be written:

$$P = \pm \frac{dU}{dt} = \pm \frac{dQ}{dt} \frac{dU}{dQ} = \pm IV$$

where the sign depends on whether we are calculating the rate at which energy is *delivered* or *absorbed* by a circuit element, and on the relative *orientation of current and voltage variable definitions*

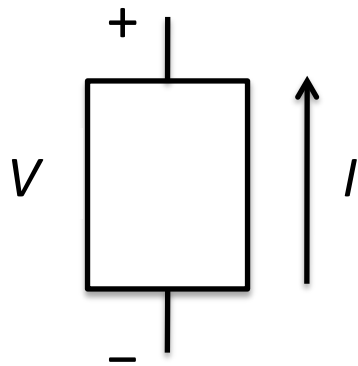


James Watt  
(1736–1819)



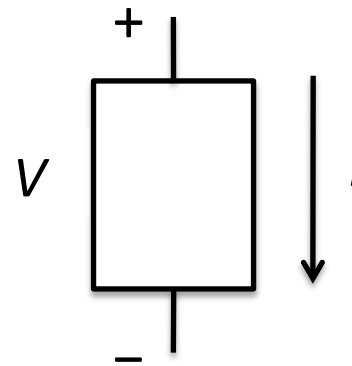
# Power

To understand the role of  $V$  and  $I$  variable definitions, consider the following two situations (see slides 6 and 7).



$$P = IV$$

= power delivered by circuit  
element to charges



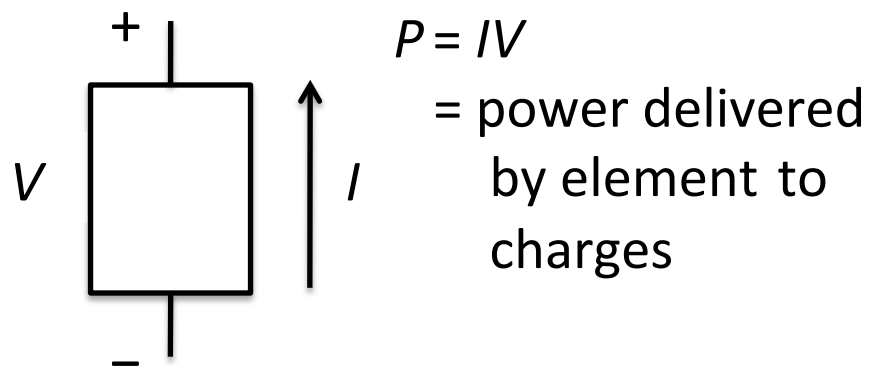
$$P = IV$$

= power absorbed by circuit  
element from charges

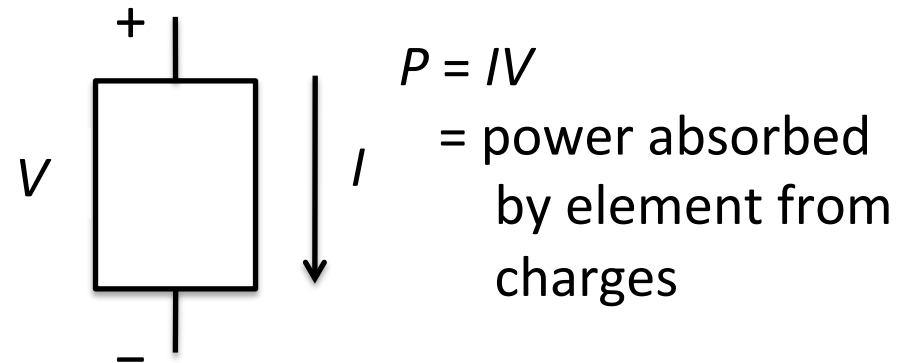
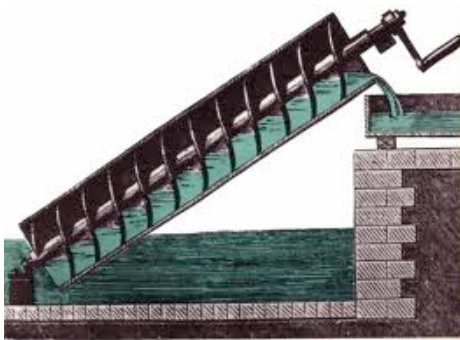
In each case,  $I$ ,  $V$ , and thus  $P$  can be either positive or negative. The power absorbed or delivered by the element is completely determined by  $I$  and  $V$ .

# Power

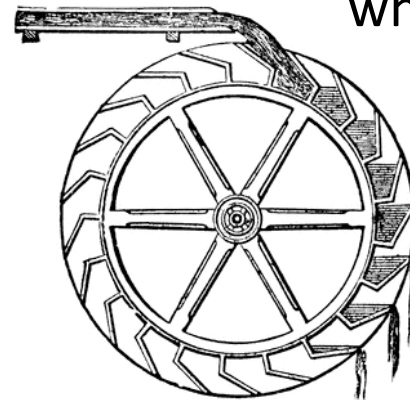
An analogy to power in hydraulics can be made.



power delivered by  
screw to water

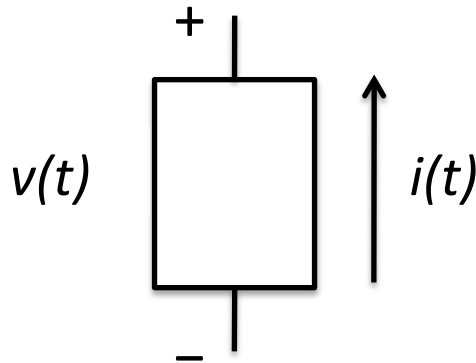


power absorbed by  
wheel from water

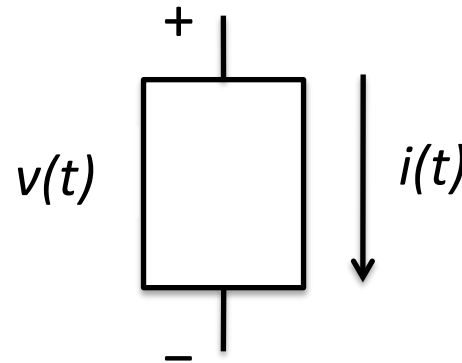


# Instantaneous Power

If the voltage  $v(t)$  and current  $i(t)$  at the terminals of a circuit element are functions of time, then the **instantaneous power** delivered or absorbed by the element is  $p(t) = i(t)v(t)$ .



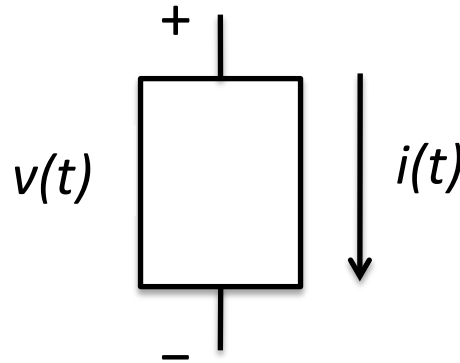
$p(t) = i(t)v(t)$   
= power delivered by  
circuit element at time  $t$



$p(t) = i(t)v(t)$   
= power absorbed by  
circuit element at time  $t$

# Passive Sign Convention

**Passive sign convention:** convention for defining the voltage variable  $v(t)$  and the current variable  $i(t)$  at the terminals of a circuit element such that the  $i(t)$  reference direction flows from “+” to “-”.



With the passive sign convention:

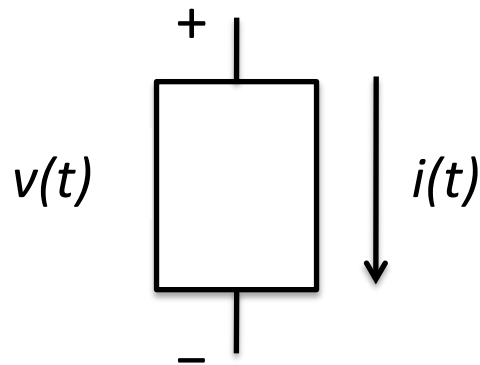
$p(t) = i(t)v(t) > 0$  corresponds to power absorption by the element

$p(t) = i(t)v(t) < 0$  corresponds to power delivery by the element

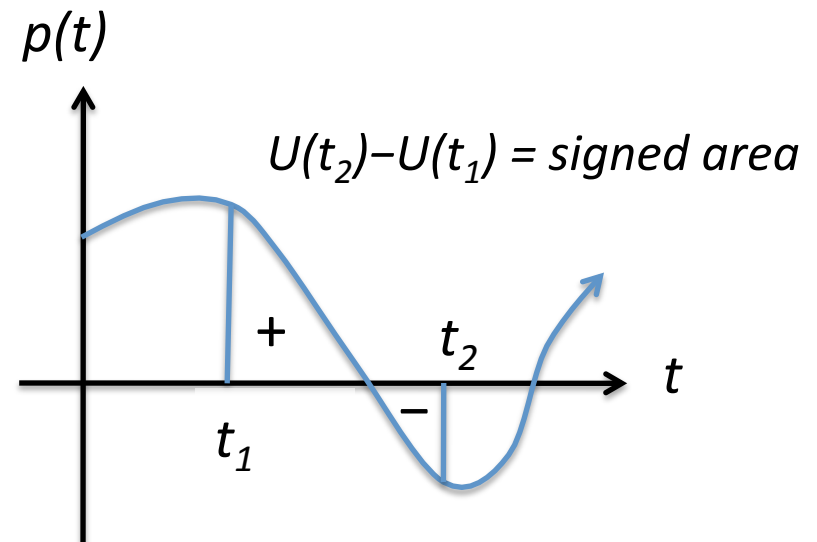
# Energy from Instantaneous Power

The energy delivered or absorbed over a time interval from  $t_1$  to  $t_2$  is:

$$U(t_2) - U(t_1) = \int_{t_1}^{t_2} p(t') dt' = \int_{t_1}^{t_2} i(t') v(t') dt'$$

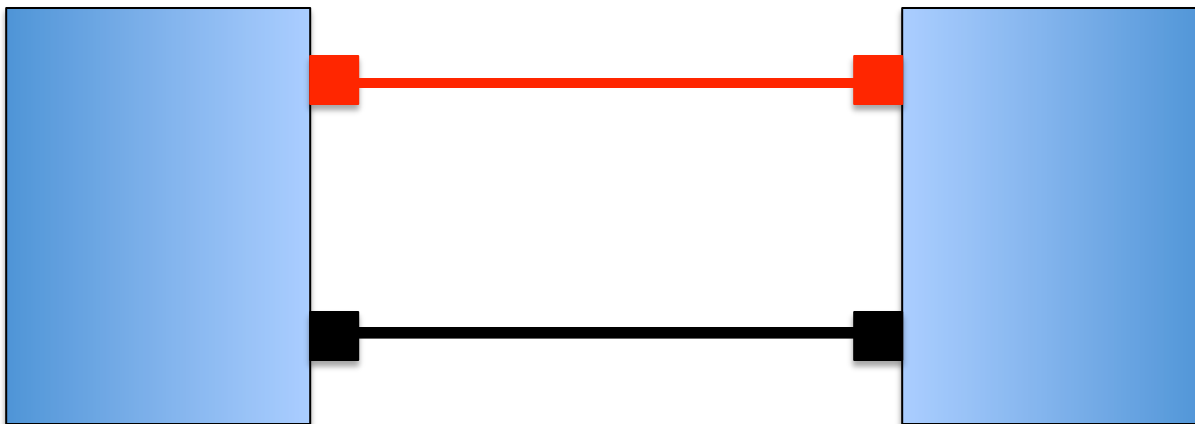


$p(t) = i(t)v(t)$   
 = power absorbed by  
 circuit element at time  $t$



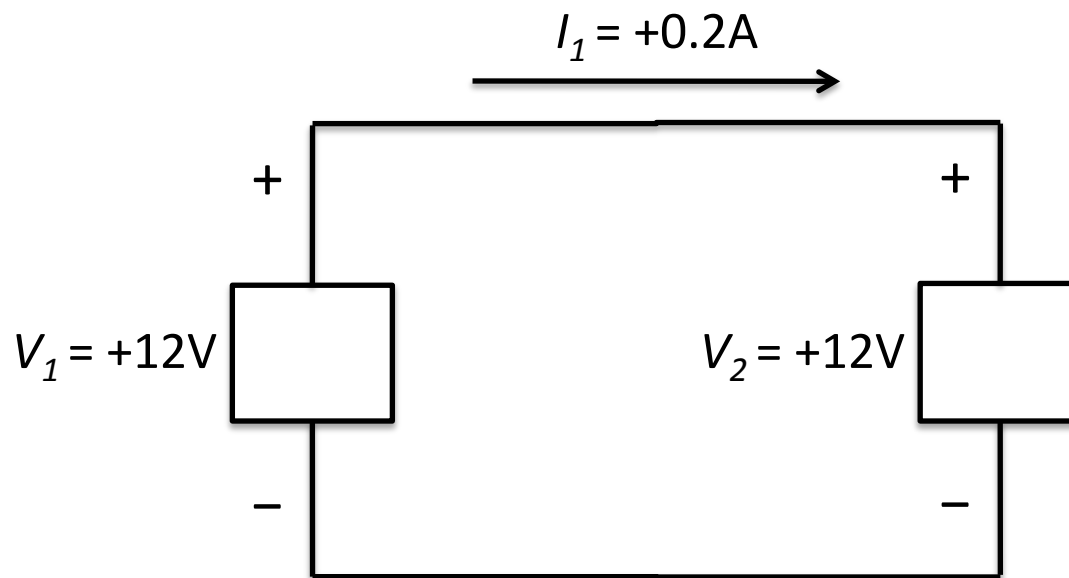
# Example 1

Two circuits are connected, as below. A 0.2A current flows in a clockwise fashion. The red wire is at a potential 12V greater than the black wire. Which circuit is delivering electrical power, and how much?



# Example 1

We redraw a circuit diagram with variables labeled.



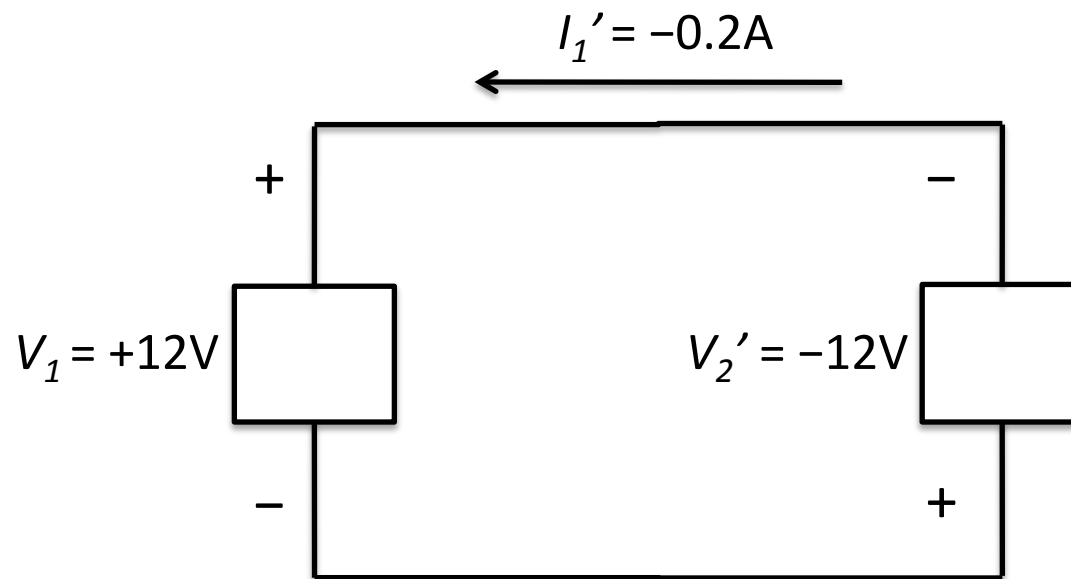
$$P_1 = I_1 V_1 = (+0.2A)(+12V) \text{ delivered} \\ = +2.4W \text{ delivered}$$

$$P_2 = I_1 V_2 = (+0.2A)(+12V) \text{ absorbed} \\ = +2.4W \text{ absorbed}$$

Therefore, the left circuit delivers 2.4W of power to the right circuit.

# Example 1

We can choose different  $I, V$  variables ( $I_1' = -I_1$  and  $V_2' = -V_2$ ) to describe the *exact same physical situation*.



$$P_1' = I_1' V_1 = (-0.2A)(+12V) \text{ absorbed} \\ = -2.4W \text{ absorbed}$$

*equivalent* to 2.4W delivered

$$P_2' = I_1' V_2' = (-0.2A)(-12V) \text{ absorbed} \\ = +2.4W \text{ absorbed}$$

As before, the left circuit delivers 2.4W of power to the right circuit.



## Example 3

Consider a record breaking Tour de France cyclist, producing 0.65 horsepower\* over 40 minutes to climb a mountain (Alpe d'Huez).

- 1) How much current would a 12 V battery need to pass in order to provide the same quantity of power?
- 2) How much charge would a 12 V battery need to pass in order to provide the same quantity of energy?



\* 1 hp = 746 W

## Example 3

Consider a record breaking Tour de France cyclist, producing 0.65 horsepower\* over 40 minutes to climb a mountain (Alpe d'Huez).

- 1) How much current would a 12 V battery need to pass in order to provide the same quantity of power?

$$P = 0.65\text{hp} \times (746 \text{ W} / \text{hp}) = 485 \text{ W}$$

$$P = IV, \text{ therefore}$$

$$I = P / V = 485\text{W} / 12\text{V} = 40.4\text{A}$$

$$* 1 \text{ hp} = 746 \text{ W}$$



## Example 3

Consider a record breaking Tour de France cyclist, producing 0.65 horsepower\* over 40 minutes to climb a mountain (Alpe d'Huez).

2) How much charge would a 12 V battery need to pass in order to provide the same quantity of energy?

$$W = P \Delta t = 485 \text{ W} \times 40 \text{ min} \times (60\text{s}/\text{min}) \\ = 1.16 \text{ MJ}$$

$W = QV$ , therefore

$$Q = W / V = 1.16\text{MJ} / 12\text{V} = 97\text{kC}$$

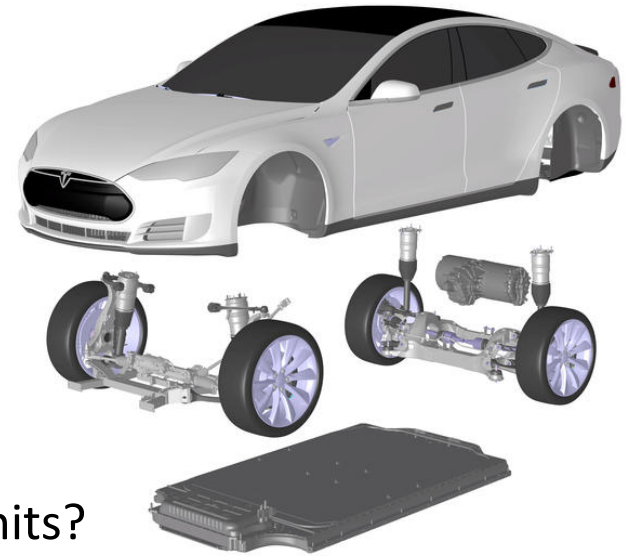


1 MJ ~ energy content of  
a candy bar

## Example 2

An automobile battery is rated at 85 kW-hrs and a nominal voltage of 402 V.

- 1) How much energy can the battery deliver, in SI units?
- 2) How much charge can the battery deliver, in SI units?
- 3) The maximum current that can be drawn through the battery is 925 A.  
What is the maximum power that the battery can deliver?

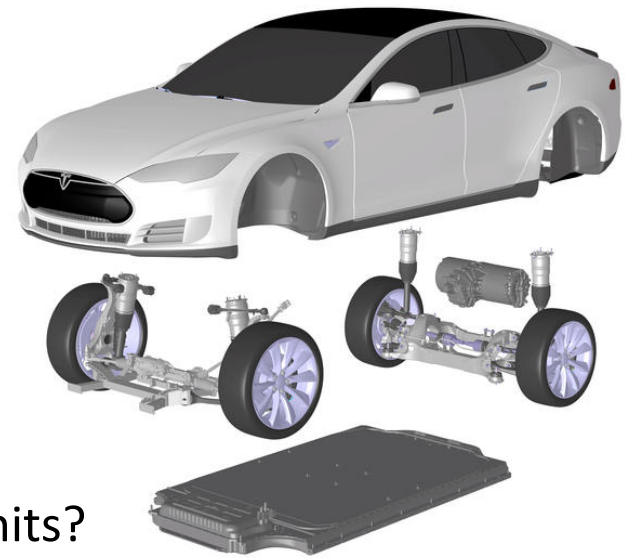


## Example 2

An automobile battery is rated at 85 kW-hrs and a nominal voltage of 402 V.

1) How much energy can the battery deliver, in SI units?

$$\begin{aligned} W &= 85 \text{ kW-hrs} \times (60 \text{ min} / \text{hr}) \times (60 \text{ s} / \text{min}) \\ &= 306 \text{ MJ} \end{aligned}$$



## Example 2

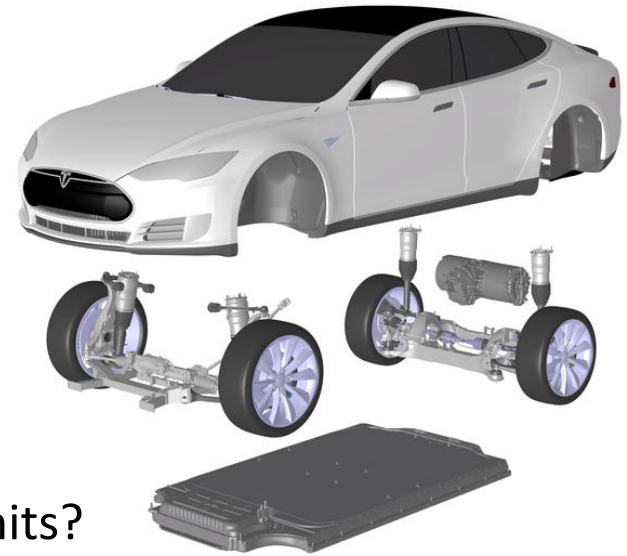
An automobile battery is rated at 85 kW-hrs and a nominal voltage of 402 V.

2) How much charge can the battery deliver, in SI units?

$$W = Q V$$

Therefore, if we assume  $V$  is constant (in reality, this is a poor approximation for a battery):

$$\begin{aligned} Q &= W / V \\ &= 306 \text{ MJ} / 402\text{V} = 761 \text{ kC} \end{aligned}$$



## Example 2

An automobile battery is rated at 85 kW-hrs and a nominal voltage of 402 V.



3) The maximum current that can be drawn through the battery is 925 A. What is the maximum power that the battery can deliver?

$$P = I V = 925 \text{ A} \times 402 \text{ V} = 372 \text{ kW}$$

This power is equivalent to 499 hP. In reality, battery voltage (and thus power) drops for several reasons related to the internal electrochemistry of the battery itself.