

CHAPTERS 25 AND 26 NOTES

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25 CURRENT, RESISTANCE, AND ELECTROMOTIVE FORCE

This chapter involves electric charges *in motion* rather than static as before. An *electric current* consists of charges in motion from one region to another. If the charges follow a conducting path that forms a closed loop, the path is called an *electric circuit*.

25.1 Current.

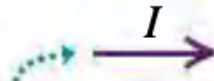
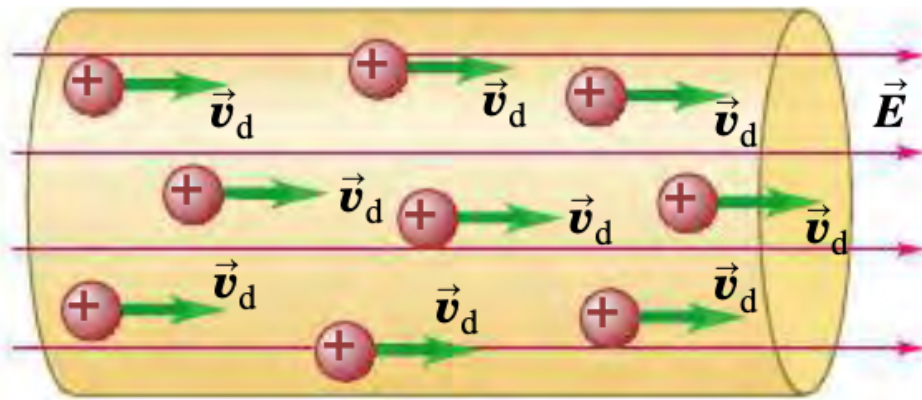
Definition 1. Current (I): Any motion of charge from one region to another and is induced by the ability of electrons to freely move. Current is zero everywhere in electrostatics. Current can be defined as

$$I = \frac{dQ}{dt}$$

where Q is Coulombs and its unit is Amperes ($1 \text{ A} = 1 \text{ C/s}$). Because Current is a scalar it must be accompanied by a statement of direction: "25 Amps in the clockwise direction"

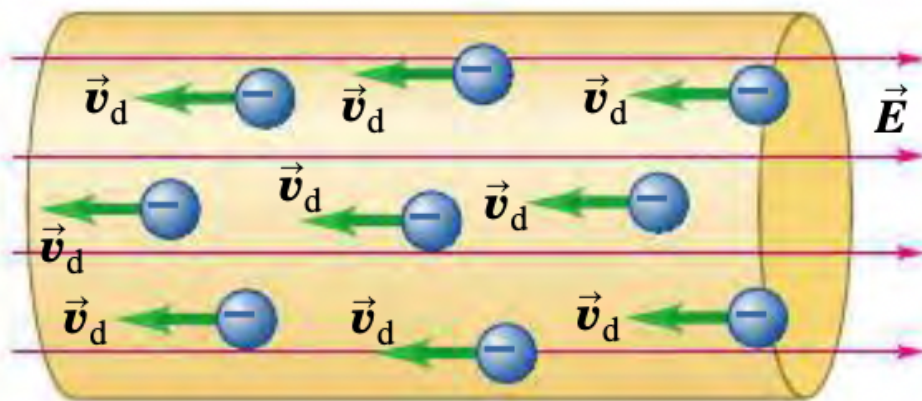
Remark. We define the current, denoted by I , to be in the direction in which there is a flow of positive charge and describe currents as though they consisted entirely of positive charge flow, even in cases in which we know that the actual current is due to electrons.

Date: June 28, 2021.



A **conventional current** is treated as a flow of positive charges, regardless of whether the free charges in the conductor are positive, negative, or both.

(b)



In a metallic conductor, the moving charges are electrons — but the *current* still points in the direction positive charges would flow.

FIGURE 1. Current Flow Diagram

Definition 2. Drift Velocity (v_d): The average velocity of charged particles moving in the direction of the electric force $\vec{F} = q\vec{E}$, though individual charge path is random. This value gives us an alternate calculation of I of

$$I = nqv_dA$$

where n is concentration of particles, q is unit charge and A is area.

25.1.1 Direction of Current Flow.

Remark. Different current-carrying materials may have differently charged moving particles. In metals the moving charges are always electrons, while in an ionized gas (plasma) or an ionic solution the moving charges may include both electrons and positively charged ions. In a semiconductor conduction is partly by electrons and partly by motion of *vacancies*, also known as holes; these are sites of missing electrons and act like positive charges.

25.1.2 Current Density.

Definition 3. Current Density (J):

The current per unit cross-section area or

$$J = I/A = nqv_d$$

where n is charge concentration, q is the charge per particle and v_d is the drift velocity.

25.2 Resistivity.

Theorem 1. Ohm's Law: A relationship in an idealized model that states that the ratio of the electric field and the current density is constant in metals at a given temperature, and this is known as Resistivity.

Definition 4. Resistivity (ρ): The permissibility of electrons to move freely in a material, linked with resistance. Resistivity is defined as

$$\rho = \frac{E}{J}$$

where E is the magnitude of the electric field and J is the current density. unit is ohm-meters ($1 \Omega \cdot m = V \cdot m/A$) Good insulators have high resistivity and conductors have low Resistivity.

Resistivity can also be calculated as a function of Temperature:

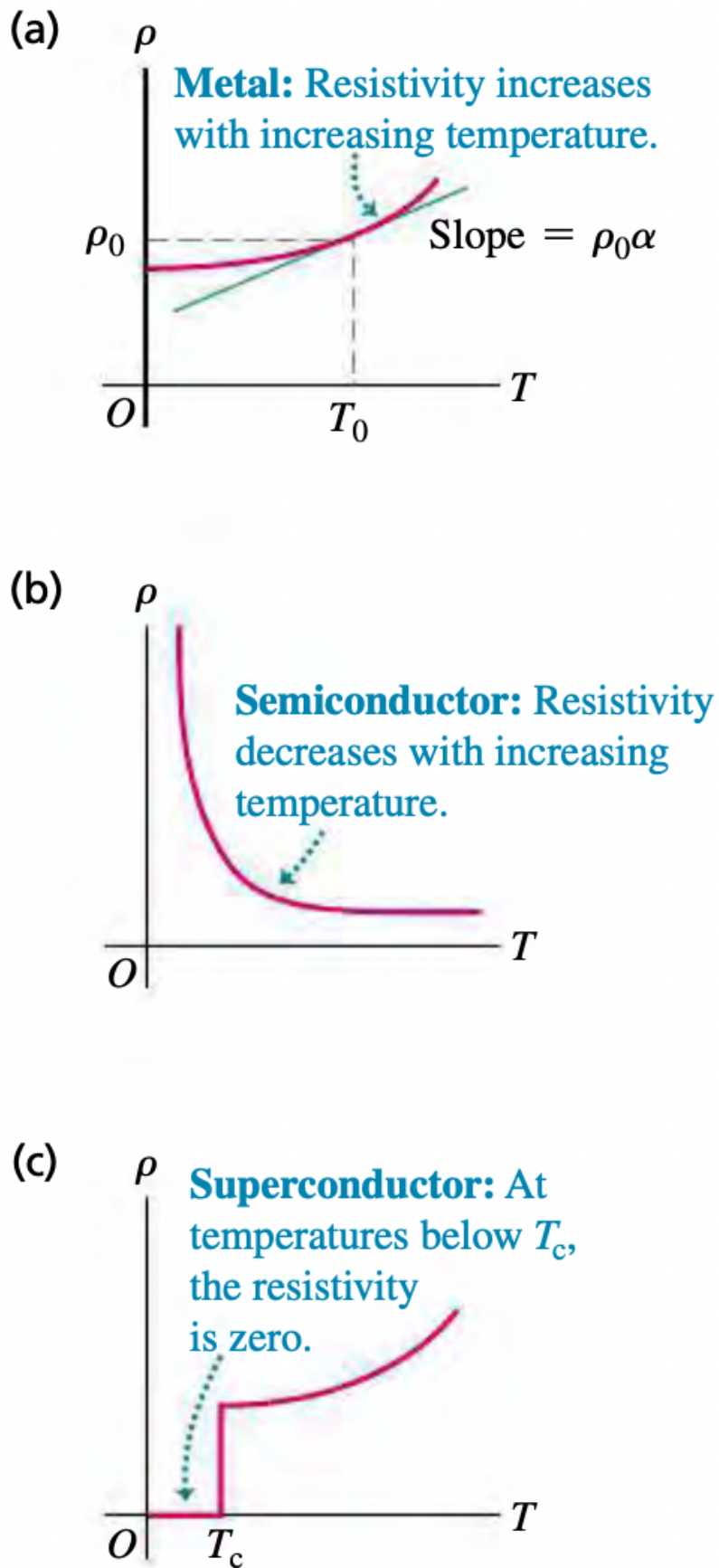
$$\rho(T) = \rho_0[1 + \alpha(T - T_0)]$$

where α is a temperature coefficient of resistivity and ρ_0 being the Resistivity at a reference temperature T_0

Definition 5. Conductivity: The reciprocal of resistivity whose units are $(\Omega \cdot m)^{-1}$ Good conductors obviously have high Conductivity.

Definition 6. Semiconductor: Materials with properties intermediate of metals and insulators, whose resistivity is likewise between these two groups.

Remark. A material that obeys Ohm's law reasonably well is called an *ohmic conductor* or a *linear conductor*, those that don't are *nonohmic*, or *nonlinear*. In the latter materials, J depends on E in a more complicated manner.



25.3 Resistance.

Definition 7. Resistance (R): The ratio of Potential Difference V to Current I for a particular conductor. Resistance measures the opposition to current flow in an electrical circuit. The resistance of a conductor can be calculated by the equation

$$R = \frac{\rho L}{A} = \frac{V}{I}$$

and its unit is Ohm ($1 \Omega = 1V/A$) and similar to resistivity can be a function of Temperature:

$$R(T) = R_0[1 + \alpha(T - T_0)]$$

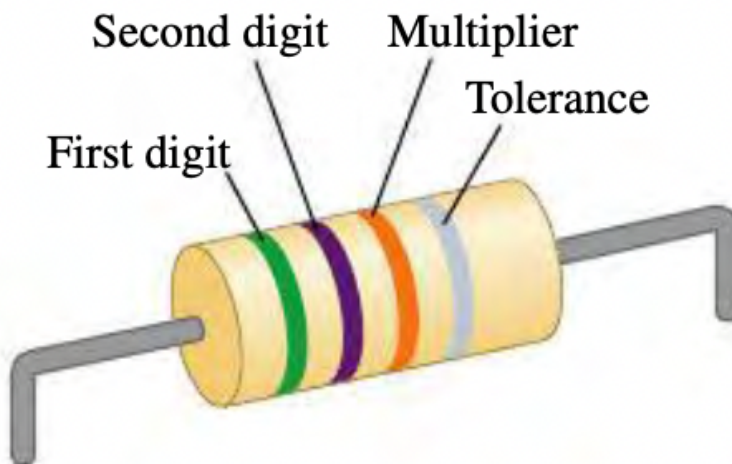


FIGURE 3. Labeling Guide for Resistors

25.4 Electromotive Force and Circuits.

Definition 8. Electromotive Force (\mathcal{E}): In an electric circuit there must be a device somewhere in the loop that acts like the water pump in a water fountain. This pumping action is called Electromotive Force or emf and the device is called a source of emf. This is not actually a force but a energy-per-unit-charge and thus has the unit Volt ($1 \text{ V} = 1 \text{ J/C}$).

Emf can be calculated in multiple ways:

$$\mathcal{E} = V_{ab} = IR$$

for ideal sources and where V_{ab} is the Terminal Voltage or

$$\mathcal{E} = V_{ab} + Ir$$

for when there is internal resistance (r).

TABLE 25.4 Symbols for Circuit Diagrams



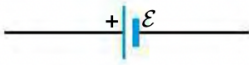

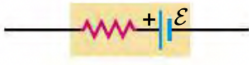
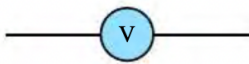

	Conductor with negligible resistance
	Resistor
	Source of emf (longer vertical line always represents the positive terminal, usually the terminal with higher potential)
	Source of emf with internal resistance r (r can be placed on either side)
or 	
	Voltmeter (measures potential difference between its terminals)
	Ammeter (measures current through it)

FIGURE 4. Table of Circuit Labels