2. (12 points, suggested time 25 minutes)

Some students want to know what gets used up in an incandescent lightbulb when it is in series with a resistor: current, energy, or both. They come up with the following two questions.

(1) In one second, do fewer electrons leave the bulb than enter the bulb?
(2) Does the electric potential energy of electrons change while inside the bulb?

The students have an adjustable power source, insulated wire, lightbulbs, resistors, switches, voltmeters, ammeters, and other standard lab equipment. Assume that the power supply and voltmeters are marked in 0.1 V increments and the ammeters are marked in 0.01 A increments.

(a) Describe an experimental procedure that could be used to answer questions (1) and (2) above. In your description, state the measurements you would make and how you would use the equipment to make them. Include a neat, labeled diagram of your setup.

(b)
i. Explain how data from the experiment you described can be used to answer question (1) above.
ii. Explain how data from the experiment you described can be used to answer question (2) above.

A lightbulb is nonohmic if its resistance changes as a function of current. Your setup from part (a) is to be used or modified to determine whether the lightbulb is nonohmic.

(c)
i. How, if at all, does the setup need to be modified?
ii. What additional data, if any, would need to be collected?

(d) How would you analyze the data to determine whether the bulb is nonohmic? Include a discussion of how the uncertainties in the voltmeters and ammeters would affect your argument for concluding whether the resistor is nonohmic.

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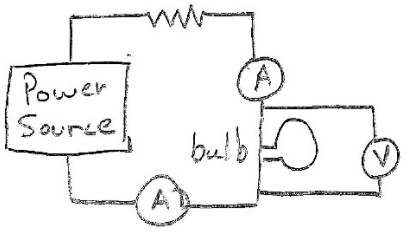
Question 2

12 points total **Distribution of points**

(a) 5 points



For drawing a circuit in which the power source, resistor, and bulb are wired in series — 1 point

For connecting at least one ammeter in series with the bulb — 1 point

For connecting the voltmeter across the bulb in parallel — 1 point

For describing measurements that can plausibly be used to answer question 1 — 1 point

Example: Measure the current entering and leaving the bulb with ammeters connected in series on either side of the bulb.

For describing measurements that can plausibly be used to answer question 2 — 1 point

Example: Measure the potential difference across the bulb with a voltmeter connected in parallel with the bulb.

The response does not need to mention multiple measurements.

(b)

(i) 1 point

For describing an analytical method of using the data, and explaining how that analytical method can be used to answer question 1 — 1 point

Example: If the current is the same on both sides of the bulb, then the number of electrons per second entering and leaving the bulb is the same.

(ii) 1 point

For describing an analytical method of using the data, and explaining how that analytical approach can be used to answer question 2 — 1 point

Example: If the potential difference across the bulb is not zero, then electrons that leave the bulb have different electric potential energy than electrons that enter it.

Question 2 (continued)

Distribution of points

(c)

(i) 1 point

For any of the following: 1 point
- Describing any changes to the circuit needed to have a setup that can plausibly be used to determine whether the bulb's resistance is constant as a function of current.
- Describing changes to a circuit that are not needed but do not impair the ability to determine whether the bulb's resistance is constant as a function of current.
- Correctly indicating that no changes are needed.

Example based on circuit diagram in part (a): Remove one of the ammeters.

(ii) 1 point

For describing any additional measurements needed to determine whether current varies linearly as a function of voltage, or indicating that none are needed if the appropriate multiple measurements are mentioned in part (a) or (c)(i) 1 point

Example: Measure the current through the bulb and the potential difference across the bulb for multiple settings of the power source.

(d) 3 points

For describing an analytical method in which data are represented or manipulated in some way that can plausibly be used to determine whether current varies linearly as a function of potential difference 1 point

Examples:
- Graphing measurements of current as a function of potential difference
- Calculating the ratio of current to potential difference for multiple settings of the power source

For identifying that linearity is the relevant feature for determining whether the bulb is ohmic 1 point

Examples:
- Evaluating whether a plot of current as a function of voltage is linear
- Evaluating whether the ratio of current to potential difference is constant

For describing a strategy for evaluating whether the conclusion of linearity is valid for a given data set taking into account the meter uncertainties 1 point

Examples:
- Drawing error boxes that represent the uncertainties of the meters around each point and evaluating whether a straight line can be drawn that goes through all the error boxes.
- Indicating that small differences in the ratios could be due to uncertainty in the meters and would not discount the conclusion that the bulb is ohmic