

CMPE 110 Laboratory Exercise 2

Ohm's Law

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Abstract

Understanding Ohm's Law as well as Kirchoff's loop laws is an important This laboratory exercise exposes the relationship between voltage, current, and resistance in both a parallel and series configuration. A powersupply supplied a variable voltage across 3 resistors, two in parrallel and the third in series. An effective resistance was calculated and compared to a measured resistance. Potential drop across resistors was measured at every integer voltage from 2-5V. A Voltage vs. Current graph was generated illustrating the linear relationship between the two variables for ohmic resistors.

Design Methodology

The three smallest resistors were determined. Resistors were named R_1 , R_2 , and R_3 in order by increasing resistance. The actual resistance was measured using the multimeter's ohmeter function (See table 1).

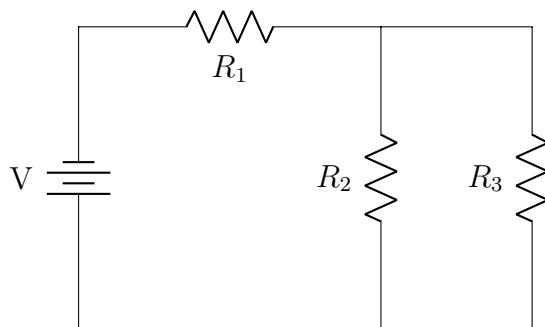


Figure 1: Circuit configuration given R_1 , R_2 , and R_3 have accending resistances.

A circuit was wired on a breadboard such that R_2 and R_3 were placed in parallel to each other and in series to R_1 . Figure 1 shows an example circuit in the correct configuration. With the power supply voltage set to 5V, potential drop across R_1 and R_2 was taken. This step was repeated for 2V, 3V, and 4V across the power supply (table 2).

Current through all three resistors was measured at a 5V total potential (see table 3). An effective resistance for the entire circuit was calculated. First the two parallel branches were combined through the follwoing formula:

$$R_{eq} = \frac{1}{\sum \frac{1}{R_i}}$$

Resistance of R_1 was added to the value about yielding a total effective resistance of the circuit.

Finally, current through R_3 was measured from 2-5V at 1V intervals from the power supply and recorded (See table 4). Using this data, a graph was generated for Voltage vs. Current through R_3 (See figure 2).

Results and Analysis

Resistance

Measured resistance in R_1 R_2 and R_3 showed great accuracy to the rated resistance. Table 1 shows that all measured resistances are within the tolerance rated for each resistor.

Table 1: Measurements taken for all three resistors.

	Banded Values		Measured Values
	Rated Resistance (Ω)	Rated Tolerance (%)	Actual Resistance (Ω)
R_1	330	± 5	328.00
R_2	3330	± 5	3396.00
R_3	5600	± 5	5598.80

Voltage

As expected, the voltage across R_1 and R_2 scale proportionally to the voltage across the power supply.

Table 2: Voltage measured across R_1 and R_2 .

	V_{PS}	V_{R_1}	V_{R_2}
~2V	1.997	0.268	1.728
~3V	2.997	0.402	2.592
~4V	3.998	0.536	3.457
~5V	4.999	0.670	4.320

Current

Table 3: Current measured across R_1 and R_2 .

I_{R_1} (mA)	I_{R_2} (mA)	I_{R_3} (mA)
2.00	1.27	0.77

Current through any of the three resistors yielded very low numbers because the effective resistance was so high. Effective resistance came out to be 2441.84Ω calculated from:

$$R_{eq} = R_1 + \frac{1}{\frac{1}{R_2} + \frac{1}{R_3}} = 2441.84\Omega$$

Results

Table 4 was generated by measuring the current through R_3 and the power supply at every 1V interval from 2-5V. The last column was generated by applying Ohm's Law $V = IR$.

Table 4: Table to test captions and labels

Voltage (V)	V_{PS} (V)	V_{R_3} (V)	I_{PS} (mA)	I_{R_3} (mA)	R_3 (Ω)
2	1.997	1.728	0.815	0.308	5616.88
3	2.997	2.592	1.220	0.463	5593.95
4	3.998	3.475	1.630	0.617	5607.78
5	4.999	4.320	2.040	0.771	5603.11

Figure 2: Voltage over R_3 vs Current through R_3

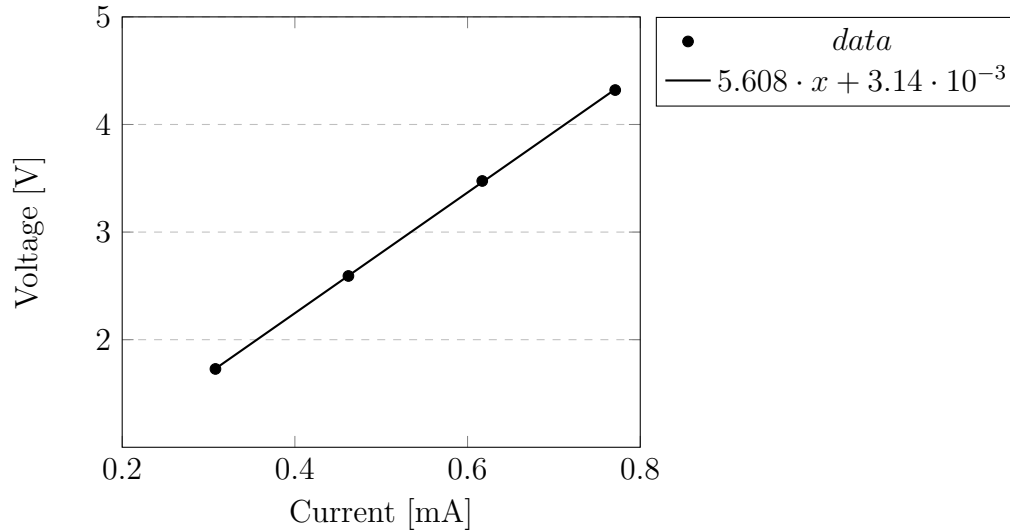


Figure 2 displays the data from table 4 for I_{R_3} on the X-axis and V_{R_3} on the Y-axis. The slope in figure 2 represents the resistance of R_3 in $k\Omega$ because according to Ohm's Law $R = \frac{V}{I}$.

Conclusion

The linear relationship between voltage and current through an ohmic resistor is an important concept in circuits.