

Quantum Electronics and Circuits

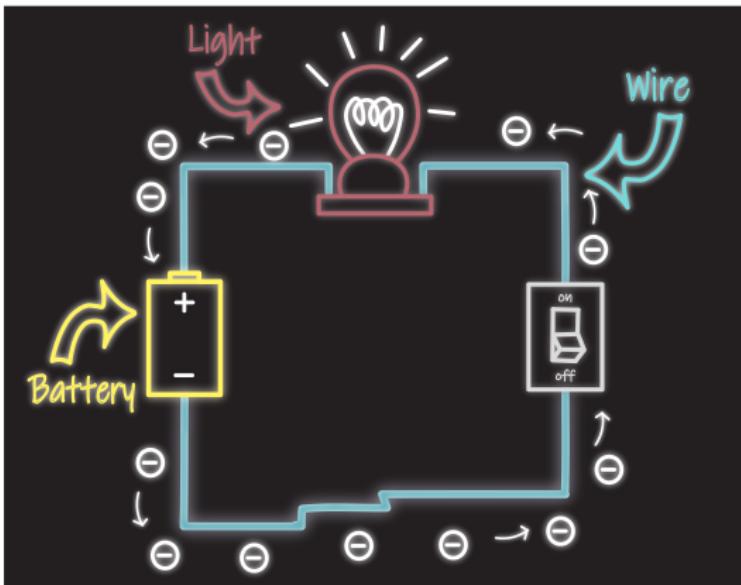
Brian Rashap

November 2025

Electrical Components and Circuits

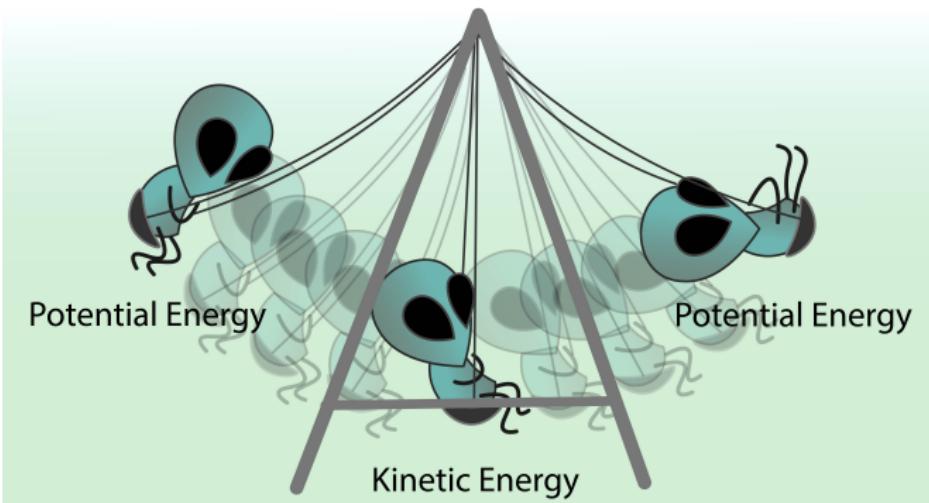


Resistive Circuits





Energy



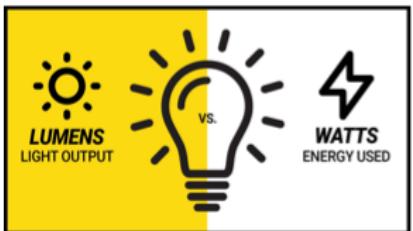
- Kinetic Energy - energy of motion
- Potential Energy - energy stored in an object



Electrical Circuit Terms

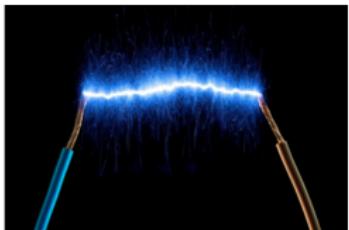


Voltage is **electric potential energy per unit charge** ($V = J/C$)

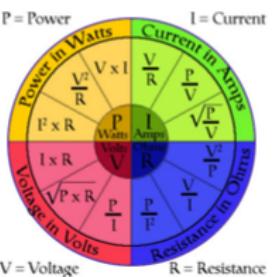


Power is the rate of doing work or **the rate of using energy**. ($W = J/S$)

| The Sub-atomic Particles | | | |
|--------------------------|----------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Relative size | Name | Mass (Kg) | Charge (C) |
| Proton | Proton | 1.67×10^{-27} | $+1.602 \times 10^{-19}$ |
| Neutron | Neutron | 1.67×10^{-27} | 0 |
| Electron | Electron | 9.11×10^{-31} | -1.602×10^{-19} |



Electric current is the **rate of charge flow** ($A = C/s$)



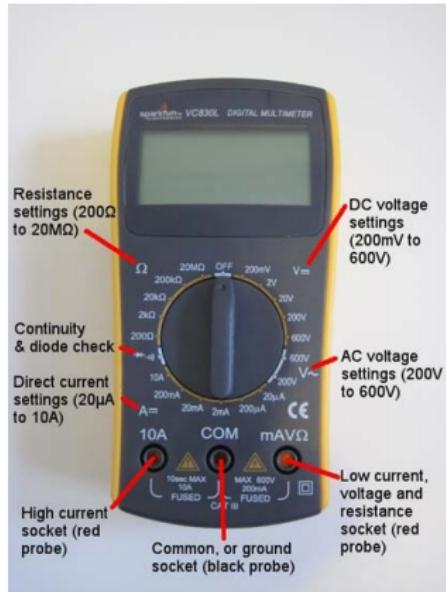
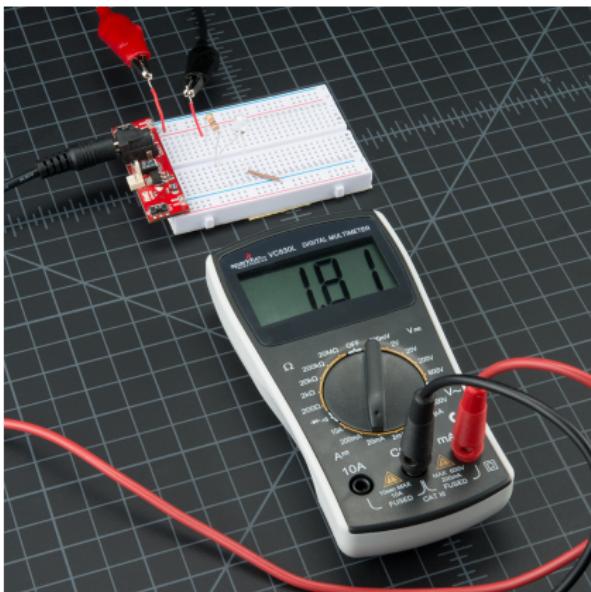
$$\text{Power} = \text{Voltage} \times \text{Current}$$



Energy is the **amount of power produced or consumed over a given time**. $J = W \times s$



Measuring Voltage, Current, and Resistance



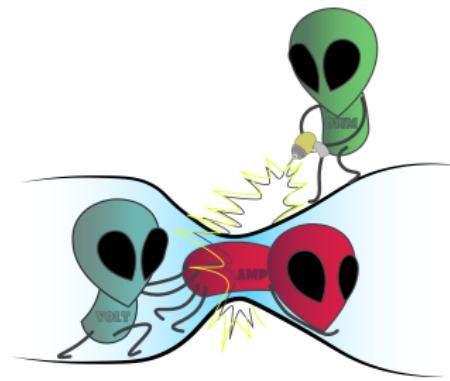
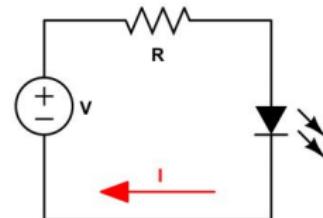


Ohm's Law

Georg Ohm (16 March 1789 – 6 July 1854) was a German physicist and mathematician. As a school teacher, Ohm began his research with the new electrochemical cell, invented by Italian scientist Alessandro Volta. Ohm found that there is a direct proportionality between the potential difference (voltage) applied across a conductor and the resultant electric current. This relationship is known as Ohm's law:

Ohm's Law

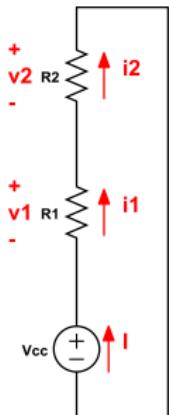
$$V = I * R$$





A word about circuit notation

Subscripts will be used to denote quantities (voltage, current, etc) for different elements:



- i_1 or i_1 is the current through Resistor 1 (R_1)
- i_2 or i_2 is the current through Resistor 2 (R_2)
- v_1 or v_1 is the voltage across Resistor 1 (R_1)
- I is the current delivered by the power supply
- V_{cc} (common collector ^a voltage) is the notation we will use for 3.3V from the Particle

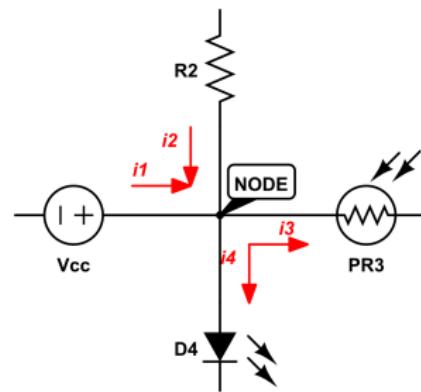
^aCommon Collector is a term for certain parts of transistor circuits. We will learn about Transistors in Lesson 11



Kirchhoff's First Law

Gustav Robert Kirchhoff (12 March 1824 – 17 October 1887) was a German physicist who contributed to the fundamental understanding of electrical circuits. His first law:

In an electrical circuit, the sum of currents flowing into that node is equal to the sum of currents flowing out of that node

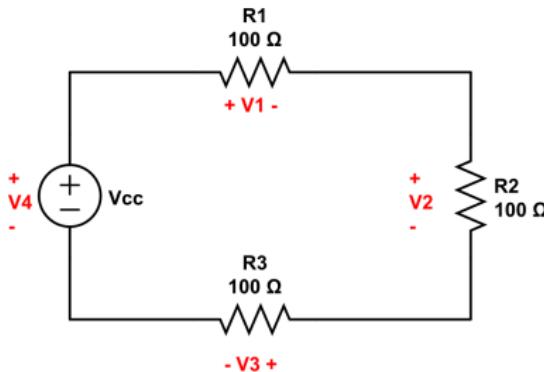


$$i_1 + i_2 = i_3 + i_4$$



Kirchhoff's Second Law

The directed sum of the potential differences (voltages) around any closed loop is zero.



$$V4 - (V1 + V2 + V3) = 0$$

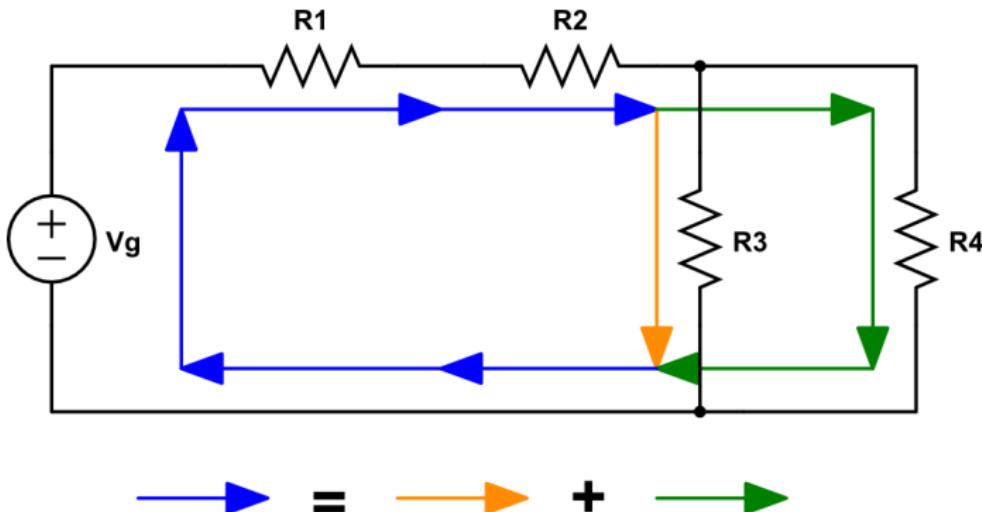


Kirchhoff's Second Law





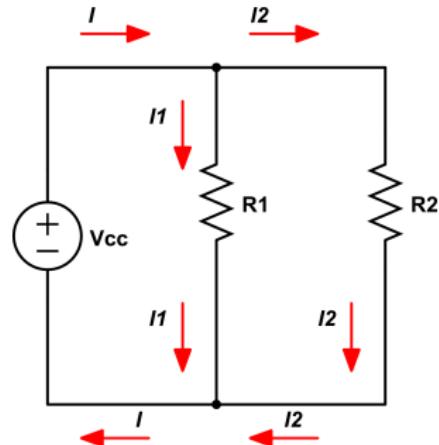
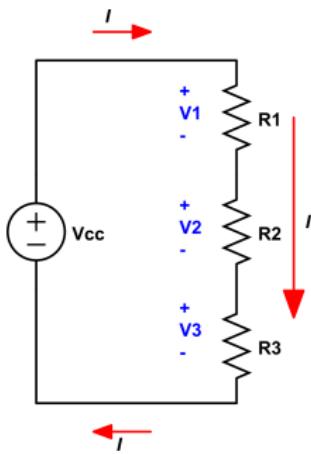
Resistors in Series and Parallel



How many nodes? How many loops?



Resistors in Series and Parallel

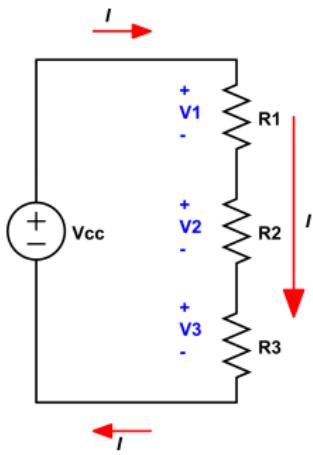


$$R_{eq} = R_1 + R_2 + R_3$$

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



Resistors in Series



Node Law: $I = I_1 = I_2 = I_3$

Loop Law:

$$V_{cc} - (V_1 + V_2 + V_3) = 0$$

Rearranging the Loop Law:

$$V_{cc} = V_1 + V_2 + V_3 \quad (1)$$

Using Ohm's Law:

$$V_{cc} = IR_1 + IR_2 + IR_3 \quad (2)$$

Using the Distributive Property:

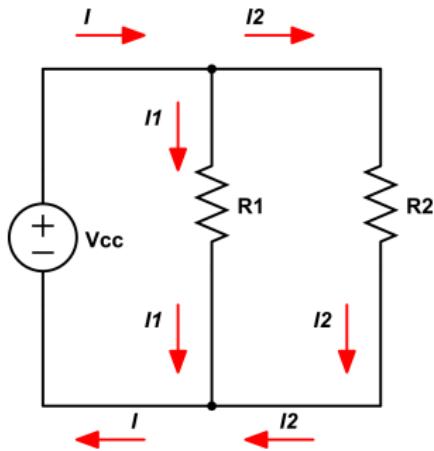
$$V_{cc} = I(R_1 + R_2 + R_3) \quad (3)$$

Gives the Equivalent Resistance:

$$R_{eq} = R_1 + R_2 + R_3 \quad (4)$$



Resistors in Parallel



$$I = I_1 + I_2 \quad (5)$$

$$I = \frac{V_1}{R_1} + \frac{V_2}{R_2} \quad (6)$$

$$I = \frac{V_{cc}}{R_1} + \frac{V_{cc}}{R_2} \quad (7)$$

$$\frac{V_{cc}}{R_{eq}} = V_{cc} \left(\frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} \right) \quad (8)$$

Node Law: $I = I_1 + I_2$

Loop Law: $V_{cc} = V_1 = V_2$

$$\frac{1}{R_{eq}} = \left(\frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} \right) \quad (9)$$

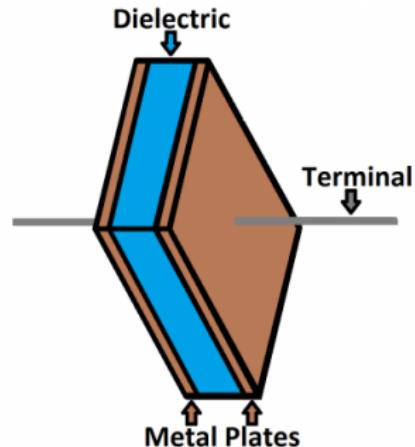
Capacitance and Filters



Capacitors

A capacitor is created out of two metal plates and an insulating material called a dielectric. The metal plates are placed very close to each other, in parallel, but the dielectric sits between them to make sure they don't touch.

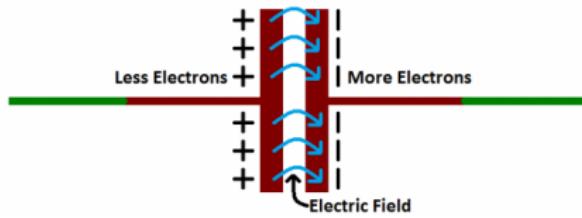
- The dielectric can be made out of all sorts of insulating materials; paper, glass, rubber, ceramic, plastic, or anything that will impede the flow of current.
- The plates are made of a conductive material; aluminum, tantalum, silver, or other metals.





Capacitors

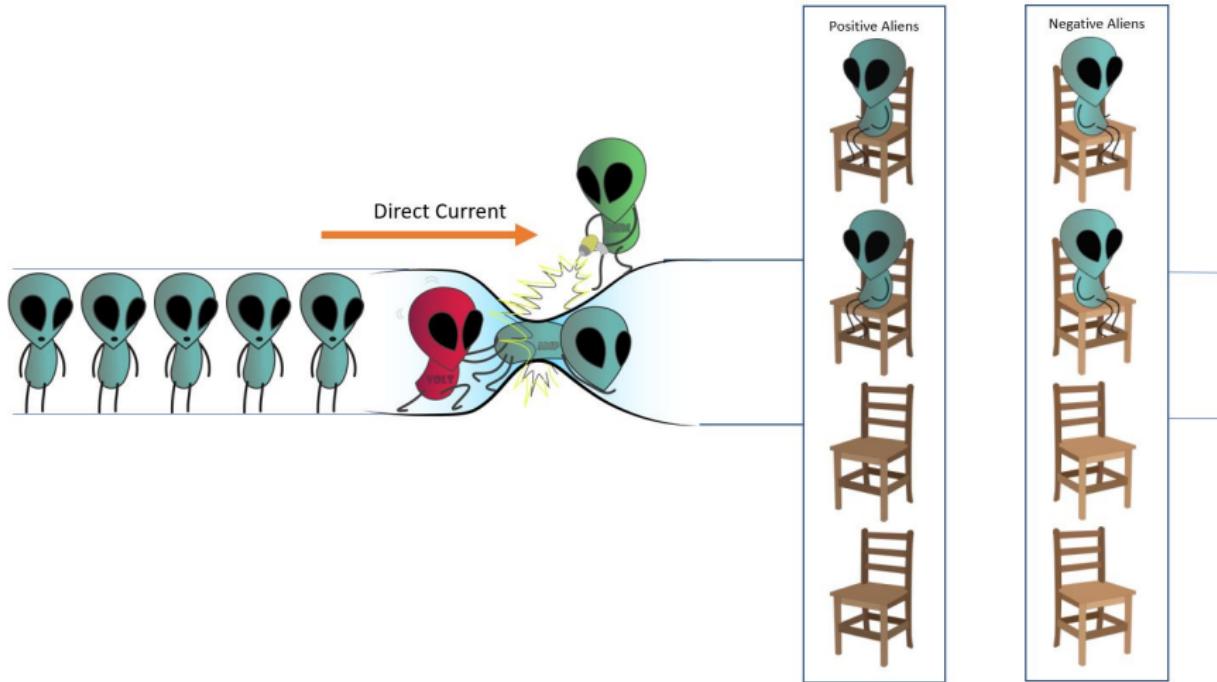
When current flows into a capacitor, the charges get "stuck" on the plates because they cannot get past the insulating dielectric. Electrons build up on one of the plates, and it becomes overall negatively charged. The large amount of negative charges pushes away like charges on the other plate, making it positively charged.



The stationary charges on these plates create an electric field, which influences electric potential energy and voltage. When charges group together on a capacitor like this, the capacitor is storing electric energy just as a battery might store chemical energy.



Capacitors in Circuits

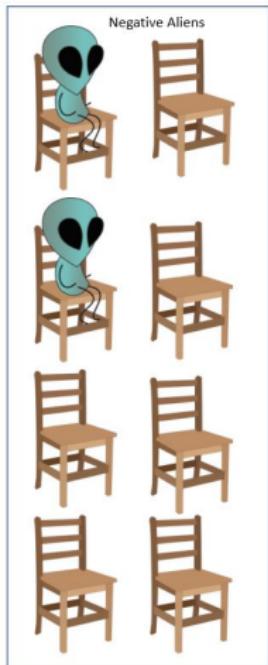
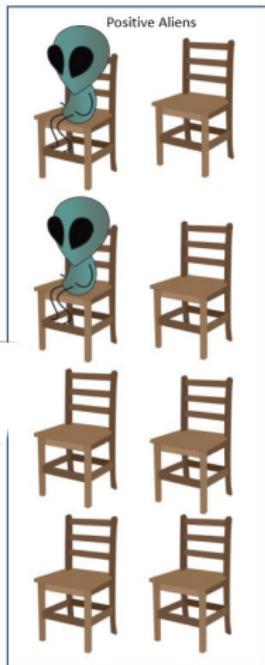
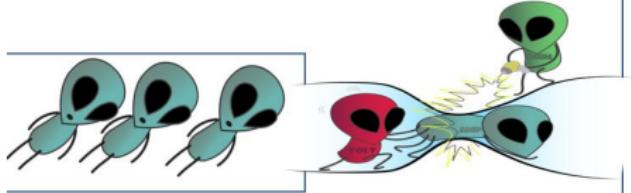




Capacitors in Circuits

Larger values of R and C

Direct Current





RC Time Constant

Capacitance is defined as:

$$C = \frac{Q}{V} \left(\frac{\text{Coulombs}}{\text{Volt}} \right)$$

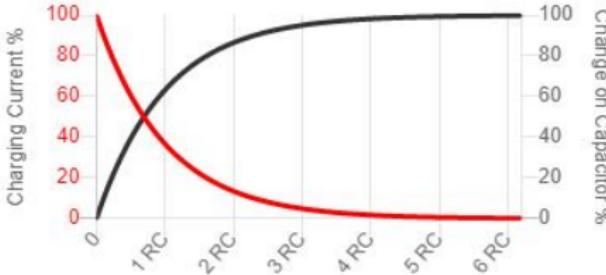
The current through a capacitor is:

$$I = C \frac{\Delta V}{\Delta t}$$

And, therefore, the capacitor charges with a time constant (τ):

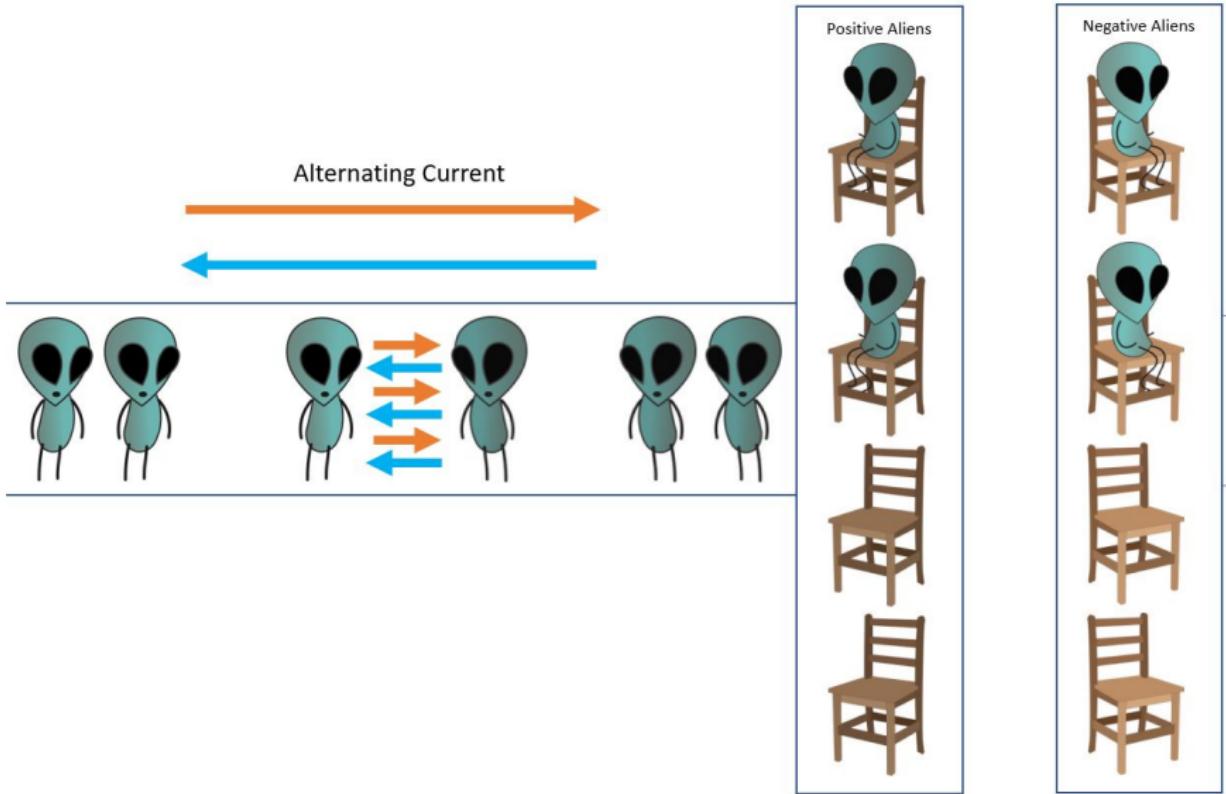
$$\tau = RC$$

$$V_c(t) = V_c(0) * e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}}$$





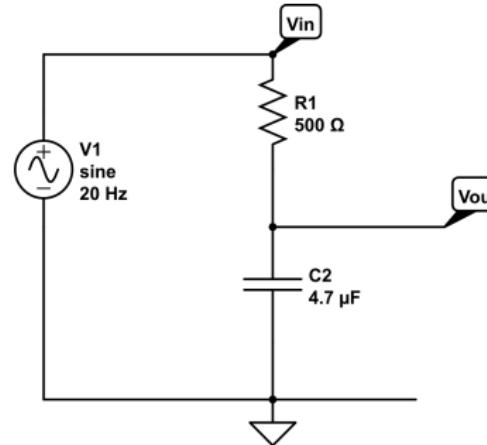
Alternating Current





Low Pass Filter - cutoff frequency f_c

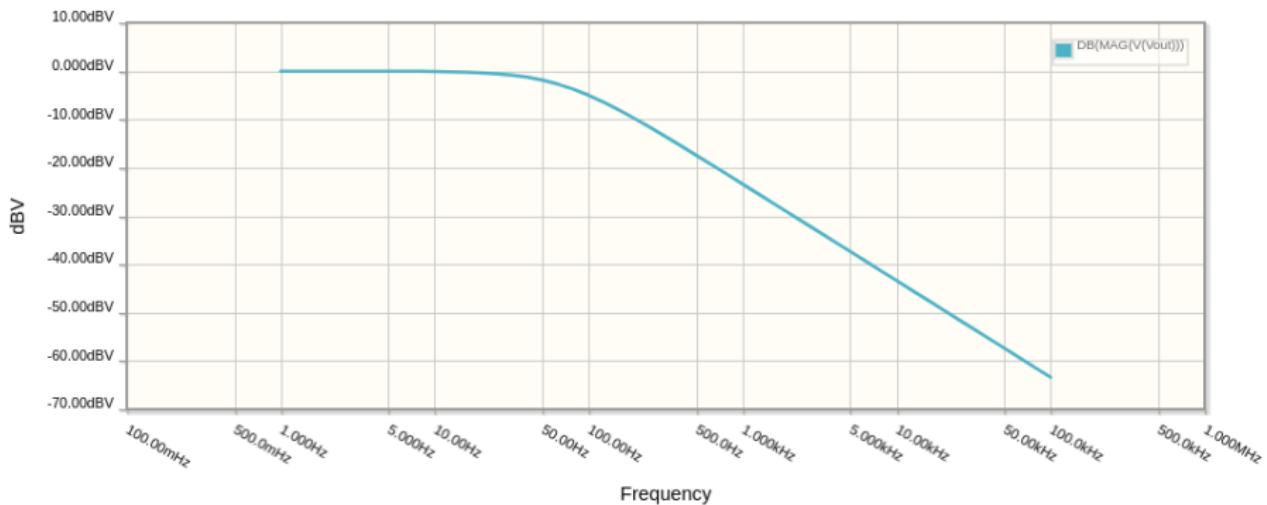
- At low frequencies, there is plenty of time for the capacitor to charge up to practically the same voltage as the input voltage.
- At high frequencies, the capacitor only has time to charge up a small amount before the input switches direction. The output goes up and down only a small fraction of the amount the input goes up and down. At double the frequency, there's only time for it to charge up half the amount.



$$f_c = \frac{1}{2\pi\tau} = \frac{1}{2\pi RC}$$



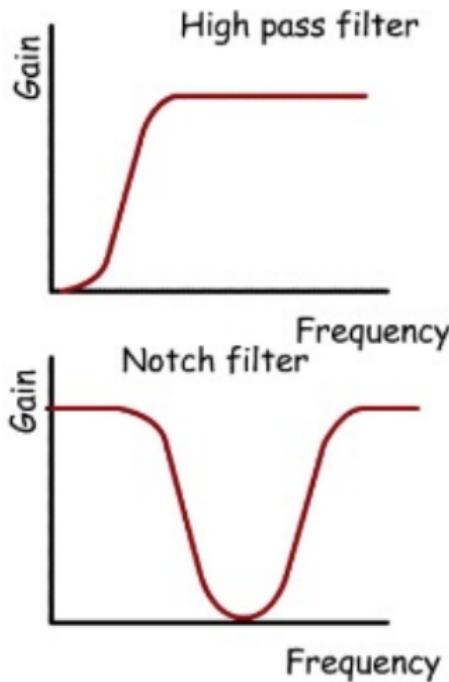
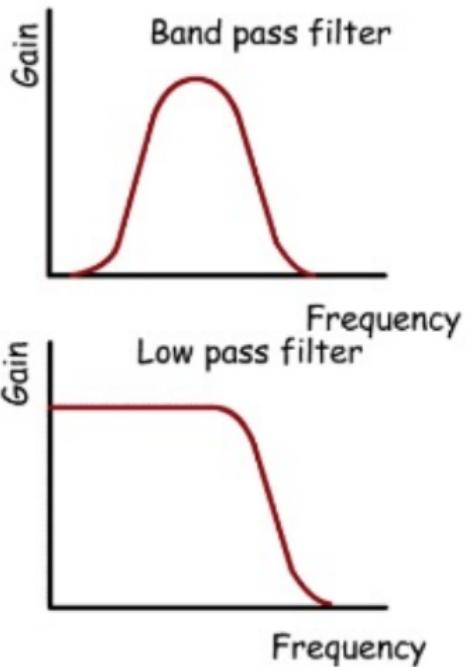
Low Pass Filter Response



$$f_c = \frac{1}{2\pi RC} = \frac{1}{2\pi(500)(4.7 \times 10^{-6})} = 67.5678 \text{ Hz}$$



Other types of filters

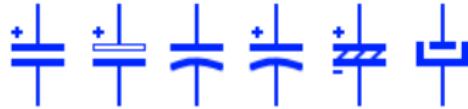




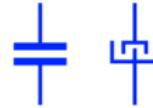
Capacitors - does it matter how they are placed

- Some types of capacitors (electrolytic and tantalum) are polarized (they have + and - terminals). This is due to how the dielectric film has been deposited. The reverse polarity leads to degradation of the dielectric.
- Other capacitors (ceramic and film) do not have a polarity and can be installed in either direction.

Polarized Electrolytic Capacitor



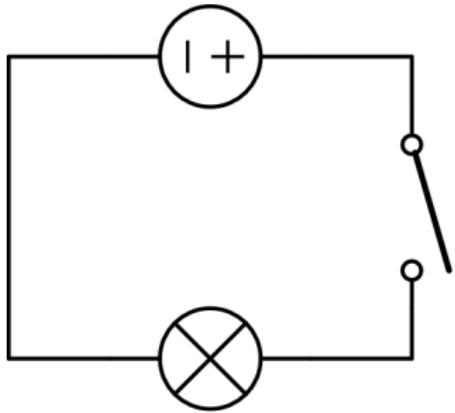
Generic Capacitor



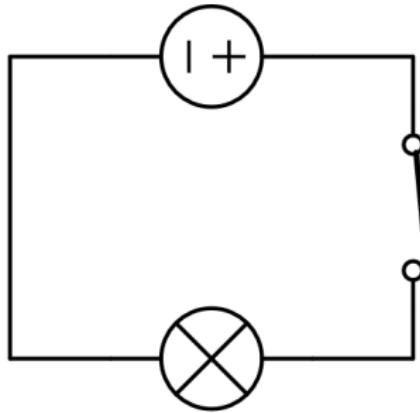
Switches, Inductance, and Relays



Switches



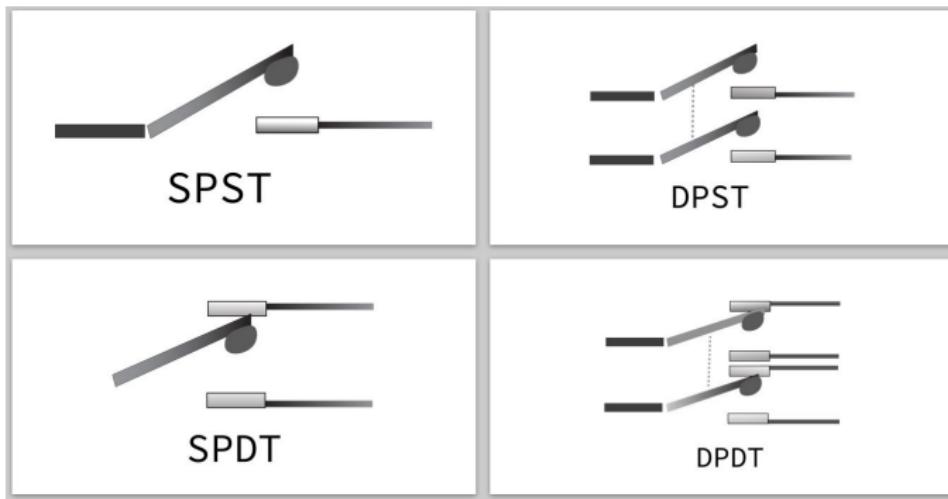
Lamp Off



Lamp On



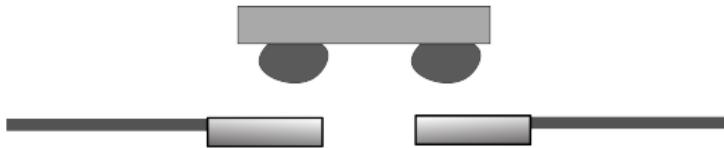
Poles and Throws



- Poles indicates the number of circuits that one switch can control for one operation of the switch.
- Throws indicates the number of contact points.



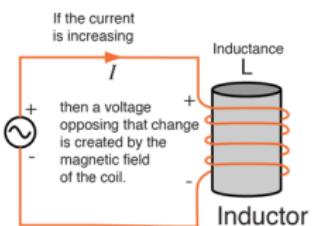
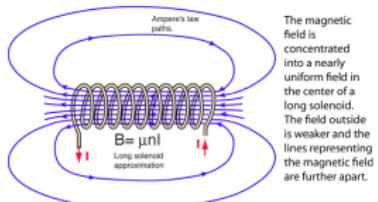
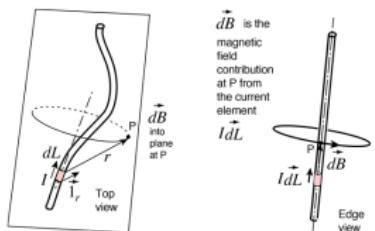
A Button - SPST



SPST
double break



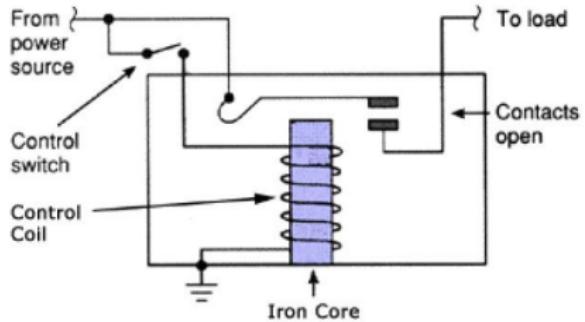
Inductors



- Current flowing in a wire produces a magnetic field (B) around the wire (from Ampere's Law).
- Wire wrapped into a coil produces a magnetic field that resembles a bar magnet through the center of the coil.
- Also, in a coil, this magnetic field produces an effect known as Inductance (L) that opposes changes in electric current.



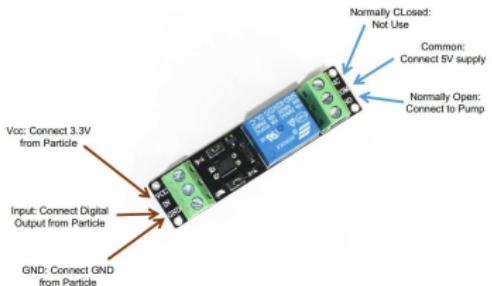
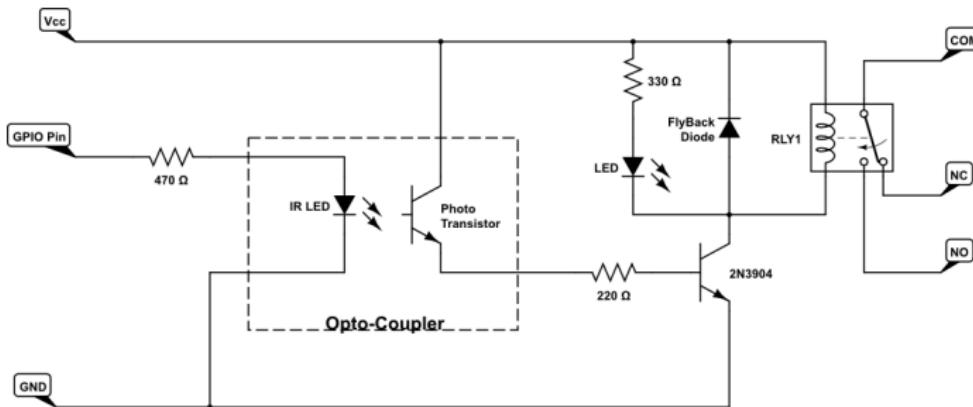
Relays



- When the control terminal has current, the coil around the iron core creates a magnetic field
- The magnetized core attracts a cantilevered arm closing the circuit to the load
- When current is stopped, the core is no longer magnetized and a spring opens the contact.



Optocoupled Relay



- Optocoupler isolates the relay load (which could be up to 240V) from the controller electronics.



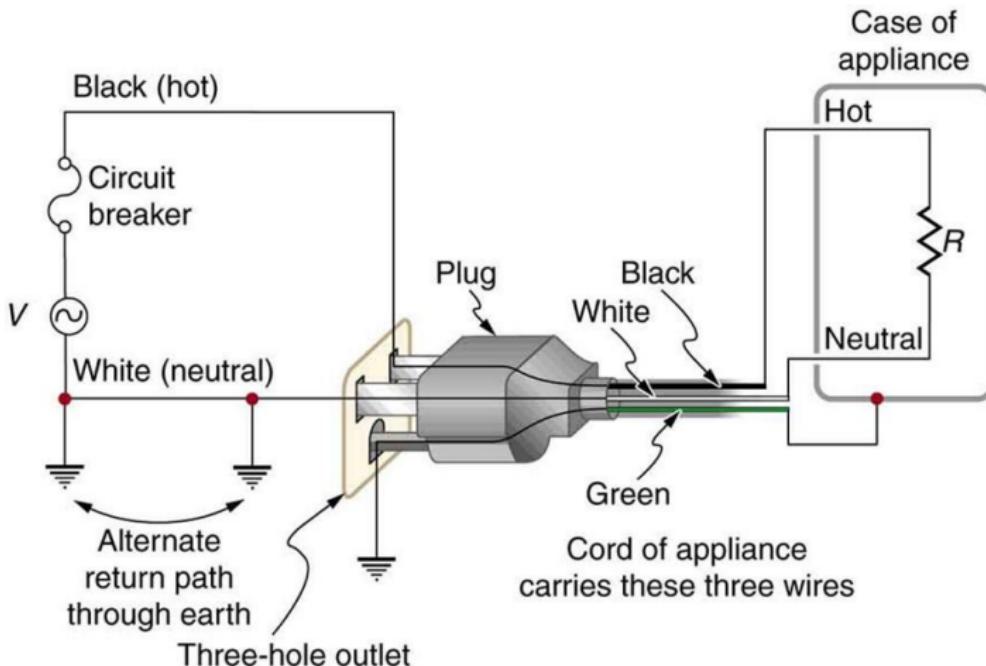
The 35144 Relay in the Vacuum Systems

Double Pole, Double Throw Relay



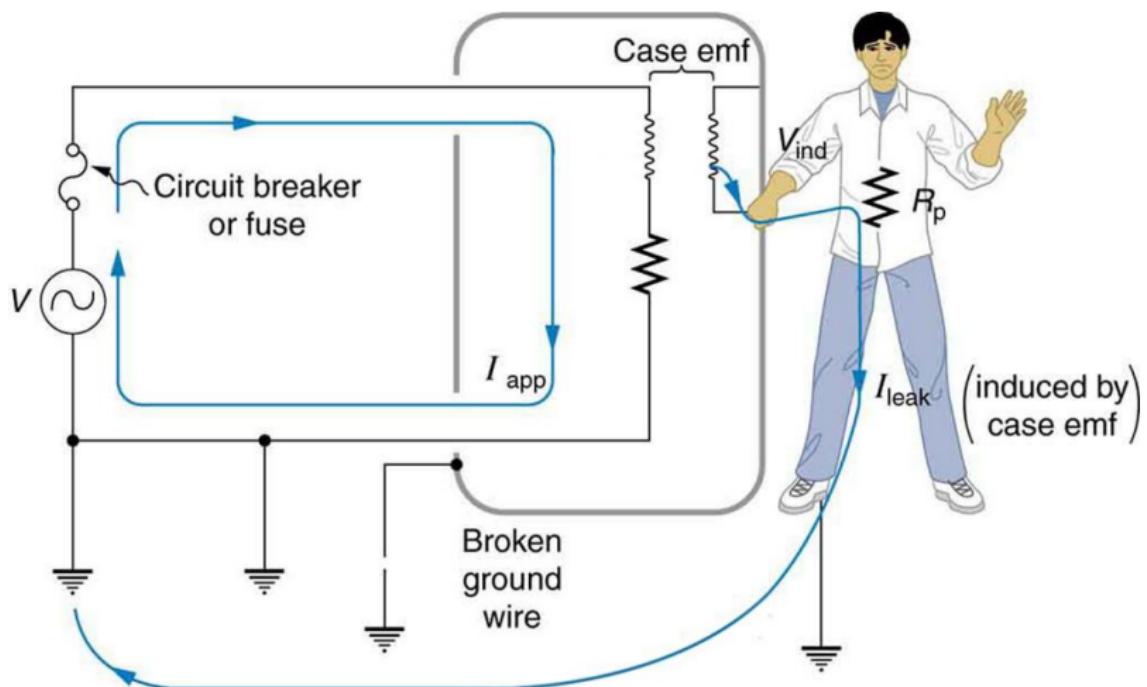


Electrical Safety - Three Wires



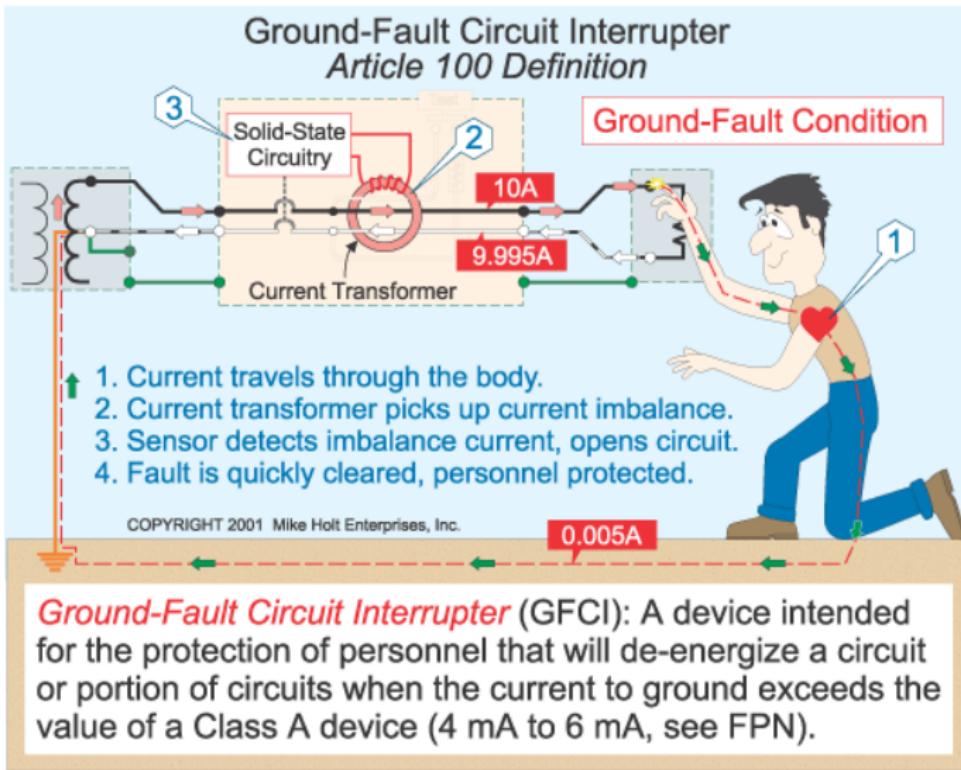


Electrical Safety - Electric Shock





Electrical Safety - GFCI

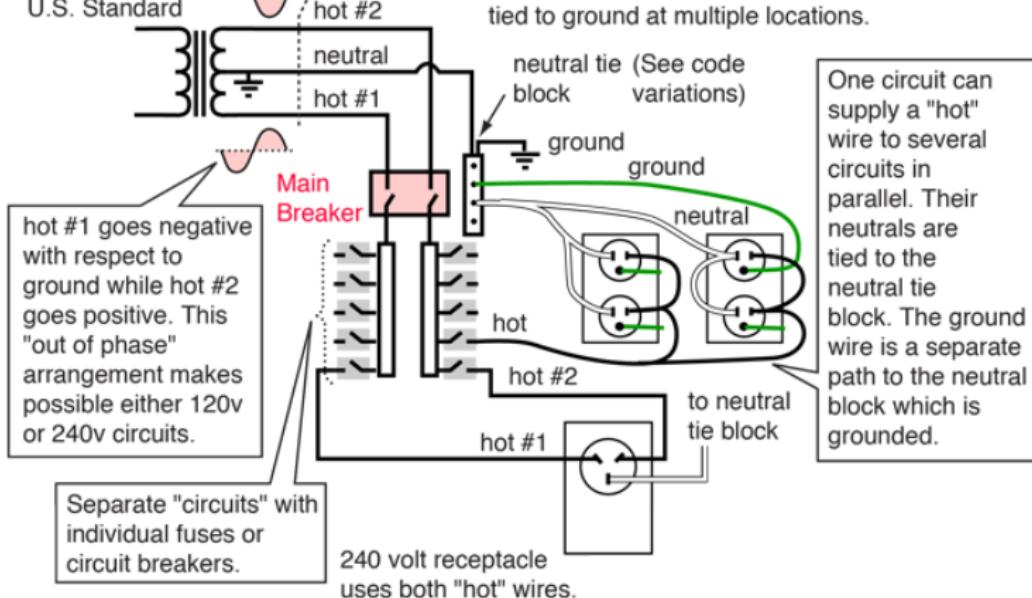




Electrical Safety - 240V

120 volts rms
60 Hz is the
U.S. Standard

Three wires to house: two high voltage or "hot" wires
and a "neutral" return wire which is
tied to ground at multiple locations.





Three Point Check



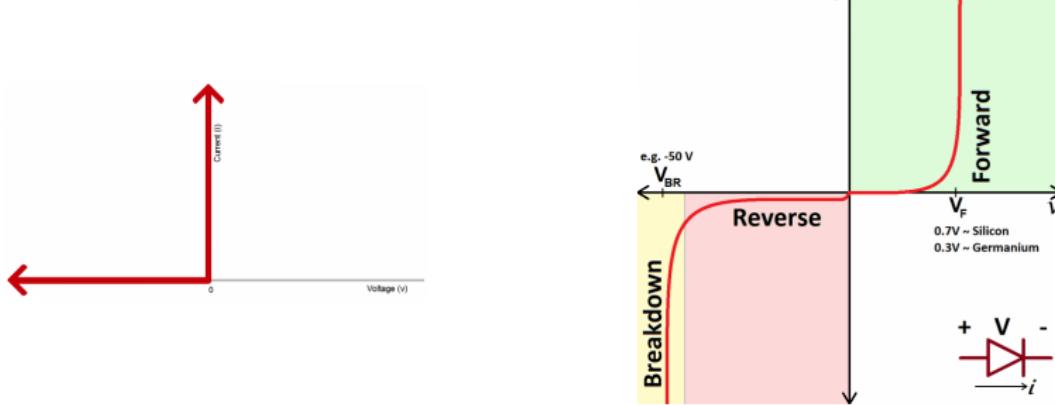
- ➊ Verify the test tool works properly when the function switch is placed to "voltage" by testing for voltage on a known energized source, or by using an electronic proving unit, and observing the correct reading on the meter face.
- ➋ Test the circuit to be verified by measuring phase-to-phase and phase-to-ground across all phases. Zero energy must be indicated.
- ➌ Ensure the test tool still indicates voltage properly by placing the test probes, once again, on a known, energized source or the electronic proving unit.

Diodes and Photodetectors



Diodes

The key function of a diode is to control the direction of current-flow. Current passing through a diode can only go in one direction, called the forward direction. Current trying to flow the reverse direction is blocked.

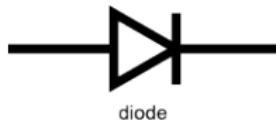


A non-ideal diode needs a small forward voltage (V_F) to turn on and will fail (breakdown) with a large negative voltage (V_{BR}).



Light Emitting Diodes

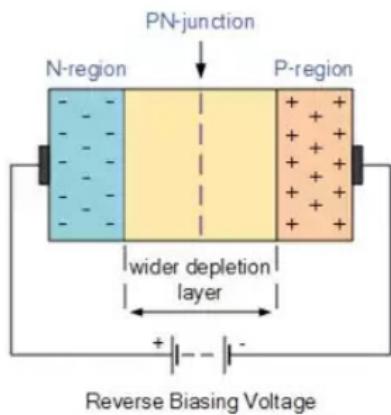
LEDs (that's "ell-ee-dees") are a particular type of diode that convert electrical energy into light.



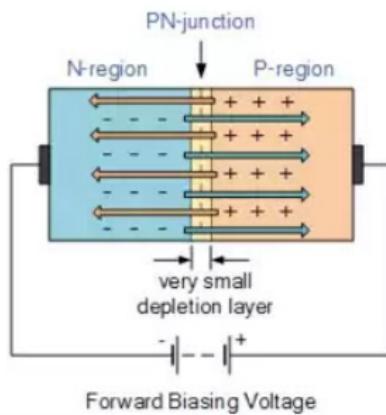


Diodes in Reverse and Forward Bias

Reverse biasing of a PN junction diode

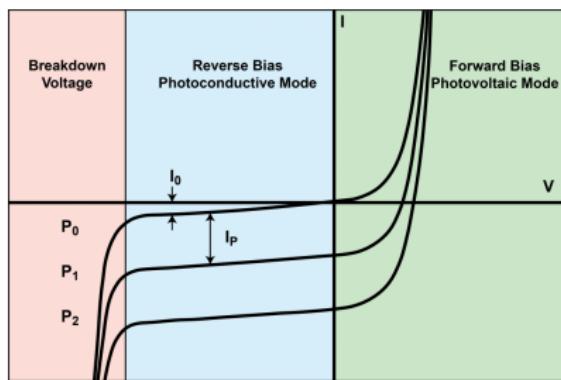
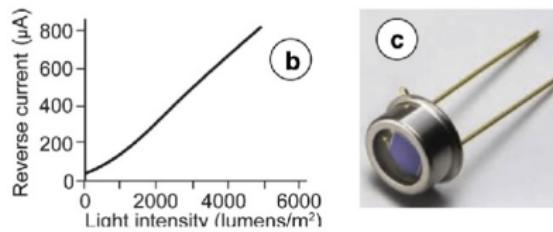
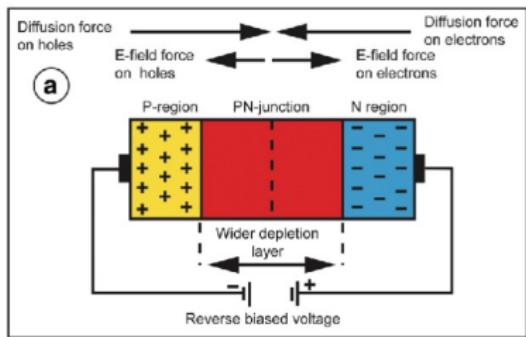


Forward biasing of a PN junction diode



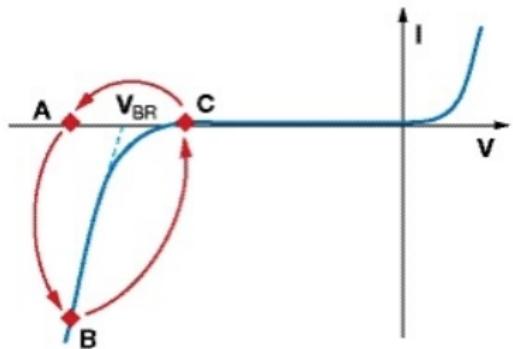


Photodiode





Avalanche Photo Diode



- Operates in reverse direction and biased slightly beyond the breakdown threshold voltage V_{BR} (Geiger Mode)
- An active quenching circuit limits the current through the APD in order to avoid destruction and lowers the bias voltage below V_{BR}
- There is a deadtime after quenching
- In addition to photo-generated events, Dark Counts can happen spontaneously