Main Template

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1 Introduction

1.1 CATEGORIZATION OF COMPONENTS

Rather than trying to understand full circuits at once, it is easier to break them into two groups: passive components and active components.

Passive Components

1.1

Passive components are ones that don't require any power supply to operate. For example, a resistor or a capacitor are both passive components.

Active Circuits

1.2

Active components require power to operate. In other words, they need to be connected to a power supply to function. Logic gates (74LSXX) are active since they require a power supply.

Another way to divide components is between linear and non-linear.

Linear Components

1.3

Linear components are... They also can be subdivided into components that store energy (capacitors and inductors) and components that dissipate energy (resistors).

Non-Linear Components

1.4

...

1.2 Overview of Concepts

1.2.1 Charge and Current

Charge

1.5

Charge (Q) is an electrical property of the atomic particles of which matter consists, measured in coulombs (C).

$$Q(t) = \int i(t) \, dt$$

When charged particles move in space over time, such as throughout a wire in a circuit, an electrical current is generated.

Electric Current

1.6

Electric current (I) is the time rate of change of charge, measured in amperes (A).

$$i(t) = \frac{dQ}{dt}$$

Current is simply a rate of change of a charge, and thus the two are related as the others' derivative/integral.

1.2.2 DC vs. AC

Direct Current 1.7

A direct current (dc) flows only in one direction and can be constant or time varying.

There are two ways of describing the *direction* in which the electrons flow in a direct current: **conventional flow** and **electron flow**. Both are shown in Figure 1.

Alternating Current

1.8

An alternating current (ac) is a current that changes direction with respect to time.

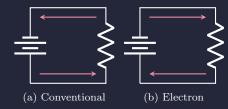


Figure 1: Electron Flow in Direct Currents

Voltage 1.9

Voltage (or *potential difference*) is the energy required to move a unit charge form a reference point (-) to another point (+), measured in Volts (V).

$$v(t) = v_b - v_b = \frac{dw}{dQ} = \frac{dE}{dQ}$$

1.2.3 Power and Energy

Power 1.10

Power is the time rate of expending or absorbing energy measured in watts (W). It is the rate of change of energy.

$$p(t) = \frac{dE}{dt} = \frac{dE \cdot dQ}{dt \cdot dQ} = \frac{dE}{dQ} \cdot \frac{dQ}{dt} = v \cdot i$$

Energy 1.11

Energy is the capacity to do work measured in Joules (J).

$$E(t) = \int p(t) \, dt$$

Again, these two values are related as the derivative/integral of the other.

1.3 CIRCUIT ELEMENTS

Ideal Independent Source

1.12

An ideal independent source is an active element that provides a specified voltage or current that is completely independent of other circuit elements.

Ideal Dependent Source

1.13

Also called an *Ideal Controlled Source*, this is an active element in which the source quantity is controlled by another voltage or current.

There are four types of dependent sources:

- 1. Voltage Controlled Voltage Source (VCVS)
- 2. Voltage Controlled Current Source (VCCS)
- 3. Current Controlled Voltage Source (CCVS)
- 4. Current Controlled Current Source (CCCS)