

# Electric Current

## *Physics 212* *Lecture 9*

Today's Concept:

Ohm's Law, Resistors in circuits

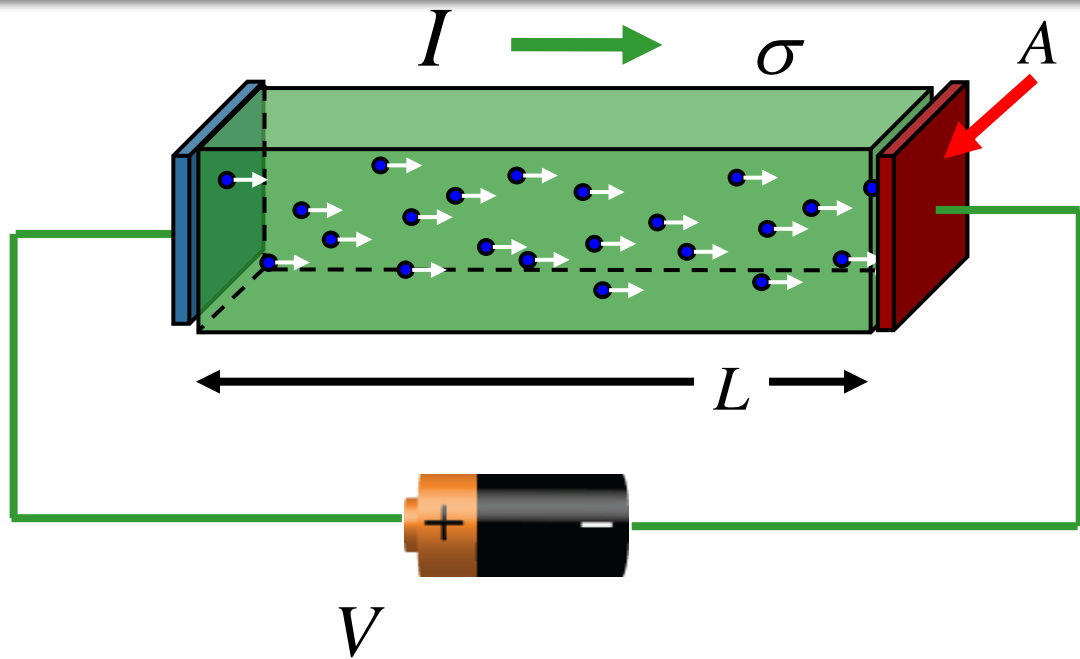
# Current and Resistance

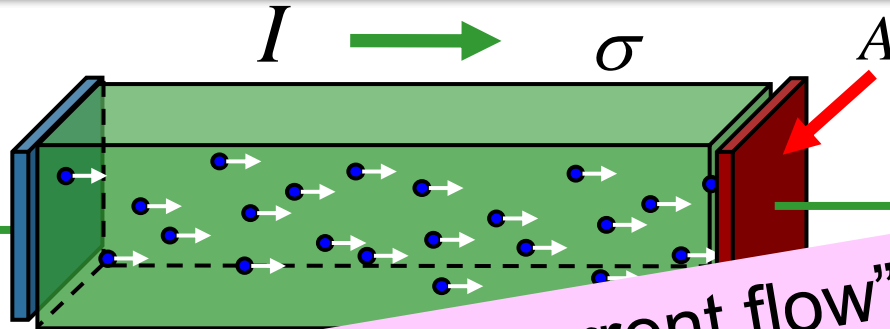
## Key Concepts:

- 1) How resistance depends on  $A$ ,  $L$ ,  $\sigma$ ,  $r$
- 2) How to combine resistors in series and parallel
- 3) Understanding resistors in circuits

## Today's Plan:

- 1) Review of resistance & prelectures
- 2) Work out a circuit problem in detail





Note: "Conventional current flow",  $I$ , is opposite to direction electrons flow

Conductivity – high for good conductors.

$V$  Ohm's Law:  $J = \sigma E$

Observables:

$$V = EL$$

$$I = JA$$



$$I/A = \sigma V/L$$



$$I = V/(L/\sigma A)$$



$$R = \text{Resistance}$$

$$\rho = 1/\sigma$$

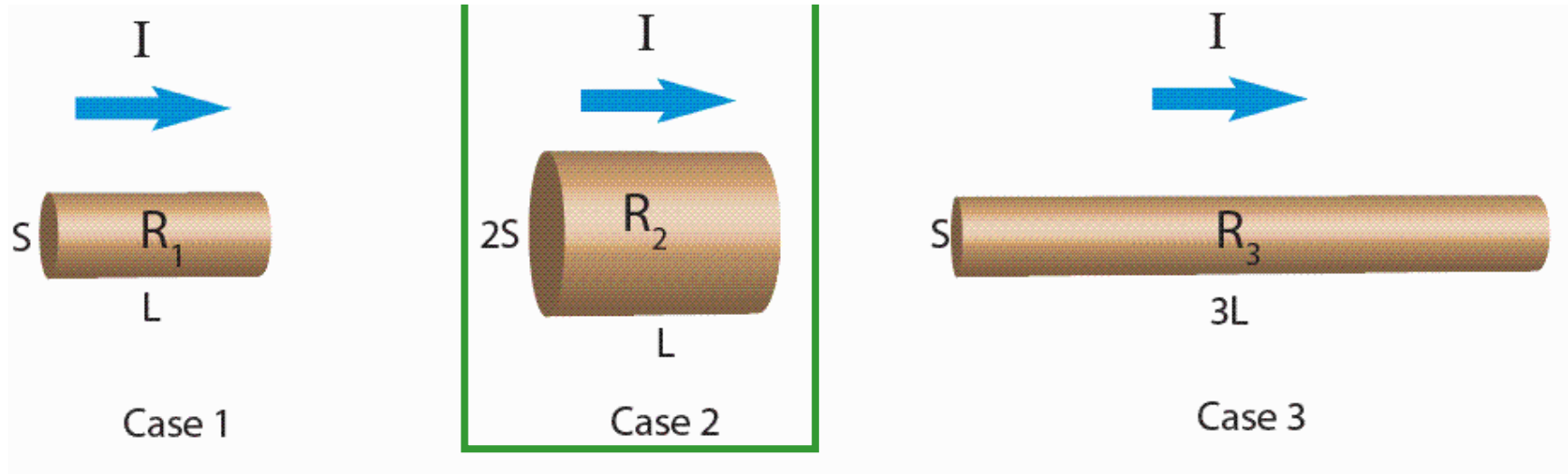
$$I = V/R$$



$$R = \frac{L}{\sigma A}$$

# Check Point 1

The SAME amount of current  $I$  passes through three different resistors.  $R_2$  has twice the cross-sectional area and the same length as  $R_1$ , and  $R_3$  is three times as long as  $R_1$  but has the same cross-sectional area as  $R_1$ .



In which case is the CURRENT DENSITY through the resistor the smallest?

**A.** Case 1

**B.** Case 2

**C.** Case 3

$$J \equiv \frac{I}{A} \quad \longrightarrow \quad J_1 = J_3 = 2J_2$$

Same Current  $\longrightarrow J \propto \frac{1}{A}$

# *This is just like Plumbing!*

$I$  is like flow rate of water (gallons/hour)

$V$  is like pressure

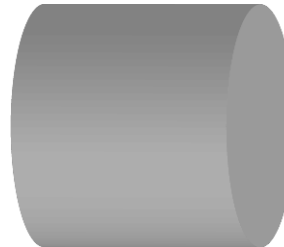
$R$  is how hard it is for water to flow in a pipe

$$R = \frac{L}{\sigma A}$$

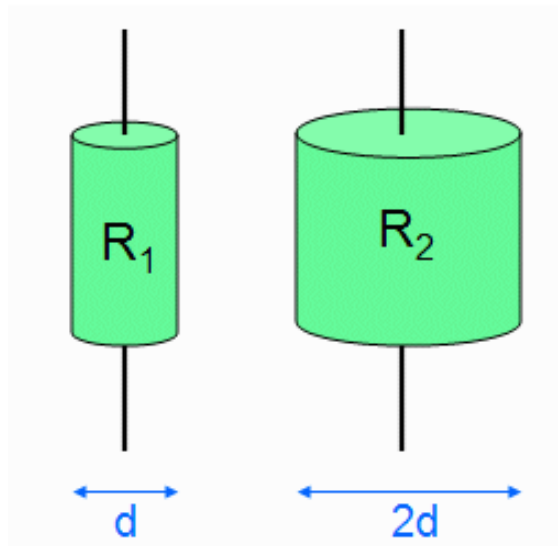
To make  $R$  big, make  $L$  long or  $A$  small



To make  $R$  small, make  $L$  short or  $A$  big



## Check Point 2a



- ☐  $V_1 > V_2$    ☐  $V_1 = V_2$    ☐  $V_1 < V_2$
- A                      B                      C

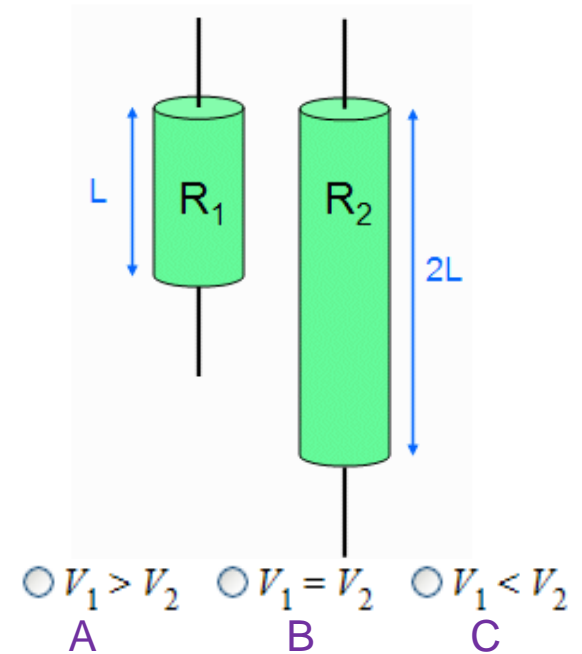
Same current through both resistors

Compare voltages across resistors

$$R \propto \frac{L}{A}$$

$$V = IR \propto \frac{L}{A}$$

## Check Point 2b



- ☐  $V_1 > V_2$    ☐  $V_1 = V_2$    ☐  $V_1 < V_2$
- A                      B                      C

# Resistor Summary

## Series

Every loop with  $R_1$  also has  $R_2$



Wiring

Each resistor on the same wire.

Voltage

Different for each resistor.

$$V_{total} = V_1 + V_2$$

Current

Same for each resistor

$$I_{total} = I_1 = I_2$$

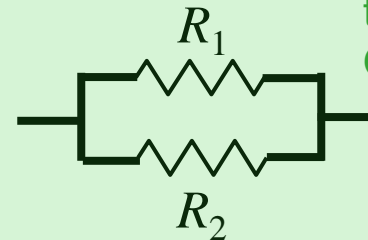
Resistance

Increases

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

## Parallel

There is a loop that contains ONLY  $R_1$  and  $R_2$



Each resistor on a different wire.

Same for each resistor.

$$V_{total} = V_1 = V_2$$

Different for each resistor

$$I_{total} = I_1 + I_2$$

Decreases

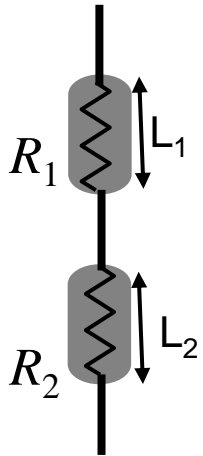
$$1/R_{eq} = 1/R_1 + 1/R_2$$



# Resistors and Capacitors

Can we go over why Capacitors and Resistors are inverses in series and parallel? Like more of a physical reason not just "the math works that way"

## Series, you are adding lengths

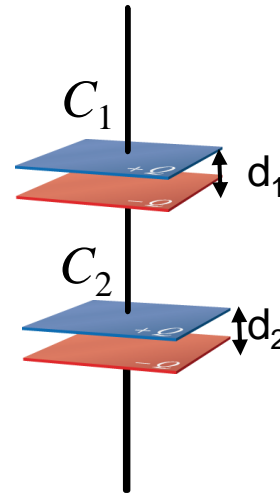


$$R = \rho \frac{L}{A}$$

$$R_{tot} = \rho \frac{L_1 + L_2}{A}$$

$$= \rho \frac{L_1}{A} + \rho \frac{L_2}{A} = R_1 + R_2$$

$$= R_1 + R_2$$



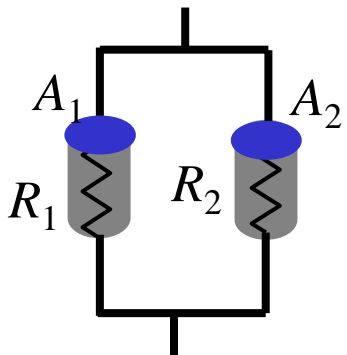
$$C = \epsilon \frac{A}{d} \quad \frac{1}{C} = \frac{d}{\epsilon A}$$

$$\frac{1}{C_{tot}} = \frac{d_1 + d_2}{\epsilon A}$$

$$= \frac{d_1}{\epsilon A} + \frac{d_2}{\epsilon A}$$

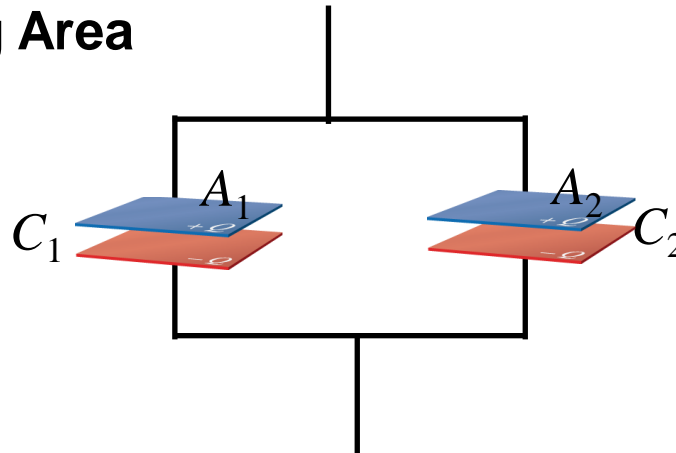
$$= \frac{1}{C_1} + \frac{1}{C_2}$$

## Parallel, you are adding Area



$$\frac{1}{R} = \frac{A}{\rho L}$$

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

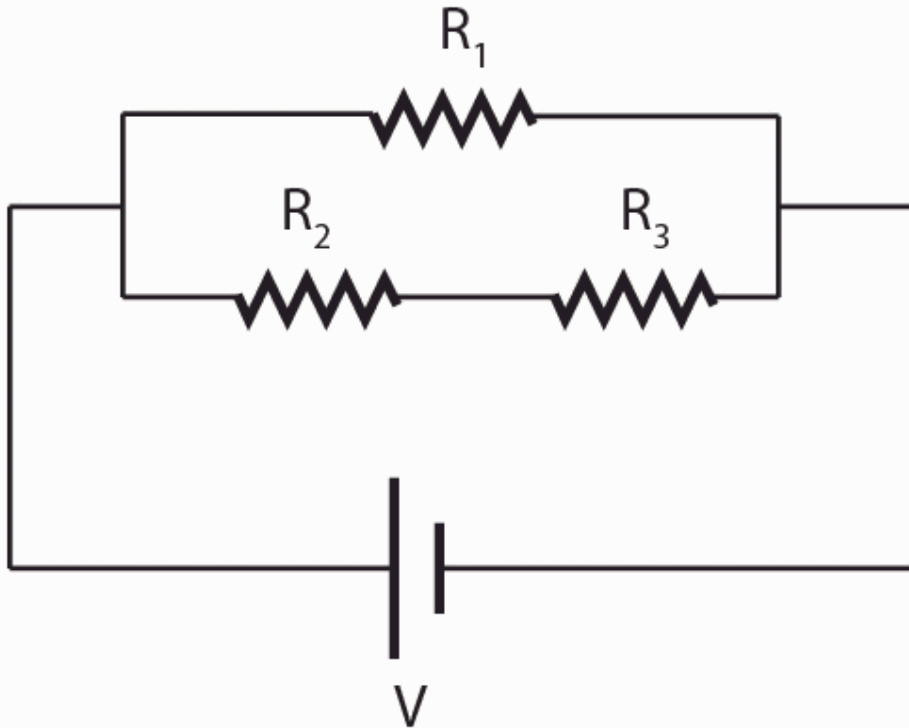


$$C = \epsilon \frac{A}{d}$$

$$C_{tot} = C_1 + C_2$$

## Check Point 3a

Three resistors are connected to a battery with emf  $V$  as shown. The resistances of the resistors are all the same, i.e.  $R_1 = R_2 = R_3 = R$ .



Compare the current through  $R_2$  with the current through  $R_3$ :

- A.**  $I_2 > I_3$       **B.**  $I_2 = I_3$       **C.**  $I_2 < I_3$

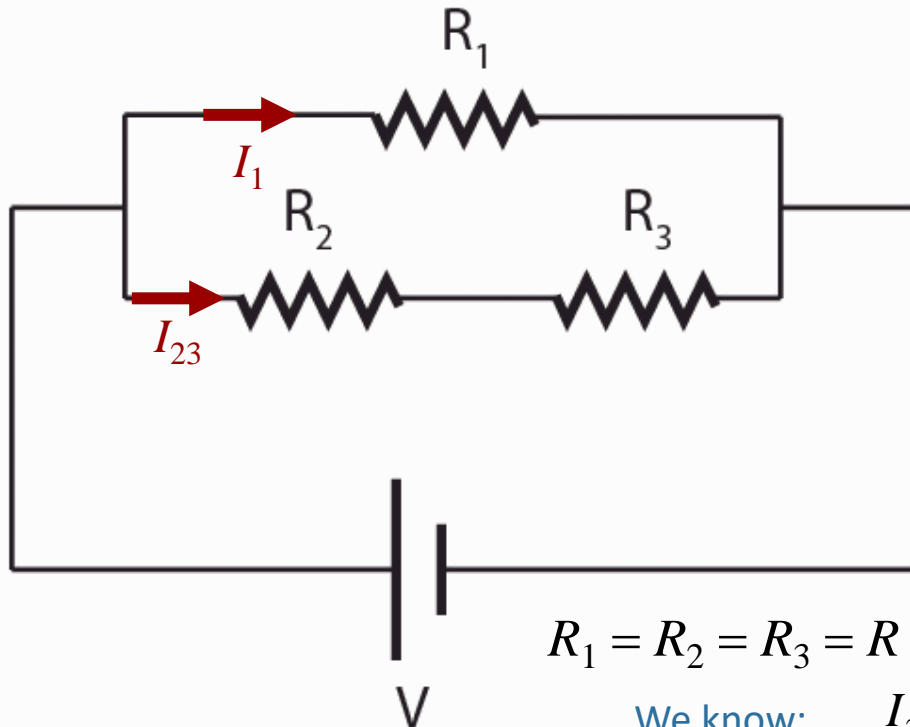
$R_2$  in series with  $R_3$



Current through  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  is the same

$$I_{23} = \frac{V}{R_2 + R_3}$$

## Check Point 3b



$$R_1 = R_2 = R_3 = R$$

We know:

$$I_{23} = \frac{V}{R_2 + R_3}$$

Compare the current through  $R_1$   
with the current through  $R_2$

A  $I_1/I_2 = 1/2$

B  $I_1/I_2 = 1$

C  $I_1/I_2 = 2$

D  $I_1/I_2 = 3$

E  $I_1/I_2 = 4$

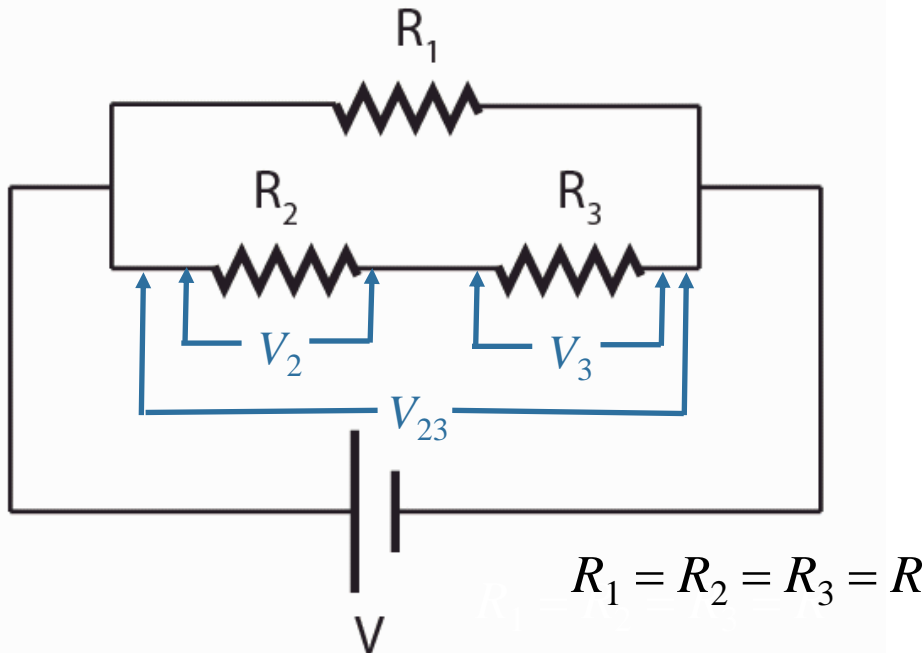
Similarly:

$$I_1 = \frac{V}{R_1}$$



$$I_1 = I_{23} \frac{R_2 + R_3}{R_1}$$

## Check Point 3C



Compare the voltage across  $R_2$  with the voltage across  $R_3$

$$V_2 = I_2 R_2$$

$$V_3 = I_3 R_3$$

A  $V_2 > V_3$

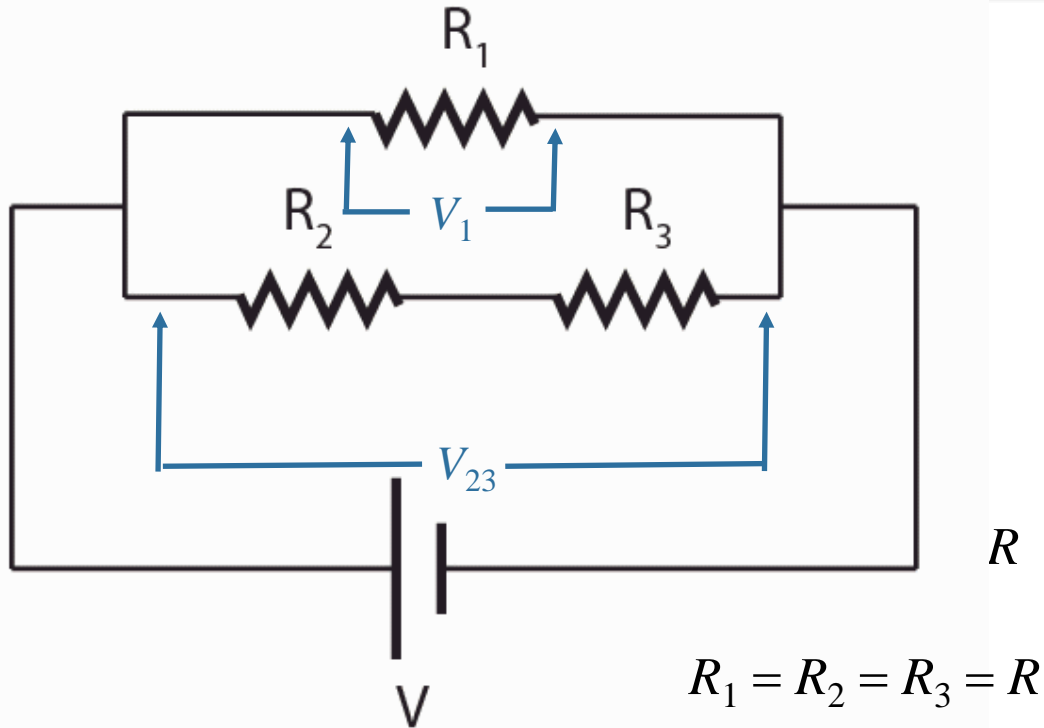
B  $V_2 = V_3 = V$

C  $V_2 = V_3 < V$

D  $V_2 < V_3$

$I_2 = I_3$  (Series)  
 $R_2 = R_3$  (Problem statement)

## Check Point 3D

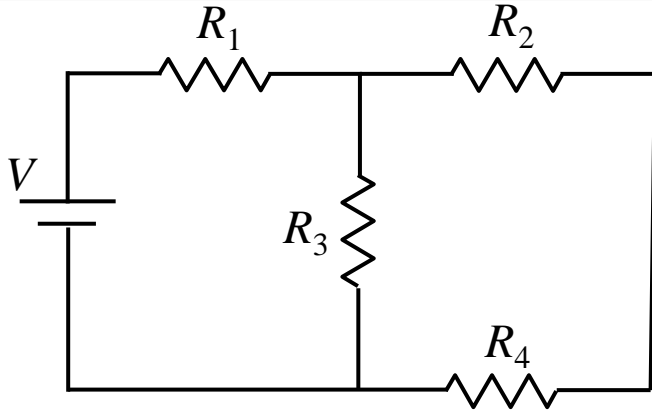


Compare the voltage across  $R_1$  with the voltage across  $R_2$

$R_1$  in parallel with series combination of  $R_2$  and  $R_3$

- A  $V_1 = V_2 = V$
- B  $V_1 = \frac{1}{2} V_2 = V$
- C  $V_1 = \frac{1}{2} V_2 = \frac{1}{5} V$
- D  $V_1 = 2V_2 = V$
- E  $V_1 = \frac{1}{2} V_2 = \frac{1}{2} V$

# Calculation



In the circuit shown:  $V = 18V$ ,  
 $R_1 = 1\Omega$ ,  $R_2 = 2\Omega$ ,  $R_3 = 3\Omega$ , and  $R_4 = 4\Omega$ .

What is  $V_2$ , the voltage across  $R_2$ ?

## Conceptual Analysis:

Ohm's Law: when current  $I$  flows through resistance  $R$ , the potential drop  $V$  is given by:  $V = IR$ .

Resistances are combined in series and parallel combinations

$$R_{series} = R_a + R_b$$

$$(1/R_{parallel}) = (1/R_a) + (1/R_b)$$

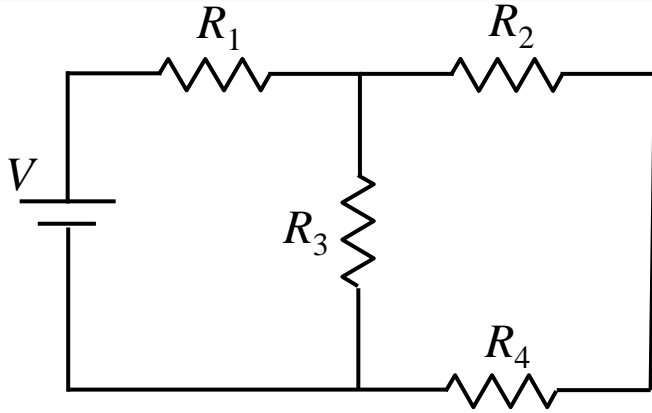
## Strategic Analysis:

Combine resistances to form equivalent resistances

Evaluate voltages or currents from Ohm's Law

Expand circuit back using knowledge of voltages and currents

# Calculation



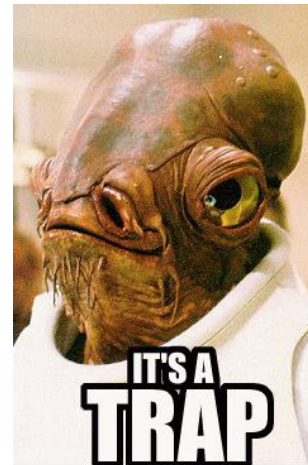
In the circuit shown:  $V = 18V$ ,  
 $R_1 = 1\Omega$ ,  $R_2 = 2\Omega$ ,  $R_3 = 3\Omega$ , and  $R_4 = 4\Omega$ .

What is  $V_2$ , the voltage across  $R_2$ ?

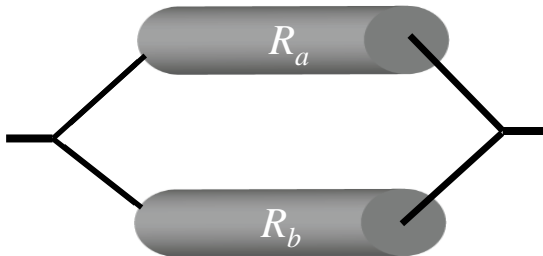
Combine Resistances:

$R_1$  and  $R_2$  are connected:

- A) in series      B) in parallel      C) neither in series nor in parallel



Parallel Combination



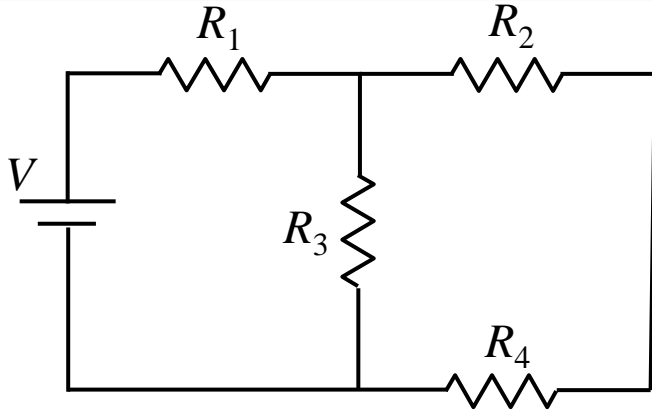
**Parallel:** Can make a loop that contains only those two resistors

Series Combination



**Series :** Every loop with resistor 1 also has resistor 2.

# Calculation



In the circuit shown:  $V = 18V$ ,  
 $R_1 = 1\Omega$ ,  $R_2 = 2\Omega$ ,  $R_3 = 3\Omega$ , and  $R_4 = 4\Omega$ .

What is  $V_2$ , the voltage across  $R_2$ ?

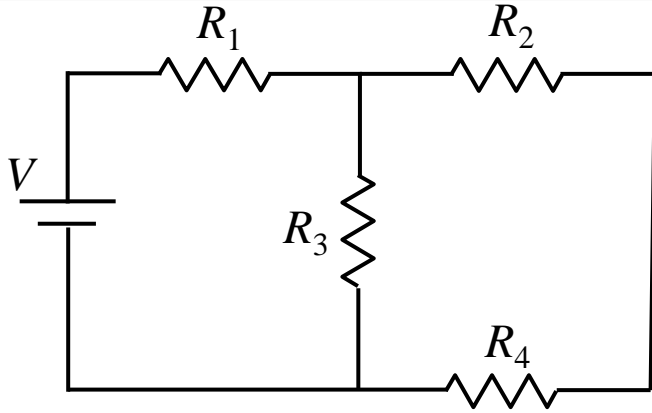
We first will combine resistances  $R_2$ ,  $R_4$ :

Which of the following is true?

- A)  $R_2$  and  $R_4$  are connected in series
- B)  $R_2$  and  $R_4$  are connected in parallel
- C)  $R_2$  and  $R_4$  are neither in series nor in parallel
- D)  $R_2$  and  $R_4$  are both in series and in parallel



# Calculation

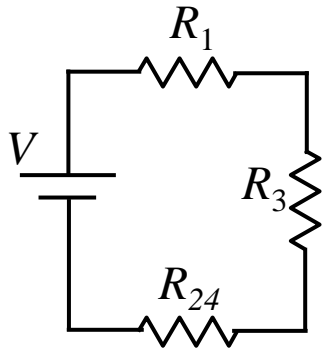


In the circuit shown:  $V = 18V$ ,  
 $R_1 = 1\Omega$ ,  $R_2 = 2\Omega$ ,  $R_3 = 3\Omega$ , and  $R_4 = 4\Omega$ .

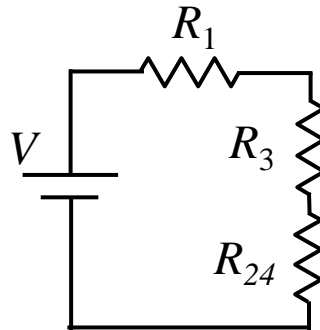
What is  $V_2$ , the voltage across  $R_2$ ?

$R_2$  and  $R_4$  are connected in series ( $R_{24}$ )

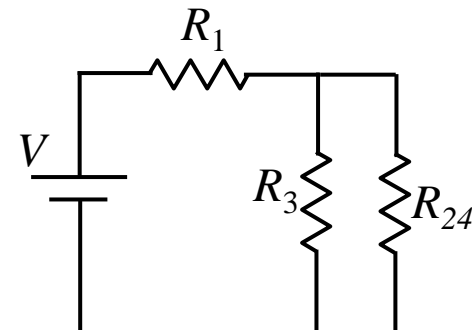
Redraw the circuit using the equivalent resistor  $R_{24}$  = series combination of  $R_2$  and  $R_4$ .



(A)

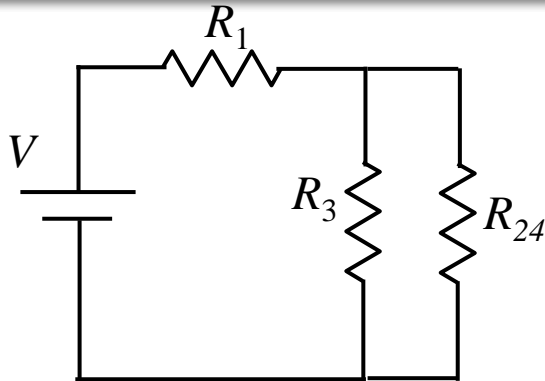


(B)



(C)

# Calculation



In the circuit shown:  $V = 18V$ ,  
 $R_1 = 1\Omega$ ,  $R_2 = 2\Omega$ ,  $R_3 = 3\Omega$ , and  $R_4 = 4\Omega$ .

What is  $V_2$ , the voltage across  $R_2$ ?

Combine Resistances:

$R_2$  and  $R_4$  are connected in series  $= R_{24}$

$R_3$  and  $R_{24}$  are connected in parallel  $= R_{234}$

What is the value of  $R_{234}$ ?

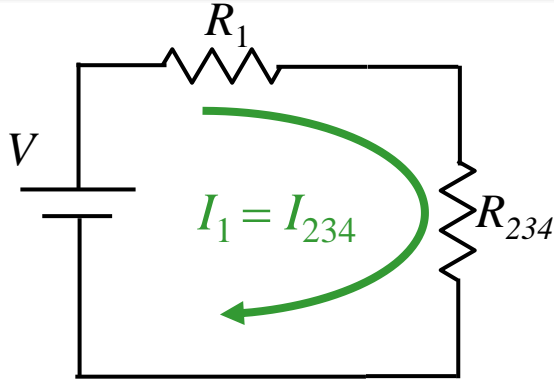
A)  $R_{234} = 1\Omega$    B)  $R_{234} = 2\Omega$    C)  $R_{234} = 4\Omega$    D)  $R_{234} = 6\Omega$

$R_2$  and  $R_4$  in series  $\rightarrow R_{24} = R_2 + R_4 = 2\Omega + 4\Omega = 6\Omega$

$R_3$  and  $R_{24}$  are connected in parallel

$$(1/R_{\text{parallel}}) = (1/R_a) + (1/R_b)$$

# Calculation



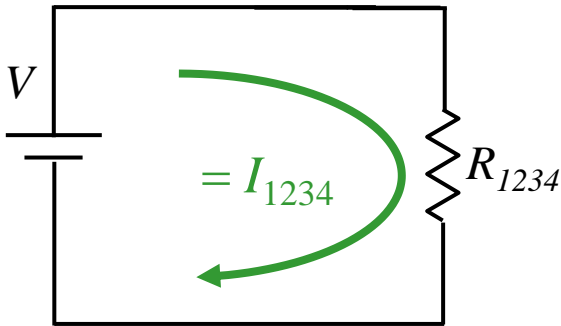
In the circuit shown:  $V = 18V$ ,  
 $R_1 = 1\Omega$ ,  $R_2 = 2\Omega$ ,  $R_3 = 3\Omega$ , and  $R_4 = 4\Omega$ .

$$R_{24} = 6\Omega \quad R_{234} = 2\Omega$$

What is  $V_2$ , the voltage across  $R_2$ ?

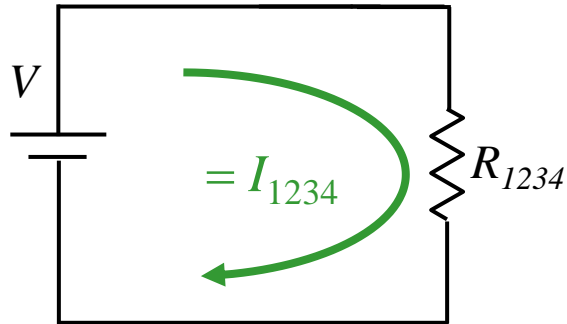
$R_1$  and  $R_{234}$  are in series.  $R_{1234} = 1 + 2 = 3\Omega$

Our next task is to calculate the total current in the circuit



Ohm's Law tells us: 
$$\begin{aligned} I_{1234} &= V/R_{1234} \\ &= 18 / 3 \\ &= 6 \text{ Amps} \end{aligned}$$

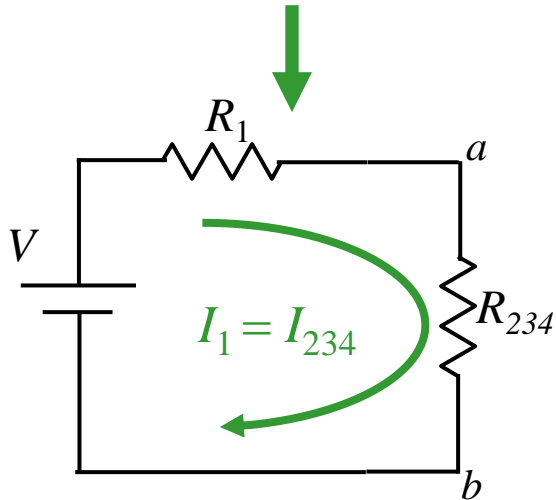
# Calculation



In the circuit shown:  $V = 18V$ ,  
 $R_1 = 1\Omega$ ,  $R_2 = 2\Omega$ ,  $R_3 = 3\Omega$ , and  $R_4 = 4\Omega$ .

$$R_{24} = 6\Omega \quad R_{234} = 2\Omega \quad I_{1234} = 6A$$

What is  $V_2$ , the voltage across  $R_2$ ?

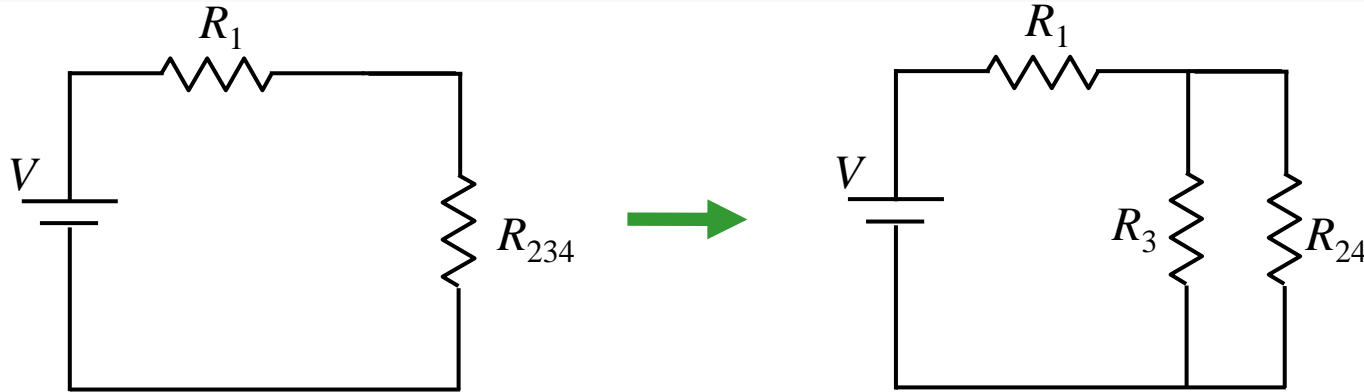


$$I_{234} = I_{1234} \quad \text{Since } R_1 \text{ in series with } R_{234}$$

What is  $V_{ab}$ , the voltage across  $R_{234}$  ?

- A)  $V_{ab} = 1V$       B)  $V_{ab} = 2V$       C)  $V_{ab} = 9V$       D)  $V_{ab} = 12V$       E)  $V_{ab} = 16V$

# Calculation



$$V = 18V$$

$$R_1 = 1\Omega$$

$$R_2 = 2\Omega$$

$$R_3 = 3\Omega$$

$$R_4 = 4\Omega$$

$$R_{24} = 6\Omega$$

$$R_{234} = 2\Omega$$

$$I_{1234} = 6 \text{ Amps}$$

$$I_{234} = 6 \text{ Amps}$$

$$V_{234} = 12V$$

What is  $V_2$ ?

Which of the following are true?

A)  $V_{234} = V_{24}$

B)  $I_{234} = I_{24}$

C) Both A+B

D) None

$R_3$  and  $R_{24}$  were combined in parallel to get  $R_{234}$  → Voltages are same!

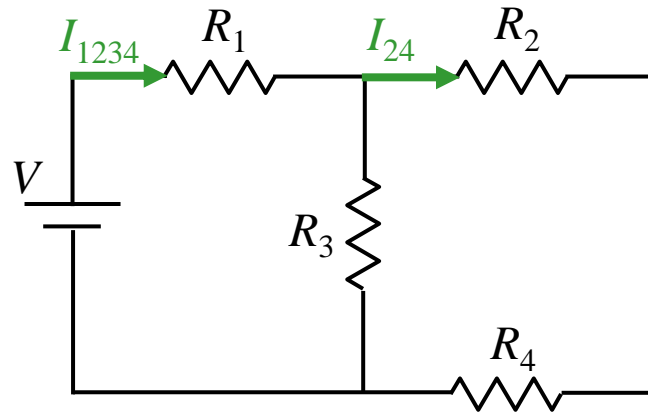
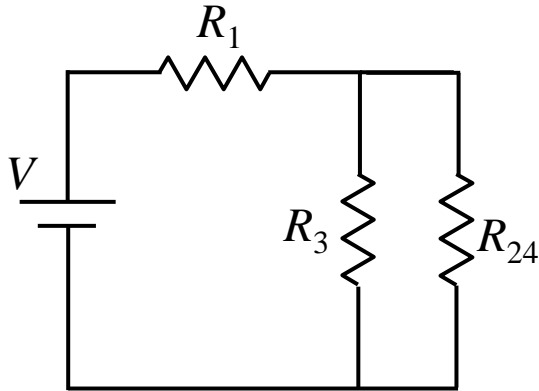
Ohm's Law

$$I_{24} = V_{24} / R_{24}$$

$$= 12 / 6$$

$$= 2 \text{ Amps}$$

# Calculation



$$V = 18V$$

$$R_1 = 1\Omega$$

$$R_2 = 2\Omega$$

$$R_3 = 3\Omega$$

$$R_4 = 4\Omega$$

$$R_{24} = 6\Omega$$

$$R_{234} = 2\Omega$$

$$I_{1234} = 6 \text{ Amps}$$

$$I_{234} = 6 \text{ Amps}$$

$$V_{234} = 12V$$

$$V_{24} = 12V$$

$$I_{24} = 2 \text{ Amps}$$

What is  $V_2$ ?

Which of the following are true?

- A)  $V_{24} = V_2$       B)  $I_{24} = I_2$       C) Both A+B      D) None

$R_2$  and  $R_4$  where combined in series to get  $R_{24}$  → Currents are same!

Ohm's Law

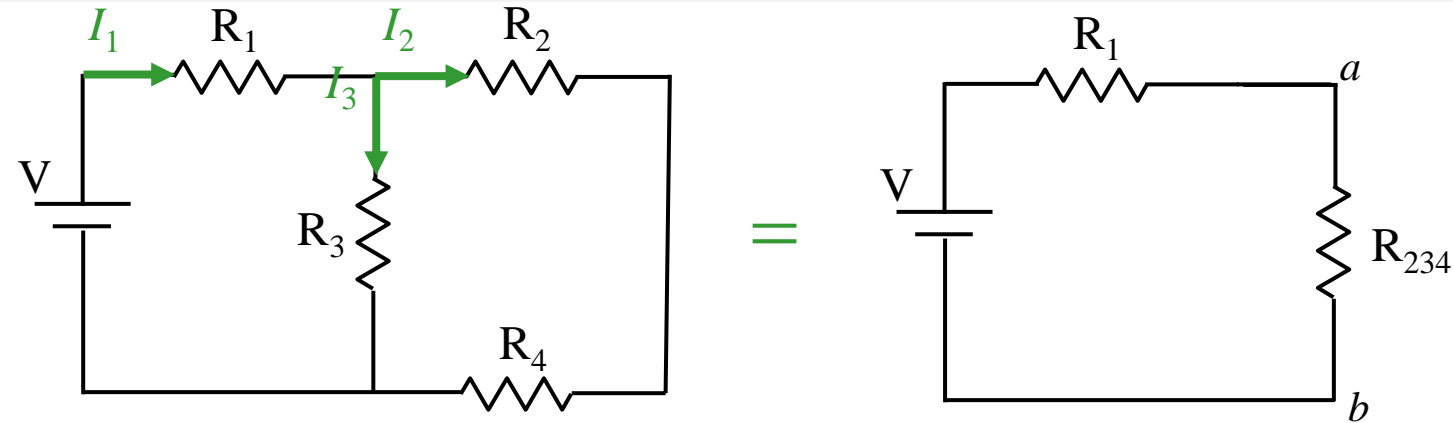
$$V_2 = I_2 R_2$$

$$= 2 \times 2$$

$$= 4 \text{ Volts!}$$

The Problem Can Now Be Solved!

# Quick Follow-Ups



$$V = 18V$$

$$R_1 = 1\Omega$$

$$R_2 = 2\Omega$$

$$R_3 = 3\Omega$$

$$R_4 = 4\Omega$$

$$R_{24} = 6\Omega$$

$$R_{234} = 2\Omega$$

$$V_{234} = 12V$$

$$V_2 = 4V$$

$$I_{1234} = 6 \text{ Amps}$$

What is  $I_3$  ?

A)  $I_3 = 2 \text{ A}$       B)  $I_3 = 3 \text{ A}$       C)  $I_3 = 4 \text{ A}$

$$V_3 = V_{234} = 12V$$

What is  $I_1$  ?

We know  $I_1 = I_{1234} = 6 \text{ A}$

**NOTE:**  $I_2 = V_2/R_2 = 4/2 = 2 \text{ A}$

$$\rightarrow I_1 = I_2 + I_3$$

Make Sense?



## Key Concepts:

- 1) How resistance depends on  $A$ ,  $L$ ,  $\sigma$ ,  $r$
- 2) How to combine resistors in series and parallel
- 3) Understanding resistors in circuits
- 4) Solve a network circuit