

# Basic Physic Circuit Formulas

For diagrams, see: <https://web.iit.edu/sites/web/files/departments/academic-affairs/academic-resource-center/pdfs/RCcircuits.pdf>

Common terms:

- **Voltage** is the difference in charge between two points.
- **Current** is the rate at which charge is flowing.
- **Resistance** is a material's tendency to resist the flow of charge (current).
- **Amps** Amount of current flowing over a period

In water terms:

- Water = Charge (measured in Coulombs)
- Pressure = Voltage (measured in Volts)
- Flow = Current (measured in Amperes, or "Amps" for short)
- Hose Width = Resistance

$$V = I \cdot R$$

Where:

- V = Voltage in volts
- I = Current in amps
- R = Resistance in ohms
- A = amperage (coulombs per second) aka volume moved in a second. Breakers use this to prevent wires overheating.
- W = Watt is the amount of energy consumed  $w = V \cdot A$ , electricity at work is the pressure times the volume

## Series vs Parallel Circuits

Series:

- V changes as it flows through resistance components
- I stays the same
- $V = v_1 + v_2 + \dots$

Parallel:

- V stays the same
- I changes through the components
- $v = v_1 = v_2 = v_3$

## Resistance Stacking

Series of Rs add up:

$$R = R_1 + R_2 + \dots$$

Parallel Rs have the relationship:

$$\frac{1}{R} = \frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} + \dots$$

## Kirchoff's laws:

### Voltage law:

- In a complete loop, total voltage change is 0
  - This means that  $V=IR_1$  and  $V=IR_2$  in a system where there are 2 parallel resistors.
  - In series of resistors,  $V = IR_1 + IR_2$

### Current law:

- Current coming out of a point is equal to current going in
  - $I_1 = I_2 + I_3$  if there are 2 parallel resistors

## Capacitors

In a basic RC circuit:

The Capacitance of Capacitor is proportional to  $\frac{A}{l}$  where A is area and l is the distance

- $C$  of the system adds the same way as  $R$  in parallel and series circuits
- $C = \frac{Q}{V}$  in the units of farads. It is the ratio of charge  $Q$  to potential difference  $V$
- 1 Farad capacitor holds 1 coulomb of charge at 1 volt.
- 1 coulomb =  $6.25 \cdot 10^{18}$  electrons
- 1 amp is rate of 1 coulomb per 1 second

Capacitor has voltage proportional to charge

$$V = \frac{Q}{C}$$

This means that

$$V - IR - \frac{Q}{C} = 0$$

$$V = R \frac{dQ}{dt} + \frac{Q}{C}$$

RC is the time constant of the circuit

## Driving point impedance

In a capacitor, we have:

$$C = \frac{Q}{V}$$

The time-series functions are

$$q(t) = Cv(t)$$

Taking the derivative:

$$i(t) = C \frac{dv(t)}{dt}$$

Where  $I/i(t)$  is the current in amperes since we know that  $I = \frac{dQ}{dt}$ . This just means t coulombs per second give us the energy flow aka amps.

Now using Laplace transforms:

$$I(s) = CsV(s) - Cv(0)$$

Which (considering initial voltage to be zero) leads to:

$$R_c(s) = \frac{V(s)}{I(s)} = \frac{1}{Cs}$$

$R_C(s)$  is the driving point impedance of the capacitor, allowing analysis of the capacitor similar to a resistor, with value of  $\frac{1}{Cs}$  ohms