

Resistors

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1 Electric Currents and Resistance

Note: the solutions to these problems are in the 2.1 onwards of resistorssol.pdf.

1.1 Non-Uniform Resistor

A resistor is made from two concentric spheres with radii a and b between which there is a material with resistivity that varies with radius as $\rho(r) = \rho_0 \left(\frac{r}{a}\right)^s$, where ρ_0 constant. A battery with voltage V is hooked up to the resistor such that current is injected into the resistor from the inner sphere, and removed from the outer sphere.

1. If the electric field between the spheres is constant, what is s ?
2. What is the current I in the circuit?

(Source: Vetri and Dan)

1.2 Making Resistance Constant

For some applications it is important that the value of resistance does not change. For example, suppose you want to make a resistor of resistance R and you have available two wires with resistivity ρ_1 and ρ_2 at $T_0 = 0^\circ C$, both with cross sectional area A . We want to make a resistor by combining segments of these two wires. Find the length l_2 of the second wire if the first is l_1 so that the net resistance is independent of temperature. Suppose that they have fractional changes in resistance of $\alpha_1 > 0$, $\alpha_2 < 0$. Also suppose the lengths and areas of the wires does not change with temperatures. (Combine them in series.)

(Source: modified from Giancoli 25-26)

1.3 Radially Outwards Current and Resistance

A hollow cylindrical resistor with inner radius r_1 and outer radius r_2 , and length l , is made of a material whose resistivity is ρ . Show that the resistance is given by $R = \frac{\rho}{2\pi l} \ln \frac{r_2}{r_1}$ for current that flows radially outwards.

(Source: Giancoli 25-30, part (a))

1.4 Flashlights

An ordinary flashlight uses two D-cell 1.5-V batteries connected in series. The bulb draws 380 mA when turned on. (a) Calculate the resistance of the bulb and the power dissipated. (b) By what factor would the power increase if four D-cells in series were used with the same bulb? (Neglect heating effects of the filament.) Why shouldn't you try this?

(Source: Giancoli 25-42)