# Background Information

*Within Help topics a name in italics indicates a link to this document.*

André-Marie **Ampère**, French, 1775 –1836 was a physicist and mathematician who was a pioneer of classical electromagnetism. The Ampere (often abbreviated to Amp) is the fundamental unit of electric current.

Hendrik Wade **Bode**, American of Dutch descent, 1905-1982 was a pioneer of control theory.

Sir Isaac **Newton**, English, 1642 – [1726](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Style_and_New_Style_dates) was an English [physicist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physicist) and [mathematician](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mathematician). His book “[Principia Mathematica](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philosophi%C3%A6_Naturalis_Principia_Mathematica)” laid the foundations of modern physics.

Harry **Nyquist**, Swedish American, 1889 –1976 was an [electronics engineer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electronic_engineer) who made important contributions to the mathematics of servo stability including, famously, the “Nyquist Diagram”.

Georg Simon **Ohm**, German,1789 – 1854 was a [German](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germany) [physicist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physicist) and [mathematician](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mathematician).

**Système International d'Unités**, a coherent system of weights and measures published by the [General Conferences on Weights and Measures](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Conference_on_Weights_and_Measures) in 1960. Only the UnitedStates, Burma and Liberia are yet to adopt the SI.

James **Thomson**, 1822 – 1892 was an engineer and physicist who invented the Radian in 1863. Brother of William Thomson, Lord Kelvin.

Alessandro **Volta**, Italian, 1745 – 1827 was a pioneer of electricity and power, who is credited as the inventor of the electrical battery.

James **Watt**, Scott, 1736 - 1819 was an [inventor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Invention), [mechanical engineer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mechanical_engineer), and [chemist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chemist) who [invented a greatly improved steam engine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Watt_steam_engine).