

Chapter 11: Electricity

◆ Introduction

Electricity is a controllable and convenient form of energy used in homes, schools, hospitals, and industries. In this chapter, we explore:

- What constitutes electricity
- How it flows in circuits
- Laws governing current, voltage, and resistance
- Heating effects and power calculation

◆ 11.1 Electric Current and Circuit

Electric Current:

The flow of electric charge (usually electrons) through a conductor. It is measured as the rate of flow of charge:


$$I = Q / t$$

Where:

I = Current (in amperes),

Q = charge (in coulombs),

t = time (in seconds)

 1 Coulomb = charge carried by 6×10^{18} electrons

 1 Ampere = 1 Coulomb/1 second

 **Ammeter:** Used to measure electric current. Always connected in series in a circuit.

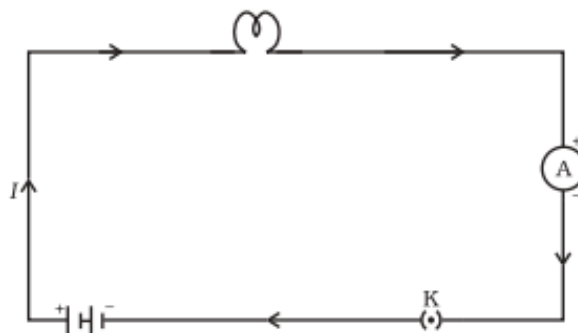


Figure 11.1

A schematic diagram of an electric circuit comprising – cell, electric bulb, ammeter and plug key

◆ 11.2 Electric Potential and Potential Difference

Electric Potential:

Work done in moving a unit charge from one point to another.

Potential Difference (V) = Work Done (W) / Charge (Q)

Unit: Volt (V)

1 V = 1 Joule / 1 Coulomb


 **Voltmeter:** Measures potential difference; always connected in parallel.

Example: Moving 2 C of charge across 12 V requires 24 J of work.

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◆ **11.3 Circuit Diagram**

Circuit diagrams use symbols to represent components.

 Examples:

- Cell: |—
- Battery: | |—
- Switch (open): . .
- Switch (closed): —
- Resistor: zig-zag line
- Ammeter: Ⓐ
- Voltmeter: Ⓥ

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◆ **11.4 Ohm's Law**

Ohm's Law:

At constant temperature, current (I) through a conductor is directly proportional to the voltage (V).

$$V \propto I \rightarrow V = IR$$

R = Resistance in ohms (Ω)

Resistance (R) = V/I

If V = 1 V and I = 1 A, then R = 1 Ω

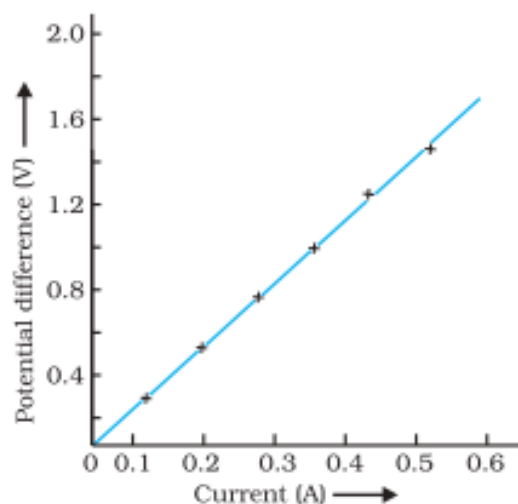


Fig 11.3 – V-I graph

◆ 11.5 Factors Affecting Resistance

Activity: Using wires of different lengths, areas, and materials

Resistance depends on:

- Length (l): $R \propto l$
- Cross-sectional Area (A): $R \propto 1/A$
- Material: Resistivity (ρ)

$$R = \rho \times (l / A)$$

Resistivity (ρ):

Characteristic of the material. Unit: $\Omega \text{ m}$

	Material	Resistivity ($\Omega \text{ m}$)
Conductors	Silver	1.60×10^{-8}
	Copper	1.62×10^{-8}
	Aluminium	2.63×10^{-8}
	Tungsten	5.20×10^{-8}
	Nickel	6.84×10^{-8}
	Iron	10.0×10^{-8}
	Chromium	12.9×10^{-8}
	Mercury	94.0×10^{-8}
	Manganese	1.84×10^{-6}
Alloys	Constantan	49×10^{-6}
	(alloy of Cu and Ni)	
	Manganin	44×10^{-6}
	(alloy of Cu, Mn and Ni)	
	Nichrome	100×10^{-6}
	(alloy of Ni, Cr, Mn and Fe)	
Insulators	Glass	$10^{10} - 10^{14}$
	Hard rubber	$10^{13} - 10^{16}$
	Ebonite	$10^{15} - 10^{17}$
	Diamond	$10^{12} - 10^{13}$
	Paper (dry)	10^{12}

Table 11.2 – Resistivity of various materials (e.g., Copper, Nichrome, Glass)

◆ 11.6 Resistance in Series and Parallel

Series Combination:

- Current is same through all
- Voltage divides

$$R_{\text{total}} = R_1 + R_2 + R_3$$

Parallel Combination:

- Voltage is same across all
- Current divides

$$1/R_{\text{total}} = 1/R_1 + 1/R_2 + 1/R_3$$

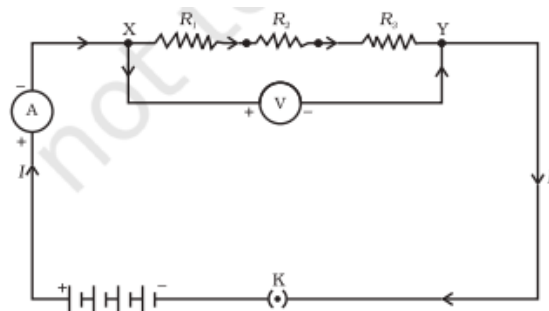


Figure 11.6 Resistors in series

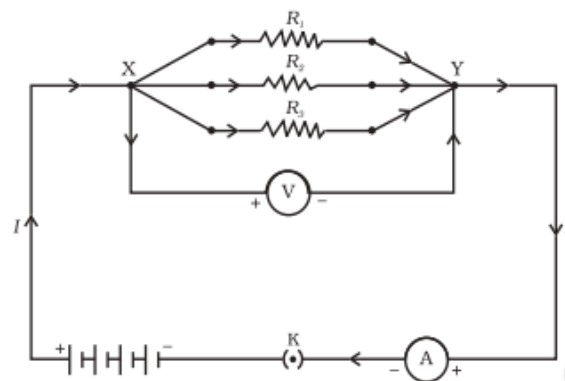


Figure 11.7 Resistors in parallel

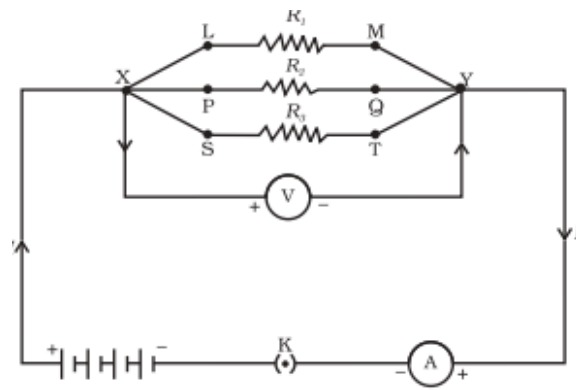


Figure 11.10

◆ 11.7 Heating Effect of Electric Current

When current flows through a resistor, electrical energy is converted into heat.

$$\text{Heat (H)} = VIt = I^2Rt = V^2t/R$$

Joule's Law of Heating:

- $H \propto I^2$ (more current, more heat)
- $H \propto R$ (more resistance, more heat)
- $H \propto t$ (longer time, more heat)

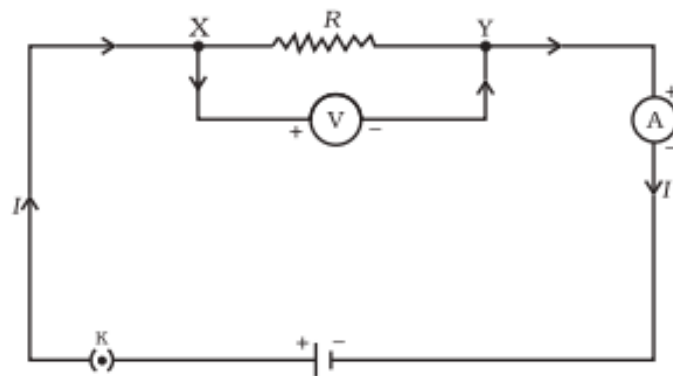


Figure 11.13

A steady current in a purely resistive electric circuit

Applications:

- Electric heaters, toasters, irons
- Electric bulbs (tungsten filament)
- Electric fuse (thin wire that melts when excess current flows)

◆ 11.8 Electric Power


 **Power (P)** = Rate at which electrical energy is used

$$P = VI = I^2R = V^2/R$$

Unit: Watt (W)

 **Commercial unit of energy: kilowatt-hour (kWh)**

$$1 \text{ kWh} = 1000 \text{ W} \times 3600 \text{ s} = 3.6 \times 10^6 \text{ J}$$

 Example:

If a 400 W refrigerator works for 8 hrs/day for 30 days:

$$\text{Energy} = 400 \times 8 \times 30 = 96000 \text{ Wh} = 96 \text{ kWh}$$

If cost is ₹3/kWh → Bill = ₹288

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Summary:

- Electric current is flow of electrons
- Potential difference causes the flow
- Ohm's Law: $V = IR$
- Resistance depends on length, area, material
- Series: R adds up; Parallel: $1/R$ adds up
- Heating effect used in daily devices
- Electric power = energy/time; unit = watt, kWh