

- 8 An engineer designs a resistor made from a thin layer of graphite mounted on an insulating base. Fig. 8.1 shows the arrangement.

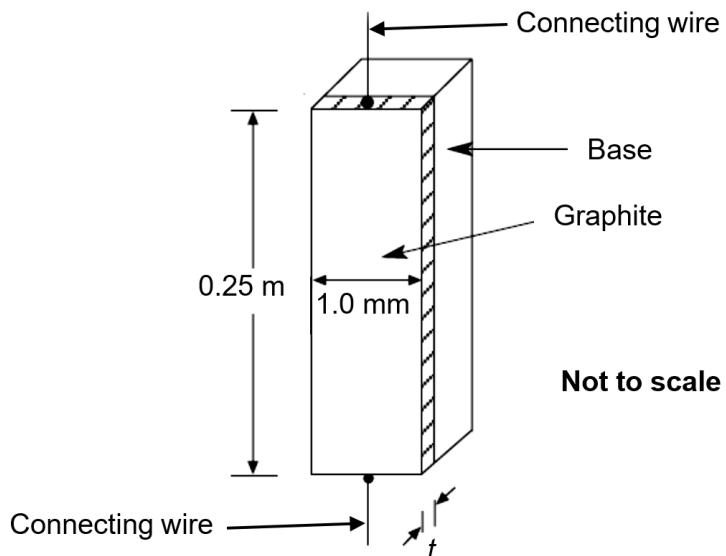


Fig. 8.1

- (a) The graphite layer has a length of 0.25 m, a width of 1.0 mm, and a resistance of 1.2 k Ω . The resistivity of graphite is $15.0 \times 10^{-5} \Omega \text{ m}$. The number density of electrons in graphite is $2.2 \times 10^{28} \text{ m}^{-3}$.
- (i) Calculate the thickness t of the graphite layer.

$$t = \dots \text{ m} [2]$$

- (ii) A potential difference of 9.0 V is applied to the connecting wires. Determine the drift velocity of the electrons in the graphite.

$$\text{drift velocity} = \dots \text{m s}^{-1} [3]$$

- (b) The engineer has also some connecting wires and a cell. The cell has negligible internal resistance. He wants to connect a circuit to provide a potential difference which is dependent on illumination.

- (i) State another electrical component that he needs to complete the circuit.

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[1]

- (ii) With the electrical component in (b)(i) and the newly designed resistor, draw a circuit diagram to show how this circuit should be connected.

Your diagram should show clearly the cell and the potential difference output.

[2]

- (iii) Explain how your circuit in (b)(ii) provides a varying potential difference which is dependent on illumination.

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- (c) Two of these newly designed resistors are connected in a circuit with 2 cells and an ammeter. The electromotive force e.m.f. of the cells are 5.0 V and 12.0 V as shown in Fig 8.2. The cells have negligible internal resistance, and the ammeter is considered ideal.

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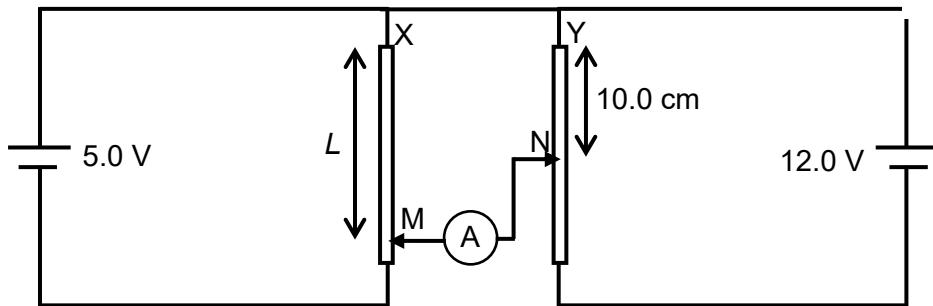


Fig. 8.2

The reading of the ammeter is zero.

- (i) Distinguish between electromotive force and potential difference.

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- (ii) Explain how the potential difference across XM is compared to YN such that the ammeter reading is zero.

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- (iii) Determine the length L .
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$$L = \dots \text{ m} [2]$$

- (iv) Explain how length L should be changed such that the ammeter continues to reads zero current, if the 12.0 V cell has internal resistance, but not the 5.0 V cell.

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