

ELECTRICITY 2

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Electric Current

SECTION 1

Current and Current Density

Electric charge in motion constitutes an electric current. In the steady flow of charge in a wire of cross-sectional area A , the total charge passing through this area in unit time is defined to be the electric current I at this place. If a total charge q flows through this area in time t , the current I is given by:

$$I = \frac{q}{t}. \quad (1.1)$$

where I is measured in Ampere. Sometimes it is also convenient to look at the density of the current we're observing over a certain area A called *current density*

$$J = \frac{I}{A}. \quad (1.2)$$

If the area in which the current is running through changes at points 1 and 2, the current between those 2 points remain constant ($I_1 = I_2$) while the current density changes to become

$$\frac{J_1}{J_2} = \frac{A_2}{A_1}.$$

If a positively charged cloud of n particles moves through a space with speed v and charge q , we find that¹

$$\vec{J} = nq\vec{v} = \rho_r\vec{v}. \quad (1.3)$$

The total current through a *slice* of space mentioned prior it calculated using

$$I = \iint_A \vec{J} \cdot d\vec{A}. \quad (1.4)$$

The volume element here is $\vec{v} dA dt = d\tau$

¹ q can be positive or negative

SECTION 2

Continuity Law

The continuity law for current is

$$\nabla \cdot (\vec{J} + \vec{J}_c) = -\frac{\partial \rho_r}{\partial t}. \quad (2.1)$$

Where

\vec{J} is the conduction current density.

$\vec{J}_c = \rho_\tau \vec{v}_\tau$ is the convection current density.

\vec{v}_τ is the velocity of the volume containing the particles.

There are 2 particular cases for the equation above

1. The volume is not moving ($\vec{v}_\tau = 0 \implies \vec{J}_c = 0$). The continuity law of static structures is

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{J} = -\frac{\partial \rho_\tau}{\partial t}. \quad (2.2)$$

2. The volume is not moving and we are in a steady state, so the charge density of the particles doesn't change much as they are static so $\partial \rho_\tau / \partial t = 0$ so

$$\oiint \vec{J} \, dA = 0. \quad (2.3)$$

Ohm's and Joule's Law

PART II

SECTION 3

Electrical Mobility and Conductivity

The velocity of a charge carrier in an electric field \vec{E} is

$$\vec{v} = \mu \vec{E}. \quad (3.1)$$

where μ is the mobility of the charge carrier.

The current density vector in a conductor with conductivity σ is said to be

$$\vec{J} = \sigma \vec{E}. \quad (3.2)$$

Ohm's law (doesn't really need an introduction)

$$U = RI. \quad (3.3)$$

where we can find R using

$$R = \frac{\rho l}{A}. \quad (3.4)$$

where A is the surface area of the resistor and l is the length of the conductor².

$$^2 \sigma = \frac{1}{\rho}$$

SECTION 4

Resistance

The symbol of a resistive conductor is represented by



$$P = UI \quad (4.1)$$

$$W = Pt \quad (4.2)$$

Power loss due to Joule's law

$$P = I^2 R = \frac{U^2}{R} \quad (4.3)$$

$$W = I^2 R t \quad (4.4)$$

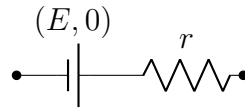
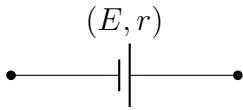
SECTION 5

Electric Circuits

SUBSECTION 5.1

Power Sources/Generators

A DC source is characterized by their electromotive force E and internal resistance r



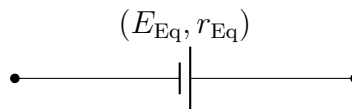
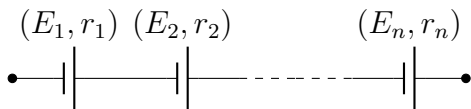
The voltage supplied by the source is

$$V_{\text{source}} = E - rI.$$

and it's efficiency is

$$\eta = 1 - \frac{rI}{E}.$$

5.1.1 In Series

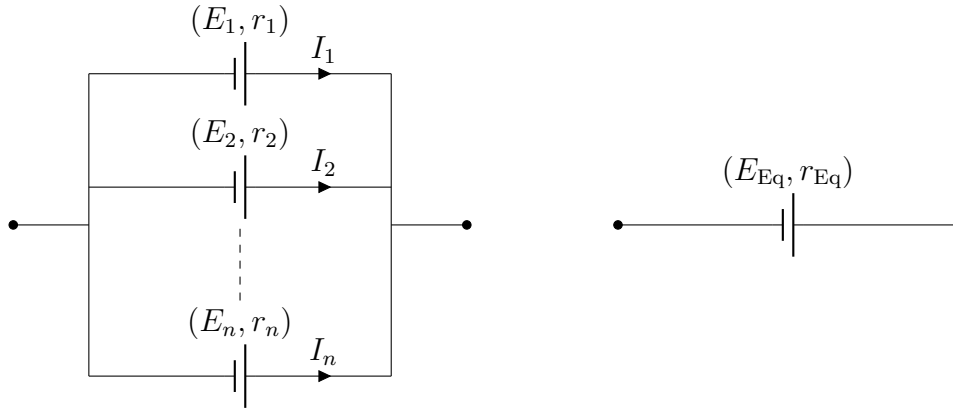


where

$$E_{\text{Eq}} = \sum_{i=1}^n E_i$$

$$r_{\text{Eq}} = \sum_{i=1}^n r_i$$

5.1.2 In Parallel



In case of *identical* sources:

$$I = \sum_{i=1}^n I_i$$

$$\frac{1}{r_{\text{Eq}}} = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{r_i}$$

and

$$V_{\text{source}} = E - r_{\text{Eq}} I.$$

SUBSECTION 5.2

Loads

An electrical load is an electrical component or portion of a circuit that consumes electric power. Electric loads are represented by a counter electromotive force e and internal resistance r' (with the exception of resistors)

All formulas for generators are the same as loads with the exception of the efficiency

$$\eta = 1 - \frac{r' I}{U}.$$