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# Kirchoff's laws

**Objective:** Understand Kirchoff's laws as well as use it calculate unknown parameters in circuits.

# Background

• The essence of **kirchoff's laws** is due to the fact that calculation across *multi loop* and *multi source* circuits are limited by **Ohm's law**.

## **Kirchoff Current Law**

### **Terms**

• Junction is a point in electric circuit where at least three electrical nodes are connected.

# **Sign Convention**

- · Outgoing current are taken as negative.
- Incoming current are taken as positive.

#### Statement

• **Kirchoff's Current law** states that *algebraic* sum of **incoming** and **outgoing** current in a junction is **0**.

$$\sum I = 0$$

· Kirchoff's Current Law is based on *principle* of conservation of charge.

# Kirchoff's Voltage Law

### **Sign Convention**

#### Resistor:

- The **algebraic** sign of voltage in a circuit resistor is **positive** if the direction of **observer** and current is opposite.
- The **algebraic** sign of voltage in a circuit resistor is **negative** if the direction of **observer** and current is same.
- This convention is chosen as current flows from positive to negative direction.

### Source:

- The **algebraic** sign of voltage in a circuit source is **positive** if the direction of **observer** and current is same.
- The **algebraic** sign of current in a circuit source is **negative** if the direction of **observer** and current is opposite.
- This convention is chosen as **current** flows from **high potential** to low potential direction.

### Kirchoff's Voltage Law

• **Kirchoff's** Voltage Law states that the **algebraic** sum of change in *potential* around a circuit is **0**.

$$\sum \triangle V = 0$$

- Potential includes the terminal p.d. and emf of source.
- · Kirchoff's Voltage Law is base on the principle of conservation of energy.

# **Wheatstone Bridge**

**Objective:** Describe the circuit diagram and working of wheatstone bridge circuit and undersatnd it's importance in real situation.

### **Principle**

• The principle of **wheatstone bridge circuit** states that, the product of resistances in opposite arms is equal in a circuit arranged in the form of a **quadilateral** when *current* flowing in between **the diagonal** of circuit is **0**.

# **Application**

- Wheatsone bridge circuit can be used to find the **unknown** electrical resistance in a circuit if other 3 resistances arranged in the quadilateral are known.
- If R, P, Q, X are the resistances arranged serially in a circuit then,

$$PX = RQ$$

$$X = \frac{Q}{P}R$$

### Construction

- A circuit is arranged in the form of a **quadilateral** ABCD.
- A **source** is present between A and C .
- A **galvanometer** is present between B and D.
- Two resistances of **known** parameter are placed between A and B and between B and C.
- A resistance box or a **variable** resistor is placed between A and D.
- The **unknown** resistance to be calculated is placed between D and C.

# **Description**

- The wheatstone bridge is said to be **balanced** when current through B and D is  $\mathbf{0}$ .
- This is **shown** by **null** *deflection* of the galvanometer.
- The **null deflection** is achieved by *adjusting* the value of **resistance** of the **variable** resistor.

# **Meter Bridge**

Objective: Describe meter bridge and understand it.

### **Definition**

- Meter bridge is a simple circuit used to measure and compare resistances and hence resistivity.
- It is described as an application of wheatstone bridge.

### **Principle**

• Meter bridge is based on the principle of wheatstone bridge.

### Construction

- Circuit elements of **meter bridge** are:
  - 1. A **wire** having *length* of 100cm as AC.
  - 2. Two *L shaped* brass plates between *A* and *B* and between *B* and *C*.
  - 3. After each **brass** plate there is a **gap** to a reach at point B.
  - 4. A **resistance box** R is placed between gap B and C .
  - 5. A **unknown resistor** X is placed between gap A and B .
  - 6. A **galvanometer** is connected at point *B* with it's one **terminal** connected to a **jockey**.

# Working

# Operation

- A **resistance** R is setup across B and C by the *resistance box*.
- The jockey is slide over the **wire** AC to **null point** by **null deflection** of *galvanometer*. at point D.

#### Calculation

#### Variables:

- Length of segment AD = l
- Resistance of segment AD =  $\rho \frac{l}{A}$
- Length of segment DC = 100 l
- Resistance of segment DC =  $\rho \frac{100-l}{A}$

According to the principle of Wheatstone bridge,

$$X\rho \frac{100 - l}{A} = R\rho \frac{l}{A}$$

$$X = \frac{l}{100 - l}R$$

• If L is the length of resistor X and A is the cross section area, **resistivity** can be *calculated* by:

$$\rho = X \frac{A}{L}$$

• Comparison of **resistances** of *resistors* can be done by replacing R with an unknown resistance  $X_2$  and considering another *unknown* resistance between A and B as  $X_2$ .

$$\frac{l}{100-l} = \frac{X_1}{X_2}$$

### **Potentiometer**

Objective: Know construction, working and importance of potentiometer

### **Definition**

• Potentiometer is a *circuit* that is used to determine **emf** or **terminal p.d.**.

# **Principle**

- Potentiometer is based on the principle of *uniform* decrease in p.d. across a length.
- In a **steady** current the **potential difference** across a *portion* of wire is directly proportional to it's **length**.

$$V\alpha l$$

$$V = IR$$

$$R=\rho\frac{l}{A}$$

$$V = \frac{I\rho}{A}l$$

• If steady current I flows in a wire of uniform **length** l ,

$$V = kl$$

 $\cdot$  k is termed as **potential gradient** or **constant of potentiometer**.

# Construction

- The **circuit elements** of a *potentiometer* circuit are:
  - 1. A **driver's source**  $E_{DV}$  to provide *steady current* known as an *accumulator*.
  - 2. A rheostat to maintain current across the circuit.

# Calculation of internal resistance of cell.

### Setup

- The **circuit elements** of the setup *apparatus* are:
  - 1. A **driver's source** whose *positive terminal* is attached at a point A.

- 2. A cell of emf E whose positive terminal is attached to a point A with **internal** resistance r.
- 3. A resistance box of **resistance** R connected in parallel with the cell of *emf* E
- 4. A switch  $k_1$  in series with *resistance box*.
- 5. A **galvanometer** connected to the *negative* terminal of the *cell* whose one end is equipped with a **jockey**.

### Operation

# Keeping $k_1$ open:

- The **jockey** is slided over the wire AB to obtain null point C .
- The length AC is  $l_1$ .

# Keeping $k_1$ closed:

- The **jockey** is slide over the wire AB to obtain null point at D.
- The length AD is  $l_2$ .

### Calculation

$$V_{AC} = E$$

$$E = kl_1$$

$$V_{AD} = V$$

$$V = kl_2$$

Further.

$$I = \frac{E}{r}$$
 
$$V = I \frac{Rr}{R+r}$$
 
$$V = \frac{ERr}{r(R+r)}$$
 
$$R+r = \frac{ER}{V}$$
 
$$r = (\frac{E}{V}-1)R$$

• The **internal resistance** of the cell is give by:

$$r = (\frac{l_1}{l_2} - 1)R$$

# Comparison of e.m.f. of two cells.

# Setup

- The **circuit elements** of the setup *apparatus* are:
  - 1. A **driver's source** whose *positive terminal* is attached at a point *A*.
  - 2. A cell of emf  $E_1$  whose *positive* terminal is attached to a point A.
  - 3. A cell of emf  $E_2$  connected in parallel with the cell of emf  $E_1$
  - 4. A switch  $k_1$  in series with the cell e.m.f  $E_1$ .
  - 5. A switch  $k_2$  in series with the cell of e.m.f.  $E_2$ .
  - 6. A **galvanometer** connected to the *negative* terminal of the *cell* whose one end is equipped with a **jockey**.

### **Operation**

### Keeping $k_1$ open and $k_2$ closed:

- The **jockey** is slided over the wire AB to obtain null point C.
- The length AC is  $l_1$ .

### Keeping $k_1$ closed and $k_2$ open:

- The **jockey** is slide over the wire AB to obtain null point at D .
- The length AD is  $l_2$  .

#### Cases:

- $E_1 > E_2 \implies l_1 > l_2$
- $E_1 < E_2 \implies l_1 < l_2$

### Calculation

$$E_{AC} = kl_1$$
$$E_{AD} = kl_2$$

• Dividing the **equations**, the relation of comparison is:

$$\frac{E_{AC}}{E_{AD}} = \frac{l_1}{l_2}$$

### **Conductors**

### Objective:

- 1. Understand the concept of super conductors.
- 2. Know the meaning of perfect conductors and distinguish it from super conductors.

# **Super Conductors**

- **Superconductors** are elements, alloys or materials that conduct electricity with zero resistance in below a certain *temperature* .
- **Superconductors** can sustain *electrons* across the circuit without needing any **emf** after setting up the electrons initially .

### **Mechanism of superconductivity**

- Superconductivity occurs by the principle of phonon mediated cooper pairs.
- **Two** electrons pair to *mutually* traverse the lattice, against the *electrostatic* repulsion.
- **Electrons** are bounded together by binding energy from *net attractive* force which is in the *order* of **millivolts**.

### Critical Temperature in Super Conductors $T_C$

• **Critical temperature** is a particular value of *temperature* below which the *material* exhibits **superconducting** property.

### Types of super conductors

- **Type I** superconductors are those that exhibit superconducting property by:
  - Formation of Cooper Pairs .
  - Shifting to **normal** conducting phase by **destruction** of superconducting phase after application of **magnetic field** larger than *critical magnetic field*.
  - Consist of single **elements** only.
  - Mercury, Lead are examples of these conductors.
- **Type II** superconductors are those that exhibit superconducting property by:
  - Consists of materials commonly alloys.
  - Common **materials** include 3 *oxygen* atoms for each two *metal* atoms.
  - Can carry **small** amounts of current and behave as super conductors even when there is application of **magnetic field** exceeding critical magnetic field.

### **Perfect conductors**

- Perfect conductors are those that have infinite conductivity or zero resistivity.
- **Perfect conductors** can maintain current in a circuit without requiring sustaining **source** in the circuit.
- The **magnetic field** applied in such conductor has no effect in changing the ability of the **conductor** to conduct *electricity* .

### Distinction between perfect conductors and superconductors

- Superconductors are a victim to quantization of magnetic flux and Meissner effect .
- There is no **magnetic field** inside superconductors while perfect do.
- Superconductors are practical whilst **perfect conductors** are hypothetical and ideal description.

### Galvanometer

**Objective**: Learn the technique to convert galvanometer into voltmeter and ammeter.

### Galvanometer

- **Galvanometer** is sensitive instrument that *detects* feeble currents in a circuit.
- Galvanometer has low resistance.
- It is equipped with a **pointer** to show deflection on flow of **current** .

### Voltmeter

- · Voltmeter is an electrical instrument that measures potential difference in a circuit.
- **Voltmeter** has very high resistance.

# Multiplier

- **Multiplier** is a component of electrical circuit that has **large** resistance.
- **Multiplier** is used to decrease current in a circuit by **decreasing** resistance.

#### **Ammeter**

- Ammeter is an electrical instrument that measures current in an electrical circuit.
- Ammeter has very *low* resistance.

### **Shunt**

- **Shunt** is a component of electrical circuit that has very low *resistance* .
- **Shunt** is used to increase current in **electric** circuits by increasing **resistance**.

# Conversion of galvanometer to voltmeter

• A **galvanometer** is converted into a voltmeter by adding *multiplier* in **series** in the circuit.

### **Structure of Circuit**

- The *electrical* components in the circuit are:
  - 1. A galvanometer having **resistance** G .
  - 2. A **multiplier** having **resistance** R .

### Calculation

ullet The same **current**  $I_g$  flows through galvanometer and **multiplier** 

$$V = V_R + V_g$$

$$V = I_g R + I_g G$$

$$I_g R = V - I_g G$$

$$R = \frac{V}{I_g} - G$$

• Evaluation of the **total** resistance in the circuit to give **resistance** of new voltmeter yields:

$$R_{total} = R + G$$

# Conversion of galvanometer to ammeter

• A **Galvanometer** is converted into a ammeter by adding shunt in parallel with the **galvanometer** in the circuit.

#### Structure of circuit

- The **electrical** components in the circuit are:
  - 1. A galvanometer of resistance G.
  - 2. A **shunt** connected parallel with the galvanometer of resistance S.

#### Calculation

• The p.d. across both the galvanometer and shunt is same.

$$V_g = V_s$$

$$I_g G = (I - I_g) S$$

$$S = \frac{I_g G}{I - I_g}$$

• Effective resistance of the shunt and galvanometer to give **resistance** of *new* ammeter is:

$$R_{total} = \frac{SG}{S+G}$$