

Chapter 27

Current
And
Resistance





Electric Current

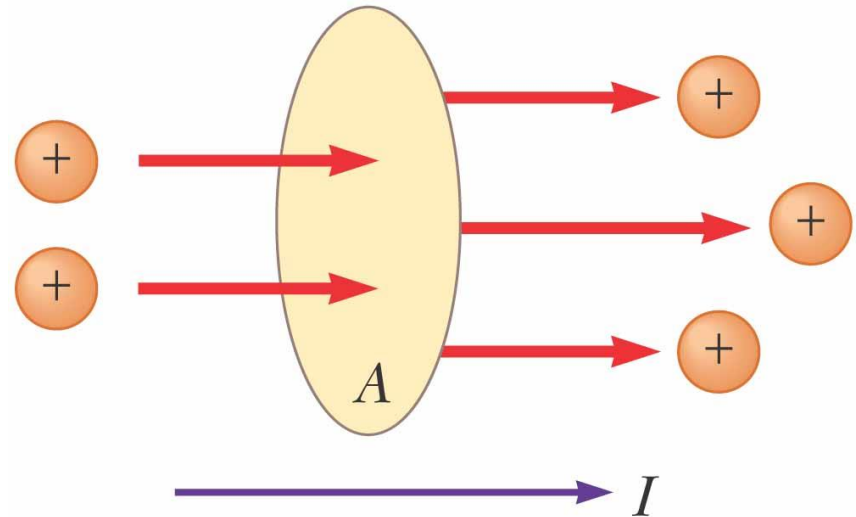
- **Electric current** is the rate of flow of charge through some region of space
- The SI unit of current is the **ampere** (A)
 - $1 \text{ A} = 1 \text{ C} / \text{s}$
- The symbol for electric current is I



Average Electric Current

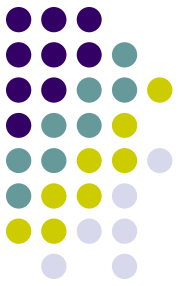
- Assume charges are moving perpendicular to a surface of area A
- If $\otimes Q$ is the amount of charge that passes through A in time $\otimes t$, then the average current is

$$I_{avg} = \frac{\Delta Q}{\Delta t}$$



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Instantaneous Electric Current



- If the rate at which the charge flows varies with time, the instantaneous current, I , can be found

$$I \equiv \frac{dQ}{dt}$$



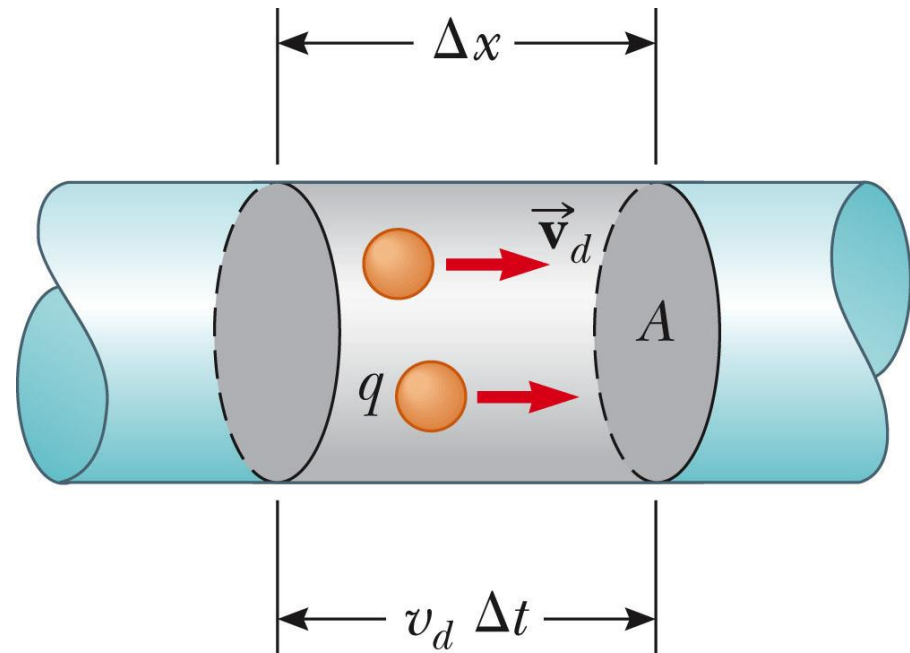
Direction of Current

- The charges passing through the area could be positive or negative or both
- It is conventional to assign to the current the same direction as the flow of positive charges
- The direction of current flow is opposite the direction of the flow of electrons
- It is common to refer to any moving charge as a *charge carrier*



Current and Drift Speed

- Charged particles move through a conductor of cross-sectional area A
- n is the number of charge carriers per unit volume
- $nA\Delta x$ is the total number of charge carriers





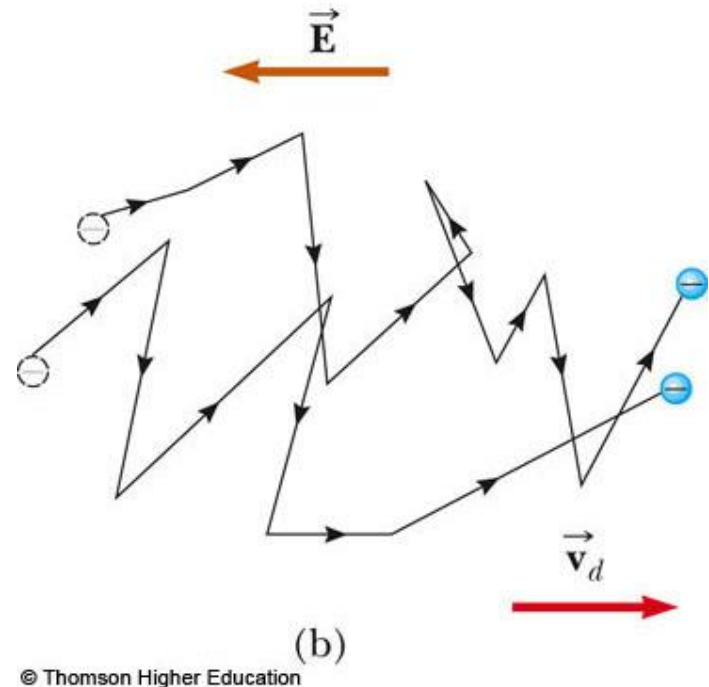
Current and Drift Speed, cont

- The total charge is the number of carriers times the charge per carrier, q
 - $\Delta Q = (nA\Delta x)q$
- The drift speed, v_d , is the speed at which the carriers move
 - $v_d = \Delta x / \Delta t$ and $\Delta x = v_d \Delta t$
- Rewritten: $\Delta Q = (nAv_d \Delta t)q$
- Finally, current, $I_{\text{ave}} = \Delta Q / \Delta t = nqv_d A$

Charge Carrier Motion in a Conductor



- The zigzag black lines represents the motion of a charge carrier in a conductor
 - The net drift speed is small
- The sharp changes in direction are due to collisions
- The net motion of electrons is opposite the direction of the electric field
- Use the active figure to change the field and observe the effect



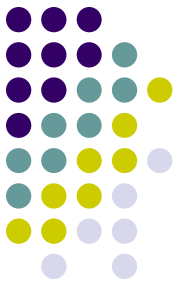
**PLAY
ACTIVE FIGURE**

Motion of Charge Carriers, cont.



- In the presence of an electric field, in spite of all the collisions, the charge carriers slowly move along the conductor with a drift velocity, \vec{V}_d
- The electric field exerts forces on the conduction electrons in the wire
- These forces cause the electrons to move in the wire and create a current

Motion of Charge Carriers, final



- The electrons are already in the wire
- They respond to the electric field set up by the battery
- The battery does not supply the electrons, it only establishes the electric field



Drift Velocity, Example

- Assume a copper wire, with one free electron per atom contributed to the current
- The drift velocity for a 12-gauge copper wire carrying a current of 10.0 A is
 $2.23 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m/s}$
 - This is a typical order of magnitude for drift velocities



Current Density

- \mathbf{J} is the **current density** of a conductor
- It is defined as the current per unit area
 - $\mathbf{J} = I / A = nq\mathbf{v}_d$
 - This expression is valid only if the current density is uniform and A is perpendicular to the direction of the current
- \mathbf{J} has SI units of A/m^2
- The current density is in the direction of the positive charge carriers

Conductivity



- A current density and an electric field are established in a conductor whenever a potential difference is maintained across the conductor
- For some materials, the current density is directly proportional to the field
- The constant of proportionality, σ , is called the **conductivity** of the conductor



Ohm's Law

- **Ohm's law** states that for many materials, the ratio of the current density to the electric field is a constant σ that is independent of the electric field producing the current
 - Most metals obey Ohm's law
 - Mathematically, $J = \sigma E$
 - Materials that obey Ohm's law are said to be *ohmic*



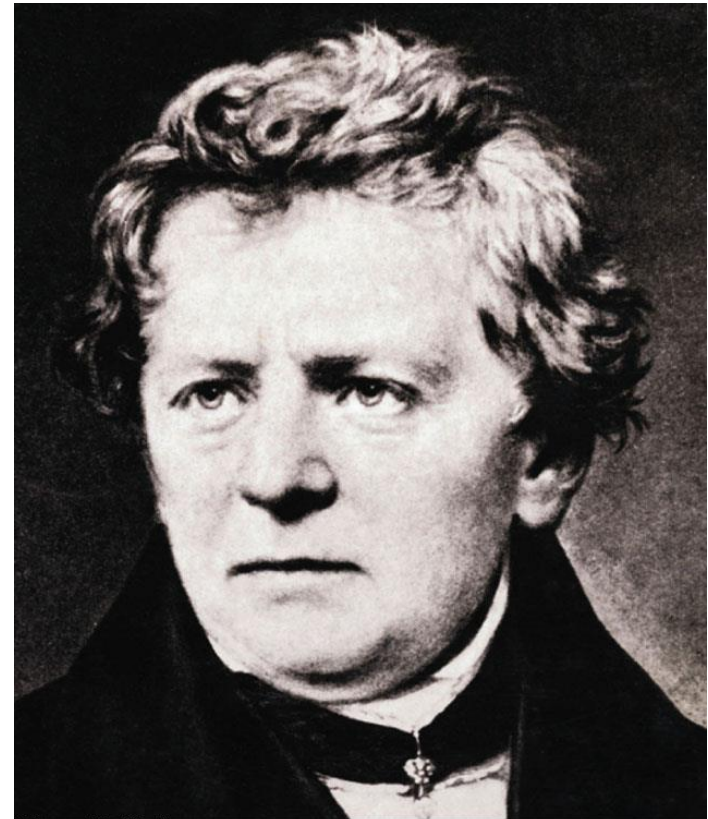
Ohm's Law, cont.

- Not all materials follow Ohm's law
 - Materials that do not obey Ohm's law are said to be *nonohmic*
- Ohm's law is not a fundamental law of nature
- Ohm's law is an empirical relationship valid only for certain materials

Georg Simon Ohm



- 1789 -1854
- German physicist
- Formulated idea of resistance
- Discovered the proportionalities now known as forms of Ohm's Law



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Resistance

- In a conductor, the voltage applied across the ends of the conductor is proportional to the current through the conductor
- The constant of proportionality is called the **resistance** of the conductor

$$R \equiv \frac{\Delta V}{I}$$



Resistance, cont.

- SI units of resistance are *ohms* (Ω)
 - $1 \Omega = 1 \text{ V} / \text{A}$
- Resistance in a circuit arises due to collisions between the electrons carrying the current with the fixed atoms inside the conductor

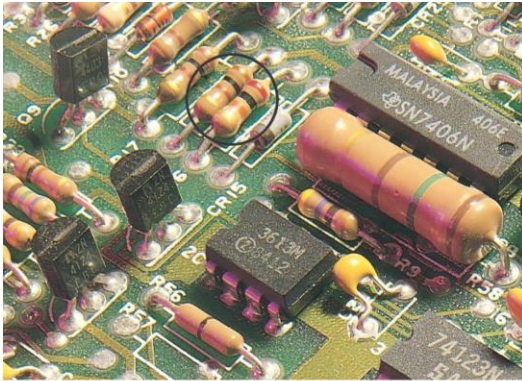


Resistivity

- The inverse of the conductivity is the **resistivity**:
 - $\rho = 1 / \sigma$
- Resistivity has SI units of ohm-meters ($\Omega \cdot \text{m}$)
- Resistance is also related to resistivity:

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

Resistor Values



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- Values of resistors are commonly marked by colored bands

TABLE 27.1

Color Coding for Resistors

Color	Number	Multiplier	Tolerance
Black	0	1	
Brown	1	10^1	
Red	2	10^2	
Orange	3	10^3	
Yellow	4	10^4	
Green	5	10^5	
Blue	6	10^6	
Violet	7	10^7	
Gray	8	10^8	
White	9	10^9	
Gold		10^{-1}	5%
Silver		10^{-2}	10%
Colorless			20%

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Resistivity Values



TABLE 27.2

Resistivities and Temperature Coefficients of Resistivity for Various Materials

Material	Resistivity ^a ($\Omega \cdot \text{m}$)	Temperature Coefficient ^b $\alpha[(^{\circ}\text{C})^{-1}]$
Silver	1.59×10^{-8}	3.8×10^{-3}
Copper	1.7×10^{-8}	3.9×10^{-3}
Gold	2.44×10^{-8}	3.4×10^{-3}
Aluminum	2.82×10^{-8}	3.9×10^{-3}
Tungsten	5.6×10^{-8}	4.5×10^{-3}
Iron	10×10^{-8}	5.0×10^{-3}
Platinum	11×10^{-8}	3.92×10^{-3}
Lead	22×10^{-8}	3.9×10^{-3}
Nichrome ^c	1.50×10^{-6}	0.4×10^{-3}
Carbon	3.5×10^{-5}	-0.5×10^{-3}
Germanium	0.46	-48×10^{-3}
Silicon ^d	2.3×10^3	-75×10^{-3}
Glass	10^{10} to 10^{14}	
Hard rubber	$\sim 10^{13}$	
Sulfur	10^{15}	
Quartz (fused)	75×10^{16}	

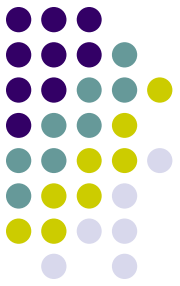
^a All values at 20°C. All elements in this table are assumed to be free of impurities.

^b See Section 27.4.

^c A nickel–chromium alloy commonly used in heating elements.

^d The resistivity of silicon is very sensitive to purity. The value can be changed by several orders of magnitude when it is doped with other atoms.

Resistance and Resistivity, Summary

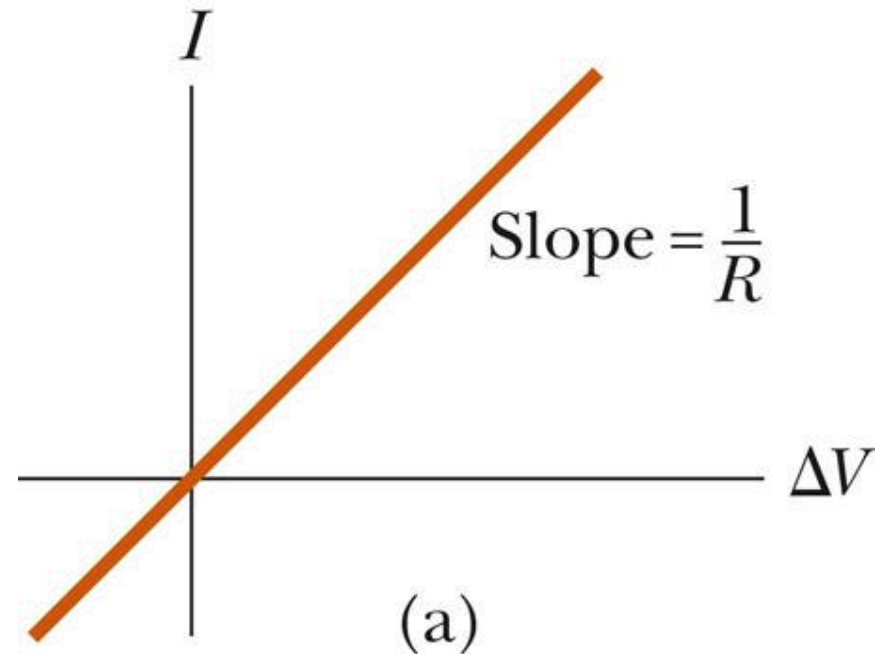


- Every ohmic material has a characteristic resistivity that depends on the properties of the material and on temperature
 - Resistivity is a property of substances
- The resistance of a material depends on its geometry and its resistivity
 - Resistance is a property of an object
- An ideal conductor would have zero resistivity
- An ideal insulator would have infinite resistivity



Ohmic Material, Graph

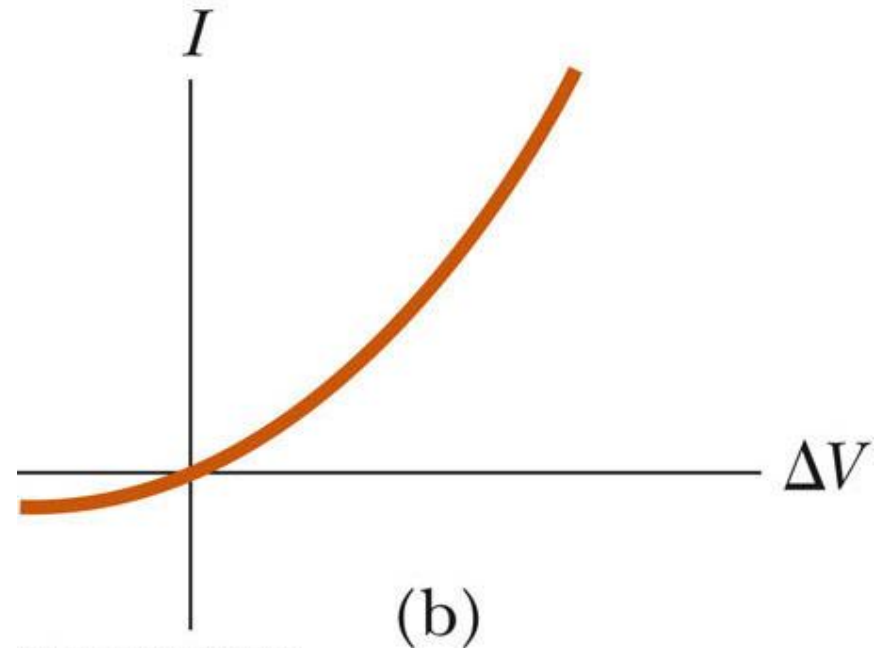
- An ohmic device
- The resistance is constant over a wide range of voltages
- The relationship between current and voltage is linear
- The slope is related to the resistance





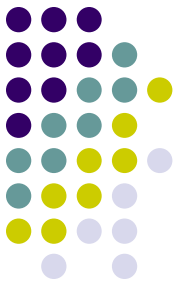
Nonohmic Material, Graph

- Nonohmic materials are those whose resistance changes with voltage or current
- The current-voltage relationship is nonlinear
- A junction diode is a common example of a nonohmic device



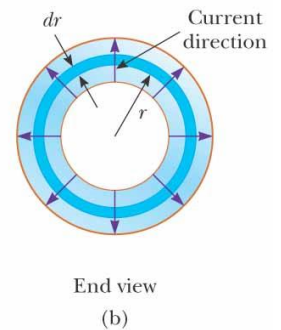
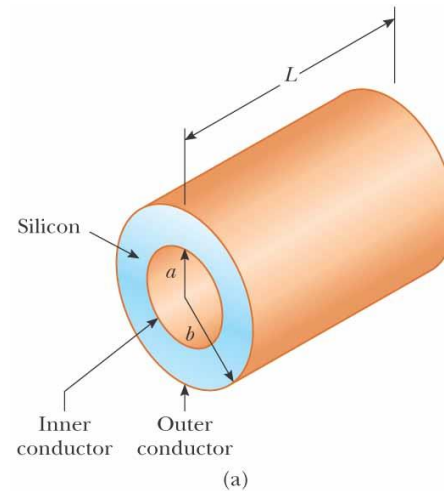
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Resistance of a Cable, Example



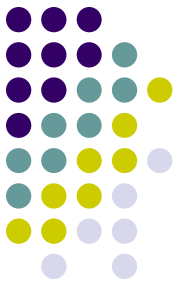
- Assume the silicon between the conductors to be concentric elements of thickness dr
- The resistance of the hollow cylinder of silicon is

$$dR = \frac{\rho}{2\pi r L} dr$$



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Resistance of a Cable, Example, cont.



- The total resistance across the entire thickness is

$$R = \int_a^b dR = \frac{\rho}{2\pi L} \ln\left(\frac{b}{a}\right)$$

- This is the radial resistance of the cable
- This is fairly high, which is desirable since you want the current to flow along the cable and not radially out of it

Electrical Conduction – A Model



- Treat a conductor as a regular array of atoms plus a collection of free electrons
 - The free electrons are often called conduction electrons
 - These electrons become free when the atoms are bound in the solid
- In the absence of an electric field, the motion of the conduction electrons is random
 - Their speed is on the order of 10^6 m/s



Conduction Model, 2

- When an electric field is applied, the conduction electrons are given a drift velocity
- Assumptions
 - The electron's motion after a collision is independent of its motion before the collision
 - The excess energy acquired by the electrons in the electric field is lost to the atoms of the conductor when the electrons and atoms collide
 - This causes the temperature of the conductor to increase



Conduction Model, 3

- The force experienced by an electron is

$$\vec{F} = q\vec{E}$$

- From Newton's Second Law, the acceleration is

$$\vec{a} = \frac{\sum \vec{F}}{m} = \frac{q\vec{E}}{m_e}$$

- Applying a motion equation

$$\vec{v}_f = \vec{v}_i + \vec{a}t \text{ or } \vec{v}_f = \vec{v}_i + \frac{q\vec{E}}{m_e}t$$

- Since the initial velocities are random, their average value is zero



Conduction Model, 4

- Let τ be the average time interval between successive collisions
- The average value of the final velocity is the drift velocity

$$\vec{\mathbf{v}}_{f,avg} = \vec{\mathbf{v}}_d = \frac{q\vec{\mathbf{E}}}{m_e} \tau$$

- This is also related to the current density:
 $J = nqv_d = (nq^2E / m_e) \tau$
 - n is the number of charge carriers per unit volume



Conduction Model, final

- Using Ohm's Law, expressions for the conductivity and resistivity of a conductor can be found:

$$\sigma = \frac{nq^2\tau}{m_e} \quad \rho = \frac{1}{\sigma} = \frac{m_e}{nq^2\tau}$$

- Note, the conductivity and the resistivity do not depend on the strength of the field
 - This feature is characteristic of a conductor obeying Ohm's Law



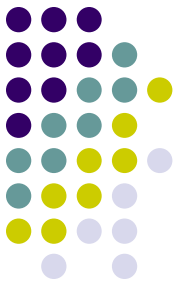
Resistance and Temperature

- Over a limited temperature range, the resistivity of a conductor varies approximately linearly with the temperature

$$\rho = \rho_o[1 + \alpha(T - T_o)]$$

- ρ_o is the resistivity at some reference temperature T_o
 - T_o is usually taken to be 20° C
 - α is the **temperature coefficient of resistivity**
 - SI units of α are °C⁻¹

Temperature Variation of Resistance

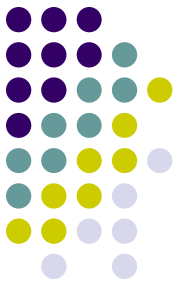


- Since the resistance of a conductor with uniform cross sectional area is proportional to the resistivity, you can find the effect of temperature on resistance

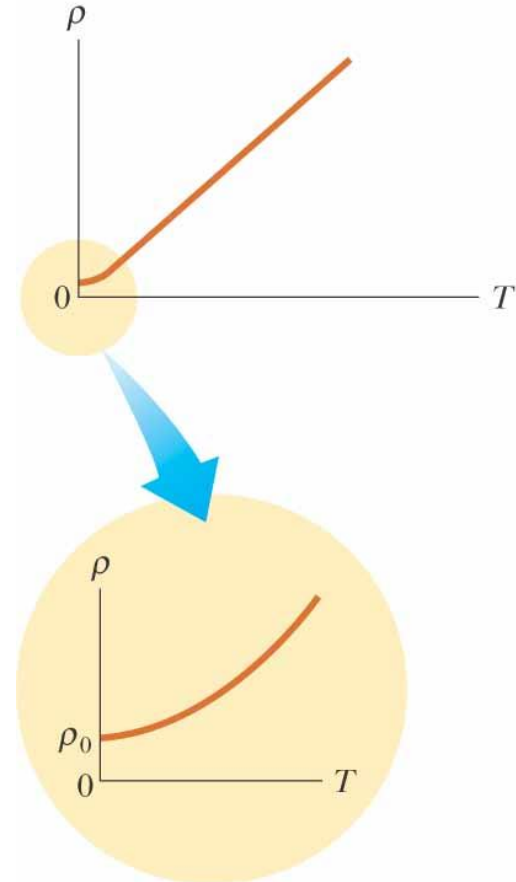
$$R = R_0[1 + \alpha(T - T_0)]$$

- Use of this property enables precise temperature measurements through careful monitoring of the resistance of a probe made from a particular material

Resistivity and Temperature, Graphical View



- For some metals, the resistivity is nearly proportional to the temperature
- A nonlinear region always exists at very low temperatures
- The resistivity usually reaches some finite value as the temperature approaches absolute zero





Residual Resistivity

- The residual resistivity near absolute zero is caused primarily by the collisions of electrons with impurities and imperfections in the metal
- High temperature resistivity is predominantly characterized by collisions between the electrons and the metal atoms
 - This is the linear range on the graph



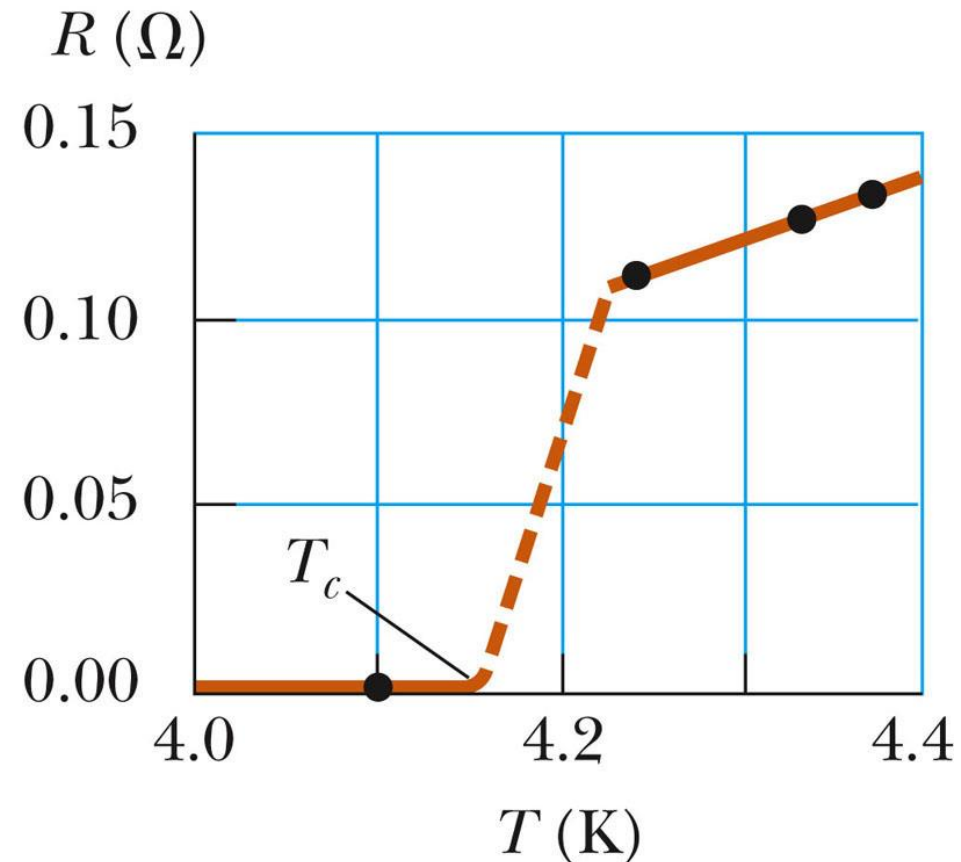
Semiconductors

- Semiconductors are materials that exhibit a decrease in resistivity with an increase in temperature
- α is negative
- There is an increase in the density of charge carriers at higher temperatures

Superconductors



- A class of materials and compounds whose resistances fall to virtually zero below a certain temperature, T_c
 - T_c is called the **critical temperature**
- The graph is the same as a normal metal above T_c , but suddenly drops to zero at T_c





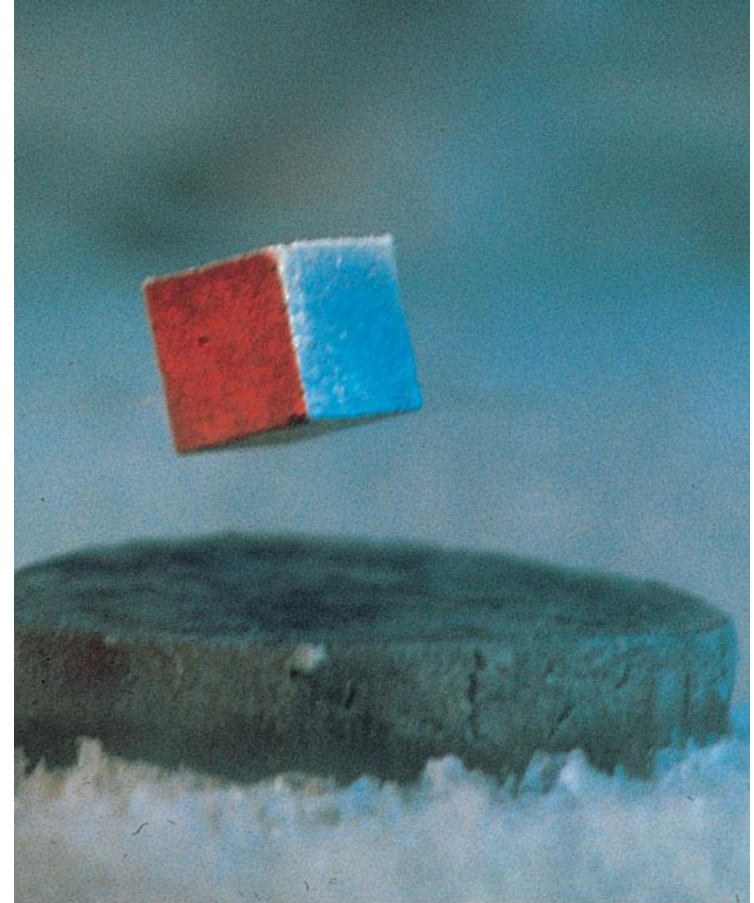
Superconductors, cont

- The value of T_C is sensitive to:
 - chemical composition
 - pressure
 - molecular structure
- Once a current is set up in a superconductor, it persists without any applied voltage
 - Since $R = 0$



Superconductor Application

- An important application of superconductors is a superconducting magnet
- The magnitude of the magnetic field is about 10 times greater than a normal electromagnet
- Used in MRI units

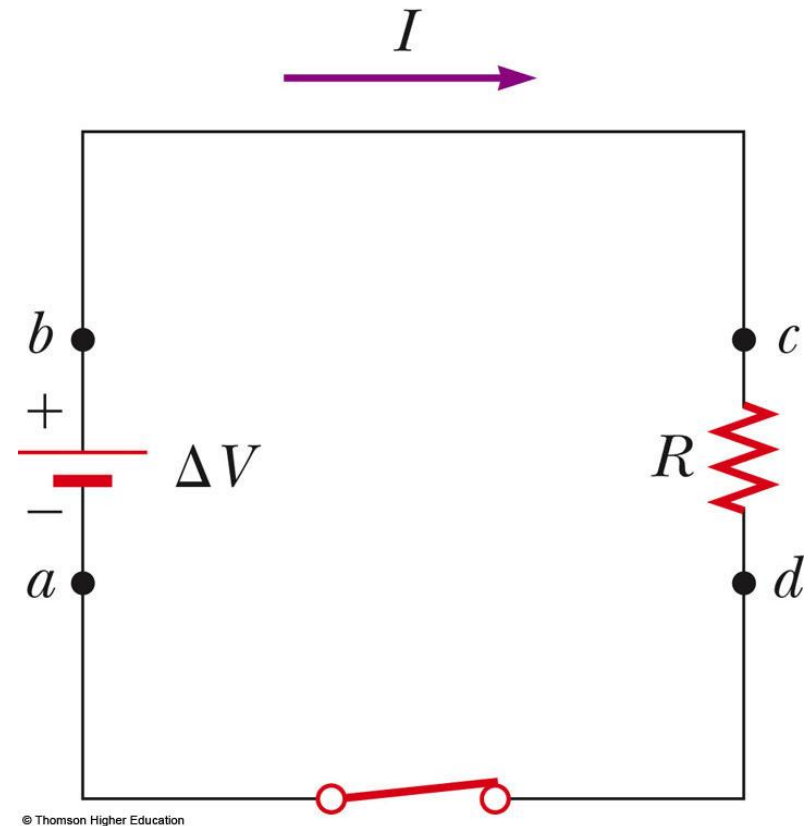


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Electrical Power

- Assume a circuit as shown
- As a charge moves from a to b , the electric potential energy of the system increases by $Q\Delta V$
 - The chemical energy in the battery must decrease by this same amount
 - Use the active figure to adjust the voltage or resistance, observe current and power



PLAY
ACTIVE FIGURE



Electrical Power, 2

- As the charge moves through the resistor (c to d), the system loses this electric potential energy during collisions of the electrons with the atoms of the resistor
- This energy is transformed into internal energy in the resistor
 - Corresponds to increased vibrational motion of the atoms in the resistor



Electric Power, 3

- The resistor is normally in contact with the air, so its increased temperature will result in a transfer of energy by heat into the air
- The resistor also emits thermal radiation
- After some time interval, the resistor reaches a constant temperature
 - The input of energy from the battery is balanced by the output of energy by heat and radiation



Electric Power, 4

- The rate at which the system loses potential energy as the charge passes through the resistor is equal to the rate at which the system gains internal energy in the resistor
- The **power** is the rate at which the energy is delivered to the resistor



Electric Power, final

- The power is given by the equation:

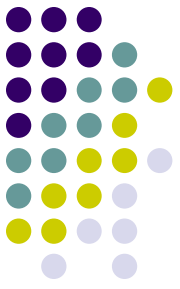
$$\mathcal{P} = I \Delta V$$

- Applying Ohm's Law, alternative expressions can be found:

$$\mathcal{P} = I \Delta V = I^2 R = \frac{(\Delta V)^2}{R}$$

- Units: I is in A, R is in Ω , V is in V, and \mathcal{P} is in W

Some Final Notes About Current

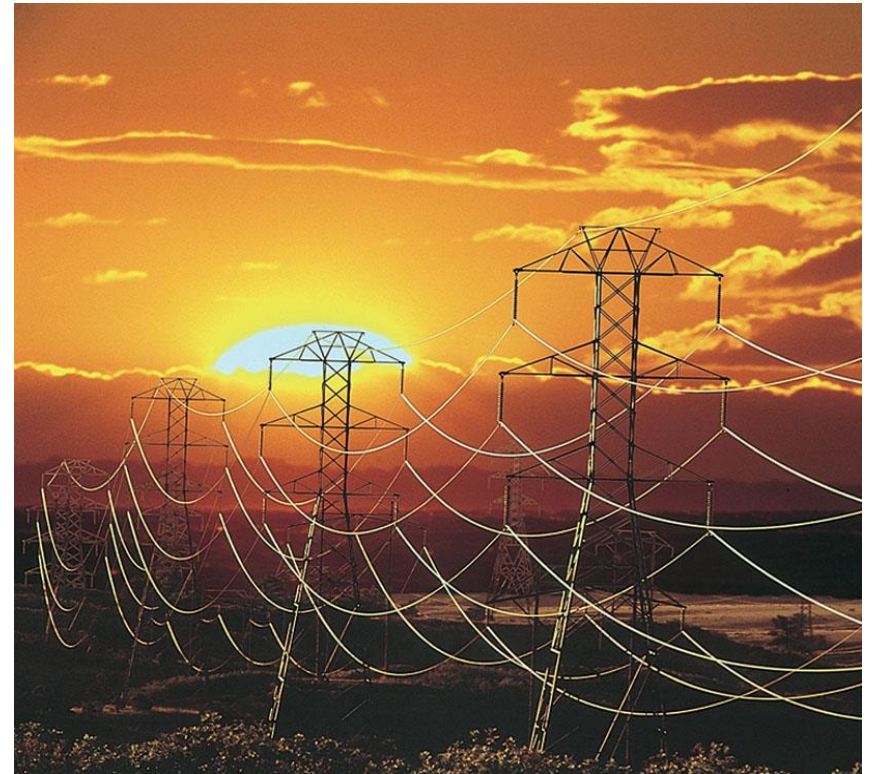


- A single electron is moving at the drift velocity in the circuit
 - It may take hours for an electron to move completely around a circuit
- The current is the same everywhere in the circuit
 - Current is not “used up” anywhere in the circuit
- The charges flow in the same rotational sense at all points in the circuit



Electric Power Transmission

- Real power lines have resistance
- Power companies transmit electricity at high voltages and low currents to minimize power losses



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