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Physics 104 Chapter 27

CHAPTER 27 CURRENT AND RESISTANCE

- 27.1 ELECTRIC CURRENT
- 27.2 RESISTANCE AND OHM'S LAW
- 27.3 **RESISTANCE AND TEMPERATURE**
- 27.6 ELECTRICAL ENERGY AND POWER Lecture No. 10

27-1 Electric Current

Now consider a system of electric charges in motion. Whenever there is a net flow of charge through some region, a current is said to exist.

the charges are moving perpendicular to a surface of area *A*,



The current is the rate at which charge flows through this surface.

average current

instantaneous current

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

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

The SI unit of current is the ampere (A): $1A = \frac{1C}{1s}$

$$\Delta Q = Ne$$
$$I_{av} = \frac{Ne}{\Delta t}$$

That is, **1 A of current is equivalent to 1 C of charge** passing through the surface area in **1 s**.

It is conventional to assign to the current the same direction as the flow of *positive charge*

• the direction of the current is opposite the direction of flow of electrons.

• It is common to refer to a moving charge (positive or negative) as a mobile charge carrier. For example, the mobile charge carriers in a metal are electrons.

Example:

The electric current in a wire is 6 A. How many electrons flow past a given point in a time of 3 s?

$$I_{ave} = \frac{\Delta Q}{\Delta t} = \frac{Ne}{\Delta t}$$



$$N = \frac{I \ \Delta t}{e} = \frac{6 \times 3}{1.6 \times 10^{-19}} = 1.125 \times 10^{20} \, electrons$$

Example :

The quantity of charge q (in coulombs) that has passed through a surface of area 2.00 cm² varies with time according to the equation $q = 4t^3 + 5t + 6$, where t is in seconds.

(a) What is the instantaneous current through the surface at t = 1.00 s?

(b) What is the value of the current density?

$$a) \qquad I = \frac{dq}{dt} = 12t^2 + 5$$

at

$$t = 1 sec$$

$$I = 12 \times (1)^{2} + 5 = 17 A$$

$$J = \frac{I}{A} = \frac{17.0 \text{ A}}{2.00 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m}^{2}} = \boxed{85.0 \text{ kA/m}^{2}}$$

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Microscopic Model of Current

n = number of electrons/volume N = n.Volume = n.A. ΔX electrons travel distance $\Delta X = v \Delta t$ → N = n.A.v. Δt

 ΔQ = number of carriers in section x charge per carrier ΔQ = Ne

$$\Rightarrow \Delta Q = (nAv\Delta t)e$$

$$\therefore I_{av} = \frac{\Delta Q}{\Delta t} = vA ne$$



The speed of the charge carriers *v* is an average speed called the *drift speed*.

27-2 resistance and ohm's law

Consider a conductor of cross-sectional area *A carrying a current I*.

The current density J in the conductor is defined as the current per unit area. the current density is:

$$J = \frac{I}{A} = ven \qquad (A/m^2)$$

A current density J and an electric field E are established in a conductor whenever a potential difference is maintained across the conductor.



Georg Simon Ohm German physicist (1789-1854)

Ohm, a high school teacher and later a professor at the University of Munich, formulated the concept of resistance and discovered the proportionalities expressed in Equations 27.7 and 27.8. (© *Bettmann/Corbis*)

If the potential difference is constant, then the current also is constant. In some materials, the current density is proportional to the electric field: $J = \sigma E$

 σ is called the conductivity



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 V_a

$$\rho \text{ (resistivity)} = \frac{1}{\sigma}$$

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

From this result we see that resistance has SI units of volts per ampere. One volt per ampere is defined to be 1 ohm (Ω):

$$1 \Omega \equiv \frac{1 V}{1 A}$$

$$I = \frac{V}{R};$$
 $V = IR;$ $R = \frac{V}{I}$

Quick Quiz 27.4 A cylindrical wire has a radius *r* and length ℓ . If both *r* and ℓ are doubled, the resistance of the wire (a) increases (b) decreases (c) remains the same.



(a) The current–potential difference
curve for an ohmic material. The
curve is linear, and the slope is equal
to the inverse of the resistance of the
conductor.

(b) A nonlinear current–potentialdifference curve for asemiconducting diode. Thisdevice does not obey Ohm's law.

Example:

When a 3V battery is connected to a light, a current of 6 mA is observed. What is the resistance of the light filament?

$$R = \frac{V}{I} = \frac{3}{6 \times 10^{-3}} = 500 \ \Omega$$

Example :

What length ℓ of copper wire is required to produce a 4 m Ω resistor? Assume the diameter of the wire is 1 mm and that the resistivity ρ of copper is 1.72 x 10⁻⁸ Ω ·m.

$$A = \pi r^{2} = \pi \left(\frac{d}{2}\right)^{2} = 3.14 \times \left(\frac{1 \times 10^{-3}}{2}\right)^{2} = 7.85 \times 10^{-7} m^{2}$$

$$R = \rho \frac{l}{A}$$
$$l = \frac{RA}{\rho} = \frac{0.004 \times 7.85 \times 10^{-7}}{1.72 \times 10^{-8}} = 0.185 \ m$$

Example :

Calculate the resistance of a rectangular strip of copper length 0.08 m. thickness15 mm and width 0.8 mm . The resistivity of copper = $1.7 \times 10^{-8} \Omega$.m



Table 27.1

Resistivities and Temperature Coefficients of Resistivity for Various Materials

Material	Resistivity ^a $(\Omega \cdot \mathbf{m})$	Temperature Coefficient ^b $\alpha[(^{\circ}C)^{-1}]$
Silver	1.59×10^{-8}	$3.8 imes 10^{-3}$
Copper	$1.7 imes10^{-8}$	3.9×10^{-3}
Gold	$2.44 imes 10^{-8}$	$3.4 imes 10^{-3}$
Aluminum	$2.82 imes 10^{-8}$	$3.9 imes 10^{-3}$
Tungsten	$5.6 imes10^{-8}$	$4.5 imes 10^{-3}$
Iron	$10 imes 10^{-8}$	$5.0 imes 10^{-3}$
Platinum	11×10^{-8}	3.92×10^{-3}
Lead	$22 imes 10^{-8}$	$3.9 imes 10^{-3}$
Nichrome ^c	1.50×10^{-6}	$0.4 imes 10^{-3}$
Carbon	3.5×10^{-5}	$-0.5 imes 10^{-3}$
Germanium	0.46	-48×10^{-3}
Silicon	640	$-75 imes 10^{-3}$
Glass	10^{10} to 10^{14}	
Hard rubber	$\sim 10^{13}$	
Sulfur	10^{15}	
Quartz (fused)	$75 imes 10^{16}$	

^a All values at 20°C.

^b See Section 27.4.

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

EXAMPLE 27.2 The Resistance of a Conductor

Calculate the resistance of an aluminum cylinder that is 10.0 cm long and has a cross-sectional area of 2.0x 10^{-4} m². Repeat the calculation for a cylinder of the same dimensions and made of glass having a resistivity of $3x10^{10} \Omega$

$$R = \rho \frac{\ell}{A} = (2.82 \times 10^{-8} \,\Omega \cdot m) \left(\frac{0.100 \,m}{2.00 \times 10^{-4} \,m^2} \right)$$
$$= 1.41 \times 10^{-5} \,\Omega$$

Similarly, for glass we find that

$$R = \rho \frac{\ell}{A} = (3.0 \times 10^{10} \,\Omega \cdot m) \left(\frac{0.100 \,m}{2.00 \times 10^{-4} \,m^2} \right)$$
$$= 1.5 \times 10^{13} \,\Omega$$

EXAMPLE 27.3 The Resistance of Nichrome Wire

(a) Calculate the resistance per unit length of a 22-gauge Nichrome wire, which has a radius of 0.321 mm.

$$A = \pi r^2 = \pi (0.321 \times 10^{-3} \,\mathrm{m})^2 = 3.24 \times 10^{-7} \,\mathrm{m}^2$$

The resistivity of Nichrome is $1.5 \times 10^{-6} \Omega \cdot m$ (see Table 27.1). Thus, we can use Equation 27.11 to find the resistance per unit length:

$$\frac{R}{\ell} = \frac{\rho}{A} = \frac{1.5 \times 10^{-6} \,\Omega \cdot m}{3.24 \times 10^{-7} \,m^2} = 4.6 \,\Omega/m$$

(b) If a potential difference of 10 V is maintained across a 1.0-m length of the Nichrome wire, what is the current in the wire?

Solution Because a 1.0-m length of this wire has a resistance of 4.6 Ω , Equation 27.8 gives

$$I = \frac{\Delta V}{R} = \frac{10 \text{ V}}{4.6 \Omega} = 2.2 \text{ A}$$

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27-3 **RESISTANCE** AND TEMPERATURE

Over a limited temperature range, the resistivity of a metal varies approximately linearly with temperature according to the expression

 $\rho = \rho_0 [1 + \alpha (T - T_0)]$ (27.19)

Variation of ρ with temperature

where ρ is the resistivity at some temperature *T* (*in degrees Celsius*), ρ_0 is the resistivity at some reference temperature T_0 (usually taken to be 20°C), and α is the temperature coefficient of resistivity.

Temperature coefficient of resistivity
$$\alpha = \frac{1}{\rho_0} \frac{\Delta \rho}{\Delta T}$$
 Celsius⁻¹ [(°C)⁻¹] (27.20)

where $\Delta \rho = \rho - \rho_0$ is the change in resistivity in the temperature interval $\Delta T = T - T_0$.

Because resistance is proportional to resistivity $R = \rho \frac{L}{A}$ (Eq. 27.11),

For most materials, the resistance *R* changes in proportion to the initial resistance R_o and to the change in temperature Δt .

$$R = R_o \left[1 + \alpha \left(T - T_0 \right) \right]$$
 (Eq. 27.21),

Change in resistance:

 $\Delta R = \alpha R_0 \Delta t$

The temperature coefficient of resistance α , is the change in resistance per unit resistance per unit degree change of temperature.

$$\alpha = \frac{\Delta R}{R_0 \Delta t};$$
 Units: $\frac{1}{C^0}$

Example:

The resistance of a copper wire is 4.00 m Ω at 20^oC. What will be its resistance if heated to 80^oC? Assume that $\alpha = 0.004$ /C^o.

 $R_{o} = 4.00 \text{ m}\Omega; \Delta t = 80^{\circ}C - 20^{\circ}C = 60 C^{\circ}$

 $\Delta R = \alpha R_0 \Delta t; \quad \Delta R = (0.004 / \text{C}^0)(4 \text{ m}\Omega)(60 \text{ C}^0)$

$$\Delta R = 0.96 \text{ m}\Omega$$
 $R = R_o + \Delta R$

 $R = 4.00 \text{ m}\Omega + 0.96 \text{ m}\Omega$

$$R = 4.96 \text{ m}\Omega$$

Factors Affecting Resistance



- 3. The temperature T of the material. The higher temperatures usually result in higher resistances.
- 4. The kind of material. Iron has more electrical resistance than a geometrically similar copper conductor.

A resistance thermometer, which measures temperature by measuring the change in resistance of a conductor, is made from platinum and has a resistance of 50.0 Ω at 20.0°C. When immersed in a vessel containing melting indium, its resistance increases to 76.8 . Calculate the melting point of the indium.

$$\Delta T = \frac{R - R_0}{\alpha R_0} = \frac{76.8 \ \Omega - 50.0 \ \Omega}{[3.92 \times 10^{-3} \ (^{\circ}\text{C})^{-1}](50.0 \ \Omega)} = 137^{\circ}\text{C}$$
Because $T_0 = 20.0^{\circ}\text{C}$, we find that *T*, the temperature of the melting indium sample, is 157^{\circ}\text{C}.



Because the rate at which the charge loses energy equals the power delivered to

the resistor (which appears as internal energy), we have

 $\mathcal{P} = I\Delta V$ (27.22) $\mathcal{P} = I^2 R = \frac{(\Delta V)^2}{R}$ (27.23)



When the internal resistance of the battery is neglected, the potential difference between points *a* and *b* in Figure 27.14 is equal to the emf \mathcal{E} of the battery—that is, $\Delta V = V_b - V_a = \mathcal{E}$. This being true, we can state that the current in the circuit is $I = \Delta V/R = \mathcal{E}/R$. Because $\Delta V = \mathcal{E}$, the power supplied by the emf source can be expressed as $\mathcal{P} = I\mathcal{E}$, which equals the power delivered to the resistor, I^2R .

EXAMPLE 27.7 Power in an Electric Heater

An electric heater is constructed by applying a potential difference of 120 V to a Nichrome wire that has a total resistance of 8.0 Ω . Find the current carried by the wire and the power rating of the heater.

Solution Because $\Delta V = IR$, we have

$$I = \frac{\Delta V}{R} = \frac{120 \text{ V}}{8.00 \Omega} = 15.0 \text{ A}$$

We can find the power rating using the expression $\mathcal{P} = I^2 R$:

 $\mathcal{P} = I^2 R = (15.0 \text{ A})^2 (8.00 \Omega) = 1.80 \text{ kW}$

If we doubled the applied potential difference, the current would double but the power would quadruple because $\mathcal{P} = (\Delta V)^2 / R$.

EXAMPLE 27.8 The Cost of Making Dinner

Estimate the cost of cooking a turkey for 4 h in an oven that operates continuously at 20.0 A and 240 V.

Solution The power used by the oven is

$$\mathcal{P} = I\Delta V = (20.0 \text{ A})(240 \text{ V}) = 4\,800 \text{ W} = 4.80 \text{ kW}$$

Because the energy consumed equals power \times time, the amount of energy for which you must pay is

Energy =
$$\mathcal{P}t = (4.80 \text{ kW})(4 \text{ h}) = 19.2 \text{ kWh}$$

If the energy is purchased at an estimated price of 8.00¢ per kilowatt hour, the cost is

$$Cost = (19.2 \text{ kWh})(\$0.080/\text{kWh}) = \$1.54$$

Example:

An electric heater draws a steady 15.0 A on a 120-V line. How much power does it require and how much does it cost per month (30 days) if it operates 3.0 h per day and the electric company charges 9.2 cents per kWh?

P = IV = 1800 W. \rightarrow total = 1800 W x 3.0 h/day x 30 days = 162 kWh. At 9.2 cents per kWh, this would cost \$15.

SUMMARY

The **electric current** *I* in a conductor is defined as

$$I = \frac{dQ}{dt}$$
(27.2)

where dQ is the charge that passes through a cross-section of the conductor in a time dt. The SI unit of current is the **ampere** (A), where 1 A = 1 C/s.

The average current in a conductor is related to the motion of the charge carriers through the relationship

$$I_{\rm av} = nqv_d A \tag{27.4}$$

where *n* is the density of charge carriers, *q* is the charge on each carrier, v_d is the drift speed, and *A* is the cross-sectional area of the conductor.

The magnitude of the **current density** J in a conductor is the current per unit area:

$$J \equiv \frac{I}{A} = nqv_d \tag{27.5}$$

The current density in a conductor is proportional to the electric field according to the expression

$$\mathbf{J} = \sigma \mathbf{E} \tag{27.7}$$

The proportionality constant σ is called the **conductivity** of the material of which the conductor is made. The inverse of σ is known as **resistivity** ρ ($\rho = 1/\sigma$). Equation 27.7 is known as **Ohm's law**, and a material is said to obey this law if the ratio of its current density **J** to its applied electric field **E** is a constant that is independent of the applied field.

The **resistance** R of a conductor is defined either in terms of the length of the conductor or in terms of the potential difference across it:

$$R \equiv \frac{\ell}{\sigma A} \equiv \frac{\Delta V}{I}$$
(27.8)

where ℓ is the length of the conductor, σ is the conductivity of the material of which it is made, A is its cross-sectional area, ΔV is the potential difference across it, and I is the current it carries.

The SI unit of resistance is volts per ampere, which is defined to be 1 **ohm** (Ω) ; that is, 1 $\Omega = 1$ V/A. If the resistance is independent of the applied potential difference, the conductor obeys Ohm's law.

The resistivity of a conductor varies approximately linearly with temperature according to the expression

$$\rho = \rho_0 [1 + \alpha (T - T_0)]$$
(27.19)

where α is the **temperature coefficient of resistivity** and ρ_0 is the resistivity at some reference temperature T_0 .

If a potential difference ΔV is maintained across a resistor, the **power**, or rate at which energy is supplied to the resistor, is

$$\mathcal{P} = I \Delta V \tag{27.22}$$

Because the potential difference across a resistor is given by $\Delta V = IR$, we can express the power delivered to a resistor in the form

$$\mathcal{P} = I^2 R = \frac{(\Delta V)^2}{R}$$
(27.23)

The electrical energy supplied to a resistor appears in the form of internal energy in the resistor.