

A simple electrical circuit is shown in the background. It consists of a battery at the top, a light bulb at the bottom, and two wires connecting them to form a closed loop. The battery is a rectangular cell with two terminals. The light bulb is a standard incandescent bulb. The wires are thin and connect the terminals of the battery to the base of the light bulb.

PS 250: Lecture 13  
**Resistance, EMF, and  
Simple Circuits**

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# Today's Class

- **Review: Resistivity and Resistance**
- **Electromotive Force (EMF)**
- **Energy and Power**
- **Summary**

# Resistivity

$$\rho = \frac{E}{J}$$

Units [Ohms\*Meter], where  
[V/m]/[A/m<sup>2</sup>]=[V\*m/A]=[ $\Omega$ \*m]

Conversely, conductivity has units [ $\Omega$ \*m]<sup>-1</sup> !

In vector form:

$$\vec{E} = \rho \vec{J}$$

Applies for "Ohmic  
conductors"

# Resistance

## Ohm's Law

$$\vec{E} = \rho \vec{J}$$



$$V = IR$$

Resistivity can be related to Resistance:

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

Resistivity depends on material properties and temperature, Resistance is also a function of length and cross-sectional area of the conductor!

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# Circuits

- Current only flows in “complete circuits” –  
Otherwise, conductors simply reach an equilibrium ( $E=0$ , static case).
- Flow is facilitated by **EMF (Electromotive Force)**,  
in units Joules per Coulomb  $[J]/[C]$ , aka Volts  $[V]$   
(i.e., due to a battery, generator, solar cell)
- An **ideal EMF source** provides constant potential difference for any current drawn –  
Unfortunately, it also does not exist!

# Ideal EMF Source

Maintains Constant Potential Difference:

$$V_{ab} = \mathcal{E}$$

Can supply any Current  $I$  into Resistor  $R$ :

$$\mathcal{E} = V_{ab} = IR$$

Of course, this is way too good to be true!

# Real EMF Source

Has an internal resistance "r":

$$V_{ab} = \mathcal{E} - Ir$$

... this leads to reduced potential difference at the terminals ( $V_{ab}$ ).

**$V_{ab}$  decreases linearly as current demand increases.**

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# Power

(Rate of Energy Transfer)

- Rate of energy transfer [J/s] = [W]
- **Recall:** Volts [J/C], Amperes [C/s]
- "Rate at which energy is delivered or extracted from a circuit element"

$$P = V_{ab}I$$

$$\frac{[\text{J}]}{[\text{C}]} \frac{[\text{C}]}{[\text{s}]} = \frac{[\text{J}]}{[\text{s}]} = [\text{W}]$$

# Power

## Dissipation of Resistors

First, recall that:

$$P = V_{ab}I \quad \text{and} \quad V_{ab} = IR$$

By substituting in Ohm's Law, we can obtain:

$$P = V_{ab}I = I^2R = \frac{V_{ab}^2}{R}$$

In a resistor, power is dissipated as heat!  
Practical resistors have a max power rating.

# Summary / Next Class:

- **Work on Mastering Physics for Wednesday and Homework for Friday**
- **Prepare to discuss 26.1-26.2.**