



Electrical Current Flow

Electron Flow - From excess to deficient

Conventional Current Flow

Internal to Source (Battery)

Negative to Positive

External from Source (Battery)

Positive to Negative

Voltage Drop - Across a Resistor + to -

"*Negative Current*" - Assumed Direction Reversed



Electrical Theory

Ohm's Law

$$I = V/R \text{ (DC)}$$

$$I = V/Z \text{ (AC)}$$

Joule's Law

$$P = IE = I^2R \text{ (I Squared R Loss)}$$

Kirchoff's Law

Sum of Loop Voltages = 0

Sum of Node Currents = 0



Electrical Theory

Quantity	Symbol	Unit	Equation
Charge	Q	coulomb	$Q = \int i dt$ $Q = CV$
Current	I	ampere	$I = dQ/dt$
Voltage	V	volt	$V = dW/dQ$
Energy	W	joule	$W = \int VdQ = \int Pdt$
Power	P	watt	$P = dW/dt = IV$

Power and Voltage Ratios Expressed in Decibels (dB's)

$$1 \text{ Bel} = \log(\text{Power}_2 / \text{Power}_1)$$

$$1 \text{ decibel} = 1 \text{ dB} = 0.1 \text{ Bel, hence } 10 \text{ dB} = 1 \text{ Bel}$$

To express a Power Ratio in dB's, use $\text{dB} = 10 \log(\text{Power}_2 / \text{Power}_1)$

$$\text{Let } \text{Power}_2 = 2 \text{ Power}_1$$

$$\text{Power Ratio in dB's} = 10 \log(2 \text{ Power}_1 / \text{Power}_1) = 10 \log(2) = 3.01$$

$$\text{Let } \text{Power}_2 = 0.5 \text{ Power}_1$$

$$\text{Power Ratio in dB's} = 10 \log(0.5 \text{ Power}_1 / \text{Power}_1) = 10 \log(0.5) = -3.01$$

-3 dB is often expressed as "3 dB Down" which is the half power point ($\text{Power}_2 = 1/2 \text{ Power}_1$)

$$\text{Let } \text{Power}_2 = \text{Power}_1$$

$$\text{Power Ratio in dB's} = 10 \log(\text{Power}_1 / \text{Power}_1) = 10 \log(1) = 0$$

dB = 0 does not imply zero power but rather a power ratio of one-to-one

dB = 0 can be used as a zero reference; that is to say, set your reference level to a particular value and then use the dB scale to refer all other values to that reference level.

Examples: Reference Level = 400 watts.

$$200 \text{ watts} = -3 \text{ dB}$$

$$800 \text{ watts} = +3 \text{ dB}$$

$$400 \text{ watts} = 0 \text{ dB}$$

$$4000 \text{ watts} = +10 \text{ dB}$$

$$40 \text{ watts} = -10 \text{ dB}$$

$$650 \text{ watts} = +2.1 \text{ dB}$$

$$65 \text{ watts} = -7.9 \text{ dB}$$

$$100 \text{ watts} = -6 \text{ dB}$$

$$2,500,000 \text{ watts} = +64 \text{ dB}$$

Note: A reference of 1 milliwatts is used for dBm's

$$1 \text{ milliwatts} = 10 \log(1 / 1) = 0 \text{ dBm}$$

$$5 \text{ milliwatts} = 10 \log(5 / 1) = +7 \text{ dBm}$$

$$500 \text{ milliwatts} = +27 \text{ dBm}$$

$$0.001 \text{ milliwatts} = -30 \text{ dBm}$$

For Voltage, $\text{Power} = IE = (E/R)E = E^2/R$

To express a Voltage Ratio in dB's, use $\text{dB} = 10 \log(\text{Power}_2 / \text{Power}_1) = 10 \log[(E_2^2/R) / (E_1^2/R)]$

$$10 \log[(E_2^2/R) / (E_1^2/R)] = 10 \log(E_2^2 / E_1^2) = 20 \log(E_2 / E_1)$$

$$\text{Let Power Ratio dB} = -3, \text{ then } 20 \log(E_2 / E_1) = -3$$

$$\log(E_2 / E_1) = -0.15$$

$$E_2 / E_1 = 0.707 = 0.5 \text{ SQRT}(2)$$

DMM Resolution and Accuracy

Resolution ($3\frac{1}{2}$ Digits or 1999)

3 Full Digits (Left-Hand Digit Max Value = 1)

Maximum Reading 1999

Resistor Measurement Accuracy

$\pm (2.5\% \text{ Reading} + 5 \text{ Units Last Digit})$

Always use lowest range that provides maximum digits

Resistor Measurement Accuracy Example #1

Nominal 4700 Ohm Resistor

Reading on the 20K Ω Range = 4.58 = 4580 ohms

$2.5\% \times 4580 = 115$

Last digit represents 50 ohms

Accuracy = $\pm (115 + 50) = \pm 165$ ($165 / 4580 = 3.60\%$)

Resistor Value: $4580 \pm 165 = 4415$ to 4745

Note: 5% of Nominal Value = $0.05 \times 4700 = 235$ (4465 to 4935)

Resistor Measurement Accuracy Example #2

Nominal 1.5M Ohm Resistor

Reading on the 2000K Ω Range = 1462 = 1,462,000 ohms

$2.5\% \times 1,462,000 = 36,550$

Last digit represents 5000 ohms

Accuracy = $\pm (36,550 + 5,000) = \pm 41,550$ ($41,550 / 1,462,000 = 2.84\%$)

Resistor Value: $1,462,000 \pm 41,550 = 1,420,450$ to $1,503,550$

Note: 5% of Nominal Value = $0.05 \times 1,500,000 = 75,000$ (1,425,000 to 1,575,000)

DMM Resolution and Accuracy

Resolution (3½ Digits or 1999)

3 Full Digits (Left-Hand Digit Max Value = 1)

Maximum Reading 1999

Resistor Measurement Accuracy

± (2.5% Reading + 5 Units Last Digit)

What does *5 Units Last Digit* really mean?

DMM Resistance Scale	Max Readout	Mental Conversion
2K = 2000 Ohms	1.999	2000
abcx	a bcx	abcx

where

$$a = 1000$$

$$b = 100$$

$$c = 10$$

$$x = 1 \quad 5 \text{ units of last digit} = 5 \times 1 = 5 \text{ ohms}$$

DMM Resistance Scale	Max Readout	Mental Conversion
20K = 20000 Ohms	1.999	20000
abcx	a bcx	abcx

where

$$a = 10000$$

$$b = 1000$$

$$c = 100$$

$$x = 10 \quad 5 \text{ units of last digit} = 5 \times 10 = 50 \text{ ohms}$$

DMM Resistance Scale	Max Readout	Mental Conversion
2M = 2,000,000 Ohms	1.999	2,000,000
a bcx	a bcx	a bcx

where

$$a = 1,000,000$$

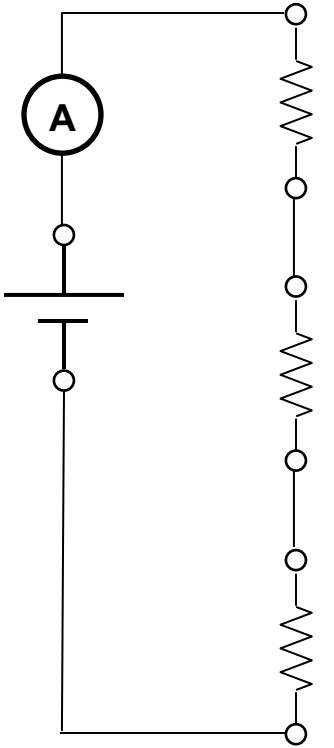
$$b = 100,000$$

$$c = 10,000$$

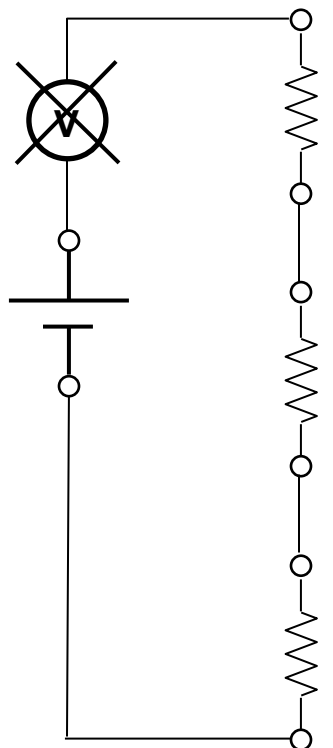
$$x = 1,000 \quad 5 \text{ units of last digit} = 5 \times 1000 = 5000 \text{ ohms}$$

DMM Connections

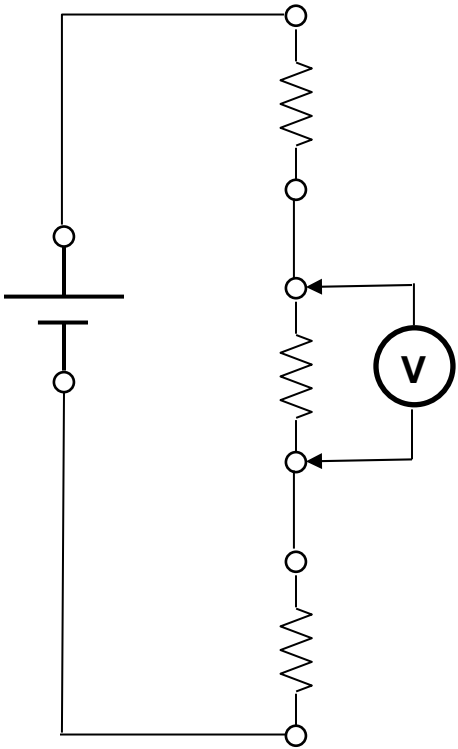
Ammeter in Series
OKAY



Voltmeter in Series
Prohibited



Voltmeter in Parallel
OKAY



Ammeter in Parallel
Prohibited

