# **Lecture 1: Introduction**

## **Some Definitions:**

- Current (I): Amount of electric charge (Q) moving past a point per unit time
  - I = dQ/dt =Coulombs/sec
  - units = Amps (1 Coulomb =  $6x10^{18}$  electrons)
- Voltage (V):
  - Work needed to move charge from point a to b

Work =  $V \bullet Q$ 

- volt = Work/Charge = Joules/Coulomb
- Voltage is always measured with respect to something
- "ground" is defined as zero Volts
- <u>D</u>irect <u>C</u>urrent (DC): In a DC circuit the current and voltage are constant as a function of time
- Power (*P*): Rate of doing work
  - P = dW/dt
  - units = Watts

- Ohms Law: Linear relationship between voltage and current
  - $V = I \bullet R$
  - $R = \text{Resistance}(\Omega)$
  - units = Ohms



• Joules Law: When current flows through a resistor energy is dissipated

$$W = QV$$

- P = dW/dt = VdQ/dt + QdV/dt
- dV/dt = 0 for DC circuit and averages to 0 for AC
- Power =  $VdQ/dt = V \bullet I$
- Using Ohms law

$$P = I^2 R = V^2 / R$$

• 100 Watts = 10 V and 10 Amps or 10 V through 1  $\Omega$ 

K.K. Gan

## **Simple Circuits**

• Symbols:



• Simple(st) Circuit:



- Convention: Current flow is in the direction of <u>positive</u> charge flow
  - When we go across a battery in direction of current  $(- \rightarrow +)$ 
    - *∞* +*V*
  - Voltage drop across a resistor in direction of current  $(+ \rightarrow -)$ 
    - *∝* -*IR*
    - Conservation of Energy: sum of potential drops around the circuit should be zero
       *V IR* = 0 or *V* = *IR*!!

• Next simple(st) circuit: two resistors in series



- Conservation of charge:  $I_1 = I_2 = I$  at point A
  - $\square V = I(R_1 + R_2) = IR$
  - $R = R_1 + R_2$ 
    - **\*** Resistors in Series Add:  $R = R_1 + R_2 + R_3...$
- What's voltage across  $R_2$ ?

 $V_2 = I_2 R_2 = V R_2 / (R_1 + R_2)$  "Voltage Divider Equation"

• Two resistors in parallel

$$I \rightarrow A$$

$$V \rightarrow I_{1} \rightarrow R_{1}$$

$$V \rightarrow R_{2} \rightarrow R_{2}$$

$$I = I_{1} + I_{2} = V/R_{1} + V/R_{2} = V/R$$

$$I/R = 1/R_{1} + 1/R_{2}$$

$$\therefore R = \frac{R_{1}R_{2}}{R_{1} + R_{2}}$$

$$\star Parallel Resistors add like: 1/R = 1/R_{1} + 1/R_{2} + 1/R_{3} + ...$$
K.K. Gan L1: Introduction

• In a circuit with 3 resistors (series and parallel), what's  $I_2 = V_2/R_2$ ?



• reduce to a simpler circuit:



5

### **Kirchoff's Laws**

- We can formalize and generalize the previous examples using Kirchoff's Laws:
  - 1.  $\Sigma I = 0$  at a node: conservation of charge
  - 2.  $\Sigma V = 0$  around a closed loop: conservation of energy
  - example



- node B:  $I_1 = I_2 + I_3 \rightarrow I_1 I_2 I_3 = 0$
- $\bullet \quad \text{loop ABEF:} \qquad V I_1 R_1 I_2 R_2 = 0$
- loop ACDF:  $V I_1 R_1 I_3 R_3 = 0$ 
  - $\sim$  3 linear equations with 3 unknowns:  $I_1, I_2, I_3$
  - always wind up with as many linear equations as unknowns!
- use matrix methods to solve these equations:

$$V = RI$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} V \\ V \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} R_1 & R_2 & 0 \\ R_1 & 0 & R_3 \\ 1 & -1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I_1 \\ I_2 \\ I_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

K.K. Gan

$$I_{2} = \frac{\det \begin{bmatrix} R_{1} & V & 0 \\ R_{1} & V & R_{3} \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}}{\det \begin{bmatrix} R_{1} & R_{2} & 0 \\ R_{1} & 0 & R_{3} \\ 1 & -1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}} = \frac{VR_{3}}{R_{1}R_{2} + R_{1}R_{3} + R_{2}R_{3}}$$
  
the same solution as in page 5!

## **Measuring Things**

• Voltmeter: Always put in parallel with what you want to measure



• If no voltmeter we would have:

$$V_{AB} = \left[\frac{R_L}{R_S + R_L}\right] V$$

• If the voltmeter has a finite resistance  $R_m$  then circuit looks like:



From previous pages we have:

$$V_{AB}^{*} = \left[\frac{R_{m} \| R_{L}}{R_{S} + R_{m} \| R_{L}}\right] V$$
$$= \frac{V R_{m} R_{L}}{R_{S} R_{L} + R_{m} R_{L} + R_{S} R_{m}}$$
$$= \frac{V R_{L}}{R_{L} + R_{S} + \frac{R_{S} R_{L}}{R_{m}}}$$
$$\cong V_{AB} \quad \text{if } R_{L} << R_{m}$$

- solution good voltmeter has high resistance (>  $10^6 \Omega$ )
- Ammeter: measures current
  - Always put in series with what you want to measure



- Without meter:  $I = V/(R_S + R_L)$
- With meter:  $I^* = V/(R_S + R_L + R_m)$ 
  - good ammeter has  $R_m \ll (R_m + R_L)$ , i.e. low resistance (0.1-1  $\Omega$ )

## **Thevenin's Equivalent Circuit Theorem**

• Any network of resistors and batteries having 2 output terminals may be replaced by a series combination of resistor and battery

- Useful when solving complicated (!?) networks
- Solve problems by finding  $V_{eq}$  and  $R_{eq}$  for circuit without load, then add load to circuit.
- Use basic voltage divider equation:



- Two rules for using Thevenin's Thereom:
  - 1. Take the load out of the circuit to find  $V_{eq}$ :

$$V \xrightarrow{+} R_{3}$$

$$R_{3}$$

$$R_{2}$$

$$V_{eq} = \frac{VR_{3}}{R_{1} + R_{3}}$$

K.K. Gan

2. Short circuit all power supplies (batteries) to find  $R_{eq}$ :

![](_page_9_Figure_1.jpeg)

• Can now solve for  $I_L$  as in previous examples:

$$I_{L} = \frac{V_{eq}}{R_{eq} + R_{L}}$$

$$= \left[\frac{VR_{3}}{R_{1} + R_{3}}\right] \times \frac{1}{\frac{R_{1}R_{3}}{R_{1} + R_{3}} + R_{L}}$$

$$= \frac{VR_{3}}{R_{1}R_{L} + R_{1}R_{3} + R_{L}R_{3}}$$

Same answer as previous examples!