# Electronics Electrical Terminology

Terry Sturtevant

Wilfrid Laurier University

September 9, 2013

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#### In this document, you'll learn:

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In this document, you'll learn:

• what voltage, current, and resistance mean

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In this document, you'll learn:

- what voltage, current, and resistance mean
- how to measure them

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- what voltage, current, and resistance mean
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Current, Resistance, and Voltage

Water analogy Ohm's Law Power Current

Resistanc Voltage

### Current

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Current, Resistance, and Voltage Water analogy

Ohm's Law

Power

Current Resistan

Voltage

### Current



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Current Resistance Voltage

### Current

- symbol is *I*
- property of a point in a circuit; indicates the rate of flow of electric charge past the point

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Current Resistance Voltage

## Current

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- A current of one **ampere** equals a flow of one **coulomb** of charge per second

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By convention, the direction of current flow in a circuit is opposite to the direction of electron flow (*Blame Benjamin Franklin.*)

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Current **Resistance** Voltage

Power

#### Resistance

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Current **Resistance** Voltage

#### Resistance

• symbol is R.

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Current **Resistance** Voltage

### Resistance

- symbol is R.
- property of a device that limits the flow of current

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Current **Resistance** Voltage

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An ohm is "small".

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An ohm is "small".

 $k\Omega$  (10<sup>3</sup> ohms) or MΩ (10<sup>6</sup> ohms) are common.

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Current, Resistance, and Voltage

Water analogy Ohm's Law Power Current Resistance Voltage

# Voltage

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Current, Resistance, and Voltage

Water analogy Ohm's Law Power Current Resistance Voltage

# Voltage

• symbol is V.

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Current Resistance Voltage

## Voltage

• symbol is V.

(in physics the symbol E will sometimes be used instead

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Current Resistance Voltage

# Voltage

- symbol is V.
  - (in physics the symbol E will sometimes be used instead because it is also called **electromotive force**)

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Current Resistance Voltage

# Voltage

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Current Resistance Voltage

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- property of a circuit that produces the flow of current
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Current Resistance Voltage

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A *joule* of work is needed to move a *coulomb of charge* through a potential difference of one volt.

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• Potential *difference* 

Current Resistance Voltage

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(in physics the symbol E will sometimes be used instead because it is also called **electromotive force**)

- property of a circuit that produces the flow of current
- An eV of work is needed to move an electron through a potential difference of one volt.

A *joule* of work is needed to move a *coulomb of charge* through a potential difference of one volt.

- Potential *difference*
- Measured in volts using a voltmeter

Current, Resistance, and Voltage

Water analogy Ohm's Law Power Current Resistance Voltage

# Voltage (continued)

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Current Resistance Voltage

# Voltage (continued)

#### • measured across a device or between two points;

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Current Resistance Voltage

# Voltage (continued)

 measured across a device or between two points; (it is a "difference")

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Current Resistance Voltage

# Voltage (continued)

- measured across a device or between two points;
  (it is a "difference")
- if measured at a *point* in a circuit, that means it is measured between the point and *ground*

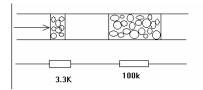
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## Water analogy

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## Water analogy

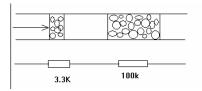


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#### Water analogy



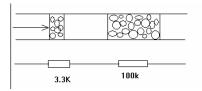
• voltage  $\rightarrow$  pressure

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## Water analogy



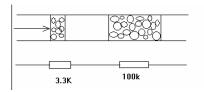
- voltage  $\rightarrow$  pressure
- $\bullet~$  electric current  $\rightarrow$  water current

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### Water analogy

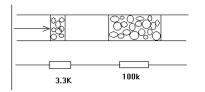


- $\bullet \ \text{voltage} \to \text{pressure}$
- $\bullet~$  electric current  $\rightarrow$  water current
- $\bullet\,$  wires  $\rightarrow\,$  large smooth pipes carrying water current

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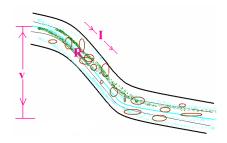
# Water analogy



- $\bullet \ \text{voltage} \to \text{pressure}$
- $\bullet~$  electric current  $\rightarrow$  water current
- $\bullet~{\rm wires} \rightarrow {\rm large~smooth~pipes~carrying~water~current}$
- $\bullet~\mbox{resistors} \rightarrow \mbox{narrow}$  or obstructed pipes which limit current

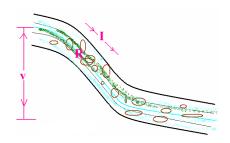
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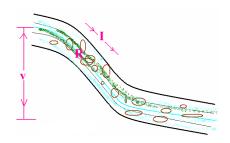


If we want to increase the water flow we can:

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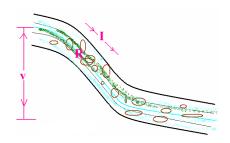
If we want to increase the water flow we can:

• increase the water pressure

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If we want to increase the water flow we can:

- increase the water pressure
- use less rocks or widen the pipe

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#### If we want to increase the current in a circuit we can:

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If we want to increase the current in a circuit we can:

• increase the voltage

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If we want to increase the current in a circuit we can:

- increase the voltage
- lower the resistance

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# Ohm's Law

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### Ohm's Law

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$$V = IR$$

• Voltage (or potential) across a resistor is proportional to the current flow through the resistor

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V = IR

- Voltage (or potential) across a resistor is proportional to the current flow through the resistor
- An **ohmic device** is one for which the ratio between voltage and current is constant; i.e. it doesn't depend on the voltage



V = IR

- Voltage (or potential) across a resistor is proportional to the current flow through the resistor
- An **ohmic device** is one for which the ratio between voltage and current is constant; i.e. it doesn't depend on the voltage
- A **non-ohmic device** is one for which the ratio between voltage and current is *not* constant; i.e. it depends on the voltage

#### Power

Terry Sturtevant Electronics Electrical Terminology

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Power is meaured in Watts, (W), although sometimes you may see VA; why?

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Terry Sturtevant Electronics Electrical Terminology

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