

Electronics Kirchhoff's Laws

Terry Sturtevant

Wilfrid Laurier University

May 16, 2011

There are two Kirchhoff's laws:

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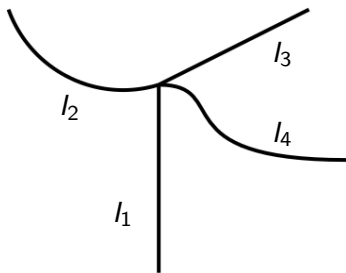
- Kirchhoff's *Current* Law

There are two Kirchhoff's laws:

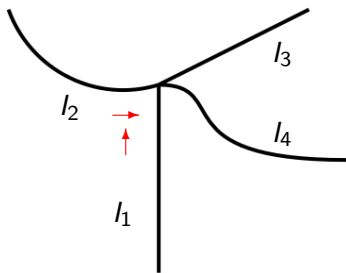
- Kirchhoff's *Current* Law
- Kirchhoff's *Voltage* Law

Kirchhoff's Current Law

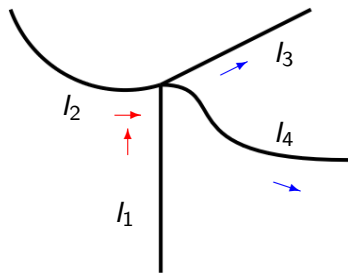
Kirchhoff's Current Law



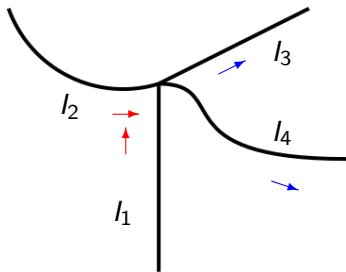
Kirchhoff's Current Law



Kirchhoff's Current Law

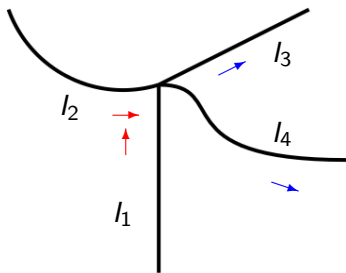


Kirchhoff's Current Law



Sum of the currents at a node is zero

Kirchhoff's Current Law

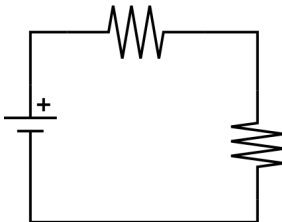


Sum of the currents at a node is zero

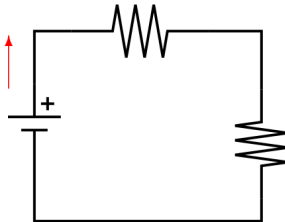
→ Sum of the currents *into* a node equals the sum of the currents *out of* the node.

Kirchhoff's Voltage Law

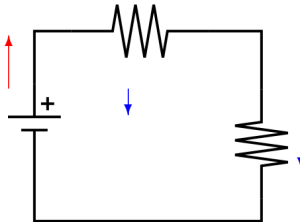
Kirchhoff's Voltage Law



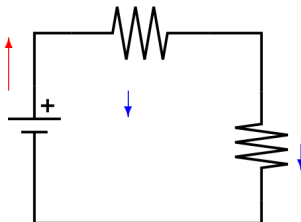
Kirchhoff's Voltage Law



Kirchhoff's Voltage Law

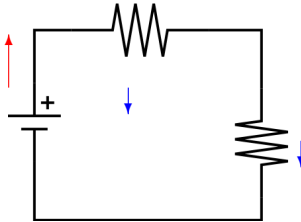


Kirchhoff's Voltage Law



Sum of the voltage drops around a loop is zero

Kirchoff's Voltage Law



Sum of the voltage drops around a loop is zero

→ Sum of the voltage *increases* in a loop equals the sum of the voltage *drops* in the loop

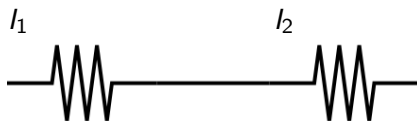
Applications of Kirchhoff's Current Law

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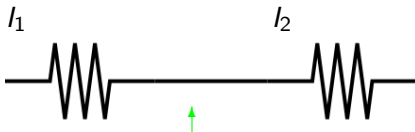
Series Circuits

Series Circuits

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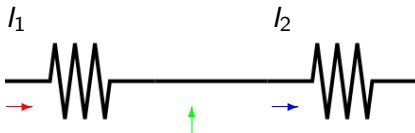


Series Circuits



A "virtual" node can be created between the two resistors

Series Circuits



Since there is nowhere else for current to go, $I_1 \equiv I_2$

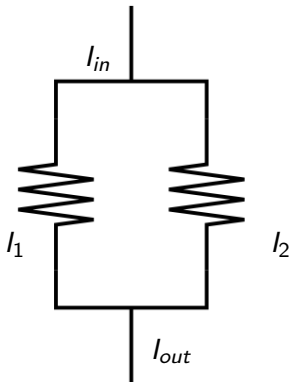
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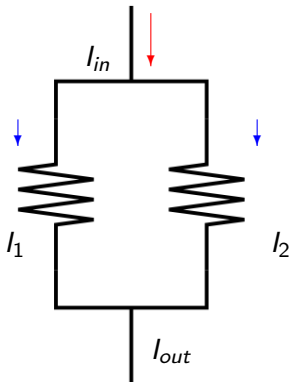
Parallel Circuits

Parallel Circuits

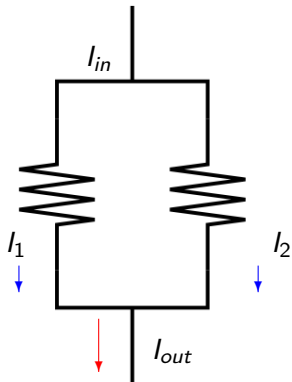
Parallel Circuits



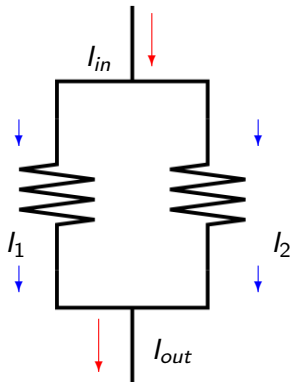
Parallel Circuits



Parallel Circuits

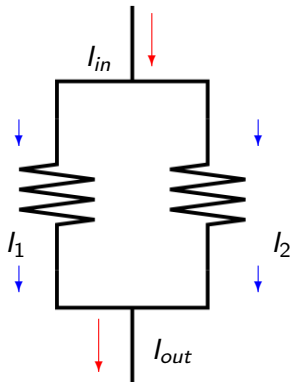


Parallel Circuits



The current exiting at the bottom has to equal the current entering at the top

Parallel Circuits



$$I_{in} = I_1 + I_2 = I_{out}$$

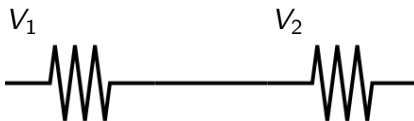
Applications of Kirchhoff's Voltage Law

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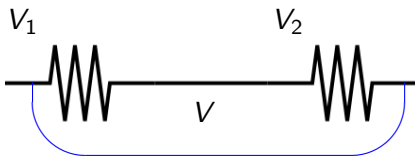
Series Circuits

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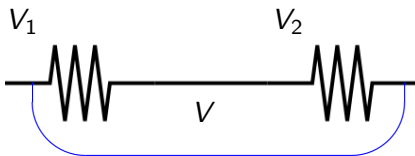


Series Circuits



A “virtual” loop can be created by connecting both ends of the circuit.

Series Circuits



The voltages around the loop must add to zero, so

$$V = V_1 + V_2$$

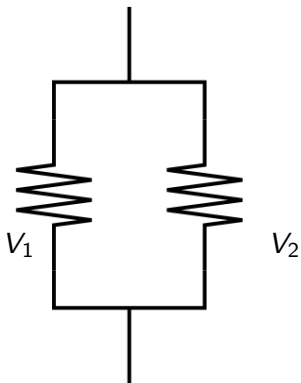
Applications of Kirchhoff's Voltage Law

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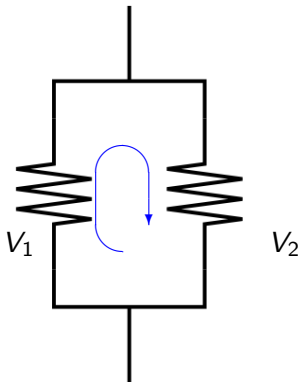
Parallel Circuits

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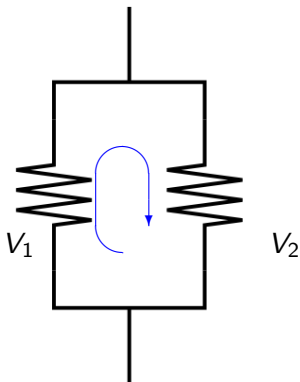


Parallel Circuits



A loop consists of just the two components as shown.

Parallel Circuits



Since the sum of voltages around the loop is zero, $V_1 = V_2$

Summary

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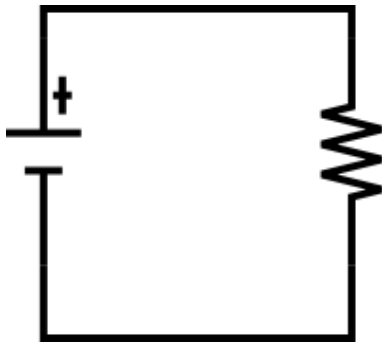
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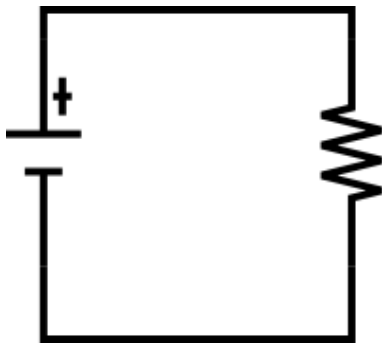
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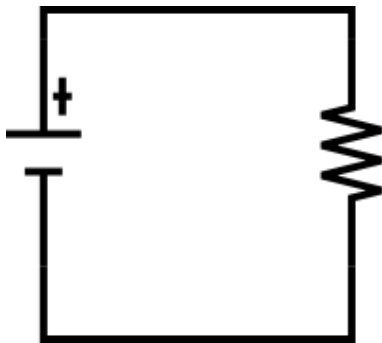


Consider the following circuit:



Q: Are the elements in series or parallel?

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A: Both! So both voltage *and* current are the same.