



BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY  
Physics Department

Physics 111

Experiment No. 4

## *D.C. Circuit*

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– *Abstract:*

1) The aim of the experiment:

(A) To test the material and find out if the material is Ohmic or non-Ohmic.

(B) To find the value of  $R_s$ ,  $R_p$  practically

where:

$R_s$  is equivalent resistance for two resistors connected in series

$R_p$  is the equivalent resistance for two resistors connected in parallel

2) *The method used:*

A) By plotting a graph of the potential difference  $V$  across the material against the current through it and keeping the temperature of the material constant. If the graph is linear then the material is Ohmic.

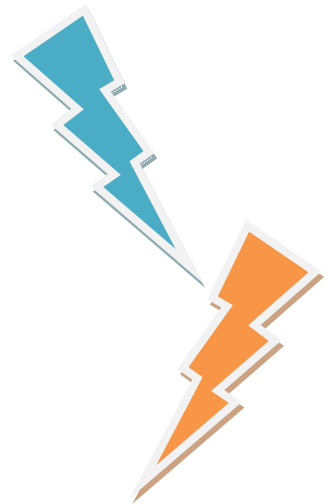
B) by connecting two resistors at first In series and one more time in parallel and measure(  $V_s$ ,  $I_s$ ), (  $V_p$ ,  $I_p$ )

3) *The main results are:*

$$\mathcal{R} = 75 \pm 8 \Omega$$

$$\mathcal{R}_s = 214 \pm 20 \Omega$$

$$\mathcal{R}_p = 49 \pm 4 \Omega$$



## — Theory:

(\*) One of the fundamental laws describing how electrical circuits behave is Ohm's law. According to Ohm's law, there is a linear relationship between the voltage drop across a circuit element and the current flowing through it. Therefore the resistance  $R$  is viewed as a constant independent of the voltage and the current. In equation form, Ohm's law is:

$$V = IR.$$

Here,  $V$  is the voltage applied across the circuit in volts (V),  $I$  is the current flowing through the circuit in units of amperes (A), and  $R$  is the resistance of the circuit with units of ohms ( $\Omega$ ).

$$R = \frac{V(\text{Voltage})}{I(\text{Current})}$$

$R$  : resistance.  $R$  doesn't depend on ( $I$ ) or ( $V$ ).

(\*) Materials that obey Ohm's law are called Ohmic materials.

Materials that don't obey Ohm's law are called non-Ohmic materials.

Testing the material to decide if it's Ohmic or non-Ohmic could be done by plotting the graph of the voltage ( $V$ ) on the x-axis vs. the current ( $I$ ) on the y-axis and if the graph is linear then the material is Ohmic, and if it's not linear then the material is non-Ohmic.

(\*) Two or more resistors can be connected in series, connected one after another (Fig. (a)), or in parallel, typically shown connected so that they are parallel to one another (Fig. (b)). As long as the current must split, go through the resistors and then coalesce, they are in parallel.

When two resistors  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are connected in series, the equivalent resistance  $R_S$  is given by  $R_S = R_1 + R_2$ . Thus, the circuit in Fig. (a) behaves as if it contained a single resistor with resistance  $R_S$  — that is, it draws current from a given applied voltage like such a resistor. When

those resistors are connected in parallel instead, we use a different formula for finding the equivalent resistance.

Fig.(a)

$R_1, R_2$  on Series :

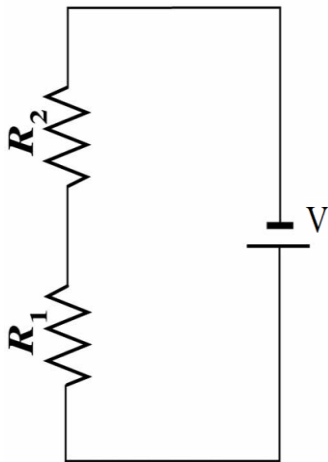
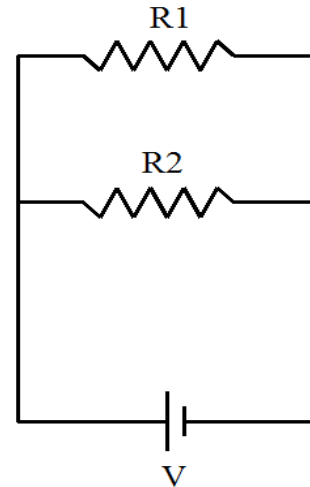


Fig.(b)

$R_1, R_2$  on Parallel :



Series	Parallel
$V_S = V_1 + V_2$	$V_P = V_1 = V_2$
$I_S = I_1 = I_2$	$I_P = I_1 + I_2$
$R_S = R_1 + R_2$	$\frac{1}{R_P} = \frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2}$ or $R_P = \frac{R_1 R_2}{R_1 + R_2}$

Equations for two resistors in series and parallel.

### — Procedure:

At first, a resistance was connected with another variable resistance to a circuit with a 3 volt power supply and. Then the uncertainty in the current  $\Delta I$  and the uncertainty in the voltage  $\Delta V$  was estimated. Then we measured the current (I) and the potential difference (V) across the resistance. After that the current and the potential difference were measured, but after adjusting the variable resistance and this was repeated six times. Then we disconnected the variable resistance and connected another resistance ( $R_2$ ) in series instead. And after estimating

$\Delta I$  and  $\Delta V$  we wrote down the reading of  $I_s$  and  $V_s$ . Then the second resistance was connected in parallel and  $\Delta I$  and  $\Delta V$  were estimated and the  $I_p$  and  $V_p$  were written down. Finally the values of  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  were written down using the color codes on the back of the resistances.

## — Data:

Part A (one resistance used in the circuit, either  $R_1$  or  $R_2$ ):

$$\Delta V = 0.1$$

$$\Delta I = 1 \text{ mA}$$

No	1	2	3	4	5	6	Average
I(mA)	7	13	20	26	34	41	23.5
V(volt)	0.5	1	1.5	2	2.5	3	1.75

Part B ( $R_1$  and  $R_2$  in series):

$$V_s = 3 \text{ volt}$$

$$\Delta V_s = 0.1 \text{ volt}$$

$$I_s = 14 \text{ mA}$$

$$\Delta I_s = 1 \text{ mA}$$

Part C ( $R_1$  and  $R_2$  in parallel):

$$V_p = 2 \text{ volt}$$

$$\Delta V_p = 0.1 \text{ volt}$$

$$I_p = 41 \text{ mA}$$

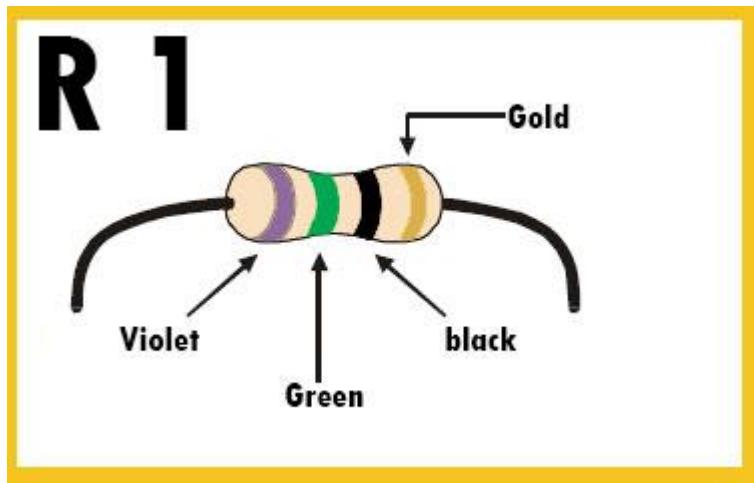
$$\Delta I_p = 1 \text{ mA}$$

## — Calculations:

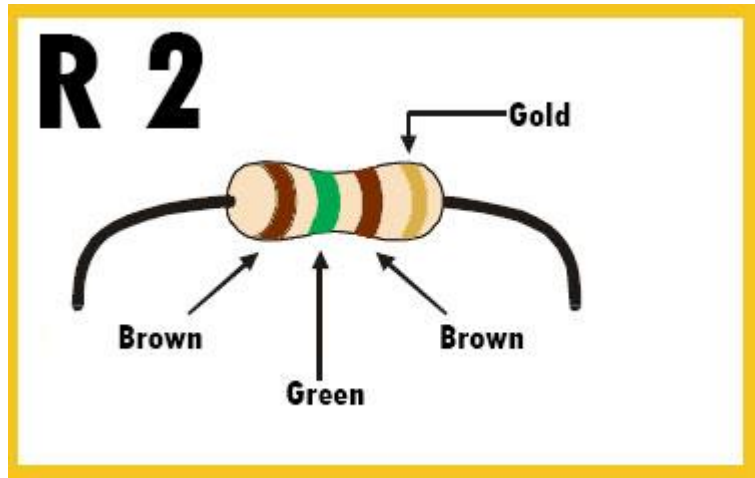
$$R = \text{from the slope} = \frac{\Delta V}{\Delta I} = \frac{0.75 - 0}{10 - 0} = 0.075 \text{ K}\Omega = 75 \Omega$$

$$\Delta R = R \left( \frac{\Delta V}{V} + \frac{\Delta I}{I} \right) = 75 \left( \frac{0.1}{1.75} + \frac{1 \times 10^{-3}}{23.5 \times 10^{-3}} \right) = 8 \Omega$$

Resistance  $R_1$  from color code =  $75 \pm 4 \Omega$



Resistance  $R_2$  from color code =  $150 \pm 8 \Omega$



**$R_1$  and  $R_2$  in series:**

**A) Practically (By experiment):**

$$R_s = \frac{V_s}{I_s} = \frac{3}{14 \times 10^{-3}} = 214 \Omega$$

$$\Delta R_s = R_s \left( \frac{\Delta V_s}{V_s} + \frac{\Delta I_s}{I_s} \right) = 214 \left( \frac{0.1}{3} + \frac{1 \times 10^{-3}}{14 \times 10^{-3}} \right) = 20 \Omega$$

**B) theoretically:**

$R_1$  from color code =  $75 \pm 4 \Omega$

$R_2$  from color code =  $150 \pm 8 \Omega$

$$R_s = R_1 + R_2 = 75 + 150 = 225$$

$$\Delta R_s = \Delta R_1 + \Delta R_2 = 4 + 8 = 12$$

$$R_s = 225 \pm 12 \Omega$$

### $R_1$ and $R_2$ in parallel:

#### **A) Practically (By experiment):**

$$R_p = \frac{V_p}{I_p} = \frac{2}{41 \times 10^{-3}} = 49 \Omega$$

$$\Delta R_p = R_p \left( \frac{\Delta V_p}{V_p} + \frac{\Delta I_p}{I_p} \right) = 49 \left( \frac{0.1}{2} + \frac{1 \times 10^{-3}}{41 \times 10^{-3}} \right) = 4 \Omega$$

#### **B) theoretically:**

$R_1$  from color code =  $75 \pm 4 \Omega$

$R_2$  from color code =  $150 \pm 8 \Omega$

$$R_p = \frac{R_1 R_2}{R_1 + R_2} = \frac{75 \times 150}{75 + 150} = 50 \Omega$$

To find  $\Delta R_p$  Assume that

$$R_p = \frac{A}{B} \rightarrow \text{then} \rightarrow \Delta R_p = \left( \frac{\Delta A}{A} + \frac{\Delta B}{B} \right) R_p$$

Where  $A = R_1 R_2 = 75 \times 150 = 11250$

$$\Delta A = \frac{\Delta R_1}{R_1} + \frac{\Delta R_2}{R_2} = \frac{4}{75} + \frac{8}{150} = 0.11 \Omega$$

$B = R_1 + R_2 = 75 + 150 = 225$

$$\Delta B = \Delta R_1 + \Delta R_2 = 12$$

So

$$\Delta R_p = \left( \frac{\Delta A}{A} + \frac{\Delta B}{B} \right) R_p = \left( \frac{0.11}{11250} + \frac{12}{225} \right) 50 = 3 \Omega$$

$$\Delta R_p = 3 \Omega$$



## – Results and Conclusion:

❖ *Part A* (one resistance used in the circuit, either  $R_1$  or  $R_2$ ):

- My result from the slope of the graph is

$$\mathcal{R}_1 = 75 \pm 8 \Omega$$

- The true value of the resistor  $R_1$  from color code is

$$\mathcal{R}_1 = 75 \pm 4 \Omega$$

**Discrepancy :**  $|\text{true value} - \text{result}| = |75 - 75| = 0$

$$0 < 2 \times 8 \rightarrow 0 < 16$$

My result is accepted because  $D < 2 \times \Delta R$ .

❖ *Part B* ( $R_1$  and  $R_2$  in series):

My result is

$$\mathcal{R}_s = 214 \pm 20 \Omega$$

The true value of the equivalent resistance for two resistors connected in series theoretical is :

$$\mathcal{R}_s = 225 \pm 12 \Omega$$

- **Discrepancy :**  $|\text{true value} - \text{result}| = |225 - 214| = 11$

$$11 < 2 \times 20 \rightarrow 11 < 40$$

My result is accepted because  $D < 2 \times \Delta R_s$ .



*Part C* ( $R_1$  and  $R_2$  in parallel):

My result is

$$R_p = 49 \pm 4 \Omega$$

The true value of the equivalent resistance for two resistors connected in parallel theoretical is :

$$R_p = 50 \pm 3 \Omega$$

- **Discrepancy** :  $|\text{true value} - \text{result}| = |50 - 49| = 1$   
 $1 < 2 \times 4 \rightarrow 1 < 8$

My result is accepted because  $D < 2 \times \Delta R_p$ .

### *systematic errors*

A wire is actually a resistor with very low resistance compared to the resistors we typically use in class. Therefore, we neglected (ignored) any resistance that it has. Also the ammeter and the voltmeter have a resistance that we neglected.

When we take the measurements we must look straight at the pointer to have a correct reading and if we don't our reading will not be accurate.

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### **The answer of the Question:**

My measured values of  $R_1$ ,  $R_s$ , and  $R_p$  are consistent with the values that I obtained from color codes.