

# CP2 Circuit Theory

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<https://www2.physics.ox.ac.uk/contacts/people/robert-smith> ('Teaching' tab):

- Problem set
- Synopsis and reading list
- Lecture summaries
- Slides

Thanks to  
Todd Huffman

**But do make your own notes because: (i) it is helpful for you to learn, (ii) I will say extra things, (iii) I will do some stuff on the blackboard.**

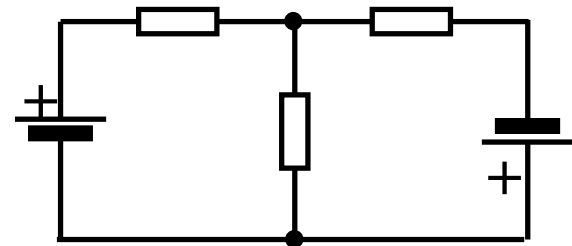
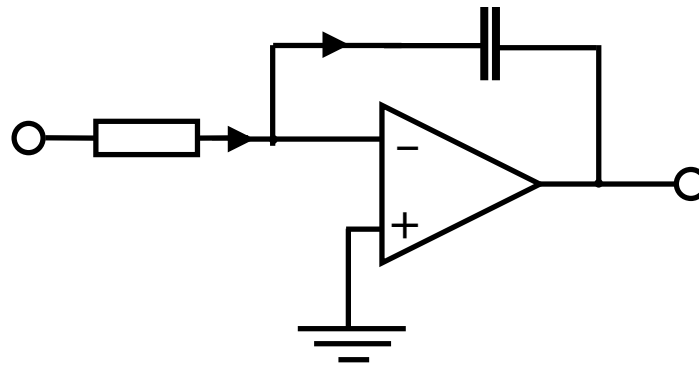
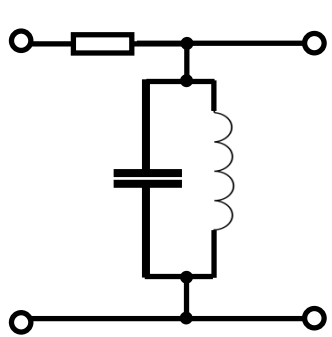
# Why study circuit theory?

- **Foundations of electronics:** analogue circuits, digital circuits, computing, communications...
- **Scientific instruments:** readout, measurement, data acquisition...
- **Physics of electrical circuits,** electromagnetism, transmission lines, particle accelerators, thunderstorms...
- **Not just electrical systems,** also thermal, pneumatic, hydraulic circuits, vacuum, control theory

# Aims of this course:

Understand basic circuit components (resistors, capacitors, inductors, voltage and current sources, op-amps)

Analyse and design simple linear circuits (considering both DC, AC and transient response)



# Circuit Theory: Synopsis

- **Basics:** voltage, current, Ohm's law, ideal voltage and current sources...
- **Kirchoff's laws and tricks for solving:** mesh currents, node voltage, Thevenin and Norton's theorem, superposition...
- **Capacitors:** } Stored energy, RC, RL and LCR
- **Inductors:** } transient circuits.
- **AC theory:** complex notation, phasor diagrams, RC, RL, LCR circuits, resonance, bridges...
- **Op amps:** ideal operational amplifier circuits...

# Mathematics required

- Differential equations  $\frac{d^2I}{dt^2} + \frac{R}{L} \frac{dI}{dt} + \frac{1}{LC} I = 0$

- Complex numbers  $V(t) = V_0 e^{j\omega t}$

$$I = \frac{V}{Z} \quad Z = R + jX$$

- Linear equations

$$V_0 - I_1 R_1 - (I_1 - I_2) R_3 = 0$$

$$(I_1 - I_2) R_3 - I_2 R_2 + 2 = 0$$

Covered by Complex Nos & ODEs /  
Vectors & Matrices lectures

# Charge, voltage, current, power

**Charge:** determines strength of electromagnetic force  
quantised:  $e = 1.602 \times 10^{-19} C$  [coulombs]

**Potential difference:**  $V = V_B - V_A$  [volts]

Energy to move unit charge from A to B  
in electric field

$$V = -\int_A^B \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{s} \quad \mathbf{E} = -\nabla V$$

$$W = -\int_A^B Q\mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{s}$$

Current: rate of flow of charge

$$I = \frac{dQ}{dt} = nAve$$

Charge  $Q=e$

No. electrons/unit vol

Cross-section area of conductor

Drift velocity

[amps]

Power: work done per unit time

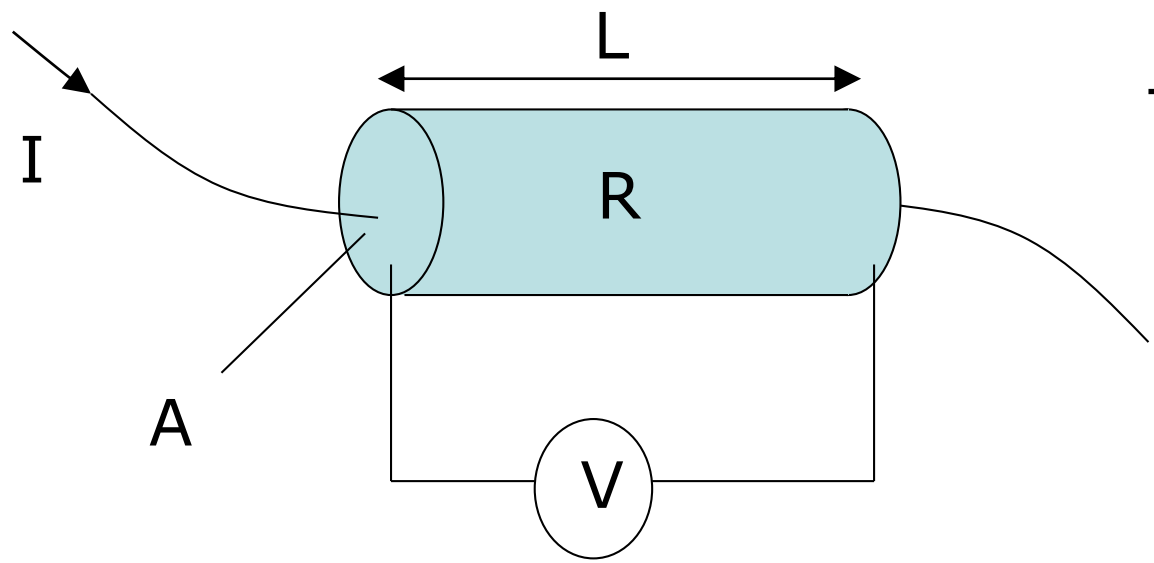
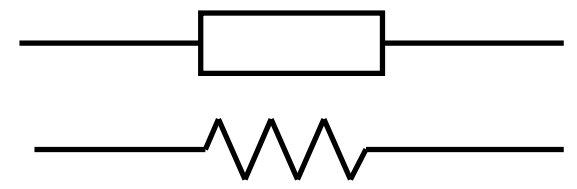
$$P = \frac{dW}{dt} = \frac{d(QV)}{dt} = IV$$

[watts = J/s]

# Ohm's law

Voltage difference  $\propto$  current

Resistor symbols:



$$V = IR$$

R=Resistance  $\Omega$ [ohms]

$$R = \frac{\rho L}{A}$$

$\rho$ =Resistivity  $\Omega\text{m}$



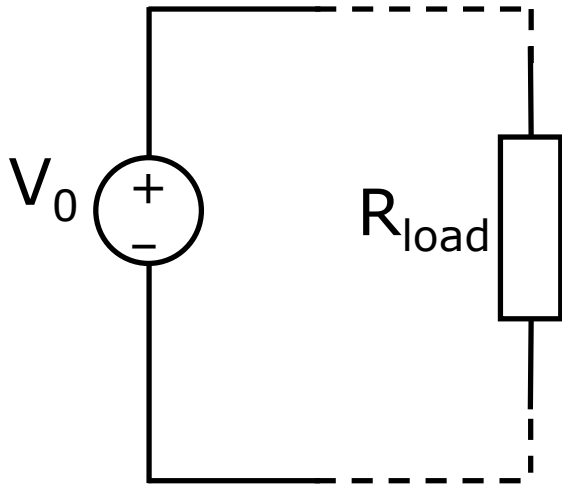
## Resistivities

Silver	$1.6 \times 10^{-8} \Omega\text{m}$
Copper	$1.7 \times 10^{-8} \Omega\text{m}$
Manganese	$144 \times 10^{-8} \Omega\text{m}$
Distilled water	$5.0 \times 10^3 \Omega\text{m}$
PTFE (Teflon)	$\sim 10^{19} \Omega\text{m}$

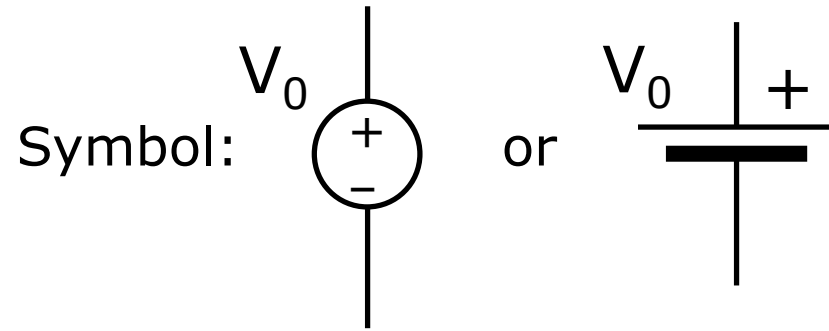
Conductance [seimens]	$g = \frac{1}{R}$	conductivity [seimens/m]	$\sigma = \frac{1}{\rho}$
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Power dissipation by resistor:  $P = IV = I^2R = \frac{V^2}{R}$

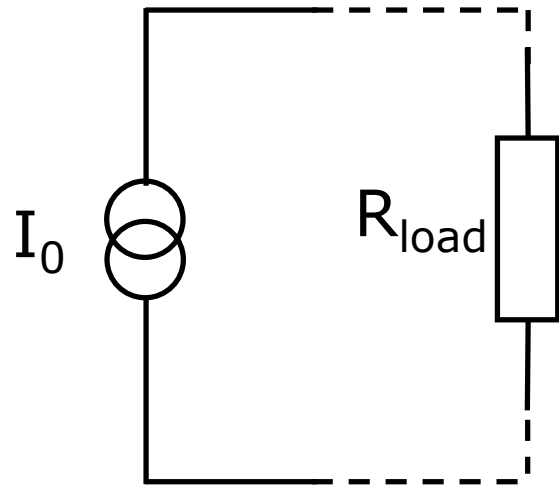
# Voltage source



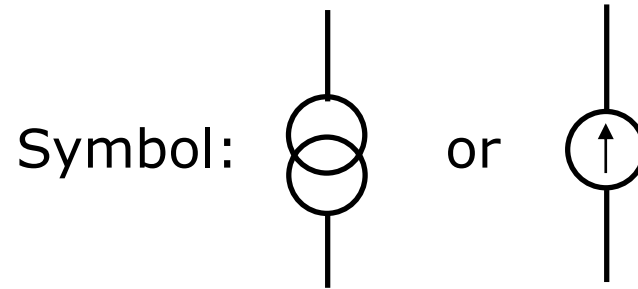
**Ideal voltage source:** supplies  $V_0$   
independent of current



# Constant current source

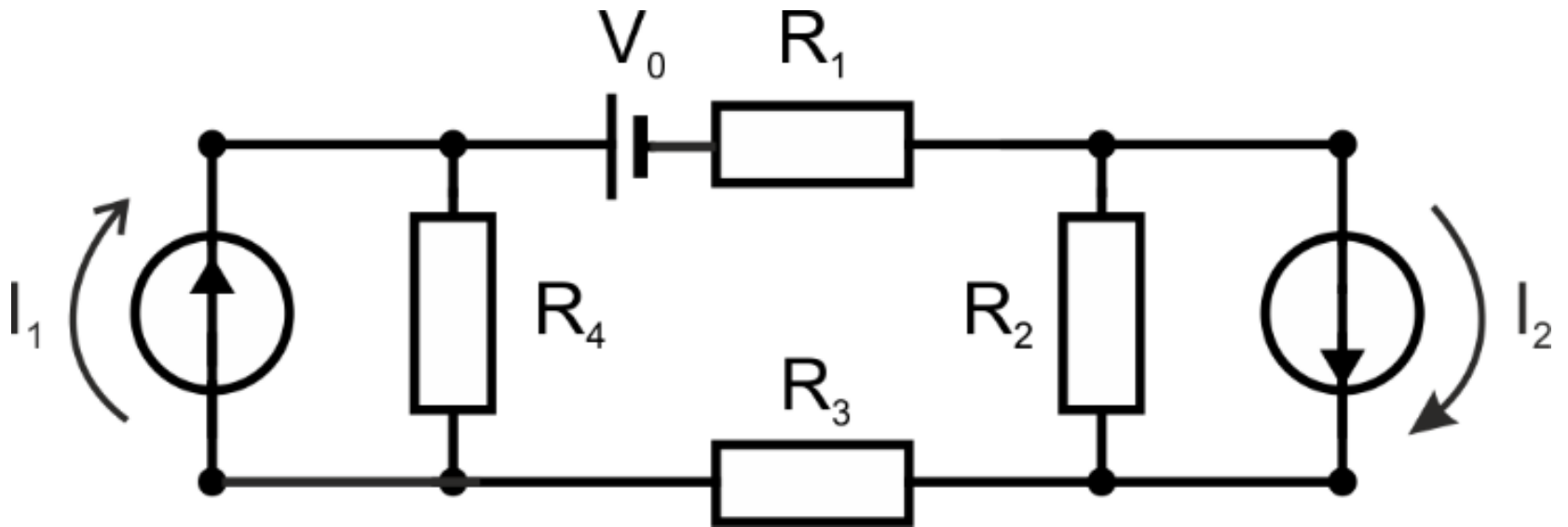


Ideal current source: supplies  $I_0$  amps independent of voltage



# Circuits

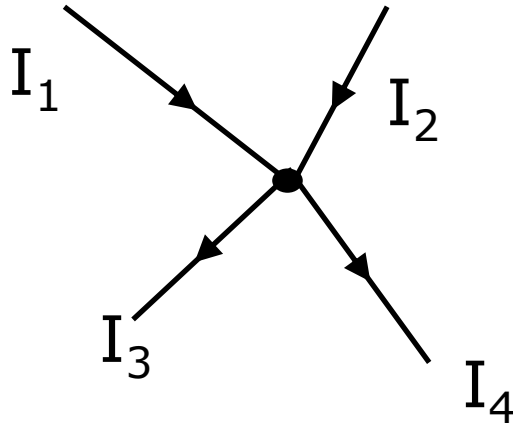
Out of these components we can make (arbitrarily complicated) circuits:



But how do we work out what they do...

# Kirchoff's Laws

I Kirchoff's current law: Sum of all currents at a node is zero



$$I_1 + I_2 - I_3 - I_4 = 0$$

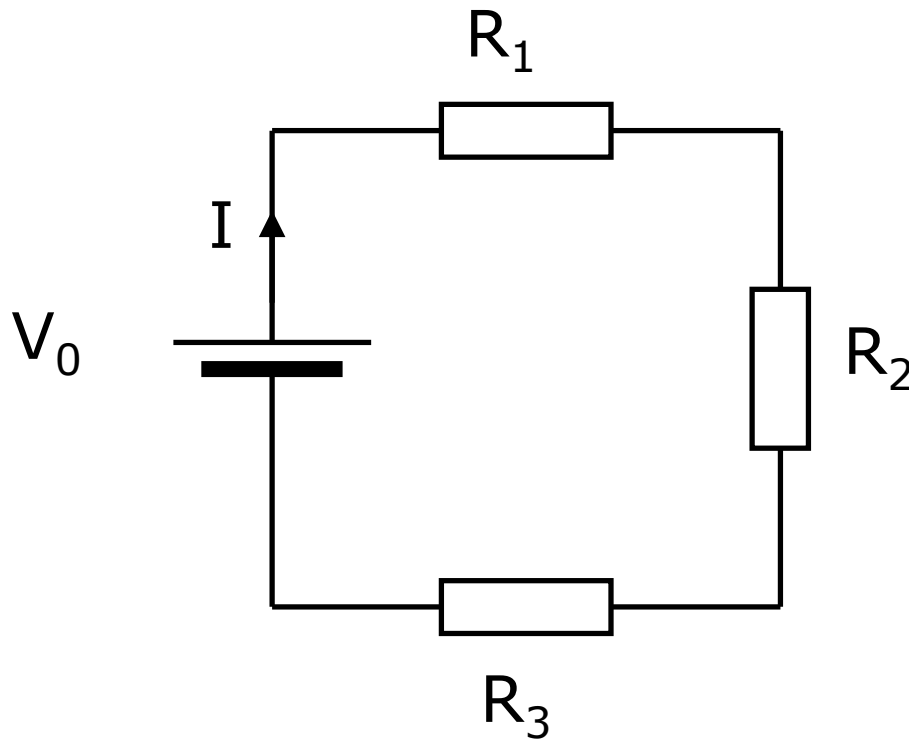
$$\sum I_n = 0 \quad \text{KCL}$$

(conservation of charge)

It does not matter whether you pick "entering" or "leaving" currents as positive.

**BUT keep the same convention for all currents on one node!**

II Kirchoff's voltage law: Around a closed loop the net change of potential is zero (Conservation of Energy)

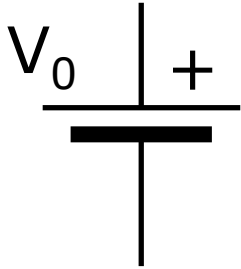


$$\sum V_n = 0$$

KVL

**But what about the signs of  $V_n$ ?**

# Passive Sign Convention



Sources have a + sign on the terminal the current normally leaves

Where do we put the + sign on a resistor (or other passive component)?



$$V = IR$$

## Procedure

- Choose direction of current you are defining as positive.
- For **any passive component** make a + sign on the side of that component that the current is **entering**.
- When applying KVL, as you go round a loop a - to + component has a negative voltage and a + to - component has a positive voltage.

**Learn it; Live it; Love it!**

# Passive Sign Convention

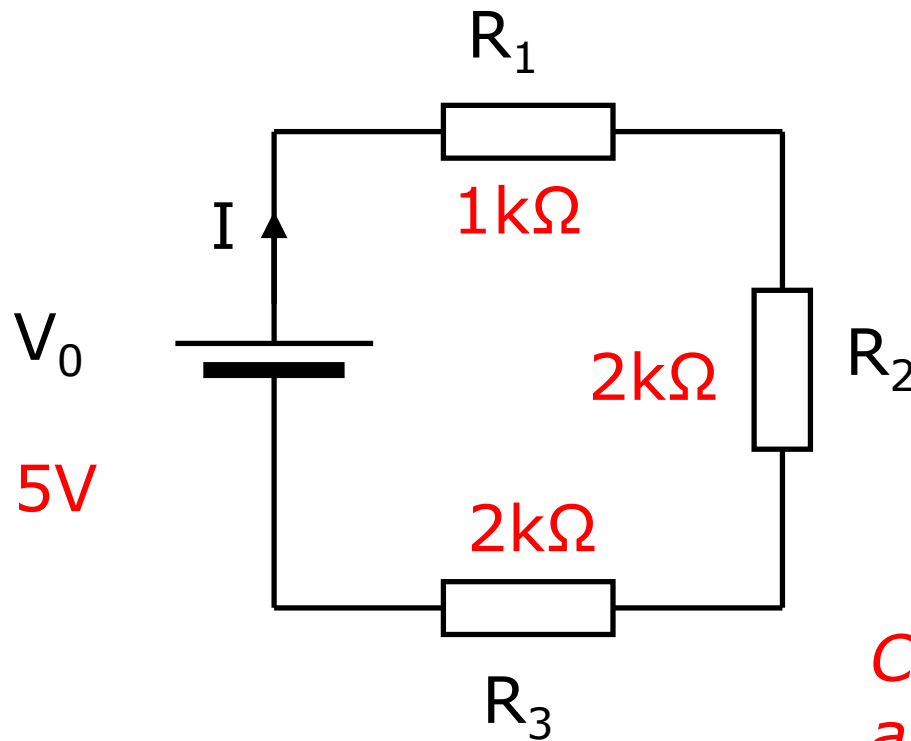
The 'convention' is related to how power input/output from a circuit is defined:

- Power flowing out of a circuit into an electrical component is defined as positive.
- Power flowing into a circuit from an electrical component is defined as negative.

Power conservation  $\sum I_n V_n = 0$



II Kirchoff's voltage law: Around a closed loop the net change of potential is zero (Conservation of Energy)

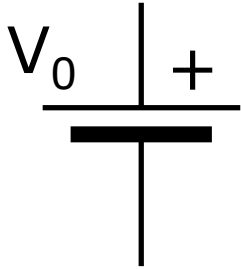


$$\sum V_n = 0$$

*Calculate the voltage across  $R_2$*

Show on blackboard

# Passive Sign Convention



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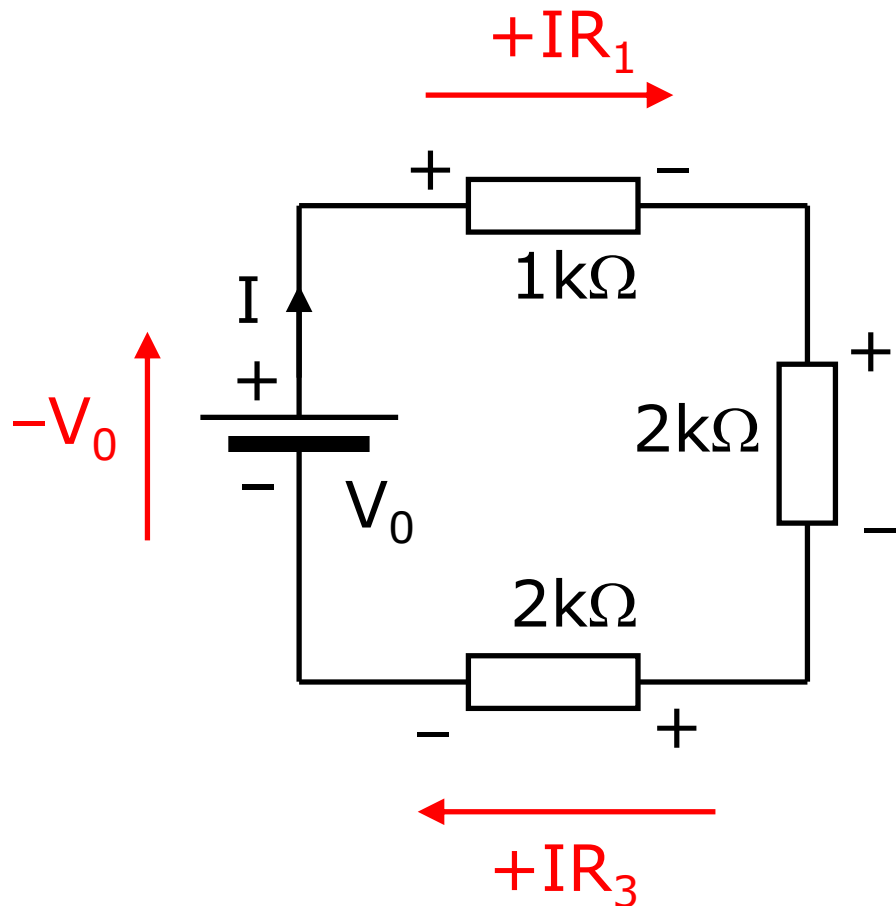
**Learn it; Live it; Love it!**



Kirchoff's voltage law:

$$\sum V_n = 0$$

$$-V_0 + IR_1 + IR_2 + IR_3 = 0$$



$$5\text{V} = I(1 + 2 + 2)\text{k}\Omega$$

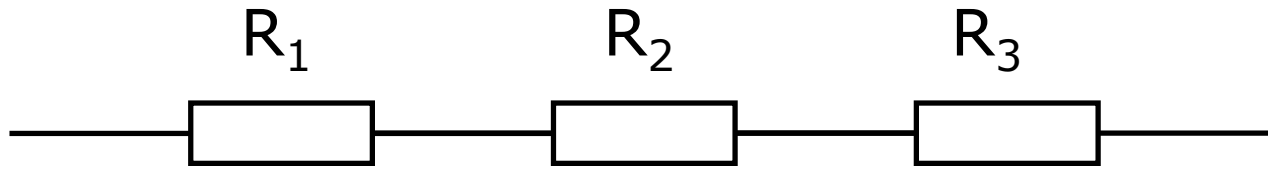
$$I = 1\text{mA}$$

$$V_{R_2} = 1\text{mA} \times 2\text{k}\Omega = 2\text{V}$$

# Series / parallel circuits

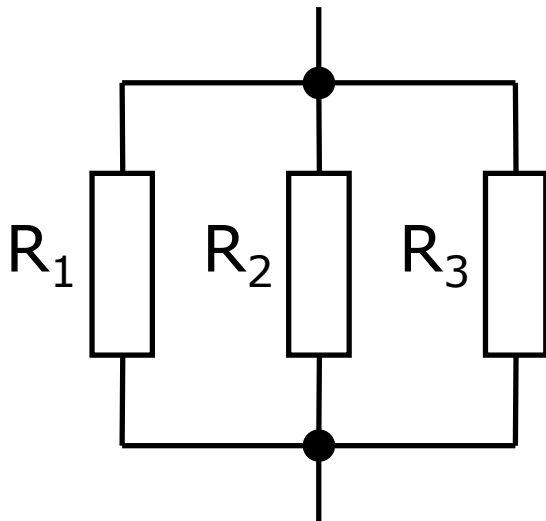
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# Series / parallel circuits



$$R_T = \sum_n R_n$$

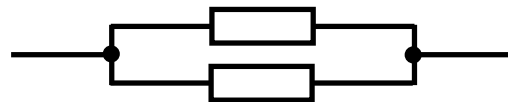
Resistors in series:  $R_{\text{Total}} = R_1 + R_2 + R_3 \dots$



Resistors in parallel

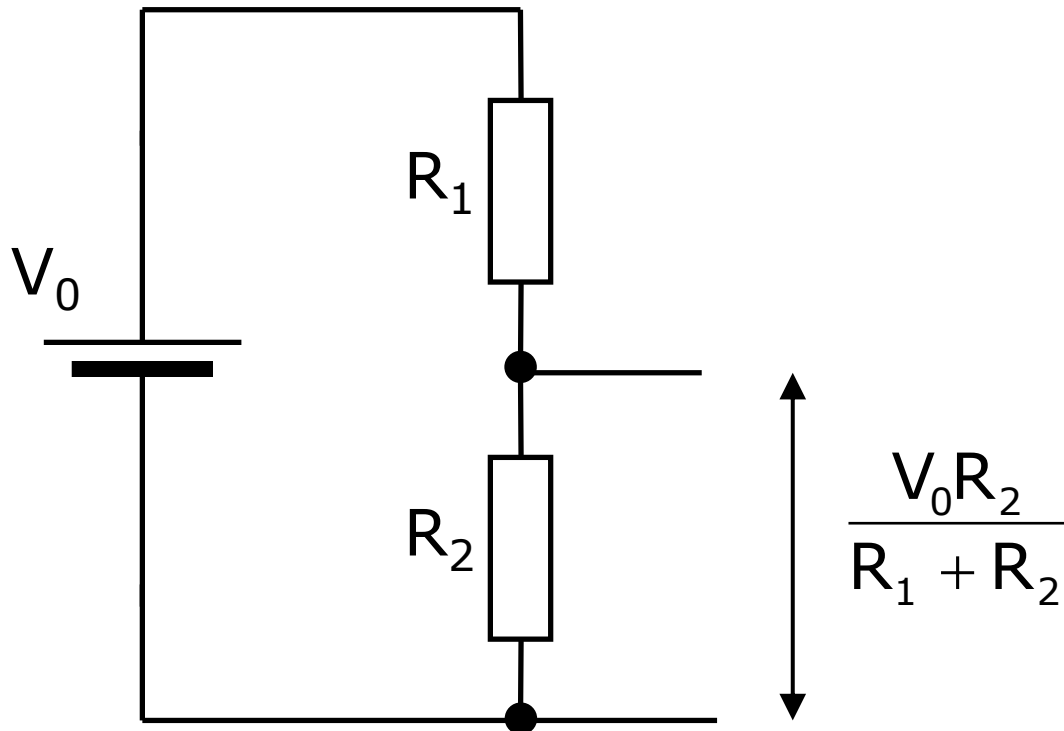
$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{R_T} &= \sum_n \frac{1}{R_n} \\ &= \frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} + \frac{1}{R_3} \dots \end{aligned}$$

Two parallel resistors:



$$R_T = \frac{R_1 R_2}{R_1 + R_2}$$

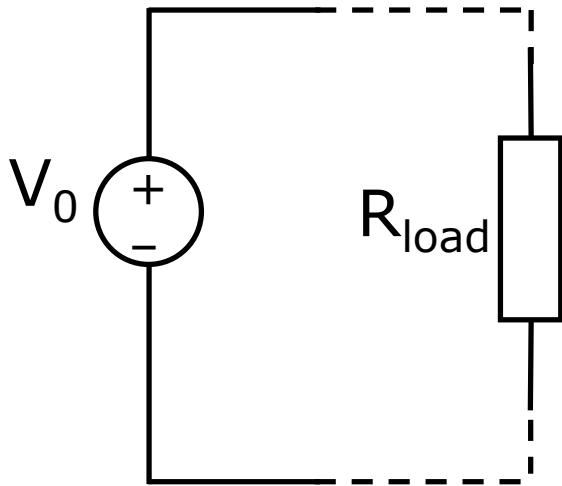
# Potential divider



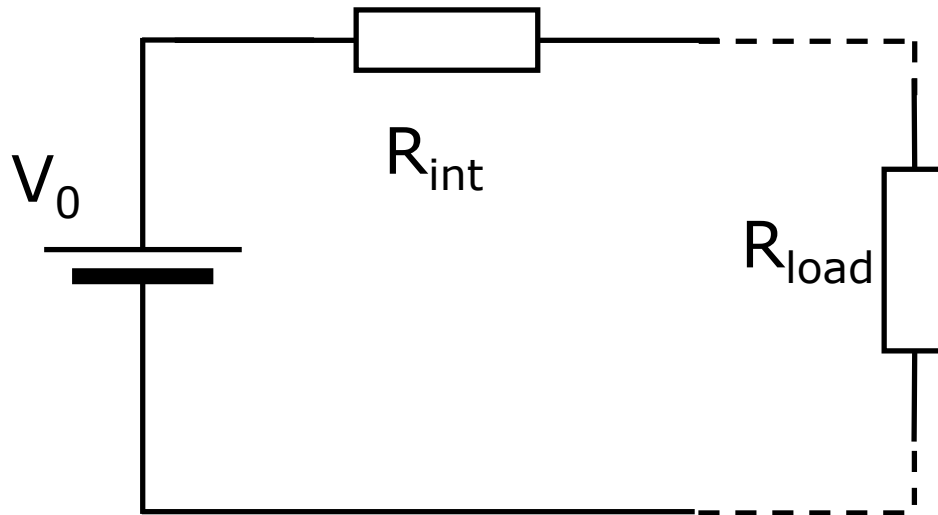
**USE PASSIVE SIGN CONVENTION!!!**

Show on blackboard

# Voltage source



**Ideal voltage source:** supplies  $V_0$   
independent of current



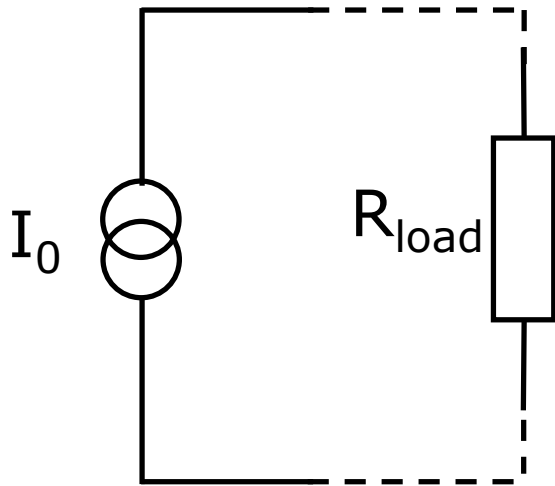
**Real voltage source:**

$$V_{load} = V_0 - IR_{int}$$

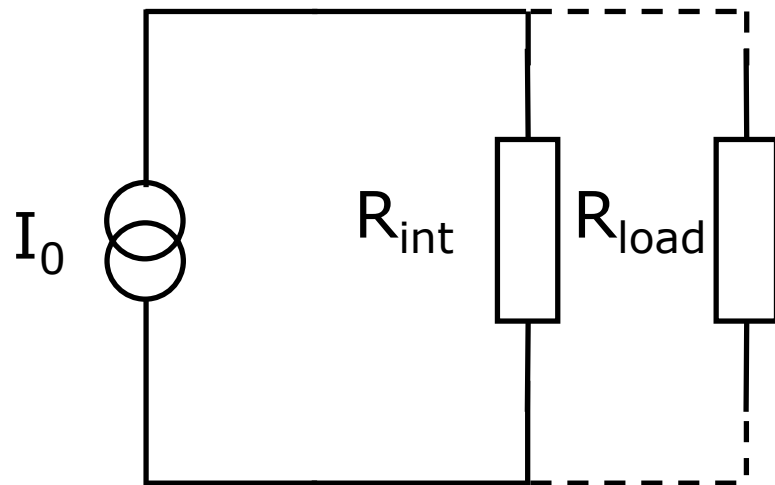
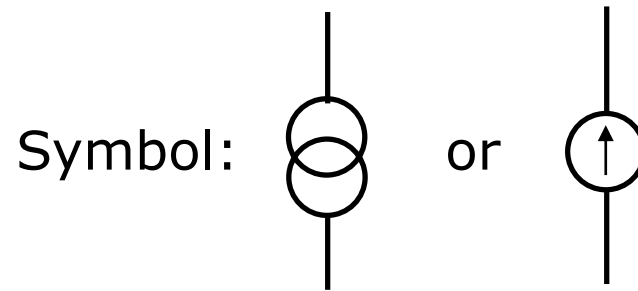
$$V_{load} = V_0 \times \frac{R_{load}}{R_{load} + R_{int}}$$



# Constant current source



**Ideal current source:** supplies  $I_0$  amps independent of voltage



**Real current source:**

$$I_{load} = I_0 - \frac{V}{R_{int}}$$

$$I_{load} = I_0 \times \frac{R_{int}}{R_{load} + R_{int}}$$

End of Lecture 1