



Physical computing: sensing and controlling the physical world with computers

Dan O'Sullivan and Tom Igoe



Breadboard

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Exercise 1: Electricity

Using the materials shown, create a circuit with an LED can be switched on and off.

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Bread Board





- Electricity is the interaction and movement of positive and negativity charged sub atomic particles.
- Negatively charged **Electrons** are attracted to positively charged **Protons** (electromagnetic force)
- Protons are strongly held in the nucleus of an atom, but electrons are more mobile.





Atoms and Electromagnetic force

- The attraction (and repulsion) between subatomic particles can cause electrons to flow though conductive materials to reach positively charged atoms.
- The difference in charge left to right in this diagram can be measured in **volts.** The amount of electrons flowing can be measured in **amp** and the resistance to flow from the atoms can be measured in **ohms.**



Electricity





Water Analogy

UNITS: Volt

(mili) mV	V	(kilo) kV
1000	1	0.001

Volts are measure of difference in electrical charge between two points. Voltage can exists in a system even if there is no circuit, as it refers to **potential difference.**

Power Supply Symbol



When current passes through a component, there is a **voltage drop.**





Voltage (volts)

UNITS: Amps

(micro) µA	(Mili) mA	A
10000	1000	1

Current is the amount of electrons moving through material per unit of time (flow). A circuit needs to be closed before electrons can flow, so we can only observe current in a working circuit.

In a simple circuit, same amount of current will be moving through every point (and every component).

Water Analogy: Flow





UNITS: ohms (Ω)

Ω	(kilo) kΩ	(mega) mΩ
1	0.001	0.000001

Resistance is the measure of restriction in a material to the flow of electrons.

All electronic components (including wires and batteries) have a resistance. However we mostly control this explicitly with a component called a resistor. Less resistance

More resistance

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _



Symbol

Water Analogy: Restriction of Flow

Resistance (ohms)

UNITS: Watt

(mili) mW	W	(Kilo) kW
1000	1	0.001

Watts are measure of power (or energy transfer)

Watts can be found by multiplying the current and the voltage in a circuit Water Analogy: The power of the water flow to move a load is both the pressure, and the rate of flow. Note how the restriction, here would limit the rate of flow even if it is after the water wheel!





Watts = V (volts) x I (amps)



There is an intrinsic relationship between voltage, current and resistance, expressed as ohms Law. We can use this formula to deduct the values in many situations







In a series circuit, the same current runs through all wires and components. Voltage can vary, depending on where we measure it in the circuit.





Breadboard

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Exercise 1.2: Electricity

Add **another LED** to your circuit, that can be controlled by it's **own button**.

In a parallel circuit, the total current is the sum of each circuit.











Nikola Tesla

- Direct current is easier to store (batteries and capacitors)
- DC is required for many components and devices (LEDs, Computers, Sensors)
- DC is easy to work with in low voltage applications

- Alternating current can be easily converted up or down in voltage
- Higher voltages can be transmitted with less energy loss over long distances, and easily converted down
- Many energy sources output AC
- Some devices can be driven directly by AC (motors, refrigerators, traditional lightbulbs)



Never use power direct from the socket! 220 v * 10 amps = 2200 watts!

Hazards: AC vs DC



