

国外电子与通信教材系列

英文改编版

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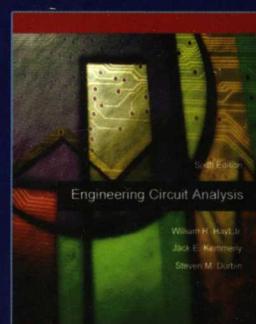
# 电路基础

Engineering Circuit Analysis, Sixth Edition

William H. Hayt, Jr.

[美] Jack E. Kemmerly 著  
Steven M. Durbin

李春茂 改编



电子工业出版社

Publishing House of Electronics Industry  
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北京 · BEIJING

## 内 容 简 介

本书改编自电路分析方面的经典著作《工程电路分析(第六版)》。编者结合多年教学经验以及当前的教学大纲，对其做了较大的改动，目的在于使其更适合作为高校电气与计算机工程专业本科生的英文教材。本书从基本电路元件、电压电流定律等基本概念出发，介绍了节点和网孔分析、叠加原理和电源置换等常用分析方法。对于交流电路，也是从 $RLC$ 电路的正弦稳态分析入手，然后讲解交流功率和磁耦合电路。为了适应现代技术发展趋势，作者充实了傅里叶分析、双端口网络等高级内容。作者力图将理论和实践相结合，提供了丰富的实例和数据。书中附有大量例题、练习和习题，每章末附有部分习题的答案。

本书可作为高等院校电气工程、计算机工程等相关专业本科生的双语教学教材或专业英语教学参考书，也可供相关人员自学或参考。

William H. Hayt, Jr., Jack E. Kemmerly, Steven M. Durbin : **Engineering Circuit Analysis, Sixth Edition**

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# 序

2001年7月间，电子工业出版社的领导同志邀请各高校十几位通信领域方面的老师，商量引进国外教材问题。与会同志对出版社提出的计划十分赞同，大家认为，这对我国通信事业、特别是对高等院校通信学科的教学工作会很有好处。

教材建设是高校教学建设的主要内容之一。编写、出版一本好的教材，意味着开设了一门好的课程，甚至可能预示着一个崭新学科的诞生。20世纪40年代MIT林肯实验室出版的一套28本雷达丛书，对近代电子学科、特别是对雷达技术的推动作用，就是一个很好的例子。

我国领导部门对教材建设一直非常重视。20世纪80年代，在原教委教材编审委员会的领导下，汇集了高等院校几百位富有教学经验的专家，编写、出版了一大批教材；很多院校还根据学校的特点和需要，陆续编写了大量的讲义和参考书。这些教材对高校的教学工作发挥了极好的作用。近年来，随着教学改革不断深入和科学技术的飞速进步，有的教材内容已比较陈旧、落后，难以适应教学的要求，特别是在电子学和通信技术发展神速、可以讲是日新月异的今天，如何适应这种情况，更是一个必须认真考虑的问题。解决这个问题，除了依靠高校的老师和专家撰写新的符合要求的教科书外，引进和出版一些国外优秀电子与通信教材，尤其是有选择地引进一批英文原版教材，是会有好处的。

一年多来，电子工业出版社为此做了很多工作。他们成立了一个“国外电子与通信教材系列”项目组，选派了富有经验的业务骨干负责有关工作，收集了230余种通信教材和参考书的详细资料，调来了100余种原版教材样书，依靠由20余位专家组成的出版委员会，从中精选了40多种，内容丰富，覆盖了电路理论与应用、信号与系统、数字信号处理、微电子、通信系统、电磁场与微波等方面，既可作为通信专业本科生和研究生的教学用书，也可作为有关专业人员的参考材料。此外，这批教材，有的翻译为中文，还有部分教材直接影印出版，以供教师用英语直接授课。希望这些教材的引进和出版对高校通信教学和教材改革能起一定作用。

在这里，我还要感谢参加工作的各位教授、专家、老师与参加翻译、编辑和出版的同志们。各位专家认真负责、严谨细致、不辞辛劳、不怕琐碎和精益求精的态度，充分体现了中国教育工作者和出版工作者的良好美德。

随着我国经济建设的发展和科学技术的不断进步，对高校教学工作会不断提出新的要求和希望。我想，无论如何，要做好引进国外教材的工作，一定要联系我国的实际。教材和学术专著不同，既要注意科学性、学术性，也要重视可读性，要深入浅出，便于读者自学；引进的教材要适应高校教学改革的需要，针对目前一些教材内容较为陈旧的问题，有目的地引进一些先进的和正在发展的交叉学科的参考书；要与国内出版的教材相配套，安排好出版英文原版教材和翻译教材的比例。我们努力使这套教材能尽量满足上述要求，希望它们能放在学生们的课桌上，发挥一定的作用。

最后，预祝“国外电子与通信教材系列”项目取得成功，为我国电子与通信教学和通信产业的发展培土施肥。也恳切希望读者能对这些书籍的不足之处、特别是翻译中存在的问题，提出意见和建议，以便再版时更正。



中国工程院院士、清华大学教授  
“国外电子与通信教材系列”出版委员会主任

## 出版说明

进入21世纪以来，我国信息产业在生产和科研方面都大大加快了发展速度，并已成为国民经济发展的支柱产业之一。但是，与世界上其他信息产业发达的国家相比，我国在技术开发、教育培训等方面都还存在着较大的差距。特别是在加入WTO后的今天，我国信息产业面临着国外竞争对手的严峻挑战。

作为我国信息产业的专业科技出版社，我们始终关注着全球电子信息技术的发展方向，始终把引进国外优秀电子与通信信息技术教材和专业书籍放在我们工作的重要位置上。在2000年至2001年间，我社先后从世界著名出版公司引进出版了40余种教材，形成了一套“国外计算机科学教材系列”，在全国高校以及科研部门中受到了欢迎和好评，得到了计算机领域的广大教师与科研工作者的充分肯定。

引进和出版一些国外优秀电子与通信教材，尤其是有选择地引进一批英文原版教材，将有助于我国信息产业培养具有国际竞争能力的技术人才，也将有助于我国内在电子与通信教学工作中掌握和跟踪国际发展水平。根据国内信息产业的现状、教育部《关于“十五”期间普通高等教育教材建设与改革的意见》的指示精神以及高等院校老师们反映的各种意见，我们决定引进“国外电子与通信教材系列”，并随后开展了大量准备工作。此次引进的国外电子与通信教材均来自国际著名出版商，其中影印教材约占一半。教材内容涉及的学科方向包括电路理论与应用、信号与系统、数字信号处理、微电子、通信系统、电磁场与微波等，其中既有本科专业课程教材，也有研究生课程教材，以适应不同院系、不同专业、不同层次的师生对教材的需求，广大师生可自由选择和自由组合使用。我们还将与国外出版商一起，陆续推出一些教材的教学支持资料，为授课教师提供帮助。

此外，“国外电子与通信教材系列”的引进和出版工作得到了教育部高等教育司的大力支持和帮助，其中的部分引进教材已通过“教育部高等学校电子信息科学与工程类专业教学指导委员会”的审核，并得到教育部高等教育司的批准，纳入了“教育部高等教育司推荐——国外优秀信息科学与技术系列教学用书”。

为做好该系列教材的翻译工作，我们聘请了清华大学、北京大学、北京邮电大学、南京邮电大学、东南大学、西安交通大学、天津大学、西安电子科技大学、电子科技大学、中山大学、哈尔滨工业大学、西南交通大学等著名高校的教授和骨干教师参与教材的翻译和审校工作。许多教授在国内电子与通信专业领域享有较高的声望，具有丰富的教学经验，他们的渊博学识从根本上保证了教材的翻译质量和专业学术方面的严格与准确。我们在此对他们的辛勤工作与贡献表示衷心的感谢。此外，对于编辑的选择，我们达到了专业对口；对于从英文原书中发现的错误，我们通过与作者联络、从网上下载勘误表等方式，逐一进行了修订；同时，我们对审校、排版、印制质量进行了严格把关。

今后，我们将进一步加强同各高校教师的密切关系，努力引进更多的国外优秀教材和教学参考书，为我国电子与通信教材达到世界先进水平而努力。由于我们对国内外电子与通信教育的发展仍存在一些认识上的不足，在选题、翻译、出版等方面的工作中还有许多需要改进的地方，恳请广大师生和读者提出批评及建议。

电子工业出版社

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# 前　　言

2001年12月11日，中国正式加入世贸组织（WTO）。这标志着中国融入了世界多边贸易体制，对中国的改革开放和世界经济贸易的发展都将产生积极而深远的影响。为适应经济全球化和科技革命的挑战，中国教育部（教高[2001]4号文件第8条）明确规定：本科教育要创造条件使用外语进行公共课和专业课教学，暂不具备直接用外语授课的学校、专业，可以先对部分课程用外语教材、中文授课的方式分步到位。目前，我国各个院校先后在不同专业对相关课程试行“双语教学”，并取得了一定的经验，值得借鉴和推广，同时还存在一些问题有待研究与探讨。

## 1. 什么是“双语教学”

顾名思义，“双语教学”就是采用外文原版教材、以中外文两种语言进行授课的教学形式。从教学层次上“双语教学”可以分为：第一层次，穿插式双语教学，即有意识地把第二语言（比如英语）作为教学语言穿插于课堂教学中，并逐步培养学生用英语思考问题的意识和能力；第二层次，完全式双语教学，即熟练运用英语作为教学语言，并且英语占总学时的三分之二以上。对“双语教学”的理解解决不是在课堂上讲几句英语，或写几个英语专业词汇；也不能简单地等同于强化英语。必须将“双语教学”和“育人为本”密切联系起来，通过双语教学模式培养的学生应当是全面发展的复合型、国际型人才，而不是只会参加外语考试的尖子。在教学过程中，一方面尽量给学生创造语言环境，为学生提供用外语读、说、写的机会，训练学生运用英语思考问题和解决问题的能力；另一方面通过“双语教学”来促进语言能力的发展，培养学生同时使用两种语言进行思维，并能在两种语言之间根据交际对象和工作环境进行灵活切换，最终形成一种“双语型”思维。经过长时间的教学语言的感染，使学生能达到“外语突出，各科领先，综合发展”，这也就是“双语教学”所追求的目标。

## 2. 开展“双语教学”的必要性、重要性和可行性

开展“双语教学”有助于促进师生外语能力的提高。改革开放以来，中国政府对教育的投入越来越大，特别是对外语教学更加重视，在各行各业以及各种层次的文化考试中，外语是必不可少的考试科目，这对国民外语水平的提高起到了极大的推动作用。但由于应试教育下的中国学生，对外语学习的理解只是机械的背单词、做习题，而不是在实践中应用，更谈不上作为一种社会文化去理解和体会外语本身，多数学生掌握的是“中国式”的“哑巴外语”、“聋子外语”。为了培养学生的外语实践能力，在有条件的高等院校应当开展“双语教学”，以“双语教学”的形式和手段，结合相关课程的学习来培养学生的阅读能力、计算能力、写作能力、电脑处理信息能力以及必要的生存能力。同时通过“双语教学”的实践还可以提高任课教师的外语水平，在教与学的过程中形成良性循环。

“双语教学”有利于促进学生深入学习、准确掌握学科知识。“双语教学”最根本的目的还是为了使学生获得先进的学科知识。现代计算机技术和网络技术的发展使得各种信息的传播速度大大提高，英语成为现代信息技术传播的重要语言工具。我们必须承认，在某些学科领域，中国和西方发达国家还存在着较大差距。因此，我们国内很多教材、参考资料等都是翻译版本，但由于翻译者不同的文化背景、不同的理解方式与不同的处理方法，加之译文在时间上相对滞后等原因，使得学生在获取信息方面不够及时准确。因此，通过“双语教学”可以使学生直接使用本学科的专业外语资料，同时在报刊、杂志、网络上获取更多本学科领域最前沿、代表最新动态的相关知识，这有助于学生对相关学科知识的深入学习与掌握。

目前在有条件的高校进行“双语教学”是可行的。大学生四、六级外语考试促进了学生学习外语的积极性，在校学生的外语成绩有了明显的提高；中国加入WTO以后，与世界各国的文化交流日益频繁，东西方文化在碰撞中交融，西方先进的科学技术、文化教育体系与我国传统的文化精髓融为一体，成为推动社会进步的强大动力；进入21世纪以来，国内各出版社相继引进了一批优秀的国外原版教材，影印、翻译后在全国发行。所有这些都为中国高等学校开设双语课程提供了必要条件，使得“双语教学”成为可能。理工科各专业在大学二年级中选择一两门专业基础课进行“双语教学”比较合适，因为大学二年级学生基本达到了三级或四级（少数达到六级）外语水平，在原版教材中专业词汇又以极高的重复率出现，加上他们具有较系统的数学、物理基础作为中外文教材共同的逻辑思维工具，可以促进学生对所学内容的深刻理解，同时又为他们学习专业词汇搭建了平台，为培养学生的外语阅读和思维能力提供了良好机会，也为他们后续专业课程的学习奠定了基础。

### 3. 怎样搞好“双语教学”

在试行“双语教学”的过程中，可以采取学期淘汰制，通过考试对学习吃力或不用心学习的学生进行淘汰，让他们回到同年级中文班学习，这从另一个角度促进了他们学习的积极性。为了在有限的时间内讲授较多的内容，最好把要讲的内容做成英文多媒体教学课件，图文并茂，有针对性地举例分析，细心讲解，并辅之以粉笔加黑板的传统教学模式及必要的形体语言，这样有利于提高课堂“双语教学”的效果。特别强调，实践教学是必不可少的重要环节。为了搞好“双语教学”，还有两个特别重要的因素值得重视：教材和师资。

(1) 教材是根本。由于国外的教育教学体制与我们国家存在很大差异，我们在教材的选择方面有一定困难。比如，“电路与电子技术”这门课在国外很难选得到，只能选择“电路分析”与“电子学”两门课程，但由于书价过高以及学时的限制，这样对学生来说显然是一种“浪费”。针对这种实际情况，电子工业出版社积极配合，并征得了原出版商和原版作者的同意，我们自己动手对引进的原版教材改编压缩，并配备多媒体教学课件和辅助教学软件包，使其既接近我们的教学计划和学时要求，又“原汁原味”地吸收了国外先进的学科内容，真正做到“洋为中用”，有效地解决了教材难题（国内尚无先例）。

(2) 师资是关键。教育应当以人为本。在多年的教学实践和教育体制改革中，我们总结出了适合国情的“以教师为主导、以学生为主体”的办学思路，那么，提高教学质量的关键是教师。即使条件再优越，设备再先进，没有好的师资也不可能办好学校。古今中外皆如此。“双语教学”更不例外。我们的教师长期工作在教学第一线，讲授课程内容一般是没有问题的，但接受双语教学任务还存在一些比较客观的困难因素，主要是语言障碍。在双语授课过程中，正确的发音和专业词汇的准确释意是必需的。为此，建议有条件的学校最好组织有关教师到英语比较纯正的国家进行半年至一年或更长时间的语言环境训练。

教学实践表明，在有条件的学校实行“双语教学”有利于提高教学质量，也有助于提高学生的专业外语水平以及直接用外语获取知识的能力，从而提高他们的综合素质；有利于中西文化的交流和先进科学技术的推广；有利于中国全方位地进行改革开放。当然，“双语教学”还有很多工作要做：师资需要加强培训，教材和配套教学辅导材料需要建设，教学手段需要改进，等等。

李春茂

2005-7-18 于华南理工大学

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# Chapter 1

## Basic Components and Electric Circuits

*Our primary goals and objectives for this chapter are*

- Understanding the relationship between charge, current, voltage, and power
- Ability to work with the passive sign convention
- Introduction to dependent and independent voltage and current sources
- Detailed knowledge of the behavior of the resistor and Ohm's law

### 1.1 Introduction

We begin this study by considering systems of units and several basic definitions and conventions. In order to figure out how circuits work, we will first examine some of the different components that can be used in a circuit: voltage and current sources, batteries , and resistors. We also need to understand the concepts of voltage, current, and power, since these are the quantities we usually need to find. One quick word of advice before we begin: Pay close attention to the role of "+" and "−" signs when labeling voltages, and the significance of the arrow in defining current; they often make the difference between wrong and right answers.

### 1.2 Charge, Current, Voltage, and Power

#### Charge

One of the most fundamental concepts in electric circuit analysis is that of charge conservation. We know from basic physics that there are two types of charge: positive (corresponding to a proton), and negative (corresponding to an electron). For the most part, this text is concerned with circuits in which only electron flow is relevant. There are many devices (such as batteries, diodes, and transistors) in which positive charge motion is important to understanding internal operation, but external to the device we typically concentrate on the electrons which flow through the connecting wires. Although we continuously transfer charges between different parts of a circuit, we do nothing to change the total amount of charge. In other words, we neither create nor destroy electrons (or protons) when running electric circuits.<sup>①</sup> Charge in motion represents a *current*.

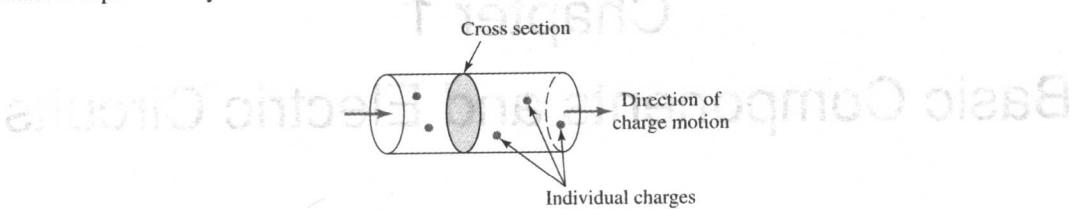
In the SI system, the fundamental unit of charge is the **coulomb** (C). It is defined in terms of the **ampere** by counting the total charge that passes through an arbitrary cross section of a wire during an interval of one second; one coulomb is measured each second for a wire carrying a current of 1 ampere (Fig 1.1). In this system of units, a single electron has a charge of  $-1.602 \times 10^{-19}$  C and a single proton has a charge of  $+1.602 \times 10^{-19}$  C.

A quantity of charge that does not change with time is typically represented by  $Q$ . The instantaneous amount of charge (which may or may not be time-invariant) is commonly represented by  $q(t)$ , or simply  $q$ . This convention is used throughout the

---

<sup>①</sup> Although the occasional appearance of smoke may seem to suggest otherwise...

remainder of the text: capital letters are reserved for constant (time-invariant) quantities, whereas lowercase letters represent the more general case. Thus, a constant charge may be represented by either  $Q$  or  $q$ , but an amount of charge that changes over time *must* be represented by the lowercase letter  $q$ .



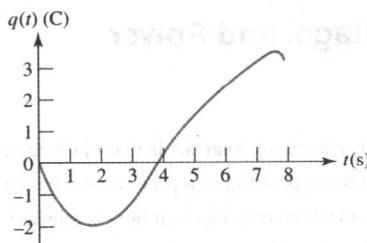
**Figure 1.1** Charge flowing through a wire, illustrating the definition of the coulomb.

## Current

The idea of “transfer of charge” or “charge in motion” is of vital importance to us in studying electric circuits because, in moving a charge from place to place, we may also transfer energy from one point to another. The familiar cross-country power-transmission line is a practical example of a device that transfers energy. Of equal importance is the possibility of varying the rate at which the charge is transferred in order to communicate or transfer information. This process is the basis of communication systems such as radio, television, and telemetry.

The current present in a discrete path, such as a metallic wire, has both a *numerical value* and a direction associated with it; it is a measure of the rate at which charge is moving past a given reference point in a specified direction.

Once we have specified a reference direction, we may then let  $q(t)$  be the total charge that has passed the reference point since an arbitrary time  $t = 0$ , moving in the defined direction. A contribution to this total charge will be negative if negative charge is moving in the reference direction, or if positive charge is moving in the opposite direction. As an example, Fig 1.2 shows a history of the total charge  $q(t)$  that has passed a given reference point in a wire (such as the one shown in Fig 1.1).



**Figure 1.2** A graph of the instantaneous value of the total charge  $q(t)$  that has passed a given reference point since  $t = 0$ .

We define the current at a specific point and flowing in a specified direction as the instantaneous rate at which net positive charge is moving past that point in the specified direction. This, unfortunately, is the historical definition, which came into popular use before it was appreciated that current in wires is actually due to negative, not positive, charge motion. Current is symbolized by  $I$  or  $i$ , and so

$$i = \frac{dq}{dt} \quad [1]$$

The unit of current is the ampere (A), named after A. M. Ampere, a French physicist. It is commonly abbreviated as an “amp,” although this is unofficial and somewhat informal.

Using Eq. [1], we compute the instantaneous current and obtain Fig 1.3. The use of the lowercase letter  $i$  is again to be associated with an instantaneous value; an uppercase  $I$  would denote a constant (i.e., time-invariant) quantity.

The charge transferred between time  $t_0$  and  $t$  may be expressed as a definite integral:

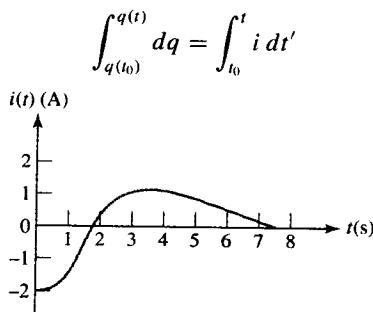


Figure 1.3 The instantaneous current  $i = dq/dt$ , where  $q$  is given in Fig 1.2

The total charge transferred over all time is obtained by adding  $q(t_0)$ , the charge transferred up to the time  $t_0$ , to the preceding expression:

$$q(t) = \int_{t_0}^t i dt' + q(t_0) \quad [2]$$

Several different types of current are illustrated in Fig 1.4. A current that is constant in time is termed a direct current, or simply dc, and is shown by Fig 1.4a. We will find many practical examples of currents that vary sinusoidally with time (Fig 1.4b); currents of this form are present in normal household circuits. Such a current is often referred to as alternating current, or ac. Exponential currents and damped sinusoidal currents (Fig 1.4c and Fig 1.4d) will also be encountered later.

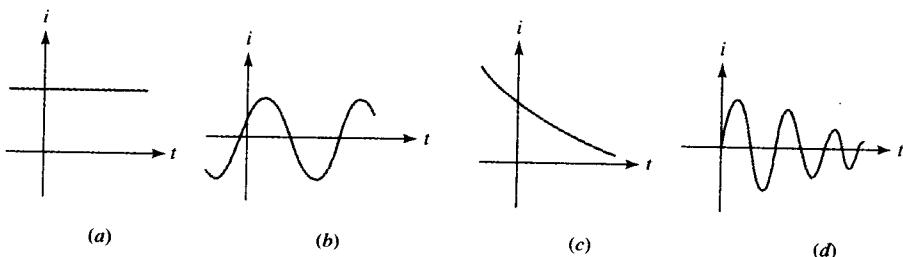
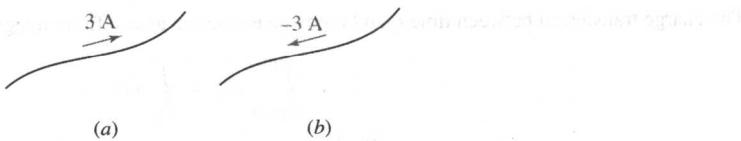


Figure 1.4 Several types of current: (a) Direct current (dc). (b) Sinusoidal current (ac). (c) Exponential current. (d) Damped sinusoidal current

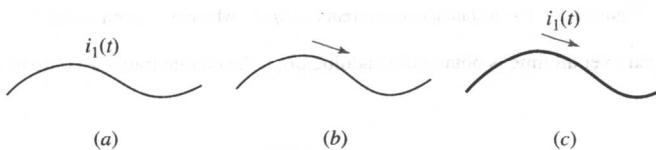
We establish a graphical symbol for current by placing an arrow next to the conductor. Thus, in Fig 1.5a the direction of the arrow and the value 3 A indicate either that a net positive charge of 3 C/s is moving to the right or that a net negative charge of -3 C/s is moving to the left each second. In Fig 1.5b there are again two possibilities: either -3 A is flowing to the left or +3 A is flowing to the right. All four statements and both figures represent currents that are equivalent in their electrical effects, and we say that they are equal. A non electrical analogy that may be easier to visualize is to think in terms of a personal savings account: e.g., a deposit can be viewed as either a *negative cash flow out of* your account or a *positive flow into* your account.

It is convenient to think of current as the motion of positive charge, even though it is known that current flow in metallic conductors results from electron motion. In ionized gases, in electrolytic solutions, and in some semiconductor materials, positively charged elements in motion constitute part or all of the current. Thus, any definition of current can agree with the physical nature of conduction only part of the time. The definition and symbolism we have adopted are standard.



**Figure 1.5** Two methods of representation for the exact same current

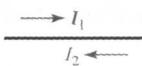
It is essential that we realize that the current arrow does not indicate the “actual” direction of current flow but is simply part of a convention that allows us to talk about “the current in the wire” in an unambiguous manner. The arrow is a fundamental part of the definition of a current! Thus, to talk about the value of a current  $i_1(t)$  without specifying the arrow is to discuss an undefined entity. For example, Fig 1.6a and b are meaningless representations of  $i_1(t)$ , whereas Fig 1.6c is the proper definitive symbology.



**Figure 1.6** (a,b) Incomplete, improper, and incorrect definitions of a current. (c) the correct definition of  $i_1(t)$

### Practice

- 1.1. In the wire of Fig 1.7, electrons are moving *left to right* to create a current of 1 mA. Determine  $I_1$  and  $I_2$ .

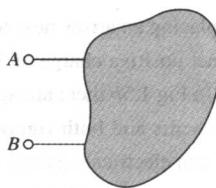


**Figure 1.7**

*Ans:*  $I_1 = -1 \text{ mA}$ ;  $I_2 = +1 \text{ mA}$ .

### Voltage

We must now begin to refer to a circuit element, something best defined in general terms to begin with. Such electrical devices as fuses, light bulbs, resistors, batteries, capacitors, generators, and spark coils can be represented by combinations of simple circuit elements. We begin by showing a very general circuit element as a shapeless object possessing two terminals at which connections to other elements may be made (Fig 1.8).



**Figure 1.8** A general two-terminal circuit element

There are two paths by which current may enter or leave the element. In subsequent discussions we will define particular circuit elements by describing the electrical characteristics that may be observed at their terminals.

In Fig 1.8, let us suppose that a dc current is sent into terminal A, through the general element, and back out of terminal B. Let us also assume that pushing charge through the element requires an expenditure of energy. We then say that an electrical

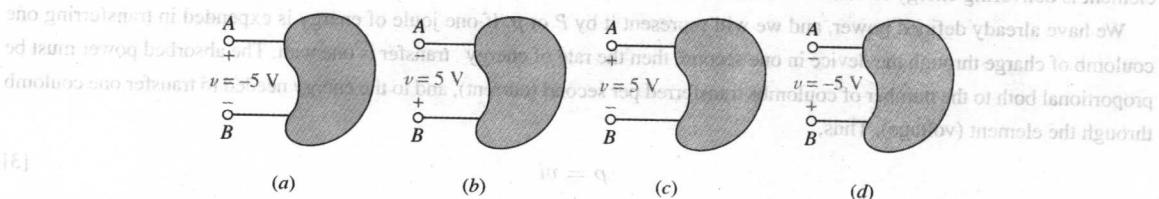
voltage (or a *potential difference*) exists between the two terminals, or that there is a voltage “across” the element. Thus, the voltage across a terminal pair is a measure of the work required to move charge through the element. The unit of voltage is the volt,<sup>①</sup> and 1 volt is the same as 1 J/C. Voltage is represented by  $V$  or  $v$ .

A voltage can exist between a pair of electrical terminals whether a current is flowing or not. An automobile battery, for example, has a voltage of 12 V across its terminals even if nothing whatsoever is connected to the terminals.

According to the principle of conservation of energy, the energy that is expended in forcing charge through the element must appear somewhere else. When we later meet specific circuit elements, we will note whether that energy is stored in some form that is readily available as electric energy or whether it changes irreversibly into heat, acoustic energy, or some other non-electrical form.

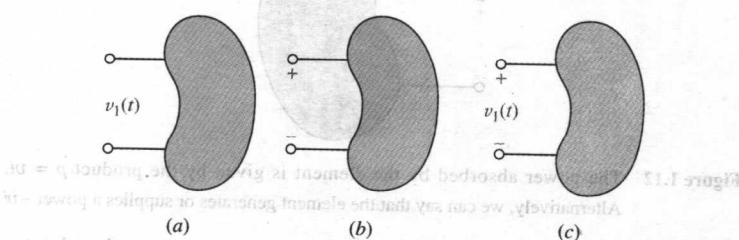
We must now establish a convention by which we can distinguish between energy supplied *to* an element, and energy that is supplied *by* the element itself. We do this by our choice of sign for the voltage of terminal A with respect to terminal B. If a positive current is entering terminal A of the element and an external source must expend energy to establish this current, then terminal A is positive with respect to terminal B. Alternatively, we may say that terminal B is negative with respect to terminal A.

The sense of the voltage is indicated by a plus-minus pair of algebraic signs. In Fig 1.9a, for example, the placement of the + sign at terminal A indicates that terminal A is  $v$  volts positive with respect to terminal B. If we later find that  $v$  happens to have a numerical value of  $-5$  V, then we may say either that A is  $-5$  V positive with respect to B or that B is  $5$  V positive with respect to A. Other cases are shown in Fig 1.9b, Fig 1.9c, and Fig 1.9d.



**Figure 1.9** (a, b) Terminal B is 5 V positive with respect to terminal A; (c, d) terminal A is 5 V positive with respect to terminal B

Just as we noted in our definition of current, it is essential to realize that the plus-minus pair of algebraic signs does not indicate the “actual” polarity of the voltage but is simply part of a convention that enables us to talk unambiguously about “the voltage across the terminal pair.” Note: *The definition of any voltage must include a plus-minus sign pair!* Using a quantity  $v_i(t)$  without specifying the location of the plus-minus sign pair is using an undefined term. Figure 1.10a and b do not serve as definitions of  $v_i(t)$ ; Fig 1.10c does.



**Figure 1.10** (a, b) These are inadequate definitions of a voltage. (c) A correct definition includes both a symbol for the variable and a plus-minus symbol pair

<sup>①</sup> We are probably fortunate that the full name of the 18th century Italian physicist, Alessandro Giuseppe Antonio Anastasio Volta, is not used for our unit of potential difference!