

# Chapter 1

## Basic Electric Circuit Concepts



# BASIC CONCEPTS

## LEARNING GOALS

- **System of Units: The SI standard system**
- **Systeme International unit (=International System of Units)**
- (法) 國際單位制

• **Basic Quantities: Charge, current, voltage, power and energy**

• **Circuit Elements: Active and Passive**

## International System of Units (SI)

### SI base units

The SI is founded on seven *SI base units* for seven *base quantities* assumed to be mutually independent, as given in Table 1.

**Table 1. SI base units**

Base quantity	SI base unit	
	Name	Symbol
length	meter	m
mass	kilogram	kg
time	second	s
electric current	ampere	A
thermodynamic temperature	kelvin	K
amount of substance	mole	mol
luminous intensity	candela	cd

For detailed information on the SI base units, see [Definitions of the SI base units](#) and their [Historical context](#).

## Definitions of the SI base units

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<b>Unit of length</b>	<b>meter</b>	The meter is the length of the path travelled by light in vacuum during a time interval of $1/299\,792\,458$ of a second.
<b>Unit of mass</b>	<b>kilogram</b>	The kilogram is the unit of mass; it is equal to the mass of the international prototype of the kilogram.
<b>Unit of time</b>	<b>second</b>	The second is the duration of $9\,192\,631\,770$ periods of the radiation corresponding to the transition between the two hyperfine levels of the ground state of the cesium 133 atom.
<b>Unit of electric current</b>	<b>ampere</b>	The ampere is that constant current which, if maintained in two straight parallel conductors of infinite length, of negligible circular cross-section, and placed 1 meter apart in vacuum, would produce between these conductors a force equal to $2 \times 10^{-7}$ newton per meter of length.
<b>Unit of thermodynamic temperature</b>	<b>kelvin</b>	The kelvin, unit of thermodynamic temperature, is the fraction $1/273.16$ of the thermodynamic temperature of the triple point of water.
<b>Unit of amount of substance</b>	<b>mole</b>	1. The mole is the amount of substance of a system which contains as many elementary entities as there are atoms in 0.012 kilogram of carbon 12; its symbol is "mol."

The 20 SI prefixes used to form decimal multiples and submultiples of SI units are given in Table 5.

**Table 5. SI prefixes**

<b>Factor</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Symbol</b>	<b>Factor</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Symbol</b>
$10^{24}$	yotta	Y	$10^{-1}$	deci	d
$10^{21}$	zetta	Z	$10^{-2}$	centi	c
$10^{18}$	exa	E	$10^{-3}$	milli	m
$10^{15}$	peta	P	$10^{-6}$	micro	$\mu$
$10^{12}$	tera	T	$10^{-9}$	nano	n
$10^9$	giga	G	$10^{-12}$	pico	p
$10^6$	mega	M	$10^{-15}$	femto	f
$10^3$	kilo	k	$10^{-18}$	atto	a
$10^2$	hecto	h	$10^{-21}$	zepto	z
$10^1$	deka	da	$10^{-24}$	yocto	y

## SI DERIVED BASIC ELECTRICAL UNITS

power, radiant flux	watt	W	J/s	$\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{kg} \cdot \text{s}^{-3}$
electric charge, quantity of electricity	coulomb	C	-	$\text{s} \cdot \text{A}$
electric potential difference, electromotive force	volt	V	W/A	$\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{kg} \cdot \text{s}^{-3} \cdot \text{A}^{-1}$
capacitance	farad	F	C/V	$\text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^4 \cdot \text{A}^2$
electric resistance	ohm	$\Omega$	V/A	$\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{kg} \cdot \text{s}^{-3} \cdot \text{A}^{-2}$
electric conductance	siemens	S	A/V	$\text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^3 \cdot \text{A}^2$
magnetic flux	weber	Wb	V·s	$\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{kg} \cdot \text{s}^{-2} \cdot \text{A}^{-1}$
magnetic flux density	tesla	T	Wb/m <sup>2</sup>	$\text{kg} \cdot \text{s}^{-2} \cdot \text{A}^{-1}$
inductance	henry	H	Wb/A	$\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{kg} \cdot \text{s}^{-2} \cdot \text{A}^{-2}$

## CURRENT AND VOLTAGE RANGES

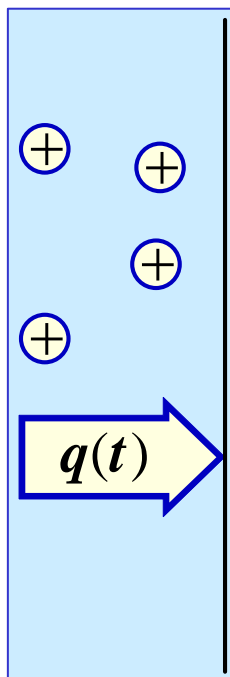
Current in amperes (A)		Voltage in volts (V)	
$10^6$	Lightning bolt	$10^8$	Lightning bolt
$10^4$	Large industrial motor current	$10^6$	High voltage transmission lines Voltage on a TV picture tube
$10^2$	Typical household appliance current	$10^4$	Large industrial motors AC outlet plug in U.S. households
$10^0$	Causes ventricular fibrillation in humans	$10^2$	Car battery
$10^{-2}$	Human threshold of sensation	$10^0$	Voltage on integrated circuits Flashlight battery
$10^{-4}$		$10^{-2}$	
$10^{-6}$	Integrated Circuit memory cell current	$10^{-4}$	Voltage across human chest produced by the heart (EKG)
$10^{-8}$		$10^{-6}$	Voltage between two points on human scalp
$10^{-10}$		$10^{-8}$	Antenna of a radio receiver
$10^{-12}$		$10^{-10}$	
$10^{-14}$	Synaptic current (brain cell)		

Strictly speaking current is a basic quantity and charge is derived. However, physically the electric current is created by a movement of charged particles.

An electric circuit is essentially a pipeline that facilitates the transfer of charge from one point to another. The time rate of change of charge constitutes an electric *current*. Mathematically, the relationship is expressed as

$$i(t) = \frac{dq(t)}{dt} \quad \text{or} \quad q(t) = \int_{-\infty}^t i(x) dx$$

Although we know that current flow in metallic conductors results from electron motion, the conventional current flow, which is universally adopted, represents the movement of positive charges.



What is the meaning of a negative value for  $q(t)$ ?

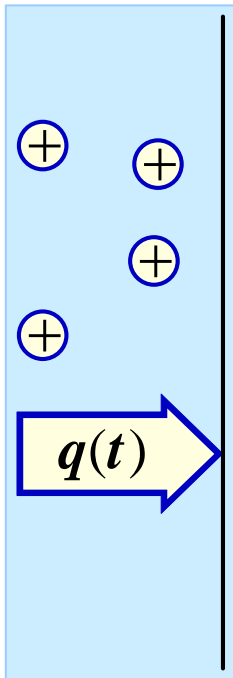
**PROBLEM SOLVING TIP**

IF THE CHARGE IS GIVEN DETERMINE THE CURRENT BY **DIFFERENTIATION**

IF THE CURRENT IS KNOWN DETERMINE THE CHARGE BY **INTEGRATION**

A PHYSICAL ANALOGY THAT HELPS VISUALIZE ELECTRIC CURRENTS IS THAT OF WATER FLOW. CHARGES ARE VISUALIZED AS WATER PARTICLES



**EXAMPLE**

$$q(t) = 4 \times 10^{-3} \sin(120\pi t) [C]$$

$$i(t) = 4 \times 10^{-3} \times 120\pi \cos(120\pi t) [A]$$

$$i(t) = 0.480\pi \cos(120\pi t) [mA]$$

**EXAMPLE**

$$i(t) = \begin{cases} 0 & t < 0 \\ e^{-2t} \text{ mA} & t \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

**FIND THE CHARGE THAT PASSES DURING IN THE INTERVAL  $0 < t < 1$**

$$q = \int_0^1 e^{-2x} dx = -\frac{1}{2} e^{-2x} \Big|_0^1 = -\frac{1}{2} e^{-2} - \left(-\frac{1}{2} e^0\right)$$

$$q = \frac{1}{2} (1 - e^{-2}) \quad \text{Units?}$$

**FIND THE CHARGE AS A FUNCTION OF TIME**

$$q(t) = \int_{-\infty}^t i(x) dx = \int_{-\infty}^t e^{-2x} dx$$

$$t \leq 0 \Rightarrow q(t) = 0$$

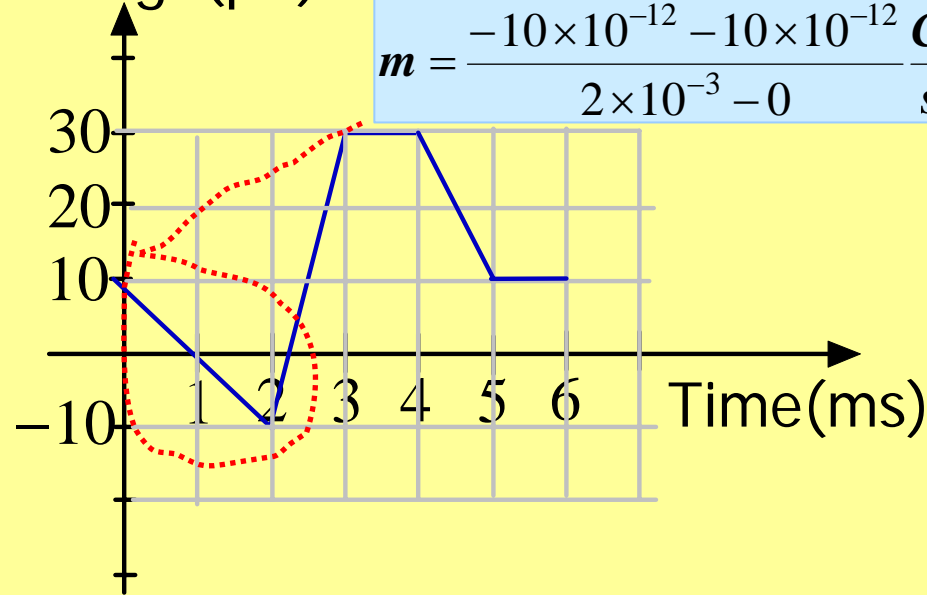
$$t > 0 \Rightarrow q(t) = \int_0^t e^{-2x} dx = \frac{1}{2} (1 - e^{-2t})$$

**And the units for the charge?...**

**DETERMINE THE CURRENT**

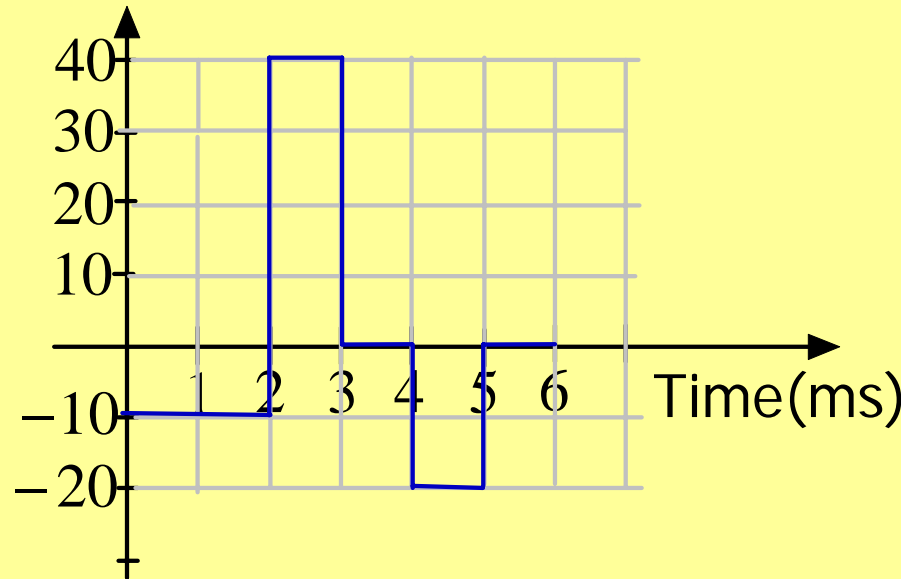
Here we are given the charge flow as function of time.

Charge(pC)



$$m = \frac{-10 \times 10^{-12} - 10 \times 10^{-12} \text{ C}}{2 \times 10^{-3} - 0 \text{ s}} = -10 \times 10^{-9} \text{ (C/s)}$$

Current(nA)

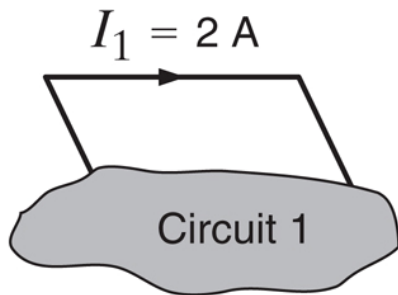


To determine current we must take derivatives. PAY ATTENTION TO UNITS

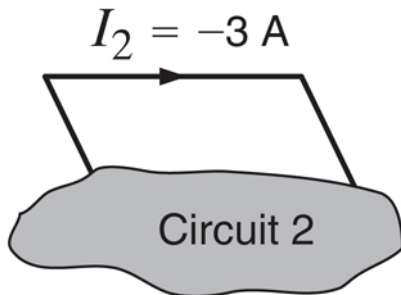
# CONVENTION FOR CURRENTS

IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY TO INDICATE THE DIRECTION OF MOVEMENT OF CHARGED PARTICLES.

THE UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED CONVENTION IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING IS THAT CURRENT IS FLOW OF POSITIVE CHARGES.  
AND WE INDICATE THE DIRECTION OF FLOW FOR POSITIVE CHARGES  
-THE REFERENCE DIRECTION-



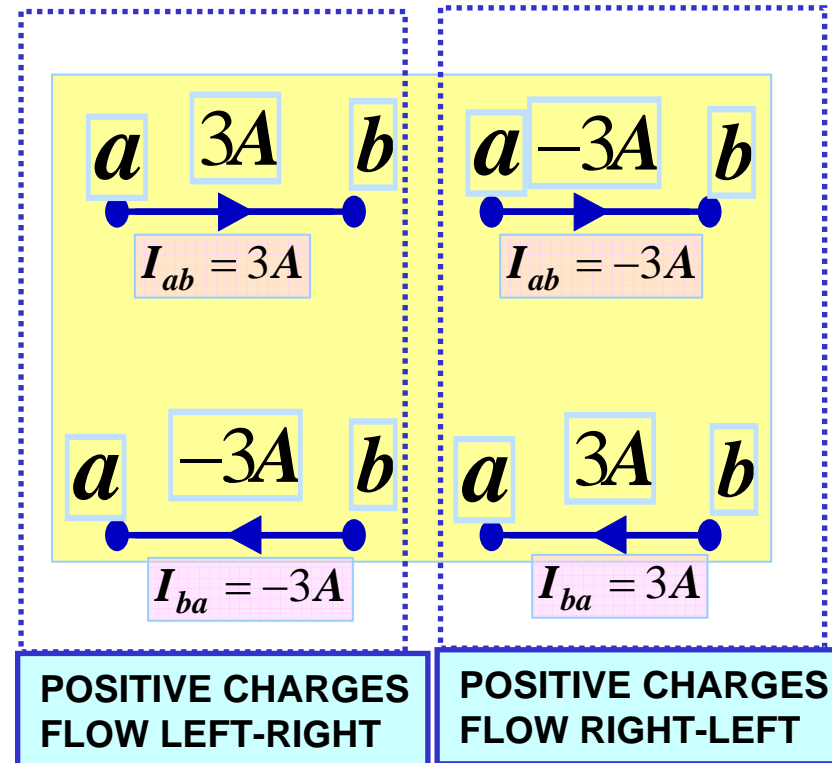
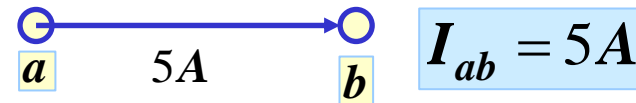
A POSITIVE VALUE FOR THE CURRENT INDICATES FLOW IN THE DIRECTION OF THE ARROW (THE REFERENCE DIRECTION)



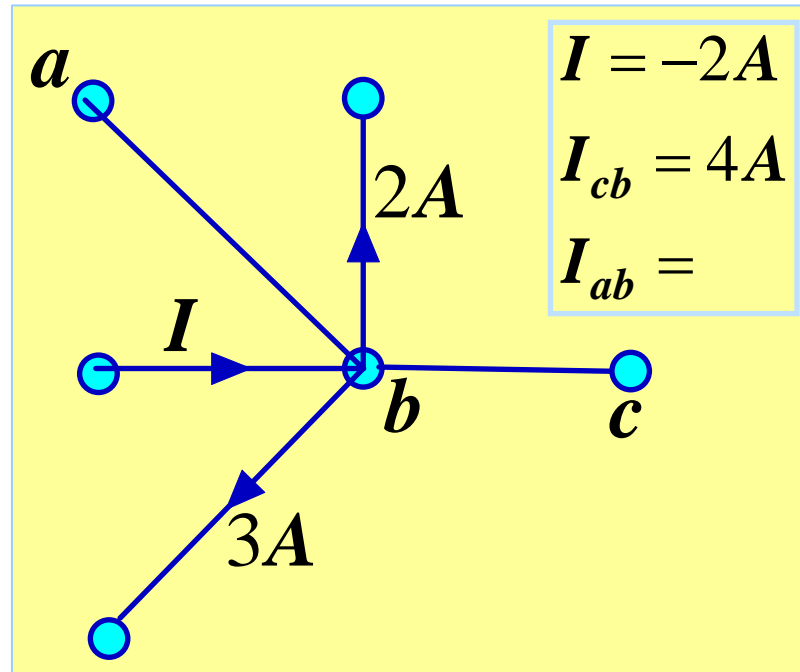
A NEGATIVE VALUE FOR THE CURRENT INDICATES FLOW IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION THAN THE REFERENCE DIRECTION

# THE DOUBLE INDEX NOTATION

IF THE INITIAL AND TERMINAL NODE ARE LABELED ONE CAN INDICATE THEM AS SUBINDICES FOR THE CURRENT NAME



$$I_{ab} = -I_{ba}$$

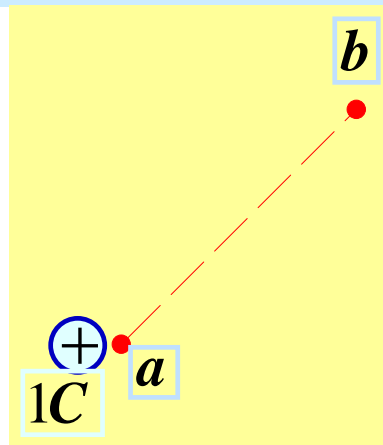


**This example illustrates the various ways in which the current notation can be used**

## CONVENTIONS FOR VOLTAGES

### ONE DEFINITION FOR VOLT

TWO POINTS HAVE A VOLTAGE DIFFERENTIAL OF ONE VOLT IF ONE COULOMB OF CHARGE GAINS (OR LOSES) ONE JOULE OF ENERGY WHEN IT MOVES FROM ONE POINT TO THE OTHER



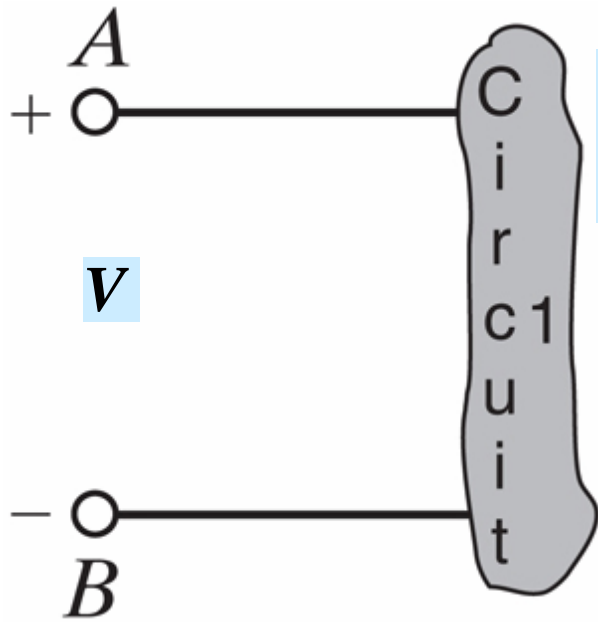
IF THE CHARGE GAINS ENERGY MOVING FROM a TO b THEN b HAS HIGHER VOLTAGE THAN a.  
IF IT LOSES ENERGY THEN b HAS LOWER VOLTAGE THAN a

DIMENSIONALLY VOLT IS A DERIVED UNIT

$$\text{VOLT} = \frac{\text{JOULE}}{\text{COULOMB}} = \frac{N \cdot m}{A \cdot s}$$

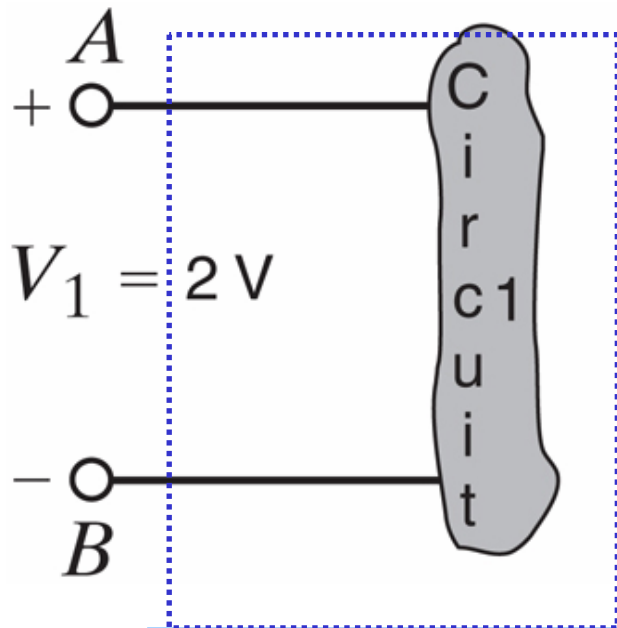
VOLTAGE IS ALWAYS MEASURED IN A RELATIVE FORM AS THE VOLTAGE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TWO POINTS

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT OUR NOTATION ALLOWS US TO DETERMINE WHICH POINT HAS THE HIGHER VOLTAGE

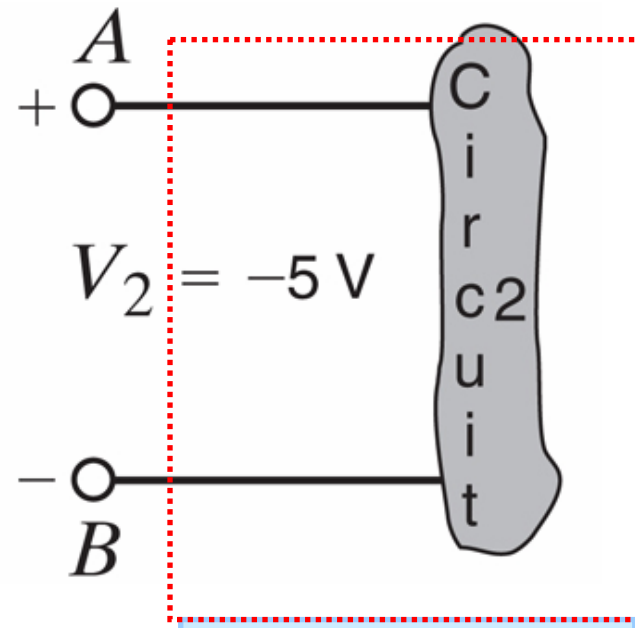


THE + AND - SIGNS  
DEFINE THE REFERENCE  
POLARITY

IF THE NUMBER  $V$  IS POSITIVE POINT A HAS  $V$   
VOLTS MORE THAN POINT B.  
IF THE NUMBER  $V$  IS NEGATIVE POINT A HAS  
 $|V|$  LESS THAN POINT B

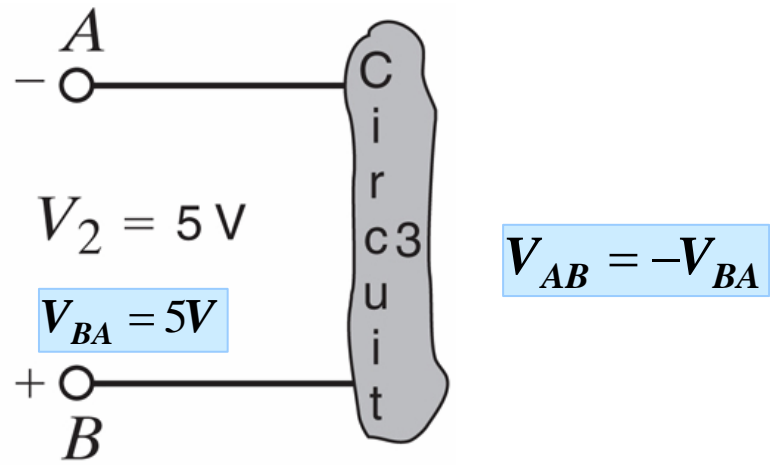
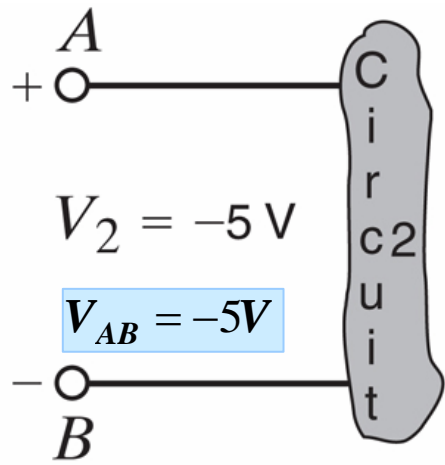
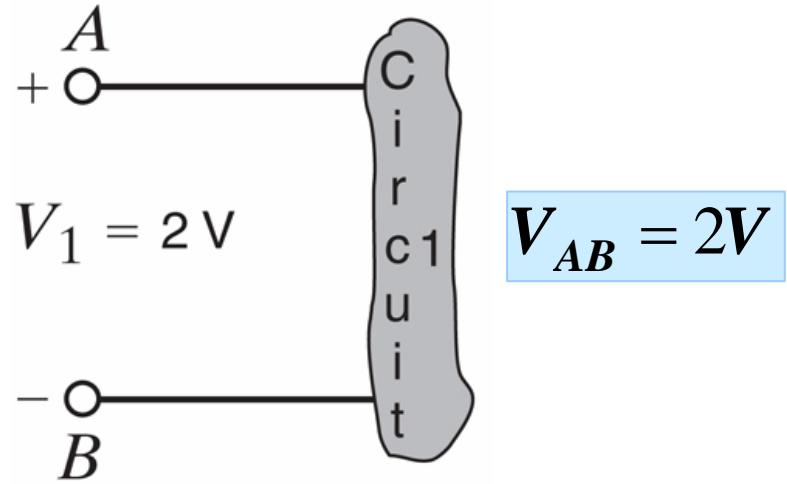


POINT A HAS 2V MORE  
THAN POINT B



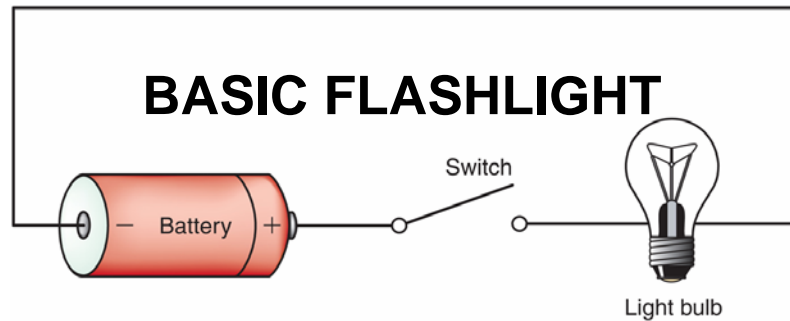
POINT A HAS 5V LESS  
THAN POINT B

**THE TWO-INDEX NOTATION FOR VOLTAGES**  
**INSTEAD OF SHOWING THE REFERENCE POLARITY**  
**WE AGREE THAT THE FIRST SUBINDEX DENOTES**  
**THE POINT WITH POSITIVE REFERENCE POLARITY**

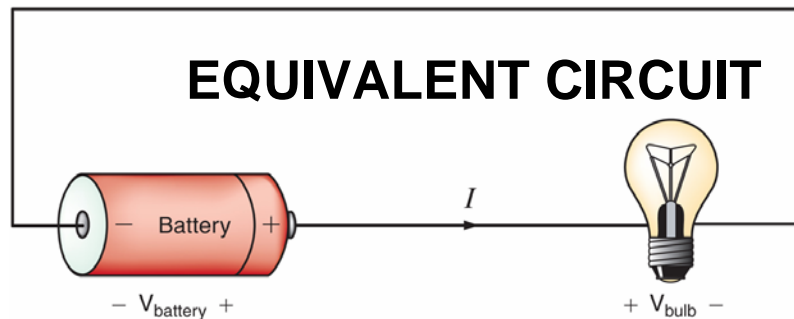


# ENERGY

VOLTAGE IS A MEASURE OF ENERGY PER UNIT CHARGE...  
CHARGES MOVING BETWEEN POINTS WITH DIFFERENT VOLTAGE ABSORB OR  
RELEASE ENERGY – THEY MAY TRANSFER ENERGY FROM ONE POINT TO ANOTHER



Converts energy stored in battery  
to thermal energy in lamp filament  
which turns incandescent and glows



The battery supplies energy to charges.  
Lamp absorbs energy from charges.  
The net effect is an energy transfer

  
Charges gain  
energy here

  
Charges supply  
Energy here



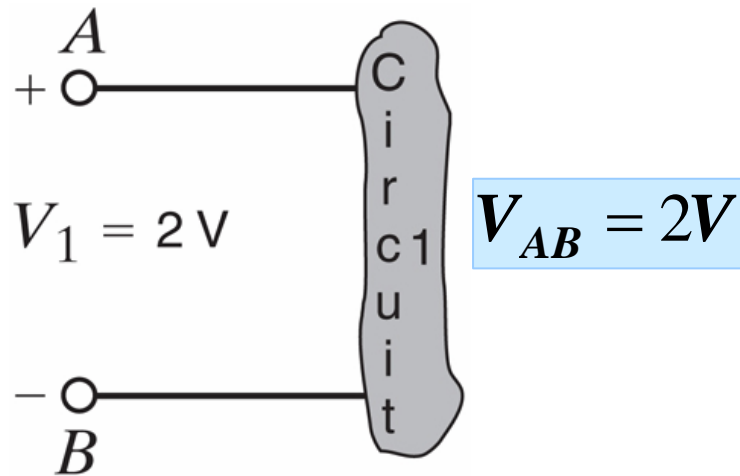
# ENERGY

VOLTAGE IS A MEASURE OF ENERGY PER UNIT CHARGE...

CHARGES MOVING BETWEEN POINTS WITH DIFFERENT VOLTAGE ABSORB OR RELEASE ENERGY

WHAT ENERGY IS REQUIRED TO MOVE 120[C] FROM POINT B TO POINT A IN THE CIRCUIT?

THE CHARGES MOVE TO A POINT WITH HIGHER VOLTAGE -THEY GAINED (OR ABSORBED) ENERGY  
THE CIRCUIT SUPPLIED ENERGY TO THE CHARGES



$$V = \frac{W}{Q} \Rightarrow W = VQ = 240J$$

### EXAMPLE

A CAMCODER BATTERY PLATE CLAIMS THAT THE UNIT STORES 2700mAh AT 7.2V. WHAT IS THE TOTAL CHARGE AND ENERGY STORED?

### CHARGE

THE NOTATION 2700mAh INDICATES THAT THE UNIT CAN DELIVER 2700mA FOR ONE FULL HOUR

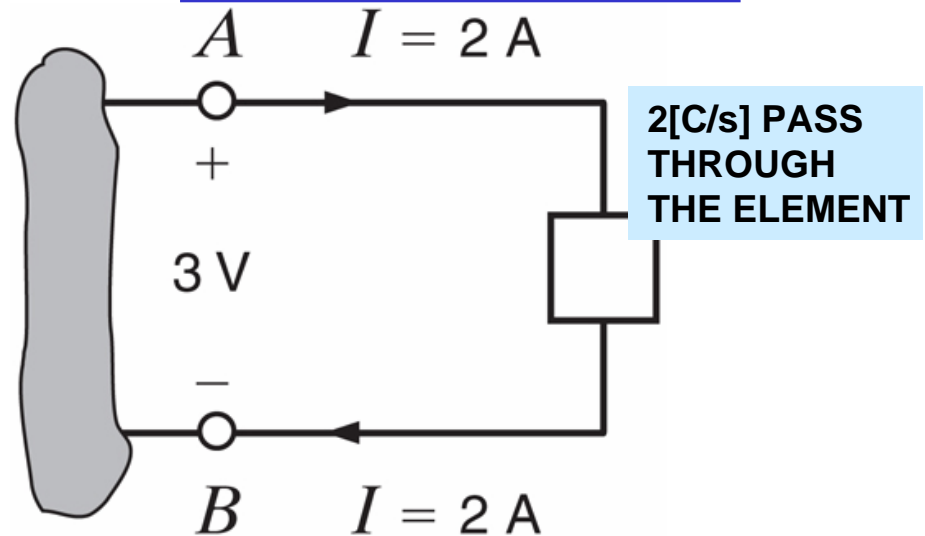
$$Q = 2700 \times 10^{-3} \left[ \frac{C}{S} \right] \times 3600 \frac{s}{Hr} \times 1 Hr$$
$$= 9.72 \times 10^3 [C]$$

### TOTAL ENERGY STORED

THE CHARGES ARE MOVED THROUGH A 7.2V VOLTAGE DIFFERENTIAL

$$W = Q[C] \times V \left[ \frac{J}{C} \right] = 9.72 \times 10^3 \times 7.2 [J]$$
$$= 6.998 \times 10^4 [J]$$

## ENERGY AND POWER



EACH COULOMB OF CHARGE LOSES 3[J] OR SUPPLIES 3[J] OF ENERGY TO THE ELEMENT

THE ELEMENT RECEIVES ENERGY AT A RATE OF 6[J/s]

THE ELECTRIC POWER RECEIVED BY THE ELEMENT IS 6[W]

IN GENERAL

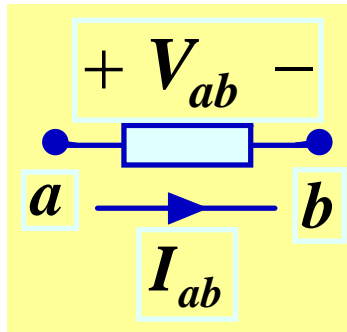
$$P = VI$$

$$w(t_2, t_1) = \int_{t_1}^{t_2} p(x) dx$$

HOW DO WE RECOGNIZE IF AN ELEMENT SUPPLIES OR RECEIVES POWER?

# PASSIVE SIGN CONVENTION (慣例)

POWER RECEIVED IS POSITIVE WHILE POWER SUPPLIED IS CONSIDERED NEGATIVE

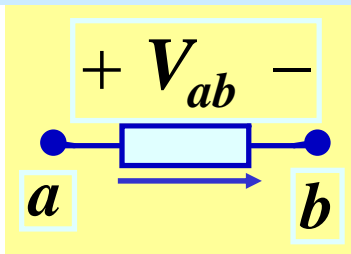


$$P = V_{ab} I_{ab}$$

IF VOLTAGE AND CURRENT ARE BOTH POSITIVE THE CHARGES MOVE FROM HIGH TO LOW VOLTAGE AND **THE COMPONENT RECEIVES ENERGY** --IT IS A **PASSIVE ELEMENT**

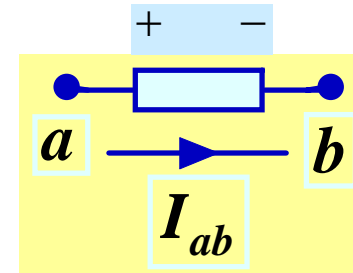
A CONSEQUENCE OF THIS CONVENTION IS THAT THE REFERENCE DIRECTIONS FOR CURRENT AND VOLTAGE ARE NOT INDEPENDENT -- IF WE ASSUME PASSIVE ELEMENTS

GIVEN THE REFERENCE POLARITY



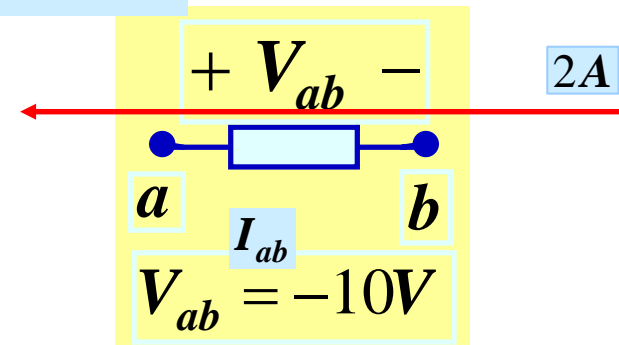
REFERENCE DIRECTION FOR CURRENT

THIS IS THE REFERENCE FOR POLARITY



IF THE REFERENCE DIRECTION FOR CURRENT IS GIVEN

EXAMPLE



THE ELEMENT RECEIVES 20W OF POWER. WHAT IS THE CURRENT?

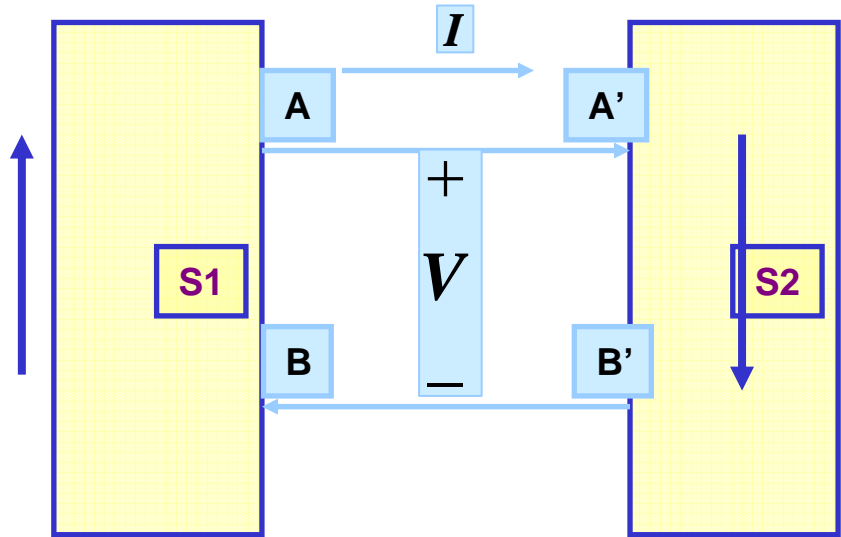
SELECT REFERENCE DIRECTION BASED ON PASSIVE SIGN CONVENTION

$$20[W] = V_{ab} I_{ab} = (-10V) I_{ab}$$

$$I_{ab} = -2[A]$$

# UNDERSTANDING PASSIVE SIGN CONVENTION

We must examine the voltage across the component and the current through it



$$P_{S1} = V_{AB} I_{AB}$$

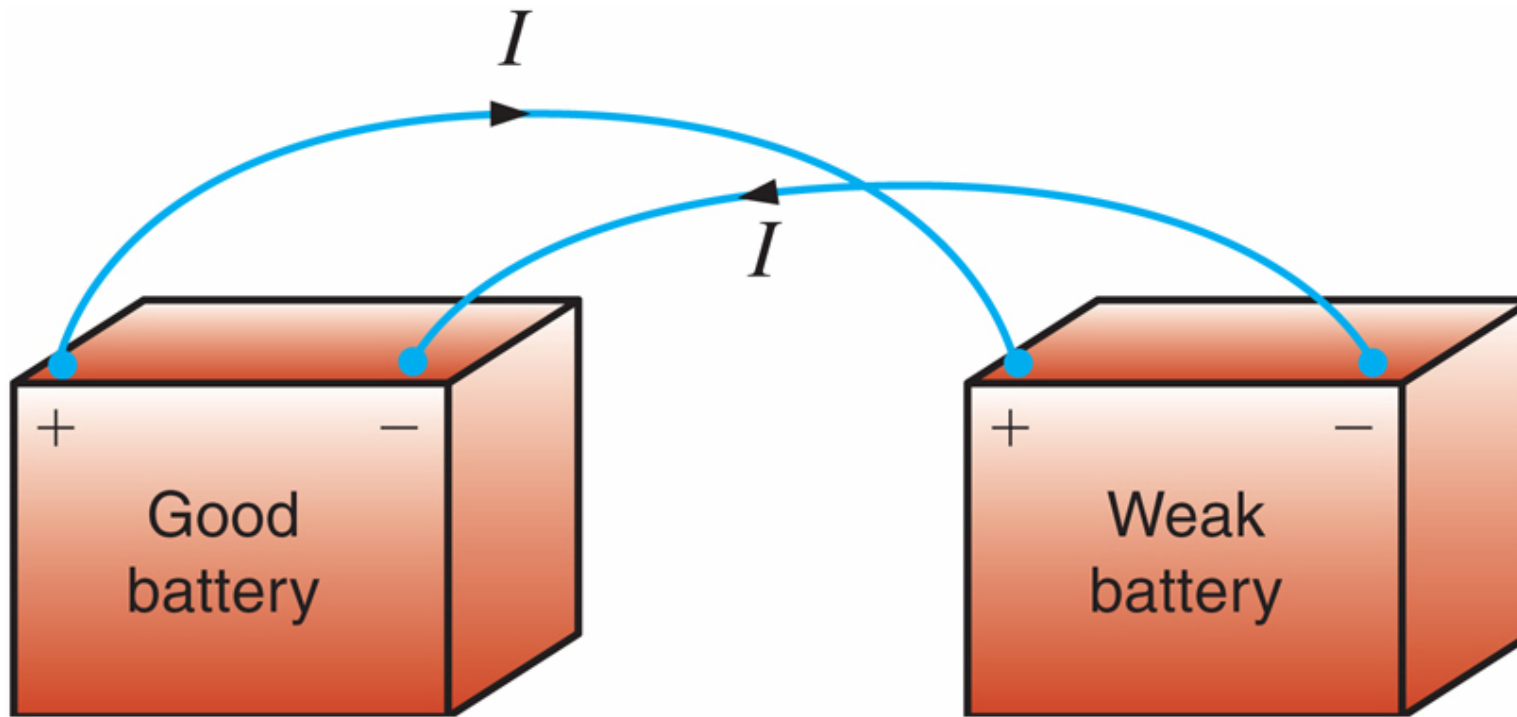
$$P_{S2} = V_{A'B'} I_{A'B'}$$

Voltage(V)	Current A - A'	S1	S2
positive	positive	supplies	receives
positive	negative	receives	supplies
negative	positive	receives	supplies
negative	negative	supplies	receives

ON S<sub>1</sub>  
 $V_{AB} > 0, I_{AB} < 0$

ON S<sub>2</sub>  
 $V_{A'B'} > 0, I_{A'B'} > 0$

ON S<sub>2</sub>  
 $V_{A'B'} < 0, I_{A'B'} > 0$

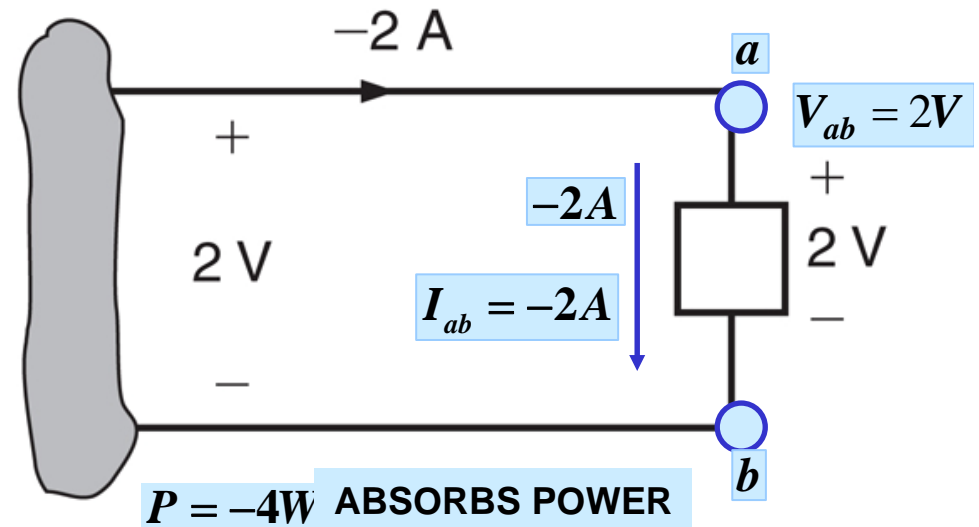
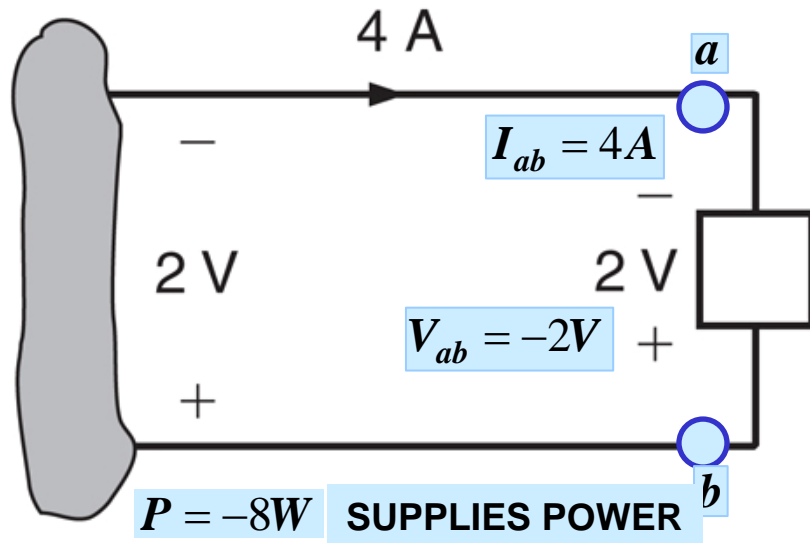


**CHARGES RECEIVE ENERGY.  
THIS BATTERY SUPPLIES ENERGY**

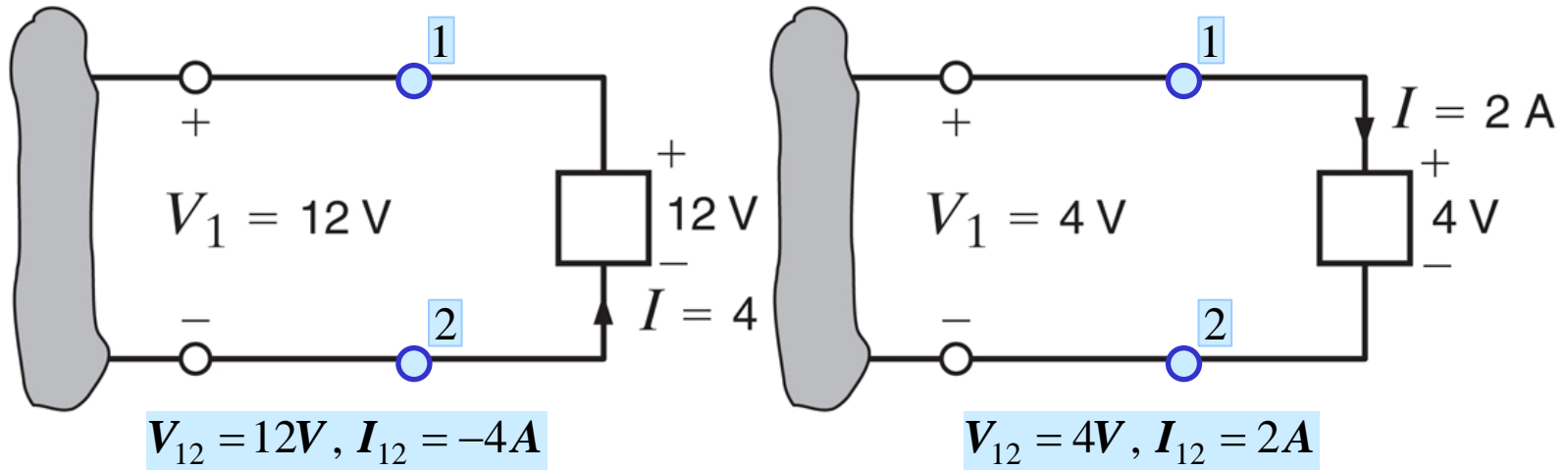
**CHARGES LOSE ENERGY.  
THIS BATTERY RECEIVES THE ENERGY**

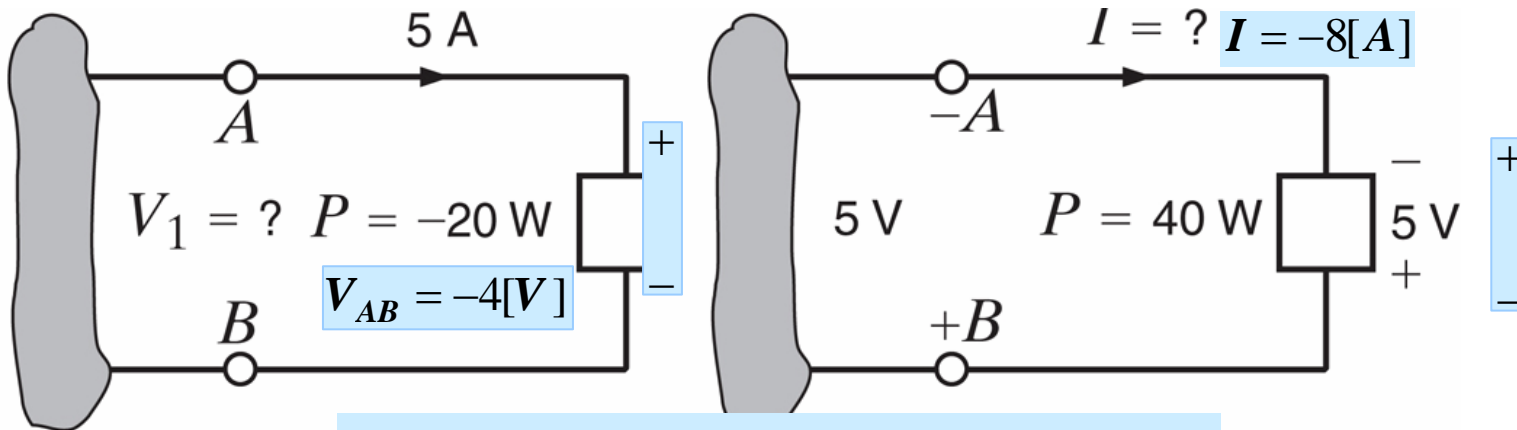
**WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THE CONNECTIONS ARE REVERSED  
IN ONE OF THE BATTERIES?**

Determine whether **the elements** are supplying or receiving power and how much.



Determine the amount of power absorbed or supplied by the elements ?



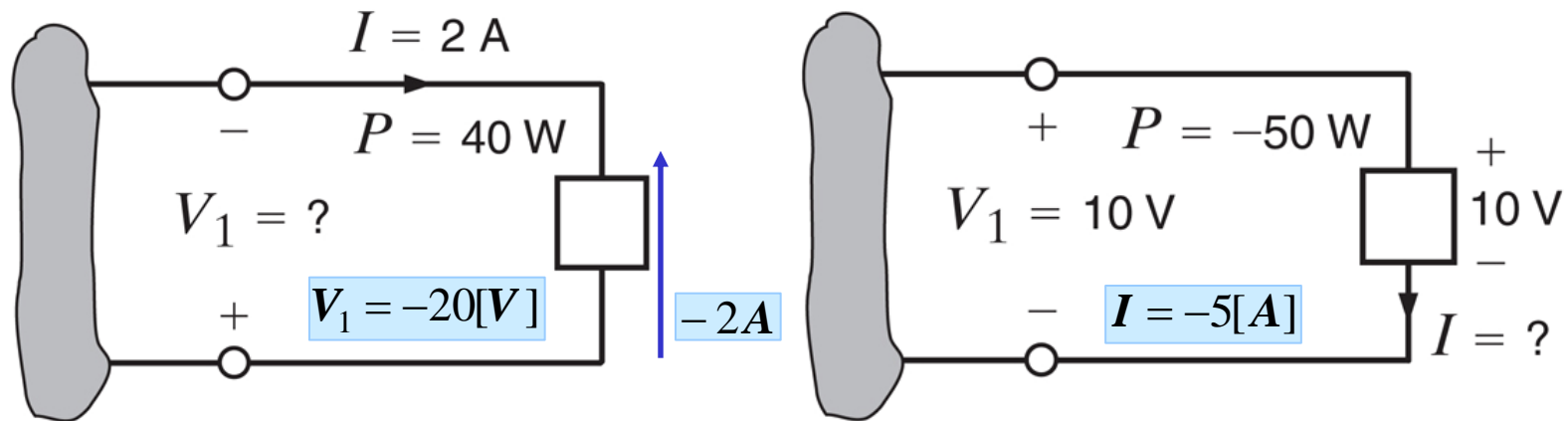


$$-20[\text{W}] = V_{AB} \times (5\text{A})$$

**SELECT VOLTAGE REFERENCE POLARITY  
BASED ON CURRENT REFERENCE DIRECTION**

$$40[\text{W}] = (-5\text{V}) \times I$$





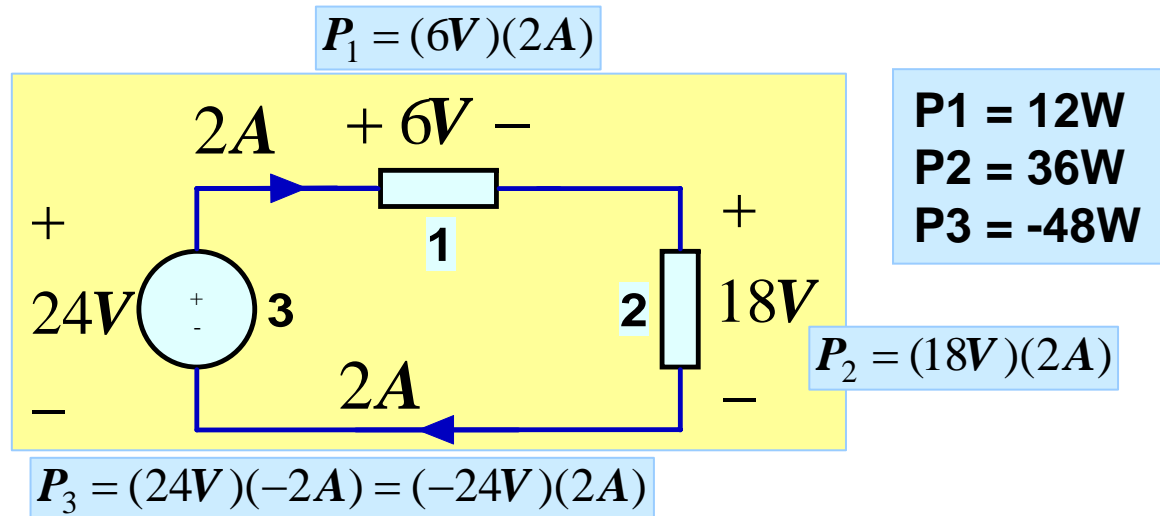
$$40[\text{W}] = V_1 \times (-2\text{A})$$

**SELECT HERE THE CURRENT REFERENCE DIRECTION  
BASED ON VOLTAGE REFERENCE POLARITY**

$$-50[\text{W}] = (10[\text{V}]) \times I$$

**WHICH TERMINAL HAS HIGHER VOLTAGE AND WHICH IS THE CURRENT FLOW DIRECTION**

COMPUTE POWER ABDORBED OR SUPPLIED BY EACH ELEMENT

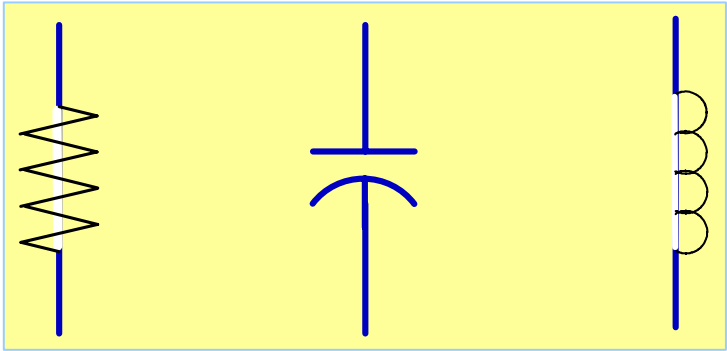


Tellegen's theorem: the sum of the powers absorbed by all elements in an electrical network is zero. Another statement of this theorem is that the power supplied in a network is exactly equal to the power absorbed.

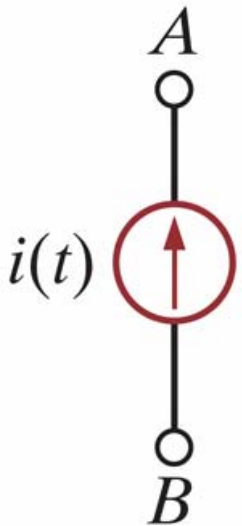
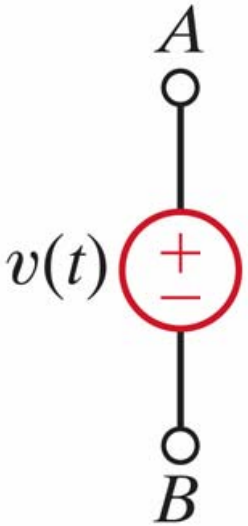
IMPORTANT: NOTICE THE POWER BALANCE IN THE CIRCUIT

# CIRCUIT ELEMENTS

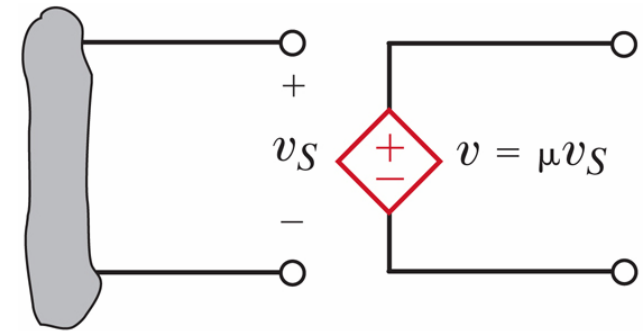
## PASSIVE ELEMENTS



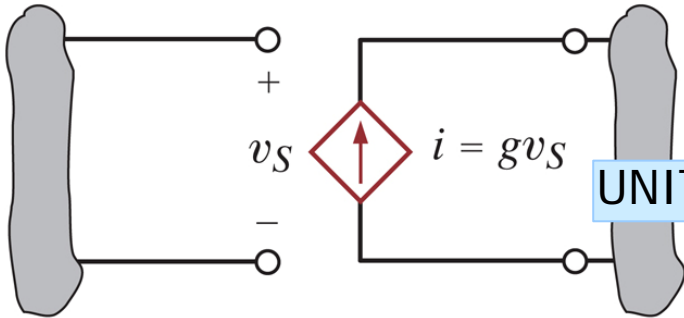
## INDEPENDENT SOURCES



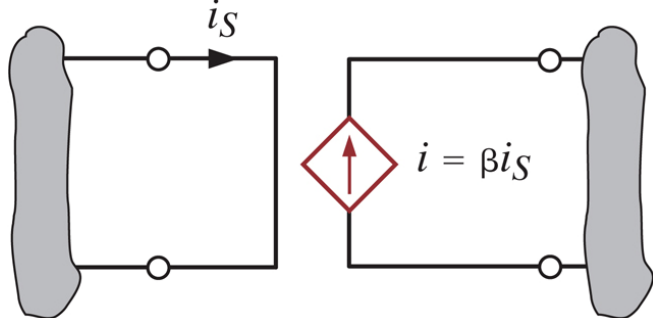
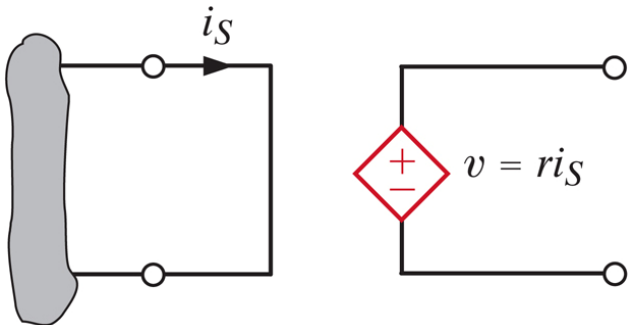
## CURRENT DEPENDENT SOURCES



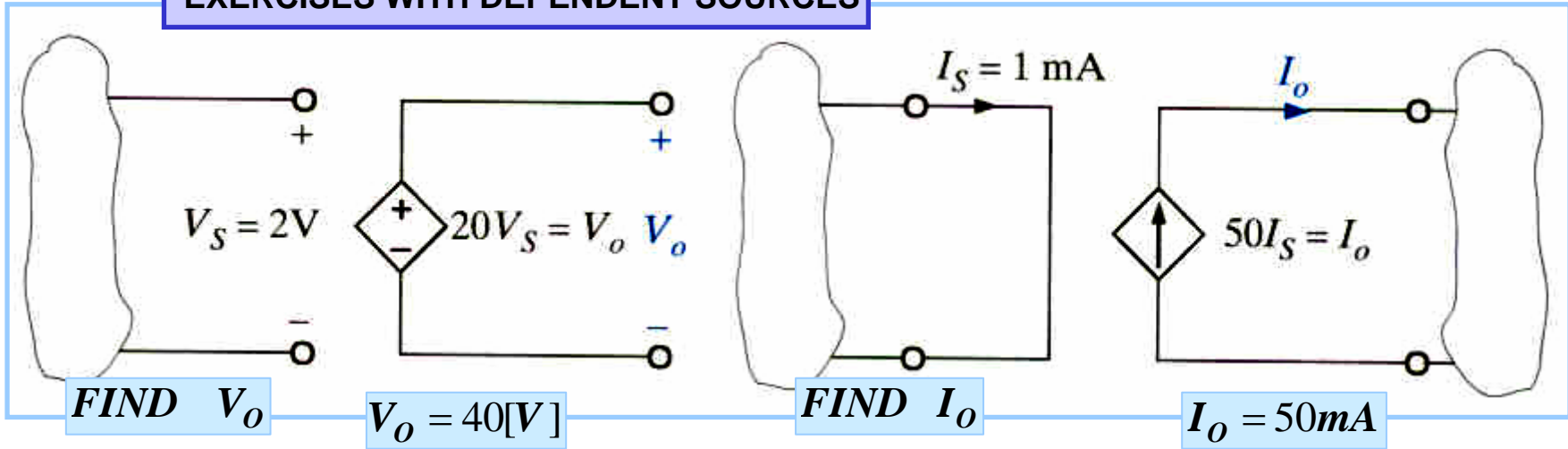
## VOLTAGE DEPENDENT SOURCES



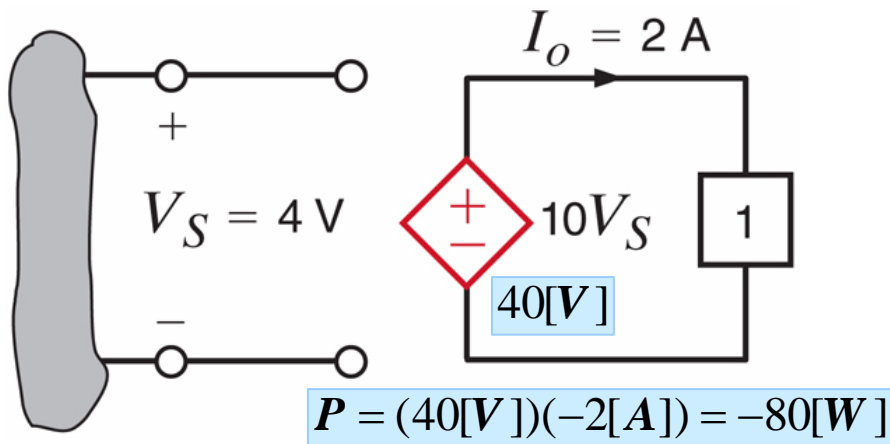
## UNITS FOR $\mu, g, r, \beta$ ?



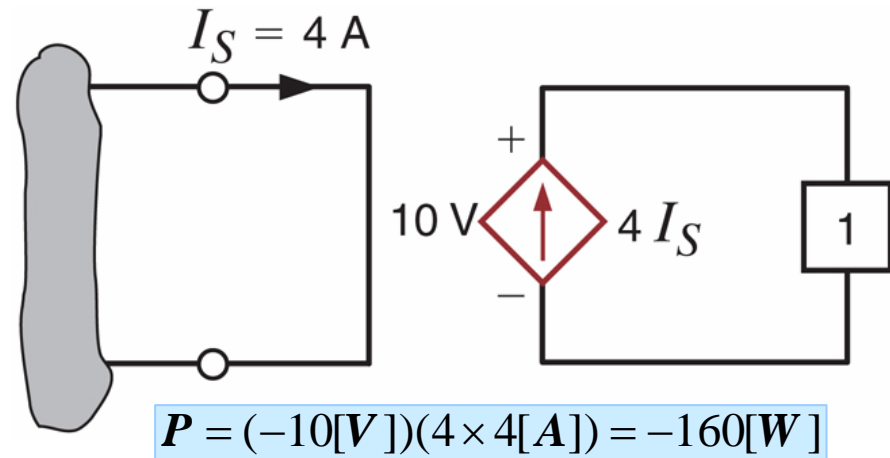
EXERCISES WITH DEPENDENT SOURCES



DETERMINE THE POWER SUPPLIED BY THE DEPENDENT SOURCES

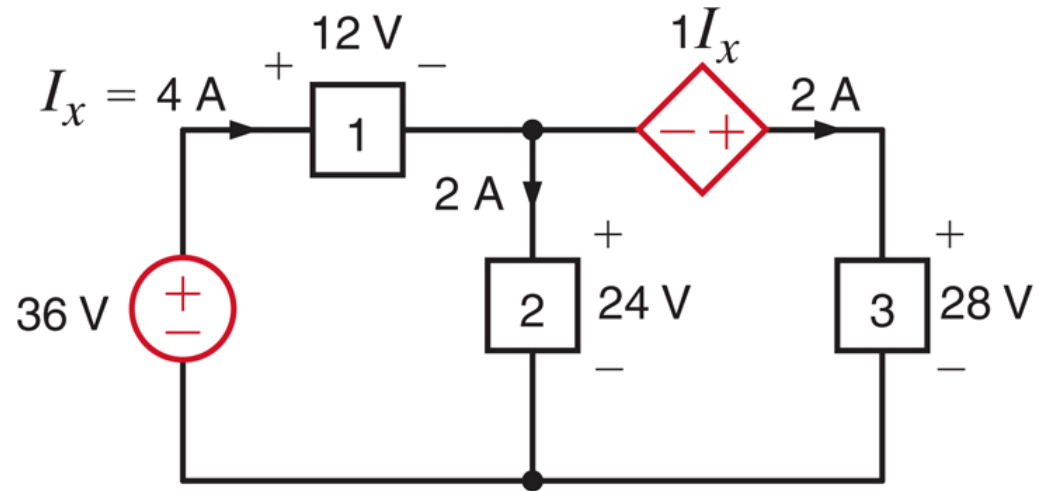


TAKE VOLTAGE POLARITY REFERENCE



TAKE CURRENT REFERENCE DIRECTION

**POWER ABSORBED OR SUPPLIED BY EACH ELEMENT**



$$P_1 = (12V)(4A) = 48[W]$$

$$P_2 = (24V)(2A) = 48[W]$$

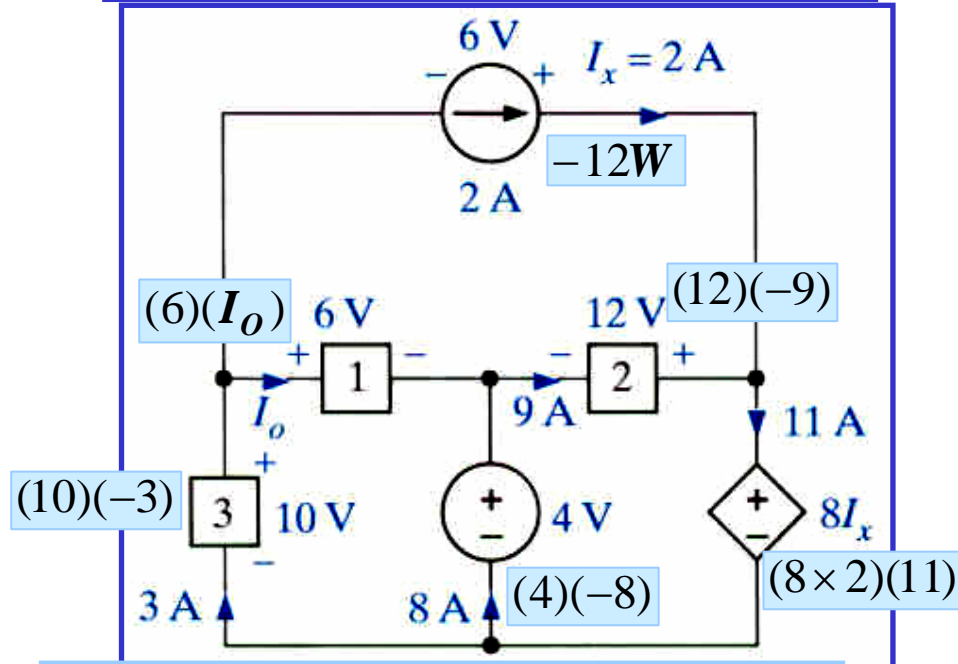
$$P_3 = (28V)(2A) = 56[W]$$

$$P_{DS} = (1I_x)(-2A) = (4V)(-2A) = -8[W]$$

$$P_{36V} = (36V)(-4A) = -144[W]$$

**NOTICE THE POWER BALANCE**

USE POWER BALANCE TO COMPUTE  $I_o$



$$P_{2A} = (6)(-2) = -12 \text{ W}$$

$$P_1 = (6)(I_o) = 6I_o \text{ W}$$

$$P_2 = (12)(-9) = -108 \text{ W}$$

$$P_3 = (10)(-3) = -30 \text{ W}$$

$$P_{4V} = (4)(-8) = -32 \text{ W}$$

$$P_{DS} = (8I_x)(11) = (16)(11) = 176 \text{ W}$$

POWER BALANCE

$$-12 + 6I_o - 108 - 30 - 32 + 176 = 0$$

$$I_o = 1[A]$$