

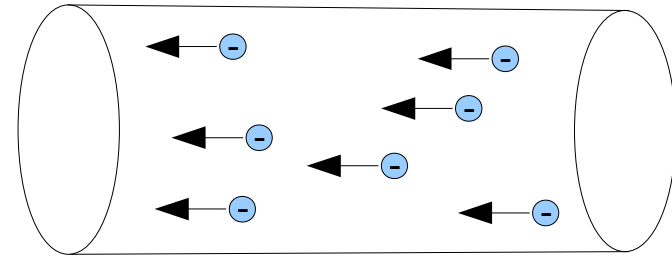
Electromagnetic Fields

Lecture 5

The Steady Current Field

What is current?

Electric current: *Flow of electric charge.*



Electric current in metals

A solid conductive metal contains free electrons.

When a metal wire is subjected to electric force applied on its opposite ends, these free electrons rush in the direction of the force, thus forming what we call an **electric current**.

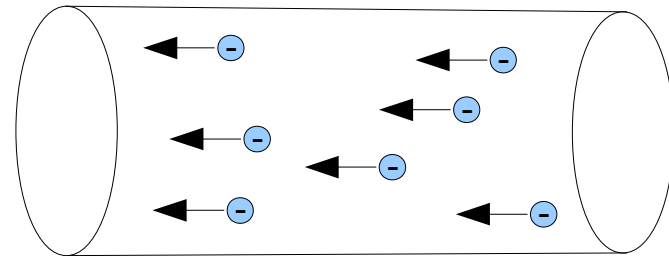
Electric current in other materials

Any stream of charged objects may constitute an electric current

- positive and negative ions
- "holes" in semiconductors

Drift Speed

$$v = \frac{I}{n Q A}$$



- v - drift velocity
- I - current value
- n - number of charges per unit volume
- Q - the charge on each particle.
- A - the cross-sectional area of the conductor

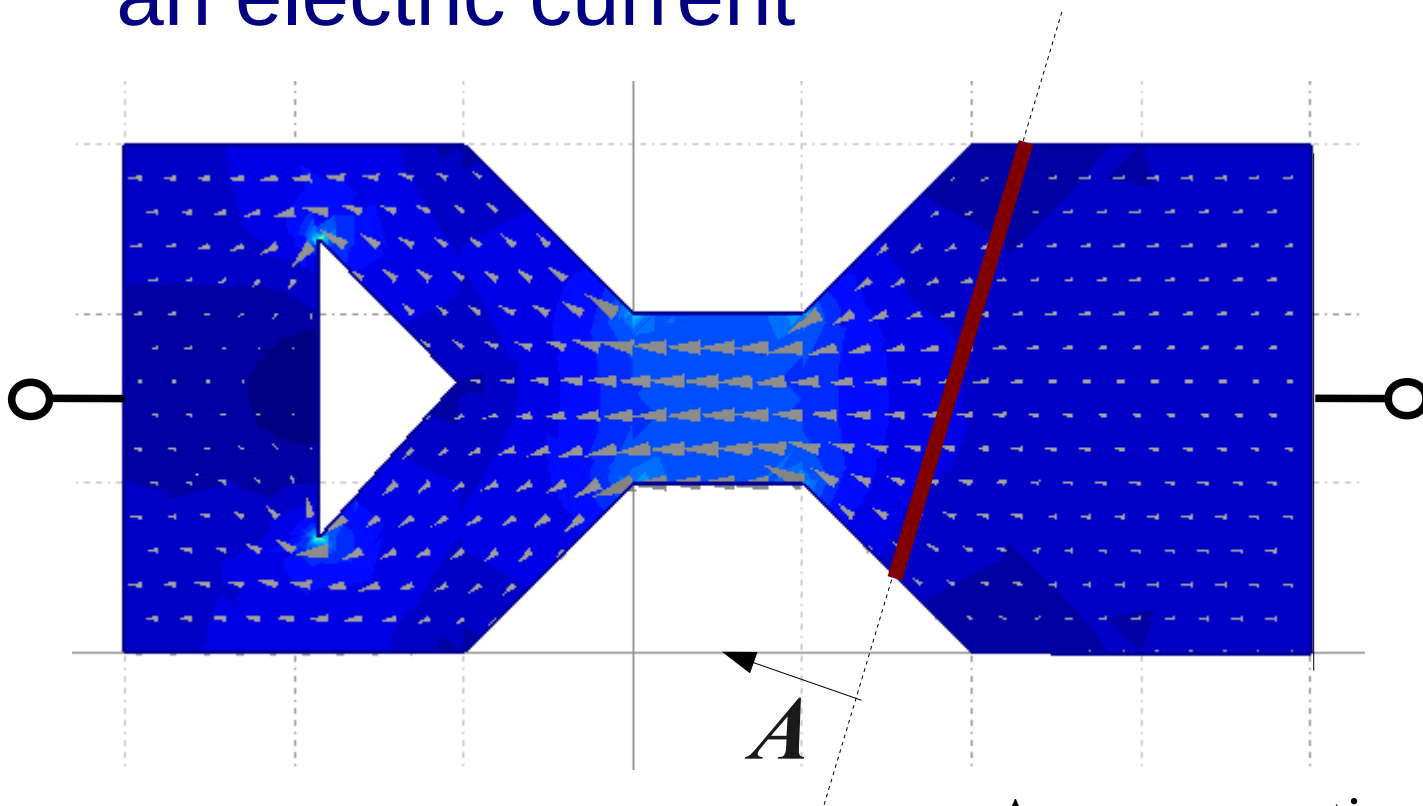
Example:

Current 3 A flows in copper wire of 1mm diameter. Drift velocity can be calculated as: **0.28 [mm/s] or 1.0 [m/h]**.

Assumptions: $n=8.5e28[1/m^3]$, $Q=1.6e-19[C]$, $A= 7.85e-7[m^2]$

Current Density

Current density is a measure of the density of an electric current



$$\mathbf{J} = \frac{I}{A}$$

$$I = \int \mathbf{J} \cdot d\mathbf{A}$$

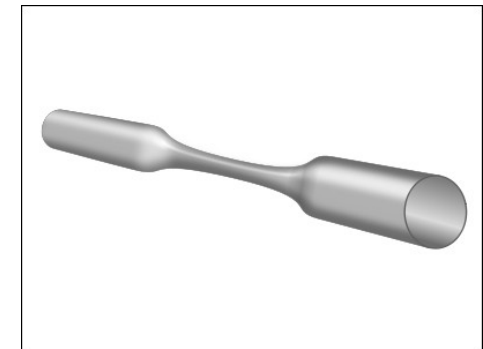
A - cross-sectional area

Hydraulic analogy

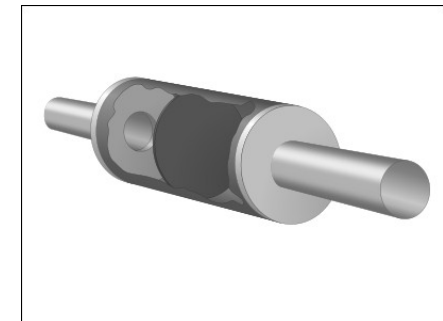
Flow of charges similar to the water flow

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Electric charge | Water particle |
| Conductor | Pipe / Canal |
| Electric potential | Pressure / Water height |
| Voltage | Difference in pressure / Difference in water height |
| Current | Volume flow rate |

Water Resistor



Water Capacitor



Current sources

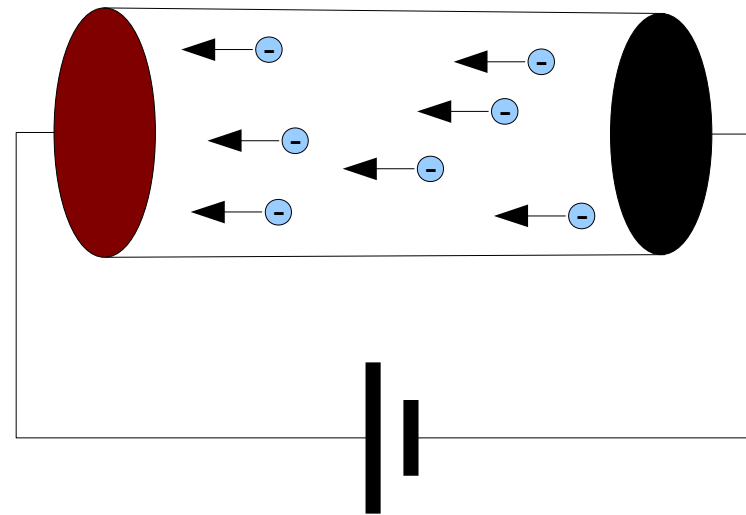
Current (flow of charges) is forced by electric field.

Current density

Electric field

$$\mathbf{J} = \sigma \mathbf{E}$$

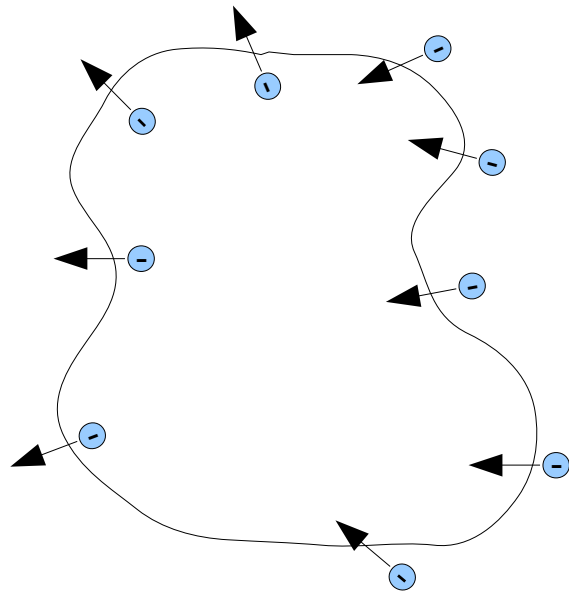
Material property
(conductivity)



Current sources

Flow through closed boundary is zero.

True statement for the most of 'normal' electrical circuits.



$$\int \mathbf{J} \cdot d\mathbf{A} = 0$$

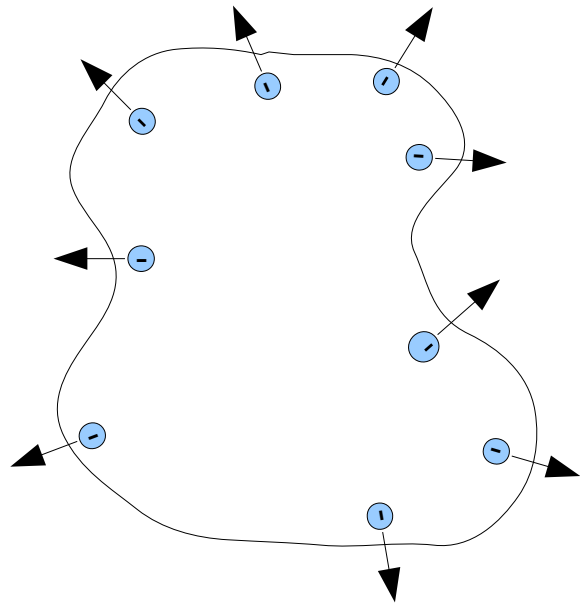
$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{J} = 0$$

Constant number of charges in the area.

Current sources

Charges could be 'generated'.

Unusual, specific phenomena.



$$\int \mathbf{J} \cdot d\mathbf{A} = \frac{dQ}{dt}$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{J} = \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t}$$

Variable number of charges in the area.

Fields vs. Circuits

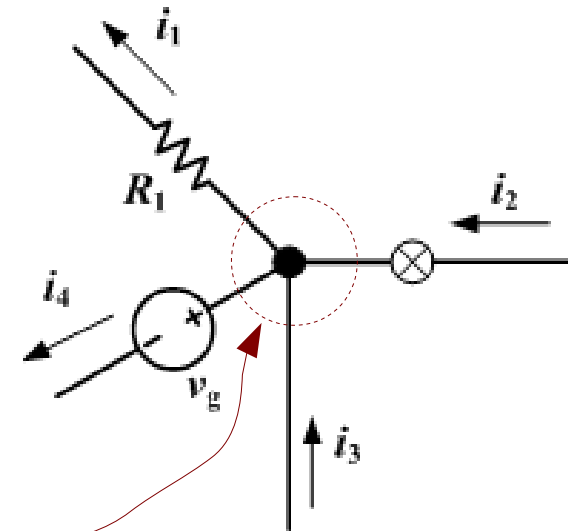
- Kirchhoff's Current Law (KCL)

The algebraic sum of currents in a network of conductors meeting at a point is zero.

Circuits theory:
$$\sum_{k=1}^n I_k = 0$$

Field theory:
$$\int \mathbf{J} \cdot d\mathbf{A} = 0$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{J} = 0$$



Fields vs. Circuits

- Kirchhoff's Voltage Law (KVL)

The directed sum of the electrical potential differences (voltage) around any closed circuit is zero.

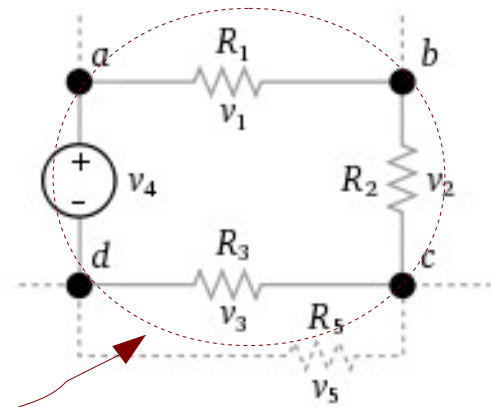
Circuits theory:

$$\sum_{k=1}^n V_k = 0$$

Field theory:

$$\oint \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{l} = 0$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = 0$$



Ohm's Law

- **Ohm's Law**

The current through a conductor is directly proportional to the voltage, and inversely proportional to the resistance.

Circuits theory:

$$I = \frac{U}{R} \quad R = \frac{U}{I}$$

Resistance is property of object.

Depends on: size, shape, structure, materials.

Field theory:

$$\mathbf{J} = \sigma \mathbf{E} \quad \mathbf{J} = \frac{\mathbf{E}}{\rho_r}$$

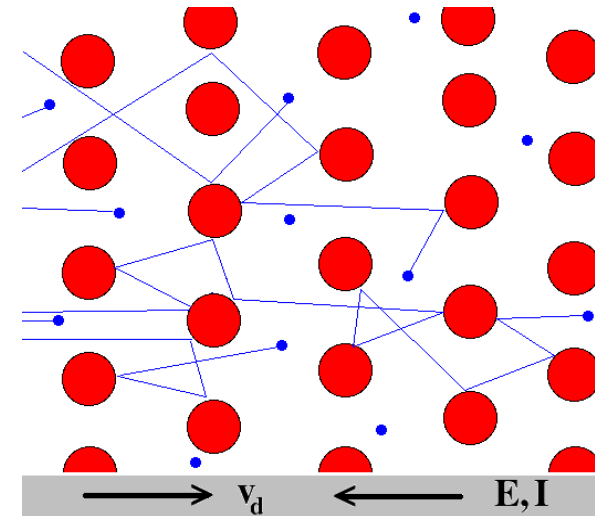
Conductivity is property of material.

Does not depend on: size, shape, structure of object.

Conductivity

- Conductivity measures material's ability to conduct current.
- Depends on:
 - number of free charges,
 - number of collisions,

$$\mathbf{J} = \sigma \mathbf{E}$$



- Resistivity = 1 / Conductivity

Conductivity

Conductivity of materials [Siemens per meter] [S/m]

| Conductors | Low conducting materials | Isolators |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Silver = $6.3 \cdot 10^7$ | Sea water = 4.8 | Deionized water = $5.5 \cdot 10^{-6}$ |
| Copper = $5.8 \cdot 10^7$ | Drinking water = 0.005 | Air = $5 \cdot 10^{-13}$ |
| Aluminium = $3.5 \cdot 10^7$ | Living tissues = 1 | Hexane = $1 \cdot 10^{-14}$ |

Resistivity [Ohm meter] [Ω m]

Electrostatic and current field

- Electrostatic and Steady current field are different in nature, but mathematically are similar.

$$\mathbf{D} = \varepsilon \mathbf{E} \qquad \mathbf{J} = \sigma \mathbf{E}$$

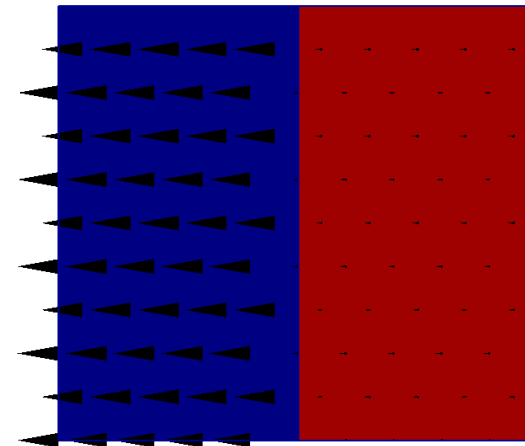
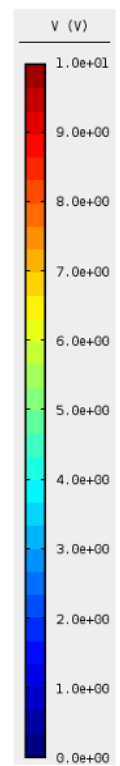
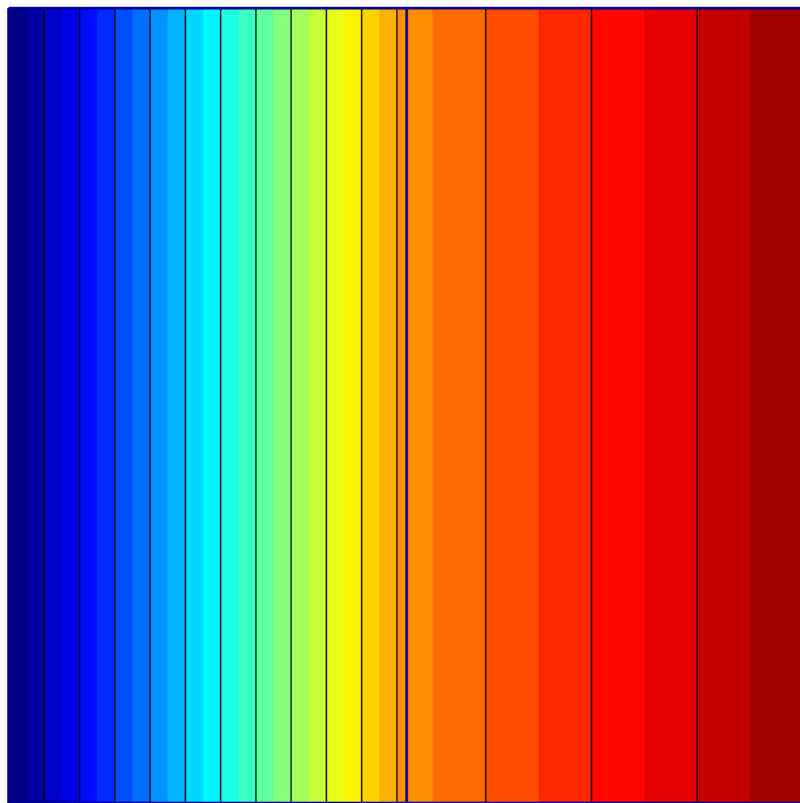
$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{D} = \rho \qquad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{J} = \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t}$$

$$\mathbf{E} = -\nabla \varphi$$

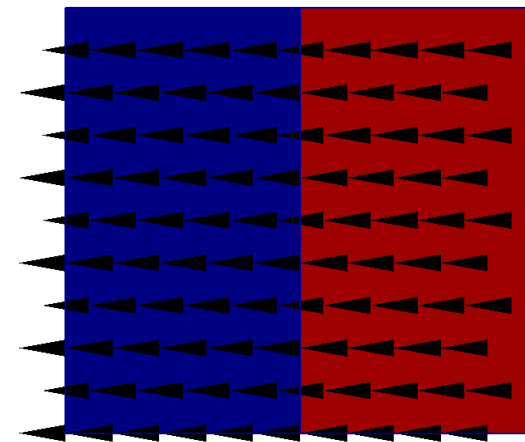
$$\nabla \cdot \nabla \varphi = -\frac{\rho}{\varepsilon} \qquad \nabla \cdot \nabla \varphi = -\frac{1}{\sigma} \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t}$$

Poisson's equations

Two layer resistor: series



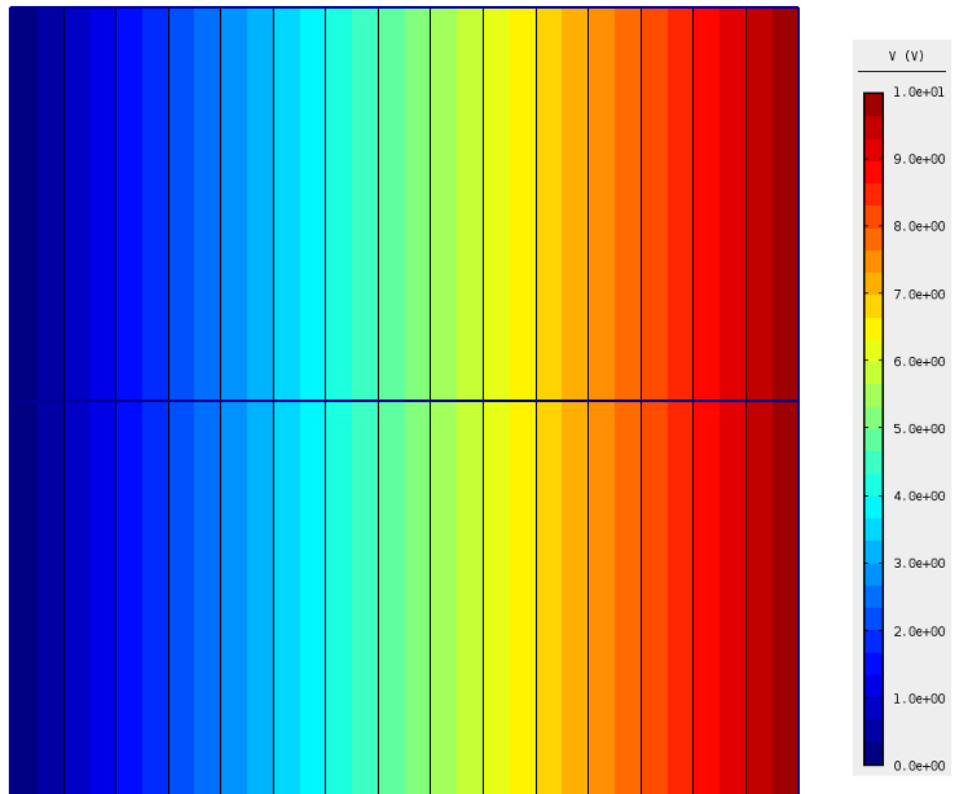
Electric field



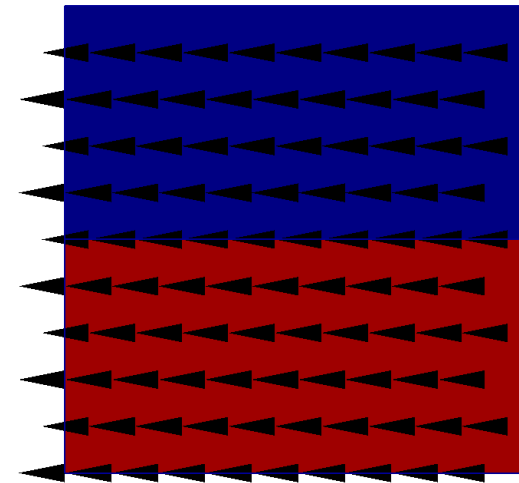
Current density

Electric scalar potential

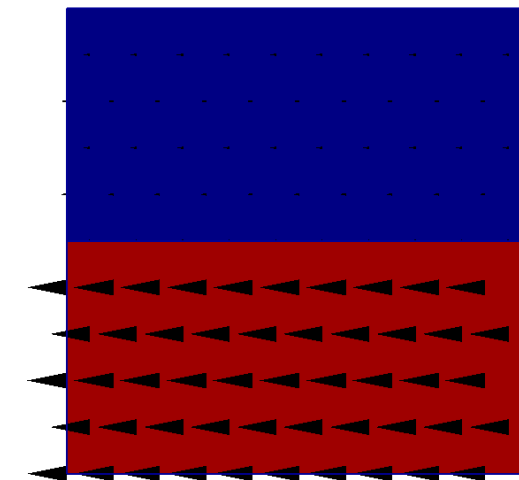
Two layer resistor: parallel



Electric scalar potential

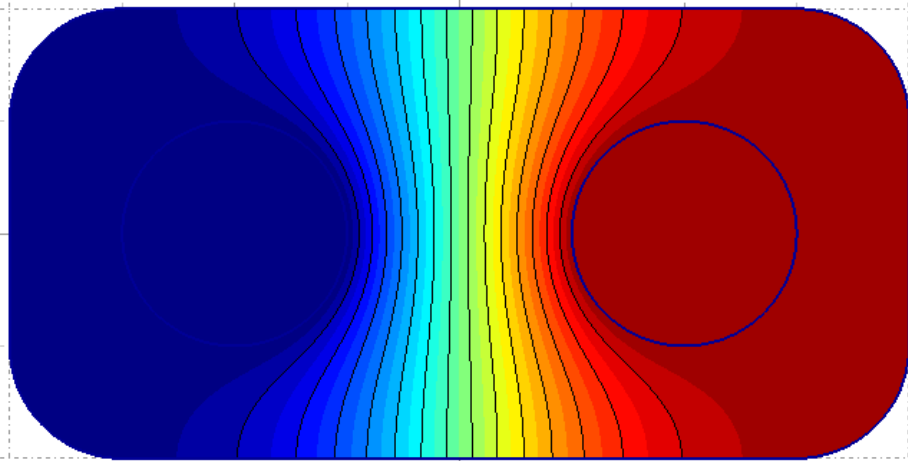


Electric field

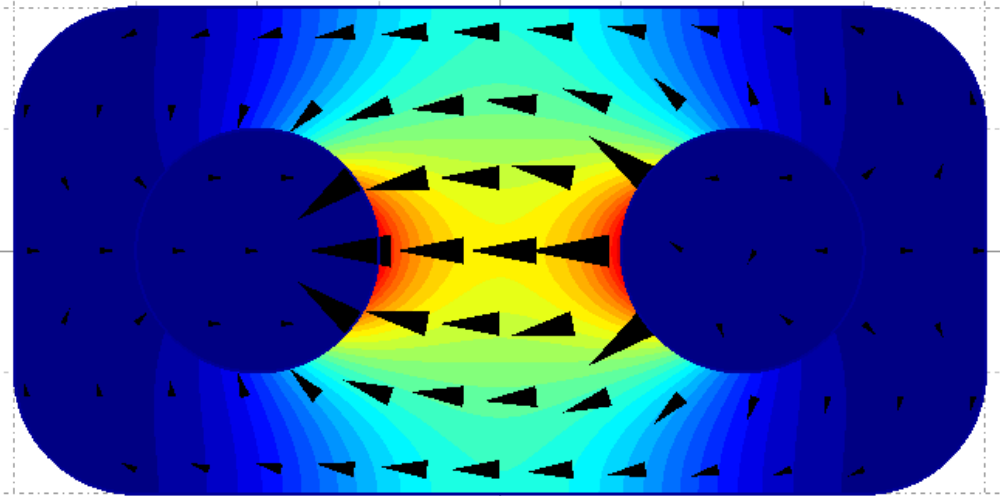


Current density

Cross isolation current



Potential distribution inside
two wire cable



Current density inside the cable

How to calculate resistance?

Serial structure

1. Assume I
2. Find J
3. Calculate E
4. Find voltage: U
5. Resistance is:

$$R = \frac{U}{I}$$

Parallel structure

1. Assume voltage U
2. Find E
3. Calculate J
4. Find current: I
5. Resistance is:

$$R = \frac{U}{I}$$

Power density

- Power density [W/m³]
 - Heating, thermal losses

$$p = \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{J}$$

- Total power [W]

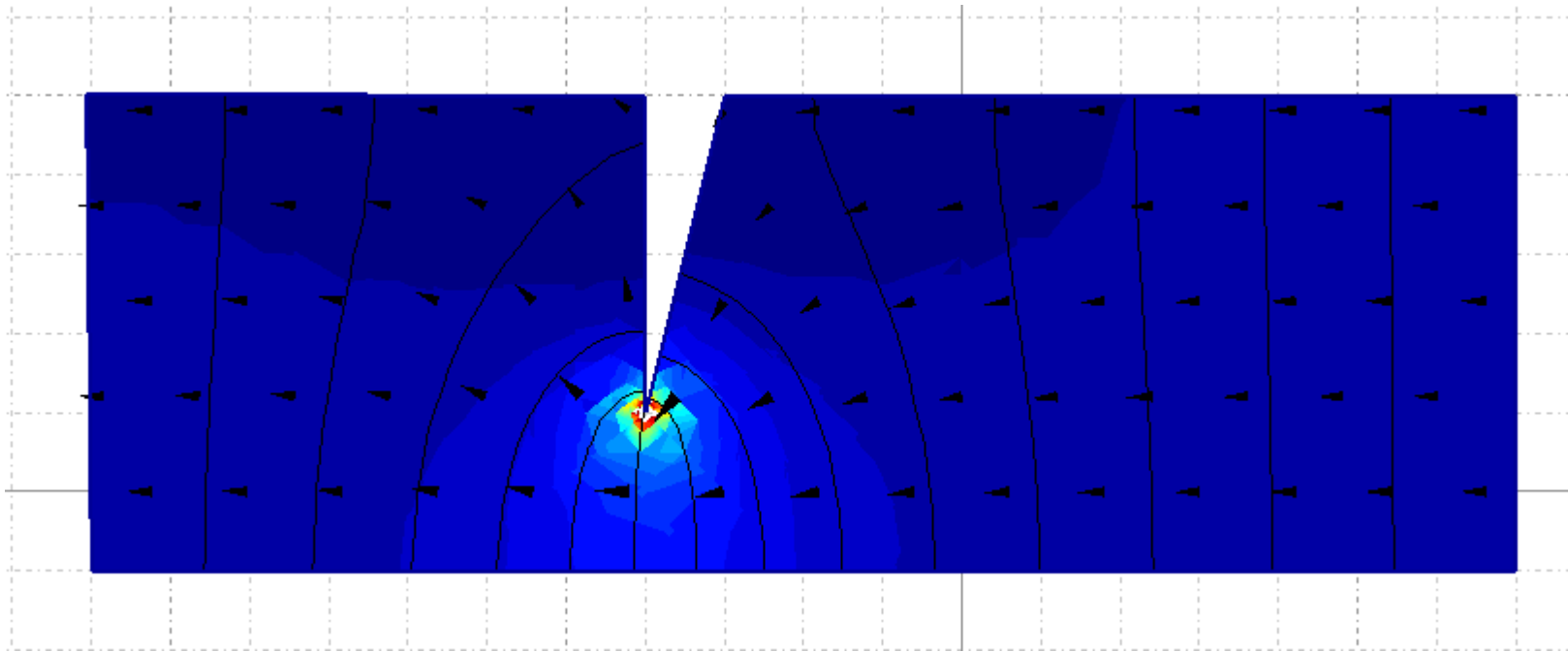
$$P = \int_V \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{J} \, dv = U I$$

- For simple resistor:

$$P = \left(\frac{U}{l} \frac{I}{A} \right) l A = U I$$

Crack it the cable

- Why cracks can cause the fire?



Power density [W/m³]