# Field and Wave Electromagnetic

# Chapter.5

# **Steady Electric Currents**

**Seoul National Univ.** 

# Introduction

Steady currents
 Conduction current
 Electrolytic current
 Convection current

- N : number of charge carrier / unit volume
- $\vec{u}$  : velocity
  - ① During time interval  $\Delta t$ , distance of charge carrier movement :  $\vec{u} \Delta t$
  - ② The amount of charge passing through the surface area  $\Delta s$

Cf)  $Nq = \rho$ 

 $\Delta Q = Nq\vec{u} \cdot \hat{n}\Delta s\Delta t$   $\therefore \Delta I = \frac{\Delta Q}{\Delta t} = Nq\vec{u} \cdot \hat{n}\Delta s = \vec{J} \cdot \vec{\Delta s}$ and  $\vec{J} = Nq\vec{u}$ , where  $\rho = Nq$  : volume charge density  $I = \int_{s} \vec{J} \cdot \vec{ds}$ 

then,  $\vec{J} = \rho \vec{u}$  : Convection Current density

- Electrons are emitted from a cathode.
- V = 0 at cathode.
- Electrons are collected by an anode.
- $V = V_0$  at anode.
- Electrons at cathode has a zero initial velocity.

Find the relation between  $\vec{J}$  and  $V_0$ .



sol)

① 
$$\vec{E}(0) = \hat{y}E_{y}(0) = -\hat{y}\frac{dV(y)}{dy}\Big|_{y=0} = 0$$

② In the steady state, the current density is cc and independent of y

$$\vec{J} = -\hat{y}J = \hat{y}\rho(y)u(y)$$
  
where,  $\rho(y) < 0$  (:: electrons)

③  $\vec{u}(y)$  and  $\vec{E}(y)$  is governed by Newton's law.

$$m \cdot \frac{du(y)}{dt} = -eE(y) = e\frac{dV(y)}{dy}$$
  
m=9.11×10<sup>-31</sup> (kg),  $e = -1.6 \times 10^{-19}$  (C)



$$m\frac{du}{dt} = m\frac{du}{dy}\frac{dy}{dt} = mu\frac{du}{dy} = \frac{d}{dy}\left(\frac{1}{2}mu^2\right)$$
$$\therefore \quad \frac{d}{dy}\left(\frac{1}{2}mu^2\right) = e\frac{dV}{dy}$$

Integrating both side with a given boundary condition , u(0) = 0, V(0) = 0 at y = 0

$$\frac{1}{2}mu^{2} = eV$$
$$u = \left(\frac{2e}{m}V\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$
: analogy to free fall motion in the gravitational field

To find V(y), we have to solve Poisson's equation with  $\rho$  expressed in terms of V(y)

$$J = -\rho u, \quad (\rho < 0)$$
$$\rho = -\frac{J}{u} = -J\sqrt{\frac{m}{2e}}V^{-\frac{1}{2}}$$

✓ Poisson's equation

$$\nabla^2 V = -\frac{\rho}{\varepsilon_0}$$
$$\therefore \frac{d^2 V}{dy^2} = -\frac{\rho}{\varepsilon_0} = \frac{J}{\varepsilon_0} \sqrt{\frac{m}{2e}} V^{-1/2}$$

$$\mathsf{cf}\left(\frac{d^{2}V}{dy^{2}} \cdot \left(2\frac{dV}{dy}\right) = K \cdot V^{-\frac{1}{2}} \cdot 2\frac{dV}{dy}\right)$$
$$\frac{d}{dy}\left[\left(\frac{dV}{dy}\right)^{2}\right] = \frac{d}{dy}\left[K \cdot 4V^{\frac{1}{2}}\right]$$
$$\therefore \left(\frac{dV}{dy}\right)^{2} = 4K \cdot V^{\frac{1}{2}} + c$$

$$\therefore \left(\frac{dV}{dy}\right)^2 = \frac{4J}{\varepsilon_0} \sqrt{\frac{m}{2e}} V^{\frac{1}{2}} + c$$

B.C. at 
$$y = 0$$
,  $V = 0$ ,  $\frac{dV}{dy} = 0$  (zero initial velocity)  
 $\therefore c = 0$   
 $\therefore \frac{dV}{dy} = 2\sqrt{\frac{J}{\varepsilon_0}} \cdot \left(\frac{m}{2e}\right)^{\frac{1}{4}} V^{\frac{1}{4}}$   
 $\therefore V^{-\frac{1}{4}} dV = 2\sqrt{\frac{J}{\varepsilon_0}} \left(\frac{m}{2e}\right)^{\frac{1}{4}} dy$   
 $\therefore \frac{4}{3}V_0^{\frac{3}{4}} = 2\sqrt{\frac{J}{\varepsilon_0}} \left(\frac{m}{2e}\right)^{\frac{1}{4}} d$ . B.C.  $\begin{cases} \text{at } y = 0, \ V = 0 \\ \text{at } y = d, \ V = V_0 \end{cases}$   
 $\therefore \frac{J = \frac{4\varepsilon_0}{9d^2}\sqrt{\frac{2e}{m}V_0^{\frac{3}{2}}} \Rightarrow$  Child Langmuir law

- ✓ In case of conduction currents.
  - electrons, holes

$$J = \sum_{i} N_{i} q_{i} \overrightarrow{u_{i}}$$

- Atoms remain neutral
- Average drift velocity is directly proportional to the electric field intensity
- metallic conductors

 $\vec{u} = -\mu_e \vec{E}$  : velocity,  $\mu_e$  : mobility (m<sup>2</sup>/V·S)

cf) 
$$\mu_{\rm e}$$
: 3.2×10<sup>-3</sup> for Copper

- :  $1.4 \times 10^{-4}$  for Al
- :  $5.2 \times 10^{-3}$  for Silver

 $\vec{J} = -\rho_e \mu_e \vec{E}, \quad \text{where } \rho_e = -Ne : \text{charge density of drifting electrons.}$ Point function  $\vec{J} = \sigma \vec{E}, \quad \sigma = -\rho_e \mu_e \quad \text{conductivity for metallic conductor}$ of  $\vec{\sigma} = -\rho_e \mu_e + \rho_h \mu_h \Rightarrow \text{ for semiconductor}$ of  $\vec{\sigma} = -\rho_e \mu_e + \rho_h \mu_h \Rightarrow \text{ for germanium, } \mu_e = 0.38, \quad \mu_h = 0.18$ of silicon,  $\mu_e = 0.12, \quad \mu_h = 0.03$ 

- ✓ Conductivity
  - > Isotropic materials obeying,  $\vec{J} = \sigma \vec{E}$  : ohmic media

#### Conductivity

$$\sigma: (A/(V \cdot m)) \text{ or Simens per meter (S/m)}$$

$$for copper : 5.80 \times 10^{7} (S/m)$$

$$for germanium : 2.2 (S/m)$$

$$for silicon : 16 \times 10^{-3} (S/m)$$

$$for Hard rubber : 10^{-15} (S/m)$$

✓ Ohm's law

- $\vec{J} = \sigma \vec{E} \implies$  point form of Ohm's law cf)  $V_{12} = RI \implies$  Not a point relation
- Assume a piece of homogeneous conducting material with conductivity  $\sigma$ , length *l*, uniform crosssection *S*.



$$V_{12} = El \implies E = \frac{V_{12}}{l}$$

$$I = \int_{s} \vec{J} \cdot \vec{ds} = JS, \quad J = \frac{I}{S}$$

$$\frac{I}{S} = \sigma \cdot \frac{V_{12}}{l}$$

$$\therefore \quad V_{12} = \left(\frac{l}{\sigma S}\right)I = RI$$

$$R = \frac{l}{\sigma S} = \rho \cdot \frac{l}{S} \quad : \text{ Resistance}$$

- ✓  $\oint_C \vec{E} \cdot \vec{dl} = 0 \Rightarrow$  Static E-field is irrotational (i.e. Conservative) For an ohmic material,  $\vec{J} = \sigma \vec{E}$  $\therefore \oint_C \frac{1}{\sigma} \vec{J} \cdot \vec{dl} = 0$ : Steady current cannot be maintained in the same direction in a closed circuit by an electrostatic field.
  - To have steady current, nonconservative field should supply the energy which will be dissipated by collision
  - The source of nonconservative field : chemical energy, generators.
  - Impressed electric field intensity



Electric battery

↓ driving forces for charge carrier

Equivalent impressed electric field intensity  $\vec{E_i}$ 

- $\overrightarrow{E_i}$  is produced by chemical action
- $(E_i : \text{impressed electric field intensity})$

 $\vec{E}_i = -\vec{E}$  ::  $\begin{pmatrix} \text{No current flows in the open-circuited battery} \\ \Rightarrow \text{ the net force acting on the charge carriers must vanish} \end{cases}$ 

$$\int_{2}^{1} \vec{E}_{i} \cdot \vec{dl} = -\int_{2}^{1} \vec{E} \cdot \vec{dl} = \mathcal{V} : \text{ electromotive force}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{ driving forces for charge carrier}$$

✓ Electro motive force : The line integral of the impressed field intensity  $\vec{E_i}$  from the negative to positive electrode inside the battery

✓ Conservative electrostatic field

$$\oint_C \vec{E} \cdot \vec{dl} = \int_1^2 \vec{E} \cdot \vec{dl} + \int_2^1 \vec{E} \cdot \vec{dl} = 0$$
  
outside the inside the source

$$\mathcal{V} = \int_{1}^{2} \vec{E} \cdot \vec{dl} = V_{12} = V_{1} - V_{2}$$
 : voltage rise  
outside the  
source

With a resistor connecting two terminals, the total electric field intensity must  $(\vec{E} + \vec{E}_i)$  be used in the point form of Ohm's law

$$\vec{J} = \sigma(\vec{E} + \vec{E}_i),$$

 $\vec{E}_i$  exist inside the battery only,  $\vec{E}$  exist both inside and outside the battery

$$\vec{E} + \vec{E_i} = \frac{J}{\sigma}, \quad \mathcal{V} = \oint_C \left(\vec{E} + \vec{E_i}\right) \cdot \vec{dl} = \oint_C \frac{1}{\sigma} \vec{J} \cdot \vec{dl} = RI$$

cf) no source of nonconservative field  $\oint_C \frac{1}{\sigma} \vec{J} \cdot \vec{dl} = 0$ 

$$\sum_{j} \mathcal{V}_{j} = \sum_{k} R_{k} I_{k} : \text{ Kirchhoff's voltage law}$$

→ Around a closed path in an electric circuit, the algebraic sum of the emf's (voltage rises) is equal to the algebric sum of the voltage drops across the resistances.

### Equation of Continuity and Kirchhoff's current law

✓ The principle of conservation of charge

$$I = \oint_{S} \vec{J} \cdot \vec{ds} = -\frac{dQ}{dt} = -\frac{d}{dt} \int_{V} \rho \, dv$$
  
total outward flux  $\Rightarrow$  Decrease in total charge inside



> Applying divergence theorem, and assuming the stationary volume  $\int_{V} \nabla \cdot \vec{J} \, dv = -\int_{V} \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} \, dv, \quad \begin{pmatrix} \text{taking partial derivative in the integral since } \rho \\ \text{may be a function of time as well as space} \\ \therefore \quad \nabla \cdot \vec{J} = -\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} \\ \vdots \text{ continuity equation} \Rightarrow \text{ point relationship} \end{cases}$ 

Steady current  $\Rightarrow$  Charge density does not vary with time : i.e.  $\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = 0$  $\therefore \nabla \cdot \vec{J} = 0, I_{out} = I_{in}$ 

### Equation of Continuity and Kirchhoff's current law

In other words,

Steady current = Divergenceless = Solenoidal

 $\Rightarrow$  The field lines (or stream lines) of steady current close upon themselves.

i.e. 
$$\oint_{s} \vec{J} \cdot \vec{ds} = 0 \Rightarrow \sum_{j} I_{j} = 0 \Rightarrow \text{Kirchoff's current law}$$

cf) Relaxation time

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{J} = -\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t}, \text{ and } \vec{J} = \sigma \vec{E}$$
  
$$\sigma \nabla \cdot \vec{E} = -\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t}, \text{ and } \nabla \cdot \vec{E} = \frac{\rho}{\varepsilon} \text{ in a simple medium}$$
  
$$\therefore \quad \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \frac{\sigma}{\varepsilon} \rho = 0$$
  
$$\therefore \quad \rho = \rho_0 e^{-\left(\frac{\sigma}{\varepsilon}\right)t},$$

where  $\rho_0 = \text{initial charge density at } t = 0$ , relaxation time  $\tau = \frac{\varepsilon}{\sigma}$ ex) copper :  $\sigma = 5.80 \times 10^7$ ,  $\varepsilon = \varepsilon_0 = 8.85 \times 10^{-12}$ ,  $\tau = 1.52 \times 10^{-19}$ 

## Power Dissipation and Joule's law

✓ Macroscopic observation

 $\vec{E} \Rightarrow$  drift motion of conduction electrons  $\Rightarrow$  electrons collide with atoms

 $\Rightarrow$  vibration of lattice

i.e. Electric field energy  $\Rightarrow$  Thermal vibration

The work  $\Delta w$  by  $\vec{E}$  on a charge q

$$\Delta w = q\vec{E} \cdot \Delta \vec{l}$$
  

$$\therefore \text{ Power } p = \lim_{\Delta t \to 0} \frac{\Delta w}{\Delta t} = q\vec{E} \cdot \vec{u} \text{ where, } \vec{u} : \text{ drift velocity}$$

Total power in a volume dv

$$dP = \sum_{i} p_{i} = \vec{E} \cdot \left( \sum_{i} N_{i} q_{i} \vec{u}_{i} \right) dv = \vec{E} \cdot \vec{J} dv$$
  
or 
$$\frac{dP}{dv} = \vec{E} \cdot \vec{J} \quad (W/m^{3}) : Power density under steady current conditions$$

For a given volume v

$$P = \int_{V} \vec{E} \cdot \vec{J} \, dv \quad (W) \quad : \quad \text{Joule's law}$$

## Power Dissipation and Joule's law

cf) Special case

Conductor : Constant cross section

dv = ds dl, dl measured in the direction  $\vec{J}$ 

$$P = \int_{L} E \, dl \, \int_{s} J \, ds = VI = I^{2}R$$
 (W)

cf) 
$$V = -\int E \, dl$$

note: Justification of  $\vec{E}$  in a conductor

① Voltage rise : Source of nonconservative field

② Not P.E.C : relaxation time

③ Steady current driven by non conservation source  $\Rightarrow -\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = 0$ 

(4) resistance  $\Rightarrow$  finite , P.E.C  $\Rightarrow \sigma = \infty$ 

## **Boundary Conditions for Current Density**

For steady current,

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{J} = 0, \ \oint_{s} \vec{J} \cdot \vec{ds} = 0 \qquad : \text{ continuity equation}$$
$$\nabla \times \left(\frac{\vec{J}}{\sigma}\right) = 0, \ \oint_{c} \frac{1}{\sigma} \vec{J} \cdot \vec{dl} = 0 \qquad : \text{ conservative electrostatic field}$$

 $\ensuremath{\textcircled{}}$  The normal component of a divergenceless vector field is continuous

$$\therefore J_{1n} = J_{2n}$$

② The tangential component of a curl-free vector field is continuous across an interface

$$\frac{J_{1t}}{\sigma_1} = \frac{J_{2t}}{\sigma_2} \qquad \text{or} \qquad \boxed{\frac{J_{1t}}{J_{2t}} = \frac{\sigma_1}{\sigma_2}}$$

③ Boundary conditions between two different lossy dielectrics

(permitivities  $\varepsilon_1$  and  $\varepsilon_2$ , finite conductivity  $\sigma_1$  and  $\sigma_2$ )

- The tangential component of the electric field

$$E_{2t} = E_{1t} \qquad \left(\frac{J_{1t}}{J_{2t}} = \frac{\sigma_1}{\sigma_2}\right)$$

## **Boundary Conditions for Current Density**

- Normal component of the electric field

$$J_{1n} = J_{2n} \implies \sigma_1 E_{1n} = \sigma_2 E_{2n}$$
$$D_{1n} - D_{2n} = \rho_s$$

(with the reference with normal  $\hat{n_2}$  from medium 2 to medium 1)

$$\Rightarrow \varepsilon_1 E_{1n} - \varepsilon_2 E_{2n} = \rho_s$$

$$\therefore \rho_s = \left(\varepsilon_1 \frac{\sigma_2}{\sigma_1} - \varepsilon_2\right) E_{2n} = \left(\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2 \frac{\sigma_1}{\sigma_2}\right) E_{1n}$$

if 
$$\frac{\sigma_2}{\sigma_1} = \frac{\varepsilon_2}{\varepsilon_1}$$
, then  $\rho_s = 0$ 

## **Resistance Calculation**

$$\checkmark C = \frac{Q}{V} = \frac{\oint_{s} \overrightarrow{D} \cdot \overrightarrow{ds}}{-\int_{L} \overrightarrow{E} \cdot \overrightarrow{dl}} = \frac{\oint \varepsilon \overrightarrow{E} \cdot \overrightarrow{ds}}{-\int_{L} \overrightarrow{E} \cdot \overrightarrow{dl}}$$

![](_page_23_Figure_3.jpeg)

When the dielectric medium is lossy, a current will flow from the positive to the negative conductor.

 $\Rightarrow \vec{J} = \sigma \vec{E}$  and  $\vec{J}$  and  $\vec{E}$  are in the same direction

$$\therefore R = \frac{V}{I} = \frac{-\int_{L} \vec{E} \cdot \vec{dl}}{\oint_{S} \vec{J} \cdot \vec{ds}} = \frac{-\int_{L} \vec{E} \cdot \vec{dl}}{\oint \sigma \vec{E} \cdot \vec{ds}} \Longrightarrow RC = \frac{C}{G} = \frac{\varepsilon}{\sigma}$$