

Exercise walk-through

Compound Direct Current Circuits ■ 11.5

eXercise

You must be able to

- reduce a network of **series and parallel** resistors to one equivalent resistance
- model a real battery as an **ideal emf 电动势** in series with an **internal resistance 内阻**
- distinguish a battery's **emf** from its **terminal voltage 端电压** under load
- find the current and voltage for each element

Method — Reducing a network

Combine resistors step by step: series add, parallel combine by $\frac{1}{R} = \sum \frac{1}{R_i}$, until one equivalent resistance remains.

Method — Real battery

A real battery is an ideal emf ε in series with an internal resistance r , so the **terminal voltage** under load is

$$V = \varepsilon - Ir.$$

Method — emf vs terminal voltage

The emf is the full “push”; the terminal voltage is what is left across the external circuit once Ir is lost inside.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

A battery of emf 9.0 V and internal resistance $1.0\ \Omega$ drives 2.0 A . Find the terminal voltage.

Solution 2.1

Method: Real battery

Worked steps

$$V = \varepsilon - Ir = 9.0 - 2.0(1.0) = 7.0 \text{ V} \quad \text{M1} \quad \text{A1}.$$

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Two $8.0\ \Omega$ resistors in parallel are in series with a $4.0\ \Omega$ resistor. Find the total resistance.

Solution 2.2

Method: Reducing a network

Worked steps

parallel pair: $\frac{8.0}{2} = 4.0 \, \Omega$; then $4.0 + 4.0 = 8.0 \, \Omega$ **M1** **A1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

State the difference between the emf and the terminal voltage of a battery.

Solution 2.3

Method: Real battery

Worked steps

the emf is the total energy per charge supplied; the terminal voltage is the smaller potential difference across the external circuit once Ir is lost internally **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

A real battery is modelled as an ideal emf in series with

- A** a capacitor
- B** an internal resistance
- C** an inductor
- D** nothing

Solution 3.1

Method: Real battery

A a capacitor

B an internal resistance 

C an inductor

D nothing

Worked steps

B.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

The terminal voltage of a battery under load is

A greater than the emf

B less than the emf

C equal to zero

D infinite

Solution 3.2

Method: Real battery

A greater than the emf

B less than the emf



C equal to zero

D infinite

Worked steps

B.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 2 marks

A 12 V battery of internal resistance $0.50\ \Omega$ is connected to a $5.5\ \Omega$ resistor.

- (a) Find the current.
- (b) Find the terminal voltage.

Solution 3.3

Method: Real battery

Worked steps

$$\text{(a) } I = \frac{\varepsilon}{R + r} = \frac{12}{5.5 + 0.50} = 2.0 \text{ A} \quad \text{M1 A1.} \quad \text{(b) } V = \varepsilon - Ir = 12 - 2.0(0.50) = 11 \text{ V} \quad \text{M1 A1.}$$