

11.7 Kirchhoff's Junction Rule

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 9 marks**KEY WORDS** junction 节点 • kirchhoff's junction rule 基尔霍夫电流定律 • conservation of charge 电荷守恒

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **Kirchhoff's junction rule**.

You must be able to:

- state **Kirchhoff's junction rule** 基尔霍夫电流定律, $\sum I_{\text{in}} = \sum I_{\text{out}}$
- explain it as a consequence of **conservation of charge** 电荷守恒
- write **junction equations** for the nodes of a circuit
- combine it with the loop rule to find **branch currents**

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a question type used later.

■ The junction rule

At any junction, $\sum I_{\text{in}} = \sum I_{\text{out}}$ — the current arriving equals the current leaving.

■ Why it holds

Charge cannot build up at a point, so it is conserved at every node.

■ Using it

Write a junction equation at each node and a loop equation for each loop, then solve the set for the unknown branch currents.

2 Practice

2.1 State Kirchhoff's junction rule. [1]

2.2 State the conservation law the junction rule expresses. [1]

2.3 At a junction, 5.0 A enters and two branches carry 2.0 A and I out. Find I . [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 By the junction rule, the current into a junction equals the current [1]

- A stored there
 - B out of it
 - C squared
 - D halved
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3.2 The junction rule expresses conservation of [1]

- A energy
 - B charge
 - C momentum
 - D power
-

3.3 At a node, 8.0 A enters by one wire; three branches leave carrying 3.0 A, 2.0 A, and I .

(a) Find I . [2]

(b) Name the law used.

[1]

Solutions

2.1 the total current into a junction equals the total current out.

2.2 conservation of charge.

2.3 $I = 5.0 - 2.0 = 3.0$ A.

3.1 B.

3.2 B.

3.3 (a) $I = 8.0 - 3.0 - 2.0 = 3.0$ A. (b) Kirchhoff's junction rule.