

Current Electricity



Problems Based on Drift Velocity

1. Problem:

A copper wire has a cross-sectional area of $1 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}^2$ and carries a current of 3 A. If the number density of free electrons in copper is $8.5 \times 10^{28} \text{ m}^{-3}$, calculate the drift velocity of the electrons in the wire.

2. Problem:

An aluminum wire with a cross-sectional area of $2 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}^2$ carries a current of 5 A. Given that the number density of free electrons in aluminum is $6 \times 10^{28} \text{ m}^{-3}$, find the drift velocity of the electrons.

3. Problem:

A silver wire with a diameter of 0.5 mm carries a current of 2 A. If the number density of free electrons in silver is $5.8 \times 10^{28} \text{ m}^{-3}$, determine the drift velocity of the electrons.

4. Problem:

Calculate the drift velocity of electrons in a gold wire of length 1 m and cross-sectional area $1 \times 10^{-7} \text{ m}^2$, when it carries a current of 1 A. The number density of free electrons in gold is $5.9 \times 10^{28} \text{ m}^{-3}$.

5. Problem:

A tungsten wire with a radius of 0.1 mm carries a current of 0.5 A. Given that the number density of free electrons in tungsten is $6.3 \times 10^{28} \text{ m}^{-3}$, find the drift velocity of the electrons.

6. Problem:

An iron wire has a cross-sectional area of $3 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}^2$ and carries a current of 4 A. If the number density of free electrons in iron is $8.4 \times 10^{28} \text{ m}^{-3}$, calculate the drift velocity of the electrons in the wire.

Answer Key

1. Solution:

Given:

$$A = 1 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}^2, I = 3 \text{ A}, n = 8.5 \times 10^{28} \text{ m}^{-3}$$

Drift velocity formula:

$$v_d = \frac{I}{neA}$$

Substituting the values:

$$v_d = \frac{3}{8.5 \times 10^{28} \times 1.6 \times 10^{-19} \times 1 \times 10^{-6}}$$

$$v_d = \frac{3}{1.36 \times 10^{-16}}$$

$$v_d \approx 2.21 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m/s}$$

2. Solution:

Given:

$$A = 2 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}^2, I = 5 \text{ A}, n = 6 \times 10^{28} \text{ m}^{-3}$$

Drift velocity formula:

$$v_d = \frac{I}{neA}$$

Substituting the values:

$$v_d = \frac{5}{6 \times 10^{28} \times 1.6 \times 10^{-19} \times 2 \times 10^{-6}}$$

$$v_d = \frac{5}{1.92 \times 10^{-16}}$$

$$v_d \approx 2.60 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m/s}$$

3. Solution:

Given:

$$d = 0.5 \text{ mm} = 0.5 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m}, I = 2 \text{ A}, n = 5.8 \times 10^{28} \text{ m}^{-3}$$

Cross-sectional area:

$$A = \pi \left(\frac{d}{2}\right)^2 = \pi \left(\frac{0.5 \times 10^{-3}}{2}\right)^2 = \pi \times 6.25 \times 10^{-8} \text{ m}^2$$

Drift velocity formula:

$$v_d = \frac{I}{neA}$$

Substituting the values:

$$v_d = \frac{2}{5.8 \times 10^{28} \times 1.6 \times 10^{-19} \times \pi \times 6.25 \times 10^{-8}}$$

$$v_d = \frac{2}{1.81 \times 10^{-15}}$$

$$v_d \approx 1.10 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m/s}$$

4. Solution:

Given:

$$l = 1 \text{ m}, A = 1 \times 10^{-7} \text{ m}^2, I = 1 \text{ A}, n = 5.9 \times 10^{28} \text{ m}^{-3}$$

Drift velocity formula:

$$v_d = \frac{I}{neA}$$

Substituting the values:

$$v_d = \frac{1}{5.9 \times 10^{28} \times 1.6 \times 10^{-19} \times 1 \times 10^{-7}}$$

$$v_d = \frac{1}{9.44 \times 10^{-16}}$$

$$v_d \approx 1.06 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m/s}$$

5. Solution:

Given:

$$r = 0.1 \text{ mm} = 0.1 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m}, I = 0.5 \text{ A}, n = 6.3 \times 10^{28} \text{ m}^{-3}$$

Cross-sectional area:

$$A = \pi r^2 = \pi \times (0.1 \times 10^{-3})^2 = \pi \times 1 \times 10^{-8} \text{ m}^2$$

Drift velocity formula:

$$v_d = \frac{I}{neA}$$

Substituting the values:

$$v_d = \frac{0.5}{6.3 \times 10^{28} \times 1.6 \times 10^{-19} \times \pi \times 1 \times 10^{-8}}$$

$$v_d = \frac{0.5}{3.17 \times 10^{-15}}$$

$$v_d \approx 1.58 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m/s}$$

6. Solution:

Given:

$$A = 3 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}^2, I = 4 \text{ A}, n = 8.4 \times 10^{28} \text{ m}^{-3}$$

Drift velocity formula:

$$v_d = \frac{I}{neA}$$

Substituting the values:

$$v_d = \frac{4}{8.4 \times 10^{28} \times 1.6 \times 10^{-19} \times 3 \times 10^{-6}}$$

$$v_d = \frac{4}{4.03 \times 10^{-15}}$$

$$v_d \approx 9.93 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m/s}$$