SUBJECT: BASIC ELECTRONICS

Current Divider Rule

Elementrix Classes

Current Divider Rule

Let's consider a simple parallel circuit with two resistors, R_1 and R_2 , connected in parallel, and a voltage source (V) connected across the combination.



Resistance of opposite branch

Formula: $I_X = I_T \times \frac{1}{\text{Resistance of opposite branch} + \text{Resistance of current branch}}$

1. Define the Resistances:

 $R_1 = 3 \text{ ohm}$

 $R_2 = 6 \text{ ohm}$

2. Calculate Total Resistance (R_{total}):

$$\frac{1}{R_{total}} = \frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2}$$
$$\frac{1}{R_{total}} = \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{6} = \frac{2+1}{6} = \frac{3}{6} = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$R_{total} = 2\Omega$$

2. Calculate Total Current (I_{total}):

$$I_{total} = rac{V}{R_{ ext{total}}} = rac{12}{2} = 6\,A$$

$$I_{
m total}=\,6A$$

3. Apply Current Divider Rule for Each Resistor to Calculate Individual Branch Currents:

Use the current divider rule for each resistor:

For R₁: $I_{R_1} = I_{total} imes rac{R_2}{R_2 + R_1}$ $I_{R_1} = 6 imes rac{6}{6+3} = 6 imes rac{6}{9} = rac{36}{9} = 4\,A$ $I_{R_1}=4\,A$

For R₂:

$$egin{aligned} &I_{R_2} = I_{total} imes rac{R_1}{R_1 + R_2} \ &I_{R_2} = 6 imes rac{3}{3 + 6} = 6 imes rac{3}{9} = rac{18}{9} = 2\,A \ &I_{R_2} = 2\,A \end{aligned}$$

This means that in the given parallel circuit, 4 amperes of current flows through the 3-ohm resistor (R_1), and 2 amperes flows through the 6-ohm resistor (R_2).



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