

## Voltage divider as voltage source

The voltage divider shown in [figure 1](#) is in an unloaded state, as the entire current supplied by the power supply flows through the resistors  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  connected in series. A resistor parallel to  $R_2$  loads the voltage divider. Set the voltage on the power supply to 12 V and measure the exact voltage with a multimeter. Set up the measuring circuit shown in [figure 1](#). For the connected load  $R_L = 10 \text{ k}\Omega$ , the voltage divider represents a voltage source. Like any voltage source, it has a source voltage (also called the original voltage)  $U_0$  and an internal resistance  $R_i$ . The internal resistance of a voltage divider considered as a voltage source results from the parallel connection of the divider resistors  $R_1$  and  $R_2$ :

$$R_i = R_1 || R_2 = \frac{R_1 \cdot R_2}{R_1 + R_2}$$

Use the measured values of resistors  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  to calculate the internal resistance  $R_i$  of the voltage source:

$$R_i =$$

$$U_0 =$$

The power  $P_0$  supplied by the power supply can be calculated using the following equation:

$$P_0 = U \cdot I_1$$

The power consumed by the load resistance can be determined using the following formula:

$$P_L = R_L \cdot I_2^2$$



Start drawing by  
clicking here

Fig. 1: Voltage divider

Draw the equivalent voltage source of the voltage divider:

What would be the value of  $U_2$  without  $R_L$ ?

$$U_{2,zero} =$$

Calculate  $U_{2,L}$  and  $I_2$  for  $R_L = 10 \text{ k}\Omega$  using the values of the equivalent voltage source: (Provide formulas!)

$U_{2L} :$  $I_2 :$ 

Check the values by measuring:

 $U_{2L,Meas} :$  $I_{2,Meas} :$ 

Check the values using Kirchhoff's rules: (Provide formulas!)

 $U_{2L} :$  $I_2 :$ 

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