

Definitions and Concepts for CAIE Physics A-level

Topic 21: Alternating Currents

Alternating Current: Electric current that periodically changes direction and constantly changes its magnitude.

Peak Value: The maximum value achieved by a waveform.

Rms Value: The amount of DC current required to achieve the same power as a given AC current. $V_{rms} = \frac{V_{peak}}{\sqrt{2}}$ where V_{peak} is the peak voltage of the AC current.

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