Answer on Question #73340 - Physics / Electric Circuits

A wire of resistance $R=3.0~\Omega$ is connected to a battery whose emf is E=5.0~V and whose internal resistance is $=1.0~\Omega$.

- (a) How much energy is transferred from chemical to electrical form in t = 4.0 min?
- (b) How much energy appears in the wire as thermal energy in that time?

Solution:

(a) Total energy that is transferred from chemical to electrical form in t = 4 min

$$U_{total} = \mathcal{E}It$$

where $I = \frac{\varepsilon}{R+r}$ is the current through the circuit.

So

$$U_{total} = \frac{\mathcal{E}^2}{R+r} \ t = \frac{5.0^2}{3.0+1.0} \times 4 \times 60 = 1500 \ \text{J}.$$

(b)

$$U_{wire} = I^2 Rt = \frac{\mathcal{E}^2}{(R+r)^2} Rt = \frac{5.0^2}{(3.0+1.0)^2} \times 3.0 \times 4 \times 60 = 1125 \text{ J}.$$

Answers:

- (a) 1500 J
- (b) 1125 J

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