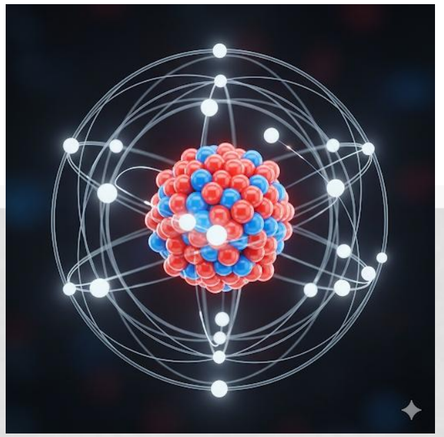
Visual Learning: Exploring Falstad Applets & Algodoo

Presented by Dr. Uma D Sharma

Academic Consultant

CIET-NCERT

Why Visualization Matters in Physics?



Bridge to Understanding

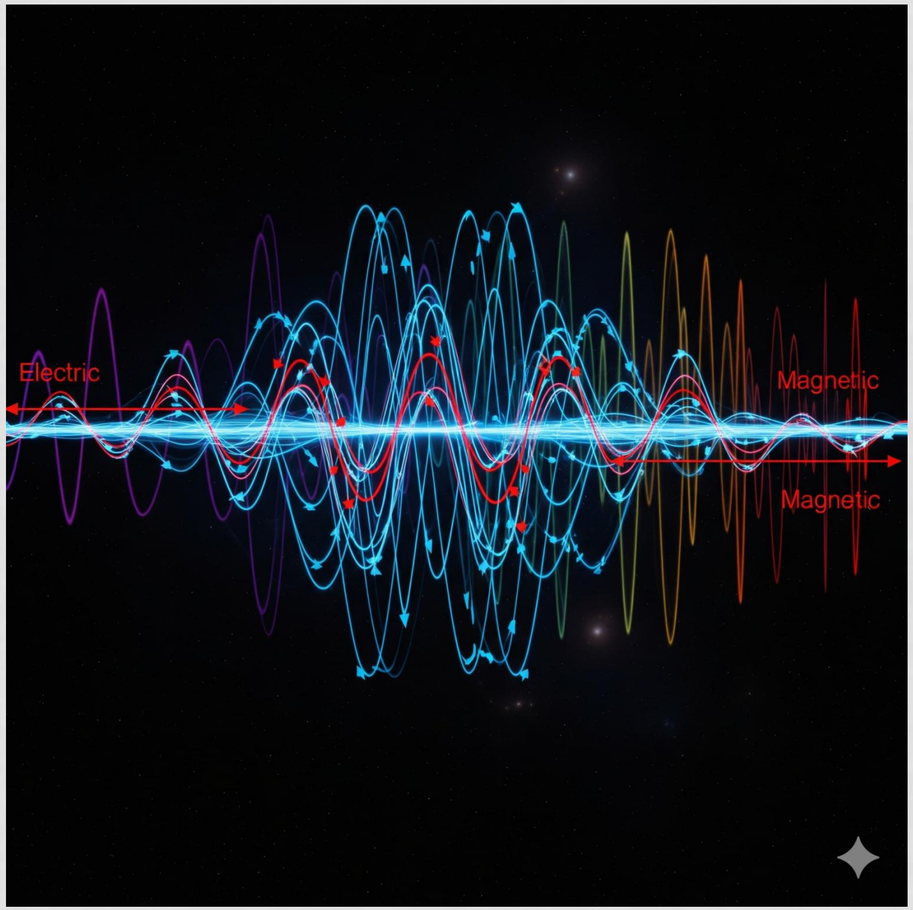
Visual aids help students grasp complex concepts in Math, Physics, and Engineering

Student Struggles

"How many times have your students struggled to grasp an abstract idea? Visualization can be the bridge."

Interactive Learning

Falstad & Algodoo provides powerful tools to transform abstract concepts into visual experiences



Why Visualization Matters in Physics?

Simplify Abstract Ideas: Visuals like graphs, diagrams, and simulations turn abstract or theoretical ideas into concrete representations, making them easier to grasp.

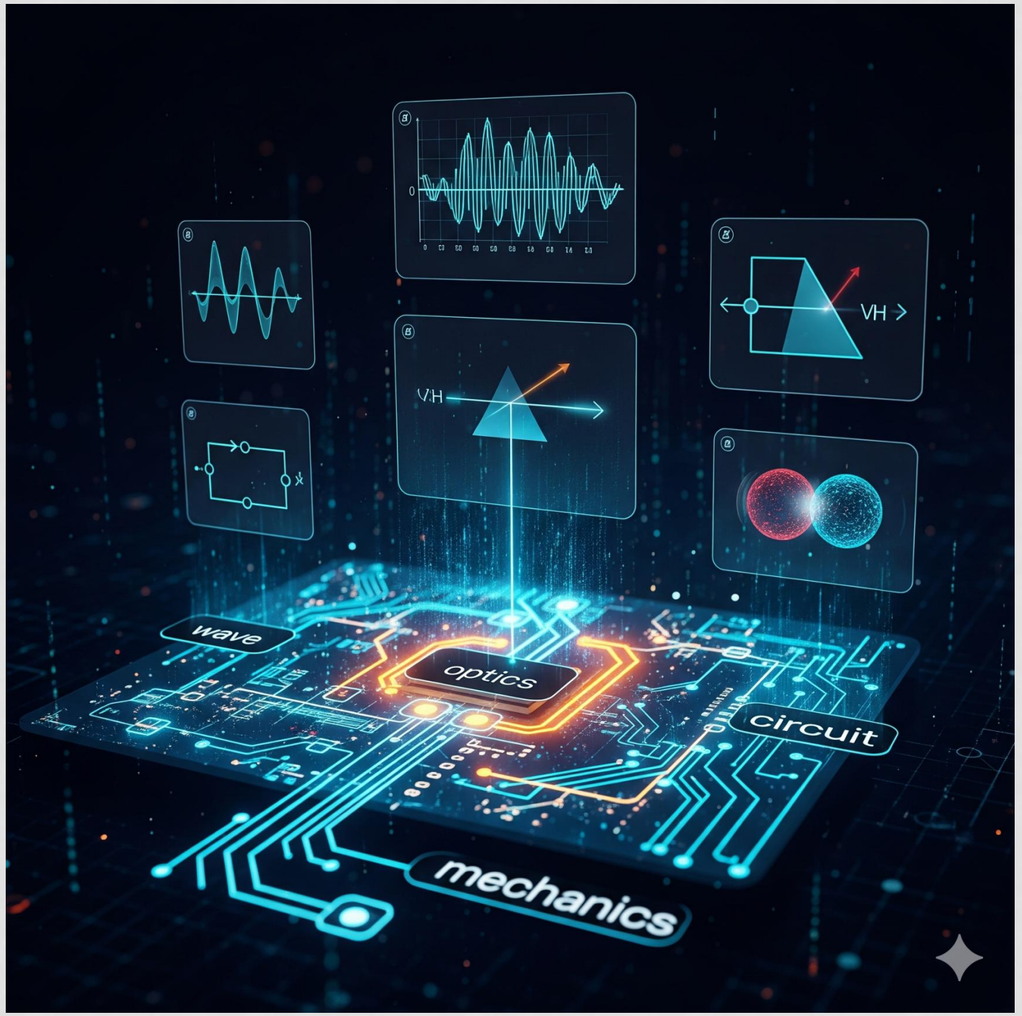
Enhance Conceptual Clarity: For instance, vector diagrams in physics or stress-strain curves in engineering help clarify relationships.

Support Problem Solving: Visual tools like circuit diagrams, flowcharts, or geometric sketches allow for clearer analysis and more efficient solutions.

Aid Memory and Retention: Visuals help learners retain complex information longer by engaging multiple cognitive processes.

Facilitate Communication: In technical fields, visuals are a universal language that bridge gaps in communication, especially when explaining ideas to diverse audiences.

Falstad Applet- Your New ICT Ally



"**Falstad is a collection of educational applets designed to help visualize various concepts."**
"Originally Java, now mostly Javascript – meaning easy access for everyone!“

It offer a range of features, from simple interactive models to complex system dynamics simulations.

A collection of free online simulations for physics, math, and engineering.

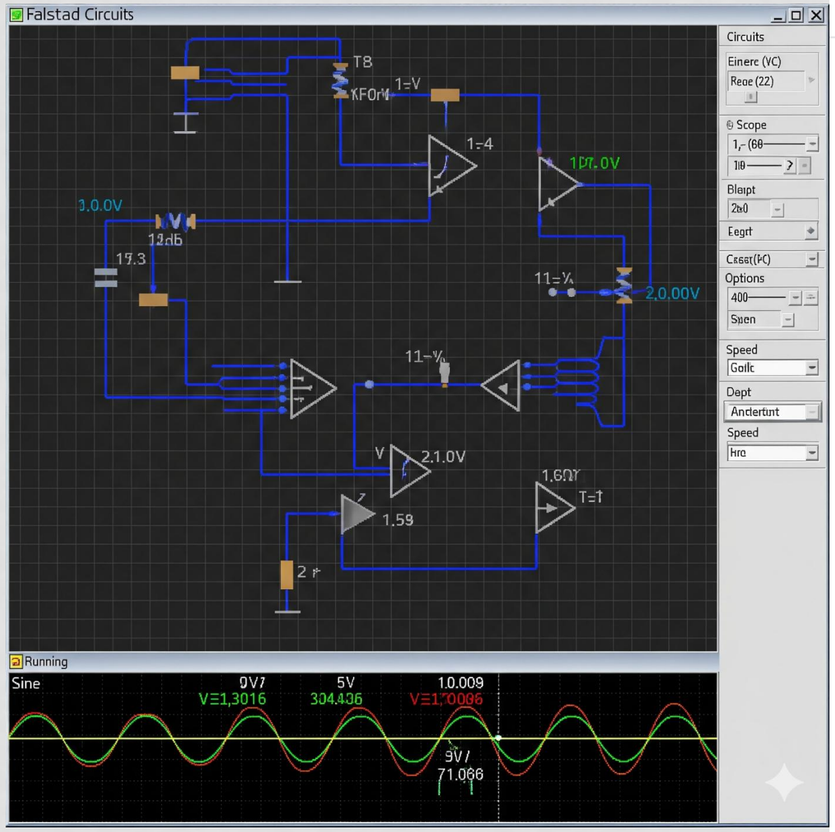
Key Benefits:

- Interactive & Dynamic
- No Downloads (browser-based)
- Covers a Wide Range of Subjects

Falstad's Circuit Simulator

A circuit simulator is a great way to learn about circuits, test new designs, or troubleshoot a design prototype that has failed on the breadboard.

https://www.falstad.com/circuit



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falstad

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Paul Falstad
https://www.falstad.com › circuit

Circuit Simulator Applet

You can still use the original Java version. More acknowledgements in the about box.
java@**falstad**.com. free counters.

Falstad's CircuitJS

File, Edit, Draw, Scopes, Options, Circuits. Reset. RUN / Stop ...

Directions

... line! – the bottom two wires of a transmission line must always ...

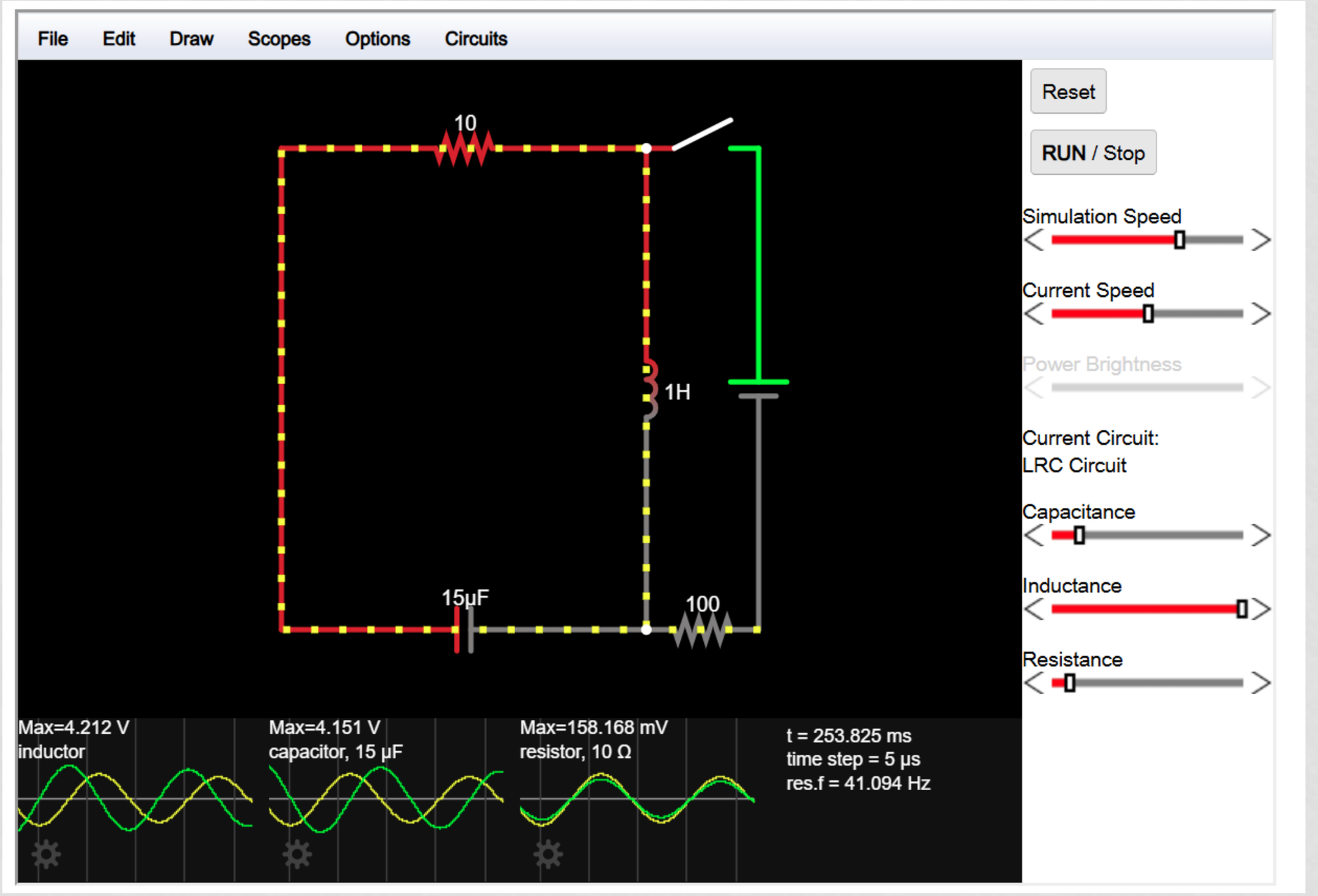
Electronics Demonstrations

Ohm's Law - Resistors - Capacitor - NPN Transistor (Bipolar) - ...

Resistors

If there are multiple current paths, you may have resistors in ...

Ohm's Law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Simulation Speed
Current Speed
Power Brightness
Current Circuit:
LRC Circuit
Capacitance
Inductance
Resistance
Max=4.212 V
inductor
Max=4.151 V
capacitor, 15 µF
Max=158.168 mV
resistor, 10 Ω
t = 253.825 ms
time step = 5 µs
res.f = 41.094 Hz

Key Tools

1. File menu: It allows you to load or save circuit description files. You can also export a circuit description as a link so you can share a circuit with others.

2. Reset: This button resets the circuit to a reasonable state.

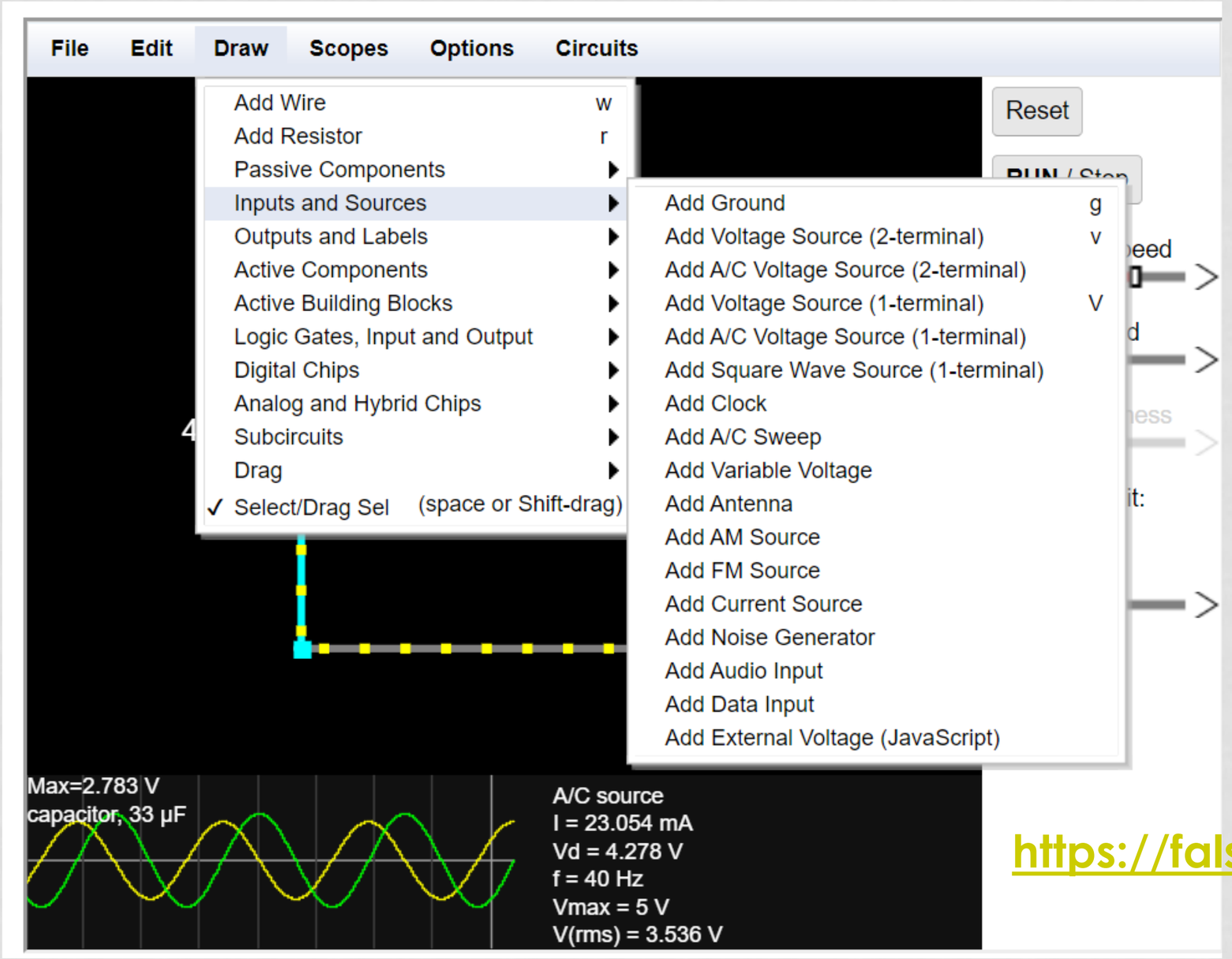
3. Run/Stop: This button allows you to stop the simulation.

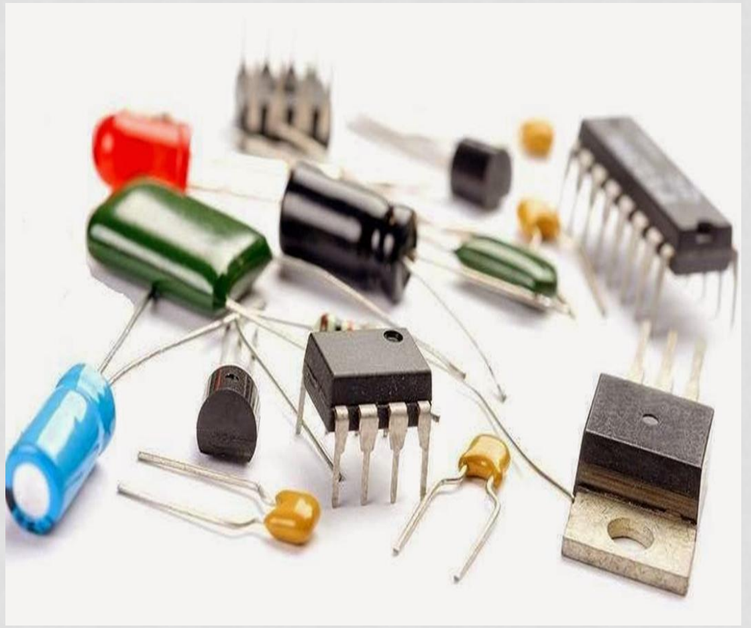
4. Simulation Speed: This slider allows you to adjust the speed of the simulation.

5. Current Speed: This slider lets you adjust the speed of the dots, in case the currents are so weak (or strong) that the dots are moving too slowly (or too quickly).

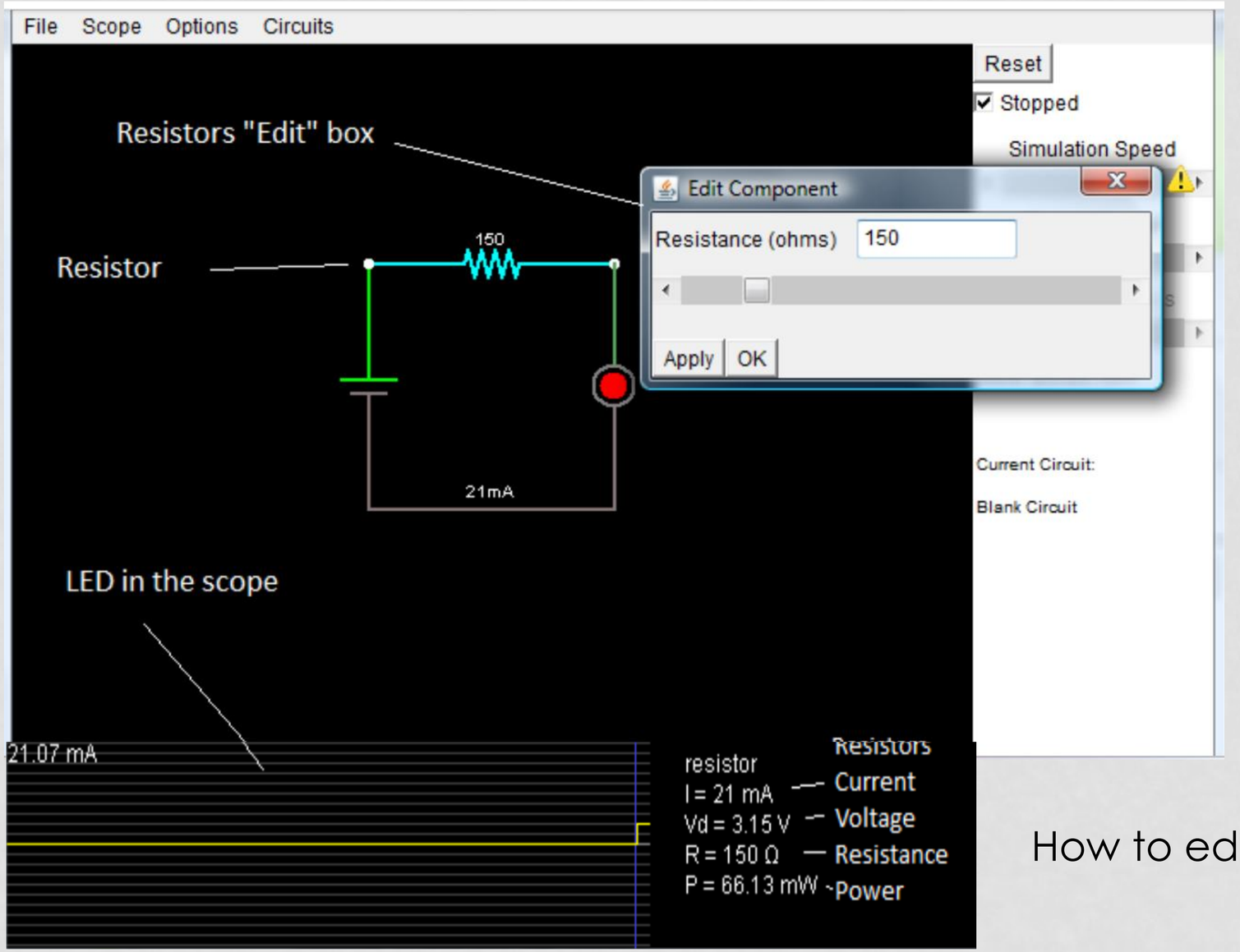
6. Circuits menu: It can be used to view some interesting pre-defined circuits. Once a circuit is selected, you may modify it all you want.

Tools for developing Circuit





https://falstad.com/circuit/circuitjs.html

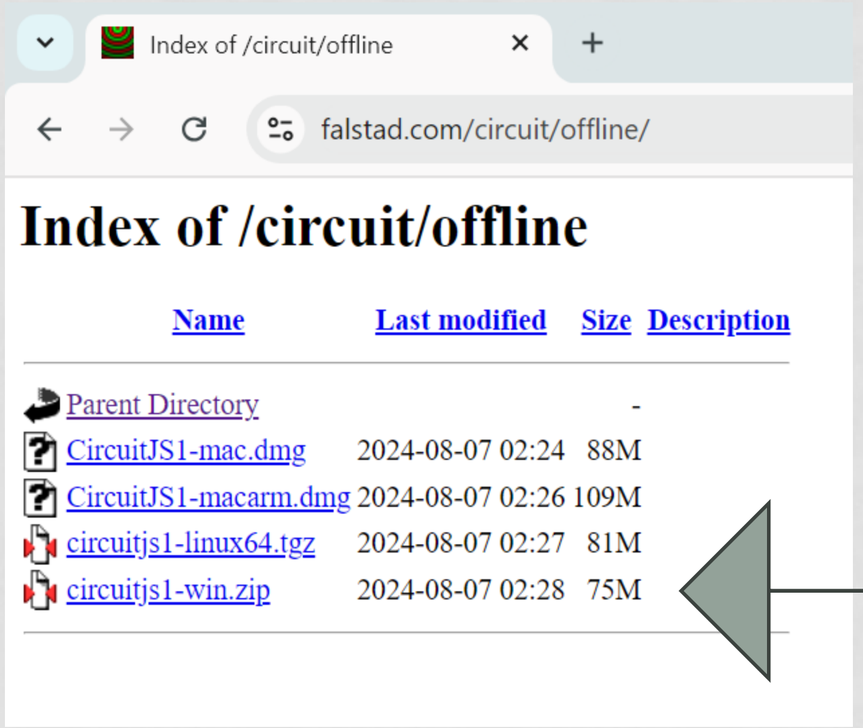


How to edit values of electrical circuit???

How to download standalone(offline) version?

https://www.falstad.com/circuit

Click on circuitjs-win.zip file and download it.



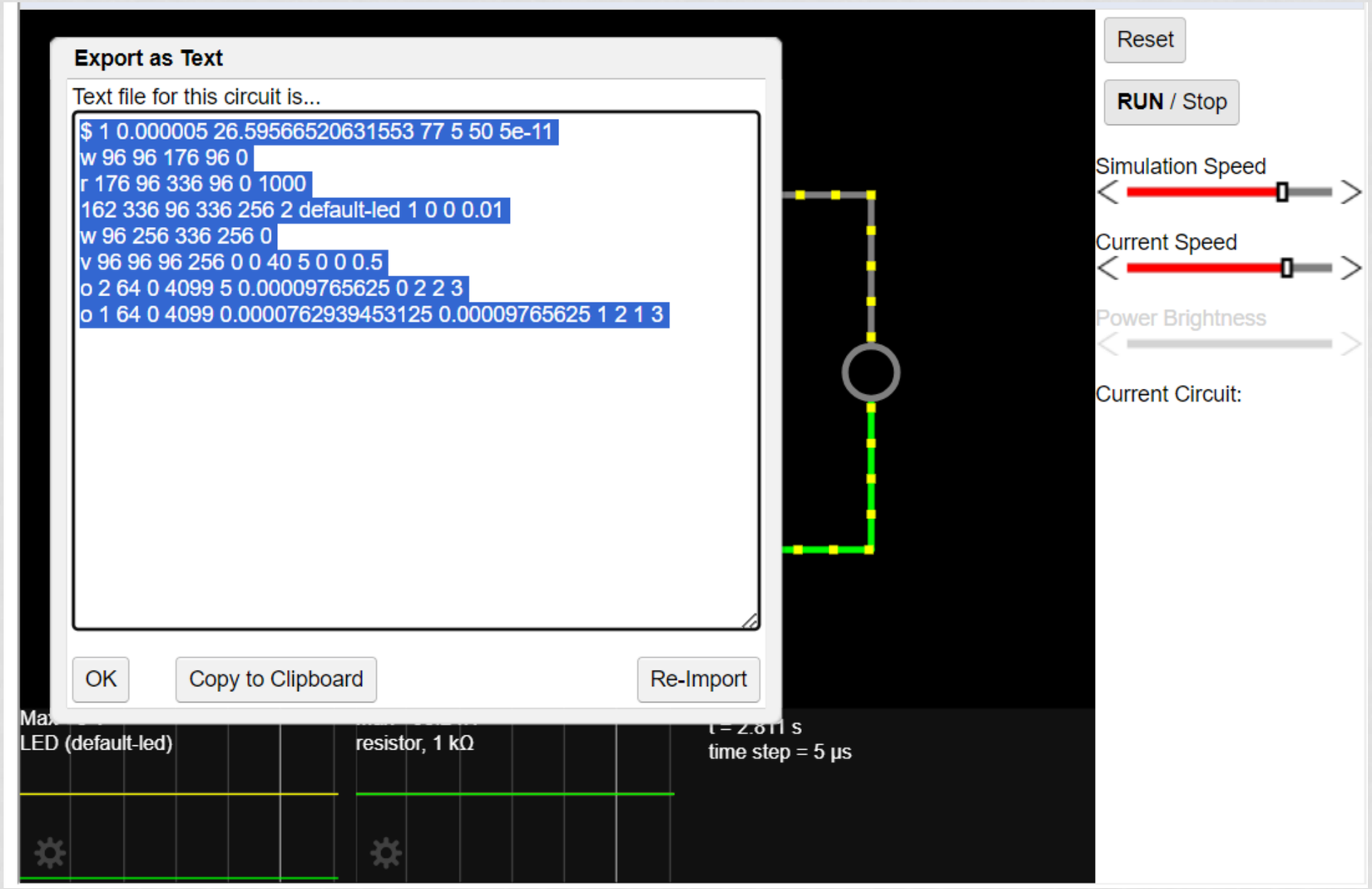
To save a circuit that you have made go:

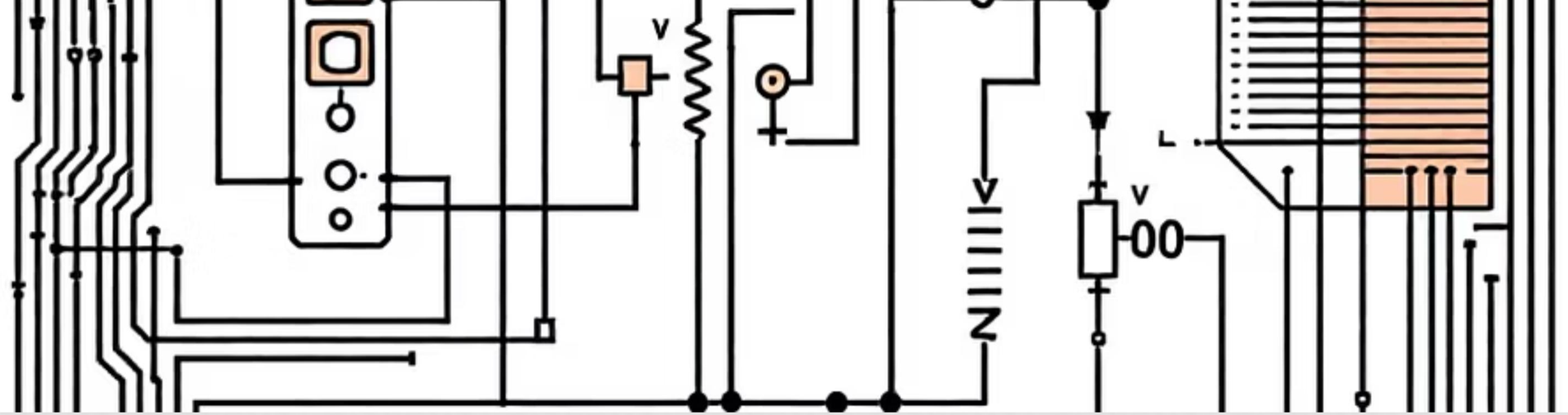
File > Export > (Copy the code in the export box) > (Paste into a .txt document or similar) > Save the code.

When loading a circuit:

Find the .txt (Or similar file) > Copy the code > (File > Import) > If there is any code in the import box, clear it and paste your code into that box.

[New Text Document.txt]





Circuit Insights & Classroom Applications

Observe

What did you notice about current flow and component behavior?

Apply

How could you use this applet to teach Ohm's Law, Wheatstone Bridge concept or Kirchhoff's Laws?

Address Misconceptions

Think about common misconceptions students have about circuits – how could Falstad help address them?

Misconception: Current gets “used up” in a circuit

Many students think current is lost after passing through a component like a bulb.

Falstad Fix: In Falstad, students can observe that current remains the same at all points in a series circuit.

They can use current meters to confirm conservation of current.

Misconception: A battery supplies a constant current regardless of the circuit

Students may believe the battery “pushes out” a fixed amount of current.

Falstad Fix: By changing the resistance or adding components, students can see how current depends on resistance and voltage (Ohm’s Law).

Misconception: Bulbs in parallel are dimmer than in series

Some think adding more bulbs always makes them dimmer.

Falstad Fix: Students can simulate series vs parallel connections of bulbs. They’ll see bulbs in parallel shine equally bright, while in series they share the voltage and appear dimmer.

Misconception: Current flows out of both ends of a battery

Students sometimes believe current flows from both positive and negative terminals independently.

Falstad Fix: Falstad shows the complete loop of current in animations, reinforcing that current flows in a closed path.

Misconception: The thicker wire or battery position affects brightness

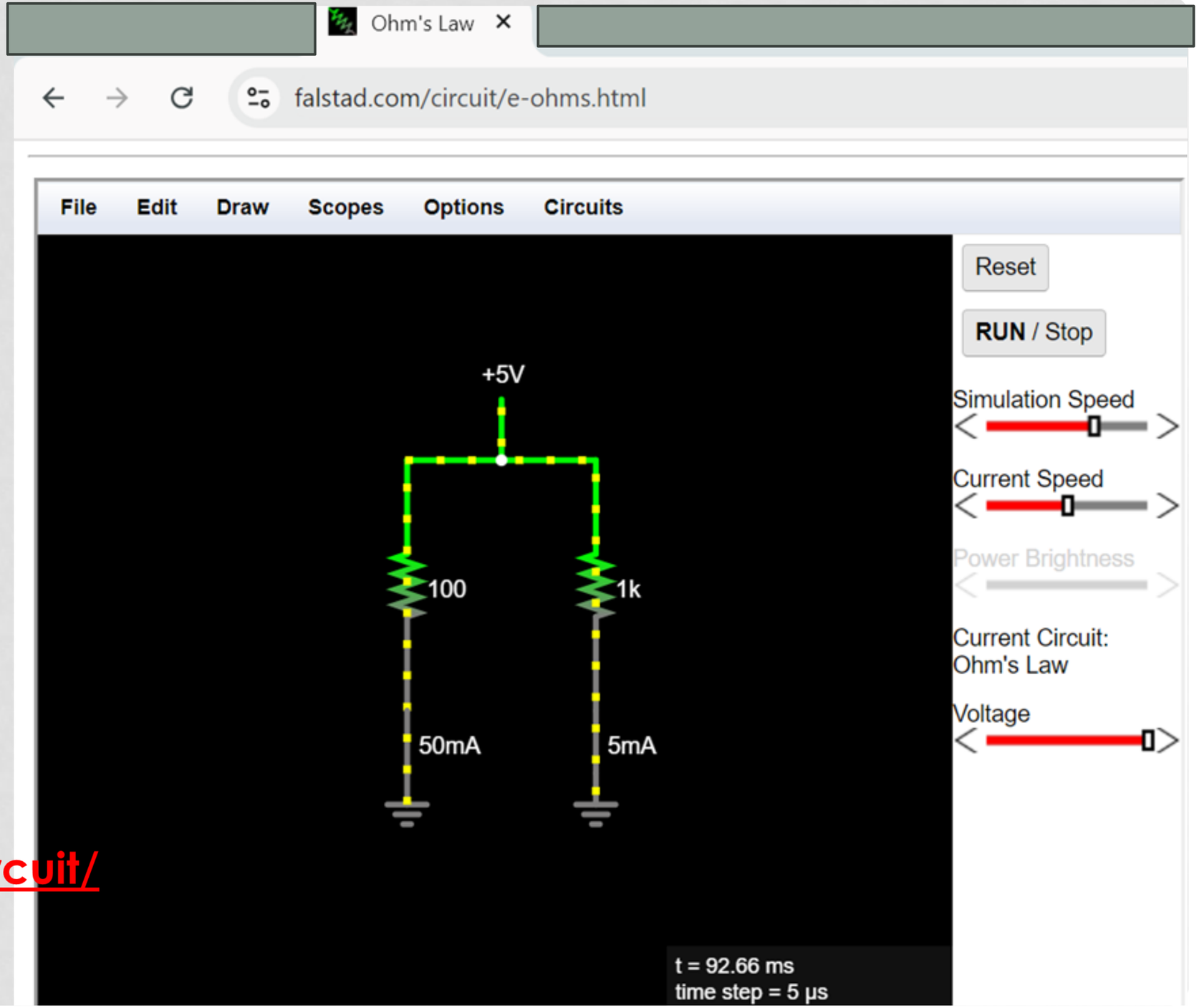
Students may think placing the battery “closer” to a bulb makes it brighter.

Falstad Fix: The simulator demonstrates that brightness depends on total circuit resistance and voltage, not wire placement.

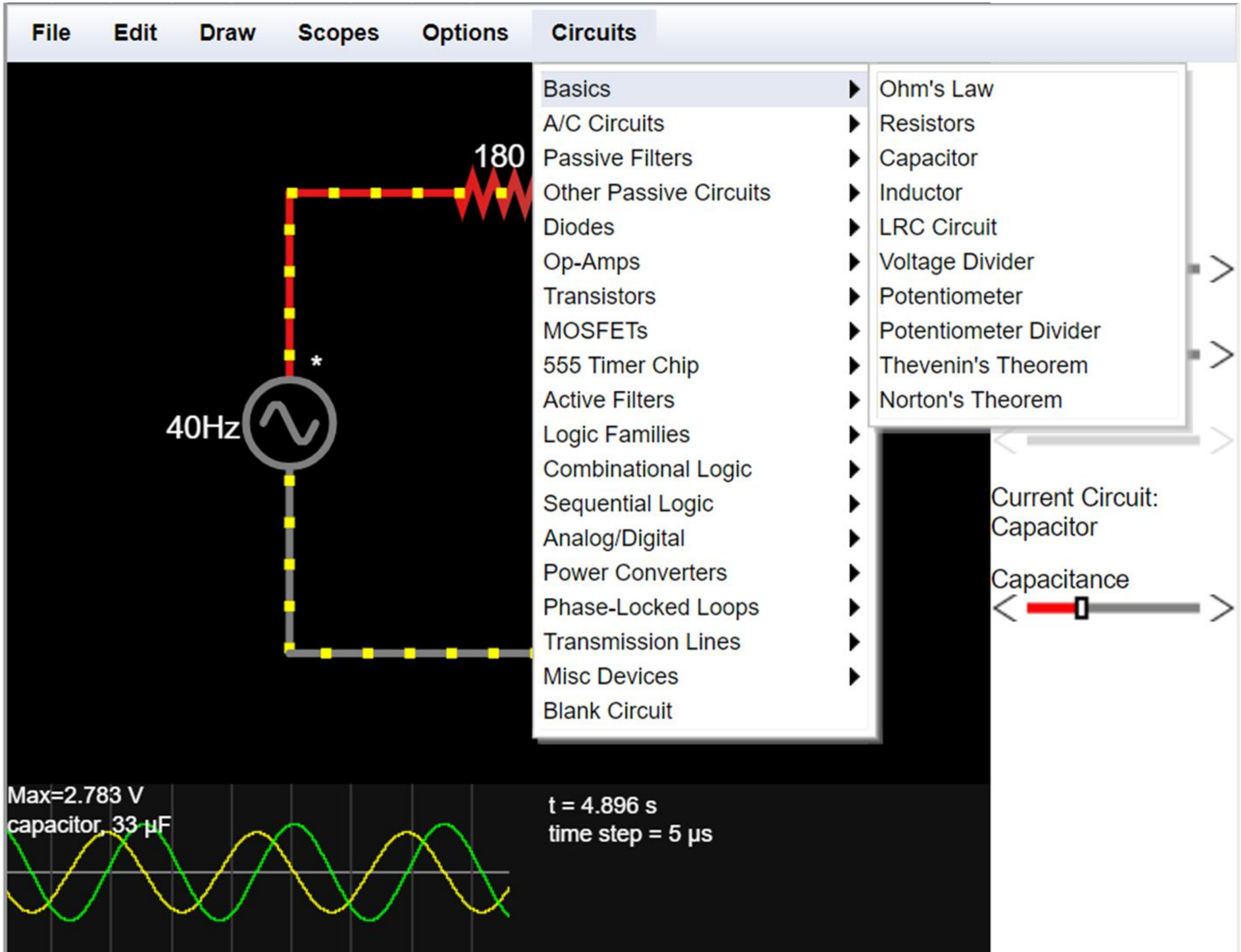
Ohm's law states the relationship between electric current and potential difference. The current that flows through most conductors is directly proportional to the voltage applied to it.

Ohm's Law-This is a java applet showing a simple demonstration of Ohm's Law.

https://www.falstad.com/circuit/

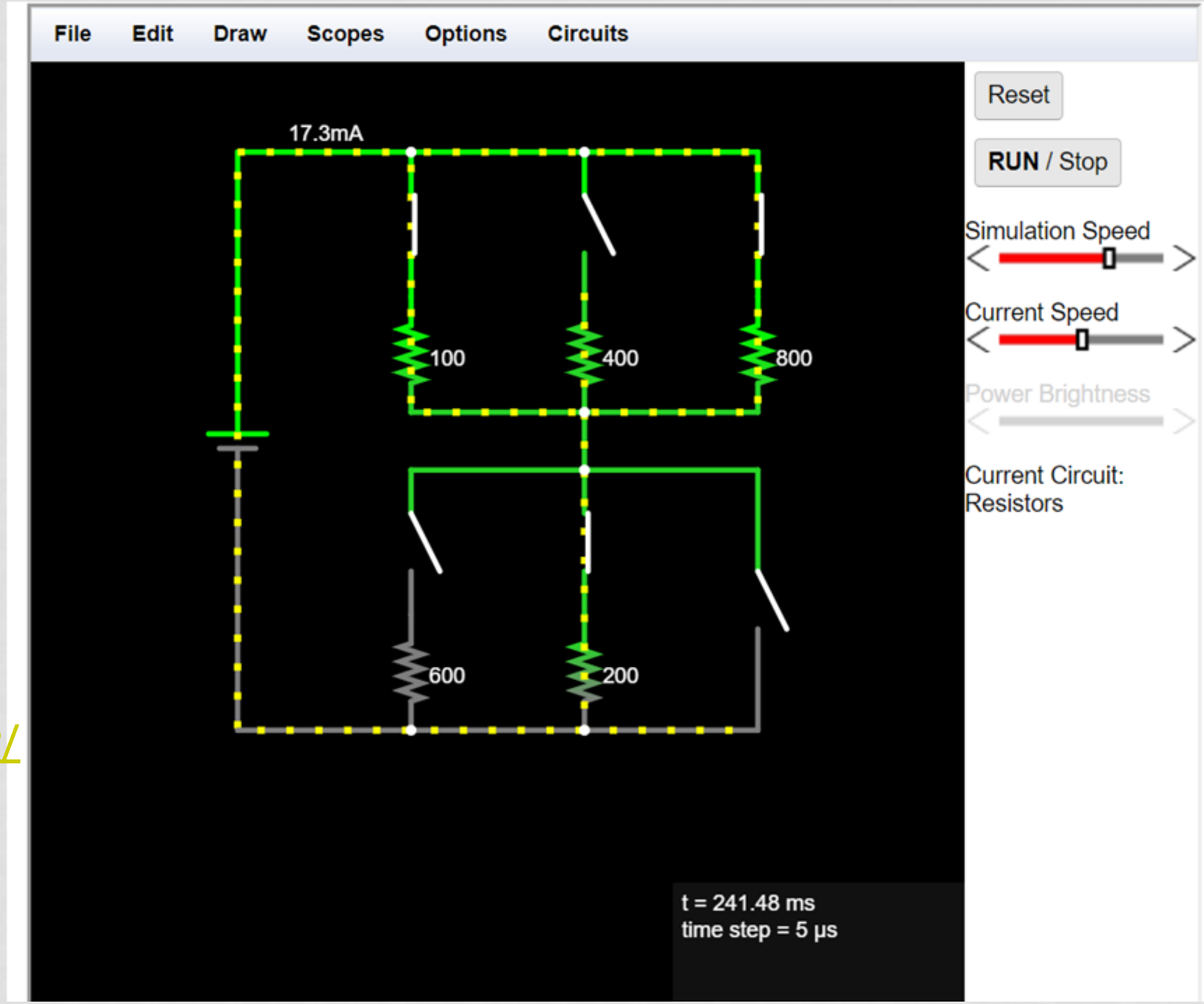


All many circuits!!!



Resistor-This is a java applet showing a simple resistive circuit.

https://www.falstad.com/circuit/

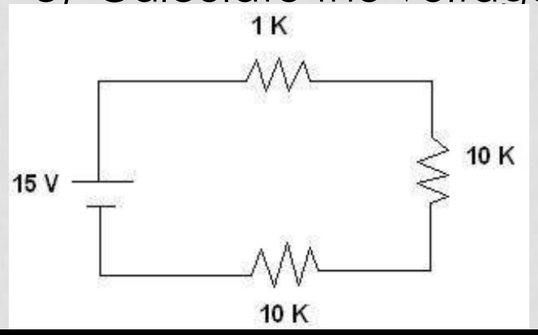


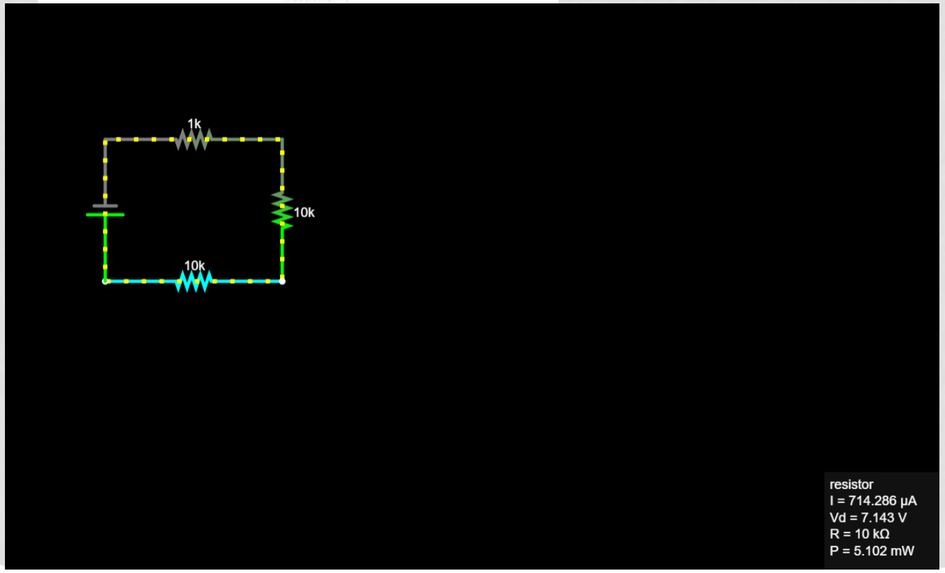
HANDS-ON EXERCISE

Exercise1: Given the circuit shown in the figure:

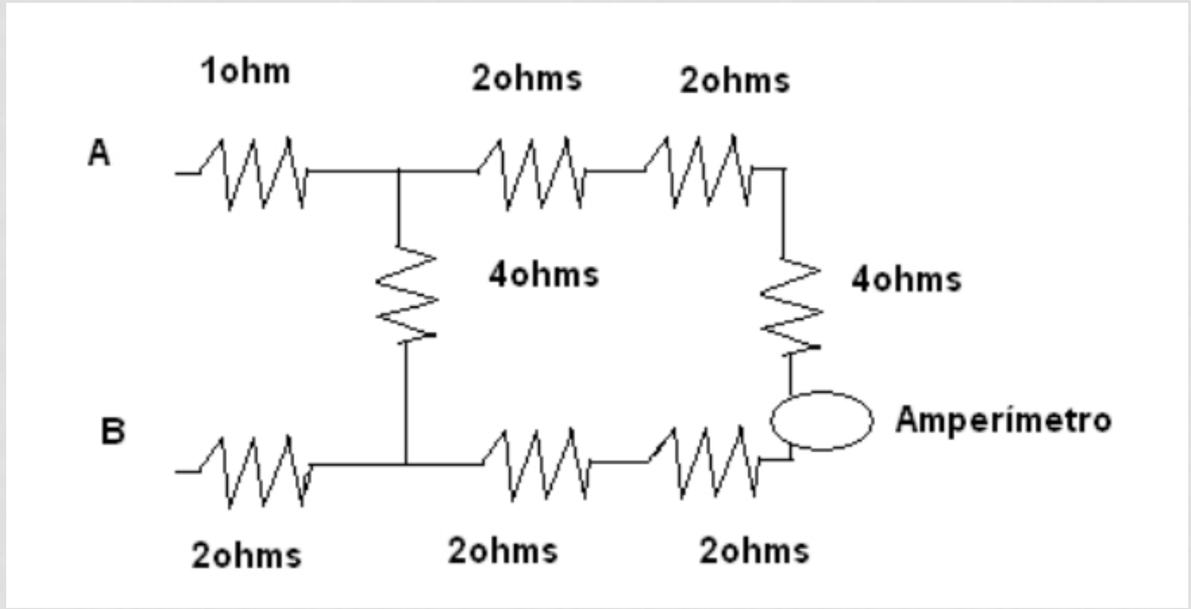
Measure the total resistor of the circuit

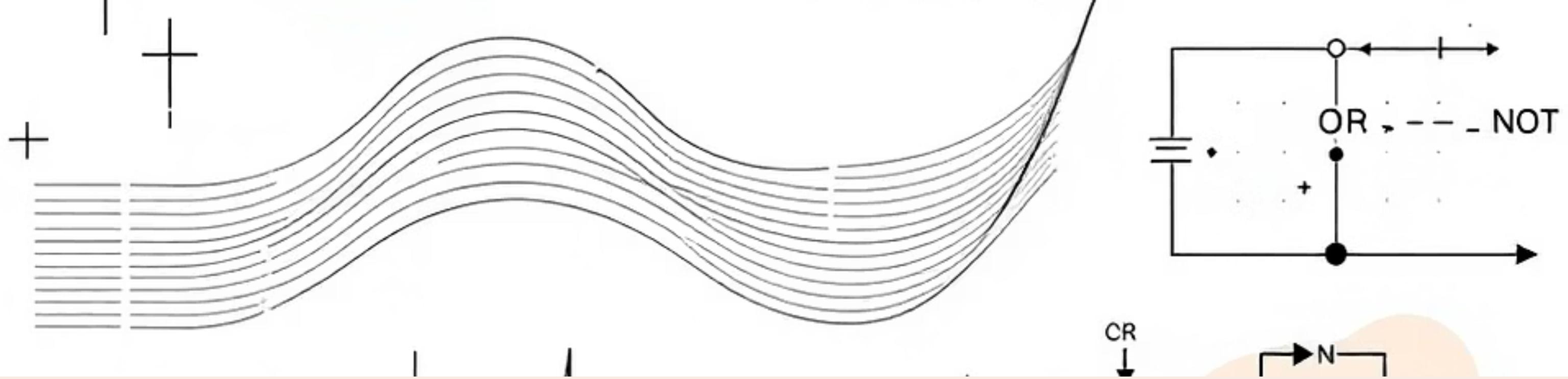
a) Do a screen capture for the circuit
b) Calculate the voltage drop of 1 KΩ resistor
c) Calculate the voltage drop of 10 KΩ





Exercise 2:. Determine the equivalent resistor of the network in the following figure. What is the voltage drop between A and B if the ammeter shows 1 A? Also, do a screen capture for the circuit.





Your Toolkit Expands: More Falstad Gems

Math

- 2D/3D Plotter (Function Grapher)
- Complex Numbers
- Vectors

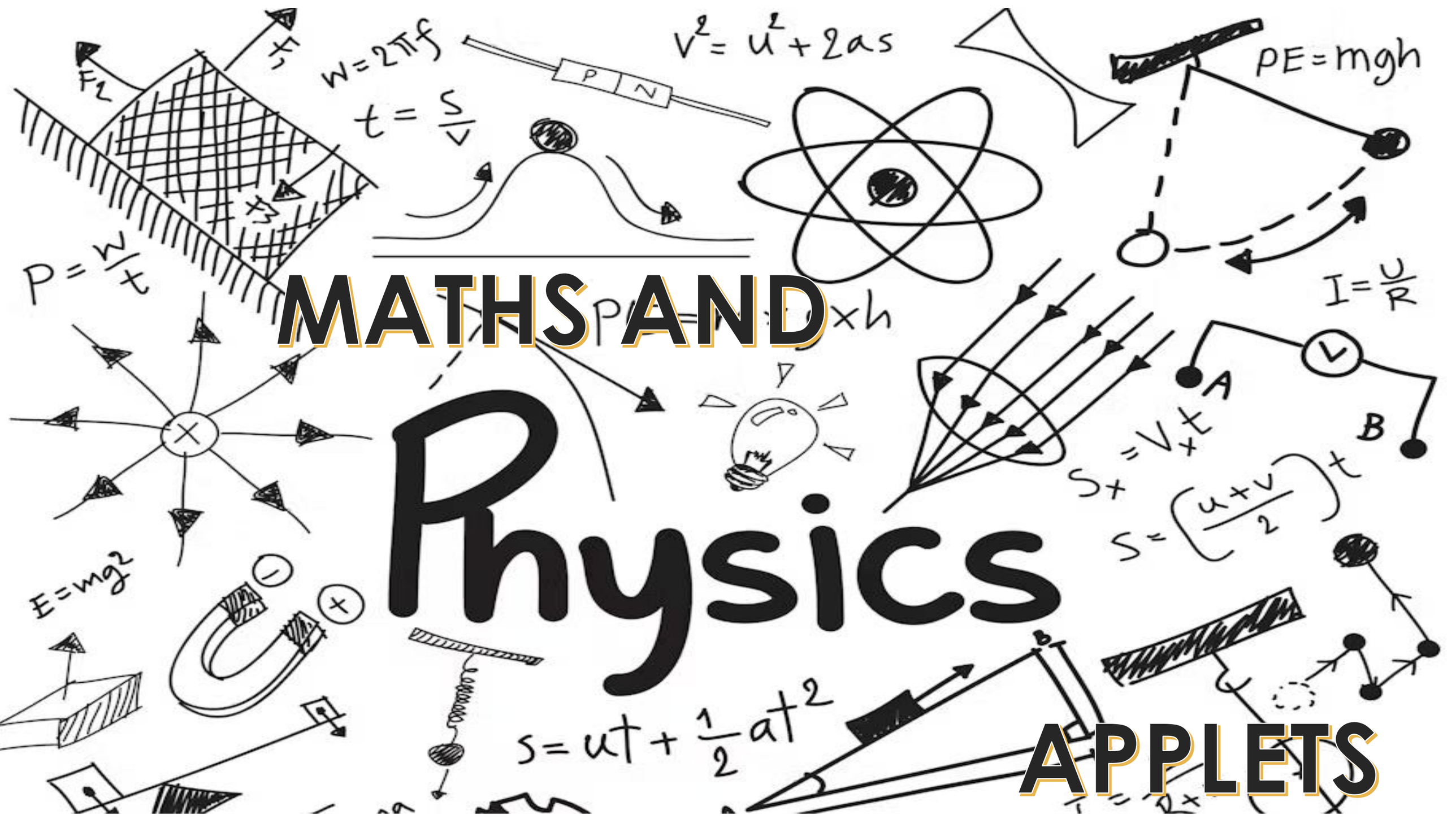
Physics

- Electromagnetic Waves
- Quantum Mechanics (Particle in a Box)
- Gravity

Engineering

- Filter Design
- Logic Gates

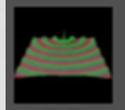
Explore the 'Applets' menu on the Falstad website.


MATHS AND
Physics
APPLETS

falstad.com/mathphysics.html

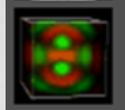
These are some educational applets I wrote to help visualize various concepts in math, physics, and engineering. They were originally written in Java, but they've mostly been converted to Javascript, so you should be able to view them without a Java-capable browser.

Oscillations and Waves



Ripple Tank (2-D Waves) Applet
Ripple tank simulation that demonstrates wave motion, interference, diffraction, refraction, Doppler effect, etc.

2-D Waves Applet
Demonstration of wave motion in 2-D.



3-D Waves Applet
Demonstration of wave motion in 3-D.

Coupled Oscillations Applet
Demonstration of longitudinal wave motion in oscillators connected by springs.

Dispersion Applet
Dispersion and group velocity.

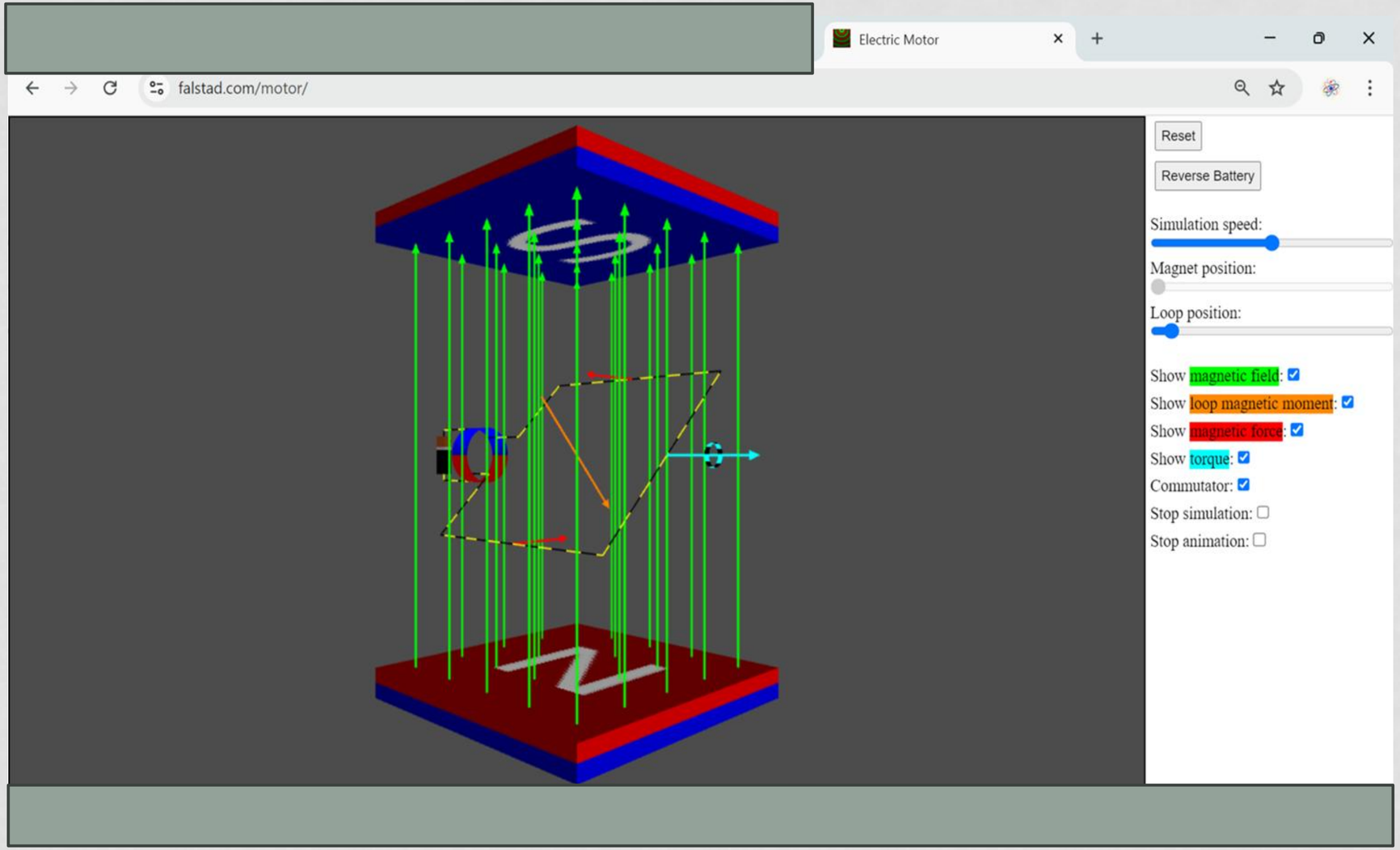
Acoustics

Loaded String Applet
Simulation of wave motion of a string.

Rectangular Membrane Waves Applet
Vibrational modes in a 2-d membrane.

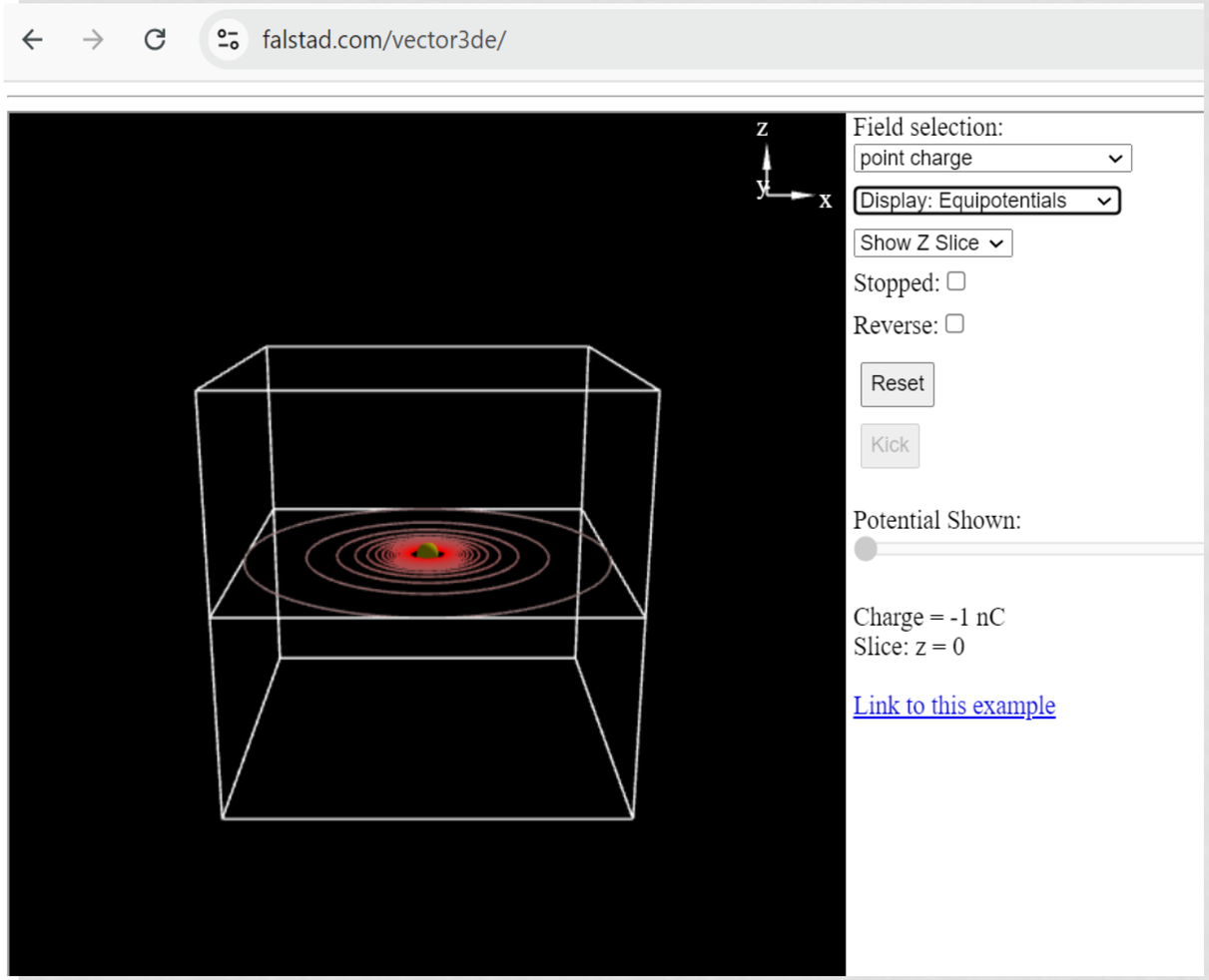
https://www.falstad.com/mathphysics.html

ELECTRIC MOTOR



https://www.falstad.com/mathphysics.html

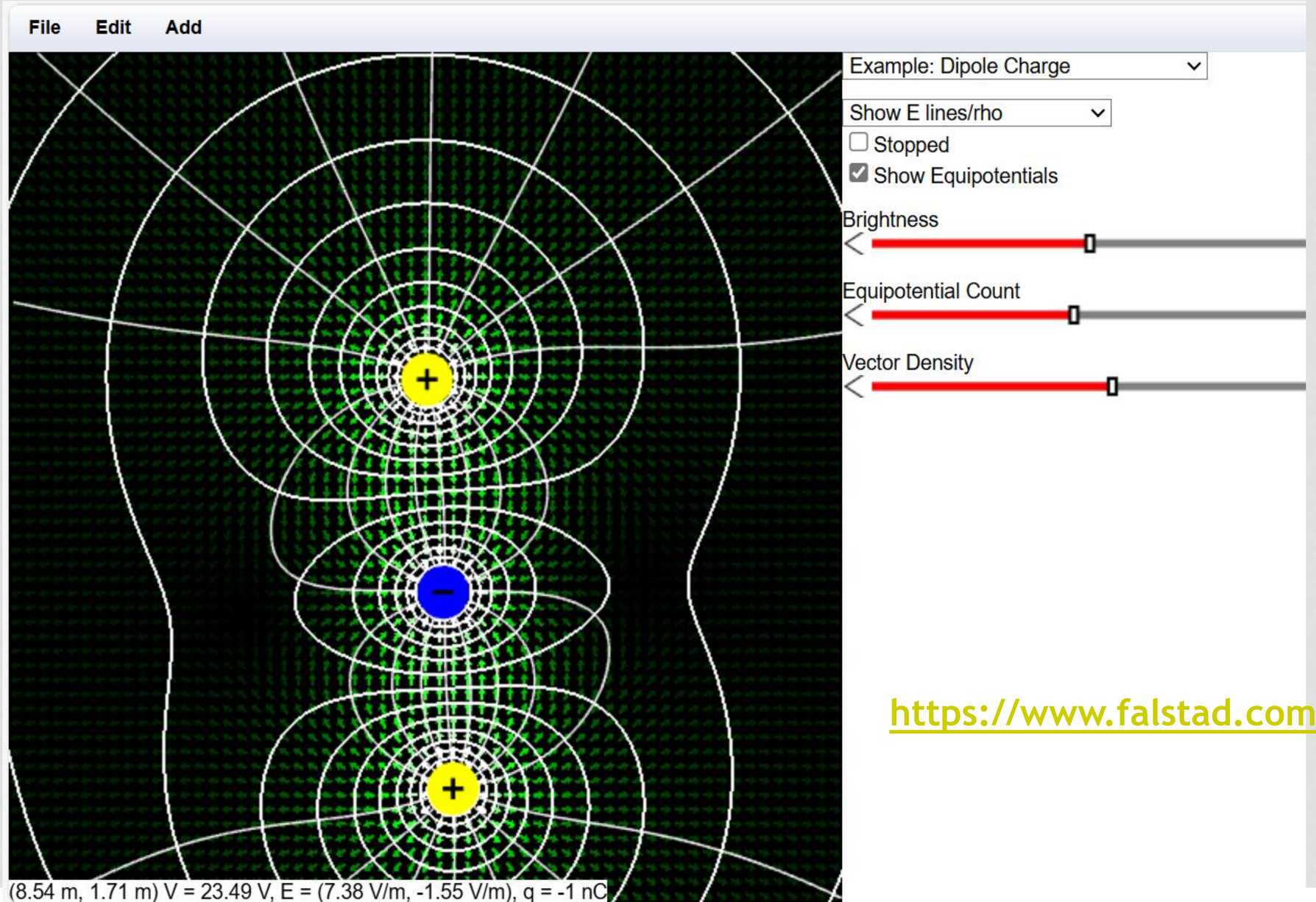
Electrostatics 3-D demonstration



- This java applet is an electrostatics demonstration which displays the electric field in a number of situations.
- You can select from a number of fields and see how particles move in the field if it is treated as either a velocity field (where the particles move along the field lines) or an actual force field (where the particles move as if they were charged particles).
- This helps you visualize the field.

https://www.falstad.com/mathphysics.html

Exercise- Illustrate the effect of electric field and electrostatic potential on point charge due to a dipole and do a screen capture of it.



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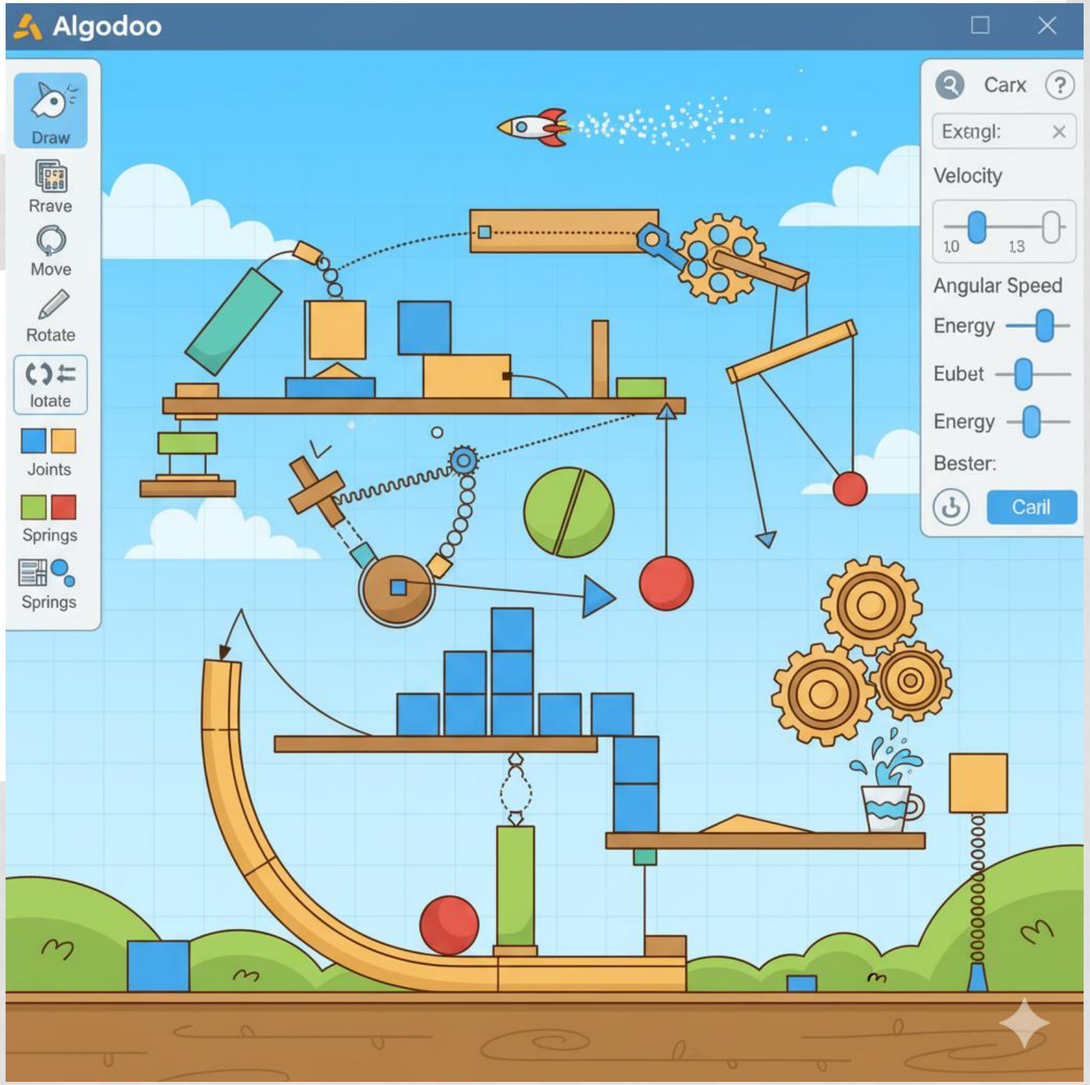
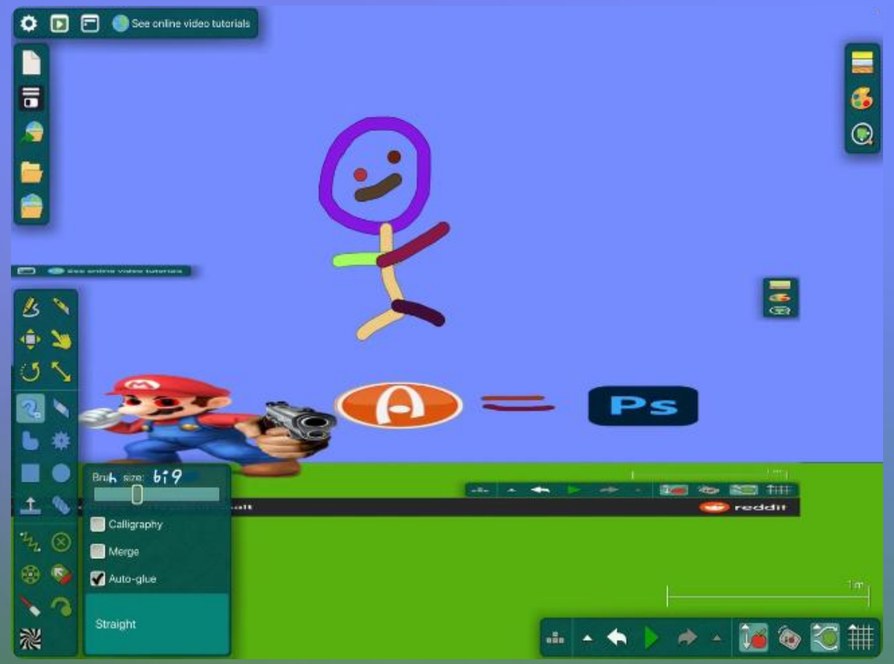
Algodoo


Algodoo
Draw
Rrave
Move
Rotate
Iotate
Joints
Springs
Springs
Carx
Exɛngl:
Velocity
1.0
1.3
Angular Speed
Energy
Eubet
Energy
Bester:
Caril



What is Algodoo?

Algodoo is a user-friendly physics simulation software that allows users to design and build interactive 2D worlds. This intuitive software makes it easy to create objects, apply forces, and observe the resulting motion and interactions.

Physics Sandbox

Algodoo offers a playground for experimenting with physical concepts like gravity, friction, and collisions.

Visual Programming

Its visual programming interface enables users to create complex scenarios with ease, promoting hands-on learning.

Educational Tool

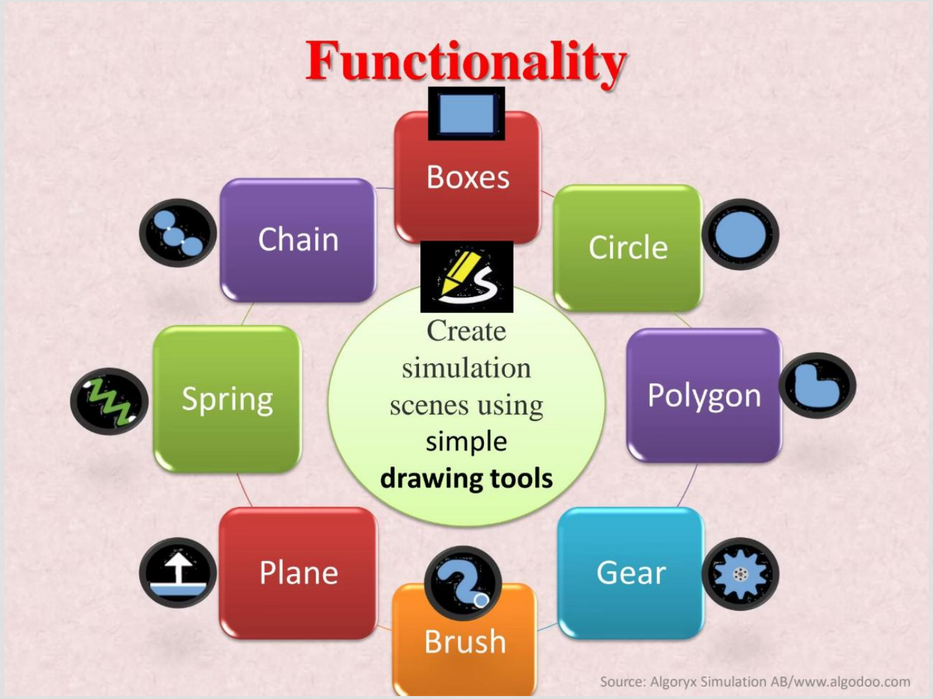
Algodoo is widely used in education to teach physics concepts and inspire creativity in students of all ages.

Unlock Learning Through Play

An Engaging Educational Adventure

Algodoo transforms complex scientific principles into an exciting, cartoon-inspired world. This vibrant design sparks children's natural curiosity, igniting their creativity and fostering a deep, intuitive understanding of physics through exploration.

- Master physics concepts from the comfort of home.
- Dive into interactive scientific discoveries.
- Experience limitless, creative gameplay.



Key Features of Algodoo

Algodoo offers a range of features that make it a versatile and powerful tool for physics simulations and creative exploration.

1 **Object Creation**

Algodoo provides a diverse set of objects to create interactive simulations, including balls, blocks, ropes, springs, and motors.

2 **Material Properties**

Users can customize material properties like density, elasticity, and friction to create realistic simulations of different materials.

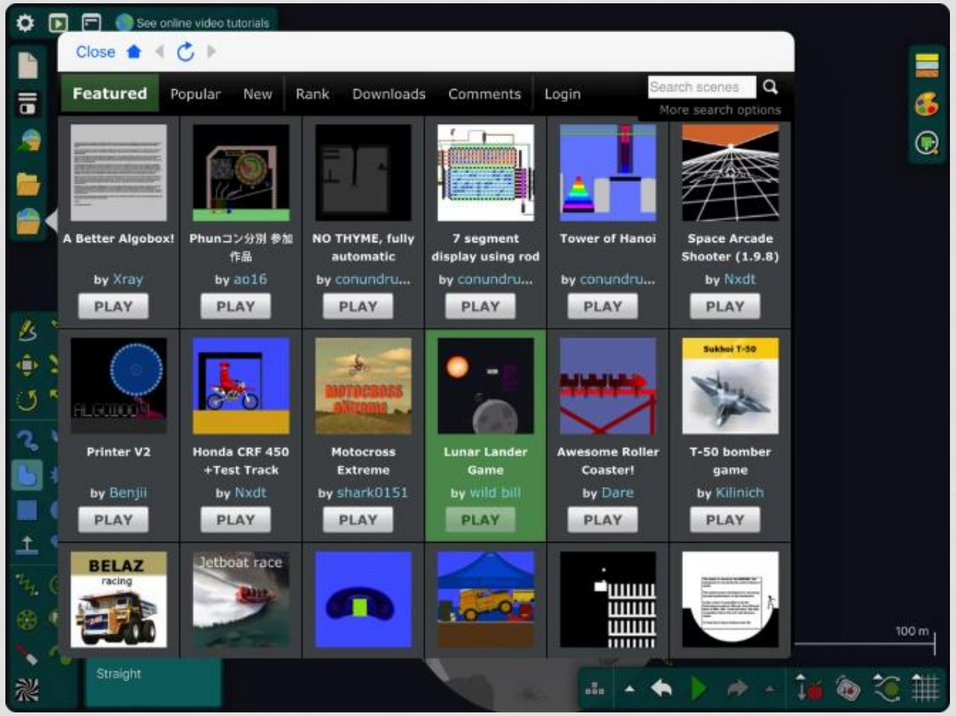
3 **Force Application**

Algodoo allows users to apply forces like gravity, wind, and friction to objects, simulating real-world scenarios.

4 **Simulation Control**

Users can control simulation speed, pause, and rewind to analyze the results and understand the physics behind the interactions.

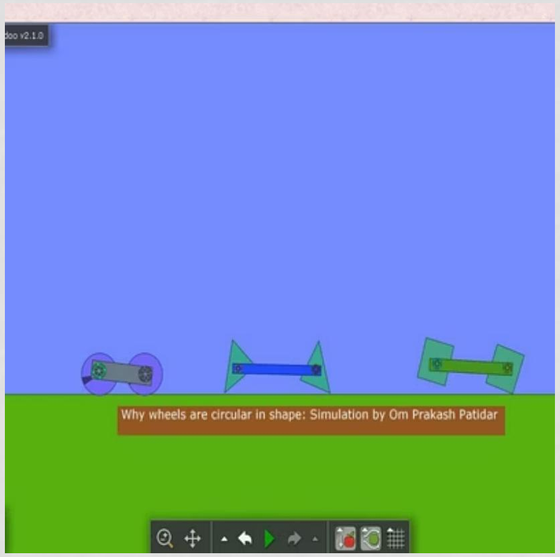
Applying Physics Principles in Algodoo

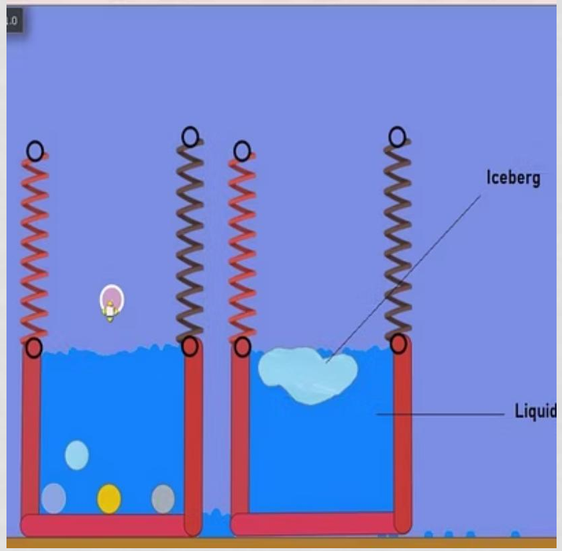


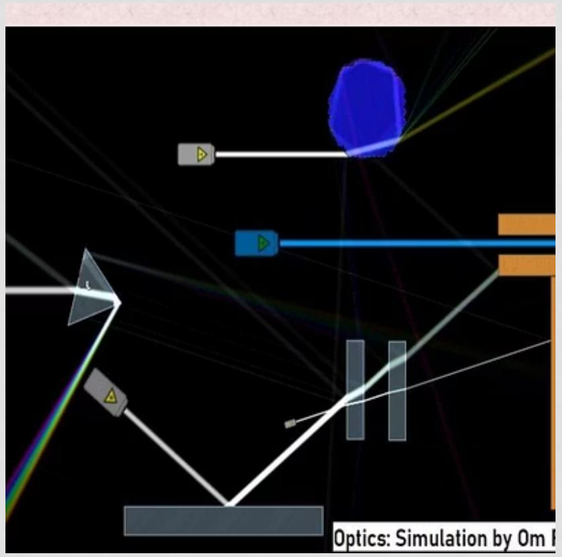
Algodoo offers an interactive platform to explore fundamental physics principles in action.

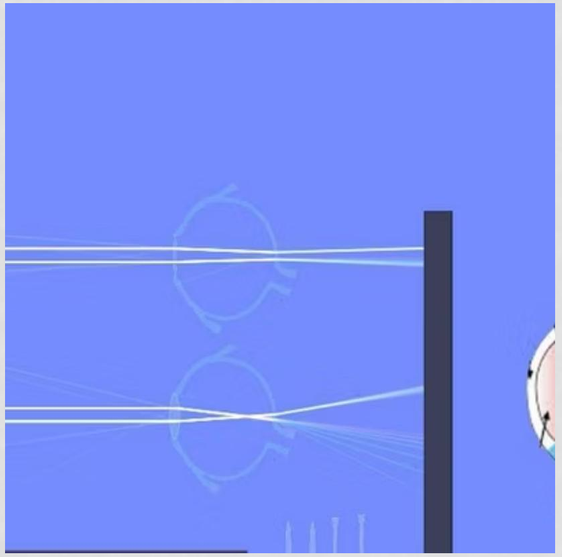
- **Newton's Laws of Motion**
- **Conservation of Energy**
- **Gravity and Friction**
- **Collisions and Momentum**

Physics Concepts in Action

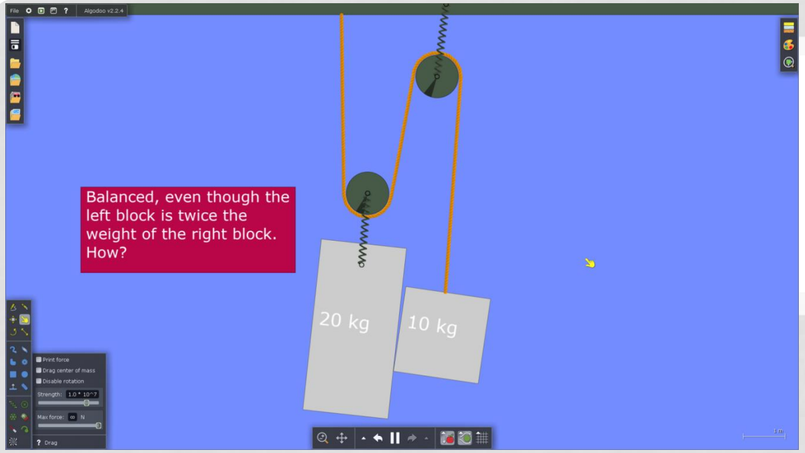


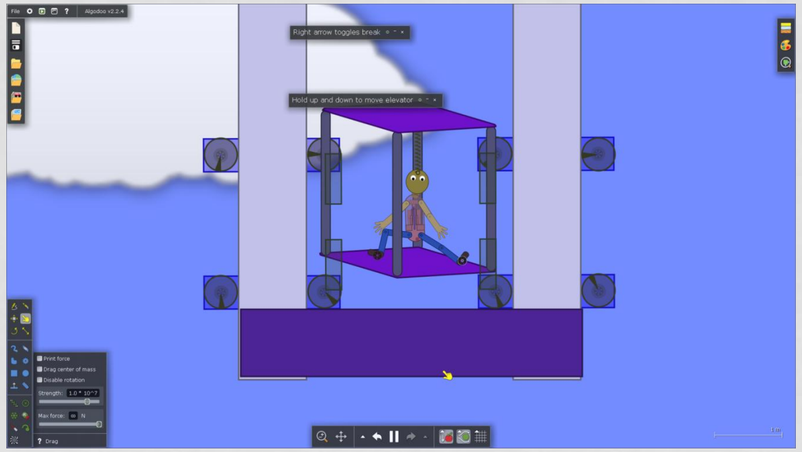




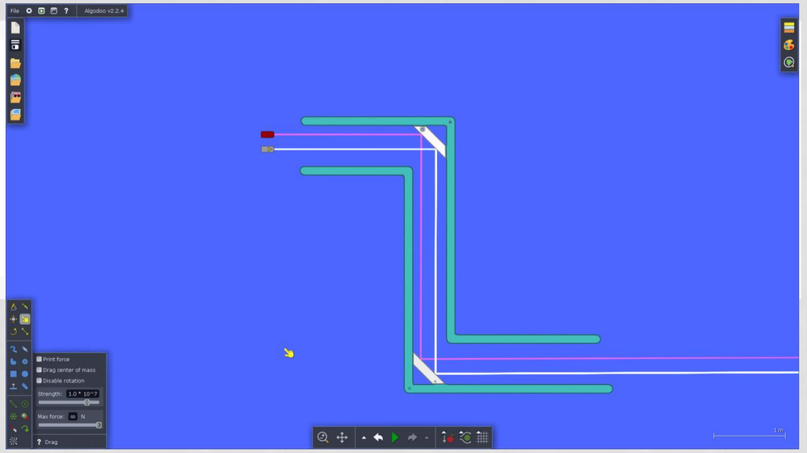


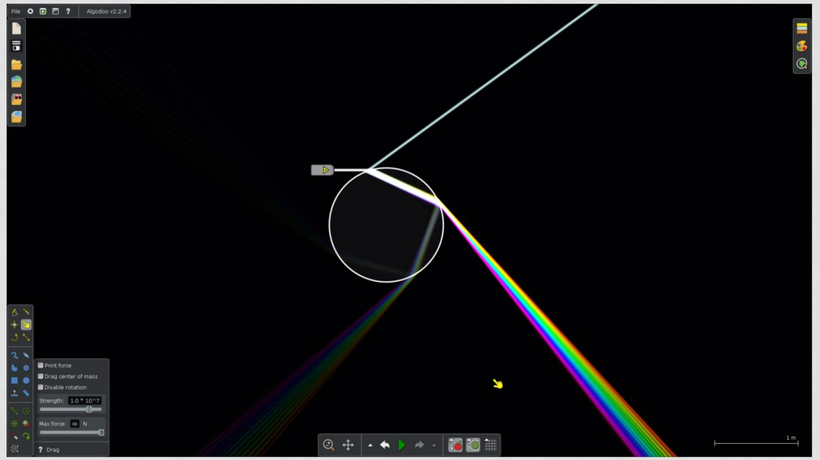
Be Creative with Algodoo!

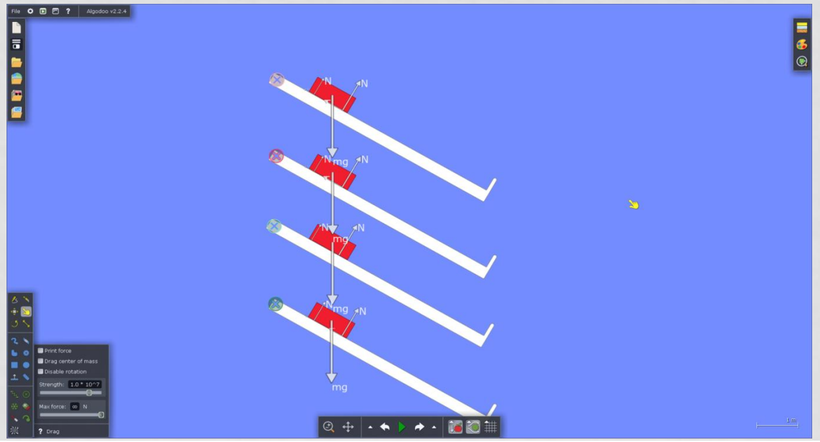


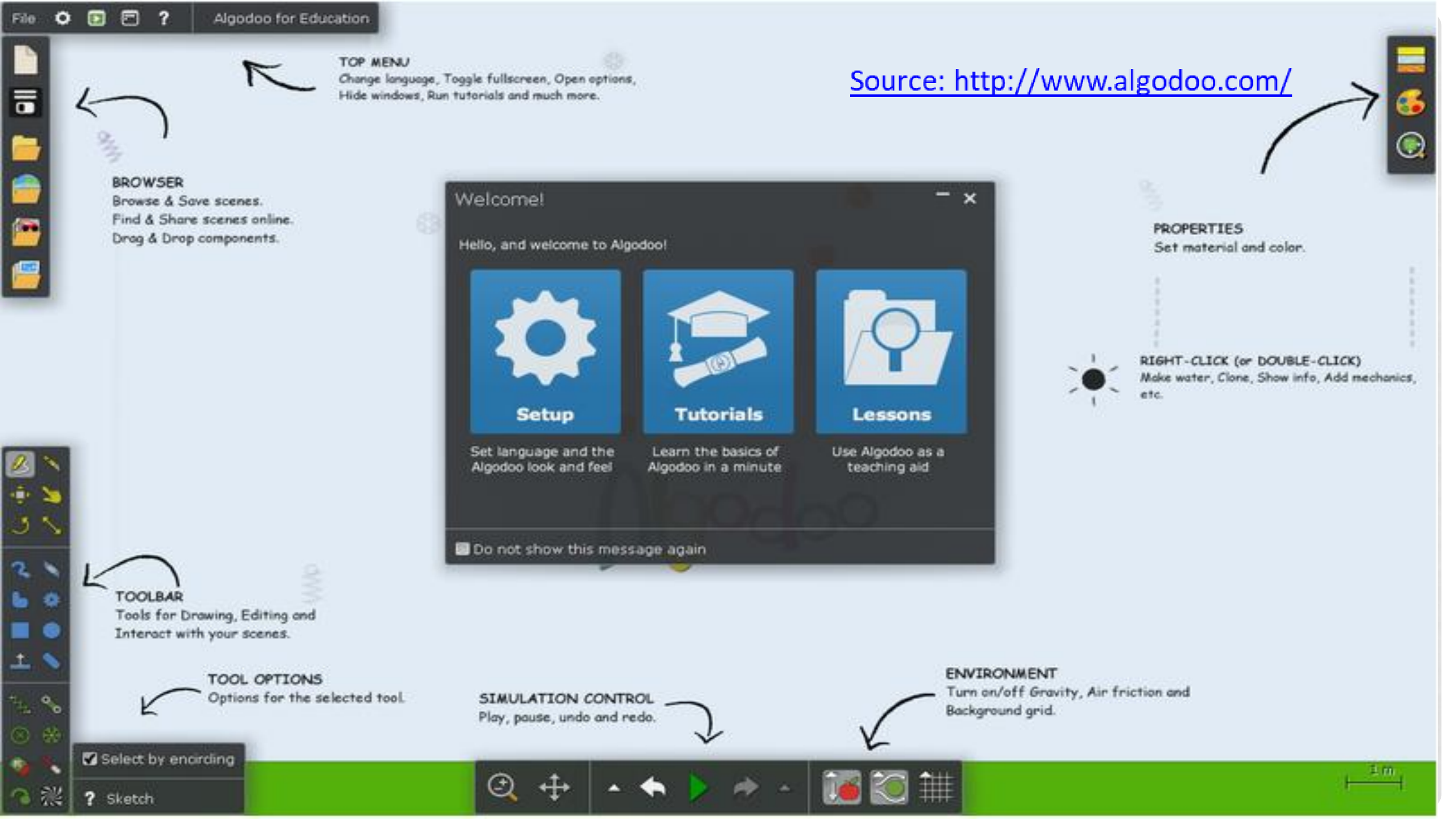


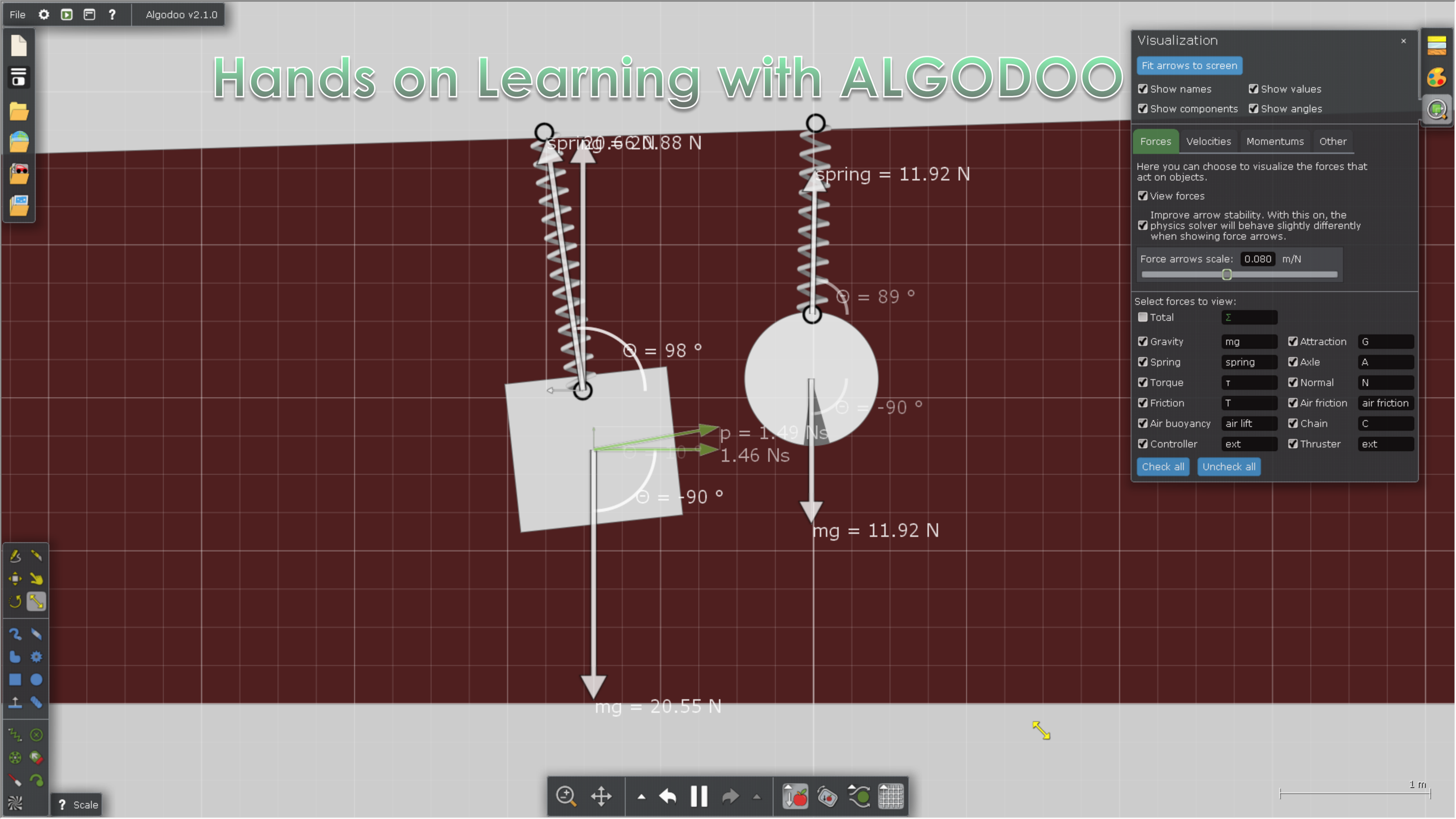
Explore wheels, buoyancy, optics, human eye defects, gears, pulleys, and center of gravity, Brownian motion through interactive simulations.








File
Algodoo for Education
TOP MENU
Change language, Toggle fullscreen, Open options, Hide windows, Run tutorials and much more.
Source: http://www.algodoo.com/
BROWSER
Browse & Save scenes.
Find & Share scenes online.
Drag & Drop components.
Welcome!
Hello, and welcome to Algodoo!
Setup
Set language and the Algodoo look and feel
Tutorials
Learn the basics of Algodoo in a minute
Lessons
Use Algodoo as a teaching aid
Do not show this message again
PROPERTIES
Set material and color.
RIGHT-CLICK (or DOUBLE-CLICK)
Make water, Clone, Show info, Add mechanics, etc.
TOOLBAR
Tools for Drawing, Editing and Interact with your scenes.
TOOL OPTIONS
Options for the selected tool.
SIMULATION CONTROL
Play, pause, undo and redo.
ENVIRONMENT
Turn on/off Gravity, Air friction and Background grid.
Select by encircling
Sketch
1 m


File
Algodoo v2.1.0
Hands on Learning with ALGODOO
spring = 20.88 N
spring = 11.92 N
Θ = 98 °
Θ = 89 °
Θ = -90 °
p = 1.49 Ns
1.46 Ns
Θ = -90 °
mg = 11.92 N
mg = 20.55 N
Visualization
Fit arrows to screen
Show names
Show values
Show components
Show angles
Forces
Velocities
Momentums
Other
Here you can choose to visualize the forces that act on objects.
View forces
Improve arrow stability. With this on, the physics solver will behave slightly differently when showing force arrows.
Force arrows scale: 0.080 m/N
Select forces to view:
Total
Gravity mg
Attraction G
Spring spring
Axle A
Torque τ
Normal N
Friction T
Air friction air friction
Air buoyancy air lift
Chain C
Controller ext
Thruster ext
Check all
Uncheck all
Scale
1 m

HANDS-ON EXAMPLE LESSON 1-MOTION

ecure algodoo.com/lessons/Algodoo-_Motion

Algodoo by algoryx

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TRANSLATE/COPY EDIT

MOTION

LANGUAGE:	**English**
DESCRIPTION:	Motion is a fundamental concept in science. This lesson explores different causes of motion, such as pull, push, drop (gravity), and also introduces the term force.
TARGET:	**Key Stage 1**, **Key Stage 2**
CATEGORY:	**Demonstration**, **Exercise**, **Laboratory**
DISCIPLINE:	**Static forces**, **Dynamic forces**, **Gravity**, **Motion**
LEARNING OBJECTIVES:	Knowing different ways of setting an object into motion. Knowing a cause of motion (push, pull, drop, slide) in terms of influence of a force. Knowing about the relation between speed, distance and time.
IN CLASS:	Discuss what causes an object to move. Let the students suggest different ways of setting an object into motion and list them on the whiteboard. For example pushing, pulling, throwing, dropping, sliding, adding a motor. Discuss that the cause of motion is called force. Discuss how the size of the force influences the motion. Discuss relation between speed, distance and time. Discuss how this can be visualized and explored in Algodoo. Let the students create scenes in Algodoo using the suggestions you came up with together or let them use their own ideas. Help the students make decisions and ask guiding questions.

Create a scene

Create a horizontal plane and one plane as a slope. Make objets that can roll, slide, driven by a motor, fall.

Make a prediction

How can the object be set into motion? What makes the object stop?

Run interact

Explore different ways of moving the object. Rotate the planes (if you have a computer with accelerometer, tilt the PC) and move objects, watch the object slide down the plane or fall through the air. Turn off and on gravity and explore its influence on the motion. Grab the object by using the hand tool. Push and pull and make the objects move in different ways.

Evaluate

What behaviour is observed with the different wheel shapes?

How long do they roll?

Practical Strategies for Classroom Integration

Demonstration Tool

Use it live in class during explanations

Guided Exploration

Design worksheets for students to explore specific applets

Problem Solving

Challenge students to use applets to verify solutions

Flipped Classroom

Assign applet exploration as homework before a lesson

Project-Based Learning

Students can use applets to design or test concepts

Tips for Success

Ensure reliable Wi-Fi, use modern browsers, start simple

“With powerful tools like Algodoo and Falstad, physics is no longer just theory—it becomes an exciting playground where concepts come alive, experiments can be visualized instantly, and learning transforms into exploration. These tools turn curiosity into discovery and make physics not just easier, but truly inspiring.”

“The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity

has its own reason for existence." — Albert Einstein

THANKYOU