Traces

1. A.C power supply. The power supply was set to 3V and we got a wave pattern that went above and below the 0 line, showing that in an a.c trace current changes direction. The peak voltage was 5V, even though the power supply was set to 3V. This is because the 3V is an average (the root mean squared average). We square the voltage (to remove all the negative values), average the results and square root the value. To find the quoted value divide the peak voltage by $\sqrt{2}$. NB that bit isn’t on the course.
2. DC in a DC trace the charge always flows in one direction. When connected to a cell the voltage remains steady.
3. If we reverse the polarity the charge flows in the opposite direction, but it is still constant.
4. When the ALBA was connected to the DC of the power supply on 3V the voltage did not remain constant but it never went in the opposite direction. The power supply was not smoothed (ie it was rubbish!)