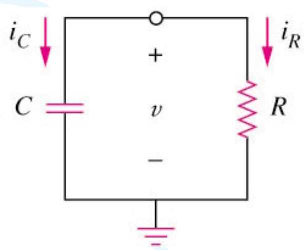
Alexander-Sadiku
Fundamentals of Electric Circuits

Chapter 7
First-Order Circuits

First-Order Circuits
Chapter 7

7.1 The Source-Free RC Circuit (1)

A **first-order circuit** is characterized by a first-order differential equation.



By KCL

$$i_R + i_C = 0 \rightarrow \frac{v}{R} + C\frac{dv}{dt} = 0$$

Ohms law — Capacitor law

Apply Kirchhoff s laws to purely resistive circuit results in algebraic equations.

Apply the laws to RC and RL circuits produces differential equations.

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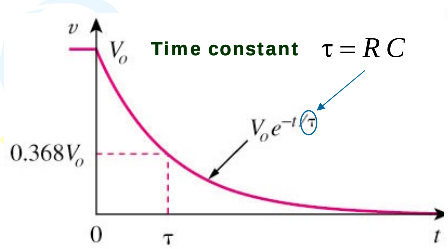
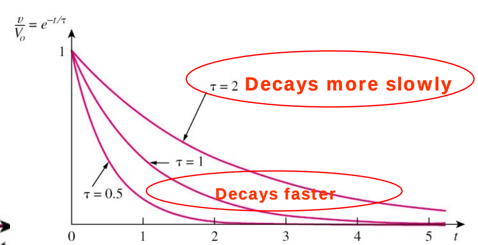
7.1 The Source-Free RC Circuit (2)

The **natural response** of a circuit refers to the behavior (in terms of voltages and currents) of the circuit itself, with no external sources of excitation.





The **time constant** τ of a circuit is the time required for the response to decay by a factor of 1/*e* or 36.8% of its initial value.

v decays faster for small τ and slower for large τ.

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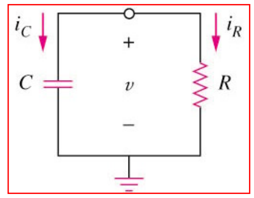
7.1 The Source-Free RC Circuit (3)

The key to working with a source-free RC circuit is finding:

$v(t) = V_0\, e^{-t/\tau}$ where $\tau = RC$



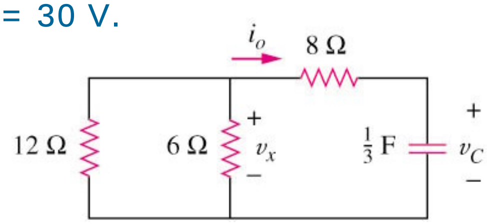
1. The initial voltage $v(0) = V_0$ across the capacitor.
2. The time constant τ = RC.

7.1 The Source-Free RC Circuit (4)

Example 1

Refer to the circuit below, determine v_C, v_x, and i_o for $t \geq 0$.

Assume that $v_C(0)$ = 30 V.



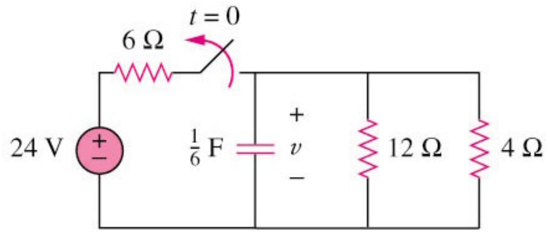
Please refer to lecture or textbook for more detail elaboration.

Answer: $v_C = 30e^{\ 0.25t}$ V ; $v_x = 10e^{\ 0.25t}$; $i_o = \ \ 2.5e^{\ 0.25t}$ A

7.1 The Source-Free RC Circuit (5)

Example 2

The switch in circuit below is opened at t = 0, find v(t) for t ≥ 0.



Please refer to lecture or textbook for more detail elaboration.

Answer: *V(t) = 8e* ^{2t} *V*

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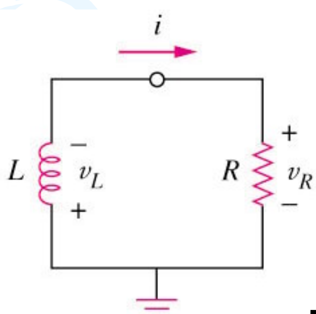
7.2 The Source-Free RL Circuit (1)

A **first-order RL circuit** consists of a inductor L (or its equivalent) and a resistor (or its equivalent)



By KVL $v_L + v_R = 0$

$$\rightarrow \quad L\frac{di}{dt} + iR = 0$$

Inductors law — Ohms law

$$\rightarrow \quad \frac{di}{i} = -\frac{R}{L}dt \quad \rightarrow \quad i(t) = I_0\, e^{-Rt/L}$$

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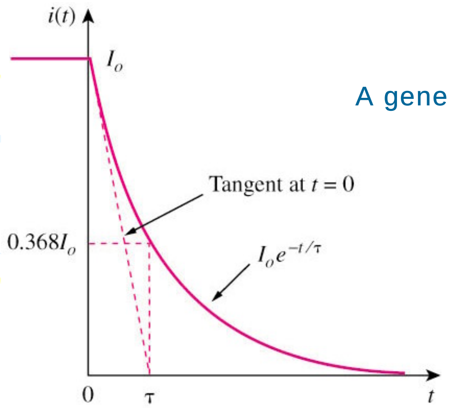
7.2 The Source-Free RL Circuit (2)



A general form representing a RL

$$i(t) = I_0 \, e^{-t/\tau}$$

where $\tau = \dfrac{L}{R}$

The **time constant** τ of a circuit is the time required for the response to decay by a factor of 1/*e* or 36.8% of its initial value.

i(t) decays faster for small τ and slower for large τ.

The general form is very similar to a RC source-free circuit.

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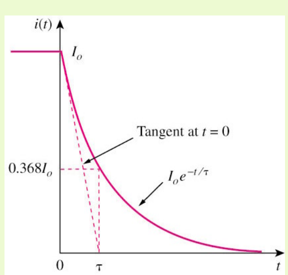
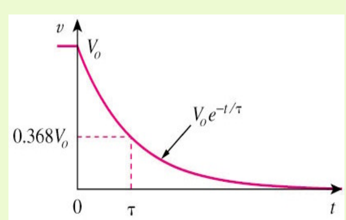
7.2 The Source-Free RL Circuit (3)

Comparison between a RL and RC circuit

A RL source-free circuit	A RC source-free circuit
$i(t) = I_0 \, e^{-t/\tau}$ **where** $\tau = \dfrac{L}{R}$	$v(t) = V_0 \, e^{-t/\tau}$ **where** $\tau = RC$





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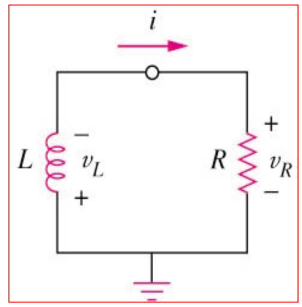
7.2 The Source-Free RL Circuit (4)

The key to working with a source-free RL circuit is finding:

$$i(t) = I_0\, e^{-t/\tau}$$ where $$\tau = \frac{L}{R}$$



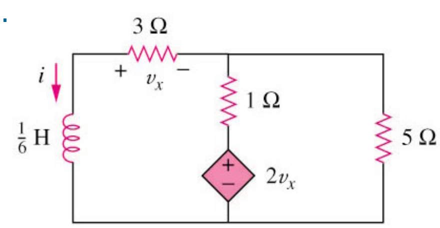
1. The initial voltage $i(0) = I_0$ through the inductor.
2. The time constant τ = L/R.

7.2 The Source-Free RL Circuit (5)

Example 3

Find i and v_x in the circuit.

Assume that i(0) = 5 A.



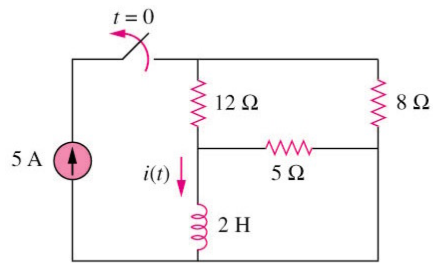
Please refer to lecture or textbook for more detail elaboration.

Answer: $i(t) = 5e^{53t}$ A

7.2 The Source-Free RL Circuit (6)

Example 4

For the circuit, find i(t) for t > 0.



Please refer to lecture or textbook for more detail elaboration.

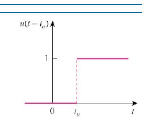
Answer: $i(t) = 2e^{2t}$ A

7.3 Unit-Step Function (1)

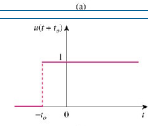
The **unit step function** $u(t)$ is 0 for negative values of t and 1 for positive values of t.

$$u(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & t < 0 \\ 1, & t > 0 \end{cases}$$

$$u(t - t_o) = \begin{cases} 0, & t < t_o \\ 1, & t > t_o \end{cases}$$



$$u(t + t_o) = \begin{cases} 0, & t < -t_o \\ 1, & t > -t_o \end{cases}$$

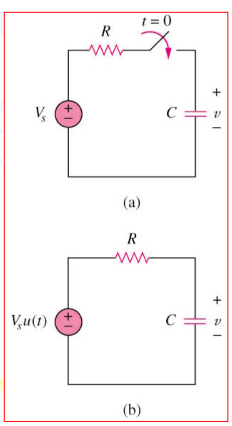


7.3 Unit-Step Function (2)

Represent an abrupt change for:

7.4 The Step-Response of a RC Circuit (1)

The **step response** of a circuit is its behavior when the excitation is the step function, which may be a voltage or a current source.



Initial condition:

$v(0-) = v(0+) = V_0$

Applying KCL,

$$c\frac{dv}{dt} + \frac{v - V_s u(t)}{R} = 0$$

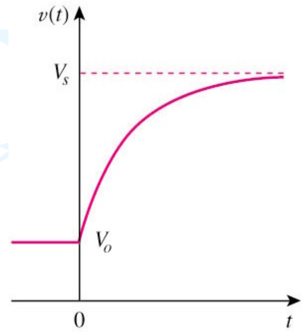
or

$$\frac{dv}{dt} = -\frac{v - V_s}{RC} u(t)$$

Where u(t) is the unit-step function

7.4 The Step-Response of a RC Circuit (2)

Integrating both sides and considering the initial conditions, the solution of the equation is:



$$v(t) = \begin{cases} V_0 & t < 0 \\ V_s + (V_0 - V_s)e^{-t/\tau} & t > 0 \end{cases}$$

Final value at t -> ∞

Initial value at t = 0

Source-free Response

Complete Response = Natural response (stored energy) + Forced Response (independent source)

= $V_0 e^{\ t/\tau}$ + $V_s(1\ \ e^{\ t/\tau})$

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7.4 The Step-Response of a RC Circuit (3)

Three steps to find out the step response of an RC circuit:

1. The initial capacitor voltage v(0).
2. The final capacitor voltage v(∞)   DC voltage across C.
3. The time constant τ.

$$v(t) = v(\infty) + [v(0+) - v(\infty)]e^{-t/\tau}$$

Note: The above method is a short-cut method. You may also determine the solution by setting up the circuit formula directly using KCL, KVL , ohms law, capacitor and inductor VI laws.

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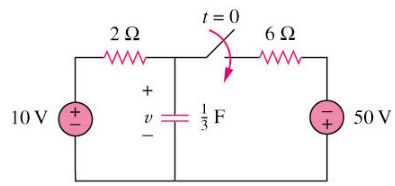
7.4 The Step-Response of a RC Circuit (4)

Example 5

Find v(t) for t > 0 in the circuit in below. Assume the switch has been open for a long time and is closed at t = 0.

Calculate v(t) at t = 0.5.



Please refer to lecture or textbook for more detail elaboration.

Answer: $v(t) = 15e^{-2t} - 5$ and *v(0.5) = 0.5182V*

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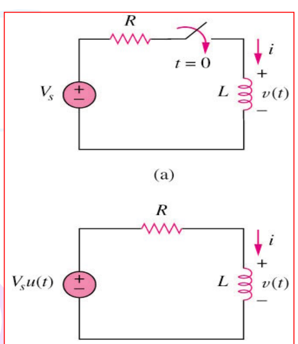
7.5 The Step-response of a RL Circuit (1)

The **step response** of a circuit is its behavior when the excitation is the step function, which may be a voltage or a current source.



(a)

(b)

Initial current

i(0-) = i(0+) = I_o

Final inductor current

i(∞) = Vs/R

Time constant τ = L/R

$$i(t) = \frac{V_s}{R} + (I_o - \frac{V_s}{R})e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}}u(t)$$

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7.5 The Step-Response of a RL Circuit (2)

Three steps to find out the step response of an RL circuit:

1. The initial inductor current i(0) at t = 0+.
2. The final inductor current i(∞).
3. The time constant τ.

$$i(t) = i(\infty) + [i(0+) - i(\infty)]\, e^{-t/\tau}$$

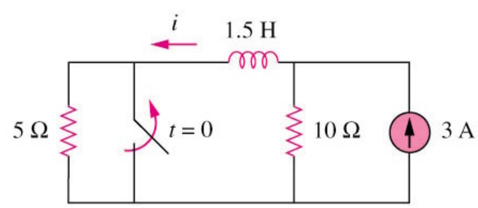
Note: The above method is a short-cut method. You may also determine the solution by setting up the circuit formula directly using KCL, KVL , ohms law, capacitor and inductor VI laws.

7.5 The Step-Response of a RL Circuit (4)

Example 6

The switch in the circuit shown below has been closed for a long time. It opens at t = 0.

Find i(t) for t > 0.



Please refer to lecture or textbook for more detail elaboration.

Answer: $i(t) = 2 + e^{-10t}$