

Name: _____

Problems Solved ___ / 8

A resistor with resistance R is wired in parallel with a capacitor with capacitance C . The capacitor is initially charged up to a voltage ΔV_0 . Because the capacitor puts a voltage across the resistor, current will flow through the resistor.

Underline the correct response corresponding to how each quantity changes as a function of time.

The charge on the positive capacitor plate:

Increases Remains Constant Decreases

The E field between the capacitor plates:

Increases Remains Constant Decreases

The potential difference between the capacitor plates:

Increases Remains Constant Decreases

The total energy stored in the capacitor:

Increases Remains Constant Decreases

The potential difference across the resistor:

Increases Remains Constant Decreases

The current through the Resistor:

Increases Remains Constant Decreases

The power dissipated by the Resistor:

Increases Remains Constant Decreases

Write three expressions for the the total energy stored in the circuit (think back to when we studied capacitors).

$$U = \frac{1}{2} CV^2, \quad U = \frac{1}{2} \frac{Q^2}{C}, \quad U = \frac{1}{2} QV$$

Write an expression that relates the voltage across the resistor to the current through it (we derived it recently).

$$V = IR \rightarrow \text{Ohm's Law}$$

Write an expression for the power dissipated through the resistor given the current and voltage.

$$P = VI$$

Because *Power* is the time rate of change of energy ($P = \frac{dU}{dt}$), the power equation written above suggests a *differential equation*. Rewrite the power equation in terms of the rate of change of energy to form a differential equation.

$$\frac{dU}{dt} = VI$$

Your differential equation should have the variables U , V , and I . Let's rewrite the equation in terms of the voltage across the capacitor, V . Using relationships that you wrote down on the previous page, perform a change variables from U and I to V .

$$U = \frac{1}{2} CV^2 \Rightarrow \frac{dU}{dt} = \frac{1}{2} C 2V \frac{dV}{dt} \Rightarrow \boxed{\frac{dU}{dt} = CV \frac{dV}{dt}}$$

$$\boxed{I = \frac{V}{R}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{dU}{dt} = VI \Rightarrow CV \frac{dV}{dt} = \frac{V^2}{R} \Rightarrow \frac{dV}{dt} = \frac{V}{RC}$$

But! $\frac{dV}{dt}$ is negative in our case! $\Rightarrow \boxed{\frac{dV}{dt} = -\frac{V}{RC}}$

Now, separate and integrate. What are the proper limits of integration?

$$\int_{V_0}^V \frac{1}{V} dV = - \int_0^t \frac{1}{RC} dt \Rightarrow \ln\left(\frac{V}{V_0}\right) = -\frac{t}{RC}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{V = V_0 e^{-\frac{t}{RC}}}$$

- or -

$$V = V_0 e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}} \quad \text{where } \tau = RC$$

A resistor with resistance R is wired in series with a capacitor with capacitance C and connected to a battery with voltage V_b . The capacitor is initially uncharged.

Underline the correct response corresponding to how each quantity changes as a function of time.

The charge on the positive capacitor plate:

Increases Remains Constant Decreases

The E field between the capacitor plates:

Increases Remains Constant Decreases

The potential difference between the capacitor plates:

Increases Remains Constant Decreases

The total energy stored in the capacitor:

Increases Remains Constant Decreases

The potential difference across the resistor:

Increases Remains Constant Decreases

The current through the Resistor:

Increases Remains Constant Decreases

The power dissipated by the Resistor:

Increases Remains Constant Decreases

Begin with the same differential equation as before and rewrite the equation in terms of the *voltage on the resistor*. We should get the same equation as before. Separate and integrate.

$$\frac{dV}{dt} = -\frac{V}{RC} \Rightarrow \int_{V_b}^{V_R} \frac{1}{V} dV = -\int_0^t \frac{1}{RC} dt$$

$$V_R = V_b e^{-t/RC}$$

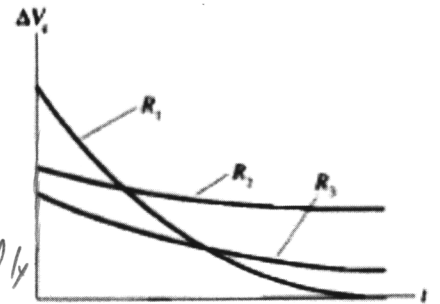
Now, given that we have an expression for the voltage on the resistor, find an expression for the voltage on the capacitor.

$$\text{ah ... } V_R + V_C = V_b \Rightarrow V_C = V_b - V_R$$

$$\Rightarrow V_C = V_b - V_b e^{-t/RC}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{V_C = V_b (1 - e^{-t/RC})}$$

The graph shows the voltage vs. time for a capacitor as it is discharged (separately) through three different resistors. Rank, in order from largest to smallest, the values of the resistances R_1 to R_3 . Explain your reasoning.



$$V_c = V_0 e^{-t/RC}$$

For a given time t ,
 as $R \uparrow$ $e^{-t/RC} \downarrow$
 so V_c decrease more rapidly

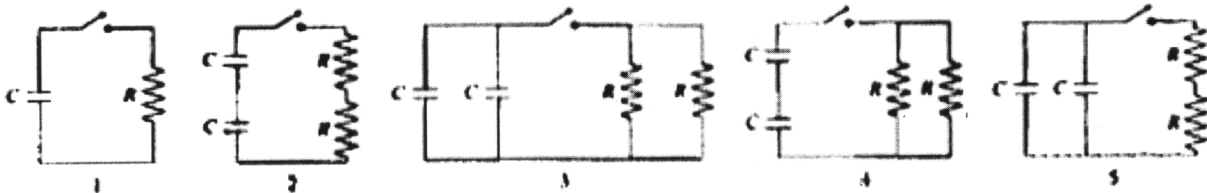
\Rightarrow Faster decay means smaller time constant.

\Rightarrow The starting ΔV is $\Delta V(t=0)$ just refers to the initial capacitor charge

\Rightarrow The slope at a given time t depends on RC (inversely)

$$R_1 < R_3 < R_2$$

The capacitors in each circuit are discharged when the switch closes at $t=0$. Rank, in order from largest to smallest, the time constants τ_1 to τ_5 with which each circuit will discharge. Explain your answer.



Find the "effective" time constant for each circuit.

1) RC

2) $(R_1 + R_2) \left(\frac{1}{C_1} + \frac{1}{C_2} \right)^{-1} = 2R \cdot \frac{1}{2}C = RC$

3) $\left(\frac{1}{R} + \frac{1}{R} \right)^{-1} (C + C) = \frac{1}{2}R + 2C = RC$

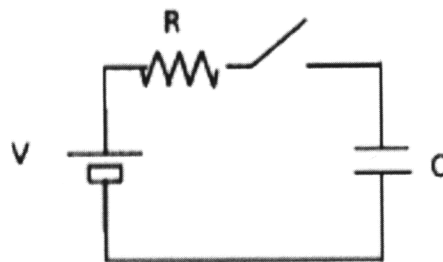
4) $\left(\frac{1}{C} + \frac{1}{C} \right)^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{R} + \frac{1}{R} \right)^{-1} = \frac{1}{2}C + \frac{1}{2}R = \frac{1}{4}RC$

5) $(C + C)(R + R) = 2C \cdot 2R = 4RC$

$$\tau_5 > \tau_1 = \tau_2 = \tau_3 > \tau_4$$

A 6V battery is used to charge a $2\mu\text{f}$ capacitor through a 100Ω resistor.

- Find the initial current just after the switch is closed. At this moment, what is the potential difference across the resistor?
- What is the final current after the switch has been closed for a long time?
- What is the final potential difference across the capacitor and how much final charge does it carry?
- How much time is required for the capacitor's charge to reach 90% of its final value?



$$a) V_R = V_b e^{-t/RC}, \quad V = IR$$

$$\text{at } t=0, \quad V_R = V_b \Rightarrow \boxed{I = \frac{V_b}{R}} \quad \Rightarrow I = \frac{6V}{100\Omega} = \boxed{60\text{mA}}$$

$$b) \text{ as } t \rightarrow \infty, \quad e^{-t/RC} \rightarrow 0$$

$$\text{so } V_R \rightarrow 0 \text{ and } \boxed{I \rightarrow 0}$$

$$c) V_c = V_b (1 - e^{-t/RC}) \Rightarrow \text{as } t \rightarrow \infty, \quad \underline{V_c \rightarrow V_b}$$

$$\text{so, } \boxed{V_c = V_b}$$

$$\text{and } C = \frac{Q}{V} \Rightarrow \boxed{Q = CV_b} \Rightarrow \boxed{Q = (2 \times 10^{-6}\text{F})(6V) = 12\mu\text{C}}$$

- d) It will reach 90% when the voltage gets to 90% of the battery voltage:

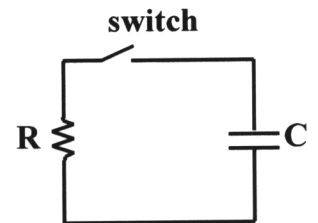
$$\frac{V_c}{V_b} = 0.9 \Rightarrow \frac{V_b(1 - e^{-t/RC})}{V_b} = 0.9 \Rightarrow 1 - 0.9 = e^{-t/RC}$$

$$\Rightarrow \ln(0.1) = -t/RC \Rightarrow \boxed{t = RC \ln(10)}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{t = (100)(2 \times 10^{-6}) \ln(10) = 46\mu\text{s}}$$

Circuits – Set 2

A capacitor is being discharged through a resistor R. The capacitor's initial charge is Q_0 .



- After how many time constants is the charge on the capacitor one fourth of its initial value?
- The energy stored in the capacitor decreases with time as it discharges. After how many time constants is the stored energy one fourth of its initial value?
- After how many time constants is the current in the RC circuit one half of its initial value?
- A $10 \mu\text{f}$ capacitor is charged by a 10V battery through a resistance R. The capacitor reaches a potential difference of 4.0V in 3.0 seconds after charging begins. Find R.

a) Charge goes as Voltage: $Q = CV \Rightarrow Q/Q_0 = \frac{Q_0}{C} e^{-t/RC}$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{Q}{Q_0} = e^{-t/RC} \Rightarrow \ln\left(\frac{Q_0}{Q}\right) = \frac{t}{RC} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{\# of time constants}}$$

$$\boxed{\ln\left(\frac{a}{b}\right) = -\ln\left(\frac{b}{a}\right)}$$

and we want $\frac{Q}{Q_0} = \frac{1}{4} \Rightarrow \frac{t}{RC} = \ln(4) \Rightarrow \boxed{\frac{t}{RC} = 1.39}$

b) $U = \frac{1}{2}CV^2$, Energy goes as Voltage squared

$$\Rightarrow V = \left(2 \frac{U}{C}\right)^{1/2} \Rightarrow \left[2 \frac{U}{C}\right]^{1/2} = \left[2 \frac{U_0}{C}\right]^{1/2} e^{-t/RC}$$

$$\Rightarrow \left[\frac{U}{U_0}\right]^{1/2} = e^{-t/RC} \Rightarrow \frac{U}{U_0} = e^{-2t/RC}$$

$$\Rightarrow \ln\left(\frac{U_0}{U}\right) = \frac{2t}{RC} \Rightarrow \boxed{\frac{1}{2} \ln\left(\frac{U_0}{U}\right) = \frac{t}{RC}}$$

and we want $\frac{U}{U_0} = \frac{1}{4} \Rightarrow \boxed{\frac{t}{RC} = \frac{1}{2} \ln(4) = 0.69 \text{ time const.}}$

continued ↓

c) on the resistor: $V_R = V_b e^{-t/RC}$, and $V_R = I_R R$

$$\Rightarrow I_R R = I_0 R e^{-t/RC}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{I}{I_0} = e^{-t/RC} \Rightarrow \left| \ln\left(\frac{I_0}{I}\right) = \frac{t}{RC} \right|$$

$$\Rightarrow \ln(2) = \left| \frac{t}{RC} = 0.69 \text{ time constant} \right|$$

d) Given

$$C = 10 \mu\text{F}$$

$$V_b = 10\text{V}$$

$$V(t_f) = 4.0\text{V}$$

$$t_f = 3.0\text{s}$$

$$V_c = V_b (1 - e^{-t/RC})$$

$$\Rightarrow 1 - \frac{V_c}{V_b} = e^{-t/RC}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{V_b - V_c}{V_b} = e^{-t/RC}$$

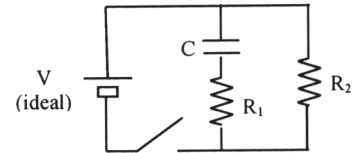
$$\Rightarrow \ln\left(\frac{V_b}{V_b - V_c}\right) = \frac{t}{RC}$$

$$\Rightarrow \left| R = \frac{t}{C} \left[\ln\left(\frac{V_b}{V_b - V_c}\right) \right]^{-1} \right|$$

$$\Rightarrow R = \frac{3.0\text{s}}{10 \times 10^{-6}\text{F}} \left[\ln\left(\frac{10\text{V}}{10\text{V} - 4\text{V}}\right) \right]^{-1}$$

$$\left| R = 590 \text{ k}\Omega \right|$$

In the circuit shown at right, the capacitor is originally uncharged with the switch open. At $t = 0$ the switch is closed. Write your answers in algebraic form until part (c).



- What is the current supplied by the battery just after the switch is closed?
- What is the current a long time after the switch is closed?
- After a long time, the switch is opened. How long does it take for the charge on the capacitor to decrease to 10 percent of its value at $t = t'$ if $R_1 = R_2 = 5 \text{ k}\Omega$ and $C = 1.0 \text{ }\mu\text{F}$?

a) At $t=0$, $\Delta V_c = 0$, so the equivalent circuit is:

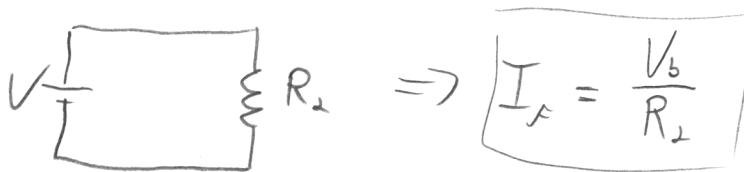


$$\Rightarrow I_0 = \frac{V_b}{R_{\text{eff}}} \Rightarrow \boxed{I_0 = V_b \cdot \frac{R_1 + R_2}{R_1 R_2}}$$

b) As $t \rightarrow \infty$ $\Delta V_c \rightarrow V_b \Rightarrow \Delta V_{R_1} \rightarrow 0 \Rightarrow I_{R_1} \rightarrow 0$

so all current flows through R_2 .

equivalent circuit:



c) After a long time, $V_c = V_b$. Want $\frac{V_c}{V_b} = 0.1$

with the switch open;

$$V_c = V_b e^{-t/RC}$$



$$\Rightarrow \frac{t}{RC} = \ln\left(\frac{V_b}{V_c}\right) \Rightarrow t = (R_1 + R_2)(C) \ln(10)$$

$$\boxed{t = (10 \times 10^3)(1 \times 10^{-6}) \ln(10) = 23 \text{ ms}}$$

Show that only half the total energy drawn from a battery in charging an RC circuit ends up stored in the capacitor. *Hint:* What happens to the rest? You will need to integrate!

Power delivered by the battery is: $P = VI$

or: $\frac{dU}{dt} = VI$, Battery voltage is constant
 But $I = I_0 e^{-t/RC}$

$$\text{so: } \frac{dU}{dt} = VI_0 e^{-t/RC} \Rightarrow dU = VI_0 e^{-t/RC} dt$$

$$\Rightarrow U = VI_0 \int_0^{\infty} e^{-t/RC} dt$$

$$\Rightarrow U = VI_0 \left(-RC e^{-t/RC} \right) \Big|_0^{\infty} \Rightarrow$$

$$\Rightarrow U = RC \cdot VI_0, \quad I_0 = \frac{V}{R}$$

$$\Rightarrow U = RC V \frac{V}{R} \Rightarrow \boxed{U = CV^2}$$

so the battery delivers: $U_b = CV^2$

But energy stored in the cap is: $U_c = \frac{1}{2} CV^2$

$$\boxed{\frac{U_c}{U_b} = \frac{1}{2}}$$

The rest is dissipated through the resistor.