

Your Comments

Pretty tough prelecture

So current flows slower thru the $2R$ resistor than the R resistor in a RC circuit so it takes longer for current to go to zero... but doesn't the $2R$ resistor dissipate more current because it is $2R$, so it would go faster?? $P = I^2R$

It would make a lot more sense to me if you could briefly go over how the charging/discharging of capacitors is applied in circuits. Also, the Unit 9 homework that was due today doesn't have answers available until next week. Is that a mistake?

Yes, fixed.

Charging and Discharging of Capacitors!

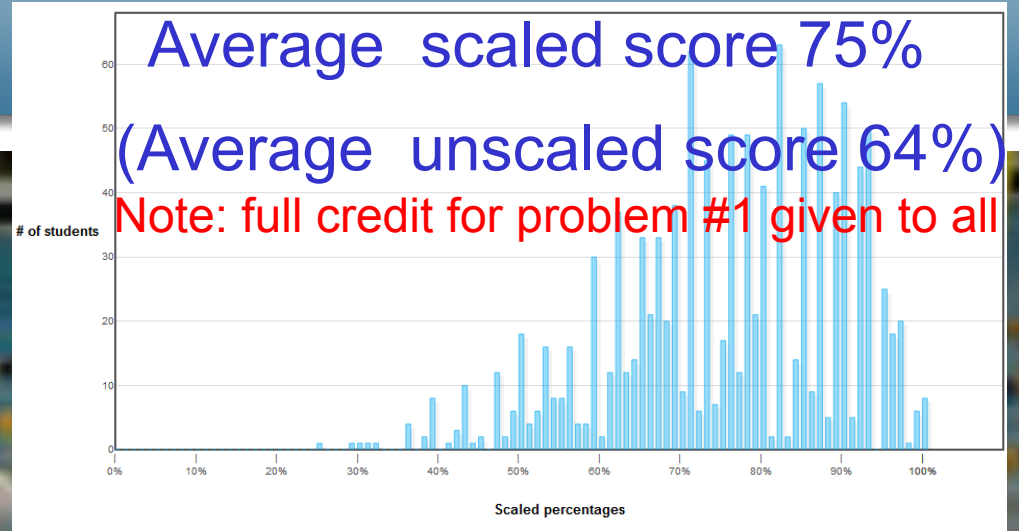
Holy stuff that's a lot of equations... I'm nerding out.

We're using differential equations now?

How does the time constant affect charge (like in the 2nd checkpoint question)?

Why can't we 'switch off' from what we are 'current'-ly doing, because I don't have the 'capacity' to 'charge' through this lecture right now. Maybe it's the 'resistance' for this beautiful day (let's hope) that's making me lose how I'm usually 'amp'-ed up for class. 'Curcuitly' you would agree with me over 'time'.

Hour Exam 1 Results



Check under course description for grading policy

(e.g. if you got a 60% on this exam, then you missed 40/1000 course points. That does not mean you will get a D in the course! But, that you should have a strategy to do better on the remaining exams.)

Physics 212

Lecture 11

Today's Concept:

RC Circuits

The 212 Differential Equations

We describe the world (electrical circuits, problems in heat transfer, control systems, financial markets, etc.) using differential equations

You only need to know the solutions of two basic differential equations

$$\frac{dq}{dt} + \frac{1}{\tau}q = 0 \quad q = q_{const} e^{-t/\tau}$$

$$\frac{d^2q}{dt^2} + \omega^2q = 0 \quad q = q_{const} \sin(\omega t + \phi)$$

Capacitors in RC Circuits

Solve by applying Kirchhoff's Rules to circuit.
Need to understand some key phrases.

IMMEDIATELY After === Charge on capacitor is same as immediately before

After a LONG TIME === Current through capacitor = 0

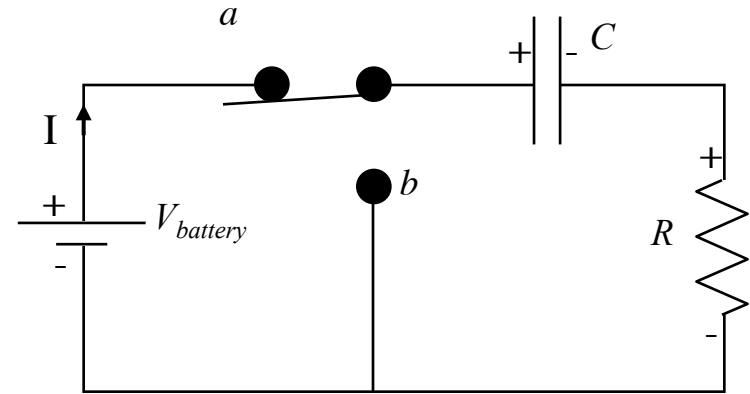
After xx seconds === *Exponentially* more difficult!

RC Circuit (Charging)

Capacitor uncharged, Switch is moved to position “a”

Kirchoff's Voltage Rule

$$-V_{battery} + \frac{q}{C} + IR = 0$$



Short Term ($q = q_0 = 0$)

$$-V_{battery} + 0 + I_0 R = 0$$

$$I_0 = \frac{V_{battery}}{R}$$

Long Term ($I_c = 0$)

$$-V_{battery} + \frac{q_\infty}{C} + 0 \cdot R = 0$$

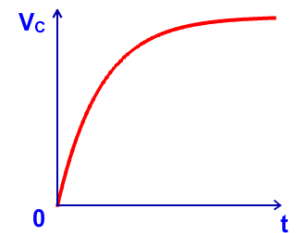
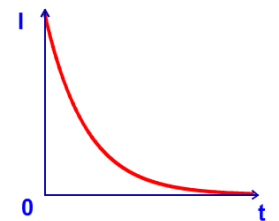
$$q_\infty = CV_{battery}$$

Intermediate

$$-V_{battery} + \frac{q}{C} + \frac{dq}{dt} R = 0$$

$$q(t) = q_\infty (1 - e^{-t/RC})$$

$$I(t) = \frac{dq}{dt} = I_0 e^{-t/RC}$$



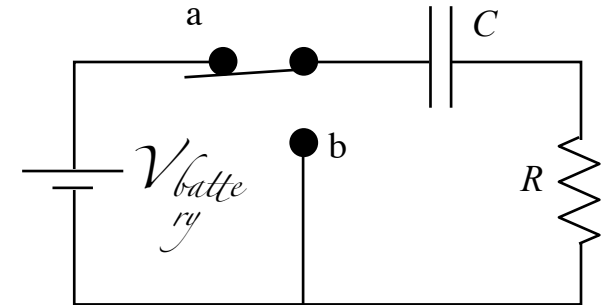
Solving the Differential Equation

- What do we do with

$$\frac{q}{C} + \frac{dq}{dt} R = V_{\text{battery}}$$

- We solved (without V_b - a constant)

$$\frac{dq}{dt} + \frac{q}{RC} = 0 \quad q = q_a e^{-t/RC}$$



- Is this it?

A) Add another exponential

B) Add a constant

C) This IS it

$$\frac{d(const)}{dt} = 0$$

$$q(t) = q_a e^{-t/RC} + const$$

$$q(t) = q_{\infty} (1 - e^{-t/RC})$$

Substitute into diff EQ and solve!

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dq}{dt} + \frac{q}{RC} &= \frac{V_b}{R} \\ -\frac{q_a}{RC} e^{-t/RC} + \frac{q_a}{RC} e^{-t/RC} + \frac{const}{RC} &= \frac{V_b}{R} \\ const &= CV_b \\ &\equiv q_{\infty} \end{aligned}$$

Now use initial condition $q(0) = 0$

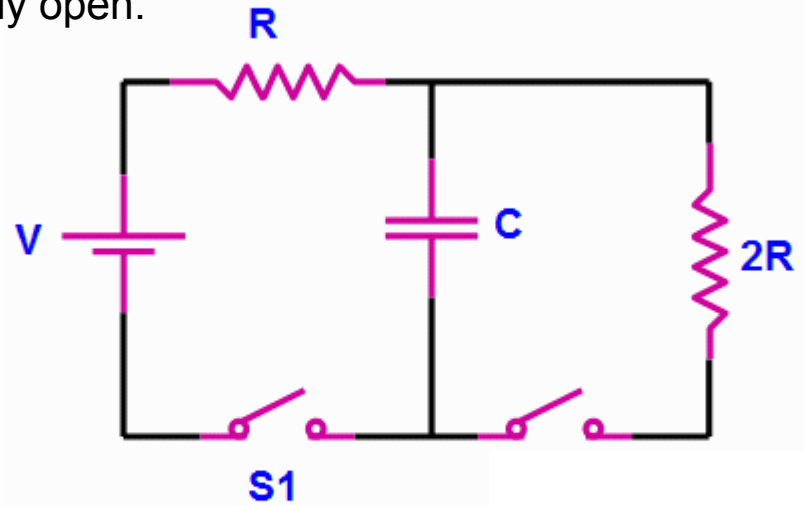
$$q_a + q_{\infty} = 0 \rightarrow q_a = -q_{\infty}$$

Put it all together to get $q(t)$

$$q = -q_{\infty} e^{-t/RC} + q_{\infty}$$

Checkpoint 1

A circuit is wired up as shown below. The capacitor is initially uncharged and switches S_1 and S_2 are initially open.



Close S_1 ,

V_1 = voltage across C immediately after

V_2 = voltage across C a long time after

Immediately after the
switch S_1 is closed:

Q is same as immediately before

A) $V_1 = V$ $V_2 = V$

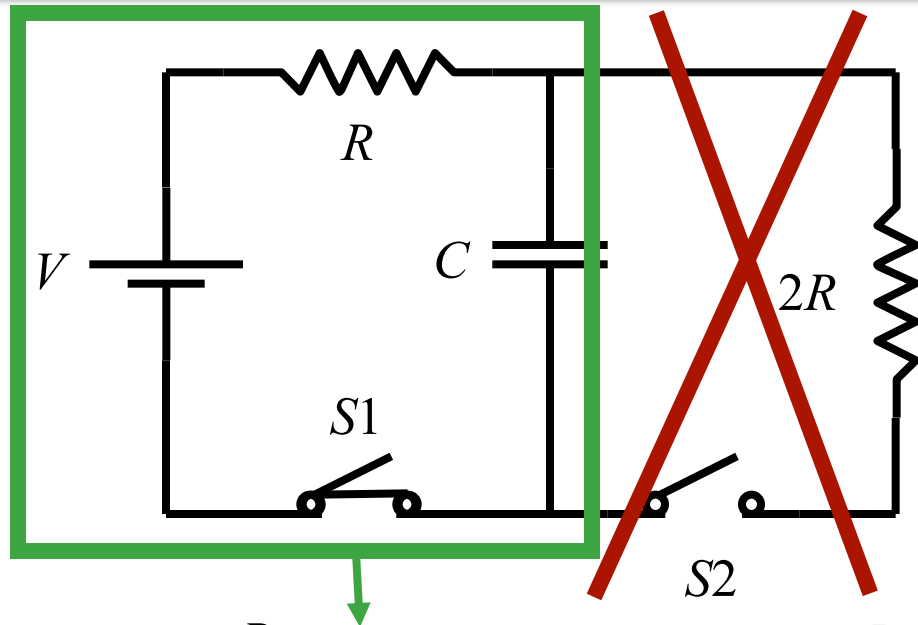
B) $V_1 = 0$ $V_2 = V$

C) $V_1 = 0$ $V_2 = 0$

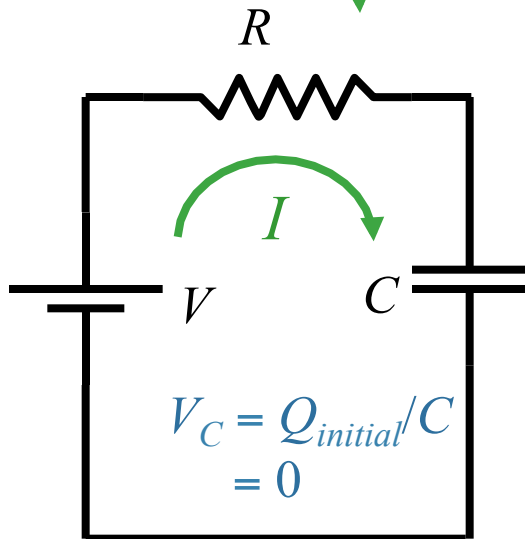
D) $V_1 = V$ $V_2 = 0$

After the switch S_1 has been
closed for a long time

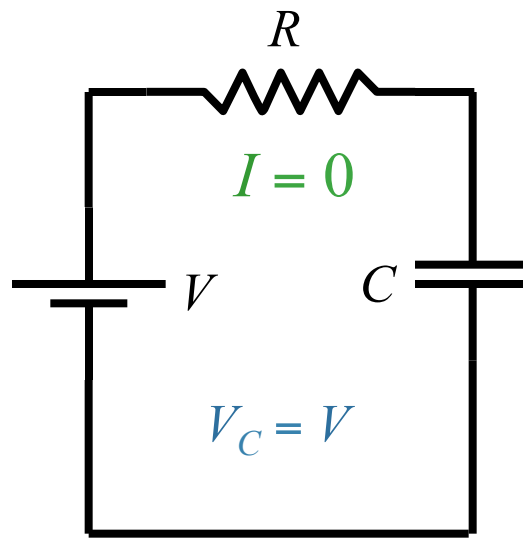
$$I_C = 0$$



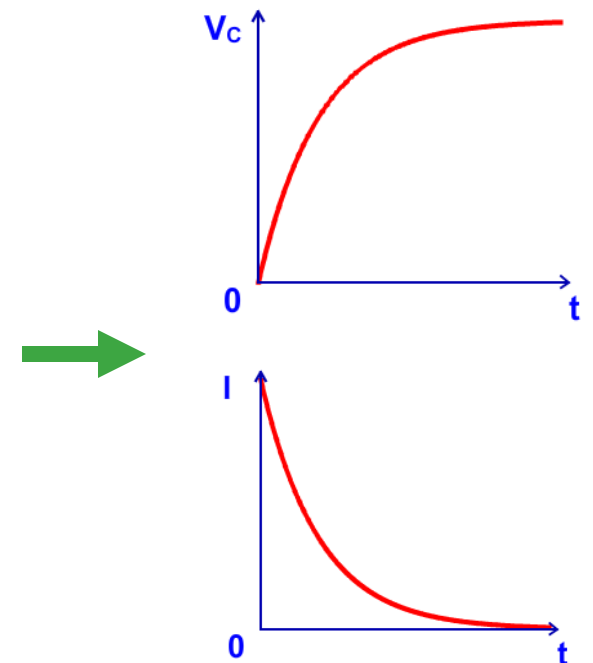
Close S_1 at $t = 0$
(leave S_2 open)



At $t = 0$

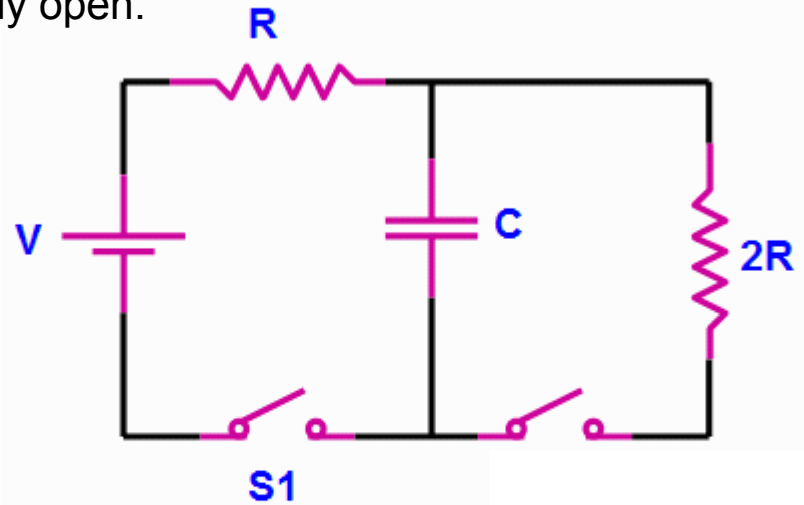


At $t = \text{big}$



Checkpoint 1

A circuit is wired up as shown below. The capacitor is initially uncharged and switches S_1 and S_2 are initially open.



Close S_1 ,

V_1 = voltage across C immediately after

V_2 = voltage across C a long time after

Immediately after the
switch S_1 is closed:

Q is same as immediately before

A) $V_1 = V$ $V_2 = V$

B) $V_1 = 0$ $V_2 = V$

C) $V_1 = 0$ $V_2 = 0$

D) $V_1 = V$ $V_2 = 0$

After the switch S_1 has been
closed for a long time

$$I_C = 0$$

RC Circuit (Discharging)

Capacitor has $q_0 = CV_{\text{battery}}$, Switch is moved to position “b”

Kirchoff's Voltage Rule

$$+\frac{q}{C} + IR = 0$$

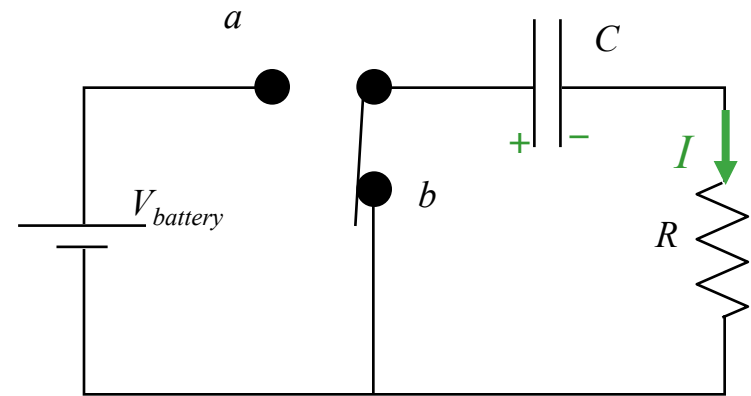
Short Term ($q = q_0$)

$$V_{\text{battery}} + IR = 0$$

$$I_0 = \frac{-V_{\text{battery}}}{R}$$

Long Term ($I_c = 0$)

$$\frac{q_{\infty}}{C} + 0 \cdot R = 0$$
$$q_{\infty} = 0$$

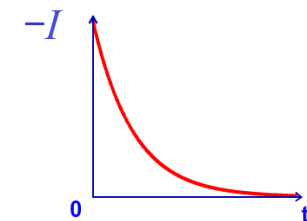
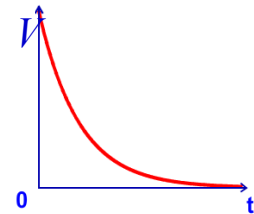


Intermediate

$$+\frac{q}{C} + \frac{dq}{dt} R = 0$$

$$q(t) = q_0 e^{-t/RC}$$

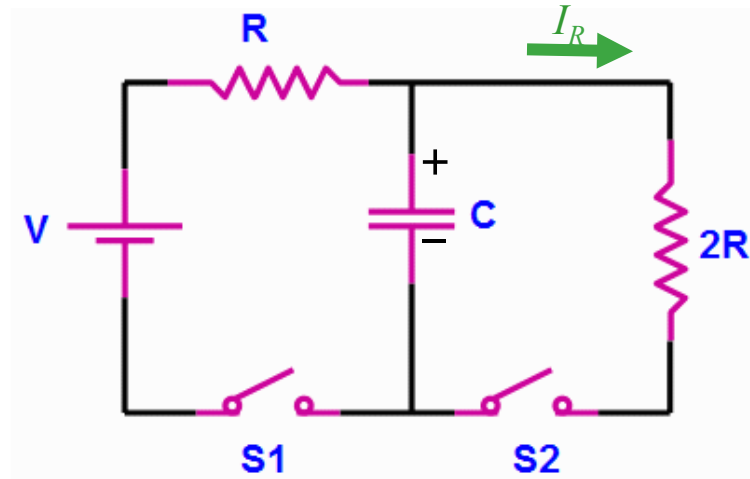
$$I(t) = I_0 e^{-t/RC}$$



CheckPoint 1c



A circuit is wired up as shown below. The capacitor is initially uncharged and switches S1 and S2 are initially open.



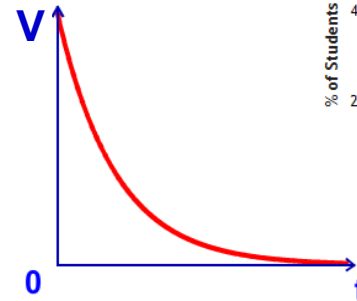
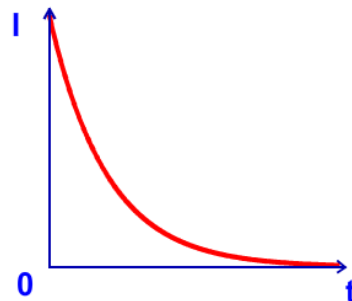
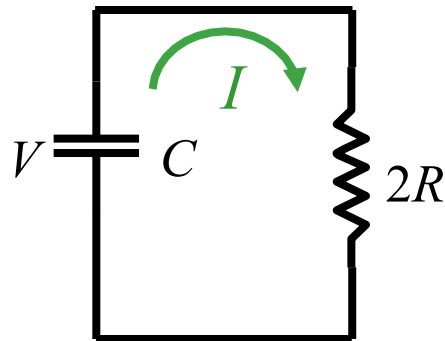
Switch 1 is closed for a long time. Then, switch 1 is opened and switch 2 is closed. What is the current through the right resistor immediately after switch 2 is closed?

A. $I_R = 0$

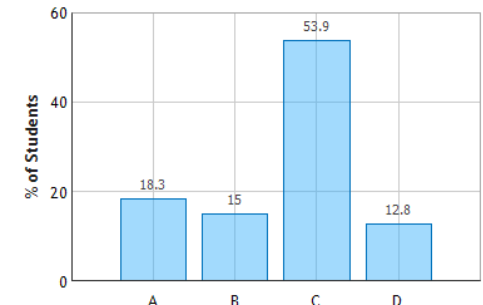
B. $I_R = V/3R$

C. $I_R = V/2R$

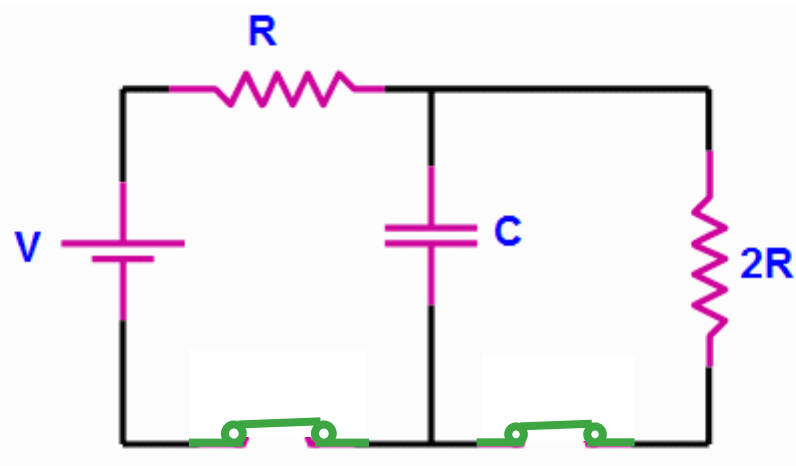
D. $I_R = V/R$



Two Loop RC Circuit: Question 5 (N = 859)



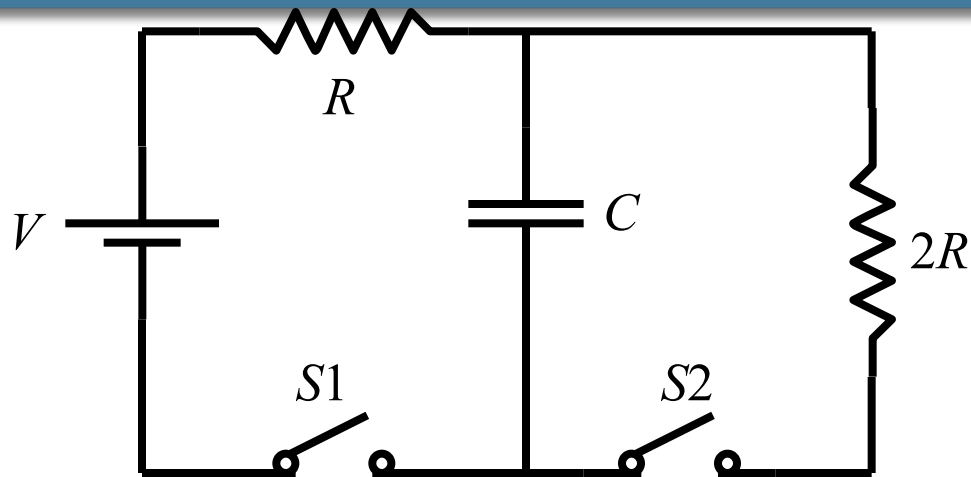
CheckPoint 1 d



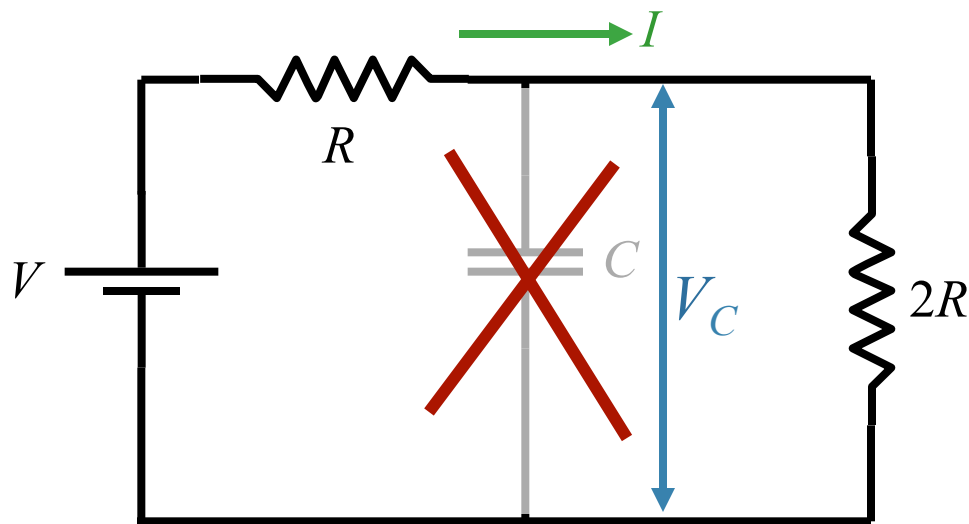
Now suppose both switches are closed. What is the voltage across the capacitor after a very long time?

- A.** $V_C = 0$ **B.** $V_C = V$ **C.** $V_C = 2V/3$

- A) The capacitor would discharge completely as t approaches infinity
B) The capacitor will become fully charged ($V_C = V$) after a long time.
C) Current through capacitor is zero



Close both $S1$ and $S2$ and wait a long time...



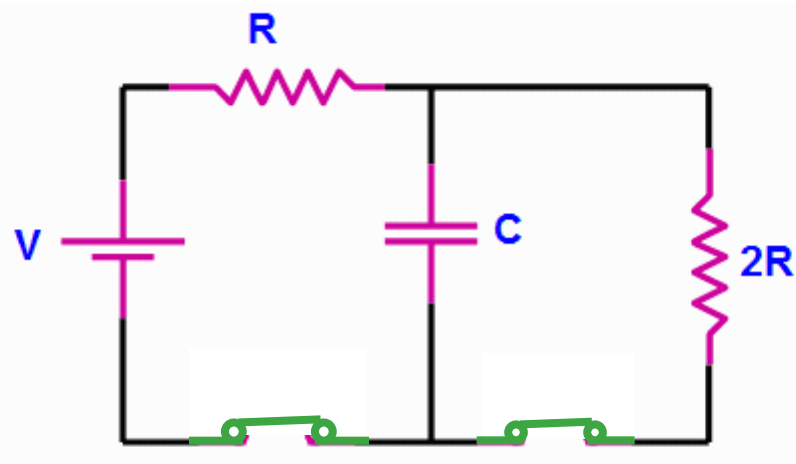
No current flows through the capacitor after a long time. **This will always be the case in any static circuit!!**

Outer Loop
 $IR + 2IR - V = 0$
 $I = V/(3R)$

Right Loop
 $+V_C - 2IR = 0$
 $V_C = 2IR$

$\rightarrow V_C = (2/3)V$

CheckPoint 1 d



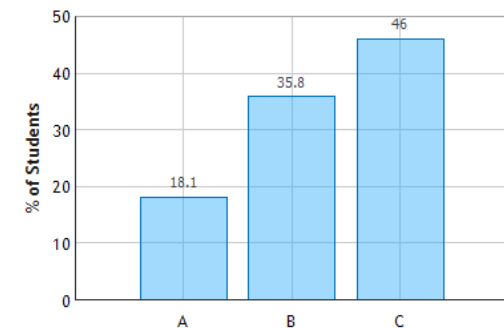
Now suppose both switches are closed. What is the voltage across the capacitor after a very long time?

A. $V_C = 0$

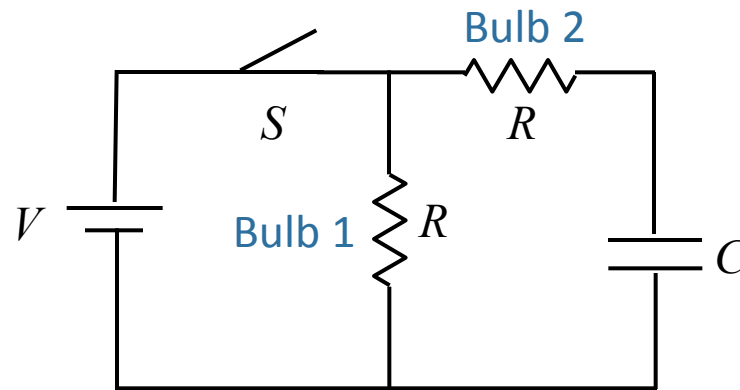
B. $V_C = V$

C. $V_C = 2V/3$

Two Loop RC Circuit: Question 7 (N = 860)



DEMO - Clicker Question 1



What will happen after I close the switch?

- A) Both bulbs come on and stay on.
- B) Both bulbs come on but then bulb 2 fades out.**
- C) Both bulbs come on but then bulb 1 fades out.
- D) Both bulbs come on and then both fade out.

No initial charge
on capacitor



$$V(\text{bulb 1}) = V(\text{bulb 2}) = V$$



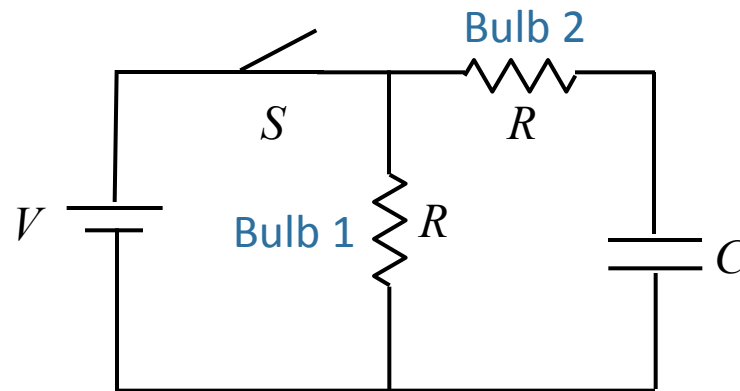
Both bulbs light

No final current
through capacitor



$$V(\text{bulb 2}) = 0$$

DEMO Clicker Question 2

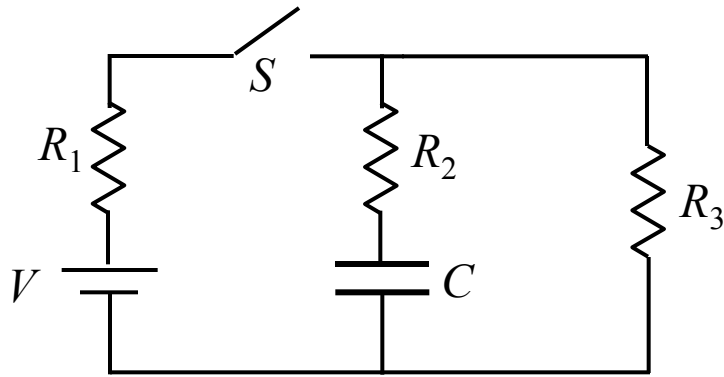


Suppose the switch has been closed a long time.
Now what will happen after open the switch?

- A) Both bulbs come on and stay on.
- B) Both bulbs come on but then bulb 2 fades out.
- C) Both bulbs come on but then bulb 1 fades out.
- D) Both bulbs come on and then both fade out.

Capacitor has charge ($=CV$)  Capacitor discharges through both resistors

Calculation



In this circuit, assume V , C , and R_i are known.
 C initially uncharged and then switch S is closed.

What is the voltage across the capacitor after a long time ?

Conceptual Analysis:

Circuit behavior described by Kirchhoff's Rules:

$$\sum V_{drops} = 0$$

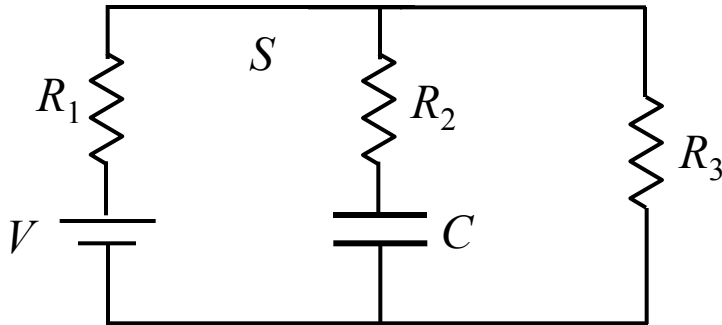
$$\sum I_{in} = \sum I_{out}$$

S closed and C charges to some voltage with some time constant

Strategic Analysis

Determine currents and voltages in circuit a long time after S closed

Calculation



In this circuit, assume V , C , and R_i are known.
 C initially uncharged and then switch S is closed.

What is the voltage across the capacitor after a long time ?

Immediately after S is closed:

what is I_2 , the current through C

what is V_C , the voltage across C ?

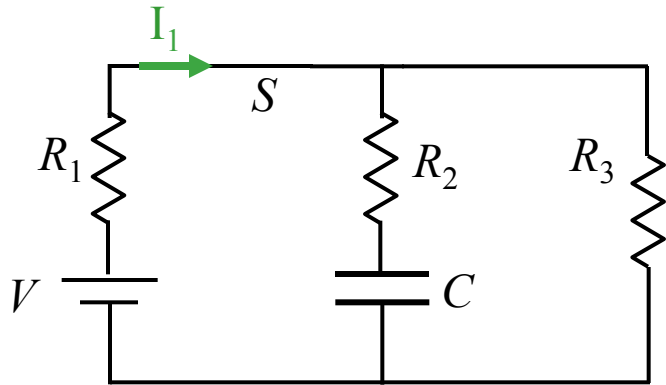
- A) Only $I_2 = 0$ **B) Only $V_C = 0$** C) Both I_2 and $V_C = 0$ D) Neither I_2 nor $V_C = 0$

Why?

We are told that C is initially uncharged ($V = Q/C$)

I_2 cannot be zero because charge must flow in order to charge C

Calculation



In this circuit, assume V , C , and R_i are known.
 C initially uncharged and then switch S is closed.

What is the voltage across the capacitor after a long time ?

Immediately after S is closed, what is I_1 , the current through R_1 ?

$$\frac{V}{R_1}$$

A

$$\frac{V}{R_1 + R_3}$$

B

$$\frac{V}{R_1 + R_2 + R_3}$$

C

$$\frac{V}{R_1 + \frac{R_2 R_3}{R_2 + R_3}}$$

D

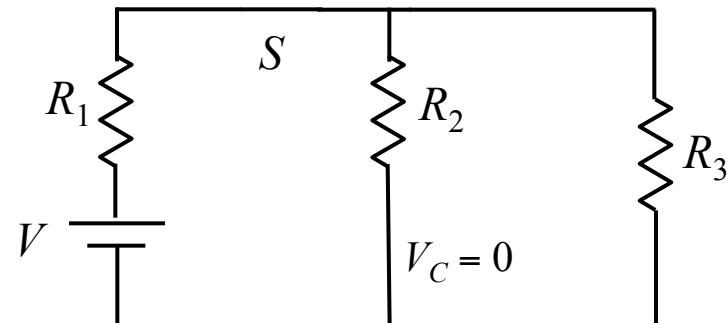
$$V \frac{R_1 + R_2 + R_3}{R_1 R_2 + R_2 R_3 + R_1 R_3}$$

E

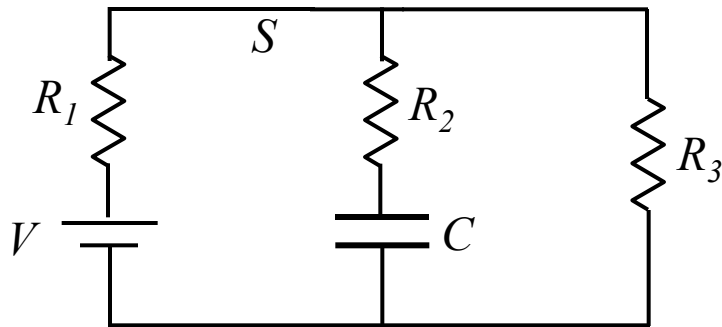
Why?

Draw circuit just after S closed (knowing $V_C = 0$)

R_1 is in series with the parallel combination of R_2 and R_3



Calculation



In this circuit, assume V , C , and R_i are known.
 C initially uncharged and then switch S is closed.

What is the voltage across the capacitor after a long time ?

After S has been closed “for a long time”, what is I_2 , the current through R_2 ?

$$\frac{V}{R_2}$$

A

$$\frac{V}{R_1}$$

B

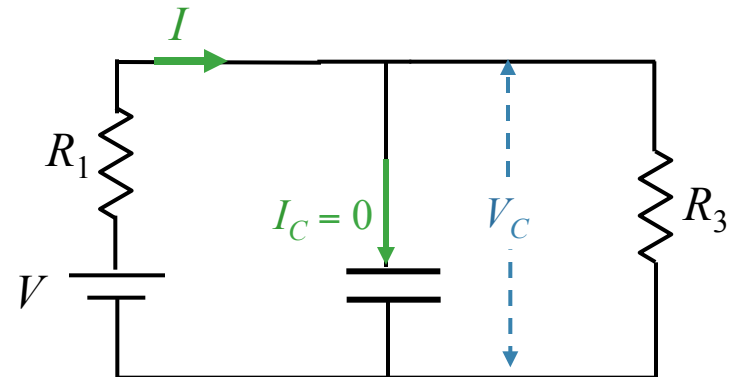
0

C

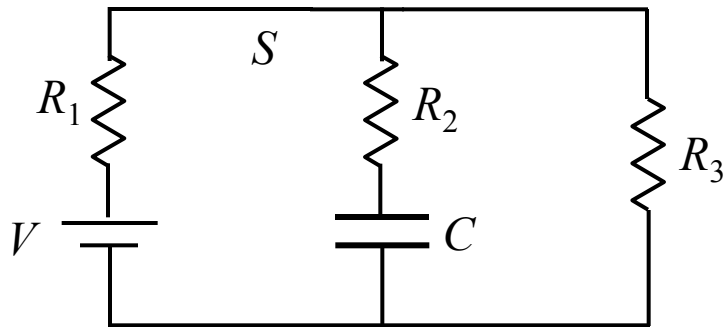
Why?

After a long time in a static circuit, the current through any capacitor approaches 0 !

This means we Redraw circuit with open circuit in middle leg



Calculation



In this circuit, assume V , C , and R_i are known.
 C initially uncharged and then switch S is closed.

What is the voltage across the capacitor after a long time ?

After S has been closed “for a long time”, what is V_C , the voltage across C ?

$$V \frac{R_3}{R_1 + R_3}$$

A

$$V \frac{R_2}{R_1 + R_2}$$

B

$$V$$

C

$$V \frac{R_2}{R_1 + \frac{R_2 R_3}{R_2 + R_3}}$$

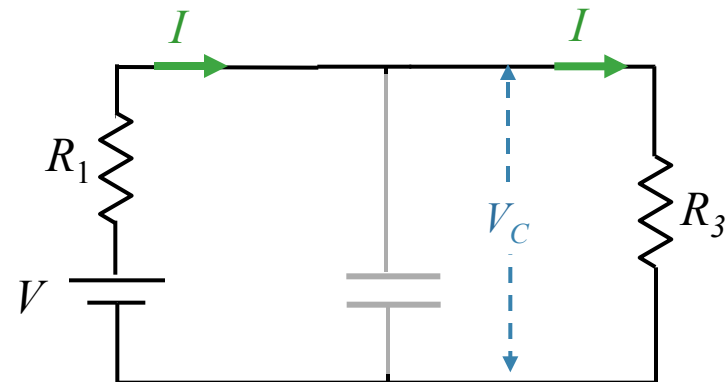
D

$$0$$

E

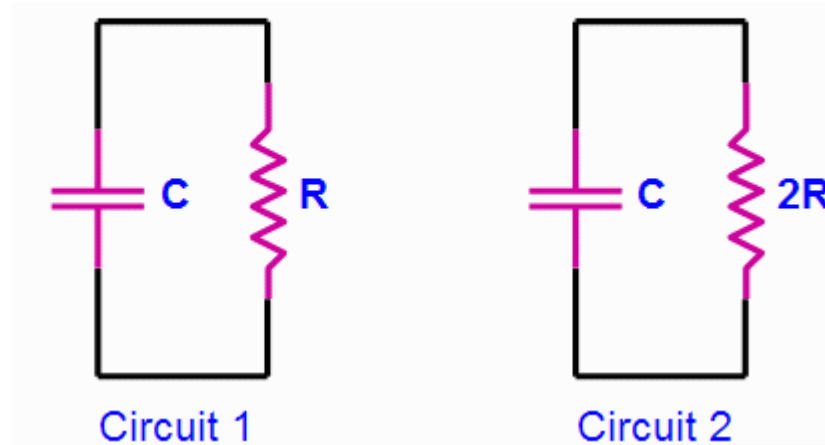
Why?

$$- V_C = V_3 = IR_3 = (V/(R_1 + R_3))R_3$$



Checkpoint 2

The two circuits shown below contain identical capacitors that hold the same charge at $t = 0$. Circuit 2 has twice as much resistance as circuit 1.



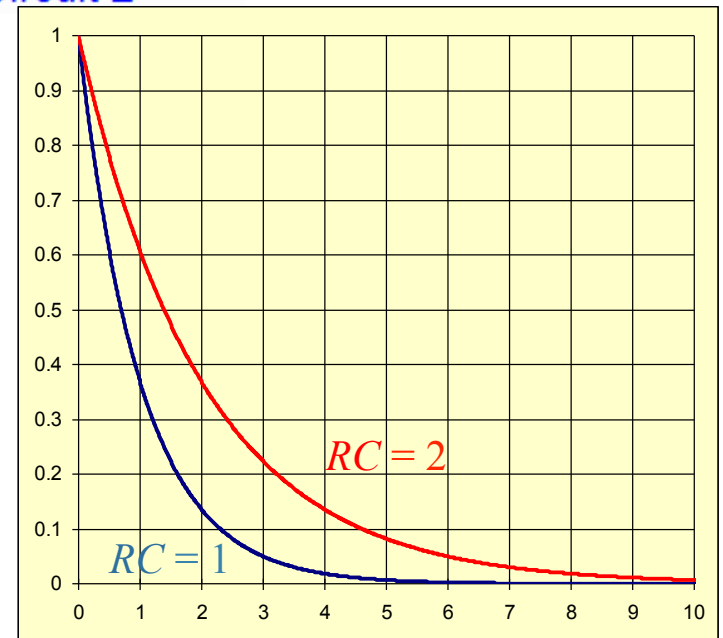
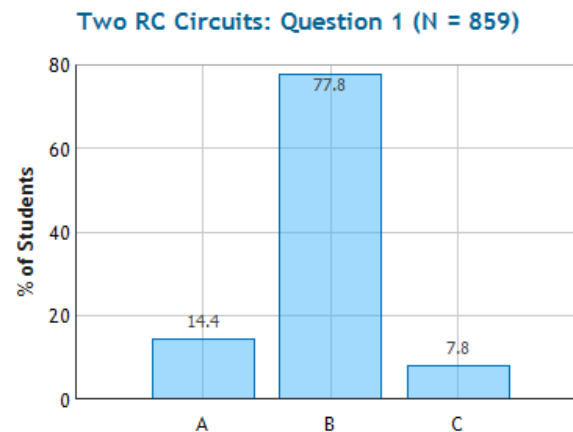
Which circuit has the largest time constant?

A) Circuit 1

B) Circuit 2

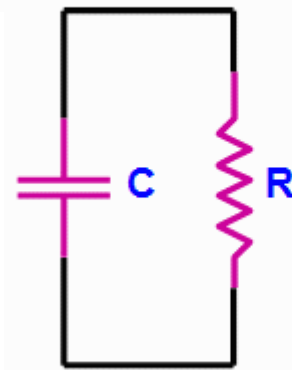
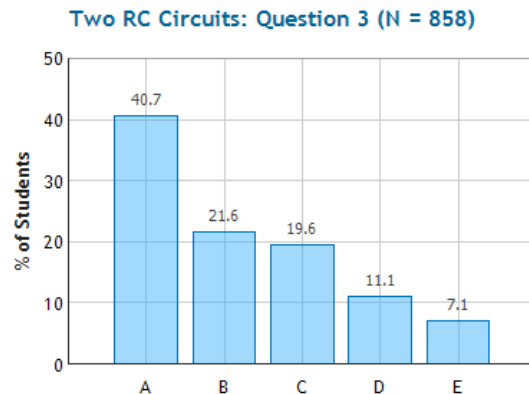
C) Same

$$\tau = R_{equiv} C$$

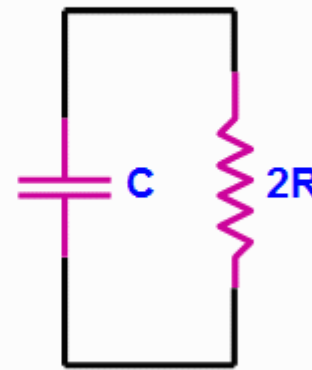


CheckPoint 2

The two circuits shown below contain identical capacitors that hold the same charge at $t = 0$. Circuit 2 has twice as much resistance as circuit 1.



Circuit 1



Circuit 2

Which of the following statements best describes the charge remaining on each of the two capacitors for any time after $t = 0$?

- ☒ $Q_1 < Q_2$
- ☐ $Q_1 > Q_2$
- ☐ $Q_1 = Q_2$
- ☐ $Q_1 < Q_2$ at first and then $Q_1 > Q_2$ after a long time
- ☐ $Q_1 > Q_2$ at first and then $Q_1 < Q_2$ after a long time

$$Q = Q_0 e^{-t/RC}$$

Look at plot!

