

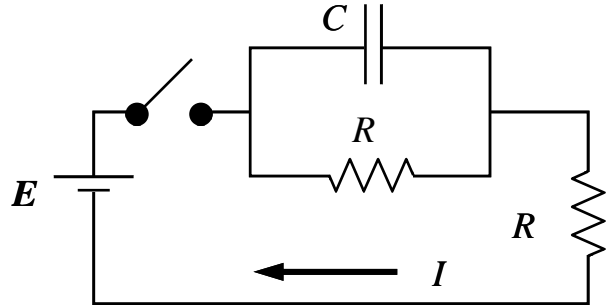
Discussion Question 7C

P212, Week 7

RC Circuits

The circuit shown initially has the capacitor uncharged, and the switch open. At time $t = 0$, the switch is thrown. Write all answers in terms of E , R , and C as needed.

- (a) At $t = 0^+$, immediately after the switch is thrown what is the current $I(0^+)$?



- (b) After a very long time, what is the current I_∞ ?

- (c) After a very long time, what is the charge on the capacitor Q_∞ ?

- (d) Assume $Q(t) = Q_\infty(1 - \exp(-\beta t))$ gives the charge on the capacitor as a function of time. Use

$$\left[\frac{dQ}{dt} \right]_{0^+} = I(0^+) \text{ and your answers to (a) and (c) to compute } \beta. \text{ Why does } \left[\frac{dQ}{dt} \right]_{0^+} = I(0^+) ?$$

What does your β imply for the effective resistance that you use in $\tau = R_{\text{effective}} C$?

- (e) Use KVL for a loop that includes the capacitor and the battery to compute $I(t)$. Check that your answers are consistent with your answers to parts (a) and (b).