


# Chapter 11

## Capacitors Charging, Discharging, Simple Waveshaping Circuits

 Source: Circuit Analysis: Theory and Practice ©Delmar Cengage Learning



### Capacitor Charging

When switch is closed at **beginning state**,  
 $t = 0+$

- Capacitor voltage cannot change **instantaneously**
- When switching, the capacitor looks like a **short circuit**
- **Capacitor voltage begins at zero**
- **Capacitor current instantaneously jumps to  $E/R$**

## Capacitor Charging

When switch is closed at **transient state,  $t \geq 0$**

- **Capacitor voltage** begins at zero and **exponentially increases to  $E$  volts**
- **Capacitor current** instantaneously jumps to  $E/R$  and exponentially decays to zero

$$t=0s, v_c = 0V, i_c = (E - v_c)/10 = (10 - 0)/10 = 1A$$

$$t=1s, v_c = 6.3V, i_c = (E - v_c)/10 = (10 - 6.3)/10 = 0.37A$$

$$t=3s, v_c = 9.5V, i_c = (E - v_c)/10 = (10 - 9.5)/10 = 0.05A$$

$$t=5s, v_c = 10V, i_c = (E - v_c)/10 = (10 - 10)/10 = 0A$$

$$t=6s, v_c = 10V, i_c = (E - v_c)/10 = (10 - 10)/10 = 0A$$

## Steady State Conditions

When switch is closed at **steady state,  $t \geq 5RC$**

- Capacitor voltage and current reach their final values and **stop changing**
- Capacitor **has voltage** across it, but **no current** flows through the circuit. **Capacitor looks like an open circuit.**

## Capacitor Discharging

When switch is closed at beginning state,  $t = 0+$

- **Capacitor voltage** has  $E$  volts across it when it begins to discharge
- **Capacitor current** will instantly jump to  $-E/R$
- Both voltage and current will **decay exponentially to zero**

$$t=0s, v_c = 10V, i_c = -(v_c)/10 = -(10)/10 = -1A$$

$$t=1s, v_c = 3.7V, i_c = -(v_c)/10 = -(3.3)/10 = -0.37A$$

$$t=3s, v_c = 0.5V, i_c = -(v_c)/10 = -(0.5)/10 = -0.05A$$

$$t=5s, v_c = 0V, i_c = -(v_c)/10 = (0)/10 = 0A$$

$$t=6s, v_c = 0V, i_c = -(v_c)/10 = (0)/10 = 0A$$

## The Time Constant

The functions  $e^{-t/\tau}$  and  $1 - e^{-t/\tau}$

$$v_c = E (1 - e^{-t/RC})$$

$$t=0RC=0\tau, e^{-0} = 1, E(1 - e^{-0}) = 0$$

$$t=1RC=1\tau, e^{-1} = 0.368, E(1 - e^{-1}) = 0.632 \times E$$

$$t=2RC=2\tau, e^{-2} = 0.135, E(1 - e^{-2}) = 0.865 \times E$$

$$t=3RC=3\tau, e^{-3} = 0.050, E(1 - e^{-3}) = 0.950 \times E$$

$$t=4RC=4\tau, e^{-4} = 0.018, E(1 - e^{-4}) = 0.982 \times E$$

$$t \geq 5RC=5\tau, e^{-5} = 0.007, E(1 - e^{-5}) = 0.993 \times E$$



## Kernel abilities

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1. Can understand the meanings of **beginning state**, **transient state**, and **steady state** during a capacitor charging and discharging.
2. Can **draw the voltage waveforms of a capacitor charging and discharging.**
3. Can **calculate the voltage and current at a time of a capacitor charging and discharging.**
4. Can understand that the **time constant RC** will affect the voltage and current during a capacitor charging and discharging.