

▷ **15: Transients (A)**

**Differential Equation**

**Piecewise steady  
state inputs**

**Step Input**

**Negative exponentials**

**Exponential Time**

**Delays**

**Inductor Transients**

**Linearity**

**Transient Amplitude**

**Capacitor Voltage**

**Continuity**

**Summary**

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# Differential Equation

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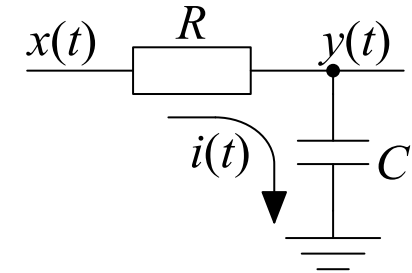
Summary

To find  $y(t)$ :

$x(t)$  constant: Nodal analysis

$x(t)$  sinusoidal: Phasors + nodal analysis

$x(t)$  anything else: Differential equation



$$i(t) = C \frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{x-y}{R} \Rightarrow RC \frac{dy}{dt} + y = x$$

**General Solution:** Particular Integral + Complementary Function

Particular Integral: Any solution to  $RC \frac{dy}{dt} + y = x$

If  $x(t)$  is piecewise constant or sinusoidal, we will use nodal/phasor analysis to find the **steady state solution** for  $y(t)$ .

Complementary Function: Solution to  $RC \frac{dy}{dt} + y = 0$

Does not depend on  $x(t)$ , only on the circuit.

Solution is  $y(t) = Ae^{-t/\tau}$

where  $\tau = RC$  is the **time constant** of the circuit.

The amplitude,  $A$ , is determined by the **initial conditions** at  $t = 0$ .

# Piecewise steady state inputs

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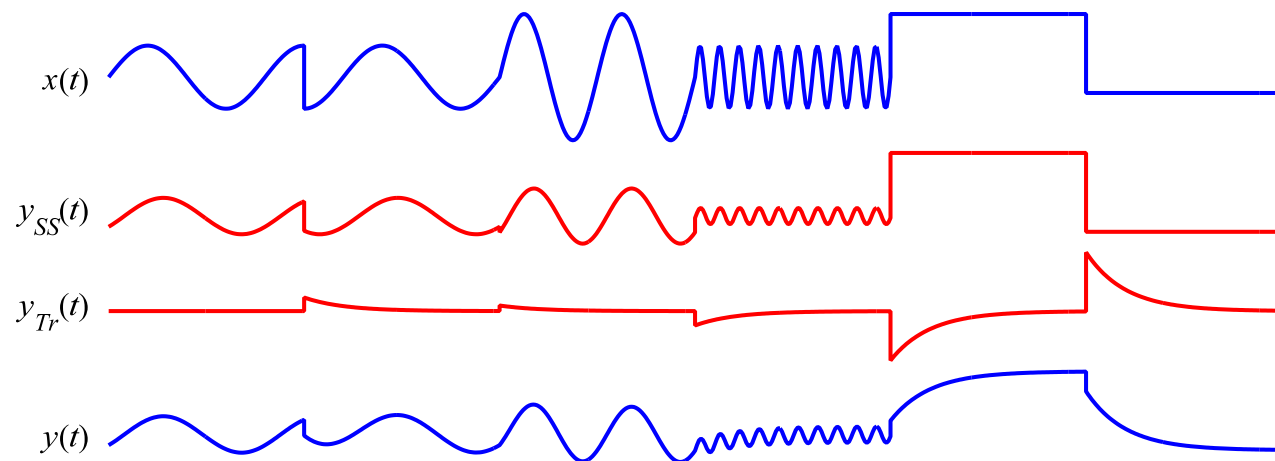
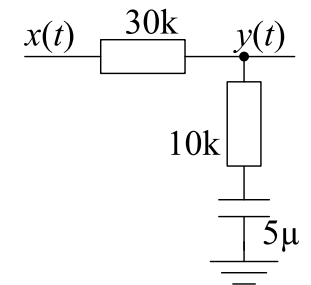
We will consider input signals that are sinusoidal or constant for a particular time interval and then suddenly change in amplitude, phase or frequency.

Output is the sum of the steady state and a transient:

$$y(t) = y_{SS}(t) + y_{Tr}(t)$$

**Steady state**,  $y_{SS}(t)$ , is the same frequency as the input; use phasors + nodal analysis.

**Transient** is always  $y_{Tr}(t) = Ae^{-\frac{t}{\tau}}$  at each change.



# Step Input

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For  $t < 0$ ,  $y(t) = x(t) = 1$

For  $t \geq 0$ ,  $RC \frac{dy}{dt} + y = x = 4$

Time Const:  $\tau = RC = 1 \text{ ms}$

**Steady State** (Particular Integral)

$y_{SS}(t) = x(t) = 4$  for  $t \geq 0$

**Transient** (Complementary Function)

$y_{Tr}(t) = Ae^{-t/\tau}$

**Steady State + Transient**

$y(t) = y_{SS} + y_{Tr} = 4 + Ae^{-t/\tau}$

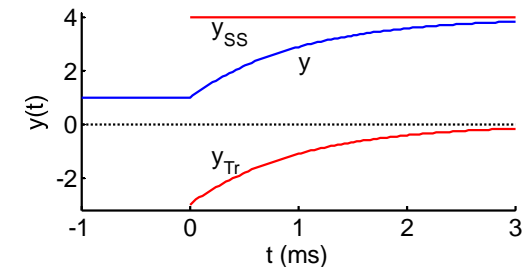
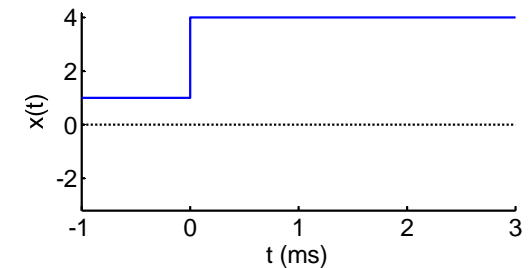
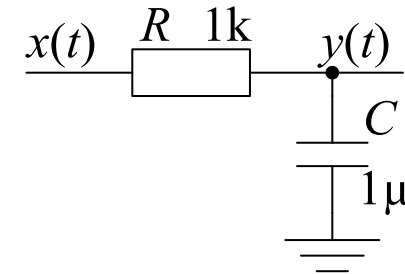
To find  $A$ , use capacitor property:

**Capacitor voltage never changes abruptly**

$y(0+) = 4 + A$  and  $y(0-) = 1 \Rightarrow 4 + A = 1 \Rightarrow A = -3$

So transient:  $y_{Tr}(t) = -3e^{-t/\tau}$  and total  $y(t) = 4 - 3e^{-t/\tau}$

**Transient amplitude**  $\Leftarrow$  capacitor voltage continuity:  $v_C(0+) = v_C(0-)$

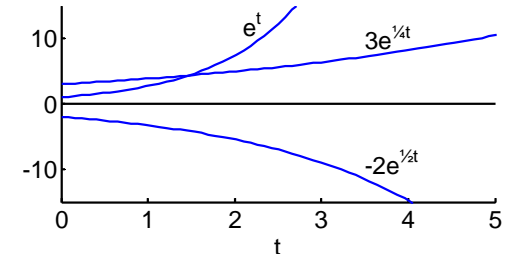


# Negative exponentials

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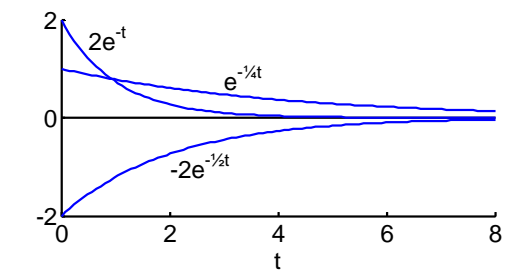
Positive exponentials grow to  $\pm\infty$ :

$$e^t, 3e^{t/4}, -2e^{t/2}$$



Negative exponentials decay to 0:

$$2e^{-t}, e^{-t/4}, -2e^{-t/2}$$

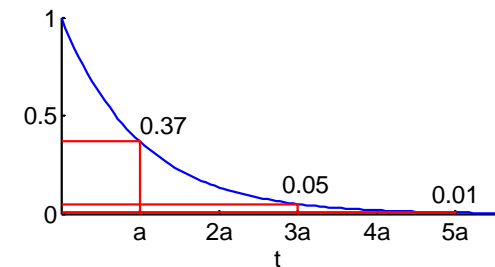


Transients are **negative** exponentials.

Decay rate of  $e^{-t/a}$

37% after 1 time constant

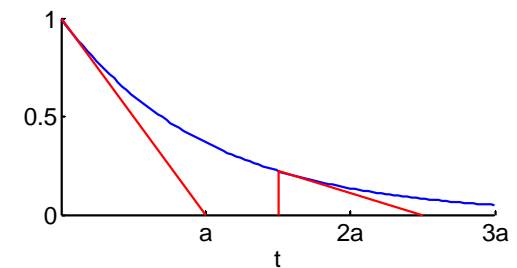
5% after 3, <1% after 5



Gradient of  $e^{-t/a}$

Gradient at  $t$  hits zero at  $t + a$ .

True for any  $t$ .

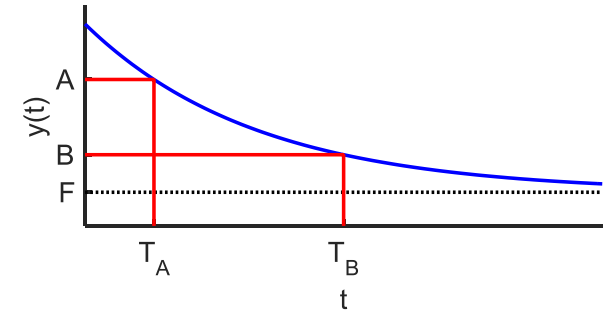


# Exponential Time Delays

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Negative exponential with a final value of  $F$ .

$$y(t) = F + (A - F) e^{-(t-T_A)/\tau}$$



How long does it take to go from  $A$  to  $B$  ?

At  $t = T_B$ :

$$y(T_B) = B = F + (A - F) e^{-(T_B - T_A)/\tau}$$

$$\frac{B - F}{A - F} = e^{-(T_B - T_A)/\tau}$$

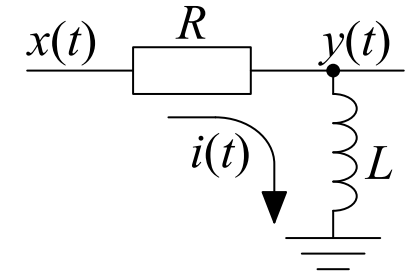
$$\text{Hence } T_B - T_A = \tau \ln \left( \frac{A - F}{B - F} \right) = \tau \ln \left( \frac{\text{initial distance to } F}{\text{final distance to } F} \right)$$

Useful formula - worth remembering.

# Inductor Transients

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$$\begin{aligned} \text{We know } i &= \frac{x-y}{R} \\ y(t) &= L \frac{di}{dt} = \frac{L}{R} \times \frac{d(x-y)}{dt} = \frac{L}{R} \frac{dx}{dt} - \frac{L}{R} \frac{dy}{dt} \\ \Rightarrow \frac{L}{R} \frac{dy}{dt} + y &= \frac{L}{R} \frac{dx}{dt} \end{aligned}$$



**Solution:** Particular Integral + Complementary Function

Particular Integral: Any solution to  $\frac{L}{R} \frac{dy}{dt} + y = \frac{L}{R} \frac{dx}{dt}$

If  $x(t)$  is piecewise constant or sinusoidal, we will use nodal/phasor analysis to find the **steady state solution**,  $y_{SS}(t)$ .

Complementary Function: Solution to  $\frac{L}{R} \frac{dy}{dt} + y = 0$

Does not depend on  $x(t)$ , only on the circuit.

Solution is  $y_{Tr}(t) = Ae^{-t/\tau}$

where  $\tau = \frac{L}{R}$  is the **time constant** of the circuit.

1st order transient is **always**  $y_{Tr}(t) = Ae^{-t/\tau}$  where  $\tau = RC$  or  $\frac{L}{R}$

Amplitude  $A \Leftarrow$  **no abrupt change in capacitor voltage or inductor current.**

# Linearity

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1st order circuit has only one  $C$  or  $L$ .

Make a Thévenin equivalent of the network connected to the terminals of  $C$ . **Remember  $x$  is a voltage source but  $y$  is not.**

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Now } v(t) &= v_{SS}(t) + v_{Tr}(t) \\ &= v_{SS}(t) + Ae^{-t/\tau} \end{aligned}$$

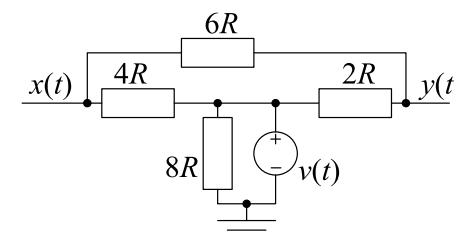
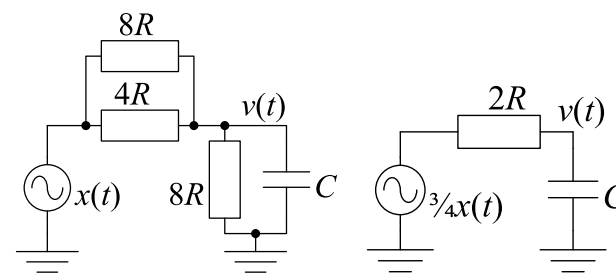
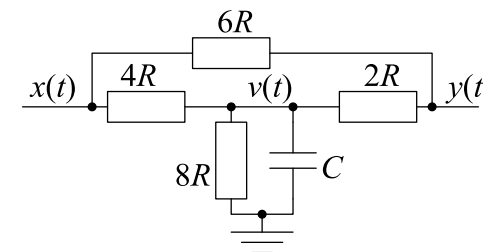
Time constant is  $\tau = R_{Th}C$   
where  $R_{Th}$  is the Thévenin resistance.

Replace the capacitor with a voltage source  $v(t)$ ; all voltages and currents in the circuit will remain unchanged.

**Linearity:**  $y = ax + bv = ax + bv_{SS} + bv_{Tr} = y_{SS} + bv_{Tr}$

**All voltages and currents in a circuit have the same transient (but scaled).**

The **circuit's time constant** is  $\tau = R_{Th}C$  or  $\frac{L}{R_{Th}}$  where  $R_{Th}$  is the Thévenin resistance of the network connected to  $C$  or  $L$ .





# Transient Amplitude

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Find Steady State (DC  $\Rightarrow Z_L = 0$ )

Potential divider:  $y_{SS} = \frac{1}{2}x$   
 $y_{SS}(0-) = 1, y_{SS}(0+) = 3$

Inductor Current Continuity

$i_{SS}(0-) = 1 \text{ mA} \Rightarrow i_L(0+) = 1 \text{ mA}$

At  $t = 0+$

$x - y = 1 \text{ mA} \times 1 \text{ k} = 1$   
 $y(0+) = x(0+) - 1 = 5$

Time Constant

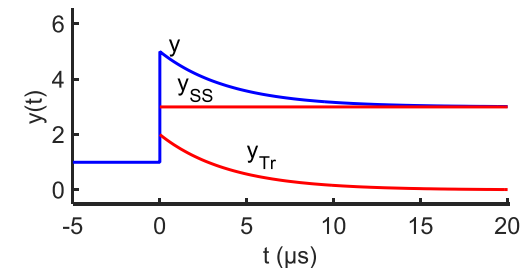
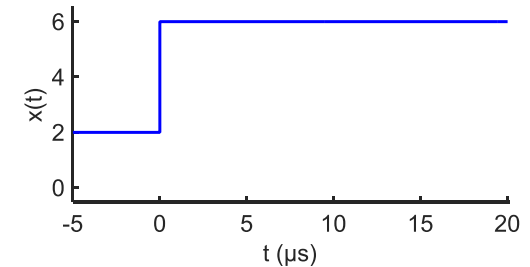
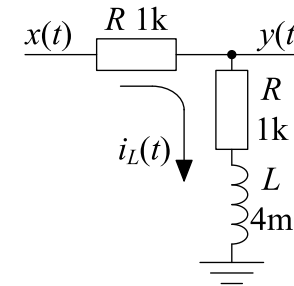
Set  $x \equiv 0 \rightarrow R_{Th} = 2 \text{ k}$   
 $\tau = \frac{L}{R_{Th}} = 2 \mu\text{s}$

Result

$$y = y_{SS} + (y(0+) - y_{SS}(0+)) e^{-t/\tau}$$

$$= 3 + (5 - 3) e^{-t/\tau}$$

$$= 3 + 2e^{-t/\tau}$$



# Capacitor Voltage Continuity

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Find Steady State (DC  $\Rightarrow Z_C = \infty$ )

$$\text{KCL @ V: } \frac{v-x}{4R} + \frac{v}{8R} + \frac{v-y}{2R} = 0$$

$$\text{KCL @ Y: } \frac{y-v}{2R} + \frac{y-x}{6R} = 0$$

$$v_{SS} = \frac{3}{4}x, \quad y_{SS} = \frac{13}{16}x$$

Capacitor Voltage Continuity

$$v_{SS}(0-) = -3 \Rightarrow v(0+) = -3$$

At  $t = 0+$ :  $x = 4$  and  $v = -3$

$$\text{KCL @ Y: } \frac{y-(-3)}{2R} + \frac{y-4}{6R} = 0$$

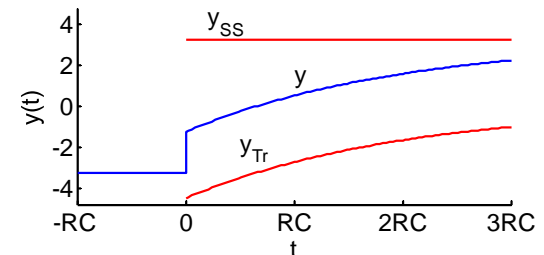
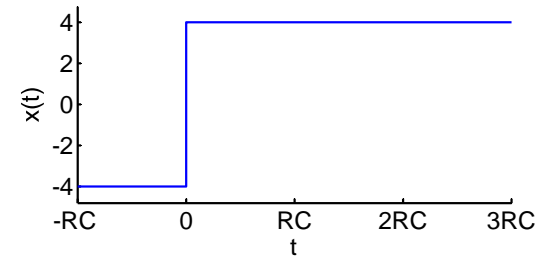
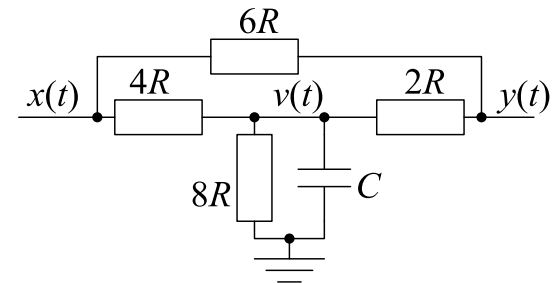
$$y(0+) = \frac{-9+4}{4} = -\frac{5}{4}$$

Time Constant

$$\tau = R_{Th}C = 2RC \text{ (from earlier slide)}$$

Result

$$\begin{aligned} y &= y_{SS} + (y(0+) - y_{SS}(0+)) e^{-t/\tau} \\ &= \frac{13}{4} + \left(-\frac{5}{4} - \frac{13}{4}\right) e^{-t/\tau} \\ &= \frac{13}{4} - \frac{18}{4} e^{-t/\tau} = 3\frac{1}{4} - 4\frac{1}{2} e^{-t/2RC} \end{aligned}$$



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- 1st order circuits: include one  $C$  or one  $L$ .
  - $v_C$  or  $i_L$  never change abruptly. The output,  $y$ , is not necessarily continuous unless it equals  $v_C$ .
- Circuit time constant:  $\tau = R_{Th}C$  or  $\frac{L}{R_{Th}}$ 
  - $R_{Th}$  is the Thévenin resistance seen by  $C$  or  $L$ .
  - Same  $\tau$  for all voltages and currents.
- Output = Steady State + Transient
  - **Steady State**: use nodal/Phasor analysis when input is piecewise constant or piecewise sinusoidal. The steady state has the **same frequency as the input** signal.
  - **Transient**: Find  $v_C(0-)$  or  $i_L(0-)$ : unchanged at  $t = 0+$   
Find  $y(0+)$  assuming source of  $v_C(0+)$  or  $i_L(0+)$   
Amplitude **never** complex, **never** depends on  $t$ .
  - $y(t) = y_{SS}(t) + (y(0+) - y_{SS}(0+)) e^{-t/\tau}$

See Hayt Ch 8 or Irwin Ch 7.