
Natural Response of RC Circuits

ECE 211 Circuits I

Lecture #35

Please visit [Bison Academy](#) for corresponding
lecture notes, homework sets, and solutions

Previous Lectures

Steady-state response of R circuits with constant inputs

- DC Analysis

Steady-state response of RC circuits with sinusoidal inputs

- Phasor Analysis

Time-domain simulations in Matlab and CircuitLab

- RLC circuits
 - Find the differential equations that describe the circuit
 - Solve using numeric integration in Matlab
 - Solve using Time-Domain simulations in CircuitLab
-

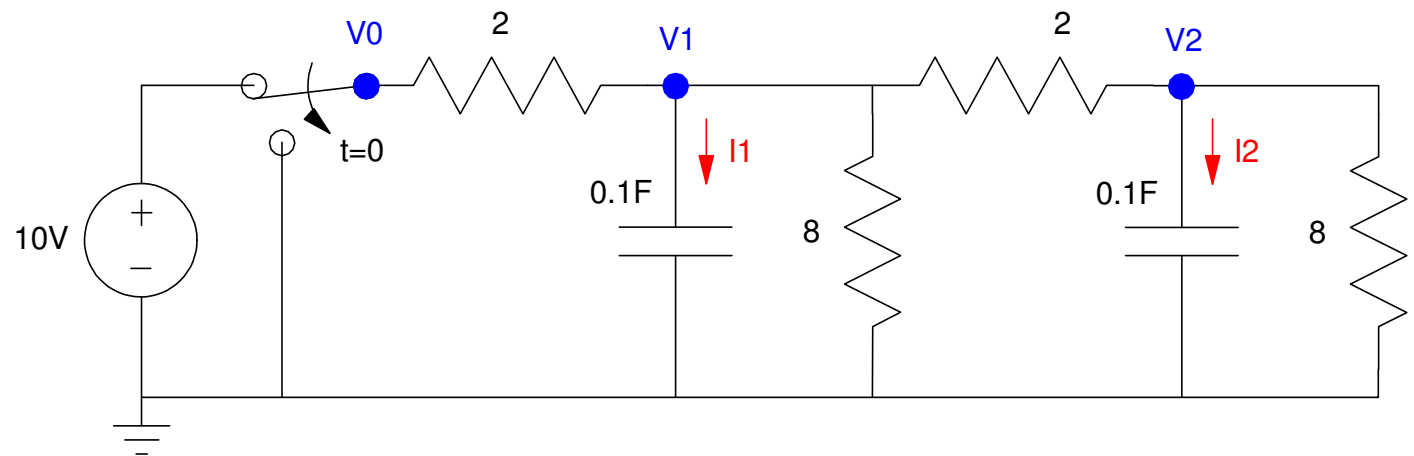
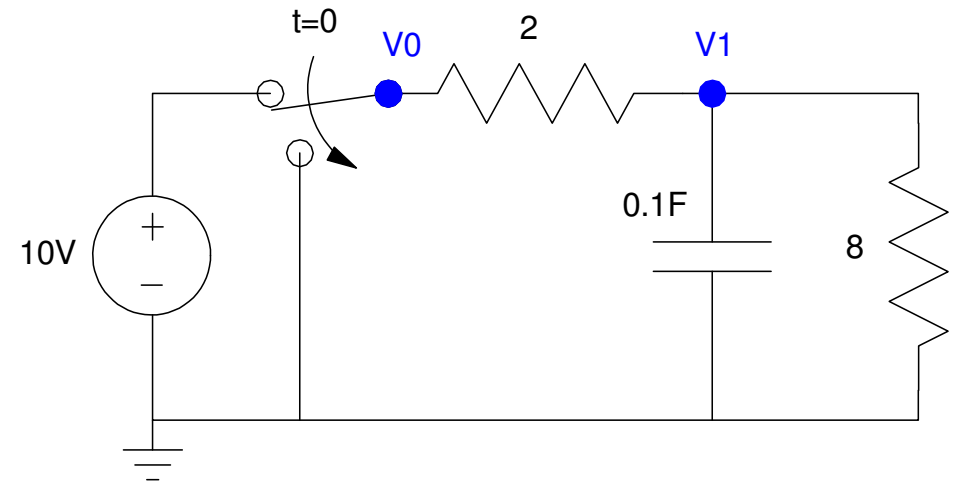
This lecture

- Natural Response of RC circuits

- Initial condition at $t=0$
- Input removed for $t>0$

Two cases

- 1st-order RC circuit
- 2nd-order RC circuit

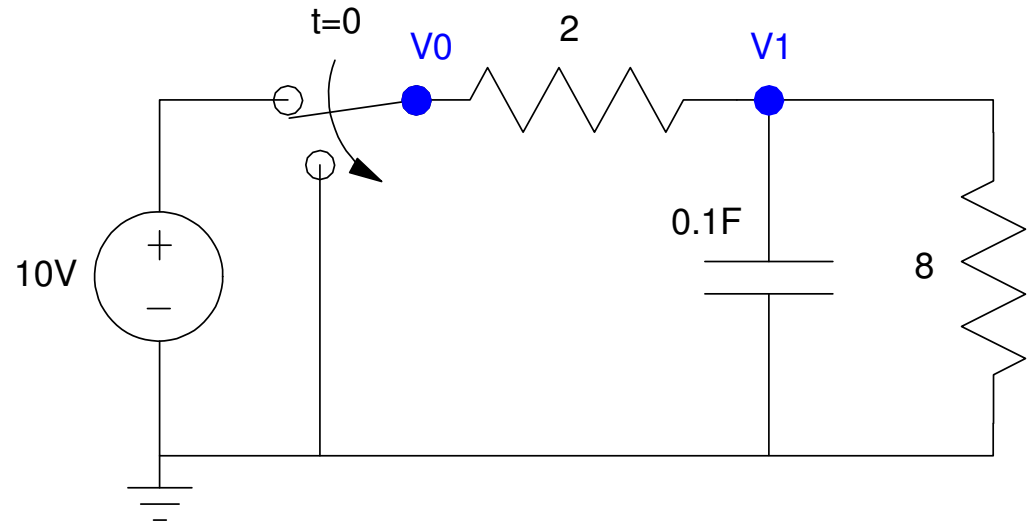


Example 1: 1-Stage RC Circuit

Switch opens at $t=0$

- $V_0 = 10V$ for $t < 0$
- $V_0 = 0V$ for $t > 0$

Find $V_1(t)$ for $t > 0$

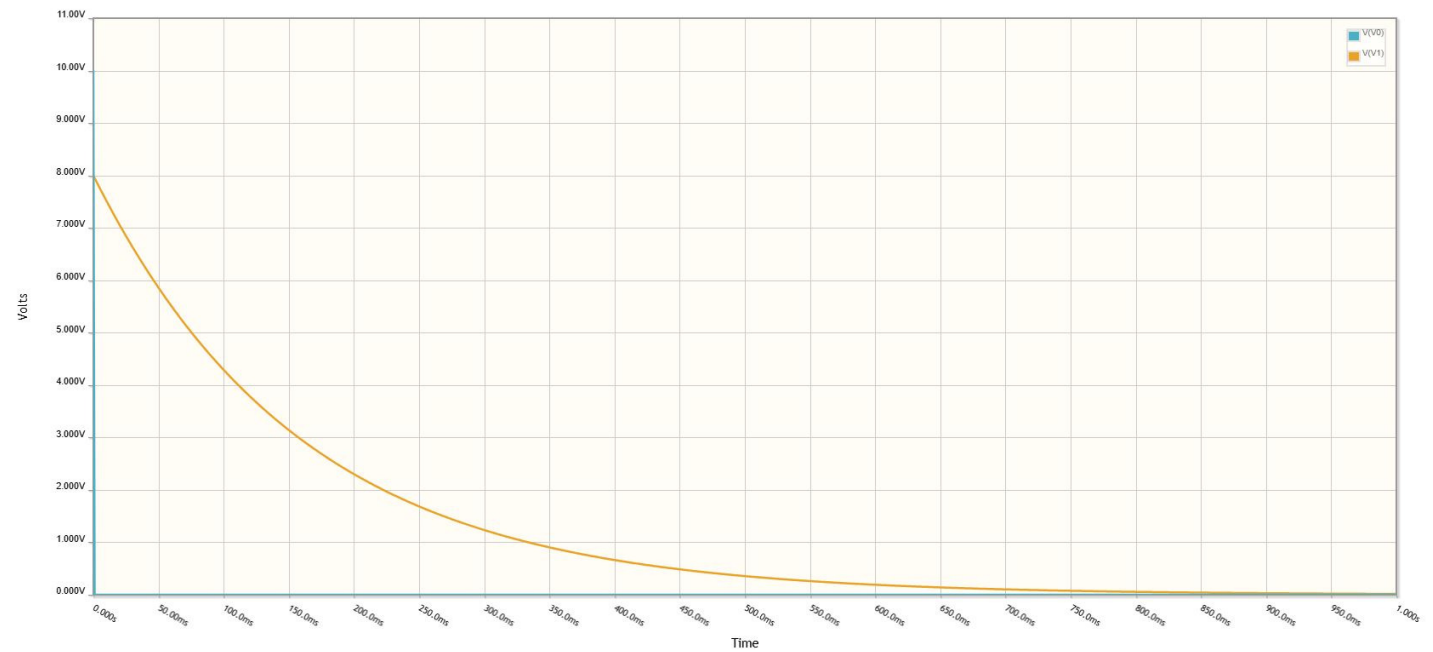
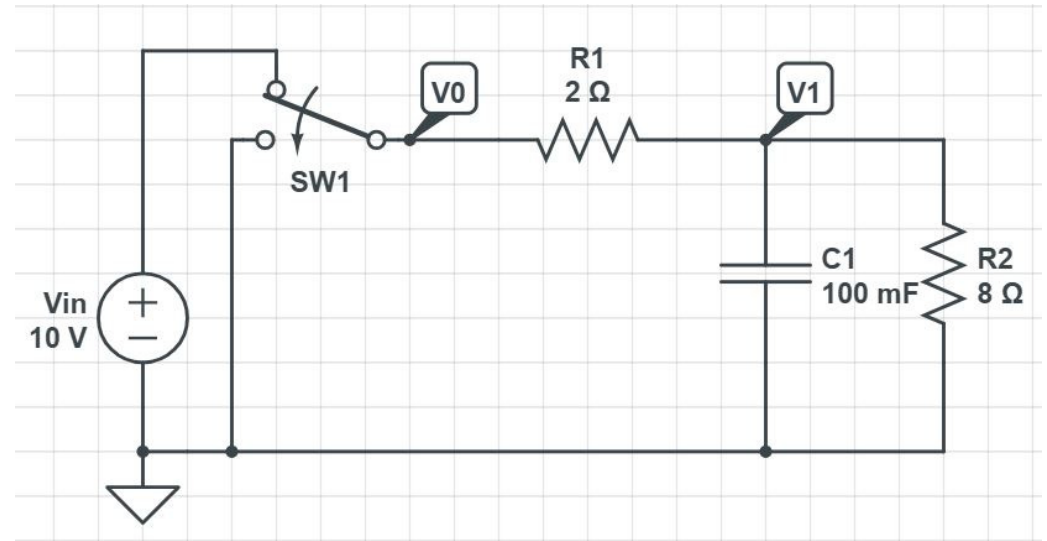


CircuitLab Solution

- Option #1
- Use a switch at $t=0$
- Run a time-domain simulation

Note

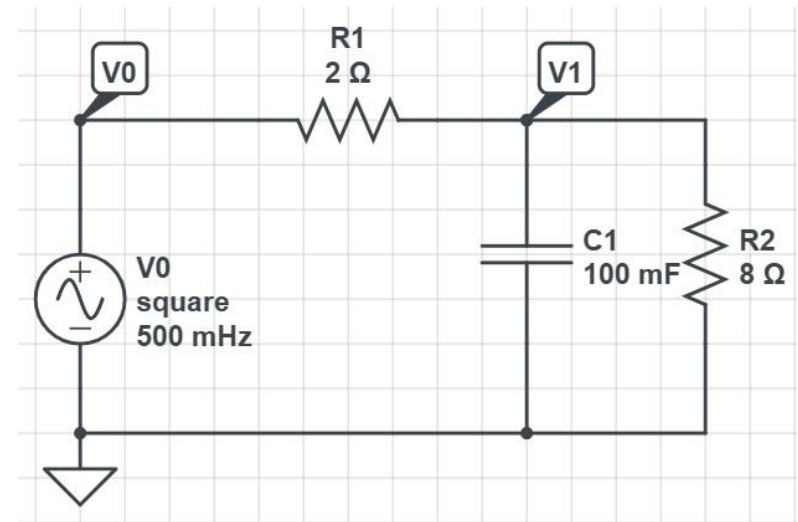
- $V1(t)$ starts at 8V
- Decays to 0V
- In about 700ms



CircuitLab Solution

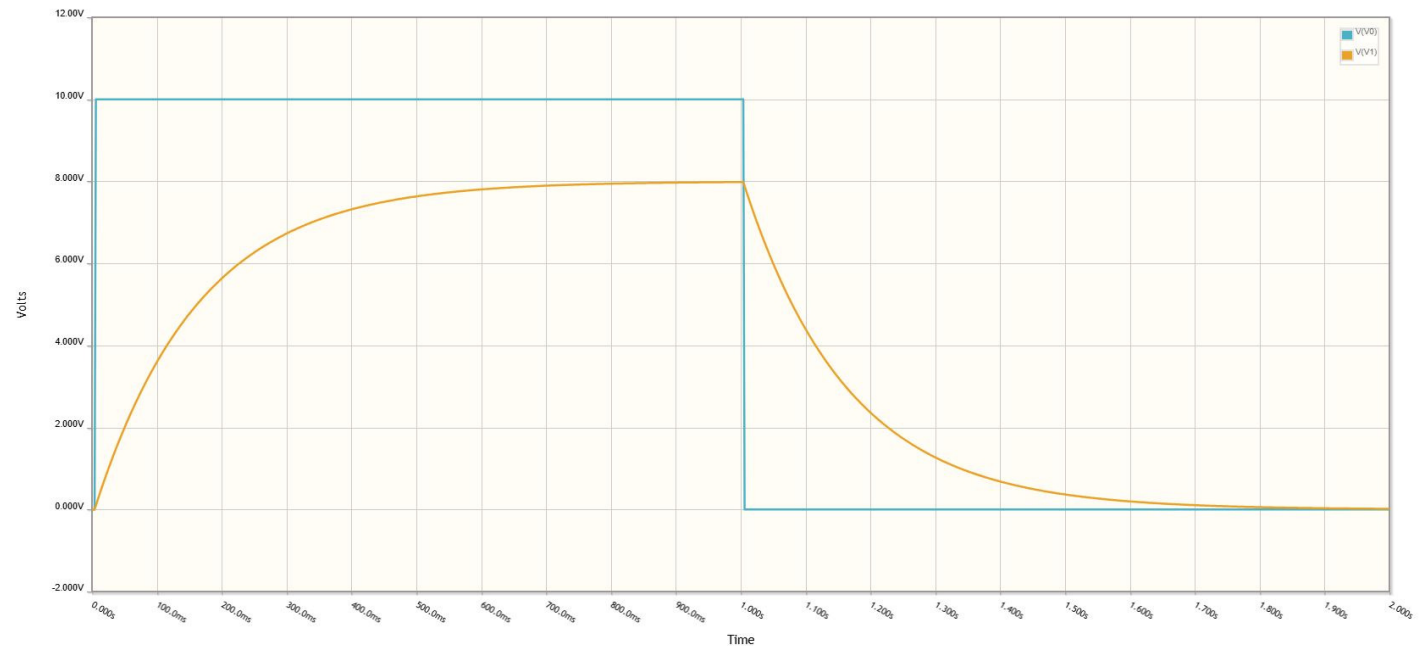
Option #2: Using a periodic input

- 0.5Hz Square wave 5V amplitude
 - Long enough that V1 reaches steady-state
- 5V offset
- 0.1 degree phase shift



Result: Both

- Step response
 - V0 = 10
- Natural response
 - V0 = 0



Differential Equations for $t > 0$

Using the p-operator

$$I_1 = C \frac{dV_1}{dt} = CpV_1$$

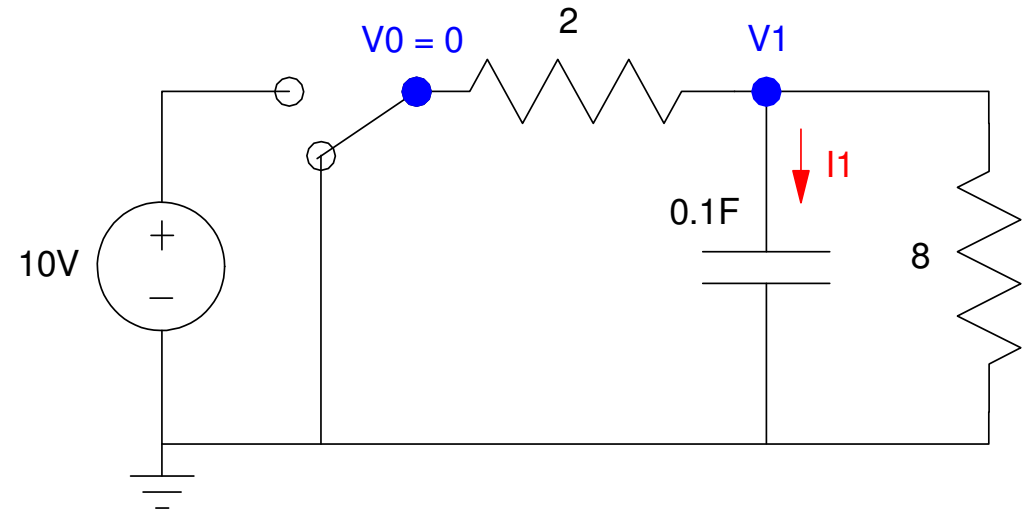
$$Z_c = \frac{V_1}{I_1} = \frac{1}{Cp} = \frac{10}{p}$$

Node equation at V1

$$\left(\frac{V_1 - 0}{2} \right) + \left(\frac{V_1}{10/p} \right) + \left(\frac{V_1}{8} \right) = 0$$

Simplify

$$(p + 6.25)V_1 = 0$$



Initial Conditions

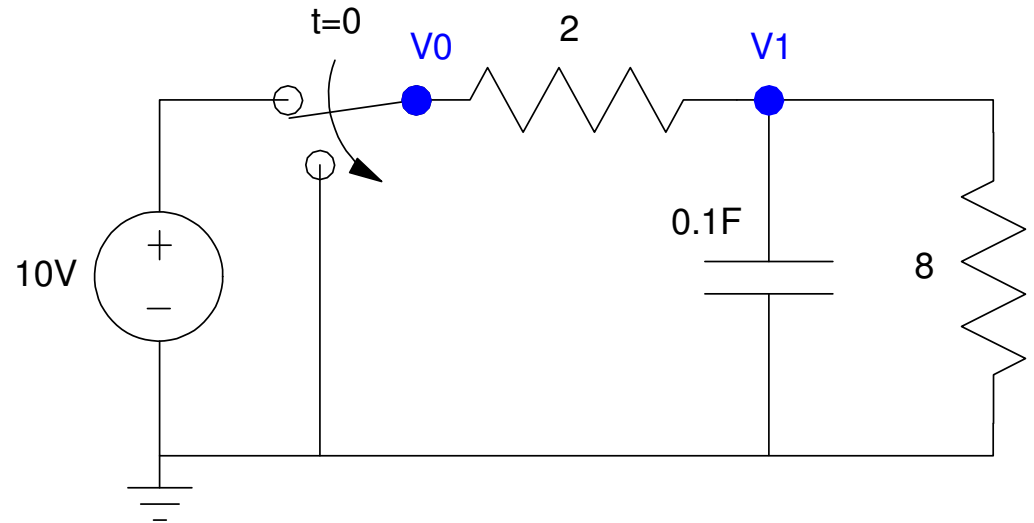
Just prior to $t=0$

- $V_0 = 10$

By voltage division

$$V_1(0) = \left(\frac{8}{8+2} \right) 10$$

$$V_1(0) = 8$$



Natural Response

$$(p + 6.25)V_1 = 0$$

$$V_1(0) = 8$$

$$p = -6.25$$

$$V_1(t) = a \cdot e^{pt}$$

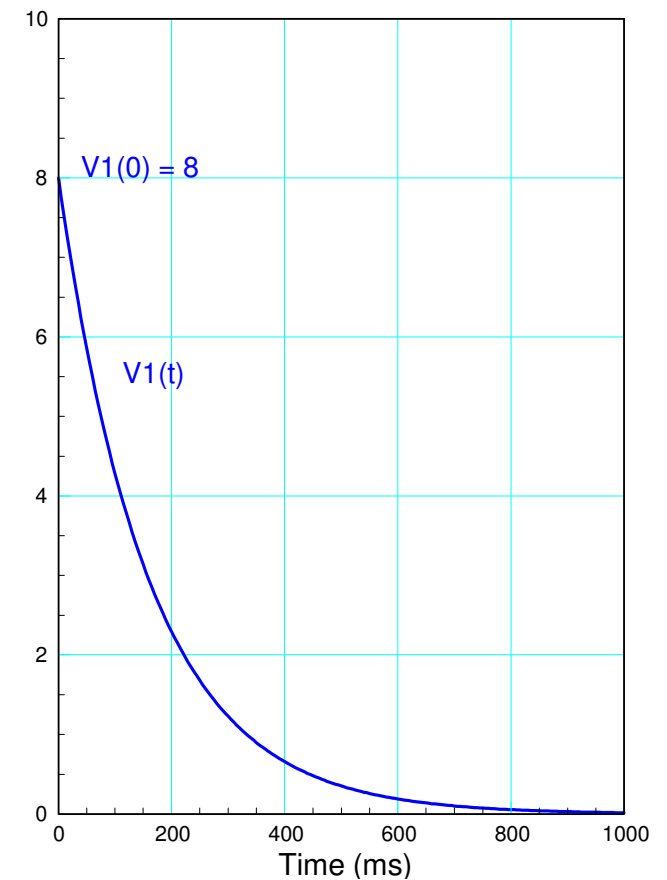
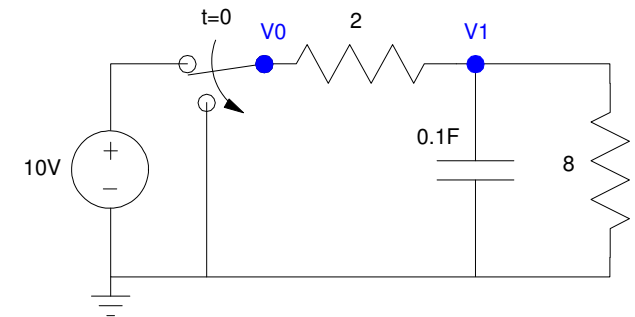
$$V_1(t) = a \cdot e^{-6.25t}$$

Plug in the initial condition

$$a = 8$$

$$V_1(t) = 8e^{-6.25t}$$

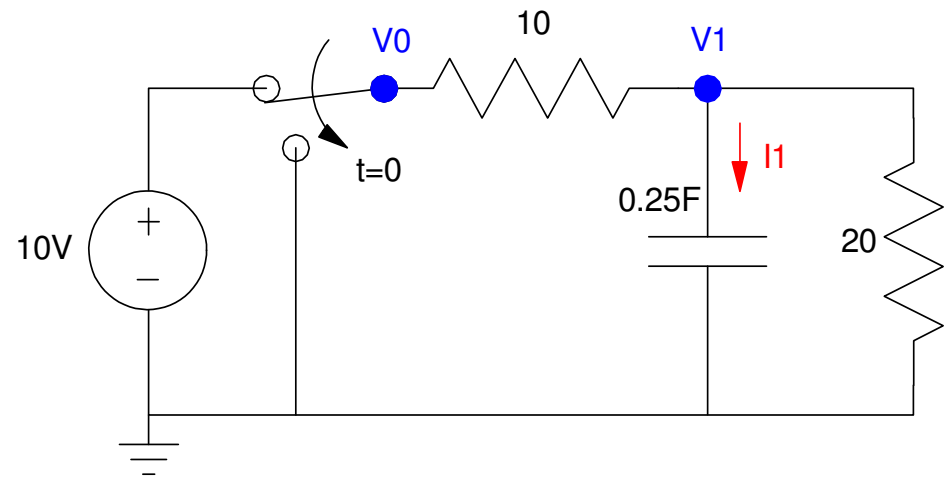
This is the equation for $V_1(t)$



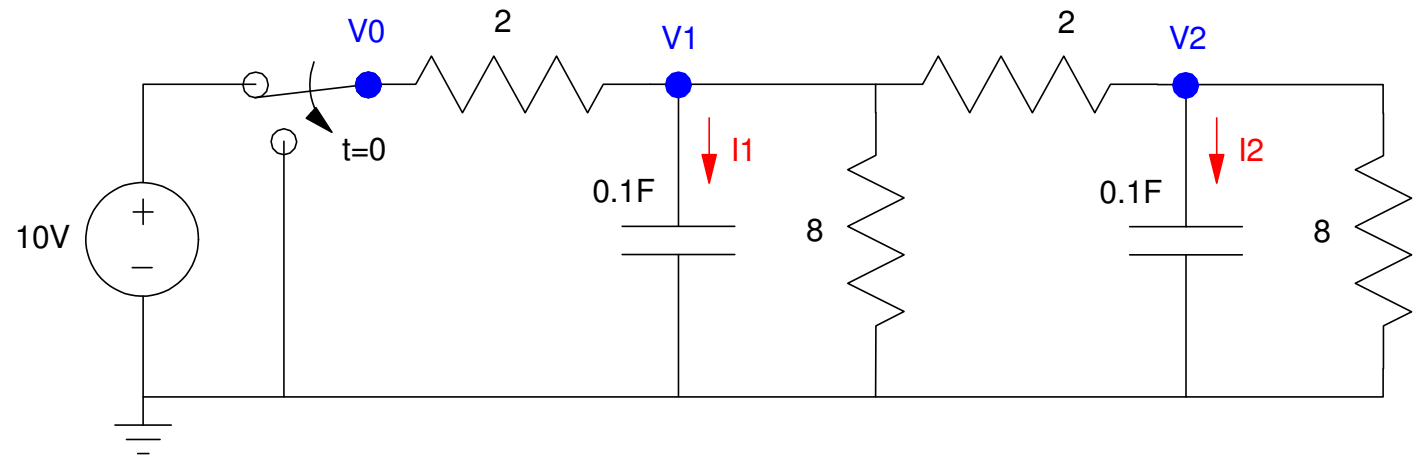
Practice Problem

Find the initial condition, $V_1(0)$

Find the differential equation for V_1

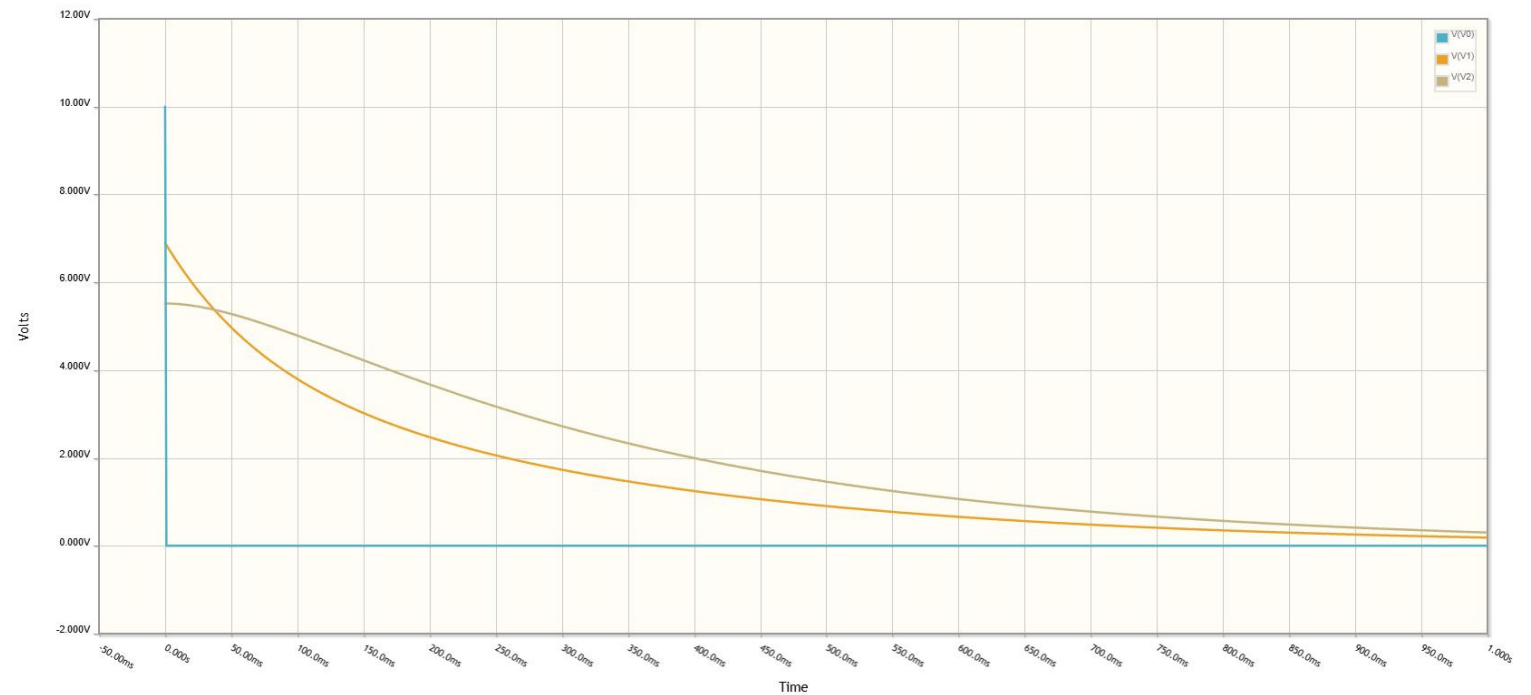
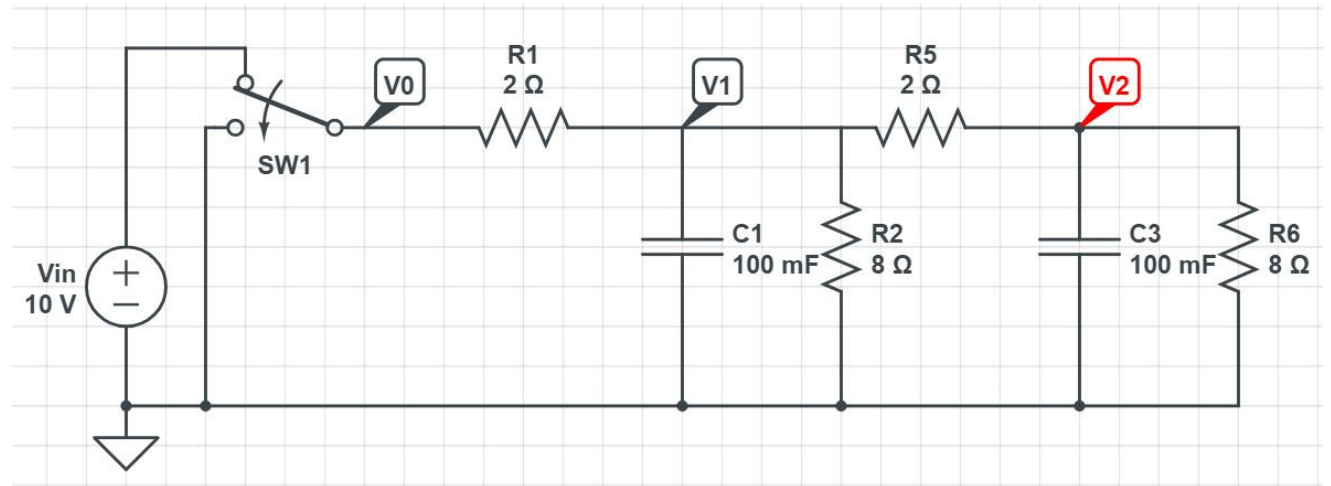


Example 2: 2-Stage RC Circuit



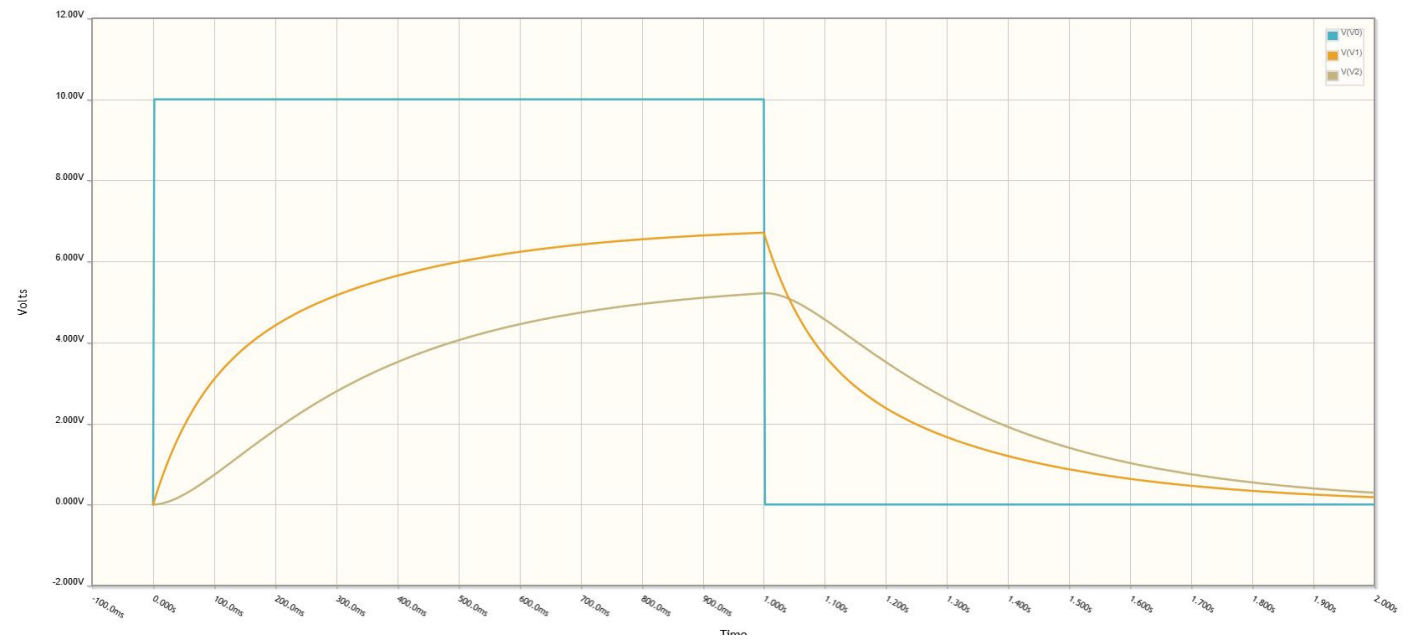
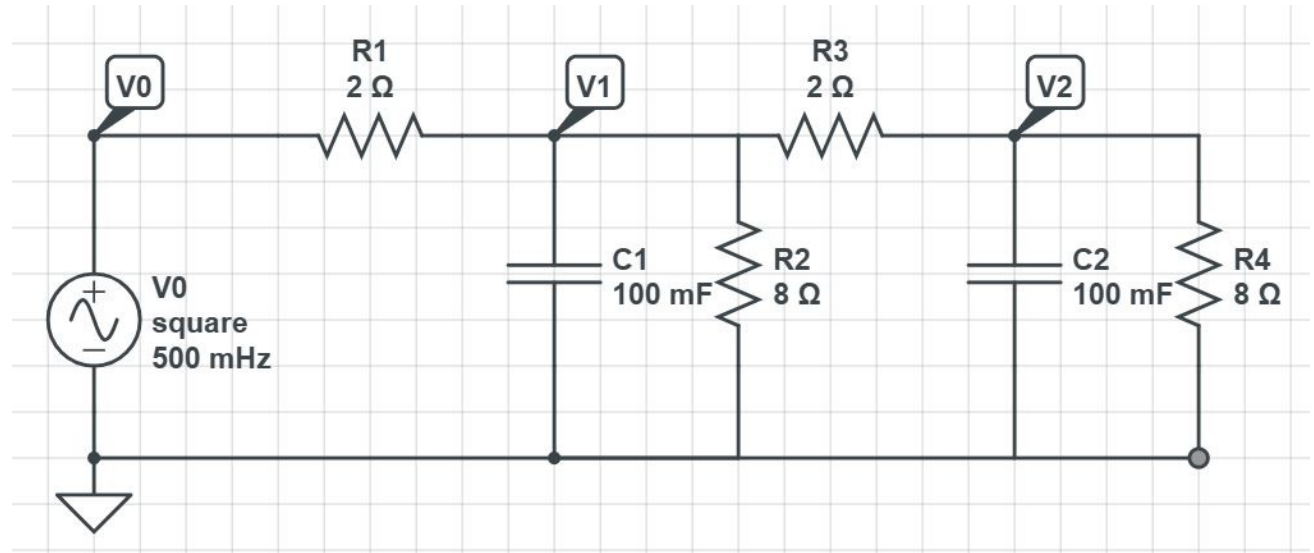
CircuitLab Solution

Version 1



CircuitLab Solution

Version 2



Differential Equations

Voltage node equations

$$\left(\frac{V_1}{2}\right) + \left(\frac{V_1}{10/p}\right) + \left(\frac{V_1}{8}\right) + \left(\frac{V_1 - V_2}{2}\right) = 0$$

$$\left(\frac{V_2 - V_1}{2}\right) + \left(\frac{V_2}{10/p}\right) + \left(\frac{V_2}{8}\right) = 0$$

Do some algebra

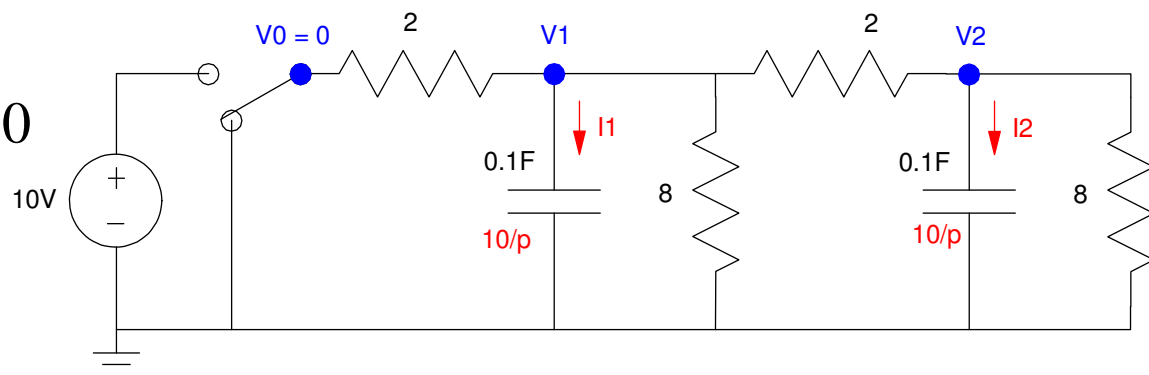
$$(p + 11.25)V_1 - (5)V_2 = 0$$

$$-(5)V_1 + (p + 6.25)V_2 = 0$$

More algebra

$$(p^2 + 18.5p + 45.3125)V_2 = 0$$

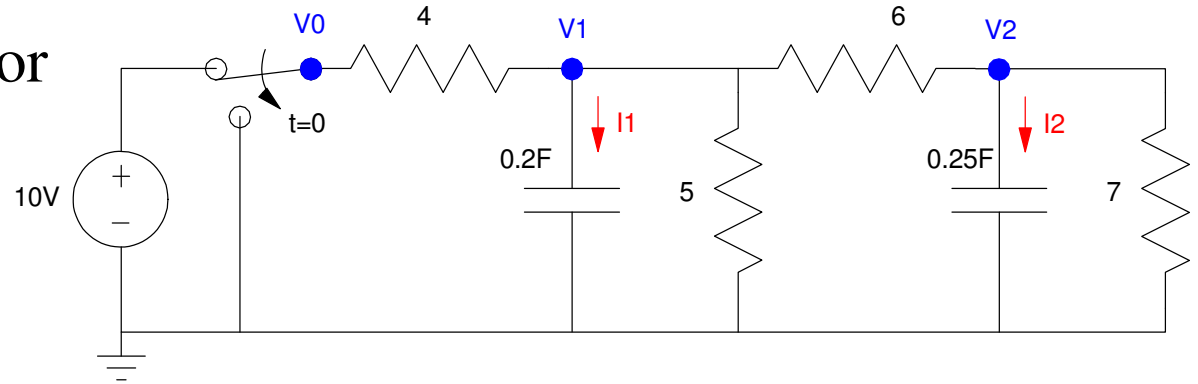
$$(p + 15.7644)(p + 2.7356)V_2 = 0$$



Practice Problem

Find the differential equations for

- V_1'
- V_2'



Practice Problem

Find the differential equation for V_2

$$(p + 3.0833)V_1 - 0.8333V_2 = 0$$

$$(p + 1.2381)V_2 - 0.6667V_1 = 0$$

Initial Conditions

From voltage node equations

- $V_0 = 10.000$
- $V_1 = 6.897$
- $V_2 = 5.517$

Meaning

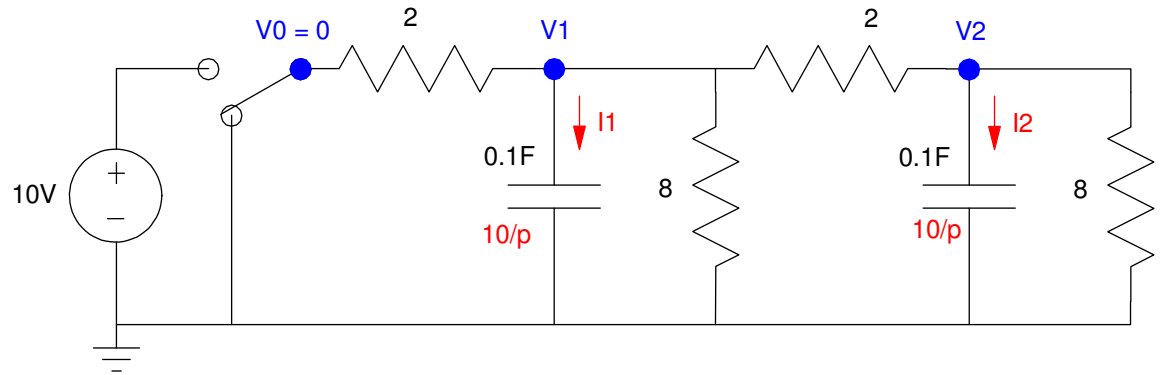
$$V_2(0) = 5.517$$

To find $V_2'(0)$, use the differential equations

$$-(5)V_1 + (p + 6.25)V_2 = 0$$

$$pV_2 = 5V_1 - 6.25V_2 = 0$$

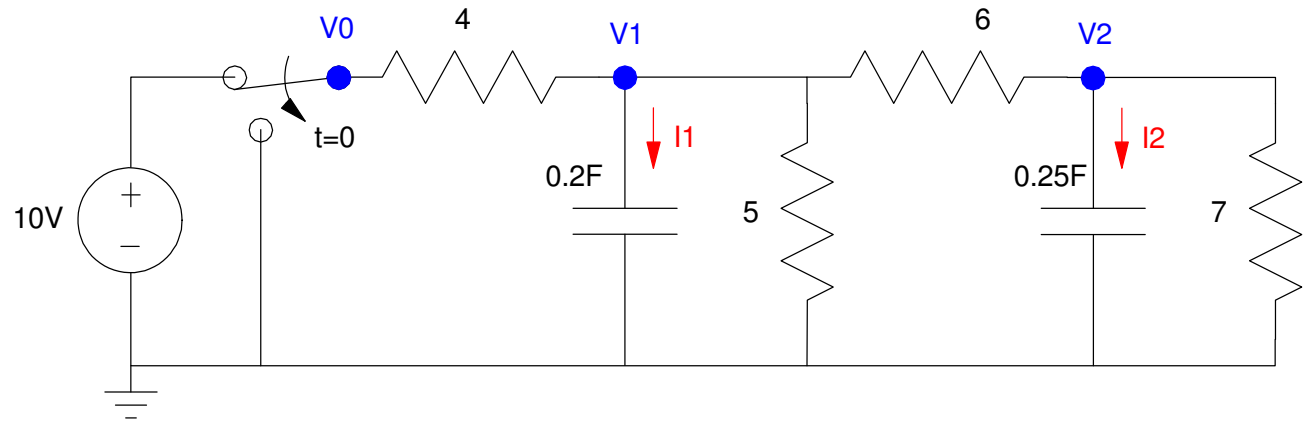
$$V_2'(0) = 0$$



Practice Problem

Find the initial conditions

- $V_1(0)$
- $V_2(0)$



Practice Problem

Find the initial conditions

- $V_1'(0)$
- $V_2'(0)$

Assume

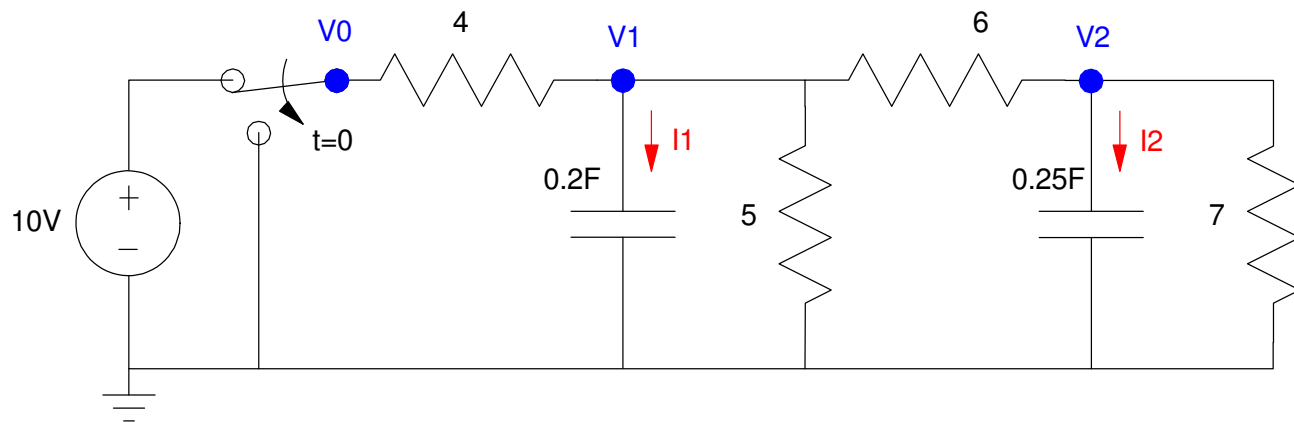
$$pV_1 = -3.0833V_1 + 0.8333V_2$$

$$pV_2 = 0.6667V_1 - 1.2381V_2$$

Also

$$V_1(0) = 5.000V$$

$$V_2(0) = 2.917V$$



Natural Response for $V_2(t)$

$$(p + 15.7644)(p + 2.7356)V_2 = 0$$

Meaning

$$V_2(t) = ae^{-2.7356t} + be^{-15.7644t}$$

Plug in the initial conditions

$$V_2(0) = 5.517 = a + b$$

$$V_2'(0) = 0 = -2.7356a - 15.7644b$$

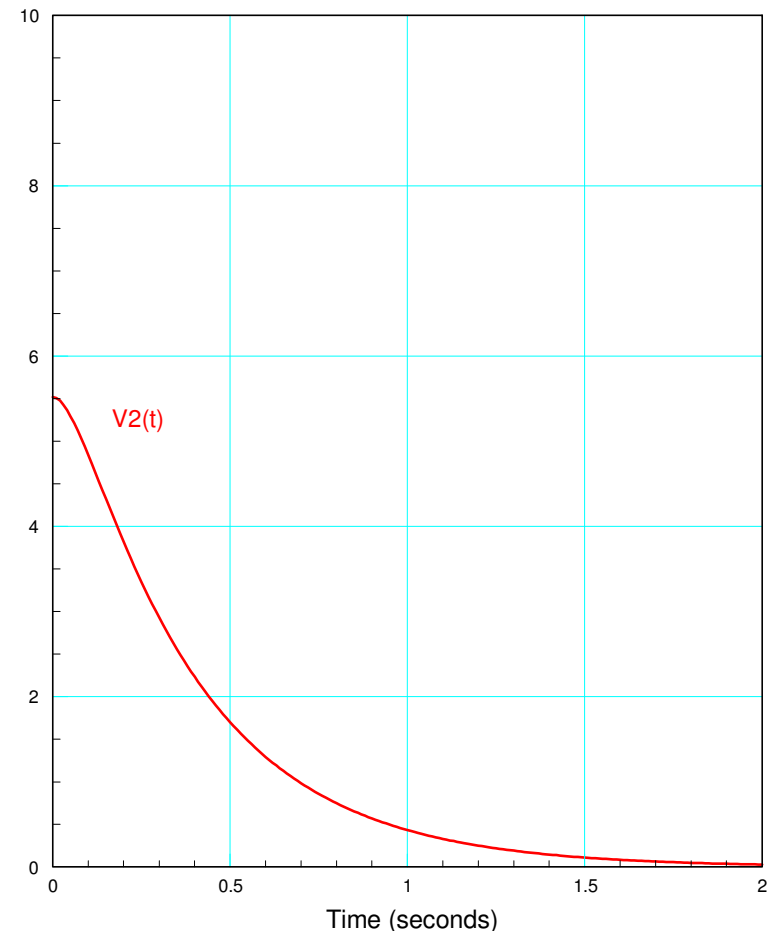
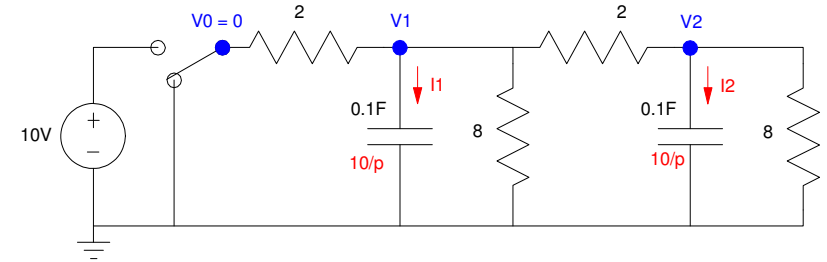
Solving

$$a = 6.6754$$

$$b = -1.1584$$

and

$$V_2(t) = 6.6754e^{-2.7356t} - 1.1584e^{-15.7644t}$$



Natural Response for V1(t)

The energy dissipates the same at V1

$$V_1(t) = ae^{-2.7356t} + be^{-15.7644t}$$

Initial Conditions:

$$V_1(0) = 6.897V$$

$$(p + 11.25)V_1 - (5)V_2 = 0$$

$$pV_1 = -11.25V_1 + 5V_2$$

$$pV_1(0) = -50$$

Plug in the initial conditions

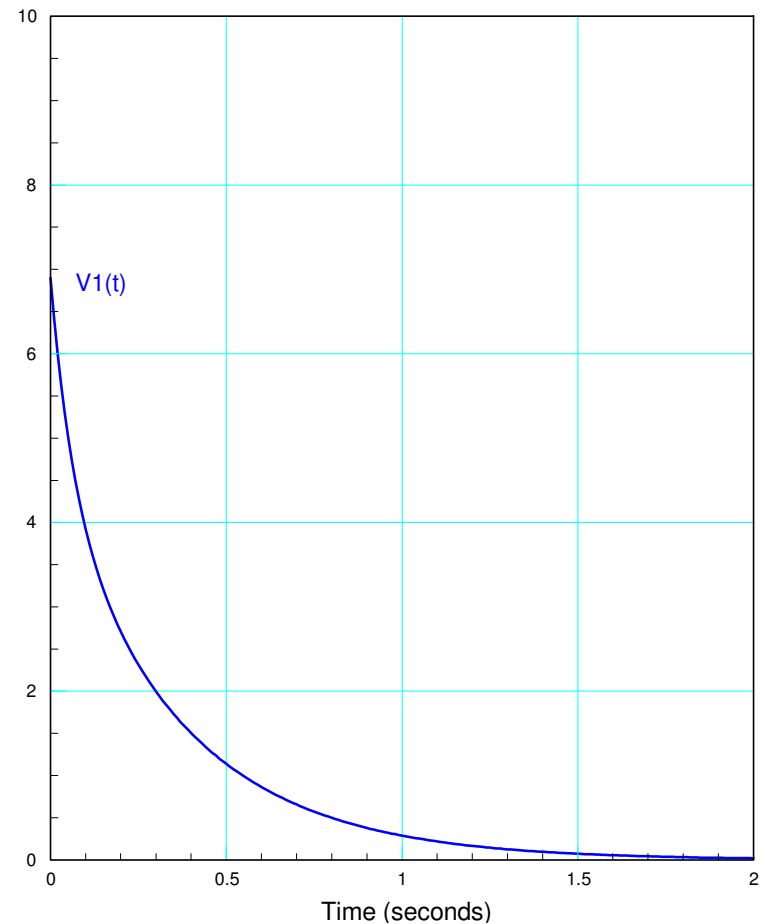
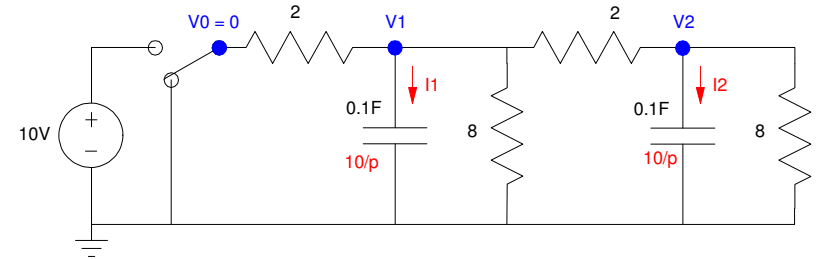
$$V_1(0) = 6.897 = a + b$$

$$V_1'(0) = -50 = -2.7356a - 15.7644b$$

Gives

$$a = 4.5075$$

$$b = 2.3895$$

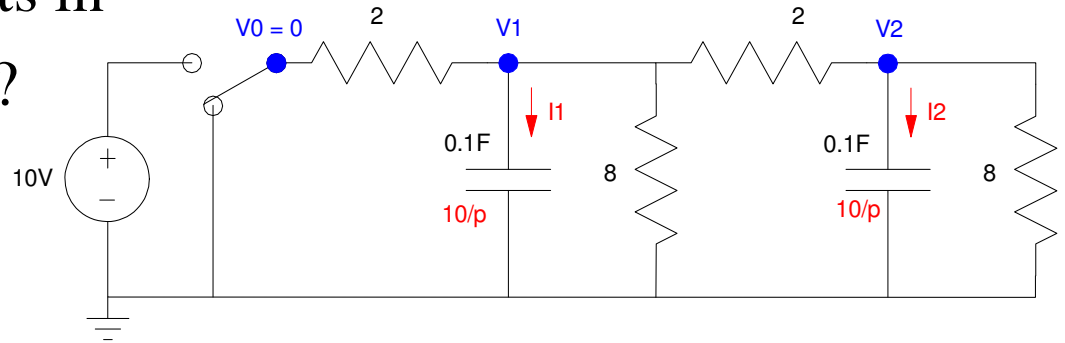


Eigenvalues & Eigenvectors

Assume $V_2(0) = 10V$

What initial condition of $V_1(0)$ results in

- $V_2(t)$ decaying as fast as possible?
- As slow as possible?
- How fast does $V_1(t)$ decay?



What happens if $V_1(0) = 1$?

This is an eigenvalue / eigenvector problem

Eigenvalues & Eigenvectors (cont'd)

First, write the differential equations

$$(p + 11.25)V_1 - (5)V_2 = 0$$

$$-(5)V_1 + (p + 6.25)V_2 = 0$$

Solve for the derivatives

$$pV_1 = -11.25V_1 + 5V_2$$

$$pV_2 = 5V_1 - 6.25V_2$$

Place in matrix form

$$\begin{bmatrix} pV_1 \\ pV_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -11.25 & 5 \\ 5 & -6.25 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} V_1 \\ V_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$pV = AV$$

In Matlab,

Find the eigenvalues and eigenvectors

This is a second-order system

- Two capacitors

It has two eigenvalues

- *how* the system behaves

It has two eigenvectors

- *what* behaves that way

Matlab Code

```
>> A = [-11.25, 5 ; 5, -6.25]
```

```
    -11.2500    5.0000  
     5.0000   -6.2500
```

```
>> [M,N] = eig(A)
```

```
eigenvectors
```

```
V1    -0.8507    -0.5257  
V2     0.5257   -0.8507
```

```
eigenvalues
```

```
   -14.3402    -3.1598
```

Fast Mode

Make the initial condition the fast mode

- The system will decay as $\exp(-14.34t)$

```
>> V0 = M(:,1)
```

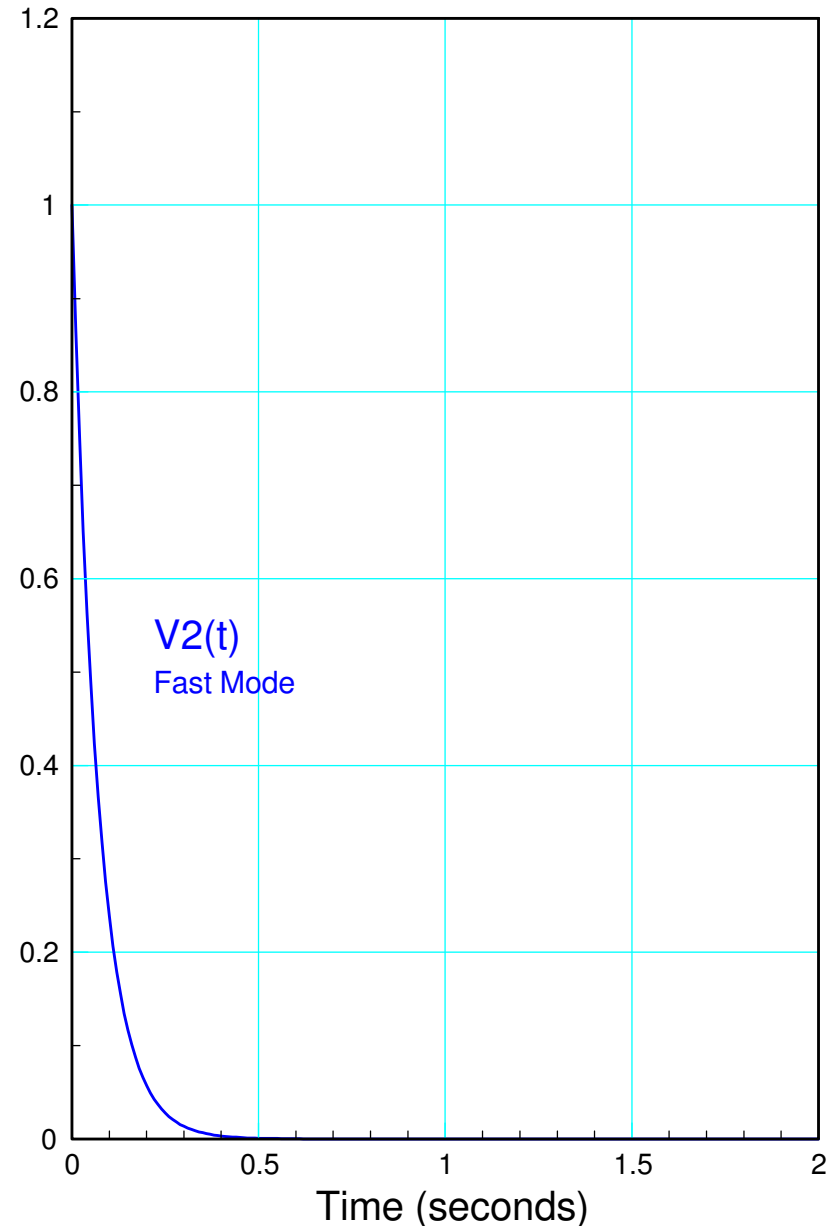
```
-0.8507  
0.5257
```

```
>> V0 = V0 / V0(2)
```

```
V1    -1.6180  
V2     1.0000
```

```
>> N(1,1)
```

```
-14.3402
```



Slow Mode

Make the initial condition the slow mode

- The system will decay as $\exp(-3.15t)$

```
>> V0 = M(:,2)
```

```
-0.5257
```

```
-0.8507
```

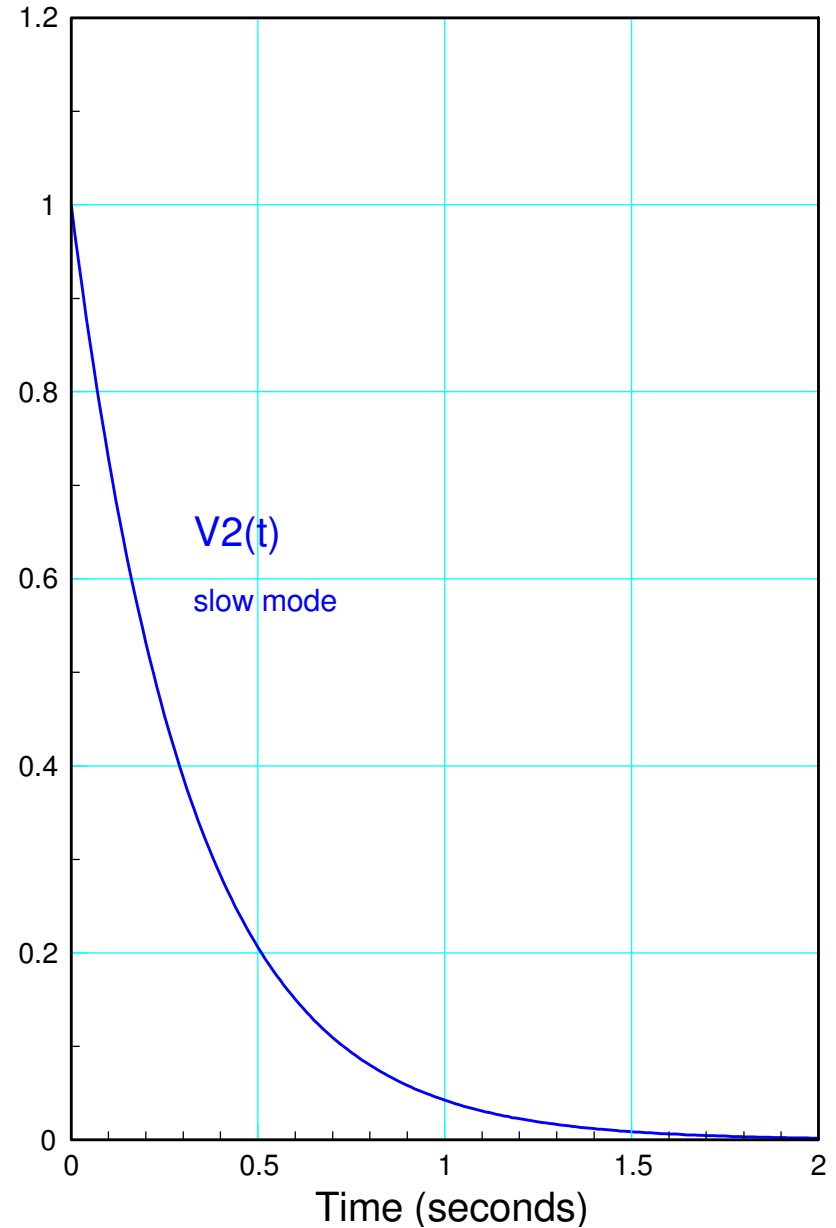
```
>> V0 = V0 / V0(2)
```

```
V1    0.6180
```

```
V2    1.0000
```

```
>> N(2,2)
```

```
-3.1598
```



What if V1(0)=1?

The eigenvectors & eigenvalues determine V(t)

$$\begin{bmatrix} v_1(t) \\ v_2(t) \end{bmatrix} = a \begin{bmatrix} -0.8507 \\ 0.5257 \end{bmatrix} e^{-14.34t} + b \begin{bmatrix} -0.5257 \\ -0.8507 \end{bmatrix} e^{-3.16t}$$

If

- $V_1(0) = V_2(0) = 1$

'a' and 'b' are found using the eigenvectors (M)

```
>> IC = [1;1]
```

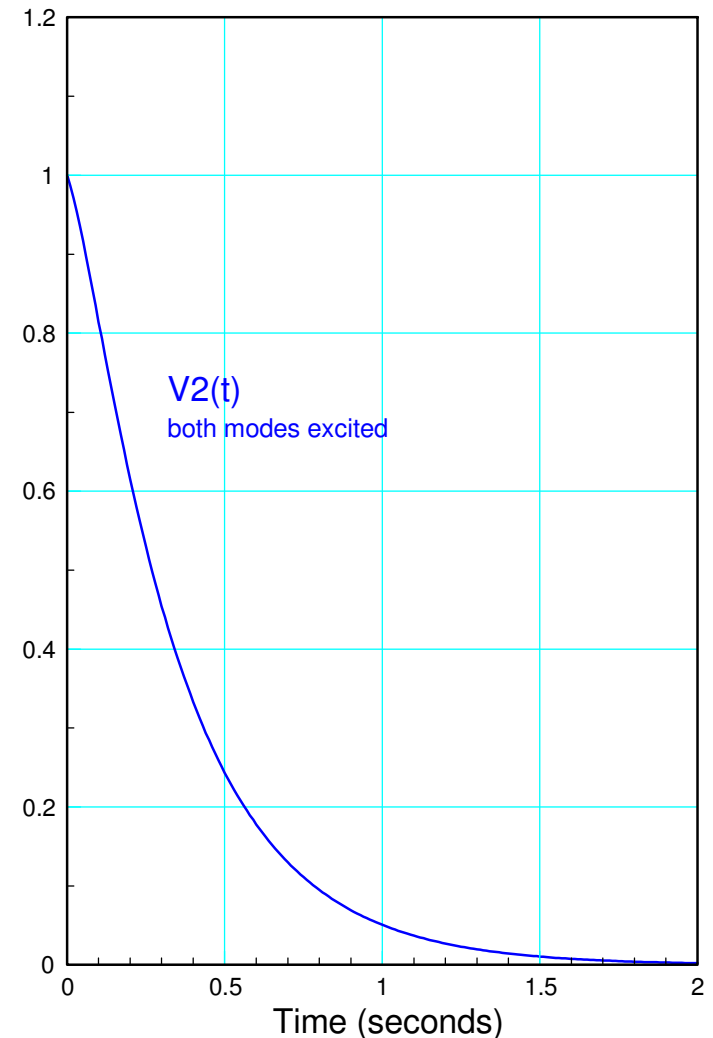
```
1  
1
```

```
>> inv(M)*IC
```

```
a    -0.3249
```

```
b    -1.3764
```

$$v_2(t) = a \cdot 0.5257 \cdot e^{-14.34t} + b \cdot (-0.8507) \cdot e^{-3.16t}$$



Summary

The natural response of an RC filter is the response when

- The capacitors have an initial voltage and
- The input turns off.

The natural response can be found using

- The differential equation that describe the circuit
 - p-operators are useful here
- The initial conditions at $t=0$