
Natural Response of RL Circuits

ECE 211 Circuits I
Lecture #36

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

Last Lecture

Looked at finding the natural response for

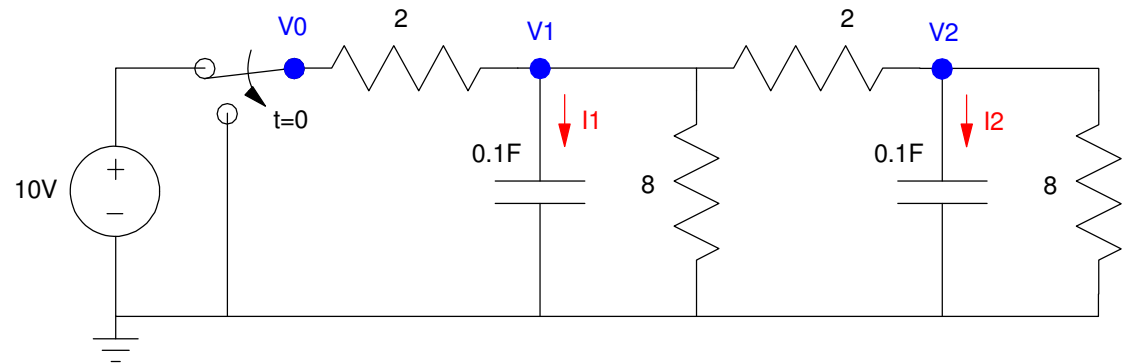
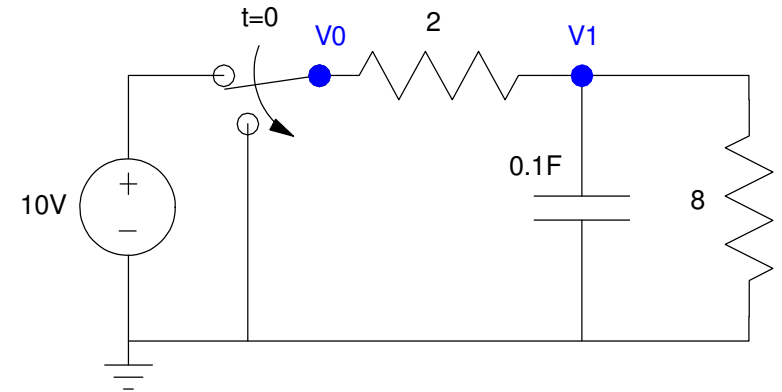
- 1-stage RC circuits and
- 2-stage RC circuits

The procedure was to

- Find the initial conditions
- Find the differential equations
 - Use the p-operator
 - Impedance of C is $1/Cp$

Then solve

- Using CircuitLab
- Using calculus
- Using eigenvalues & eigenvectors



This Lecture

Find the natural response for

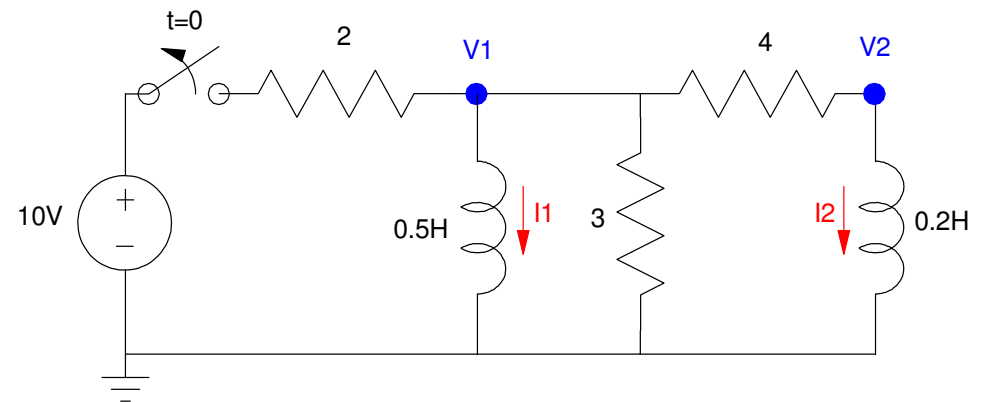
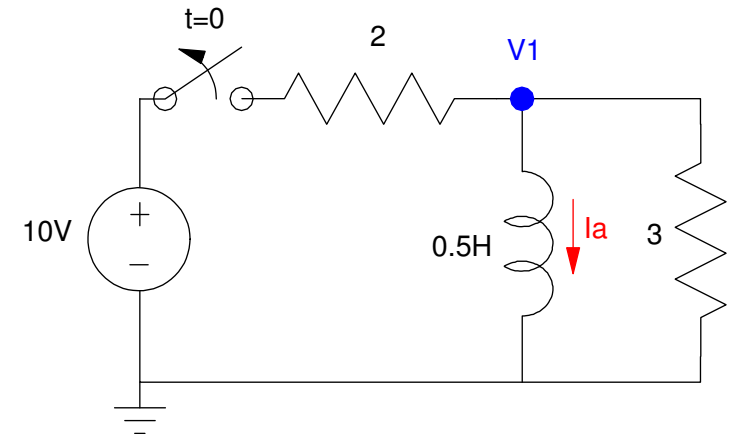
- 1-stage RL circuits and
- 2-stage RL circuits

The procedure will be

- Find the initial conditions
- Find the differential equations
 - Use the p-operator
 - Impedance of L is Lp

Then solve

- Using CircuitLab
- Using calculus
- Using eigenvalues & eigenvectors



Inductor VI characteristics

For capacitors

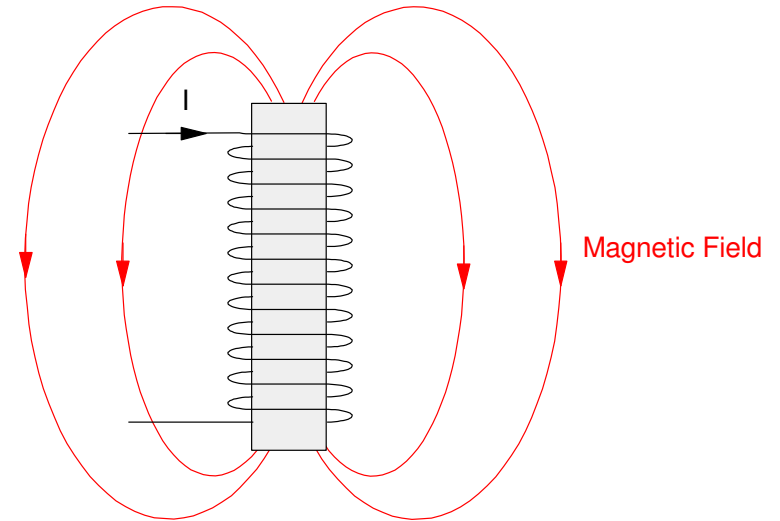
$$i = C \frac{dV}{dt}$$

For inductors:

$$v = L \frac{di}{dt}$$

This means that

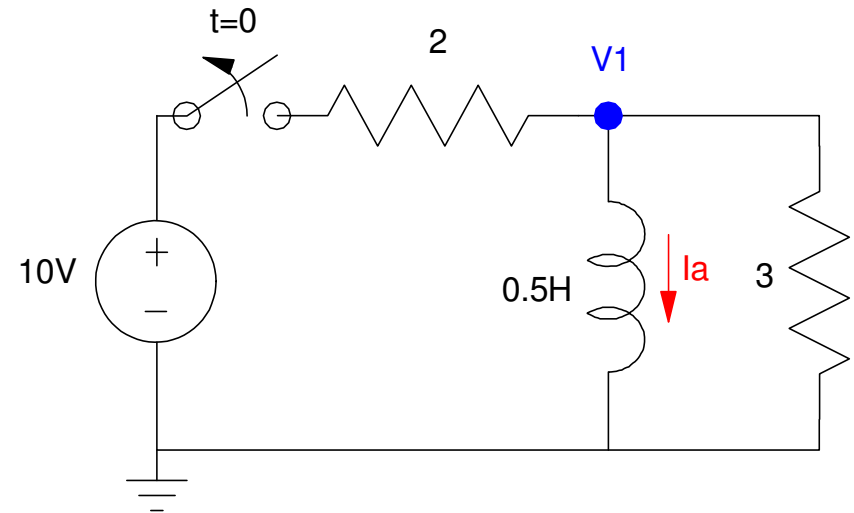
- Each inductor adds a 1st-order differential equation
- A circuit with N inductors is described by an Nth-order differential equation



1-Stage RL Circuit

For this circuit, find

- The initial condition
 - $I_a(0)$
- The differential equation
 - Use the p-operator
- The solution to
 - $I_a(t)$
 - $V_1(t)$

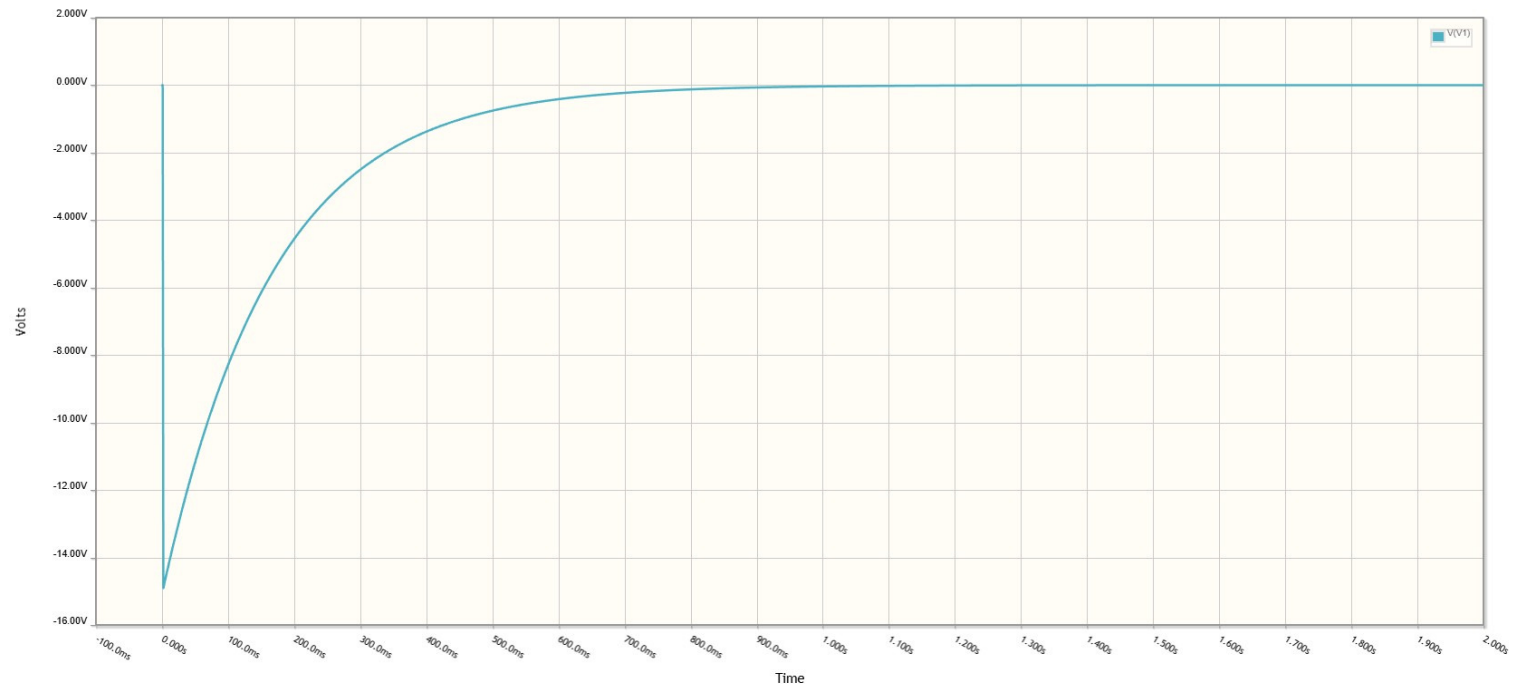
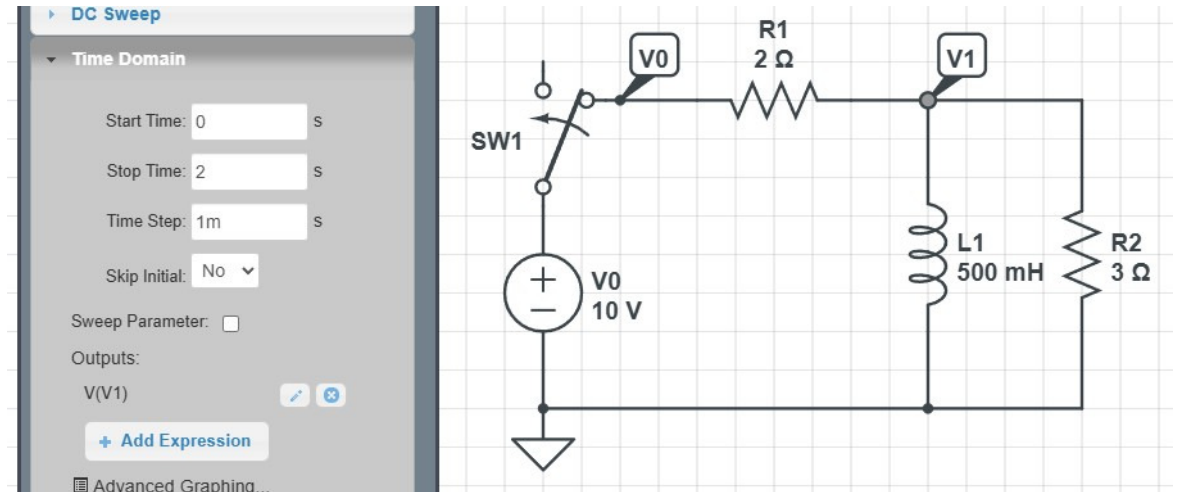


CircuitLab

SW1 opens at $t=0$

$V1(t)$

- jumps to -15V
- then decays to 0V



Initial Condition

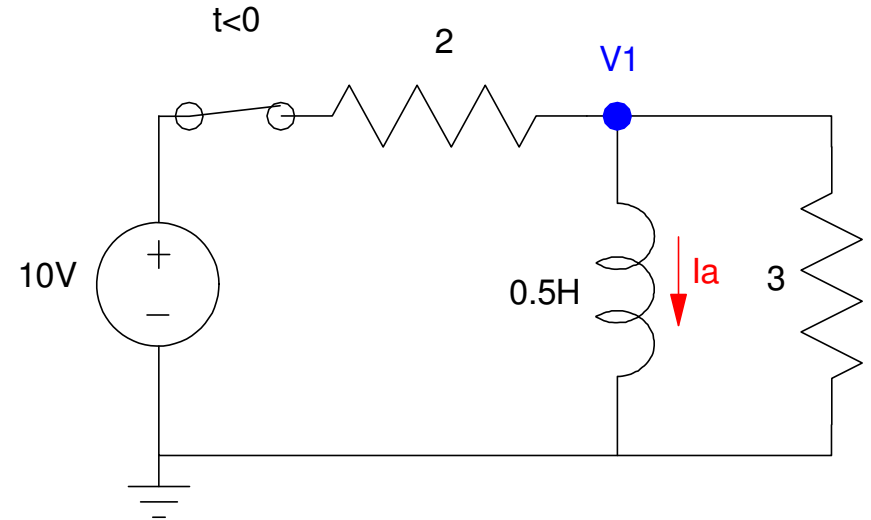
For $t < 0$, the switch is closed

Inductors are shorts at DC

- $V = L \frac{dI}{dt}$
- If $I_a(t)$ is a constant
- $V_1(t) = 0$

Then

$$I_a(0) = \left(\frac{10V - 0V}{2\Omega} \right) = 5A$$



Differential Equation

For $t > 0$, write the current-loop equations

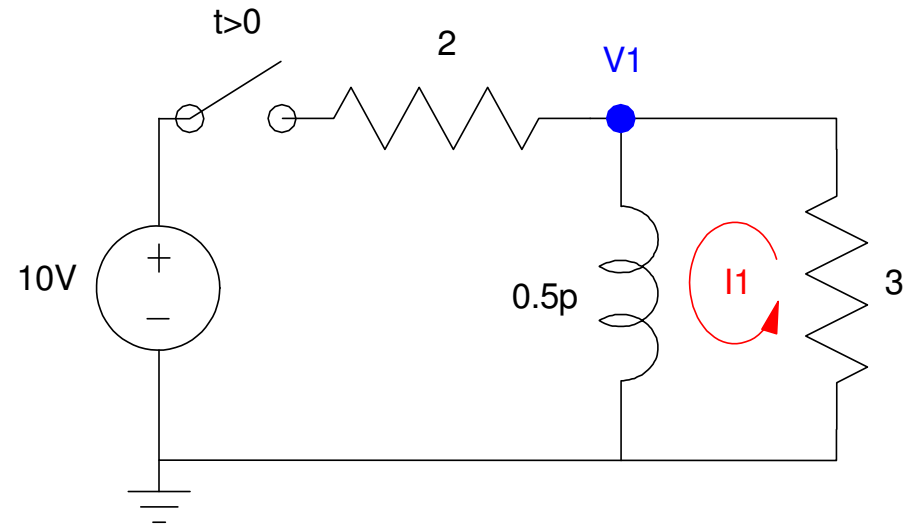
- Replace L with L_p
- Write the current-loop equation

$$(0.5p)I_1 + (3)I_1 = 0$$

Simplify

$$(0.5p + 3)I_1 = 0$$

$$(p + 6)I_1 = 0$$



$I_1(t)$

From

$$(p + 6)I_1 = 0$$

$$I_1(0) = 5$$

you get

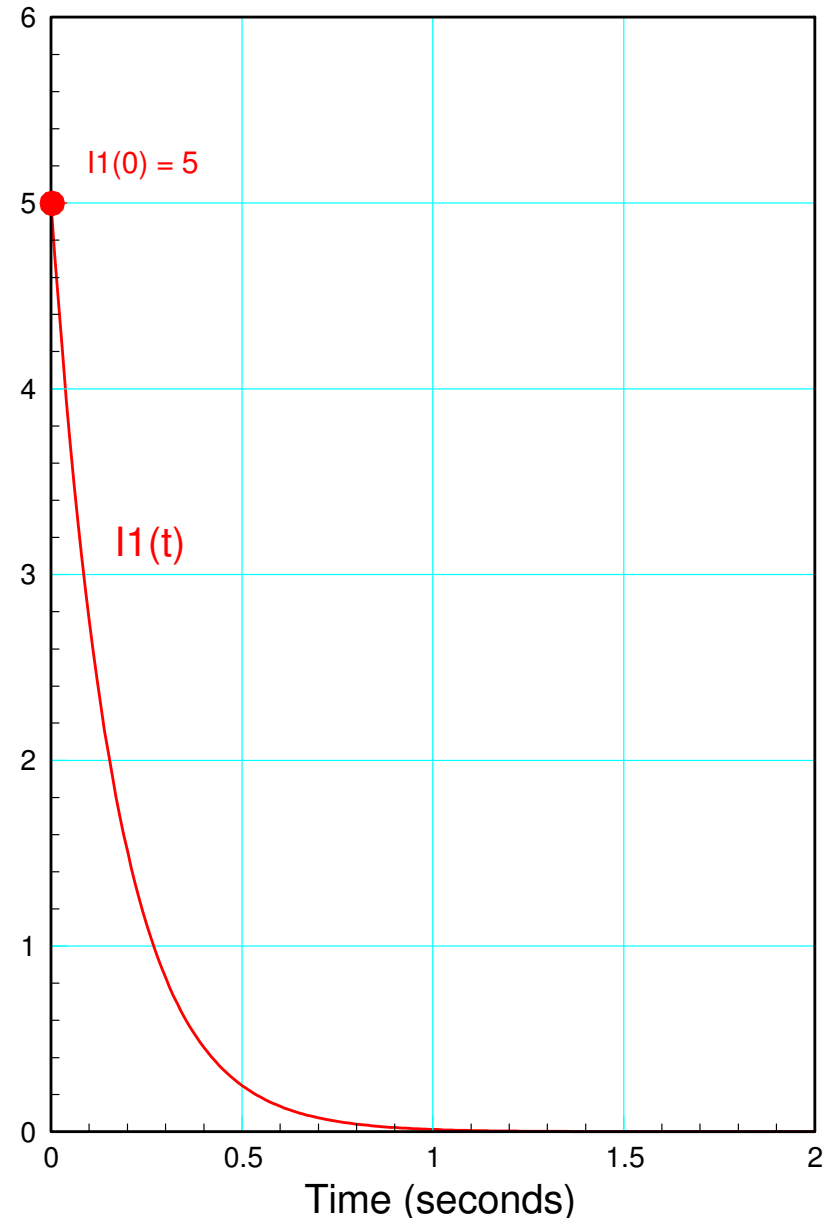
$$p = -6$$

$$I_1(t) = ae^{-6t}$$

$$I_1(0) = 5 = a$$

so

$$I_1(t) = 5e^{-6t}$$



V1(t)

For this circuit

$$V_1 = -3I_1$$

$$V_1(t) = -15e^{-6t}$$

You can also find this as

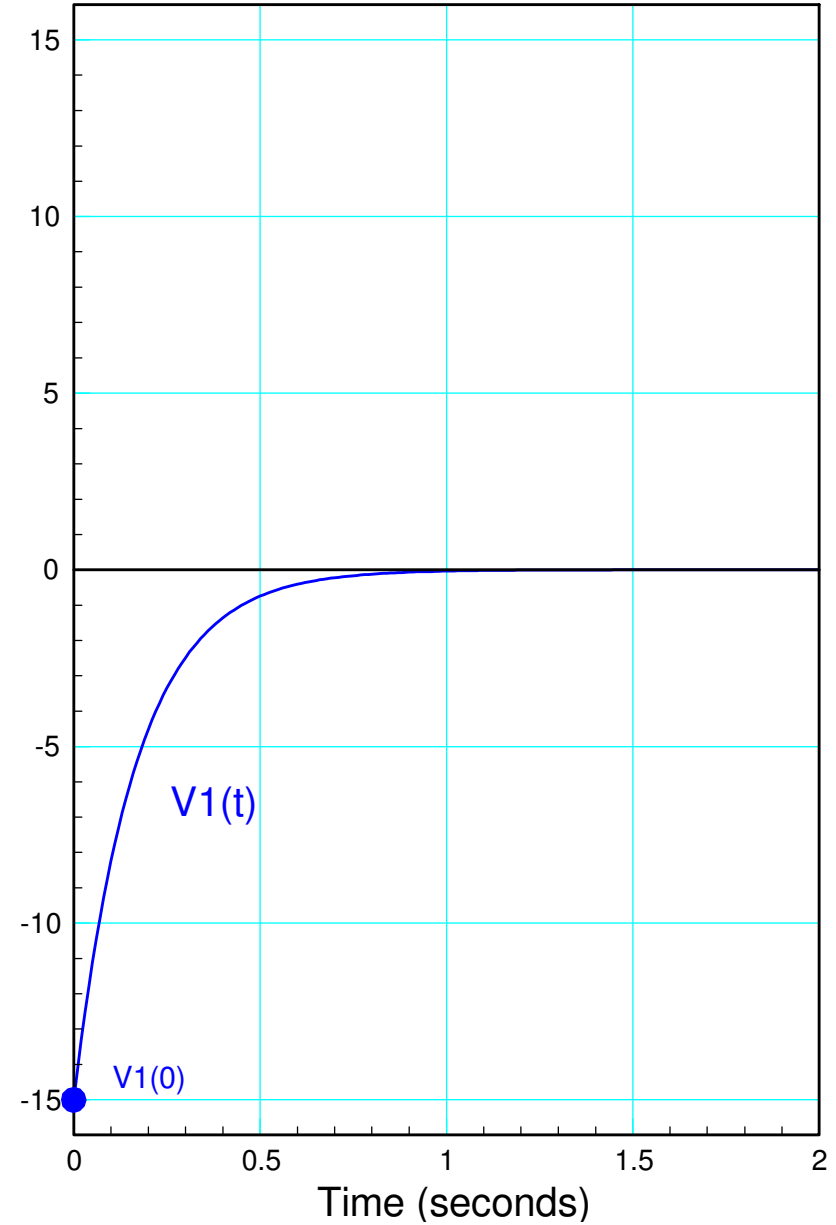
$$V = L \frac{dI}{dt}$$

$$V_1(t) = 0.5 \cdot \frac{d}{dt}(5e^{-6t})$$

$$V_1(t) = -15e^{-6t}$$

Note that 10V in produced -15V out

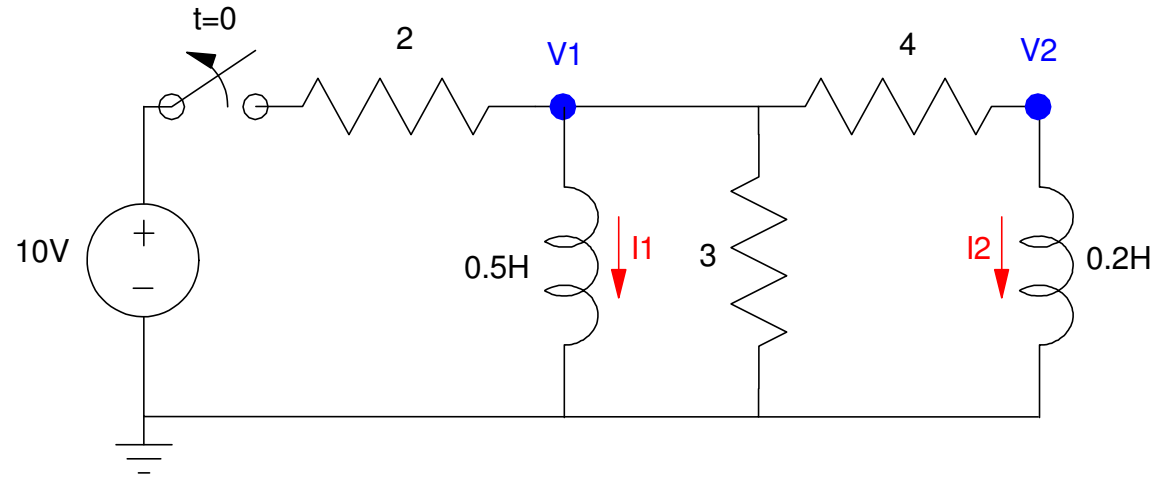
- Voltage inversion
- Voltage amplification
- Useful for changing DC voltages
 - Covered in Electronics



2-Stage RL Circuit

For this circuit, find

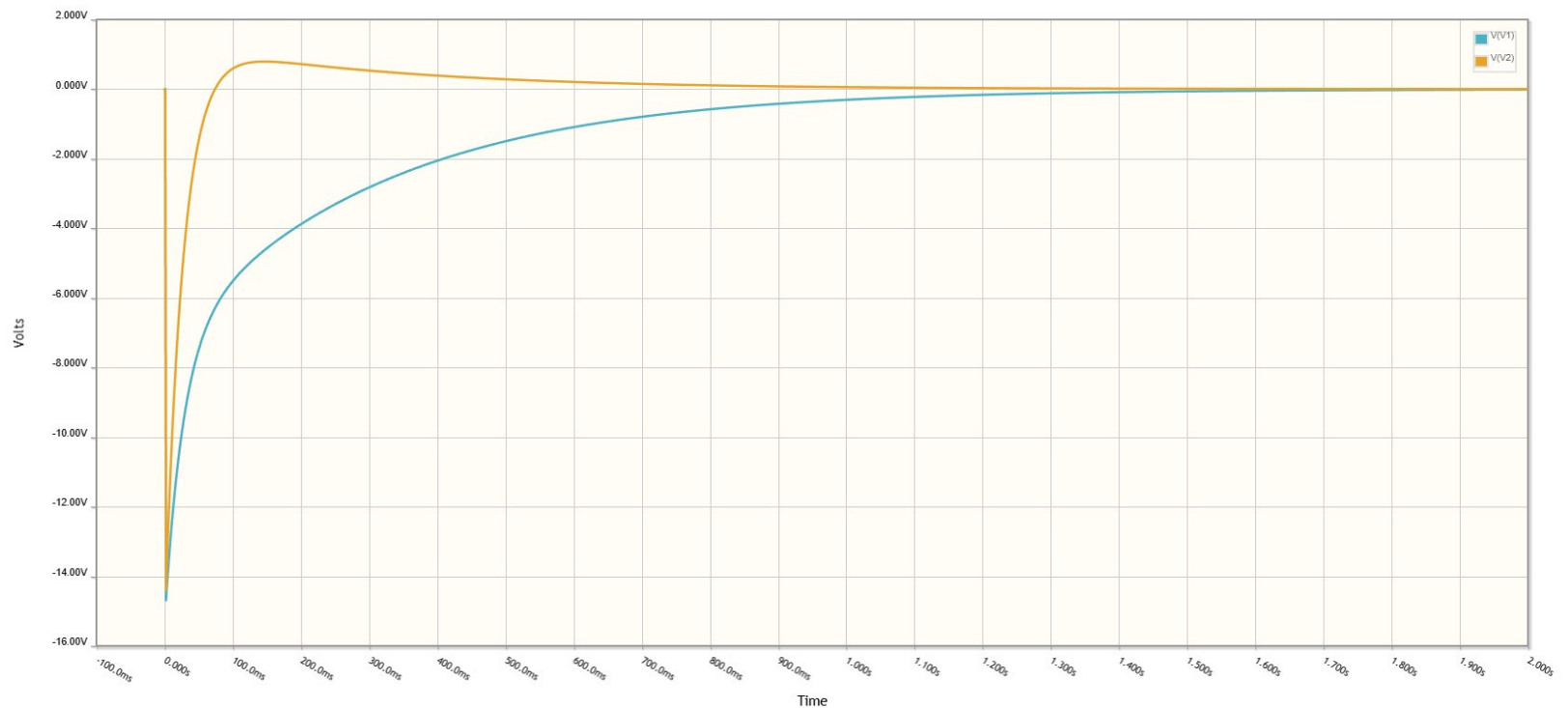
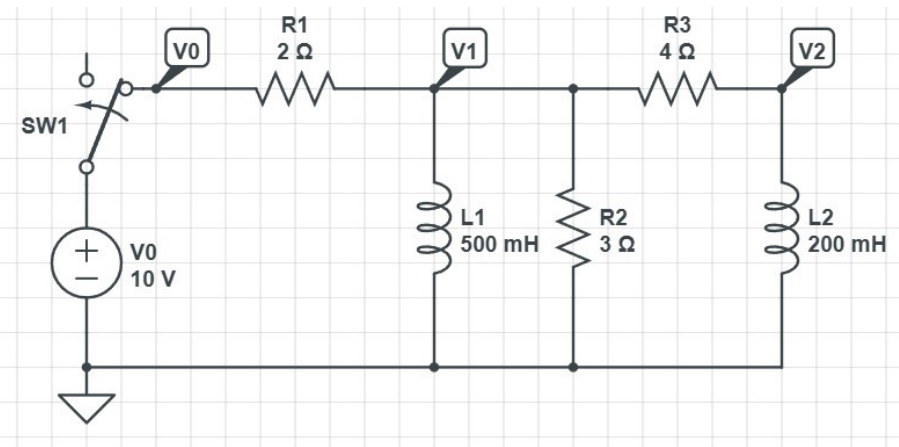
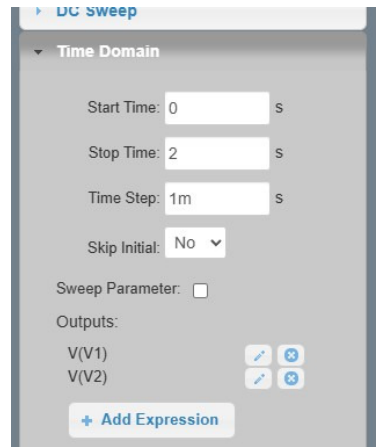
- The initial condition
 - $I_a(0)$, $I_b(0)$
- The differential equation
 - Use the p-operator
- The solution to
 - $I_b(t)$
 - $V_2(t)$



CircuitLab Solution

V2(t) (orange line)

- Jumps to -15V
- Bounces up to +0.8V
- Then goes to zero

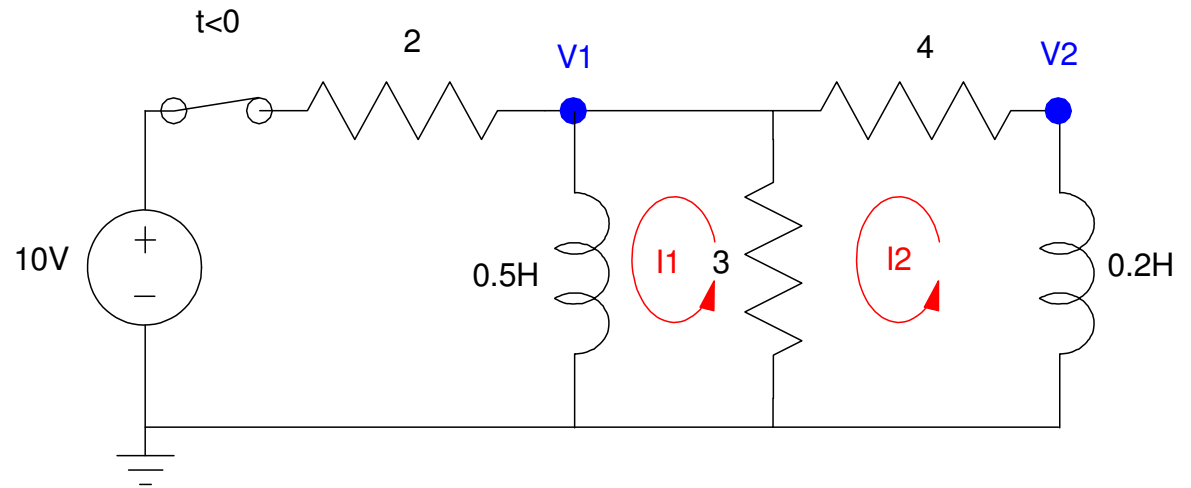


Initial Conditions

- $V1(0) = 0$
 - At DC, inductors are shorts
- $V2(0) = 0$

Meaning

- $I1(0) = 5A$
- $I2(0) = 0A$



Differential Equations

Use the p-operator

- L becomes Lp

Write the loop equations

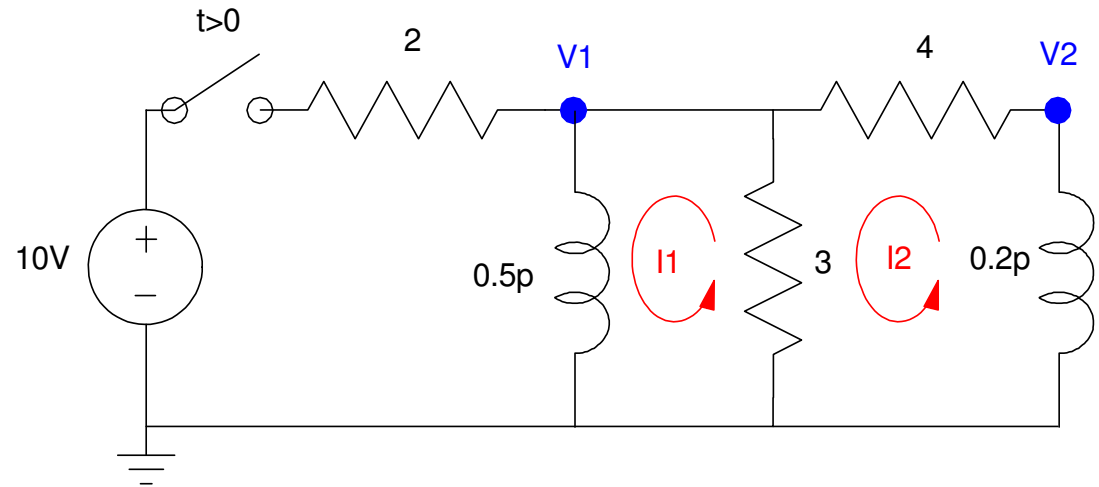
$$0.5p(I_1) + 3(I_1 - I_2) = 0$$

$$3(I_2 - I_1) + 4(I_2) + 0.2p(I_2) = 0$$

or

$$(0.5p + 3)I_1 - (3)I_2 = 0$$

$$-(3)I_1 + (0.2p + 7)I_2 = 0$$



Do some algebra

$$(0.5p + 3)I_1 - (3)I_2 = 0$$

$$-(3)I_1 + (0.2p + 7)I_2 = 0$$

simplifies to

$$(p^2 + 41p + 120)I_2 = 0$$

$$(p + 3.17)(p + 37.12)I_2 = 0$$

This tells you

$$p = \{-3.17, -37.12\}$$

and that $I_2(t)$ is of the form

$$I_2(t) = ae^{-3.17t} + be^{-37.12t}$$

Initial Conditions

- $I_1(0) = 5$
- $I_2(0) = 0$

From the differential equation

$$-(3)I_1 + (0.2p + 7)I_2 = 0$$

you get

$$pI_2 = 15I_1 - 35I_2$$

$$I_2(0) = 0$$

$$pI_2(0) = I_2'(0) = 75$$

Solve for 'a' and 'b'

$$I_2(t) = ae^{-3.17t} + be^{-37.83t}$$

$$I_2(0) = 0 = a + b$$

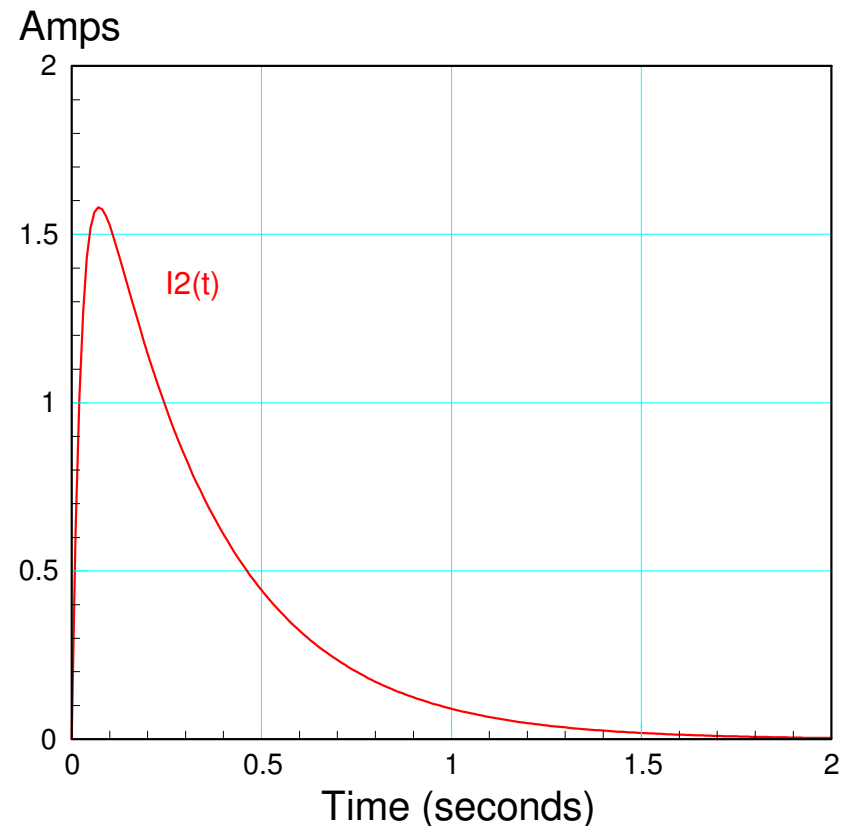
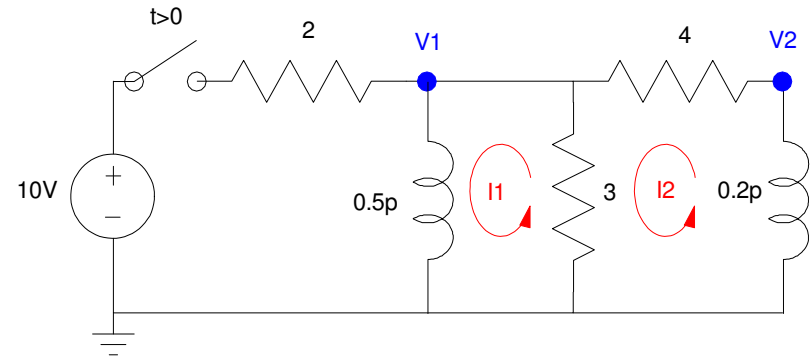
$$I_2'(0) = 75 = -3.17a - 37.12b$$

This gives

- $a = 2.164$
- $b = -2.164$

or

$$I_2(t) = 2.164e^{-3.17t} - 2.164e^{-37.83t}$$



Finding $V_2(t)$

Note that

$$I_2(t) = 2.164e^{-3.17t} - 2.164e^{-37.83t}$$

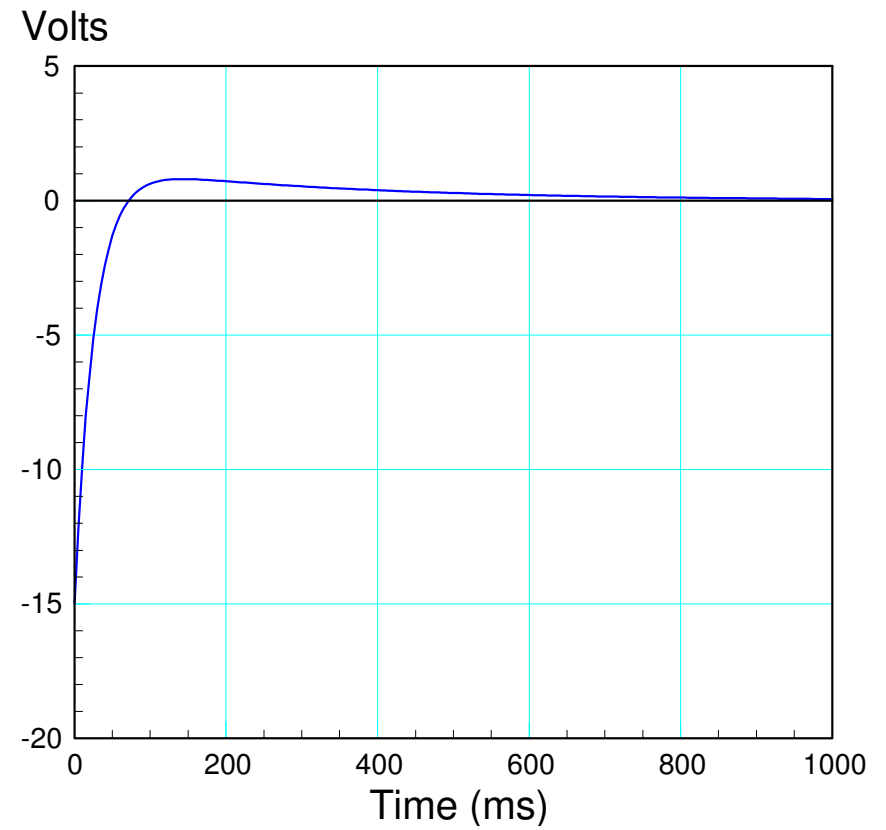
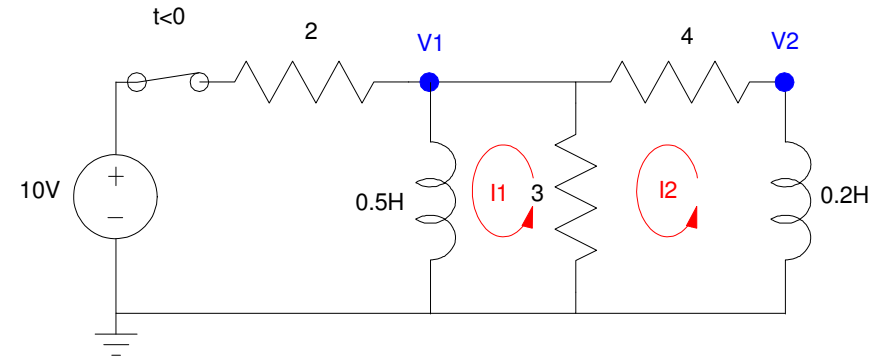
$$V_2(t) = L \frac{dI_2}{dt}$$

$$L = 0.2H$$

so

$$V_2(t) = -1.373e^{-3.17t} + 16.373e^{-37.12t}$$

This matches CircuitLab



Eigenvalues & Eigenvectors

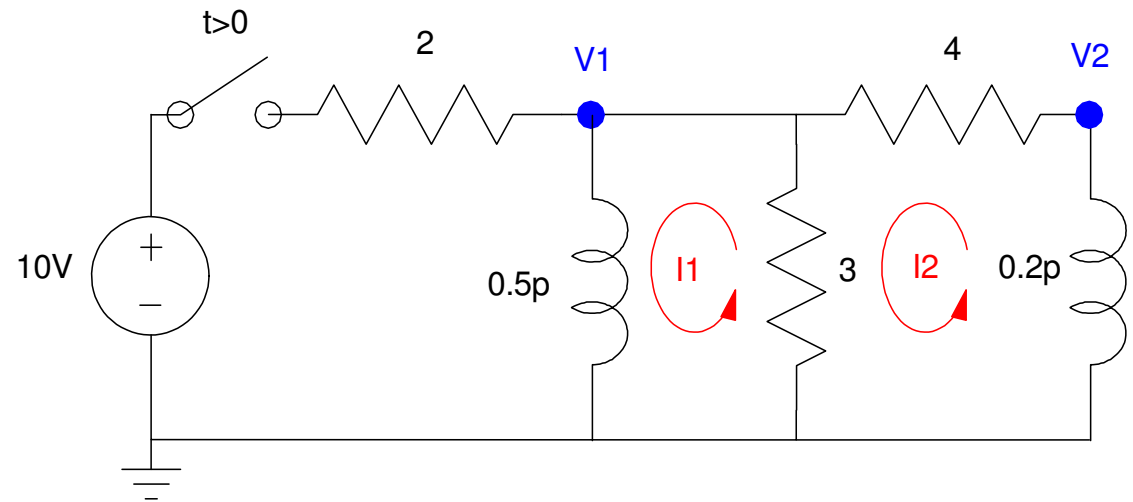
Assume $I_2(0) = 1$.

What initial condition, $I_1(0)$, results in

- $I_2(t)$ decaying as fast as possible?
- As slow as possible?
- How fast is that

Also, what is $I_2(t)$ if

- $I_1(0) = I_2(0) = 1$?



This is an eigenvalue and eigenvector problem

Eigenvalues & Eigenvectors

Recall, the dynamics are

$$(0.5p + 3)I_1 - (3)I_2 = 0$$

$$-(3)I_1 + (0.2p + 7)I_2 = 0$$

Rewrite this as

$$pI_1 = -6I_1 + 6I_2$$

$$pI_2 = 15I_1 - 35I_2$$

In matrix form

$$\begin{bmatrix} pI_1 \\ pI_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -6 & 6 \\ 15 & -35 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I_1 \\ I_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$pI = AI$$

Matrix A is 2x2

- It has two eigenvalues
- It has two eigenvectors

In Matlab

```
>> A = [-6, 6 ; 15, -35]
```

```
    -6     6  
    15   -35
```

```
>> [M,V] = eig(A);
```

```
>> % Eigenvectors
```

```
>> M
```

```
    0.9046   -0.1853  
    0.4263    0.9827
```

```
>> % Eigenvalues
```

```
>> diag(V) '
```

```
   -3.1723   -37.8277
```

Fast Mode

Scale the eigenvectors

- Make I2's weight 1.000

```
>> M(:,1) = M(:,1) / M(2,1);  
>> M(:,2) = M(:,2) / M(2,2)  
      slow      fast  
      2.1218    -0.1885  
      1.0000     1.0000
```

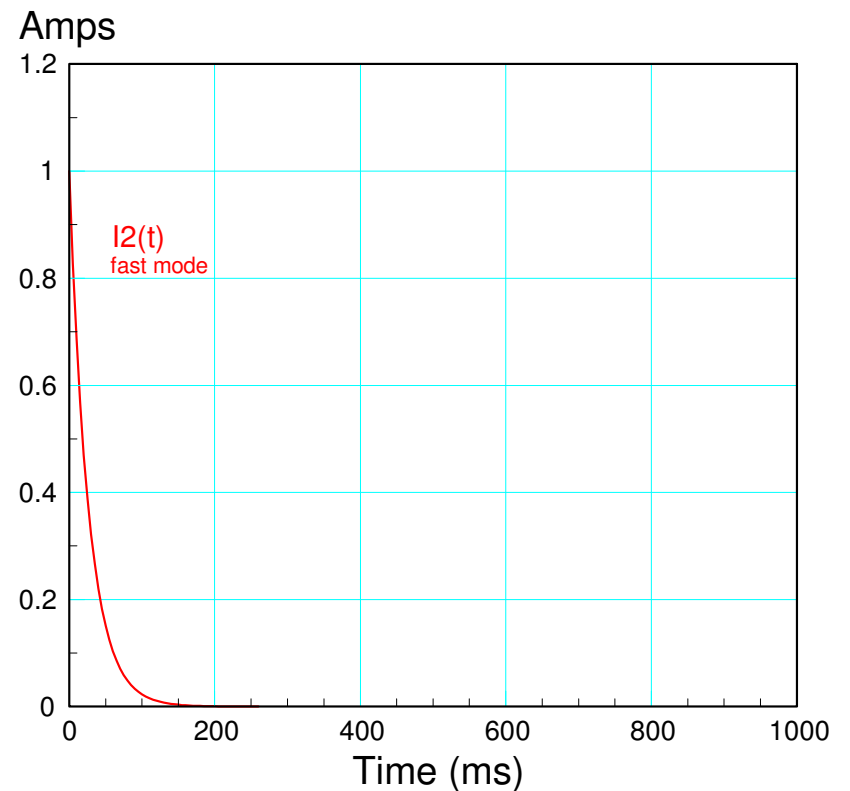
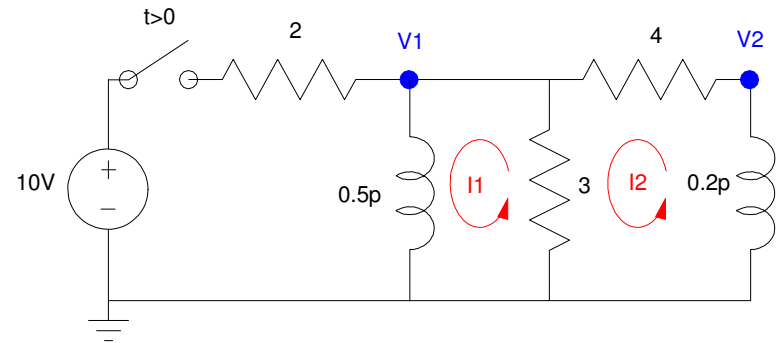
Use the fast eigenvector for the I(t=0)

```
>> IC = M(:,2)  
  
I1(0)    -0.1885  
I2(0)     1.0000
```

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

```
a      0  
b      1
```

$$I_2(t) = ae^{-3.17t} + be^{-37.82t}$$



Slow Mode

Initial condition is the slow eigenvector

- The transient decays as $\exp(-3.17t)$

```
>> M(:,1) = M(:,1) / M(2,1);  
>> M(:,2) = M(:,2) / M(2,2)
```

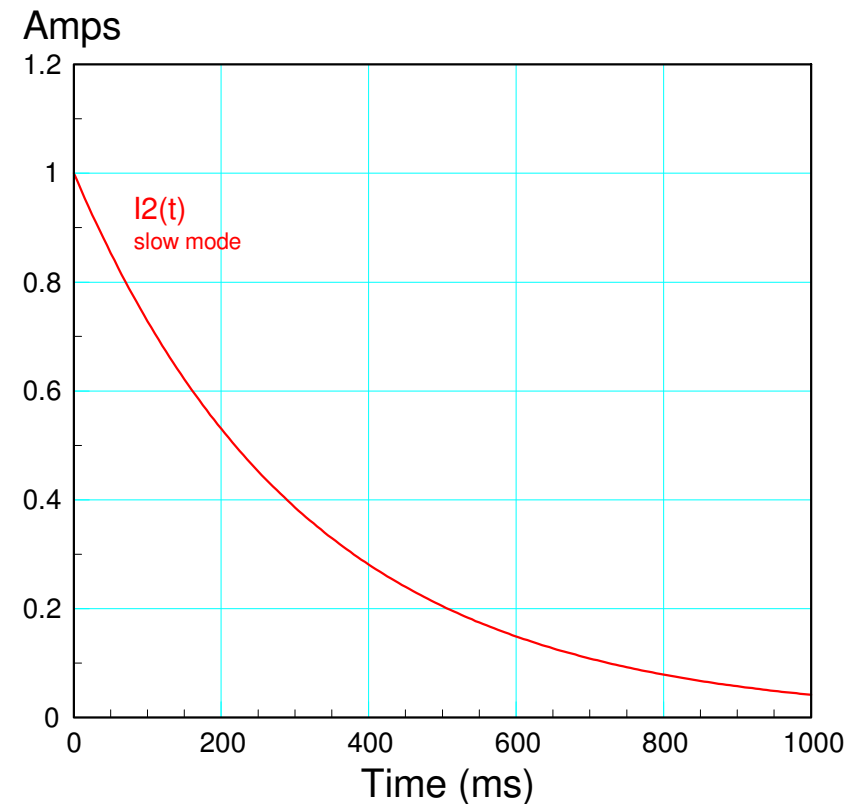
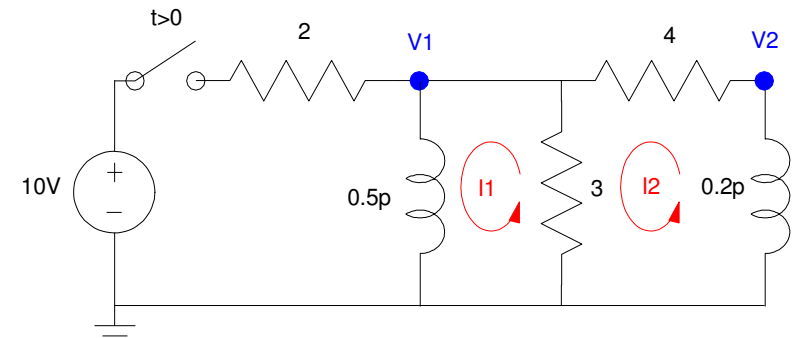
```
2.1218    -0.1885  
1.0000     1.0000
```

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

```
I1(0)    2.1218  
I2(0)    1.0000
```

```
>> AB = inv(M) * IC  
a      1  
b      0
```

$$I_2(t) = ae^{-3.17t} + be^{-37.82t}$$



Other Initial Conditions

- $I_1(0) = I_2(0) = 1$

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

```
I1(0)    1  
I2(0)    1
```

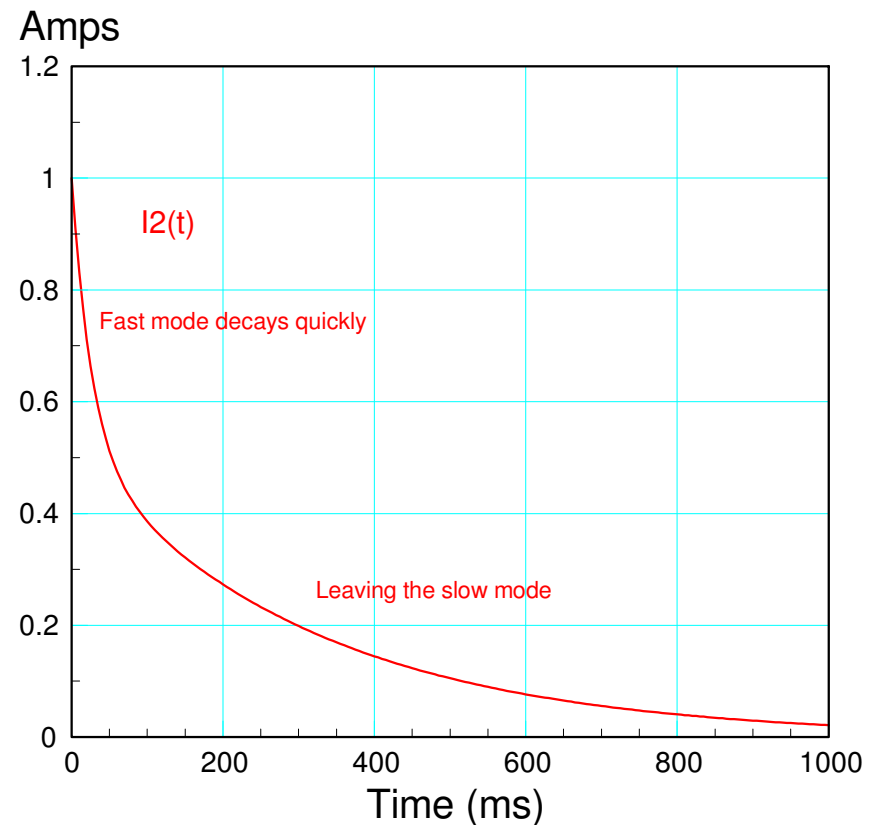
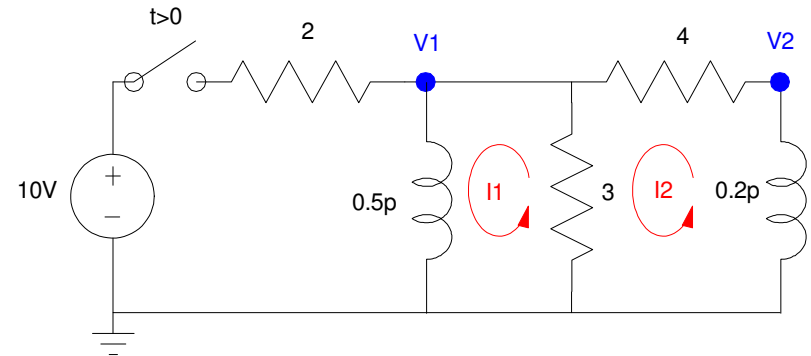
```
>> AB = inv(M)*IC
```

```
a    0.5144  
b    0.4856
```

$$I_2(t) = ae^{-3.17t} + be^{-37.82t}$$

Note

- Both modes are excited
- The fast mode decays quickly
- Leaving the slow mode



Summary

The natural response of an RL circuit is the response when

- The inductors have an initial current 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 $t=0$, or
- The circuit's eigenvalues and eigenvectors