

**6.002**

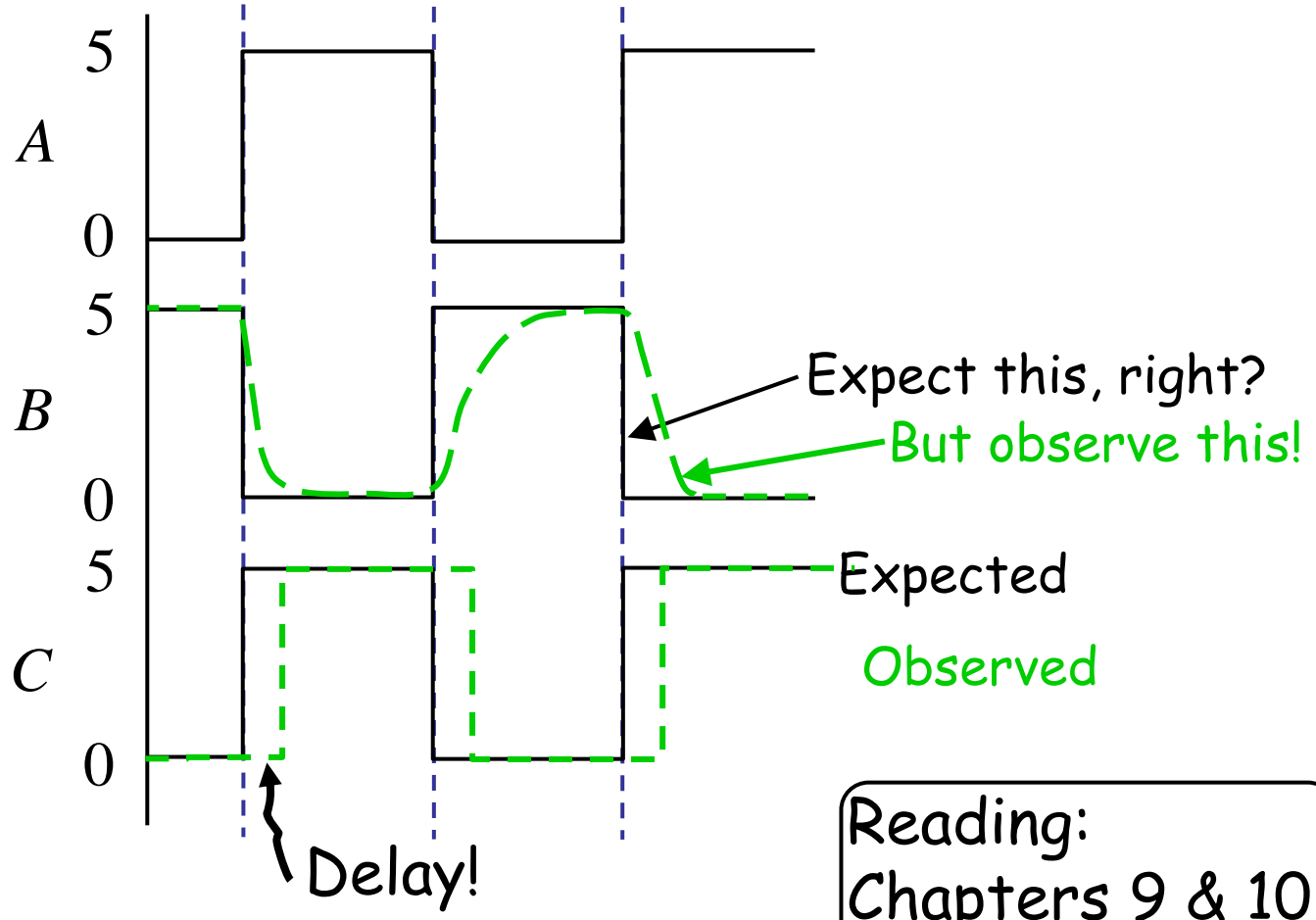
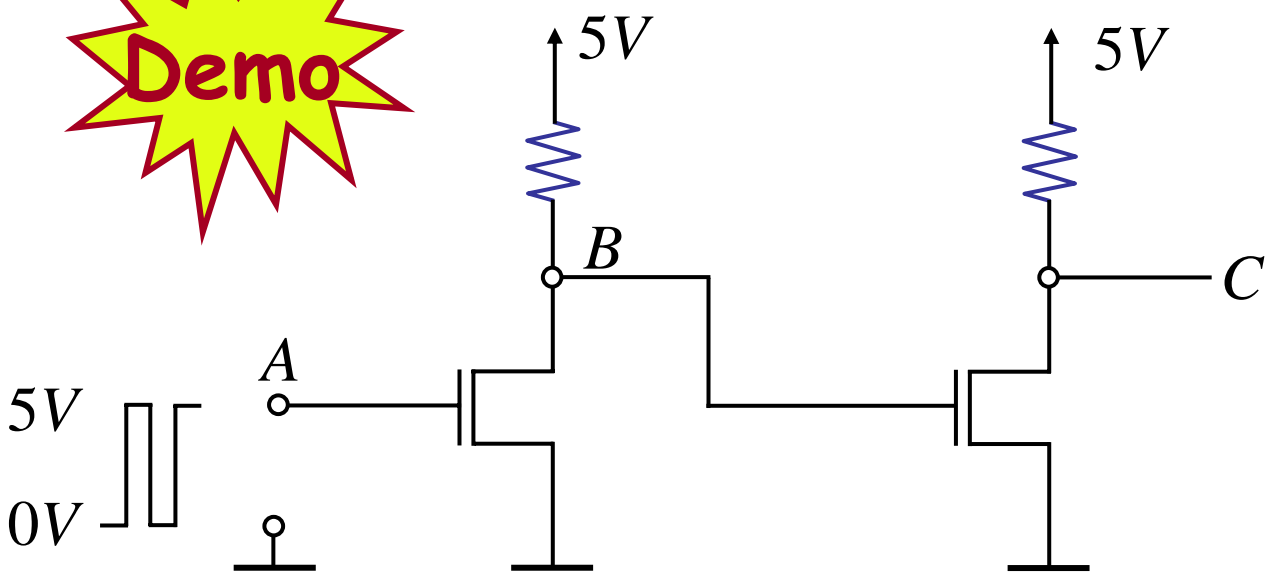
**CIRCUITS AND  
ELECTRONICS**

# Capacitors and First-Order Systems

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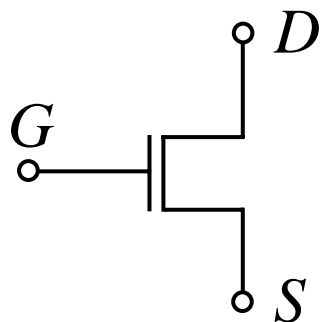
6.002 Fall 2000 Lecture 12

# Motivation

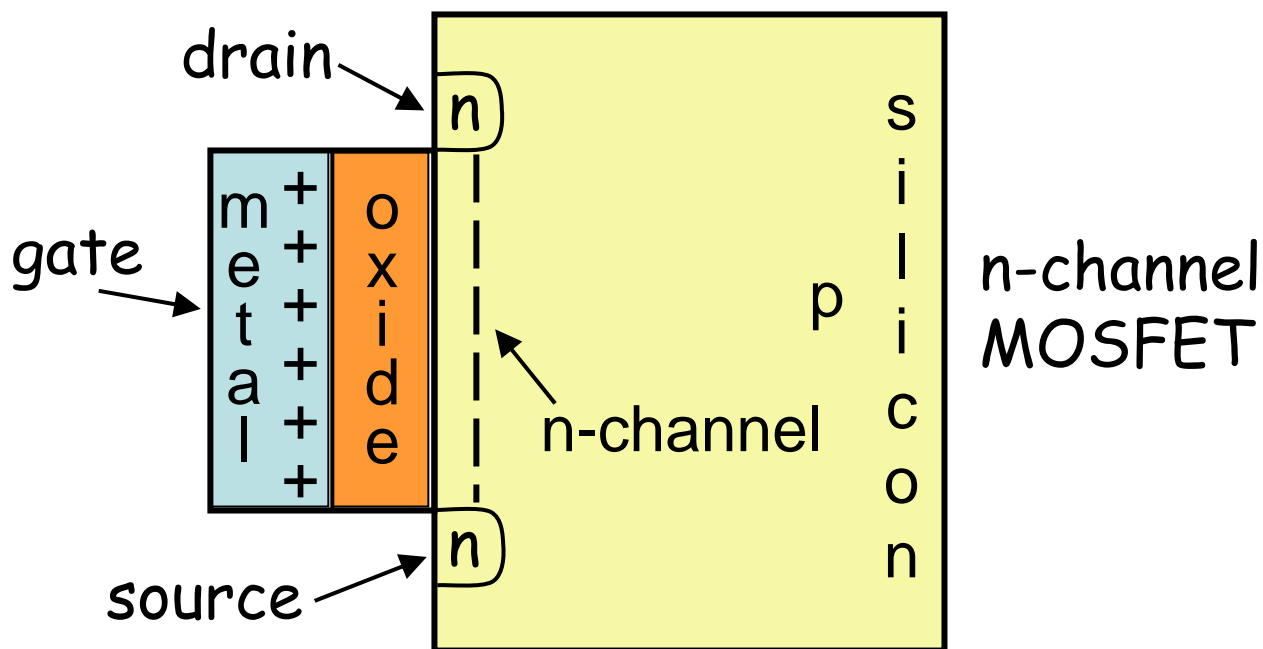


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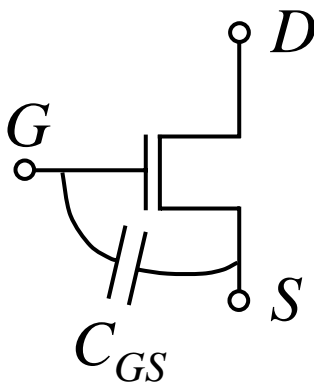
# The Capacitor



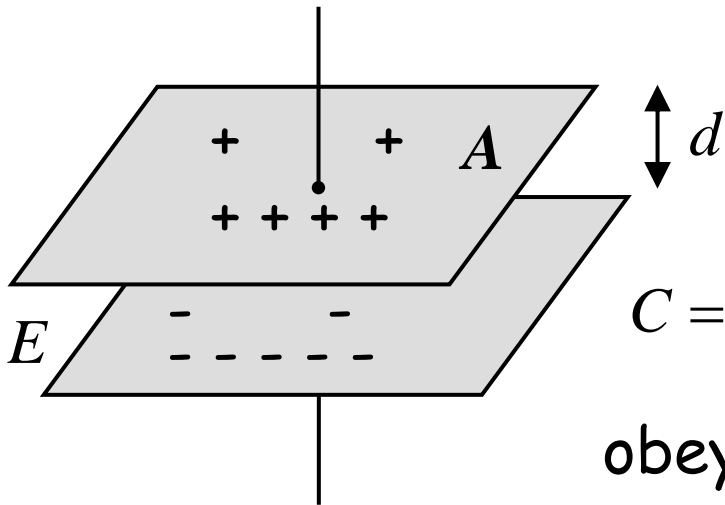
n-channel MOSFET symbol



n-channel MOSFET

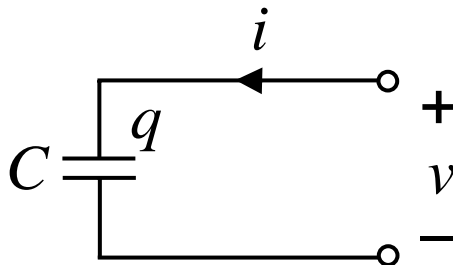


# Ideal Linear Capacitor



$$C = \frac{EA}{d}$$

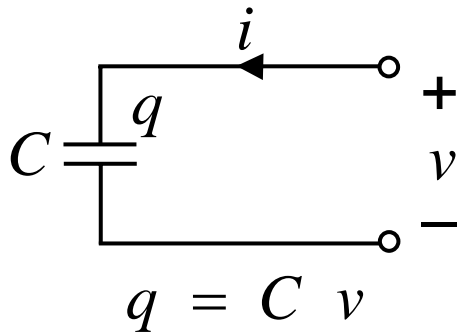
obeys DMD!  
total charge on  
capacitor  
 $= +q - q = 0$



$$q = C v$$

coulombs      farads      volts

# Ideal Linear Capacitor



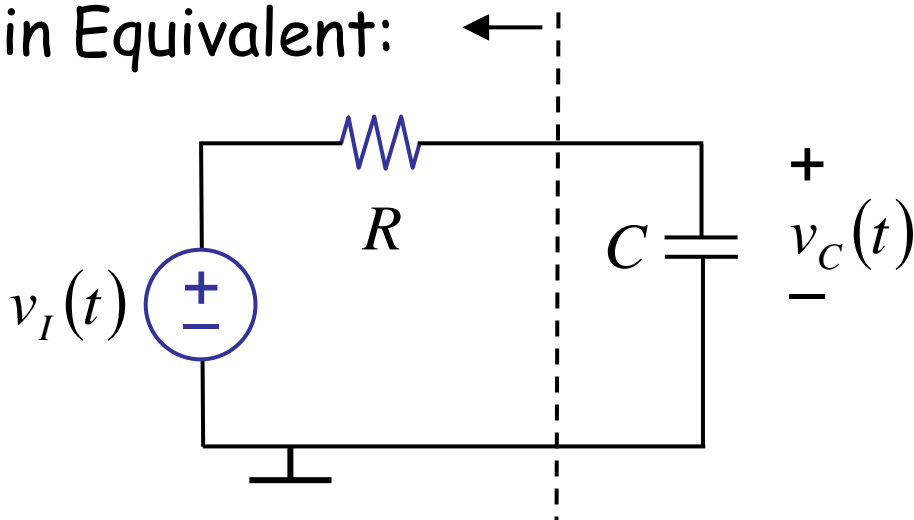
$$\begin{aligned} i &= \frac{dq}{dt} \\ &= \frac{d(Cv)}{dt} \\ &= C \frac{dv}{dt} \end{aligned}$$

$$\left[ E = \frac{1}{2} C v^2 \right]$$

A capacitor is an energy storage device  
→ memory device → history matters!

# Analyzing an RC circuit

Thévenin Equivalent:



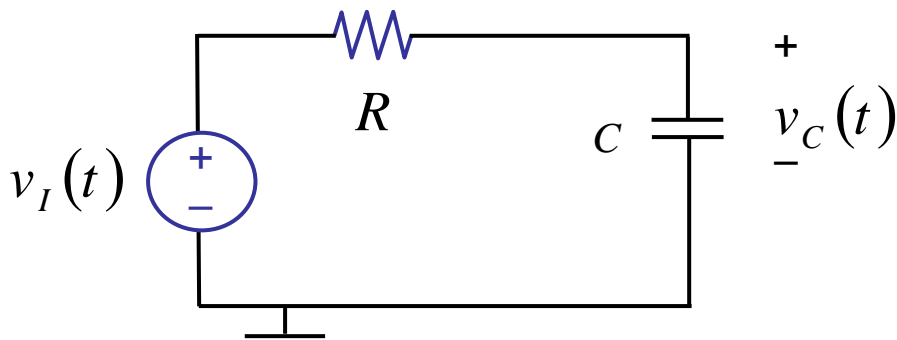
Apply node method:

$$\frac{v_C - v_I}{R} + C \frac{dv_C}{dt} = 0$$

$$\underbrace{RC}_{\text{units of time}} \frac{dv_C}{dt} + v_C = v_I \quad \begin{cases} t \geq t_0 \\ v_C(t_0) \text{ given} \end{cases}$$

units  
of time

# Let's do an example:



$$v_I(t) = V_I$$

$$v_C(0) = V_0 \text{ given}$$

$$RC \frac{dv_C}{dt} + v_C = V_I \quad \text{—————} \quad \otimes$$

## Example...

$$v_I(t) = V_I$$

$$v_C(0) = V_0 \quad \text{given}$$

$$RC \frac{dv_C}{dt} + v_C = V_I \quad \text{—————} \quad \textcircled{\times}$$

$$v_C(t) = v_{CH}(t) + v_{CP}(t)$$

total      homogeneous      particular

## Method of homogeneous and particular solutions:

- ① Find the particular solution.
- ② Find the homogeneous solution.
- ③ The total solution is the sum of the particular and homogeneous solutions.

Use the initial conditions to solve for the remaining constants.



## ① Particular solution

$$RC \frac{dv_{CP}}{dt} + v_{CP} = V_I$$

$$v_{CP} = V_I \quad \text{works}$$

$$RC \frac{dV_I}{dt} + V_I = V_I$$

0

In general, use trial and error.

$v_{CP}$ : any solution that satisfies the original equation (X)

## ② Homogeneous solution

$$RC \frac{dv_{CH}}{dt} + v_{CH} = 0 \quad \text{—————} \quad \textcircled{y}$$

$v_{CH}$ : solution to the homogeneous equation  $\textcircled{y}$   
(set drive to zero)

$v_{CH} = A e^{st}$       assume solution  
of this form.  $A, s$  ?

$$RC \frac{dA e^{st}}{dt} + A e^{st} = 0$$

$$RC A s e^{st} + A e^{st} = 0$$

Discard trivial  $A = 0$  solution,

$$RC s + 1 = 0 \quad \text{Characteristic equation}$$

$$\longrightarrow s = -\frac{1}{RC}$$

or  $v_{CH} = A e^{\frac{-t}{RC}}$   $\longleftarrow$   $RC$  called time constant  $\tau$

### ③ Total solution

$$v_C = v_{CP} + v_{CH}$$

$$v_C = V_I + A e^{\frac{-t}{RC}}$$

Find remaining unknown from initial conditions:

Given,  $v_C = V_0$  at  $t = 0$

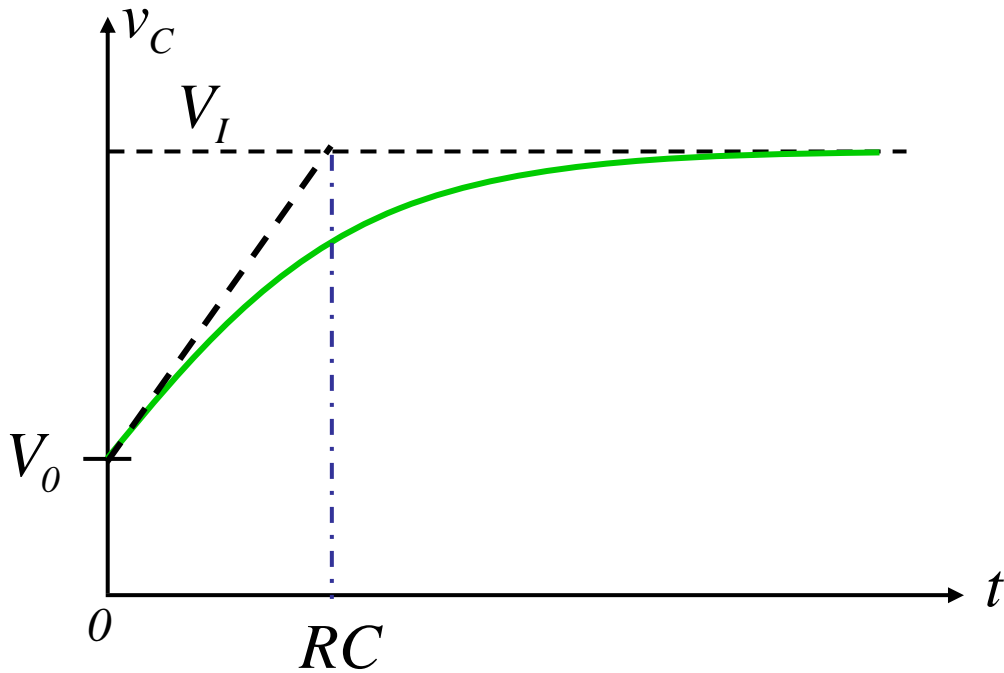
so,  $V_0 = V_I + A$

or  $A = V_0 - V_I$

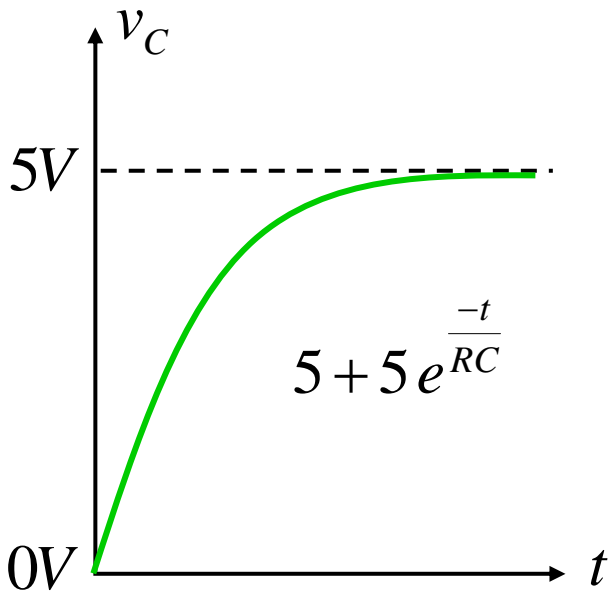
thus  $v_C = V_I + (V_0 - V_I) e^{\frac{-t}{RC}}$

also  $i_C = C \frac{dv_C}{dt} = -\frac{(V_0 - V_I)}{R} e^{\frac{-t}{RC}}$

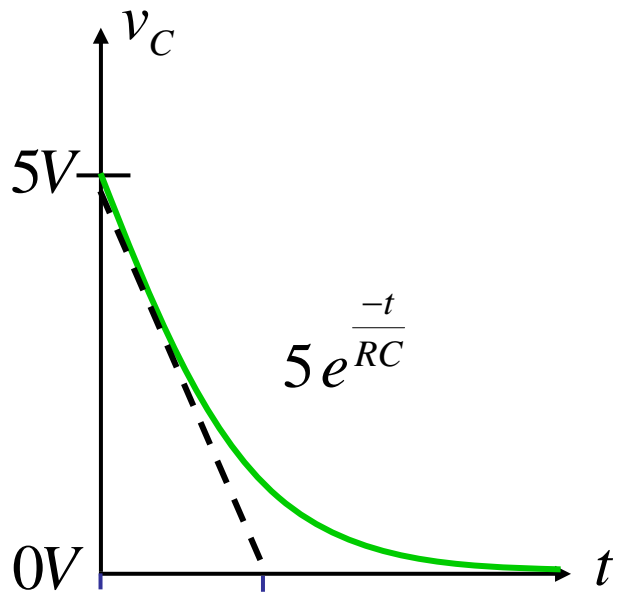
$$v_C = V_I + (V_0 - V_I) e^{-\frac{t}{RC}}$$



# Examples



$V_o = 0V$   
 $V_I = 5V$



$V_o = 5V$   
 $V_I = 0V$

$\tau = RC$

Remember demo

