

# Fundamentals of Electric Circuits

## CHAPTER 6 Capacitors and inductors



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# CHAPTER 6 Capacitors and inductors

**6.2 Capacitors**

**6.3 Series and parallel capacitors**

**6.4 Inductors**

**6.5 Series and parallel inductors**

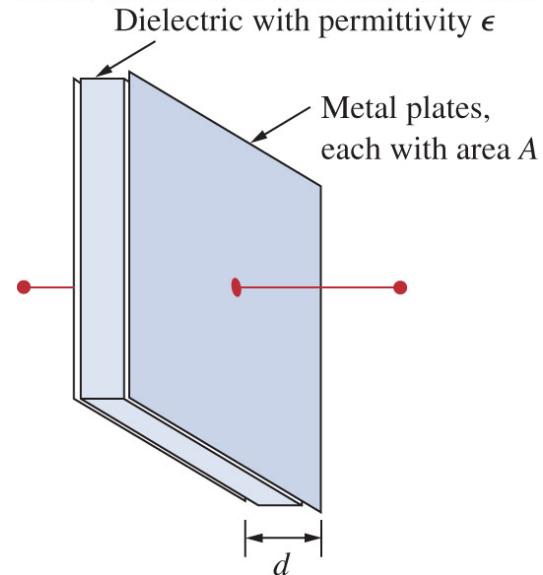
# Introduction

- Resistor: a passive element which dissipates energy only
- Two important passive linear circuit elements:
  - (1) Capacitor
  - (2) Inductor
- Capacitors and inductors **can neither generate nor dissipate energy but store energy**, which can be retrieved at a later time.
- Capacitors and inductors are called **storage elements**.

## 6.2 Capacitors

- A capacitor consists of two conducting plates separated by an insulator (or dielectric). The plates are typically aluminum foil, the dielectric is often air, ceramic, paper, plastic, or mica.
- It is a passive element that stores energy in the **electric field** that exists between the plates of the capacitor.

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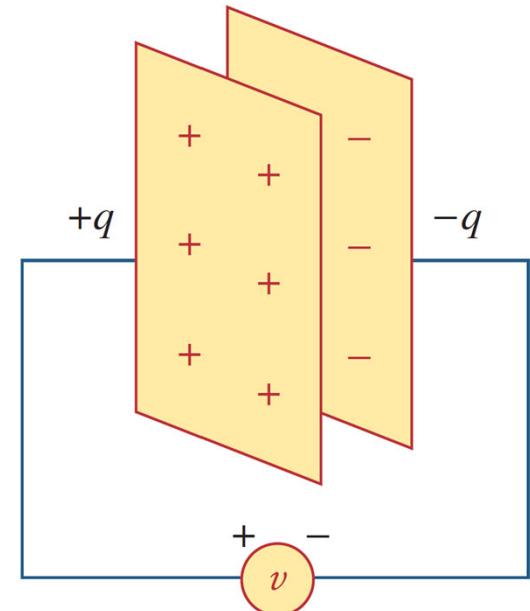
# Capacitors

- When a voltage source  $v$  is connected to the capacitor, the source deposits a positive charge  $q$  on one plate and a negative charge  $-q$  on the other.
- The amount of charge  $q$  is proportional to the applied voltage  $v$ :

$$q = Cv$$

where  $C$  is the capacitance of the capacitor.

- The capacitance is a measure of a capacitor's ability to store charge.



**Figure 6.2**

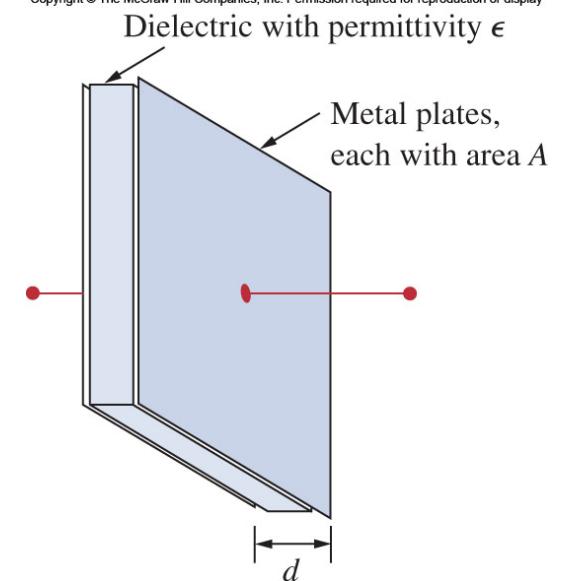
A capacitor with applied voltage  $v$ .

# Capacitors

- The unit of capacitance is the Farad (F)
- One Farad is 1 Coulomb/Volt ( $q = Cv$ )
- Typically, capacitors have values in picofarad (pF) to microfarad ( $\mu\text{F}$ ) range.
- Capacitance is determined by the physical dimensions of the capacitor:
  - the surface area of each plate (A)
  - the distance between the plates (d)
  - $\epsilon$  is the permittivity of the dielectric material between the plates

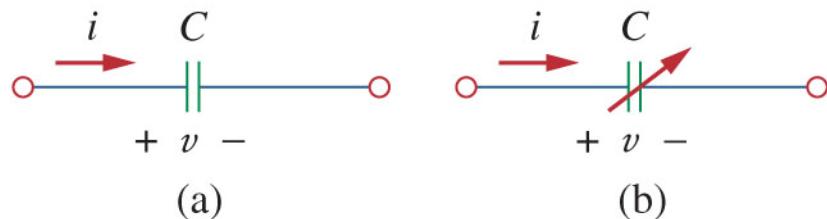
$$C = \frac{\epsilon A}{d}$$

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# Types of Capacitors

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Circuit symbols for (a) fixed and (b) variable capacitors

If  $vi > 0$ , the capacitor is being charged  
if  $vi < 0$ , the capacitor is discharged



The capacitance can be adjusted by turning the shaft

- The variable capacitor is often placed in parallel with another capacitor so that the equivalent capacitance can be varied slightly.
- Variable capacitors are used in radio receivers allowing one to tune the various stations.

# Types of Capacitors

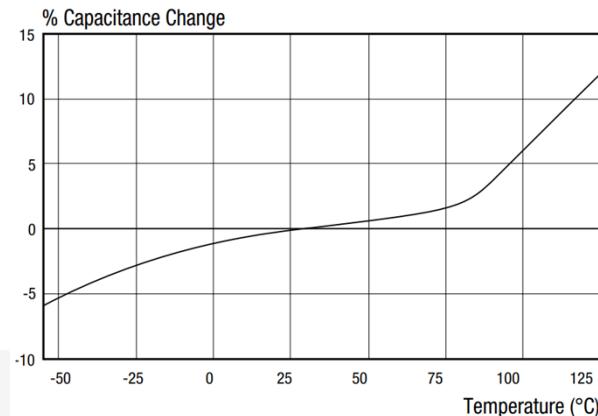
Dielectric material

Polyester capacitor

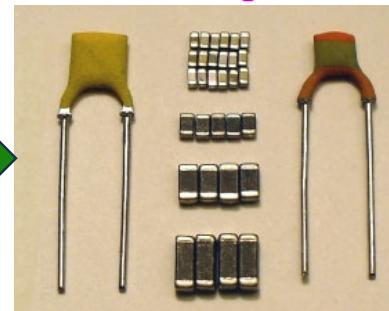


High frequency and small capacitance

- light in weight
- stable
- their change with temperature is predictable



Ceramic capacitor



- High stability and low losses for resonant circuit applications
- The most produced and used capacitors in electronic equipment

Electrolytic capacitor

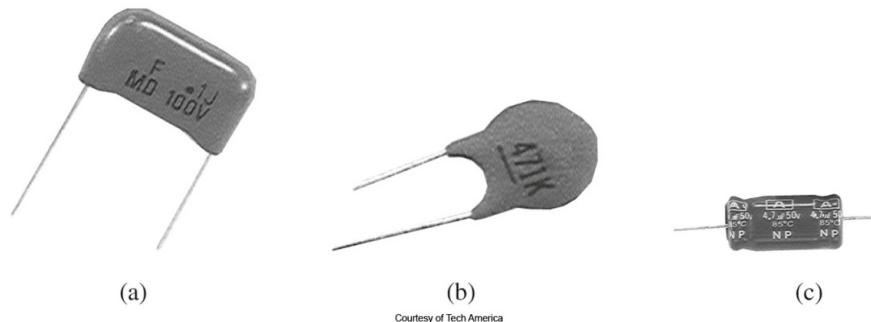


- Low frequency and high capacitance

# Applications of Capacitors

- Capacitors have a wide range of applications, such as:
  - Blocking DC
  - Passing AC
  - Shift phase
  - Store energy
  - Suppress noise
  - Start motors

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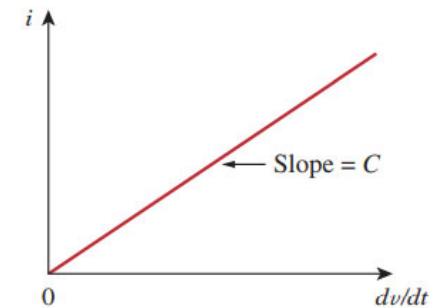


# Current-Voltage Relationship

- Using the formula for the charge stored in a capacitor, we can find the current-voltage relationship
- Take the derivative with respect to time gives:

$$q = Cv \quad i = C \frac{dv}{dt} = \frac{dq}{dt}$$

- Linear capacitors: the capacitance is independent of voltage



**Figure 6.6**  
Current-voltage relationship of a capacitor.

# Stored Charge

- Similarly, the voltage-current relationship can be obtained by integrating both sides:

$$i = C \frac{dv}{dt} \quad \rightarrow \quad v(t) = \frac{1}{C} \int_{t_0}^t i(\tau) d\tau + v(t_0)$$

- $v(t_0)$  is the voltage across the capacitor at time  $t_0$ . It shows that capacitor voltage depends on the past history of the capacitor current. Hence, the capacitor has memory.
- The instantaneous power delivered to the capacitor is

$$p = vi = Cv \frac{dv}{dt}$$

- The energy stored in a capacitor is:

$$W = \int_{-\infty}^t p(\tau) d\tau = C \int_{-\infty}^t v \frac{dv}{d\tau} d\tau = C \int_{v(-\infty)}^{v(t)} v dv = \frac{1}{2} Cv^2 \Big|_{v(-\infty)}^{v(t)} = \frac{1}{2} Cv(t)^2 - \frac{1}{2} Cv(-\infty)^2$$

$$W = \frac{1}{2} CV^2 = q^2 / 2C$$

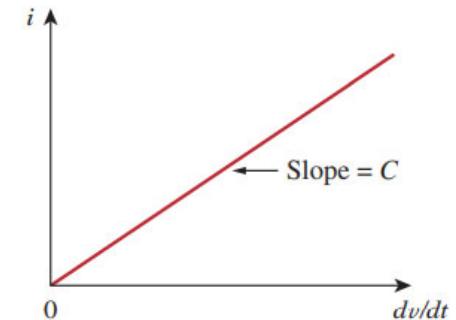


Figure 6.6

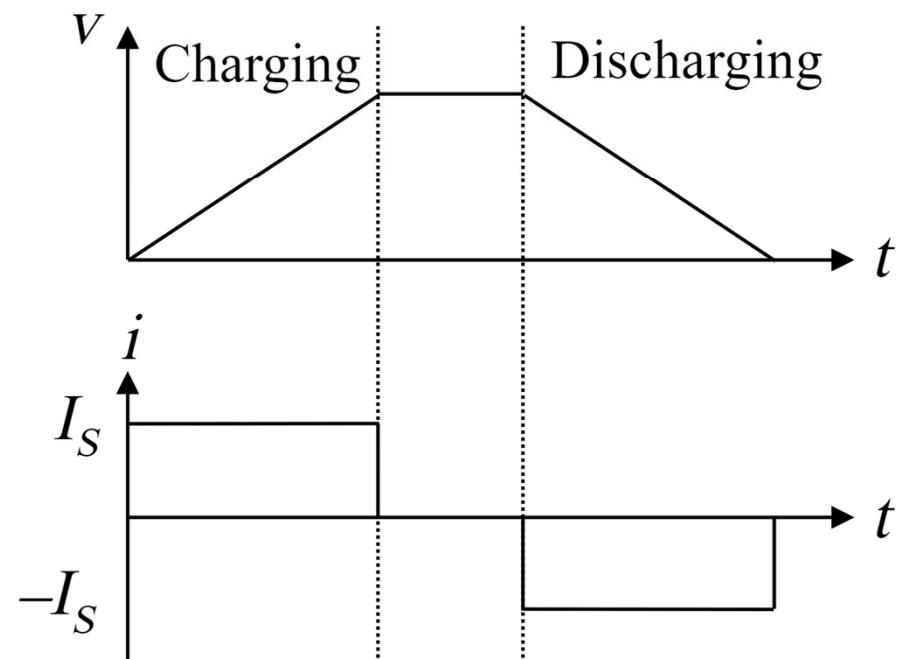
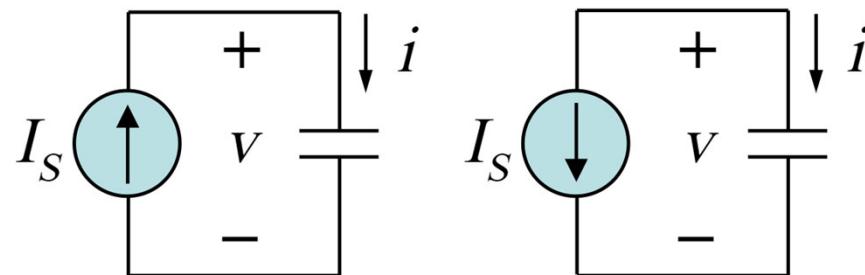
Current-voltage relationship of a capacitor.

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

$$v(t) = \frac{1}{C} \int_{t_0}^t i(\tau) d\tau + v(t_0)$$

- The energy stored in a capacitor is:

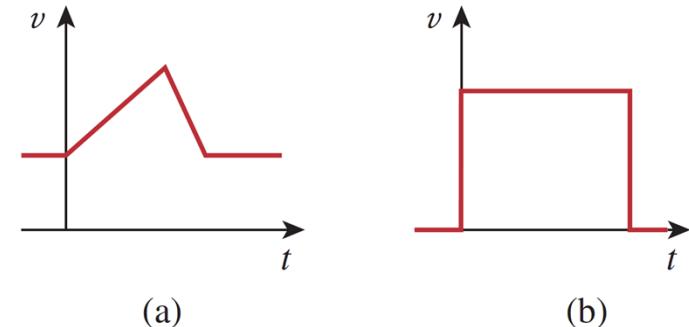
$$w = \frac{1}{2} CV^2 = q^2 / 2C$$



# Properties of Capacitors

- When the voltage across the capacitor is not changing with time (i.e., dc voltage), the current through the cap is zero.  
If DC voltage is applied, no current will flow.
- Voltage across a capacitor cannot change instantaneously since injecting or extracting energy can only be done over some time.
- An abrupt change in voltage would require an infinite current!
- If the voltage on the cap does not equal the applied voltage, charge will flow and the voltage will finally reach the applied voltage.

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



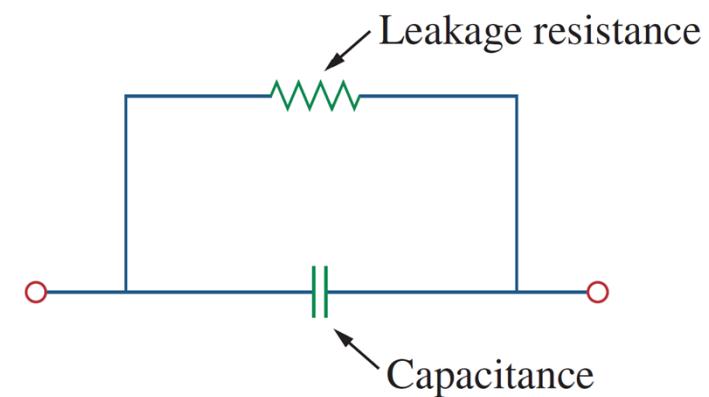
**Figure 6.7**

Voltage across a capacitor: (a) allowed, (b) not allowable; an abrupt change is not possible.

# Properties of Capacitors

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

5. An ideal capacitor does not dissipate energy. It takes power from the circuit when storing energy in the field and returns the stored energy when delivering power to the circuit.
6. A real capacitor has a parallel-model leakage resistance, this resistance is typically very high, on the order of  $100 \text{ M}\Omega$  and thus can be ignored for many circuit applications.



**Figure 6.8**

Circuit model of a nonideal capacitor.

# Example

## Example 6.1

- (a) Calculate the charge stored on a 3-pF capacitor with 20 V across it.
- (b) Find the energy stored in the capacitor.

### Solution:

(a) Since  $q = Cv$ ,

$$q = 3 \times 10^{-12} \times 20 = 60 \text{ pC}$$

(b) The energy stored is

$$w = \frac{1}{2}Cv^2 = \frac{1}{2} \times 3 \times 10^{-12} \times 400 = 600 \text{ pJ}$$

# Example

## Example 6.2

The voltage across a  $5\text{-}\mu\text{F}$  capacitor is

$$v(t) = 10 \cos 6000t \text{ V}$$

Calculate the current through it.

### Solution:

By definition, the current is

$$\begin{aligned} i(t) &= C \frac{dv}{dt} = 5 \times 10^{-6} \frac{d}{dt}(10 \cos 6000t) \\ &= -5 \times 10^{-6} \times 6000 \times 10 \sin 6000t = -0.3 \sin 6000t \text{ A} \end{aligned}$$

# Example

## Example 6.3

Determine the voltage across a  $2\text{-}\mu\text{F}$  capacitor if the current through it is

$$i(t) = 6e^{-3000t} \text{ mA}$$

Assume that the initial capacitor voltage is zero.

### Solution:

Since  $v = \frac{1}{C} \int_0^t i dt + v(0)$  and  $v(0) = 0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}v &= \frac{1}{2 \times 10^{-6}} \int_0^t 6e^{-3000t} dt \cdot 10^{-3} \\&= \frac{3 \times 10^3}{-3000} e^{-3000t} \Big|_0^t = (1 - e^{-3000t}) \text{ V}\end{aligned}$$

# Example

Determine the current through a  $200\text{-}\mu\text{F}$  capacitor whose voltage is shown in Fig. 6.9.

## Solution:

The voltage waveform can be described mathematically as

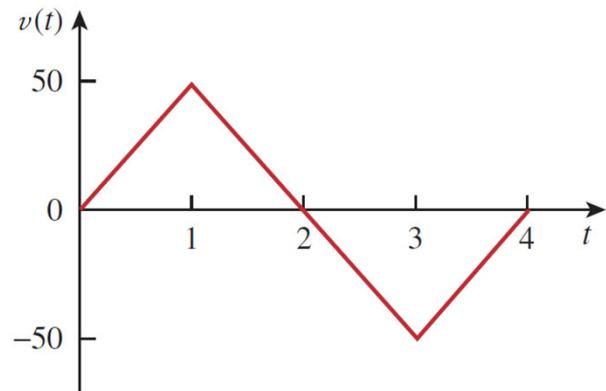
$$v(t) = \begin{cases} 50t \text{ V} & 0 < t < 1 \\ 100 - 50t \text{ V} & 1 < t < 3 \\ -200 + 50t \text{ V} & 3 < t < 4 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Since  $i = C dv/dt$  and  $C = 200 \mu\text{F}$ , we take the derivative of  $v$  to obtain

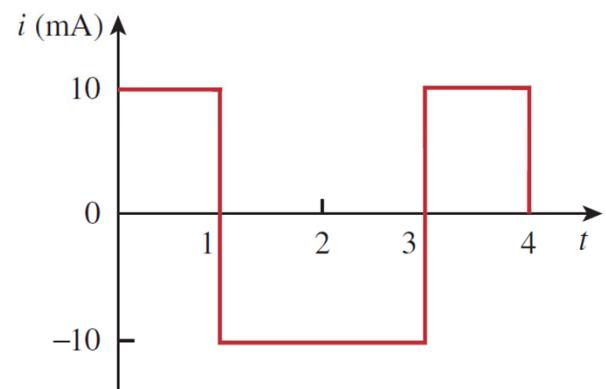
$$\begin{aligned} i(t) &= 200 \times 10^{-6} \times \begin{cases} 50 & 0 < t < 1 \\ -50 & 1 < t < 3 \\ 50 & 3 < t < 4 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\ &= \begin{cases} 10 \text{ mA} & 0 < t < 1 \\ -10 \text{ mA} & 1 < t < 3 \\ 10 \text{ mA} & 3 < t < 4 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

Thus the current waveform is as shown in Fig. 6.10.

## Example 6.4



**Figure 6.9**  
For Example 6.4.



**Figure 6.10**  
For Example 6.4.

# Example

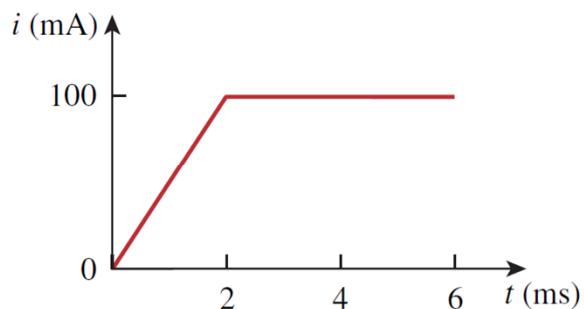
An initially uncharged 1-mF capacitor has the current shown in Fig. 6.11 across it. Calculate the voltage across it at  $t = 2 \text{ ms}$  and  $t = 5 \text{ ms}$ .

**Answer:** 100 mV, 400 mV.

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

$$v(t) = \frac{1}{C} \int_{t_0}^t i(\tau) d\tau + v(t_0)$$

## Practice Problem 6.4



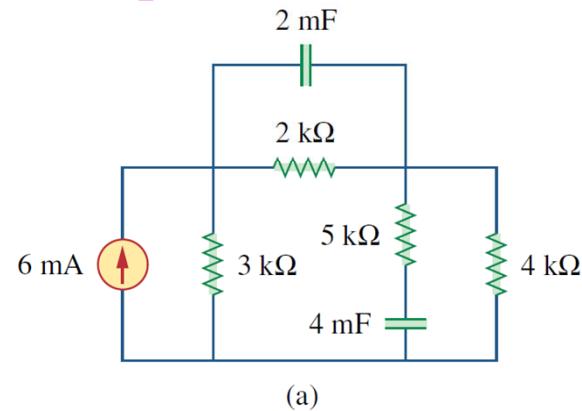
**Figure 6.11**

For Practice Prob. 6.4.

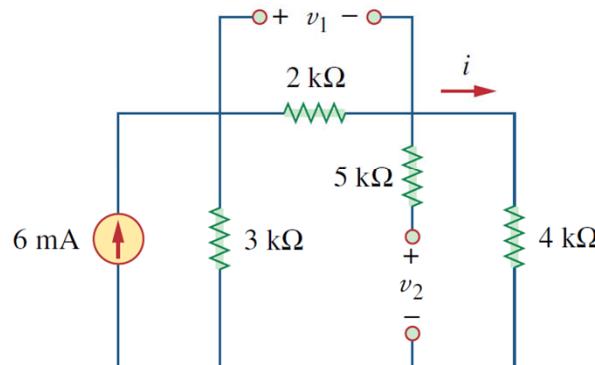
## Example 6.5

# Example

Obtain the energy stored in each capacitor in Fig. 6.12(a) under dc conditions.



(a)



(b)

### Solution:

Under dc conditions, we replace each capacitor with an open circuit, as shown in Fig. 6.12(b). The current through the series combination of the  $2\text{-k}\Omega$  and  $4\text{-k}\Omega$  resistors is obtained by current division as

$$i = \frac{3}{3 + 2 + 4}(6 \text{ mA}) = 2 \text{ mA}$$

Hence, the voltages  $v_1$  and  $v_2$  across the capacitors are

$$v_1 = 2000i = 4 \text{ V} \quad v_2 = 4000i = 8 \text{ V}$$

and the energies stored in them are

$$w_1 = \frac{1}{2}C_1v_1^2 = \frac{1}{2}(2 \times 10^{-3})(4)^2 = 16 \text{ mJ}$$

$$w_2 = \frac{1}{2}C_2v_2^2 = \frac{1}{2}(4 \times 10^{-3})(8)^2 = 128 \text{ mJ}$$

## 6.3 Series and Parallel Capacitors

### Parallel Capacitors

- Starting with  $N$  parallel capacitors, one can note that the voltages on all the caps are the same.
- Applying KCL:

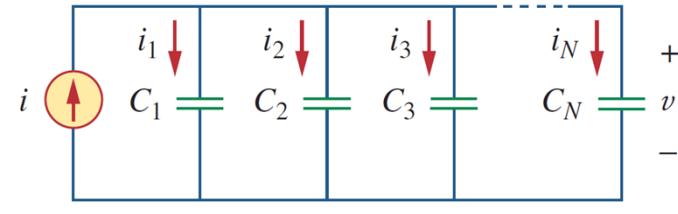
$$i = i_1 + i_2 + i_3 + \dots + i_N \quad i = C \frac{dv}{dt}$$

- Taking into consideration the current voltage relationship of each capacitor:

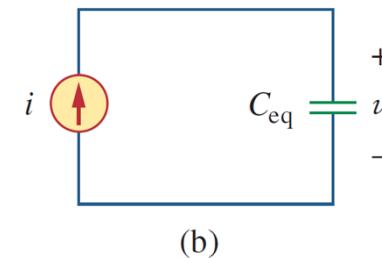
$$\begin{aligned} i &= C_1 \frac{dv}{dt} + C_2 \frac{dv}{dt} + C_3 \frac{dv}{dt} + \dots + C_N \frac{dv}{dt} \\ &= \left( \sum_{k=1}^N C_k \right) \frac{dv}{dt} = C_{eq} \frac{dv}{dt} \end{aligned}$$

- Where

$$C_{eq} = C_1 + C_2 + C_3 + \dots + C_N$$



(a)



(b)

**Figure 6.14**

(a) Parallel-connected  $N$  capacitors,  
(b) equivalent circuit for the parallel capacitors.

The equivalent capacitance of  $N$  parallel-connected capacitors is the sum of the individual capacitances.

# Series Capacitors

- Here each capacitor shares the same current.
- Applying KVL to the loop:

$$v = v_1 + v_2 + v_3 + \dots + v_N$$

$$v(t) = \frac{1}{C} \int_{t_0}^t i(\tau) d\tau + v(t_0)$$

- Now apply the voltage current relationship

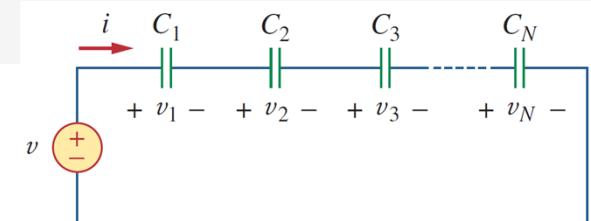
$$v = \frac{1}{C_1} \int_{t_0}^t i(\tau) d\tau + v_1(t_0) + \frac{1}{C_2} \int_{t_0}^t i(\tau) d\tau + v_2(t_0) + \frac{1}{C_3} \int_{t_0}^t i(\tau) d\tau + v_3(t_0) + \dots + \frac{1}{C_N} \int_{t_0}^t i(\tau) d\tau + v_N(t_0)$$

$$= \left( \frac{1}{C_1} + \frac{1}{C_2} + \frac{1}{C_3} + \dots + \frac{1}{C_N} \right) \int_{t_0}^t i(\tau) d\tau + v_1(t_0) + v_2(t_0) + v_3(t_0) + \dots + v_N(t_0)$$

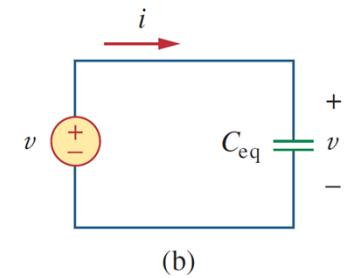
$$= \left( \frac{1}{C_{eq}} \right) \int_{t_0}^t i(\tau) d\tau + v(t_0)$$

- Where

$$\frac{1}{C_{eq}} = \frac{1}{C_1} + \frac{1}{C_2} + \frac{1}{C_3} + \dots + \frac{1}{C_N}$$



(a)



(b)

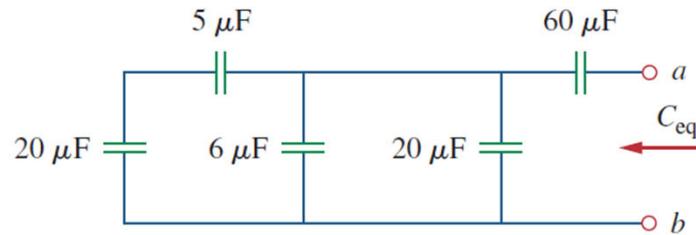
**Figure 6.15**

(a) Series-connected  $N$  capacitors,  
(b) equivalent circuit for the series capacitor.

The equivalent capacitance of series-connected capacitors is the reciprocal of the sum of the reciprocals of the individual capacitances.

## Example 6.6

Find the equivalent capacitance seen between terminals *a* and *b* of the circuit in Fig. 6.16.



**Figure 6.16**  
For Example 6.6.

### Solution:

The  $20\text{-}\mu\text{F}$  and  $5\text{-}\mu\text{F}$  capacitors are in series; their equivalent capacitance is

$$\frac{20 \times 5}{20 + 5} = 4\ \mu\text{F}$$

This  $4\text{-}\mu\text{F}$  capacitor is in parallel with the  $6\text{-}\mu\text{F}$  and  $20\text{-}\mu\text{F}$  capacitors; their combined capacitance is

$$4 + 6 + 20 = 30\ \mu\text{F}$$

This  $30\text{-}\mu\text{F}$  capacitor is in series with the  $60\text{-}\mu\text{F}$  capacitor. Hence, the equivalent capacitance for the entire circuit is

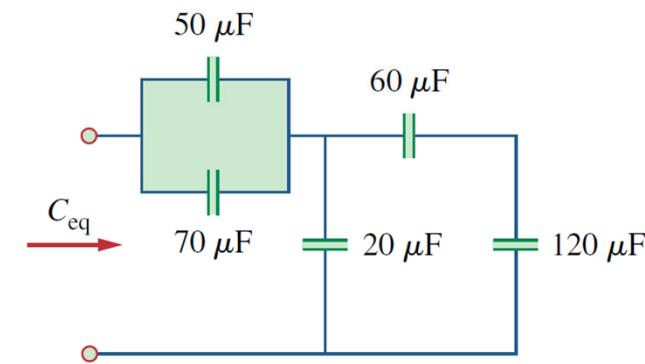
$$C_{\text{eq}} = \frac{30 \times 60}{30 + 60} = 20\ \mu\text{F}$$

# Example

Find the equivalent capacitance seen at the terminals of the circuit in Fig. 6.17.

**Answer:**  $40 \mu\text{F}$ .

## Practice Problem 6.6



# Example

For the circuit in Fig. 6.18, find the voltage across each capacitor.

## Solution:

We first find the equivalent capacitance  $C_{\text{eq}}$ , shown in Fig. 6.19. The two parallel capacitors in Fig. 6.18 can be combined to get  $40 + 20 = 60 \text{ mF}$ . This 60-mF capacitor is in series with the 20-mF and 30-mF capacitors. Thus,

$$C_{\text{eq}} = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{60} + \frac{1}{30} + \frac{1}{20}} \text{ mF} = 10 \text{ mF}$$

The total charge is

$$q = C_{\text{eq}}v = 10 \times 10^{-3} \times 30 = 0.3 \text{ C}$$

This is the charge on the 20-mF and 30-mF capacitors, because they are in series with the 30-V source. (A crude way to see this is to imagine that charge acts like current, since  $i = dq/dt$ .) Therefore,

$$v_1 = \frac{q}{C_1} = \frac{0.3}{20 \times 10^{-3}} = 15 \text{ V} \quad v_2 = \frac{q}{C_2} = \frac{0.3}{30 \times 10^{-3}} = 10 \text{ V}$$

Having determined  $v_1$  and  $v_2$ , we now use KVL to determine  $v_3$  by

$$v_3 = 30 - v_1 - v_2 = 5 \text{ V}$$

Alternatively, since the 40-mF and 20-mF capacitors are in parallel, they have the same voltage  $v_3$  and their combined capacitance is  $40 + 20 = 60 \text{ mF}$ . This combined capacitance is in series with the 20-mF and 30-mF capacitors and consequently has the same charge on it. Hence,

$$v_3 = \frac{q}{60 \text{ mF}} = \frac{0.3}{60 \times 10^{-3}} = 5 \text{ V}$$

# Example 6.7

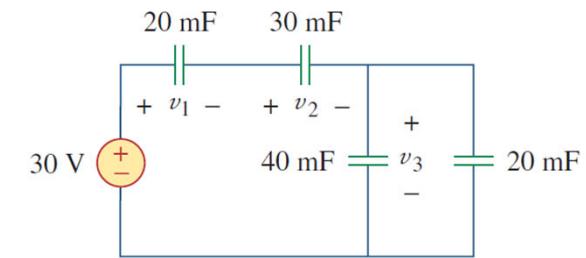


Figure 6.18

For Example 6.7.

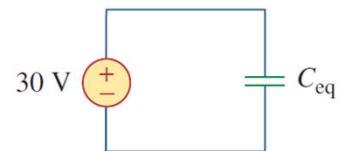
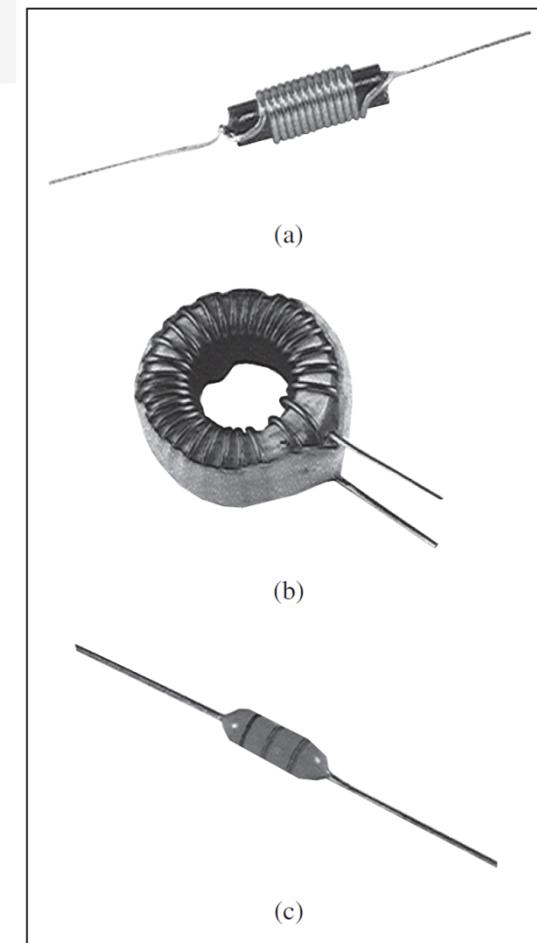


Figure 6.19

Equivalent circuit for Fig. 6.18.

## 6.4 Inductors

- An inductor is a passive element that stores energy in its magnetic field.
- They have applications in power supplies, transformers, radios, TVs, radars, and electric motors.
- Any conductor of electric current has inductance, but the inductive effect is typically enhanced by wrapping wires around the magnetic core.



**Figure 6.22**

Various types of inductors: (a) solenoidal wound inductor, (b) toroidal inductor, (c) chip inductor.

# Inductors

- If a current is passed through an inductor, the voltage across it is directly proportional to the time rate of change of the current

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

- Where  $L$  is the inductance, measured in Henry (H).
- The current-voltage relationship for an inductor is:

$$I = \frac{1}{L} \int_{t_0}^t v(\tau) d\tau + i(t_0)$$

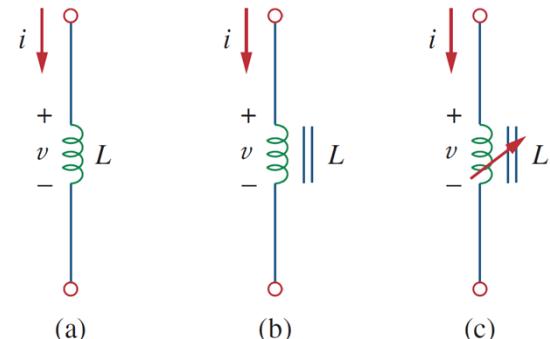


Figure 6.23

Circuit symbols for inductors: (a) air-core, (b) iron-core, (c) variable iron-core.

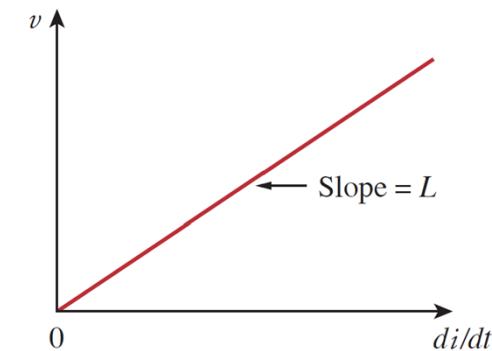


Figure 6.24

Voltage-current relationship of an inductor.

# Inductors

- The energy stored is:

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

$$W = \int_{-\infty}^t p(\tau) d\tau = \int_{-\infty}^t vid\tau = L \int_{-\infty}^t i \frac{di}{d\tau} d\tau = L \int_{i(-\infty)}^{i(t)} idi = \frac{1}{2} Li^2 \Big|_{i(-\infty)}^{i(t)} = \frac{1}{2} Li(t)^2 - \frac{1}{2} Li(-\infty)^2$$

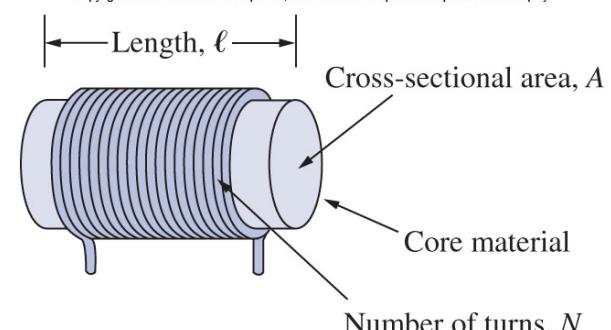
$$w = \frac{1}{2} Li^2$$

- The inductance depends on its physical dimension and construction.
- The inductance is:

$$L = \frac{N^2 \mu A}{l}$$

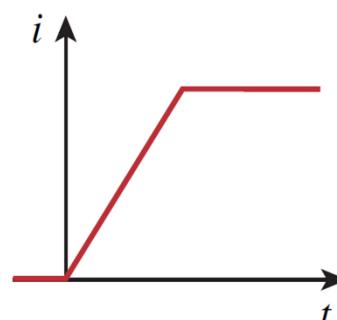
- Where  $N$  is the number of turns,  $l$  is the length. And  $\mu$  is permeability of the core.

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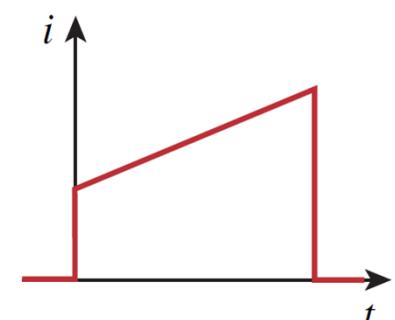


# Properties of Inductors

- If the current through an inductor is constant, the voltage across it is zero  $v = L \frac{di}{dt}$
- Thus an inductor acts like a short circuit to DC
- The current through an inductor cannot change instantaneously. An abrupt current change requires an infinite voltage change, which is not possible.
- This is an important consideration if an inductor is to be turned off abruptly; it will produce a high voltage.



(a)



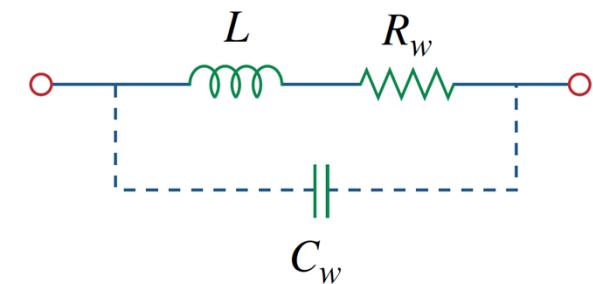
(b)

**Figure 6.25**

Current through an inductor: (a) allowed, (b) not allowable; an abrupt change is not possible.

# Properties of Inductors

- Like the ideal capacitor, the ideal inductor does not dissipate energy.
- The energy stored will be returned to the circuit later.
- In reality, an inductor has internal resistance because it is made of conducting material such as copper.
- A real inductor thus has a winding resistance ( $R_w$ ) in series with it.
- There is also a small winding capacitance ( $C_w$ ) due to the capacitive coupling between the conducting coils
- $R_w$  and  $C_w$  are typically small, which can be ignored in most cases.



**Figure 6.26**

Circuit model for a practical inductor.

# 6.5 Series and Parallel Inductors

## Series Inductors

- Consider a series connection of  $N$  inductors
- Applying KVL to the loop, and the inductors have the same current through them:

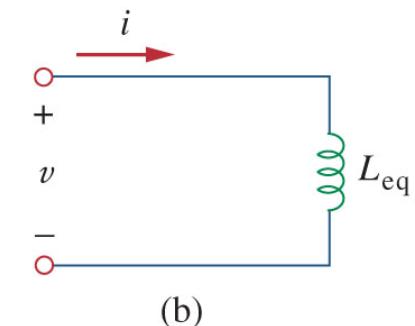
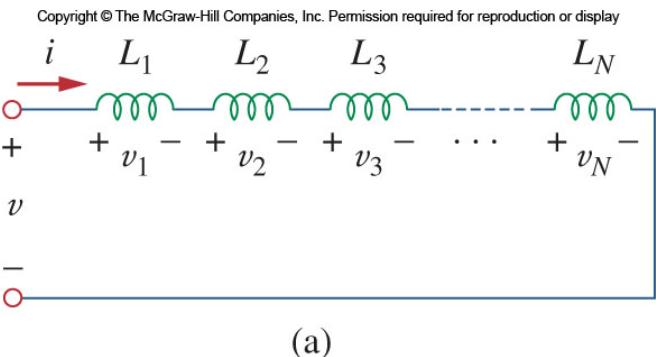
$$v = v_1 + v_2 + v_3 + \cdots + v_N$$

$$v = L_1 \frac{di}{dt} + L_2 \frac{di}{dt} + L_3 \frac{di}{dt} + \cdots + L_N \frac{di}{dt}$$

$$= \left( \sum_{k=1}^N L_k \right) \frac{di}{dt} = L_{eq} \frac{di}{dt}$$

- Where

$$L_{eq} = L_1 + L_2 + L_3 + \cdots + L_N$$



The equivalent inductance of series-connected inductors is the sum of the individual inductances.

# Parallel Inductors

- Consider a parallel connection of N inductors
- Applying KCL to the circuit, and the inductors have the same voltage across them :

$$i = i_1 + i_2 + i_3 + \dots + i_N$$

- When the current voltage relationship is considered, we have:

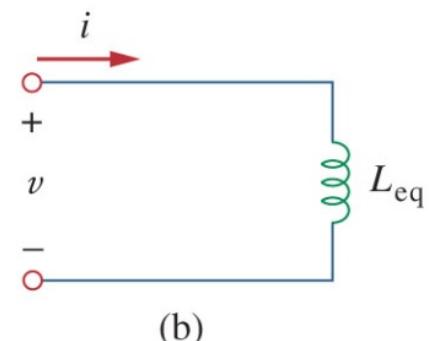
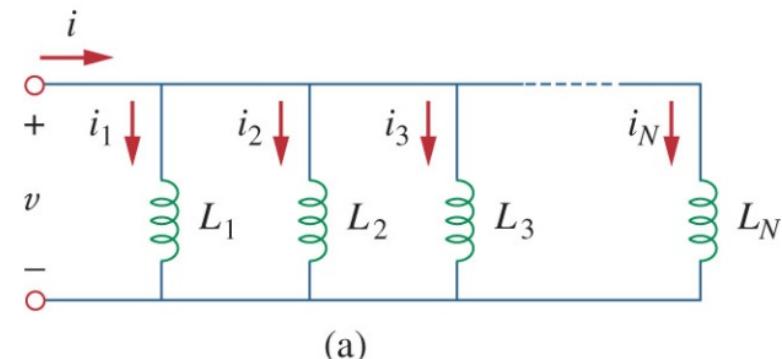
$$i = \frac{1}{L} \int_{t_0}^t v(\tau) d\tau + i(t_0)$$

$$\begin{aligned} i &= \frac{1}{L_1} \int_{t_0}^t v(\tau) d\tau + i_1(t_0) + \frac{1}{L_2} \int_{t_0}^t v(\tau) d\tau + i_2(t_0) + \dots + \frac{1}{L_N} \int_{t_0}^t v(\tau) d\tau + i_N(t_0) \\ &= \left( \sum_{k=1}^N \frac{1}{L_k} \right) \int_{t_0}^t v dt + \sum_{k=1}^N i_k(t_0) = \frac{1}{L_{eq}} \int_{t_0}^t v dt + i(t_0) \end{aligned}$$

- The equivalent inductance is thus:

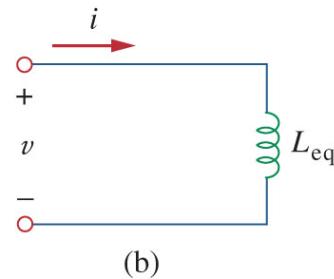
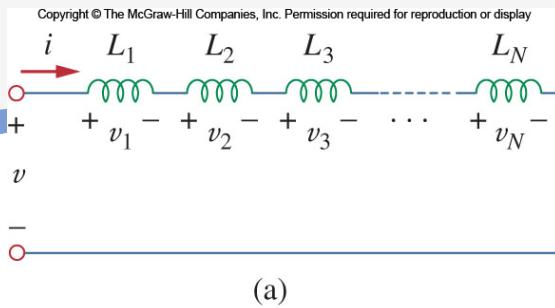
$$\frac{1}{L_{eq}} = \frac{1}{L_1} + \frac{1}{L_2} + \frac{1}{L_3} + \dots + \frac{1}{L_N}$$

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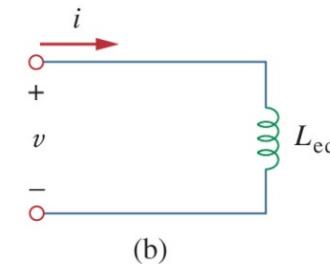
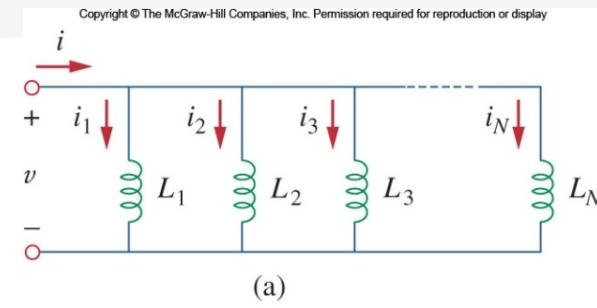
The equivalent inductances of parallel-connected inductors is the reciprocal of the sum of the reciprocals of the individual inductances.

# Series Inductors



$$L_{eq} = L_1 + L_2 + L_3 + \dots + L_N$$

# Parallel Inductors



$$\frac{1}{L_{eq}} = \frac{1}{L_1} + \frac{1}{L_2} + \frac{1}{L_3} + \dots + \frac{1}{L_N}$$

- The inductors in series/parallel are combined in the same way as resistors in series/parallel.
- If all the elements are of the same type, the Delta-Wye transformation for resistors can be applied to inductors and capacitors.

# Example

## Example 6.11

Find the equivalent inductance of the circuit shown in Fig. 6.31.

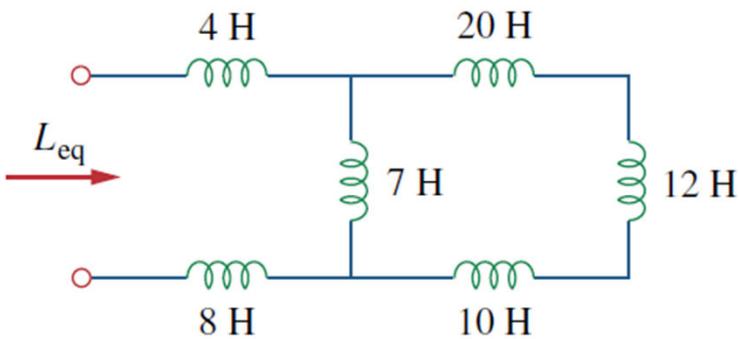


Figure 6.31

For Example 6.11.

### Solution:

The 10-H, 12-H, and 20-H inductors are in series; thus, combining them gives a 42-H inductance. This 42-H inductor is in parallel with the 7-H inductor so that they are combined, to give

$$\frac{7 \times 42}{7 + 42} = 6 \text{ H}$$

This 6-H inductor is in series with the 4-H and 8-H inductors. Hence,

$$L_{eq} = 4 + 6 + 8 = 18 \text{ H}$$

# Summary of Capacitors and Inductors

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Important characteristics of the basic elements.

Relation	Resistor (R)	Capacitor (C)	Inductor (L)
$v - i:$	$v = iR$	$v = \frac{1}{C} \int_{t_0}^t i(\tau) d\tau + v(t_0)$	$v = L \frac{di}{dt}$
$i - v:$	$i = v/R$	$i = C \frac{dv}{dt}$	$i = \frac{1}{L} \int_{t_0}^t v(\tau) d\tau + i(t_0)$
P or w:	$p = i^2 R = \frac{v^2}{R}$	$w = \frac{1}{2} Cv^2$	$w = \frac{1}{2} Li^2$
Series	$R_{eq} = R_1 + R_2$	$C_{eq} = \frac{C_1 C_2}{C_1 + C_2}$	$L_{eq} = L_1 + L_2$
Parallel	$R_{eq} = \frac{R_1 R_2}{R_1 + R_2}$	$C_{eq} = C_1 + C_2$	$L_{eq} = \frac{L_1 L_2}{L_1 + L_2}$
At dc:	Same	Open circuit	Short circuit
Circuit variable that cannot change abruptly:	Not applicable	$v$	$i$

## **Special properties of capacitors and inductors**

- The capacity to store energy makes them useful as temporary voltage or current source.
- Capacitors and inductors are frequency sensitive. This property makes them useful for frequency discrimination.
- Due to the bulky size, inductors are less frequently used as compared to capacitors.

# Applications: Differentiator

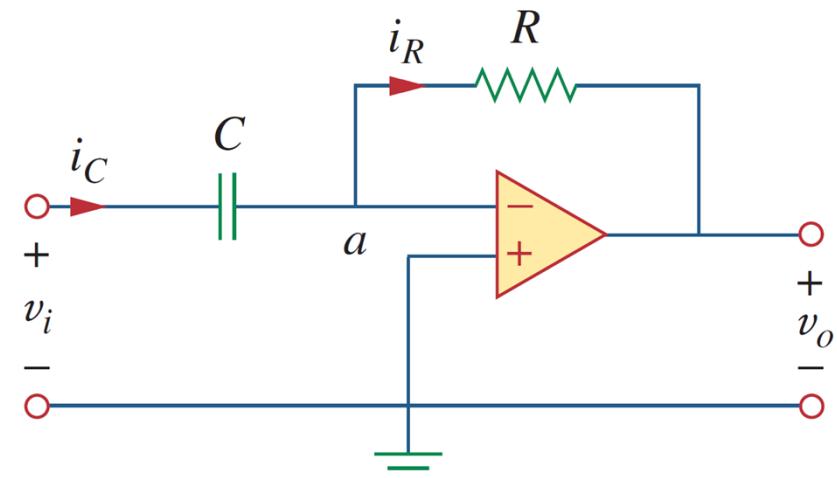
- Capacitors, in combination with op-amps can be made to perform advanced mathematical functions
- One such function is the integrator or differentiator.
- By replacing the input resistor with a capacitor, the resulting circuit is a differentiator

$$i_R = -\frac{u_o}{R}$$

$$i_C = C \frac{du_C}{dt} = C \frac{du_i}{dt}$$

$$i_C = i_R$$

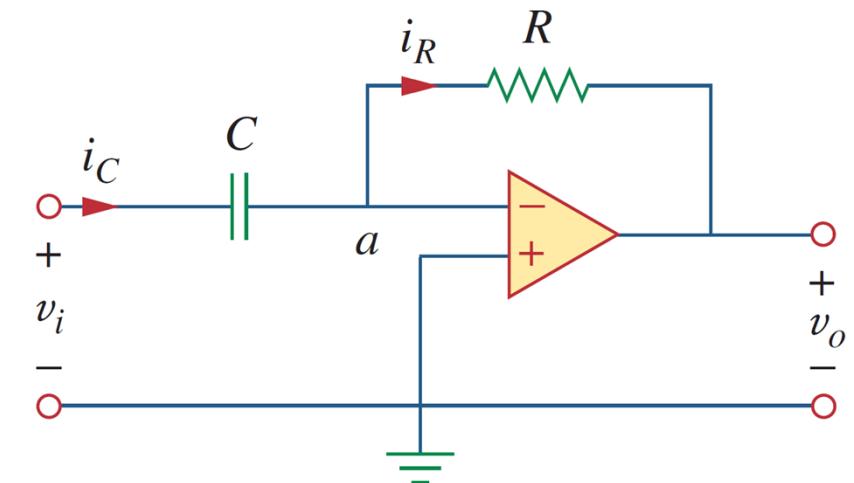
$$u_o = -RC \frac{du_i}{dt}$$



**Figure 6.37**  
An op amp differentiator.

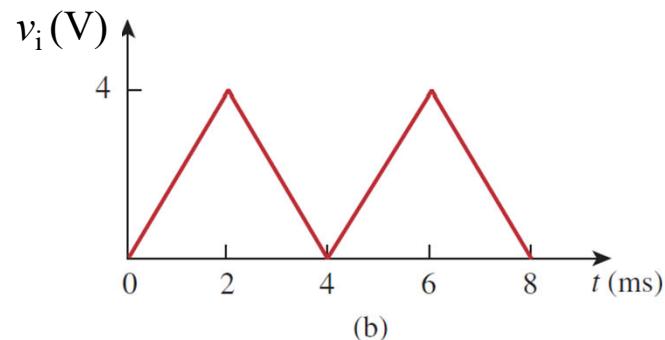
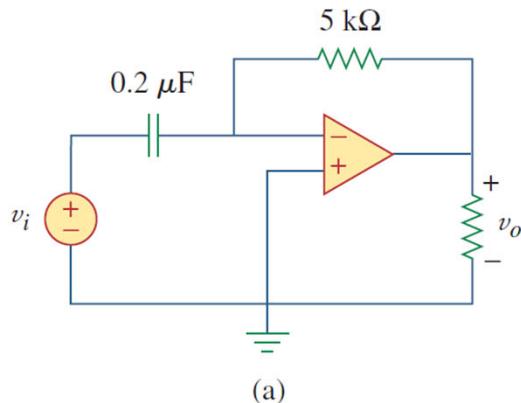
The output voltage is proportional to the rate of change of the input signal.

$$u_o = -RC \frac{du_i}{dt}$$



**Figure 6.37**  
An op amp differentiator.

## Example 6.14



**Figure 6.38**

For Example 6.14.

$$u_o = -RC \frac{du_i}{dt}$$

Sketch the output voltage for the circuit in Fig. 6.38(a), given the input voltage in Fig. 6.38(b). Take  $v_o = 0$  at  $t = 0$ .

### Solution:

This is a differentiator with

$$RC = 5 \times 10^3 \times 0.2 \times 10^{-6} = 10^{-3} \text{ s}$$

For  $0 < t < 4 \text{ ms}$ , we can express the input voltage in Fig. 6.38(b) as

$$v_i = \begin{cases} 2000t & 0 < t < 2 \text{ ms} \\ 8 - 2000t & 2 < t < 4 \text{ ms} \end{cases}$$

This is repeated for  $4 < t < 8 \text{ ms}$ . Using Eq. (6.37), the output is obtained as

$$v_o = -RC \frac{dv_i}{dt} = \begin{cases} -2 \text{ V} & 0 < t < 2 \text{ ms} \\ 2 \text{ V} & 2 < t < 4 \text{ ms} \end{cases}$$

Thus, the output is as sketched in Fig. 6.39.

