

Circuits and Electronic Laboratory

Experiment #4

The Purpose of the Experiment

The aim is to obtain an understanding of how works Thevenin, Norton, and Maximum Power Theorems.

General Information

While all components are stable in a circuit, there may occur some situations that a component (it is generally called as the load) is changeable. As an example, plenty of different electrical devices (all of them have different resistor values) can be connected to the sockets in our homes. If we want to analyze the circuit (electrical infrastructure in the home and the device plugged into the socket), we have to analyze everything again whenever another device is plugged. We use the Thevenin theorem for avoiding this problem. The method behind it is to change the constant part of the circuit with the Thevenin equivalent circuit. In this way, the circuit that we examine is simplified to understand. Fig. 1 shows the situation. V_{Th} is the open circuit voltage between a and b points. R_{Th} is the equivalent (or input) resistor when independent sources are taken off.

Additionally, a two-port linear circuit can be changed with a Norton equivalent circuit. It can be seen in Fig. 2. I_N is the short circuit current flowing between terminals (a and b). R_N is the equivalent resistor when independent sources are taken off.

To sum up, Thevenin and Norton equivalent circuits can be found with the following methods:

- Open circuit voltage V_{oc} between a and b terminals
- Short circuit current I_{sc} between a and b
- Equivalent or input resistor R_{in} when all independent sources are off. Being sources off means that All independent voltage sources must be short circuits and independent current sources must be open circuits.

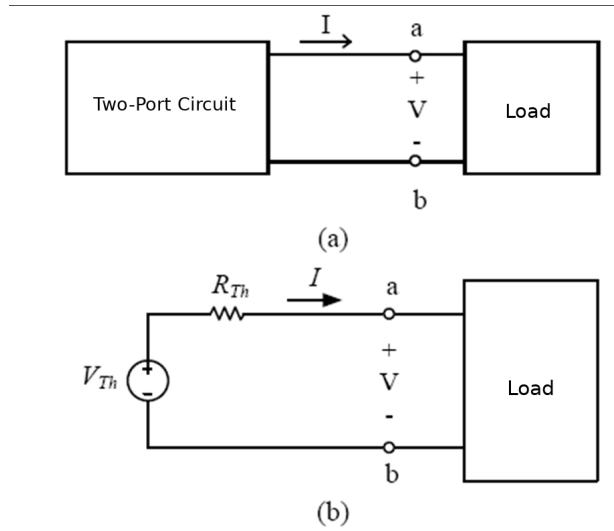


Figure 1: a) Original circuit b) Thevenin equivalent circuit

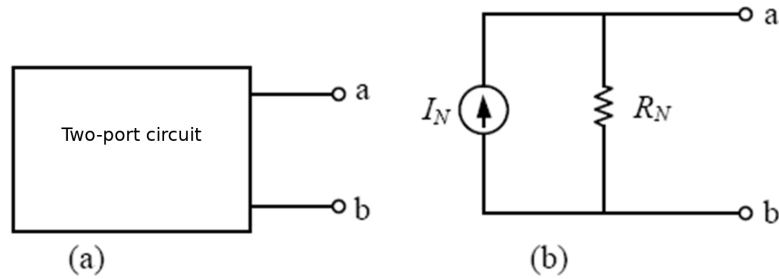


Figure 2: a) Original circuit b) Norton equivalent circuit

Maximum Power Transfer: If $R_L = R_{Th}$, maximum power transfer is obtained. The general formula is as follows.

$$P = i^2 R_L = \left(\frac{V_{Th}}{R_{Th} + R_L} \right)^2 R_L = \frac{V_{Th}^2}{4R_{Th}} \quad (1)$$

Preparations Before the Experiment

- Why Thevenin and Norton Theorems are used in the circuits?
- How Norton current and Thevenin voltage are found in a circuit?
- Simulate Norton and Thevenin equivalents of the following circuits before coming to the lab.

- Determine R_L 's in the following circuits for the maximum power transfer. Take note the value of the R_L that you found.
- Simulate the following circuit (Figure 3), and in your simulation, you have to build all circuits that are needed to fill the Table in the Lab Sheet.

The Experiment

- Set up the circuit in the Fig. 3.
- Find V_{Th} by measuring the open circuit voltage between a and b terminals. You need to get rid of R_5 to do this.
- Find R_{Th} via measuring the equivalent resistor between terminals. You have to measure the resistor with the ohmmeter property of the multi-meter.
- Draw the Thevenin equivalent circuit with experimental results. Draw the Norton circuit using source transformation method.
- Measure I_N Norton short circuit current between a-b terminals. Compare it with the Norton circuit that you drew.
- Show your results to the teaching assistants up to now.
- Fill the table and try to understand the effects of the maximum power theorem on your experiment. Show the table to the TAs.

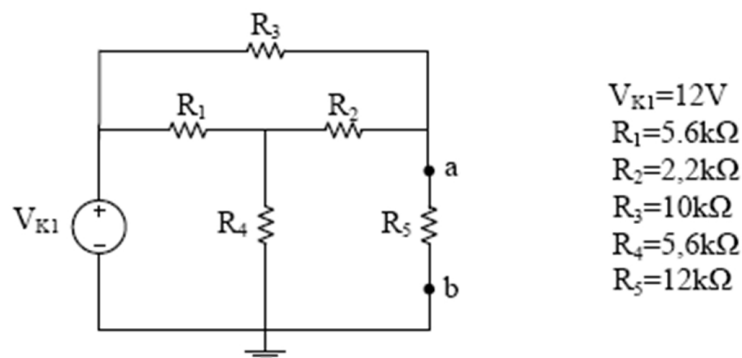


Figure 3:

Load Res	Meas I_{RL} (mA)	Meas V_{RL} (V)	Meas P_{RL} (mW)	Meas P_{Rth} (mW)	Calc I_{RL} (mA)	Calc V_{RL} (V)	Calc P_{RL} (mW)	Calc P_{Rth} (mW)
$R_L = 0.1R_{Th}$								
$R_L = R_{Th}$								
$R_L = 10R_{Th}$								

The Components Needed in This Lab

330Ω x 1 piece, $1k\Omega$ x 3 pieces, $2.2k\Omega$ x 1 piece, $3.3k\Omega$ x 1 piece, $5.6k\Omega$ x 2 pieces, $10k\Omega$ x 1 piece, $12k\Omega$ x 2 pieces, $18k\Omega$ x 1 piece, $33k\Omega$ x 1 piece, breadboard are needed and a few jumper cable might be nice.

Do your simulations, some components may be missing. You can see in your simulations and filling the table if there is a missing component or not.