Electricity and Magnetism

- Physics 259 – L02
- Lecture 35

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Chapter 27

Last time

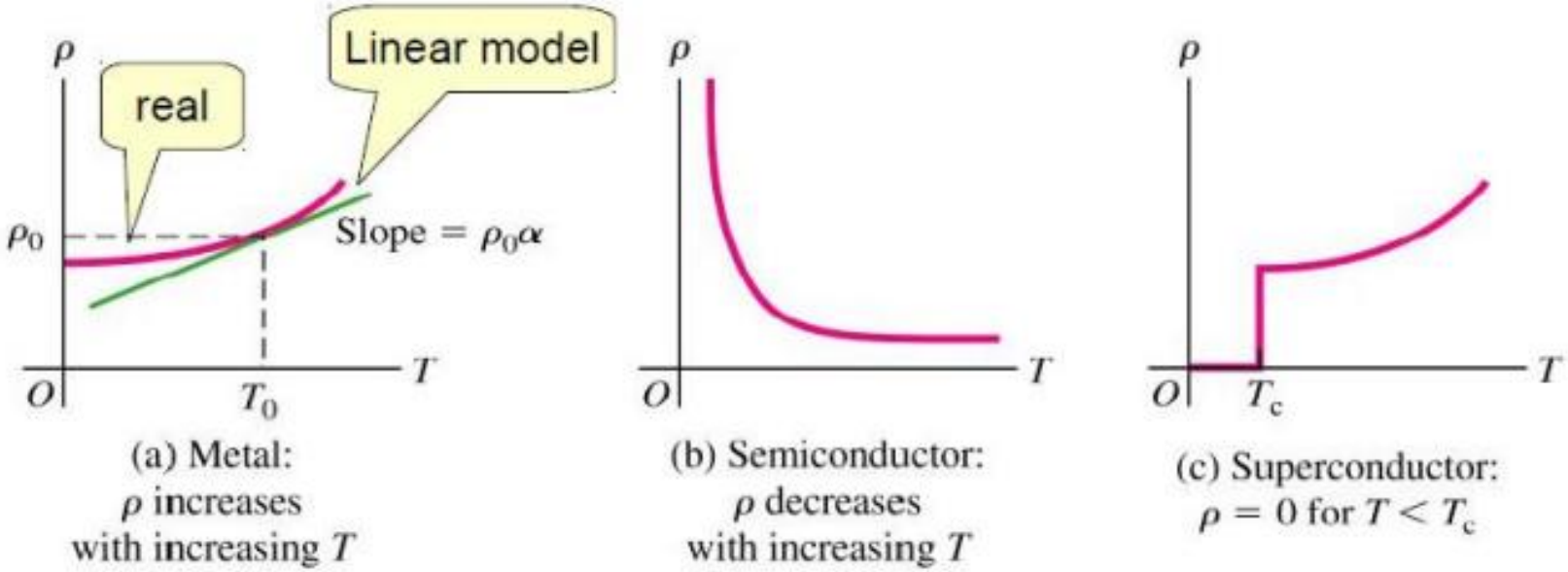
- Chapters 26 and 27

This time

- Solve some examples

27 Circuits:
continue of last section

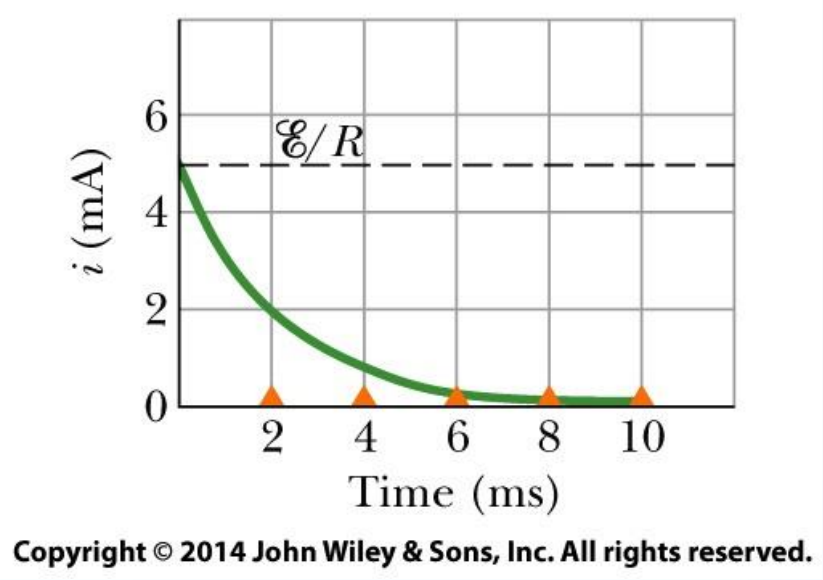
Resistivity and temperature



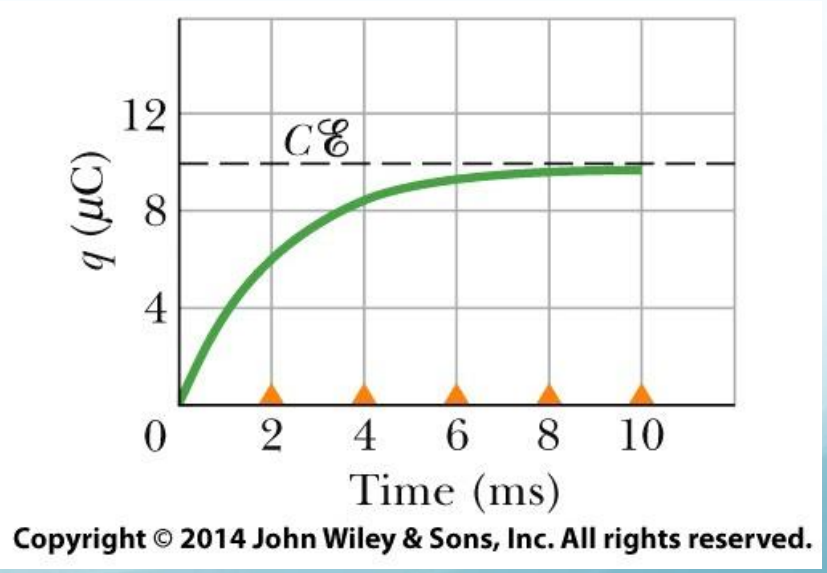
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hTT6nktJQBE

Case 1: Charging a capacitor

$$i = i_0 e^{-t/RC}$$

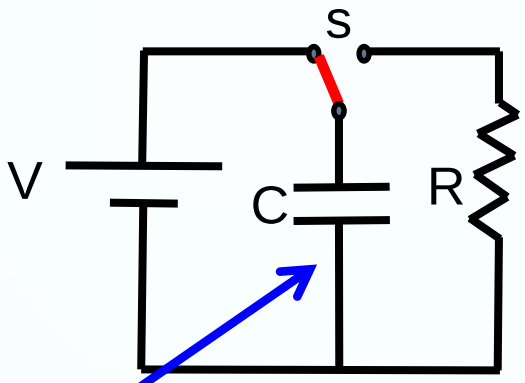


$$q = \varepsilon C\left(1 - e^{-t/RC}\right) = Q_f\left(1 - e^{-t/RC}\right)$$



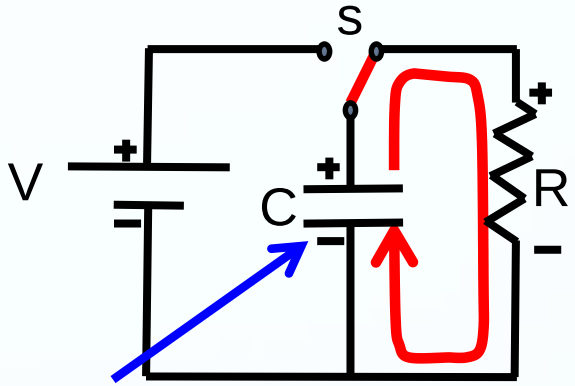
Case 2: Discharging a capacitor

Switch is connected to the left for a long time until t=0-



Capacitor charges up to voltage V

Switch is suddenly flipped to the right at t=0+

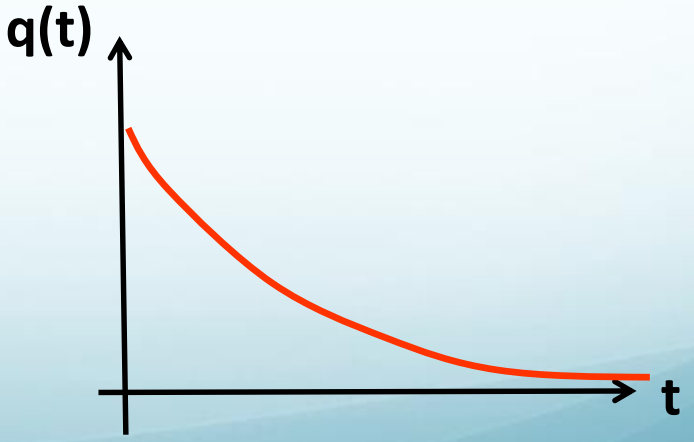


Capacitor discharges

$$q(t) = q_0 e^{-t/RC}$$

$$i(t) = i_0 e^{-t/RC}$$

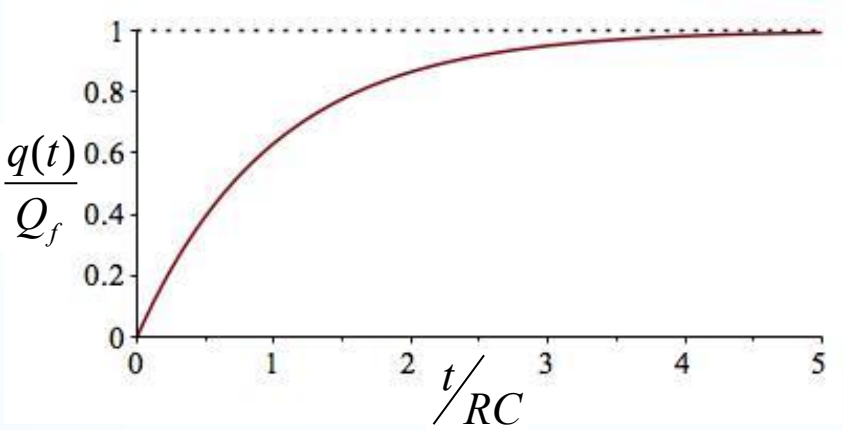
$$q_0 = CV$$

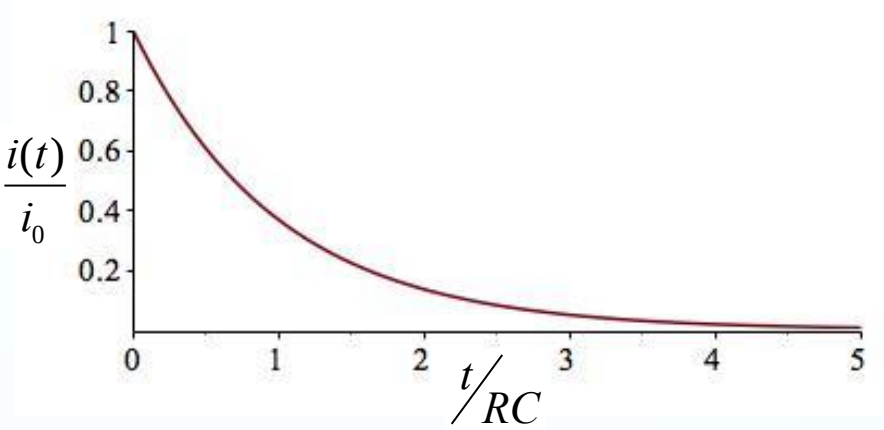


Charging/Discharging Capacitors

Charging: $q(t) = Q_f \left(1 - e^{-\frac{t}{RC}}\right)$

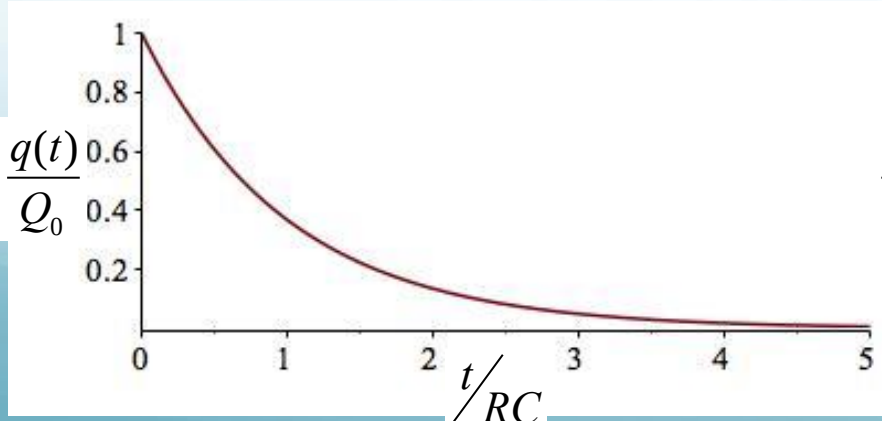
$i(t) = i_0 e^{-\frac{t}{RC}}$

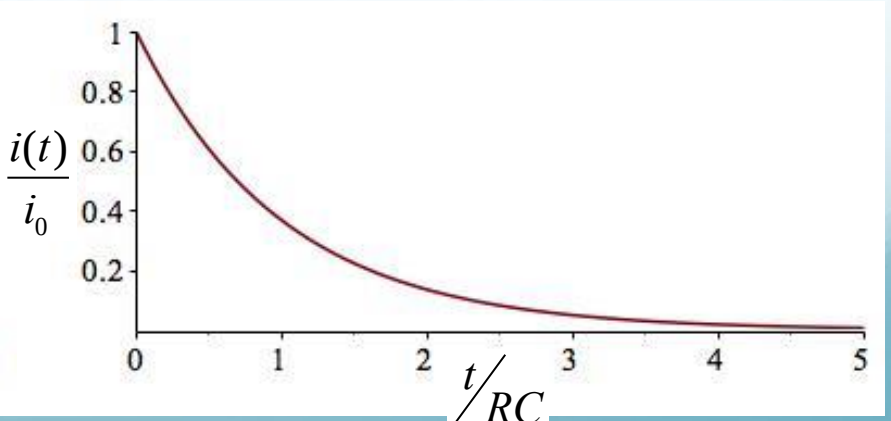




Discharging: $q(t) = Q_0 e^{-\frac{t}{RC}}$

$i(t) = i_0 e^{-\frac{t}{RC}}$





The RC time constant

The constant RC pops up in the exponential factor for both charging and discharging capacitors. What does it represent?

The units of RC is seconds: $[RC] = \frac{V}{A}\frac{C}{V} = \frac{C}{C/s} = s$

We call RC the "**RC time constant**" and it tells us how quickly a capacitor can charge or discharge.

$$RC \circ t$$

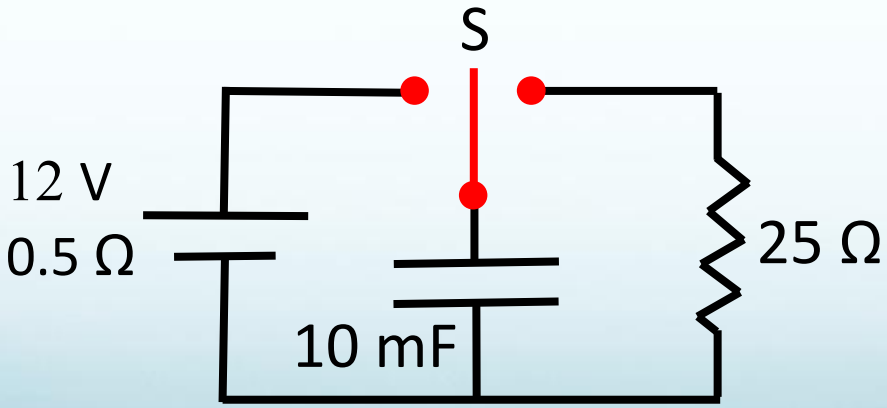
After a time τ, the charge on a discharging capacitor is reduced by a factor of 1/e. After a time $N\tau$, it is reduced by a factor of $1/e^N$

$$q(t) = Q_0 e^{-\frac{t}{t}}$$

Sample question

An RC circuit is shown below. Initially the switch is open and the capacitor is uncharged. At time t = 0 s, the switch is thrown to the left, connecting the capacitor to the battery. At time t = 15 ms the switch is thrown to the right, connecting the capacitor to the resistor.

1) How much charge builds up on the capacitor while it is connected to the battery?
2) What is the voltage across the resistor as a function of time as the capacitor discharges?
3) What is the ratio of the charging time to discharging time?



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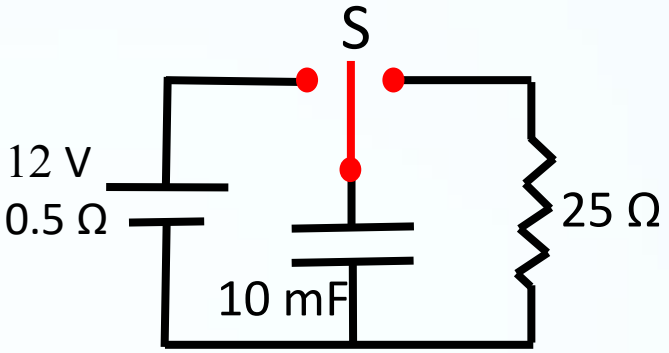

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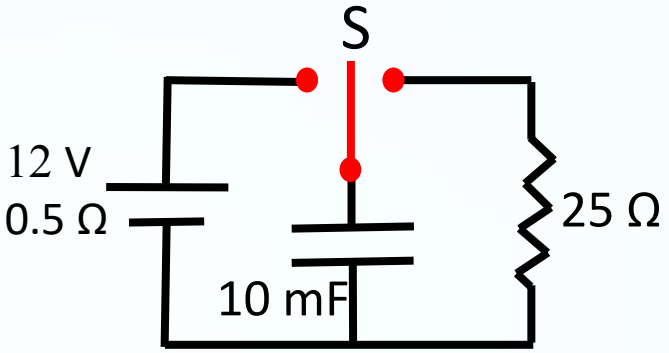

2) What is the voltage across the resistor as a function of time as the capacitor discharges?

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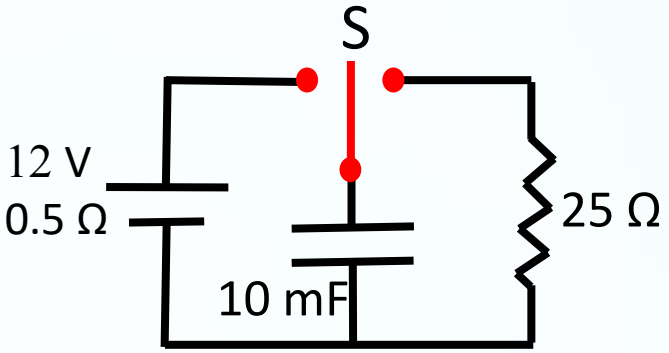

3) What is the ratio of the charging time to discharging time?

This section we talked about:

Chapter 27

See you on Friday