Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) BRAC University

Spring 2023

CSE250 - Circuits and Electronics

NODAL ANALYSIS



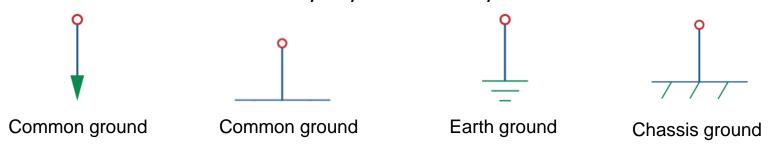
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BRAC UNIVERSITY

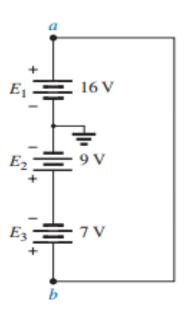
Ground

- Except for a few special cases, electrical and electronic systems are grounded for reference and safety purposes.
- It is called ground since it is assumed to have zero potential.
- In general, the placement of the ground connection will not affect the magnitude or polarity of the voltage across an element but it may have a significant impact on the voltage from any point in the network to ground.
- A reference node is indicated by any of the four symbols.



For the series network shown below, determine,

- i) The voltage V_a .
- ii) The voltage V_h .
- iii) The voltage V_{ab}



Hint: A node voltage is the potential difference between the given node and the reference node (ground in this case).

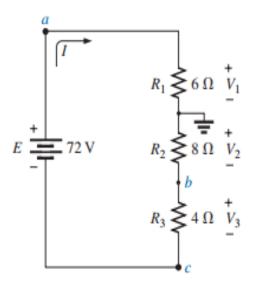
$$V \partial I = {}_{b}V (i) : \underline{SRA}$$

 $V \partial I = {}_{d}V (ii)$
 $V \partial I = {}_{d}V (iii)$



For the series network shown below, determine,

- i) The voltage V_a .
- ii) The voltages V_b and V_c .
- iii) The voltage V_{ab}



$$V + 2 = {}_{a}V (i) : \underline{SnA}$$

$$V + 4 = {}_{a}V (ii) : \underline{A}V + A = {}_{a}V (iii)$$

$$V + A = {}_{a}V (iii)$$



Circuit laws, methods of analysis, & theorems

Circuit Laws

- Ohm's Law
- Kirchhoff's Current Law
- Kirchhoff's Voltage Law

Methods of analysis

- Nodal Analysis
- Mesh Analysis

Circuit Theorems

- Superposition Theorem
- Source Transformation
- Thevenin's Theorem
- Norton's Theorem
- Maximum Power Transfer Theorem



Nodal Analysis: general approach

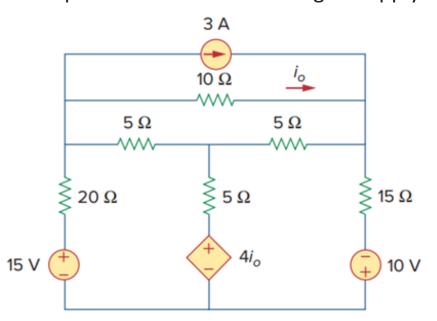
- Nodal analysis provides a general procedure for analyzing circuits using node voltages as the circuit variables. Nodal analysis applies KCL to find unknown voltages in a given circuit.
- A node voltage is the potential difference between the given node and some other node that has been chosen as a reference node.
- Remember that applying KCL to n-1 nodes produces n-1 variables and n-1 equations. As you will see, it is not necessary to apply KCL to every node in a circuit. So, being a little discreet can significantly reduce the number of variables. See an example.
- But first, we need to look at four cases.

Steps to Determine Node Voltages:

- Select a node as the reference node. Assign voltages v₁, v₂,..., v_{n-1} to the remaining n − 1 nodes. The voltages are referenced with respect to the reference node.
- Apply KCL to each of the n − 1 nonreference nodes. Use Ohm's law to express the branch currents in terms of node voltages.
- Solve the resulting simultaneous equations to obtain the unknown node voltages.

Example 1

Use nodal analysis to determine the voltage across the 3 A current source. What is the power of it? Is it absorbing or supplying?



Before solving the circuit using nodal analysis, remember that "Current flows from a higher potential to a lower potential in a resistor." This is true since resistor is a passive element, by the passive sign convention, current must always flow from a higher potential to a lower potential.

We can express this principle as,

$$i = \frac{v_{higher} - v_{lower}}{R}$$

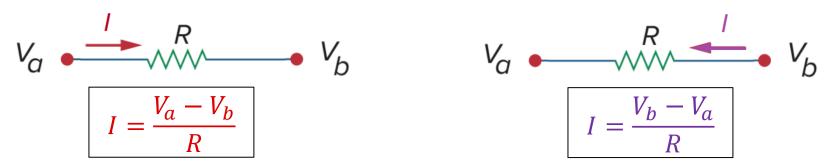
However, do we know which voltage is higher one beforehand?



Case 1: resistor between nodes

There are four scenarios that we may encounter while writing currents in terms of node voltages throughout the nodal analysis procedure. We will arbitrarily choose the direction of the current flowing through a wire.

Case 1 In case of only a resistor connected between two nodes of voltages V_a and V_h , the current, assumed to be flowing in a particular direction, can be written as,

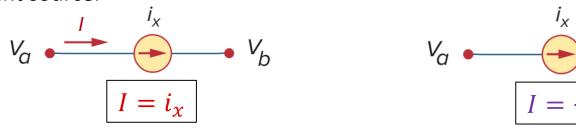


The actual direction of the current can be known after solving for the node voltages.

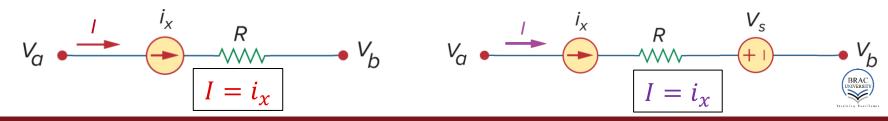


Case 2: current source between nodes

Case 2 In case of a current source connected between two nodes of voltages V_a and V_b , current flowing between the nodes will be equal to the current supplied by the current source.

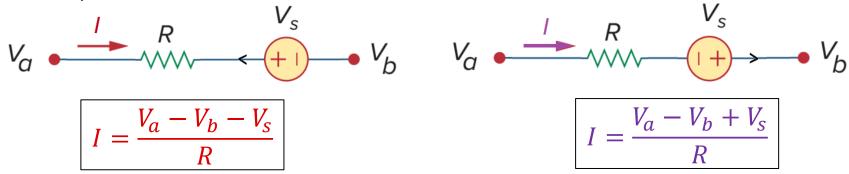


If any other elements are connected in series with a current source, the current between the nodes will still be equal to the current supplied by the source.



Case 3: resistor & voltage source in series between nodes

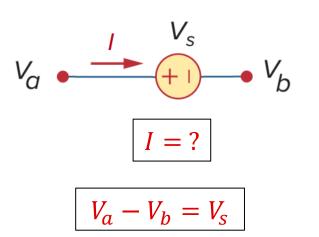
■ Case 3 In case of a resistor and a voltage source in series connected between two nodes under consideration, the current, assumed to be flowing in a particular direction, can be written as,

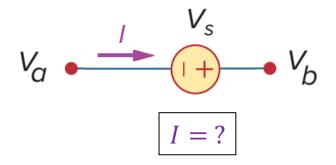


This is how we might perceive the scenario. We'll assume the current flows from V_a to V_b . Given that voltage sources tend to produce power, we add V_s with the term $(V_a - V_b)$ in the numerator if the current contributed by the source (indicated in black arrow) is in the same direction (from V_a to V_b), otherwise we deduct V_s .

Case 4: voltage source between nodes

■ Case 4 Because Ohm's Law cannot be applied in the absence of a resistor, in the case of a voltage source linked between two nodes, we don't know the current of a voltage source in advance. This is a unique case in which the condition is known as a *Supernode*. This is handled differently, as demonstrated by an <u>example</u> later. We may still write KVL equation as,





$$V_a - V_b = -V_s$$



Example 1: general approach (step 1)

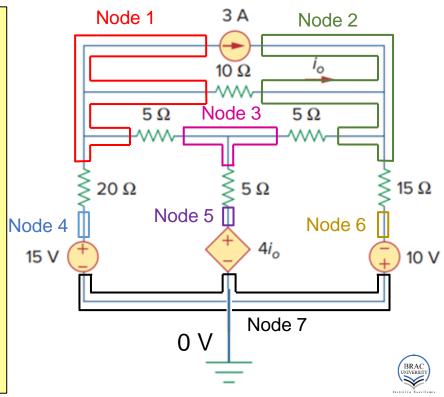
First identify all the nodes in this circuit. Recall that, A *node* is the point of connection between two or more branches. A node is an equipotential portion of a circuit.

There are 7 nodes as identified in the circuit.

Make one of the nodes as the reference node. It is most convenient (not mandatory) to choose the node that has the maximum number of circuit elements connected to it.

Let's assign the node 7 as the reference node.

Place a ground to the reference node.



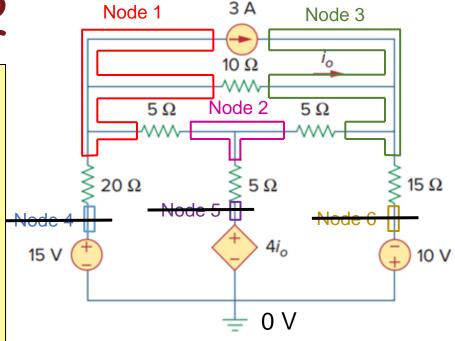
Example 1: step 2

The 2nd step is to assign node variables to the remaining nodes.

There are 6 nodes apart from the ground.

We don't need to apply KCL separately to all the remaining nodes.

One thumb rule is that, assign node variable (apply KCL) to the nodes where at least three or more branches are connected, if the node voltage is not already known.



This enables us to put the nodes 4, 5, and 6 out of consideration. Assign variables V_1 , V_2 , and V_3 to the nodes 1, 2, and 3 respectively.



Example 1: step 3

The 3rd step is to apply KCL separately to each of the nodes in consideration.

Applying KCL to the node 1

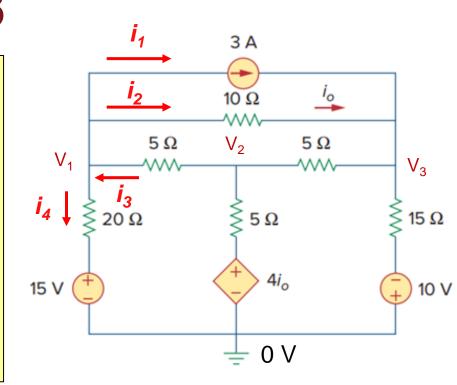
Let's add currents to all the wires (4 wires) connected to node 1. The direction of the currents are taken arbitrarily.

According to the KCL,

$$i_1 + i_2 + i_4 = i_3$$

Sum of currents entering the node

Sum of currents leaving the node





Example 1: step 3 (continued ... 2)

$$i_1 + i_2 + i_4 = i_3$$

Now express the unknown currents in terms of node voltages and resistances using Ohm's law and recall the cases.

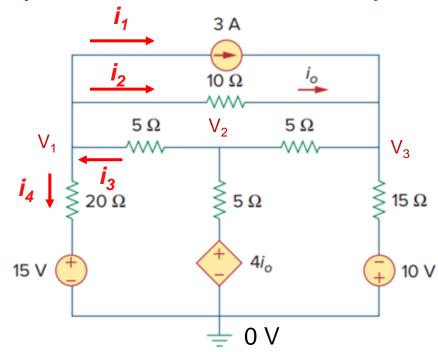
$$3 + \frac{V_1 - V_3}{10} + \frac{V_1 - 0 - 15}{20} - \frac{V_2 - V_1}{5} = 0$$

$$i_1 \qquad i_2 \qquad i_4 \qquad i_3$$

$$case 2 \qquad case 1 \qquad case 3 \qquad case 2$$

Simplifying the equation yields,

$$7V_1 - 4V_2 - 2V_3 = -45$$



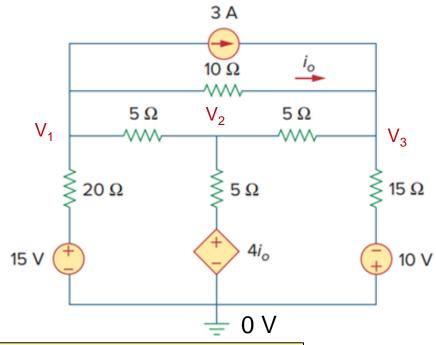


Example 1: step 3 (continued ... 3)

$$\frac{V_2 - V_1}{5} + \frac{V_2 - 0 - 4i_0}{5} + \frac{V_2 - V_3}{5} = 0$$

where, all the currents are assumed to be leaving the node 2 (arbitrary assumption)

Due to the gain $(4i_0)$ of the dependent source, the parameter i_0 is present in the equation. We need to replace i_0 in terms of the node voltages. i_0 can be written as,



$$i_0 = \frac{V_1 - V_3}{10}$$
 [see the direction of i_0 in the circuit diagram]



Example 1: step 3 (continued ... 4)

Replace i_0 in the equation for node 2 by $\frac{V_1-V_3}{10}$

$$\frac{V_2 - V_1}{5} + \frac{V_2 - 4\left(\frac{V_1 - V_3}{10}\right) - 0}{5} + \frac{V_2 - V_3}{5} = 0$$

Simplifying the equation yields,

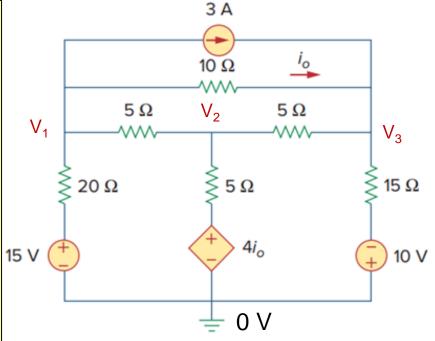
$$7V_1 - 15V_2 + 3V_3 = 0$$
 -----(*ii*)

✓ Next, apply KCL to node 3,

$$\frac{V_3 - V_2}{5} + \frac{V_3 - V_1}{10} + \frac{V_3 - 0 + 10}{15} = 3$$

Or,

$$3V_1 + 6V_2 - 11V_3 = -70$$
 ---- (iii)





Example 1: step 3 (continued ... 5)

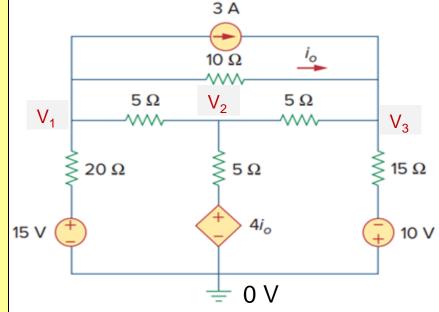
We have derived the three node equations consisting of three variables.

$$7V_1 - 4V_2 - 2V_3 = -45$$
$$7V_1 - 15V_2 + 3V_3 = 0$$
$$3V_1 + 6V_2 - 11V_3 = -70$$

Solving the three simultaneous equations yields,

$$V_1 = -7.19 V$$

 $V_2 = -2.78 V$
 $V_3 = 2.89 V$





Example 1: annex

Determining the voltage and power of the 3A source.

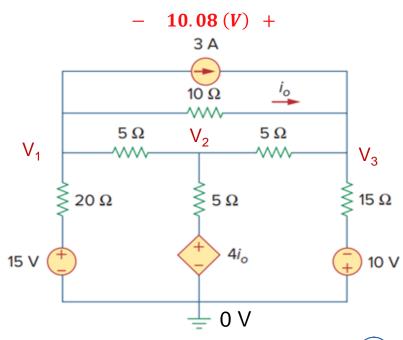
The voltage across the voltage 3A source is either $V_1 - V_3$ or $V_3 - V_1$. With $V_3 > V_1$, we calculate the voltage as a positive quantity to be,

$$V_3 - V_1 = 2.89 - (-7.19) = 10.08 V$$

The polarity of the voltage is such that V_3 is at a higher potential than V_1 , as shown in the figure.

According to the passive sign convention, the power supplied by the 3A source is thus,

$$p = -10.08 \times 3 = -30.24 (Watt)$$



Nodal Analysis: format approach

- Nodal analysis using *Format approach* allows to write nodal equations rapidly and in a form that is convenient for the use of determinants.
- The first node equation from <u>Example 1</u> can be written in this form,

• Note that, each node voltage variable is multiplied by the sum of the conductances (reciprocal of R) attached to that node. Note also that the other nodal voltages within the same equation are multiplied by the negative of the conductance between the two nodes. The current sources are represented to the same side of the equals sign with a positive sign if they leaves the node and with a negative sign if they draw enter to the node. So, to summarize the procedure ...



Format approach: procedure

Steps

- 1. Choose a reference node and assign a subscripted voltage label to all the (N-1) remaining nodes of the network.
- 2. The number of equations required for a complete solution is equal to the number of subscripted voltages (N-1). Column 1 of each equation is formed by summing the conductances (reciprocal of R) tied to the node of interest and multiplying the result by that subscripted nodal voltage.
- 3. We must now consider the mutual terms, which, as noted in the preceding slide, are always subtracted from the first column. It is possible to have more than one mutual term if the nodal voltage of current interest has an element in common with more than one other nodal voltage. This is demonstrated in an example to follow. Each mutual term is the product of the mutual conductance and the other nodal voltage, tied to that conductance.
- 4. A current source is assigned a positive sign if it draws current from a node and negative sign if it supplies current from the node.
- 5. Solve the resulting simultaneous equations for the desired voltages.

Example 1: format approach

Identify all the nodes and label them (with ground being the 0th node).

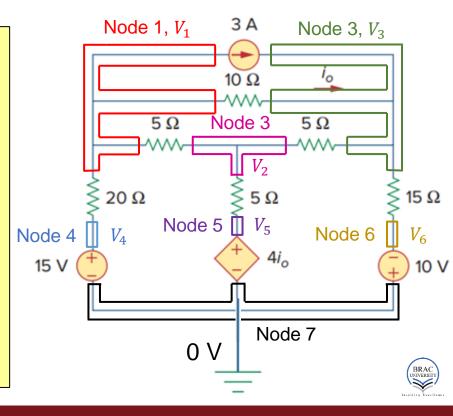
Write the component equations for all the voltage sources (voltage difference = labeled variable).

$$V_4 = 15 V -------(i)$$

$$V_5 = 4i_0 = 4 \times \frac{V_1 - V_3}{10}$$

$$\Rightarrow 4V_1 - 4V_3 - 10V_5 = 0 ------(ii)$$

$$V_6 = -10 V -------(iii)$$



Example 1: format approach ... (2)

Node 1, V_1 : There are 3 resistors (20 Ω, 5 Ω, 10 Ω) connected to V_1 . We write,

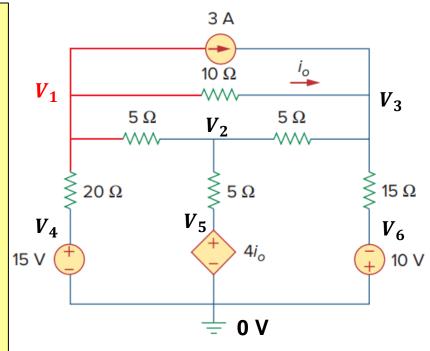
$$V_1 \left(\frac{1}{20} + \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{10} \right) \dots = 0$$

The other end of the 20Ω , 5Ω , and 10Ω resistors are connected to the nodes V_4 , V_2 , and V_3 respectively. So, we subtract,

$$V_1 \left(\frac{1}{20} + \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{10} \right) - \frac{V_4}{20} - \frac{V_2}{5} - \frac{V_3}{10} \dots = 0$$

Finally, we subtract any currents entering to that node (or add if leaving),

$$V_1 \left(\frac{1}{20} + \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{10} \right) - \frac{V_4}{20} - \frac{V_2}{5} - \frac{V_3}{10} + 3 = 0$$





Example 1: format approach ... (3)

Substituting 15 V for
$$V_4$$
 from equation (i),

$$V_1 \left(\frac{1}{20} + \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{10} \right) - \frac{15}{20} - \frac{V_2}{5} - \frac{V_3}{10} + 3 = 0$$

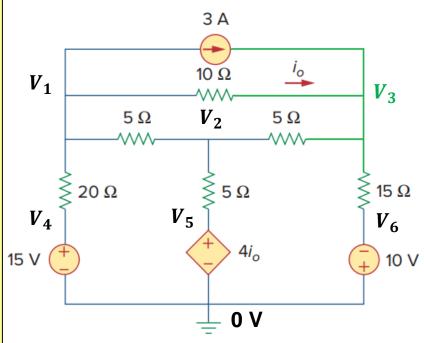
$$\Rightarrow V_1 \left(\frac{1}{20} + \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{10} \right) - \frac{V_3}{10} - \frac{V_2}{5} = -\frac{9}{4}$$

Node 3, V_3 : Similarly, 10Ω , 5Ω , and 15Ω resistors are connected between V_3 and V_1 , V_3 and V_2 , and V_3 and V_6 respectively. Also, the 3 A current is entering to V_3 .

$$V_3\left(\frac{1}{10} + \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{15}\right) - \frac{V_1}{10} - \frac{V_2}{5} - \frac{V_6}{15} - 3 = 0$$

Substituting -10 V for V_6 from equation (iii),

$$V_3\left(\frac{1}{10} + \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{15}\right) - \frac{V_1}{10} - \frac{V_2}{5} = \frac{7}{3} - - - - (v)$$





Example 1: format approach ... (4)

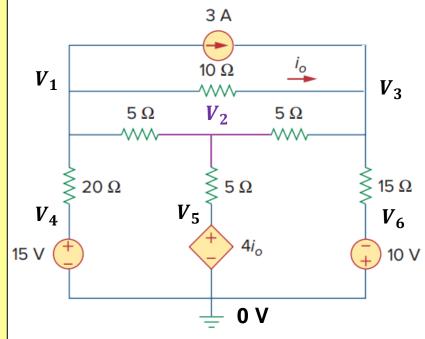
Node 2, V_2 : Similarly, three 5 Ω resistors are connected between V_2 and V_1 , V_2 and V_3 , and V_2 and V_5 respectively. So,

$$V_2\left(\frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{5}\right) - \frac{V_1}{5} - \frac{V_3}{5} - \frac{V_5}{5} = 0$$

From equation (ii),

$$V_5 = \frac{4V_1 - 4V_3}{10}$$

Substituting for V_5 from equation (ii),





Example 1: format approach ... (5)

We got three equations with three variables.

$$V_{1}\left(\frac{1}{20} + \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{10}\right) - \frac{V_{3}}{10} - \frac{V_{2}}{5} = -\frac{9}{4}$$

$$V_{3}\left(\frac{1}{10} + \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{15}\right) - \frac{V_{1}}{10} - \frac{V_{2}}{5} = \frac{7}{3}$$

$$V_{2}\left(\frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{5}\right) - V_{1}\left(\frac{1}{5} + \frac{2}{25}\right) - V_{3}\left(\frac{1}{5} - \frac{2}{25}\right) = 0$$

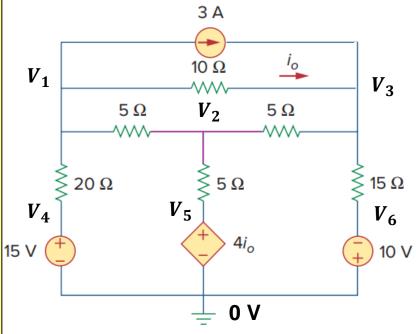
Solving the three equations we get,

$$V_{1} = -7.19 V$$

$$V_{2} = -2.78 V$$

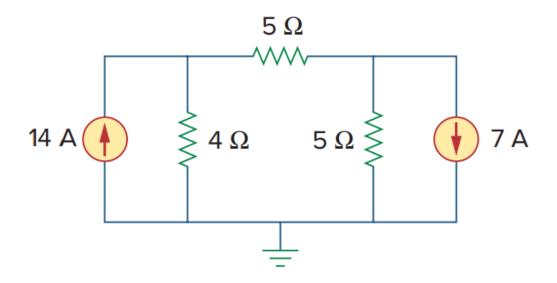
$$V_{3} = 2.89 V$$

$$i_{0} = \frac{V_{1} - V_{3}}{10} = -1.008 A$$





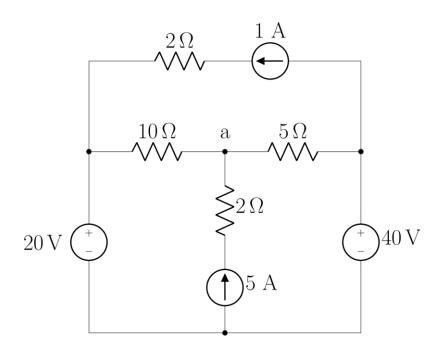
Find all the node voltages



<u>Ans</u>: **0** V; **30** V; **-2**. **5** V



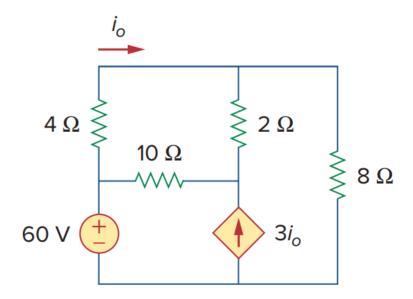
• Find the voltage of node a using nodal analysis.



Ans: With the ground placed at the bottom-most node, $V_a = 50 V$



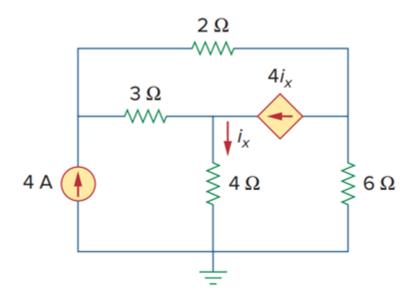
• Find i_0 using nodal analysis.



 $\underline{\text{Ans}}: i_0 = 1.73 A$



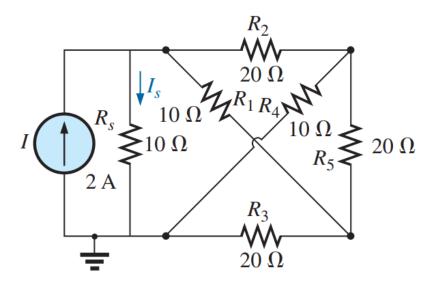
Find the node voltages.



Ans: 0 V; 32 V; -25.6 V; 62.4 V;



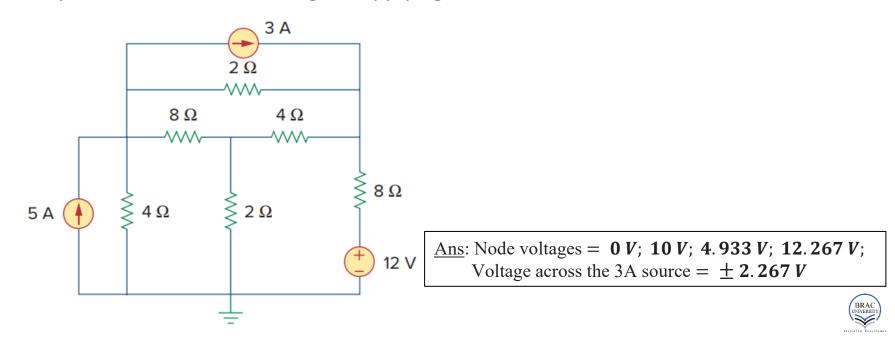
Determine the current through the source resistor R_s using nodal analysis



 $\underline{\text{Ans}}: i_s = 1.18 A$



Use nodal analysis to determine the voltage across the $3\,A$ current source. What is the power of it? Is it absorbing or supplying?

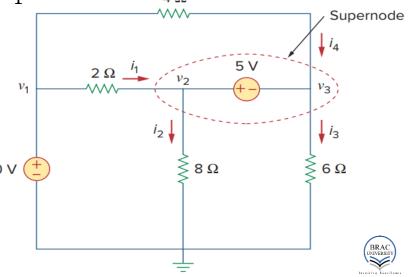


Nodal Analysis with voltage source between nodes: (Case 4)

Scenario 1 If a voltage source is connected between the reference node and a nonreference node, we simply set the voltage at the nonreference node equal to the voltage of the voltage source. For example, $v_1 = 10 V$.

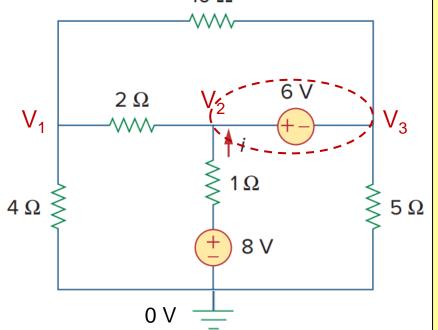
Scenario 2 If a voltage source (dependent or independent) is connected between two nonreference nodes, the two nonreference nodes form a generalized node or supernode.

A *supernode* is formed when a voltage source¹⁰ v (dependent or independent) is connected between two nonreference nodes and any elements connected in parallel with it.



Example 2: general approach (steps 1 & 2)

Use nodal analysis to determine the current i. 10 Ω



Step 1: Select a node as the reference node and place a ground to that node.

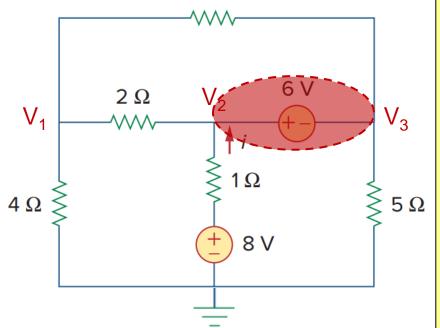
Step 2: Assign node variables to the remaining nodes.

Check for supernodes. Check if a voltage source (dependent or independent) is connected between two nonreference nodes under consideration. There can be multiple supernodes in a circuit.

In this circuit, the 6 V voltage source forms a supernode between nodes 2 and 3.

Example 2: general approach (step 3)

Use nodal analysis to determine the current i. 10 Ω



We need to handle such conditions differently because there is no way to know the current through a voltage source in advance.

Consider the supernode as a "Whole" node and apply KCL to the node ignoring the source forming supernode and anything in parallel with it. There are 4 wires connected to the supernode, therefore, the KCL equation for the supernode should contain 4 terms.

Applying KCL to the supernode,

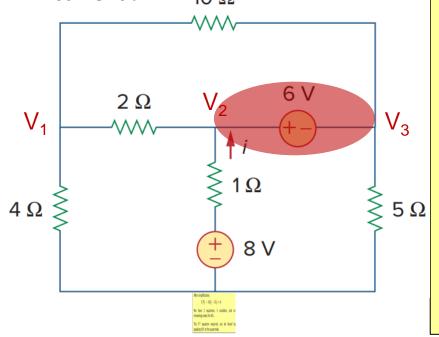
$$\frac{V_2 - V_1}{2} + \frac{V_2 - 8 - 0}{1} + \frac{V_3 - 0}{5} + \frac{V_3 - V_1}{10} = 0$$

After simplification,

$$6V_1 - 15V_2 - 3V_3 = -80$$

Example 2: step 3 (continued ... 2)

Use nodal analysis to determine the current i. 10 Ω



The next step is to apply KCL to the other remaining nonreference nodes except for the nodes forming the supernode.

Applying KCL to the node 1,

$$\frac{V_1 - 0}{4} + \frac{V_1 - V_2}{2} + \frac{V_1 - V_3}{10} = 0$$

After simplification,

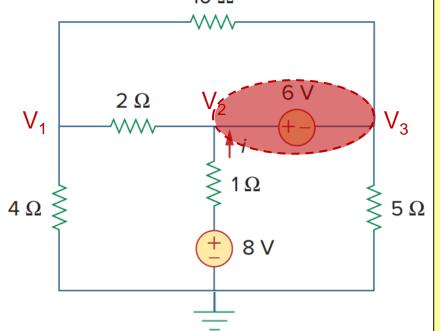
$$17V_1 - 10V_2 - 2V_3 = 0 \quad ----- (ii)$$

We have 2 equations, 3 variables, and no remaining nodes for KCL.

The 3rd equation required, can be found by applying KVL to the supernode.

Example 2: step 3 (continued ... 3)

Use nodal analysis to determine the current i. 10 Ω



Applying KVL to the supernode,

$$V_2 - V_3 = 6$$
 ---- (iii)

We got the three equations,

$$6V_1 - 15V_2 - 3V_3 = -80$$
$$17V_1 - 10V_2 - 2V_3 = 0$$
$$V_2 - V_3 = 6$$

Solving

$$V_1 = 4.1 V;$$
 $V_2 = 6.8 V;$ $V_3 = 0.8 V;$

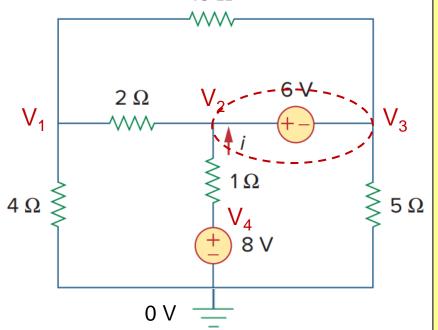
The current *i* can be written as,

$$i = \frac{0 - (-8) - V_2}{1} = 1.2 A$$



Example 2: format approach

Use nodal analysis to determine the current i. 10 Ω



Step 1: Identify all the nodes and label them (with ground being the 0th node).

<u>Step 2</u>: Write the component equations for all the voltage sources (voltage difference = labeled variable).

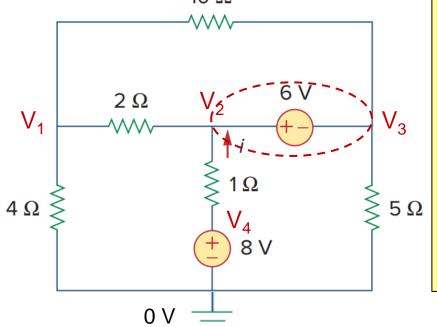
$$V_4 = 8 V ------(i)$$

Check for supernodes. Check if a voltage source (dependent or independent) is connected between two nonreference nodes. There can be multiple supernodes in a circuit.

In this circuit, the 6 V voltage source forms a supernode between nodes 2 and 3.

Example 2: format approach ... (2)

Use nodal analysis to determine the current i. 10 Ω



Step 3: Node equation formation.

Node 1, V_1 : 4 Ω , 2 Ω , and 10 Ω resistors are connected between V_1 and ground, V_1 and V_2 , and V_1 and V_3 respectively. We write,

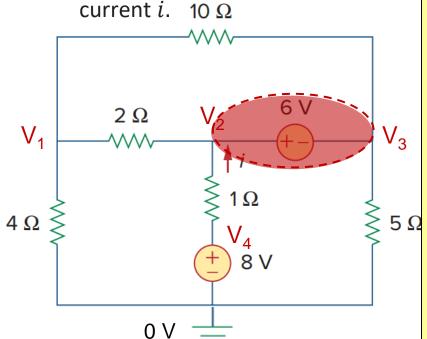
$$V_1\left(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{10}\right) - \frac{0}{4} - \frac{V_2}{2} - \frac{V_3}{10} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{17V_1}{20} - \frac{V_2}{2} - \frac{V_3}{10} = 0 - - - - - (i)$$



Example 2: format approach ... (3)

Use nodal analysis to determine the



Node 2 & 3 (Supernode): Now we will apply the same but together in both the nodes 2 & 3.

The 1 Ω and 2 Ω resistors are connected between V_2 and V_4 , and V_2 and V_1 respectively. Again, the 10 Ω and 5 Ω resistors are connected between V_3 and ground, and V_3 and V_1 respectively. So,

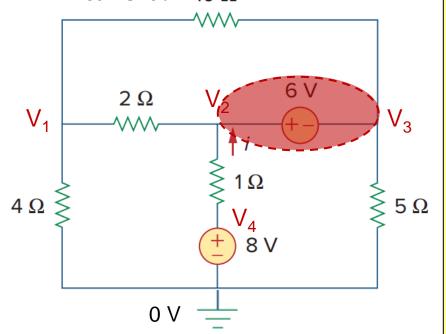
$$\geq \sum_{5 \Omega} V_2 \left(\frac{1}{1} + \frac{1}{2} \right) - \frac{V_4}{1} - \frac{V_1}{2} + V_3 \left(\frac{1}{10} + \frac{1}{5} \right) - \frac{V_1}{10} - \frac{0}{5} = 0$$

With $V_4 = 8 V$,

$$\Rightarrow \frac{3V_1}{5} - \frac{3V_2}{2} - \frac{3V_3}{10} + 8 = 0 - - - - (ii)$$

Example 2: format approach ... (4)

Use nodal analysis to determine the current i. 10 Ω



Finally, applying KVL to the supernode yields.

$$V_2 - V_3 = 6 - - - - - (iii)$$

We get the three equations,

$$\frac{17V_1}{20} - \frac{V_2}{2} - \frac{V_3}{10} = 0$$

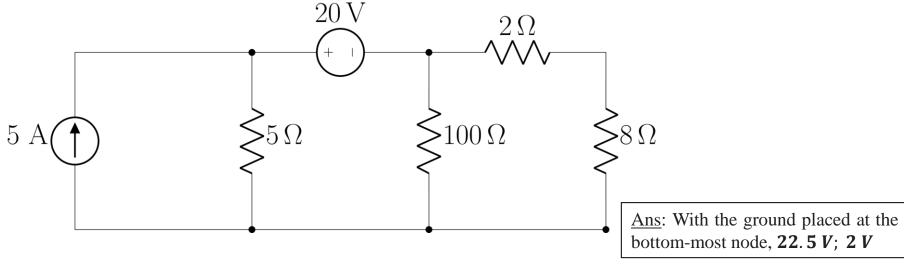
$$\frac{3V_1}{5} - \frac{3V_2}{2} - \frac{3V_3}{10} + 8 = 0$$

$$V_2 - V_3 = 6$$

Solving ...

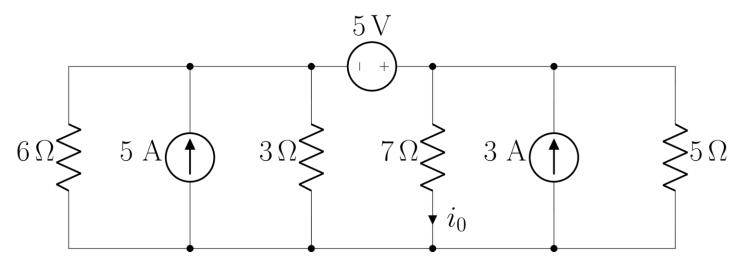
$$V_1 = 4.1 V;$$
 $V_2 = 6.8 V;$ $V_3 = 0.8 V$

• Use nodal analysis to find the node voltages. Use the node voltages to find the voltage across the $8\ \Omega$ resistor.





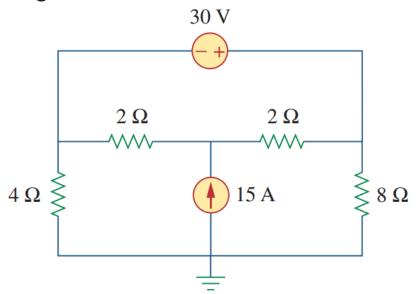
• Find i_0 using nodal analysis.



Ans: $i_0 = 1.78 A$



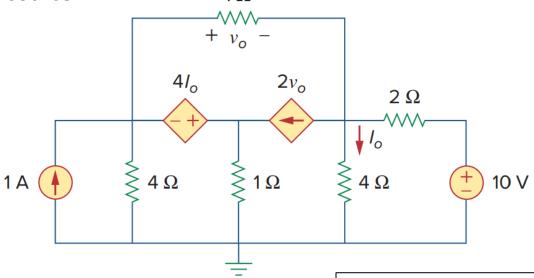
• Use nodal analysis, determine the current through the 2 Ω resistance in the right.



<u>Ans</u>: **0** *A*



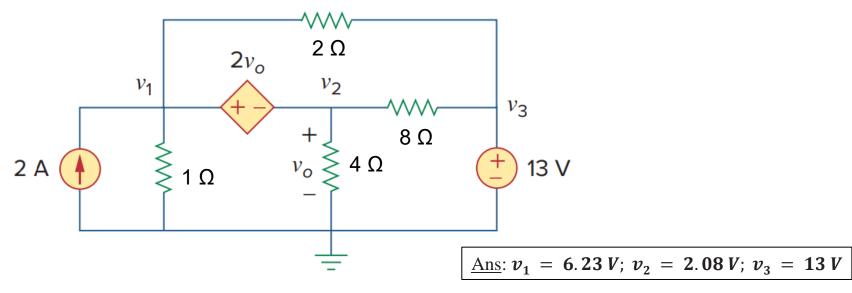
• Use nodal analysis to determine the current through the dependent voltage source. 1Ω



Ans: Node voltages = 0 V; 4.97 V; 4.85 V; - 0.12 V; Current through the $4 I_0$ source = $\pm 5.33 A$

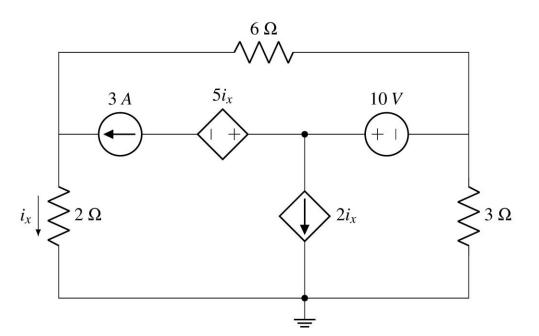


• Determine voltages v_1 through v_3 in the circuit using nodal analysis.





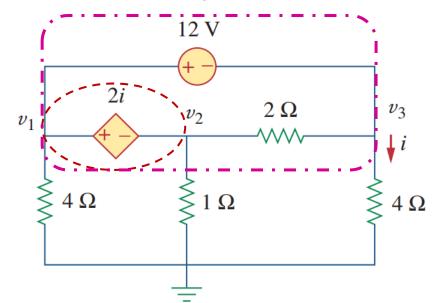
• Use nodal analysis to find i_x . What is the voltage across the dependent current source? Find the current through the $10\ V$ source.



Ans: $i_x = 1.059 A$; $v_{4i_x} = 0.47 V$; $i_{10 V} = \pm 5.12 A$



• Find v_1, v_2, v_3 using nodal analysis. [Hint: The supernodes overlap. Ignore the two voltage sources that form the supernodes and apply KCL to the corresponding nodes together (at v_1, v_2, v_3 together)].



Ans:
$$v_1 = -3 V$$
; $v_2 = 4.5 V$; $v_3 = -15 V$



Practice Problems

Additional practice problems can be found <u>here</u>



Thank you for your attention

