

HW 03 At time $t = 0$, the potential difference V_{in} switches suddenly from 0 to V_0 . Calculate V_{out} as a function of time for $t > 0$ and sketch $V_{\text{out}}(t)$.

Applying Ohm's Law across the resistor R gives

$$V_{\text{in}} - V_{\text{out}} = IR$$

The same current I passes through the capacitor according to the relationship

$$\frac{dV_C}{dt} = \frac{dV_{\text{out}}}{dt} = \frac{1}{C} \frac{dQ}{dt} = \frac{I}{C}$$

Substituting and rearranging gives

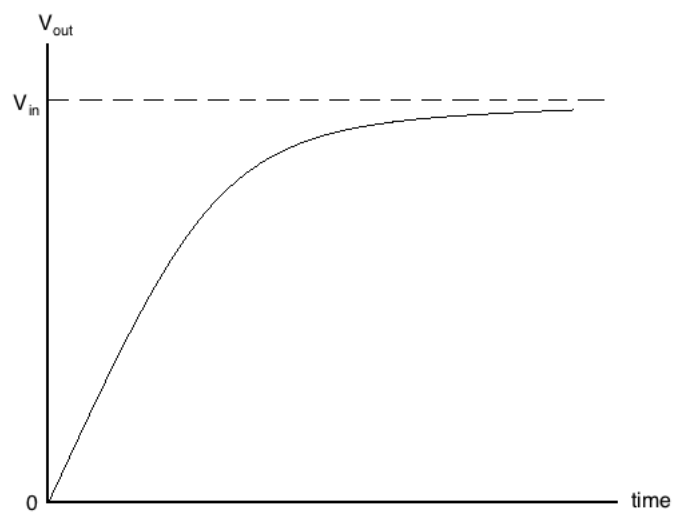
$$\frac{dV_{\text{out}}}{dt} + \frac{1}{RC} V_{\text{out}} = \frac{1}{RC} V_{\text{in}}$$

Solving for the homogeneous solution, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dV_{\text{out}}}{dt} + \frac{1}{RC} V_{\text{out}} &= 0 \\ \frac{dV_{\text{out}}}{dt} &= -\frac{1}{RC} V_{\text{out}} \\ \frac{dV_{\text{out}}}{V_{\text{out}}} &= -\frac{dt}{RC} \\ \int \frac{dV_{\text{out}}}{V_{\text{out}}} &= \int -\frac{dt}{RC} \\ \ln(V_{\text{out}}) &= -\frac{t}{RC} + C \\ V_{\text{out}} &= e^{-\frac{t}{RC} + C} \\ &= Ae^{-\frac{t}{RC}} \end{aligned}$$

A particular solution is $V_{\text{out}} = V_{\text{in}}$ and the initial condition $V_{\text{out}}(0) = 0$ determines A . Therefore, we find the solution

$$V_{\text{out}}(t) = V_{\text{in}} \left(1 - e^{-\frac{t}{RC}} \right)$$



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