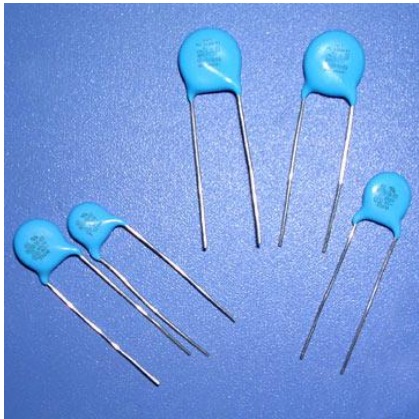
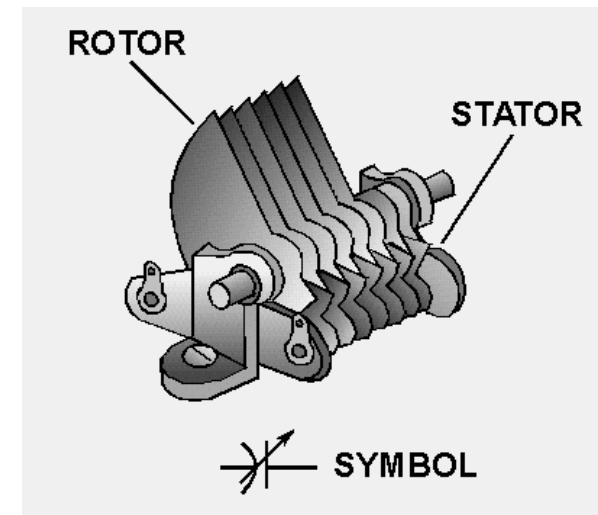
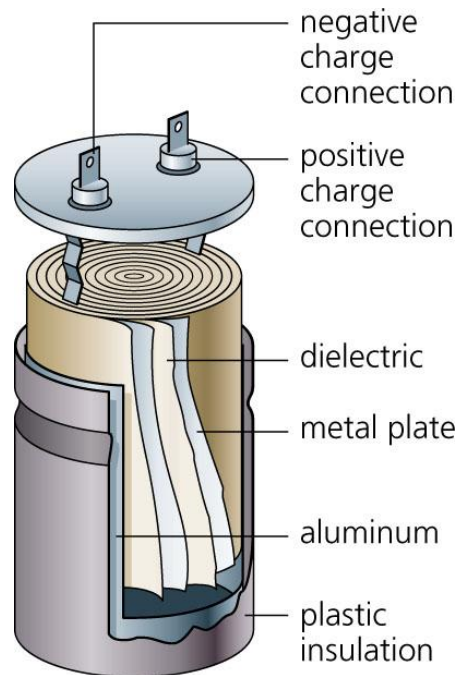
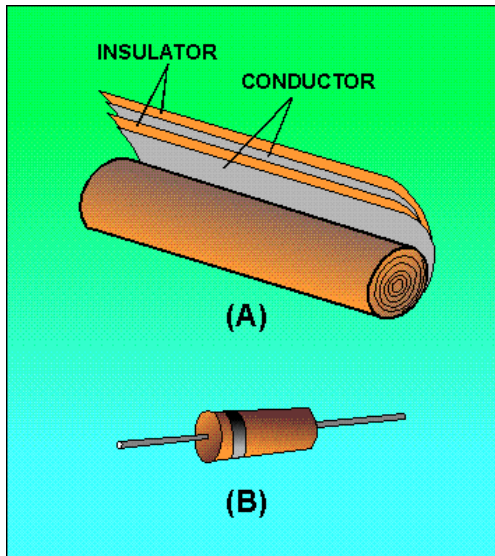


CAPACITANCE – Part 2



The RC Circuit

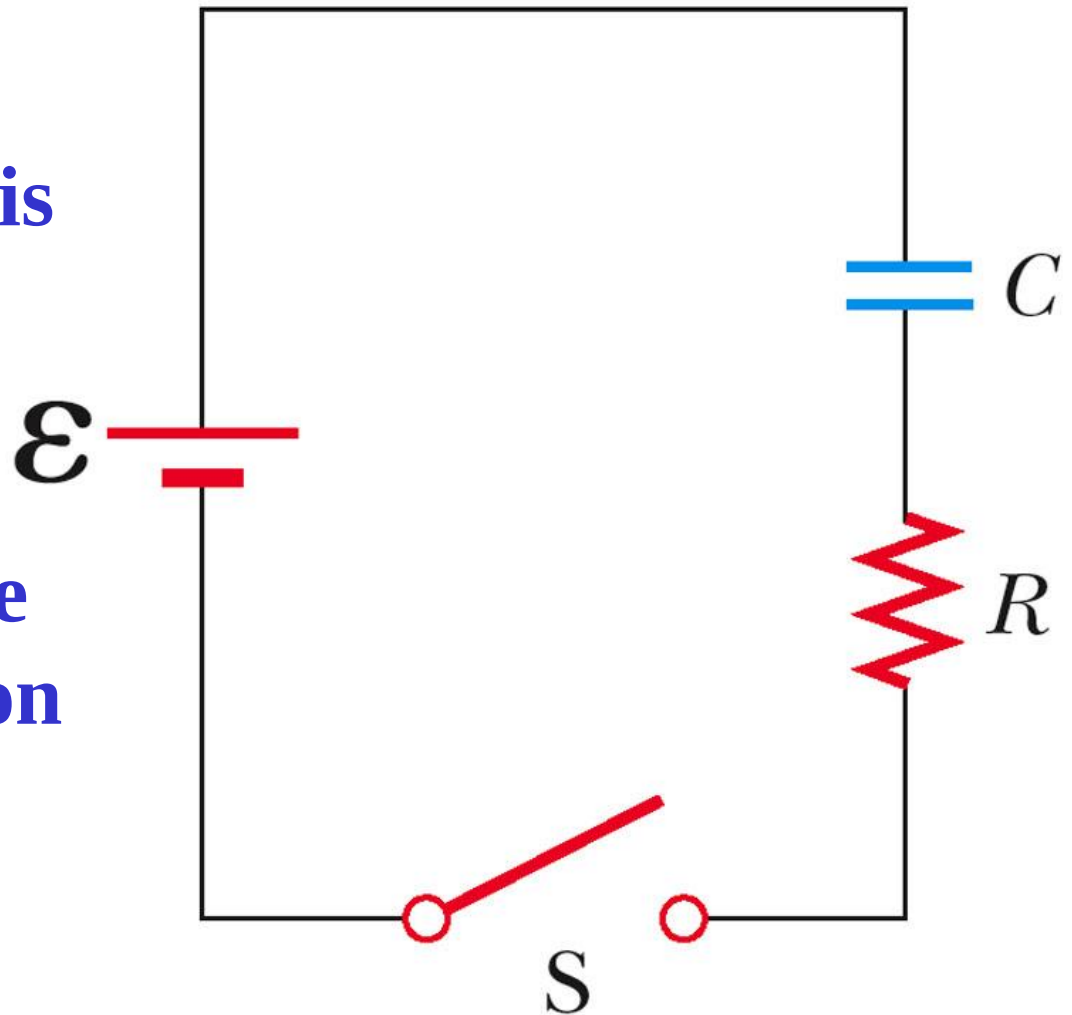
When the switch **S** is closed, the initial current

$$\mathcal{E}/R$$

decreases over time as charges collect on the plates.

$$I_0 = \mathcal{E}/R$$

$$I = I_0 e^{-t/RC}$$



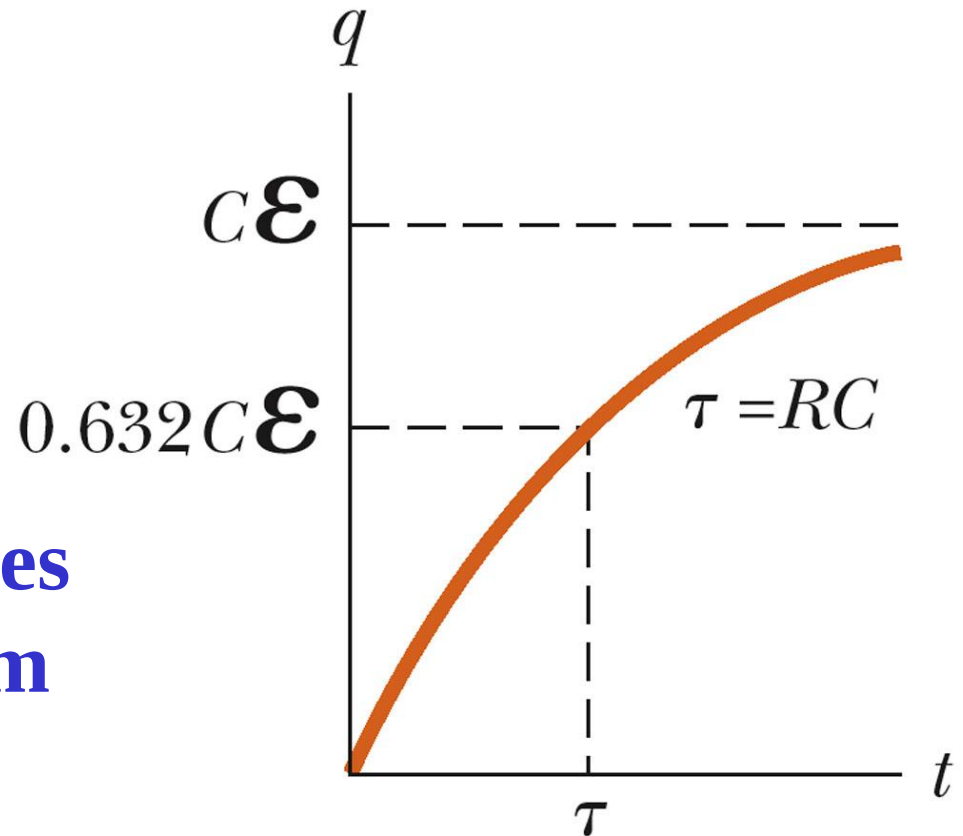
$$I_0 = \mathcal{E}/R$$

$$I = I_0 e^{-t/RC}$$

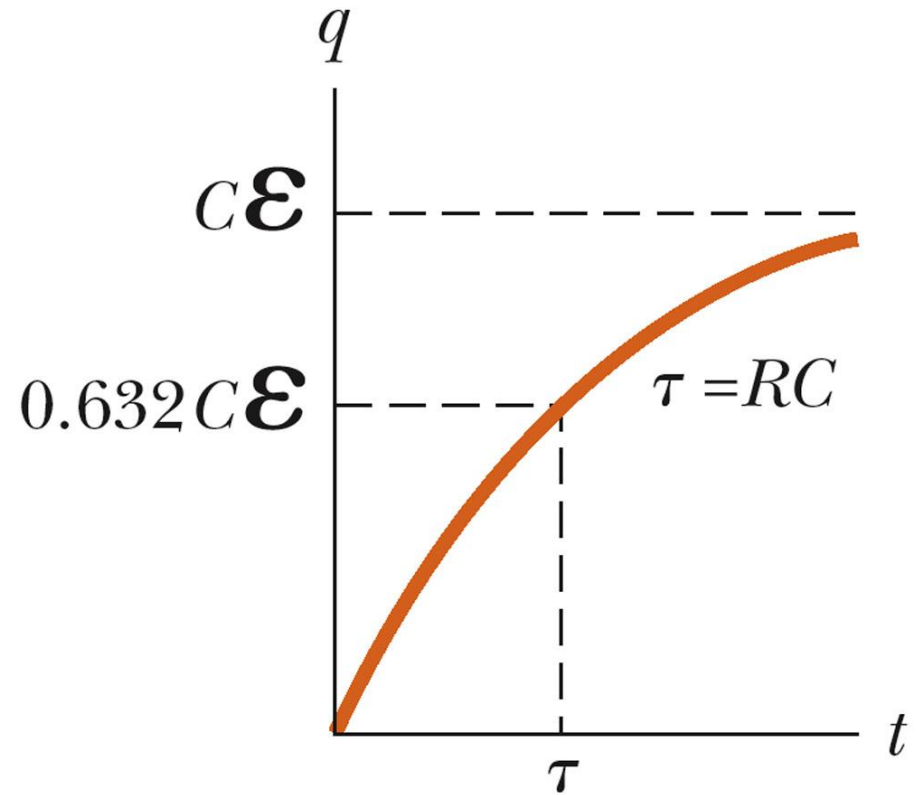
The charge on the plates approaches a maximum value,

$$Q = C\mathcal{E}$$

and the voltage across the plates approaches $\mathcal{E}$.



The charging time depends on the time constant, $\tau = RC$. At time $t = \tau$ the capacitor has reached 63.2% of its maximum charge.



**In a circuit with a large time constant,
the capacitor charges very slowly.**

**The capacitor charges very quickly if
there is a small time constant.**

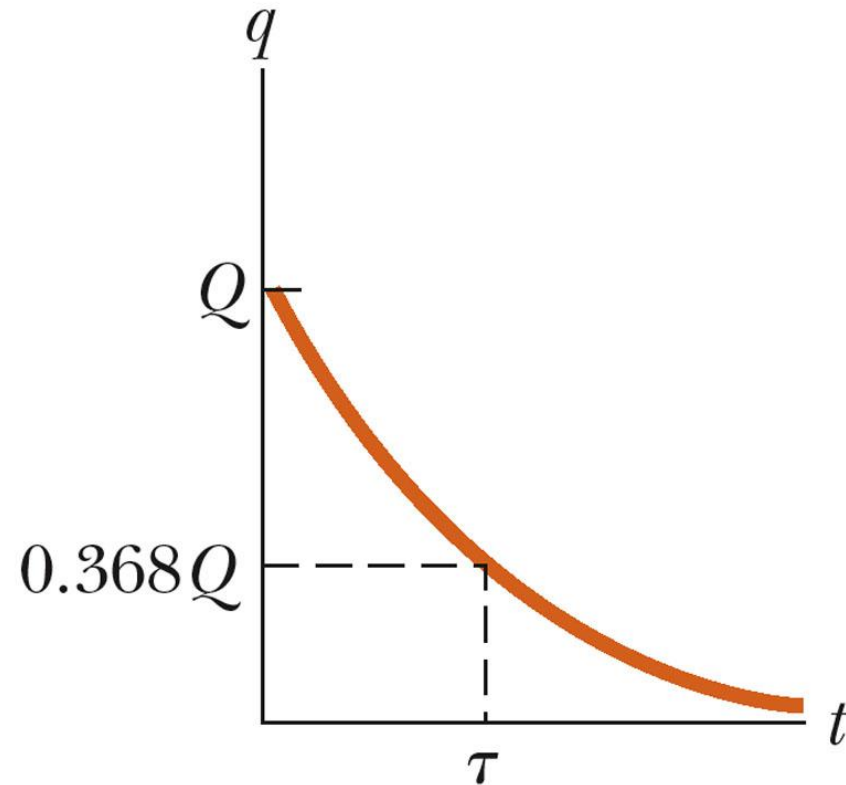
**After $t = 10\tau$, the capacitor is over
99.99% charged**

When a charged capacitor is placed in the circuit, it discharges exponentially.

$$q = Qe^{-t/RC}$$

At $t = \tau = RC$, the charge decreases to $0.368 Q_{\max}$.

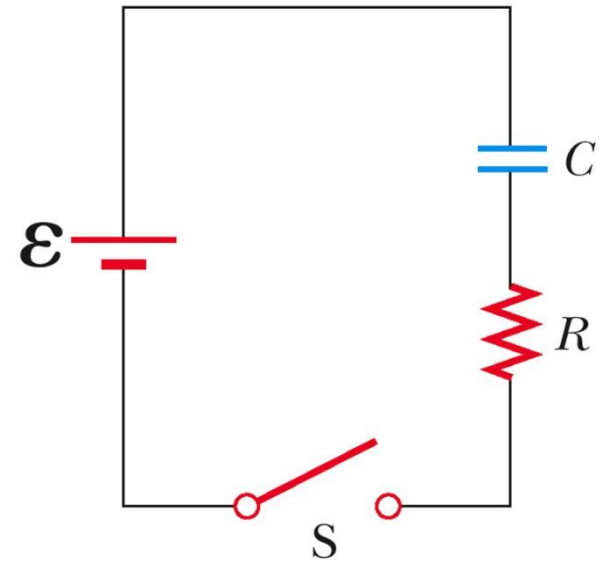
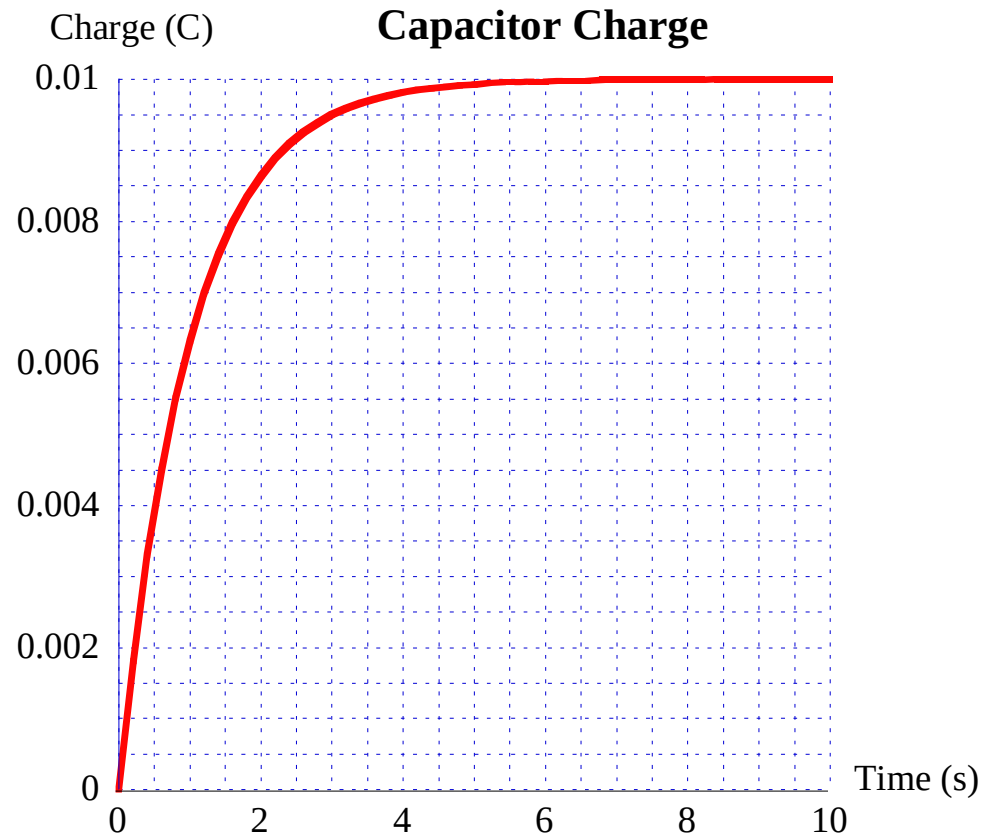
In other words, in one time constant, the capacitor loses 63.2% of its initial charge.



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Example:

$$\mathcal{E} = 10 \text{ V}, C = 1000 \mu\text{F}, R = 1 \text{ M}\Omega.$$

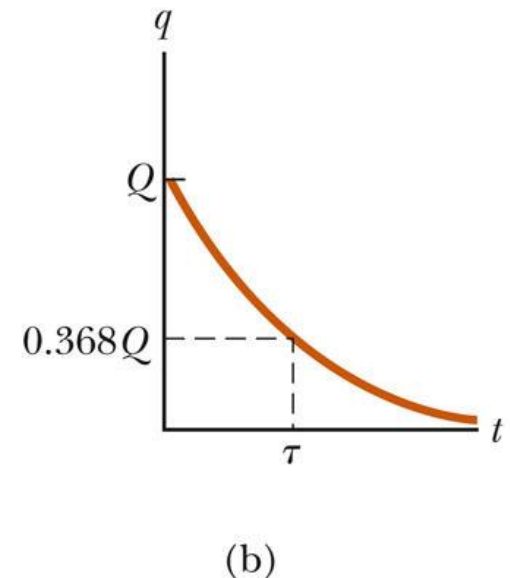
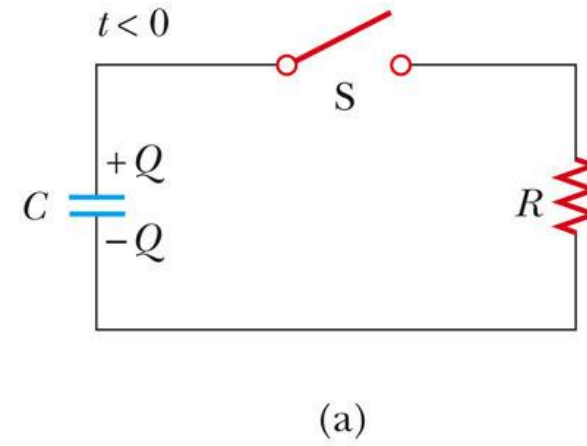
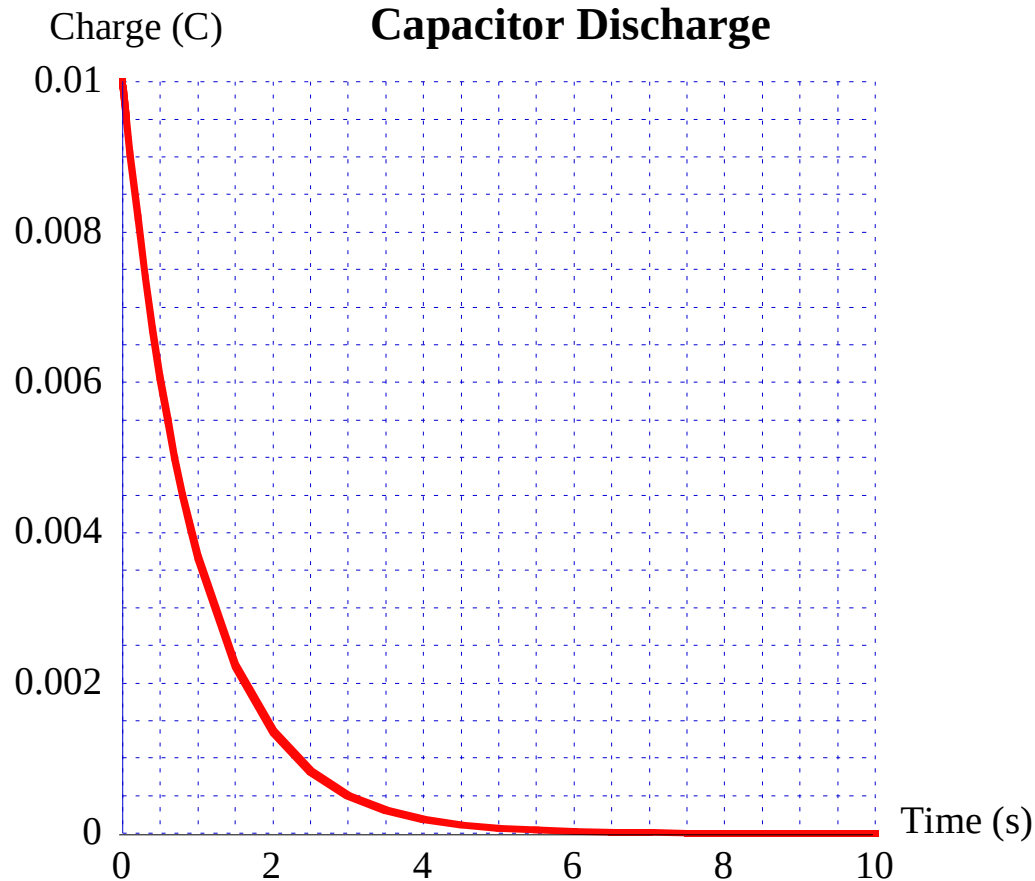


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$$\text{Capacitor charge: } q = Q_0 \left(1 - e^{-t/RC} \right), \quad Q_0 = C\mathcal{E}$$

Example:

$$\mathcal{E} = 10 \text{ V}, C = 1000 \mu\text{F}, R = 1 \text{ M}\Omega.$$



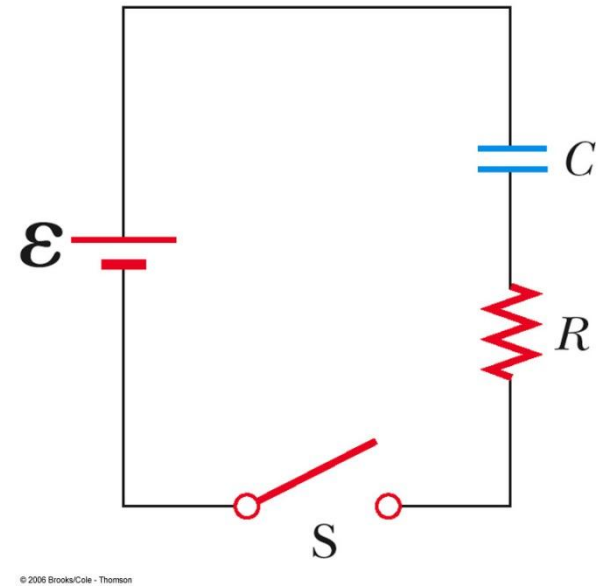
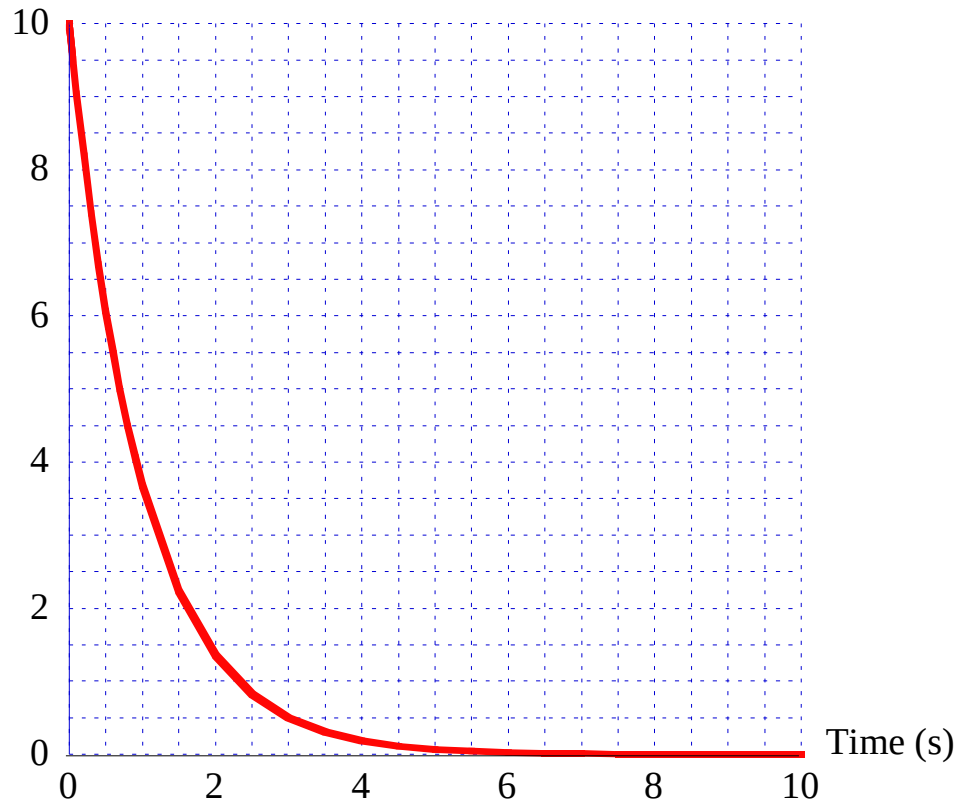
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$$\text{Capacitor discharge: } q = Q_0 e^{-t/RC}$$

Example:

$$\mathcal{E} = 10 \text{ V}, C = 1000 \mu\text{F}, R = 1 \text{ M}\Omega.$$

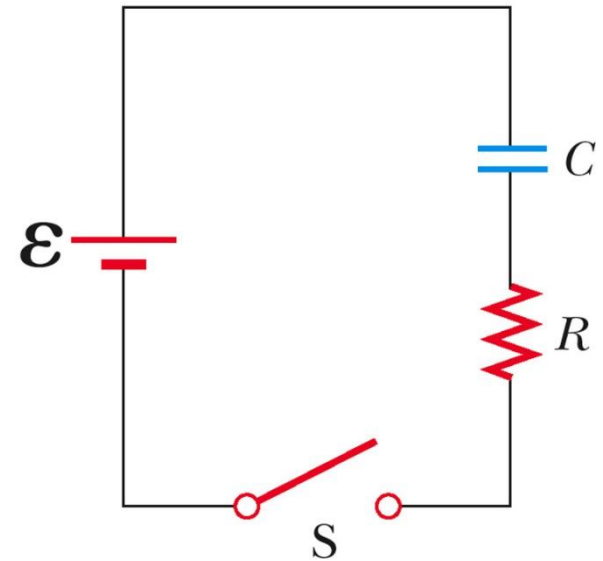
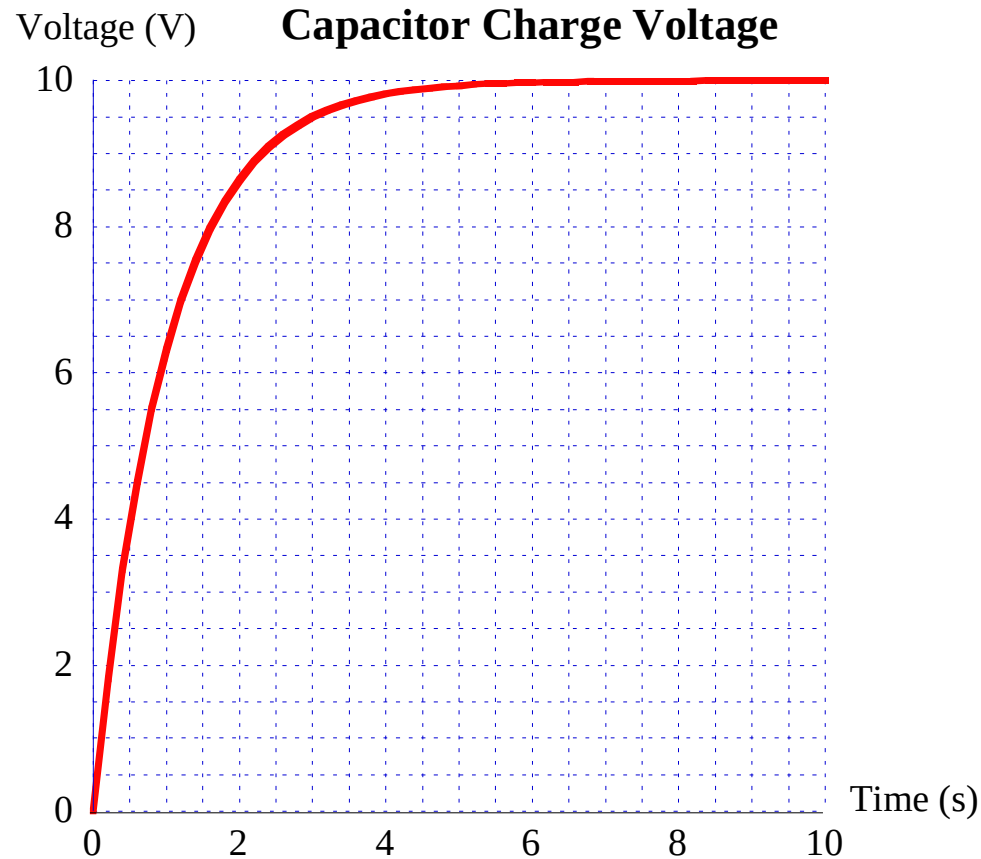
Current (μA) Capacitor Charge and Discharge Current



Charge and discharge current: $I = I_0 e^{-t/RC}$, $I_0 = \mathcal{E}/R$

Example:

$$\mathcal{E} = 10 \text{ V}, C = 1000 \mu\text{F}, R = 1 \text{ M}\Omega.$$

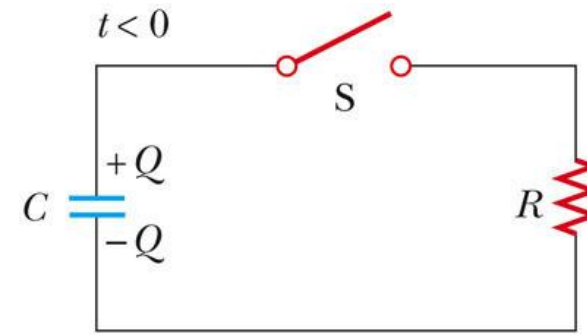
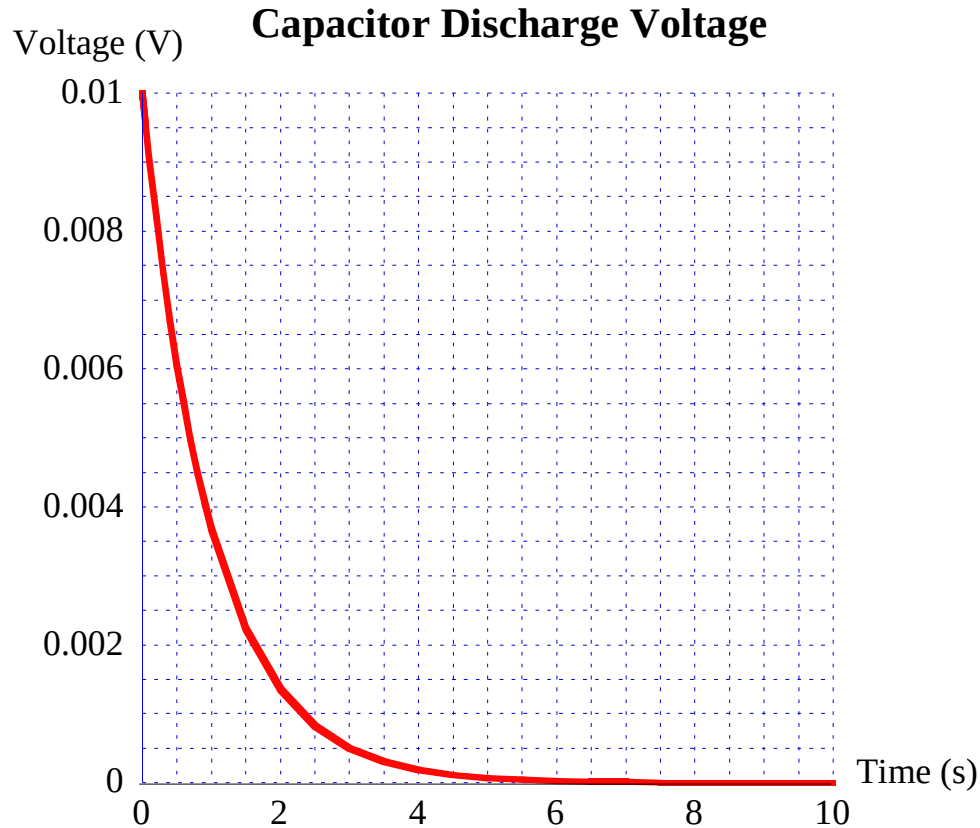


Potential difference across capacitor

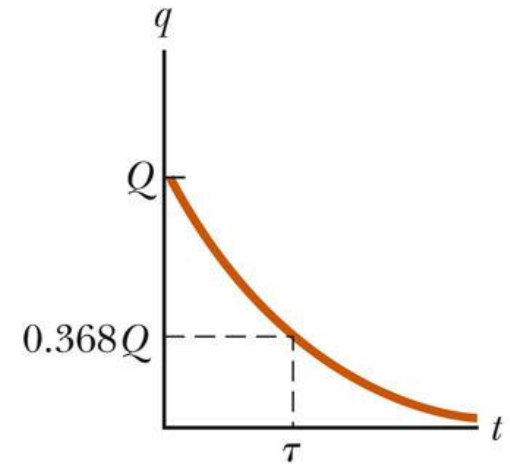
Charge: $V = \mathcal{E} \left(1 - e^{-t/RC} \right)$

Example:

$$\mathcal{E} = 10 \text{ V}, C = 1000 \mu\text{F}, R = 1 \text{ M}\Omega.$$



(a)



(b)

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Potential difference across capacitor

Discharge: $V = \mathcal{E} e^{-t/RC}$