

## Grade 12 LS – Physics

### Chapter 10 -A

### Capacitor with a L.F.G of square signal

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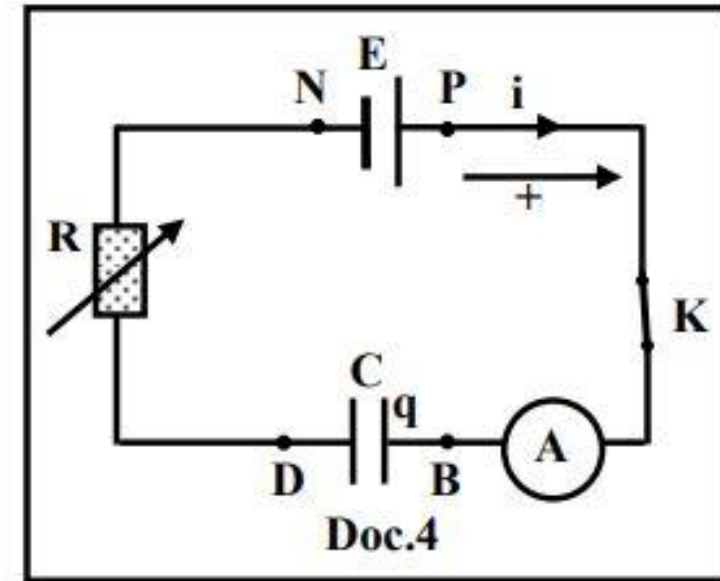
**Think then Solve**

## Exercise 1:



To determine the capacitance  $C$  of a capacitor We set-up the series circuit of (Doc 4).

This circuit includes: an ideal battery of electromotive force  $E = 10\text{ V}$ ; a rheostat of resistance  $R$ ; a capacitor of capacitance  $C$ ; an ammeter and a switch  $K$ .



Initially the capacitor is uncharged. We close the switch  $K$  at the instant  $t_0 = 0$ .

At an instant  $t$ , plate  $B$  of the capacitor carries a charge  $q$  and the circuit carries a current  $i$  as shown in doc 4.

## Exercise 1:



1. Write the expression of  $i$  in terms of  $C$  and  $u_C$ , where  $u_C = u_{BD}$  is the voltage across the capacitor.
2. Establish the differential equation that governs the variation of  $u_C$ .
3. The solution of the differential equation is:  $u_C = a + b \cdot e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}}$ . Determine the expressions of the constants  $a$ ,  $b$  and  $\tau$  in terms of  $E$ ,  $R$  and  $C$ .
4. Deduce that the expression of the current is:  $i = \frac{E}{R} \cdot e^{-\frac{t}{RC}}$ .
5. The ammeter indicates  $I_0 = 5mA$  at  $t_0 = 0$ . Deduce the value of  $R$ .

## Exercise 1:



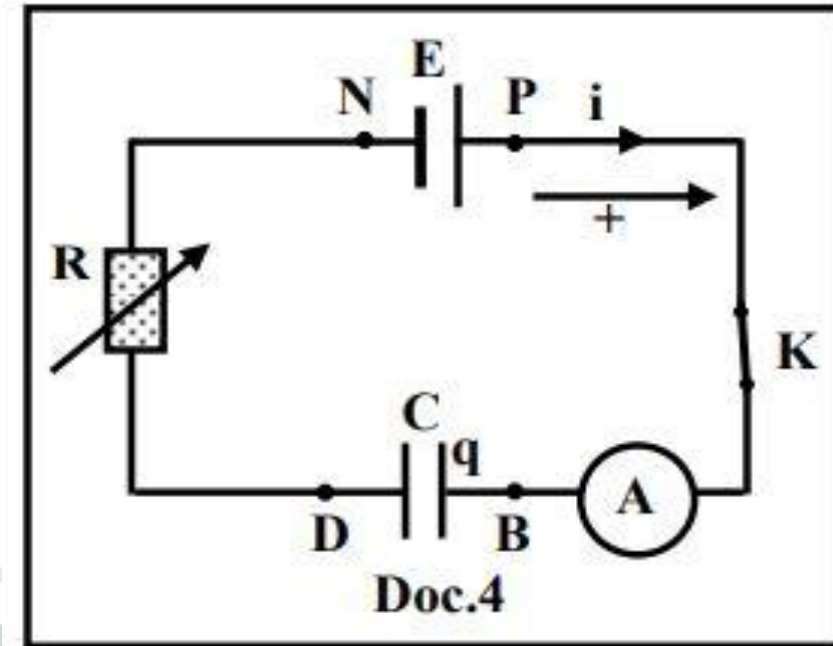
1. Write the expression of  $i$  in terms of  $C$  and  $u_C$ , where  $u_C = u_{BD}$  is the voltage across the capacitor.

$$i = \frac{dq}{dt}$$

$$\text{But } q = C \cdot u_C$$

$$i = \frac{dC \cdot u_C}{dt}$$

$$i = C \frac{du_C}{dt}$$





## Exercise 1:



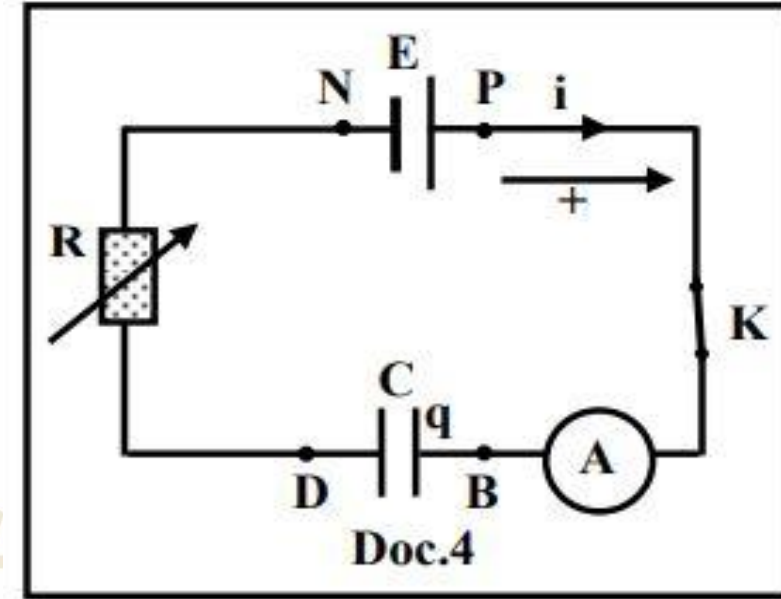
2. Establish the differential equation that governs the variation of  $u_C$ .

Using law of addition of voltages in series:

$$u_G = u_C + u_R$$

$$E = u_C + Ri$$

$$E = u_C + RC \frac{du_C}{dt}$$



## Exercise 1:



3. The solution of this differential equation is  $u_c = a + b \cdot e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}}$ . Determine the expressions of the constants  $a$ ,  $b$  and  $\tau$  in terms of  $E$ ,  $R$  and  $C$ .

$$u_c = a + b e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}}$$

$$\frac{du_c}{dt} = -\frac{b}{\tau} e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}}$$

$$E = u_c + RC \frac{du_c}{dt}$$

$$E = a + b e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}} - RC \cdot \frac{b}{\tau} e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}}$$

$$0 = -E + a + b e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}} - RC \cdot \frac{b}{\tau} e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}}$$

$$0 = -E + a + b e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}} \left[ 1 - \frac{RC}{\tau} \right]$$

## Exercise 1:



$$0 = -E + a + be^{-\frac{t}{\tau}} \left[ 1 - \frac{RC}{\tau} \right]$$

$$-E + a = 0$$

$$a = E$$

$$\frac{1}{1} = \frac{RC}{\tau}$$

$$1 - \frac{RC}{\tau} = 0$$

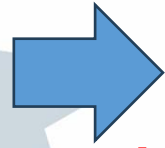
$$\tau = RC$$



## Exercise 1:



$$u_C = a + b \cdot e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}}$$



$$u_C = \mathbf{E} + b \cdot e^{-\frac{t}{RC}}$$

At  $t = 0$ ;  $u_C = 0$

$$0 = \mathbf{E} + b \cdot e^{-\frac{0}{RC}}$$

$$0 = \mathbf{E} + b \cdot e^0$$

$$0 = \mathbf{E} + b$$

$$\mathbf{b} = -\mathbf{E}$$

$$u_C = \mathbf{E} - \mathbf{E} \cdot e^{-\frac{t}{RC}}$$

$$u_C = \mathbf{E}(1 - e^{-\frac{t}{RC}})$$

## Exercise 1:



4. Deduce that the expression of the current is:  $i = \frac{E}{R} \cdot e^{-\frac{t}{RC}}$ .

$$u_C = E - E \cdot e^{-\frac{t}{RC}}$$

$$i = C \cdot \frac{du_C}{dt}$$

$$i = \cancel{C} \cdot \left( \frac{E}{\cancel{RC}} \cdot e^{-\frac{t}{RC}} \right)$$

$$\frac{du_C}{dt} = \frac{E}{RC} \cdot e^{-\frac{t}{RC}}$$

$$i = \frac{E}{R} \cdot e^{-\frac{t}{RC}}$$

## Exercise 1:



5. The ammeter (A) indicates a value  $I_0 = 5\text{mA}$  at  $t_0 = 0$ .  
Deduce the value of  $R$ .

$$i = \frac{E}{R} \cdot e^{-\frac{t}{RC}}$$

$$I_0 = \frac{E}{R}$$

At  $t_0 = 0$ ;  $I_0 = 5 \times 10^{-3} \text{ A}$

$$R = \frac{E}{I_0}$$

$$I_0 = \frac{E}{R} \cdot e^{-\frac{0}{RC}}$$

$$R = \frac{10}{5 \times 10^{-3}}$$

$$R = 2000\Omega$$

## Exercise 1:



6. Write the expression of  $u_R = u_{DN}$  in terms of  $E$ ,  $R$ ,  $C$  and  $t$ .
7. At an instant  $t = t_1$ , the voltage across the capacitor is  $u_C = u_R$ .
- a. Show that  $t_1 = RC \cdot \ln 2$ .
- b. Calculate the value of  $C$  knowing that  $t_1 = 1.4ms$ .

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## Exercise 1:

6. Write the expression of  $u_R = u_{DN}$  in terms of  $E$ ,  $R$ ,  $C$  and  $t$ .

Using ohm's law of resistor

$$u_R = R \cdot i$$

$$u_R = R \cdot \frac{E}{R} \cdot e^{-\frac{t}{RC}}$$

$$u_R = E \cdot e^{-\frac{t}{RC}}$$



## Exercise 1:



7. At an instant  $t = t_1$ , the voltage across the capacitor is  $u_C = u_R$ .

a. Show that  $t_1 = RC \cdot \ln 2$ .

$$u_C = u_R$$

$$E - Ee^{-\frac{t_1}{RC}} = E \cdot e^{-\frac{t_1}{RC}}$$

$$E = +E \cdot e^{-\frac{t_1}{RC}} + E \cdot e^{-\frac{t_1}{RC}}$$

$$E = 2E \cdot e^{-\frac{t_1}{RC}}$$

$$1 = 2 \cdot e^{-\frac{t_1}{RC}}$$

$$\ln(1) = \ln(2 \cdot e^{-\frac{t_1}{RC}})$$

$$0 = \ln 2 + \ln(e^{-\frac{t_1}{RC}})$$

$$0 = \ln 2 - \frac{t_1}{RC} \ln(e)$$

$$0 = \ln 2 - \frac{t_1}{RC}$$

$$t_1 = RC \cdot \ln 2$$



## Exercise 1:

b. Calculate the value of C knowing that  $t_1 = 1.4ms$



$$t_1 = RC \cdot \ln 2$$

$$C = \frac{t_1}{R \cdot \ln 2}$$

$$C = \frac{1.4 \times 10^{-3}}{2000 \cdot \ln 2}$$

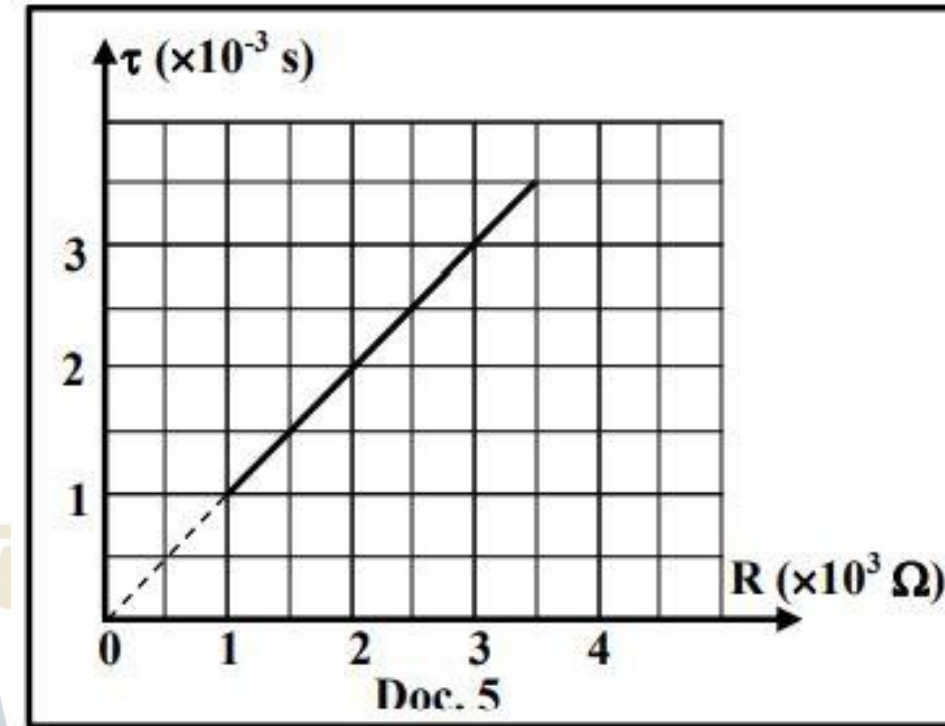
$$C = 1 \times 10^{-6} F$$

## Exercise 1:



8. To verify the value of  $C$ , we vary the value of  $R$ .  
Document 5 represents  $\tau$  as a function of  $R$ .

- a. Show that the shape of the curve in document 5 agrees with the expression of  $\tau$  obtained in part 3.
- b. Using the curve of document 5, determine again the value of  $C$ .

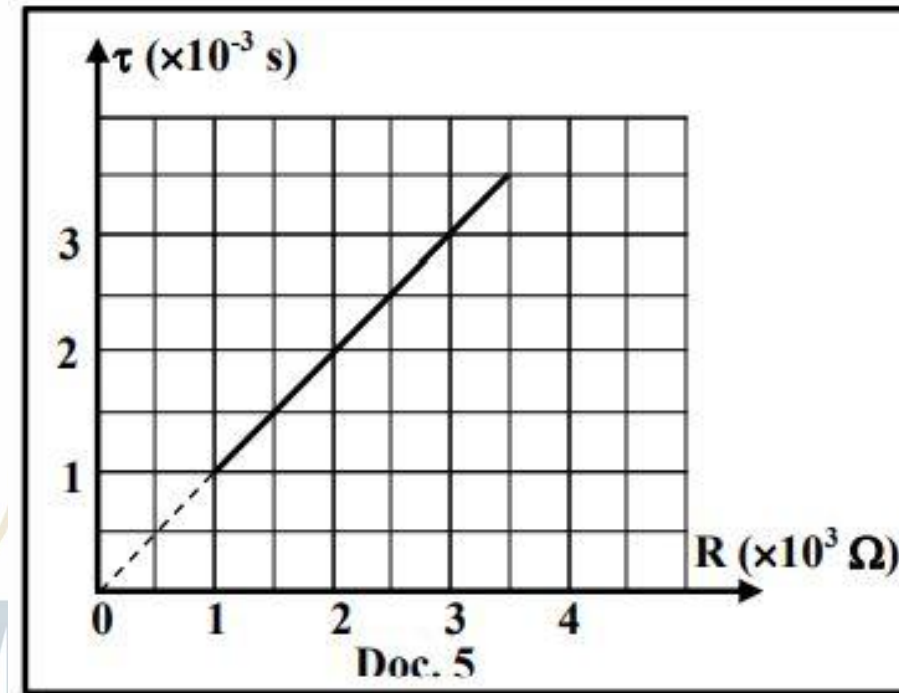


## Exercise 1:



a. Show that the shape of the curve in document 5 agrees with the expression of  $\tau$  obtained in part.

The curve is a straight line passing through the origin with a positive slope, then it agrees with the expression  $\tau = RC$ .



## Exercise 1:

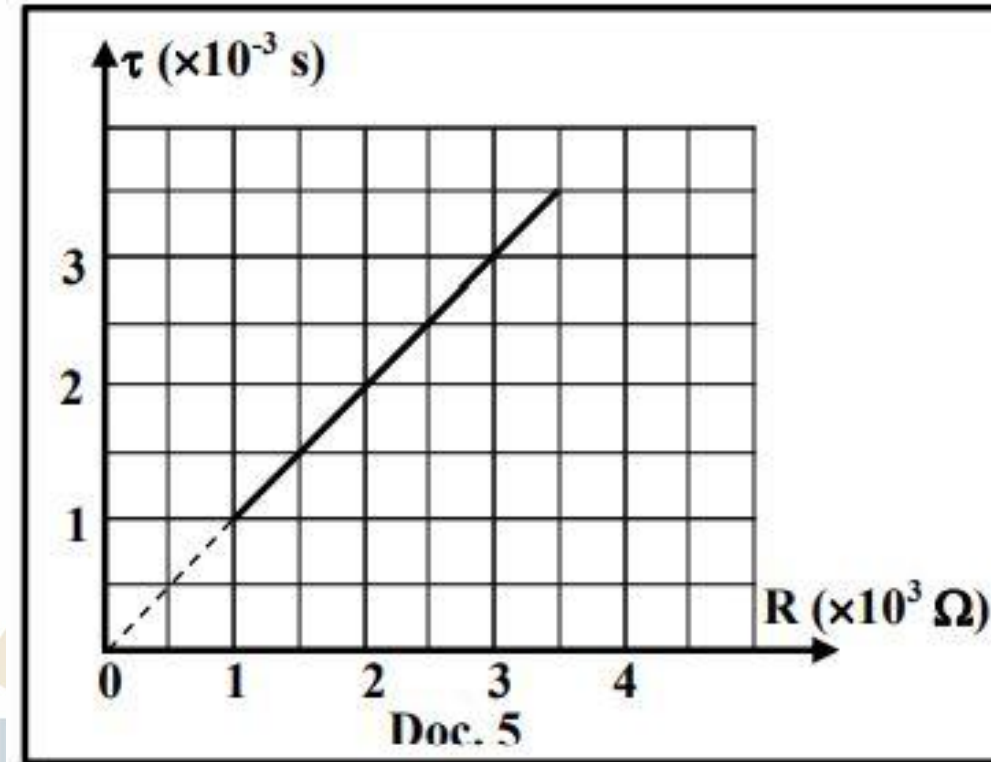


b. Using the curve of document 5, determine again the value of C

$$\text{Slope} = C = \frac{\tau_2 - \tau_1}{R_2 - R_1}$$

$$C = \frac{(2 - 1) \times 10^{-3}}{(2 - 1)10^3}$$

$$C = 2000 \Omega$$





# The End





**Think then Solve**



## Exercise 2:

We set up the circuit of document 3 that includes:

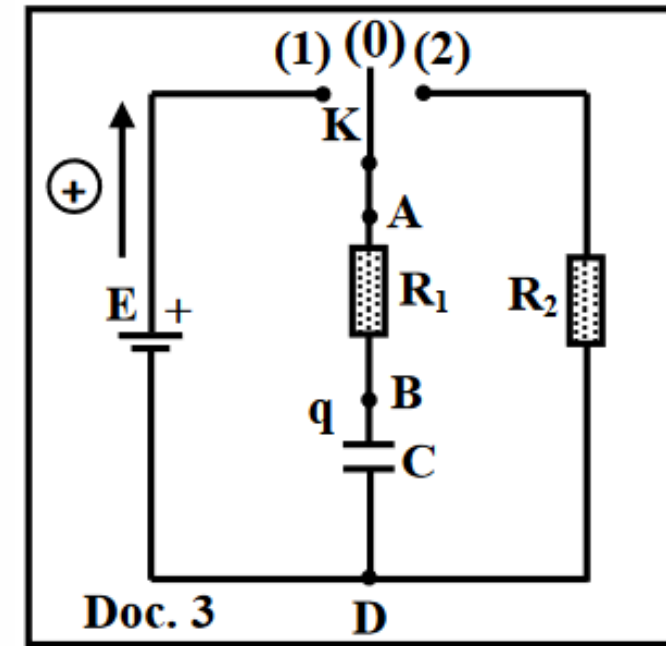
- an ideal battery of electromotive force  $E = 10\text{V}$ .
- two resistors of resistances  $R_1 = R_2 = 4\text{K}\Omega$ .
- a capacitor of capacitance  $C$  and a switch  $K$ .

### Charging the capacitor:

The switch  $K$  is initially at position (0) and the capacitor is uncharged.

At the instant  $t_0 = 0$ ,  $K$  is turned to position (1) and the **charging process** of the capacitor starts.

At an instant  $t$ , plate B of the capacitor carries a charge  $q$  and the circuit carries a current  $i$ .



## Exercise 2:

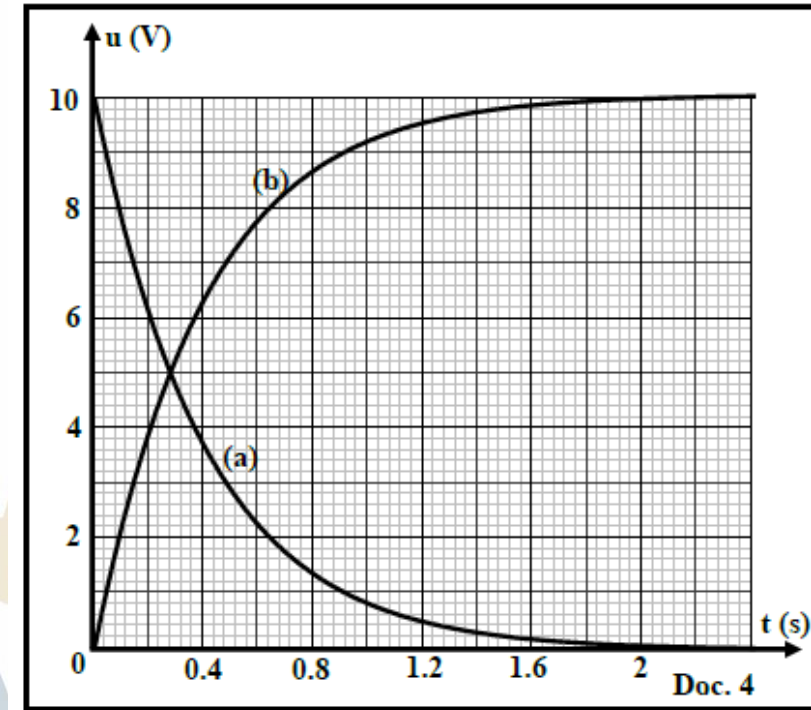


An appropriate device allows us to display the voltage  $u_{AB} = u_{R1}$  across the resistor and the voltage  $u_{BD} = u_C$  across the capacitor.

Curves (a) and (b) of document 4 show these voltages as functions of time.

1.1) Curve (a) represents  $u_{R1}$  and curve (b) represents  $u_C$ . Justify

1.2) The time constant of this circuit is given by  $\tau_1 = R_1 C$



1.2.1) Using document 4, determine the value of  $\tau_1$ .

## Exercise 2:



**1.2.2) Deduce the value of C.**

**1.3) Calculate the time « $t_1$ » needed by the capacitor to practically become completely charged**



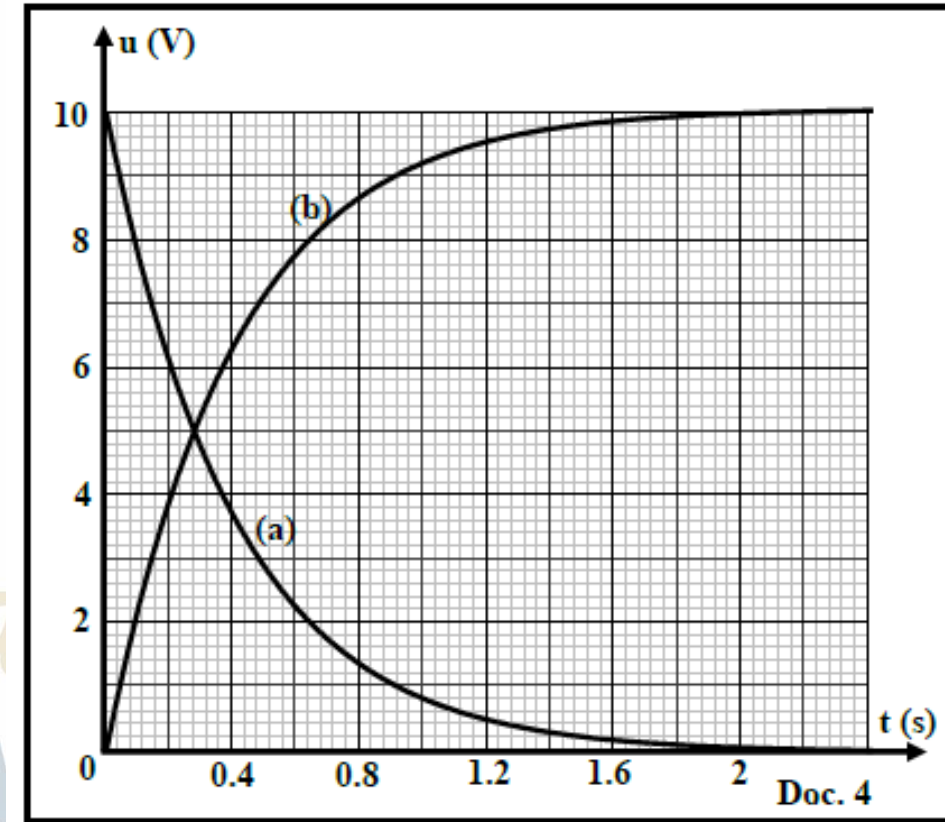
## Exercise 2:



1.1) Curve (a) represents  $u_{R1}$  and curve (b) represents  $u_C$ . Justify.

**Curve (a):**  $u_{R1} = R_1 i$  is directly proportional to the current in the circuit.

During the charging process the current decreases so  $u_{R1}$  decreases.



**Curve (b):**  $u_{BD} = u_C$ , During charging process  $q$  increases so  $u_C$  increases.

## Exercise 2:

$$E=10V, R_1 = R_2 = 4K\Omega$$



1.2) The time constant of this circuit is given is  $\tau_1 = R_1 C$

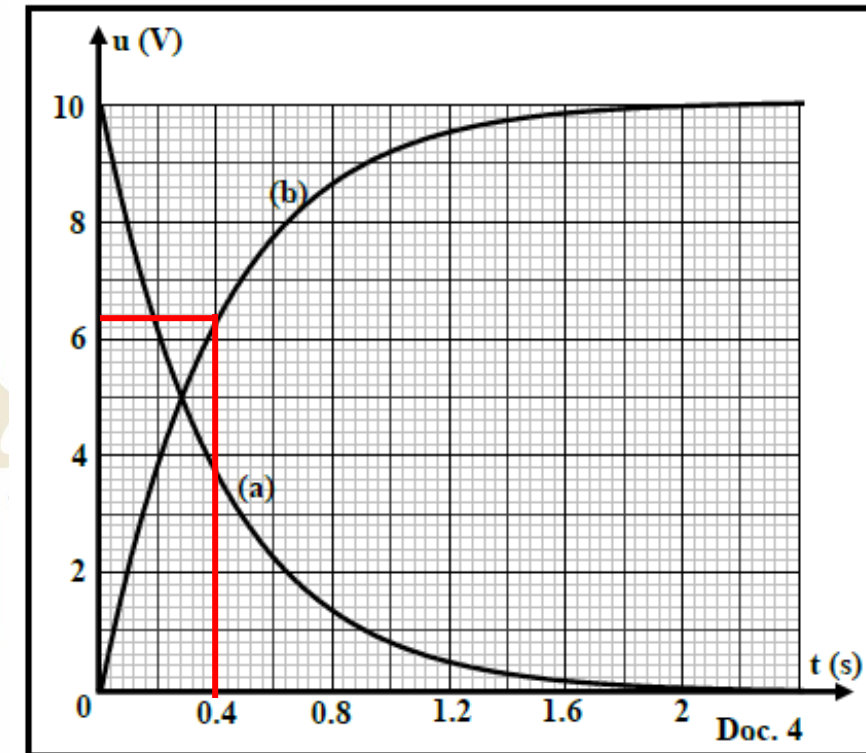
1.2.1) Using document 4, determine the value of  $\tau_1$ .

At  $t = \tau_1$ :

$$u_c = 0.63 \times E$$

$$u_c = 0.63 \times 10 = 6.3V$$

Then:  $\tau_1 = 0.4sec$





## Exercise 2:

$$E=10V, R_1 = R_2 = 4K\Omega$$

1.2.2) Deduce the value of C.

$$\tau_1 = R_1 C \quad \Rightarrow$$

$$C = \frac{\tau_1}{R_1}$$

$$C = \frac{0.4}{4000}$$



$$C = 1 \times 10^{-4} F$$

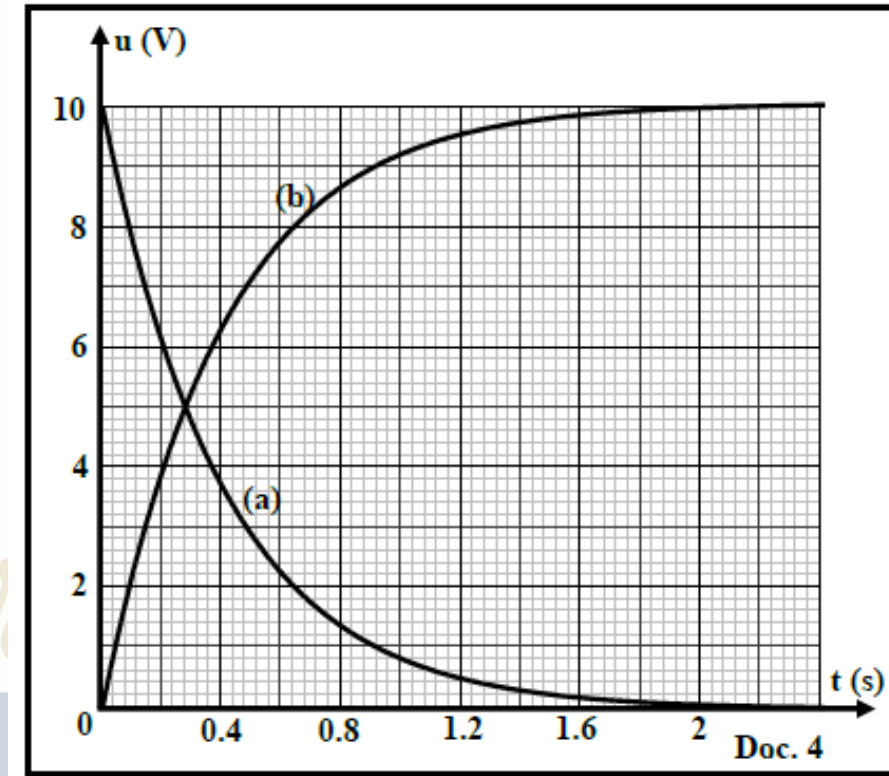
1.3) Calculate the time « $t_1$ » needed by the capacitor to practically become completely charged.

The capacitor to practically become completely charged at  $t_1 = 5\tau_1$

$$t_1 = 5 \times 0.4$$



$$t_1 = 2s$$





## Exercise 2:

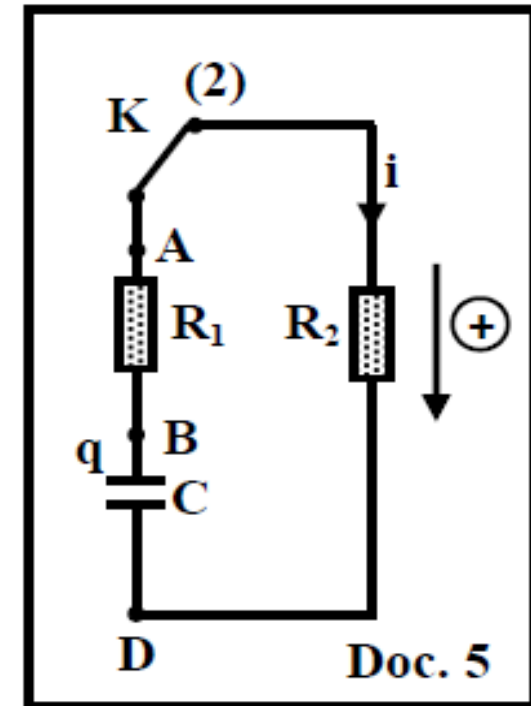
### 2) Discharging the capacitor:

The capacitor is completely charged. At an instant taken as a new initial time  $t_0 = 0$ , the switch K is turned to position (2), and the capacitor starts discharging through the resistors of resistances  $R_1$  and  $R_2$ .

At an instant  $t$  the circuit carries a current  $i$  (Doc. 5).

2.1) Show, using the law of addition of voltages, that the differential equation which governs  $u_C$  is:

$$RC \frac{du_C}{dt} + u_C = 0 \text{ where } R = R_1 + R_2$$



## Exercise 2:



2.2) The solution of this differential equation is of the form:

$u_C = E e^{\frac{-t}{\tau_2}}$ , where  $\tau_2$  is the time constant of the circuit of document 5. Determine the expression of  $\tau_2$  in terms of R and C.

2.3) Verify that the time needed by the capacitor to practically become completely discharged is  $t_2 = 5\tau_2$ .

3) Duration of charging and discharging the capacitor  
Show, without calculation, that «  $t_2$  » is greater than «  $t_1$  ».

## Exercise 2:

2.1) Show, using the law of addition of voltages, that the differential equation which governs  $u_C$  is:

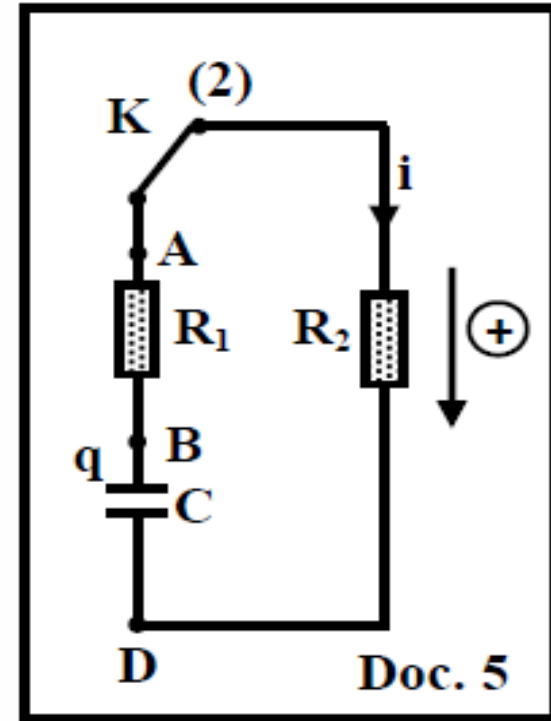
$$RC \frac{du_C}{dt} + u_C = 0 \text{ where } R = R_1 + R_2$$

$$u_C = u_{R1} + u_{R2} \Rightarrow u_C = R_1 i + R_2 i$$

$$u_C = (R_1 + R_2) i \Rightarrow u_C - (R_1 + R_2) i = 0$$

$$i = -\frac{dq}{dt} \text{ and } q = Cu_C \Rightarrow i = -C \frac{dU_C}{dt}$$

$$u_C + (R_1 + R_2)C \frac{du_C}{dt} = 0$$



## Exercise 2:



2.2) The solution of the differential equation is  $u_C = E e^{\frac{-t}{\tau_2}}$ , where  $\tau_2$  is the time constant of the circuit. Determine the expression of  $\tau_2$  in terms of R and C.

$$u_C = E e^{\frac{-t}{\tau_2}} \rightarrow \frac{du_C}{dt} = -\frac{E}{\tau_2} e^{\frac{-t}{\tau_2}}$$

Substitute  $u_C$  and  $\frac{du_C}{dt}$  in differential equation

$$u_C + RC \cdot \frac{du_C}{dt} = 0$$

$$E \cdot e^{\frac{-t}{\tau_2}} - RC \frac{E}{\tau_2} e^{\frac{-t}{\tau_2}} = 0$$

$$E \cdot e^{\frac{-t}{\tau_2}} \left[ 1 - \frac{RC}{\tau_2} \right] = 0$$

$$1 - \frac{RC}{\tau_2} = 0 \quad \tau_2 = RC$$

## Exercise 2:



2.3) Verify that the time needed by the capacitor to practically become completely discharged is  $t_2 = 5\tau_2$ .

$$u_c = E e^{\frac{-t}{\tau_2}}$$

At  $t_2 = 5\tau_2$ :

$$u_c = E e^{\frac{-5\tau_2}{\tau_2}}$$

$$u_c = E e^{-5} \cong 0$$

Since at  $t_2$ , the voltage across the capacitor is zero, then; the capacitor is practically completely discharged

## Exercise 2:



### 3) Duration of charging and discharging the capacitor

Show, without calculation, that «  $t_2$  » is greater than «  $t_1$  ».

$$t_2 = 5(R_1 + R_2)C$$

$$t_1 = 5R_1C$$

Since  $(R_1 + R_2) > R_1$  then  $t_2 > t_1$

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# The End

