

# Exponential Change

Physics 7B - Lecture 9

Prof. Conway

# Transport Model

- as we have seen, a number of flow phenomena can be described by the general equation

$$I = \Delta V / R$$

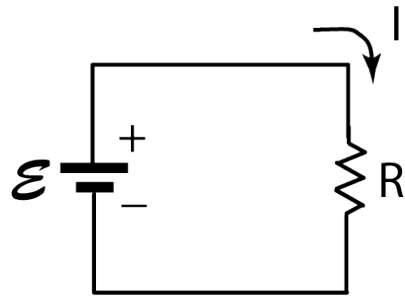
The diagram illustrates the equation  $I = \Delta V / R$ . Three pink arrows point from labels below to the variables in the equation: one from 'flow rate or flux' to 'I', one from 'driving potential' to 'ΔV', and one from 'resistance' to 'R'.

flow rate  
or flux

driving  
potential

resistance

# Examples

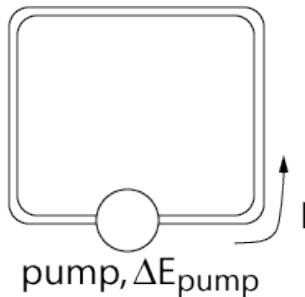


electrical circuit with resistor  
driven by battery:

$$I = \varepsilon / R$$

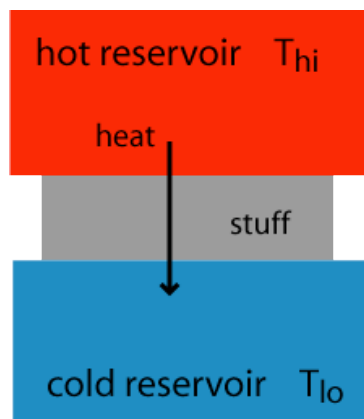
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loop: resistance R



fluid circuit driven by pump:

$$I = \Delta E_{\text{pump}} / R$$



heat transfer between two  
reservoirs:

$$\mathcal{P} = \Delta T / R$$

# Linear Transport – PRS

Which statement is not true about linear transport systems?

- A. If you double the driving force (voltage, temperature difference,...) , the current doubles.
- B. If you double the resistance, the current is halved.
- C. In linear transport systems, energy is being transformed from one type to another.
- D. For both fluid flow and electrical circuits, the power dissipated due to the resistance depends linearly on the driving force (pump energy, battery voltage).
- E. All of the other statements are true.

# Steady State?

- generalized flow (linear transport) equations work in steady state
- what about cases where we are not in a steady state? (changing systems)
- two common kinds of change:

exponential change

oscillations

# Exponential Growth

- suppose rate of growth of a population is proportional to the size of the population:

$$\frac{d}{dt}N(t) = kN(t)$$

- $N(t)$  = number in population as a function of time
- $k$  = rate of growth (units: 1/time)

# Exponential Growth

- want to solve equation for  $N(t)$
- need function whose derivative w.r.t. time is that function multiplied by a constant:

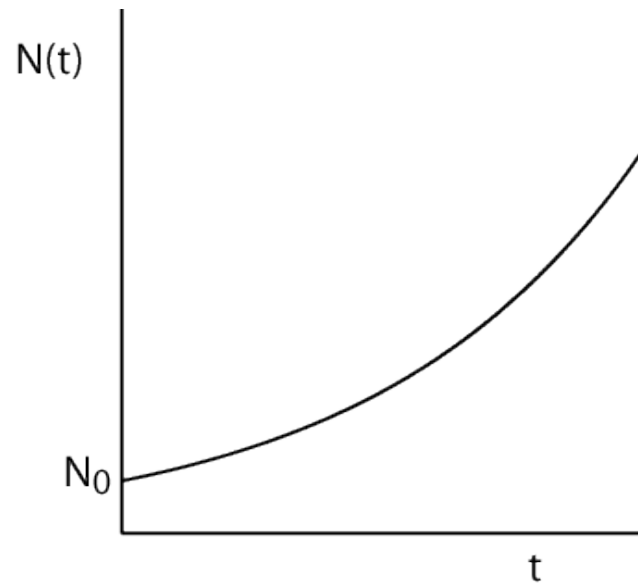
$$N(t) = Ce^{kt}$$

$$\frac{d}{dt}N(t) = Cke^{kt} = kN(t)$$

- exactly what we want!

# Exponential Growth

- the behavior of  $N(t)$  is a rapidly increasing function of time:



$$N(t) = N_0 e^{kt}$$

- $N_0$  is the value of  $N(t=0)$

# Examples

- bacteria colony
- interest-bearing fund (APR versus int.)
- global human population?
- spam email :)
- Google stock price
- ?

# Exponential Decay

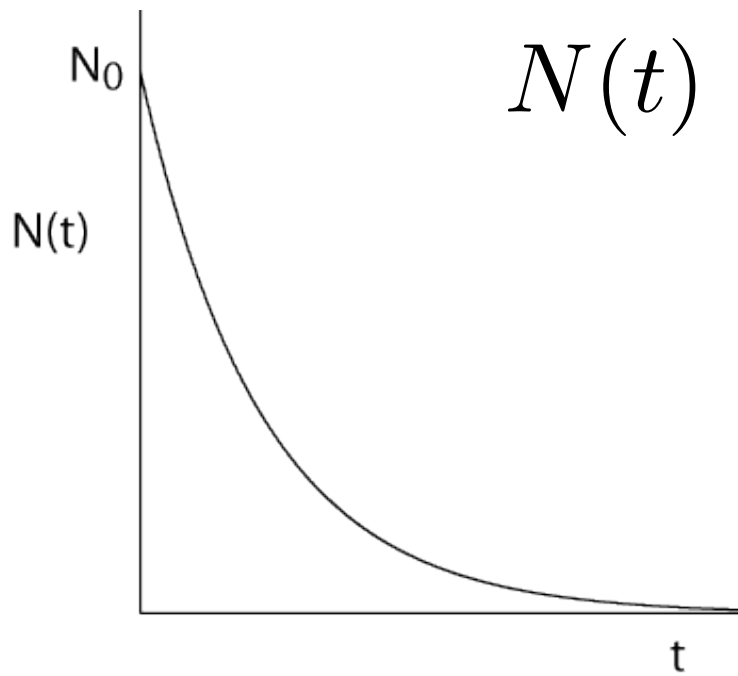
- suppose the rate of disappearance of members of a population is proportional to the number remaining
- this is true, for example, if any member has a random chance  $k$  of disappearing in a certain time interval
- the constant  $k$  here is the decay rate
- units of  $k$ : probability/time

# Exponential Decay

- equation is similar to growth case:

$$\frac{d}{dt}N(t) = -kN(t)$$

$$N(t) = N_0 e^{-kt}$$



$k > 0$ , but slope of  $N(t)$  is always negative!

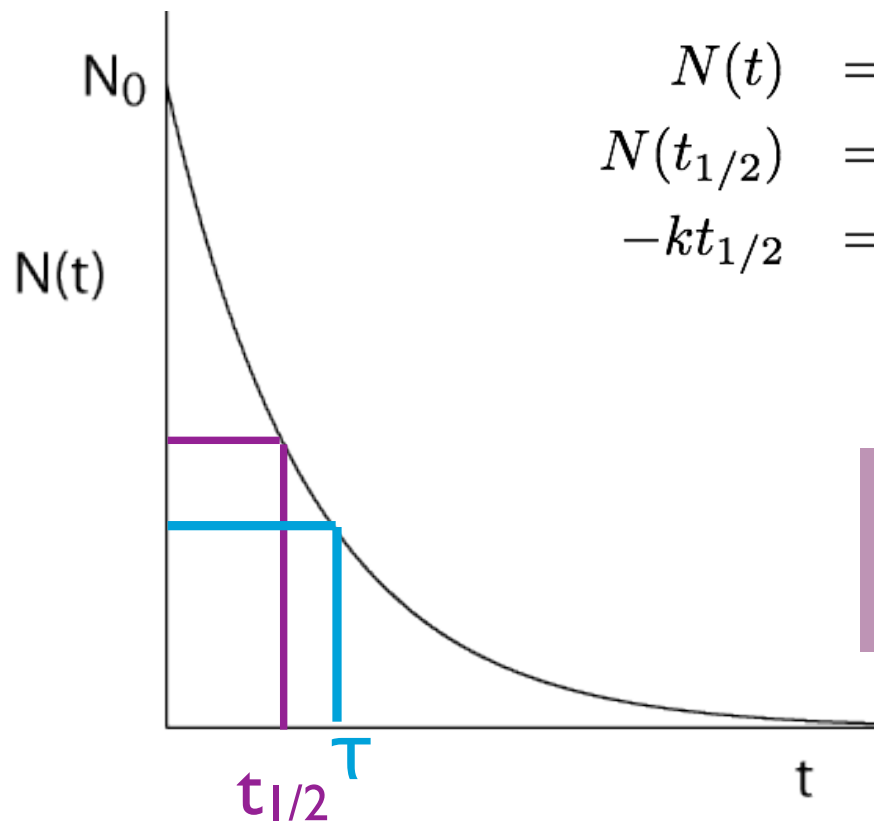
$N$  never gets to zero!

# Examples

- radioactive nuclei in atoms
- water leaking from a tank
- charging/discharging capacitor
- approach to terminal velocity

# Radioactive Decay

- Suppose you have  $N$  atoms of some radioactive isotope
- Suppose the half life of the isotope is 2 days. What is its lifetime ( $\tau=1/k$ ) ?

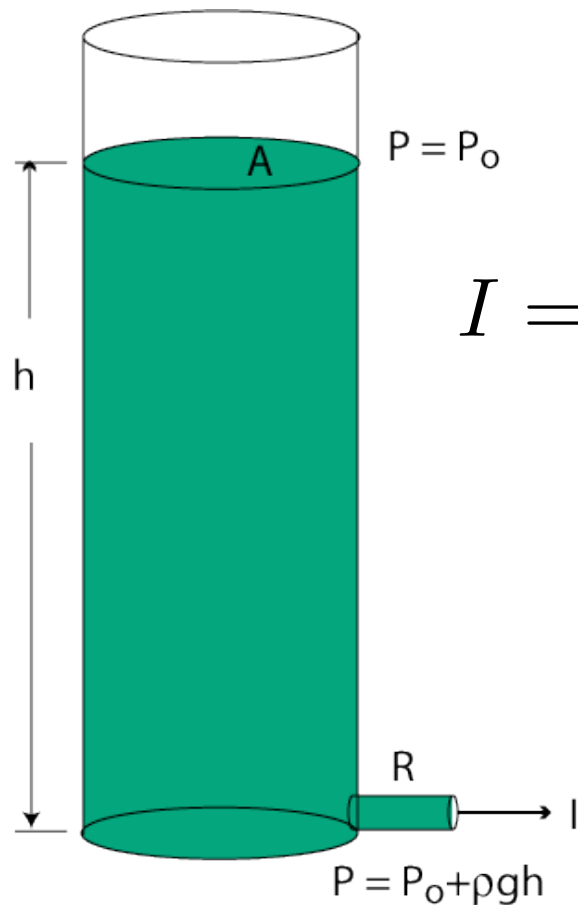


$$\begin{aligned}N(t) &= N_0 e^{-kt} \\N(t_{1/2}) &= N_0/2 \Rightarrow e^{-kt_{1/2}} = 1/2 \\-kt_{1/2} &= \ln(1/2)\end{aligned}$$

After one lifetime we are left with  $1/e = 0.368$  of  $N_0$

# Leaky Bottle

- suppose we have a container with a liquid, and the liquid is getting out



flow rate:

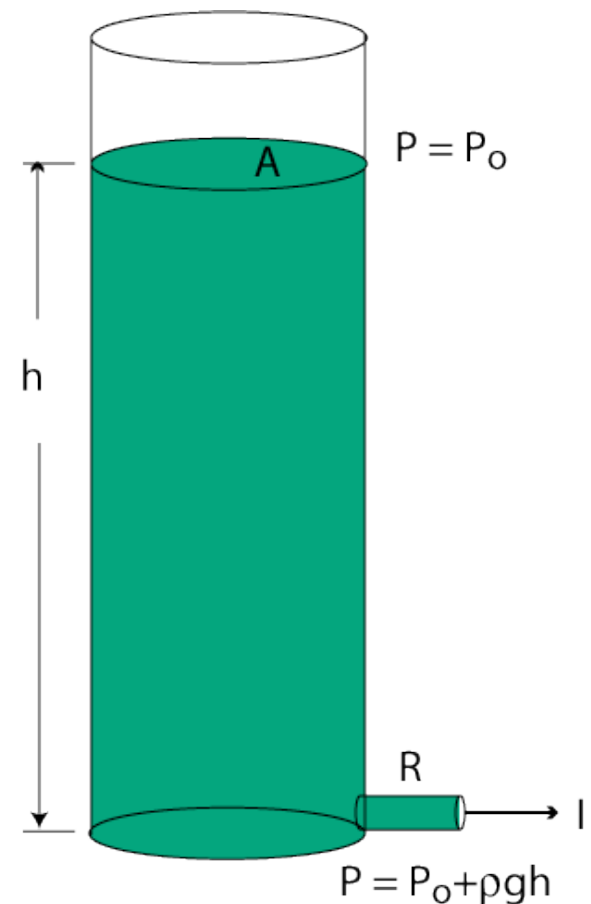
$$I = \Delta P / R = -\rho g h / R = \frac{d(hA)}{dt}$$

# Leaky Bottle - PRS

Suppose we observe that we start with a 1-m tall column of liquid. After 1 hour we see that half is gone. The time constant  $k$  is ?

- A.  $-\ln(1/2) \text{ hr}^{-1}$
- B.  $-\ln(2) \text{ hr}^{-1}$
- C.  $+\ln(1/2) \text{ hr}^{-1}$
- D.  $+\ln(2) \text{ hr}^{-1}$
- E.  $-\ln(1/2) \text{ m}^{-1}$

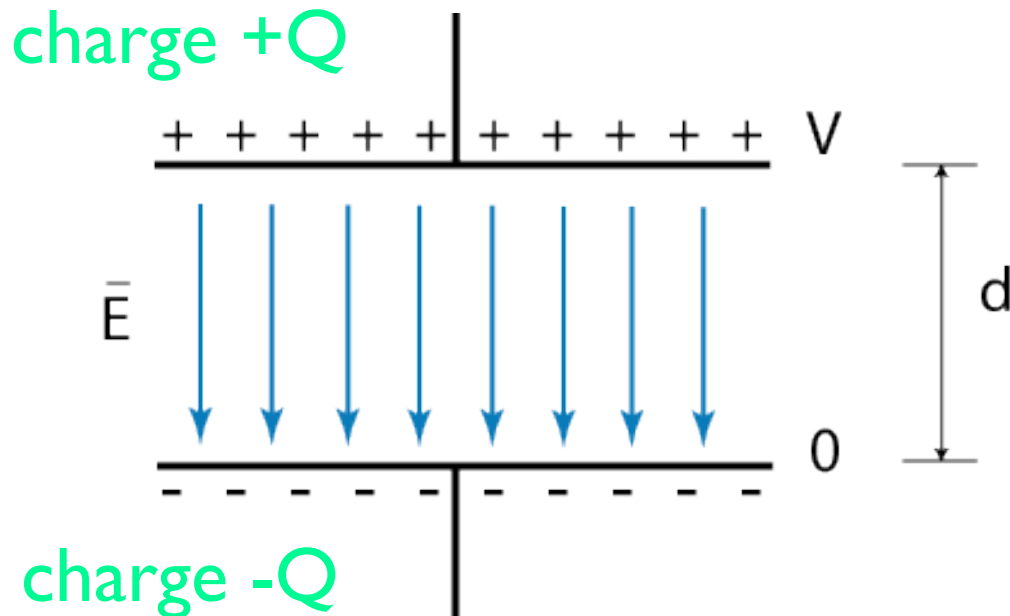
Hint: do the algebra! :)



$$h(t) = h_0 e^{-kt}$$

# Capacitors

- a capacitor is a simple device that holds charge, such as two parallel metal plates:

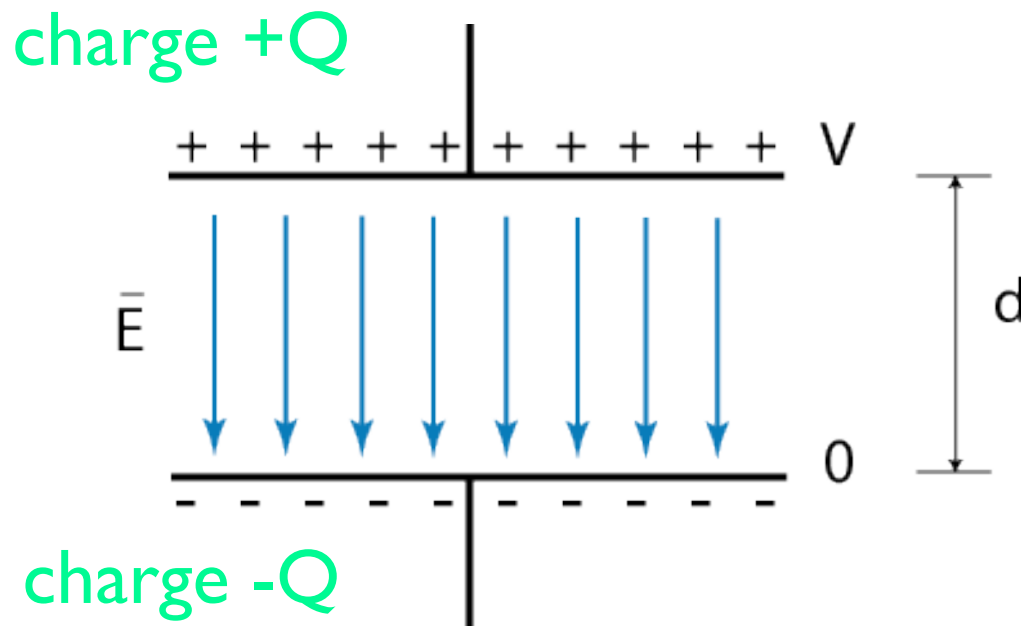


Capacitance is the ratio of the amount of charge on the capacitor to the applied voltage:

$$Q = CV$$

# Capacitors

- even though the positive charge on one plate is attracted to the negative charge on the other, the presence of more positive charge on the same plate is repulsive
- it takes energy to charge a capacitor!



energy stored in a capacitor:

$$U = Q^2/2C$$

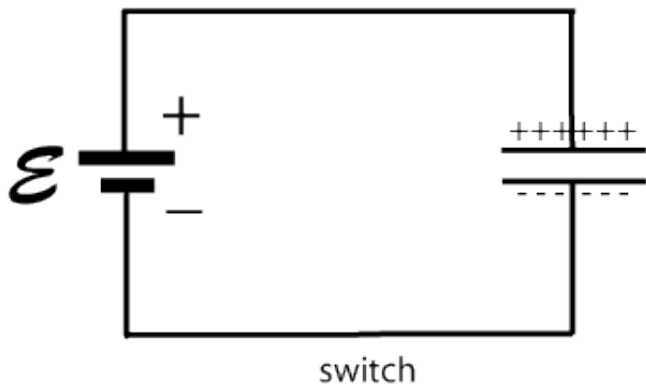
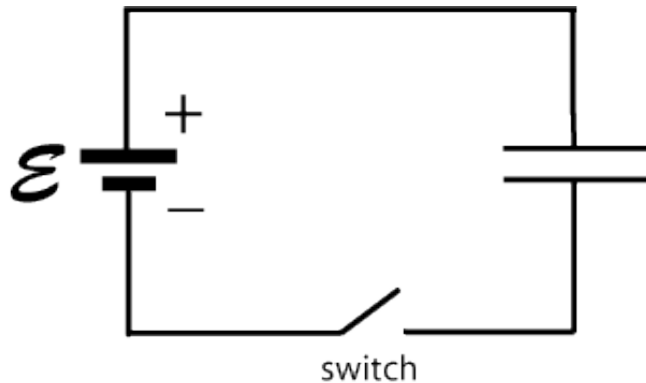
# Capacitors – PRS

Given that  $U = Q^2/2C$  and  $Q = CV$  for a capacitor, which of the following is true?

- A.  $U = 1/2 CV^2$
- B.  $U = 1/2 QC^2$
- C.  $U = C^2/2V$
- D.  $U = QV$
- E. none of the above

# Charging a Capacitor

- to charge a capacitor, just connect it to a potential (like a battery):

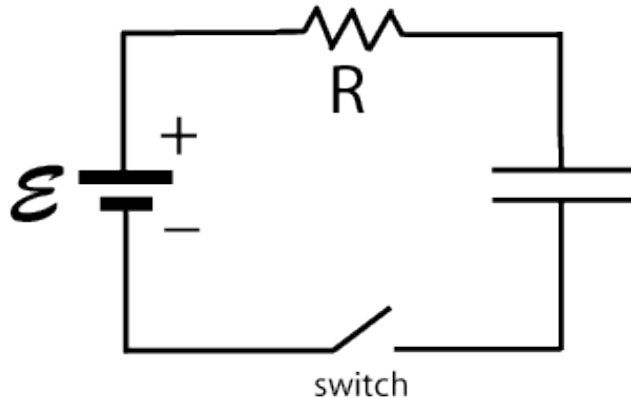


Immediately after closing switch, current flows and charges up capacitor to  $Q = C\mathcal{E}$ , and then current stops flowing

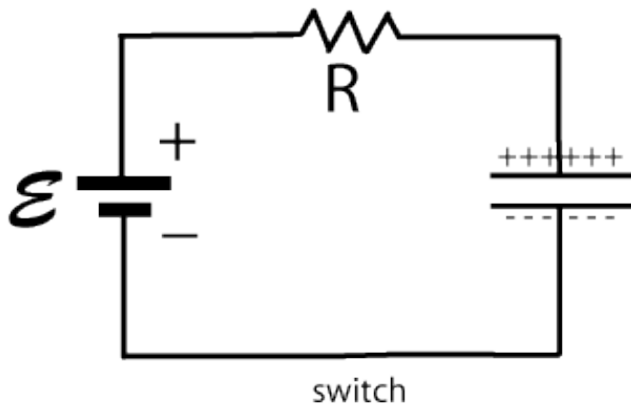
well, not exactly...

# Charging a Capacitor

- actually there is always some resistance in the circuit:



When there is resistance, it takes some time for the capacitor to charge.

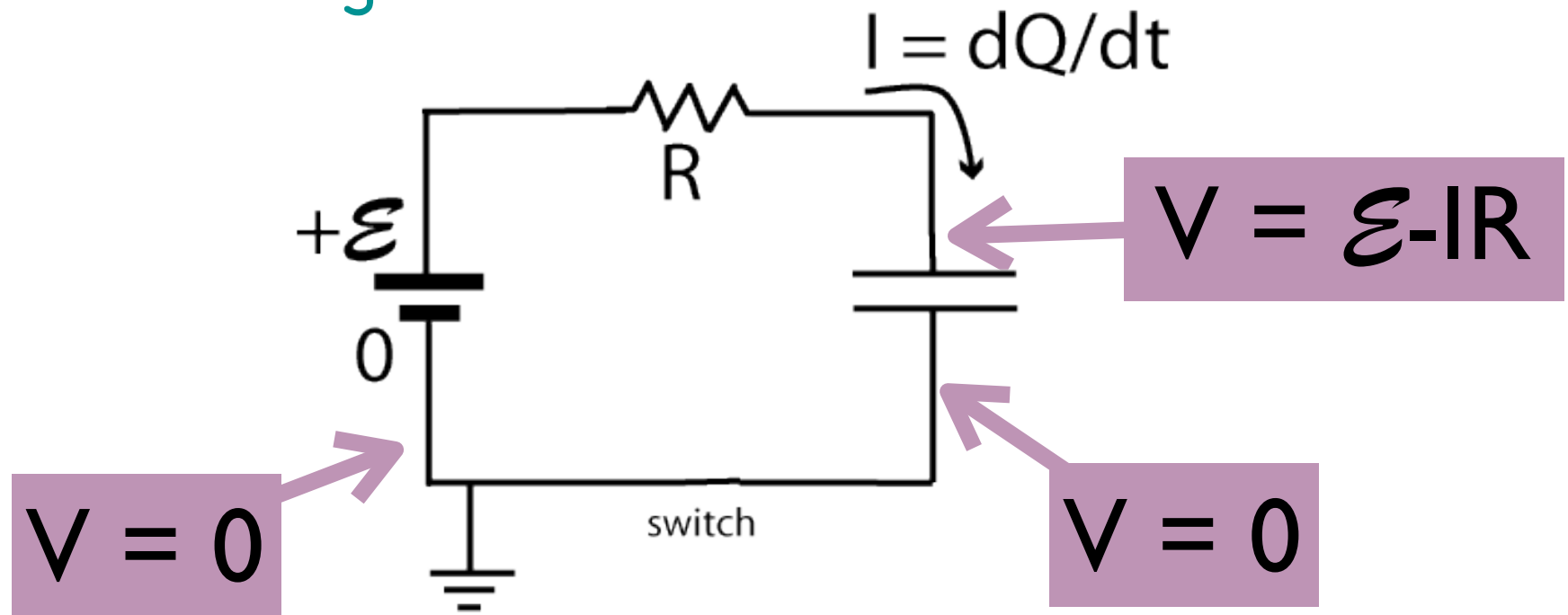


The current is not constant.

We need to analyze this carefully!

# Charging a Capacitor

- let's look at the situation just after closing the switch:



But for capacitor,  $V = Q/C$  !

# Charging a Capacitor

- we can write an equation, then, for the current:

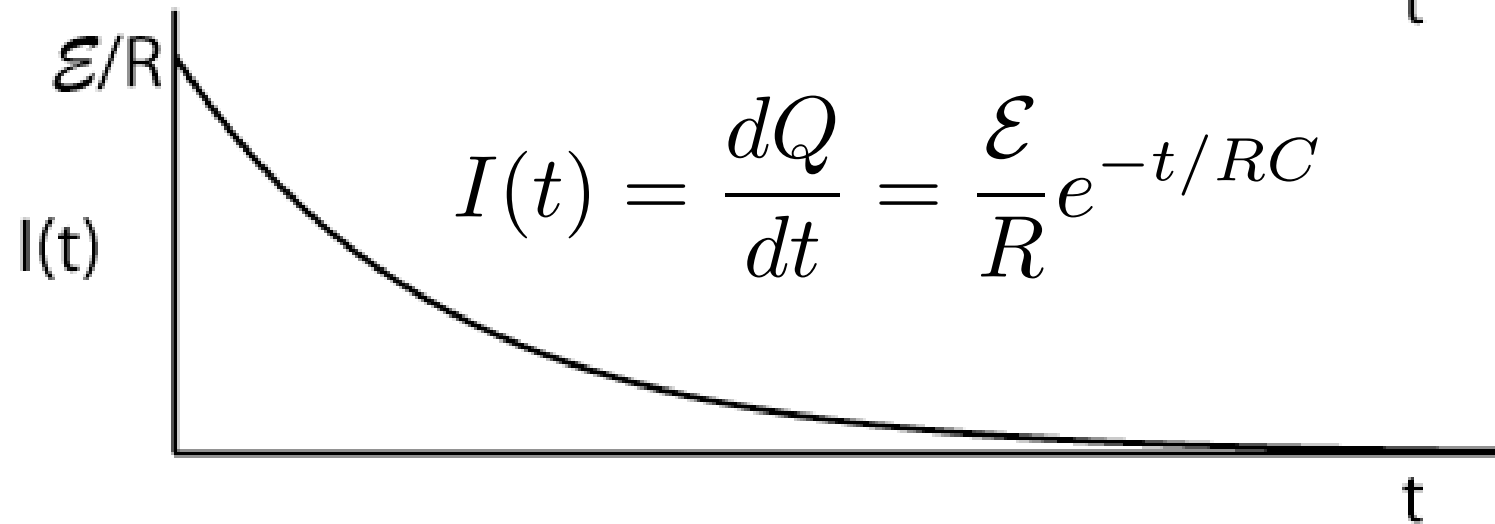
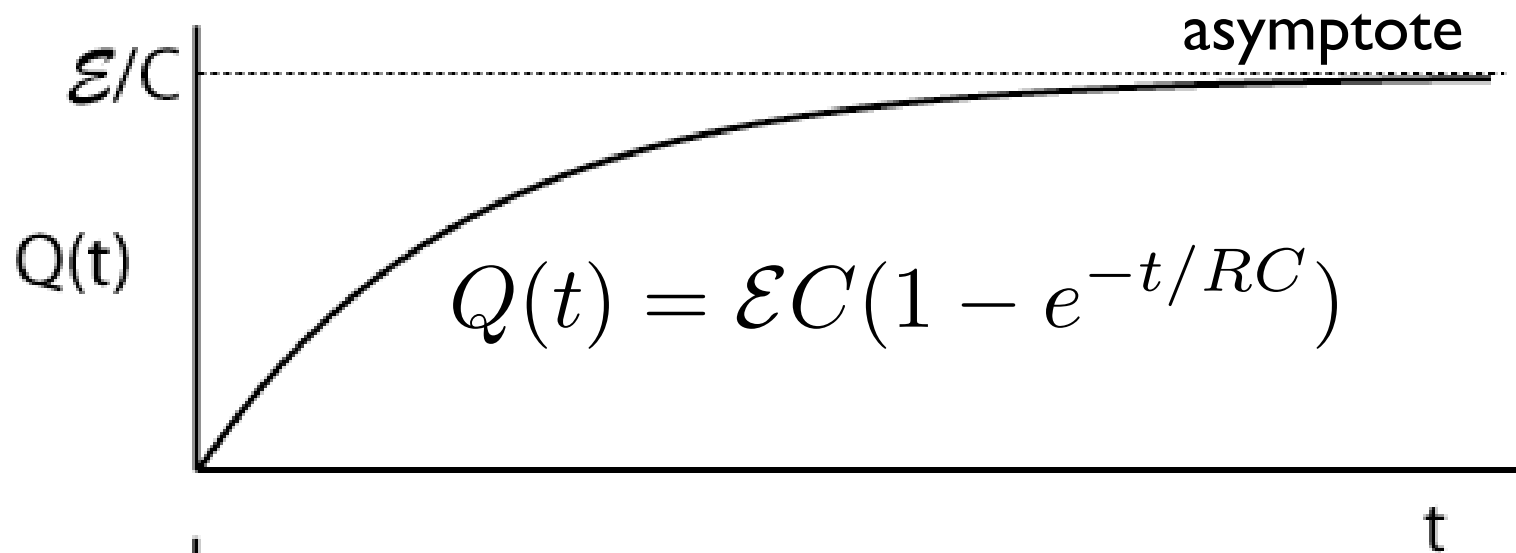
$$\mathcal{E} - R \frac{dQ}{dt} = \frac{Q}{C}$$

$$\frac{\mathcal{E}}{R} - \frac{Q}{RC} = \frac{dQ}{dt}$$

- solution:  $Q(t) = \mathcal{E}C(1 - e^{-t/RC})$

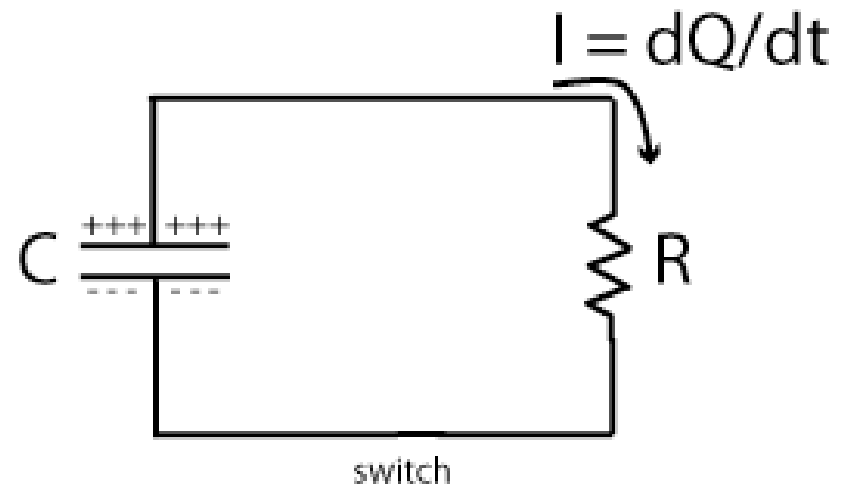
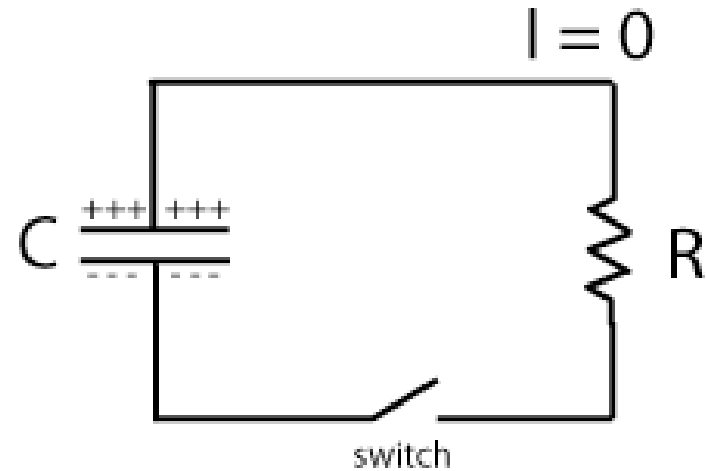
check that this works!

# Charging a Capacitor

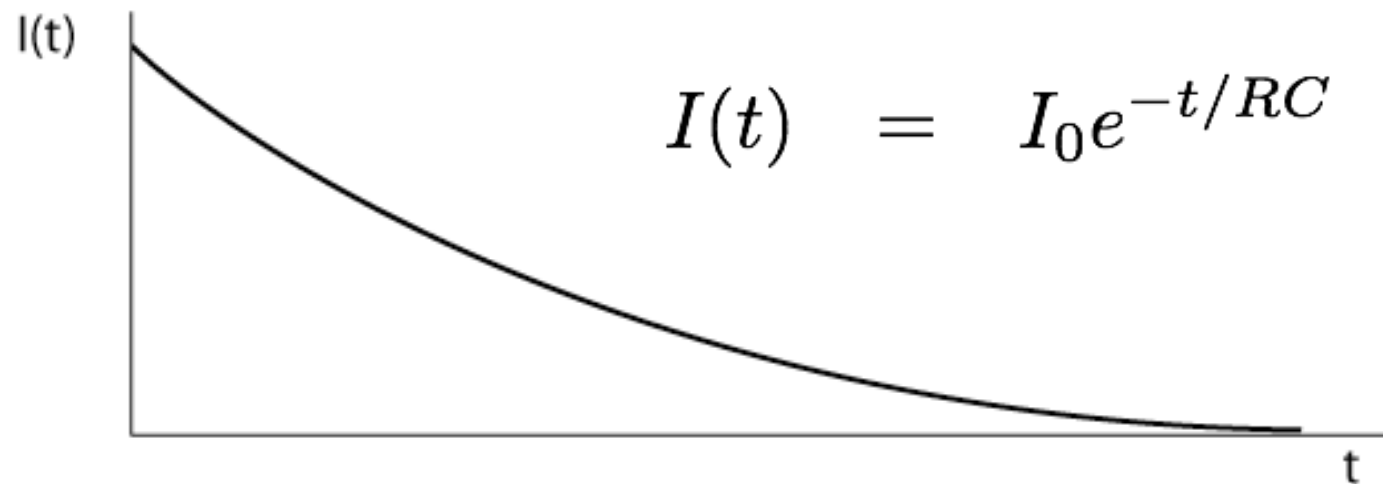
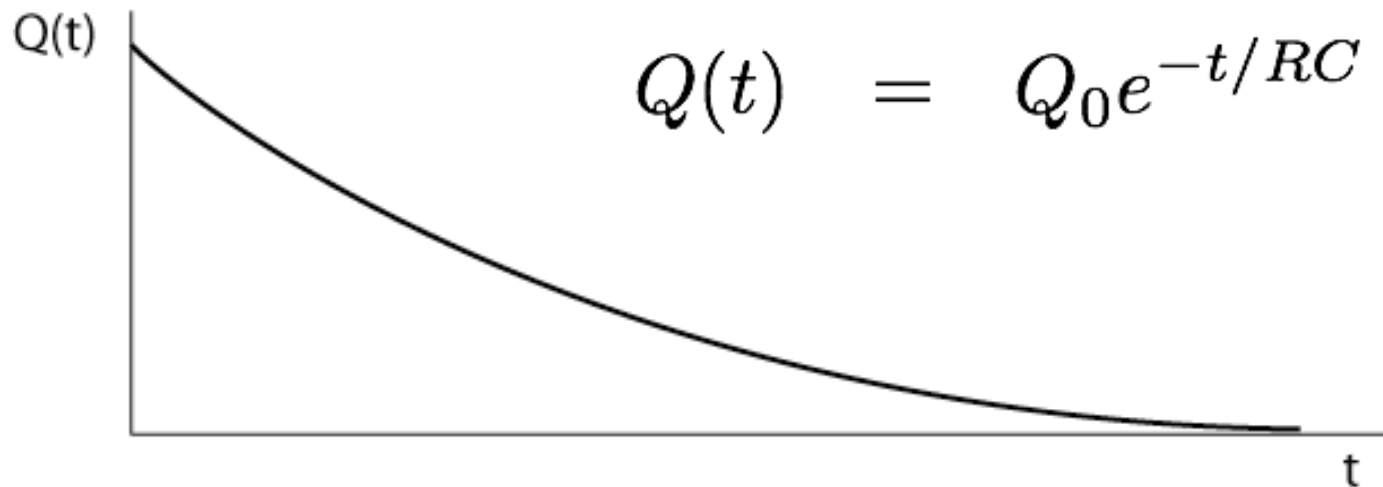


# Discharging a Capacitor

- initially capacitor has charge  $Q = CV$
- no current flows
- then we close the switch
- current flows...initially  
 $I = V/R$
- after a while capacitor has no charge, hence no voltage...thus no current!



# Discharging a Capacitor



# Next week: oscillations

