RC Circuits!

Lecture 15

Exams will **not** be returned…

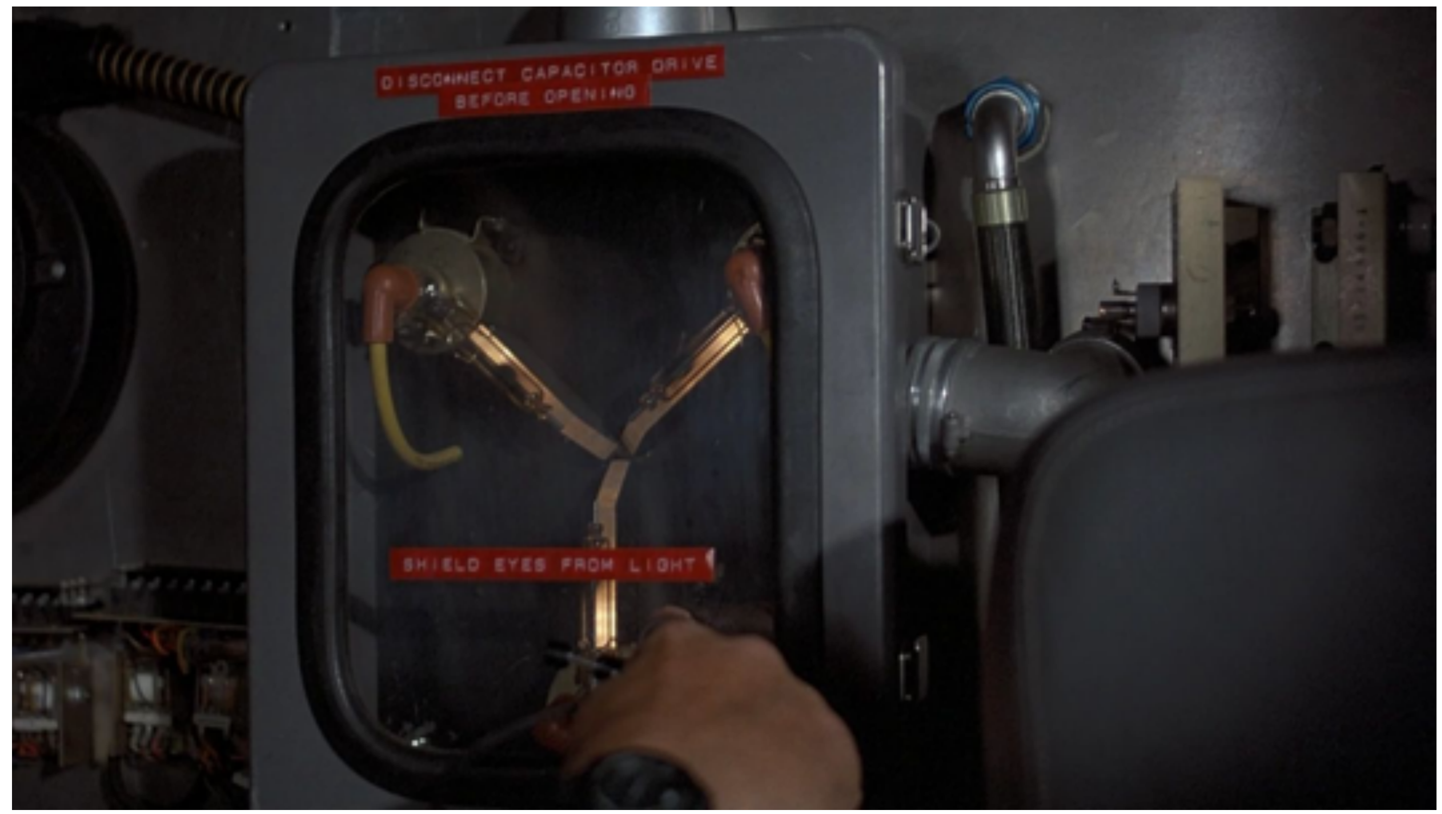
- Regrade of problem III.

FlipIt Lecture thoughts…

- “Everything looks good here, but it would have been nice to know this stuff before the lab this week, #5.”—Oops.

- “Can you explain what a capacitor really is?”

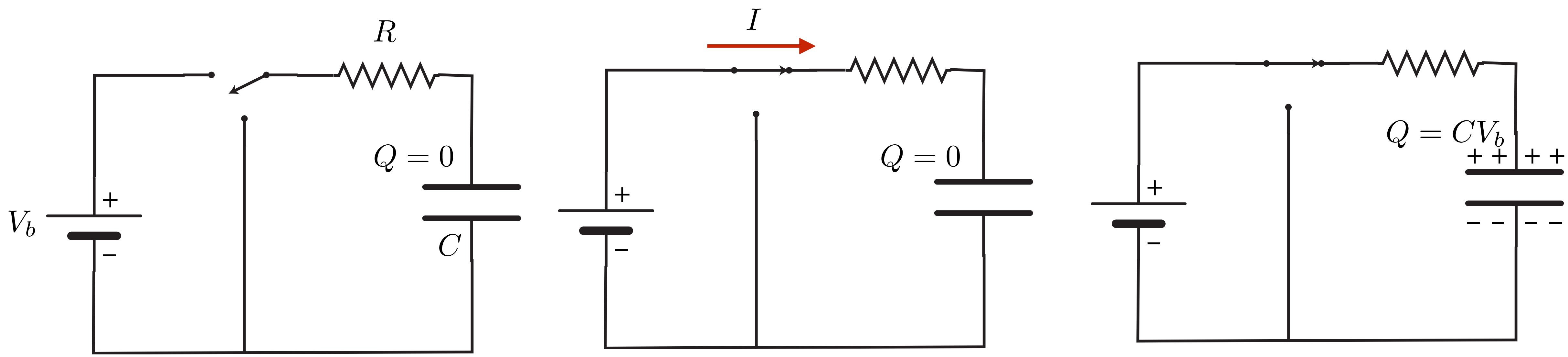
- “How it is used in everyday life such as circuits?”

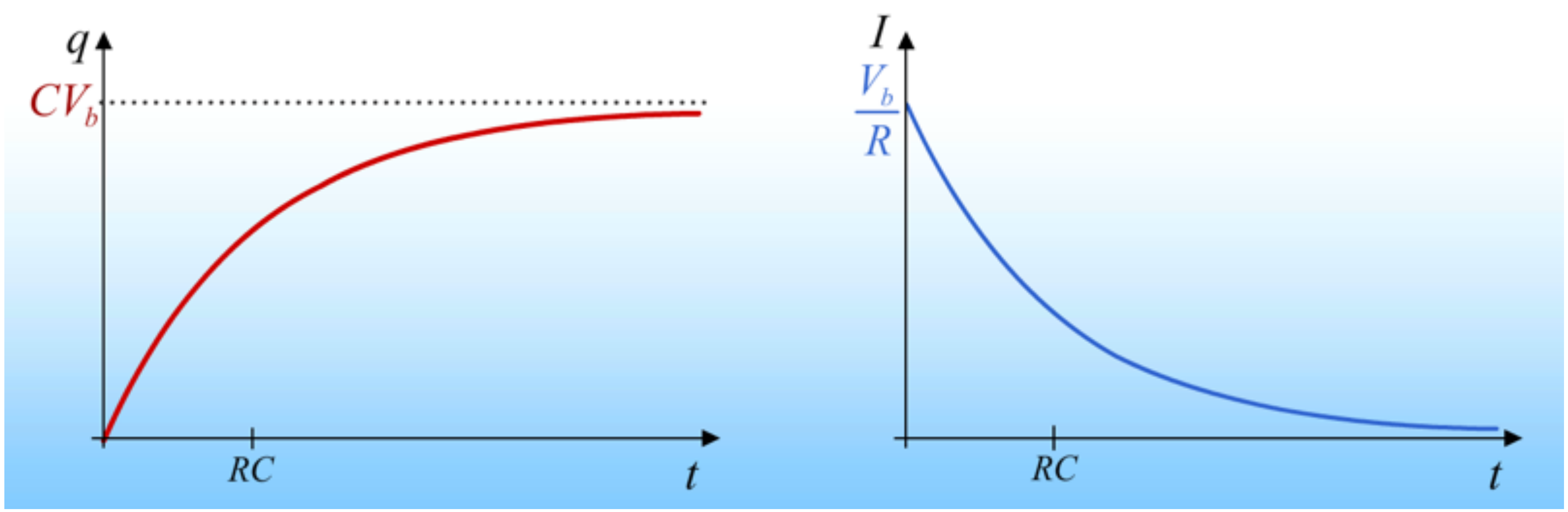


Behaves like a **short circuit** for small t and a **open circuit** at long t…

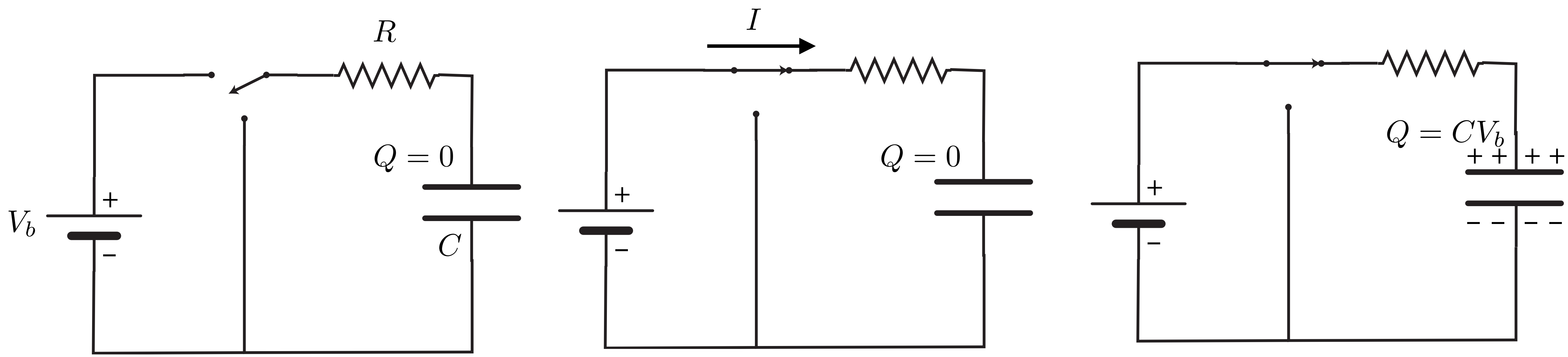
RC Demo

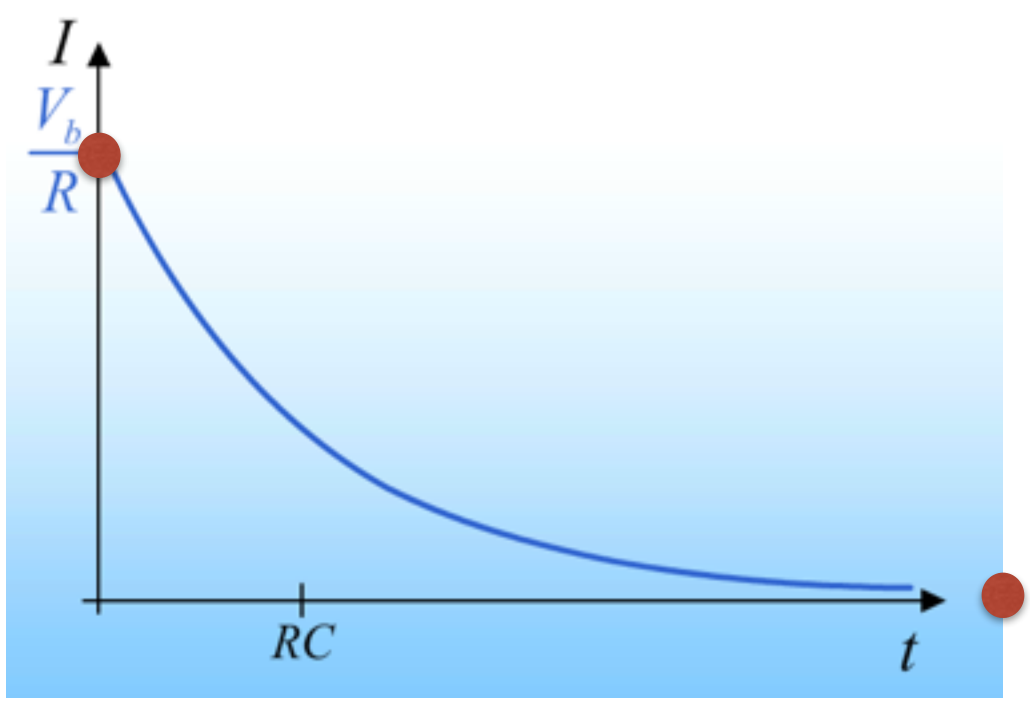
Charging: Overview of the action.





Charging: Overview of the action.

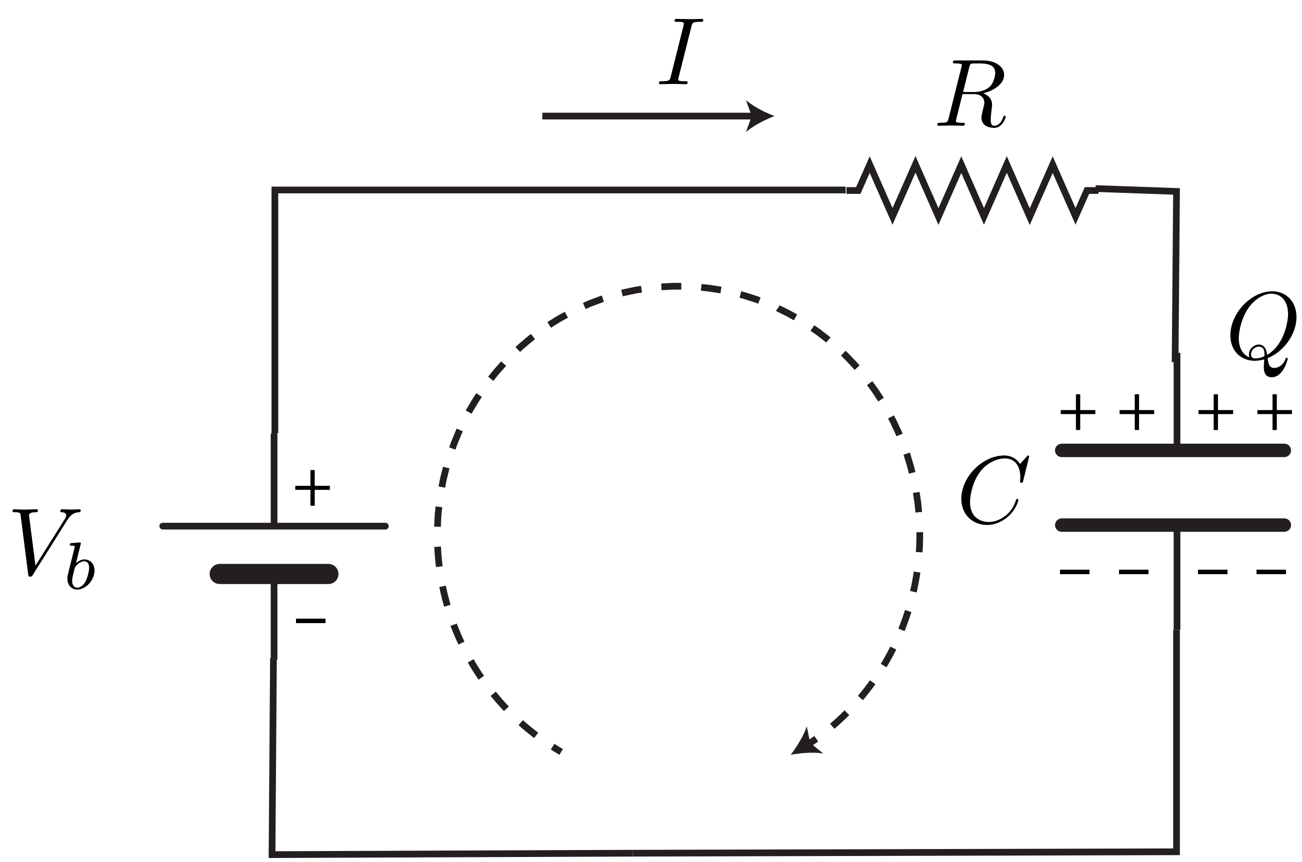




My capacitor heuristic:

- Small t (large v) → C is a short circuit
- Large t (small v) → C is an open circuit

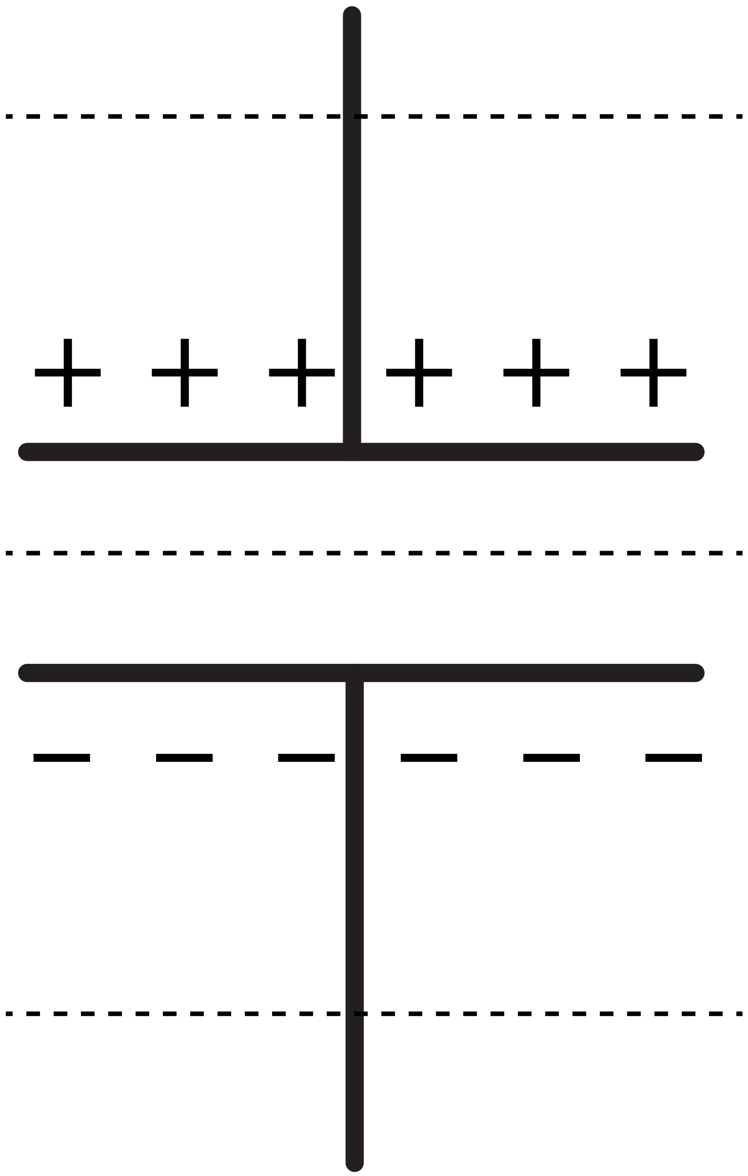
Charging:
Setting up the equations

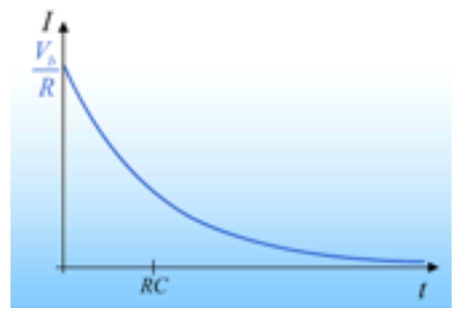


Kirchhoff Voltage Law:

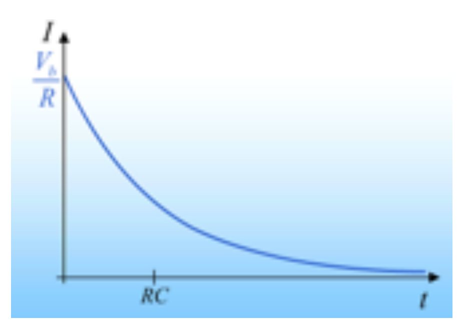
$$-V_b + IR + Q/C = 0$$

Aside: Does current really flow through a capacitor?



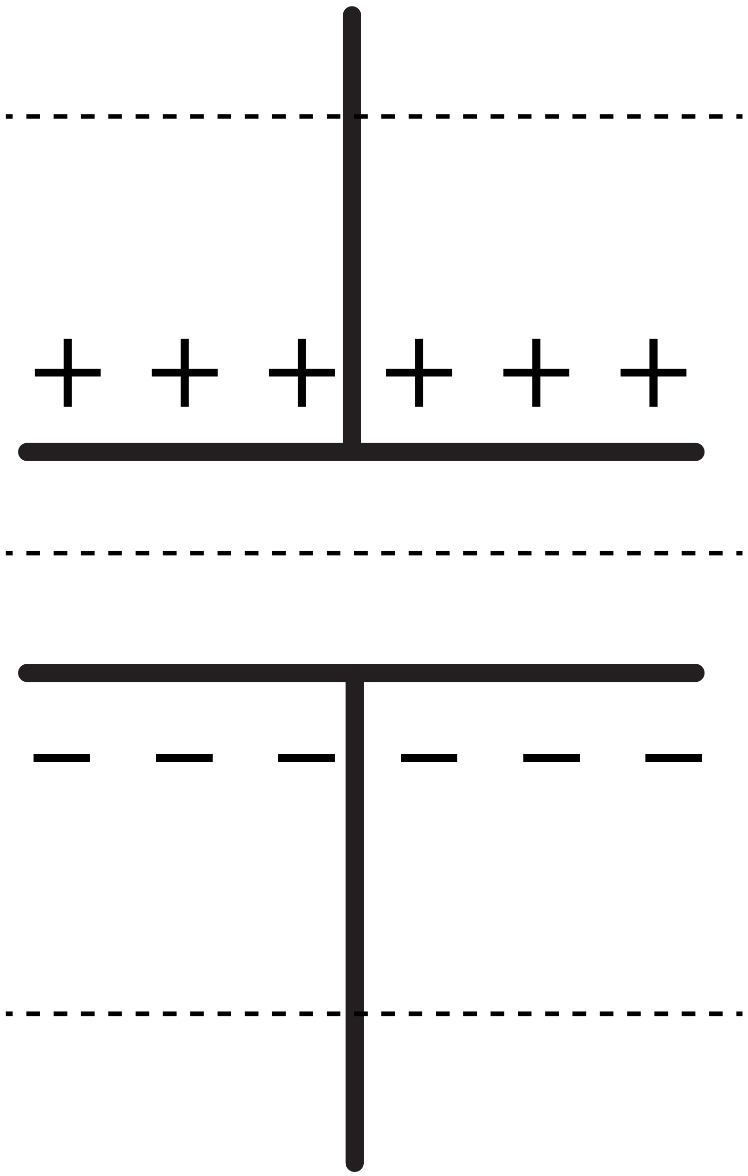


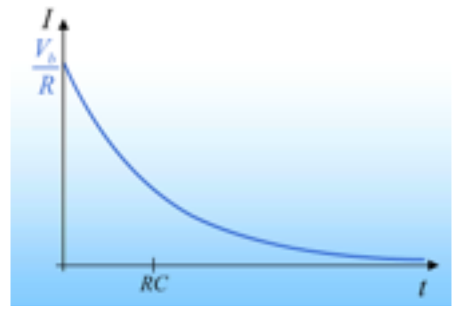
$$I(t) = 0$$



- Current through 3 surface
- The current through the gap is always 0!
- "Current through the capacitor"
  = change in Q on plates

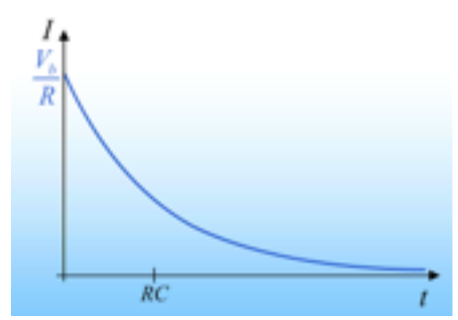
Aside: Does current really flow through a capacitor?





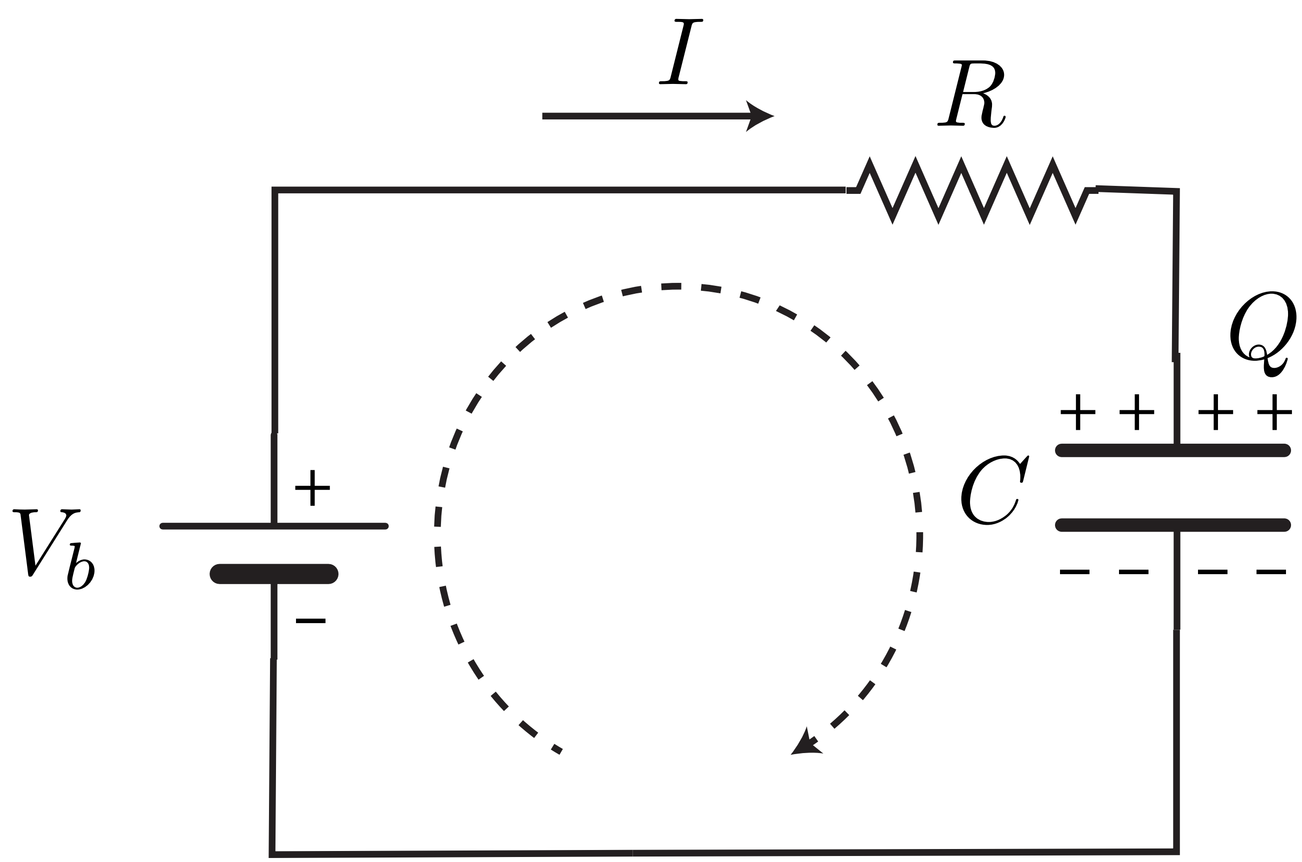
- "Current through the capacitor" = change in Q on plates

$$I(t) = 0$$



$$I = \frac{dQ}{dt}$$

Charging:
Setting up the equations



Kirchhoff Voltage Law:

$$-V_b + R\frac{dQ}{dt} + Q/C = 0$$

Initial State:

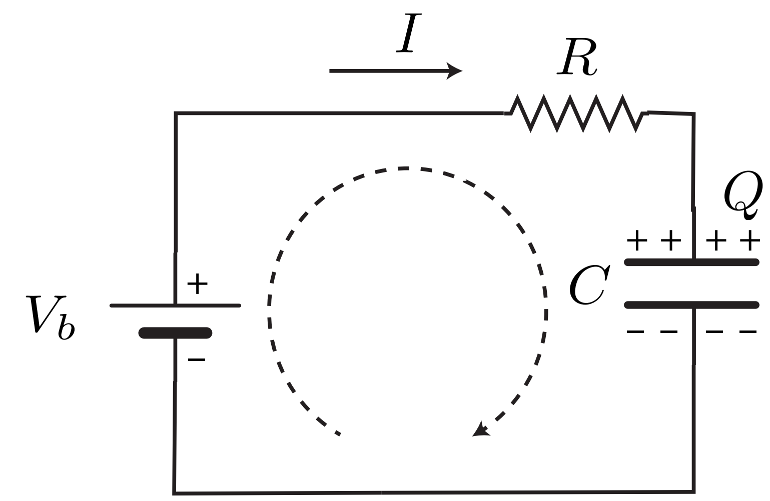
$$Q = 0$$

Charging:
Solving the equations

Overhead.

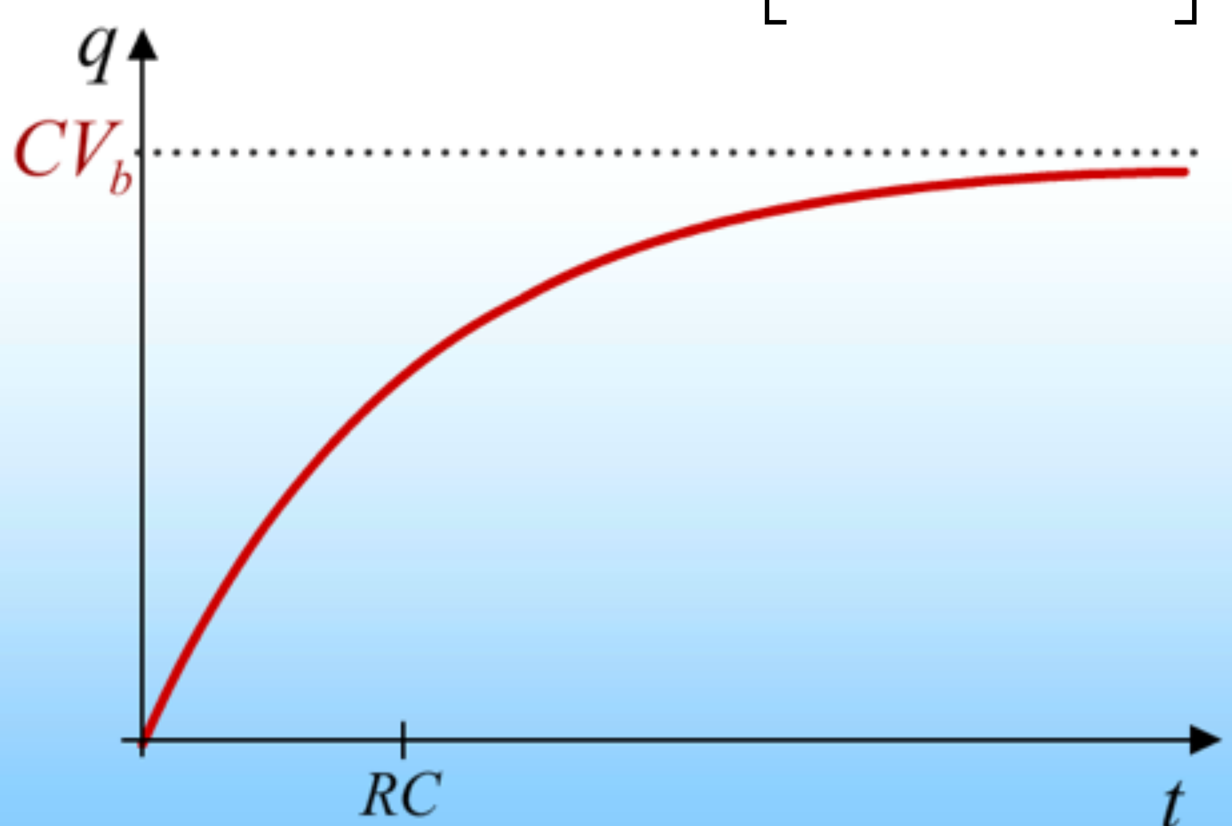
Charging: Solution

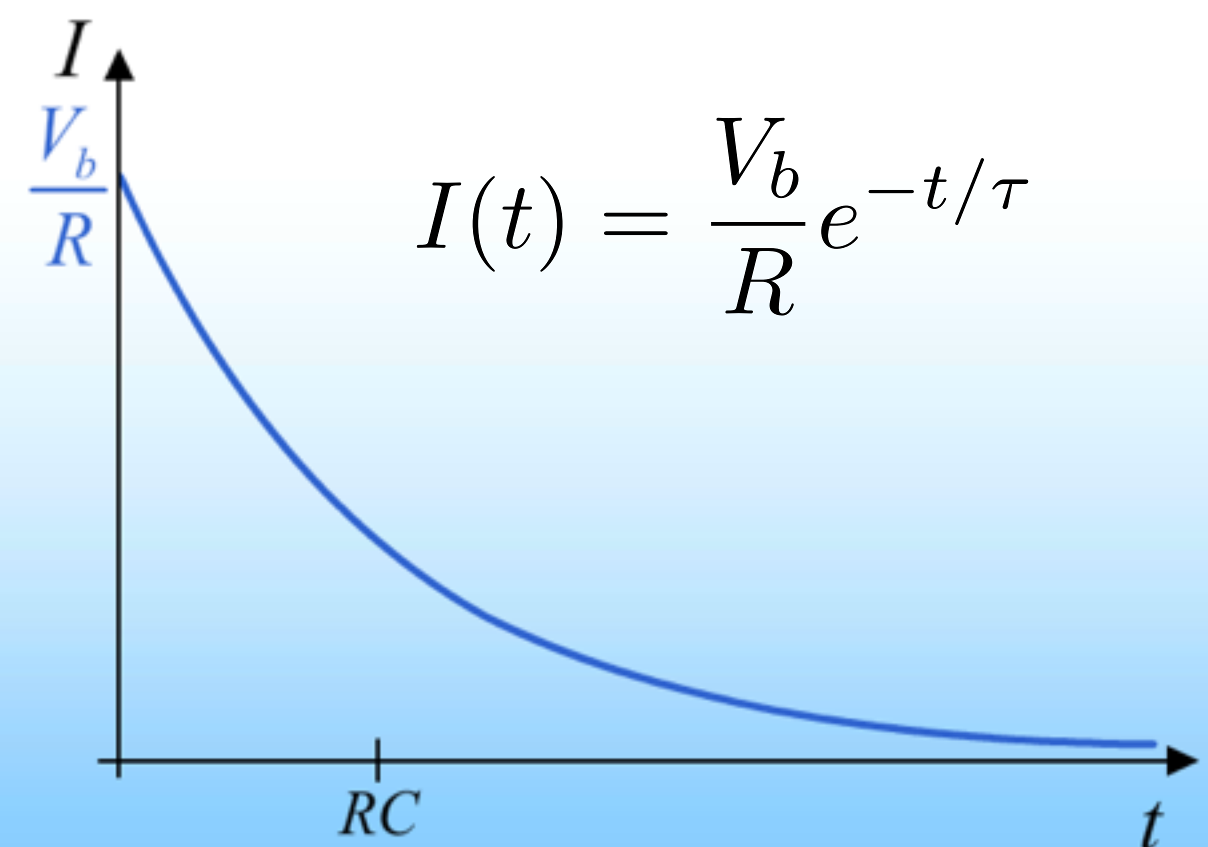
RC time constant: $\tau \equiv RC$



$$Q(t) = CV_b\left[1 - e^{-t/\tau}\right]$$

$$V_C(t) = V_b\left[1 - e^{-t/\tau}\right]$$





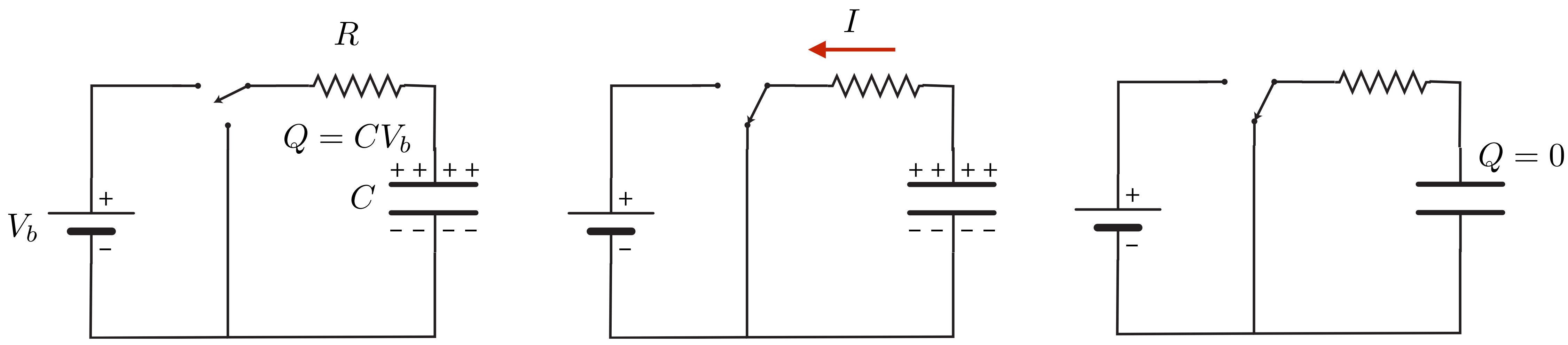
$$I(t) = \frac{V_b}{R}e^{-t/\tau}$$

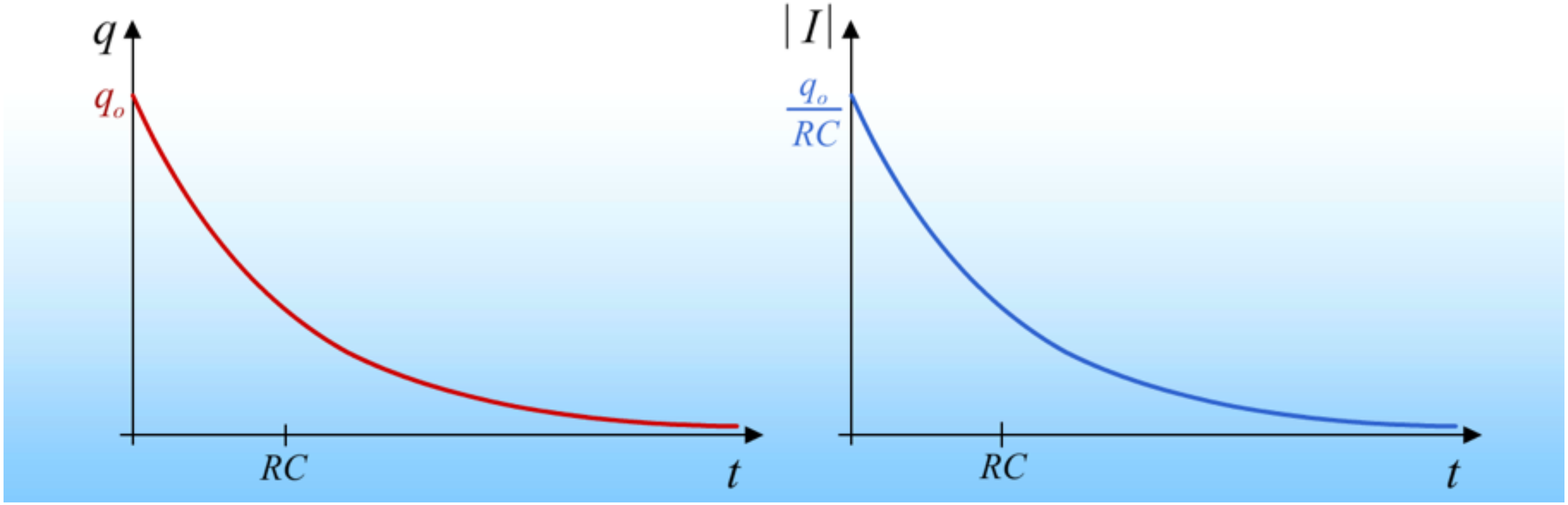
Quick check of the units….

- RC time constant units:

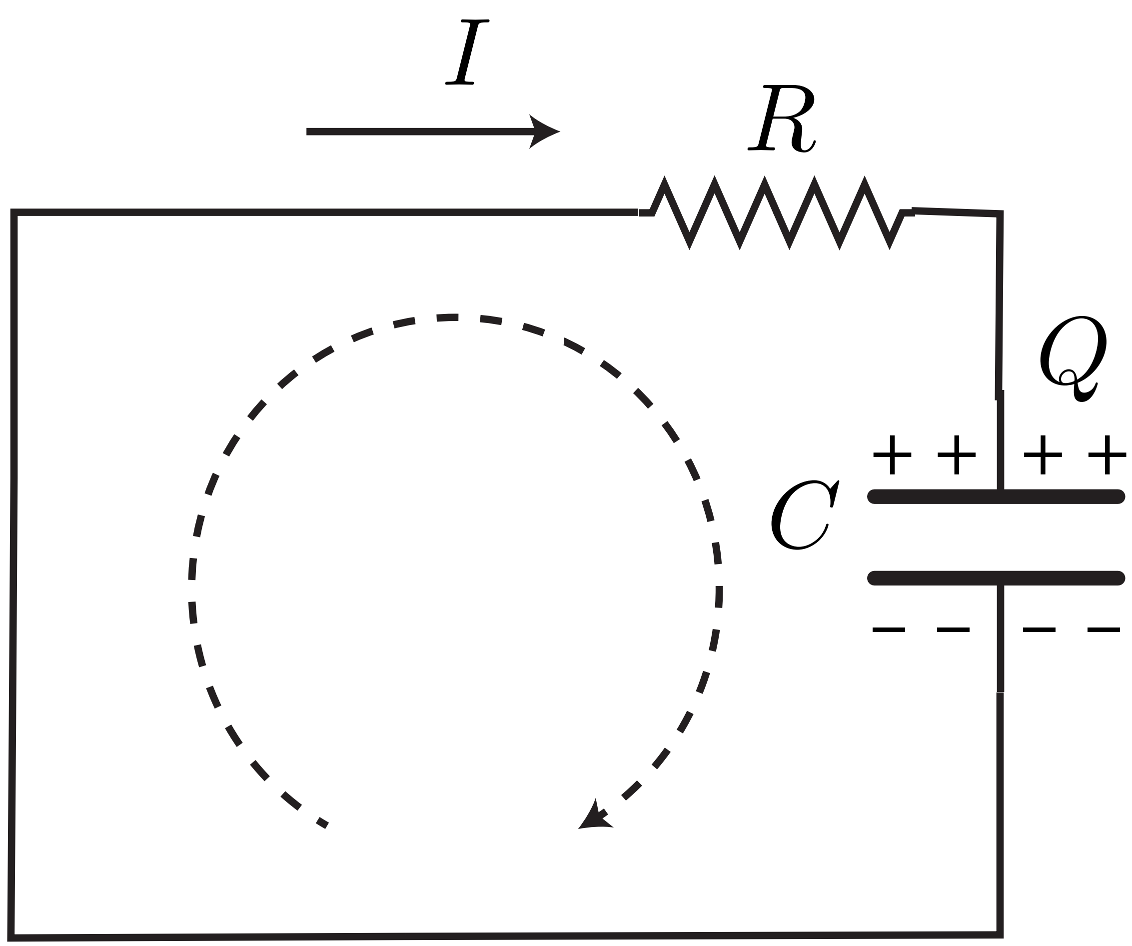
$$[\tau] = [R][C] = [V][I]^{-1}[Q][V]^{-1} = [dQ/dt]^{-1}[Q] = s$$

Discharging:
Overview of the action.





Discharging: Setting up the equations



Kirchhoff Voltage Law:

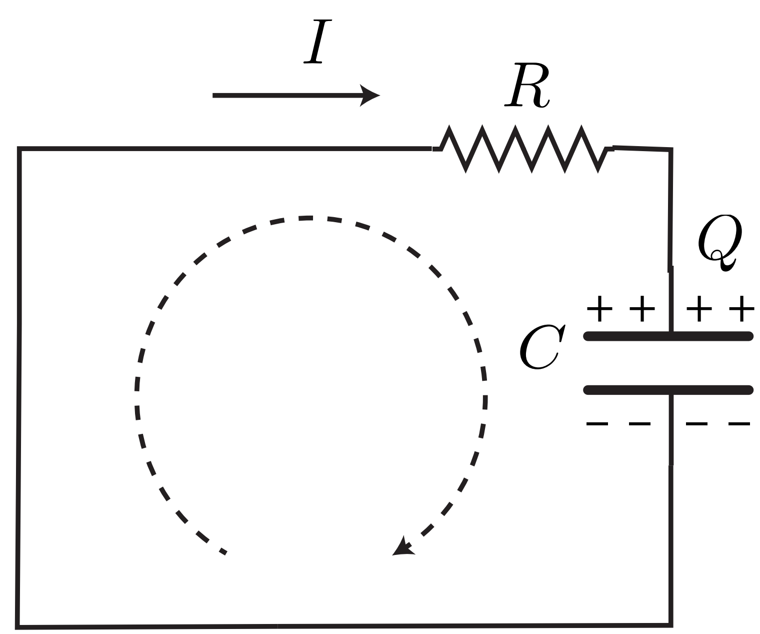
$$RI + Q/C = 0$$

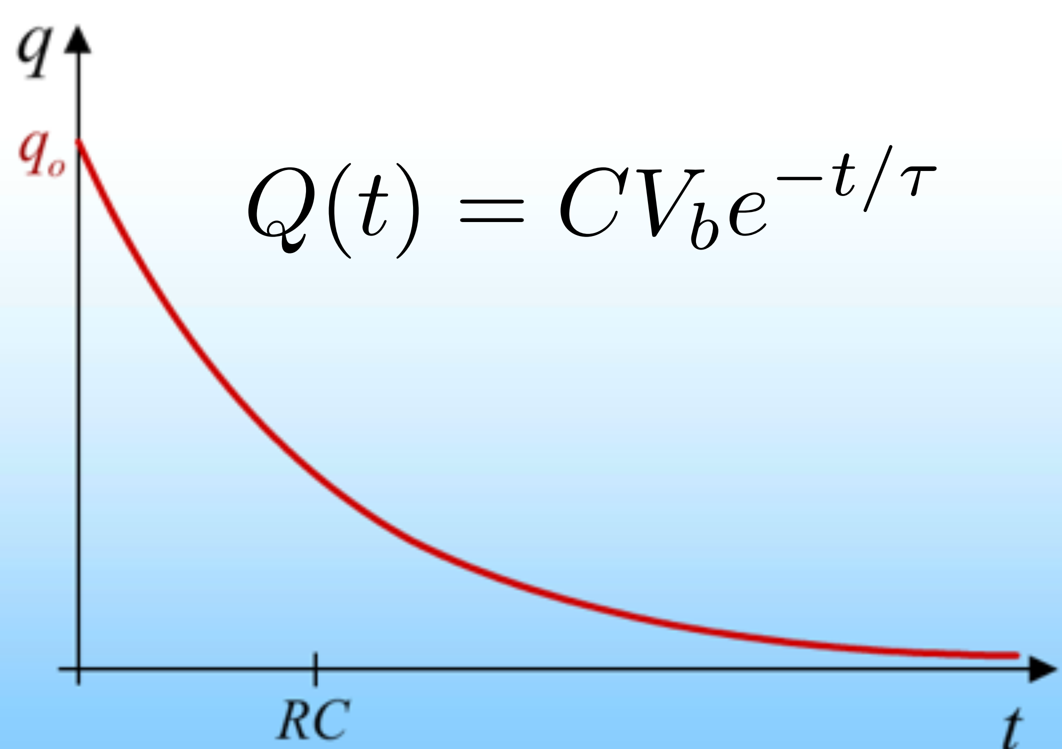
Initial State:

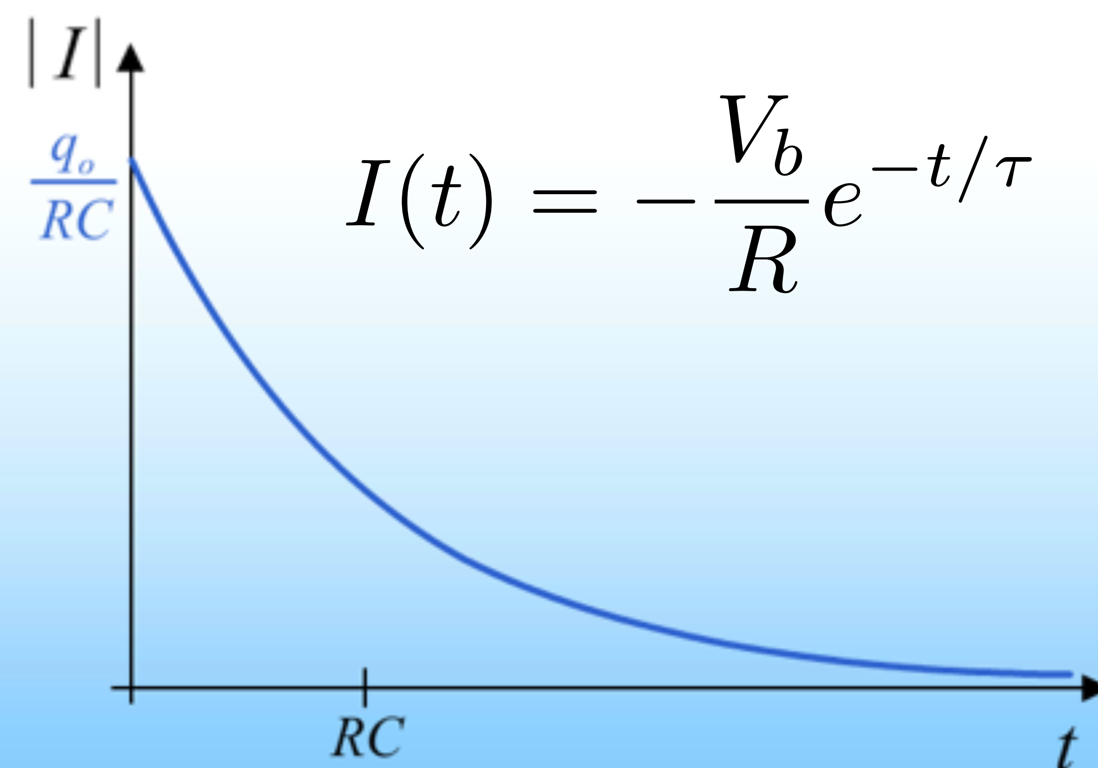
$$Q(0) = CV_b$$

Discharging: Solution

RC time constant: $\tau \equiv RC$

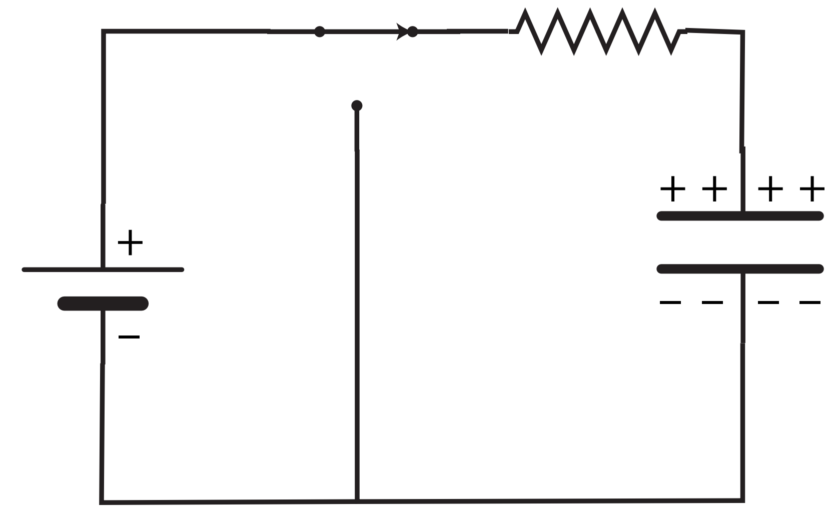


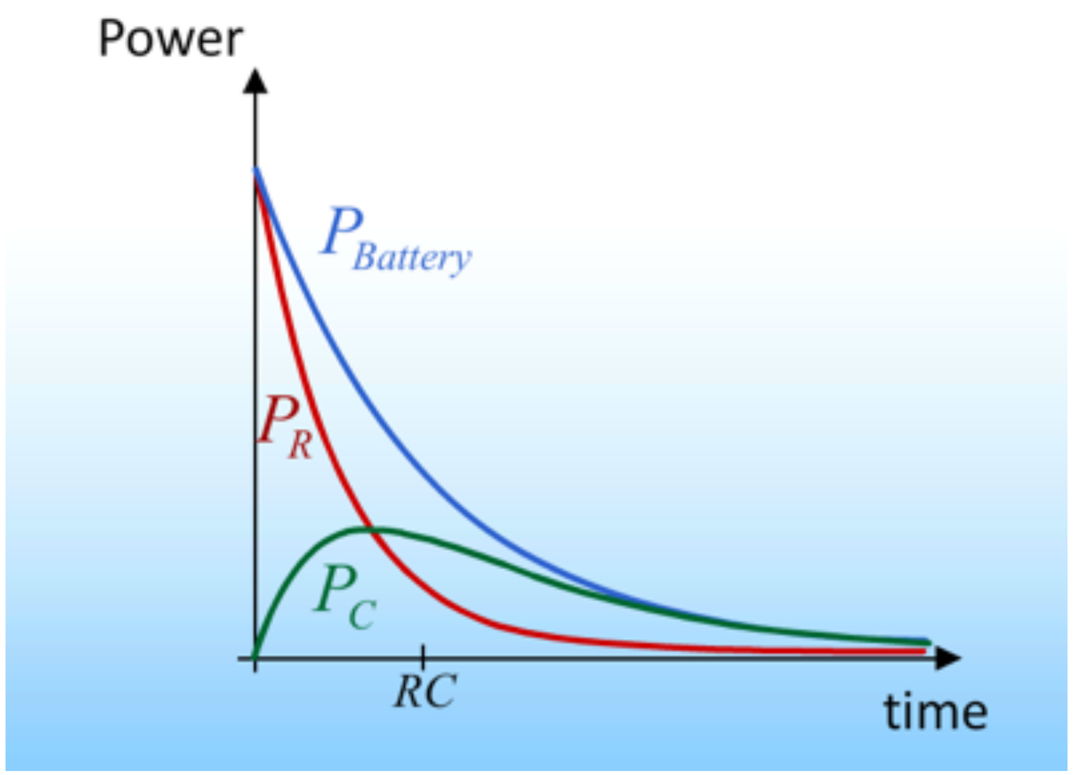




Energy flow in an RC circuit.

- Power: $P = IV$
- Energy stored: $U = \frac{1}{2}CV^2$





$$P_{Battery}(t) = V_b I_o e^{-t/RC}$$

$$P_R(t) = R\, I_o^2 e^{-2t/RC}$$

$$P_C(t) = \left[\frac{q_o}{C}\left(1 - e^{-t/RC}\right)\right]\left[I_o e^{-t/RC}\right]$$