

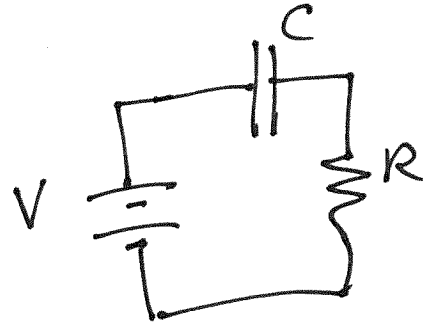
Ch. 10 Prob. 53

$$R = 500 \Omega$$

$$C = 1.50 \mu\text{F} \quad (\text{initially uncharged})$$

$$V = 6.16 \text{ V}$$

Model for The Charging  
Capacitor



$$Q(t) = Q_0 (1 - e^{-t/\tau})$$

$$\text{where } \tau = RC$$

a) Find The initial Current

$$I(t) = \frac{dQ(t)}{dt} = Q_0 \left( 0 - e^{-t/\tau} \left( -\frac{1}{\tau} \right) \right) = \frac{Q_0}{\tau} e^{-t/\tau}$$

$$I(t) = I_0 e^{-t/\tau}$$

Since the capacitor is initially uncharged, all the voltage of the power supply drops over the resistor. Therefore

$$I_0 = \frac{V}{R} = \frac{6.16 \text{ V}}{500 \Omega} = 0.0123 \text{ A} = \boxed{12.3 \text{ mA}}$$

b) What is the time constant?

$$\tau = RC = (500 \Omega)(1.50 \times 10^{-6} \text{ F}) = 7.5 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s} = \boxed{0.75 \text{ ms}}$$

c) What is the current after 1 time constant?

$$I(t) = I_0 e^{-t/\tau} = (12.3 \text{ mA}) e^{-\tau/\tau} = (12.3 \text{ mA}) e^{-1}$$

$$I(\tau) = 4.52 \text{ mA}$$

d) What is the voltage on the capacitor after 1 time constant?

$$V = V_c + V_R \rightarrow V_c = V - V_R = V - IR$$

$$\text{at 1 time constant } V_c = 6.16 \text{ V} - (4.52 \times 10^{-3} \text{ A})(500 \Omega) = \boxed{3.9 \text{ V}}$$