

# Can the capacitor voltage suddenly change

What happens when a capacitor voltage is changed?

When a voltage is suddenly applied or changed across a capacitor, it cannot immediately adjust to the new voltage due to the time it takes for the capacitor to charge or discharge. This delay is characterized by the capacitor's capacitance ( $C$ ) and the resistance ( $R$ ) in the circuit, forming a time constant ( $\tau = RC$ ).

Can a capacitor change a voltage instantaneously?

The voltage across a capacitor cannot change instantaneously due to its inherent property of storing electrical charge. When a voltage is suddenly applied or changed across a capacitor, it cannot immediately adjust to the new voltage due to the time it takes for the capacitor to charge or discharge.

What happens if a capacitor reaches a low voltage?

Conversely, when the voltage across a capacitor is decreased, the capacitor supplies current to the rest of the circuit, acting as a power source. In this condition the capacitor is said to be discharging. Its store of energy -- held in the electric field -- is decreasing now as energy is released to the rest of the circuit.

How does a capacitor resist a change in voltage?

A capacitor opposes changes in voltage across it by virtue of its capacitance. When the voltage across a capacitor attempts to change, the capacitor resists this change by either absorbing or releasing charge through its plates. This charging or discharging process occurs gradually over time, governed by the  $RC$  time constant of the circuit.

What happens when a capacitor is charged?

When a voltage is suddenly applied to an uncharged capacitor, electrons start moving from the source to the capacitor. This movement begins the charging process. As the capacitor charges, its voltage increases. When the capacitor's voltage matches the supply voltage, the charging stops.

What happens if a capacitor is added to a resistor?

We now apply a voltage of 5V to the circuit (like a step increase - instantaneously). The voltage across the resistor changes instantaneously to 5V. If a capacitor is introduced into this circuit, it will gradually charge until the voltage across it is also approximately 5V, and the current in this circuit will become zero.

possible, so a capacitor's voltage can't change instantaneously. More generally, capacitors oppose changes in voltage|they tend to want&quot; their voltage to change slowly&quot;. Similarly, in an inductor with inductance  $L$ ,  $L \frac{di}{dt} = v$ : An inductor's current can't change instantaneously, and inductors oppose changes in current. Note that we're following the passive sign ...

Yes, capacitors can fail to prevent abrupt voltage changes if they are damaged or if their capacitance is too low

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for the voltage changes in a circuit. Additionally, if a capacitor is connected in the wrong polarity or if it reaches its maximum capacitance, it can fail to effectively regulate voltage changes. It is important to ...

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Because the voltage across the capacitor can't change instantaneously,  $v_{out}(20ms+) = v_{out}(20ms)$ , and  $v_{out}(20ms)$  falls into the equation we just found:  $v_{out}(20ms) = 2.5 + 2.5e^{-\frac{20ms}{10ms}} = 2.62V$ : The  $v_{out}(1)$  term is just the steady state when the transistor is on, which we've already found above; it was 5V. As for the time constant, if we short the voltage source ...

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Can a capacitor change voltage abruptly? No, a capacitor cannot change voltage abruptly. Due to the nature of its design, it will always change voltage gradually. However, the rate at which the voltage changes can be controlled by altering the capacitance of the capacitor or the voltage applied to it.

If the voltage across a capacitor changes too quickly, it can lead to a phenomenon known as dielectric breakdown. This is when the insulating material between the ...

A question you might ask is, "what current do you need to cause an instantaneous change of voltage on a capacitor?". An "instantaneous" change is a change from one voltage to another that happens in zero time. One moment the voltage is  $V_1$  and the next moment BING! it is  $V_2$ . That's an instantaneous change. The change of voltage is some finite difference, ...

Basically, a capacitor resists a change in voltage, and an inductor resists a change in current. So, at  $t=0$  a capacitor acts as a short circuit and an inductor acts as an open circuit. These two short videos might also be helpful, they look at the 3 effects of capacitors and inductors:

Yes, capacitors can fail to prevent abrupt voltage changes if they are damaged or if their capacitance is too low for the voltage changes in a circuit. Additionally, if a capacitor ...

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voltage due to the time it takes for the capacitor to charge or discharge. This delay is characterized by the capacitor's capacitance (C) and the resistance (R) in the circuit, forming a time constant ( $\tau = RC$ ).

The voltage  $v$  across and current  $i$  through a capacitor with capacitance  $C$  are related by the equation  $C \frac{dv}{dt} = i$ ; where  $\frac{dv}{dt}$  is the rate of change of voltage with respect to time. From this, we can see that an sudden change in the voltage across a capacitor|however minute|would require infinite current. This isn't physically

If the voltage changes instantly from one value to another (i.e. discontinuously), the derivative is not finite. This implies that an infinite current would be required to instantly change the voltage. Since an infinite current is not physically realizable, that means that the voltage cannot change instantaneously.

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Can we change the input voltage instantaneously or not? (theoretically) The answer is a qualified yes. Formally, the voltage across the capacitor can be of the form  $v_C(t) = V_0 u(t)$  where  $u(t)$  is the unit step function. In that case, the capacitor current is  $i_C(t) = C \frac{dv_C}{dt} = C V_0 \delta(t)$

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