

Lecture 3:

Kirchhoff's Laws

Kirchhoff's Laws

Ohm's law by itself is not adequate to analyze circuits. So, when it is coupled with Kirchhoff's two laws, we have an adequate, active set of tools for analyzing a large variety of electric circuits. Kirchhoff's laws were first introduced in 1847 by the German physicist G. Robert Kirchhoff (1824–1887). These laws are formally known as *Kirchhoff's current law (KCL)* and *Kirchhoff's voltage law (KVL)*.

1- Kirchhoff's current law (KCL): states that the algebraic sum of currents entering a node is zero.

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Mathematically, KCL is represented as
below:

$$\sum_{n=1}^N i_n = 0$$

Where n is the number of branches connected to the node and i_n is the n^{th} current entering (or leaving) the node.

Based on this law, currents entering a node may be positive, while currents leaving the node may be taken as negative or vice versa.

For figure(1),

$$I_1 + (-I_2) + (-I_3) + I_4 = 0$$

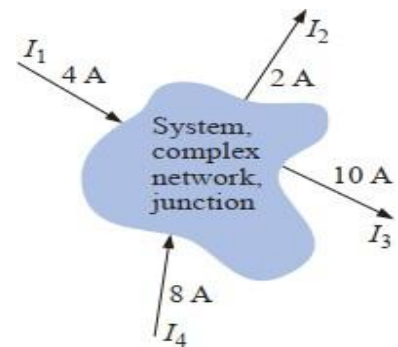
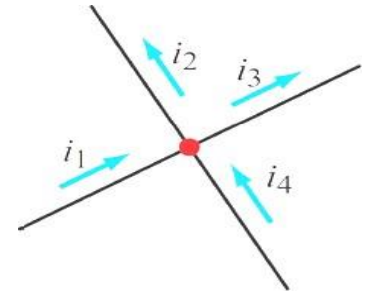


Fig.(1)

So, **Kirchhoff's current law (KCL)** states that the sum of the currents entering a node is equal to the sum of the currents leaving the node.

Thus,

$$\sum I_{\text{entering}} = \sum I_{\text{leaving}}$$

$$I_1 + I_4 = I_2 + I_3$$

$$4\text{A} + 8\text{A} = 2\text{A} + 10\text{A}$$

$$4\text{A} + 8\text{A} - 2\text{A} - 10\text{A} = 0$$

$$12\text{A} = 12\text{A}$$

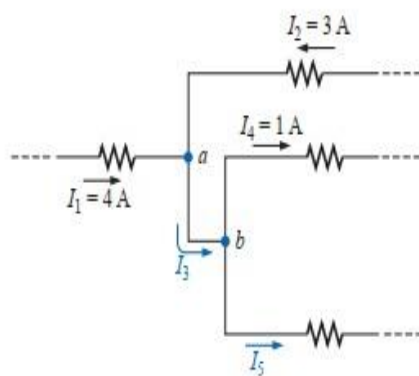


FIG. 6.29
Example 6.15.

EXAMPLE 6.15 Determine the currents I_3 and I_5 of Fig. 6.29 through applications of Kirchhoff's current law.

Solution: Note that since node b has two unknown quantities and node a has only one, we must first apply Kirchhoff's current law to node a . The result can then be applied to node b .

For node a ,

$$I_1 + I_4 = I_2$$

$$4\text{A} + 3\text{A} = I_2$$

$$I_2 = 7\text{A}$$

and

For node b ,

$$I_3 = I_4 + I_5$$

$$7\text{A} = 1\text{A} + I_5$$

and

$$I_5 = 7\text{A} - 1\text{A} = 6\text{A}$$

2- Kirchhoff's voltage law (KVL): states that the algebraic sum of all voltages around a closed path (or loop) is zero.

Mathematical expression for "KVL" states that;

..... of voltages in the loop (or the number of branches in the loop) and V_m is the m^{th} voltage.

$$\sum_{n=1}^M V_m = 0$$

So for Figure (2):

$$-V_1 + V_2 + V_3 - V_4 + V_5 = 0$$

And

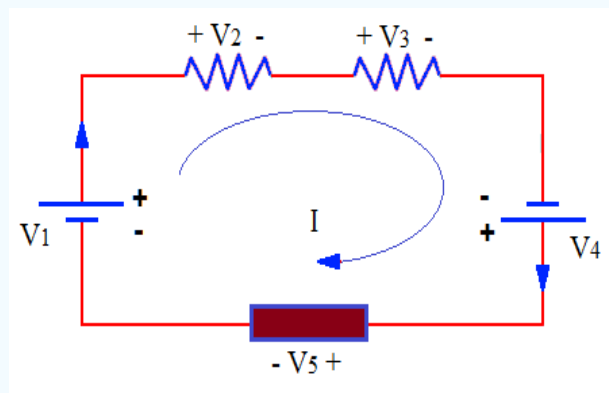


Fig.(2)

Determination of signs for sources and elements for KVL

1-For voltage source, If we start the loop from **negative** terminal to **positive** terminal, then the voltage should be given **negative** sign and vice versa.

2-For elements (resistances), if we start the loop through the resistor in the **same direction as the current through it**, then the voltage should be given **positive** sign and vice versa.

To illustrate this rule , see the two examples below:

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Example 1: Find the voltage between terminals **a** & **b** in Figure (3)?

Solution:

$$-V_{ab} + V_1 + V_2 - V_3 = 0$$

$$\therefore V_{ab} = V_1 + V_2 - V_3$$

If the sources have the following values;

$$V_1 = 50 \text{ V}$$

$$V_2 = 30 \text{ V}$$

$$V_3 = 45 \text{ V}$$

$$\text{Then } V_{ab} = 50 + 30 - 45 = 35 \text{ V}$$

So we can replace the three series sources by a single source

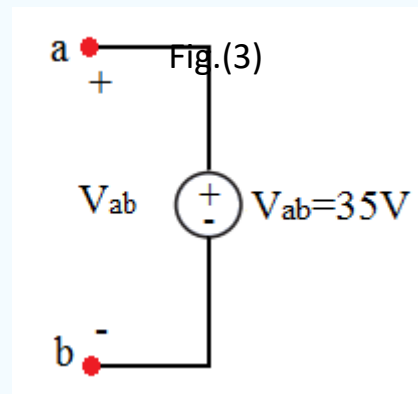
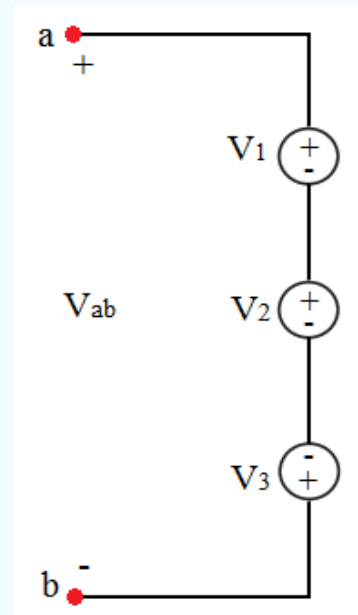
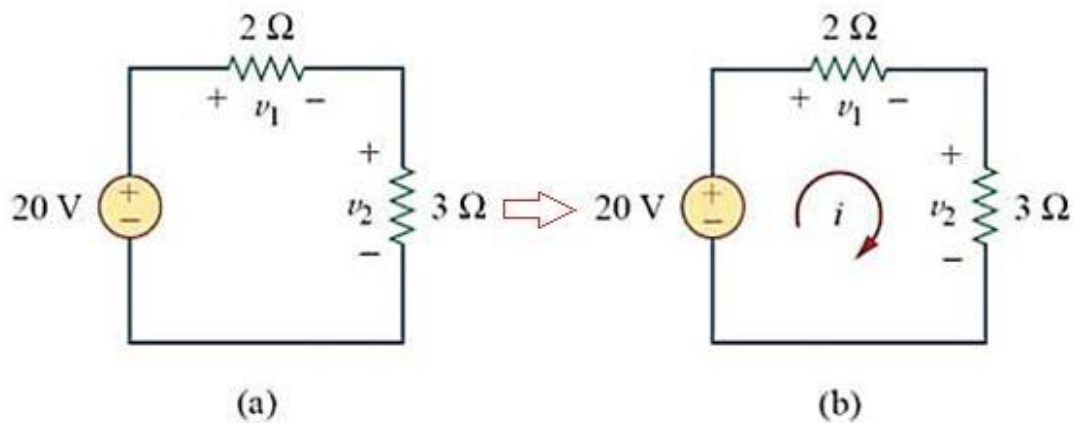


Fig.(4)

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Example:- for the circuit in **Figure(a & b)**, find voltages V_1 & V_2 ?



Solution:

Assume that current i flows through the loop as shown in **Figure**

Applying KVL around the loop gives :

$$-20 + V_1 + V_2 = 0 \text{ ----- (1)}$$

$$V_1 = 2i, \quad \& \quad V_2 = 3i \text{ ----- (2)}$$

Substituting Eq. (2) into Eq. (1), we obtain:

$$-20 + 2i + 3i = 0 \rightarrow -20 = -2i - 3i \rightarrow 20 = (2+3)i \rightarrow 5i = 20 \rightarrow$$

$$i = 4 \text{ A}$$

Substituting i in Eq. (1) finally gives,

$$V_1 = 8\text{V} \quad , \quad V_2 = 12\text{V}$$

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Example 2: Find the unknown voltage V_1 in the circuit of Figure (5), use Kirchhoff's laws?

Solution:

Apply KVL through loop

AFEDCBA,

$$-V_1 + 40 - V_2 - V_3 = 0$$

$$V_2 = 2I_2 = 2 \times 4 = 8 \text{ V}$$

$$V_3 = 3I_3 = 3 \times 16 = 48 \text{ V}$$

Applying "KVL"

$$\therefore -V_1 + 40 - 8 - 48 = 0$$

$$\therefore V_1 = -16 \text{ V}$$

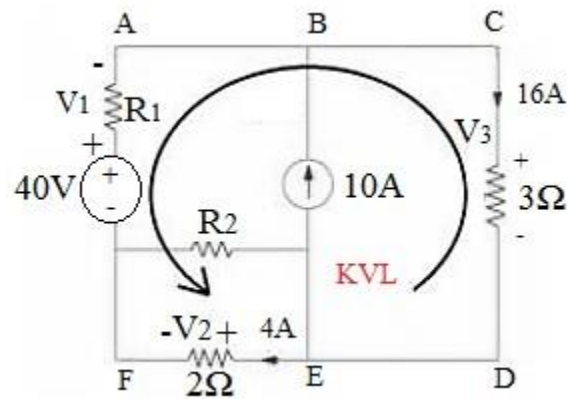


Fig.(5)

Revers loop:

$$+V_1 - 40 + V_2 + V_3 = 0$$

Example 3: Using Kirchhoff's Current Law and Ohm's Law, find the magnitude and polarity of voltage V in Figure (6)?

Solution:

- Choose the directions of I_1 , I_2 and I_3 and polarity of V as shown in Figure (7).

- Applying (KCL) to node A, we have

$$+30 + I_2 - I_1 - I_3 - 8 = 0$$

Or $\rightarrow I_1 - I_2 + I_3 = 22$ ----- (1)

Applying Ohm's law to the three resistive branches in Figure (7), we have

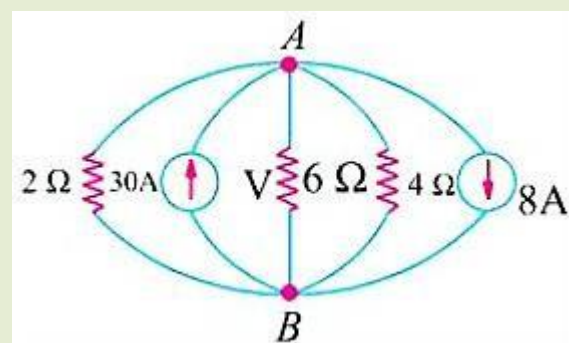


Fig.(6)

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$$I_1 = \frac{V}{2}, I_2 = -\frac{V}{6}, I_3 = \frac{V}{4}$$

Substituting these values in (1)

above, we get:

$$\frac{V}{2} + \frac{V}{6} + \frac{V}{4} = 22 \Rightarrow \therefore V = 24V$$

$$\therefore I_1 = \frac{V}{2} = \frac{24}{2} = 12A$$

$$I_2 = -\frac{24}{6} = -4A$$

$$I_3 = \frac{24}{4} = 6A$$

$$\therefore 30 - 4 - 12 - 6 - 8 = 0$$

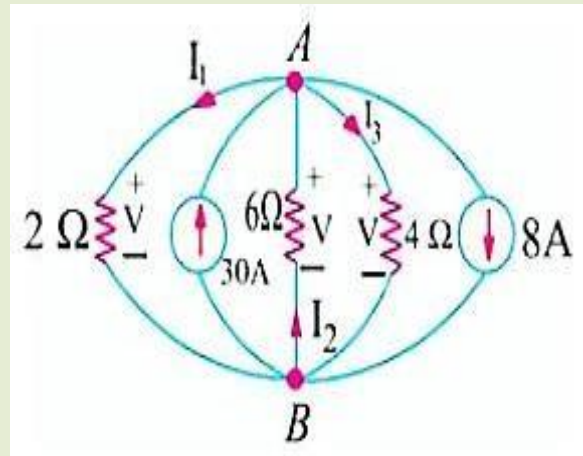


Fig.(7)

EXAMPLE 8 Use Kirchhoff's voltage law to determine the unknown voltage for the circuit in Fig. 27.

Solution:

Application of Kirchhoff's voltage law to the circuit in Fig. 27 in the clockwise direction results in

$$+ E_1 - V_1 - V_2 - E_2 = 0$$

$$\text{and} \quad V_1 = E_1 - V_2 - E_2 \\ = 16V - 4.2V - 9V$$

$$\text{so} \quad V_1 = 2.8V$$

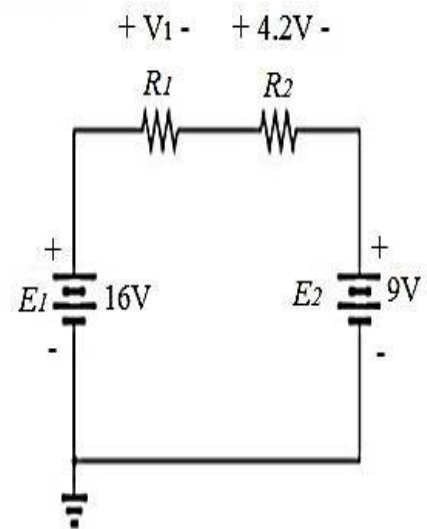


FIG. 27

2nd solution

$$-E_1 + V_1 + V_2 + E_2 = 0$$

$$V_1 = +E_1 - V_2 - E_2$$

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$$V_1 = 16 - 4.2 - 9$$

$$V_1 = 2.8 \text{ V}$$

EXAMPLE 3.12: page 59-60 in chapter 3 [Hayt Engineering Circuit Analysis 8th ed.txt-book]

Calculate the power and voltage of the dependent source in Fig. 9-a.?

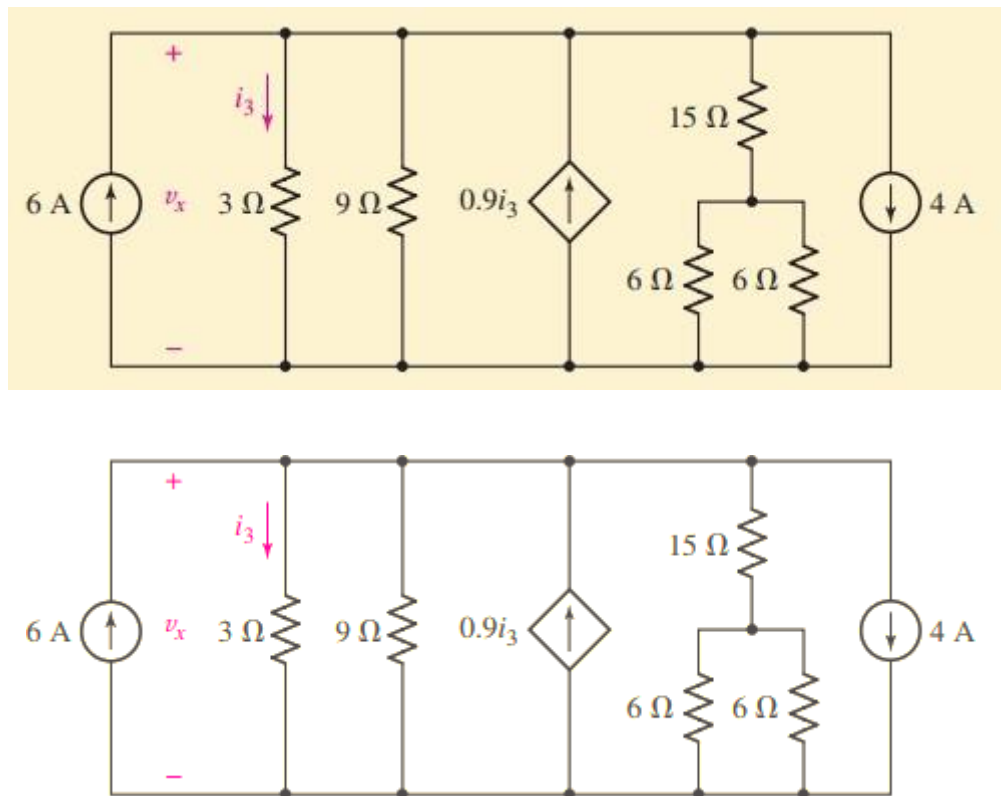


Fig.(9-a)

The two independent current sources are in fact in parallel, so we replace them with a (2A) source.

The two 6Ω resistors are in parallel and can be replaced with a single 3Ω resistor in series with the 15Ω resistor. Thus, the two 6Ω resistors and the 15Ω resistor are replaced by an 18Ω resistor Fig. (9-b).

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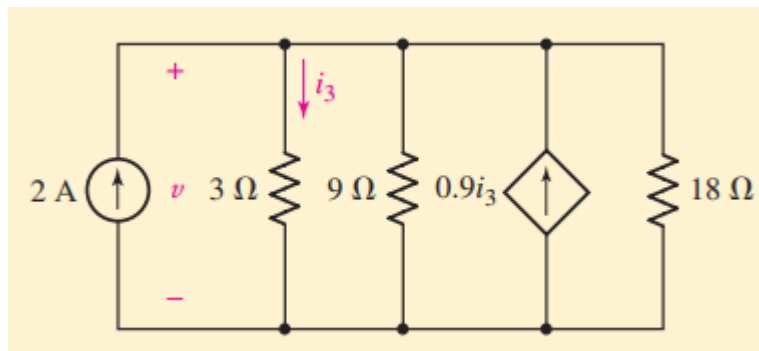


Fig.9-b

we should not integrate the remaining three resistors; the controlling variable i_3 depends on the 3Ω resistor, therefore, must remain this resistor. then, is $(9\Omega \times 18\Omega) / (9\Omega + 18\Omega) = 6\Omega$, as shown in Fig. 9c.

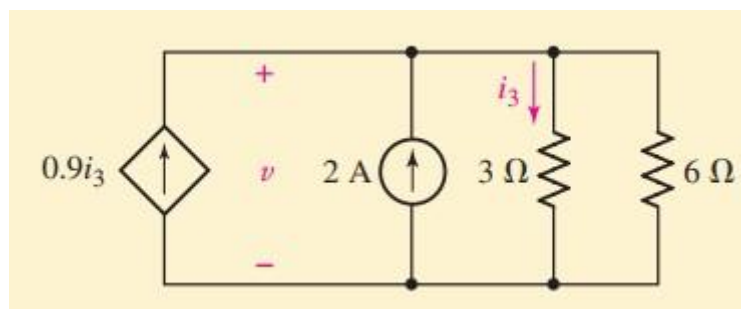


Fig.9-c

Applying KCL at the top node of Fig. 9-c, we have :

$$-0.9i_3 - 2 + i_3 + \frac{v}{6} = 0 \quad \text{---(1)}$$

Employing Ohm's law in 3Ω branch;

$$v = 3i_3 \quad \text{---(2)}$$

Put equation 2 in 1;

$$-0.9i_3 - 2 + i_3 + \frac{3i_3}{6} = 0$$



$$+ \frac{3}{6} i_3 = 2$$

$$i_3 = \frac{2}{1 - 0.9 + \frac{3}{6}}$$

$$i_3 = 3.3333A$$

Thus, the voltage across the dependent source (which is the same as the voltage across the 3Ω resistor) is

$$v = 3i_3 = 3 \times (3.333A) = 10V$$

The dependent source, provide power as,

$$P = V \times I$$

$$p = v \times 0.9i_3$$

$$p = 10 \times [(0.9)(3.333A)] = 29.9997W \cong 30 W \text{ to the circuit}$$

