

Quiz 20.1A

An unknown capacitor and a 33500 Ohm resistor are connected in series with a 78.0 Volt power source. At $t = 0.00$ s, a switch is closed to complete the circuit, and the capacitor begins to charge. A student determines that the voltage drop across the resistor after 1.33 seconds is 38.0 Volts.

- a) What is the current in the circuit at this time?
- b) What is the time constant of this circuit?
- c) What is the capacitance of the capacitor in this circuit?
- d) At $t = 1.33$ seconds, what is the charge on the capacitor?

$$a) I = \frac{\Delta V}{R} = \frac{38}{33500} = \boxed{1.13 \times 10^{-3} A}$$

$$b) I_{max} = \frac{\mathcal{E}}{R} = \frac{78}{33500} = 2.328 \times 10^{-3} A$$

$$I = I_{max} e^{-t/\tau}$$

$$\frac{1.13}{2.328} = e^{-t/\tau}$$

$$0.487 = e^{-t/\tau}$$

$$-0.719 = -t/\tau$$

$$t = 0.719 \tau$$

$$\tau = \frac{1.33}{0.719} = 1.85 \text{ s}$$

$$1.848 = (33500) C$$

$$c) \boxed{C = 5.52 \times 10^{-5} F}$$

$$d) \Delta V_R + \Delta V_C = 78$$

$$\Rightarrow \Delta V_C = 40 V = \frac{Q}{C}$$

$$\boxed{Q = 2.21 \times 10^{-3} C}$$