6.200 Circuits and Electronics

Week 5 Recitation: Dependent Sources

No new hardware kit this week. No pre-lab either (but yes lab on Friday). PCB people: boards are in! Take them today if you want, or we'll have them in lab. Student in class needs copies of notes from a paid note-taker. das-student@mit.edu

Dependent Sources

A *dependent source* produces a voltage or current whose value depends on another voltage or current elsewhere in a circuit.



Why Do We Care?

Everything we've talked about here so far is a way of *modeling* physical systems. Some kinds of devices can sometimes be modeled as dependent sources:

- A Bipolar Junction Transistor (BJT) can* be modeled as a CCCS.
- A MOSFET can* be modeled as a VCCS.
- An operational amplifier (op-amp) can* be modeled as a VCVS.

*under certain circumstances

We'll see some of these devices in the upcoming labs!

Solving With Dependent Sources

We need to be careful with superposition and Thévenin/Norton, but other solution/simplification methods still work fine. Let's solve this one with the node method:



Superposition

In a network consisting of only^{*} constant resistors, ideal independent voltage and current sources, **and linear dependent sources**, the solution for *any* branch current or branch voltage will be a linear combination of the strengths of the independent sources.

A dependent source is **linear** if f(x) = kx for some constant k.

Approach: solve for each *independent* source's contribution to the solution separately by zeroing out the other *independent* source values and solving.

DON'T ZERO OUT THE DEPENDENT SOURCES!!!!!!!! DON'T ZERO OUT THE DEPENDENT SOURCES!!!!!!!!! DON'T ZERO OUT THE DEPENDENT SOURCES!!!!!!!!!

* we'll add more to this list later



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Superposition: Example



Thévenin/Norton



Equivalents: Example

