chapter

3

Methods of Analysis

No great work is ever done in a hurry. To develop a great scientific discovery, to print a great picture, to write an immortal poem, to become a minister, or a famous general—to do anything great requires time, patience, and perseverance. These things are done by degrees, "little by little."

—W. J. Wilmont Buxton

Enhancing Your Career

Career in Electronics

One area of application for electric circuit analysis is electronics. The term *electronics* was originally used to distinguish circuits of very low current levels. This distinction no longer holds, as power semiconductor devices operate at high levels of current. Today, electronics is regarded as the science of the motion of charges in a gas, vacuum, or semiconductor. Modern electronics involves transistors and transistor circuits. The earlier electronic circuits were assembled from components. Many electronic circuits are now produced as integrated circuits, fabricated in a semiconductor substrate or chip.

Electronic circuits find applications in many areas, such as automation, broadcasting, computers, and instrumentation. The range of devices that use electronic circuits is enormous and is limited only by our imagination. Radio, television, computers, and stereo systems are but a few.

An electrical engineer usually performs diverse functions and is likely to use, design, or construct systems that incorporate some form of electronic circuits. Therefore, an understanding of the operation and analysis of electronics is essential to the electrical engineer. Electronics has become a specialty distinct from other disciplines within electrical engineering. Because the field of electronics is ever advancing, an electronics engineer must update his/her knowledge from time to time. The best way to do this is by being a member of a professional organization such as the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). With a membership of over 300,000, the IEEE is the largest professional organization in the world. Members benefit immensely from the numerous magazines, journals, transactions, and conference/symposium proceedings published yearly by IEEE. You should consider becoming an IEEE member.

Troubleshooting an electronic circuit board.

3.1 Introduction

Having understood the fundamental laws of circuit theory (Ohm's law and Kirchhoff's laws), we are now prepared to apply these laws to develop two powerful techniques for circuit analysis: nodal analysis, which is based on a systematic application of Kirchhoff's current law (KCL), and mesh analysis, which is based on a systematic application of Kirchhoff's voltage law (KVL). The two techniques are so important that this chapter should be regarded as the most important in the book. Students are therefore encouraged to pay careful attention.

With the two techniques to be developed in this chapter, we can analyze any linear circuit by obtaining a set of simultaneous equations that are then solved to obtain the required values of current or voltage. One method of solving simultaneous equations involves Cramer's rule, which allows us to calculate circuit variables as a quotient of determinants. The examples in the chapter will illustrate this method; Appendix A also briefly summarizes the essentials the reader needs to know for applying Cramer's rule. Another method of solving simultaneous equations is to use *MATLAB*, a computer software discussed in Appendix E.

Also in this chapter, we introduce the use of *PSpice for Windows*, a circuit simulation computer software program that we will use throughout the text. Finally, we apply the techniques learned in this chapter to analyze transistor circuits.

3.2 Nodal Analysis

Nodal analysis is also known as the *node-voltage method*.

Nodal analysis provides a general procedure for analyzing circuits using node voltages as the circuit variables. Choosing node voltages instead of element voltages as circuit variables is convenient and reduces the number of equations one must solve simultaneously.

To simplify matters, we shall assume in this section that circuits do not contain voltage sources. Circuits that contain voltage sources will be analyzed in the next section.

In *nodal analysis*, we are interested in finding the node voltages. Given a circuit with n nodes without voltage sources, the nodal analysis of the circuit involves taking the following three steps.

Steps to Determine Node Voltages:

1. Select a node as the reference node. Assign voltages v_1, $v_2, \ldots, v_{n-1}$ to the remaining $n - 1$ nodes. The voltages are referenced with respect to the reference node.
2. Apply KCL to each of the $n - 1$ nonreference nodes. Use Ohm's law to express the branch currents in terms of node voltages.
3. Solve the resulting simultaneous equations to obtain the unknown node voltages.

We shall now explain and apply these three steps.

The first step in nodal analysis is selecting a node as the *reference* or *datum node*. The reference node is commonly called the *ground*

since it is assumed to have zero potential. A reference node is indicated by any of the three symbols in Fig. 3.1. The type of ground in Fig. 3.1(c) is called a *chassis ground* and is used in devices where the case, enclosure, or chassis acts as a reference point for all circuits. When the potential of the earth is used as reference, we use the *earth ground* in Fig. 3.1(a) or (b). We shall always use the symbol in Fig. 3.1(b).

Once we have selected a reference node, we assign voltage designations to nonreference nodes. Consider, for example, the circuit in Fig. 3.2(a). Node 0 is the reference node ($v = 0$), while nodes 1 and 2 are assigned voltages v_1 and v_2, respectively. Keep in mind that the node voltages are defined with respect to the reference node. As illustrated in Fig. 3.2(a), each node voltage is the voltage rise from the reference node to the corresponding nonreference node or simply the voltage of that node with respect to the reference node.

As the second step, we apply KCL to each nonreference node in the circuit. To avoid putting too much information on the same circuit, the circuit in Fig. 3.2(a) is redrawn in Fig. 3.2(b), where we now add i_1, i_2, and i_3 as the currents through resistors R_1, R_2, and R_3, respectively. At node 1, applying KCL gives

$$I_1 = I_2 + i_1 + i_2 \tag{3.1}$$

At node 2,

$$I_2 + i_2 = i_3 \tag{3.2}$$

We now apply Ohm's law to express the unknown currents i_1, i_2, and i_3 in terms of node voltages. The key idea to bear in mind is that, since resistance is a passive element, by the passive sign convention, current must always flow from a higher potential to a lower potential.

Current flows from **a higher** potential to **a lower** potential in a resistor.

We can express this principle as

$$i = \frac{v_{\text{higher}} - v_{\text{lower}}}{R} \tag{3.3}$$

Note that this principle is in agreement with the way we defined resistance in Chapter 2 (see Fig. 2.1). With this in mind, we obtain from Fig. 3.2(b),

$$i_1 = \frac{v_1 - 0}{R_1} \quad \text{or} \quad i_1 = G_1 v_1$$
$$i_2 = \frac{v_1 - v_2}{R_2} \quad \text{or} \quad i_2 = G_2(v_1 - v_2) \tag{3.4}$$
$$i_3 = \frac{v_2 - 0}{R_3} \quad \text{or} \quad i_3 = G_3 v_2$$

Substituting Eq. (3.4) in Eqs. (3.1) and (3.2) results, respectively, in

$$I_1 = I_2 + \frac{v_1}{R_1} + \frac{v_1 - v_2}{R_2} \tag{3.5}$$

$$I_2 + \frac{v_1 - v_2}{R_2} = \frac{v_2}{R_3} \tag{3.6}$$

The number of nonreference nodes is equal to the number of independent equations that we will derive.

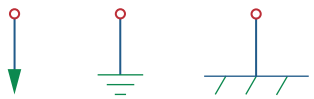
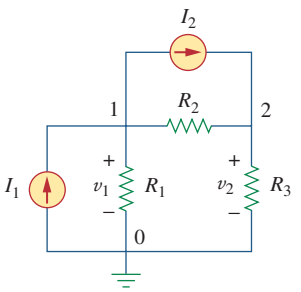
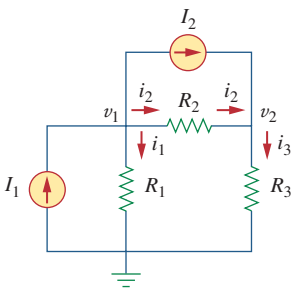


Figure 3.1
Common symbols for indicating a reference node, (a) common ground, (b) ground, (c) chassis ground.



(a)



(b)

Figure 3.2
Typical circuit for nodal analysis.

In terms of the conductances, Eqs. (3.5) and (3.6) become

$$I_1 = I_2 + G_1 v_1 + G_2(v_1 - v_2) \tag{3.7}$$

$$I_2 + G_2(v_1 - v_2) = G_3 v_2 \tag{3.8}$$

The third step in nodal analysis is to solve for the node voltages. If we apply KCL to $n - 1$ nonreference nodes, we obtain $n - 1$ simultaneous equations such as Eqs. (3.5) and (3.6) or (3.7) and (3.8). For the circuit of Fig. 3.2, we solve Eqs. (3.5) and (3.6) or (3.7) and (3.8) to obtain the node voltages v_1 and v_2 using any standard method, such as the substitution method, the elimination method, Cramer's rule, or matrix inversion. To use either of the last two methods, one must cast the simultaneous equations in matrix form. For example, Eqs. (3.7) and (3.8) can be cast in matrix form as

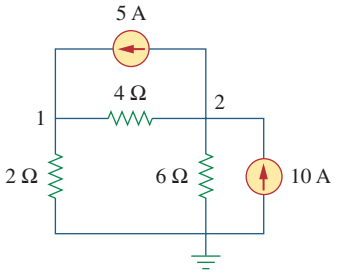
Appendix A discusses how to use Cramer's rule.

$$\begin{bmatrix} G_1 + G_2 & -G_2 \\ -G_2 & G_2 + G_3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} I_1 - I_2 \\ I_2 \end{bmatrix} \tag{3.9}$$

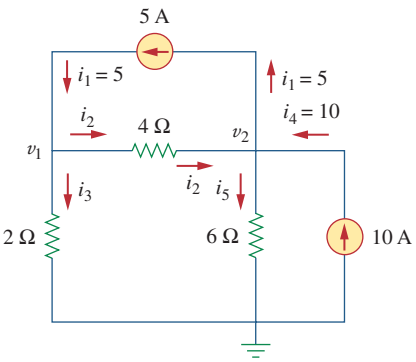
which can be solved to get v_1 and v_2. Equation 3.9 will be generalized in Section 3.6. The simultaneous equations may also be solved using calculators or with software packages such as *MATLAB*, *Mathcad*, *Maple*, and *Quattro Pro*.

Example 3.1

Calculate the node voltages in the circuit shown in Fig. 3.3(a).



(a)



(b)

Figure 3.3
For Example 3.1: (a) original circuit, (b) circuit for analysis.

Solution:

Consider Fig. 3.3(b), where the circuit in Fig. 3.3(a) has been prepared for nodal analysis. Notice how the currents are selected for the application of KCL. Except for the branches with current sources, the labeling of the currents is arbitrary but consistent. (By consistent, we mean that if, for example, we assume that i_2 enters the 4-Ω resistor from the left-hand side, i_2 must leave the resistor from the right-hand side.) The reference node is selected, and the node voltages v_1 and v_2 are now to be determined.

At node 1, applying KCL and Ohm's law gives

$$i_1 = i_2 + i_3 \quad \Rightarrow \quad 5 = \frac{v_1 - v_2}{4} + \frac{v_1 - 0}{2}$$

Multiplying each term in the last equation by 4, we obtain

$$20 = v_1 - v_2 + 2v_1$$

or

$$3v_1 - v_2 = 20 \tag{3.1.1}$$

At node 2, we do the same thing and get

$$i_2 + i_4 = i_1 + i_5 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{v_1 - v_2}{4} + 10 = 5 + \frac{v_2 - 0}{6}$$

Multiplying each term by 12 results in

$$3v_1 - 3v_2 + 120 = 60 + 2v_2$$

or

$$-3v_1 + 5v_2 = 60 \tag{3.1.2}$$

Now we have two simultaneous Eqs. (3.1.1) and (3.1.2). We can solve the equations using any method and obtain the values of v_1 and v_2.

METHOD 1 Using the elimination technique, we add Eqs. (3.1.1) and (3.1.2).

$$4v_2 = 80 \quad \Rightarrow \quad v_2 = 20 \text{ V}$$

Substituting $v_2 = 20$ in Eq. (3.1.1) gives

$$3v_1 - 20 = 20 \quad \Rightarrow \quad v_1 = \frac{40}{3} = 13.333 \text{ V}$$

METHOD 2 To use Cramer's rule, we need to put Eqs. (3.1.1) and (3.1.2) in matrix form as

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -1 \\ -3 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 20 \\ 60 \end{bmatrix} \tag{3.1.3}$$

The determinant of the matrix is

$$\Delta = \begin{vmatrix} 3 & -1 \\ -3 & 5 \end{vmatrix} = 15 - 3 = 12$$

We now obtain v_1 and v_2 as

$$v_1 = \frac{\Delta_1}{\Delta} = \frac{\begin{vmatrix} 20 & -1 \\ 60 & 5 \end{vmatrix}}{\Delta} = \frac{100 + 60}{12} = 13.333 \text{ V}$$

$$v_2 = \frac{\Delta_2}{\Delta} = \frac{\begin{vmatrix} 3 & 20 \\ -3 & 60 \end{vmatrix}}{\Delta} = \frac{180 + 60}{12} = 20 \text{ V}$$

giving us the same result as did the elimination method.

If we need the currents, we can easily calculate them from the values of the nodal voltages.

$$i_1 = 5 \text{ A}, \quad i_2 = \frac{v_1 - v_2}{4} = -1.6668 \text{ A}, \quad i_3 = \frac{v_1}{2} = 6.666 \text{ A}$$

$$i_4 = 10 \text{ A}, \quad i_5 = \frac{v_2}{6} = 3.333 \text{ A}$$

The fact that i_2 is negative shows that the current flows in the direction opposite to the one assumed.

Practice Problem 3.1

Obtain the node voltages in the circuit of Fig. 3.4.

Answer: $v_1 = -6$ V, $v_2 = -42$ V.

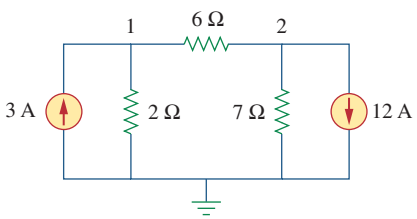


Figure 3.4
For Practice Prob. 3.1.

Example 3.2

Determine the voltages at the nodes in Fig. 3.5(a).

Solution:

The circuit in this example has three nonreference nodes, unlike the previous example which has two nonreference nodes. We assign voltages to the three nodes as shown in Fig. 3.5(b) and label the currents.

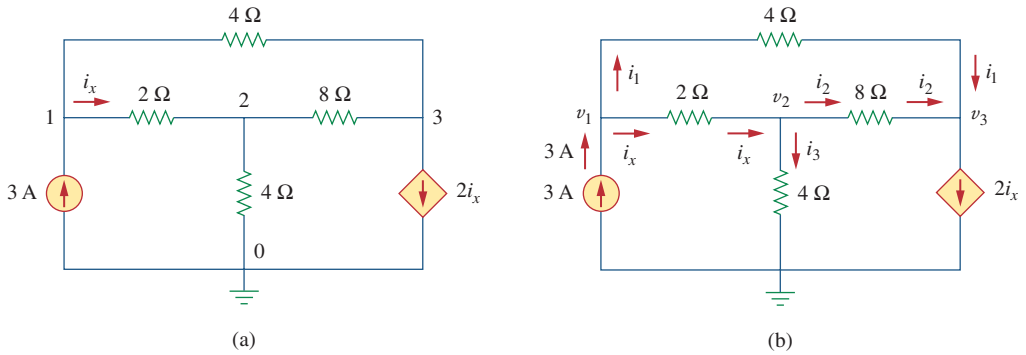


Figure 3.5
For Example 3.2: (a) original circuit, (b) circuit for analysis.

At node 1,

$$3 = i_1 + i_x \quad \Rightarrow \quad 3 = \frac{v_1 - v_3}{4} + \frac{v_1 - v_2}{2}$$

Multiplying by 4 and rearranging terms, we get

$$3v_1 - 2v_2 - v_3 = 12 \tag{3.2.1}$$

At node 2,

$$i_x = i_2 + i_3 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{v_1 - v_2}{2} = \frac{v_2 - v_3}{8} + \frac{v_2 - 0}{4}$$

Multiplying by 8 and rearranging terms, we get

$$-4v_1 + 7v_2 - v_3 = 0 \tag{3.2.2}$$

At node 3,

$$i_1 + i_2 = 2i_x \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{v_1 - v_3}{4} + \frac{v_2 - v_3}{8} = \frac{2(v_1 - v_2)}{2}$$

Multiplying by 8, rearranging terms, and dividing by 3, we get

$$2v_1 - 3v_2 + v_3 = 0 \tag{3.2.3}$$

We have three simultaneous equations to solve to get the node voltages v_1, v_2, and v_3. We shall solve the equations in three ways.

■ **METHOD 1** Using the elimination technique, we add Eqs. (3.2.1) and (3.2.3).

$$5v_1 - 5v_2 = 12$$

or

$$v_1 - v_2 = \frac{12}{5} = 2.4 \tag{3.2.4}$$

Adding Eqs. (3.2.2) and (3.2.3) gives

$$-2v_1 + 4v_2 = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad v_1 = 2v_2 \tag{3.2.5}$$

Substituting Eq. (3.2.5) into Eq. (3.2.4) yields

$$2v_2 - v_2 = 2.4 \quad \Rightarrow \quad v_2 = 2.4, \quad v_1 = 2v_2 = 4.8 \text{ V}$$

From Eq. (3.2.3), we get

$$v_3 = 3v_2 - 2v_1 = 3v_2 - 4v_2 = -v_2 = -2.4 \text{ V}$$

Thus,

$$v_1 = 4.8 \text{ V}, \quad v_2 = 2.4 \text{ V}, \quad v_3 = -2.4 \text{ V}$$

■ **METHOD 2** To use Cramer's rule, we put Eqs. (3.2.1) to (3.2.3) in matrix form.

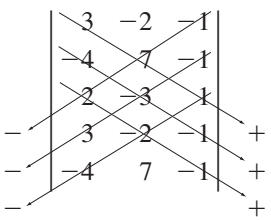
$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -2 & -1 \\ -4 & 7 & -1 \\ 2 & -3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ v_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 12 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \tag{3.2.6}$$

From this, we obtain

$$v_1 = \frac{\Delta_1}{\Delta}, \quad v_2 = \frac{\Delta_2}{\Delta}, \quad v_3 = \frac{\Delta_3}{\Delta}$$

where Δ, Δ_1, Δ_2, and Δ_3 are the determinants to be calculated as follows. As explained in Appendix A, to calculate the determinant of a 3 by 3 matrix, we repeat the first two rows and cross multiply.

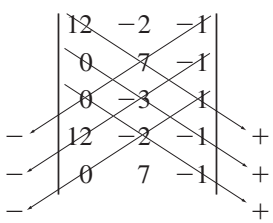
$$\Delta = \begin{vmatrix} 3 & -2 & -1 \\ -4 & 7 & -1 \\ 2 & -3 & 1 \end{vmatrix} =$$



$$= 21 - 12 + 4 + 14 - 9 - 8 = 10$$

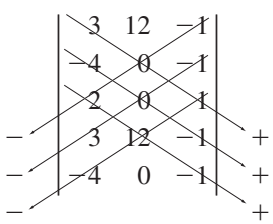
Similarly, we obtain

$$\Delta_1 =$$



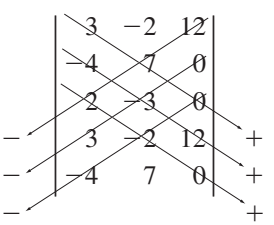
$$= 84 + 0 + 0 - 0 - 36 - 0 = 48$$

$$\Delta_2 =$$



$$= 0 + 0 - 24 - 0 - 0 + 48 = 24$$

$$\Delta_3 =$$



$$= 0 + 144 + 0 - 168 - 0 - 0 = -24$$

Thus, we find

$$v_1 = \frac{\Delta_1}{\Delta} = \frac{48}{10} = 4.8 \text{ V}, \qquad v_2 = \frac{\Delta_2}{\Delta} = \frac{24}{10} = 2.4 \text{ V}$$

$$v_3 = \frac{\Delta_3}{\Delta} = \frac{-24}{10} = -2.4 \text{ V}$$

as we obtained with Method 1.

■ **METHOD 3** We now use *MATLAB* to solve the matrix. Equation (3.2.6) can be written as

$$\mathbf{AV} = \mathbf{B} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{V} = \mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{B}$$

where **A** is the 3 by 3 square matrix, **B** is the column vector, and **V** is a column vector comprised of v_1, v_2, and v_3 that we want to determine. We use *MATLAB* to determine **V** as follows:

```
>>A = [3  -2  -1;  -4  7  -1;  2  -3  1];
>>B = [12  0  0]';
>>V = inv(A) * B
V =
    4.8000
    2.4000
   -2.4000
```

Thus, $v_1 = 4.8$ V, $v_2 = 2.4$ V, and $v_3 = -2.4$ V, as obtained previously.

Practice Problem 3.2

Find the voltages at the three nonreference nodes in the circuit of Fig. 3.6.

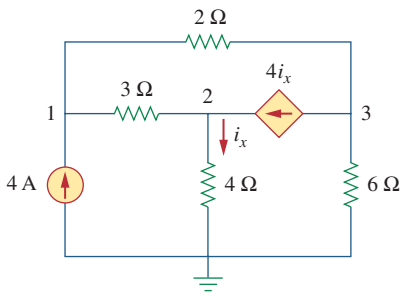


Figure 3.6
For Practice Prob. 3.2.

Answer: $v_1 = 32$ V, $v_2 = -25.6$ V, $v_3 = 62.4$ V.

3.3 Nodal Analysis with Voltage Sources

We now consider how voltage sources affect nodal analysis. We use the circuit in Fig. 3.7 for illustration. Consider the following two possibilities.

■ **CASE 1** If a voltage source is connected between the reference node and a nonreference node, we simply set the voltage at the nonreference node equal to the voltage of the voltage source. In Fig. 3.7, for example,

$$v_1 = 10 \text{ V} \tag{3.10}$$

Thus, our analysis is somewhat simplified by this knowledge of the voltage at this node.

■ **CASE 2** If the voltage source (dependent or independent) is connected between two nonreference nodes, the two nonreference nodes

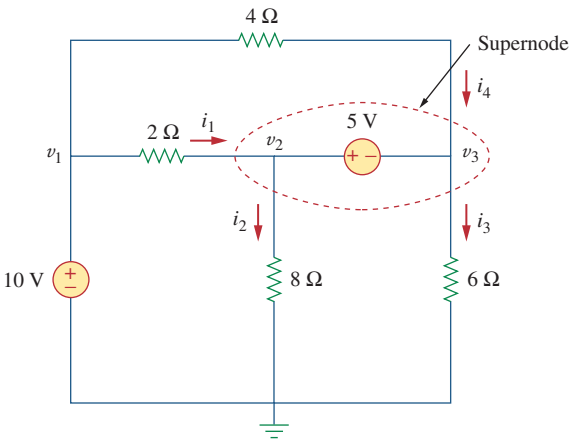


Figure 3.7
A circuit with a supernode.

form a *generalized node* or *supernode*; we apply both KCL and KVL to determine the node voltages.

A supernode may be regarded as a closed surface enclosing the voltage source and its two nodes.

A **supernode** is formed by enclosing a (dependent or independent) voltage source connected between two nonreference nodes and any elements connected in parallel with it.

In Fig. 3.7, nodes 2 and 3 form a supernode. (We could have more than two nodes forming a single supernode. For example, see the circuit in Fig. 3.14.) We analyze a circuit with supernodes using the same three steps mentioned in the previous section except that the supernodes are treated differently. Why? Because an essential component of nodal analysis is applying KCL, which requires knowing the current through each element. There is no way of knowing the current through a voltage source in advance. However, KCL must be satisfied at a supernode like any other node. Hence, at the supernode in Fig. 3.7,

$$i_1 + i_4 = i_2 + i_3 \tag{3.11a}$$

or

$$\frac{v_1 - v_2}{2} + \frac{v_1 - v_3}{4} = \frac{v_2 - 0}{8} + \frac{v_3 - 0}{6} \tag{3.11b}$$

To apply Kirchhoff's voltage law to the supernode in Fig. 3.7, we redraw the circuit as shown in Fig. 3.8. Going around the loop in the clockwise direction gives

$$-v_2 + 5 + v_3 = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad v_2 - v_3 = 5 \tag{3.12}$$

From Eqs. (3.10), (3.11b), and (3.12), we obtain the node voltages.

Note the following properties of a supernode:

1. The voltage source inside the supernode provides a constraint equation needed to solve for the node voltages.
2. A supernode has no voltage of its own.
3. A supernode requires the application of both KCL and KVL.

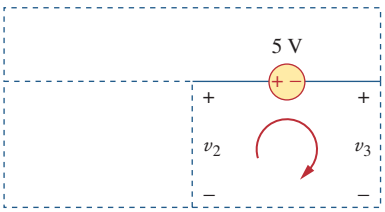


Figure 3.8
Applying KVL to a supernode.

Example 3.3

For the circuit shown in Fig. 3.9, find the node voltages.

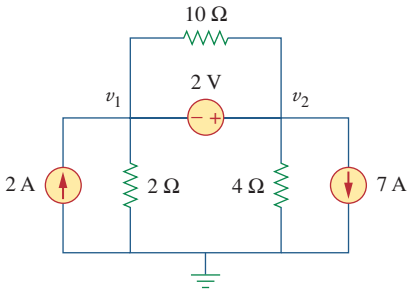


Figure 3.9
For Example 3.3.

Solution:
The supernode contains the 2-V source, nodes 1 and 2, and the 10-Ω resistor. Applying KCL to the supernode as shown in Fig. 3.10(a) gives

$$2 = i_1 + i_2 + 7$$

Expressing i_1 and i_2 in terms of the node voltages

$$2 = \frac{v_1 - 0}{2} + \frac{v_2 - 0}{4} + 7 \quad \Rightarrow \quad 8 = 2v_1 + v_2 + 28$$

or

$$v_2 = -20 - 2v_1 \tag{3.3.1}$$

To get the relationship between v_1 and v_2, we apply KVL to the circuit in Fig. 3.10(b). Going around the loop, we obtain

$$-v_1 - 2 + v_2 = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad v_2 = v_1 + 2 \tag{3.3.2}$$

From Eqs. (3.3.1) and (3.3.2), we write

$$v_2 = v_1 + 2 = -20 - 2v_1$$

or

$$3v_1 = -22 \quad \Rightarrow \quad v_1 = -7.333 \text{ V}$$

and $v_2 = v_1 + 2 = -5.333$ V. Note that the 10-Ω resistor does not make any difference because it is connected across the supernode.

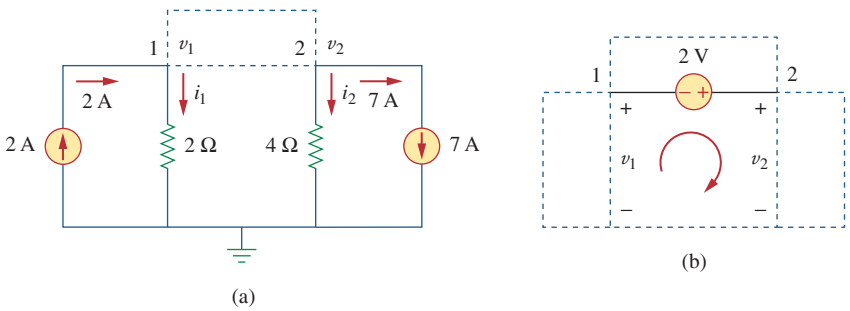


Figure 3.10
Applying: (a) KCL to the supernode, (b) KVL to the loop.

Practice Problem 3.3

Find v and i in the circuit of Fig. 3.11.

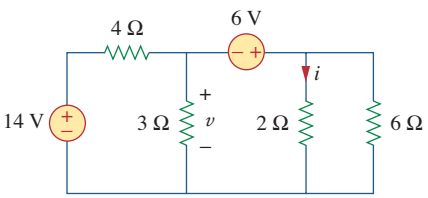


Figure 3.11
For Practice Prob. 3.3.

Answer: −400 mV, 2.8 A.

Find the node voltages in the circuit of Fig. 3.12.

Example 3.4

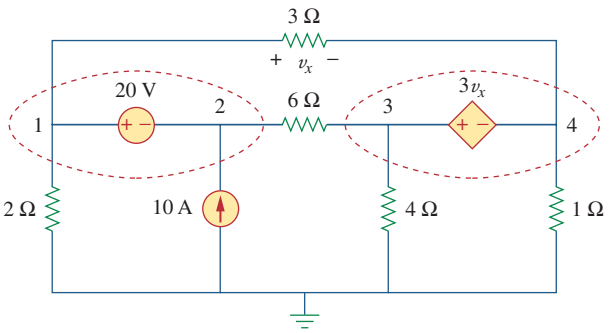


Figure 3.12
For Example 3.4.

Solution:
Nodes 1 and 2 form a supernode; so do nodes 3 and 4. We apply KCL to the two supernodes as in Fig. 3.13(a). At supernode 1-2,

$$i_3 + 10 = i_1 + i_2$$

Expressing this in terms of the node voltages,

$$\frac{v_3 - v_2}{6} + 10 = \frac{v_1 - v_4}{3} + \frac{v_1}{2}$$

or

$$5v_1 + v_2 - v_3 - 2v_4 = 60 \qquad \textbf{(3.4.1)}$$

At supernode 3-4,

$$i_1 = i_3 + i_4 + i_5 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{v_1 - v_4}{3} = \frac{v_3 - v_2}{6} + \frac{v_4}{1} + \frac{v_3}{4}$$

or

$$4v_1 + 2v_2 - 5v_3 - 16v_4 = 0 \qquad \textbf{(3.4.2)}$$

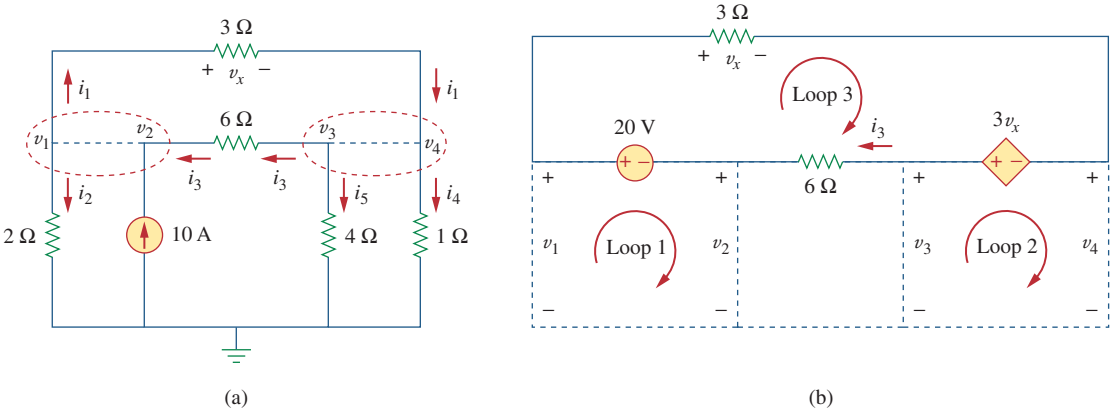


Figure 3.13
Applying: (a) KCL to the two supernodes, (b) KVL to the loops.

We now apply KVL to the branches involving the voltage sources as shown in Fig. 3.13(b). For loop 1,

$$-v_1 + 20 + v_2 = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad v_1 - v_2 = 20 \tag{3.4.3}$$

For loop 2,

$$-v_3 + 3v_x + v_4 = 0$$

But $v_x = v_1 - v_4$ so that

$$3v_1 - v_3 - 2v_4 = 0 \tag{3.4.4}$$

For loop 3,

$$v_x - 3v_x + 6i_3 - 20 = 0$$

But $6i_3 = v_3 - v_2$ and $v_x = v_1 - v_4$. Hence,

$$-2v_1 - v_2 + v_3 + 2v_4 = 20 \tag{3.4.5}$$

We need four node voltages, v_1, v_2, v_3, and v_4, and it requires only four out of the five Eqs. (3.4.1) to (3.4.5) to find them. Although the fifth equation is redundant, it can be used to check results. We can solve Eqs. (3.4.1) to (3.4.4) directly using *MATLAB*. We can eliminate one node voltage so that we solve three simultaneous equations instead of four. From Eq. (3.4.3), $v_2 = v_1 - 20$. Substituting this into Eqs. (3.4.1) and (3.4.2), respectively, gives

$$6v_1 - v_3 - 2v_4 = 80 \tag{3.4.6}$$

and

$$6v_1 - 5v_3 - 16v_4 = 40 \tag{3.4.7}$$

Equations (3.4.4), (3.4.6), and (3.4.7) can be cast in matrix form as

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -1 & -2 \\ 6 & -1 & -2 \\ 6 & -5 & -16 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_3 \\ v_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 80 \\ 40 \end{bmatrix}$$

Using Cramer's rule gives

$$\Delta = \begin{vmatrix} 3 & -1 & -2 \\ 6 & -1 & -2 \\ 6 & -5 & -16 \end{vmatrix} = -18, \qquad \Delta_1 = \begin{vmatrix} 0 & -1 & -2 \\ 80 & -1 & -2 \\ 40 & -5 & -16 \end{vmatrix} = -480,$$

$$\Delta_3 = \begin{vmatrix} 3 & 0 & -2 \\ 6 & 80 & -2 \\ 6 & 40 & -16 \end{vmatrix} = -3120, \qquad \Delta_4 = \begin{vmatrix} 3 & -1 & 0 \\ 6 & -1 & 80 \\ 6 & -5 & 40 \end{vmatrix} = 840$$

Thus, we arrive at the node voltages as

$$v_1 = \frac{\Delta_1}{\Delta} = \frac{-480}{-18} = 26.67 \text{ V}, \qquad v_3 = \frac{\Delta_3}{\Delta} = \frac{-3120}{-18} = 173.33 \text{ V},$$

$$v_4 = \frac{\Delta_4}{\Delta} = \frac{840}{-18} = -46.67 \text{ V}$$

and $v_2 = v_1 - 20 = 6.667$ V. We have not used Eq. (3.4.5); it can be used to cross check results.

Practice Problem 3.4

Find v_1, v_2, and v_3 in the circuit of Fig. 3.14 using nodal analysis.

Answer: $v_1 = 7.608$ V, $v_2 = -17.39$ V, $v_3 = 1.6305$ V.

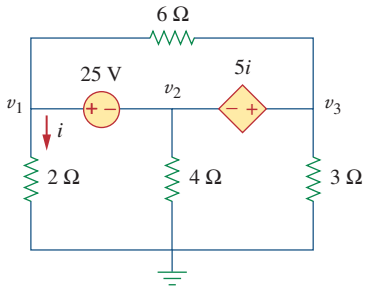


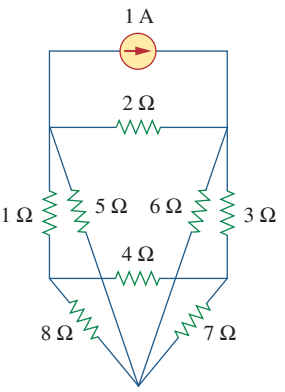
Figure 3.14
For Practice Prob. 3.4.

3.4 Mesh Analysis

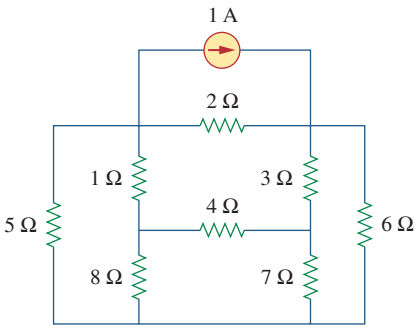
Mesh analysis provides another general procedure for analyzing circuits, using mesh currents as the circuit variables. Using mesh currents instead of element currents as circuit variables is convenient and reduces the number of equations that must be solved simultaneously. Recall that a loop is a closed path with no node passed more than once. A mesh is a loop that does not contain any other loop within it.

Nodal analysis applies KCL to find unknown voltages in a given circuit, while mesh analysis applies KVL to find unknown currents. Mesh analysis is not quite as general as nodal analysis because it is only applicable to a circuit that is *planar*. A planar circuit is one that can be drawn in a plane with no branches crossing one another; otherwise it is *nonplanar*. A circuit may have crossing branches and still be planar if it can be redrawn such that it has no crossing branches. For example, the circuit in Fig. 3.15(a) has two crossing branches, but it can be redrawn as in Fig. 3.15(b). Hence, the circuit in Fig. 3.15(a) is planar. However, the circuit in Fig. 3.16 is nonplanar, because there is no way to redraw it and avoid the branches crossing. Nonplanar circuits can be handled using nodal analysis, but they will not be considered in this text.

Mesh analysis is also known as *loop analysis* or the *mesh-current method*.



(a)



(b)

Figure 3.15
(a) A planar circuit with crossing branches, (b) the same circuit redrawn with no crossing branches.

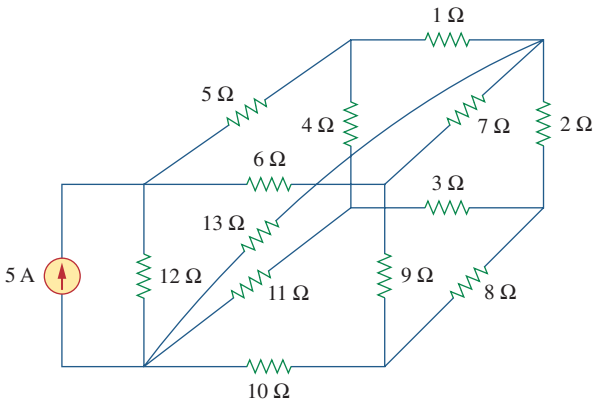


Figure 3.16
A nonplanar circuit.

To understand mesh analysis, we should first explain more about what we mean by a mesh.

A **mesh** is a loop which does not contain any other loops within it.