



Flipping Physics Lecture Notes:  
 Analogies Between LR Circuits and Falling Objects  
<http://www.flippingphysics.com/lr-circuit-falling-object.html>

I'm not gonna lie, you really do need to have learned from these three previous lessons of mine in order to understand this:

- [LR Circuit Basics](#)
- [LR Circuit Equation Derivations](#)
- [Time Constant - LR Circuit](#)

We can consider derivative of current with respect to time to be like acceleration of moving objects.

•  $I$  is in Amps or  $\frac{C}{s}$  &  $v$  is in  $\frac{m}{s}$

▸ Current is like velocity.

•  $\frac{dI}{dt}$  is in  $\frac{C}{s^2}$  &  $a = \frac{dv}{dt}$  in  $\frac{m}{s^2}$

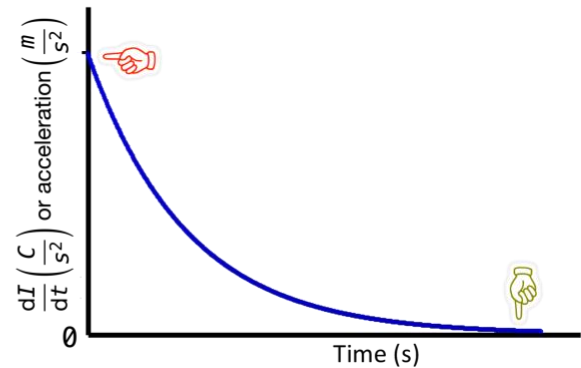
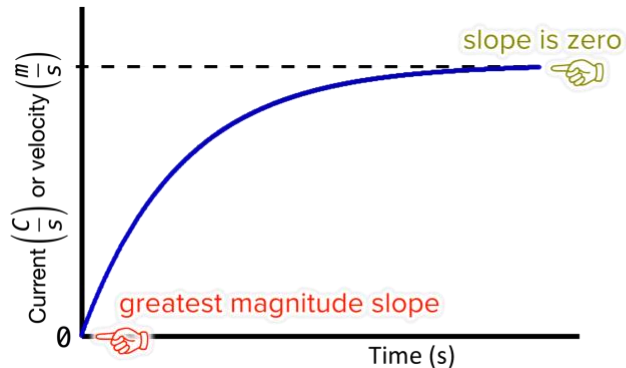
▸ Derivative of current with respect to time is like acceleration.

*LR Circuit:*

$$I(t) = \frac{\epsilon}{R} \left( 1 - e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}} \right) \quad \& \quad \frac{dI}{dt}(t) = \frac{\epsilon}{L} e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}}$$

*Dropped Object with Drag Force:*

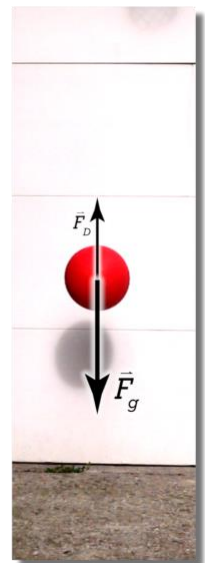
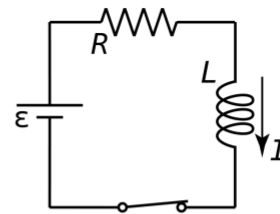
$$v(t) = v_{\text{terminal}} \left( 1 - e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}} \right) \quad \& \quad a(t) = g e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}}$$



$$\Delta V_{\text{Loop}} = 0 = \epsilon - \Delta V_R - \Delta V_L = \epsilon - IR - L \frac{dI}{dt}$$

$$\sum F_y = F_g - F_D = ma_y \Rightarrow 0 = F_g - F_D - ma_y = F_g - F_D - m \frac{dv}{dt}$$

(down is positive)



We can consider derivative of current with respect to time to be like acceleration of moving objects.

•  $\epsilon$  is like  $F_g$ ; constant values attempting to cause changes in their systems.

•  $\Delta V_R$  is like  $F_D$ ; dissipating energy from their systems.

•  $\Delta V_L$  is like  $ma$ ;

▸  $L$  is like  $m$ ;  $L$  opposes changes in  $I$  and  $m$  opposes changes in  $v$ .

▸  $\frac{dI}{dt}$  is like  $\frac{dv}{dt}$

Units for  $\Delta V$  and force don't match:

$$\Delta V = \frac{\Delta U_e}{q} \Rightarrow \Delta V \text{ in volts} = \frac{J}{C} = \frac{N \cdot m}{C} \quad \& \quad \text{Force in newtons}$$