

45. During charging, the charge on the positive plate of the capacitor is given by

$$q = C\mathcal{E}(1 - e^{-t/\tau}) ,$$

where C is the capacitance, \mathcal{E} is applied emf, and $\tau = RC$ is the capacitive time constant. The equilibrium charge is $q_{\text{eq}} = C\mathcal{E}$. We require $q = 0.99q_{\text{eq}} = 0.99C\mathcal{E}$, so

$$0.99 = 1 - e^{-t/\tau} .$$

Thus,

$$e^{-t/\tau} = 0.01 .$$

Taking the natural logarithm of both sides, we obtain $t/\tau = -\ln 0.01 = 4.6$ and $t = 4.6\tau$.