

29. Let t be a time at which the capacitor is fully charged in some cycle and let $q_{\max 1}$ be the charge on the capacitor then. The energy in the capacitor at that time is

$$U(t) = \frac{q_{\max 1}^2}{2C} = \frac{Q^2}{2C} e^{-Rt/L}$$

where

$$q_{\max 1} = Q e^{-Rt/2L}$$

(see the discussion of the *exponentially decaying amplitude* in §33-5). One period later the charge on the fully charged capacitor is

$$q_{\max 2} = Q e^{-R(t+T)/2L} \quad \text{where} \quad T = \frac{2\pi}{\omega'} ,$$

and the energy is

$$U(t+T) = \frac{q_{\max 2}^2}{2C} = \frac{Q^2}{2C} e^{-R(t+T)/L} .$$

The fractional loss in energy is

$$\frac{|\Delta U|}{U} = \frac{U(t) - U(t+T)}{U(t)} = \frac{e^{-Rt/L} - e^{-R(t+T)/L}}{e^{-Rt/L}} = 1 - e^{-RT/L} .$$

Assuming that RT/L is very small compared to 1 (which would be the case if the resistance is small), we expand the exponential (see Appendix E). The first few terms are:

$$e^{-RT/L} \approx 1 - \frac{RT}{L} + \frac{R^2 T^2}{2L^2} + \cdots .$$

If we approximate $\omega \approx \omega'$, then we can write T as $2\pi/\omega$. As a result, we obtain

$$\frac{|\Delta U|}{U} \approx 1 - \left(1 - \frac{RT}{L} + \cdots\right) \approx \frac{RT}{L} = \frac{2\pi R}{\omega L} .$$