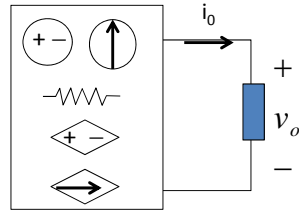


§ 4.5 Thevenin's Theorem

L14

A common situation: Most part of the circuit is fixed, only one element is variable, e.g., a load:



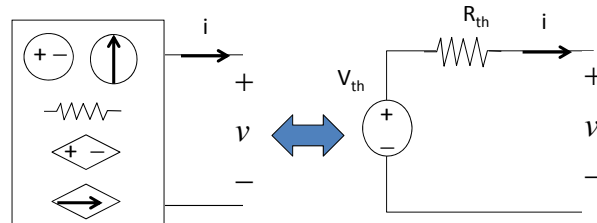
The fixed part, a two terminal circuit, can be very complex. How the variable part affects  $v_o$ ,  $i_o$ , or the power?

By Thevenin's theorem, the complex two terminal circuit can be replaced with a simple circuit. Making the analysis very easy

Thevenin's theorem is the most important result in Circuit Theory. It will be a main tool for Chapters 7, 8.

Thevenin's theorem: Every linear two terminal circuit can be made equivalent to the series connection of a voltage source and a resistor.

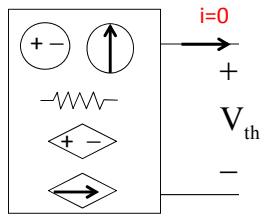
L14



Same  $v \sim i$  relationship

$V_{th}$ : **Open circuit voltage** across the two terminals

$R_{th}$ : equivalent resistance with respect to the two terminals when all independent sources are turned off



Also called  $V_{oc}$

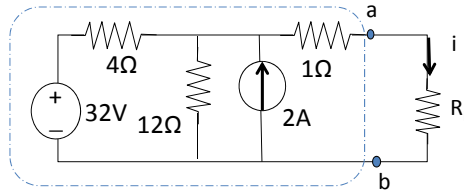
Case 1: No dependent source.  $R_{th} = R_{eq}$  (as in Chapter 2)

Case 2: With dependent source. Need to supply an external independent source at the two terminal. Then  $R_{th}$  is the ratio between the voltage and current.

L14

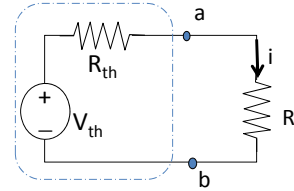
Example: What is the relationship between  $R_L$  and  $i$ ?

Replacing the part to the left of "a", "b" by Thevenin's equivalent

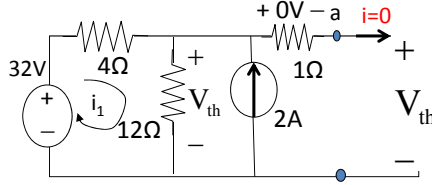


Clear relationship: 
$$i = \frac{V_{th}}{R_{th} + R_L}$$

Key point:  $V_{th}=?$ ,  $R_{th}=?$



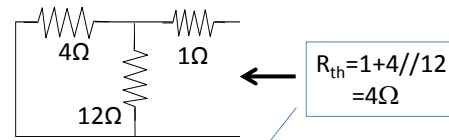
Solution:  $V_{th}$  is the open circuit voltage.



Assign mesh current  $i_1$   
KVL along the mesh:  $4i_1 + 12(i_1 + 2) = 32$

$i_1 = 0.5A$        $V_{th} = 12(i_1 + 2) = 30V$

For  $R_{th}$ , turn off all independent sources:

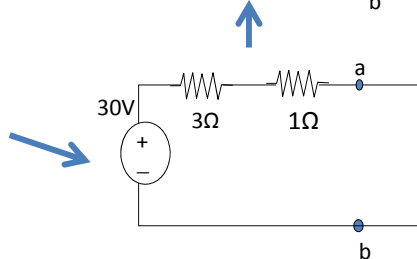
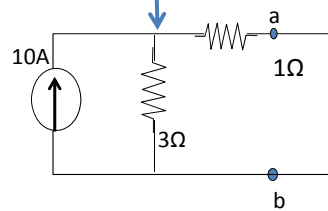
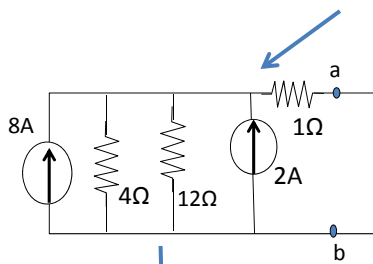
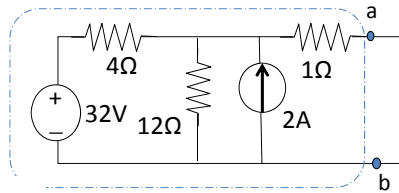


$R_{th} = 1 + 4 // 12 = 4\Omega$

$$i = \frac{V_{th}}{R_{th} + R_L} = \frac{30}{4 + R_L}$$

L14

Approach 2: Find  $V_{th}$  and  $R_{th}$  by source transformation





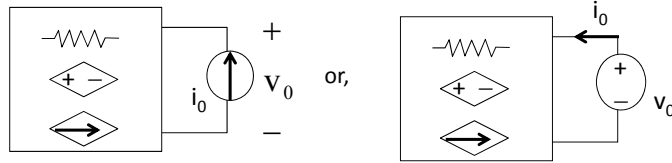
L14

Case 2: There are dependent sources

$V_{th}$ : The same as case 1, the open circuit voltage

For  $R_{th}$ :

1. Turn off all independent sources.  
2. Connect the two terminals to a current/voltage source
3. Solve for the voltage/current of the source



Give any number for  $i_0$ , e.g., 1A, 2A, 10A, Solve for  $v_0$

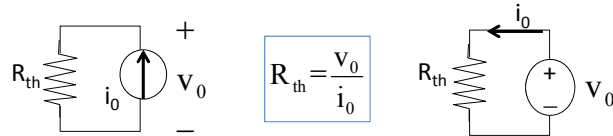
$$R_{th} = \frac{v_0}{i_0}$$

Give any number for  $v_0$ , e.g., 1V, 2V, 20V, Solve for  $i_0$

Note:  $i_0$  and  $v_0$  assigned by active sign convention.

L14

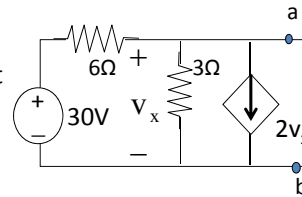
Explanation: as the independent sources are turned off, the two terminal circuit behaves like a single resistor.



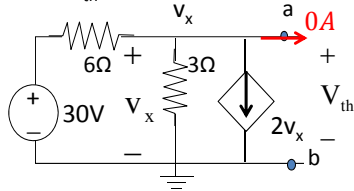
Be careful,  $v_0$  and  $i_0$  are assigned according to active sign convention with respect to the source (passive sign convention for  $R_{th}$ ).

Example:  
Find  $R_{th}$ ,  $V_{th}$  for the two terminal circuit

L14



For  $V_{th}$ :



Use nodal analysis  
Pick ground.  $v_x$  is the node voltage

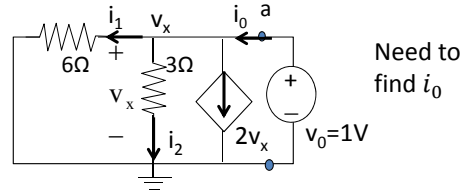
$$V_{th} = v_x$$

KCL at node  $v_x$ :

$$\frac{v_x - 30}{6} + \frac{v_x}{3} + 2v_x = 0 \Rightarrow v_x = 2V \quad V_{th} = 2V$$

For  $R_{th}$ : turn off 30V with short circuit.

Approach 1: connect to voltage source  $v_0 = 1V$ ,



Need to find  $i_0$

Given  $v_x = 1V$  KCL at node  $v_x$ :  $i_0 = i_1 + i_2 + 2v_x$

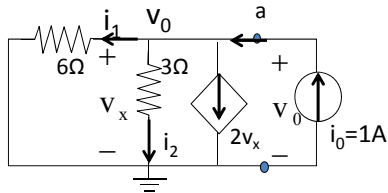
$$i_0 = \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{3} + 2 = 2.5A$$

$$R_{th} = \frac{v_0}{i_0} = \frac{1}{2.5} = 0.4\Omega$$

Approach 2: connect to current source  $i_0 = 1A$ ,

$$v_0 = v_x$$

L14



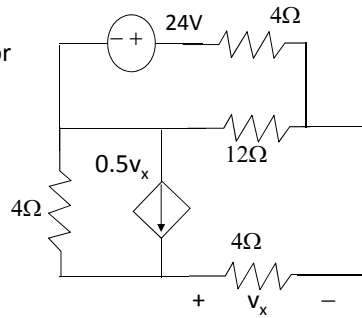
$$\text{KCL at node } v_0: \quad i_1 + i_2 + 2v_x = 1$$

$$\frac{v_0}{6} + \frac{v_0}{3} + 2v_0 = 1 \quad v_0 = 0.4$$

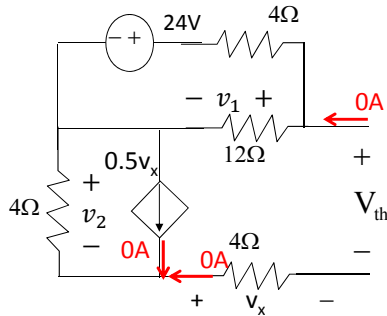
$$R_{th} = \frac{v_0}{i_0} = \frac{0.4}{1} = 0.4\Omega$$

Two approaches yield the same  $R_{th}$ .

Example: Find  $V_{th}$  and  $R_{th}$  for the two terminal circuit



For  $V_{th}$ :



By KVL,  $V_{th} = v_1 + v_2 + v_x$

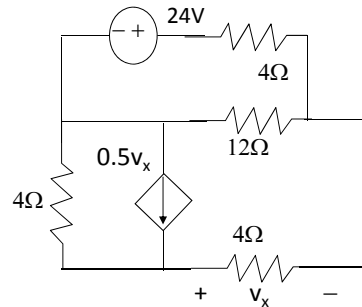
$$v_x = 0V$$

$$v_2 = 0V$$

$$v_1 = \frac{12}{12 + 4} \times 24 = 18V \quad \text{By voltage div}$$

$$V_{th} = 18 + 0 + 0 = 18V$$

For  $R_{th}$ , turn off 24V,  
Supply a 1A current source.  
Find the voltage  $v_0$  across  
the current source



By KVL,  $v_0 = v_1 + v_2 + v_x$

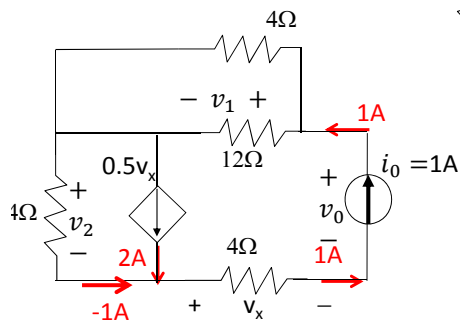
$$v_x = 4V$$

$$v_2 = 4 \times (1 - 2) = -4V$$

$$v_1 = (4/12) \times 1 = 3V$$

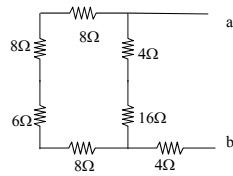
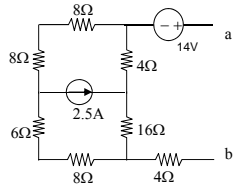
$$v_0 = 3 - 4 + 4 = 3V$$

$$R_{th} = \frac{v_0}{i_0} = 3\Omega$$



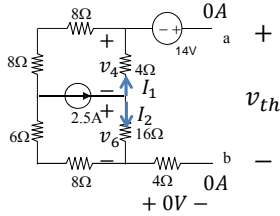
$$\text{Then } R_{th} = \frac{v_0}{i_0}$$

Example: Find Thevenin's equivalent with respect to terminals "a" and "b".



$$R_{th} = 4 + (4 + 16) // (8 + 8 + 6 + 8) = 16\Omega$$

$v_{th}$ : open circuit voltage



By current division

$$I_1 = \frac{30}{20 + 30} \times 2.5 = 1.5A$$

$$I_2 = 2.5 - 1.5 = 1A$$

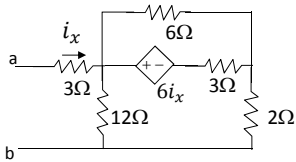
$$v_4 = -1.5 \times 4 = -6V$$

$$v_6 = 1 \times 16 = 16V$$

$$v_{th} = 14 - 6 + 16 = 24V$$

$$v_{th} = 14 + v_4 + v_6$$

Example: Find Thevenin's equivalent circuit with respect to terminals "a" and "b"



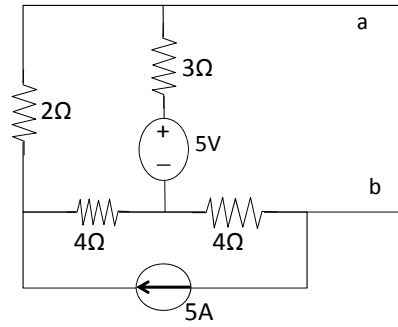
For  $V_{th}$ , the open circuit voltage, since there is no independent source, all voltages and currents are 0,  $V_{th} = 0$ .

For  $R_{th}$ , need to supply the two terminal with independent current or voltage source.

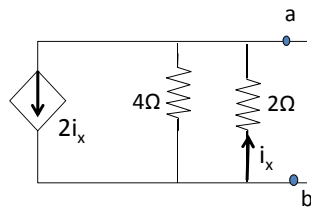
Set  $I_0 = 1A$ , need to find  $v_0$ .  
 Then  $R_{th} = \frac{v_0}{I_0}$   
 $i_x = I_0 = 1A$ ,  $6i_x = 6V$   
 Use source transformation

$V_0 = 6 \times 1 + 3 = 9V$   
 $R_{th} = 9\Omega$

R14

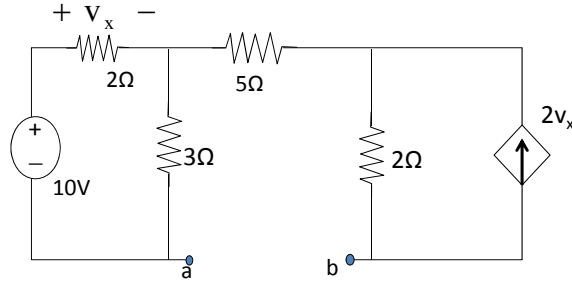
Practice 1: Find  $R_{th}$ ,  $V_{th}$  for the two terminal circuit

R14

Practice 2: Find  $R_{th}$ ,  $V_{th}$  for the two terminal circuit

R14

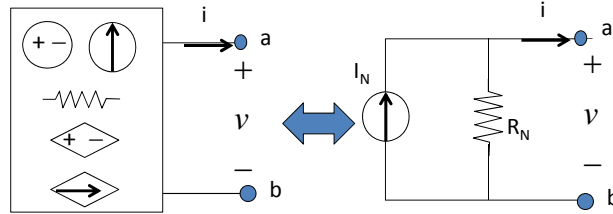
Practice 3: Find  $R_{th}$ ,  $V_{th}$  for the two terminal circuit



§4.6 Norton's Theorem

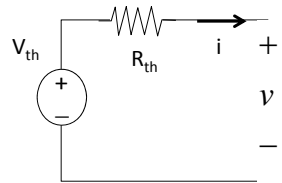
L15

**Norton's theorem:** Every linear two terminal circuit can be made equivalent to the parallel connection of a current source and a resistor.



$I_N$ : Short circuit current from "a" to "b",  $R_N$ : same as  $R_{th}$

Since the same circuit is also equivalent to Thevenin's



By source transformation,

$$R_N = R_{th}, V_{th} = R_{th} I_N$$

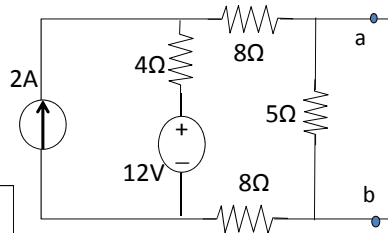
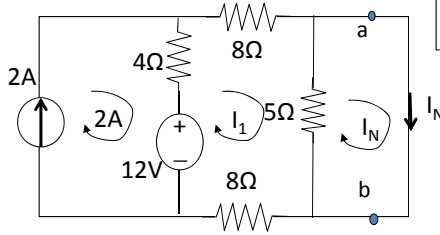
$$I_N = V_{th} / R_{th}$$

You can get Thevenin's equivalent first, then use source transformation to get Norton's equivalent, or vice versa



Example:  
Find the Norton's equivalent

For  $I_N$ , short circuit "a", "b"



L15

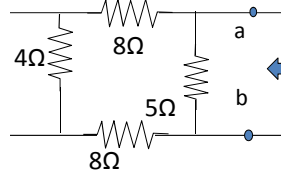
What is the relationship between  $I_1$  and  $I_N$ ?

Be careful: a resistor in parallel with short circuit does not take any current. It can be discarded.

$I_1 = I_N$ , voltage across  $5\Omega$  is 0.

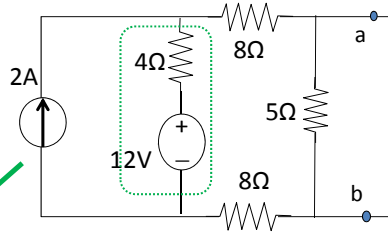
KVL along center mesh:  $8I_N + 8I_N - 12 + 4(I_N - 2) = 0 \Rightarrow I_N = 1A$

For  $R_N$ , turn off 2A and 12V sources:

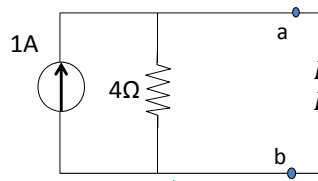
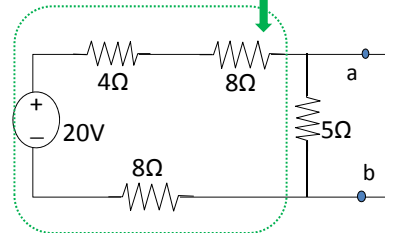
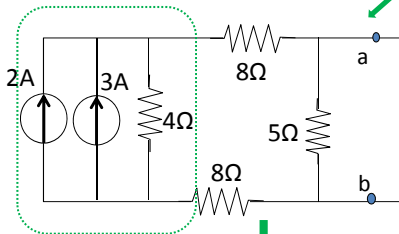


$R_N = 5 // (8 + 8 + 4) = 4\Omega$

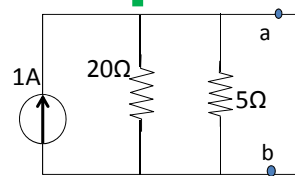
Approach 2:  
use source transformation



L15

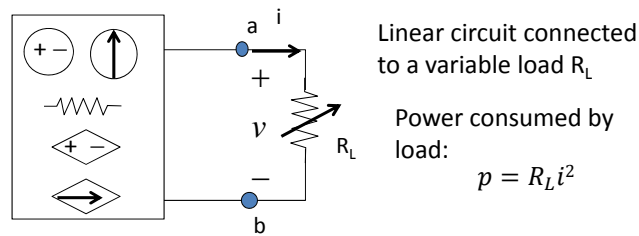


$I_N = 1A$   
 $R_N = 4\Omega$



## §4.8 Maximum power transfer

L15



Question: for what value of  $R_L$  is  $p$  maximized?

Note that the current  $i$  also depends on  $R_L$ .

Key point: find the exact relationship between  $i$  and  $R_L$ .

Main tool: Thevenin's and Norton's theorem

Applications examples:

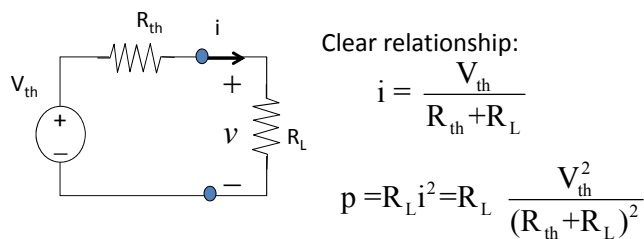
Radio transmitter - maximize power delivered to the antenna or transmission line

Grid tied inverter - maximize power delivered to the grid

Electric vehicle - maximize power delivered to drive motor

By Thevenin's theorem, the two terminal circuit can be replaced with a voltage source in series with a resistor:

L15

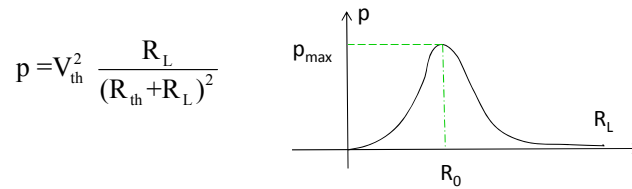


$$p = V_{th}^2 \frac{R_L}{(R_{th} + R_L)^2}$$

For  $R_L = 0$ ,  $p = 0$ .

As  $R_L \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $p \rightarrow 0$

L15



A pure math problem: find  $R_L$  so that  $p$  is maximized.

At the maximal point,  $\left. \frac{dp}{dR_L} \right|_{R_L=R_0} = 0$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dp}{dR_L} &= V_{th}^2 \frac{(R_L + R_{th})^2 - 2R_L(R_L + R_{th})}{(R_L + R_{th})^4} \\ &= V_{th}^2 \frac{R_{th} - R_L}{(R_L + R_{th})^3} \end{aligned}$$

For  $dp/dR_L = 0$ , we must have  $R_L = R_{th}$

At  $R_L = R_{th}$ ,

$$p_{\max} = \frac{V_{th}^2}{4R_{th}}$$

L15

Conclusion: Maximal power is transferred to the load when  $R_L = R_{th}$ , and the maximal power is

$$p_{\max} = \frac{V_{th}^2}{4R_{th}}$$

When the Norton's equivalent is used, similar result:

Conclusion: Maximal power is transferred to the load when  $R_L = R_N$ , and the maximal power is

$$p_{\max} = \frac{R_N I_N^2}{4}$$

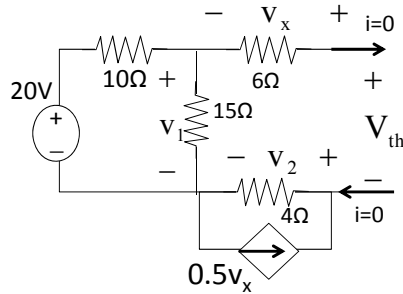
Example:

Determine  $R$  so that maximal power is delivered.

Also find the maximal power.

Solution: Need to find  $V_{th}$  and  $R_{th}$  with respect two the two terminals of  $R$ .

For  $V_{th}$ , disconnect  $R$



Since  $i=0$ ,  $v_x=0$ .  $10\Omega$  and  $15\Omega$  in series

By voltage division

$$v_1 = \frac{15}{15+10} \times 20 = 12V$$

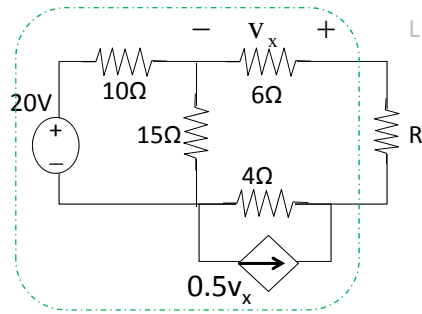
Also since  $i=0$ ,  $0.5v_x=0$  flows through  $4\Omega$ .

Thus  $v_2=0V$

By KVL,

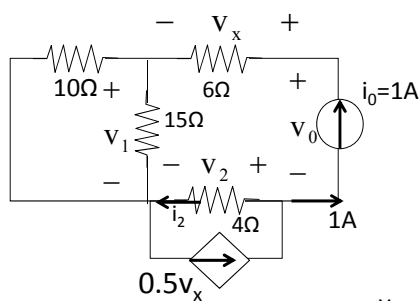
$$V_{th} = v_x + v_1 - v_2 = 0 + 12 + 0 = 12V$$

L15



For  $R_{th}$ , turn off  $20V$ , but keep  $0.5v_x$  dependent source.

Because of the dependent source, supply an external current source  $i_0=1A$ . (you may also try a voltage source and compare)



Need to find  $v_0$  across the  $1A$  current source (Active sign convention)

$$v_x = 6i_0 = 6V$$

$$v_1 = (15//10) \times i_0$$

$$= 6 \times 1 = 6V$$

Assign current  $i_2$  for  $4\Omega$

By KCL,  $i_2 = 0.5v_x - 1$ . Thus

$$v_2 = 4(0.5v_x - 1) \\ = 4(3 - 1) = 8V$$

$$v_0 = v_x + v_1 - v_2 = 4V$$

$$R_{th} = \frac{v_0}{i_0} = \frac{4}{1} = 4\Omega$$

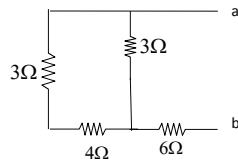
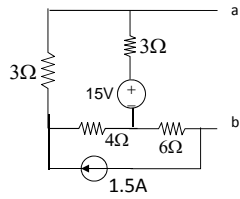
Finally, The maximal power is delivered when  $R=R_{th}=4\Omega$ .

The maximal power is

$$P_{max} = \frac{V_{th}^2}{4R_{th}} = \frac{12^2}{4 \times 4} = 9W$$

L15

Example: Find Thevenin's equivalent with respect to terminals "a" and "b".



$$R_{th} = 6 + 3//7 = 8.1\Omega$$

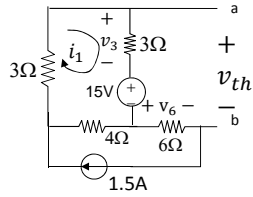
KVL along mesh 1:

$$3i_1 + 15 + 4(i_1 - 1.5) + 3i_1 = 0$$

$$10i_1 = -9$$

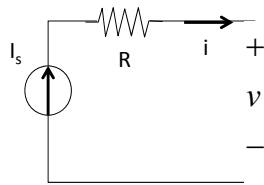
$$i_1 = -0.9$$

$$V_{th} = v_3 + 15 + v_6 = -2.7 + 15 + 9 = 21.3V$$



Question: Any relationship between the following circuits?

L15

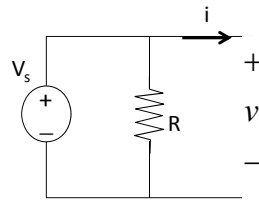
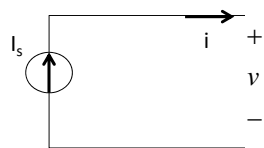


Illegal to open circuit

Norton's equivalent:

$$I_N = I_s$$

$$R_N = \infty \quad V_{th} = \infty$$

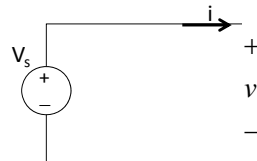


Illegal to short circuit

Thevenin's equivalent:

$$V_{th} = V_s$$

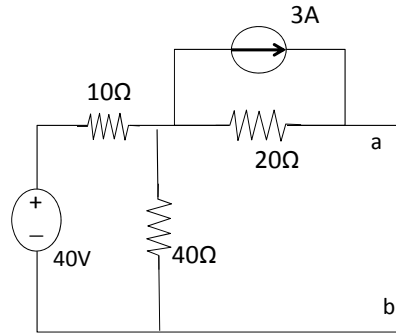
$$R_{th} = 0 \quad I_N = \infty$$



Any resistor in series with current source can be discarded  
 Any resistor in parallel with voltage source can be discarded

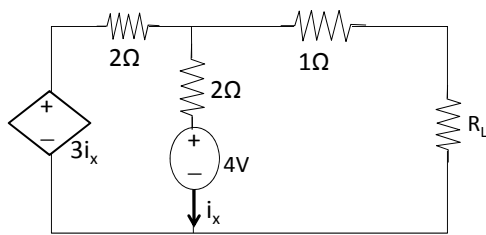
R15

Practice 4: Find the Norton's equivalent



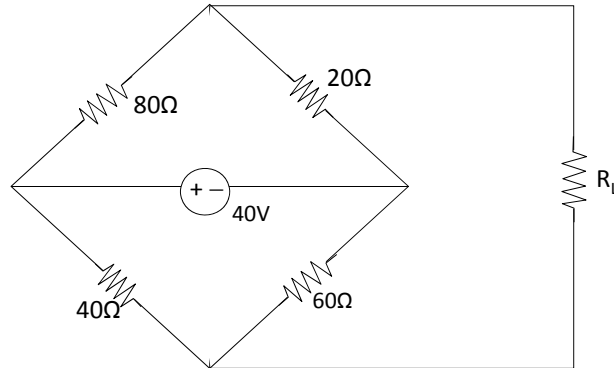
R15

Practice 5: Find the value of  $R_L$  so that maximum power is delivered. Also find the maximum power.



R15

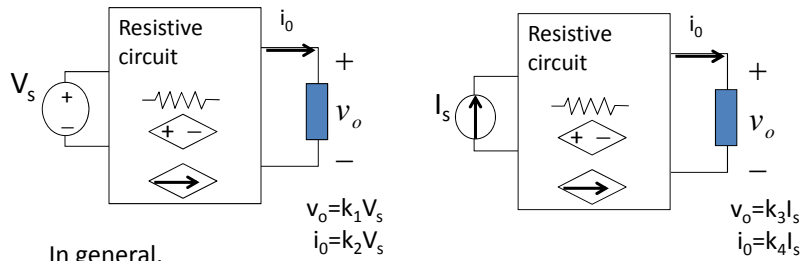
Practice 6: Find the unknown  $R_L$  so that maximum power is delivered. Also find the maximum power.



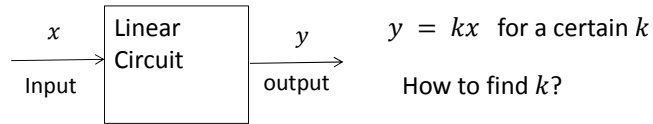
## Chapter 4 Review

- Linearity
- Source transformation
- Superposition
- Thevenin's Theorem
- Norton's Theorem
- Maximum power Transfer

**Linearity:** the input-output relationship of a resistive circuit is linear.



In general,



How to find  $k$ ?

If you know any pair of input and output,

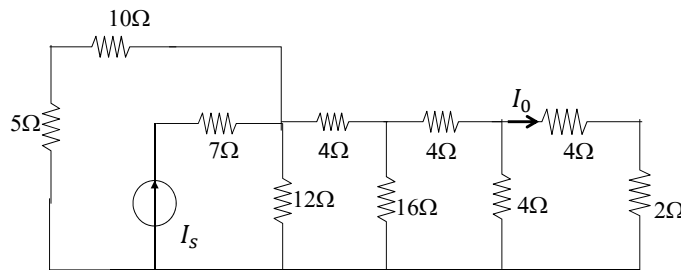
$$(x, y) = (x_0, y_0)$$

$$\text{Then } y_0 = kx_0 \implies k = \frac{y_0}{x_0}$$

Backward approach:

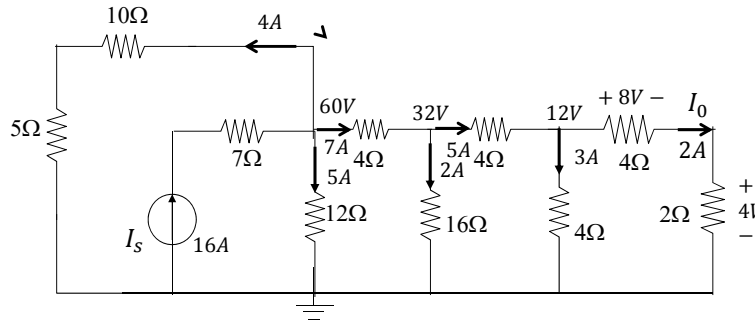
Assume  $y = y_0$ , find  $x = x_0$

Example 1: Find  $I_s$  for  $I_0 = 2A$ . Compute  $I_0$  for  $I_s = 10, 24A$ .





Solution: Find  $I_s$  for  $I_0 = 2A$ . Set the bottom node as ground



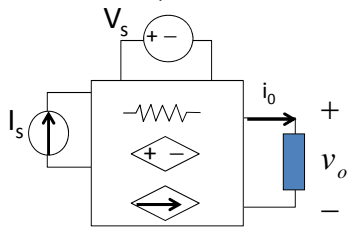
For  $I_0 = 2A$ ;  $I_s = 16A$ ;  $k = \frac{I_0}{I_s} = \frac{2}{16} = \frac{1}{8}$ ,  $I_0 = \frac{1}{8}I_s$

If  $I_s = 10A$ ,  $I_0 = \frac{1}{8}I_s = \frac{10}{8} = 1.25A$

If  $I_s = 24A$ ,  $I_0 = \frac{1}{8}I_s = \frac{24}{8} = 3A$

**Superposition**

Superposition principle: the voltage across (or current through) an element in a linear circuit, is the sum of voltage/current due to each independent source alone.

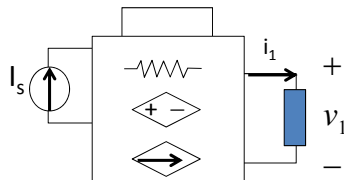


Key points:

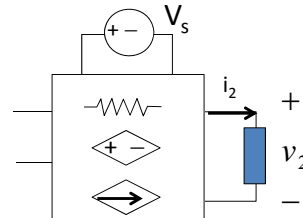
- Turn off voltage source with short circuit
- Turn of current source with open circuit

$$\begin{matrix} v_0 = v_1 + v_2 \\ i_0 = i_1 + i_2 \end{matrix}$$

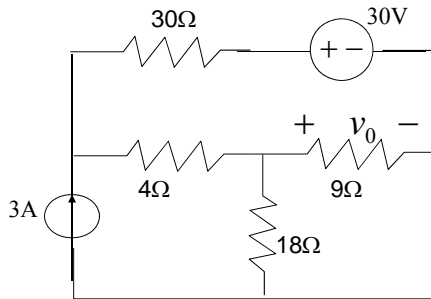
Due to  $I_s$  alone: turn off  $V_s$   
Set  $V_s = 0 \Leftrightarrow$  replace voltage source with short circuit



Due to  $V_s$  alone: turn off  $I_s$   
Set  $I_s = 0 \Leftrightarrow$  replace current source with open circuit

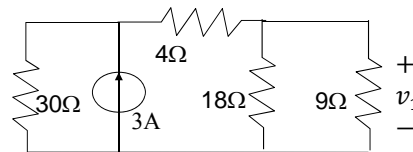
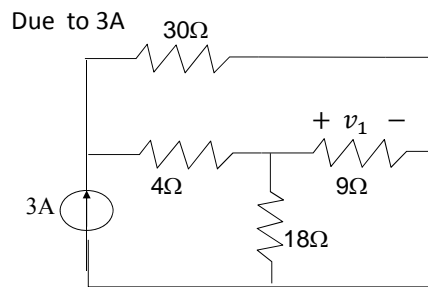
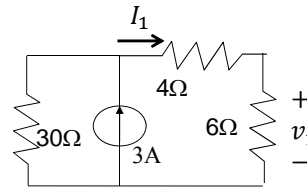


Example 3: Use **superposition** to compute  $v_0$

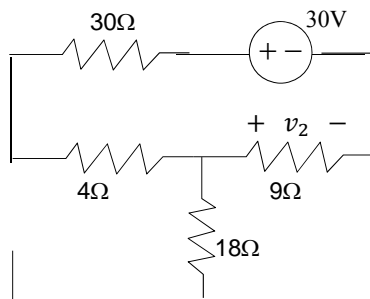


$$I_1 = \frac{30}{10 + 30} \times 3 = 2.25A$$

$$v_1 = 6I_1 = 13.5V$$



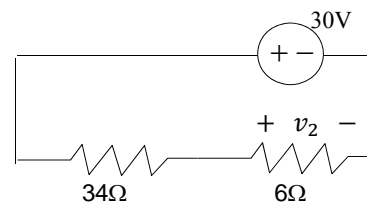
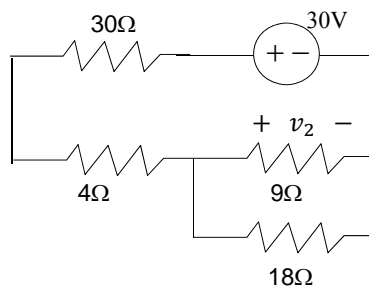
Due to 30V:



$$v_0 = v_1 + v_2 = 13.5 + 4.5 = 18V$$

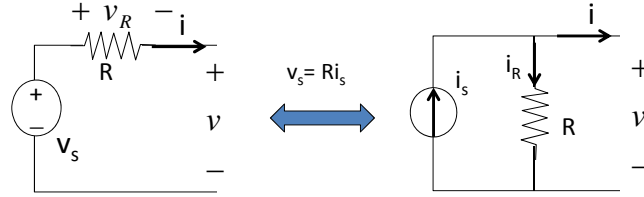
By voltage division:

$$v_2 = \frac{6}{6 + 34} \times 30 = 4.5V$$

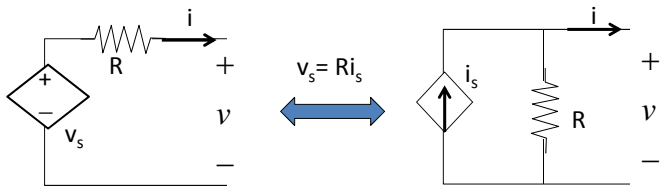


**Source Transformation:**

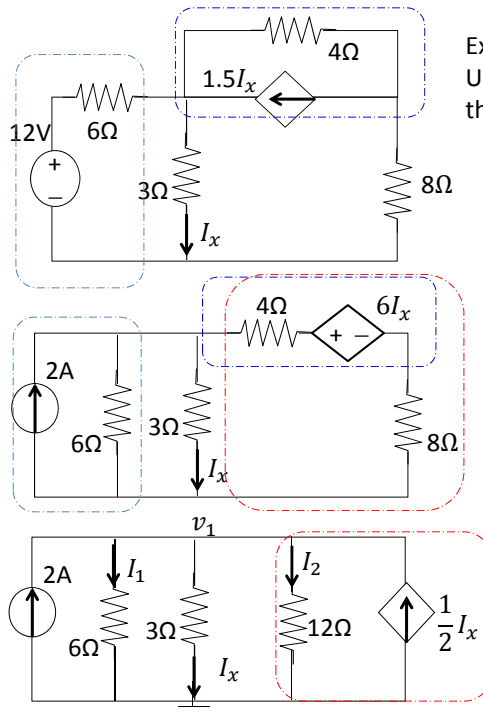
The following two connections are equivalent



The following two connections are equivalent



The rule: if you put the two sources side by side, the arrow of the current source points from - to + of the voltage source



Example : Compute  $I_x$ :  
Use **source Transformation** to convert the circuit to one with only two nodes.

L13

Use Nodal analysis method:

$$I_1 = \frac{v_1}{6}; \quad I_2 = \frac{v_1}{12}; \quad I_x = \frac{v_1}{3}$$

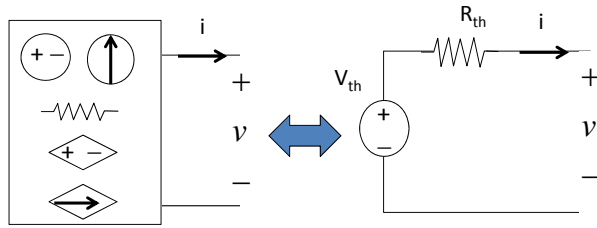
KCL at  $v_1$ :

$$I_1 + I_x + I_2 - \frac{1}{2}I_x = 2$$

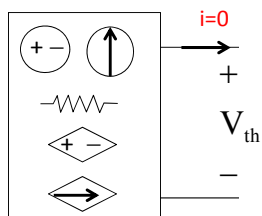
$$\frac{v_1}{6} + \frac{v_1}{3} + \frac{v_1}{12} - \frac{v_1}{6} = 2$$

$$v_1 = 4.8V; \quad I_x = \frac{4.8}{3} = 1.6A$$

**Thevenin's theorem:** Every linear two terminal circuit can be made equivalent to the series connection of a voltage source and a resistor.



$V_{th}$ : **Open circuit voltage** across the two terminals



Also called  $V_{oc}$

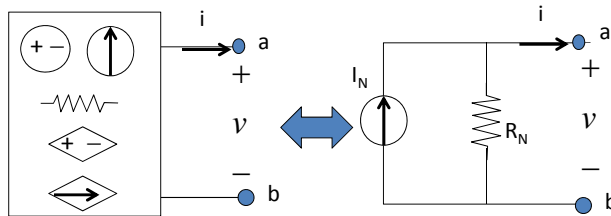
$R_{th}$ : equivalent resistance with respect to the two terminals when all independent sources are turned off

Case 1: No dependent source.  $R_{th}=R_{eq}$  (as in Chapter 2)

Case 2: With dependent source. Need to supply an external independent source at the two terminal. Then  $R_{th}$  is the ratio between the voltage and current.

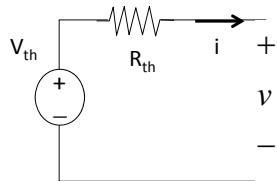
**Norton's Theorem**

Every linear two terminal circuit can be made equivalent to the parallel connection of a current source and a resistor.



$I_N$ : Short circuit current from "a" to "b",  $R_N$ : same as  $R_{th}$

Since the same circuit is also equivalent to Thevenin's



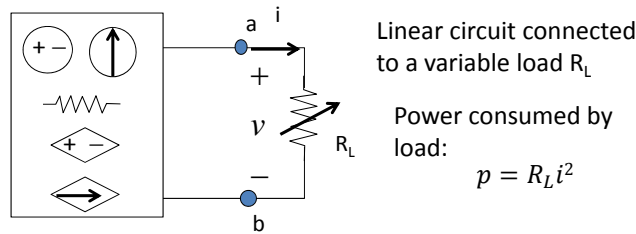
By source transformation,

$$R_N=R_{th}, V_{th}=R_{th}I_N,$$

$$I_N=V_{th}/R_{th}$$

You can get Thevenin's equivalent first, then use source transformation to get Norton's equivalent, or vice versa

### Maximum power transfer



Conclusion: Maximal power is transferred to the load when  $R_L = R_{th}$ , and the maximal power is

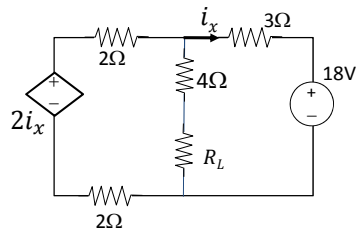
$$p_{max} = \frac{V_{th}^2}{4R_{th}}$$

When the Norton's equivalent is used, similar result:

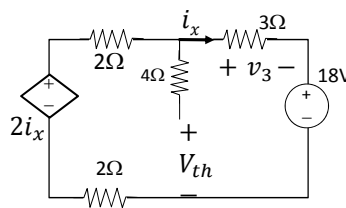
Conclusion: Maximal power is transferred to the load when  $R_L = R_N$ , and the maximal power is

$$p_{max} = \frac{R_N I_N^2}{4}$$

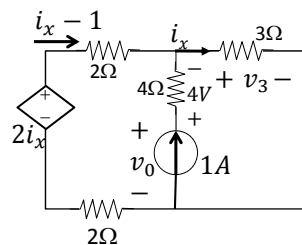
Example 4: Find the unknown resistance  $R_L$  so that maximum power is delivered to it. Also find the maximum power.



For  $V_{th}$ , disconnect  $R_L$



For  $R_{th}$ , turn off 18V, supply current source



By KVL,

$$2i_x + 3i_x + 18 + 2i_x - 2i_x = 0$$

$$5i_x = -18; \quad i_x = -3.6A$$

$$V_{th} = 18 + 3i_x = 7.2V$$

KVL along outer loop:

$$-2i_x + 2(i_x - 1) + 3i_x + 2(i_x - 1) = 0$$

$$i_x = 0.8, \quad v_0 = 4 + 3i_x = 6.4V, \quad R_{th} = \frac{v_0}{1} = 6.4\Omega$$

$$\text{When } R_L = 6.4\Omega; \quad p_{max} = \frac{V_{th}^2}{4R_{th}} = \frac{7.2^2}{4 \times 6.4} = 2.025W$$