

# 07-Nodal Analysis

Text: 3.1 – 3.4

ECEGR 210

Electric Circuits I



# Overview

- Introduction
- Nodal Analysis
- Nodal Analysis with Voltage Sources



# Introduction

- Basic Circuit Laws
  - Ohm's Law
  - Kirchhoff's Voltage Law (KVL)
  - Kirchhoff's Current Law (KCL)
- Now we seek to analyze any linear circuit systematically using
  - Nodal analysis
  - Mesh analysis



# Introduction

- Express circuit as a system of linear equations
- Solve linear equations
  - Substitution
  - Gaussian elimination
  - Cramer's Rule
  - Numerical methods
  - Others
- Remember: for a unique solution there must be an equal number of independent equations as unknowns

$$\begin{bmatrix} Y_{11} & Y_{12} & Y_{13} \\ Y_{21} & Y_{22} & Y_{23} \\ Y_{31} & Y_{32} & Y_{33} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} X_1 \\ X_2 \\ X_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \end{bmatrix}$$



# Introduction

- Let  $X$  be a vector of variables to be solved for
- Nodal Analysis:
  - $X$ : node voltages
  - $Y$ : conductances
  - $b$ : currents
- Mesh Analysis:
  - $X$ : loop currents
  - $Y$ : resistances
  - $b$ : voltages

$$\begin{bmatrix} Y_{11} & Y_{12} & Y_{13} \\ Y_{21} & Y_{22} & Y_{23} \\ Y_{31} & Y_{32} & Y_{33} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \end{bmatrix}$$



# Nodal Analysis

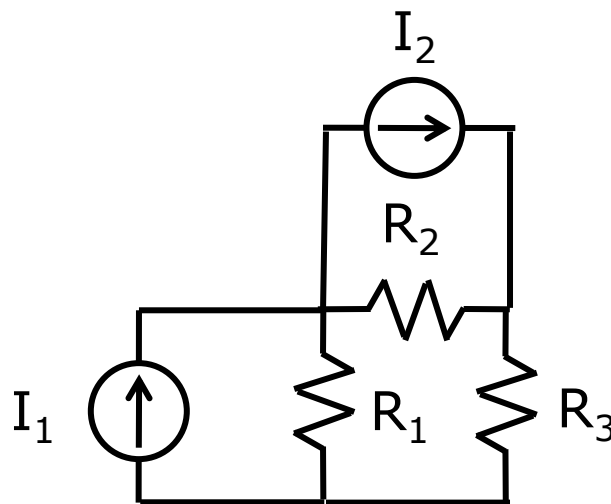
Steps to solve a circuit with  $N$  nodes

1. Assign a reference node
2. Assign a variable to the voltages at all nodes wrt the reference node ( $N-1$  variables)
3. Apply KCL to each of the  $N-1$  non-reference nodes to generate  $N-1$  equations
4. Use Ohm's Law to express currents as functions of node voltages
5. Solve resulting simultaneous equations




# Nodal Analysis

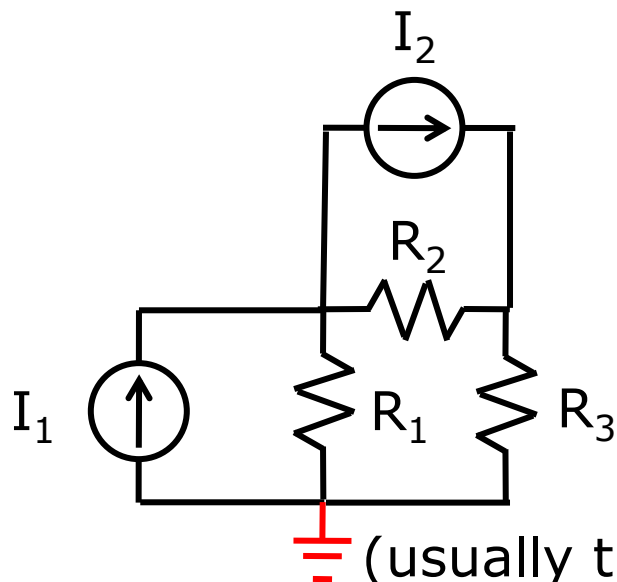
- Let  $I_1$ ,  $I_2$ ,  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$  be known (given)
- Solve for the voltages at each node





## Step 1: Assign Reference Node

- Recall: all voltage is a relative measure
- Reference node is also known as *ground*
  - In power systems it is actually the ground (earth) 
  - In electronics it could be the metallic chassis
  - Or arbitrary



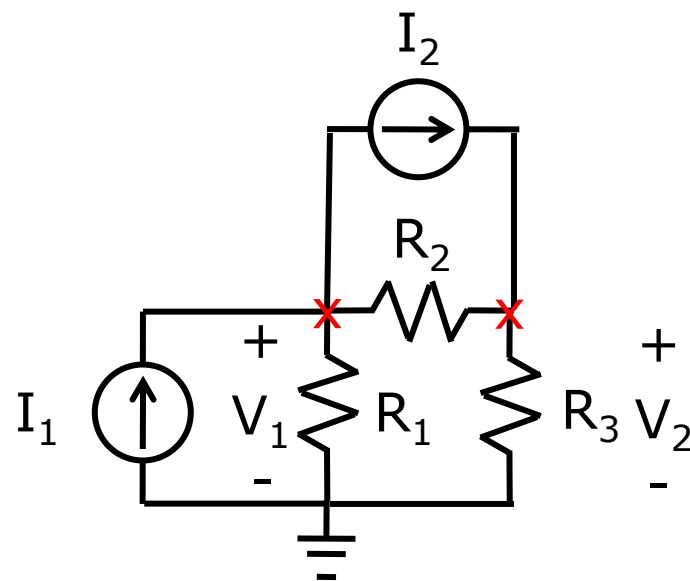
 (usually the "bottom" of circuit)





## Step 2: Assign Variables to Nodes

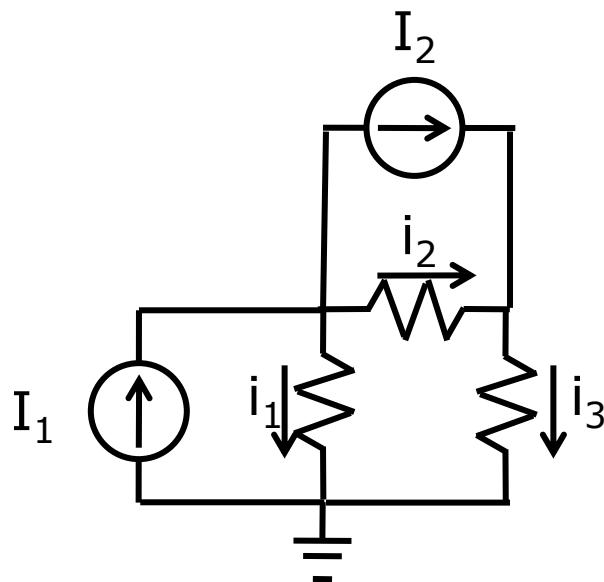
- There are **two** remaining nodes (variables)
- Assign voltages and polarities wrt reference node
- No need to write voltage across  $R_2$ 
  - Does not add an independent equation (no new information)
  - Can solve later as  $V_1 - V_2$





## Step 3: Apply KCL

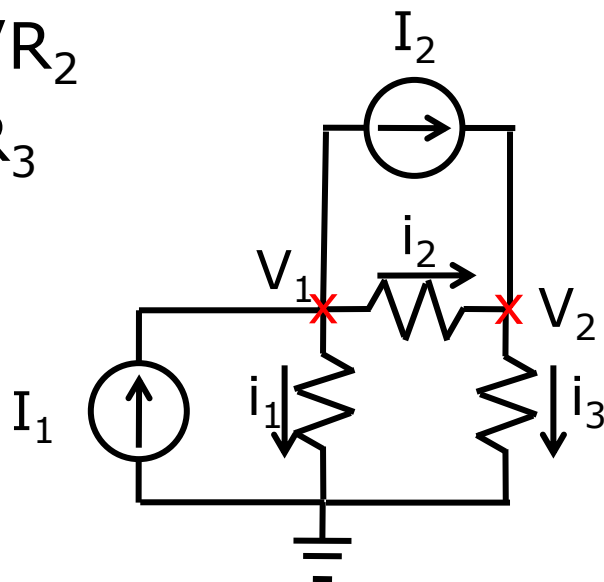
- KCL gives one equation per node (two equations)
- $I_1 = I_2 + i_1 + i_2$
- $I_2 = i_3 - i_2$





## Step 4: Apply Ohm's Law

- Need to write  $i_1, i_2, i_3$  in terms of the node voltages
- Remember sign convention
- $i_1 = (V_1 - 0)/R_1$
- $i_2 = (V_1 - V_2)/R_2$
- $i_3 = (V_2 - 0)/R_3$





## Step 5: Solve Equations

- Recap
  - two variables ( $V_1, V_2$ )
  - two KCL equations
- KCL equations use intermediate variables  $i_1, i_2, i_3$ 
  - $I_1 = I_2 + i_1 + i_2$
  - $I_2 = i_3 - i_2$
- Use substitution to express KCL in terms of voltages
  - $i_1 = (V_1 - 0)/R_1$
  - $i_2 = (V_1 - V_2)/R_2$
  - $i_3 = (V_2 - 0)/R_3$



## Step 5: Solve Equations

- Via substitution:
  - $I_1 = I_2 + V_1/R_1 + (V_1 - V_2)/R_2$
  - $I_2 = V_2/R_3 - (V_1 - V_2)/R_2$
- Can we solve this system of equations?
- **Yes!**
  - **Two independent equations, two unknowns**
  - **The rest is just math**



## Step 5: Solve Equations

- In matrix form

- $I_1 = I_2 + V_1/R_1 + (V_1 - V_2)/R_2$

- $I_2 = V_2/R_3 - (V_1 - V_2)/R_2$

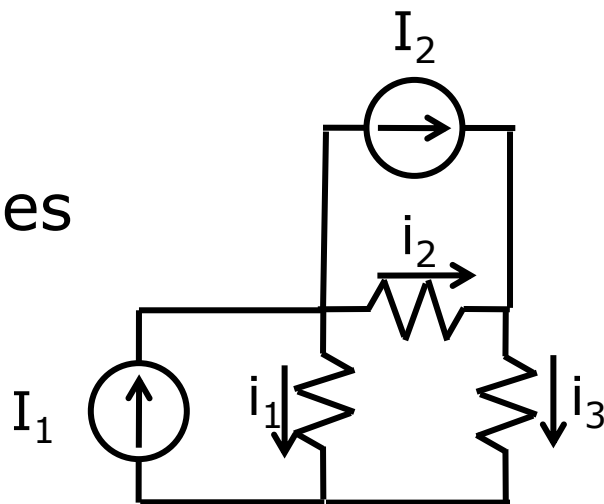
$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} & -\frac{1}{R_2} \\ -\frac{1}{R_2} & \frac{1}{R_3} + \frac{1}{R_2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} V_1 \\ V_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} I_1 - I_2 \\ I_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Many methods of solving linear equations



# Example

- Let
  - $I_1 = 10\text{A}$
  - $I_2 = 5\text{A}$
  - $R_1 = 6\Omega$
  - $R_2 = 4\Omega$
  - $R_3 = 2\Omega$
- Find all voltages





## Example

- Equations:
  - $I_1 = I_2 + V_1/R_1 + (V_1 - V_2)/R_2$
  - $I_2 = V_2/R_3 - (V_1 - V_2)/R_2$
- Using circuit values:
  - $10 = 5 + V_1/6 + (V_1 - V_2)/4$
  - $5 = V_2/2 - (V_1 - V_2)/4$





## Example

- Starting with the second equation

- $5x4 = [V_2/2 - (V_1 - V_2)/4]x4$

Yields

$$20 = 2V_2 - (V_1 - V_2) = 3V_2 - V_1$$

Now the first equation:

$$10x12 = [5 + V_1/6 + (V_1 - V_2)/4]x12$$

$$120 = 60 + 2V_1 + 3V_1 - 3V_2$$

$$60 = 5V_1 - 3V_2$$



## Example

- $20 = -V_1 + 3V_2$
- $60 = 5V_1 - 3V_2$
- Solve using elimination
  - $20 \times 5 = [-V_1 + 3V_2] \times 5 = 100 = -5V_1 + 15V_2$
  - $60 = 5V_1 - 3V_2$
  - $160 = 0 + 12V_2$
- Yields:
  - $V_2 = 13.333V$
  - $V_1 = 20V$



# Example

- Solving in matrix form:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} & -\frac{1}{R_2} \\ -\frac{1}{R_2} & \frac{1}{R_3} + \frac{1}{R_2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} V_1 \\ V_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} I_1 - I_2 \\ I_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{4} & -\frac{1}{4} \\ -\frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} V_1 \\ V_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

Can use Matlab, Gaussian elimination  
Cramer's Rule, matrix inversion



# Solution by Matrix Inversion

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{4} & -\frac{1}{4} \\ -\frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} V_1 \\ V_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

**G** (matrix)

$$\mathbf{G} \begin{bmatrix} V_1 \\ V_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} V_1 \\ V_2 \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{G}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 20 \\ 13.3 \end{bmatrix}$$

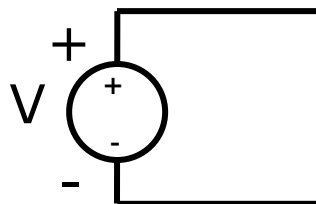
where  $\mathbf{G}^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 1 & 1.67 \end{bmatrix}$

For small matrices use  
"inv()" command  
in Matlab



# Nodal Analysis with Voltage Sources

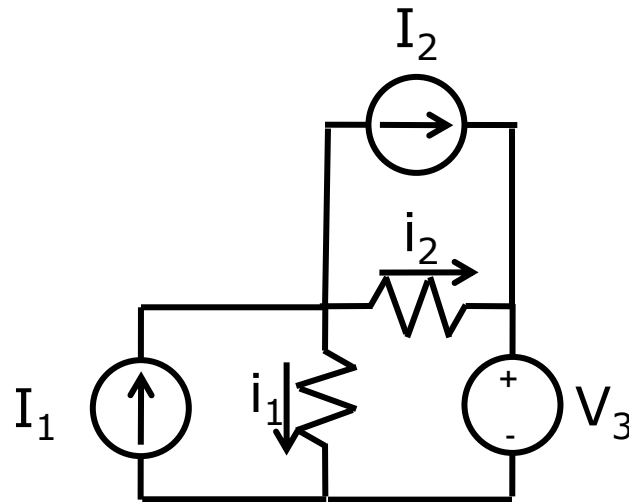
- Nodal analysis requires knowledge of current through elements
- Recall that the current through a voltage source is not readily known
- Example:
  - Current through resistor is  $I = (V_a - V_b)/R$
  - But what is the current through a voltage source? How is the "R" in the equation to be interpreted?





# Nodal Analysis with Voltage Sources

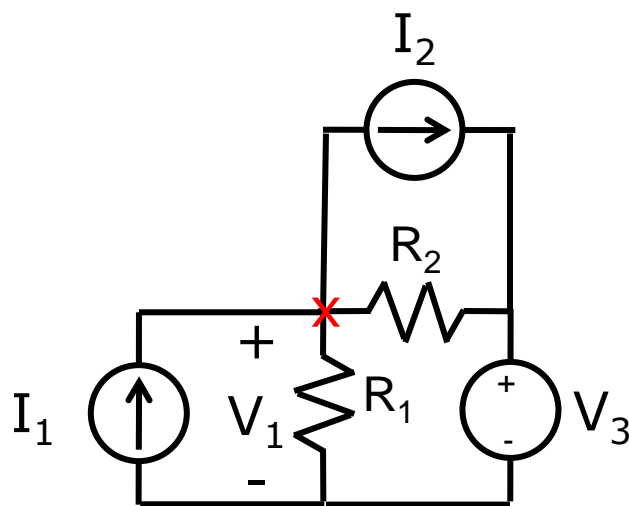
- If the voltage source is connected to the reference node, then it can be easily included in nodal analysis





# Nodal Analysis with Voltage Sources

- Only one node with unknown voltage
  - $I_1 = I_2 + V_1/R_1 + (V_1 - V_3)/R_2$
- Compare this to earlier example (2 eqns, 2 unknowns)





# Nodal Analysis with Voltage Sources

- If voltage source not connected to reference:
  - Move the reference so it is! (only works if there is one voltage source)

Or

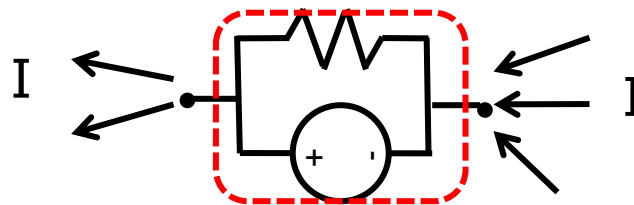
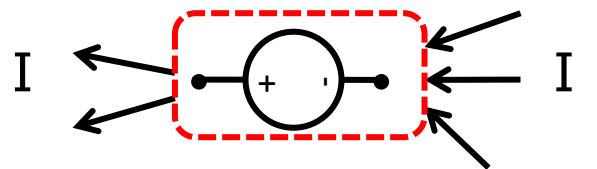
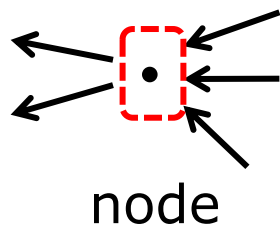
- Use Supernode concept





# Nodal Analysis with Voltage Sources

- Supernode: a closed surface containing a voltage source and its two nodes AND any elements in parallel with it



Supernodes

- Current into supernode = current out of supernode
- Also applies to dependent voltage sources



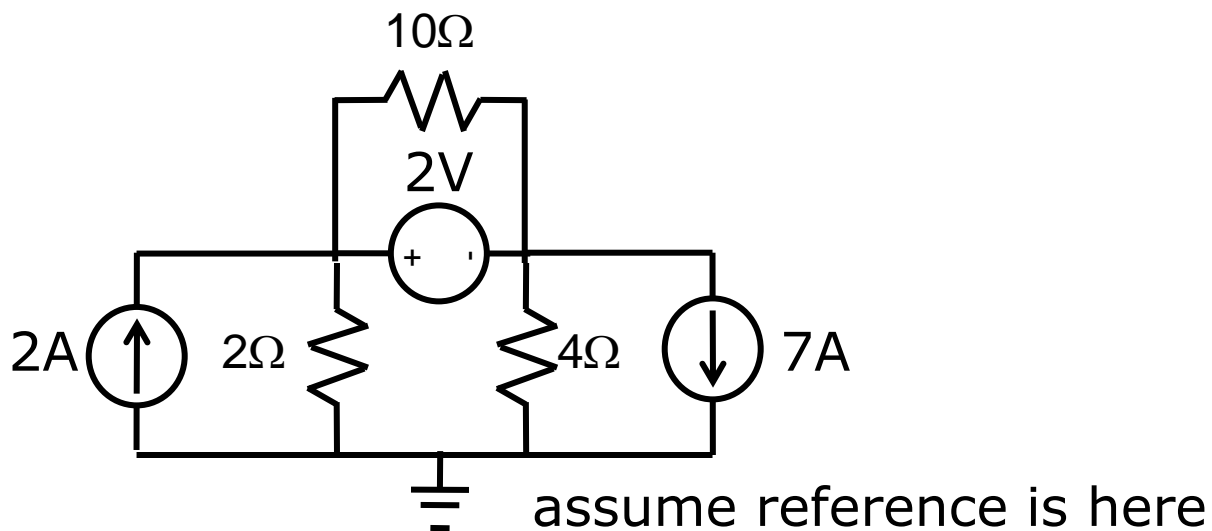
# Nodal Analysis with Voltage Sources

- Properties of a supernode
  - Voltage source inside the supernode provides a constraint equation needed to solve for node voltages
  - A supernode has no voltage of its own
  - There is only one KCL equation for the supernode, but two unknown node voltages
  - Additional equation is found from application of KVL



# Nodal Analysis with Voltage Sources

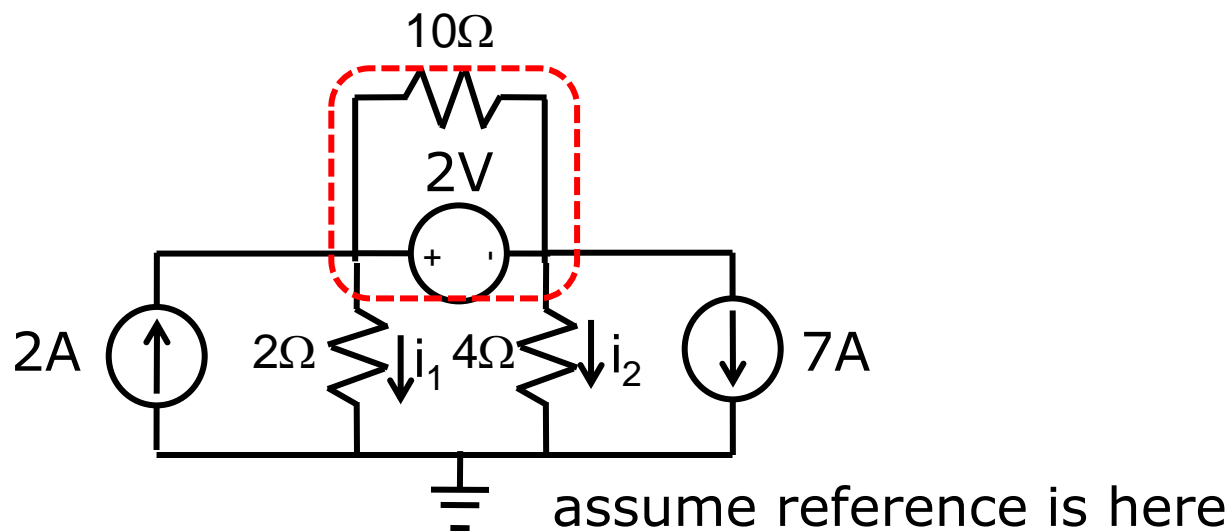
- Find the node voltages





# Nodal Analysis with Voltage Sources

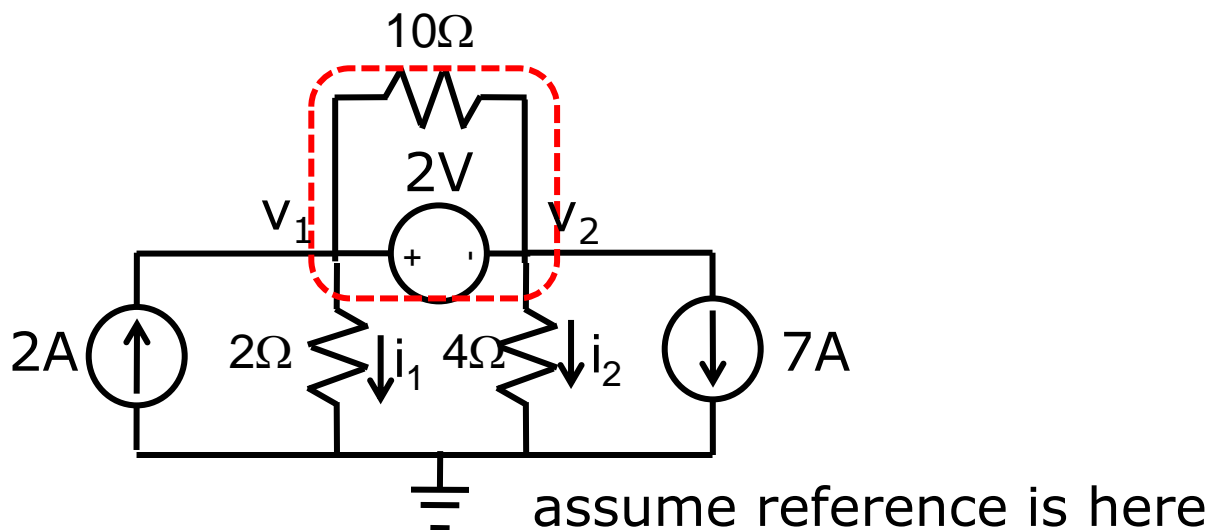
- Make a supernode out of the voltage source
- Write KCL for supernode
  - $2 = i_1 + i_2 + 7$  (only one equation since it is a supernode)





# Nodal Analysis with Voltage Sources

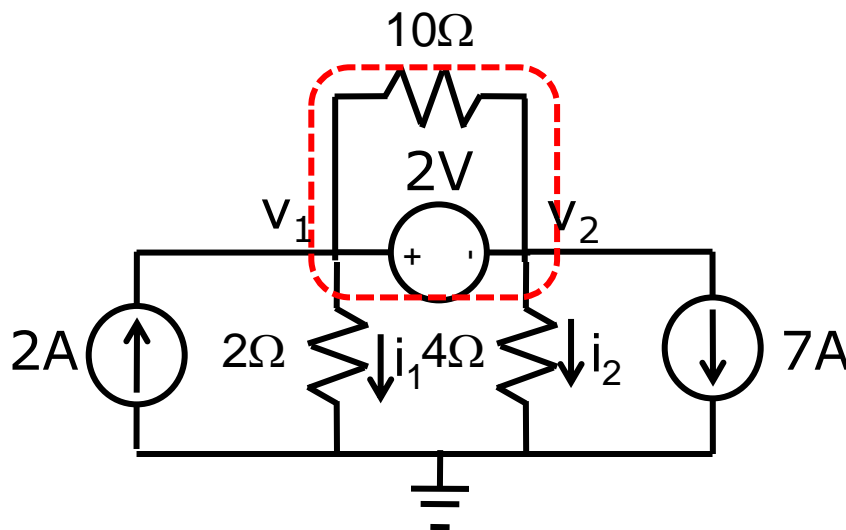
- Write  $i_1, i_2$  in terms of node voltage
- $i_1 = (v_1 - 0)/2$
- $i_2 = (v_2 - 0)/4$





# Nodal Analysis with Voltage Sources

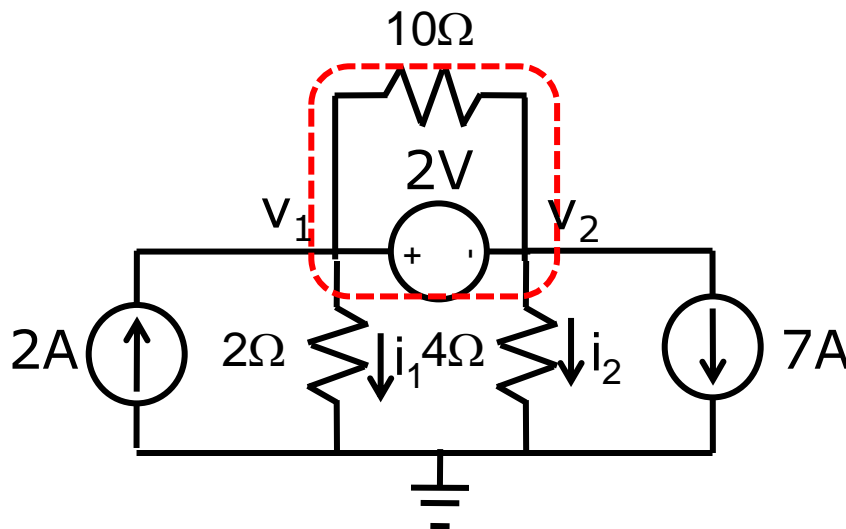
- Substitute into supernode KCL
- $2 = i_1 + i_2 + 7$  (supernode KCL)
  - $2 = 0.5v_1 + 0.25v_2 + 7$  (after substitution)
  - $8 = 2v_1 + v_2 + 28$  (multiplying by 4)





# Nodal Analysis with Voltage Sources

- Apply KVL around loop
  - $-v_1 + 2 + v_2 = 0$  (second equation)

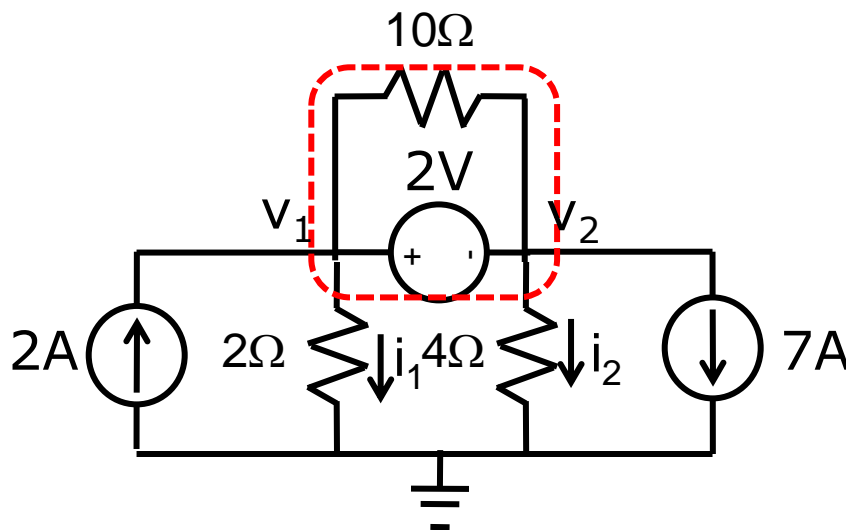




# Nodal Analysis with Voltage Sources

- How many independent equations?
  - $8 = 2v_1 + v_2 + 28$
  - $-v_1 + 2 + v_2 = 0$
- How many unknowns?
  - $v_1, v_2$

Solve!

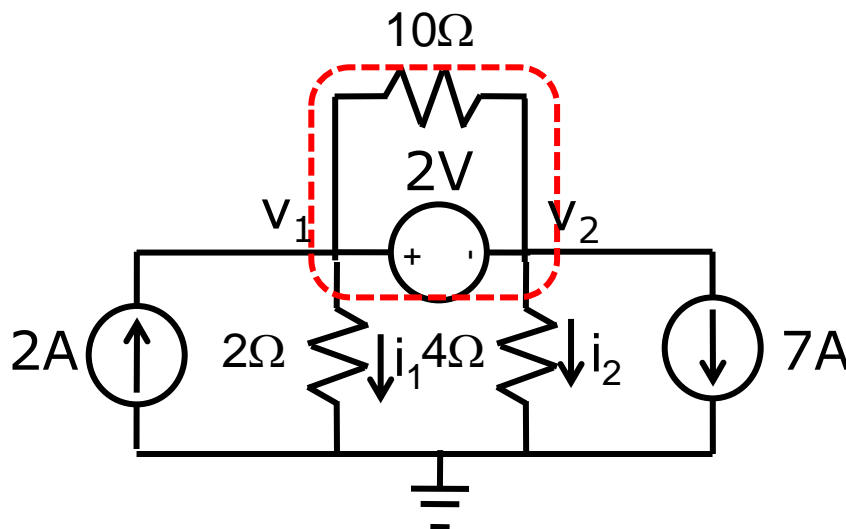






# Nodal Analysis with Voltage Sources

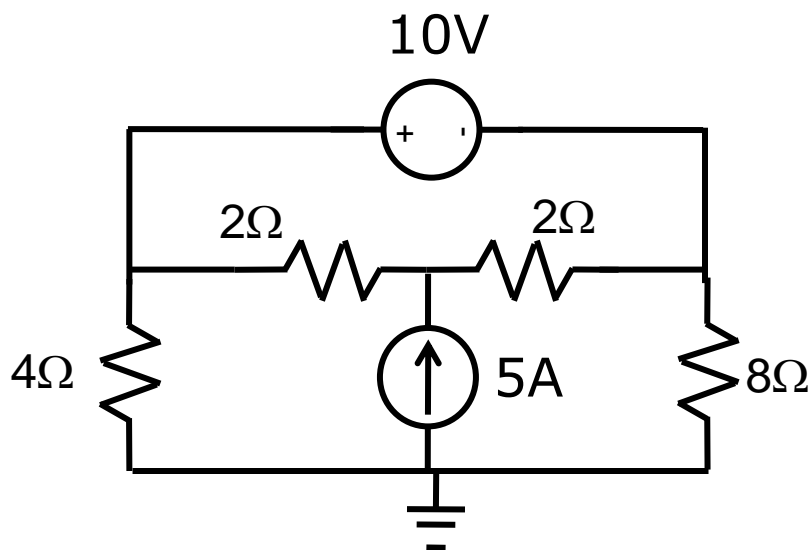
- Solving...
  - $8 = 2v_1 + v_1 - 2 + 28$
  - $v_1 = -5.333V$
  - $v_2 = -7.333V$





# Example

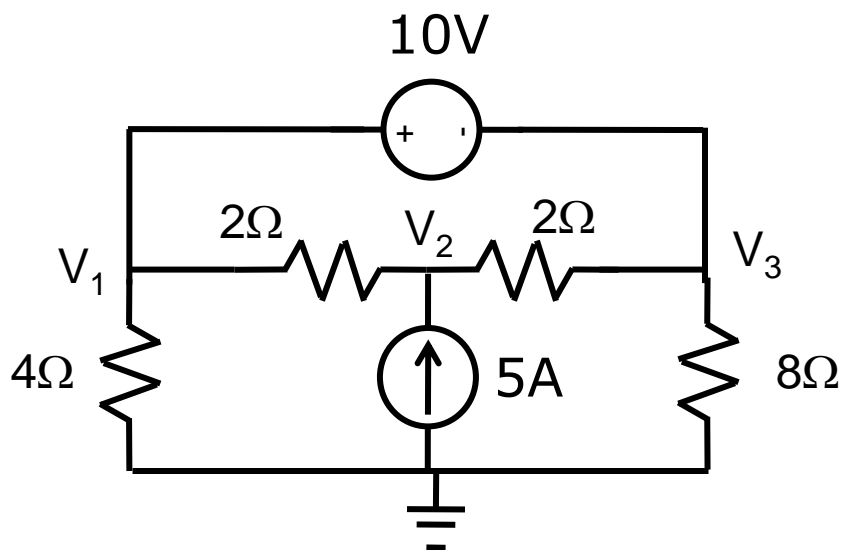
- Find the node voltages in the circuit shown





## Example

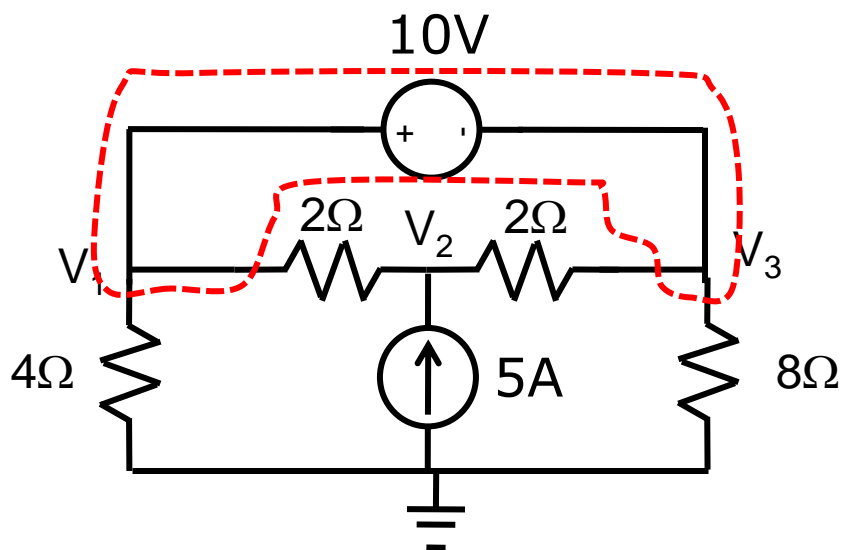
- 3 unknown voltages:  $V_1$ ,  $V_2$ ,  $V_3$
- Need three independent equations (that do not introduce new variables)





## Example

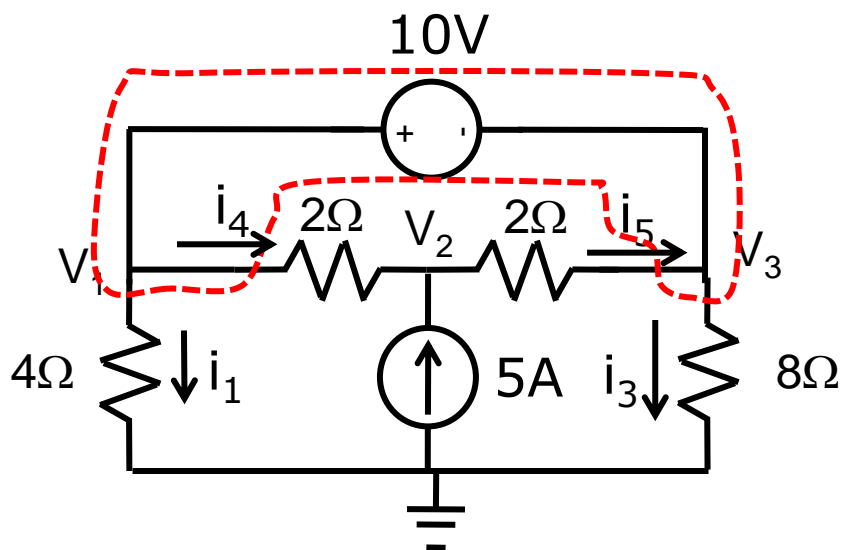
- Identify the supernode





## Example

- Write KCL for the supernode
  - $i_5 = i_1 + i_4 + i_3$  (supernode)
- Write KCL for the other node
  - $5 + i_4 = i_5$  (node 2)

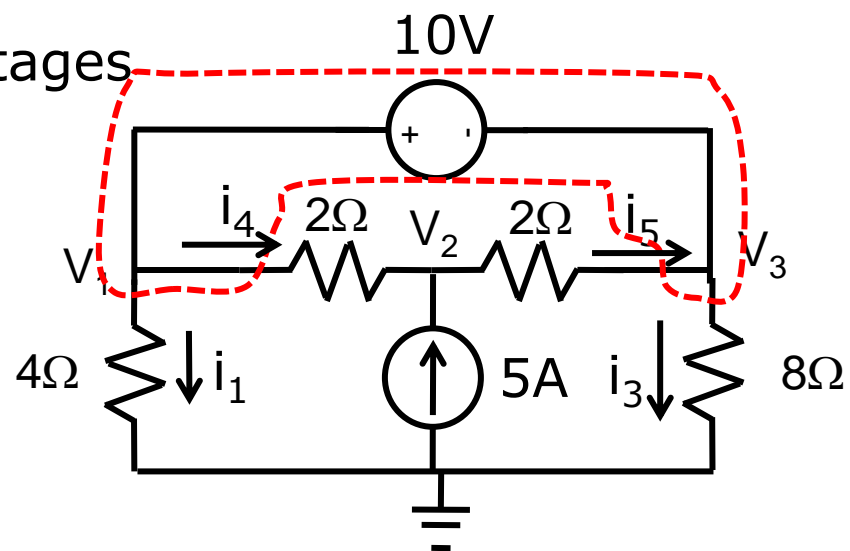




## Example

- Express currents in terms of voltages

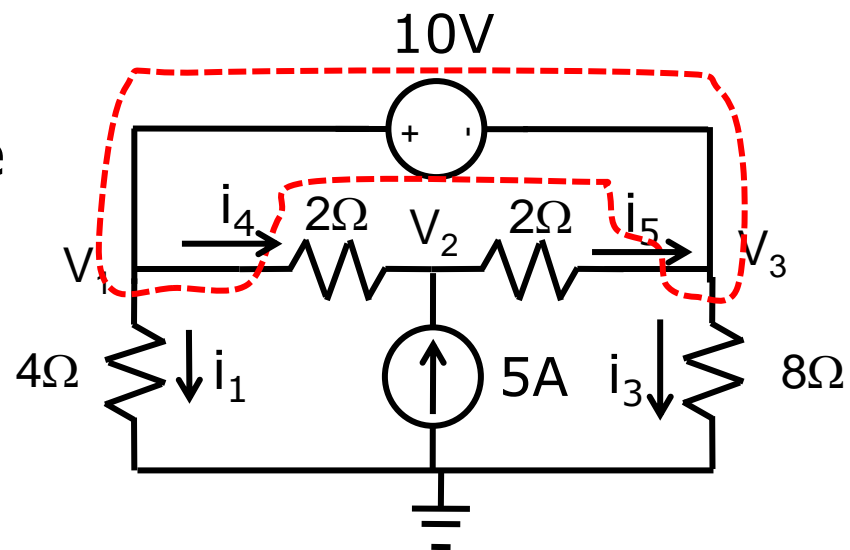
- $i_1 = (V_1 - 0)/4$
- $i_3 = (V_3 - 0)/8$
- $i_4 = (V_1 - V_2)/2$
- $i_5 = (V_2 - V_3)/2$





## Example

- Have two equations
  - KCL for node 2, supernode
- Need one more independent equation
- Do KVL around top loop
  - $10 = 2i_4 + 2i_5$





## Example

- $5 + i_4 = i_5$  (node 2)
- $i_6 = i_1 + i_5 + i_3$  (supernode)
  - $i_1 = (V_1 - 0)/4 = 0.25V_1$
  - $i_3 = (V_3 - 0)/8 = 0.125V_3$
  - $i_4 = (V_1 - V_2)/2 = 0.5V_1 - 0.5V_2$
  - $i_5 = (V_2 - V_3)/2 = 0.5V_2 - 0.5V_3$

$$5 + 0.5V_1 - 0.5V_2 = 0.5V_2 - 0.5V_3 \text{ (solving node 2 eqn)}$$

$$10 + V_1 - V_2 = V_2 - V_3$$

$$0.5V_2 - 0.5V_3 = 0.25V_1 + 0.5V_1 - 0.5V_2 + 0.125V_3 \text{ (supernode eqn)}$$

$$4V_2 - 4V_3 = 2V_1 + 4V_1 - 4V_2 + V_3$$

$$10 = 2i_4 + 2i_5 \text{ (KVL of top loop)}$$

$$10 = V_1 - V_2 + V_2 - V_3$$





## Example

$$10 + V_1 - V_2 = V_2 + V_3 \text{ (node 2)}$$

$$10 = -V_1 + 2V_2 + V_3 \text{ (after rearranging)}$$

$$4V_2 - 4V_3 = 2V_1 + 4V_1 - 4V_2 - V_3 \text{ (supernode)}$$

$$0 = 6V_1 - 8V_2 + 3V_3 \text{ (after rearranging)}$$

$$10 = V_1 - V_2 + V_2 - V_3 \text{ (KVL of top loop)}$$

$$10 = V_1 + 0V_2 - V_3 \text{ (after rearranging)}$$

Solving

$$V_1 = 12.22V$$

$$V_2 = 10V$$

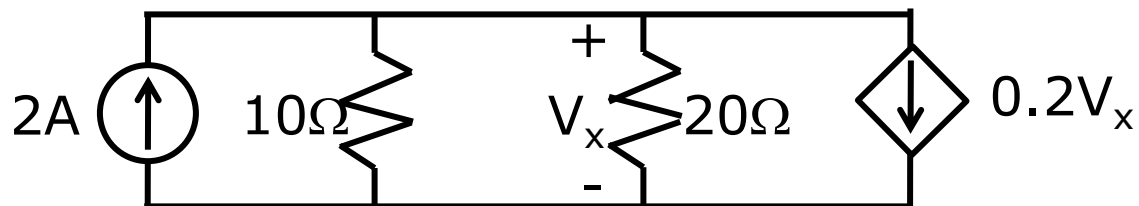
$$V_3 = 2.22V$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 2 & 1 \\ 6 & -8 & 3 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} V_1 \\ V_2 \\ V_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 10 \\ 0 \\ 10 \end{bmatrix}$$



# Example

- Find  $V_x$





## Example

- One node, write equation from KCL
  - $2 = I_1 + I_2 + 0.2V_x$
- From Ohm's Law
  - $I_1 = V_x/10$
  - $I_2 = V_x/20$
- Solving:
  - $2 = 0.1V_x + 0.05V_x + 0.2V_x$
  - $V_x = 5.71V$

