

**Ex:**

Write a Matlab function called `RCplot` that plots the voltage on a capacitor versus time. Specifically, `RCplot` does the following:

- i) Accepts three input values:  $v_{zero}$ ,  $v_{inf}$ , and  $\tau$  representing the initial voltage on the capacitor, the final voltage on the capacitor, and the time constant in the standard formula for capacitor voltage:  $v_C = v_{inf} + (v_{zero} - v_{inf})e^{-t/\tau}$
- ii) Test whether  $\tau$  is negative and, if so, prints an error message and returns to the calling program.
- iii) Creates an array called `t` containing time values from 0 to 1 ms (i.e., 0.001 sec) (inclusive) spaced by 1  $\mu$ sec (i.e.,  $10^{-6}$  seconds).
- iv) Creates an array called `vC` containing capacitor voltage for each time in array `t`. (Use the standard formula for  $v_C$ , above.)
- v) Plots  $v_C$  versus  $t$  as a blue line on an x-y plot.
- vi) Labels the x-axis as "time", the y-axis as "voltage", and titles the plot "Capacitor Voltage".

**SOL'N:**

```
function RCplot(Vzero,Vinf,tau)
% RCplot(Vzero,Vinf,tau)   Plots RC circuit voltage waveform.
%
% Inputs:
% Vzero = voltage at time zero
% Vinf  = voltage at time approaching infinity
% tau   = time constant of circuit

% Test whether time constant is negative (not allowed).
if tau < 0
    display('Error: time constant tau is negative--not allowed!')
    return
end

% Create a 1 msec time array, with samples spaced by 1 usec.
t = 0:1e-6:1e-3;

% Create array of voltages using standard RC solution.
vC = Vinf + (Vzero - Vinf) * exp(-t/tau);

% Plot vC versus time.
plot(t,vC,'b-')

% Add labels to plot.
xlabel('time')
ylabel('voltage')
title('Capacitor Voltage')
```