## Example

The circuit shown in (a) has been divided into two parts. In (b), the right-hand part has been replaced with an equivalent circuit. The left-hand part of the circuit has not been changed. Determine the value of the current $i_{2}$.

(a)

(b)

## Solution:

1. Determine the value of the resistance $R$ in (b) that makes the circuit in (b) equivalent to the circuit in (a).

$$
R=12+\frac{10 \cdot 40}{10+40}=20 \Omega
$$

2. Find the current $i$ and the voltage $v$ shown in (b).
$R$ is in parallel with the $80 \Omega$ resistor. The equivalent resistance, $R \| 80$, is in series with the $16 \Omega$ resistor. Using voltage division gives

$$
v=\frac{R \| 80}{16+(R \| 80)}=\frac{\frac{20 \cdot 80}{20+80}}{16+\frac{20 \cdot 80}{20+80}} \cdot 8=\frac{16}{16+16} \cdot 8=4 \mathrm{~V}
$$

Using Ohm's law

$$
i=\frac{4}{20}=0.2 \mathrm{~A}
$$

Because of the equivalence, the current $i$ and the voltage $v$ shown in (a) are equal to the current $i$ and the voltage $v$ shown in (b).
3. Find the current $i_{2}$ shown from $i$ using current division.

$$
i_{2}=\frac{10}{10+40} \cdot i=\frac{10}{50} \cdot 0.2=0.04 \mathrm{~A}=40 \mathrm{~mA}
$$

How can we check our calculations? Let's apply KVL to the loop shown below


We get

$$
12 i+40 i_{2}-v=0
$$

Notice that this equation involves all three of the values that we calculated. If our values satisfy this equation, it's likely that they are correct. Substituting the calculated values gives

$$
12(0.2)+40(0.04)-4=2.4+1.6-4=0
$$

The calculated values do satisfy the KVL equation and it's likely that they are correct. Suppose we aren't satisfied and want to check further. Apply KCL at the top node of the $80-\Omega$ resistor to get

$$
\frac{8-v}{16}=\frac{v}{80}+i
$$

Substituting the calculated values into this equation gives

$$
\frac{8-4}{16}=\frac{4}{80}+0.2 \quad \Rightarrow \quad 0.25=0.05+0.2
$$

The calculated values do satisfy this KCL equation. We can be confident that they are correct.

## Example:

The circuit shown in (a) has been divided into three parts. In (b), the rightmost part has been replaced with an equivalent circuit. The rest of the circuit has not been changed. The circuit is simplified further in (c). Now the middle and rightmost parts have been replaced by a single equivalent resistance. The leftmost part of the circuit is still unchanged.


## Solution

1. Determine the value of the resistance $R_{1}$ in $(b)$ that makes the circuit in (b) equivalent to the circuit in (a).

$$
\begin{equation*}
R_{1}=4+\frac{12 \cdot 6}{12+6}=8 \Omega \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

2. Determine the value of the resistance $R_{2}$ in (c) that makes the circuit in (c) equivalent to the circuit in (b).

First

$$
40\|10\| R_{1}=40\|10\| 8=\frac{1}{\frac{1}{40}+\frac{1}{10}+\frac{1}{8}}=\frac{1}{0.025+0.1+0.125}=\frac{1}{0.25}=4 \Omega
$$

Then

$$
\begin{equation*}
R_{2}=12+\left(40\|10\| R_{1}\right)=12+(40\|10\| 8)=16 \Omega \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

3. Find the current $i_{1}$ and the voltage $v_{1}$ shown in (c).

Using Ohm's and Kirchhoff's laws

$$
\begin{equation*}
20=16\left(2.5+\frac{v_{1}}{R_{2}}\right)+v_{1}=40+\left(1+\frac{16}{R_{2}}\right) v_{1}=40+2 v_{1} \Rightarrow v_{1}=\frac{-20}{2}=-10 \mathrm{~V} \tag{3}
\end{equation*}
$$

Then using Ohm’s law

$$
\begin{equation*}
i_{1}=\frac{v_{1}}{R_{2}}=\frac{-10}{16}=-0.625 \mathrm{~A} \tag{4}
\end{equation*}
$$

Because circuits (b) and (c) are equivalent, the current $i_{1}$ and the voltage $v_{1}$ shown in (b) are equal to the current $i_{1}$ and the voltage $v_{1}$ shown in (c).
4. Find the current $i_{2}$ and the voltage $v_{2}$ shown in (b).

Using voltage division

$$
\begin{equation*}
v_{2}=\frac{\left(40\|10\| R_{1}\right) v_{1}}{12+\left(40\|10\| R_{1}\right)}=\frac{(40\|10\| 8)(-10)}{12+(40\|10\| 8)}=\frac{4(-10)}{12+4}=-2.5 \mathrm{~V} \tag{5}
\end{equation*}
$$

Then using Ohm's law

$$
\begin{equation*}
i_{2}=\frac{v_{2}}{R_{1}}=\frac{-2.5}{8}=-0.3125 \mathrm{~A} \tag{6}
\end{equation*}
$$

Because circuits (a) and (b) are equivalent, the current $i_{2}$ and the voltage $v_{2}$ shown in (a) are equal to the current $i_{2}$ and the voltage $v_{2}$ shown in (b).
5. Find the current $i_{3}$ shown in (a).

Using current division

$$
\begin{equation*}
i_{3}=\frac{12 i_{2}}{12+6}=\frac{12(-0.3125)}{18}=-0.2083 \mathrm{~A} \tag{7}
\end{equation*}
$$

How can we check our calculations? Let's see if we get the same values using MATLAB. First, collect equations 1-7 in a MATLAB "m-file":


Next, running that m-file gives


As expected, theses values agree with our calculated values.

## Exercises:

Problems 3.7-1 and 3.7-2 in Introduction to Electric Circuits are similar to these examples.

