National University

Faculty of Engineering and Architecture

Voltage and Current Division

1- Voltage Division:

- The source voltage v is divided among the resistors in direct proportion to their resistances
- The larger the resistance, the larger the voltage drop.



we know i = VTOTAL / (R1 + R2 + R3) so the voltage over the first resistor is V1=i R1 V1= R1 VTOTAL / (R1 + R2 + R3)

$$v_1 = V \frac{R_1}{R_1 + R_2 + R_3}$$

• determine the voltage across each resistor





• determine the voltage across each resistor





In general :

• If a voltage divider has N resistors (R1,R2, . . , RN) in series with the source voltage v, the nth resistor (Rn) will have a voltage drop of:



2- Current Division:

• If we know the current flowing into two parallel resistors:



$$v = i \frac{R_1 R_2}{R_1 + R_2} - R_{eq}$$
$$i_1 = \frac{v}{R_1}$$
$$i_1 = \frac{1}{R_1} \left[i \frac{R_1 R_2}{R_1 + R_2} \right]$$
$$i_1 = i \frac{R_2}{R_1 + R_2}$$

• Find i1 and i2 in terms of is



$$i_s = i_1 + i_2$$
$$v_1 = v_2$$
$$i_1 R_1 = i_2 R_2$$

$$i_{2} = i_{1} \frac{R_{1}}{R_{2}} \Longrightarrow i_{s} = i_{1} + i_{1} \frac{R_{1}}{R_{2}} = i_{1} \left(\frac{R_{2} + R_{1}}{R_{2}}\right)$$
$$i_{1} = i_{s} \left(\frac{R_{2}}{R_{1} + R_{2}}\right)$$
$$i_{2} = i_{s} \left(\frac{R_{1}}{R_{1} + R_{2}}\right)$$

 Use Voltage and current division rules to find V_a and i_s:



For more examples:

https://youtu.be/dil7O8vRsy0