


02.3 graphs.connect Element interconnection laws

1 The interconnections among elements constrain across- and through-variable relationships. The first element interconnection law requires the concept of a **contour** “”: a closed path that does not self-intersect superimposed over the linear graph. The first interconnection law is called the **continuity law**.

Definition 02 graphs.2: continuity law

The sum of the through-variables that flow on *into* a contour on a linear graph is zero, or, in terms of generalized through-variables \mathcal{F}_i for N elements with through variables defined as positive into the contour,

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \mathcal{F}_i = 0. \quad (1)$$

2 Contours can enclose any number of nodes and edges, as illustrated in [Figure connect.1](#). **Kirchhoff's current law** (KCL) is the special case of the continuity law for electronic systems.

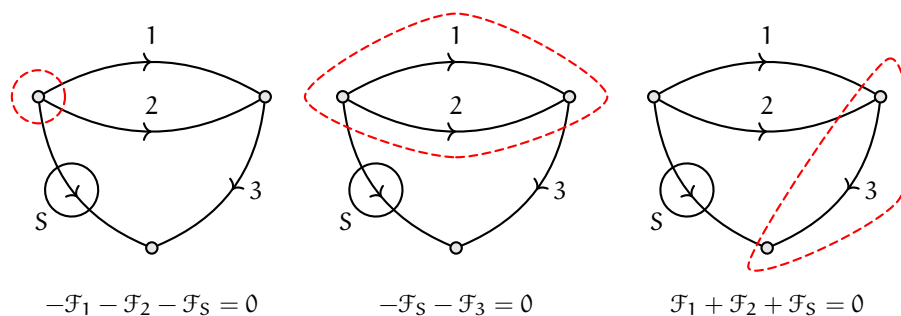



Figure connect.1: illustration of different contours, denoted with red dashed lines “,” contours for which the continuity law applies, as shown below each graph.

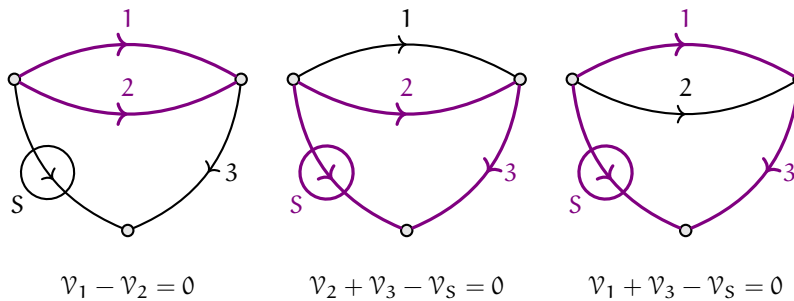


Figure connect.2: illustration of different loops, denoted with violet edges “”, loops for which the compatibility law applies.

3 The second interconnection law we consider requires the concept of a **loop** “”: a continuous series of edges that begin and end at the same node, not reusing any edges.² The second interconnection law is called the **compatibility law**.

Definition 02 graphs.3: compatibility law

The sum of the across-variable drops on edges around any closed loop on a linear graph is zero, or, in terms of generalized across variables v_i for N elements in a loop,

$$\sum_{i=1}^N v_i = 0. \quad (2)$$

A loop can be “inner” or “outer,” as shown in [Figure connect.2](#). **Kirchhoff’s voltage law** (KVL) is the special case of the compatibility law for electronic systems.

Example 02.3 graphs.connect-1

For the system shown, (a) write three unique continuity and three unique compatibility equations. Moreover, (b) write a continuity equation solved for \mathcal{F}_4 in terms of \mathcal{F}_S and \mathcal{F}_1 . Finally, (c) write a compatibility equation

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²Technically, we need not restrict the definition to series that do not reuse edges for purposes of the compatibility law, but these loops are superfluous and we exclude them here.

• solved for v_5 in terms of v_s , v_3 , and v_4 .

