Thevenin Equivalents & Max Power Transfer

EE 206 Circuits I

Jake Glower - Lecture #11

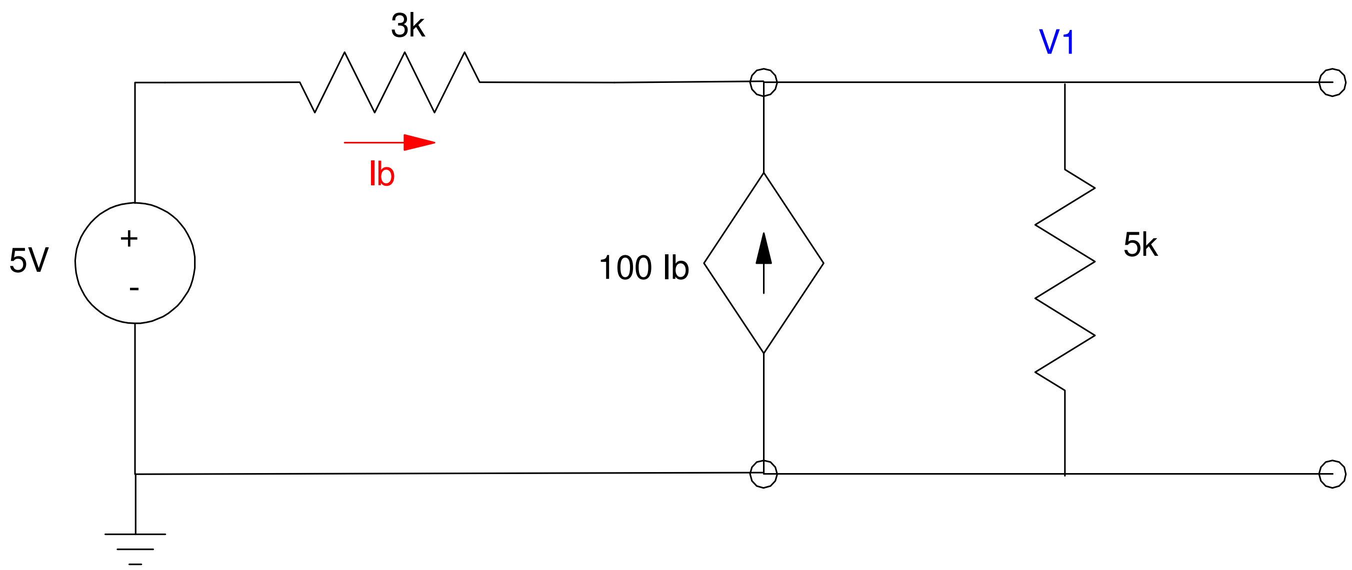
Please visit Bison Academy for corresponding
lecture notes, homework sets, and solutions

Thevenin and Norton Equivalents (take 2)

Sometimes, the Thevenin resistance isn't obvious.

- If so, apply a test voltage and compute the current draw
- The Thevenin resitance looking is is Vin / Iin

Example 1: Determine the Thevenin equivalent for the following circuit



V_{th}: Determine the open-circuit voltage. Write the voltage node equation at V1

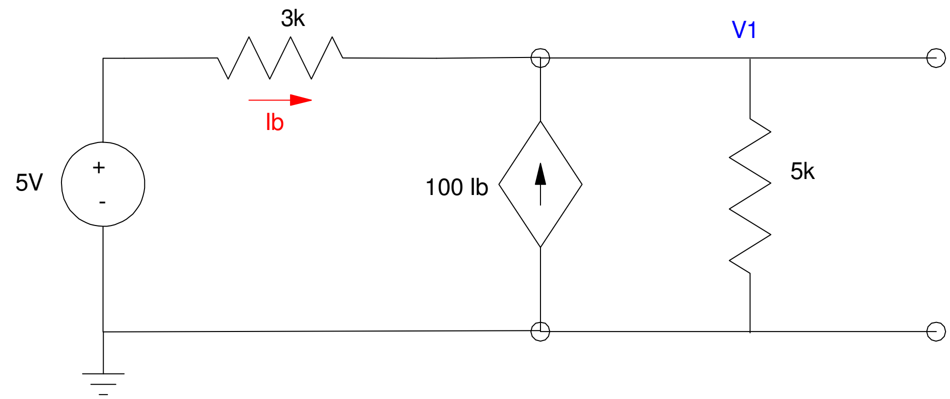
$$I_b = \frac{5 - V_1}{3k}$$

$$\frac{V_1 - 5}{3k} - 100 I_b + \frac{V_1}{5k} = 0$$

Substitute and solve

$$V_1 = \frac{\frac{101}{3k}}{\frac{101}{3k} + \frac{1}{5k}} 5V = 4.9705V$$

This is V_{th}.

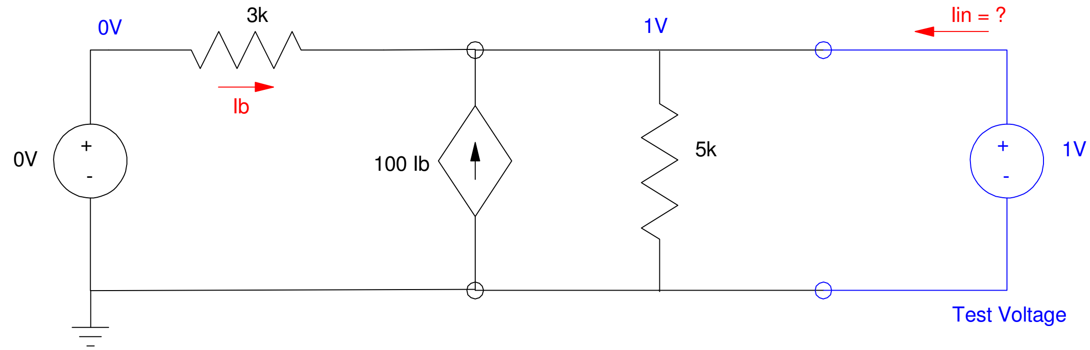


R_{th}:

- Turn off the voltage source
- Measure the resistance

This isn't obvious. So

- Apply a 1V test voltage
- Compute the current drwa (Iin)



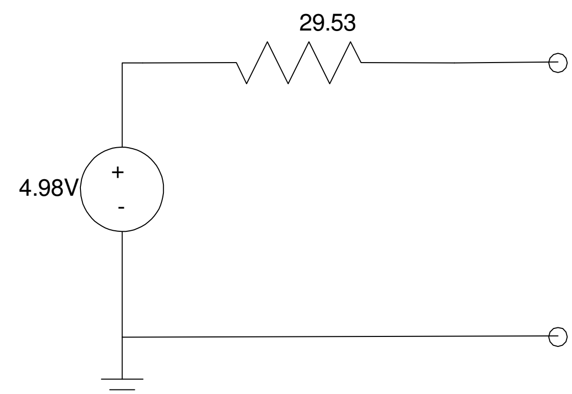
$$I_b = \frac{0V - 1V}{3k}$$

$$I_{in} = \frac{1V - 0V}{3k} - 100 I_b + \frac{1V}{5k}$$

$$I_{in} = 33.87mA$$

So

$$R_{th} = \frac{V_{in}}{I_{in}} = \frac{1V}{33.87mA} = 29.53\Omega$$



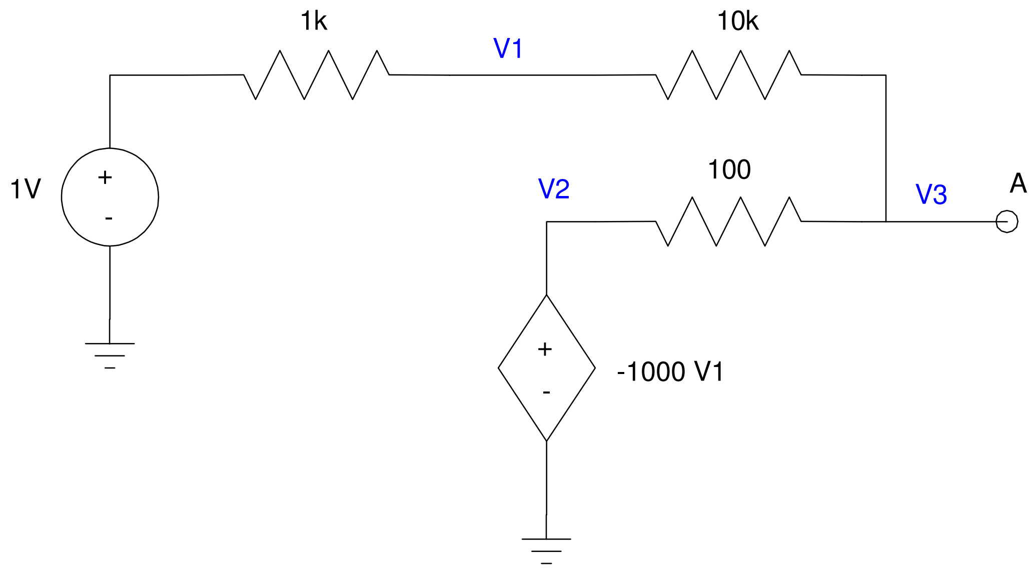
Example 2: Determine the Thevenin equivalent

V_{th}: Find V3 (open circuit voltage)

$$V_2 = -1000V_1$$

$$\frac{V_1 - 1}{1k} + \frac{V_1 - V_3}{10k} = 0$$

$$\frac{V_3 - V_1}{10k} + \frac{V_3 - V_2}{100} = 0$$



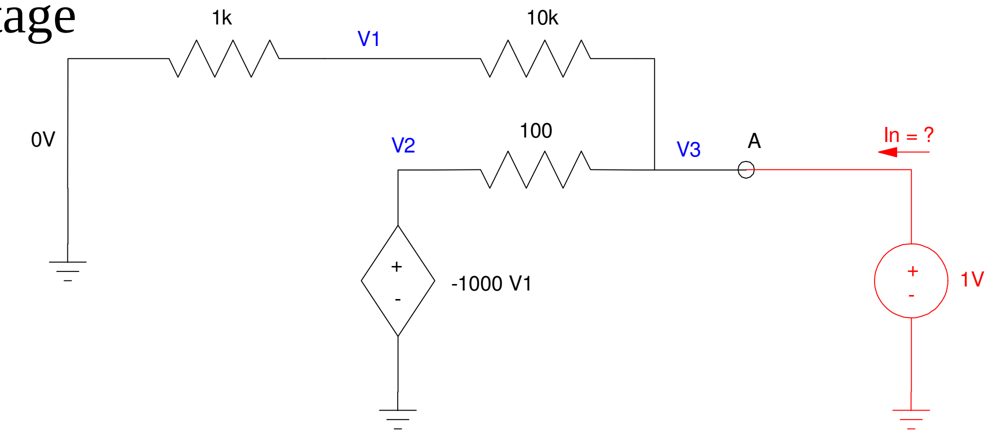
Solve (time passes....)

```
A = [1000,1,0;11,0,-1;-1,-100,101];
B = [0;10;0];
V =  inv(A)*B
```

```
V1    0.0100
V2   -9.9891
V3   -9.8901     =  Vth
```

R_{th}:

- Turn off voltage sources and measure the resistance
- Since this isn't obvious, apply a 1V test voltage



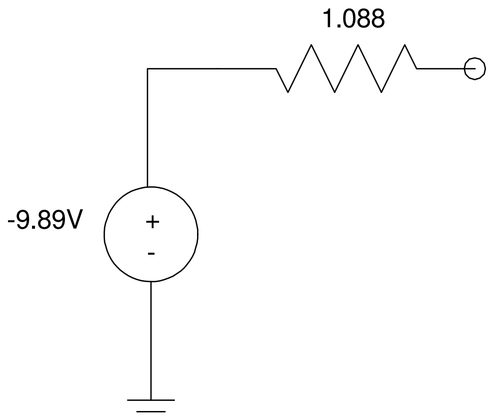
$$V_1 = \frac{1k}{1k+10k} \cdot 1V = 90.91mV$$

$$V_2 = -1000V_1 = -90.91V$$

$$I_{in} = \frac{1V}{11k} + \frac{1V-(-90.91V)}{100} = 919.2mA$$

$$R_{in} = \frac{V_{in}}{I_{in}} = \frac{1V}{919.2mA} = 1.088\Omega$$

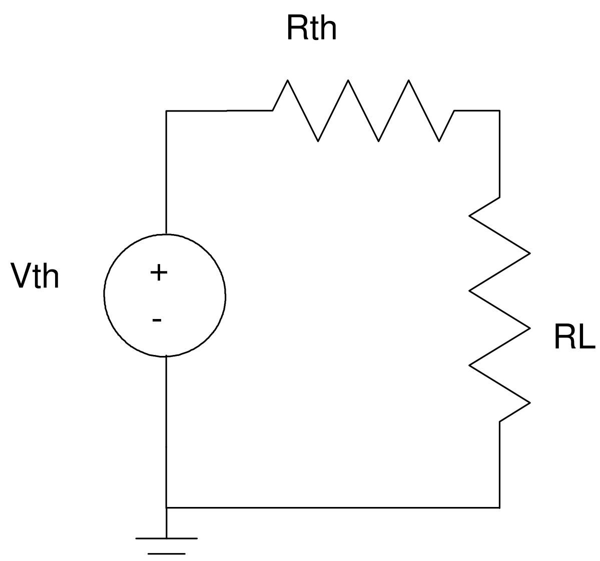
So, the Thevenin equivalent is...



Max Power Transfer

What resistance (R_L) maximizes the power to the load?

- (V_{th}, R_{th}) models a solar panel. What load maximizes the power the solar cell produces?
- (V_{th}, R_{th}) models a stereo. What speaker (R_L) maximizes the output power?



Case 1: R_{th} is fixed. Find R_L to maximize the power to the load.

Note that there is a maximum point:

- If $R_L = 0$, the power to the load is zero
- If R_L = infinity, I = 0 and the power to the load is again zero.

Somewhere between $R_L = 0$ and R_L = infinity is a maximum power transfer.

$$I = \frac{V_{th}}{R_{th}+R_L}$$

$$P = I^2 R_L$$

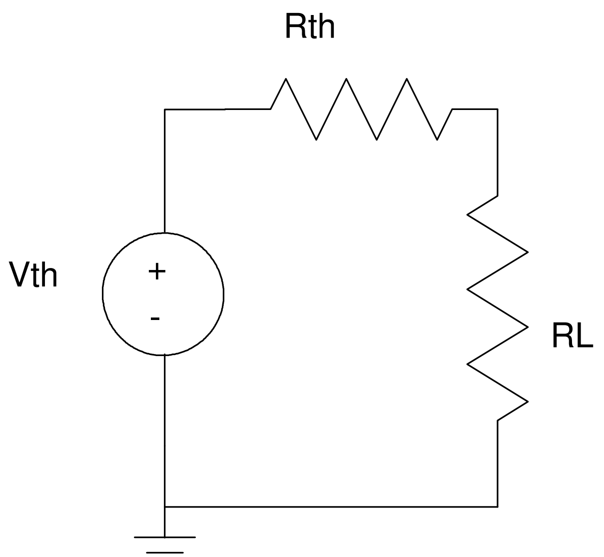
$$P = \frac{R_L}{(R_{th}+R_L)^2} \quad V_{th}$$

$$\frac{d}{dR_L} \frac{R_L}{(R_{th}+R_L)^2} = 0$$

$$(R_L + R_{th})(R_{th} - R_L) = 0$$

$R_L = R_{th}$ *maximum*

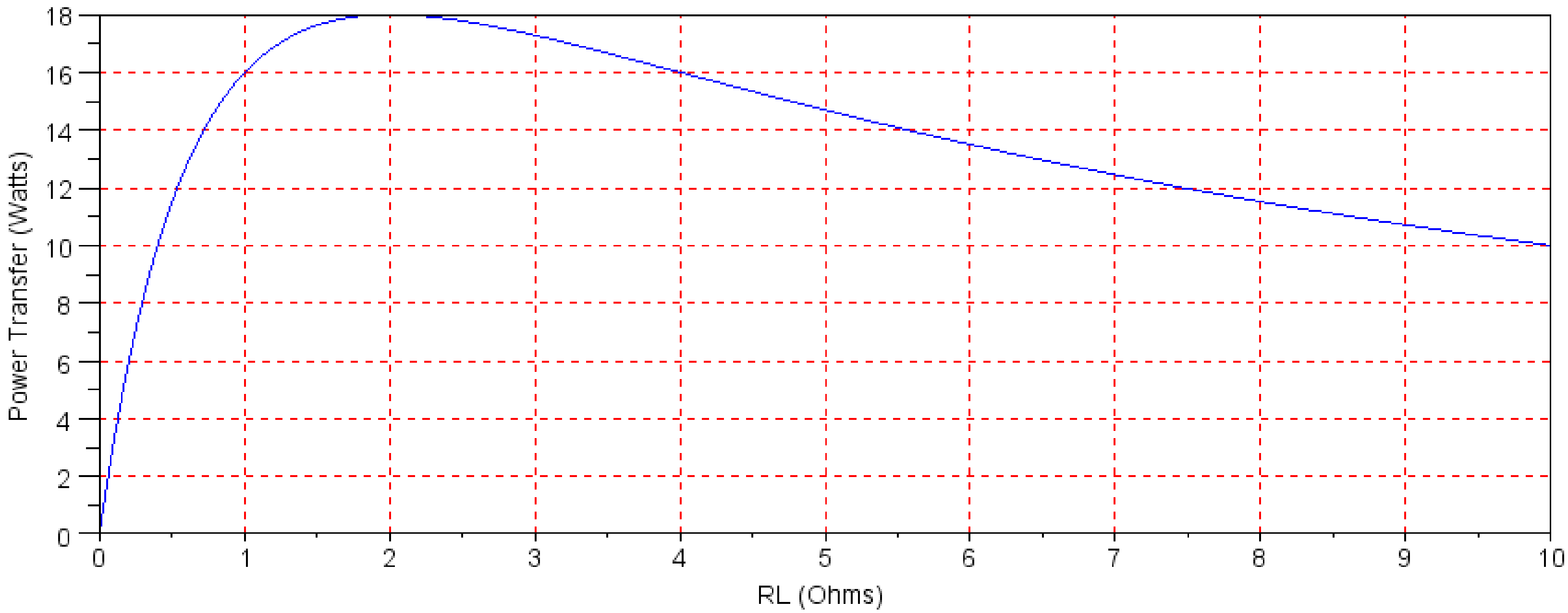
$R_L = -R_{th}$ *minimum*



Assume for instance that V_{th} = 12V and R_{th} = 2 Ohms:

```
Vin = 12;
Rth = 2;
RL = [0:0.01:10]';
I = Vin ./ (Rth + RL);
P = (I .^ 2) .* RL;
```

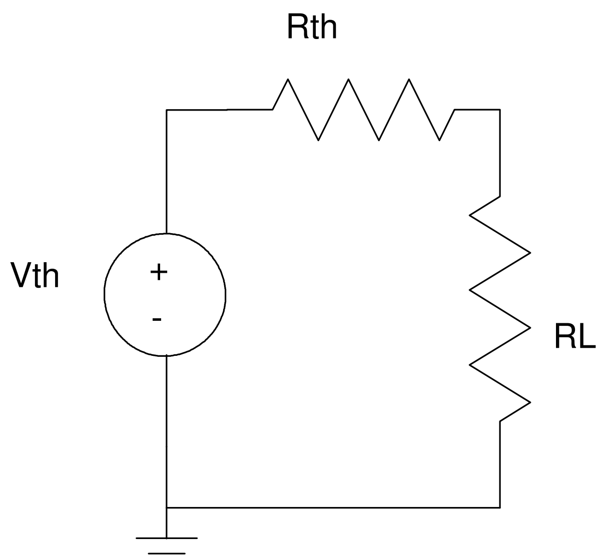
Note that at maximum power transfer, you are 50% efficient



Case 2: R_L is fixed. Find R_{th} to maximize the power to the load.

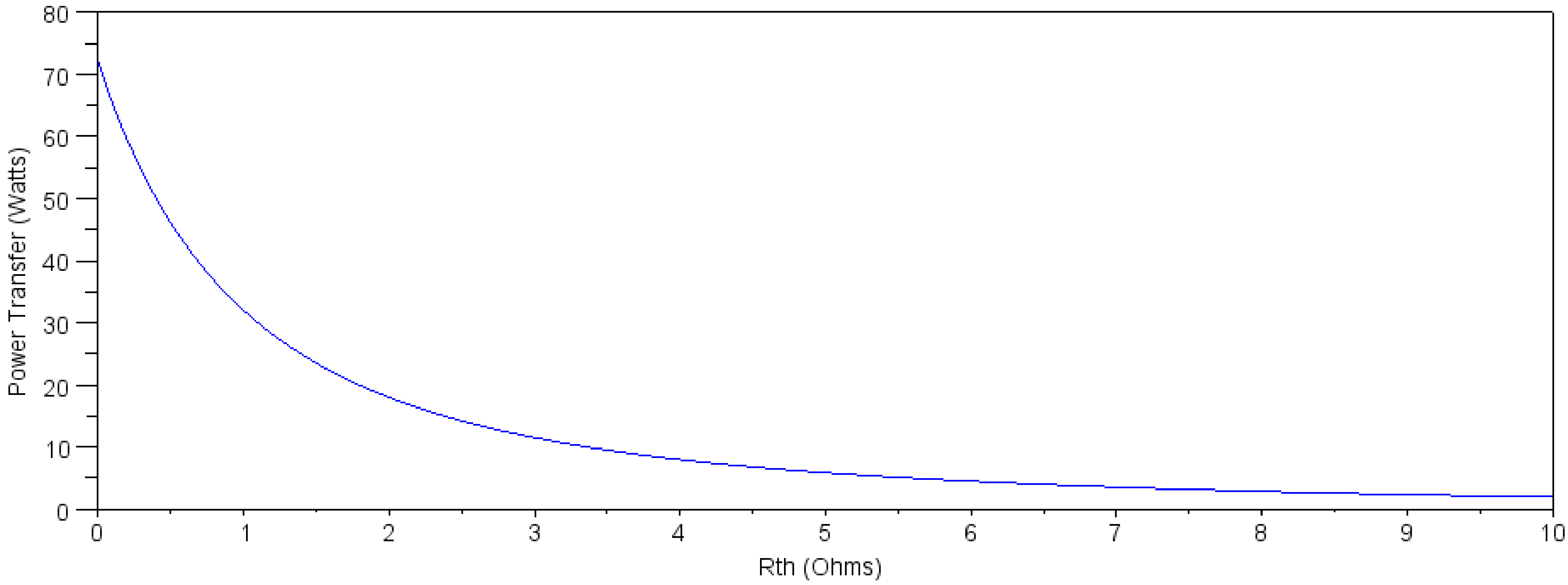
The solution in this case is *not* $R_{th} = R_L$

- Maximum is when $R_{th} = -R_L$
- Closest you can get is $R_{th} = 0$



V_{th} = 12V and R_L = 2 Ohms

```
Vth = 12;
RL = 2;
Rth = [0:0.01:10]';
I = Vth ./ (RL + Rth);
P = ( I .^ 2 ) .* RL;
plot(Rth, P);
```



Case 3: Find R_L to maximize the efficiency of the system.

Efficiency is the power to the load divided by the total power dissipated.

$$eff = \frac{P_{Load}}{P_{total}}$$

or

$$eff = \frac{I^2 R_L}{I^2 (R_{th} + R_L)} = \frac{R_L}{R_L + R_{th}}$$

Max efficiency is

- R_L = infinity
- Power = 0

That's one of the problems of delivering power to a load

- For high efficiency, you want $R_L >> R_{th}$
- For maximum power, you want $R_L = R_{th}$