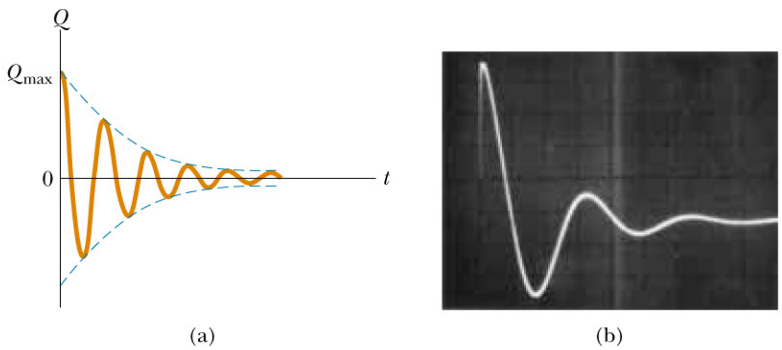

Figure 32.21 (a) Charge versus time for a damped *RLC* circuit. The charge decays in this way when $R \ll \sqrt{4L/C}$. The *Q*-versus-*t* curve represents a plot of Equation 32.31. (b) Oscilloscope pattern showing the decay in the oscillations of an *RLC* circuit. The parameters used were $R = 75\ \Omega$, $L = 10$ mH, and $C = 0.19\ \mu$F.

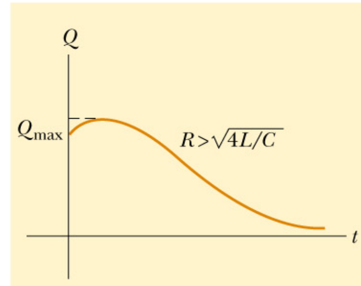

Figure 32.22 Plot of *Q* versus *t* for an overdamped *RLC* circuit, which occurs for values of $R > \sqrt{4L/C}$.

SUMMARY

When the current in a coil changes with time, an emf is induced in the coil according to Faraday's law. The **self-induced emf** is

$$\mathcal{E}_L = -L\frac{dI}{dt} \qquad \textbf{(32.1)}$$

where L is the **inductance** of the coil. Inductance is a measure of how much opposition an electrical device offers to a change in current passing through the device. Inductance has the SI unit of **henry** (H), where $1\ \text{H} = 1\ \text{V}\cdot\text{s/A}$.

The inductance of any coil is

$$L = \frac{N\Phi_B}{I} \qquad \textbf{(32.2)}$$

where Φ_B is the magnetic flux through the coil and N is the total number of turns. The inductance of a device depends on its geometry. For example, the inductance of an air-core solenoid is

$$L = \frac{\mu_0 N^2 A}{\ell} \qquad \textbf{(32.4)}$$

where A is the cross-sectional area, and ℓ is the length of the solenoid.

If a resistor and inductor are connected in series to a battery of emf $\mathcal{E}$, and if a switch in the circuit is thrown closed at $t = 0$, then the current in the circuit varies in time according to the expression

$$I = \frac{\mathcal{E}}{R}(1 - e^{-t/\tau}) \qquad \textbf{(32.7)}$$

where $\tau = L/R$ is the time constant of the *RL* circuit. That is, the current increases to an equilibrium value of $\mathcal{E}/R$ after a time that is long compared with τ. If the battery in the circuit is replaced by a resistanceless wire, the current decays exponentially with time according to the expression

$$I = \frac{\mathcal{E}}{R}e^{-t/\tau} \qquad \textbf{(32.10)}$$

where $\mathcal{E}/R$ is the initial current in the circuit.