Chapter 2

Review of Signal Processing Basics

Marc T. Thompson, Ph.D. Thompson Consulting, Inc. 9 Jacob Gates Road Harvard, MA 01451 Phone: (978) 456-7722 Fax: (240) 414-2655 Email: marctt@thompsonrd.com Web: http://www.thompsonrd.com

Slides to accompany *Intuitive Analog Circuit Design* by Marc T. Thompson © 2006-2008, M. Thompson

Summary

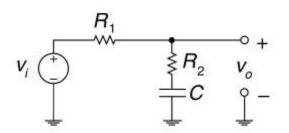
- Review of 1st-order systems
- Relationship between bandwidth and risetime
- 2nd order systems
- Resonance, damping and quality factor
- Energy methods
- Transfer functions, pole/zero plots and Bode plots
- Calculating risetime for systems in cascade
- Comments on PSPICE

Laplace Notation

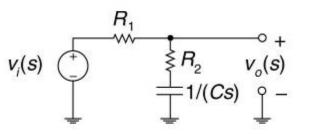
- Basic idea: Laplace transform converts differential equation to algebraic equation $s \Rightarrow \frac{d}{s}$
- Laplace method is used in sinusoidal steady state after all startup transients have died out

Circuit domain	Laplace (s) domain
Resistance, R	R
Inductance L	Ls
Capacitance C	1
	\overline{Cs}

<u>Circuit</u>



Laplace transformed circuit

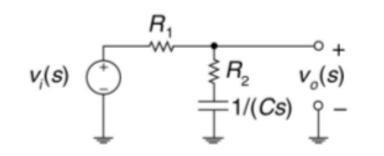


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System Function H(s)

• Find "transfer function" H(s) (also called "transfer function") by solving Laplace transformed circuit



$$H(s) = \frac{v_o(s)}{v_i(s)} = \frac{R_2 + \frac{1}{Cs}}{R_1 + R_2 + \frac{1}{Cs}} = \frac{R_2Cs + 1}{(R_1 + R_2)Cs + 1}$$

Does this System Function Make Sense Intuitively?

$$H_{1}(s) = \frac{v_{o}(s)}{v_{i}(s)} = \frac{R_{2} + \frac{1}{Cs}}{R_{1} + R_{2} + \frac{1}{Cs}} = \frac{R_{2}Cs + 1}{(R_{1} + R_{2})Cs + 1} \qquad v_{i}(s) \stackrel{R_{1}}{\longleftarrow} \stackrel{R_{2}}{\longleftarrow} \stackrel{o +}{\longleftarrow} \stackrel{R_{2}}{\longleftarrow} \stackrel{o +}{\longleftarrow} \stackrel{R_{2}}{\longleftarrow} \stackrel{o +}{\longleftarrow} \stackrel{R_{2}}{\longleftarrow} \stackrel{v_{o}(s)}{\longleftarrow} \stackrel{R_{2}}{\longleftarrow} \stackrel{R_$$

At very low frequencies (s \rightarrow 0), the capacitor is an open-circuit:

$$H_1(s)|_{s\to 0} \approx 1$$

At very high frequencies (s $\rightarrow \infty$), the capacitor is an short-circuit:

$$H_1(s)\Big|_{s\to\infty} \approx \frac{R_2}{\left(R_1 + R_2\right)}$$

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Does this System Function Make Sense Intuitively?

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First-Order System

• Voltage-driven RC lowpass filter

$$v_{o}(t) = V(1 - e^{\frac{-t}{\tau}})$$

$$v_{o}(t) = \frac{V(1 - e^{\frac{-t}{\tau}})}{k_{r}(t)} = \frac{V}{R} e^{\frac{-t}{\tau}}$$

$$\tau = RC$$

$$\tau = RC$$

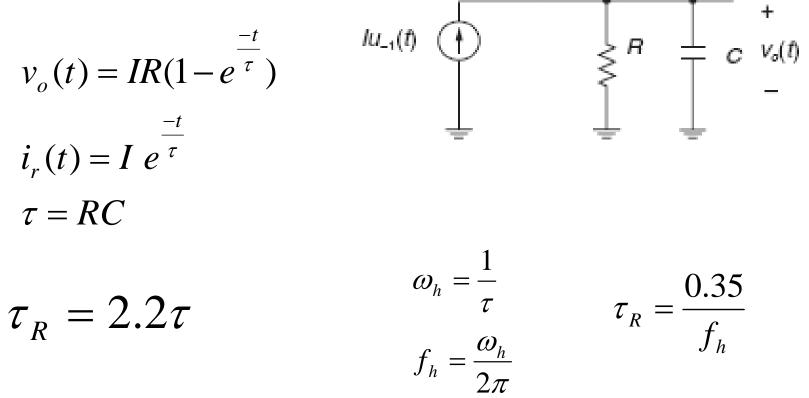
$$\tau = RC$$

$$\tau_{R} = 2.2\tau$$

$$\tau_{R} = \frac{0.35}{f_{h}}$$

Another First-Order System

• Current-driven RC



First-Order Systems --- Some Details

• Frequency response:

$$H(s) = \frac{1}{\tau s + 1}$$

• Phase response:

$$\angle H(s) = -\tan^{-1}(\omega\tau)$$

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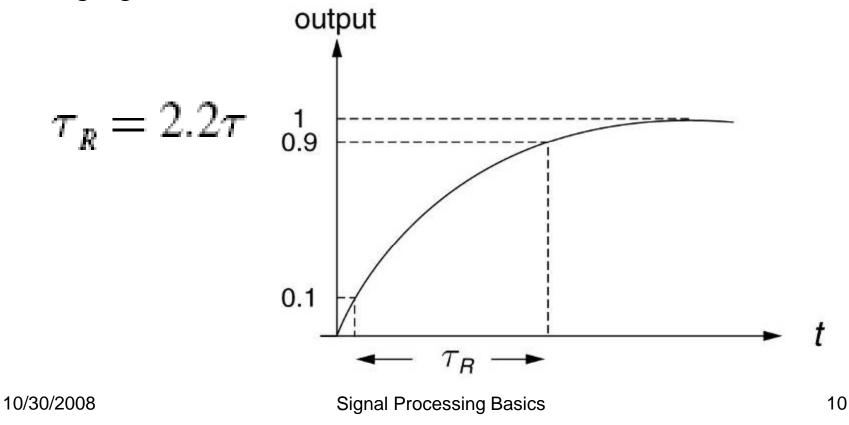
• -3 dB bandwidth:

$$\omega_h = \frac{1}{\tau}$$

$$f_h = \frac{\omega_h}{2\pi}$$

10 - 90% Risetime

- Defined as the time it takes a step response to transition from 10% of final value to 90% of final value
- This plot is for a first-order system with no overshoot or ringing



Relationship Between Risetime and Bandwidth

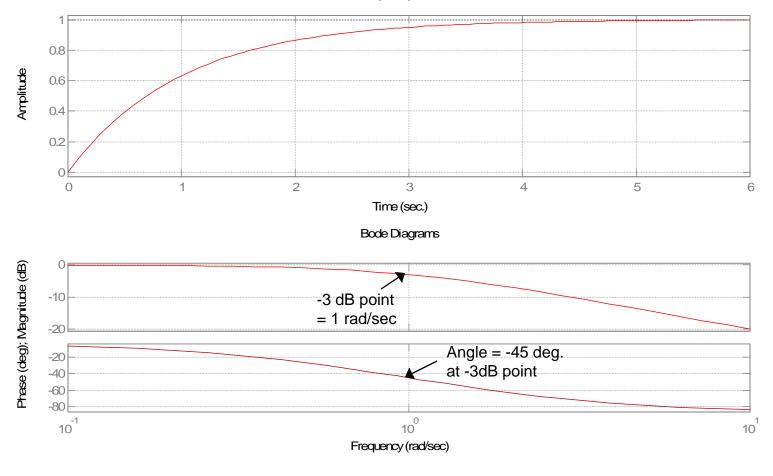
• Exact for a first-order system:

$$\tau_R = \frac{0.35}{f_h}$$

• Approximate for higher-order systems

First-Order System Step and Frequency Response

Step Response



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"Group Delay"

$$H(s) = \frac{1}{\tau s + 1}$$

$$H(j\omega) = \frac{1}{j\omega\tau + 1}$$

$$|H(j\omega)| = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(\omega\tau)^2 + 1}}$$

$$\angle H(j\omega) = -\tan^{-1}(\omega\tau)$$

$$G(j\omega) = \frac{-d\angle H(j\omega)}{d\omega} = \frac{\tau}{1 + (\omega\tau)^2}$$

Group delay is a measure of how much time delay the frequency components in a signal undergo. Mathematically, the group delay of a system is the negative derivative of the phase with respect to omega. To find group delay for the first-order system, we make use of the identity: $\frac{d}{dx}(\tan^{-1}u) = \frac{1}{1+u^2}\frac{du}{dx}$

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First-Order System --- Low and High Frequency Behavior

• Closed-form solution for frequency response:

$$H(s) = \frac{1}{\tau s + 1}$$
$$H(j\omega) = \frac{1}{j\omega\tau + 1}$$
$$|H(j\omega)| = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(\omega\tau)^2 + 1}}$$
$$\angle H(j\omega) = -\tan^{-1}(\omega\tau)$$

• How does this response behave at frequencies well above and well below the pole frequency ?

First-Order System --- High Frequency Behavior

For high frequencies, where $\omega \tau >> 1$ $\tan^{-1}(x) = \pi/2 - 1/x + 1/(3x^3) - \dots$ for x > 1 $|H(j\omega)|_{\omega \tau >> 1} \approx \frac{1}{\omega \tau}$ $\angle H(j\omega)_{\omega \tau >> 1} \approx -\frac{\pi}{2} + \frac{1}{\omega \tau}$

First-Order System --- Low Frequency Behavior

For low frequencies, where $\omega \tau \ll 1$

$$\tan^{-1}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^{3}/3 + \mathbf{x}^{5}/5 - \dots \text{ for } \mathbf{x} < 1 \text{ and } \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+x}} \approx 1 - \frac{x}{2} \text{ for } \mathbf{x} << 1$$
$$\left| H(j\omega) \right|_{\omega\tau <<1} \approx 1 - \frac{1}{2} (\omega\tau)^{2} \approx 1$$
$$\angle H(j\omega)_{\omega\tau <<1} \approx -\omega\tau$$

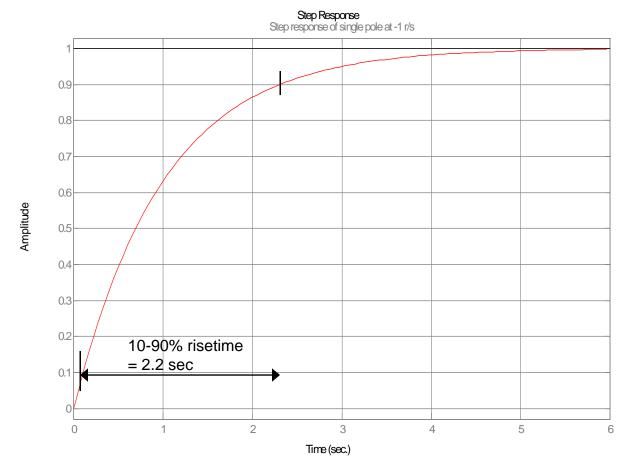
Well below the pole frequency, the magnitude is approximately 1. The phase is approximately linear phase, behaving like an approximate time delay. "Group delay" is negative derivative of angle with respect to frequency, or:

$$G(j\omega)_{\omega\tau <<1} \approx \tau$$

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Step Response of Single Pole

- Single pole at -1 rad/sec.
- Note that risetime = 2.2 sec

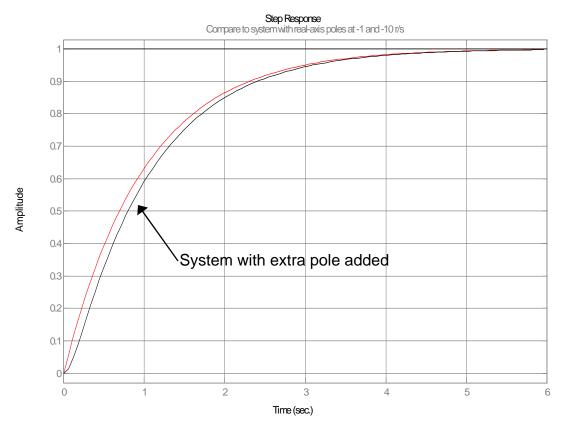


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Step Response of Single Pole with High Frequency Pole Added

- Poles at -1 rad/sec. and -10 rad/sec.
- Note the time delay of approximately 0.1 sec.



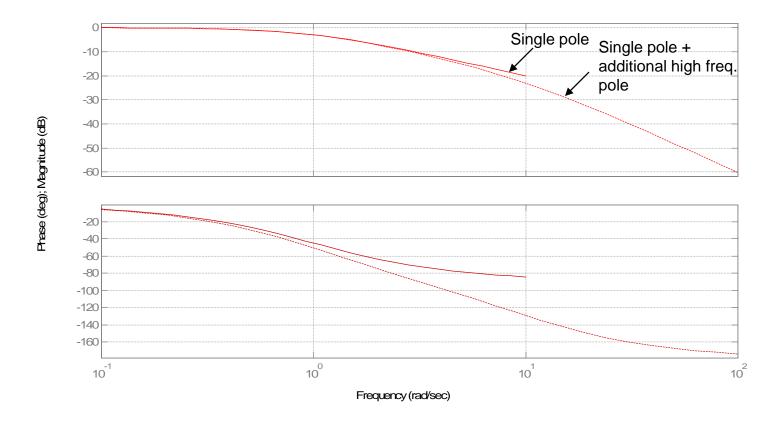
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Signal Processing Basics

Bode Plot Single Pole with High Frequency Pole Added

• Poles at -1 rad/sec. and -10 rad/sec.

Compare to system with real-axis poles at -1 and -10 r/s



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Second-Order Mechanical System

Spring force: $f_y = -ky$

Newton's law for moving mass: $f_y = -ky = M \frac{d^2y}{dt^2}$

Differential equation for mass motion: $M \frac{d^2y}{dt^2} + ky = 0$

Guess a solution of the form: $y(t) = Y_o \sin(\omega t)$

Signal Processing Basics

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Second-Order Mechanical System

$$y(t) = Y_o \sin(\omega t)$$

Put this proposed solution into the differential equation:

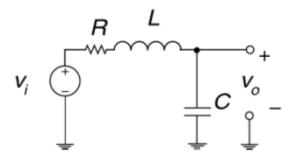
$$M\left(-\omega^2 Y_o \sin\left(\omega t\right)\right) + k\left(Y_o \sin\left(\omega t\right)\right) = 0$$

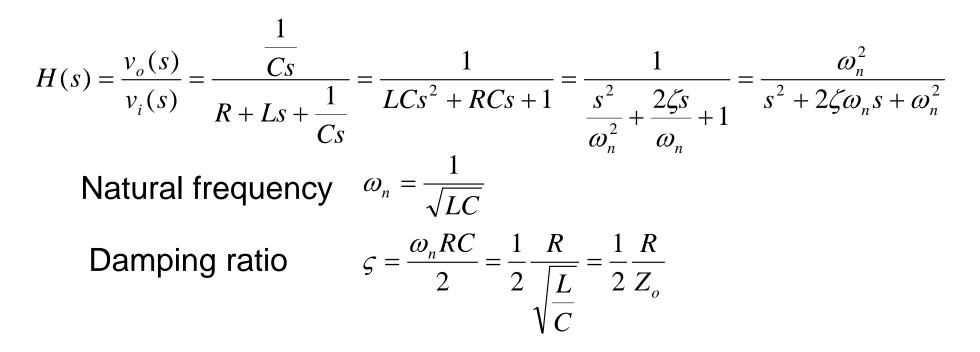
This solution works if:

$$\omega = \sqrt{\frac{k}{M}}$$

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Second-Order Electrical System





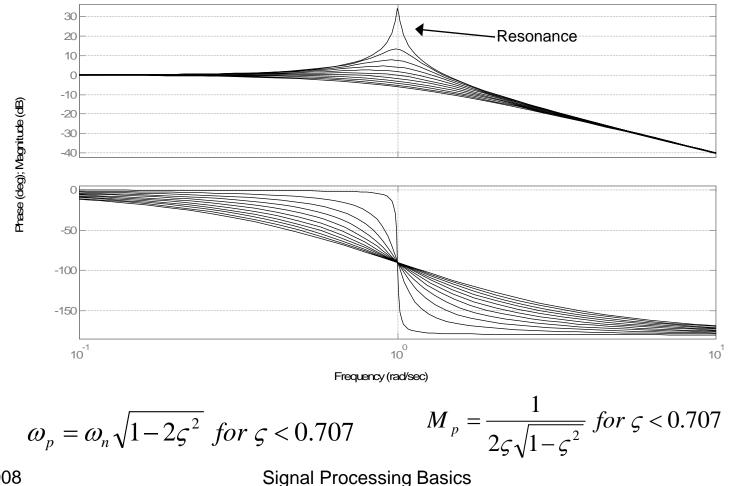
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Second-Order System Frequency Response

$$H(j\omega) = \frac{1}{\frac{2j\zeta\omega}{\omega_n} + \left(1 - \frac{\omega^2}{\omega_n^2}\right)}$$
$$|H(j\omega)| = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\left(\frac{2\zeta\omega}{\omega_n}\right)^2 + \left(1 - \frac{\omega^2}{\omega_n^2}\right)^2}}$$
$$\angle H(j\omega) = -\tan^{-1}\frac{\left(\frac{2\zeta\omega}{\omega_n}\right)}{\left(1 - \frac{\omega^2}{\omega_n^2}\right)} = -\tan^{-1}\left(\frac{2\zeta\omega\omega_n}{\omega_n^2 - \omega^2}\right)$$

Second-Order System Frequency Response

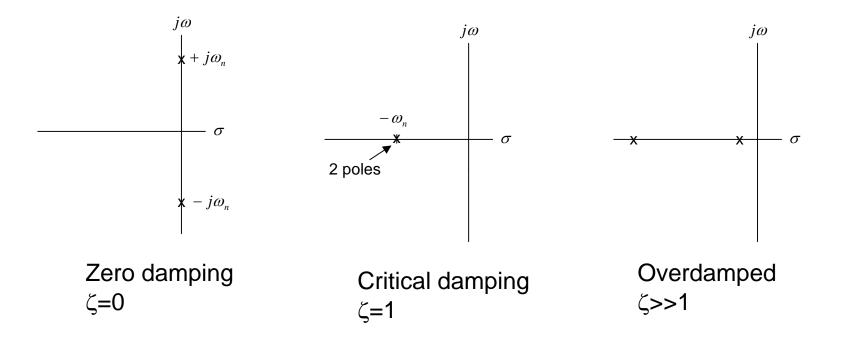
Frequency response for natural frequency = 1 and various damping ratios



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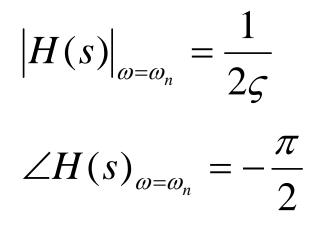
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Resonant Circuit --- Pole/Zero Plots



Second-Order System Frequency Response at Natural Frequency

• Now, what happens if we excite this system exactly at the natural frequency, or $\omega = \omega_n$. ? The response is:

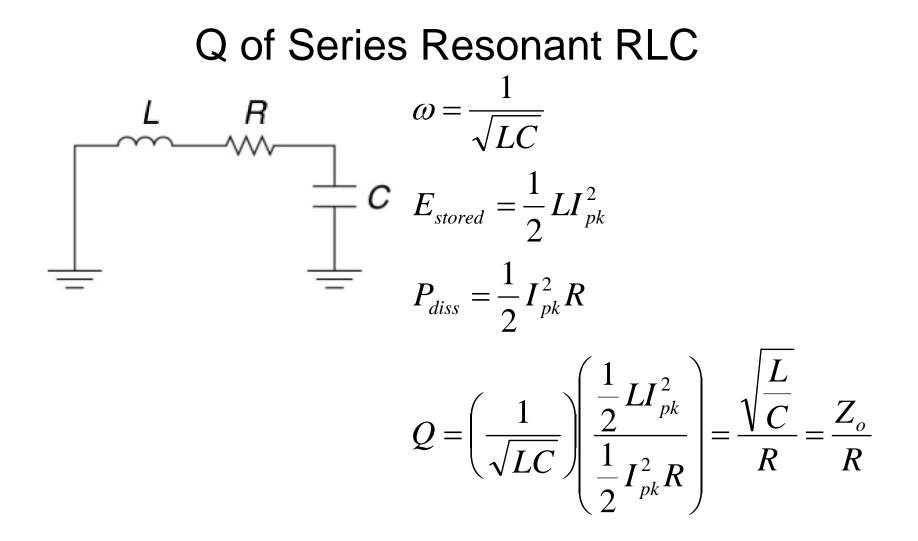


Quality Factor, or "Q"

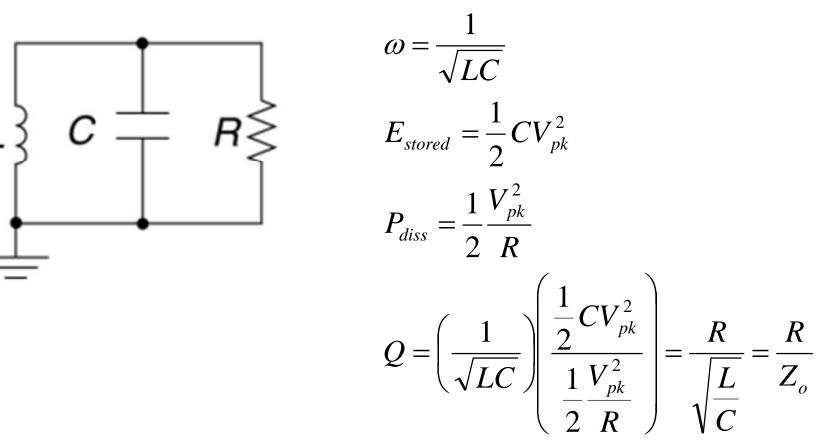
Quality factor is defined as:

$$\omega rac{E_{stored}}{P_{diss}}$$

where E_{stored} is the peak stored energy in the system and P_{diss} is the average power dissipation.



Q of Parallel Resonant RLC



Relationship Between Damping Ratio and "Quality Factor" Q

 A second order system can also be characterized by it's "Quality Factor" or Q.

$$\left|H(s)\right|_{\omega=\omega_n}=\frac{1}{2\varsigma}=Q$$

• Use Q in transfer function of series resonant circuit:

$$H(s) = \frac{1}{\frac{s^2}{\omega_n^2} + \frac{2\zeta s}{\omega_n} + 1} = \frac{1}{\frac{s^2}{\omega_n^2} + \frac{s}{\omega_n Q} + 1}$$

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Series Resonant Circuit at Resonance The magnitude of this transfer function is:

$$|H(s)| = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\left(1 - \frac{\omega^2}{\omega_n^2}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\omega}{\omega_n Q}\right)^2}}$$

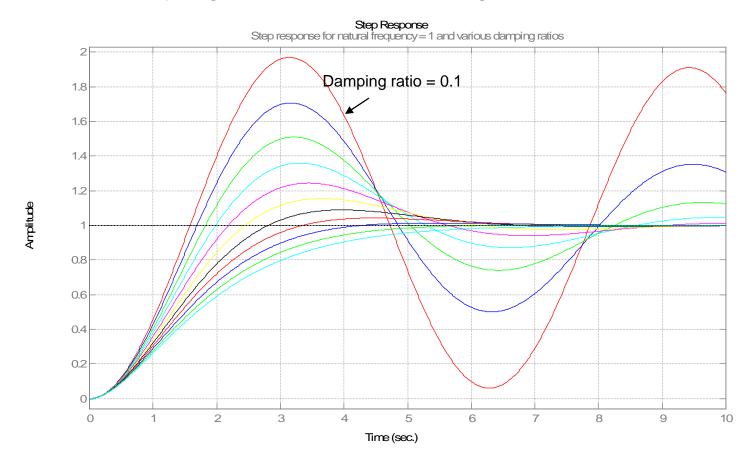
Exactly at resonance ($\omega = \omega_n$), the magnitude of the transfer function is:

$$|H(s)|_{\omega=\omega_n}=Q$$

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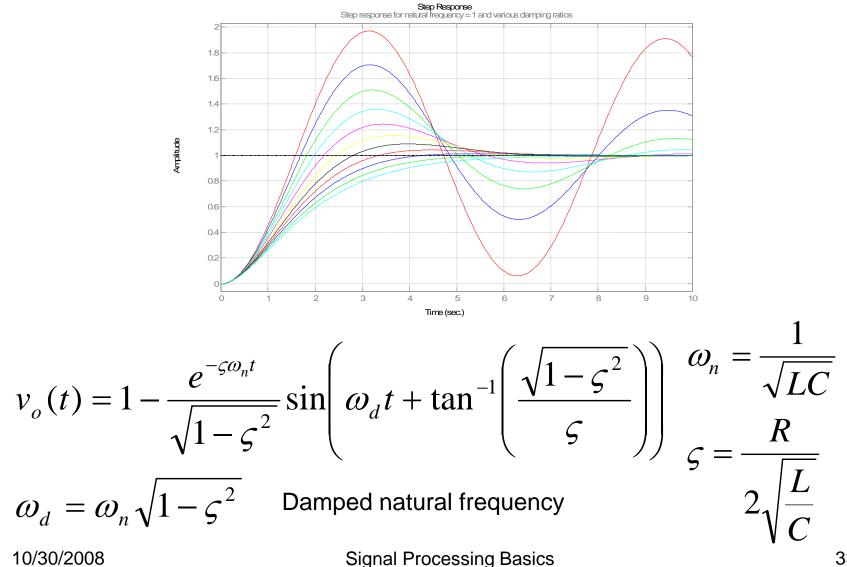
Second-Order System Step Response

• Shown for varying values of damping ratio.



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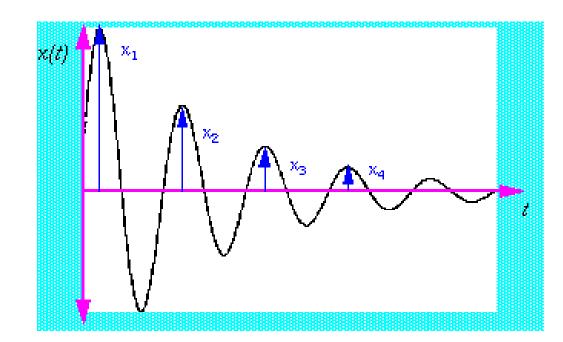
Second-Order System Step Response



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Logarithmic Decrement

 Method of estimating damping ratio based on measurement



$$\frac{x_1}{x_2} = \frac{Ce^{-\varsigma\omega_n t_1}\sin(\omega_d t_1 + \phi_1)}{Ce^{-\varsigma\omega_n t_2}\sin(\omega_d t_2 + \phi_1)}$$

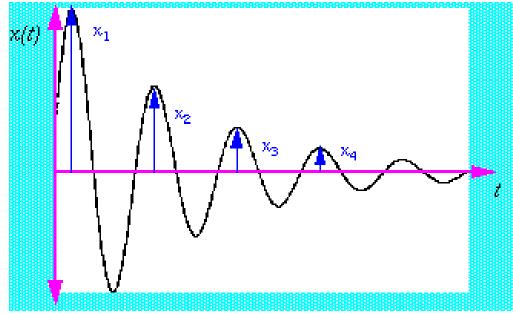
Logarithmic Decrement (cont.)

• Simplify:

$$\frac{x_1}{x_2} = \frac{e^{-\zeta \omega_n t_1}}{e^{-\zeta \omega_n (t_1 + T_D)}}$$

- $T_D = oscillation period$ = $(2\pi)/\omega_d$
- Simplify again

$$\frac{x_1}{x_2} = e^{\varsigma \omega_n T_D}$$



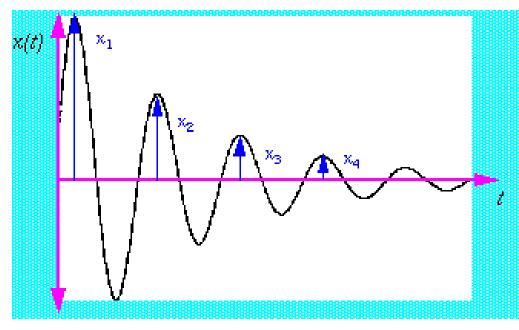
• Take log of both
$$\ln\left(\frac{x_1}{x_2}\right) \equiv \delta = \varsigma \omega_n T_D = \varsigma \left(\frac{\omega_d}{\sqrt{1-\varsigma^2}}\right) T_D = \left(\frac{2\pi\varsigma}{\sqrt{1-\varsigma^2}}\right)$$

Logarithmic Decrement (cont.)

• The logarithmic decrement δ is the natural log of the ratio of any two successive oscillation amplitudes.

Logarithmic Decrement (cont.)

- Comment: If we measure how the amplitude decreased cycle-by-cycle, we can find damping ratio
- Example: In a free vibration test, the ratio of amplitudes is 2.5 to 1 on successive oscillations... $\delta = \ln \delta$



$$\delta = \ln\left(\frac{2.5}{1}\right) = 0.916 = \left(\frac{2\pi\varsigma}{\sqrt{1-\varsigma^2}}\right) \Longrightarrow \varsigma = 0.145$$

Logarithmic Decrement (cont.)

• If damping ratio is very low,

$$\delta = \ln\left(\frac{x_1}{x_2}\right) = \left(\frac{2\pi\varsigma}{\sqrt{1-\varsigma^2}}\right) \approx 2\pi\varsigma$$

 In the case of low damping, it may not be easy to make measurement of successive oscillations. We can make measurements at time t₁ and at N cycles later. Note that:

$$\frac{x_1}{x_{N+1}} = \left(\frac{x_1}{x_2}\right) \left(\frac{x_2}{x_3}\right) \left(\frac{x_3}{x_4}\right) \bullet \bullet \left(\frac{x_N}{x_{N+1}}\right)$$

Take log of both sides

$$\ln\left(\frac{x_1}{x_{N+1}}\right) = \ln\left(\frac{x_1}{x_2}\right) + \ln\left(\frac{x_2}{x_3}\right) + \ln\left(\frac{x_3}{x_4}\right) \bullet \bullet \bullet + \ln\left(\frac{x_N}{x_{N+1}}\right) = N\delta$$

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Logarithmic Decrement (cont.)

• Take log of both sides

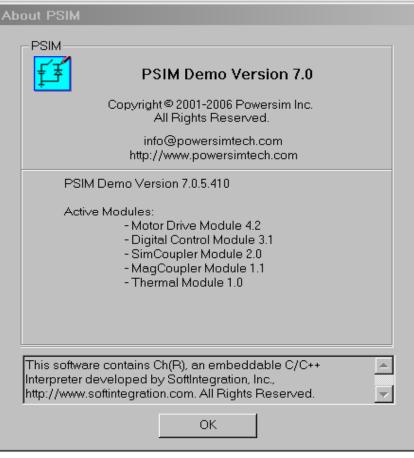
$$\ln\left(\frac{x_1}{x_{N+1}}\right) = \ln\left(\frac{x_1}{x_2}\right) + \ln\left(\frac{x_2}{x_3}\right) + \ln\left(\frac{x_3}{x_4}\right) \bullet \bullet \bullet + \ln\left(\frac{x_N}{x_{N+1}}\right) = N\delta$$

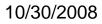
• This means we can find the logarithmic decrement as:

$$\delta = \left(\frac{1}{N}\right) \ln\left(\frac{x_1}{x_{N+1}}\right)$$

A Potpourri of Resonant Circuits

- Both damped and undamped
- All circuits simulated with PSIM

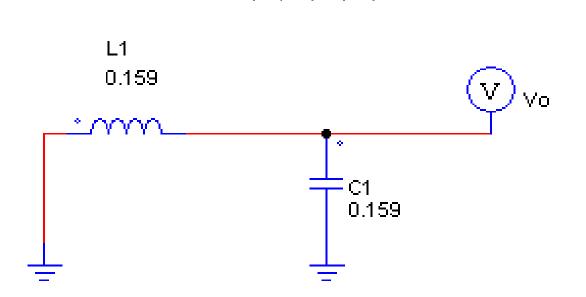




Example 1: Undamped Resonant Circuit

L = 1/(2π); C = 1/(2π). Initial conditions: capacitor voltage
 = 0 and inductor current = 1 Amp

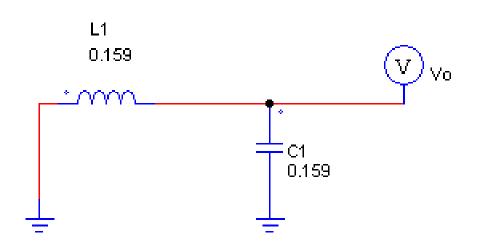
Initial values: I(L1)=1; V(C1)=0



PSIM file: Undamped resonant circuit in initial inductor current .sch

Example 1: What Do We Know About This Circuit?

- L = $1/(2\pi)$; C = $1/(2\pi)$
- $Z_o = 1$ Ohm
- $\omega_o = 2\pi \text{ rad/sec}; f_o = 1 \text{ Hz}$



Initial values: I(L1)=1; V(C1)=0

PSIM file: Undamped resonant circuit in initial inductor current .sch

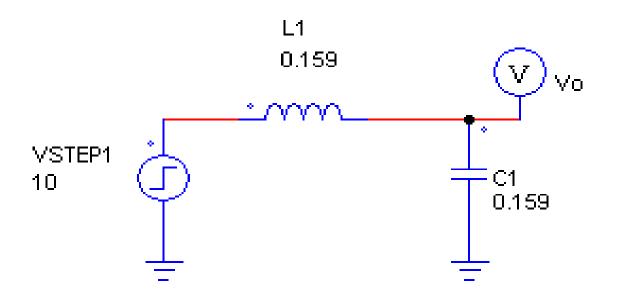
Example 1: Undamped Resonant Circuit Response L = 1/(2π); C = 1/(2π)

- Initial values: I(L1)=1; V(C1)=0 I(L1) L1 0.159 1.00 (v)_{v₀} 20000.50 0.0 C1 0.159 -0.50-1.00PSIM file: Undamped resonant circuit in initial inductor current Vo .sch 1.00 0.50 0.0 -0.50 -1.000.0 1.00 3.00 4.00 5.00 2.00 Time (s)
 - Note ratio of voltage/current = 1 ohm

• L = 1/(2 π); C = 1/(2 π). Assume zero initial conditions L1 0.159 Vo Vo Vo VSTEP1 10 C1 0.159 (C1 0.159

PSIM file: Undamped resonant circuit step response.sch

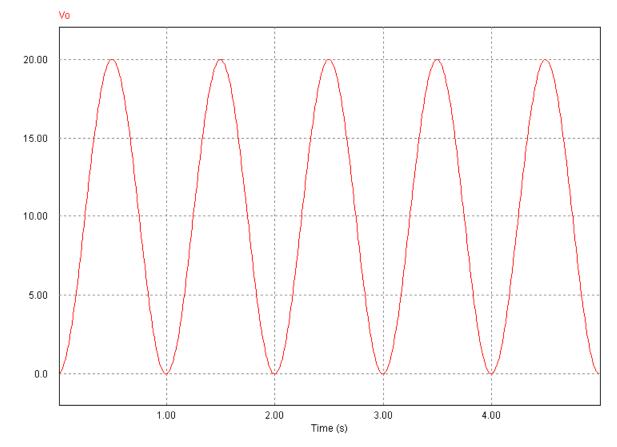
- $Z_o = 1$ Ohm
- Natural frequency: $\omega_o = 2\pi \text{ rad/sec}; f_o = 1 \text{ Hz}$



PSIM file: Undamped resonant circuit step response.sch

• $Z_o = 1$ Ohm

• $\omega_o = 2\pi \text{ rad/sec}; f_o = 1 \text{ Hz}$

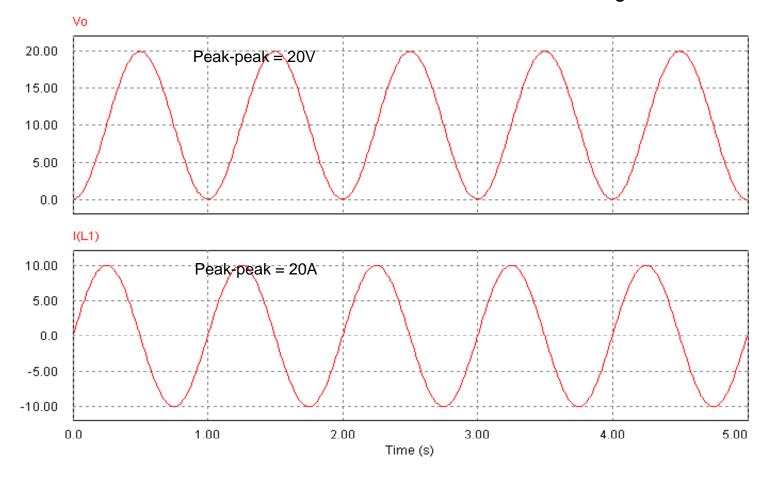


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• What is inductor current? Remember $Z_0 = 1$ Ohm

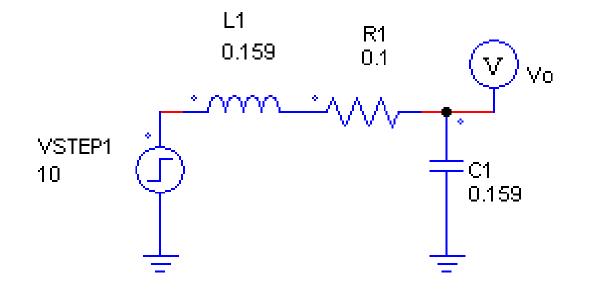
What is inductor current? Remember Z_o = 1 Ohm



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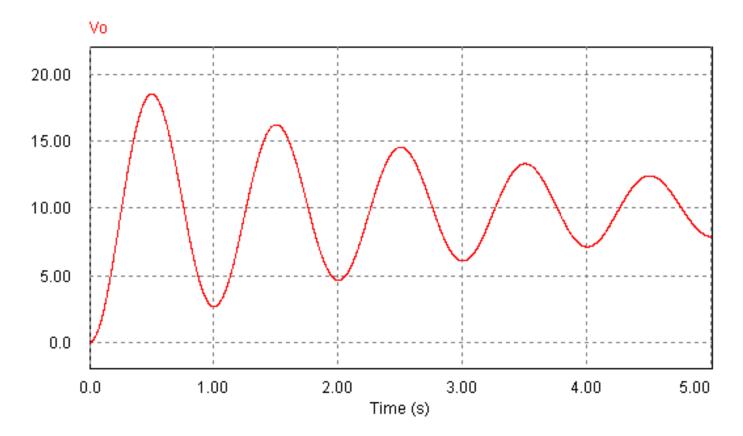
Example 2: Now Add 0.1 Ω Resistor



PSIM file: Damped series resonant circuit 1 step response.sch

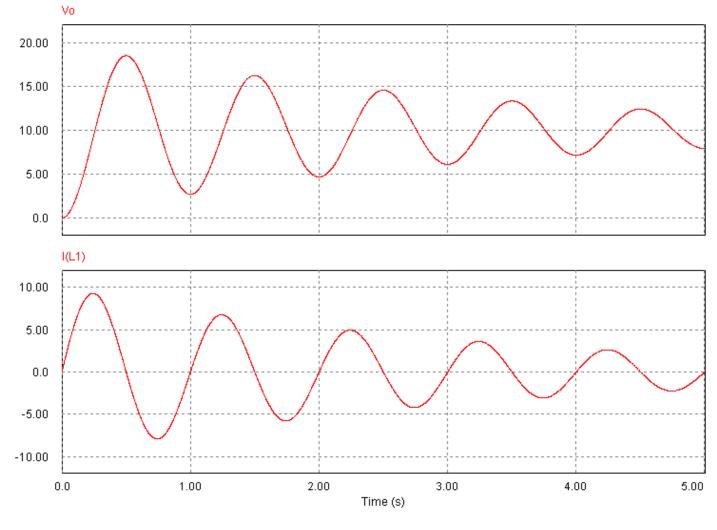
Example 2: Now Add 0.1 Ω Resistor

• $R << Z_o$, so damping is small



Signal Processing Basics

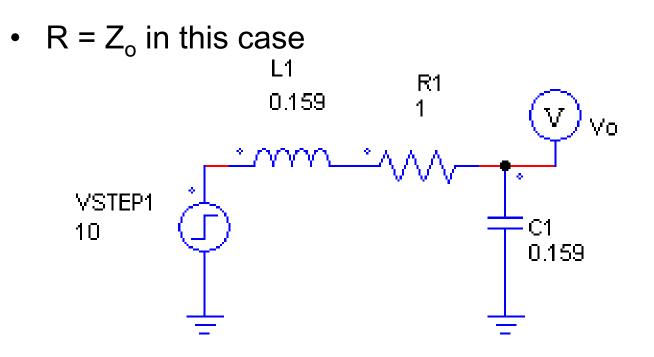
Example 2: Now Add 0.1 Ω Resistor



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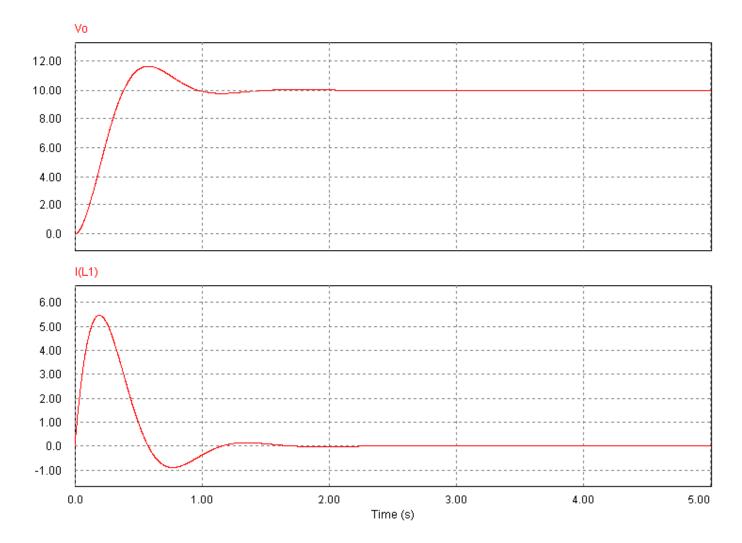
Signal Processing Basics

Example 3: Change the 0.1 Ω to 1 Ω



PSIM file: Damped series resonant circuit2 step response.sch

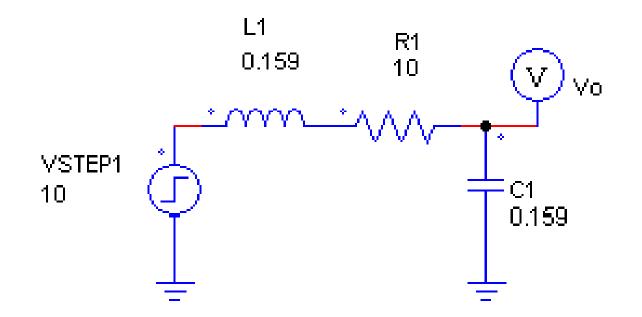
Example 3: Change the 0.1 Ω to 1 Ω



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Example 4: Change the 1 Ω to 10 Ω

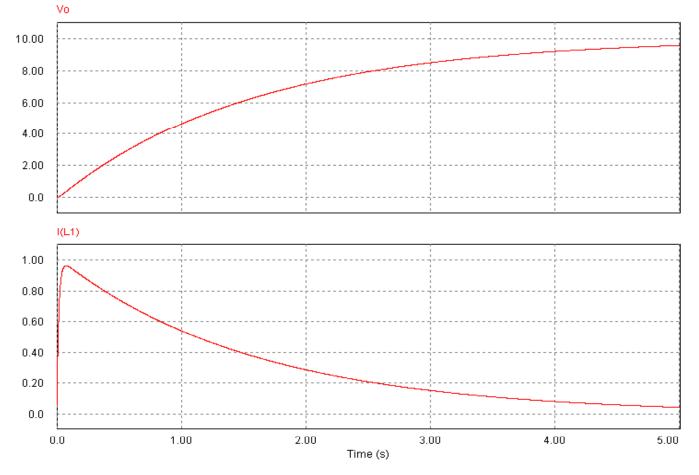
• $R >> Z_o$ in this case



PSIM file: Damped series resonant circuit3 step response.sch

What's the initial inductor current, approximately (and why)?

• What's the initial inductor current, approximately?



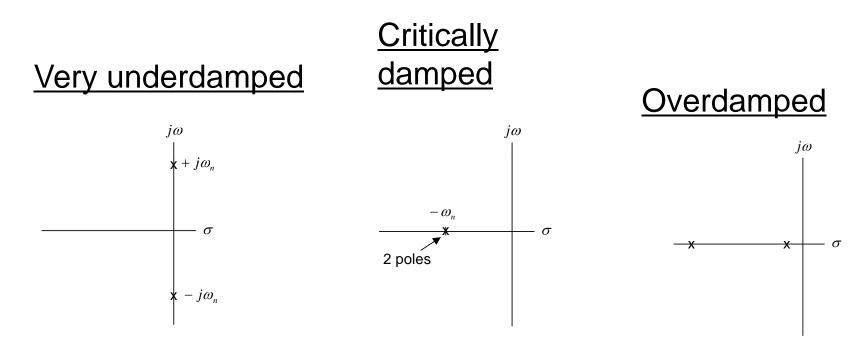
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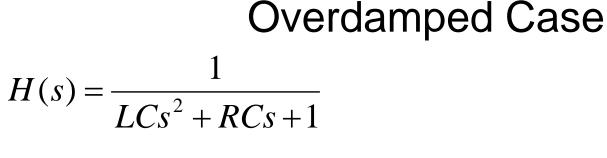
Signal Processing Basics

Example 4: Response for $R >> Z_o$

- At low frequencies, this behaves like an RC lowpass filter
- At high frequencies, when capacitor is almost a short, this behaves as a LPF with L/R time constant
- Why is this?

Second Order System --- Pole Location Variation with Damping





 At low frequencies, for RCs >> LCs², or R >> Ls, then ...

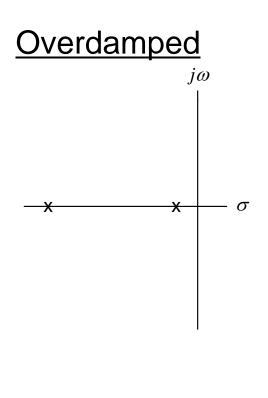
$$H(s) \approx \frac{1}{RCs + 1}$$

• At high frequencies, with RCs>>1, then

$$H(s) \approx \frac{1}{LCs^2 + RCs} \approx \frac{1}{RCs\left(\frac{L}{R}s + 1\right)}$$

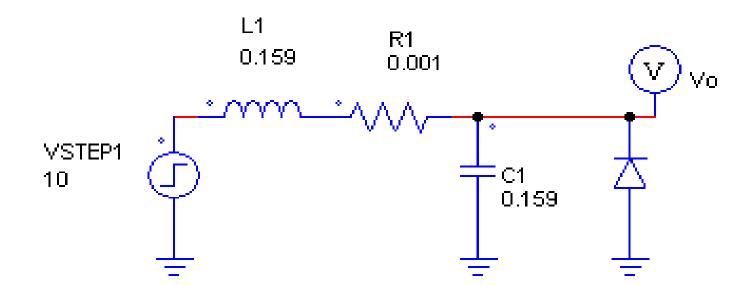
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Signal Processing Basics



Example 5: Series Resonant Circuit with Diode

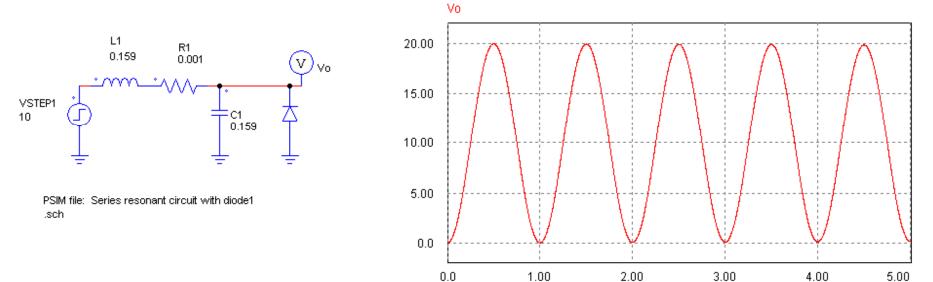
• Q: With a positive voltage step, what does the diode do in this circuit?



PSIM file: Series resonant circuit with diode1 .sch

Example 5: Series Resonant Circuit with Diode

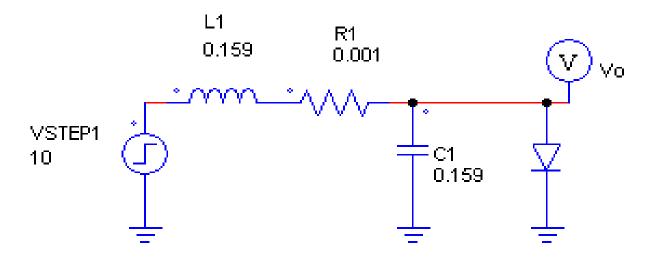
• A: Nothing...it's always reverse biased



Time (s)

Example 6: Now, Flip the Diode

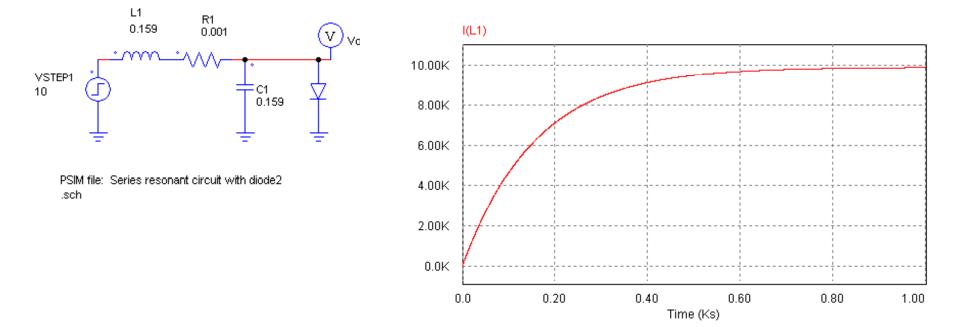
• Q: What does the diode do in this circuit?



PSIM file: Series resonant circuit with diode2 .sch

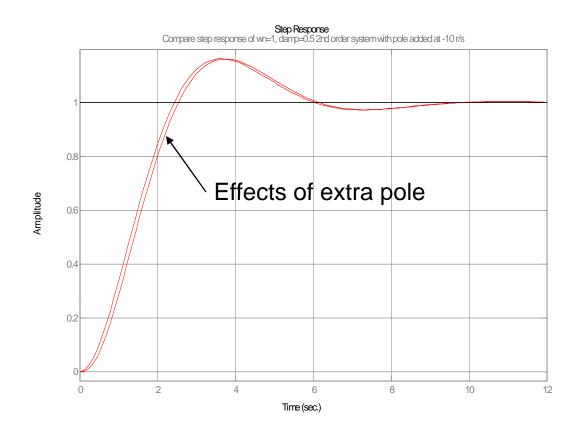
Example 6: Series Resonant Circuit with Diode

• A: It shorts out the capacitor; the circuit behaves like a series LR circuit with L/R time constant 159 sec.



Example 7: Second-Order System Step Response, with Extra Pole

- Second order system with $\omega_n = 1$ r/s, damping ratio = 0.5
- Extra pole added at -10 r/s

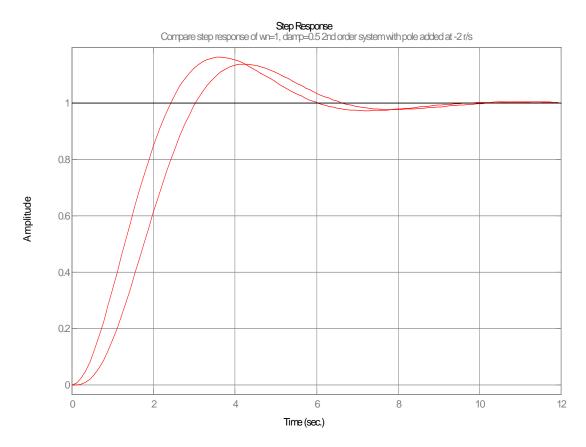


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Example 8: Second-Order System Step Response, with Extra Pole

Second order system with ω_n = 1 r/s, damping ratio = 0.5
Extra pole added at -2 r/s



For a transfer function of the form:

$$\frac{1}{s^2 + As + B}$$

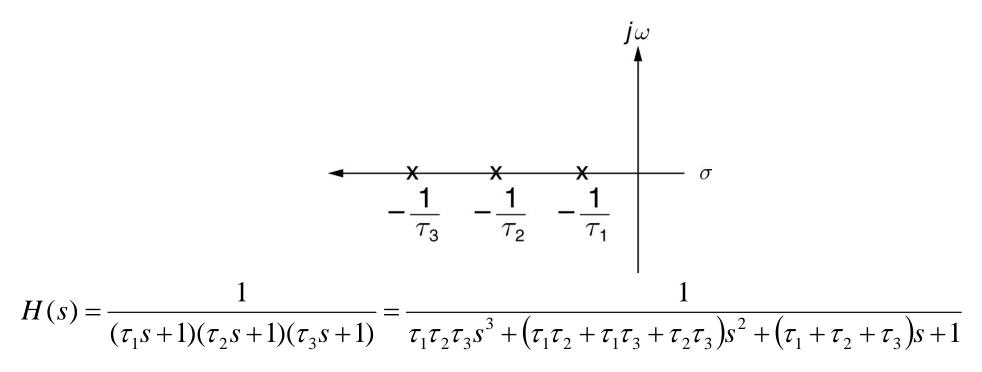
If the poles are on the real axis and are widely spaced, we can approximate them by:

$$s_{fast} \approx -A$$

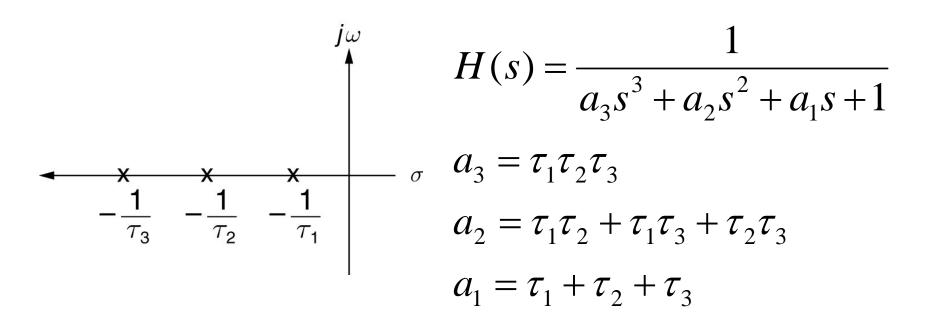
 $s_{slow} \approx -B / A$

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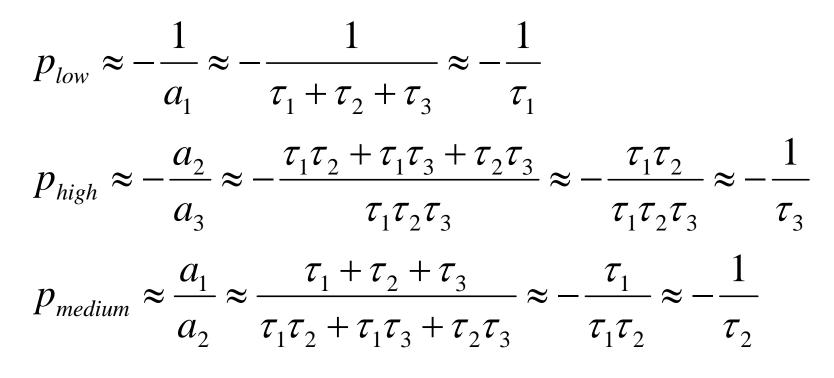
• Assume that we have 3 real-axis poles



• We can re-write this transfer function:



Widely-Spaced Pole Approximation
Pole locations can be approximated if the poles are widely spaced:



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• In the general case with k poles, if they are widely spaced and on the real axis:

$$p_k \approx -\frac{a_{k-1}}{a_k}$$
$$a_o = 1$$

Widely-Spaced Pole Approximation ---Sanity Check

 \bullet Examine system with poles at -1, -10, -100, -1000 and -10000 r/s

$$H(s) = \frac{1}{10^{-10} s^{5} + 1.111 \times 10^{-6} s^{4} + 1.122 \times 10^{-3} s^{3} + 1.122 \times 10^{-1} s^{2} + 1.111 s + 1}$$

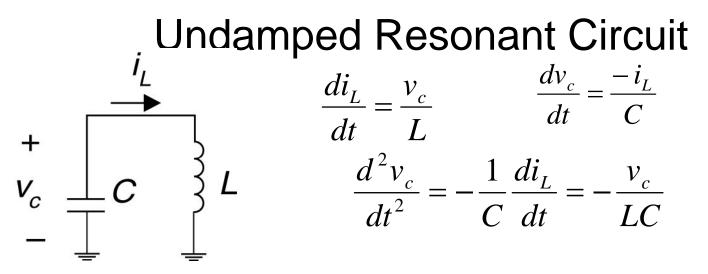
$$p_{5} \approx -\frac{1.111 \times 10^{-6}}{10^{-10}} \approx -11,110 r/s$$

$$p_{4} \approx -\frac{1.122 \times 10^{-3}}{1.111 \times 10^{-6}} \approx -1,010 r/s$$
• The

$$p_{3} \approx -\frac{1.122 \times 10^{-1}}{1.122 \times 10^{-1}} \approx -100 r/s$$
• The
approximation does

$$p_{2} \approx -\frac{1.111}{1.122 \times 10^{-1}} \approx -9.9 r/s$$
a decent job

$$p_{2} \approx -\frac{1}{1.111} \approx -0.9 r/s$$
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Guess that the voltage v(t) is sinusoidal with $v(t) = V_o \sin \omega t$. Putting this into the equation for capacitor voltage results in:

$$-\omega^2 \sin(\omega t) = -\frac{1}{LC}\sin(\omega t)$$

This means that the resonant frequency is the standard (as expected) resonance:

$$\omega_r^2 = \frac{1}{LC}$$

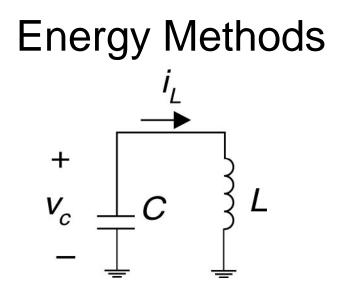
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Energy Methods

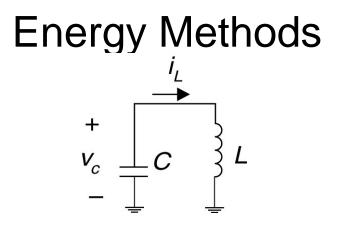
Storage Mode	Relationship	Comments
Capacitor/electric field storage	$E_{elec} = \frac{1}{2}CV^2$	
Inductor/magnetic field storage	$E_{mag} = \frac{1}{2}LI^2 = \int \frac{B^2}{2\mu_o} dV$	
Kinetic energy	$E_k = \frac{1}{2}Mv^2$	
Rotary energy	$E_r = \frac{1}{2}I\omega^2$	$I \equiv mass moment of inertia (kg-m2)$
Spring	$E_{spring} = \frac{1}{2}kx^2$	$k \equiv spring constant (N/m)$
Potential energy	$\Delta E_p = Mg\Delta h$	$\Delta h \equiv height change$
Thermal energy	$\Delta E_T = C_{TH} \Delta T$	$C_{TH} \equiv$ thermal capacitance (J/K)



By using energy methods we can find the ratio of maximum capacitor voltage to maximum inductor current. Assuming that the capacitor is initially charged to V_o volts, and remembering that capacitor stored energy $E_c = \frac{1}{2}CV^2$ and inductor stored energy is $E_L = \frac{1}{2}Ll^2$, we can write the following:

$$\frac{1}{2}CV_{o}^{2} = \frac{1}{2}LI_{o}^{2}$$

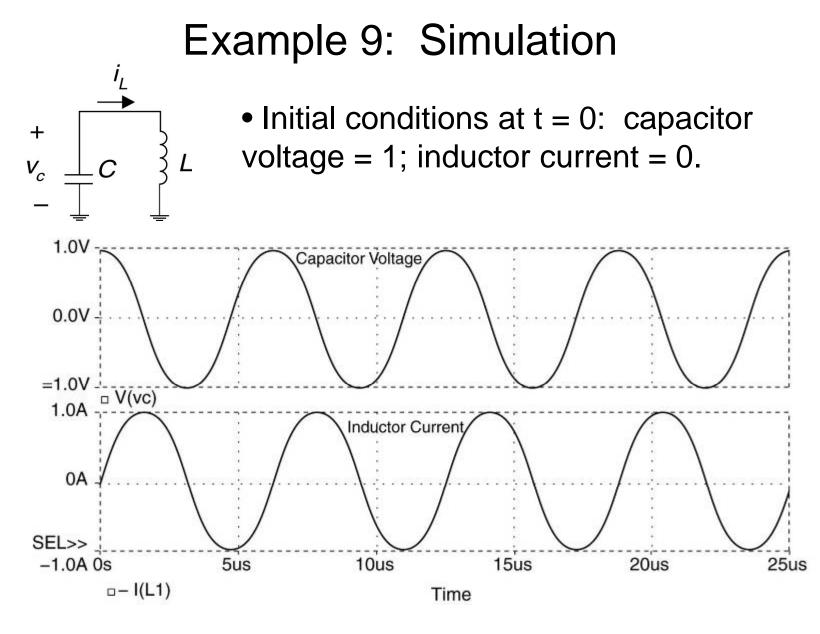
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What does this mean about the magnitude of the inductor current? Well, we can solve for the ratio of V_o/I_o resulting in:

$$\frac{V_o}{I_o} = \sqrt{\frac{L}{C}} \equiv Z_o$$

The term "Z_o" is defined as the characteristic impedance of a resonant circuit. Let's assume that we have an inductor-capacitor circuit with C = 1 microFarad and L = 1 microHenry. This means that the resonant frequency is 10^6 radians/second (or 166.7 kHz) and that the characteristic impedance is 1 Ohm.

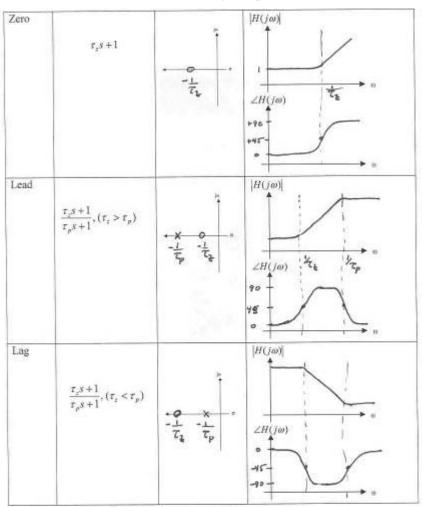


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Transfer Functions, Pole-Zero and Bode Plots

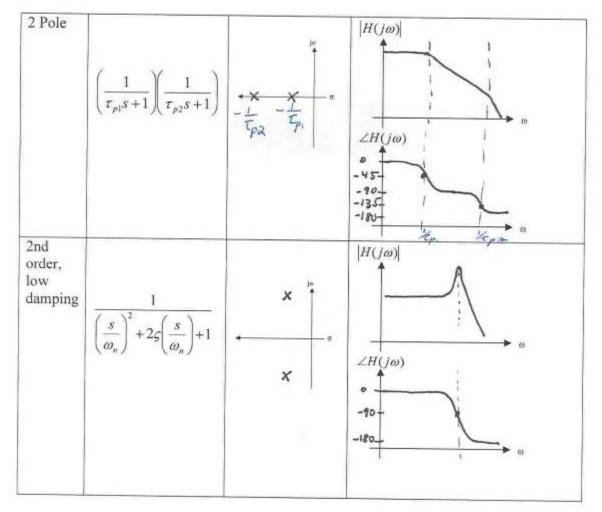
System Type	Transfer Function H(s)	Pole/Zero Plot	Bode Plot
Single Pole	1	Jω	H(jω)
	$\overline{\tau_p s + 1}$		1
		$-\frac{1}{\tau_{P}}\sigma$	$\angle H(j\omega) = \frac{1}{\tau_p}$
			0 _45- _90-
			<i>ω</i>

Transfer Functions, Pole-Zero and Bode Plots

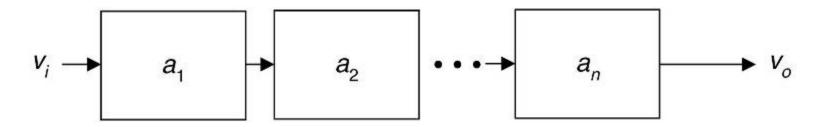


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Transfer Functions, Pole-Zero and Bode Plots



Risetime for Systems in Cascade



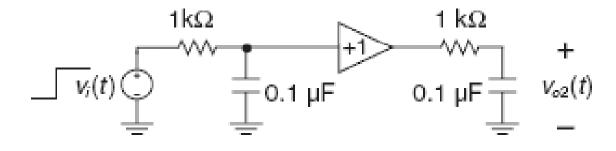
For multiple systems in cascade, the risetimes do not simply add; for instance, for N systems wired in series, each with its own risetime τ_{R1} , τ_{R2} , ... τ_{RN} , the overall risetime of the cascade τ_R is:

$$\tau_R \approx \sqrt{\tau_{R1}^2 + \tau_{R2}^2 + \tau_{R3}^2 + \cdots + \tau_{RN}^2}$$

Note that this equation works if each system is buffered/isolated from the next sytem; i.e. the systems don't load each other down.

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Example 10: Risetime for Systems in Cascade



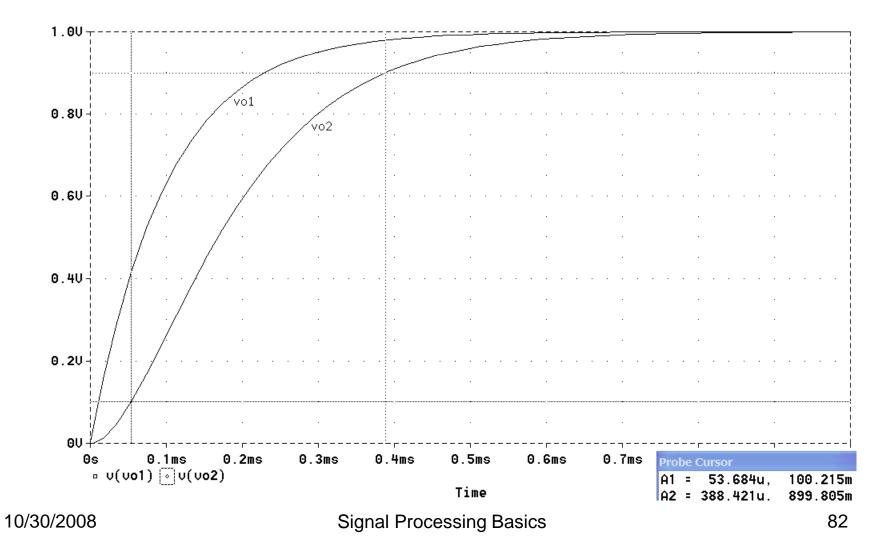
For v_{o1} : $\tau_{R1} = 2.2RC = (2.2)(1000)(10^{-7}) = 220\mu \sec^{-1}$

For v_{o2} : Consider TR2, which is risetime of 2nd RC circuit by itself:

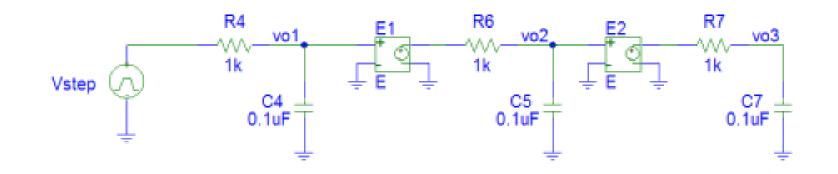
 $\tau_{R2} = 2.2RC = (2.2)(1000)(10^{-7}) = 220\mu \sec \tau_{R,system} \approx \sqrt{\tau_{R1}^2 + \tau_{R2}^2} \approx (\sqrt{2})(220\mu \sec) \approx 311\mu \sec \tau_{R,system}$

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Example 10: Risetime for Systems in Cascade



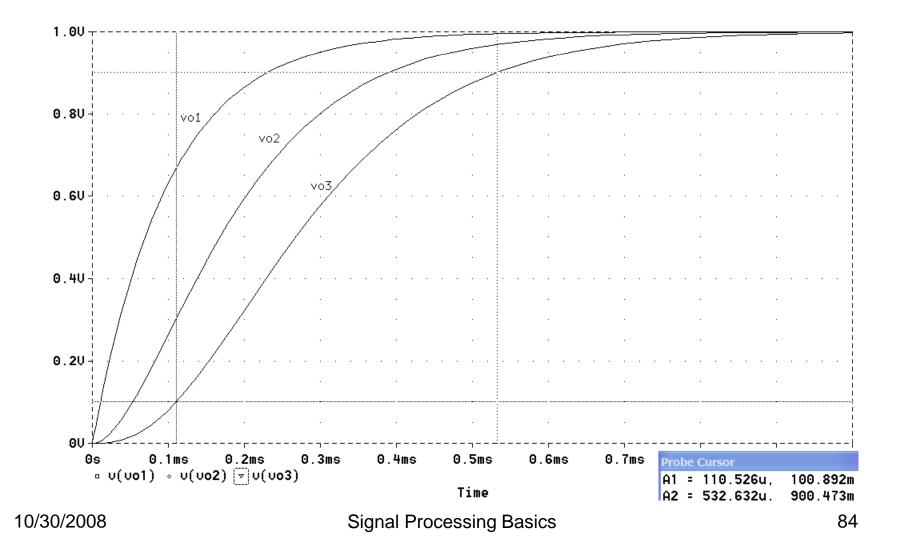
Example 13: Risetime for 3 Systems in Cascade



For
$$v_{o3}$$
:
 $\tau_{R,system} \approx \sqrt{\tau_{R1}^2 + \tau_{R2}^2 + \tau_{R3}^2} = (\sqrt{3})(220\mu \text{ sec}) = 381\mu \text{ sec}$

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Example 13: Risetime for 3 Systems in Cascade



Comments on PSPICE

- PSPICE is a useful tool, but beware of some pitfalls
 - GIGO problem
 - Models
 - Sometimes the manufacturers' models are incorrect
 - Tolerances
 - Set tolerances sufficiently small. However, this will increase simulation time
 - Convergence issues
 - Transient response is not guaranteed to converge
 - Maximum time step
 - Choose a time step small enough to capture the detail that you need. If you make the time step too small, simulation time can be very large
 - Parasitics

Comments on PSPICE (cont.)

- Continued ...
 - Parasitic elements can cause your PSPICE simulation not to match protoboard results.
 Parasitic capacitance and inductance; resistive shunt paths, etc.
 - You should always do a sanity check to verify that your PSPICE result is reasonable
 - PSPICE simulation is not a replacement for good design and hand calculations.

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