
Report for Laboratory Four: RLC Frequency Response

Austin Piper

Alex Blakely

Irfan Ahmed

*Department of Mechanical Engineering, Saint Martin's University
ME/EE 316—Mechatronics & Measurements Laboratory*

October 20, 2020

Abstract. In this lab exercise, we measured the steady-state response of the output voltage of an RLC circuit with a sinusoidal voltage source. We recorded the data by hand, and used MATLAB to plot the data and derive a model. Finally, we compared the analytic model to the experimental data.

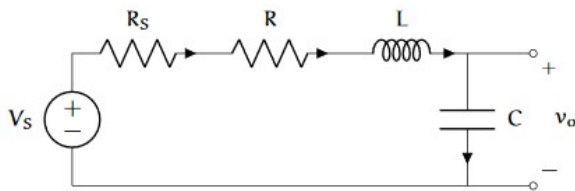


Figure 1: The RLC Circuit

1 Introduction

An RLC circuit is a circuit that contains a resistor, and inductor, and a capacitor. This class of circuits is often used as oscillators. The characteristics of this type of circuit make it useful in signal filtering.

While, by definition, this kind of circuit can be any combination of these three circuit elements, in this experiment we put them together in Series. As [Figure 1](#) shows, we assume that the voltage source (a signal generator) has a resistance R_s (which has a value of $50\ \Omega$).

In this lab, we observed both the input signal and the output signal of this circuit (as defined in the aforementioned diagram). In addition to witnessing the actual effects in terms of amplitude and phase shift, the theoretical shift and amplitude ratios were also considered.

2 Materials and Methods

1. 1 LabVIEW and MATLAB compatible device
2. 1 myRIO microcontroller
3. 1 breadboard
4. 1 BNC Y- or T-connector
5. 2 BNC-to-alligator cables
6. 4 male jumper wires
7. 78 ohm resistor
8. 100mH inductor
9. 700 pF capacitor
10. multimeter
11. oscilloscope
12. function generator

The RLC circuit (figures 1 and 2) was built after measuring both the resistance of the resistor (noting that the in-

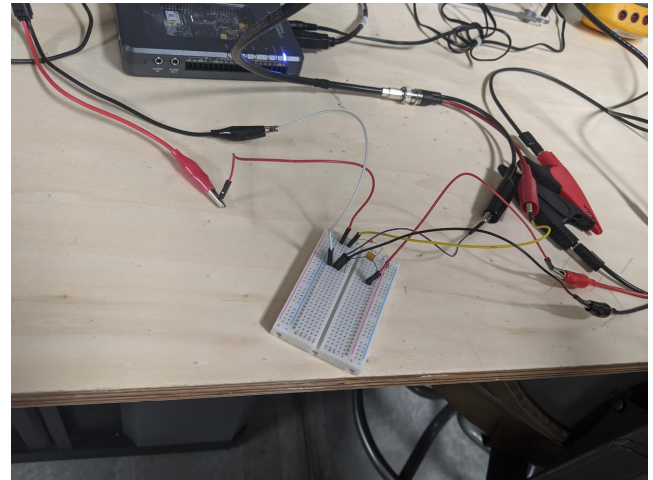
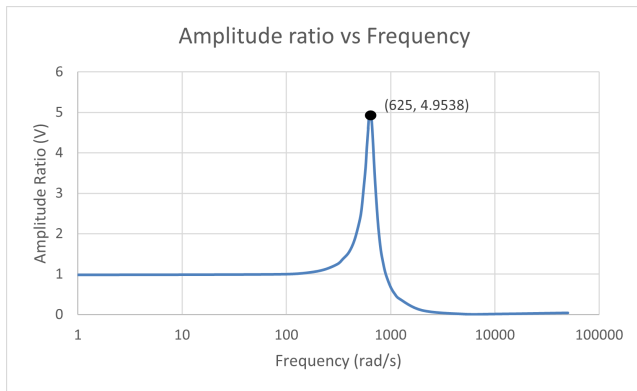
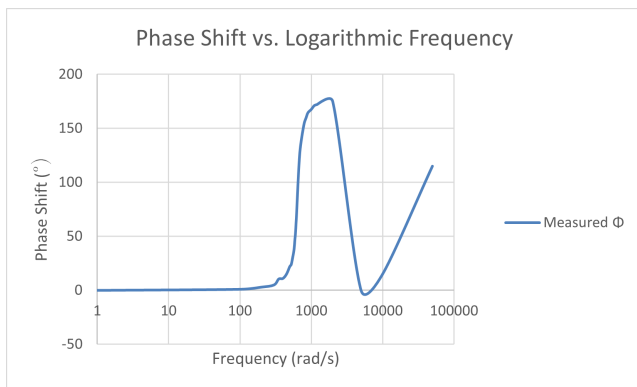


Figure 2: Our RLC Circuit

ternal resistance of the function generator was fifty ohms) and the capacitance of the capacitor. After its construction, jumpers were inserted to measure both the input voltage of the function generator and the output voltage using the LabVIEW software. After setting the function generator to a sinusoidal input at 1000 Hz (1kHz), we began making our recordings of the data including the phase shift and output voltage. We went from 1 kHz to 50,000 kHz intermittently in order to see how the amplitudes and phase shifts viewed on the oscilloscope were affected by different frequencies along the way. After each different frequency setting it was important to view both the input and output sinusoids so that any patterns could be taken note of.

3 Results

This lab produced four different data streams that were recorded by our group: the actual frequencies of the sinusoidal outputs and inputs, the peak-to-peak amplitudes of the of the input and output voltages, and the time lags between them. Using these data streams and the recorded phase shifts of each of the frequencies we were able to view when the expected resonance occurred and the time lags decreasing from the starting 1 kHz to our ultimate 50000 kHz. Our data showed the physical manifestation of resonance in terms of sinusoidal output and input waves, where they

Figure 3: r vs FrequencyFigure 4: Φ vs Frequency

continually become more and more out of phase with one another due to the capacitor and inductor's relationship to one another until a certain frequency is reached, where they cancel each other out in a sense, and the phase is back in line with its original sinusoid. We saw this occurrence at about 600 kHz.

4 Discussion

A common real-world example of a circuit's transient response leading to a steady state is the flip of a light switch. A sudden input of voltage will take some amount of time for the steady state of the circuit to be reached and this is what we see with our RLC circuit in this lab. As we applied increasingly large frequencies to the circuit, we witnessed phase shift of the sinusoids increase up to 90 degrees as we approached 600 kHz as the output voltage decreased in kind [Figure 4](#). For a series circuit at what is known as resonance, both the capacitance and inductive reactance would be equal, meaning that the phase angle (phase shift) would be at zero.

5 Author Contributions

Irfan wrote the abstract and the introduction, and also added the circuit diagram. Alex wrote the materials and methods, the discussion, and part of the results. Austin

	R (Ω)	C (pF)
nominal	78	700
measured	66.78	690

Table 1: Multimeter Measurements

Freq.(kHz)	Vs-Vrs	Vo	Phase Shift
1	2.16	2.12	0
100	2.16	2.16	1
200	2.16	2.32	3
300	2.16	2.66	5
350	2.10	2.90	10.5
400	2.09	3.24	11
450	2.04	3.76	15
500	1.96	4.48	22
525	1.90	4.92	24
550	1.74	5.40	30.6
575	1.61	5.85	38
590	1.50	6.16	47
600	1.44	6.28	52
610	1.38	6.36	60
625	1.30	6.44	72
650	1.26	6.20	97
675	1.34	5.80	117
700	1.47	5.20	131
750	1.69	4.00	145
800	1.86	3.06	155
850	1.92	2.42	160
900	2.00	1.98	164.5
1000	2.06	1.4	167.5
1100	2.10	1.06	171
1200	2.10	0.84	172
2000	2.16	0.23	175
5000	2.40	0.034	0
10000	3.44	0.05	15
50000	0.88	0.038	115

Table 2: Captured Data

worked on the results and calculations. We all checked the calculations, and checked over the report for final edits.

6 Equations

$$r(\omega) = \left| \frac{1}{\sqrt{(1-\omega^2 * L * C)^2 + j * \omega^2 * C^2 (R_s + R)^2}} \right|$$

$$\Phi(\omega) = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{\omega * C * (R_s + R)}{1 - \omega^2 * L * C} \right)$$