# Modeling RLC Circuit

ARO (@\_art\_of\_electronics\_)

June 20, 2025

#### Introduction 1

This document presents the modeling of a series RLC circuit using Lagrangian mechanics, co-energy analysis, and derives the state-space representation. A Simulink block diagram is also provided for simulation purposes.

#### 2 **RLC Circuit Description**

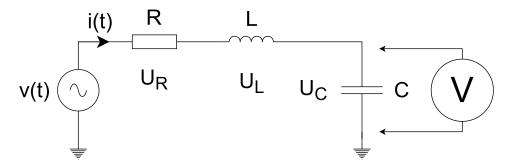


Figure 1: RLC Circuit Diagram

We consider a series RLC circuit with a voltage source v(t), resistor R, inductor L, and capacitor C. The loop current is denoted as i(t), and the charge on the capacitor is q(t).

#### 3 Lagrangian Formulation

The kinetic and potential energies are defined as:

$$E_k = \frac{1}{2}L\dot{q}^2$$

$$E_k = \frac{1}{2}c^2$$

$$E_p = \frac{1}{2C}q^2$$

The circuit also has a resistor, which is a dissipative element:

$$D = \frac{1}{2}R\dot{q}^2$$

The Lagrangian of the RLC circuit is:

$$\mathcal{L}(q, \dot{q}) = E_k - E_p = \frac{1}{2}L\dot{q}^2 - \frac{1}{2C}q^2$$

The Rayleigh dissipation function can be written as:

$$\mathcal{D} = D - P = \frac{1}{2}R\dot{q}^2 - v(t)\dot{q}$$

Using Lagrange's equation with a non-conservative force (resistor), the equation expands to:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{q}} \right) - \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial q} + \frac{\partial \mathcal{D}}{\partial \dot{q}} = 0$$

This leads to the following differential equation:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left[ \frac{\partial \left( \frac{1}{2} L \dot{q}^2 - \frac{1}{2C} q^2 \right)}{\dot{q}} \right] - \frac{\partial \left( \frac{1}{2} L \dot{q}^2 - \frac{1}{2C} q^2 \right)}{q} + \frac{\partial \left( \frac{1}{2} R \dot{q}^2 - v(t) \dot{q} \right)}{\dot{q}} = 0$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left[ \frac{\partial \left( \frac{1}{2} L \dot{q}^2 - 0 \right)}{\dot{q}} \right] - \frac{\partial \left( 0 - \frac{1}{2C} q^2 \right)}{q} + \frac{\partial \left( \frac{1}{2} R \dot{q}^2 - v(t) \dot{q} \right)}{\dot{q}} = 0$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left[ \left( 2 \cdot \frac{1}{2} L \dot{q}^{2-1} \right) \right] + \left( 2 \cdot \frac{1}{2C} q^{2-1} \right) + \left( 2 \cdot \frac{1}{2} R \dot{q}^{2-1} - v(t) \dot{q}^{1-1} \right) = 0$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left[ L \dot{q} \right] + \frac{1}{C} q + R \dot{q} - v(t) = 0$$

$$L \ddot{q} + \frac{1}{C} q + R \dot{q} = v(t)$$

Taking into account that:

$$\dot{q} = i$$
;

$$i = C \cdot \frac{d}{dt}u(t) = C \cdot u'(t)$$

We can transform the current form of equation into voltage form:

$$L\frac{d}{dt}\dot{q} + \frac{1}{C}q + R\dot{q} = v(t)$$

$$L\frac{d}{dt}\left(C \cdot u'(t)\right) + \frac{1}{C} \cdot \left(\int_0^t C\frac{du(t)}{dt}\right) + R \cdot C \cdot u'(t) = v(t)$$

$$LCu''(t) + u(t) + RCu'(t) = v(t)$$

Sorting yields the equation's final form:

$$LCu''(t) + RCu'(t) + u(t) = v(t)$$

## 4 Co-energy and Energy Expressions

### Inductor

The magnetic co-energy for the inductor:

$$T = \int_0^i Li' \, di' = \frac{1}{2} Li^2$$

In linear systems, energy and co-energy are equal.

### Capacitor

The energy stored in the capacitor is:

$$U = \int_0^q \frac{1}{C} q' \, dq' = \frac{1}{2C} q^2$$

Since the capacitor is conservative (no energy loss), co-energy equals energy.

### Resistor

The resistor dissipates energy as heat:

$$D = \int_0^t Ri^2(\tau) \, d\tau = \frac{1}{2} Ri^2$$

Resistors do not store energy, so they do not have co-energy.

Using the co-energy equation with a non-conservative force, we can write:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left[ \frac{\partial T}{\dot{q}} \right] - \frac{\partial T}{\dot{q}} + \frac{\partial U}{\dot{q}} + \frac{\partial D}{\dot{q}} = f_i$$

By substituting the coefficients and  $f_i = v(t)$  into the equation, we obtain the following:

$$\begin{split} \frac{d}{dt} \left[ \frac{\partial \left( \frac{1}{2}L\dot{q}^2 \right)}{\dot{q}} \right] - \frac{\partial \left( \frac{1}{2}L\dot{q}^2 \right)}{q} + \frac{\partial \left( \frac{1}{2C}q^2 \right)}{q} + \frac{\partial \left( \frac{1}{2}R\dot{q}^2 \right)}{\dot{q}} = v(t) \\ \frac{d}{dt} \left[ 2 \cdot \frac{1}{2}L\dot{q}^{2-1} \right] - 0 + 2 \cdot \frac{1}{2C}q^{2-1} + 2 \cdot \frac{1}{2}R\dot{q}^{2-1} = v(t) \\ \frac{d}{dt} \left[ L\dot{q} \right] + \frac{1}{C}q + R\dot{q} = v(t) \\ L\ddot{q} + \frac{1}{C}q + R\dot{q} = v(t) \end{split}$$

Substituting once again:

$$i = C \cdot \frac{d}{dt}u(t) = C \cdot u'(t)$$

vields:

$$L\frac{d}{dt}(C \cdot u'(t)) + \frac{1}{C} \cdot \left(\int_0^t C\frac{du(t)}{dt}\right) + R \cdot C \cdot u'(t) = v(t)$$

$$LCu''(t) + u(t) + RCu'(t) = v(t)$$

$$LCu''(t) + RCu'(t) + u(t) = v(t)$$

## 5 State-Space Representation

From the equation of preservation of momentum we can write:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{p} = -\frac{1}{C}q - \frac{R}{L}p + v(t) \\ \dot{q} = \frac{1}{L}p \end{cases}$$

where:

p- momentum  $\dot{p}-$  derivative of momentum q- electrical charge  $\dot{q}-$  electrical current R,L,C- circuit parameters v(t)- input voltage

The general state-space model equation can be written as:

$$\dot{x} = Ax + Bu$$
$$y = Cx + Du$$

Let  $\dot{x} = \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} \dot{p} \\ \dot{q} \end{smallmatrix} \right]$ ,  $x = \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} p \\ q \end{smallmatrix} \right]$ , and expand the coefficients as follows:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{p} = -\frac{1}{C}q - \frac{R}{L}p + 1 \cdot v(t) \\ \dot{q} = 0q + \frac{1}{L}p + 0 \cdot v(t) \end{cases}$$

We can write the upper part of space-state equation as:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{p} \\ \dot{q} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{R}{L} & -\frac{1}{C} \\ \frac{1}{L} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} p \\ q \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} v(t)$$

For the lower part of the space-state equation, in order to activate the only meaningful parameter of the system, let y = q. Expanding this assumption into a known schematic, we obtain:

$$y = 1 \cdot q + 0 \cdot p + 0 \cdot v(t)$$

The lower part of state-space equation is:

$$y = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} p \\ q \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \end{bmatrix} v(t)$$

Eventually, we have obtained the state-space coefficients as:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{R}{L} & -\frac{1}{C} \\ \frac{1}{L} & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$C = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$D = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

# 6 Simulink Model for Lagrangian and Co-energy Expression

In order to model the equation properly, we must translate the dynamic equation into a form understandable for Simulink:

$$LCu''(t) = v(t) - RCu'(t) - u(t)$$

$$u''(t) = \frac{1}{LC} \left( v(t) - RCu'(t) - u(t) \right)$$

Below, the Simulink model is presented.

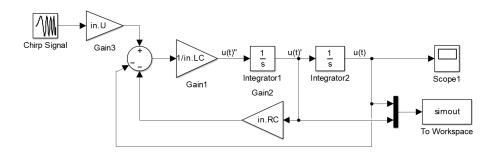


Figure 2: Simulink model of the RLC circuit

### 7 Simulink Model for State-space

Since the state-space model observes electrical charge flow in the circuit, we must add below listed formulas in order to view voltage and electrical current:

$$u(t) = \frac{1}{C} \cdot q$$
$$i(t) = \left| \frac{d}{dt} q \right|$$

Below, the state-space model is presented.

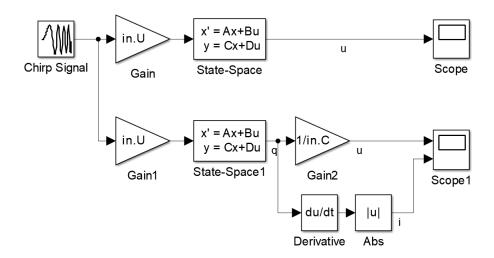


Figure 3: State-space model of the RLC circuit

### 8 Matlab and Python script

For script-based system modeling we must take a slightly different approach to translating mathematical equation into code. Let u(t) = u(1), u'(t) = u(2), in that case the matrix of the RLC equation will be written as:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{bmatrix} u(1) \\ u(2) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} u(2) \\ (v(t) - RCu(2) - u(1)) / LC \end{bmatrix}$$

Now, the equation can be coded into Matlab:

```
Du = [u(2); (ku*Uw-R*C*u(2)-u(1))/(L*C)];
```

Python counts matrix elements from 0, so the equivalent Python code can be written as:

```
def rlc(u, t, R):
return u[1], (U * w - R * C * u[1] - u[0]) / (L * C)
```

The only thing left is to describe the chirp signal. In Matlab the chirp signal can be coded as:

```
1 k = (fmax - fmin) / tmax;
2 Uw = cos((2 * pi() * (k / 2) .*t .*t) + (2 * pi() * fmin .*t));
```

In Python:

```
k = (fmax - fmin) / max(t)
w = np.cos((2 * np.pi * (k / 2) * t * t) + (2 * np.pi * fmin * t)
```

# 9 Simulation Results

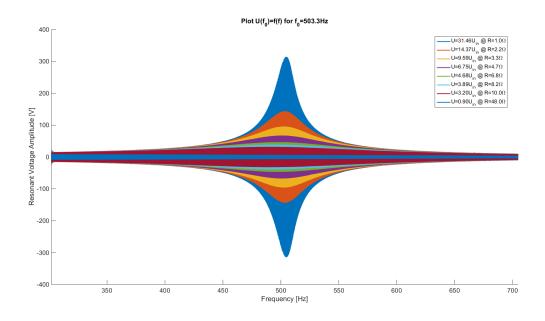


Figure 4: Plot of resonant voltage amplitude

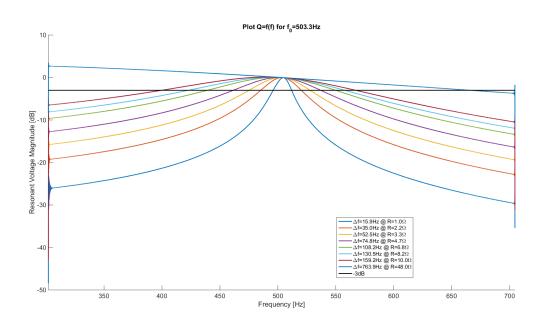


Figure 5: Plot of RLC circuit band frequency

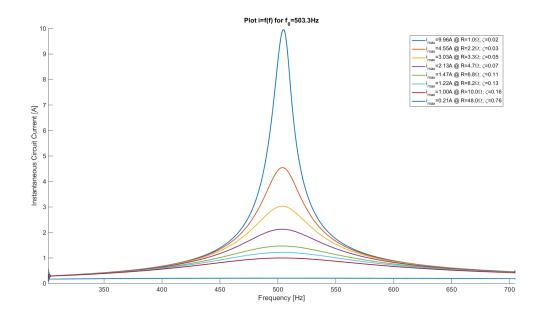


Figure 6: Plot of resonant current amplitude

## 10 Conclusion

This document demonstrates the Lagrangian, co-energy and state-space approach to modeling a simple RLC circuit. It also provides a visual block diagram suitable for simulation in Simulink and basic code for scripting.