Benford's Law in Dynamical Systems

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1 Overview

The purpose of this document is to present the results of simulations and experiments regarding the implementation of a physical dynamical system, in this case, an autonomous electronic circuit made in order to look for Benford's Law conformity of a physical quantity. The circuits that were chosen for this objective have various regions of operation and can be easily regulated, so an important amount of experiments and simulations were performed. Conformity to Benford's Law was achieved, and the circumstances under which the satisfactory results were obtained are also described in this document.

1.1 Benford's Law

Benford's Law, also called the First Digit Law refers to the frequency distribution of digits from a data source. The first observation was made by Benford [1] who looked through various sources of data and found that in some data sets the number 1 repeated about 30% of the time, while larger digits occur less frequently.

Benford's Law is the probability distribution for the mantissa with respect to base $b \in \mathbb{N}$ 1 given by $\mathbb{P}(\text{mantissa}_b \leq t) = \log_b t \forall t \in [1, b]$; the special case dealt with in this document is that described by:

$$\mathbb{P}(\text{first significant digit}_{10} = d) = \log_{10}(1 + \frac{1}{d}), d = 1, ..., 9$$

Today, this distribution is used in accounting fraud detection[2], Election data and Genome data. Also, a relation between the brain electrical activity and Benford's Law

was encountered, and the researches noted that compliance with Benford's Law is influenced by the presence of the anesthesic sevoflurane, or destroyed by noise in the EEG[3]. We give two examples where Benford's Law holds: the well known Fibonacci sequence, and population data from Mexico's Municipalities, obtained from INEGI.

1.1.1 Fibonacci Sequence

The Fibonacci sequence consists in the sequence: $1,1,2,3,5,8,13,21,34,55,89,144, \dots$; where the sequence can be defined as the recurrence relation:

$$f_n = f_{n-1} + f_{n-2}$$

Next, the most significant digit from the first 1000 Fibonacci numbers is obtained, and the frequency of repetition of number 1 as the first digit is calculated, the same can be done with number 2, and so on until number 9. Finally a plot of this frequency distribution against the distribution predicted by Benford's Law is presented.

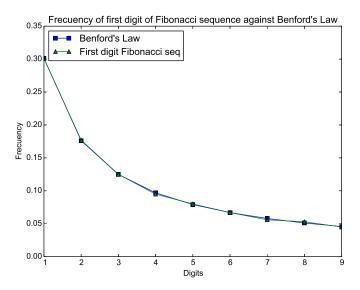


Figure 1.1: Fibonacci Sequence against Benford's Law

1.1.2 Mexico's Municipalities Population

From the Mexico's National Institute of Geography and Statistics, INEGI, data from the 2010 census can be obtained. That year, 2351 Municipalities where censused and information is freely available at the institute web page.

As with the first example, the most significant digit of the population of each municipality was taken, and the frequency of repetition of each digit between 1 and 9 was compared with the prediction made by Benford's Law.

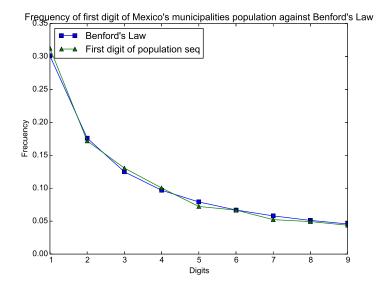


Figure 1.2: Fibonacci Sequence against Benford's Law

1.2 Autonomous Circuits

An Autonomous Circuit is a circuit that produces a time-varying output without having a time-varying input [6]. More formally:

An electronic circuit is described by a system of ordinary differential equations of the form:

$$\dot{\mathbf{X}}(t) = \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{X}(t), t)$$

Where $\mathbf{X}(t) = (X_1(t), X_2(t), ..., X_n(t))^T \in \mathbb{R}$ is called the *state vector* and \mathbf{F} is called the *vector field*. $\mathbf{X}(t)$ denotes the derivative of $\mathbf{X}(t)$ with respect to time.

If the vector field \mathbf{F} depends explicitly on t, then the system is said to be non-autonomous. If the vector field depends only on the state and is independent of time t, then the system is said to be autonomous and may be written in the simpler form:

$$\dot{\mathbf{X}} = \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{X}) \tag{1.1}$$

The time evolution of the state of an autonomous electronic circuit from an initial point $\dot{\mathbf{X}}$ at t=0 is given by

$$\phi(\mathbf{X_0}) = \mathbf{X_0} + \int_o^t \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{X}(\tau)) d\tau, t \in \mathbb{R}_+$$

The solution $\phi(\mathbf{X_0})$ is called a *trajectory* through $\mathbf{X_0}$, and the set $\phi(\mathbf{X_0})$, $t \in \mathbb{R}_+$ is an *orbit* of the system (1.1). The collection of maps ϕ_t that describe the evolution of the entire state space with time is called the *flow*.

An autonomous electronic circuit is an example of a deterministic dynamical system.

1.3 Defining Chaos

Chaos is aperiodic long-term behavior in a determinisic system that exhibits sensitive dependence on initial conditions [4]

- Aperiodic long-term behavior means that there are trajectories which do not settle down to fixed points, periodic orbits, or quasiperiodic orbits as t->inf.
- Deterministic means that the system has no random or noisy inputs or parameters. The irregular behavior arises from the system's nonlinearity, rather than from noisi driving forces.
- Sensitive dependence on initial conditions means that nearby trajectories separate exponentially fast, i.e., that the system has a positive Lyapunov Exponent

1.3.1 Lyapunov Exponent

The lyapunov exponent of a dynamical system is a quantity that characterizes the rate of separation of infinitesimally close trayectories[5].

Suppose that we let transients decay, so that a trajectory is on the attractor. Suppose $\phi(x,t)$ is a point on the attractor at time t, and consider a nearby point $\phi(t) + \delta(t)$ where δ is a very small separation. It can be seen in the following figure, that $\delta(t)$ grows. The two trajectories diverge with at a rate given by $\|\delta(t)\| \|\delta_{ao}\|e^{\lambda t}$

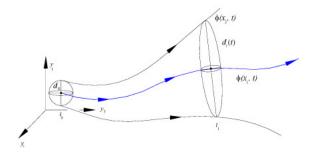


Figure 1.3: Neighboring trajetories separating exponentially fast with initial separation δ_0

When at least one Lyapunov exponent is positive the attractor possesses the property of sensitive dependence of initial conditions.

1.3.2 Chua's Circuit

• Chua's Oscillator

Leon Chua did research regarding Lorenz's equations[7][6], and deviced a chaotic electronic circuit with only one non-linear element, which is a 5-segment piecewise-linear resistor.

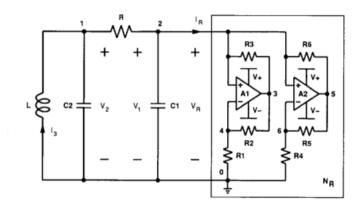


Figure 1.4: Schematic of Chua's Circuit

The dynamics of the system can be modeled by the system of three nonlinear ordinary differential equations:

$$\frac{dV_1}{dt} = \frac{G}{C_1}(V_2 - V_1) - \frac{1}{C_1}f(V_1) \tag{1.2}$$

$$\frac{dV_2}{dt} = \frac{1}{C_2}I_3 - \frac{G}{C_2}(V_2 - V_1) \tag{1.3}$$

$$\frac{dI_3}{dt} = -\frac{1}{L}V_2\tag{1.4}$$

(1.5)

with $G = \frac{1}{R}$ and $f(V_1)$ is given by:

$$\begin{split} \frac{G}{C1}V_2 - \frac{G_b'}{C_1}V_1 - (\frac{G_b - G_a}{C_1})E & if \quad V_1 < -E \\ & \frac{G}{C1}V_2 - \frac{G_a'}{C_1}V_1 & if \quad -E \ge v1 \le E \\ & \frac{G}{C1}V_2 - \frac{G_b'}{C_1}V_1 - (\frac{G_a - G_b}{C_1})E & if \quad V_1 > E \end{split}$$

• Properties

1. **Nonlinearity:** The system of equations has a nonlinear 2-terminal resistor described by a three segment piecewise-linear v-i characteristic shown in the following figure:

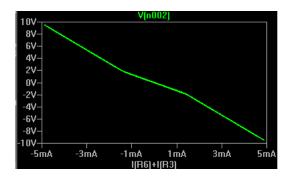


Figure 1.5: v-i characteristic of the non-linear resistor

The piecewise-linear nature of the nonlinearity in Chua's Oscillator divides the state-space of the circuit into three distinct affine regions $(V_1 < E)$, $(||V_1|| < E)$ and $(V_1 > E)$

2. **Symmetry:** The piecewise-linear function is symmetric with respect to the origin, there exists three equilibrium points, at 0, P_{-} and P_{+} . In the following figure, a double scroll Chua's attractor is shown. Since three equilibrium points are involved, this attractor is symmetric with respect to the origin

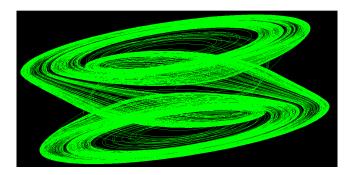


Figure 1.6: v-i characteristic of the non-linear resistor

3. Dissipativity

1.3.3 Takougang Circuit

• Three-dimensional autonomous system by Takougang et. al. A threedimensional autonomous system is presented by Sifei Takougang Kingni[8]. The system exhibits chaotic bursting oscillations.

The three-dimensional system is described as follows:

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = -x + y \tag{1.6}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = xz - cy \tag{1.7}$$

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$$\frac{dy}{dt} = xz - cy \tag{1.7}$$

$$\frac{dz}{dt} = b - x^2 - dz \tag{1.8}$$

where $b, c, d \in \mathbb{R}$

• Properties

- non-linearity: Non-linearity given by the term x^2 and xz
- symmetry: Under the transformation defined by $(x, y, z) \rightarrow (-x, -y, -z)$, the system has a natural symmetry

Next, we show that the system is symmetric.

Definition:Let f be a smooth function $f: \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^n$ and let

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = f(\mathbf{x})$$

be a system of ordinary differential equations. In addition, let γ be an invertible matrix. Then γ is a symmetry of the ordinary differential equation if

$$f(\gamma \mathbf{x}) = \gamma f(\mathbf{x})$$

Now, given the equation of the three-dimensional autonomous system, under the transformation $(x, y, z) \rightarrow (-x, -y, -z)$, to verify that this transformation is a symmetry of the autonomous equation, we observe that the symmetry is associated with the matrix γ defined as

$$\gamma = \begin{bmatrix}
-1 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & -1 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 1
\end{bmatrix}
\tag{1.9}$$

let

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = f(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} -x + y \\ xz - cy \\ b - x^2 - dz \end{bmatrix}$$
 (1.10)

with $\mathbf{x}^T = (x, y, z)$

Now, we proceed to show that $\gamma f(\mathbf{x}) = f(\gamma \mathbf{x})$: On the left hand side:

$$\gamma f(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -x + y \\ xz - cy \\ b - x^2 - dz \end{bmatrix} \\
= \begin{bmatrix} x - y \\ -xz + cy \\ b - x^2 - dz \end{bmatrix}$$

And now, on the right hand side:

$$f(\gamma \mathbf{x}) = f \begin{pmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} \end{pmatrix}$$
$$= f \begin{pmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} \end{pmatrix}$$
$$= \begin{bmatrix} x - y \\ -xz + cy \\ b - x^2 - dz \end{bmatrix}$$

Since the left hand side is equal to the right hand side, then γ is a symmetry of the Three-dimensional Autonomous System. In other words, all solutions are either symmetric themselves, or have a symmetric partner

Dissipativity The system with the general condition for dissipativity (or Volume contraction):

$$\begin{split} \nabla V &= \frac{\partial (\frac{dx}{dt})}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial (\frac{dy}{dt})}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial (\frac{dz}{dt})}{\partial z} \\ &= -(1+c+d) \end{split}$$

So

$$V'(t) = -(1+c+d)V$$
$$V(t)V(0)e^{-(1+c+d)}t$$

Thus volumes in phase space shrink exponentially fast An explanation of dissipativity is given in [4] page 320.

- Fixed Points The system has two types of fixed points:

$$\begin{array}{ll} 0 = -x + y & \Rightarrow x = y \\ 0 = xz - cy & \Rightarrow z = c \\ 0 = b - x^2 - dz & \Rightarrow x^2 + dz = b \Rightarrow x = y = \sqrt{b - dc} \end{array}$$

When $b \le dc$ the fixed points for x,y=0 and $z=\frac{d}{b}$ When b>dc the fixed points are $(\pm\sqrt{b-cd},\pm\sqrt{b-cd},c)$

- Sensitivity to initial conditions Starting the system with slightly different initial conditions (0,0.1,0) and (0,0.09,0) we can see that after some time the two trajectories quickly diverge from each other

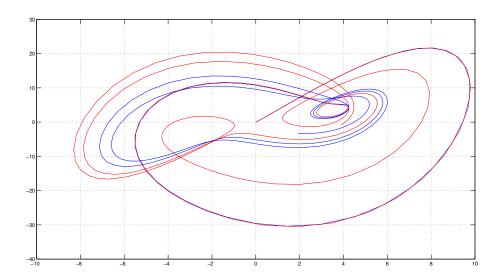


Figure 1.7: Sensitivity to initial conditions in a Third Order Autonomous System

[8] Shows that the system presents chaos of horseshoe type.

2 Simulations

Simulations with Chua's System and the system proposed by [8] were used to see if any of the system follows Benford's Law. On one hand we used Simulink and MATLAB in order to produce bifurcation diagrams and set up the dimensionless differential equations. On the other hand, we used a SPICE-based circuit simulator in order to get the systems in terms of electrical components.

2.0.4 Chua's Circuit

• Physical Realization The system describing chua's System

$$\begin{split} \frac{G}{C1}V_2 - \frac{G_b'}{C_1}V_1 - (\frac{G_b - G_a}{C_1})E & if \quad V_1 < -E \\ & \frac{G}{C1}V_2 - \frac{G_a'}{C_1}V_1 & if \quad -E \geq v1 \leq E \\ & \frac{G}{C1}V_2 - \frac{G_b'}{C_1}V_1 - (\frac{G_a - G_b}{C_1})E & if \quad V_1 > E \end{split}$$

is given by the following schematic

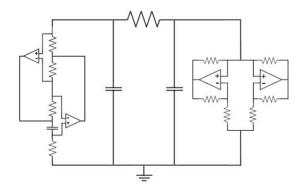
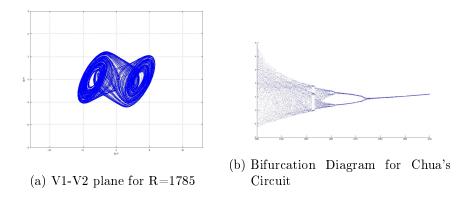


Figure 2.1: OP-Amp Based realization of Chua's Circuit

With the Capacitors C1=10nF C2=100nF and a 8mH Inductor given by the gyrator circuit.

- Numerical Simulations Using a spice based simulation software and MATLAB, several resistor values where tested, we constructed the bifurcation diagram and plotted for some R values
- Benford Analysis The first digit distribution was determined from the voltage measured at the terminals of C1, using a resistance value of 1860Ω, at that value, Chua's Circuit presented Chaotic Behaviour. The first digits (without leading zeroes) of the voltage values at discrete points were analyzed. We compared the first digit distribution of the dataset with the distribution given by Benford's Law



using the Mean Absolute Deviation (MAD) proposed by [2]. We got a MAD value of 0.22, with a maximum of 0.15 in order to be conformant with Benford's Law.

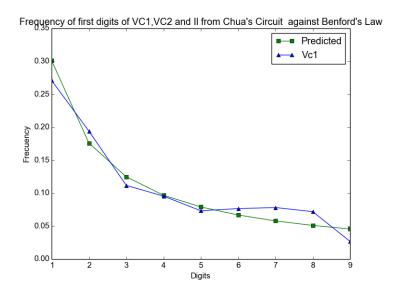


Figure 2.3: OP-Amp Based realization of Chua's Circuit

2.0.5 Three-Dimensional Autonomous Circuit

• Physical Realization The electronic circuit built to realise the system is shown in figure 2.4: Voltages V_x, V_y and V_z are the output voltages of the operational am-

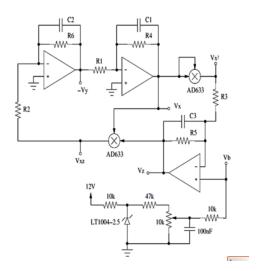


Figure 2.4: Circuit Schematic

plifiers representing x,y and z, $k_m = 10V$ is the fixed constant of the AD633 multipliers, so the outputs of the multipliers are $V_{xz} = V_x V_z / k_m$ and $V_{x^2} = V_x V_x / k_m$. Substitution of resistor values into Eqs. (1.5),(1.6),(1.7) yields:

$$\frac{dV_x}{dt} = \frac{1}{R_1 C_1} \left(V_y - V_x \frac{R_1}{R_4} \right) \tag{2.1}$$

$$\frac{dV_y}{dt} = \frac{1}{R_2 C_2} \left(\frac{V_x V_z}{k_m} - \frac{R_2}{R_6} V_y \right)$$
 (2.2)

$$\frac{dV_z}{dt} = \frac{1}{R_3 C_3} \left(V_b \left(1 + \frac{R_3}{R_5} \right) - \frac{V_x^2}{k_m} - \frac{R_3}{R_5} V_z \right) \tag{2.3}$$

The values for resistors and capacitor used where: $R_1 = 0.5 \text{ K}\Omega$, $R_2 = 10 \text{ K}\Omega$, $R_3 = 10 \text{ K}\Omega$, $R_4 = 5 \text{ K}\Omega$, $R_5 = 1.15 \text{ M}\Omega$, $R_3 = 1 \text{ M}\Omega$, $C_1 = 100 \text{ nF}$, $C_2 = 100 \text{ nF}$, $C_3 = 10 \text{ nF}$, $V_b = 10 \text{ K}\Omega$

• Numerical Simulations We used SIMULINK in order to model the system and MATLAB to create the bifurcation diagram. The response of the syste with the parameters indicated above is given by figure 2.5:

Bifurcation diagram for the z value

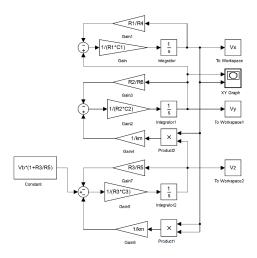


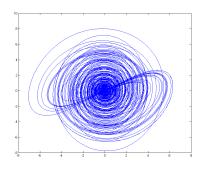
Figure 2.5: Simulink simulation

• Correspondence with Benford's Law The same methodology used in Chua's Circuit was used with this circuit, taking measurements from V_y and using the MAD test to verify conformity with the First Digit Distribution

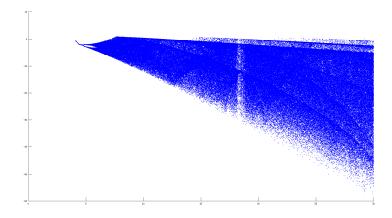
For different values of d, we did a table with the respective first digit frequencies (10000 samples) and MAD test.

Leading digit	Benford Distribution	d=1/23	d = 0.03	d = 0.01	d=0.001	d=0.00001
1	0,3010	0,3296	0,3132	0,3166	0,2792	0,3108
2	0,1760	0,1787	0,1800	0,1801	0,1707	0,1781
3	0,1249	0,1111	0,1142	0,1196	0,1209	0,1230
4	0,0969	0,0856	0,0910	0,0894	0,0904	0,0941
5	0,0791	0,0727	0,0791	0,0765	0,0754	0,0731
6	$0,\!0669$	0,0604	0,0647	0,0672	0,0670	0,0691
7	0,0579	0,0581	0,0602	0,0567	0,0596	0,0565
8	0,0511	0,0565	0,0511	0,0493	0,0515	0,0496
9	0,0457	0,0473	0,0465	0,0446	0,0415	0,0457
MAD		0,0085	0,0042	0,0044	0,0053	0,0031

We noticed strong agreement given by Nigrini[2], next, we built the circuits and do tests measuring voltages.



(a) V1-V2 V_x vs V_y plot



(b) Bifurcation Diagram varying b

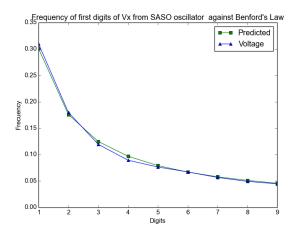


Figure 2.7: V_x against Benford's Law

3 Experimental Results

3.0.6 Chua's Circuit

• Methodology We constructed the circuit using 4 TL082 I.C.'s and commercial resistors with the values used during simulation, Trimmer resistors to be able to move the resistor values of R.

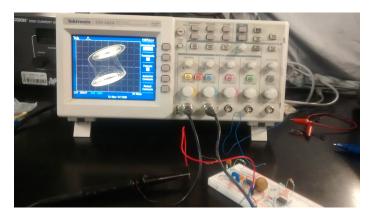


Figure 3.1: Chua's System Breadboard

We used two oscilloscope probes to measure the voltage from the two capacitors, and did our measurements with a Tektronix DS201 Oscilloscope with a direct method sampling.

The first digit distribution was determined from the voltage measured at the terminals of C1,varying R from 1700Ω to 1900Ω in 25Ω intervals, values in which Chua's Circuit presented chaotic behaviour. The first digits (without leading zeroes) of the voltage values at discrete points were analyzed, the oscilloscoped allowed us to

take 2000 samples from a 250 μ s period. We compared the first digit distribution of the dataset with the distribution given by Benford's Law using the Mean Absolute Deviation (MAD) proposed by [2].

• Results We put a table with the MAD results at each value of R:

\mathbf{R}	VC1	VC2
1700	0.0265740826252	0.0941252615083
1725	0.0308583854254	0.0894910362566
1750	0.0225012003889	0.0937811348396
1775	0.0213932963068	0.0894482136018
1800	0.0515553953624	0.0817178075546
1825	0.0620516456615	0.0757908400412
1850	0.0801858066881	0.0616474503737
1875	0.0864648516751	0.0566898036332
1900	0.0848654579991	0.0477795566486

The closest value we got was with R=1775 measuring VC1

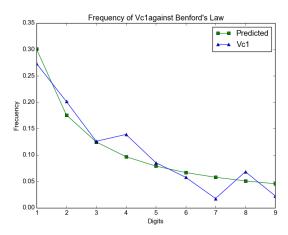
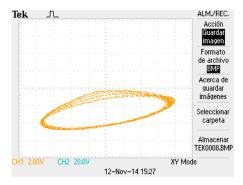


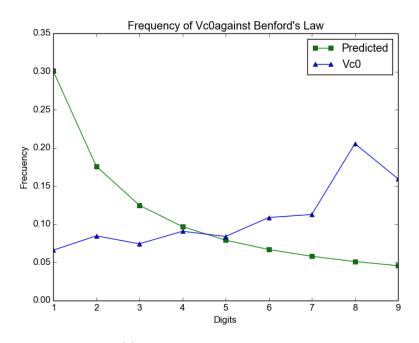
Figure 3.2: Benford's Law against VC1

• Remarks

We noticed that between for R between 1730 and 1775, there is a more clear First Digit Distribution according to Benford's Law, however, the measurements did not comply with MAD's Criteria which expects at most 0.015 in order to be compliant with Benford's Law. We also took a measurement with $R=2000\Omega$, value at which the system behaves as a quasi-periodic oscillator. we noticed that the first digit distribution is more uniform.



(a) V1-V2 V_x vs V_y plot



(b) Bifurcation Diagram varying b

3.0.7 Takougang Circuit

- MethodologyThe circuit was connected using a standard breadboard, according to the diagram, all passive components had a nominal value equal to the ones proposed in the schematic, with a tolerance of 5%. A regulated voltage source, set to \pm 12 V was utilized to feed the active components which were the same as stated in the schematic. A third output of the regulated voltage source served to provide a stable input for the circuit (V_b) . Next, a digital oscilloscope was used in order to obtain the data provided by the circuit.
 - A 1 GHz band-width oscilloscope (Agilent DSO6104A) was used next, and it was configured in order to reduce random noise. The sampler uses an averaging algorithm which delivers data with less noise, and reduces the vertical resolution (as low as 0.7 mV), with the data obtained from that oscilloscope the analysis was more reliable and results confirmed what was expected from the simulations, although only 1000 samples in an interval of 10 ms were fetched.
- Results The first digit distribution of the voltages was taken and following the same methodology as with Chua's System, we swept through V_b and took the MAD value from each distribution

$\overline{}_{V_b}$	V_x	V_y
$\frac{82 \text{mV}}{}$	0.0775279989288	0.0607280417648
-92mV	0.0789296997697	0.0620760330126
102mv	0.0779822062934	0.0620098514762
112mv	0.0722551588234	0.0586329019652
117mv	0.0731369417692	0.0565637073089
122mv	0.0761361923841	0.0607646781498
127mv	0.0702382876578	0.0581541345311
132mv	0.0726371865346	0.0568562424256
$137 \mathrm{mv}$	0.0723923763659	0.0588608733569
142mv	0.0689722218274	0.0566979795649
147mv	0.0649140903028	0.0492049220995
152mv	0.0689575397758	0.0540809650999
157mv	0.071269709088	0.0556102788266
$167 \mathrm{mv}$	0.0713877270204	0.0546276659144
187mv	0.0642837364043	0.0499581746439
197mv	0.0619961498144	0.0491763886427
217mv	0.0644054740322	0.0521147934116
$237 \mathrm{mv}$	0.0574813303354	0.0515391121266
$257 \mathrm{mv}$	0.0552768884655	0.0514296383228
277mv	0.0464325092508	0.0450451557158
112mv (H-Res)	0.0126362748635	0.0149581584175
132mv (H-Res)	0.0114562387312	0.0056682935093
152mv (H-Res)	0.0106402668795	0.0143777130129
172mv (H-Res)	0.0077090293797	0.0118696485616
192mv (H-Res)	0.00801241025011	0.0120739312228

We notice we have the best agreement with Benford's Law with $V_b=132mV$ Which gives a MAD value of 0.0056

• Remarks

Simulations from Simulink gave a better accordance with $V_b=132mV$, however measuring without High-resolution sampling we did not obtain proper distributions, until we activated that sampling method, we got a distribution according to Benford's Law

4 Conclusion

In the work done by Tolle [10] some dynamical systems were proposed and theye checked if the first digit distribution followed Benford's Law. We took 2 autonomous circuits which displayed chaotic behaviour and verified if they were conformant according with the criterion given by Nigrini et. al. [2]. According to our experimental results, the

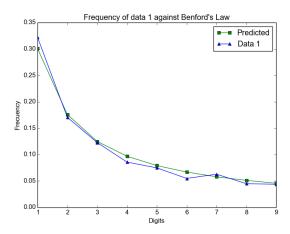


Figure 3.4: Benford's Law against digit distribution of V_y

system which best followed the distribution whas the Third Order Autonomous System proposed by Takougang et.al [8].

Verifying the results from [8], we notice that this circuit has a Shilnikov heteroclinic orbit, which implies by the Shilnikov Criterion that the system has horseshoe chaos. This type of chaos produces time signals called chaotic bursting oscillations (see Fig. 4.1)

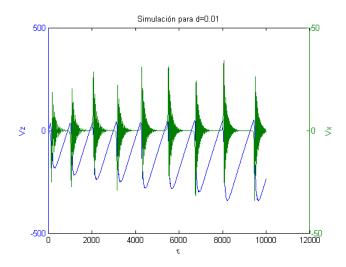


Figure 4.1: V_y response as a function of time

This type of oscillations are found in biological phenomena, such as Ca^2+ oscillations in non-excitable cells [11], pancreatic β cells [12] and in neurons[13] and heart oscillatons, also, the work by Kreuzer et. al. [3] indicates that brain electrical activity follows Benford's Law, so it would be interesting to see if Benford's Law could be an indicative if Real life phenomena is modelled correctly by the system if both follow Benford's Law

(as it was first indicated by [10]) and also to try to verify if other systems that present this kind of oscillations also follow Benford's Law.

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