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Second Order RCL Circuit

Applying KVL to an RCL series circuit we get

$$v_L(t) + v_R(t) + v_C(t) = v(t)$$

where

$$v_L(t) = L \frac{d}{dt} i(t), \quad v_R(t) = Ri(t), \quad v_C(t) = \frac{Q(t)}{C}$$

Substituting

$$i(t) = \frac{dQ(t)}{dt} = C \frac{d}{dt} v_C(t)$$

into the equation above we get

$$LC \frac{d^2}{dt^2} v_C(t) + RC \frac{d}{dt} v_C(t) + v_C(t) = v(t)$$

or

$$\frac{d^2}{dt^2} v_C(t) + \frac{R}{L} \frac{d}{dt} v_C(t) + \frac{1}{LC} v_C(t) = \ddot{v}_C(t) + 2\zeta\omega_n \dot{v}_C(t) + \omega_n^2 v_C(t) = \omega_n^2 v(t)$$

where

$$\omega_n = \frac{1}{\sqrt{LC}}, \quad \zeta = \frac{R}{2} \sqrt{\frac{C}{L}}$$

are respectively the damping coefficient and natural frequency of the second order system. To find the homogeneous solution we substitute $v_C(t) = e^{st}$ into the homogeneous DE and get

$$(s^2 + 2\zeta\omega_n s + \omega_n^2) e^{st} = 0$$

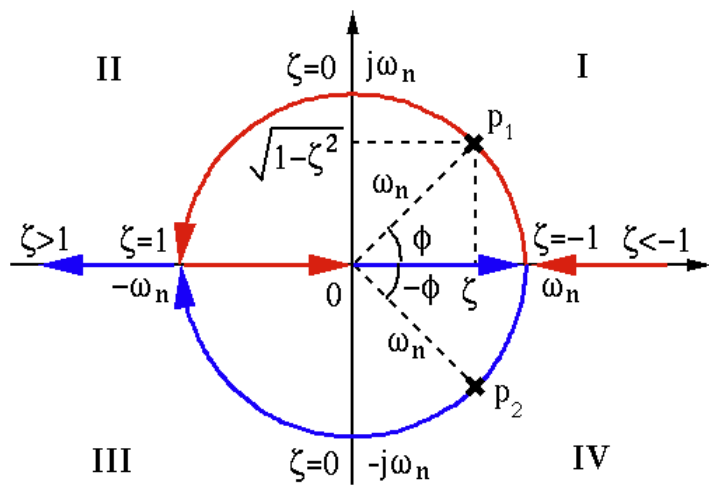
Solving the algebraic equation $s^2 + 2\zeta\omega_n s + \omega_n^2 = 0$ we get the two roots

$$s_{1,2} = (-\zeta \pm \sqrt{\zeta^2 - 1})\omega_n = (-\zeta \pm j\sqrt{1 - \zeta^2})\omega_n = -\omega_n e^{\mp j\phi}$$

where

$$\phi = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{\sqrt{1 - \zeta^2}}{\zeta} \right)$$

The two roots can be represented as the root locus on the complex plane, for a fixed value of ω_n .



The homogeneous solution takes the following form:

$$v_C(t) = Ae^{s_1 t} + Be^{s_2 t}$$

As in the RCL circuit $\zeta \geq 0$ and $\omega_n \geq 0$, we only need to consider the root locus in the II and III quadrants in the figure above. Specifically we consider the following two cases:

- $0 \leq \zeta < 1$. The system is underdamped.

$$s_{1,2} = -\zeta\omega_n \pm j\sqrt{1-\zeta^2}\omega_n = -\zeta\omega_n \pm j\omega_d$$

where $\omega_d = \sqrt{1-\zeta^2}\omega_n$ is the damped nature frequency. Correspondingly

$$e^{st} = e^{-\zeta\omega_n t} e^{\pm j\omega_d t} = e^{-\zeta\omega_n t} (\cos \omega_d t \pm \sin \omega_d t)$$

is an exponentially decaying sinusoidal oscillation. In particular, when $\zeta = 0$, $e^{st} = \cos \omega_n t \pm \sin \omega_n t$, the system is undamped.

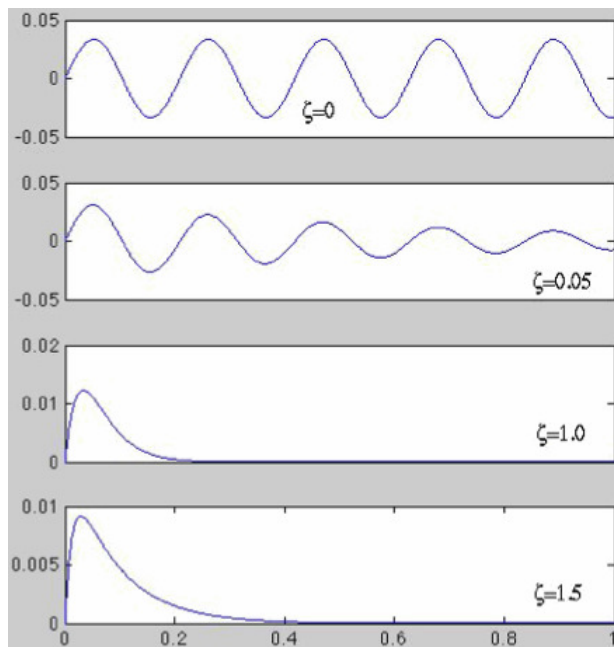
- $\zeta \geq 1$. The system is over-damped.

$$s_{1,2} = -(\zeta \pm \sqrt{\zeta^2 - 1})\omega_n < 0$$

and the corresponding solution

$$e^{st} = e^{-(\zeta \pm \sqrt{\zeta^2 - 1})\omega_n t}$$

decays exponentially. In particular, when $\zeta = 1$, the system is critically damped.

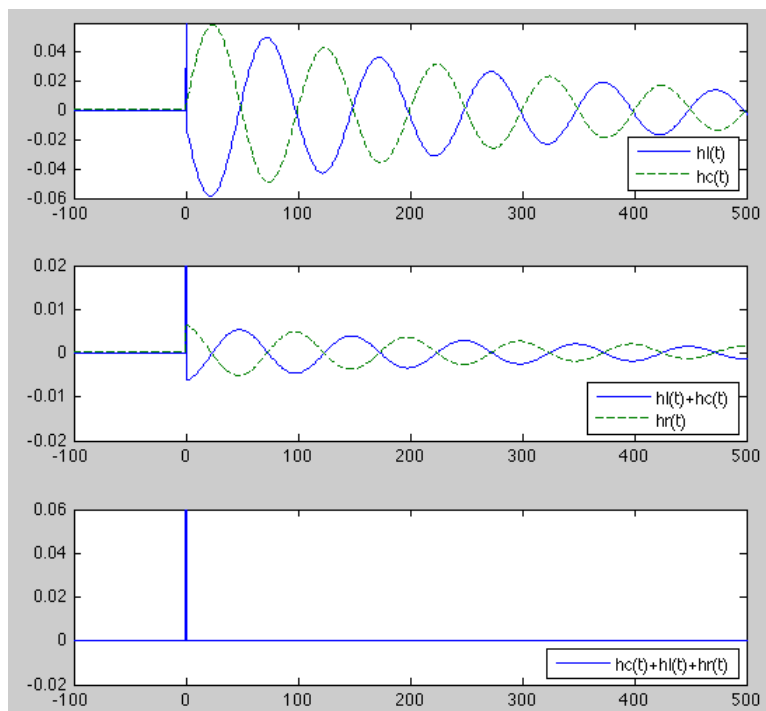


It can be shown that the impulse response of the system is

$$h_C(t) = \frac{\omega_n e^{-\zeta \omega_n t}}{\sqrt{1-\zeta^2}} \sin(\omega_d t) u(t)$$

In particular, when $R = 0$ and $\zeta = 0$,

$$h_C(t) = \omega_n \sin(\omega_n t) u(t)$$



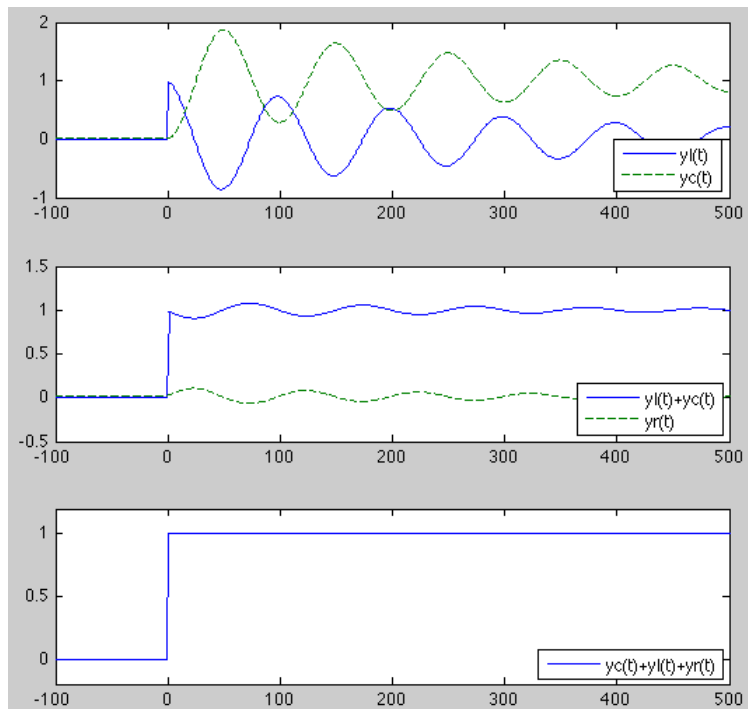
Impulse responses by R, L, and C of an RCL system. Top: impulse responses $h_L(t)$ (solid curve) and $h_C(t)$ (dashed curve); middle: their sum $h_L(t) + h_C(t)$ (solid curve) and impulse response $h_R(t)$ (dashed curve); bottom: the sum of all three: $\delta(t) = h_L(t) + h_R(t) + h_C(t)$.

The step response is

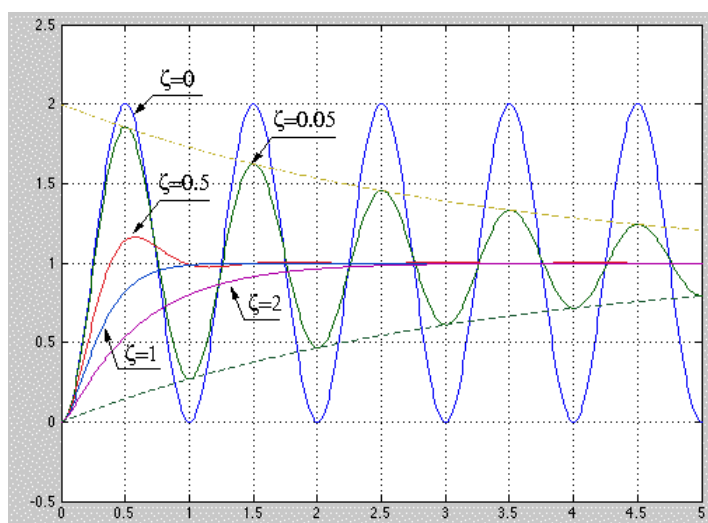
$$v_C(t) = \left[1 - \frac{e^{-\zeta\omega_n t}}{\sqrt{1-\zeta^2}} \sin(\omega_d t + \phi) \right] u(t)$$

In particular, when $R = 0$, $\zeta = 0$ and $\phi = \pi/2$, then the general form of the step response becomes

$$y(t) = \left[1 - \frac{e^{-\zeta\omega_n t}}{\sqrt{1-\zeta^2}} \sin(\omega_d t + \phi) \right] u(t) = [1 - \sin(\omega_n t + \pi/2)]u(t) = [1 - \cos(\omega_n t)]u(t)$$



Step responses by R, L as well as C of an RCL system. Top: step responses $v_L(t)$ (solid curve) and $v_C(t)$ (dashed curve); middle: their sum $v_L(t) + v_C(t)$ (solid curve) and step responses $y_R(t)$ (dashed curve); bottom: the sum of all three: $v_C(t) + v_L(t) + v_R(t) = u(t)$.



Step response of second-order system for different ζ . Step responses corresponding to five different values of ζ : 0, 0.05, 0.5, 1, and 2. The envelope of the step response for $\zeta = 0.05$ is also plotted to show the exponential decay of the sinusoid.

Example It is often desirable for a second order system to reach a steady state value, e.g., $\underline{v = 2}$, without overshoot. This can be achieved by applying first

a step input $u(t)$ and then another one $u(t - T/2)$, where $T = 2\pi/\omega_n$. The response of the first step input is $[1 - \cos(\omega_n t)]u(t)$ and that to the second is

$$[1 - \cos(\omega_n(t - T/2))]u(t - T/2) = [1 - \cos(\omega_n t - \pi)]u(t - T/2) = [1 + \cos(\omega_n t)]u(t - T/2)$$

As the sum of the two individual responses the total response for $t > T/2$ is 2, i.e.,

$$v_C(t) = \begin{cases} [1 - \cos \omega_n t]u(t) & 0 < t < T/2 = \pi/\omega_n \\ 2 & t > T/2 = \pi/\omega_n \end{cases}$$

Example Consider the response $y(t) = v_C(t)$ of the RCL system when $R = 0$.

- Find the step response $y(t)$ of the RLC circuit (with zero initial conditions $v_C(0) = \dot{v}_C(0) = 0$).

The general solution is the sum of the homogeneous solution $A \sin \omega_n t + B \cos \omega_n t$ and the particular solution $V = 1$:

$$y(t) = 1 + A \sin \omega_n t + B \cos \omega_n t$$

Based on the zero initial conditions

$$y(0) = 1 + B = 0, \quad \dot{y}(0) = A\omega_n = 0$$

we get $A = 0$ and $B = -1$ and

$$y(t) = 1 - \cos \omega_n t$$

- Find the system's response to a square impulse

$$x(t) = \begin{cases} 1 & 0 \leq t < t_0 \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

As $x(t) = u(t) - u(t - t_0)$, the response is

$$y(t) = [[1 - \cos(\omega_n t)]u(t) - [1 - \cos(\omega_n(t - t_0))]u(t - t_0)]$$

i.e.,

$$y(t) = [-\cos(\omega_n t) + \cos(\omega_n(t - t_0))], \quad t > t_0$$

- Find the impulse response $h(t)$. The impulse input can be written as

$$\delta(t) = \lim_{t_0 \rightarrow 0} \begin{cases} 1/t_0 & 0 \leq t < t_0 \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

When $t_0 \rightarrow 0$, we have first order approximations $\cos(\omega_n t_0) \approx 1$, $\sin(\omega_n t_0) \approx \omega_n t_0$, and get

$$\cos(\omega_n(t - t_0)) = \cos(\omega_n t) \cos(\omega_n t_0) + \sin(\omega_n t) \sin(\omega_n t_0) \approx \cos(\omega_n t) + \sin(\omega_n t) \omega_n t_0$$

Substituting this into the equation above we get the impulse response

$$y(t) = \omega_n \sin(\omega_n t)$$

- When $t_0 = T/2 = \pi/\omega_n$, we have

$$\cos(\omega_n(t - t_0)) = \cos(\omega_n t - \pi) = -\cos(\omega_n t)$$

and the response for $t > T/2$ is

$$y(t) = -2 \cos(\omega_n t)$$



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