

Transfer Functions

The preparatory reading for this section is [Chapter 4.4 \[Kar12\]](#) which discusses transfer function models of electrical circuits.

Colophon

An annotatable worksheet for this presentation is available as [Worksheet 7](#).

- The source code for this page is [laplace transform/4/transfer functions.ipynb](#).
- You can view the notes for this presentation as a webpage ([HTML](#)).
- This page is downloadable as a [PDF](#) file.

Agenda

- Transfer Functions
- A Couple of Examples
- Circuit Analysis Using MATLAB LTI Transfer Function Block
- Circuit Simulation Using Simulink Transfer Function Block

```
% Matlab setup
clear all
cd ../matlab
pwd
imatlab_export_fig('print-svg') % Static svg figures.
format compact
```

```
ans =
    '/Users/eechris/code/src/github.com/cpjobling/eg-247-
textbook/laplace_transform/matlab'
```

Transfer Functions for Circuits

When doing circuit analysis with components defined in the complex frequency domain, the ratio of the output voltage $V_{\text{out}}(s)$ to the input voltage $V_{\text{in}}(s)$ *under zero initial conditions* is of great interest.

This ratio is known as the *voltage transfer function* denoted $G_v(s)$:

$$G_v(s) = \frac{V_{\text{out}}(s)}{V_{\text{in}}(s)}$$

Similarly, the ratio of the output current $I_{\text{out}}(s)$ to the input current $I_{\text{in}}(s)$ *under zero initial conditions*, is called the *current transfer function* denoted $G_i(s)$:

$$G_i(s) = \frac{I_{\text{out}}(s)}{I_{\text{in}}(s)}$$

In practice, the current transfer function is rarely used, so we will use the voltage transfer function denoted:

$$G(s) = \frac{V_{\text{out}}(s)}{V_{\text{in}}(s)}$$

Examples

See [Worksheet 7](#) for the worked solutions to the examples. We will work through these in class. Here I'll demonstrate the MATLAB solutions.

[Colophon](#)

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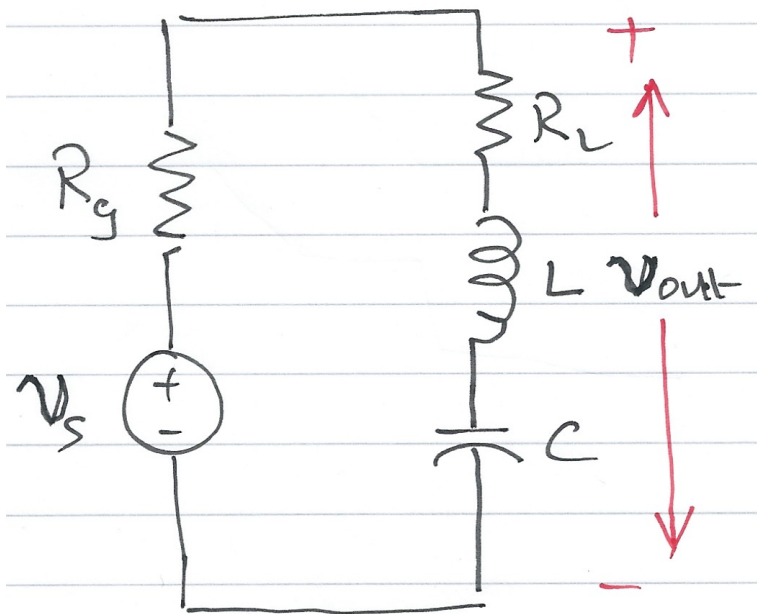
[Example](#)

[Reference](#)



Example 6

Derive an expression for the transfer function $G(s)$ for the circuit below. In this circuit R_g represents the internal resistance of the applied (voltage) source v_s , and R_L represents the resistance of the load that consists of R_L , L and C .



Sketch of Solution

- Replace $v_s(t)$, R_g , R_L , L and C by their transformed (*complex frequency*) equivalents: $V_s(s)$, R_g , R_L , sL and $1/(sC)$
- Use the *Voltage Divider Rule* to determine $V_{out}(s)$ as a function of $V_s(s)$
- Form $G(s)$ by writing down the ratio $V_{out}(s)/V_s(s)$

Worked solution.

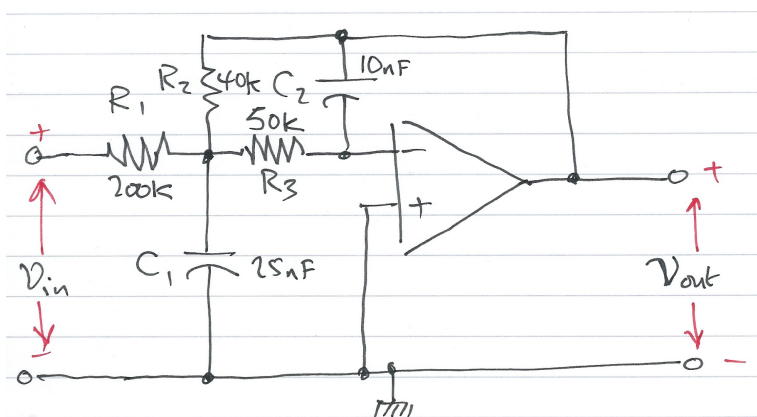
Pencast: [ex6.pdf](#) - open in Adobe Acrobat Reader.

Answer

$$G(s) = \frac{V_{out}(s)}{V_s(s)} = \frac{R_L + sL + 1/sC}{R_g + R_L + sL + 1/sC}.$$

Example 7

Compute the transfer function for the op-amp circuit shown below in terms of the circuit constants R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , C_1 and C_2 .



Then replace the complex variable s with $j\omega$, and the circuit constants with their numerical values and plot the magnitude

$$|G(j\omega)| = \frac{|V_{out}(j\omega)|}{|V_{in}(j\omega)|}$$

versus radian frequency ω rad/s.

- Replace the components and voltages in the circuit diagram with their complex frequency equivalents
- Use nodal analysis to determine the voltages at the nodes either side of the 50K resistor R_3
- Note that the voltage at the input to the op-amp is a virtual ground
- Solve for $V_{\text{out}}(s)$ as a function of $V_{\text{in}}(s)$
- Form the reciprocal $G(s) = V_{\text{out}}(s)/V_{\text{in}}(s)$
- Use MATLAB to calculate the component values, then replace s by $j\omega$.
- Plot

$$|G(j\omega)|$$

on log-linear “paper”.

Worked solution.

Pencast: [ex7.pdf](#) - open in Adobe Acrobat Reader.

Answer

$$G(s) = \frac{V_{\text{out}}(s)}{V_{\text{in}}(s)} = \frac{-1}{R_1 ((1/R_1 + 1/R_2 + 1/R_3 + sC_1)(sC_2 R_3) + 1/R_2)}.$$

The Matlab Bit

See attached script: [solution7.m](#).

Week 3: Solution 7

```
syms s;

R1 = 200*10^3;
R2 = 40*10^3;
R3 = 50*10^3;

C1 = 25*10^(-9);
C2 = 10*10^(-9);

den = R1*((1/R1+ 1/R2 + 1/R3 + s*C1)*(s*R3*C2) + 1/R2);
simplify(den)

ans =

100*s*(2.5000e-08*s + 5.0000e-05) + 5
```

Simplify coefficients of s in denominator

```
format long
denG = sym2poly(ans)

denG =

0.000002500000000    0.005000000000000    5.000000000000000

numG = -1;
```

Plot

For convenience, define coefficients a and b :

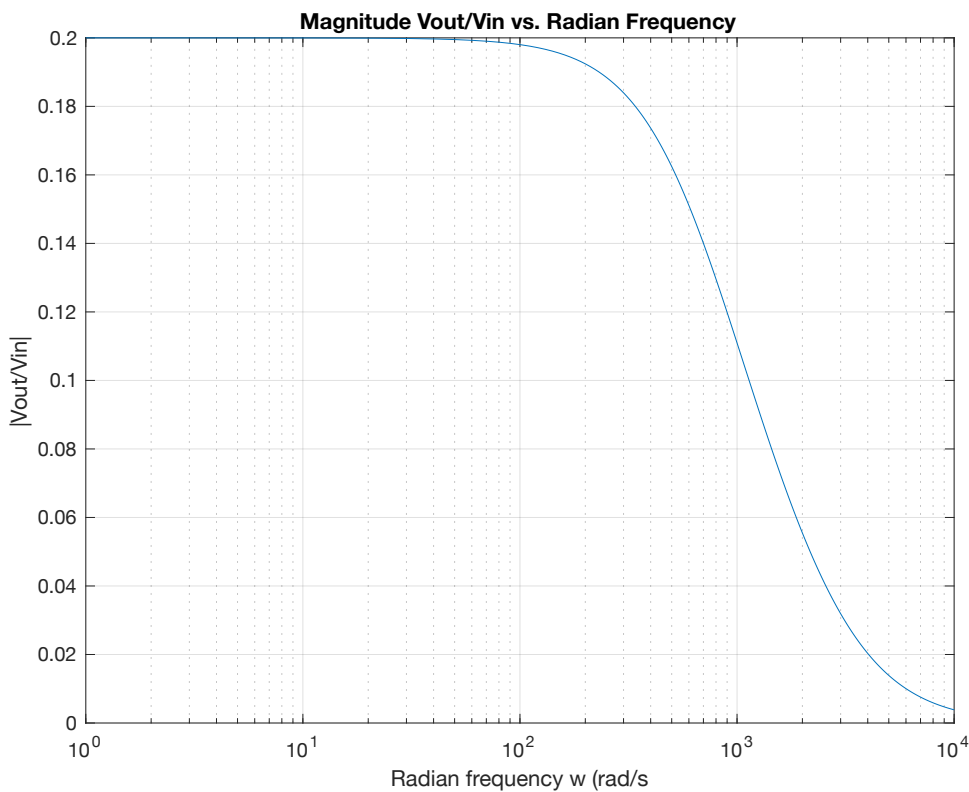
```
a = denG(1);
b = denG(2);
```

$$G(j\omega) = \frac{-1}{a\omega^2 - jb\omega + 5}$$

```
w = 1:10:10000;
Gs = -1./(a*w.^2 - j.*b.*w + denG(3));
```

Plot

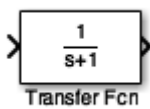
```
semilogx(w, abs(Gs))
xlabel('Radian frequency w (rad/s)')
ylabel('|Vout/Vin|')
title('Magnitude Vout/Vin vs. Radian Frequency')
grid
```



Using Transfer Functions in MATLAB for System Analysis

Please use the file [tf_matlab.m](#) to explore the Transfer Function features provide by MATLAB. Open the file as a Live Script to see a nicely formatted document.

Using Transfer Functions in Simulink for System Simulation



The Simulink transfer function (**Transfer Fcn**) block implements a transfer function

The transfer function block represents a general input output function

$$G(s) = \frac{N(s)}{D(s)}$$

and is not specific nor restricted to circuit analysis.

It can, however be used in modelling and simulation studies.

Example

Recast Example 7 as a MATLAB problem using the LTI Transfer Function block.

For simplicity use parameters $R_1 = R_2 = R_3 = 1 \, \Omega$, and $C_1 = C_2 = 1 \, \text{F}$.

Calculate the step response using the LTI functions.

Verify the result with Simulink.

The Matlab solution: [example8.m](#)

MATLAB Solution

From a previous analysis the transfer function is:

$$G(s) = \frac{V_{\text{out}}}{V_{\text{in}}} = \frac{-1}{R_1 [(1/R_1 + 1/R_2 + 1/R_3 + sC_1)(sR_3C_2) + 1/R_2]}$$

so substituting the component values we get:

$$G(s) = \frac{V_{\text{out}}}{V_{\text{in}}} = \frac{-1}{s^2 + 3s + 1}$$

We can find the step response by letting $v_{\text{in}}(t) = u_0(t)$ so that $V_{\text{in}}(s) = 1/s$ then

$$V_{\text{out}}(s) = \frac{-1}{s^2 + 3s + 1} \cdot \frac{1}{s}$$

We can solve this by partial fraction expansion and inverse Laplace transform as is done in the text book with the help of MATLAB's **residue** function.

Here, however we'll use the LTI block.

Define the circuit as a transfer function

G = tf([-1],[1 3 1])

G =

-1

s^2 + 3 s + 1

Continuous-time transfer function.

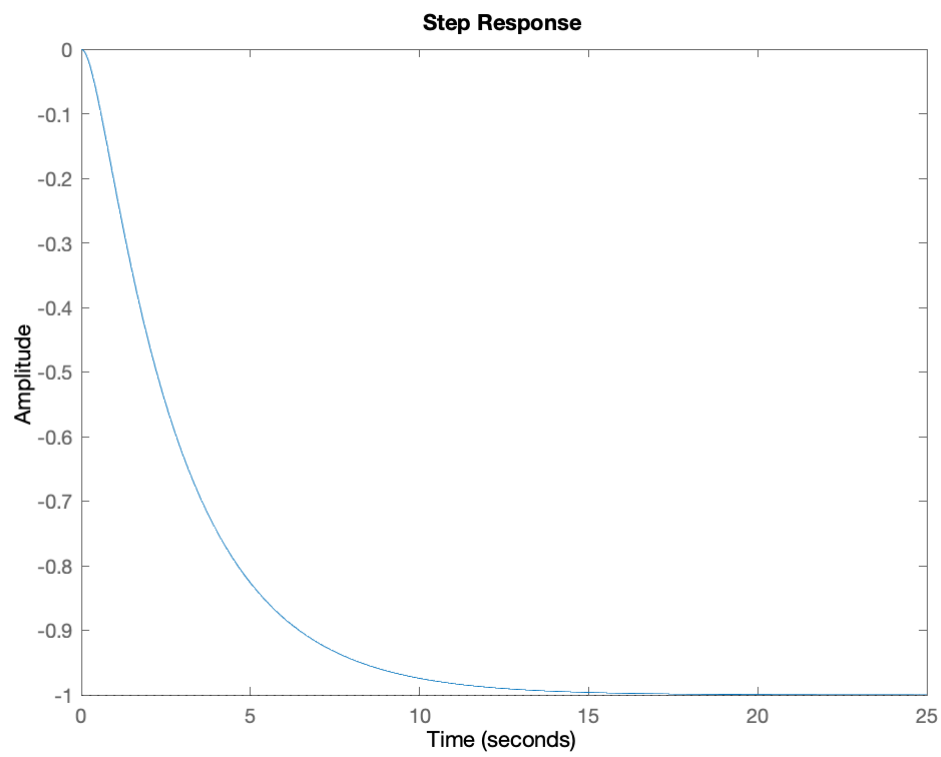
step response is then:

step(G)

<

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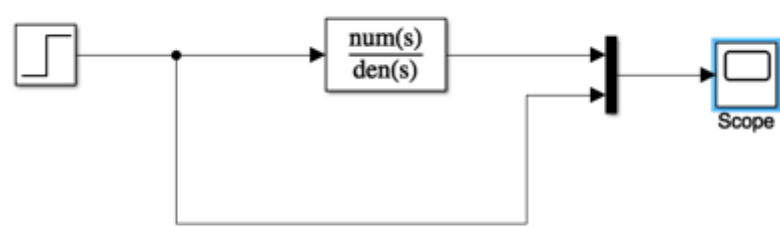


Simples!

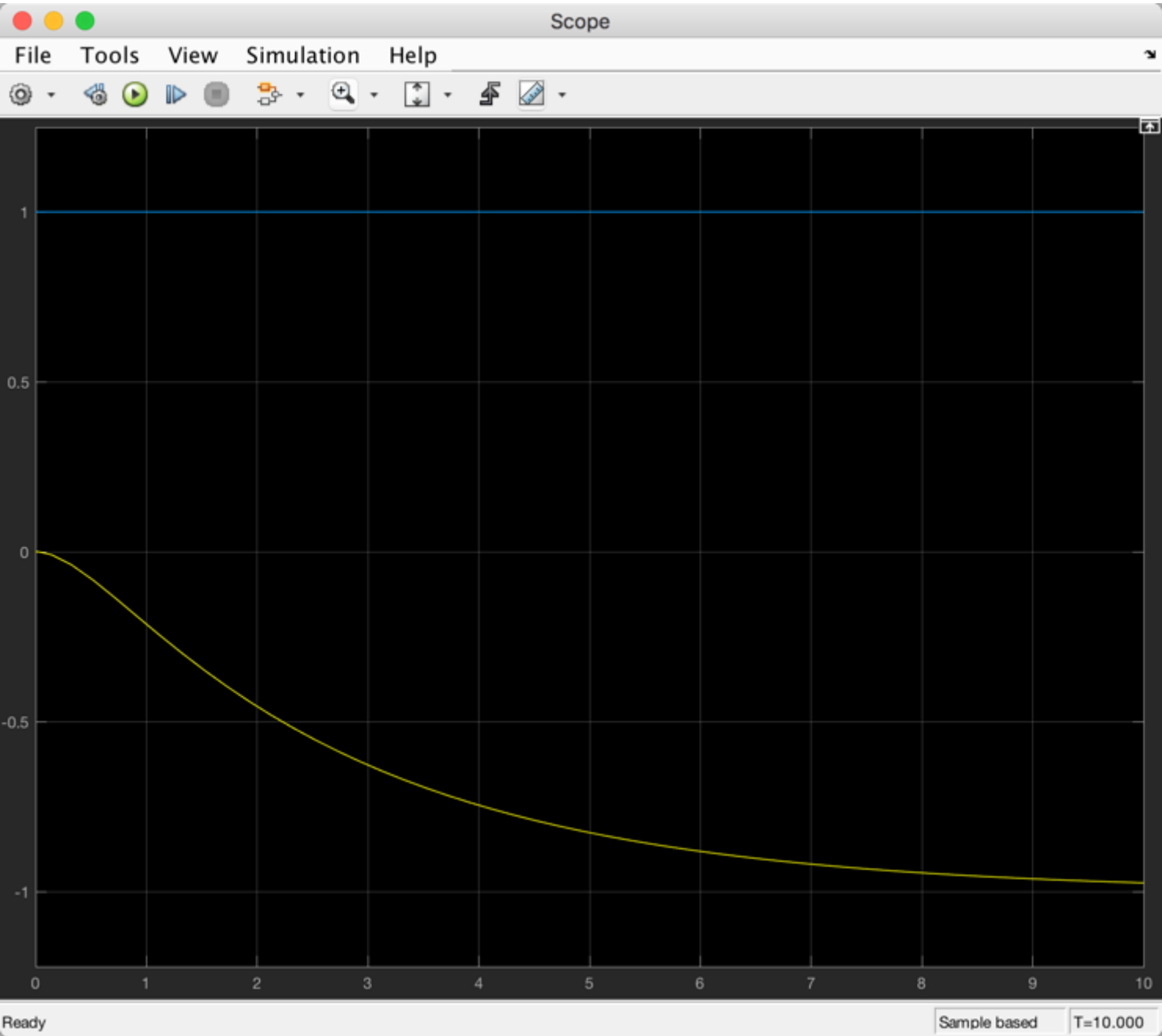
Simulink model

See [example_8.slx](#)

```
open example_8
```

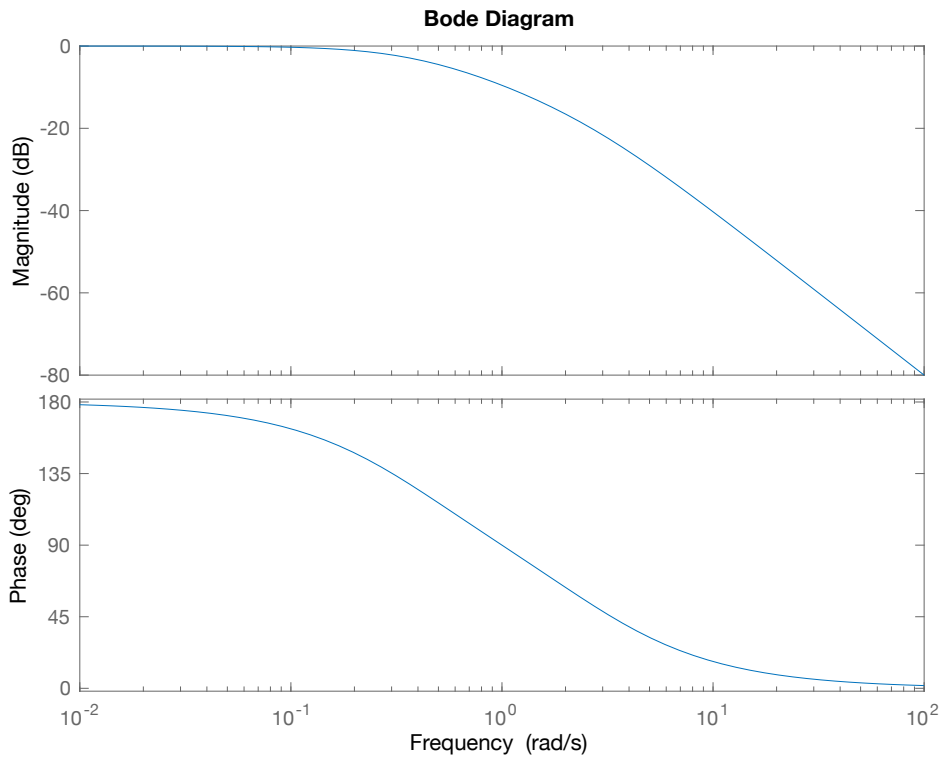


Result



Let's go a bit further by finding the frequency response:

```
bode(G)
```



Reference

See [Bibliography](#).

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