

Notes on *EE 219A: Numerical Simulation and Modeling*
lectures by Professor Jaijeet Roychowdhury, Spring
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Contents

1	Introduction	2
1.1	Course Coverage	2
1.2	Why is Simulation Useful?	3
1.3	First Look at Modeling through Circuits	3
1.3.1	Why Circuits First?	3
1.3.2	EE Devices/Elements	3
1.3.3	"System Properties" of Elements	5
2	Systems Continued	6
2.1	Linearity	6
2.2	Nonlinear Elements	6
2.2.1	Nonlinear Resistors	6
2.2.2	Ideal Diode Model	7

Lecture 1

Introduction

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1.1 Course Coverage

We will be covering

- Models: Mainly circuits, but we will see how this applies to other case
- System equations that arise from connections of modeled circuit components. DAEs will be looked at a lot, differential-algebraic equations
- Biochemical reaction equations (we will see how this looks pretty close to circuits)
- Analysis of noise in systems
- Effects of parameter variability
- Steady state analysis

We will have a more structured format then a standard electronics of ME course. In particular, we have two independent steps:

- Modeling physical systems as nonlinear differential equations
- Solving these differential equations numerically in different ways ("analyses")

The separation of these two steps gives us a nicer view of the modeling process.

1.2 Why is Simulation Useful?

Motivating example - We might have a super complicated circuit with tons and tons of resistors and we want to determine some waveform with respect to some input. We may desire to do this analytically, but this may not always be feasible or possible. We may proceed by taking analytically simplifications, but this may also be hard and also lead us to oversimplify.

Numerical simulations let us gain insights into a system that may be hard to analytically solve or simplify. We can experiment at will with numerical examples and gain an understanding of the system that may allow us to do well guided analytic simplifications.

The study of modeling also provides some mathematical beauty and lets us identify connections across many disciplines that may be otherwise hidden.

1.3 First Look at Modeling through Circuits

1.3.1 Why Circuits First?

- It's an EE class
- Historically, modeling/simulation is the most well developed in the world of circuit simulation
 - Starting with SPICE tools introduced in 70's, created at Berkeley
- Later adapted to other domains (biology, mechanics, etc.)
 - Even use circuits to describe things that have nothing to do with circuits, since circuits provide a nice, precise way to specify differential equations

1.3.2 EE Devices/Elements

Two Terminal Devices

- Two sides labeled by p and n , stands for positive and negative but that doesn't actually have to be what the potential on the respective ends are
- Some voltage across the device denoted by V_{pn}
- Current through the device denoted by i_{pn}^{\rightarrow}
- We have some equation for the relationship between voltage and current (typically voltage is the input) giving us a device model
 - It's typically useful to plot out this relationship

Let's look at some specific devices. We will start with some idealized models.

- Linear resistor, model given by Ohm's Law: $i = \frac{V}{R}$
 - We can see it has a perfect linear $I - V$ relationship

- The device is memoryless - current output at time t only depends on values of voltage provided at time t
- Linear capacitor, model given by $q = CV$
 - We can take the derivative to get the $I - V$ relationship by taking the derivative of both sides to derive $i(t) = C \frac{dV}{dt}$
 - Most idealized case is just two electric plates separated by some insulator
 - This device is not memoryless - the capacitor can be viewed as an integrator, which has some fundamental aspect of memory
- Linear inductor, model given by $\phi = Li$
 - We can take the derivative to get the $I - V$ relationship by taking the derivative of both sides to derive $V(t) = L \frac{di}{dt}$
 - We can also view the inductor as the dual of a capacitor
 - Of course, this component will also not be memoryless - we can view it as a differentiator
- Independent sources
 - Can provide voltage and current
 - Either completely flat vertical (voltage source) or horizontal (current source) line
 - * Thus, the voltage source $I - V$ relationship cannot be expressed as a function of V
- Linear dependent sources
 - This is actually a 4 terminal device, but it is often abstracted to have two terminal
 - The device will act as voltage or current source, with supply equal to some multiple of an input voltage or current
 - Voltage or current through the device depends on load
 - As a guiding principal, p known values are needed to completely specify p inputs and outputs of a system.

Like previously stated, we covered idealized device models

- Linear controlled sources are really unphysical
- R, L, C, etc. parameters are idealized (may be temperature dependent, device limits)

The takeaway is that all models are wrong, but some are useful. It is important to be able to know to what extent a model creates some approximation, or else you will be in a pickle.

1.3.3 "System Properties" of Elements

Definition 1.3.1 (Memoryless). The output of a system at time t is dependent only on the input at time t , not values of the input in the past or future.

We will say that memoryless systems have outputs that are functions of the inputs (use $y(t) = f(x)$), or else the outputs are functionals of the inputs (use $y(t) = \chi\{x(t)\}$)

Definition 1.3.2 (Scaling). $x(t) \rightarrow y(t) \implies c \cdot x(t) \rightarrow c \cdot y(t)$

Definition 1.3.3 (Superposition). $x_1(t) \rightarrow y_1(t), x_2(t) \rightarrow y_2(t) \implies x_1(t) + x_2(t) \rightarrow y_1(t) + y_2(t)$

Definition 1.3.4. A system is **linear** if it satisfies superposition and scaling.

The quickest way to show linearity is to prove

$$x_1(t) \rightarrow y_1(t), x_2(t) \rightarrow y_2(t) \implies \alpha_1 \cdot x_1(t) + \alpha_2 \cdot x_2(t) \rightarrow \alpha_1 \cdot y_1(t) + \alpha_2 \cdot y_2(t)$$

Lecture 2

Systems Continued

2.1 Linearity

We concluded our discussion of linear systems for now and start getting into the interesting stuff.

2.2 Nonlinear Elements

2.2.1 Nonlinear Resistors

A nonlinear resistor might obey the $I - V$ relationship

$$i = f(v)$$

for some nonlinear function f .

It's important for this function f to be well defined, as in it has a defined output for every input over the domain of interest. For good simulation, we should want f to be continuous and infinitely differentiable

Whenever we can express $i = f(v)$, we say we have a **voltage-controlled element**. As you can imagine, the reverse relationship $v = g(i)$ describes as **current-controlled element**.

Not all types of elements will be defined as voltage-controlled or current controlled. We can sometimes have elements defined in an **implicit form** in which there may not exist a well-defined direct relationship between v and i . For example, consider the (purely hypothetical) relationship

$$i^2 + v^2 = 1$$

The relationship gives us a lot of issues if we try to define this as something voltage-controlled and current-controlled, namely

- For a given v we cannot determine a unique i
- For a given i we cannot determine a unique v
- There are values of v and i for which we do not have a defined output

Although this was just a toy example, we see real world examples in nonlinear elements

Why is this important? The major reason is that this all determines how we write our circuit equations. It can impact solving methods (we can solve voltage controlled sources with nodal analysis) and number of solutions as well.

2.2.2 Ideal Diode Model

The ideal diode model has the $I - V$ relationship

$$i_d = I_s(e^{\frac{V}{V_t}} - 1)$$

and is parameterized by

- I_s , the saturation current (A). Typically takes on values between 10^{-8} (breadboard) to 10^{-12} chip
- V_t , thermal voltage with equation

$$\frac{kT}{q}$$

itself with parameters

- k , Boltzman constant
- q , unit electric charge
- T , absolute temperature in Kelvin

If we wanted to plot this $I - V$ curve, it would look like a common exponential. We idealize this diode by assuming that any negative current or very low is 0.

We can see that at all points in the curve, $v \cdot i \geq 0$. This means that power is always being dissipated by our device, or alternatively, no power is being generated.