

RLC Analytical Responses

John Morrow

Equation 1 is the differential equation for the series-connected RLC circuit (Figure 1) in terms of i , the current flowing in the circuit. R , L , and C represent the resistance, inductance, and capacitance.

$$L \frac{di^2}{dt^2} + R \frac{di}{dt} + \frac{1}{C} = 0 \quad (1)$$

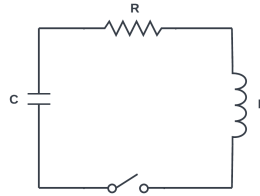


Figure 1: **Series-connected RLC circuit**

Taking the Laplace transform of each term in Equation 1:

$$\mathcal{L} \left\{ L \frac{di^2}{dt^2} \right\} = L (s^2 F(s) - si(0) - i'(0)) \quad (2)$$

$$\mathcal{L} \left\{ R \frac{di}{dt} \right\} = R (sF(s) - i(0)) \quad (3)$$

$$\mathcal{L} \left\{ \frac{1}{C} i \right\} = \frac{1}{C} F(s) \quad (4)$$

Combining and collecting terms, the Laplace transform of Equation 1 is:

$$(Ls^2 + Rs + \frac{1}{C})F(s) - (s+1)i(0) - i'(0) = 0 \quad (5)$$

Solving for $F(s)$:

$$F(s) = \frac{(s+1)i(0) + i'(0)}{Ls^2 + Rs + \frac{1}{C}} \quad (6)$$

Applying the initial conditions, $i(0) = 0$ and $i'(0) = \frac{V(0)}{L}$

where $V(0)$ is the initial capacitor voltage at $t = 0$:

$$F(s) = \frac{\frac{V(0)}{L}}{Ls^2 + Rs + \frac{1}{C}} \quad (7)$$

Factoring the denominator of Equation 7 and substituting $\alpha = \frac{R}{2L}$:

$$\left(s + \alpha + \sqrt{\alpha^2 - \frac{1}{LC}}\right) \left(s + \alpha - \sqrt{\alpha^2 - \frac{1}{LC}}\right) \quad (8)$$

Simplifying further by substituting $z = \sqrt{\alpha^2 - \frac{1}{LC}}$, the roots of $F(s)$ are:

$$(s + \alpha - z)(s + \alpha + z) \quad (9)$$

under-damped response

For the under-damped case, where $\alpha < \sqrt{\frac{1}{LC}}$, z becomes imaginary (denoted here by j):

$$(s + \alpha - zj)(s + \alpha + zj) \quad (10)$$

Expressing $F(s)$ from Equation 7 with partial fractions:

$$F(s) = \left(\frac{\frac{V(0)}{L}}{(s + \alpha - zj)(s + \alpha + zj)} \right) = \frac{A}{s + \alpha + zj} + \frac{B}{s + \alpha - zj} \quad (11)$$

$$F(s) = \frac{\frac{V(0)}{L}}{(s + \alpha - zj)(s + \alpha + zj)} = \frac{A(s + \alpha - zj) + B(s + \alpha + zj)}{(s + \alpha - zj)(s + \alpha + zj)} \quad (12)$$

Equating the numerators in Equation 12:

$$\frac{V(0)}{L} = A(s + \alpha - zj) + B(s + \alpha + zj) \quad (13)$$

When $s = -\alpha - zj$, Equation 13 becomes:

$$\frac{V(0)}{L} = A(-2zj) \quad (14)$$

Solving for A :

$$A = \frac{V(0)}{(-2zj)L} \left(\frac{j}{j} \right) = \frac{V(0)j}{2zL} \quad (15)$$

When $s = -\alpha + zj$, Equation 13 becomes:

$$\frac{V(0)}{L} = B(2zj) \quad (16)$$

Solving for B :

$$B = \frac{V(0)}{(2zj)L} \left(\frac{j}{j} \right) = \frac{-V(0)j}{2zL} \quad (17)$$

Substituting these values for A and B into Equation 11:

$$F(s) = \frac{\frac{V(0)j}{2zL}}{s + \alpha + zj} + \frac{\frac{-V(0)j}{2zL}}{s + \alpha - zj} \quad (18)$$

Taking the inverse Laplace transform of $F(s)$:

$$i(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1}F(s) \quad (19)$$

$$i(t) = \frac{V(0)}{2zL} \left(je^{-(\alpha+zj)t} - je^{-(\alpha-zj)t} \right) \quad (20)$$

$$i(t) = \frac{V(0)}{2zL} e^{-\alpha t} j \left(\frac{j}{j} \right) (e^{-zjt} - e^{zjt}) \quad (21)$$

$$i(t) = \frac{V(0)}{zL} e^{-\alpha t} \frac{(e^{zjt} - e^{-zjt})}{2j} \quad (22)$$

Substituting the identity $\sin(x) = \frac{(e^{jx} - e^{-jx})}{2j}$:

$$i(t) = \frac{V(0)}{zL} e^{-\alpha t} \sin(zt) \quad (23)$$

Figure 2 is the response of Equation 23, with $R = 1.2$ (ohms), $L = 1.5$ (henries), $C = 0.3$ (farads), and $V(0) = 12$ (volts). With these component values, $\alpha = 0.4$ and $z = 1.44$.

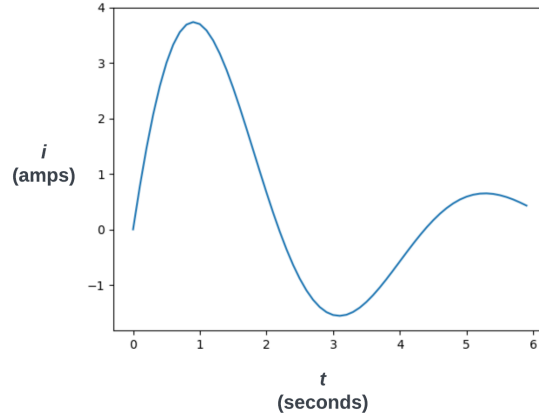


Figure 2: **Under-damped response**

critically-damped response

For the critically-damped case, $\alpha = \sqrt{\frac{1}{LC}}$. This results in $z = 0$, and both roots of $F(s)$ in Equation 9 are identical.

$$(s + \alpha)(s + \alpha) \quad (24)$$

Expressing $F(s)$ from Equation 7 with partial fractions and two identical roots:

$$F(s) = \left(\frac{\frac{V(0)}{L}}{(s + \alpha)(s + \alpha)} \right) = \frac{A}{s + \alpha} + \frac{B}{(s + \alpha)^2} \quad (25)$$

$$F(s) = \frac{\frac{V(0)}{L}}{(s + \alpha)(s + \alpha)} = \frac{A(s + \alpha) + B}{(s + \alpha)^2} \quad (26)$$

Equating the numerators in Equation 26:

$$\frac{V(0)}{L} = A(s + \alpha) + B \quad (27)$$

When $s = -\alpha$, Equation 27 becomes:

$$\frac{V(0)}{L} = A(-\alpha + \alpha) + B \quad (28)$$

Solving for B and A :

$$B = \frac{V(0)}{L}, \quad A = 0 \quad (29)$$

Substituting the values for A and B into Equation 25:

$$F(s) = \frac{\frac{V(0)}{L}}{(s + \alpha)^2} \quad (30)$$

Taking the inverse Laplace transform of $F(s)$:

$$i(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1}F(s) \quad (31)$$

$$i(t) = \frac{V(0)}{L}te^{-\alpha t} \quad (32)$$

Figure 3 is the response of Equation 32, with $R = 4.47$ (ohms), $L = 1.5$ (henries), $C = 0.3$ (farads), and $V(0) = 12$ (volts). With these component values, $\alpha = 1.49$.

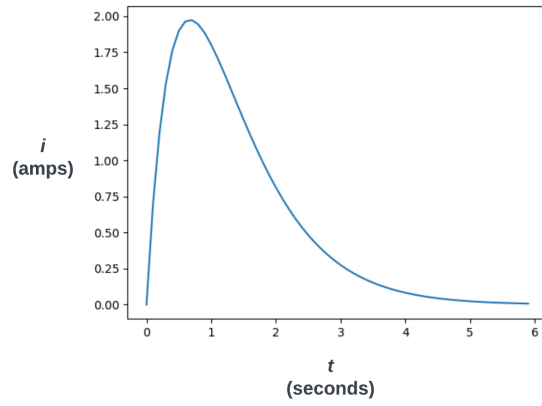


Figure 3: **Critically-damped response**

over-damped response

For the over-damped case, $\alpha > \sqrt{\frac{1}{LC}}$. Expressing $F(s)$ from Equation 7 with partial fractions:

$$F(s) = \left(\frac{\frac{V(0)}{L}}{(s + \alpha - z)(s + \alpha + z)} \right) = \frac{A}{s + \alpha + z} + \frac{B}{s + \alpha - z} \quad (33)$$

$$F(s) = \frac{\frac{V(0)}{L}}{(s + \alpha - zj)(s + \alpha + zj)} = \frac{A(s + \alpha - z) + B(s + \alpha + z)}{(s + \alpha - z)(s + \alpha + z)} \quad (34)$$

Equating the numerators in Equation 34:

$$\frac{V(0)}{L} = A(s + \alpha - z) + B(s + \alpha + z) \quad (35)$$

When $s = -\alpha - z$, Equation 35 becomes:

$$\frac{V(0)}{L} = A(-2z) \quad (36)$$

Solving for A :

$$A = \frac{V(0)}{-2zL} \quad (37)$$

When $s = -\alpha + z$, Equation 35 becomes:

$$\frac{V(0)}{L} = B(2z) \quad (38)$$

Solving for B :

$$B = \frac{V(0)}{2zL} \quad (39)$$

Substituting the values for A and B into Equation 33:

$$F(s) = \frac{V(0)}{2zL} \left(\frac{1}{s + \alpha - z} - \frac{1}{s + \alpha + z} \right) \quad (40)$$

Taking the inverse Laplace transform of $F(s)$:

$$i(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1}F(s) \quad (41)$$

$$i(t) = \frac{V(0)}{2zL} \left(e^{(-\alpha+z)t} - e^{(-\alpha-z)t} \right) \quad (42)$$

Figure 4 is the response of Equation 42, with $R = 6.0$ (ohms), $L = 1.5$ (henries), $C = 0.3$ (farads), and $V(0) = 12$ (volts). With these component values, $\alpha = 2.0$ and $z = 1.33$.

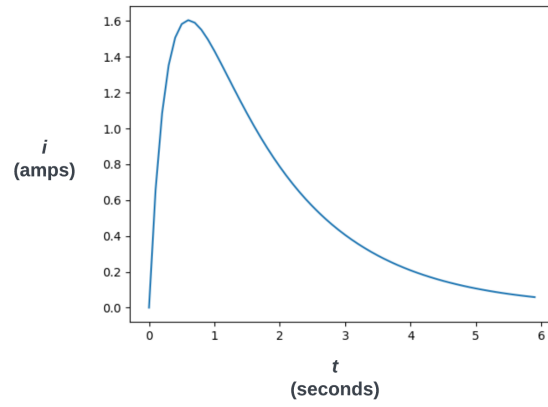


Figure 4: **Over-damped response**