

Main problems

- Failure to explicitly address any of the Code of Ethics
- Fractured English
 - English structure
 - Tense agreement
- Lack of proofreading
- Strange and convoluted logic; digressions about things that weren't related to the problem.

UMBC ENEE 661 System Architecture & Design
© EFCLaBerge 2004 All rights reserved

1-2



Writing Math Well in Documents and Presentations



Math *is* the language of engineering

- Statics: $\sum_n \mathbf{F}_n = 0$

- Dynamics $\sum_n \mathbf{F}_n = m\mathbf{a}$


- Heat Transfer (conduction): $q_x = -kA \frac{\delta T}{\delta x}$

- Maxwell's Equations: $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} = \frac{\rho}{\epsilon_0}$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\frac{\delta \mathbf{B}}{\delta t}$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \mu_0 \left(\mathbf{J} + \epsilon_0 \frac{\delta \mathbf{E}}{\delta t} \right)$$




- **Fourier Transform** $X(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x(t)e^{-j\omega t} dt$
- **Laplace Transform** $H(s) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} h(t)e^{-st} dt$
- **Z-transform** $X(z^{-1}) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} x_k z^{-k}$
- **Differential Equations**

$$\sum_{k=0}^N a_k \frac{d^k y(t)}{dt^k} = \sum_{k=0}^M b_k \frac{d^k x(t)}{dt^k}, \quad \frac{d^0 y(t)}{dx^0} \triangleq y(t)$$
- ...and on and on.
- **Math is the language of engineering.**

UMBC ENEE 661 System Architecture & Design
© EFCLaBerge 2004 All rights reserved

1-5



Some text mistakes to avoid

- **Solve does not mean Evaluate**

$x = y - 5$. Solving at $y = 3$, we have $x = -2$.

$x^2 = 4$. Evaluating, we have $x = \pm 2$
- **These are wrong! Swap Solve and Evaluate to correct!**
- The terms **equation** and **function** are not synonymous
- In math, **arbitrary** does not mean **at random**.

UMBC ENEE 661 System Architecture & Design
© EFCLaBerge 2004 All rights reserved

1-6

Use standard math expressions

- Written math is not the same as programmed math
- ...so while
 - $x = A \exp(-j \cdot 2 \cdot \pi \cdot k \cdot t)$ is valid MATLAB
 - $x = A e^{-j \frac{2 \pi k t}{T}}$ or $x = A \exp\left(-j \frac{2 \pi k t}{T}\right)$ is proper math!
 - $\text{PSD} = (V^2/2) * \text{sinc}(\text{frequency} * \tau) .^2$ is valid MATLAB
 - $S = \left(\frac{V^2}{2}\right) \text{sinc}^2(f \tau)$
- Keep the equals sign out of non-formula text
 - d = the distance between two points
 - Is fine for a MATLAB comment, but not for text or presentation

UMBC ENEE 661 System Architecture & Design
© EFCLaBerge 2004 All rights reserved

1-7

Writing (Typing) math

- Do not try to just change the font to a symbol font!
 - $Y = mx + b$
- Use an Equation Editor to create good math statements
 - Most industrial writing is done in Word, so this means Equation Editor or the MathType add in (which is what Dr. LaBerge uses!)
 - <http://www.dessci.com/en/products/mathtype/>
 - Most academic writing is **not** done in Word, so this means LaTeX (which is also useful in MATLAB plots!)
- $\mathcal{F}\left(\int_{-\infty}^t x(t) dt\right) = \frac{X(f)}{j2\pi f} + \frac{1}{2} X(0) \delta(f)$ would be nasty
- ...if you tried to do it by hand

UMBC ENEE 661 System Architecture & Design
© EFCLaBerge 2004 All rights reserved

1-8

Writing Good Math

- Good math follows a set of logical steps
- Make sure that in your writing or presentations the steps are clear
- ...and the logic is solid
- CMPEs study logic in CMSC203 and CMPE212
- It doesn't apply only to hardware and software...
- ...you need to apply logic to your writing as well.

Other things

- Include your units, Define your terms!!

For RRC filtering and intermodulation orders m and k such that $m, k \geq 2$, we can approximate the voltage spectral density $V_m(f)$ and $V_k(f)$ by Gaussian functions

$$V_m(f) = a_m e^{-\frac{f^2}{2m\sigma^2}} \quad (1)$$

and

$$V_k(f) = a_k e^{-\frac{f^2}{2k\sigma^2}} \quad (2)$$

where σ^2 is the mean-square bandwidth of the RRC function $H(f)$, as derived in the previous section. The $(m+k)$ -th IM product is the convolution of these functions. In (13) and (14), a_m and a_k are the maximum amplitudes of the m -th and k -th order Gaussian, respectively. The units of the a_k are Volts ^{k} /Hz.

Writing Math Well



- Be precise with your wording
- Define your terms
- Use an Equation Editor of some kind
- Be logical (with valid logic)
- Use standard forms
- Be neat!