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Electrical Engineering
Formulas

Richard C. Dorf Ronald J. Tallarida



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# Circuits with Energy Storage Elements

#### 1. Capacitors

Capacitance is a measure of the ability of a device to store energy in the form of separated charge or in the form of an electric field:

$$q = Cv$$

where q is the charge, v is the voltage across the element, and C is the capacitance measured in farads (F).

The current through a capacitor is

$$i = C \frac{dv}{dt}$$

The voltage across a capacitor C is

$$v = \frac{1}{C} \int_{t_0}^t i d\tau + v(t_0)$$

where  $v(t_0)$  is the voltage at  $t_0$ .

#### 2. Inductors

*Inductance* is a measure of the ability of a device to store energy in the form of a magnetic field. The voltage across an inductor is

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$$v = L \frac{di}{dt}$$

where i is the current through the inductor and L is the inductance measured in henrys (H).

The current in an inductor is

$$i = \frac{1}{L} \int_{t_0}^t v \, d\tau + i(t_0)$$

## 3. Energy Stored in Inductors and Capacitors

$$\omega = \frac{1}{2}Cv^2$$

and

$$\omega = \frac{1}{2}Li^2$$

#### 4. Series and Parallel Inductors

A series connection of N inductors can be represented by one series equivalent inductor  $L_{\rm s}$  as

$$L_s = \sum_{n=1}^{N} L_n$$

A parallel connection of N inductors can be represented by one equivalent inductor  $L_\rho$  as

$$\frac{1}{L_p} = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \frac{1}{L_n}$$

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#### 5. Series and Parallel Capacitors

The equivalent capacitance of a set of N parallel capacitors is simply the sum of the individual capacitances:

$$C_p = \sum_{n=1}^{N} C_n$$

A series connection of N capacitors can be represented by one equivalent capacitance  $C_s$ :

$$\frac{1}{C_s} = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \frac{1}{C_n}$$

#### 6. The Natural Response of an RL or RC Circuit

The *natural response* of a circuit depends only on the internal energy storage of the circuit and not on external sources. The natural response of a series connection of a resistor R and a capacitor C is

$$v = V_0 e^{-t/RC}$$

where  $v(0) = V_0$  is the initial voltage on the capacitor and v is the capacitor voltage.

The natural response of a series connection of a resistor R and inductor L is

$$i = I_0 e^{-Rt/L}$$

where  $i(0) = I_0$  is the initial current and i is the inductor current.

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# 7. The Forced Response of an RL or RC Circuit Excited by a Constant Source

The forced response of a circuit is the behavior exhibited in reaction to one or more independent signal source. The forced response of an RC circuit is

$$v(t) = v(\infty) + [v(0) - v(\infty)]e^{-t/RC}$$

where  $v(\infty)$  is the steady-state value at  $t = \infty$ .

The forced response of an RL circuit is

$$i(t) = i(\infty) + [i(0 - i(\infty)]e^{-t/\tau}$$

where  $\tau = L/R$ .

### 8. The Natural Response of a RLC Circuit

The differential equation for a parallel connection of an R, L, and C is

$$\frac{d^2v}{dt^2} + \frac{1}{RC}\frac{dv}{dt} + \frac{v}{LC} = 0$$

where v is the capacitor (see Figure 15.1).

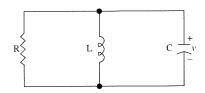


FIGURE 15.1. Parallel RLC circuit.

The differential equation for the series connection of R, L, and C is

$$\frac{d^2i}{dt^2} + \frac{R}{L}\frac{di}{dt} + \frac{i}{LC} = 0$$

where i is the current through the inductor (see Figure 15.2).

The characteristic equation is

$$s^2 + a_1 s + a_0 = 0$$

or

$$s^2 + 2\alpha s + \omega_0^2 = 0$$

Then the roots of the characteristic equation are

$$s_1 = -\alpha + \sqrt{\alpha^2 - \omega_0^2}$$

$$s_2 = -\alpha - \sqrt{\alpha^2 - \omega_0^2}$$

where  $\omega_0 = 1/\sqrt{LC}$  is called the resonant frequency.

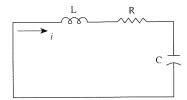


FIGURE 15.2. Series RLC circuit.

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The roots of the characteristic equation assume three possible conditions.

- 1. Two real and distinct roots when  $\alpha^2 > \omega_0^2$ .
- 2. Two real equal roots when  $\alpha^2 = \omega_0^2$ .
- 3. Two complex roots when  $\alpha^2 < \omega_0^2$ .

When the two roots are real and distinct, the circuit is said to be *overdamped*. When the roots are both real and equal, the circuit is *critically damped*. When the two roots are complex conjugates, the circuit is said to be *underdamped*.

The overdamped natural response is

$$x = A_1 e^{-s_1 t} + A_2 e^{-s_2 t}$$

where x = v for the parallel RLC circuit and x = i for the series RLC circuit.

When the two roots are equal, the natural response is

$$x = e^{-\alpha t} (A_1 t + A_2)$$

When the circuit is underdamped, we have

$$x = e^{-\alpha t} (B_1 \cos \omega_d t + B_2 \sin \omega_d t)$$

where  $\omega_d = \sqrt{\omega_0^2 - \alpha^2}$ , the damped resonant frequency.