

Electronic Circuit Design Using Capacitors and Inductors

Introduction

- The two remaining passive circuit elements of interest are the capacitor and inductor
- The common property between these elements is that they both store energy
 - The capacitor, C , stores energy in the electric field
 - The inductor, L , stores energy in the magnetic field
- The capacitor is composed of one or more metal plates separated by a dielectric insulator
- The inductor is composed of turns of wire, usually cylindrical
- In the s -domain (see Chapter 5) a modified form of Ohm's law is used to analyze circuits composed of RLC circuit elements
- Other circuit elements that remain to be covered include diodes and transistors and special purpose integrated circuits
- From here on out the circuit analysis will be more involved than simple resistor circuits

- I will be relying on the use of LTspice to demonstrate circuit behavior in an attempt to keep the mathematics from getting too detailed
- Two basic circuit behaviors of interest are:
 - *Transient conditions*, that is what happens in a circuit immediately following some change in signal or circuit configuration
 - *Steady-state conditions*, that is what is going on in the circuit when the applied signals and circuit configuration has been fixed for a relatively long period of time (time is relative here, ms or μ s might all the time needed to arrive at steady-state)

Applications

- Capacitors and inductors play a critical roles radio receiver circuits
- **Capacitors** fall into three applications areas:
 - (1) Form bandpass filters/resonators in RF and IF signal processing stages along with inductors; you will see this as an *LC tank circuit* role
 - (2) Block DC as signals are coupled from one amplifier block to the next; this is the *coupling capacitor* role
 - (3) Shut or bypass unwanted RF and IF signals to ground to provide signal integrity; this is the *bypass capacitor* role
 - (4) When combined with a resistor form a lowpass filter as

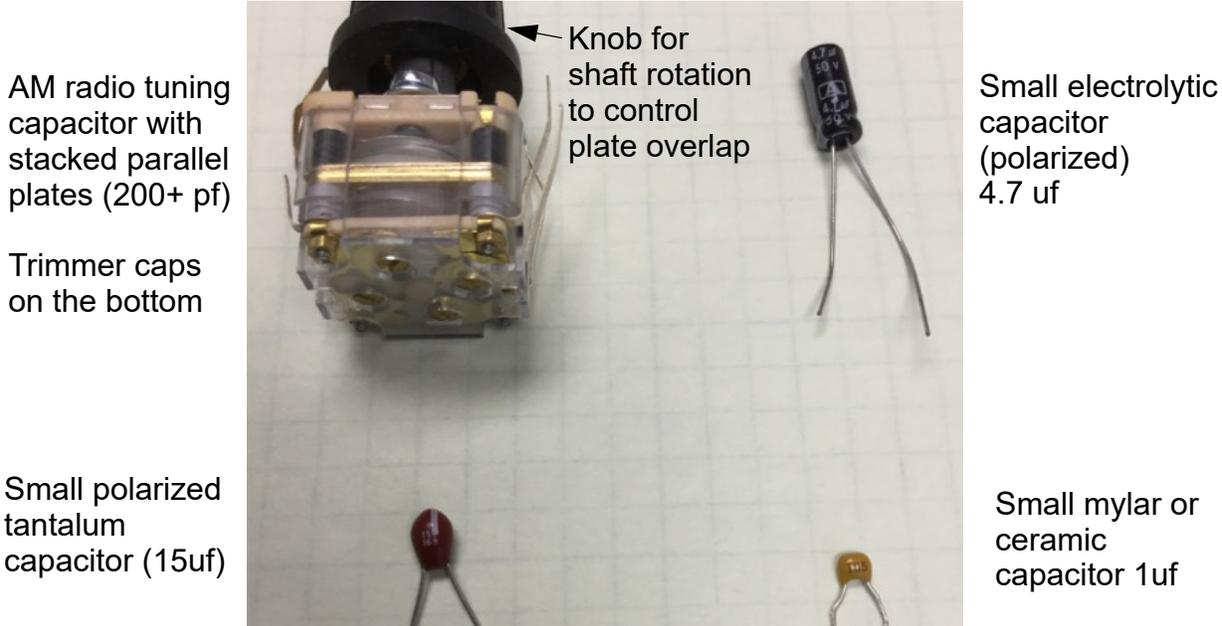
an envelope detector and in audio signal processing; this is the *RC lowpass filter* role

- **Inductors:**

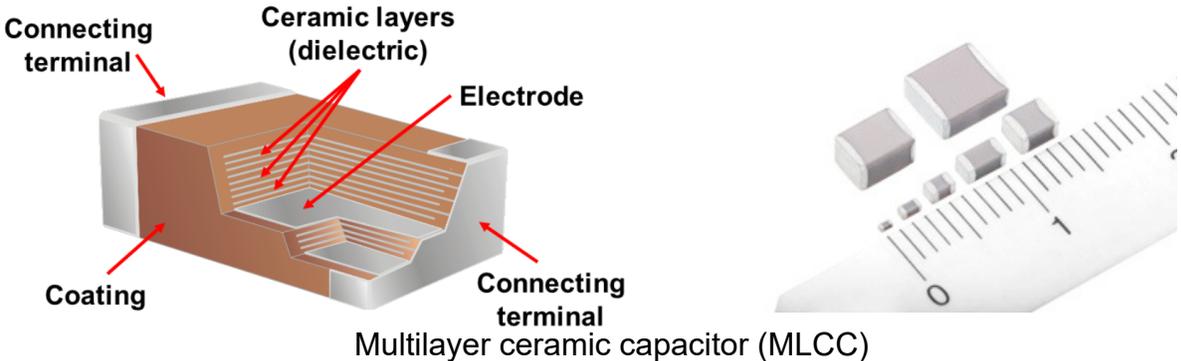
- (1) The LC tank circuit role discussed above
 - (2) The ferrite bar antenna coil forms a compact AM broadcasting antenna; *loopstick antenna* role
 - (3) In addition to the LC tank circuits in the IF amplifier chain of a superheterodyne receiver, IF transformers are used to couple stages (coupled coils by virtue of proximity) together avoiding the need for coupling capacitors in some cases; this is the IF amplifier *interstage coupling* role
 - (4) Use as a load impedance (reactance) in RF amplifiers that avoids the DC voltage drop of a load resistors; this is the *RF choke* role
- Beyond this course *lumped element* lowpass filters use capacitors
 - For example realization of the Butterworth system functions discussed in Chapter 5
 - Found in the Ham-It Up up-converter described in Chapter 5
 - Lumped element bandpass filters (RF & IF) use both inductors and capacitors
 - Again the Butterworth BPF system functions of Chapter 5
 - Again, the Ham-It Up up-converter

Capacitors

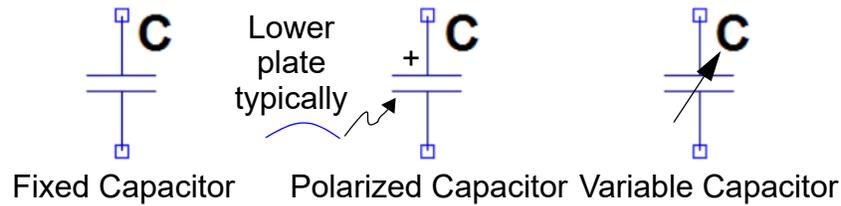
- A circuit element that can store energy in the electric field between its two conductors separated by an insulator



- The capacitance value, C , has units of Farads (charge/V)
- In modern electronics the chip capacitor is very common and offers very small size through a construction using many layers (parallel plates):

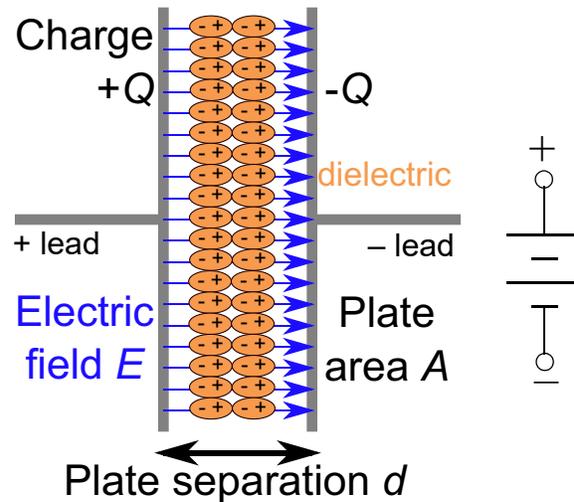


- Schematic symbols:



- Basic principles¹

- Connect a battery across the terminals of the capacitor and positive and negative charge distributes as shown to the right
- The capacitance is proportional to A/d



- The dielectric filling material factors into the capacitance as well, making

$$C = \frac{Q}{V} = \epsilon \frac{A}{d} = \epsilon_0 \epsilon_r \frac{A}{d} \quad (6.1)$$

where ϵ_0 is the permittivity of free space, 8.85×10^{-12} F/m, and ϵ_r is the relative permittivity or dielectric constant

- The energy stored in a capacitor is

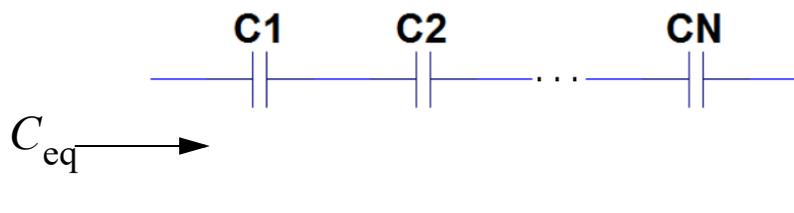
$$W = \frac{1}{2} CV^2 \text{ J} \quad (6.2)$$

with V being the voltage across the plates

1. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capacitor>

Parallel and Series Connections

- The formulas for equivalent capacitance when capacitors are placed in **series** is like the parallel formula for resistors

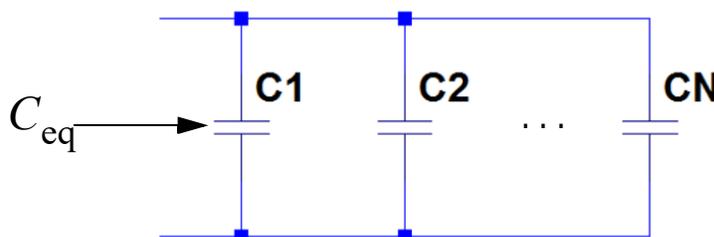


$$C_{eq} = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{C_1} + \frac{1}{C_2} + \dots + \frac{1}{C_M}} \quad (6.3)$$

- For the special case of just two capacitors in series is just

$$C_{eq} = \frac{C_1 C_2}{C_1 + C_2} \quad (6.4)$$

- The formulas for equivalent capacitance when capacitors are placed in **parallel** is the opposite as for resistors

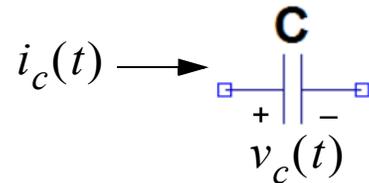


$$C_{eq} = C_1 \parallel C_2 \parallel \dots \parallel C_N = C_1 + C_2 + \dots + C_N \quad (6.5)$$

Time Domain (Transient) Behavior

- The behavior of a capacitor in a circuit is governed by the voltage across the capacitor, the current through the capaci-

tor, and of course the capacitance C



- The fundamental terminal relationship involves calculus:

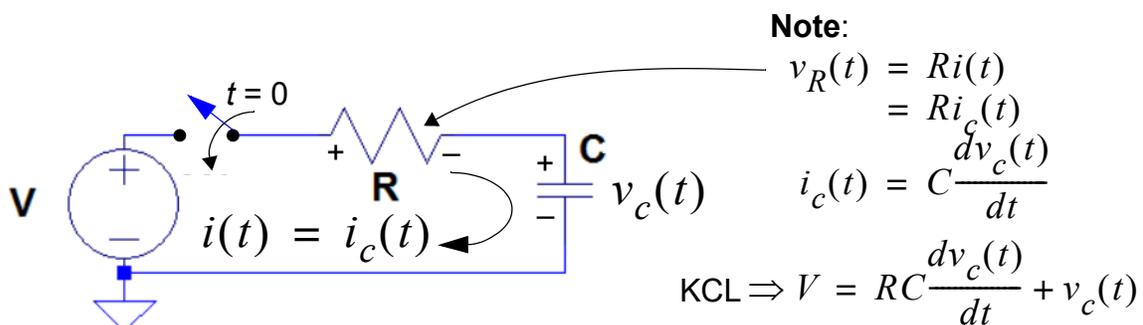
$$i_c(t) = C \frac{dv_c(t)}{dt} \approx C \frac{v_c(t) - v_c(t - \Delta t)}{t - (t - \Delta t)} \quad (6.6)$$

or in words, the current through a capacitor is C times the derivative of the voltage across the capacitor (slope of the voltage across the capacitor with respect to time)

- Using integration (from Calculus) you can solve for the voltage from the current plus the initial voltage across the capacitor

$$v_c(t) = \frac{1}{C} \int_{t_0}^t i_c(\alpha) d\alpha + v_c(t_0) \quad (6.7)$$

- When a capacitor is placed in a circuit with resistors and other capacitors (maybe inductors too), you can use KCL and KVL (see notes Chapter 3) to solve for a voltage or current of interest



- This is not that easy to solve (more so in the general case), as the pure algebra of resistor circuits becomes differential equations! (in the above figure a 1st-order diff-eqn)
- For first-order circuits we can use the so-called *inspection method* [2]
- **Good news:** LTspice works well for complex cases!
- **Inspection Method:** For first-order equations involving one capacitor (or one inductor) and resistors, the voltage or current of interest in response to a constant input applied at $t > 0$ is

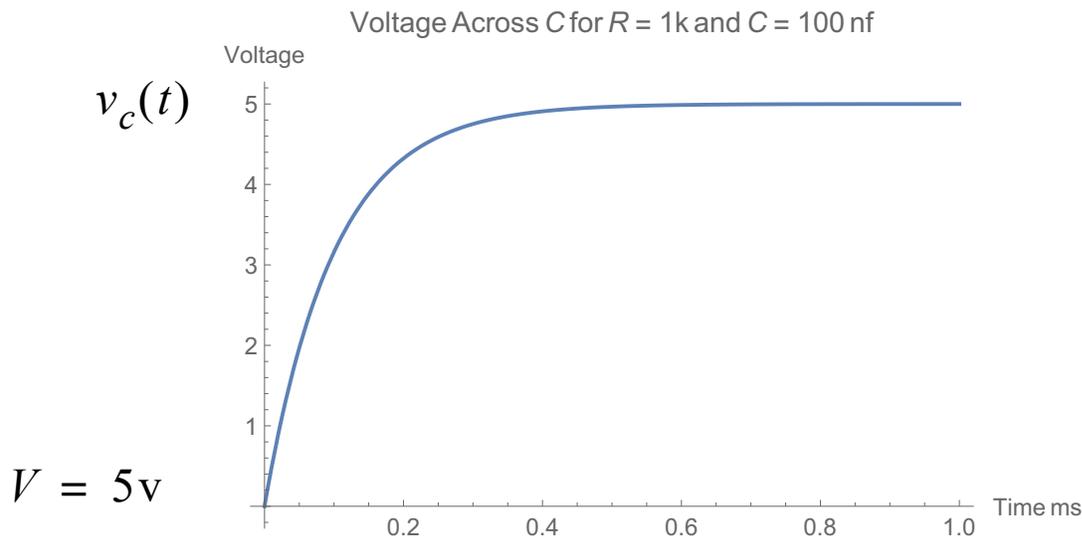
$$x(t) = x(\infty) + [x(0) - x(\infty)]e^{-t/\tau}, t \geq 0 \quad (6.8)$$

where τ is the circuit *time constant*

- Capacitor behavior under the inspection method:
 - The voltage across a capacitor cannot change instantly; it must charge up over time
 - At $t = 0$ the voltage across a capacitor is $v_c(0)$
 - At $t = \infty$ you find $v_c(\infty)$ assuming the capacitor is fully charged and the current flow is zero, making the capacitor appear as an open circuit (capacitor not present in the circuit anymore)
 - The time constant $\tau = R_{eq}C$, where R_{eq} is the equivalent resistance in series with the capacitor
- Consider now the circuit above and find the voltage $v_c(t)$

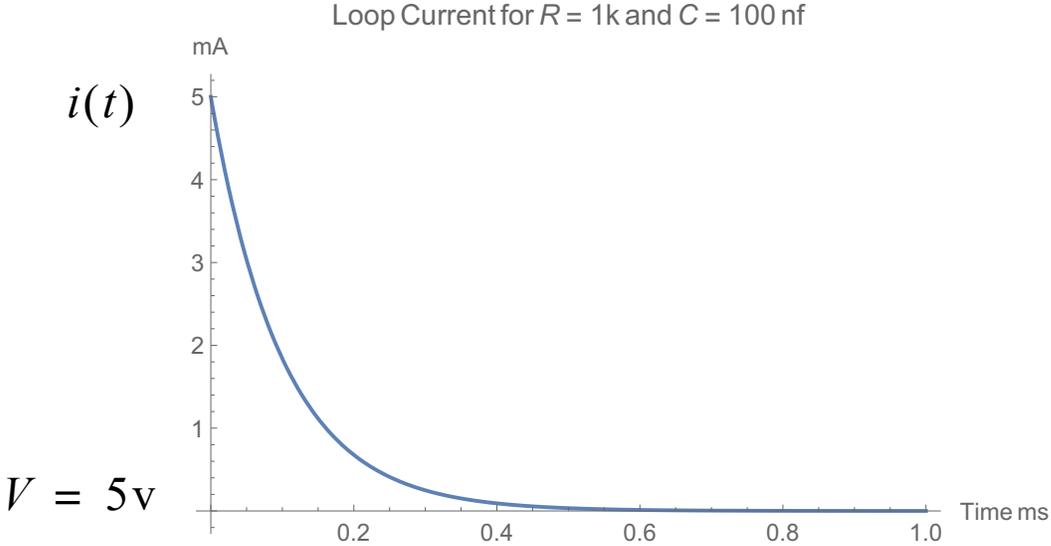
- Assume $v_c(0) = 0$
- At $t = \infty$ the capacitor can be removed and by inspection the current flow is zero, so no voltage drop across the resistor, meaning $v_c(\infty) = V$
- Here $R_{\text{eq}} = R$, so $\tau = RC$
- Finally,

$$\begin{aligned} v_c(t) &= V + [0 - V]e^{-t/\tau}, t \geq 0 \\ &= V[1 - e^{-t/\tau}], t \geq 0 \end{aligned} \quad (6.9)$$



- Similarly, you can find the current $i_c(t)$ by noting that
 - $i_c(0) = V - v_c(0)/R = V/R$
 - $i_c(\infty) = 0$ since the capacitor is an open circuit
 - Finally,

$$i_c(t) = 0 + \left[\frac{V}{R} - 0 \right] e^{-t/\tau} = \frac{V}{R} e^{-t/\tau}, t \geq 0 \quad (6.10)$$

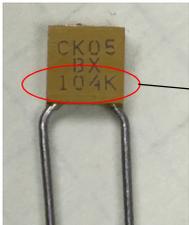


Capacitor Markings

- For fixed value capacitors the value is not always obvious
- For variable capacitors you generally have to consult the manufacturers data sheet
- Electronic Industries Association (EIA) Tips:
 - The value of the capacitor is denoted in picofarads for ceramic, film, and tantalum capacitors, but for aluminum electrolytics the value is denoted in micro-farads

MULTIPLIER USED ON EIA CAPACITOR MARKING CODE	
THIRD FIGURE	MULTIPLIER
0	1
1	10
2	100
3	1000
4	10 000
5	100 000
6	1 000 000

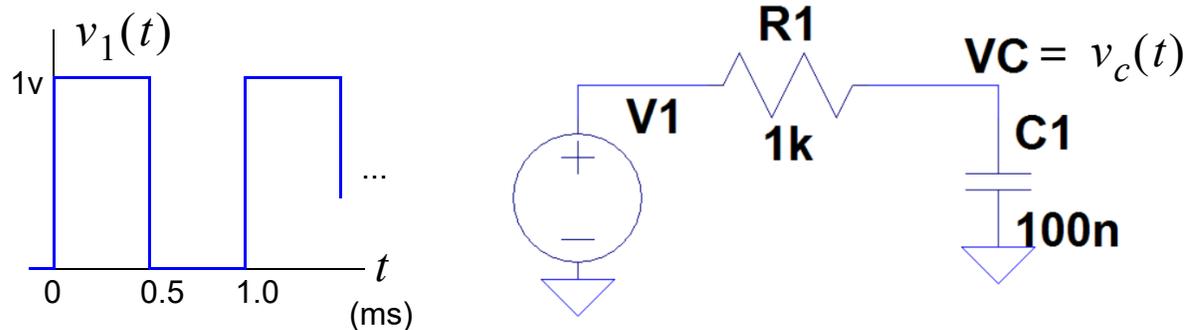
EIA TOLERANCE CAPACITOR MARKING CODE	
LETTER	TOLERANCE
Z	+80%, -20% - this is used with electrolytic capacitors where the minimum value is the major issue.
M	±20%
K	±10%
J	±5%
G	±2%
F	±1%
D	±0.5%
C	±0.25%
B	±0.1%



104K means this ceramic capacitor has value $C = 10 \times 10^4 \text{ pf} = 10^5 \text{ pf} = 10^{-7} \text{ f} = 100\text{nf} = 0.1\text{uf}$.
 The K means the tolerance is 10%.

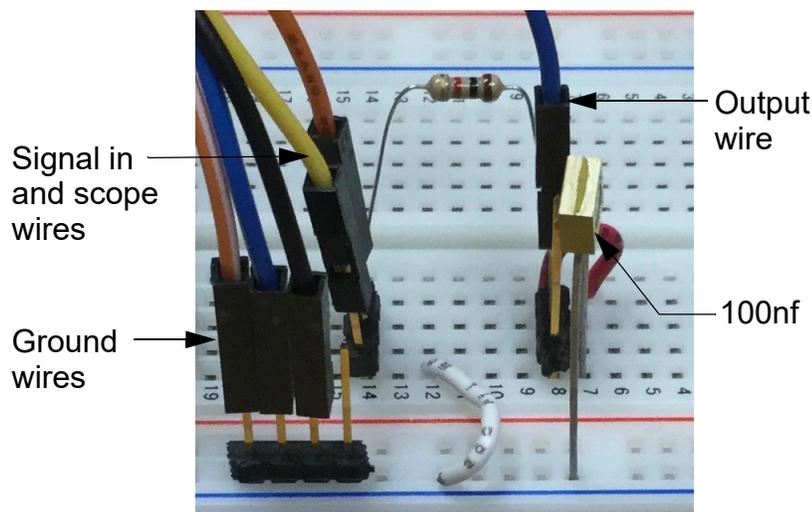
Example 6.1: RC Lowpass Simulated and Measured

- In this example I consider LTspice simulation and then breadboard testing of the circuit shown below

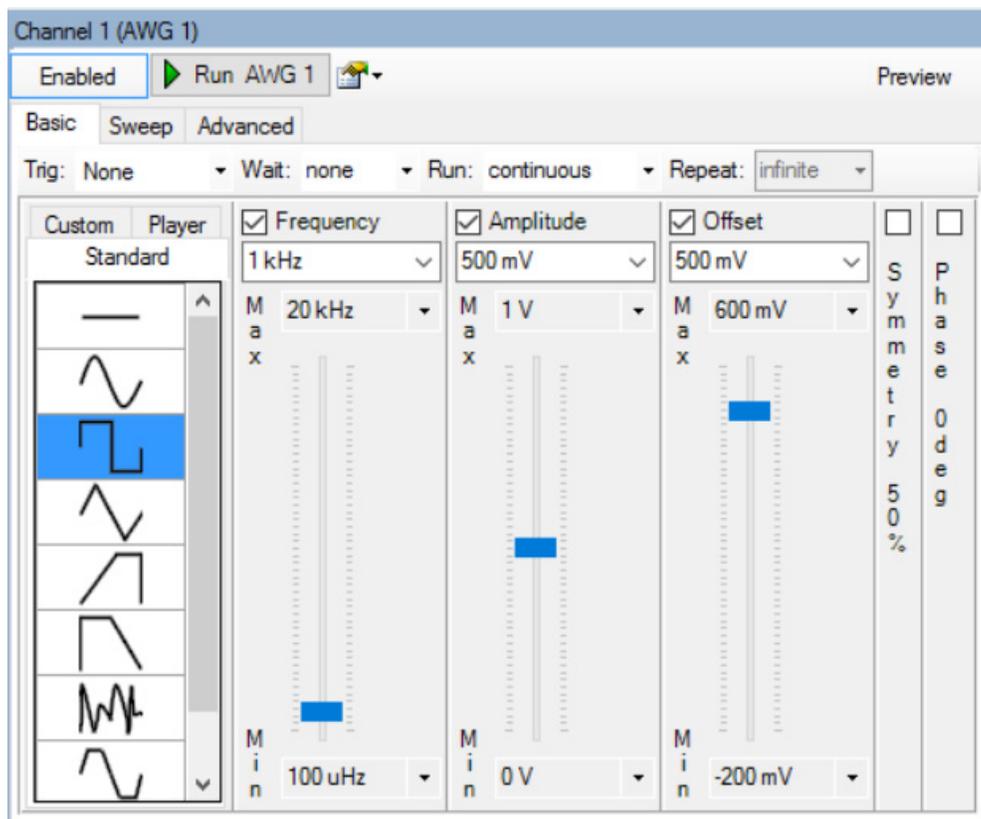


```
PULSE(0 1 0 100n 100n 0.5m 1m)
.tran 0 2m 0
```

- The objective is to find the voltage across the capacitor, $v_c(t)$ in response to a *rectangular pulse train* input having period of 1ms and amplitude swing of 0 to 1v
- In LTspice the input waveform is generated using the PULSE source
- The breadboard set-up is shown below:



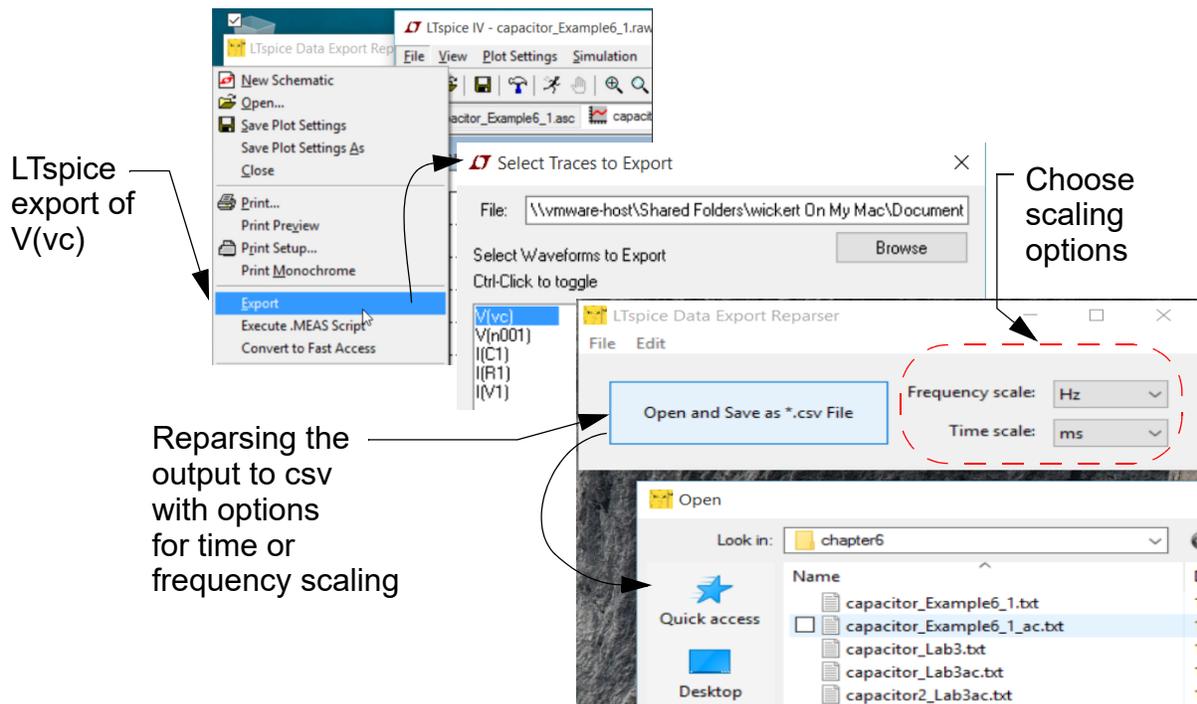
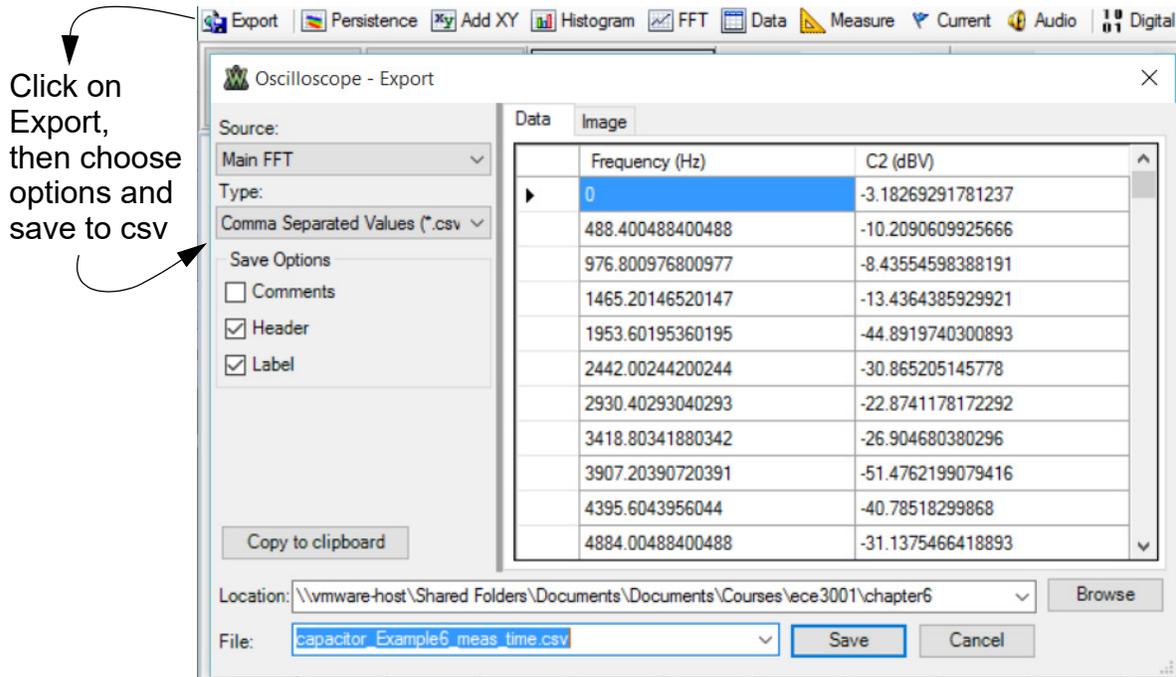
- For the Analog Discovery waveform generator a combination of a 0.5v peak amplitude and a 0.5v offset produces the desired waveform



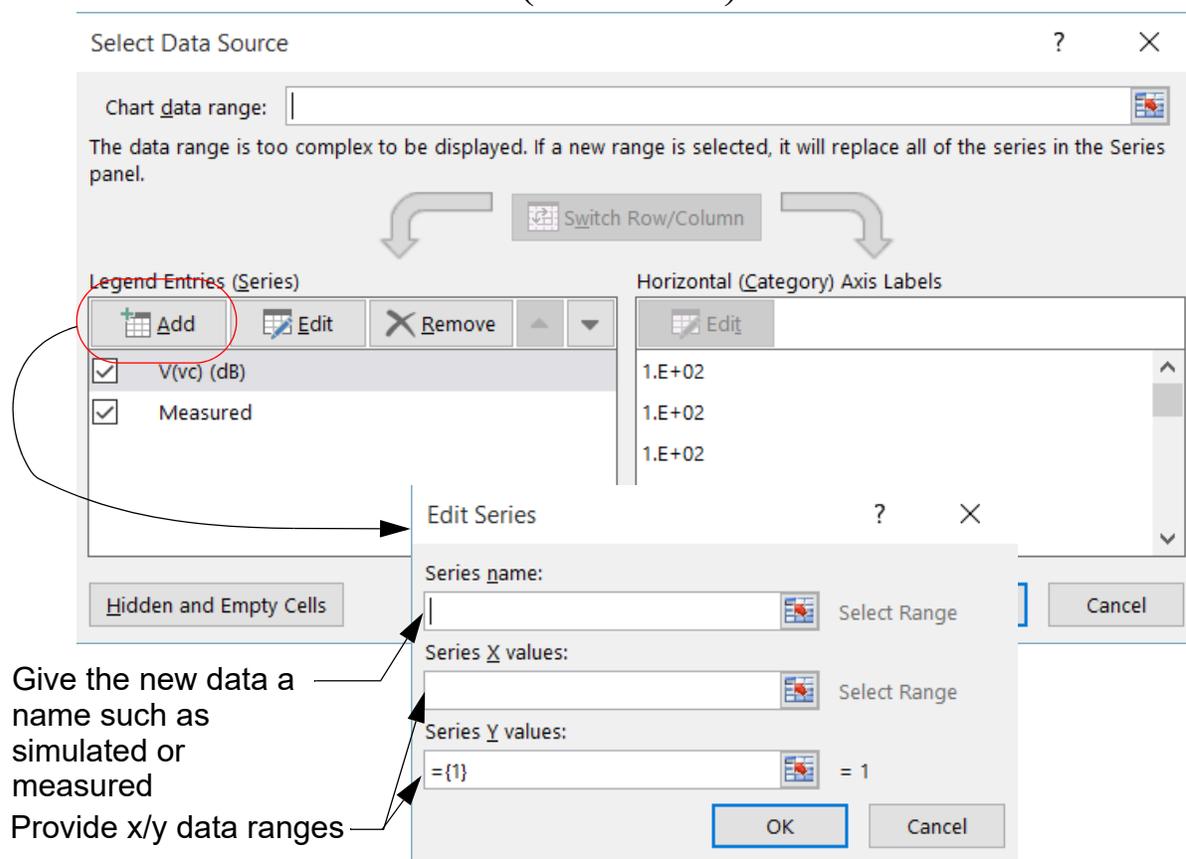
- The object now is to compare the simulated and measured $v_c(t)$ waveform on $0 \leq t \leq 2 \text{ ms}$
- The comparison is done using Excel to create an overlay plot after exporting raw data from LTspice and the Analog Discovery scope
 - The common file format chosen is *comma separated value* (csv)
 - The Analog Discovery supports this
 - LTspice does not provide this directly, but a small GUI

utility, LTspice Data Export Reparser.exe, is available to help convert the LTspice exported output to csv

- Exporting to data files:



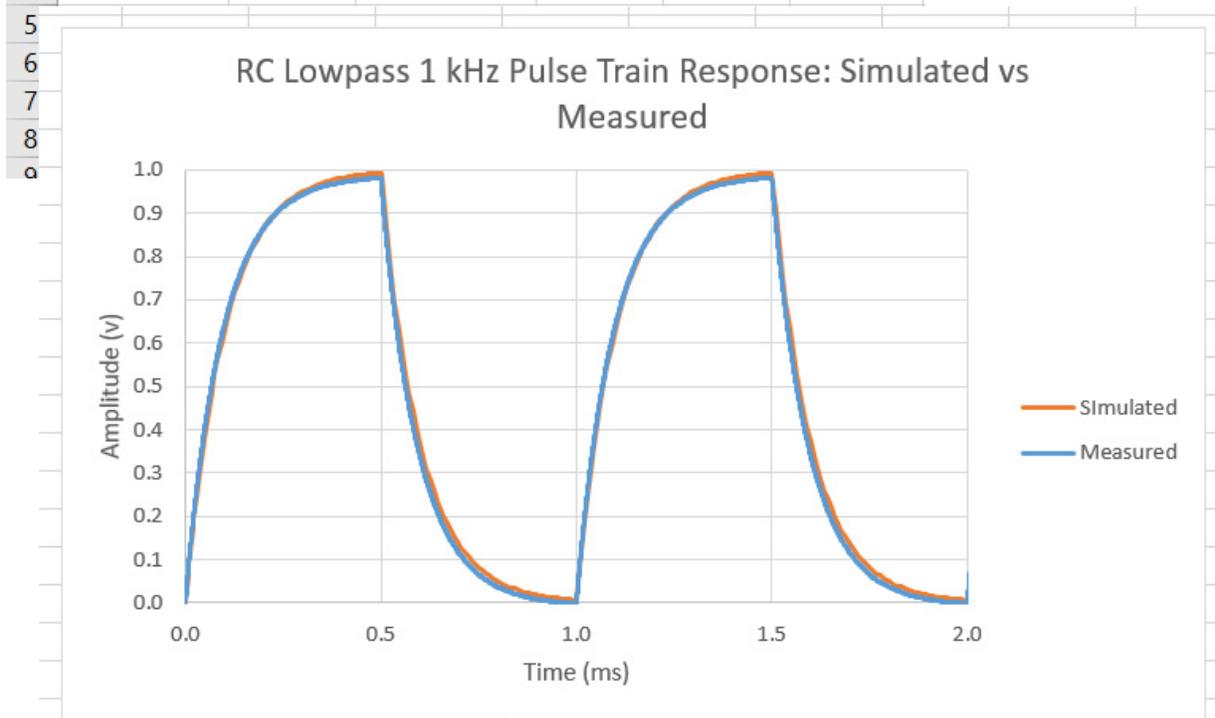
- Importing the csv files into Excel to create the overlay plot requires:
 - Import the data sets by choosing the **Data** tab and then data source From Text to ultimately place the data in an existing spreadsheet table
 - Highlight one of the two data sets and create a scatter plot
 - Right click over the plot and from the content menu choose **Select Data...** (see below)



- Click on **Add** to add the second data set as x and y columns; click **OK** and you will then have an overlay plot
- You will have to do some formatting make things look nice

- The results for the RC lowpass are shown below

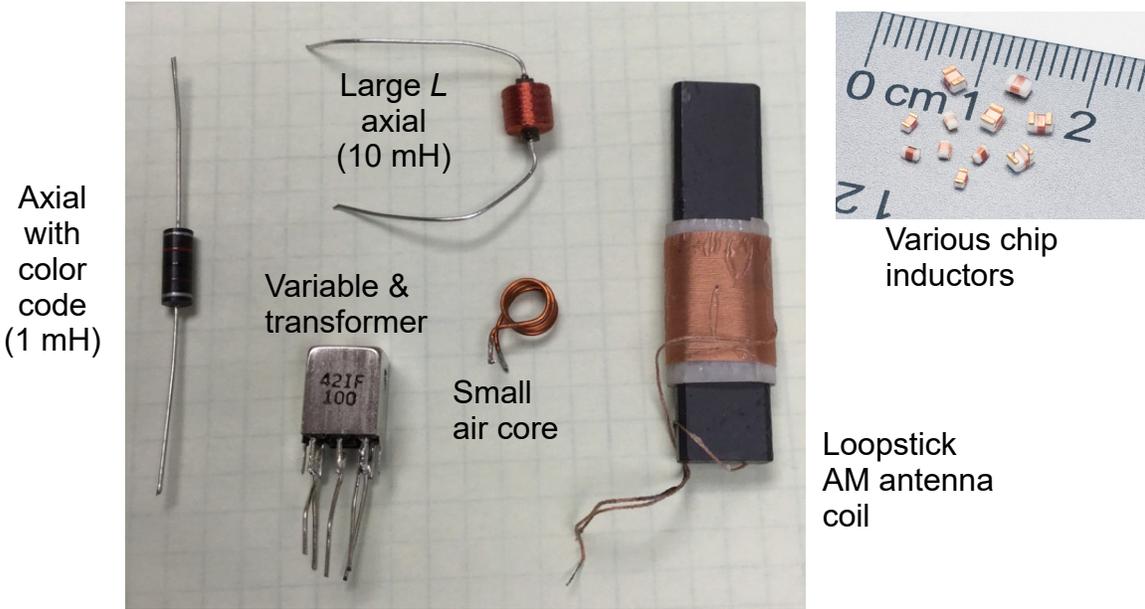
	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Time (s)	Time (ms)	C2 (V)		Time (ms)	V(vc)
2	1.10E-08	1.10E-05	0.000352708		0.00E+00	0.00E+00
3	2.61E-07	2.61E-04	0.002708978		1.43E-05	1.68E-05
4	5.11E-07	5.11E-04	0.006075078		2.86E-05	5.17E-05



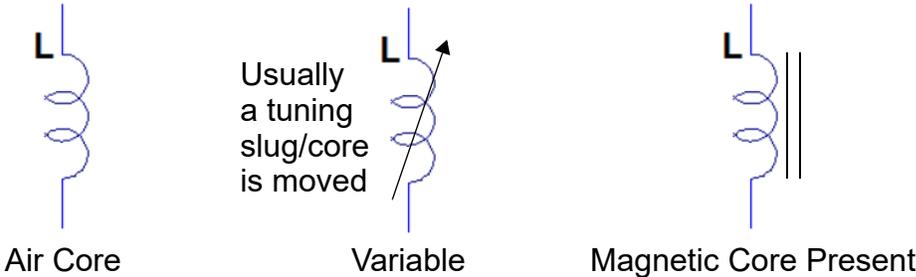
- The simulated and measured results compare favorably!
- The Excel file can be found on the Web Site under Chapter 6

Inductor

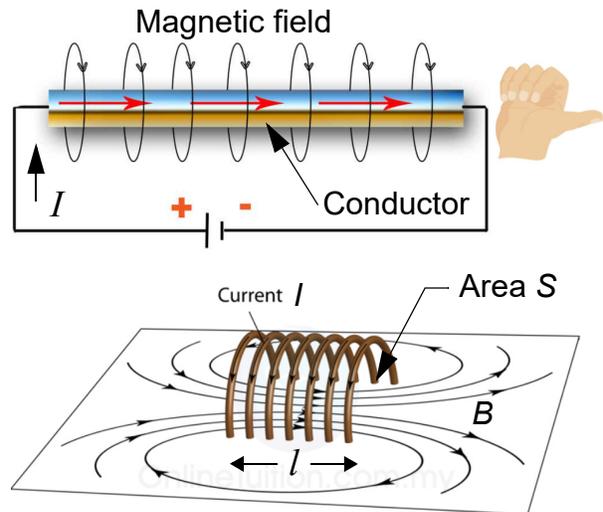
- A circuit element capable of storing energy in the magnetic field that is next to the conductors (coils) of the inductor



- The inductance value, L , has units of Henries (or $V\ s/A$, weber/V, Wb/V)
- Schematic symbols:



- Basic principles¹
 - Current flowing through a wire produces a magnetic field, B , circling the wire (use right-hand rule)
 - When the wire is tightly wound in a helix, flux linkages occur between the loops



- The *self inductance* (commonly inductance) is the ratio of magnetic flux linkages, Λ , over the current I [3]

$$L = \frac{\Lambda}{I} \text{H} \quad (6.11)$$

- For an N -turn solenoid structure having length l and cross section area S

$$L = \mu \frac{N^2}{l} S = \mu_0 \mu_r \frac{N^2}{l} S \text{H} \quad (6.12)$$

where μ_0 is the permeability of free space, $4\pi \times 10^{-7}$ H/m, and μ_r is the relative permeability surrounding the coil

- The energy stored in an inductor is

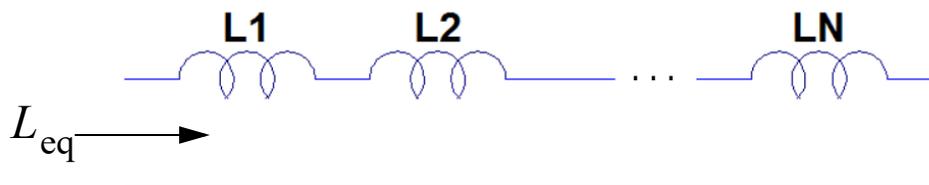
$$W = \frac{1}{2} L I^2 \text{J} \quad (6.13)$$

with I being the current through the inductor

1. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inductor>

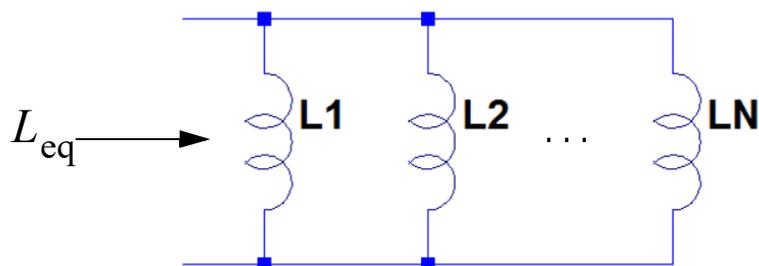
Parallel and Series Connections

- The formulas for equivalent inductance when inductors are placed in **series** is the same as for resistors



$$L_{eq} = L_1 + L_2 + \cdots + L_N \quad (6.14)$$

- The formulas for equivalent inductance when inductors are placed in **parallel** is the same as for resistors



$$L_{eq} = L_1 \parallel L_2 \parallel \cdots \parallel L_N = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{L_1} + \frac{1}{L_2} + \cdots + \frac{1}{L_N}} \quad (6.15)$$

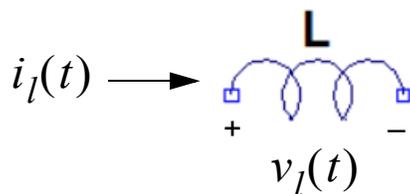
- For the special case of just two inductors the equivalent value is just

$$L_{eq} = \frac{L_1 L_2}{L_1 + L_2} \quad (6.16)$$

Time Domain (Transient) Behavior

- The behavior of a inductor in a circuit is governed by the

voltage across the inductor, the current through the inductor, and of course the inductance L



- The fundamental terminal relationship involves calculus:

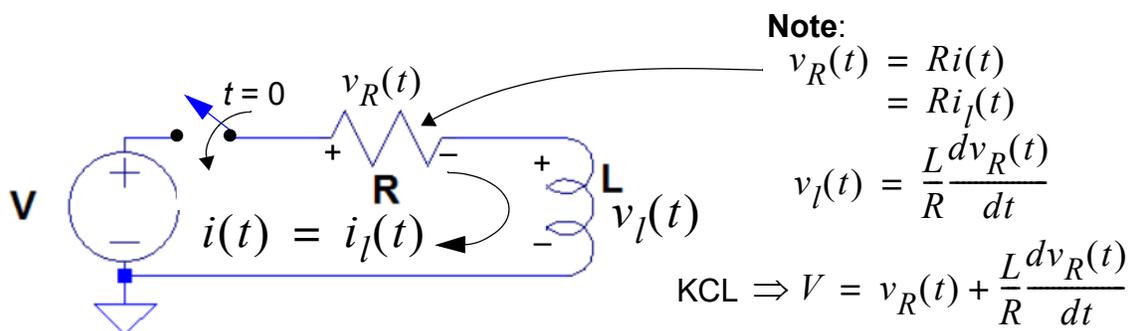
$$v_l(t) = L \frac{di_l(t)}{dt} \approx L \frac{i_l(t) - i_l(t - \Delta t)}{t - (t - \Delta t)} \quad (6.17)$$

or in words, the voltage across an inductor is L times the derivative of the current through the inductor (slope of the current through the inductor with respect to time)

- Using integration (from Calculus) you can solve for the current through the inductor

$$i_l(t) = \frac{1}{L} \int_{t_0}^t v_l(\alpha) d\alpha + i_l(t_0) \quad (6.18)$$

- When an inductor is placed in a circuit with resistors and other inductors (maybe capacitors too), you can use KCL and KVL (see notes Chapter 3) to solve for a voltage or current of interest



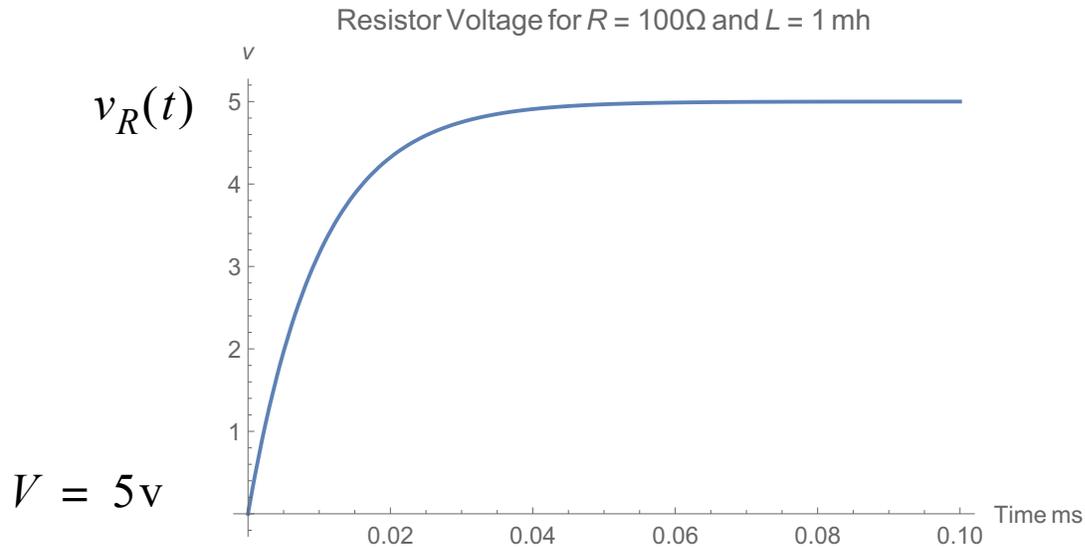
- Again you see in the RC circuit a first-order differential equation materializes
- As in the capacitor case, LTspice works well for circuit simulation and the inspection method (repeated (6.8)),

$$x(t) = x(\infty) + [x(0) - x(\infty)]e^{-t/\tau}, t \geq 0 \quad (6.19)$$

is very nice for simple first-order circuits

- Inductor behavior under the inspection method:
 - The current through an inductor cannot change instantly; it must charge up over time
 - At $t = 0$ the current through the inductor is $v_l(0)$
 - At $t = \infty$ you find $v_l(\infty)$ assuming the inductor is fully charged and the voltage drop is zero, making the inductor appear as a short circuit (inductor replaced by a short)
- The time constant $\tau = L/R_{\text{eq}}$, where R_{eq} is the equivalent resistance in series with the inductor
- Consider now the circuit above and find the voltage $v_R(t)$
 - Assume $i_l(0) = 0$
 - At $t = \infty$ the inductor can be shorted and by inspection the current flow is V/R , so $i_l(\infty) = V/R$ and $v_R(\infty) = V$
 - Here $R_{\text{eq}} = R$, so $\tau = L/R$
 - Finally,

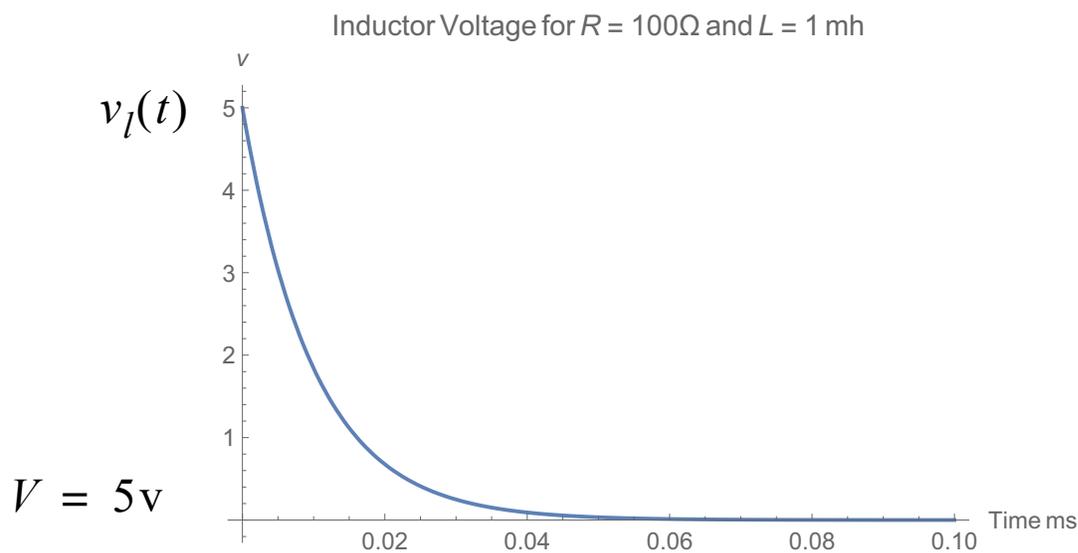
$$\begin{aligned}
 v_R(t) &= V + [0 - V]e^{-t/\tau}, t \geq 0 \\
 &= V[1 - e^{-t/\tau}], t \geq 0
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{6.20}$$



- You can find the inductor voltage $v_l(t)$ using KVL
 - Note: $V = v_R(t) + v_l(t) \Rightarrow v_l(t) = V - v_R(t)$

so

$$v_l(t) = V - V[1 - e^{-t/\tau}] = Ve^{-t/\tau}, t \geq 0
 \tag{6.21}$$



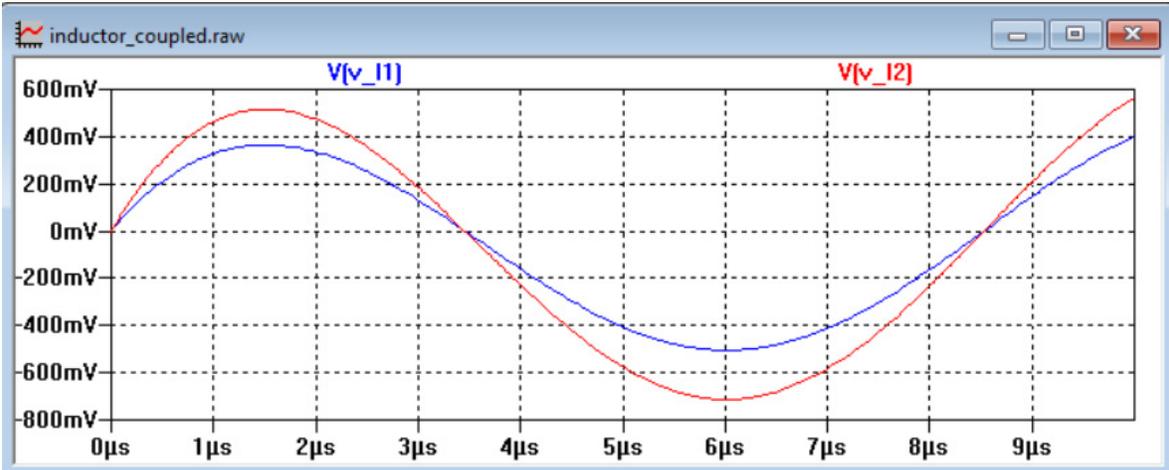
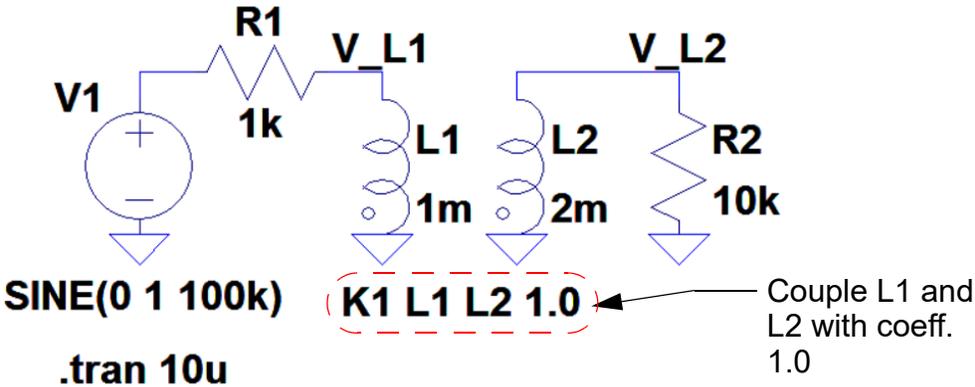
Mutual Inductance

- When two coils are in close proximity on the same axis magnetic coupling occurs, the magnetic flux from one passes through the other
- *Mutual inductance* describes the inductance between the two coils as well as a *coupling coefficient*, ranging from 0 to 1 defines how tight the coupling is
 - To couple two inductors in LTspice the K directive is used

```
K L1 L2 K_value
```

Example 6.2: Quick Example

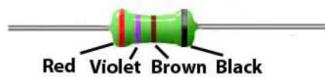
- Two inductors with a 1.0 coupling factor



Inductor Markings

- For axial inductors a color similar to the resistor color code is often used
- For variable inductors you generally have to consult the manufacturer's data sheet
- Axial Inductor Color Codes:

Standard 4-Band

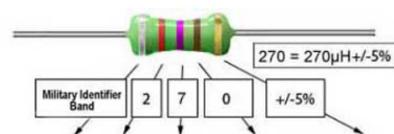


Therefore value = $27 \times 10 = 270\mu\text{H} \pm 20\%$

Band	1	2	3	4
Meaning	1 st Digit	2 nd Digit	Multiplier (No. of zeros)	Tolerance %
Gold			x 0.1 (divide by 10)	+/-5%
Silver			x 0.01 (divide by 100)	+/-10%
Black	0	0	x1 (No Zeros)	+/-20%
Brown	1	1	x10 (0)	
Red	2	2	x100 (00)	
Orange	3	3	x1000 (000)	
Yellow	4	4	x10000 (0,000)	
Green	5	5		
Blue	6	6		
Violet	7	7		
Grey	8	8		
White	9	9		

Note: If no Band 4 is used, tolerance is also +/-20%

Military 5-Band



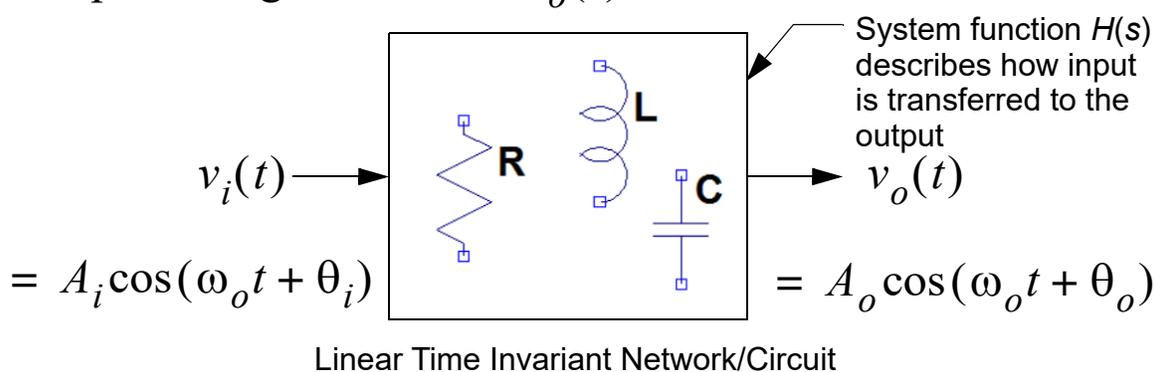
Band	1	2	3	4	5
Meaning (See Notes)	Mil. Spec.	Digit or Dec. point	Digit or Dec. point	Digit (or Multiplier)	Tolerance %
Gold		Decimal point	Decimal point		+/-5%
Silver	Always Silver double width				+/-10%
Black		0	0	0 (or x 1)	+/-20%
Brown		1	1	1 (or x 10)	+/-1%
Red		2	2	2 (or x 100)	+/-2%
Orange		3	3	3 (or x 1,000)	+/-3%
Yellow		4	4	4 (or x 10,000)	+/-4%
Green		5	5	5	
Blue		6	6	6	
Violet		7	7	7	
Grey		8	8	8	
White		9	9	9	

AC (alternating current) Steady State

- Moving beyond the transient analysis, radio circuit design needs to consider the steady-state behavior of circuits with R , L , and C elements
- The theme in this section is considering circuits where the input(s) are sinusoid signals that have been applied for a long time relative to the time it takes for transients to die out
- In notes Chapter 5 the use of the s -domain will be continued, so as to allow circuit modeling for steady-state input/output relationships, e.g., filters and amplifier coupling networks

Sinusoidal Steady-State

- To get a handle on steady-state circuit analysis, consider a generic R , L , C circuit with input voltage waveform v_i and output voltage waveform $v_o(t)$:



- An s -domain relationship (assuming zero initial conditions) exists for this network which states that [2]

$$V_o(s) = V_i(s)H(s) \quad (6.22)$$

where $V_o(s)$ and $V_i(s)$ are s -domain node voltages in the cir-

circuit corresponding to $v_o(t)$ and $v_i(t)$ respectively, and $H(s)$ is the system function (or transfer function for $H(s = j\omega)$) relating the output to the input

- It could also be that currents or a mixture of voltage and current waveforms and their s -domain counterparts are being considered
- In any case, in steady state, the time domain response resulting from input $v_i(t)$, applied for a long time, produces output

$$v_o(t) = A_o \cos(\omega_o t + \theta_o) \quad (6.23)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} A_o &= A_i |H(s=j\omega_o)| \\ \theta_o &= \theta_i + \angle H(s=j\omega_o) \end{aligned} \quad (6.24)$$

- **Note:** Since $H(s=j\omega_o)$ is a complex number, that means that just like a 2D vector, it has a length or magnitude and an angle to indicate its direction in the complex plane
- Drilling down on $H(s=j\omega)$ a bit more,

$$H(j\omega) = H_{\text{Re}}(j\omega) + jH_{\text{Im}}(j\omega) \text{ (re/im)}$$

$$|H(j\omega)| = \sqrt{H_{\text{Re}}^2(j\omega) + H_{\text{Im}}^2(j\omega)} \text{ (mag)}$$

$$\angle H(j\omega) = \text{atan} \left[\frac{H_{\text{Im}}(j\omega)}{H_{\text{Re}}(j\omega)} \right] \text{ (phase/angle)} \quad (6.25)$$

$$H_{\text{Re}}(j\omega) = |H(j\omega)| \cos \angle H(j\omega) \text{ (re)}$$

$$H_{\text{Im}}(j\omega) = |H(j\omega)| \sin \angle H(j\omega) \text{ (im)}$$

- **Conclusion:** Under sinusoidal steady state conditions the analysis reduces down to solving circuit equations to find $|H(j\omega)|$ and $\angle H(j\omega)$ as a function of frequency $\omega = 2\pi f$, where f is in Hz
- **First Step:** Find $H(s) = V_o(s)/V_i(s)$ for a given circuit input and output connection point
- **Second Step:** Set $s = j\omega = j2\pi f$ and solve for the magnitude $|H(j\omega)|$ and phase $\angle H(j\omega)$
 - The last step requires some complex arithmetic, but in the examples that follow, I will show you some tricks to keep the math easier by having Excel do the heavy lifting

Example 6.3: Quick Example

- Suppose that

$$H(s) = \frac{1}{1 + s \cdot 10^{-4}} \quad (6.26)$$

so

$$H(j\omega) = H(j2\pi f) = \frac{1}{1 + j2\pi f \cdot 10^{-4}} \quad (6.27)$$

- Next suppose that $v_i(t) = 2 \cos(2\pi f_o t + 45^\circ)$ and consider f_o taking on values of 100 Hz and 15 kHz
- To find $v_o(t)$ you need to use (6.24) with $H(j2\pi f)$ evaluated at 100 Hz and 15 kHz

- To help with the complex arithmetic you can use Excel (yes Python with the Scipy stack, Mathematica, and MATLAB all work very well)

Table 6.1: Complex arithmetic in Excel (a partial list)

Function	Description	Example
COMPLEX(x,y,"j")	Returns/creates a complex number $z = x + jy$	Given: $z = x + jy = 3 + 4j$ COMPLEX(3,4,"j") returns 3+4j
IMPRODUCT(z1,z2)	Returns the complex number $z1 \times z2$	Given: $z1=1+2j$, $z2=3-4j$ IMPRODUCT(z1,z2) = 11+2j IMPRODUCT(z1,3) = 3+6j
IMSUM(z1,z2)	Returns the complex number $z1 + z2$	Given: $z1=1+2j$, $z2=3-4j$ IMSUM(z1,z2) = 4-2j IMSUM(1,z2) = 4-4j
IMDIV(z1,z2)	Returns the complex number $z1/z2$	Given: $z1=1+2j$, $z2=3-4j$ IMDIV(z1,z2) = -0.2+0.4j IMDIV(1,z2) = 0.12+0.16j
IMABS(z1)	Returns the magnitude (a real number) $ z1 $	Given: $z2=3-4j$ IMABS(z2) = 5 i.e., $(\sqrt{3^2 + 4^2})$
IMARGUMENT(z1)	Returns the angle in radians (a real number) $\text{angle}(z1)=\arg(z1)$	Given: $z2=3-4j$ IMARGUMENT(z2) = -0.9273 which is the angle of z2 in radians
IMPRODUCT (Z_mag,COMPLEX(COS(Z_ang*PI()/180),SIN(Z_ang)*PI()/180,"j"))	Convert a complex number given as magnitude and angle (deg) to real/imaginary form	Given $z4 = 5/_50$ (5 angle 50 deg) IMPRODUCT(5,COMPLEX(COS(50*PI()/180),SIN(50*PI()/180))) = 3.214 + 3.830j
IMREAL(z1)	Returns the real part of a complex number	Given $z1 = 3 - 4j$ IMREAL(z1) = 3
IMIMAGINARY(z1)	Returns the imaginary part of a complex number	Given $z1 = 3 - 4j$ IMIMAGINARY(z1) = -4
IMPOWER(z1,N)	Returns a complex number raised to an integer power $z1^N$	Given: $z1=1+2j$ IMPOWER(z1,3) = -11-2j which is $z1^3$

- In this example you use Excel complex arithmetic to directly evaluate

$$H(s = j2\pi f) = \frac{1}{1 + s \cdot 10^{-4}} \Bigg|_{s = j2\pi f} \quad (6.28)$$

in a sequence of steps

- Since s is complex you must use the IM_{xx} functions!
- The calculation steps are shown below:

C2 = =IMDIV(1,IMSUM(1,IMPRODUCT(B2,0.0001)))						
	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	f	s=j*2*pi*f	H(s)	H(s)	H(s) dB	Angle[H(s)]
2	100	628.318530717959j	0.996067682407173-0.0625847782705717j	0.99803	-0.0171	-3.5953
3	15000	94247.7796076938j	0.0111325797208916-0.104922091999967j	0.10551	-19.5340	-83.9434

Step 1: Form s in col B ==> =COMPLEX(0,2*PI()*A2,"j")

Step 2: Form $H(s)$ in col C ==> =IMDIV(1,IMSUM(1,IMPRODUCT(B2,0.0001)))

Step 3: Form $|H(s)|$ in col D ==> =IMABS(C2)

Step 4: Form $|H(s)|$ in dB in col E ==> =20*LOG10(D2)

Step 5: Form the angle of $H(s)$ in deg in col F ==> =IMARGUMENT(C2)*180/PI()

- As a check, convert the magnitude and phase back to real and imaginary parts

=IMREAL(IMPRODUCT(D3,COMPLEX(COS(F3*PI()/180),SIN(F3*PI()/180),"j")))

C	D	E	F	G	H
d Phase at 100 Hz and 15kHz					
	H(s)	H(s) dB	Angle[H(s)]	Re{H(s)}	Im{H(s)}
96067682407173-0.0625847782705717j	0.99803	-0.0171	-3.5953	0.996068	-0.06258
111325797208916-0.104922091999967j	0.10551	-19.5340	-83.9434	0.011133	-0.10492

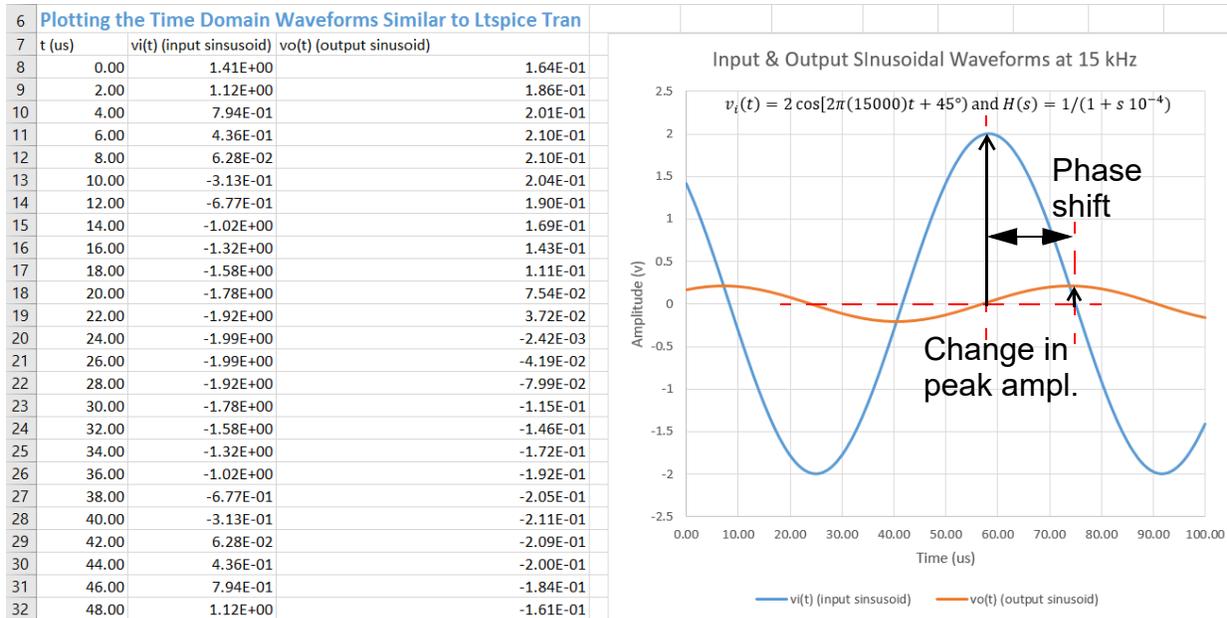
=IMREAL(IMPRODUCT(D3,COMPLEX(COS(F3*PI()/180),SIN(F3*PI()/180),"j")))
 =IMIMAGINARY(IMPRODUCT(D3,COMPLEX(COS(F3*PI()/180),SIN(F3*PI()/180),"j")))

- From the spreadsheet answers in columns D and F, you can now write expressions for the output waveform

$$v_o^{100\text{Hz}}(t) = 2 \cdot 0.99803 \cos[2\pi(100)t - 3.60^\circ + 45^\circ] \quad (6.29)$$

$$v_o^{15\text{kHz}}(t) = 2 \cdot 0.10551 \cos[2\pi(15000)t - 83.95^\circ + 45^\circ]$$

- The 15kHz input/output waveforms are plotted below:



- See the file `chapter6_freq_resp.xlsx` for more details

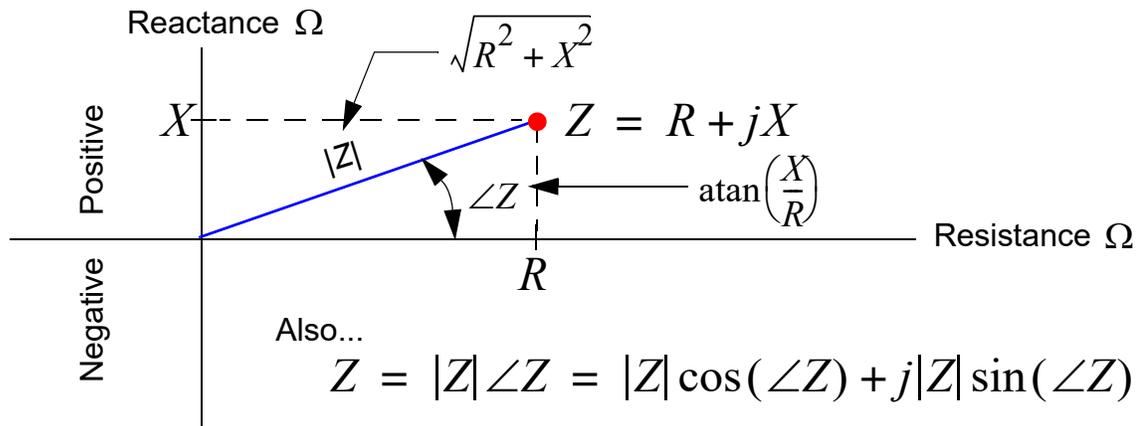
Impedance

- Move from resistor only circuits to R , L , and C circuits
- The concept of impedance for R , L , and C networks allows you work out *Step 1* and then move on to complex arithmetic tasks associated with step 2
- Under the AC steady state assumptions described at the beginning of this section, the concept of resistance as devel-

oped for DC circuits, morphs into impedance, a complex number (recall $j = \sqrt{-1}$)

$$Z = R + jX \quad (6.30)$$

which can be viewed in the plane as a 2D vector having resistance, R , on the real axis (x-axis) and reactance, X , on the imaginary axis (y-axis)



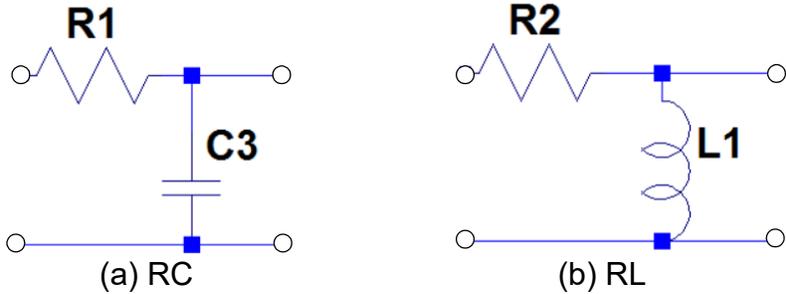
- From a more detailed study of the terminal relationships for capacitors and inductors [2], it can be shown that the following relationships hold:

Table 6.2: Reactance, impedance, and s-domain impedance

Element	Resistance/ Reactance	Impedance	s-Plane Impedance
Resistor	R ohms	R	R
Inductor (reactive)	$\omega L = 2\pi fL$ ohms	$j\omega L$	sL
Capacitor (reactive)	$\frac{-1}{\omega C} = \frac{-1}{2\pi f}$ ohms	$\frac{1}{j\omega C} = -\frac{j}{\omega C}$	$\frac{1}{sC}$

- Impedance has units of ohms, both resistance and reactance
- As shown in the figure above, you can also view impedance as a magnitude (vector length) and angle relative the real or resistance axis
- **Good news**, Ohms Law still works!
- LTSpice handles all of this flawlessly
- **R, L, C and Simple Insights:** The magnitude of Z
 - Both R and $|R|$ remain constant with frequency
 - An inductor is purely reactive having $|z| = |X_L| = 2\pi fL$, which is *proportional* to frequency
 - At DC the inductor is like a short circuit, while at high frequencies the inductor has very high impedance, ultimately infinite
 - A capacitor is also purely reactive having $|Z| = |-1/(2\pi fC)| = 1/(2\pi fC)$, which is *inversely proportional* to frequency
 - At DC the capacitor has infinite reactance making it act like an open circuit or DC block, while at high frequencies the reactance become very small, ultimately zero like a short circuit

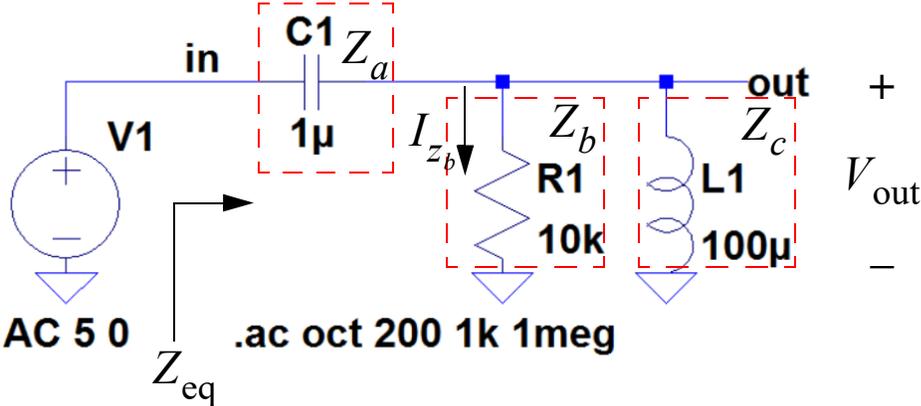
• **Test Your Intuition:**



- Compare high frequency and low frequency behavior of $|H(j2\pi f)|$ of the RC and RL circuits
- **RC:** Low frequencies pass through as C_3 appears as an open, while at high frequencies the reactance of C_3 is small making the voltage divider action heavily attenuate the input signal; **overall a lowpass filter**
- **RL:** Low frequencies are heavily attenuated here as the inductive reactance is very small at low frequencies, while at high frequencies the reactance of L_1 is large meaning that the voltage divider ratio magnitude is close to one; **overall a highpass filter**

Example 6.4: A Collection of R, L, and C Elements

- Consider the following circuit:



- Start by finding the impedance looking into the circuit
- No problem, if you consider the elements as having impedances Z_a , Z_b , and Z_c , and then use the circuit reduction technique developed for resistors (now for impedances):

$$Z_{\text{eq}} = Z_a + Z_b \parallel Z_c = Z_a + \frac{Z_b Z_c}{Z_b + Z_c} \quad (6.31)$$

- Next replace the Z values with the component specific s -domain impedance

$$Z_{\text{eq}}(s) = \underbrace{\frac{1}{sC_1}}_{Z_a} + \underbrace{\frac{R_1 \cdot sL_1}{R_1 + sL_1}}_{Z_{bc}} \quad (6.32)$$

- Now find $Z_{\text{eq}}(j2\pi f) = R_{\text{eq}} + jX_{\text{eq}}$ for $f = 1$ kHz and 1 MHz
- Complex arithmetic is required here so use Excel, or Python, etc.

– An Excel solution is shown below

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
C1	R1	L1	f	s	Za	Zab	Zeq	
1.00E-06	1.00E+04	1.00E-04	1.00E+03	6283.18530717959j	-159.154943091895j	0.0000394784174485j	0.0000394784174485j	29-159.154943091895j
			1.00E+06	6283185.30717959j	-0.159154943091895j	39.3231759282749+6239.3231759282749+625.688627762625j		

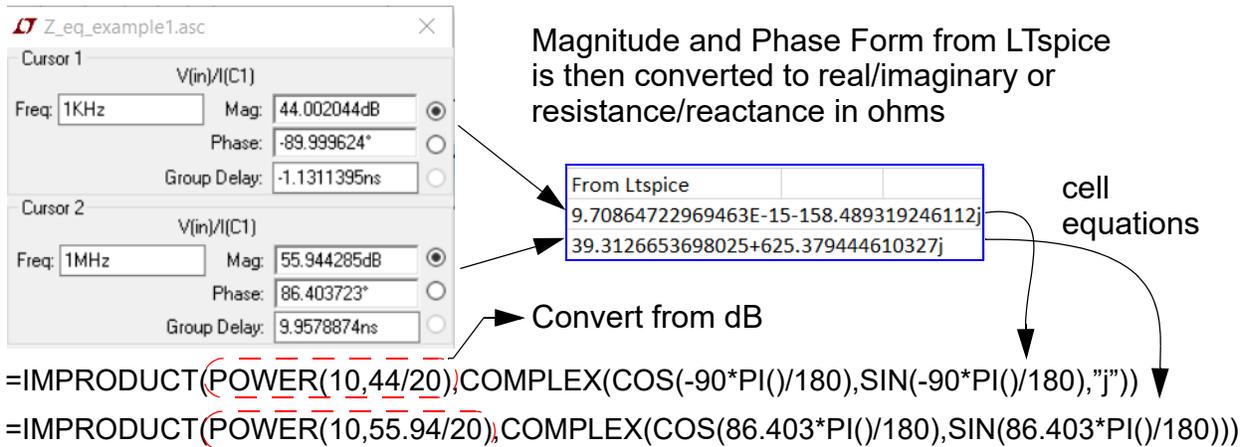
$Z_{\text{eq}}(1\text{kHz}) = 0.0000394784174485029-158.526624563658j$

$Z_{\text{eq}}(1\text{MHz}) = 39.3231759282749+625.688627762625j$

Note: F2 =IMDIV(1,IMPRODUCT(E2,\$A\$2))

G2 = IMDIV(IMPRODUCT(\$B\$2,IMPRODUCT(E2,\$C\$2)),
IMSUM(\$B\$2,IMPRODUCT(E2,\$C\$2)))

– Compare with a direct calculation in LTspice



Magnitude and Phase Form from LTspice is then converted to real/imaginary or resistance/reactance in ohms

From Ltspice		
	9.70864722969463E-15-158.489319246112j	
	39.3126653698025+625.379444610327j	

cell equations

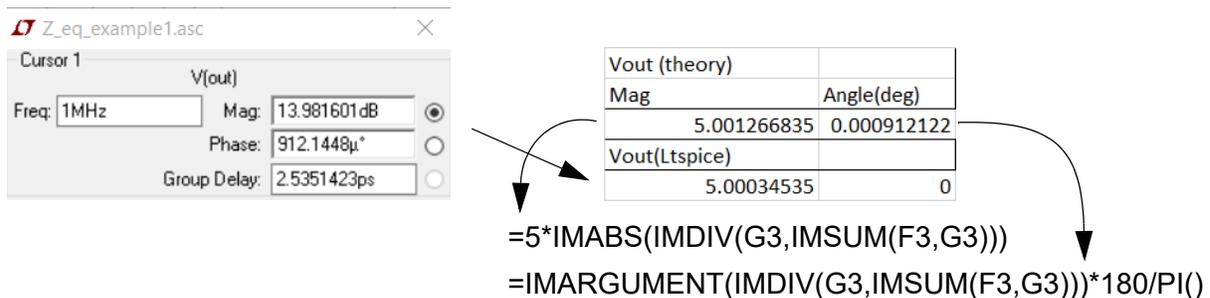
Convert from dB

=IMPRODUCT(PPOWER(10,44/20),COMPLEX(COS(-90*PI()/180),SIN(-90*PI()/180),'j'))
 =IMPRODUCT(PPOWER(10,55.94/20),COMPLEX(COS(86.403*PI()/180),SIN(86.403*PI()/180)))

- The two results agree!
- Next calculate the output voltage using the voltage divider relationship at $f = 1 \text{ MHz}$

$$V_{\text{out}}(s) = V \cdot \frac{Z_{bc}}{Z_a + Z_{bc}} \quad (6.33)$$

– Calculate using Excel and check with LTspice



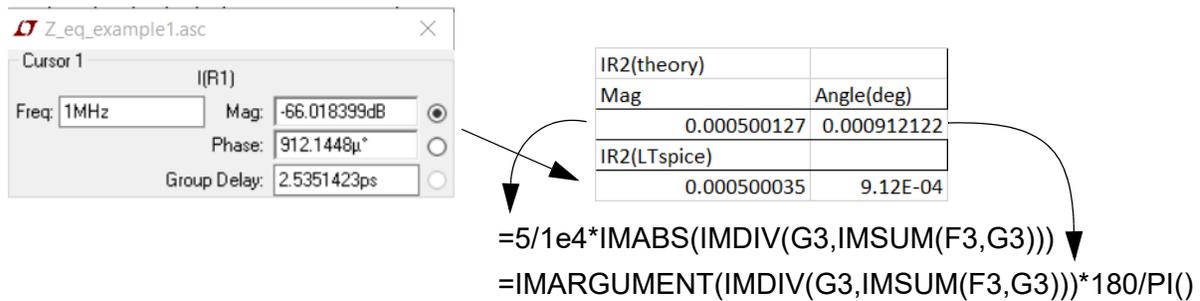
Vout (theory)	
Mag	Angle(deg)
5.001266835	0.000912122
Vout(Ltspice)	
5.00034535	0

=5*IMABS(IMDIV(G3,IMSUM(F3,G3)))
 =IMARGUMENT(IMDIV(G3,IMSUM(F3,G3)))*180/PI()

- Finally, calculate the current through the resistor or impedance Z_b at $f = 1 \text{ MHz}$

$$I_{R_1} = \frac{V_{\text{out}}}{R_1} = \frac{V}{R_1} \cdot \frac{Z_{bc}}{Z_a + Z_{bc}} \quad (6.34)$$

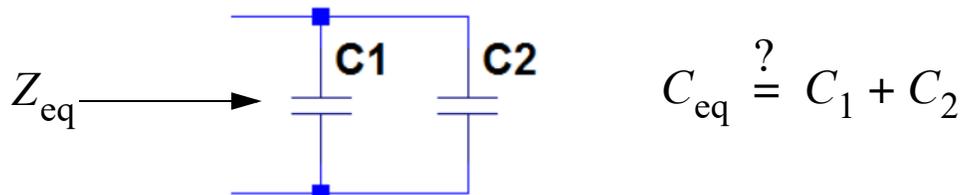
– Calculate using Excel and check with LTspice



- The theory and simulated results are in agreement!

Example 6.5: Use Impedance to Show Capacitors add in Parallel

- Earlier it was stated that the total capacitance of capacitors connected in a parallel add



- Start by finding the impedance Z_{eq} looking into the parallel connection

$$\begin{aligned}
 Z_{eq}(s) &= Z_{C_1} \parallel Z_{C_2} = \frac{\frac{1}{sC_1} \cdot \frac{1}{sC_2}}{\frac{1}{sC_1} + \frac{1}{sC_2}} \\
 &= \frac{1}{sC_1 + sC_2} = \frac{1}{s(C_1 + C_2)} = \frac{1}{sC_{eq}}
 \end{aligned} \tag{6.35}$$

where $C_{eq} = C_1 + C_2$

- Proof complete!

- **Note:** You can use this same approach to show the series formula for capacitors and the series and parallel formulas for inductors
-

Frequency Response

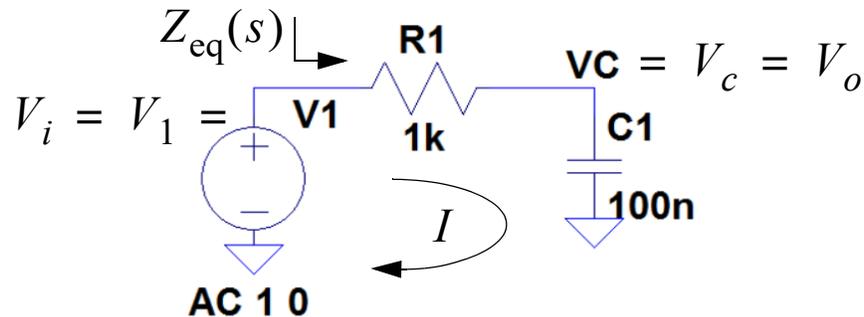
- The frequency response follows by taking the *transfer function*, which relates the input to the output via some $H(s)$, and replacing s with $j\omega = j2\pi f$
 - **Note:** You can also consider $Z(s)$, $V(s)$, or $I(s)$ under the same substitution, but the term transfer function no longer applies, you simply have the given quantity, impedance, voltage, or current, as a function of frequency f
- In Example 6.4 this applies to the calculation of the output voltage in terms of the input voltage, that is

$$H(s) = \frac{V_{\text{out}}(s)}{V_{\text{in}}(s)} = \frac{Z_{bc}(s)}{Z_a(s) + Z_{bc}(s)} \quad (6.36)$$

- Upon substitution you have the transfer function from input to output as a function of frequency
- In radio receiver electronics found in this class, the transfer function is generally a filter or amplifier in the signal processing chain that moves the received signal captured by the antenna to the speaker/headphone jack

Example 6.6: RC Network (Lowpass Filter) Revisited

- Consider the following circuit:



- **Note:** The model above has $V_i = 1 \angle 0^\circ$, so effectively

$$v_i(t) = 1 \cdot \cos(\omega t + 0^\circ) \quad (6.37)$$

- To solve for V_o you can use the voltage divider formula, now using impedances
- The output voltage (voltage across the capacitor) is found from the voltage divider relationship for impedances:

$$V_o = V_i \cdot \frac{Z_C}{Z_R + Z_C} = V_i \cdot \frac{\frac{1}{sC}}{R + \frac{1}{sC}} = V_i \cdot \frac{1}{1 + sRC} \quad (6.38)$$

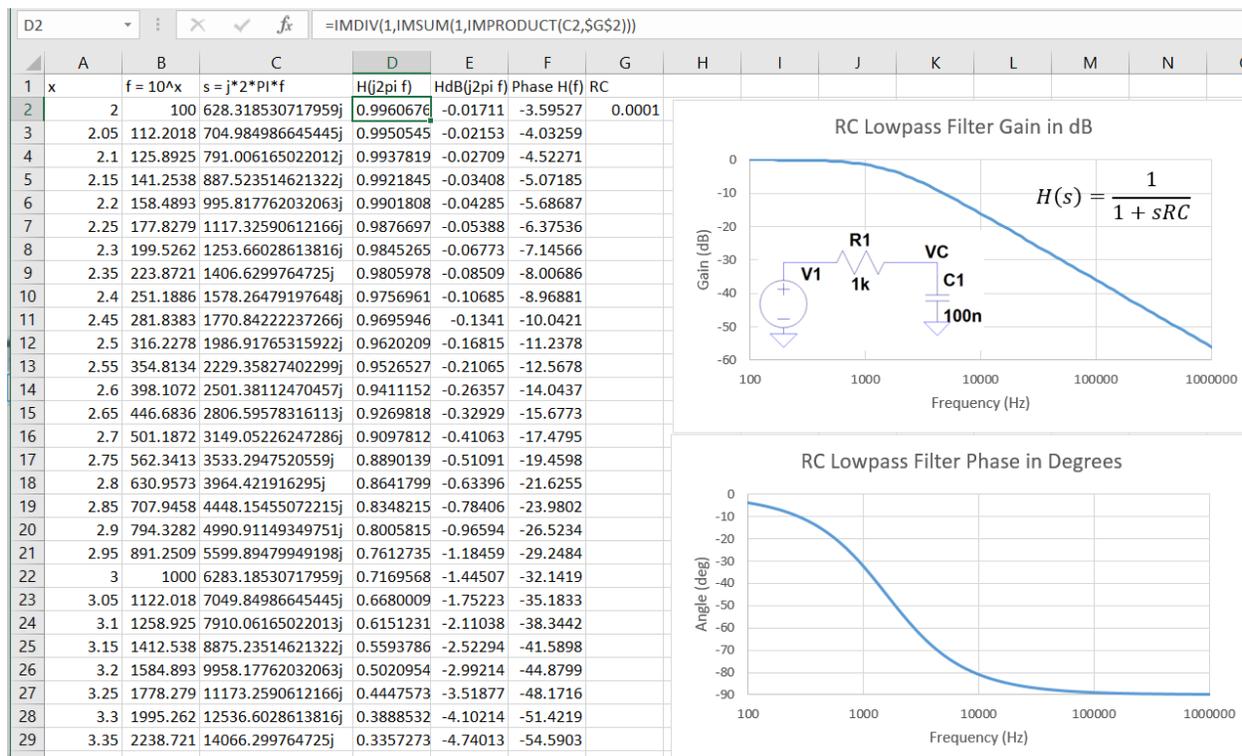
- Too easy?

- To find V_o as a function of the input sinusoid frequency let $s = j2\pi f$

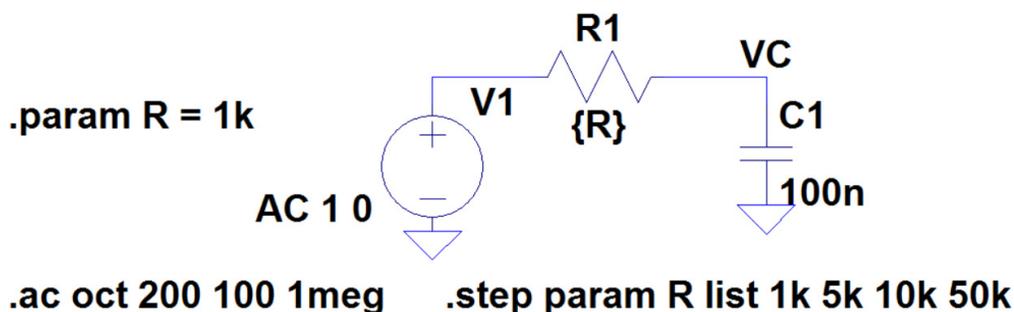
$$V_o = V_i \cdot \frac{1}{1 + j2\pi fRC} \quad (6.39)$$

- The objective is to plot the magnitude and phase (angle) of V_o versus f

- Using the complex functions in Excel you can plot magnitude and phase as follows

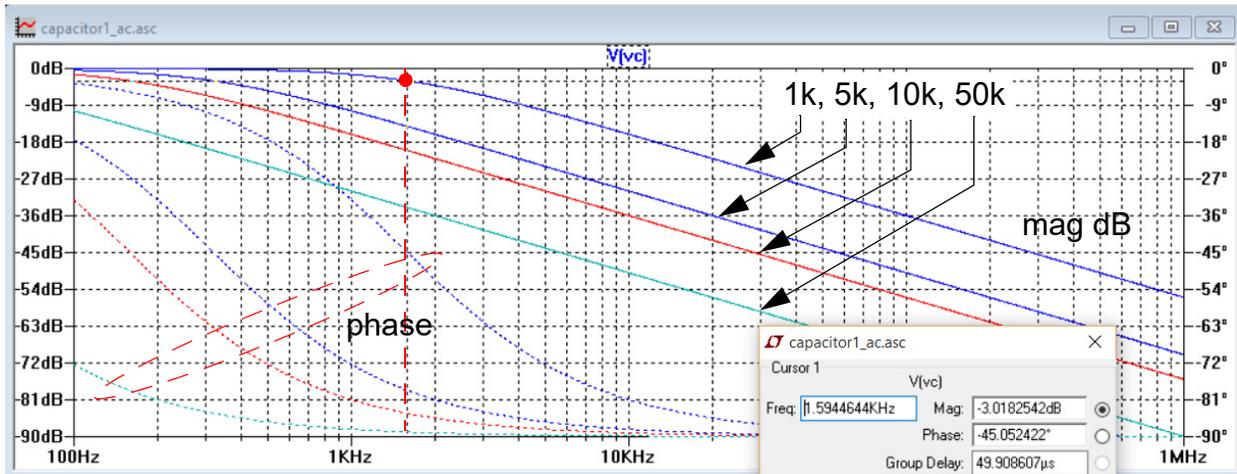


- The RC lowpass filter can easily be analyzed in LTspice and experimentally measured using the Analog Discovery
- The complete LTspice AC analysis schematic is shown below:



- Here I have also included the use of `.step` to vary the value of R_1 using the `list` option

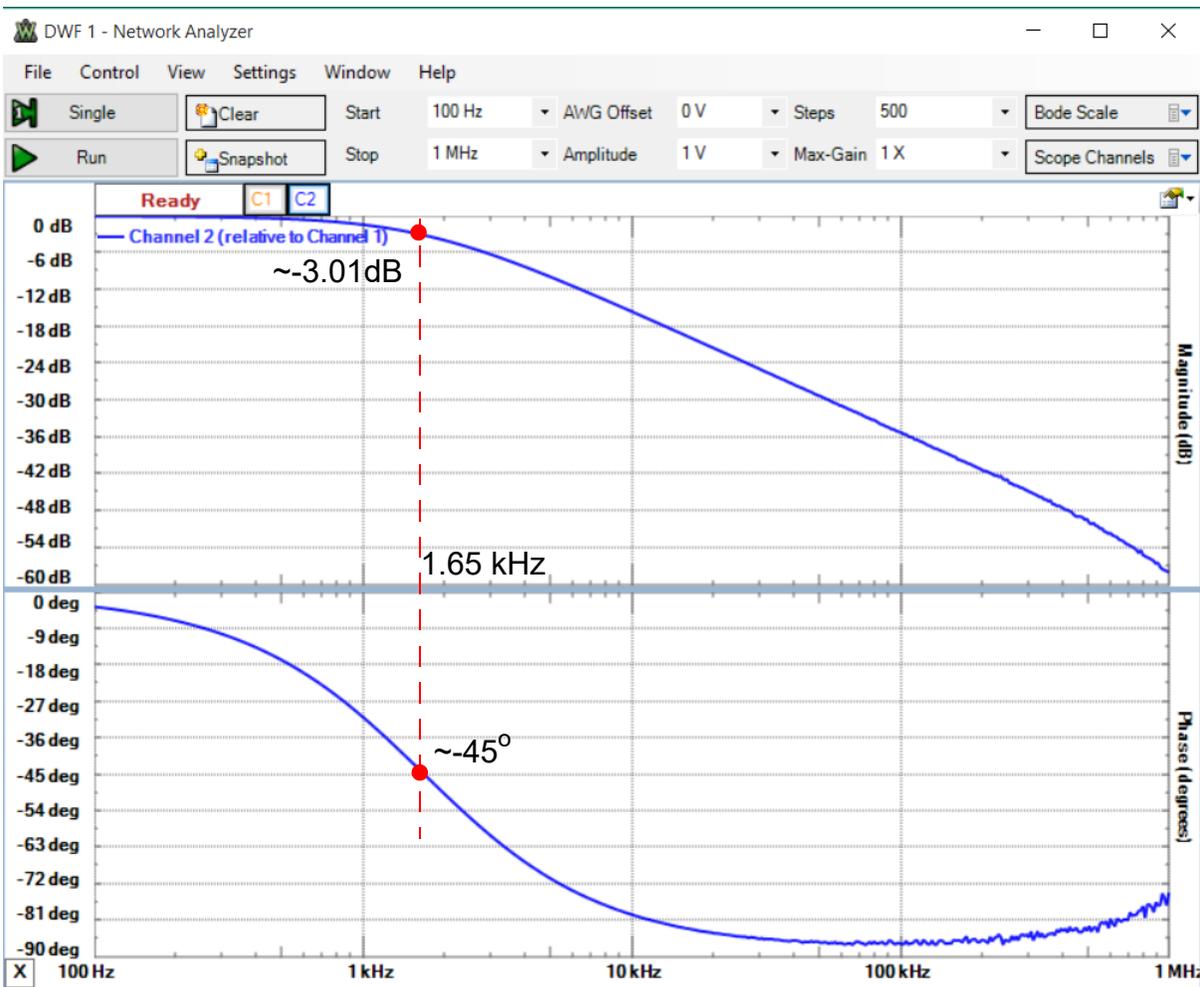
- A second way of using `.step` is
`.step param R Rstart Rstop Rstepsize`
- The LTspice plot showing the RC circuit frequency response is shown below (cursor at the -3dB point)



- **Note:** The frequency at which the magnitude response is down 3dB is $1/(2\pi RC) = 1.591\text{ kHz}$
- Taking actual measurements using the Analog Discovery *network analyzer* is a great way to see how the circuit really performs
- The network analyzer is available under *More Instruments* from the Waveforms launch screen
 - The network analyzer measures and displays the in-circuit measurement of $H(j2\pi f)$ between two measurement points
 - The network analyzer takes over the scope channels and one waveform generator
 - The typical configuration is to use channel one scope leads

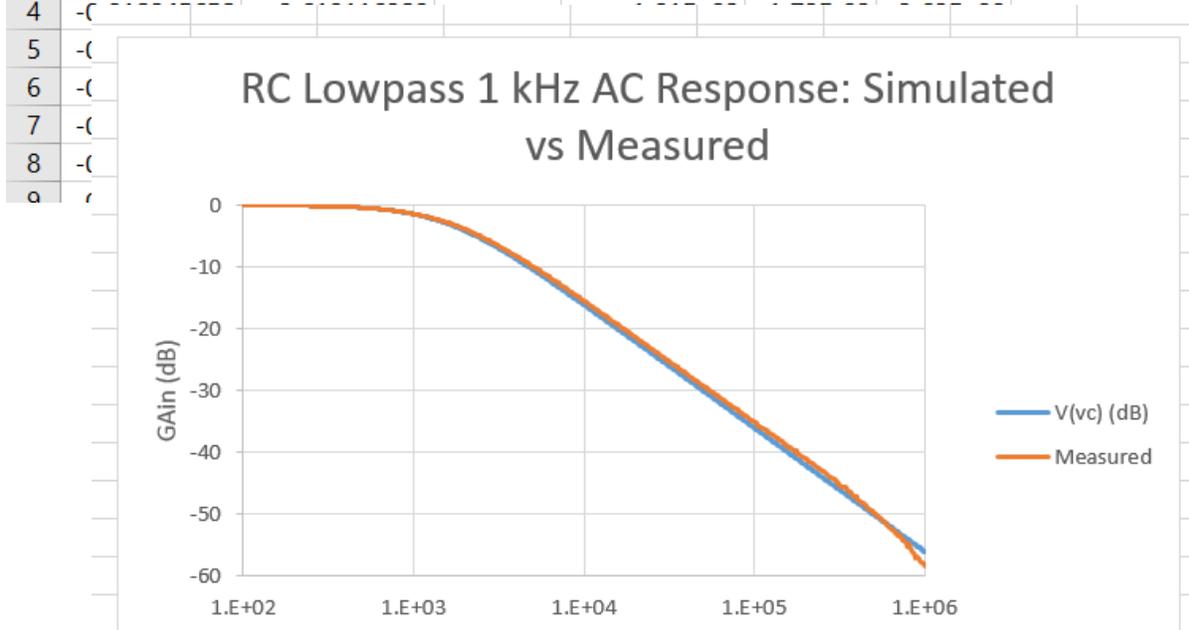
(orange) as the input and the channel two scope leads
(blue) as the output

- RC lowpass filter results for $R = 1\text{ k}$ and $C = 100\text{ nf}$



- The LTspice and measured results can be brought together in Excel as was done for the transient response:

	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Channel 2 (dB)	Channel 2 (deg)		Frequency (Hz)	V(vc) (dB)	V(vc) (deg)
2	-0.017856961	-3.492219744		1.00E+02	-1.71E-02	-3.60E+00
3	-0.017762816	-3.547167818		1.00E+02	-1.72E-02	-3.61E+00



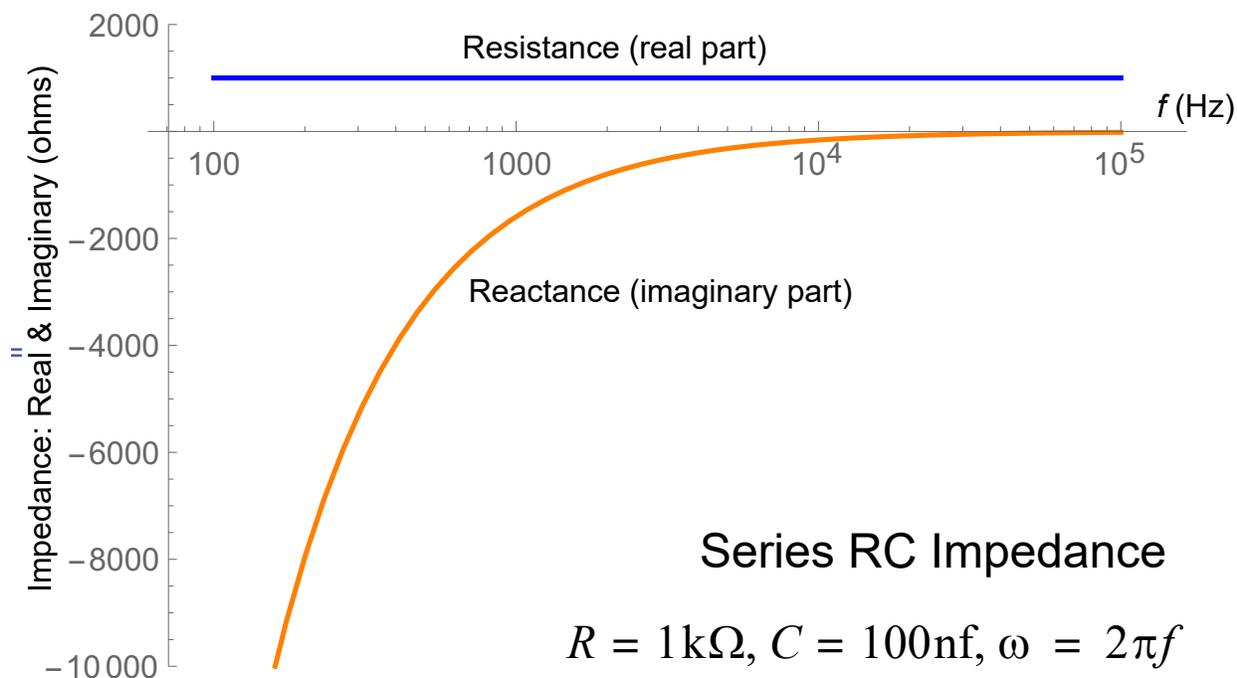
- Very good agreement on the dB magnitude plots!
- Other calculations of interest include:
 - The total impedance looking into the RC elements

$$Z_{\text{eq}}(s) = Z_R + Z_C = R + \frac{1}{sC} \quad (6.40)$$

- By letting $s \rightarrow j\omega$, *step 2*, the resistance and reactance components of impedance can be broken out

$$Z_{\text{eq}}(j\omega) = R + \frac{1}{j\omega C} = R - \frac{j}{\omega C} \quad (6.41)$$

- The plot below was obtained using Mathematica

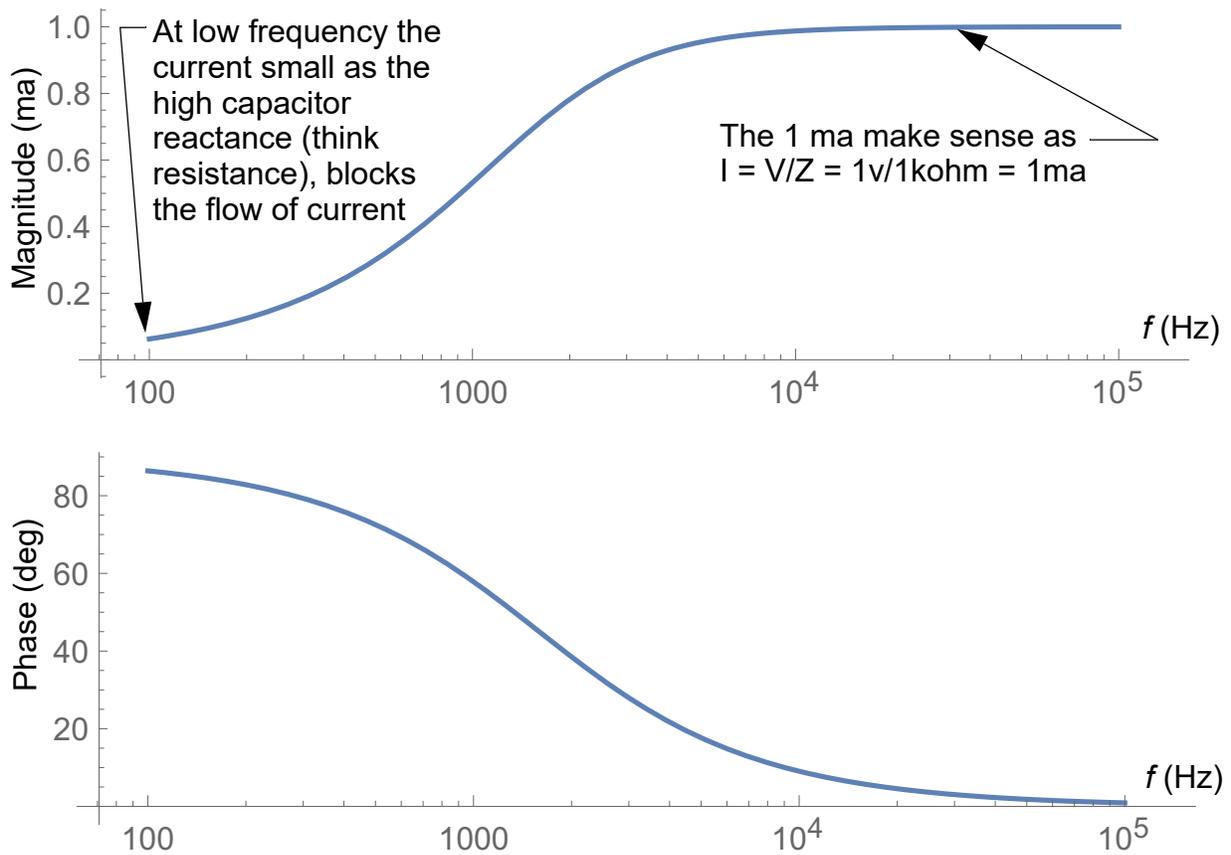


- The current flowing through the series circuit can also be calculated

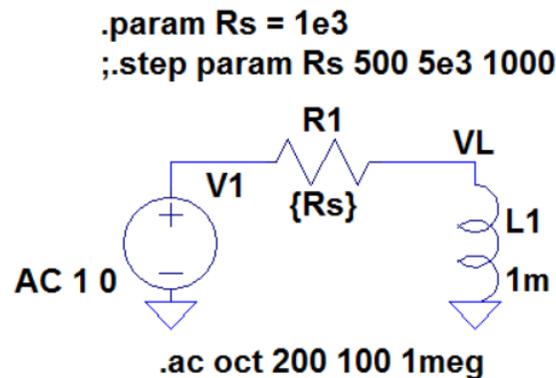
$$I = \frac{V_i}{Z_{\text{eq}}} = \frac{V_i}{R + \frac{1}{sC}} = V_i \cdot \frac{sC}{1 + sRC} \quad (6.42)$$

- Again making the substitution $\omega = j2\pi f$, you can find the current as a magnitude (in amps) and phase shift, both as a function of the operating frequency

$$I = 1 \angle 0 \cdot \frac{j2\pi f}{1 + j2\pi fRC} \quad (6.43)$$



Example 6.7: RL Highpass Circuit

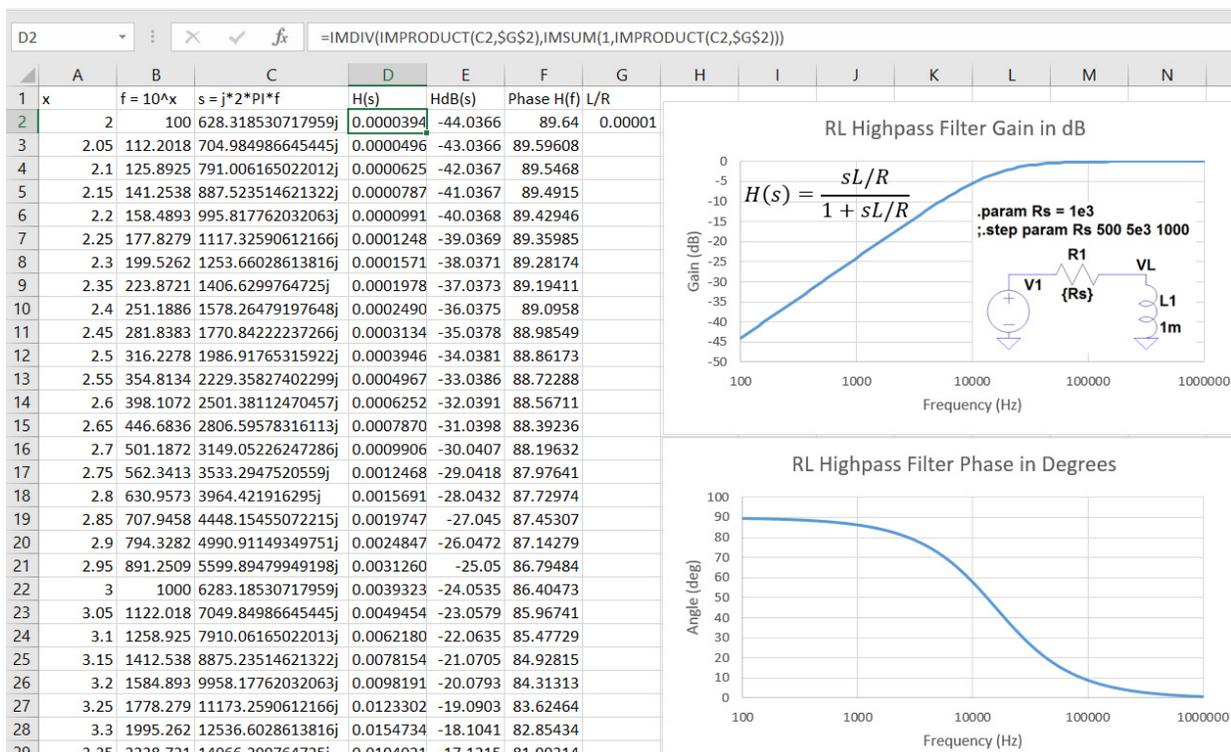


- Here I revisit the *RL* highpass circuit to consider the frequency response
- Using the voltage divider relationship it is easy to write

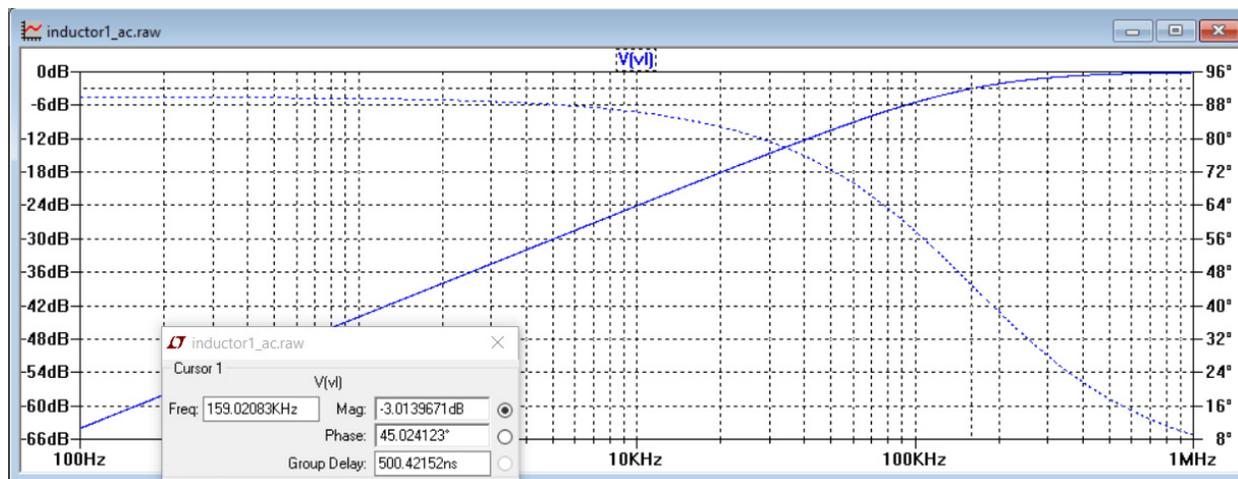
$$V_L(s) = V_1(s) \cdot \frac{sL_1}{R_1 + sL_1} \tag{6.44}$$

$$H(s) = \frac{V_L(s)}{V_1(s)} = \frac{sL_1}{R_1 + sL_1}$$

- Using Excel for the theoretical frequency response yields:

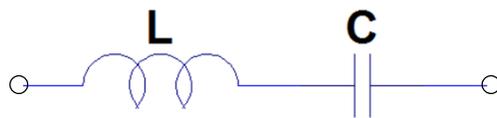


- No surprise, LTspice gets the same results effortlessly



Resonance and LC Tank Circuits

- For radio applications you need to make bandpass filtering functions for the RF front-end and IF signal processing
- Bandpass frequency response functions are also needed for building the local oscillator that can be tuned using a variable capacitor
- The key to all of this is *resonance*, which is what occurs when an inductor and capacitor are placed in the same circuit and the **reactance values cancel**
- You know that a capacitor produces negative reactance and an inductor produces positive reactance, so canceling is a reality
 - Series LC:



The impedance across the series connection is

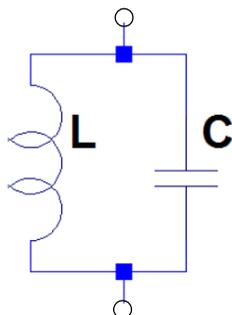
$$Z_{\text{eq}}(s) = sL + \frac{1}{sC} \quad (6.45)$$

$$Z_{\text{eq}}(j\omega) = j\left[\omega L - \frac{1}{\omega C}\right]$$

- Resonance occurs when the reactance cancel each other and the effective impedance becomes zero (short circuit):

$$\omega L = \frac{1}{\omega C} \Rightarrow \omega^2 = \frac{1}{LC} \text{ or } f = \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{LC}} \quad (6.46)$$

– Parallel LC:



The impedance of the parallel connection is

$$Z_{\text{eq}}(s) = \frac{sL \cdot \frac{1}{sC}}{sL + \frac{1}{sC}} = \frac{sL}{1 + s^2 LC} \quad (6.47)$$

$$Z_{\text{eq}}(j\omega) = \frac{j\omega L}{1 - \omega^2 LC} \text{ since } j^2 = -1$$

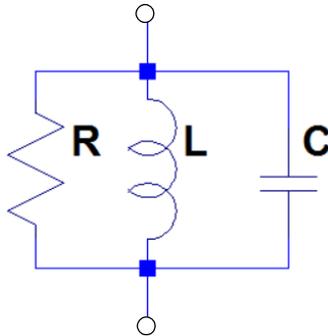
Resonance occurs when the reactance cancel each other and the effective impedance becomes infinite (open circuit):

$$1 - \omega^2 LC = 0 \Rightarrow \omega^2 = \frac{1}{LC} \text{ or } f_o = \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{LC}} \quad (6.48)$$

- The parallel resonance circuit is also known as a *tank circuit*
- Both circuit configurations can be used to make bandpass filters, but in simple radio circuits the parallel or tank circuit form, is the most common
- In a practical setting the inductor will contain some series resistance (conductor loss) and there will be resistive loading

due to other circuit elements surrounding the inductor

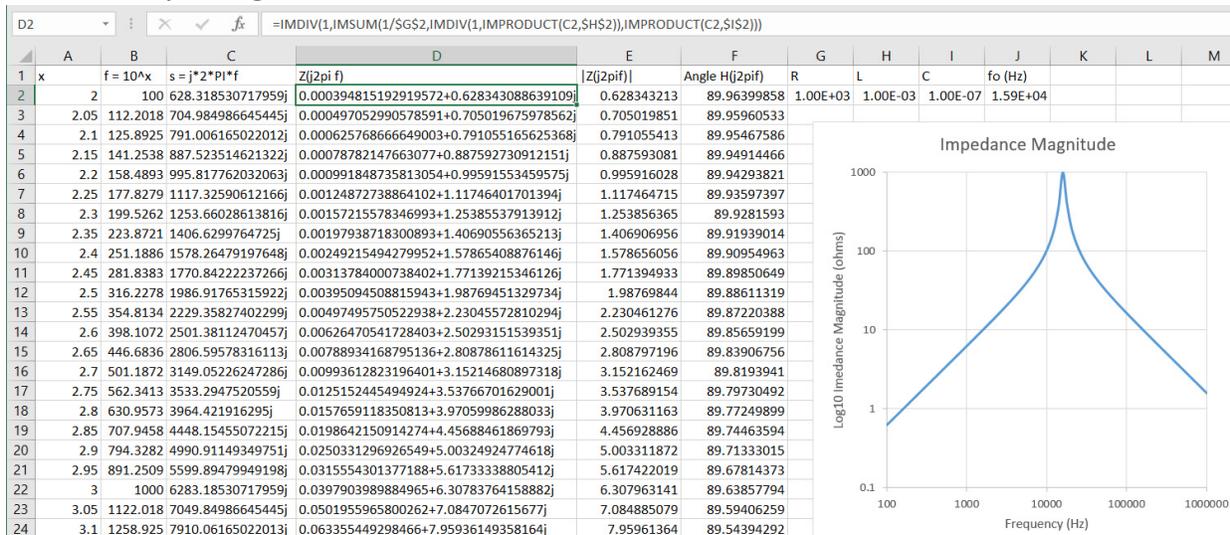
- Consider the impedance magnitude of the circuit



- The impedance magnitude is

$$|Z_{eq}(s)| = \left| \frac{1}{\frac{1}{R} + \frac{1}{sL} + sC} \right| \quad (6.49)$$

- Analyzing in Excel



- Resonant circuits exhibit a selectivity property, that is at frequencies near resonance the impedance, or voltage, or current remain close to the value at resonance

- In the parallel RLC circuit the impedance at resonance is R

- As the frequency moves off resonance, the impedance magnitude drops
- The 3dB bandwidth of the resonator is defined as the frequency band corresponding to the 3dB or 0.707 points on the curve
- For $R = 1000$ (as in the figure above) this occurs at 707.1Ω
- The ratio of center frequency f_o divided by BW is a constant known as Q , i.e.

$$Q = \frac{f_o}{\text{BW}} \quad (6.50)$$

- At resonance you know that $X_c = -X_L$ and the so-called *loaded circuit* $Q_L = Q$ is given by

$$Q = \left. \frac{R}{X_L} \right|_{f=f_o} \quad (6.51)$$

- Rewriting in terms of 3dB BW,

$$\text{BW} = \frac{f_o}{Q} = \frac{f_o \cdot X_L}{R} = 2\pi f_o^2 \cdot \frac{L}{R} \quad (6.52)$$

- For the circuit values used above,

$$\text{BW} = \frac{2\pi(1.59 \times 10^4)^2 \cdot 1 \times 10^{-3}}{1000} = 1588.5 \text{ Hz} \quad (6.53)$$

Unloaded Q and Inductor Losses:

- A physical inductor has losses, which are most easily represented as a small resistor in series with L

References

- [1] The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs, ARRL – The National Association for Amateur Radio, 77th Edition, 2000.
- [2] R.M. Mersereau and J.R. Jackson, *Circuit Analysis A Systems Approach*, Prentice Hall, 2006.
- [3] F. Ulaby and U. Ravaioli, *Fundamentals of Applied Electromagnetic*, 7th ed, Prentice Hall, New Jersey, 2015.