
Fourier Transform

Solving differential equations when the input is periodic

ECE 211 - Lecture #32

Please visit Bison Academy for corresponding
lecture notes, homework sets, and solutions

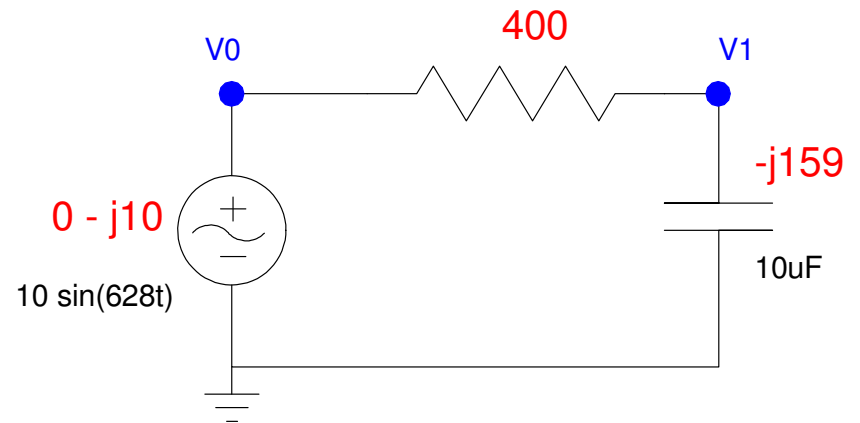
Recap: Phasors

If a circuit has a sinusoidal input, use phasor analysis

- Replace voltage & current sources with their phasor equivalent
- Replace inductors & capacitors with their phasor equivalent

Analyze as before

- Only now using complex numbers



Recap: Superposition

If a circuit has

- Two different inputs, or
- An input containing two or more frequencies

Use the property of linearity

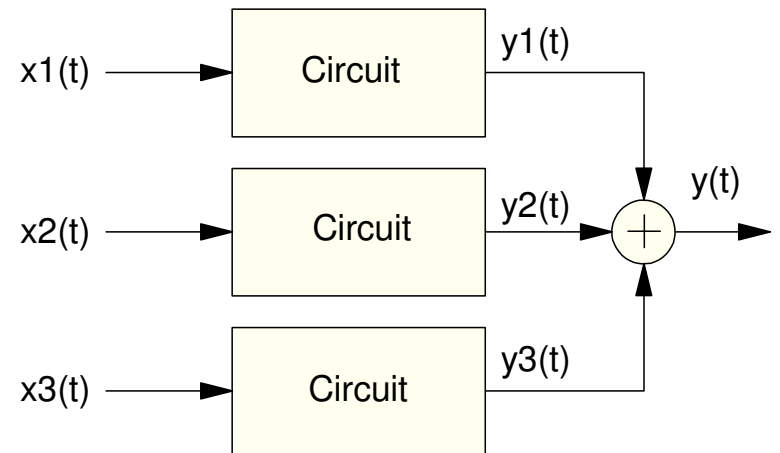
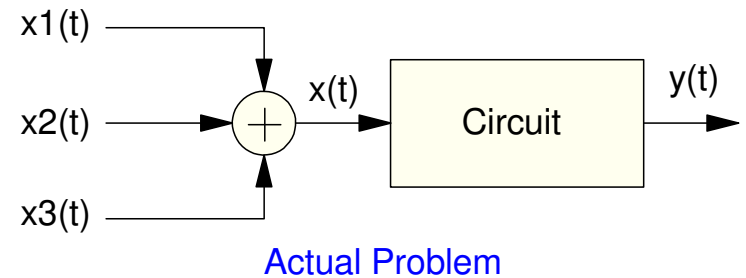
$$f(a + b) = f(a) + f(b)$$

Treat this as separate problems

- Different problem for each input
- Different problem for each frequency

Solve each problem separately

The total answer is the sum of the separate answers



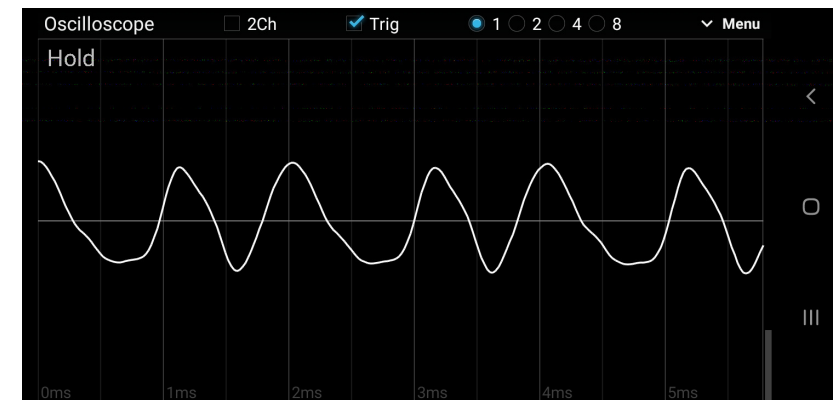
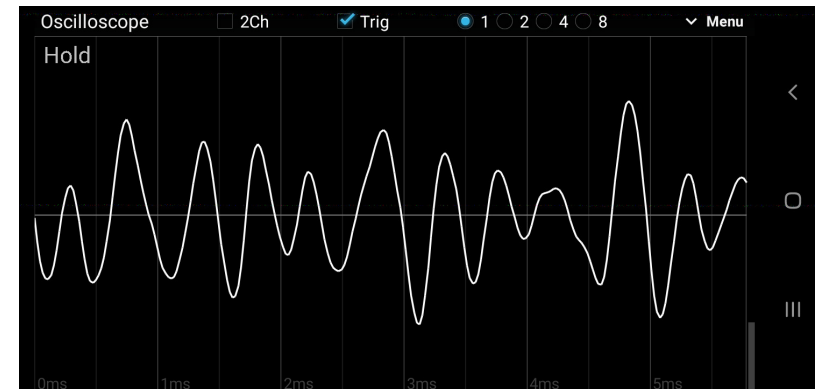
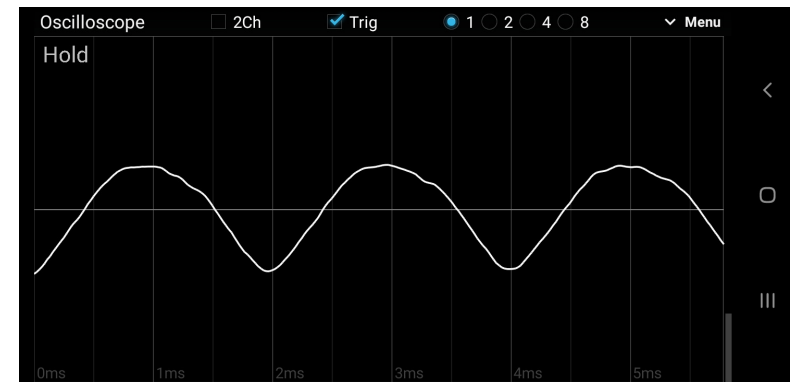
Problem:

How do you solve for voltages and currents when

- The input is periodic,
- But *not* a sinusoid?

Example Note A4 (500Hz):

- Piano
- Tubular Bells
- Cello



CircuitLab Example

RLC Circuit

- By voltage division

$$V_2 = \left(\frac{\frac{1}{j\omega C}}{R + j\omega L + \frac{1}{j\omega C}} \right) V_1$$

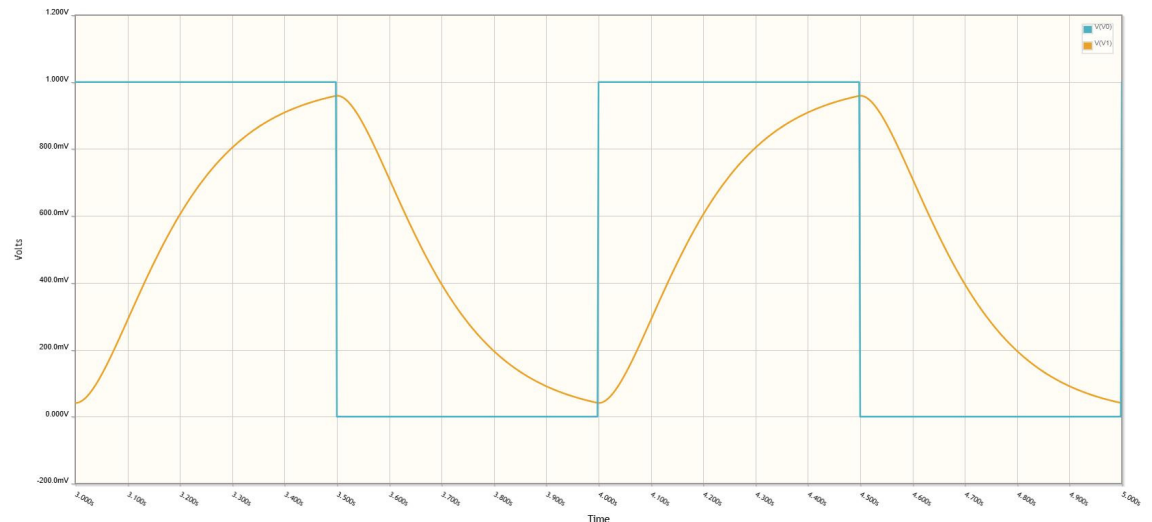
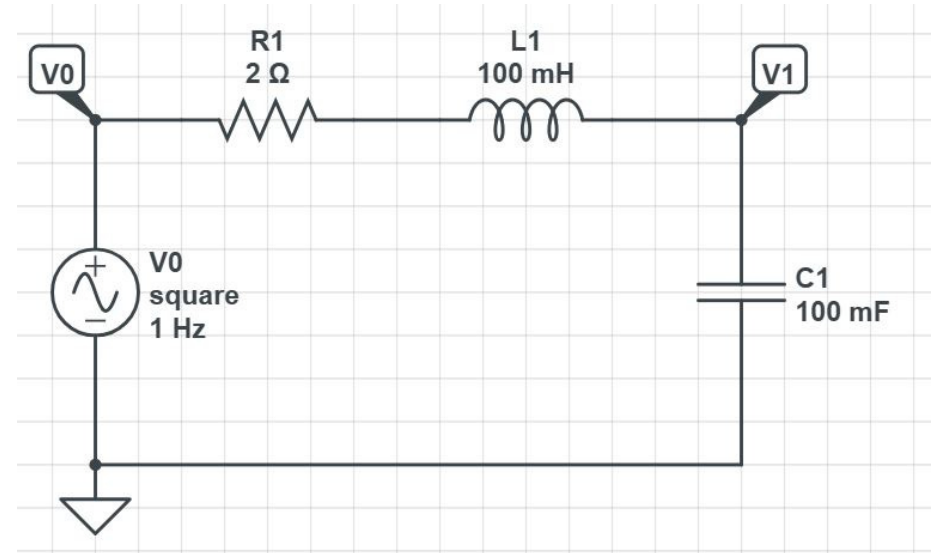
$$V_2 = \left(\frac{1}{(j\omega)^2 LC + (j\omega)RC + 1} \right) V_1$$

Set V0 to be a square wave input

- 1Hz
- 0.5V offset
- 0.5V amplitude

V1(t) found using CircuitLab

- How do you compute V1(t)
- When V0(t) is a square wave?



Solution: Fourier Transforms

Change the problem

- Express the signal in terms of sine waves

Note:

- Fourier Transforms will be covered in more detail in Signals & Systems

However, once you have

- Phasors, and
- Superposition

you have Fourier transforms.

- We're ready for it.



Trick Used in Fourier Transforms

Take a signal that is periodic in time T

$$x(t) = x(t + T)$$

Approximate it as the sum of sine waves

- Each is also periodic in time T

$$x(t) = \sum a_n \cos(n\omega_0 t) + b_n \sin(n\omega_0 t)$$

$$\omega_0 = \frac{2\pi}{T}$$

Now that $x(t)$ is in terms of sine waves, use phasor analysis at each frequency

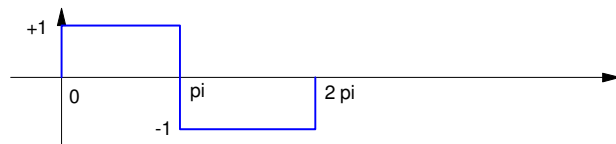
Note:

- Equals is a powerful symbol
- It means the two sides are equivalent
 - Any time you see $x(t)$, you can replace it with the Fourier series
 - Any time you see the Fourier series, you can replace it with $x(t)$

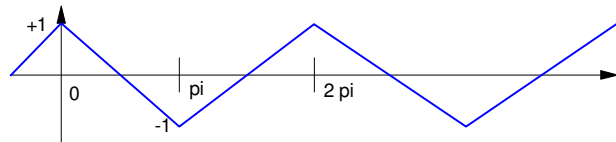
Problem: How to go right to left

- If you know the formula for $x(t)$ in terms of sine waves
- Simply add them together in Matlab to get $x(t)$ in terms of time

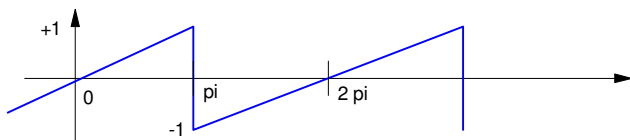
Table of Fourier Transforms (CRC Handbook of Mathematics)



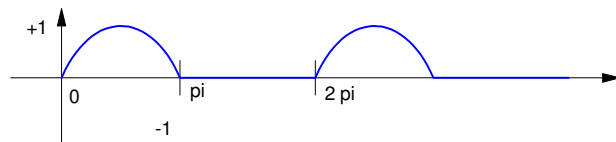
$$x(t) = \frac{4}{\pi} \sum_{n \text{ odd}} \left(\frac{1}{n} \right) \sin(nt)$$



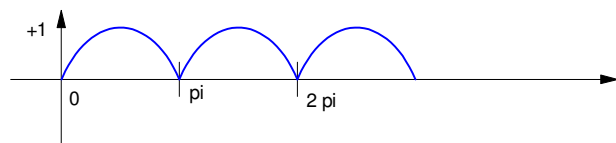
$$x(t) = \frac{8}{\pi^2} \sum_{n \text{ odd}} \left(\frac{1}{n^2} \right) \cos(nt)$$



$$x(t) = \frac{2}{\pi} \sum_n (-1)^{n-1} \left(\frac{1}{n} \right) \sin(nt)$$



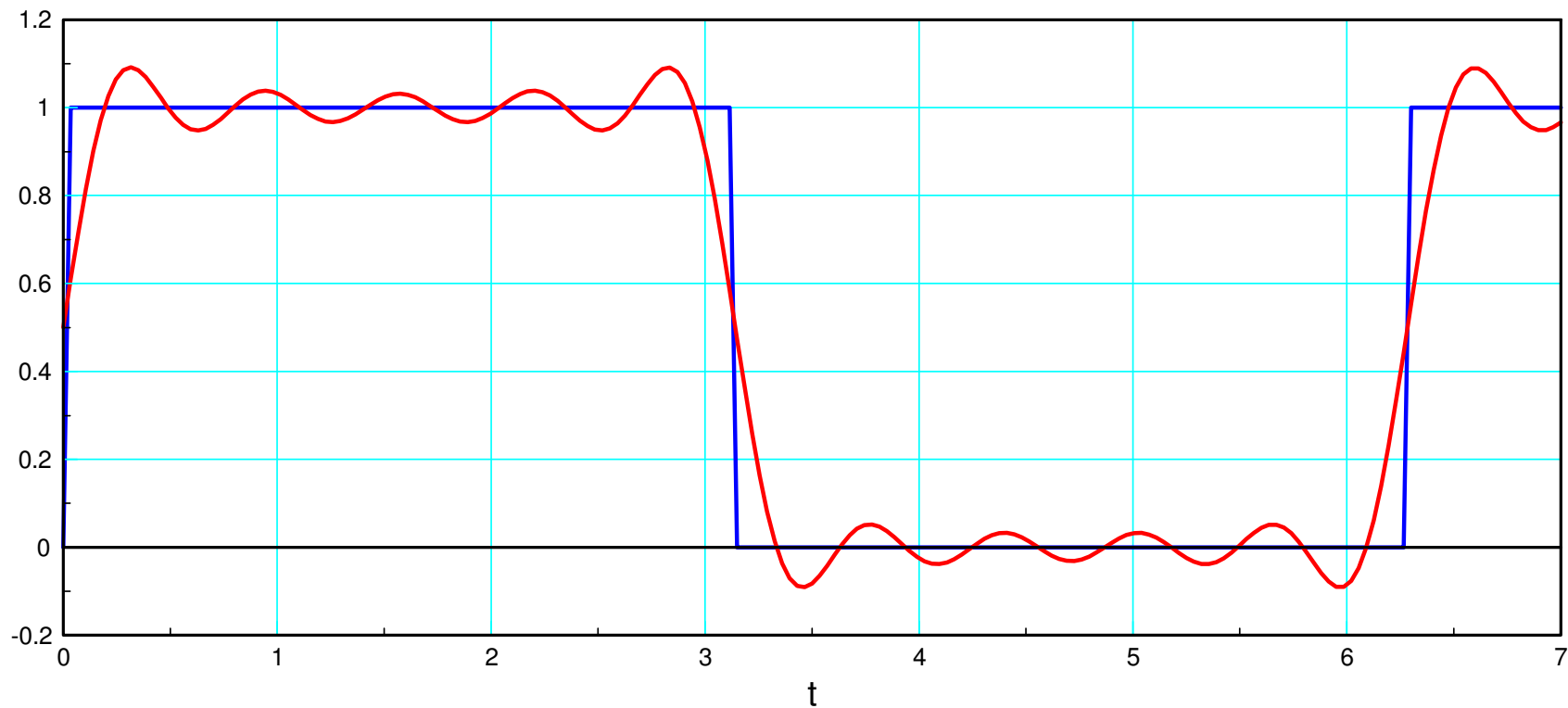
$$x(t) = \frac{1}{\pi} + \frac{1}{2} \sin(x) - \frac{2}{\pi} \sum_{n \text{ even}} \frac{1}{n^2-1} \cos(nt)$$



$$x(t) = \frac{2}{\pi} - \frac{4}{\pi} \sum_{n \text{ even}} \frac{1}{n^2-1} \cos(nt)$$

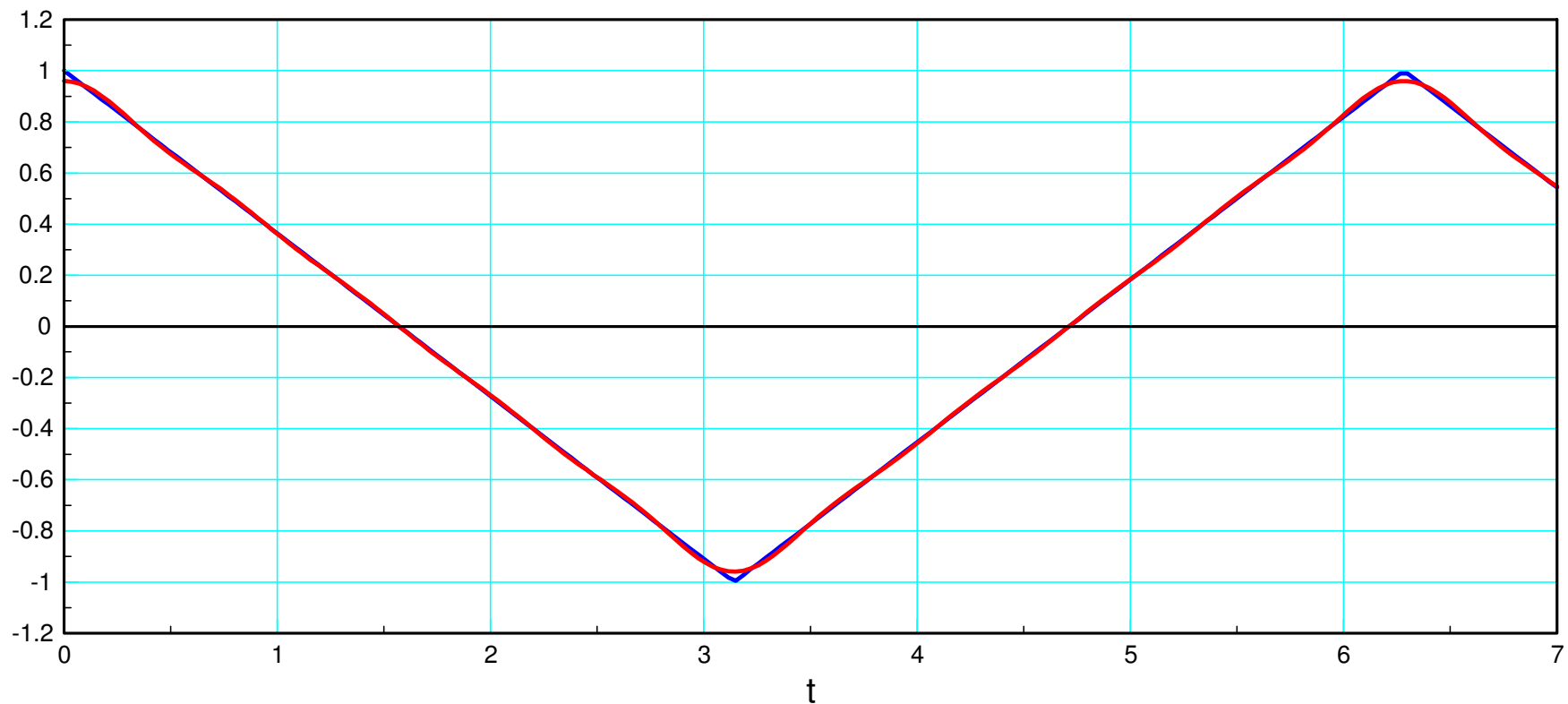
Example: Square Wave

- $x(t) = 0.5 + \sum_{n \text{ odd}} \frac{2}{\pi n} \sin(nt)$
- $n = 9$ (red) & infinity (blue)



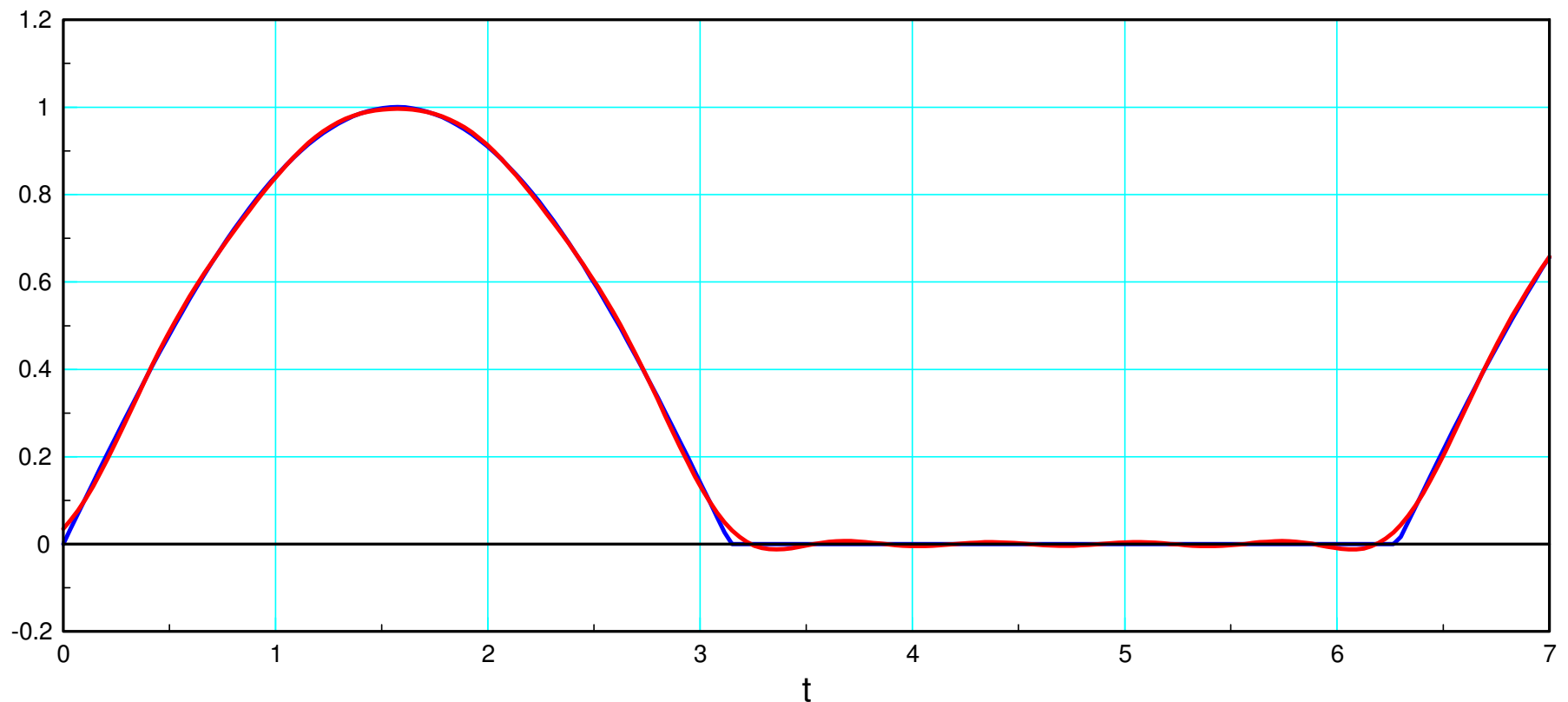
Example: Triangle Wave

- $x(t) = \frac{8}{\pi^2} \sum_{n \text{ odd}}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2} \cos(nt)$
- $n = 9$ (red) & infinity (blue)



Example: 1/2 Wave Rectified Sine Wave

- $x(t) = \frac{1}{\pi} + \frac{1}{2} \sin(x) - \frac{2}{\pi} \sum_{n \text{ even}} \frac{1}{n^2-1} \cos(nt)$
- $n = 9$ (red) & infinity (blue)

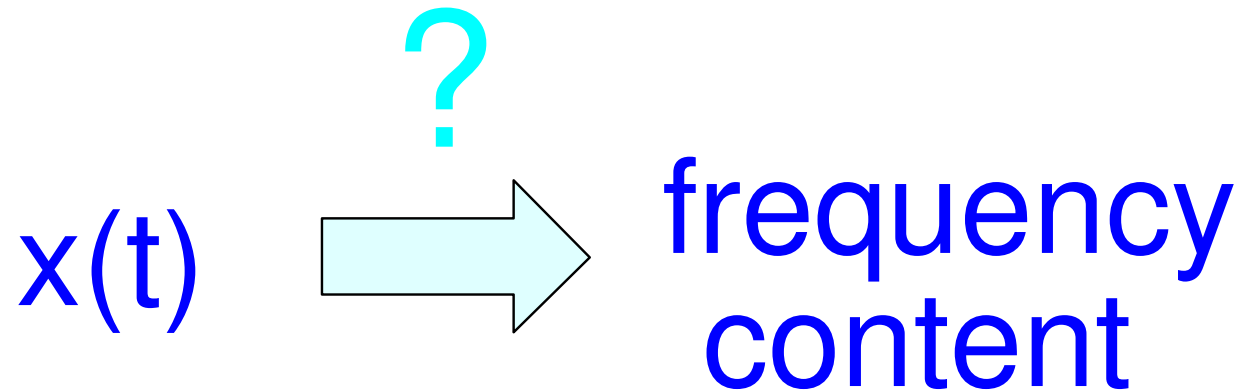


Problem: How do you go left to right?

- Given a periodic $x(t)$, how do you decompose it into sine waves?

$$x(t) = a_0 + a_1 \cos(\omega_0 t) + b_1 \sin(\omega_0 t) + a_2 \cos(2\omega_0 t) + b_2 \sin(2\omega_0 t) + \dots$$

$$a_i = ? \quad b_i = ?$$



Method #1: Curve Fitting

You can curve fit any function.

Example: Assume $x(t)$ is a square wave

$$x(t) = x(t + T)$$

$$x(t) = \begin{cases} +1 & 0 < t < \frac{T}{2} \\ 0 & \frac{T}{2} < t < T \end{cases}$$

$$T = 1$$

Curve fit $x(t)$ to a power series

$$x(t) \approx a_0 + a_1 t + a_2 t^2 + a_3 t^3 + a_4 t^4$$

Power Series (cont'd)

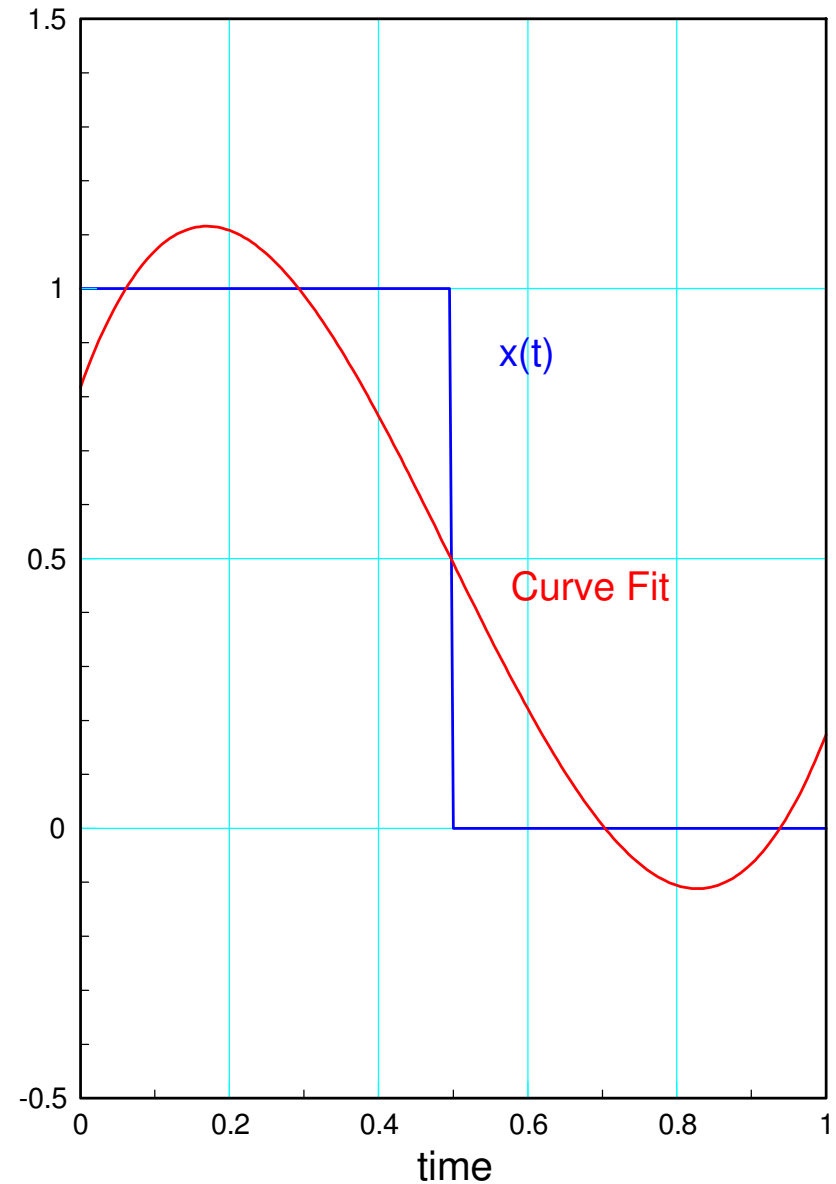
In Matlab

```
>> T = 1;  
>> t = [0:0.001:T]';  
>> x = 1*(t<T/2);  
>> B = [t.^0, t, t.^2, t.^3, t.^4];  
>> A = inv(B'*B)*B'*x
```

```
a0    0.8134  
a1    3.7592  
a2   -13.2293  
a3    8.9589  
a4   -0.1175
```

```
>> plot(t,x,'b',t,B*A,'r')
```

The curve fit gets better if you add more terms



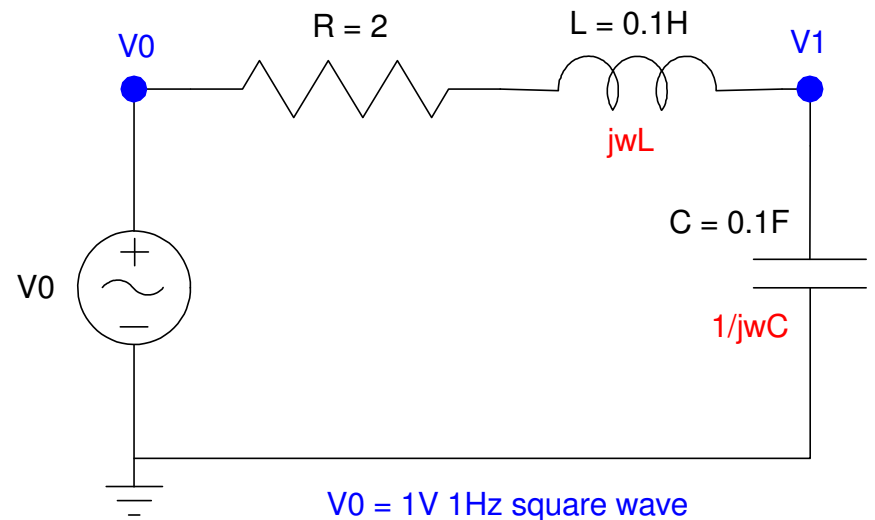
Problem with a Power Series

$x(t)$ is expressed in terms of simpler functions

- good

The basis elements aren't useful for circuit analysis

- they're not sine waves
- phasor analysis doesn't work
- bad



Curve fit $x(t)$ to a sine-waves

Repeat: Make the period 2π ($\omega_0 = 1$)

- Change of variable: doesn't affect coefficients

Express $x(t)$ in terms of harmonics

$$x(t) = a_0 + a_1 \cos(t) + b_1 \sin(t) + a_2 \cos(2t) + b_2 \sin(2t) + a_3 \cos(3t) + b_3 \sin(3t) + \dots$$

In Matlab

```
>> T = 2*pi;  
>> t = [0:0.001:T]';  
>> x = 1*(t<T/2);  
>> B = [t.^0, cos(t), sin(t), cos(2*t), sin(2*t), cos(3*t), sin(3*t)];  
>> A = inv(B'*B)*B'*x
```

```
a0      0.5000  
a1      0.0001  
b1      0.6366  
a2     -0.0000  
b2     -0.0000  
a3      0.0001  
b3      0.2122
```

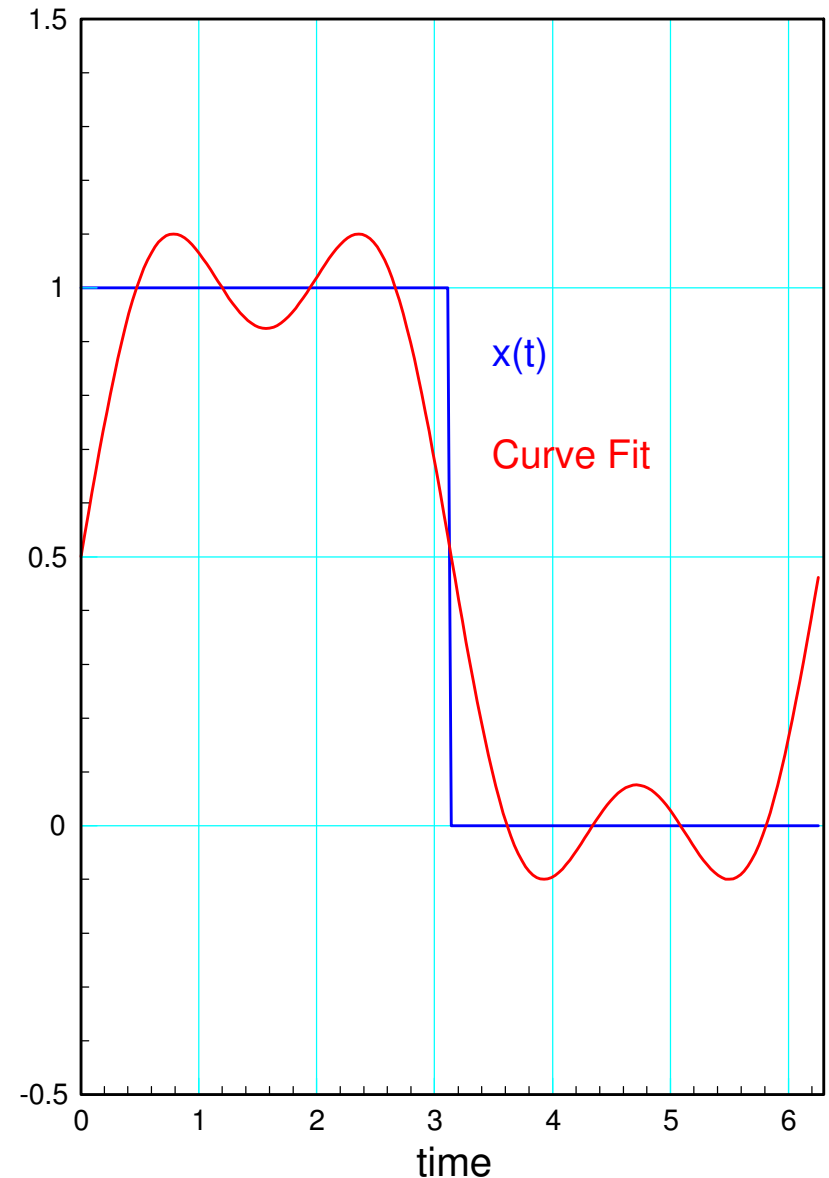
Comment

Result:

$$x(t) = 0.5 + 0.6366 \sin(t) + 0.2122 \sin(3t)$$

This is just a curve fit

- But, it's a useful curve fit
- $x(t)$ is expressed in terms of sine waves
- Phasor analysis & superposition can now be used



Method #2: Fourier Transforms

Note that the basis used is an orthogonal basis

$$\int_T \cos(n\omega_0 t) \cdot \sin(m\omega_0 t) \cdot dt = 0$$

$$\int_T \cos(n\omega_0 t) \cdot \cos(m\omega_0 t) \cdot dt = 0 \quad m \neq n$$

$$\int_T \sin(n\omega_0 t) \cdot \sin(m\omega_0 t) \cdot dt = 0 \quad m \neq n$$

It is *not* an ortho-normal basis though

$$\int_T 1 \cdot 1 = T$$

$$\int_T \cos(n\omega_0 t) \cdot \cos(n\omega_0 t) dt = \frac{T}{2}$$

$$\int_T \sin(n\omega_0 t) \cdot \sin(n\omega_0 t) dt = \frac{T}{2}$$

This allows you to find each term separately

Fourier Transforms (cont'd)

Recall

$$x(t) = a_0 + a_1 \cos(t) + b_1 \sin(t) + a_2 \cos(2t) + b_2 \sin(2t) + a_3 \cos(3t) + b_3 \sin(3t) + \dots$$

Each term can be found using

$$a_0 = \frac{1}{T} \int_T x(t) \cdot 1 \cdot dt$$

$$a_n = \frac{1}{2T} \int_T x(t) \cdot \cos(nt) \cdot dt$$

$$b_n = \frac{1}{2T} \int_T x(t) \cdot \sin(nt) \cdot dt$$

In Matlab

```
>> T = 2*pi;
>> t = [0:0.001:T]';
>> x = 1*(t<T/2);
>> a0 = mean(x)
a0 = 0.5000

>> a1 = 2 * mean(x .* cos(t))
a1 = 1.8862e-004

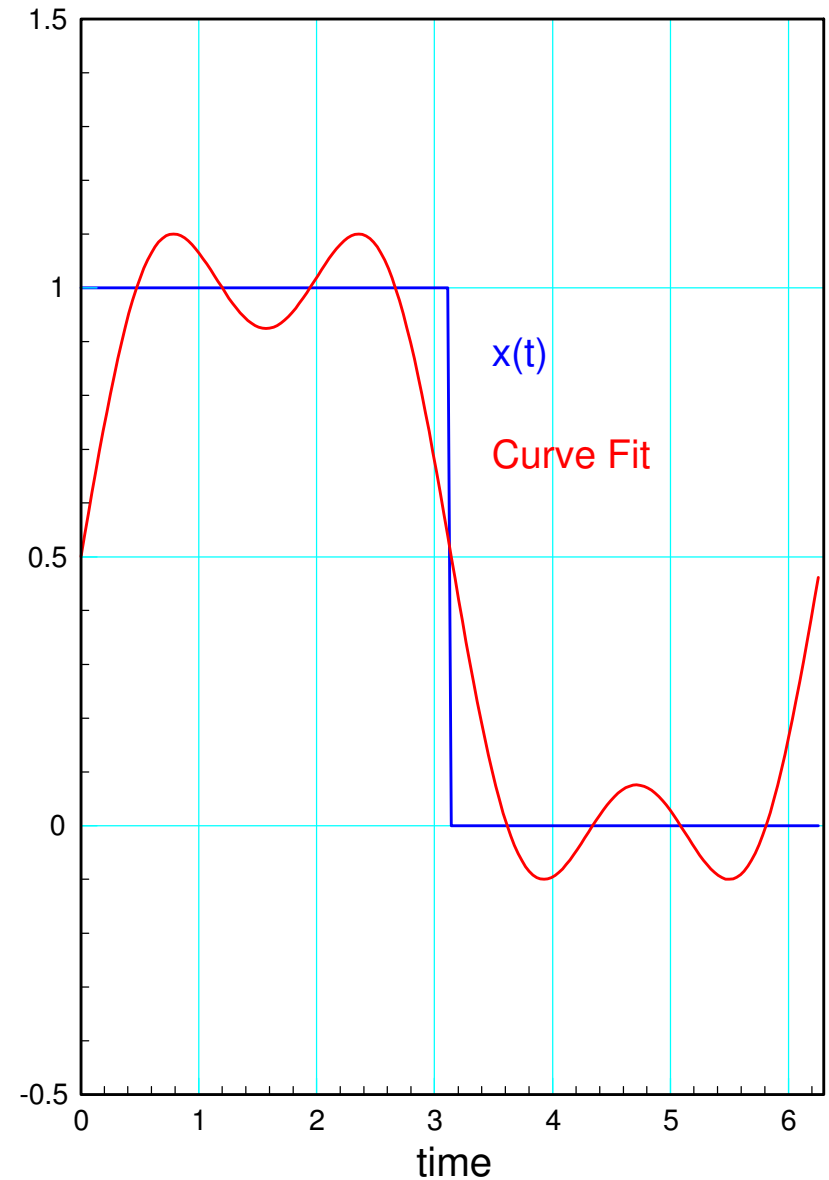
>> b1 = 2 * mean(x .* sin(t))
b1 = 0.6365

>> a2 = 2 * mean(x .* cos(2*t))
a2 = 1.2965e-004

>> b2 = 2 * mean(x .* sin(2*t))
b2 = -7.6835e-008

>> a3 = 2 * mean(x .* cos(3*t))
a3 = 1.8862e-004

>> b3 = 2 * mean(x .* sin(3*t))
b3 = 0.2122
```



Circuit Analysis

Going back to our original circuit, find $V_1(t)$

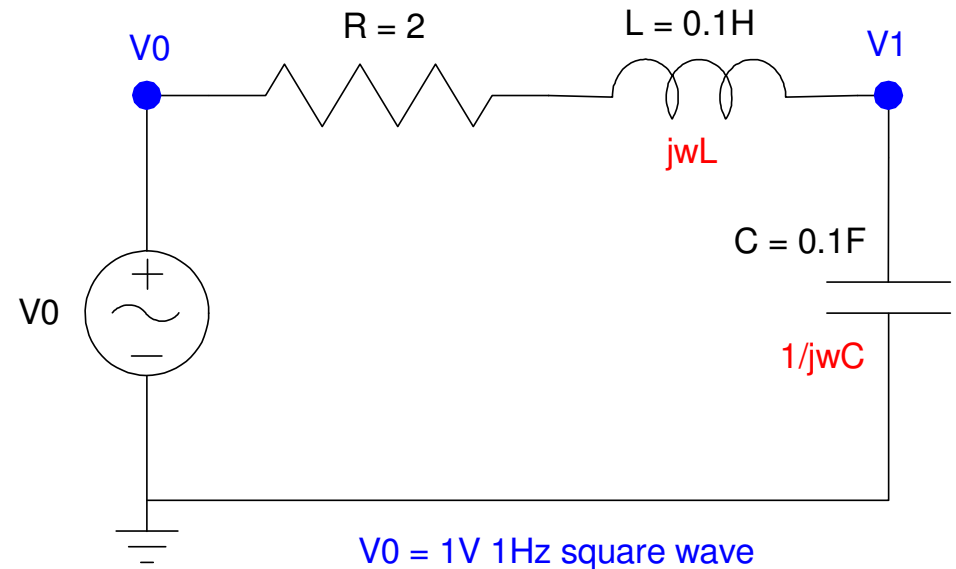
$$V_1 = \left(\frac{1}{LC(j\omega)^2 + RC(j\omega) + 1} \right) V_0$$

Express $V_0(t)$ in term sof sine waves

- use $x(t)$ from previous analysis
- change the period from 2π
- to 1Hz

Result:

$$V_0(t) = 0.5 + 0.6365 \sin(2\pi t) + 0.2122 \sin(6\pi t)$$



DC Analysis

Use superposition and phasors

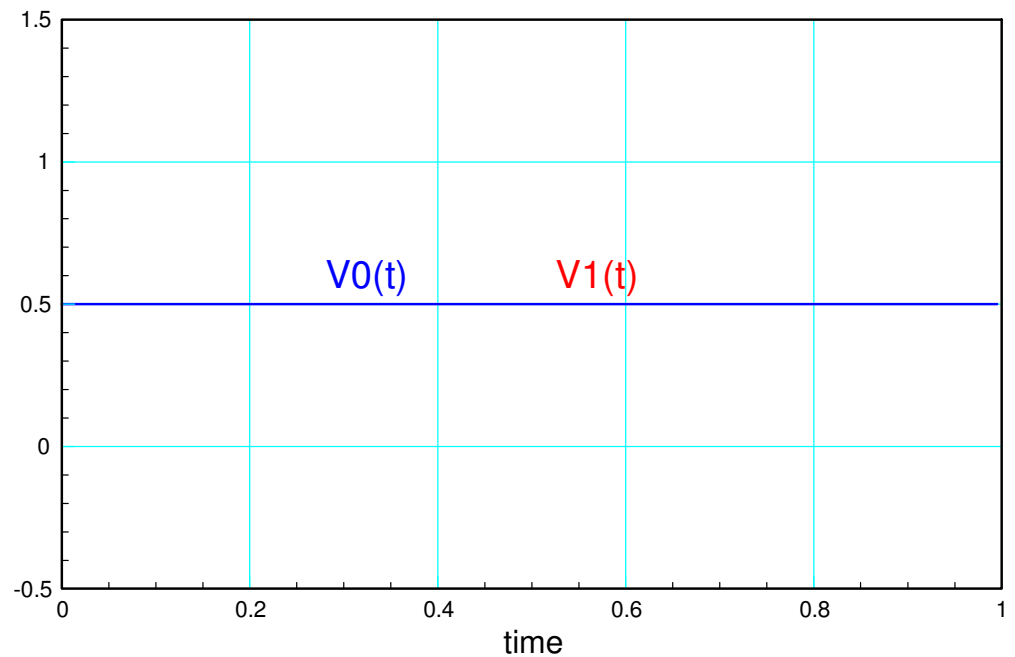
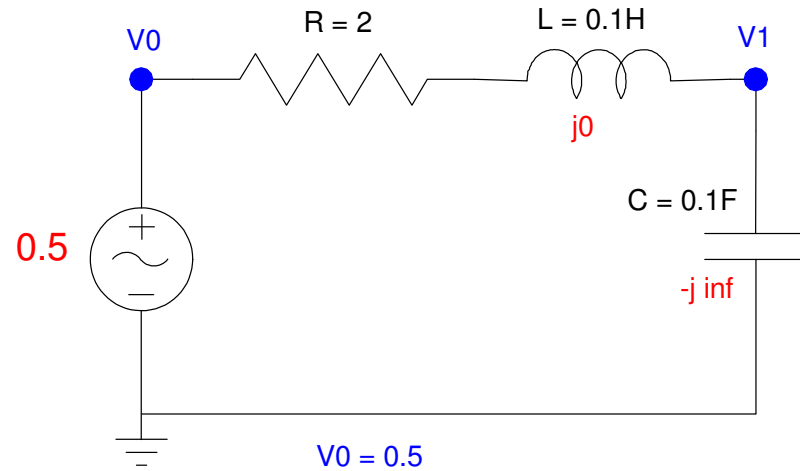
- $V_0(t)$ contains three terms
- $V_2(t)$ contains three terms

DC Analysis

$$V_0(t) = 0.5$$

$$V_1 = \left(\frac{1}{LC(j\omega)^2 + RC(j\omega) + 1} \right)_{\omega=0} V_0$$

$$V_1 = 0.5$$



1Hz Analysis

$$v_0(t) = 0.6365 \sin(2\pi t)$$

In phasor form

$$V_0 = 0 - j0.6365$$

$$\omega = 2\pi$$

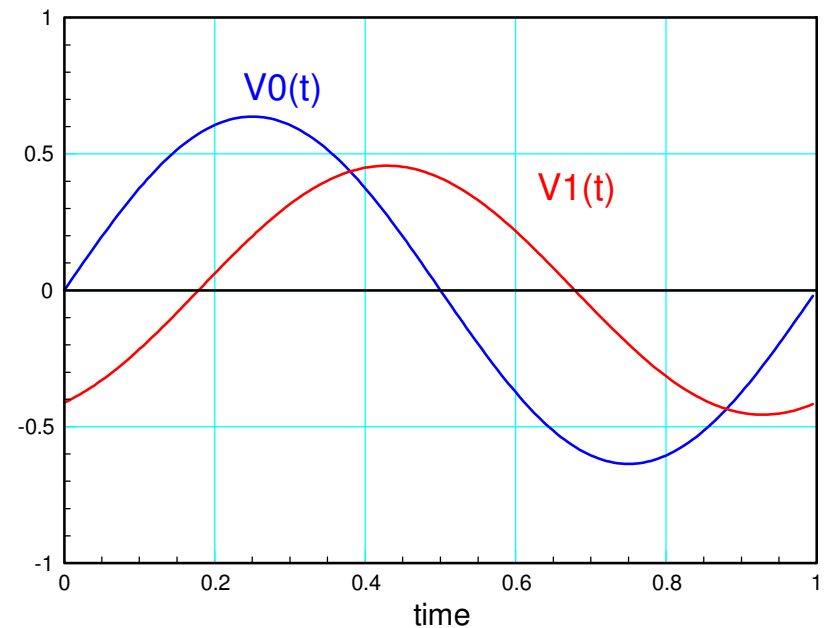
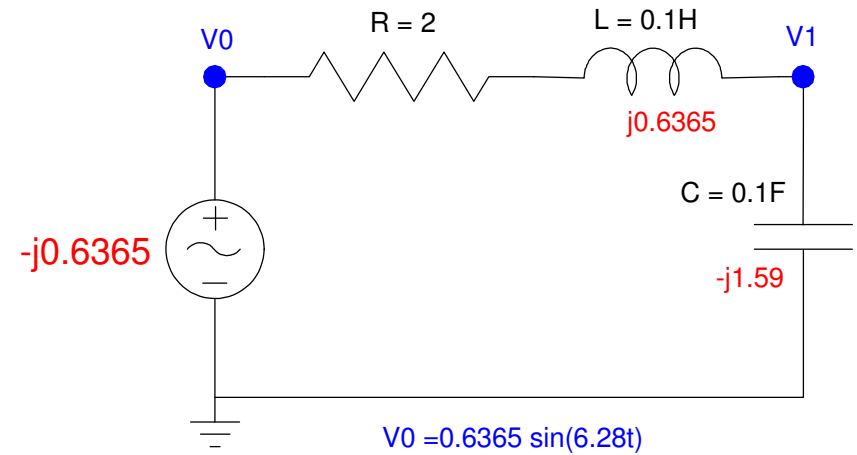
V1 is then

$$V_1 = \left(\frac{2}{(j0.04\omega)^2 + (j0.04\omega) + 1} \right)_{\omega=2\pi} (-j0.6365)$$

$$V_1 = -0.3397 - 1.2678i$$

meaning

$$v_1(t) = -0.340 \cos(2\pi t) + 1.268 \sin(2\pi t)$$

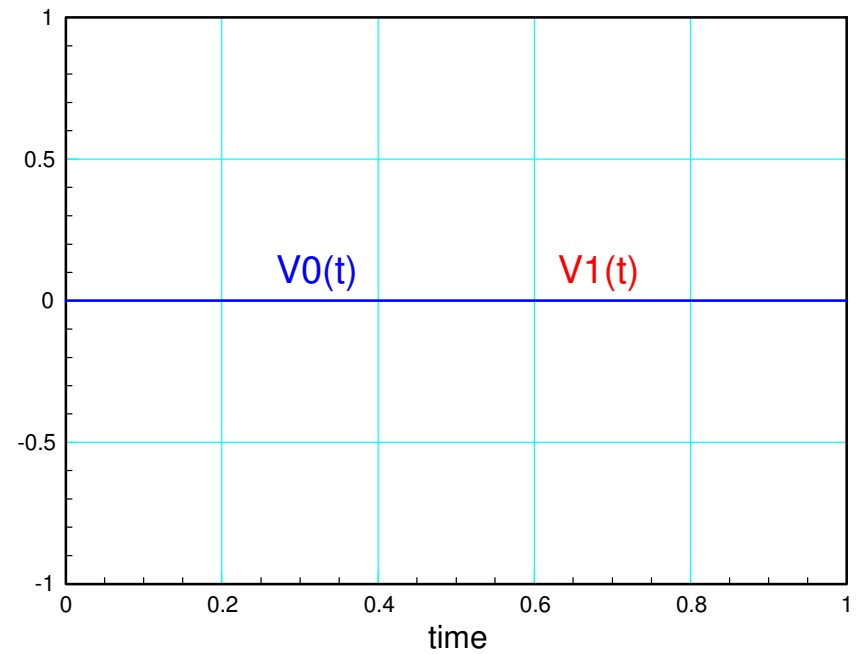
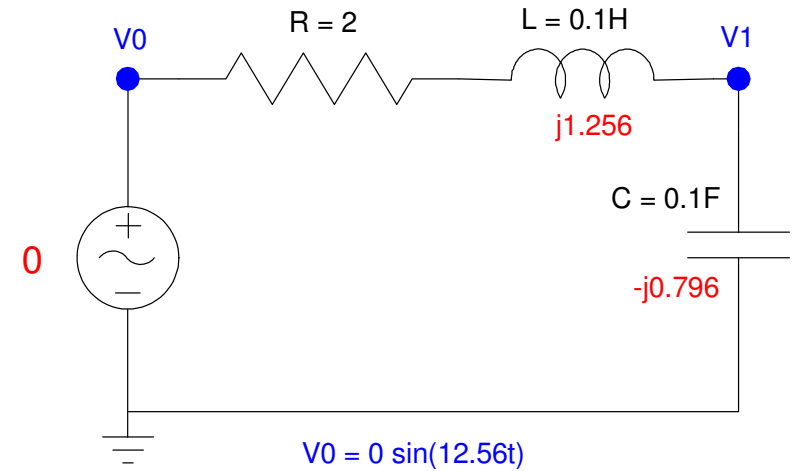


2Hz Analysis

$$v_0(t) = 0$$

The input is zero at 2Hz

- Output at 2Hz is zero



3Hz Analysis

$$v_0(t) = 0.2122 \sin(6\pi t)$$

In phasor form

$$\omega = 6\pi$$

$$V_0 = 0 - j0.2122$$

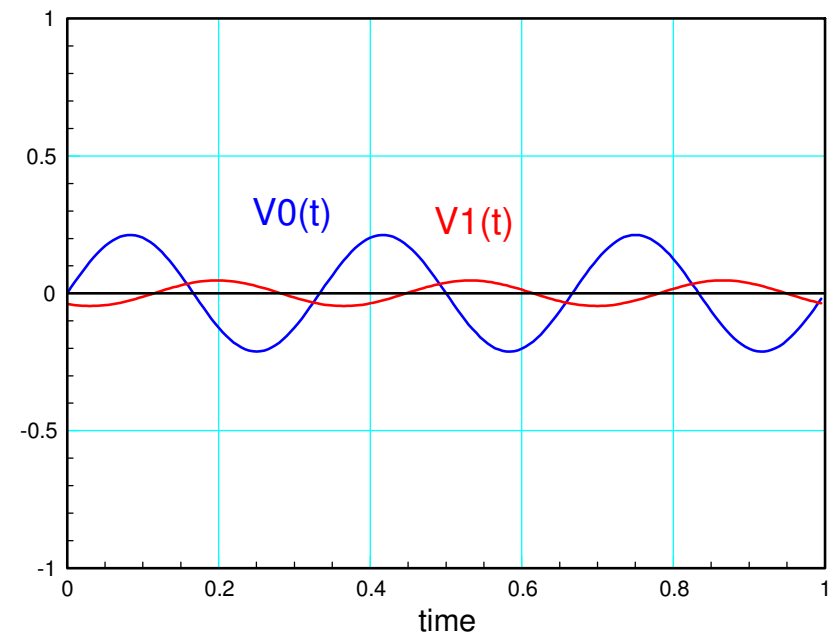
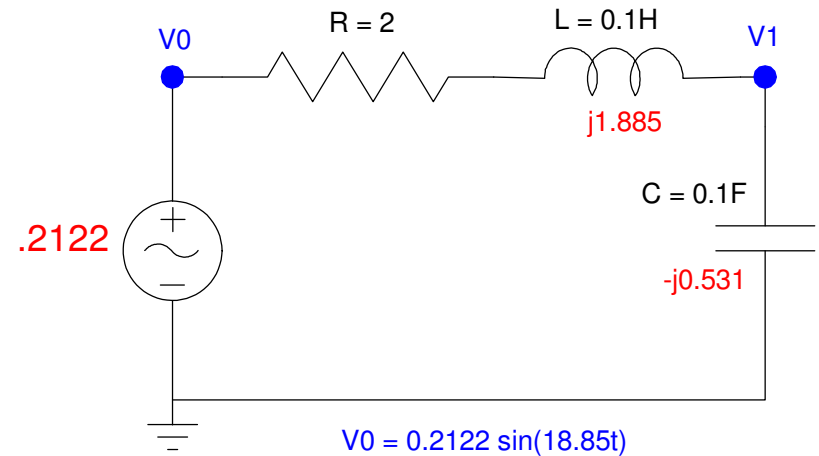
V1 is then

$$V_1 = \left(\frac{2}{(j0.04\omega)^2 + (j0.04\omega) + 1} \right)_{\omega=6\pi} (-j0.2122)$$

$$V_1 = -0.0386 + j0.0261$$

meaning

$$v_1(t) = -0.0386 \cos(6\pi t) - 0.0261 \sin(6\pi t)$$



Final Answer

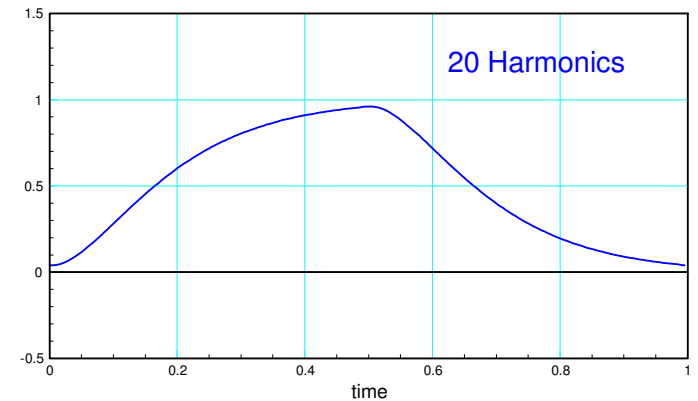
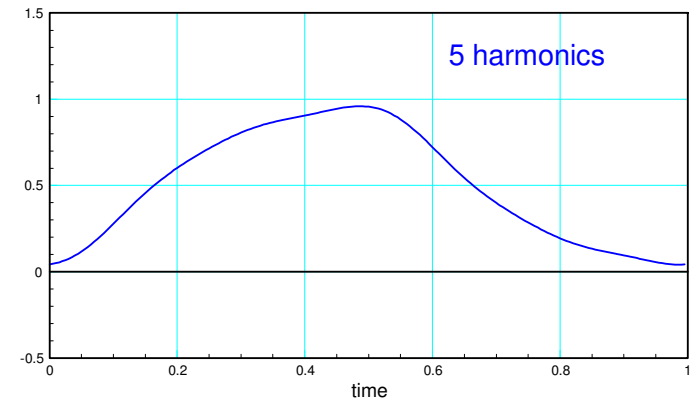
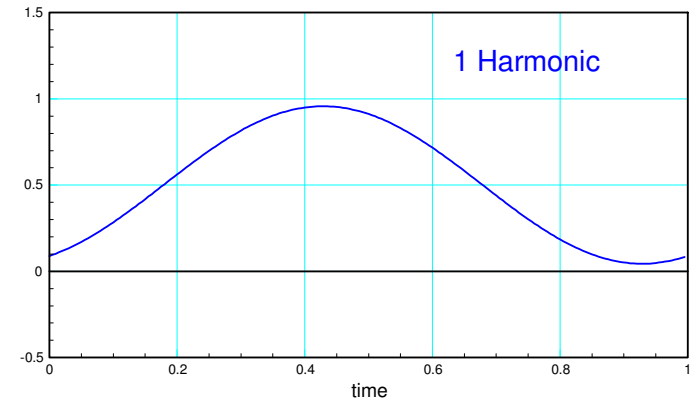
$$v_1(t) = 0.5$$

$$-0.340 \cos(2\pi t) + 1.268 \sin(2\pi t)$$

$$-0.0386 \cos(6\pi t) - 0.0261 \sin(6\pi t)$$

Add them all together and you get $V_2(t)$

- The more terms you add,
- The more accurate the response



Summary:

Once you have

- Phasors, and
- Superposition

you have Fourier Transforms.

Fourier Transforms allow you to solve differential equations with *any* periodic input

- Express $x(t)$ as the sum of a DC term and harmonics
- Find $y(t)$ at each frequency separately
- Add the results together to get the total $y(t)$

Matlab makes this process fairly easy

- A little tedious if you include lots of terms
- Typically, only a few terms are sufficient

