RLC DC Circuits:

An understanding of the natural response of the series *RLC* circuit is a necessary background for future studies in filter design and communications networks.

Consider the series *RLC* circuit shown in Fig. 3.4.1. The circuit is being excited by the energy initially stored in the capacitor and inductor. The energy is represented by the initial capacitor voltage *V*0 and initial inductor current *I*0. Thus, at $t = 0$,

$$v(0) = \frac{1}{C}\int_{-\infty}^{0} i\,dt = V_0$$

$$i(0) = I_0$$

Applying KVL around the loop in Fig. 8.8,

$$Ri + L\frac{di}{dt} + \frac{1}{C}\int_{-\infty}^{t} i\,dt = 0$$

To eliminate the integral, we differentiate with respect to t and rearrange terms. We get

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

This is a *second-order differential equation* and is the reason for calling the RLC circuits in this chapter second-order circuits. Our goal is to solve To solve such a second-order differential equation requires that we have two initial conditions, such as the initial value of i and its first derivative or initial values of some i and v. The initial value of i is given We get the initial value of the derivative of i from Eqs.

$$Ri(0) + L\frac{di(0)}{dt} + V_0 = 0$$

or

$$\frac{di(0)}{dt} = -\frac{1}{L}(RI_0 + V_0)$$

With the two initial conditions in Eqs. (8.2b) and (8.5), we can now Our experience in the preceding chapter on first-order circuits suggests that the solution is of exponential form. So we let

$$i = Ae^{st}$$

where A and s are constants to be determined. and carrying out the necessary differentiations, we obtain

$$As^2e^{st} + \frac{AR}{L}se^{st} + \frac{A}{LC}e^{st} = 0$$

or

$$Ae^{st}\left(s^2 + \frac{R}{L}s + \frac{1}{LC}\right) = 0$$

Since $i = Ae^{st}$ is the assumed solution we are trying to find, only the expression in parentheses can be zero:

$$s^2 + \frac{R}{L}s + \frac{1}{LC} = 0$$

This quadratic equation is known as the *characteristic equation* of the differential since the roots of the equation dictate the character

$$s_1 = -\frac{R}{2L} + \sqrt{\left(\frac{R}{2L}\right)^2 - \frac{1}{LC}}$$

$$s_2 = -\frac{R}{2L} - \sqrt{\left(\frac{R}{2L}\right)^2 - \frac{1}{LC}}$$

A more compact way of expressing the roots is

$$s_1 = -\alpha + \sqrt{\alpha^2 - \omega_0^2}, \qquad s_2 = -\alpha - \sqrt{\alpha^2 - \omega_0^2}$$

where

$$\alpha = \frac{R}{2L}, \qquad \omega_0 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{LC}}$$

Problem 1:

In Fig. 3.4.1, R = 40 _, L = 4 H, and C = 1⁄4 F. Calculate the characteristic roots of the circuit. Is the natural response overdamped, underdamped, or critically damped?

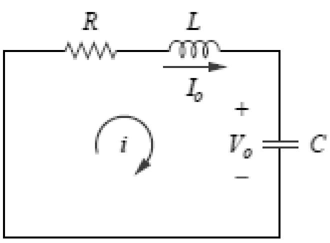

Fig. 3.4.1 For problem 1.

[Source: "Fundamentals of Electric Circuits" by charles K. Alexander, page: 301]

Solution:

We first calculate

$$\alpha = \frac{R}{2L} = \frac{40}{2(4)} = 5, \qquad \omega_0 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{LC}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4 \times \frac{1}{4}}} = 1$$

The roots are

$$s_{1,2} = -\alpha \pm \sqrt{\alpha^2 - \omega_0^2} = -5 \pm \sqrt{25 - 1}$$

or

$$s_1 = -0.101, \qquad s_2 = -9.899$$