

AC Circuits III

Physics 2415 Lecture 24

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Today's Topics

- *LC* circuits: analogy with mass on spring
- *LCR* circuits: damped oscillations
- *LCR* circuits with ac source: driven pendulum, resonance.

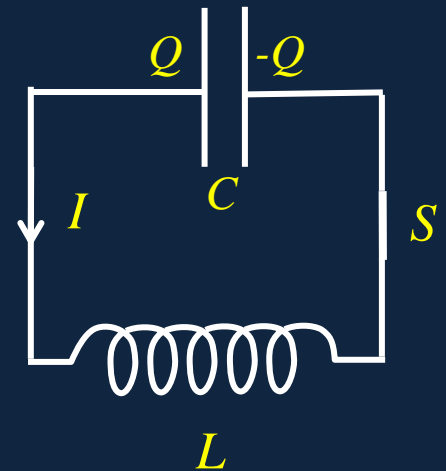
LC Circuit Analysis

- The current $I = -dQ / dt$.
- With no resistance, the voltage across the capacitor is exactly balanced by the emf from the inductance:

$$\frac{Q}{C} = L \frac{dI}{dt}$$

- From the two equations above,

$$\frac{d^2 Q}{dt^2} = -\frac{Q}{LC}$$



S in the diagram is the closed switch

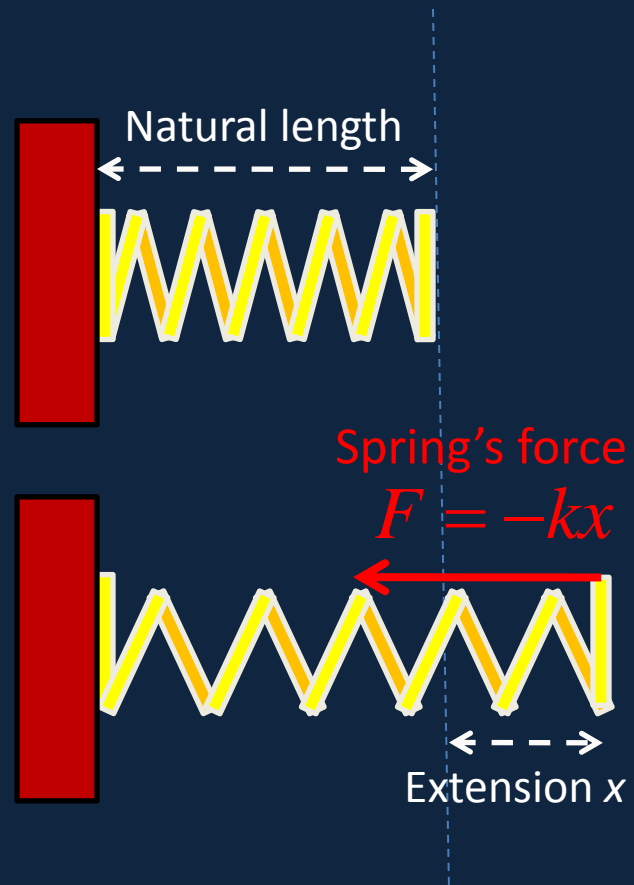
Force of a Stretched Spring

- If a spring is pulled to extend beyond its natural length by a distance x , it will pull back with a force

$$F = -kx$$

where k is called the “spring constant”.

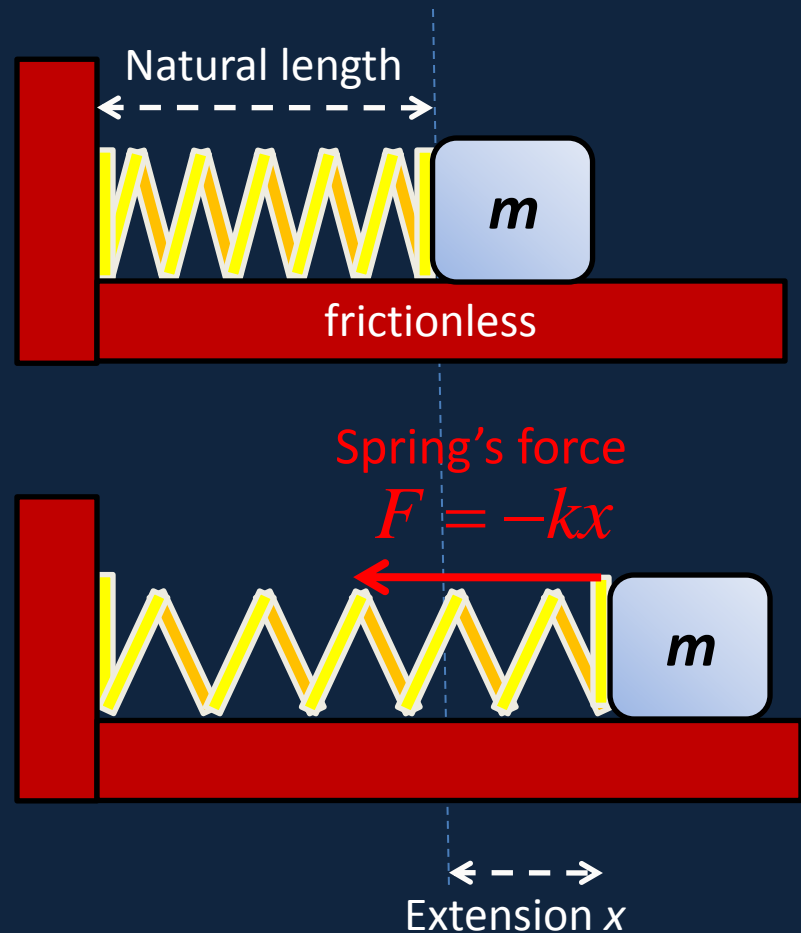
The same linear force is also generated when the spring is *compressed*.



Mass on a Spring

- Suppose we attach a mass m to the spring, free to slide backwards and forwards on the frictionless surface, then pull it out to x and let go.
- $F = ma$ is:

$$m d^2 x / dt^2 = -kx$$



Solving the Equation of Motion

- For a mass oscillating on the end of a spring,

$$m d^2 x / dt^2 = -kx$$

- The most general solution is

$$x = A \cos(\omega t + \phi)$$

- Here A is the amplitude, ϕ is the phase, and by putting this x in the equation, $m\omega^2 = k$, or

$$\omega = \sqrt{k / m}$$

- Just as for circular motion, the time for a complete cycle

$$T = 1 / f = 2\pi / \omega = 2\pi \sqrt{m / k} \quad (f \text{ in Hz.})$$

Back to the LC Circuit...

- The variation of charge with time is

$$\frac{d^2 Q}{dt^2} = -\frac{Q}{LC}$$

- We've just seen that

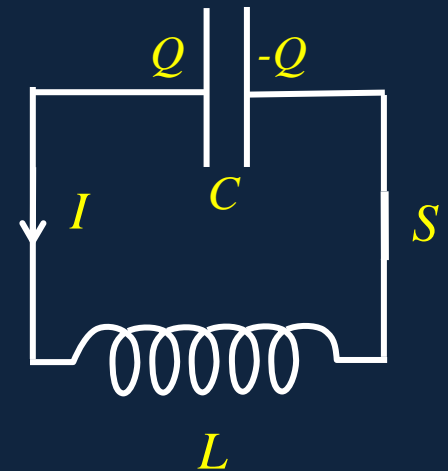
$$m d^2 x / dt^2 = -kx$$

has solution

$$x = A \cos(\omega t + \phi), \quad \omega = \sqrt{k / m}$$

from which

$$Q = Q_0 \cos \omega t, \quad \omega = 1 / \sqrt{LC}.$$



Where's the Energy in the LC Circuit?

- The variation of charge with time is

$$Q = Q_0 \cos \omega t, \quad \omega = 1 / \sqrt{LC}$$

so the energy stored in the capacitor is

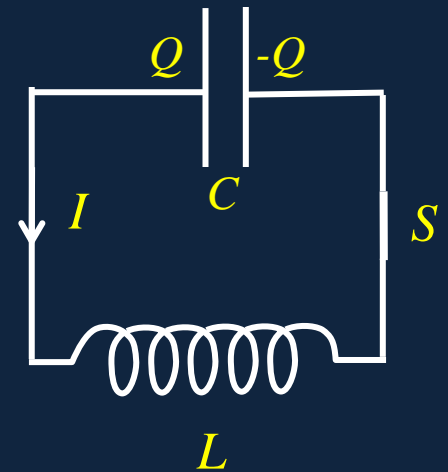
$$U_E = Q^2 / 2C = (Q_0^2 / 2C) \cos^2 \omega t$$

- The current is the charge flowing out

$$I = -dQ / dt = Q_0 \omega \sin \omega t$$

so the energy stored in the inductor is

$$U_B = \frac{1}{2} LI^2 = \frac{1}{2} LQ_0^2 \omega^2 \sin^2 \omega t = (Q_0^2 / 2C) \sin^2 \omega t \quad (\omega^2 = 1 / LC)$$



Compare this with the energy stored in the capacitor!

Energy in the LC Circuit

- We've found the energy in the capacitor is

$$U_E = Q^2 / 2C = (Q_0^2 / 2C) \cos^2 \omega t$$

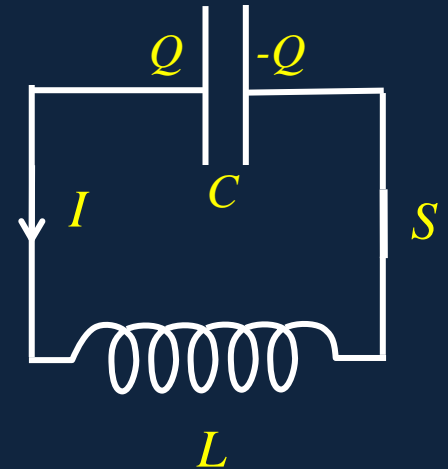
- The energy stored in the inductor is

$$U_B = \frac{1}{2} LI^2 = (Q_0^2 / 2C) \sin^2 \omega t$$

- So the **total energy** is

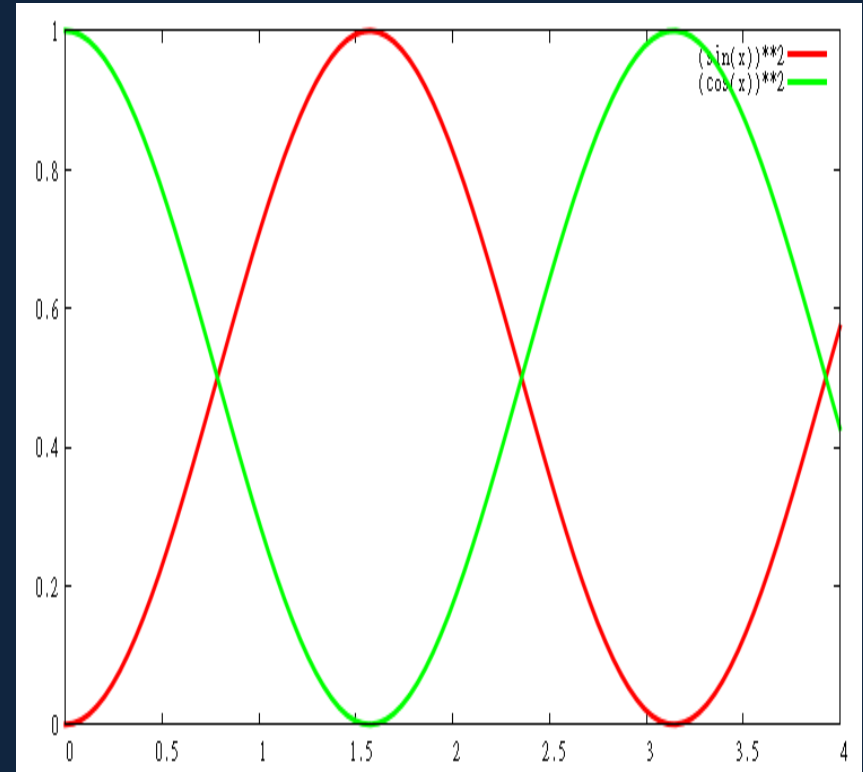
$$U_B = (Q_0^2 / 2C) (\cos^2 \omega t + \sin^2 \omega t) = Q_0^2 / 2C.$$

- Total energy is of course **constant**: it is cyclically sloshed back and forth between the electric field and the magnetic field.



Energy in the LC Circuit

- Energy in the capacitor:
electric field energy
- Energy in the inductor:
magnetic field energy



The LRC Circuit

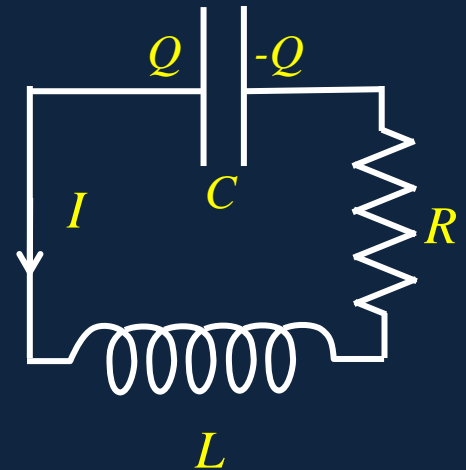
- Adding a resistance R to the LC circuit, adds a voltage drop IR , so

$$\frac{Q}{C} = L \frac{dI}{dt} + IR$$

- Remembering $I = -dQ / dt$, we find

$$L \frac{d^2 Q}{dt^2} + R \frac{dQ}{dt} + \frac{Q}{C} = 0.$$

- A differential equation we've seen before...

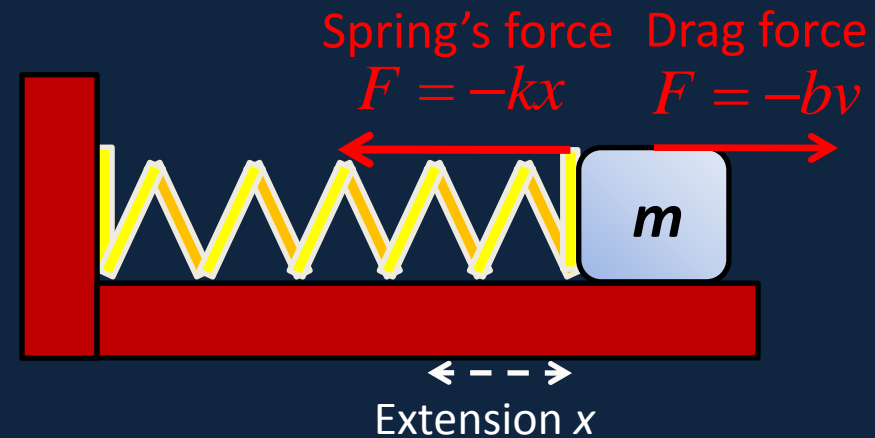


Damped Harmonic Motion

- In the real world, oscillators experience damping forces: friction, air resistance, etc.
- These forces always oppose the motion: as an example, we consider a force $F = -bv$ proportional to velocity.
- Then $F = ma$ becomes:

$$ma = -kx -bv$$

- That is, $md^2x / dt^2 + bdx / dt + kx = 0$



The direction of drag force shown is on the assumption that the mass is moving to the *left*.

LRC is just a Damped Oscillator

- Compare our charge equation with the displacement equation for a **damped harmonic oscillator**:

$$L \frac{d^2 Q}{dt^2} + R \frac{dQ}{dt} + \frac{Q}{C} = 0.$$

$$m \frac{d^2 x}{dt^2} + b \frac{dx}{dt} + kx = 0$$

- They are the same:

$$Q \equiv x, \quad L \equiv m, \quad R \equiv b, \quad 1/C \equiv k.$$

Equation Solution

From Physics 1425:

- The equation of motion

$$m \frac{d^2 x}{dt^2} + b \frac{dx}{dt} + kx = 0$$

has solution

$$x = A e^{-\gamma t} \cos \omega' t$$

where

$$\gamma = b / 2m,$$

$$\omega' = \sqrt{(k / m) - (b^2 / 4m^2)}$$

- Therefore

$$L \frac{d^2 Q}{dt^2} + R \frac{dQ}{dt} + \frac{Q}{C} = 0$$

has solution

$$Q = Q_0 e^{-\gamma t} \cos \omega' t$$

where

$$\gamma = R / 2L,$$

$$\omega' = \sqrt{(1 / LC) - (R^2 / 4L^2)}$$

$$Q \equiv x, \quad L \equiv m, \quad R \equiv b, \quad 1 / C \equiv k.$$

[Spreadsheet!](#)

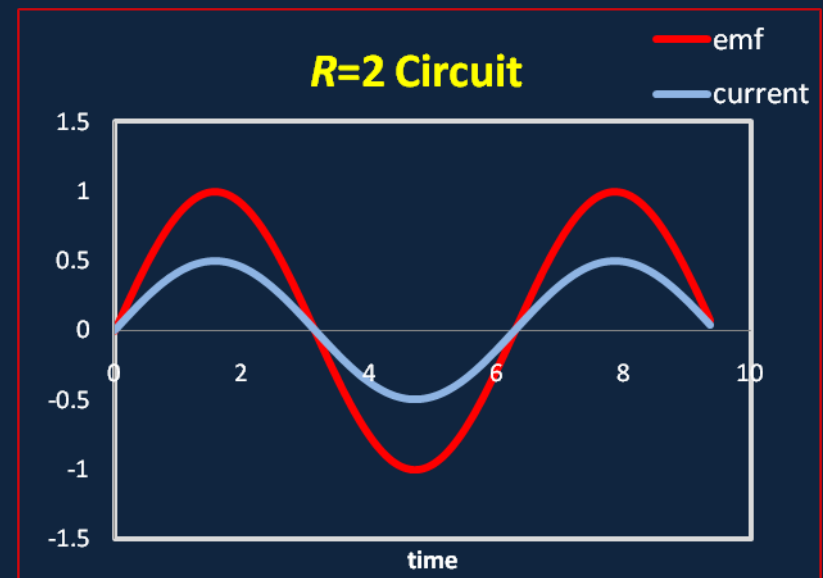
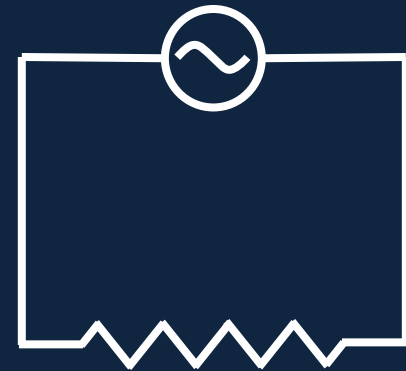
AC Source and Resistor

- For an AC source (denoted by a wavy line in a circle) $V = V_0 \sin \omega t$ the current is:

$$I = I_0 \sin \omega t = (V_0 / R) \sin \omega t.$$

- The current and voltage peak at the same time.
- Power**: the ac source is working at a rate

$$\bar{P} = \overline{IV} = I_0 V_0 \overline{\sin^2 \omega t} = \frac{1}{2} I_0 V_0$$



AC Source and Inductor

- For a purely inductive circuit, for $V = V_0 \sin \omega t$, the current is given by

$$V_0 \sin \omega t = L di / dt$$

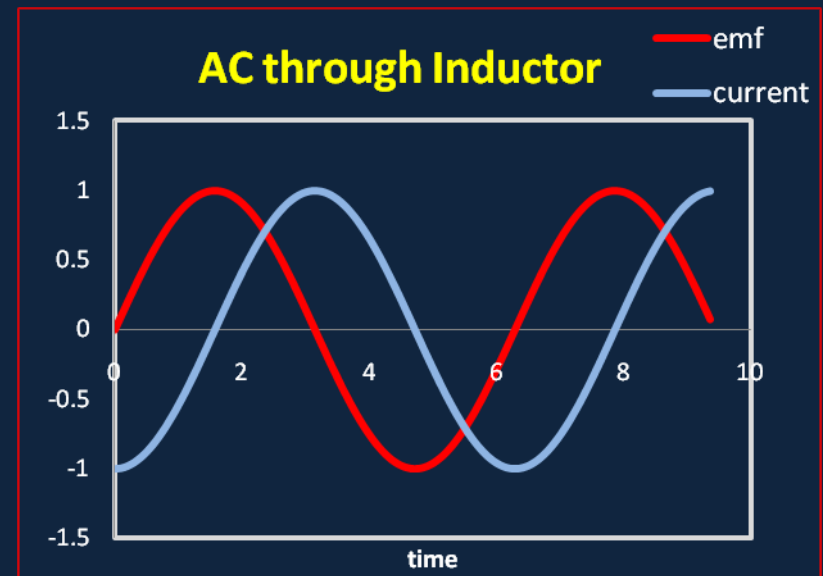
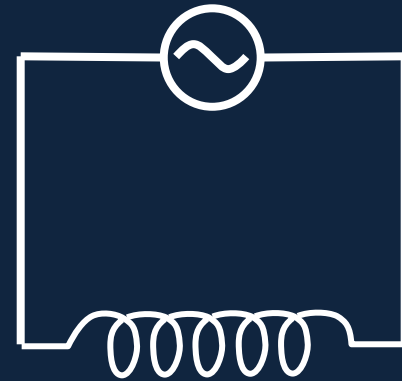
so $I = I_0 \cos \omega t$ where

$$I_0 = V_0 / \omega L$$

ωL is the inductive reactance.

Power:

$$\bar{P} = \overline{IV} = I_0 V_0 \overline{\sin \omega t \cos \omega t} = 0$$

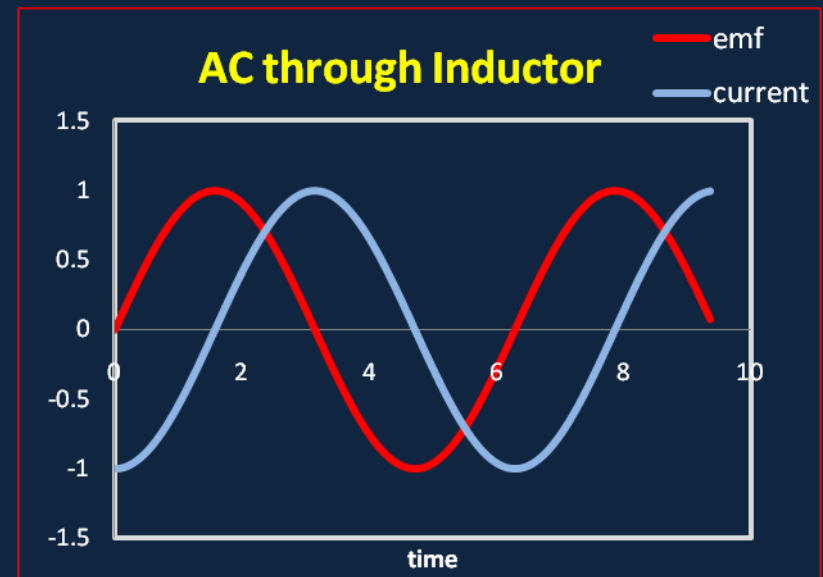
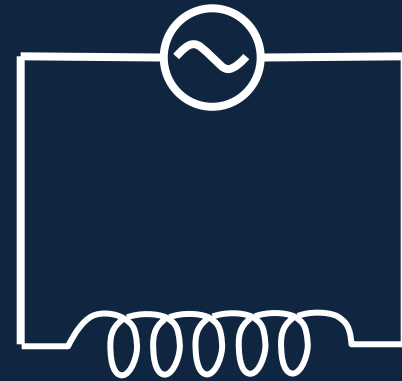


AC Source and Inductor...

$$I_0 = V_0 / \omega L$$

ωL is inductive reactance.

- Notice that this increases with frequency: faster oscillations mean more back emf.
- Note also that the peak in current occurs after the peak in **voltage** in the cycle.



AC Source and Capacitor

- For pure capacitance,

$$V_0 \sin \omega t = Q / C = (Q_0 \sin \omega t) / C$$

so

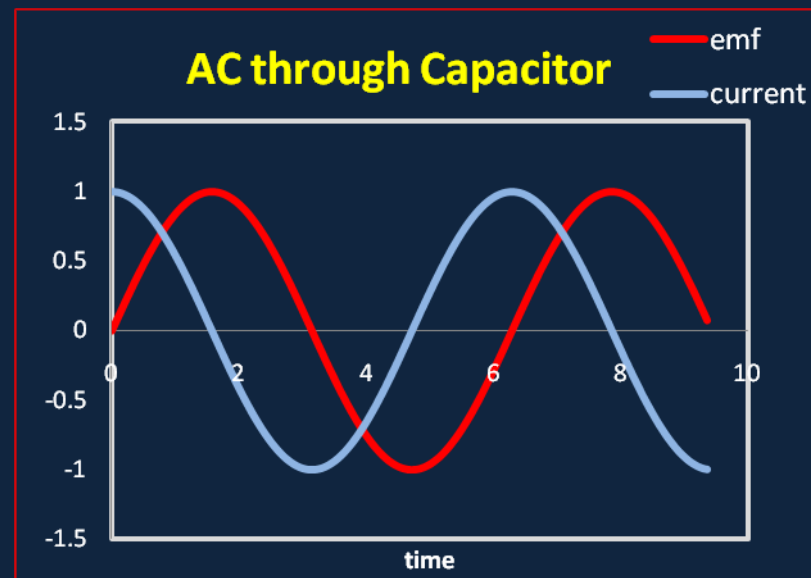
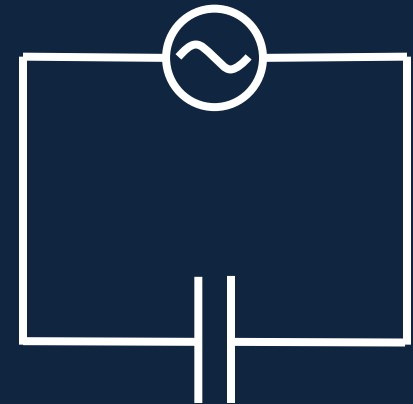
$$I = I_0 \cos \omega t = dQ / dt = Q_0 \omega \cos \omega t$$

and from this we see that

$$I_0 = \omega C V_0$$

and the capacitive reactance is:

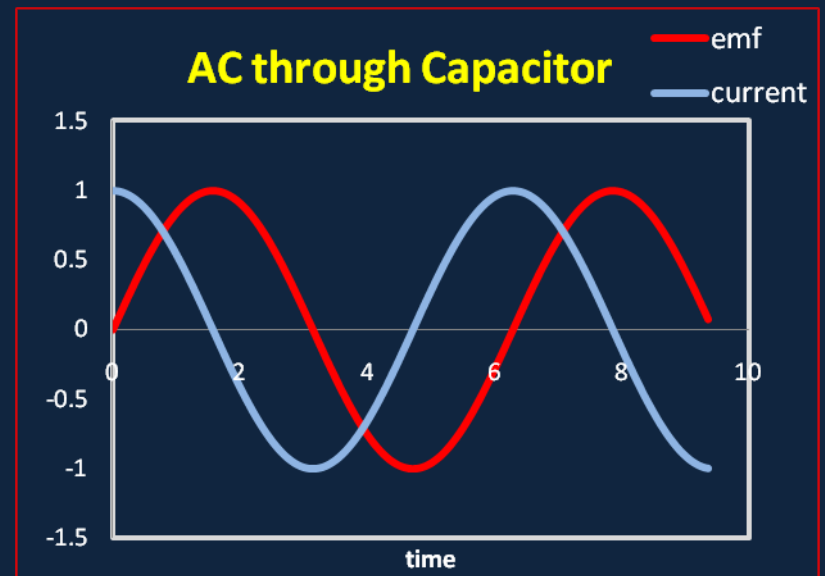
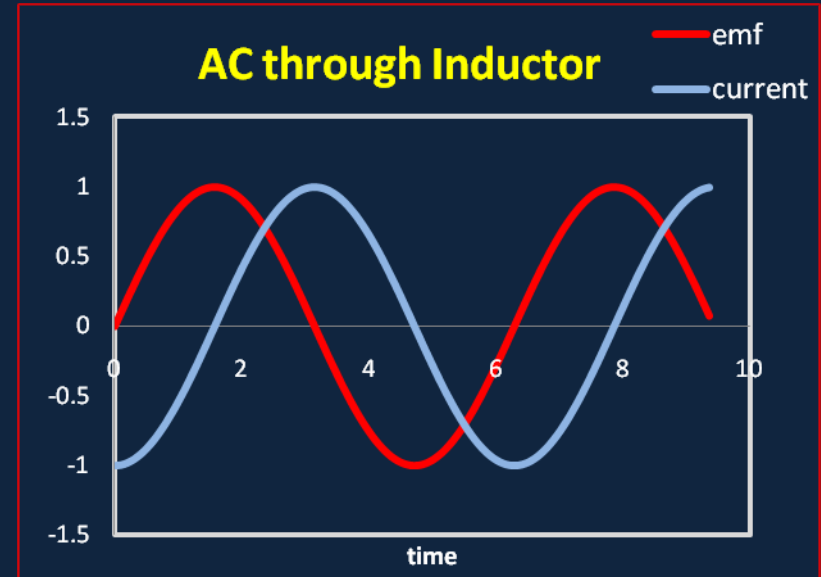
$$X_C = \frac{1}{\omega C}$$



Comparing Pure L and Pure C

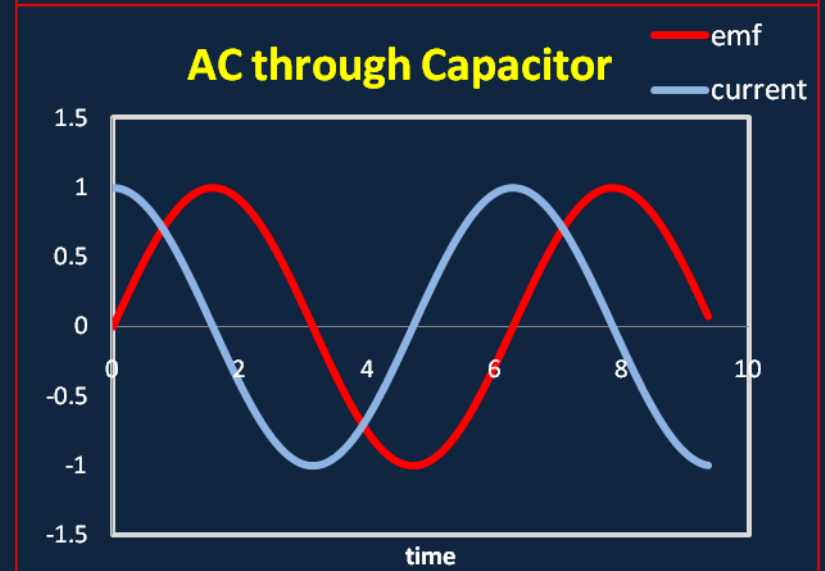
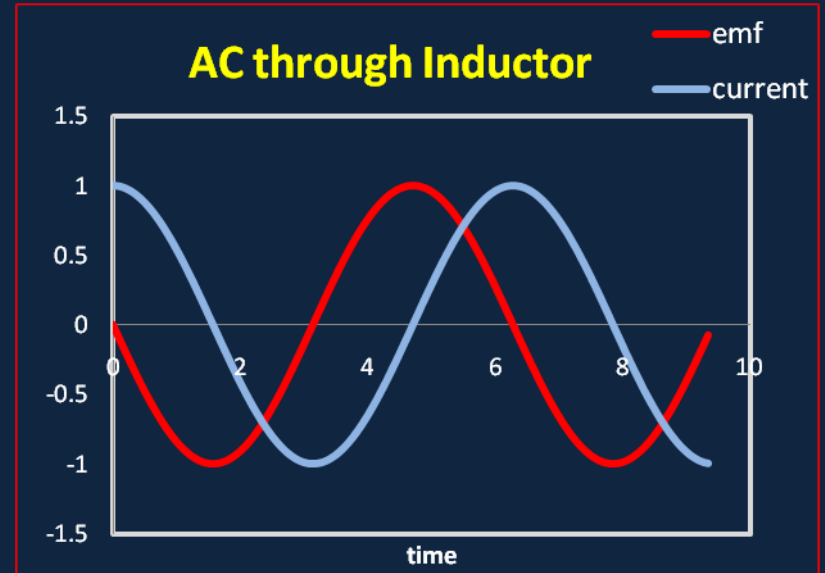
- For L , peak emf is before peak current, for C peak current is first.
- Mnemonic: ELI the ICE man.
- No power is dissipated in inductors nor in capacitors, since emf and current are 90° out of phase:

$$\overline{\sin \omega t \cos \omega t} = \frac{1}{2} \overline{\sin 2\omega t} = 0$$



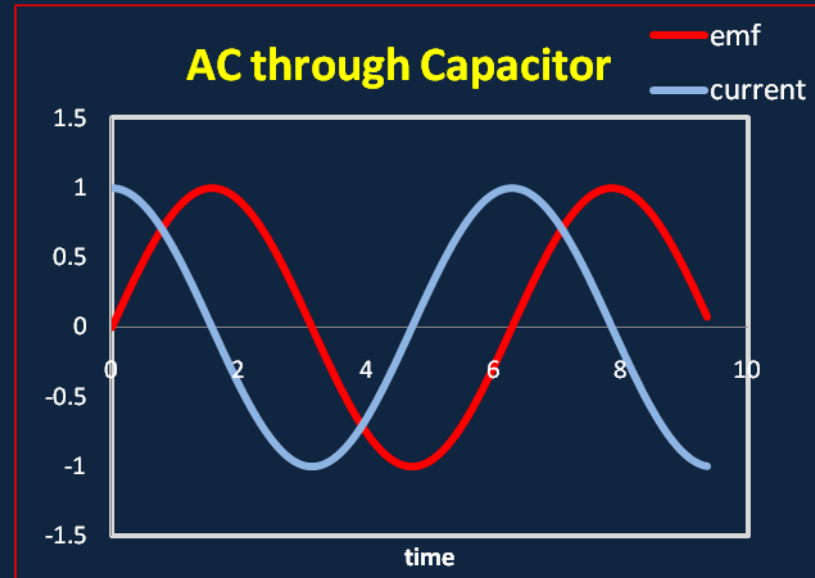
L and C in Series

- The same current is passing through both: the **red curve** is the emf drop over L and C respectively—notice they're in opposite directions!
- (We show here a special case $\omega = L = C = 1$ where **no** external emf is needed to keep current going—this is **resonance**.)



Clicker Question

- This shows ac emf and current for $\omega = C = 1$.
- What happens to the current if ω is increased to 2, but emf kept constant?
 - A. Current doubles
 - B. Current halved
 - C. Current same maximum value, but phase changes.

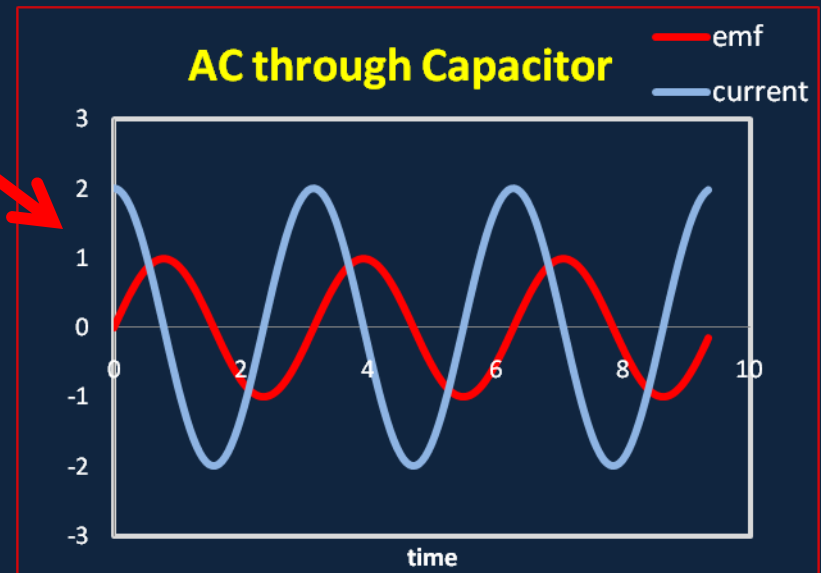
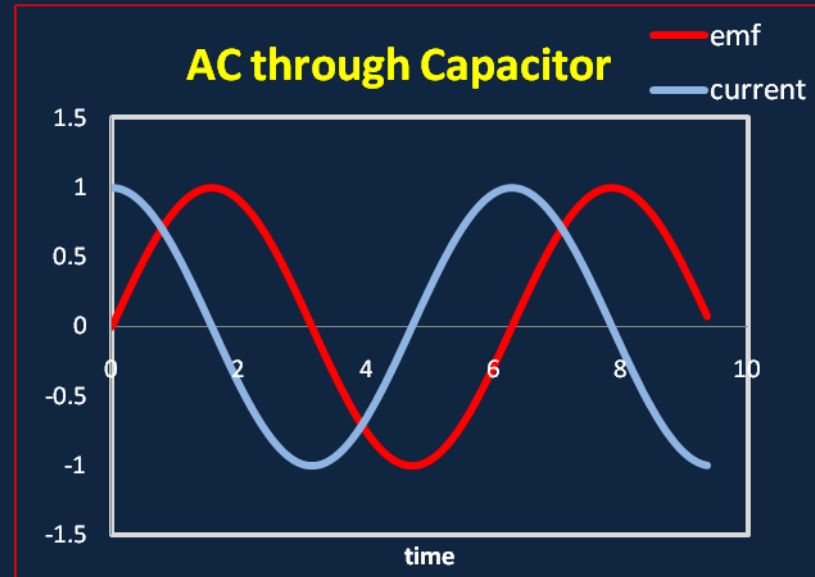


Clicker Answer

- This shows ac emf and current for $\omega = C = 1$.
- What happens to the current if ω is increased to 2, but emf kept constant?

A. Current doubles

- Notice the axis is rescaled
- Capacitances pass higher frequency ac more easily—*opposite* to inductances!



Circuit with L, R, C in Series

- For a current of amplitude I_0 passing through all three elements, the emf drop across R is I_0R , in phase with the current.
- Remember the emf drops across L, C have opposite sign—the total emf drop is $I_0(\omega L - 1/\omega C)$, but this emf is 90° out of phase.
- The current will therefore be ahead of the total emf by a phase angle ϕ given by:

$$\tan \phi = \frac{\omega L - 1/\omega C}{R}$$

Maximum emf and Total Impedance Z

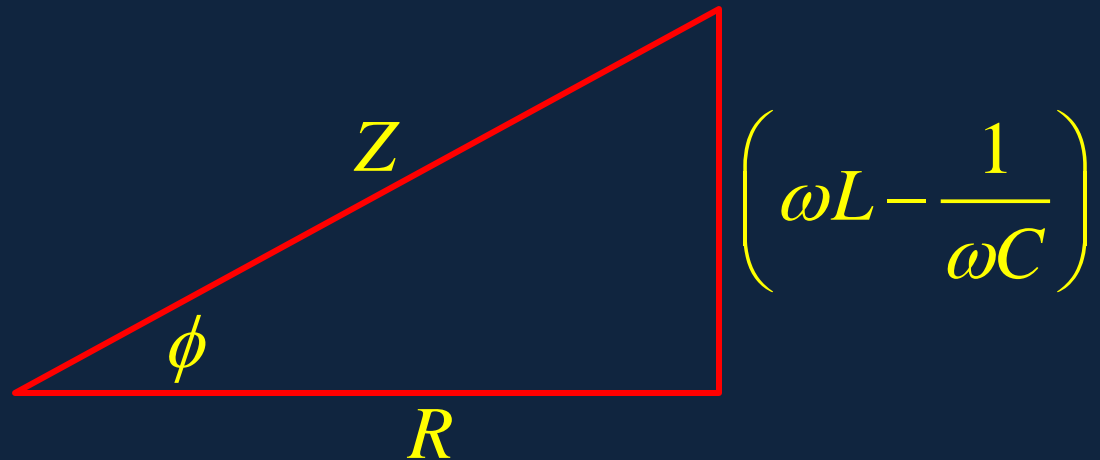
- For a given ac current, we find the emf driving it through an LCR circuit has two components which are 90° out of phase.
- To find the maximum total emf V_0 , these two amplitudes must be added like vectors.
- The amplitudes are: I_0R , $I_0(\omega L - 1/\omega C)$.
- So

$$V_0 = I_0 \sqrt{R^2 + \left(\omega L - \frac{1}{\omega C} \right)^2} = I_0 Z$$

Geometry of Z and ϕ

$$V_0 = I_0 \sqrt{R^2 + \left(\omega L - \frac{1}{\omega C} \right)^2} = I_0 Z$$

The emf across the resistor is in phase with the current. The total emf is represented by Z , and if $\omega L > 1/\omega C$, the emf is ahead of the current by phase ϕ .



Power dissipation only in R : $\bar{P} = I_{\text{rms}}^2 R = I_{\text{rms}}^2 Z \cos \phi$

LCR Impedance Z as a Function of ω

$$V_0 = I_0 \sqrt{R^2 + \left(\omega L - \frac{1}{\omega C} \right)^2} = I_0 Z$$

- Notice that if $\omega L = 1/\omega C$, $V_0 = I_0 R$, the minimum possible impedance. The capacitor and inductor generate emf's that exactly cancel. This is **resonance**.
- At very high frequencies, Z approaches ωL .
- At very low frequencies, Z approaches $1/\omega C$.

[Spreadsheet link](#)

Clicker Question

- Is it possible in principle to construct an *LCR* series circuit, with nonzero resistance, such that the current and applied ac voltage are exactly 90° out of phase?
 - A. Yes
 - B. No

Clicker Answer

- Is it possible in principle to construct an *LCR* series circuit, with nonzero resistance, such that the current and applied ac voltage are exactly 90° out of phase?

A. Yes

B. No 

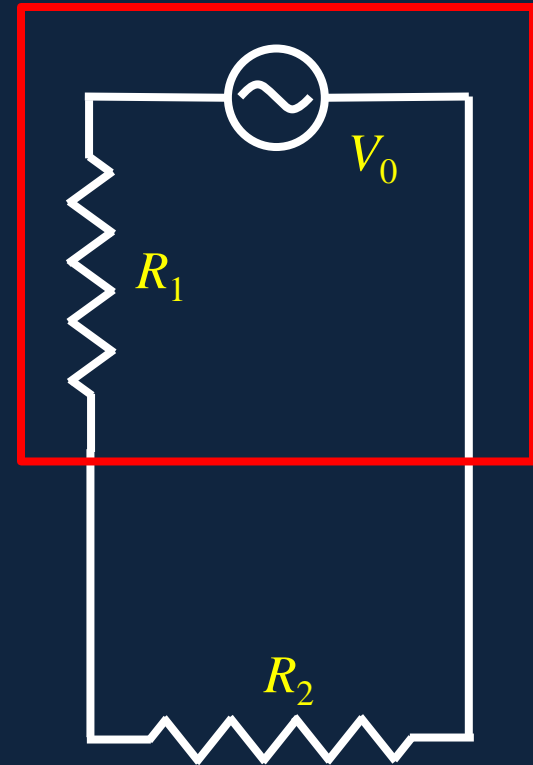
Because there is always energy dissipated, hence power used, in a resistor, and 90° out of phase means $\bar{P} = \overline{VI} = V_0 I_0 \overline{\sin \omega t \cos \omega t} = 0$.

Clicker Question

- *This is for my information: all answers will score 2.*
- Do you know the equation $e^{i\theta} = \cos \theta + i \sin \theta$?
 - A. Yes, I've covered it in a math (or other) course, and think I can probably work with it.
 - B. I've seen it before, but haven't really used it.
 - C. I have no idea what this equation is about.

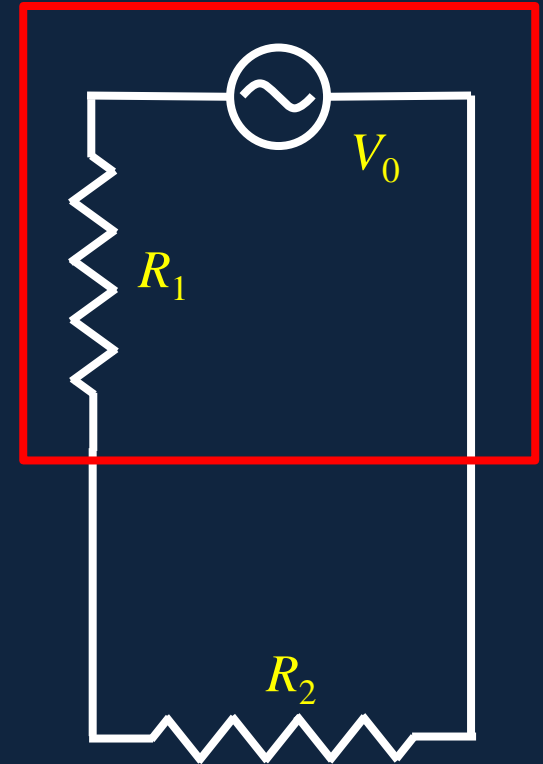
Matching Impedances

- A power supply (red box), say an amplifier, has internal resistance R_1 , and negligible inductance and capacitance. It generates an emf V_0 .
- What speaker resistance R_2 takes maximum power from the amplifier?
- Power = $I^2 R_2$, $I = \frac{V_0}{R_1 + R_2}$.



Matching Impedances

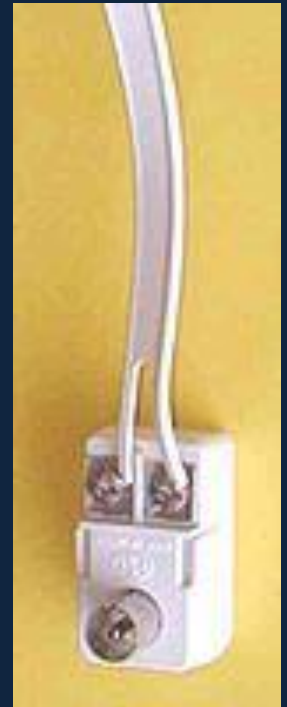
- Power $P = I^2 R_2$, $I = \frac{V_0}{R_1 + R_2}$.
- So power $P = \left(\frac{V_0}{R_1 + R_2} \right)^2 R_2$.
- Notice this is small for R_2 small, and small for R_2 large.
- The maximum power is at $dP / dR_2 = 0$.
- You can check this is at $R_2 = R_1$.



Matching Impedances in Transmission

- Typical coax cable is labeled 75Ω , this means that the ratio $V_{\text{rms}}/I_{\text{rms}}$ for an ac signal, the impedance $Z = 75$.
- For the ribbon conductor shown, the corresponding impedance is 300Ω .
- Transmission from one to the other is done via a transformer such that the powers are matched $I_1^2 Z_1 = I_2^2 Z_2$.
- Therefore the ratio of the number of turns in the transformer coils is:

$$N_1 / N_2 = \sqrt{Z_1 / Z_2}.$$



Balun transformer