
Fourier Transforms

ECE 320 Electronics I

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Please visit [Bison Academy](#) for corresponding lecture notes, homework sets, and solutions



Phasors

- Real numbers are all that's needed for DC analysis
- Complex numbers help with AC analysis

Voltages

$$v(t) = a \cos(\omega t) + b \sin(\omega t) \quad \textit{time domain}$$

$$V = a - jb \quad \textit{phasor (frequency) domain}$$

Impedances

$$R \rightarrow R$$

$$L \rightarrow j\omega L$$

$$C \rightarrow \frac{1}{j\omega C}$$

Voltage nodes, current loops, voltage division etc. work for both DC and AC

- You get complex numbers with AC however
-

Superposition

RLC circuits are linear

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

If there are several inputs

- Analyze separately for each input .
- The total input is found by summing up each of the inputs.
- The total output is found by summing up each of the outputs.

Fourier Transforms convert an signal that is *not* a bunch of sine waves into a signal which *is* a bunch of sine waves

- Allows you to solve using phasor analysis and superposition
-

Fourier Transform

Assume a signal is periodic in time T :

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

then

$$x(t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n \cos(n\omega_0 t) + b_n \sin(n\omega_0 t) \quad \omega_0 = \frac{2\pi}{T}$$

Translation:

If you add up a bunch of signals which are periodic in time T , the result is periodic in time T

If you have a periodic signal which is not a pure sine wave, it is made up of harmonics.

Computing Fourier Coefficients

All sine waves are orthogonal

$$\text{mean}(\sin(at) \cdot \cos(bt)) = 0$$

$$\text{mean}(\sin(at) \cdot \sin(bt)) = \begin{cases} 0 & a \neq b \\ \frac{1}{2} & a = b \end{cases}$$

$$\text{mean}(\cos(at) \cdot \cos(bt)) = \begin{cases} 0 & a \neq b \\ \frac{1}{2} & a = b \end{cases}$$

meaning:

$$a_0 = \text{mean}(x(t))$$

a.k.a. the DC value of $x(t)$

$$a_n = 2 \cdot \text{mean}(x(t) \cdot \cos(n\omega_0 t))$$

cosine() terms

$$b_n = 2 \cdot \text{mean}(x(t) \cdot \sin(n\omega_0 t))$$

sine() terms

Example 1: Known answer

$$x(t) = 1 + 3 \cos(t) + 4 \sin(2t)$$

In Matlab

```
t = [1:10000]' / 10000 * 2 * pi;  
x = 1 + 3*cos(t) + 4*sin(2*t);  
a0 = mean(x)  
a0 = 1.0000  
  
a1 = 2*mean(x .* cos(t))  
a1 = 3.0000  
  
b1 = 2*mean(x .* sin(t))  
b1 = 2.9165e-015  
  
a2 = 2*mean(x .* cos(2*t))  
a2 = -3.0340e-015  
  
b2 = 2*mean(x .* sin(2*t))  
b2 = 4.0000
```

Complex Fourier Transform

Easier if you don't mind complex numbers

$$X_n = a_n - jb_n = 2 \text{ mean}(x(t) \cdot e^{-jn\omega_0 t})$$

$$X_1 = 2 * \text{mean}(x .* \exp(-j*t))$$

$$X_1 = 3.0000 - 0.0000i$$

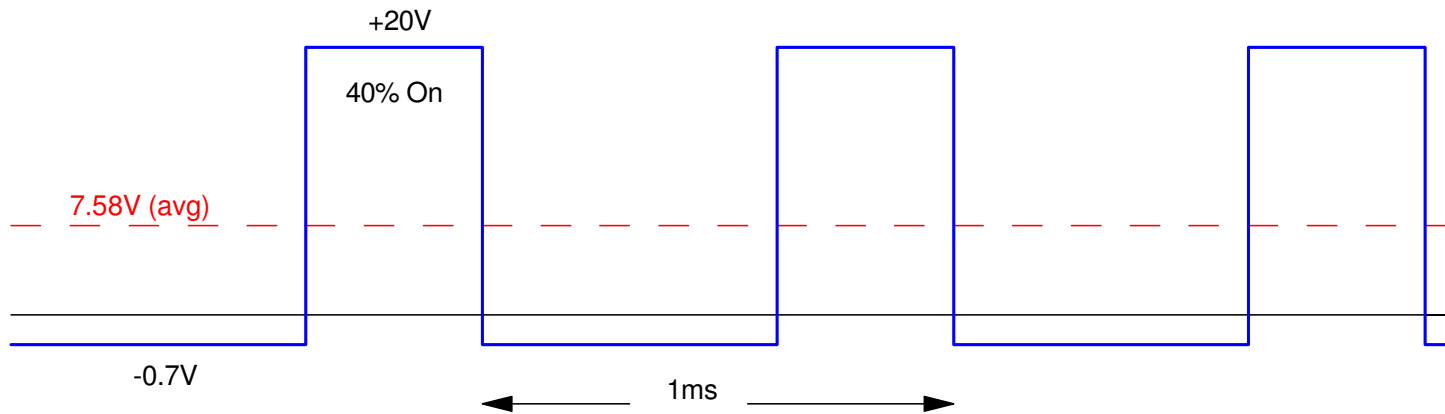
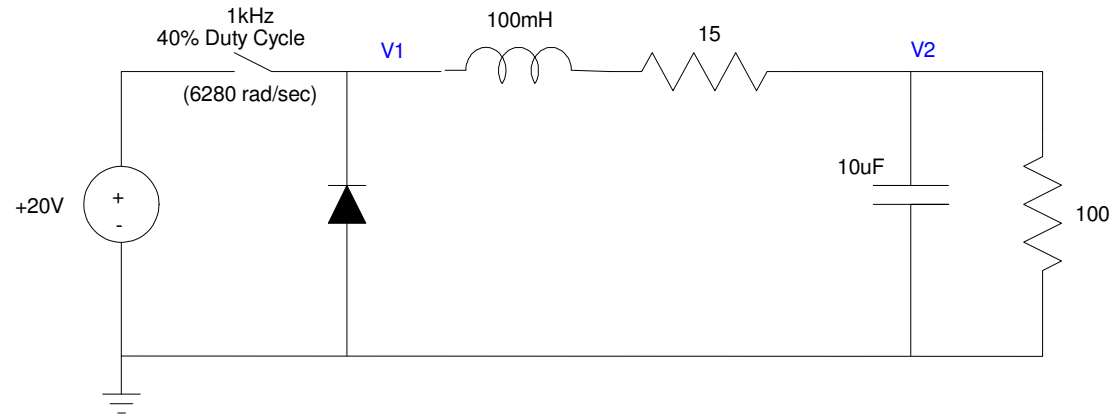
$$X_2 = 2 * \text{mean}(x .* \exp(-j*2*t))$$

$$X_2 = -0.0000 - 4.0000i$$

$$X_3 = 2 * \text{mean}(x .* \exp(-j*3*t))$$

$$X_3 = 5.4526e-015 + 5.7784e-016i$$

Circuit Analysis with Fourier Transforms: Buck Converter



Previous Solution

Approximate $V_1(t)$ as

- A DC term (7.58V), and
- An AC term (20.7V_{pp} @ 1kHz)

The answers we got for the voltage at V_2 were close to what CircuitLab computed, but a little off.

Using Fourier Transforms, you can get more accurate results.

Step 1: Find the Fourier Series expansion for $V_1(t)$.

- Change in variable so the period is 2π

```
t = [1:10000]' / 10000;  
x = 20*( t < 0.4) - 0.7*( t >= 0.4);  
t = t * 2 * pi;
```

```
X0 = mean(x)  
X0 = 7.5779
```

```
X1 = 2*mean( x .* exp(-j*t) )  
X1 = 3.8725 -11.9184i
```

```
X2 = 2*mean( x .* exp(-j*2*t) )  
X2 = -3.1360 - 2.2784i
```

```
X3 = 2*mean( x .* exp(-j*3*t) )  
X3 = 2.0861 - 1.5157i
```

```
X4 = 2*mean( x .* exp(-j*4*t) )  
X4 = -0.9686 - 2.9811i
```

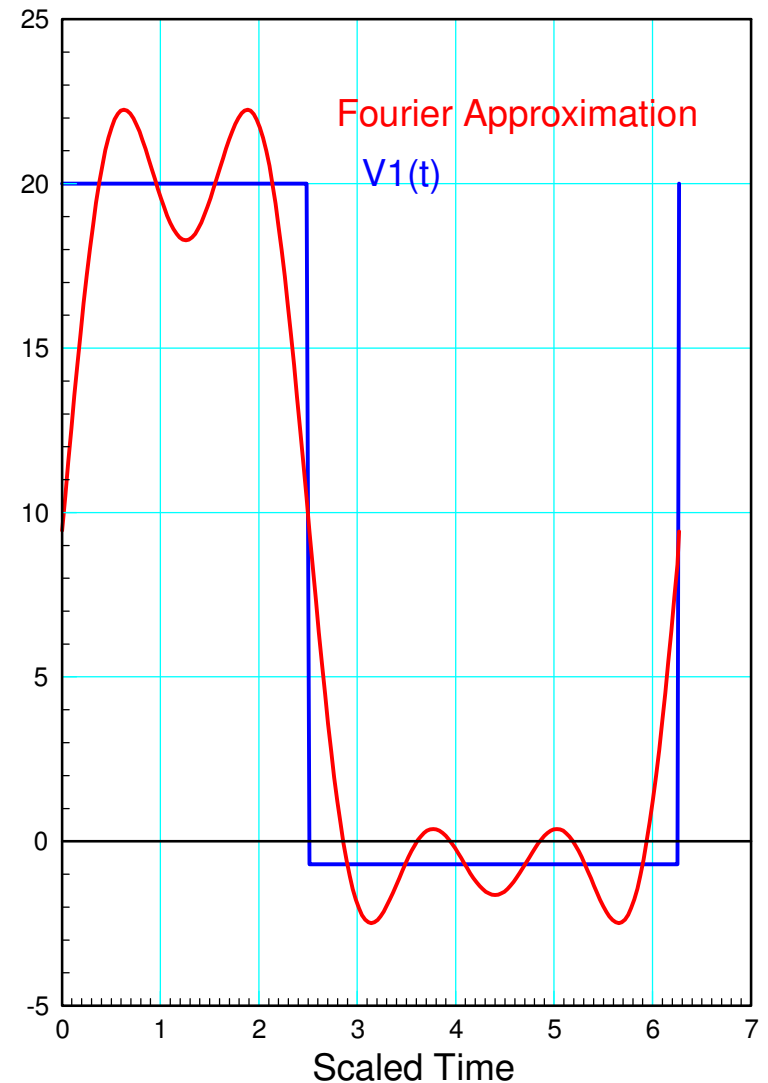
What this means is that

$$\begin{aligned} V1 &= 7.5779 \\ &+ 2.8725 \cos(t) + 11.9184 \sin(t) \\ &- 3.1360 \cos(2*t) + 2.2784 \sin(2*t) \\ &+ 2.0861 \cos(3*t) + 1.515 \sin(3*t) \\ &- 0.9686 \cos(4*t) + 2.9811 \sin(4*t) \end{aligned}$$

- Note: Adding more terms improves the approximation.

Now you can use superposition to solve for $V2(t)$

- Treat this as 5 separate problems: each at a different frequency
- Solve for $V2(t)$ at each frequency
- Add up the answers to get the total answer.



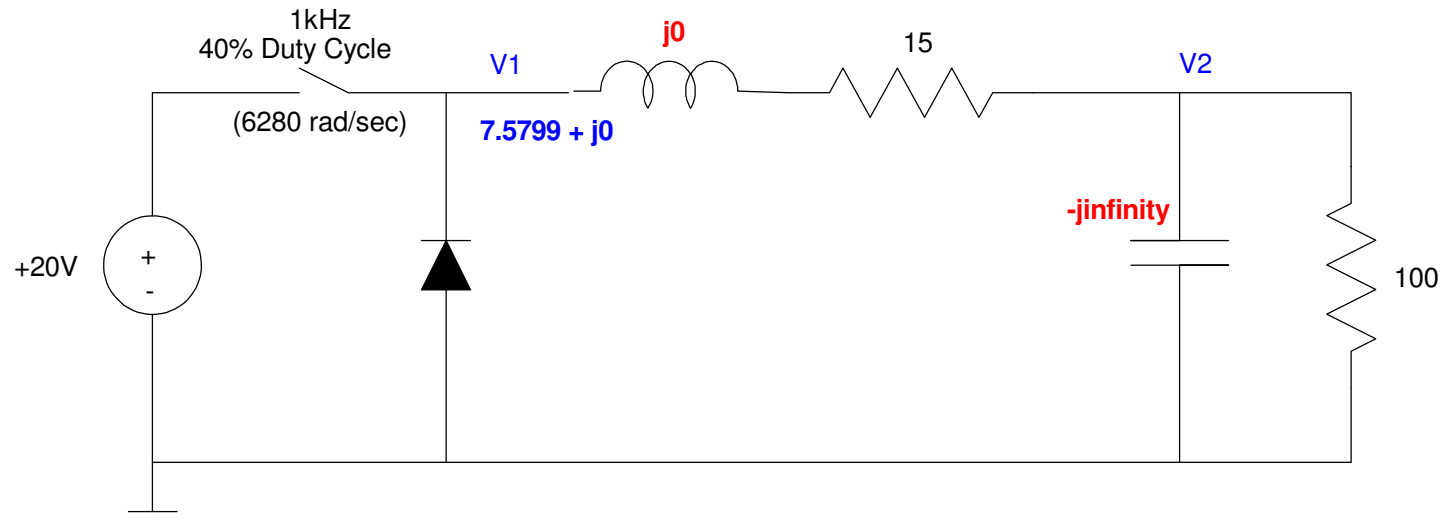
DC Analysis: $V_1(t) = 7.5779$

Redraw the circuit at $\omega = 0$ and solve for V_2

$$V_1 = 7.5779 + j0$$

$$V_2 = \left(\frac{100}{100+15} \right) 7.5779$$

$$V_2 = 6.5895$$

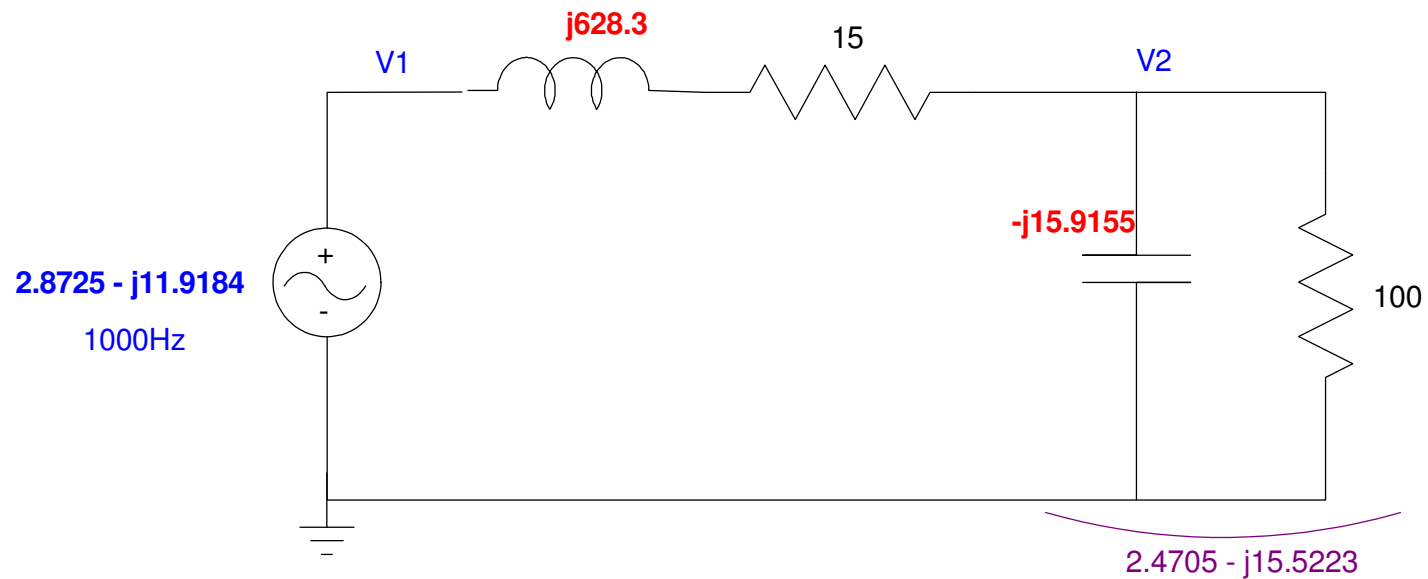


1st Harmonic: 1000Hz

$$V_1 = 2.8725 \cos(\omega_0 t) + 11.9184 \sin(\omega_0 t) \rightarrow 2.8725 - j11.9184$$

$$V_2 = \left(\frac{(2.4705 - j15.5223)}{(2.4705 - j15.5223) + (15 + j628)} \right) (2.8725 - j11.9184)$$

$$V_2 = -0.1290 + j0.2866$$

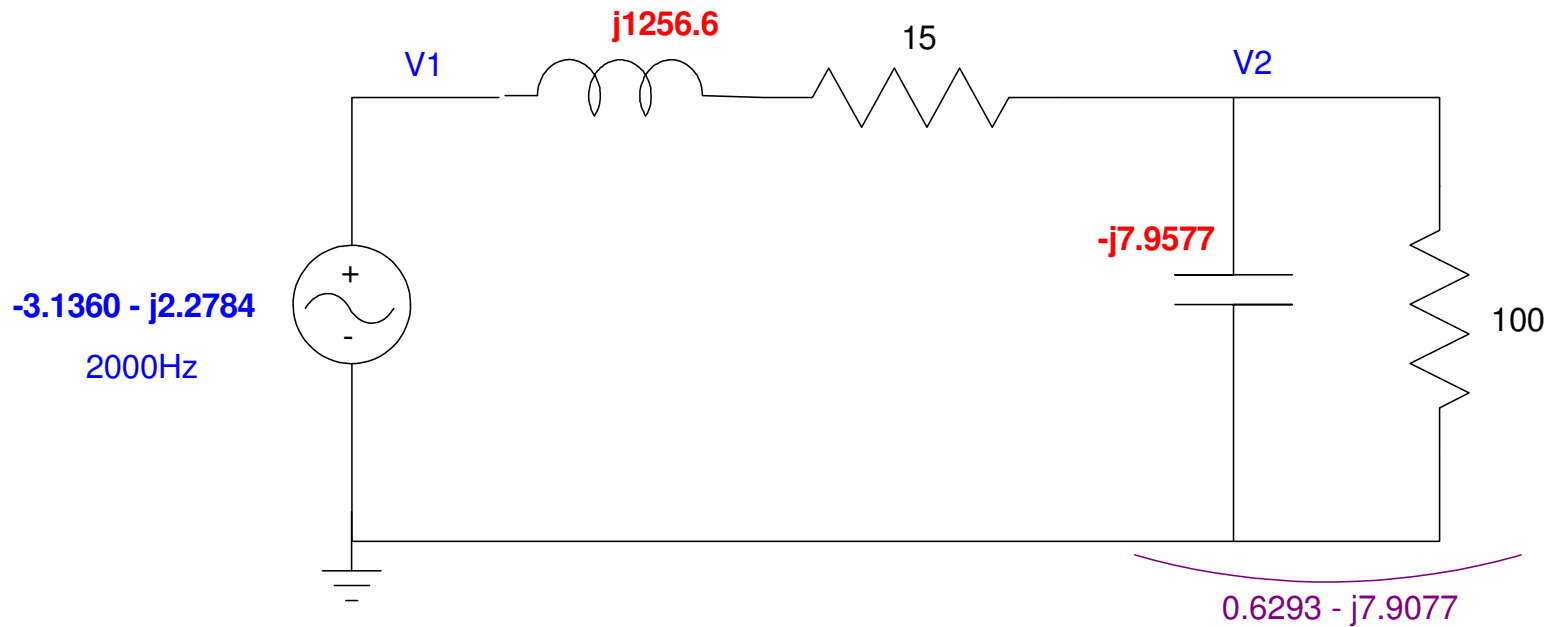


2nd Harmonic (2000Hz)

$$V_1 = -3.1360 \cos(2\omega_0 t) + 2.2784 \sin(2\omega_0 t) \rightarrow -3.1360 - j2.2784$$

$$V_2 = \left(\frac{(0.6293 - j7.9077)}{(0.6293 - j7.9077) + (15 + j1256.6)} \right) (-3.1360 - j2.2784)$$

$$V_2 = 0.0185 + j0.0162$$

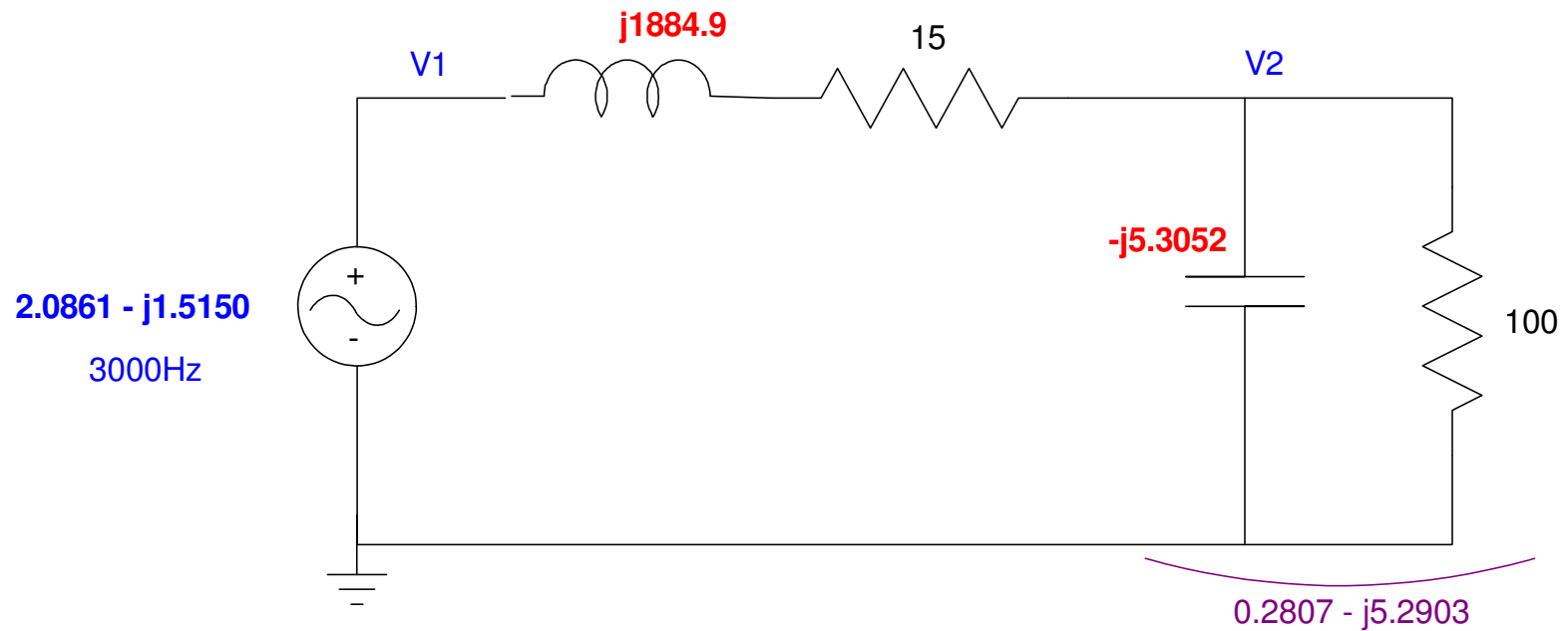


3rd Harmonic: 3000Hz

$$V_1 = 2.0861 \cos(3\omega_0 t) + 1.5150 \sin(3\omega_0 t) \rightarrow 2.0861 - j1.5150$$

$$V_2 = \left(\frac{(0.2807 - j5.2903)}{(0.2807 - j5.2903) + (15 + j1884.9)} \right) (2.0861 - j1.5150)$$

$$V_2 = -0.00061 + j0.00039$$

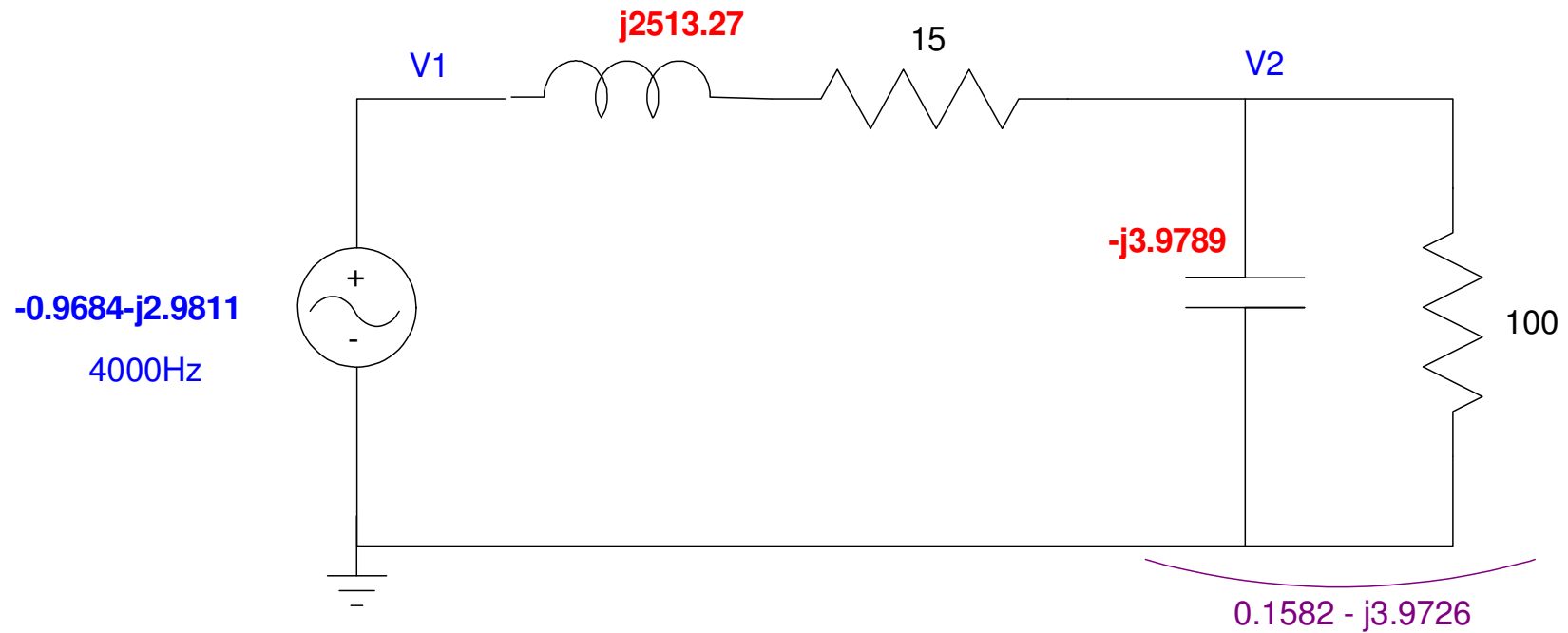


4th Harmonics: 4000 Hz

$$V_1 = -0.9684 \cos(4\omega_0 t) + 2.9811 \sin(4\omega_0 t) \rightarrow -0.9684 - j2.9811$$

$$V_2 = \left(\frac{(0.1582 - j3.9726)}{(0.1582 - j3.9726) + (15 + j2513.27)} \right) (-0.9684 - j2.9811)$$

$$V_2 = 0.00132 + j0.00479$$

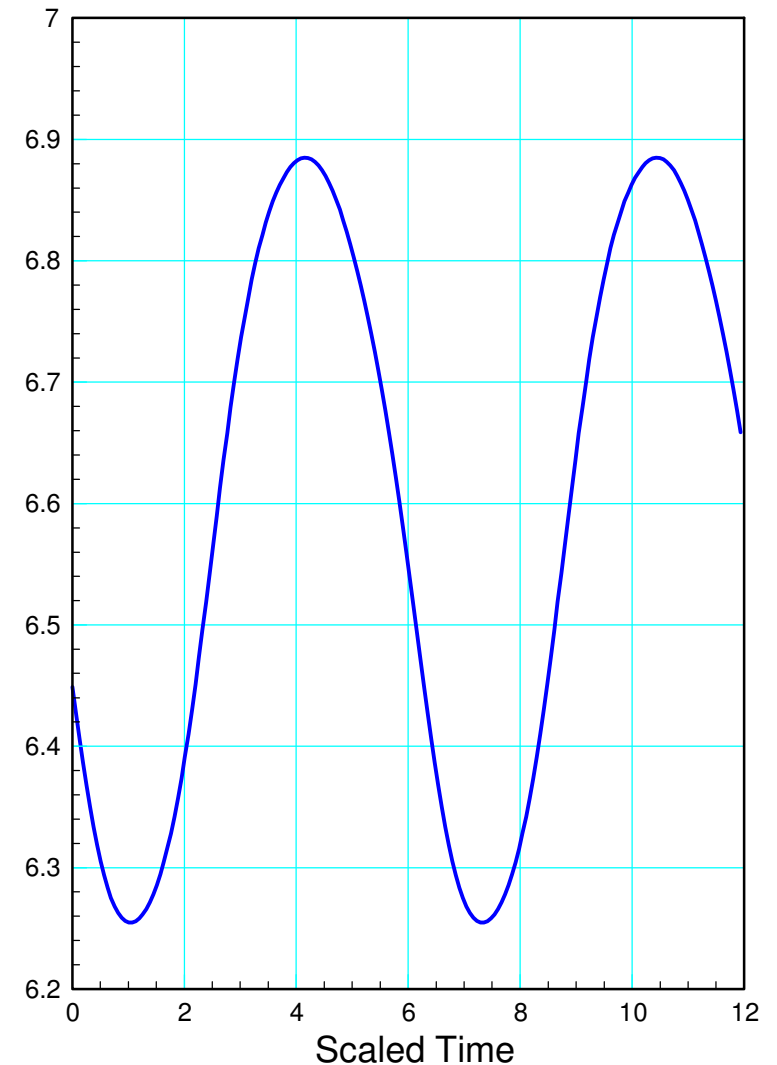


Net Result:

$$\begin{aligned} V_2 = & 6.5895 + \\ & -0.1290 \cos(\omega_0 t) - 0.2866 \sin(\omega_0 t) \\ & +0.0185 \cos(2\omega_0 t) - 0.0162 \sin(2\omega_0 t) \\ & -0.00061 \cos(3\omega_0 t) - 0.00039 \sin(3\omega_0 t) \\ & +0.00132 \cos(4\omega_0 t) - 0.00479 \sin(4\omega_0 t) \\ & + \dots \end{aligned}$$

Note

- In theory, you have to go out to infinity
- In practice, the harmonics go to zero very quickly
- Truncating the series after the 4th harmonic is very close



In Matlab:

- Output = Gain * Input
- note: slightly different answers from before due to rounding

```
>> Y0 = 100 / (100+15) * X0  
6.5895
```

```
>> Y1 = (2.4705-j*15.52) / ((2.4705-j*15.52) + (15+j*628.2)) * X1  
-0.1542 + 0.2819i
```

```
>> Y2 = (0.6293-j*7.9077) / ((0.6293-j*7.9077) + (15+j*1256.6)) * X2  
0.0185 + 0.0162i
```

```
>> Y3 = (0.2807-j*5.2903) / ((0.2807-j*5.2903) + (15+j*1884.9)) * X3  
-0.0061 + 0.0039i
```

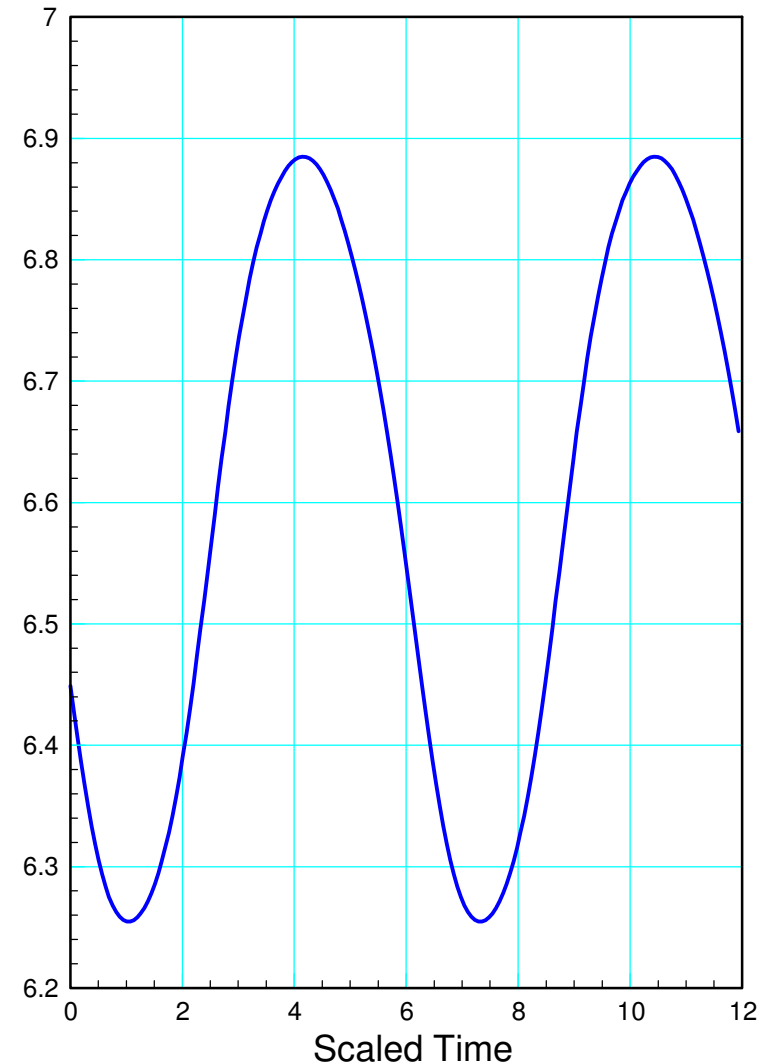
```
>> Y4 = (0.1582-j*3.9726) / ((0.1582-j*3.9726) + (15+j*2513.27)) * X4  
0.0013 + 0.0048i
```

Plotting $V_2(t)$:

```
V2 = Y0 + real(Y1)*cos(t) - imag(Y1)*sin(t);  
V2 = V2 + real(Y2)*cos(2*t) - imag(Y2)*sin(2*t);  
V2 = V2 + real(Y3)*cos(3*t) - imag(Y3)*sin(3*t);  
V2 = V2 + real(Y4)*cos(4*t) - imag(Y4)*sin(4*t);  
plot(t,V2)  
>>
```

This matches CircuitLab results

- In theory, you need to include an infinite number of terms
- In practice, the terms quickly go to zero
- Fourier Transforms allow you to compute the explicit form for $V_2(t)$,
- Fourier Transforms are more accurate than what we did last lecture, and
- They are a *lot* more work.



Sidelight:

A good approximation for $V_2(t)$ is to include

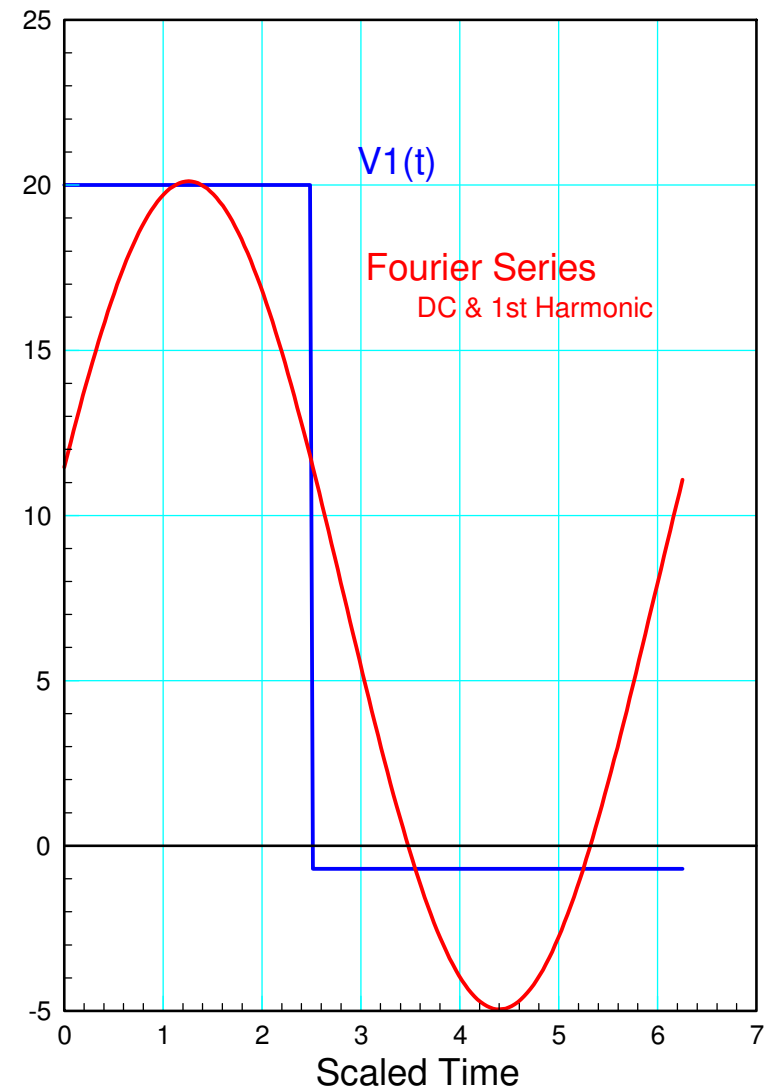
- The DC term and
- The 1st harmonic

Hence, approximate $V_1(t)$ including

- The DC term and
- The 1st Harmonic

A more accurate approximation of V_1 uses

- The DC term, and
- The 1st term of the Fourier series for V_1
- (rather than V_{1pp})



DC Analysis in Matlab:

```
V1dc = mean(x)
7.5779
```

```
V2dc = 100/(100+15) * V1dc
6.5895
```

```
note: mean(V2) = 6.5895
```

AC Analysis in Matlab

```
X1 = 2*mean( x .* exp(-j*t) )
3.8725 -11.9184i
```

```
V1pp = 2*abs(X1)
25.0635 vs. 20.8Vpp
```

```
V2pp = (2.4705-j*15.52) / ((2.4705-j*15.52) + (15+j*628.2)) * V1pp;
V2pp = abs(V2pp)
0.6426
```

```
note: max(V2) - min(V2) = 0.6303
```

