

# Parallel Inductor-Resistor-Capacitor (RLC) Circuits

Session 4b for Basic Electricity  
A Fairfield University E-Course  
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# Module: Basic Electronics

## (AC Circuits and Impedance: two parts)

- Text: “Electricity One-Seven,” Harry Mileaf, Prentice-Hall, 1996, ISBN 0-13-889585-6 (Covers much more material than this section)
- References:
  - “Digital Mini Test: Principles of Electricity Lessons One and Two,” SNET Home Study Coordinator, (203) 771-5400
  - [Electronics Tutorial](#) (Thanks to Alex Pounds)
  - [Electronics Tutorial](#) (Thanks to Mark Sokos)
  - [Basic Math Tutorial](#) (Thanks to George Mason University)
  - [Vector Math Tutorial](#) (Thanks to California Polytec at [atom.physics.calpoly.edu](http://atom.physics.calpoly.edu) )
- Alternating Current and Impedance
  - 5 on-line sessions plus one lab
- Resonance and Filters
  - 5 on-line sessions plus one lab

## Section 4:

# AC, Inductors and Capacitors

- **OBJECTIVES:** This section discusses AC voltage / current and their effects on parallel circuit components (resistors, inductors, transformers and capacitors). The concept of resonance and its use to produce filters is also described.

# Section 4 Schedule:

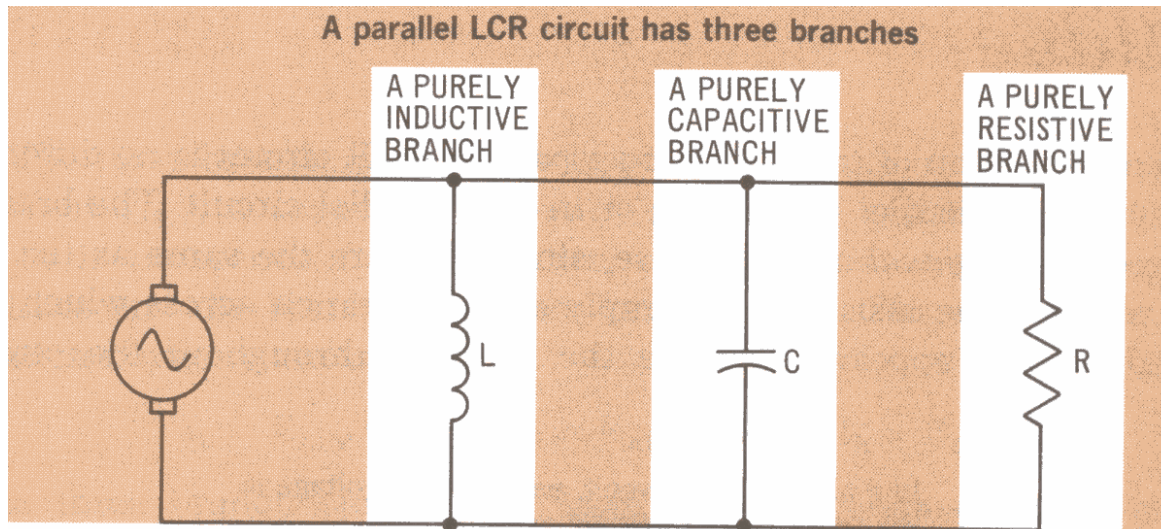
Session 4a	– 07/08	Parallel L-C Circuits	Text 4.114 – 4.122
<b>Session 4b</b>	<b>– 07/10</b>	<b>Parallel R-L-C Circuits</b>	<b>Text 4.123 – 4.132</b>
<b>(break for a week)</b>		<b>(no class on 07/15 or 07/17)</b>	
Session 4c	– 07/22	Parallel Resonance	Text 4.133 – 4.146
Session 4d	– 07/24	Tuning and Filters	Text 4.147 – 4.151
(lab - 07/27, Sat.)			
Session 4e	– 07/29	Transformers and Impedance	Text 4.152 – 4.160
(Quiz 4 due 08/12)		Matching	
Session 4f	– 08/12	Review (Discuss Quiz 4)	
	08/14	MT2 Review	
	08/17	MT2 – AC Circuits	

# Session 3 (Parallel L-C) Review

- Capacitive reactance  $X_C = 1/2\pi fC$  at  $-90^\circ$
- Inductive reactance  $X_L = 2\pi fL$  at  $90^\circ$
- Impedances in parallel add as inverses
  - Adding Vectors
    - Separately add their horizontal and vertical components
    - Graphically: head-to-tail or parallelogram
    - Here the vectors are in opposite directions; they just subtract.
      - Inductive reactance points up ( $90^\circ$ )
      - Capacitive reactance points down ( $-90^\circ$ )
  - Multiplying Vectors
    - Multiply their magnitudes (lengths)
    - Add their phases
  - Dividing Vectors
    - Divide their magnitudes (lengths)
    - Subtract their phases
- Ohm's and Kirchoff's laws still work with AC

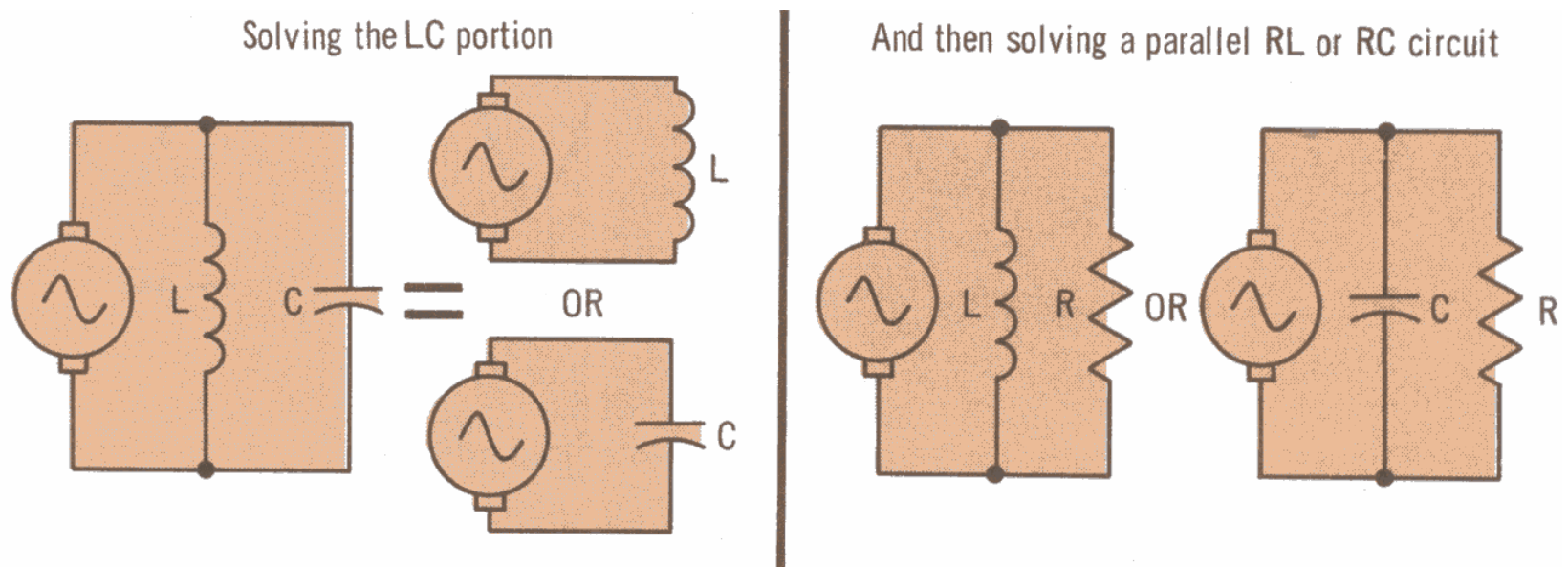
# Parallel R-L-C Circuits

- Voltage (ref. phase) is the same across all parallel components
- Branch currents add (vectors) to produce  $I_{\text{Line}}$
- Impedances in parallel add (vectors) as inverses



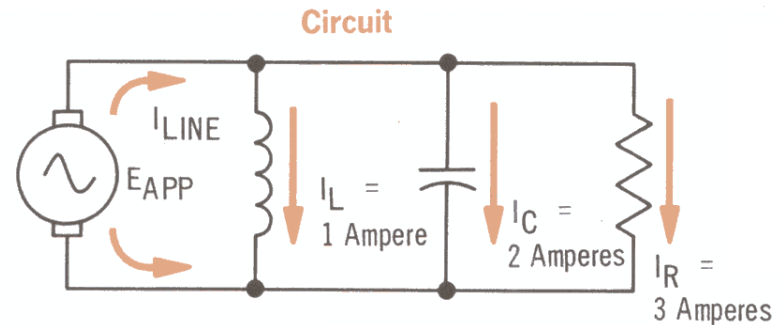
# A Two-Step Solution

- Solve an RLC in two steps
  - Combine the L and C branches (both vertical)
  - Add the resistor branch to the result (as a vector)

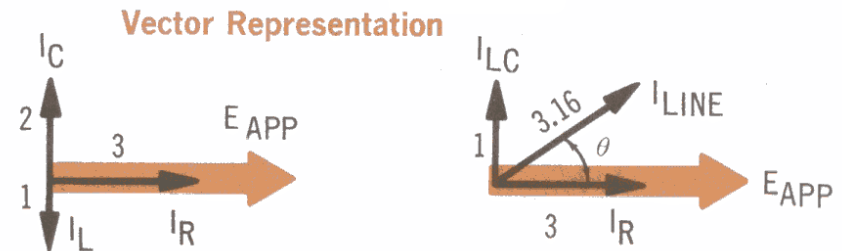


# Parallel RLC- Current

- AC currents always add as vectors
- Voltage (ref. Phase) is the same across all parallel components
- Inductor -  $I_L$  points down (Lags voltage by  $90^\circ$ )
- Capacitor -  $I_C$  points up (Leads voltage by  $90^\circ$ )
- Add  $I_L$  and  $I_C$  (they subtract) to get  $I_{Line}$



- $I_L = 1\angle -90^\circ = -1\angle 90^\circ$
- $I_C = 2\angle 90^\circ$
- $I_{LC} = (2-1)\angle 90^\circ = 1\angle 90^\circ$  (capacitive circuit)

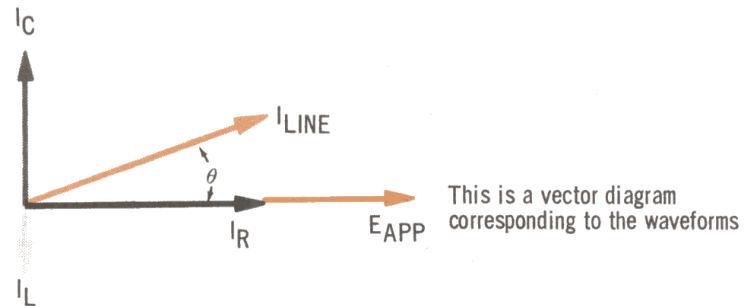
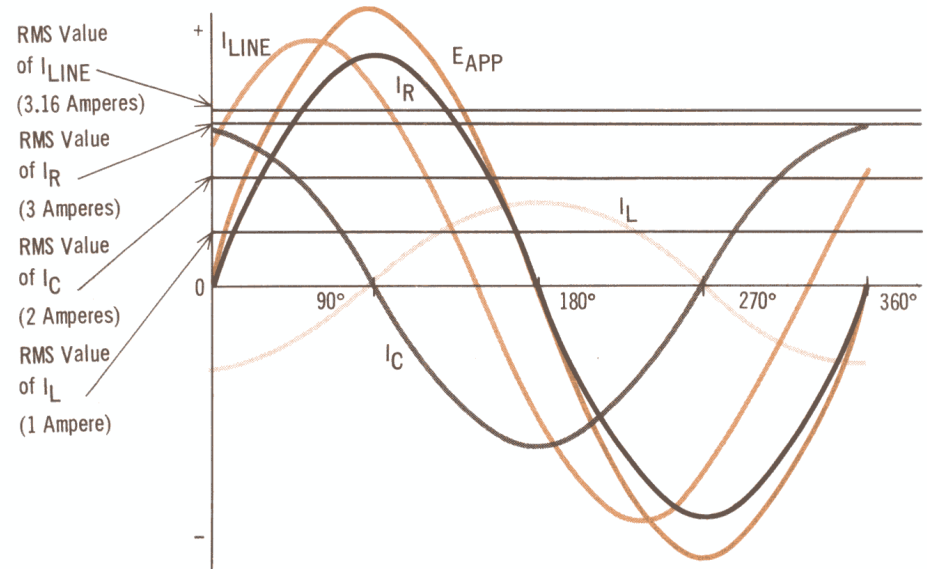


- Now add  $I_R$
- $|I_{Line}| = (1^2 + 3^2)^{1/2} = 10^{1/2} = 3.162$
- $\angle I_{Line} = \arctan(1/3) = 18.435^\circ = 0.322$  Radians



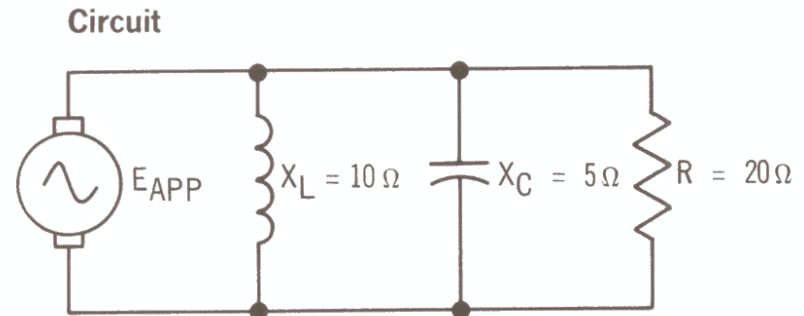
# Parallel LC- Current Waveforms

- AC currents always add as vectors
- Voltage (ref. Phase) is the same across all parallel components
- Resistor current is in phase with the voltage
- Inductor -  $I_L$  points down (Lags voltage by  $90^\circ$ )
- Capacitor -  $I_C$  points up (Leads voltage by  $90^\circ$ )
- Line current -  $I_{Line}$  has a phase between  $I_{LC}$  and  $I_R$



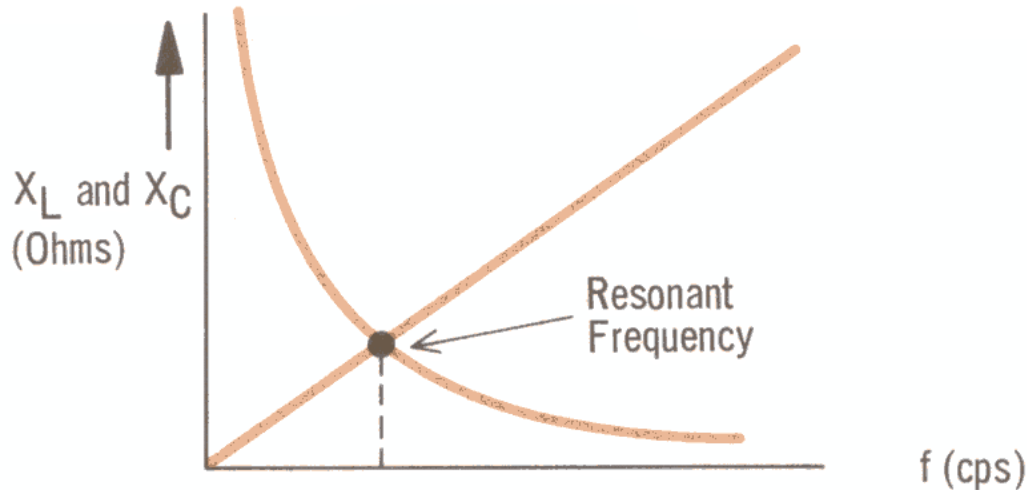
# Parallel RLC - Impedance

- Impedances in parallel add as inverse vectors
- $X_L$  (up) and  $X_C$  (down) are in opposite directions
- First combine the L and C branches
  - $1/X_L = 1/(10\angle 90^\circ) = 0.1\angle -90^\circ$
  - $1/X_C = 1/(5\angle -90^\circ) = 0.2\angle 90^\circ$
  - $1/X_{LC} = 0.1\angle 90^\circ$
- $1/R = 0.05\angle 0^\circ$
- $|1/Z| = (0.05^2 + 0.1^2)^{1/2} = (0.0025 + 0.01)^{1/2}$   
 $= (0.0125)^{1/2} = 0.1118$
- $\angle 1/Z = \arctan(0.1/0.05) = 63.4^\circ$
- $Z = 9\angle -63.4^\circ$  (capacitive)



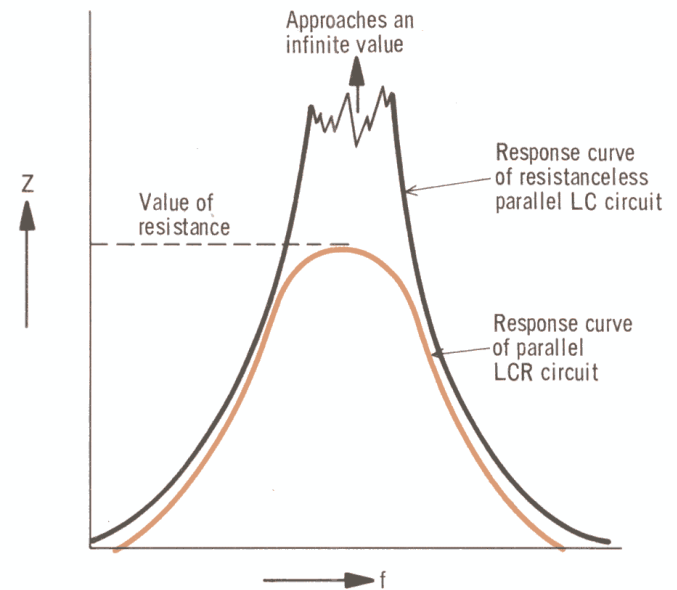
# The Effect of Frequency

- $Z_L = 2\pi fL$  (rises linearly with frequency)
- $Z_C = 1/2\pi fL$  (decreases with frequency)
- Resonance is when they are equal and cancel; the impedance is then just the resistance



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Basic Electricity



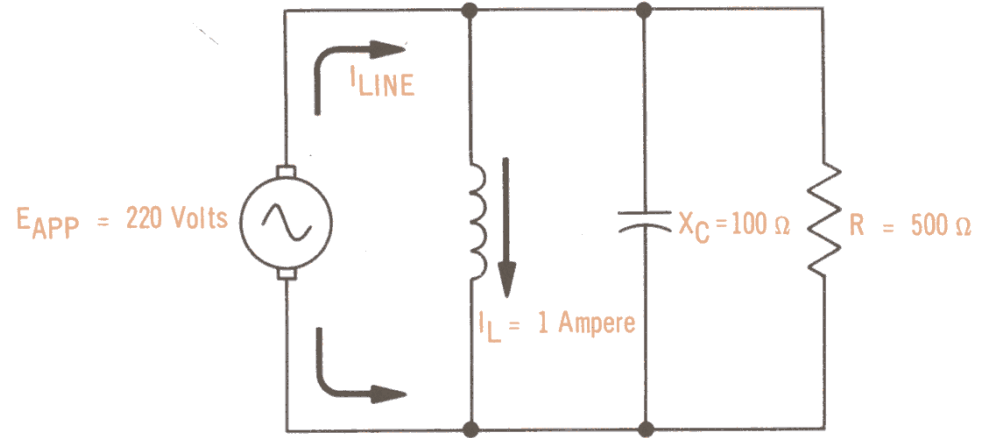
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# Example

- First find the Branch currents

$$- I_C = 220/100 \\ = 2.2 \angle 90^\circ$$

$$- I_R = 220/500 \\ = 0.44 \angle 0^\circ$$



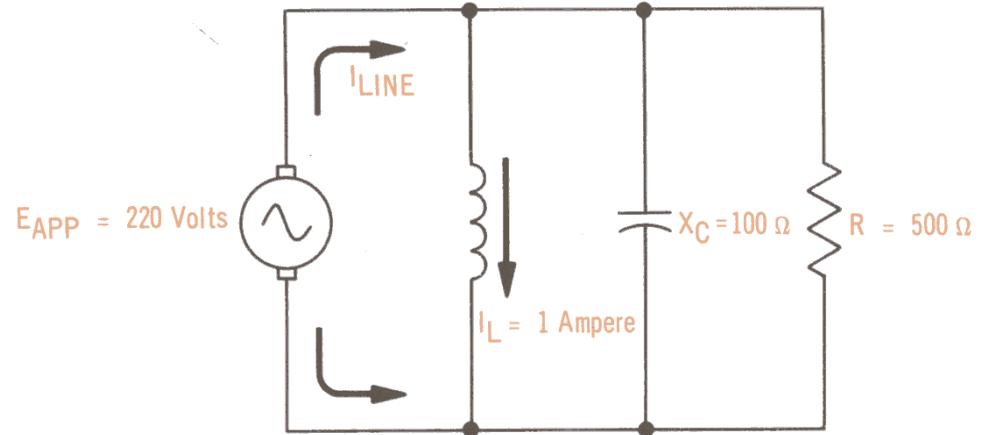
- $I_{LC} = (2.2-1) \angle 90^\circ = 1.2 \angle 90^\circ$
- $|I_{Line}| = (0.44^2 + 1.2^2)^{1/2} = (0.1936 + 1.44)^{1/2} \\ = (1.6336)^{1/2} = 1.278 \text{ amps}$
- $\angle I_{Line} = \arctan(1.2/0.44) = \arctan(2.72) = 69.9^\circ$

# Example (continued)

- First find the Inductor reactance

- $X_L = 220 \text{ volts}/1 \text{ amp}$   
 $= 220 \angle 90^\circ \text{ Ohms}$

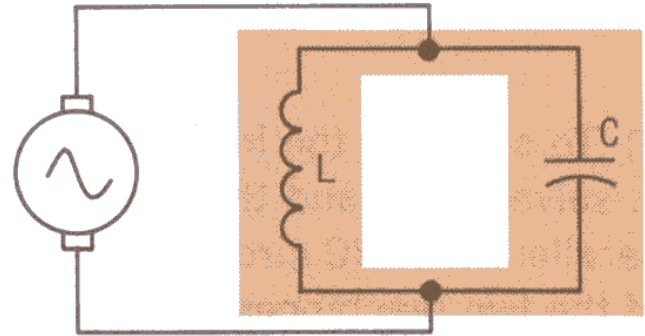
- Now add the impedances as inverses



- $1/X_{LC} = 1/220 \angle 90^\circ + 1/100 \angle -90^\circ$   
 $= 0.0045 \angle 90^\circ + 0.01 \angle -90^\circ = 0.0055 \angle -90^\circ$
- $|1/X_t| = (0.0055^2 + 0.002^2)^{1/2} = (0.00003 + 0.000004)^{1/2}$   
 $= (0.000034)^{1/2} = 0.0058$   
 (  $|X_t| = 172 \text{ ohms}$ ,  $I_{line} = 220/172 = 1.28 \text{ amps}$  )
- $\angle 1/X_t = \arctan(-0.0055/0.002) = \arctan(-2.75) = -70^\circ$

# Resonance

- $X_L$  and  $X_C$  cancel
- Parallel Resonance
  - High Impedance
  - Low line current  
(high current in the LC loop!)
- Series Resonance
  - Low impedance
  - High line current
- Resonant frequency
$$2\pi fL = 1/2\pi fC$$
$$f = 1/2\pi(LC)^{1/2}$$



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