

# 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.

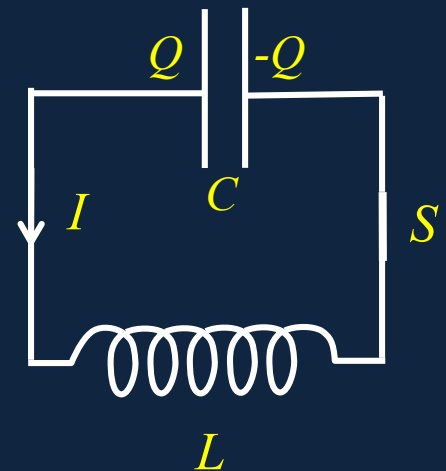
# LC Circuit Analysis

- 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

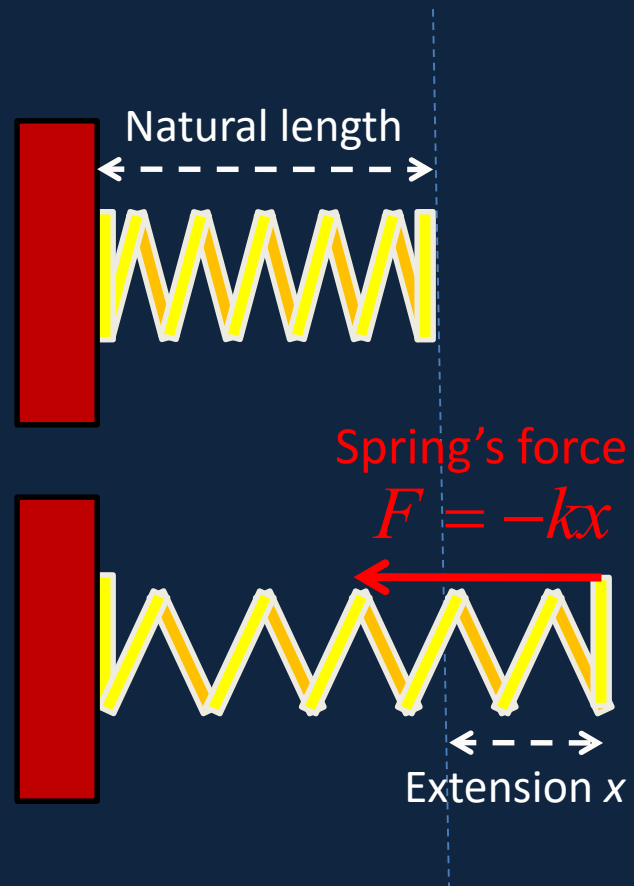
# Force of a Stretched Spring

- 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”.

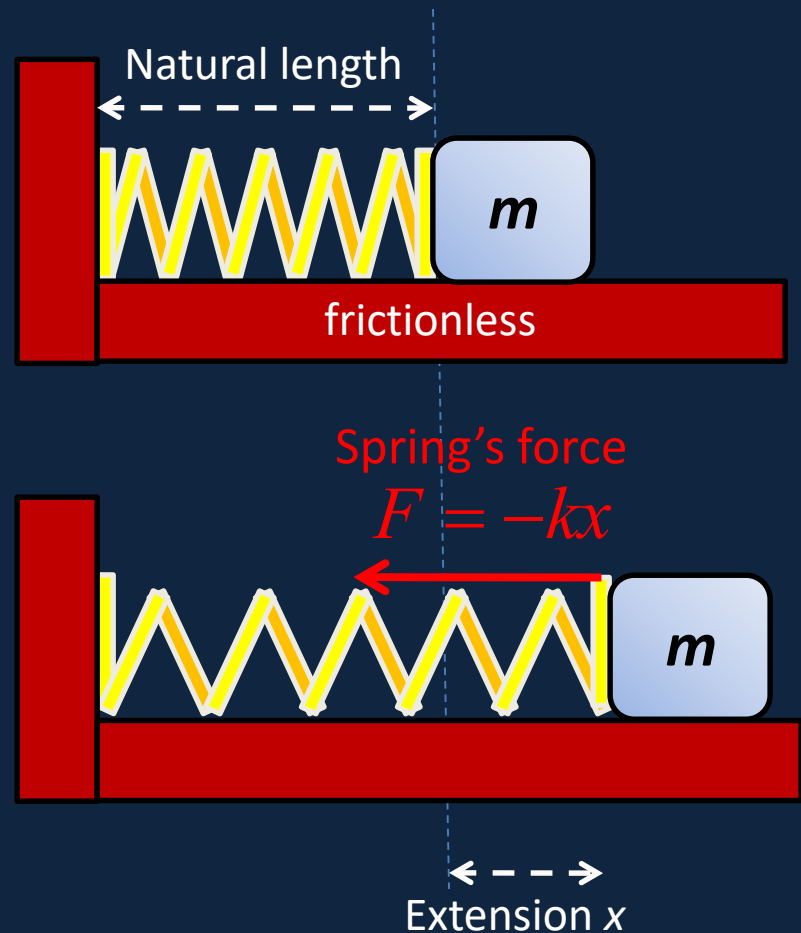
The same linear force is also generated when the spring is *compressed*.



# 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,  $\phi$  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

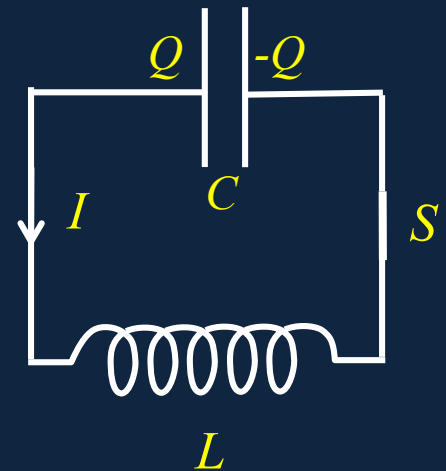
$$m d^2 x / dt^2 = -kx$$

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

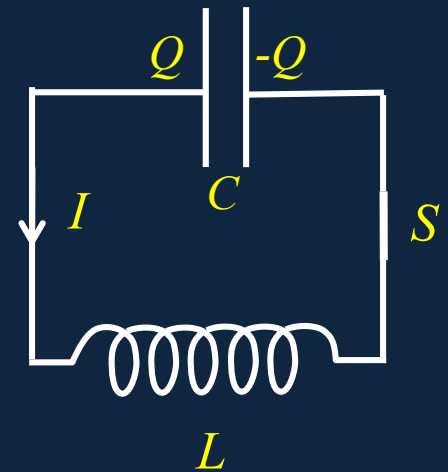
$$U_E = Q^2 / 2C = (Q_0^2 / 2C) \cos^2 \omega t$$

- The current is the charge flowing out

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

so the energy stored in the inductor is

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



Compare this with the energy stored in the capacitor!



# Energy in the $LC$ Circuit

- We've found the energy in the capacitor is

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

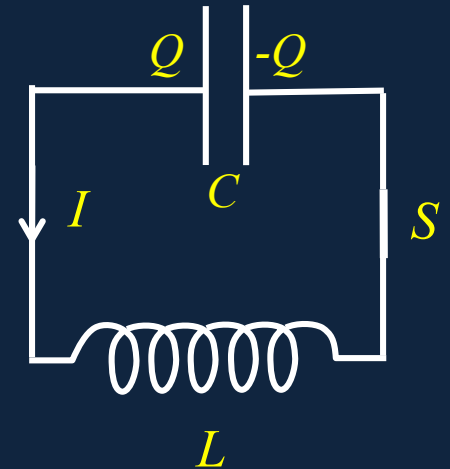
- The energy stored in the inductor is

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

- So the **total energy** is

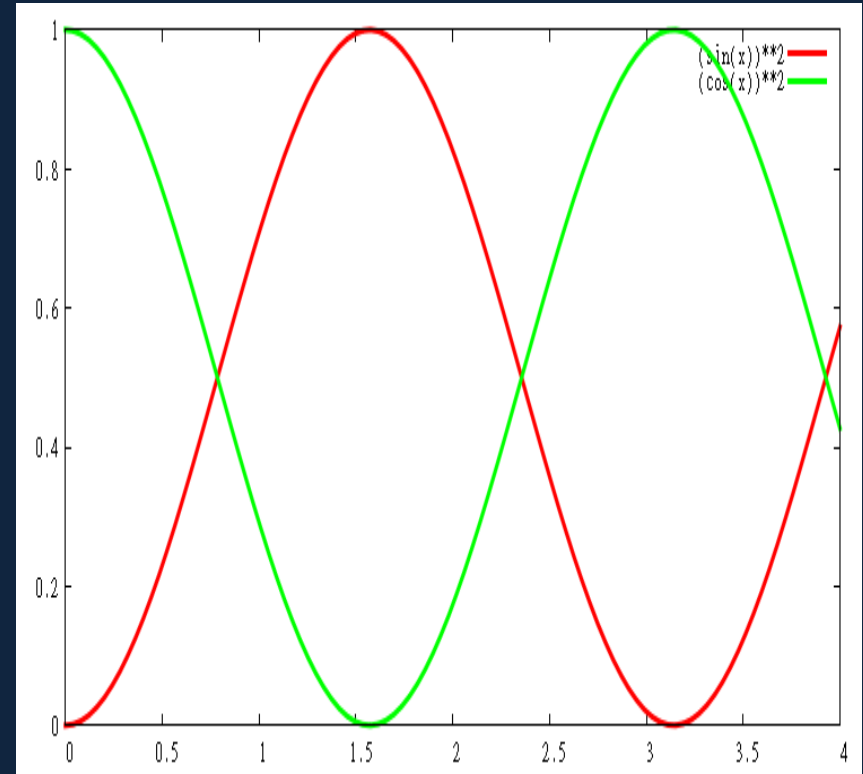
$$U_B = (Q_0^2 / 2C) (\cos^2 \omega t + \sin^2 \omega t) = Q_0^2 / 2C.$$

- 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

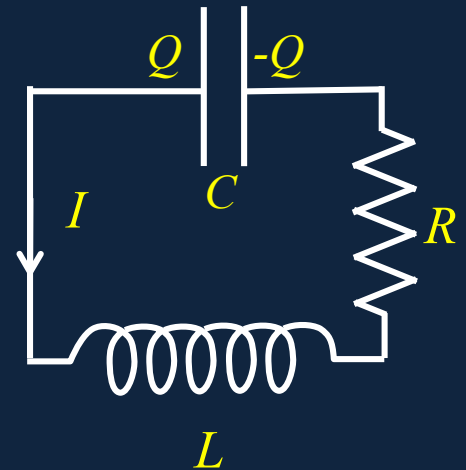
- Adding a resistance  $R$  to the  $LC$  circuit, adds a voltage drop  $IR$ , so

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

- 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...

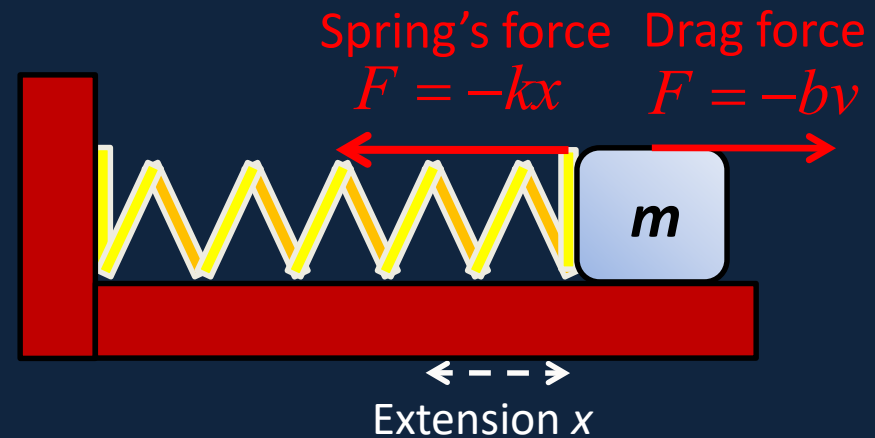


# Damped Harmonic Motion

- 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!](#)

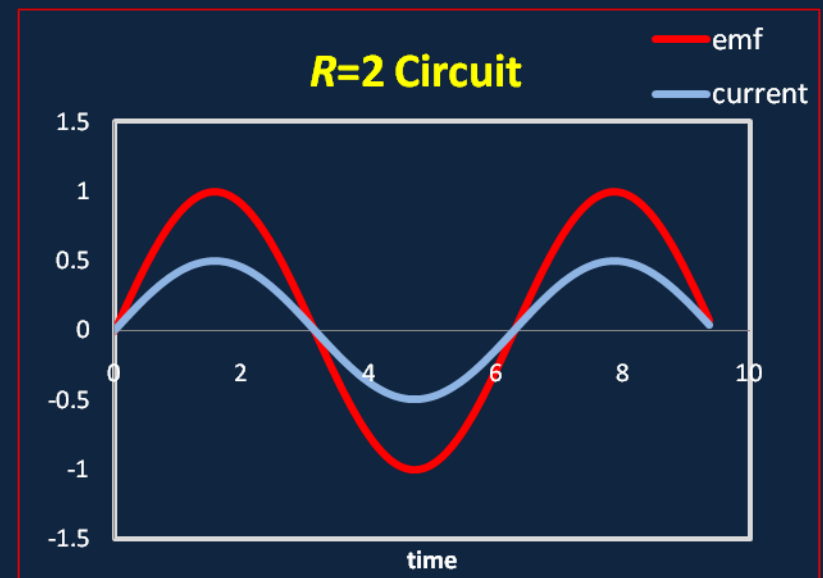
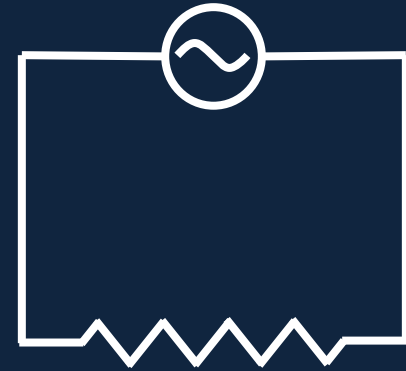
# AC Source and Resistor

- 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

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

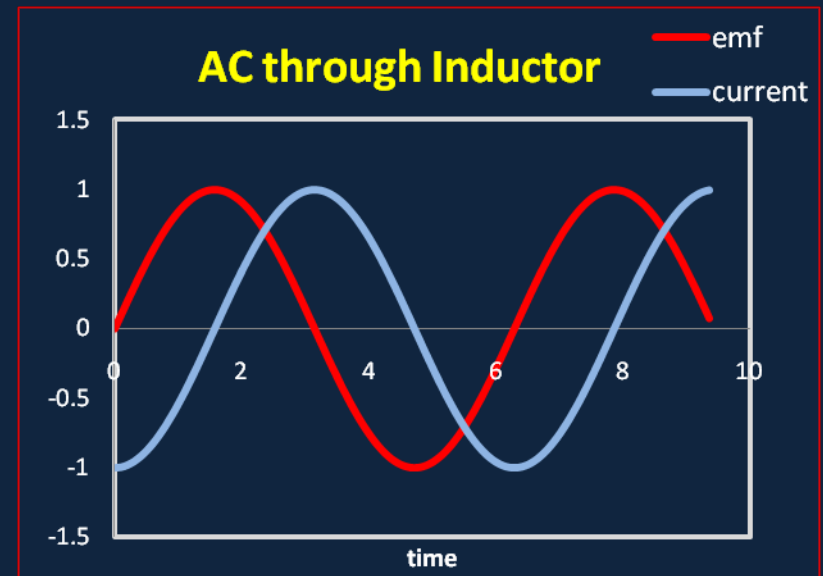
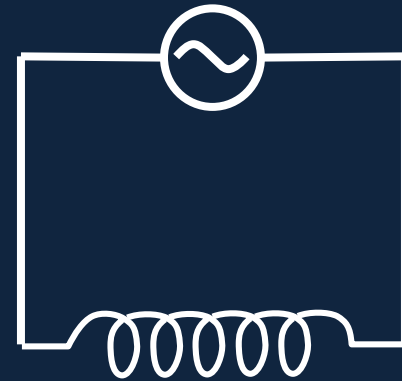
so  $I = I_0 \cos \omega t$  where

$$I_0 = V_0 / \omega L$$

$\omega L$  is the inductive reactance.

Power:

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



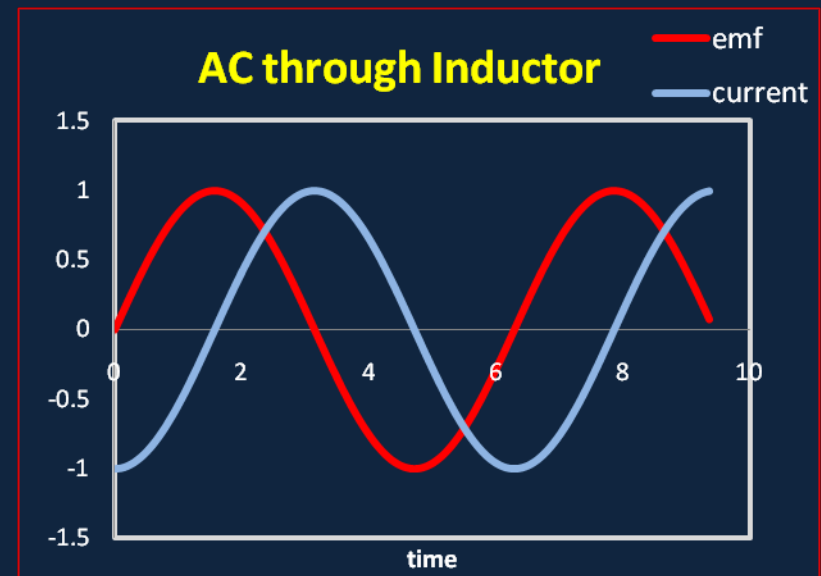
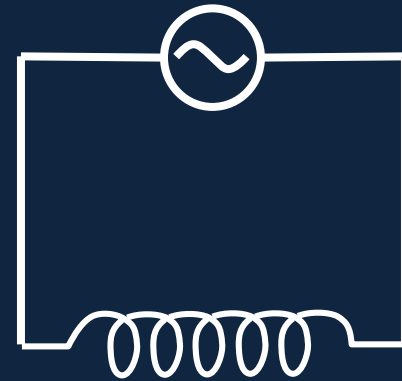


# AC Source and Inductor...

$$I_0 = V_0 / \omega L$$

$\omega L$  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

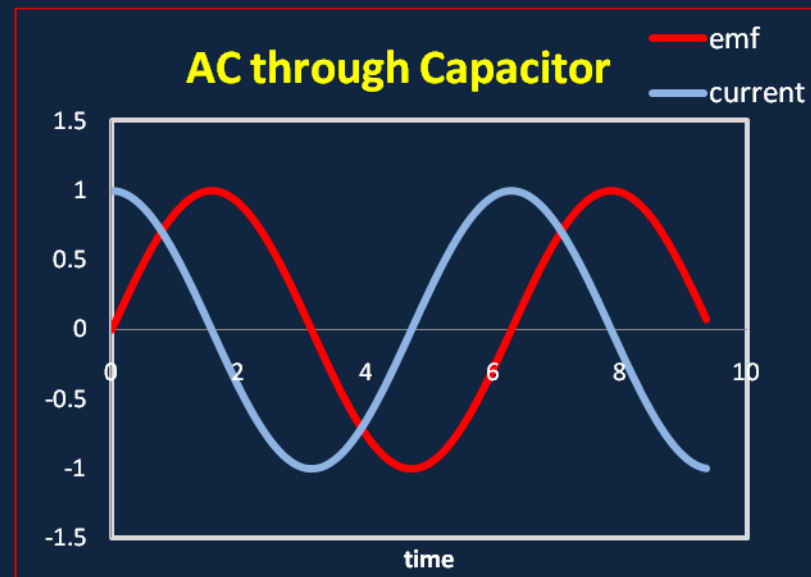
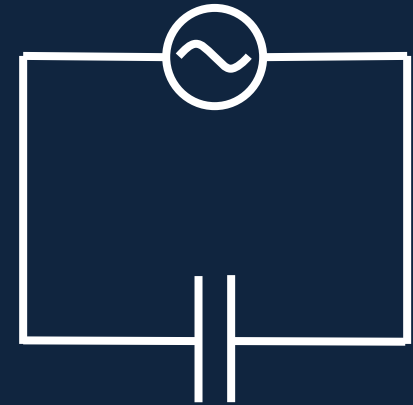
$$I = I_0 \cos \omega t = dQ / dt = Q_0 \omega \cos \omega t$$

and from this we see that

$$I_0 = \omega C V_0$$

and the capacitive reactance is:

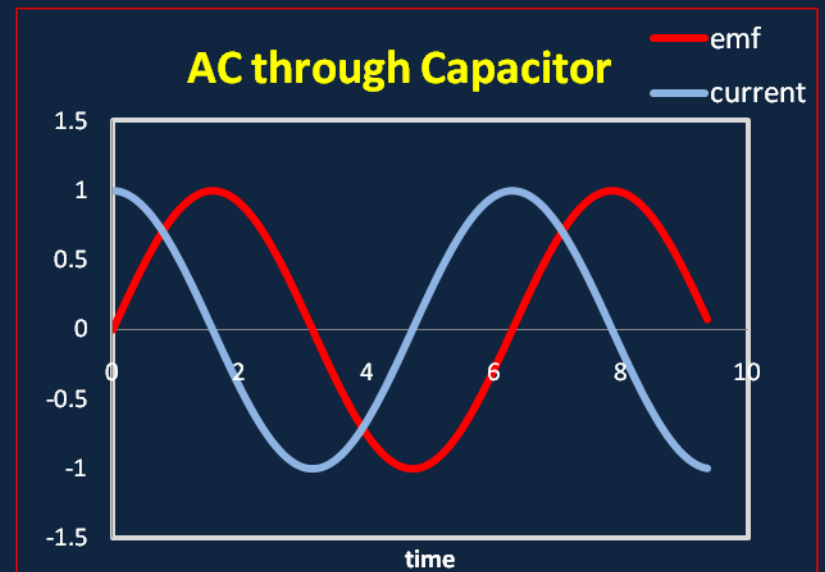
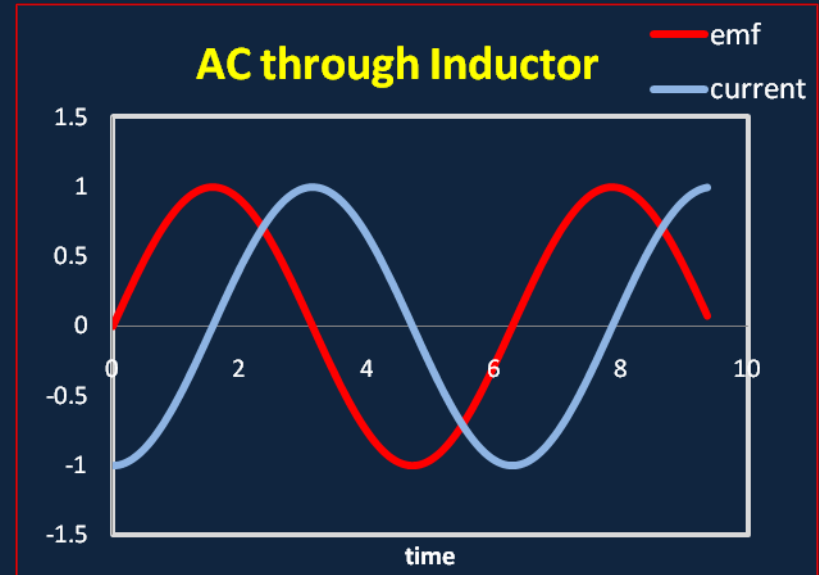
$$X_C = \frac{1}{\omega C}$$



# Comparing Pure $L$ and Pure $C$

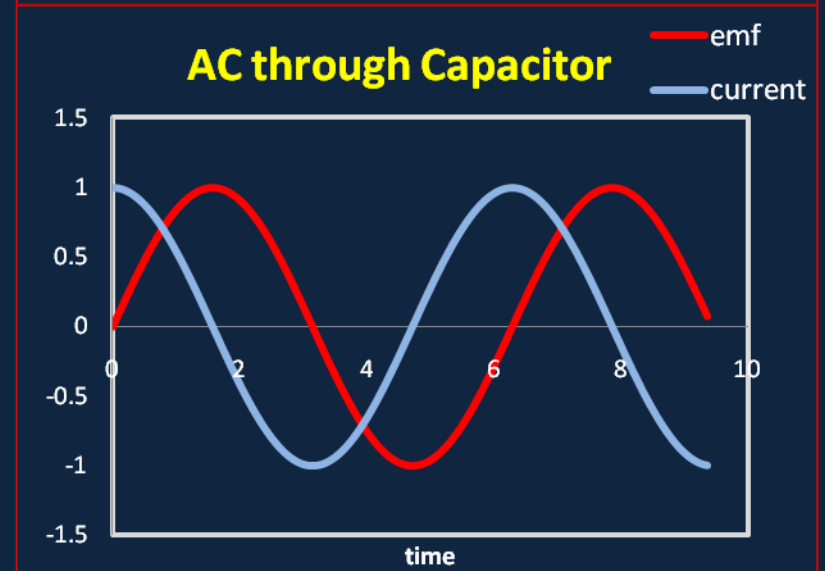
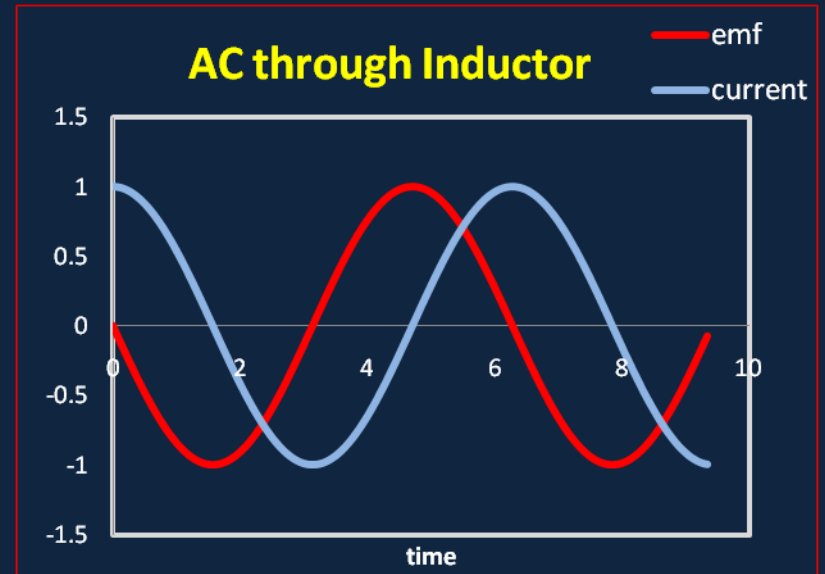
- For  $L$ , peak emf is before peak current, for  $C$  peak current is first.
- Mnemonic: ELI the ICE man.
- No power is dissipated in inductors nor in capacitors, since emf and current are  $90^\circ$  out of phase:

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



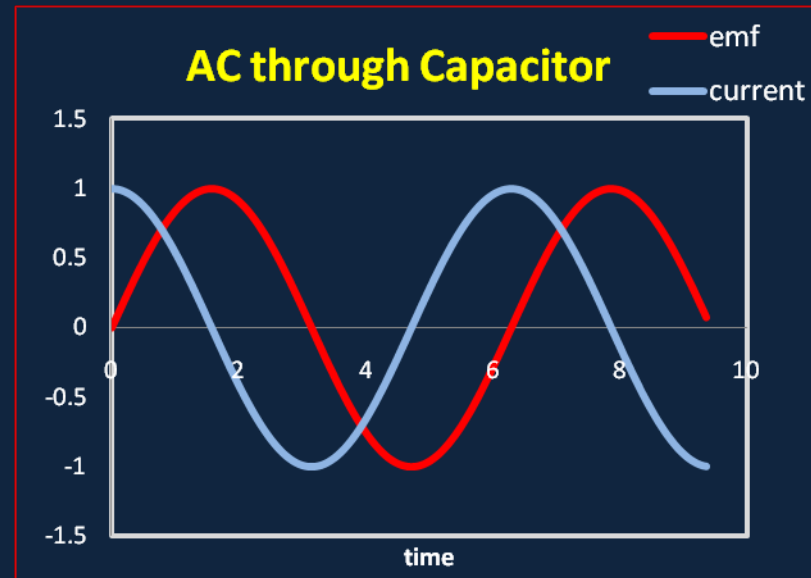
# $L$ and $C$ in Series

- 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  $\omega$  is increased to 2, but emf kept constant?
  - A. Current doubles
  - B. Current halved
  - C. Current same maximum value, but phase changes.

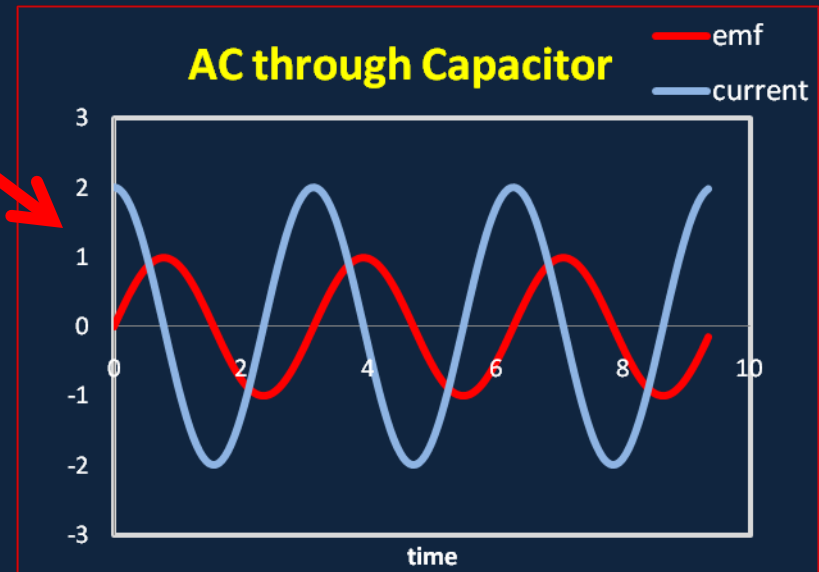
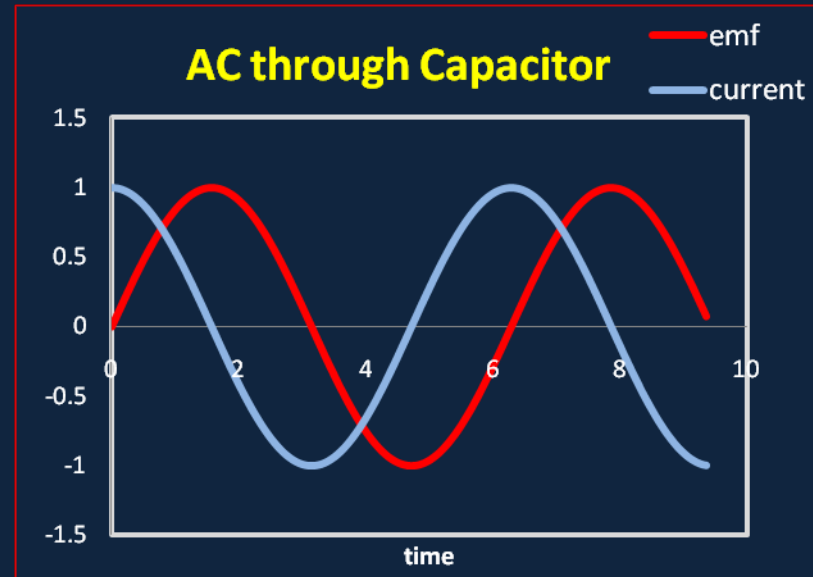


# Clicker Answer

- This shows ac emf and current for  $\omega = C = 1$ .
- What happens to the current if  $\omega$  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  $\phi$  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  $90^\circ$  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

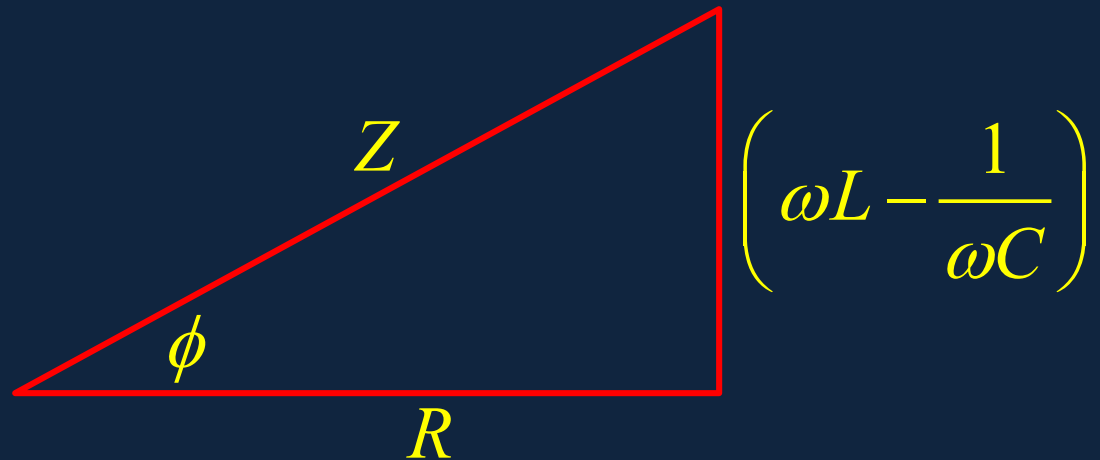
$$V_0 = I_0 \sqrt{R^2 + \left( \omega L - \frac{1}{\omega C} \right)^2} = I_0 Z$$



# Geometry of $Z$ and $\phi$

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

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  $\phi$ .



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 $\omega$

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

- 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  $\omega L$ .
- 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  $90^\circ$  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  $90^\circ$  out of phase?

A. Yes

B. No 

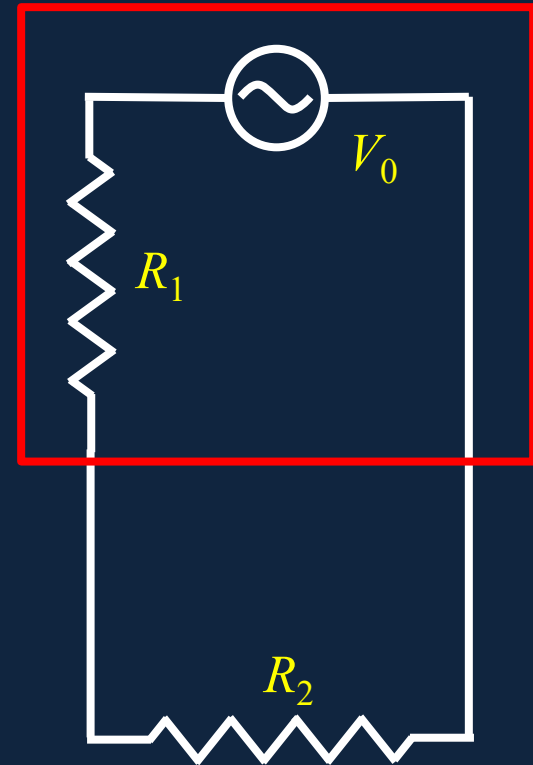
Because there is always energy dissipated, hence power used, in a resistor, and  $90^\circ$  out of phase means  $\bar{P} = \overline{VI} = V_0 I_0 \overline{\sin \omega t \cos \omega t} = 0$ .

# 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.

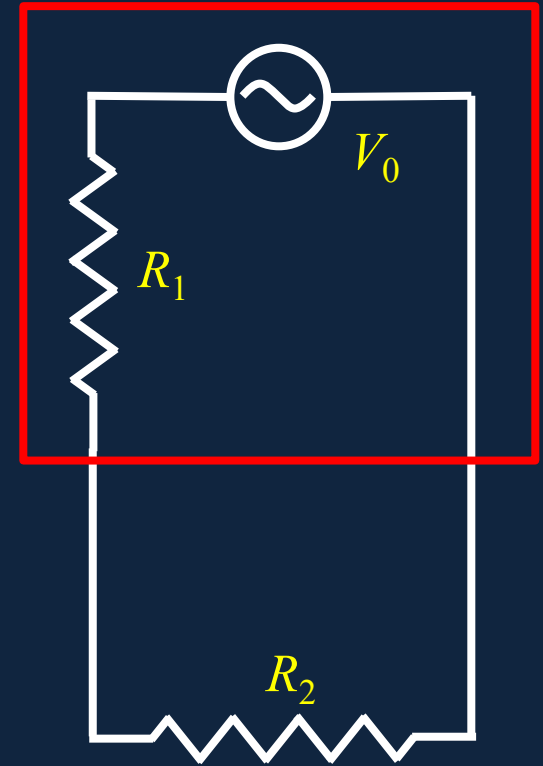
# Matching Impedances

- 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

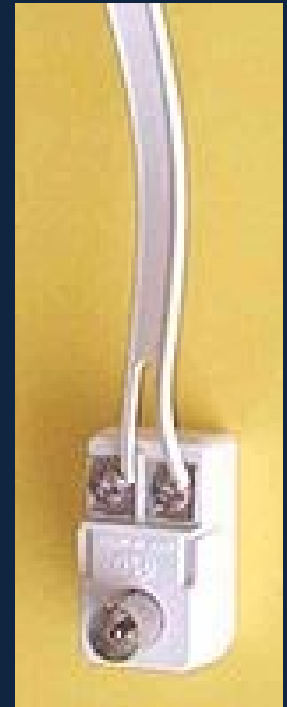
- Power  $P = I^2 R_2$ ,  $I = \frac{V_0}{R_1 + R_2}$ .
- So power  $P = \left( \frac{V_0}{R_1 + R_2} \right)^2 R_2$ .
- Notice this is small for  $R_2$  small, and small for  $R_2$  large.
- The maximum power is at  $dP / dR_2 = 0$ .
- You can check this is at  $R_2 = R_1$ .



# Matching Impedances in Transmission

- Typical coax cable is labeled  $75\Omega$ , 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  $300\Omega$ .
- 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