

EE303 Lesson 5: Filters

Tuning a radio

- Consider tuning FM radio station.
- What allows your radio to isolate one station from all of the adjacent stations?



Filters

• A **filter** is a frequency-selective circuit.

Filters are designed to pass some frequencies and reject others.



Basic kinds of filters

- There are four basic kinds of filters:
 - Low-pass filter. Passes frequencies below a critical frequency called the cutoff frequency and attenuates those above.
 - High-pass filter. Passes frequencies above critical frequency but rejects those below.
 - □ Bandpass filter. Passes only frequencies in a narrow range between upper and low cutoff.
 - Bandstop filter. Rejects or stops frequencies in a narrow range but passes others.

Basic kinds of filters



Low-pass filter response



Bandpass filter response



High-pass filter response



Filters construction

- There are numerous ways to construct filters.
- Passive filters a composed of only passive components (resistors, capacitors, inductors) and do not provide amplification.
- Active filters typically employ RC networks and amplifiers with feedback and offer a number of advantages.



Filter circuits

Filter circuits depend on the fact that the impedance of capacitors and inductors is a function of frequency.



Some common bandpass filter circuits

Example Problem 1

Calculate the impedance of a resistor, a capacitor and an inductor at the following frequencies.



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RC low-pass filter

What is the ratio of the output voltage (V_o) to the input voltage (V_s)?



RC low-pass filter

What is the ratio of the output voltage (V_o) to the input voltage (V_s)?





RC low-pass filter

A low-pass filter passes frequencies below a critical frequency called the cutoff frequency and attenuates those above.



RC low-pass filter response

Cutoff frequency

The cutoff frequency is frequency at which the output amplitude is 70.7% of the input.



RC low-pass filter response



Example Problem 2

What is the cutoff frequency of a single-section *RC* lowpass filter with $R = 8.2 \text{ k}\Omega$ and $C = 0.0033 \mu\text{F}$?



RL low-pass filter

A low-pass filter can also be implemented with a resistor and inductor, the cutoff frequency is given



RL low-pass filter response

Filters

Notice the placement of the elements in RC and RL low-pass filters.



What would result if the position of the elements were switched in each circuit?

High-pass filter

Switching elements results in a high-pass filter.



high-pass filter response



Example Problem 3

What resistor value *R* will produce a cutoff frequency of 3.4 kHz with a $0.047-\mu$ F capacitor? Is this a high-pass or low-pass filter?



Improving filter response

One method of creating a more selective filter is to cascade filter stages.





The attenuation of this two-stage filter is 40 dB/decade instead of 20 dB/decade.

LC Filters

- At higher frequencies (> 100-kHz), it is more common to find LC filters made with inductors and capacitors.
- The response curves of the major families of filters are shown below.





Bandpass filter

A bandpass filter passes frequencies below a critical frequency called the cutoff frequency and attenuates those above.



Cascading bandpass filter

Improved selectivity with steeper "skirts" on the curve can be obtained by cascading several bandpass sections.



How cascading filter sections narrow the bandwidth and improve selectivity.

Active filters

Active filters incorporate RC networks and amplifiers with feedback to produce low-pass, high-pass, bandpass and bandstop responses.



Active bandpass and notch filters.