## EE101: Bode plots



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- Bell considered the telephone an intrusion and refused to put one in his office.
* Bel turned out to be too large in practice $\rightarrow$ deciBel (i.e., one tenth of a Bel).


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For example, if $P_{1}=20 \mathrm{~W}$ and $P_{\text {ref }}=1 \mathrm{~W}$,

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* The voltage gain of an amplifier is
$A_{V}$ in $\mathrm{dB}=20 \log \left(V_{0} / V_{i}\right)$,
with $V_{i}$ serving as the reference voltage.


## Example



Given $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{i}}=2.5 \mathrm{mV}$ and $\mathrm{A}_{\mathrm{V}}=36.3 \mathrm{~dB}$, compute $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{o}}$ in dBm and in mV .
( $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{i}}$ and $\mathrm{V}_{0}$ are peak input and peak output voltages, respectively).

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* When sound intensity is specified in dB , the reference pressure is $P_{\text {ref }}=20 \mu \mathrm{~Pa}$ (our hearing threshold).
If the pressure corresponding to the sound being measured is $P$, we say that it is $20 \log \left(P / P_{\text {ref }}\right) \mathrm{dB}$.
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| windows break | 163 dB |



## Bode plots



* The transfer function of a circuit such as an amplifier or a filter is given by, $H(s)=V_{o}(s) / V_{i}(s), \quad s=j \omega$.
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* $H(j \omega)$ is a complex number, and a complete description of $H(j \omega)$ involves
(a) a plot of $|H(j \omega)|$ versus $\omega$.
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(a) a plot of $|H(j \omega)|$ versus $\omega$.
(b) a plot of $\angle H(j \omega)$ versus $\omega$.
* Bode gave simple rules which allow construction of the above "Bode plots" in an approximate (asymptotic) manner.


## A simple transfer function



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* The circuit behaves like a low-pass filter.

For $\omega \ll \omega_{0},|H(j \omega)| \rightarrow 1$.
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## A simple transfer function



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\begin{aligned}
& V_{o}=\frac{(1 / \mathrm{sC})}{\mathrm{R}+(1 / \mathrm{sC})} \mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{s}}, \\
& \rightarrow \mathrm{H}(\mathrm{~s})=\frac{1}{1+\mathrm{sRC}}=\frac{1}{1+\left(\mathrm{j} \omega / \omega_{0}\right)}, \\
& \omega_{0}=\frac{1}{\mathrm{RC}} .
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\begin{aligned}
& V_{o}=\frac{(1 / s C)}{R+(1 / s C)} V_{s} \\
& \rightarrow H(s)=\frac{1}{1+s R C}=\frac{1}{1+\left(j \omega / \omega_{0}\right)} \\
& \omega_{0}=\frac{1}{R C}
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* We are generally interested in a large variation in $\omega$ (several orders), and its effect on $|H|$ and $\angle H$.
* The magnitude $(|H|)$ varies by orders of magnitude as well.

The phase $(\angle H)$ varies from 0 (for $\omega \ll \omega_{0}$ ) to $-\pi / 2$ (for $\omega \gg \omega_{0}$ ).

## A simple transfer function: magnitude




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Since $\omega$ and $|H(j \omega)|$ vary by several orders of magnitude, a linear $\omega$ - or $|H|$-axis is not appropriate $\rightarrow \log |H|$ is plotted against $\log \omega$.

## A simple transfer function: magnitude




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Note that the shape of the plot does not change.
$|H|(\mathrm{dB})=20 \log |H|$ is simply a scaled version of $\log |H|$.

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Since $\omega=2 \pi f$, the shape of the plot does not change.

## A simple transfer function: phase




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* Since $\angle H=-\tan ^{-1}\left(\omega / \omega_{0}\right)$ varies in a limited range $\left(0^{\circ}\right.$ to $-90^{\circ}$ in this example), a linear axis is appropriate for $\angle H$.


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* Since $\angle H=-\tan ^{-1}\left(\omega / \omega_{0}\right)$ varies in a limited range $\left(0^{\circ}\right.$ to $-90^{\circ}$ in this example), a linear axis is appropriate for $\angle H$.
* As in the magnitude plot, we use a $\log$ axis for $\omega$, since we are interested in a wide range of $\omega$.


## Construction of Bode plots

Consider $H(s)=\frac{K\left(1+s / z_{1}\right)\left(1+s / z_{2}\right) \cdots\left(1+s / z_{M}\right)}{\left(1+s / p_{1}\right)\left(1+s / p_{2}\right) \cdots\left(1+s / p_{N}\right)}$.

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$-z_{1},-z_{2}, \cdots$ are called the "zeros" of $H(s)$.
$-p_{1},-p_{2}, \cdots$ are called the "poles" of $H(s)$.
(In addition, there could be terms like $s, s^{2}, \cdots$ in the numerator.)
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We will assume, for simplicity, that the zeros (and poles) are real and distinct.
Construction of Bode plots involves
(a) computing approximate contribution of each pole/zero as a function $\omega$.
(b) combining the various contributions to obtain $|H|$ and $\angle H$ versus $\omega$.

## Contribution of a pole: magnitude



Consider $H(s)=\frac{1}{1+s / p} \rightarrow H(j \omega)=\frac{1}{1+j(\omega / p)},|H(j \omega)|=\frac{1}{\sqrt{1+(\omega / p)^{2}}}$.

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Consider two values of $\omega: \omega_{1}$ and $10 \omega_{1}$.
$|H|_{1}=20 \log p-20 \log \omega_{1}(\mathrm{~dB})$
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$|H|_{1}-|H|_{2}=-20 \log \frac{\omega_{1}}{10 \omega_{1}}=20 \mathrm{~dB}$.

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$|H|_{1}-|H|_{2}=-20 \log \frac{\omega_{1}}{10 \omega_{1}}=20 \mathrm{~dB}$.
$\rightarrow|H|$ versus $\omega$ has a slope of $-20 \mathrm{~dB} /$ decade.
Note that, at $\omega=p$, the actual value of $|H|$ is $1 / \sqrt{2}$ (i.e., -3 dB ).

## Contribution of a pole: phase



Consider $H(s)=\frac{1}{1+s / p}=\frac{1}{1+j(\omega / p)} \rightarrow \angle H=-\tan ^{-1}\left(\frac{\omega}{p}\right)$

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$\rightarrow|H|$ versus $\omega$ has a slope of $+20 \mathrm{~dB} /$ decade.
Note that, at $\omega=z$, the actual value of $|H|$ is $\sqrt{2}$ (i.e., 3 dB ).

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$H_{1}(j \omega)$ and $H_{2}(j \omega)$ are complex numbers.
At a given $\omega$, let $H_{1}=K_{1} \angle \alpha=K_{1} e^{j \alpha}$, and $H_{2}=K_{2} \angle \beta=K_{2} e^{j \beta}$.
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The same reasoning applies to more than two terms as well.

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Let $H(s)=H_{1}(s) H_{2}(s) H_{3}(s) H_{4}(s)$, where
$H_{1}(s)=10$,
$H_{2}(s)=s$,
$H_{3}(s)=\frac{1}{1+s / p_{1}}, p_{1}=10^{2} \mathrm{rad} / \mathrm{s}$,
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We can now plot the magnitude and phase of $H_{1}, H_{2}, H_{3}, H_{4}$ individually versus $\omega$ and then simply add them to obtain $|H|$ and $\angle H$.

## Magnitude plot ( $|H|$ in dB)



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## Magnitude plot $(|H|$ in dB)



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* If two poles $p_{1}$ and $p_{2}$ are close to each other (say, separated by less than a decade in $\omega$ ), the error becomes larger (next slide).
* When the poles and zeros are not sufficiently separated, the Bode approximation should be used only for a rough estimate, follwed by a numerical calculation. However, even in such cases, it does give a good idea of the asymptotic magnitude and phase plots, which is valuable in amplifier design.


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