

1. Consider an "RLC" circuit in which the capacitor charge  $Q(t)$  satisfies  $LQ'' + RQ' + C^{-1}Q = E(t)$  where  $L, R, C$  are the inductance (Henries), resistance (Ohms), and capacitance (Farads), and where  $E(t)$  is a variable source of voltage (Volts). Suppose that  $R = 2$  Ohms and  $C = 1/5$  Farads, and that the voltage source is sinusoidal:  $E(t) = \cos(5t)$ .

- (a) (3 Points.) Find the steady-state periodic response, keeping the inductance  $L$  as a variable parameter in your answer.

Solution: to find the steady-state periodic response we use the method of undetermined coefficients:  $Q(t) = A \cos(5t) + B \sin(5t)$ . Then  $Q'(t) = -5A \sin(5t) + 5B \cos(5t)$  and  $Q''(t) = -25A \cos(5t) - 25B \sin(5t)$ , so substitution into  $LQ'' + 2Q' + 5Q = \cos(5t)$  gives

$$\begin{aligned}(5 - 25L)A + 10B &= 1 \\ -10A + (5 - 25L)B &= 0\end{aligned}$$

where the first line comes from the terms proportional to  $\cos(5t)$  and the second line comes from the terms proportional to  $\sin(5t)$ . Solving for  $A$  and  $B$  gives

$$A = \frac{5 - 25L}{(5 - 25L)^2 + 100} \quad \text{and} \quad B = \frac{10}{(5 - 25L)^2 + 100}.$$

The steady-state periodic response is therefore

$$Q(t) = \frac{5 - 25L}{(5 - 25L)^2 + 100} \cos(5t) + \frac{10}{(5 - 25L)^2 + 100} \sin(5t).$$

- (b) (2 Points.) Find the amplitude of the steady-state periodic response from part (a), and then determine the value of inductance  $L$  that maximizes it.

Solution: the steady-state response amplitude is  $R = \sqrt{A^2 + B^2}$  or

$$R = \sqrt{\frac{(5 - 25L)^2 + 100}{[(5 - 25L)^2 + 100]^2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(5 - 25L)^2 + 100}}.$$

Maximizing this is the same as minimizing the quantity under the radical, which occurs when  $5 - 25L = 0$  or

$$L = \frac{1}{5} = 0.2 \text{ Henries.}$$