

Question Section 6.3, Question 2

Find the current in the RLC circuit, assuming that $E(t) = 0$ for $t > 0$

$$R = 2 \text{ ohms}; L = 0.05 \text{ henrys}; C = 0.01 \text{ Farads}; Q_0 = 2 \text{ Coulombs}, I_0 = -2 \text{ A}$$

Kirchoff's Law states that the sum of the voltage drops in a closed RLC circuit equals the impressed voltage.

$$L I' + R I + \frac{1}{C} Q = E(t)$$

This can be further translated into $L Q'' + R Q' + \frac{1}{C} Q = E(t)$, since it is implied that $I = Q'$

• Firstly, $E(t) = 0$; $E(t) = E_0 \cos \omega t$

$$L Q'' + R Q' + \frac{1}{C} Q = E_0 \cos \omega t$$

$$\therefore L Q'' + R Q' + \frac{1}{C} Q = 0$$

plug in values given

$$0.05 Q'' + 2 Q' + \frac{1}{0.01} Q = 0$$

$$0.05 Q'' + 2 Q' + 100 Q = 0$$

↓

Characteristic equation

$$0.05 D^2 + 2D + 100 = 0 \quad (\text{divide by } 0.05)$$

$$D^2 + 40D + 2000 = 0$$

$$D = -20 + 40i$$

General
Solution = $Q(t) = e^{-20t} [C_1 \cos(40t) + C_2 \sin(40t)]$

So $Q(t) = e^{-20t} [C_1 \cos(40t) + C_2 \sin(40t)]$

$t = 0 \quad Q(0) = 2$

$Q(0) = e^0 [C_1 \cos(0) + C_2 \sin(0)] = 2$

$\therefore C_1 = 2$

$I(t) = Q'(t) = -20e^{-20t} [C_1 \cos(40t) + C_2 \sin(40t)] +$
 $e^{-20t} [-40C_1 \sin(40t) + 40C_2 \cos(40t)]$

We know $I_0 = -2$ Amperes, so set equations equal to each other; then find $Q'(0)$

$-2 = Q'(0) = -20e^0 [C_1 \cos(0) + C_2 \sin(0)] +$
 $e^0 [-40C_1 \sin(0) + 40C_2 \cos(0)]$

$-2 = -20[2] + 40C_2$

$-2 + 40 = 40C_2$

$C_2 = \frac{38}{40} = \frac{19}{20}$

$\therefore Q(t) = e^{-20t} \left[2\cos(40t) + \frac{19}{20}\sin(40t) \right]$
