Lab 11: Relaxation oscillators













Relaxation oscillators:

Cycle of adding and dissipating energy

Asymmetric, non-sinusoidal time behavior

Examples:

- Laser physics
- Heart muscle
- Vocal cords
- Predator-prey population cycles



B. van der Pol (1889-1959)



Determine charging rate Don't use impedance $Z = 1/j\omega C$









Storing and releasing energy with a capacitor: Capacitive discharge ignition







V– greater than V+

Output drives to negative ∞ Clamped at -15V of power supply



V+ greater than V-

Output drives to positive ∞ Clamped at +15V of power supply





Voltage divider: R1 = R2

$$V = \frac{1}{2} V_{OUT} = +7.5V \text{ or } -7.5V$$



Add RC feedback to inverting input

V– can't follow V_{OUT} instantly

Capacitor charges with τ = R3C









Slewing: Op-Amp cannot switch instantly

Limits the maximum oscillator frequency



555 Timer Chip



Make rectangular wave relaxation oscillator

Period adjustable with R and C

Set from microseconds to hours

Adjustable duty cycle: T_{ON} / Period



VI Server Architecture

- Programatically control Front Panel objects
 [These objects are in the Control Class]
- Programatically edit properties of a running VI [These objects are in the VI Class]

Objects have **PROPERTIES** and **METHODS**

PROPERTIES are attributes of an object (eg. color, size, visibility, etc) **METHODS** are actions or operations of an object (eg. initializing a control)

PROPERTIES are changed programatically with **PROPERTY NODES** METHODS are changed programatically with **INVOKE NODES**