Physics 364 – Fall 2010



Lectures: M,W 2:00-3:30 Lab: M 5:00-9:00

Lecture: M 2:00-3:00 Lab: Mon,Thu 5:00-9:00

Instructor: Bill Ashmanskas

Lab Instructor: Jose Vithayathil



Goal: fun & useful course

- understand what electronics is good for
- know how to use common components & instruments: oscilloscope, op-amp, ADC/DAC, digital logic,
- know enough to be confident learning more on your own
- know how to build solutions to lab/project problems you may encounter later in your career
- enjoy time spent in lab -- change of pace
- develop your debugging skills

Who am I? Why am I here?

- Was student in 1991 Horowitz/Hill/Hayes electronics course ("physics 123") at Harvard.
 - It's so much fun that MIT students cross-register!
- Was teaching assistant in 1992 for similar course at U.C. Berkeley
 - UCB course put less emphasis on fun, regrettably, but I enjoyed helping students debug circuits
- Have spent most of my 12 years since Ph.D. doing physics-related instrumentation
- Prof. Kroll arranged for me to teach P364 during his sabbatical



OF experiment at Fermilab

188

C



2 meters

Reduces gigabytes/second to megabytes/second Peak (avg): 20 (0.5) GB/s - 100 (1.5) MB/s





Fermilab accelerator complex, about 30 miles west of Chicago

Full-body Time-of-Flight (TOF) Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scanner, downstairs in DRL

- To a large degree, pace of experimental science is set by progress in instrumentation
 - Example: the LHC is about to open a new window into the physics of weak interactions, dark matter,
- Electronics is a key component of instrumentation:
 - recording physical phenomena for analysis;
 - manipulating beams, telescopes;
- To be a good experimenter, it can be a big help to be comfortable with electronics
- Even if you're not an experimenter, part of the joy of being a physicist is understanding how things work, to decompose things to building blocks
 - I think this curiosity can encompass both natural phenomena and human-made gadgets

Syllabus – what I aim to cover

- Ohm, Kirchoff, voltage dividers, equivalent circuits, input & output resistance; lab intro; LTspice; diodes
- impedance (complex), filters, frequency domain; transformer, diode rectification, power supply
- op amps, feedback; applications; limitations
- transistors (bipolar junction), transistor amplifiers
- FETs, analog switches, sample & hold
- binary numbers, digital representation, sampling, using ADC and DAC in LabView
- digital logic, CMOS gates, logic families, combinational logic

Syllabus – continued

- flip-flops, counters, shift registers, other basic sequential logic
- RAM, FSM, microprocessor (concept anyway), programmable logic
- ADCs, DACs
- final projects
- if time/interest:
 - noise, interference, grounding/shielding
 - phase-locked loops, frequency modulation
 - synthesizer, mixer, heterodyne receiver
 - microcontrollers
 - data buses, parallel & serial interconnects

Grading

35% – lab write-ups (do ~ 90% in lab)

35% – weekly homework problems, SPICE simulations, etc.

15% – reading quizzes (start of lecture) or online questions (day before lecture)

15% – final project

no exams

no cramming – need to keep up week by week no stress – but lots of material to cover

Textbook

- If it existed already, we would probably use the 3rd edition of Horowitz & Hill, due out next year or so
 - HH is a handy reference to keep on one's shelf, but the 2nd edition is 20 years old now
- Instead, I bought a dozen used copies of D.V. Bugg's book, <u>1st edition</u>, online – will loan out for semester





Labs

- First lab will be Monday evening, 9/13, 5-9pm.
 - measuring I vs. V; voltage dividers; lab instruments; diodes as nonlinear circuit elements
- If you have a notebook computer, it may be helpful to bring it on Monday:
 - take lab notes using whatever program you prefer
 - I can help you to download & install LTspice
 - runs natively on windows
 - works well under WINE on Linux
 - can be made to run on Mac using WINE or in virtual machine
- USB memory stick will be helpful for using the lab's built-in PCs

Important scheduling question!

• Thursday evening lab time slot is also available

- I think you will learn far more from time in lab than from lectures
 - actively building and debugging circuits with instructor(s) and lab partners

- VS.

• passively listening to lectures

- If everyone agrees, we can do 2 labs + 1 lecture per week instead of 1 lab + 2 lectures.
 - Decide by consensus 1~2 weeks from now

First assignment

- You will find Chapter 1 of Horowitz & Hill on the course Blackboard site
 - Read pages 1—20 (first half of chapter)
- Also read Bugg ch1, ch2, and sections 9.1-9.4
- Read all of this before Monday's lecture

- Homework #1 on blackboard site, due at start of next Wednesday's lecture
 - If you've done the reading, the homework should take you less than an hour

Open ended

- Poll what do you want to learn in this course?
 - What do you already know about electronics?
- LTspice demo

• Radio demo?

• Content of lab reports



- voltage (potential), current, ohm's law
- kirchoff's laws conservation of energy, charge
- series, parallel reductions eqns seldom necessary
- tricks: r+R~R, r//R~r, R||R=R/2, R||(R/2)=R/3
- voltage divider (ubiquitous)
- model "black box" signal sources with thevenin (or norton) equivalents
 - leads to *output resistance* concept (later, *impedance*)
 - can the source easily drive the load? or does the load cause the source to droop?
 - later, see how to fix this with *buffer amplifier*
- diode: example of non-ohmic device
 - often taylor expand \rightarrow quiescent + small signal



















