

The Shortcomings of Popularity ...

It doesn't work unless you're upholding tunnel vision, aka: the status quo.



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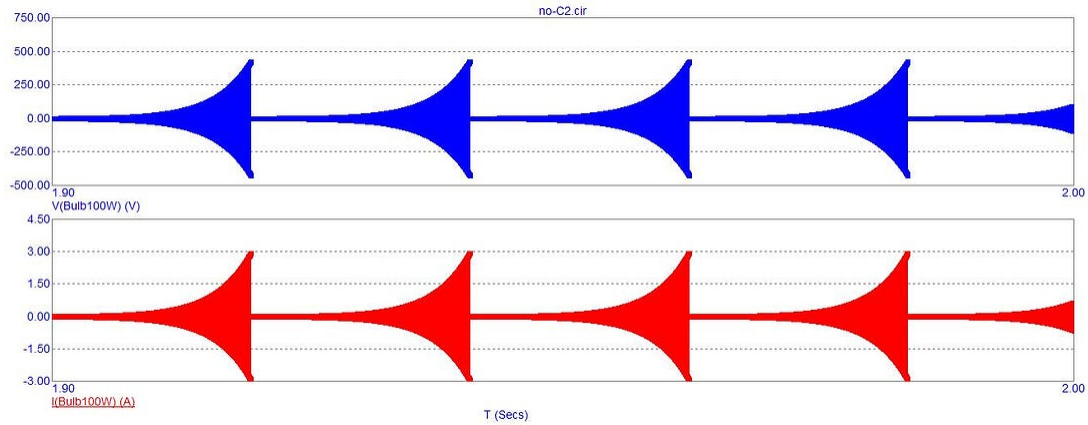
JUL 29, 2026

I went to LTSpice groups yesterday and gathered this simulation from one of my prior postings there and was annoyed by being reminded how idiotic it is to expect LTSpice to give me workable results since I have also posted how dissatisfied I have been with its behavioral limitations.

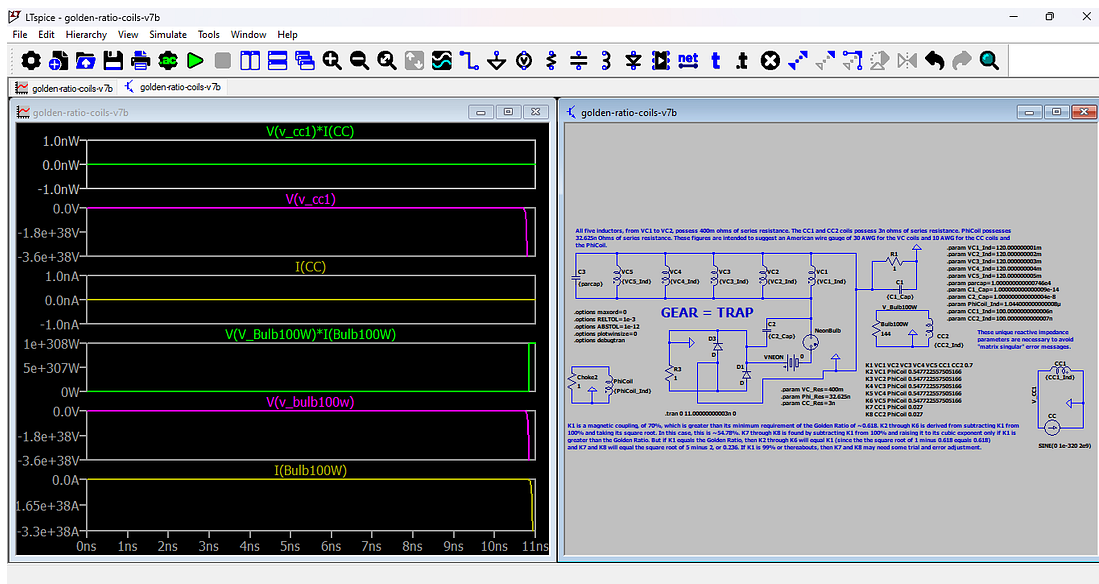
But chaos need not be outlandish. It will be if simulators are not designed properly, such as LTSpice, to handle parasitic oscillations which I encourage, develop and manage.

But, today, I opened up the 'sub' file for LTSpice's neon bulb and made a shocking discovery that it merely contains two switches plus a resistor and a capacitor. That's it!

With simplicity like that, how can it deliver this nicely curvaceous plot (which does not terminate at infinity) ...



... when all LTSpice can deliver is an explosion to infinity (1e+308; the limit of double-precision accuracy) ...



When we take a look at the sub of LTSpice's neon bulb, we see this text:

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*

.subckt neonbulb 1 2

```
S1 1 2 2 N001 G
S2 2 1 N001 2 G
R1 1 N001 100Meg
C1 N001 2 {Tau/100Meg}

.model G SW(Ron={Zon} Roff=1T Vt={.5*(Vstrike+Vhold)} Vh={.5*(Vstrike-
Vhold)} Vser={Vhold-lhold*Zon})

.param Vstrike=100 Vhold=50 Zon=2K lhold=200u Tau=100u

.ends neonbulb
```

S1 and S2 are switches, R1 is a fixed resistor and C1 is a fixed resistor. The only dynamics of this 'sub' is the ON versus OFF condition of its two switches.

That's digital logic in a nutshell.

It's no surprise that Linear Technology promotes the sales of its digital logic chips by giving away LTSpice for free since this software is simplistically digital in that all it can simulate, when it comes to neon bulbs, is whether they turn ON or OFF.

LTSpice is a Scam!

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LTSpice is a scam. They are in the business of making money. How they accelerate their profits will depend upon how often you fry their chips inside of your digital devices. They encourage you to use...

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Yet, Micro-Cap's neon bulb is a much more sophisticated component predicated on a surge arrester:

Siemens A81-C90X Gas-Filled Surge Arrester/Arrestor Overview

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It's no small wonder that I get better results simulating [this type of circuit within Micro-Cap](#) (attached file) based on the properties of the golden ratio without being limited to the value of the golden ratio.

So, the engineering students of today are being weened away from analog circuits in favor of where their paycheck will arise from working with digital electronics (since I am told), by engineers on forums — such as: EEV Blog and the LTSpice Group, to question my persistence of using Micro-Cap since LTSpice makes it so much more difficult to produce similar results.

Yeah, but for what reason? Conservation of Energy... Or, Conservation of Mediocrity?