A Note to the Student

This may be your first course in electrical engineering. Although electrical engineering is an exciting and challenging discipline, the course may intimidate you. This book was written to prevent that. A good textbook and a good professor are an advantage—but you are the one who does the learning. If you keep the following ideas in mind, you will do very well in this course.

- This course is the foundation on which most other courses in the electrical engineering curriculum rest. For this reason, put in as much effort as you can. Study the course regularly.
- Problem solving is an essential part of the learning process. Solve as many problems as you can. Begin by solving the practice problem following each example, and then proceed to the end-of-chapter problems. The best way to learn is to solve a lot of problems. An asterisk in front of a problem indicates a challenging problem.
- *Spice*, a computer circuit analysis program, is used throughout the textbook. *Pspice*, the personal computer version of *Spice*, is the popular standard circuit analysis program at most universities. Make an effort to learn *Pspice*, because you can check any circuit problem with *Pspice* and be sure you are handing in a correct problem solution.
- *MATLAB* is another software that is very useful in circuit analysis and other courses you will be taking. The best way to learn *MATLAB* is to start working with it once you know a few commands.
- Each chapter ends with a section on how the material covered in the chapter can be applied to real-life situations. The concepts in this section may be new and advanced to you. No doubt, you will learn more of the details in other courses. We are mainly interested in gaining a general familiarity with these ideas.
- Attempt the review questions at the end of each chapter. They will help you discover some "tricks" not revealed in class or in the textbook.
- Clearly a lot of effort has gone into making the technical details in this book easy to understand. It also contains all the mathematics and physics necessary to understand the theory and will be very useful in your other engineering courses. However, we have also focused on creating a reference for you to use both in school as well as when working in industry or seeking a graduate degree.
- It is very tempting to sell your book after you have completed your classroom experience; however, our advice to you is *DO NOT SELL YOUR ENGINEERING BOOKS!* Books have always been expensive, however, the cost of this book is virtually the same as I paid for my circuits text back in the early 60s in terms of real dollars. In fact, it is actually cheaper. In addition, engineering books of the past are no where near as complete as what is available now. When I was a student, I did not sell any of my engineering textbooks and was very glad I did not! I found that I needed most of them throughout my career.

A short review on finding determinants is covered in Appendix A, complex numbers in Appendix B, and mathematical formulas in Appendix C. Answers to odd-numbered problems are given in Appendix E.

Have fun!

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