
Amplitude Modulator Macro

Amplitude modulation plays a key role in many types of communication systems, the most obvious one being AM radio. In amplitude modulation, a message signal is shifted to a high frequency carrier signal whose frequency coincides with the necessary transmission requirements. The amplitude of this carrier signal is modulated depending on the strength of the message signal.

The usual amplitude modulation is double sideband modulation. In this type of modulation, a DC signal is added to the message signal prior to using it to modulate the carrier signal. Double sideband modulation typically carries the form of:

$$V_s(t) = V_o \cdot (1 + m \cdot V_m(t))$$

where V_o is the DC offset, m is the modulation index, and $V_m(t)$ is the message signal. The modulation index should be set to a value in the range from zero to one where $m=0$ represents no modulation and $m=1$ represents a maximally modulated signal. This modified message signal is then multiplied by the carrier signal to get the final modulated signal such as:

$$V_{\text{mod}}(t) = V_s(t) \cdot V_c(t)$$

where $V_c(t)$ is the carrier signal which is typically a sinusoidal waveform.

The macro model for the amplitude modulator is shown in Figure 1. The macro circuit consists of only a nonlinear function voltage source, E1, which performs the mathematical computations of the modulation. There are five input parameters for this macro: FS, VPeak, ModIndex, Offset, and Type. The FS parameter defines the frequency of the sinusoidal carrier signal. The VPeak parameter sets the peak amplitude of the carrier signal. The ModIndex parameter defines the modulation index, and the Offset parameter sets the offset value that is added to the input signal. These parameters correspond to m and V_o , respectively, in the $V_s(t)$ equation above. The Type parameter determines whether the carrier signal will be a sine or a cosine function.

The most interesting aspect of the macro is the use of the Type parameter. The VALUE attribute of the E1 nonlinear function voltage source has been defined as Type. In the circuit calling the macro, the Type attribute must be defined as either SM for sine modulation or CM for cosine modulation. When an analysis is invoked, either SM or CM will then be substituted into the VALUE attribute of E1 in place of the Type declaration. Define statements within the macro circuit set the equations that are assigned to SM and CM as follows:

```
.define SM Offset*(1+ModIndex*V(In))*VPeak*Sin(2*PI*FS*t)
.define CM Offset*(1+ModIndex*V(In))*VPeak*Cos(2*PI*FS*t)
```

These equations determine the actual modulation expression that will be used. The only difference between the two expressions is that the SM variable uses a sine wave as the carrier waveform, and the CM variable uses a cosine wave. Setting the Type variable to any value besides SM or CM in the calling circuit will produce an error. However, this method is easily expandable if the function source is capable of handling the new expression. For example, if a basic amplitude modulation was needed, a new define statement could be added to the macro such as:

```
.define BM V(In)*VPeak*Sin(2*PI*FS*t)
```



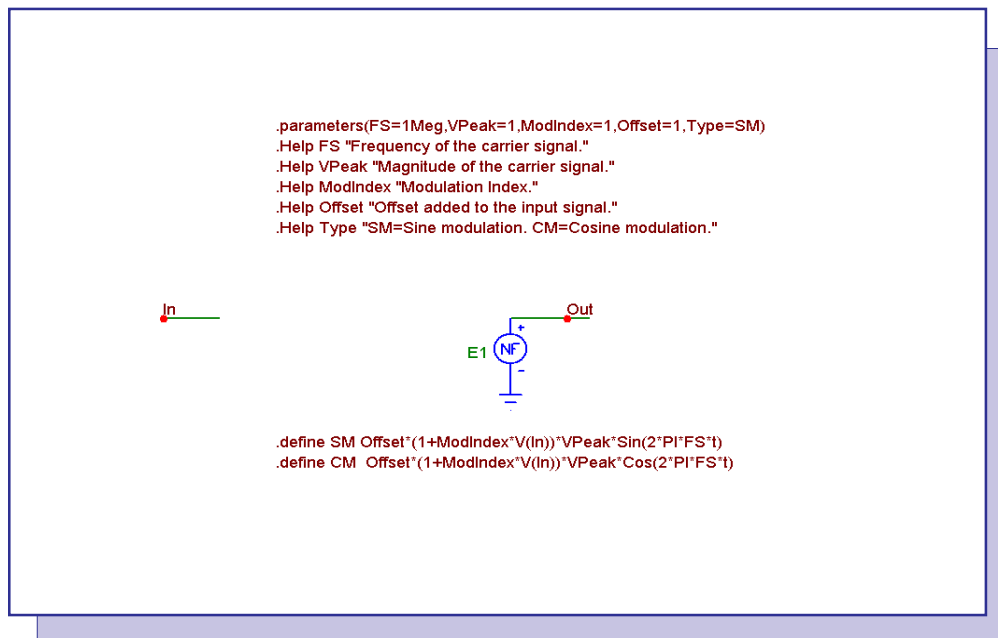


Fig. 1 - Amplitude Modulator Macro

Then BM would become a valid setting for the Type parameter and would invoke the specified expression.

An example circuit using the amplitude modulator macro is displayed in Figure 2. The input to the macro is a 1V, 20kHz sine wave. The macro has its parameters defined as:

FS = 1Meg
VPeak = 1
ModIndex = .5
Offset = 1
Type = SM

The carrier signal is defined as a 1V, 1MHz sine wave. The input signal will be offset by 1V and will use a modulation index of .5. The output of the modulator is then sent to a simplified AM receiver which is essentially acting as a peak detector.

The resulting transient analysis is shown in Figure 3. The waveform V(OutMod) is the signal at the output of the modulator. The information in the modulated signal is carried in the envelope of the waveform. The waveform V(OutRec) is the signal at the output of the receiver. With the simple AM receiver, there is some distortion with the carrier ripple on the rising edge of the waveform, but it is a good overall representation of the adjusted sine wave that was input to the modulator which shows why the peak detector method of retrieval is widely used. More elaborate receivers would of course have tuners, filters, level shifters, and gain stages to more fully reproduce the input signal.

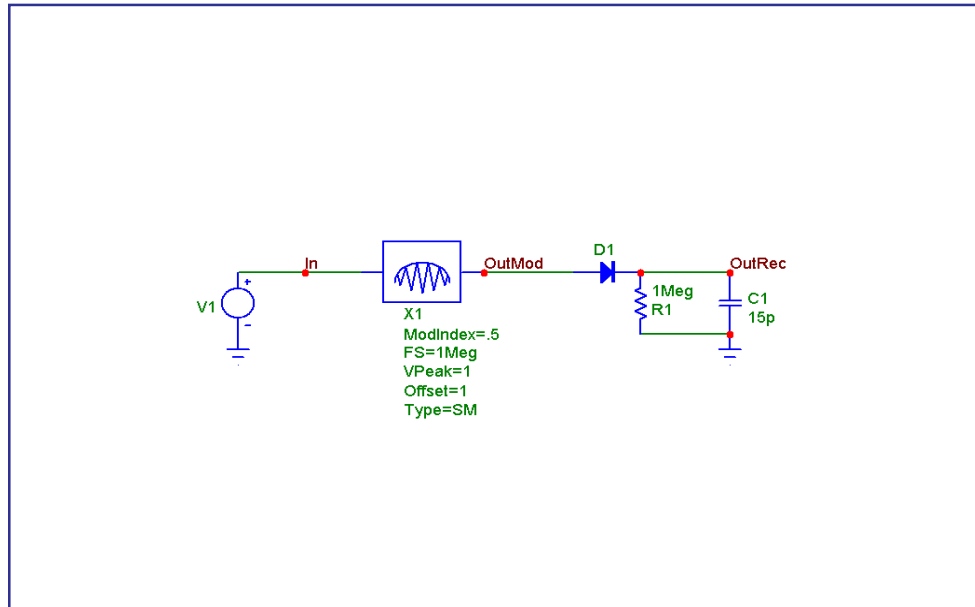


Fig. 2 - Amplitude Modulator Example Circuit

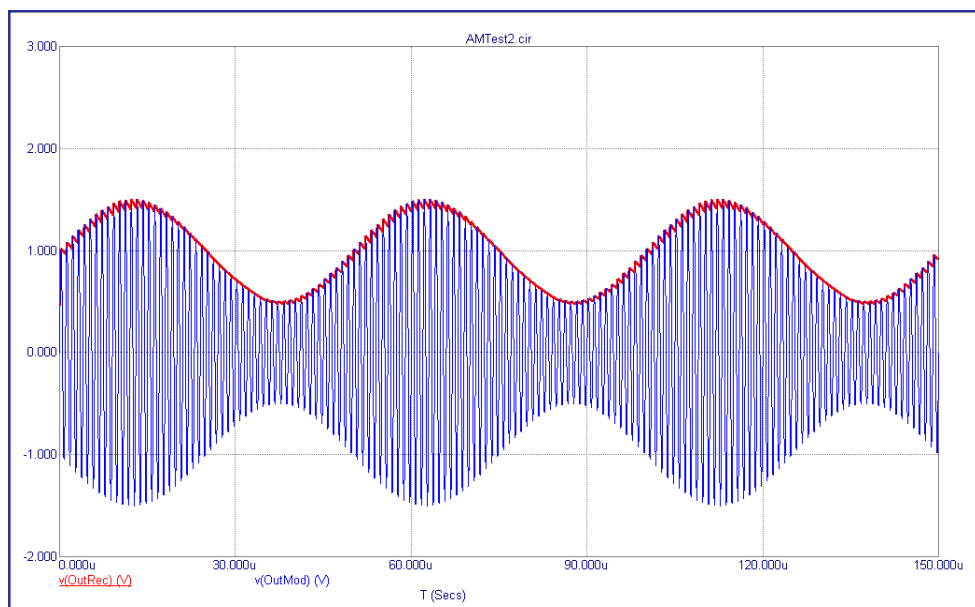


Fig. 3 - Amplitude Modulator Simulation

