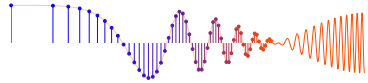

Example 3-5: Amplitude Modulation

If we let $v(t) = 5 + 4\cos(40\pi t)$ and $f_c = 200$ Hz, then the AM signal is a multiplication similar to the beat signal:

$$x(t) = [5 + 4\cos(40\pi t)]\ \cos(400\pi t) \tag{3.14}$$

A plot of this signal is given in Fig. 3-5, where it can be seen that the effect of multiplying the higher-frequency sinusoid (200 Hz) by the lower-frequency sinusoid (at 20 Hz) is to "modulate" (or change) the amplitude envelope of the carrier waveform—hence the name amplitude modulation for a signal like $x(t)$. ■

McClellan, Schafer and Yoder, *Signal Processing First,* ISBN 0-13-065562-7.
Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458.