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Course:  
ELEC ENG 3110 Electric Power Systems  
ELEC ENG 7074 Power Systems PG  
(Semester 2, 2021)  
**Voltage Control**

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# Principles of Steady-State Voltage and Reactive Power Control

- Overview

- **Steady-state Control Requirements:**

- Required to regulate voltages within narrow limits around nominal voltage (e.g.  $\pm 10\%$ )
      - During both:
        - normal operation;
        - steady-state following contingency
      - In normal operation limit voltages to, e.g.  $\pm 5\%$  of nominal, to allow “room” for contingency

- **Voltage variation influenced by reactive power variation**

- Q consumed by **loads** supplied from bulk substations varies daily, seasonally
      - Q compensation usually provided by distribution companies and large consumers
    - Q consumed by **inductive elements** depends on current flow  $Q_{loss} = I^2 X$ 
      - **transformers**
      - **distribution feeders** and **short transmission lines** depends on current:
    - Q both generated and consumed by medium to long length **HV / EHV transmission lines/cables**:

$$Q_{gen} = BV^2 \quad Q_{loss} = I^2 X$$

- Charging varies over a relatively narrow range (e.g.  $\pm 20\%$ ),  $Q_{loss}$  varies over wide range
      - Net loss depends on balance between line current and voltage

# Principles of Steady-State Voltage and Reactive Power Control

- Overview (continued)

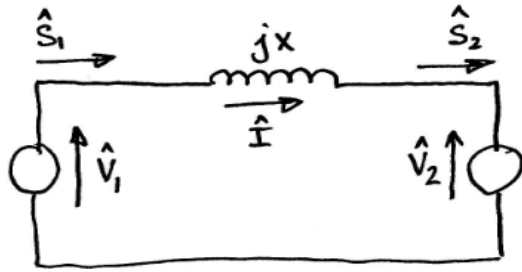
- Voltage control methods:

- Control production, consumption and flow of reactive power throughout system
    - Cannot transmit reactive power long distances
    - Compensating equipment:
      - Continuously acting automatic controls, for example,
        - Synchronous generators -> automatic voltage regulators (AVRs)
        - Static VAR Compensators (SVCs)
        - Static Synchronous Compensator (STATCOM)
        - Grid scale wind- and solar PV farms (many existing controls are discontinuous)  
Q output automatically adjusted to maintain their bus voltages at specified setpoint
      - Discontinuous (closed- and open-loop) controls
        - Switched shunt capacitors and reactors
        - Series capacitors
        - On-load tap-changing (OLTC) transformers
    - Continuous automatic controls => establish specified voltages at specific system nodes
    - Voltages elsewhere determined by P & Q flows through network elements

# Principles of Steady-State Voltage and Reactive Power Control

- **What strategies do we use to**
  - **Specify voltage set-points of voltage-controlling equipment**
  - **Switch reserves of reactive power (both supply and consumption)**
  - **Regulate flows of reactive power**
- **We take as a given power factor correction in distribution systems and industrial plants**

# Review of power flow equations (lossless short line / transformer)



$$\hat{V}_1 = V_1 e^{j\theta_1} \quad \hat{V}_2 = V_2 e^{j\theta_2} \quad \hat{I} = \frac{\hat{V}_1 - \hat{V}_2}{jX}$$

$$\hat{V}_1 = \hat{V}_2 + j\hat{I}X$$

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{S}_1 &= P_1 + jQ_1 = \hat{V}_1 \hat{I}^* \\ &= \hat{V}_1 \left( \frac{\hat{V}_1 - \hat{V}_2}{jX} \right)^* = \frac{V_1^2 - \hat{V}_1 \hat{V}_2^*}{-jX} \\ &= \frac{j}{X} (V_1^2 - V_1 V_2 e^{j\delta}) \quad , \delta = \theta_1 - \theta_2 \\ &= \frac{j}{X} (V_1^2 - V_1 V_2 (\cos \delta + j \sin \delta)) \\ &= \underbrace{\frac{V_1 V_2}{X} \sin \delta}_{P_1} + j \underbrace{\left( \frac{V_1^2}{X} - \frac{V_1 V_2}{X} \cos \delta \right)}_{Q_1} \end{aligned}$$

Exercise:

Show  $P_2 = \frac{V_1 V_2}{X} \sin \delta$

$$Q_2 = \frac{V_1 V_2}{X} \cos \delta - \frac{V_2^2}{X}$$

During normal system operation

$$\delta < \sim 15^\circ$$

$$\therefore \sin \delta \rightarrow \delta \text{ (rad)}$$

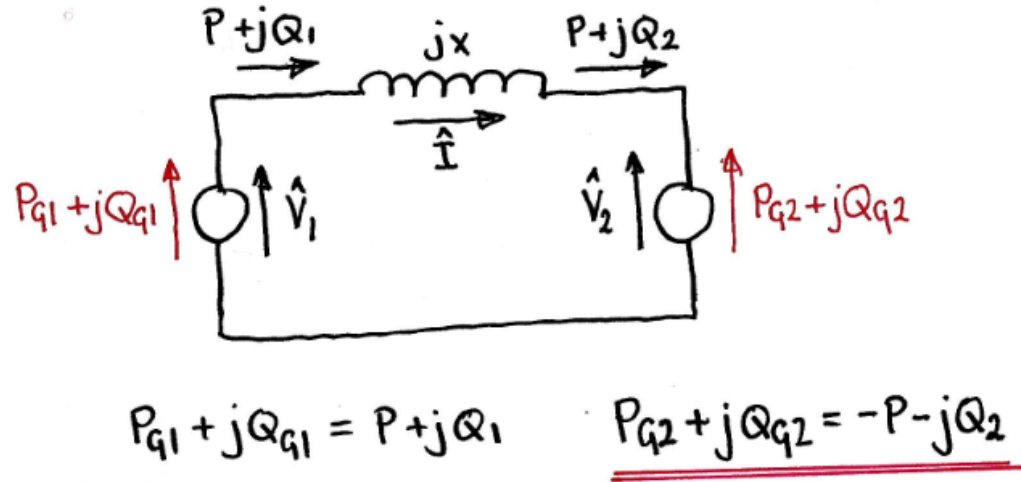
$$\cos \delta \rightarrow 1$$

$$\therefore P_1 = P_2 \simeq \frac{V_1 V_2}{X} \cdot \delta$$

$$Q_1 \simeq \frac{V_1 \Delta V}{X} \quad , \quad Q_2 \simeq \frac{V_2 \Delta V}{X}$$

$$\Delta V = (V_1 - V_2)$$

# Control of reactive power flow by adjusting voltages



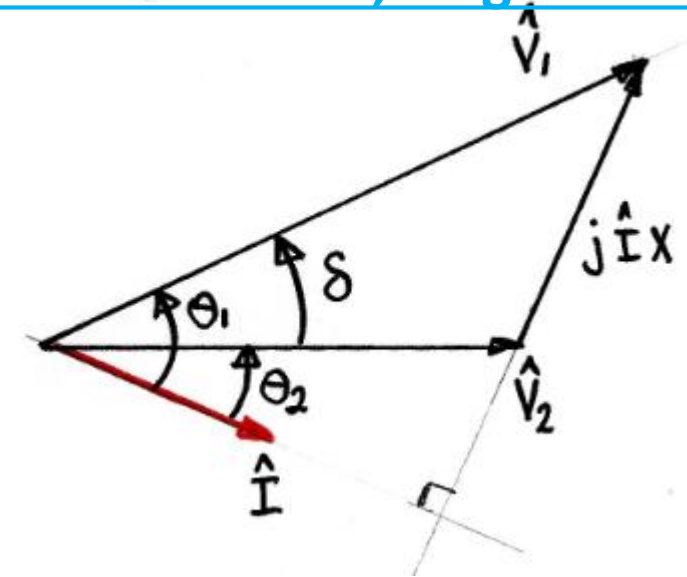
Note that  $P + jQ_2$  is absorbed by G2 (i.e. load convention).  
G2 generates  $P_{G2} = -P$  and  $Q_{G2} = -Q_2$

Assume that:

- $\delta > 0$  so power is transmitted from G1 to G2
- $V_2$  magnitude and phase is fixed

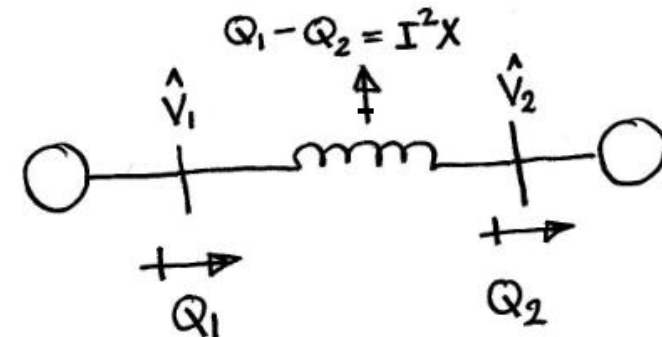
Consider scenarios in which  $V_1 > V_2$ ,  $V_1 = V_2$  and  $V_1 < V_2$   
in terms of phasors

## Scenario 1: $V_1 > V_2$ , $I$ lags $V_1$ and $V_2$



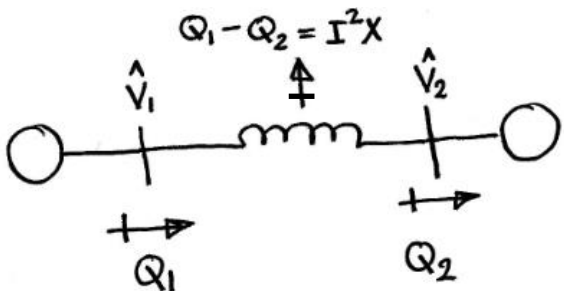
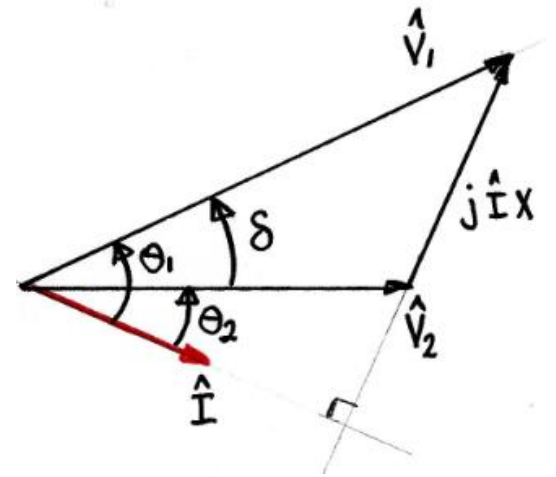
$$Q_1 = V_1 I \sin(\theta_1) \quad Q_2 = V_2 I \sin(\theta_2)$$

Since  $V_1 > V_2$  and  $\theta_1 > \theta_2$  it follows that  $Q_1 > Q_2$



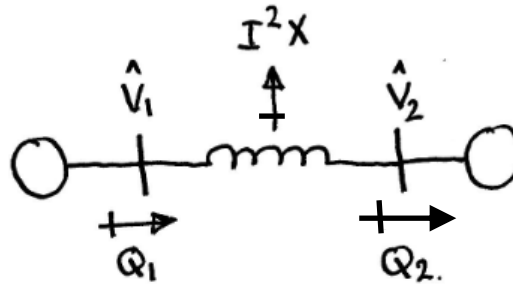
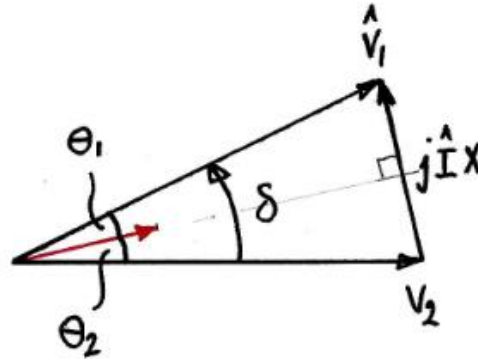
# Control of reactive power flow by adjusting voltages

Scenario 1:  $V_1 > V_2$ ;  
I lags  $V_1$  &  $V_2$



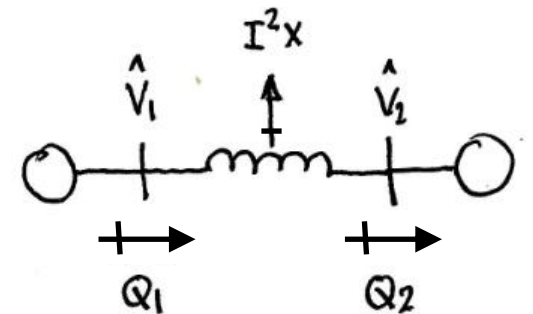
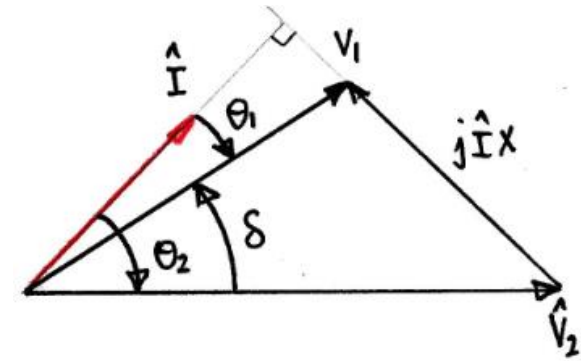
$V_1 > V_2$  ;  $Q_1 > Q_2 > 0$

Scenario 2:  $V_1 = V_2$ ; I lags  $V_1$  & leads  $V_2$   
Desirable condition: Reactive losses provided  
in equal measure by each generator.



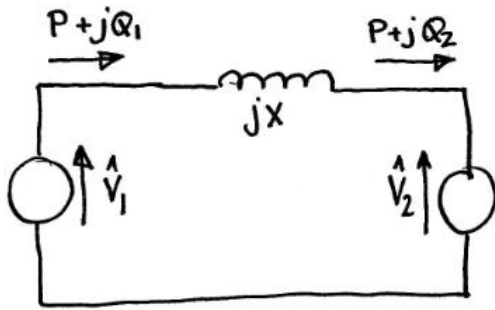
$V_1 = V_2$  ;  $Q_1 = -Q_2 > 0$

Scenario 3:  $V_1 < V_2$ ;  
I leads  $V_1$  &  $V_2$



$V_1 < V_2$  ;  $Q_1 < Q_2 < 0$

# Reactive power flow and losses: Example



Explore effect of variation of  $V_1$  with  $P = P_0 = \text{constant}$ ,  $V_2 = V_{20} = \text{constant}$  on reactive power generation and reactive power losses.

$$P_0 = \frac{V_1 V_{20} \sin \delta}{X} \Rightarrow \sin \delta = \frac{P_0 X}{V_1 V_{20}}$$

$$\cos \delta = \sqrt{1 - \sin^2 \delta} = \sqrt{1 - \left( \frac{P_0 X}{V_1 V_{20}} \right)^2}$$

$$Q_1 = \frac{V_1^2}{X} - \frac{V_1 V_2 \cos \delta}{X}$$

$$Q_2 = \frac{V_1 V_2 \cos \delta}{X} - \frac{V_2^2}{X}$$

$$\underline{Q_{\text{loss}} = Q_1 - Q_2}$$

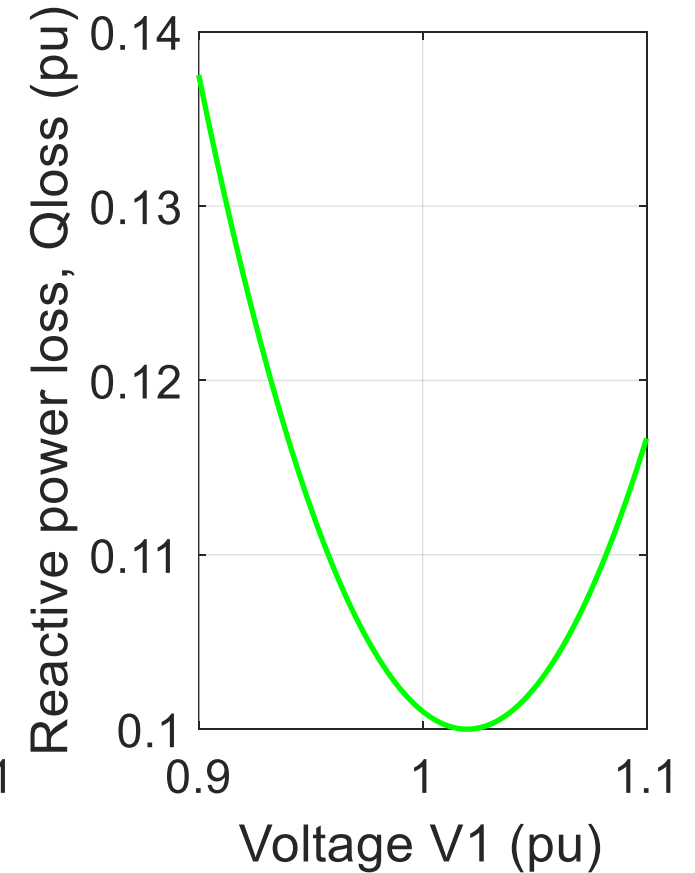
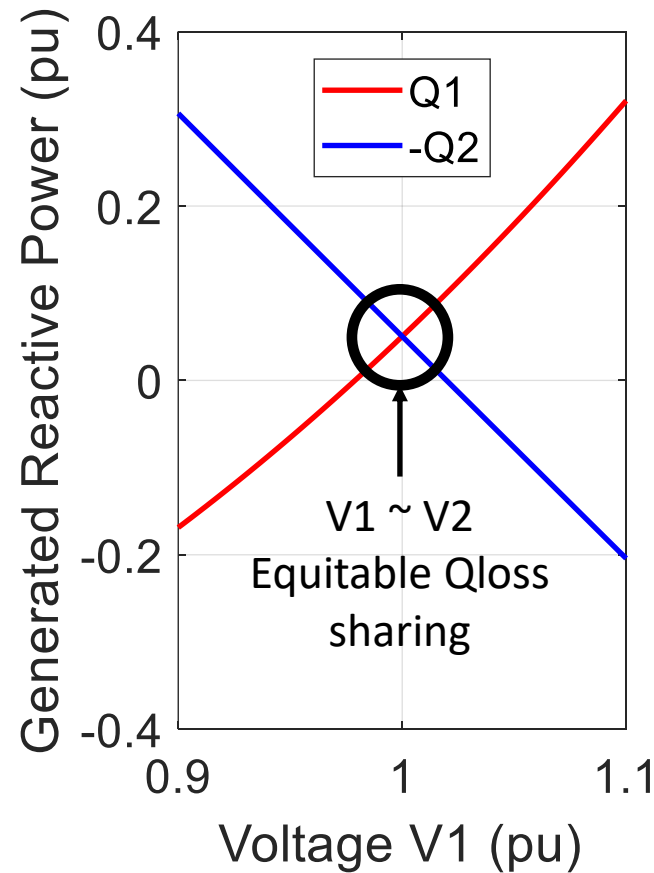
Example:  $X = 0.4 \text{ pu}$ ,  $P = 0.5 \text{ pu}$ ,  $V_2 = 1.0 \text{ pu}$

$Q_1 = -Q_2$  when  $V_1 = V_2 = 1.0 \text{ pu}$ .

When  $V_1 < V_2$ ,  $Q_1 < (-Q_2)$

When  $V_1 > V_2$ ,  $Q_1 > (-Q_2)$

Minimum Qloss:  $V_1 \sim V_2$





# Reactive Power Losses in Reactance: Example

Example:  $X = 0.4$  pu,  $V_2 = 1.0$  pu

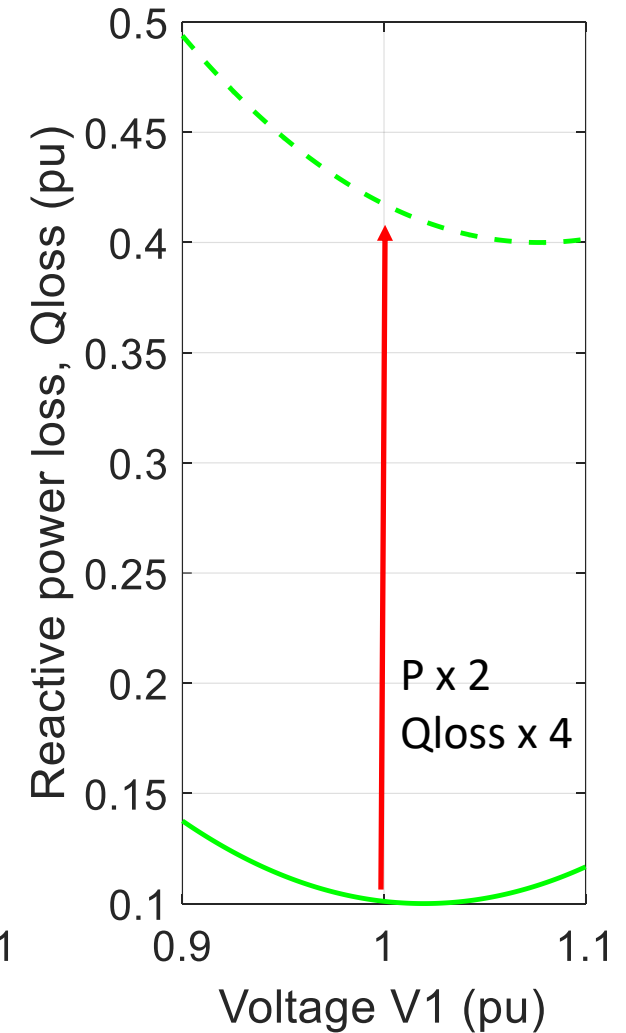
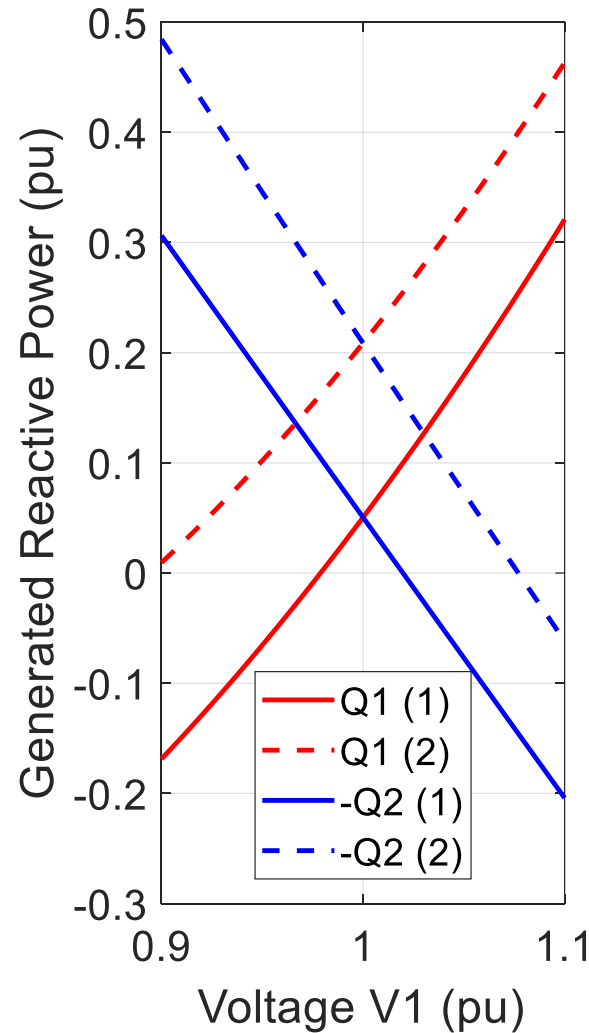
Compare reactive generation and losses for two levels of power transfer:

$P(1) = 0.5$  pu (solid lines),  $P(2) = 1.0$  pu (dashed lines)

$$Q_{\text{loss}} = I^2 X$$

- double current quadruple  $Q_{\text{loss}}$ !

The above observation suggests an important operating principle ...

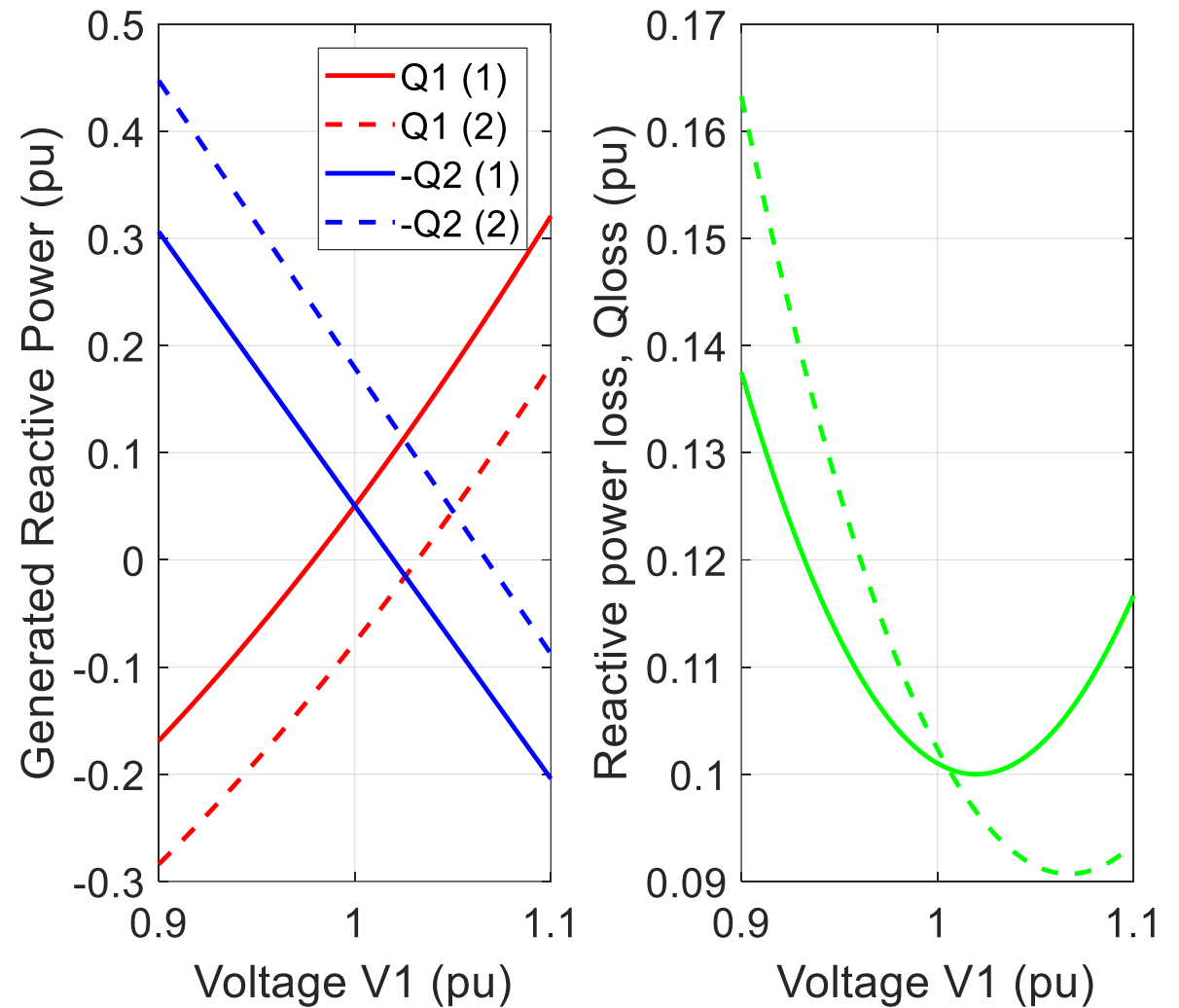


# Reactive Power Losses in Reactance: Example

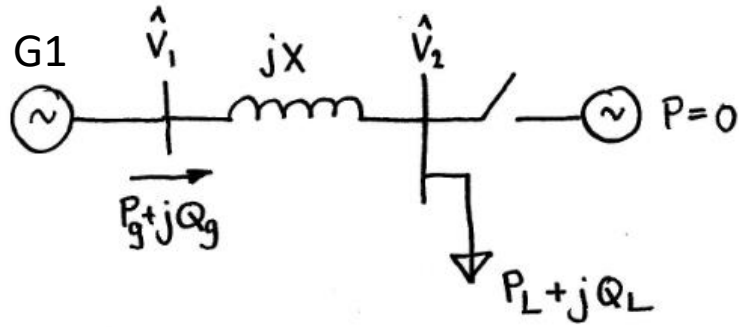
Example:  $X = 0.4$  pu,  $P = 0.5$  pu

Compare reactive generation and losses for  $V_2(1) = 1.0$  (solid) and  $V_2(2) = 1.05$  pu (dashed)

Operate with highest possible voltages to minimize current and hence reactive (& real) losses.



## Supplying a load through a radial line from a generator



Switch open – Uncompensated load

G1 regulates terminal voltage to  $V_1$  &

Power output to  $P_g = P_L$

What is  $Q_g$ ,  $V_2$ ?

$$P_L = \frac{V_1 V_2}{X} \sin \delta, \quad Q_L = \frac{V_1 V_2}{X} \cos \delta - \frac{V_2^2}{X}$$

$$\delta = \text{transmission angle} = \angle \hat{V}_1 - \angle \hat{V}_2$$

$$P_L^2 + \left(Q_L + \frac{V_2^2}{X}\right)^2 = \left(\frac{V_1 V_2}{X}\right)^2 \quad \text{Use: } \sin^2 \delta + \cos^2 \delta = 1$$

$$\therefore V_2^4 - (V_1^2 - 2Q_L X) V_2^2 + (P_L^2 + Q_L^2) X^2 = 0$$

Solve for  $V_2^2$

$$V_2^2 = \frac{b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4c}}{2}$$

$$\text{where } b = V_1^2 - 2Q_L X, \quad c = (P_L^2 + Q_L^2) X^2$$

$$V_2 = \sqrt{\frac{b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4c}}{2}}$$

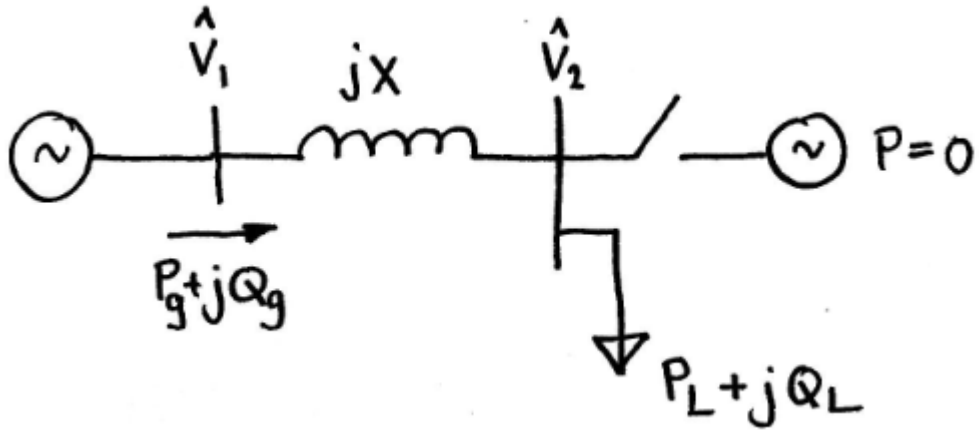
Require  $b^2 \geq 4c$  otherwise load cannot be supplied. That is:

$$-P_L^2 - \frac{V_1^2 Q_L}{X} + \left(\frac{V_1^2}{2X}\right)^2 \geq 0$$

Note that if  $b^2 > 4c$  there are two solutions for the load bus voltage.

If  $b^2 = 4c$  there is a single solution.

## Example: Maximum uncompensated demand supplied through a radial line



Find maximum load,  $P_L + jQ_L$ , that can be supplied from a generator through a radial line. Assume that:

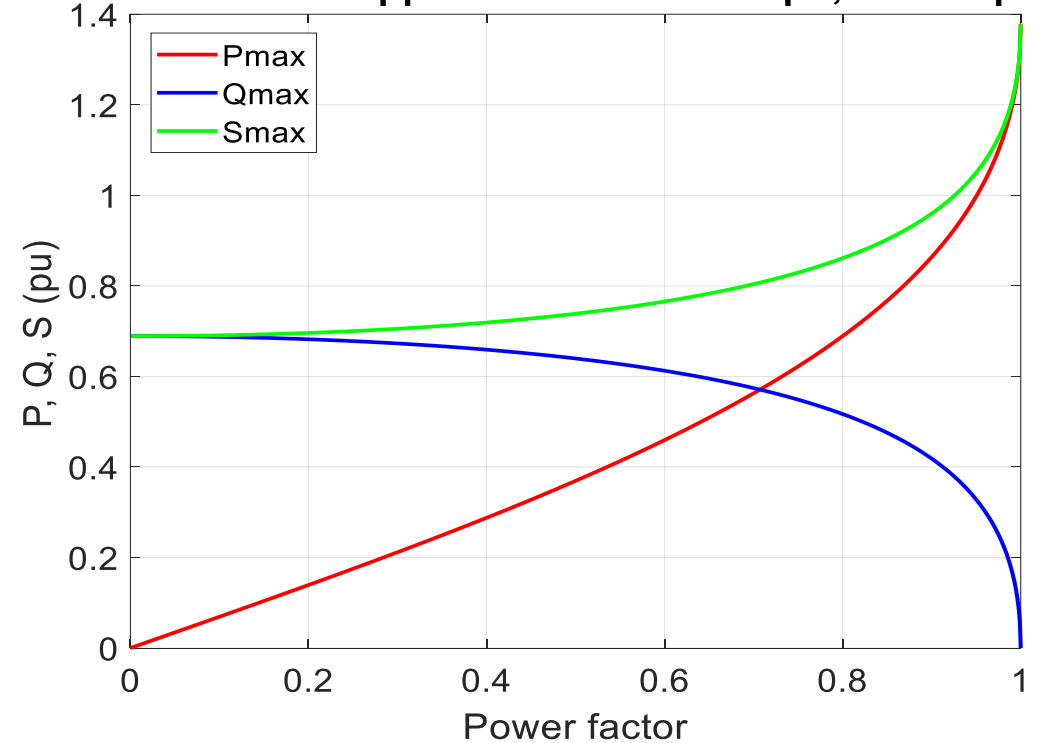
$$Q_L = P_L \tan(\varphi) \text{ where } \varphi = \arccos(\text{pf})$$

Using  $b^2 - 4c = 0$  from the previous slide obtain following equation for determining  $P_{\max}$ .

$$P_{\max}^2 + \left( \frac{V_1^2 \tan(\varphi)}{X} \right) P_{\max} - \left( \frac{V_1^2}{2X} \right) = 0$$

Example parameters:  $V_1 = 1.05 \text{ pu}$ ,  $X = 0.4 \text{ pu}$  used in solution of  $P_{\max}$  with lagging power factors (pf) from 0 to 1.

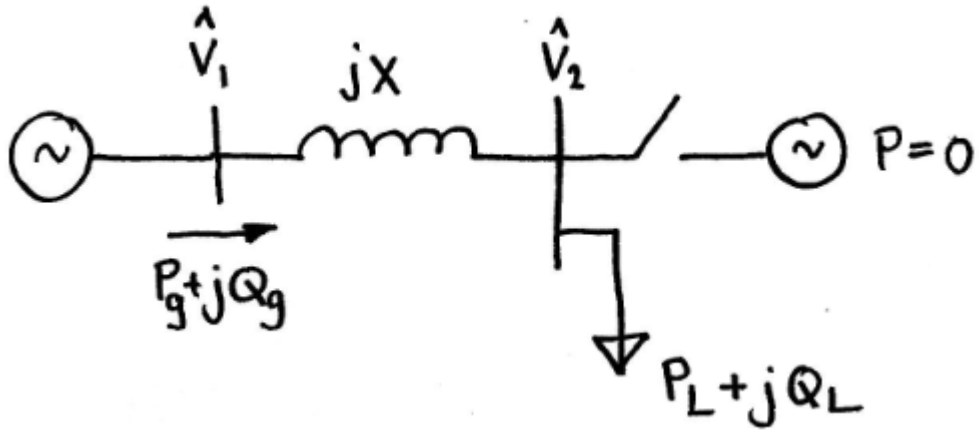
Maximum power, reactive power and apparent power that can be supplied with  $V_1 = 1.05 \text{ pu}$ ,  $X = 0.4 \text{ pu}$



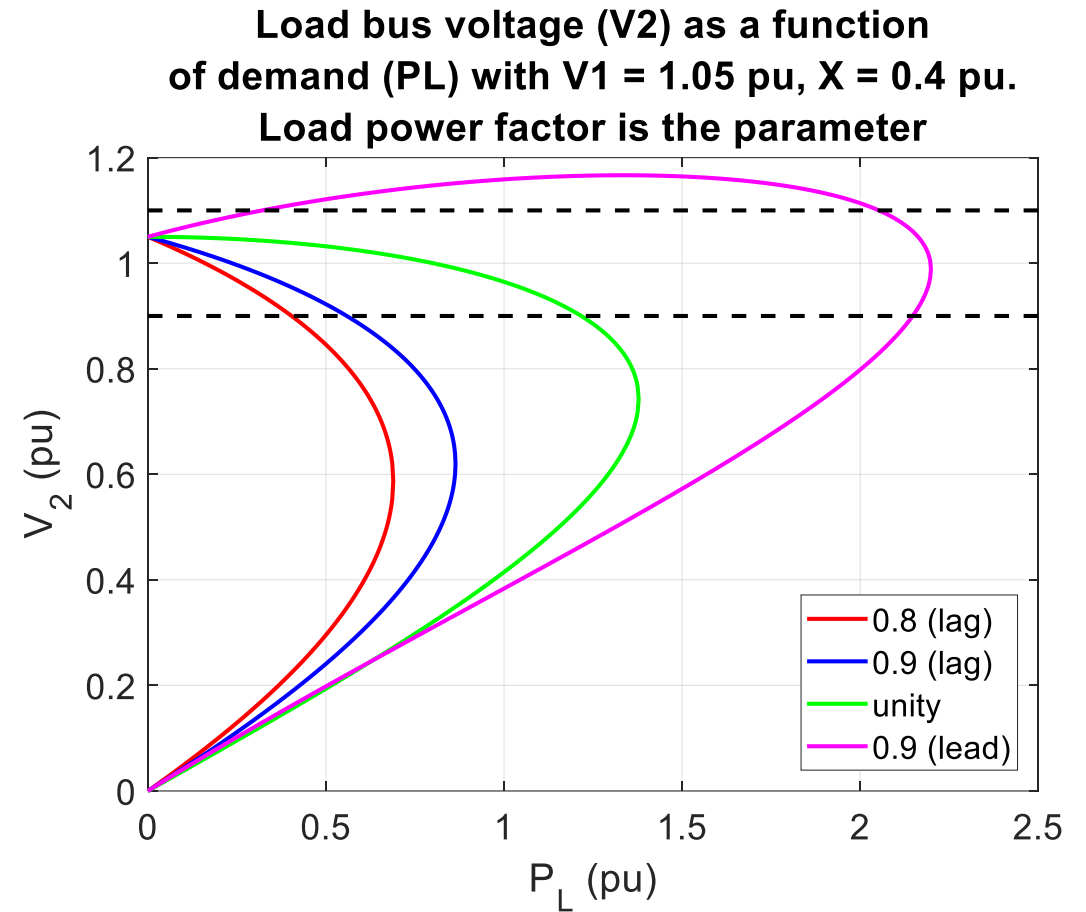
Note: With  $\text{pf} = 0$ , (i.e.  $P = 0$ )  $Q_{\max} = \left( \frac{V_1^2}{4X} \right) = 0.69 \text{ pu}$

and  $\text{pf} = 1$  (i.e.  $Q = 0$ )  $P_{\max} = \left( \frac{V_1^2}{2X} \right) = 1.38 \text{ pu}$

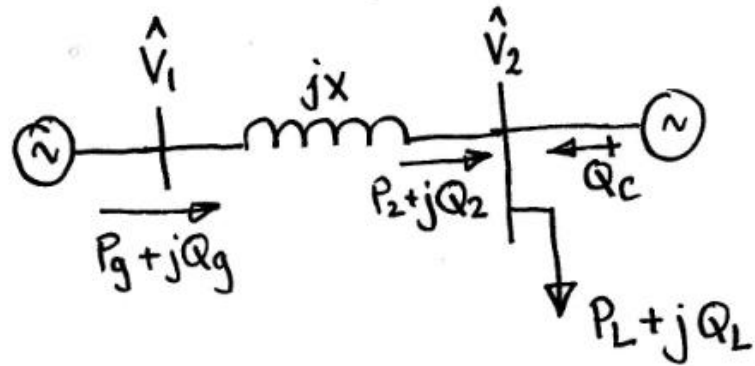
## Example: PV characteristics for radially fed uncompensated load



- PV curves calculated for uncompensated load,  $P_L + jQ_L$  supplied from a generator through a radial line.
- The parameters in the previous example are used and the formula for  $V_1$  derived in slide 11 is used to compute  $P(V)$ .
- For each curve the load power factor is maintained constant as  $P_L$  is increased.
- Curves are plotted for four power factors.



## Example: Find Q compensation to achieve specified load voltage



$$Q_2 + Q_c = Q_L$$

$$\therefore Q_c = Q_L - Q_2$$

$$Q_2 = \frac{V_1 V_2}{X} \cos \delta - \frac{V_2^2}{X}$$

$$\therefore Q_c = Q_L - \frac{V_1 V_2}{X} \cos \delta + \frac{V_2^2}{X} \quad (1)$$

$$P_L = \frac{V_1 V_2}{X} \sin \delta \Rightarrow \sin \delta = \frac{P_L X}{V_1 V_2}$$

$$\therefore \cos \delta = \sqrt{1 - \left( \frac{P_L X}{V_1 V_2} \right)^2} \quad (2)$$

Substitute (2) in (1)

$$Q_c = Q_L - \frac{V_1 V_2}{X} \sqrt{1 - \left( \frac{P_L X}{V_1 V_2} \right)^2} + \frac{V_2^2}{X}$$

Example :  $V_1 = 1.05 \text{ pu}$ ,  $X = 0.4 \text{ pu}$

$P_L = 1.5 \text{ pu}$  @  $0.9 \text{ pf lag}$

Require  $V_2 = 1.05 \text{ pu}$ .

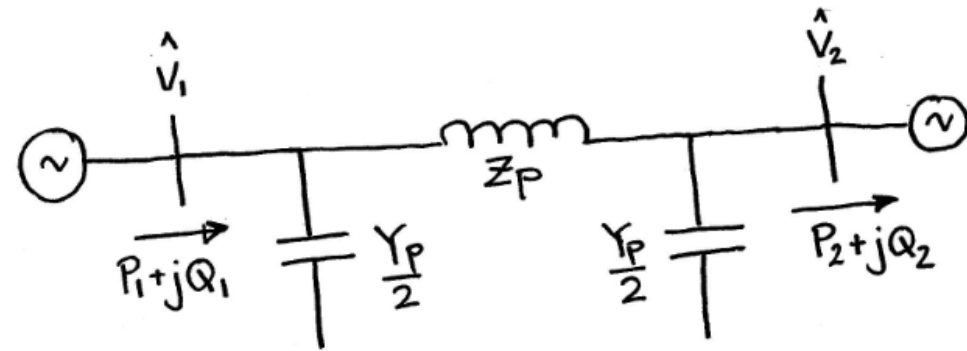
$$Q_L = 1.5 \times \tan(\arccos(0.9)) = 0.7265 \text{ pu}$$

$$\therefore Q_c = 0.7265 - \frac{1.05^2}{0.4} \sqrt{1 - \left( \frac{1.5 \times 0.4}{(1.05)^2} \right)^2} + \frac{1.05^2}{0.4}$$

$$Q_c = 1.1704 \text{ pu}$$

## Effect of line charging on reactive power flows

- Medium – long HV transmission lines have significant shunt capacitance
- Lightly loaded lines (relative to SIL) tend to be net generators of reactive power
- Heavily loaded lines (relative to SIL) tend to be net consumers of reactive power
- Terminals of such lines must have the capability to both **generate** and **absorb** reactive power depending on line loading.
- Radially fed load may require inductive compensation under light load conditions.



Example: 200 km line, 330 kV, 50 Hz

$$X_L = 0.306 \, \Omega/\text{ph}/\text{km}, \quad B_c = 3.764 \times 10^{-6} \, \text{U}/\text{ph}/\text{km}$$

Assume loss less line

$$Z_c = \sqrt{\frac{L}{C}} = \sqrt{\frac{X_L}{B_c}} = \sqrt{\frac{0.306}{3.764 \times 10^{-6}}} = 285.1 \, \Omega$$

$$\therefore \text{SIL} = \frac{V_o^2}{Z_c} = \frac{330^2}{285.1} = 382 \, \text{MW}$$

$$Z_P = jX_L \times 200 \, \text{km} = j0.306 \times 200 = 61.2 \, \Omega$$

$$\frac{Y_P}{2} = j \frac{B_c \times 200 \, \text{km}}{2} = j \frac{3.764 \times 10^{-6} \times 100}{2} = 3.764 \times 10^{-4} \, \text{U}$$



## Effect of line charging on reactive power flows

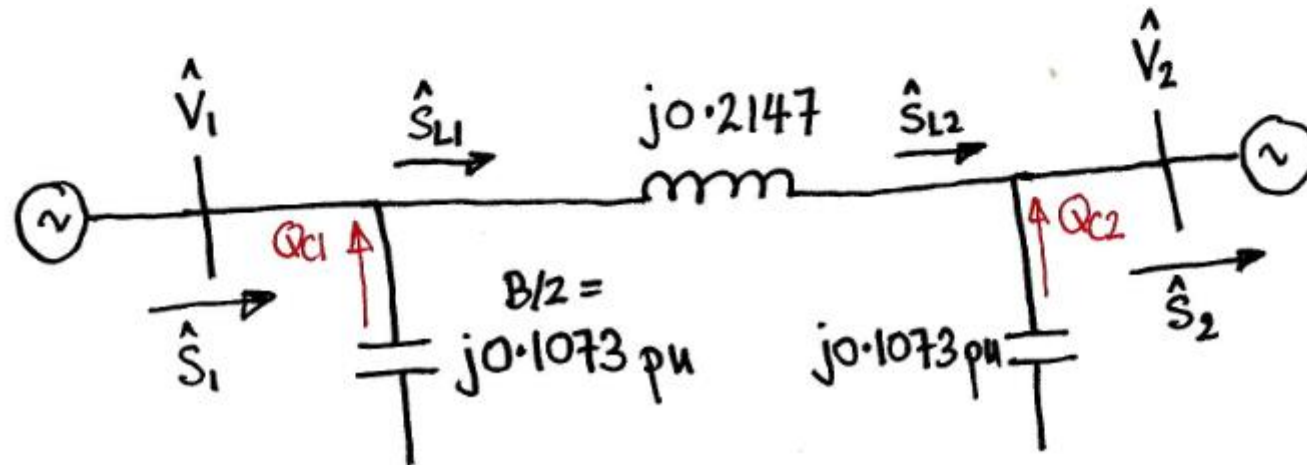
Use SIL as MVA base and  $V_{base} = 330 \text{ kV (l-l, rms)}$

$$Z_{base} = \frac{330^2}{382} = 285.08 \text{ } \Omega / \text{ph.}$$

$$Z_p = j \frac{61.2}{285.08} = j0.2147 \text{ pu}$$

$$\frac{Y_p}{2} = j3.764 \times 10^{-4} \times Z_{base} = j0.1073 \text{ pu}$$

- Series reactance  $X = 0.2147 \text{ pu}$  absorbs reactive power
- Shunt susceptance  $B/2 = 0.1073$  at each end of the line generates reactive power ( $Q_c = (B/2) \cdot V^2$ )
- Voltages are near 1.0 pu. Therefore reactive power generation ( $Q_c$ ) by line approximately  $B_c/2 \text{ pu}$  at each end.
- Series reactive power consumption  $I^2 X$  varies depending on loading.





## Effect of line charging on reactive power flows

Suppose  $P_2 = 100 \text{ MW} = \frac{100}{382} = 0.2618 \text{ pu}$

and  $\hat{V}_1 = 1.05 \angle \delta$ ,  $\hat{V}_2 = 1.05 \angle 0$  pu.

Find  $Q_1$  and  $Q_2$  delivered by the respective generators.

$$P = \frac{V_1 V_2}{X} \sin \delta \Rightarrow \delta = \arcsin\left(\frac{PX}{V_1 V_2}\right) =$$
$$= \arcsin\left(\frac{0.2618 \times 0.2147}{1.05 \times 1.05}\right)$$
$$\underline{\delta = 2.92^\circ}$$

$$Q_{L1} = \frac{V_1^2}{X} - \frac{V_1 V_2}{X} \cos \delta$$
$$= \frac{1.05^2}{0.2147} - \frac{1.05 \times 1.05}{0.2147} \cos(2.92^\circ)$$
$$= 0.0067 \text{ pu}$$

$$Q_{L2} = \frac{V_1 V_2}{X} \cos \delta - \frac{V_2^2}{X} = -0.0067 \text{ pu}$$

$$Q_{C1} = \frac{B}{2} V_1^2 = 0.1073 \times 1.05^2$$
$$= 0.1183 \text{ pu}$$

$$Q_{C2} = \frac{B}{2} V_2^2 = 0.1183 \text{ pu}$$

$$Q_1 = Q_{L1} - Q_{C1}$$
$$= 0.0067 - 0.1183$$

$$Q_1 = -0.1116 \text{ pu}$$

$$Q_2 = Q_{L2} + Q_{C2}$$

$$Q_2 = +0.1116 \text{ pu}$$

Both generators must absorb  
line charging. There is negligible  
 $Q_{\text{loss}}$  in the line reactance

# Effect of line charging on reactive power flows

For high line flow ( $> \text{SIL}$ ) of

$$P_2 = 500 \text{ MW} = 500/382 = 1.309 \text{ pu},$$

$$\hat{V}_1 = 1.05 \angle \delta \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{V}_2 = 1.05 \angle 0 \text{ pu.}$$

$$Q_{L1} = 0.1696 \text{ pu} \quad Q_{C1} = 0.1183 \text{ pu}$$

$$Q_{L2} = -0.1696 \text{ pu} \quad Q_{C2} = 0.1183 \text{ pu}$$

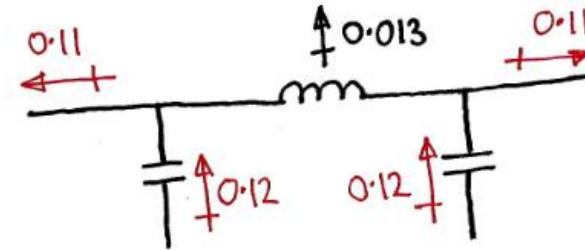
$$Q_1 = Q_{L1} - Q_{C1} = +0.0513 \text{ pu}$$

$$Q_2 = Q_{L2} + Q_{C2} = -0.0513 \text{ pu}$$

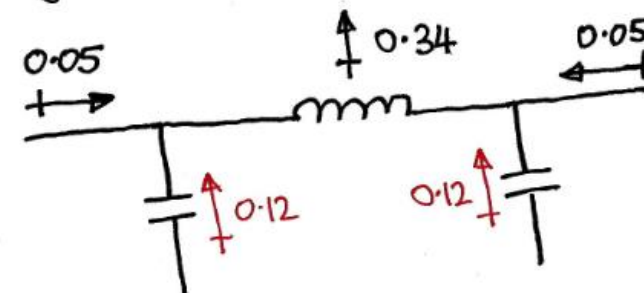
Both generators must supply series reactive losses that exceed line charging

## Reactive Power Audit

Light load case  $P = 0.26 \text{ pu of SIL}$



High load case  $P = 1.309 \text{ pu of SIL}$



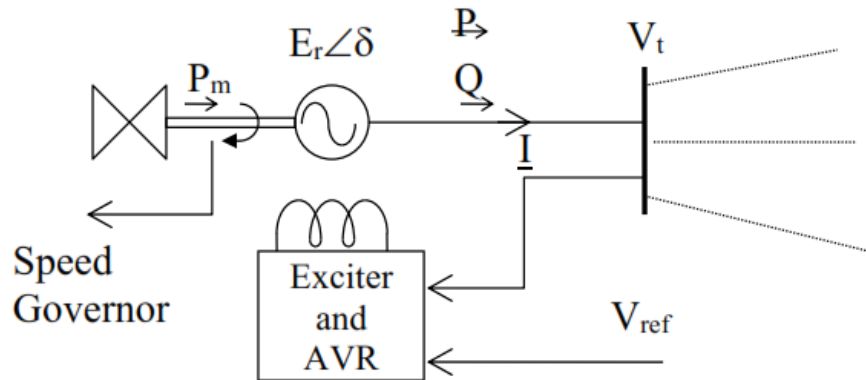
$\rightarrow$  Capacitive  
 $\rightarrow$  Inductive

# Sources and sinks of reactive power

- Continuous control
  - Synchronous generators
  - Synchronous compensators (or condensers)
  - Static VAR compensators (SVCs)
  - Wind / solar PV farm centralized voltage control systems
  - Q output automatically adjusted to maintain bus voltages at specified setpoint
- Discontinuous control
  - Fixed and switched capacitors and reactors
  - Series capacitors
  - Regulating transformers (on-load tap-changing – OLTC – transformers)
- Overview some of these technologies ...

# Sources and sinks of reactive power

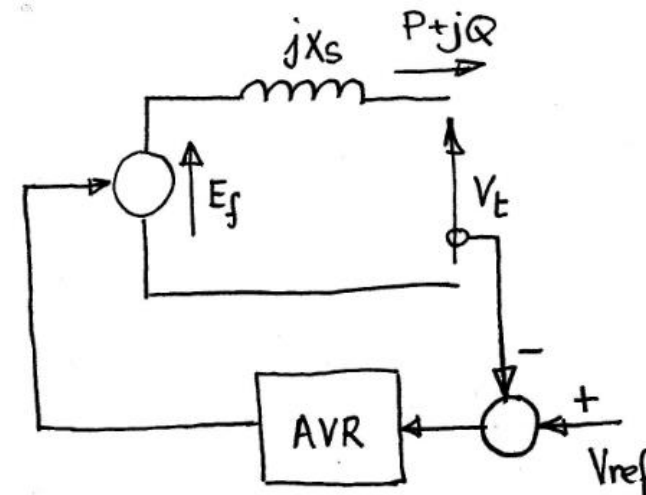
## Synchronous Generators



- Turbine adjusts  $P_m$  to keep  $P = P_{ref}$  (constant)
- AVR adjusts field voltage to keep  $V_t = V_{ref}$  (constant)
- $Q > 0$  if external voltage  $< V_{ref}$
- $Q < 0$  if external voltage  $> V_{ref}$
- Must operate within generator PQ capability
  - Turbine power limit
  - Stator & field current limits
  - Stability and end winding heating limits

## Synchronous Compensators

- Synchronous motor with no load ( $P = 0$ )
- Fitted with AVR
- Used to regulate voltage similarly to synchronous generators.



$V_t > V_{ref}$  then decrease  $E_f$   
 $\Rightarrow$  decrease  $Q$

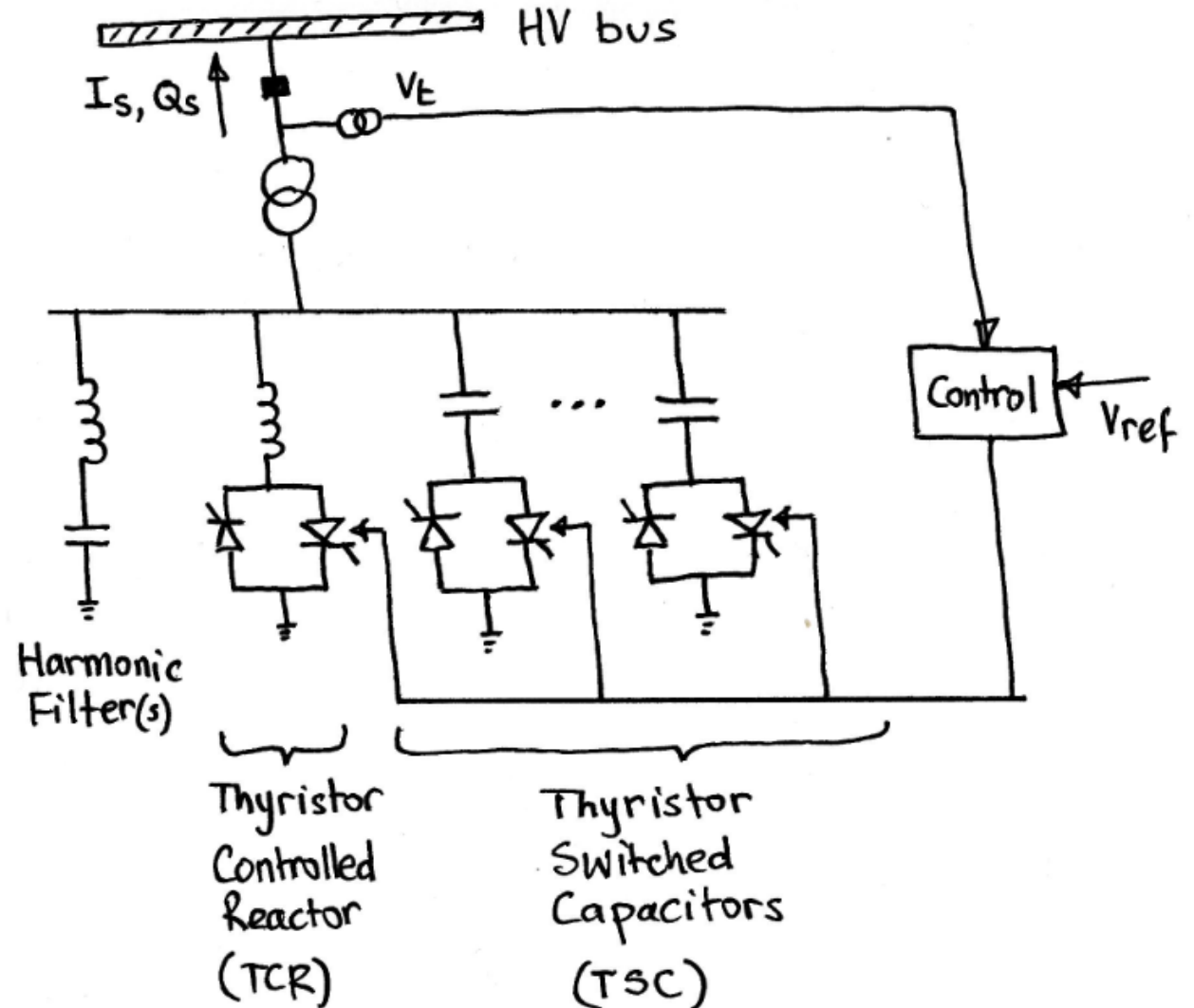
$V_t < V_{ref}$  then increase  $E_f$   
 $\Rightarrow$  increase  $Q$

In steady-state control is  
 $E_f = K(V_{ref} - V_t)$

# Sources and sinks of reactive power

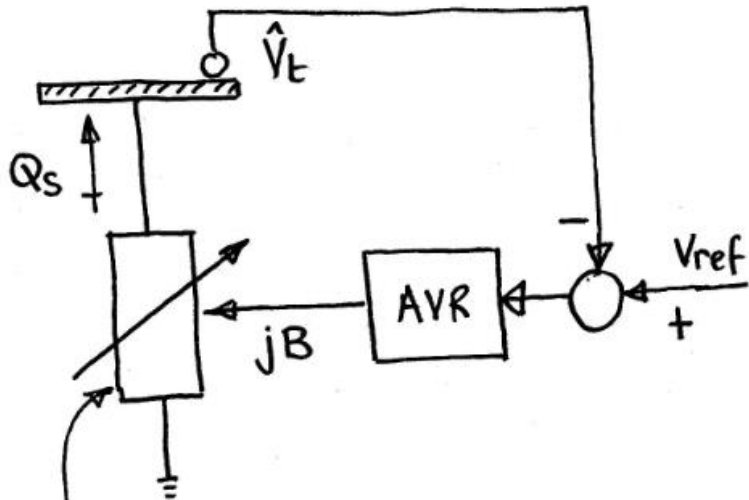
## Static VAR Compensators (SVCs)

- Typical SVC structure depicted
- Controllable susceptance used to regulate HV bus voltage to specified set point  $V_{ref}$
- TCR provides for continuous adjustment of susceptance within its range
- TSCs provide means of providing leading (capacitive) reactive power (i.e. ability to boost voltage)



# Sources and sinks of reactive power

## Static VAR Compensators (SVCs)



Variable susceptance

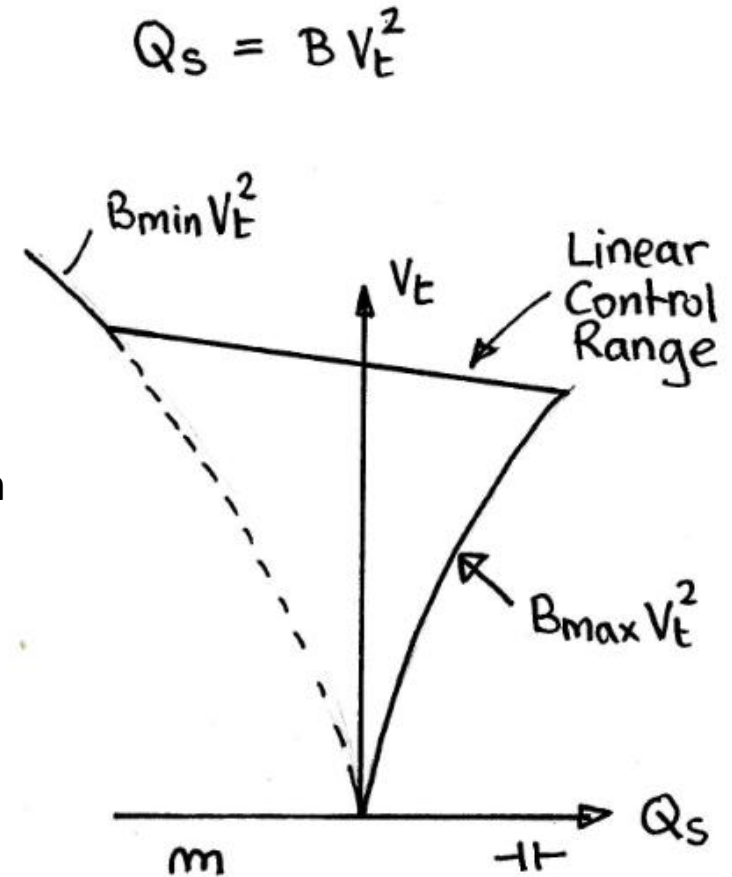
$$B_{min} < B < B_{max}$$

$B > 0 \Rightarrow$  Capacitance

$B < 0 \Rightarrow$  Inductance

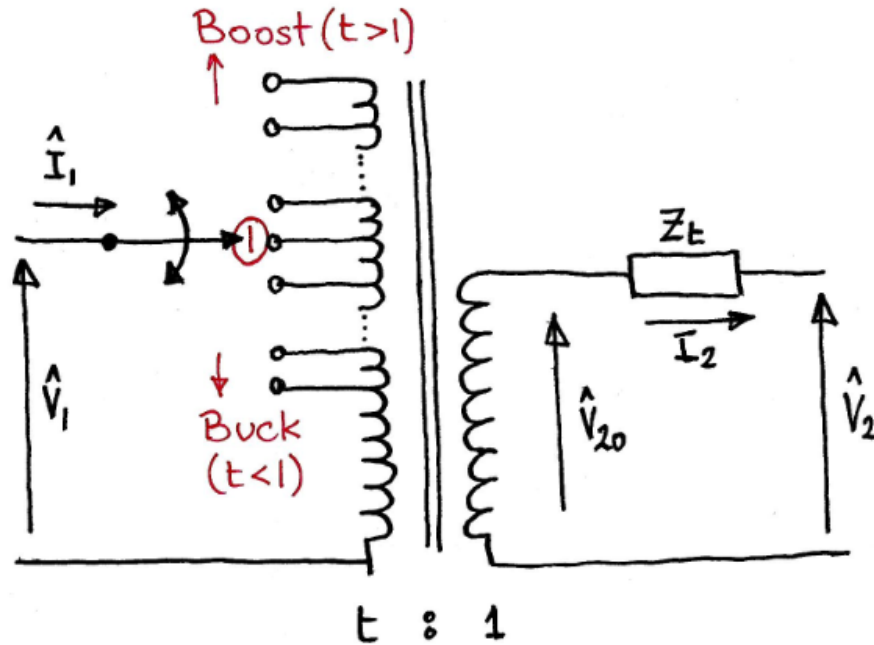
Overall SVC control schematic (left) and steady-state control characteristic (right).

Note that reactive support from SVC decreases quadratically with voltage once upper capacitive susceptance limit is reached.





# Regulating transformer – Controlling reactive power flow



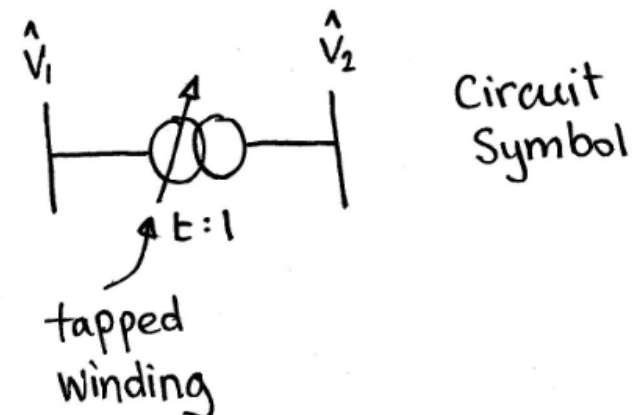
$$\begin{aligned}\hat{V}_{20} &= \left(\frac{1}{t}\right) \cdot \hat{V}_1 \\ \hat{I}_2 &= t \cdot \hat{I}_1 \\ \hat{V}_2 &= \hat{V}_{20} - Z_t \hat{I}_2 = \frac{1}{t} \hat{V}_1 - Z_t (t \cdot \hat{I}_1) \\ \therefore \hat{V}_1 &= t \hat{V}_2 + t^2 Z_t \hat{I}_1\end{aligned}$$

Voltage  $V_1$  is boosted w.r.t. that of  $V_2$  if  $t > 1$  and conversely it is reduced if  $t < 1$

$t = 1$  unity tap position  
Corresponds to nominal voltage ratio

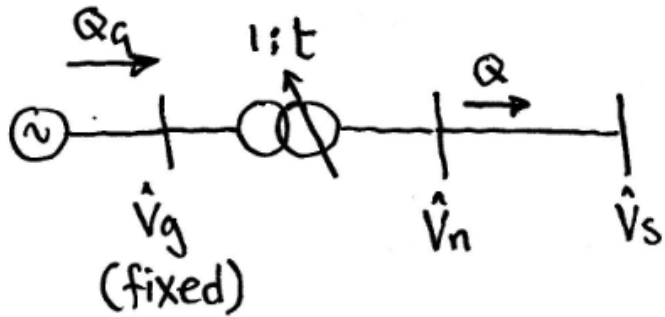
$Z_t$  Per-unit transformer impedance corresponding to unity tap.

$t_{\min} < t < t_{\max}$



## Regulating transformer -- Controlling reactive power flow

Application - Adjust reactive power flow from generator



Assume operating at  $t=1$  with  $V_g$  fixed due to AVR action.

Suppose  $t$  increased (by say  $+0.01$  pu)

$V_n$  will increase w.r.t.  $V_s$ .

$\Rightarrow Q$  will increase and

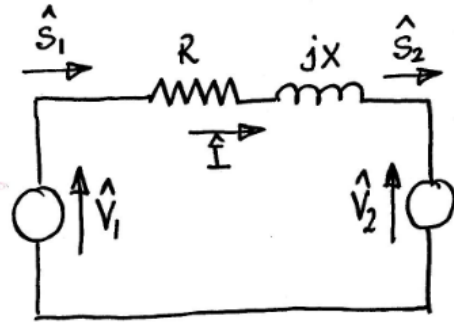
$Q_g$  will increase

Raise taps to increase  
 $Q$  output from generator

Lower taps to reduce  
 $Q$  output from generator



# Geometry of the Powerflow Equations - Power Circles



$$Z = R + jX = |Z|e^{j\beta}, \quad \hat{V}_1 = V_1 e^{j\theta_1}, \quad \hat{V}_2 = V_2 e^{j\theta_2}$$

$$\hat{S}_1 = \hat{V}_1 \hat{I}^* = \hat{V}_1 \left( \frac{\hat{V}_1 - \hat{V}_2}{Z} \right)^*$$

$$\hat{S}_1 = \frac{V_1^2}{|Z|} e^{j\beta} - \frac{V_1 V_2}{|Z|} e^{j\beta} \cdot e^{j\delta}, \quad \delta = \theta_1 - \theta_2$$

$$\hat{S}_2 = \frac{V_1 V_2}{|Z|} e^{j\beta} e^{j\delta} - \frac{V_2^2}{|Z|} e^{j\beta}$$

$$\text{Define } C_1 = \frac{V_1^2}{|Z|} e^{j\beta}, \quad r = \frac{V_1 V_2}{|Z|} e^{j\beta}, \quad C_2 = -\frac{V_2^2}{|Z|} e^{j\beta}$$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \hat{S}_1 &= C_1 - r e^{j\delta} \\ \hat{S}_2 &= C_2 + r e^{j\delta} \end{aligned} \right\} \text{Complex Power Circles}$$

