

# Summary | Electrical Fundamentals

---

## Introduction

Be sure to revise the Electricity unit of G.C.E. (A/L) Physics.

## Charge

- measured in Coulomb (  $C$  ) =  $6.25 \times 10^{18}$  number of electrons
- quantized
- conserved

Time invariant charge is denoted as  $Q$ . And time varying charge is denoted as  $q$ .

## Current

Amount of charges (in  $C$ ) flowing through a point in unit time. Conventional current (opposite to electron flow) flows from positive to negative potentials.

$$I = \frac{dQ}{dt}$$

Time invariant current (DC) is denoted as  $I$ . And time varying current (AC) is denoted as  $i$ .

## Voltage

Voltage at a point is the work that must be done against the electric field to move a unit positive charge from infinity to that point.

**1** volt is the potential difference between **2** points when **1** joule of energy is used to move **1** coulomb of charge from one point to the other.

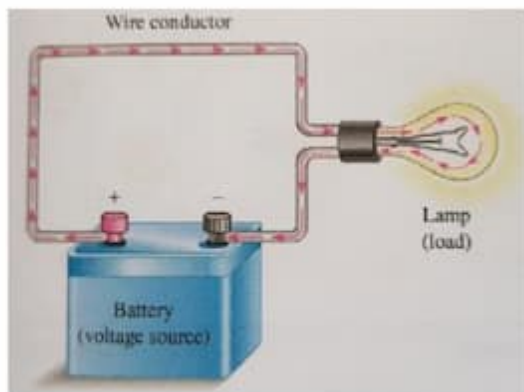
$$V = \frac{E}{Q}$$

Time invariant voltage is denoted as  $V$ . And time varying voltage is denoted as  $v$ .

Voltage difference is the work that must be done against the electric field to move a unit positive charge from one point to another.

$$V_{AB} = V_A - V_B$$

## Electric Circuit



Pictorial diagram



Schematic diagram

Types of circuits

- Closed circuit - the electricity flows
- Open circuit - the electricity doesn't flow. current =  $0$ .  $\infty$  resistance.
- Short circuit - very large current.  $0$  resistance.

## Power

$$p = \frac{dw}{dt} = \frac{dw}{dq} \frac{dq}{dt} = vi$$

## Total Work

$$w = \int_{t_0}^t p dt = \int_{t_0}^t vi dt$$

When  $v$  and  $i$  are constant

$$w = vi \int_{t_0}^t dt = vi(t - t_0)$$

## Electrical Load

Something that consumes electrical energy.

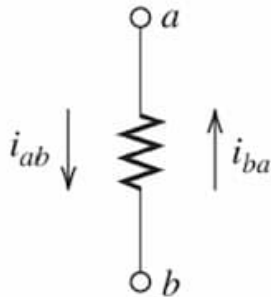
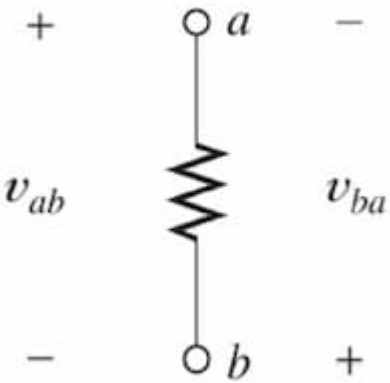
### Linear loads

Loads that can be expressed using a combination of resistors, capacitors and inductors only.

*i* Note

If a AC sinusoidal voltage is applied across a load, current through the load will also be sinusoidal **iff** the load is linear.

## Double subscript notation

-	Current	Voltage
Double subscript		
Equation	$i_{ab} = -i_{ba}$	$v_{ab} = -v_{ba} = v_a - v_b$
Description	Current is flowing <b>from point <i>a</i> to point <i>b</i></b>	Voltage is <b>higher at point <i>a</i> and lower at point <i>b</i></b>

# Common Terms

## Branch

A branch represents a single element, such as a resistor or a battery.

## Node

A node is the point connecting more than 1 branches. Denoted by a dot.

### **Note**

All points in a circuit that are connected directly by ideal conductors can be considered to be a single node.

## Two terminal element

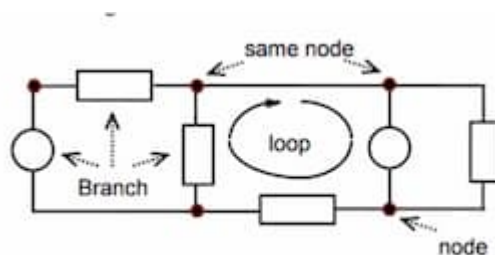
An element connected to two nodes. Branches are two terminal elements.

## Loop

A loop is a closed path through a circuit in which no node is encountered more than once except for the same start/finish node.

## Mesh

A mesh is a loop without having other loops inside it. Subset of loops.



## Circuit elements

Two types of circuit elements.

- Active
- Passive

## Active

Capable of generating electrical energy.

- Voltage sources
- Current sources

These can interchangeably be used.

## Passive

Either consumes or stores electrical energy.

- Resistors
- Inductors
- Capacitors
- Any other elements

## Voltage sources

- Batteries - electrochemical
- Solar cells - photo voltaic
- Generators - electromagnetic

## Ideal voltage source

Constant voltage for any required currents. Does not exist.

## Resistors

Resistance, in terms of physical dimensions:

$$R = \frac{\rho l}{A}$$

Here:

- $l$  : length
- $A$  : cross-sectional area
- $\rho$  : [resistivity](#)

If a voltage  $V$  is applied across a conductor, then a given current  $I$  will flow through the conductor  $V \propto I$ . The proportionality constant is called resistance  $R$ .

$$R = \frac{V}{I}$$

## Capacitors

Made of two conductive plates separated by an insulating ([dielectric](#)) layer.

Capacitance ( $C$ ), in terms of physical dimensions:

$$C = \frac{\epsilon A}{d}$$

Here:

- $d$  : distance between the plates
- $A$  : area of a plate

In an ideal capacitor, the charge imbalance  $Q$  is proportional to the voltage  $V$  across the plates.

$$Q = CV$$

## v and i

As  $C$  is constant, current  $i$  passing through the capacitor and the voltage  $v$  across the capacitor are related by:

$$i = C \frac{dv}{dt}$$

## Energy stored

Suppose voltage across an initially uncharged capacitor rises from  $0$  to  $V$  during a time period of  $t$ .

$$e = \int_0^t p \, dt = \int_0^t vi \, dt = C \int_0^v v \, dv$$

$$E = \frac{1}{2}CV^2$$

## Inductors

When there is a current in the inductor, a magnetic field is created. Any change in current causes the magnetic field to change, this in turn induces a voltage across the inductor that opposes the original change in current.

A length of wire turned into a coil works as an inductor.

## Inductance (L)

For an ideal inductor:

$$v = L \frac{di}{dt}$$

Here the  $v$  is the voltage difference between the inductor, and  $i$  is the current through the inductor.

The polarity is such as to oppose the change in current.

## Energy stored

Assume voltage across an inductor rises from  $0$  to  $i$  during a time period of  $t$  seconds.

$$e = \int_0^t p \, dt = \int_0^t vi \, dt = L \int_0^i i \, di$$

$$E = \frac{1}{2} Li^2$$

## Kirchhoff Laws

### Kirchhoff Current Law

The algebraic sum of all the currents entering and leaving a node is zero. Based on principle of conservation of charge.

$$\sum_{\text{node}} I = 0 \implies \sum_{\text{in}} I = \sum_{\text{out}} I$$

### Kirchhoff Voltage Law

The algebraic sum of voltages around a loop is zero. Based on principle of conservation of energy.

$$\sum_{\text{node}} V = 0$$

### Voltage division

Series connection is used to divide voltage. Potentiometers are commonly used to create voltage divider circuits.

### Current division

Parallel connection is used to divide current.

## Introduction to Waves

### Waveform

Obtained by plotting instantaneous values of a time-varying quantity against time.

### Periodic Waveform

A pattern repeats after  $T$  time. Periodic time is  $T$  and frequency  $f$  is  $\frac{1}{T}$ .



## Alternating Waveform

A waveform that changes in magnitude and direction with time. Is also a periodic waveform.

## Sinusoidal Waves

Same as  $\sin \theta$  vs  $\theta$  (in rad). Also called sine waves or sinusoid.

$$y = A \sin(\omega t + \phi)$$

When  $\phi$  is:

- $> 0$  - the wave is said to be **leading** by  $\phi$
- $= 0$  - the wave is the **reference**
- $< 0$  - the wave is said to be **lagging** by  $\phi$

Sinusoidal voltages are be easily generated using rotating machines.

## Complex Waveforms

Periodic non-sinusoidal waveforms can be split into its fundamental and harmonics.

## Fundamental Waveform

$$f_0 = f_{\text{complex}}$$

## Harmonics

Sine waves with higher frequencies which is a multiple of  $f_0$ .

$$f_{\text{harmonic}} = n \cdot f_0 ; n \in \mathbb{Z}$$

Harmonics are grouped into:

- **odd harmonic** when  $n$  is odd.
- **even harmonic** when  $n$  is even.

# Definitions in AC Theory

## Note

Only sinusoidal AC supply are considered in s1.

Say  $v$  is alternating as in  $v = V_m \sin(\omega t + \phi)$ .

## Peak value

Maximum instantaneous value.  $V_m$  in the example.

## Peak-to-peak value

Maximum variation between maximum positive and negative instantaneous values.  $2V_m$  in the example.

For a sinusoidal waveform, this is twice the peak value.

## Mean value

$$v_{\text{mean}} = \frac{1}{T} \int_{T_0}^{T_0+T} v(t) dt$$

Here:

- $T_0$  is the starting time of a cycle
- $T$  is the periodic time

For any symmetric waveform, mean value is 0.

## Average value

Mean value of the rectified version of a waveform.

For symmetric waveforms, half-cycle mean value is taken as the average value.

$$v_{\text{average}} = \frac{2}{T} \int_{T_0}^{T_0 + \frac{T}{2}} v(t) dt$$

For sinusoidal waveforms, from the example:

$$\begin{aligned} v_{\text{average}} &= \frac{2}{T} \int_{T_0}^{T_0 + \frac{T}{2}} V_m \sin(\omega t + \phi) dt \\ &= \frac{2}{\pi} V_m = 0.637 V_m \end{aligned}$$

## Effective value or rms (root mean square) value

$$v_{\text{rms}} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{T} \int_{T_0}^{T_0 + T} v(t)^2 dt}$$

For sinusoidal waveforms:

$$v_{\text{rms}} = V_m \sqrt{\frac{1}{T} \int_{T_0}^{T_0 + T} \sin^2(\omega t + \phi) dt} = \frac{V_m}{\sqrt{2}}$$

### ⓘ Note

$i_{\text{rms}}$  is the equivalent current that dissipates same amount of power across a resistor  $R$  in time  $T$  as  $i(t)$ . Similar for voltage.

### ⓘ Note

rms value is always used to express the magnitude of a time varying quantity.

## Instantaneous power

$$P = vi = i^2 R$$

## Form factor

$$\text{Form factor} = \frac{\text{rms value}}{\text{average value}} = \frac{V_m}{\sqrt{2}} \times \frac{2}{\pi V_m} = 1.111$$

## Peak factor

$$\text{Peak factor} = \frac{\text{peak value}}{\text{rms value}} = V_m \times \frac{\sqrt{2}}{V_m} = 1.412$$

## Phasor Representation

Phasor (phase vector) is a vector representing a sinusoidal function.

- Magnitude of the phasor: rms value of the wave
- Angle of the phasor: The angular position  $\phi$ , with respect to a reference direction

Can also be represented by a complex number.

## Representation

- Polar form:  $A = |A| \angle \phi$
- Cartesian or rectangular form:  $A = A_x + jA_y$

Here:

- $|A| = A_{\text{rms}} = \sqrt{A_x^2 + A_y^2}$
- $A_x = |A| \cos \phi$
- $A_y = |A| \sin \phi$
- $j = \sqrt{-1}$
- $\tan \phi = \frac{A_y}{A_x}$

# Impedance & Admittance

## Impedance (Z)

$$Z = \frac{V}{I} = R + jX$$

Here:

- $R$ : Resistance
- $X$ : Reactance

## Admittance (Y)

Inverse of impedance.

$$Y = \frac{1}{Z} = \frac{I}{V} = G + jB$$

Here:

- $G$ : Conductance
- $B$ : Susceptance

From the definitions:

$$G = \frac{R}{R^2 + X^2} \quad \wedge \quad B = -\frac{X}{R^2 + X^2}$$

## For simple circuit elements

### Resistor

Let  $i = I_m \sin(\omega t + \phi_0)$  is applied across a resistor with resistance  $R$ . From Ohm's law:

$$v = RI_m \sin(\omega t + \phi_0) \implies Z_R = R$$

No changes in frequency, phase angle.  $v$  is in phase with  $i$ .  $R$  doesn't have reactance.

## Inductor

Let  $i = I_m \sin(\omega t + \phi_0)$  is applied across an inductor with inductance  $L$ .

$$v = L\omega I_m \sin(\omega t + (\phi_0 + \frac{\pi}{2})) \implies Z_L = j\omega L$$

Reactance of the inductor is  $X_L = L\omega$ .

### ⓘ Note

$v$  leads  $i$  by  $\frac{\pi}{2}$ . No changes in frequency.

## Capacitor

Let  $i = I_m \sin(\omega t + \phi_0)$  is applied across an capacitor with capacitance  $c$ .

$$v = \frac{I_m}{c\omega} \sin(\omega t + (\phi_0 - \frac{\pi}{2})) \implies Z_C = -j\frac{1}{c\omega}$$

Reactance of the capacitor (capacitive reactance) is  $X_c = -\frac{1}{c\omega}$ .

### ⓘ Note

$v$  lags  $i$  by  $\frac{\pi}{2}$ . No changes in frequency.

### ⓘ Note

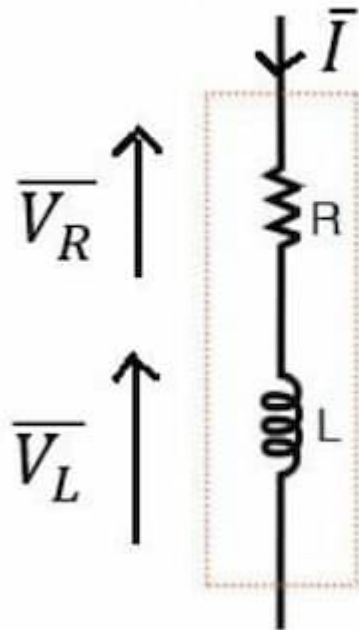
If  $v$ :

- lags  $i$  - circuit is capacitive
- leads  $i$  - circuit is inductive

## For complex circuit elements

### Real Inductor

Equivalent circuit for a real inductor



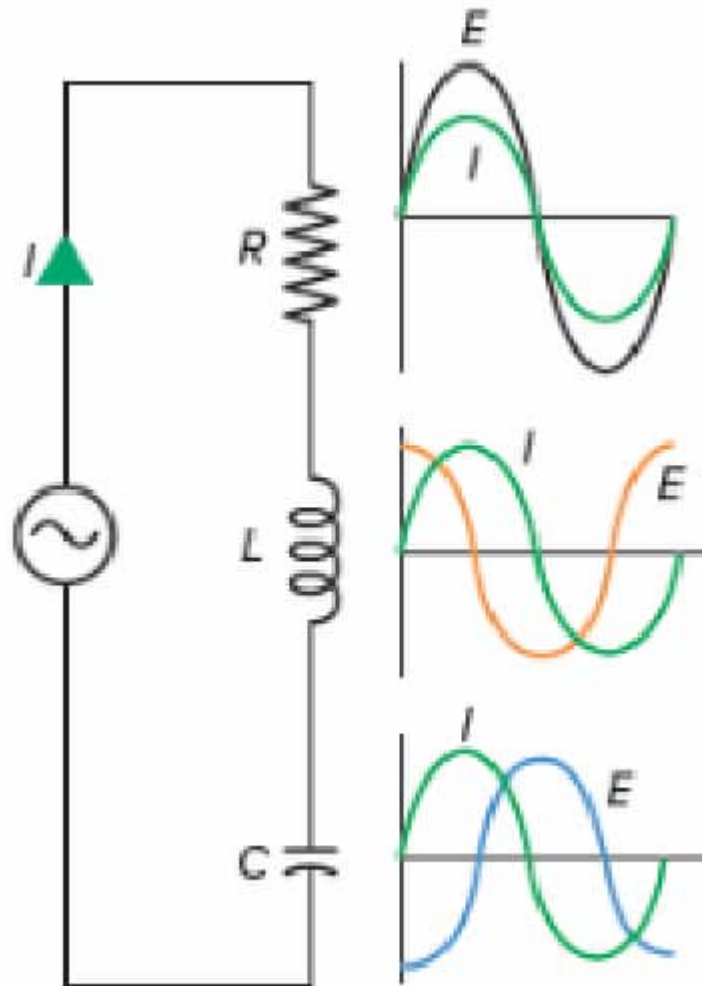
Take  $\overline{I}$  as the reference. We get:

$$\overline{V} = \overline{I}(R + j\omega L)$$

From here  $\overline{Z}$  can be written (in cartesian or polar form):

$$\overline{Z} = R + j\omega L = |\overline{Z}| \angle \phi$$

## RLC series circuit



Complex impedances are added up to find the total impedance of a series circuit.

$$\bar{Z} = R + j\left(\omega L - \frac{1}{\omega C}\right)$$

### For a series circuit

Total impedance is the sum of each component's impedance.

### For a parallel circuit

Total admittance is the sum of each component's admittance.



## Power and Power factor

- In a purely resistive AC circuit, the energy delivered by the source will be dissipated in the form of the heat by the resistance.
- In a purely capacitive or purely inductive circuit, all of the energy will be stored during one half of each cycle, and then returned to the source during the other half cycle – there will be no net conversion to heat.
- When there is both a resistive component and a reactive component, some energy will be stored, and some will be converted to heat during each cycle.

## Power equations

### Purely resistive circuit

Suppose a circuit with load  $R$  resistance is supplied a voltage of  $v(t) = V_m \cos \omega t$ .

Instantaneous power dissipated by the load is given by:

$$p(t) = \frac{V_m^2}{R} \cos^2(\omega t)$$

Always:  $p(t) > 0$ .

$$\text{Average power} = \frac{1}{2} \text{Peak power} = \frac{V_m^2}{2R}$$

### Purely inductive circuit

Suppose a circuit with inductor  $L$  is supplied a voltage of  $v(t) = V_m \cos \omega t$ .

Instantaneous power dissipated by the load is given by:

$$p(t) = \frac{V_m^2}{2\omega L} \sin(2\omega t)$$

## Purely capacitive circuit

Suppose a circuit with inductor  $L$  is supplied a voltage of  $v(t) = V_m \cos \omega t$ .

Instantaneous power dissipated by the load is given by:

$$p(t) = -\frac{V_m^2 \omega C}{2} \sin(2\omega t)$$

## Power of a general load

Consider a general load with both resistive and reactive components. Depending on how inductive or capacitive the reactive component, the phase shift between voltage and current phasor lies between  $90^\circ$  and  $-90^\circ$ .

Suppose the circuit is supplied a voltage of  $v(t) = V_m \cos(\omega t)$ . And the current phasor shifts in  $\theta$  phase angle.

$$i(t) = I_m \cos(\omega t - \theta)$$

This ends up with:

$$p(t) = \frac{1}{2} V_m I_m \left[ \cos \theta + \cos \left( \omega t - \frac{\theta}{2} \right) \right]$$

## Average of over 1 cycle

$$P_{\text{avg}} = \frac{1}{T} \int_{t_0}^{t_0+T} p(t) dt = V_{\text{rms}} I_{\text{rms}} \cos \theta$$

## Types of power

### Reactive Power

Power delivered to/from a pure energy storage element is known as reactive power.

- Average power consumed by a pure energy storage element is zero.
- Current associated with it is **not 0**. Transmission lines, transformers, fuses, etc. must all be designed to be capable of withstanding this current.
- Loads with energy storage elements will draw large currents and require heavy duty wiring even though little average power is consumed.
- In all electrical and electronic systems, it is the true power (the resistive power) that does the work, the reactive power simply shuttles back and forth between the source and the load.
- This means that the apparent power supplied is a combination of the true and the reactive power.

$$Q_{\text{reactive}} = V_{\text{rms}} I_{\text{rms}} \sin \theta$$

### Active power

$$P = V_{\text{rms}} I_{\text{rms}} \cos \theta$$

### Apparent power

$$S = V_{\text{rms}} I_{\text{rms}} = \sqrt{P^2 + Q^2}$$

The apparent power is essentially the effective power that the source “sees”

#### **ⓘ The Beer Analogy**

- Beer - Active power  
Liquid beer is useful power. The power that does the work.
- Foam - Reactive power  
Wasted or lost power. The power that does the work.
- Mug - Apparent power  
Demand power, that is being delivered by the utility.

### Power factor

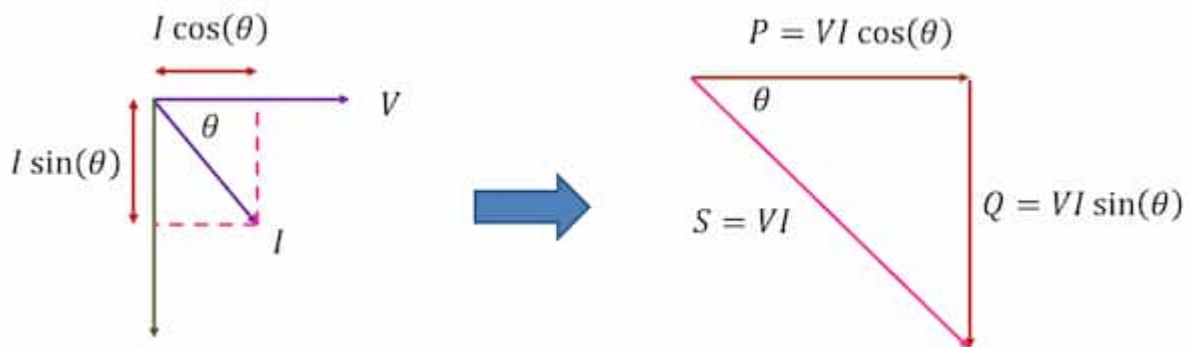
In the above equation of  $P_{\text{avg}}$ , the  $\cos \theta$  is called the power factor.

$$\cos \theta = \frac{\text{Active power}}{\text{Apparent power}}$$

Power factor is:

- leading when  $I$  leads  $V$
- lagging when  $I$  lags  $V$

## Power triangle



- Take  $V$  phasor as the reference.
- Draw  $V$  and  $I$  phasors.

## Power systems

An electric power system consists of 3 principle sections

- Power stations: electricity is generated
- Transmission: voltage is stepped to high voltage
- Distribution: voltage is stepped down to medium voltage for distribution over a relatively small region

## Variable load

Load on a power station changes with to uncertain demands of consumers. This is called the **variable load**.

Load vs time curve is called the **load curve**. Area under this curve is the **total energy requirement**.

## Power grid

Nation-wide, massive, geographically distributed system for electrical power supply network.

## Sri Lankan Voltage Levels

- High voltage **220 kV**
- Medium voltage **11 kV**
- Nominal voltage **230 V**
- Nominal line-to-line **400 V**

## 3-Phased System

### Why 3-phase?

- The current can be distributed into 3 wires instead of just 1.  
There is a maximum limit of how much current a wire can carry.
- Economical as less amount of wires.  
3-phase system requires **4** wires (**3** if balanced) while single phase system requires **6**.

The phases are denoted by **R**, **Y**, **B** in that order.

### Balanced 3-phase

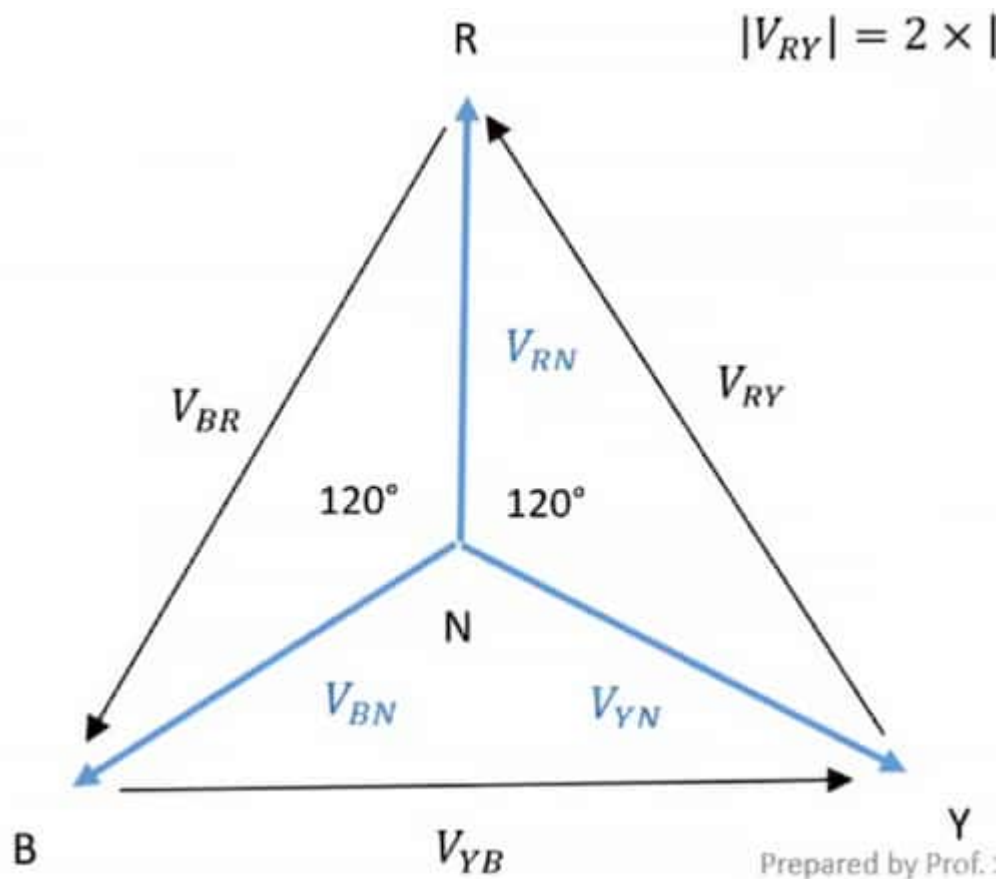
A 3-phase system is said to be balanced **iff**:

- Supply is balanced
- Loads are the same in each phase

### Power source

A 3-phase power source which produces 3 phase voltages of equal rms value, but with **120°** phase difference.

## Phasor diagram



### Phase voltage

Voltage between a phase wire and the neutral wire.

$V_{RN}$ ,  $V_{YN}$ ,  $V_{BN}$  are the phase voltages.

### Line-to-line voltage

Voltage between any 2 phase wires. Line-to-line voltages also have a  $120^\circ$  phase difference.

$V_{RY}$ ,  $V_{YB}$ ,  $V_{BR}$  are the line-to-line voltages or line voltages.

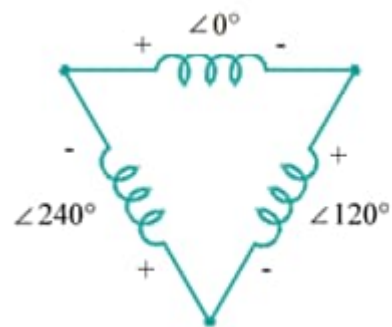
$$|V_{BR}| = 2 \times |V_{BN}| \cos(30^\circ) = \sqrt{3} |V_{BN}|$$

#### Note

In a 3-phase system, line-to-line voltage is mentioned.

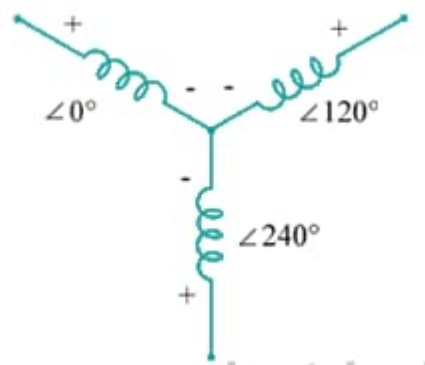
## Connection types

### Delta connection

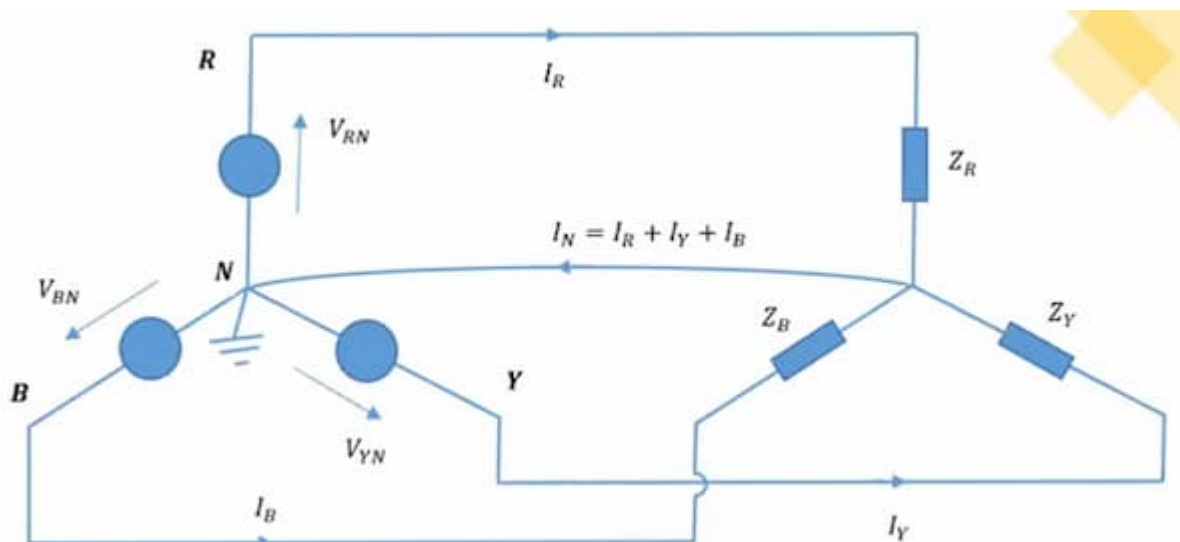


Doesn't have a neutral wire. Neutral point is imaginary.

### Star connection



## Analysis



$$I_N = E \left[ \frac{1\angle 0^\circ}{z_R} + \frac{1\angle -120^\circ}{z_Y} + \frac{1\angle 120^\circ}{z_B} \right]$$

When the loads are balanced:  $z_R = z_Y = z_B = z$ ,  $I_N = 0$

In this case, neutral wire is optional and can be eliminated.  $I_N = 0$  have to be maintained so that the voltage is equal to ground voltage in neutral wire. This makes sure there are no power losses in neutral wire.

## Real-life Usage

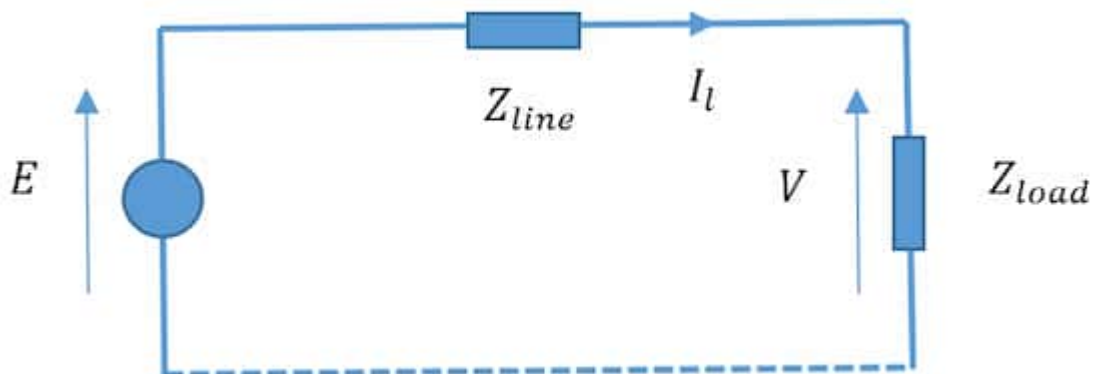
Most domestic loads are single-phase. In case of 3-phase domestic wiring, the single-phase loads are distributed among the 3 phases at the main distribution board.

Devices that have a 3-phase power input, doesn't require a neutral line.

## Per-phase Equivalent Circuit

Power, voltage, current, power factor are same for all **3** phases.

When a 3-phase system is balanced, it is sufficient to consider only a single phase. The diagram showing the single-phase equivalent of the power system using standard symbols.



Here:

- $E$  - voltage across the source
- $V$  - voltage across the load



$$\text{Per-phase power} = |V_p||I_l| \cos \theta = \frac{1}{3} \times \text{3-phase power} \quad \wedge \quad |V_l| = \sqrt{3}|V_p|$$

$$\implies \text{3-phase power} = \sqrt{3}|V_l||I_l| \cos \theta$$

Here:

- $V_p$  - phase voltage
- $V_l$  - line voltage
- $I_l$  - line current
- $\cos \theta$  - power factor
- The power can either be source power, load power, transmission power losses.

## Unbalanced 3-phase system

A 3-phase system becomes unbalanced, when load distribution among the phases is equal.  $I_N \neq 0$ . Highly undesirable. Neutral wire is the return path for the line currents.

Large currents in the neutral wire could cause:

- If neutral wire have significant impedance, different points of the neutral wire will have different voltage
- Series voltage unbalances can happen if the neutral wire is broken

Each phase will be different. Complete system has to be considered when analyzing the circuit.

## Electrical Installations

An assembly (connected as a complete set) of associated electrical equipment to fulfill a specific purpose and having certain coordinated characteristics.

### Electrical equipment

any item used in generation, transmission, distribution and utilization of electrical energy.

Examples: generators, transformers, measuring instruments, protective devices, wiring materials, etc.

## **Overcurrent**

Current that exceeds the rated value. Includes overload and fault current.

## **Current carrying capacity**

The rated value of current, for conductors.

## **Faulty current**

Can be subdivided into:

- short-circuit current
- earth fault current

## **Protection for safety**

Protecting livestock from electric shocks.

- Against direct contact: Relates to live parts.
- Against indirect contact: Relates to exposed parts. Conductive but not normally live. Made live by fault.

## **Protection methods**

- Earthing of equipments
- Use of circuit breakers/fuses
- Use of residual current circuit breakers

## **Fuses**

A device for opening a circuit by means of a conductor designed to melt when an excessive current flows along it. Simple. Relatively cheap.

When overcurrent flows through a fuse, the fuse element melts and followed by arcing.

## **Fuse element**

Part of a fuse. Designed to melt and open the circuit when overcurrent flows.

## **Fuse link**

Part of a fuse, which comprises a fuse element and a cartridge (or other container) and is capable of being attached to the fuse contacts.

## **Current rating**

Maximum current, which the fuse will carry for an indefinite period without undue deterioration of the fuse element.

## **Fusing current**

Minimum current that will cause the fuse element to heat up melt or blow.

## **Fusing factor**

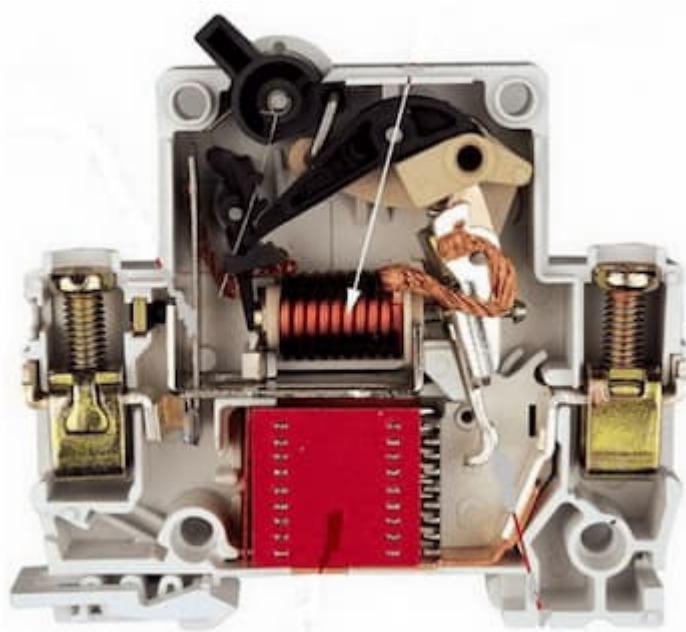
The ratio of the fusing current to current rating.

## **Semi-enclosed fuse**

Consist of a fuse holder made up of a fuse base and a fuse carrier.

The fuse carrier contains the fuse element usually in wire form. “Rewireable” because the elements are directly replaceable.

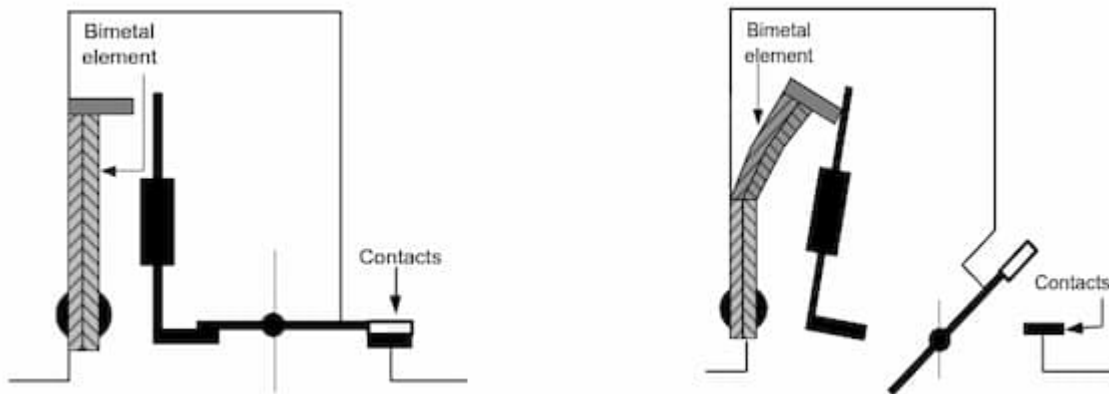
## **Miniature Circuit Breakers (MCB)**



Has 4 functional components:

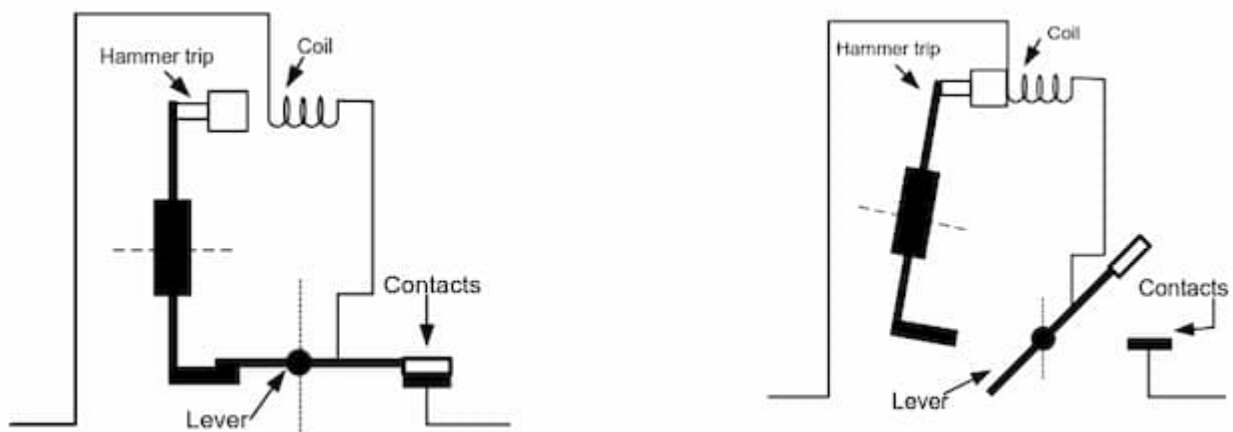
- A thermal overload trip (bi-metal)
- An electromagnetic short-circuit trip
- A switching mechanism with contacts
- Arc exhausting system

### Function of the thermal device



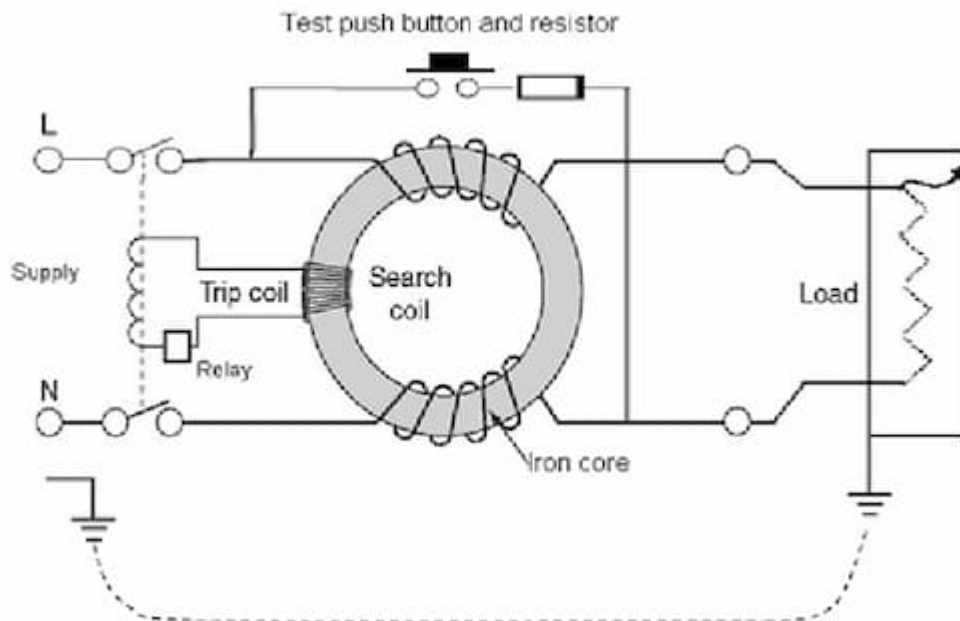
The overload trip depends on the operation of the thermally operated bi-metal strip. When heated by the current passing through, the bi-metal strip is deflected due to the difference in expansion. The deflection thus depends on the intensity of heat dependent on the intensity of the current flow and the duration. As can be seen from the figure, after the deflection (or temperature) exceeds a predetermined amount, the tripping mechanism is activated

### Function of the EM device



Electromagnetic trip consists essentially of a solenoid coil through which the load current flows. In this coil, there is a fixed iron-core with a movable armature. When the current exceeds a predetermined value, the coil exerts sufficient electromagnetic force to attract the armature against the force of the spring. A switch mechanism is activated by the lever, to open the contacts.

## Residual Current Device (RCD)



If there is an out of balance, as what happens when part of the current from the live flows to earth at the fault, an out of balance flux is produced, causing operation of the relay and opening of the main contacts. Highlight

## Earthing of electrical installations

Can be categorized depending on:

- relationship of the source
- exposed conductive parts of the installation

TT system is shown below:

