



Lecture 31: Energy and Power in the Phasor Domain

OBJECTIVES:

1.

READING

Required : Textbook, section 8.6, pages 431–436

Optional :

1 Introduction & Review

Today we are going to look at power and energy in RLC circuits. The analysis will all be done in the phasor domain. Before we tackle new material, let's look back at our earlier lessons on power.

From early in the class (and from Physics) we should know that power is energy per time; expressed mathematically:

$$p(t) = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} w(t) \quad (1)$$

where $p(t)$ is power as a function of time and $w(t)$ is energy as a function of time.

We also learned early in the class that power is the product of voltage and current:

$$p(t) = v(t)i(t) \quad (2)$$

Using Ohm's law we can write an expression for power in a resistor as:

$$p(t) = i^2(t)R \quad (3)$$

or

$$p(t) = \frac{v^2(t)}{R}$$

For capacitors we recall (from lesson 20) that:

$$p(t) = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left[\frac{1}{2} C v^2(t) \right] \quad (4)$$

For inductors we recall that:

$$p(t) = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left[\frac{1}{2} L i^2(t) \right] \quad (5)$$

This gives us a great starting point for our new material.

SOLUTION

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2 Energy and Power in Resistors

If we assume a current of $i(t) = I_A \cos(\omega t)$ through a resistor, the power consumed is:

$$p_R(t) = I_A^2 R \cos^2(\omega t)$$

given that $\cos^2 \theta = \frac{1}{2} [1 + \cos 2\theta]$ we can rewrite this as:

$$p_R(t) = \frac{I_A^2 R}{2} [1 + \cos(2\omega t)]$$

which expands to:

$$p_R(t) = \frac{I_A^2 R}{2} + \frac{I_A^2 R}{2} \cos(2\omega t)$$

So, for a sinusoidal current (or voltage), the power consumed in a resistor has 2 parts: An constant component and a sinusoidal component at twice the original frequency!

We can use equation 1 to solve for the energy delivered to the resistor $w_R(t)$:

$$w(t) = \int p(t) dt$$

$$\int p_R(t) dt = \int \left[\frac{I_A^2 R}{2} + \frac{I_A^2 R}{2} \cos(2\omega t) \right] dt$$

which gives

$$w_R(t) = \frac{I_A^2 R t}{2} + \frac{I_A^2 R}{4\omega} \sin(2\omega t)$$

Notice that $w_R(t)$ is monotonic (increasing) and increases without bound. Resistors always absorb energy and the longer current is applied, the more energy is absorbed!

SOLUTION

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3 Energy and Power in a Capacitor

For this quick derivation, let's start with equation 4 and assume an AC voltage of the form $v(t) = V_A \cos(\omega t)$:

$$p_C(t) = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left[\frac{1}{2} C V_A^2 \cos^2(\omega t) \right]$$

Using the same trig identity from above, we can rewrite this as:

$$p_C(t) = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left[\frac{1}{4} C V_A^2 [1 + \cos(2\omega t)] \right]$$

If we integrate both sides (from equation 1) we get the energy delivered to the capacitor:

$$w_C(t) = \frac{1}{4} C V_A^2 [1 + \cos(2\omega t)]$$

If instead of integrating our expression for $p_C(t)$, we go ahead and do the time derivative, we get instantaneous power in the capacitor:

$$p_C(t) = -\frac{\omega C V_A^2}{2} \sin(2\omega t)$$

What have we learned from these equations?

- 1. The average power consumed/delivered by a capacitor is zero (more on this later)*
- 2. The energy stored by a capacitor is a sinusoidal function. When the function is increasing, the capacitor is absorbing power. When the function is decreasing, the capacitor is delivering power to the circuit*
- 3. The power and energy are 90° out of phase with one another (cos and sin)*

SOLUTION

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4 Energy and Power in an Inductor

For this quick derivation, let's start with equation 5 and assume an AC current of the form $i(t) = I_A \cos(\omega t)$:

$$p_L(t) = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left[\frac{1}{2} L I_A^2 \cos^2(\omega t) \right]$$

Using the same trig identity from above, we can rewrite this as:

$$p_L(t) = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left[\frac{1}{4} L I_A^2 [1 + \cos(2\omega t)] \right]$$

If we integrate both sides (from equation 1) we get the energy delivered to the capacitor:

$$w_L(t) = \frac{1}{4} L I_A^2 [1 + \cos(2\omega t)]$$

If instead of integrating our expression for $p_C(t)$, we go ahead and do the time derivative, we get instantaneous power in the capacitor:

$$p_L(t) = -\frac{\omega L I_A^2}{2} \sin(2\omega t)$$

What have we learned from these equations?

- 1. The average power consumed/delivered by an inductor is zero (more on this later)*
- 2. The energy stored by a inductor is a sinusoidal function. When the function is increasing, the inductor is absorbing power. When the function is decreasing, the inductor is delivering power to the circuit*
- 3. The power and energy are 90° out of phase with one another (cos and sin)*

SOLUTION

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5 Average Power

As seen above, power is a time dependent variable; however, often we are only interested in average power. To solve for average power (over a given interval) we use:

$$P_{AVE} = \frac{1}{T_0} \int_0^{T_0} p(t) dt$$

where T_0 is the period.

5.1 Resistor Average Power

If we plug the resistor power equation and solve for average power we get:

$$P_{AVE-R} = \frac{1}{T_0} \int_0^{T_0} \left[\frac{I_A^2 R}{2} + \frac{I_A^2 R}{2} \cos(2\omega t) \right] dt$$

performing the integral gives:

$$P_{AVE-R} = \frac{I_A^2 R}{2}$$

5.2 Capacitor and Inductor Average Power

Power for a capacitor or inductor is just a simple sinusoid. If we take the average value over many periods ($T_0 \rightarrow \infty$), the power goes to zero:

$$P_{AVE-C} = 0$$

$$P_{AVE-L} = 0$$

5.3 Average Power Delivered to a Complex Load

Armed with the knowledge above, can we figure out how much power is consumed by an arbitrary impedance, $\mathbf{Z} = R + jX$?

We have shown above that the only the resistor consumes (average) power and we have an equation for average power in a resistor. The only modification that we need to make to that equation is to allow the current to be a phasor (complex number):

$$P_{AVE} = \frac{|\mathbf{I}|^2 R}{2}$$

where

$$|\mathbf{I}| = \sqrt{\mathbf{I} \mathbf{I}^*}$$

SOLUTION

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Example 1 –Textbook Exercise 8-41 — Find the average power delivered to the $25\ \Omega$ resistor in Figure 1.

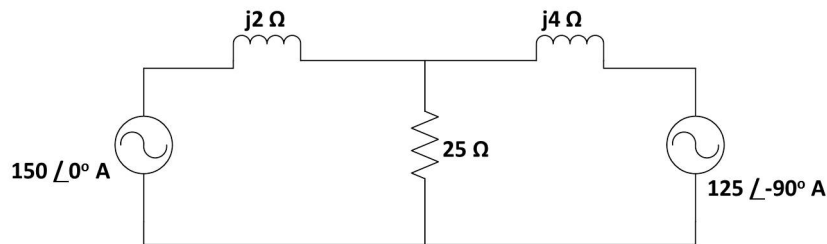


Figure 1: Circuit to accompany example 1

STEP 1 - SOURCE TRANSFORM VOLTAGE SOURCES

STEP 2 - COMBINE CURRENT SOURCES X INDUCTORS

STEP 3 - FIND CURRENT IN $25\ \Omega$

$$I_{25} = 81.18 \angle -112.6^\circ \left[\frac{1.33 \angle -90^\circ}{25 - j1.33} \right]$$
$$= 4.3125 \angle 160.4^\circ$$

STEP 4 - CALCULATE POWER

$$P = \frac{|I|^2 R}{2} = 232.5\text{ W}$$

SOLUTION

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6 Maximum Power Transfer

Back in Lesson 10 we discussed the condition for maximum power transfer in purely resistive circuits. Now we need to look at maximum power transfer for circuits with complex impedances. We will start by looking at the Thevenin circuit shown in Figure 2. In this figure, $\mathbf{V_T}$ is a phasor source and the impedances are also complex.

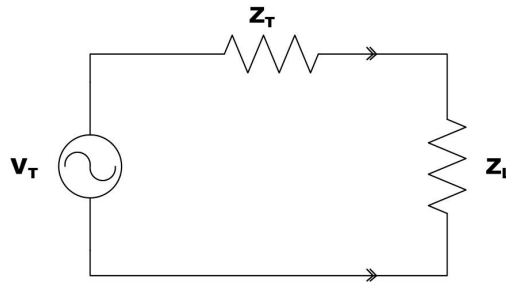


Figure 2: Thevenin circuit with complex source and impedances

We will represent our complex impedances as

$$\mathbf{Z_T} = R_T + jX_T$$

$$\mathbf{Z_L} = R_L + jX_L$$

We can write the current in this loop as:

$$\mathbf{I} = \frac{\mathbf{V_T}}{R_T + jX_T + R_L + jX_L}$$

$$\mathbf{I} = \frac{\mathbf{V_T}}{(R_T + R_L) + j(X_T + X_L)}$$

For average power calculations we are really interested in the magnitude of the current which is

$$|\mathbf{I}| = \frac{|\mathbf{V_T}|}{\sqrt{(R_T + R_L)^2 + (X_T + X_L)^2}}$$

If we plug this result into our equation for average power, we get

$$P_{AVE} = \frac{R_L}{2} \frac{|\mathbf{V_T}|^2}{(R_T + R_L)^2 + (X_T + X_L)^2}$$

Using this equation, we want to select R_L and X_L to maximize P_{AVE} . Remembering that reactances are allowed to be negative, it should be obvious that choosing $X_L = -X_T$ will maximize P_{AVE} for a given value of R_L . This reduces our equation for average power to

$$P_{AVE} = \frac{R_L}{2} \frac{|\mathbf{V_T}|^2}{(R_T + R_L)^2}$$

We will recall from Lesson 10, that power transfer is maximized when $R_L = R_T$; that is still true for complex impedances!

SOLUTION

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These two conditions combine to give us our condition for maximum power transfer to be:

$$R_T + jX_T = R_L - jX_L$$

or

$$Z_T = Z_L^*$$

We can now use our average power formula from above to calculate maximum possible power transfer:

$$P_{AVE} = \frac{R_L}{2} \frac{|\mathbf{V}_T|^2}{(R_T + R_L)^2 + (X_T - X_L)^2} = \frac{|\mathbf{V}_T|^2}{8R_T}$$

Example 2 – Textbook Exercise 8-42 — Calculate the maximum power available at the interface in Figure 3.

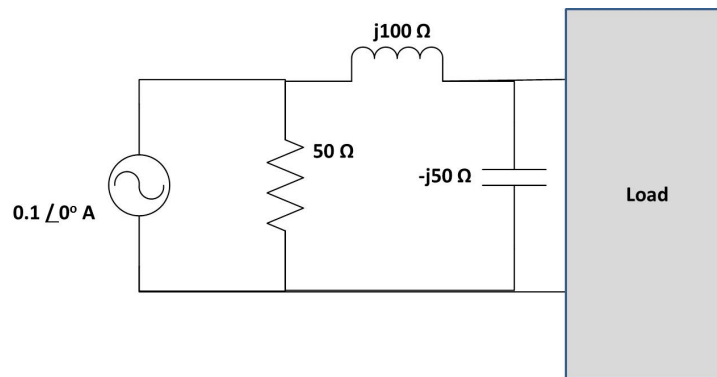


Figure 3: Circuit to accompany example 2

STEP 1 - DRAW THEVENIN SOURCE
SOURCE TRANSFORM

$$V_T = V_{oc} = 5V \left[\frac{-j50}{50 + j50} \right] = 3.53 \angle -135^\circ$$

$$Z_T = (50 + j100) \parallel (-j50) = (25 - j75) \, \Omega$$

$$\therefore R_T = 25 \, \Omega$$

$$P = \frac{|V_T|^2}{8R_T} = \frac{(3.53)^2}{200} = 62.3 \, \text{mW}$$