

AC Circuit Analysis - Unbalanced Wye-Connected Load

Given Data and Introduction

- A balanced wye-connected source supplies power to an unbalanced wye-connected load.
- Source voltage $V_{an} = 208 \angle 40^\circ$ volts (rms).
- Phase impedances: $Z_a = 10 + j20$ ohms, $Z_b = 8 + j12$ ohms, $Z_c = 6 + j22$ ohms.

Objective

To find the load currents and the current in the neutral wire.

Step-by-Step Solution

Step 1: Calculate the line-to-neutral voltages for other phases.

The source is balanced, so:

$$V_{bn} = 208 \angle (-80^\circ)$$

$$V_{cn} = 208 \angle (160^\circ)$$

Explanation:

The phase voltages in a balanced system are separated by 120° .

Supporting Statement:

This helps in calculating the individual phase currents for the unbalanced loads.

Step 2: Calculate the phase currents I_a , I_b , and I_c .

Using Ohm's Law, $I = \frac{V}{Z}$:

$$I_a = \frac{V_{an}}{Z_a}$$

$$I_a = \frac{208 \angle 40^\circ}{10 + j20}$$

$$Z_a = 10 + j20$$

$$|Z_a| = \sqrt{10^2 + 20^2} = \sqrt{100 + 400} = \sqrt{500} = 22.36 \text{ ohms}$$

$$\theta_a = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{20}{10}\right) = \tan^{-1}(2) = 63.435^\circ$$

$$Z_a = 22.36 \angle 63.435^\circ$$

$$I_a = \frac{208 \angle 40^\circ}{22.36 \angle 63.435^\circ}$$

$$I_a = \frac{208}{22.36} \angle (40^\circ - 63.435^\circ)$$

$$I_a = 9.3 \angle -23.435^\circ \text{ A (Amps)}$$

Explanation:

The magnitude of I_a is obtained by dividing the magnitudes of V_{an} and Z_a , and the angle is the difference between the angles of V_{an} and Z_a .

Supporting Statement:

This gives the phase current (I_a) .

Step 3: Calculate Phase Currents (I_b) and (I_c) .

For (I_b) :

$$I_b = \frac{V_{bn}}{Z_b}$$

$$I_b = \frac{208 \angle -80^\circ}{8 + j12}$$

$$Z_b = 8 + j12$$

$$|Z_b| = \sqrt{8^2 + 12^2} = \sqrt{64 + 144} = \sqrt{208} = 14.42 \text{ } \Omega$$

$$\theta_b = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{12}{8}\right) = \tan^{-1}(1.5) = 56.31^\circ$$

$$Z_b = 14.42 \angle 56.31^\circ$$

$$I_b = \frac{208 \angle -80^\circ}{14.42 \angle 56.31^\circ}$$

$$I_b = \frac{208}{14.42} \angle (-80^\circ - 56.31^\circ)$$

$$I_b = 14.42 \angle -136.31^\circ \text{ A}$$

For (I_c) :

$$I_c = \frac{V_{cn}}{Z_c}$$

$$I_c = \frac{208 \angle 160^\circ}{6 + j22}$$

$$Z_c = 6 + j22$$

$$|Z_c| = \sqrt{6^2 + 22^2} = \sqrt{36 + 484} = \sqrt{520} = 22.8 \text{ } \Omega$$

$$\theta_c = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{22}{6}\right) = \tan^{-1}(3.67) = 74.05^\circ$$

$$Z_c = 22.8 \angle 74.05^\circ$$

$$I_c = \frac{208 \angle 160^\circ}{22.8 \angle 74.05^\circ}$$

$$I_c = \frac{208}{22.8} \angle (160^\circ - 74.05^\circ)$$

$$I_c = 9.12 \angle 85.95^\circ \text{ A}$$

Explanation:

Proceed similarly to the calculation for (I_a) to find the phase currents (I_b) and (I_c) .

Supporting Statement:

This helps in calculating the individual phase currents for the unbalanced loads.

Step 4: Calculate the neutral current (I_n) .

$$I_n = I_a + I_b + I_c$$

Convert currents to rectangular form:

$$I_a = 9.3 \angle -23.435^\circ = 9.3 (\cos(-23.435^\circ) + j \sin(-23.435^\circ))$$

$$I_a = 9.3 \times 0.919 + j \times 9.3 \times -0.398$$

$$I_a \approx 8.55 - j 3.7 \text{ A}$$

$$I_b = 14.42 \angle -136.31^\circ = 14.42 (\cos(-136.31^\circ) + j \sin(-136.31^\circ))$$

$$I_b = 14.42 \times -0.719 + j \times 14.42 \times -0.695$$

$$I_b \approx -10.36 - j 10.02 \text{ A}$$

$$I_c = 9.12 \angle 85.95^\circ = 9.12 (\cos(85.95^\circ) + j \sin(85.95^\circ))$$

$$I_c = 9.12 \times 0.06 + j \times 9.12 \times 0.998$$

$$I_c \approx 0.547 + j 9.10 \text{ A}$$

Sum the rectangular components:

$$\mathbf{I}_n = (8.55 - 10.36 + 0.547) + j(-3.7 - 10.02 + 9.10) \text{ A}$$

$$\mathbf{I}_n = -1.263 - j4.62 \text{ A}$$

Convert back to polar form:

$$|\mathbf{I}_n| = \sqrt{(-1.263)^2 + (-4.62)^2} = \sqrt{1.595 + 21.344} = \sqrt{22.94} \approx 4.79 \text{ A}$$

$$\theta_n = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{-4.62}{-1.263}\right) = \tan^{-1}(3.66) = -74.83^\circ$$

$$\mathbf{I}_n = 4.79 \angle -74.83^\circ \text{ A}$$

Explanation:

The neutral current is the vector sum of the individual phase currents. Converting the phase currents to rectangular form and summing was necessary to get the result accurately.

Supporting Statement:

The resulting current in the neutral wire gives a complete understanding of how the sum of the unbalanced currents impacts the system.

Final Solution

- $\mathbf{I}_a = 9.3 \angle -23.435^\circ \text{ A}$
- $\mathbf{I}_b = 14.42 \angle -136.31^\circ \text{ A}$
- $\mathbf{I}_c = 9.12 \angle 85.95^\circ \text{ A}$
- $\mathbf{I}_n = 4.79 \angle -74.83^\circ \text{ A}$