

Experiment 4.2

Maximum Power Transfer

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1 Objectives

When designing circuits, the maximum power transfer to a particular component may be a critical feature, so we must account for this factor in our design. In this experiment, we measure and model an unknown circuit as its Thevenin equivalent at steady state. Next, we design the load that draws the maximum power under certain constraints [1].

2 Experimental Results

We set the signal generator to output a voltage of $V = 7.00\angle 0^\circ V$, as suggested by the technician, to accommodate for the line and internal impedances by the time the signal gets to the Black Box. We measure $V_{OC} = 0.835V$, $V_{OC,rms} = 2.78V$, and $\theta_v = 35^\circ$.

We connect a resistive load $R_L = 9.92\Omega$ and measure $I_{L,rms} = 43.64mA$. The resulting phase is measured as $\theta_v = \theta_i = 19^\circ$. Using the magnitude and phase, the load current phasor is $I_L = 0.04364\angle 19^\circ A$.

Using the open circuit voltage phasor and the load current phasor, the Thevenin impedance is calculated as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} Z_{TH} &= \frac{V_{OC}}{I_L} \\ &= \frac{0.835\angle 35^\circ V}{0.04364\angle 19^\circ A} \\ &= 9.929\angle 32^\circ \Omega. \end{aligned}$$

With the available components, we wired 7 capacitors with $C_L = 490\mu F$ in parallel which resulted in $R_L = 13.6\Omega$ for maximum power transfer.

$R_L(\Omega)$	$P(W)$		
20	19.0	10	24.0
19	19.5	9	24.4
18	20.0	8	24.8
17	20.5	7	25.0
16	21.0	6	25.0
15	21.5	5	24.7
14	22.0	4	23.8
13	22.6	3	22.2
12	23.1	2	19.5
11	23.6	1	14.5

Table 1: Real power vs Load resistance

Varying the load resistance, we obtain the following powers as shown in Table 1.

3 Discussion

As calculated in the Experimental Results, we obtain a Thevenin equivalent of:

$$\mathbf{V}_{Th} = 0.835\angle 35^\circ \text{ and } \mathbf{Z}_{Th} = 9.929\angle 32^\circ$$

For maximum power transfer to occur, $\mathbf{Z}_L = \mathbf{Z}_{Th}^*$, however, due to component restrictions, $X_L = -5.4133$. Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}
R_L &= \sqrt{R_{Th}^2 + (X_{Th} - X_L)^2} \\
&= \sqrt{(8.42)^2 + ((5.26) - (-5.4133))^2} \\
&= 13.6\Omega \text{ (Our estimate)}
\end{aligned}$$

As seen in Table 1, the resistance that drew the maximum power was around 7Ω . When measured, a final value of $R_L = 7.2\Omega$ was obtained to maximize power delivered to the load.

The true value of R_L was lower than expected, which may have been due to unknown impedances in the equipment used; however, this is likely not the true cause.

4 Conclusion

References

- [1] N. Dimopoulos, F. Gebali, *Laboratory Manual: ECE 250, Linear Circuits I (Edition 4)*, University of Victoria, Victoria, B.C, 2018, pp.46-49.