

ECEN 222

Maxx Seminario

Introduction to  
Frequency  
Domain

Phasor  
Representation  
Impedance

Phasor Circuit  
Analysis

AC Power  
Analysis

Summary

Phasor Basics  
Problems

Impedance  
Calculation  
Problems

Circuit Analysis

AC Power  
Problems

# Frequency Domain Analysis of Circuits

Maxx Seminario

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Spring 2026

# Why Frequency Domain Analysis?

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Introduction to  
Frequency  
Domain

Phasor  
Representation

Impedance

Phasor Circuit  
Analysis

AC Power  
Analysis

Summary

Phasor Basics  
Problems

Impedance  
Calculation  
Problems

Circuit Analysis

AC Power  
Problems

## Limitations of Time Domain:

- Differential equations for AC circuits
- Complex trig math
- Difficult for sinusoidal steady-state

## Frequency Domain Advantages:

- Converts differential equations to algebra
- Easy handling of sinusoidal signals
- Simplifies AC circuit analysis

## Applications:

- AC power systems (60 Hz)
- Audio systems (20 Hz - 20 kHz)
- Radio frequency circuits (MHz - GHz)
- Signal processing and filtering

## Domain Transformation Tool

**Phasor transform** converts time-domain sinusoids to frequency-domain complex numbers

## Goal for this lecture

Review frequency domain (phasor) analysis for AC circuits

# Sinusoidal Signals: The Foundation

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Introduction to  
Frequency  
Domain

Phasor  
Representation

Impedance

Phasor Circuit  
Analysis

AC Power  
Analysis

Summary

Phasor Basics  
Problems

Impedance  
Calculation  
Problems

Circuit Analysis

AC Power  
Problems

## General Sinusoidal Signal:

$$v(t) = V_m \cos(\omega t + \phi)$$

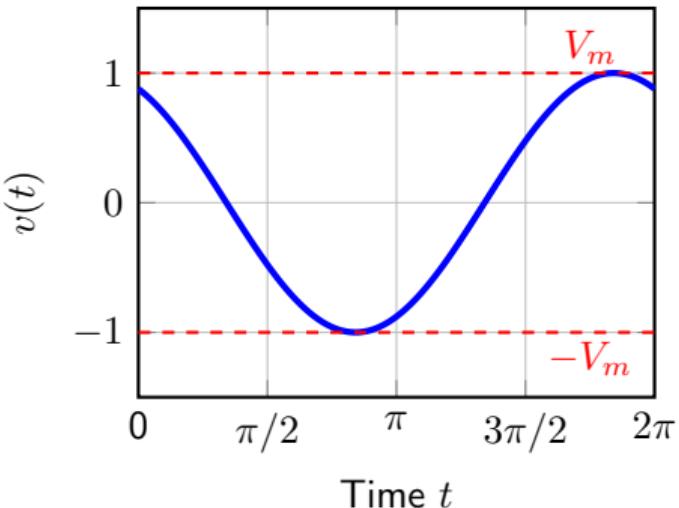
where:

- $V_m$  = amplitude (peak value)
- $\omega$  = angular frequency (rad/s)
- $\phi$  = phase angle (radians or degrees)

## Related Parameters:

- Frequency:  $f = \omega/(2\pi)$  (Hz)
- Period:  $T = 1/f = 2\pi/\omega$  (s)
- RMS value:  $V_{rms} = V_m/\sqrt{2}$

## Sinusoidal Waveform:



# Phasor Concept: From Time to Frequency Domain

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Introduction to  
Frequency  
Domain

Phasor  
Representation

Impedance

Phasor Circuit  
Analysis

AC Power  
Analysis

Summary

Phasor Basics  
Problems

Impedance  
Calculation  
Problems

Circuit Analysis

AC Power  
Problems

## Euler's Identity:

$$e^{j\theta} = \cos \theta + j \sin \theta$$

## Sinusoid as Complex Exponential:

$$v(t) = V_m \cos(\omega t + \phi)$$

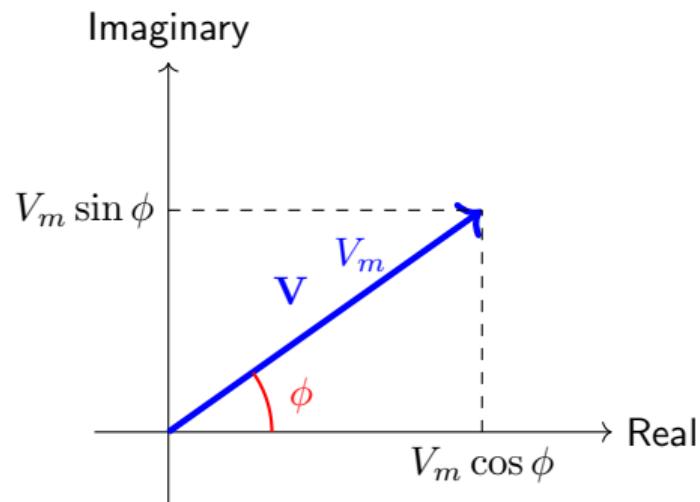
$$v(t) = \operatorname{Re}\{V_m e^{j(\omega t + \phi)}\}$$

$$v(t) = \operatorname{Re}\{V_m e^{j\phi} e^{j\omega t}\}$$

## Phasor Definition

$$\mathbf{V} = V_m e^{j\phi} = V_m \angle \phi$$

## Phasor Diagram:



## Rectangular Form:

$$\mathbf{V} = V_m \cos \phi + j V_m \sin \phi$$

# Phasor Transform: Summary

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Introduction to  
Frequency  
Domain

Phasor  
Representation  
Impedance

Phasor Circuit  
Analysis

AC Power  
Analysis

Summary

Phasor Basics  
Problems

Impedance  
Calculation  
Problems

Circuit Analysis

AC Power  
Problems

| Time Domain                 | Phasor Domain                  | Operation                                    |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| $V_m \cos(\omega t + \phi)$ | $\mathbf{V} = V_m \angle \phi$ | Domain transformation                        |
| $\frac{d}{dt}$              | $j\omega$                      | Differentiation $\rightarrow$ multiplication |
| $\int dt$                   | $\frac{1}{j\omega}$            | Integration $\rightarrow$ division           |
| Addition                    | Addition                       | Same (LTI Systems)                           |

## Key Advantage

- 😊 **Differentiation** in time domain  $\rightarrow$  **Multiplication** by  $j\omega$  in phasor domain.
- 😊 Phasor analysis only works for **linear circuits** with **sinusoidal sources** at the **same frequency** in **steady-state**

# Electrical Impedance

ECEN 222

Maxx Seminario

Introduction to  
Frequency  
Domain

Phasor  
Representation  
Impedance

Phasor Circuit  
Analysis

AC Power  
Analysis

Summary

Phasor Basics  
Problems

Impedance  
Calculation  
Problems

Circuit Analysis

AC Power  
Problems

## Definition:

Impedance is the ratio of phasor voltage to phasor current:

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

## Polar Form:

$$Z = |Z| \angle \theta$$

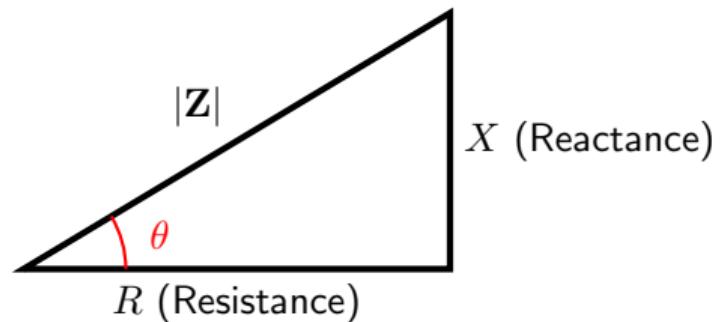
## Rectangular Form:

$$Z = R + jX$$

where:

- $R$  = resistance (real part)
- $X$  = reactance (imaginary part)

## Impedance in Complex Plane:



## Relationships:

$$|Z| = \sqrt{R^2 + X^2}$$

$$\theta = \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{X}{R} \right)$$

# Impedance of R, L, and C

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Maxx Seminario

Introduction to  
Frequency  
Domain

Phasor  
Representation  
Impedance

Phasor Circuit  
Analysis

AC Power  
Analysis

Summary

Phasor Basics  
Problems

Impedance  
Calculation  
Problems

Circuit Analysis

AC Power  
Problems

| Element   | Time Domain           | Impedance  | Phase |
|-----------|-----------------------|--|-------|
| Resistor  | $v = iR$              | $\mathbf{Z}_R = R$   | 0     |
| Inductor  | $v = L \frac{di}{dt}$ | $\mathbf{Z}_L = j\omega L$                                 | +90   |
| Capacitor | $i = C \frac{dv}{dt}$ | $\mathbf{Z}_C = \frac{1}{j\omega C} = \frac{-j}{\omega C}$ | -90   |

## Resistor:

- Real impedance
- V and I in phase
- Frequency independent

## Inductor:

- Imaginary impedance
- V leads I by 90°
- $|\mathbf{Z}_L| = \omega L$  increases with  $\omega$

## Capacitor:

- Imaginary impedance
- I leads V by 90°
- $|\mathbf{Z}_C| = 1/(\omega C)$  decreases with  $\omega$

# Frequency Behavior of Impedance

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Introduction to  
Frequency  
Domain

Phasor  
Representation  
Impedance

Phasor Circuit  
Analysis

AC Power  
Analysis

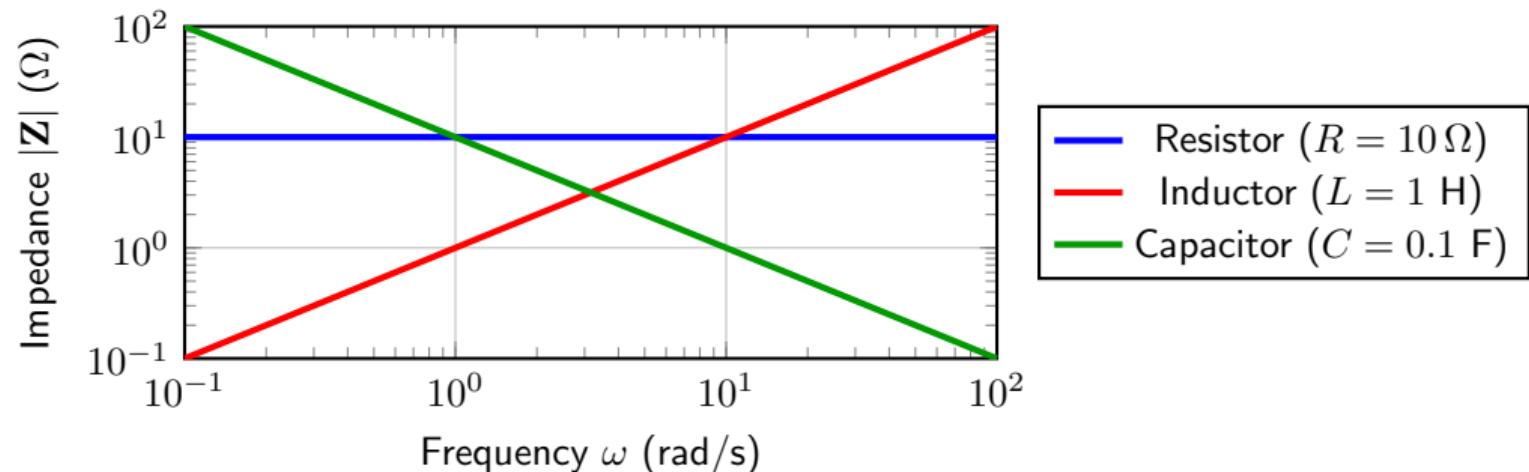
Summary

Phasor Basics  
Problems

Impedance  
Calculation  
Problems

Circuit Analysis

AC Power  
Problems



## Frequency Behavior

- **Resistor:** Constant impedance (frequency independent)
- **Inductor:** High impedance at high frequencies (blocks AC, passes DC)
- **Capacitor:** Low impedance at high frequencies (blocks DC, passes AC)

# Phasor Analysis: Circuit Laws

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Maxx Seminario

Introduction to  
Frequency  
Domain

Phasor  
Representation

Impedance

Phasor Circuit  
Analysis

AC Power  
Analysis

Summary

Phasor Basics  
Problems

Impedance  
Calculation  
Problems

Circuit Analysis

AC Power  
Problems

All DC circuit analysis techniques apply to phasors

**Kirchhoff's Voltage Law (KVL):**

$$\sum \mathbf{V}_k = 0$$

**Series Impedances:**

$$\mathbf{Z}_{eq} = \mathbf{Z}_1 + \mathbf{Z}_2 + \cdots + \mathbf{Z}_n$$

**Kirchhoff's Current Law (KCL):**

$$\sum \mathbf{I}_k = 0$$

**Parallel Impedances:**

$$\mathbf{Z}_{eq}^{-1} = \mathbf{Z}_1^{-1} + \mathbf{Z}_2^{-1} + \cdots + \mathbf{Z}_n^{-1}$$

**Ohm's Law:**

$$\mathbf{V} = \mathbf{I}\mathbf{Z}$$

**Voltage Divider:**

$$\mathbf{V}_k = \mathbf{V}_s \mathbf{Z}_k (\mathbf{Z}_1 + \mathbf{Z}_2)^{-1}$$

**Key Point**

Replace resistances with impedances, and voltages/currents with phasors. Then use the standard DC techniques

# Example: Series RC Circuit

ECEN 222

Maxx Seminario

Introduction to  
Frequency  
Domain

Phasor  
Representation  
Impedance

Phasor Circuit  
Analysis

AC Power  
Analysis

Summary

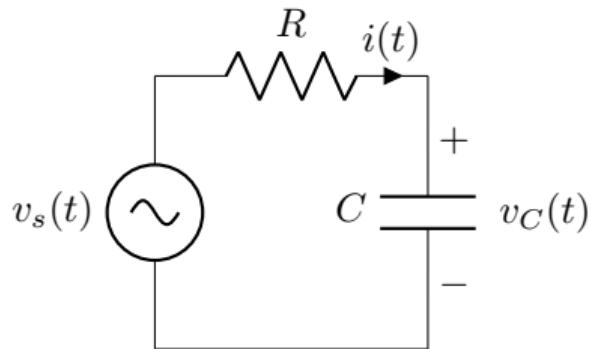
Phasor Basics  
Problems

Impedance  
Calculation  
Problems

Circuit Analysis

AC Power  
Problems

**Circuit:**



**Given:**

- $v_s(t) = V_m \cos(\omega t)$
- $R = 100 \Omega$
- $C = 10 \mu\text{F}$
- $\omega = 1000 \text{ rad/s}$

**Phasor Analysis:**

Source phasor:  $\mathbf{V}_s = V_m \angle 0$

Impedances:

$$\mathbf{Z}_R = 100 \Omega$$

$$\mathbf{Z}_C = \frac{-j}{\omega C} = \frac{-j}{0.01} = -j100 \Omega$$

Total impedance:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{Z}_{eq} &= R - jX_C = 100 - j100 \\ &= 141.4 \angle -45^\circ\end{aligned}$$

Current:

$$\mathbf{I} = \frac{\mathbf{V}_s}{\mathbf{Z}_{eq}} = \frac{V_m \angle 0}{141.4 \angle -45^\circ} = \frac{V_m}{141.4} \angle 45^\circ$$

# Example: Phasor Diagram

ECEN 222

Maxx Seminario

Introduction to  
Frequency  
Domain

Phasor  
Representation  
Impedance

Phasor Circuit  
Analysis

AC Power  
Analysis  
Summary

Phasor Basics  
Problems

Impedance  
Calculation  
Problems

Circuit Analysis

AC Power  
Problems

## Voltage Divider:

Capacitor voltage:

$$\mathbf{V}_C = \mathbf{V}_s \frac{\mathbf{Z}_C}{\mathbf{Z}_R + \mathbf{Z}_C}$$

$$= \mathbf{V}_s \frac{-j100}{100 - j100}$$

$$= \mathbf{V}_s \frac{100 \angle -90^\circ}{141.4 \angle -45^\circ}$$

$$= 0.707V_m \angle -45^\circ$$

Resistor voltage:

$$\mathbf{V}_R = \mathbf{I}R = 0.707V_m \angle 45^\circ$$

## Phasor Diagram:

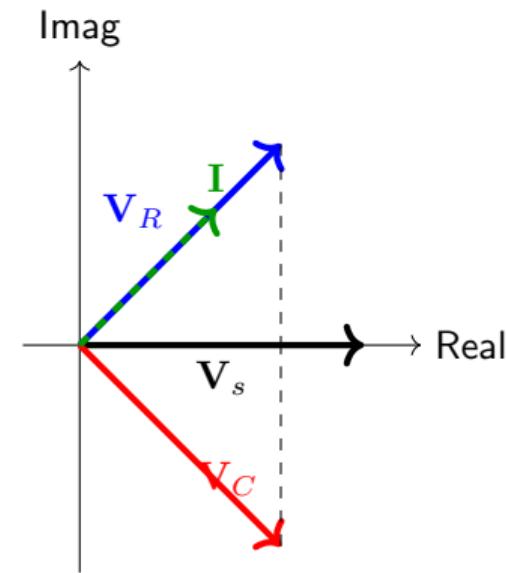


Figure 1:  $\mathbf{V}_R + \mathbf{V}_C = \mathbf{V}_s$  (KVL)

# Example: Series RLC Circuit

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Maxx Seminario

Introduction to  
Frequency  
Domain

Phasor  
Representation  
Impedance

Phasor Circuit  
Analysis

AC Power  
Analysis

Summary

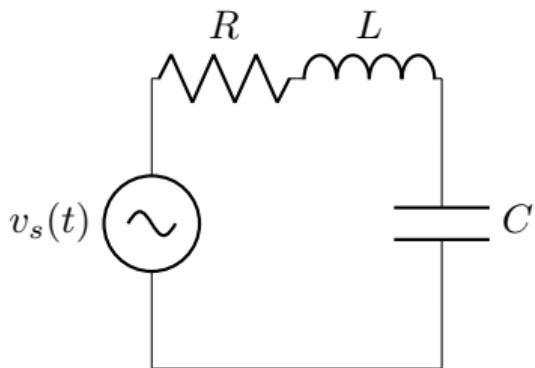
Phasor Basics  
Problems

Impedance  
Calculation  
Problems

Circuit Analysis

AC Power  
Problems

## Circuit:



## Total Impedance:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{Z} &= R + j\omega L + \frac{1}{j\omega C} = R + j \left( \omega L - \frac{1}{\omega C} \right) \\ &= R + j(X_L - X_C) \end{aligned}$$

## Three Cases:

### 1. Inductive ( $X_L > X_C$ ):

- Net reactance is positive
- Voltage leads current
- Behaves like RL circuit

### 2. Capacitive ( $X_L < X_C$ ):

- Net reactance is negative
- Current leads voltage
- Behaves like RC circuit

### 3. Resonant ( $X_L = X_C$ ):

- Net reactance is zero
- $\mathbf{Z} = R$  (purely resistive)
- V and I in phase

# Resonance in RLC Circuits

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Maxx Seminario

Introduction to  
Frequency  
Domain

Phasor  
Representation

Impedance

Phasor Circuit  
Analysis

AC Power  
Analysis

Summary

Phasor Basics  
Problems

Impedance  
Calculation  
Problems

Circuit Analysis

AC Power  
Problems

## Resonance Condition:

At resonance:  $X_L = X_C$

$$\omega_0 L = \frac{1}{\omega_0 C}$$

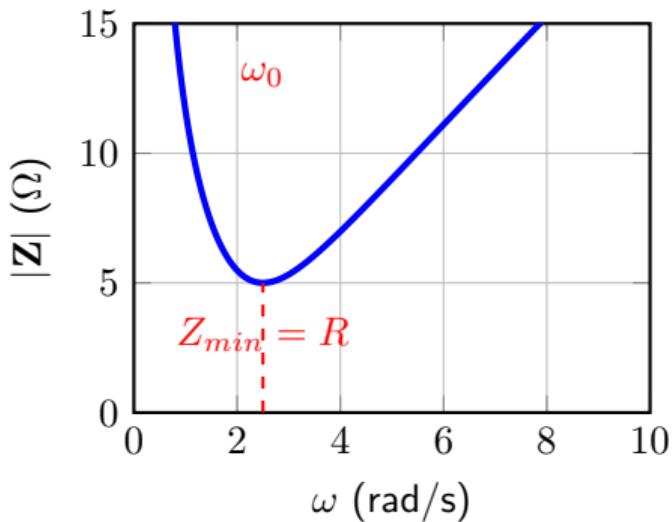
## Resonant Frequency

$$\omega_0 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{LC}}$$

## At Resonance:

- $Z = R$  (minimum impedance)
- Maximum current
- Zero phase angle

## Impedance vs. Frequency:



# AC Power: Instantaneous and Average

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Maxx Seminario

Introduction to  
Frequency  
Domain

Phasor  
Representation  
Impedance

Phasor Circuit  
Analysis

AC Power  
Analysis

Summary

Phasor Basics  
Problems

Impedance  
Calculation  
Problems

Circuit Analysis

AC Power  
Problems

## Instantaneous Power:

For  $v(t) = V_m \cos(\omega t)$  and  
 $i(t) = I_m \cos(\omega t - \theta)$ :

$$p(t) = v(t) \cdot i(t)$$

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

Using trig identity:

$$p(t) = \frac{V_m I_m}{2} \cos \theta + \frac{V_m I_m}{2} \cos(2\omega t - \theta)$$

## Average Power:

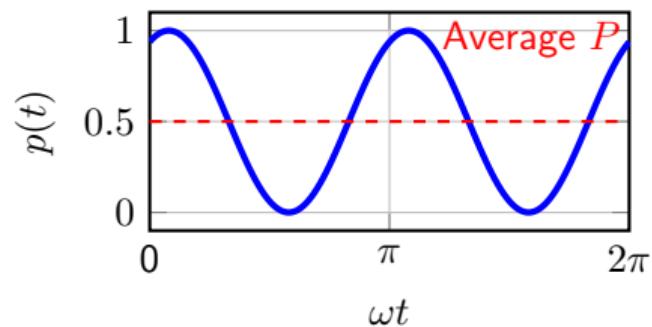
$$P = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T p(t) dt = \frac{V_m I_m}{2} \cos \theta$$

## Using RMS Values:

$$V_{rms} = \frac{V_m}{\sqrt{2}}, \quad I_{rms} = \frac{I_m}{\sqrt{2}}$$

## Average (Real) Power

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



# Reactive and Apparent Power

ECEN 222

Maxx Seminario

Introduction to  
Frequency  
Domain

Phasor  
Representation  
Impedance

Phasor Circuit  
Analysis

AC Power  
Analysis

Summary

Phasor Basics  
Problems

Impedance  
Calculation  
Problems

Circuit Analysis

AC Power  
Problems

## Power Components:

### 1. Real (Average) Power:

$$P = V_{rms} I_{rms} \cos \theta \quad (\text{W})$$

- Power dissipated (resistors)

### 2. Reactive Power:

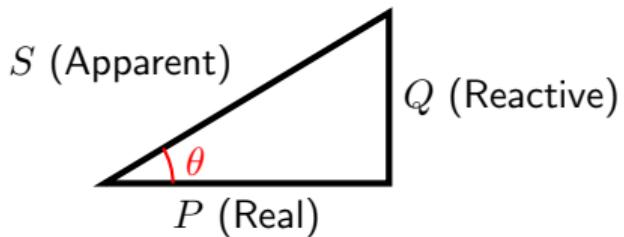
$$Q = V_{rms} I_{rms} \sin \theta \quad (\text{VAR})$$

- Power stored/returned (L/C)

### 3. Apparent Power:

$$S = V_{rms} I_{rms} \quad (\text{VA})$$

## Power Triangle:



$$S = \sqrt{P^2 + Q^2}$$

$$P = S \cos \theta, \quad Q = S \sin \theta$$

## Power Factor:

$$\text{pf} = \cos \theta = \frac{P}{S}$$

# Power Factor and Its Importance

ECEN 222

Maxx Seminario

Introduction to  
Frequency  
Domain

Phasor  
Representation

Impedance

Phasor Circuit  
Analysis

AC Power  
Analysis

Summary

Phasor Basics  
Problems

Impedance  
Calculation  
Problems

Circuit Analysis

AC Power  
Problems

## Power Factor Definition:

$$\text{pf} = \cos \theta = \frac{P}{S}$$

Range:  $0 \leq \text{pf} \leq 1$

## Special Cases:

- 😊 **pf = 1** (unity): purely resistive,  $\theta = 0$
- 😢 **pf = 0**: purely reactive,  $\theta = \pm 90^\circ$

## Leading vs. Lagging:

- Lagging pf: inductive load (current lags voltage)
- Leading pf: capacitive load (current leads voltage)

## Low Power Factor Problems

- 😢 Higher current required
- 😢 Larger conductor sizes needed
- 😢 More  $I^2R$  losses in transmission

## Power Factor Correction:

Add capacitors in parallel with inductive loads to:

- 😊 Increase power factor
- 😊 Reduce reactive power
- 😊 Lower current draw

# Power in Circuit Elements

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Introduction to  
Frequency  
Domain

Phasor  
Representation  
impedance

Phasor Circuit  
Analysis

AC Power  
Analysis

Summary

Phasor Basics  
Problems

Impedance  
Calculation  
Problems

Circuit Analysis

AC Power  
Problems

| Element   | Phase          | Real Power $P$ | Reactive Power $Q$   | pf |
|-----------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|----|
| Resistor  | $\theta = 0$   | $I^2R$         | 0                    | 1  |
| Inductor  | $\theta = 90$  | 0              | $I^2X_L$ (positive)  | 0  |
| Capacitor | $\theta = -90$ | 0              | $-I^2X_C$ (negative) | 0  |

## Key Observations

- Only **resistors** dissipate real power (convert to heat · or light if you mess up)
- **Inductors** and **capacitors** store and return energy (reactive power)
- Reactive power from L and C have opposite signs (can cancel to form resonant networks)

# Summary: Frequency Domain Analysis

ECEN 222

Maxx Seminario

Introduction to  
Frequency  
Domain  
Phasor  
Representation  
Impedance

Phasor Circuit  
Analysis

AC Power  
Analysis  
Summary

Phasor Basics  
Problems

Impedance  
Calculation  
Problems

Circuit Analysis

AC Power  
Problems

## Phasor Analysis:

- Transform:  $V_m \cos(\omega t + \phi) \leftrightarrow V_m \angle \phi$
- ☺ Differential equations → algebra
- $d/dt \rightarrow j\omega$ ,  $\int dt \rightarrow 1/(j\omega)$

## Impedance:

- $\mathbf{Z} = R + jX$
- Resistor:  $\mathbf{Z}_R = R$
- Inductor:  $\mathbf{Z}_L = j\omega L$
- Capacitor:  $\mathbf{Z}_C = 1/(j\omega C)$

## Circuit Analysis:

- ☺ All DC techniques apply
- KVL, KCL, voltage/current dividers
- Series/parallel combinations

## AC Power:

- Real power:  $P = V_{rms} I_{rms} \cos \theta$
- Reactive power:  $Q = V_{rms} I_{rms} \sin \theta$
- Apparent power:  $S = V_{rms} I_{rms}$

## Power Factor:

- pf =  $\cos \theta = P/S$
- Lagging pf: inductive
- Leading pf: capacitive
- ☺ Low pf → higher losses

## Resonance:

- Occurs when  $X_L = X_C$
- $\omega_0 = 1/\sqrt{LC}$
- ☺ Minimum Z, maximum I

# Comparison: Time vs. Frequency Domain

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Maxx Seminario

Introduction to  
Frequency  
Domain

Phasor  
Representation

Impedance  
Phasor Circuit  
Analysis

AC Power  
Analysis

Summary

Phasor Basics  
Problems

Impedance  
Calculation  
Problems

Circuit Analysis

AC Power  
Problems

| Aspect           | Time Domain                      | Frequency Domain                              |
|------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Signals          | $v(t)$ , $i(t)$ (real functions) | $\mathbf{V}$ , $\mathbf{I}$ (complex phasors) |
| Math             | Differential equations           | Algebraic equations                           |
| Circuit elements | R, L, C (time relations)         | $Z_R$ , $Z_L$ , $Z_C$ (impedances)            |
| Analysis         | Initial conditions, transients   | Steady-state, magnitude/phase                 |
| Advantages       | Shows time evolution             | Simplifies sinusoidal analysis                |
| Limitations      | Complex for AC steady-state      | Only sinusoidal steady-state                  |

## When to Use Each

**Time Domain:** Transients, switching, initial conditions, non-sinusoidal signals

**Frequency Domain:** AC steady-state, sinusoidal sources, impedance analysis

# Example 1: Phasor Conversions

ECEN 222

Maxx Seminario

Introduction to  
Frequency  
Domain

Phasor  
Representation  
Impedance

Phasor Circuit  
Analysis

AC Power  
Analysis

Summary

Phasor Basics  
Problems

Impedance  
Calculation  
Problems

Circuit Analysis

AC Power  
Problems

**Problem:** Convert the following time-domain signals to phasors, then perform the operations.

**Given:**

$$v_1(t) = 10 \cos(1000t + 30) \text{ V}$$

$$v_2(t) = 5 \cos(1000t - 45) \text{ V}$$

$$i(t) = 2 \cos(1000t + 60) \text{ A}$$

**Find:**

- 1 Phasor forms of  $v_1$ ,  $v_2$ , and  $i$
- 2  $\mathbf{V}_1 + \mathbf{V}_2$
- 3  $\mathbf{V}_1 - \mathbf{V}_2$
- 4  $\mathbf{V}_1/\mathbf{I}$

## Example 2: Impedance at Different Frequencies

ECEN 222

Maxx Seminario

Introduction to  
Frequency  
Domain

Phasor  
Representation  
Impedance

Phasor Circuit  
Analysis

AC Power  
Analysis

Summary

Phasor Basics  
Problems

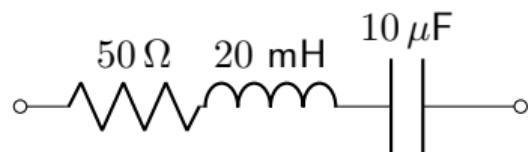
Impedance  
Calculation  
Problems

Circuit Analysis

AC Power  
Problems

**Problem:** A series circuit contains  $R = 50 \Omega$ ,  $L = 20 \text{ mH}$ , and  $C = 10 \mu\text{F}$ . Find the total impedance at the following frequencies.

**Circuit:**



**Given:**

- $R = 50 \Omega$
- $L = 20 \text{ mH}$
- $C = 10 \mu\text{F}$

**Find the total impedance at:**

- (a)  $f = 100 \text{ Hz}$
- (b)  $f = 500 \text{ Hz}$
- (c)  $f = 1000 \text{ Hz}$

**For each frequency, determine:**

- 1 Magnitude  $|Z|$
- 2 Phase angle  $\theta$
- 3 Whether the circuit is inductive or capacitive

# Example 3: Series RL Circuit

ECEN 222

Maxx Seminario

Introduction to  
Frequency  
Domain

Phasor  
Representation  
Impedance

Phasor Circuit  
Analysis

AC Power  
Analysis  
Summary

Phasor Basics  
Problems

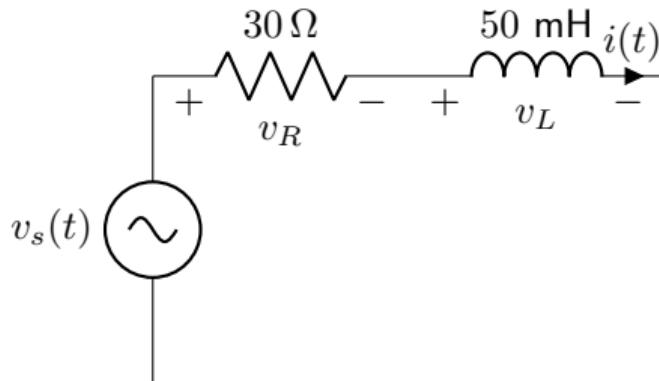
Impedance  
Calculation  
Problems

Circuit Analysis

AC Power  
Problems

**Problem:** For the circuit shown, find the current, voltage across each element, and draw the phasor diagram.

**Circuit:**



**Given:**

- $v_s(t) = 100 \cos(2000t) \text{ V}$
- $R = 30 \Omega$
- $L = 50 \text{ mH} = 0.05 \text{ H}$
- $\omega = 2000 \text{ rad/s}$

**Find:**

- 1 Total impedance  $Z_{tot}$
- 2 Current  $i(t)$  (phasor and time domain)
- 3 Voltage across resistor  $v_R(t)$
- 4 Voltage across inductor  $v_L(t)$
- 5 Draw the phasor diagram
- 6 Verify KVL

# Example 4: RC Voltage Divider

ECEN 222

Maxx Seminario

Introduction to  
Frequency  
Domain

Phasor  
Representation  
impedance

Phasor Circuit  
Analysis

AC Power  
Analysis

Summary

Phasor Basics  
Problems

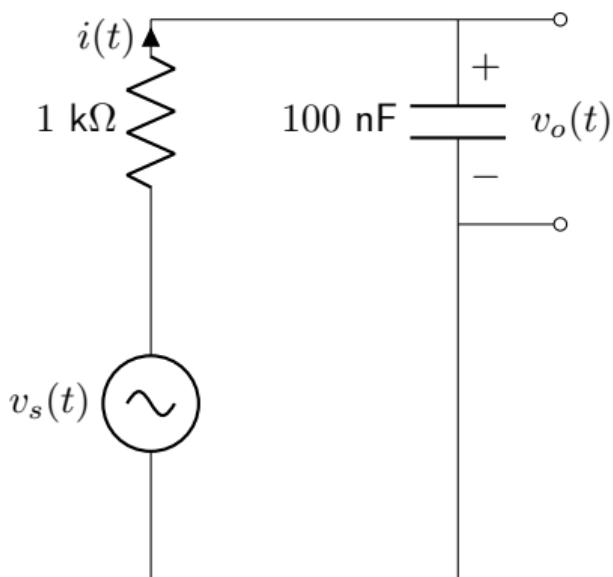
Impedance  
Calculation  
Problems

Circuit Analysis

AC Power  
Problems

**Problem:** Analyze the following RC voltage divider circuit.

**Circuit:**



**Given:**

- $v_s(t) = 10 \cos(10000t)$  V
- $R = 1$  kΩ
- $C = 100$  nF

**Find:**

- 1 The impedance of each element
- 2 The output voltage  $\mathbf{V}_o$
- 3 The output voltage  $v_o(t)$
- 4 The magnitude ratio  $|\mathbf{V}_o|/|\mathbf{V}_s|$
- 5 The phase shift between input and output
- 6 The current  $i(t)$

# Example 5: AC Power Calculation

ECEN 222

Maxx Seminario

Introduction to  
Frequency  
Domain

Phasor  
Representation  
Impedance

Phasor Circuit  
Analysis

AC Power  
Analysis

Summary

Phasor Basics  
Problems

Impedance  
Calculation  
Problems

Circuit Analysis

AC Power  
Problems

**Problem:** Calculate the real, reactive, and apparent power for a load with the following voltage and current.

**Given:**

$$v(t) = 120\sqrt{2} \cos(377t) \text{ V}$$

$$i(t) = 10\sqrt{2} \cos(377t - 36.87) \text{ A}$$

*Note: The coefficients include  $\sqrt{2}$  to indicate peak values*

**Find:**

- 1 RMS voltage and current
- 2 Real power  $P$
- 3 Reactive power  $Q$
- 4 Apparent power  $S$
- 5 Power factor (and type)
- 6 Load impedance  $Z$

# Example 6: Parallel RLC Circuit

ECEN 222

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Introduction to  
Frequency  
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Representation  
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Summary

Phasor Basics  
Problems

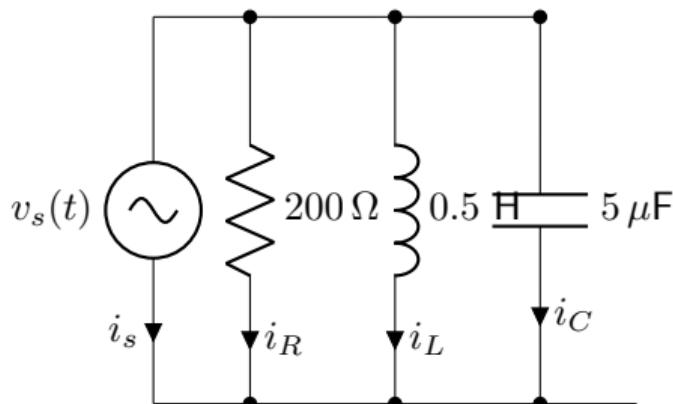
Impedance  
Calculation  
Problems

Circuit Analysis

AC Power  
Problems

**Problem:** Analyze the parallel RLC circuit shown below.

**Circuit:**



**Given:**

- $v_s(t) = 50 \cos(1000t) \text{ V}$

**Find:**

- 1 Impedance of each branch
- 2 Total impedance
- 3 Source current  $i_s(t)$
- 4 Current through each branch
- 5 Total real power
- 6 Total reactive power
- 7 Is the circuit inductive or capacitive?