

# **ECEN 460**

## **Power System Operation and Control**

### **Spring 2025**

## **Lecture 3: Complex Power, Three-Phase**

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**TEXAS A&M**  
UNIVERSITY

# Transformer Fire Video



After class the video will be available in Canvas

# Complex Power



## Power

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

$$v(t) = V_{\max} \cos(\omega t + \theta_V)$$

$$i(t) = I_{\max} \cos(\omega t + \theta_I)$$

$$\cos \alpha \cos \beta = \frac{1}{2} [\cos(\alpha - \beta) + \cos(\alpha + \beta)]$$

$$p(t) = \frac{1}{2} V_{\max} I_{\max} [\cos(\theta_V - \theta_I) + \cos(2\omega t + \theta_V + \theta_I)]$$

# Complex Power, cont'd



## Average Power

$$p(t) = \frac{1}{2} V_{\max} I_{\max} [\cos(\theta_V - \theta_I) + \cos(2\omega t + \theta_V + \theta_I)]$$

$$P_{avg} = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T p(t) dt$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} V_{\max} I_{\max} \cos(\theta_V - \theta_I)$$

$$= |V| |I| \cos(\theta_V - \theta_I)$$

**Power Factor Angle** =  $\phi = \theta_V - \theta_I$

# Complex Power



$$S = |V||I|[\cos(\theta_V - \theta_I) + j\sin(\theta_V - \theta_I)]$$

$$= P + jQ$$

(Note:  $S$  is a complex number but not a phasor)

$$= \mathbf{V} \mathbf{I}^*$$

$P$  = Real Power (W, kW, MW)

$Q$  = Reactive Power (var, kvar, Mvar)

$S$  = Complex power (VA, kVA, MVA)

Power Factor (pf) =  $\cos\phi$

If current leads voltage then pf is leading

If current lags voltage then pf is lagging

# Complex Power, cont'd



Relationships between real, reactive and complex power

$$P = |S| \cos \phi$$

$$Q = |S| \sin \phi = \pm |S| \sqrt{1 - pf^2}$$

Example: A load draws 100 kW with a leading pf of 0.85.  
What are  $\phi$  (power factor angle),  $Q$  and  $|S|$ ?

$$\phi = -\cos^{-1} 0.85 = -31.8^\circ$$

$$|S| = \frac{100 \text{ kW}}{0.85} = 117.6 \text{ kVA}$$

$$Q = 117.6 \sin(-31.8^\circ) = -62.0 \text{ kVar}$$

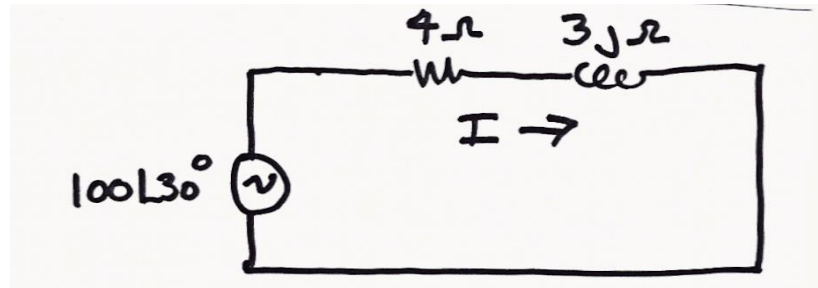
# Conservation of Power

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- At every node (bus) in the system
  - Sum of real power into node must equal zero
  - Sum of reactive power into node must equal zero
- This is a direct consequence of Kirchhoff's current law, which states that the total current into each node must equal zero.
  - Conservation of power follows since  $S = VI^*$

# Conversation of Power Example



Earlier we found  $I = 20\angle-6.9^\circ$  amps

$$S = V I^* = 100\angle30^\circ \times 20\angle6.9^\circ = 2000\angle36.9^\circ \text{ VA}$$

$$\phi = 36.9^\circ \quad \text{pf} = 0.8 \text{ lagging}$$

$$S_R = V_R I^* = 4 \times 20\angle-6.9^\circ \times 20\angle6.9^\circ$$

$$P_R = 1600\text{W} = |I|^2 R \quad (Q_R = 0)$$

$$S_L = V_L I^* = 3j \times 20\angle-6.9^\circ \times 20\angle6.9^\circ$$

$$Q_L = 1200\text{var} = |I|^2 X \quad (P_L = 0)$$



# Power Consumption in Devices



Resistors only consume real power

$$P_{\text{Resistor}} = |I_{\text{Resistor}}|^2 R$$

Inductors only consume reactive power

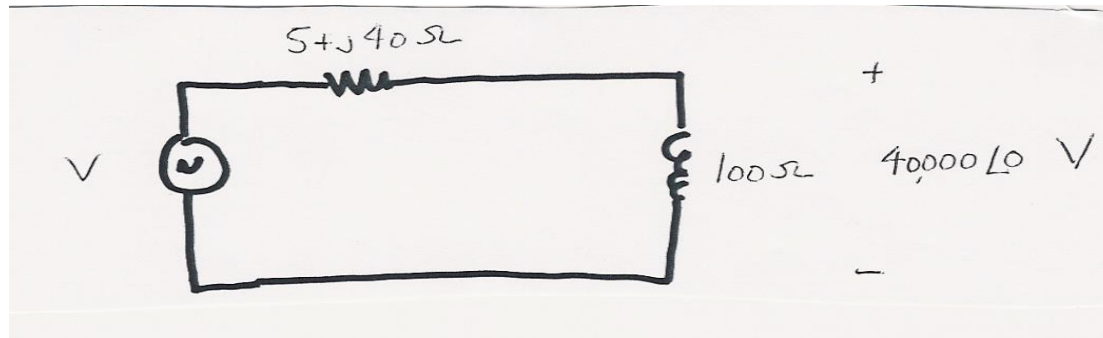
$$Q_{\text{Inductor}} = |I_{\text{Inductor}}|^2 X_L$$

Capacitors only generate reactive power

$$Q_{\text{Capacitor}} = -|I_{\text{Capacitor}}|^2 X_C \quad X_C = \frac{1}{\omega C}$$

$$Q_{\text{Capacitor}} = -\frac{|V_{\text{Capacitor}}|^2}{X_C} \quad (\text{Note-some define } X_C \text{ negative})$$

# Example



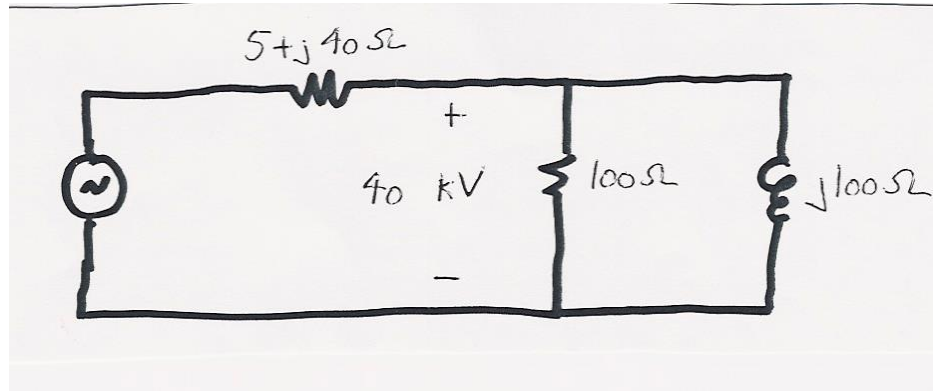
First solve the basic circuit

$$I = \frac{40000 \angle 0^\circ \text{ V}}{100 \angle 0^\circ \Omega} = 400 \angle 0^\circ \text{ Amps}$$

$$\begin{aligned} V &= 40000 \angle 0^\circ + (5 + j40) 400 \angle 0^\circ \\ &= 42000 + j16000 = 44.9 \angle 20.8^\circ \text{ kV} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} S &= VI^* = 44.9 \text{ k} \angle 20.8^\circ \times 400 \angle 0^\circ \\ &= 17.98 \angle 20.8^\circ \text{ MVA} = 16.8 + j6.4 \text{ MVA} \end{aligned}$$

## Example, cont'd



Now add additional reactive power load and resolve

$$Z_{Load} = 70.7 \angle 45^\circ \quad pf = 0.7 \text{ lagging}$$

$$I = 564 \angle -45^\circ \text{ Amps}$$

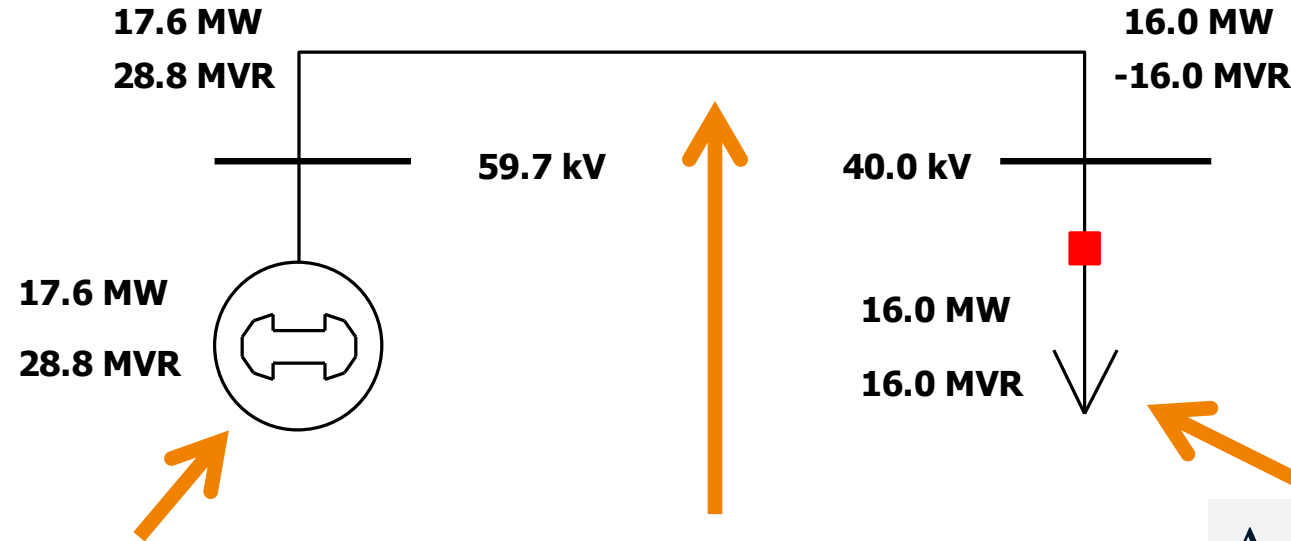
$$V = 59.7 \angle 13.6^\circ \text{ kV}$$

$$S = 33.7 \angle 58.6^\circ \text{ MVA} = 17.6 + j28.8 \text{ MVA}$$

# Power System Notation



- Power system components are usually shown as oneline diagrams  
Previous circuit redrawn



Generators are shown as circles

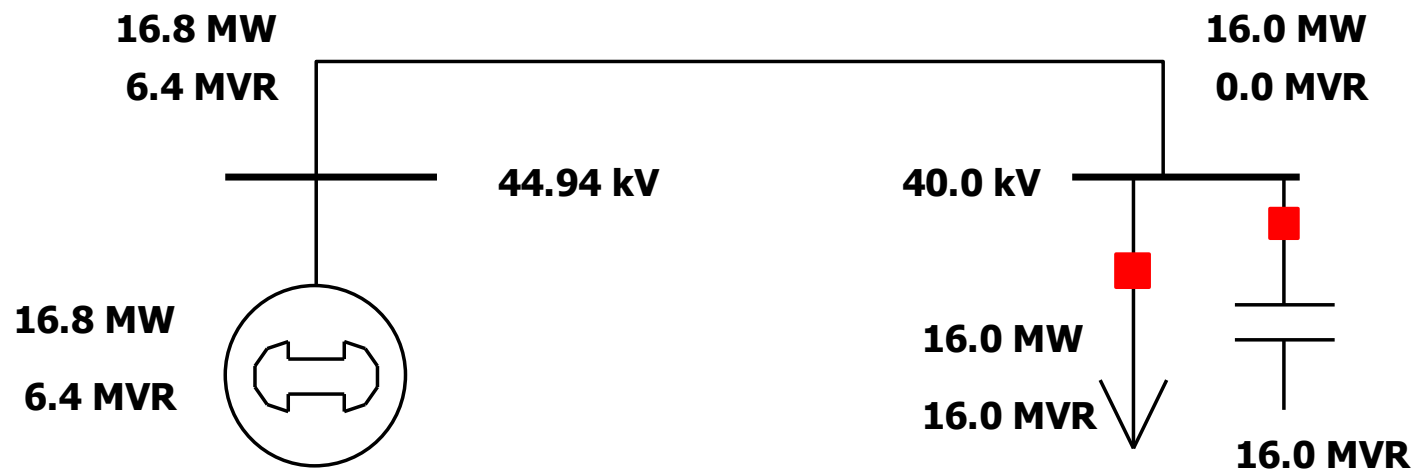
Transmission lines are shown as a single line

Arrows are used to show loads

# Reactive Compensation



- Key idea of reactive compensation is to supply reactive power locally. In the previous example this can be done by adding a 16 Mvar capacitor at the load



Power engineers think of capacitors in terms of how much reactive power they can supply at a specified (rated) voltage; not in terms of Farads

Compensated circuit is identical to first example with just real power load

# Reactive Compensation, cont'd

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- Reactive compensation decreased the line flow from 564 Amps to 400 Amps. This has advantages
  - Lines losses, which are equal to  $I^2 R$  decrease
  - Lower current allows utility to use small wires, or alternatively, supply more load over the same wires
  - Voltage drop on the line is less
- Reactive compensation is used extensively by utilities
- Capacitors can be used to “correct” a load’s power factor to an arbitrary value.

# Power Factor Correction Example



Assume we have 100 kVA load with  $\text{pf}=0.8$  lagging,  
and would like to correct the pf to 0.95 lagging

$$S = 80 + j60 \text{ kVA} \quad \phi = \cos^{-1} 0.8 = 36.9^\circ$$

$$\text{PF of } 0.95 \text{ requires } \phi_{\text{desired}} = \cos^{-1} 0.95 = 18.2^\circ$$

$$S_{\text{new}} = 80 + j(60 - Q_{\text{cap}})$$

$$\frac{60 - Q_{\text{cap}}}{80} = \tan 18.2^\circ \Rightarrow 60 - Q_{\text{cap}} = 26.3 \text{ kvar}$$

$$Q_{\text{cap}} = 33.7 \text{ kvar}$$



# Distribution System Capacitors





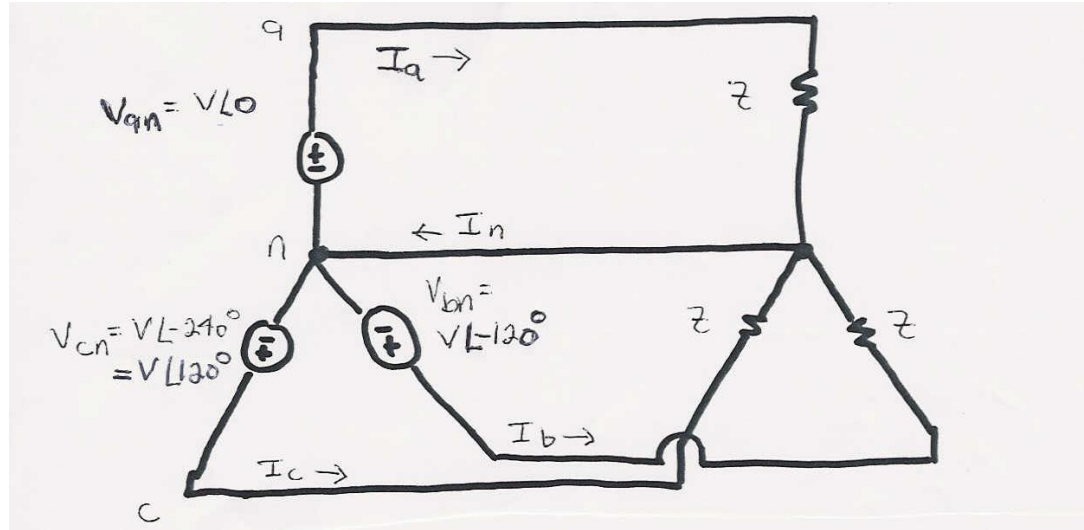
# Balanced Three-Phase ( $\phi$ ) Systems

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- A balanced three-phase ( $\phi$ ) system has
  - three voltage sources with equal magnitude, but with an angle shift of  $120^\circ$
  - equal loads on each phase
  - equal impedance on the lines connecting the generators to the loads
- Bulk power systems are almost exclusively  $3\phi$
- Single-phase is used primarily only in low voltage, low power settings, such as residential and some commercial

# Balanced Three-Phase: No Neutral Current



$$I_n = I_a + I_b + I_c$$

$$I_n = \frac{V}{Z} (1\angle 0^\circ + 1\angle -120^\circ + 1\angle 120^\circ) = 0$$

$$S = V_{an}I_{an}^* + V_{bn}I_{bn}^* + V_{cn}I_{cn}^* = 3V_{an}I_{an}^*$$

# Advantages of Three-Phase Power

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- Can transmit more power for same amount of wire (twice as much as single phase)
- Torque produced by three-phase machines is constant
- Three-phase machines use less material for same power rating
- Three-phase machines start more easily than single-phase machines

# Three-Phase Wye Connection

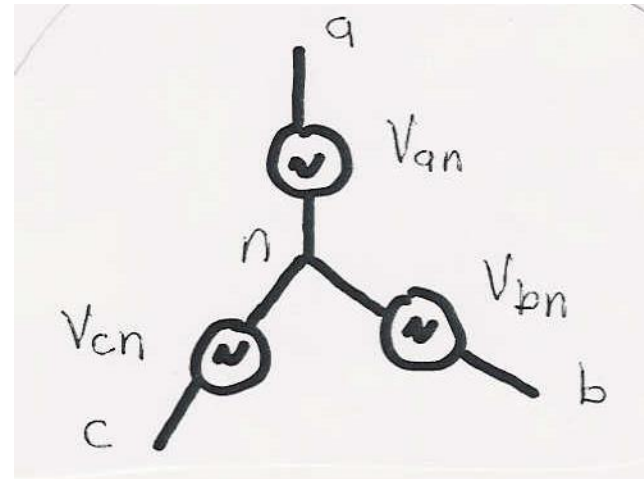
- There are two ways to connect three-phase systems
  - Wye (Y)
  - Delta ( $\Delta$ )

## Wye Connection Voltages

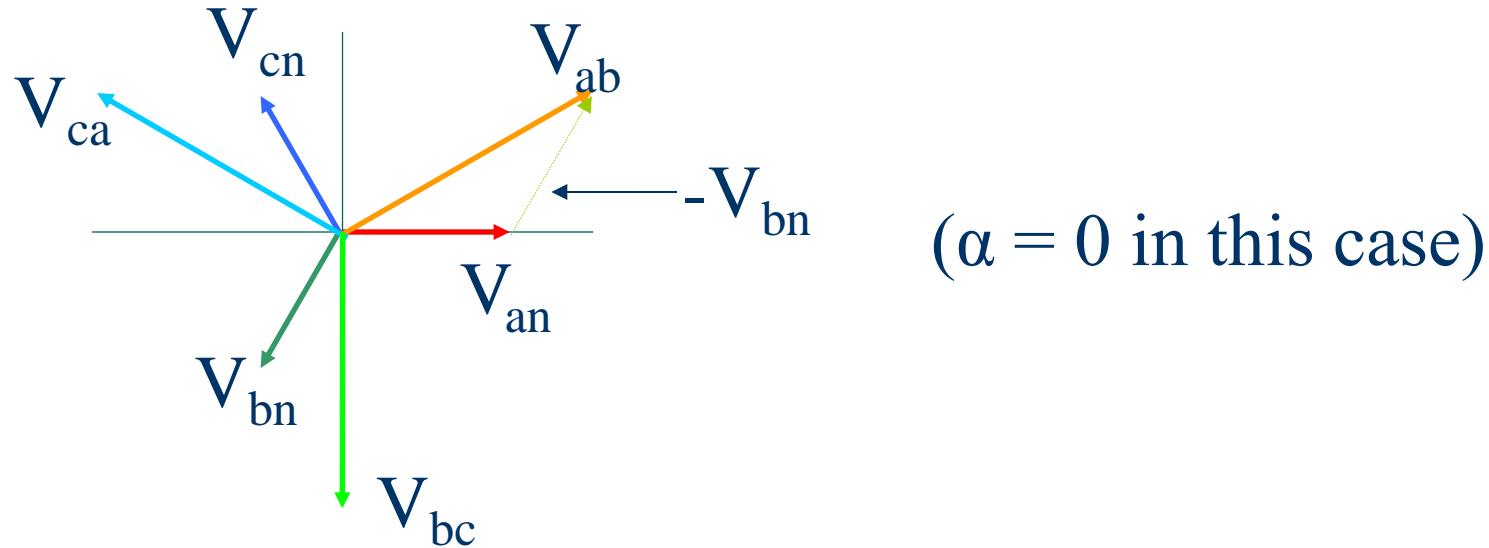
$$V_{an} = |V| \angle \alpha^\circ$$

$$V_{bn} = |V| \angle \alpha^\circ - 120^\circ$$

$$V_{cn} = |V| \angle \alpha^\circ + 120^\circ$$



# Wye Connection Line Voltages



$$V_{ab} = V_{an} - V_{bn} = |V|(1\angle\alpha - 1\angle\alpha + 120^\circ)$$

$$= \sqrt{3} |V| \angle\alpha + 30^\circ$$

$$V_{bc} = \sqrt{3} |V| \angle\alpha - 90^\circ$$

$$V_{ca} = \sqrt{3} |V| \angle\alpha + 150^\circ$$

The line to line voltages are also balanced

# Wye Connection, cont'd



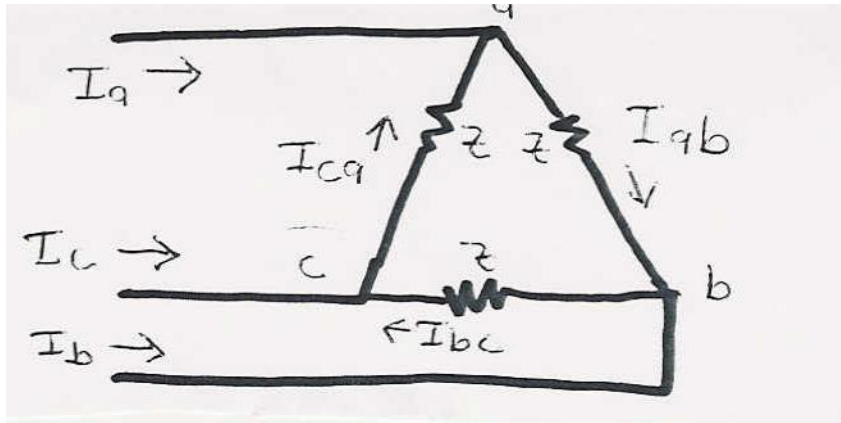
- Define voltage/current across/through device to be phase voltage/current
- Define voltage/current across/through lines to be line voltage/current

$$V_{Line} = \sqrt{3} V_{Phase} 1\angle 30^\circ = \sqrt{3} V_{Phase} e^{j\pi/6}$$

$$I_{Line} = I_{Phase}$$

$$S_{3\phi} = 3 V_{Phase} I_{Phase}^*$$

# Delta Connection



For the Delta  
phase voltages equal  
line voltages

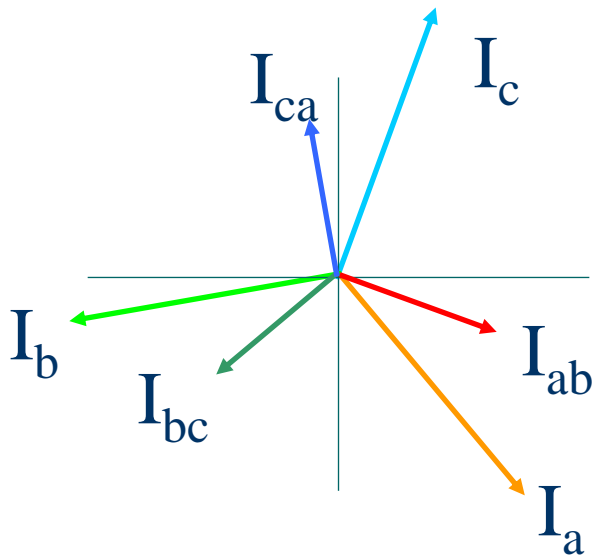
For currents

$$\begin{aligned} I_a &= I_{ab} - I_{ca} \\ &= \sqrt{3} I_{ab} \angle -30^\circ \end{aligned}$$

$$I_b = I_{bc} - I_{ab}$$

$$I_c = I_{ca} - I_{bc}$$

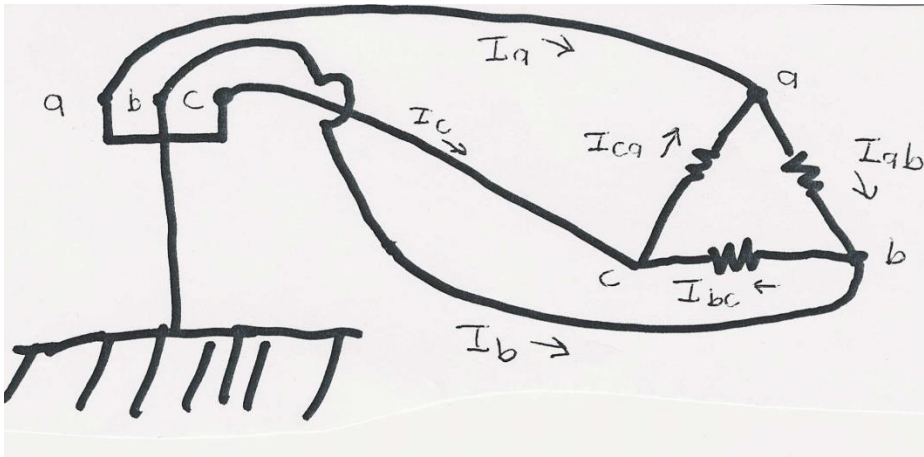
$$S_{3\phi} = 3 V_{Phase} I_{Phase}^*$$



# Three-Phase Example



Assume a  $\Delta$ -connected load is supplied from a 3 $\phi$  13.8 kV (L-L) source with  $Z = 100\angle 20^\circ \Omega$



$$V_{ab} = 13.8\angle 0^\circ \text{ kV}$$

$$V_{bc} = 13.8\angle -120^\circ \text{ kV}$$

$$V_{ca} = 13.8\angle 120^\circ \text{ kV}$$

$$I_{ab} = \frac{13.8\angle 0^\circ \text{ kV}}{100\angle 20^\circ \Omega} = 138\angle -20^\circ \text{ amps}$$

$$I_{bc} = 138\angle -140^\circ \text{ amps}$$

$$I_{ca} = 138\angle 100^\circ \text{ amps}$$



# Three-Phase Example, cont'd



$$\begin{aligned} I_a &= I_{ab} - I_{ca} = 138\angle -20^\circ - 138\angle 100^\circ \\ &= 239\angle -50^\circ \text{ amps} \end{aligned}$$

$$I_b = 239\angle -170^\circ \text{ amps} \quad I_c = 239\angle 70^\circ \text{ amps}$$

$$\begin{aligned} S &= 3 \times V_{ab} I_{ab}^* = 3 \times 13.8\angle 0^\circ \text{ kV} \times 138\angle 20^\circ \text{ amps} \\ &= 5.7\angle 20^\circ \text{ MVA} \\ &= 5.37 + j1.95 \text{ MVA} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{pf} = \cos 20^\circ = 0.94 \text{ lagging}$$

# Delta-Wye Transformation



To simplify analysis of balanced  $3\phi$  systems:

1)  $\Delta$ -connected loads can be replaced by

Y-connected loads with  $Z_Y = \frac{1}{3} Z_\Delta$

2)  $\Delta$ -connected sources can be replaced by

Y-connected sources with  $V_{\text{phase}} = \frac{V_{\text{Line}}}{\sqrt{3} \angle 30^\circ}$

# Delta-Wye Transformation Proof



From the  $\Delta$  side we get

$$I_a = \frac{V_{ab}}{Z_{\Delta}} - \frac{V_{ca}}{Z_{\Delta}} = \frac{V_{ab} - V_{ca}}{Z_{\Delta}}$$

Hence 
$$Z_{\Delta} = \frac{V_{ab} - V_{ca}}{I_a}$$

From the  $Y$  side we get

$$V_{ab} = Z_Y(I_a - I_b) \quad V_{ca} = Z_Y(I_c - I_a)$$

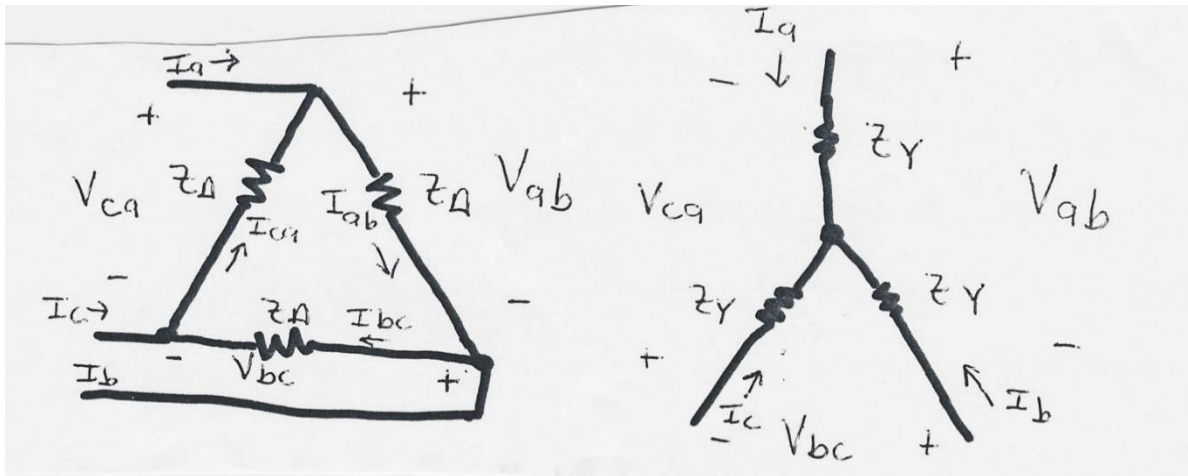
$$V_{ab} - V_{ca} = Z_Y(2I_a - I_b - I_c)$$

Since  $I_a + I_b + I_c = 0 \Rightarrow I_a = -I_b - I_c$

Hence 
$$V_{ab} - V_{ca} = 3Z_Y I_a$$

$$3Z_Y = \frac{V_{ab} - V_{ca}}{I_a} = Z_{\Delta}$$

Therefore 
$$Z_Y = \frac{1}{3}Z_{\Delta}$$



# Three-Phase Transmission Line



138 kV  
transmission  
line

Distribution  
circuit  
sharing same  
poles

Ground wire for  
lightning protection

# Transmission Arcing Video



After class the video will be available in Canvas

# Modeling Cautions

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- "All models are wrong but some are useful," George Box, *Empirical Model-Building and Response Surfaces*, (1987, p. 424)
  - Models are an approximation to reality, not reality, so they always have some degree of approximation
  - Box went on to say that the practical question is how wrong to they have to be to not be useful
- A good part of engineering is deciding what is the appropriate level of modeling, and knowing under what conditions the model will fail
- Of course engineering often involves using widely accepted modeling and analysis approaches for common problems. Increasingly this requires adhering to particular standards
  - Still, the engineer needs to know the conditions under which these approaches fail!

# Per Phase Analysis



- Per phase analysis allows analysis of balanced three-phase systems with the same effort as for a single-phase system
- Balanced Three-Phase Theorem: For a balanced three-phase system with
  - All loads and sources  $Y$  connected
  - No mutual Inductance between phases
- Then
  - All neutrals are at the same potential
  - All phases are COMPLETELY decoupled
  - All system values are the same sequence as sources. The sequence order we've been using (phase b lags phase a and phase c lags phase a) is known as “positive” sequence (negative and zero sequence systems are mostly covered in ECEN 459)

# Per Phase Analysis Procedure

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## To do per phase analysis

1. Convert all  $\Delta$  load/sources to equivalent Y's
2. Solve phase “a” independent of the other phases
3. Total system power  $S = 3 V_a I_a^*$
4. If desired, phase “b” and “c” values can be determined by inspection (i.e.,  $\pm 120^\circ$  degree phase shifts)
5. If necessary, go back to original circuit to determine line-line values or internal  $\Delta$  values.



# Per Phase Example

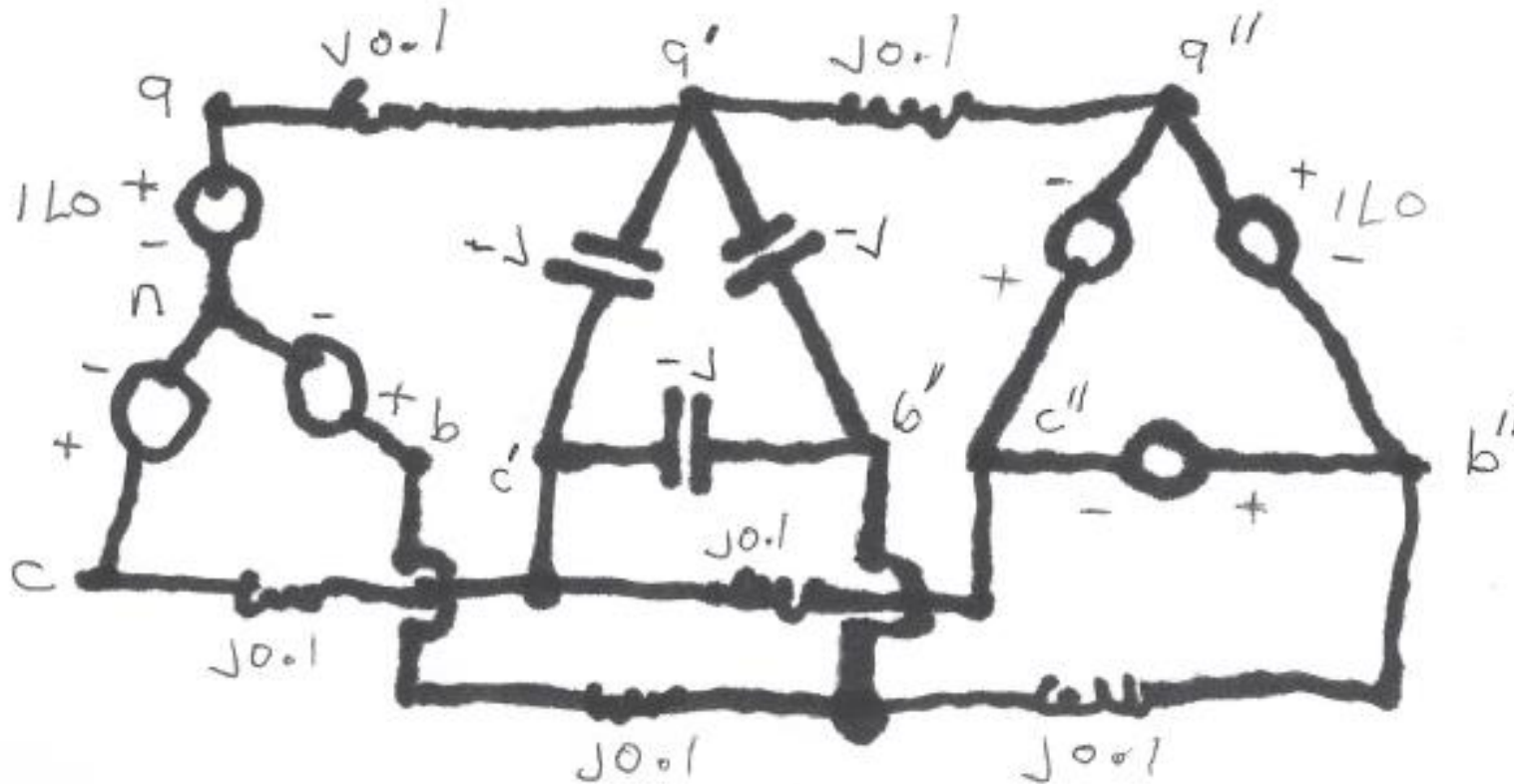


Assume a three-phase, Y-connected generator with  $V_{an} = 1 \angle 0^\circ$  volts supplies a  $\Delta$ -connected load with  $Z_\Delta = -j\Omega$  through a transmission line with impedance of  $j0.1\Omega$  per phase. The load is also connected to a  $\Delta$ -connected generator with  $V_{a''b''} = 1 \angle 0^\circ$  through a second transmission line which also has an impedance of  $j0.1\Omega$  per phase.

## Find

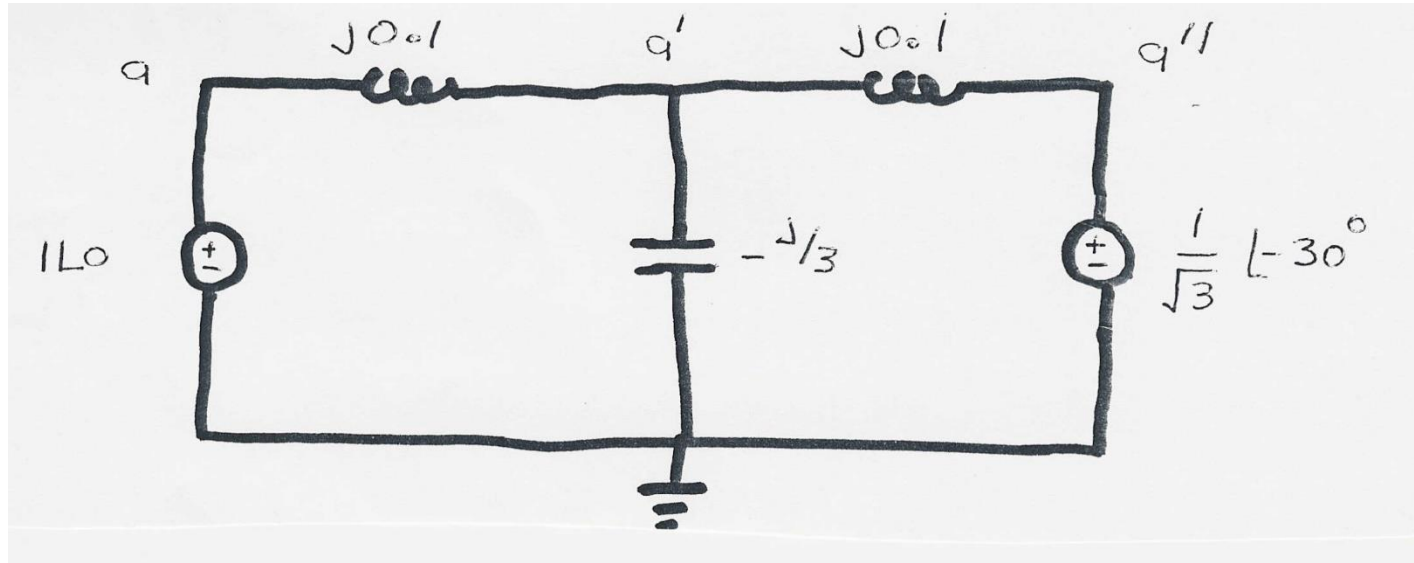
1. The load voltage  $V_{a'b'}$ ,
2. The total power supplied by each generator,  $S_Y$  and  $S_\Delta$

# Per Phase Example, cont'd



First convert the delta load and source to equivalent Y values and draw just the "a" phase circuit

# Per Phase Example, cont'd



To solve the circuit, write the KCL equation at  $a'$

$$(V_a' - 1\angle 0)(-10j) + V_a'(3j) + (V_a' - \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\angle -30^\circ)(-10j) = 0$$

# Per Phase Example, cont'd



To solve the circuit, write the KCL equation at a'

$$(V_a' - 1\angle 0)(-10j) + V_a'(3j) + (V_a' - \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\angle -30^\circ)(-10j) = 0$$

$$(10j + \frac{10}{\sqrt{3}}\angle 60^\circ) = V_a'(10j - 3j + 10j)$$

$$V_a' = 0.9\angle -10.9^\circ \text{ volts} \quad V_b' = 0.9\angle -130.9^\circ \text{ volts}$$

$$V_c' = 0.9\angle 109.1^\circ \text{ volts} \quad V_{ab}' = 1.56\angle 19.1^\circ \text{ volts}$$

$$S_{ygen} = 3V_a I_a^* = 3V_a \left( \frac{V_a - V_a'}{j0.1} \right)^* = 5.1 + j3.5 \text{ VA}$$

$$S_{\Delta gen} = 3V_a'' \left( \frac{V_a'' - V_a'}{j0.1} \right)^* = -5.1 - j4.7 \text{ VA}$$

# Power System Operations Overview

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- Goal is to provide an intuitive feel for power system operation
- Emphasis will be on the impact of the transmission system
- Introduce basic power flow concepts through small system examples

# PowerWorld Simulator



- Commercial tool in actual use by utilities and others (1000+ customers in 70 countries)
- Originally designed to be well-suited to teaching students about power systems. Still has that capability while being full-featured for industry use
- Strengths are user-friendliness and advanced data visualization
- The computers here have the full (unlimited bus) version. There is a free student 42-bus version available at [powerworld.com/gloveroverbyesarma](http://powerworld.com/gloveroverbyesarma)



# Per Unit



- A key problem in analyzing power systems is the large number of transformers.
  - It would be very difficult to continually have to refer transformer values (like their impedances) to the different sides of the transformers
- This problem is avoided by a normalization of all variables.
- This normalization is known as per unit analysis

$$\text{quantity in per unit} = \frac{\text{actual quantity}}{\text{base value of quantity}}$$

- Engineers commonly talk about voltages in per unit. A 138 kV (base) transmission line operating at 140 kV is  $140/138 = 1.022$  p.u.