

# AC POWER

## Power triangle and power-factor correction

EELE 250/Fall 2011

Montana State University

Sarah Lukes

## Review of Power

- ▣ Power Angle:  $\theta = \theta_v - \theta_i$
- ▣ Average Power:  $P = V_{\text{rms}} I_{\text{rms}} \cos(\theta)$  [W]
- ▣ Apparent Power =  $V_{\text{rms}} I_{\text{rms}}$  [VA]
- ▣ Reactive Power:  $Q = V_{\text{rms}} I_{\text{rms}} \sin(\theta)$  [VARs]
  - Peak instantaneous power associated with energy storage elements
  - Related to amount of current demand
    - Large currents require heavy-duty wires, thus increasing cost

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## Reactive Power I-clicker Question

- ☐ Reactive power can be zero when the load is
  - a) Purely resistive
  - b) Purely inductive
  - c) Purely capacitive
  - d) Purely resistive or a combination of inductors and capacitors

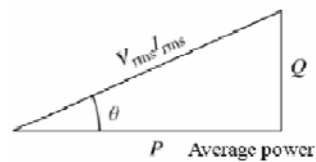
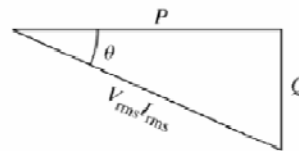
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## Power Triangles

- ☐ Relationship between
  - ☐ Average power  $P$
  - ☐ Reactive power  $Q$
  - ☐ Apparent power  $V_{\text{rms}}I_{\text{rms}}$
  - ☐ Power angle  $\theta$

(a) Inductive load ( $\theta$  positive)(b) Capacitive load ( $\theta$  negative)

- ☐ Pythagorean Theorem:  $P^2 + Q^2 = (V_{\text{rms}}I_{\text{rms}})^2$

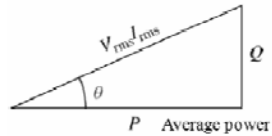
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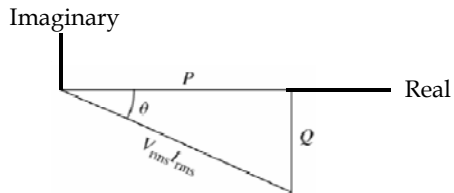
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## Power Triangles Continued

(a) Inductive load ( $\theta$  positive)

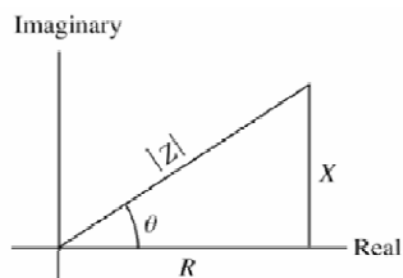
- ☐ Q is positive
- ☐  $\theta$  is positive

(b) Capacitive load ( $\theta$  negative)

- ☐ Q is negative
- ☐  $\theta$  is negative

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## Impedance in Complex Plane



$$Z = |Z| \angle \theta = R + jX$$

$$\cos(\theta) = \frac{R}{|Z|}$$

$$\sin(\theta) = \frac{X}{|Z|}$$

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## Power in Terms of Impedance

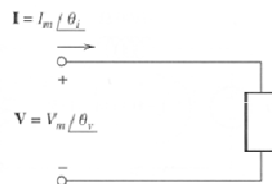
$$P = I_{rms}^2 R = \frac{V_{Rrms}^2}{R}$$

Voltage is across the resistance  
and is not the source voltage

$$Q = I_{rms}^2 X = \frac{V_{Xrms}^2}{X}$$

Voltage is across the reactance

## Complex Power



$$S = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{V} \mathbf{I}^* = P + jQ$$

$\mathbf{I}^*$  is the complex conjugate of  $\mathbf{I}$ :  $\mathbf{I}^* = I_m \angle -\theta_i$

$$P = \text{Re}(S) = \text{Re} \left( \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{V} \mathbf{I}^* \right)$$

**Re** means the real part

$$Q = \text{Im}(S) = \text{Im} \left( \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{V} \mathbf{I}^* \right)$$

**Im** means the imaginary part

$$\text{apparent power} = |S| = \left| \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{V} \mathbf{I}^* \right|$$

**Previously, we defined apparent power =  $V_{rms} I_{rms}$**

## Power-Factor Correction

- ▣ Average power is related to apparent power by the PF, which depends on the phase difference between the voltage and current.

- ▣ Average Power:  $P = V_{\text{rms}} I_{\text{rms}} \cos(\theta)$   
 where  $\theta = \theta_v - \theta_i$

PF!!

Average power is the power delivered to and dissipated by the load!

## Power-Factor Correction

- ▣ Large currents can flow in energy-storage devices without average power being delivered
  - Higher currents lead to higher rating lines and transformers than a purely resistive or 100 % power factor load would require
  
- ▣ Power companies charge industries based on their power factor

## Power-Factor Correction I-Clicker Question

- ▣ Typically, loads in industry are somewhat inductive. How might companies increase their power factor, so they have lower energy rates?
  - a) Add capacitors in series
  - b) Add capacitors in parallel
  - c) Add inductors in series
  - d) Add inductors in parallel

## Summary

- ▣ Average power
  - Is NOT absorbed by inductances and capacitors.
  - IS absorbed by resistances and dissipated as heat.
- ▣ Desire power-factors of 1
  - Large reactive powers lead to higher currents and higher costs
    - They reduce the power-factor
  - Can introduce capacitors in parallel to improve power-factor
- ▣ The real and imaginary components of power can be thought of in terms of Power Triangles
  - $P^2 + Q^2 = (V_{\text{rms}} I_{\text{rms}})^2$