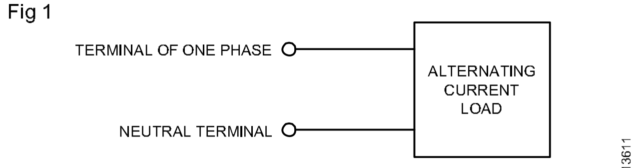
3-Phase AC fundamentals

Objectives: At the end of this lesson you shall be able to
- **state and describe the generation of 3-phase system with single loops**
- **state the advantages of the 3-phase system over a single phase system**
- **state and explain the 3-phase, 3-wire, and 4-wire system**
- **state and explain the relation between phase and line voltage.**

Introduction

When a piece of electrical equipment is plugged into the socket of a normal alternating current supply (e.g. a ring main circuit), it is connected between the terminal of one phase and the neutral wire. (Fig 1)

Fig 1

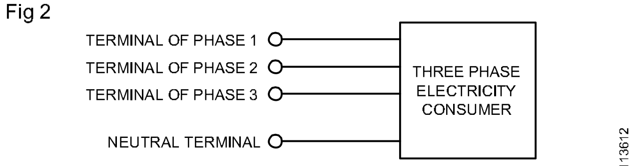


SINGLE PHASE SUPPLY

Thus a normal domestic alternating current circuit may also be described as a single-phase circuit.

Similarly, a three-phase power consumer is provided with the terminals of three phases. (Fig 2)

Fig 2



3 - PHASE SUPPLY

One great advantage of a three-phase AC supply is that it can produce a rotating magnetic field when a set of stationary three-phase coils is energized from the supply. This is the basic operating principle for most modern rotating machines and, in particular, the three-phase induction motor.

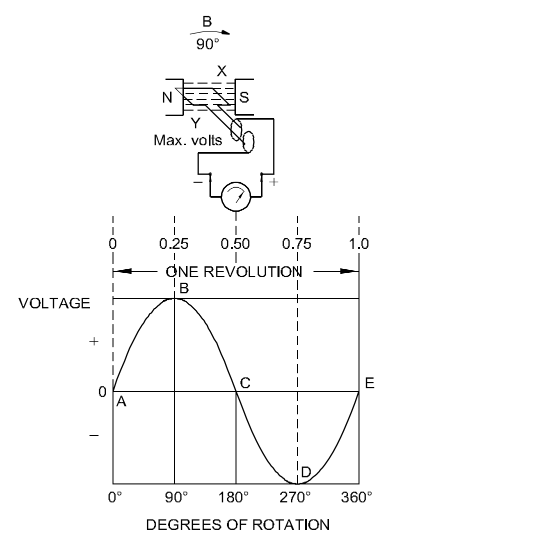
Further, lighting loads can be connected between any one of the three phases and neutral.

Review: Further to the above two advantages the following are the advantages of polyphase system over single phase system.

- 3-phase motors develop uniform torque whereas single phase motors produce pulsating torque only
- Most of the 3-phase motors are self starting whereas single phase motors are not
- Power factor of 3-phase motors are reasonably high when compared to single phase motors
- For a given size the power out put is high in 3-phase motors whereas in single phase motors the power output is low.
- Copper required for 3-phase transmission for a given power and distance is low when compared to single phase system.
- 3-phase motor like squirrel cage induction motor is robust in construction and more are less maintenance free.

The basic principle used in generating an alternating voltage is that of rotating a wire loop at a constant angular speed in a uniform magnetic field. (Fig 3) The alternating voltage thus produced varies sinusoidally with time.

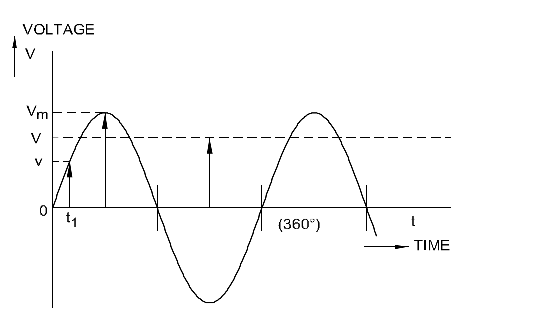
Fig 3



(AS THE LOOP ROTATES THROUGH THE MAGNETIC FIELD, THE MAGNITUDE AND DIRECTION OF THE VOLTAGE CHANGES.)
GENERATION OF AN ALTERNATING VOLTAGE

The effective (RMS) value is the same as that of a direct current that would produce the same heating effect, RMS voltage and frequency are usually quoted for a sinusoidal alternating voltage (Fig 4).

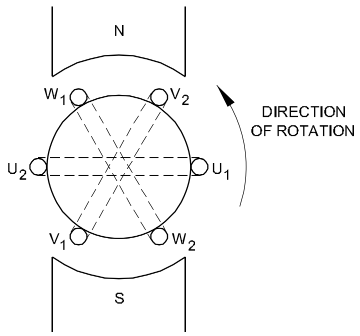
Fig 4



V_m = PEAK VOLTAGE
V = RMS VALUE
v = INSTANTANEOUS VOLTAGE AT TIME t_1

Three-phase generation: To generate three-phase voltages, a similar method to that used for generating single-phase voltages is employed but with the difference that, this time, three wire loops U_1, U_2, V_1, V_2 and W_1, W_2 rotate at a constant angular speed about the same axis in the uniform magnetic field. U_1, U_2, V_1, V_2 and W_1 , W_2, are displaced 120° in position with respect to each other, permanently. (Fig 5)

Fig 5

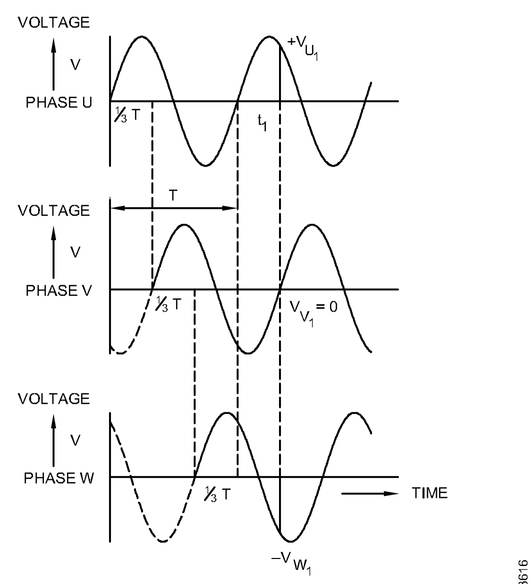


SIMPLIFIED THREE – PHASE ALTERNATOR

For each wire loop, the same result is obtained as for the alternating voltage generator. This means that an alternating voltage is induced in each wire loop. However, since the wire loops are displaced by 120° from each other, and a complete revolution (360°), takes one period, the three induced alternating voltages are delayed in time by a third of a period with respect to each other.

Because of the spatial displacement of the three wire loops by 120°, three alternating phase voltages result, which are displaced by one third of a period, T, with respect to each other. (Fig 6)

Fig 6a
Fig 6b
Fig 6c



PHASE DISPLACEMENT OF 3 - PHASE

To distinguish between the three phases, it is a common practice in (heavy current) electrical engineering to designate them by the capital letters U,V and W or by a colour code red, yellow and blue. At a time 0, U is passing through zero volts with positively increasing voltage. (Fig 6a) V follows with its zero crossing 1/3 of the period later (Fig 6b), and the same applies to W with respect to V. (Fig 6c)

In three-phase networks, the following statements can be made about the three-phase voltages.

- The three-phase voltages have the same frequency.
- The three-phase voltages have the same peak value.
- The three-phase voltages are displaced by one third of a period in time with respect to each other.
- At every instant in time, the instantaneous sum of the three voltages

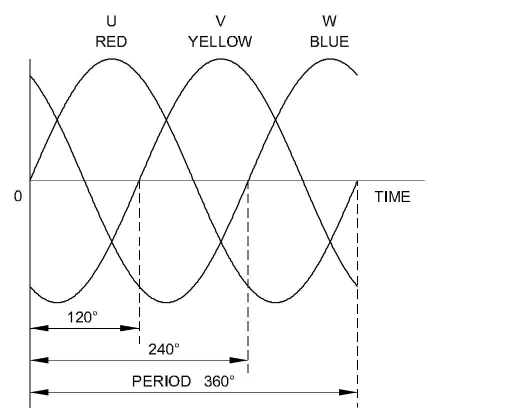
$$V_U + V_V + V_W = 0.$$

The fact that the sum of the instantaneous voltages is zero is illustrated in Fig 6. At time t_1, U has the instantaneous value V_U. At the same time, $V_V = 0$, and the instantaneous value for W is $-V_W$. Because V_U and V_W have the same value but are opposite in sign, it follows that

$$V_{U1} + V_{V1} + V_{W1} = 0.$$

The three voltages of the same amplitude and frequency are shown together in Fig 7.

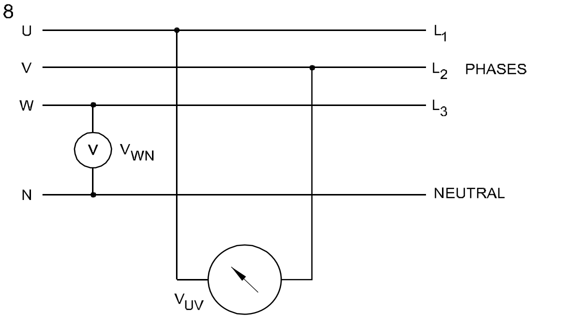
Fig 7



COMBINED WAVE - FORMS OF THREE PHASE SUPPLY

Three-phase network: A three-phase network consists of three lines or phases. In Fig 8, these are indicated by the capital letters U, V and W.

Fig 8

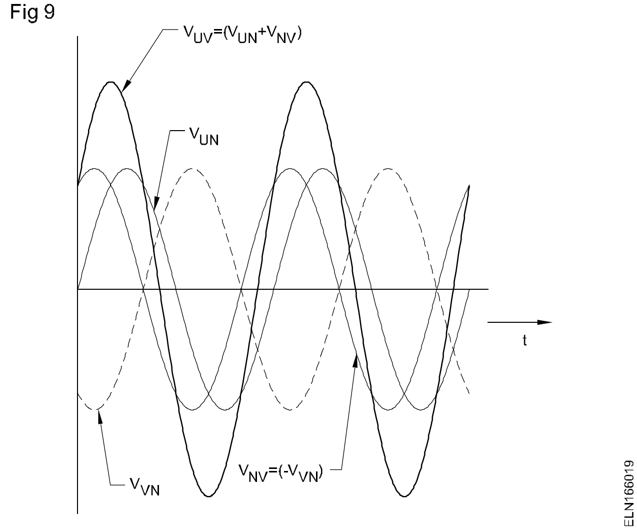


The return lead of the individual phases consists of a common neutral conductor N, which is described later in more detail. Voltmeters are connected between each of the lines U, V and W, and the neutral line N. They indicate the RMS (effective) values of the voltages between each of the three phases and neutral.

These voltages are designated as phase voltages V_{UN}, V_{VN} and V_{WN}.

The individual, phase voltages all have the same magnitude. They are simply displaced from each other by one third of a period in time. (Fig 9)

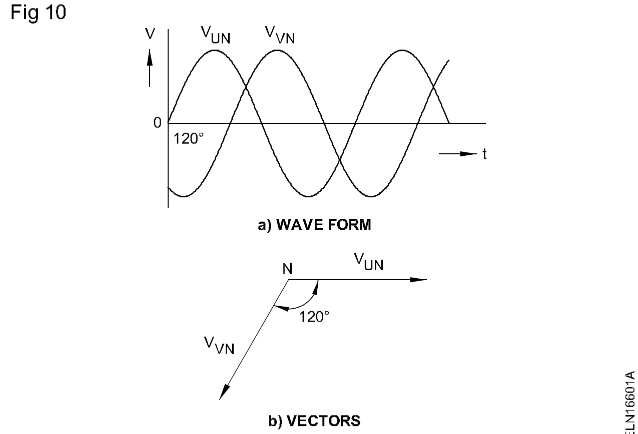
Fig 9



The individual instantaneous, peak and RMS values are the same as for a single-phase alternating voltage.

Line and phase voltage: If a voltmeter is connected directly between line U and line V (Fig 10), the RMS value of the voltage V_{UV} is measured, and this is different from any of the three phase voltages.

Fig 10



Its magnitude is directly proportional to the phase voltage. The relationship is shown in Fig 9, where the time-variation wave- forms of V_{UV} and the phase voltages V_{UN} and V_{VN} are drawn.

V_{UV} has a sinusoidal wave-form and the same frequency as the phase voltages. However, V_{uv} has a higher peak value since it is computed from the phase voltages V_{UN} and V_{VN}. The varying positive and negative instantaneous values of V_{UN} and V_{VN} at a particular time produce the instantaneous value of V_{UV}. V_{UV} is the phasor sum of the two phase voltages V_{UN} and V_{NV}.

This combination of phase-displaced alternating voltages is called phasor addition.

The voltage across phase-to-phase is called the line voltage.

Relationship between line and phase voltage: The possibility of combining pairs of phases in a generator is a basic property of three-phase electricity. The understanding of this relationship will be enhanced by studying the following illustrative example which explains the concept of phase difference in a very simple way.

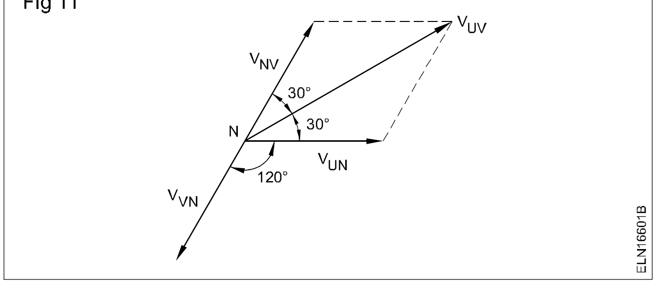
The phase voltages V_{UN} and V_{VN} are separated in phase by one third of a period, or 120^o between the two phasors. (Fig 10)

The phasor sum of the two phase voltages V_{UN} and V_{NV} can be obtained geometrically, and the resultant phasor so obtained is the line voltage V_{UV} through the relation $V_{UV} = V_{UN} + V_{NV}$.

Note that to obtain the line voltage V_{UV} the measurement is made from the U terminal through the common point N to the V terminal, for a star connection.

This fact is illustrated in Fig 11. Starting with the phasors V_{UN} and V_{VN} (Fig 10), the phasor $-V_{VN} = V_{NV}$ is produced from the point N. The diagonal of the parallelogram with sides V_{UN} and V_{NV} is the phasor representing the resulting line voltage V_{UV}.

Fig 11



It can be concluded, therefore, that in a generator the line voltage V_L is related to the phase voltage V_P by a multiplying factor. This factor can be shown to be $\sqrt{3}$, so that $V_L = \sqrt{3} \times V_P$

In a three-phase generating system, the line voltage is always $\sqrt{3}$ times the phase-to-neutral voltage. The factor relating the line voltage to the phase voltage is $\sqrt{3}$.

It was shown that the line voltage is greater than the phase voltage. Here is a numerical example.

The RMS phase voltage in a three-phase system is 240V. Since the ratio of line voltage to phase voltage is $\sqrt{3}$ the RMS line voltage is

$$V_L = \sqrt{3} \times V_P = \sqrt{3} \times 240$$

$$= 415.68V$$

or rounded down, $V_L = 415V$.

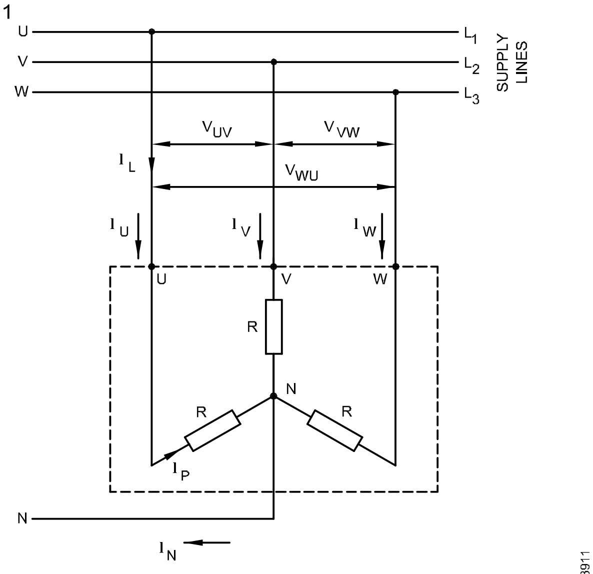
Systems of connection in 3-phase AC

Objectives: At the end of this lesson you shall be able to
- **explain the star and delta systems of connection**
- **state phase relationship between line and phase voltages and current in a star connection delta connection**
- **state the relationship between phase and the voltage and current in star and delta connection**

Methods of 3-phase connection: If a three-phase load is connected to a three-phase network, there are two basic possible configurations. One is `star connection' (symbol Y) and the other is `delta connection' (symbol Δ).

Star connection: In Fig 1 the three-phase load is shown as three equal magnitude resistances. From each phase, at any given time, there is a path to the terminal points U, V, W of the equipment, and then through the individual elements of the load resistance. All the elements are connected to one point N: the `star point'. This star point is connected to the neutral conductor N. The phase currents i_U, i_V, and i_W flow through the individual elements, and the same current flows through the supply lines, i.e. in a star connected system, the supply line current (I_L) = phase current (I_P).

Fig 1



STAR CONNECTION

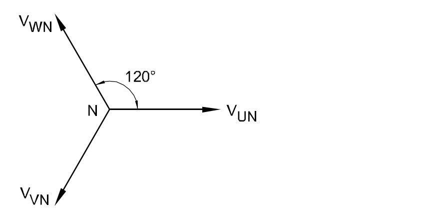
The potential difference for each phase, i.e. from a line to the star point, is called the phase voltage and designated as V_P. The potential difference across any two lines is called the line voltage V_L. Therefore, the voltage across each impedance of a star connection is the phase voltage V_P. The line voltage V_L appears across the load terminals U-V, V-W and W-U and designated as V_{UV}, V_{VW} and V_{WU} in the Fig 1. The line voltage in a star-connected system will be equal to the phasor sum of the positive value of one phase voltage and the negative value of the other phase voltage that exist across the two lines (Fig 2).

Thus

$$V_L = V_{UV} = (\text{phasor } V_{UN}) - (\text{phasor } V_{VN})$$

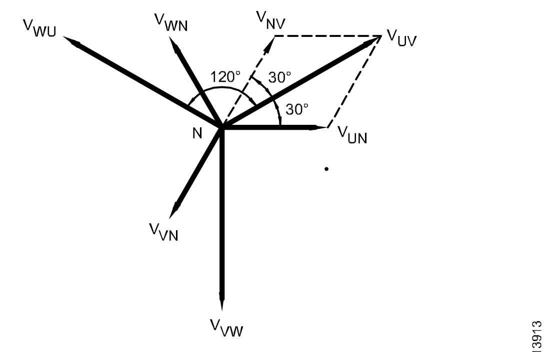
$$= \text{phasor } V_{UN} + V_{VN}.$$

Fig 2



In the phasor diagram (Fig 3)

Fig 3



PHASOR DIAGRAM

$$V_L = V_{UV} = V_{UN}\cos 30^o + V_{NV}\cos 30^o$$

But $\cos 30^o = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$.

Thus as $V_{UN} = V_{VN} = V_P$

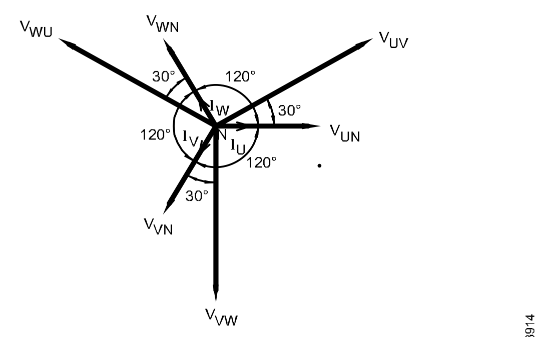
$$V_L = \sqrt{3}\, V_P.$$

This same relationship is applied to V_{UV}, V_{VW} and V_{WU}.

In a three-phase star connection, the line voltage is always $\sqrt{3}$ times the phase-to-neutral voltage. The factor relating the line voltage to the phase voltage is $\sqrt{3}$ (Fig 3).

The voltage and current relationship in a star connection is shown in the phasor diagrams. (Fig 4) The phase

Fig 4



PHASOR DIAGRAM OF STAR CONNECTION

voltages are displaced 120° in phase with respect to each other.

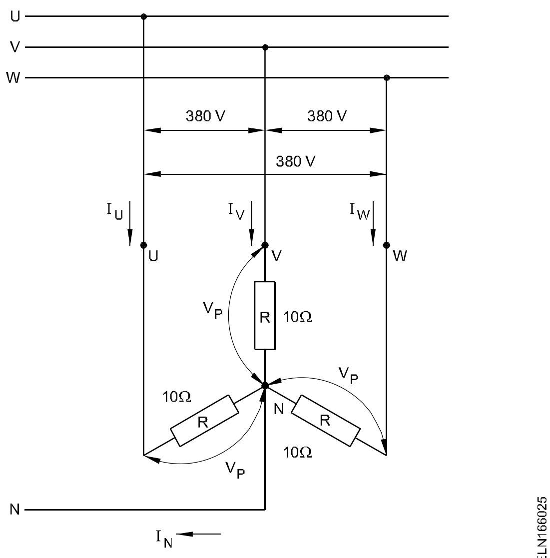
Derived from these are the corresponding line voltages. The line voltages are displaced 120^0 in phase with respect to each other. Since the loads in our example are provided by purely resistive impedances, the phase currents I_P (I_U, I_V, I_W) are in phase with the phase voltages V_P (V_{UN}, V_{VN} and V_{WN}). In a star connection, each phase current is determined by the ratio of the phase voltage to the load resistance R.

***Example 1**:* What is the line voltage for a three-phase, balanced star-connected system, having a phase voltage of 240V?

$$V_L = \sqrt{3}V_P = \sqrt{3} \times 240$$
$$= 415.7V$$

***Example 2**:* What is the magnitude of each of the supply line currents for the circuit shown in Fig 5?

Fig 5



Because of the arrangements of a star connection there is a voltage

$$V_P = \frac{380}{1.73} = 220\ V$$

across each of the purely resistive loads R.

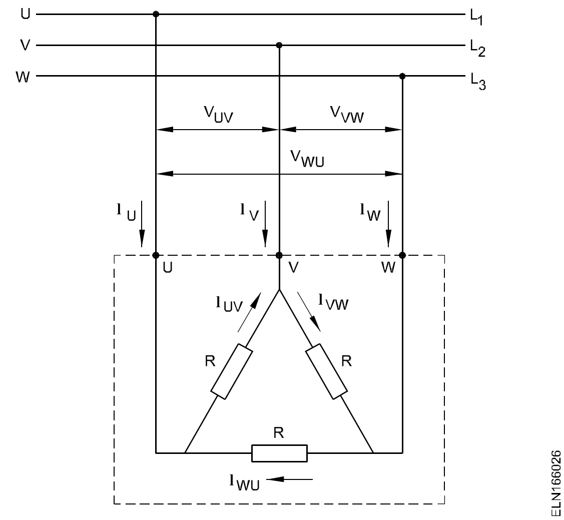
The three-supply line currents have the same magnitude since the star-connected load is balanced, and they are given by

$$I_U = I_V = I_W = \frac{V_P}{R} = \frac{220}{10} = 22A = I_L = I_P$$

Delta connection: There is a second possible arrangement for connecting a three-phase load in a three-phase network. This is the delta or mesh connection (Δ).(Fig 6)

The load impedances form the sides of a triangle. The terminals U, V and W are connected to the supply lines of the L_1, L_2 and L_3.

Fig 6



In contrast to a star connection, in a delta connection the line voltage appears across each of the load phases.

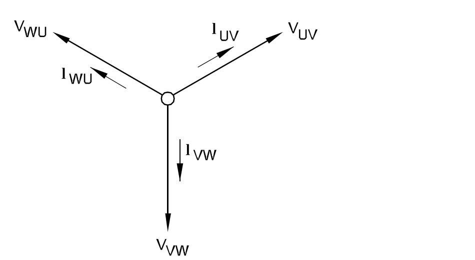
The voltages, with symbols V_{UV}, V_{VW} and V_{WU} are, therefore, the line voltages.

The phase currents through the elements in a delta arrangement are composed of I_{UV}, I_{VW} and I_{WU}. The currents from the supply lines are I_U, I_V and I_W, and one line current divides at the point of connection to produce two phase currents.

The voltage and current relationships of the delta connection can be explained with the aid of an illustration. The line voltages V_{UV}, V_{VW} and V_{WU} are directly across the load resistors, and in this case, the phase voltage is the same as the line voltage. The phasors V_{UV}, V_{VW} and V_{WU} are the line voltages. This arrangement has already been seen in relation to the star connection.

Because of the purely resistive load, the corresponding phase currents are in phase with the line voltages. (Fig 7)

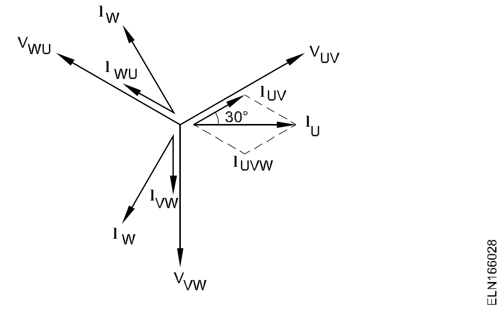
Fig 7



Their magnitudes are determined by the ratio of the line voltage to the resistance R.

On the other hand, the line currents I_U, I_V and I_W are now compounded from the phase currents. A line current is always given by the phasor sum of the appropriate phase currents. This is shown in Fig 8. The line current I_U is the phasor sum of the phase currents I_{UV} and I_{UW}. (See also Fig 8)

Fig 8



Hence, $I_U = I_{UV} \cos 30^\circ + I_{UW} \cos 30^\circ$

But $\cos 30^\circ = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$.

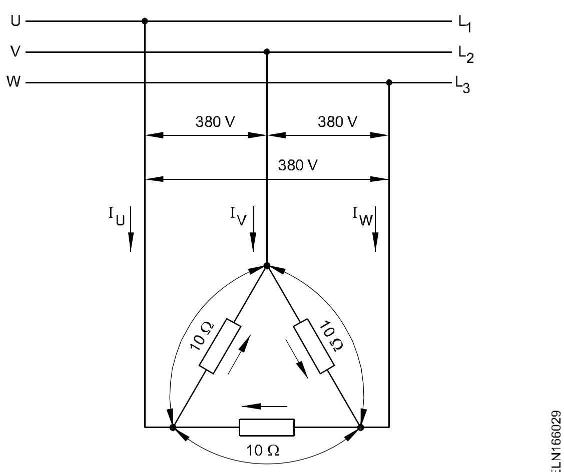
Thus $I_L = \sqrt{3}\, I_{ph}$

Thus, for a balanced delta connection, the ratio of the line current to the phase current is $\sqrt{3}$.

Thus, line current = $\sqrt{3}$ x phase current.

Example 3: What are the values of the line currents, I_U, I_V and I_W in the above example? (Fig 9)

Fig 9



Solution

Since the load is balanced (i.e. the resistance of each phase is the same), the phase currents are of equal magnitude, and are given by the ratio of the line voltage to the load phase resistance

$$I_{UV} = I_{VW} = I_{WU} = \frac{V_P}{R} = \frac{V_L}{R} = \frac{380}{10} = 38A.$$

Thus, the phase current in the case of delta is 38A. Expressed in words:

$$\text{Phase current} = \frac{\text{lineor phase voltage}}{\text{phase resistance}}$$

The line current is $\sqrt{3}$ times the phase current.

Therefore the line current is

$$I_U = I_V = I_W = \sqrt{3} \times 38A = 1.73 \times 38A = 66A.$$

Example 4: Three identical coils, each of resistance 10 ohms and inductance 20mH is delta connected across a 400-V, 50Hz, three-phase supply. Calculate the line current.

For a coil,

$$\text{reactance } X_L = 2\pi fL = 2 \times 3.142 \times 50 \text{ X } \frac{20}{1000} = 6.3 \text{ ohms.}$$

Impedance of a coil is thus given by

$$Z = \sqrt{(R^2 + X^2} = \sqrt{(10^2 + 6.3^2)} = 11.8 \text{ ohms.}$$

For a delta connected system, according to equation

$V_L = V_P$.

Thus $V_P = 400V$.

Hence the phase current is given by

$$I_P = \frac{V_P}{Z} = \frac{400}{11.8} = 33.9 \text{ A.}$$

But for a delta connected system, according to equation,

$$I_L = \sqrt{3} I_P = \sqrt{3} \times 33.9 = 58.7A.$$

Application of star and delta connection with balanced loads

An important application is the `star-delta change over switch' or star-delta starter.

For a particular three-phase load, the line current in a delta connection is three times as great as for a star connection for a given line voltage, i.e. for the same three-phase load (D line current) = 3 (Y - line current).

This fact is used to reduce the high starting current of a 3-phase motor with a star-delta change over switch.

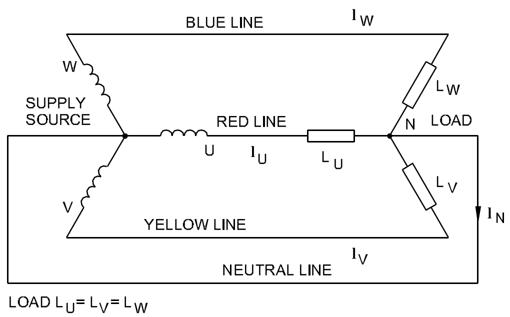
Application of star connection: Alternators and secondoary of distribution transformers, have their three, single-phase coils interconnected in star.

Neutral in 3-phase system

Objectives: At the end of this lesson you shall be able to
- **explain the current in neutral of a 3-phase star connection**
- **state the method of producing artificial neutral in a 3-phase delta connection**
- **state the method of earthing the neutral**
- **explain the behaviour of 3ϕ system when neutral open.**

Neutral: In a three-phase star connection, the star point is known as neutral point, and the conductor connected to the neutral point is referred as neutral conductor (Fig 1).

Fig 1



THREE-PHASE SUPPLY AND LOAD

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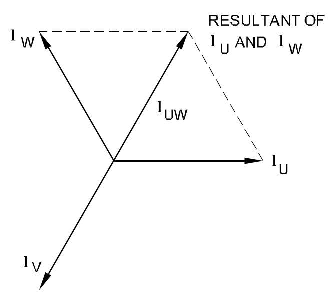
Current in the neutral conductor: In a star-connected, four-wire system, the neutral conductor N must carry the sum of the currents I_U, I_V and I_W. One may, therefore, get the impression that the conductor must have sufficient area to carry a particularly high current. However, this is not the case, because this conductor is required to carry only the phasor sum of the three currents.

I_N = phasor sum of I_U, I_V and I_W

Fig 2 shows this phasor addition for a situation where the loads are balanced and the currents are equal. The result is that the current in the neutral line I_N is zero. This can also be shown for the other instantaneous values.

Fig 2



FOR A BALANCED LOAD THE RESULTANT OF I_W AND I_U IS EQUAL IN MAGNITUDE BUT OPPOSITE TO I_V.

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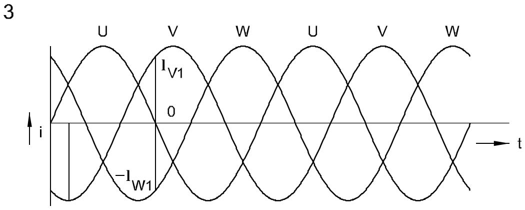
At a particular instant in time, t_1, the instantaneous value i_U= 0 (Fig 3), i_V and i_W, have equal magnitudes, but they have opposite signs,i.e. they are in opposition and the phasor sum is zero. Taking the other values of t, it can be seen that the sumof the three phase currents to equal to zero.

Therefore, for a balanced load the neutral conductor carries no current.

Fig 3



RESULTANT OF THREE-PHASE CURRENTS

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With unequal value the phase currents are different in magnitude and the neutral current is not zero. Then a `neutral' current I_N does flow in the neutral conductor, but this, however, is less than any of the supply line currents. Thus, neutral conductors, when they are used, have a smaller cross-section than the supply lines.

Effect of imbalance: If the load is not balanced and there is no neutral conductor, there is no return path for the sum of the phase currents which will be zero. The phase voltages will not now be given by the line voltage divided by $\sqrt{3}$, and will have different values.

Earthing of neutral conductor: Supply of electrical energy to commercial and domestic consumers is an important application of three-phase electricity. For `low voltage distribution' - in the simplest case, i.e. supply of light and power to buildings - there are two requirements.

1 It is desirable to use conductors operating at the highest possible voltage but with low current in order to save on expensive conductor material.

2 For safety reasons, the voltage between the conductor and earth must not exceed 250V.

A voltage distribution system according to criterion 2, only possible with a low line voltage below 250 V. However, this is contrary to criterion 1. On the other hand, with a star connection, a line voltage of 415V is available. In this case, there is only 240V between the supply line and the neutral conductor. Criterion 1 is satisfied and, to comply with 2, the neutral conductor is earthed.

Indian Electricity Rules: I.E.Rules insist that the neutral conductor must be earthed by two separate and distinct connections to earth. Rule No.61(1)(a), Rule No.67(1)(a) and Rule No.32 insist on the identification of neutral at the point of commencement of supply at the consumer's premises, and also prevent the use of cut outs or links in the neutral conductor. BIS stipulate the method of earthing the neutral. (Code No.17.4 of IS 3043-1966)

Cross-sectional area of neutral conductor: The neutral conductor in a 3-phase, 4-wire system should have a smaller cross-section. (half of the cross-section of the supply lines).

Artificial neutral: Normally neutral conductors are available with a 3-phase, 4-wire system only. Neutral conductors are not drawn for a 3-phase, 3-wire system. Neutral conductors are also not available with the delta-connected supply system.

A neutral conductor is required for measuring phase voltage, energy, power to connect indicating lamps, etc. An artificial neutral for connecting indicating lamps can be formed by connecting them in star. (Fig 4) Artificial neutral for instruments can be formed by connecting additional resistors in star. (Fig 5)

Fig 4

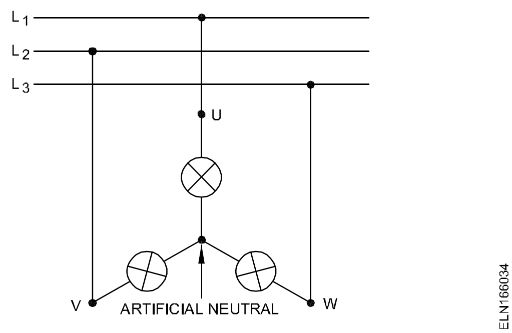
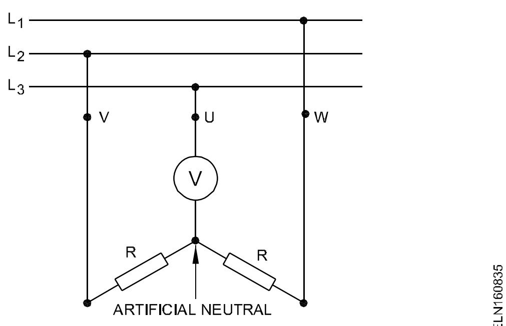


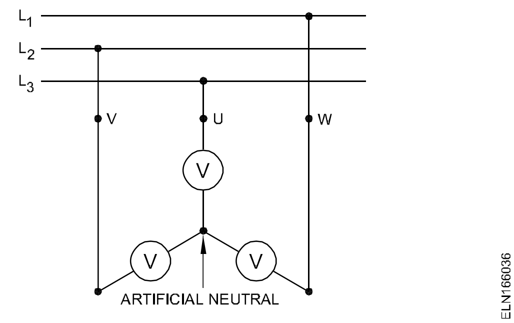
Fig 5



In this method, the value of R must be equal to the resistance of the voltmeter. The same method can be used while measuring power or energy by connecting resistors of equal resistance as of potential coil.

When three instruments of a similar kind are in use, their pressure coils can be connected to form an artificial neutral. (Fig 6)

Fig 6



This type of neutral cannot allow a large current. When earthing of a delta-connected system is required, neutral earthing compensators are used. These can sink or source large currents while keeping neutral to phase voltages constant.

IS 3043 Code No.17, provide a method to obtain neutral for earthing purposes by an earthing compensator.

Power in star and delta connections

Objectives: At the end of this lesson you shall be able to

- **explain active, appparent and reactive power in AC 3 phase ϕ**
- **explain behaviour of unbalanced and balance load**
- **state the method of earthing the neutral**
- **determine the power in 3-phase star and delta connected balanced load.**

Fig 1 shows the load of three resistances in a star connection. So the power must be three times as great as the single phase power.

$$P = 3V_pI_p.$$

If the quantities $V_P$and $I_P$in the individual phases are replaced by the corresponding line quantities V_L and I_L respectively, we obtain:

$$P = 3\frac{V_L}{\sqrt{3}}I_L.$$

(Because $V_P = V_L \div \sqrt{3}$ and $I_p = I_L$)

Since $3 = \sqrt{3} \times \sqrt{3}$, this equation can be simplified to the form

$$P = \sqrt{3}\, V_L I_L$$

Note that power factor in resistance circuit is unity. Hence power factor is not taken into account.

Quantity	P	V_L	I_L
Unit	W	V	A

The power in this purely resistive load(ϕ=0°, cosϕ= 1) is entirely active power which is converted into heat. The unit of active power is the watt (W).

As the last formula shows, three-phase power in a star-connected load circuit can be calculated from the line quantities, and there is no need to measure the phase quantities.

$P = \sqrt{3} \times V \times I$ (Formula holds good for pure resistive load)

It is always possible, in practice, to measure the line quantities but the accessibility of the star point cannot always be guaranteed, and so it is not always possible to measure the phase voltages.

Three-phase power with a delta-connected load:

Fig 1

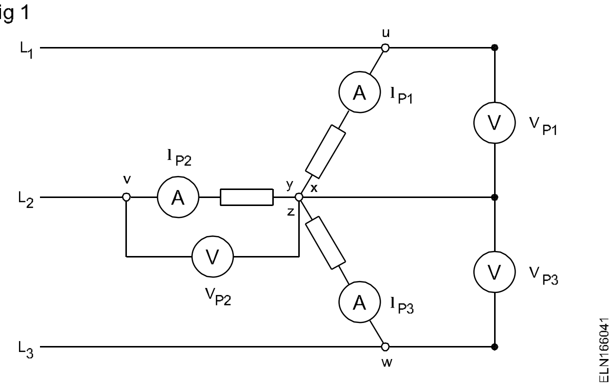
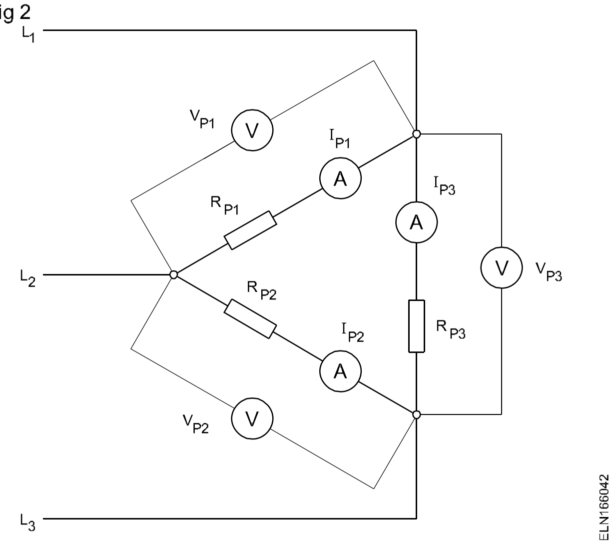


Fig 2 shows the load of three resistances connected in delta. Three times the phase power will be dissipated.

Fig 2



$$P = 3P_P = 3V_P I_P$$

If the quantities V_P and I_P are replaced by the corresponding line quantities V_L and I_L, we obtain:

Since, $V_L = V_P$

$$I_L = \sqrt{3} I_P \text{ and } I_P = \frac{I_L}{\sqrt{3}}$$

but since $3 = \sqrt{3} \times \sqrt{3}$, this equation can be simplified to the form:

$P = \sqrt{3}\, V_L I_L$. (Formula holds good for pure resistive load)

> **If we compare the two power formulae for the star and delta connections, we see that the same formula applies to both. In other words, the way in which the load is connected has no effect on the formula to be used, assuming that the load is balanced.**

Active, reactive and apparent power: As you already know from AC circuit theory, load circuits which contain both resistance and inductance, or both resistance and capacitance, take both active and reactive power because of the phase difference existing between the voltage and current in them. If these two components of power are added geometrically, we obtain the apparent power. Precisely the same happens in each phase of the three-phase systems. Here we have to consider the phase difference f between the voltage and current in each phase.

Applying the factor $\sqrt{3}$, the components of power in a three-phase system follow from the formulae derived for single-phase, AC circuits, namely:

Apparent power	$S = VI$	$S = \sqrt{3} V_L I_L$	VA
Active power	$P = VI \cos\phi$	$P = \sqrt{3}\, V_L I_L \cos\phi$	W
Reactive power	$Q = VI \sin\phi$	$Q = \sqrt{3} V_L I_L \sin\phi$	var

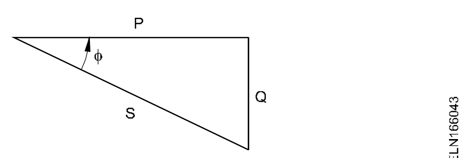
Finally, the well known relationships found in single-phase AC circuits apply also to three-phase circuits.

$$\cos\phi = \frac{\text{active power}}{\text{apparent power}} = \frac{P}{S}$$

$$\sin\phi = \frac{\text{reactive power}}{\text{apparent power}} = \frac{Q}{S}$$

This can also be seen from Fig 3.

Fig 3



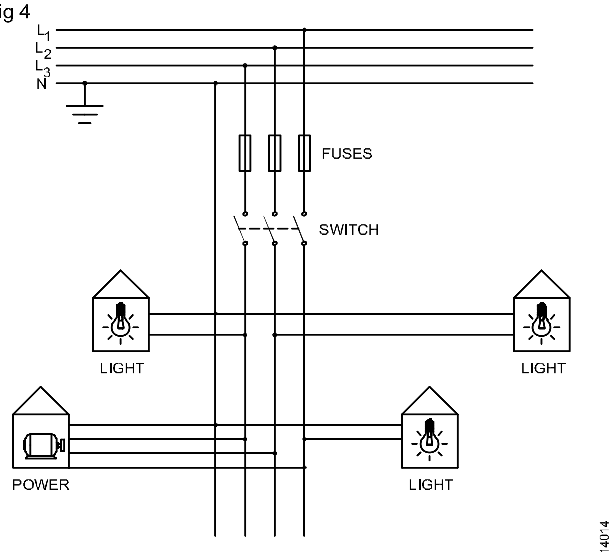
Cos ϕ is called the power factor, while sin ϕ is sometimes called the reactive power factor.

Unbalanced load: The most convenient distribution system for electrical energy supply is the 415/240 V four-wire, three-phase AC system.

This offers the possibility of supplying three-phase, as well as single-phase current, to users simultaneously. Supply to buildings can be arranged as in the given example. (Fig 4)

The individual houses utilize one of the phase voltages. L_1, L_2 and L_3 to N are distributed in sequence (light current). However, large loads (eg.three-phase AC motors) may be fed with the line voltage (heavy current).

Fig 4

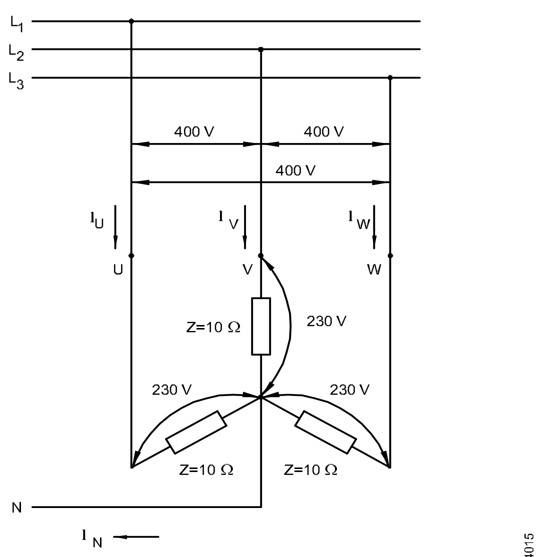


UNBALANCED LOAD

However, certain equipment which needs single or two phase supply can be connected to the individual phases so that the phases will be differently loaded, and this means that there will be unbalanced loading of the phases of the four-wire, three-phase network.

Balanced load in a star connection: In a star connection, each phase current is determined by the ratio of phase voltage and load impedance `Z'.

Fig 5



BALANCED STAR CONNECTED LOAD

This fact will now be confirmed by a numerical example.

A star-connected load consisting of impedances `Z' each of 10 ohms, is connected to a three-phase network with line voltage V_L = 415V. (Fig 5)

Because of the arrangements of a star connection, the phase voltage is 240V ($415/\sqrt{3}$).

The three load currents taken froms supply have the same magnitude since the star-connected load is balanced, and they are given by

$$I_U = I_V = I_W = V_P \div Z.$$

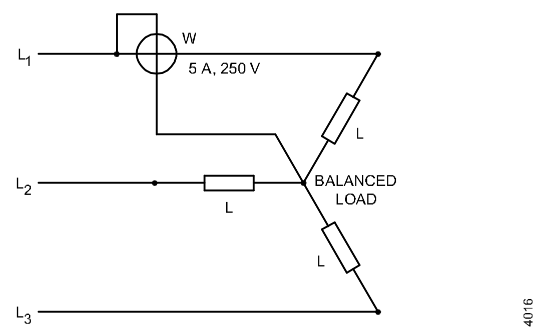
The measurement of power: The number of wattmeters used to obtain power in a three-phase system depends on whether the load is balanced or not, and whether the neutral point, if there is one, is accessible.

- Measurement of power in a a star-connected balanced load with neutral point is possible by a single wattmeter.
- Measurement of power in a star or delta-connected, balanced or unbalanced load (with or without neutral) is possible with two wattmeter method.

Single wattmeter method: Fig 6 shows the circuit diagram to measure the three-phase power of a star-connected, balanced load with the neutral point accessible the current coil of the wattmeter being connected to one line, and the voltage coil between that line and neutral point. The wattmeter reading gives the power per phase. So the total is three times the wattmeter reading.

$$\text{Power/phase} = 3V_P I_P \cos\theta = 3P = 3W.$$

Fig 6



POWER MEASUREMENT - SINGLE WATTMETER

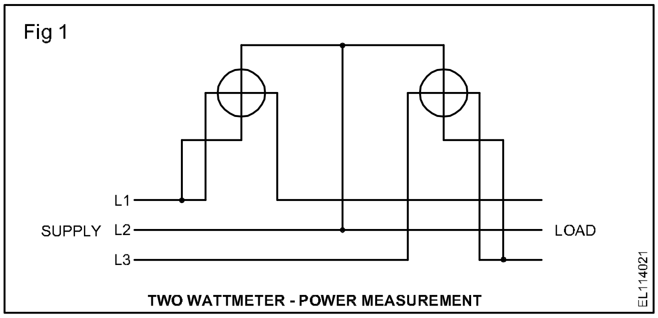
The two-wattmeter method of measuring power

Objectives: At the end of this lesson you shall be able to:
- **measure 3-phase power using two single phase wattmeter**
- **calculate power factor from meter reading.**
- **explain the `two-wattmeter' method of measuring power in a three-phase, three-wire system**

Power in a three-phase, three-wire system is normally measured by the `two-wattmeter' method. It may be used with balanced or unbalanced loads, and separate connections to the phases are not required. This method is not, however, used in four-wire systems because current may flow in the fourth wire, if the load is unbalanced and the assumption that $I_U + I_V + I_W = 0$ will not be valid.

The two wattmeters are connected to the supply system as shown in Fig 1. The current coils of the two wattmeters are connected in two of the lines, and the voltage coils are connected from the same two lines to the third line. The total power is then obtained by adding the two readings:

$$P_T = P_1 + P_2.$$



Consider the total instantaneous power in the system $P_T = P_1 + P_2 + P_3$ where P_1, P_2 and P_3 are the instantaneous values of the power in each of the three phases.

$$P_T = V_{UN}\, i_U + V_{VN}\, i_V + V_{WN}\, I_W$$

Since there is no fourth wire, $i_U + i_V + i_W = 0$; $i_V = -(i_U + i_W)$.

$$\begin{aligned} P_T &= V_{UN} i_U - V_{VN}(i_U + i_W) + V_{WN}\, i_W \\ &= i_U(V_{UN} - V_{VN}) + i_W(V_{WN} - V_{UN}) \\ &= i_U V_{UV} + i_W V_{WV} \end{aligned}$$

Now $i_U V_{UV}$ is the instantaneous power in the first wattmeter, and $i_W V_{WV}$ is the instantaneous power in the second wattmeter. Therefore, the total mean power is the sum of the mean powers read by the two wattmeters.

It is possible that with the wattmeters connected correctly, one of them will attempt to read a negative value because of the large phase angle between the voltage and current for that instrument. The current coil or voltage coil must then be reversed and the reading given a negative sign when combined with the other wattmeter readings to obtain the total power.

At unity power factor, the readings of two wattmeter will be equal. Total power = 2 x one wattmeter reading.

When the power factor = 0.5, one of the wattmeter's reading is zero and the other reads total power.

When the power factor is less than 0.5, one of the wattmeters will give negative indication. In order to read the wattmeter, reverse the pressure coil or current coil connection. The wattmeter will then give a positive reading but this must be taken as negative for calculating the total power.

When the power factor is zero, the readings of the two wattmeters are equal but of opposite signs.

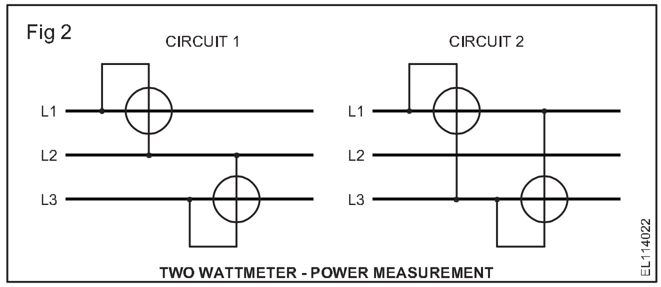
Self-evaluation test

1 Draw a general wiring diagram for the two-wattmeter method of three-phase power measurement.

2 Why is it desirable, in practice, to use the two-wattmeter method? (Fig 2)

3 Why can the two-wattmeter method not be used in a three-phase, four-wire system with random loading?

4 Which of the above circuits is used for the two-wattmeter method of power measurement?



Power factor calculation in the two-watmeter method of measuring power

As you have learnt in the previous lesson, the total power $P_T = P_1 + P_2$ in the two-wattmeter method of measuring power in a 3-phase, 3-wire system.

From the readings obtained from the two wattmeters, the tan f can be calculated from the given formula

$$\tan\phi = \frac{\sqrt{3}(P_1 - P_2)}{(P_1 + P_2)} = \frac{\sqrt{3}\,(W_1 - W_2)}{(W_1 + W_2)}$$

from which f and power factor of the load may be found.

Example 1*:* Two wattmeters connected to measure the power input to a balanced three-phase circuit indicate 4.5 KW and 3 KW respectively. Find the power factor of the circuit.

Solution

$$\tan\phi = \frac{\sqrt{3}(P_1 - P_2)}{(P_1 + P_2)}$$

$P_1 = 4.5$ KW

$P_2 = 3$ KW

$P_1 + P_2 = 4.5 + 3 = 7.5$ KW

$P_1 - P_2 = 4.5 - 3 = 1.5$ KW

$$\tan\phi = \frac{\sqrt{3} \times 1.5}{7.5} = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{5} = 0.3464$$

$\phi = \tan^{-1} 0.3464 = 19^0 6'$

Power factor $\cos 19^0 6' = 0.95$

Example 2*:* Two wattmeters connected to measure the power input to a balanced three-phase circuit indicate 4.5 KW and 3 KW respectively. The latter reading is obtained after reversing the connection of the voltage coil of that wattmeter. Find the power factor of the circuit.

Solution

$$\tan\phi = \frac{\sqrt{3}(P_1 - P_2)}{(P_1 + P_2)}$$

$$= \frac{\sqrt{3}(4.5 - (-3))}{(4.5 + (-3))}$$

$$= \frac{\sqrt{3}(4.5 + 3)}{(4.5 - 3)}$$

$$= \frac{\sqrt{3} \times 7.5}{1.5} = \sqrt{3} \text{ x } 5$$

$$= 1.732 \times 5 = 8.66.$$

$\phi = \tan^{-1} 8.66 = 83^o.27'$

since power factor (Cos $83^o 27'$) = 0.114.

Question 1: The reading on the two wattmeters connected to measure the power input to the three-phase, balanced load are 600W and 300W respectively.

Calculate the total power input and power factor of the load.

Question 2: Two wattmeters connected to measure the power input to a balanced, three-phase load indicate 25KW and 5KW respectively.

Find the power factor of the circuit when (i) both readings are positive and (ii) the latter reading is obtained after reversing the connections of the pressure coil of the wattmeter.

Solution

1 Total power = $P_T = P_1 + P_2$

P_1 = 600W.

P_2 = 300W.

P_T = 600 + 300 = 900 W

$$\tan\phi = \frac{\sqrt{3}(P_1 - P_2)}{(P_1 + P_2)} = \frac{\sqrt{3}(600 - 300)}{600 + 300} = \frac{\sqrt{3} \times 300}{900}$$

$$= \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} = 0.5774$$

$\phi = \tan^{-1} 0.5774 = 30^o$

Power factor = Cos 30^o = 0.866.

2 a) P_1 = 25 KW

P_2 = 5 KW

$$\tan\phi = \frac{\sqrt{3}(P_1 - P_2)}{(P_1 + P_2)} = \frac{\sqrt{3}(25 - 5)}{25 + 5}$$

$$= \frac{\sqrt{3} \times 20}{30} = \frac{\sqrt{3} \times 2}{3} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} = 1.1547$$

$\phi = \tan^{-1} 1.1547 = 49^o 6'$

Power factor (Cosϕ) = Cos $49^o 6'$ = 0.6547

b) P_1 = 25 KW

P_2 = –5 KW

$$\tan\phi = \frac{\sqrt{3}(P_1 - P_2)}{(P_1 + P_2)} = \frac{\sqrt{3}(25 - (-5))}{25 + (-5)}$$

$$= \frac{\sqrt{3}\,(25 + 5)}{25 - 5} = \frac{\sqrt{3} \times 30}{20}$$

$$= \frac{\sqrt{3} \times 3}{2} = 2.5980$$

$\phi = \tan^{-1} 2.5980 = 68^o 57'$

Power factor = Cos $68^o 57'$ = 0.3592

Phase-sequence indicator (Meter)

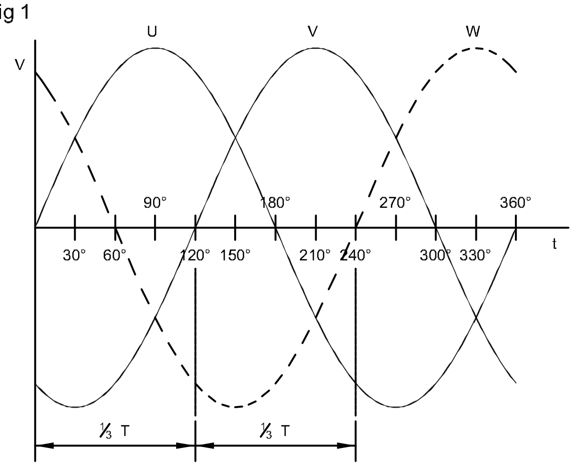
Objectives: At the end of this lesson you shall be able to
- **describe the method of finding the phase sequence of a 3-phase supply using a phase-sequence indicator**
- **explain the methods of finding phase sequence using lamps.**

Review

A three-phase alternator contains three sets of coils positioned 120^o apart and its output is a three-phase voltage as shown in Fig 1. A three-phase voltage consists of three voltage waves, 120 electrical degrees apart.

At a time 0, phase U is passing through zero volts with positively increasing voltage. (Fig 1) V follows with its zero crossing 1/3 of the period later and the same applies to W with respect to V. The order in which the three-phases attain their maximum or minimum values is called the phase sequence. In the illustration given here the phase sequence is U,V,W.

Fig 1



3 - PHASE OUTPUT VOLTAGE

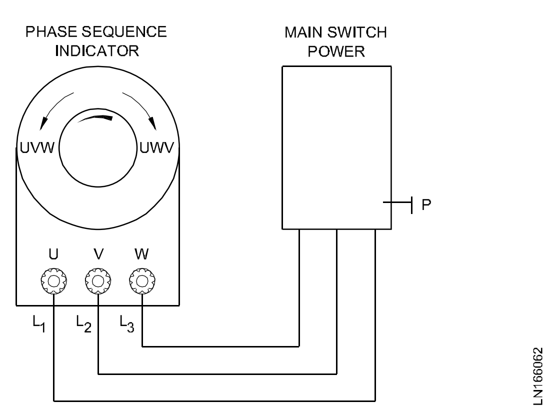
Importance of correct phase sequence: Correct phase sequence is important in the construction and connection of various three-phase systems. For example, correct phase sequence is important when the outputs of three-phase alternators must be paralleled into a common voltage system. The phase `U' of one alternator must be connected to phase `U' of another alternator. The phase `V' to phase `V' and phase `W' to phase `W' must be similarly connected to each other.

In the case of an induction motor, reversal of the sequence results in the reversal of the direction of motor rotation which will drive the machinery the wrong way.

Phase-sequence indicator(meter)**:** A phase-sequence indicator (meter) provides a means of ensuring the correct phase-sequence of a three-phase system. The phase-sequence indicator consists of 3 terminals `UVW' to which three-phases of the supply are connected. When the supply is fed to the indicator a disc in the indicator moves either in the clockwise direction or in the anticlockwise direction. The direction of the disc movement is marked with an arrowhead on the indicator. Below the arrowhead the correct sequence is marked. (Fig 2)

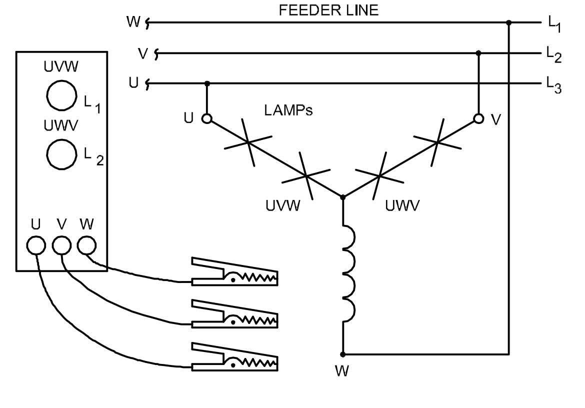
The phase sequence of the three-phase system may be reversed by interchanging the connections of any two of the three phases.

Fig 2



Phase-sequence indicator using choke and lamps: The phase-sequence indicator consists of four lamps and an inductor connected in a star formation (Y). A test lead is connected to each leg of the `Y'. One lamp is labelled U-V-W, and the other is labelled U-W-V. When the three leads are connected to a three-phase line, the brighter lamp indicates the phase sequence. (Fig 3)

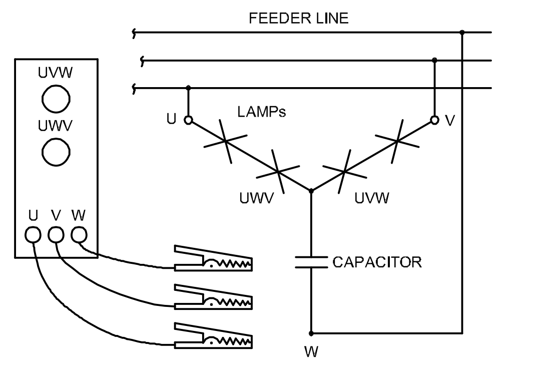
Fig 3



PHASE SEQUENCE INDICATOR USING CHOKE & LAMPS

Phase-sequence indicator using capacitor & lamps: The phase-sequence indicator consists of four lamps and a capacitor connected in a star formation (Y). A test lead is connected to each leg of the `Y'. One pair of lamps are labelled U-V-W,and the other pair are labelled U-W-V. When the three leads are connected to a 3-phase line, the brighter lamp indicates the phase sequence. (Fig 4)

Fig 4



PHASE SEQUENCE INDICATOR USING CAPACITOR & LAMPS