Chapter 33

Alternating Current Circuits



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AC power source

- > The AC power source provides an alternative voltage, $\Delta v(t)$
- Notation
 - Lower case symbols will indicate instantaneous values
 - Capital letters will indicate fixed values
- The output of an AC power source is sinusoidal

 $\Delta v = \Delta V_{\text{max}} \sin \omega t$

- Δv is the instantaneous voltage
- ΔV_{max} is the maximum output voltage of the source
- ω is the angular frequency of the AC voltage

AC voltage

$$\Delta \mathbf{V} = \Delta \mathbf{V}_{max} \cos{(\omega t + \boldsymbol{\varphi})}$$

• The angular frequency is

$$\omega = 2\pi f = \frac{2\pi}{T}$$

- -f is the frequency of the source
- T is the period of the source
- The voltage is positive during one half of the cycle and negative during the other half
- The current in any circuit driven by an AC source is an alternating current that varies sinusoidally with time
- Commercial electric power plants in the US use a frequency of 60 Hz



Resistor in AC circuit

- Consider a circuit consisting of an AC source and a resistor
- The AC source is symbolized by
- $\Delta v = \Delta v_R = \Delta V_{\text{max}} \sin \omega t$
- Δv_R is the instantaneous voltage across the resistor
- The instantaneous current in the resistor is

$$i_R = \frac{\Delta V_R}{R} = \frac{\Delta V_{max}}{R} \sin \omega t = I_{max} \sin \omega t$$



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Resistor in AC circuit

$$\Delta v = \Delta v_R = \Delta V_{max} \sin(\omega t)$$

$$i_R = \frac{\Delta v_R}{R} = \frac{\Delta V_{max}}{R} \sin \omega t = I_{max} \sin \omega t$$

$$i_R = \frac{\Delta v_R}{R} = \frac{\Delta V_{max}}{R} \sin \omega t = I_{max} \sin \omega t$$

The current and the voltage are *in phase* Resistors behave essentially the same way
 in both DC and AC circuits

Resistor in AC circuit: Phasor diagram

$$\Delta \mathbf{v} = \Delta \mathbf{v}_R = \Delta \mathbf{V}_{max} \sin(\omega t)$$

$$i_R = \frac{\Delta v_R}{R} = \frac{\Delta v_{max}}{R} \sin \omega t = I_{max} \sin \omega t$$



A phasor is a vector whose length is proportional to the maximum value of the variable it represents

The vector rotates at an angular speed equal to the angular frequency associated with the variable

The projection of the phasor onto the vertical axis represents the instantaneous value of the quantity it represents

rms current and voltage

$$i_R = I_{max} \sin \omega t$$

- The average current in one cycle is zero
- rms stands for root mean square

$$I_{rms} = \left(\frac{1}{T}\int_{0}^{T} i_{R}^{2} dt\right)^{1/2} = \left(\frac{1}{T}I_{max}^{2}\int_{0}^{T} sin^{2} (\omega t) dt\right)^{1/2}$$
$$= \left(\frac{1}{2\pi}I_{max}^{2}\int_{0}^{2\pi} sin^{2} (\tau) d\tau\right)^{1/2} = \frac{I_{max}}{\sqrt{2}} = 0.707 I_{max}$$

 Alternating voltages can also be discussed in terms of rms values

$$\Delta V_{rms} = \frac{\Delta V_{max}}{\sqrt{2}} = 0.707 \ \Delta V_{max}$$



rms current and voltage: power

• The rate at which electrical energy is dissipated in the circuit is given by

$$P = i^2 R$$

- where *i* is the *instantaneous current*
- The average power delivered to a resistor that carries an alternating current is

$$P_{av} = I_{rms}^2 R$$

Inductors in AC circuit



This shows that the instantaneous current i_L in the inductor and the instantaneous voltage Δv_L across the inductor are *out* of phase by $(\pi/2)$ rad = 90°.

Inductors in AC circuit



Inductors in AC circuit

$$\Delta \mathbf{v} = \Delta \mathbf{V}_{max} \sin \omega t$$
$$i_L = \mathbf{I}_{max} \sin \left(\omega t - \frac{\pi}{2} \right)$$

$$I_{max} = \frac{\Delta V_{max}}{\omega L}$$

- The phasors are at 90° with respect to each other
- This represents the phase difference between the current and voltage
- Specifically, the current lags behind the voltage by 90°





- The factor ωL has the same units as resistance and is related to current and voltage in the same way as resistance
- The factor is the **inductive reactance** and is given by:

$$X_L = \omega L$$

- As the frequency increases, the inductive reactance increases

$$I_{\max} = \frac{\Delta V_{\max}}{X_L}$$

Capacitors in AC circuit

$$\Delta v + \Delta v_c = 0$$
 and so
 $\Delta v = \Delta v_c = \Delta V_{max} \sin \omega t$

- $-\Delta v_c$ is the instantaneous voltage across the capacitor
- The charge is

$$q = C\Delta v_C = C\Delta V_{\max} \sin \omega t$$

The instantaneous current is given by

$$i_{c} = \frac{dq}{dt} = \omega C \Delta V_{\max} \cos \omega t$$
$$i_{c} = \omega C \Delta V_{\max} \sin \left(\omega t + \frac{\pi}{2} \right)$$

• The current is $(\pi/2)$ rad = 90° out of phase with the voltage₄





Capacitors in AC circuit

$$\Delta v_{c} = \Delta V_{max} \sin \omega t$$
$$i_{c} = \omega C \Delta V_{max} \sin \left(\omega t + \frac{\pi}{2} \right)$$

- The phasor diagram shows that for a sinusoidally applied voltage, the current always leads the voltage across a capacitor by 90°
 - This is equivalent to saying the voltage lags the current







• The maximum current

$$I_{\max} = \omega C \Delta V_{\max} = \frac{\Delta V_{\max}}{(1/\omega C)}$$

 The impeding effect of a capacitor on the current in an AC circuit is called the capacitive reactance and is given by

$$X_{c} \equiv \frac{1}{\omega C}$$
 and $I_{max} = \frac{\Delta V_{max}}{X_{c}}$

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 (\mathbf{b})

RLC series circuit

 The instantaneous voltage would be given by

 $\Delta v = \Delta V_{\text{max}} \sin \omega t$

• The instantaneous current would be given by

$$i = I_{\max} \sin(\omega t - \varphi)$$

- φ is the *phase angle* between the current and the applied voltage
- Since the elements are in series, the current at all points in the circuit has the same amplitude and phase



RLC series circuit

- The instantaneous voltage across the resistor is in phase with the current
- The instantaneous voltage across the inductor leads the current by 90°
- The instantaneous voltage across the capacitor lags the current by 90°



RLC series circuit $\begin{array}{c} \swarrow \Delta v_{R} \rightarrow \leftarrow \Delta v_{L} \rightarrow \leftarrow \Delta v_{C} \rightarrow \\ \hline \\ R & L & C \\ \hline \\ \end{array}$ (a)

• The instantaneous voltage across each of the three circuit elements can be expressed as

$$\Delta V_R = I_{\max} R \sin \omega t = \Delta V_R \sin \omega t$$
$$\Delta V_L = I_{\max} X_L \sin \left(\omega t + \frac{\pi}{2} \right) = \Delta V_L \cos \omega t$$
$$\Delta V_C = I_{\max} X_C \sin \left(\omega t - \frac{\pi}{2} \right) = -\Delta V_C \cos \omega t$$

RLC series circuit

$$\Delta V_R = I_{\max} R \sin \omega t = \Delta V_R \sin \omega t$$

$$\Delta V_L = I_{\max} X_L \sin\left(\omega t + \frac{\pi}{2}\right) = \Delta V_L \cos \omega t$$

$$\Delta V_C = I_{\max} X_C \sin\left(\omega t - \frac{\pi}{2}\right) = -\Delta V_C \cos \omega t$$

 In series, voltages add and the instantaneous voltage across all three elements would be

 $\Delta v = \Delta v_R + \Delta v_L + \Delta v_C$

Easier to use the phasor diagrams

RLC series circuit

$$i = I_{\max} \sin \omega t$$

$$\Delta v_{R} = I_{\max} R \sin \omega t = \Delta V_{R} \sin \omega t$$
$$\Delta v_{L} = I_{\max} X_{L} \sin \left(\omega t + \frac{\pi}{2} \right) = \Delta V_{L} \cos \omega t$$
$$\Delta v_{C} = I_{\max} X_{C} \sin \left(\omega t - \frac{\pi}{2} \right) = -\Delta V_{C} \cos \omega t$$

$$\Delta \mathbf{v} = \Delta \mathbf{v}_{R} + \Delta \mathbf{v}_{L} + \Delta \mathbf{v}_{C} =$$

= $\Delta \mathbf{V}_{R} \sin \omega t + \Delta \mathbf{V}_{L} \cos \omega t - \Delta \mathbf{V}_{C} \cos \omega t =$
= $\Delta \mathbf{V}_{max} \sin (\omega t + \varphi)$

Easier to use the phasor diagrams

$$| - \Delta v_R \rightarrow | - \Delta v_L \rightarrow | - \Delta v_C \rightarrow |$$

$$R \qquad L \qquad C$$

$$(a)$$

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- Vector addition is used to combine the voltage phasors
- ΔV_L and ΔV_C are in opposite directions, so they can be combined
- Their resultant is perpendicular to ΔV_R





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 - From the vector diagram, ΔV_{max} can be calculated

$$\Delta V_{\max} = \sqrt{\Delta V_R^2} + \left(\Delta V_L - \Delta V_C\right)^2 = \sqrt{\left(I_{\max}R\right)^2 + \left(I_{\max}X_L - I_{\max}X_C\right)^2}$$

$$\Delta V_{\rm max} = I_{\rm max} \sqrt{R^2 + (X_L - X_C)^2}$$



• The current in an RLC circuit is

$$I_{\max} = \frac{\Delta V_{\max}}{\sqrt{R^2 + (X_L - X_C)^2}} = \frac{\Delta V_{\max}}{Z}$$

• Z is called the impedance of the circuit and it plays the role of resistance in the circuit, where

$$Z \equiv \sqrt{R^2 + \left(X_L - X_C\right)^2}$$

RLC series circuit



impedance triangle

 $I_{\rm max} = \frac{\Delta V_{\rm max}}{Z}$





• The impedance triangle can also be used to find the phase angle, ϕ

$$\varphi = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{X_L - X_C}{R}\right)$$

• The phase angle can be positive or negative and determines the nature of the circuit

• Also,
$$\cos \varphi = \frac{F}{Z}$$

 $X_L - X_C$

R

 $i = I_{\max} \sin \omega t$ $\Delta v = \Delta V_{\max} \sin (\omega t + \varphi)$ 29



^a In each case, an AC voltage (not shown) is applied across the elements.



 The average power delivered by the generator is converted to internal energy in the resistor

$$-P_{\rm av} = \frac{1}{2} I_{\rm max} \Delta V_{\rm max} \cos \varphi = I_{\rm rms} \Delta V_{\rm rms} \cos \varphi$$

- $-\cos \varphi$ is called the *power factor* of the circuit
- We can also find the average power in terms of *R*

$$P_{av} = I_{rms}^{2} R = \frac{1}{2} I_{max}^{2} R = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\Delta V_{max}}{Z} \right)^{2} R = \frac{\Delta V_{max}^{2}}{2} \frac{R}{R^{2} + (X_{L} - X_{C})^{2}}$$

Resonances in AC circuit

$$P_{av} = \frac{\Delta V_{max}^2}{2} \frac{R}{Z^2} = \frac{\Delta V_{max}^2}{2} \frac{R}{R^2 + (X_L - X_C)^2}$$

- Resonance in $P_{av}(\omega)$ occurs at the frequency ω_{o} where the current has its maximum value
- To achieve maximum current, the impedance must have a minimum value

- This occurs when
$$X_L = X_C$$
 or

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

- Solving for the frequency gives

$$\omega_{o} = 1/\sqrt{LC}$$

• The **resonance frequency** also corresponds to the natural frequency of oscillation of an *LC* circuit



Resonances in AC circuit

$$P_{av} = \frac{\Delta V_{max}^2}{2} \frac{R}{Z^2} = \frac{\Delta V_{max}^2}{2} \frac{R}{R^2 + (X_L - X_C)^2} = \frac{\Delta V_{max}^2}{2} \frac{R}{R^2 + (\omega L - \frac{1}{\omega C})^2}$$
$$\omega_o = \frac{1}{\sqrt{LC}} \qquad P_{av}(\omega_0) = \frac{\Delta V_{max}^2}{2R}$$

 $P_{av}(\omega_0) = \frac{max}{2R}$

- As *R* decreases, the curve becomes narrower and taller
- Theoretically, if R = 0 the current would be infinite at resonance
 - Real circuits always have some resistance

