

BASIC MATH FOR RELAY  
TECHNICIANS

BONNEVILLE POWER  
ADMINISTRATION

for

WSU HANDS-ON RELAY  
SCHOOL



# INTRODUCTION - Math I

This lecture will cover an DC vs AC, why AC is so different, what is a sine wave and how it relates to phasors. We will also demonstrate how to perform calculations using right triangles and use them to determine not only power factor, but also for plotting phasors to be used for protective relay work.



## Mathematical Relationship of R, I, V, and P in DC

❖ All you need to Remember is:

$V=IR$  (Ohms law), and  $P=VI$  (Joules law)...

The rest just simple algebraic manipulation and substitution

❖ [A]  $V=IR \Rightarrow$  [1]  $I=V/R$  and [2]  $R=V/I$

❖ [B]  $P=VI \Rightarrow$  [3]  $I=P/V$  and [4]  $V=P/I$

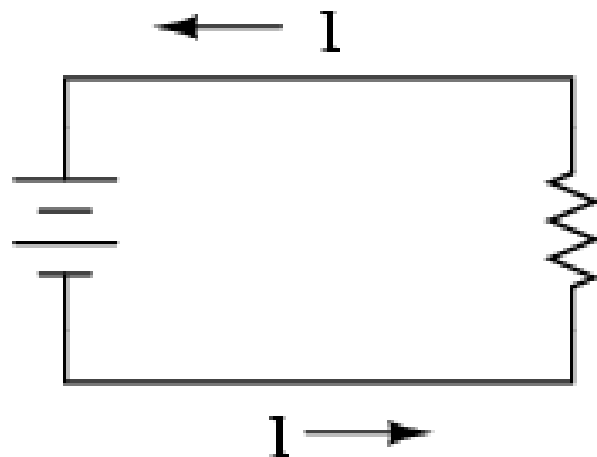
❖ P using [B] and [A]  $\Rightarrow P = (IR)I = I^2R$

❖ P using [B] and [1]  $\Rightarrow P = V(V/R) = V^2/R$

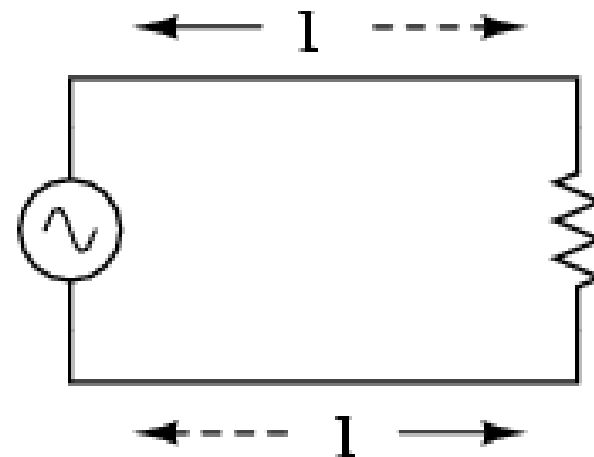
# AC vs DC

Due to the nature of AC, not only do quantities such as voltage and current oscillate, but we have influences (inductance, capacitance) that can effect both a measured value and displacement in time.

**DIRECT CURRENT  
(DC)**



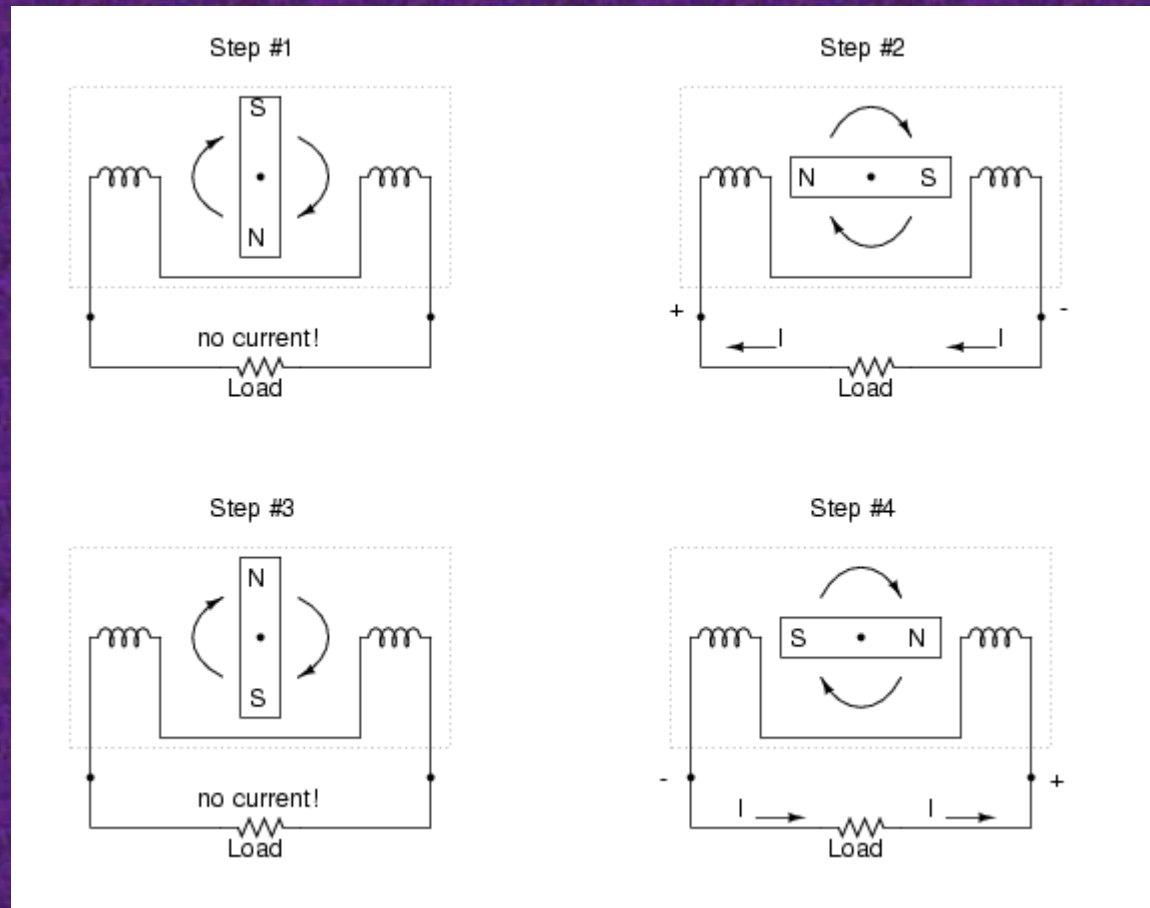
**ALTERNATING CURRENT  
(AC)**





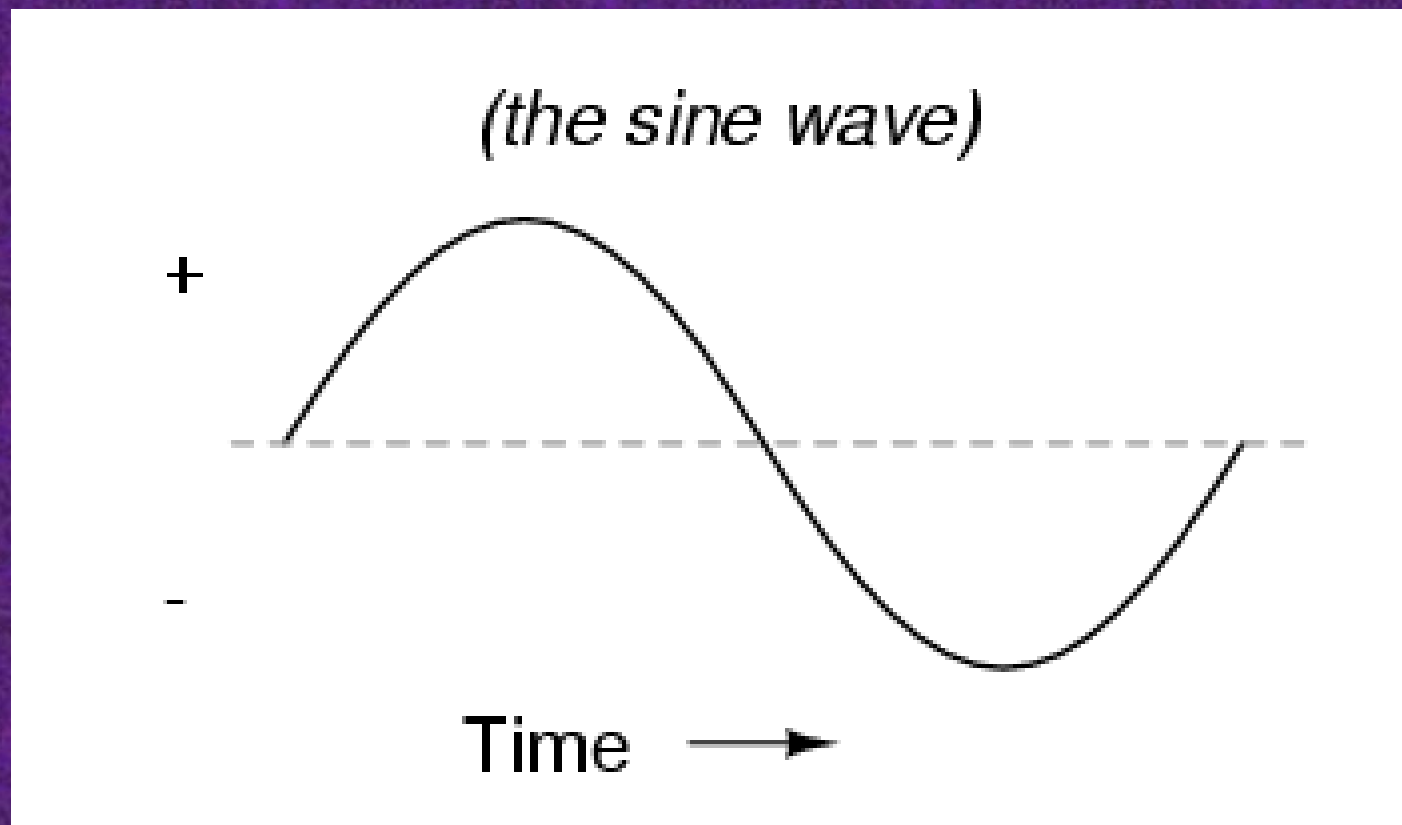
# AC generation

*as the magnet turns...*



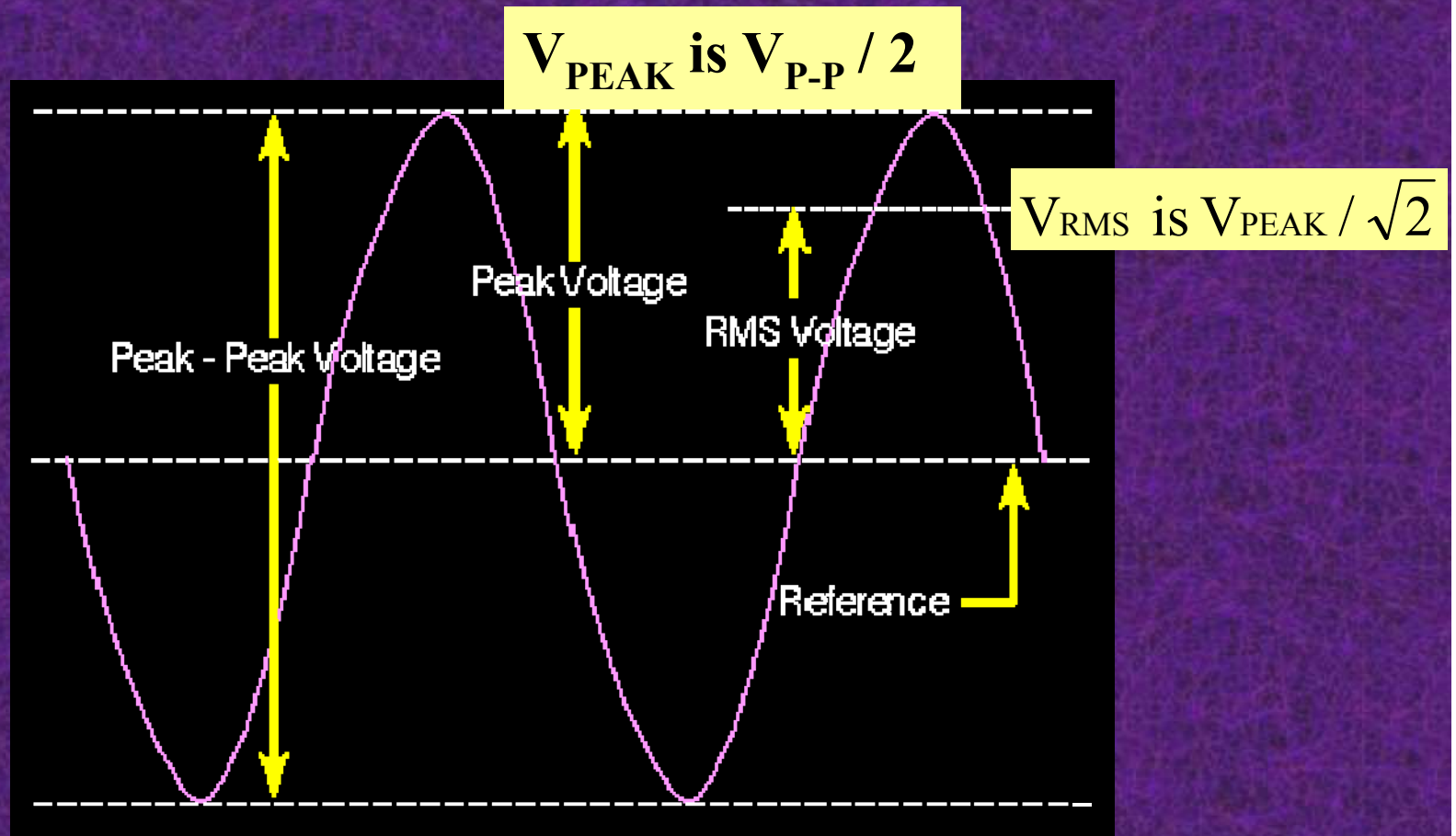
This way of creating energy that builds and collapses in different directions creates a sine wave...

The way AC is generated creates a  
'sine wave.'





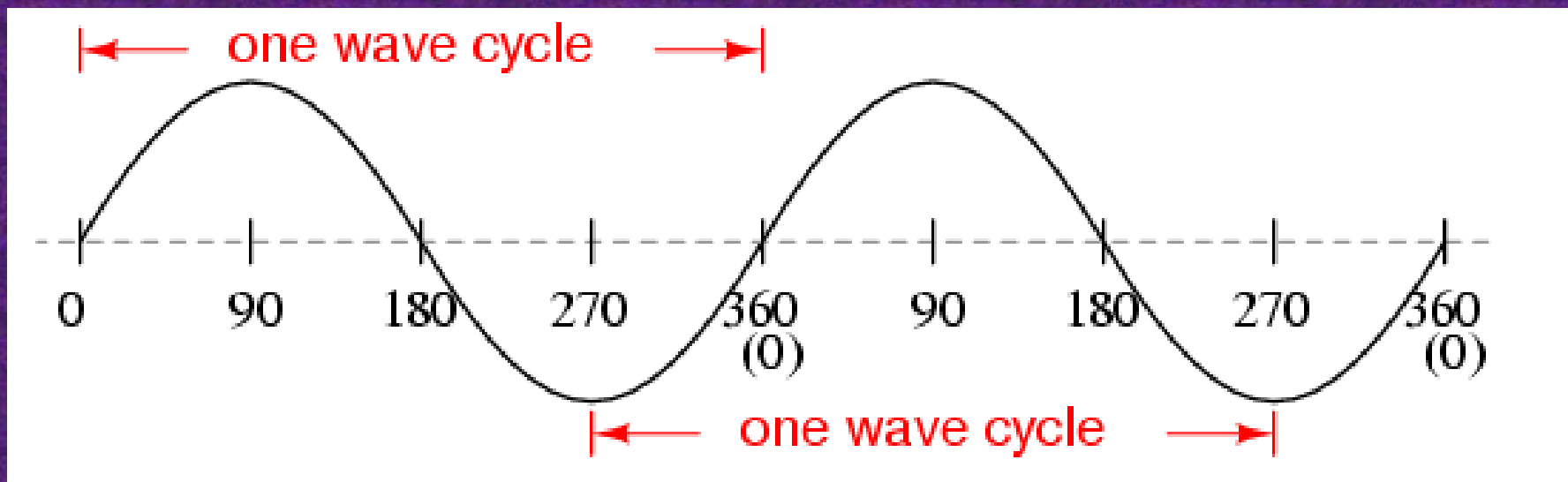
# AC Sinusoidal Wave Magnitude Relationships



In the power world, we refer to voltages at RMS value, not peak.



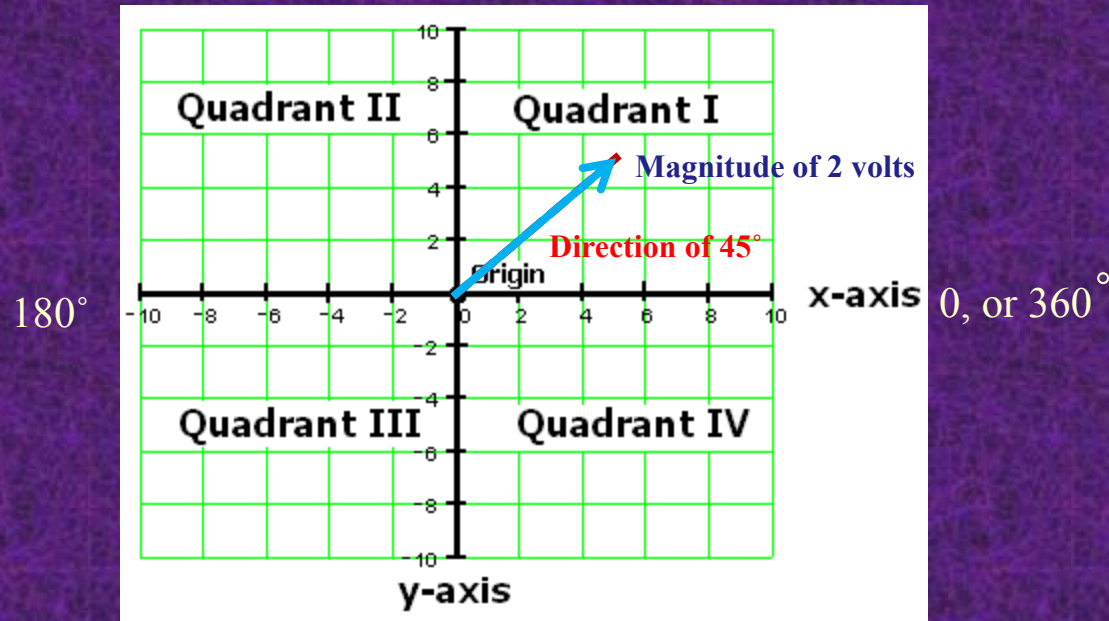
Example of two wave cycles. For relay work, this sinusoidal representation can be plotted on a coordinate system, a common language in the relay world for both engineers and craftspeople.



Remember: one cycle = one  $360^\circ$  rotation. It can be measure from any point on the sine wave, for example, from  $270^\circ$  to  $270^\circ$ .

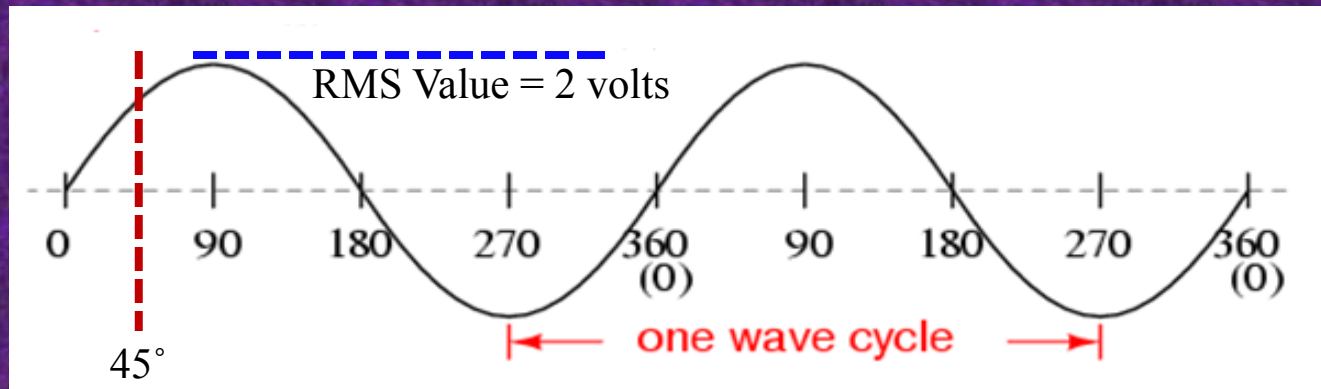
One cycle of the same sine wave we just viewed can be graphically represented on a Cartesian coordinate system similar to this one, depending on where in time you take your measurements. One critical point, you must draw it with reference to it's place in time (direction) and at it's full RMS value.

90° (or -270)

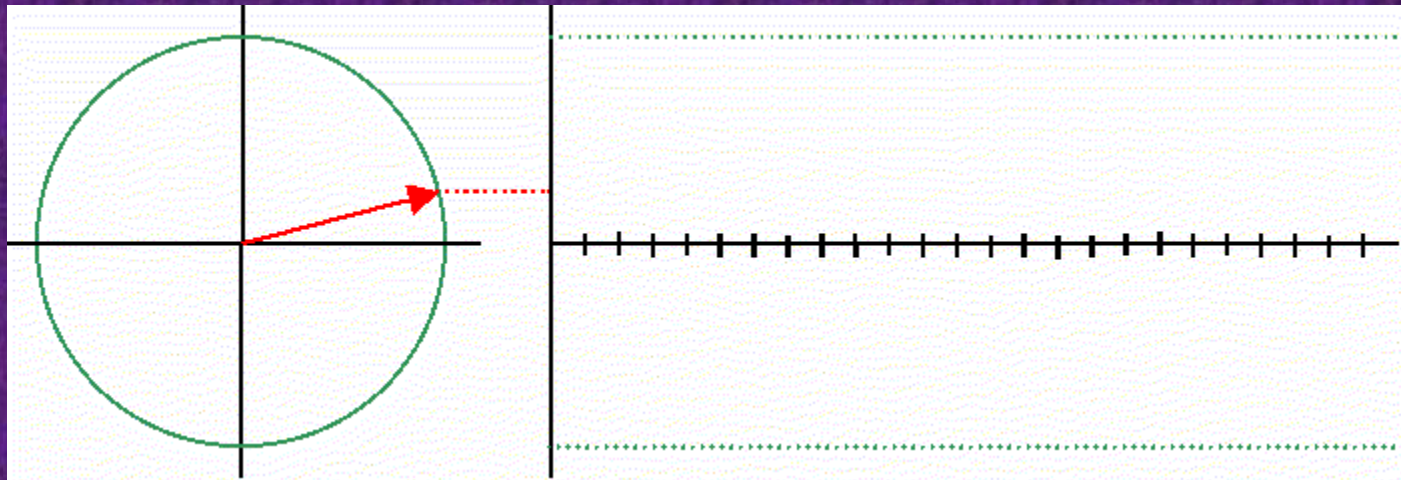


Plotted with  
Lead angles

270° (or -90)









## **Formulas for Z, I, V, P, Q, VA, PF, and RF in AC**

### **Basic relationships**

$$V=IZ,$$

$$\text{Volt-Amps}=VI$$

**Z = Impedance in ohms**

$$Z=V/I* (* \text{ reverse the polarity of current angle})$$

### **In addition:**

$$\text{Power Factor, or P.F.} = \text{COS } \theta$$

$$\text{Reactive Factor, or R.F.} = \text{SIN } \theta$$

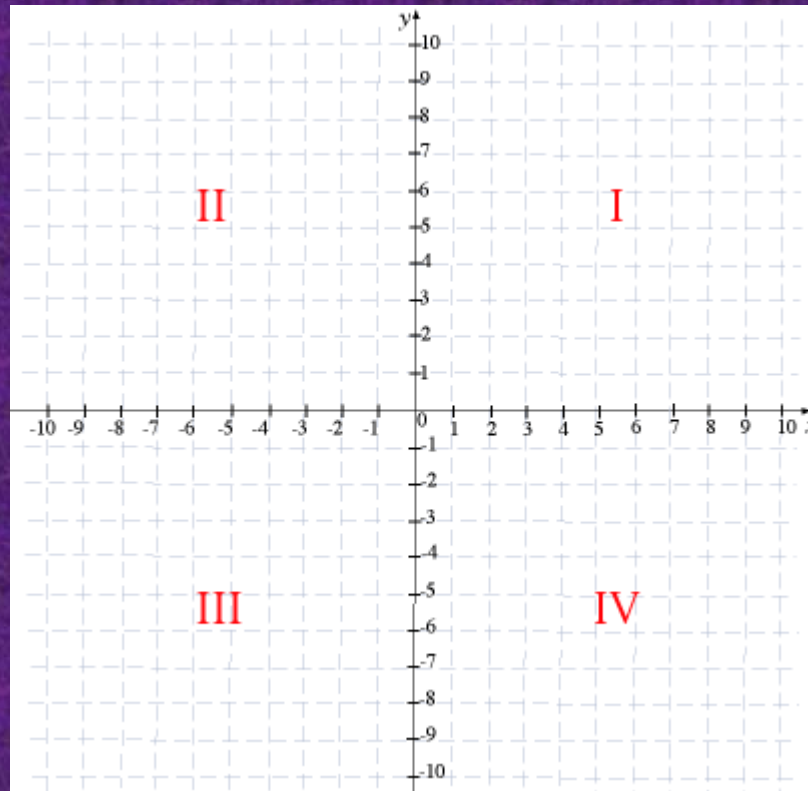
$$P = \text{Watts} = \text{VA} \times \text{P.F.} = VI \cdot \text{COS } \theta$$

$$Q = \text{Vars} = \text{VA} \times \text{R.F.} = VI \cdot \text{SIN } \theta$$

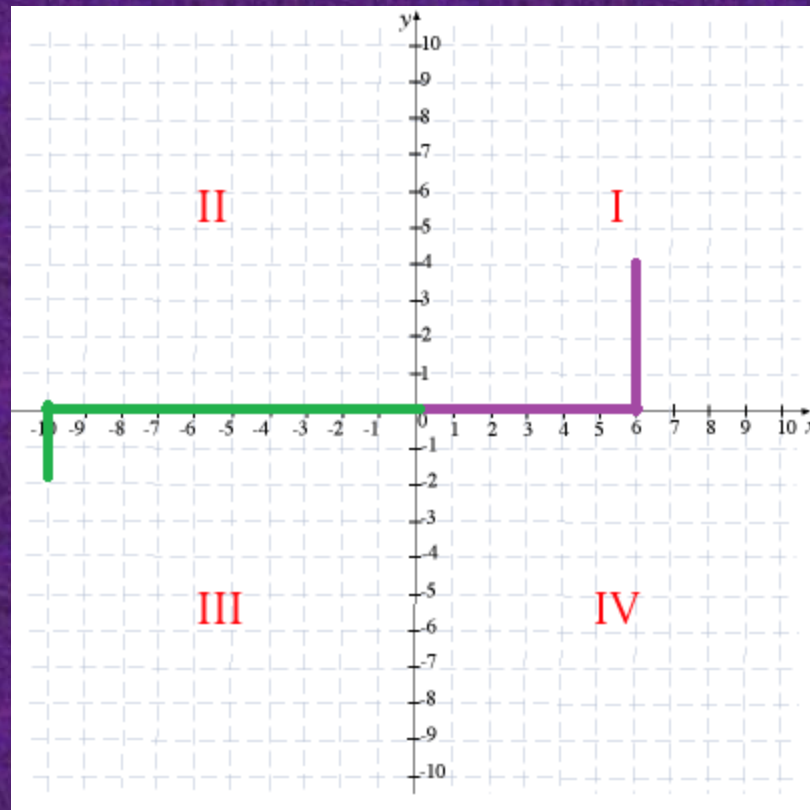


# Cartesian Coordinate System

(used for plotting phasors)

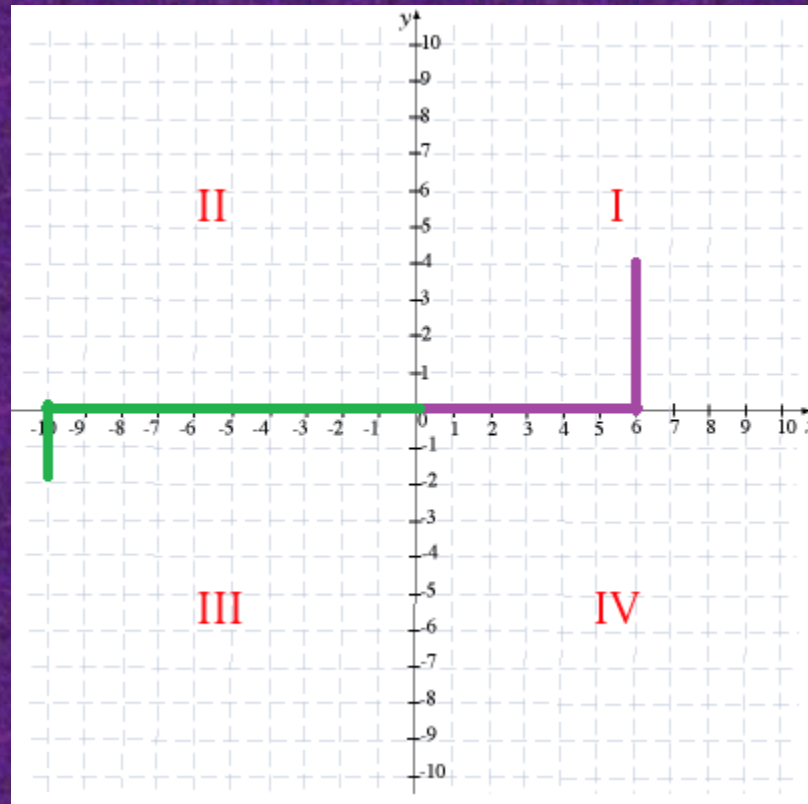


We used this to plot points in school. For example:  
**R = 6, Y = 3 (purple)**; or perhaps **R = -10, Y = -2 (green)** as seen  
below, to define a point on the coordinate system.





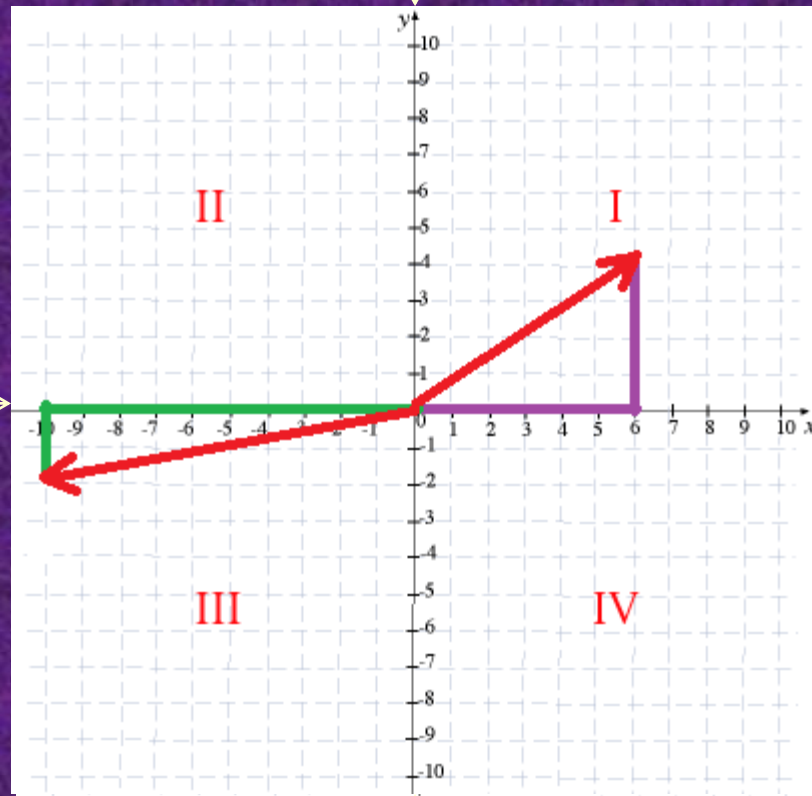
As an example, values as below can be representative of True Power (watts) on the horizontal line, and Reactive Power (vars) on the vertical line. By using those two quantities, we can find the 'hypotenuse' or VA.



# Cartesian Coordinate System

The summation of these quantities is proven through some basic trigonometric math. After we know the resultants magnitude and direction, we can then draw their resultant as a phasor.

$y$ , or  $j$ , is  $90^\circ$



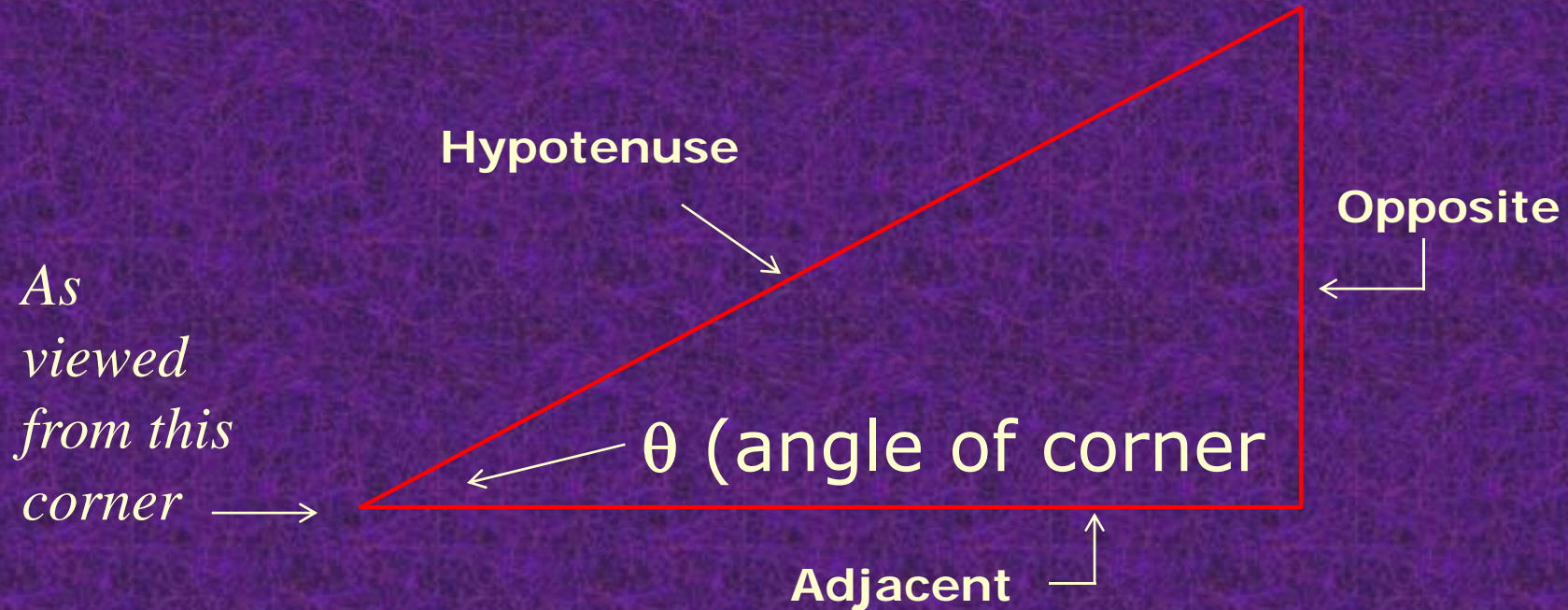
$-x$ , or  $-r$  is  $180^\circ$

$x$ , or  $r$ , is  $0^\circ$ ,  
(sometimes referred to as  $360^\circ$ )

$-y$ , or  $-j$ , is  $270^\circ$



# Trigonometric Functions of a “Right Triangle”



## Functions

$$\text{sine}(\theta) = \text{opp/hyp}$$

$$\text{cos}(\theta) = \text{adj/hyp}$$

$$\text{tan}(\theta) = \text{opp/adj}$$

## Inverse Functions

$$\text{arcsine}(\text{opp/hyp}) = \text{SIN}^{-1} = \theta$$

$$\text{arccosine}(\text{adj/hyp}) = \text{COS}^{-1} = \theta$$

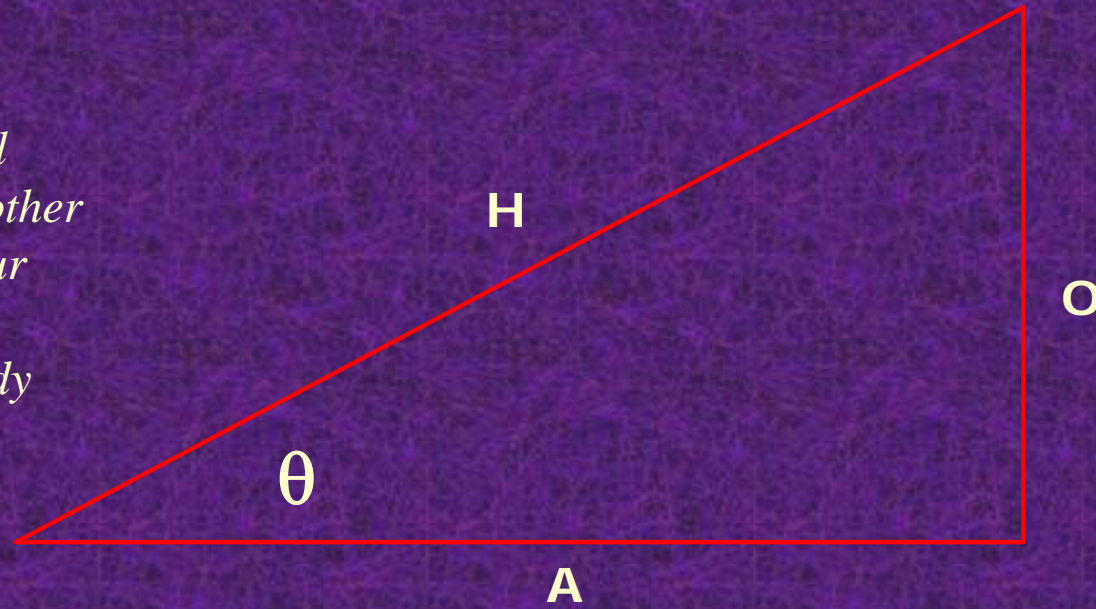
$$\text{arctangent}(\text{opp/adj}) = \text{TAN}^{-1} = \theta$$

It would be nice to have an easy way to remember this!



# Trigonometric Functions of a “Right Triangle”

Sin =  $\frac{O}{H}$  *oh*  
          H *hell*  
Cos =  $\frac{A}{H}$  *another*  
          H *hour*  
Tan =  $\frac{O}{A}$  *of*  
          A *Andy*



Another way to remember is to use the mnemonic “Oh Hell Another Hour Of Andy!”

What you are doing is finding the ratio, or difference in size, between the numerator (top number) and the denominator (bottom number). This ratio will be given as a percentage. That percentage can then be used to find the angle of the triangle, or  $\theta$ .

**Example if  $H=10$ ,  $O=5$ .....**

**Sine =  $O/H = 5/10 = 0.5$  (ratio), thereby  $\text{SIN}^{-1}$  of  $0.5 = 30$  degrees.**



YOU DON'T NEED A FANCY CALCULATOR. JUST SOMETHING SIMPLE SUCH AS THIS \$14 TI-36X. YOU WILL NEED TRIGONOMETRIC FUNCTIONS (sine, cosine, tangent) AS WELL AS AN R $\rightarrow$ P / R $\leftarrow$ P FUNCTION (rectangular, polar).

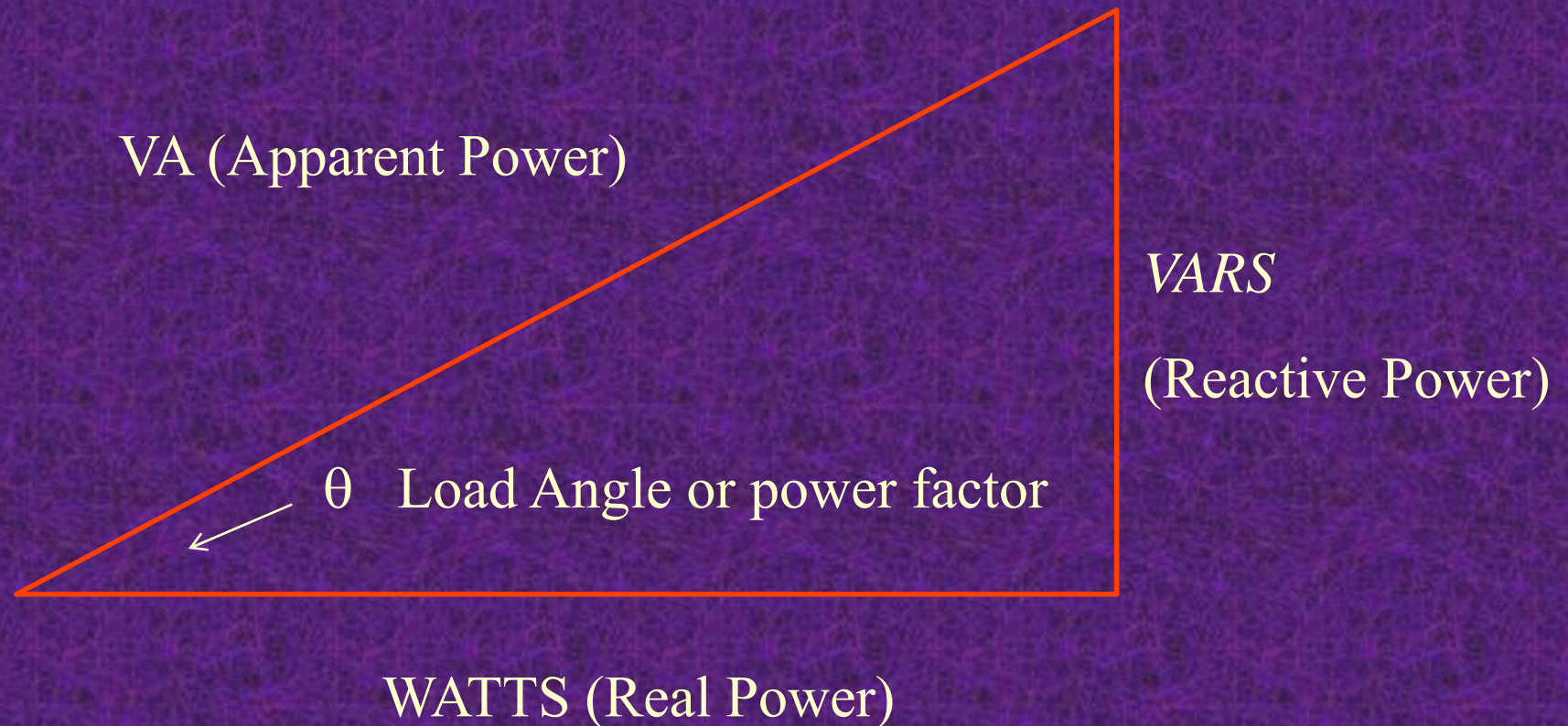




# Understanding the AC System using the Power Triangle

Q: Why can't AC power just be resistive?

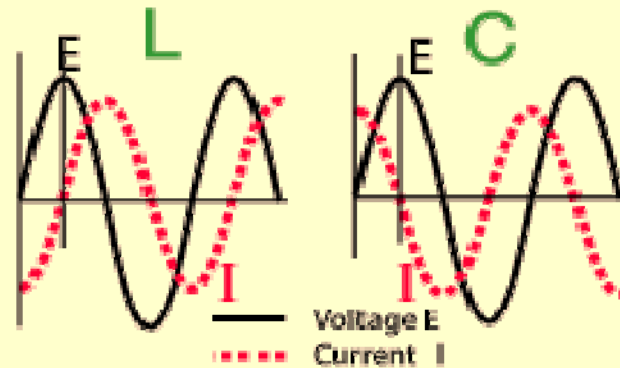
Q: What are Vars?





A mnemonic for the phase relationships of current and voltage.

When a voltage is applied to an inductor, it resists the change in current. The current builds up more slowly than the voltage, lagging it in time and phase.



Since the voltage on a capacitor is directly proportional to the charge on it, the current must lead the voltage in time and phase to conduct charge to the capacitor plates and raise the voltage.

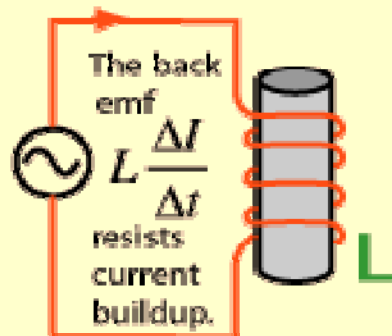
Voltage leads Current

**E** **L** **I**  
 in an inductor

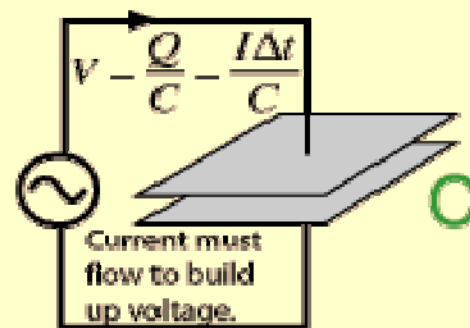
Current leads Voltage

**I** **C** **E** **man**  
 in a capacitor

Inductance L



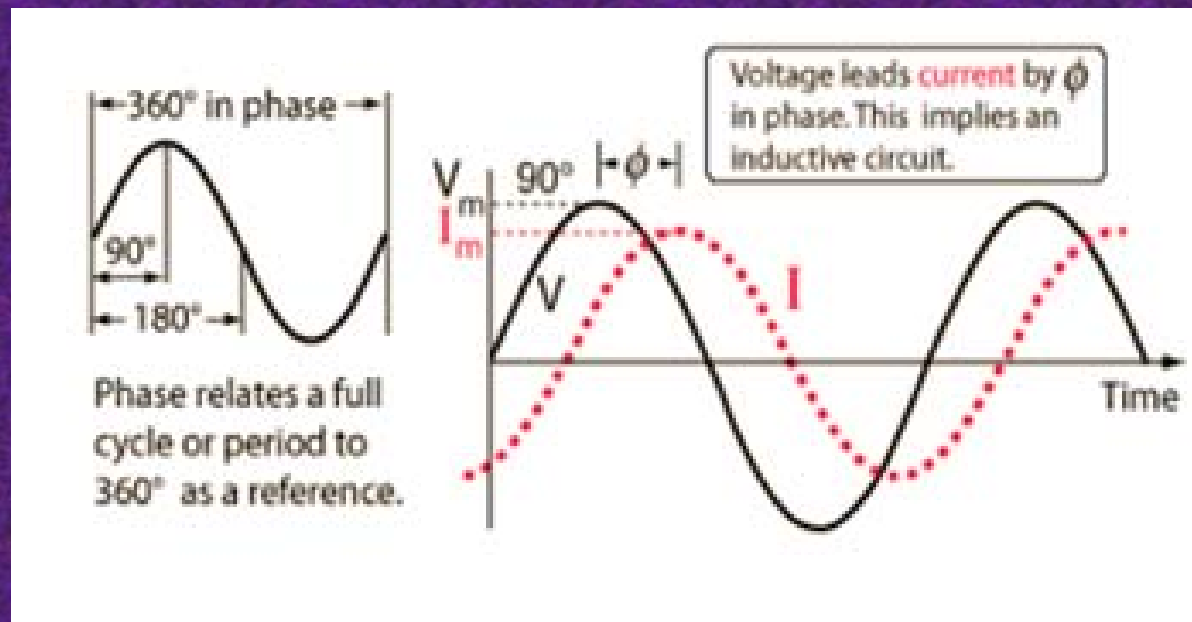
Capacitance C



When inductors or capacitors are used in an AC circuit, the circuit is no longer purely resistive with voltage and current in phase. Rather, current and voltage do not cross the zero reference at the same time (shown below).

An inductor alone, without any circuit resistance, would cause current to lag by 90 degrees from its relative voltage. If resistance is added, that lag would decrease from 90 degrees depending on the amount of resistance.

A capacitor alone, without any circuit resistance, would cause current to lead its voltage by 90 degrees. If resistance is added, that lead would decrease from 90 degrees depending on the amount of resistance.



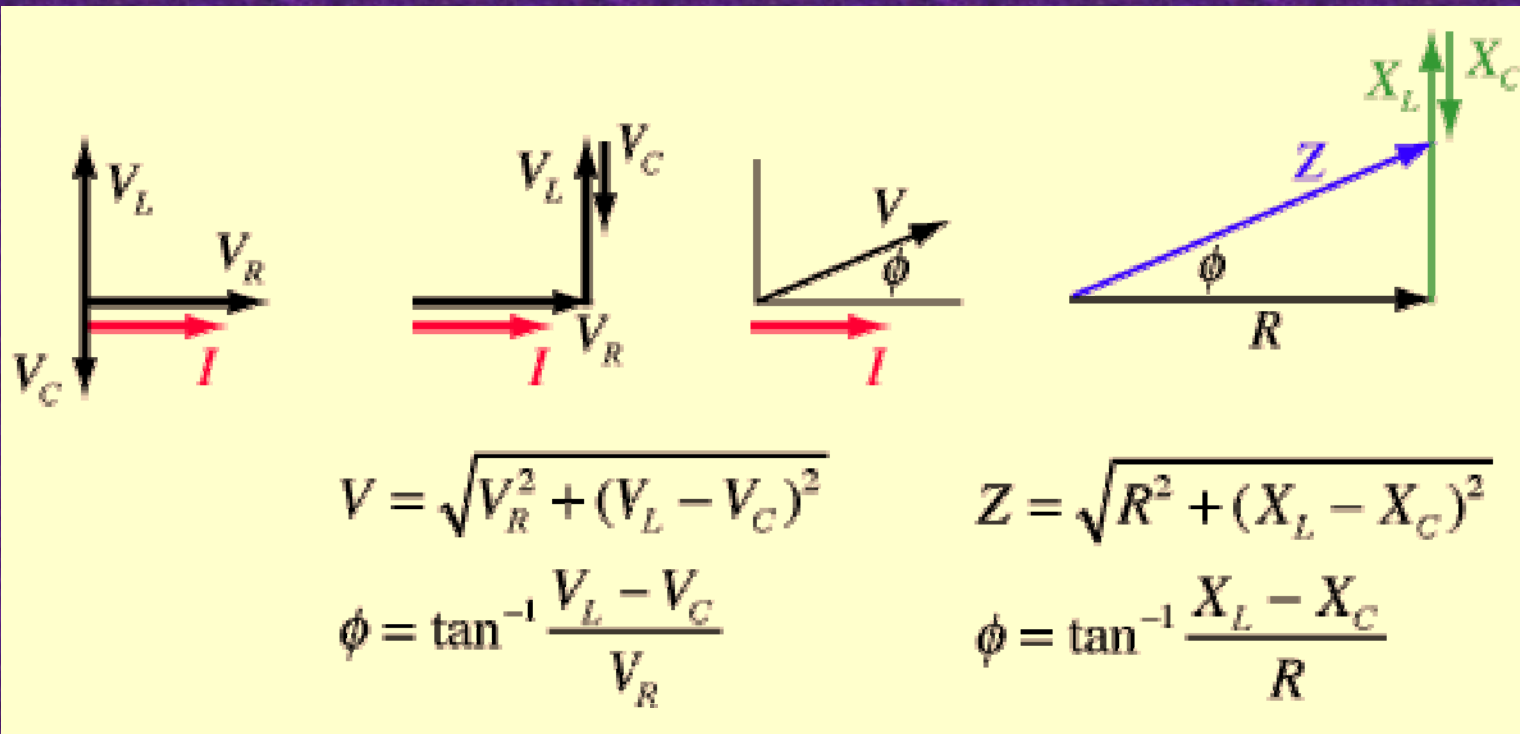
**ELI the ICEman**



## Phasor Diagrams

The usual reference for zero phase is taken to be the positive x-axis and is associated with the resistor, or resistive part of an AC power system, since the voltage and current associated with the resistor are in phase.

The length of the phasor is proportional to the magnitude of the quantity represented, and its angle represents its phase relative to that of the current through the resistor. The phasor diagram for the RLC series circuit shows the main features.

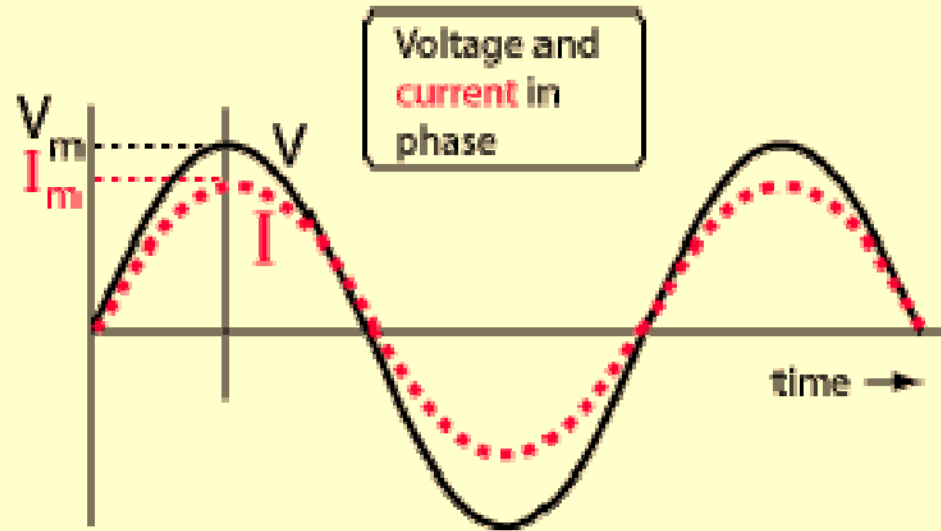
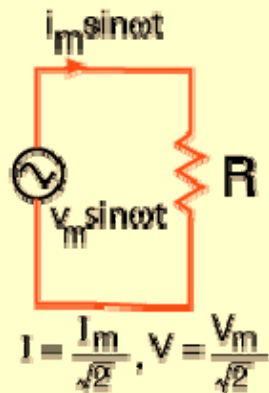


# Resistor AC Response

## Impedance

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

$$Z = R$$



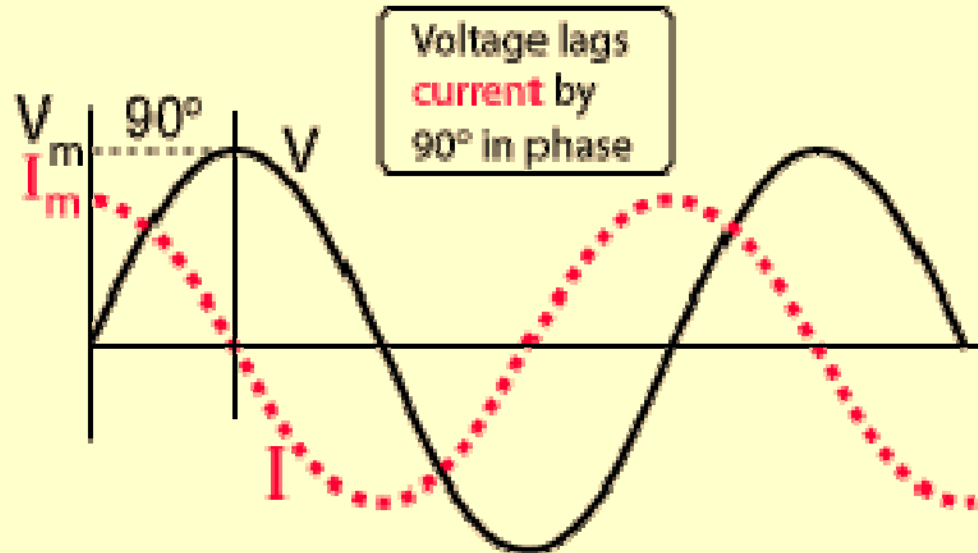
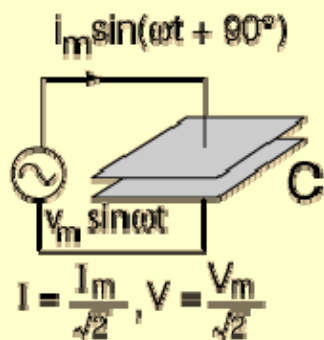
## Phasor diagram





## Impedance

$$I = \frac{V}{X_C}$$
$$X_C = \frac{1}{\omega C}$$



## Phasor diagram

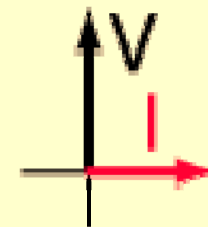
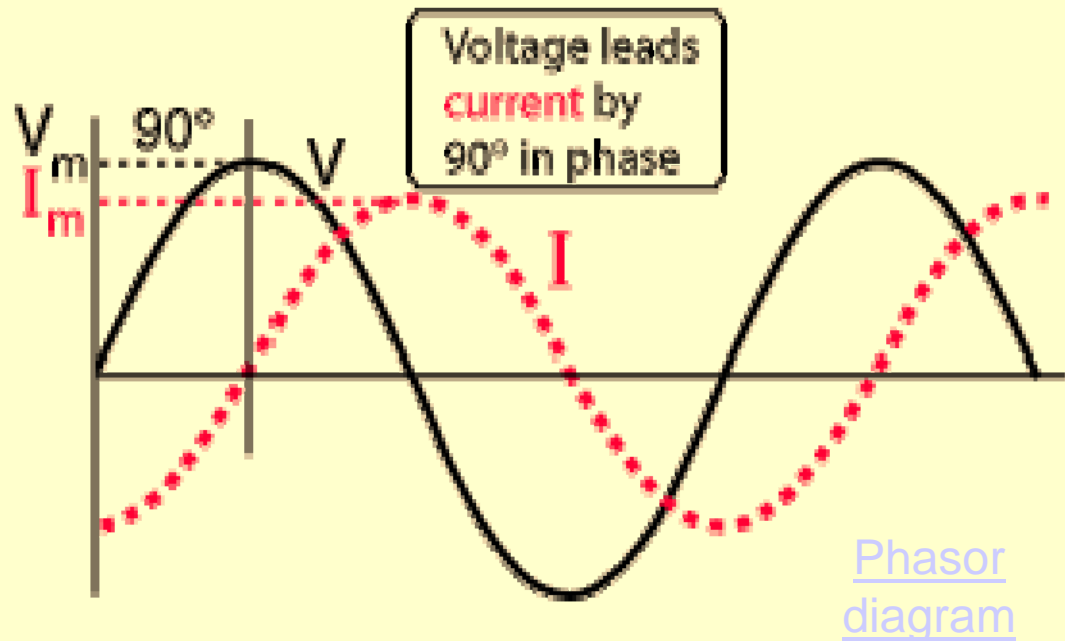
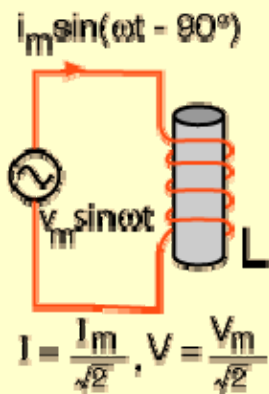


You know that the voltage across a capacitor lags the current (ICE) because the current must flow to build up the charge, and the voltage is proportional to that charge which is built up on the capacitor plates.

## Impedance

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

$$X_L = \omega L$$



You know that the voltage across an inductor leads the current (ELI) because of Lenz' law. The inductor resists the buildup of the current, and it takes time for an imposed voltage to force the buildup of current to its maximum.



**Now that we understand the influence Vars have, let's talk some more about triangles. Particularly, a power triangle.**

**Apparent Power**

$$S = VI, \text{ units VA}$$

**Real Power**

$$P = VI \cos \theta, \text{ units Watts}$$

**Reactive Power**

$$Q = VI \sin \theta, \text{ units Var (VA reactive)}$$

- ❖ **Lagging load (positive vars)**
- ❖ **Leading load (negative vars)**



Let's use what we have learned so far to find VA of a circuit using watts and vars from board meters.



VA (Apparent Power) = ????

MVARs = 57.1 out  
(Reactive Power)

$\theta$  Load Angle or power factor = ????

WATTS = 640.2 in  
(Real Power)





Sin =  $\frac{O}{H}$  oh  
hell  
Cos =  $\frac{A}{H}$  another  
hour  
Tan =  $\frac{O}{A}$  of  
Andy

VA (Apparent Power) = ????

MVARs = 57.1 out  
(Reactive Power)

$\theta$  Load Angle or power factor = ????

WATTS = 640.2 in  
(Real Power)

**Which values do we know as given from the board meters?**





$\text{Sin} = \frac{\text{O}}{\text{H}}$  *oh hell*  
 $\text{Cos} = \frac{\text{A}}{\text{H}}$  *another hour*  
 $\text{Tan} = \frac{\text{O}}{\text{A}}$  *of Andy*

(Hypotenuse) VA (Apparent Power) = ????

(Opposite) MVARs = 57.1 out

(Reactive Power)

$\theta$  Load Angle or power factor = ????

(Adjacent) WATTS = 640.2 in (Real Power)

**So, which math function above would I use?**





Sin =  $\frac{O}{H}$  *oh hell*  
 Cos =  $\frac{A}{H}$  *another hour*  
 Tan =  $\frac{O}{A}$  *of Andy*

(Hypotenuse) VA (Apparent Power) = ????

(Opposite) MVARs = 57.1 out

(Reactive Power)

$\theta$  Load Angle or power factor = ????

(Adjacent) WATTS = 640.2 in (Real Power)

Since I have 'adjacent' & 'opposite' values, then use Tangent!





Sin =  $\frac{O}{H}$  oh  
hell  
Cos =  $\frac{A}{H}$  another  
hour  
Tan =  $\frac{O}{A}$  of  
Andy

(Hypotenuse) VA (Apparent Power) = ????

(Opposite) MVARs =  
57.1 out  
(Reactive Power)

$\theta$  Load Angle or power factor = ????

(Adjacent) WATTS = 640.2 in (Real Power)

**Answer: Tan = O/A; Tan = 57.1/640.2; Tan = 0.08919; ArcTan = 5.0968 °  
Our angle is now known.**



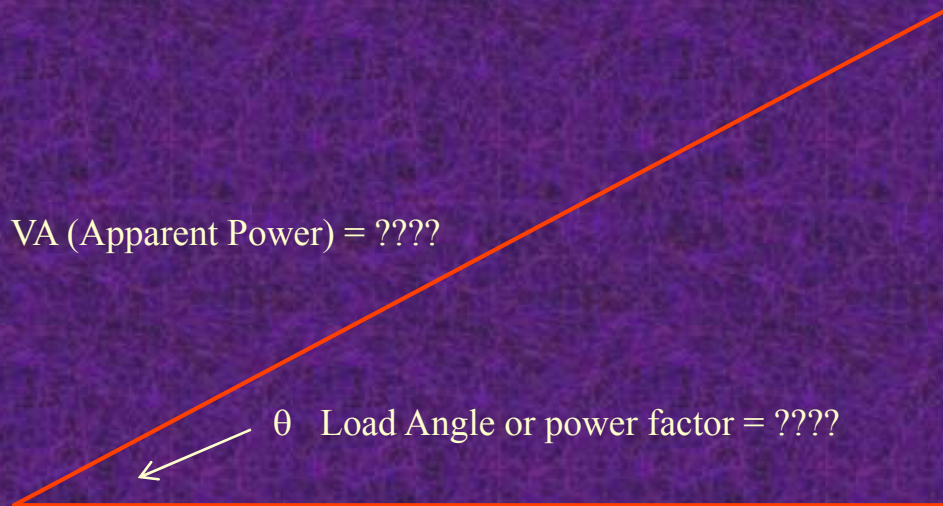


Now, let's use the known angle of  $5.0968^\circ$  to see what VA, or the length of the hypotenuse line, is?

Sin =  $\frac{O}{H}$  *oh hell another hour of Andy*  
 Cos =  $\frac{A}{H}$   
 Tan =  $\frac{O}{A}$

(Hypotenuse) VA (Apparent Power) = ????

(Opposite) MVARs = 57.1 out  
 (Reactive Power)



$\theta$  Load Angle or power factor = ????

(Adjacent) WATTS = 640.2 in (Real Power)

For this, now knowing three quantities, you can use any of the equations.

Let's use Sin! Sin = O/H

Sin of angle  $5.0968^\circ = 57.1 / H$ ;  $0.088839 = 57.1 / H$ ;  $H = 57.1 / 0.088839$ ;  $H = 642.7$  VA!

To prove this answer, we can use Pythagoreans theorem, which states  $C^2 = A^2 + B^2$ , or  $C = \sqrt{A^2 + B^2}$

Therefore:  $642.7 = \sqrt{(640.2^2 + 57.1^2)}$ .

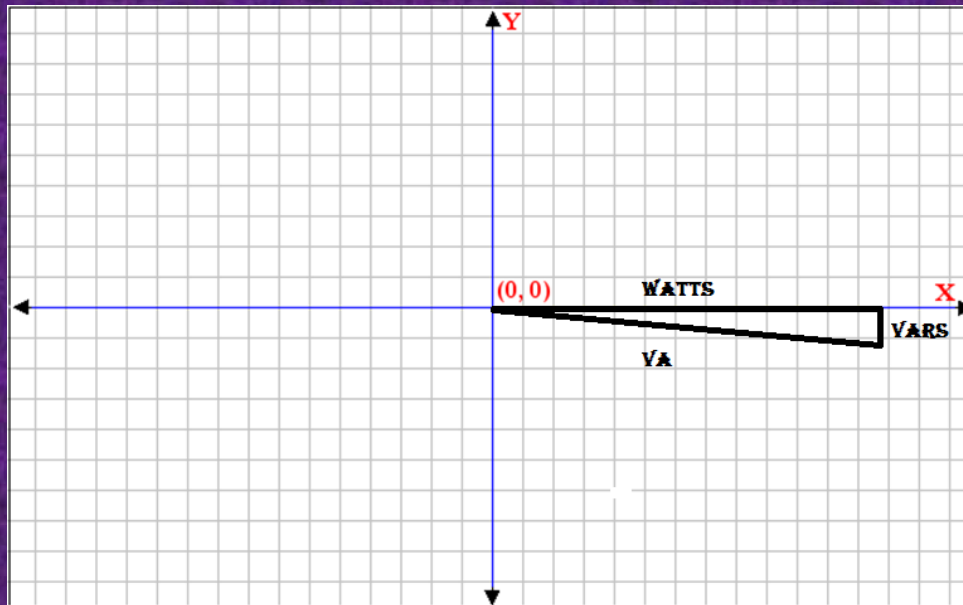
Did we prove our math???





Now, let's plot our know quantities on a Cartesian coordinate system.

We know that we have:  
 57.1 Vars out  
 640.2 watts in  
 An angle of 5.0968 degrees  
 $VA = 642.7$  (basically IE)



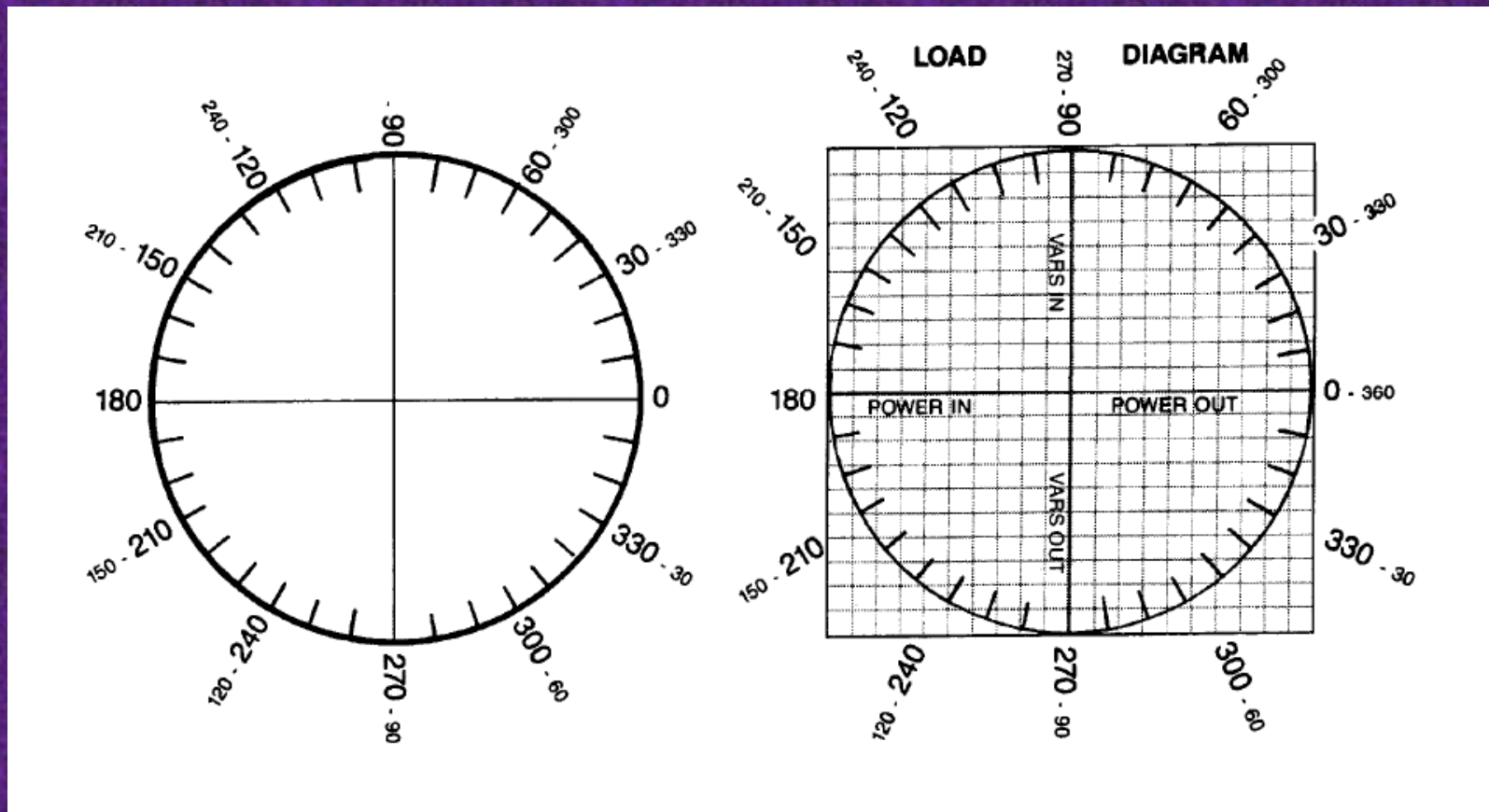
Q: why is the triangle upside down?

A: LEAD VS LAGGING

Additionally, we also know that  $VA = IE$ . If voltage is 289V, and we decide to plot that voltage at 0 degrees just like resistance/watts, that means current (I) would lag its respective voltage by the same angle used in finding VA.



The previous triangle was plotted upside down because we have 'vars out' according to our board. Which means out load on the end of the line looks like what? A capacitor or Inductor?  
What do you think?





Now, let's plot our know quantities on a Cartesian coordinate system.

We know that we have:

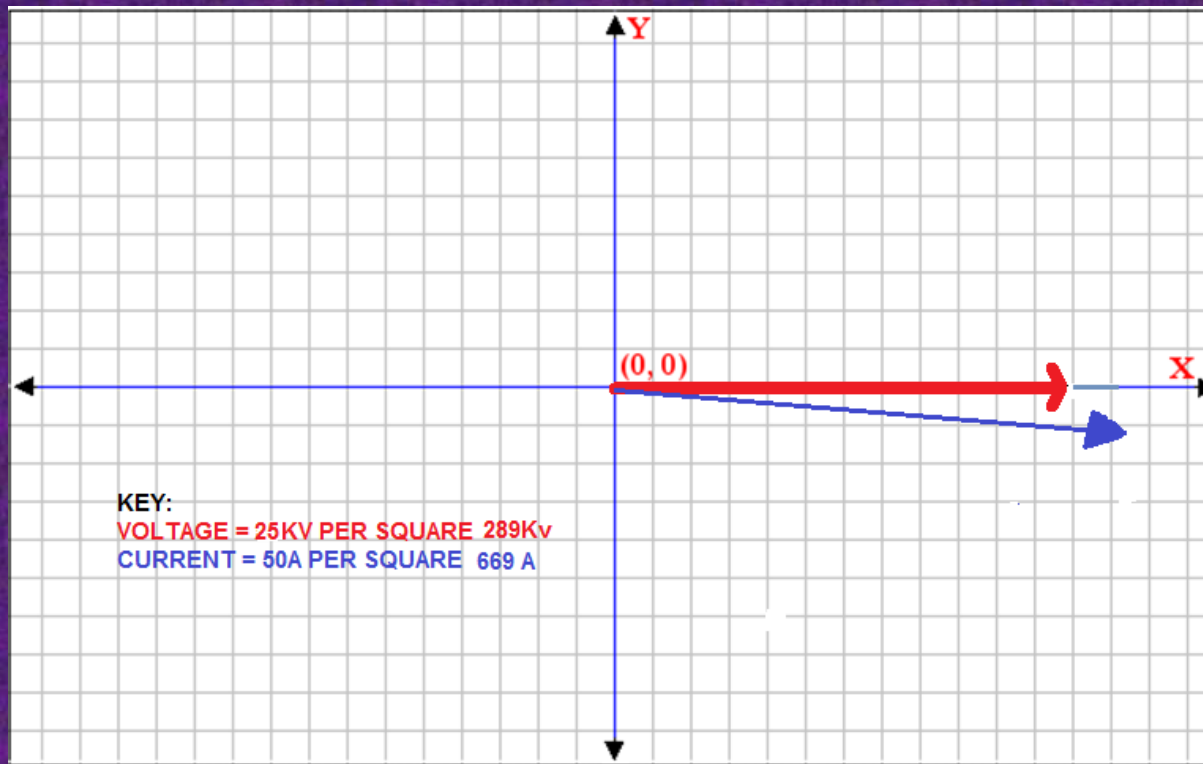
57.1 Vars out

640.2 watts in

An angle of 5.0968 degrees

$VA = 642.7$  (basically  $IE$ )       $I = 669$  amps

$V = 500KV/\sqrt{3} = 289KV$



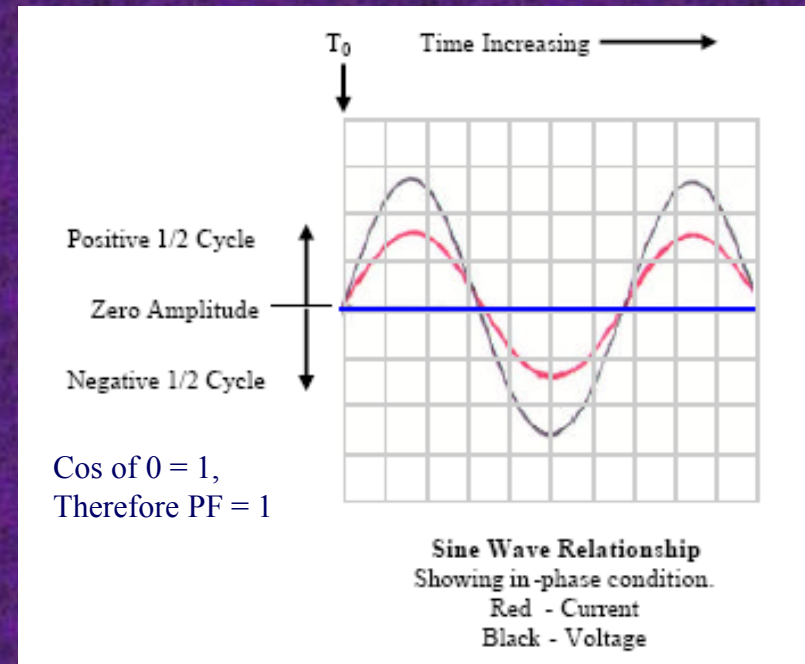
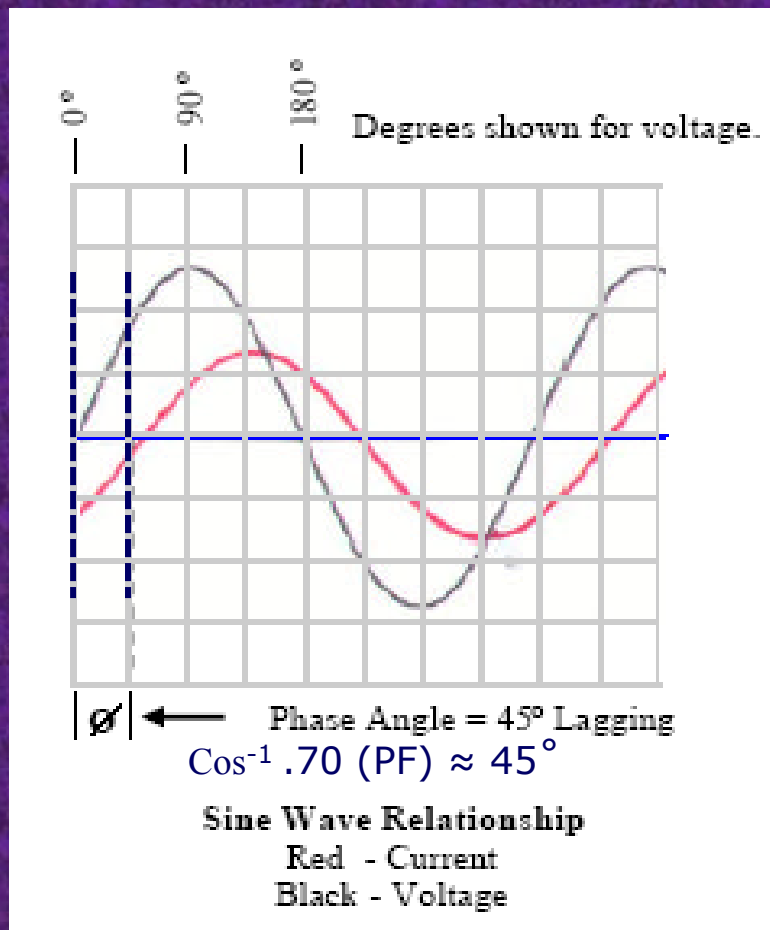
Additionally, we also know that  $VA = IE$ . If voltage is 289V, and we decide to plot that voltage at 0 degrees just like resistance/watts, that means current (I) would lag its respective voltage by the same angle used in finding VA. Congratulations! We just plotted phasors! 😊



# Sinusoidal “graphical” Comparison of V & I in AC

## REAL AND REACTIVE POWER AT 70% P.F.

- Time verses phase shift at 60 Hz
- Leading or Lagging phase shift



REAL POWER ONLY

# Complex numbers for AC components R, L, and C

$$Z = R + jX$$

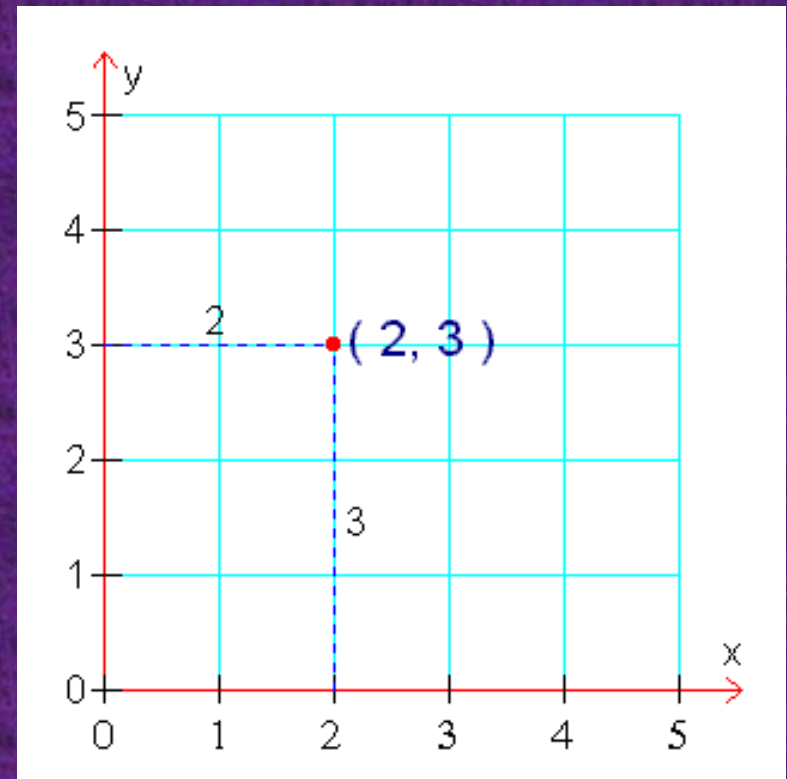
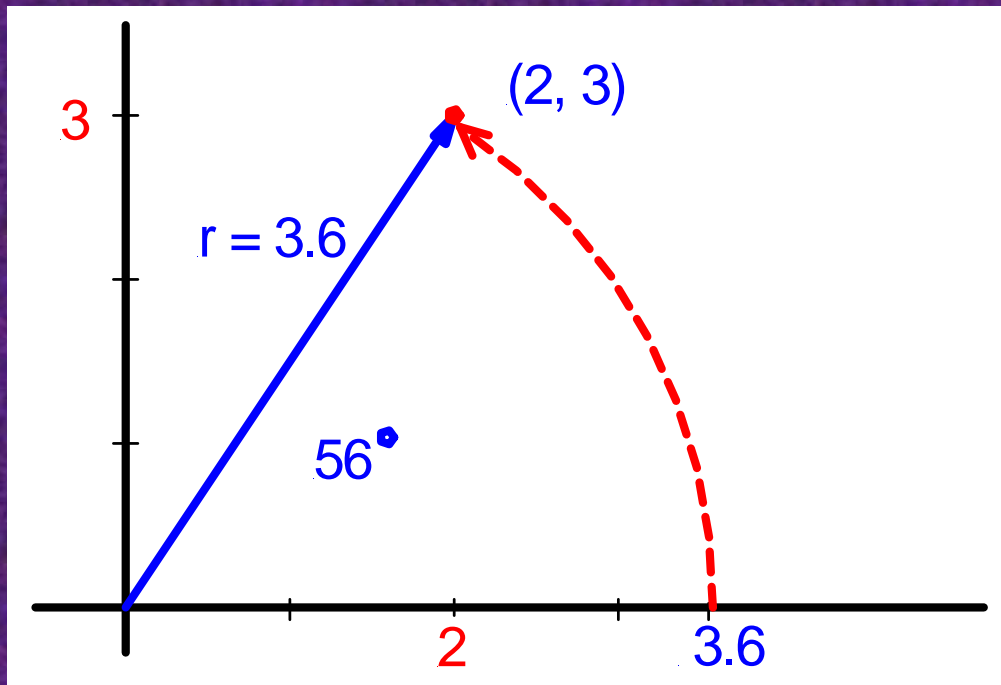
R = Real, and

Imaginary values are  $L = +jX_L$  and  $C = -jX_C$



As we have seen, there are polar values, or rectangular values. Both show the same result, but polar is used when graphing phasors on a coordinate system.

## Polar Coordinates



## Rectangular Coordinates

# Rectangular Coordinate Math

- ❖ **Adding & Subtracting (easy)**
- ❖ **Multiplication (hard)**
- ❖ **Division (hardest)**

$$(30 + j20) + (20 + j10) = 30 + 20 + j20 + j10 = 50 + j30$$

$$(30 + j20) - (20 + j10) = 30 - 20 + j20 - j10 = 10 + j10$$

**Adding & Subtracting**



# Polar Coordinate Math

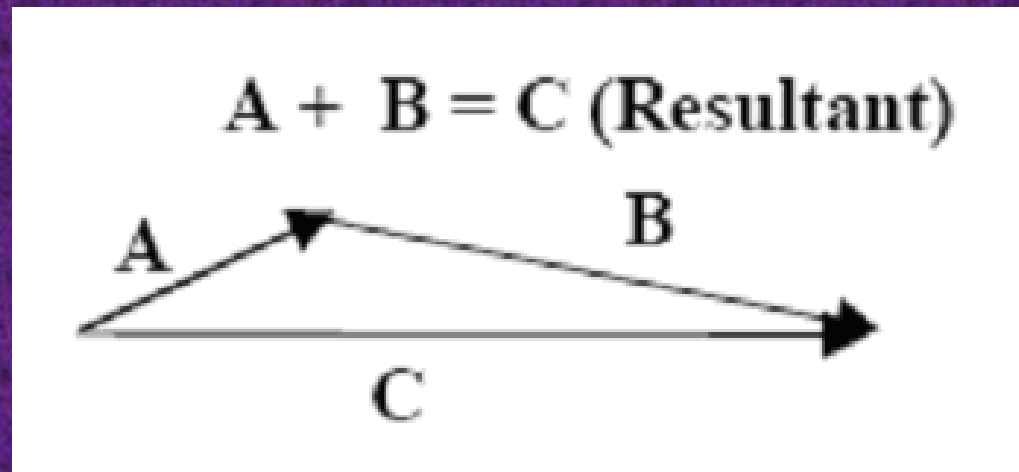
- ❖ **Multiplication (easy)**
- ❖ **Division (easy)**

$$10 \angle 20^\circ \times 20 \angle 10^\circ = (10 \times 20) \angle (20^\circ + 10^\circ) = 200 \angle 30^\circ$$

$$\frac{10 \angle 20^\circ}{20 \angle 10^\circ} = (10 / 20) \angle (20^\circ - 10^\circ) = 0.5 \angle 10^\circ$$

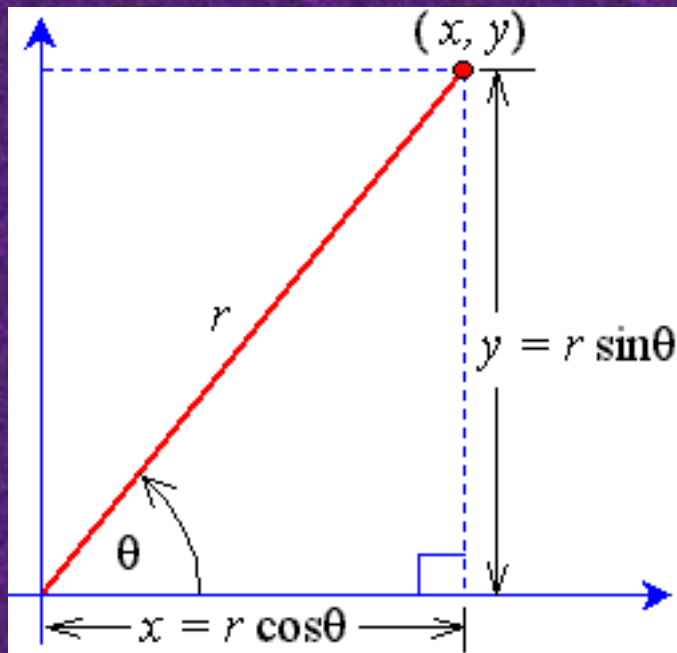
# Graphic Vector Addition

- ❖ **Adding and subtracting (graphically)**
- ❖ **ADDING – TAIL to HEAD**
- ❖ **SUBTRACTING – still TAIL to HEAD**  
(after subtracted vector is rotated 180°)





# Polar to Rectangular and Rectangular to Polar Conversions



$P \Rightarrow R$

$$x = r \cos \theta \quad y = r \sin \theta$$

$R \Rightarrow P$

$$r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$$

$$\theta = \tan^{-1}(y/x)$$



# Polar to Rectangular and Rectangular to Polar Conversions

Calculator that is capable of performing complex math  
or

- ❖ Use  $P \rightarrow R$  /  $R \rightarrow P$  conversion calculator functions
- ❖ Adding and subtracting (using  $P \rightarrow R$  conversion)
- ❖ Multiplication & Division (using  $R \rightarrow P$  conversion)

Convert back and forth as need based on whether the  
operation is Addition / Subtraction or  
Multiplication / Division

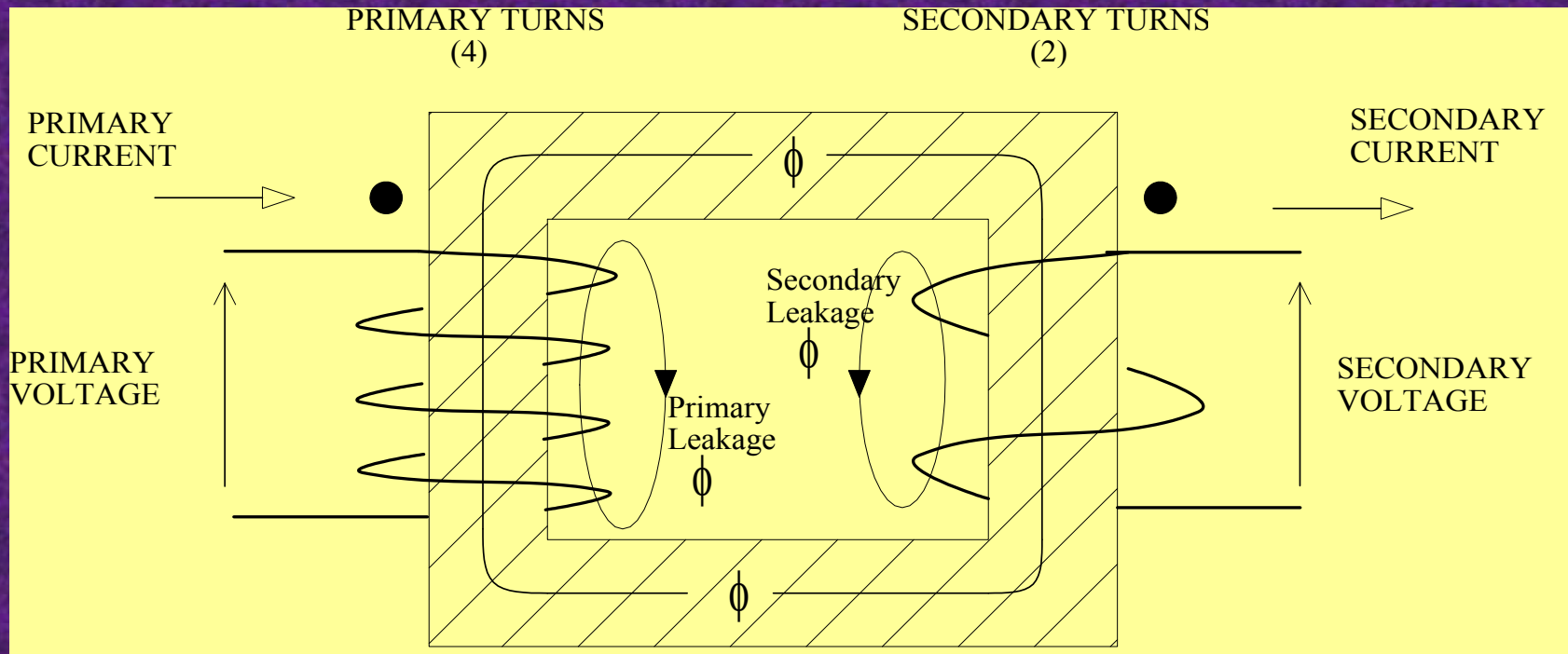


Thank you!!!





# Instantaneous “phasor” Polarity of current and voltage on a transformer



- ❖ Voltage Aligns With Polarity on Both Windings
- ❖ Current In Polarity Terminal of One Winding Comes Out the Polarity Terminal of the Other Winding