

# Introduction to Power Factor



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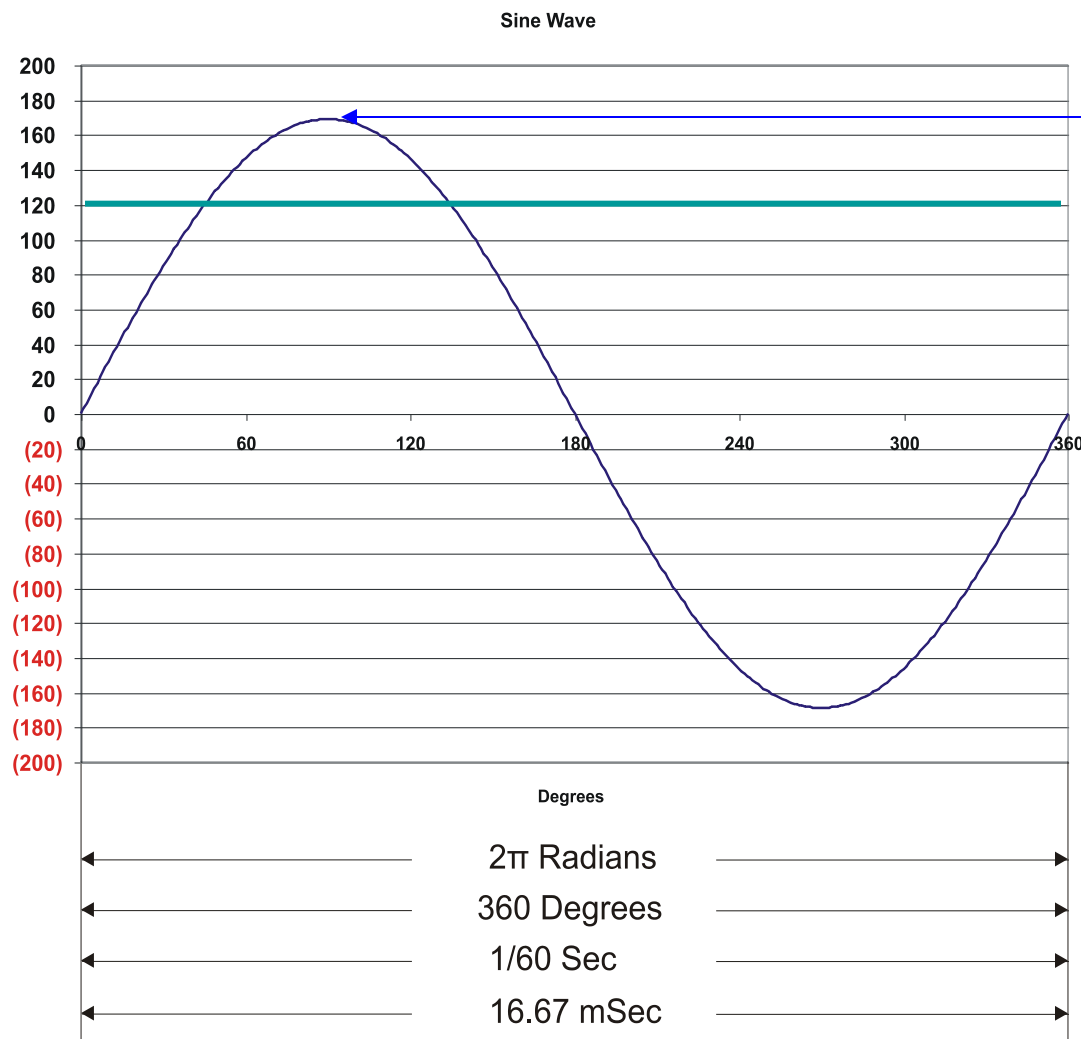
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# Focus of this Presentation

- Review basic power concepts as they relate to Power Factor (PF)
- Show how resistive, inductive, and capacitive loads affect PF
- Give examples of PF calculations for wye and delta service types

# AC Theory Review – Sine Wave



$$V = V_{pk} \sin(2\pi ft - \theta)$$

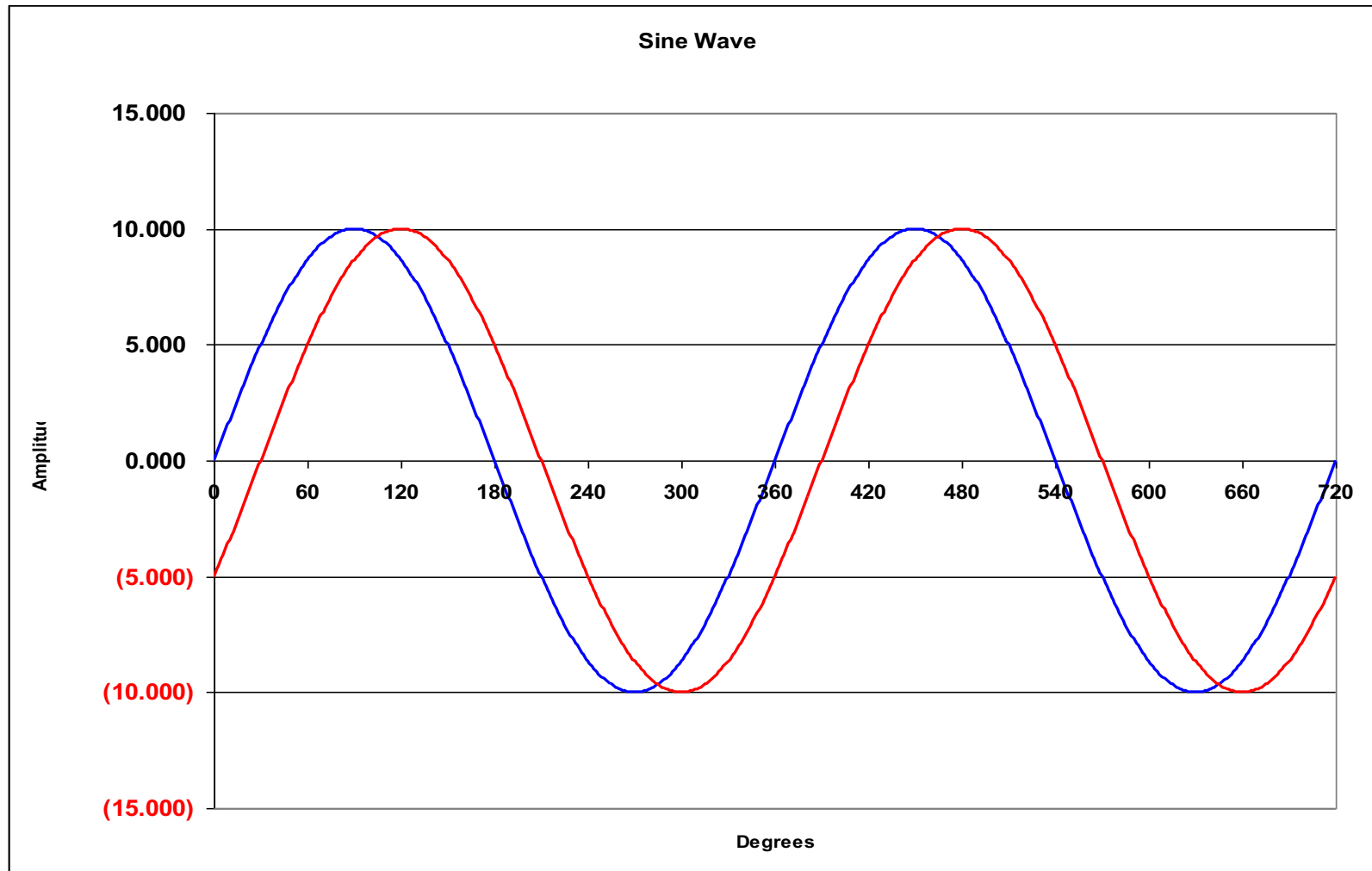
$$V_{pk} = \sqrt{2} V_{rms}$$

$$V_{rms} = 120V$$

$$V_{pk} = 169V$$

$$\theta = 0^\circ$$

# AC Theory Review - Phase

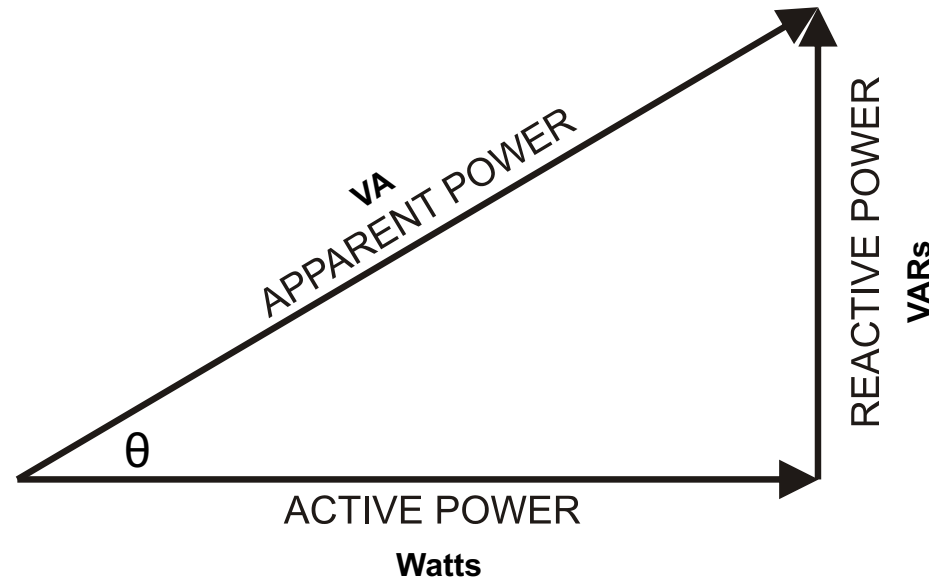


$$V = 10\sin(2\pi ft)$$

$$V = 10\sin(2\pi ft - 30)$$

# Power Triangle

(Sinusoidal Waveforms)



If  $V = \sin(\omega t)$  and  $I = \sin(\omega t - \theta)$  (the load is linear)  
then

Active Power =  $VI \cos(\theta)$  Watts

Reactive Power =  $VI \sin(\theta)$  Volt-Amp Reactive (VAR)

Apparent Power =  $VI$  Volt-Amp (VA)

# Watt, VAR, and VA

**Watt** - useful power that does real work at the load – light a bulb or turn a motor

**VAR** – non-useful power that is required to drive the inductance or capacitance of a power line

**VA** – the total power in the system; the vector sum of Watts and VARs

# Watt, VAR, and VA



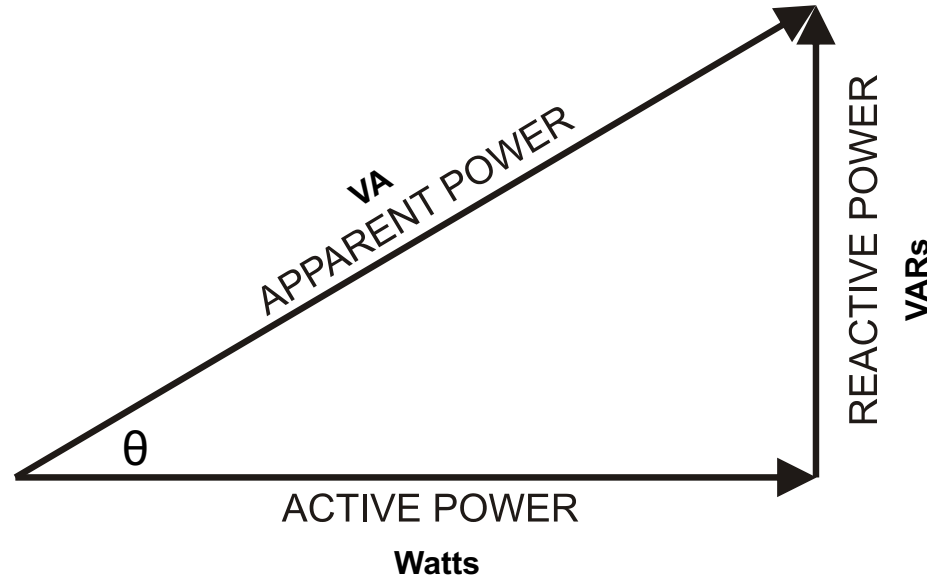
# Power Factor Definition:

Power Factor represents the ratio of active power (Watts) to the total power (VA) in a system.

It is a representation of the percentage of useful work being done.



# Power Factor Definition



$$\begin{aligned}\text{Power Factor} &= \text{Active} / \text{Apparent Power} \\ &= \text{Watts} / \text{VA} \\ &= \cos(\theta)\end{aligned}$$

Power Factor can range from 1 to 0

# Intro to Power Factor

## Power – VA

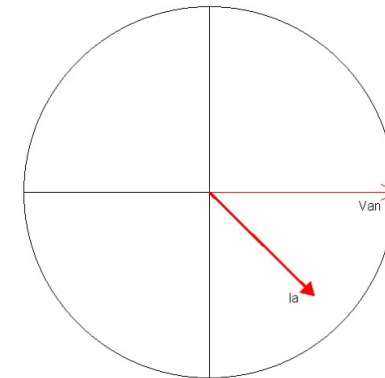
For a 120 Volt service drawing 13 Amps at 0.5 PF (60°)

How much power is being drawn?

$$\text{Power} = 120 \times 13 \times 0.5 = 780 \text{ Watts}$$

How many VA are being drawn?

$$\text{VA} = 120 \times 13 = 1560 \text{ Volt-Amperes}$$



# Intro to Power Factor

## Power – VA

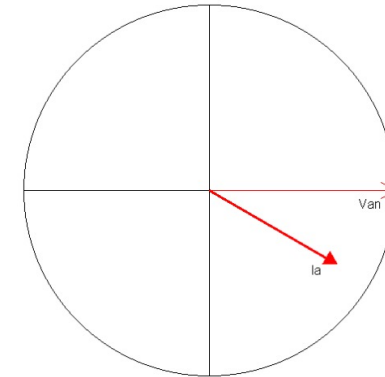
For a 120 Volt service drawing 13 Amps at 0.866 PF (30°)

How much power is being drawn?

$$\text{Power} = 120 \times 13 \times 0.866 = 1351 \text{ Watts}$$

How many VA are being drawn?

$$\text{VA} = 120 \times 13 = 1560 \text{ Volt-Amperes}$$



# Intro to Power Factor

## Power – VA

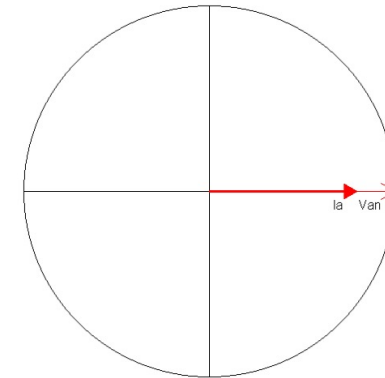
For a 120 Volt service drawing 13 Amps at 1.0 PF (0°)

How much power is being drawn?

**Power = 120 x 13 x 1.0 = 1560 Watts**

How many VA are being drawn?

**VA = 120 x 13 = 1560 Volt-Amperes**



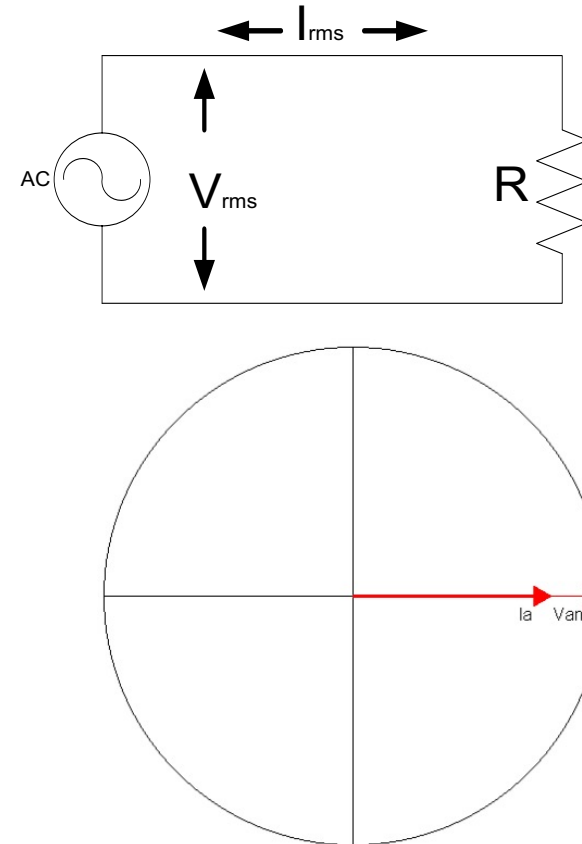
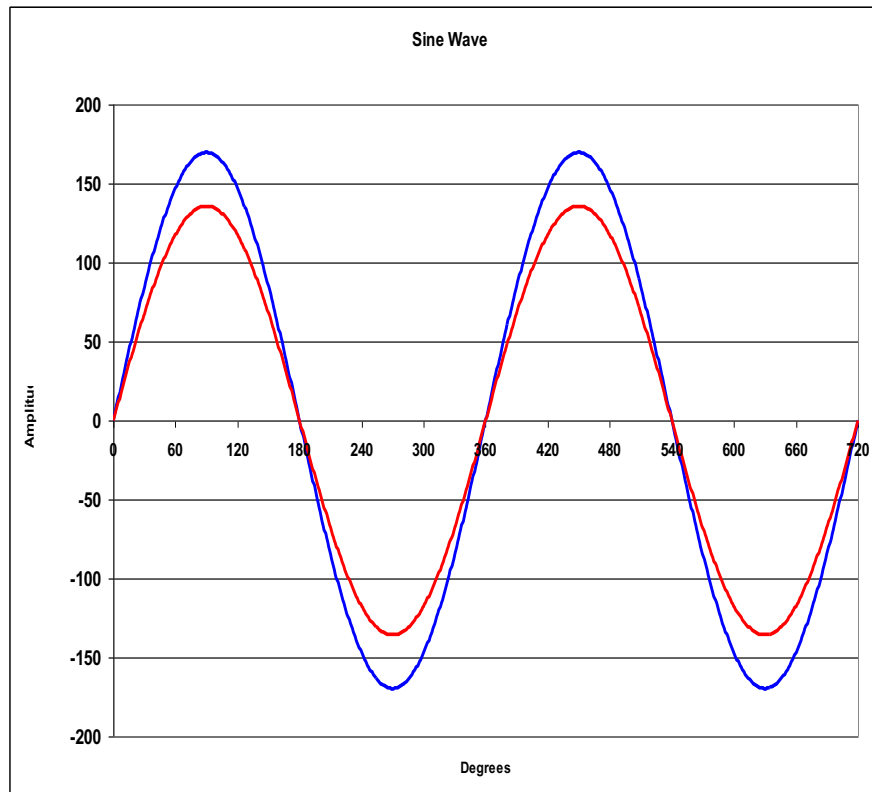
# Power Factor, Watts, and VA

For our 120V, 13A system

Phase Angle	PF	Watts	VA
60	0.5	780 W	1560 VA
30	0.866	1351 W	1560 VA
0	1.0	1560 W	1560 VA

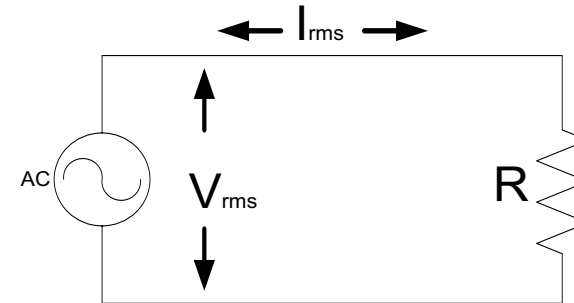
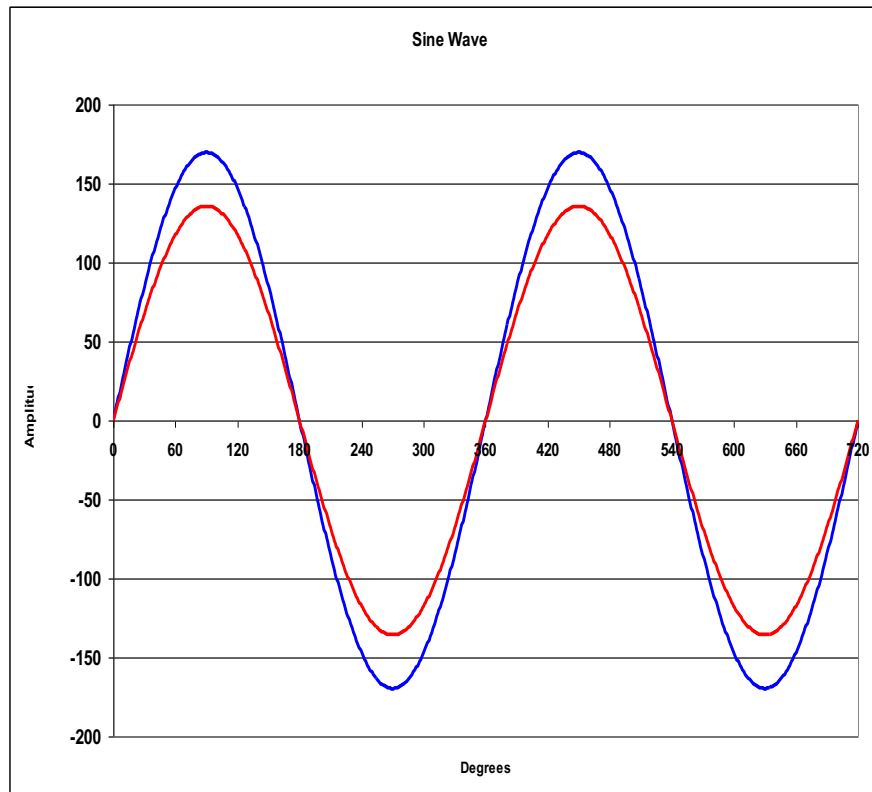
**As PF get closer to 1, the Watt value gets closer to the VA value! This means more real power is being consumed!**

# Resistive Load



A purely resistive load has ZERO phase angle

# Resistive Load



Resistive Example:

$$V = 120V$$

$$I = 10A$$

$$\Theta = 0^\circ$$

$$\cos 0^\circ = 1$$

$$\sin 0^\circ = 0$$

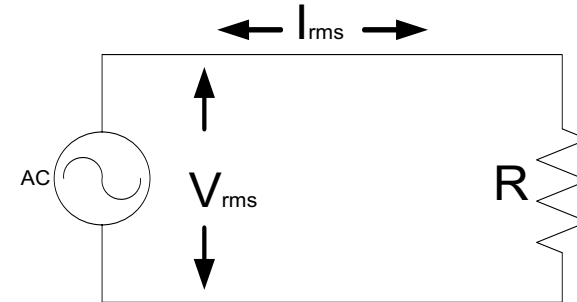
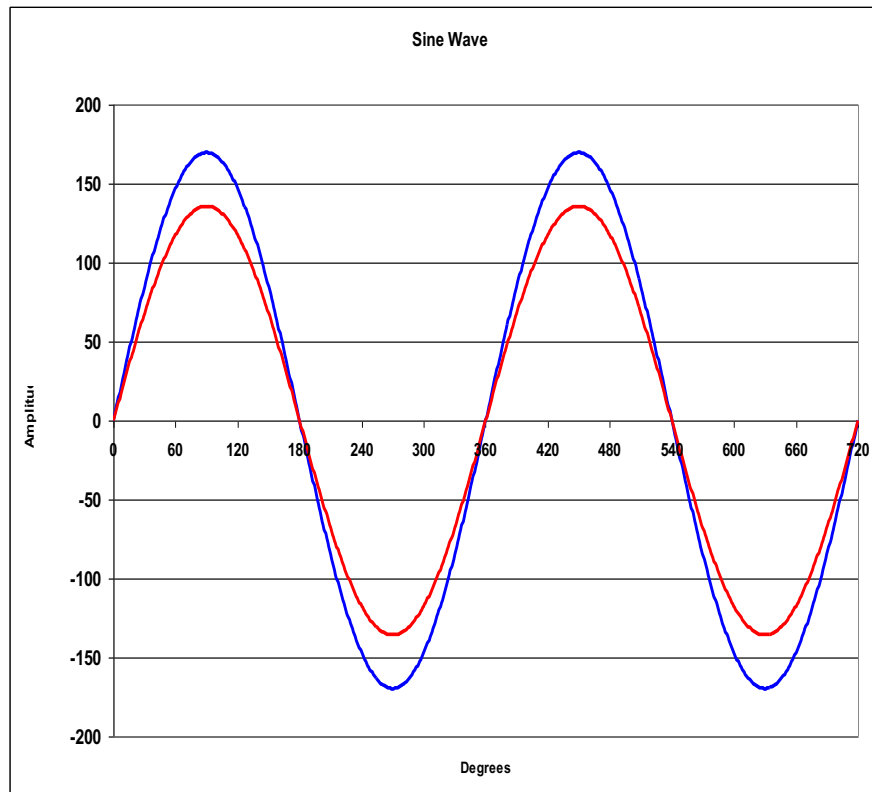
$$\text{Active Power (W)} = V I \cos (\theta) = 120 * 10 * 1 = 1200 \text{ W}$$

$$\text{Reactive Power (VAR)} = V I \sin (\theta) = 120 * 10 * 0 = 0 \text{ VAR}$$

$$\text{Apparent Power (VA)} = V I = 120 * 10 = 1200 \text{ VA}$$

$$\text{PF} = W / \text{VA} = \cos (\theta) = 1$$

# Resistive Load



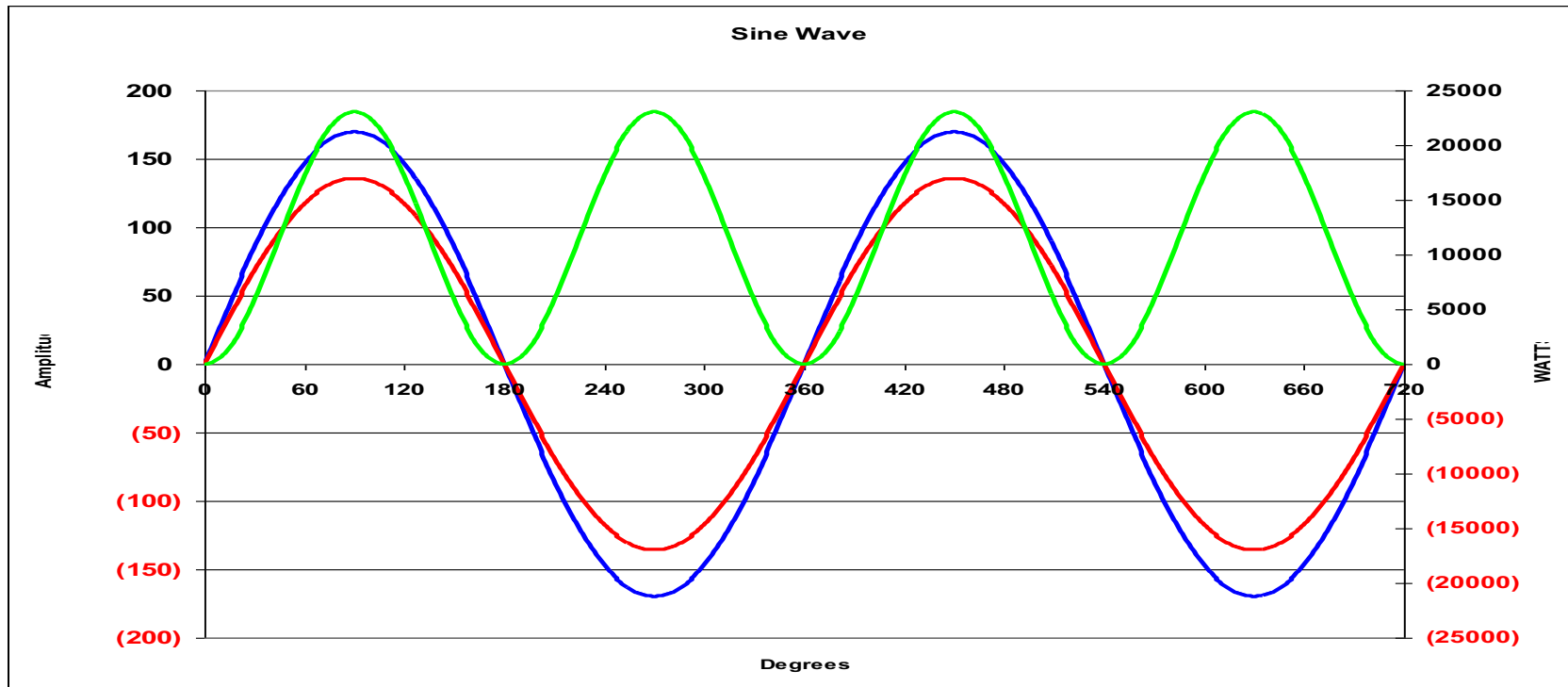
A purely resistive load will:

- Only create Watts
- Create NO VARs
- Have a  $PF = 1$



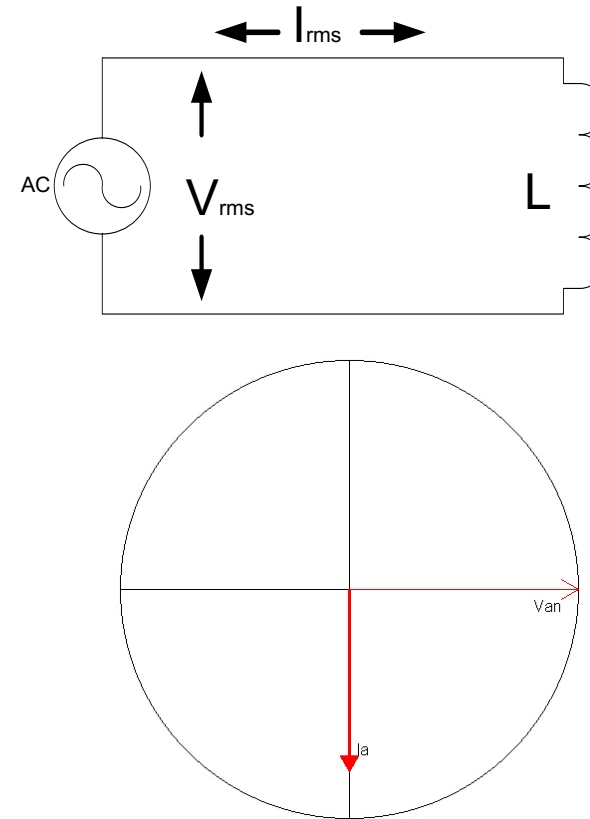
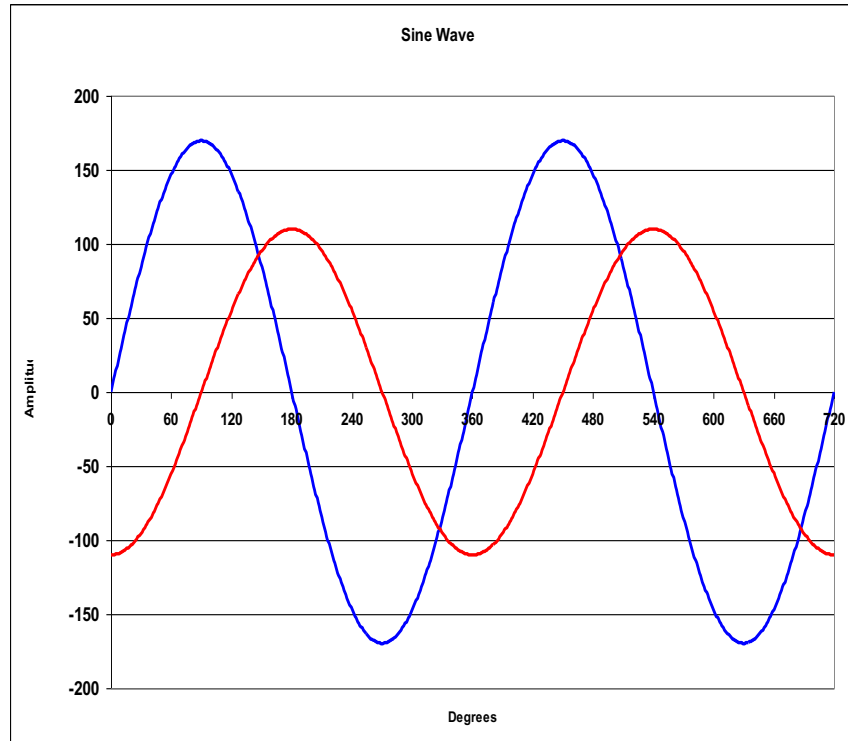
# Resistive Load

For a resistive load:  $p = vi = 2VI\sin^2(\omega t) = VI(1 - \cos(2\omega t))$



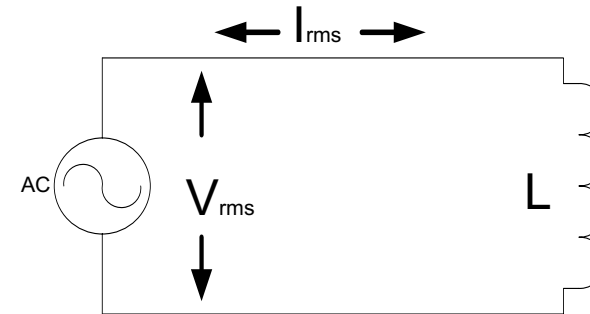
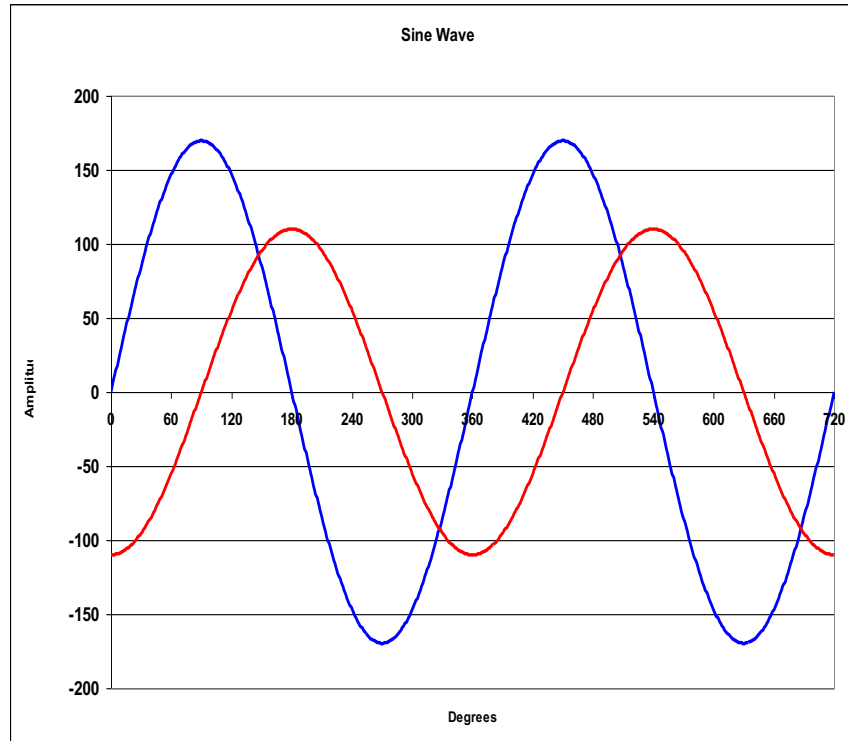
A resistive load consumes only Watts, so the power will always be delivered (positive).

# Inductive Load



A purely inductive load has  $+90^\circ$  phase angle

# Inductive Load



Inductive Example:

$$V = 120V$$

$$I = 10A$$

$$\Theta = 90^\circ$$

$$\cos 90^\circ = 0$$

$$\sin 90^\circ = +1$$

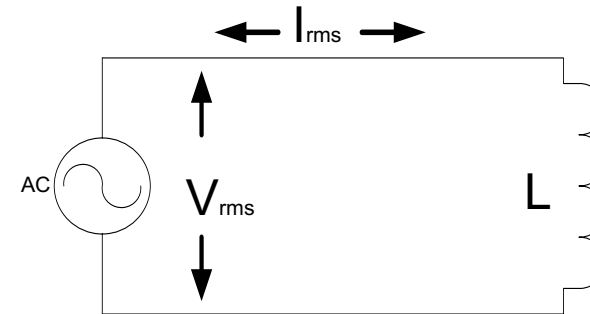
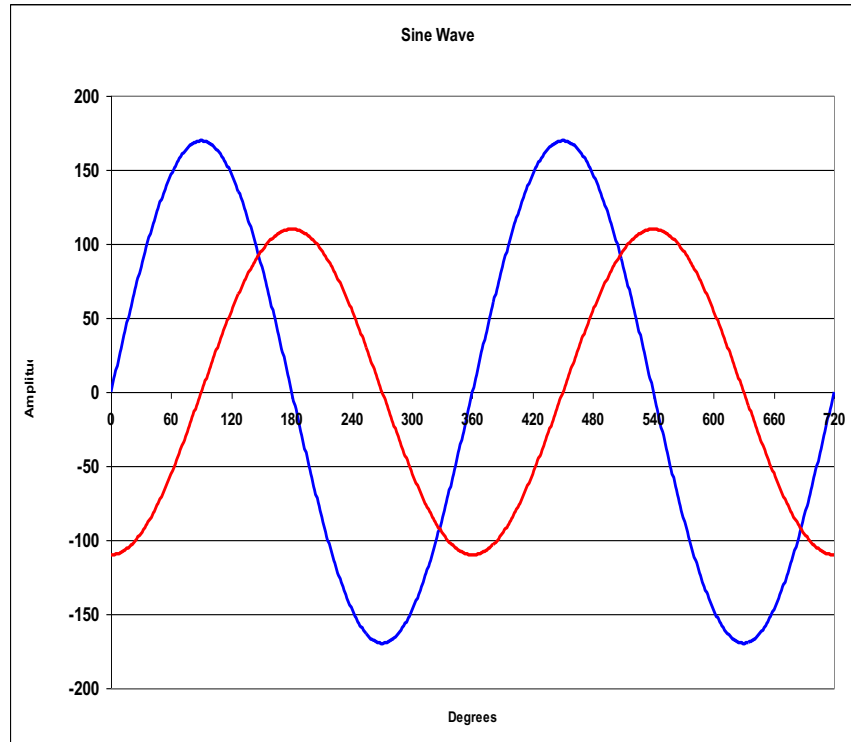
$$\text{Active Power (W)} = V I \cos (\theta) = 120 * 10 * 0 = 0 \text{ W}$$

$$\text{Reactive Power (VAR)} = V I \sin (\theta) = 120 * 10 * +1 = +1200 \text{ VAR}$$

$$\text{Apparent Power (VA)} = V I = 120 * 10 = 1200 \text{ VA}$$

$$\text{PF} = W / \text{VA} = \cos (\theta) = 0$$

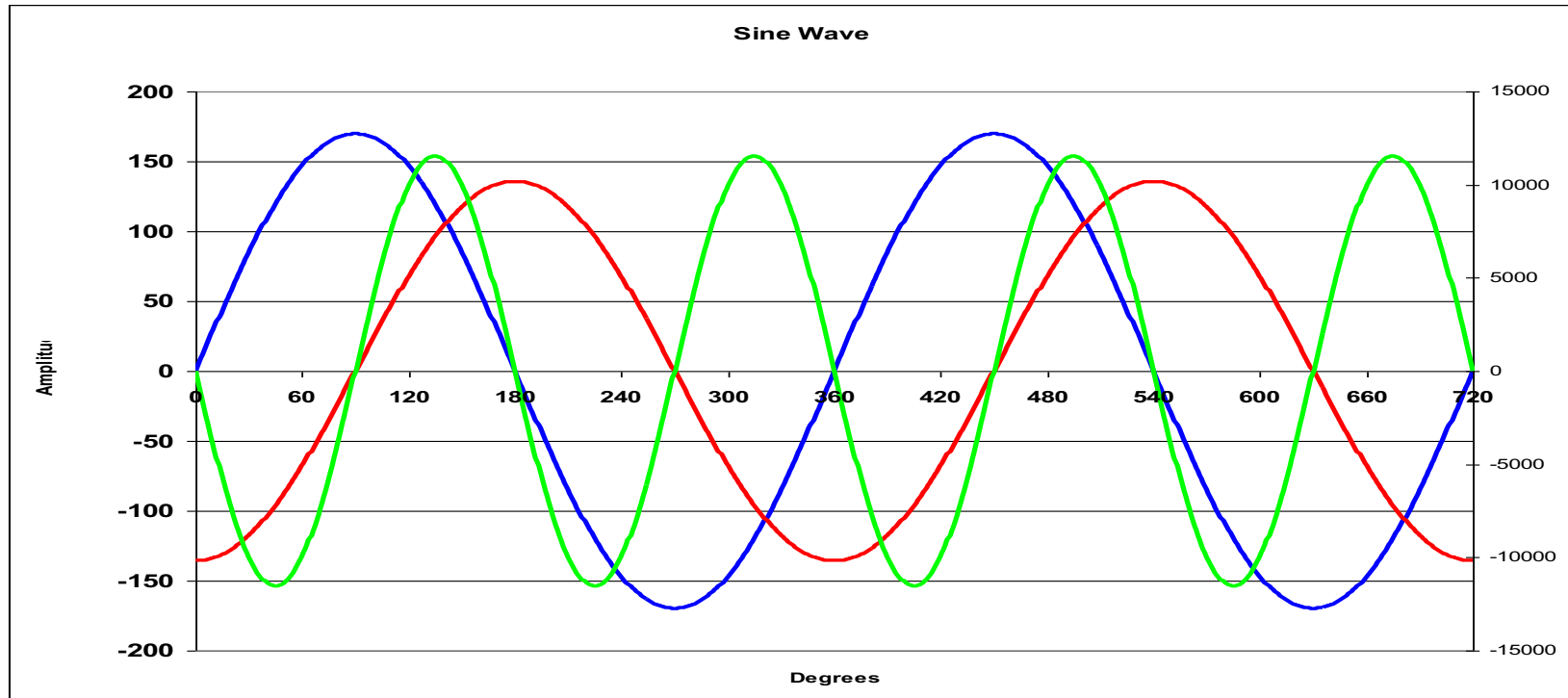
# Inductive Load



- A purely inductive load will:
- Only create positive VARs
  - Create NO Watts
  - Have a  $PF = 0$

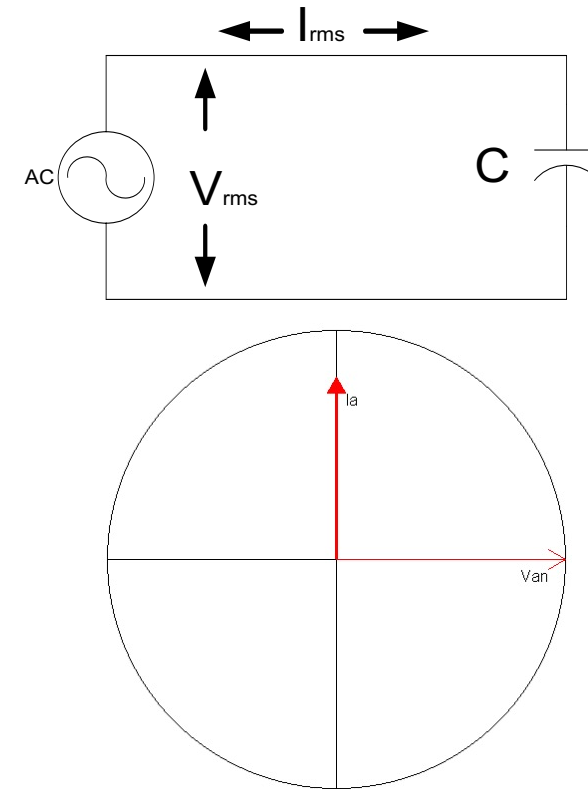
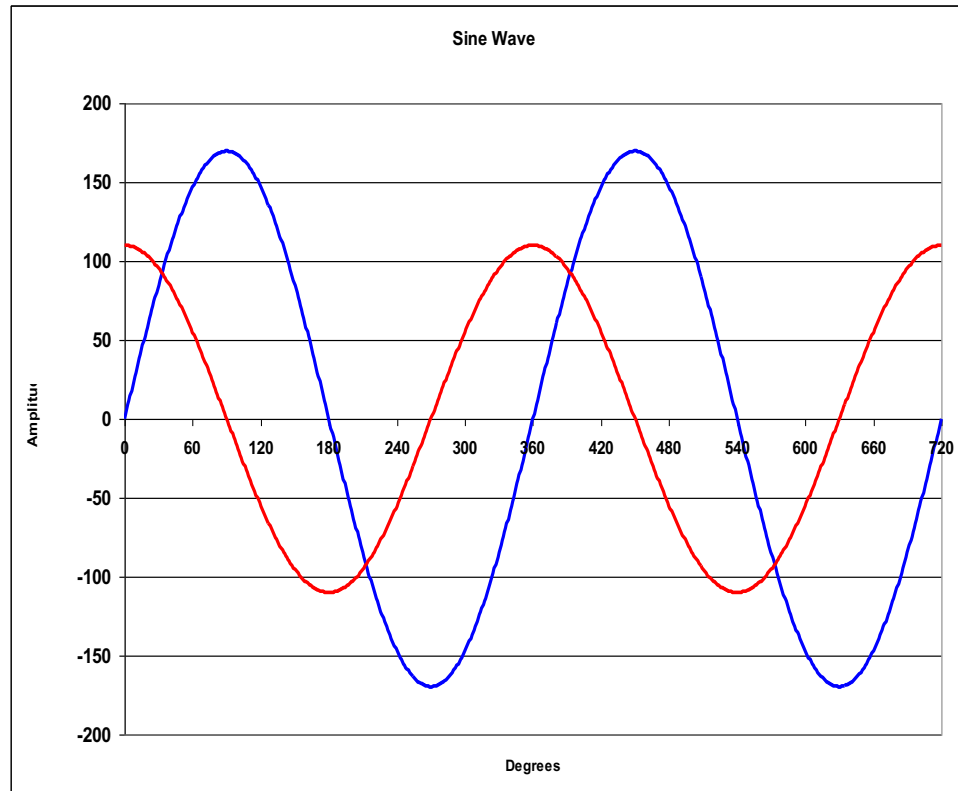
# Inductive Load

**For an inductive load:**  $p = vi = 2VI\sin(\omega t)\sin(\omega t - 90) = -VI\sin(2\omega t)$



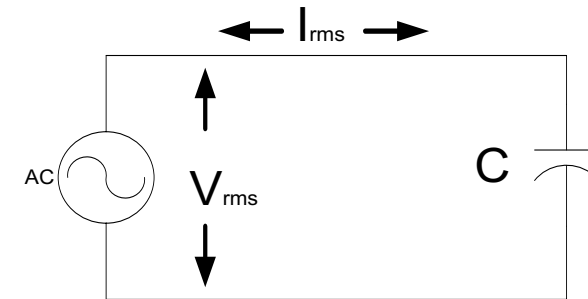
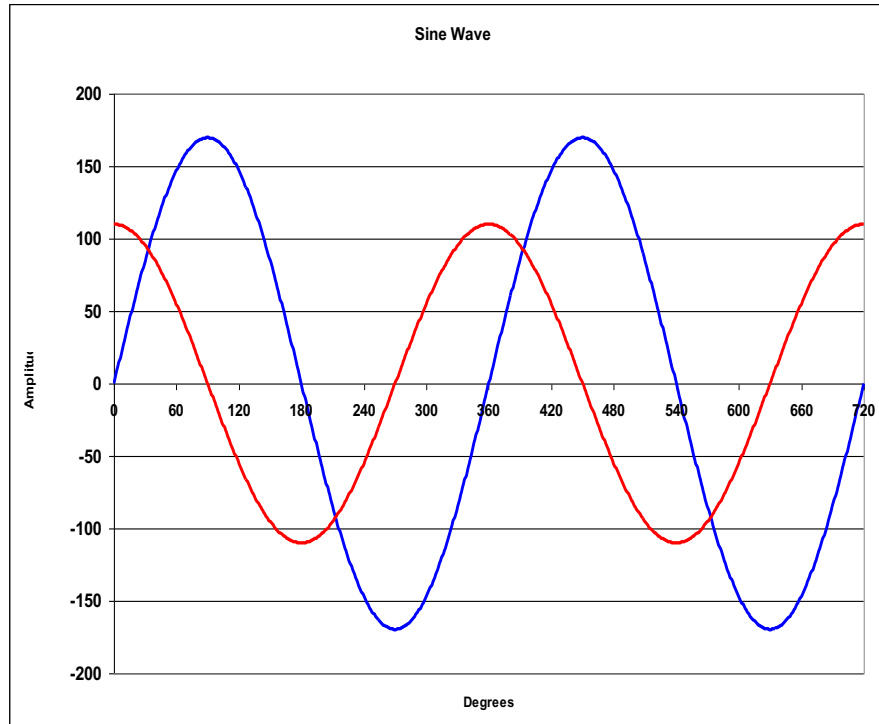
An inductive load consumes receives and delivers equal amounts of power, so the net active power (Watts) is ZERO  
And the reactive load is 100%!

# Capacitive Load



A purely capacitive load has  $-90^\circ$  phase angle

# Capacitive Load



Inductive Example:

$$V = 120V$$

$$I = 10A$$

$$\Theta = -90^\circ$$

$$\cos -90^\circ = 0$$

$$\sin -90^\circ = -1$$

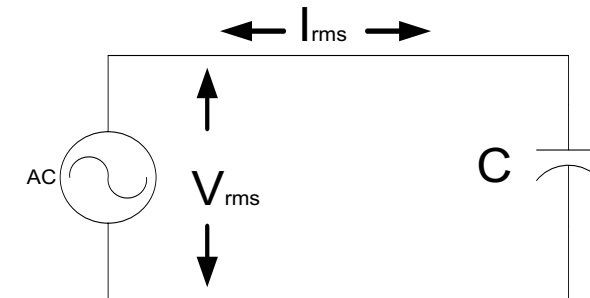
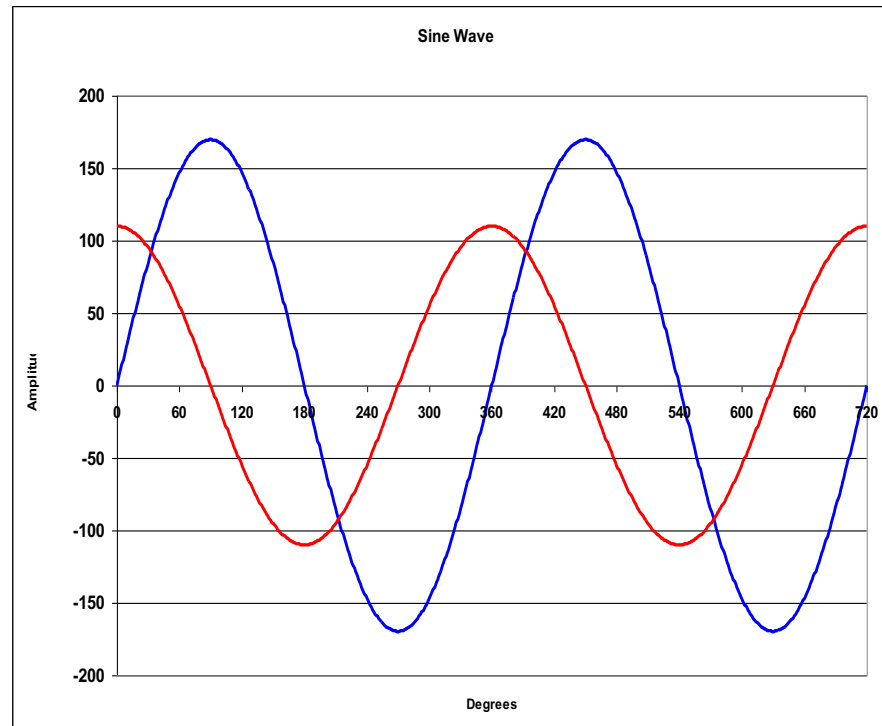
$$\text{Active Power (W)} = V I \cos (\theta) = 120 * 10 * 0 = 0 \text{ W}$$

$$\text{Reactive Power (VAR)} = V I \sin (\theta) = 120 * 10 * -1 = -1200 \text{ VAR}$$

$$\text{Apparent Power (VA)} = V I = 120 * 10 = 1200 \text{ VA}$$

$$\text{PF} = W / \text{VA} = \cos (\theta) = 0$$

# Capacitive Load

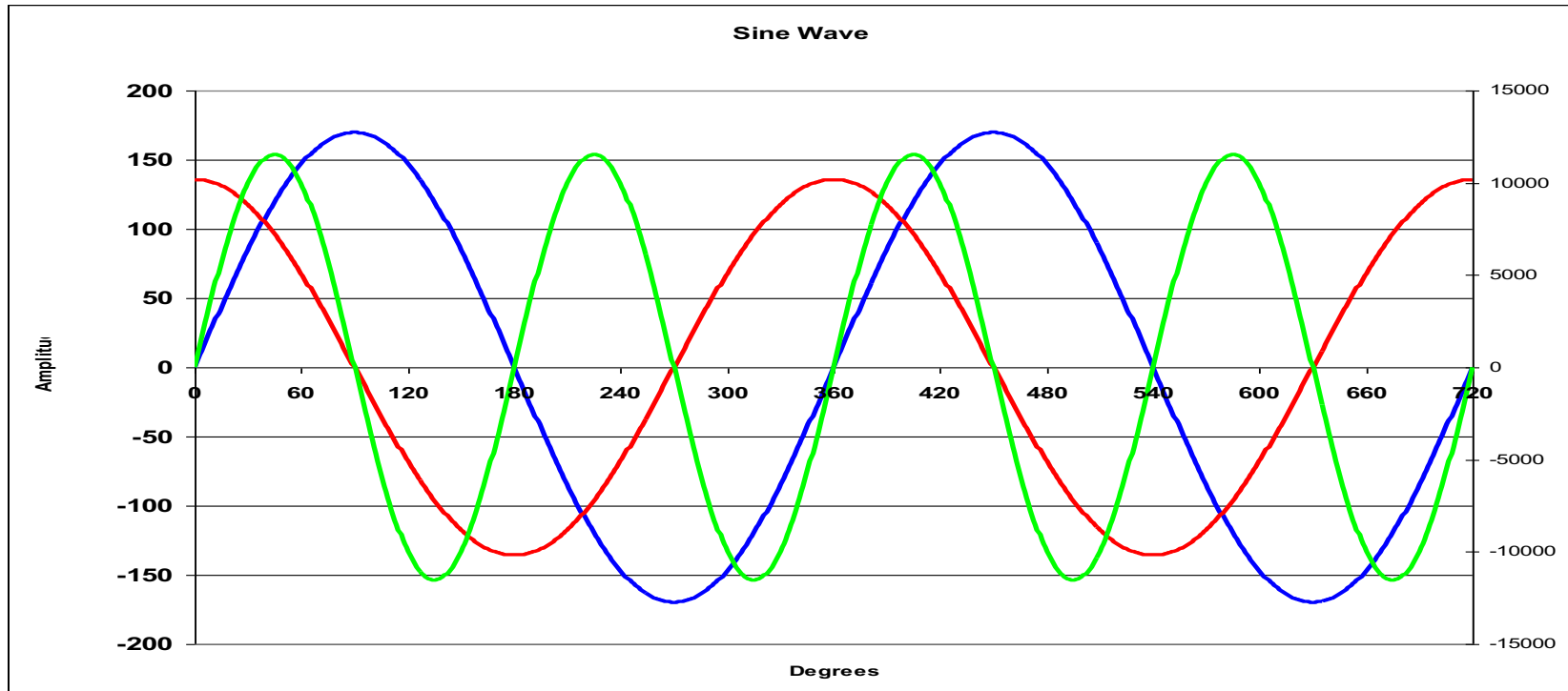


- A purely capacitive load will:
- Only create negative VARs
  - Create NO Watts
  - Have a  $PF = 0$



# AC Theory – Instantaneous Power

**For a capacitive load:**  $p = vi = 2VISin(\omega t)Sin(\omega t + 90) = VISin(2\omega t)$



$$V = 120\sqrt{2}\sin(2\pi ft)$$

$$I = 96\sqrt{2}\sin(2\pi ft + 90)$$

$$P = 11520\sin(2\pi ft)$$

$P = 0$  Watts

# Inductance Vs Capacitance

- More inductance creates more VAR, less W, and lower PF
- Capacitance is added to an inductive load to reduce VAR, raise W, and raise PF
- Ideally, we want all loads to have a  $PF = 1$



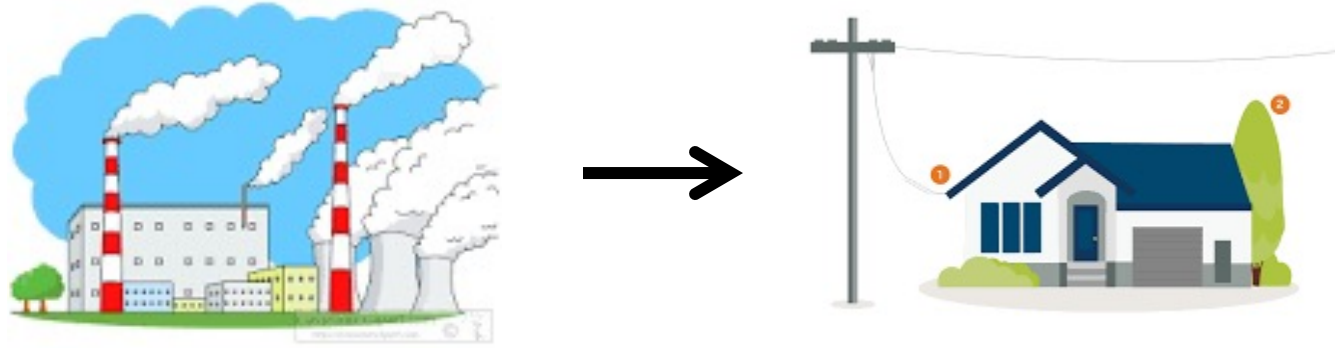
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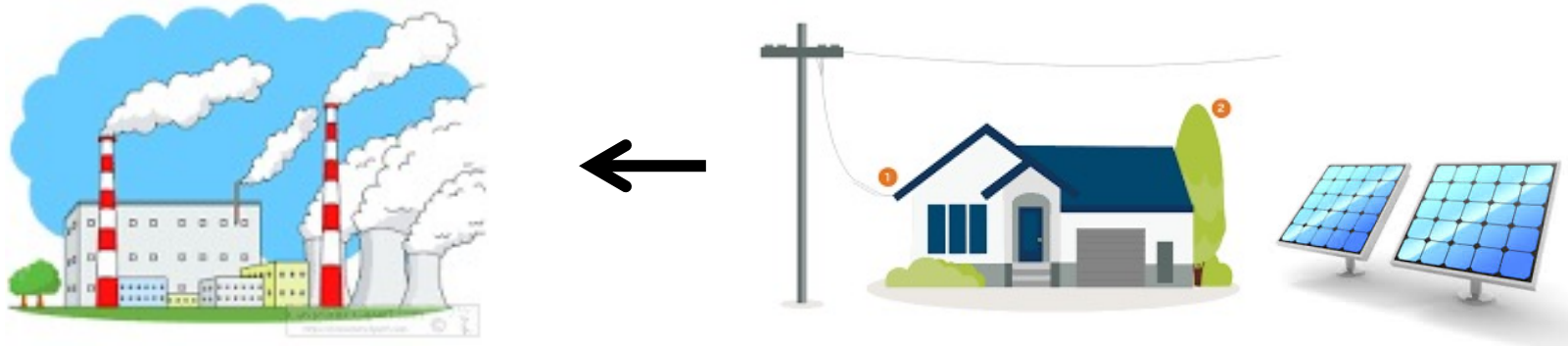


# Delivered vs Received Power



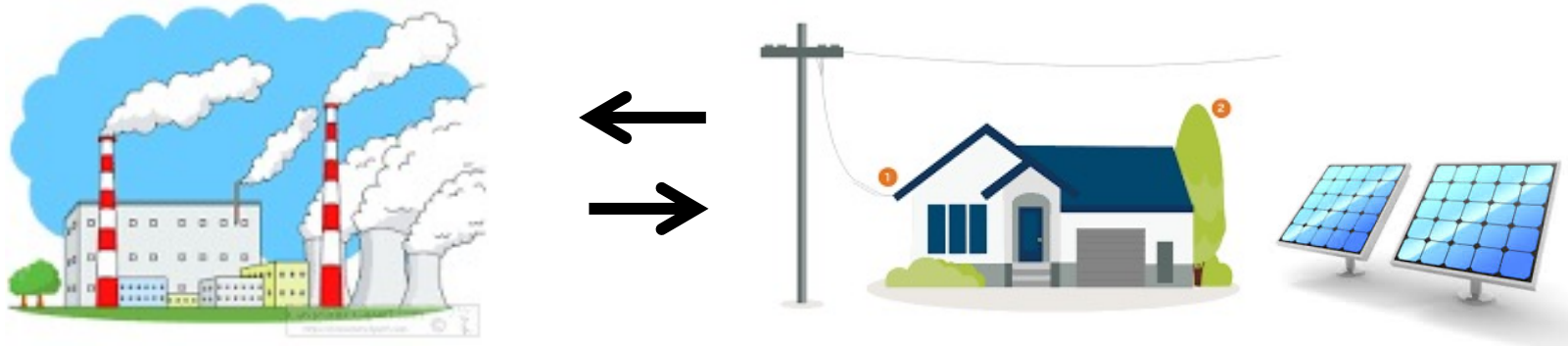
Positive Watts are DELIVERED  
from the Utility to the Consumer

# Delivered vs Received Power



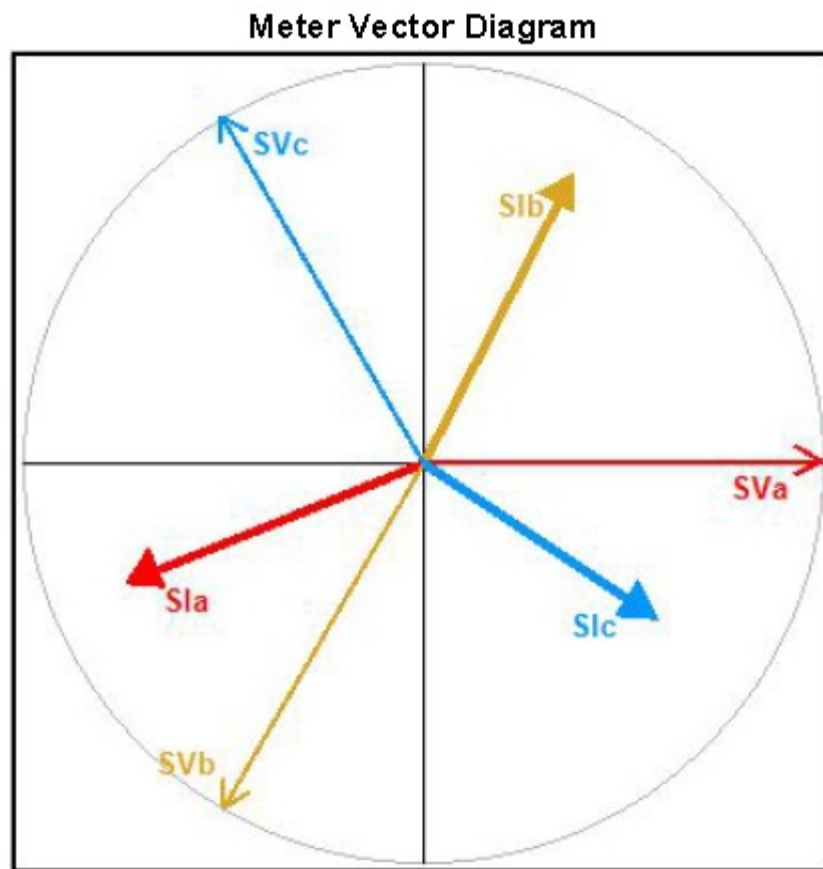
Negative Watts are RECEIVED by  
the Utility from the Consumer

# Delivered vs Received Power



Positive and Negative VARs flow  
in both directions

# Negative Power Factor?

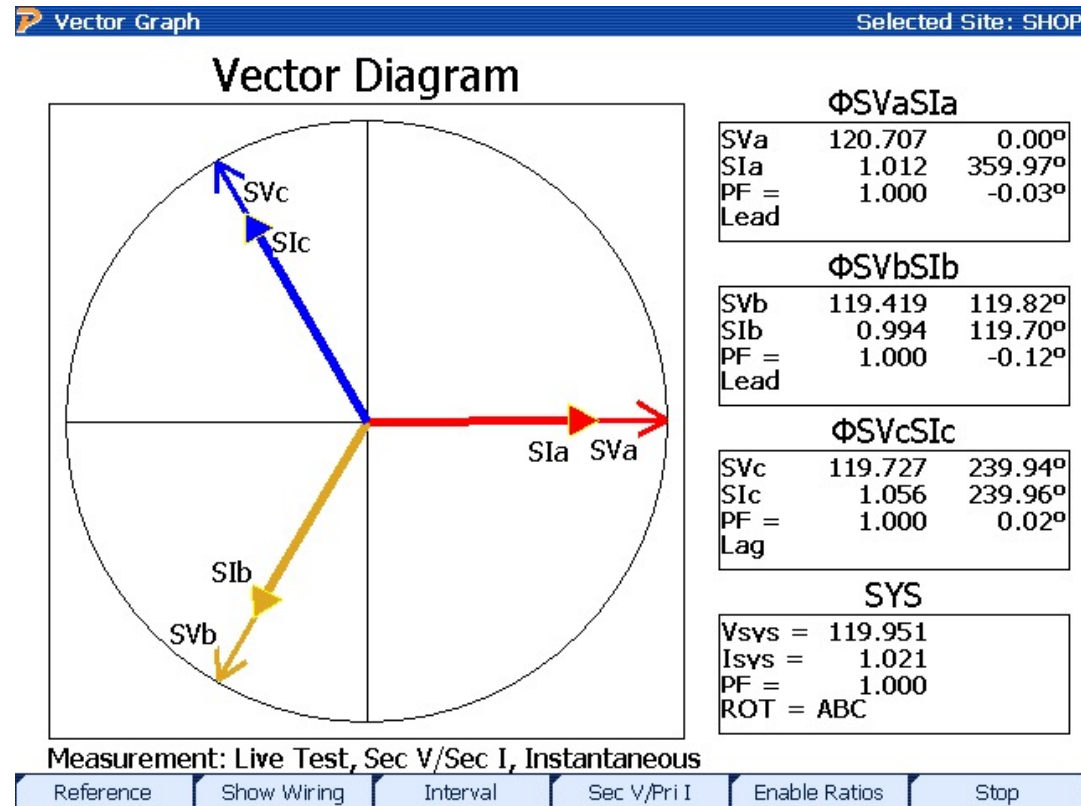


- The vector diagram for a renewable site may have current vectors 180° out when the site is generating power.
- Whr, VARhr, and PF may also be negative when generating power.
- The sign of PF will follow Watts

# 3 Phase, 4-Wire “Y” Service

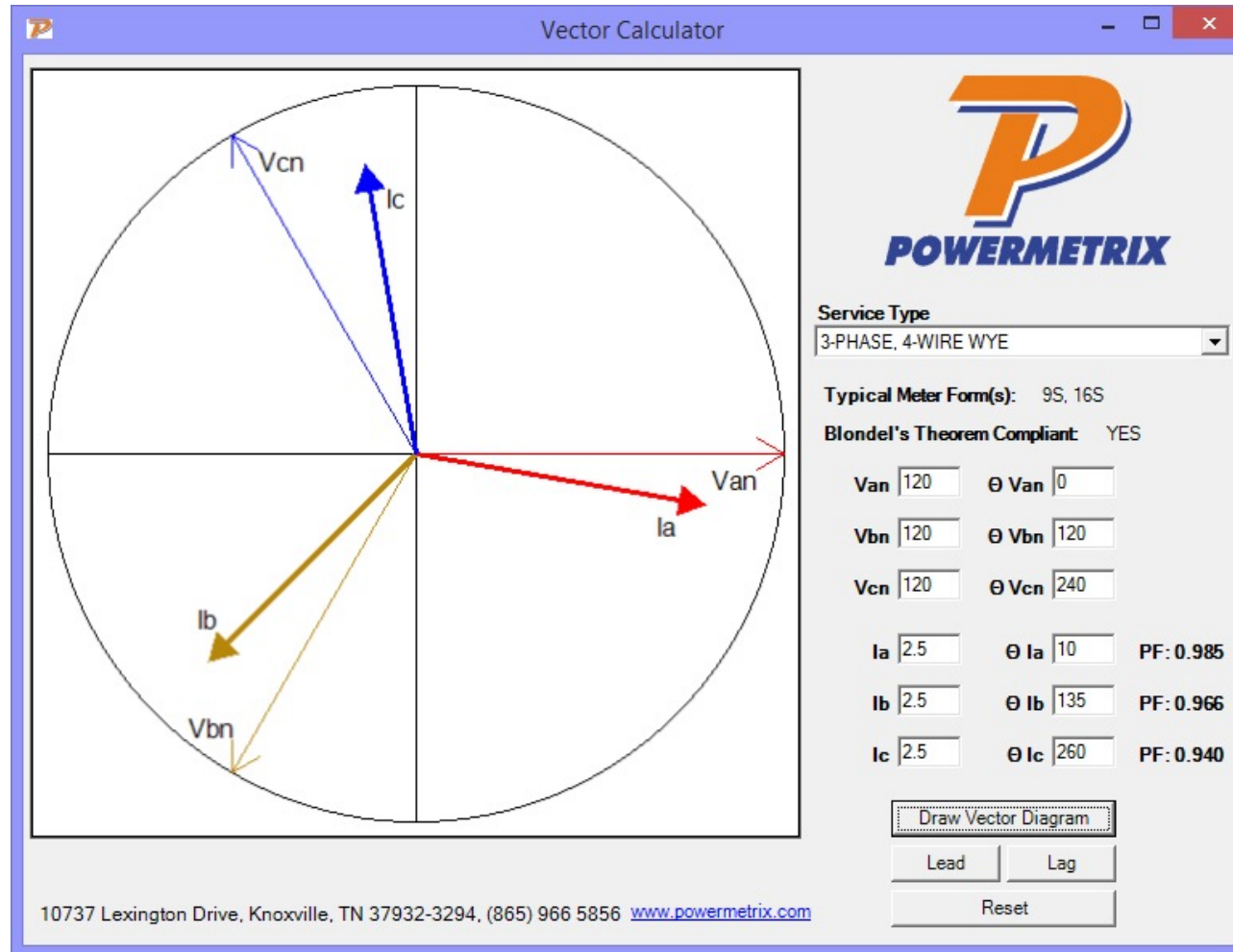
## 0° = Unity Power Factor

- Three Voltage Phasors
- 120° Apart
- Three Current Phasors
- Aligned with Voltage at PF=1



System PF = Average of A, B, and C phase PF

# 3 Phase, 4-Wire Wye

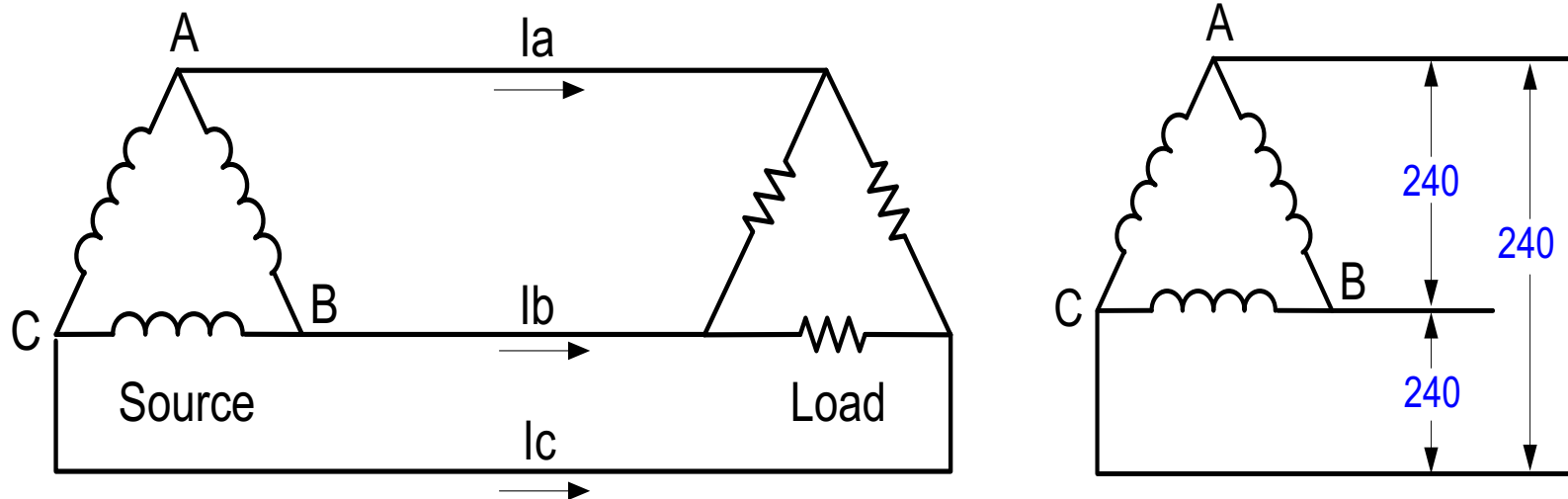


System PF = Average of A, B, and C = 0.964



# 3 Phase, 3-Wire Delta Service

Common service type for industrial customers. This service has NO neutral.

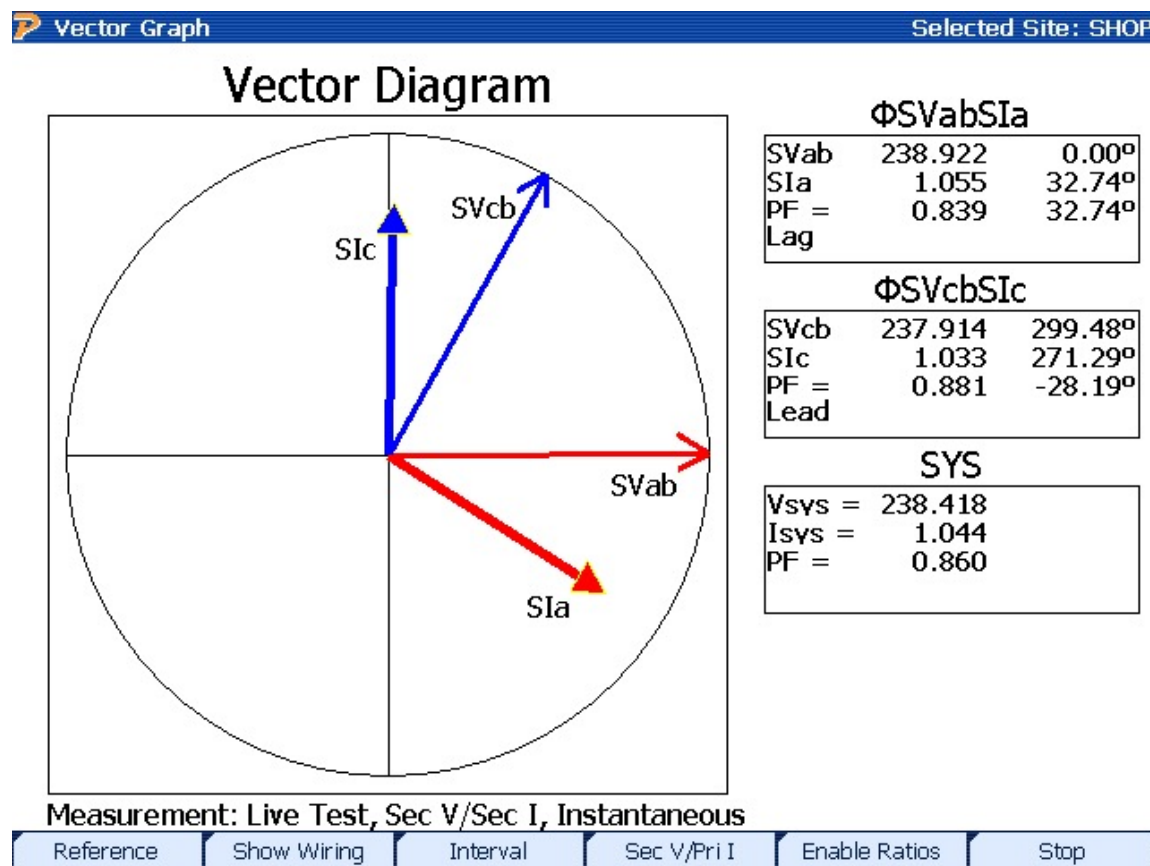


- Voltages normally measured relative to phase B.
- Voltage and current vectors do not align.
- Service is provided even when a phase is grounded.

# 3 Phase, 3-Wire Delta Service

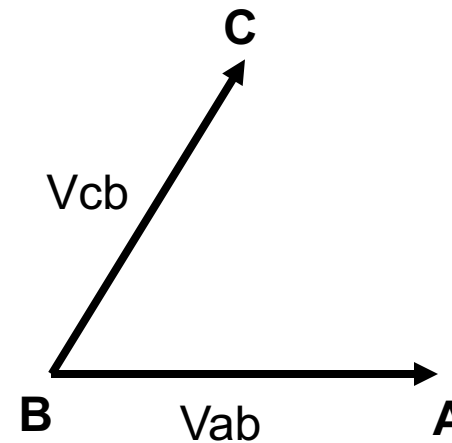
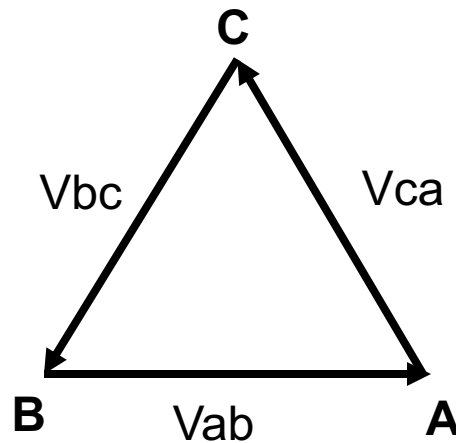
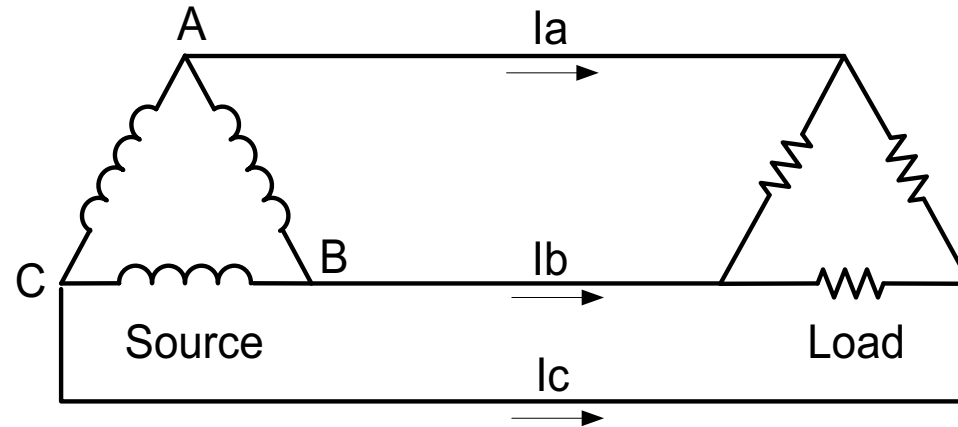
## Resistive Loads

- Two Voltage Phasors
- 60° Apart
- Two Current Phasors
- For a resistive load one current leads by 30° while the other lags by 30°



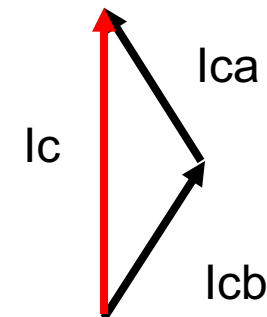
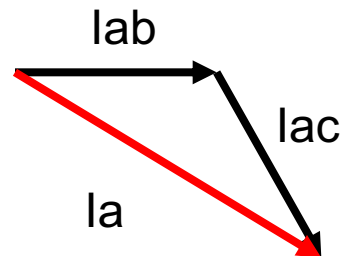
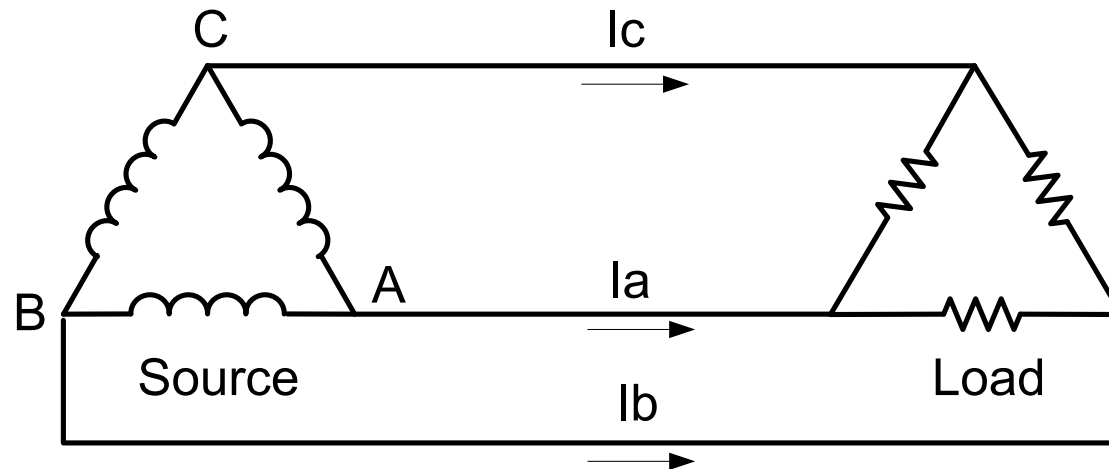
# 3 Phase, 3-Wire Delta Service

## Understanding the Diagram



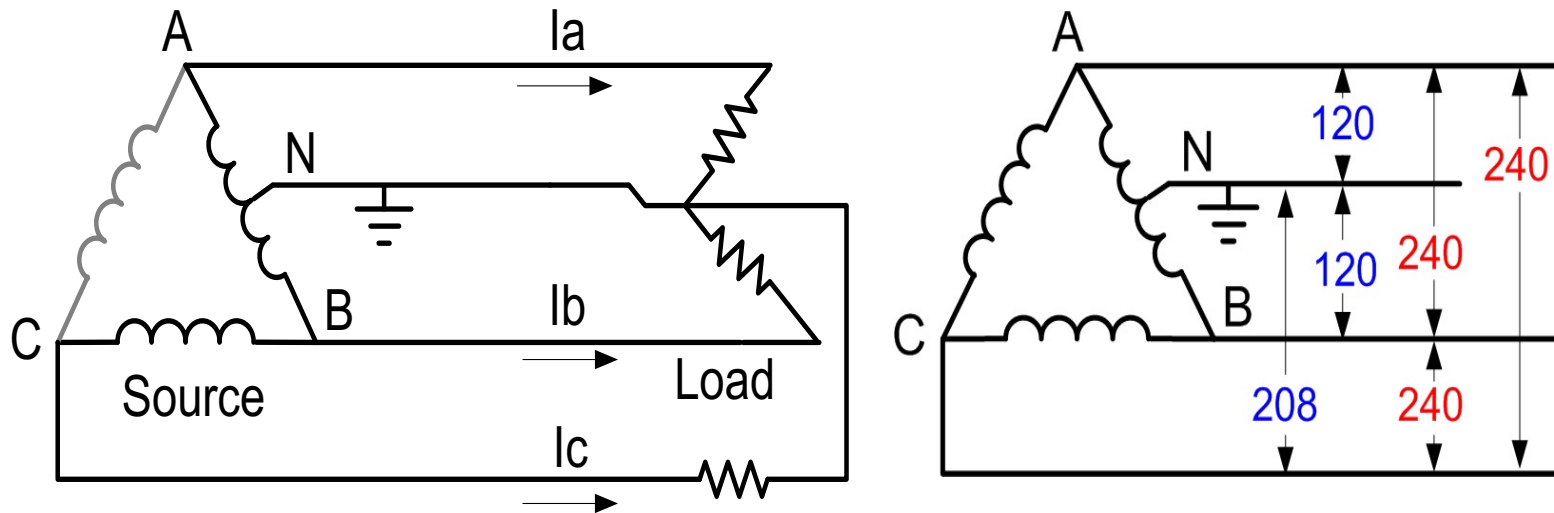
# 3 Phase, 3-Wire Delta Service

## Understanding the Diagram



# 3 Phase, 4-Wire Delta Service

Common service type for industrial customers. Provides a residential like 120/240 service (lighting service) single phase 208 (high side) and even 3 phase 240 V.

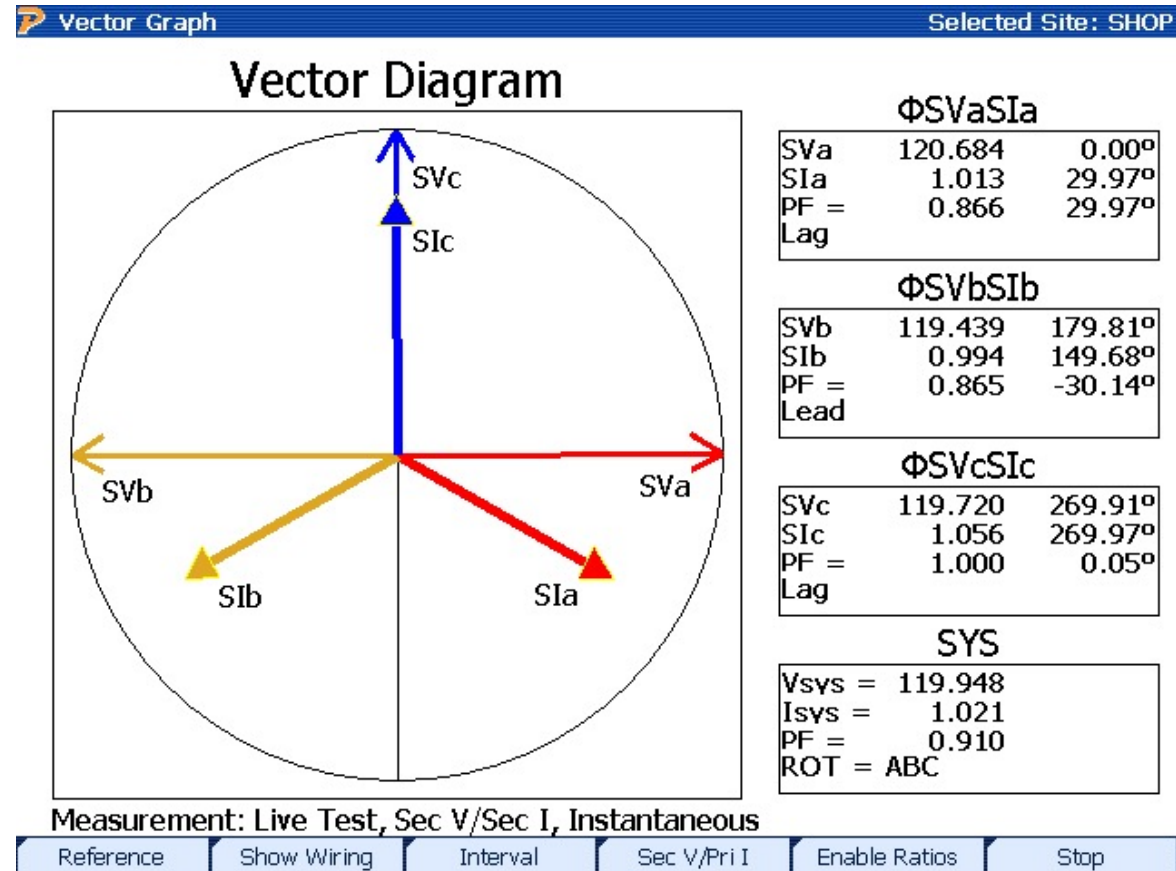


- Voltage phasors form a "T" 90° apart
- Currents are at 120° spacing
- In 120/120/208 form only the "hot" (208) leg has its voltage and current vectors aligned.

# 3 Phase, 4-Wire Delta Service

## Resistive Load

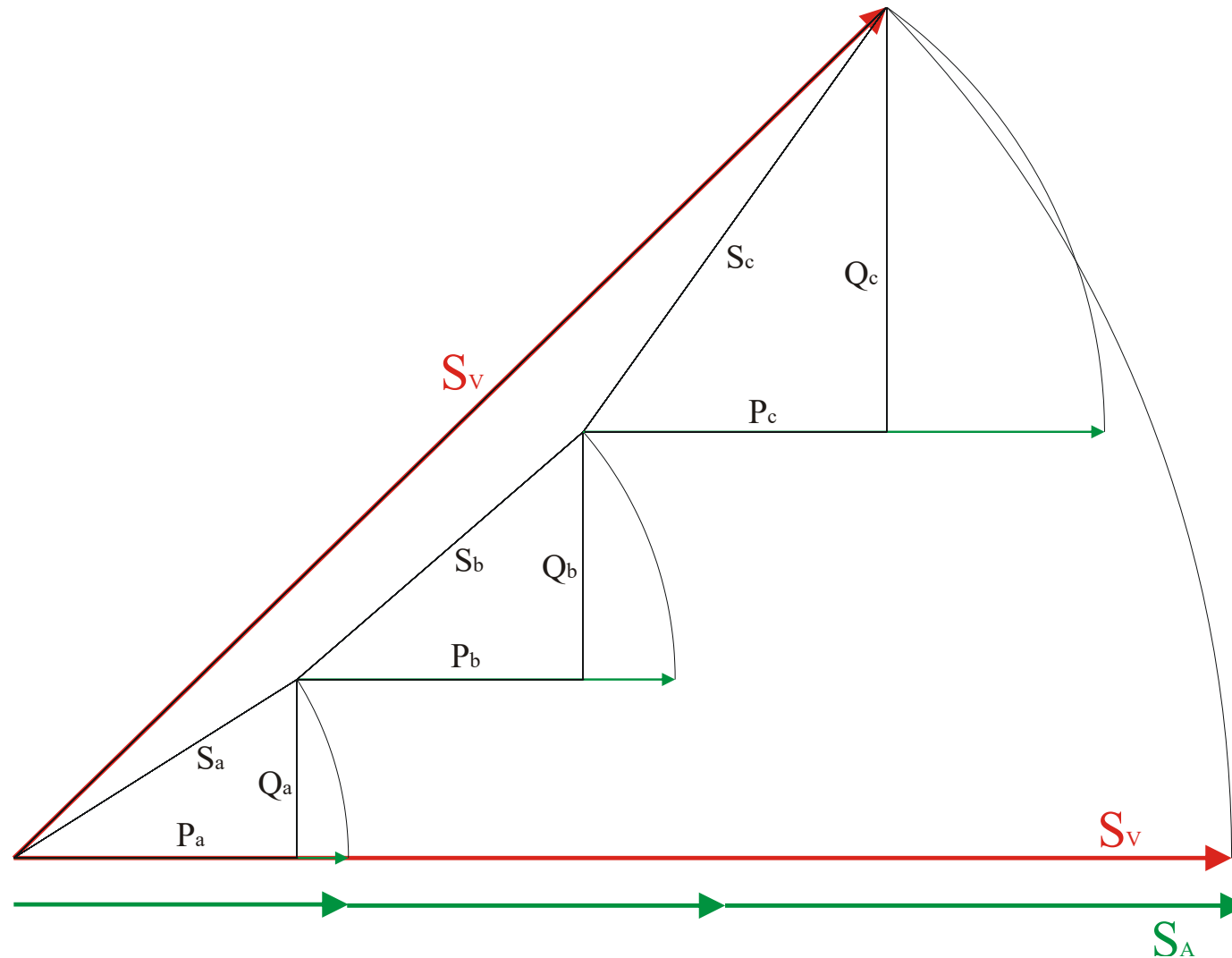
- Three Voltage Phasors
- 90° Apart
- Three Current Phasors
- 120° apart



# 3 Phase Power Measurement

- We have discussed how to measure and view power quantities (W, VARs, VA) in a single phase case.
- How do we combine them in a multi-phase system?
- Two common approaches:
  - Arithmetic
  - Vectorial

# 3 Phase Power Measurement



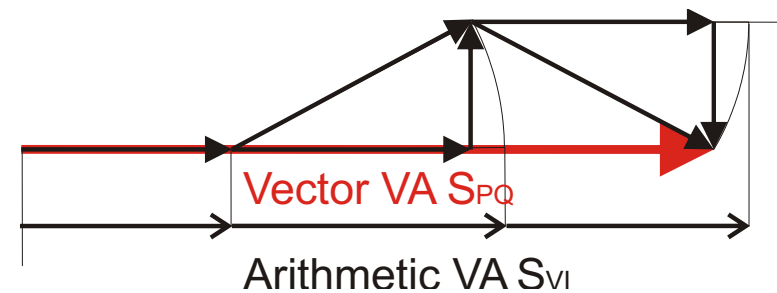


# 3 Phase Power Measurement

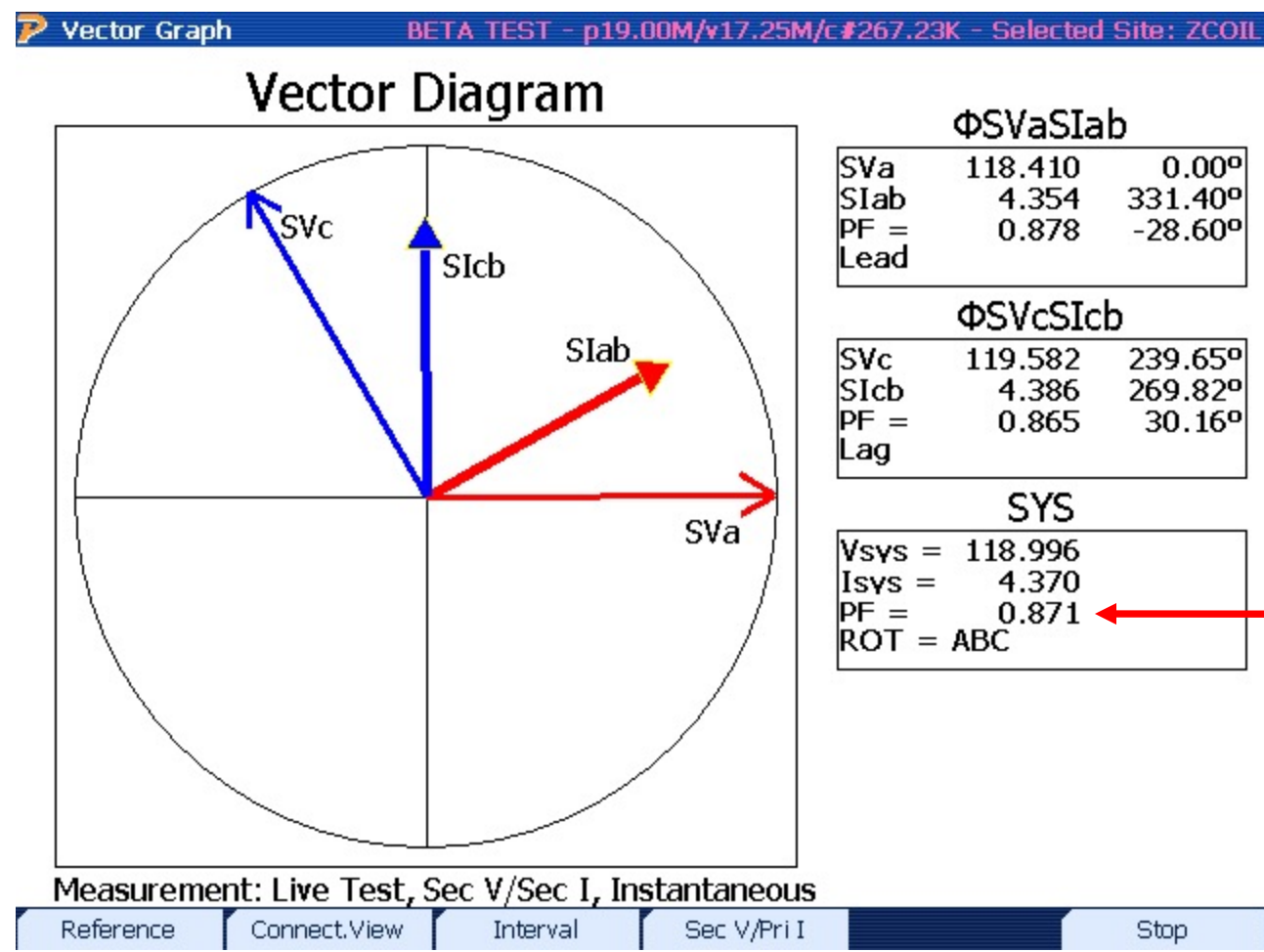
- VAR and VA calculations can lead to some strange results:
  - If we define

$$VA = \sqrt{(W_A + W_B + W_C)^2 + (Q_A + Q_B + Q_C)^2}$$

PH	W	Q	VA
A	100	0	100
B	120	55	132
C	120	-55	132
Arithmetic VA			364
Vector VA			340

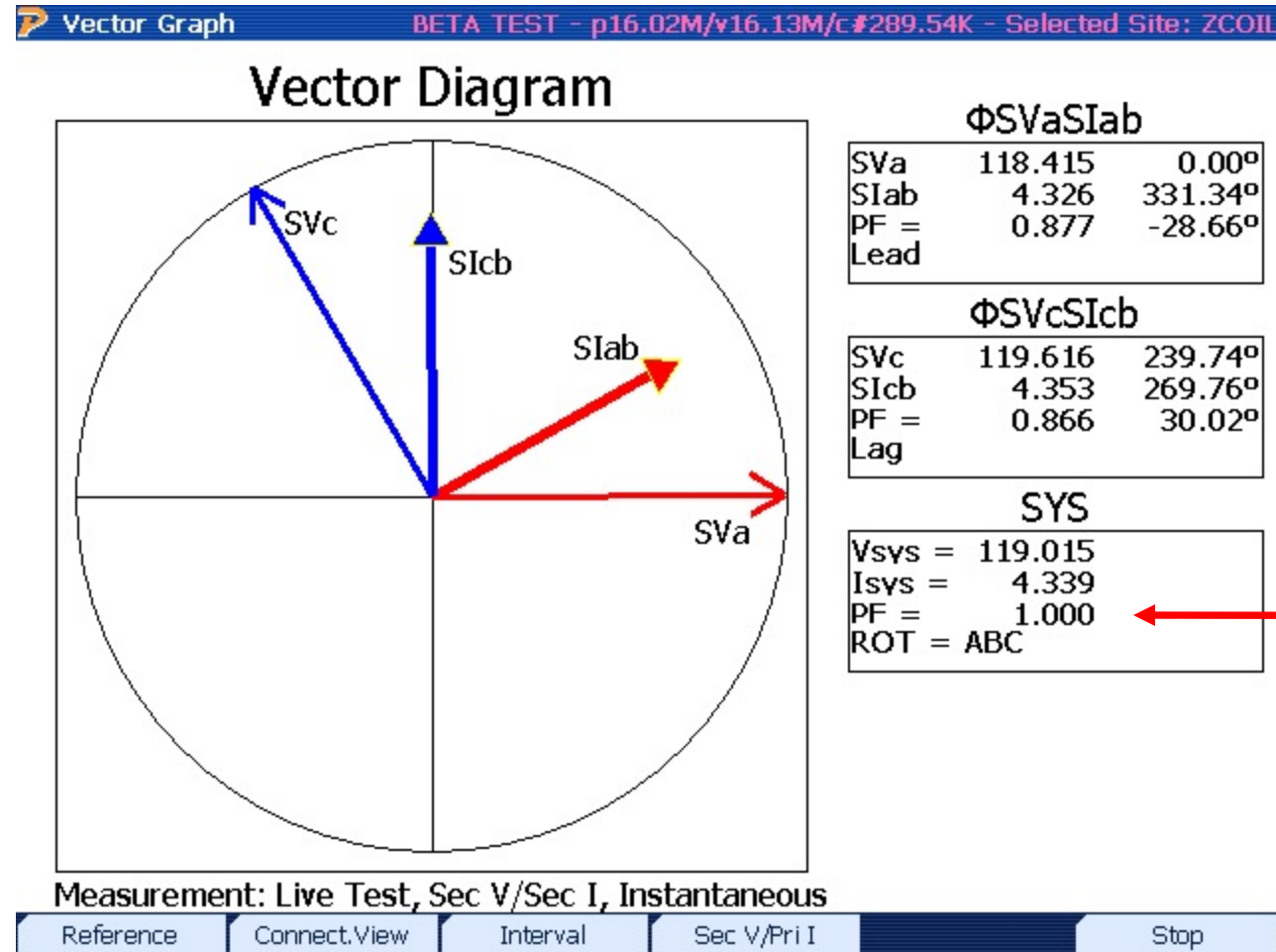


# 3 Phase Power Measurement



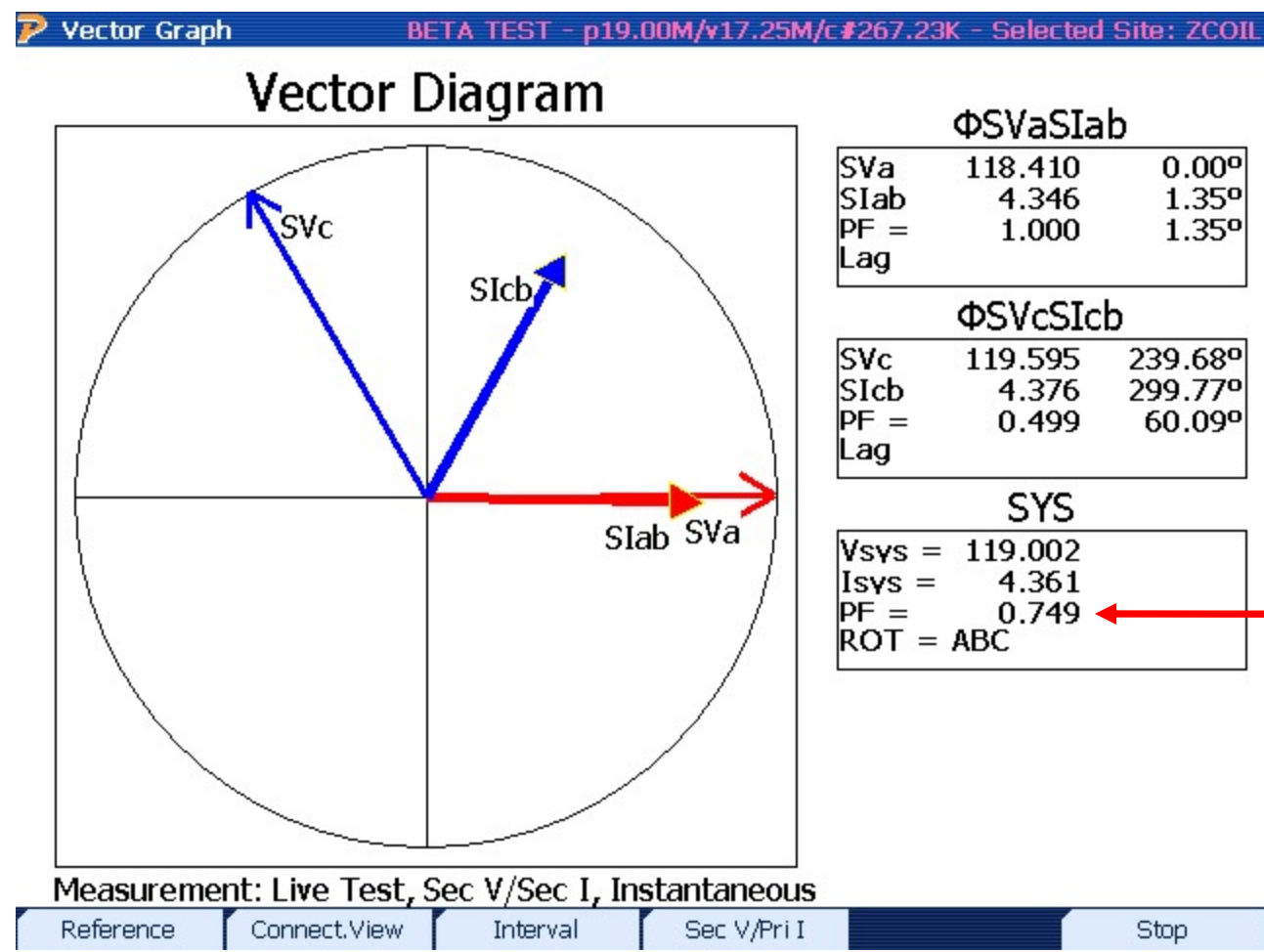
Arithmetic Calculation - Form 6 – 4 Wire Y Site  
Voltages and Currents Aligned at 0°

# 3 Phase Power Measurement



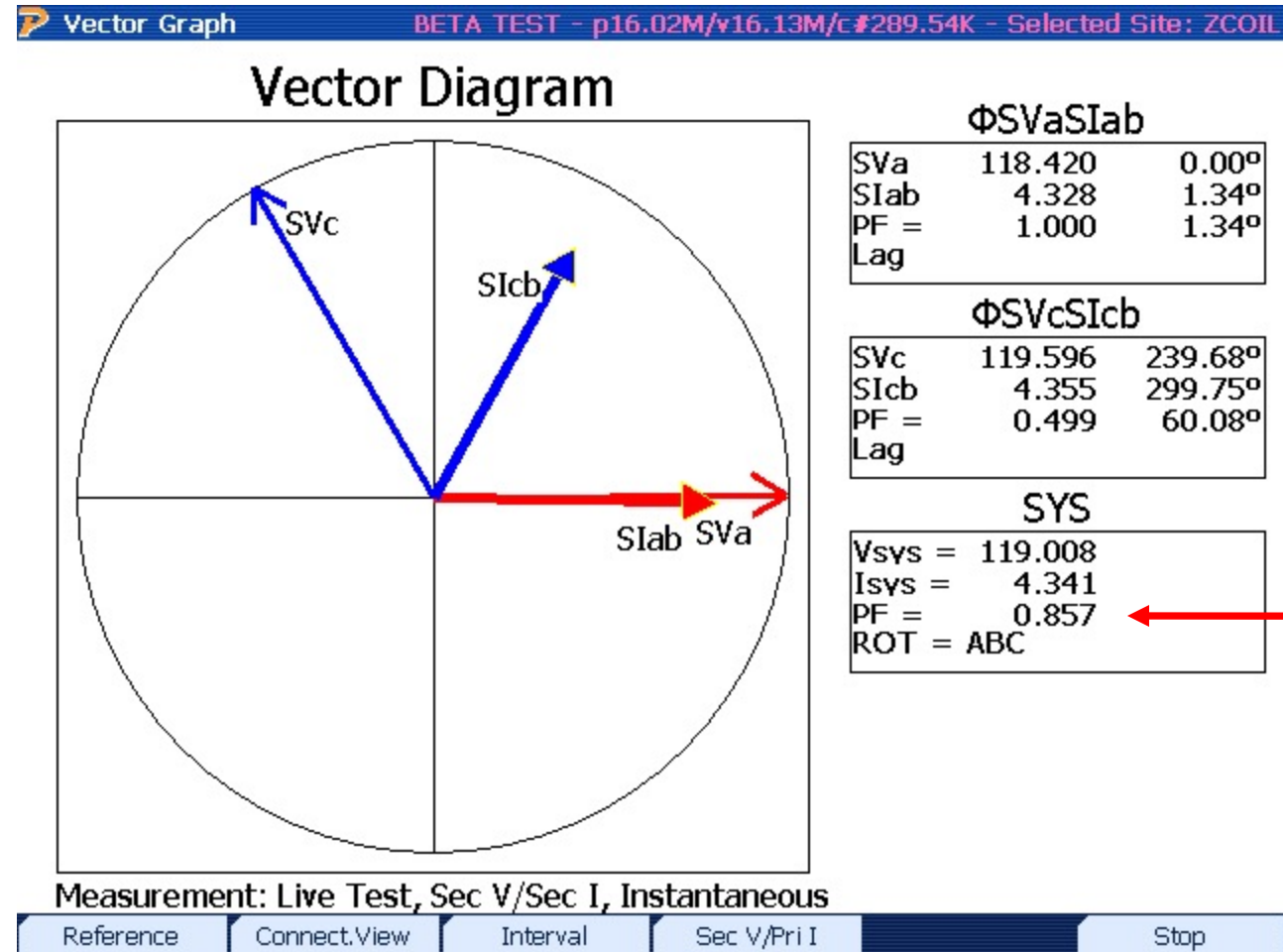
Vector Calculation - Form 6 – 4 Wire Y Site  
Voltages and Currents Aligned at 0°

# 3 Phase Power Measurement



Arithmetic Calculation - Form 6 – 4 Wire Y Site  
Currents All shifted by 30°

# 3 Phase Power Measurement



Vector Calculation - Form 6 – 4 Wire Y Site  
Currents All shifted by 30°

# Displacement and Distortion Power Factor

Displacement and Distortion PF are used in systems that are non-linear (contain harmonics)

Displacement PF =  $\cos(\theta_1)$  where “1” represents the fundamental frequency (60Hz) ONLY

$$\text{Distortion PF} = 1/\sqrt{1 + THD^2}$$

$$\text{True PF} = \text{Displacement PF} * \text{Distortion PF}$$

# Total Harmonic Distortion (THD)

THD is a measurement of the ratio of the sum of the harmonic power to the power of the fundamental frequency.

$$\text{THD} := \frac{\sqrt{\sum_{n=2}^4 (V_n)^2}}{V_1}$$

This is an equation for a waveform with 3 harmonics.

$V_1$  is the fundamental (60Hz)

$V_2$  is the 2<sup>nd</sup> harmonic (120Hz)

$V_3$  is the 3<sup>rd</sup> harmonic (180Hz)

$V_4$  is the 4<sup>th</sup> fundamental (240Hz)

# Summary

- Power Factor is the ratio of useful power (Watts) to total power (VA) in a system
- PF decreases with inductance, and increase with capacitance
- An ideal system has a  $PF = 1$ , which represents 100% active, useful power being delivered to the load
- PF calculations may differ depending on the metering



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