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Lecture No.8

Three-Phase Diode Rectifiers

There are two types of three-phase diode rectifier, star rectifiers and bridge rectifiers.

Three-Phase Star Rectifiers

A basic three-phase star rectifier circuit is shown in Figure below. This circuit can be considered as three single-phase half-wave rectifiers combined together. Therefore, it sometimes referred to as a three-phase half-wave rectifier. The diode in a particular phase conducts during the period when the voltage on that phase is higher than that on the other two phases.





- \rightarrow It is clear that, unlike the single-phase rectifier circuit, the conduction angle of each diode is $2\pi=3$, instead of π .
- \rightarrow Taking phase R as an example, diode D conducts from $\pi=6$ to $5\pi=6$. Therefore, the average value of the output can be found as:

$$V_{\rm dc} = \frac{3}{2\pi} \int_{\pi/6}^{5\pi/6} V_m \sin\theta \, d\theta$$

Or,

$$V_{\rm dc} = V_m \frac{3}{\pi} \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} = 0.827 \ V_m$$

Similarly, the rms value of the output voltage can be found as:

$$V_L = \sqrt{\frac{3}{2\pi} \int_{\pi/6}^{5\pi/6} (V_m \sin \theta)^2 d\theta}$$

Or,

$$V_L = V_m \sqrt{\frac{3}{2\pi} \left(\frac{\pi}{3} + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{4}\right)} = 0.84 \ V_m$$

The rms current in each transformer secondary winding can also be found as:

$$I_s = I_m \sqrt{\frac{1}{2\pi} \left(\frac{\pi}{3} + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{4}\right)} = 0.485 \ I_m$$

- \rightarrow It is clear that the peak inverse voltage (PIV) of the diodes is equal to $1.73V_m$ during their blocking state. Hence, the Peak Repetitive Reverse Voltage (V_{RRM}) rating of the diodes must be chose to be higher than $1.73V_m$ to avoid reverse breakdown.
- \rightarrow During its conducting state, each diode has a forward current that is equal to the load current and, therefore, the Peak Repetitive Forward Current (**I**_{FRM}) rating of these diodes must be chosen to be higher than the peak load current **I**_m= **V**_m×**R** in practice.
- \rightarrow Form factor of diode current $I_s/I_{dc}=1.76$
- \rightarrow The rectification ratio is:

$$\frac{P_{dc}}{P_L} = \frac{V_{dc}I_{dc}}{V_LI_L}$$

$$FF = \frac{V_L}{V_{dc}} \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{I_L}{I_{dc}}$$

 \rightarrow Form factor of three-phase half-wave rectifier

$$FF = \frac{0.84V_{\rm m}}{0.827V_{\rm m}} = 1.0165$$

 \rightarrow Ripple factor of three-phase half-wave rectifier

$$RF = \sqrt{\left(\frac{V_L}{V_{dc}}\right)^2 - 1} = \sqrt{FF^2 - 1}$$
$$= 0.182$$

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