# **Synchronous machines**

**Synchronous generator (alternator)**: transforms mechanical energy into electric energy; designed to generate sinusoidal voltages and currents; used in most power plants, for car alternators, etc.

**Synchronous motor**: transforms electric energy into mechanical energy; used for highpower applications (ships, original TGV, electric cars...)



**Rotor** (*inductor*) : 2p poles with excitation windings carrying DC current; nonlaminated magnetic material

 $\dot{\theta} = \omega/p$ 

*Stator*: polyphase (e.g. 3-phase) winding in slots; laminated magnetic material

### **No-load characteristic**



# **Vector diagram with load**

#### Diagram of magnetomotive forces and magnetic flux densities



- (1) The rotor winding, carrying the DC current  $I_e$  and rotating at speed  $\omega/p$ , produces in the airgap a sliding m.m.f.  $\overline{F}_e$  (as seen from the stator).
- (2) The polyphase current  $\overline{I}$  in the stator winding produces a sliding m.m.f.  $\overline{F_I}$  (in phase with I).
- (3) The resulting m.m.f. is  $\overline{F}_r = \overline{F}_e + \overline{F}_I$ .
- (4)  $\overline{F}_r$  generates a magnetic flux density  $B_r$  (with the same phase) in the airgap,, which induces sinusoidal e.m.f.s in the stator windings, with a phase lag of  $\pi/2$ .

# **Vector diagram with load**



### **Potier diagram**

'Which excitation current  $I_e$  should one impose in the synchronous machine to reach the operating point corresponding to a given voltage U and current I in the stator, with a phase shift of  $\phi$  between U and I?'







### Reaction

#### **Demagnetizing reaction**

The m.m.f. is smaller than the no-load m.m.f.  $(I_r < I_e)$ 



Inductive behaviour of the load (I lagging behind U) Magnetizing reaction

The m.m.f. is larger than the no-load m.m.f.  $(I_r > I_e)$ 



**Capacitive behaviour of the load** (I in front of U)

# Zero power factor characteristic



### **Short-circuit characteristic**



# Simplified vector diagram

#### **Behn-Eschenburg's method – Synchronous reactance X**<sub>s</sub>

When the magnetic materials are not saturated, the combined effect of the reaction and of stator leakage fluxes can be taken into account thanks to a single parameter: the synchronous reactance

 $rac{E_v}{I_e} = rac{E_r}{I_r} = \text{ constant}$ 



# **Experimental determination of X**<sub>s</sub>

Behn-Eschenburg's method – Synchronous reactance X<sub>s</sub>  $\mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{y}}$  $\Rightarrow \overline{E}_{v} = (R + j X_{s}) \overline{I}_{cc}$  $\overline{\mathbf{U}} = \mathbf{0}$  $\Rightarrow$  R + j X<sub>s</sub> =  $\frac{\overline{E}_v}{\overline{I}_{aa}}$  with R << X<sub>s</sub> Х,  $X_s \approx \frac{E_v(I_e)}{I_{ee}(I_e)}$ Ι. Approximation when magnetic materials are saturated! jX,Ĩ Ē Ē jΧ<sub>τ</sub>Ĩ Ũ RĨ

### **Exterior characteristic**

#### **Alternator exterior characteristic**

Evolution of the voltage U on a given stator phase as a function of the current Iin this phase, when the alternator drives a load characterized by a constant power factor, at constant speed and excitation



## **Network connection**

### Need for interconnection of electric power plants



*Economical organization of power production* + *Stability of the network despite local defects* 

Synchronization of an alternaltor on an ideal (infinitely powerful) AC network

Large number of production units in parallel  $\Rightarrow$  constant voltage and frequency



The current should be zero when the connection is made  $\rightarrow$  4 conditions

- 1. same pulsation  $\omega$  (correct rotation speed)
  - 2. same amplitudes for  $E_v$  and U (adjusting  $I_e$ )
- 3. no phase shift between  $E_v$  and U
- 4. *identical phase ordering* (*in a 3-phase system*)

## **Behaviour with load**



# **Behaviour with load**

**Static stability** Internal angle  $\delta_{int} > 0$  $\delta_{\text{int}} < 0$ synchronous motor alternator Increasing the mechanical torque leads to an increase of  $\delta_{int}$ , and thus to a decrease of Increasing the mechanical  $C_{elm} \Rightarrow unstable$ Unstable Unstable (breaking) torque leads to an increase of the absolute value  $\delta_{it}$  $\pi/2$  $-\pi/2$ of  $\delta_{int}$ , and thus to a decrease in the absolute value of  $C_{elm}$ ΠĽ.  $\Rightarrow$  unstable static stability

Increasing the mechanical (breaking) torque leads to an increase of the absolute value of  $\delta_{int}$  and thus of  $C_{elm} \Rightarrow stable$ .

*The equilibrium is reached when the two torques are equal.* 

Increasing the mechanical torque leads to an increase of  $\delta_{int}$  and thus of  $C_{elm} \Rightarrow stable$ . The equilibrium is reached when the two torques are equal.

# **Behaviour with load**



### V-curves (Mordey curves)

