

# Lesson 22: Self-Excited Dc Generators

ET 332a

Dc Motors, Generators and Energy Conversion Devices

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1

## Learning Objectives

After this presentation you will be able to:

- Explain how a self-excited dc generator operates
- Explain how voltage builds in self-excited dc generators
- Use magnetization curves and dc machine formulas to find an unloaded generator's terminal voltage
- Identify the voltage characteristics of compound generators.

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2

## Self-Excited Generator Connection

With field switch open only residual flux can produce  $E_a$

Residual magnetism in pole pieces causes induced voltage

Shunt field is connected in parallel with armature

Prime mover provides mechanical power

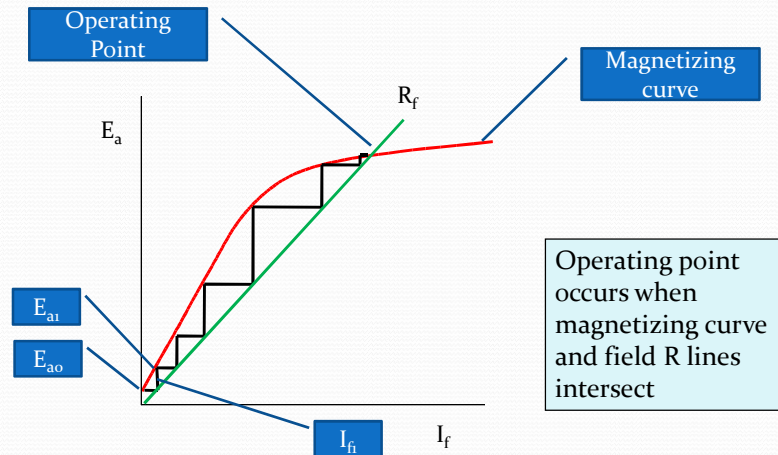
Lesson 22 332a.pptx 3

## Voltage Buildup in Self-Excited Generators

- 1.) Residual magnetism causes  $E_{a0}$  with  $I_f=0$
- 2.) Close switch and parallel armature and field  $E_a=V_T$
- 3.)  $E_{a0}/R_f = I_{f1}$  causes  $E_a$  to increase due to field flux increase
- 4.)  $E_a$  increases to  $E_{a1}$  causing  $I_{f2}$
- 5.) Process repeats until operating point reached

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## Self-Excited Generator Graphical Analysis



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5

## Field Resistance and Voltage Buildup

Analytic methods

$$E_a = n \cdot \Phi_p \cdot k_G = n \cdot \left[ \frac{N_f \cdot I_f}{\mathcal{R}} \right] \cdot k_G \quad \text{Reluctance is nonlinear w.r.t. } I_f$$

In field circuit  $R = R_f + R_{\text{theo}}$  and  $V_T = E_a$  so

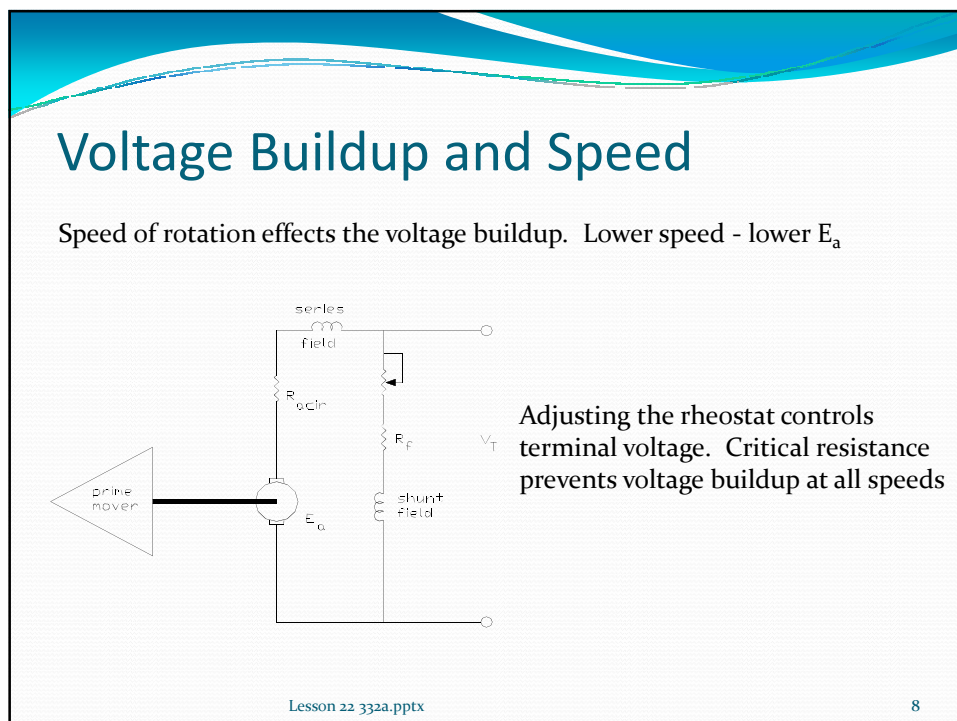
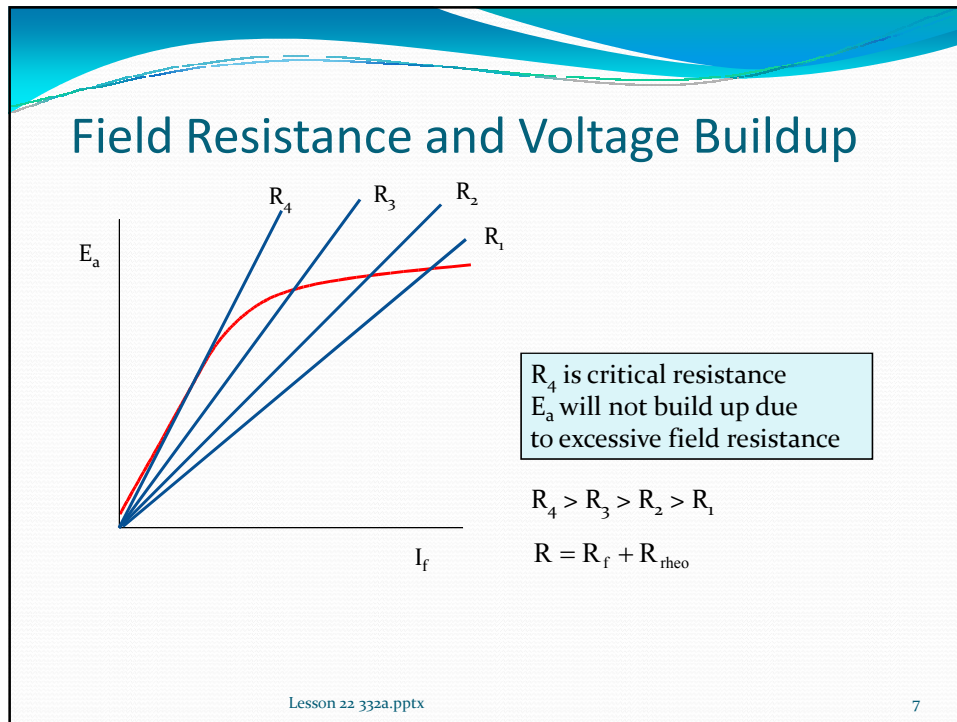
Equate field and armature circuit equations

$$I_f \cdot (R_f + R_{\text{theo}}) = n \cdot \left[ \frac{N_f \cdot I_f}{\mathcal{R}} \right] \cdot k_G$$

Non-linear equation with respect to (w.r.t.)  $I_f$ . Difficult to solve.

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6



## Self-Excited Generator Example

**Example 22-1:** Given a generator's magnetization curve (Fig 12-4, p443, text). Self-excited generator ratings: 125 Vdc, 50 kW, 1750 rpm. No-load voltage with rheostat shorted 156 V

Determine:

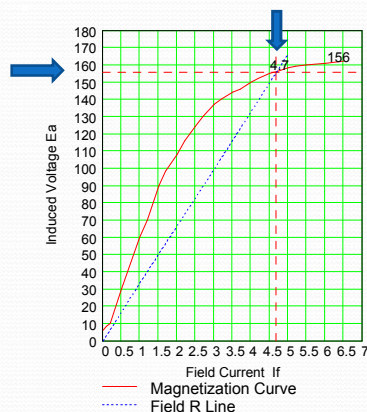
- field circuit resistance
- field rheostat setting for no-load voltage of 140 Vdc
- armature voltage if rheostat is set at 14.23 ohms
- rheostat setting that will give critical resistance
- armature voltage at 80% rated speed and rheostat shorted
- rheostat setting for no-load voltage of 140 Vdc at 1750 rpm if field is separately excited from 120 Vdc source

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9

## Example 22-1 Solution (1)

**Part a.)** Field circuit resistance (rheostat shorted)



For voltage of 156 Vdc, graph gives current of 4.7 A

Use Ohm's Law to find the value of field resistance

$$E_a = 156 \cdot V \quad I_f = 4.7 \cdot A$$

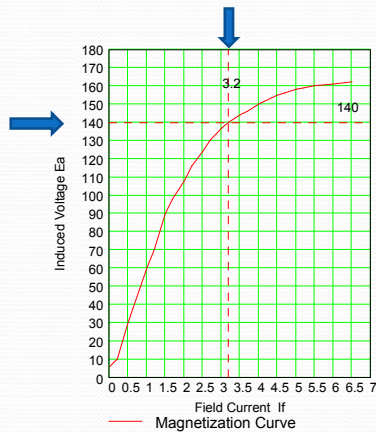
$$R_f = \frac{E_a}{I_f} \quad R_f = 33.2 \text{ ohm} \quad \leftarrow \text{Answer}$$

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10

## Example 22-1 Solution (2)

Part b.) Rheostat setting to give  $E_a = 140$  Vdc



Field current value from graph is 3.2 A

$$E_a = 140 \cdot \text{V} \quad I_f = 3.2 \cdot \text{A}$$

Subtract off field resistance to find rheostat setting

$$R_{\text{rheo}} = \left( \frac{E_a}{I_f} \right) - R_f$$

140 V

33.2  $\Omega$

3.2 A

$$R_{\text{rheo}} = 10.6 \text{ ohm} \quad \leftarrow \text{Answer}$$

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11

## Example 22-1 Solution (3)

Part c.) Find value of  $E_a$  when field rheostat increased to:

$$R_{\text{rheo}} = 14.23 \cdot \text{ohm}$$

Total field circuit resistance is:  $R_f + R_{\text{rheo}} = 47.421 \text{ ohm}$

$$\text{Graph this equation: } E_a = 47.421 \cdot I_f$$

The value of  $E_a$  is where the above equation intersects the magnetization curve.

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12

## Example 22-1 Solution (4)

Part d.) Find the critical resistance value.

Critical resistance has the same value as the slope of the linear part of the generator's magnetization curve. Select two points and compute the slope

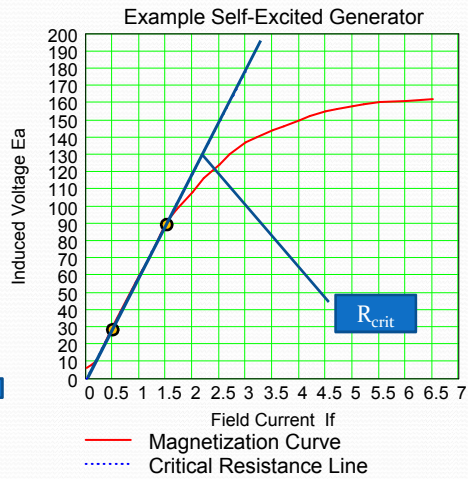
$$E_{a1} = 90 \text{ V} \quad I_{f1} = 1.51 \text{ A}$$

$$E_{a2} = 30 \text{ V} \quad I_{f2} = 0.50 \text{ A}$$

$$\frac{90 \text{ V} - 30 \text{ V}}{1.51 \text{ A} - .5 \text{ A}} = 59.4 \text{ ohm} \leftarrow \text{Ans}$$

Plot the line  $E_a = 59.4 \cdot I_f$  This is the critical resistance line

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13

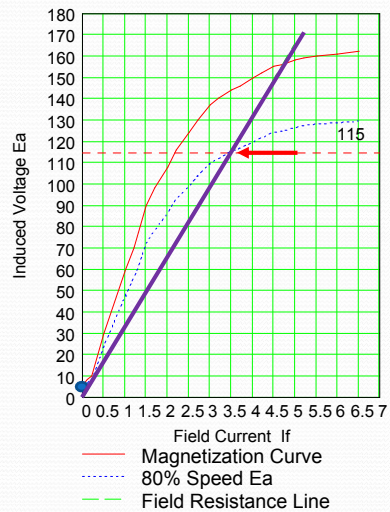
## Example 22-1 Solution (5)

Part e.) Armature voltage at 80% rated speed and rheostat shorted out.

Multiply the rated speed  $E_a$  curve data by 0.80 to get new curve then plot the line  $E_a = 33.2 \cdot I_f$  line. The intersection is the solution

$$E_a = 115 \text{ V} \leftarrow \text{Ans}$$

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14

## Example 22-1 Solution (6)

**Part f.)** Find the field rheostat for separately excited operation for a 120 V dc source if  $E_a = 140$  V dc

$V_f = 120$  V Separately excited source voltage and  $R_f$  from part a.)  
 $R_f = 33.191$  ohm

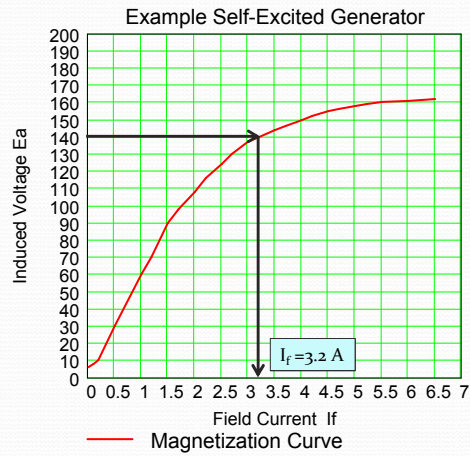
$$R_{rheo} = \frac{V_f}{I_f} - R_f$$

33.191  $\Omega$

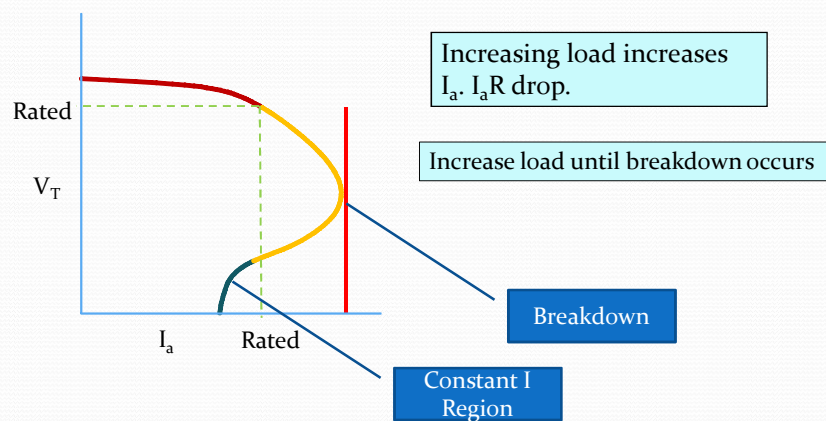
3.2 A

120 V

$R_{rheo} = 4.309$  ohm **Ans**

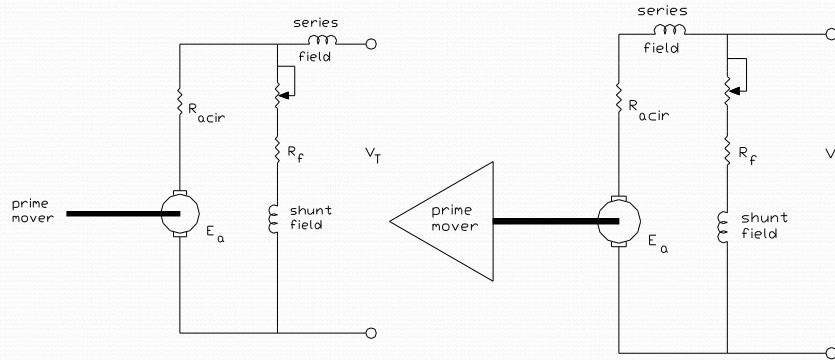


## Terminal Voltage Characteristic





## Compound Generator Connections



**Short shunt connection**  
Avoids series field drop

**Long shunt connection**  
Preferred in calculations

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17

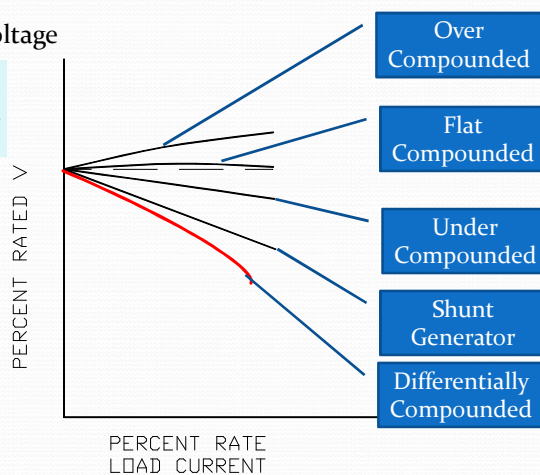
## Compound Generator Characteristics

Loading effects on induced voltage

$$E_a = \left[ \frac{\mathcal{F}_f + \mathcal{F}_s - \mathcal{F}_d}{\mathcal{R}} \right] \cdot k_G$$

$\mathcal{F}_f$  = shunt field mmf  
 $\mathcal{F}_s$  = series field mmf  
 $\mathcal{F}_d$  = demagnetizing mmf

Series field flux related to load. Increasing load increases field flux which increase  $E_a$ .



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18

# End Lesson 22

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