

## 6. HVAC Part 2

### 6.2 Electrical system for HVAC



*Ir Dr. Sam C. M. Hui*  
Department of Mechanical Engineering  
The University of Hong Kong  
E-mail: [cmhui@hku.hk](mailto:cmhui@hku.hk)

# Contents 內容



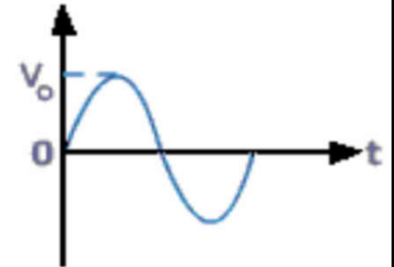
- Basic electrical fundamentals 基本電氣原理
- Loads and controls 負載和控制
- Motors in HVAC systems 暖通空調系統中的電機
- Variable speed drives 變速驅動器

# Basic electrical fundamentals



- Electricity in two common forms:

- AC (alternating current)
- DC (direct current)

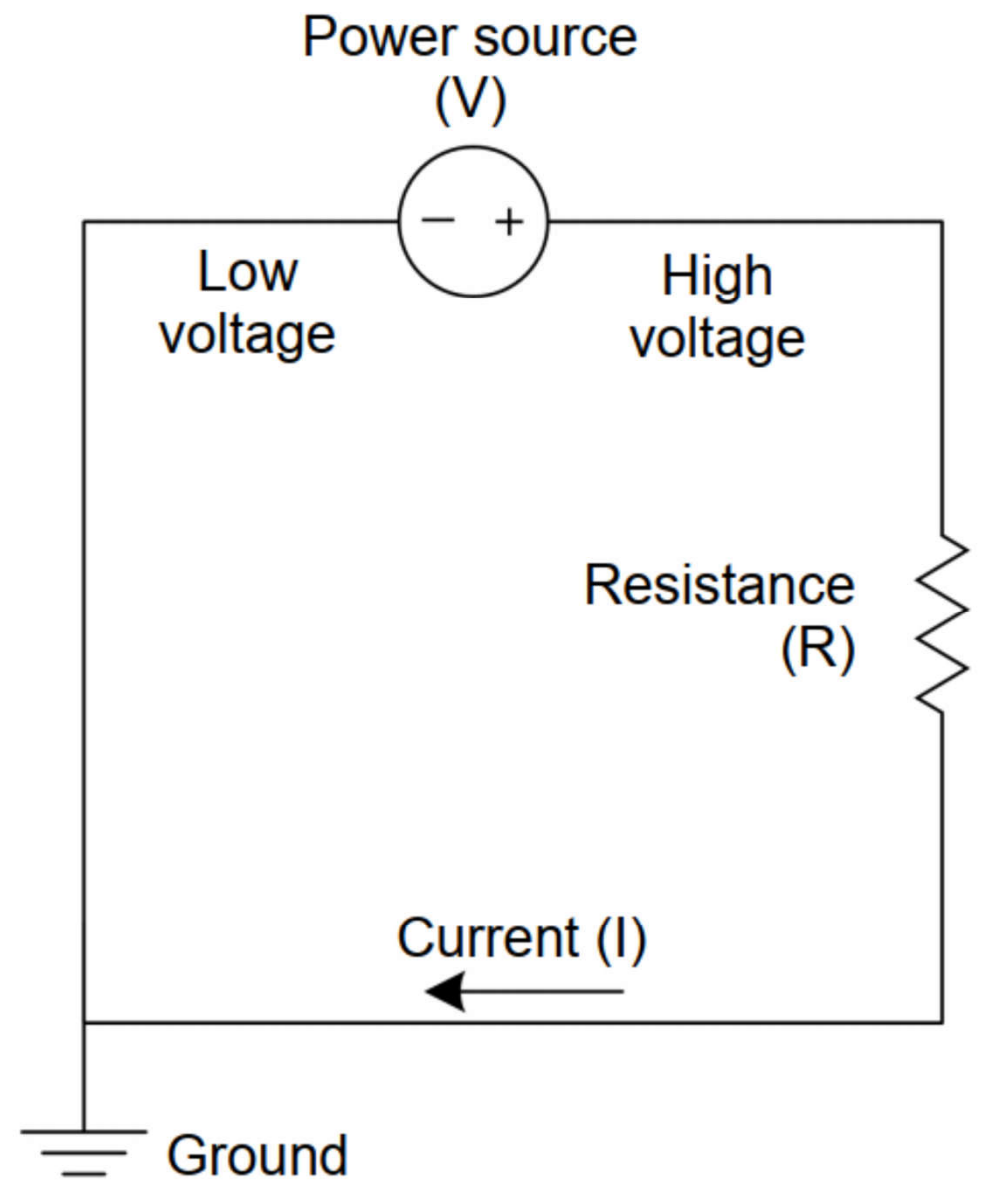
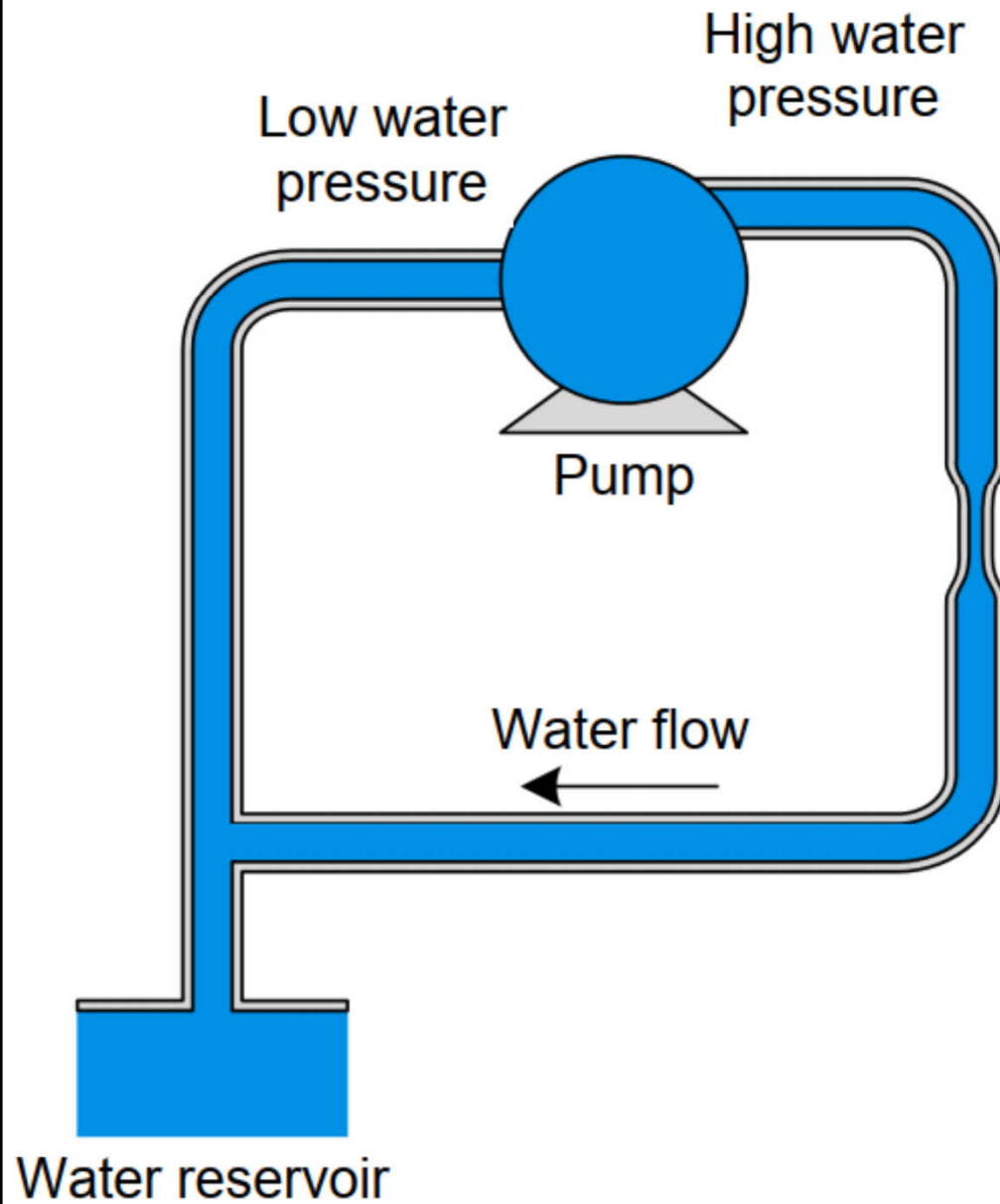


- Basic components of electrical energy:

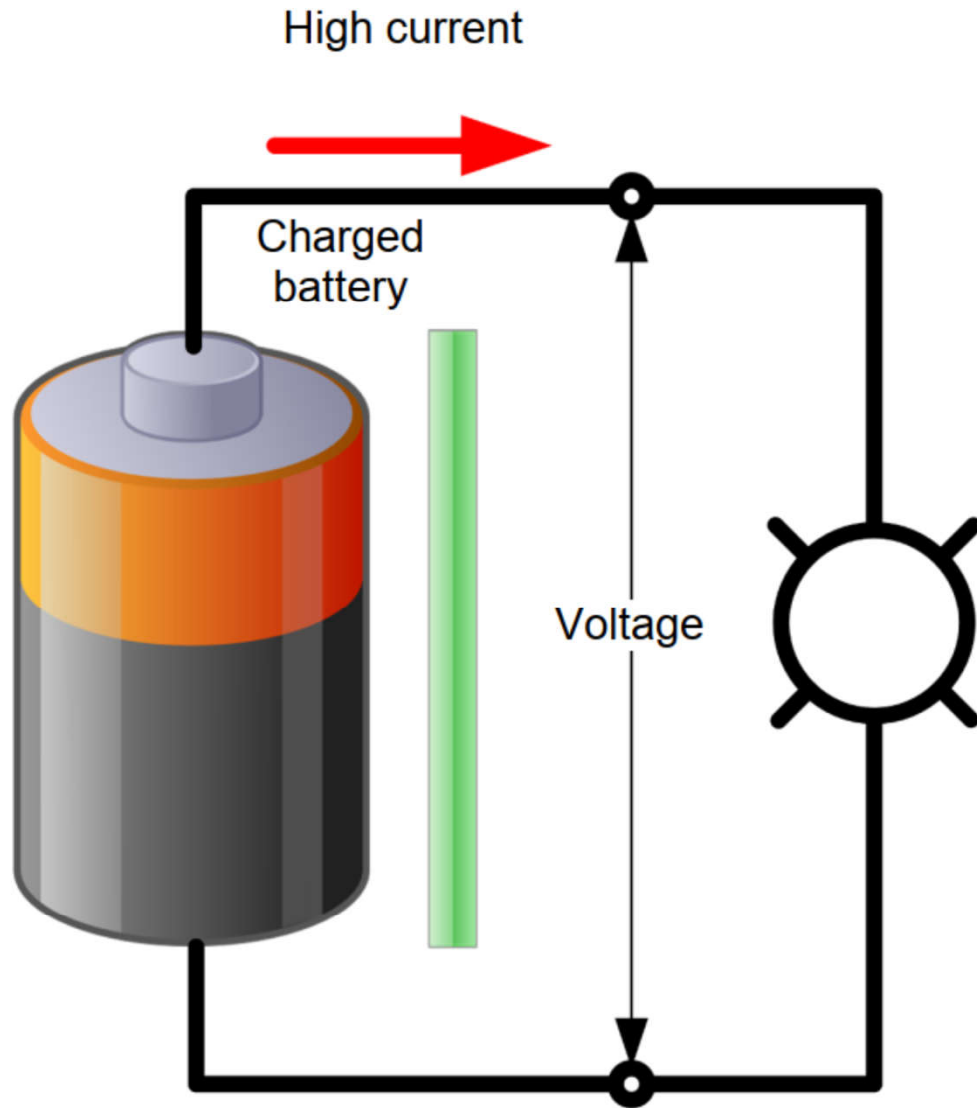
- Voltage (V): electrical potential difference
- Current (I): flow of electrons (in amperes)
- Resistance (R): opposition to electron flow (in ohms)

- Ohm's Law:  $V = I \times R$

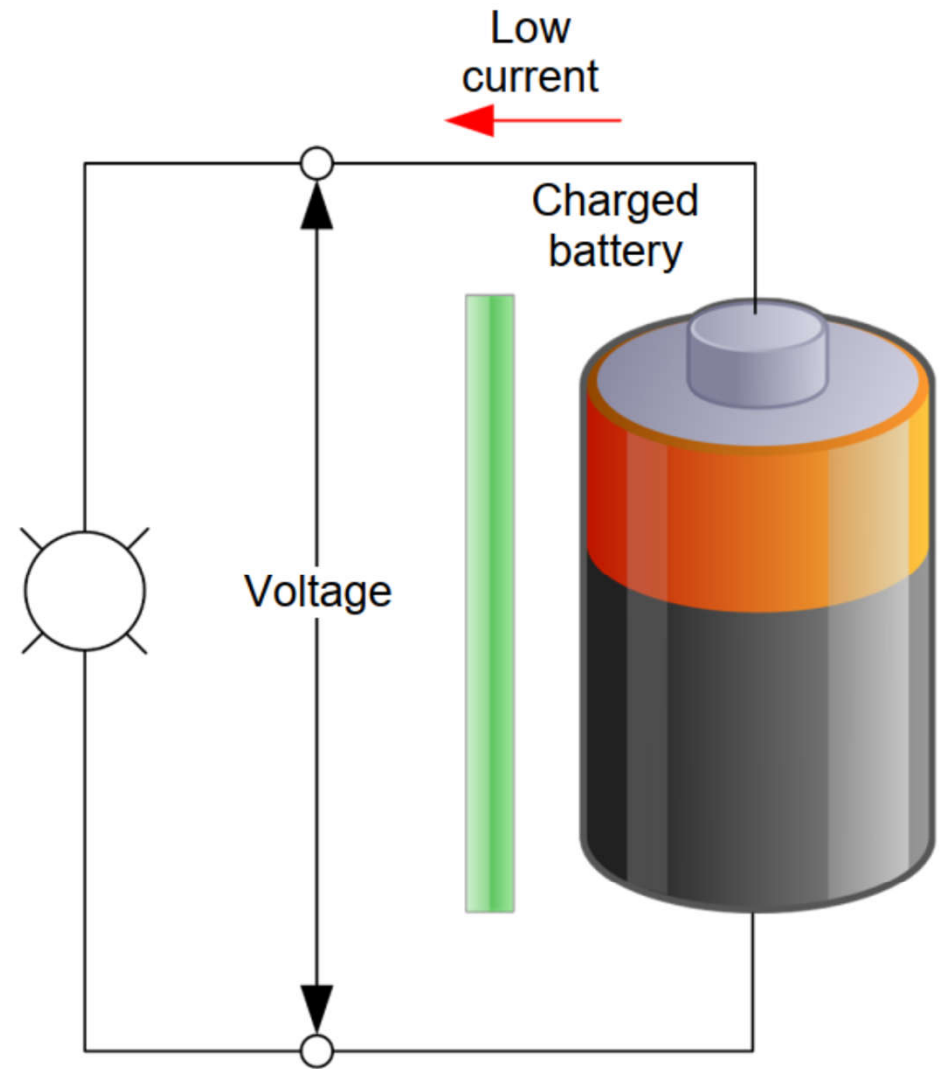
# Water and electrical circuit analogy



# Relationships between current and resistance in circuits connected using wires

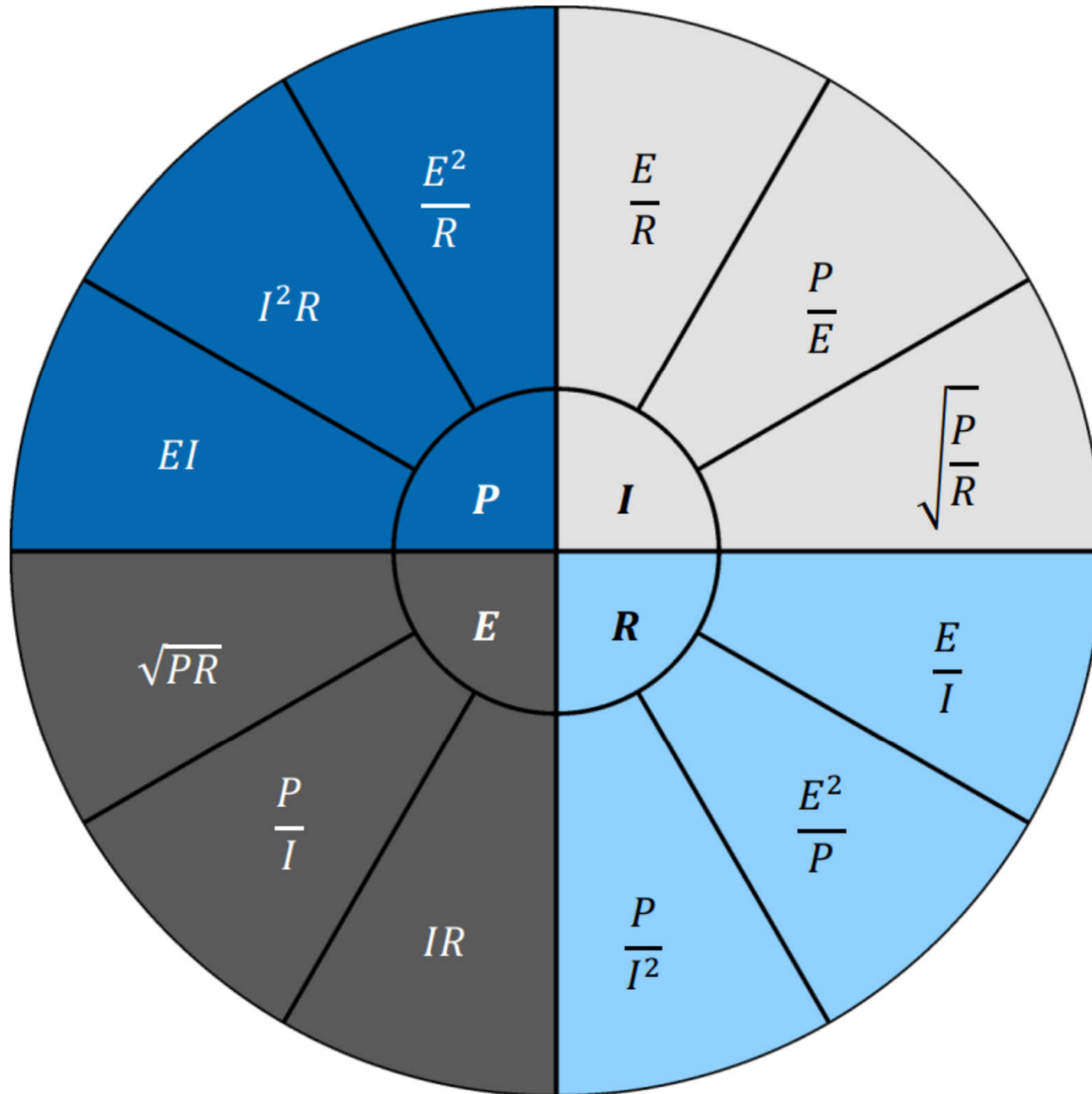


(a) Battery connected to a low-resistance circuit

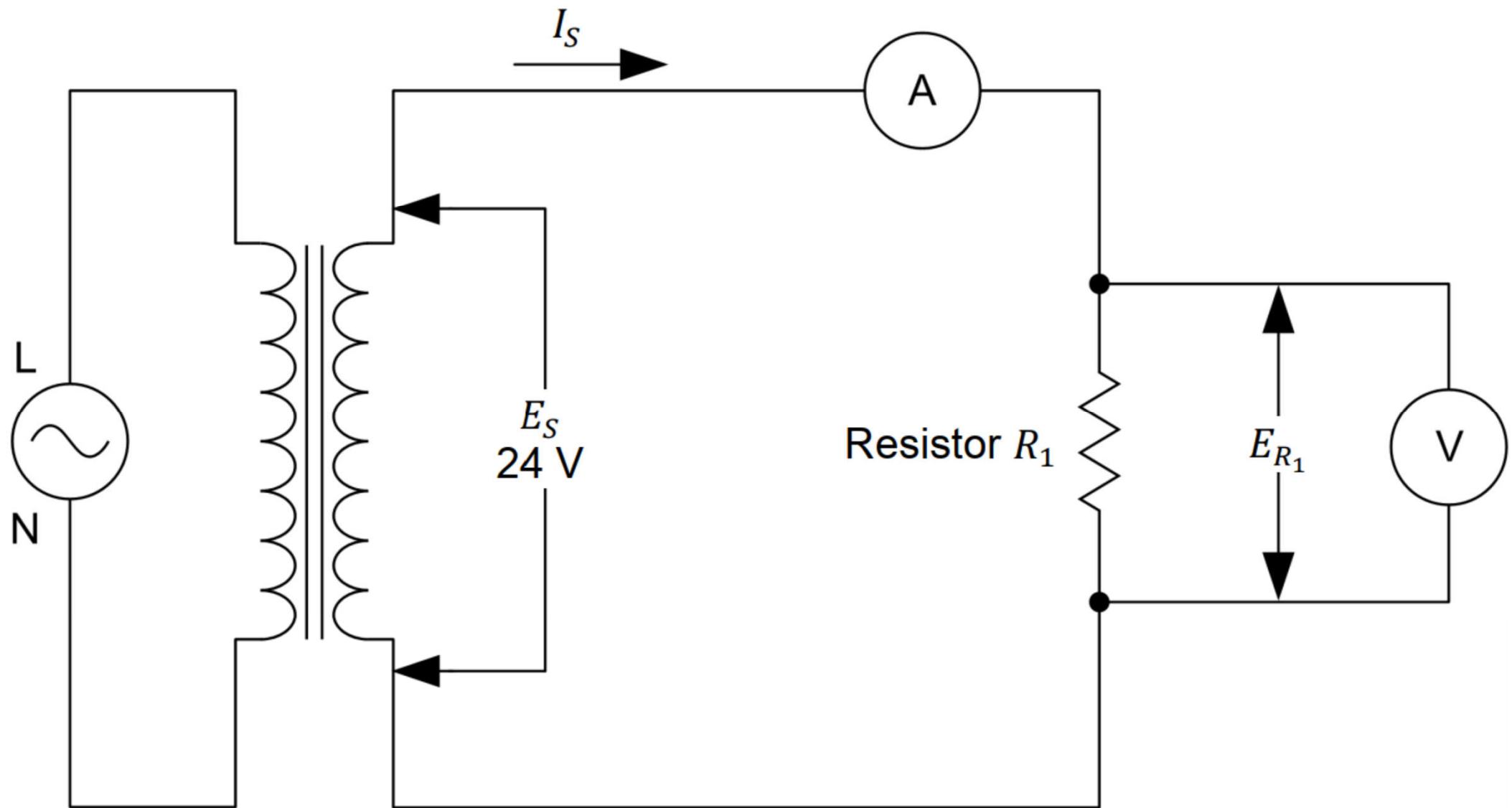


(b) Battery connected to a high-resistance circuit

Chart for calculating voltage, current, resistance, and power from any two other



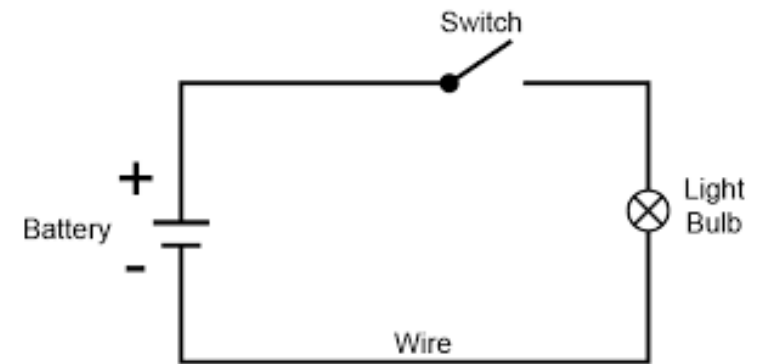
# Example of an electrical circuit diagram



# Basic electrical fundamentals



- Elementary types of circuits:
  - Series: carry the same current
  - Parallel: have the same voltage
  - Open: an incomplete circuit
  - Short: an alternative path to return
  - Power: carry power to electrical loads
  - Control: use control devices (usually lower voltage)
- Power consumption, power factor

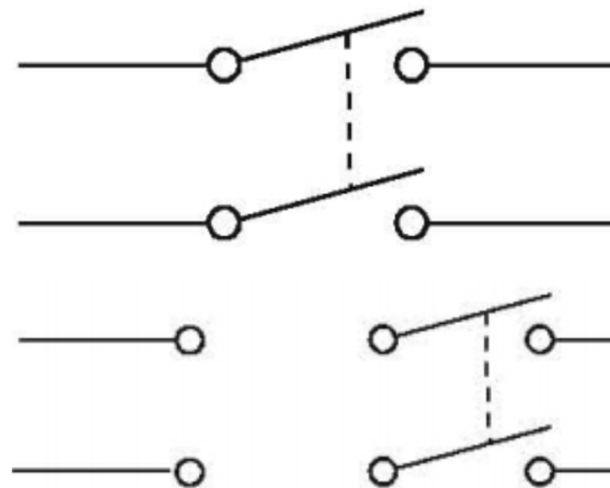
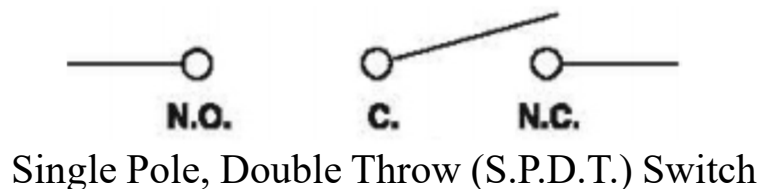




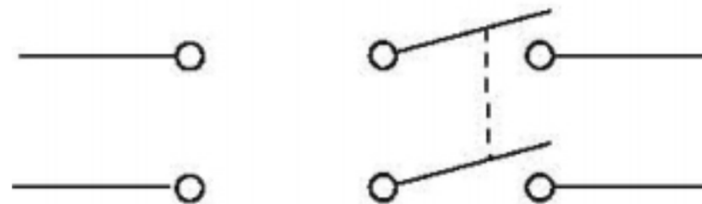
# Basic electrical fundamentals



- Switches
  - Control devices connected with the loads
  - Normally open (N.O.) / normally closed (N.C.)
  - Poles: number of contacts
  - Throw: how many operating positions



Double Pole, Single Throw (D.P.S.T.) Switch

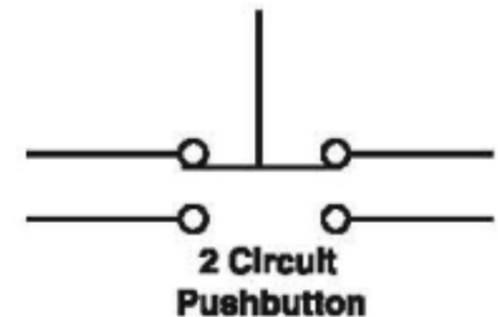
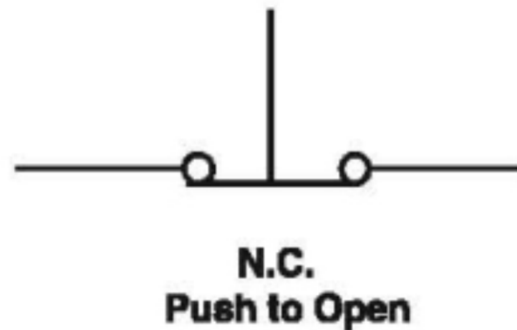
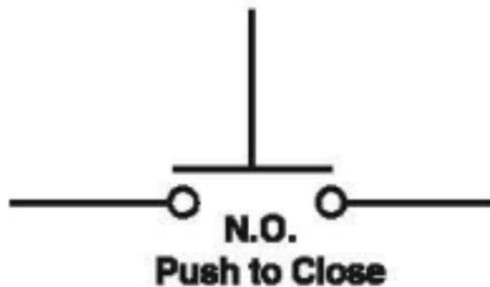


Double Pole, Double Throw (D.P.D.T.) Switch

# Basic electrical fundamentals



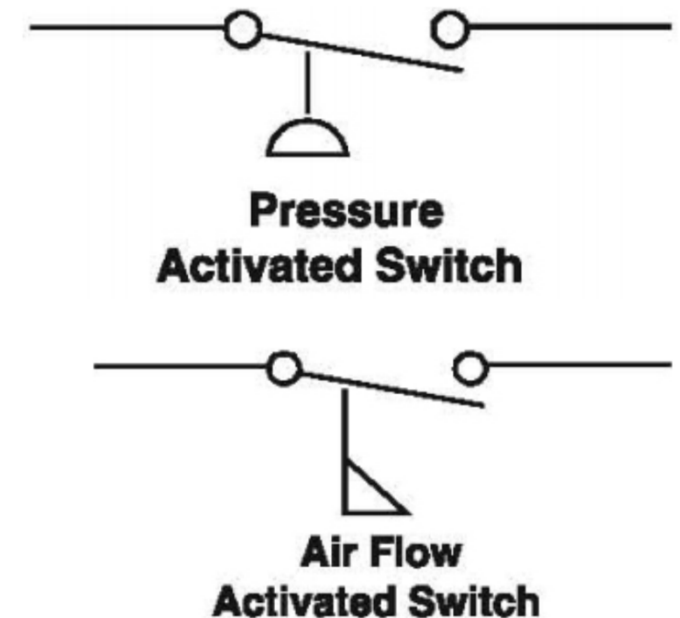
- Automatic switches & controls
  - Operating controls: used to activate a circuit
  - Safety controls: used to de-activate a circuit when something goes wrong ('trip')
- Push button



# Basic electrical fundamentals



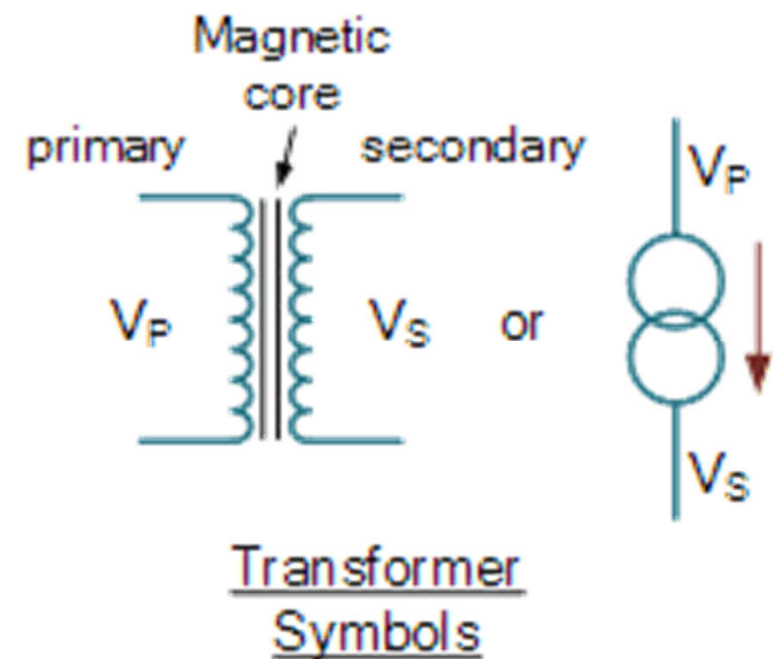
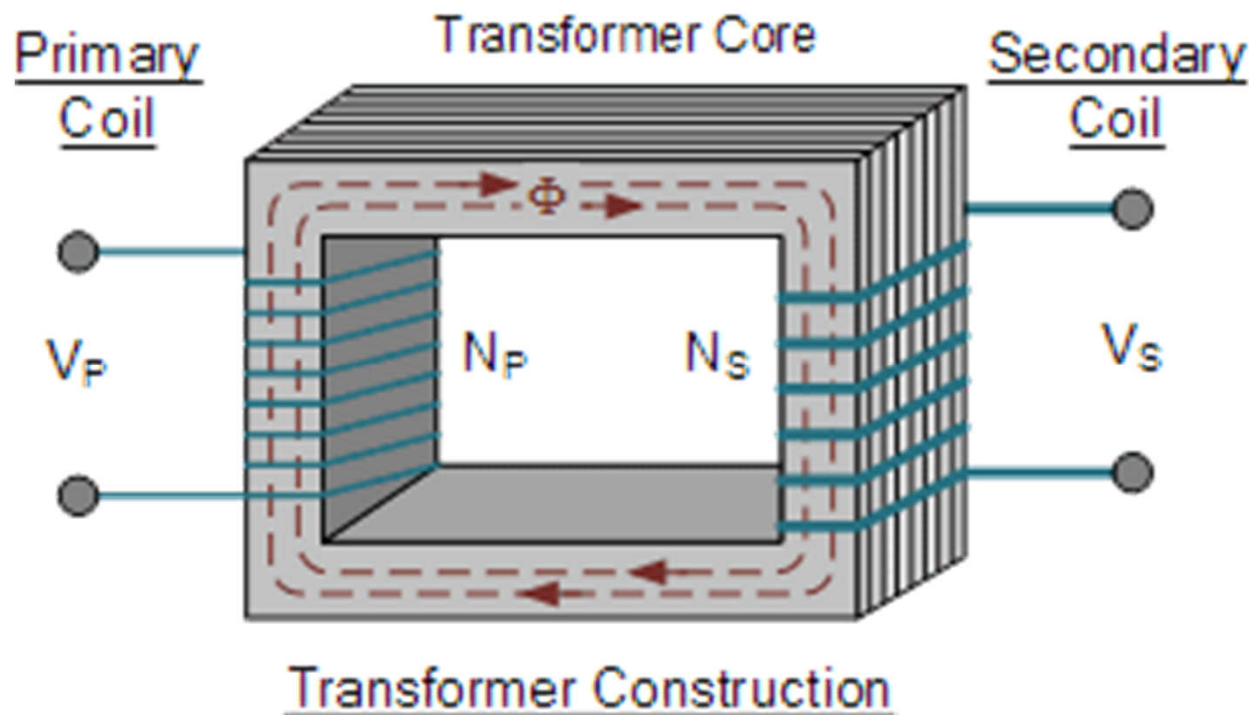
- Thermostats
  - Temperature-controlled switches
- Pressure switches
  - Air pressure switches
  - Refrigerant pressure switches
- Flow switches
  - Detect the flow of air & water
- Fuses and overloads: safety devices (e.g. for motors)



# Basic electrical fundamentals



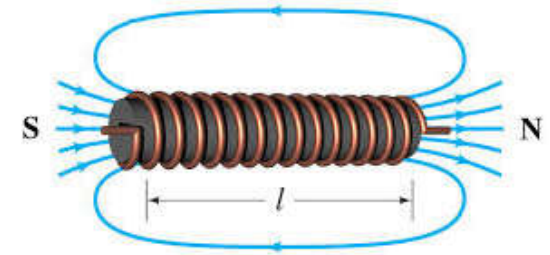
- Transformers
  - The source of control circuit voltage comes from the step-down transformer



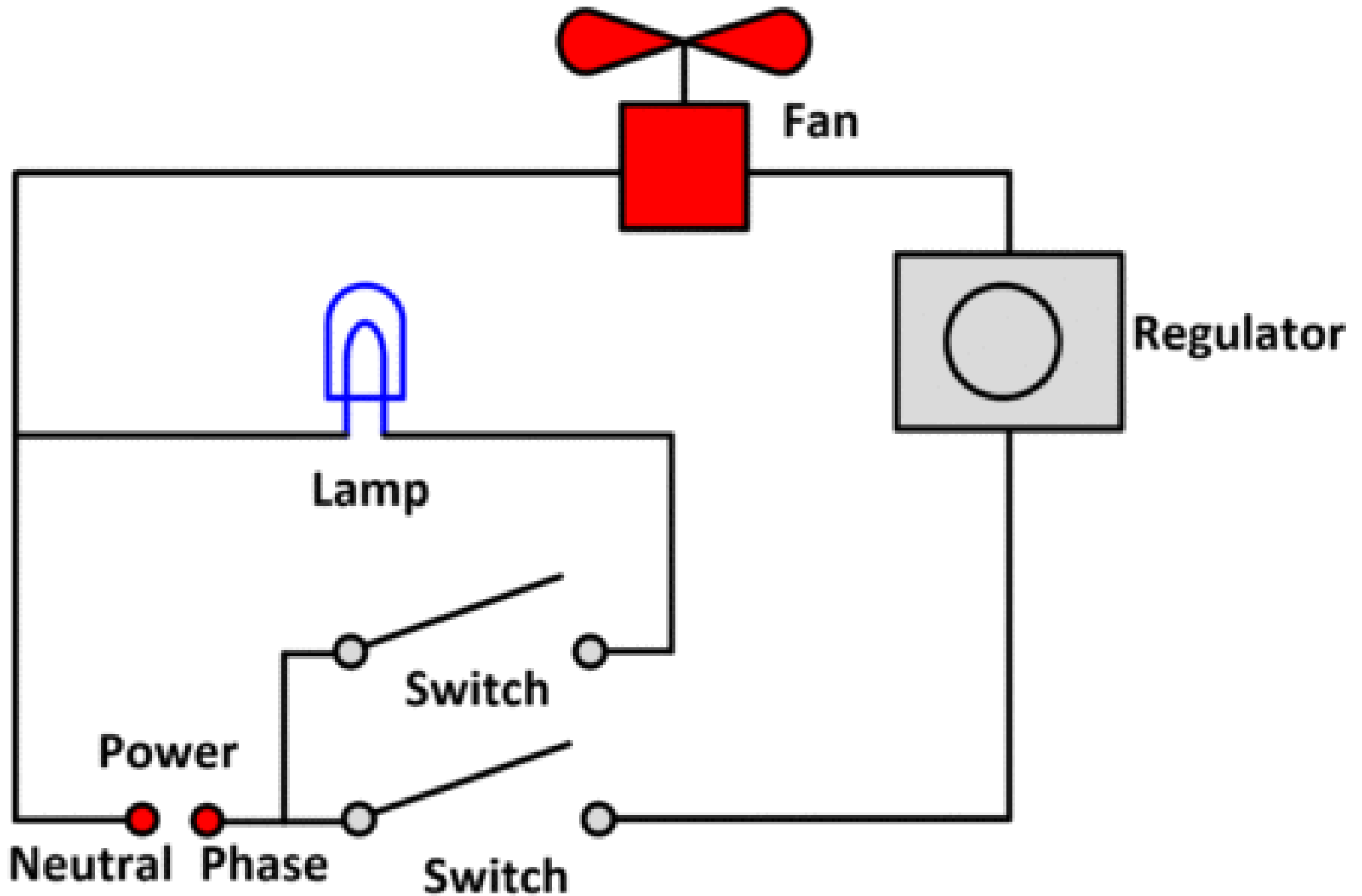
# Loads and controls



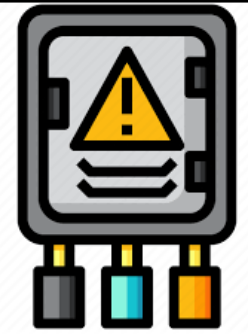
- Solenoids
  - A coil of wire that creates strong magnetic fields when voltage is applied
- Heaters
  - Such as resistive heaters in air handler, crankcase heaters for air conditioning compressors
- Signal lights (low voltage)
  - Neon bulbs with different colours
    - Green, blue, amber, red



# Fan control wiring diagram



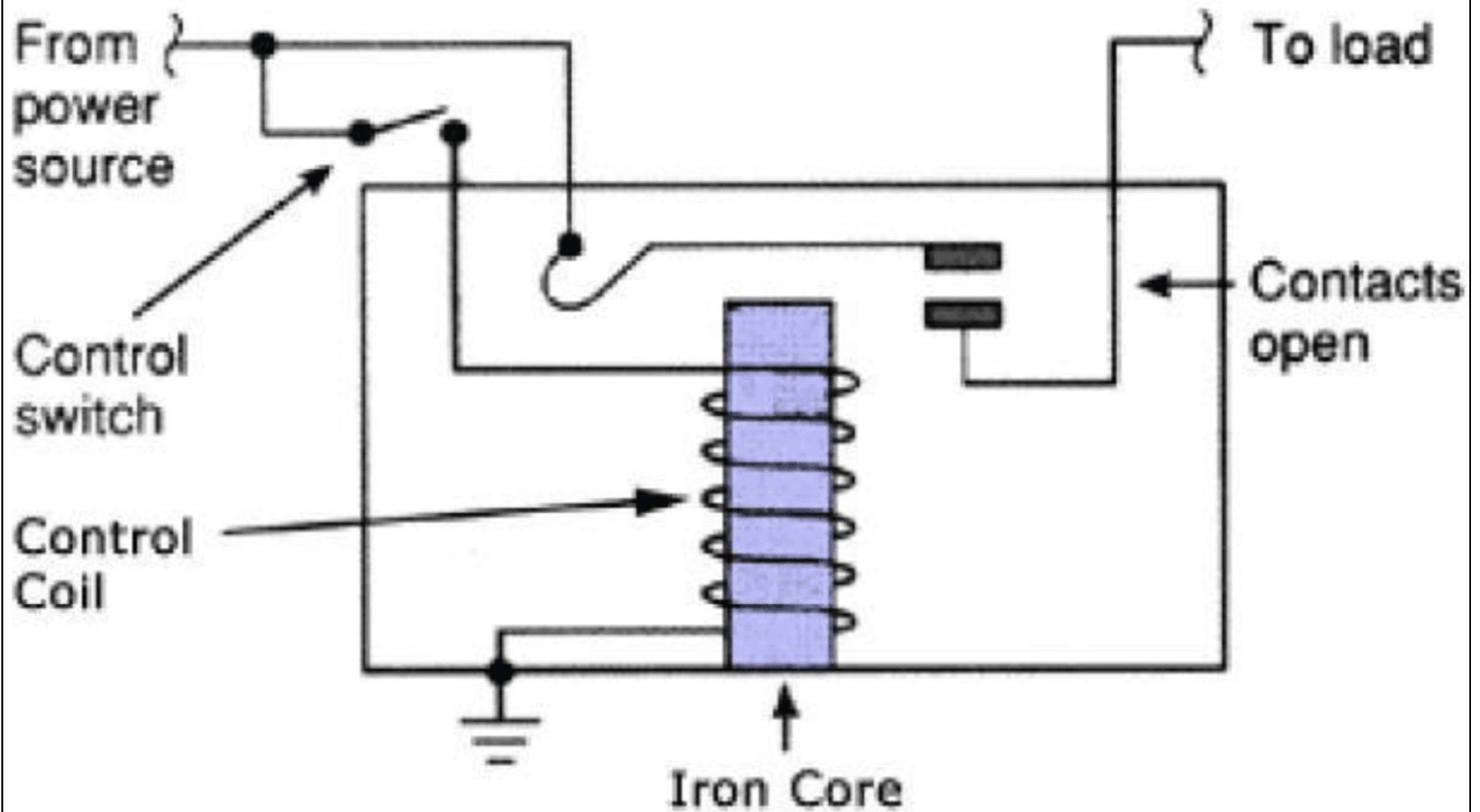
# Loads and controls



- Magnetic controllers (used to control the load)
  - Control relays
    - To operate control circuits & light duty loads
  - Fan duty relays
    - Service duty relays used to control fan motors
  - Contactors
    - Close heavy contacts to control high current in a compressor & condenser fan circuit

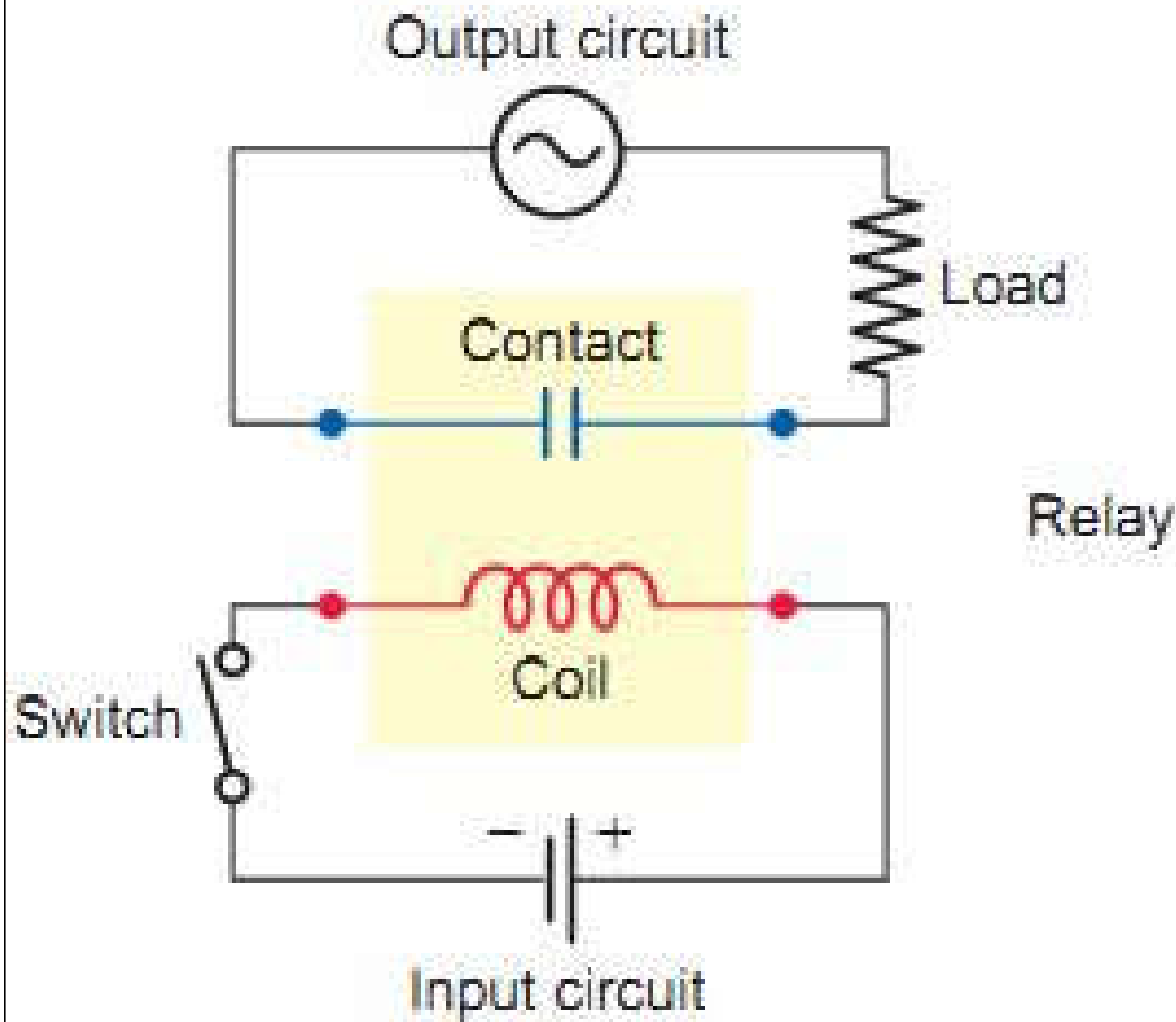


# Control relay circuit diagram

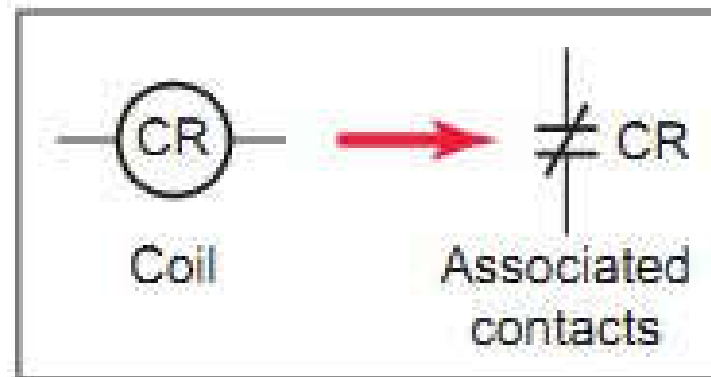
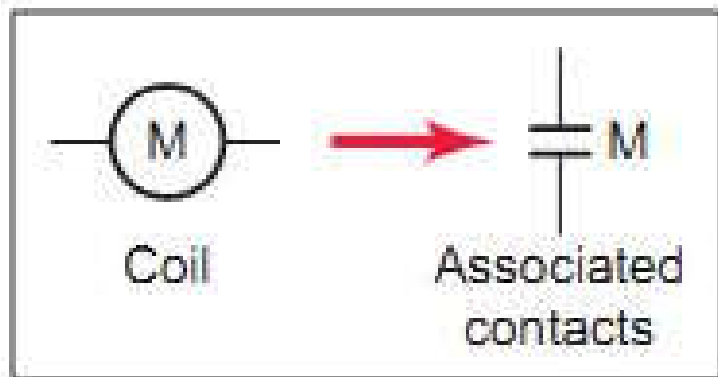
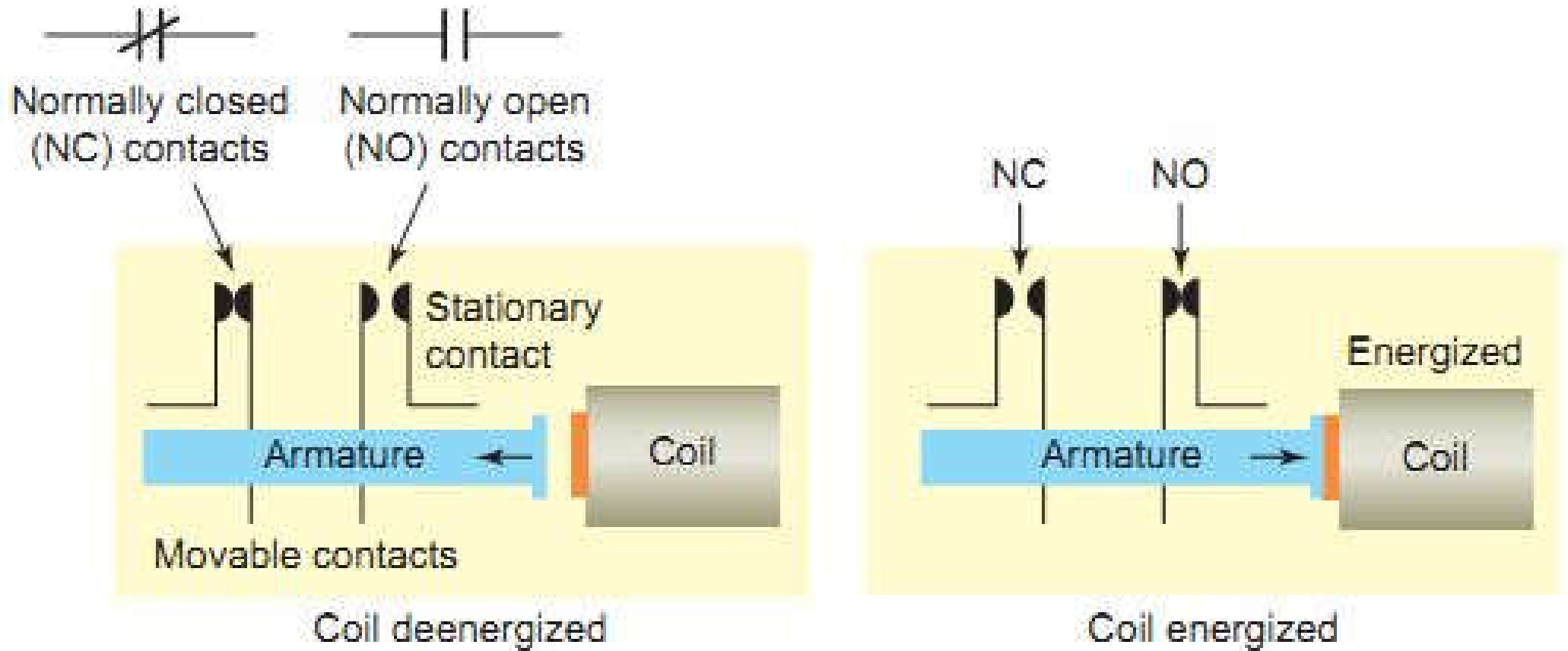




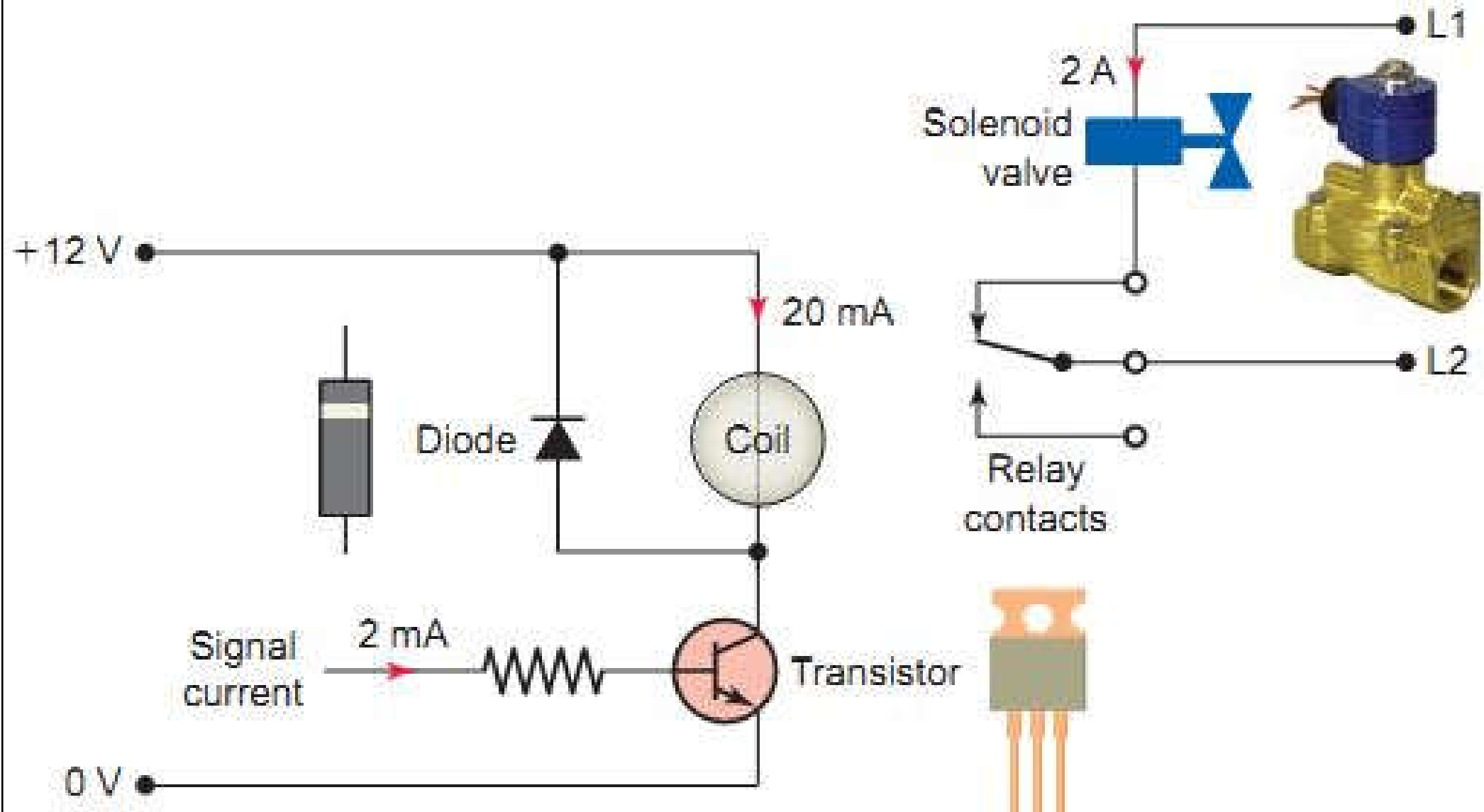
# Electromechanical control relay: Input circuit; Output circuit; Contact

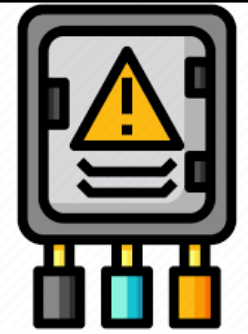


# Relay coil and contacts



# Using a relay to control a high-current load circuit with a low-current control circuit

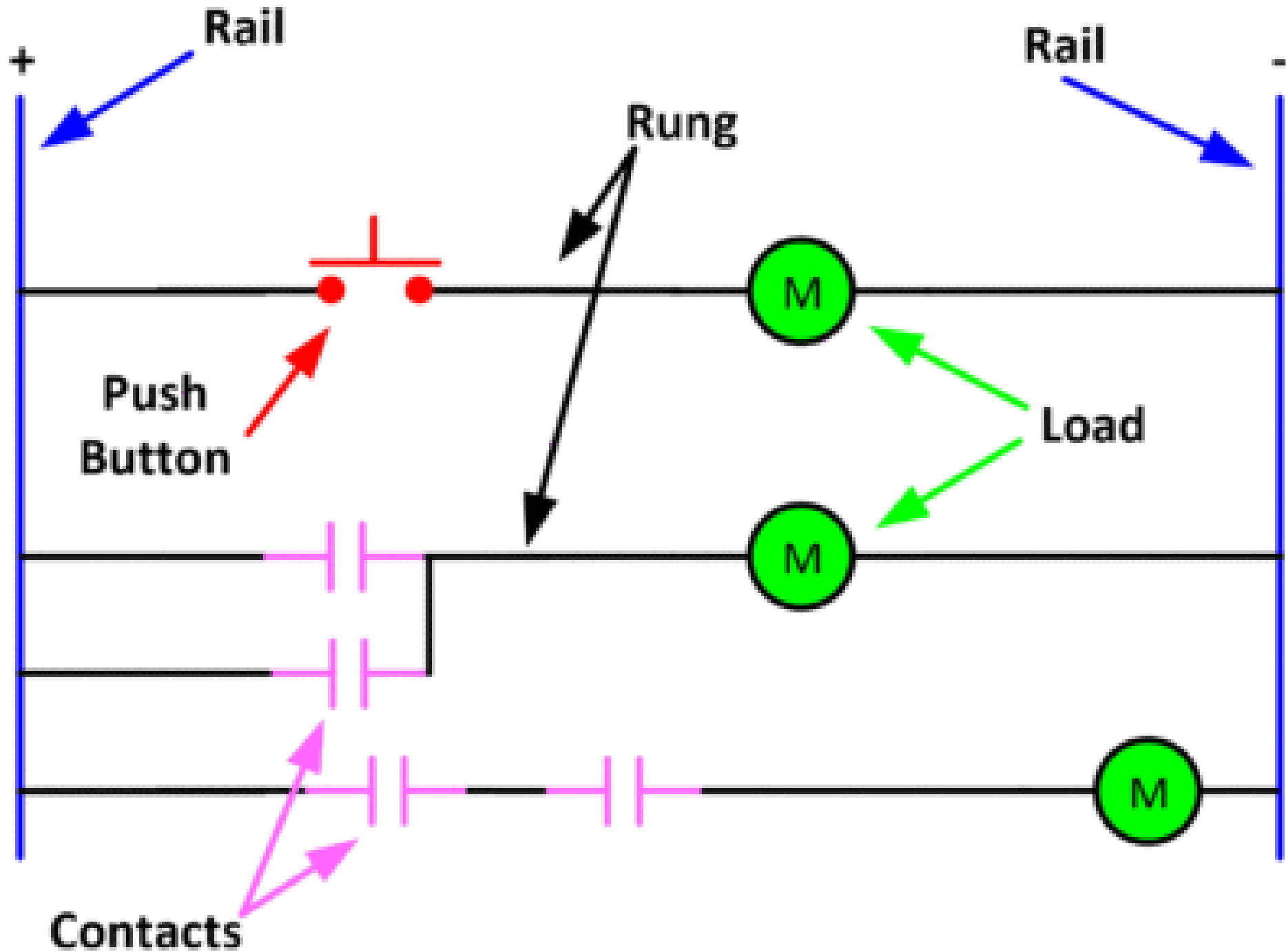




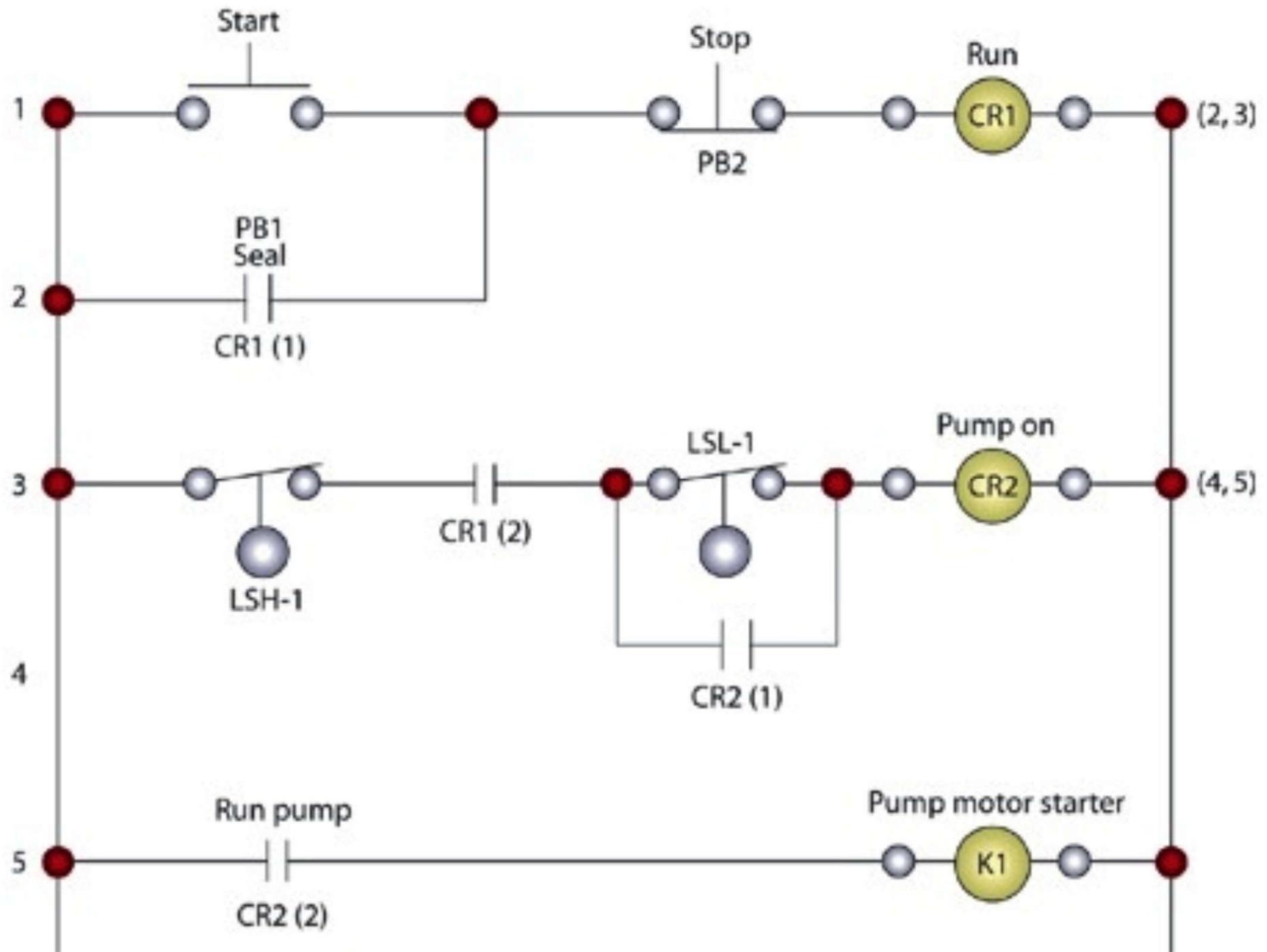
# Loads and controls

- Electrical wiring diagrams for HVAC systems
  - Ladder diagram
  - Line diagram
  - Installation diagram
  - Wiring diagram
- Two basic configurations in the schematic diagrams
  - Side-by-side arrangement
  - Up-and-down arrangement

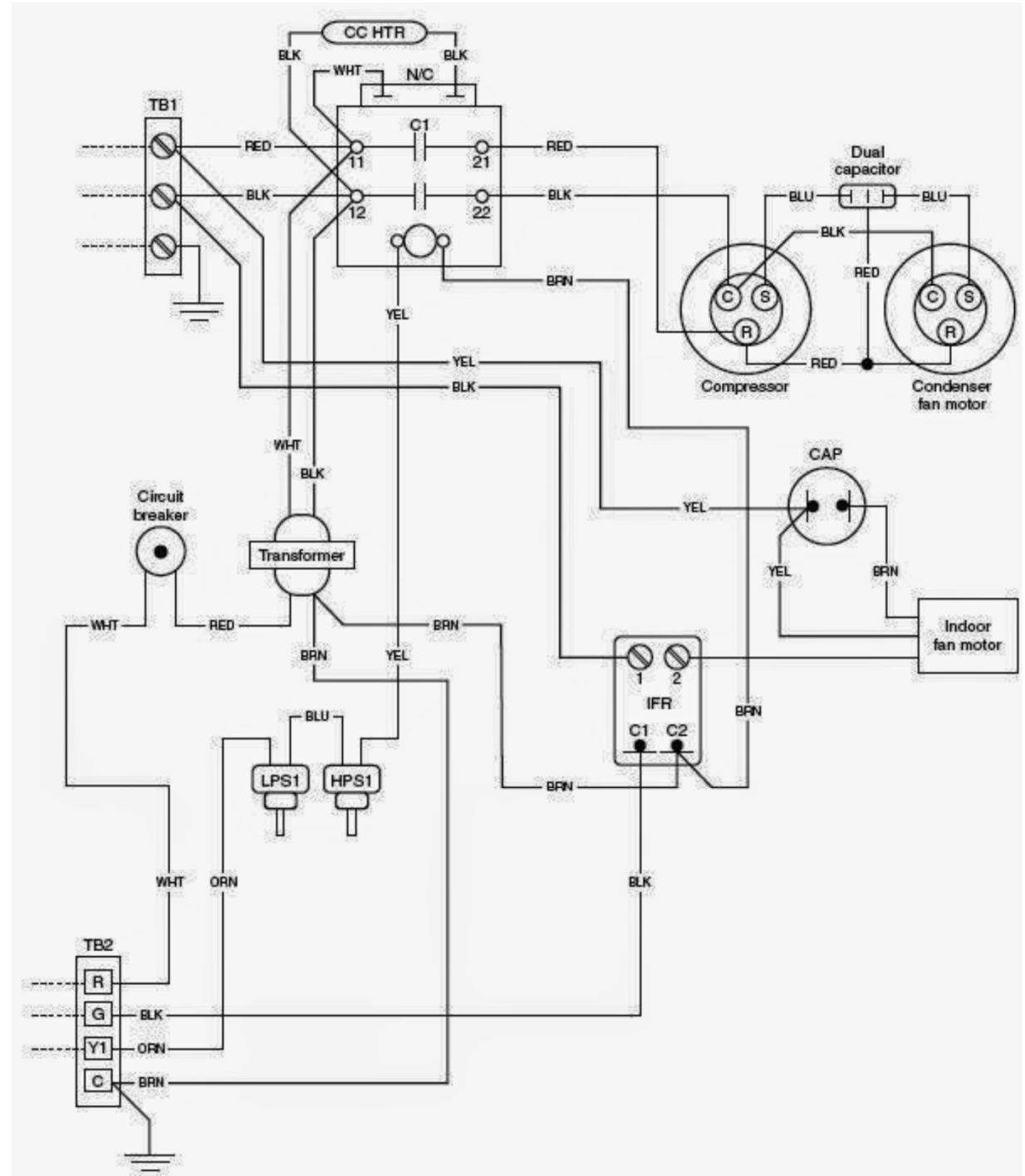
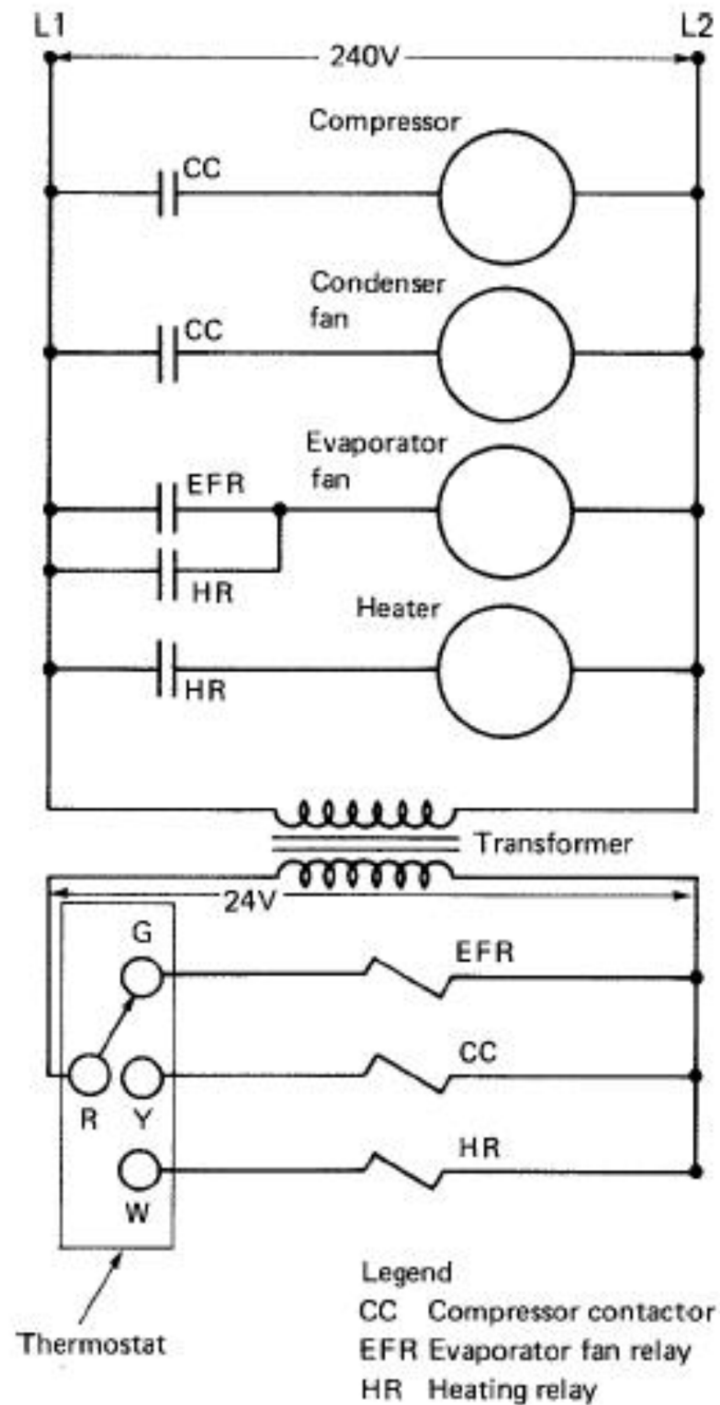
# Ladder diagram



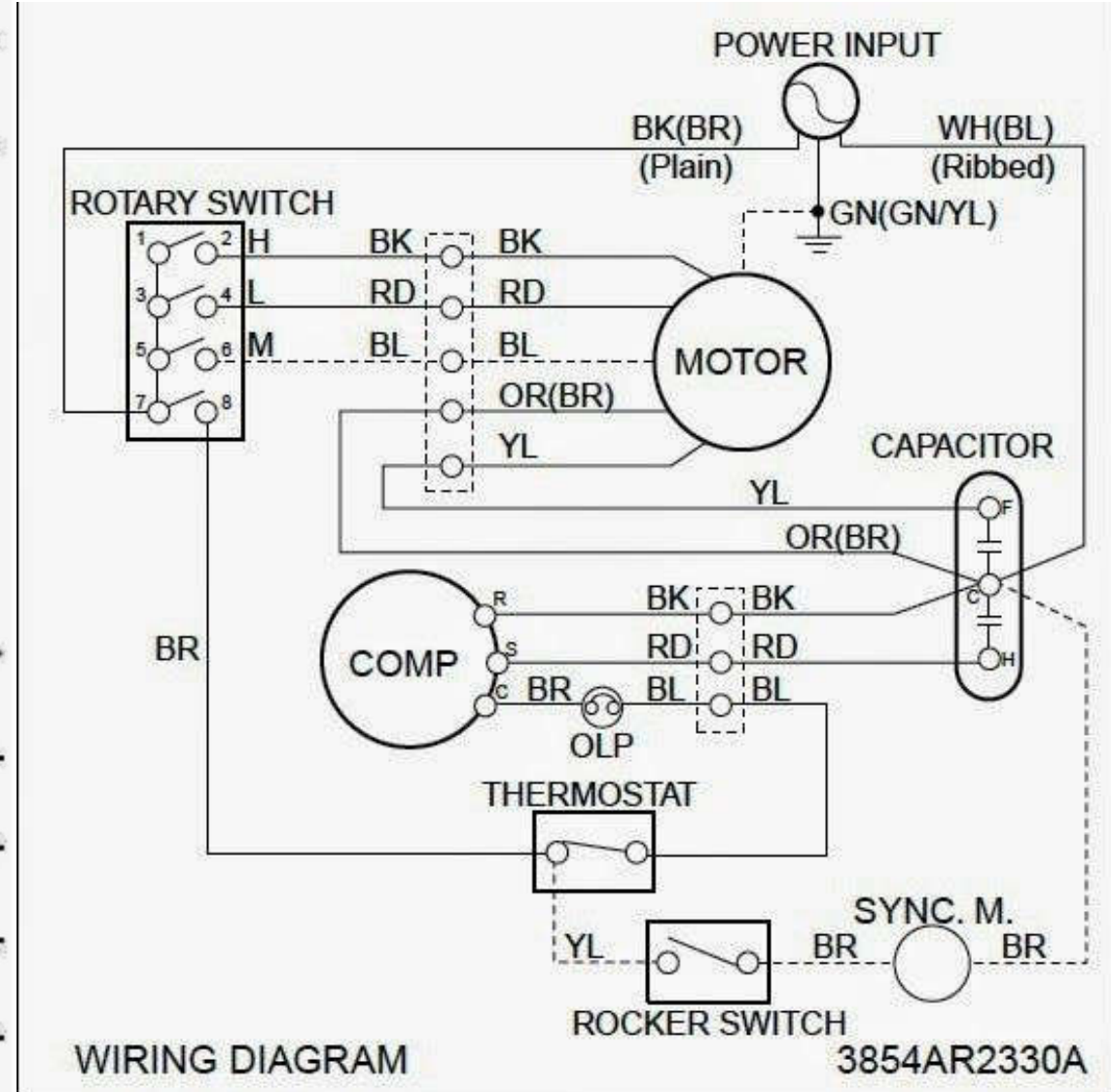
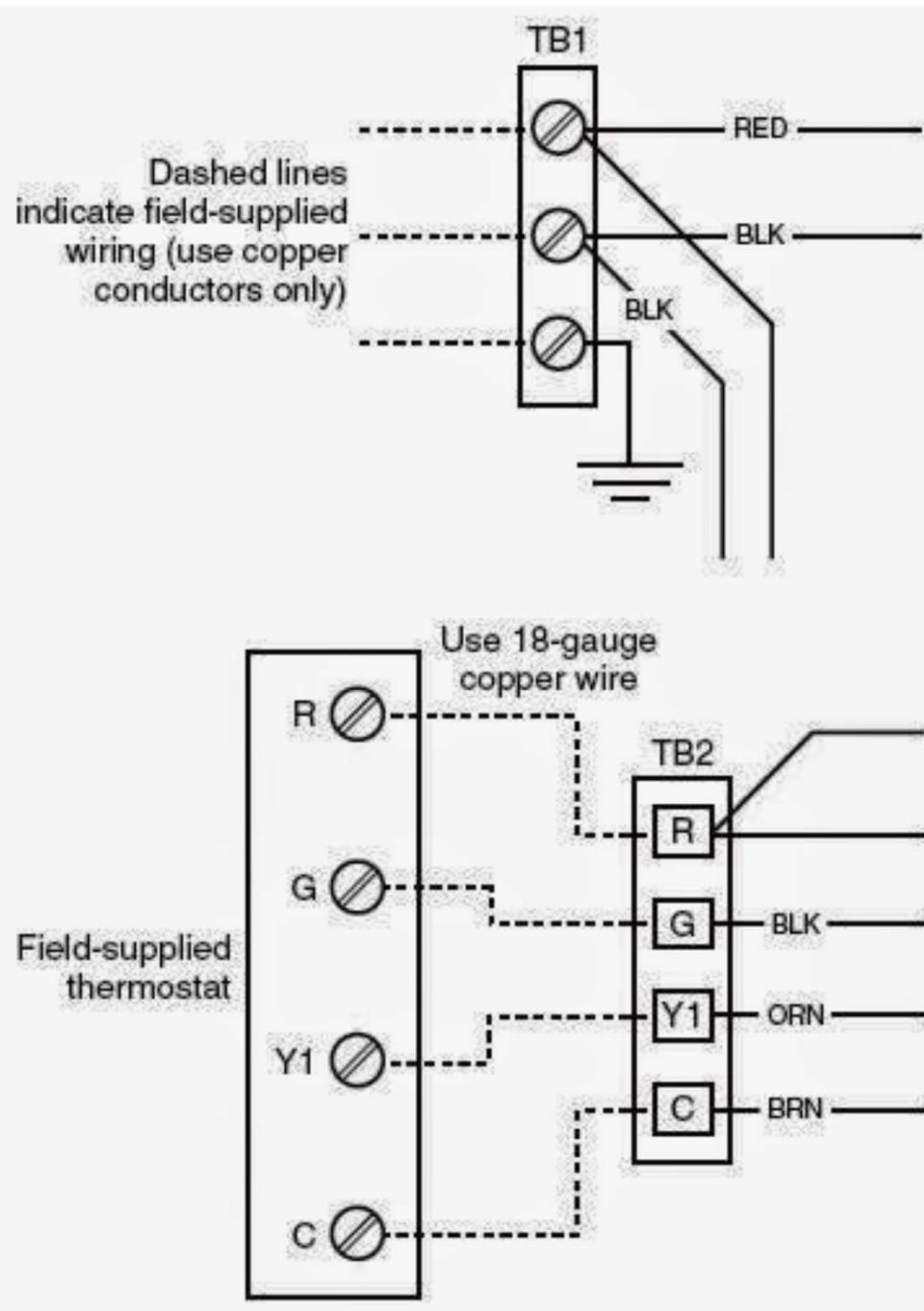
# Ladder diagram for pump control



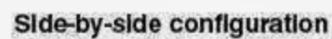
# Ladder and line diagrams for HVAC systems



# Installation and wiring diagrams







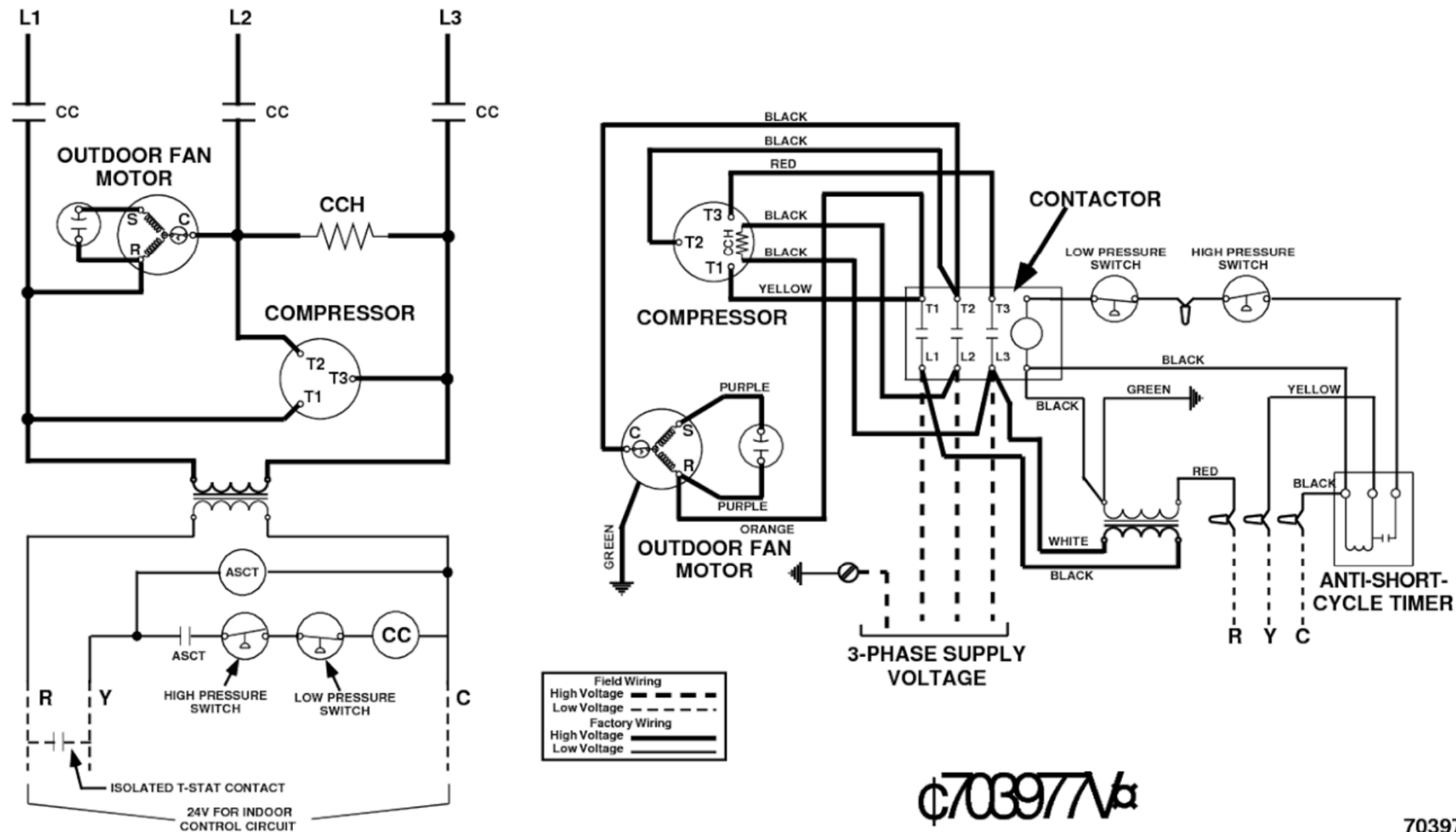
# WIRING DIAGRAM

## Split System Air Conditioner (Outdoor Section)

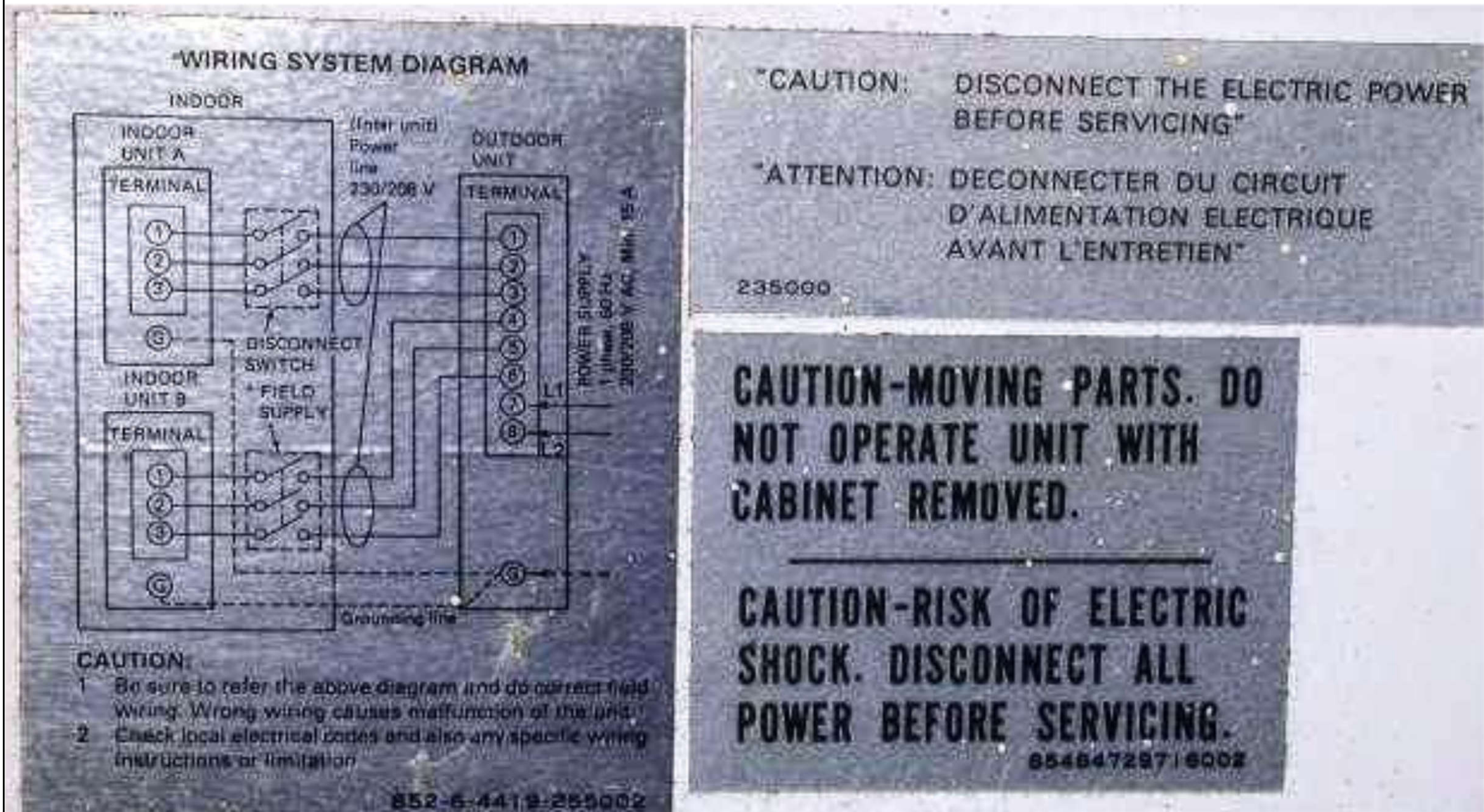
## Three Phase

- Notes:**
- 1) Disconnect all power before servicing.
  - 2) For supply connections use copper conductors only.
  - 3) Furnace/Air Handler w/factory equipped 24 V control circuit transformers, should be modified/rewired to ONLY use 24V transformer from outdoor section. See installation instructions for typical modifications.
  - 4) For replacement wires use conductors suitable for 105°C.
  - 5) For ampacities and overcurrent protection, see unit rating plate.

- 1) Couper le courant avant de faire letretien.
- 2) Employez uniquement des conducteurs en cuivre.



# Wiring system diagram of split system air conditioner



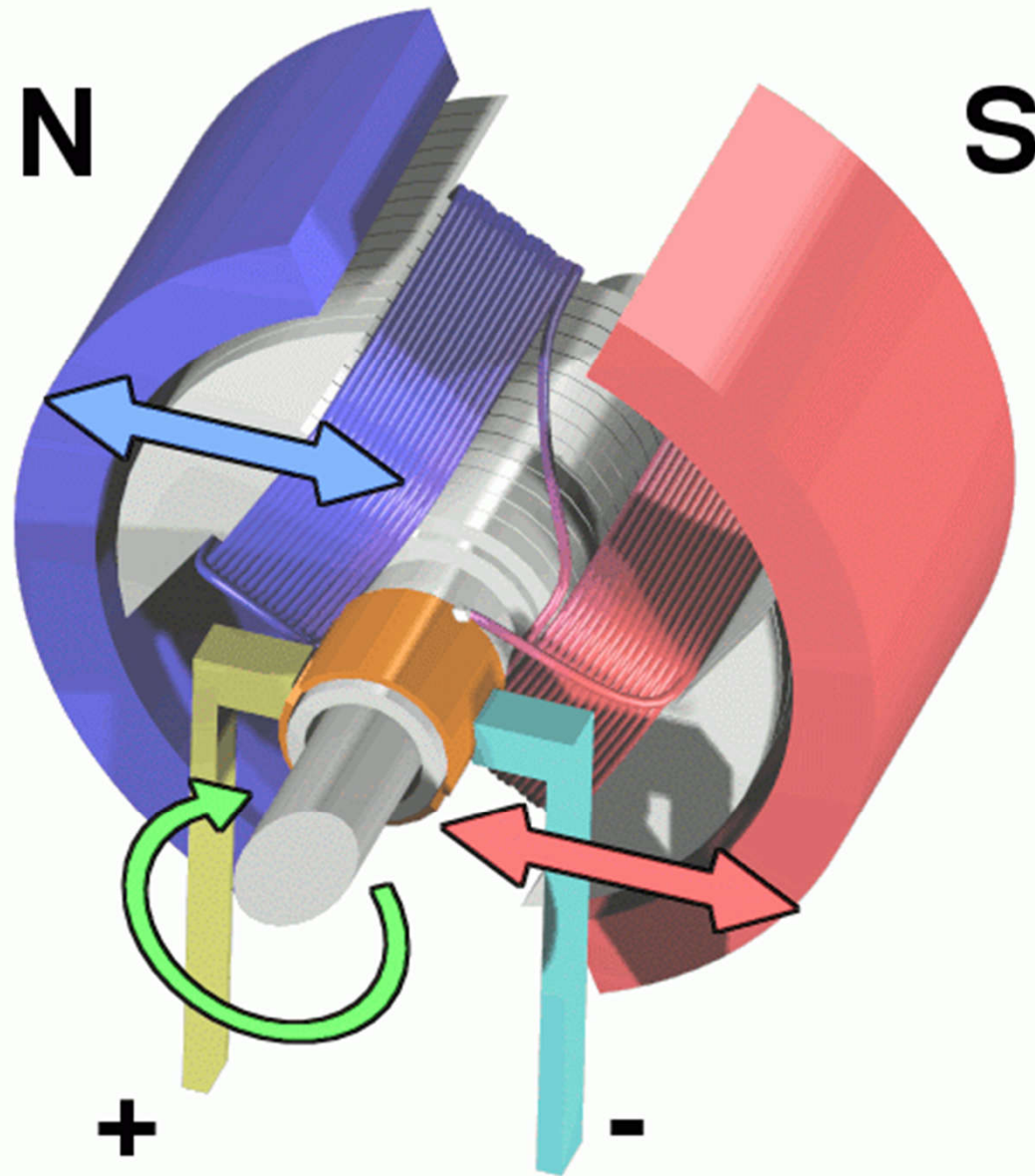


# Motors in HVAC systems

- Electric motors are used in HVAC systems to drive fans, pumps, refrigeration equipment and other processes that require motive force
  - Main types: AC motors and DC motors
- Type of motor commutation: 電機換向
  - Self-commutated
    - Mechanical-commutator motors
    - Electronic-commutator (EC) motors
  - Externally commutated (asynchronous, synchronous machines)



# Operation of a brushed DC electric motor



# Repair fan motor in HVAC systems



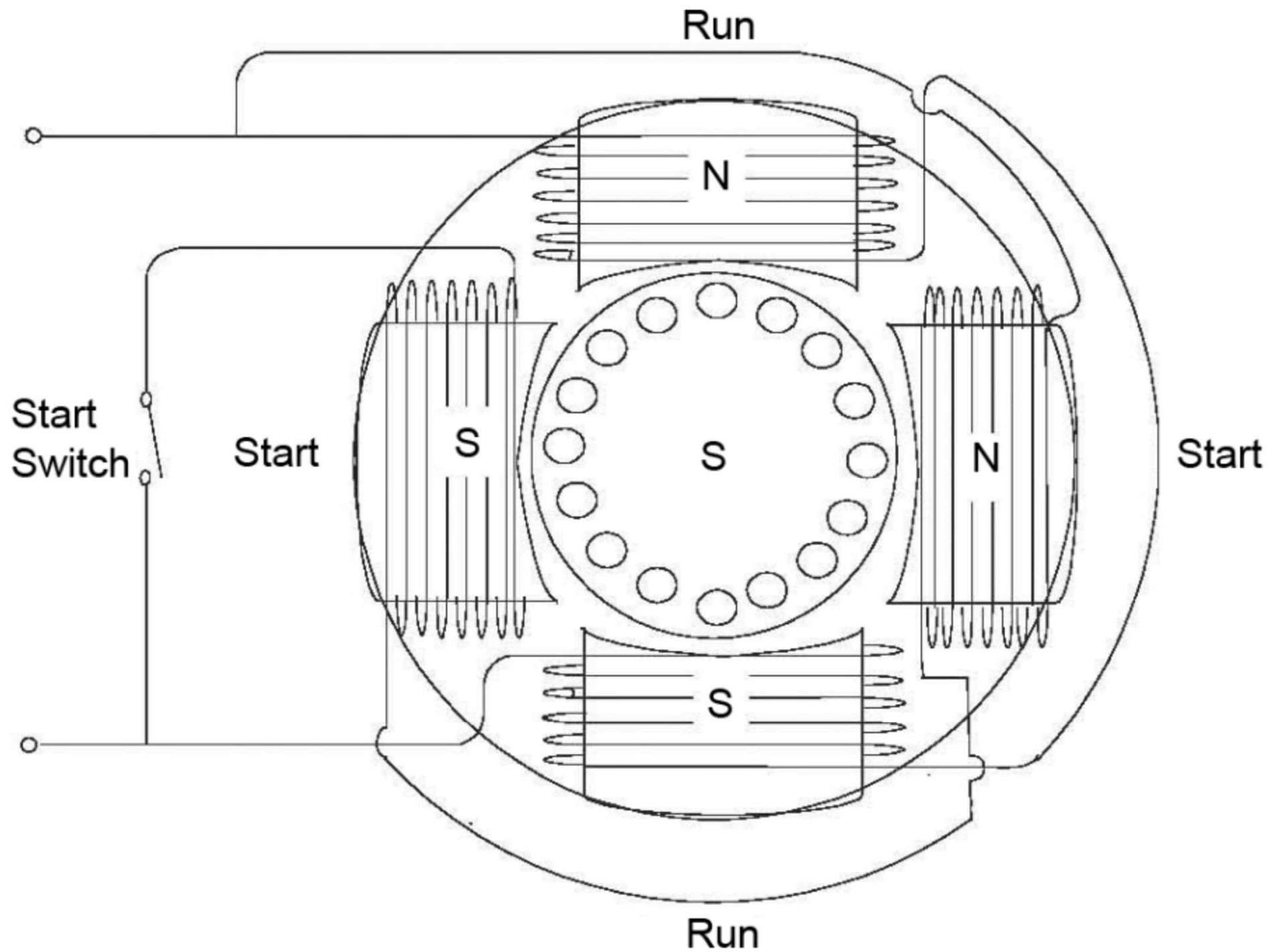
[Source: <https://www.thetrainingcenterofairconditioningandheating.com/hvac-repairs/5-different-types-of-air-conditioning-motors-how-to-replace-them/>]



# Motors in HVAC systems

- Single phase induction motors 單相感應電機
  - Split phase (two windings: a start & run winding)
  - Permanent split capacitor (PSC)
  - Capacitor start, capacitor run (CSCR)
  - Capacitor start, induction run (CSIR)
- Three phase induction motors 三相感應電機
- Electronically commutated motor (ECM)
  - Brushless DC motors
- Constant torque motor (CTM)

# Design of a split phase motor



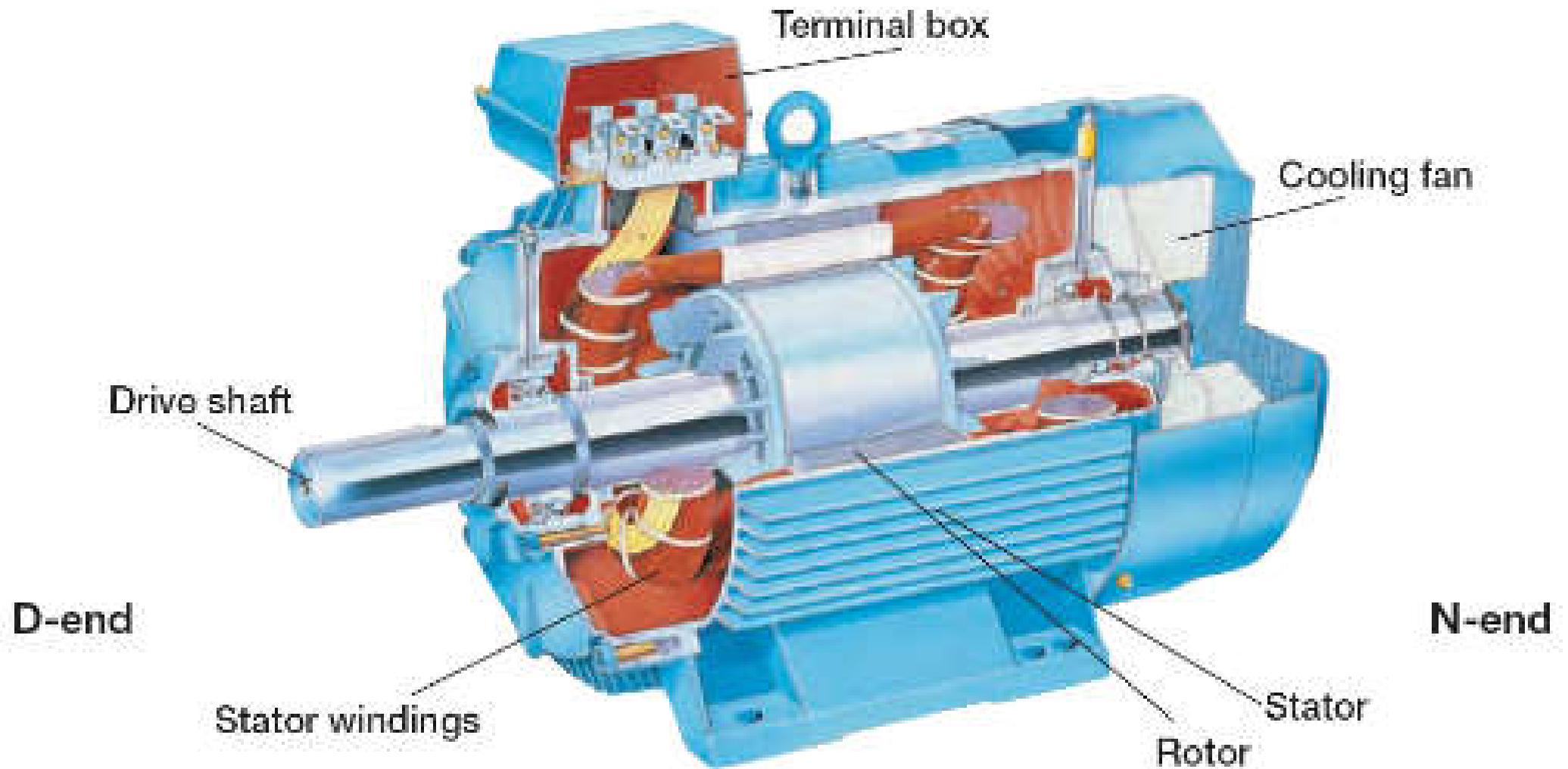




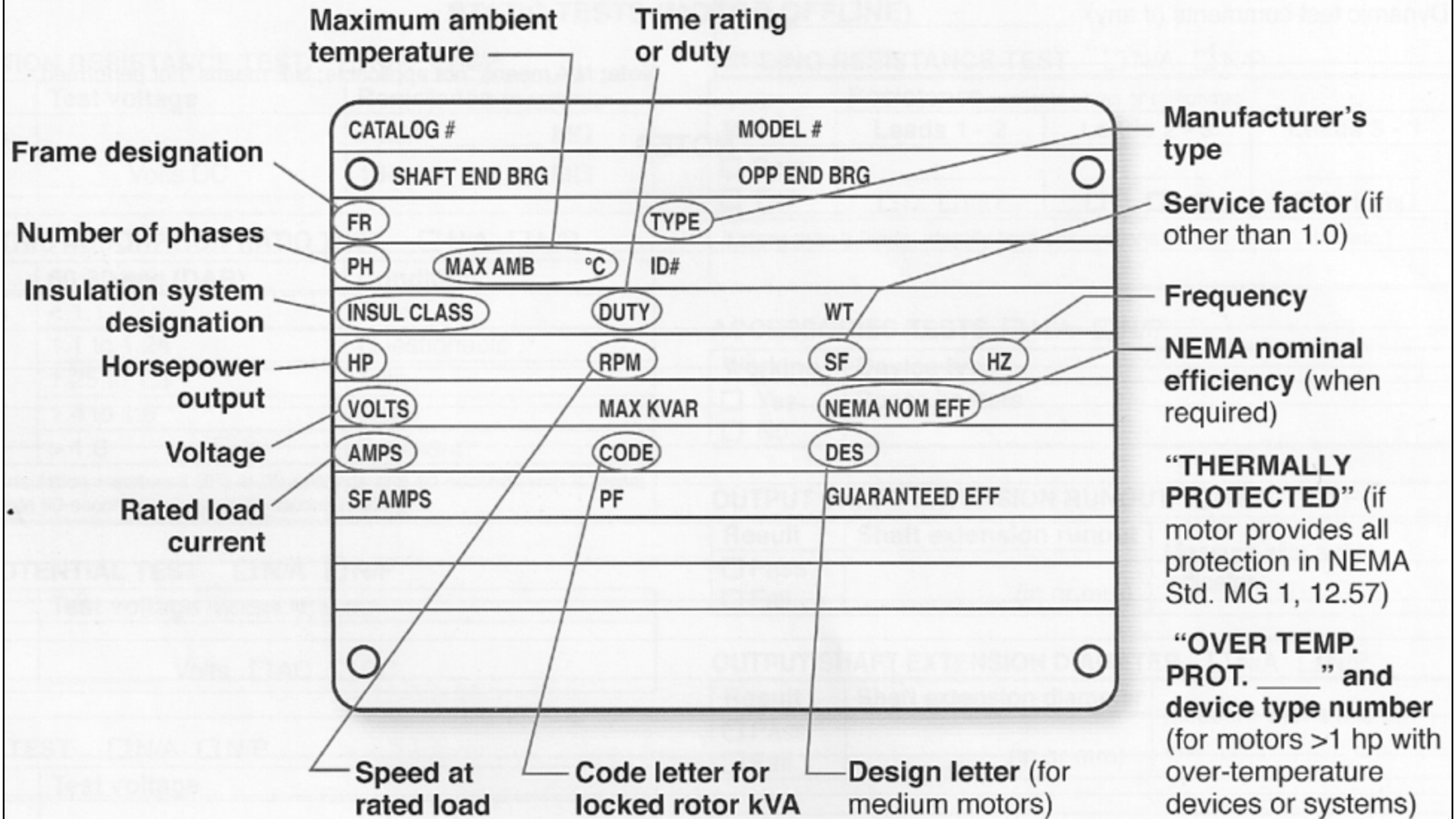
# Motors in HVAC systems

- Main parts of squirrel cage induction motor:
  - 1. Stator: a stationary component made of copper windings that carry current; surrounds the rotor
  - 2. Rotor: rotate under the influence of magnetic field of the stator
  - 3. Fan: it is used to cool the motor
  - 4. Bearings and seals: allow a motor shaft to move smoothly and reduce friction energy losses
    - The seals keep dust from entering the motor

# Main parts of squirrel cage induction motor



# How to read an electric motor nameplate



Note: Nameplates may also include the manufacturer's name and usually its principal location.

# Motor Nameplate - Full-Load Amperes (FLA)

Mike's Motors			
POWER FACTOR	70%	EFF	70%
SERVICE FACTOR	1.15		
PHASE	1	VOLTS	115/230
FLA	13.2/6.6A		
CYCLE	60	RPM	1725
°C RISE	40		
DUTY	CONT	HP	1
CODE LETTER	F	TYPE	ML

FLA =

Full-Load Amps =  
Nameplate Amps



$$\text{Nameplate (NP)} = \frac{746 \times \text{hp}}{E \times \text{Eff} \times \text{PF}}$$

746 = watts per hp

hp = 1 hp

E = 115V

Eff = 0.70 efficiency factor

PF = 0.70 power factor

$$\text{NP} = \frac{746 \times 1 \text{ hp}}{115\text{V} \times 0.70 \text{ Eff} \times 0.70 \text{ PF}}$$

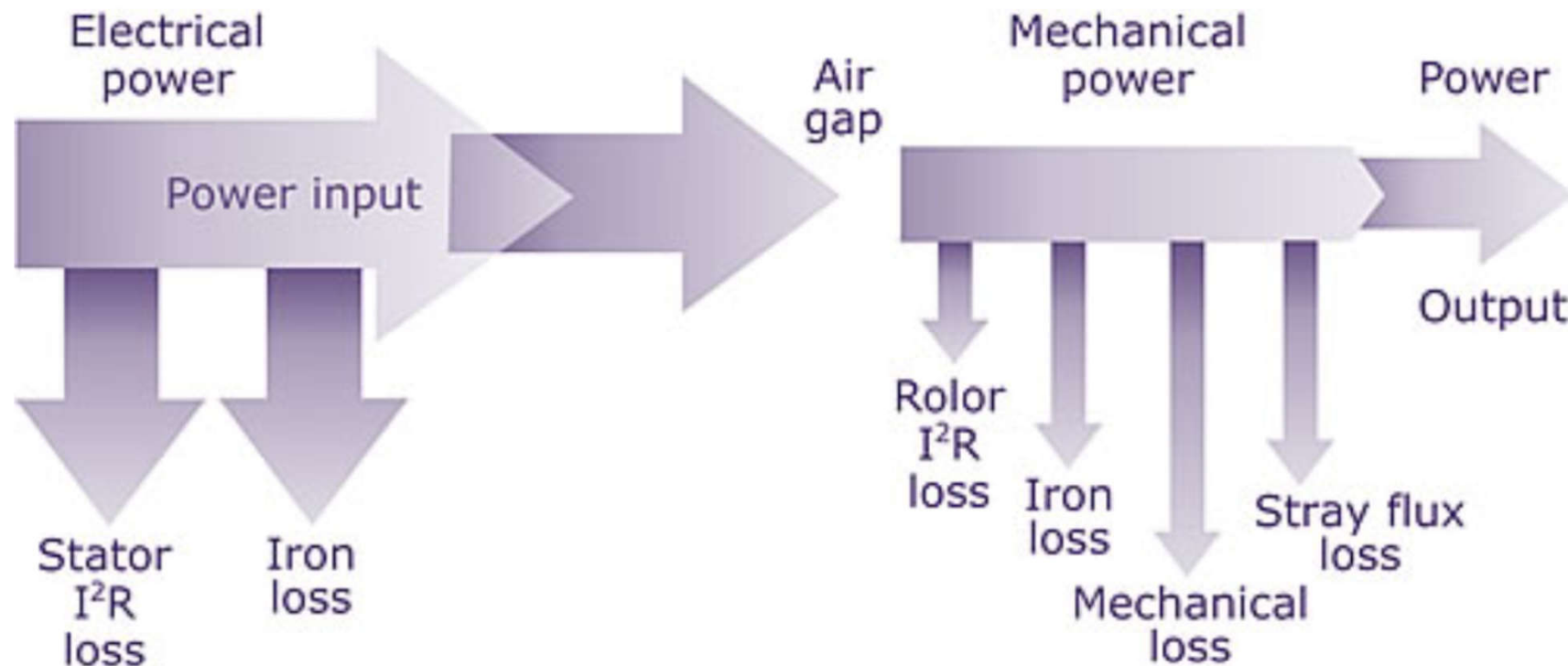
Nameplate = 13.20A



# Motors in HVAC systems

- Motor efficiency
  - Power losses in induction motors
    - (a) Fixed losses, i.e. independent of motor load:
      - Iron or magnetic loss in the stator & rotor cores
      - Friction & windage loss
    - (b) Losses proportional to the motor load:
      - Resistive ( $I^2R$ ) or copper loss in the stator & rotor conductors
      - Stray loss caused by components of stray flux
  - Define motor efficiency
    - Motor Efficiency ( $\eta$ ) = Output Power / Input Power

# Motor efficiency and major losses

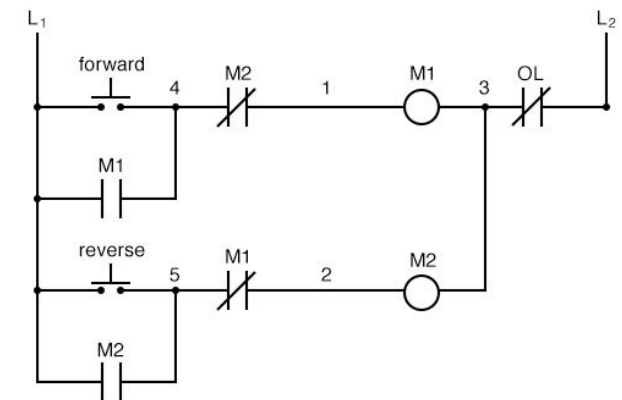
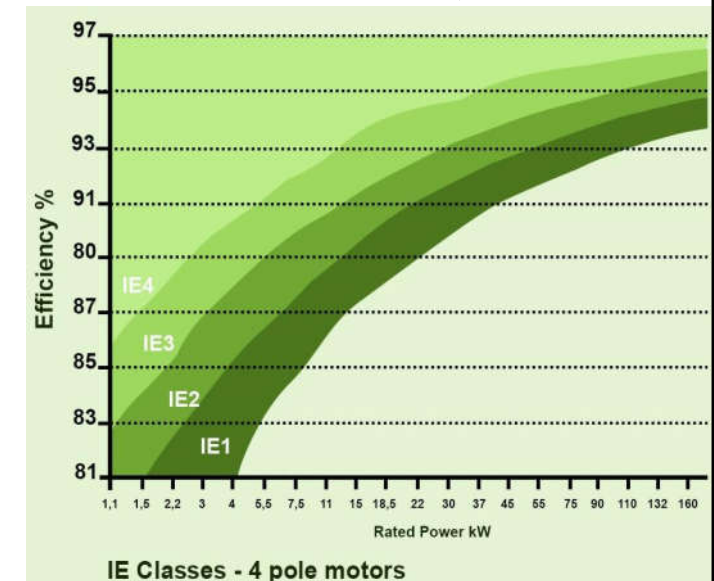






# Motors in HVAC systems

- Efficiency classes of motors (IEC 60034-30)
  - IE1: Standard Efficiency Motors
  - IE2: High Efficiency
  - IE3: Premium Efficiency
  - IE4: Super Premium Efficiency
- Controlling motors
  - Turning the motor on and off
  - Overload relay protection
  - Control the speed and torque



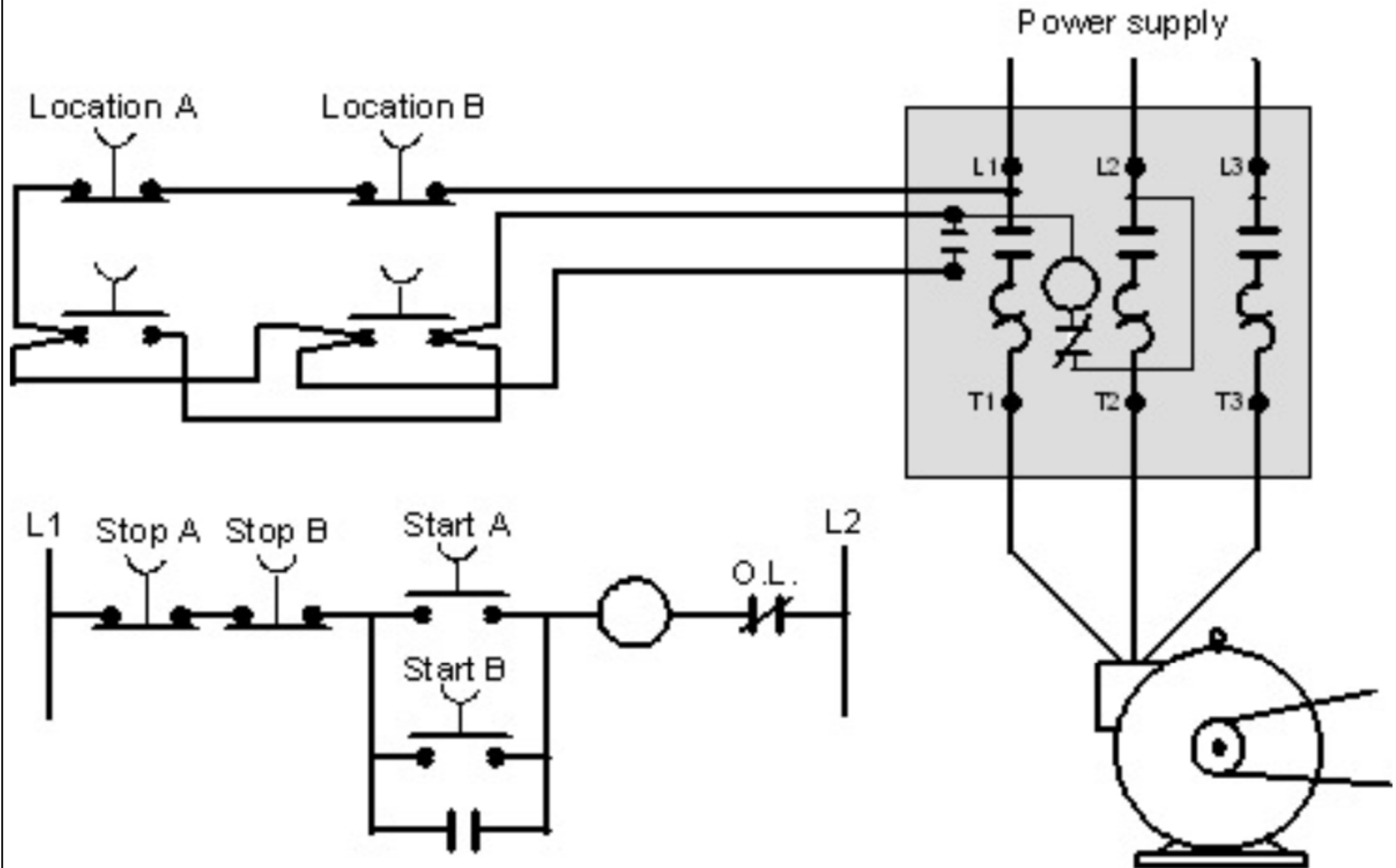


# Motors in HVAC systems

- Motor starting methods
  - 1. Direct-on-line (DOL) starting: stator windings directly connected to supply via contactors
  - 2. Star delta starting: star & delta connection of stator windings are used
  - 3. Autotransformer starting: stator windings connected to the supply through an auto transformer
  - 4. Soft starters: variable speed drive (VSD)



# Motor start-stop from 2 different locations



# Motors in HVAC systems



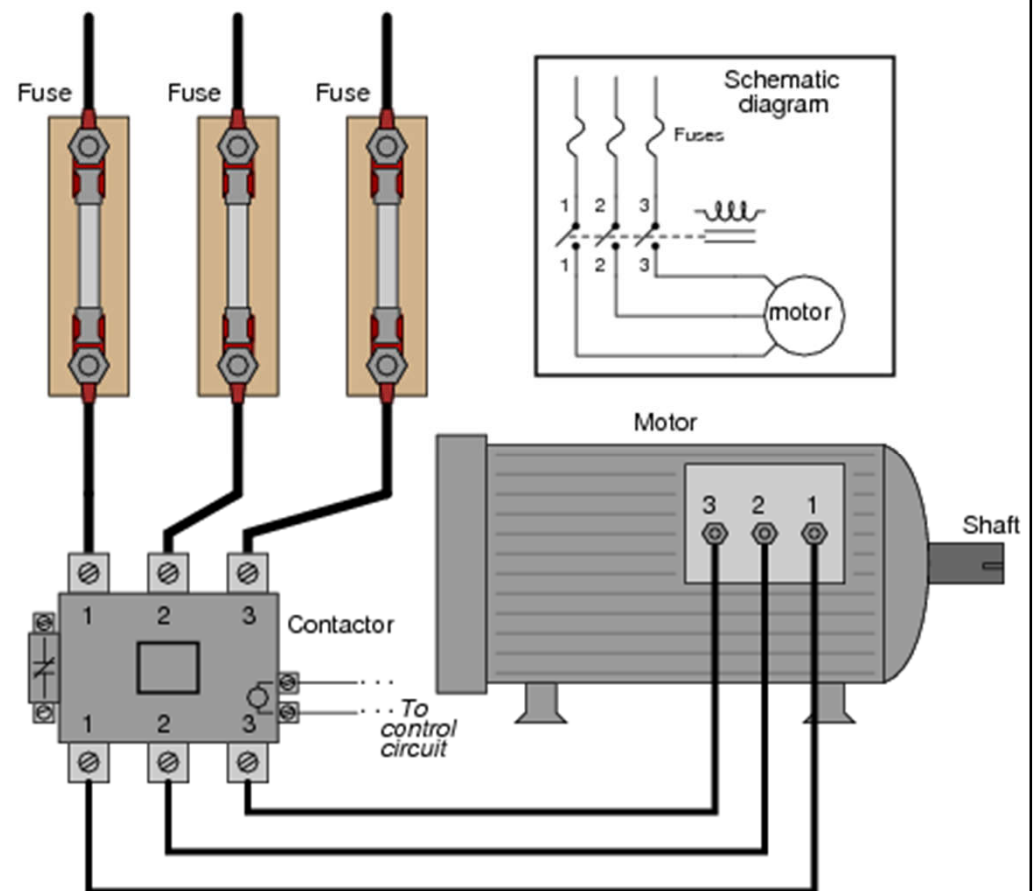
- Typical causes of motor faults

- (a) External failures

- Reverse phase sequence
    - Under-voltages
    - Single phasing
    - Unbalanced supplies

- (b) Internal failures

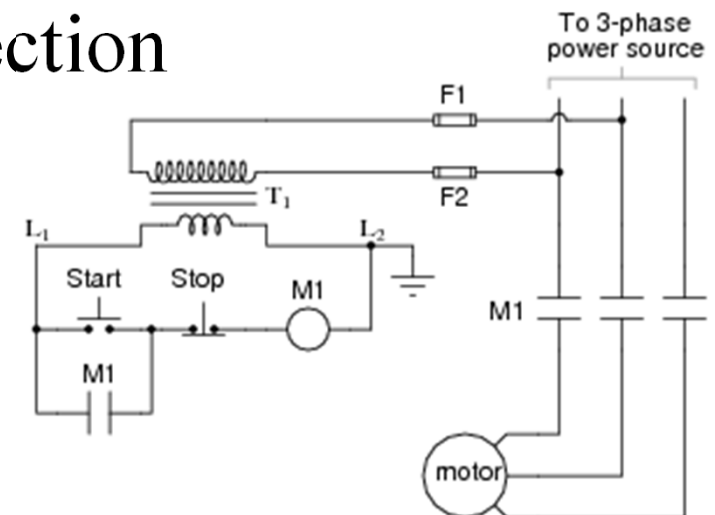
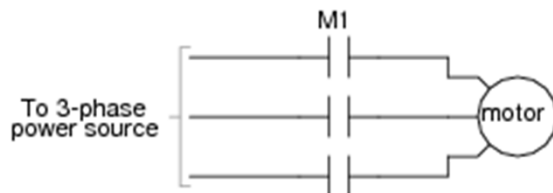
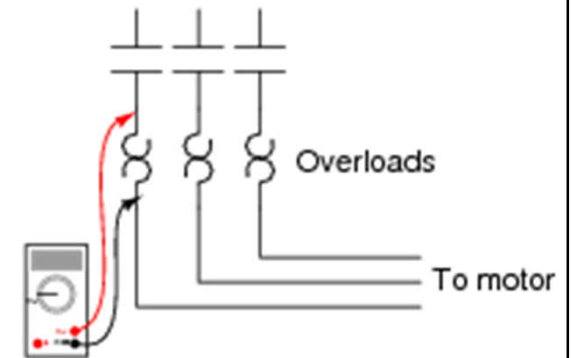
- Bearing faults
    - Winding failures
    - Overloads



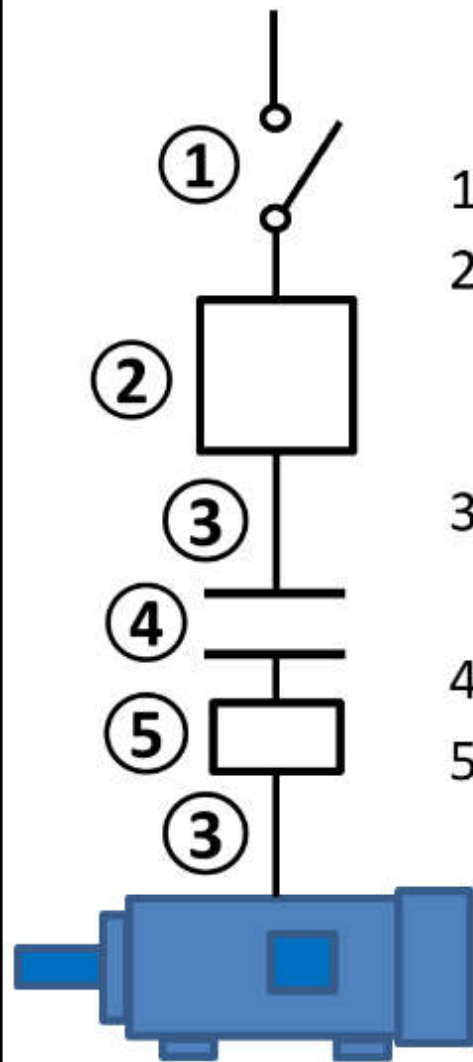
# Motors in HVAC systems



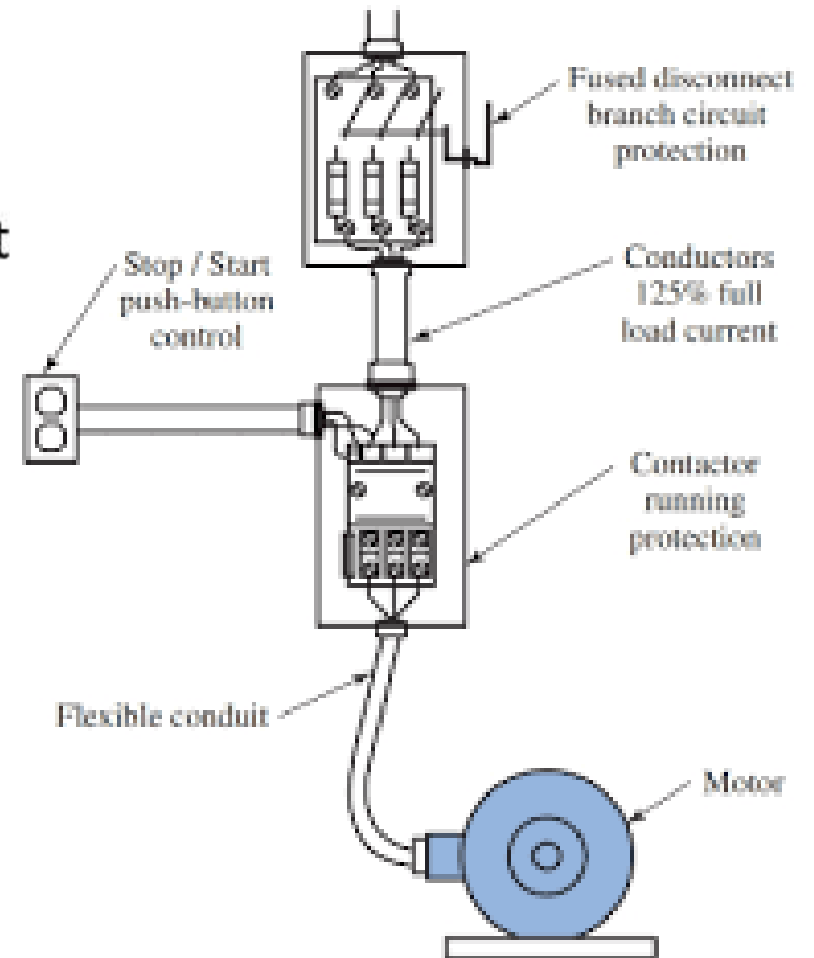
- Types of motor protection device:
  - 1. Overload protection
  - 2. Short circuit protection
  - 3. Over temperature protection
  - 4. Under voltage protection
  - 5. Phase failure & reversal protection



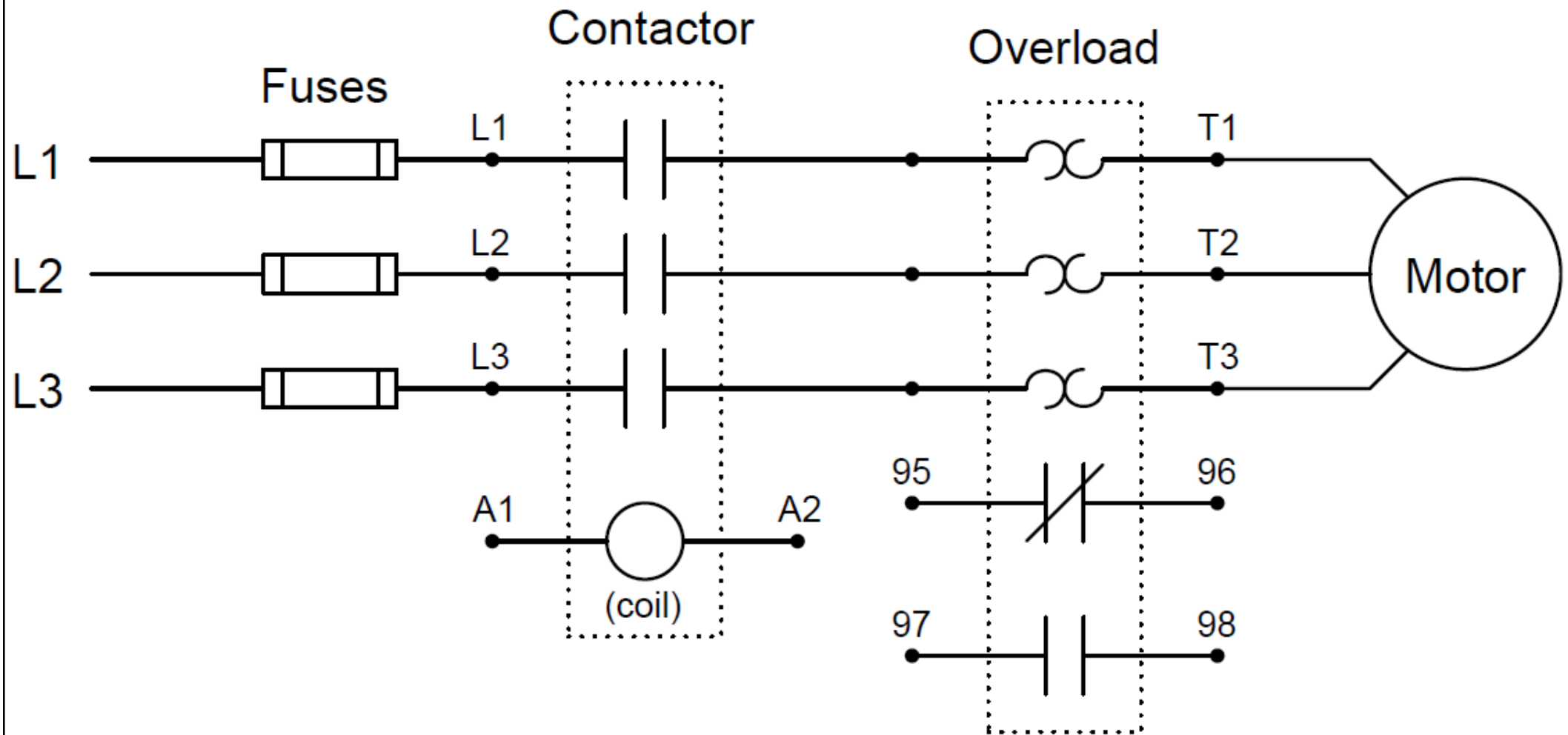
# Motor branch-circuit overcurrent protection devices



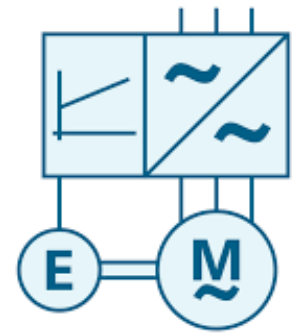
1. Motor Disconnecting Means
2. Motor Branch-Circuit Short-Circuit and Ground-Fault Protection
3. Motor Branch-Circuit Conductors
4. Motor Controller
5. Motor Overload Protection



# Schematic diagram of a three-phase overload connected to a three-phase contactor and three phase motor



# Variable speed drives

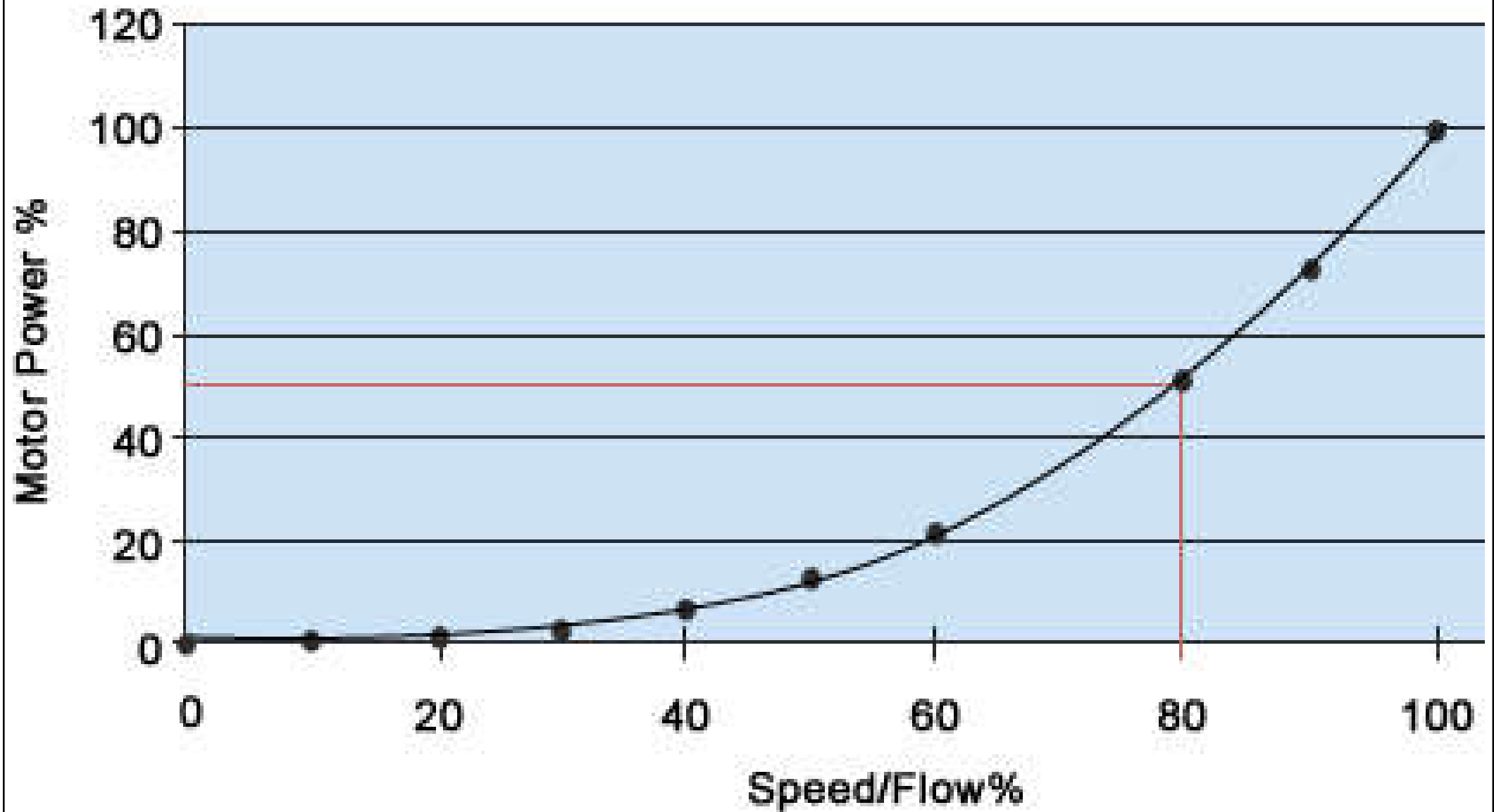


變  
頻  
器

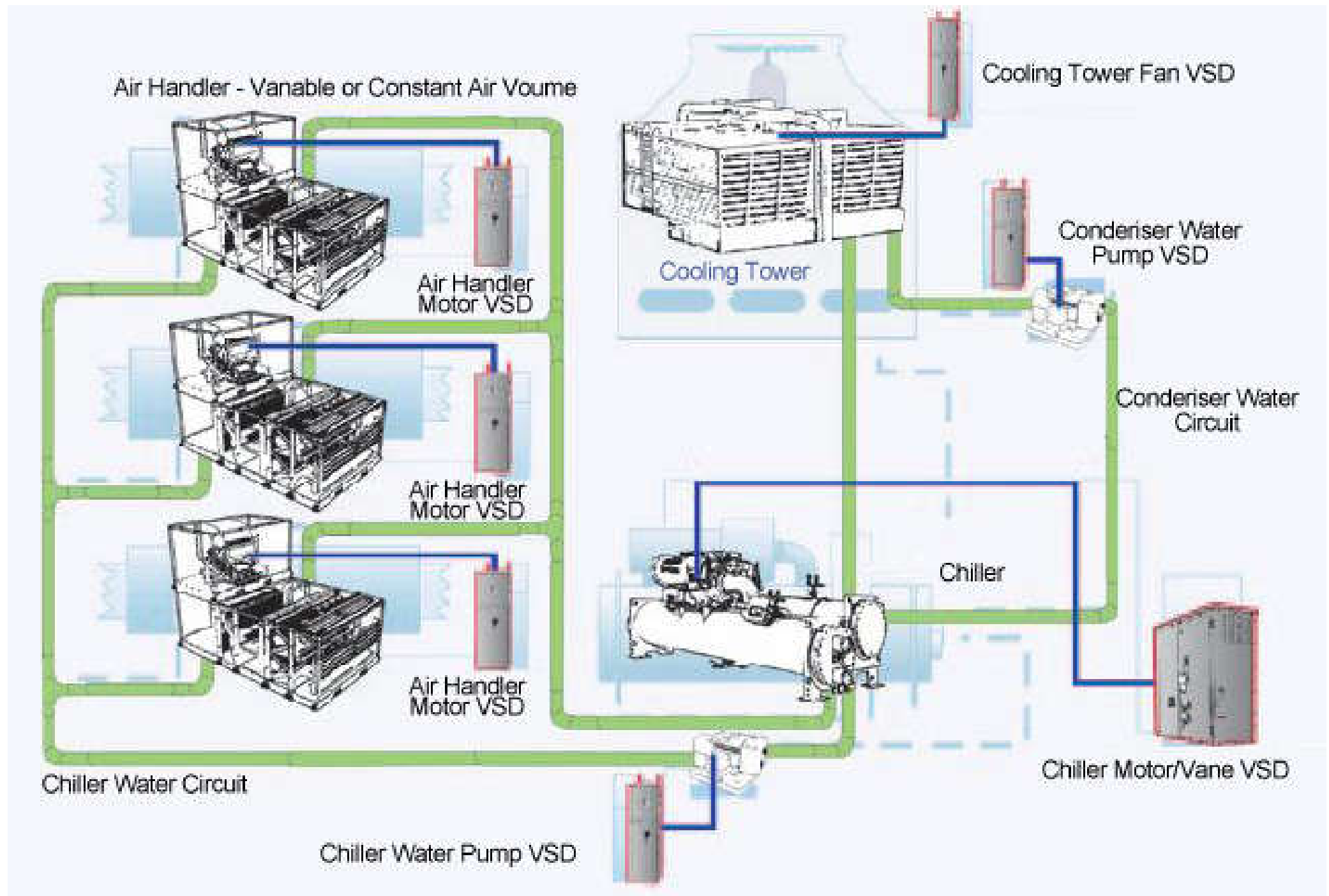
- Variable speed drive (VSD) / adjustable speed drives (ASD) / variable frequency drive (VFD)
  - Control the speed of the motor to match the load requirements (e.g. fans & pumps)
  - Advantages:
    - Improve energy efficiency
    - Improve power factor & process precision
    - Provide other performance benefits e.g. soft starting
    - Less mechanical stress on the system



# Motor energy saving with variable speed drive (VSD)

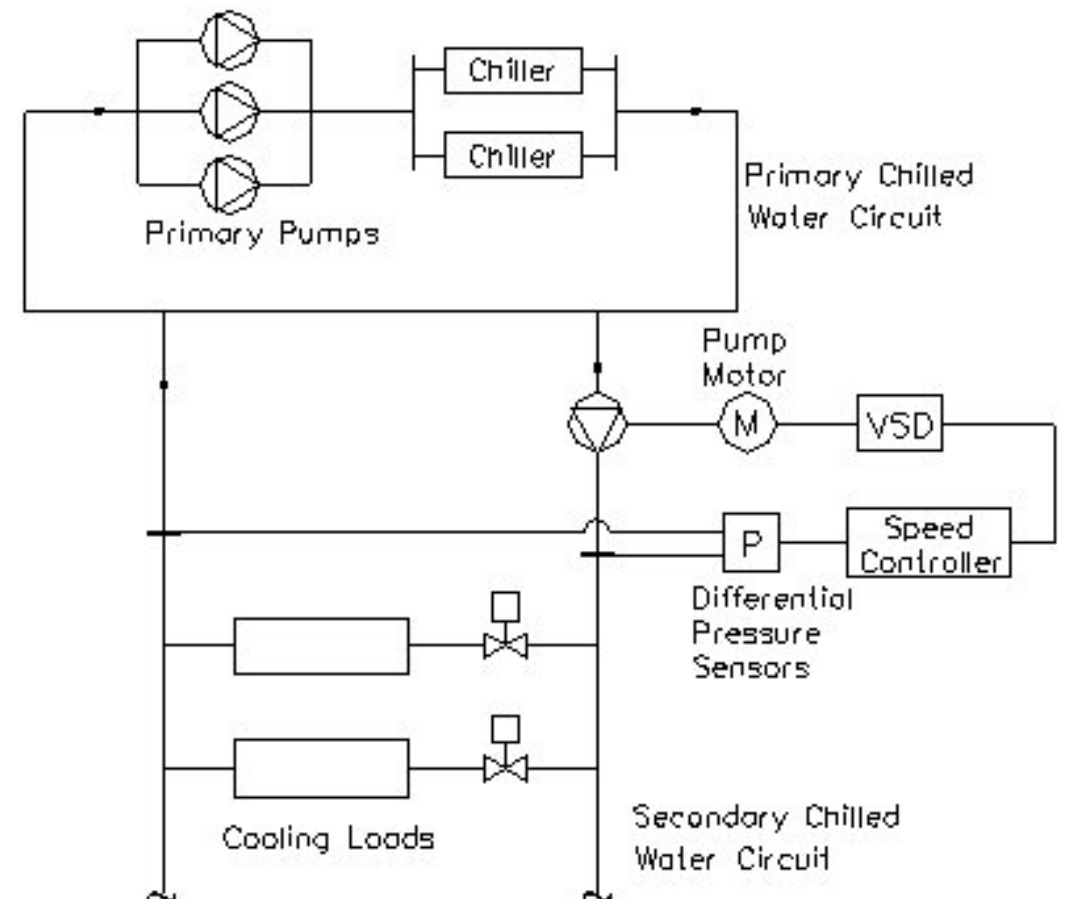
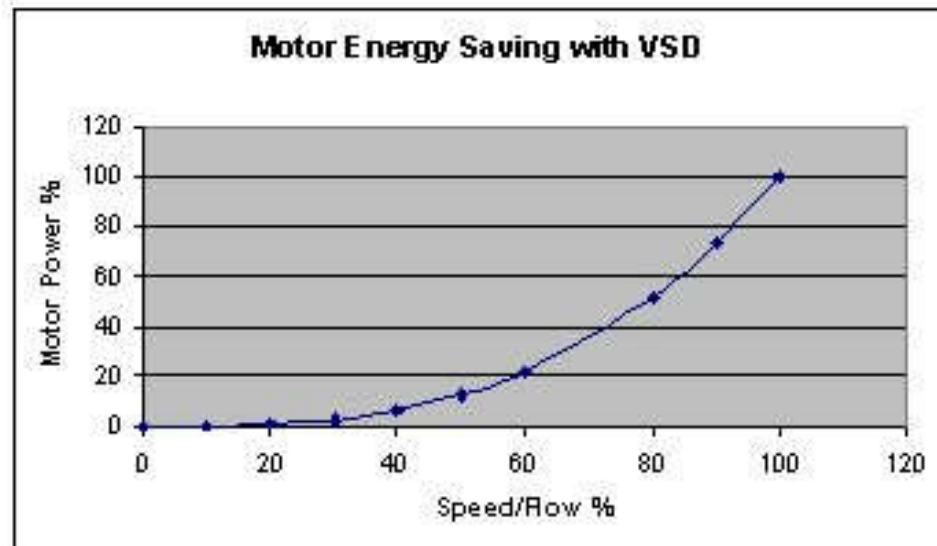
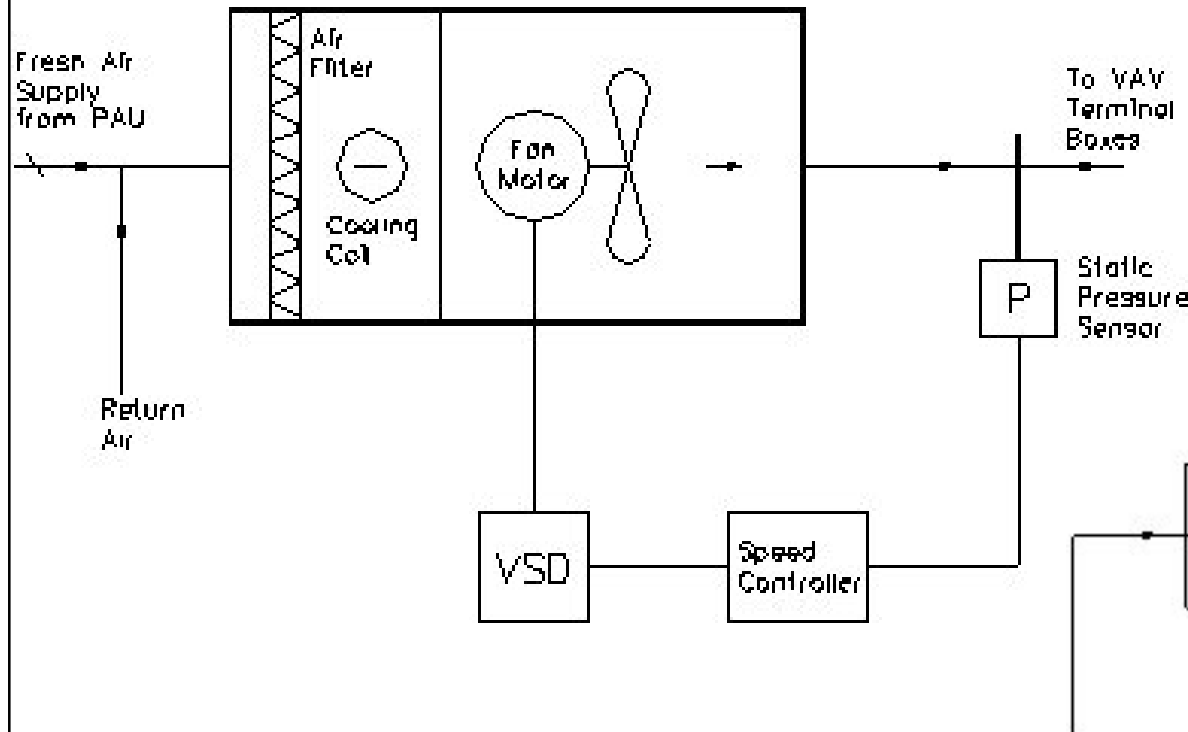


# Variable speed drives (VSDs) in air-conditioning systems

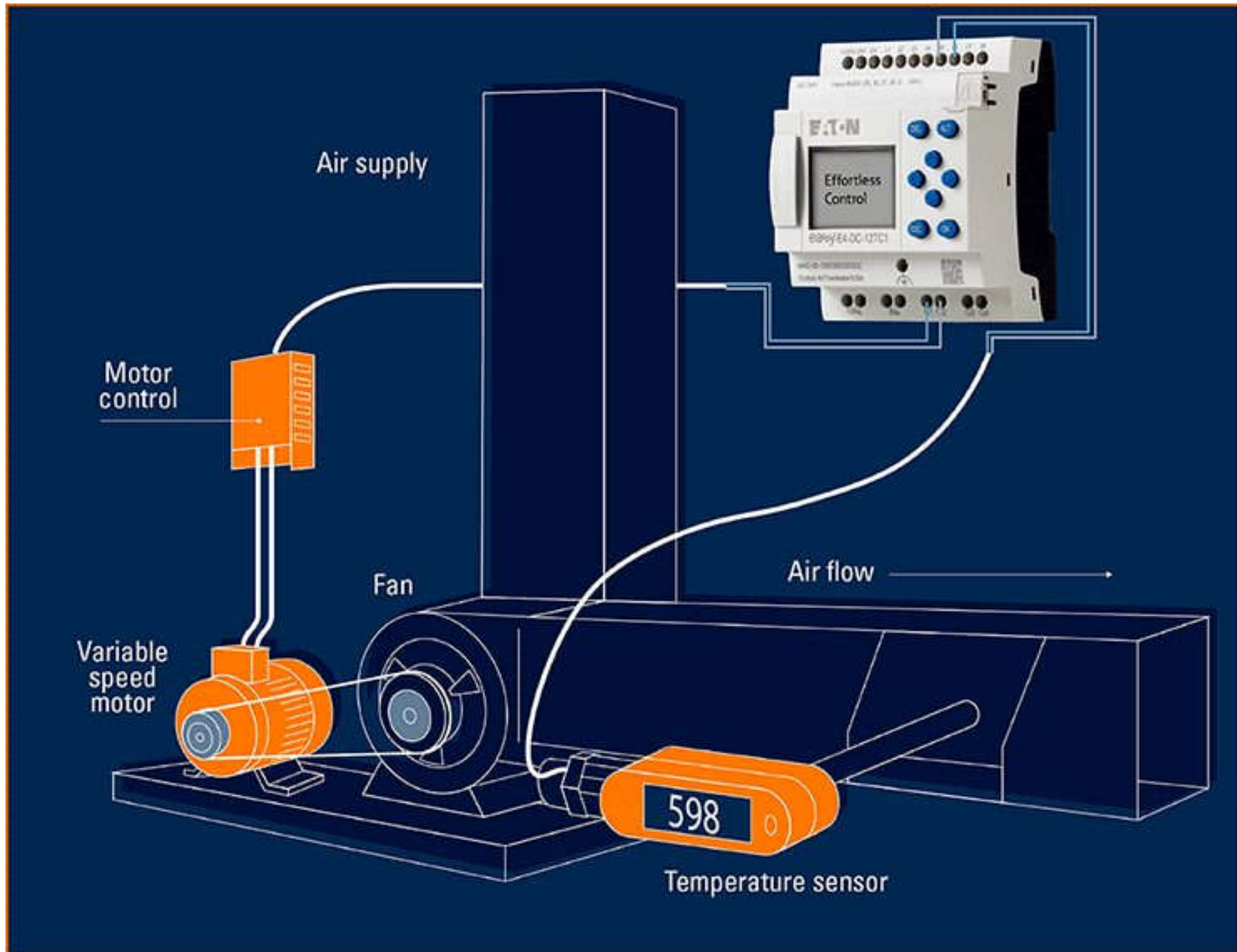


# Applications of variable speed drive (VSD) in HVAC systems

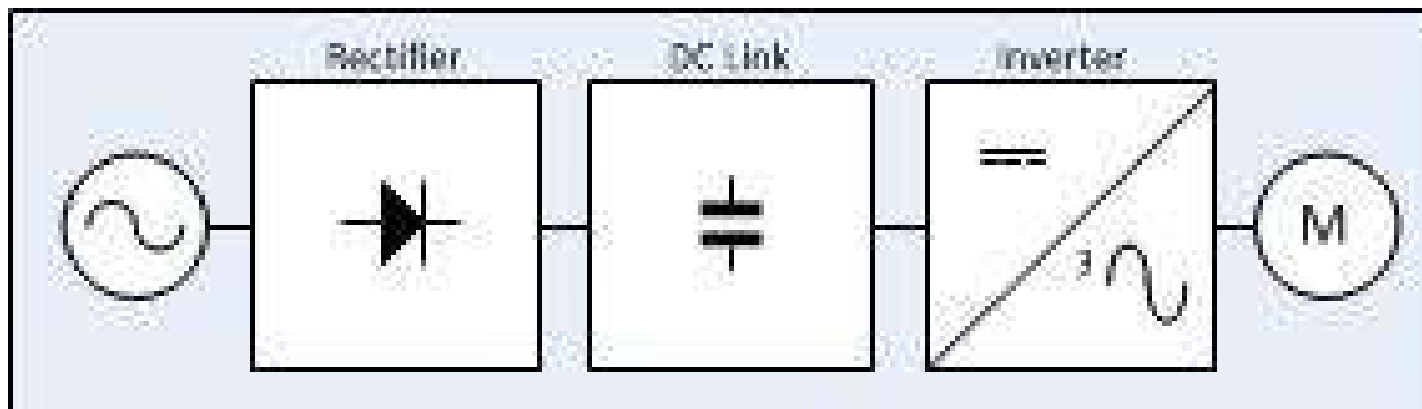
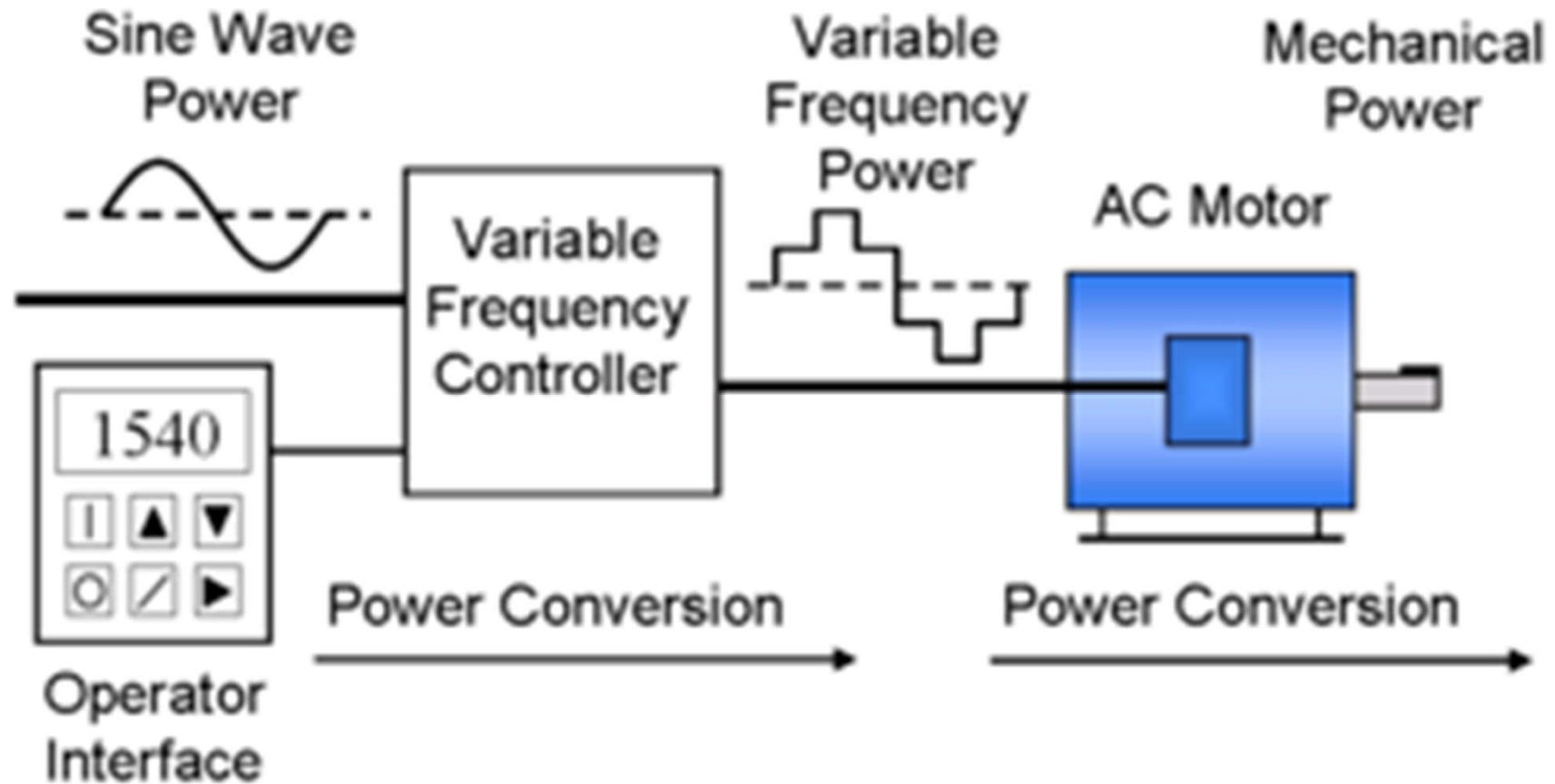
## Variable Air Volume (VAV) Air-handling Unit



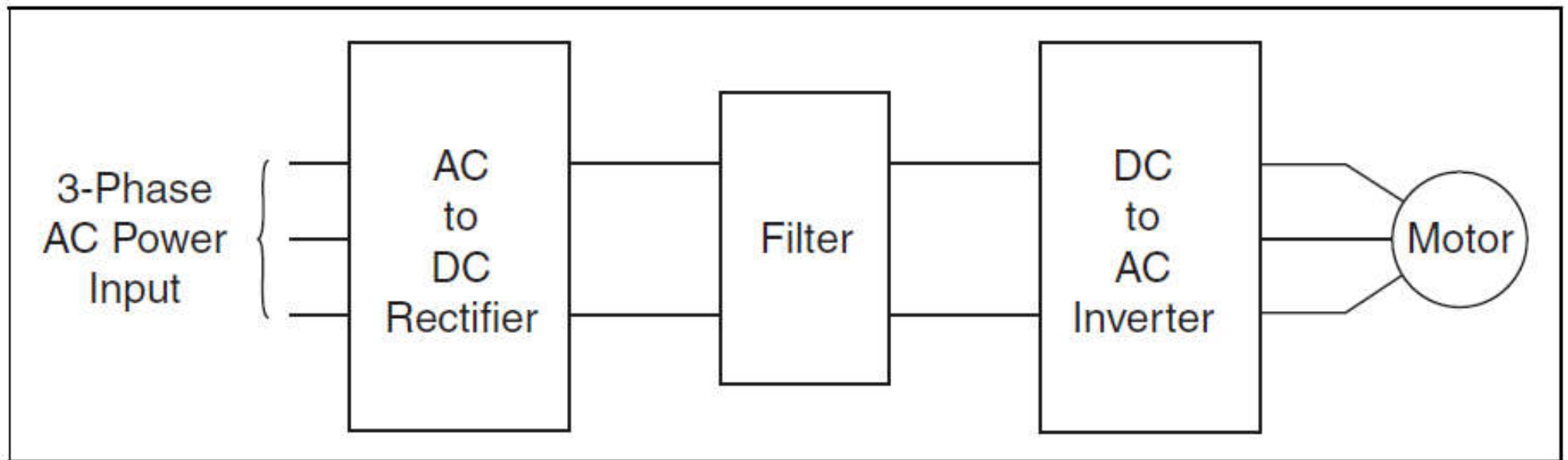
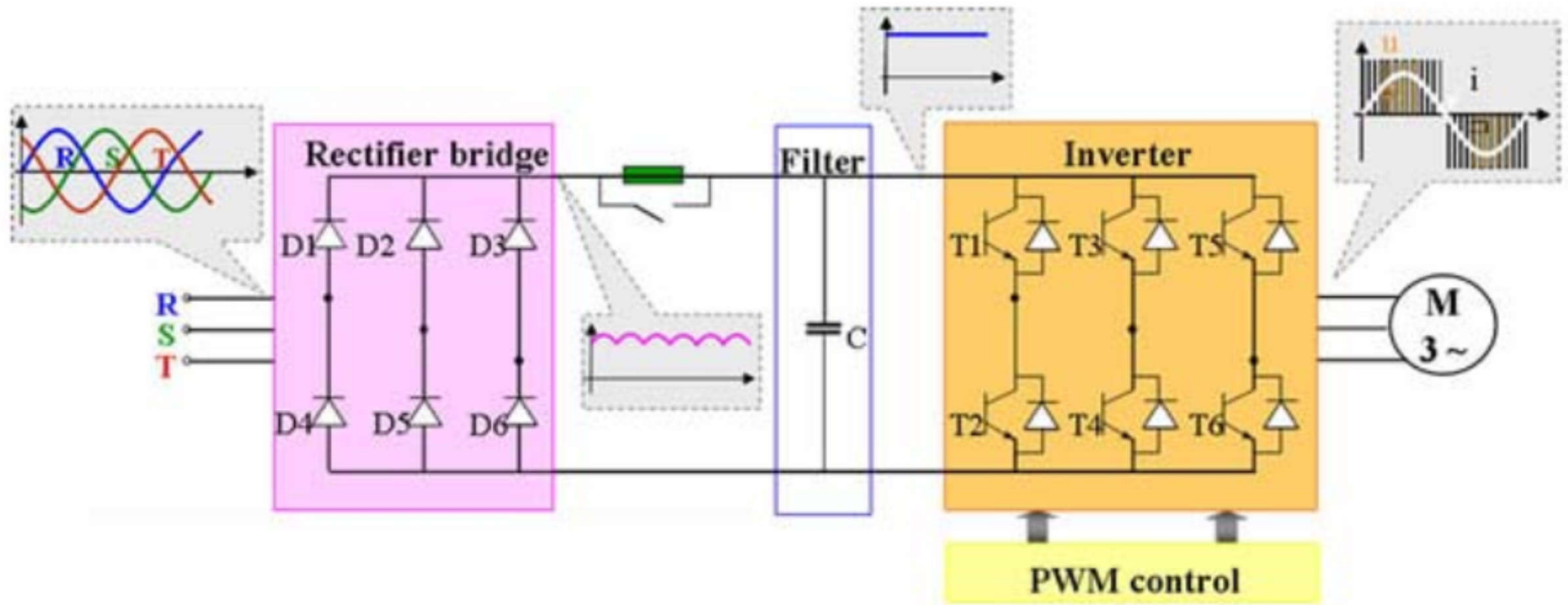
# A practical example of variable speed drive (VSD) in HVAC systems



# Principles of variable speed drive (VSD) or variable frequency drive (VFD)

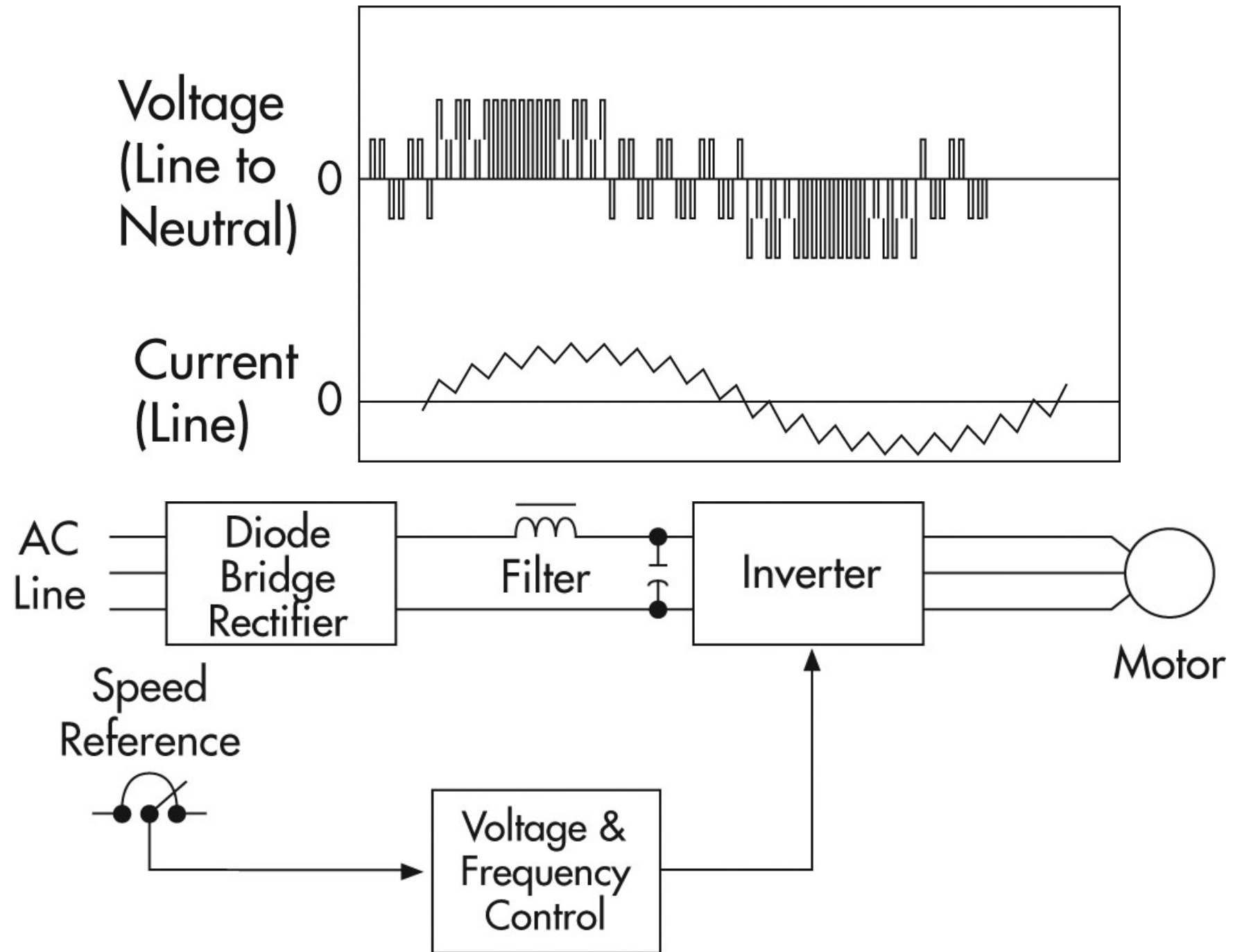


# Pulse width modulation (PWM) voltage control

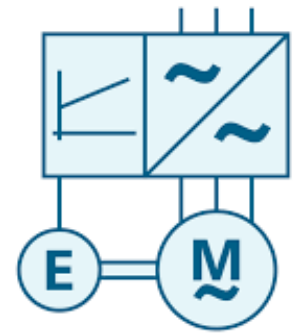




# Pulse width modulated (PWM) variable frequency drive



# Variable speed drives



- Application considerations
  - Minimum VSD/VFD speed
    - Such as to prevent motor overheating due to inadequate airflow
  - AC line harmonics
    - Causes voltage distortion to electrical systems
  - Electromagnetic interference (EMI)
    - Adverse effects on the operation of the control system and motor components