



(86) Date de dépôt PCT/PCT Filing Date: 2010/10/18

(87) Date publication PCT/PCT Publication Date: 2011/04/28

(85) Entrée phase nationale/National Entry: 2012/04/11

(86) N° demande PCT/PCT Application No.: IB 2010/002648

(87) N° publication PCT/PCT Publication No.: 2011/048460

(30) Priorité/Priority: 2009/10/19 (US12/581,360)

(51) Cl.Int./Int.Cl. *G01R 21/06* (2006.01)

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(54) Titre : CONFIGURATION DE TENSION EN ETOILE OU EN Y SELECTIONNABLE POUR MESURE DE COURANT

(54) Title: SELECTABLE DELTA OR WYE VOLTAGE CONFIGURATION FOR POWER MEASUREMENT

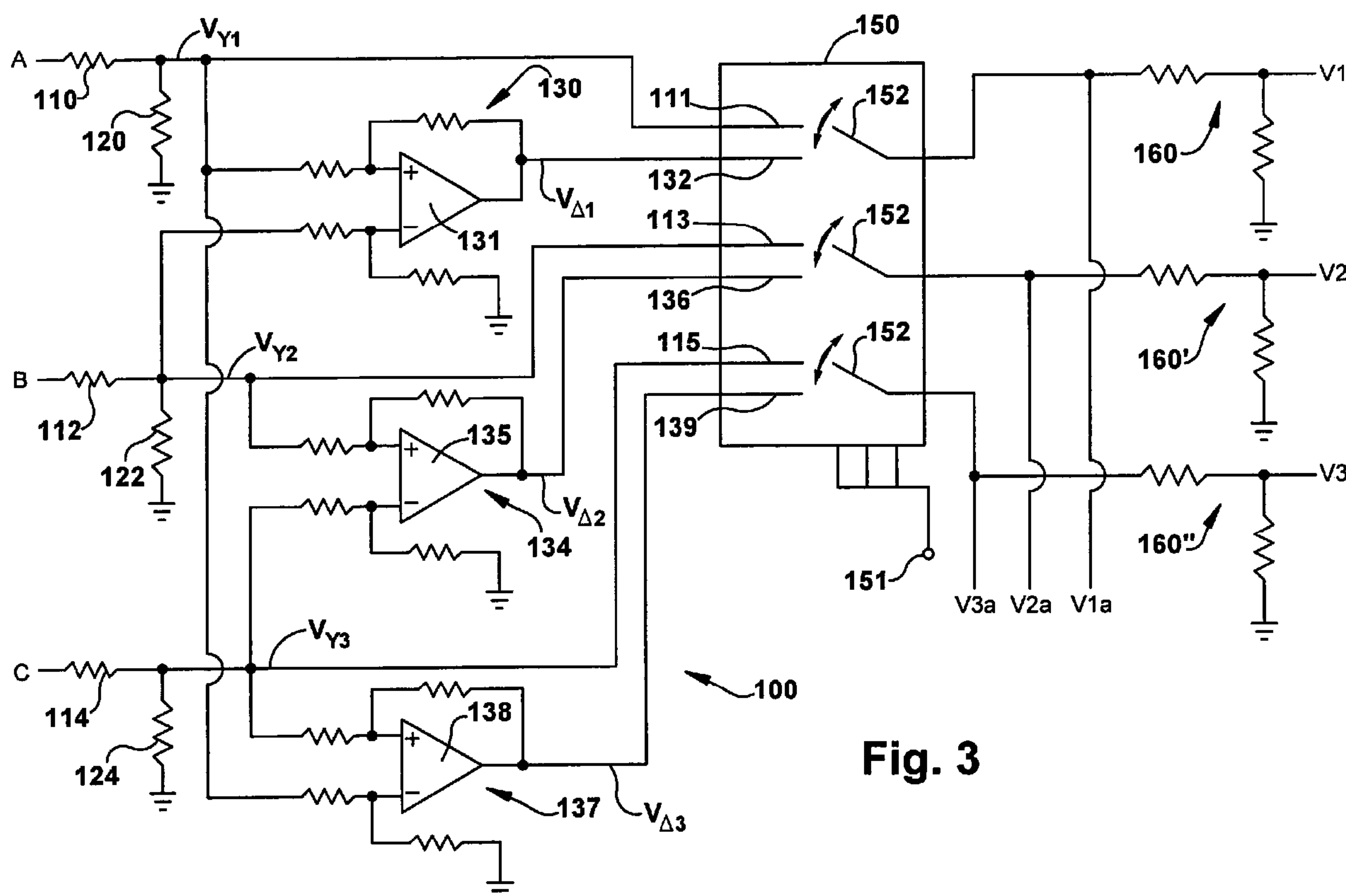


Fig. 3

(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

Apparatus and methods for providing a voltage signal indicative of the voltage being supplied by each phase of a multiphase voltage being supplied to a load. For each phase, a phase to neutral voltage is produced by providing a virtual ground. For each phase, a phase to phase voltage is produced by determining a difference between a pair of phase to neutral voltages. Either the phase to neutral voltages or the phase to phase voltages for each phase are output depending on the configuration of the multiphase voltage being supplied to the load.

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau(43) International Publication Date
28 April 2011 (28.04.2011)(10) International Publication Number
WO 2011/048460 A1(51) International Patent Classification:
G01R 21/06 (2006.01)(21) International Application Number:
PCT/IB2010/002648(22) International Filing Date:
18 October 2010 (18.10.2010)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
12/581,360 19 October 2009 (19.10.2009) US(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **EATON CORPORATION** [US/US]; Eaton Center, 1111 Superior Ave., Cleveland, OH 44114-2584 (US).

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ,

CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report (Art. 21(3))

— before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))

(54) Title: SELECTABLE DELTA OR WYE VOLTAGE CONFIGURATION FOR POWER MEASUREMENT

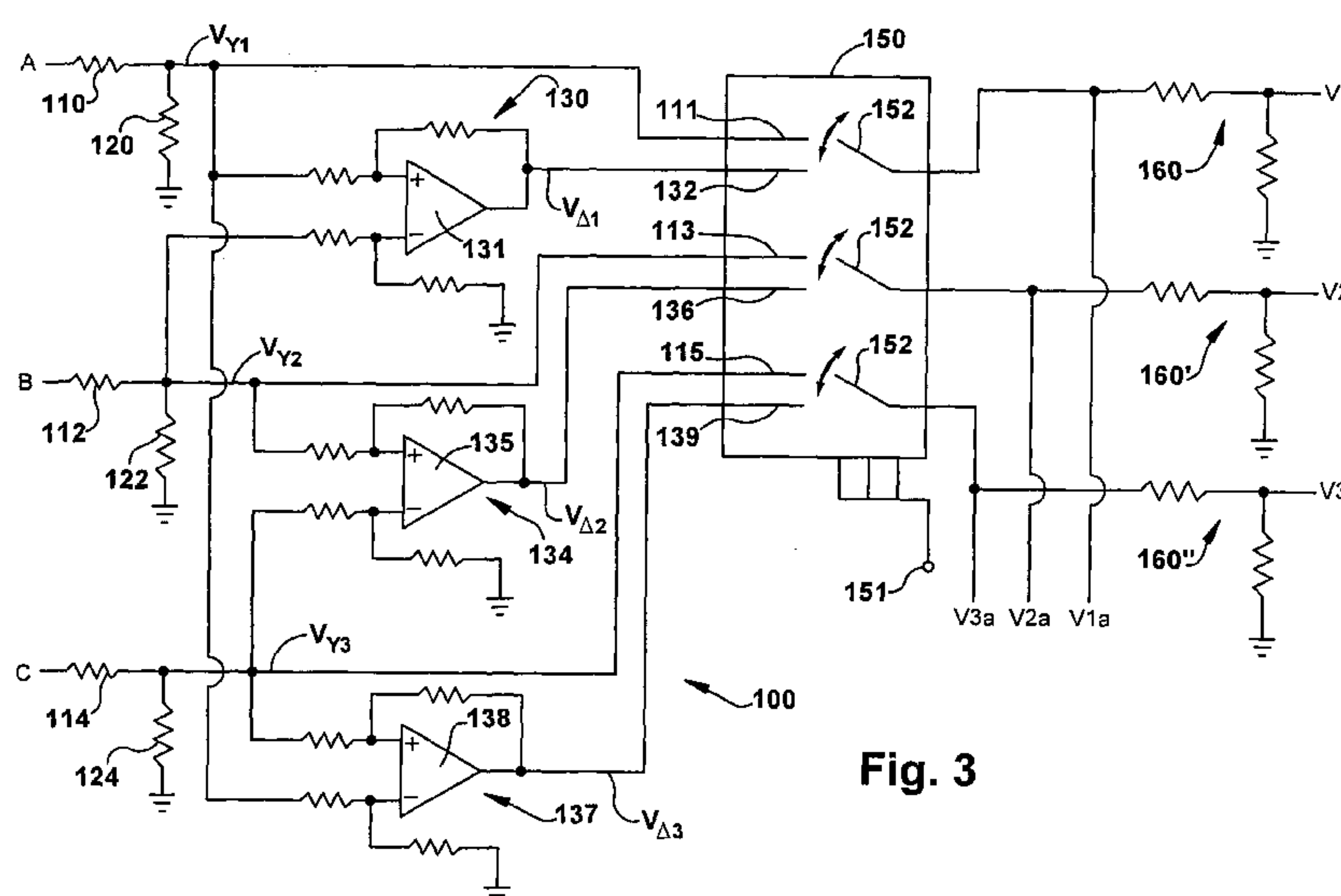


Fig. 3

(57) Abstract: Apparatus and methods for providing a voltage signal indicative of the voltage being supplied by each phase of a multiphase voltage being supplied to a load. For each phase, a phase to neutral voltage is produced by providing a virtual ground. For each phase, a phase to phase voltage is produced by determining a difference between a pair of phase to neutral voltages. Either the phase to neutral voltages or the phase to phase voltages for each phase are output depending on the configuration of the multiphase voltage being supplied to the load.

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SELECTABLE DELTA OR WYE VOLTAGE CONFIGURATION FOR POWER MEASUREMENT

BACKGROUND

5 [0001] Typically, three phase power is supplied to industry in a wye configuration, which includes three conductors and a neutral. In a wye configuration, the voltage supplied to a load is determined as between a conductor and the neutral. However, in some instances, three phase power is supplied in a delta configuration, which includes three conductors but no neutral. In a delta
10 configuration the voltage supplied to a load is determined as between pairs of conductors. When calculating an amount of power being consumed by a load, power metering equipment takes into consideration which of the voltage configurations is in use. Usually power metering equipment is designed to calculate power consumption based on a wye configuration. If the supplied voltage
15 is in a delta configuration, transformers are used to step the phase voltages down to simulate a wye configuration for input to the power metering equipment and to supply a ground connection for the wye voltages.

SUMMARY

20 [0002] A voltage configuration selector that can be used with a power meter is provided. The voltage configuration selector includes virtual grounds for first and second input voltages, respectively, of a multiphase voltage being supplied to the load, to produce first and second wye voltages, respectively. A first voltage differentiator inputs the first and second wye voltages and outputs a first delta
25 voltage that is calculated as a difference between the first and second wye voltages. An output voltage selector receives the first wye voltage and the first

delta voltage and selectively outputs either the first wye voltage or the first delta voltage.

[0003] In one example embodiment, the virtual ground provides a virtual ground for a third input voltage of the multiphase voltage being supplied to the load to produce a third wye voltage. A second voltage differentiator inputs the second and third wye voltages and outputs a second delta voltage that is calculated as a difference between the second and third wye voltages. A third voltage differentiator inputs the third and first wye voltages and outputs a third delta voltage that is calculated as a difference between the third and first wye voltages. An output voltage selector receives the first, second, and third wye voltages and the first, second, and third delta voltages and selectively outputs either the first, second, and third wye voltages or the first, second, and third delta voltages for output.

[0004] A power meter is provided that calculates power being supplied to a load. The power meter includes an ammeter that measures current being supplied to the load on each phase of a multiphase voltage being supplied to a load and provides a current signal indicative of the measured current. A voltage configuration selector provides a voltage signal indicative of the voltage being supplied by each phase of the multiphase voltage being supplied to the load. The voltage configuration selector is configured to selectively output, for each phase, based on a configuration of the multiphase voltage being supplied to the load, a voltage signal corresponding to either a phase to phase voltage or a phase to neutral voltage. The voltage configuration selector does not require a transformer to convert between a phase to phase voltage and a phase to neutral voltage. A power calculation component calculates the power being consumed by the load based, at least in part, on the current signal and the voltage signal.

[0005] A voltage configuration selection method is provided. The method includes providing a virtual ground for first, second, and third input voltages, respectively, of a multiphase voltage being supplied to the load, to produce first,

second, and third wye voltages, respectively. A first delta voltage is produced by determining a difference between the first and second wye voltages. A second delta voltage is produced by determining a difference between the second and third wye voltages. A third delta voltage is produced by determining a difference between the third and first wye voltages. Either the first, second, and third wye voltages or the first, second, and third delta voltages are selectively output.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0006] The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in and constitute a part of the specification, illustrate various example systems, methods, and other example embodiments of various aspects of the invention. It will be appreciated that the illustrated element boundaries (e.g., boxes, groups of boxes, or other shapes) in the figures represent one example of the boundaries. One of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that in some examples one element may be designed as multiple elements or that multiple elements may be designed as one element. In some examples, an element shown as an internal component of another element may be implemented as an external component and vice versa.

10 Furthermore, elements may not be drawn to scale.

[0007] Figure 1A is a functional block diagram of an example embodiment of a power metering system that includes a voltage configuration selector acting upon a load voltage being supplied in a wye configuration.

[0008] Figure 1B is a functional block diagram of an example embodiment of a power metering system that includes a voltage configuration selector acting upon a load voltage being supplied in a delta configuration.

15

[0009] Figures 2A and 2B are schematic circuit diagrams illustrating a standard power metering component input convention used with wye and delta voltage configurations, respectively.

[0010] Figure 3 is a schematic circuit diagram illustrating an example embodiment of a voltage configuration selector.

[0011] Figure 4 is a flowchart that outlines an example embodiment of a voltage configuration selection method.

5

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0012] Figure 1A illustrates a power metering system 10 that monitors power from a power source that is being supplied to a load. In the example illustrated in Figure 1A, the power being supplied by the power source is three phase power that is being supplied to a load in a wye configuration, such that the load is connected between a leg of wye voltage circuit and ground. The conductors associated with the three phases of the supplied power are labeled A, B, and C. In a typical system, the voltage sensed on each conductor with respect to ground is approximately 120 V.

10 [0013] The power metering system 10 includes a voltage configuration selector 20, a power calculation component 30, and a display component 40. In some embodiments, the power metering system may not include a display component 40, but rather may simply transmit the metered power value to another component. The power calculation component 30 inputs a sensed current I_1 , I_2 , I_3 on each of the conductors and sensed voltages V_1 , V_2 , V_3 output by the voltage configuration selector 20. The power calculation component 30 calculates the power being consumed by the load based, at least in part, on the input current values I_1 , I_2 , I_3 and the voltage values V_1 , V_2 , V_3 and outputs the calculated power to the display 40 and/or other system components (not shown).

25 [0014] The power calculation component 40 typically does not have the capability to adapt its operation based on whether the voltage is being supplied to the load in a delta or wye configuration. As will be described in more detail with respect to Figure 3, the voltage configuration selector 20 is configured to output a

sensed voltage that corresponds to a selected voltage configuration. Hence, in Figure 1A, where the load is connected in a wye configuration, the sensed voltages V_1 , V_2 , V_3 that are output by the voltage configuration selector are approximately 120V.

5 [0015] Figure 1B illustrates the power metering system 10 also shown in Figure 1A. In the example illustrated in Figure 1B, power from a power source is being supplied to a load in a delta configuration such that the load is connected between legs of the three phase input voltage. The conductors associated with the three phases of the supplied power are labeled A, B, and C. In a typical system, the
10 voltage sensed on each conductor with respect to ground is approximately 120 V. As will be described in more detail with respect to Figure 3, the voltage configuration selector 20 is configured to output a sensed voltage that corresponds to a selected voltage configuration. Hence, in Figure 1B, where the load is connected in a delta configuration, the sensed voltages are output as
15 approximately 207V.

[0016] Figures 2A and 2B illustrate the default input configuration for one example power calculation component 40, a MAXQ3180 integrated circuit device sold by Maxim Integrated Products, Incorporated. In both figures, the power supplied by conductor A is calculated as $I_1 \times V_1$, the power supplied by conductor B
20 is calculated as $I_2 \times V_2$, and the power supplied by conductor C is calculated as $I_3 \times V_3$. As shown in Figure 2A, when the voltage is being supplied in a wye configuration, the voltages V_1 , V_2 , V_3 are assumed to be measured as between the conductor and ground. As shown in Figure 2B, when the voltage is being supplied in a delta configuration, the sensing voltages V_1 , V_2 , V_3 are assumed to be
25 measured as a difference between conductor voltages.

[0017] Thus, if the load is connected between conductors A and B in a delta configuration voltage but the voltage V_1 is measured between A and ground, the power will be calculated by the power calculation component 30 incorrectly. Likewise, if the load is connected to conductor A and ground in a wye configuration

voltage but the voltage V_1 is measured between A and B, the power will be calculated incorrectly. Typically, when a power calculation component is configured to calculate power assuming a given voltage configuration (delta or wye) and the voltage is actually being supplied in the other voltage configuration (delta or wye), an external PT transformer is used to convert the conductor voltage
5 to the proper configuration prior to inputting the voltage to the power calculation component.

[0018] Returning to Figures 1A and 1B, the voltage configuration selector 20 inputs the voltage on the conductors A, B, and C and outputs sensing voltages V_1 ,
10 V_2 , V_3 that correspond to either delta or wye voltages depending on which configuration has been selected. The sensing voltage configuration can be selected, for example, by actuating a switch (not shown) on the voltage configuration selector 20. Thus, the voltage configuration selector 20 may eliminate the need for external transformers by generating and providing the
15 appropriate sensing voltages V_1 , V_2 , V_3 to the power calculation component 30 as will be described in more detail in connection with Figures 3 and 4.

[0019] Figure 3 illustrates an example embodiment of a voltage configuration selector 100. The voltage configuration selector 100 inputs a stepped down version of the voltages (approximately in the range of 5 V in some instances) on
20 conductors A, B, and C. The level of scaling that is done on the conductor voltages may vary depending on the capabilities of other components used in the voltage configuration selector 100. The voltage configuration selector 100 outputs sensing voltages V_1 , V_2 , V_3 that are in a selected voltage configuration and are appropriate for input to a power calculation component (not shown in Figure 3).

25 [0020] The voltage configuration selector 100 includes a virtual ground (shown as separate input grounds 120, 122, 124) that provides a ground path for the stepped down voltages on conductors A, B, and C. The virtual ground may be provided internally and may approximate a potential of the neutral line in a wye voltage configuration. By providing this virtual ground, the voltage configuration

selector 100 creates wye voltages V_{Y1} , V_{Y2} , V_{Y3} that approximate a wye voltage for each conductor A, B, and C without connection to a neutral line. The wye voltages V_{Y1} , V_{Y2} , V_{Y3} are input to an output voltage selector 150.

[0021] The voltage configuration selector 100 includes first, second, and third
5 voltage differentiators 130, 134, 137. In the illustrated embodiment, the voltage differentiators are operational amplifiers 131, 135, 138, and associated resistors, which are connected in a closed loop configuration as shown. Each voltage differentiator inputs two of the wye voltages and outputs a difference between the wye voltages as a delta voltage. For example, the first voltage differentiator 130
10 inputs V_{Y1} and V_{Y2} and outputs the difference as $V_{\Delta1}$. Likewise, the second voltage differentiator 134 inputs V_{Y2} and V_{Y3} and outputs the difference as $V_{\Delta2}$ and the third voltage differentiator 137 inputs V_{Y3} and V_{Y1} and outputs the difference as $V_{\Delta3}$. The delta voltages $V_{\Delta1}$, $V_{\Delta2}$, $V_{\Delta3}$ are input to the output voltage selector 150.

[0022] The output voltage selector 150 selects either the wye voltages V_{Y1} , V_{Y2} ,
15 V_{Y3} or the delta voltages $V_{\Delta1}$, $V_{\Delta2}$, $V_{\Delta3}$ to output to a power calculation component. In one example embodiment, the output voltage selector 150 is an analog multiplexer that selects includes a selector 151 that actuates a gang of switches 152 to select between V_{Y1} , V_{Y2} , V_{Y3} or $V_{\Delta1}$, $V_{\Delta2}$, $V_{\Delta3}$ for output as V_{1a} , V_{2a} , V_{3a} . The selector may be a dip switch or other mechanical means or may respond to an
20 electronic input. Further scaling can be done on the voltages output by the output voltage selector 150 by scaling circuits 160, 160', 160''. Thus, by manipulating the selector, the appropriate voltage configuration for a given load can be easily selected, and changed, as necessary.

[0023] While the foregoing description described operation of a voltage
25 configuration selector as used with all three phases of a three phase power, it is to be understood that the voltage configuration selector may be employed with less than three phases.

[0024] Figure 4 is a flowchart that outlines an example embodiment of a voltage configuration selection method 400. At 410 a virtual ground is provided for first,

second, and third input voltages, respectively, of a multiphase voltage being supplied to the load, to produce first, second, and third wye voltages, respectively. At 420, a first delta voltage comprising a difference between the first and second wye voltages, a second delta voltage comprising a difference between the second
5 and third wye voltages, and a third delta voltage comprising a difference between the third and first wye voltages are produced. At 430 either the first, second, and third wye voltages or the first, second, and third delta voltages are output, as selected.

[0025] In some embodiments, the current being supplied to the load is
10 measured on each phase of the multiphase voltage being supplied to the load and an amount of power being consumed by the load is calculated based on the measured current and the first, second, and third wye voltages or the first, second, and third delta voltages selected that are selectively output.

[0026] While example systems, methods, and so on have been illustrated by
15 describing examples, and while the examples have been described in considerable detail, it is not the intention of the applicants to restrict or in any way limit the scope of the appended claims to such detail. It is, of course, not possible to describe every conceivable combination of components or methodologies for purposes of describing the systems, methods, and so on described herein. Therefore, the
20 invention is not limited to the specific details, the representative apparatus, and illustrative examples shown and described. Thus, this application is intended to embrace alterations, modifications, and variations that fall within the scope of the appended claims.

[0027] To the extent that the term “includes” or “including” is employed in the
25 detailed description or the claims, it is intended to be inclusive in a manner similar to the term “comprising” as that term is interpreted when employed as a transitional word in a claim.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A voltage configuration selector comprising:

a virtual ground for first and second input voltages, respectively, of a multiphase voltage being supplied to the load, to produce first and second wye voltages, respectively;

a first voltage differentiator that inputs the first and second wye voltages and outputs a first delta voltage comprising a difference between the first and second wye voltages; and

an output voltage selector that receives the first wye voltage and the first delta voltage and selectively outputs either the first wye voltage or the first delta voltage.

2. The voltage configuration selector of claim 1 where the virtual ground provides a virtual ground for a third input voltage of the multiphase voltage being supplied to the load to produce a third wye voltage, the method comprising:

a second voltage differentiator that inputs the second and third wye voltages and outputs a second delta voltage comprising a difference between the second and third wye voltages;

a third voltage differentiator that inputs the third and first wye voltages and outputs a third delta voltage comprising a difference between the third and first wye voltages; and

an output voltage selector that receives the first, second, and third wye voltages and the first, second, and third delta voltages and selectively outputs either the first, second, and third wye voltages or the first, second, and third delta voltages for output.

3. The voltage configuration selector of claim 1 where the virtual ground is configured to have a voltage potential approximately equal to a potential of a wye neutral for a power source that supplies the first input voltage.

4. The voltage configuration selector of claim 1 where the first voltage differentiator comprises an operational amplifier connected in a closed loop configuration with the first and second wye voltages as inputs.

5. The voltage configuration selector of claim 1 where the output voltage selector comprises an analog multiplexer that inputs the first wye voltage and the first delta voltage and selectively outputs either the first wye voltage or the first delta voltage.

6. The voltage configuration selector of claim 1 comprising a first output voltage scaling circuit that scales the output of the output voltage selector for input to a power calculation component.

7. A power meter that calculates power being supplied to a load comprising:

an ammeter that measures current being supplied to the load on each phase of a multiphase voltage being supplied to a load and provides a current signal indicative of the measured current;

a voltage configuration selector that provides a voltage signal indicative of the voltage being supplied by each phase of the multiphase voltage being supplied to the load, where the voltage configuration selector is configured to selectively output for each phase, based on a configuration of the multiphase voltage being

supplied to the load, a voltage signal corresponding to either a phase to phase voltage or a phase to neutral voltage, the voltage configuration selector not requiring a transformer to convert between a phase to phase voltage and a phase to neutral voltage; and

a power calculation component that calculates the power being consumed by the load based, at least in part, on the current signal and the voltage signal.

8. The power meter of claim 7 where the voltage configuration selector comprises:

a virtual ground for first, second, and third input voltages, respectively, of a multiphase voltage being supplied to the load, to produce first, second, and third wye voltages, respectively;

a first voltage differentiator that inputs the first and second wye voltages and outputs a first delta voltage comprising a difference between the first and second wye voltages;

a second voltage differentiator that inputs the second and third wye voltages and outputs a second delta voltage comprising a difference between the second and third wye voltages;

a third voltage differentiator that inputs the third and first wye voltages and outputs a third delta voltage comprising a difference between the third and first wye voltages; and

an output voltage selector that receives the first, second, and third wye voltages and the first, second, and third delta voltages and selectively outputs either the first, second, and third wye voltages or the first, second, and third delta voltages for output.

9. The power meter of claim 8 where the first, second, and third voltage differentiators comprise operational amplifiers connected in a closed loop configuration with the first and second wye voltages, second and third wye voltages, and third and first wye voltages, respectively, as inputs.

10. The power meter of claim 8 where the output voltage selector comprises an analog multiplexer that inputs the first, second, and third wye voltages and the first, second, and third delta voltages and selectively outputs either the first, second, and third wye voltages or the first, second, and third delta voltages.

11. A method comprising:

providing a virtual ground for first, second, and third input voltages, respectively, of a multiphase voltage being supplied to the load, to produce first, second, and third wye voltages, respectively;

producing a first delta voltage comprising a difference between the first and second wye voltages;

producing a second delta voltage comprising a difference between the second and third wye voltages;

producing a third delta voltage comprising a difference between the third and first wye voltages; and

selectively outputting either the first, second, and third wye voltages or the first, second, and third delta voltages.

12. The method of claim 11 where the producing of the first, second, and third delta voltages is performed by inputting the first and second, second and third,

and third and first wye voltages into first, second, and third operational amplifiers, respectively.

13. The method of claim 11 where the selectively outputting is performed by inputting the first, second, and third wye voltages and the first, second, and third delta voltages to an analog multiplexer that selects one of the first wye voltage and first delta voltage, one of the second wye voltage and second delta voltage, and one of the third wye voltage and third delta voltage to output.

14. The method of claim 11 comprising:

measuring current being supplied to the load on each phase of the multiphase voltage being supplied to the load; and

calculating an amount of power being consumed by the load based on the measured current and the first, second, and third wye voltages or the first, second, and third delta voltages selected that are selectively output.

15. An apparatus comprising:

means for providing a virtual ground for first, second, and third input voltages, respectively, of a multiphase voltage being supplied to the load, to produce first, second, and third wye voltages, respectively;

means for producing a first delta voltage comprising a difference between the first and second wye voltages;

means for producing a second delta voltage comprising a difference between the second and third wye voltages;

means for producing a third delta voltage comprising a difference between the third and first wye voltages; and

means for selectively outputting either the first, second, and third wye voltages or the first, second, and third delta voltages.

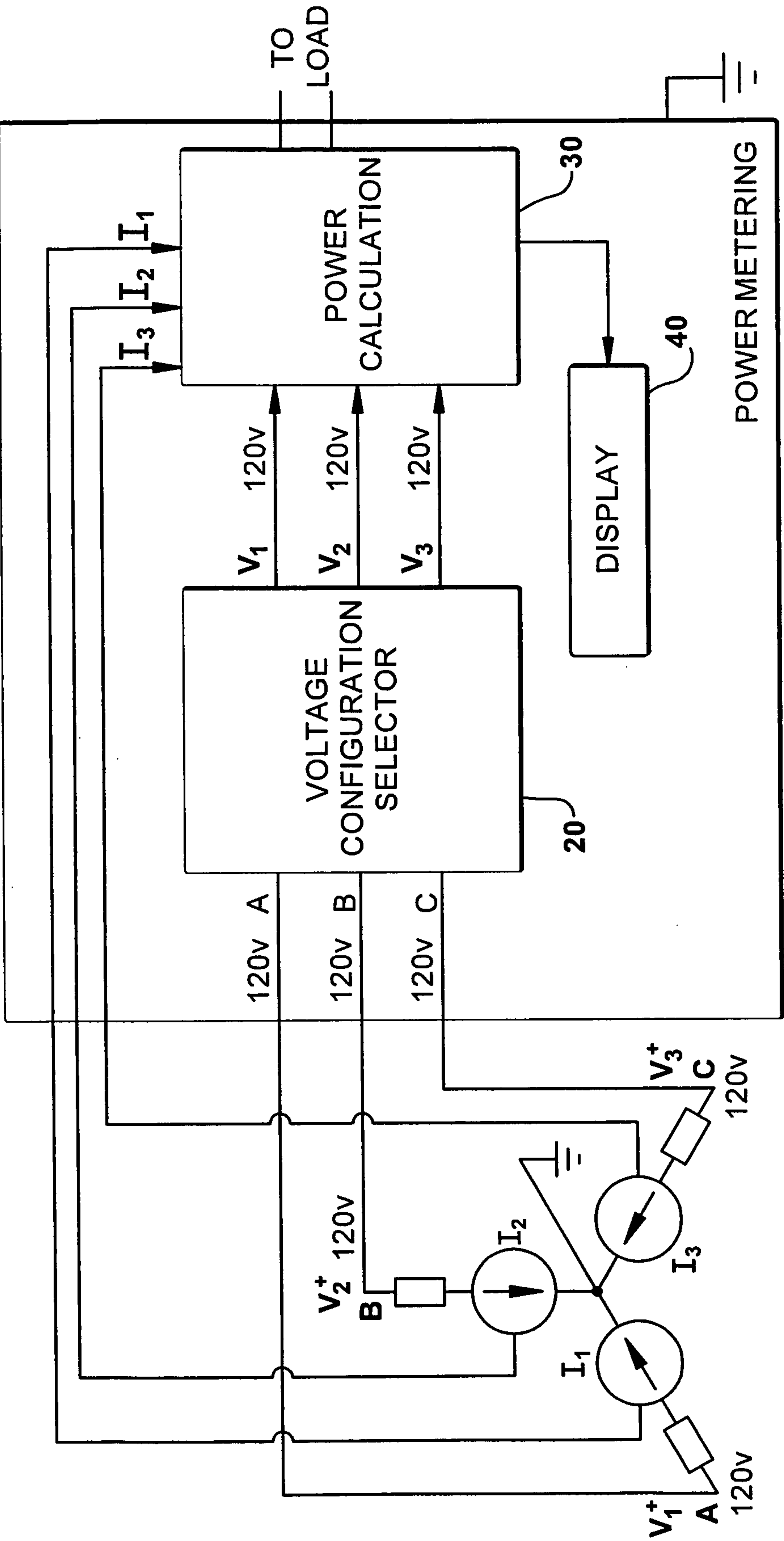


Fig. 1A

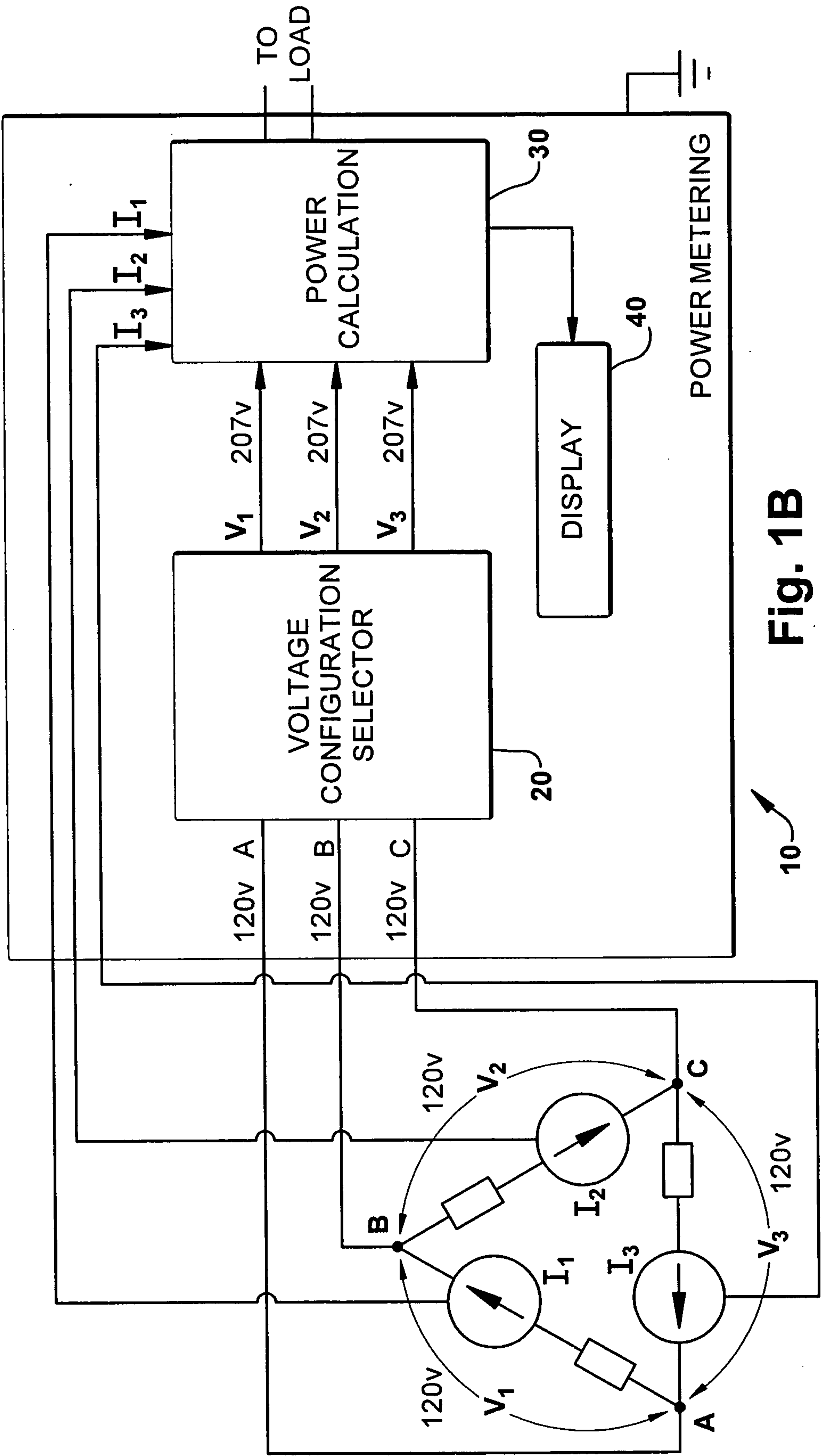
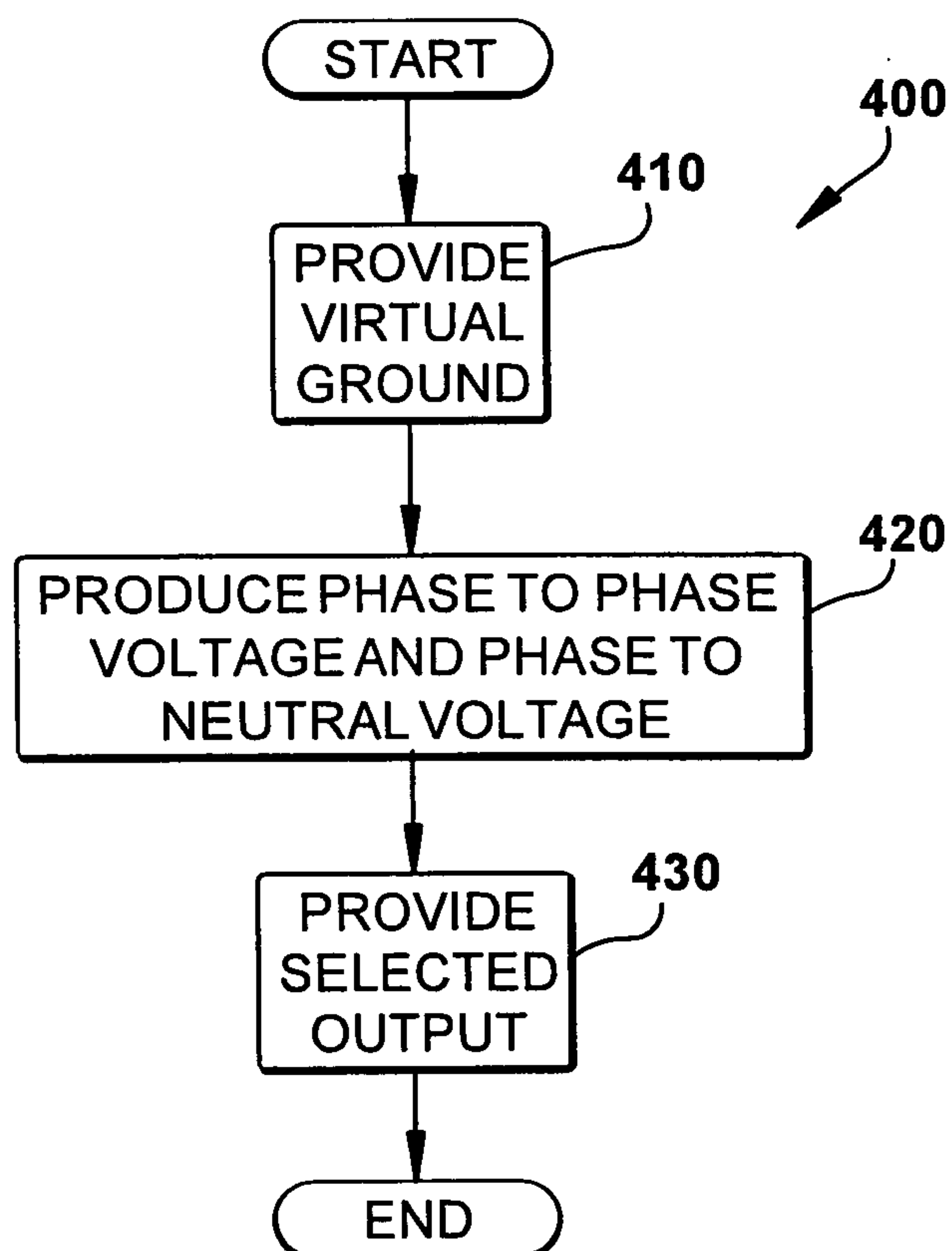
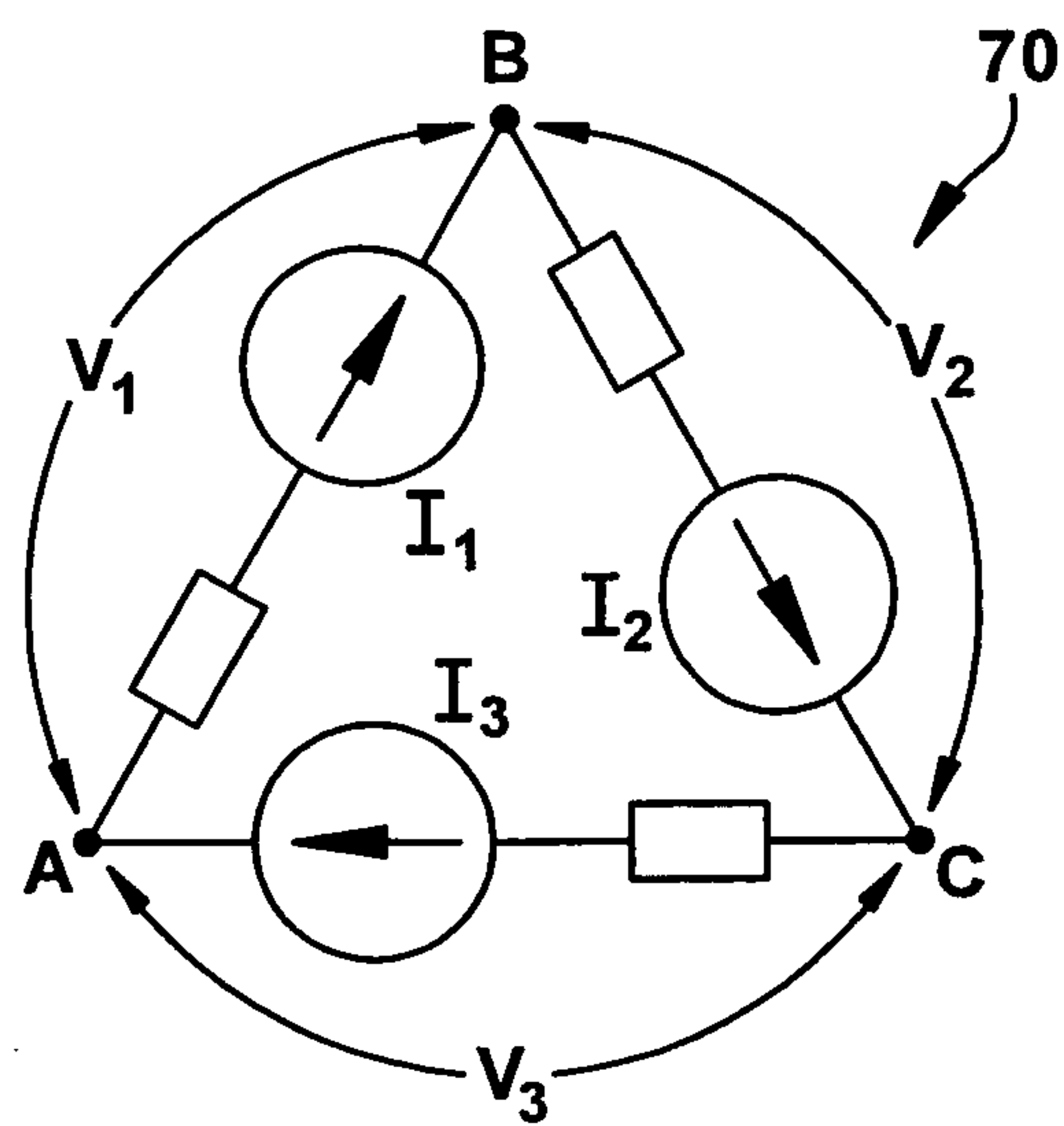
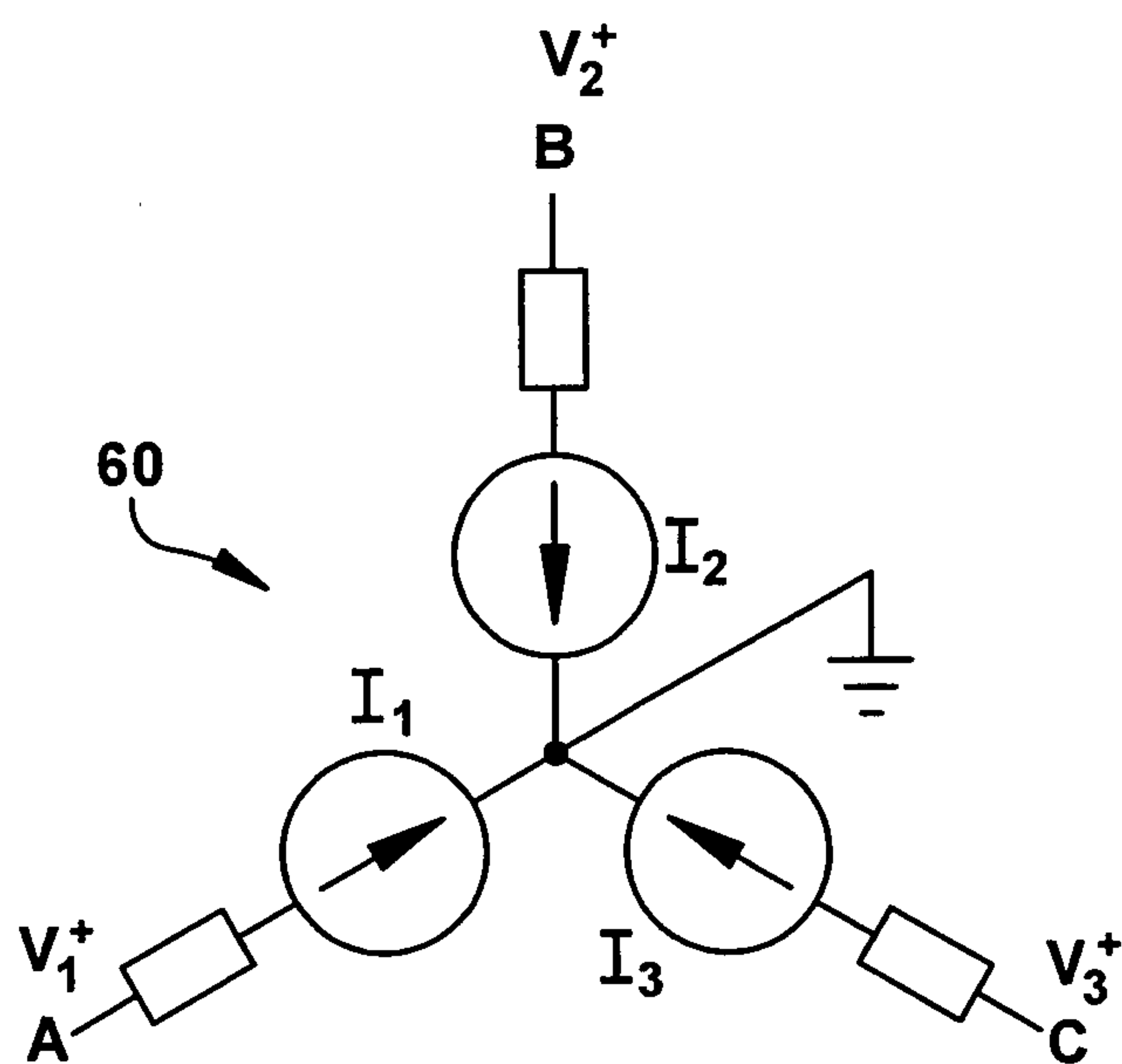


Fig. 1B



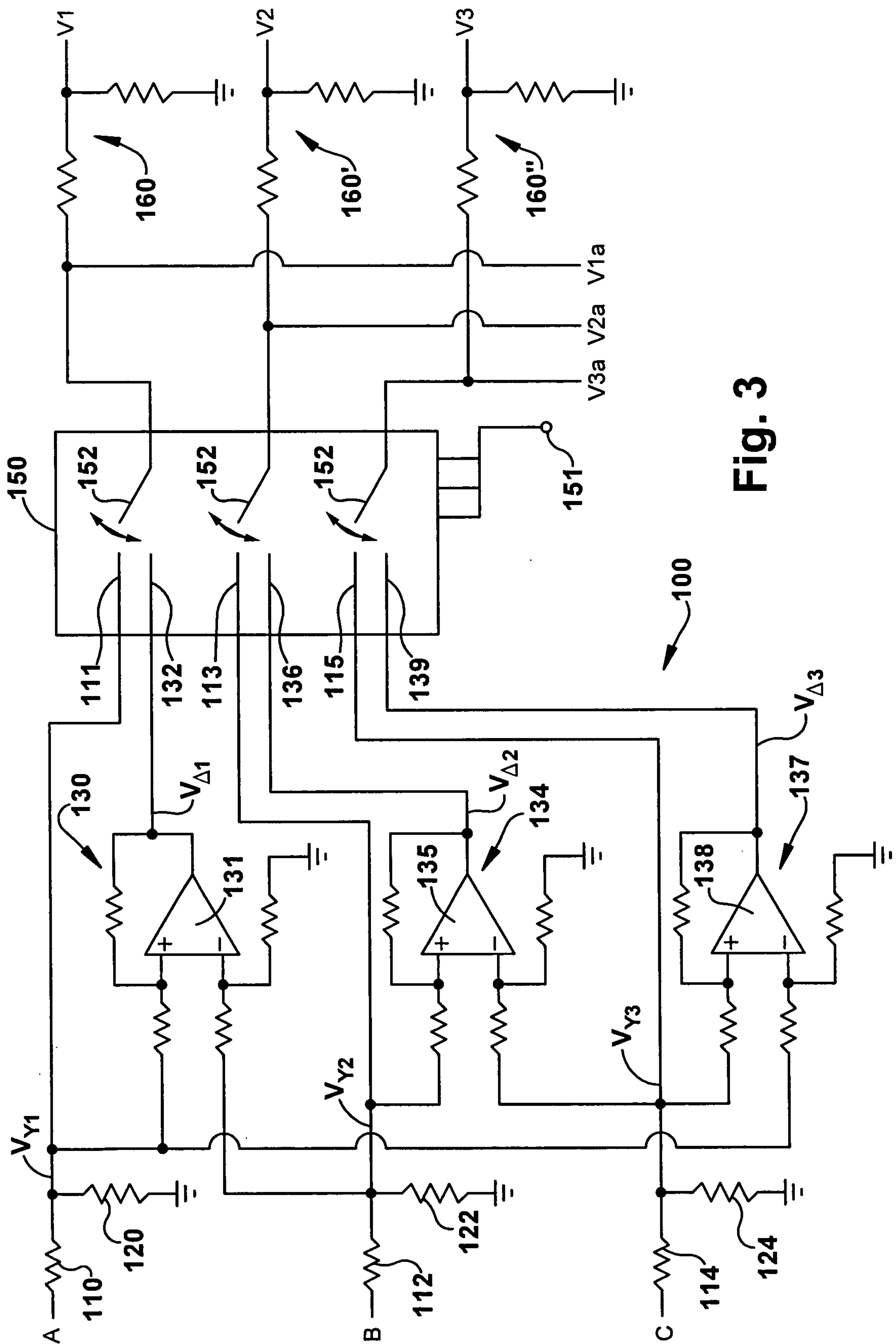


Fig. 3

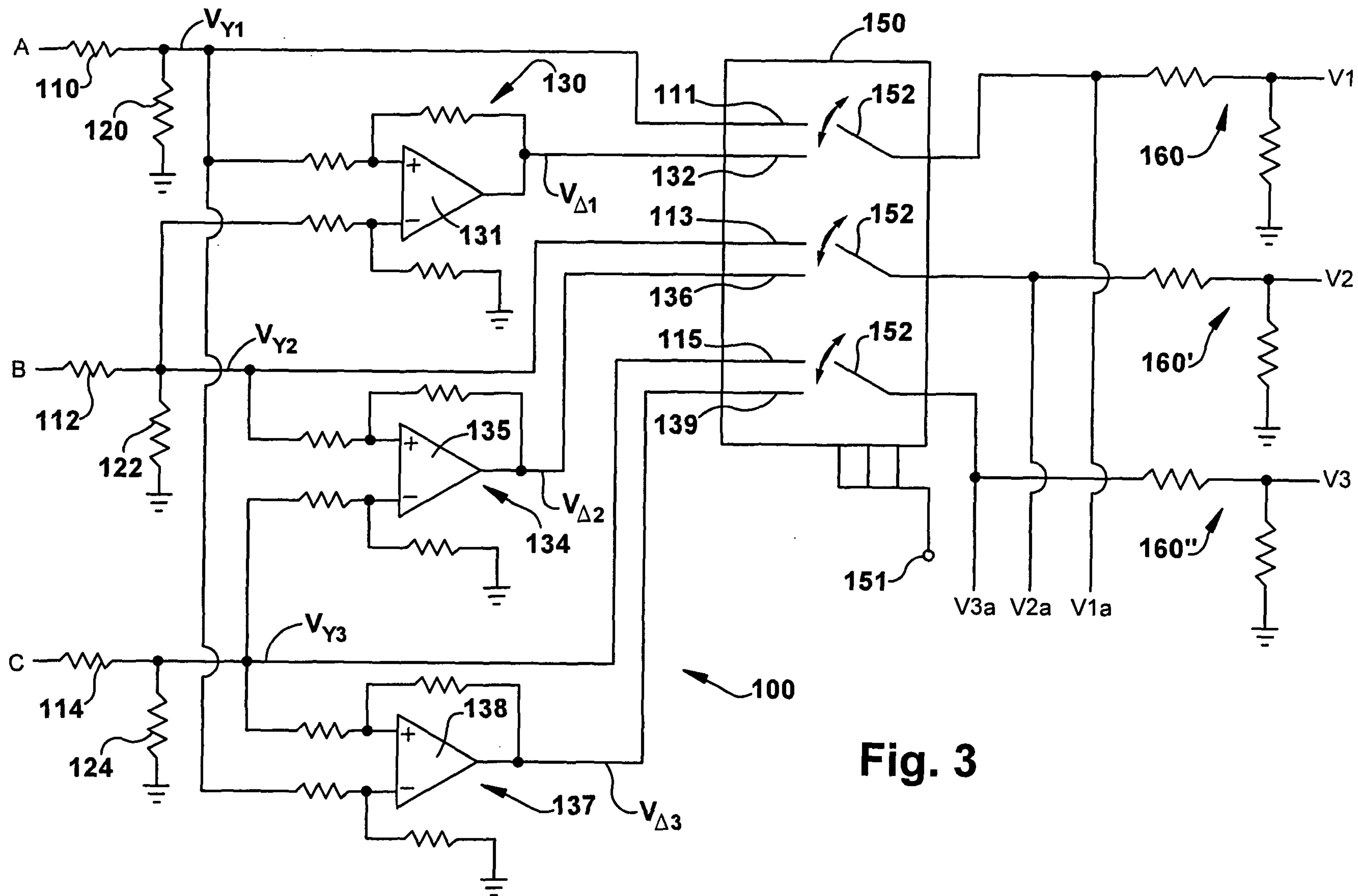


Fig. 3