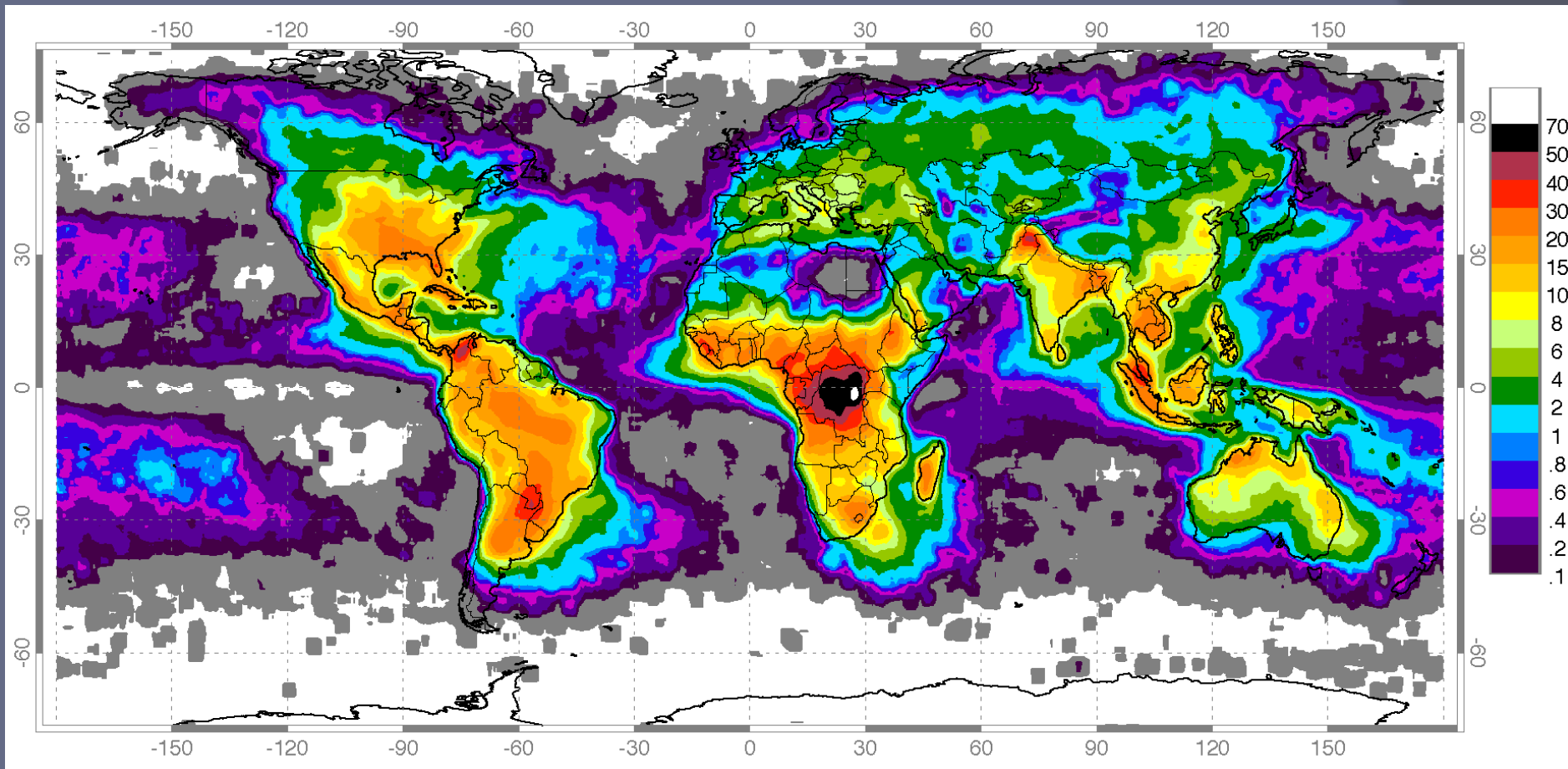




# LIGHTNING

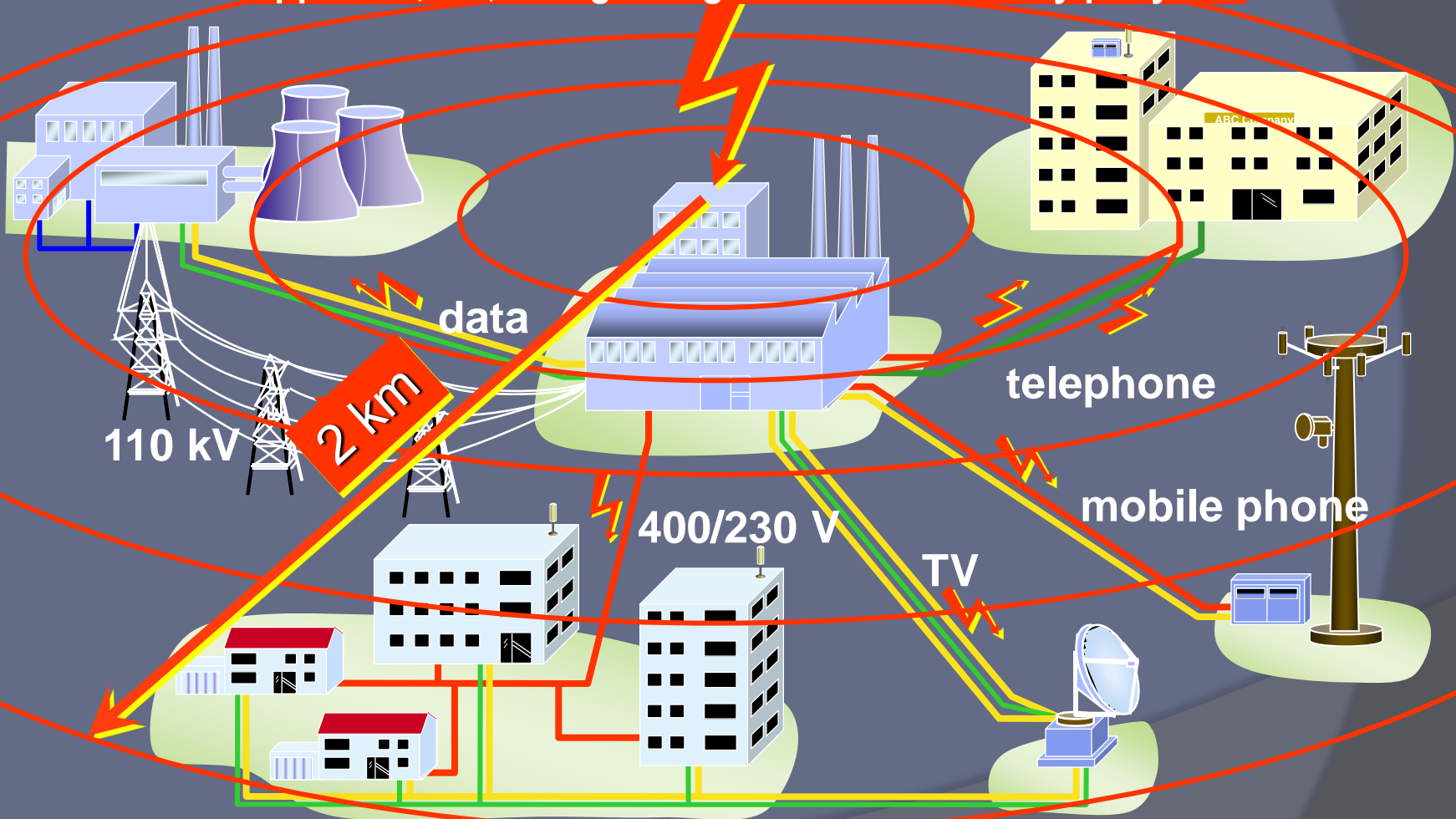
Dr.-Ing. Getachew Biru

# Lightning Prone Regions



# Danger due to Lightning Strokes

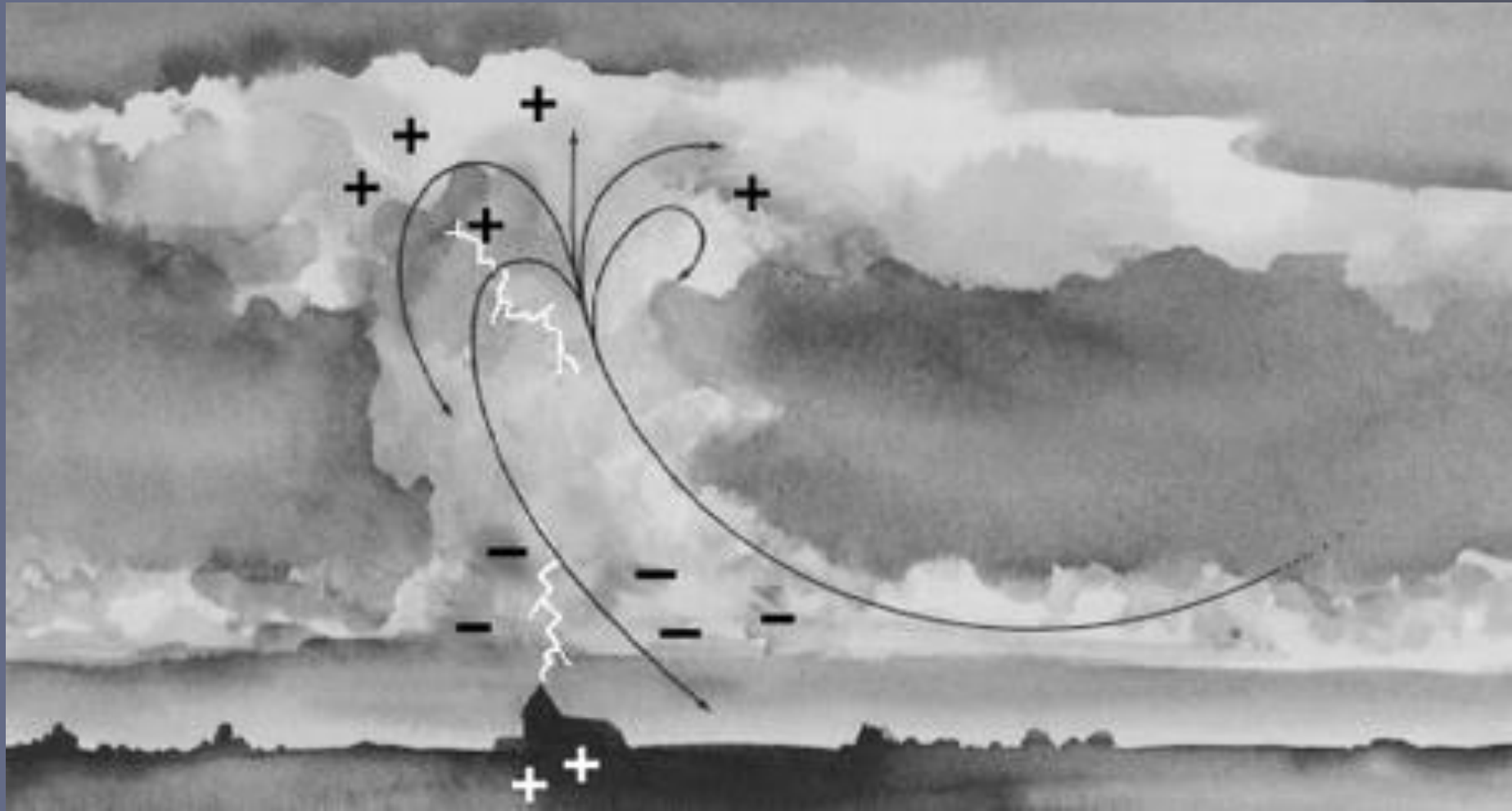
approx. 1,900,000 lightning strokes in Germany per year\*



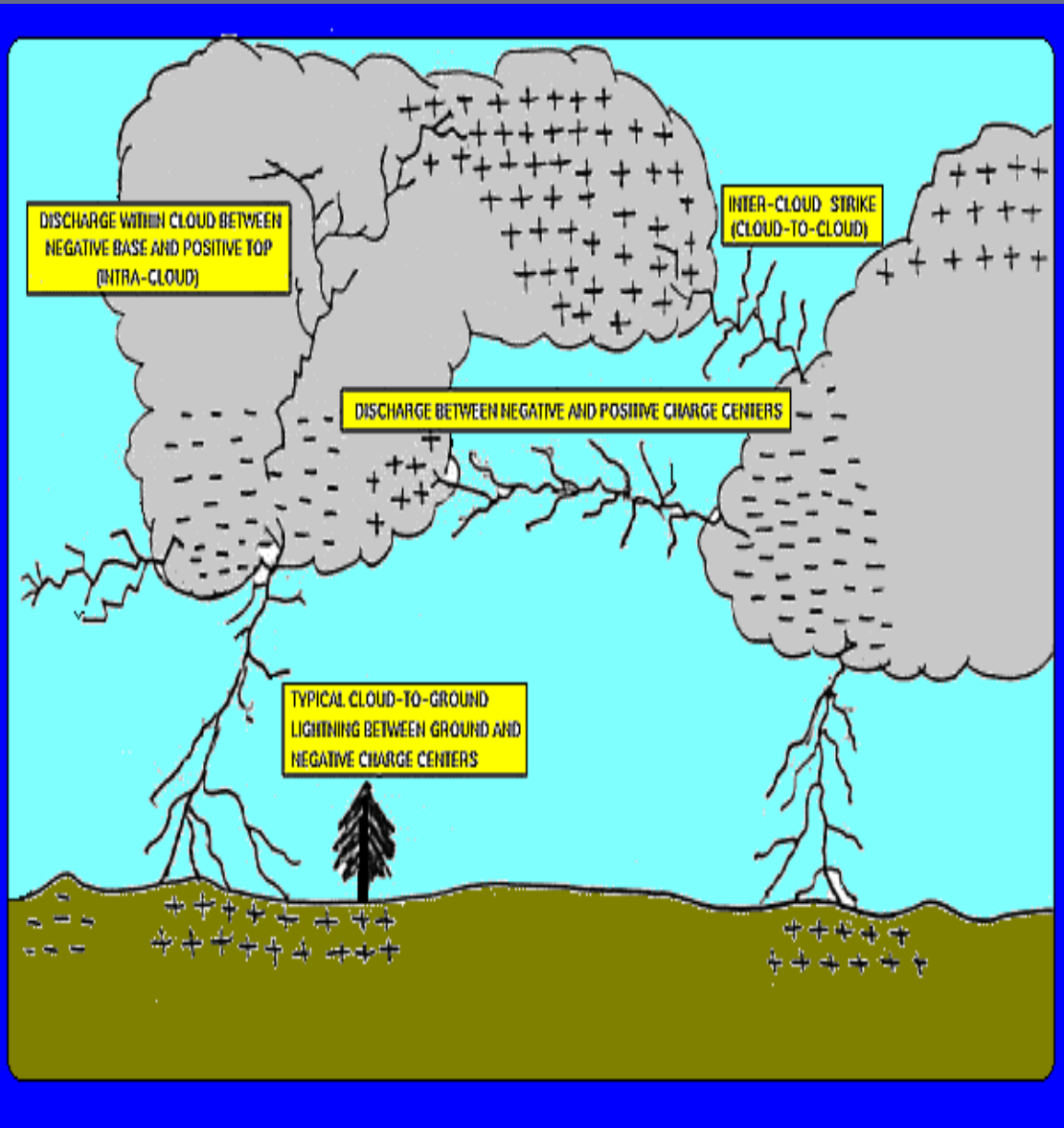
# Lightning Production

- Warm, low pressure air moving through cool, high pressure air produces static electricity.
- The friction of moving air particles within the cloud causes ionization and charges.
- As the separation of charge proceeds in the cloud, the potential difference between the centers of charges' increases and the vertical electric field along the cloud also increases.

# Lightning Production



# Lightning Production

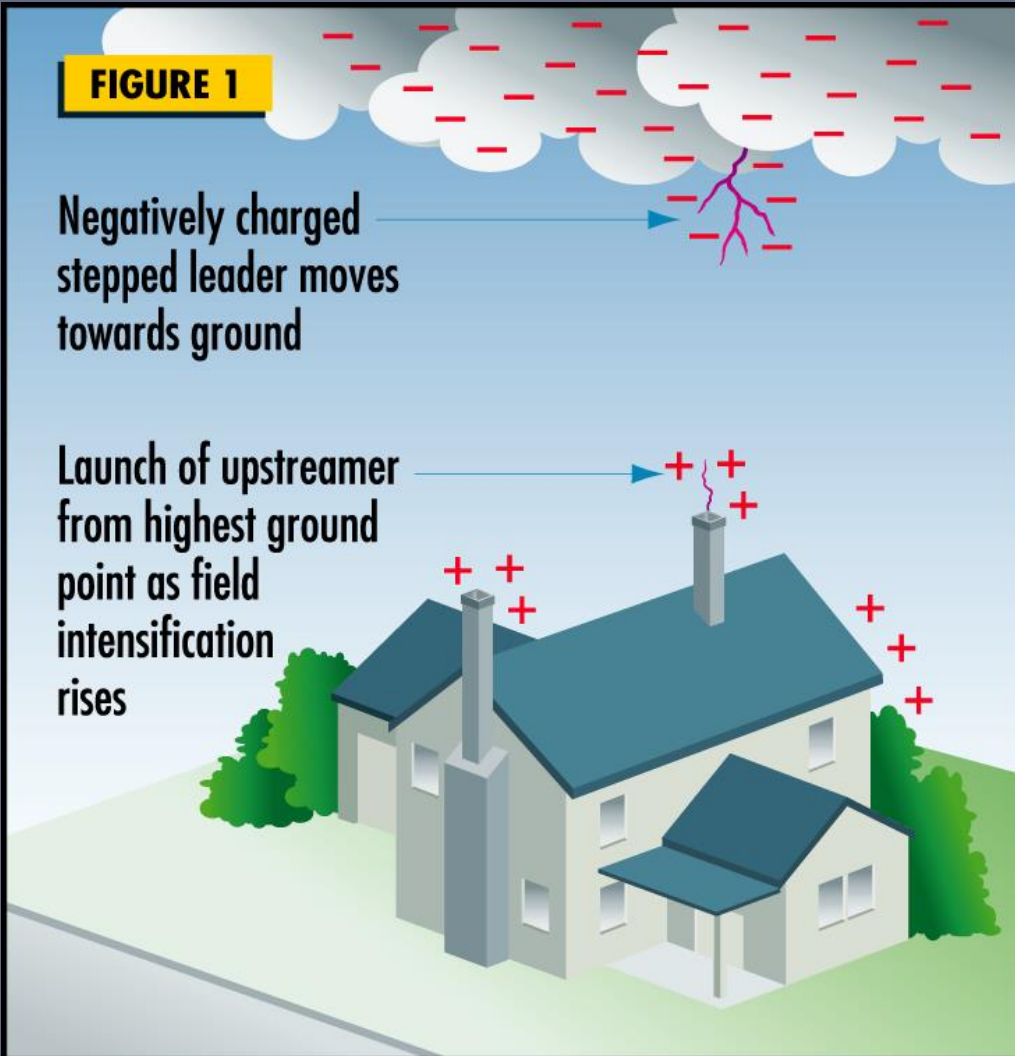


# Lightning Production

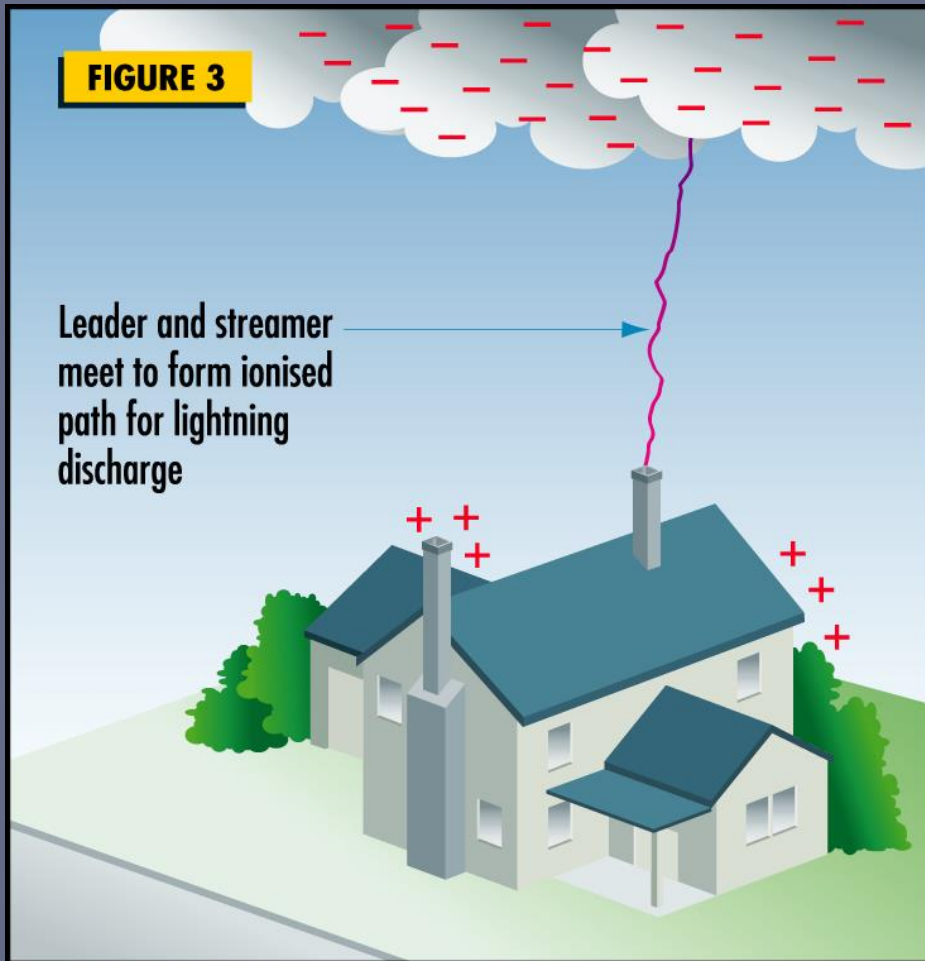
**FIGURE 1**

Negatively charged stepped leader moves towards ground

Launch of upstreamer from highest ground point as field intensification rises



# Lightning Production



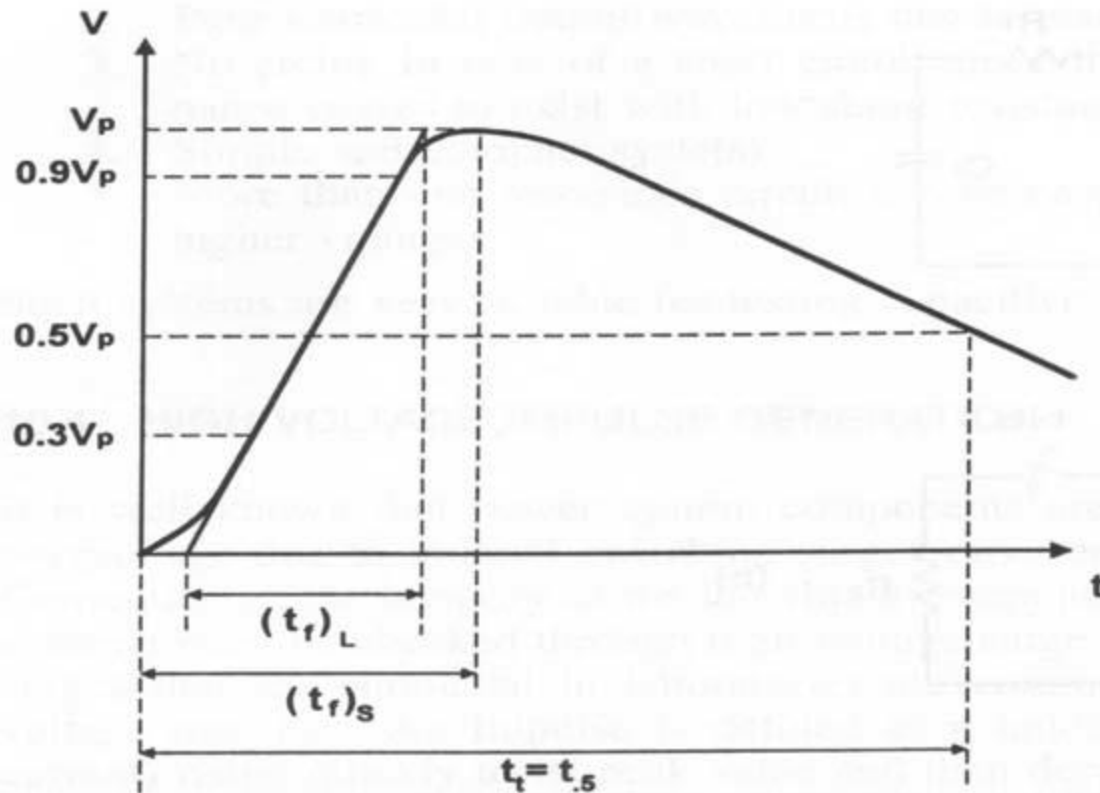
- Positive upward streamer meets the downward step leader
- Conducting path forms
- Potential is equalised by the "return stroke"
- Visible lightning flash



# Facts about Lightning

- A strike can produce on average of **100 Mega volts** of Electricity.
- Current of up to 100, kilo amperes
- Can generate 54,000 °F
- The height of the thundercloud dipole above earth may reach 5 km in tropical regions.
- Lightning strikes somewhere on the Earth every second.
- Kills hundreds of people every year and causes a huge damage to properties and equipments.

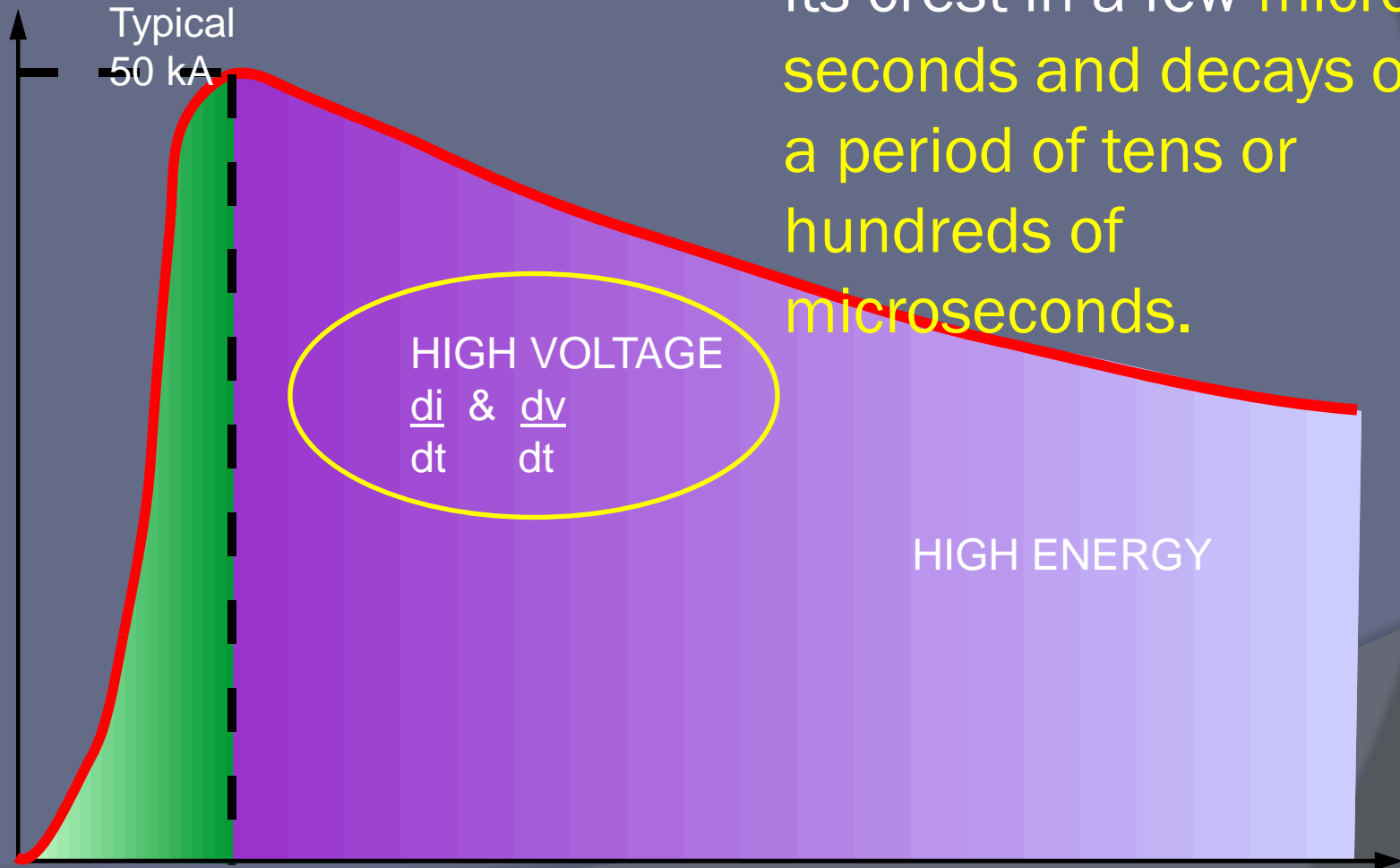
# Lightning Production



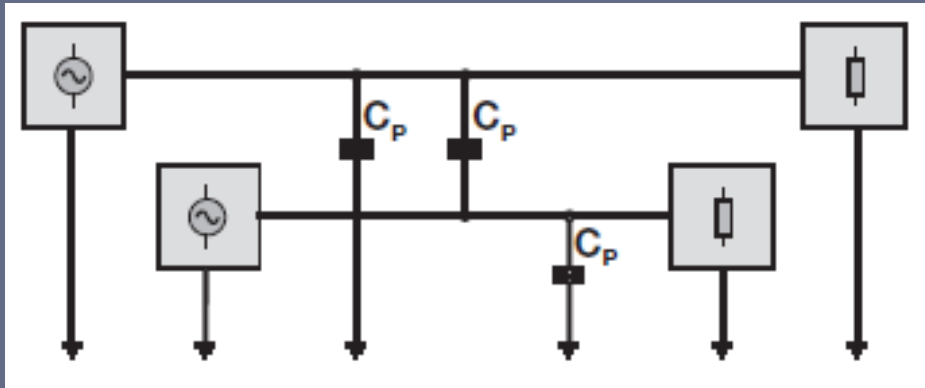
**Figure 10.6** Impulse waveshape parameters.  $(t_r)_L$  = front time for lightning impulses,  $(t_r)_s$  = front time for switching impulses and  $t_i$  = time to half value.

# Lightning Production

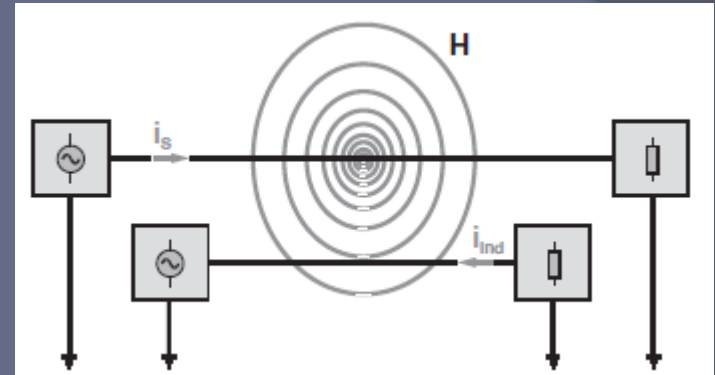
- The current pulse rises to its crest in a few **microseconds** and decays over a period of tens or hundreds of **microseconds**.



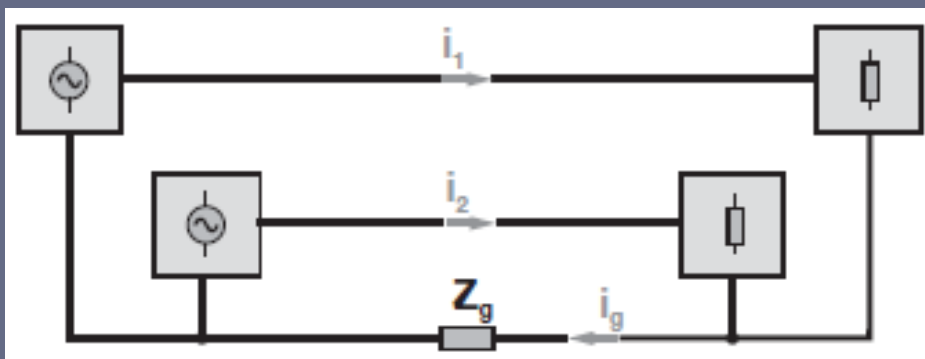
# How Transients Enter your Equipment



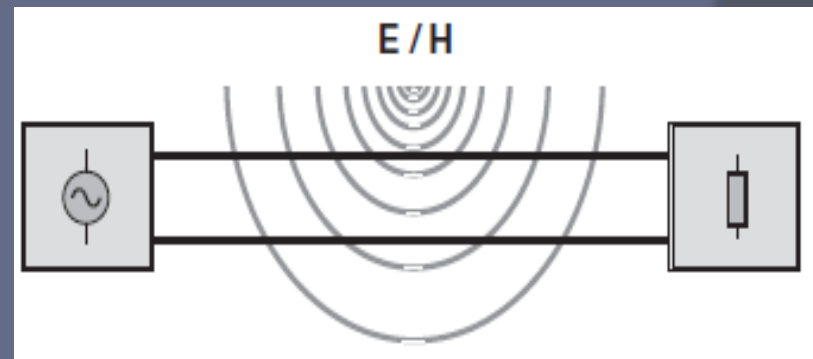
Capacitive coupling



Magnetic coupling

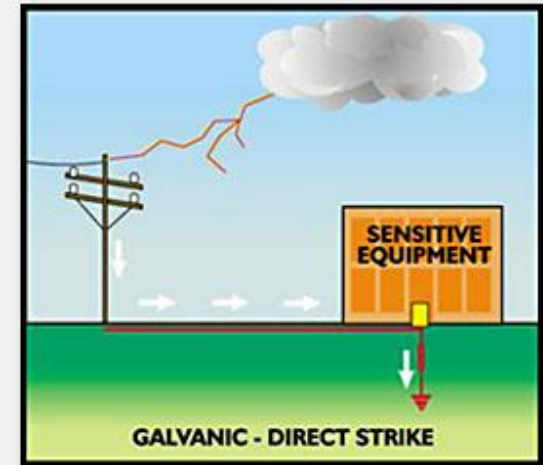
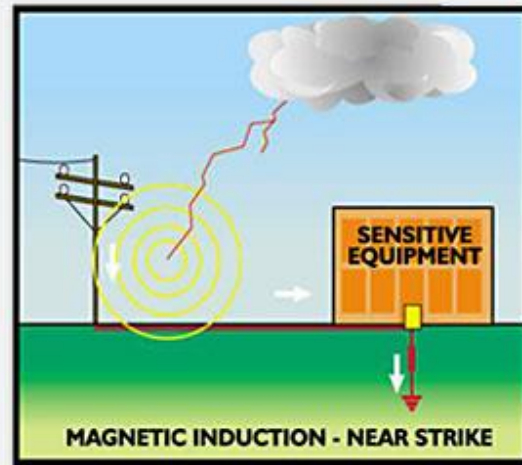
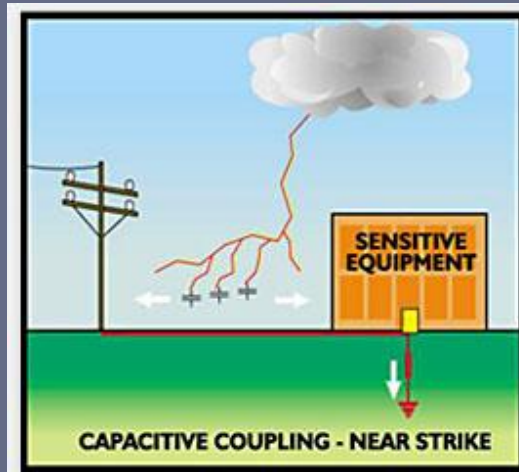


Conductive coupling



Electromagnetic Coupling

# How Transients Enter your Equipment



**Capacitive coupling** is where the transient voltage is coupled due to the inherent capacitance between two circuits

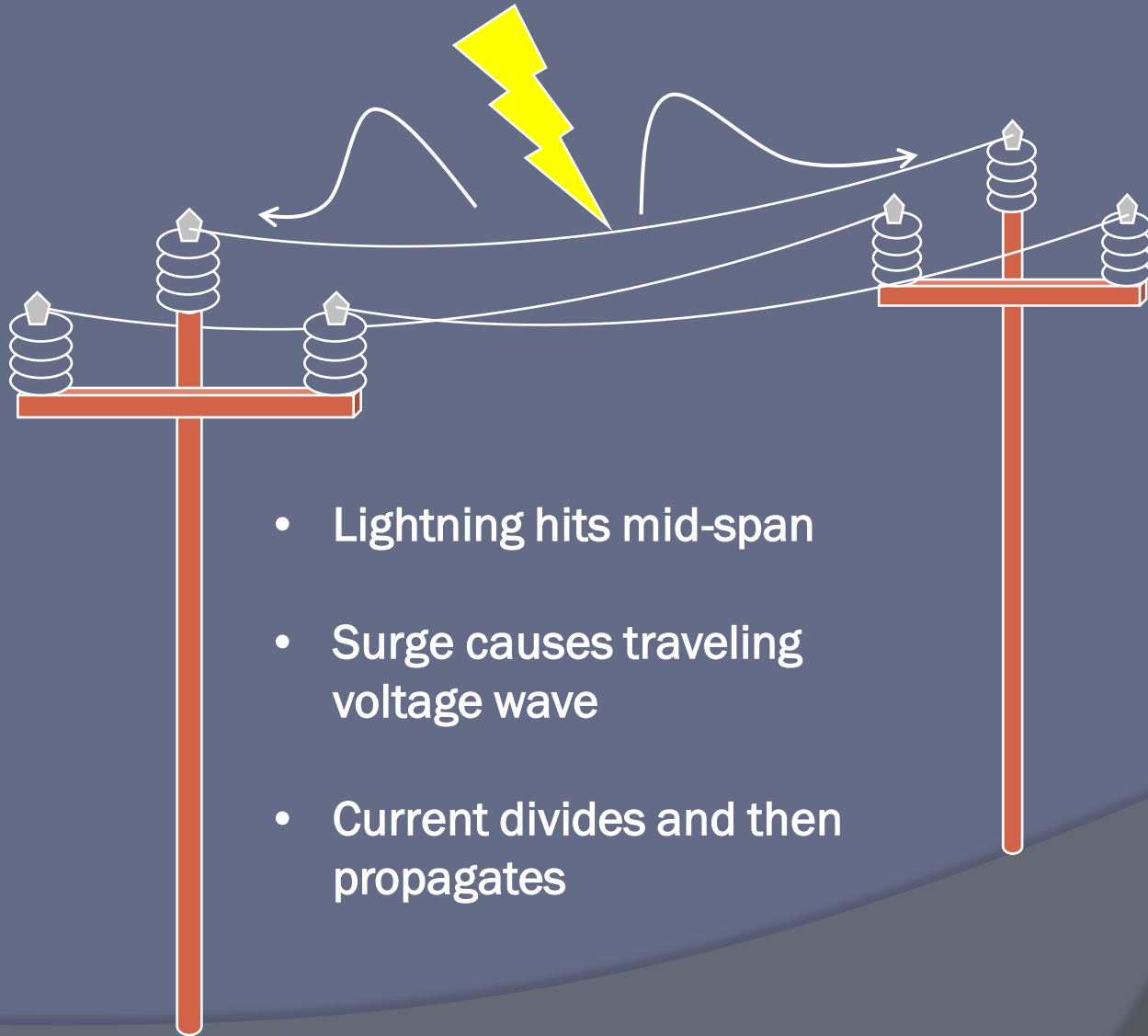
**Magnetic coupling** occurs when magnetic field of a current carrying conductor induces lightning current on to an adjacent conductor

**Galvanic coupling** is a direct electrical connection

# Lightning Surges

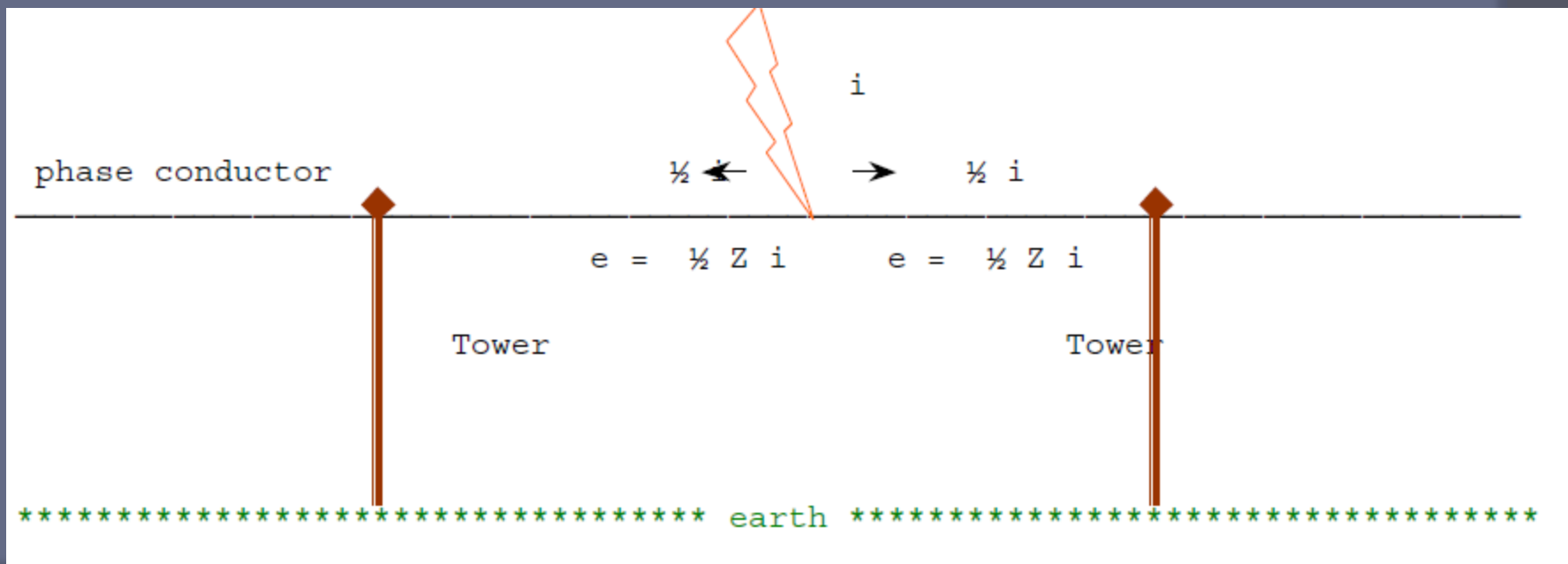


# Traveling Wave/ Overvoltage Protection



# Strokes to a Phase-conductor

- The charged cloud could discharge directly onto the line.
- If the line is struck a long distance from a station or substation, the surge will flow along the line in both directions, shattering insulators and sometimes even wrecking poles until all the energy of the surge is spent.



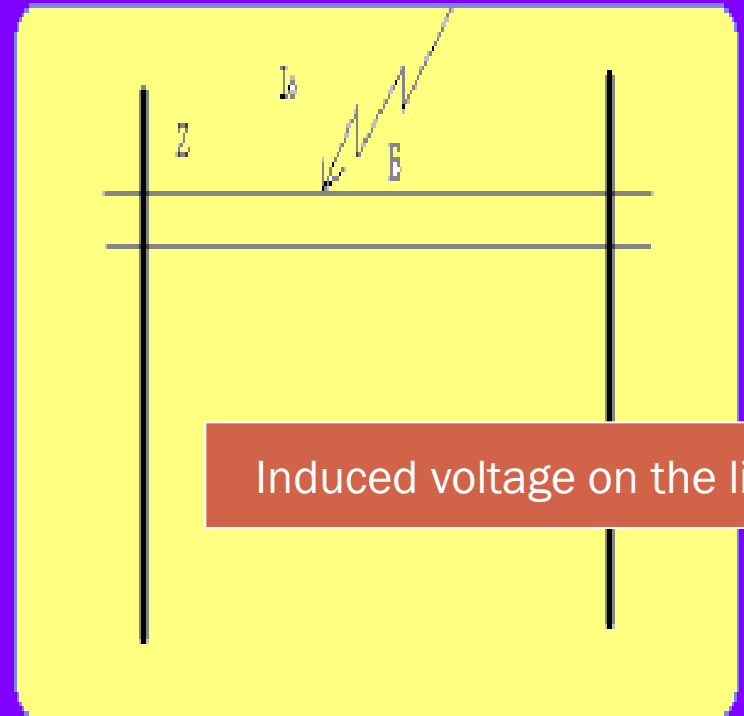


# Lightning Strokes

- Direct Stroke
- $V = I Z_c / 2$
- $Z_0 = \sqrt{L/C}$   
L henry/m  
C farad/m  
Typically:  
 $Z_c = 350 \text{ ohm}$

$Z_0$ -Surge impedance of the line

Lightning current magnitude



Induced voltage on the line

# Strokes to a Phase-conductor

- The discharge current splits itself equally on contact with the phase conductor, giving travelling waves of magnitude  $e$ .

$$e = \frac{1}{2} Z i ( e^{-\alpha t} - e^{-\beta t} )$$

where  $Z$  is the surge impedance of the phase conductor.

- Using a typical value for the line surge impedance (say  $300 \Omega$  **average lightning current** (20 kA), the voltage waves on the line would have a crest value of

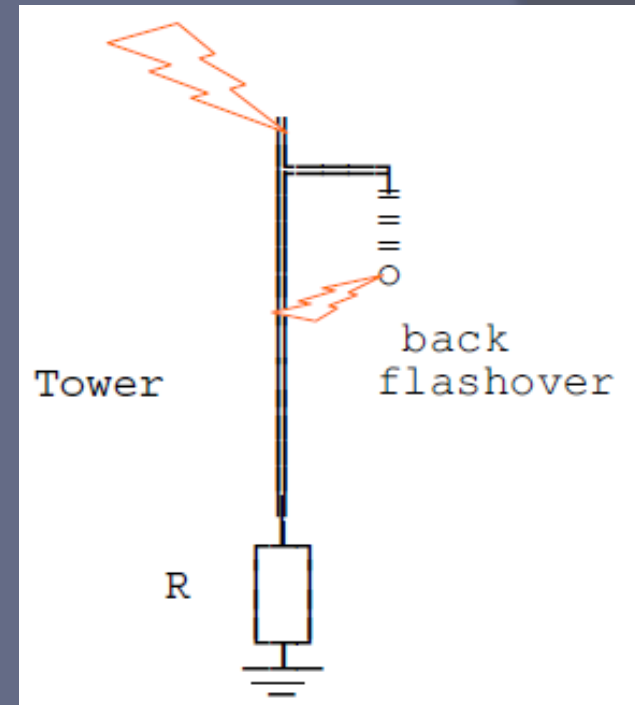
$$E = \frac{1}{2} Z i = (300/2) \times 20 \times 10^3 = 3 \text{ MV}$$

# Strokes to a tower with no earth wire

- The Figure shows a steel tower (inductance  $L$ ) of a transmission line with no earth wire. If the earthing resistance of the tower is  $R$  ( $=5-100\Omega$ ) and it is struck by lightning then the potential on the tower top will be:

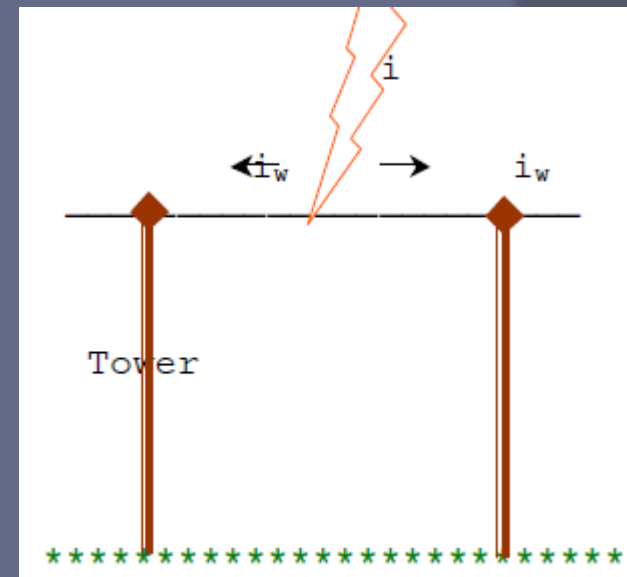
$$R i + L \frac{d i}{d t}$$

- If the value of  $e$  exceeds the line insulation strength, then a flashover occurs from the tower to the line and this is termed a **back flashover**.



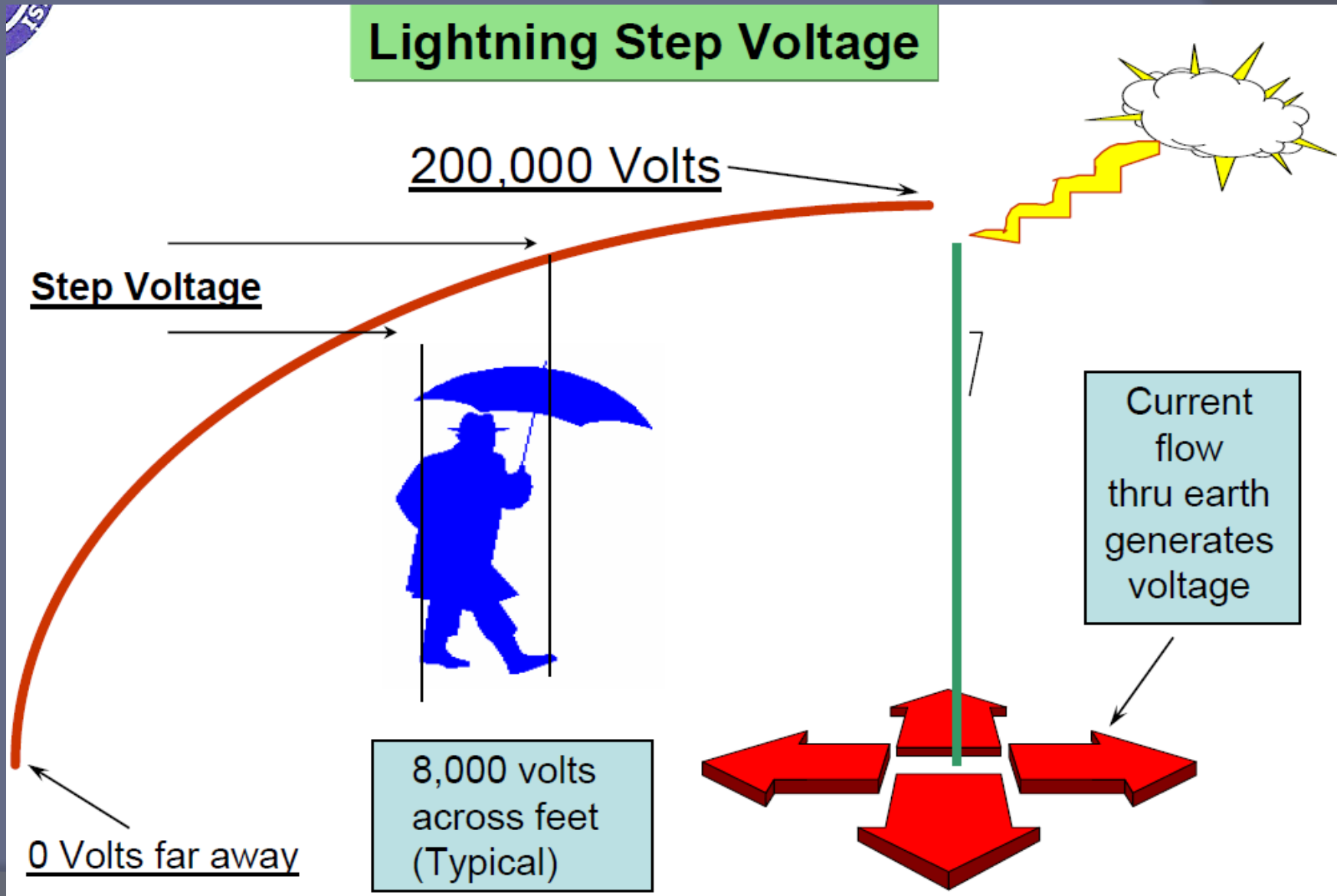
# Strokes to Earth Wire

- When a lightning stroke terminates on the tower of a transmission line having an overrunning earth wire, or terminates on the earth wire of the transmission line, then the resulting current flow would be as shown in figure:
- The voltage waves produced by the current  $i_w$  flowing along the earth wire will travel along the earth wire in both directions from the tower struck

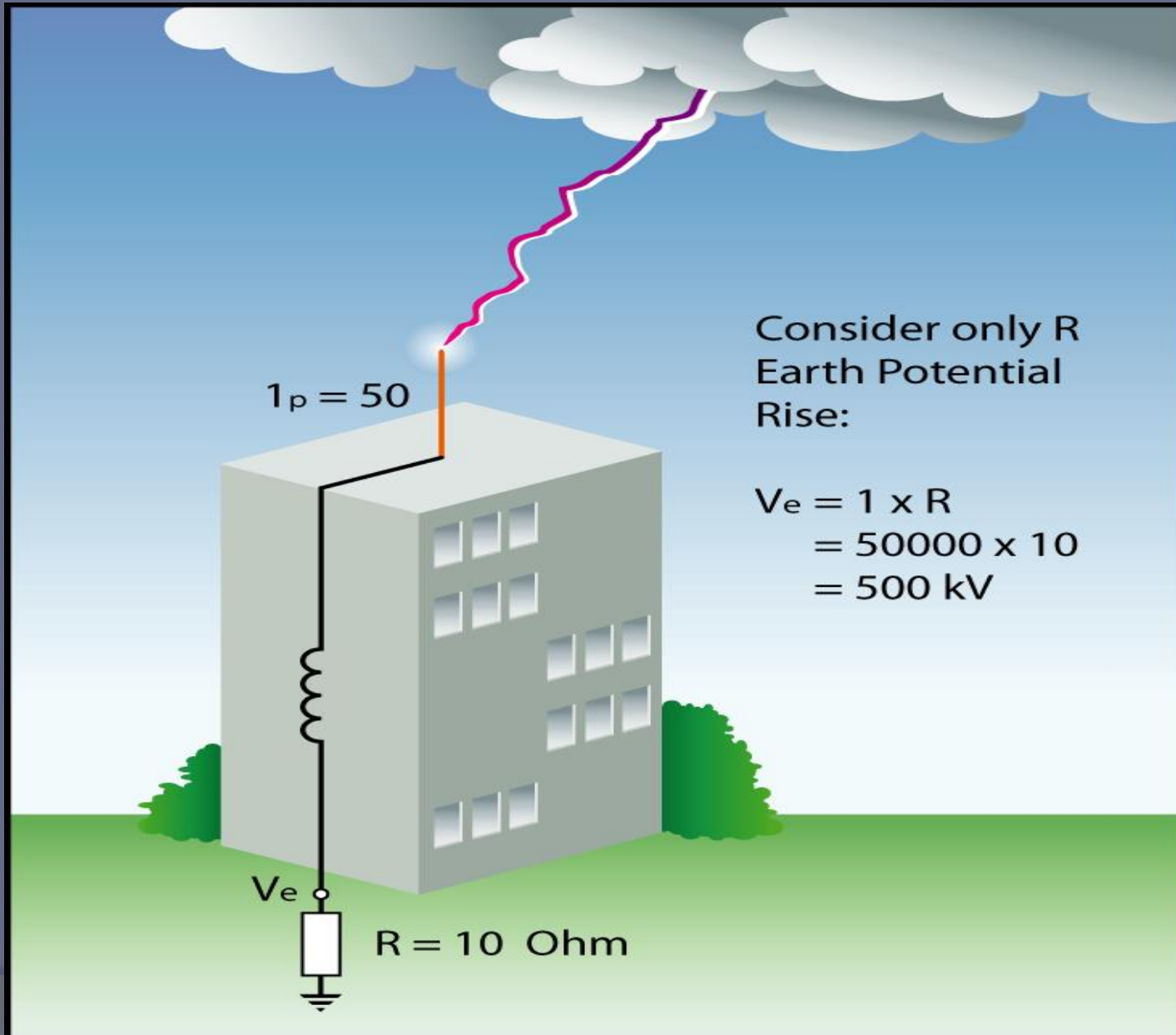


# Lightning Strokes

## Lightning Step Voltage

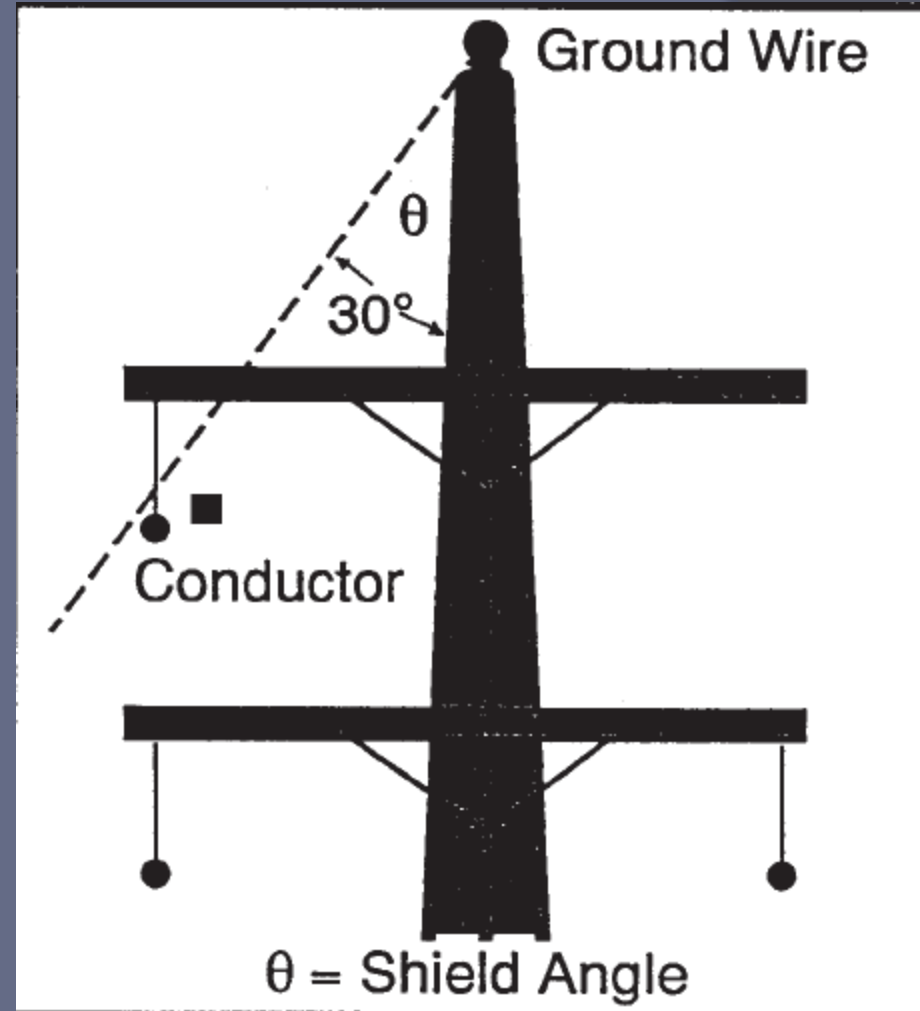


# Lightning Strokes

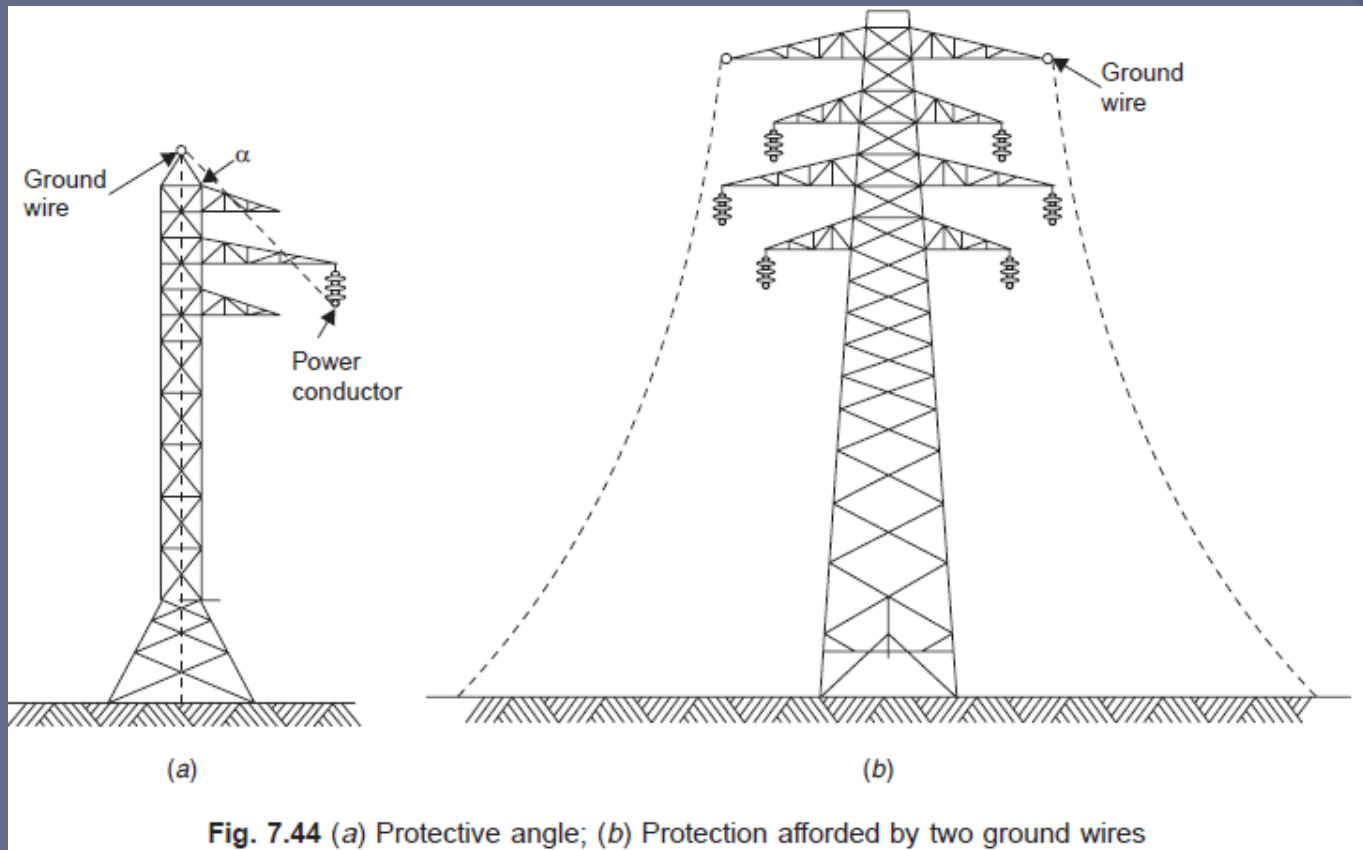


# Lightning Protection Using Shield Wires or Ground Wires

- Ground wire is a conductor run parallel to the main conductor of the transmission line supported on the same tower and earthed at every equally and regularly spaced towers.



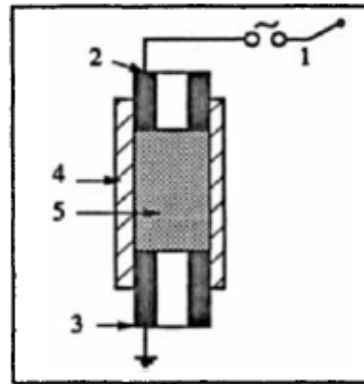
# Lightning Protection Using Shield Wires or Ground Wires





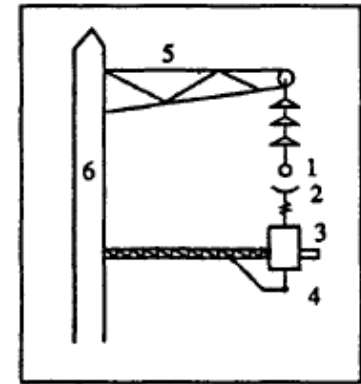
# Surge Arrestor

Surge arrester with expulsion gap is a device which consists of a spark gap together with an arc quenching device which extinguishes the current arc when the gaps break over due to over voltages.



1. External series gap
2. Upper electrode
3. Ground electrode
4. Fibre tube
5. Hollow space

Fig. 8.20a Expulsion gap



1. Line conductor on string insulator
2. Series gap
3. Protector tube
4. Ground connection
5. Cross arm
6. Tower body

Fig. 8.20b Protector tube mounting

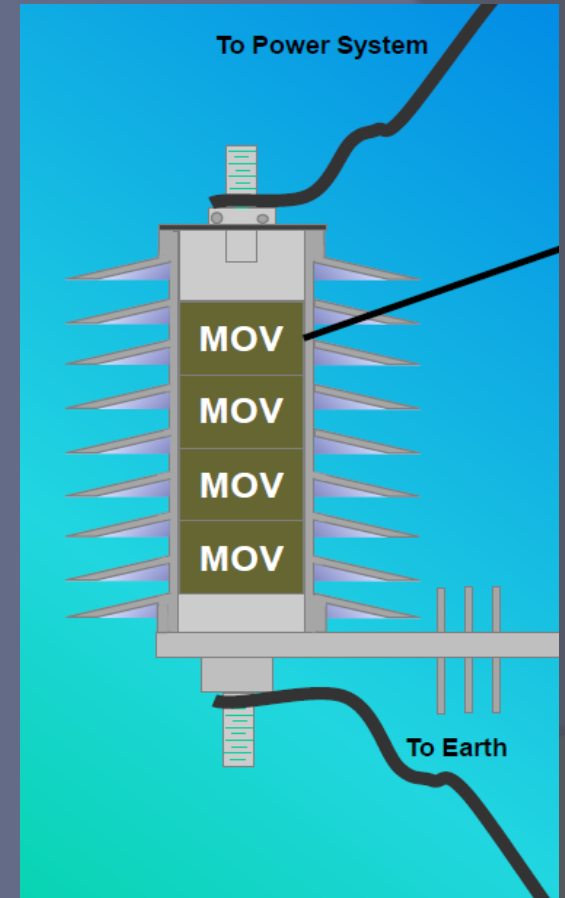
- It Divert the Lightning to Ground or

# Surge Arrestor

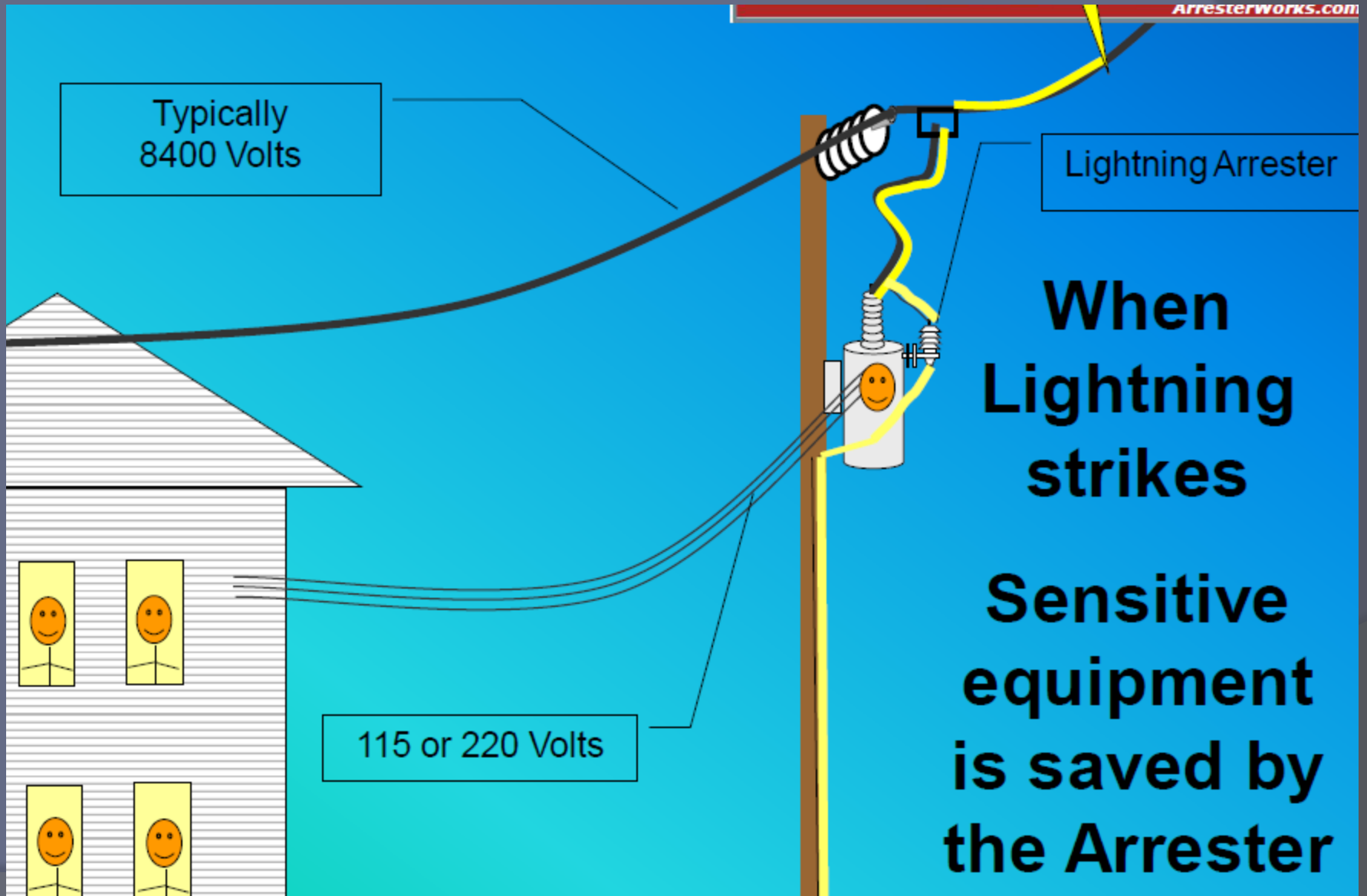
In the second type, the air gap is replaced by a **nonlinear element** which offers a very high impedance at low currents but has low impedance for high or lightning currents.

# Lighting Arrestor

The Metal Oxide Varistor (MOV) Disk is a Semiconductor that is sensitive to Voltage. At normal Voltages the MOV disk is an insulator and will not conduct current; but at higher voltages it becomes a conductor .



# Lighting Arrestor



# Lighting Arrestor Ratings

**The highest phase to earth voltage:** the power frequency highest voltage applied to the arrester.

$$U_{pm} = \frac{\sqrt{2}U_s}{\sqrt{3}}$$

$U_s$ -system voltage

- **Continuous operating voltage (Maximum continuous operating voltage MCOV)  $U_c$ :** the power frequency phase voltage which the arrester can be operated at without any type of restriction. It is greater than the highest continuously occurring voltage by at least 5%.

# Lighting Arrestor Ratings

- **Rated voltage of an arrestor**  $U_r$ : characterizes the capability of the arrestor to deal with temporary overvoltages in the system. It can be only applied for a very short period of time (10-100 seconds). The leakage current is around 1 mA.  $U_r = 1.25 U_c$ .
- **The maximum current** the arrestor can conduct during breakdown.

# Lightning Arrestor Ratings

Description	230 kV	132 kV	15 kV
Installation	Outdoor	Outdoor	Outdoor
Rated voltage of arrester, (kV)	198	120	18
Highest system voltage (kV)	245	145	17.5
Lightning impulse withstand voltage (1.2/50 $\mu$ sec ) kV	1050	650	120
Power frequency withstand voltage 1min, (kV)	$\geq 460$	$\geq 300$	55
Rated discharged current (KA)	10	10	10
Standard Applied	<b>IEC 60099-4</b>		

# Lightning Arrestor Ratings

**Example – Find a suitable lightning arrester for a 240 kV transformer.**

For the transformer, MCOV = 264 kV (=240×110%) and BIL = 850 kV (as per AESO FS)  
 Therefore, the arrester's voltage rating ( $V_r$ ) and continuous operating voltage ( $V_c$ ) is  $\geq 153$  kV  
 (=  $264 \div \sqrt{3}$ )

The following arresters can be chosen:

Voltage Rating (kV rms)		TOV (kV rms) (10 sec)	Max Residual Voltage (kV peak)			
$V_r$	$V_c$		SPL (1 kA) 30/60 $\mu$ s	SPL (2 kA) 30/60 $\mu$ s	LPL (5 kA) 8/20 $\mu$ s	LPL (10 kA) 8/20 $\mu$ s
210	156	231	417	433	469	494
<b>240</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>564</b>
276	221	303	547	569	617	648

Insulation strength (BIL) = 850 kV

Therefore, protective margin =  $(850/564 - 1) = 0.51$  or 51% (which is >25%)

Assuming an effectively grounded system, and the power frequency over-voltage is limited to no more than 40% at the arrester,

so MCOV × 140% =  $153 \times 140\% = 214$  kV (which is less than 264 kV)