

ATP-EMTP investigation of a new fault location method for multi-terminal power lines

Marek Fulczyk, Przemyslaw Balcerek, Jan Izykowski, Eugeniusz Rosolowski, Murari Mohan Saha

Abstract--This paper presents a new method for locating faults on multi-terminal power lines. Estimation of a distance to fault and indication of a faulted section is performed using three-phase current from all (n) terminals and additionally three-phase voltage from the terminal at which a fault locator is installed. The fault location algorithm consists of (2n-3) subroutines designated for locating faults within particular line sections and a procedure for indicating the faulted line section. Testing and evaluation of the algorithm has been performed with fault data obtained from comprehensive ATP-EMTP simulations. Sample results of the evaluation are reported and discussed.

Keywords: ATP-EMTP, current differential relay, fault location, simulation, multi-terminal line.

I. INTRODUCTION

ACCURATE location of faults on overhead power lines for the inspection-repair purpose [1]–[4] is of vital importance for operators and utility staff for expediting service restoration, and thus to reduce outage time, operating costs and customer complaints.

A system and a method for fault location on a multiple-terminal parallel transmission line is known from [1]. In that method a multi-terminal transmission system is equivalented to a three-terminal transmission system, for which differential current amplitudes are calculated in each station. Then, the distance to the fault point is calculated from their relations.

A method for fault location using voltage and current phasor measurement in all stations at the ends of a multi-terminal line has been presented in [2]. That method relies on reducing a multi-section transmission line into systems of two-terminal lines assuming that the fault is located in one of these sections and then hypothetical fault locations are calculated for this assumption. Next, calculations of successive hypothetical fault locations are made assuming that the fault is located in further successive sections of the line. One value, which is contained in a specific interval of expected values and which indicates the actual place of the fault, is selected from the

hypothetical locations calculated in this way.

Use of yet another set of the fault locator input signals, which differs from those applied in the cited approaches [1]–[2], is proposed in this paper. Three-phase current acquired synchronously [5] at all line terminals and additionally three-phase voltage from the terminal at which the fault locator (FL – Fig. 1) is installed, are taken as the input signals. Such specific availability of measurements for locating faults has been assumed with the aim of simple adding the fault location function to current differential relays for multi-terminal lines.

After derivation of the complete fault location algorithm, the results of its evaluation with use of the ATP-EMTP [6] simulation data are delivered and discussed.

II. FAULT LOCATION TECHNIQUE

Modern microprocessor-based current differential relays exchange the locally measured current phasors over long distances. For this purpose different forms of communication means are utilized. The current differential protection principle requires synchronization of digital measurements performed at different line terminals. This is accomplished using the well-known Global Positioning System (GPS) or the other techniques [5].

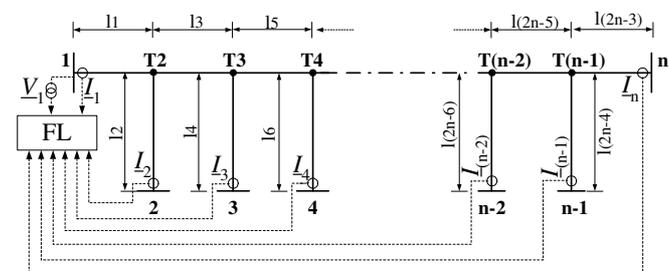


Fig. 1. Fault location on multi-terminal line with the assumed input signals.

Phasors of three-phase current from all line terminals: I_1, I_2, \dots, I_n , together with the locally measured three-phase voltage phasor (V_1) are taken as the fault locator input signals (Fig. 1). In natural way, these measurements are considered further as synchronized.

The developed fault location algorithm consists of (2n-3) subroutines – designated for locating faults on particular line sections (as depicted in Fig.1) where ‘n’ is the number of terminals. Since the position of a fault is a random factor, the faulted line section is not known in advance. Therefore, the valid subroutine (for the faulted section) will be chosen using a special selection procedure.

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A. Fault location algorithm – subroutine SUB_A

The subroutine SUB_A, designed for locating faults within the line section L1 (between nodes: 1, T2) (Fig. 2), is based on the following generalized fault loop model [4]:

$$\underline{V}_{-1p} - d_1 \underline{Z}_{iL1} \underline{I}_{1p} - R_{1F} \underline{I}_F = 0 \quad (1)$$

where

d_1 unknown distance to fault distance to fault from the beginning of the line to the fault point (p.u.);

R_{1F} unknown fault resistance;

\underline{V}_{-1p} , \underline{I}_{1p} fault loop voltage and current;

\underline{Z}_{iL1} positive sequence impedance of the section L1;

\underline{I}_F total fault current (fault path current).

Fault loop voltage and current are composed accordingly to the fault type, as the following weighted sums of the respective symmetrical components of the measured signals:

$$\underline{V}_{-1p} = \underline{a}_1 \underline{V}_{-11} + \underline{a}_2 \underline{V}_{-12} + \underline{a}_0 \underline{V}_{-10} \quad (2)$$

$$\underline{I}_{Ap} = \underline{a}_1 \underline{I}_{A1} + \underline{a}_2 \underline{I}_{A2} + \underline{a}_0 \frac{\underline{Z}_{0L1}}{\underline{Z}_{iL1}} \underline{I}_{A0} \quad (3)$$

where

\underline{a}_1 , \underline{a}_2 , \underline{a}_0 weighting coefficients (Table I);

\underline{V}_{-11} , \underline{V}_{-12} , \underline{V}_{-10} symmetrical components (the second lower index) of voltages measured in station 1 (the first lower index);

\underline{I}_{A1} , \underline{I}_{A2} , \underline{I}_{A0} symmetrical components (the second lower index) of currents measured in station 1 (the first lower index);

\underline{Z}_{0L1} , \underline{Z}_{iL1} zero, positive sequence impedance of the line section L1.

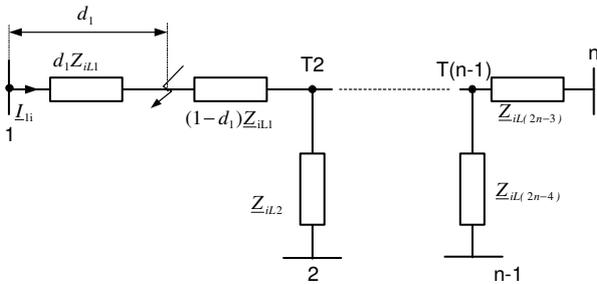


Fig. 2. Equivalent circuit diagram of the network for the i -th symmetrical component assuming that a fault is on the first line section.

TABLE I
WEIGHTING COEFFICIENTS IN FAULT LOOP SIGNALS (2)–(3)

FAULT TYPE	\underline{a}_1	\underline{a}_2	\underline{a}_0
a-g	1	1	1
b-g	$-0.5 - j0.5\sqrt{3}$	$0.5 + j0.5\sqrt{3}$	1
c-g	$0.5 + j0.5\sqrt{3}$	$-0.5 - j0.5\sqrt{3}$	1
a-b, a-b-g a-b-c, a-b-c-g	$1.5 + j0.5\sqrt{3}$	$1.5 - j0.5\sqrt{3}$	0
b-c, b-c-g	$-j\sqrt{3}$	$j\sqrt{3}$	0
c-a, c-a-g	$-1.5 + j0.5\sqrt{3}$	$-1.5 - j0.5\sqrt{3}$	0

Fault loop signals (2) and (3), and also those used in the remaining subroutines, are expressed in terms of the respective symmetrical components. Use of such notation is convenient for introducing the compensation for line shunt capacitances, however, it is fully equivalent to the description traditionally used for distance protection [4]. Natural sequence of phases: a, b, c was assumed for determining the weighting coefficients (Table I), as well as in all further symmetrical components calculations.

It is proposed to calculate the total fault current from (1) by using the following generalized fault model:

$$\underline{I}_F = \underline{a}_{F1} \underline{I}_{F1} + \underline{a}_{F2} \underline{I}_{F2} + \underline{a}_{F0} \underline{I}_{F0} \quad (4)$$

where

\underline{a}_{F1} , \underline{a}_{F2} , \underline{a}_{F0} share coefficients (Table II).

TABLE II
SHARE COEFFICIENTS USED IN FAULT MODEL (4)

FAULT TYPE	\underline{a}_{F1}	\underline{a}_{F2}	\underline{a}_{F0}
a-g	0	3	0
b-g	0	$1.5 + j1.5\sqrt{3}$	0
c-g	0	$-1.5 - j1.5\sqrt{3}$	0
a-b	0	$1.5 - j0.5\sqrt{3}$	0
b-c	0	$j\sqrt{3}$	0
c-a	0	$-1.5 - j0.5\sqrt{3}$	0
a-b-g	0	$3 - j\sqrt{3}$	$j\sqrt{3}$
b-c-g	0	$j2\sqrt{3}$	$j\sqrt{3}$
c-a-g	0	$-3 - j\sqrt{3}$	$j\sqrt{3}$
a-b-c a-b-c-g	$1.5 + j0.5\sqrt{3}$	$1.5 - j0.5\sqrt{3}$ *)	0

*) $\underline{a}_{F2} \neq 0$, however, negative sequence component is not present under three-phase balanced faults.

The i -th sequence component of the total fault current is determined as a sum of the i -th sequence components of currents from all line terminals (1, 2, ..., $n-1$, n):

$$\underline{I}_{Fi} = \underline{I}_{i1} + \underline{I}_{i2} + \underline{I}_{i3} + \dots + \underline{I}_{i(n-1)i} + \underline{I}_{ini} \quad (5)$$

where subscript 'i' denotes the component type:

$i=1$ –positive, $i=2$ –negative, $i=0$ –zero sequence.

From the analysis of the boundary conditions of faults [4] results that it is possible to apply different alternative sets of the coefficients, which are used in (4). In order to assure high accuracy of fault location, use of the particular set has been recommended. The following priority for usage of particular sequence components (the respective coefficient in (4) is not equal to zero) of measured currents is proposed (Table II):

- for phase-to-ground and phase-to-phase faults: use of negative sequence components;

- for phase-to-phase-to-ground faults: use of negative and zero sequence components;

- for three phase symmetrical faults: use of superimposed positive sequence components.

Excluding of the positive sequence components ($a_{F1} = 0$) from the total fault current (4) for all faults, except three-phase balanced faults, is characteristic for the share coefficients from Table II. In case of three-phase balanced faults, only positive sequence components are contained in the signals. It is proposed to calculate positive sequence of the total fault current as the following sum of the superimposed (superscript: 'superimp.') positive sequence currents from the line ends 1, 2, ..., (n-1), n, respectively:

$$\underline{I}_{F1} = \underline{I}_{11}^{\text{superimp.}} + \underline{I}_{21}^{\text{superimp.}} + \dots + \underline{I}_{n1}^{\text{superimp.}} \quad (6)$$

Finally, negative-, zero- and superimposed positive-sequence components of the measured currents are used in calculation of the total fault current (4). This assures accurate calculation of the fault current flowing through the fault path resistance. This is so, since the positive sequence components, for which the shunt capacitance effect is the most distinct, are excluded.

After resolving (1) into the real and imaginary parts, and eliminating the unknown fault resistance (R_{1F}), the sought fault distance (d_1) is determined as:

$$d_1 = \frac{\text{real}(\underline{V}_{1p})\text{imag}(\underline{I}_F) - \text{imag}(\underline{V}_{1p})\text{real}(\underline{I}_F)}{\text{real}(\underline{Z}_{1L1}\underline{I}_{1p})\text{imag}(\underline{I}_F) - \text{imag}(\underline{Z}_{1L1}\underline{I}_{1p})\text{real}(\underline{I}_F)} \quad (7)$$

Having the fault distance calculated (7), the fault resistance R_{1F} can be also determined, as for example from the real part of (1) as:

$$R_{1F} = \frac{\text{real}(\underline{V}_{1p}) - d_1\text{real}(\underline{Z}_{1L1}\underline{I}_{1p})}{\text{real}(\underline{I}_F)} \quad (8)$$

B. Fault location algorithm – subroutine for locating faults on the end section of multi-terminal line

An analytic transfer of three-phase measurements: $\underline{V}_1, \underline{I}_1, \underline{I}_2, \dots, \underline{I}_{(n-1)}, \underline{I}_n$ to the beginning of the section L2 is performed. The superscript 'transf.' is used to distinguish the analytically transferred signals from the measured signals. Certainly, such transfer has to be performed separately for each of the i th type of symmetrical component of three-phase voltage and current. Fig. 3 presents an equivalent circuit diagram of the line for the i -th symmetrical component, assuming that the fault is located in the final section of a multi-terminal power line. Again, the subscript 'i' is used for denoting the respective: $i=1$ –positive, $i=2$ –negative and $i=0$ –zero sequence, components.

Transferring of voltage from the bus 1 to the tap point T2:

$$\underline{V}_{T2i}^{\text{transf.}} = \underline{V}_{1i} - \underline{Z}_{iL1} \cdot \underline{I}_{1i} \quad (9)$$

where

\underline{Z}_{iL1} impedance of section L1 respectively for the positive, negative and the zero sequence component.

Next, the voltages for symmetrical components: $\underline{V}_{T(n-1)1}^{\text{transf.}}$,

$\underline{V}_{T(n-1)2}^{\text{transf.}}$, $\underline{V}_{T(n-1)0}^{\text{transf.}}$ in the end tap point T(n-1) are calculated:

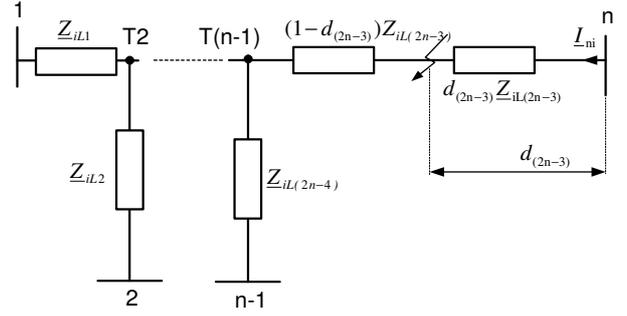


Fig. 3. Equivalent circuit diagram of a network for symmetrical components, under a fault on the end section of a multi-terminal line.

$$\underline{V}_{T(n-1)i}^{\text{transf.}} = \underline{V}_{T(n-2)i}^{\text{transf.}} - \underline{Z}_{iL(2n-5)} \cdot \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} \underline{I}_{ji} \quad (10)$$

where:

$\underline{Z}_{iL(2n-3)}$ impedance of line section L(2n-3) for the positive, negative, zero sequence components, respectively.

In turn, voltages at the k^{th} tap point $\underline{V}_{Tk1}^{\text{transf.}}$, $\underline{V}_{Tk2}^{\text{transf.}}$, $\underline{V}_{Tk0}^{\text{transf.}}$ are determined from the following formula:

$$\underline{V}_{Tki}^{\text{transf.}} = \underline{V}_{T(k-1)i}^{\text{transf.}} - \underline{Z}_{iL(2k-3)} \cdot \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} \underline{I}_{ji} \quad (11)$$

where:

$\underline{V}_{T(k-1)i}^{\text{transf.}}$ calculated voltage at point (k-1),

$\underline{Z}_{iL(2k-3)}$ impedance of line section L(2k-3) for the symmetrical components.

The values of current $\underline{I}_{T(n-1)n1}^{\text{transf.}}$, $\underline{I}_{T(n-1)n2}^{\text{transf.}}$, $\underline{I}_{T(n-1)n0}^{\text{transf.}}$, flowing from tap point T(n-1) to station 'n' in line section L(2n-3) are calculated, as follows:

$$\underline{I}_{T(n-1)ni}^{\text{transf.}} = \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \underline{I}_{ji} \quad (12)$$

The fault loop equation for faults on last line section has the following form:

$$\underline{V}_{T(n-1)np} - (1-d_{(2n-3)})\underline{Z}_{1L(2n-3)}\underline{I}_{T(n-1)np} - R_{(2n-3)F}\underline{I}_F = 0 \quad (13)$$

where

$$\underline{V}_{T(n-1)np} = a_1\underline{V}_{T(n-1)1}^{\text{transf.}} + a_2\underline{V}_{T(n-1)2}^{\text{transf.}} + a_0\underline{V}_{T(n-1)0}^{\text{transf.}} \quad (14)$$

$$\underline{I}_{T(n-1)np} = a_1\underline{I}_{T(2n-1)n1}^{\text{transf.}} + a_2\underline{I}_{T(2n-1)n2}^{\text{transf.}} + a_0 \frac{\underline{Z}_{0L(2n-3)}}{\underline{Z}_{1L(2n-3)}} \underline{I}_{T(n-1)n0}^{\text{transf.}} \quad (15)$$

where

$\underline{Z}_{1L(2n-3)}$ impedance of section L(2n-3) for the positive seq.,

$\underline{Z}_{0L(2n-3)}$ impedance of section L(2n-3) for the zero seq.

Writing (13) separately for the real / imaginary parts and after performing further mathematical transformations, the solutions for the searched fault distance $d_{(2n-3)}$ and fault resistance $R_{(2n-3)F}$ are obtained.

C. Fault location algorithm – subroutine for locating faults on tapped line section of multi-terminal line

Voltages for symmetrical components $\underline{V}_{Tk1}^{transf.}$, $\underline{V}_{Tk2}^{transf.}$, $\underline{V}_{Tk0}^{transf.}$ at the k^{th} tap point Tk (Fig.4) are calculated from the formula (11), by assuming for 'k' the number of the considered station, which is equal to the number of the tap point Tk, from which the faulted line goes to the station 'k'.

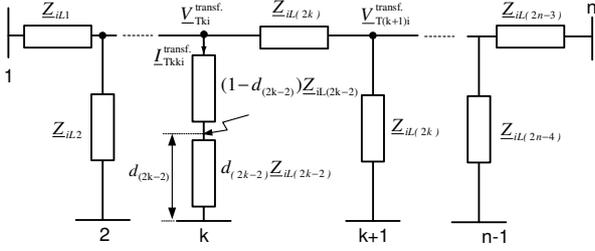


Fig. 4. Equivalent circuit diagram of a network for symmetrical components, assuming that the fault is located on a section of a tapped line.

Then, the values of current $\underline{I}_{Tkki}^{transf.}$, $\underline{I}_{Tkki}^{transf.}$, $\underline{I}_{Tkki}^{transf.}$ flowing from tap point Tk to k^{th} station in the tapped line section, labeled as L(2k-2), are calculated:

$$\underline{I}_{Tkki}^{transf.} = \sum_{\substack{i=1,2,3 \\ j=1, j \neq k}}^n \underline{I}_{ji} \quad (16)$$

The fault loop equation takes the form:

$$\underline{V}_{Tkki} - (1 - d_{(2k-2)}) \underline{Z}_{1L(2k-2)} \underline{I}_{Tkki} - R_{(2k-2)F} \underline{I}_F = 0 \quad (17)$$

where:

$$\underline{V}_{Tkki} = \underline{a}_1 \underline{V}_{Tkki}^{transf.} + \underline{a}_2 \underline{V}_{Tkki}^{transf.} + \underline{a}_0 \underline{V}_{Tkki}^{transf.} \quad (18)$$

$$\underline{I}_{Tkki} = \underline{a}_1 \underline{I}_{Tkki}^{transf.} + \underline{a}_2 \underline{I}_{Tkki}^{transf.} + \underline{a}_0 \frac{\underline{Z}_{0L(2k-2)}}{\underline{Z}_{1L(2k-2)}} \underline{I}_{Tkki}^{transf.} \quad (19)$$

$\underline{Z}_{1L(2k-2)}$ impedance of line section L(2k-2) for the positive sequence component,

$\underline{Z}_{0L(2k-2)}$ impedance of line section L(2k-2) for the zero sequence component.

After substituting (18)–(19) into (17) and the respective mathematical manipulations one obtains the searched distance to fault $d_{(2k-2)}$ and fault resistance $R_{(2k-2)F}$.

D. Fault location algorithm – for locating faults between two tap points

Symmetrical components of currents $\underline{I}_{TkT(k+1)1}^{transf.}$, $\underline{I}_{TkT(k+1)2}^{transf.}$, $\underline{I}_{TkT(k+1)0}^{transf.}$ flowing from the tap point Tk towards the tap point T(k+1) in the respective line section (Fig.5) are calculated:

$$\underline{I}_{TkT(k+1)i}^{transf.} = \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} \underline{I}_{ji} \quad (20)$$

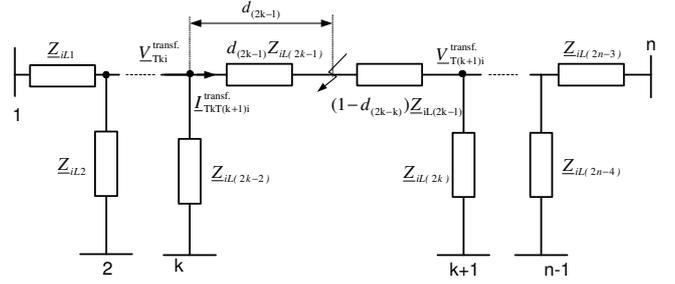


Fig. 5. Equivalent circuit diagram of network for symmetrical components, assuming that the fault is located between two tap points.

Fault loop equation has the following form:

$$\underline{V}_{TkT(k+1)p} - (1 - d_{(2k-1)}) \underline{Z}_{1L(2k-1)} \underline{I}_{TkT(k+1)p} - R_{(2k-1)F} \underline{I}_F = 0 \quad (21)$$

where

$$\underline{V}_{TkT(k+1)p} = \underline{a}_1 \underline{V}_{TkT(k+1)p}^{transf.} + \underline{a}_2 \underline{V}_{TkT(k+1)p}^{transf.} + \underline{a}_0 \underline{V}_{TkT(k+1)p}^{transf.} \quad (22)$$

$$\underline{I}_{TkT(k+1)p} = \underline{a}_1 \underline{I}_{TkT(k+1)p}^{transf.} + \underline{a}_2 \underline{I}_{TkT(k+1)p}^{transf.} + \underline{a}_0 \frac{\underline{Z}_{0L(k+1)}}{\underline{Z}_{1L(k+1)}} \underline{I}_{TkT(k+1)p}^{transf.} \quad (23)$$

$\underline{Z}_{1L(2k-1)}$ impedance of line section L(2k-1) for the positive sequence component,

$\underline{Z}_{0L(2k-1)}$ impedance of line section L(2k-1) for the zero sequence component,

k number of the tap point.

After substituting (22)–(23) into (21) and the respective mathematical manipulations one obtains the searched distance to fault $d_{(2k-1)}$ and fault resistance $R_{(2k-1)F}$.

E. Selection of valid results

The presented fault location algorithm consists of (2n-3) subroutines and only one of them – the valid subroutine, yields the results, which corresponds to the actual fault. The remaining subroutines give false results.

In the first step of the selection, the subroutine, which yields the distance to fault indicating the considered fault as occurring outside the section range (outside the range: 0 to 1.0 p.u.), or/and the calculated fault resistance of negative value, is surely rejected.

If the first step is not sufficient, then the remote source impedances (behind the terminals 2, 3, ..., (n-1), n in Fig.1), are calculated for the respective subroutines. For example, in case of considering the subroutine for locating faults on the end section (Fig. 3, Section IIB), the source impedance behind the bus n for the positive (negative) sequence is calculated as:

$$(\underline{Z}_{2Sn}) = -\frac{\underline{V}_{n2}}{\underline{I}_{n2}} \quad (24)$$

where:

$$\underline{V}_{n2} = \underline{V}_{T(n-1)2}^{transf.} - (1 - d_{(2n-3)}) \cdot \underline{Z}_{2L(2n-3)} \cdot \underline{I}_{T(n-1)2}^{transf.} - d_{(2n-3)} \cdot \underline{Z}_{2L(2n-3)} \cdot (\underline{I}_{T(n-1)n2}^{transf.} - \underline{I}_{F2}) \quad (25)$$

Note, in case of three-phase balanced faults the negative sequence quantities involved in (24)–(25) have to be changed into the incremental positive sequence quantities.

If the source impedance, calculated according to the considered subroutine, lays outside the 1st quadrant of the impedance plane, then this subroutine is false and has to be rejected. Otherwise, if there are still at least two subroutines remain, then the selection has to be continued. The particular subroutine can be rejected also if the calculated value of the remote source differs from the actual impedance. For this purpose certain knowledge about impedances of the actual equivalent sources behind the line terminals has to be possessed. In particular, such impedance can be calculated using pre-fault measurements, if there is no generation source at the line terminal.

III. ATP-EMTP EVALUATION

ATP-EMTP simulation program [6] was applied to evaluate performance of the developed fault location algorithm. Different multi-terminal networks were modeled for generation of fault data used in evaluation of the presented fault location algorithm.

In particular, the 130 kV four terminal network (Fig.1: n=4) including the line sections: 1–T2 (15.5km), 2–T2 (22.5km), 3–T3 (2.77km), 4–T3 (12.9km), T2–T3 (4.81km). The positive and zero sequence impedances for all sections: $\underline{Z}'_{IL} = (0.0276 + j0.3151)$, $\underline{Z}'_{OL} = (0.275 + j1.0265) \Omega/\text{km}$.

Equivalent sources behind the terminals 1, 3 were modeled with EMFs and the impedances: $\underline{Z}_{S1} = (0.7 + j10.5)\Omega$, $\underline{Z}_{S0} = (1.0 + j15)\Omega$. The EMF at the terminal 3 was delayed by: -30° with respect to the terminal 1. The loads at the terminal 2 (200 Ω) and at the terminal 4 (400 Ω) were also included. Current and voltage transformers were modeled as well.

Analogue anti-aliasing filters with the cut-off frequency of 350 Hz were included, and 1 kHz sampling frequency was used.

Full-cycle Fourier orthogonal filters were applied for determining phasors of the processed signals

Fig. 6 and Fig. 7 present the example of fault location on the four-terminal line: a-g fault at the section T3–4, fault distance: $d_4=0.7$ p.u., fault resistance: $R_{F4}=10 \Omega$.

Fig. 6 presents the wave-shapes of the fault locator input signals, while Fig. 7 the results for the subroutines SUB_2 and SUB_4, which indicate the fault as within their sections. The results of the remaining three subroutine are not visualized since yield the distance to fault exceeding the section range, and thus have to be rejected.

There is for selecting between the subroutine: SUB_2 (the results: $d_2=0.729$ p.u., $R_{F2}=9.45 \Omega$) and SUB_4 (the results: $d_4=0.7048$ p.u., $R_{F2}=9.84 \Omega$). Both, distance to fault and fault resistance according to these two subroutines are not to be rejected. Calculating the source impedances behind buses: 2, 4 one obtains:

SUB_2: $\underline{Z}_{2S2}^{\text{SUB-2}} = (261.9 + j0.01)\Omega$, while $\underline{Z}_{2S2}^{\text{actual}} = 200\Omega$,

SUB_4: $\underline{Z}_{2S4}^{\text{SUB-4}} = (396.6 + j0.6)\Omega$, while $\underline{Z}_{2S4}^{\text{actual}} = 400\Omega$.

Therefore, the subroutine SUB_4 yielding the impedance more close to the actual one is selected correctly as the valid one, which gives the fault location, with acceptable 0.48% error. For the majority of the other considered fault cases the fault location error was kept below 1%. However, in case of faults on the shortest line section (3–T3) the maximum error slightly exceeded 2%, which for such short segment could be also treated as acceptable. For this selection knowledge of the actual effective load impedances is required. In field applications it will be done based on the experience of fault locator user, which is familiar with the level of effective load impedances at particular buses. In this case they were calculated by performing an analysis of pre-fault load flow.

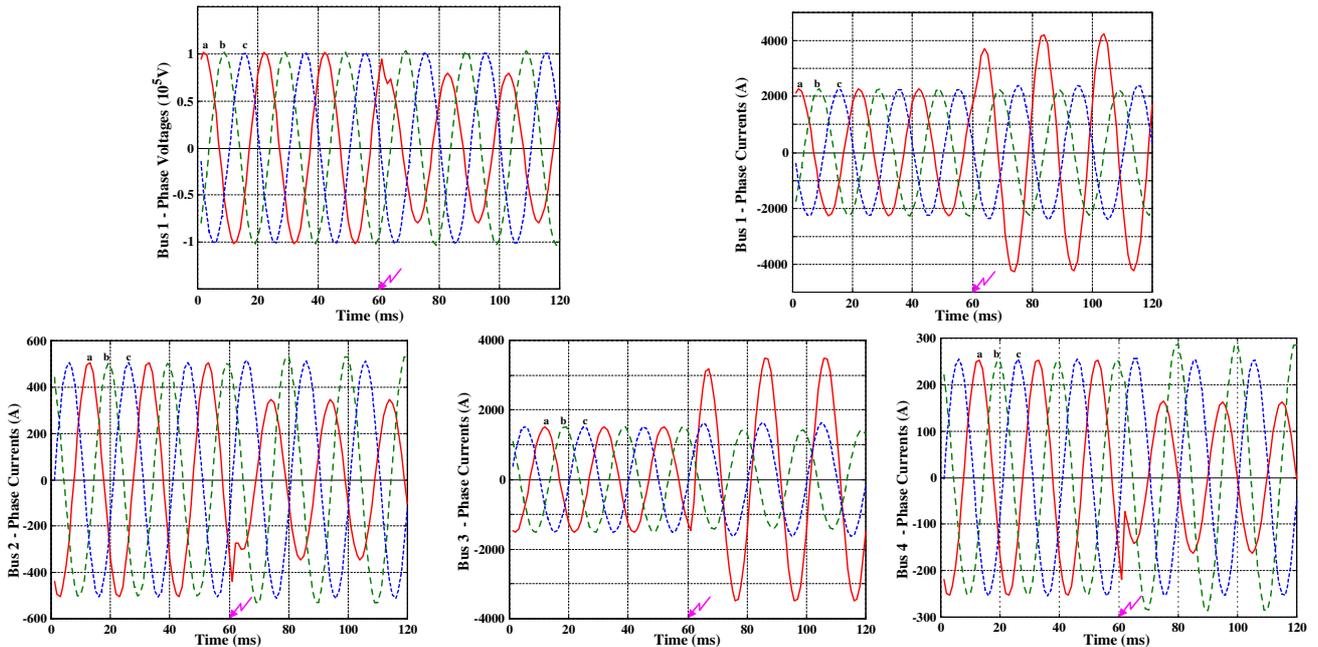


Fig. 6. Fault location on four-terminal network – the example: input signals of the fault locator.

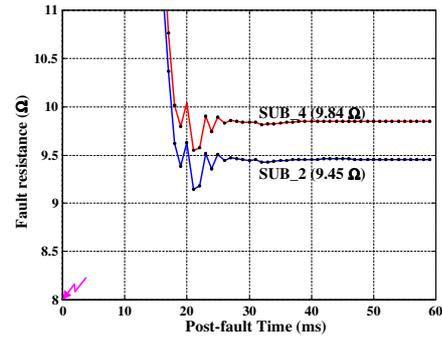
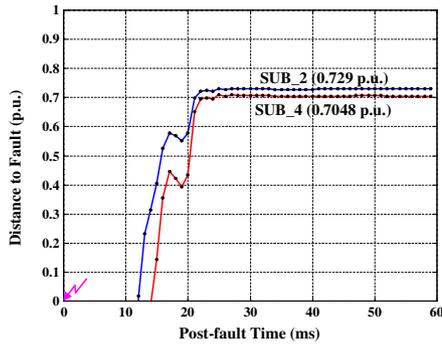


Fig. 7. Fault location on four-terminal network – the example: results of the subroutines SUB_2 (invalid), SUB_4 (valid).

IV. CONCLUSIONS

In this work, the new algorithm designed for locating faults on a multi-terminal line has been presented. The specific set of the fault locator input signals: three-phase current from all line terminals and additionally the locally measured three-phase voltage, has been assumed. This fault location algorithm is intended for application with current differential relays protecting a three-terminal line.

The developed fault location algorithm consists of the subroutines, designated for locating faults within the respective line sections. The subroutines are formulated with use of generalized fault loop and fault models. Multi-criteria selection procedure is applied for selecting the valid subroutine, i.e. for indicating the faulted line section.

ATP-EMTP software package was used to demonstrate the performance of the proposed fault location algorithm. The simulation results show that the accuracy of fault location is acceptable under various fault types, fault resistances, fault locations, pre-fault loading conditions and source impedances. The evaluation also proves that the developed multi-criteria selection procedure allows reliable indication of the valid subroutine, i.e. indication of the faulted line section.

For the presented sample fault on the four-terminal line there are two subroutines (out of five subroutines), which indicate this fault as within their line sections. Indication of the faulted section is performed by comparing the estimated impedances behind the respective line terminals with the impedances determined from the pre-fault measurement.

In the performed evaluation the perfectly synchronized measurements of signals obtained from ATP simulation were applied. Use of GPS in field applications for determining synchrophasors also assures very accurate synchronization.

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